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A SYMMETRIC DIVERGENCE MEASURE AND ITS BOUNDS

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Abstract. A new symmetric divergence measure is proposed which is useful in comparing two probability distributions. This non-parametric measure belongs to the Csiszar's f divergence class. Its properties are studied and bounds are obtained in terms of some well known divergence measures. A numerical illustration based on the probability distribution is carried out.

1. Introduction

One problem in Probability theory which researchers has been trying to find is an appropriate measure of divergence (or distance or difference or discrimination or information) between two probability distributions. Non parametric measure give the amount of information supplied by the data for discriminating in favour of a probability distribution against another or for measuring the distance or affinity between two probability distributions. There are a number of divergence measures being proposed in literature which compare two probability distributions and have been applied in a variety of disciplines such as antropology, genetics, finance, economics and political science, biology, analysis of contingency of tables, approximations of probability distributions, signal processing and pattern recognition.

In this paper we present a non-parametric symmetric divergence measure which belongs to the class of Csiszar's f divergences (4,5). In Section 2 we discuss the Csiszar's f divergences and inequalities. New symmetric divergence measure is obtained in Section 3. In Section 4 we have derived some inequalities providing bounds for the new measure in terms of some well known divergence measures. The parametric measure of information obtained from the suggested non- parametric divergence is given in Section 5. The suggested measure is compared with other measures in Section 6.

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2. Csiszar's *f*-divergence and inequalities

Let $\Omega = \{x_1, x_2, ...\}$ be a set with at least two elements and \mathbb{P} the set of all probability distribution $P = (p(x) : x \in \Omega)$. For a convex function $f : (0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}$, the *f*-divergence of the probability distributions *P* and *Q* by Csiszar, (4,5) and Ali & Silvey [1] is defined as

$$C_f(P,Q) = \sum_{x \in \Omega} q(x) f\left(\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}\right).$$
(2.1)

Henceforth, for brevity we will denote $C_f(P,Q)$, p(x) and $\sum_{x \in \Omega}$ by C(P,Q), p, q and \sum respectively.

Osterreicher [19] has discussed basic general properties of f-divergences including their axiomatic properties and some important classes. During the recent past, there has been a considerable amount of work providing different kind of bounds on the distance, information and divergence measures [7, 8, 9, 27]. Taneja and Kumar [24] unified and generalized three theorems studied by Dragomir [7, 8, 9] which provide bounds on C(P,Q). The main result in [24] is the following theorem:

Theorem 2.1. Let $f : I \subset \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ be a mapping which is normalized, i.e., f(1) = 0 and suppose that

- (i) f is twice differentiable on (r, R), $0 \le r \le 1 \le R < \infty$, (f' and f'' denote the first and second derivatives of <math>f),
- (ii) there exist real constants m, M such that m < M and $m < x^{2-s}f'(x) < M$, $\forall x \in (r, R)$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$.

if $P, Q \in \mathbb{P}^2$ are discrete probability distributions with $0 < r \le \frac{p}{q} \le R \le \infty$, then

$$m\Phi_s(P,Q) \le C(P,Q) \le M\Phi_s(P,Q), \tag{2.2}$$

and

$$m(\eta_s(P,Q) - \Phi_s(P,Q)) \le C_\rho(P,Q) - C(P,Q) \le M(\eta_s(P,Q) - \Phi_s(P,Q)),$$
(2.3)

where

$$\Phi_{s}(P,Q) = \begin{cases} {}^{2}K_{s}(P,Q), \ s \neq 0,1 \\ K(Q,P), \ s = 0 \\ K(P,Q), \ s = 1 \end{cases}$$
(2.4)

$${}^{2}K_{s}(P,Q) = [s(s-1)]^{-1} [\sum p^{s} q^{1-s} - 1], \qquad s \neq 0, 1,$$
(2.5)

$$k(P,Q) = \sum p \ln\left(\frac{P}{q}\right),\tag{2.6}$$

$$C_{\rho}(P,Q) = C_{f}\left(\frac{P^{2}}{Q}, P\right) - C_{f}(P,Q) = \sum (p-q)f\left(\frac{p}{q}\right),$$
(2.7)

and

$$\eta_{s}(P,Q) = C_{\emptyset's}\left(\frac{P^{2}}{Q}, P\right) - C_{\emptyset's}(P,Q)$$

$$= \begin{cases} (s-1)^{-1} \sum (p-q) \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^{s-1}, & s \neq 1\\ \sum (p-q) \ln \left(\frac{p}{q}\right), & s = 1. \end{cases}$$
(2.8)

The following information inequalities which are interesting from the information-theoretic point of view, are obtained from Theorem 2.1 and discussed in [24]

(i) The case s = 2 provides the information bounds in terms of the Chi-square divegence $\chi^2(P,Q)$:

$$\frac{m}{2}\chi^{2}(P,Q) \le C(P,Q) \le \frac{M}{2}\chi^{2}(P,Q)$$
(2.9)

and

$$\frac{m}{2}\chi^{2}(P,Q) \le C_{\rho}(P,Q) - C(P,Q) \le \frac{M}{2}\chi^{2}(P,Q)$$
(2.10)

where

$$\chi^{2}(P,Q) = \sum \frac{(p-q)^{2}}{q}.$$
(2.11)

(ii) For s = 1, the information bounds in terms of the Kullback-Leibler divergence, K(P,Q):

$$mK(P,Q) \le C(P,Q) \le MK(P,Q), \tag{2.12}$$

and

$$mK(Q,P) \leq C_{\rho}(P,Q) - C(P,Q) \leq MK(Q,P). \tag{2.13}$$

(iii) The case $s = \frac{1}{2}$ provides the information bounds in terms of the Hellinger's descrimination, h(P,Q):

$$4mh(P,Q) \le C(P,Q) \le 4Mh(P,Q) \tag{2.14}$$

and

$$4m\left(\frac{1}{4}\eta_{1/2}(P,Q) - h(P,Q)\right) \le C_{\rho}(P,Q) - C(P,Q)$$
$$\le 4M\left(\frac{1}{4}\eta_{1/2}(P,Q) - h(P,Q)\right)$$
(2.15)

where

$$h(P,Q) = \sum \frac{(\sqrt{p} - \sqrt{q})^2}{2}.$$
 (2.16)

(iv) for
$$s = 0$$
, the information bounds in terms of the Kullback- Leibler and χ^2 -divergences

$$mK(P,Q) \le C(P,Q) \le MK(P,Q), \tag{2.17}$$

and

$$m(\chi^{2}(Q, P) - K(Q, P)) \le C_{\rho}(P, Q) - C(P, Q) \le M(\chi^{2}(Q, P) - K(Q, P)).$$
(2.18)

3. A symmetric divergence measure of the Csiszar's *f*-divergence family

We consider the function $f:(0,\infty) \to \mathbb{R}$

given by
$$f(u) = \frac{(u-1)^4(u+1)(u^2+1)}{u^3}$$
 (3.1)

and thus the divergence measure.

$$P^*(P,Q); C_f(P,Q) = \frac{(p-q)^4(p+q)(p^2+q^2)}{p^3q^3}.$$
(3.2)

Since

$$f'(U) = \frac{(u-1)^3 [4u^4 + 3u^3 + 3u^2 + 3u + 3]}{u^4}$$
(3.3)

and

$$f'(u) = \frac{(u-1)^2}{u^5} [12u^5 + 6u^4 + 6u^3 + 6u^2 + 6u + 12].$$
(3.4)

It follows that f''(u) > 0 for all u > 0.

Hence f(u) is convex for all u > 0.



Figure 3.1: Graph of the Convex Function f(u).

Further f(1) = 0. Thus we can say that the measure is non negative and convex in the pair of probability distribution $(P, Q) \in \Omega$.

4. Bounds for $P^*(P,Q)$

In this section, we will derive information divergence inequalities providing bounds for $P^*(P,Q)$ in terms of some well known divergence measures. We start by deriving bounds in terms of the Chi-Square divergence $\chi^2(P,Q)$.

Proposition 4.1. Let $\chi^2(P,Q_r)$ and $P^*(P,Q)$ be defined as in (2.11) and (3.2) respectively. For $P,Q \in \mathbb{P}^2$ and $0 < r \le \frac{p}{q} \le R < \infty$ we have

$$\frac{3(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2]\chi^2(P,Q) \le P^*(P,Q)$$

$$\le \frac{3(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]\chi^2(P,Q)$$
(4.1)

and

$$\frac{3(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2] \chi^2(P,Q) \le P_\rho^*(P,Q) - P^*(P,Q)$$

$$\le \frac{3(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2] \chi^2(P,Q)$$
(4.2)

where

$$P_{\rho}^{*}(P,Q) = \frac{(p-q)(p^{3}+q^{3})(4p^{4}+3p^{3}q+3p^{2}q^{2}+3pq^{3}+3q^{3})}{p^{4}q^{3}}.$$
(4.3)

Proof. From the function f(u) in (3.1) we have

$$f'(u) = \frac{(u-1)^3 [4u^4 + 3u^3 + 3u^2 + 3u + 3]}{u^4}.$$
(4.4)

And thus the

$$P_{\rho}^{*}(P,Q) = \sum (p-q)f'\left(\frac{p}{q}\right)$$

= $\frac{(p-q)(p^{3}+q^{3})(4p^{4}+3p^{3}q+3p^{2}q^{2}+3pq^{3}+3q^{3})}{p^{4}q^{3}}.$ (4.5)

Further

$$f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2}{u^5} [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2].$$
(4.6)

Now if $u \in [a, b] \subset (0, \infty)$ then

$$\frac{6(b-1)^2}{b^5} [2b^5 + b^4 + b^3 + b^2 + b + 2] \le f''(u)$$

$$\le \frac{6(a-1)^2}{a^5} [2a^5 + a^4 + a^3 + a^2 + a + 2]$$
(4.7)

or accordingly

$$\frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2] \le f''(u)$$

$$\le \frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]$$
(4.8)

where *r* and *R* are defined above.

Thus in view of (2.9) and (2.10) we get inequalities (4.1) and (4.2). The information bounds in terms of Kullback - Leibler divergence K(P, Q) follows.

Proposition 4.2. Let K(P,Q), $P^*(P,Q)$ and $P^*_{\rho}(P,Q)$ be defined as (2.6), (3.2) and (4.3) respectively.

For $P, Q, \in \mathbb{P}^2$ and $0 < r \le \frac{p}{q} \le R \le \infty$ the

$$\frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2] K(P,Q) \le P^*(P,Q)$$
$$\le \frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2] K(P,Q)$$
(4.9)

and

$$\frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2] K(P,Q) \le P^*(P,Q) - P^*_{\rho}(P,Q)
\le \frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2] K(P,Q).$$
(4.10)

Proof. from (3.4) $f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2}{u^5} [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2]$. Let the function $g : [r, R] \to \mathbb{R}$ be Such that

$$g(u) = uf''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2}{u^4} [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2]$$
 then (4.11)

$$\inf_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^4} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2]$$
(4.12)

and

$$\sup_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^4} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2].$$
(4.13)

The inequalities (4.9) and (4.10) follow from (2.12) and (2.13) using (4.12) and (4.13).

The following proposition provides the information bounds in terms of the Hellinger's discrimination h(P,Q) and $\eta_{1/2}(P,Q)$.

Proposition 4.3. Let $\eta_{1/2}(P,Q)$, h(P,Q), $P^*(P,Q)$ and $P^*_{\rho}(P,Q)$ be defined as in (2.7), (2.15), (3.2) and (4.5) respectively. For $P,Q \in \mathbb{P}^2$ and and $0 < r \le \frac{p}{q} \le R < \infty$

$$\frac{24(r-1)^2 [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]h(P,Q)}{r^5} \le P^*(P,Q)$$
$$\le \frac{24(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2]h(P,Q)$$
(4.14)

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{24(r-1)^2}{r^5} & [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2] \Big(\frac{1}{4} \eta_{1/2}(P,Q) - h(P,Q) \\ & \leq P_{\rho}^*(P,Q) - P^*(P,Q) \leq \frac{24(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2] \Big) \\ & \left(\frac{1}{4} \eta_{1/2}(P,Q) - h(P,Q) \right) \end{aligned}$$
(4.15)

Proof. We have $f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2}{u^5} [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2]$ from (3.4). Let the function $g = [r, R] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that

$$g(u) = u^{3/2} f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2 [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2]}{u^{7/2}}$$
(4.16)

then

$$\inf_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(r-1)^2 [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]}{u^{7/2}}$$
(4.17)

and

$$\sup_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(R-1)^2 [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2]}{R^{7/2}}.$$
(4.18)

Thus the inequalities (4.14) and (4.15) are established using (2.14), (2.15), (4.17) and (4.18). \Box

Proposition 4.4. Let K(P,Q), $\chi^2(P,Q)$, $P^*(P,Q)$ and $P^*_{\rho}(P,Q)$ be defined as in (2.5), (2.10), (3.2) and (4.5) respectively.

If $(P,Q) \in \mathbb{P}^2$ and $0 < r \le \frac{p}{q} \le R < \infty$, then

$$\frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]K(P,Q) \le P^*(P,Q)
\le \frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2]K(P,Q)$$
(4.19)

and

$$\frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2][\chi^2(Q, P) - K(Q, P)]
\leq [P_{\rho}^*(P, Q) - P^*(P, Q)]
\frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2][\chi^2(Q, P) - K(Q, P)]$$
(4.20)

Proof. From (3.4) $f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2}{u^5} [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2].$ Let the function $g: (r, R) \to \mathbb{R}$ be such that

$$g(u) = u^2 f''(u) = \frac{6(u-1)^2 [2u^5 + u^4 + u^3 + u^2 + u + 2]}{u^3}$$
(4.21)

then

$$\inf_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(r-1)^2}{r^3} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]$$
(4.22)

and

$$\sup_{u \in (r,R)} g(u) = \frac{6(R-1)^2}{R^3} [2R^5 + R^4 + R^3 + R^2 + R + 2].$$
(4.23)

Thus (4.19) and (4.20) follows from (2.17) and (2.18) using (4.21) and (4.22).

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5. Parametric measure of information $P^{*^{c}}(P,Q)$

The Parametric measures of information are applicable to regular families of probability distributions, that is, to the families for which the following regularity conditions are assumed to be satisfied. Let for $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$, the Fisher [16] information matrix be

$$I_{X}(\theta) = \begin{cases} E_{\theta} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(X, \theta) \right]^{2}, & \text{if } \theta \text{ is univariate;} \\ \left\| E_{\theta} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{i}} \log f(X, \theta) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} \log f(X, \theta) \right] \right\|_{k \times k} & \text{if } \theta \text{ is } k \text{-variate;} \end{cases}$$
(5.1)

where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes a $k \times k$ matrix.

The regularity conditions are:

- (R1) $f(x,\theta) < 0$ for all $x \in \Omega$ and $\theta \in \Theta$;
- (R2) $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$, f(x) exists for all $x \in \Omega$ and $\theta \in \Theta$; and all i = 1, ..., k;
- (R3) $\frac{\partial}{d\theta_i} \int_A f(x,\theta) d\mu = \int_A \frac{d}{d\theta_j} (x,\theta) d\mu$ for any $A \in A$ (measurable space (*X*, *A* in respect of a finite or σ -finite measure μ), all $\theta \in$ and all *i* in respect.

Ferentimos and Papaioannou [13] suggested the following method to construct the parametric measure from the non-parametric measure:

Let k(A) be a one-to-one transformation of the parameter space Θ onto itself with $k(\theta) \neq \theta$ the quantity

$$Ix[\theta, k(\theta)] = Ix[f(x, \theta), f(x, k(\theta))],$$
(5.2)

can be considered as parametric measure of information based on $k(\theta)$. This method is employed to construct the modified Csiszar's measure of information about univariate θ contained in *X* and based on $k(\theta)$ as

$$I_x^C[\theta, k(\theta)] = \int f(x, \theta), \phi\Big(\frac{f(x, k(\theta))}{f(x, \theta)}\Big) d\mu.$$
(5.3)

Now we have the following proposition for providing the parameteric measure of information from $P^*(P,Q)$.

Proposition 5.1. *Let the convex function* ϕ : $(0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ *be*

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{(u-1)^2(u+1)(u^2+1)}{u^3}.$$
(5.4)

and corresponding non-parametric divergence measure

$$P^*(P,Q) = \frac{\sum (p-q)^4 (p+q)(p^2+q^2)}{p^3 q^3}.$$

Then the parametric measure $P^{*c}(P,Q)$

$$P^{*^{c}}(P,Q) = I_{x}^{c}[\theta, K(\theta)] = \frac{\sum (p-q)^{4}(p+q)(p^{2}+q^{2})}{p^{3}q^{3}}.$$
(5.5)

Proof. For discrete random variables *X*, the expression (5.3) can be written as

$$I_x^c[\theta, K(\theta)] = \sum_{x \in \Omega} p(x)\phi\Big[\frac{q(x)}{p(x)}\Big]$$
(5.6)

from (5.4) we have

$$\phi\left[\frac{q(x)}{p(x)}\right] = \frac{(p-q)^4(p+q)(p^2+q^2)}{p^4q^3}$$
(5.7)

where we denote p(x) and q(x) by p and q respectively. Thus $P^{*^{c}}(P,Q)$ in (5.5) follows from (5.6) and (5.7). The parametric measure $P^{*^{c}}(P,Q)$ is the same as the non-parametric measure $P^{*}(P,Q)$. Further since the properties of $P^{*}(P,Q)$ do not require any regularity conditions, $P^{*}(P,Q)$ is applicable to the broad family of probability distribution including the non-regular ones.

6. Numerical illustration

We consider an example of symmetrical probability distribution. We calculate measures $\Psi(P,Q)$, $\chi^2(P,Q)$, J(P,Q) and $P^*(P,Q)$ and compare bounds. Here $J(P,Q) = K(P,Q) + K(Q,P) = \sum (p-q) \ln(\frac{p}{q})$ is the Kullback Leibler divergence.

Example 6.1. Let *P* be the binomial probability distribution for the random valuable *X* with parameter (n = 8, p = 0.5) and *Q* its approximated normal probability distribution.

(n = 8, p = 0.5)2 х 0 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 0.004 0.031 0.109 0.219 0.274 0.219 0.109 0.031 0.004 p(x)0.005 0.030 0.104 0.220 0.282 0.220 0.030 0.005 q(x)0.104 p(x)1.0503 0.997 0.968 0.997 0.774 1.042 1.0503 1.042 0.774 q(x)

Table 1: Binomial Probability Distribution.

The measure $\Psi(P,Q), \chi^2(P,Q), J(P,Q)$ and P * (P,Q) are

$$\Phi(P,Q) = 0.00305063 \qquad J(P,Q) = 0.00151848$$

$$\chi^2(P,Q) = 0.00145837 \qquad P^*(P,Q) = 0.00009743.$$

It is noted that

$$r = (0.774179933) \le \frac{p}{q} \le R(1.050330018).$$

The lower and upper bounds for $P^*(P,Q)$ from (4.1)

Lower Bound =
$$\frac{3(R-1)^2}{R^5} [2R5 + R4 + R3 + RZ + R + 2]\chi^2(P,Q) = 0.0000783124$$

Upper Bound =
$$\frac{3(r-1)^2}{r^5} [2r^5 + r^4 + r^3 + r^2 + r + 2]\chi^2(P,Q) = 0.00106015$$

and thus $0.0000783124 < P^*(P,Q) = 0.00009743 < 0.00106015$. The width of the interval is 0.00098184



Figure 6.1: New $P^*(P,Q)$, Sym Chi-Square $\Psi(P,Q)$ and Sym Kullback - Leibler J(P,Q).

Figure 6.1 shows the behaviour of $P^*(P,Q)$ (New) $\Psi(P,Q)$ [Sym-Chi-Square] and J(P,Q) [Sym Kullback - Leibler]. We have considered p = [a, 1 - a) and q = (1 - a, a) $a \in [0, 1)$. It is clear from Figure 6.1 that the new measure has a steeper slope then $\Psi(P,Q)$ and J(P,Q).

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