

Introduction to Bayesian statistics

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2 July 2018

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. π_x

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- The expected value of a function $h(x)$ w.r.t. π_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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given that $B \neq \emptyset$

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- If , $B \subseteq \Omega$, and $\{A_1, \dots, A_k\}$ is a partition of Ω , 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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- ...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 π 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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 - the x_i are considered to be independent Bernoulli random quantities, conditional on the random quantity θ .
- θ 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

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

Definitions needed...

A parametric statistical model

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- denoted as

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

Quantities involved

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

$$L(\theta; x_{1:n}) = f(x_{1:n}|\theta)$$

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$$\pi(\theta|x_{1:n}) = \frac{f(x_{1:n}|\theta)\pi(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta} f(x_{1:n}|\theta)\pi(d\theta)} = \frac{L(\theta; x_{1:n})\pi(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta} L(\theta; x_{1:n})\pi(d\theta)}$$

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

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

Conjugate prior distr.

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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 θ 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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- 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 θ , w.r.t.

- the posterior distribution

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

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

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

is the quantity δ^π s.t.

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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 δ^π 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 δ .

Standard parametric point estimators

The Bayes estimate δ^π of θ 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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- 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 δ^p of $y = x_{n+1}$ with respect to the :

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

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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 Θ

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 Θ

which is of the form

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

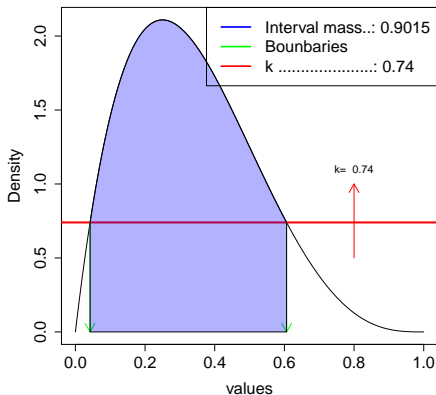
such that **k_a is the largest constant where**

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

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

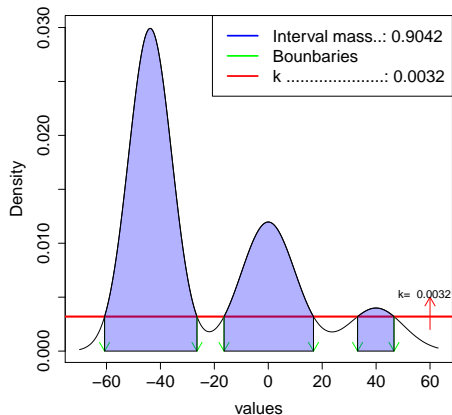
[Applet: #1]

Find the 0.9 HPD interval



(a) Uni-modal case

Find the 0.9 HPD interval



(b) Multi-modal case

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 θ_{mode} is the mode of $\pi(\theta|x_{1:n}),$

then $C_a = [L, U]$ is the HPD interval of θ 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 Θ is partitioned by $\{\Theta_0, \Theta_1\}$

Hypothesis test

There is interest to test the hypotheses

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

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

Hypothesis test

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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 $\theta \in \Theta_0$

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

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

- $\pi_0(d\theta)$ 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 δ^π 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)

For

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

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Bayes factor (cases)

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

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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

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