Bayesian Inference for a Proportion

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MATH 347 Bayesian Statistics

Outline

- 1 Example: Tokyo Express customers' dining preference
- 2 Bayesian inference with discrete priors
- 3 Continuous priors the Beta distribution
- Updating the Beta prior
- 5 Bayesian inference with continuous priors
- 6 Recap

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Tokyo Express customers' dining preference

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Tokyo Express customers' dining preference

- Tokyo Express is a popular Japanese restaurant on Lagrange Ave (10-15 minutes walk from Vassar).
- Suppose the restaurant owner wants to improve the business even more, especially for dinner.
- The owner plans to conduct a survey by asking their customers: "what
 is your favorite day to eat out for dinner?"
- The owner wants to find out how popular is choice of Friday.

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- Example: Tokyo Express customers' dining preference
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- Three general steps of Bayesian inference:
 - Step 1: express an opinion about the location of the proportion p before sampling (prior).
 - Step 2: take the sample and record the observed proportion of preferring Friday (data/likelihood).
 - ► Step 3: use Bayes' rule to sharpen and update the previous opinion about *p* given the information from the sample (posterior).

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 - ▶ Step 1 on priors: list the finite number of possible values for the proportion *p*, and assign probability to each value.

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 - Step 1 on priors: list the finite number of possible values for the proportion p, and assign probability to each value.
 - ► Step 2 on data/likelihood: Binomial distribution.
 - Step 3 on posterior: use the discrete version of the Bayes' rule (summation Σ) for to sharpen and update the probability of each specified possible values of p.

- Consider the percentage of customers' choice is Friday, p.
- Before giving out the survey, let's consider:
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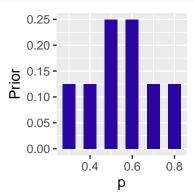
$$p = \{0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8\}. \tag{1}$$

 Further suppose Tokyo Express owner believes that some values are more likely than the others, specifically, a prior distribution:

$$\pi_{owner}(p) = (0.125, 0.125, 0.250, 0.250, 0.125, 0.125).$$
 (2)

• Exercise: Is the prior distribution $\pi_{owner}(p)$ reasonable? (Hint: 3 axioms of probability)

Using R/RStudio to express and plot the prior $\pi_{owner}(p)$



Step 2: Data/likelihood of proportion p

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- Out of the 20 responses, 12 say that their favorite day for eating out for dinner is Friday.
- Quantity of interest: p, the proportion of customers prefer eating out for dinner on Friday.
- The data/likelihood is a function of the quantity of interest.
- What would be the function of 12 out of 20 preferring Friday, in terms of the proportion p?

The Binomial distribution

- A Binomial experiment:
 - ① One is repeating the same basic task or trial many times let the number of trials be denoted by n.
 - On each trial, there are two possible outcomes that are called success" orfailure".
 - **1** The probability of a success, denoted by p, is the same for each trial.
 - The results of outcomes from different trials are independent.
- Do you think the survey is a Binomial experiment?

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 - The results of outcomes from different trials are independent.
- Do you think the survey is a Binomial experiment?
- ullet The probability of y successes in a Binomial experiment is given by

$$P(Y = y) = \binom{n}{y} p^{y} (1 - p)^{n - y}, y = 0, \dots, n,$$
 (3)

where n is the number of trials and p is the success probability.

The likelihood function

The probability of y successes in a binomial experiment is given by

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where n is the number of trials and p is the success probability.

 The likelihood is the chance of 12 successes in 20 trials viewed as a function of the probability of success is p:

Likelihood =
$$L(p) = {20 \choose 12} p^{12} (1-p)^8$$
. (5)

- L is a function of p.
- n is fixed and known.
- Y is the random variable.
- p is the quantity of interest, also the unknown parameter in the Binomial distribution.

Use R/RStudio to compute the likelihood function

Likelihood =
$$L(p) = {20 \choose 12} p^{12} (1-p)^8$$
 (6)

- Need: sample size n (20), number of successes k (12), and possible values of proportion p ({0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8}).
- Do not need: the assigned probabilities (0.125, 0.125, 0.250, 0.250, 0.125, 0.125) in the prior distribution $\pi_{owner}(p)$.

Use R/RStudio to compute the likelihood function

```
## 1 0.3 0.125 0.003859282
## 2 0.4 0.125 0.035497440
## 3 0.5 0.250 0.120134354
## 4 0.6 0.250 0.179705788
## 5 0.7 0.125 0.114396740
## 6 0.8 0.125 0.022160877
```

Step 3: Posterior distribution

- Notations:
 - $\pi(p)$ the prior distribution of p.
 - L(p) is the likelihood function.
 - \blacktriangleright $\pi(p \mid y)$ the posterior distribution of p after observing the number of successes y.

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- Notations:
 - $\pi(p)$ the prior distribution of p.
 - L(p) is the likelihood function.
 - \blacktriangleright $\pi(p \mid y)$ the posterior distribution of p after observing the number of successes y.
- The Bayes' rule for a discrete parameter has the form

$$\pi(p_i \mid y) = \frac{\pi(p_i) \times L(p_i)}{\sum_j \pi(p_j) \times L(p_j)},$$
(7)

- $\pi(p_i)$ the prior probability of $p = p_i$.
- ▶ $L(p_i)$ the likelihood function evaluated at $p = p_i$.
- ▶ $\pi(p_i \mid y)$ the posterior probability of $p = p_i$ given the number of successes y.
- ▶ the denominator gives the marginal distribution of the observation *y* (by the Law of Total Probability).

```
bayesian_crank(bayes_table) -> bayes_table
bayes_table
```

```
## p Prior Likelihood Product Posterior
## 1 0.3 0.125 0.003859282 0.0004824102 0.004975901
## 2 0.4 0.125 0.035497440 0.0044371799 0.045768032
## 3 0.5 0.250 0.120134354 0.0300335884 0.309786454
## 4 0.6 0.250 0.179705788 0.0449264469 0.463401326
## 5 0.7 0.125 0.114396740 0.0142995925 0.147495530
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• Inference question: What is the posterior probability that over half of the customers prefer eating out on Friday for dinner?

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 Inference question: What is the posterior probability that over half of the customers prefer eating out on Friday for dinner?

$$Prob(p > 0.5) = 0.463 + 0.147 + 0.029 = 0.639.$$
 (8)

```
bayesian_crank(bayes_table) -> bayes_table
sum(bayes_table$Posterior[bayes_table$p > 0.5])
```

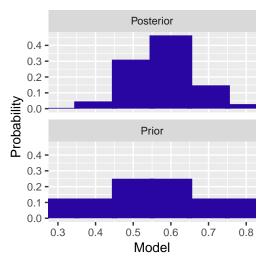
```
## [1] 0.6394696
```

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```

```
## [1] 0.6394696
```

• Exercise: What is the posterior probability that less than 40% of the customers prefer eating out on Friday for dinner?

```
prior_post_plot(bayes_table, Color = crcblue) +
  theme(text=element_text(size=10))
```



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- Before giving out the survey, we need to specify a prior distribution for unknown parameter p.
- Previously, p can take 6 possible values

$$p = \{0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8\}. \tag{9}$$

• And a discrete prior distribution:

$$\pi_{owner}(p) = (0.125, 0.125, 0.250, 0.250, 0.125, 0.125).$$
 (10)

bayes_table

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Anything unsatisfactory?

Move to continuous priors

- A limitation of specifying a discrete prior for p
 - If a plausible value is not specified in the prior distribution (e.g. p = 0.2), it will be assigned a 0 probability in the posterior distribution.

Move to continuous priors

- A limitation of specifying a discrete prior for p
 - If a plausible value is not specified in the prior distribution (e.g. p=0.2), it will be assigned a 0 probability in the posterior distribution.
- Ideally, we want a distribution that allows p to be any value in [0, 1].
- The continuous Uniform distribution:
 - ► Any value of *p* is equally likely.
 - ► The probability density function of the continuous Uniform on the interval [a, b] is

$$\pi(p) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & \text{for } a \le p \le b, \\ 0 & \text{for } p < a \text{ or } p > b. \end{cases}$$
 (11)

- ▶ $p \sim \text{Uniform}(0,1)$: a very special case of p.
- The Beta distribution!

The Beta distribution

- Notation: Beta(a, b).
- For a random variable falling between 0 and 1, suitable for proportion
 p.
- Beta distribution has two shape parameters a and b.
- Probability density function (pdf) is:

$$\pi(p) = \frac{1}{B(a,b)} p^{a-1} (1-p)^{b-1}, \ 0 \le p \le 1.$$
 (12)

- ▶ B(a,b) is the Beta function $B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$.
- Γ is the Gamma function.

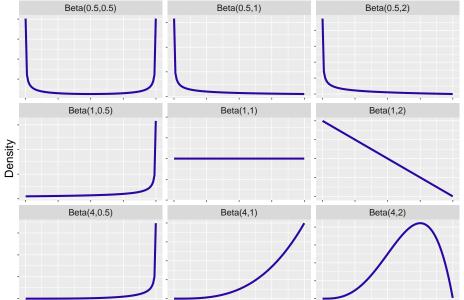
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- ▶ B(a,b) is the Beta function $B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$.
- Γ is the Gamma function.
- ▶ Continuous Uniform on [0, 1] is a special case of Beta with a = b = 1: Uniform(0, 1) = Beta(1, 1)

Examples of Beta curves



Choose a Beta curve to represent prior opinion

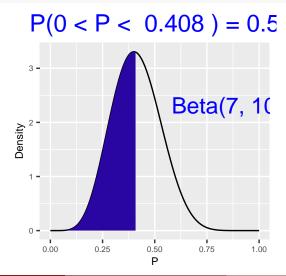
- Prior opinion: values of p and associated probabilities.
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- Solution: specifying a Beta prior by specification of quantiles of the distribution.

Choose a Beta curve to represent prior opinion

- Prior opinion: values of p and associated probabilities.
- Difficult to guess values of a and b in Beta(a, b).
- Solution: specifying a Beta prior by specification of quantiles of the distribution.
 - Quantiles are about rank order of values.
 - e.g. Middle quantile/50-th percentile: median.
 - beta_quantile() function in R: inputs a probability measure p and outputs the value of x such that $Prob(X \le x) = p$. (e.g. x = 0.408 when p = 0.5 for Beta(7, 10))

Choose a Beta curve to represent prior opinion

beta_quantile(0.5, c(7, 10), Color = crcblue) +
 theme(text=element_text(size=8))



Use beta.select() to choose a Beta curve

- The beta.select() function needs us to
 - first think about specifying two quantiles
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- Example:
 - ▶ Suppose we believe that $p_{50} = 0.55$ (50-th quantile)
 - ▶ Suppose we also believe that $p_{90} = 0.8$ (90-th quantile)
 - ▶ Input these two sets of values into beta.select()

```
beta.select(list(x = 0.55, p = 0.5),
list(x = 0.80, p = 0.9))
```

```
## [1] 3.06 2.56
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- Exercise 1: Verify that Beta(3.06, 2.56) has $p_{50} = 0.55$ and $p_{90} = 0.8$. (Hint: use the beta_quantile() function)
- Exercise 2: Come up with your own Beta prior distribution, and share it with your neighbors.

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Step 2: Data/likelihood of proportion *p*

- Recall that
 - ► The Tokyo Express owner gives a survey to 20 customers, and 12 respond that their favorite day is Friday.
 - ► The data/likelihood is a function of the quantity of interest, p.
 - ▶ It is a Binomial experiment, and

$$P(Y = y) = \binom{n}{y} p^{y} (1 - p)^{n - y}, y = 0, \dots, n,$$
 (13)

where n is the number of trials and p is the success probability.

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- Exercise: Write out the likelihood function for n = 20 and y = 12.
- Solution:

Likelihood =
$$L(p) = {20 \choose 12} p^{12} (1-p)^8$$
. (14)

Bayes' rule for continuous priors

- The likelihood function is the same, regardless of the prior distribution.
- Recall: the Bayes' rule for a discrete parameter has the form

$$\pi(p_i \mid y) = \frac{\pi(p_i) \times L(p_i)}{\sum_i \pi(p_i) \times L(p_i)}$$
(15)

 What about for continuous p? Unfortunately we can not list each value of p anymore.

Bayes' rule for continuous priors

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- What about for continuous p? Unfortunately we can not list each value of p anymore.
- Solution: With continuous p, the denominator changes from summation Σ to integration \int .
- Since $\int \pi(p) \times L(p) dp = f(y)$ is fixed, we can write the Bayes' rule for continuous p in proportional sign:

$$\pi(p \mid y) \propto \pi(p) \times L(p).$$
 (16)

Step 3: Derive the posterior

$$\pi(p \mid y) \propto \pi(p) \times L(p)$$
 (17)

- For prior $\pi(p)$, we have $p \sim \text{Beta}(3.06, 2.56)$.
- For data/likelihood L(p), we have $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(20, p)$.
- We need to derive $\pi(p \mid y)$.

Step 3: Derive the posterior

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 (17)

- For prior $\pi(p)$, we have $p \sim \text{Beta}(3.06, 2.56)$.
- For data/likelihood L(p), we have $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(20, p)$.
- We need to derive $\pi(p \mid y)$.
- Exercise: Derive $\pi(p \mid y)$ with the setup below.
 - ► The prior distribution:

$$\pi(p) = \frac{1}{B(3.06, 2.56)} p^{3.06-1} (1-p)^{2.56-1}.$$

▶ The likelihood:

$$f(Y = 12 \mid p) = L(p) = {20 \choose 12} p^{12} (1-p)^8.$$

The posterior?

• The posterior:

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto \pi(p) \times f(Y = 12 \mid p)$$

• The posterior:

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto \pi(p) \times f(Y = 12 \mid p)$$

$$= \frac{1}{B(3.06, 2.56)} p^{3.06-1} (1-p)^{2.56-1} \times \left(\frac{20}{12}\right) p^{12} (1-p)^{8}$$

• The posterior:

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto \pi(p) \times f(Y = 12 \mid p)$$

$$= \frac{1}{B(3.06, 2.56)} p^{3.06-1} (1-p)^{2.56-1} \times \left(\frac{20}{12}\right) p^{12} (1-p)^{8}$$

[drop the constants] $\propto p^{12}(1-p)^8p^{3.06-1}(1-p)^{2.56-1}$ [combine the powers] $= p^{15.06-1}(1-p)^{10.56-1}$. (18)

That is,

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto p^{15.06-1} (1-p)^{10.56-1}$$

which means

• The posterior:

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto \pi(p) \times f(Y = 12 \mid p)$$

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That is,

$$\pi(p \mid Y = 12) \propto p^{15.06-1} (1-p)^{10.56-1}$$

which means

$$p \mid Y = 12 \sim \text{Beta}(15.06, 10.56).$$

From Beta prior to Beta posterior: conjugate priors

The prior distribution:

$$p \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$$

The sampling density:

$$Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$$

The posterior distribution:

$$p \mid Y = y \sim \text{Beta}(a + y, b + n - y)$$

• Conjugate priors: from Beta prior to Beta posterior.

From Beta prior to Beta posterior: conjugate priors

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• Conjugate priors: from Beta prior to Beta posterior.

Source	Successes	Failures
Prior	а	Ь
Data/Likelihood	у	n-y
Posterior	a + y	b+n-y

Use R/RStudio to compute and plot the posterior

$$p \mid Y = y \sim \text{Beta}(a + y, b + n - y)$$

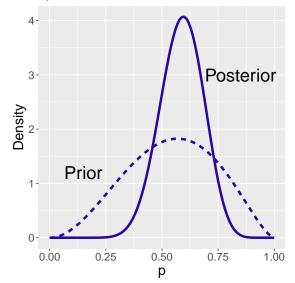
$$ab \leftarrow c(3.06, 2.56)$$

$$yny \leftarrow c(12, 8)$$

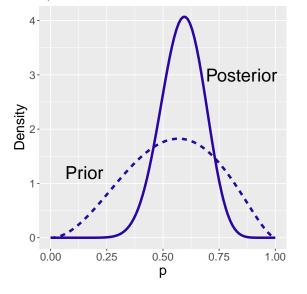
$$(ab_new \leftarrow ab + yny)$$

[1] 15.06 10.56

Use R/RStudio to compute and plot the posterior cont'd



Use R/RStudio to compute and plot the posterior cont'd



- Exercise 1: Compare prior mean 0.544 and posterior mean 0.588. (Recall that sample mean is 0.6.)
- Exercise 2: Compare the spreads of the two curves.

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Bayesian hypothesis testing

 Suppose one of the Tokyo Express's workers claims that at least 75% of the customers prefer Friday. Is this a reasonable claim?

Bayesian hypothesis testing

- Suppose one of the Tokyo Express's workers claims that at least 75% of the customers prefer Friday. Is this a reasonable claim?
- From a Bayesian viewpoint,
 - ▶ Find the posterior probability that p >= 0.75.
 - Make a decision based on the value of the posterior probability.
 - ▶ If the probability is small, we can reject this claim.

```
beta_area(lo = 0.75, hi = 1.0, shape_par = c(15.06, 10.56),
             Color = crcblue) +
  theme(text=element_text(size=18))
                      P(0.75 < P < 1) = 0.04
 3-
       Beta(15.06, 10.56)
Density
    0.00
                0.25
                            0.50
                                         0.75
                                                     1.00
```

```
beta_area(lo = 0.75, hi = 1.0, shape_par = c(15.06, 10.56),
             Color = crcblue) +
  theme(text=element_text(size=18))
                      P(0.75 < P < 1) = 0.04
 3-
      Beta(15.06, 10.56)
Density
   0.00
                0.25
                            0.50
                                         0.75
                                                     1.00
```

- Posterior probability is only 4%, reject the claim.
- Exercise: What about a claim "at most 30% of the customers prefer Friday"?

When the posterior distribution is known...

When the posterior distribution is known...

 Exact solution: use the beta_area() function in the ProbBayes package and/or the pbeta() R function

```
beta_area(lo = 0.75, hi = 1.0, shape_par = c(15.06, 10.56))
pbeta(1, 15.06, 10.56) - pbeta(0.75, 15.06, 10.56)
```

```
## [1] 0.03973022
```

When the posterior distribution is known...

 Exact solution: use the beta_area() function in the ProbBayes package and/or the pbeta() R function

```
beta_area(lo = 0.75, hi = 1.0, shape_par = c(15.06, 10.56))

pbeta(1, 15.06, 10.56) - pbeta(0.75, 15.06, 10.56)
```

```
## [1] 0.03973022
```

Approximation through Monte Carlo simulation using the rbeta() R function

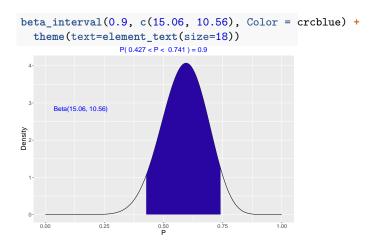
```
S <- 1000
BetaSamples <- rbeta(S, 15.06, 10.56)
sum(BetaSamples >= 0.75)/S
```

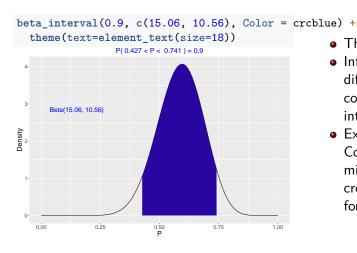
```
## [1] 0.037
```

Bayesian credible intervals

- Consider an interval that we are confident contains p.
- Such an interval provides an uncertainty estimate for our parameter p.
- A 90% Bayesian credible interval is an interval contains 90% of the posterior probability.

Bayesian credible intervals cont'd





- The middle 90%.
- Interpretation: different from a confidence interval.
- Exercise:
 Construct a middle 98% credible interval for p.

When the posterior distribution is known...

When the posterior distribution is known...

 Exact solution: use the beta_interval() function in the ProbBayes package (only the middle 90%) and or the qbeta() R function (not necessarily the middle 90%)

```
beta_interval(0.9, c(15.06, 10.56), Color = crcblue)
c(qbeta(0.05, 15.06, 10.56), qbeta(0.95, 15.06, 10.56))
```

```
## [1] 0.4266788 0.7410141
```

When the posterior distribution is known...

 Exact solution: use the beta_interval() function in the ProbBayes package (only the middle 90%) and or the qbeta() R function (not necessarily the middle 90%)

```
beta_interval(0.9, c(15.06, 10.56), Color = crcblue)
c(qbeta(0.05, 15.06, 10.56), qbeta(0.95, 15.06, 10.56))
## [1] 0.4266788 0.7410141
```

```
+ [1] 0.4200700 0.7410141
```

 Approximation through Monte Carlo simulation using the rbeta() R function (not necessarily the middle 90%)

```
S <- 1000; BetaSamples <- rbeta(S, 15.06, 10.56)
quantile(BetaSamples, c(0.05, 0.95))
```

```
## 5% 95%
## 0.4024251 0.7425349
```

Bayesian prediction

- Suppose the Tokyo Express owner gives out another survey to m customers, how many would prefer Friday?
- The predictive distribution: $\tilde{Y} \mid Y = y$.

Bayesian prediction

- Suppose the Tokyo Express owner gives out another survey to m customers, how many would prefer Friday?
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 - ► The exact prediction:

$$\tilde{Y} \mid Y = y \sim \text{Beta-Binomial}(m, a + y, b + n - y).$$

▶ Prediction through simulation (our focus):

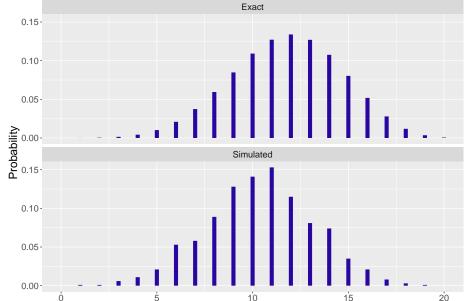
$$\mathsf{sample}\; p \sim \mathrm{Beta}(a+y,b+n-y) \quad \to \quad \mathsf{sample}\; \tilde{y} \sim \mathrm{Binomial}(m,p)$$

Use R/RStudio to make Bayesian predictions

```
S <- 1000
a <- 3.06; b <- 2.56
n <- 20; y <- 12
m <- 20
pred_p_sim <- rbeta(S, a + y, b + n - y)
pred_y_sim <- rbinom(S, m, pred_p_sim)
sum(pred_y_sim >=5 & pred_y_sim <= 15)/S</pre>
```

```
## [1] 0.902
```

Use R/RStudio to make Bayesian predictions



Bayesian predictive checking

Bayesian prediction is posterior predictive

sample
$$p \sim \text{Beta}(a + y, b + n - y) \rightarrow \text{sample } \tilde{y} \sim \text{Binomial}(m, p)$$

• We can perform posterior predictive checking through simulation

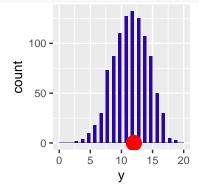
$$\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{sample}\; p^{(1)} \sim \operatorname{Beta}(a+y,b+n-y) & \to & \operatorname{sample}\; \tilde{y}^{(1)} \sim \operatorname{Binomial}(n,p^{(1)}) \\ \operatorname{sample}\; p^{(2)} \sim \operatorname{Beta}(a+y,b+n-y) & \to & \operatorname{sample}\; \tilde{y}^{(2)} \sim \operatorname{Binomial}(n,p^{(2)}) \\ & & \vdots \\ \operatorname{sample}\; p^{(S)} \sim \operatorname{Beta}(a+y,b+n-y) & \to & \operatorname{sample}\; \tilde{y}^{(S)} \sim \operatorname{Binomial}(n,p^{(S)}) \end{array}$$

The sample $\{\tilde{y}^{(1)},...,\tilde{y}^{(S)}\}$ is an approximation to the posterior predictive distribution that can be used for model checking.

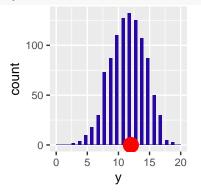
```
S <- 1000
a <- 3.06; b <- 2.56
n <- 20; y <- 12
newy = as.data.frame(rep(NA, S))
names(newy) = c("y")

set.seed(123)
for (s in 1:S){
   pred_p_sim <- rbeta(1, a + y, b + n - y)
   pred_y_sim <- rbinom(1, n, pred_p_sim)
   newy[s,] = pred_y_sim
}</pre>
```

```
ggplot(data=newy, aes(newy$y)) +
  geom_histogram(breaks=seq(0, 20, by=0.5), fill = crcblue) +
  annotate("point", x = 12, y = 0, colour = "red", size = 5) +
  xlab("y") + theme(text=element_text(size=10))
```



```
ggplot(data=newy, aes(newy$y)) +
  geom_histogram(breaks=seq(0, 20, by=0.5), fill = crcblue) +
  annotate("point", x = 12, y = 0, colour = "red", size = 5) +
  xlab("y") + theme(text=element_text(size=10))
```



 The observed y = 12 is plotted as a red dot. The observed value of y is consistent with simulations of replicated data from this predictive distribution.

• More formally, one can calculate the following probabilities:

$$Prob(y > \tilde{y} \mid y), \text{ or } 1 - Prob(y > \tilde{y} \mid y).$$
 (19)

 If either probability is small, it suggests the model does not describe y very well.

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```
sum(newy > y)/S
## [1] 0.407
1 - sum(newy > y)/S
```

• Since 0.407 and 0.593 are not small, it suggests the model describe *y* well. The inference passes the posterior predictive checking.

[1] 0.593

Outline

- 1 Example: Tokyo Express customers' dining preference
- 2 Bayesian inference with discrete priors
- 3 Continuous priors the Beta distribution
- 4 Updating the Beta prior
- 5 Bayesian inference with continuous priors
- 6 Recap

Recap

- Bayesian inference procedure:
 - ► Step 1: express an opinion about the location of the proportion *p* before sampling (prior).
 - Step 2: take the sample and record the observed proportion (data/likelihood).
 - ▶ Step 3: use Bayes' rule to sharpen and update the previous opinion about *p* given the information from the sample (posterior).

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- For Binomial data/likelihood, the Beta distributions are conjugate priors.
 - ▶ The prior distribution: $p \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$.
 - ▶ The sampling density: $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$.
 - ▶ The posterior distribution: $p \mid Y = y \sim \text{Beta}(a + y, b + n y)$.

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- Bayesian inferences (exact vs simulated)
 - ▶ Bayesian hypothesis testing & Bayesian credible intervals
 - Bayesian predictions
 - ▶ Bayesian posterior predictive checking