

# Berger Ranking Method

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9/11/2017

MCMC simple rank from Berger & Deely 1988 paper on ranking methods

**GOAL:** select the best hitter from the group (largest  $\theta_i$ )

**METHOD:** calculate the posterior probability that each  $\theta_i$  is the largest

**METHOD DETAIL:**

Bayesian approach, with a selection of different priors: exchangeable, nonexchangeable, informative, and noninformative. I use the exchangeable prior here.

## Question 1: Are All the Means Equal?

Before ranking, we need to establish that these means are not all equal.

$H_0$ : all means are equal  $H_A$ : means not equal PosteriorProb $H_{0_i}$ : posterior probability of  $H_0$

PriorProb $H_{0_i}$ : prior probability of  $H_0$

Bayes Factor: ratio of posterior odds or prior odds. Can be interpreted as the odds for  $H_0$  provided by the data

$$\text{Bayes Factor} = \frac{\text{PosteriorProb}_{H_{0_i}}}{1 - \text{PosteriorProb}_{H_{0_i}}} * \frac{1 - \text{PriorProb}_{H_{0_i}}}{\text{PriorProb}_{H_{0_i}}}$$

Likelihood that all  $\theta_i$  are equal: Are each of these sample proportions from the same binomial distribution?  
12 joint binomials using the 12 known  $\sigma_i$ ?

## Question 2: What is the Probability that $\theta_i$ is the largest?

If  $H_0$  is false, then we now want to find the largest  $\theta_i$ .

PosteriorProbLargest $H_{A_i}$ : posterior probability that this  $\theta_i$  is largest, given that  $H_0$  is false. This doesn't depend on the prior.

$$Pr(\theta_i \text{ is largest} | \text{data}, H_A) = \int_0^1 \int_R \int_i \Pi_{i \neq j} [\Phi([w_i(\theta_j) - u_i]/\sqrt{V_i}) - \Phi([v_i(\theta_j) - u_i]/\sqrt{V_i})] * \pi_j^*(\theta_j) * \pi_{2,1}(\beta) * \pi_{2,2}(\sigma_\pi^2 | x) d\theta_j d\beta$$

##Example Data: Batting Averages observed batting averages are sample proportions from binomial distributions. i = # of players to rank  $x_i$  = sample mean of player i

$\theta_i$  = true mean of player i

$\sigma_i$  = variance of the sample mean (known)

```
batData <- read.table("battingAverages.txt", header = T)
batData$sd <- sqrt(batData$X1000variance/1000)
```

## Question 1: Are the Means Different?

We'll assume we've proven  $H_0$  to be false, then move on to question 2.

## Question 2: Which Mean is Largest?

### Computing the Likelihood that Player i is ranked first

for now, just done for one player, but eventually we'll do this for all 12 players in batData

```
likelihood <- function(param){  
  ##returns logs  
  a = param[1]  
  b = param[2]  
  batData$sd = param[3]  
  
  pred = a*x + b  
  singlelikelihoods = dnorm(y, mean = pred, sd = batData$sd, log = T)  
  sumll = sum(singlelikelihoods)  
  return(sumll)  
}
```

### Prior

```
prior <- function(param){  
  ##returns log  
  a = param[1]  
  b = param[2]  
  sd = param[3]  
  aprior = dunif(a, min=0, max=10, log = T)  
  bprior = dnorm(b, sd = 5, log = T)  
  sdprior = dunif(sd, min=0, max=30, log = T)  
  return(aprior+bprior+sdprior)  
}
```

### Likelihood Plot

```
# Example: plot the likelihood profile of the slope a  
slopevalues <- function(x){return(likelihood(c(x, trueB, trueSd)))}  
slopelikelihoods <- lapply(seq(3, 7, by=.05), slopevalues )  
plot (seq(3, 7, by=.05), slopelikelihoods , type="l", xlab = "values of slope parameter a", ylab = "Log
```

### Posterior

```
posterior <- function(param){  
  return (likelihood(param) + prior(param)) ##returns logarithm  
}
```

## Bayes Factor

```
BayesFactor <- (P_0/(1-P_0))*((1-prior)/prior)
```

## RANKING

Extension: explore this: “An interesting sidelight to the development is the presentation of a closed-form solution for testing  $H_0: \theta_1 = \theta_2$  versus  $H_1: \theta_1 < \theta_2$  versus  $H_2: \theta_1 > \theta_2$ , when the treatments are judged to be a priori exchangeable”