Brief review of elementary statistics: parameter estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing

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9.S918: Quantitative Inference in Brain and Cognitive Sciences

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- In general, here we will use ${\bf y}$ to refer to observed-outcome **data** and θ to refer to the model parameters to be estimated

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Good estimators have favorable bias-variance tradeoff

$$\operatorname{Lik}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \boldsymbol{y}) \equiv P(\boldsymbol{y} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \qquad \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{MLE} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \operatorname{Lik}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \boldsymbol{y}) \qquad \begin{vmatrix} \boldsymbol{i} & \boldsymbol{y}_{i} \\ 1 & T \\ 2 & T \\ 3 & H \\ 4 & T \end{vmatrix}$$

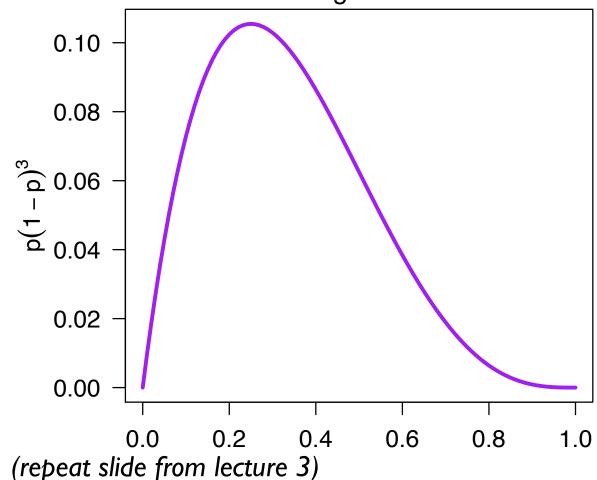
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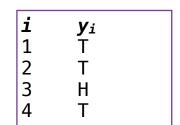
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- Likelihood for the following dataset

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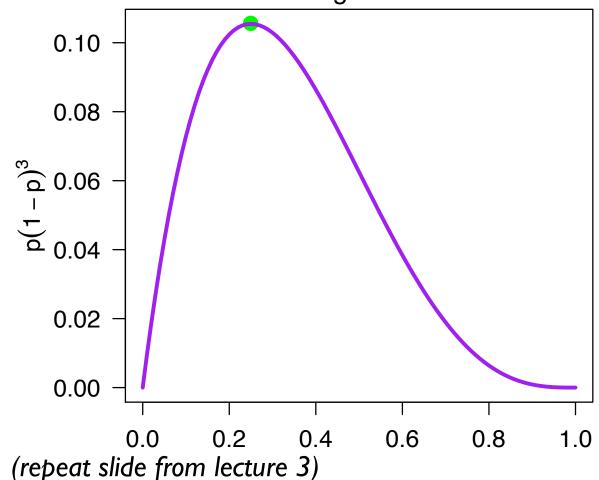
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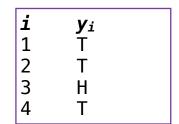




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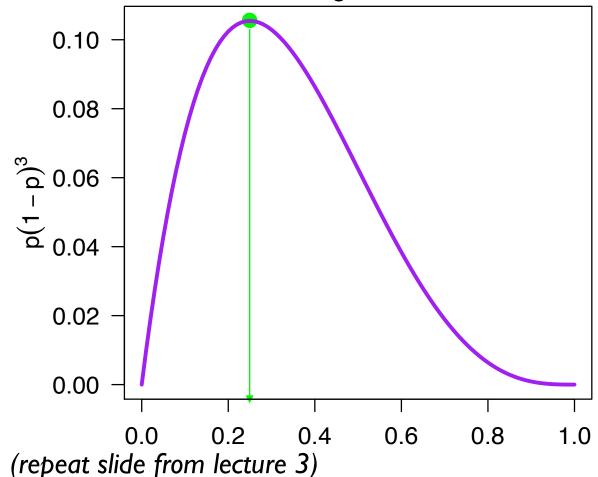
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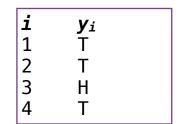




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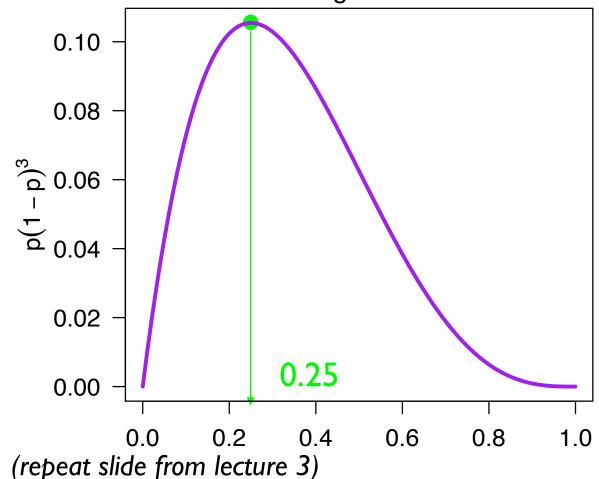
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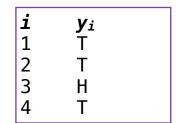




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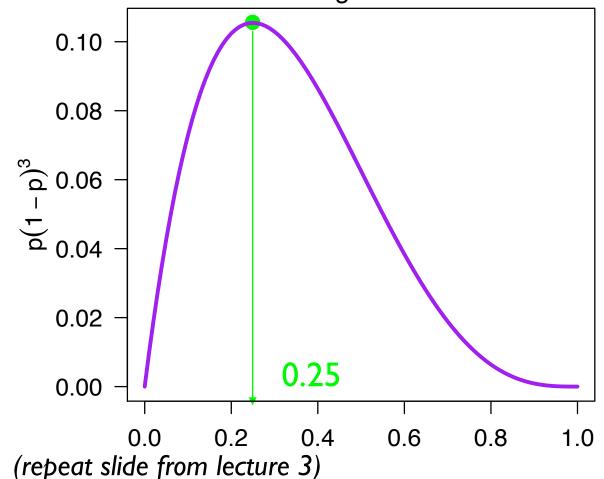




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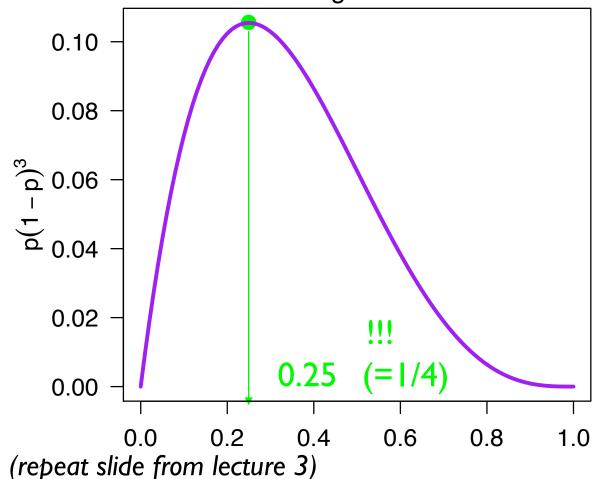


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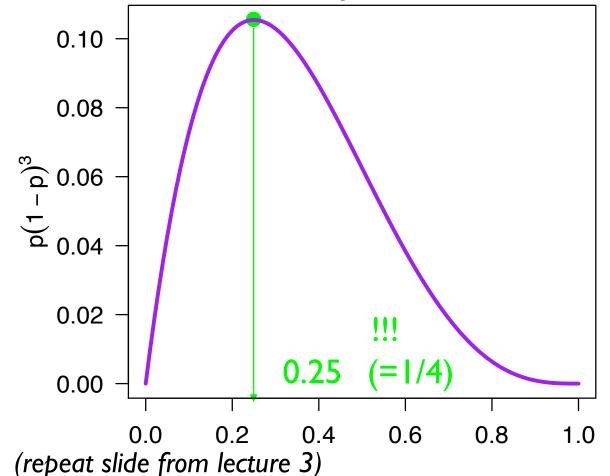
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The MLE also turns out to be the relative frequency estimate (RFE)

4

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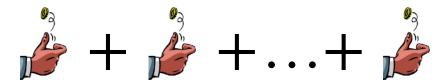
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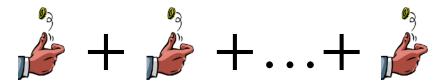


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 A binomial random variable has the following probability mass function:

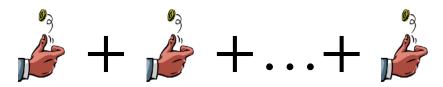
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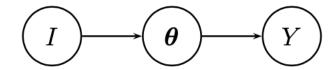
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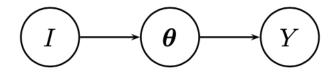
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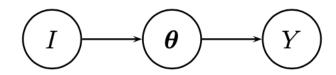


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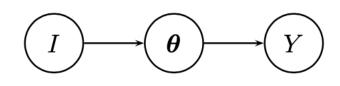
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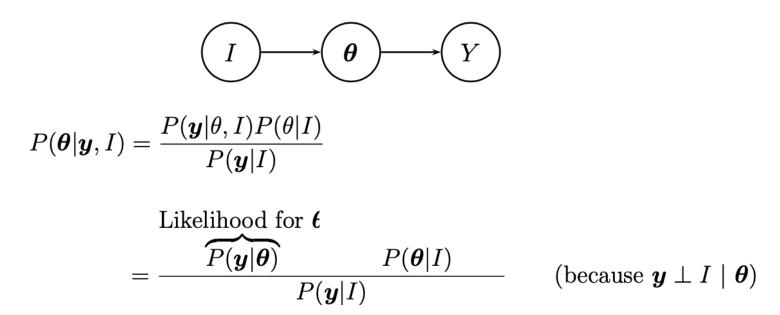


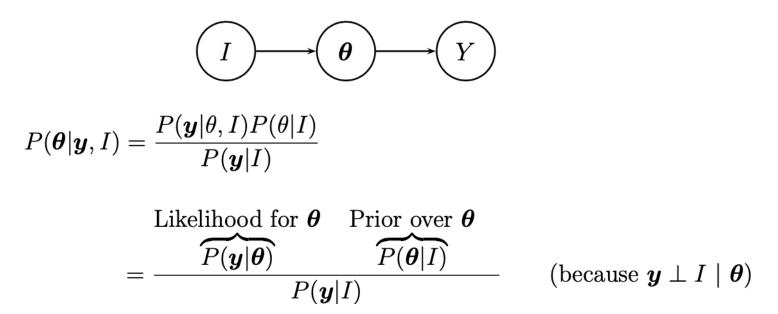
$$P(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\boldsymbol{y},I) = \frac{P(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{\theta},I)P(\boldsymbol{\theta}|I)}{P(\boldsymbol{y}|I)}$$

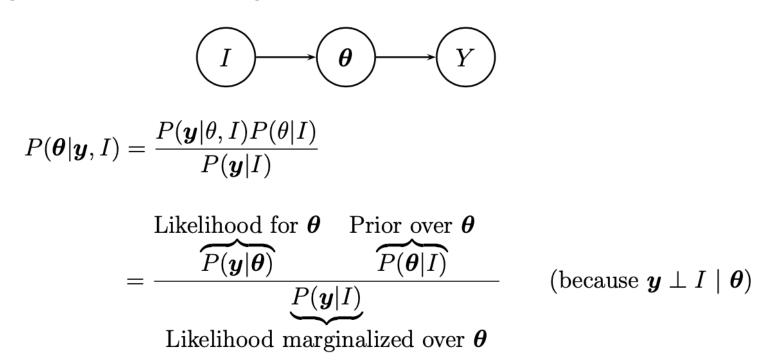


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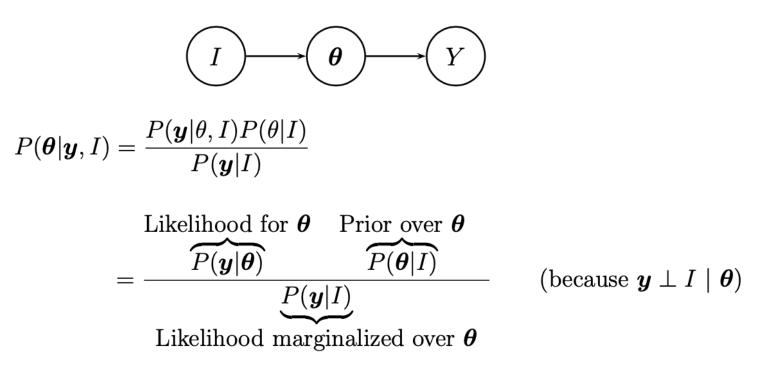
$$= \frac{P(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \qquad P(\boldsymbol{\theta}|I)}{P(\boldsymbol{y}|I)} \qquad \text{(because } \boldsymbol{y} \perp I \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}\text{)}$$







 Assume that the model parameters "intervene" between background knowledge I and data Y:



• Then, if we assume a parametric form for $P(\mathbf{y} \mid \theta)$, we just need the prior $P(\theta \mid I)$

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Normalizing constant, not of great interest for present purposes

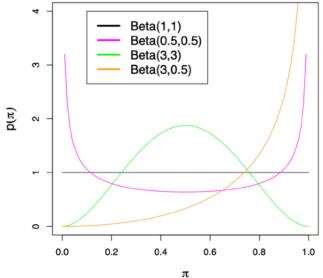
$$B(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = \int_0^1 \pi^{\alpha_1 - 1} (1 - \pi)^{\alpha_2 - 1} d\pi$$

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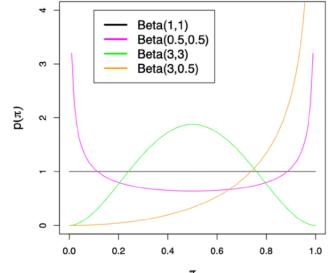


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• Cool thing about the beta distribution: the posterior is also beta distributed! For y = m successes in n trials:

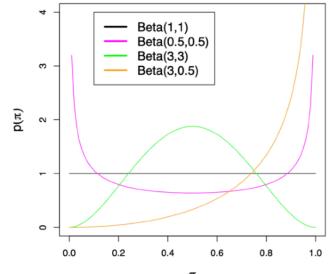
$$P(\pi|\boldsymbol{y},\alpha_1,\alpha_2) \propto \overbrace{\pi^m(1-\pi)^{n-m}}^{\text{Likelihood}} \overbrace{\pi^{\alpha_1-1}(1-\pi)^{\alpha_2-1}}^{\text{Prior}}$$

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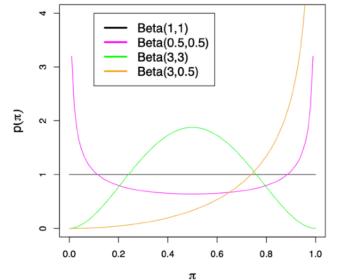
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$$P(\pi|\alpha_1,\alpha_2) = 1$$
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$$\propto \pi^{m+\alpha_1-1} (1-\pi)^{n-m+\alpha_2-1}$$

 This property is called conjugacy and is convenient where available!



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• My prior for P(heads): a $\alpha_1 = 3, \alpha_2 = 24$ Beta prior

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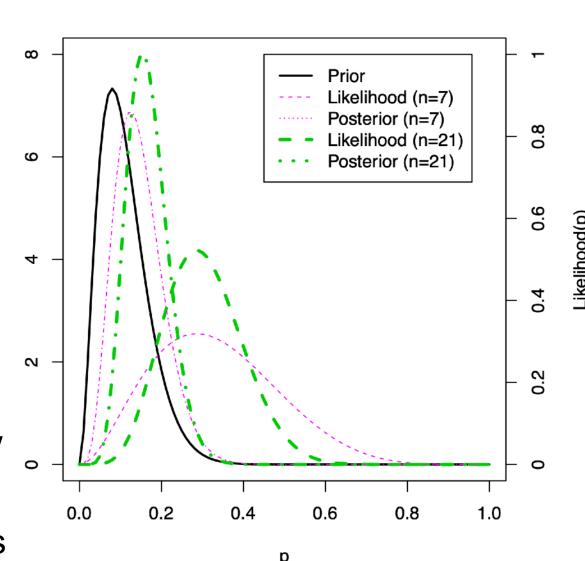


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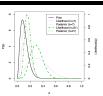
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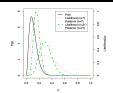
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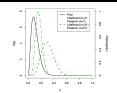


Posterior mean

$$E[\pi \mid I] = \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}$$

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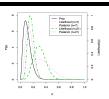
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Our example

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Beta distribution



Our example

Posterior mean

$$E[\pi | I] = \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}$$

$$E[\pi \mid y, I] = \frac{\alpha_1 + m}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + n}$$

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 $P(\mathsf{heads}) = \pi$ $P(\pi) = \mathsf{Beta}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ Observe m heads out of n flips

Beta distribution



Our example

Posterior mean

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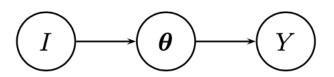
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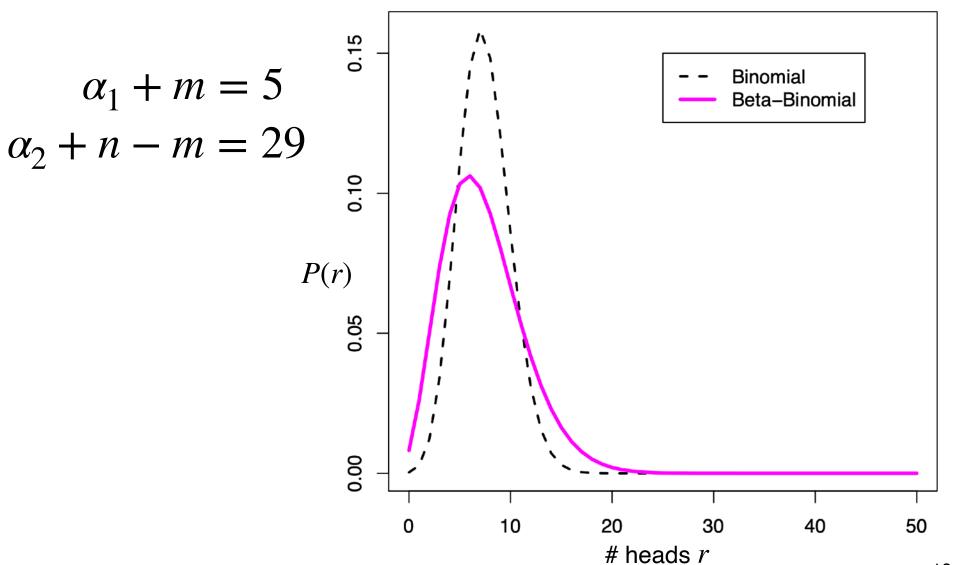
$$\rightarrow \text{The Beta-Binomial model: } P(r|k,I,\boldsymbol{y}) = \binom{k}{r} \frac{B(\alpha_1+m+r,\alpha_2+n-m+k-r)}{B(\alpha_1+m,\alpha_2+n-m)}$$

$$\alpha_1 + m = 5$$

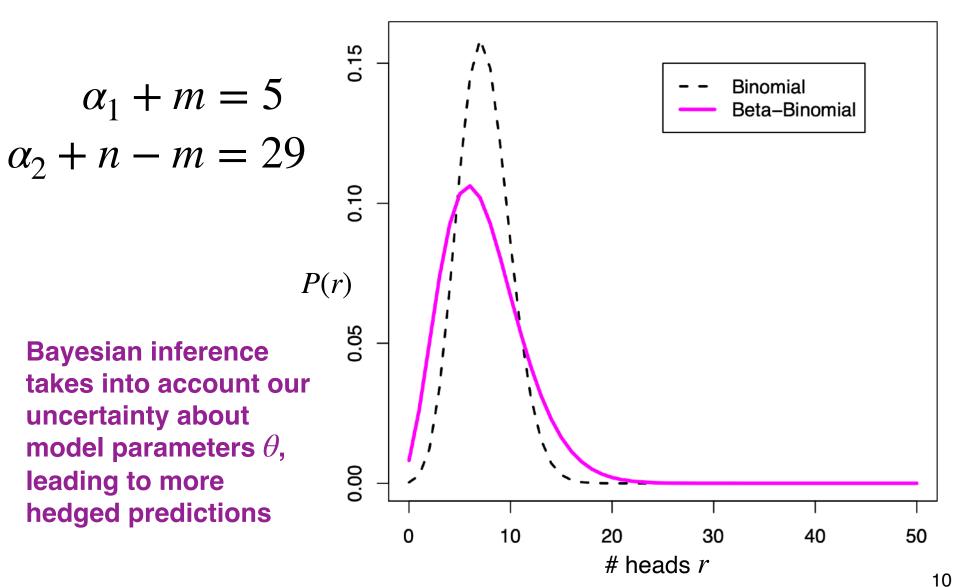
$$\alpha_1 + m = 5$$

$$\alpha_2 + n - m = 29$$

• Say we'll flip the coin k=50 more times



10



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- As data become plentiful*, choice of prior often but not always recedes in importance
 *What counts as "plentiful" depends on size of the model and structure of the data

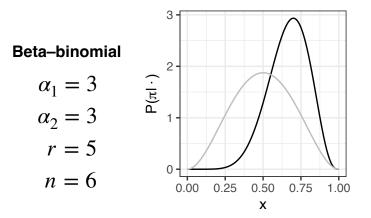
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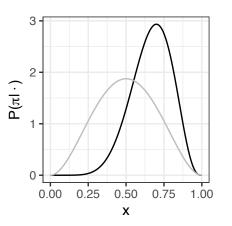
Point estimates we have seen thus far:

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$$\alpha_2 = 3$$

$$r = 5$$

$$n = 6$$



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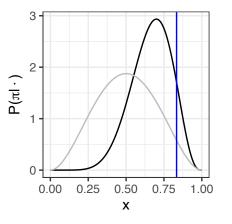
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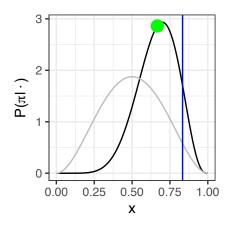
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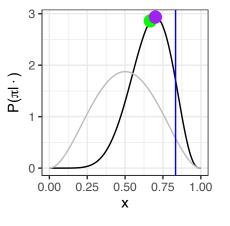
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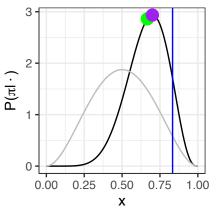
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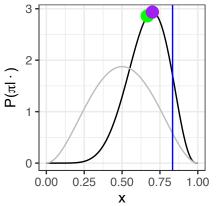
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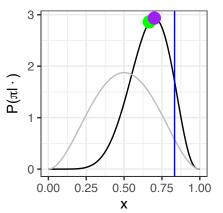
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- Credible intervals (Bayesian) and confidence intervals (frequentist) provide a bit more information about this uncertainty

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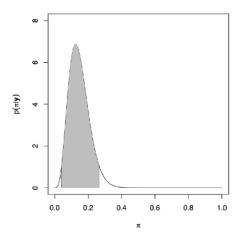
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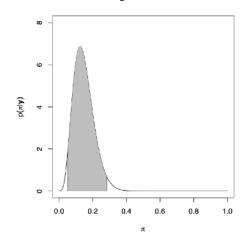
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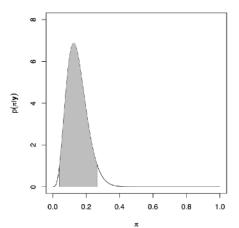
Symmetric



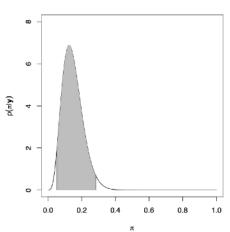
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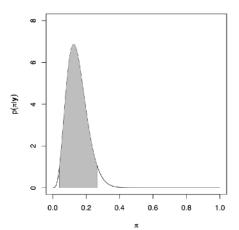


Older term: "Bayesian confidence interval"

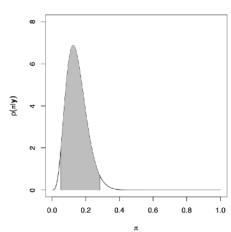
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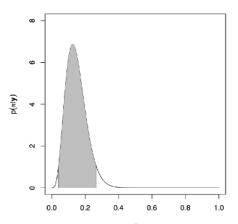


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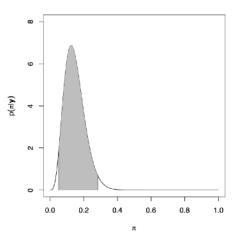
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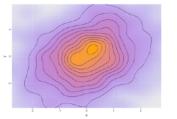
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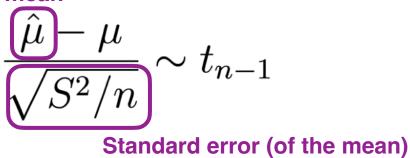
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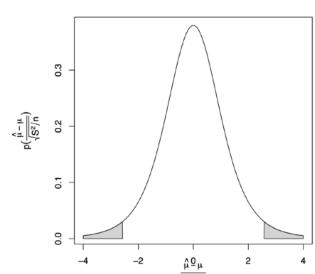
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Bayes Factor:
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Interpreting Bayes Factors

$$K = \frac{P(\boldsymbol{y}|H)}{P(\boldsymbol{y}|H')}$$

log ₁₀ <i>K</i>	K	Strength of evidence
0 to 1/2	1 to 3.2	Not worth more than a bare mention
1/2 to 1	3.2 to 10	Substantial
1 to 2	10 to 100	Strong
> 2	> 100	Decisive

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 $0 \le \pi \le 1$ "The coin is not fair"*

Once again the case of the bent coin

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$$P(\mathbf{y}|H_3) = \int_{\pi} P(\mathbf{y}|\pi) P(\pi|H_3) d\pi = \int_0^1 \binom{6}{4} \pi^4 (1-\pi)^2 \frac{P(\pi|H_3)}{1} d\pi = \binom{6}{4} B(5,3) = 0.14$$

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$$\frac{P(\mathbf{y}|H_1)}{P(\mathbf{y}|H_3)} = \frac{0.23}{0.14}$$

$$= 1.64$$

 The Neyman–Pearson paradigm: Formulate two hypotheses about generative process underlying the data

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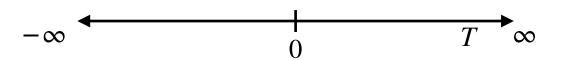
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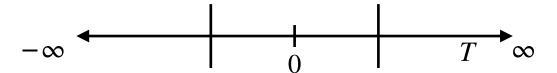


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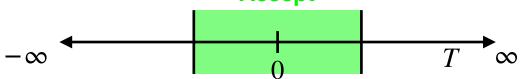


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$$H_0$$
 is... Accept H_0 Reject H_0

True Correct decision (prob. $1-\alpha$) Type I error (prob. α)

False Type II error (prob. β) Correct decision (prob. $1-\beta$)

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	Accept H_0	Reject H_0	Significance level
H_0 is	Correct decision (prob. $1 - \alpha$) Type II error (prob. β)	Type I error (pro Correct decision (

 The Neyman–Pearson paradigm: Formulate two hypotheses about generative process underlying the data

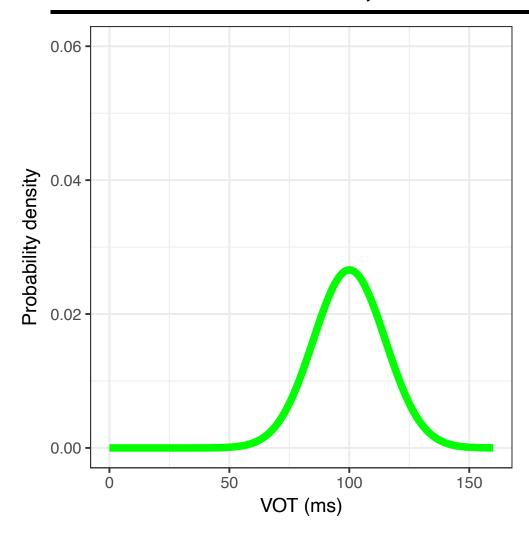
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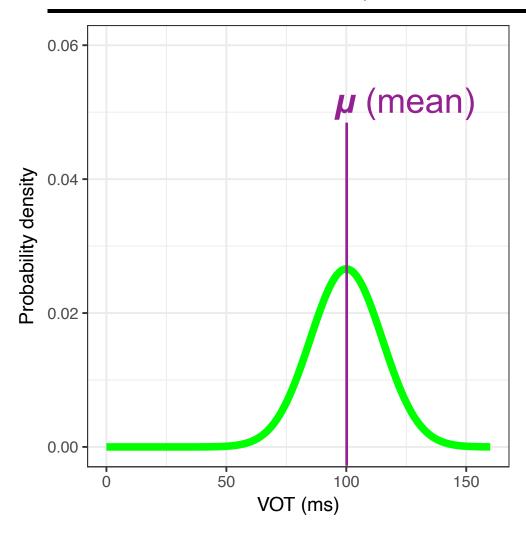
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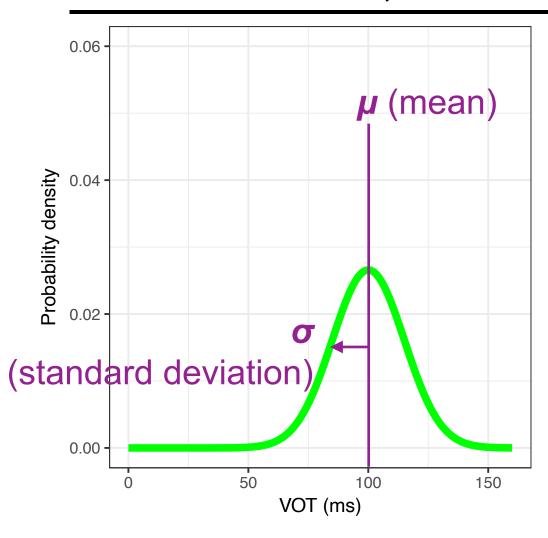
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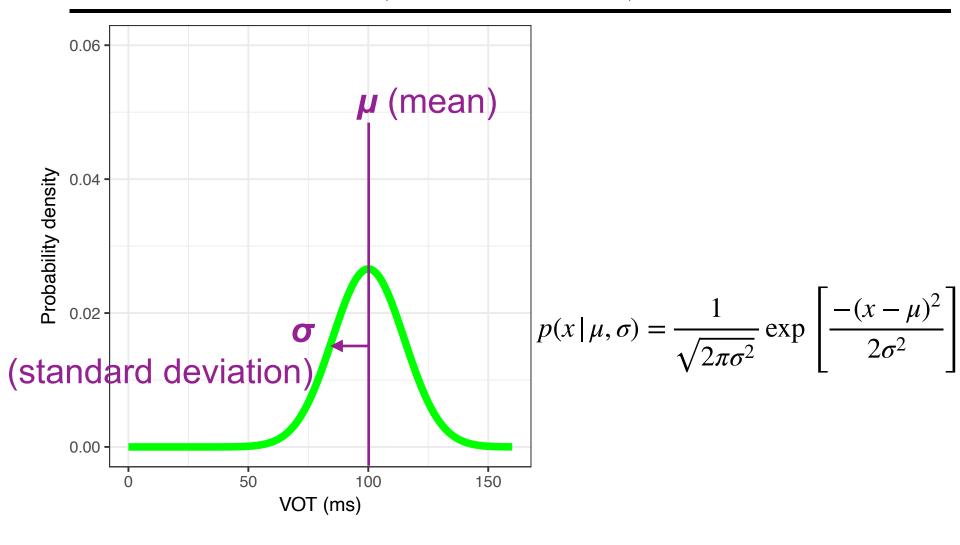


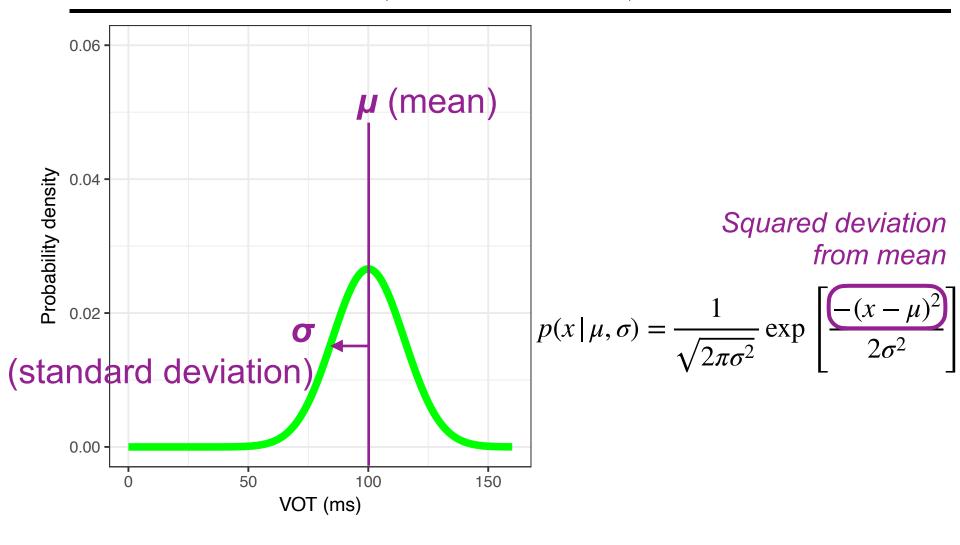
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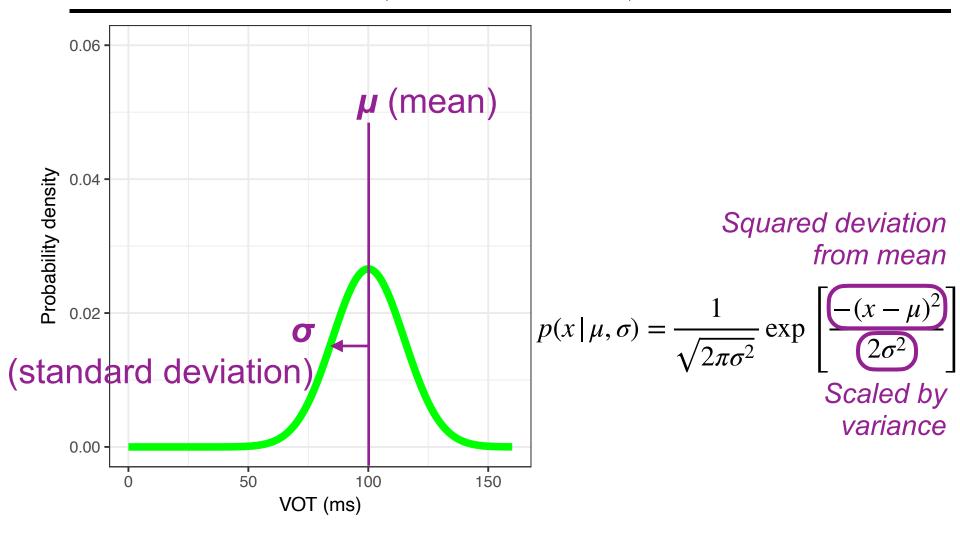


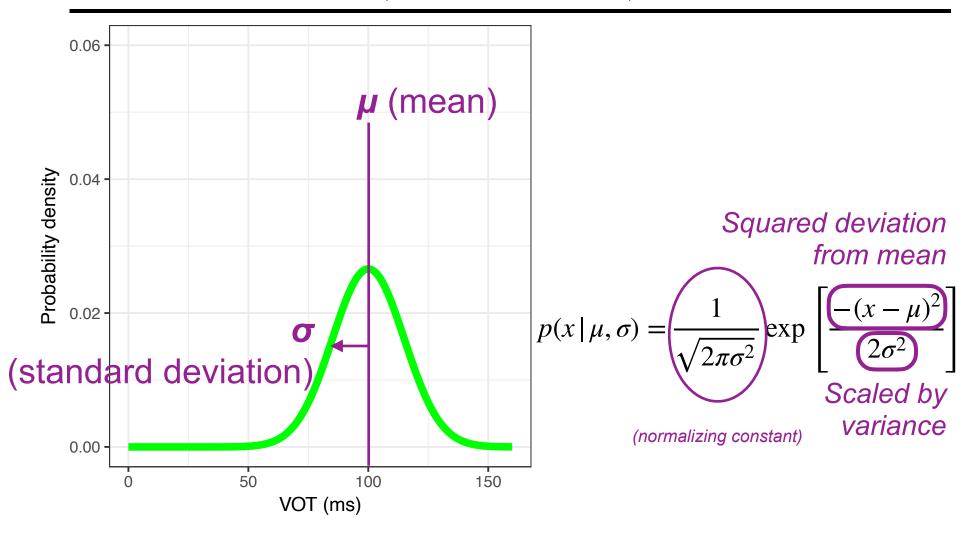


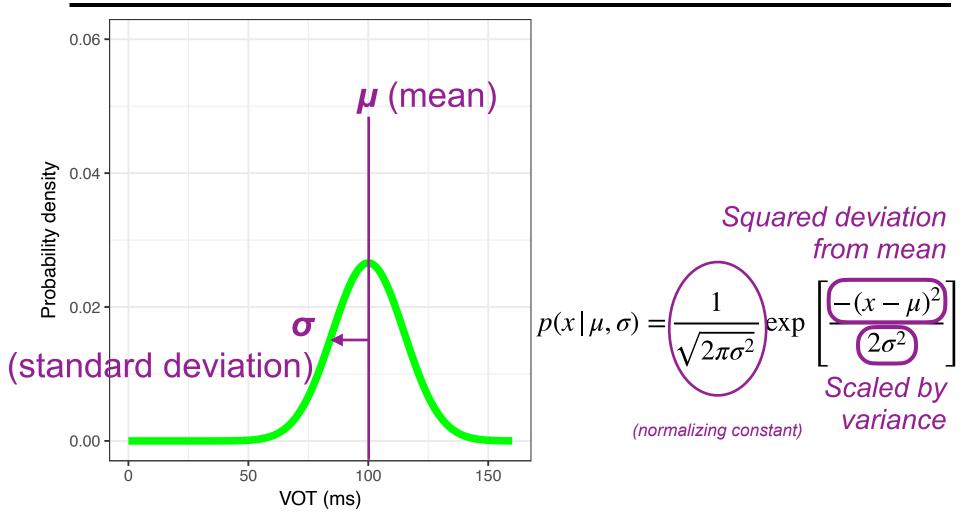








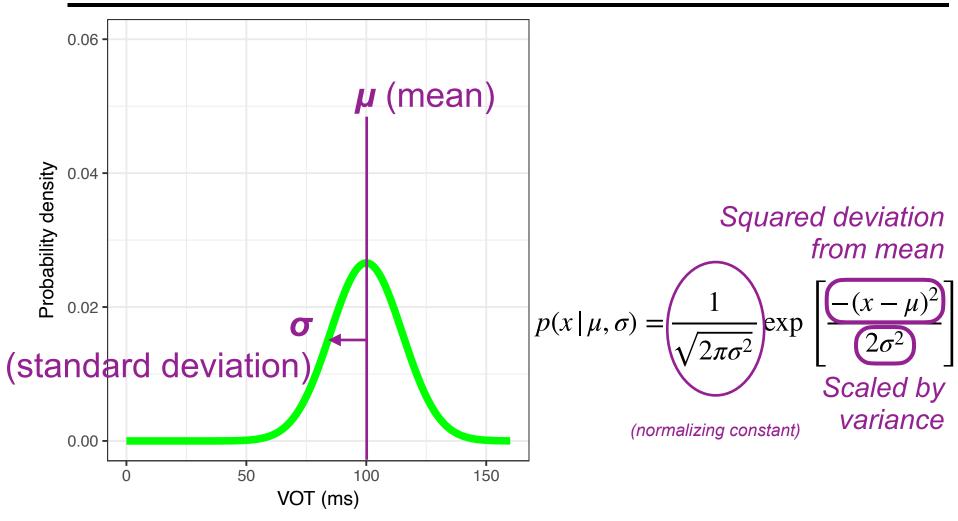




• Unbiased parameter estimates from a size-N sample:

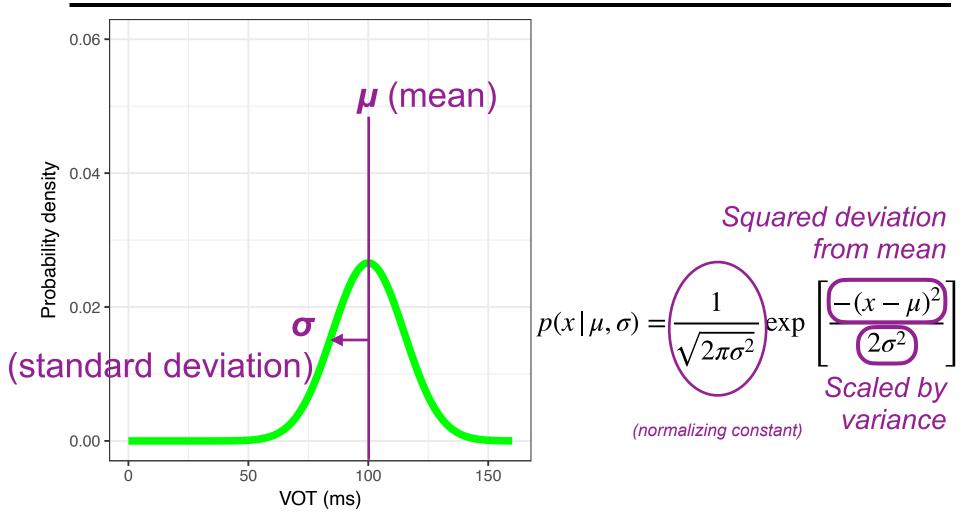
$$\hat{u} = \bar{x}$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \triangleq$$



• Unbiased parameter estimates from a size-N sample:

$$\hat{\mu} = \overline{\bar{x}}$$
 Sample mean $\hat{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \triangleq$



Unbiased parameter estimates from a size-N sample:

$$\hat{\mu} = \overline{ar{x}}$$
 Sample mean

$$\hat{S} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \triangleq S$$
 Sample standard deviation

The *t*-test: three variants

- One sample (Student's) test: Does the underlying population mean of a sample differ from zero?
- Two-sample test (unpaired): do the underlying population means of two samples differ from one another?

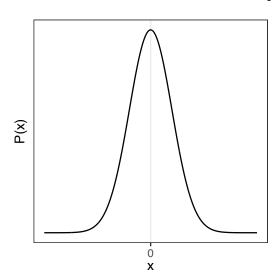
William Sealy Gosset, a.k.a. Student

 Two-sample test (paired): You have a sample of individuals from the population and take measurements from each member of the sample in two different conditions. Do the underlying population means in the two conditions differ from one another?

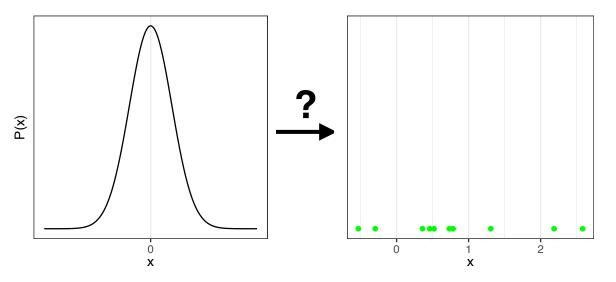
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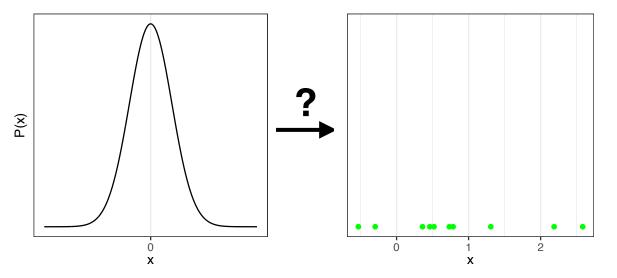
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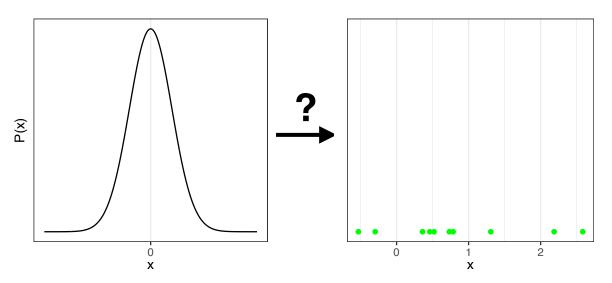


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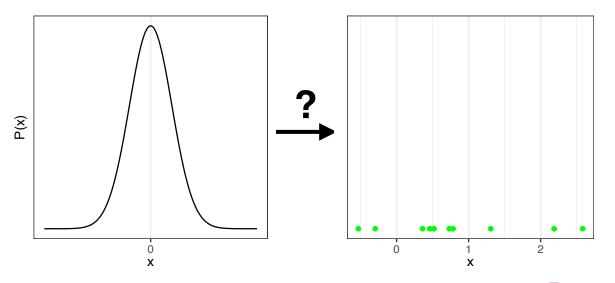
Test statistic:
$$t = \frac{x}{s/\sqrt{n}}$$

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$$t = \frac{\bar{x}}{s/\sqrt{n}}$$

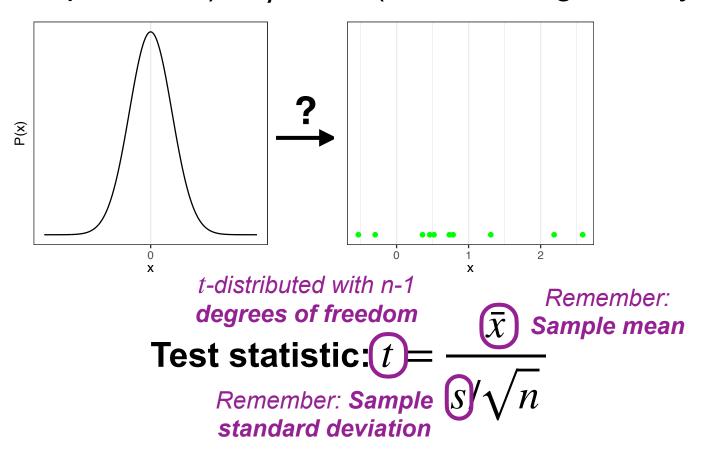
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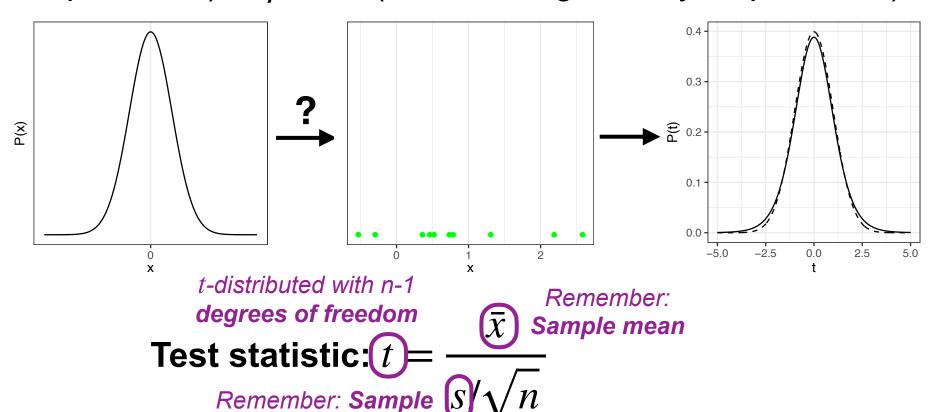
Test statistic: $t = \frac{\bar{x}}{\bar{x}}$ Sample mean

Remember: Sample \sqrt{n} standard deviation

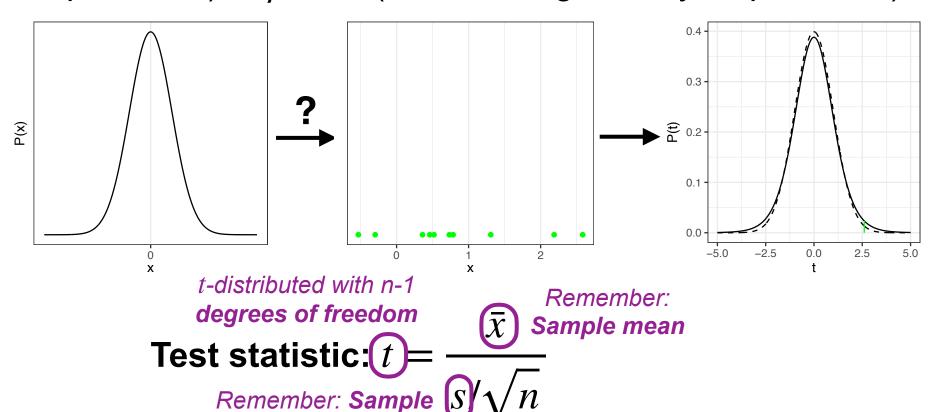
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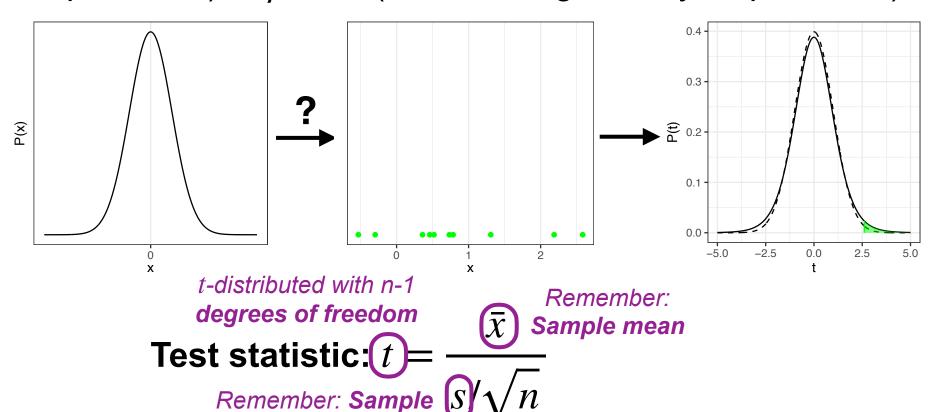
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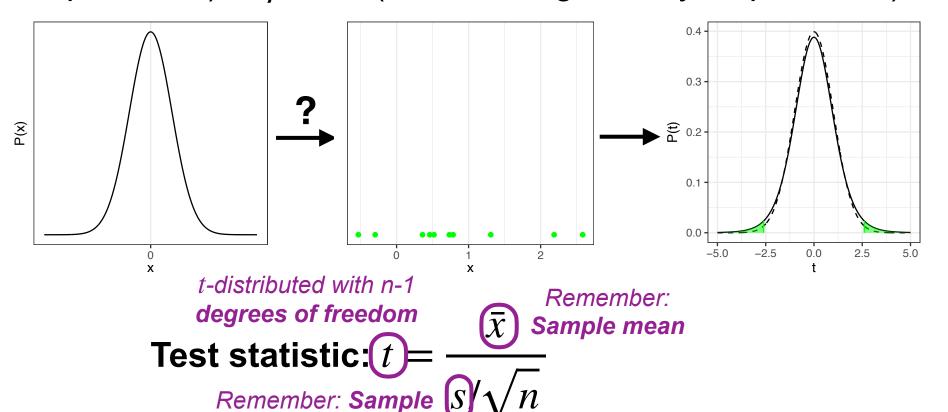
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$$t = \frac{\bar{x_1} - \bar{x_2}}{s_p \sqrt{1/n_1 + 1/n_2}} \quad \text{where} \quad s_p = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n} + n_2 - 2}$$

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$$standard \ deviation$$

Two-sample *t*-test (unpaired)

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Two-sample *t*-test (unpaired)

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$$t = \frac{s_p}{s_p \sqrt{1/n_1 + 1/n_2}} \text{ Pooled sample standard deviation}$$

 If we do not assume that the two underlying populations have equal variance ("Welch's" t-test):

Two-sample *t*-test (unpaired)

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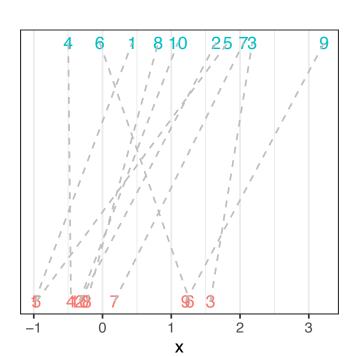
$$= \frac{\bar{x_1} - \bar{x_2}}{\sqrt{s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2}}$$
t-distributed with a complex number of degrees of freedom whose formula can easily be looked up

Assumptions:

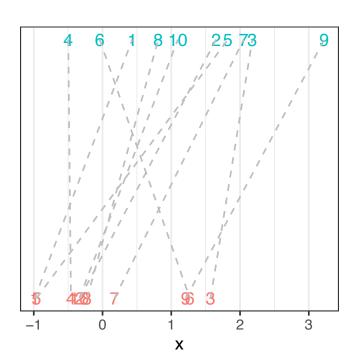
• In a sample of **units** from a population; for each unit we have two **measurements** $\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$ on the same scale

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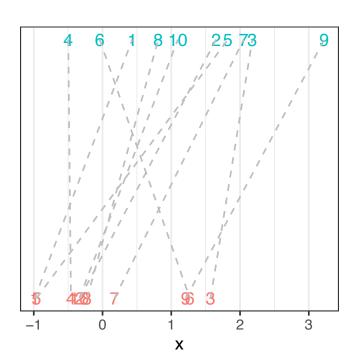
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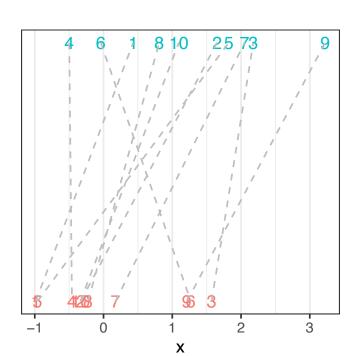
- In a sample of **units** from a population; for each unit we have two **measurements** $\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$ on the same scale
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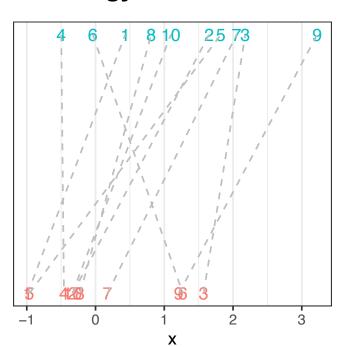
- In a sample of **units** from a population; for each unit we have two **measurements** $\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$ on the same scale
- The difference between measurements is iid normal
- (Sufficient condition: paired measurements are **bivariate normal** a distr. we haven't yet covered)



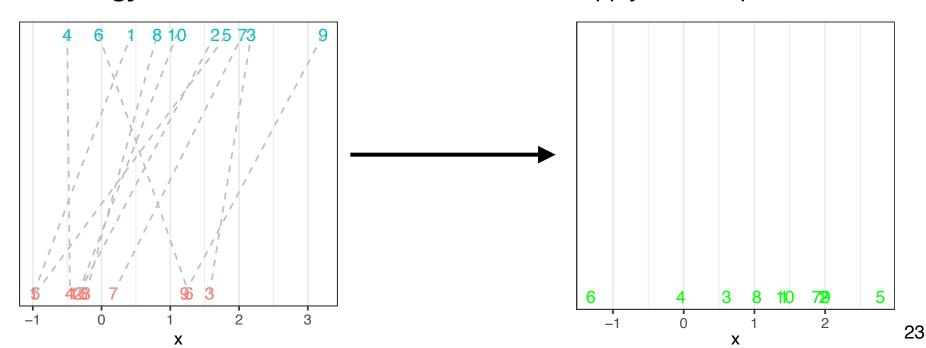
- In a sample of **units** from a population; for each unit we have two **measurements** $\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$ on the same scale
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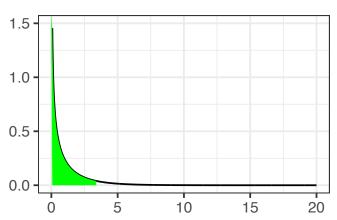
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