Bayesian approaches in clinical trials

André Moser, CTU Bern, University of Bern12/04/2023

Table of contents

1	Background							
	1.1 General notation and abbreviations							
	1.2	'Powe	r' vocabulary	,				
	1.3	Some 'Bayesian' concepts						
2	Two	Two-arm non-inferiority setting						
	2.1	1 Binomial outcome						
		2.1.1	Frequentist approach	(
		2.1.2	Hybrid approach: Prior on treatment effect	9				
		2.1.3	Proper Bayesian approach	2				
Re	eferer	ices		32				

1 Background

The terminology of 'power' is often imprecisely used [1]. Kunzmann et al. suggest to use the neutral term 'probability of rejection'. The classical (frequentist) 'power' is defined as the probability of rejection given that the alternative hypothesis is true. Frequentist power calculations do not include uncertainties of the treatment effect, whereas Bayesian and hybrid approaches include such uncertainties in their calculations. In the following we use different approaches for the calculation of the 'probability of rejection' (frequentist, Bayesian and hybrid) for different clinical trial designs.

Definition 'hybrid' ([2], Section 6.5.2)

'[...] we have a prior distribution to use in our study design, but that the conclusions of the study will be entirely classical and will not make use of the prior [...]'

1.1 General notation and abbreviations

- iid: independent and identically distributed
- pdf: probability density function
- N_2 : Bivariate cumulative Gaussian distribution function
- ϕ : Probability density function of the standard Gaussian distribution
- Φ: Cumulative distribution function of the standard Gaussian distribution
- Φ^{-1} : Quantile function of the standard Gaussian distribution function

1.2 'Power' vocabulary

In their supplement Kunzmann et al. [1] provide a literature review of the terminology used in articles. We provide here a summary of this terminology:

- Frequentist power: Probability of rejection given that the alternative hypothesis is true.
- Average power: Prior averaged probability of rejection. Often also called 'probability of success', 'assurance', 'Bayesian predictive power'.
- Prior adjusted power: Joint probability of rejection and that the treatment effect is effective.

1.3 Some 'Bayesian' concepts

• Prior predictive distribution: Situation before a sample was taken. Let θ be a realisation of a random variable Θ with pdf $p(\theta)$. Then for a future observation \tilde{X}

$$p(\tilde{x}) = \int_{\Theta} p(\tilde{x}, \theta) d\theta = \int_{\Theta} \underbrace{p(\tilde{x}|\theta)}_{likelihood} \underbrace{p(\theta)}_{prior} d\theta$$

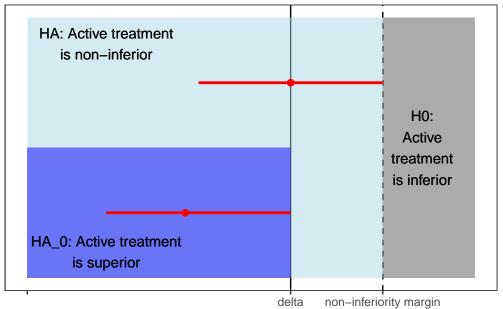
• Posterior predictive distribution: Situation after a sample was taken. Let θ be a realisation of a random variable Θ with pdf $p(\theta)$. Then for a future observation \tilde{X} and observed X

$$p(\tilde{x}|x) = \int_{\Theta} p(\tilde{x}|\theta,x) p(\theta|x) d\theta = \int_{\Theta} \underbrace{p(\tilde{x}|\theta)}_{likelihood} \underbrace{p(\theta|x)}_{prior} d\theta,$$

since X is independent \tilde{X} .

2 Two-arm non-inferiority setting

In this section we consider a non-inferiority clinical trial setting with a null hypothesis $H_0: \delta > \delta^*$ and alternative hypothesis $H_a: \delta \leq \delta^*$, where $\delta^* > 0$ is a fixed non-inferiority margin and a treatment effect δ , for example, a continuous difference or a risk difference.



Treatment effect (<--- favors active treatment)

2.1 Binomial outcome

Here p_1 and p_0 are event probabilities from an active treatment arm and a control arm, respectively. $\delta = p_1 - p_0$ is the true treatment effect expressed as a risk difference.

In this section we assume that the variances in both groups are known, but might be different.

Working example

We use the SAFE-SSPE trial as a working example [3]. In brief, this non-inferiority randomised placebocontrolled trial compares clinical surveillance versus anticoagulant treatment in low-risk patients with isolated subsegmental pulmonary embolism (SSPE). The primary outcome is the proportion of 3-month recurrence of venous thromboembolism (VTE).

The null hypothesis H_0 is 'clinical surveillance is inferior to anticoagulant treatment' versus the alternative hypothesis H_a 'clinical surveillance is non-inferior to anticoagulant treatment'. Thus, $H_0: p_1-p_0>0$ vs $H_a: p_1-p_0\leq 0$, where p_1 is the VTE proportion in the clinical surveillance arm and p_0 is the VTE proportion in the control arm.

The non-inferiority margin was set at 3.5% and it was assumed that the proportion of VTE in both groups was 1%.

2.1.1 Frequentist approach

Let $Y_{i,k} \sim^{iid} Bernoulli(p_i)$, $k=1,\ldots,n_i,\ i\in\{0,1\}$. Let $\overline{p}_i=\frac{1}{n_i}\sum_{k\leq n_i}Y_{i,k},\ i\in 0,1$, and thus the estimated risk difference $D=\overline{p}_1-\overline{p}_0$ is asymptotically Gaussian distributed with $D\sim N\left(\delta,\frac{\sigma_1^2}{n_1}+\frac{\sigma_0^2}{n_0}\right)$, where $\sigma_i^2=p_i(1-p_i),\ i\in\{0,1\}$. For notational purposes we denote $\sigma_{treat}^2=\frac{\sigma_1^2}{n_1}+\frac{\sigma_0^2}{n_0}$, that is, the variance for the treatment effect.

We are interested whether the upper $(1-\alpha)\%$ -confidence limit is smaller than the non-inferiority margin, that is,

$$D+z_{1-\alpha}\sqrt{\frac{n_0\sigma_1^2+n_1\sigma_0^2}{n_1n_0}}\leq \delta^*,$$

where $z_{1-\alpha} = \Phi^{-1}(1-\alpha)$. Simple algebra leads to

$$D \le -z_{1-\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{n_0 \sigma_1^2 + n_1 \sigma_0^2}{n_1 n_0}} + \delta^*.$$

Note that $D_{suc}^{\delta^*} := -z_{1-\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{n_0 \sigma_1^2 + n_1 \sigma_0^2}{n_1 n_0}} + \delta^*$ is the **required risk difference** for a 'successful' rejection of the null hypothesis. Then

$$\begin{split} P_{\delta}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}) &= \Phi\left(-z_{1-\alpha} - \sqrt{\frac{n_1 n_0}{n_0 \sigma_1^2 + n_1 \sigma_0^2}} (\delta - \delta^*)\right) \\ &= \Phi\left(-z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{(\delta - \delta^*)}{\sigma_{treat}}\right), \end{split}$$

since under regularity conditions,

$$Z = \frac{D - \delta^*}{\sigma_{treat}} \rightarrow N(0, 1), \quad \min(n_1, n_0) \rightarrow \infty.$$

The conditional probability $P_{\delta}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*})$ is the **probability of rejection given** δ . Under the null value $\delta_0 = p_1 - p_0$, $P_{\delta_0}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}) = \alpha$ is the 'type-I error' and under an alternative value δ_A , $P_{\delta_A}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}) = 1 - \beta$ is the 'frequentist power'.

For a δ_A it holds that

$$-z_{1-\alpha} - \sqrt{\frac{n_1 n_0}{n_0 \sigma_1^2 + n_1 \sigma_0^2}} (\delta_A - \delta^*) = \Phi^{-1}(1-\beta) = z_{1-\beta}$$

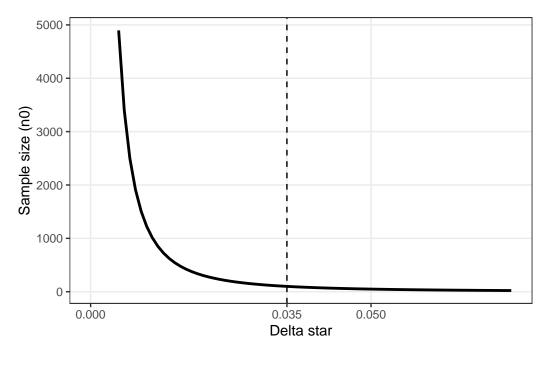
and so the sample size can then be derived as

$$\frac{(z_{1-\beta}+z_{1-\alpha})^2}{(\delta_A-\delta^*)^2} = \frac{an_0^2}{n_0\sigma_1^2+an_0\sigma_0^2},$$

where $a = n_1/n_0$ is an allocation ratio, such that

$$n_0 = (z_{1-\beta} + z_{1-\alpha})^2 \frac{\sigma_1^2 + a\sigma_0^2}{a(\delta_A - \delta^*)^2}, \quad n_1 = an_0.$$

 δ_0 , δ_A and δ^* are assumed as fixed and known constants in a frequentist approach. Their choices are of high importance, because all trial conclusions are based on those choices and affect the sample size calculation. The plot below shows how the sample size increase as δ^* approaches δ .



Working example (continued)

We calculate the required sample size for the SAFE-SSPE trial using a frequentist approach with the following parameters:

•
$$p_1=0.01,\,p_0=0.01,\,\delta^*=0.035,\,1-\beta=0.8,\,\alpha=0.05,\,a=1/1$$

```
library(epiR)
  alpha \leftarrow 0.05
  beta <- 0.2
  p_0 < 0.01
  p_1 < 0.01
  delta <- p_1 - p_0
  delta_star <- 0.035</pre>
  sd_0 \leftarrow sqrt(p_0 * (1 - p_0))
  sd_1 \leftarrow sqrt(p_1 * (1 - p_1))
  a < -1/1
  epi.ssninfb(treat = p_1, control = p_0, delta = delta_star, power = 1 -
       beta, r = a, alpha = alpha, n = NA)
$n.total
[1] 200
$n.treat
[1] 100
$n.control
[1] 100
$delta
[1] 0.035
$power
[1] 0.8
  n_0 \leftarrow ((q_{norm}(1 - beta) + q_{norm}(1 - alpha))^2) * ((sd_1^2 + alpha))^2)
      a * sd_0^2)/(a * (delta - delta_star)^2))
  n_0
[1] 99.93031
  n_1 < n_0 * a
  n_1
[1] 99.93031
```

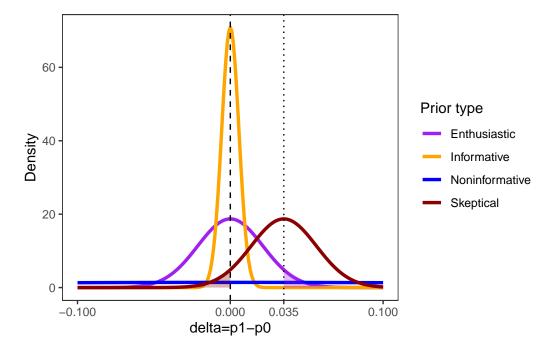
Under the specified parameters a sample size of 200 patients (100 per arm) is needed to reject the null hypothesis of inferiority. This is more or less the sample size mentioned in the study protocol of the SAFE-SSPE trial but without dropouts and adjustments for rare events.

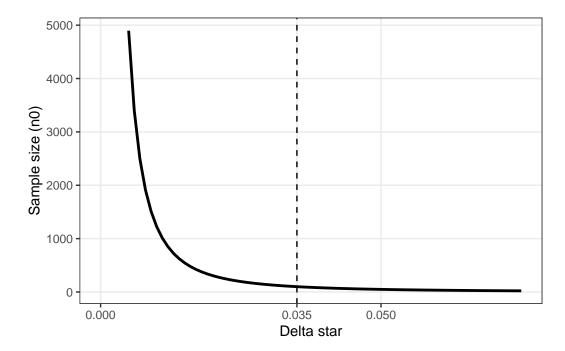
2.1.2 Hybrid approach: Prior on treatment effect

Suppose that the true treatment effect δ is a realization from a random variable Δ with $p(\delta)$. In this subsection we assume that the prior comes from a Gaussian distribution function so that $\Delta \sim N\left(d,\frac{\sigma_1^2+\sigma_0^2}{m}\right)$. Note that this prior can be thought as a realisation from m Gaussian 'prior observations' with variance $\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_0^2$. Again for notational purposes we denote $\sigma_{prior}^2 = \frac{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_0^2}{m}$ as the variance of the design prior on the treatment effect.

In the following we will use the following priors:

- Enthusiastic prior (favors non-inferiority): d = 0, m = 6.6, $P(\Delta > \delta^*) = 0.05$. This prior is centered on the treatment effect such that there is a low probability (here 5%) of inferiority.
- Skeptical prior (favors inferiority): $d = \delta^*$, m = 6.6, $P(\Delta > 0) = 0.05$. This prior is centered on the non-inferiority margin such that there is a low probability (here 5%) of superiority.
- Informative prior (clinical expert knowledge): d = 0 with m = 25.
- Noninformative prior: d = 0 with m = 0.5.





Let

$$AP:=\int_{\Delta}P_{\delta}(D\leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*})p(\delta)d\delta,$$

be the 'average power' [4] (also called 'assurance' [5], 'probability of success' [1], [2] or Bayesian predictive power [6]. The supplemental section of [1] contains a literature review of the used terminology). Remember that in an hybrid approach we are interested in trial conclusions from a frequentist point of view, thus we are interested in

$$D \leq -z_{1-\alpha}\sqrt{\frac{n_0\sigma_1^2+n_1\sigma_0^2}{n_1n_0}}+\delta^*.$$

By using a design prior we take into account the uncertainty of the treatment effect. The prior predictive distribution for an estimated risk difference, say \tilde{D} , with a prior $\Delta \sim N\left(d, \sigma_{prior}^2\right)$ includes this uncertainty. For the Gaussian case, the prior predictive distribution of \tilde{D} is given as

$$\tilde{D} \sim N\left(d, \sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2\right),$$

since $\tilde{D} \sim N\left(\delta, \sigma_{treat}^2\right)$.

Suppose now that D has a predictive distribution as described above, then

$$AP = \int_{-\infty}^{-z_{1-\alpha}\sqrt{\frac{n_0\sigma_1^2 + n_1\sigma_0^2}{n_1n_0}} + \delta^*} f(\tilde{\delta})d\tilde{\delta} = \Phi\left(\frac{1}{\sigma_{prior}}\left[-z_{1-\alpha}\sigma_{treat} - (d-\delta^*)\right]\right)$$

see for example [4]. Note that as $m \to \infty$, then $AP \to \Phi\left(-z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{(d-\delta^*)}{\sigma_{treat}}\right)$, that is, the frequentist power at d.

Working example (continued)

We calculate the AP under the assumed prior distributions and parameters for the SAFE-SSPE trial.

```
# Enthusiastic prior
m < -6.6
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data_output <- data.frame(type = "Enthusiastic", n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP,
    2))
# Skeptical prior
m < -6.6
prior_mean <- delta_star</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data_output <- rbind(data_output, data.frame(type = "Skeptical",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP, 2))
# Informative prior
m < -25
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat <- sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data_output <- rbind(data_output, data.frame(type = "Informative",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP, 2))
# Noninformative prior
m < -0.5
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
```

```
type n_0 n_1 AP
1 Enthusiastic 99.93031 99.93031 0.59
2 Informative 99.93031 99.93031 0.66
3 Noninformative 99.93031 99.93031 0.52
4 Skeptical 99.93031 99.93031 0.34
```

Under an 'enthusiastic prior' we get an average power of 59%. For an 'skeptical prior' the average power decreases to 34%. These values are lower than the frequentist power of 80%.

Rufibach et al. give a closed a formula for the distribution of $RPR := P_{\Delta}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*})$, where $\Delta \sim N(d, \sigma_{prior}^2)$, and discuss the shape under different prior choices [6]. In the following we use the wording 'random probability to reject' (RPR) similar to [1].

For 0 < y < 1, the random variable RPR has a probability density function

$$f(y) = \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \phi \left(-z_{1-\alpha} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} - \frac{(d-\delta^*)}{\sigma_{prior}} - \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \Phi^{-1}(y) \right) \left[\phi \left(\Phi^{-1}(y) \right) \right]^{-1},$$

see [6].

Special case

For the case that $n_0 = n_1 = n$ and $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 = \sigma^2$, then $\sigma_{treat}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{n}$ and $\sigma_{prior}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{m}$, and the formula above reduces to

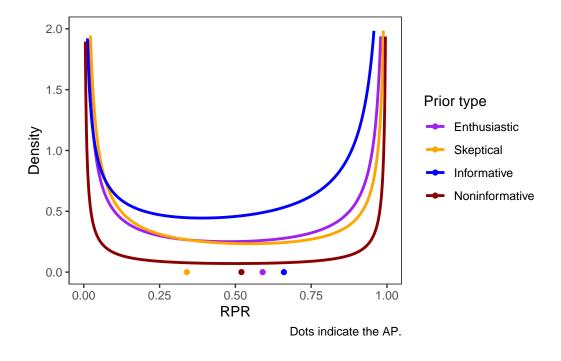
$$f(y) = \sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}\phi\left(\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}\left[-z_{1-\alpha} - \sqrt{\frac{n}{2\sigma^2}}(d-\delta^*) - \Phi^{-1}(y)\right]\right)\left[\phi\left(\Phi^{-1}(y)\right)\right]^{-1}, \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

Working example (continued)

We derive the probability densities for the different assumed priors for the SAFE-SSPE study.

```
x \leftarrow seg(0.001, 0.999, 0.001)
# Enthusiastic prior
m < -6.6
prior mean <- 0
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
## Rufibach 2016: formula (4)
y \leftarrow sqrt(m * n_0 * sd_1^2 + m * n_1 * sd_0^2)/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0 * 
           (sd_0^2 + sd_1^2)) * dnorm(-sqrt(m * n_0 * sd_1^2 + m *
          n_1 * sd_0^2/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))) * qnorm(1 -
           alpha) - sqrt(m)/sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2)) * (prior_mean -
          delta_star) - sqrt(m * n_0 * sd_1^2 + m * n_1 * sd_0^2)/(sqrt(n_1 * n_2)^2)
          n_0 * (sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))) * qnorm(x)) * (dnorm(qnorm(x)))^(-1)
data_power <- data.frame(x, y, type = "Enthusiastic")</pre>
# Skeptical prior
m < -6.6
prior mean <- delta star</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
y <- sigma_treat/sigma_prior * dnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -
           (1/sigma_prior) * (prior_mean - delta_star) - (sigma_treat/sigma_prior) *
           qnorm(x)) * (dnorm(qnorm(x)))^(-1)
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(x, y, type = "Skeptical"))</pre>
# Informative prior
m <- 25
prior mean <- 0
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma\_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
y <- sigma_treat/sigma_prior * dnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -
           (1/sigma_prior) * (prior_mean - delta_star) - (sigma_treat/sigma_prior) *
          qnorm(x)) * (dnorm(qnorm(x)))^(-1)
```

```
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(x, y, type = "Informative"))</pre>
# Noninformative prior
m < -0.5
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
y <- sigma_treat/sigma_prior * dnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -
    (1/sigma_prior) * (prior_mean - delta_star) - (sigma_treat/sigma_prior) *
    qnorm(x)) * (dnorm(qnorm(x)))^(-1)
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(x, y, type = "Noninformative"))</pre>
data_output2 <- data_output %>%
    select(type, x = AP) %>%
    mutate(y = 0)
data_power$type <- factor(data_power$type, levels = c("Enthusiastic",</pre>
    "Skeptical", "Informative", "Noninformative"))
ggplot(data_power, aes(x, y, colour = type)) + geom_line(linewidth = 1) +
    geom_point(data = data_output2, aes(x = x, y = y, colour = type)) +
    scale_colour_manual("Prior type", values = c("purple", "orange",
        "blue", "darkred")) + theme_bw() + theme(panel.grid = element_blank()) +
    ylab("Density") + xlab("RPR") + ylim(c(0, 2)) + labs(caption = "Dots indicate the AP.")
```



The cumulative distribution function of RPR can the be calculated as

$$P(RPR \leq y) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \left[-z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{(d-\delta^*)}{\sigma_{treat}} - \Phi^{-1}(y) \right] \right), \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

Special case

For the case that $n_0 = n_1 = n$ and $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 = \sigma^2$, then $\sigma_{treat}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{n}$ and $\sigma_{prior}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{m}$, and the formula above reduces to

$$P(RPR \leq y) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \left[-z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{(d-\delta^*)}{\sigma_{treat}} - \Phi^{-1}(y) \right] \right), \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

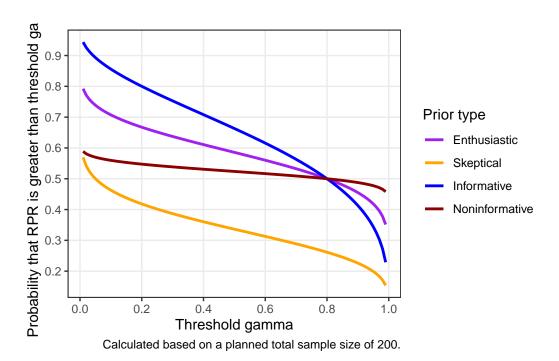
Note that if n_0 and n_1 are the planned treatment arm sample sizes from a frequentist power calculation as described in Section 2.1.1 above, then, if $d = \delta_A$,

$$-z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{(d-\delta^*)}{\sigma_{treat}} = \Phi^{-1}(y) = \Phi^{-1}(1-\beta) \quad \Rightarrow \quad P(RPR \leq y) = 0.5, \quad y = 1-\beta.$$

Working example (continued)

With the above formula we calculate the probability $P(RPR > \gamma)$, $0 < \gamma < 1$, for the SAFE-SSPE study. We use an enthusiastic (m = 6.6), an informative (m = 25) and a noninformative prior (m = 0.5) prior, all centered on $\delta = 0$.

```
# gamma range
gamma \leftarrow seq(0.01, 0.99, 0.01)
# Centered on p1-p0
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
m_{range} \leftarrow c(0.5, 6.6, 25)
n_0_range <- n_0
data_rpr <- expand.grid(gamma, m_range, n_0_range)</pre>
names(data_rpr) <- c("gamma", "m_range", "n_0_range")</pre>
data_rpr$n_1_range <- a * data_rpr$n_0_range</pre>
data_rpr$sigma_treat <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr$n_0_range + sd_1^2/data_rpr$n_1_range)
data rpr$sigma prior <- sqrt(sd 0^2/data rpr$m range + sd 1^2/data rpr$m range)
data rpr$p rpr <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * data rpr$sigma treat/data rpr$sigma prior -
    (1/data rpr$sigma prior) * (prior mean - delta star) -
      (data rpr$sigma treat/data rpr$sigma prior) *
    qnorm(data_rpr$gamma))
data_rpr$type <- NA
data_rpr$type[data_rpr$m_range == 0.5] <- "Noninformative"</pre>
data rpr$type[data rpr$m range == 6.6] <- "Enthusiastic"</pre>
data_rpr$type[data_rpr$m_range == 25] <- "Informative"</pre>
# Centered on noninferiority margin
prior_mean <- delta_star</pre>
m_{range} \leftarrow c(6.6)
n_0_range <- n_0
data_rpr_skep <- expand.grid(gamma, m_range, n_0_range)</pre>
names(data_rpr_skep) <- c("gamma", "m_range", "n_0_range")</pre>
data_rpr_skep$n_1_range <- a * data_rpr_skep$n_0_range</pre>
data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr_skep$n_0_range +
    sd_1^2/data_rpr_skep$n_1_range)
data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr_skep$m_range +</pre>
    sd_1^2/data_rpr_skep$m_range)
data_rpr_skep$p_rpr <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) *</pre>
                                 data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat/data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior -
    (1/data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior) * (prior_mean - delta_star) -
    (data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat/data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior) * qnorm(data_rpr_skep$gamma))
```



For a specific threshold, say $\gamma = 0.6$, and varying 'prior sample sizes' m we obtain

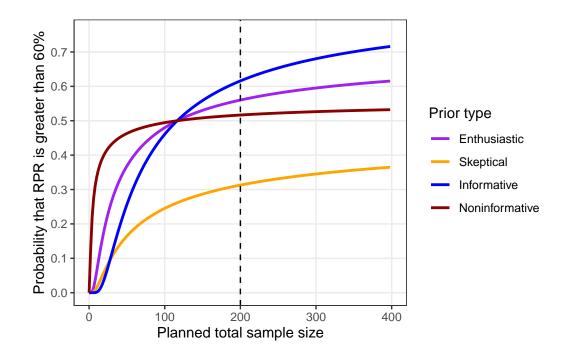
```
gamma <- 0.6

# Centered on p1-p0
prior_mean <- 0

m_range <- c(0.5, 6.6, 25)</pre>
```

```
n_0_{range} \leftarrow seq(0.01, 300, by = 1)
data_rpr <- expand.grid(m_range, n_0_range)</pre>
names(data_rpr) <- c("m_range", "n_0_range")</pre>
data_rpr$n_1_range <- a * data_rpr$n_0_range</pre>
data_rpr$sigma_treat <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr$n_0_range + sd_1^2/data_rpr$n_1_range)
data_rpr$sigma_prior <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr$m_range + sd_1^2/data_rpr$m_range)
data_rpr$p_rpr <- pnorm(data_rpr$sigma_treat/data_rpr$sigma_prior *
    (-qnorm(1 - alpha) - (1/data_rpr$sigma_treat) * (prior_mean -
        delta_star) - qnorm(gamma)))
data_rpr$type <- NA
data_rpr$type[data_rpr$m_range == 0.5] <- "Noninformative"</pre>
data_rpr$type[data_rpr$m_range == 6.6] <- "Enthusiastic"</pre>
data rpr$type[data rpr$m range == 25] <- "Informative"
# Centered on noninferiority margin
prior_mean <- delta_star</pre>
m_range <- c(6.6)</pre>
n 0 range \leftarrow seq(0.01, 300, by = 1)
data_rpr_skep <- expand.grid(m_range, n_0_range)</pre>
names(data_rpr_skep) <- c("m_range", "n_0_range")</pre>
data_rpr_skep$n_1_range <- a * data_rpr_skep$n_0_range</pre>
data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr_skep$n_0_range +
    sd_1<sup>2</sup>/data_rpr_skep$n_1_range)
data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior <- sqrt(sd_0^2/data_rpr_skep$m_range +</pre>
    sd_1^2/data_rpr_skep$m_range)
data_rpr_skep$p_rpr <- pnorm(data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat/data_rpr_skep$sigma_prior *
    (-qnorm(1 - alpha) - (1/data_rpr_skep$sigma_treat) * (prior_mean -
        delta_star) - qnorm(gamma)))
data_rpr_skep$type <- "Skeptical"</pre>
data_rpr <- rbind(data_rpr, data_rpr_skep)</pre>
data_rpr$type <- factor(data_rpr$type, levels = c("Enthusiastic",</pre>
    "Skeptical", "Informative", "Noninformative"))
ggplot(data rpr, aes(x = n_1_range + n_0_range, y = p_rpr, colour = type)) +
    geom line(linewidth = 1) + theme bw() + theme(panel.grid.minor = element blank()) +
```

```
scale_colour_manual("Prior type", values = c("purple", "orange",
    "blue", "darkred")) + xlab("Planned total sample size") +
ylab(str_glue("Probability that RPR is greater than ", gamma *
    100, "%")) + scale_x_continuous(breaks = c(0, 100, 200,
300, 400), limits = c(0, 400)) + geom_vline(xintercept = 200,
linetype = "dashed") + scale_y_continuous(breaks = seq(0,
1, 0.1))
```



Note that the average power AP integrates over the whole Δ range. This might include also 'non-favorable' regions. To see that one can decompose AP as follows (see [1], [4]):

$$AP = \overbrace{P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta > \delta^*)}^{(1)} + \overbrace{P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, 0 < \Delta \leq \delta^*)}^{(2)} + \overbrace{P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta \leq 0)}^{(3)}$$

where

- (1) Probability of Type-I error,
- (2) 'Non-inferior, but treatment effect not relevant',
- (3) 'Non-inferior, treatment effect relevant'.

[2] shows that $AP \approx P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta \leq 0)$ because the type-I error is often small and one has strong believe for the alternative hypothesis [2]. [1] and [5] discuss the relevance of the AP decomposition. For example, pharmaceutical companies might (1)+(2)+(3) taking into account shortterm risk, wheras regulators are interested in (1) or (1)+(2), that is non-inferior outcomes with relevant treatment effects.

For the non-inferiority setting we are interested in (2)+(3):

$$P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta \leq \delta^*) = P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*} | \Delta \leq \delta^*) \\ P(\Delta \leq \delta^*) = \underbrace{E\left[P_{\Delta \leq \delta^*}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*})\right]}_{EP} P(\Delta \leq \delta^*),$$

Kunzmann et al. denote EP the 'expected power' ([1]). Note that

$$\underbrace{P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta \leq \delta^*)}_{PAP} = \underbrace{E\left[P_{\Delta \leq \delta^*}(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*})\right]}_{EP} \underbrace{P(\Delta \leq \delta^*)}_{constant}.$$

Spiegelhalter calls $P(P(D \leq D_{suc}^{\delta^*}, \Delta \leq \delta^*)$ the 'prior adjusted power' (PAP):

The AP decomposition can be visualised using the posterior predictive distribution. Let $p(\tilde{\delta})$ be the pdf of the posterior predictive distribution then

$$p(\tilde{\delta}, \delta) = N_2 \left(\begin{pmatrix} d \\ d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2 & \sigma_{prior}^2 \\ \sigma_{prior}^2 & \sigma_{prior}^2 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

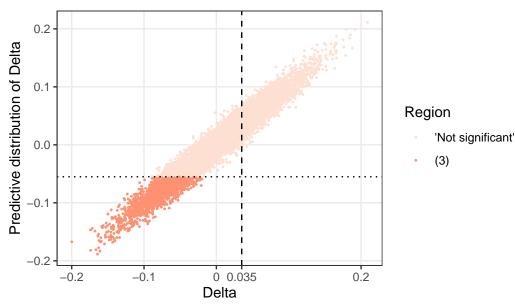
see formula (2.11) in [4].

Working example (continued)

For the SAFE-SSPE study the bivariate scatterplot of $p(\tilde{\delta}, \delta)$ under an enthusiastic prior can be visualised as:

```
library(mvtnorm)
library(tidyverse)
library(ggplot2)
delta_star <- 0.035
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
m < -6.6
sigma_sim \leftarrow matrix(c((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1 + (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)/m),
    (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)/m, (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)/m, (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)/m),
    nrow = 2, ncol = 2, byrow = T)
set.seed(1)
data sim <- data.frame(rmvnorm(n = 10000, mean = c(prior mean,
    prior_mean), sigma_sim))
names(data sim) <- c("delta pred", "delta")</pre>
data sim$region <- ifelse(data sim$delta <= 0 & data sim$delta pred <=
    -qnorm(1 - alpha) * sd_tilde/sqrt(m) - (prior_mean - delta_star),
    1, 0)
```

```
data_sim$region <- ifelse(data_sim$delta > 0 & data_sim$delta <=
    delta_star & data_sim$delta_pred <= -qnorm(1 - alpha) * sd_tilde/sqrt(m) -
    (prior_mean - delta_star), 2, data_sim$region)
data_sim$region <- ifelse(data_sim$delta > delta_star & data_sim$delta_pred <=
    -qnorm(1 - alpha) * sd_tilde/sqrt(m) - (prior_mean - delta_star),
    3, data_sim$region)
data_sim$region <- factor(data_sim$region, levels = 0:3, labels = c("'Not significant'",
    "(3)", "(2)", "(1)"))
ggplot(data_sim, aes(x = delta, y = delta_pred, colour = factor(region))) +
    geom_point(size = 0.3) + theme_bw() + theme(panel.grid.minor = element_blank()) +
    geom_vline(xintercept = 0.035, linetype = "dashed") + geom_hline(yintercept = -qnorm(1 -
    alpha) * sd_tilde/sqrt(m) - (prior_mean - delta_star), linetype = "dotted") +
   ylab("Predictive distribution of Delta") + xlab("Delta") +
   scale_color_brewer("Region", palette = "Reds") + scale_x_continuous(breaks = c(-0.2,
    -0.1, 0, 0.035, 0.2), labels = c(-0.2, -0.1, 0, 0.035, 0.2)) +
   labs(caption = "Dashed line: Noninferiority margin.\nDotted line: Upper CI from predicted of
```



Dashed line: Noninferiority margin. Dotted line: Upper CI from predicted delta <= non-inferiority margin.

```
data.frame(data_sim %>%
    group_by(region) %>%
    summarise(prop = n()/nrow(data_sim)))
```

region prop

```
For the noninferiority setting \Delta < \delta^*:
  delta_star <- 0.035
  prior mean <- 0
  m < -6.6
  set.seed(1)
  sd_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_1^2 + sd_0^2))/sqrt(m)
  draws <- rnorm(10000, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior)</pre>
  power_classic <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) - sqrt(n_0 * n_1)/sqrt((n_0 *</pre>
       sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2) * (draws - delta_star))
  data_ep <- data.frame(ep = mean(power_classic[draws <= delta_star]),</pre>
      pap = mean(power_classic[draws <= delta_star]) * pnorm(delta_star,</pre>
           mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior), ap = mean(power_classic),
      const = pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior),
      type = "Skeptical")
  set.seed(1)
  prior_mean <- delta_star</pre>
  m < -6.6
  draws <- rnorm(10000, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior)</pre>
  power_classic <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) - sqrt(n_0 * n_1)/sqrt((n_0 *</pre>
       sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2) * (draws - delta_star)
  data_ep <- rbind(data_ep, data.frame(ep = mean(power_classic[draws <=</pre>
      delta_star]), pap = mean(power_classic[draws <= delta_star]) *</pre>
      pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior), ap = mean(power_classic),
      const = pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior),
      type = "Enthusiastic"))
  prior mean <- 0
  m < -25
  set.seed(1)
  draws <- rnorm(10000, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior)</pre>
  power_classic <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) - sqrt(n_0 * n_1)/sqrt((n_0 *</pre>
       sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2) * (draws - delta_star))
```

1 'Not significant' 0.8286

(3) 0.1714

```
data_ep <- rbind(data_ep, data.frame(ep = mean(power_classic[draws <=</pre>
       delta star]), pap = mean(power classic[draws <= delta star]) *</pre>
       pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior), ap = mean(power_classic),
       const = pnorm(delta star, mean = prior mean, sd = sd prior),
       type = "Informative"))
  prior_mean <- 0</pre>
  m < -0.5
  set.seed(1)
  draws <- rnorm(1e+05, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_tilde/sqrt(0.5))</pre>
  power_classic <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) - sqrt(n_0 * n_1)/sqrt((n_0 *</pre>
       sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2) * (draws - delta_star)
  data_ep <- rbind(data_ep, data.frame(ep = mean(power_classic[draws <=</pre>
       delta_star]), pap = mean(power_classic[draws <= delta_star]) *</pre>
       pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior), ap = mean(power_classic),
       const = pnorm(delta_star, mean = prior_mean, sd = sd_prior),
       type = "Noninformative"))
  data_ep$ep <- round(data_ep$ep, 4)</pre>
  data_ep$ap <- round(data_ep$ap, 4)</pre>
  data_ep$pap <- round(data_ep$pap, 4)</pre>
  data_ep$const <- round(data_ep$const, 4)</pre>
  data_ep
                     ap const
                                           type
            pap
                                     Skeptical
1 0.7930 0.5857 0.5872 0.7386
2 0.6740 0.3370 0.3437 0.5000
                                  Enthusiastic
3 0.7930 0.5857 0.5872 0.7386
                                   Informative
4 0.9186 0.6785 0.5233 0.7386 Noninformative
```

2.1.3 Proper Bayesian approach

A proper Bayesian approach uses the posterior distribution to define 'Bayesian significance': $S^B := P(\Delta \le \delta^*|data) = 1 - \epsilon$. Remember $D = p_1 - p_0$ with $D \sim N(\delta, \sigma_{treat}^2)$. Suppose that $\Delta \sim N(d, \sigma_{prior}^2)$ then the posterior distribution given D is distributed as

$$\Delta|D \sim N\left(\frac{\frac{d}{\sigma_{prior}^2} + \frac{D}{\sigma_{treat}^2}}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{prior}^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{treat}^2}}, \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{prior}^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{treat}^2}}\right) = N\left(\frac{\sigma_{treat}^2 d + \sigma_{prior}^2 D}{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}, \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2 \sigma_{prior}^2}{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}\right)$$

Special case

If $n_0 = n_1 = n$ and $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 = \sigma^2$, then $\sigma_{treat}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{n}$ and $\sigma_{prior}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{m}$, and the formula above reduces to

$$\Delta|D \sim N\left(\frac{m\delta + nD}{n+m}, \frac{\sigma^2}{n+m}\right).$$

One is interested whether the upper $(1 - \epsilon)$ credible interval is smaller than the non-inferiority margin, that is

$$\frac{\sigma_{treat}^2 d + \sigma_{prior}^2 D}{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2} + z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat} \sigma_{prior}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}} \leq \delta^*.$$

A simple algebraic step gives

$$D \leq -z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2} + \delta^* \left(1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}\right) - \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2} d$$

Denote $D_{suc}^{d,\delta^*} = -z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2} + \delta^* \left(1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}\right) - \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2} d$ as the required risk difference for a successful rejection of the null hypothesis in the Bayesian setting.

Thus, since $D \sim N(\delta, \sigma_{treat}^2)$,

$$P(D \leq D_{suc}^{d,\delta^*} | \delta) = \Phi\left(-z_{1-\epsilon}\sqrt{1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{treat}}\left[\delta - \delta^*\left\{1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}\right\}\right] - \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}^2}d\right).$$

This is the Bayesian power (or probability of rejection) assuming one knows the true treatment effect δ . Note that this is a conditional probability.

Special case

If $n_0=n_1=n$ and $\sigma_1^2=\sigma_0^2=\sigma^2$, then $\sigma_{treat}^2=\frac{2\sigma^2}{n}$ and $\sigma_{prior}^2=\frac{2\sigma^2}{m}$, and the formula above reduces to

$$P(S^B|\delta) = \Phi\left(-z_{1-\epsilon}\sqrt{\frac{n+m}{n}} - \frac{m}{\sqrt{2n\sigma^2}}d - \sqrt{\frac{n}{2n\sigma^2}}\left\{\delta - \delta^*\left(\frac{n+m}{n}\right)\right\}\right).$$

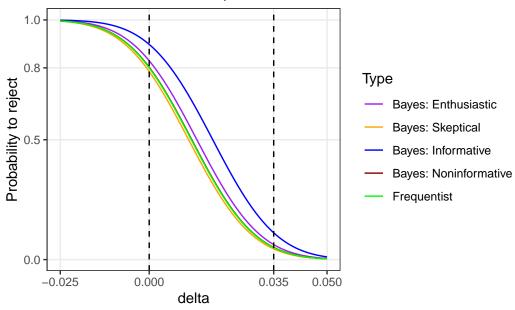
Working example (continued)

We derive the Bayesian probability of rejection for the SAFE-SSPE study for differently assumed δ values.

```
# Delta range
delta \leftarrow seq(-0.025, 0.05, 0.001)
# Epsilon
epsilon \leftarrow 0.05
# Enthusiastic prior
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
m < -6.6
ap_bayes \leftarrow pnorm(-qnorm(1 - epsilon) * (sqrt(1 + m * (n_0 *
            sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))) -
            (m * sqrt(n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0) *
                       (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)) * prior_mean - sqrt((n_1 * n_0)/((n_0 * n_0)))
            sd 1^2 + n 1 * sd 0^2)) * (delta - delta star * (1 + (m * 
            (n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))))
data_power <- data.frame(delta, y = ap_bayes, type = "Bayes: Enthusiastic")</pre>
# Skeptical prior
prior_mean <- 0.035</pre>
m < -6.6
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - epsilon) * (sqrt(1 + m * (n_0) *
            sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))) -
            (m * sqrt(n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0) *
                       (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)) * prior_mean - sqrt((n_1 * n_0)/((n_0 * n_0))) * prior_mean - sqrt((n_0 * n_0)/((n_0 * n_0)/((n_0
            sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2)) * (delta - delta_star * (1 + (m * 
            (n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))))
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(delta, y = ap_bayes,</pre>
           type = "Bayes: Skeptical"))
# Informative prior
prior mean <- 0
m < -25
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - epsilon) * (sqrt(1 + m * (n_0 *
```

```
sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))) -
         (m * sqrt(n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0) *
                 (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)) * prior_mean - sqrt((n_1 * n_0)/((n_0 * n_0)))
         sd 1^2 + n 1 * sd 0^2)) * (delta - delta star * (1 + (m * 
         (n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))))
data power <- rbind(data power, data.frame(delta, y = ap bayes,
        type = "Bayes: Informative"))
# Noninformative prior
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
m < -0.5
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - epsilon) * (sqrt(1 + m * (n_0) 
         sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))) -
         (m * sqrt(n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(sqrt(n_1 * n_0) *
                 (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)) * prior_mean - sqrt((n_1 * n_0)/((n_0 *
         sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2)) * (delta - delta_star * (1 + (m * 
         (n_0 * sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2))/(n_1 * n_0 * (sd_1^2 + sd_0^2)))))
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(delta, y = ap_bayes,</pre>
        type = "Bayes: Noninformative"))
# Frequentist
y_freq <- pnorm(-(delta - delta_star) * sqrt(n_1 * n_0)/sqrt(n_0 *</pre>
         sd_1^2 + n_1 * sd_0^2 - qnorm(1 - alpha)
data_power <- rbind(data_power, data.frame(delta, y = y_freq,</pre>
        type = "Frequentist"))
data_power$type <- factor(data_power$type, levels = c("Bayes: Enthusiastic",</pre>
         "Bayes: Skeptical", "Bayes: Informative", "Bayes: Noninformative",
         "Frequentist"))
ggplot(data_power, aes(x = delta, y = y, colour = type)) + geom_line() +
         theme_bw() + theme(panel.grid.minor = element_blank()) +
         scale_colour_manual("Type", values = c("purple", "orange",
                 "blue", "darkred", "green")) + ylab("Probability of rejection") +
        ylab("Probability to reject") + scale_x_continuous(breaks = c(-0.025,
        0, 0.035, 0.05)) + scale_y_continuous(breaks = c(0, 0.5,
        0.8, 1)) + ggtitle(str_glue("For treatment arm sample sizes: n0=",
        round(n_0, 0), ", n1=", round(n_1, 0))) + geom_vline(xintercept = 0, 0)
        linetype = "dashed") + geom_vline(xintercept = 0.035, linetype = "dashed")
```

For treatment arm sample sizes: n0=100, n1=100



```
data_power$y <- round(data_power$y, 2)
data_power %>%
    filter(delta %in% c("0", "0.035"))
```

	${\tt delta}$	У	type
1	0.000	0.83	Bayes: Enthusiastic
2	0.035	0.06	Bayes: Enthusiastic
3	0.000	0.78	Bayes: Skeptical
4	0.035	0.04	Bayes: Skeptical
5	0.000	0.90	Bayes: Informative
6	0.035	0.11	Bayes: Informative
7	0.000	0.80	Bayes: Noninformative
8	0.035	0.05	Bayes: Noninformative
9	0.000	0.80	Frequentist
10	0.035	0.05	Frequentist

The average (marginal) Bayesian probability of rejection (BAP) can be calculated as

$$\begin{split} BAP &= \int_{-\infty}^{-z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}}} \sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2} + \delta^* \left(1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}\right) - \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2} d}{\sigma_{prior}^2} d \\ &= \Phi \left(-z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}} + \frac{\delta^*}{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2} \right\} \\ &- \frac{d}{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\sigma_{treat}^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2} \right\} \right) \\ &= \Phi \left(-z_{1-\epsilon} \frac{\sigma_{treat}}{\sigma_{prior}} - \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2}}{\sigma_{prior}^2} (d - \delta^*) \right), \end{split}$$

since for the posterior predictive distribution $\tilde{D} \sim N(d,\sigma_{treat}^2 + \sigma_{prior}^2).$

Special case

If $n_0 = n_1 = n$ and $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_0^2 = \sigma^2$, then $\sigma_{treat}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{n}$ and $\sigma_{prior}^2 = \frac{2\sigma^2}{m}$, and the formula above reduces to

$$BAP = -z_{1-\epsilon}\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}} - \sqrt{\frac{(m+n)m}{2n\sigma^2}}(d-\delta^*)$$

Working example (continued)

We derive the average Bayesian probability of rejection for the SAFE-SSPE study.

```
### Hybrid AP

sigma_treat <- sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))

# Enthusiastic prior
m <- 6.6
prior_mean <- 0
sigma_prior <- sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)

AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat - (prior_mean - delta_star)))</pre>
```

```
data_output <- data.frame(type = "Enthusiastic", n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP,</pre>
    3))
# Skeptical prior
m < -6.6
prior mean <- delta star</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data_output <- rbind(data_output, data.frame(type = "Skeptical",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP, 3))
# Informative prior
m < -25
prior mean <- 0
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data_output <- rbind(data_output, data.frame(type = "Informative",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP, 3))
# Noninformative prior
m < -0.5
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
AP <- pnorm(1/sigma_prior * (-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat -
    (prior_mean - delta_star)))
data output <- rbind(data output, data.frame(type = "Noninformative",
    n_0, n_1, AP = round(AP, 3))
data_output <- data_output %>%
    select(type, n_0, n_1, AP)
### Bayesian AP
sigma_treat \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2/n_0 + sd_1^2/n_1))
# Enthusiastic prior
```

```
prior mean <- 0
m < -6.6
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -</pre>
    sqrt(sigma_treat^2 + sigma_prior^2)/sigma_prior^2 * (prior_mean -
        delta_star))
data_output2 <- data.frame(type = "Enthusiastic", n_0, n_1, AP_bayes = round(ap_bayes,
# Skeptical prior
prior_mean <- delta_star</pre>
m < -6.6
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -</pre>
    sqrt(sigma_treat^2 + sigma_prior^2)/sigma_prior^2 * (prior_mean -
        delta_star))
data_output2 <- rbind(data_output2, data.frame(type = "Skeptical",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP_bayes = round(ap_bayes, 3)))
# Informative prior
prior_mean <- 0</pre>
m < -25
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -
    sqrt(sigma_treat^2 + sigma_prior^2)/sigma_prior^2 * (prior_mean -
        delta_star))
data_output2 <- rbind(data_output2, data.frame(type = "Informative",</pre>
    n_0, n_1, AP_bayes = round(ap_bayes, 3)))
# Noninformative prior
prior mean <- 0
m < -0.5
sigma_prior \leftarrow sqrt((sd_0^2 + sd_1^2))/sqrt(m)
ap_bayes <- pnorm(-qnorm(1 - alpha) * sigma_treat/sigma_prior -
    sqrt(sigma_treat^2 + sigma_prior^2)/sigma_prior^2 * (prior_mean -
        delta_star))
```

```
data_output2 <- rbind(data_output2, data.frame(type = "Noninformative",</pre>
      n_0, n_1, AP_bayes = round(ap_bayes, 3)))
  data_output <- left_join(data_output, data_output2 %>%
      select(type, AP_bayes), by = "type")
  data_output %>%
      select(type, n_0, n_1, AP_hybrid = AP, AP_bayes)
                               n_1 AP_hybrid AP_bayes
            type
                      n_0
    Enthusiastic 99.93031 99.93031
                                       0.586
                                                0.594
1
       Skeptical 99.93031 99.93031
                                       0.336
                                                0.336
     Informative 99.93031 99.93031
                                       0.663
                                                0.715
4 Noninformative 99.93031 99.93031
                                       0.524
                                                0.524
```

References

- 1. Kunzmann K, Grayling MJ, Lee KM, Robertson DS, Rufibach K, Wason JMS. A review of bayesian perspectives on sample size derivation for confirmatory trials. The American Statistician. 2021;75: 424–432. doi:10.1080/00031305.2021.1901782
- 2. Spiegelhalter DJ, Abrams KR, Myles JP. Bayesian approaches to clinical trials and health-care evaluation. Wiley; 2003. doi:10.1002/0470092602
- 3. Baumgartner C, Klok FA, Carrier M, Limacher A, Moor J, Righini M, et al. Clinical surveillance vs. Anticoagulation for low-risk patiEnts with isolated SubSegmental pulmonary embolism: Protocol for a multicentre randomised placebo-controlled non-inferiority trial (SAFE-SSPE). BMJ Open. 2020;10: e040151. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040151
- 4. Grieve AP. Hybrid frequentist/bayesian power and bayesian power in planning clinical trials. Chapman; Hall/CRC; 2022. doi:10.1201/9781003218531
- 5. O'Hagan A, Stevens JW, Campbell MJ. Assurance in clinical trial design. Pharmaceutical Statistics. 2005;4: 187–201. doi:10.1002/pst.175
- 6. Rufibach K, Burger HU, Abt M. Bayesian predictive power: Choice of prior and some recommendations for its use as probability of success in drug development. Pharmaceutical Statistics. 2016;15: 438–446. doi:10.1002/pst.1764