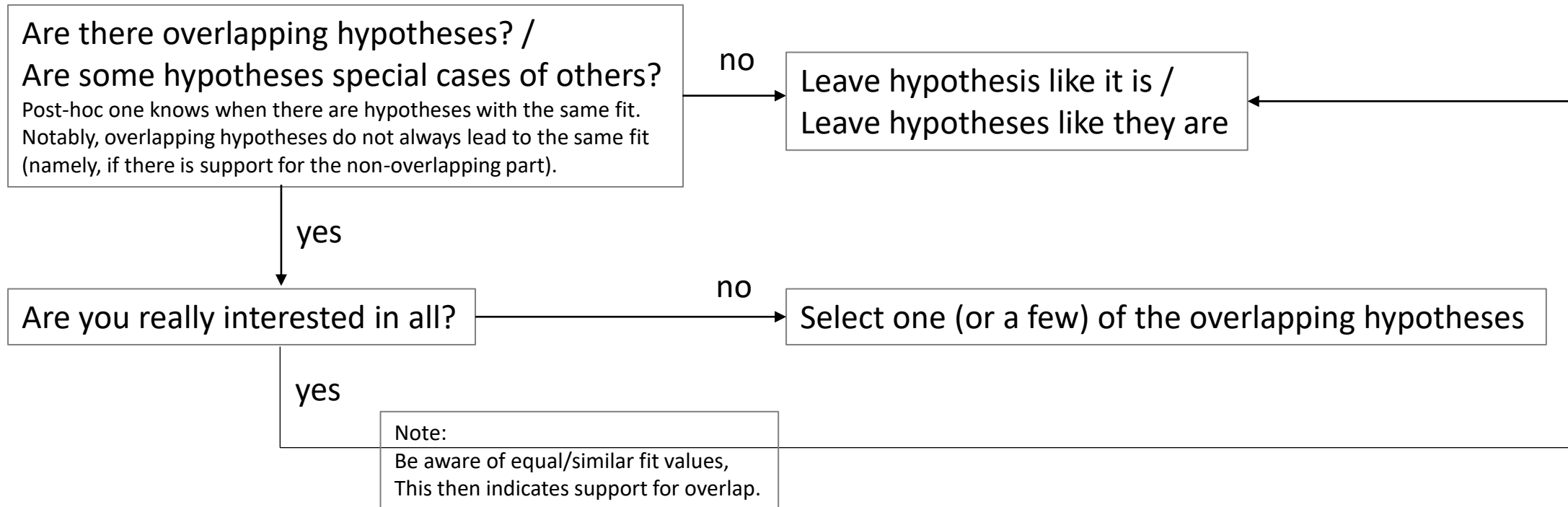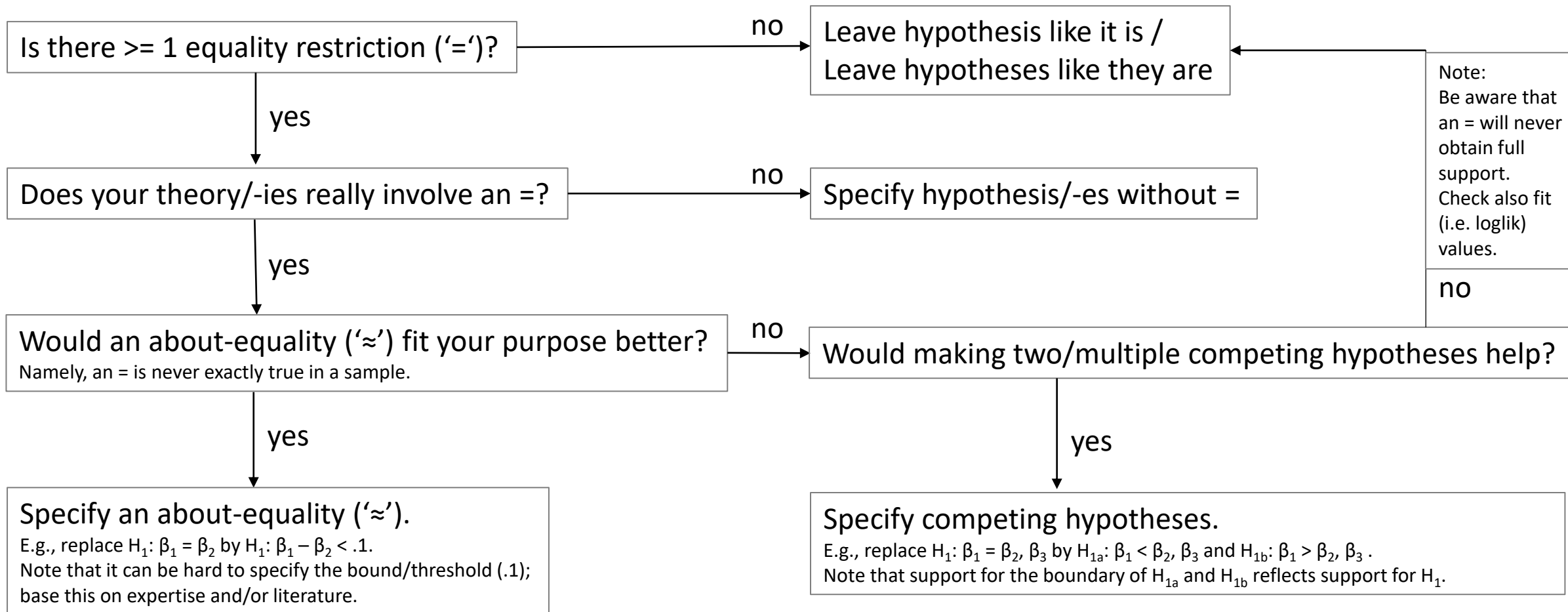# Decision trees for
preliminary checks on choice of hypotheses

More details can be found in the guidelines ('Guidelines_output_GORIC.html'), available from: https://github.com/rebeccakuiper/Tutorials/tree/main

Are there overlapping hypotheses? /
Are some hypotheses special cases of others?

Post-hoc one knows when there are hypotheses with the same fit.
Notably, overlapping hypotheses do not always lead to the same fit
(namely, if there is support for the non-overlapping part).

no → Leave hypothesis like it is /
Leave hypotheses like they are

yes ↓

Are you really interested in all?

no → Select one (or a few) of the overlapping hypotheses

yes ↓

Note:
Be aware of equal/similar fit values,
This then indicates support for overlap.

More details can be found in (Section 5.1 of) the guidelines ('Guidelines_output_GORIC.html'),
available from: https://github.com/rebeccakuiper/Tutorials/tree/main

Is there >= 1 equality restriction ('=')? — no → Leave hypothesis like it is / Leave hypotheses like they are

yes ↓

Does your theory/-ies really involve an =? — no → Specify hypothesis/-es without =

yes ↓

Would an about-equality ('≈') fit your purpose better?
Namely, an = is never exactly true in a sample. — no → Would making two/multiple competing hypotheses help?

yes ↓

Specify an about-equality ('≈').
E.g., replace H$_1$: β$_1$ = β$_2$ by H$_1$: β$_1$ − β$_2$ < .1.
Note that it can be hard to specify the bound/threshold (.1); base this on expertise and/or literature.

yes ↓ (from "Would making two/multiple competing hypotheses help?")

Specify competing hypotheses.
E.g., replace H$_1$: β$_1$ = β$_2$, β$_3$ by H$_{1a}$: β$_1$ < β$_2$, β$_3$ and H$_{1b}$: β$_1$ > β$_2$, β$_3$.
Note that support for the boundary of H$_{1a}$ and H$_{1b}$ reflects support for H$_1$.

Note:
Be aware that an = will never obtain full support.
Check also fit (i.e. loglik) values.

no

More details can be found in (Section 5.2 of) the guidelines ('Guidelines_output_GORIC.html'), available from: https://github.com/rebeccakuiper/Tutorials/tree/main

Did you use minimum bounds/thresholds in specifying your informative hypothesis H_1?

E.g., Did you (re-)specify $\beta_1 > \beta_2$ as $H_1: \beta_1 - \beta_2 >$ (say) .1?

yes

no

A ratio of GORIC(A) weights of (just over) 1 of H_1 vs its complement or a competing hypothesis means you select the theory of H_1 (i.e., $\beta 1 > \beta 2$).
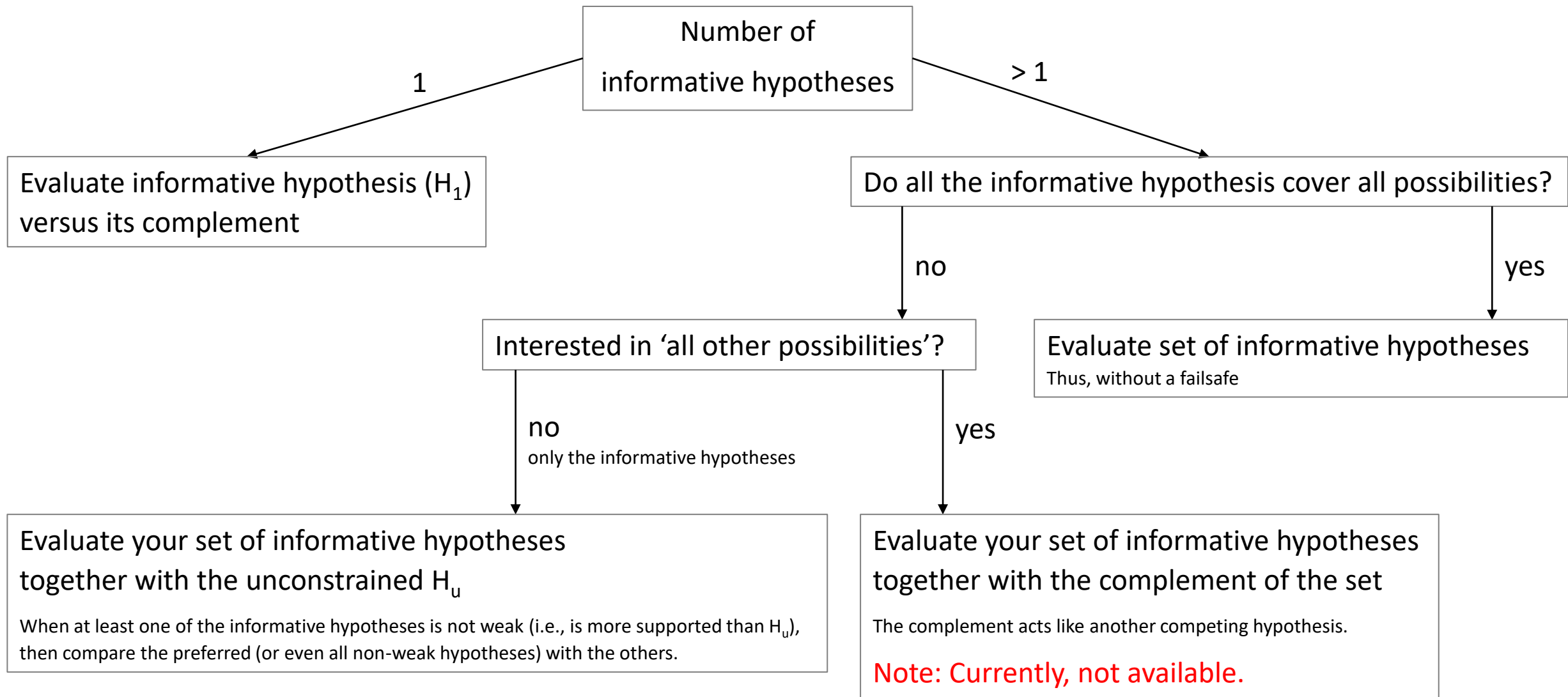
A ratio of GORIC(A) weights of (just over) 1 of H_1 vs its complement or a competing hypothesis means you are indecisive.

More details can be found in Section 4.4 of the guidelines ('Guidelines_output_GORIC.html'), available from: https://github.com/rebeccakuiper/Tutorials/tree/main

Decision tree for choice failsafe

```
                              ┌─────────────────────┐
                              │     Number of        │
                        1     │ informative hypotheses │     > 1
                    ┌─────────┤                     ├─────────┐
                    │         └─────────────────────┘         │
                    ▼                                         ▼
┌───────────────────────────────────┐   ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Evaluate informative hypothesis (H₁) │  │ Do all the informative hypothesis cover all possibilities? │
│ versus its complement               │   └──────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
└───────────────────────────────────┘              │ no                        │ yes
```

Number of informative hypotheses

1 → **Evaluate informative hypothesis (H_1) versus its complement**

> 1 → **Do all the informative hypothesis cover all possibilities?**

Do all the informative hypothesis cover all possibilities?

no → **Interested in 'all other possibilities'?**

yes → **Evaluate set of informative hypotheses**
Thus, without a failsafe

Interested in 'all other possibilities'?

no
only the informative hypotheses

→ **Evaluate your set of informative hypotheses together with the unconstrained H_u**

When at least one of the informative hypotheses is not weak (i.e., is more supported than H_u), then compare the preferred (or even all non-weak hypotheses) with the others.

yes

→ **Evaluate your set of informative hypotheses together with the complement of the set**

The complement acts like another competing hypothesis.

Note: Currently, not available.

More details can be found in Section 4 of the guidelines ('Guidelines_output_GORIC.html'), available from: https://github.com/rebeccakuiper/Tutorials/tree/main