

1 Sample size determination for Bayesian testing of informative hypothesis in linear  
2 regression models

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## Abstract

It is a tradition that goes back to Jacob Cohen to calculate the sample size before collecting data. The most commonly asked question is: "How many subjects do we need to obtain a significant result if we use the  $p$ -value to evaluate the hypothesis if an effect size exists?" In the Bayesian framework, we may want to know how many subjects are needed to get convincing evidence if we use the Bayes factor to evaluate the hypothesis. This paper proposes a solution to the above question by reaching two goals: firstly, the size of the Bayes factor reaches a given threshold, and secondly the probability that the Bayes factor exceeds the given threshold reaches a required value. Researchers can express their expectations through the order or the sign hypothesis of the parameters in a linear regression model. For example, the researchers may expect the regression coefficient to be  $\beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$ , which is an order constrained hypothesis; or the researchers may expect a regression coefficient  $\beta_1 > 0$ , which is a sign hypothesis. The greatest advantage of using a specific hypothesis is that the sample size required is reduced compared to an unconstrained hypothesis to achieve the same probability that the Bayes factor exceeds some threshold. This article provides sample size tables for the null hypothesis, order hypothesis, sign hypothesis, complement hypothesis, and unconstrained hypothesis. To enhance the applicability, an R package is developed via a Monte Carlo simulation, which can facilitate psychologists while planning the sample size even if they do not have any statistical programming background.

*Keywords:* Bayes Factor, Informative Hypothesis, Multiple Linear Regression, Sample Size Determination, **SSDbain**

Sample size determination for Bayesian testing of informative hypothesis in linear regression models

## Introduction

Sample size determination is a crucial step in the design of a study. If the sample size is insufficient, then the study will not be able to draw valid conclusions. Conversely, if the sample size is much larger than required, the study will become expensive, time-consuming and ethically unacceptable. When the required sample size cannot be achieved to demonstrate convincing results, the researchers may consider not going ahead with this study to save money and efforts. In most universities, sample size determination and statistical power analysis are increasingly becoming a requirement for most research proposals, applications for ethical clearance and journal articles. Based on Cohen's research (Cohen, 1988, 1992), software for sample size calculation and power analysis, such as **G\*Power** (Faul et al., 2009; Faul et al., 2007; Mayr et al., 2007), **nQuery Advisor** (Elashoff, 2007) and **PASS** (Hintze, 2011) has been developed. Through these software the researcher can obtain a sample size plan easily.

The multiple linear model is one of the most often used models in the social and behavioral sciences. The multiple linear regression is widely used to evaluate how a response variable ( $Y$ ) is related to a set of predictors ( $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_K$ ). Suppose that a group of researchers wants to investigate the relationship between the response variable *Income* and two predictor variables *Intelligence* (IQ) and *Socio-Economic Status* (SES) using multiple linear regression. The regression coefficient corresponding to IQ is denoted as  $\beta_1$ , and the regression coefficient corresponding to SES is denoted as  $\beta_2$ . The hypothesis of interest for the study is that the predictor of IQ has a stronger effect than SES on the response variable *Income*. This hypothesis can be expressed using notation as  $H_1: \beta_1 > \beta_2$ . To demonstrate this order relationship, the researchers want to detect a coefficient of determination, for instance,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , where  $R^2$  is the proportion of the variance in the

dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable(s). Sample-size tables in the framework of null-hypothesis significance testing (NHST) based on the  $F$ -test show that in the case of two predictors,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , and a significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ , 67 subjects are necessary to obtain a power of 0.80 if the null hypothesis  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$  is compared with the unconstrained hypothesis  $H_a: \beta_1, \beta_2$ . However, the expected ordering of the means ( $\beta_1 > \beta_2$ ) is completely ignored in NHST.

NHST has been harshly criticized in numerous articles in recent years although it is the most commonly used method for statistical hypothesis testing. Among them, there are three crucial points:

- 1) The  $p$ -value derived from NHST is a measure of evidence against the null hypothesis  $H_0$  (Hurlbert & Lombardi, 2009). What's more, it exaggerates the evidence against the null hypothesis  $H_0$  (Berger, 1986; Berger & Sellke, 1987). That is, the  $p$ -value makes it relatively easy to obtain statistically significant findings. For example, if  $p$ -values of 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 are considered, the posterior probabilities of the null,  $P(H_0|x)$ , for sample size  $N = 50$  are 0.52, 0.22, and 0.034, respectively, which indicate these discrepancies between  $p$ -value and posterior probability are pronounced.
- 2) A significance level  $\alpha$  of 0.05 typically reduces NHST to a binary decision rule. That is, the null hypothesis is rejected if the  $p$ -value is smaller than 0.05, and not rejected if it is above 0.05 (Harlow et al., 2016; Nickerson, 2000; Wagenmakers, 2007). This leads to phenomena such as publication bias (Ioannidis, 2005; Simmons et al., 2011; Van Assen et al., 2014), and questionable research practices (Fanelli, 2009; Masicampo & Lalande, 2012; Wicherts et al., 2016), which both contributed to the replication crisis (Open Science Collaboration, 2015);
- 3) In practical applications, the null hypothesis is never exactly true. Therefore it is always rejected as the number of observations becomes large. (Cohen, 1994; Raftery, 1995; Royall, 1997).

An alternative that has gained notable attention over the past years is Bayesian hypothesis testing using the Bayes factor (Lee & Wagenmakers, 2014; Van de Schoot et al., 2017; Vandekerckhove et al., 2018; Wagenmakers et al., 2016). In contrast to NHST, the Bayes factor has the following advantages:

- 1) The Bayes factor cannot only provide evidence in favor of the alternative hypothesis but, in contrast to the  $p$ -value, it also provides evidence in favor of the null hypotheses;
- 2) As elaborated in Hoijtink, Mulder, et al. (2019), the Bayes factor is a continuous value that quantifies the degree of the evidence in favor of one hypothesis compared to another hypothesis instead of making a hard “accept/reject” decision about the null hypothesis. This helps to reduce the problem of replication crisis. This is because the evidence of supporting the null hypothesis can be obtained in the Bayesian framework. This makes it more likely to be published in scientific journals even when there are "non-significant" results as encountered in NHST;
- 3) The Bayes factor will approach 0 or  $\infty$  when the sample size is very large (i.e., the Bayes factor for the null hypothesis  $H_0$  goes to infinity if  $H_0$  is true, and goes to 0 if the alternative hypothesis  $H_1$  is true, as the sample size goes to infinity), that is, the property of consistency for Bayes factor as presented in Ly et al. (2016). This property guarantees that the Bayes factor will always support the true hypothesis when the sample size is large enough.
- 4) The Bayes factor can compare the null, unconstrained, complement, and informative hypotheses, where the informative hypothesis (Hoijtink, 2011) can express the researcher’s expectations with regard to the sign or order of the regression coefficients of the predictors. For example, revisiting the example introduced earlier, the researcher may be interested in that  $IQ$  and  $SES$  both have a positive effect on *income*, that is,  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0$ .

As the Bayes factor becomes more and more often used (Van de Schoot et al., 2017;

Vandekerckhove et al., 2018; Wagenmakers et al., 2016), the Bayes factor calculation tools emerge. Currently, there are three R packages that can be used to compute the Bayes factor: for the evaluation of a null hypothesis versus the alternative hypothesis **BayesFactor**<sup>1</sup> (Morey et al., 2018); and, additionally, for the evaluation of informative hypothesis **bain**<sup>2</sup> (Gu et al., 2021) and **BFpack**<sup>3</sup> (Mulder et al., 2021). The first two packages are also available in JASP<sup>4</sup> (Love et al., 2019), which is an easy to use statistical software with intuitive interface.

In line with the popularity of Bayesian hypothesis testing, more attention to sample size determination should be paid in this framework. The purpose of this paper combined with Fu et al. (2021), and Fu et al. (unpublished) is to introduce a new R package **SSDbain** to help researchers who are not mathematicians and/or statisticians to obtain the minimum sample size required when the Bayes factor is used to evaluate informative hypotheses. The sample size is determined such that the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than a threshold denoted by  $BF_{thresh}$  is  $\eta$  under the competing hypotheses considered, where  $BF_{thresh}$  is a value that constitutes sufficient evidence for the researchers, and  $\eta$  is the probability to correctly find sufficient support for the true hypothesis. Throughout this paper, sample size determination (SSD) for the comparison of null, informative, and unconstrained hypotheses under a multiple linear regression in the Bayesian framework as implemented in the R package **bain** will be performed. This work will build on the sample size calculations for two-sample t-test discussed in Fu et al. (2021), one-way ANOVA discussed in Fu et al. (unpublished) and Bayes factor design analysis discussed in Schönbrodt and Wagenmakers (2018) and Stefan et al. (2019). Several tables based on  $R^2 = 0.13$ , which corresponds to Cohen's medium effect size  $f^2 = 0.15$ , are presented as an

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<sup>1</sup> <https://richarddmorey.github.io/BayesFactor/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://informative-hypotheses.sites.uu.nl/software/bain/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://github.com/jomulder/BFpack>

<sup>4</sup> <https://jasp-stats.org/>

example to assist researchers in determining the minimum sample size required.

The outline of this paper is as follows. First, the multiple linear regression models that are used in the article are introduced, the (informative) hypotheses that are evaluated are described, and the Bayes factor as implemented in the R package **bain** is further elaborated on. Subsequently, sample size determination will be introduced, followed by the introduction of the function **SSDRegression** in the R package **SSDbain**, features of SSD will be highlighted, and examples will be provided and discussed. The paper ends with a short conclusion.

### Multiple Linear Regression and (Informative) Hypotheses

In this paper,  $K$  regression coefficients,  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_K$  are considered, where  $K$  is an integer that is greater than or equal to 1. Let us consider the following linear regression model where a dependent variable  $Y$  is regressed on  $K$  predictor variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_K$ , say,

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k x_{i,k} + \epsilon_i, \epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2), \quad (1)$$

where  $y_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, N$  is the  $i$ -th observation of the dependent variable  $Y$ ,  $N$  denotes the size of the sample,  $x_{i,k}$  denotes the  $i$ -th observation of the  $k$ -th predictor variable  $X_k$ , where  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ ,  $\beta_0$  is the intercept of the regression model,  $\beta_k$  is the regression coefficient of the  $k$ -th predictor, and  $\epsilon_i$  are independently and normally distributed errors with variance  $\sigma^2$ .

In this paper, sample size will be determined for the comparison of null, informative, complement, and unconstrained hypotheses. These hypotheses concern the regression coefficients from the multiple linear regression model in Equation 1. The null and unconstrained hypotheses are already well known in NHST. The informative hypothesis will be introduced using the following example: a group of researchers wants to explore the relationship between the response variable IQ and three predictor variables, namely social

skills, interest in artistic activities, and use of complicated language patterns. The multiple linear regression model is used to fit this relationship. The corresponding regression coefficients are denoted by  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$ , respectively. The following pairs of hypotheses may be compared: 1) A group of researchers is interested in whether at least one predictor has an effect on the dependent variable IQ, that is,  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  vs  $H_a$ : at least one predictor has an effect on IQ; 2) The same researchers may also have evidence that the first three predictor variables are expected to be positively associated with IQ, that is,  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  vs  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 > 0$ ; 3) In confirmatory studies, the interest is typically in testing specific hypotheses with order constraints on the relative importance of the predictors based on scientific expectations or psychological theories (Hoijsink, 2011, pp. 5–20). The researchers may expect that social skills is the strongest predictor, followed by interest in artistic activities, and then use of complicated language patterns. They may formulate the hypotheses as  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3$  vs  $H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$ ; 4) The researchers may be interested in supporting  $H_1$  or precluding  $H_1$ . That is,  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 > 0$  vs  $H_{1c}$ : not  $H_1$ , where the subscript  $c$  refers to the complement of  $H_1$ ; 5) The researchers may want to know if  $H_2$  is preferred over other hypotheses. That is,  $H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$  vs  $H_{2c}$ : not  $H_2$ , where the subscript  $c$  refers to the complement of  $H_2$ . In this paper the generic situations shown below will be studied,

Situation 1:

$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K = 0$  vs  $H_a$ : at least one predictor has an effect on the dependent variable,

Situation 2:

$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K = 0$  vs  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \dots, \beta_K > 0$ ,

where some or all the regression coefficients may be smaller than zero. That is, both "<" and ">" can exist in a hypothesis.



Situation 3:

$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$  vs  $H_2: \beta_{1^*} > \beta_{2^*} > \dots > \beta_{K^*}$ ,

where  $1^*, 2^*, \dots, K^*$  are a re-ordering of the numbers  $1, 2, \dots, K$ ,

Situation 4:

$H_1: \beta_1 > 0, \beta_2 > 0, \dots, \beta_K > 0$  vs  $H_{1c}: \text{not } H_1$ ,

It should be noted that in this situation only ">" or "<" is allowed. The complexity of the complement hypothesis if both ">" and "<" exist in one hypothesis prevent me from discussing it in this paper.

and, Situation 5:

$H_2: \beta_{1^*} > \beta_{2^*} > \dots > \beta_{K^*}$  vs  $H_{2c}: \text{not } H_2$ .

The standardized regression coefficients are used in Situation 3 and Situation 5 to ensure the regression coefficients are comparable. The reason is that the regression coefficients  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_K$  may all be in different units of measurement and direct comparison is illogical. In the next section it will be elaborated how the Bayes factor implemented in the R package **bain** can be used to evaluate these pairs of hypotheses.

## Bayes Factor

In order to evaluate the competing hypotheses introduced in the previous section, the Bayes factor will be used to quantify the relative evidence provided by the data. The Bayes factor was proposed in pioneering work by Jeffreys (1961), and it was further discussed in Edwards et al. (1963), Kass and Raftery (1995), and Myung and Pitt (1997). The Bayes factor for informative hypotheses was elaborated in the tutorial by Hoijtink, Mulder, et al. (2019), which contains all the references to the statistical background of these Bayes factors. The Bayes factor can be explained as follows, in the case of  $H_0$ :

$\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$  versus  $H_1: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4$ , a Bayes factor  $BF_{01} = 19$ , for

instance, means there is 19 times more support for the model specifying the equality on the regression coefficients than for the model specifying order constraints. The Bayes factor for the null hypotheses  $H_0$ , signed hypothesis  $H_1$ , or order hypothesis  $H_2$  versus the unconstrained hypothesis  $H_a$  (the hypothesis without restrictions on the regression coefficients) is defined by the marginal likelihood ratio (Jeffreys, 1961; Kass & Raftery, 1995)

$$\text{BF}_{za} = \frac{m_z(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X})}{m_a(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X})} = \frac{\iint f(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) \pi_z(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) d\boldsymbol{\beta} d\sigma^2}{\iint f(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) \pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) d\boldsymbol{\beta} d\sigma^2}, \quad (2)$$

where  $z=0, 1, 2, c$ , where  $\pi_z(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) = \pi_z(\boldsymbol{\beta}) \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$  and  $\pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) = \pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta}) \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ , where  $\pi_z(\boldsymbol{\beta})$  and  $\pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta})$  denote the prior distribution under  $H_z$  and  $H_a$ , respectively, and  $f(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$  is the density of the data based on the model in Equation 1.

According to Klugkist et al. (2005), Equation 2 can be simplified to

$$\text{BF}_{za} = \frac{f_z}{c_z}, \quad (3)$$

where  $f_z$  is the fit of hypothesis  $H_z$  and  $c_z$  is its complexity.

The complexity  $c_z$  can be expressed as

$$c_z = \int_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in H_z} \pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta}) d\boldsymbol{\beta}. \quad (4)$$

It is the proportion of the prior distribution in agreement with  $H_z$  if  $z=1, 2$ , and is reduced to the density  $\pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathbf{0})$  if  $z=0$ , where  $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1 - \beta_2, \beta_2 - \beta_3, \dots, \beta_{k-1} - \beta_k)$  in case of  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_K)$  in case of  $\beta_1 = 0$  &  $\beta_2 = 0 \dots$  &  $\beta_K = 0$ . The complexity stands for how specific the hypothesis  $H_z$  is if  $z=1, 2$ . The more specific the inequality constrained hypothesis, the lower the complexity, but the complexity for the null hypothesis  $H_0$  and the inequality constrained hypotheses  $H_1$  or  $H_2$  cannot be

222 compared because the first is a density and the latter a probability.

223 The fit  $f_z$  can be expressed as

$$f_z = \int_{\beta \in H_z} \pi_a(\beta \mid \mathbf{X}) d\beta. \quad (5)$$

224 It is the proportion of the posterior distribution in agreement with  $H_z$  if  $z=1, 2$ , and is  
 225 reduced to the density  $\pi_a(\beta = \mathbf{0} \mid \mathbf{X})$  if  $z=0$ . The fit stands for how much the data  
 226 supports  $H_z$  relative to  $H_a$  if  $z=1, 2$ . The more the support from the data, the larger the  
 227 fit.

228 Based on  $\text{BF}_{za}$ , the Bayes factor  $\text{BF}_{zc}$  for  $z=1, 2$  that expresses the support in the data  
 229 for  $H_z$  relative to its complement hypothesis  $H_c$ , can be derived as:

$$\text{BF}_{zc} = \frac{\text{BF}_{za}}{\text{BF}_{ca}} = \frac{f_z}{c_z} \frac{1 - f_z}{1 - c_z}, \quad (6)$$

230 where  $1 - f_z$  denotes the fit of hypothesis  $H_c$ , and  $1 - c_z$  denotes the complexity of  
 231 hypothesis  $H_c$ . The Bayes factor  $\text{BF}_{02}$ , that expresses the support in the data for  $H_0$   
 232 against the competing hypothesis  $H_2$ , is represented by:

$$\text{BF}_{02} = \frac{\text{BF}_{0a}}{\text{BF}_{2a}} = \frac{f_0}{c_0} \frac{f_2}{c_2}, \quad (7)$$

233 and the Bayes factor  $\text{BF}_{01}$  that expresses the support in the data for  $H_0$  against the  
 234 competing hypothesis  $H_1$  is represented by:

$$\text{BF}_{01} = \frac{\text{BF}_{0a}}{\text{BF}_{1a}} = \frac{f_0}{c_0} \frac{f_1}{c_1}. \quad (8)$$

235 In this paper, the calculation of the Bayes factor as implemented in the R package **bain**  
 236 (Gu et al., 2018; Hoijsink, Gu, et al., 2019) will be used. In **bain**, the posterior distribution  
 237 of the regression coefficients is approximated by a normal distribution based on large

sample theory (Gelman et al., 2013, pp. 101)

$$\pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid \mathbf{X}) \approx N(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}), \quad (9)$$

where  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is the MLE (maximum likelihood estimation) of  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is its covariance matrix if Situations 1, 2, and 4 are considered, and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  is the MLE of the standardized parameters and their covariance matrix if Situations 3 and 5 are considered. In **bain**, the adjusted fractional normal prior distribution (Gu et al., 2018) is used.

$$\pi_a(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = N(\mathbf{0}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}/b). \quad (10)$$

The variance of this prior for each of the regression coefficient is calculated using a fraction  $b$  of the information in the data (De Santis & Spezzaferri, 2001; Mulder, 2014; O’Hagan, 1995). The mean of the prior for each of the regression coefficient is chosen as zero, which is located on the boundary of the constrained region of the competing hypotheses to make sure the Bayes factor is consistent when equality constrained hypotheses are evaluated (Mulder, 2014).

According to Berger and Pericchi (1996), the default value  $b = J/N$  is used to specify the variance of the prior distribution, where  $J$  is the minimal training sample size (a small part of the observed data). In **bain**,  $J$  is replaced by the number of independent constraints. This can be illustrated using an example. If  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3$  versus  $H_1: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$ , the number of independent constraints is  $J = 2$ , that is, there are two contrasts  $\beta_1 - \beta_2$  and  $\beta_2 - \beta_3$  to be evaluated in the hypotheses.

In order to explore the influence of the variance of the prior distribution on the resulting of the Bayes factor if hypothesis  $H_0$  is included in the competing hypotheses, a sensitivity analysis should be conducted. A sensitivity analysis can help fully understand the Bayesian results combined with the prior and properly interpret the impact of the prior. In the

following sections, different choices of  $b$  value ( $b = J/N$ ,  $b = 2J/N$ , and  $b = 3J/N$ ) are used. If only the inequality constraints are included in the competing hypotheses, the prior has no influence on the value of Bayes factor, see Mulder (2014) for an explanation. Therefore, the sensitivity analysis is relevant for Situations 1-3, but it does not affect the value of Bayes factor when different  $b$ s are used for Situations 4-5.

### The Criterion for Sample Size Determination

In the traditional a priori power analysis, the purpose of sample size determination is to control the Type I error rate and the Type II error rate. The sample size can be calculated if the significance level  $\alpha$ , the desired statistical power  $1 - \beta$ , and the to-be-detected population effect size  $f^2$  in a multiple linear regression are given (Cohen, 1988, 1992). In Bayesian hypothesis testing, instead of controlling the Type I error rate and Type II error rate, the sample size is calculated to guarantee that the Bayes factor exceeds a user specified threshold with a specific probability for the true hypothesis. In the following paragraphs, it will be explained how the sample size is determined when the Bayes factor is used to evaluate (informative) hypotheses under a multiple linear regression model.

The criterion that is proposed has also been used for the two-sample t-test (Fu et al., 2021) and one-way ANOVA (Fu et al., unpublished). To help the readers understand how to determine the sample size, we use Figure 1 to illustrate. The process of determining the sample size can be divided into the following five steps:

1. Sample size determination always starts with the specification of two competing hypotheses. The competing hypotheses used in Figure 1 are  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  and  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0$ .
2. One needs to specify plausible values of the parameters in order to perform a sample size determination. For each population whether  $H_0$  is true or  $H_1$  is true, the parameter values are unknown. In the next section it will be elaborated how these

parameter values can be chosen. For now, in Figure 1, when  $H_0$  is true,

$\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  is used, and when  $H_1$  is true,  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0.208$  is used, which

corresponds to  $R^2 = 0.13$ .

3. From each population, data sets with a certain sample size are repeatedly sampled.

How the sample size is chosen will be elaborated in the next section.

4. For the population under  $H_0$ , the Bayes factor  $BF_{01}$  for each data set is computed

and for the population under  $H_1$ , the Bayes factor  $BF_{10}$  for each data set is also

computed. In Figure 1, in panel (a) on the left: the distribution of  $BF_{01}$  is shown,

and in panel (b) on the right: the distribution of  $BF_{10}$  is shown.

5. The required sample size should be large enough such that the Bayes factor is larger

than a user selected threshold  $BF_{thresh}$  with a specific probability  $\eta$ , where

$BF_{thresh} = 3$  is marked with a dashed line, and  $\eta = 0.8$  is marked with the shaded

area in Figure 1. That is,  $P(BF_{01} > BF_{thresh}|H_0) \geq \eta$  and  $P(BF_{10} > BF_{thresh}|H_1) \geq \eta$

have to be satisfied. As shown in Figure 1, to satisfy the condition of  $BF_{01}$  under  $H_0$ :

$\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  that  $P(BF_{01} > 3|H_0) \geq 0.80$ , the sample size required is  $N = 23$ ,

While the sample size should be more than 100 to satisfy the condition that

$P(BF_{10} > 3|H_1) \geq 0.80$  when  $H_1$ :  $\beta_1 > 0$  &  $\beta_2 > 0$  &  $\beta_3 > 0$  with  $R^2 = 0.13$ . To

satisfy both conditions, at least a sample of  $N = 100$  should be collected.

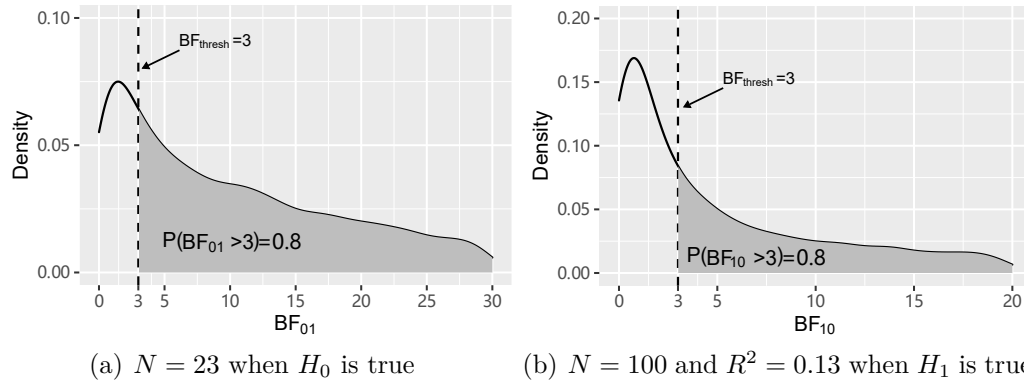


Figure 1. The sampling distribution of  $BF_{01}$  under  $H_0$  and  $BF_{10}$  under  $H_1$ . The vertical dashed line represents  $BF_{thresh} = 3$ , and the shaded area denotes the probability that the Bayes factor exceeds 3 if the target  $\eta = 0.8$ . The  $N$  in the label is the sample size needed to achieve the requirements.

Researchers require the relative support in the data under one hypothesis compared to the other hypothesis, or vice versa, to be at least  $BF_{thresh}$ . The  $\eta$  is used to control the error rates when either of the competing hypothesis is true. If  $\eta = 0.8$ , this means that the error rate is not more than  $1 - \eta = 0.2$  if either of the competing hypotheses is true. The remaining issue is that there is still a lack of a standard to choose the sizes of  $BF_{thresh}$  and  $\eta$ . What constitutes sufficient evidence, and what is the appropriate probability to convincingly support the true hypothesis? The selection of these values depends on the area of research and whether primary or secondary outcome measures are investigated. The researchers can consult the professionals in the field of behavior and social science, for example, to fill in a questionnaire, ask them about what constitutes sufficient evidence for various scenarios in their respective fields. The responses from the professionals can be modelled with the wisdom-of-the-crowd paradigm (Lee et al., 2012; Surowiecki, 2004), which states that an aggregate of the judgment and estimates of many people is more accurate than the judgement of one person. Based on the risk level of the research, the appropriate value of the  $BF_{thresh}$  also varies. For example, to verify the effectiveness of vaccines against the Covid-19, a large value of the  $BF_{thresh}$  is recommended, such as 10. Contrary to that, a small value, such as 3, is preferred for the investigation of the height of

elementary school students in different regions. The  $\eta$  is introduced to limit the error rates. For example, when  $\eta$  is equal to 0.8, the Type I error and Type II error rates would be no more than 20%. If the consequences of missing an effect may be significant, for example in a toxicity test, one may need a relatively high  $\eta$ , e.g. 0.90. In a survey, one would be interested only in large effects, and errors in detecting effects may not have such serious consequences. In this case,  $\eta = 0.80$  may be sufficient.

### The Basic Algorithm Used for Sample Size Determination

In the Bayesian framework, most of the research questions and data issues are sufficiently complicated such that the problems cannot be solved analytically. In this paper, when the researchers use the Bayes factor to evaluate hypotheses, Monte Carlo methods will be used to determine the sample size. Figure 2 displays the process of the simulation-based algorithm. The corresponding steps in Figure 2 are discussed below.

1. Before proceeding with the sample size determination, the following ingredients need to be specified:
  - (1) The competing hypotheses are specified using the regression coefficients. The options for the competing hypotheses are the null, the complement, the unconstrained, the order and the sign hypotheses.
  - (2) The regression coefficients for each population in which the hypothesis is true can be calculated if the fixed coefficient of determination  $R^2$  ( $R^2 > 0$ ) and the ratio among the regression coefficients  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_K$  are given. Appendix B shows how to achieve the regression coefficients if these two factors are known. If  $R^2 = 0$ , the regression coefficients for the population are all equal to 0.
  - (3) The correlation matrix among the predictor variables



$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_{12} & \cdots & \rho_{1K} \\ \rho_{21} & 1 & \cdots & \rho_{2K} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho_{K1} & \cdots & \rho_{K(K-1)} & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This ingredient is used to generate correlated data. This is because in practice, correlated predictor variables are the rule rather than the exception.

(4) The desired threshold for the Bayes factor  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}}$ .

(5) The probability  $\eta$  that the Bayes factor is larger than  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}}$  under each of the two competing hypotheses.

2. Randomly draw  $T$  data sets with sample of size  $N = 10$  if the hypothesis  $H_s$  is true and if the competing hypothesis  $H_v$  is true. The data sets are denoted as

$$(\mathbf{x}_i^{(t)}, y_{si}^{(t)}) = (x_{i1}^{(t)}, \dots, x_{iK}^{(t)}, \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k^s x_{ik} + \epsilon_i), \text{ and}$$

$$(\mathbf{x}_i^{(t)}, y_{vi}^{(t)}) = (x_{i1}^{(t)}, \dots, x_{iK}^{(t)}, \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k^v x_{ik} + \epsilon_i), \text{ respectively, where } s=0, 1, 2, v=1,$$

2,  $a$ ,  $1c$ , or  $2c$ , and  $\beta_k^s$  is the regression coefficient when the hypothesis  $H_s$  is true, and

$\beta_k^v$  is the regression coefficients when the competing hypothesis is true, where

$t = 1, \dots, T$ . As is elaborated in Appendix B, the intercept  $\beta_0$  is set to zero,  $\mathbf{x}_i^{(t)} \sim$

$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma)$  and the regression coefficients are chosen such that  $y_{si}^{(t)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , and

$y_{vi}^{(t)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , that is, in the population the regression coefficients are standardized.

3. Compute the values of the Bayes factor for each simulated data set. If  $H_s$  is true the Bayes factor is denoted by  $\text{BF}_{sv}^{(t)}$  ( $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ ) and if  $H_v$  is true, the Bayes factor is denoted by  $\text{BF}_{vs}^{(t)}$ .

4. Calculate the proportion of the Bayes factor that is larger than  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}}$ , that is,

$$P(\text{BF}_{sv}^{(t)} > \text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} | H_s) \text{ denoted by } p_s \text{ and the probability } P(\text{BF}_{vs}^{(t)} > \text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} | H_v)$$

denoted by  $p_v$ .

5. If both  $p_s$  and  $p_v$  are larger than  $\eta$ , the algorithm stops and the sample sizes

computed are provided. Otherwise, the sample size  $N$  is progressively increased by one, return to Step 2, and repeat Steps 3-5 until both  $p_s$  and  $p_v$  are larger than  $\eta$ .

The computing effort of the basic algorithm can be extremely high when the required sample size is very large, since the number of the iterations is  $N - 10 + 1$ . In addition, to execute the sensitivity analyses, the process from Step 1 to Step 5 has to be performed with three different fraction values, namely  $b = \frac{J}{N}$ ,  $b = \frac{2J}{N}$  and  $b = \frac{3J}{N}$  (see the section "Bayes Factor"). Therefore, the computation effort is tripled. To reduce the computation effort, an improved algorithm based on a dichotomy algorithm is introduced in Appendix A.

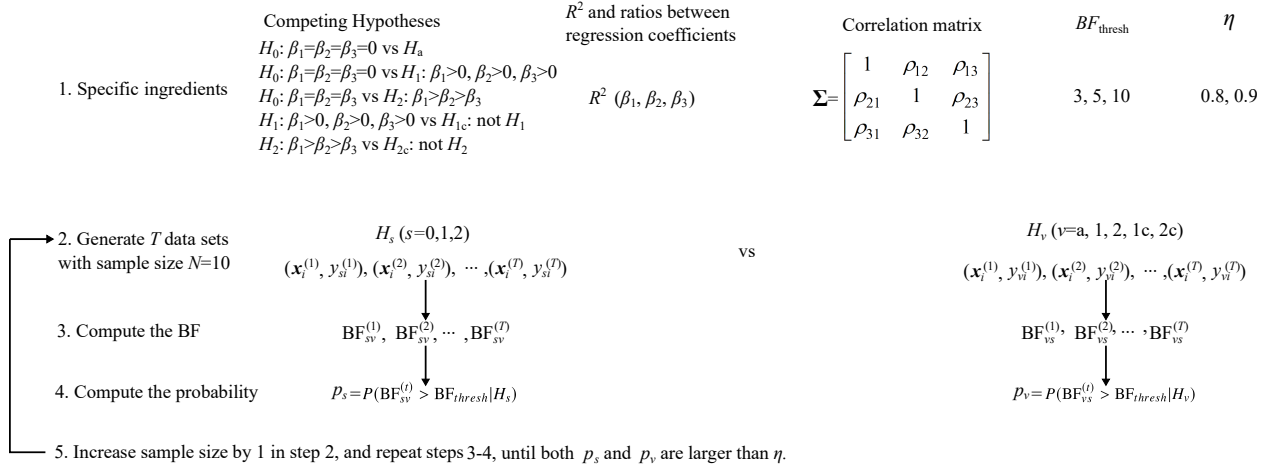


Figure 2. The process for sample size determination with  $K = 3$ .

## SSDRegression: A Function for Sample Size Determination for Multiple Linear Regression

Sample size determination using the Bayes factor for evaluating null, informative, complement, and unconstrained hypotheses within the multiple linear regression models was implemented in a function `SSDRegression` in the R package `SSDbain` to facilitate general utilization of the methodology. It has to be emphasized that the user can refer to the help file for further elaboration of the function, and the function has been tested in the test-that file. The code is available on GitHub<sup>5</sup>. This package already includes three

<sup>5</sup> <https://github.com/Qianrao-Fu/SSDbain>

functions called "SSDttest", "SSDANOVA", "SSDANOVA\_robust", which have been introduced in Fu et al. (2021) and Fu et al. (unpublished). As a part of the R package **SSDbain**, the function "SSDRegression" will now be introduced. This section describes the specific input and the return results for function "SSDRegression". After installing the R package **SSDbain** (which automatically installs **bain** if not already installed on your computer), the following call is used to calculate the sample size required.

```
library(SSDbain)
Res<-SSDRegression(Hyp1="beta1=beta2=beta3=0",Hyp2="Ha",k=2,rho=matrix(c
  (1,0.2,0.2,0.2,1,0.2,0.2,0.2,1),nrow=3),R_square1=0,R_square2=0.13,T_
  sim=10000,BFthresh=3,eta=0.8,seed=10,standardize=FALSE,ratio=c(1,1))
```

The following arguments appear in this call:

1. **Hyp1** and **Hyp2**, strings that specify one pair of hypotheses of interest. For example, if  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$  versus  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0$ , **Hyp1**='beta1=beta2=beta3=0', **Hyp2**='beta1>0 & beta2>0 & beta3>0'. Attention should be paid to the following situations. If the unconstrained hypothesis is involved, **Hyp2**='Ha'; if the complement hypothesis is engaged, **Hyp2**='Hc'.
2. **K**, a positive integer that specifies the number of predictors. For example, if the model is  $y_i = \beta_1 x_{i1} + \beta_2 x_{i2} + \beta_3 x_{i3} + \epsilon_i$ , **K**=3.
3. **rho**, a matrix that specifies the correlation between the predictors, which is a symmetric matrix with ones on the diagonal and values of  $\rho$  elsewhere. Here  $\rho$  is the correlation between two different predictors.
4. **R\_square1** and **R\_square2**, parameters used to specify the coefficients of determination  $R_1^2$  and  $R_2^2$  under **Hyp1** and **Hyp2**, respectively. Typically, the expected **R\_square1** and **R\_square2** are identified from 1) a pilot study; 2) a similar study; 3) a field defined meaningful effect; or 4) an educated guess based on informal observations and knowledge of the field.

5. **BFthresh**, a numeric value not less than 1 that specifies the required size of the Bayes factor for the true hypothesis. For example, if  $H_0$  is compared with  $H_2$ ,  $BF_{02} \geq BF_{thresh}$  or  $BF_{20} \geq BF_{thresh}$  should be reached. The default setting is **BFthresh=3**. In the next section it will be elaborated why this is the default value.
6. **eta**, a numeric value that specifies the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than **BFthresh** if either of the competing hypotheses is true. For example if  $H_0$  versus  $H_2$  and  $H_2$  is true,  $P(BF_{20} > BF_{thresh} | H_2) \geq \eta$ . The default setting is **eta=0.80**. In the next section it will be elaborated why this is the default value.
7. **T\_sim**, a positive integer that specifies the number of data sets sampled from the populations corresponding to the two hypotheses of interest. A larger number of samples returns a more accurate sample size estimate but takes a longer time to run. Users are advised to start with a smaller number of samples (e.g., **T\_sim=1000**) to get a rough estimate of the required sample size before confirming it with the default setting **T\_sim=10000**.
8. **seed**, a positive integer that specifies the seed of R's random number generator. The sample size required may be different with different seed values, but the number of simulated data sets **T\_sim** can be large enough to ensure the stability of the results. It should be noted that at least **T\_sim=10000** is required to guarantee the stability of the results. The default setting is **seed=10**. In Table 4 it will be illustrated that using **T\_sim=10000** renders stable results.
9. **standardize**, a logical value that specifies whether hypotheses regarding standardized or unstandardized regression coefficients are evaluated. With **standardize = TRUE** hypotheses with respect to standardized regression coefficients are evaluated. With **standardize = FALSE** hypotheses with respect to unstandardized regression coefficients are evaluated. In the R package **bain**, the Bayes factors are calculated differently when standardized and unstandardized

coefficients are evaluated. The function `seBeta` in the R package `fungible` is used to estimate the standardized regression coefficients and their corresponding covariance matrix, and the function `lm` in the R package `stats` is used to estimate the unstandardized regression coefficients and their corresponding covariance matrix. It should be highlighted that if the ordered hypothesis for regression coefficients is included, `standardize = TRUE` should be used. This is because, as explained earlier, standardized coefficients are comparable, but unstandardized coefficients are not. For other cases, `standardize = FALSE`.

10. `ratio`, an optional vector that specifies the ratio among the regression coefficients for the population if  $H_1$  is one of the interested hypotheses. For Situation 1, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is used for  $H_a$ . For Situation 2, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is used for  $H_1$ . For Situation 3, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is used for  $H_0$  and the regression coefficients are computed such that  $R^2 = 0.13$ , and the ratio of the regression coefficients  $Kd: (K-1)d: \dots: 3d: 2d: d$  is used for  $H_2$ , where  $d$  can be calculated by Equation 13. If the order of regression coefficients in the hypothesis  $H_2$  changes, the corresponding ratio will follow the variation of the regression coefficients in the hypothesis. For Situation 4, the ratio is consistent with  $H_1$  in Situation 2, and the ratio is reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{1c}$ . For Situation 5, the ratio is consistent with  $H_2$  in Situation 3, and the ratio is reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{2c}$ , where  $K$  is the number of predictors involved in the hypotheses. The elaborations of how this leads to regression coefficients for the considered hypothesis can be found in Appendix B.

After running the function, the main output resulting from analyses are the sample size required and the corresponding probability that the Bayes factor is larger than  $BF_{thresh}$  when either of the competing hypotheses is true. As an example, if the following call to

SSDRegression is executed,

```
library(SSDbain)
SSDRegression(Hyp1='beta1=beta2=beta3=0',Hyp2='Ha',k=3,rho=matrix(c
  (1,0.2,0.2,0.2,1,0.2,0.2,0.2,1),nrow=3)
  ,R_square1=0,R_square2=0.13,T_sim=10000,BFthresh=3,eta=0.8,seed=10,
  standardize=FALSE,ratio=c(1,1,1)),
```

the results are obtained using fractions  $b = J/N$ ,  $b = 2J/N$  and  $b = 3J/N$  (with the aim to address the sensitivity to the specification of the prior distribution):

```
using N=146 and fraction b=0.0205
P(BF0a>3|H0)=0.973
P(BFa0>3|Ha)=0.803

using N=120 and fraction b=0.0500
P(BF0a>3|H0)=0.918
P(BFa0>3|Ha)=0.804

using N=105 and fraction b=0.0857
P(BF0a>3|H0)=0.840
P(BFa0>3|Ha)=0.806
```

According to the results, the sample size required is 146 if the minimum fraction  $b = J/N$  is used. Moreover, the results of sensitivity analysis were summarized to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of the prior distributions in an applied Bayesian research. In this paper, the sensitivity analysis would entail adjusting the variance of the prior distribution to see how much impact the variance of the prior distribution makes on the final sample size. For example, if  $b = 2J/N$  is used, the required sample size is 120, and it is 105 if  $b = 3J/N$  is used. Therefore, the probabilities  $P(\text{BF}_{0a} > 3|H_0)$  and  $P(\text{BF}_{a0} > 3|H_a)$  are becoming closer with the increase of the fraction  $b$ . If the researchers want to obtain a conservative result (e.g., a convincing evidence should be required before another hypothesis is preferred over the null hypothesis), researchers can collect data with

sample size 146; and collect data with sample size 105 if they want to obtain a similar probability for  $P(\text{BF}_{0a} > 3|H_0)$  and  $P(\text{BF}_{a0} > 3|H_a)$ .

### Sample Size Tables for Multiple Linear Regression

To investigate the sample size and highlight the properties of sample size determination for multiple linear regression, a total of seven tables were made. Tables 1-6 containing two predictors, three predictors, and four predictors, where the predictors are uncorrelated ( $\rho = 0$ ), weakly correlated ( $\rho = 0.2$ ), and strongly correlated ( $\rho = 0.5$ ) are shown. Tables 1-3 show the regression coefficients for the populations under the hypotheses  $H_0$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$ ,  $H_a$ ,  $H_{1c}$ , and  $H_{2c}$  for the standard situation, which will be introduced in the next paragraph. These regression coefficients are obtained via the approach elaborated in Appendix B. Tables 4-6 demonstrate the required sample size and the corresponding probability that the Bayes factor is larger than  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$ , which can be used if users agree with the "standard". Of course, users can differ in opinion, use other values and compute the sample size using the R package `SSDbain`. Finally, the sample size comparison under frequentist and Bayesian frameworks are shown in Table 7.

At the present, standard choices for Bayesian sample size determination do not exist and will be proposed in this paper (see Tables 1-3). The standard situation is defined as  $R^2 = 0.13$ ,  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$ ,  $\eta = 0.8$ , and the ratios of the regression coefficients for different hypotheses are described as follows. For Situation 1, the ratio of the regression coefficients 1: 1:  $\dots$ : 1 is used for  $H_a$ . For situation 2, the ratio of the regression coefficients 1: 1:  $\dots$ : 1 is used for  $H_1$ . For Situation 3, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $Kd$ :  $(K - 1)d$ :  $\dots$ :  $3d$ ,  $2d$ :  $d$  is used for  $H_2$ , where  $d$  can be calculated by Equation 13. If the order of regression coefficients in the hypothesis  $H_2$  changes, the corresponding ratio will follow the variation of the regression coefficients in the hypothesis. The ratio of the regression coefficients 1: 1:  $\dots$ : 1 is used for  $H_0$  and the coefficients are computed such that  $R^2 = 0.13$ . For Situation 4, the ratio is consistent with  $H_1$  in Situation 2, and the ratio is

reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{1c}$ . For Situation 5, the ratio is consistent with  $H_2$  in Situation 3, and the ratio is reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{2c}$ . As for the definition of standard situation, the reasons are as follows.

1. The coefficient of determination  $R^2 = 0.13$  is selected, which corresponds to Cohen's medium effect size  $f^2 = 0.15$ . As phrased by Cohen (1988) the medium effect size is conceived as a size large enough to be visible to the naked eye. Meta-analyses showed that the average published effect size is around the medium effect size (Bakker et al., 2012), which therefore coincides with the needs of most psychologists.
2. The threshold of Bayes factor  $BF_{thresh}$  is 3 in the standard situation because the Bayes factor of 3 often matches the amount of evidence with  $p\text{-value} < 0.05$  (Jeffreys, 1961; Wetzels et al., 2011). Besides, Dienes (2014) argued that the corresponding Bayes factor is about 3 when a result is just significant. Furthermore, the Bayes factor of 3 deserving attention is a consensus in the scientific community, which represents a just convincing evidence boundary (Dienes & Mclatchie, 2018; Jeffreys, 1961; Kass & Raftery, 1995).
3. The value of  $\eta = 0.8$  means that the probability that the Bayes factor exceeds the  $BF_{thresh} = 3$  is at least 0.8 no matter which hypothesis in one pair of hypotheses is true. The value of 0.80 is used because it is a commonly accepted value for sufficient power in the classical framework. A pair of hypotheses is considered because the Bayes factors is symmetric in the sense that it allows accumulating evidence for either of these two hypothesis. This is in contrast with the  $p$ -values in null hypothesis significance testing where the type I error rate is 0.05, while the type II error rate is 0.2.
4. According to the guidance in Vanbrabant et al. (2015), the differences between the regression coefficients should be equally spaced, and the common difference is denoted



by  $d$ . Therefore, if  $H_2$  is considered, the ratio of  $Kd: \dots: 3d: 2d: d$ , where  $d$  can be calculated by Equation 13, or a reordering of the arithmetic sequence  $Kd, \dots, 3d, 2d, d$  for the variations of  $H_2$  is chosen. If  $H_1$  and  $H_a$  are considered, the ratio of  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is chosen, where 1 may be replaced by -1 if the smaller than symbol  $<$  is used in  $H_1$ . If  $H_0$  from Situation 3 is considered, the ratio of the regression coefficients is  $1: 1: \dots: 1$ . This ratio makes the absolute value of regression coefficients equal.

The results in Tables 4-6 are obtained with `set.seed=10`. To illustrate the stability of the results with  $T=10000$ , Table 4 also presents (within parenthesis) the obtained sample sizes using `set.seed=1234`. As can be seen, the results of sample size determination with  $T = 10000$  is not sensitive to the choice of the seed. Based on the results presented in these tables, several features of SSD can be highlighted. 1) The required sample size for  $H_1$  versus  $H_0$  is smaller than for  $H_a$  versus  $H_0$ . For example, in Table 4, when  $\rho = 0$ , the sample size is 121 if  $H_0$  is compared with  $H_a$ , while a sample size of 90 is needed if  $H_1$  is used instead of  $H_a$ . The reason is that  $H_1$  is more specific than  $H_a$ , which is illustrated in Figure 3. The shaded area on the left of Figure 3 is the parameter space of  $H_a$  (no constraints are imposed on the standardized regression coefficients  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ ), and the shaded area on the right of Figure 3 is the parameter space of  $H_1$ . The parameter space for  $H_1$  is contained in  $H_a$ . Therefore, it is easier to distinguish  $H_0$  from  $H_1$  than from  $H_a$ . Hence, a higher probability that the Bayes factor exceeds a determined threshold is obtained and consequently a smaller sample-size is needed. 2) As the fraction used in the prior distribution increases from  $b = J/N$  to  $b = 2J/N$ , then to  $b = 3J/N$ , the required sample size is reduced if  $H_0$  is one of the hypotheses under consideration. For example, in Table 5, when  $H_0$  is compared with  $H_2$  for  $\rho = 0$ , the required sample size is 776 for  $b = J/N$ , 675 for  $b = 2J/N$ , and 624 for  $b = 3J/N$ . This can be explained as follows. Firstly, the sample size is  $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ , where  $N_1$  is the sample size when  $H_0$  is true, and  $N_2$  is the sample size when the competing hypothesis is true. Secondly, from Tables 4-6, the probability  $p_0$  is much larger than 0.8, indicating that it is easier for the hypothesis

$H_0$  than for its competing hypothesis to reach the threshold of 3, thus the required sample size is  $N_2$  obtained if the competing hypothesis is true. Thirdly, the complexity  $c_0$  becomes larger as the fraction  $b$  increases. The reason is that a larger  $b$  implies a prior with a smaller variance as shown in Equation 10 such that the prior density evaluated at  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$  or  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K = 0$  in Equation 4 is larger. Therefore, the Bayes factors  $BF_{0a}$ ,  $BF_{01}$ , and  $BF_{02}$  decrease as  $b$  increases. Taking the inverse yields the opposite, the Bayes factor  $BF_{a0}$ ,  $BF_{10}$ , and  $BF_{20}$  increase as  $b$  increases. Thus, the sample size  $N_2$  decreases with  $b$ . The advice about how to choose  $b$  is described in the final paragraph of section "SSDRegression: A Function for Sample Size Determination for Multiple Linear Regression". 3) When  $H_0$  is compared with the order hypothesis  $H_2$ , the required sample size is much larger than that in other cases in the same table. For example, in Table 4, when  $H_0$  versus  $H_2$  for  $\rho = 0.5$ , the required sample size is 2721 for  $b = J/N$ , 2527 for  $b = 2J/N$ , and 2426 for  $b = 3J/N$ . This occurs because the regression coefficients are relatively close to each other as presented in Tables 1-3. However, the sample size can be adjusted through enlarging the common difference from  $d$  to a multiple of  $d$ . For example, the ratio with three predictors can be chosen as  $(7d: 4d: d)$  instead of  $(3d: 2d: d)$  in Table 5, which will reduce the sample size because it is easier to distinguish regression coefficients that have more unequal sizes. 4) In general, as the number of predictors increases, the sample size required increases. For example, if  $H_0$  is compared with  $H_a$ ,  $\rho = 0$ , and fraction  $b = J/N$ , from Tables 4-6, we observe that the sample size increases from 121 to 147, then to 170 when the number of predictors increases from 2 to 3, then to 4. This is consistent with the property for the classical sample size in Table 7. From Table 7, we can see that the sample size increases from 80 to 90, then to 99 for 2, 3, and 4 predictors, respectively. This is because when more predictors are added a higher level of evidence is required to state that any of them are significant (classical) or substantial (Bayesian).

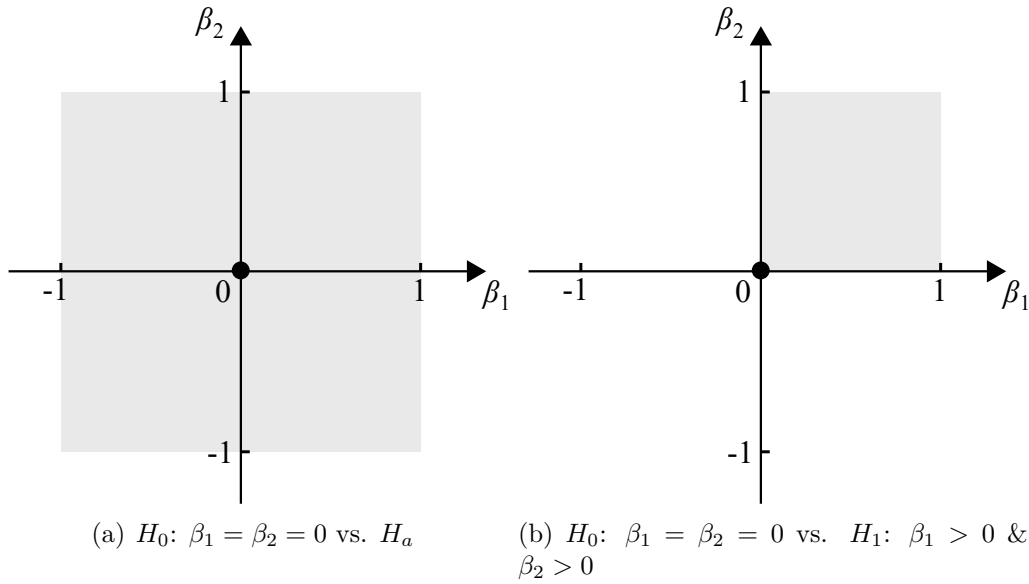


Figure 3. The grey area in Figure (a) is the admissible parameter space for  $H_a$ , the grey area in Figure (b) is the admissible parameter space for  $H_1$ , and the black bold dot is the admissible parameter space for  $H_0$ .

As shown in Table 7, the comparison of sample size for the standard situation in the Bayesian framework and standard a priori power analysis are illustrated. The focused Situation is  $H_0$  vs  $H_a$  because this situation exists in both classical and Bayesian hypothesis testing. Situation  $H_0$  vs  $H_1$  in Table 7 is used for supplementary illustration. From Table 7, compared with the classical sample size, a larger sample size is required for the SSD based on the Bayes factor. For instance, if  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$  versus  $H_a$ , the sample size is 80 in the classical framework, while the sample size is 121 if the fraction  $b = J/N$  is used for Bayes factor. When  $b = J/N$  is used, the Bayes factor is very conservative (see, Hoijtink, Mulder, et al., 2019). In other words, the sample size has to be large enough to provide a convincing evidence to support the non-null hypothesis. Furthermore, for a less conservative value such as  $b = 2J/N$  and  $b = 3J/N$  the required sample size decreases. According to the first item in Table 7, the sample size is 104 for  $b = 2J/N$ , and 95 for  $b = 3J/N$ , which approaches the classical sample size of 80 although it remains slightly larger. Next, when  $H_0$  is compared with the sign hypothesis  $H_1$ , the required sample sizes

(depending on  $b$ ) may even be smaller than the ones in the classical framework. For example, when the number of predictors  $K = 2$ , the required sample size is 74 for  $b = 2J/N$  and 71 for  $b = 3J/N$ , which are smaller than the classical sample size of 80.

The sample size resulting from Bayesian may be larger than the sample size resulting from power analysis, but the Bayes factor provides more information than the  $p$ -value. 1) The Bayes factor can quantify the degree of evidence supporting one hypothesis over another hypothesis. For example, in Tables 4-6, the sample size is calculated such that the degree of evidence of supporting the true hypothesis is 3 times larger than the competing hypothesis. 2) Researchers can obtain more specific knowledge if they use an informative hypothesis instead of the traditional alternative hypothesis. For example, if  $H_0$  is compared with  $H_2$ , researchers do not only know if the three coefficients are equal or not, but also know the order of the coefficients. 3) The required sample size can be adjusted through sensitivity analysis by modifying the scaling parameter of the prior distribution. If researchers favor the null hypothesis, a larger scaling parameter that corresponds to a smaller fraction  $b$  would be chosen because it makes it easier to reject the alternative in favor of the null hypothesis; and if they want to obtain relatively symmetrical evidence for supporting one pair of competing hypothesis, the fraction  $b$  can be chosen such that both probabilities become as equal as possible. This can be illustrated using the comparison of  $H_0$  with  $H_1$  in Table 5. If  $b = J/N$  is chosen, the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 is 0.964 when  $H_0$  is true, but the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 is 0.802 when  $H_1$  is true. If  $b = 3J/N$  is chosen, the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 is 0.811 when  $H_0$  is true, and the probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 is 0.833, which are relatively close.

### Illustrative example 1

A study has been designed by a psychologist to explore the relationship between *the SAT score of students* and *achievement levels* ( $\beta_1$ ), *cultural factors* ( $\beta_2$ ), *socioeconomic status*

( $\beta_3$ ), and *psychological factors* ( $\beta_4$ ). To determine the sample size it is assumed that the correlation between each pair of predictors equals 0.3. The psychologist plans to compare hypothesis  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$  with  $H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_4 > 0$ . Based on experience, the psychologist expects that  $R^2$  will be about 0.09. The sample size should be large enough such that  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$  and  $\eta = 0.8$  are satisfied. The required sample size can be determined using the following call to `SSDRegression`.

```
Res<-SSDRegression(Hyp1='beta1=beta2=beta3=beta4=0',Hyp2='beta1>0&beta2>0&
  beta3>0&beta4>0',k=4,rho=matrix(c
  (1,0.3,0.3,0.3,0.3,1,0.3,0.3,0.3,0.3,1,0.3,0.3,0.3,0.3,1),nrow=k),R_
  square1=0,R_square2=0.13,T_sim=10000,BFthresh=3,eta=0.8,seed=10,
  standardize=FALSE,ratio=c(1,1,1,1))
```

The results are as follows.

```
using N=151 and fraction b=0.0265
P(BF01>3|H0)=0.990
P(BF10>3|H1)=0.803

using N=107 and fraction b=0.0748
P(BF01>3|H0)=0.948
P(BF10>3|H1)=0.805

using N=78 and fraction b=0.1538
P(BF01>3|H0)=0.862
P(BF10>3|H1)=0.802
```

Based on the above results, if the researchers use the minimum fraction  $b = J/N$  of the data for the prior distribution, the required sample size is 151. If the fraction of the data is increased to *two times* of the minimum fraction  $2J/N$ , the required sample size is reduced to 107. If the fraction of the data is increased to *three times* of the minimum fraction  $3J/N$ , the required sample size is reduced to 78. If the resources are sufficient, and the psychologist wants to get a larger probability that the Bayes factor supports the null

hypothesis if it is true, he or she should use a smaller  $b$ . If the resources are insufficient, or the psychologist wants to get two relatively close probability values regardless of whether the null or non-null hypothesis is true, a larger  $b$  is recommended. Specifically, from the result above, we can see that when  $b = 0.0265$  is used, the probability that the Bayes factor supports the null hypothesis  $H_0$  is 0.990, which is larger than the probability of 0.803 that the Bayes factor supports  $H_1$ . If  $b = 0.1538$  is used, the probability that the Bayes factor supports  $H_0$  is 0.862, and the probability that the Bayes factor supports  $H_1$  is 0.802. These two probabilities are much closer.

**Illustrative example 2** Considering the example from Vanbrabant et al. (2015): a group of psychologists wants to investigate the relation among IQ and social skills ( $\beta_1$ ), interest in artistic activities ( $\beta_2$ ), and use of complicated language patterns ( $\beta_3$ ). The hypotheses of interest are  $H_1$ :  $\beta_1 > 0$  &  $\beta_2 > 0$  &  $\beta_3 > 0$  versus  $H_c$ : not  $H_1$ . The psychologists expect a medium effect size  $f^2 = 0.15$ , which corresponding to a coefficient of determination

$R^2 = 0.13$ . The correlation matrix  $\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0.2 \\ 0.2 & 1 & 0.2 \\ 0.2 & 0.2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . After looking up the

corresponding results in Table 5, the following information can be obtained

```
using N=40 and fraction b=0.0750
```

```
P(BF1c>3|H1)=0.809
```

```
P(BFc1>3|Hc)=0.827
```

Based on the above results, the required sample size is 40. As elaborated earlier in this paper, for hypotheses  $\beta_1 > 0$  &  $\beta_2 > 0$  &  $\beta_3 > 0$  and  $H_c$ , the Bayes factor is not sensitive to the prior distribution regardless which fraction  $b$  is used.

## Conclusion

This paper proposed a sample size determination method to evaluate the classical null, unconstrained, and informative hypotheses (and their complement) in the context of the

multiple linear regression model. The presented sample size tables will benefit researchers as they will be able to look up the necessary sample size if they aim to use the standard Bayesian situation, that is,  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$ ,  $\eta = 0.8$ ,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , and the ratios of the regression coefficients for different hypotheses are described as follows. For Situation 1, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is used for  $H_a$ . For situation 2, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $1: 1: \dots: 1$  is used for  $H_1$ . For Situation 3, the ratio of the regression coefficients  $Kd: (K - 1)d: \dots: 3d: 2d: d$  is used for  $H_2$ , where  $d$  can be calculated by Equation 13. If  $H_0$  from Situation 3 is considered, the ratio of the regression coefficients is  $1: 1: \dots: 1$ . If the order of regression coefficients in the hypothesis  $H_2$  changes, the corresponding ratio will follow the variation of the regression coefficients in the hypothesis. For Situation 4, the ratio is consistent with  $H_1$  in Situation 2, and the ratio is reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{1c}$ . For Situation 5, the ratio is consistent with  $H_2$  in Situation 3, and the ratio is reordered using the representative hypothesis (see Appendix B) for  $H_{2c}$ , where  $K$  is the number of predictors involved in the hypotheses. If researchers aim to use other situations than the standard ones covered in the tables, the function `SSDRegression`, which is part of the `R` package, `SSDbain` can be used to help researchers to calculate the sample size. Compared with the unconstrained hypothesis, the introduction of informative hypotheses results in a substantial gain in the probability that the Bayes factor exceeds the threshold and thus reduces the required sample size.

This paper makes an important contribution to sample size determination for informative hypotheses using Bayes factor within multiple linear regression models. However, it has some limitations. First, sample size determination is available if the assumptions of the regression model used to simulate the data also apply to real data. Secondly, since missing data may occur in real data, and the researchers will have to guess which proportion of their data is missing, and adjust the required sample size accordingly. Thirdly, commonly used models at the present such as t-test, one-way ANOVA and multiple linear regression

712 have been considered. However, SSD extensions to more complex models, like structural  
713 equation modeling, and general multivariate models still have to be developed and will be  
714 added to the package of **SSDbain** in the future.

715 Despite these limitations, the R package **SSDbain** should be a welcome addition to the  
716 applied researcher's toolbox, and can help the researcher identify the required sample sizes  
717 while planning a research project.



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## Appendix A: SSD based on dichotomy search algorithm

In this appendix, an improved algorithm that can effectively speed up the calculation process based on the dichotomy search is introduced. As described in the basic algorithm in the section "The Basic Algorithm Used for Sample Size Determination", a large amount of iterations are conducted for the calculation process from Steps 2-5, which brings great burdens on the computation and costs more time to reach the conditions in Step 5. The presented search-based process can sharply reduce the computing burden by reducing the number of iterations. The basic idea of the proposed algorithm is to gradually adjust the sample size using a dichotomy algorithm until  $p_s \geq \eta$  and  $p_v \geq \eta$  hold. The Steps 4-5 described in the basic algorithm in the section "The Basic Algorithm Used for Sample Size Determination" are replaced by the following steps.

**Step 4: Define the lower and upper bound of sample size  $N$  for the dichotomy search method.**

To use the dichotomy search method, the interval of the sample size needs to be determined. Let  $LB$  and  $UB$  denote the lower and upper bound of the optimal sample size  $N$ , where the  $LB$  cannot be smaller than 10. In order to narrow the distance between lower and upper bound, the following steps are conducted.

- Compute  $p_s$  and  $p_v$  using Steps 2-4 from the basic algorithm based on  $N = 100$ .
- (i) If  $p_s \geq \eta$  and  $p_v \geq \eta$ , then set  $N = \frac{N}{2}$ , and repeat Steps 2-4 and (i) until  $p_s < \eta$  or  $p_v < \eta$ . Then set  $LB = N$ ,  $UB = 2N$ .
- (ii) If  $p_s < \eta$  or  $p_v < \eta$ , then set  $N = 2N$ , and repeat Steps 2-4 and (ii) until  $p_s \geq \eta$  and  $p_v \geq \eta$ . Then set  $LB = \frac{N}{2}$ ,  $UB = N$ .

**Step 5: Compute the optimal sample size**

- (I) Based on the  $LB$  and  $UB$  determined by above, let  $N_{\text{mid}} = \frac{LB+UB}{2}$ .
- (II) Compute  $p_s$  and  $p_v$  with  $N = N_{\text{mid}}$  using Steps 2-4.
- (III) If  $p_s \geq \eta$  and  $p_v \geq \eta$ ,  $UB = N_{\text{mid}}$ ; else,  $LB = N_{\text{mid}}$ .
- (IV) Update the value of  $N_{\text{mid}}$  with  $N_{\text{mid}} = \frac{LB+UB}{2}$ .
- (V) Return to Step II with  $N = N_{\text{mid}}$  and repeat Steps II-V until  $N_{\text{mid}} = LB + 1$  satisfied. Then  $N = N_{\text{mid}}$ .

**Appendix B: How to calculate the regression coefficients based on the coefficient of determination and the ratio among the regression coefficients**

In this appendix, the process of calculating the regression coefficients is described if the input ingredients coefficient of determination  $R^2$  and the ratio among the regression coefficients are given instead of the regression coefficients are given directly. This matter has been mentioned in Section "The Basic Algorithm Used for Sample Size Determination". Based on the Model in Equation 1, the regression coefficients can be computed as follows.

1. Variance can be calculated on both sides of Equation 1:

$$VAR[y_i] = VAR\left[\sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k x_{ik}\right] + VAR(\epsilon_i). \quad (11)$$



2. Divide by  $\text{VAR}[y_i]$  on both sides of Equation 11,

$$1 = R^2 + \frac{\text{VAR}(\epsilon_i)}{\text{VAR}[y_i]}. \quad (12)$$

3. As presented in the section "The Basic Algorithm Used for Sample Size Determination",  $\text{VAR}[x_{ik}]=1$  and  $\text{VAR}[y_i]=1$ . Combining with Equation 10 and 11, the formula for coefficient of determination  $R^2$  can be rewritten as

$$R^2 = \text{VAR}\left[\sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k x_{ik}\right] = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k^2 + 2 \sum_{k < k'} \beta_k \beta_{k'} \rho_{kk'}, \quad (13)$$

where  $\rho_{kk'}$  denotes the correlation between predictor variables  $x_{ik}$  and  $x_{ik'}$ , which is the element in the correlation matrix  $\Sigma$ .

The ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \dots : \beta_K$  can be ascertained from pilot study, published results from a similar study, and can be estimated based on the expert's advice and the prior knowledge of the field. If hypotheses  $H_a$  and  $H_1$  are considered, and the ratio

$\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \dots : \beta_K = 1 : 1 : \dots : 1$ , then  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$ . For hypothesis

$H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$  itself, the relation of the regression coefficients is also

$\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$ . By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\Sigma$ ,  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_K$  into Equation 13,

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_K$  can be derived. If hypotheses  $H_2$  is considered, and the ratio

$\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \dots : \beta_K = r_1 : r_2 : \dots : r_K$ , then  $\beta_1 = r_1/r_K \beta_K$ ,  $\beta_2 = r_2/r_K \beta_K$ ,  $\dots$ ,

$\beta_{K-1} = r_{K-1}/r_K \beta_K$ . By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\Sigma$ ,  $\beta_1 = r_1/r_K \beta_K$ ,  $\beta_2 = r_2/r_K \beta_K$ ,  $\dots$ ,

$\beta_{K-1} = r_{K-1}/r_K \beta_K$  into Equation 13,  $\beta_K$  can be derived. Subsequently,  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_{K-1}$

can be obtained. It should be noted that the default signs of the regression coefficients are positive for all the hypotheses, unless they are designated to be negative in the hypotheses.

It will now be explained how the population regression coefficients for the complement of

$H_1$  will be determined. Changing the sign of the regression coefficients once is called a

violation. The number of violations is determined by the number of the signs of regression

coefficients changed. The complement hypothesis of  $H_1$  can be divided into  $K$  categories based on the number of violations. That is, if  $K$  predictors are considered, there will be  $K$  categories, namely one deviation from  $H_1$ , two violations from  $H_1$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $K$  violations from  $H_1$ . To facilitate the reader's understanding of the proposed approach, two examples are provided with two and five predictors. Firstly, this paper discusses the simplest situation where only two predictors are needed. In this situation, the hypothesis  $H_1$  can be expressed as  $\beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0$ . The complement of  $H_1$  with two predictors includes the following three cases:

$$H_{c1} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0.$$

$$H_{c2} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0.$$

$$H_{c3} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0.$$

In the above three cases, the hypotheses  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$  have one thing in common. They have one violation from  $H_1$ . The order could also be  $H_{c2}$ ,  $H_{c1}$ , and  $H_{c3}$ , since the Bayes factor  $BF_{c1,1}$  for  $H_{c1}$  versus  $H_1$  if data are simulated from populations  $H_{c1}$  and  $BF_{c2,1}$  for  $H_{c2}$  versus  $H_1$  if data are simulated from populations  $H_{c2}$  are almost the same. That is, there is no preference for one of these two hypotheses. Different from these two hypotheses, the hypothesis  $H_{c3}$  has two violations. The more numbers of violations in the complement of  $H_1$ , the easier it is to distinguish the complement hypothesis from the hypothesis  $H_1$ . Therefore, the Bayes factor  $BF_{c3,1}$  for  $H_{c3}$  versus  $H_1$  if data are simulated from population  $H_{c3}$  is larger than the  $BF_{c1,1}$  and  $BF_{c2,1}$  if data are simulated from populations  $H_{c1}$  and  $H_{c2}$ , respectively. To determine the regression coefficients for the complement of  $H_1$ , a representative hypothesis has to be selected. In this paper, the hypothesis corresponding to the median of the number of hypotheses ordered using the number of violations is selected as the representative hypothesis of the complement hypothesis of  $H_1$ , in this case,  $H_{c2}$ . The measure of median is used because it refers to the most central value in the ascending Bayes factors which are ordered using the number of violations.

Based on the ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 = 1:1$  for  $H_1$ , the relation of the regression coefficients under the

complement hypothesis  $H_{1c}$  is  $\beta_2 = -\beta_1$ , where  $\beta_1 > 0$ . By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\beta_2 = -\beta_1$  into Equation 13, the regression coefficients can be calculated.

To further clarify the proposed method, a more complex scenario with five predictors is discussed. The hypothesis  $H_1$  can be expressed as  $\beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0$ . To find the hypothesis representative of the complement of  $H_1$ , all the possible hypotheses in the complement are ordered using the number of violations. First, only one violation is considered. The number of hypotheses in this case will be  $\binom{5}{1}$ . In other words, five hypotheses should be considered if one violation happens:

$$H_{c1} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c2} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c3} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c4} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c5} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

It should be noted that the order is arbitrary, and any permutation would also be acceptable. The order is irrelevant because all hypothesis containing one violation will lead to about the same Bayes factors  $BF_{ci,1}$  for  $H_{ci}$  versus  $H_1$  if data are simulated from populations  $H_{ci}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, 5$ ), respectively. Similarly, in the following, permutations are also arbitrary for the same number of violations.

If there are two violations in a hypothesis, the total number of hypotheses will be  $\binom{5}{2}$ , that is ten. We name these hypotheses as  $H_{c6}$ ,  $H_{c7}$ ,...and  $H_{c15}$ , which are given as:

$$H_{c6} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c7} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c8} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c9} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c10} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c11} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c12} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c13} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c14} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c15} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

Similarly, there are  $\binom{5}{3}$  (ten) hypotheses with three violations, which are shown as:

$$H_{c16} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c17} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c18} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c19} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c20} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c21} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c22} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c23} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c24} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c25} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

There are  $\binom{5}{4}$  (five) hypotheses with four violations, which are displayed as follows.

$$H_{c26} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 > 0.$$

$$H_{c27} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 > 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c28} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 > 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c29} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 > 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

$$H_{c30} : \beta_1 > 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

Finally, the hypotheses with five violations only have  $\binom{5}{5}$  (one) case, which is given as

$$H_{c31} : \beta_1 < 0 \& \beta_2 < 0 \& \beta_3 < 0 \& \beta_4 < 0 \& \beta_5 < 0.$$

1015

As mentioned in the last example, the Bayes factor  $BF_{1c,1}$  for  $H_{1c}$  versus  $H_1$  increases with

the number of violations. There are totally  $\binom{5}{1} + \binom{5}{2} + \binom{5}{3} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{5}{5} = 2^5 - 1 = 31$

hypothesis for the complement of  $H_1$ . After all the hypotheses are presented, the

representative hypothesis  $H_{c16}$  is selected, which is the hypothesis corresponding the median of the hypotheses ordered using the number of violations. Based on the ratio  $\beta_1: \beta_2: \beta_3: \beta_4: \beta_5=1:1:1:1:1$  for  $H_1$ , the relation of the regression coefficients under the complement hypothesis  $H_{1c}$  is  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = -\beta_4 = -\beta_5$ , where  $\beta_4$  and  $\beta_5$  are larger than zero. By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = -\beta_4 = -\beta_5$  into Equation 13, the regression coefficients can be calculated.

In summary, we can conclude that the complement hypotheses of  $H_1$  include  $\binom{k}{1} + \binom{k}{2} + \dots + \binom{k}{k} = 2^k - 1$  cases. The hypothesis corresponding to the median number of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2^k - 1\}$  (i.e., the hypothesis  $H_{2^{k-1}}$ ) is selected as representative of the complement hypothesis of  $H_1$ . If the ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \dots : \beta_K = 1 : 1 : \dots : 1$ , then  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_{K-1} = \beta_K$ . By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\Sigma$ ,  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_{K-1} = \beta_K$  into Equation 13,  $\beta_K$  can be derived. Subsequently,  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_{K-1}$  can be obtained. The default signs of the regression coefficients are positive for all the hypotheses at first. If the signs of the regression coefficients are negative in the representative hypothesis, they will be finally designated to be negative.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is how to calculate the regression coefficients for the complement of  $H_2$ . Firstly, with two predictors  $H_2$  is given as  $\beta_1 > \beta_2$ . There is only one hypothesis for the complement of  $H_2$ , namely  $H_{c1}: \beta_1 < \beta_2$ . There is no doubt that  $H_{c1}$  can be regarded as the representative hypothesis. Based on Table 1, if  $H_2$  is true, the ratio  $\beta_1: \beta_2=2:1$  for  $H_2$ . The relation of the regression coefficients under the complement hypothesis  $H_{2c}$  is  $\beta_1: \beta_2=1:2$ , where  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are larger than zero. By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\beta_1: \beta_2=1:2$  into Equation 13, the regression coefficients can be calculated.

In following examples, swapping the regression coefficients of adjacent positions once is called a violation. The number of violations is determined by the number of the regression coefficients of adjacent positions swapped. This process can be described as follows. For the convenience of description, a specific example is used to illustrated. For example,

$H_2 : \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$  is considered,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are at adjacent positions, and  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$  are also at adjacent positions. After swapping adjacent positions  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ , a new order  $H_{c1} : \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_3$  can be obtained. In the new order,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_3$  are at adjacent positions. Swap them, and a new order can be obtained again, which is  $H_{c2} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1$ . By swapping adjacent positions  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$ , the order  $H_{c3} : \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_1$  can be obtained. During this process, the adjacent positions are swapped for three times. Therefore, there are three violations from  $H_2 : \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$  to  $H_{c3}$ . The complement hypothesis of  $H_2$  can be divided into  $\binom{K}{2}$  categories based on the number of violations. For three or more predictors, there is more than one hypothesis for the complement of  $H_2$ . Therefore, all the possible hypotheses should be considered and a representative one should be selected. For three predictors, there are three categories for the complement hypothesis of  $H_2$ , namely one violation from  $H_2$ , two violations from  $H_2$ , and three violations from  $H_2$ . There are two hypotheses with one violation:

$$H_{c1} : \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_3.$$

$$H_{c2} : \beta_1 > \beta_3 > \beta_2.$$

There are two hypotheses containing two violations:

$$H_{c3} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1.$$

$$H_{c4} : \beta_3 > \beta_1 > \beta_2.$$

There is only one hypothesis with three violations:

$$H_{c5} : \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_1.$$

As the Bayes factor  $BF_{2c,2}$  for  $H_{2c}$  versus  $H_2$  becomes larger with an increasing number of violations, the hypothesis corresponding the median of the number of hypotheses ordered using the number of violations ( $H_{c3} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1$ ) is selected as the hypothesis representing the complement of  $H_2$ . Based on Table 1, if  $H_2$  is true, the ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 3:2:1$  for  $H_2$ . The relation of the regression coefficients under the complement hypothesis  $H_c$  is  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 1:3:2$  (reordered using  $H_{c3} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1$ ), where  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  are larger than zero. By substituting  $R^2$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 1:3:2$  into Equation 13, the

1072 regression coefficients can be calculated.

1073 In order to better summarize the rule of the selection of the representative hypothesis, the  
 1074 situation with four predictors  $H_2 : \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4$  is further discussed. The hypotheses  
 1075 with one, two, three and four violations are:

1076 One violation:

1077  $H_{c1} : \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_3 > \beta_4.$

1078  $H_{c2} : \beta_1 > \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_4.$

1079  $H_{c3} : \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_4 > \beta_3.$

1080 two violations:

1081  $H_{c4} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1 > \beta_4.$

1082  $H_{c5} : \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_3.$

1083  $H_{c6} : \beta_3 > \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_4.$

1084  $H_{c7} : \beta_1 > \beta_3 > \beta_4 > \beta_2.$

1085  $H_{c8} : \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_2 > \beta_3.$

1086 three violations:

1087  $H_{c9} : \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_4.$

1088  $H_{c10} : \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4 > \beta_1.$

1089  $H_{c11} : \beta_3 > \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_2.$

1090  $H_{c12} : \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_2.$

1091  $H_{c13} : \beta_4 > \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3.$

1092 four violations:

1093  $H_{c14} : \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_4 > \beta_1.$

1094  $H_{c15} : \beta_2 > \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_1.$

1095  $H_{c16} : \beta_3 > \beta_4 > \beta_1 > \beta_2.$

1096  $H_{c17} : \beta_4 > \beta_1 > \beta_3 > \beta_2.$

1097  $H_{c18} : \beta_4 > \beta_2 > \beta_1 > \beta_3.$

1098 five violations:

$$1099 \quad H_{c19} : \beta_3 > \beta_4 > \beta_1 > \beta_2.$$

$$1100 \quad H_{c20} : \beta_4 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_1.$$

$$1101 \quad H_{c21} : \beta_2 > \beta_4 > \beta_1 > \beta_3.$$

$$1102 \quad H_{c22} : \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_1 > \beta_2.$$

1103 six violations:

$$1104 \quad H_{c23} : \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_2 > \beta_1.$$

1105 Overall, there are 23 hypotheses for the complement of  $H_2$ . Similarly, the hypothesis  
 1106 corresponding to the median of the number of hypotheses ordered using the number of  
 1107 violations ( $H_{c12} : \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_2$ ) is recommended as the representative hypothesis of  
 1108 the complement hypothesis of  $H_2$ . Based on Table 1, if  $H_2$  is true, the ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 :$   
 1109  $\beta_4=4:3:2:1$  for  $H_2$ . The relation of the regression coefficients under the complement  
 1110 hypothesis  $H_{2c}$  is  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4=4:1:2:3$  (reordered using  $H_{c12} : \beta_1 > \beta_4 > \beta_3 > \beta_2$ ), where  
 1111  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$  and  $\beta_4$  are larger than zero. By substituting  $R^2, \rho$ , and  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4=4:1:2:3$   
 1112 into Equation 13, the regression coefficients can be calculated.

1113 By summarizing the current examples, the total number of hypotheses in the complement  
 1114 of  $H_2$  is  $K! - 1$ . The hypothesis corresponding to the median of the number of hypotheses  
 1115 ordered using the number of violations (i.e., the hypothesis  $H_{K!/2}$ ) can be selected as the  
 1116 representative hypothesis. If the ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \dots : \beta_K = r_1 : r_2 : \dots : r_K$  for  $H_2$ , the ratio  
 1117 of the complement hypothesis of  $H_2$  would be obtained based on the order of hypothesis  
 1118  $H_{K!/2}$ . By substituting  $R^2, \Sigma$ , and the ratio of the complement hypothesis into Equation  
 1119 13,  $\beta_K$  can be derived. Subsequently,  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_{K-1}$  can be obtained.

1120 Some researchers may recommend placing the regression coefficients under the complement  
 1121 of  $H_1/H_2$  on the boundary of  $H_1/H_2$  (set all regression coefficients equal to 0). Although  
 1122 the boundary value does not belong to  $H_1$  or  $H_2$ , it is the closest value to  $H_1$  or  $H_2$ .  
 1123 However, the value of the Bayes factors  $BF_{1c,1}$  for  $H_{1c}$  versus  $H_1$  or  $BF_{2c,2}$  for  $H_{2c}$  versus  
 1124  $H_2$  would be always around 1 no matter how large the sample size is. That is, neither



1125 hypothesis is preferred over the other. Therefore, SSD cannot be performed if the  
1126 regression coefficients for the complement are based on the boundary of the parameter  
1127 space of  $H_1$  or  $H_2$ .

Table 1

*Chosen population values for the regression coefficients in the multivariate linear model with two predictors.*

	$\rho = 0$		$\rho = 0.2$		$\rho = 0.5$	
	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2$	0.255	0.255	0.233	0.233	0.208	0.208
$H_a$	0.255	0.255	0.233	0.233	0.208	0.208
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_2 > 0$	0.255	0.255	0.233	0.233	0.208	0.208
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2$	0.322	0.161	0.299	0.150	0.272	0.136
$H_{1c}$	-0.255	0.255	-0.233	0.233	-0.208	0.208
$H_{2c}$	0.161	0.322	0.150	0.299	0.136	0.272

Note: For  $H_1$  and  $H_a$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 = 1 : 1$  is used. For hypothesis  $H_2$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 = 2 : 1$  is used.

Table 2

*Chosen population values for the regression coefficients in the multivariate linear model with three predictors.*

	$\rho = 0$			$\rho = 0.2$			$\rho = 0.5$		
	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3$	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.147	0.147	0.147
$H_a$	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.147	0.147	0.147
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_2 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_3 > 0$	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.147	0.147	0.147
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$	0.289	0.193	0.096	0.252	0.168	0.084	0.216	0.144	0.072
$H_{1c}$	-0.208	-0.208	0.208	-0.176	-0.176	0.176	-0.147	-0.147	0.147
$H_{2c}$	0.096	0.289	0.193	0.084	0.252	0.168	0.072	0.216	0.144

For  $H_1$  and  $H_a$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 1 : 1 : 1$  is used. For hypothesis  $H_2$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 3 : 2 : 1$  is used.

Table 3

*Chosen population values for the regression coefficients in the multivariate linear model with four predictors.*

	$\rho = 0$				$\rho = 0.2$				$\rho = 0.5$			
	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_4$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_4$	$\beta_1$	$\beta_2$	$\beta_3$	$\beta_4$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4$	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114
$H_a$	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_2 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_3 > 0 \text{ \& } \beta_4 > 0$	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4$	0.263	0.197	0.132	0.066	0.217	0.163	0.109	0.054	0.179	0.134	0.089	0.045
$H_{1c}$	-0.180	-0.180	0.180	0.180	-0.142	-0.142	0.142	0.142	-0.114	-0.114	0.114	0.114
$H_{2c}$	0.132	0.263	0.066	0.197	0.109	0.217	0.054	0.163	0.089	0.179	0.045	0.134

For  $H_1$  and  $H_a$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4 = 1 : 1 : 1 : 1$  is used. For hypothesis  $H_2$ , the ratio of the regression  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4 = 4 : 3 : 2 : 1$  is used.

Table 4

The required sample size and the corresponding probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 when the  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$ ,  $\eta = 0.8$ ,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 = 1 : 1$  for  $H_a$  and  $H_1$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 = 2 : 1$  for  $H_2$  and the number of predictors is 2.

		$\rho = 0$			$\rho = 0.2$			$\rho = 0.5$		
		$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$	$p_0$	0.948	0.880	0.801	0.948	0.881	0.801	0.948	0.881	0.801
	$N$	121 (122)	104 (105)	95 (96)	121 (122)	105 (104)	93 (93)	121 (122)	105 (106)	93 (93)
$H_a$	$p_a$	0.804	0.800	0.804	0.804	0.805	0.802	0.804	0.805	0.802
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2$	$p_0$	0.962	0.944	0.931	0.973	0.955	0.944	0.980	0.971	0.961
	$N$	887 (889)	816 (815)	775 (773)	1326 (1328)	1221 (1220)	1176 (1176)	2721 (2725)	2527 (2525)	2426 (2426)
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2$	$p_2$	0.802	0.804	0.800	0.806	0.805	0.801	0.804	0.805	0.801
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$	$p_0$	0.939	0.862	0.805	0.940	0.862	0.804	0.938	0.860	0.803
	$N$	90 (92)	74 (72)	71 (70)	88 (88)	71 (73)	71 (70)	86 (88)	70 (71)	69 (69)
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0$	$p_1$	0.802	0.811	0.837	0.808	0.805	0.843	0.804	0.805	0.842
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0$	$p_1$	0.950			0.968			0.987		
	$N$	60 (60)			79 (77)			134 (133)		
$H_{1c}: \text{not } H_1$	$p_{1c}$	0.802			0.800			0.804		
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2$	$p_2$	0.804			0.812			0.801		
	$N$	163 (162)			235 (233)			438 (435)		
$H_{2c}: \text{not } H_2$	$p_{2c}$	0.808			0.800			0.800		

The correlation between the predictors is denoted as  $\rho$ , where  $\rho$  is chosen as 0, 0.2 or 0.5, respectively in this table. The prior distributions with different  $b$  are used to perform a sensitivity analysis. It should be noted that  $b$  is not relevant for the evaluation of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  versus their respective complements. The symbol  $p_i$  denotes the probability that the Bayes factor supports  $H_i$  when  $H_i$  is true, where  $i = 0, 1, 2, a, 1c, 2c$ . The sample size values in the parentheses is calculated with the set.seed 1234. Comparing the values without and within parenthesis shows that using T=10,000 renders stable sample size estimates.

Table 5

*The required sample size and the corresponding probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 when the  $\text{BF}_{\text{thresh}} = 3$ ,  $\eta = 0.8$ ,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 1 : 1 : 1$  for  $H_a$  and  $H_1$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 = 3 : 2 : 1$  for  $H_2$  and the number of the predictors is 3.*

		$\rho = 0$			$\rho = 0.2$			$\rho = 0.5$		
		$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$	$p_0$	0.974	0.909	0.831	0.973	0.918	0.840	0.973	0.918	0.840
	$N$	148	119	104	146	120	105	146	120	105
	$p_a$	0.809	0.806	0.805	0.803	0.804	0.806	0.803	0.804	0.806
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3$	$p_0$	0.993	0.983	0.976	0.995	0.992	0.986	0.998	0.996	0.993
	$N$	776	675	624	1350	1210	1124	3301	2981	2794
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$	$p_2$	0.803	0.806	0.803	0.802	0.804	0.801	0.802	0.804	0.800
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$	$p_0$	0.964	0.879	0.811	0.964	0.887	0.809	0.968	0.899	0.806
	$N$	100	71	66	98	71	62	94	69	59
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0$	$p_1$	0.802	0.802	0.833	0.807	0.802	0.833	0.802	0.801	0.825
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0$	$p_1$		0.801			0.809			0.809	
	$N$		35			40			47	
$H_{1c}: \text{not } H_1$	$p_{1c}$		0.833			0.827			0.814	
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3$	$p_2$		0.801			0.801			0.808	
	$N$		254			410			882	
$H_{2c}: \text{not } H_2$	$p_{2c}$		0.909			0.909			0.901	

The correlation between the predictors is denoted as  $\rho$ , where  $\rho$  is chosen as 0, 0.2 or 0.5, respectively in this table. The prior distributions with different  $b$  are used to perform a sensitivity analysis. It should be noted that  $b$  is not relevant for the evaluation of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  versus their respective complements. The symbol  $p_i$  denotes the probability that the Bayes factor supports  $H_i$  when  $H_i$  is true, where  $i = 0, 1, 2, a, 1c, 2c$ .

Table 6

The required sample size and the corresponding probability that the Bayes factor is larger than 3 when the  $BF_{thresh} = 3$ ,  $\eta = 0.8$ ,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4 = 1 : 1 : 1 : 1$  for  $H_a$  and  $H_1$ , ratio  $\beta_1 : \beta_2 : \beta_3 : \beta_4 = 4 : 3 : 2 : 1$  for  $H_2$  and the number of the predictors is 4.

		$\rho = 0$			$\rho = 0.2$			$\rho = 0.5$		
		$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$	$p_0$	0.986	0.934	0.840	0.984	0.935	0.840	0.984	0.935	0.840
	$N$	173	134	109	172	135	109	172	135	109
	$p_a$	0.813	0.803	0.800	0.808	0.805	0.800	0.808	0.805	0.800
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4$	$p_0$	0.998	0.993	0.989	0.999	0.998	0.996	0.999	0.999	0.998
	$N$	762	652	583	1580	1373	1257	4298	3901	3580
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4$	$p_2$	0.800	0.803	0.805	0.802	0.800	0.800	0.801	0.807	0.810
$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$	$p_0$	0.982	0.896	0.800	0.980	0.905	0.805	0.981	0.906	0.809
	$N$	109	72	65	103	70	61	102	67	56
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_4 > 0$	$p_1$	0.800	0.804	0.859	0.807	0.806	0.855	0.806	0.803	0.844
$H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_4 > 0$	$p_1$	0.892			0.948			0.986		
	$N$	56			83			167		
$H_{1c}: \text{not } H_1$	$p_{1c}$	0.805			0.802			0.803		
$H_2: \beta_1 > \beta_2 > \beta_3 > \beta_4$	$p_2$	0.803			0.802			0.802		
	$N$	272			488			1148		
$H_{2c}: \text{not } H_2$	$p_{2c}$	0.860			0.854			0.857		

The correlation between the predictors is denoted as  $\rho$ , where  $\rho$  is chosen as 0, 0.2 or 0.5, respectively in this table. The prior distributions with different  $b$  are used to perform a sensitivity analysis. It should be noted that  $b$  is not relevant for the evaluation of  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  versus their respective complements. The symbol  $p_i$  denotes the probability that the Bayes factor supports  $H_i$  when  $H_i$  is true, where  $i = 0, 1, 2, a, 1c, 2c$ .

Table 7

Comparison between classical sample size determined using power=0.8,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $f^2 = 0.15$  and the Bayesian sample size determined using  $\eta = 0.8$ ,  $BF_{thresh} = 3$ ,  $R^2 = 0.13$ , the ratio between each pair of coefficients is 1:1.

$K = 2$	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0 \text{ vs } H_a$	classical	80		
		Bayesian	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
			121	104	95
	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0 \text{ vs } H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0$	Bayesian	90	74	71
$K = 3$	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0 \text{ vs } H_a$	classical	90		
		Bayesian	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
			148	119	104
	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0 \text{ vs } H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0$	Bayesian	100	71	66
$K = 4$	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0 \text{ vs } H_a$	classical	99		
		Bayesian	$b = J/N$	$b = 2J/N$	$b = 3J/N$
			173	134	109
	$H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0 \text{ vs } H_1: \beta_1 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_2 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_3 > 0 \ \& \ \beta_4 > 0$	Bayesian	109	72	65