

# Bayesian Inference

Thomas Nichols

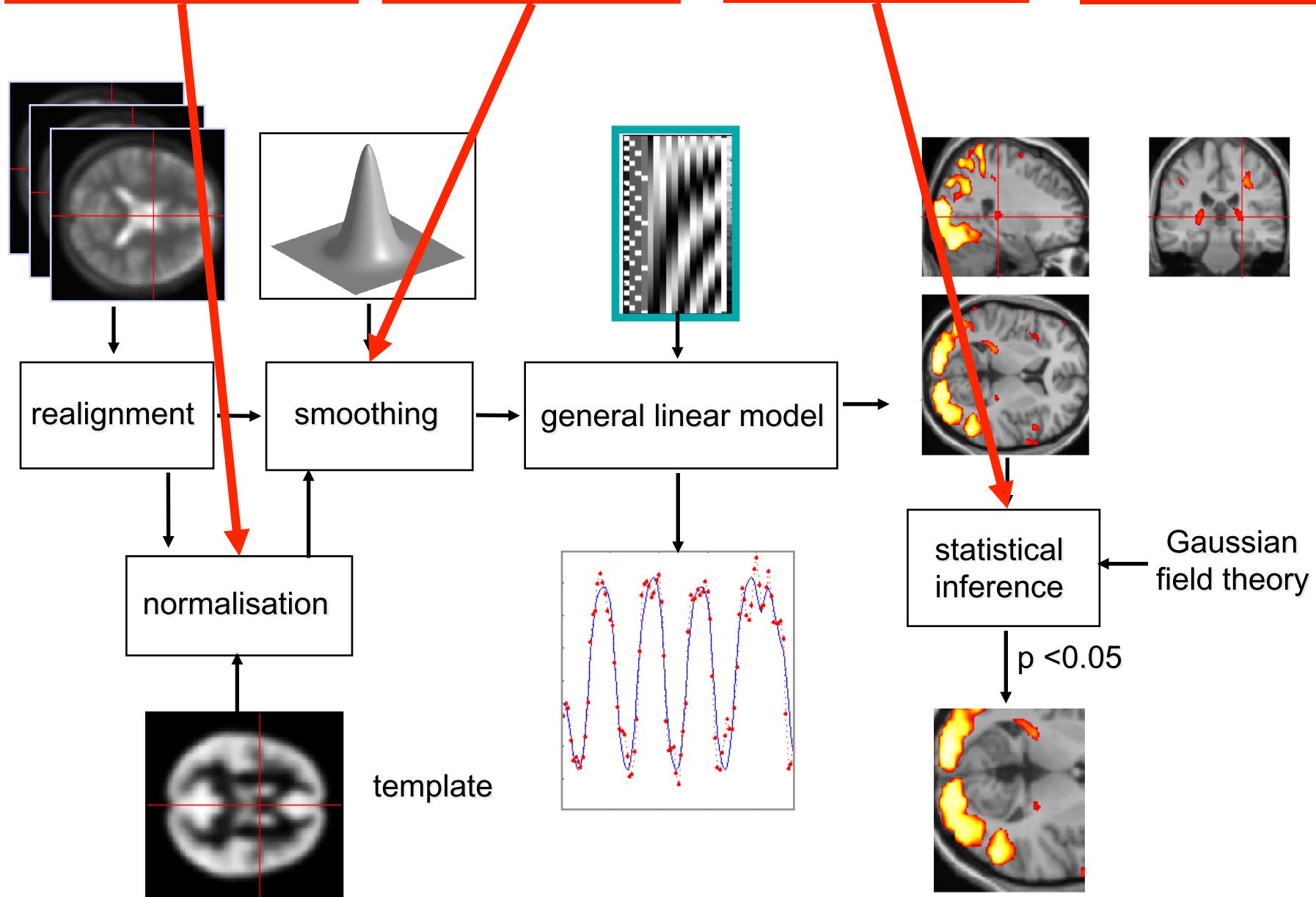
With thanks  
Lee Harrison

## Bayesian segmentation and normalisation

## Spatial priors on activation extent

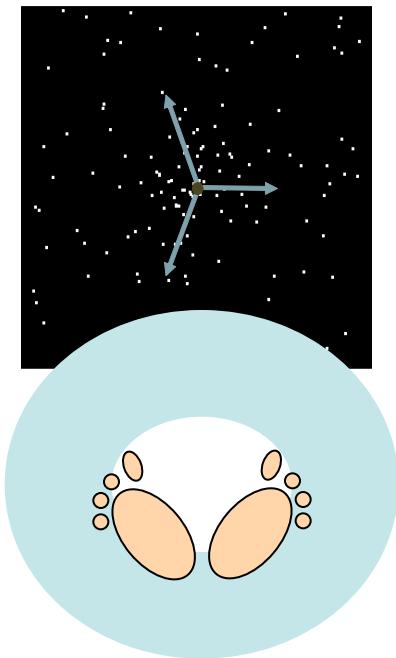
## Posterior probability maps (PPMs)

## Dynamic Causal Modelling



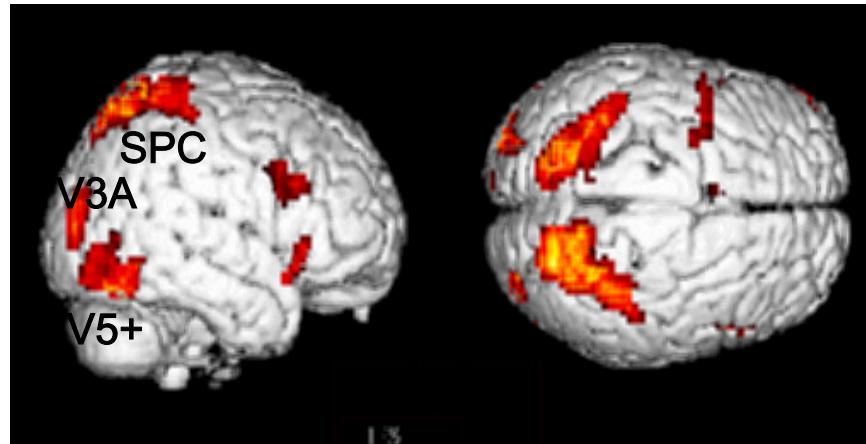
# Attention to Motion

## Paradigm



- fixation only
  - observe static dots
  - observe moving dots
  - task on moving dots
- + photic
  - + motion
  - + attention

## Results



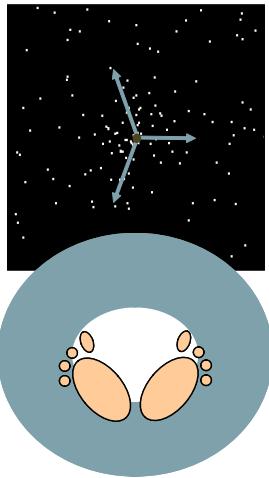
### Attention – No attention

Büchel & Friston 1997, Cereb. Cortex  
Büchel et al. 1998, Brain

→ V1  
→ V5  
→ V5 + parietal cortex

# Attention to Motion

## Paradigm

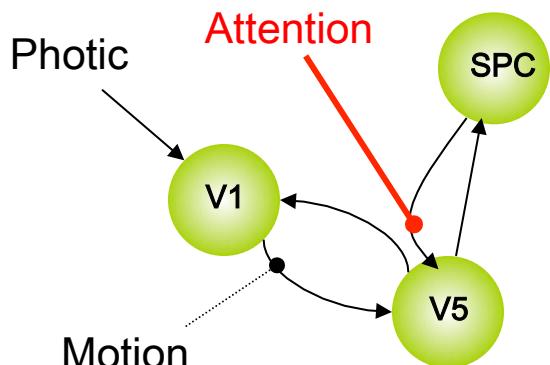
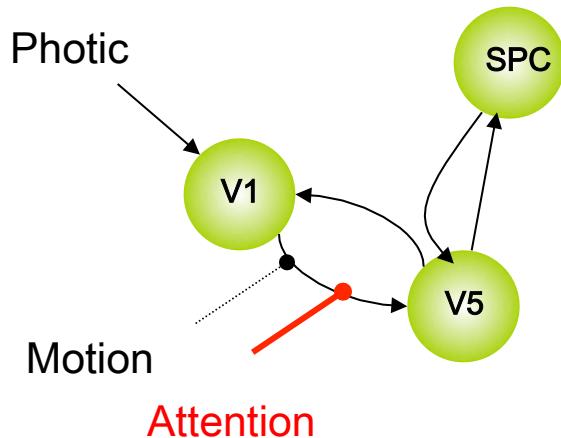


- fixation only
- observe static dots
- observe moving dots
- task on moving dots

## Dynamic Causal Models

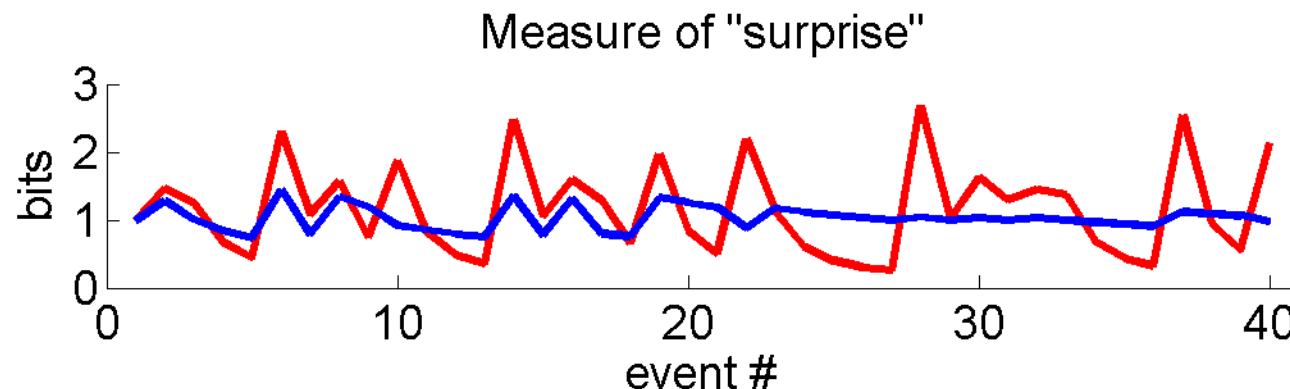
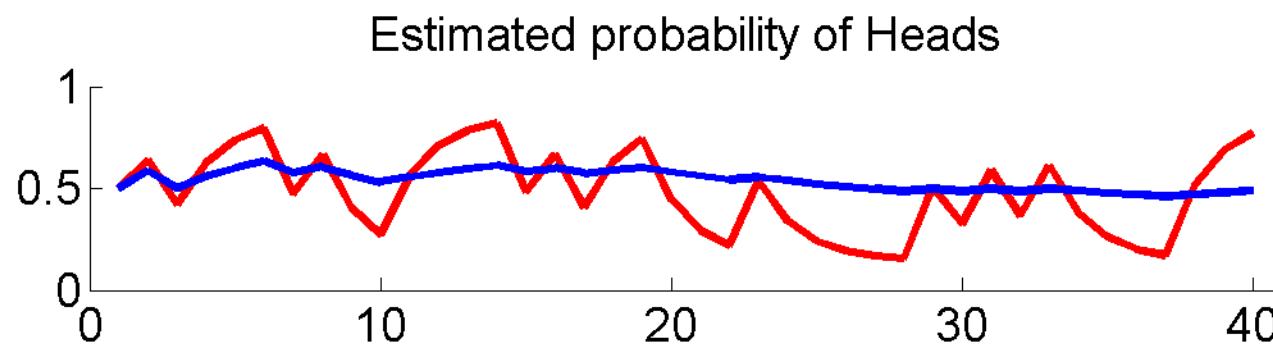
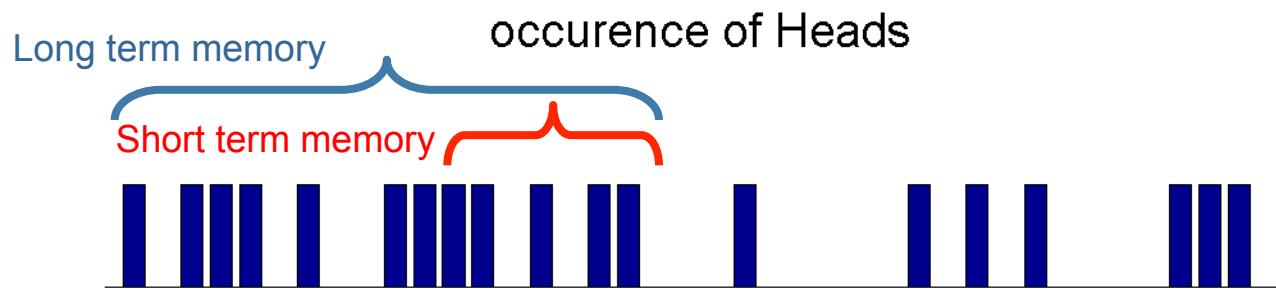
**Model 1 (forward):**  
attentional modulation  
of V1→V5: forward

**Model 2 (backward):**  
attentional modulation  
of SPC→V5: backward



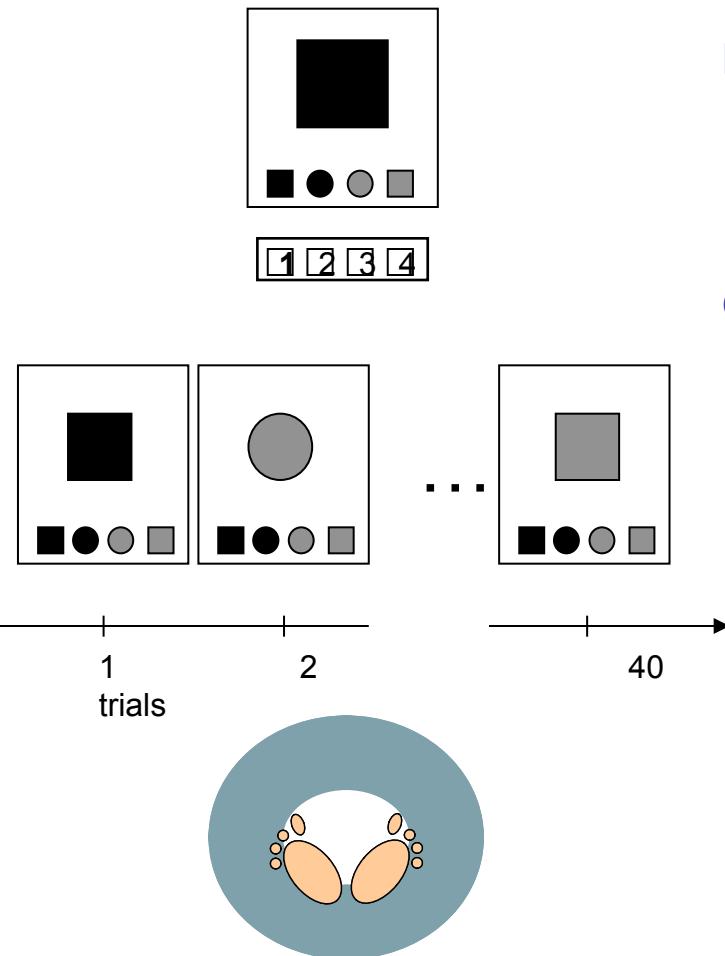
Bayesian model selection: Which model is optimal?

# Responses to Uncertainty



# Responses to Uncertainty

## Paradigm



Stimuli sequence of randomly sampled discrete events

Model simple computational model of an observers response to uncertainty based on the number of past events (extent of memory)

Question which regions are best explained by short / long term memory model?



# Overview

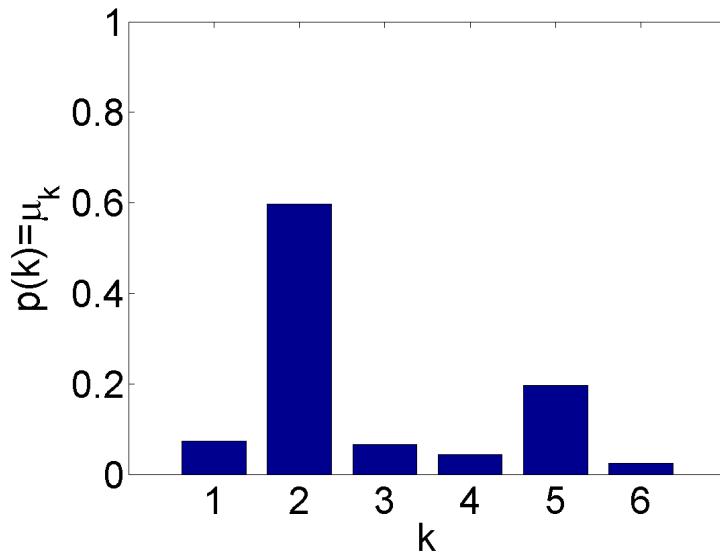
- Introductory remarks
- Some probability densities/distributions
- Probabilistic (generative) models
- Bayesian inference
- A simple example – Bayesian linear regression
- SPM applications
  - Segmentation
  - Dynamic causal modeling
  - Spatial models of fMRI time series

# Probability distributions and densities

Multinomial Distribution



$k=2$

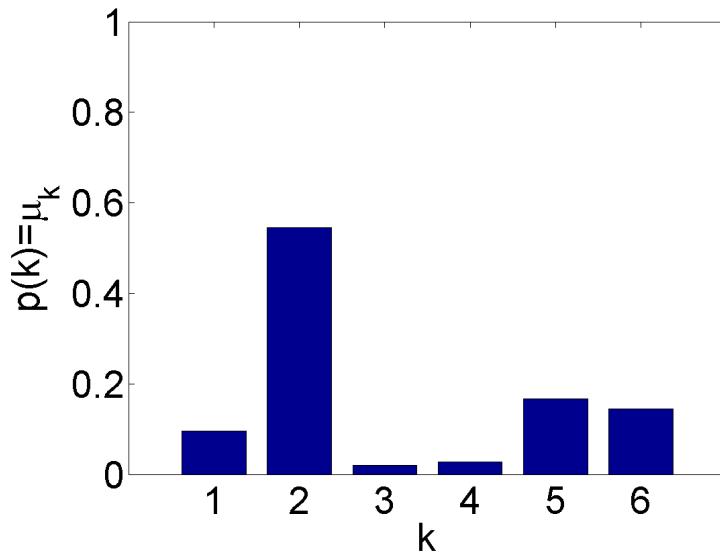


# Probability distributions and densities

Multinomial Distribution



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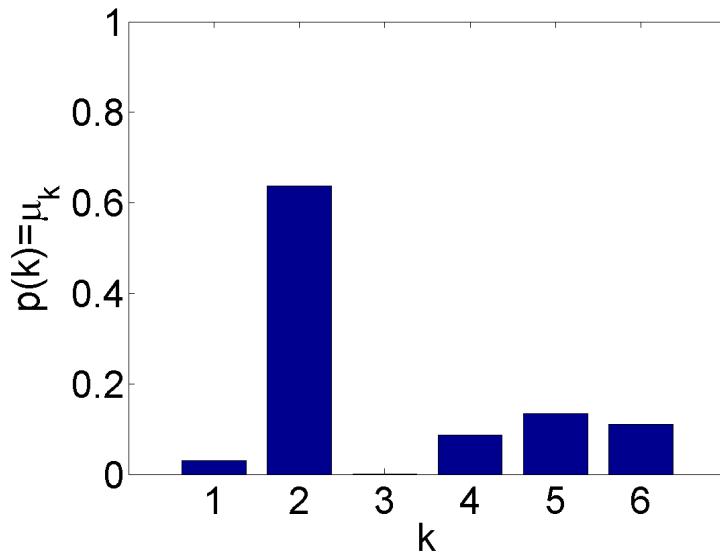


# Probability distributions and densities

Multinomial Distribution



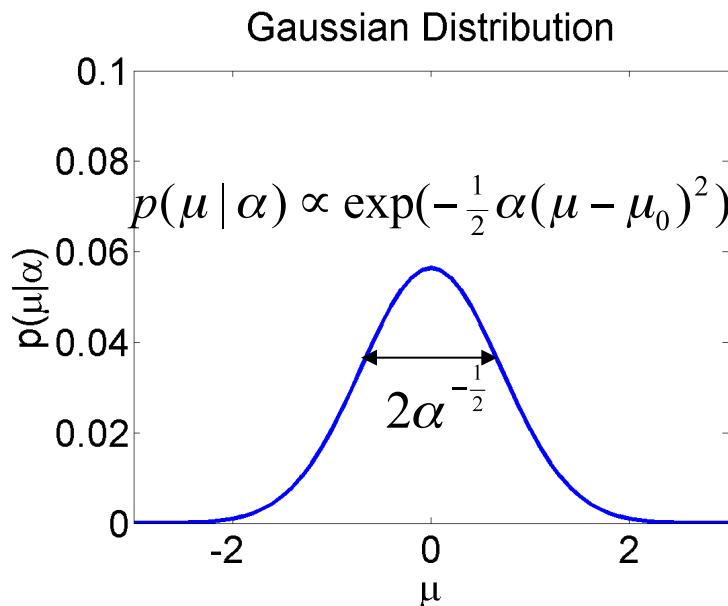
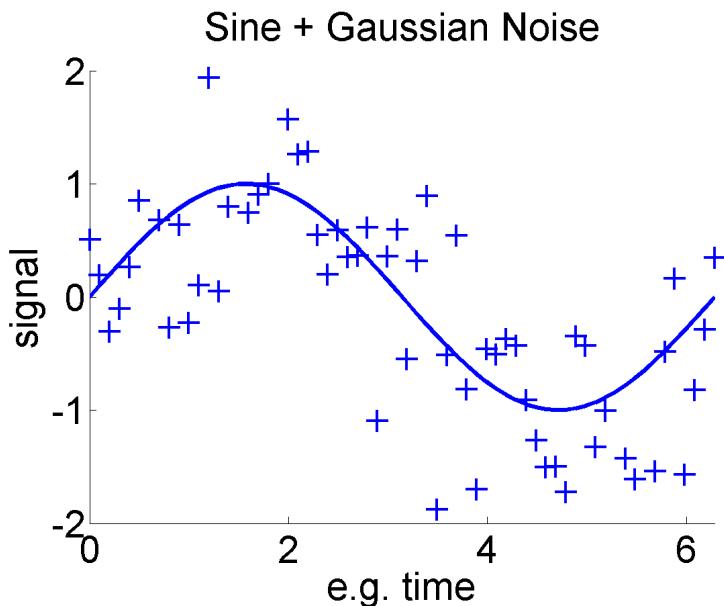
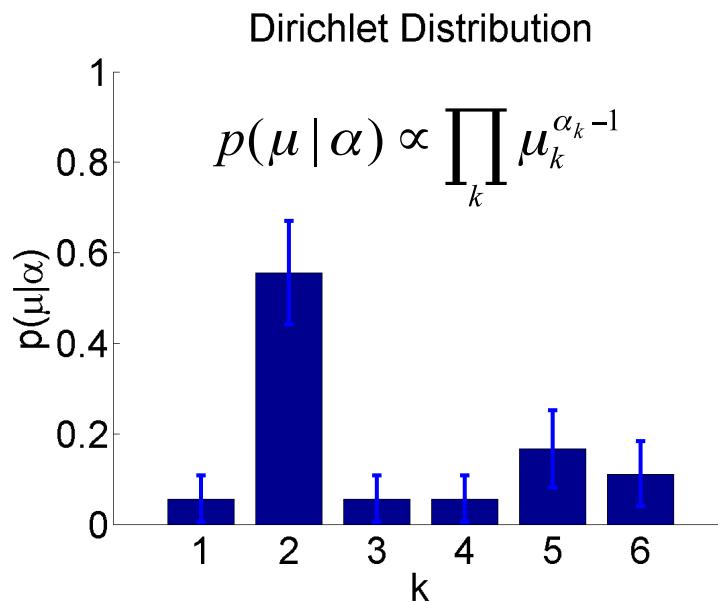
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# Probability distributions and densities



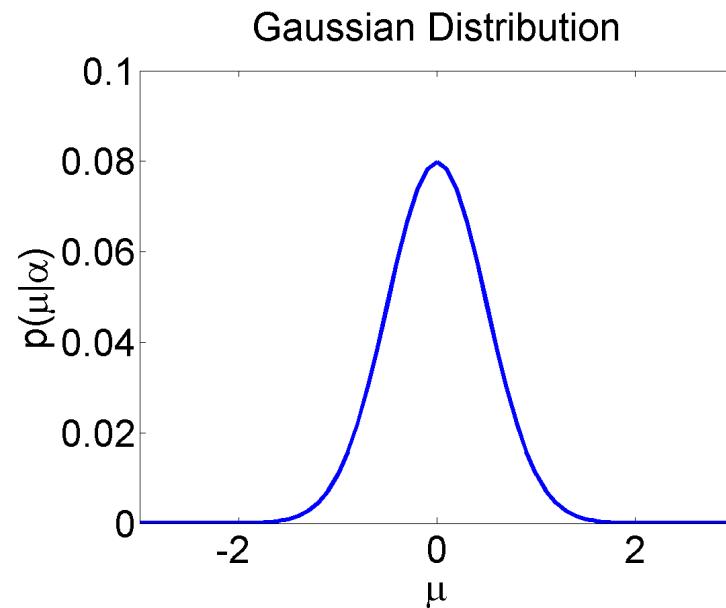
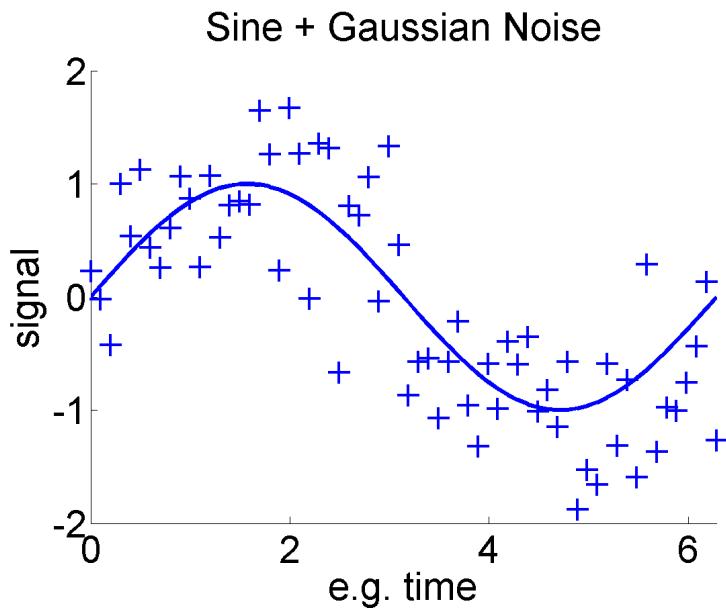
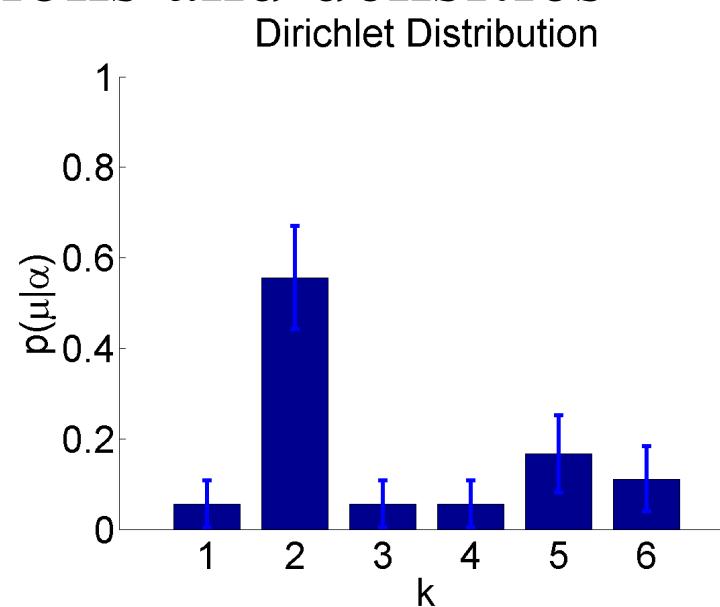
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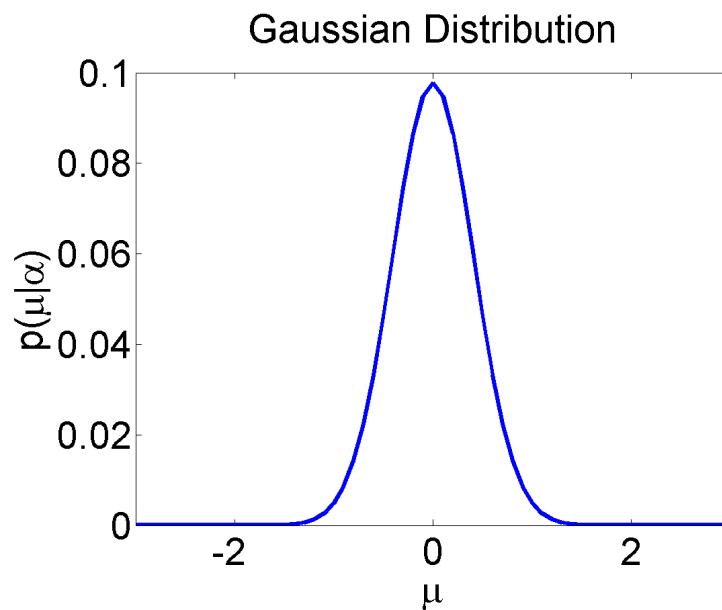
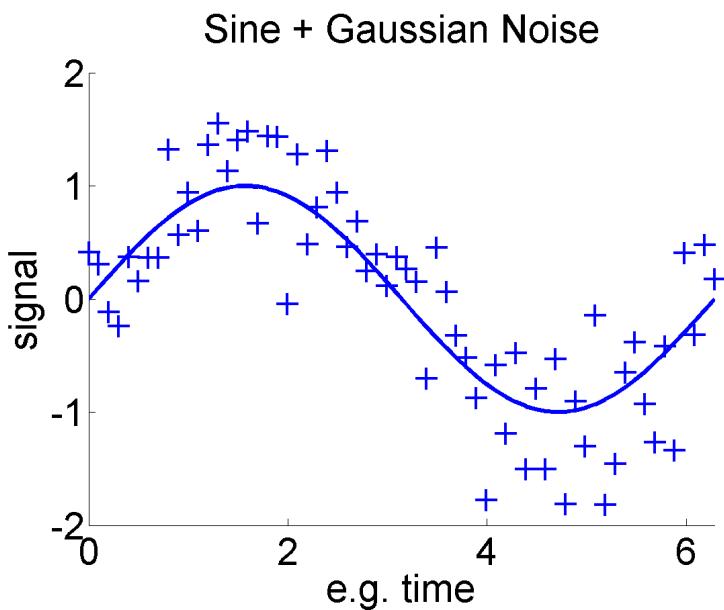
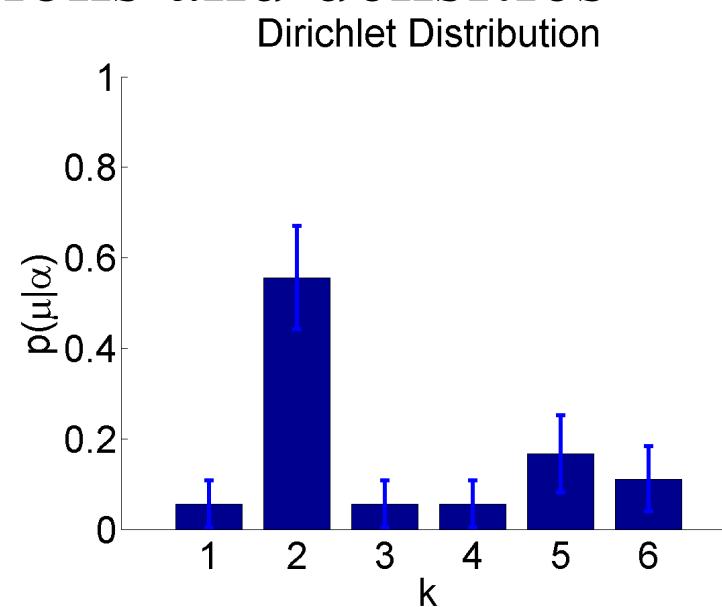
# Probability distributions and densities



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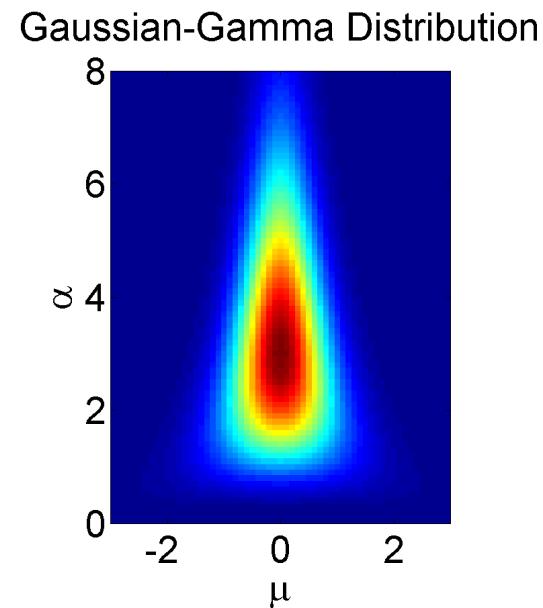
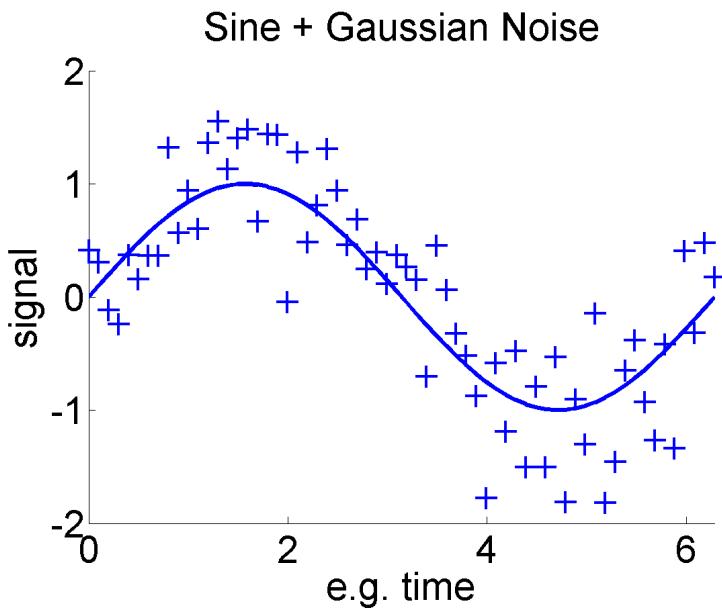
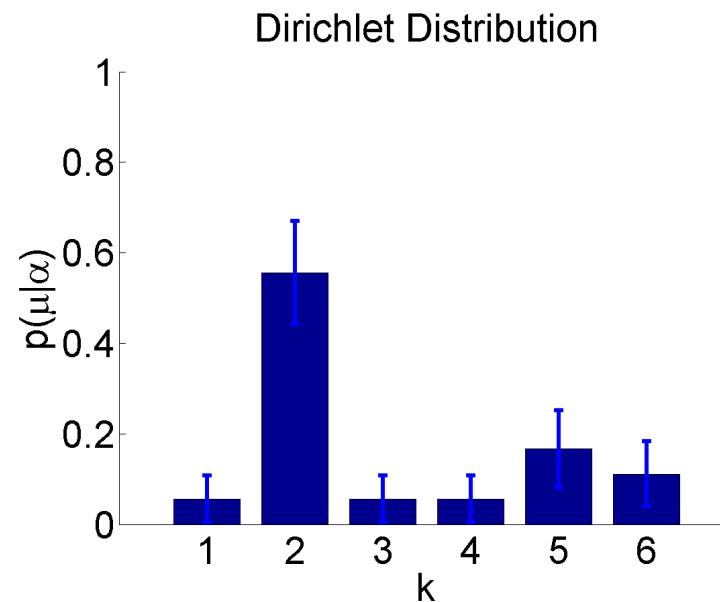
# Probability distributions and densities



# Probability distributions and densities



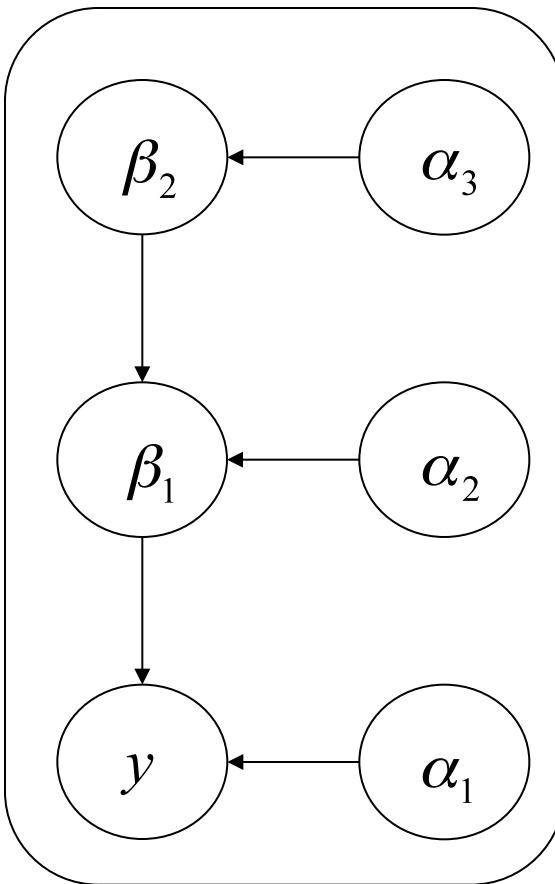
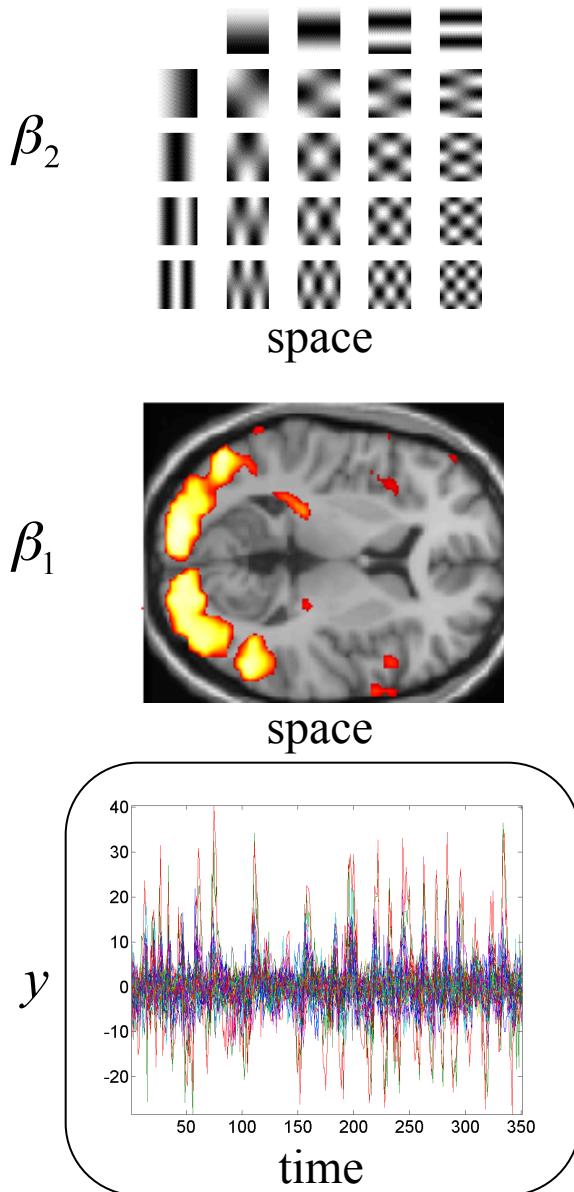
$k=2$



# Generative models

$q(\theta)$ ?

estimation



$$\theta = \{\beta, \alpha\}$$

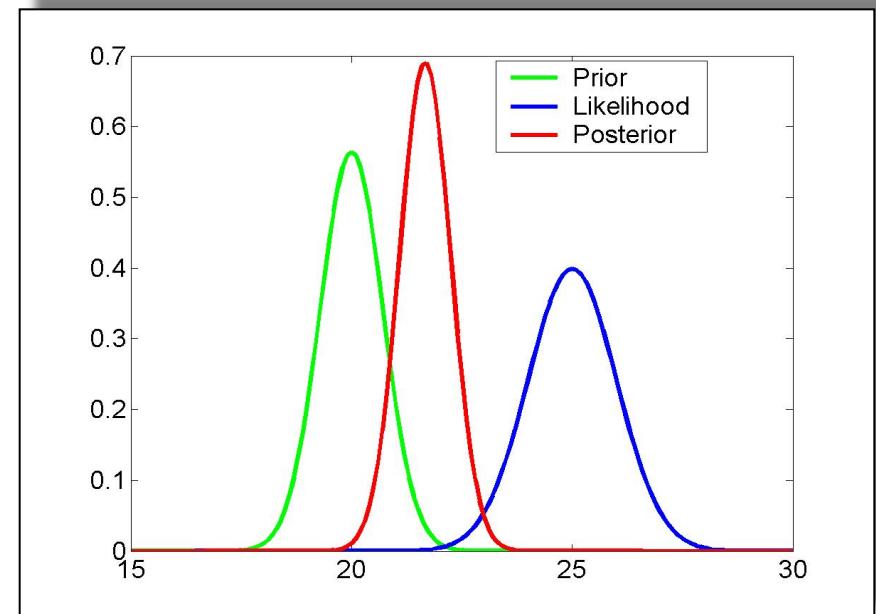
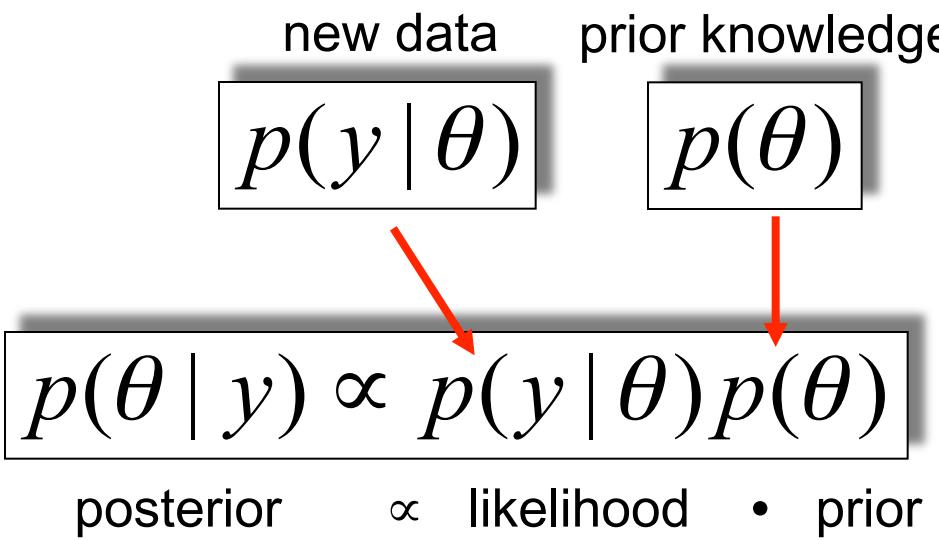
generation

$$\beta_2 = e_3 \sim N(0, \alpha_3^{-1})$$

$$\beta_1 = X_2 \beta_2 + e_2$$

$$y = X_1 \beta_1 + e_1$$

# Bayesian statistics



Bayes theorem allows one to formally incorporate prior knowledge into computing statistical probabilities.

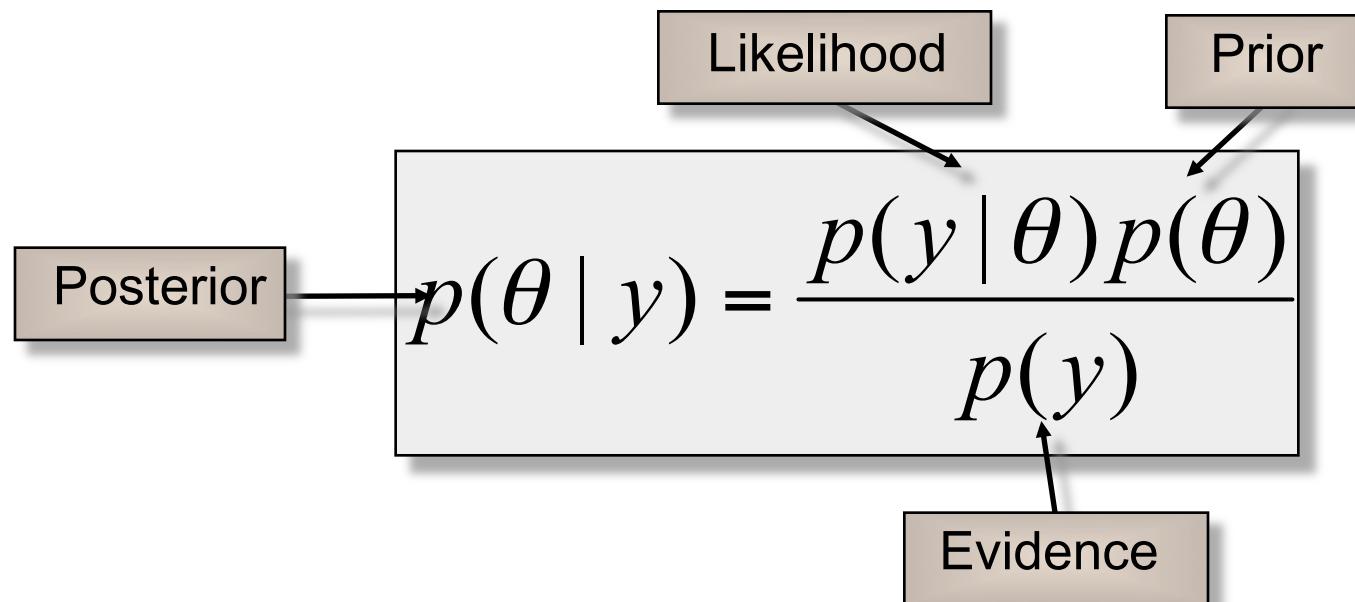
The “posterior” probability of the parameters given the data is an optimal combination of prior knowledge and new data, weighted by their relative precision.

# Bayes' rule

Given data  $y$  and parameters  $\theta$ , their joint probability can be written in 2 ways:

$$p(\theta | y)p(y) = p(y, \theta) \quad p(y, \theta) = p(y | \theta)p(\theta)$$

Eliminating  $p(y, \theta)$  gives Bayes' rule:



# Principles of Bayesian inference

- ⇒ Formulation of a generative model

likelihood  $p(y|\theta)$   
prior distribution  $p(\theta)$

- ⇒ Observation of data

$y$

- ⇒ Update of beliefs based upon observations, given a prior state of knowledge

$$p(\theta | y) \propto p(y | \theta)p(\theta)$$

# Univariate Gaussian

Normal densities

$$p(\beta) = N(\beta; \mu_p, \alpha_p^{-1})$$

$$y = \beta + e$$

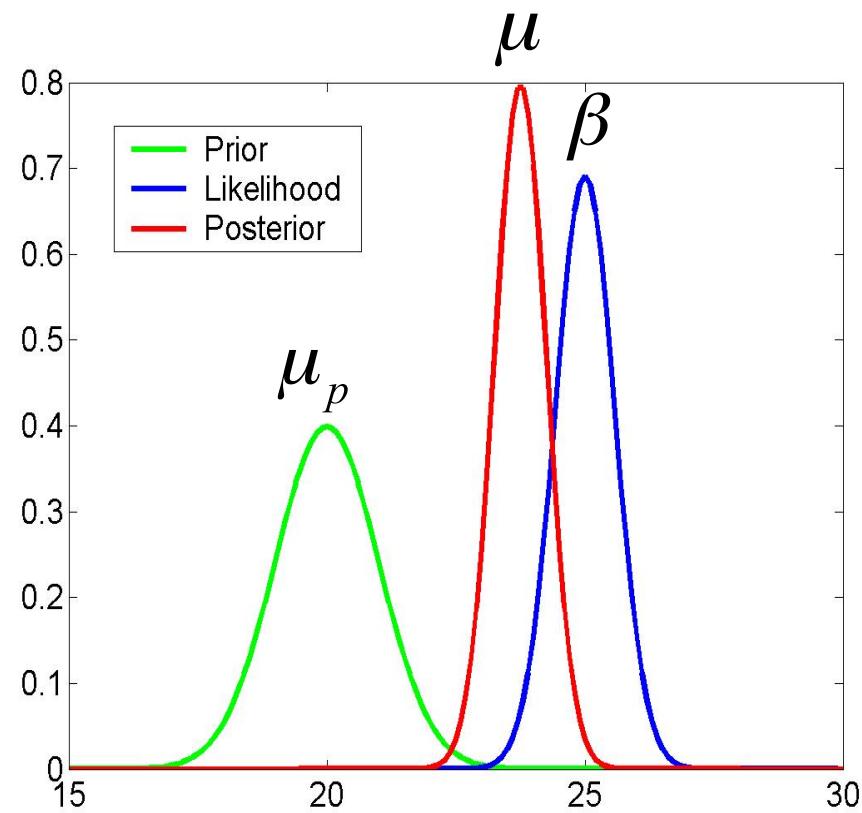
$$p(y | \beta) = N(y; \beta, \alpha_e^{-1})$$

$$p(\beta | y) = N(\beta; \mu, \alpha^{-1})$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_e + \alpha_p$$

$$\mu = \alpha^{-1} (\alpha_e y + \alpha_p \mu_p)$$

Posterior mean =  
precision-weighted combination of  
prior mean and data mean



# Bayesian GLM: univariate case

Normal densities

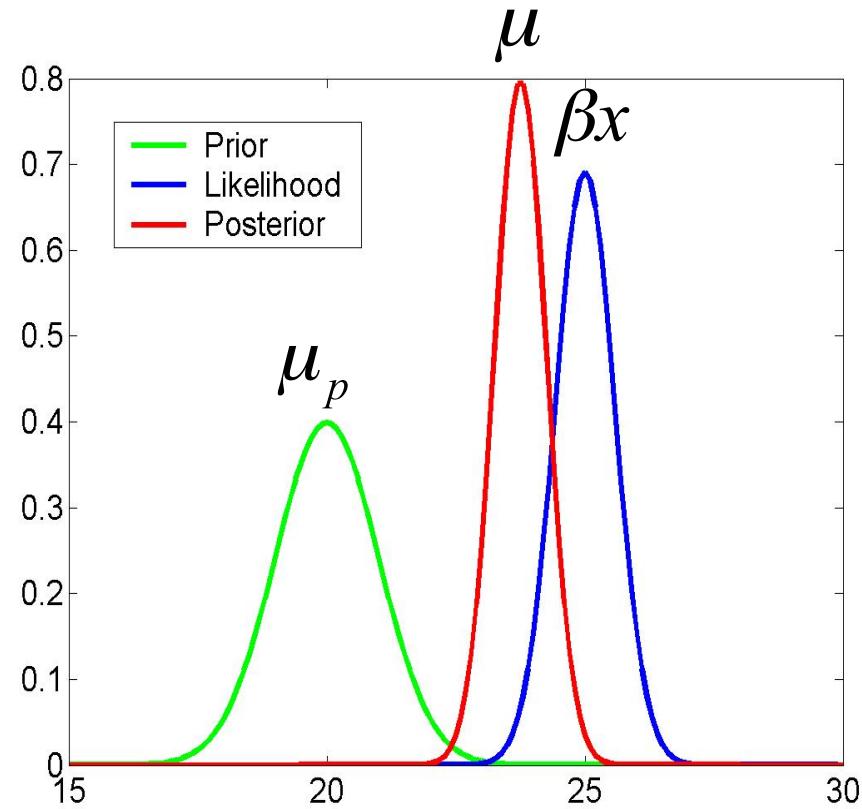
$$p(\beta) = N(\beta; \mu_p, \alpha_p^{-1})$$

$$y = \beta x + e$$

$$p(y | \beta) = N(y; \beta x, \alpha_e^{-1})$$

$$p(\beta | y) = N(\beta; \mu, \alpha^{-1})$$

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \alpha_e x^2 + \alpha_p \\ \mu &= \alpha^{-1} (\alpha_e x y + \alpha_p \mu_p)\end{aligned}$$



# Bayesian GLM: multivariate case

Normal densities

$$p(\beta) = N(\beta; \mu_p, C_p)$$

$$y = X\beta + e$$

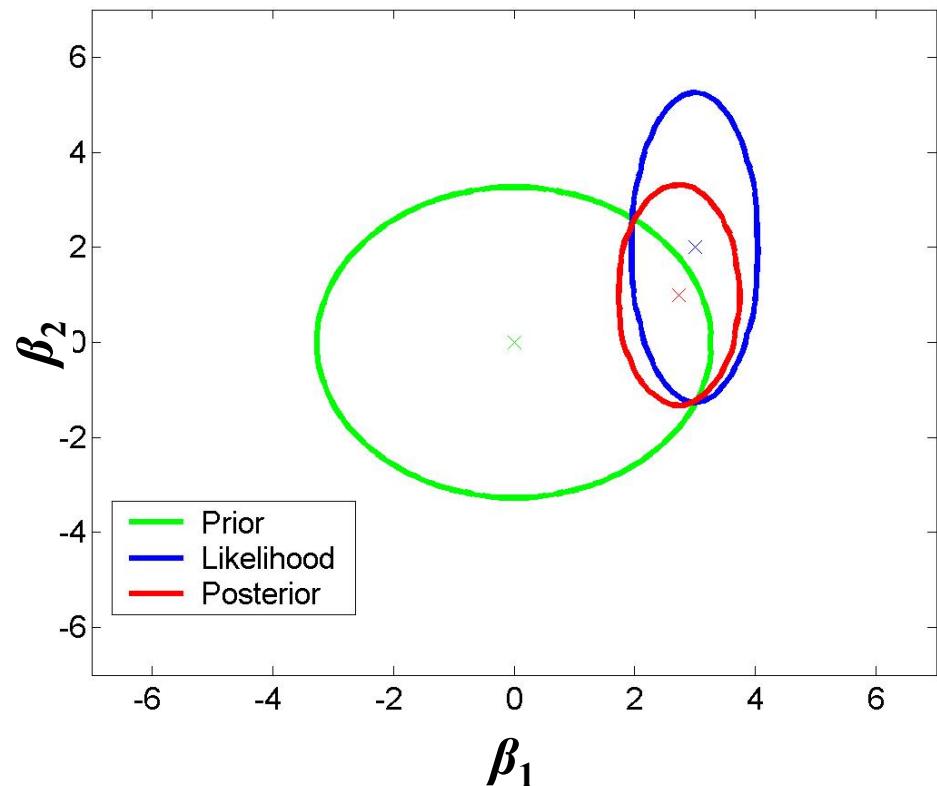
$$p(y | \beta) = N(y; X\beta, C_e)$$

$$p(\beta | y) = N(\beta; \mu, C)$$

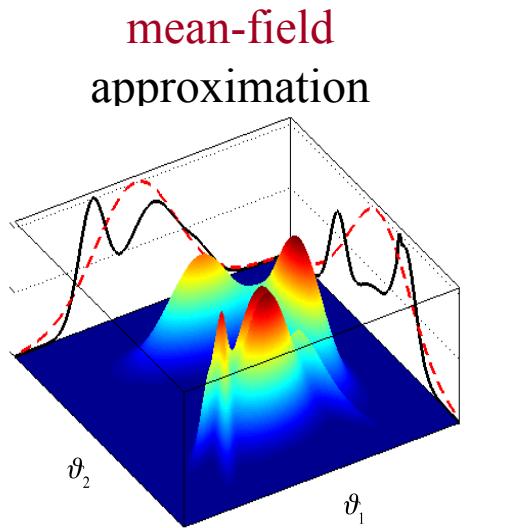
$$C^{-1} = X^T C_e^{-1} X + C_p^{-1}$$

$$\mu = C(X^T C_e y + C_p^{-1} \mu_p)$$

One step if  $C_e$  and  $C_p$  are known.  
Otherwise iterative estimation.



# Approximate inference: optimization



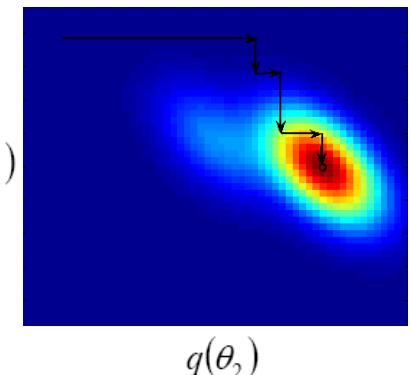
True posterior

$$p(\theta | y, m) = \frac{p(y, \theta | m)}{p(y|m)}$$

Approximate posterior

$$q(\theta) = \prod_i q(\theta_i)$$

iteratively improve



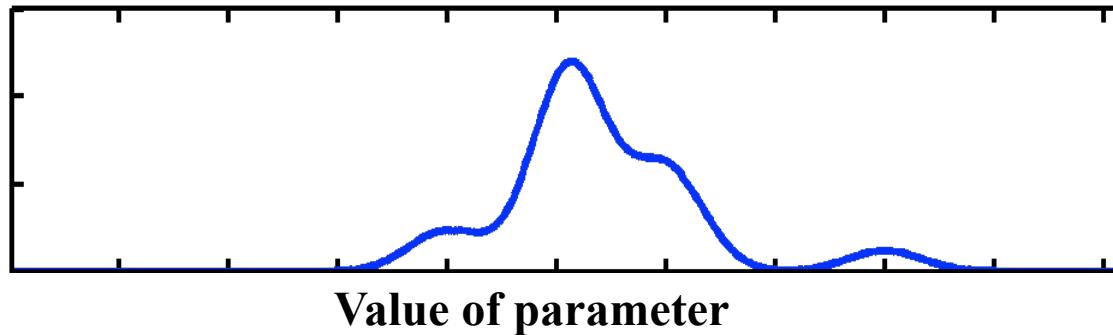
$q(\theta_1)$

$q(\theta_2)$

free energy

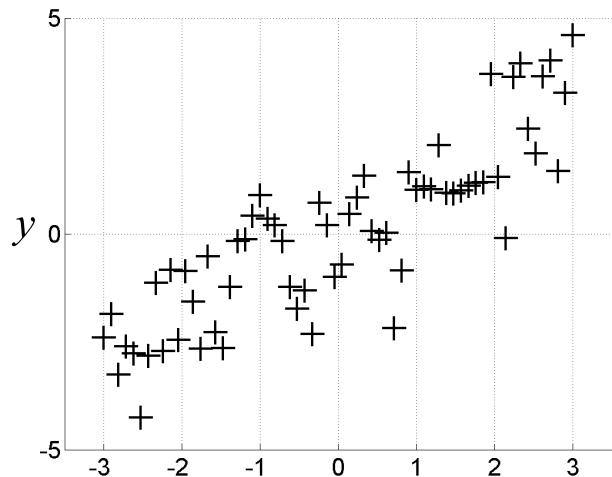
$$\log p(y|m) = \underbrace{\int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \left( \frac{p(y, \theta | m)}{q(\theta)} \right)}_{\text{free energy}} + \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \left( \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y, m)} \right)$$

Objective function



# Simple example – linear regression

Data



Ordinary least squares

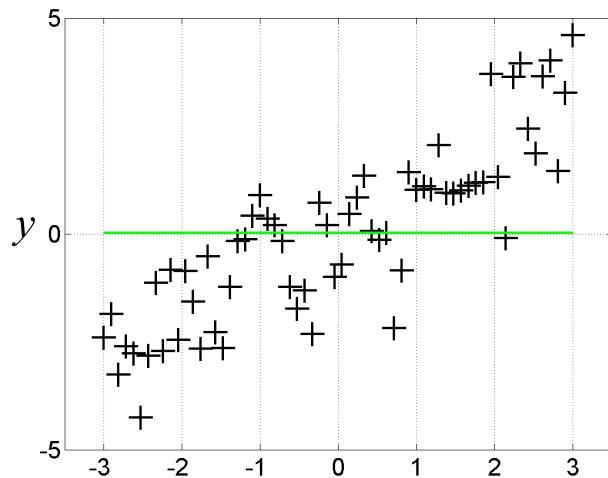
$$y = X\beta$$

$$E_D = (y - X\beta)^T (y - X\beta)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_D}{\partial \beta} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\beta}_{ols} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$$

# Simple example – linear regression

Data and model fit



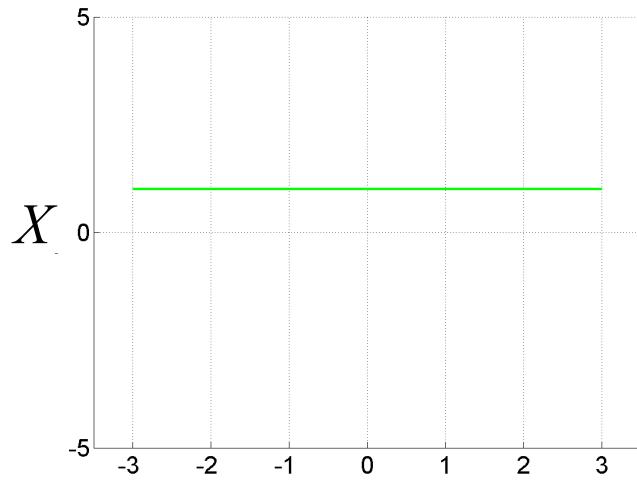
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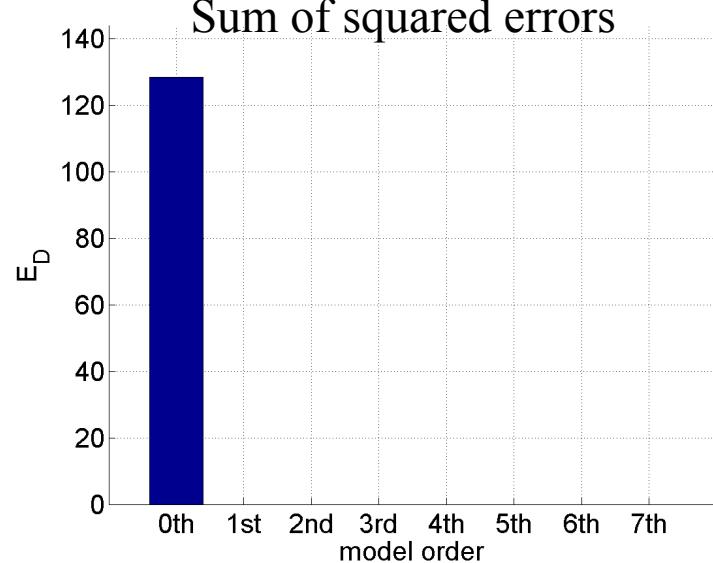
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Bases (explanatory variables)

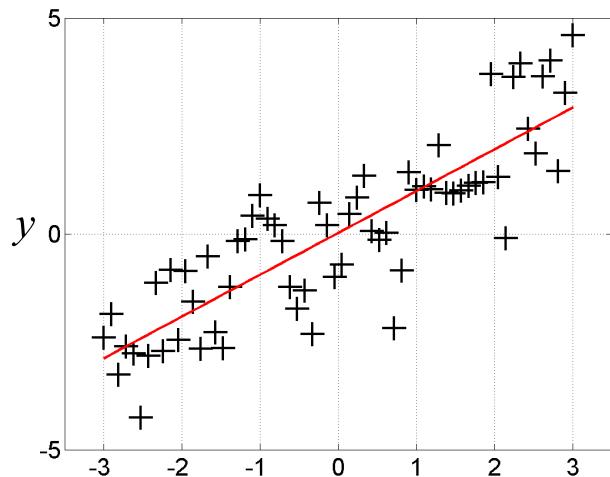


Sum of squared errors



# Simple example – linear regression

Data and model fit



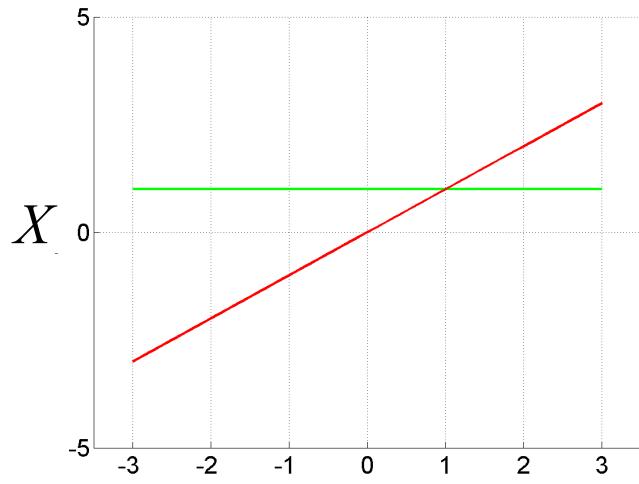
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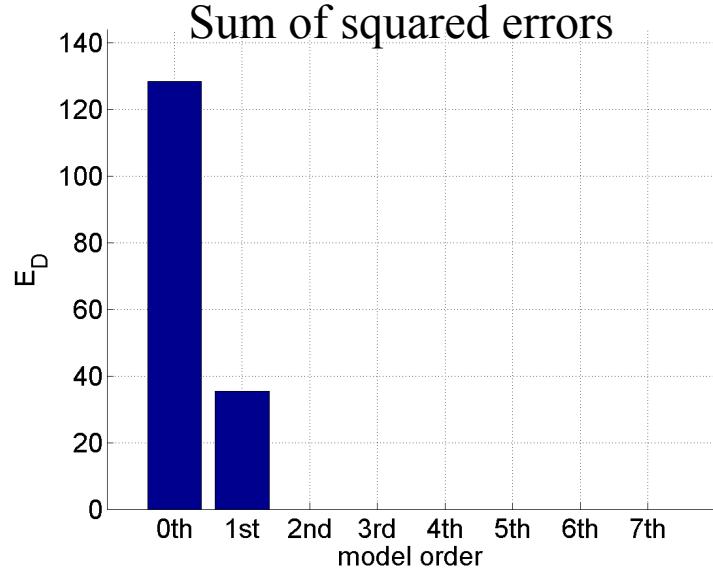
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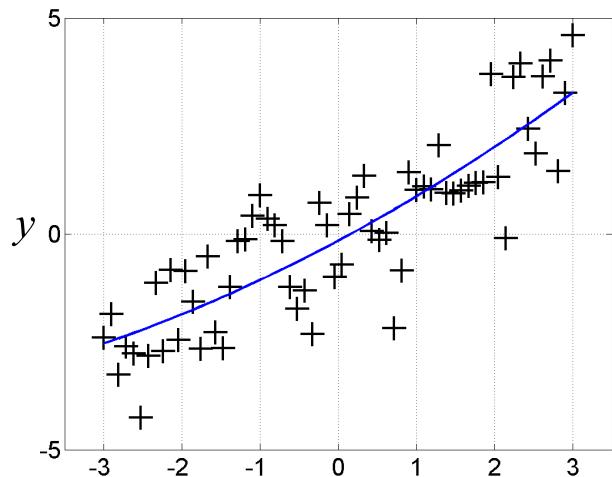


Sum of squared errors



# Simple example – linear regression

Data and model fit



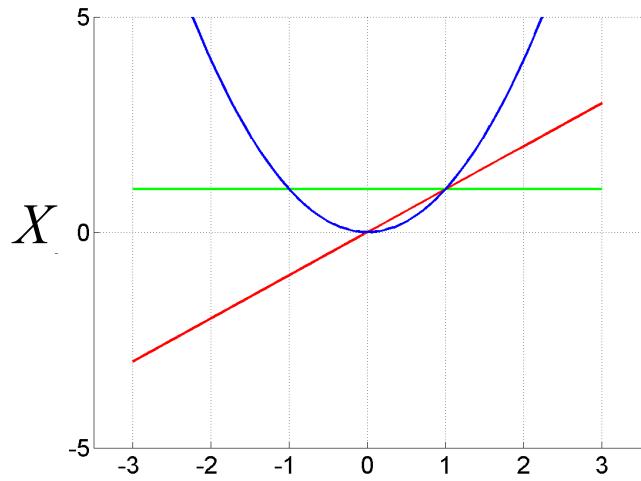
Ordinary least squares

$$y = X\beta$$

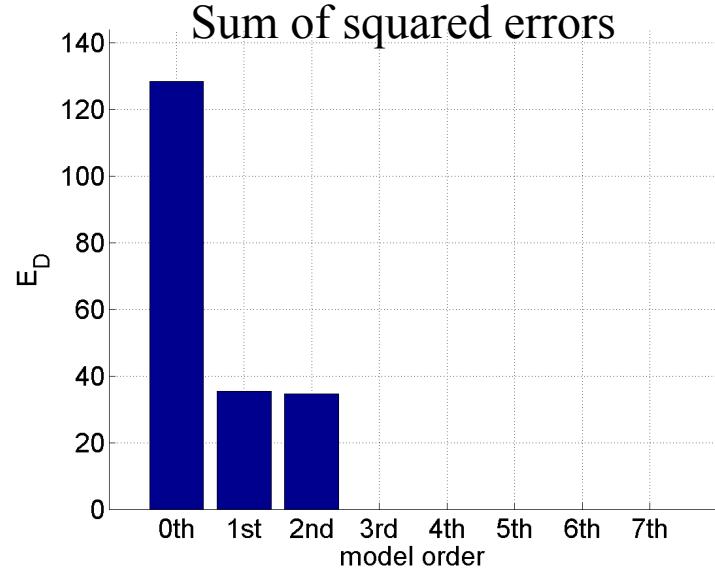
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Bases (explanatory variables)

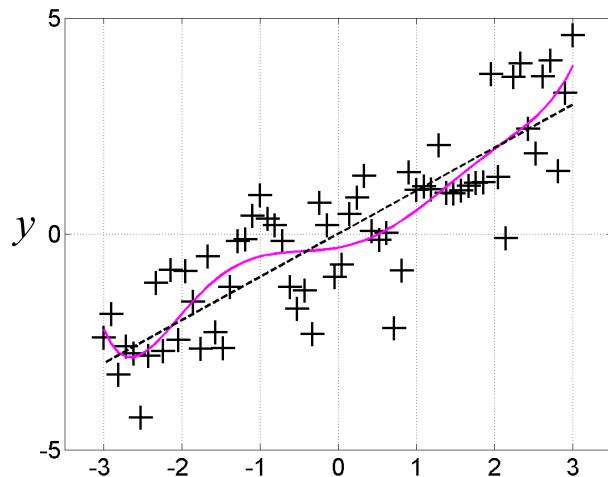


Sum of squared errors



# Simple example – linear regression

Data and model fit



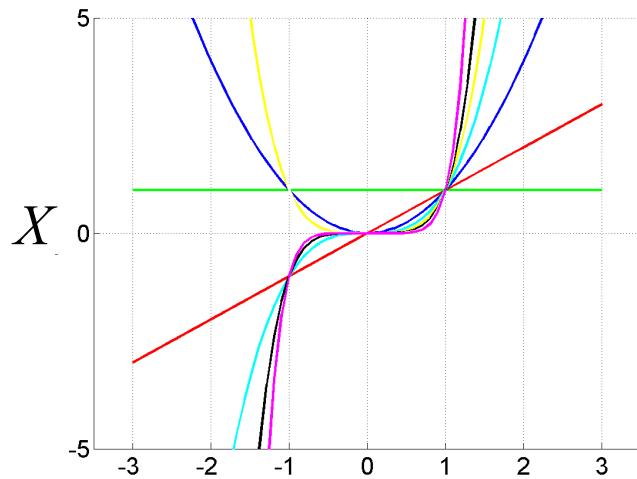
Ordinary least squares

Over-fitting: model fits noise

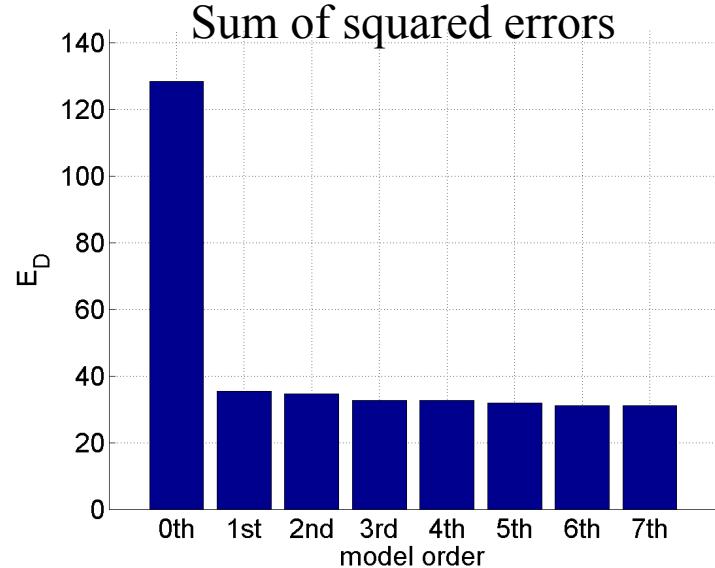
Inadequate cost function: blind to overly complex models

Solution: include uncertainty in model parameters

Bases (explanatory variables)

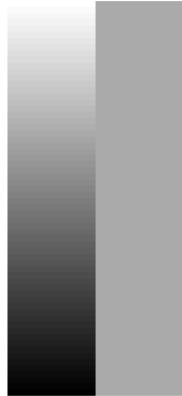


Sum of squared errors



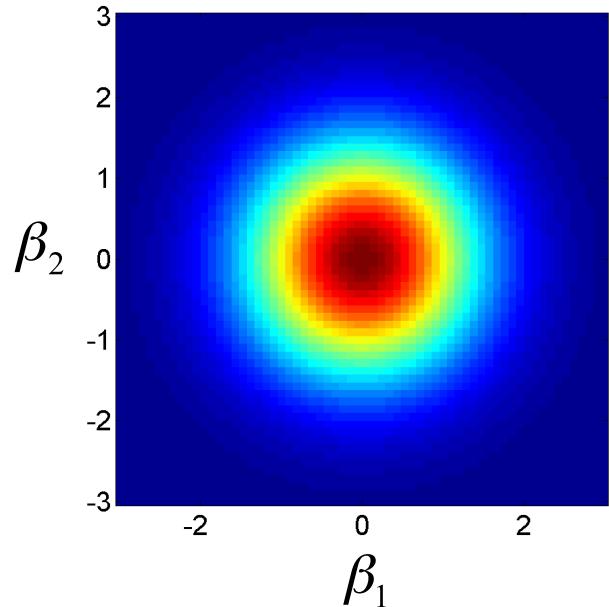
# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*

$X =$



Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

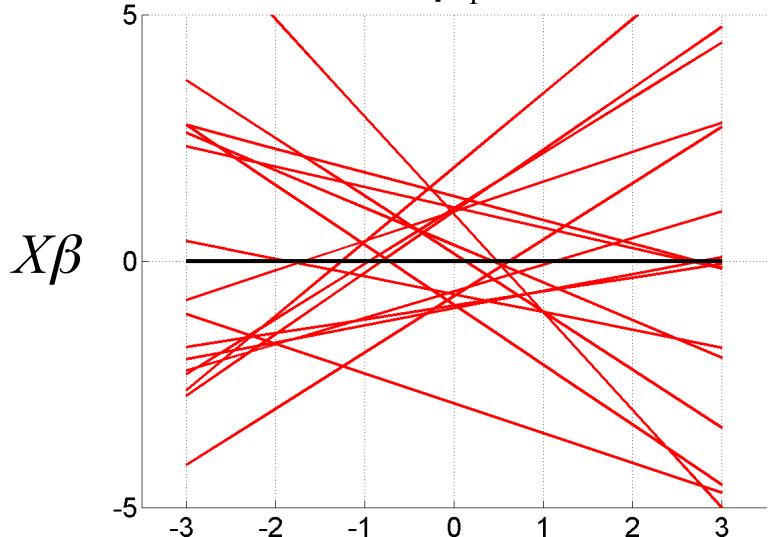
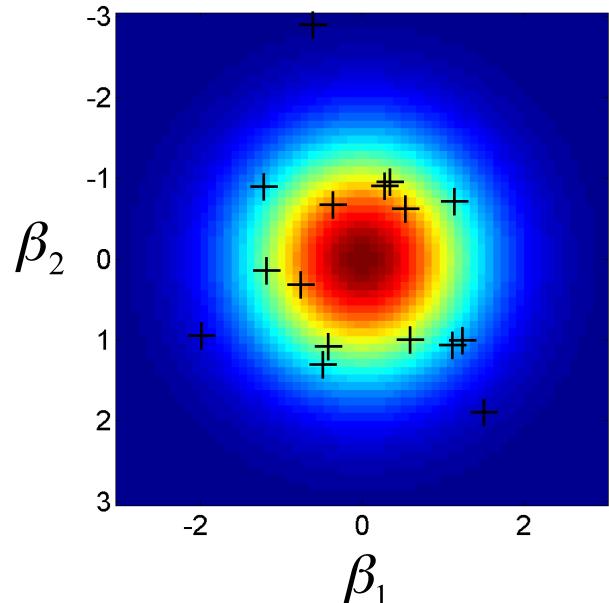
# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*



Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

Prior:  $p(\beta | \alpha_2) = N_k(0, \alpha_2^{-1} I_k)$   
 $\propto \exp(-\alpha_2 \|\beta\|^2 / 2)$

# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*



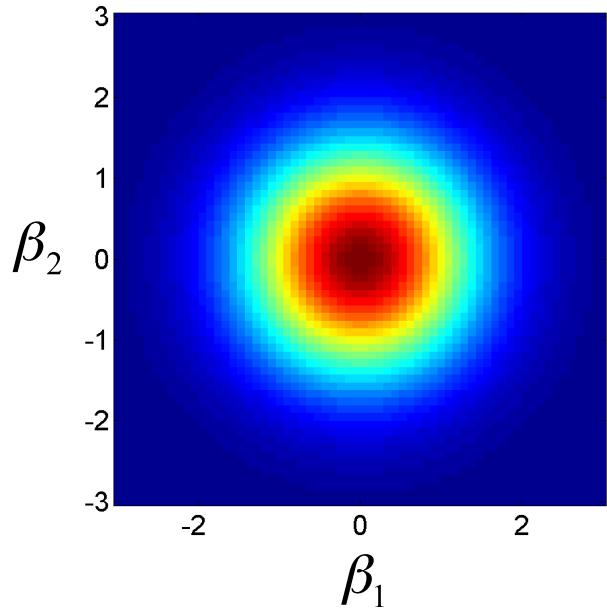
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— Sample curves from prior  
(before observing any data)

— Mean curve

# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*



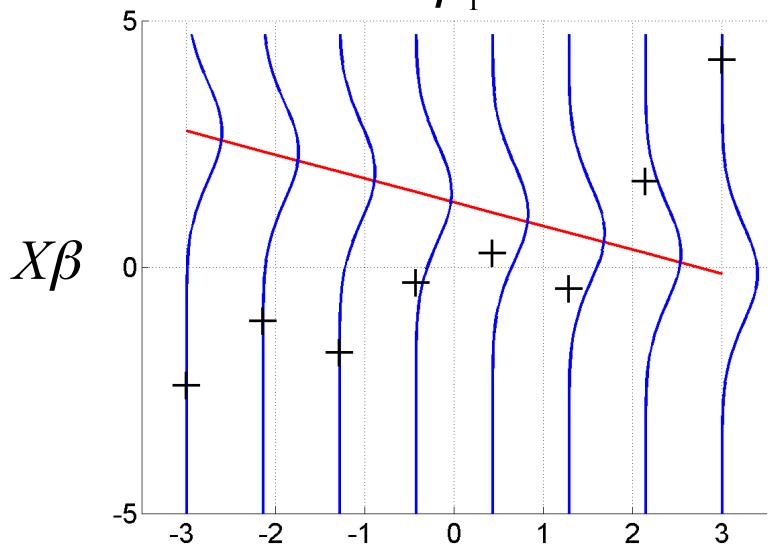
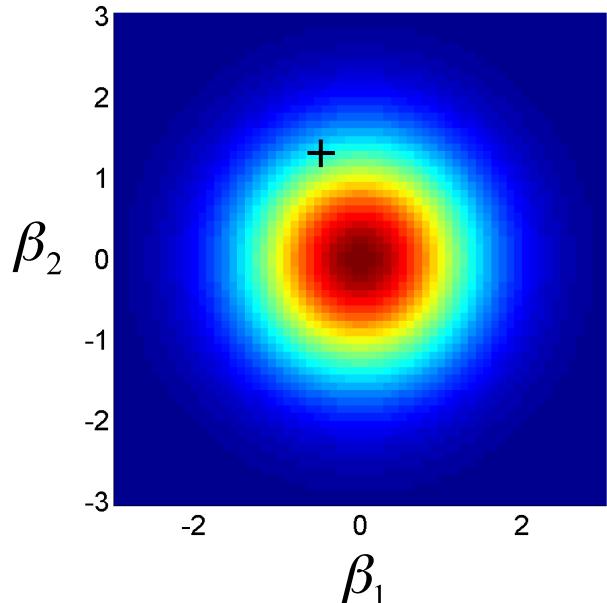
Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

Prior:  $p(\beta | \alpha_2) = N_k(0, \alpha_2^{-1} I_k)$   
 $\propto \exp(-\alpha_2 \|\beta\|^2 / 2)$

Likelihood:

$$p(y | \beta, \alpha_1) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1^{-1})$$
$$p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1) = N(X_i \beta, \alpha_1^{-1})$$
$$\propto \exp(-\alpha_1 (y_i - X_i \beta)^2 / 2)$$

# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*



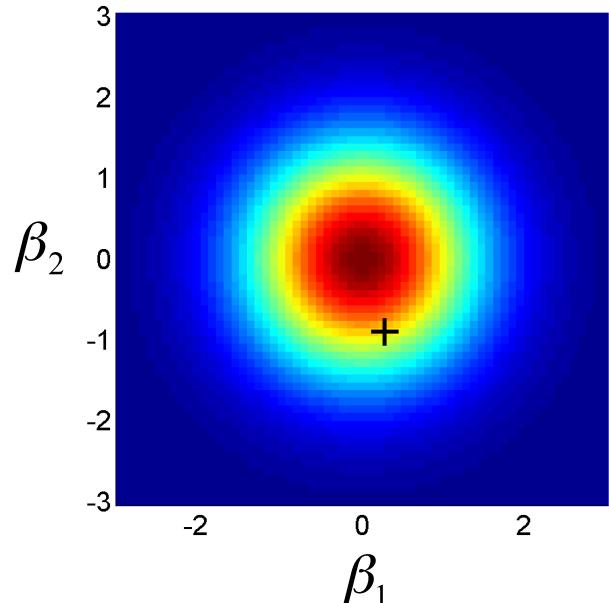
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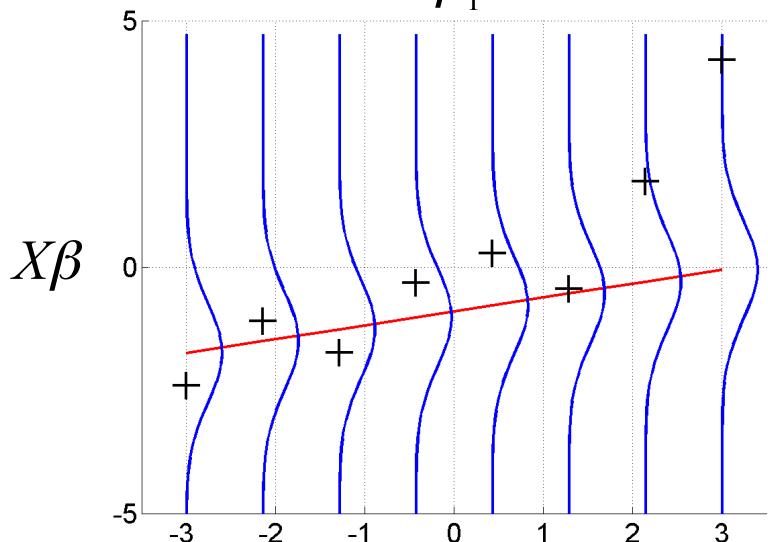
# Bayesian linear regression: *priors and likelihood*



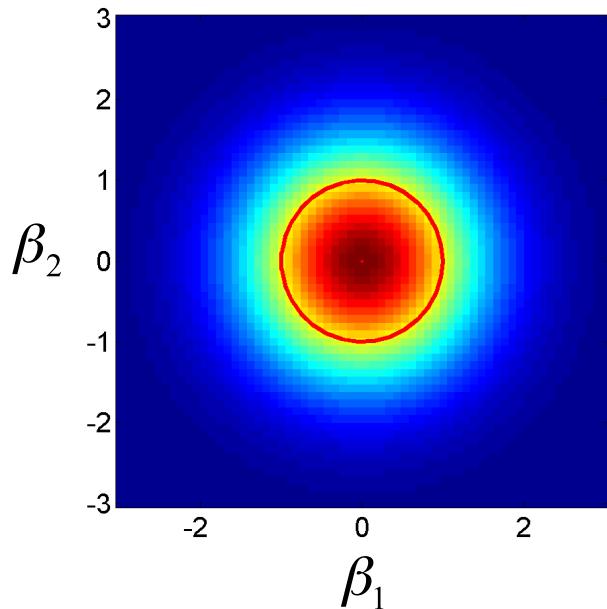
Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

Prior:  $p(\beta|\alpha_2) = N_k(0, \alpha_2^{-1}I_k)$   
 $\propto \exp(-\alpha_2 \|\beta\|^2 / 2)$

Likelihood:

$$p(y|\beta, \alpha_1) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1^{-1})$$
$$p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1) = N(X_i\beta, \alpha_1^{-1})$$
$$\propto \exp(-\alpha_1(y_i - X_i\beta)^2 / 2)$$


# Bayesian linear regression: *posterior*



Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

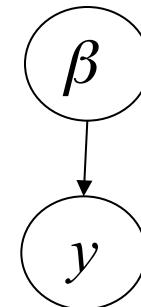
Prior:  $p(\beta|\alpha_2) = N_k(0, \alpha_2^{-1}I_k)$   
 $\propto \exp(-\alpha_2 \|\beta\|^2 / 2)$

Likelihood:

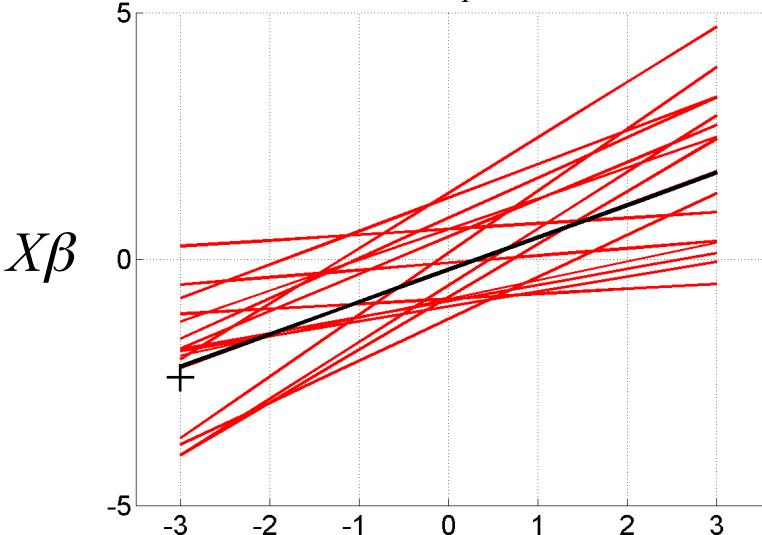
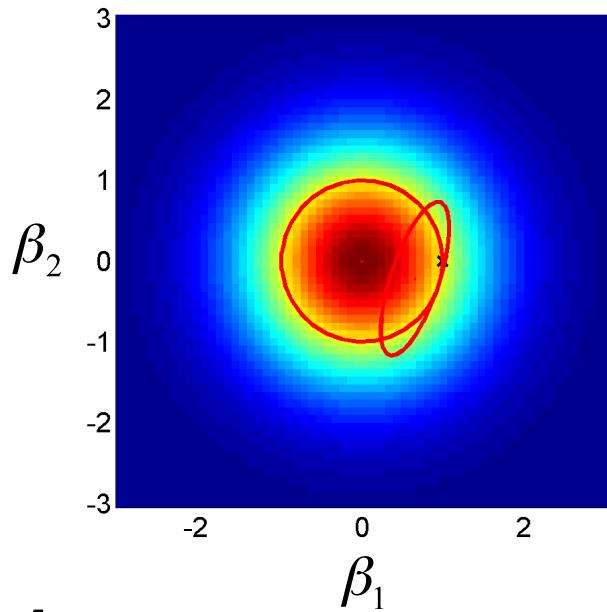
$$p(y|\beta, \alpha_1) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1)$$

Bayes Rule:

$$p(\beta|y, \alpha) \propto p(y|\beta, \alpha)p(\beta|\alpha)$$



# Bayesian linear regression: *posterior*



Model:  $y = X\beta + e$

Prior:  $p(\beta|\alpha_2) = N_k(0, \alpha_2^{-1}I_k)$   
 $\propto \exp(-\alpha_2 \|\beta\|^2 / 2)$

Likelihood:

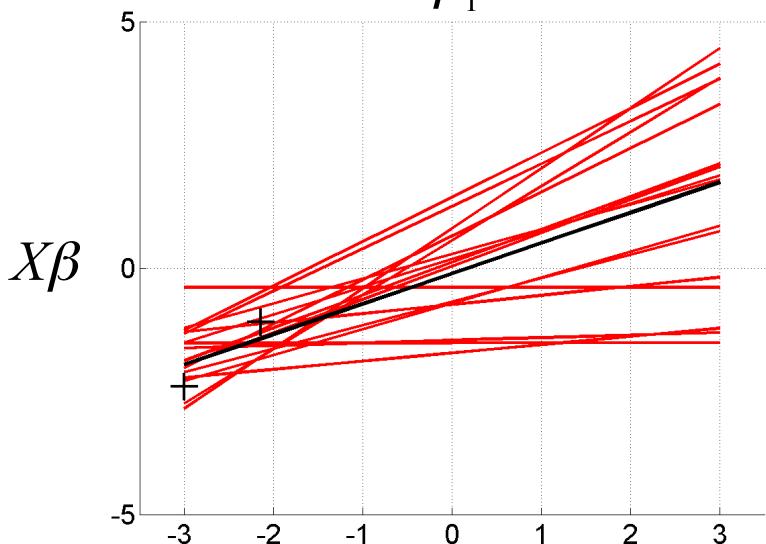
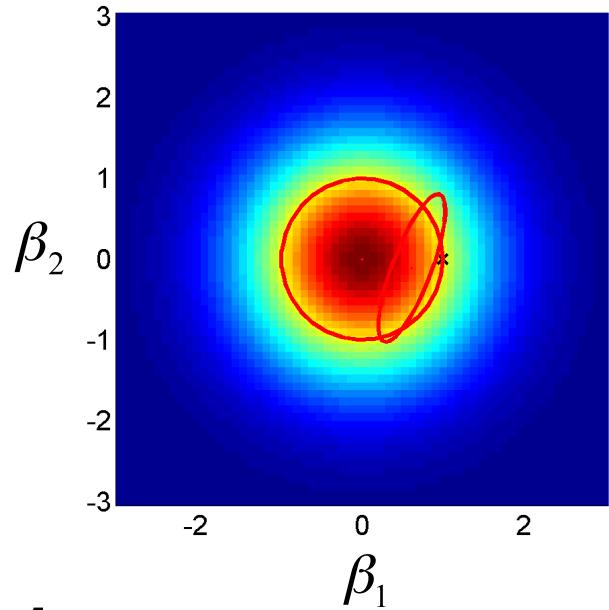
$$p(y|\beta, \alpha_1) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(y_i | \beta, \alpha_1)$$

Bayes Rule:

$$p(\beta|y, \alpha) \propto p(y|\beta, \alpha)p(\beta|\alpha)$$

Posterior:  $p(\beta | y, \alpha) = N(\mu, C)$   
 $C = (\alpha_1 X^T X + \alpha_2 I_k)^{-1}$   
 $\mu = \alpha_1 C X^T y$

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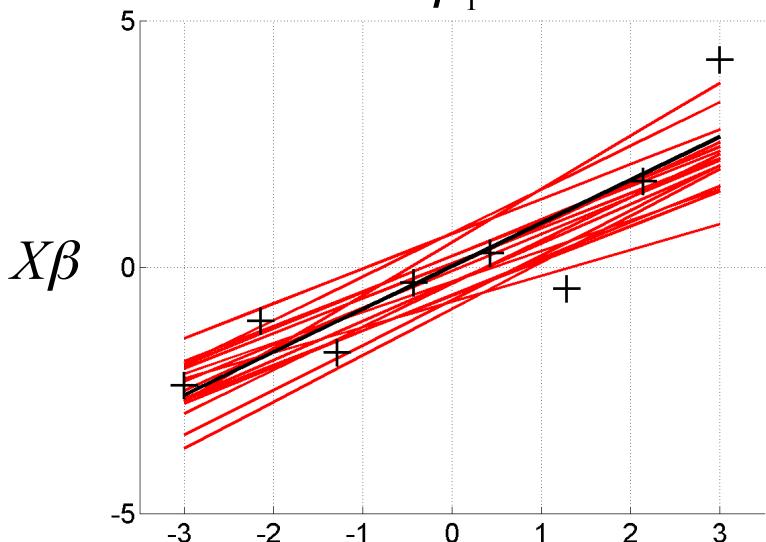
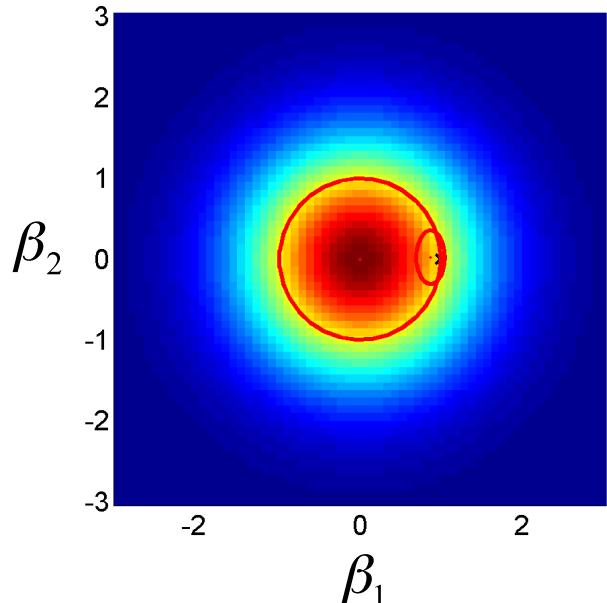
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# Posterior Probability Maps (PPMs)

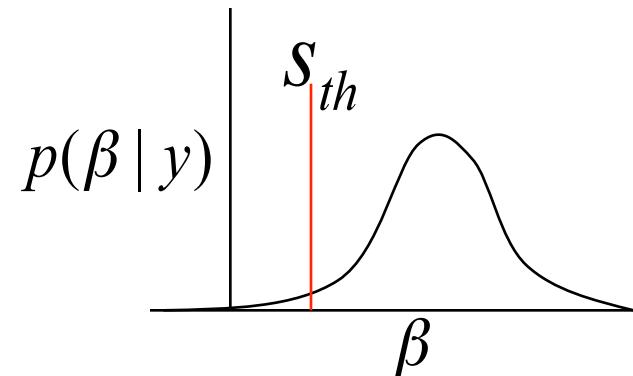
**Posterior distribution:** probability of the effect given the data

$$p(\beta | y)$$

mean: size of effect  
precision: variability

**Posterior probability map:** images of the probability (confidence) that an activation exceeds some specified threshold  $s_{th}$ , given the data  $y$

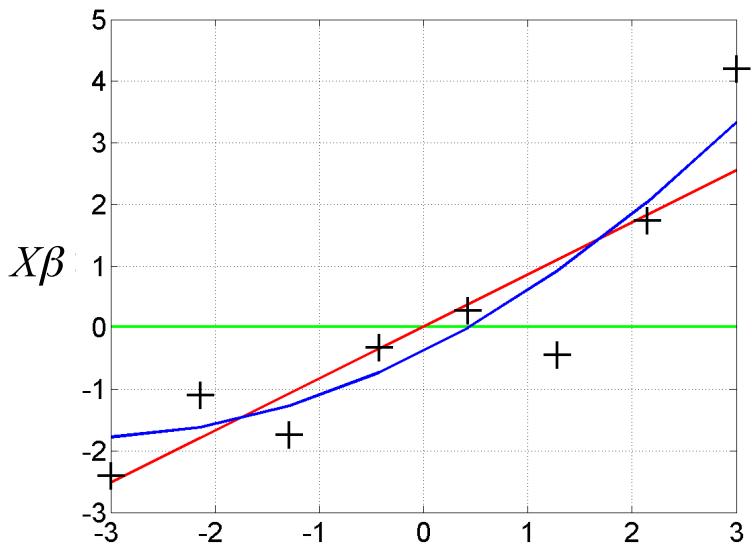
$$p(\beta > s_{th} | y) > p_{th}$$



**Two thresholds:**

- activation threshold  $s_{th}$  : percentage of whole brain mean signal (physiologically relevant size of effect)
- probability  $p_{th}$  that voxels must exceed to be displayed (e.g. 95%)

# Bayesian linear regression: *model selection*



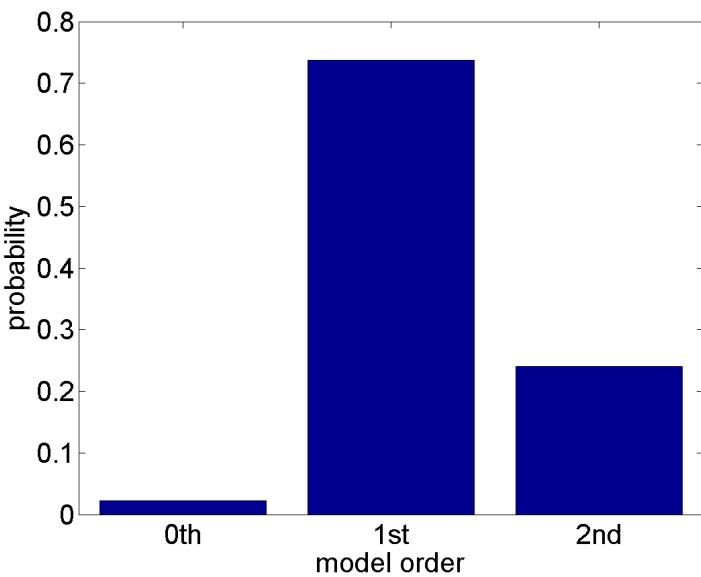
Bayes Rule:

$$p(\beta | y, \alpha, m) = \frac{p(y | \beta, \alpha, m)p(\beta | \alpha, m)}{p(y | \alpha, m)}$$

normalizing constant

Model evidence:

$$p(y | \alpha, m) = \int p(y | \beta, \alpha, m)p(\beta | \alpha, m)d\beta$$

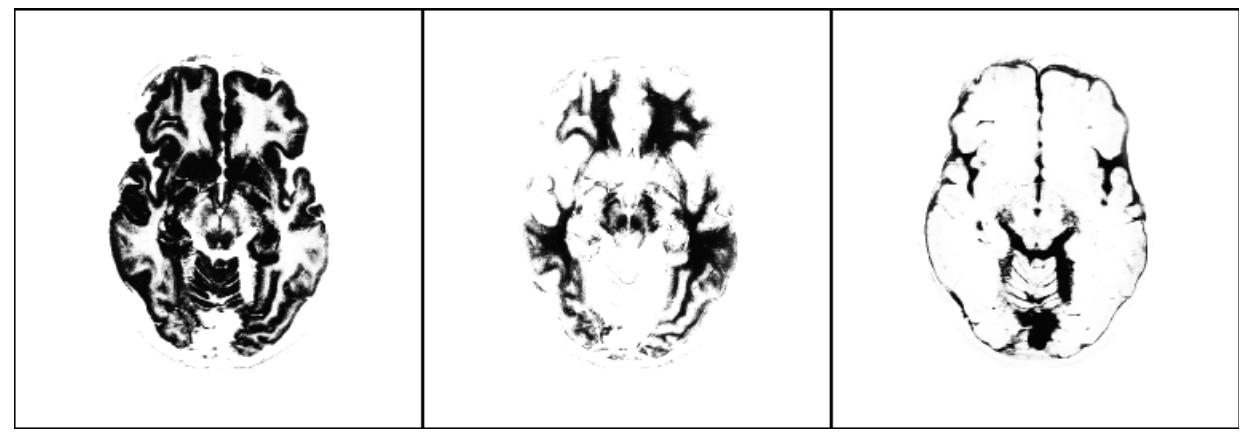
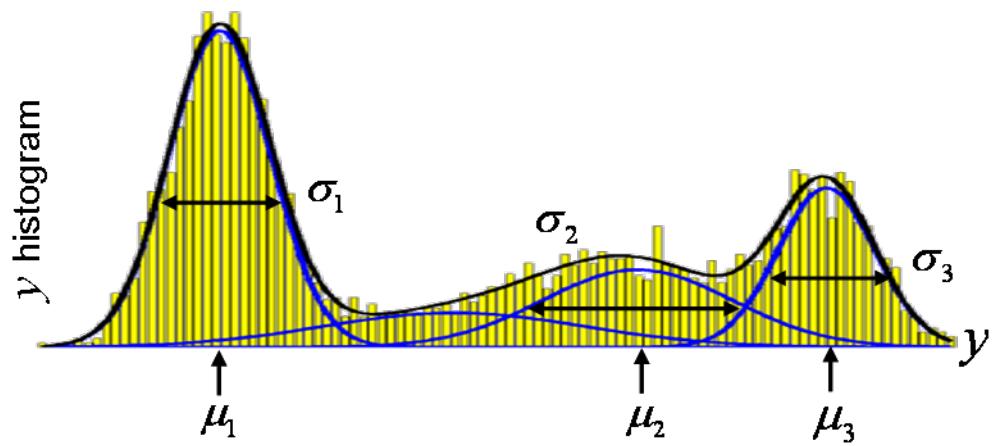
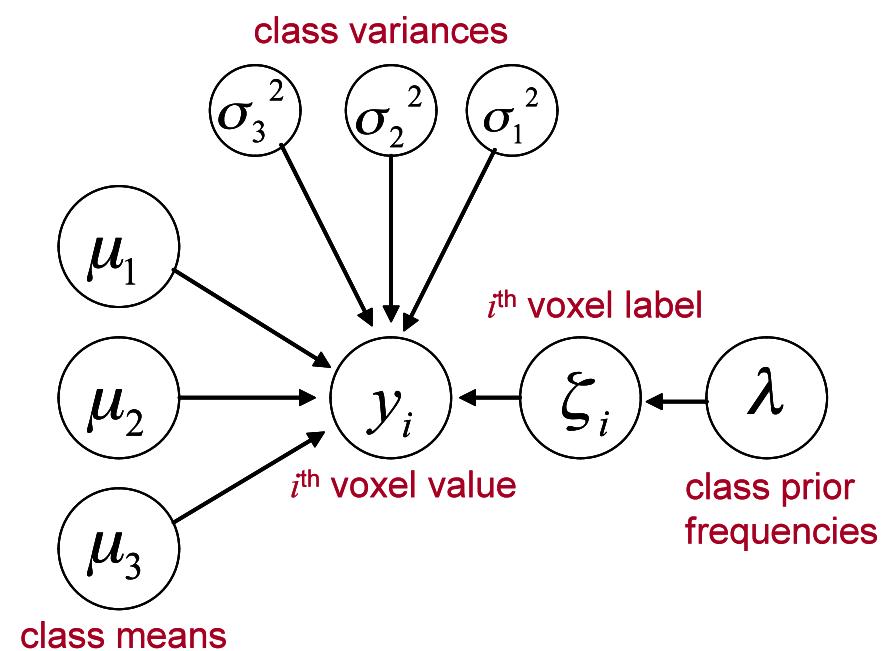


$$\log p(y | \alpha, m) = \\ accuracy(m) - complexity(m)$$

$$accuracy(m) \propto \|y - X\mu\|^2$$

$$complexity(m) \propto k \log \alpha_2^{-1} + \alpha_2 \|\mu\|^2$$

# aMRI segmentation



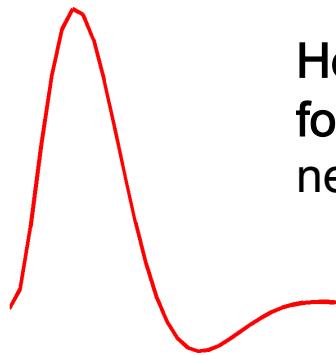
PPM of belonging to...

grey matter

white matter

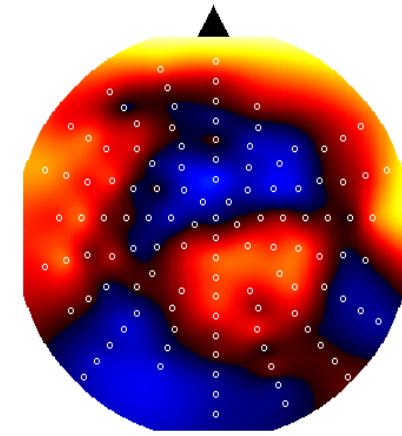
CSF

# Dynamic Causal Modelling: *generative model for fMRI and ERPs*



Hemodynamic  
forward model:  
neural activity → BOLD

Electric/magnetic  
forward model:  
neural activity → EEG  
MEG  
LFP



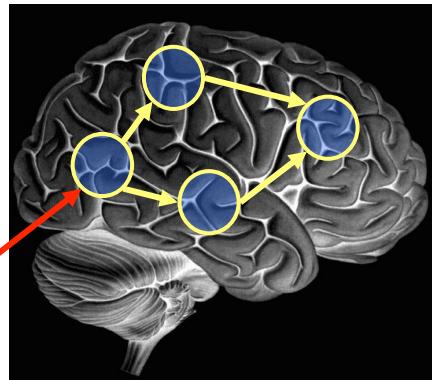
fMRI

Neural state equation:  
 $\dot{x} = F(x, u, \theta)$

ERPs

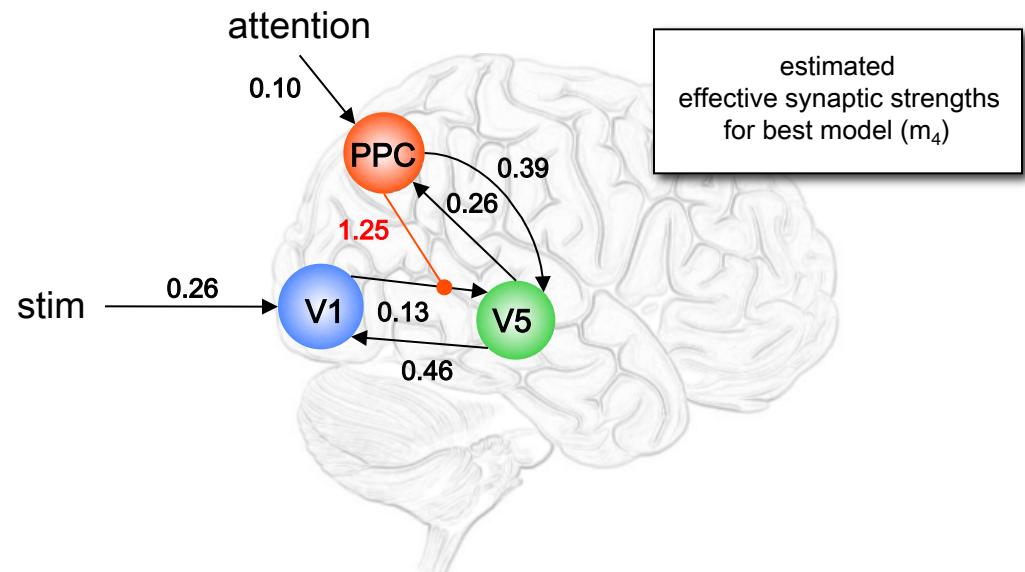
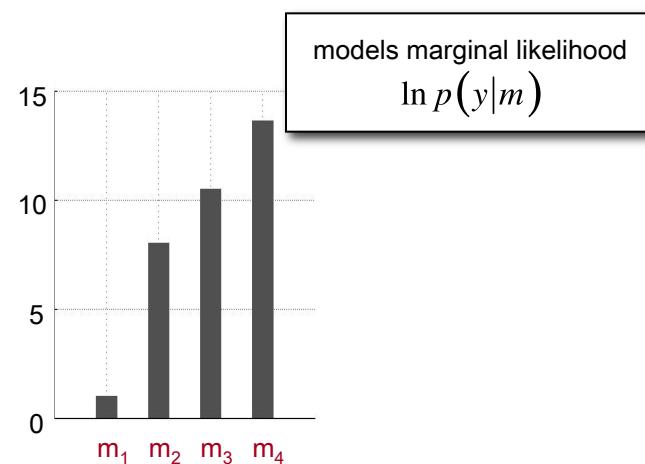
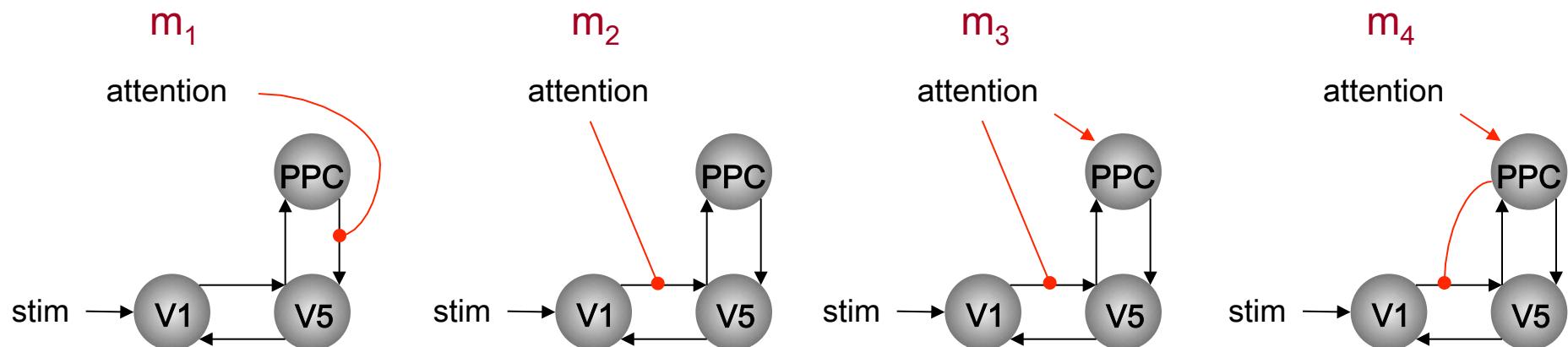
Neural model:  
1 state variable per region  
bilinear state equation  
no propagation delays

inputs



Neural model:  
8 state variables per region  
nonlinear state equation  
propagation delays

# Bayesian Model Selection for fMRI



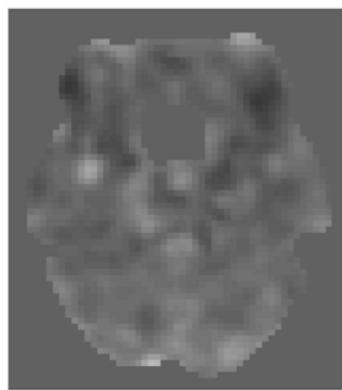
# fMRI time series analysis with spatial priors

degree of smoothness

$$Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$



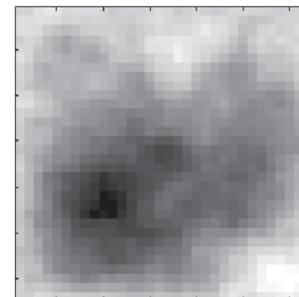
aMRI



Smooth  $Y$  (RFT)

Spatial precision matrix

$$p(\beta) = N(0, \underline{\alpha}^{-1} \underline{L}^{-1})$$

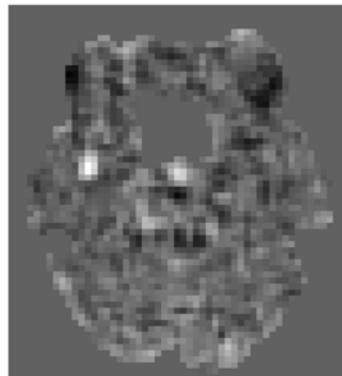


$$\begin{matrix} & & 1 & & \\ & 2 & -8 & 2 & \\ 1 & -8 & 20 & -8 & 1 \\ & 2 & -8 & 2 & \\ & & 1 & & \end{matrix}$$

prior precision  
of GLM coeff



ML estimate of  $\beta$

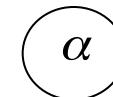


VB estimate of  $\beta$

prior precision  
of data noise



$\lambda$



$\alpha$



$\gamma$

GLM coeff

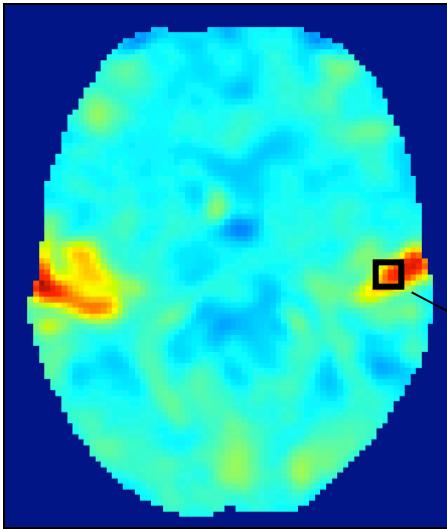
AR coeff  
(correlated noise)



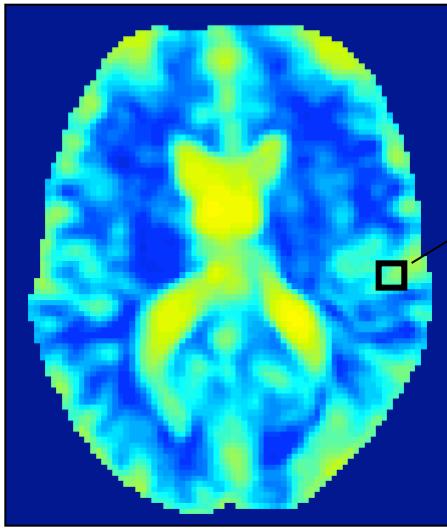
observations

# fMRI time series analysis with spatial priors: *posterior probability maps*

Display only voxels that exceed e.g. 95%



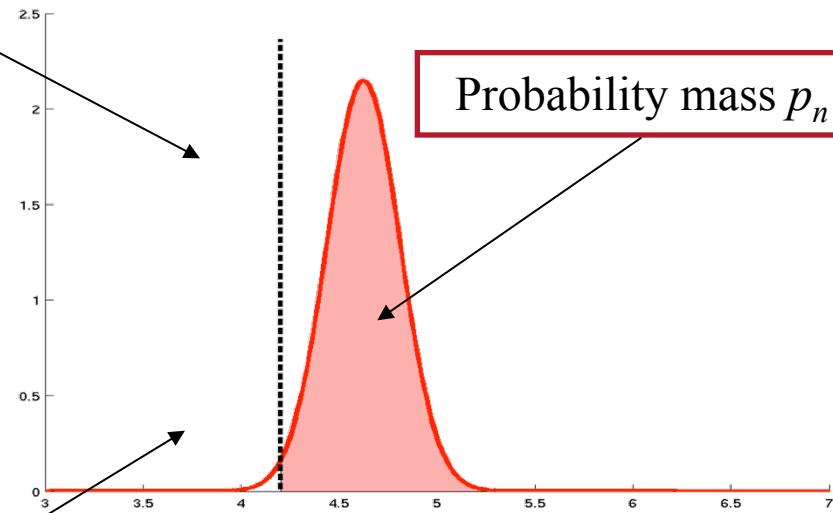
Mean (*Cbeta\_\*.img*)



Std dev (*SDbeta\_\*.img*)

activation  
threshold

$$s_{th}$$



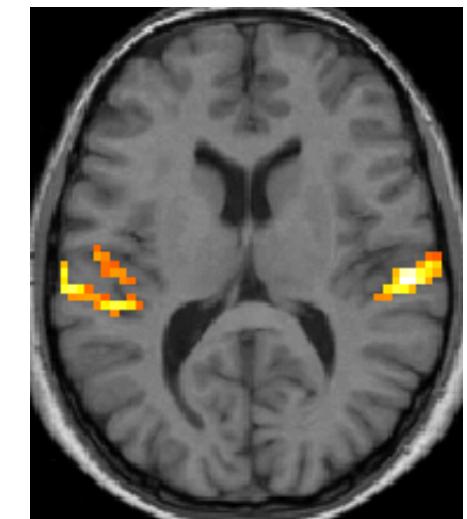
Posterior density  $q(\beta_n)$

probability of getting an effect, given the data

$$q(\beta_n) = N(\mu_n, \Sigma_n)$$

mean: *size of effect*

covariance: *uncertainty*



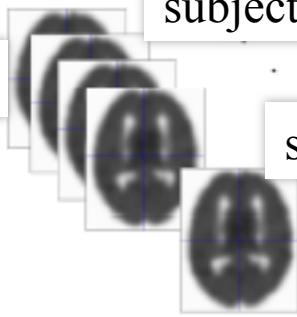
PPM (*spmP\_\*.img*)

# fMRI time series analysis with spatial priors: *Bayesian model selection*

$$\log p(y|m) \approx F(q)$$

Log-evidence maps

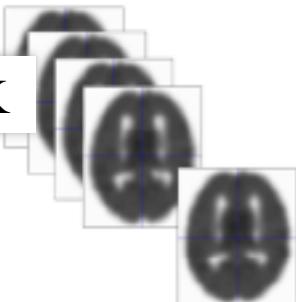
model 1



subject 1

subject N

model K



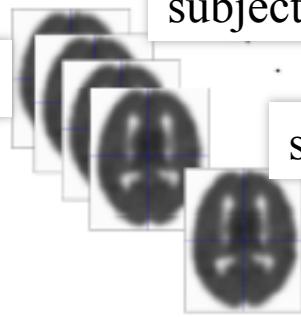
Compute log-evidence  
for each model/subject

# fMRI time series analysis with spatial priors: *Bayesian model selection*

$$\log p(y|m) \approx F(q)$$

Log-evidence maps

model 1  
subject 1



subject N

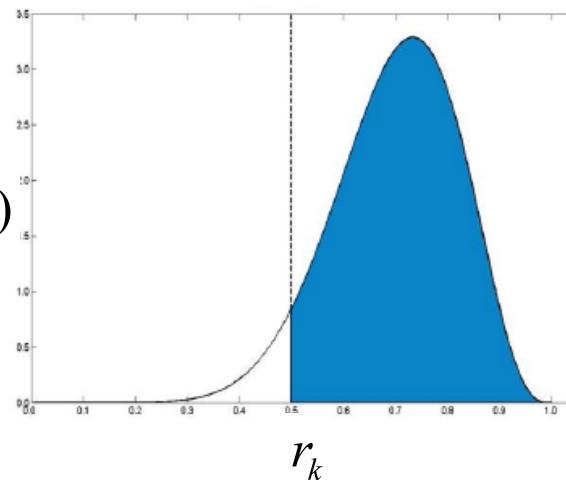
model K



Compute log-evidence  
for each model/subject

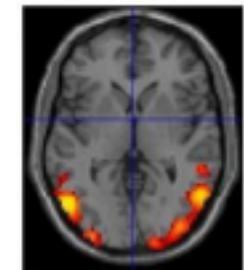
BMS maps

$$q(r_k > 0.5) = 0.941$$



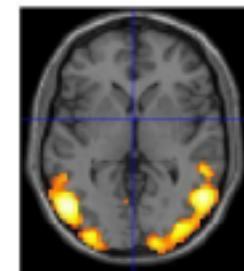
Probability that model  $k$   
generated data

$$\langle r_k \rangle > \gamma$$



PPM

$$\varphi_k > \gamma$$

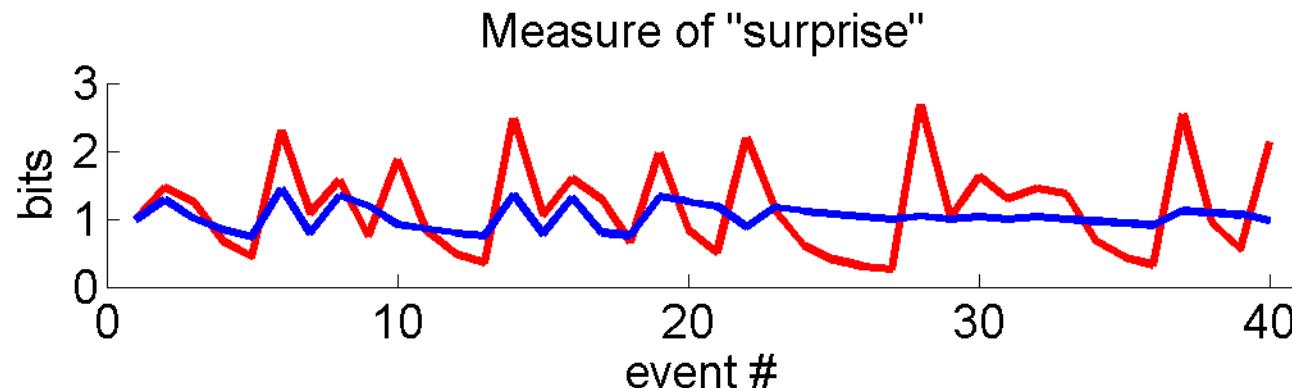
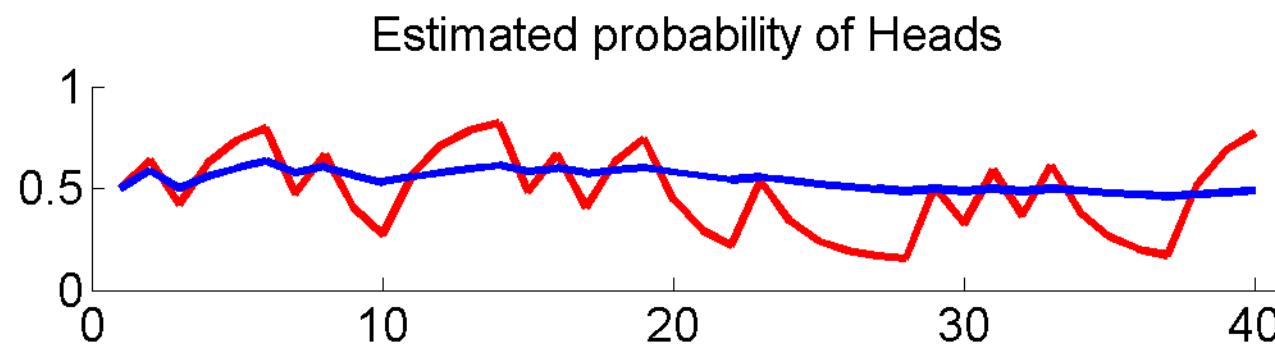
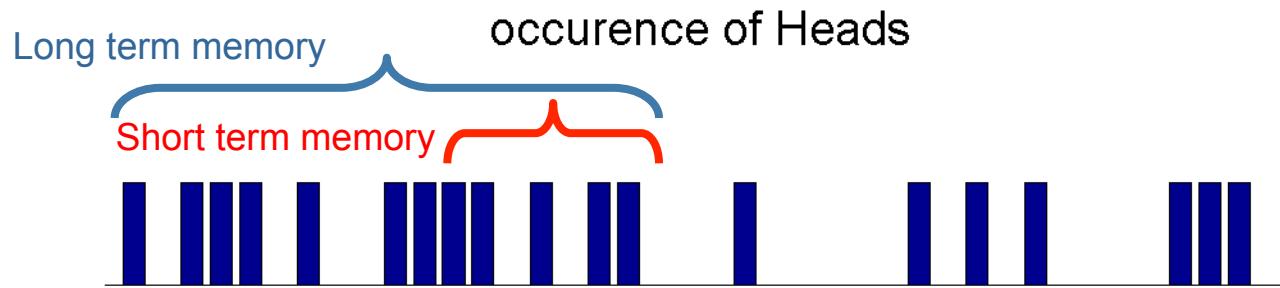


EPM

model  $k$

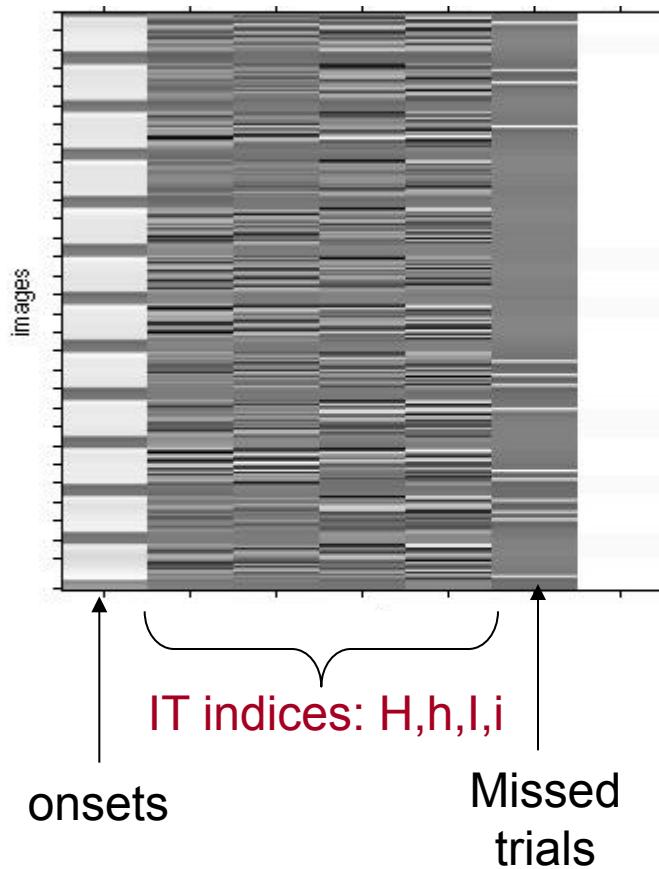
Joao et al, 2009

# Reminder...

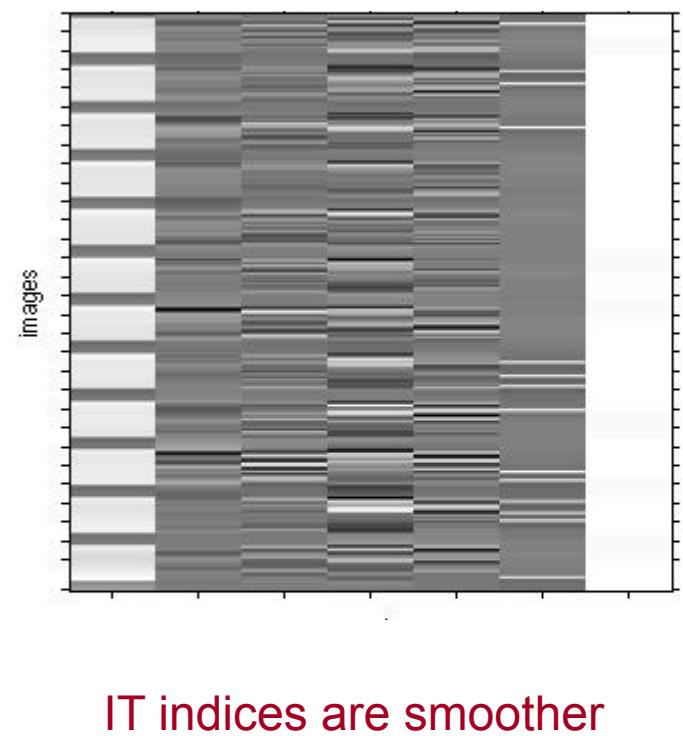


# Compare two models

Short-term memory model



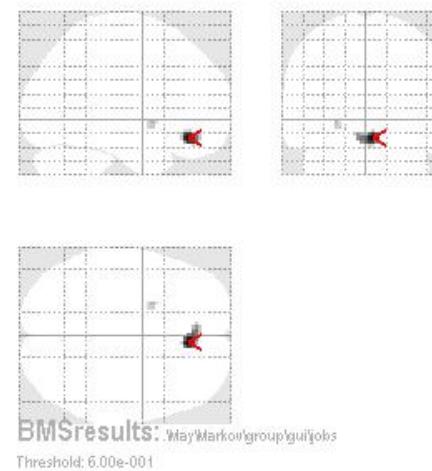
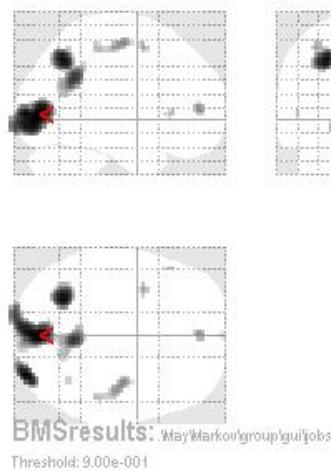
long-term memory model



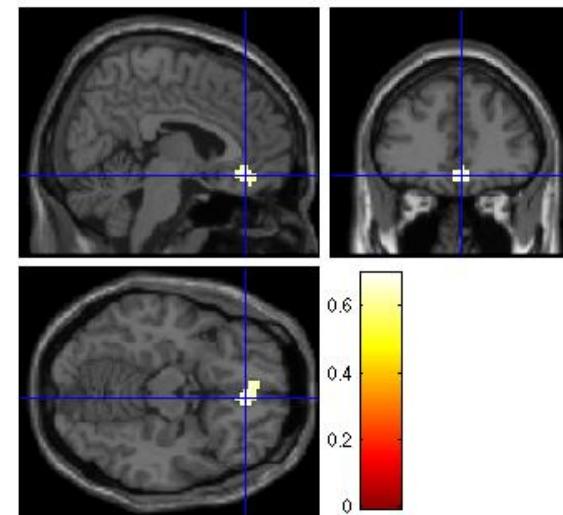
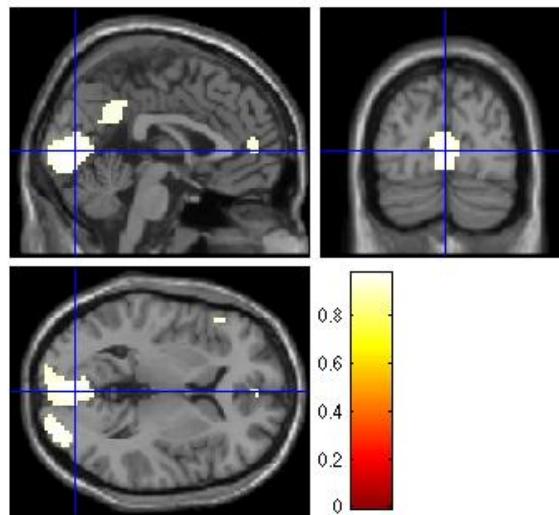
$H$ =entropy;  $h$ =surprise;  $I$ =mutual information;  $i$ =mutual surprise

# Group data: Bayesian Model Selection maps

Regions best explained by short-term memory model



Regions best explained by long-term memory model



frontal cortex (executive control)

Thank-you