

# mixtures of conjugate priors and MCMC

Dr. Merlise Clyde

# Cauchy distribution

- ▶ hierarchical prior

$$\mu \mid \sigma^2, n_0 \sim \mathbf{N}(m_0, \sigma^2/n_0)$$



# Cauchy distribution

- hierarchical prior

$$\mu \mid \sigma^2, n_0 \sim \mathbf{N}(m_0, \sigma^2 / n_0)$$

$$n_0 \mid \sigma^2 \sim \text{Gamma}(1/2, r^2 / 2)$$

# Cauchy distribution

- ▶ hierarchical prior

$$\mu \mid \sigma^2, n_0 \sim \mathbf{N}(m_0, \sigma^2/n_0)$$

$$n_0 \mid \sigma^2 \sim \text{Gamma}(1/2, r^2/2)$$

- ▶ Cauchy distribution  $\mu \mid \sigma^2 \sim \mathbf{C}(m_0, \sigma^2 r^2)$



# Cauchy distribution

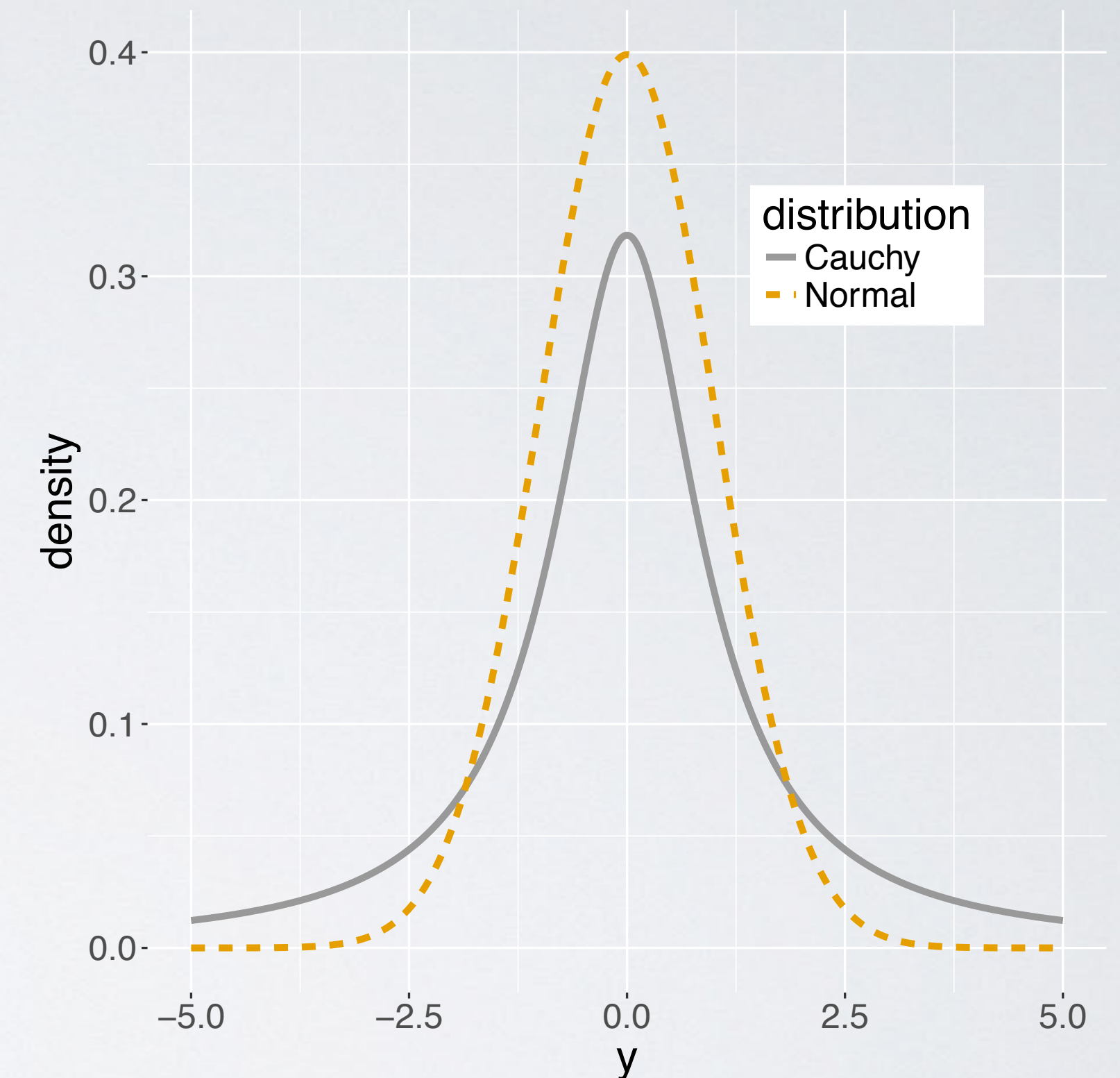
- hierarchical prior

$$\mu \mid \sigma^2, n_0 \sim \mathbf{N}(m_0, \sigma^2/n_0)$$

$$n_0 \mid \sigma^2 \sim \text{Gamma}(1/2, r^2/2)$$

- Cauchy distribution  $\mu \mid \sigma^2 \sim \mathbf{C}(m_0, \sigma^2 r^2)$

$$p(\mu \mid \sigma) = \frac{1}{\pi \sigma r} \left( 1 + \frac{(\mu - m_0)^2}{\sigma^2 r^2} \right)^{-1}$$



# posterior inference

- ▶ no nice closed form expression for posterior distribution of  $\mu$



# posterior inference

- ▶ no nice closed form expression for posterior distribution of  $\mu$
- ▶ conditional distributions of individual parameters given the others and data are “nice”

# posterior inference

- ▶ no nice closed form expression for posterior distribution of  $\mu$
- ▶ conditional distributions of individual parameters given the others and data are “nice”
- ▶ Gibbs sampler or Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)



# MCMC algorithm

## Pseudo Code

```
# initialize MCMC
sigma2[1] = 1; n_0[1]=1; mu[1]=m_0

#draw from full conditional distributions
for (i in 2:S) {
    mu[i]      = p_mu(sigma2[i-1], n_0[i-1], m_0, r, data)
    sigma2[i]  = p_sigma2(mu[i], n_0[i-1], m_0, r, data)
    n_0[i]     = p_n_0(mu[i], sigma2[i], m_0, r, data)
}
```

# tap water example with Cauchy prior

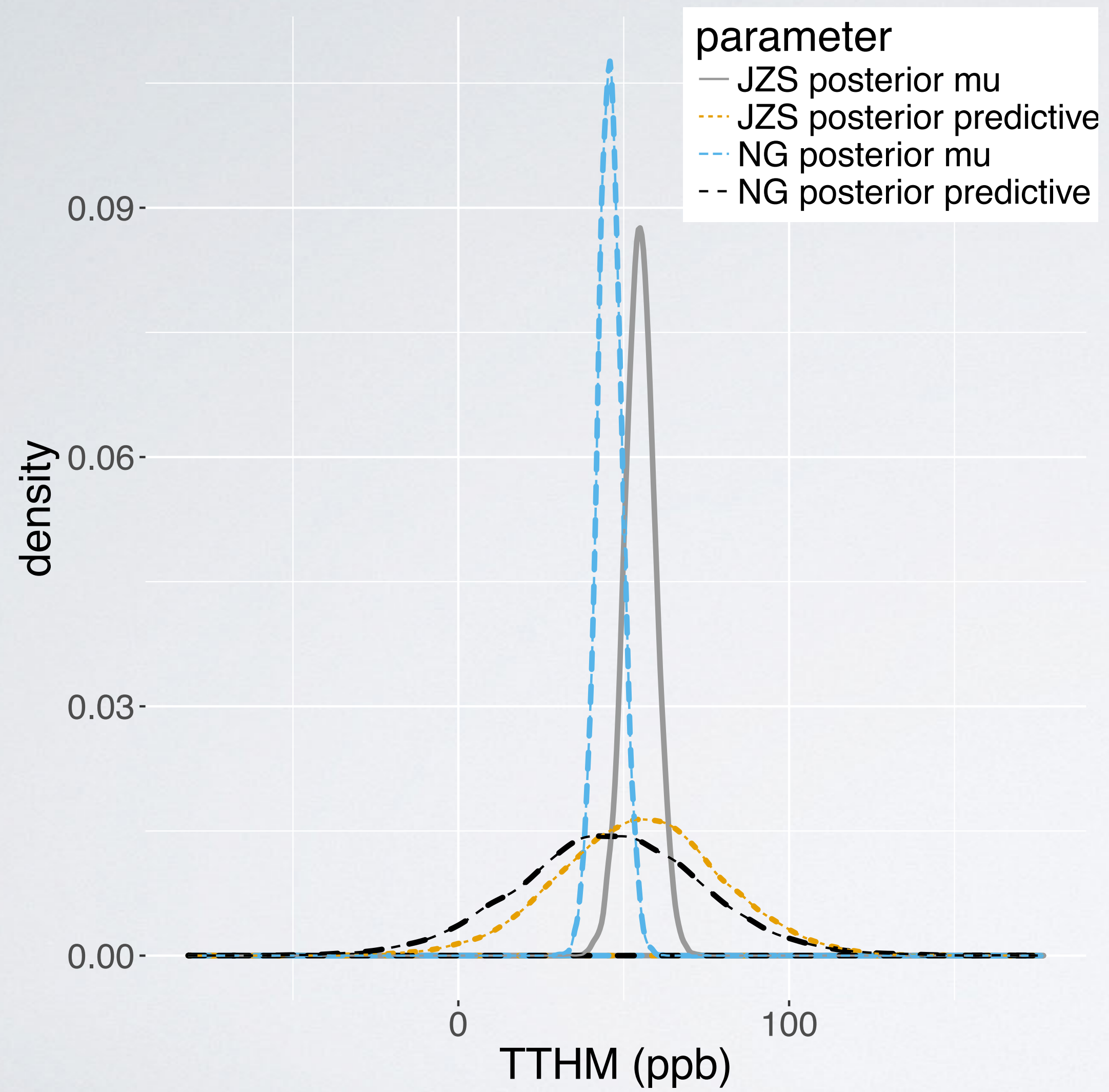
## R Code

```
bayes_inference(y=tthm, data=tapwater, statistic="mean",
                mu_0 = 35, rscale=1, prior="JZS",
                type="ci", method="sim")

## Single numerical variable
## n = 28, y-bar = 55.5239, s = 23.254
## (Assuming Zellner-Siow Cauchy prior:  $\mu \mid \sigma^2 \sim C(35, 1*\sigma)$ )
## (Assuming improper Jeffreys prior:  $p(\sigma^2) = 1/\sigma^2$ )
##
## Posterior Summaries
##           2.5%      25%      50%      75%      97.5%
## mu      45.5713714  51.820910  54.87345  57.87171  64.20477
## sigma  18.4996738  21.810376  23.84572  26.30359  32.11330
## n_0      0.2512834   2.512059   6.13636  12.66747  36.37425
##
```



# comparison of posterior densities



# summary

- ▶ Cauchy distribution



# summary

- ▶ Cauchy distribution
- ▶ MCMC

# summary

- ▶ Cauchy distribution
- ▶ MCMC
- ▶ robustness & sensitivity analysis



# summary

- ▶ Cauchy distribution
- ▶ MCMC
- ▶ robustness & sensitivity analysis

next: hypothesis testing and Bayes factors