

# Introduction to Bayesian statistics

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# Notation

Consider a probability triple  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \pi)$ , and

... r.v.  $x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$ , with  $x := x(\omega)$ , following a prob distr.  $\pi_x$

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- The expected value of a function  $h(x)$  w.r.t.  $\pi_x$  is

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\pi_x}(h(x)) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} h(x) d\pi_x(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} h(x) \pi_x(dx) \\ &= \begin{cases} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} h(x) \pi_x(x) dx & \text{if } x \text{ is continuous} \\ \sum_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x}} h(x) \pi_x(x) & \text{if } x \text{ is discrete} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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- If ,  $B \subseteq \Omega$  , and  $\{A_1, \dots, A_k\}$  is a partition of  $\Omega$ , then

$$\pi(A_j|B) = \frac{\pi(B|A_j)\pi(A_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^k \pi(B|A_j)\pi(A_j)}, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, k$$

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- for any  $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{x|y}(x \in C|y) &= \int_C \pi_{x|y}(dx|y) \\ &= \begin{cases} \int_C \frac{\pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(x)}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(x)dx} dx & , \text{if } x \text{ is cont} \\ \sum_{x \in C} \frac{\pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(x)}{\sum_{x \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(x)} & , \text{if } x \text{ is discr} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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- for any tiny set  $dx \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_x}$

$$\pi_{x|y}(dx|y) = \frac{\pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(dx)}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d_x}} \pi_{y|x}(y|x)\pi_x(dx)}$$

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- Frequentist school
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- ...aka, all probabilities are conditionals; e.g.,  $\pi(A|B)$ , or  $\pi(x|y)$ ....
- Statistical analyses based on the same data, and performed by different researchers **may be different**.

# Finite exchangeability

- The random quantities  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  are **finitely exchangeable** under a probability  $P$  if the implied joint distribution satisfies

$$P(x_1 \in A_1, \dots, x_n \in A_n) = P(x_{p(1)} \in A_{p(1)}, \dots, x_{p(n)} \in A_{p(n)})$$

for all permutations  $p$  defined on the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

- In terms of the corresponding PDF/PMF:

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- The random quantities  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  are **infinitely exchangeable** under a probability  $P$  if every finite sub-sequence is exchangeable

# Representation theorem for 0-1 r.v.

If  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  is an infinitely exchangeable sequence of 0 – 1 random quantities, there exists a distribution  $\pi$  such that the joint  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for any  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  has the form

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \int_0^1 \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta) \pi(d\theta)$$

where

$$f(x_i|\theta) = \theta^{x_i} (1 - \theta)^{1-x_i}$$

and

$$\pi(\theta \leq t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \leq t\right)$$

and  $\theta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  is the limiting relative frequency of 1s.

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- $x_i | \theta \stackrel{\text{IID}}{\sim} \text{Br}(\theta)$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ 
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- $\theta$  is itself assigned a probability distribution  $\pi(d\theta)$ ,
- $\theta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ , a.s. by the SLLN,
  - hence  $\pi(d\cdot)$  are one's beliefs about the limiting relative frequency of 1's.

## ... predictions

## Further results

- If  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  is an infinitely exchangeable sequence of random quantities, then

$$p(x_{n+1}|x_{1:n}) = \int_{\Theta} f(x_{n+1}|\theta)\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$$

where

$$\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta)\pi(d\theta)}{\int_{\Theta} \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta)\pi(d\theta)}$$

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$$(f(x_{1:n} | \theta), \pi(d\theta)) \text{ or } \begin{cases} x_{1:n} | \theta & \sim f(d \cdot | \theta) \\ \theta & \sim \pi(d\theta) \end{cases}$$

# Quantities involved

The likelihood function of  $\theta$  given the data  $x_{1:n}$  denoted as  $L(\theta; x_{1:n})$ , defined as ,

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The predictive distribution of  $y := x_{n+1}$  given the data  $x_{1:n}$  has PDF/PMF

$$p(y|x_{1:n}) = \underbrace{\int_{\Theta} f(y|\theta)\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}_{=E_{\pi_{\theta|x_{1:n}}}(f(y|\theta))}$$

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then the family  $\mathcal{P}$  is conjugate for  $\mathcal{F}$  if

$$\forall f(x_{1:n}|\theta) \in \mathcal{F} \text{ and } \pi(\theta) \in \mathcal{P} \implies \pi(\theta|x_{1:n}) \in \mathcal{P}$$

# Sufficiency...

- The summary statistic  $t_n := t_n(x_{1:n})$  is parametric sufficient for parameter  $\theta$  for an exchangeable sequence of observables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  if and only if

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- Neyman factorization criterion:** The summary statistic  $t_n = t(x_{1:n})$  is parametric sufficient for  $x_{1:n} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  if and only if, the joint PDF/PMF  $x_{1:n}|\theta$  is s.t.

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n|\theta) = h(t_n, \theta)g(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

for some functions  $h \geq 0$ ,  $g \geq 0$ .

# Exponential family of distributions- definition

A distribution with PDF/PMF  $f(x|\theta)$ ,  $\theta \in \Theta$ , belongs to the  $k$ -parameter exponential family if

$$f(x|\theta) = u(x)g(\theta) \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^k c_j \phi_j(\theta) h_j(x)\right)$$

for  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  where

$$g(\theta)^{-1} = \int_{\mathcal{X}} u(x) \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^k c_j \phi_j(\theta) h_j(x)\right) dx < \infty$$

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Here,  $f(x|\theta)$  is denoted as  $\text{Ef}_k(x|u, g, h, \phi, \theta, c)$



# Exponential family of distributions- priors

[Applets: #1]

If  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$  such that  $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$  are IID according to the given regular exponential family  $\text{Ef}_k(\cdot|\cdot)$ , then :

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- Sufficient statistic is  $t_n := (n, \sum_{i=1}^n h_1(x_i), \dots, \sum_{i=1}^n h_k(x_i))$ .
- The conjugate prior distribution for  $\theta \in \Theta$  has the form

$$\pi(\theta|\tau) \propto g(\theta)^{\tau_0} \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^k c_j \phi_j(\theta) \tau_j\right)$$

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- The posterior distribution for  $\theta \in \Theta$  has the form

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\theta|x_{1:n}, \tau) &\propto g(\theta)^{\tau_0^*} \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^k c_j \phi_j(\theta) \tau_j^*\right) \\ &\propto \pi(\theta|\tau^*) \end{aligned}$$

with  $\tau^* = (\tau_0^*, \tau_1^*, \dots, \tau_k^*)$ ,  $\tau_0^* = \tau_0 + n$ , and  $\tau_j^* = \sum_{i=1}^n h_j(x_i) + \tau_j$

# Bayes point estimator

$\delta^\pi := \delta^\pi(x_{1:n})$  : Bayes point estimator of  $\theta$  , w.r.t.

- the posterior distribution

$$\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$$

- the **loss function**  $\ell(\theta, \delta)$

$$\ell : \Theta \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\delta^\pi &= \arg \min_{\forall \delta \in \mathcal{D}} E_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(\ell(\theta, \delta)) \\ &= \arg \min_{\forall \delta \in \mathcal{D}} \int_{\Theta} \ell(\theta, \delta) \pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})\end{aligned}$$

# Bayes estimator standard error (univariate case)

The standard error of  $\delta^\pi$  of parameter  $\theta \in \Theta$  with  $\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$  is

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where

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(\theta - \delta)^2}_{=\text{post. MSE}} = \underbrace{\text{Var}_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(\theta)}_{=\text{post. var.}} + \underbrace{(\mathbb{E}_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(\theta) - \delta)^2}_{=\text{bias}}$$

is the mean squared error of  $\delta$ .



# Standard parametric point estimators

The Bayes estimate  $\delta^\pi$  of  $\theta$  with respect to the :

- weighted quadratic loss function  $\ell(\theta, \delta) = w(\theta)(\theta - \delta)^2$ ,  $w(\theta) > 0$  is

$$\delta^\pi = \frac{E_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(w(\theta)\theta)}{E_{\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})}(w(\theta))}. \quad (6.1)$$

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- linear loss function  $\ell(\theta, \delta) = c_1(\delta - \theta)\mathbb{1}_{\theta \leq \delta}(\delta) + c_2(\theta - \delta)\mathbb{1}_{\theta > \delta}(\delta)$  is

is the  $\frac{c_2}{c_1 + c_2}$ -th posterior quantile

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$$\delta^\pi = E_{\pi(\theta|x_{1:n})}(\theta) \quad (6.2)$$

- linear loss function  $\ell(\theta, \delta) = c_1(\delta - \theta)\mathbb{1}_{\theta \leq \delta}(\delta) + c_2(\theta - \delta)\mathbb{1}_{\theta > \delta}(\delta)$  is

is the  $\frac{c_2}{c_1 + c_2}$ -th posterior quantile

- absolute loss function  $\ell(\theta, \delta) = |\theta - \delta|$ , is

$$\delta = \text{median}_{\pi(\theta|x_{1:n})}(\theta).$$

# Standard predictive point estimators

The Bayes estimate  $\delta^p$  of  $y = x_{n+1}$  with respect to the :

- weighted quadratic loss function  $\ell(y, \delta) = w(y)(y - \delta)^2$ ,  $w(y) > 0$  is

$$\delta^p = \frac{E_{p(d|x_{1:n})}(w(y)y)}{E_{p(d|x_{1:n})}(w(y))}.$$

- quadratic loss function  $\ell(\theta, \delta) = (\theta - \delta)^2$ , is

$$\delta^p = E_{p(dy|x_{1:n})}(y)$$

- linear loss function  $\ell(y, \delta) = c_1(\delta - y)\mathbb{1}_{y \leq \delta}(\delta) + c_2(y - \delta)\mathbb{1}_{y > \delta}(\delta)$  is

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- absolute loss function  $\ell(y, \delta) = |y - \delta|$ , is

$$\delta^p = \text{median}_{p(dy|x_{1:n})}(y).$$

# Posterior credible set

[Applet: #1]

The  $100(1 - a)\%$  credible set for  $\theta \in \Theta$  w.r.t. the posterior  $\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$

is any subset  $C_a$  of  $\Theta$

such that

$$\pi(\theta \in C_a | x_{1:n}) = \int_{C_a} \pi(d\theta | x_{1:n}) \geq 1 - a$$

## Posterior highest probability density (HPD) set

[Applet: #1]

The  $100(1 - a)\%$  **HPD set** for  $\theta \in \Theta$  w.r.t. the posterior  $\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$

is **the** subset  $C_a$  of  $\Theta$

**which is of the form**

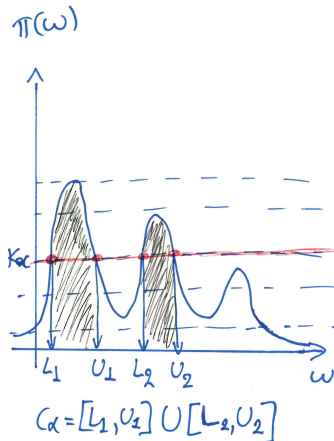
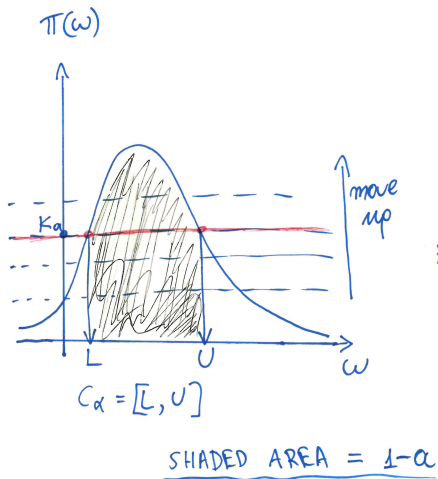
$$C_a = \{\theta \in \Theta : \pi(\theta|x_{1:n}) \geq k_a\}$$

such that  **$k_a$  is the largest constant where**

$$\pi(\theta \in C_a|x_{1:n}) = \int_{C_a} \pi(d\theta|x_{1:n}) \geq 1 - a$$

# Schematic of the (1- $\alpha$ ) HPD

[Applet: #1]





# Posterior (HPD) interval

[Applet: #1]

Assume  $\theta \sim \pi(d\theta|x_{1:n})$  with unimodal density  $\pi(\theta|x_{1:n})$ .

If the interval  $C_a = [L, U]$  satisfies

- ①  $\int_L^U \pi(\theta|x_{1:n})d\theta = 1 - a,$
- ②  $\pi(U|x_{1:n}) = \pi(L|x_{1:n}) > 0,$  and
- ③  $\theta_{\text{mode}} \in (L, U),$  where  $\theta_{\text{mode}}$  is the mode of  $\pi(\theta|x_{1:n}),$

then  $C_a = [L, U]$  is the HPD interval of  $\theta$  w.r.t.  $\pi(d\theta|x_{1:n}).$

# Hypothesis test

There is interest to test the hypotheses

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

where  $\Theta_0 \cap \Theta_1 = \emptyset$

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Consider the (overall) Bayesian model

$$\begin{cases} x_i | \theta & \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(d \cdot | \theta), \theta \in \Theta, \\ \theta & \sim \pi(d\theta) \end{cases} \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

where  $\Theta$  is partitioned by  $\{\Theta_0, \Theta_1\}$

# Hypothesis test

There is interest to test the hypotheses

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

The overall prior on  $\theta \in \Theta$ ,

$$\pi(d\theta) = \underbrace{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_0)}_{=\pi_0} \times \underbrace{\pi(d\theta|\theta \in \Theta_0)}_{=\pi_0(d\theta)} + \underbrace{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_1)}_{\pi_1} \underbrace{\pi(d\theta|\theta \in \Theta_1)}_{=\pi_1(d\theta)}$$

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where

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_0 &= \int_{\Theta_0} \pi(d\theta), & \pi_0(\theta) &= \frac{\pi(\theta) \mathbb{1}_{\Theta_0}(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta_0} \pi(d\theta)}, \\ \pi_1 &= \int_{\Theta_1} \pi(d\theta), & \pi_1(\theta) &= \frac{\pi(\theta) \mathbb{1}_{\Theta_1}(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta_1} \pi(d\theta)}. \end{aligned}$$

# Hypothesis test

There is interest to test the hypotheses

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

In Bayes paradigm, it becomes

$$\begin{cases} H_0 : (f(x_{1:n}|\theta), \pi_0(d\theta)) \\ H_1 : (f(x_{1:n}|\theta), \pi_1(d\theta)) \end{cases}$$

- $\pi_0(d\theta)$  gives  $\pi_0(\theta) > 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_0$  and  $\pi_0(\theta) = 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_1$
- $\pi_1(d\theta)$  gives  $\pi_1(\theta) > 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_1$  and  $\pi_1(\theta) = 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_0$

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In Bayes paradigm, it becomes

$$\begin{cases} H_0 : & x_{1:n} \sim p_0(x_{1:n}) = \int_{\Theta_0} \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta) \pi_0(d\theta) \\ H_1 : & x_{1:n} \sim p_1(x_{1:n}) = \int_{\Theta_1} \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta) \pi_1(d\theta) \end{cases}$$

- $\pi_0(d\theta)$  gives  $\pi_0(\theta) > 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_0$  and  $\pi_0(\theta) = 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_1$
- $\pi_1(d\theta)$  gives  $\pi_1(\theta) > 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_1$  and  $\pi_1(\theta) = 0$  at  $\theta \in \Theta_0$

# Hypothesis test (as point estimation)

The Bayesian parametric point estimator  $\delta^\pi$  of the indicator function

$$\mathbb{1}_{\Theta_1}(\theta) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \theta \in \Theta_0 \\ 1 & , \theta \in \Theta_1 \end{cases}$$



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w.r.t. the loss function  $c_I - c_{II}$  loss function

$$\ell(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } \theta \in \Theta_0, \delta = 0 \\ 0 & , \text{ if } \theta \notin \Theta_0, \delta = 1 \\ c_{II} & , \text{ if } \theta \notin \Theta_0, \delta = 0 \\ c_I & , \text{ if } \theta \in \Theta_0, \delta = 1 \end{cases}$$

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is

$$\delta^\pi = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0 | x_{1:n}) > \frac{c_{II}}{c_{II} + c_I} \\ 1 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Bayes factor

For

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

The Bayes factor  $B_{01}(x_{1:n})$  of  $H_0$  over  $H_1$  is

$$B_{01}(x_{1:n}) = \frac{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_0 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0)}{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_1 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_1)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0) &= \int_{\Theta_0} \pi(d\theta); & \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0 | x_{1:n}) &= \int_{\Theta_0} \pi(d\theta | x_{1:n}); \\ \pi(\theta \in \Theta_1) &= \int_{\Theta_1} \pi(d\theta); & \pi(\theta \in \Theta_1 | x_{1:n}) &= \int_{\Theta_1} \pi(d\theta | x_{1:n}). \end{aligned}$$

# Bayes factor (cases)

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$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

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$$= \begin{cases} \frac{\int_{\Theta_0} f(x_{1:n} | \theta) \pi_0(d\theta)}{\int_{\Theta_1} f(x_{1:n} | \theta) \pi_1(d\theta)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 \end{cases}$$

# Bayes factor (cases)

For

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

The Bayes factor  $B_{01}(x_{1:n})$  of  $H_0$  over  $H_1$  is

$$B_{01}(x_{1:n}) = \frac{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_0 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0)}{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_1 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_1)}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{\int_{\Theta_0} f(x_{1:n} | \theta) \pi_0(d\theta)}{\int_{\Theta_1} f(x_{1:n} | \theta) \pi_1(d\theta)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 \\ \frac{f(x_{1:n} | \theta_0)}{\int_{\Theta_1} f(x_{1:n} | \theta) \pi_1(d\theta)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \{\theta_0\} \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 \end{cases}$$

# Bayes factor (cases)

For

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

The Bayes factor  $B_{01}(x_{1:n})$  of  $H_0$  over  $H_1$  is

$$B_{01}(x_{1:n}) = \frac{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_0 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_0)}{\pi(\theta \in \Theta_1 | x_{1:n}) / \pi(\theta \in \Theta_1)}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{\int_{\Theta_0} f(x_{1:n}|\theta)\pi_0(d\theta)}{\int_{\Theta_1} f(x_{1:n}|\theta)\pi_1(d\theta)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 \\ \frac{f(x_{1:n}|\theta_0)}{\int_{\Theta_1} f(x_{1:n}|\theta)\pi_1(d\theta)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \{\theta_0\} \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 \\ \frac{f(x_{1:n}|\theta_0)}{f(x_{1:n}|\theta_1)} & ; H_0 : \theta \in \{\theta_0\} \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \{\theta_1\} \end{cases}$$

# Bayes factor: decision

For

$$H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1$$

The hypothesis  $H_0$  is accepted when

$$B_{01}(x_{1:n}) > \frac{c_{11}}{c_1} \frac{\pi_1}{\pi_0}$$

under the loss function

$$\ell(\theta, \delta) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } \theta \in \Theta_0, \delta = 0 \\ 0 & , \text{ if } \theta \notin \Theta_0, \delta = 1 \\ c_{11} & , \text{ if } \theta \notin \Theta_0, \delta = 0 \\ c_1 & , \text{ if } \theta \in \Theta_0, \delta = 1 \end{cases}$$