

# Bayesian Statistics with Stan

## Packages for this section

Installation instructions for the last three of these are below.

```
library(tidyverse)
library(cmdstanr)
library(posterior)
library(bayesplot)
```

# Installation 1/2

► cmdstanr:

```
install.packages("cmdstanr",  
                  repos = c("https://mc-stan.org/r-packages/  
                             getOption("repos")))
```

► posterior and bayesplot, from the same place:

```
install.packages("posterior",  
                  repos = c("https://mc-stan.org/r-packages/  
                             getOption("repos")))  
install.packages("bayesplot",  
                  repos = c("https://mc-stan.org/r-packages/  
                             getOption("repos")))
```

## Installation 2/2

Then, to check that you have the C++ stuff needed to compile Stan code:

```
check_cmdstan_toolchain()
```

and then:

```
install_cmdstan(cores = 4)
```

If you happen to know how many cores (processors) your computer has, insert the appropriate number. (My laptop has 4 and my desktop 6.)

All of this is done once. If you have problems, go [here](#) (link).

# Bayesian and frequentist inference 1/2

- ▶ The inference philosophy that we have learned so far says that:
  - ▶ parameters to be estimated are *fixed* but *unknown*
  - ▶ Data random; if we took another sample we'd get different data.
- ▶ This is called “frequentist” or “repeated-sampling” inference.

## Bayesian and frequentist inference 2/2

- ▶ Bayesian inference says:
  - ▶ *parameters* are random, *data* is *given*
- ▶ Ingredients:
  - ▶ **prior distribution**: distribution of parameters before seeing data.
  - ▶ **likelihood**: model for data if the parameters are known
  - ▶ **posterior distribution**: distribution of parameters *after* seeing data.

# Distribution of parameters

- ▶ Instead of having a point or interval estimate of a parameter, we have an entire distribution
- ▶ so in Bayesian statistics we can talk about eg.
  - ▶ probability that a parameter is bigger than some value
  - ▶ probability that a parameter is close to some value
  - ▶ probability that one parameter is bigger than another
- ▶ Name comes from Bayes' Theorem, which here says *posterior is proportional to likelihood times prior*
- ▶ more discussion about this is in **a blog post**.

## An example

- ▶ Suppose we have these (integer) observations:

```
(x <- c(0, 4, 3, 6, 3, 3, 2, 4))
```

```
[1] 0 4 3 6 3 3 2 4
```

- ▶ Suppose we believe that these come from a Poisson distribution with a mean  $\lambda$  that we want to estimate.
- ▶ We need a prior distribution for  $\lambda$ . I will (for some reason) take a *Weibull* distribution with parameters 1.1 and 6, that has quartiles 2 and 6. Normally this would come from your knowledge of the data-generating *process*.
- ▶ The Poisson likelihood can be written down (see over).



## Some algebra

- ▶ We have  $n = 8$  observations  $x_i$ , so the Poisson likelihood is proportional to

$$\prod_{i=1}^n e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x_i} = e^{-n\lambda} \lambda^S,$$

where  $S = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ .

- ▶ then you write the Weibull prior density (as a function of  $\lambda$ ):

$$C(\lambda/6)^{0.1} e^{-(\lambda/6)^{1.1}}$$

where  $C$  is a constant.

- ▶ and then you multiply these together and try to recognize the distributional form. Only, here you can't. The powers 0.1 and 1.1 get in the way.

## Sampling from the posterior distribution

- ▶ Wouldn't it be nice if we could just *sample* from the posterior distribution? Then we would be able to compute it as accurately as we want.
- ▶ Metropolis and Hastings: devise a Markov chain (C62) whose limiting distribution is the posterior you want, and then sample from that Markov chain (easy), allowing enough time to get close enough to the limiting distribution.
- ▶ Stan: uses a modern variant that is more efficient (called Hamiltonian Monte Carlo), implemented in R packages `cmdstanr`.
- ▶ Write Stan code in a file, compile it and sample from it.

## Components of Stan code: the model

```
model {  
  // likelihood  
  x ~ poisson(lambda);  
}
```

This is how you say “ $X$  has a Poisson distribution with mean  $\lambda$ ”.

**Note that lines of Stan code have semicolons on the end.**

## Components of Stan code: the prior distribution

```
model {  
  // prior  
  lambda ~ weibull(1.1, 6);  
  // likelihood  
  x ~ poisson(lambda);  
}
```

# Components of Stan code: data and parameters

► first in the Stan code:

```
data {  
  int x[8];  
}
```

```
parameters {  
  real<lower=0> lambda;  
}
```

## Compile and sample from the model 1/2

► compile

```
poisson1 <- cmdstan_model("poisson1.stan")
```

```
poisson1
```

```
// Estimating Poisson mean
```

```
data {  
  int x[8];  
}
```

```
parameters {  
  real<lower=0> lambda;  
}
```

```
model {  
  // prior  
  lambda ~ weibull(1.1, 6);  
}
```

## Compile and sample from the model 2/2

► set up data

```
poisson1_data <- list(x = x)
poisson1_data
```

\$x

[1] 0 4 3 6 3 3 2 4

► sample

```
poisson1_fit <- poisson1$sample(data = poisson1_data)
```

Running MCMC with 4 sequential chains...

Chain 1 Iteration: 1 / 2000 [ 0%] (Warmup)

Chain 1 Iteration: 100 / 2000 [ 5%] (Warmup)

Chain 1 Iteration: 200 / 2000 [ 10%] (Warmup)

Chain 1 Iteration: 300 / 2000 [ 15%] (Warmup)

Chain 1 Iteration: 400 / 2000 [ 20%] (Warmup)

Chain 1 Iteration: 500 / 2000 [ 25%] (Warmup)

## The output

```
poisson1_fit
```

variable	mean	median	sd	mad	q5	q95	rhat	ess_bulk	ess
lp__	3.77	4.02	0.65	0.32	2.46	4.26	1.00	2053	
lambda	3.18	3.14	0.61	0.62	2.24	4.23	1.00	1332	



## Comments

- ▶ This summarizes the posterior distribution of  $\lambda$
- ▶ the posterior mean is 3.19
- ▶ with a 90% posterior interval of 2.25 to 4.33.
- ▶ The probability that  $\lambda$  is between these two values really is 90%.

## Making the code more general

- ▶ The coder in you is probably offended by hard-coding the sample size and the parameters of the prior distribution. More generally:

```
data {  
  int<lower=1> n;  
  real<lower=0> a;  
  real<lower=0> b;  
  int x[n];  
}  
...  
model {  
  // prior  
  lambda ~ weibull(a, b);  
  // likelihood  
  x ~ poisson(lambda);  
}
```

## Set up again and sample:

► Compile again:

```
poisson2 <- cmdstan_model("poisson2.stan")
```

► set up the data again including the new things we need:

```
poisson2_data <- list(x = x, n = length(x), a = 1.1, b = 6)  
poisson2_data
```

\$x

```
[1] 0 4 3 6 3 3 2 4
```

\$n

```
[1] 8
```

\$a

```
[1] 1.1
```

\$b

```
[1] 6
```

## Sample again

Output should be the same (to within randomness):

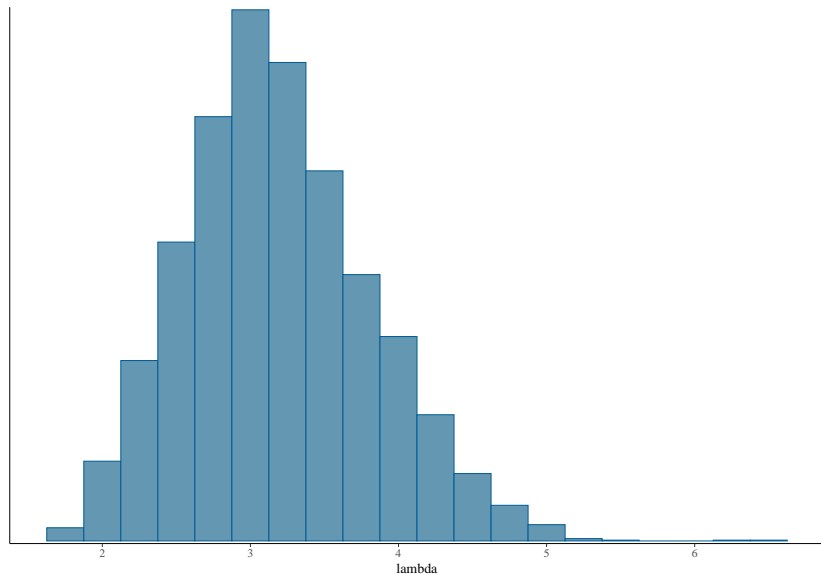
```
poisson2_fit <- poisson2$sample(data = poisson2_data)
```

```
poisson2_fit
```

variable	mean	median	sd	mad	q5	q95	rhat	ess_bulk	ess
lp_	3.75	4.03	0.68	0.32	2.33	4.26	1.00	1662	
lambda	3.19	3.13	0.63	0.62	2.23	4.30	1.00	1516	

## Picture of posterior

```
mcmc_hist(poisson2_fit$draws("lambda"), binwidth = 0.25)
```



## Extracting actual sampled values

A little awkward at first:

```
poisson2_fit$draws()
```

```
# A draws_array: 1000 iterations, 4 chains, and 2 variables  
, , variable = lp__
```

```
      chain  
iteration  1    2    3    4  
      1 4.2 4.3 4.2 3.0  
      2 4.2 4.2 4.2 4.3  
      3 4.2 4.3 4.2 4.2  
      4 4.2 4.1 3.9 4.2  
      5 4.2 4.1 3.3 3.6
```

```
, , variable = lambda
```

```
      chain  
iteration  1    2    3    4
```

## Sampled values as dataframe

```
as_draws_df(poisson2_fit$draws()) %>%  
  as_tibble() -> poisson2_draws  
poisson2_draws
```

# A tibble: 4,000 x 5

	lp__	lambda	.chain	.iteration	.draw
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>	<int>
1	4.22	3.38	1	1	1
2	4.18	2.96	1	2	2
3	4.20	3.41	1	3	3
4	4.21	3.38	1	4	4
5	4.23	3.04	1	5	5
6	4.07	2.83	1	6	6
7	4.15	2.91	1	7	7
8	2.95	4.31	1	8	8
9	2.85	4.36	1	9	9
10	4.08	3.58	1	10	10

# i 3,990 more rows

## Posterior predictive distribution

- ▶ Another use for the actual sampled values is to see what kind of *response* values we might get in the future. This should look something like our data. For a Poisson distribution, the response values are integers:

```
poisson2_draws %>%  
  rowwise() %>%  
  mutate(xsim = rpois(1, lambda)) -> d
```



## The simulated posterior distribution (in xsim)

```
d %>% select(lambda, xsim)
```

```
# A tibble: 4,000 x 2
```

```
# Rowwise:
```

	lambda	xsim
	<dbl>	<int>
1	3.38	4
2	2.96	1
3	3.41	3
4	3.38	2
5	3.04	3
6	2.83	2
7	2.91	5
8	4.31	7
9	4.36	5
10	3.58	3

```
# i 3,990 more rows
```

# Comparison

Our actual data values were these:

```
x
```

```
[1] 0 4 3 6 3 3 2 4
```

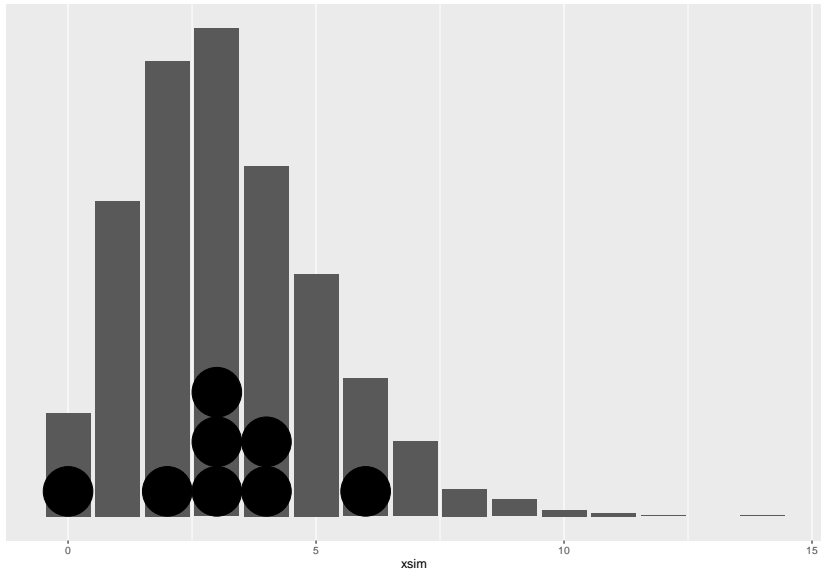
- ▶ None of these are very unlikely according to our posterior predictive distribution, so our model is believable.
- ▶ Or make a plot: a bar chart with the data on it as well (over):

```
ggplot(d, aes(x = xsim)) + geom_bar() +  
  geom_dotplot(data = tibble(x), aes(x = x), binwidth = 1)  
  scale_y_continuous(NULL, breaks = NULL) -> g
```

- ▶ This also shows that the distribution of the data conforms well enough to the posterior predictive distribution (over).

# The plot

g



## Do they have the same distribution?

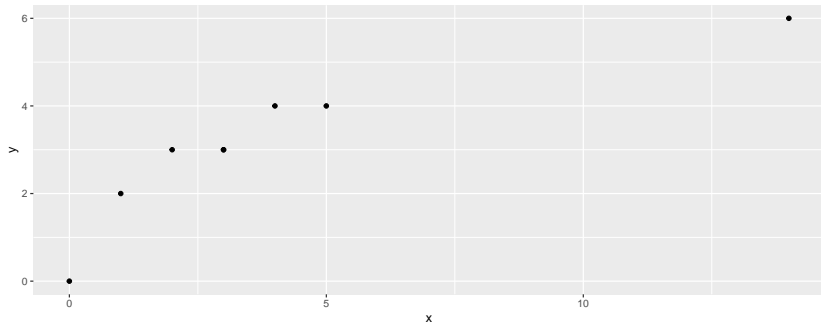
```
qqplot(d$xsim, x, plot.it = FALSE) %>% as_tibble() -> dd  
dd
```

```
# A tibble: 8 x 2
```

	x	y
	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	0	0
2	1	2
3	2	3
4	3	3
5	3	3
6	4	4
7	5	4
8	14	6

# The plot

```
ggplot(dd, aes(x=x, y=y)) + geom_point()
```



the observed zero is a bit too small compared to expected (from the posterior), but the other points seem pretty well on a line.

## Analysis of variance, the Bayesian way

Recall the jumping rats data:

```
my_url <-  
  "http://ritsokiguess.site/datafiles/jumping.txt"  
rats0 <- read_delim(my_url, " ")  
rats0
```

```
# A tibble: 30 x 2
```

	group	density
	<chr>	<dbl>
1	Control	611
2	Control	621
3	Control	614
4	Control	593
5	Control	593
6	Control	653
7	Control	600
8	Control	554
9	Control	603

## Our aims here

- ▶ Estimate the mean bone density of all rats under each of the experimental conditions
- ▶ Model: given the group means, each observation normally distributed with common variance  $\sigma^2$
- ▶ Three parameters to estimate, plus the common variance.
- ▶ Obtain posterior distributions for the group means.
- ▶ Ask whether the posterior distributions of these means are sufficiently different.

## Numbering the groups

- ▶ Stan doesn't handle categorical variables (everything is real or int).
- ▶ Turn the groups into group *numbers* first.
- ▶ Take opportunity to put groups in logical order:

```
rats0 %>% mutate(  
  group_fct = fct_inorder(group),  
  group_no = as.integer(group_fct)  
) -> rats  
rats
```

# A tibble: 30 x 4

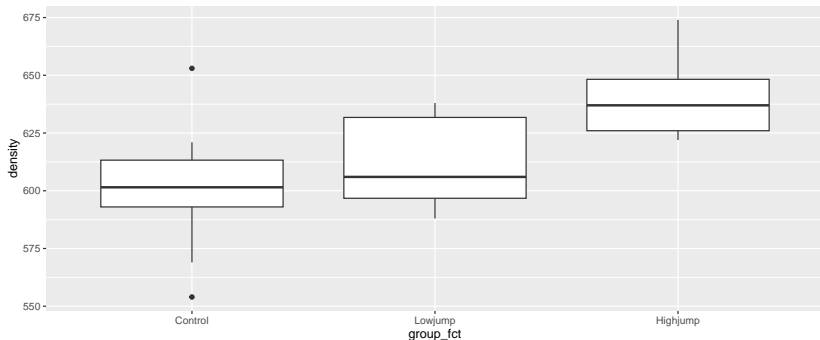
	group <chr>	density <dbl>	group_fct <fct>	group_no <int>
1	Control	611	Control	1
2	Control	621	Control	1
3	Control	614	Control	1
4	Control	593	Control	1
5	Control	593	Control	1



# Plotting the data 1/2

Most obviously, boxplots:

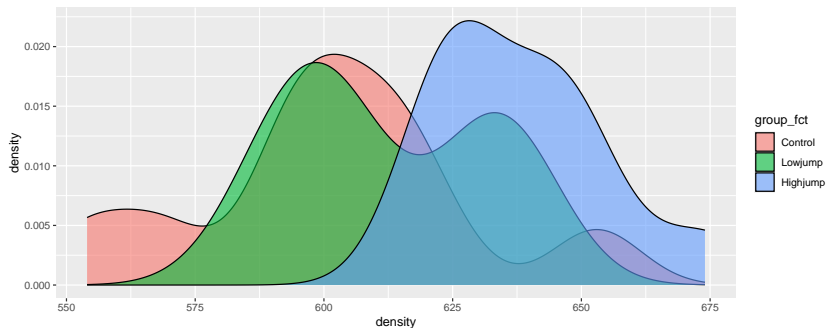
```
ggplot(rats, aes(x = group_fct, y = density)) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```



## Plotting the data 2/2

Another way: density plot (smoothed out histogram); can distinguish groups by colours:

```
ggplot(rats, aes(x = density, fill = group_fct)) +  
  geom_density(alpha = 0.6)
```



# The procedure

- ▶ For each observation, find out which (numeric) group it belongs to,
- ▶ then model it as having a normal distribution with that group's mean and the common variance.
- ▶ Stan does for loops.

## The model part

Suppose we have `n_obs` observations:

```
model {  
  // likelihood  
  for (i in 1:n_obs) {  
    g = group_no[i];  
    density[i] ~ normal(mu[g], sigma);  
  }  
}
```

## The variables here

- ▶ `n_obs` is data.
- ▶ `g` is a temporary integer variable only used here
- ▶ `i` is only used in the loop (integer) and does not need to be declared
- ▶ `density` is data, a real vector of length `n_obs`
- ▶ `mu` is a parameter, a real vector of length 3 (3 groups)
- ▶ `sigma` is a real parameter

`mu` and `sigma` need prior distributions:

- ▶ for `mu`, each component independently normal with mean 600 and SD 50 (my guess at how big and variable they will be)
- ▶ for `sigma`, chi-squared with 50 df (my guess at typical amount of variability from obs to obs)

## Complete the model section:

```
model {  
  int g;  
  // priors  
  mu ~ normal(600, 50);  
  sigma ~ chi_square(50);  
  // likelihood  
  for (i in 1:n_obs) {  
    g = group_no[i];  
    density[i] ~ normal(mu[g], sigma);  
  }  
}
```

# Parameters

The elements of  $\mu$ , one per group, and also  $\sigma$ , scalar, lower limit zero:

```
parameters {  
  real mu[n_group];  
  real<lower=0> sigma;  
}
```

- ▶ Declare  $\sigma$  to have lower limit zero here, so that the sampling runs smoothly.
- ▶ declare  $n\_group$  in data section

# Data

Everything else:

```
data {  
  int n_obs;  
  int n_group;  
  real density[n_obs];  
  int<lower=1, upper=n_group> group_no[n_obs];  
}
```



# Compile

Arrange these in order data, parameters, model in file `anova.stan`, then:

```
anova <- cmdstan_model("anova.stan")
```

## Set up data and sample

Supply values for *everything* declared in data:

```
anova_data <- list(  
  n_obs = 30,  
  n_group = 3,  
  density = rats$density,  
  group_no = rats$group_no  
)  
anova_fit <- anova$sample(data = anova_data)
```

Running MCMC with 4 sequential chains...

```
Chain 1 Iteration:    1 / 2000 [  0%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  100 / 2000 [  5%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  200 / 2000 [ 10%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  300 / 2000 [ 15%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  400 / 2000 [ 20%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  500 / 2000 [ 25%] (Warmup)  
Chain 1 Iteration:  600 / 2000 [ 30%] (Warmup)
```

## Check that the sampling worked properly

```
anova_fit$cmdstan_diagnose()
```

Processing csv files: /tmp/Rtmp07lwJC/anova-202306302257-1-3be2a0.csv, /tmp/Rtm

Checking sampler transitions treedepth.

Treedepth satisfactory for all transitions.

Checking sampler transitions for divergences.

No divergent transitions found.

Checking E-BFMI - sampler transitions HMC potential energy.

E-BFMI satisfactory.

Effective sample size satisfactory.

Split R-hat values satisfactory all parameters.

Processing complete, no problems detected.

## Look at the results

```
anova_fit
```

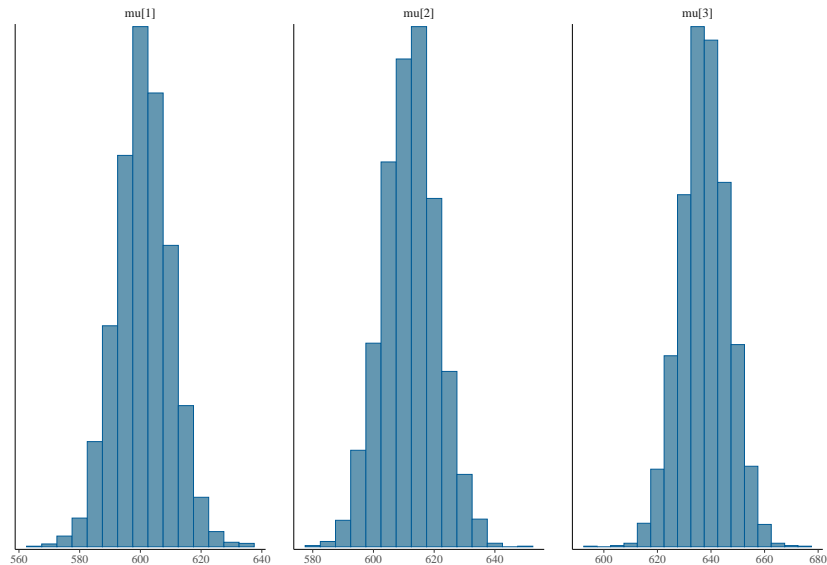
variable	mean	median	sd	mad	q5	q95	rhat	ess_bu
lp__	-41.00	-40.69	1.45	1.27	-43.75	-39.31	1.00	19
mu[1]	601.04	600.90	8.96	8.71	586.20	615.63	1.00	41
mu[2]	612.05	612.14	8.96	8.85	597.18	626.99	1.00	37
mu[3]	637.58	637.54	8.85	8.63	622.98	652.06	1.00	45
sigma	28.45	28.09	4.16	4.10	22.19	35.87	1.00	32

## Comments

- ▶ The posterior 95% intervals for control (group 1) and highjump (group 3) do not quite overlap, suggesting that these exercise groups really are different.
- ▶ Bayesian approach does not normally do tests: look at posterior distributions and decide whether they are different enough to be worth treating as different.

## Plotting the posterior distributions for the mu

```
mcmc_hist(anova_fit$draws("mu"), binwidth = 5)
```



## Extract the sampled values

```
as_draws_df(anova_fit$draws()) %>% as_tibble() -> anova_draws
```

```
# A tibble: 4,000 x 8
```

	lp__	`mu[1]`	`mu[2]`	`mu[3]`	sigma	.chain	.iteration	.draw
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>	<int>
1	-39.8	600.	612.	638.	32.0	1	1	1
2	-42.2	607.	630.	629.	25.6	1	2	2
3	-41.0	602.	620.	624.	32.2	1	3	3
4	-42.9	612.	591.	633.	29.9	1	4	4
5	-43.7	609.	585.	637.	31.7	1	5	5
6	-42.5	616.	616.	653.	33.1	1	6	6
7	-41.7	598.	617.	654.	33.3	1	7	7
8	-40.2	608.	615.	649.	27.3	1	8	8
9	-42.1	582.	612.	627.	30.6	1	9	9
10	-40.7	593.	616.	651.	29.8	1	10	10

```
# i 3,990 more rows
```

estimated probability that  $\mu_3 > \mu_1$

```
anova_draws %>%  
  count(`mu[3]` > `mu[1]`) %>%  
  mutate(prob = n/sum(n))
```

```
# A tibble: 2 x 3
```

	<code>`mu[3]` &gt; `mu[1]`</code>	n	prob
	<code>&lt;lgl&gt;</code>	<code>&lt;int&gt;</code>	<code>&lt;dbl&gt;</code>
1	FALSE	11	0.00275
2	TRUE	3989	0.997

High jumping group almost certainly has larger mean than control group.



## More organizing

- ▶ for another plot
  - ▶ make longer
  - ▶ give group values their proper names back

```
anova_draws %>%  
  pivot_longer(starts_with("mu"),  
                names_to = "group",  
                values_to = "bone_density") %>%  
  mutate(group = fct_recode(group,  
    Control = "mu[1]",  
    Lowjump = "mu[2]",  
    Highjump = "mu[3]"  
  )) -> sims
```

## What we have now:

```
sims
```

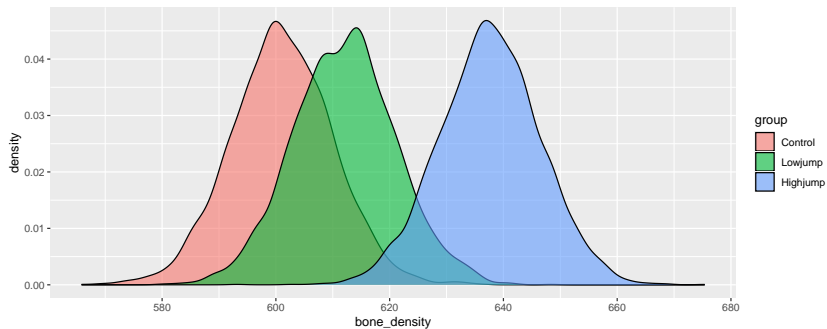
```
# A tibble: 12,000 x 7
```

	lp__	sigma	.chain	.iteration	.draw	group	bone_densit
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<fct>	<dbl>
1	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Control	600
2	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Lowjump	612
3	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Highjump	638
4	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Control	607
5	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Lowjump	630
6	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Highjump	629
7	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Control	602
8	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Lowjump	620
9	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Highjump	624
10	-42.9	29.9	1	4	4	Control	612

```
# i 11,990 more rows
```

# Density plots of posterior mean distributions

```
ggplot(sims, aes(x = bone_density, fill = group)) +  
  geom_density(alpha = 0.6)
```



## Posterior predictive distributions

Randomly sample from posterior means and SDs in sims. There are 12000 rows in sims:

```
sims %>% mutate(sim_data = rnorm(12000, bone_density, sigma))  
ppd
```

# A tibble: 12,000 x 8

	lp__	sigma	.chain	.iteration	.draw	group	bone_density
	<dbl>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<fct>	<dbl>
1	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Control	600
2	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Lowjump	612
3	-39.8	32.0	1	1	1	Highjump	638
4	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Control	607
5	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Lowjump	630
6	-42.2	25.6	1	2	2	Highjump	629
7	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Control	602
8	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Lowjump	620
9	-41.0	32.2	1	3	3	Highjump	624
10	-42.9	29.9	1	4	4	Control	612

# Compare posterior predictive distribution with actual data

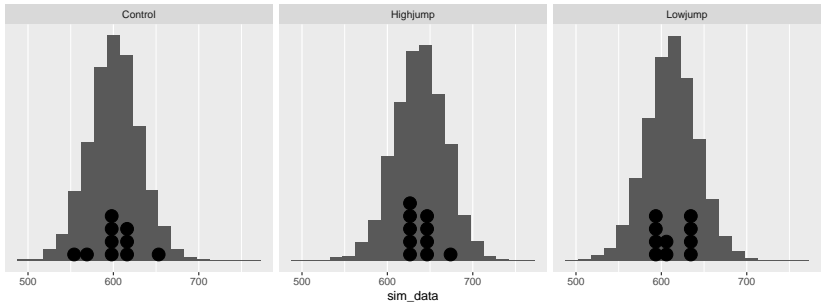
- ▶ Check that the model works: distributions of data similar to what we'd predict
- ▶ Idea: make plots of posterior predictive distribution, and plot actual data as points on them
- ▶ Use facets, one for each treatment group:

```
my_binwidth <- 15
ggplot(ppd, aes(x = sim_data)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = my_binwidth) +
  geom_dotplot(
    data = rats, aes(x = density),
    binwidth = my_binwidth
  ) +
  facet_wrap(~group) +
  scale_y_continuous(NULL, breaks = NULL) -> g
```

- ▶ See (over) that the data values are mainly in the middle of the predictive distributions.
- ▶ Even for the control group that had outliers.

# The plot

g



# Extensions

- ▶ if you want a different model other than normal, change distribution in `model` section
- ▶ if you want to allow unequal spreads, create `sigma[n_group]` and in model `density[i] ~ normal(mu[g], sigma[g]);`
- ▶ Stan will work just fine after you recompile
- ▶ very flexible.
- ▶ Typical modelling strategy: start simple, add complexity as warranted by data.