

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics

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 - ▶ Systematically update my beliefs using data

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- ▶ Update probability distribution using data and Bayes Theorem

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- ▶ Can we say something systematic here?

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- ▶ In principle, we can get the proportionality constant by integrating the posterior over the range of θ
 - ▶ Total probability must equal 1
- ▶ Usually, we can just ignore the constant

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- ▶ Anything you want to say about θ can be described in terms of the posterior
- ▶ Let's illustrate with an example

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- ▶ Our parameter, θ , is the probability of getting heads

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- ▶ X is 41, so $\theta|X \sim \text{Beta}(41, 59)$

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- ▶ For our problem, mean is 0.41 and mode is 0.408
- ▶ Unfortunately, we don't always get nice posteriors

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 - ▶ Let's focus on the mean

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 - ▶ Many tricks to improve performance
 - ▶ Often depends on the structure of the problem

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 - ▶ Variational Bayes
- ▶ Many, many more of both