

Semantic conjugate prior

Def. For a likelihood $p(x | \theta)$ with “sufficient statistics”, there exists a *conjugate* [...] *prior density function*(s) such that the posterior $p(\theta | x, \tau)$ is in the same class as the prior $p(\theta | \tau)$.¹

1. [Bernardo, J., & Smith, A. *Bayesian Theory*.]

Thm 1. The Dirichlet distribution is a conjugate prior for the Categorical distribution. Moreover, the posterior has a closed form solution.





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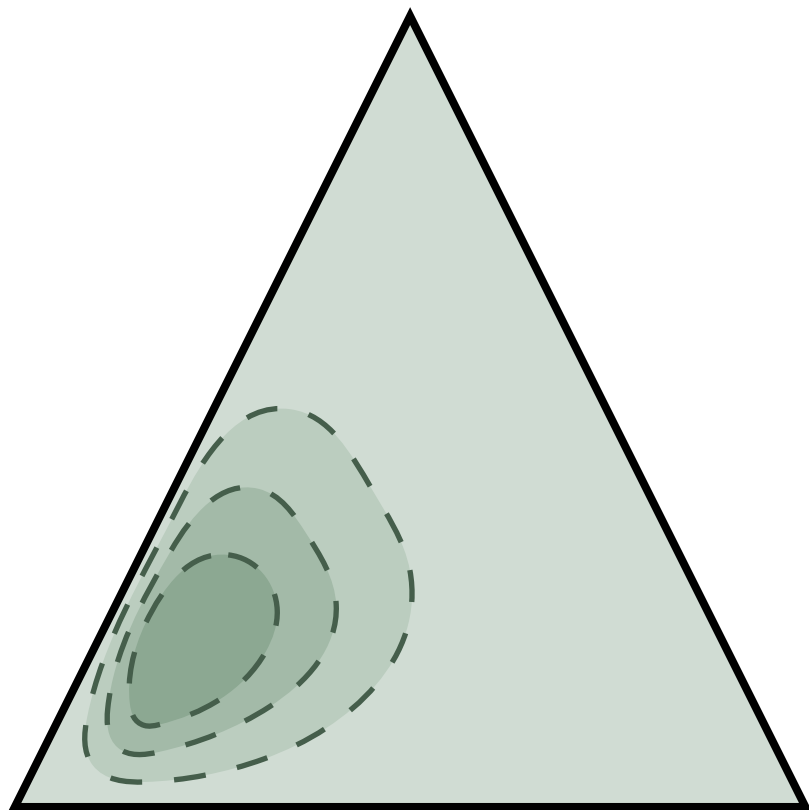
Snow

Ice

Dirt

Likelihood

Snow



Ice

Dirt

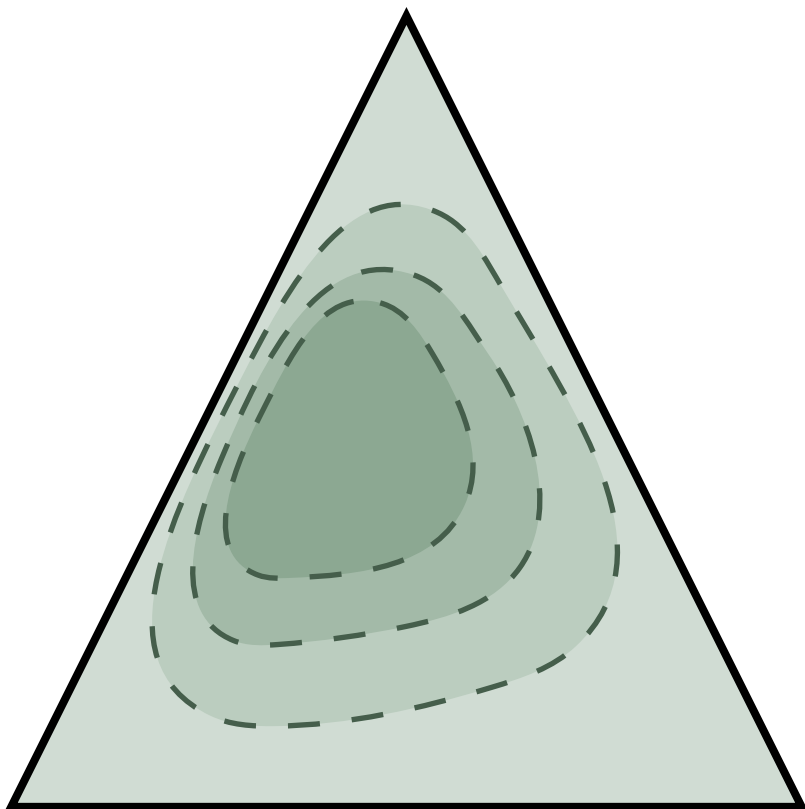
Posterior

Snow

Ice

Dirt

Prior

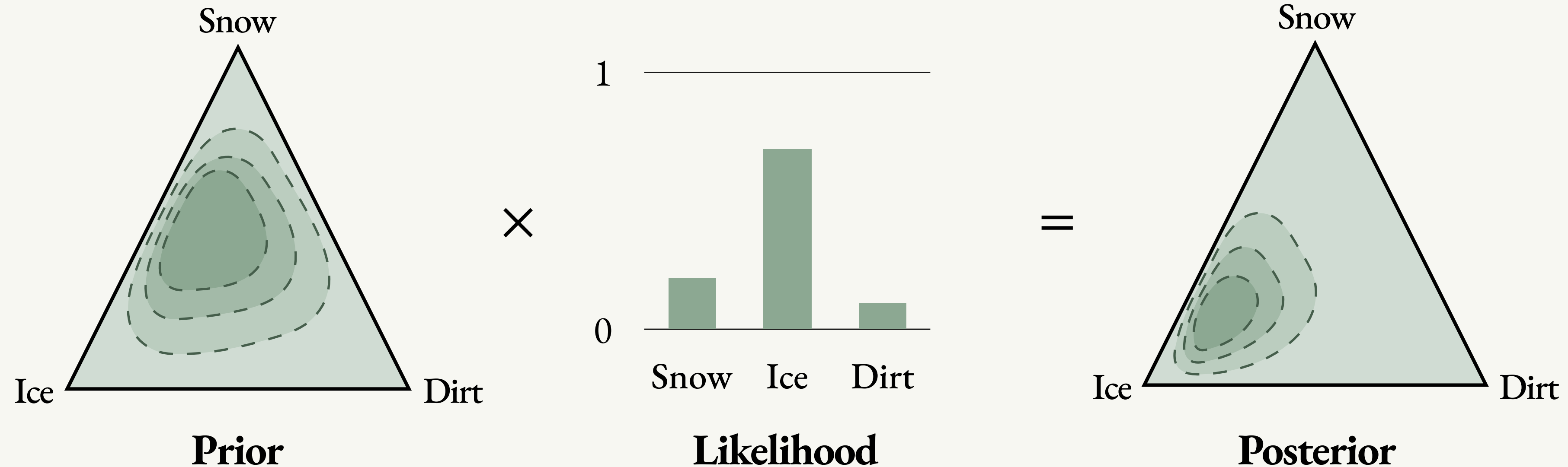


Insight: Dirichlet “models” the uncertainty of segmentation prior to physical measurements

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Update measurements with semantics