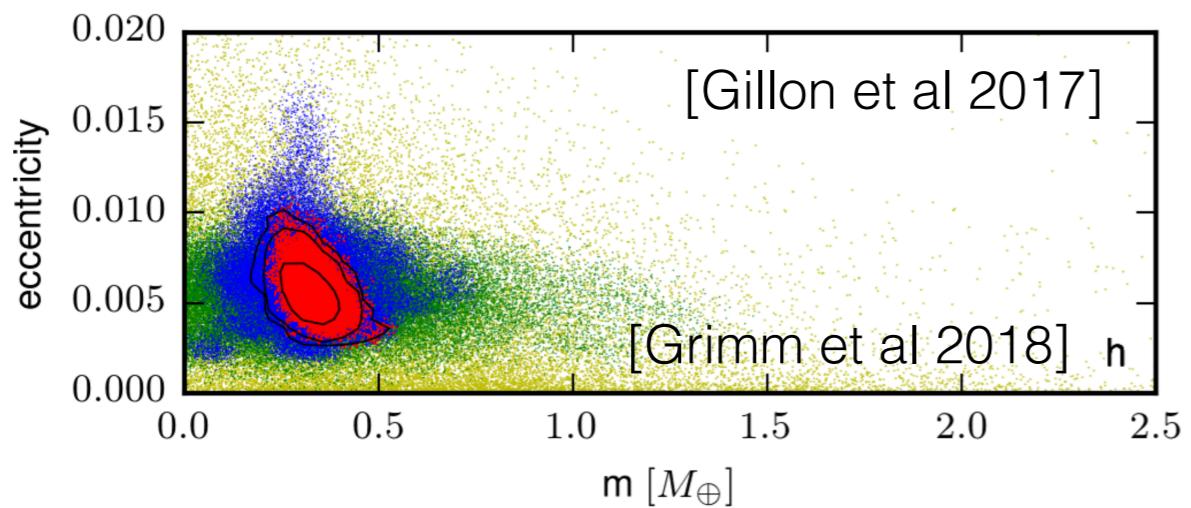


# Variational Bayes and beyond: Bayesian inference for big data

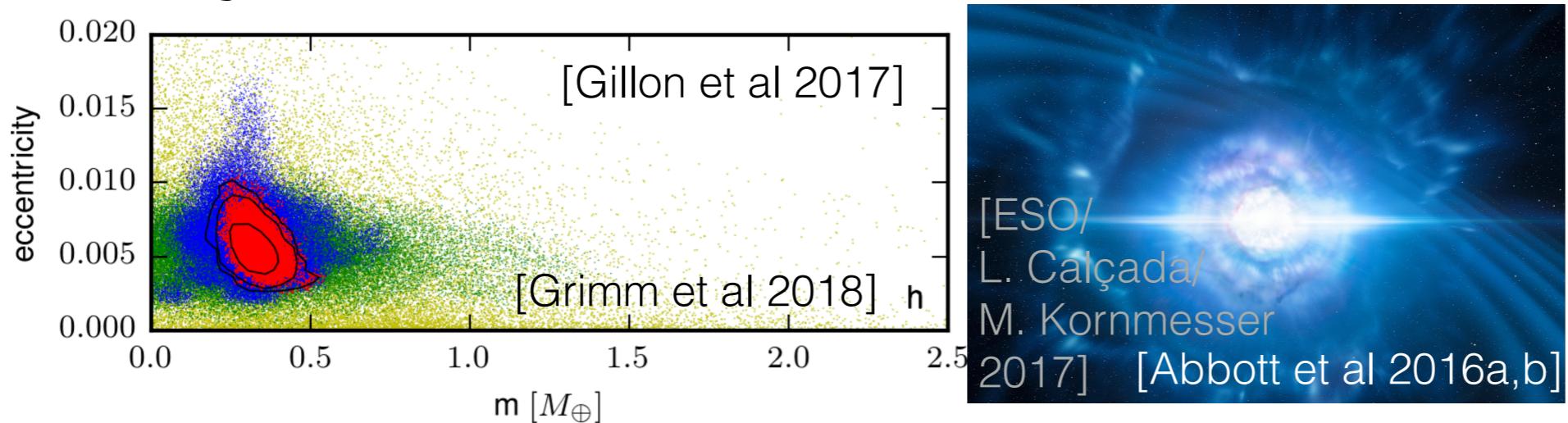
Tamara Broderick  
Associate Professor,  
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science  
MIT

# Bayesian inference

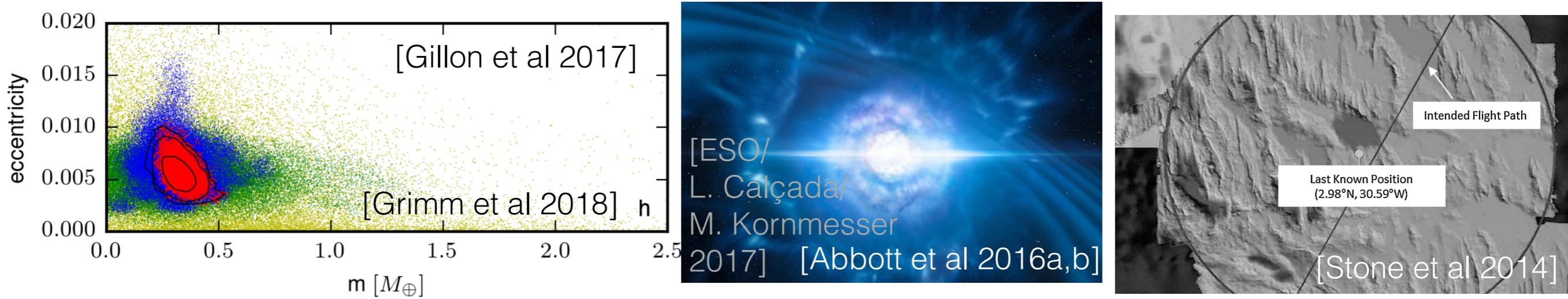
# Bayesian inference



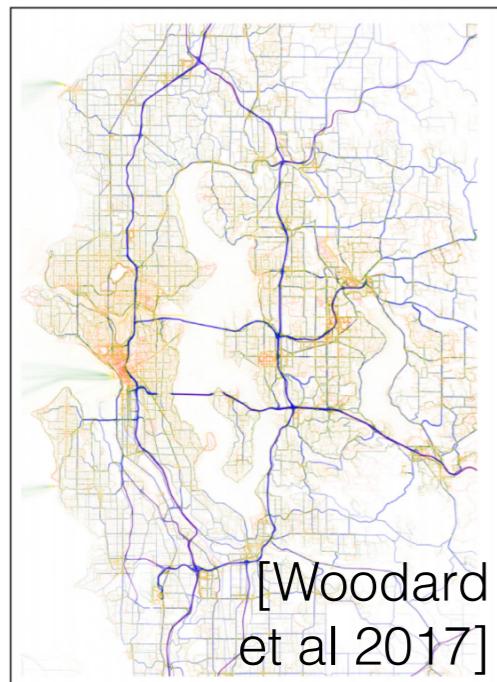
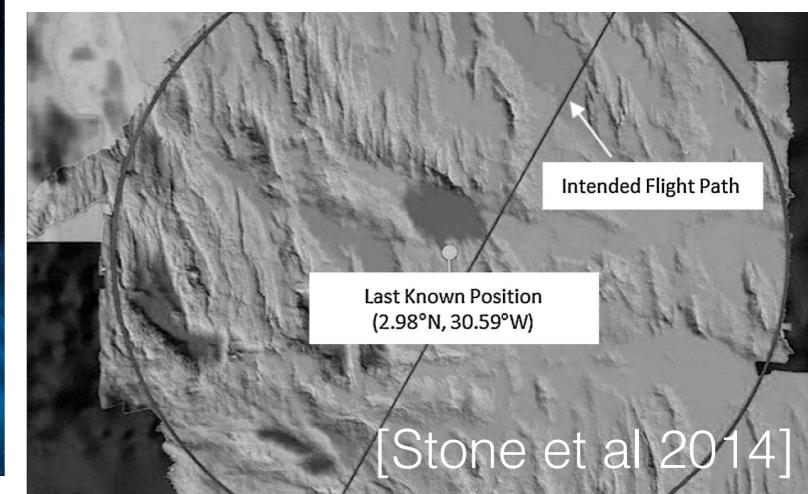
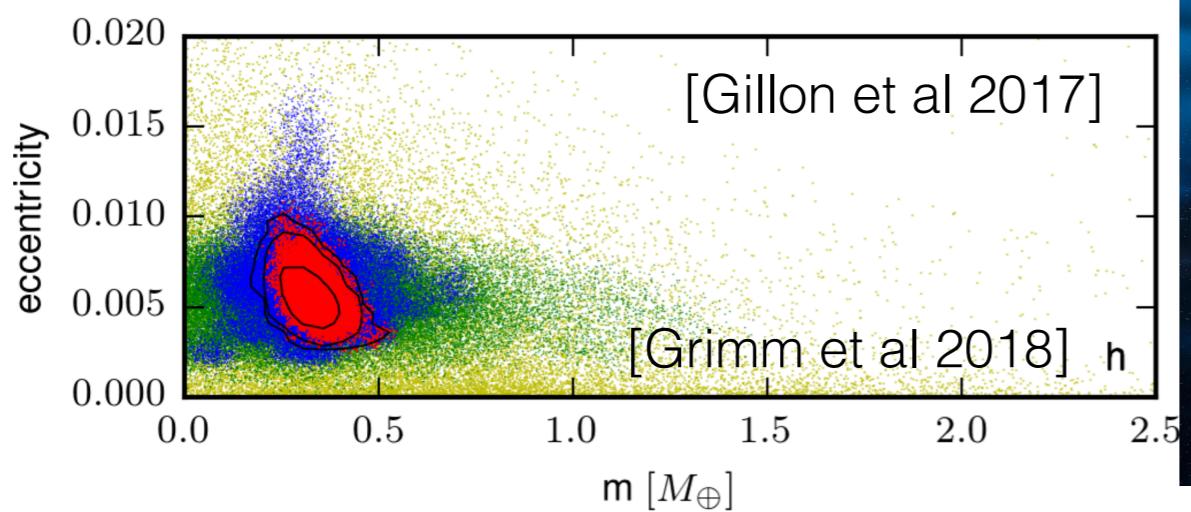
# Bayesian inference



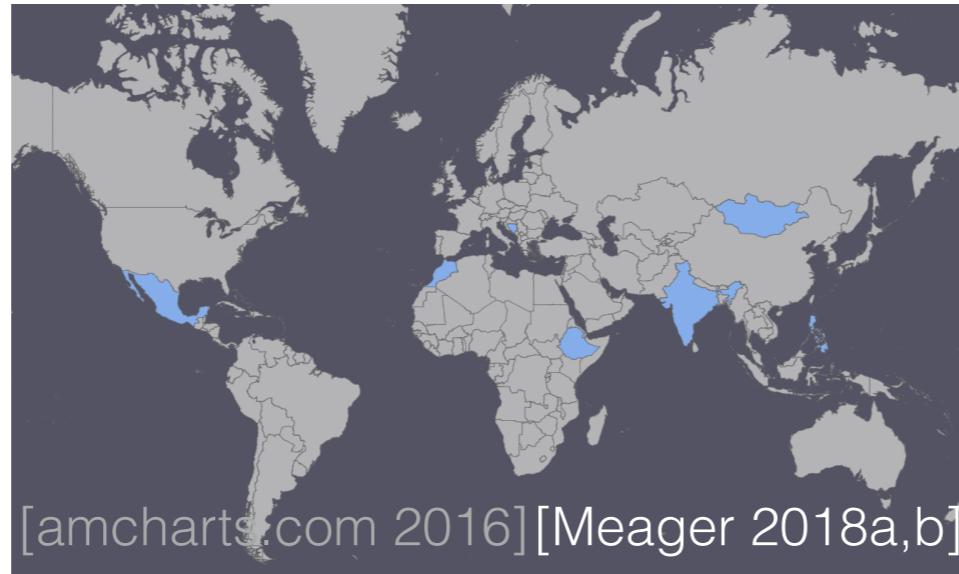
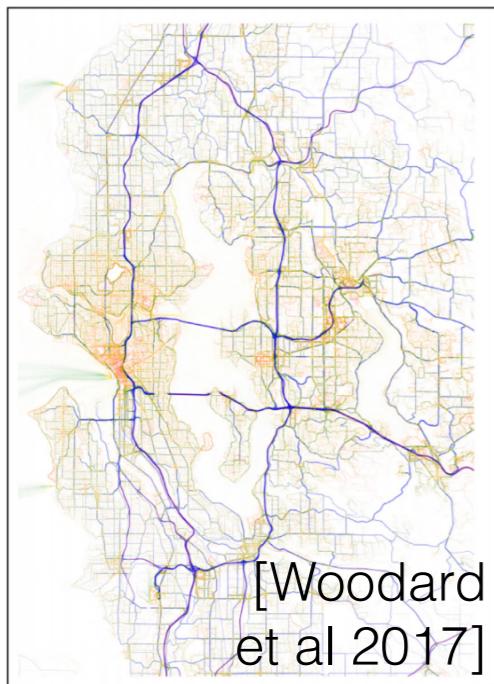
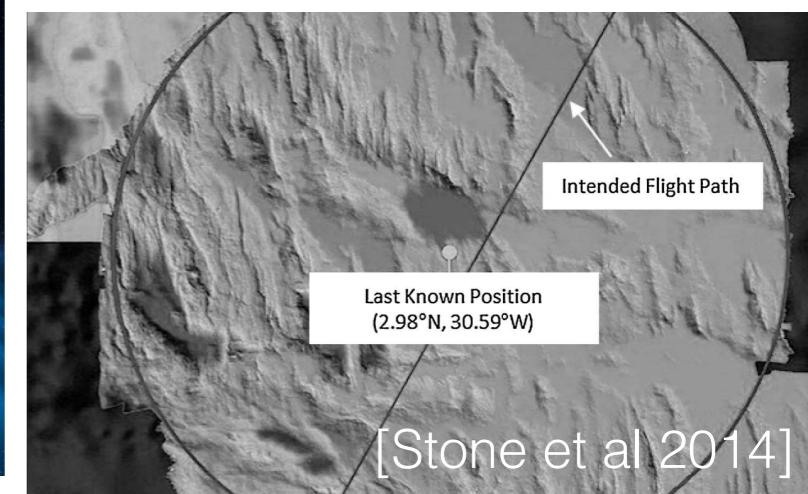
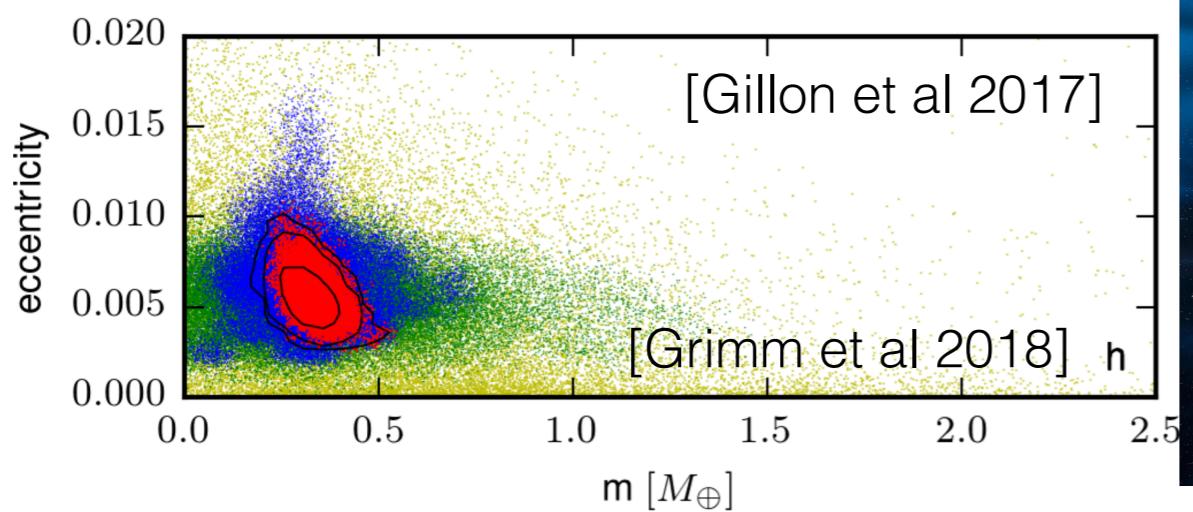
# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



- Goals: good point estimates, uncertainty estimates

# Bayesian inference



- Goals: good point estimates, uncertainty estimates
  - More: interpretable, flexible, modular, expert info

# Bayesian inference



- Goals: good point estimates, uncertainty estimates
  - More: interpretable, flexible, modular, expert info

# Bayesian inference



- Goals: good point estimates, uncertainty estimates
  - More: interpretable, flexible, modular, expert info
  - Challenge: speed (compute, user), reliable inference

# Bayesian inference



- Goals: good point estimates, uncertainty estimates
  - More: interpretable, flexible, modular, expert info
  - Challenge: speed (compute, user), reliable inference
  - Uncertainty doesn't have to disappear in large data sets

# Variational Bayes

# Variational Bayes

- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions

# Variational Bayes

- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

# Variational Bayes

- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |             |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      | [Blei et al |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    | 2003]       |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |             |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |             |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |             |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |             |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |             |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |             |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |             |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |             |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |             |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |             |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |             |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |             |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |             |

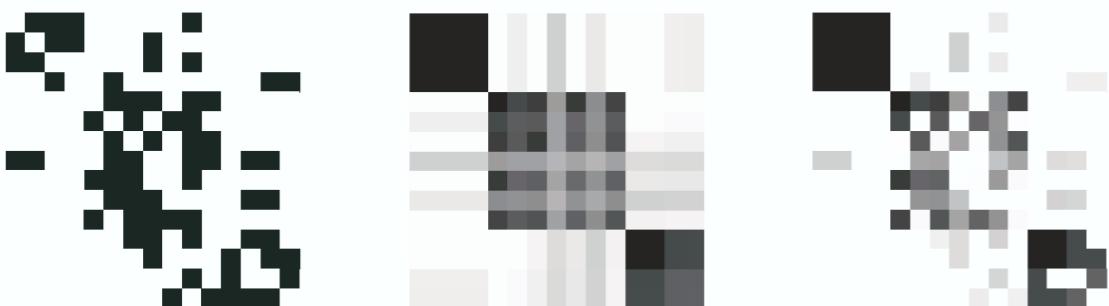
The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# Variational Bayes

- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |             |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      | [Blei et al |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    | 2003]       |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |             |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |             |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |             |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |             |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |             |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |             |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |             |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |             |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |             |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |             |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |             |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |             |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |             |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

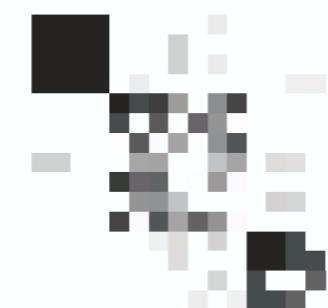
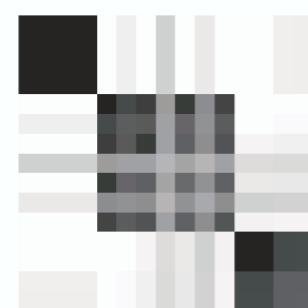
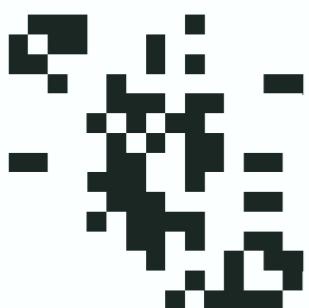


# Variational Bayes

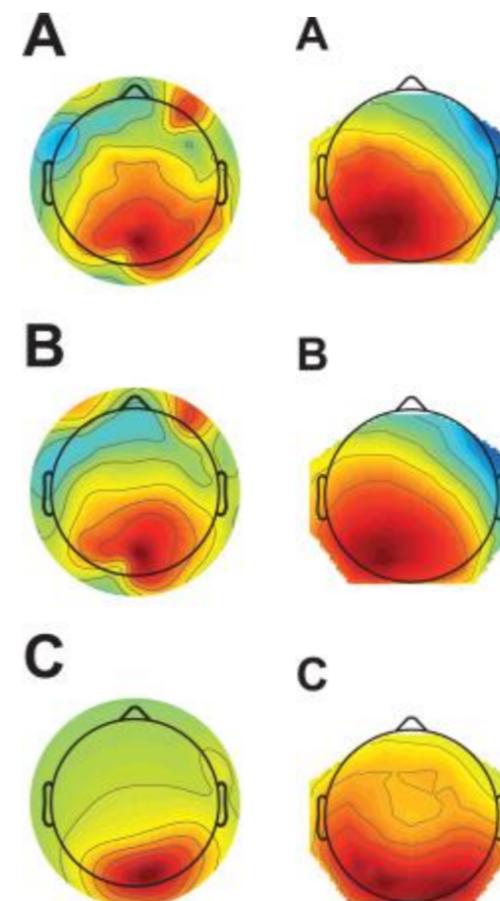
- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |             |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      | [Blei et al |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    | 2003]       |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |             |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |             |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |             |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |             |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |             |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |             |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |             |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |             |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |             |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |             |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |             |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |             |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |             |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.



[Airoldi et al 2008]



[Gershman et al 2014]

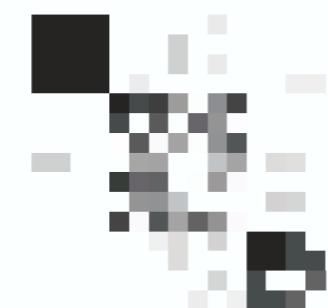
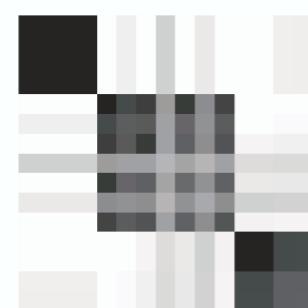
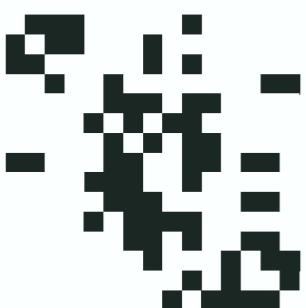
[Blei et al 2018]

# Variational Bayes

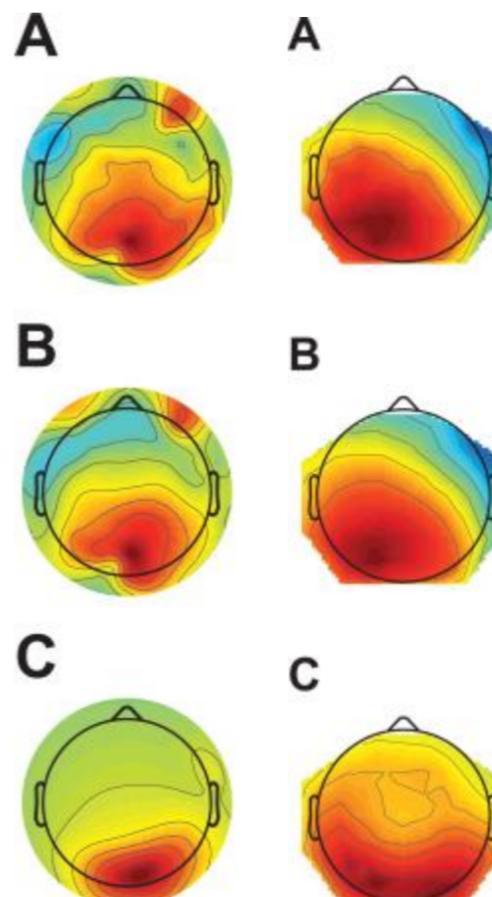
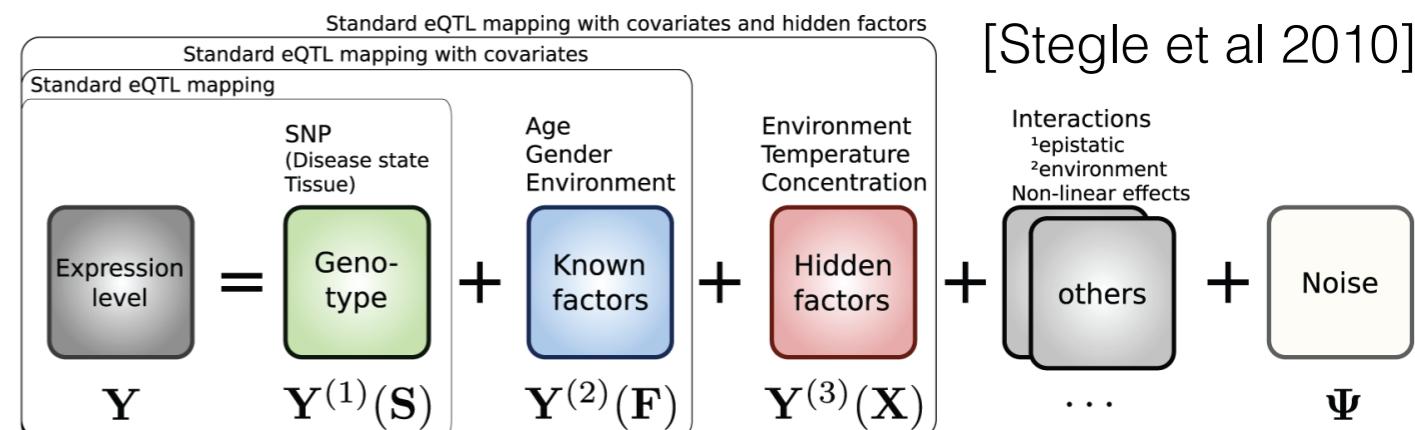
- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” | [Blei et al<br>2003] |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |                      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |                      |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |                      |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |                      |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |                      |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |                      |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |                      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |                      |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |                      |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |                      |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |                      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |                      |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |                      |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |                      |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |                      |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.



[Airoldi et al 2008]



[Gershman et al 2014]

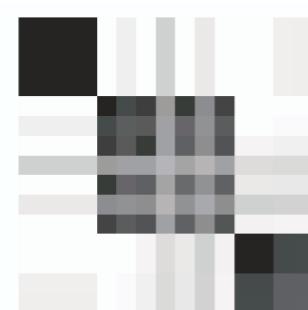
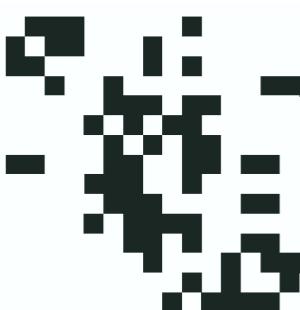
[Blei et al 2018]

# Variational Bayes

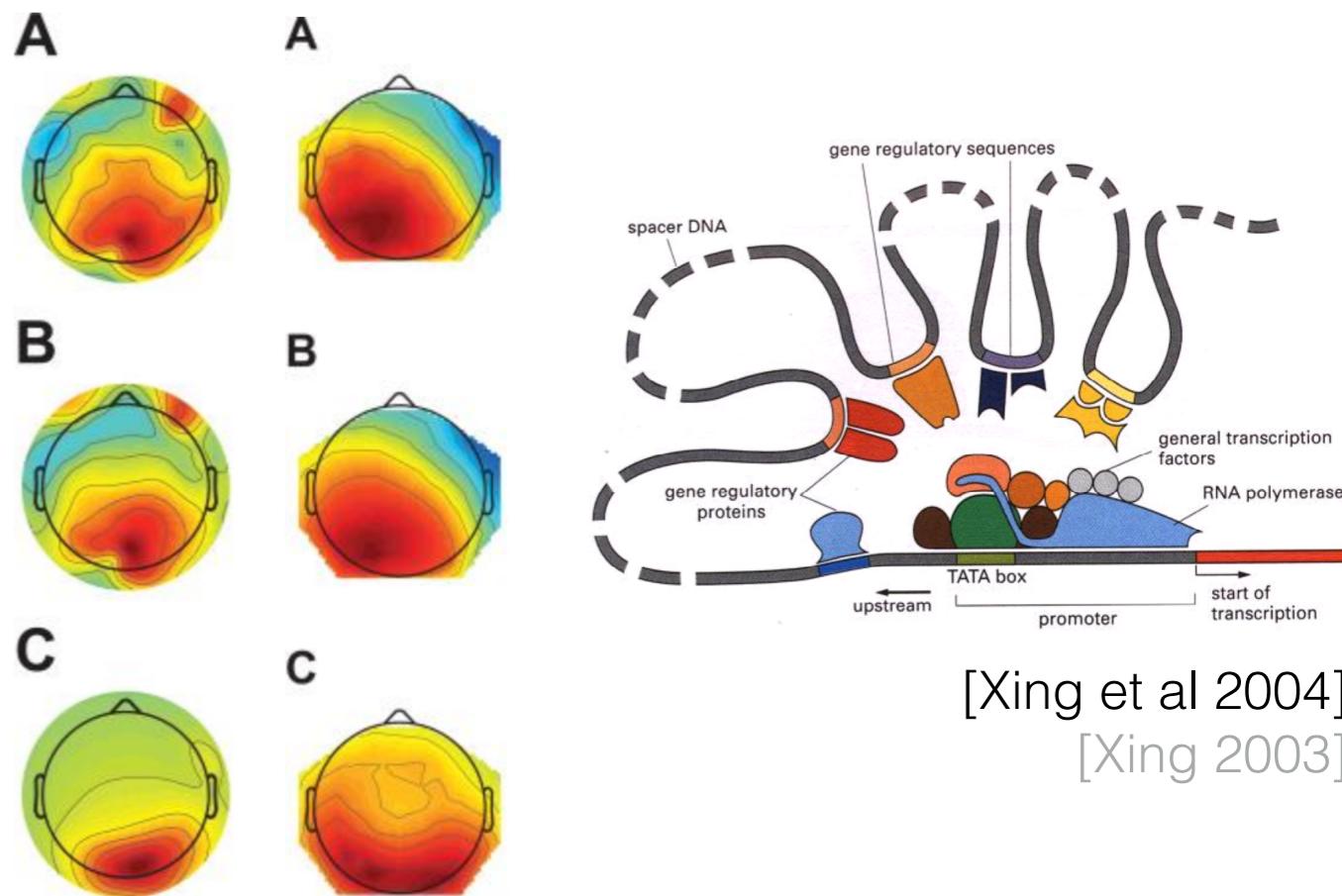
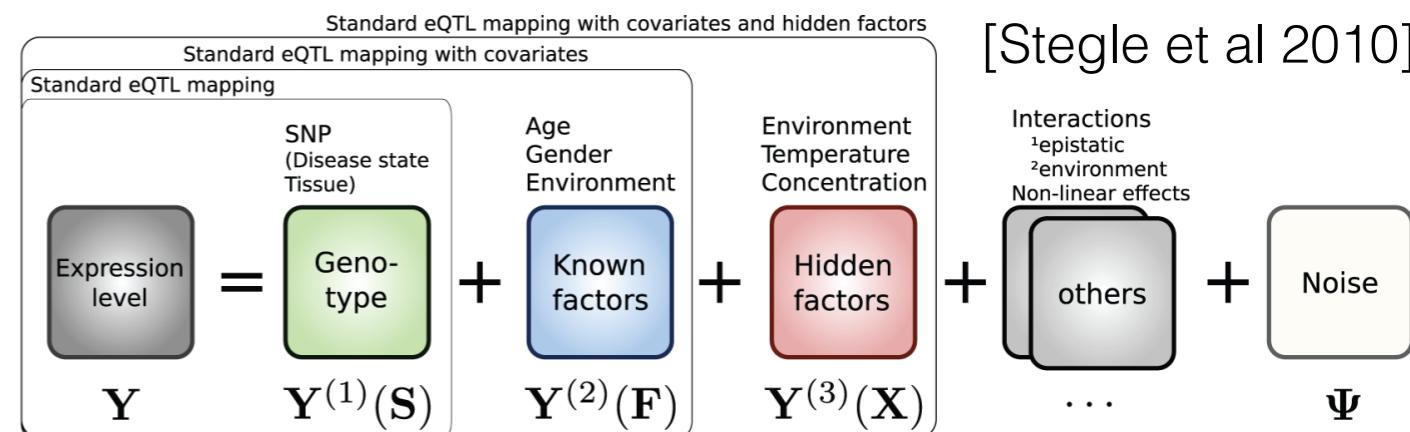
- Modern problems: often large data, large dimensions
- Variational Bayes can be very fast

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” | [Blei et al<br>2003] |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |                      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |                      |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |                      |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |                      |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |                      |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |                      |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |                      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |                      |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |                      |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |                      |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |                      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |                      |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |                      |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |                      |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |                      |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.



[Airoldi et al 2008]



[Gershman et al 2014]

[Blei et al 2018]

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Bayesian inference

# Bayesian inference

parameters  
 $\theta$

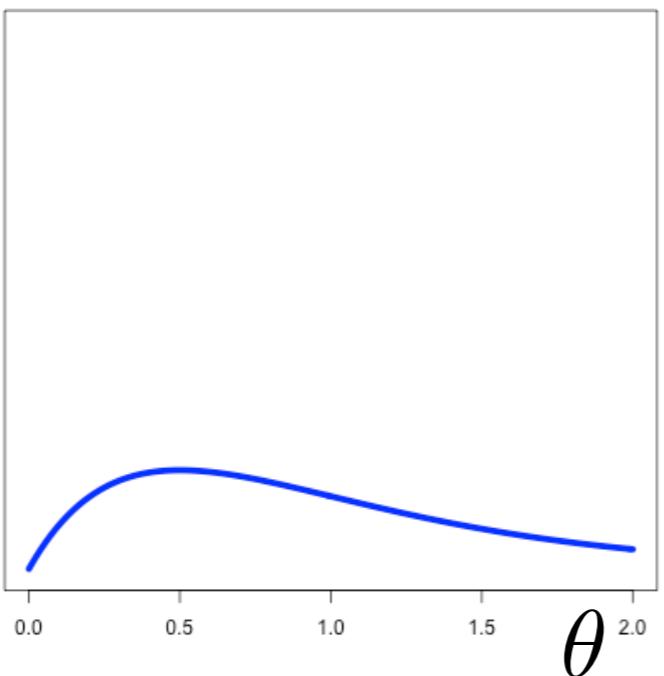
# Bayesian inference

parameters  
 $p(\theta)$   
prior



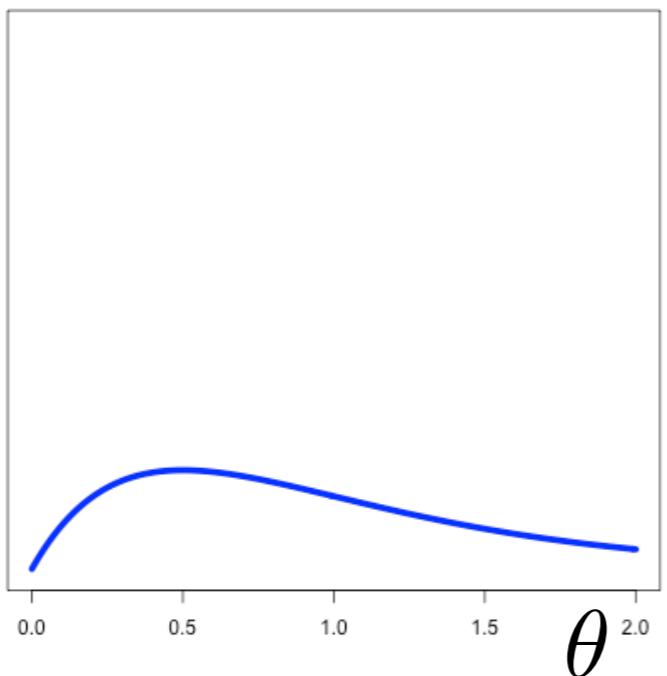
# Bayesian inference

parameters  
 $p(\theta)$   
prior



# Bayesian inference

parameters  
 $p(y_{1:N} | \theta)p(\theta)$   
likelihood prior

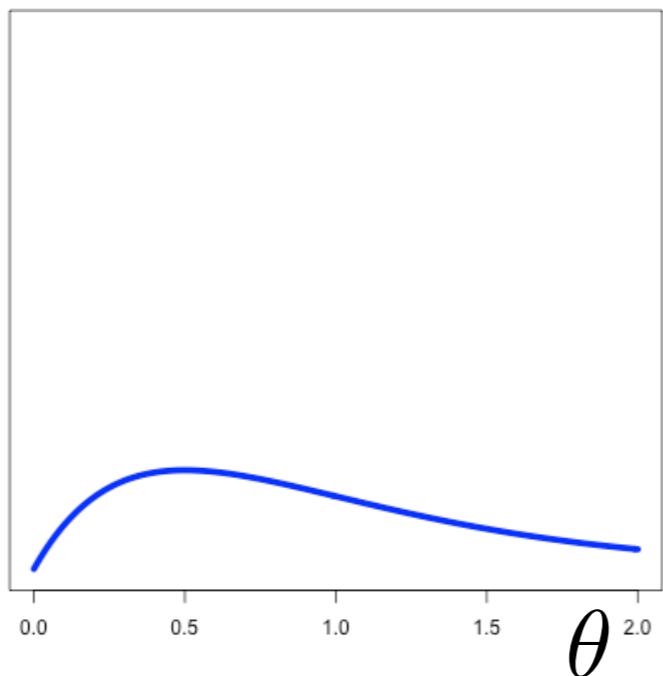


Bayesian inference

data      parameters

$p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$

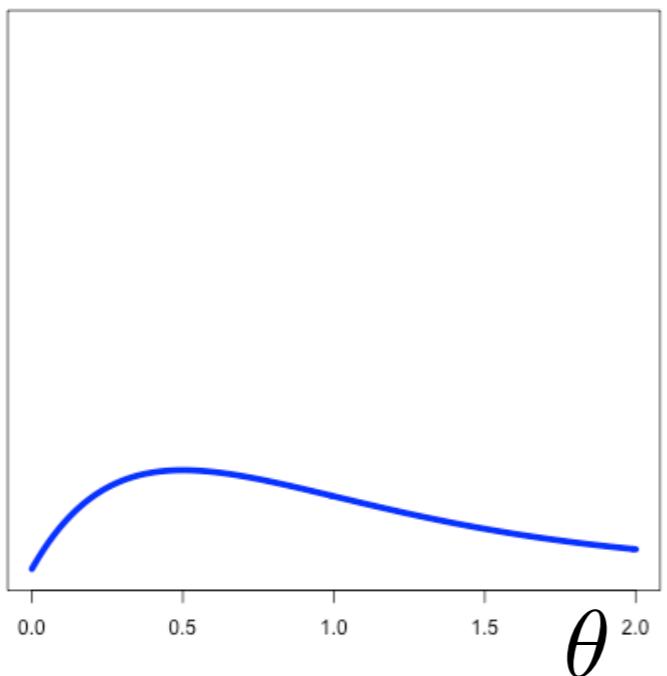
likelihood prior



# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

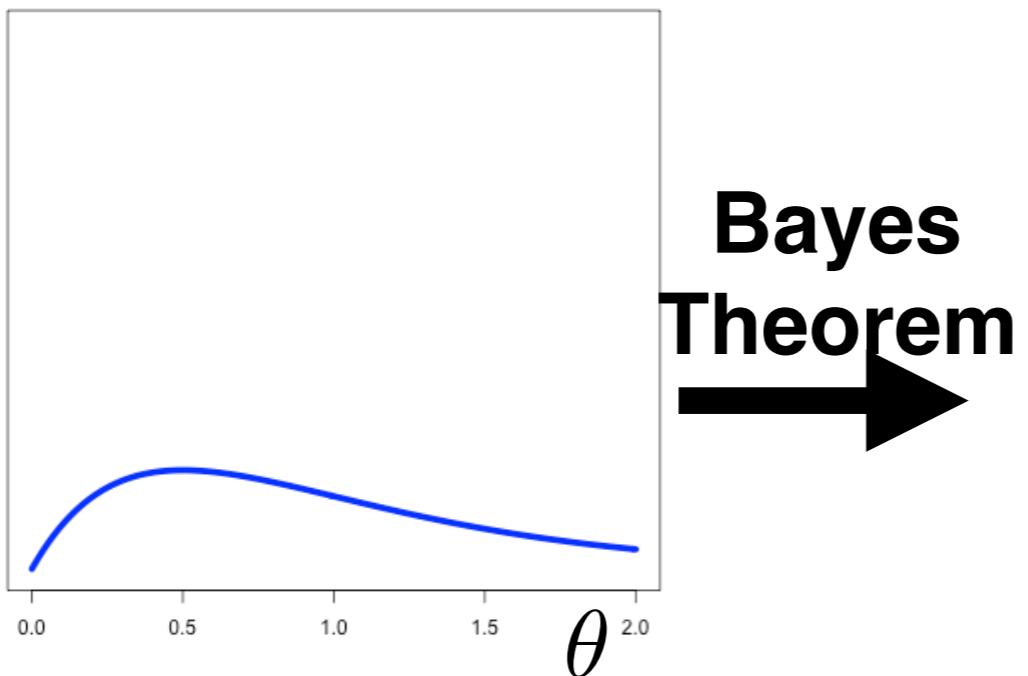
posterior    likelihood    prior



# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

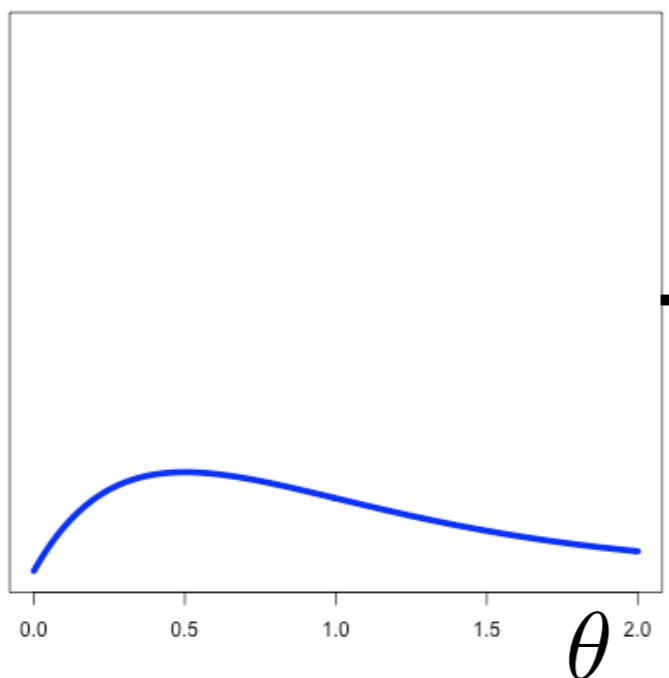
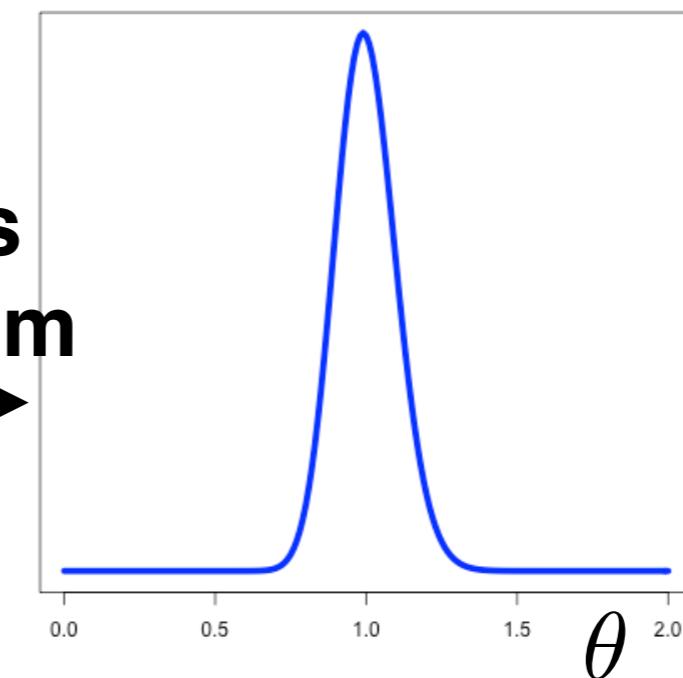
posterior    likelihood    prior



# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

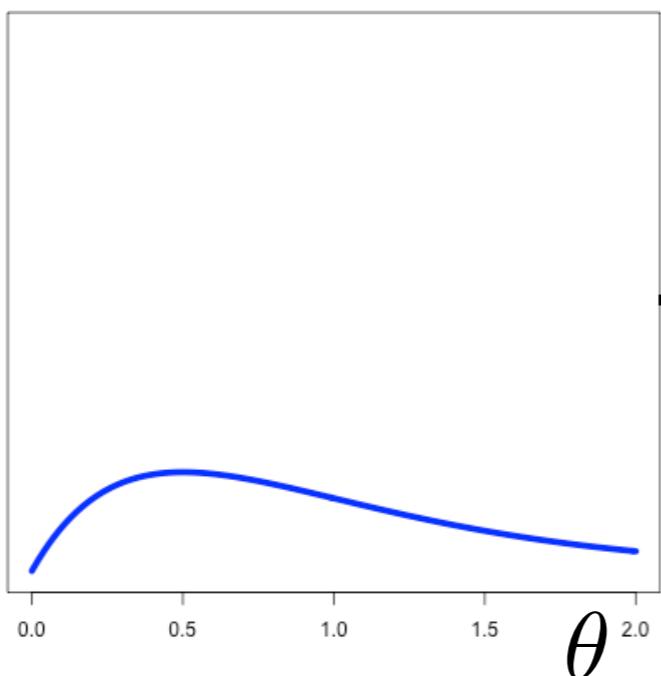
posterior   likelihood   prior



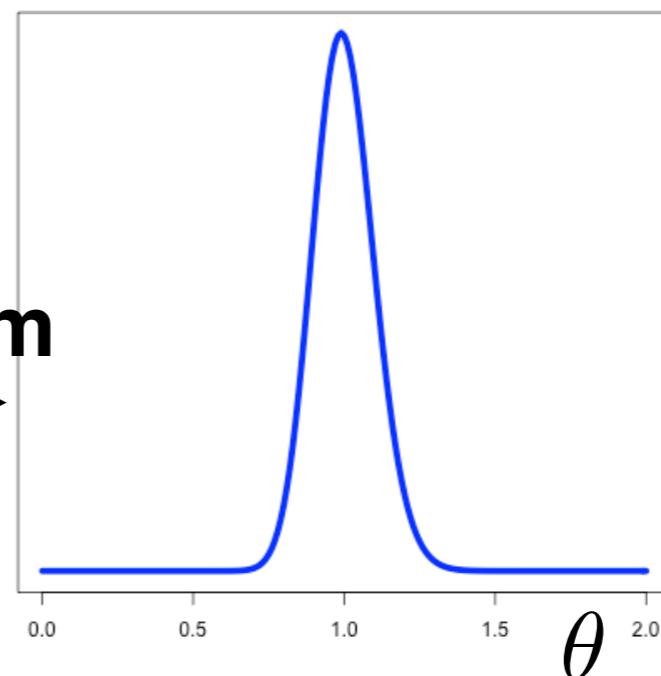
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior      likelihood      prior



**Bayes  
Theorem**

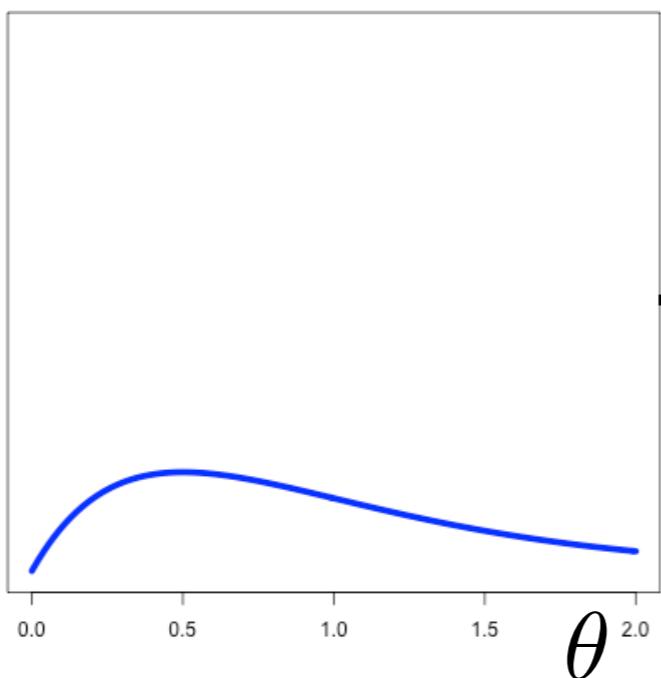


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood

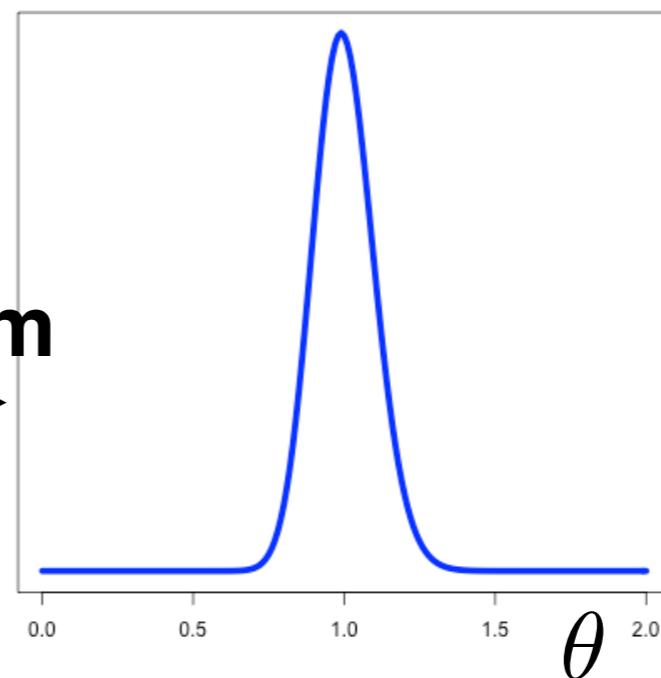
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior      likelihood      prior



**Bayes  
Theorem**

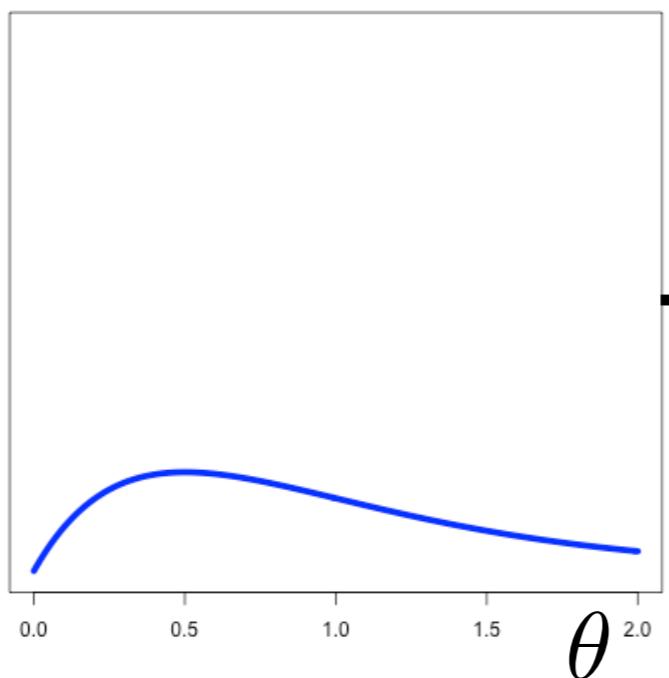


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
2. Compute the posterior

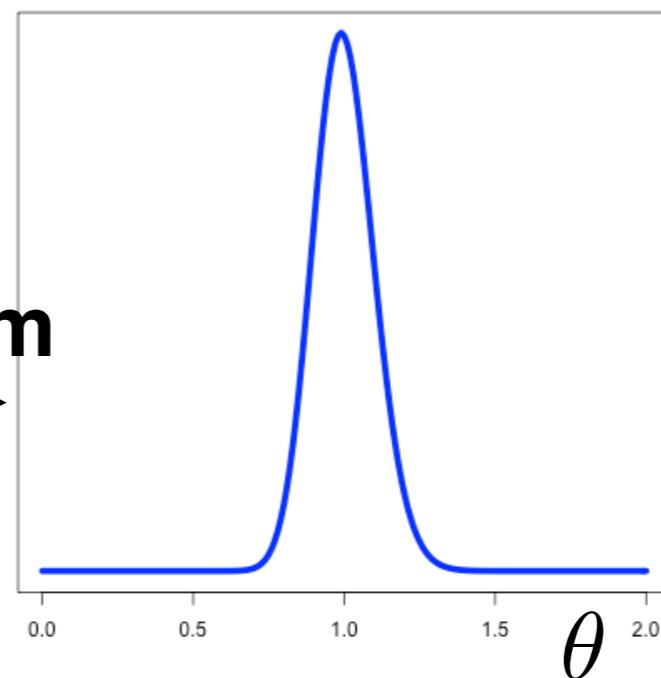
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior      likelihood      prior



**Bayes  
Theorem**

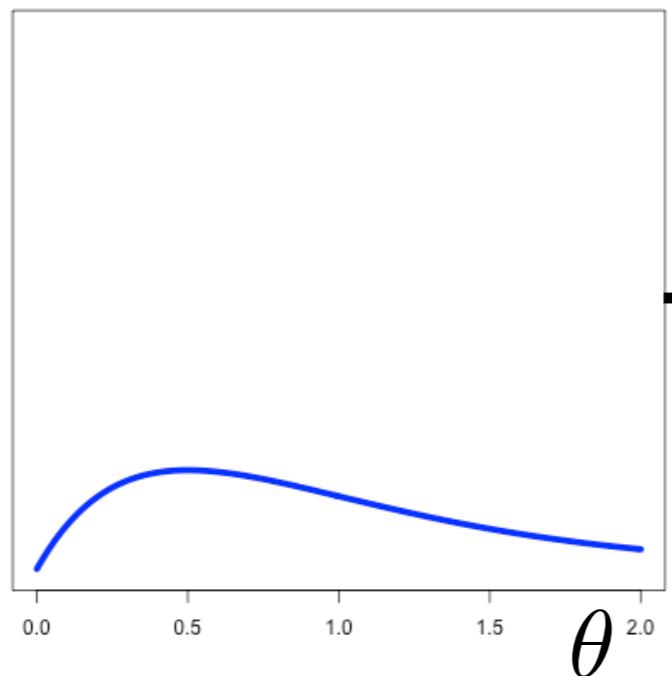
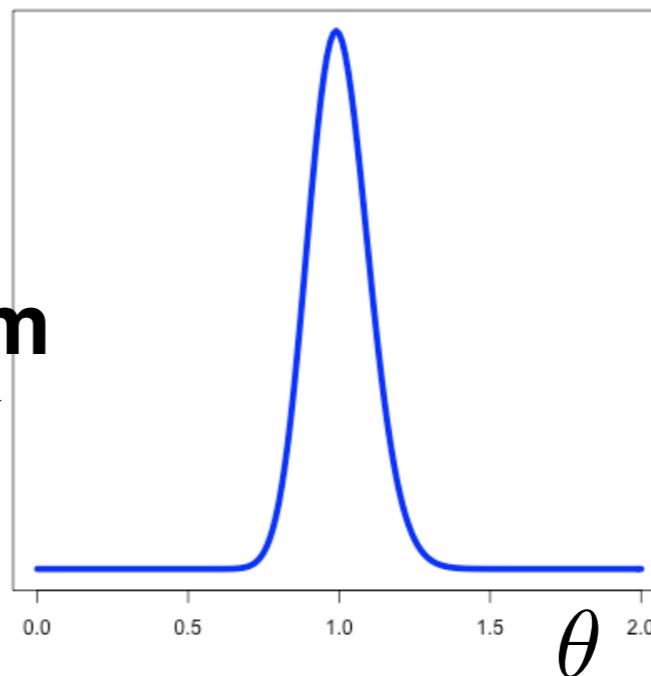


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
2. Compute the posterior
3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances

# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_\theta p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior likelihood prior



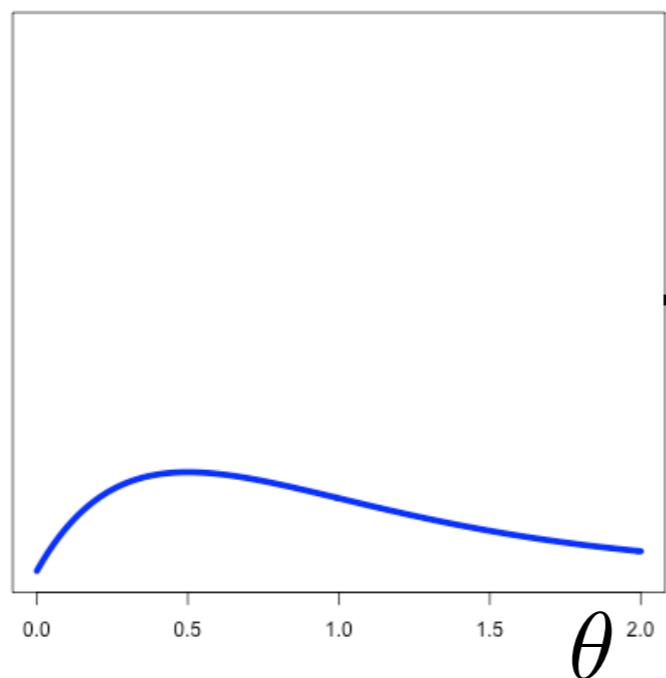
**Bayes  
Theorem**  
→

1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?

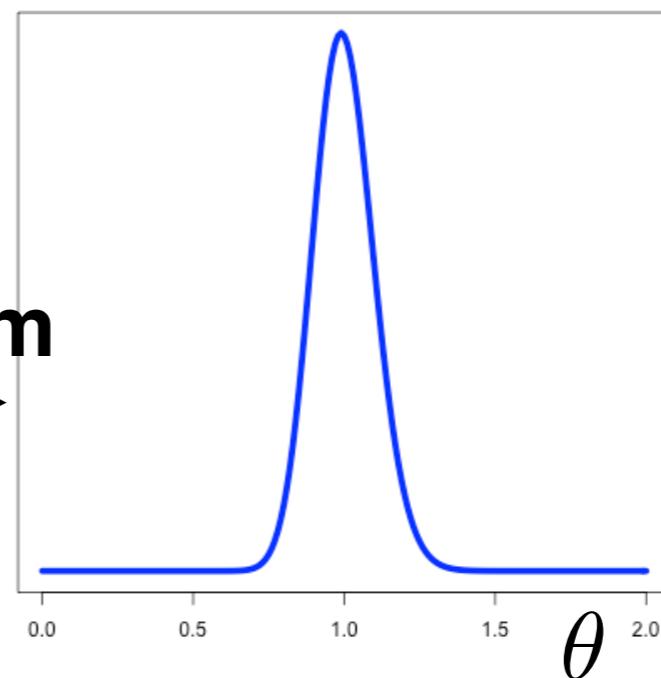
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior    likelihood    prior



**Bayes  
Theorem**

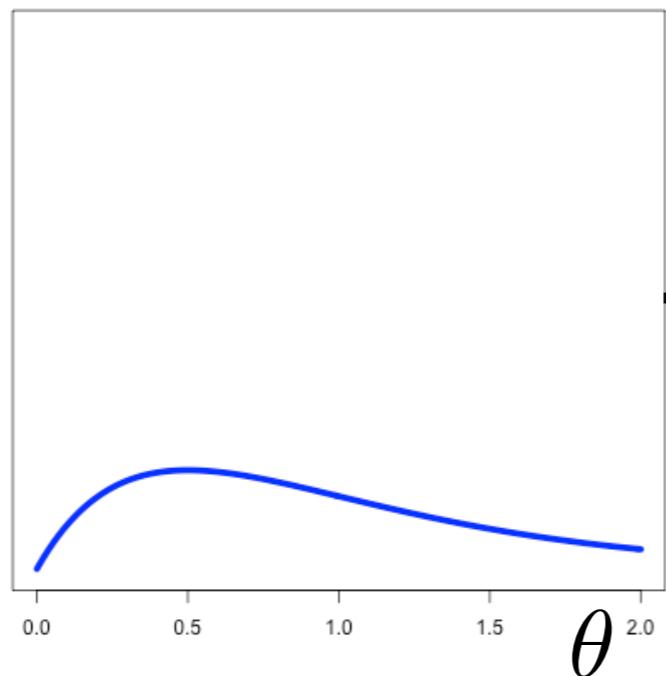


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?
    - Typically no closed form

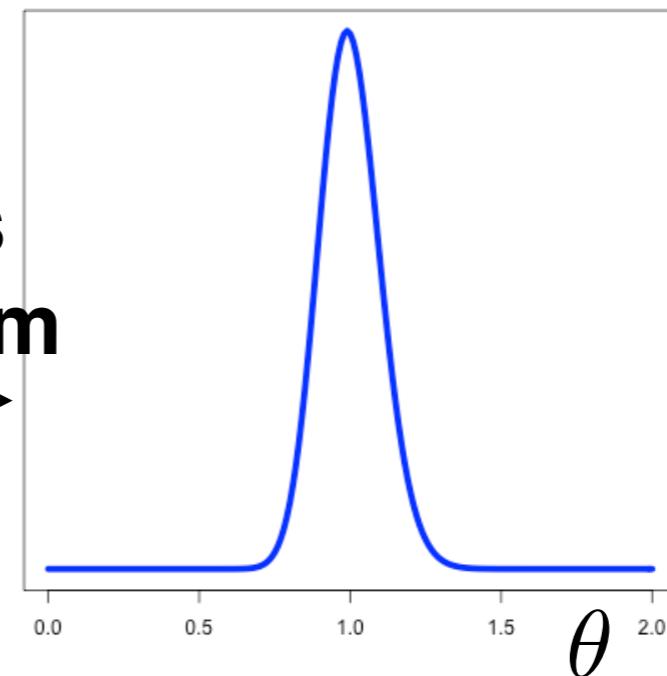
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) \propto_{\theta} p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)$$

posterior    likelihood    prior



**Bayes  
Theorem**

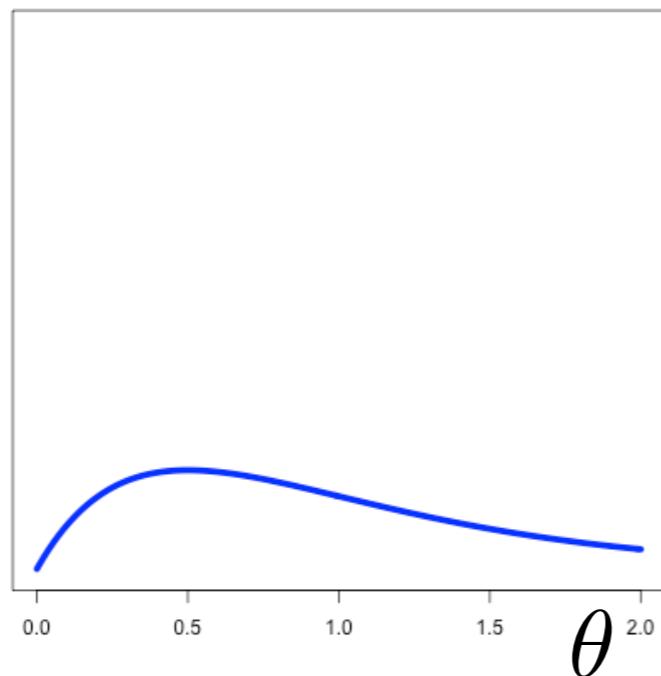


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?
    - Typically no closed form, high-dimensional integration

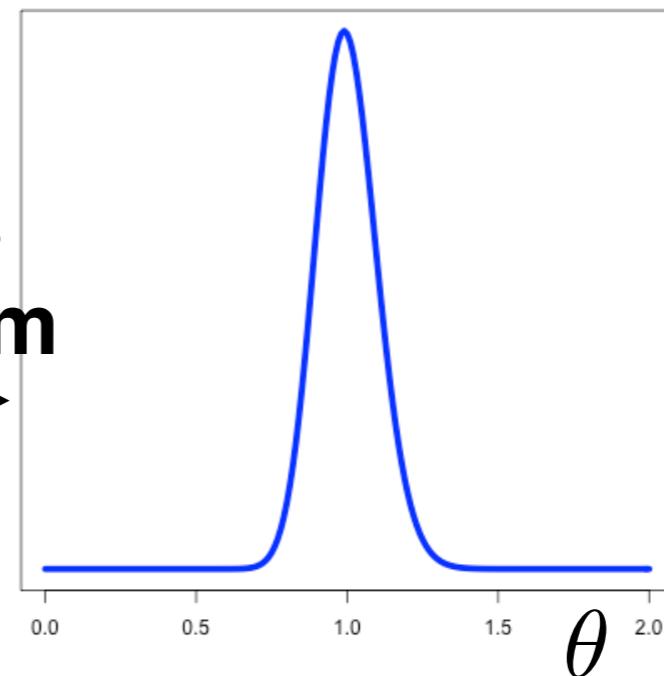
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) = p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)/p(y_{1:N})$$

posterior    likelihood    prior



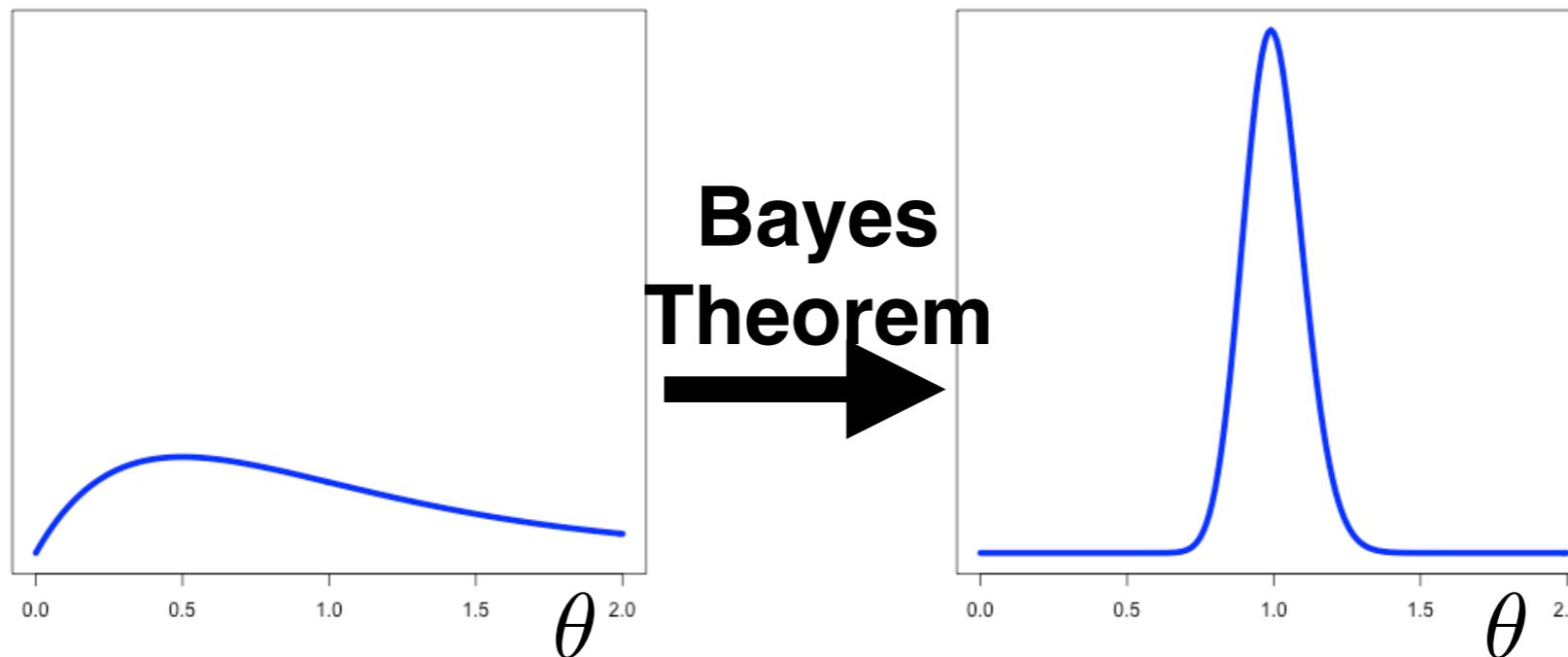
**Bayes  
Theorem**



1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?
    - Typically no closed form, high-dimensional integration

# Bayesian inference

data      parameters  
 $p(\theta|y_{1:N}) = p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)/p(y_{1:N})$   
posterior    likelihood    prior    evidence

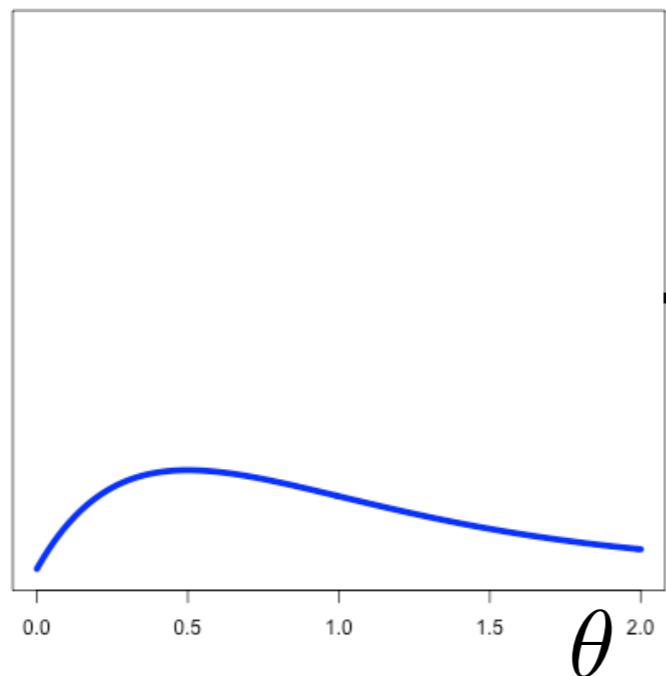


1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?
    - Typically no closed form, high-dimensional integration

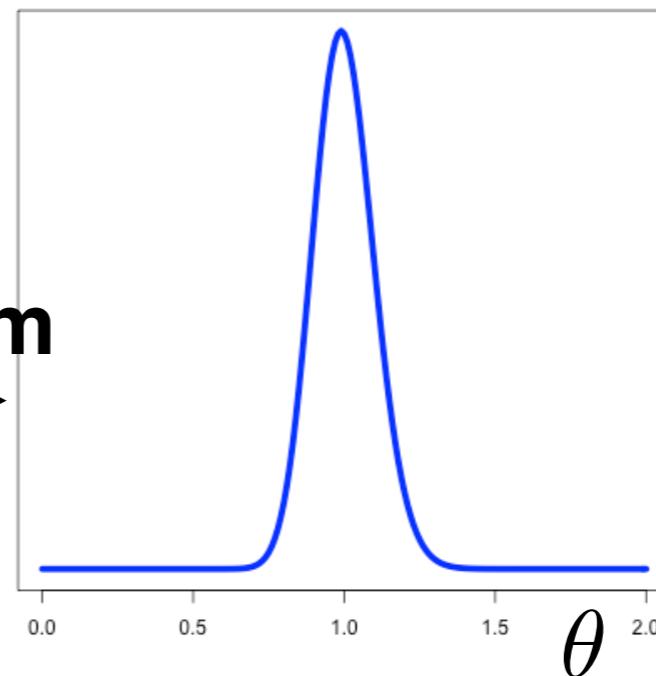
# Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta|y_{1:N}) = p(y_{1:N}|\theta)p(\theta)/\int p(y_{1:N}, \theta)d\theta$$

posterior    likelihood    prior    evidence



**Bayes  
Theorem**



1. Build a model: choose prior & choose likelihood
  2. Compute the posterior
  3. Report a summary, e.g. posterior means and (co)variances
- Why are steps 2 and 3 hard?
    - Typically no closed form, high-dimensional integration

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow

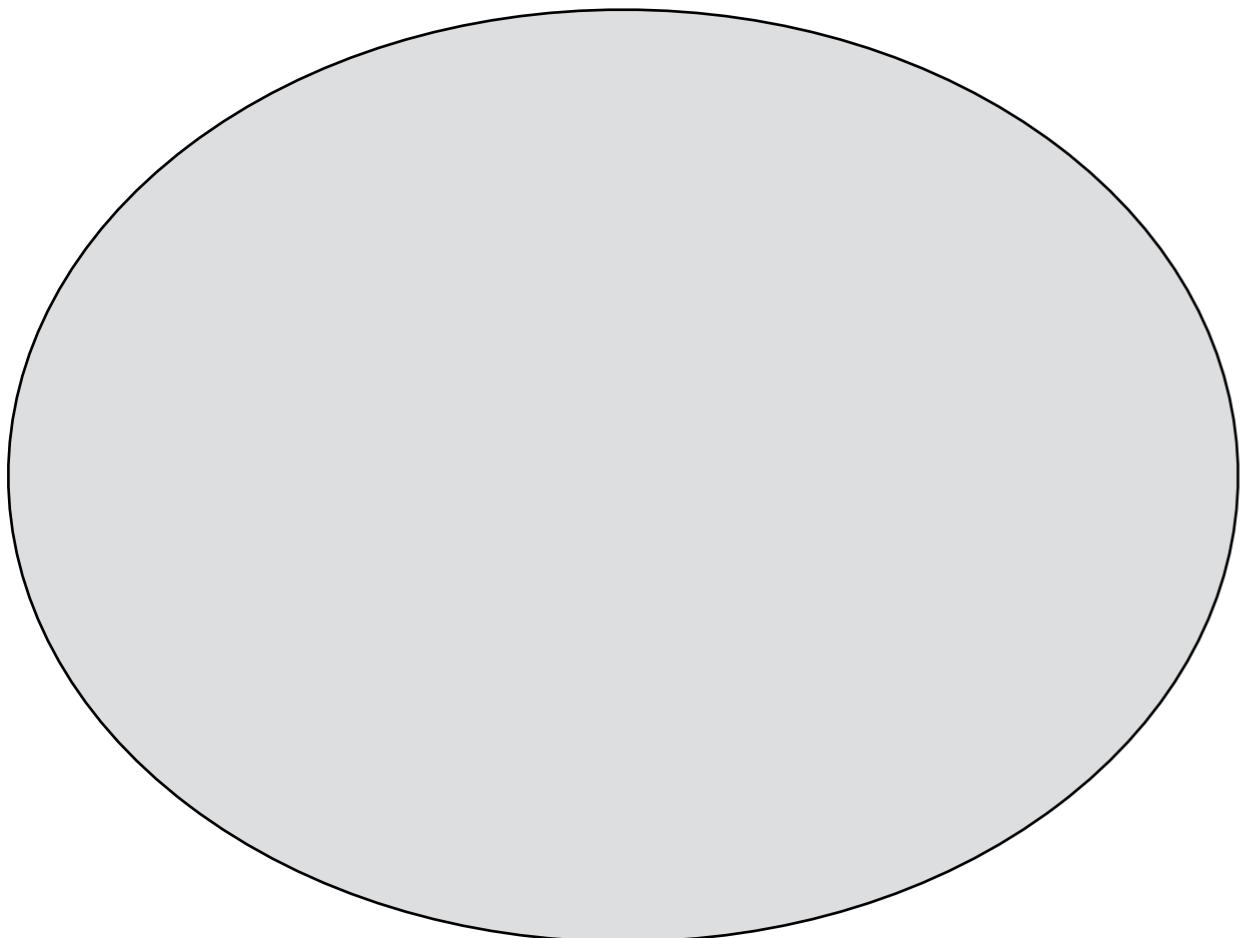
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



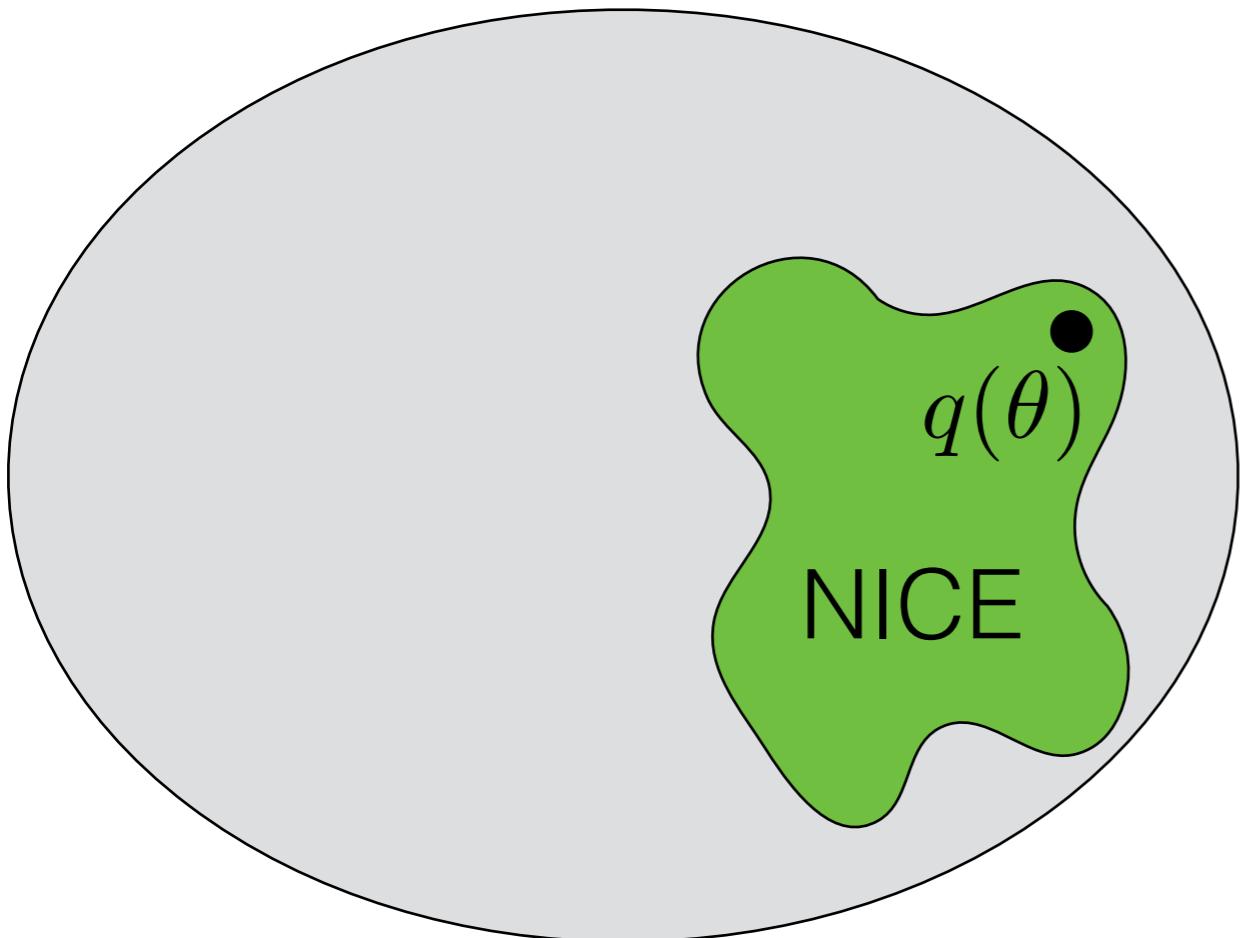
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



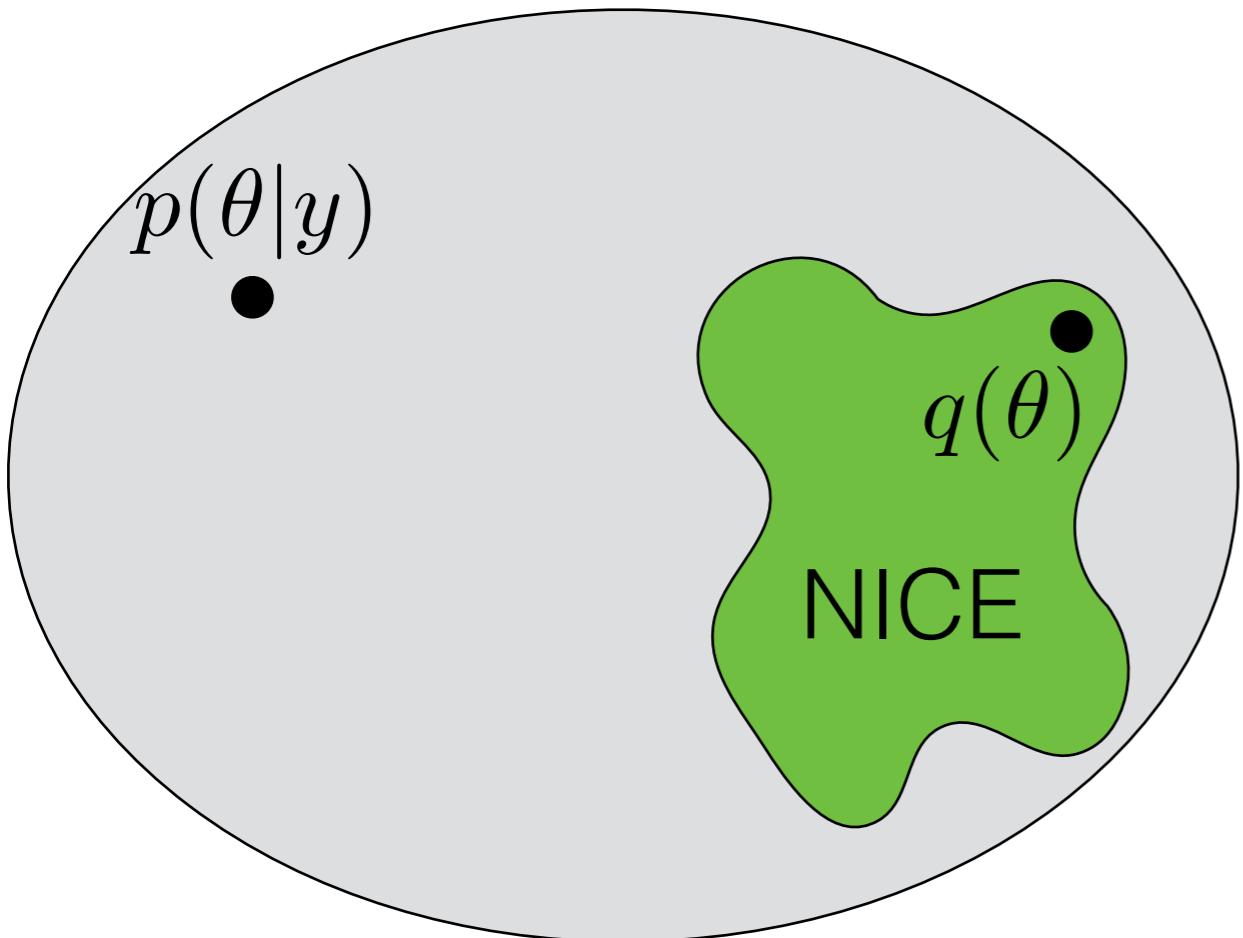
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



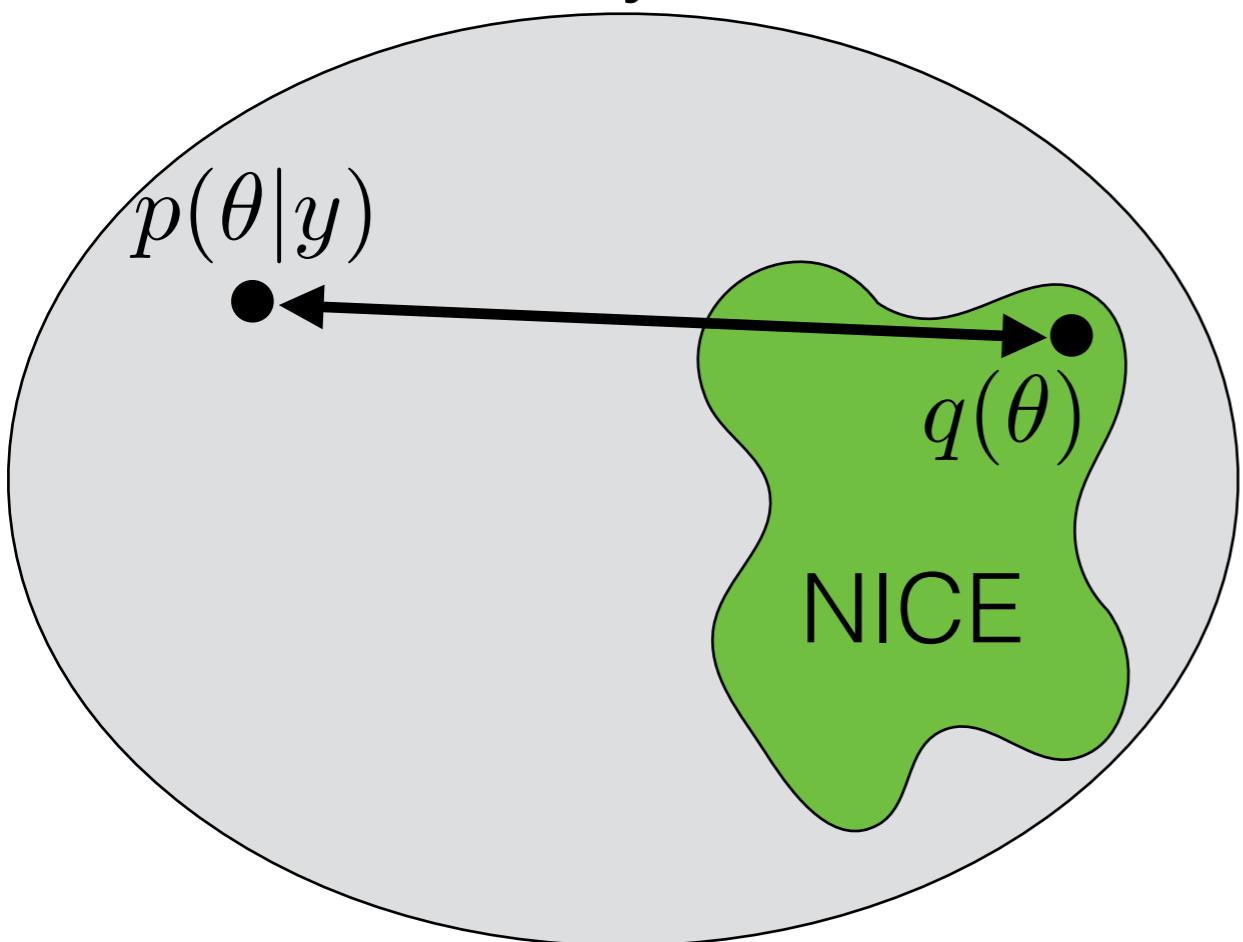
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



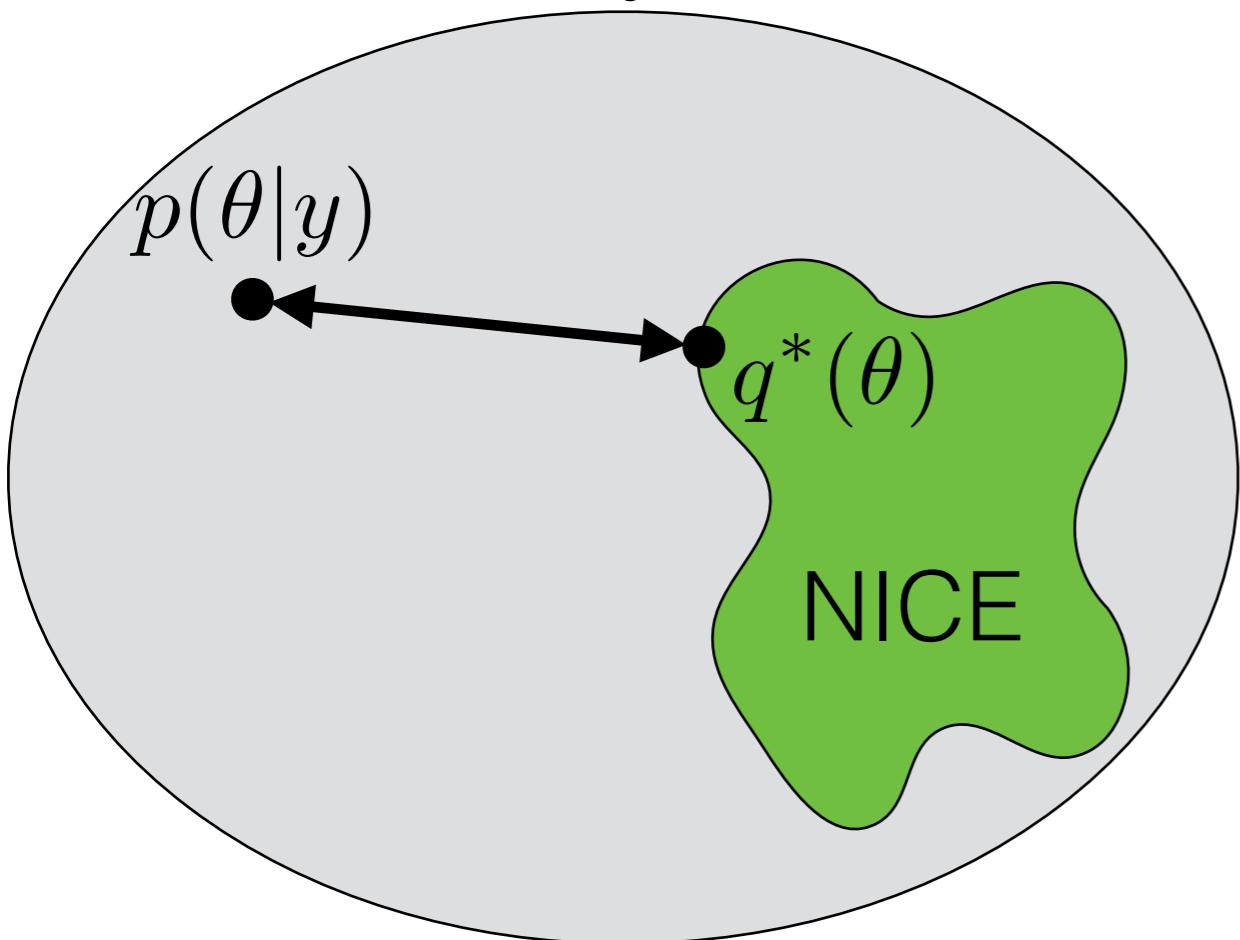
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



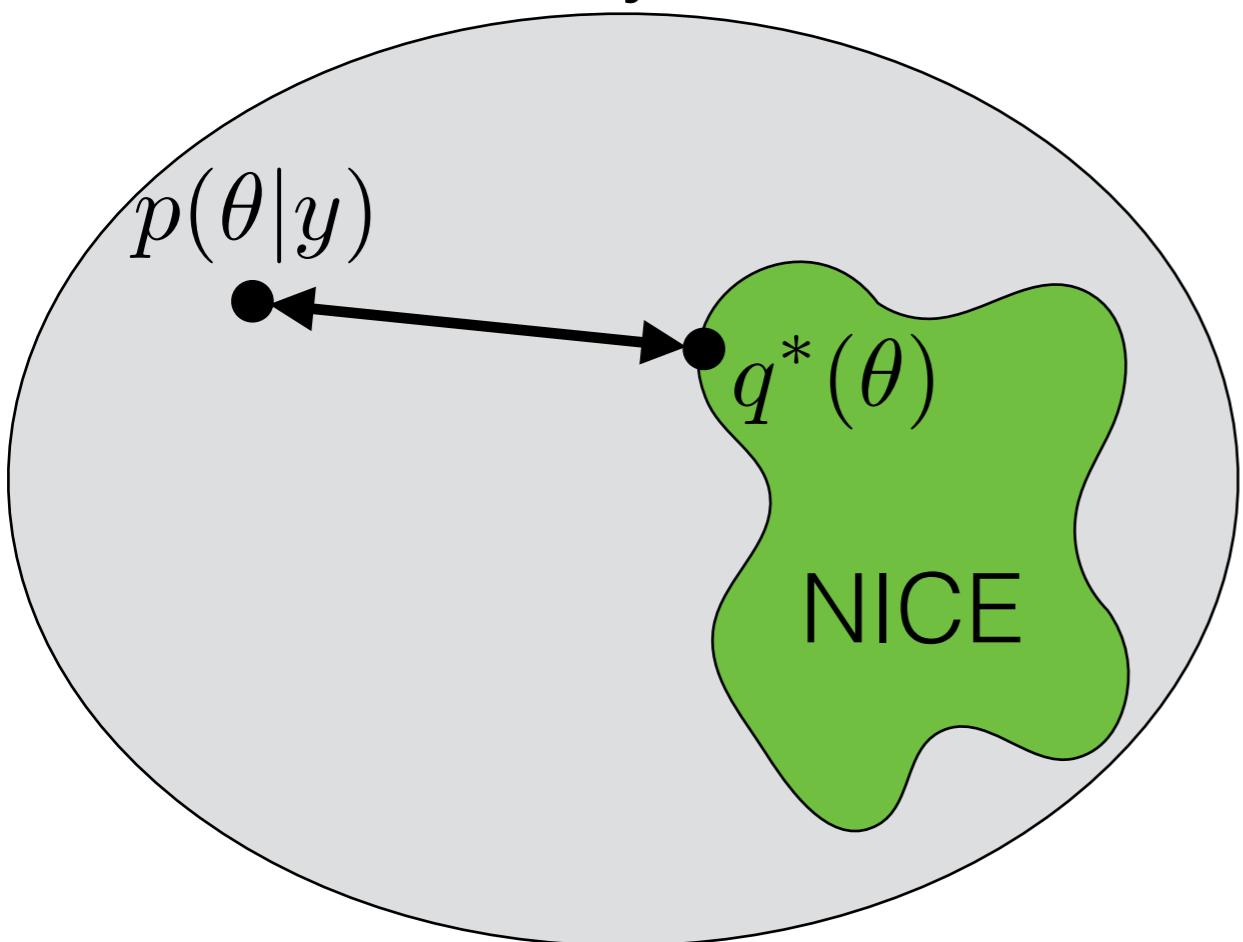
Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

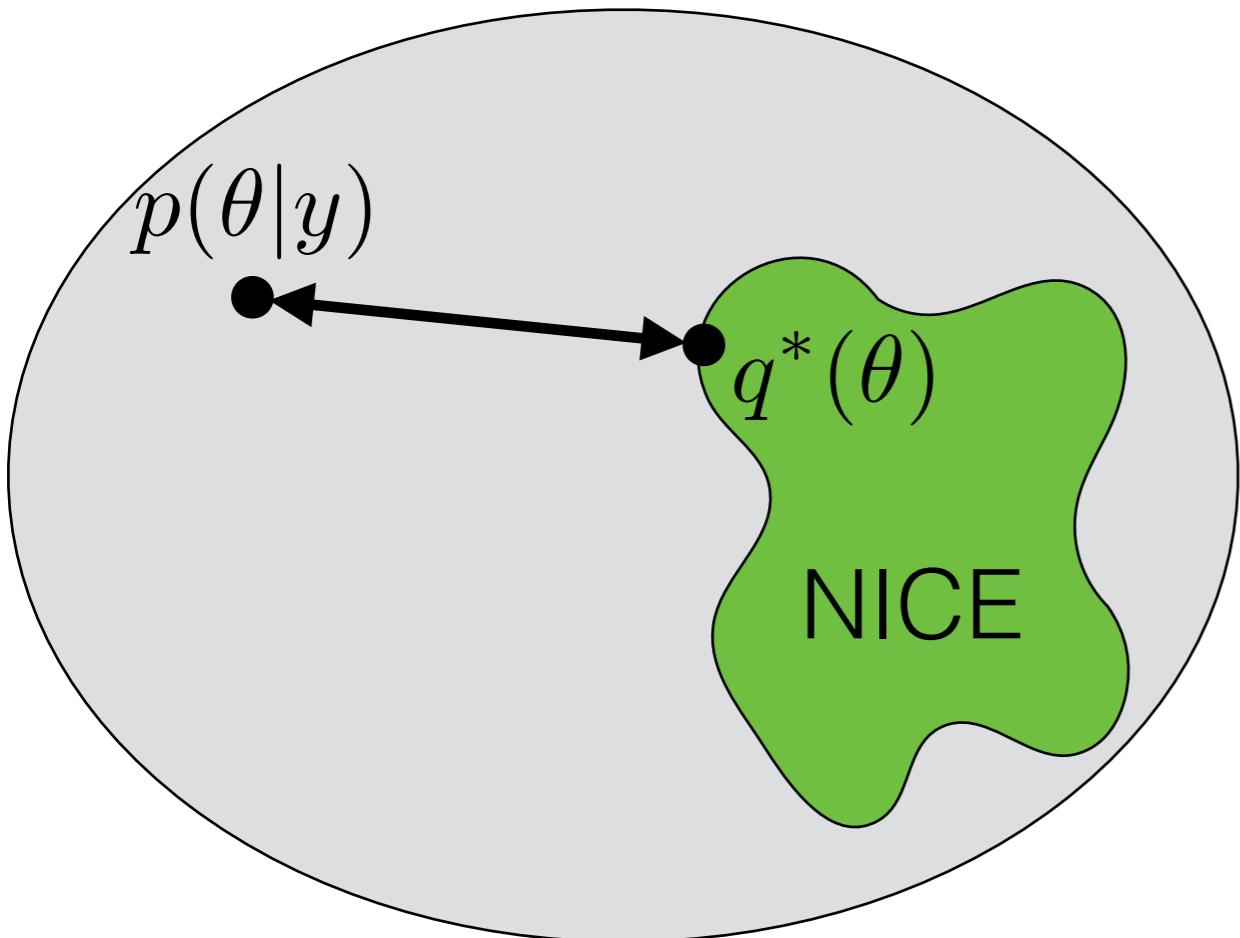
- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

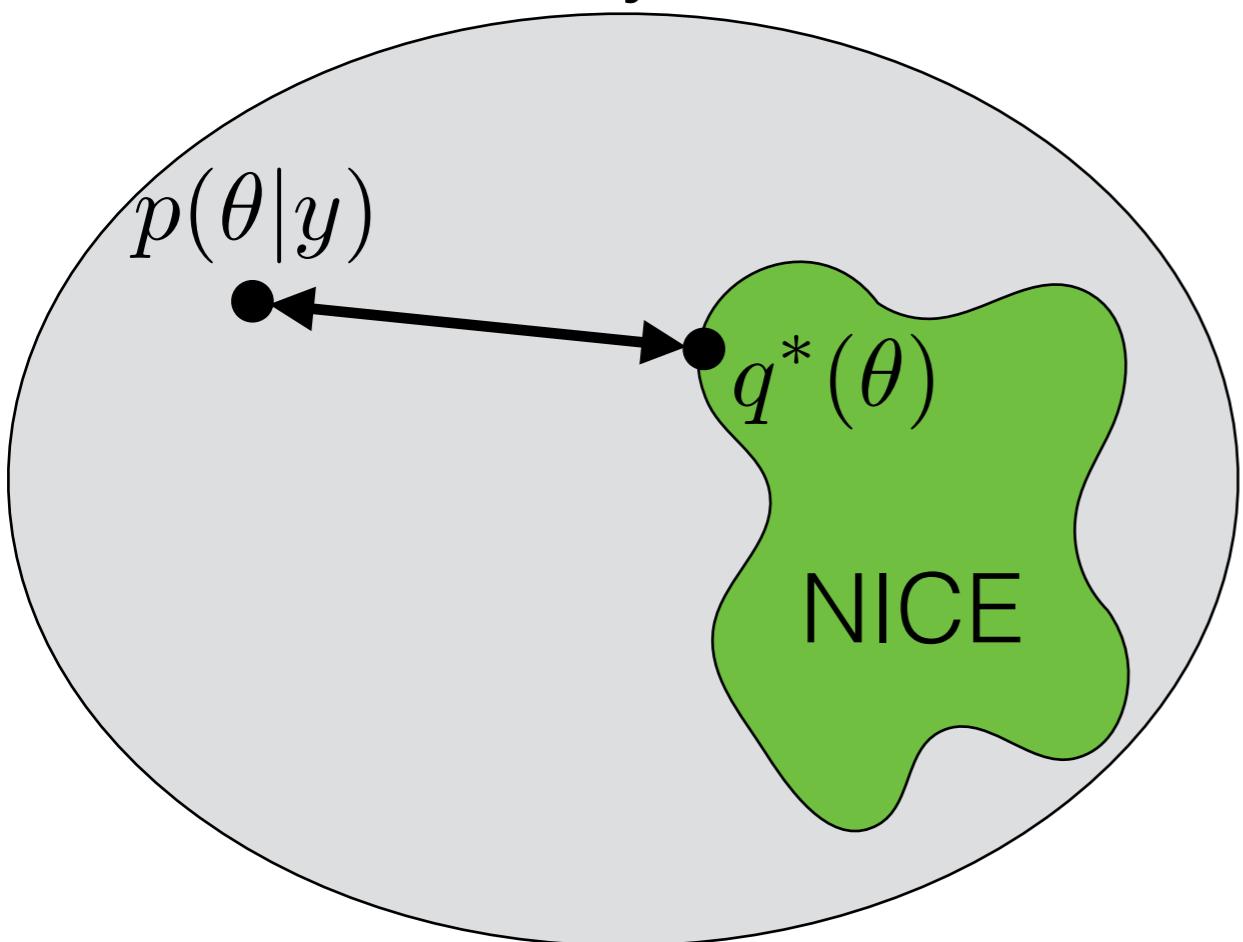
- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

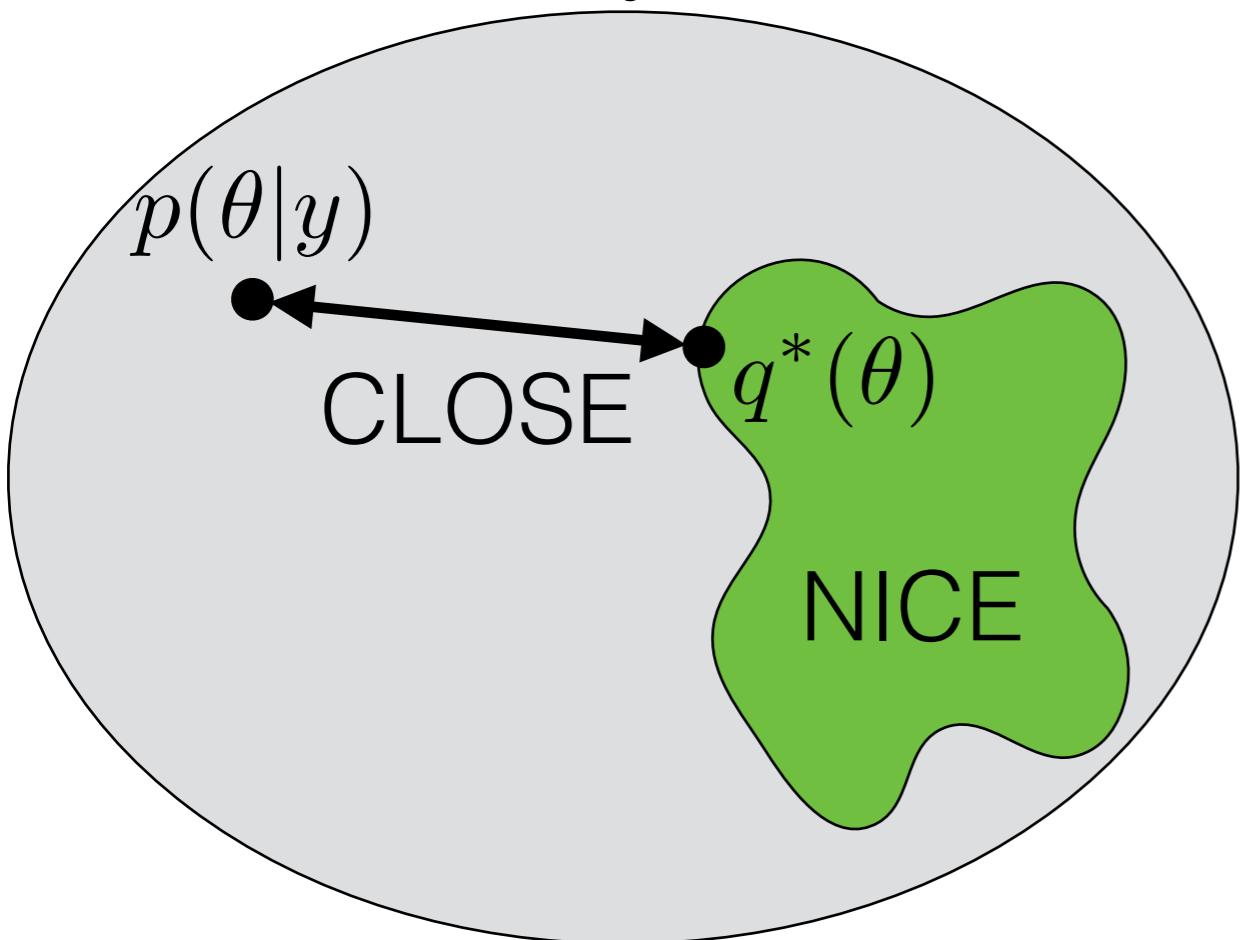
- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

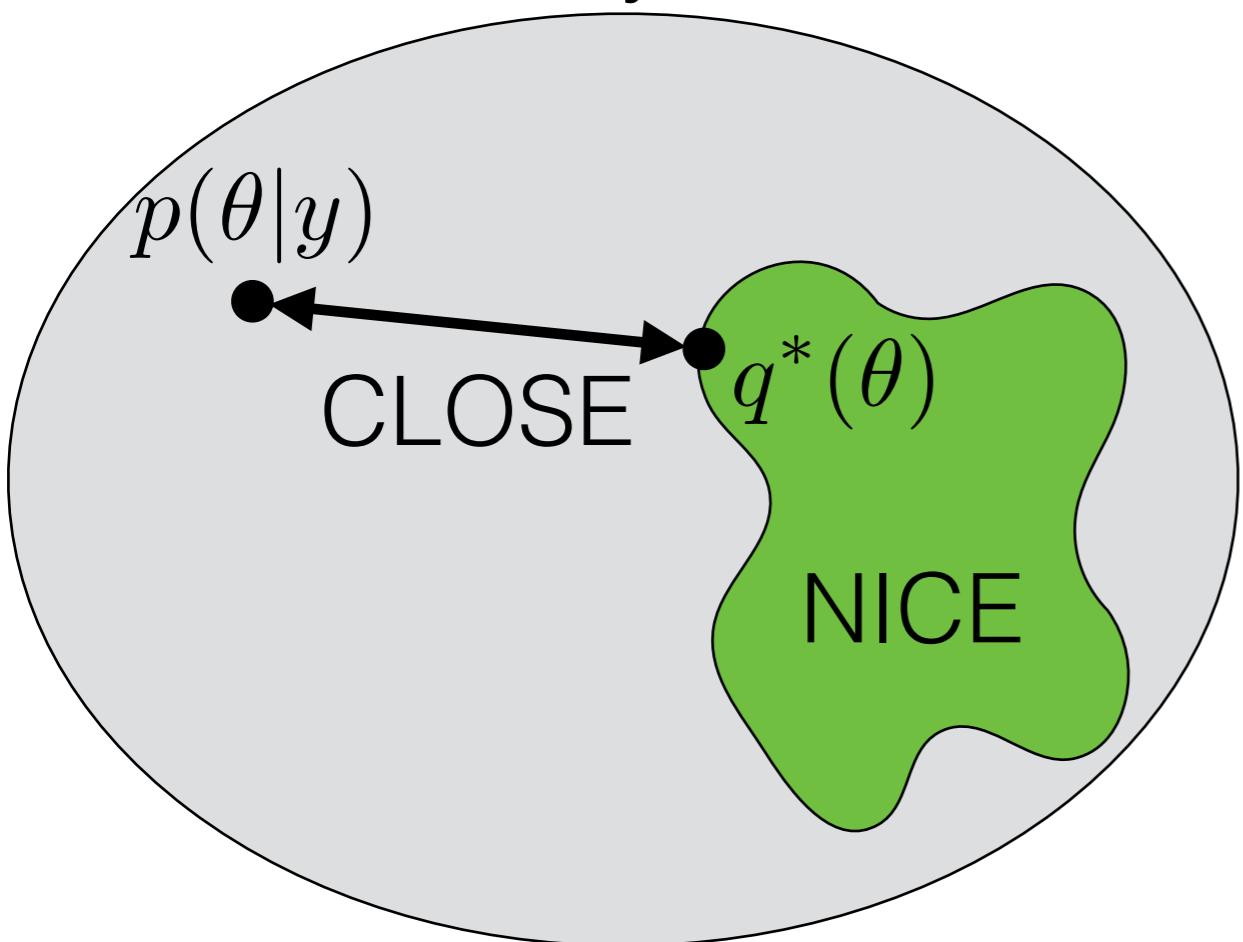
- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

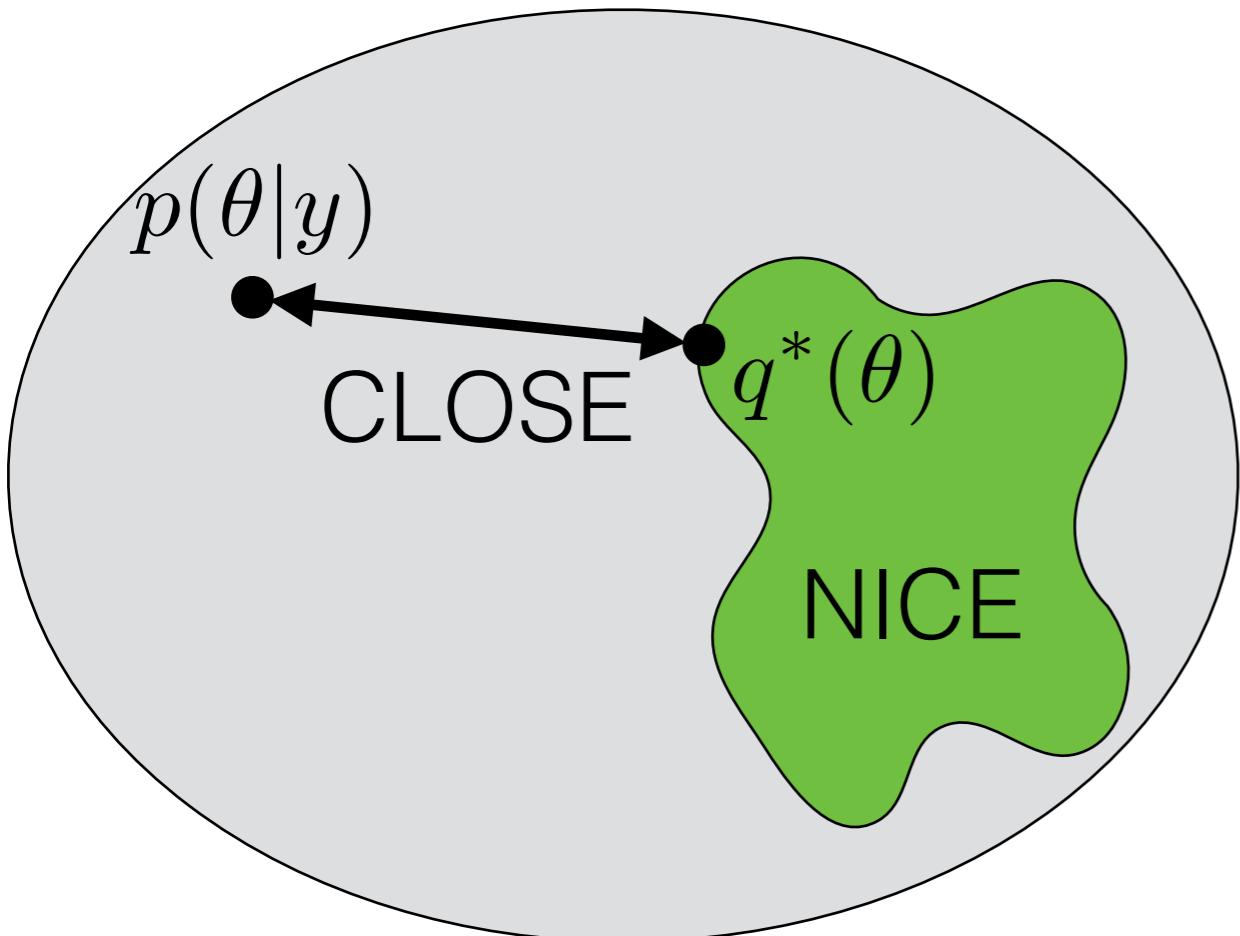
- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

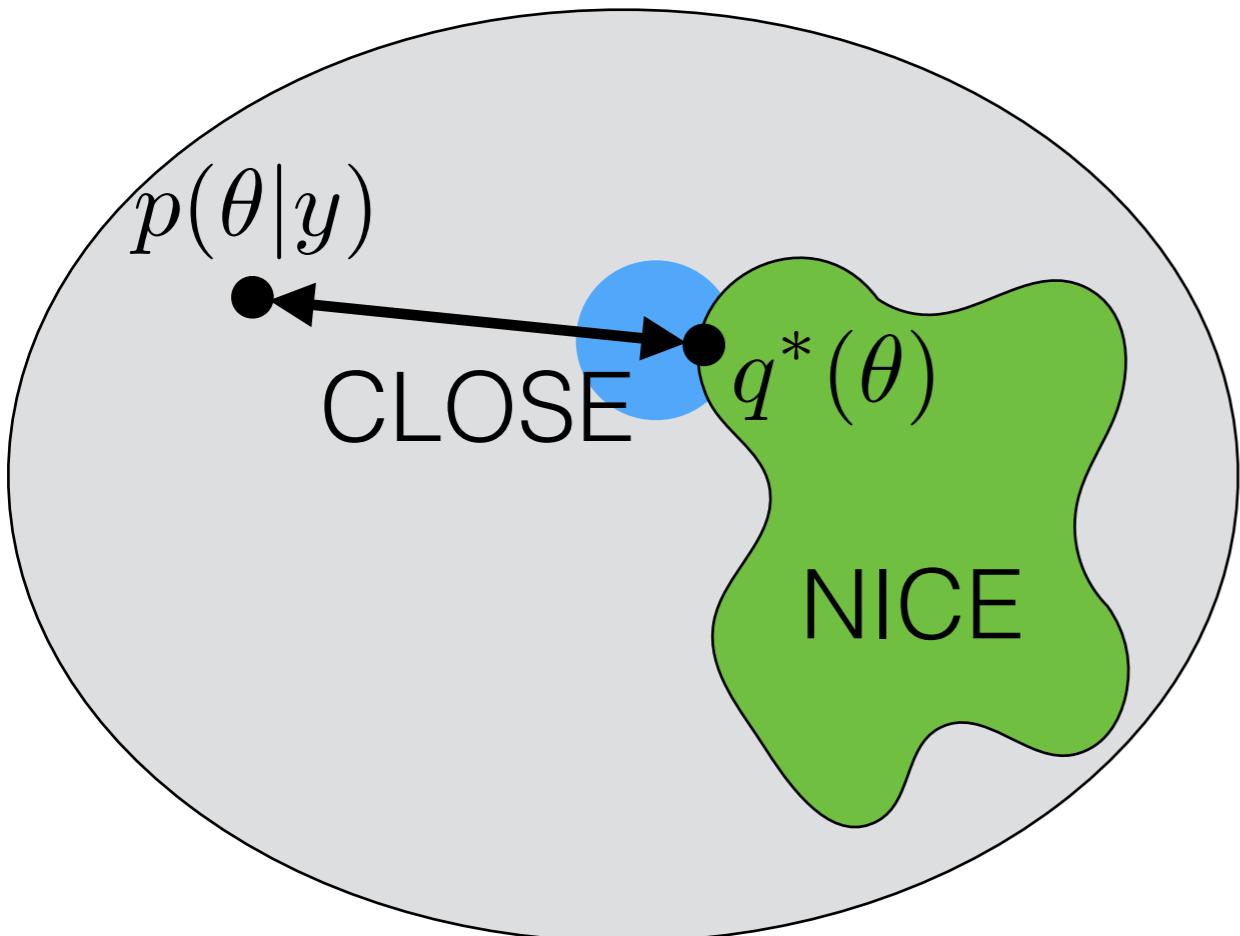
- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

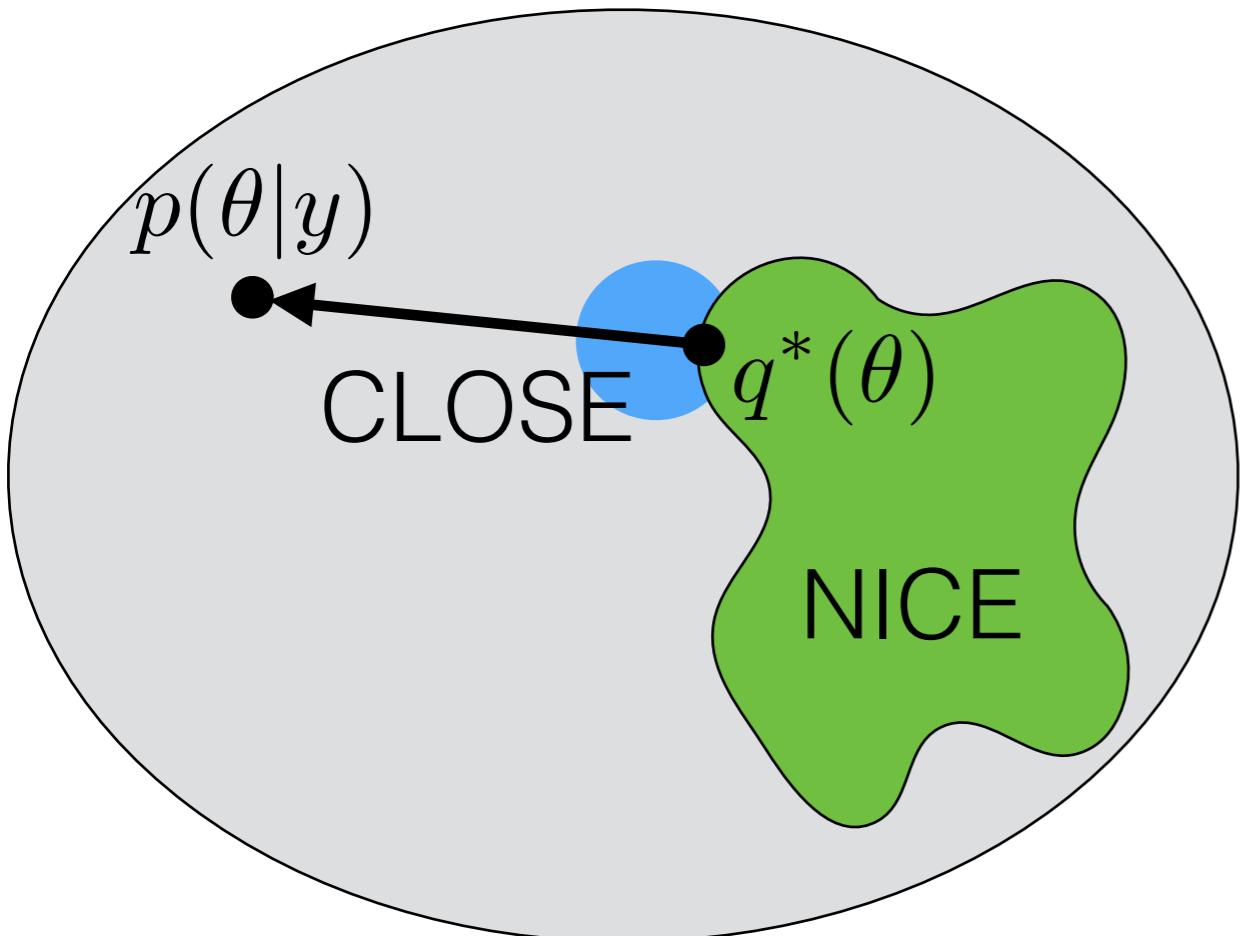
- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

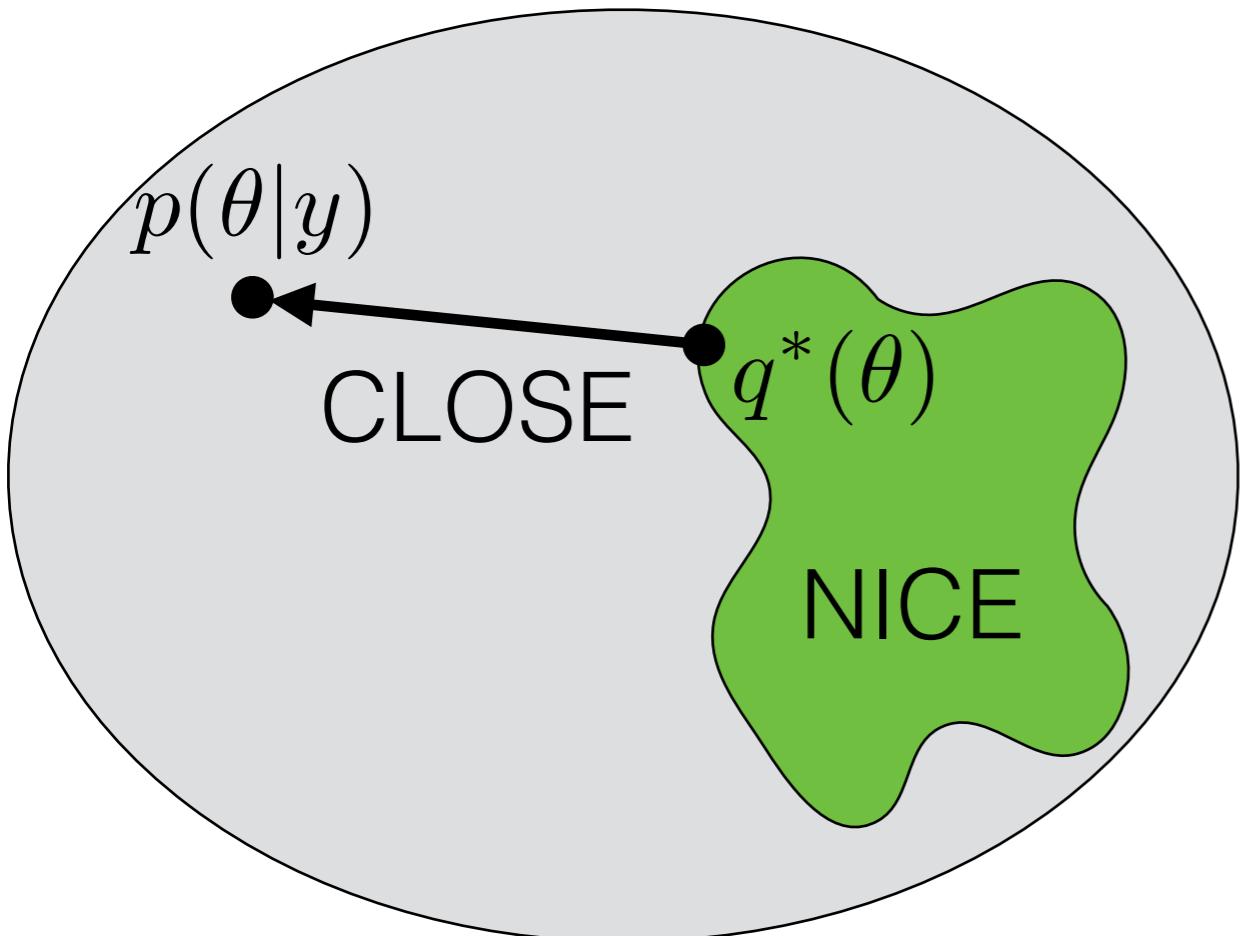
- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

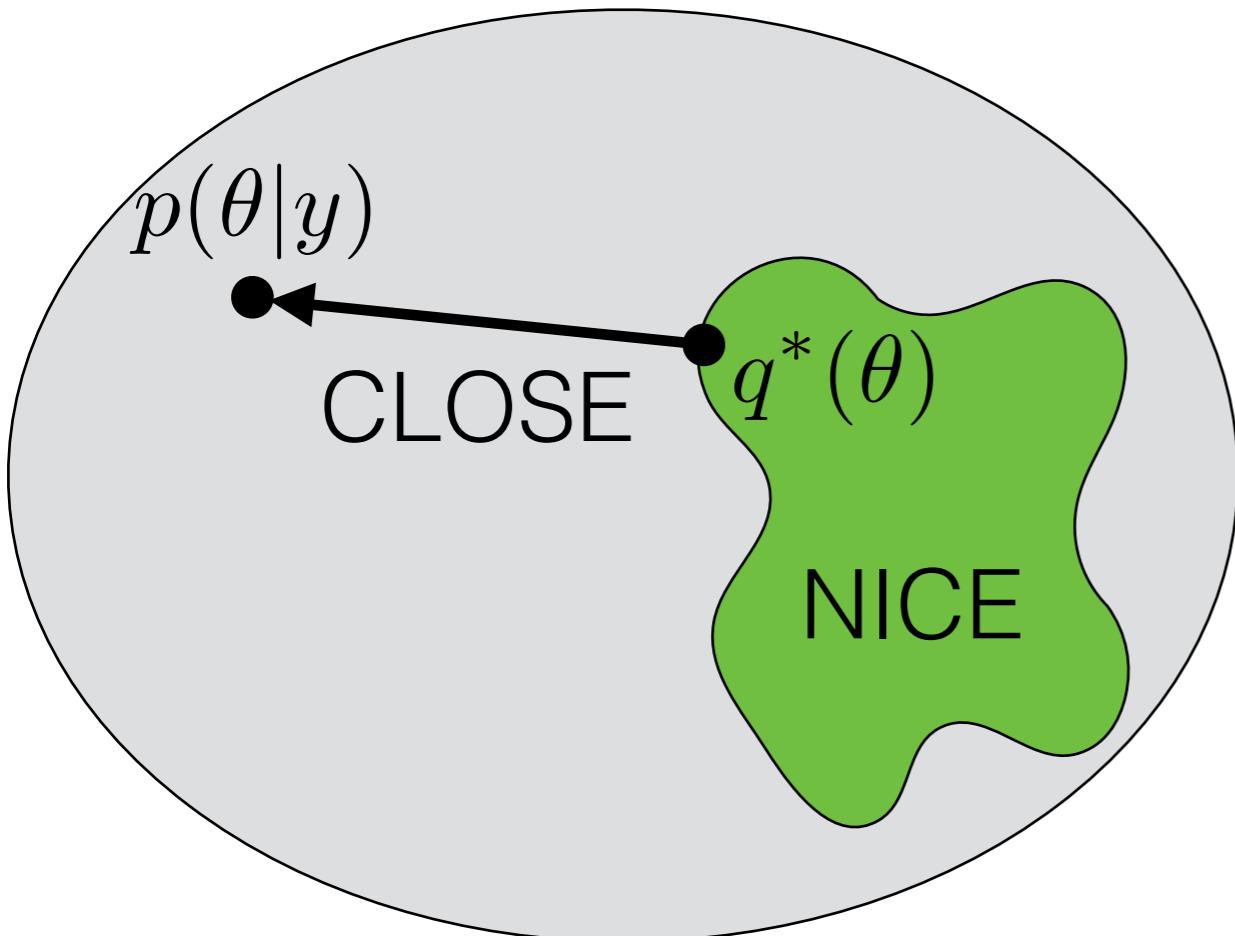
- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

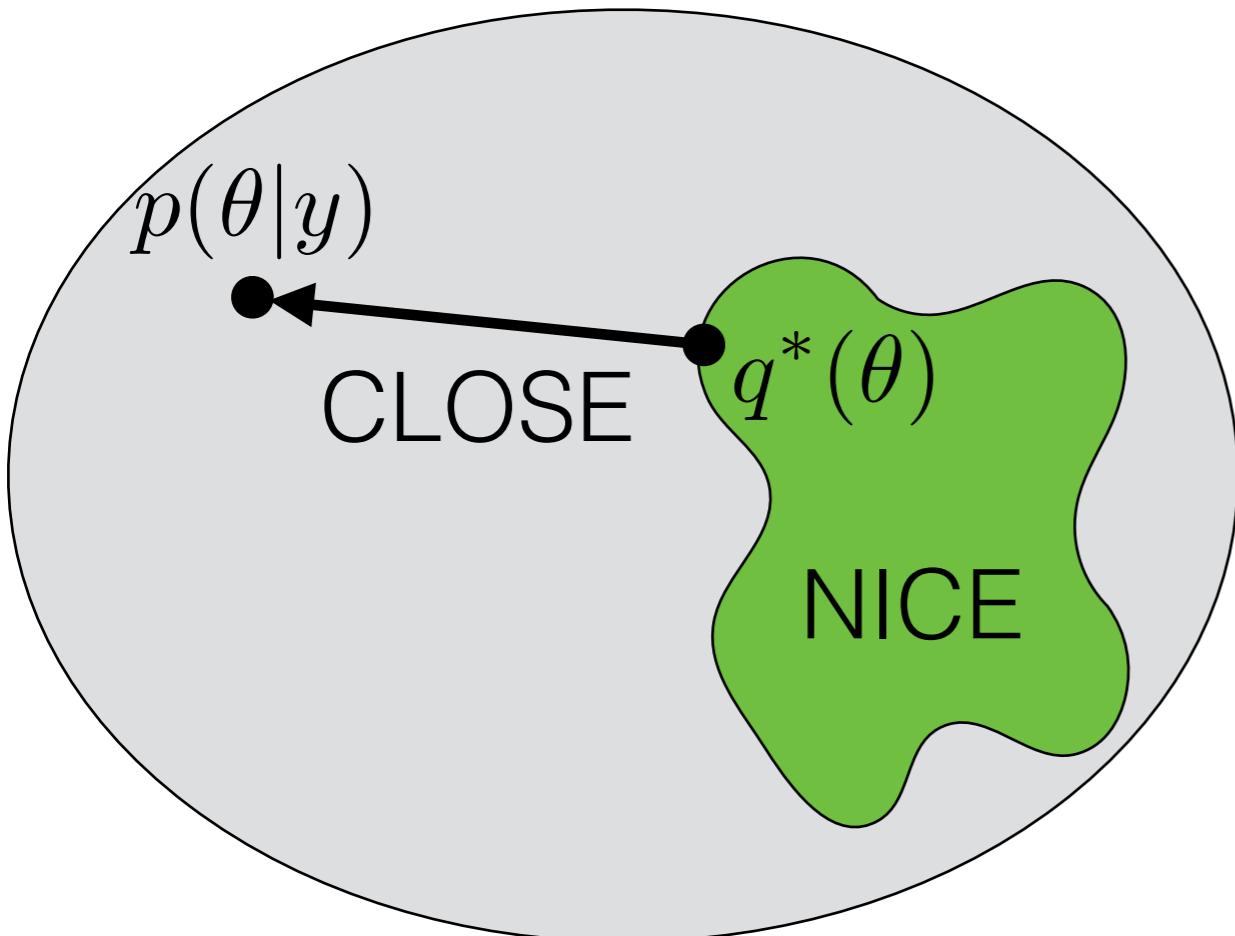
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence
$$KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$
- VB practical success

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

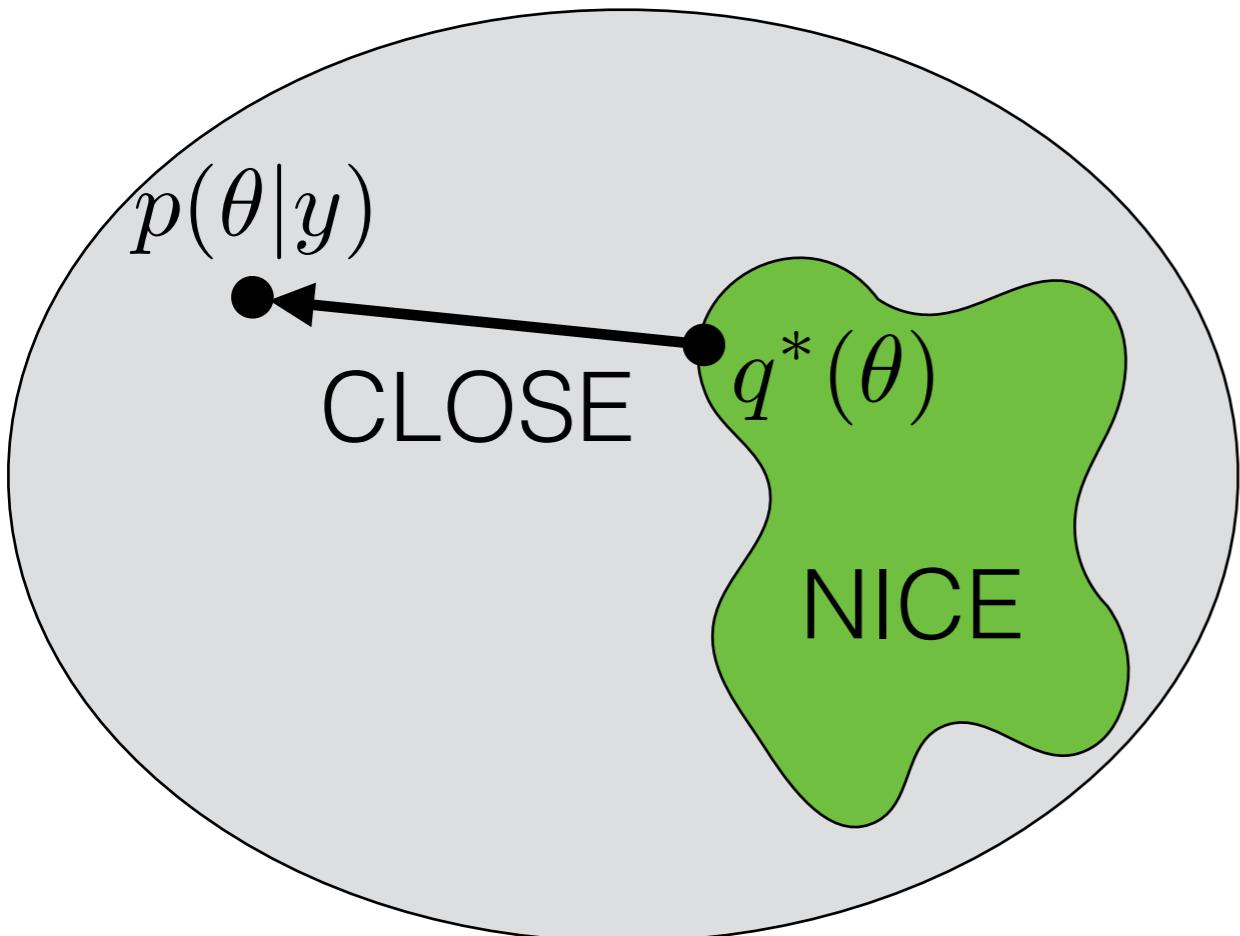
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence
$$KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$
- VB practical success: point estimates and prediction

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

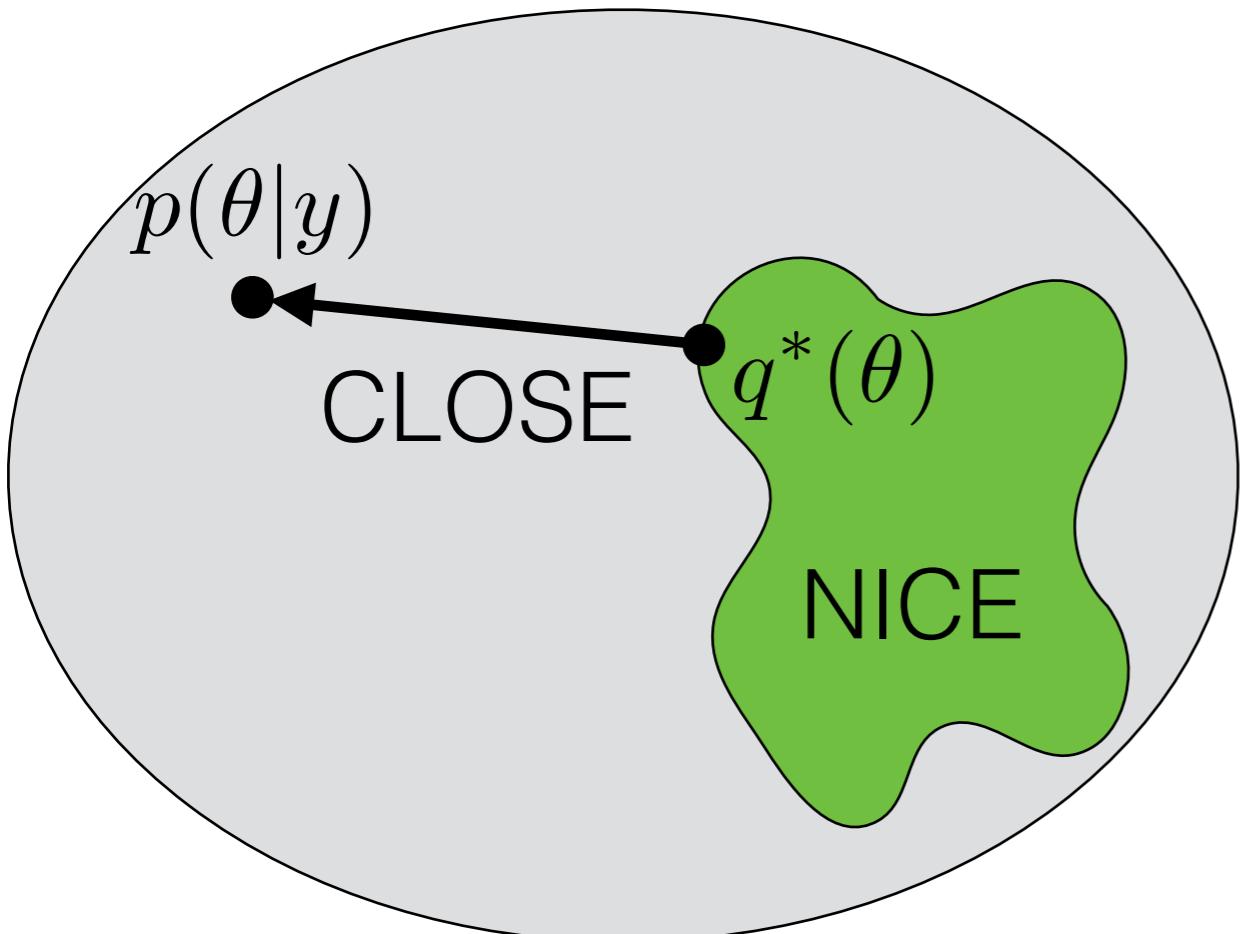
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence
$$KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$
- VB practical success: point estimates and prediction, fast

# Approximate Bayesian Inference

[Bardenet,  
Doucet,  
Holmes  
2017]

- Gold standard: Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
  - Eventually accurate but can be slow



Instead: an optimization approach

- Approximate posterior with  $q^*$

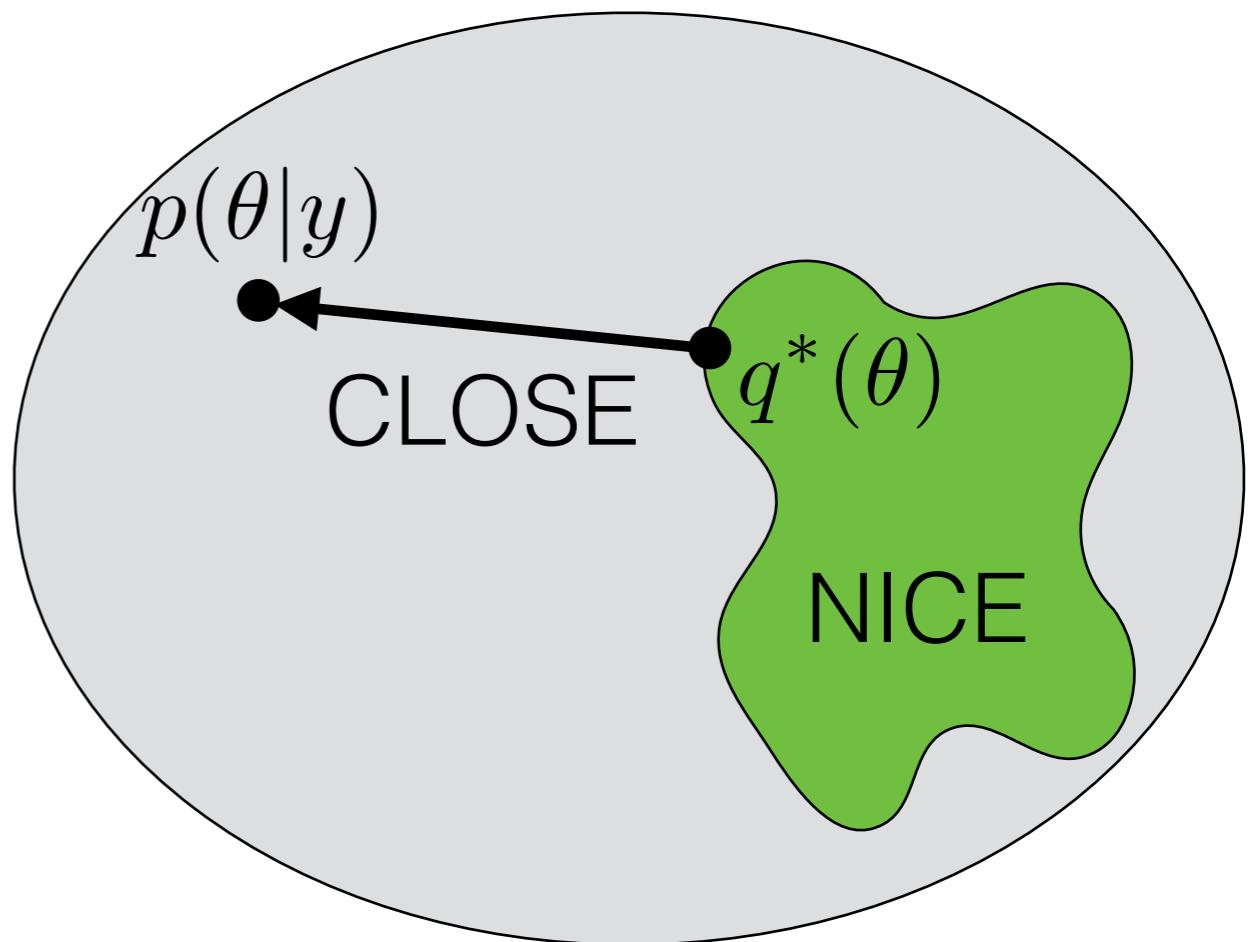
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

- Variational Bayes (VB):  $f$  is Kullback-Leibler divergence
$$KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$
- VB practical success: point estimates and prediction, fast, streaming, distributed (3.6M Wikipedia, 350K Nature)

# Why KL?

- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



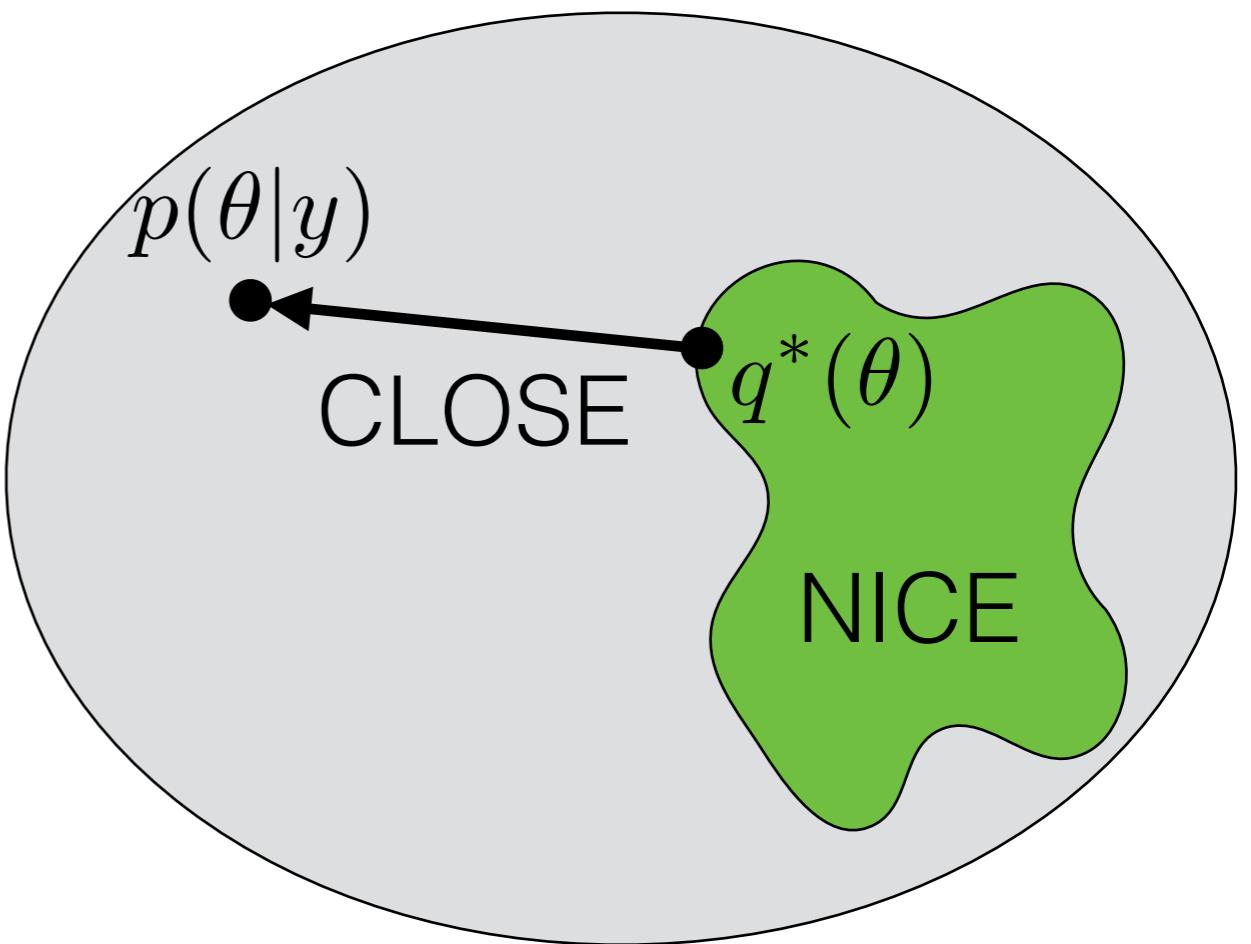
# Why KL?

- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$



# Why KL?

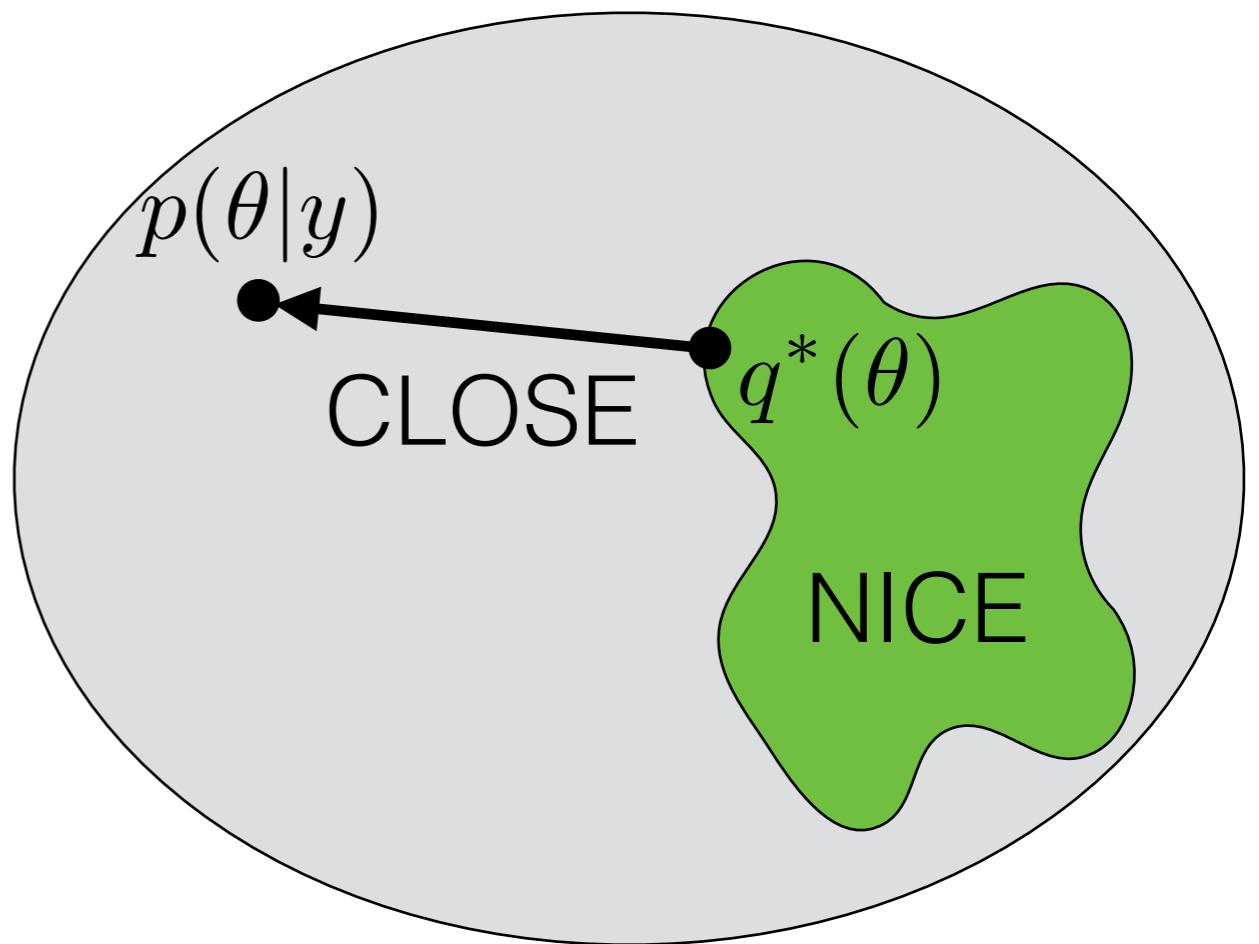
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta$$



# Why KL?

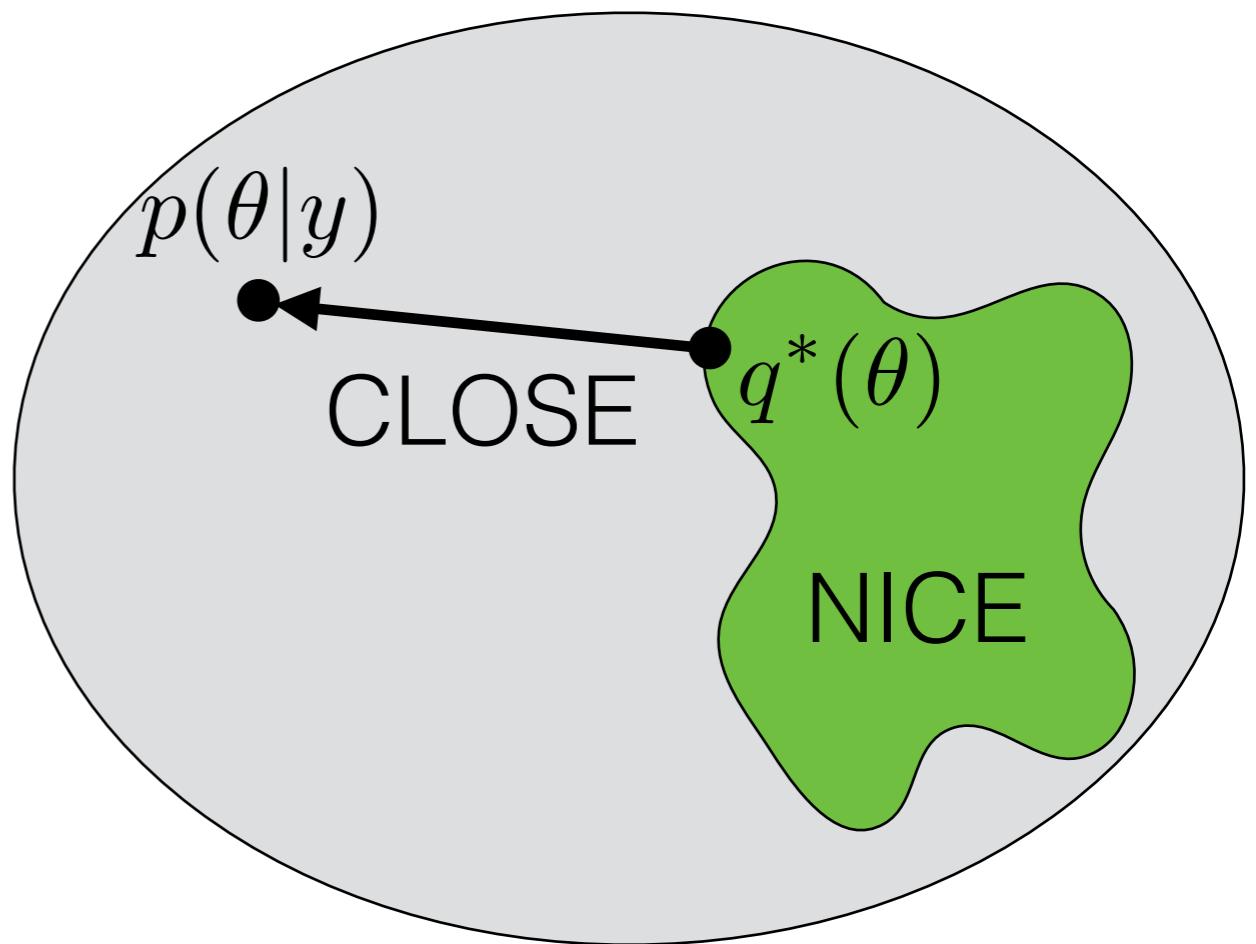
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



# Why KL?

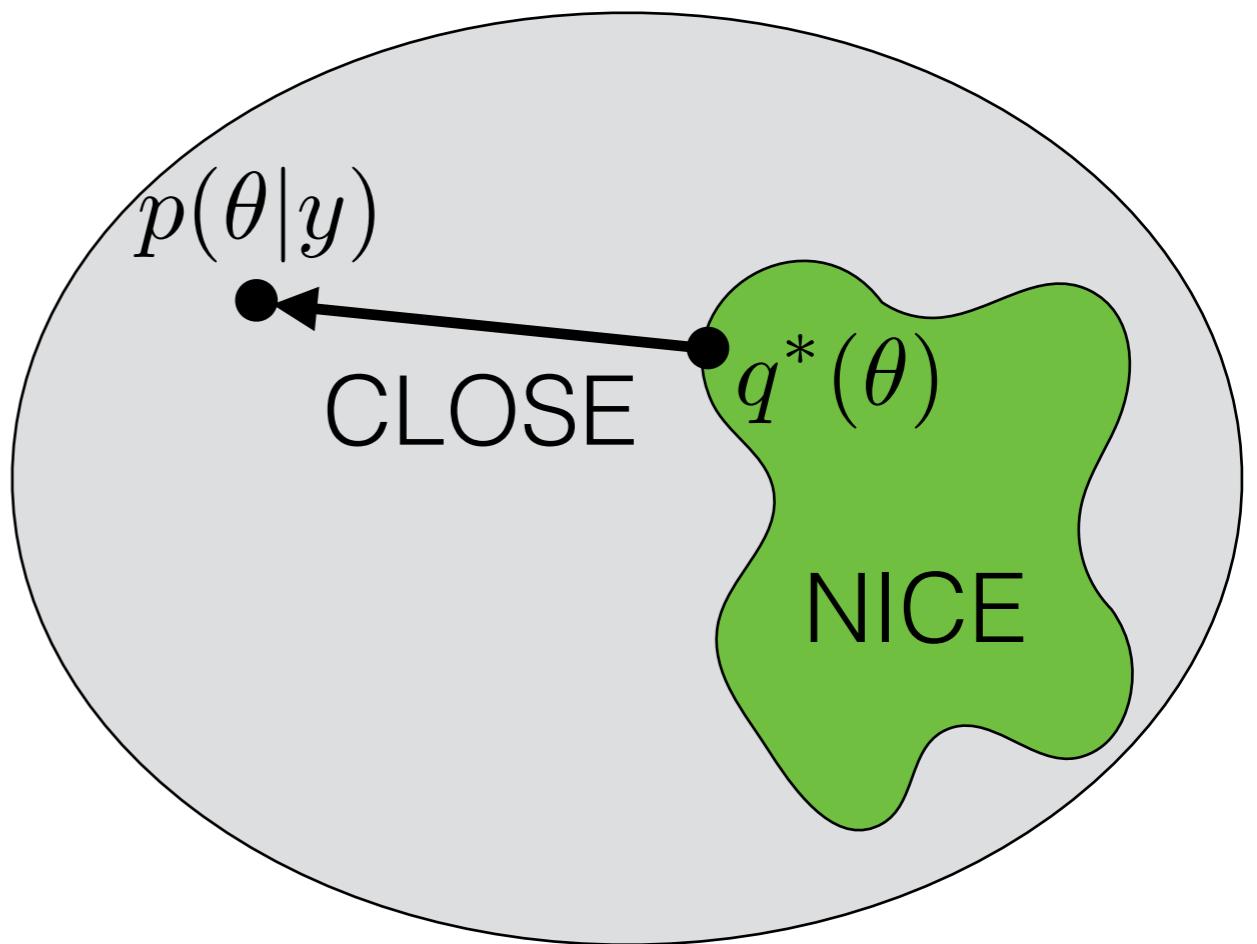
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \boxed{\log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta}$$



# Why KL?

- Variational Bayes

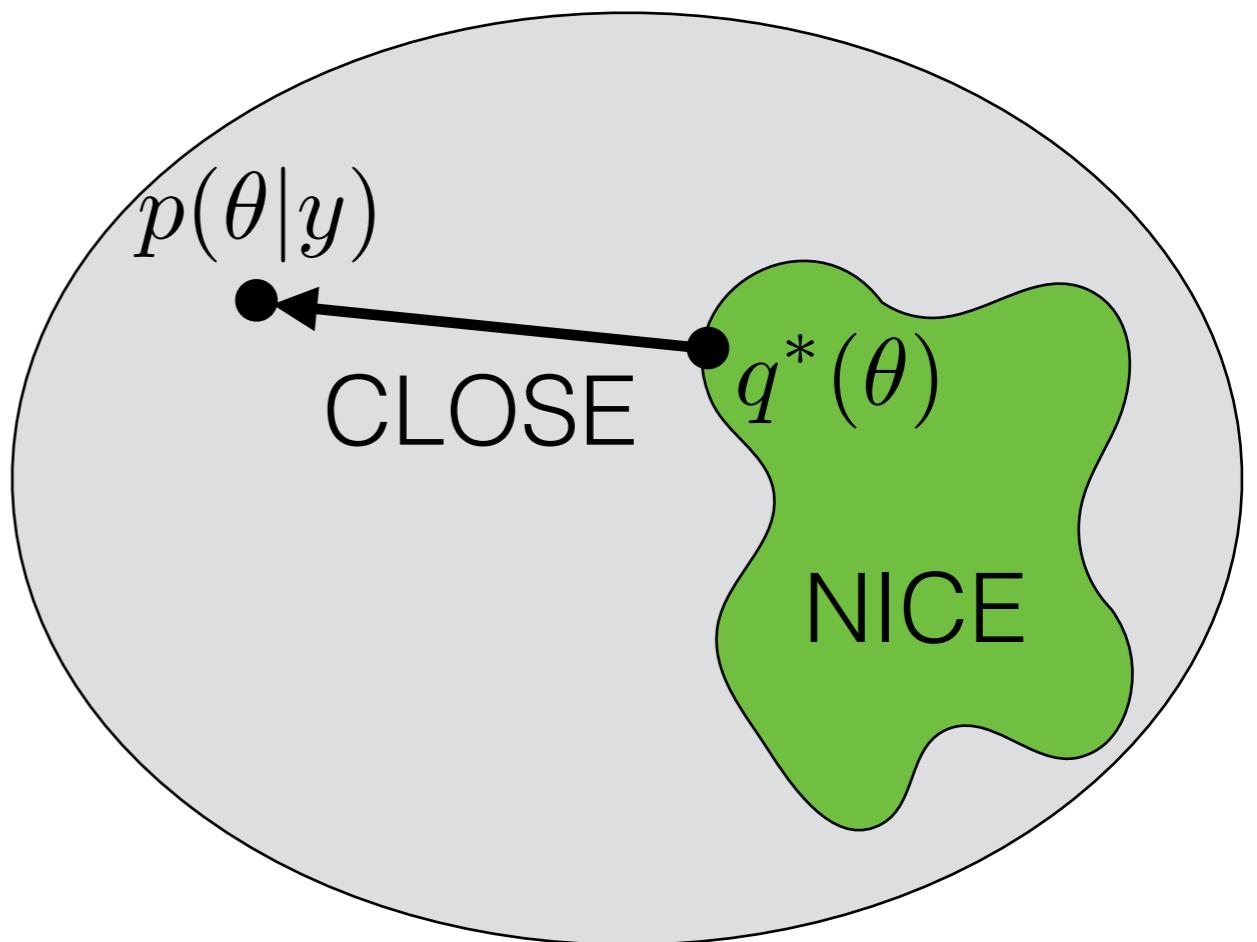
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) -$$

$$\int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



# Why KL?

- Variational Bayes

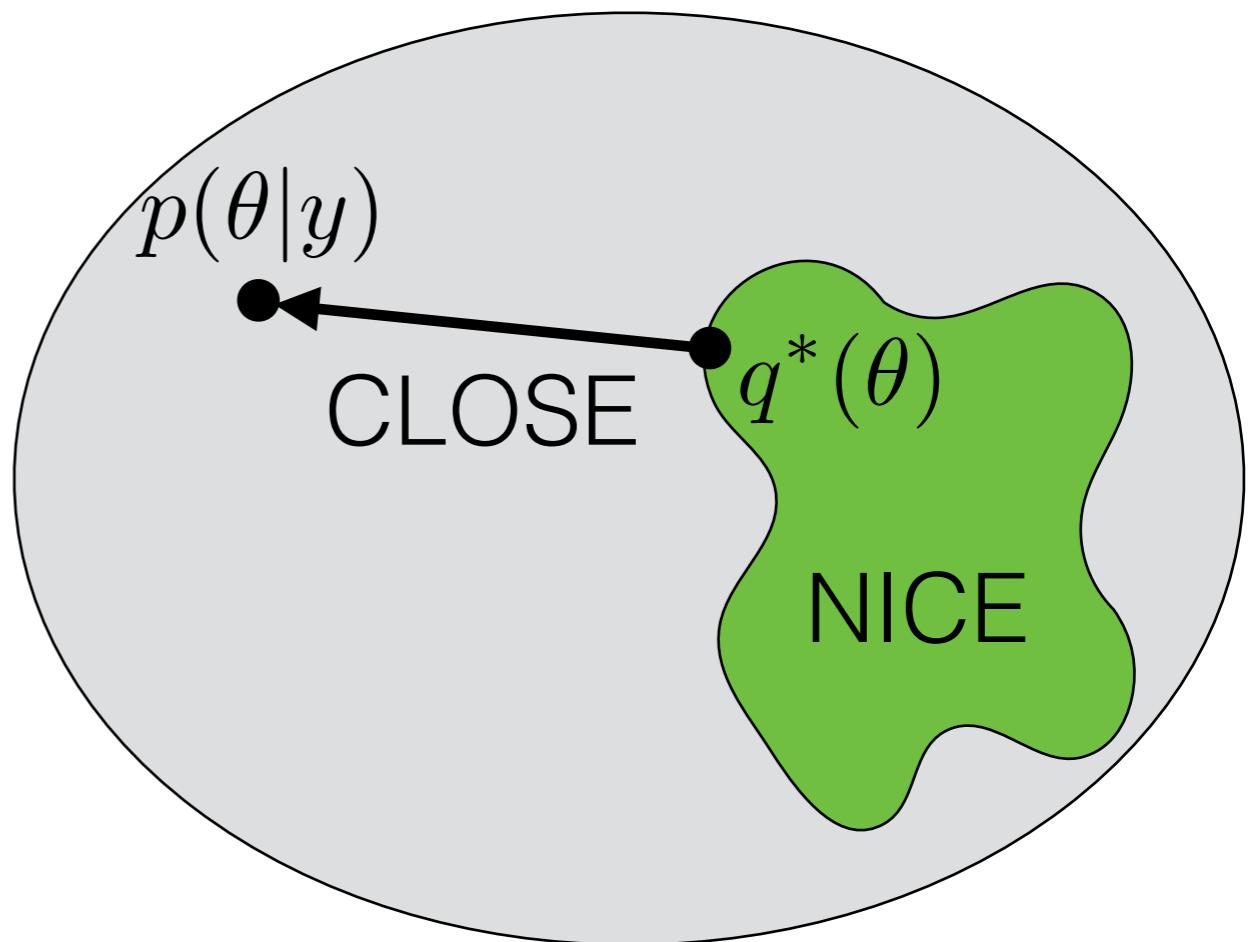
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) -$$

$$\int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Why KL?

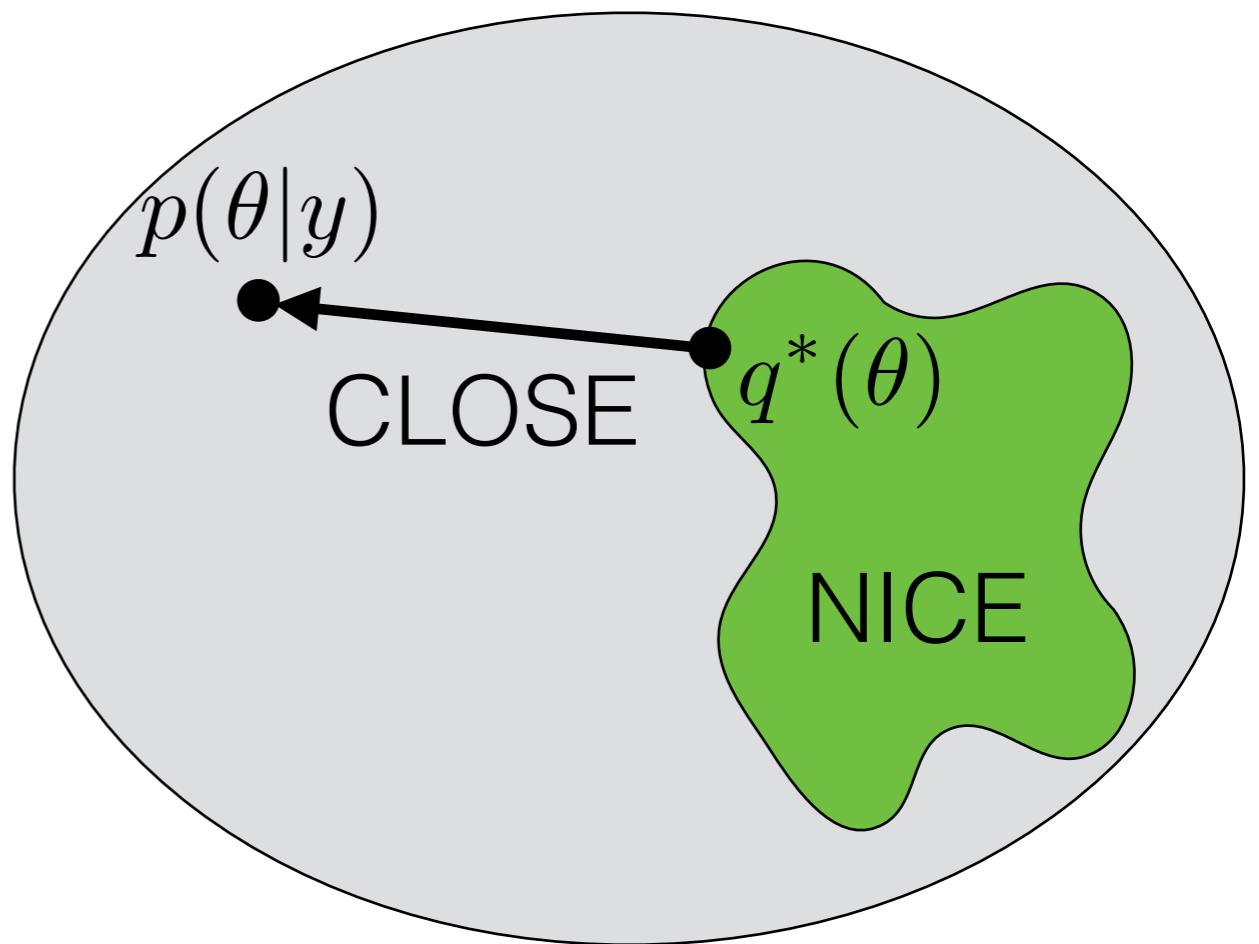
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Why KL?

- Variational Bayes

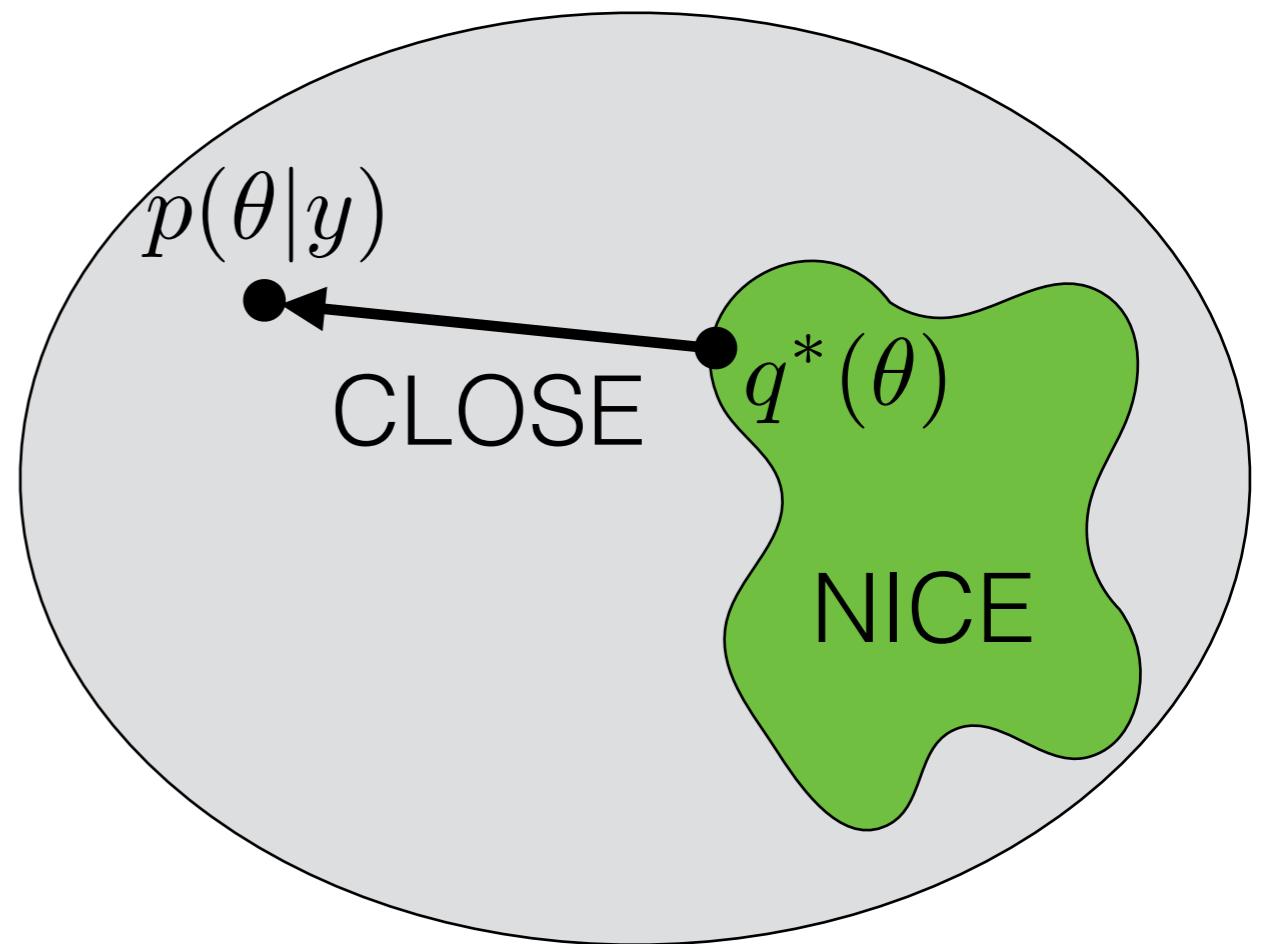
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$

- Exercise: Show  $\text{KL} \geq 0$  [Bishop 2006, Sec 1.6.1]



“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Why KL?

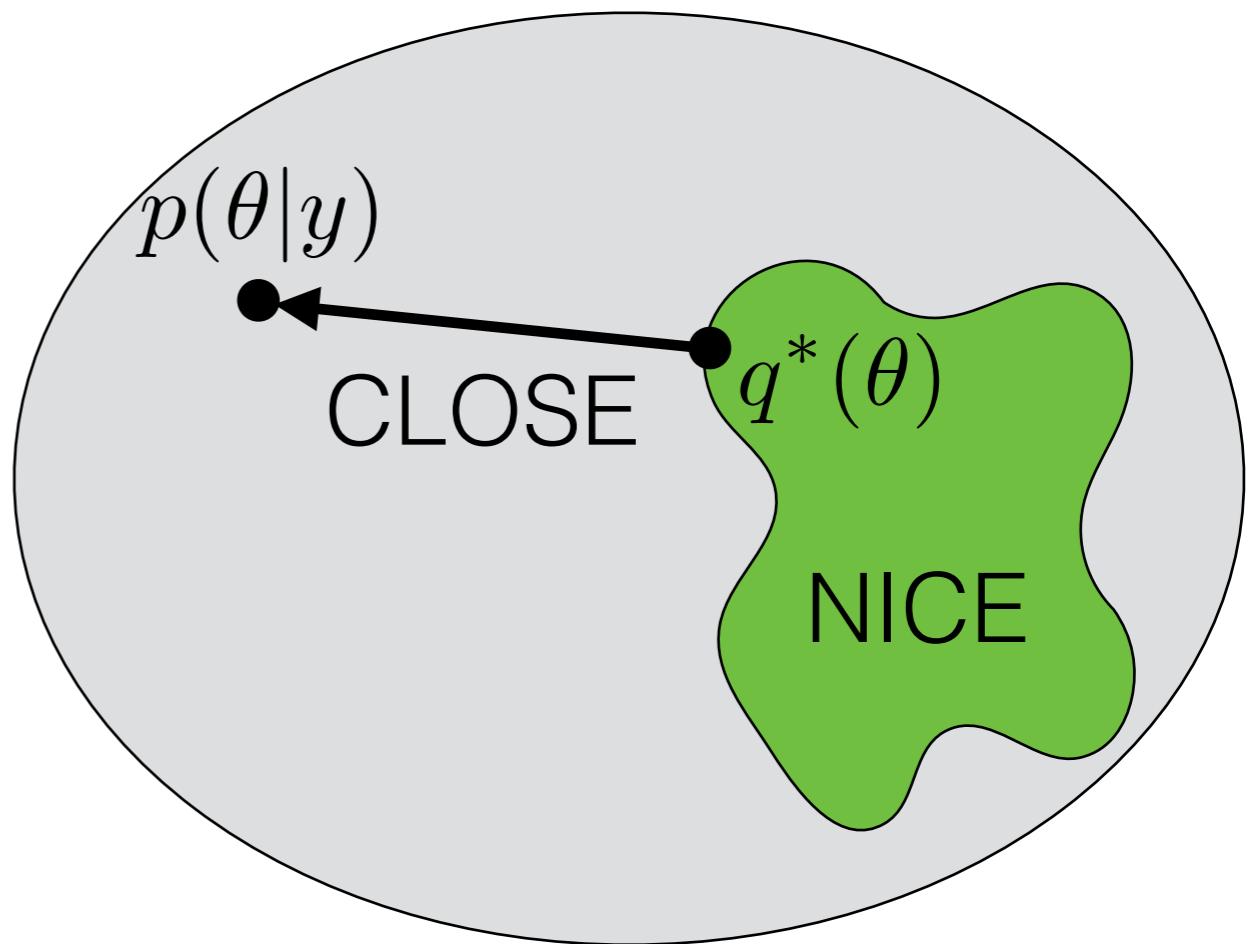
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



- Exercise: Show  $\text{KL} \geq 0$  [Bishop 2006, Sec 1.6.1]
- $\text{KL} \geq 0 \Rightarrow \log p(y) \geq \text{ELBO}$

“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Why KL?

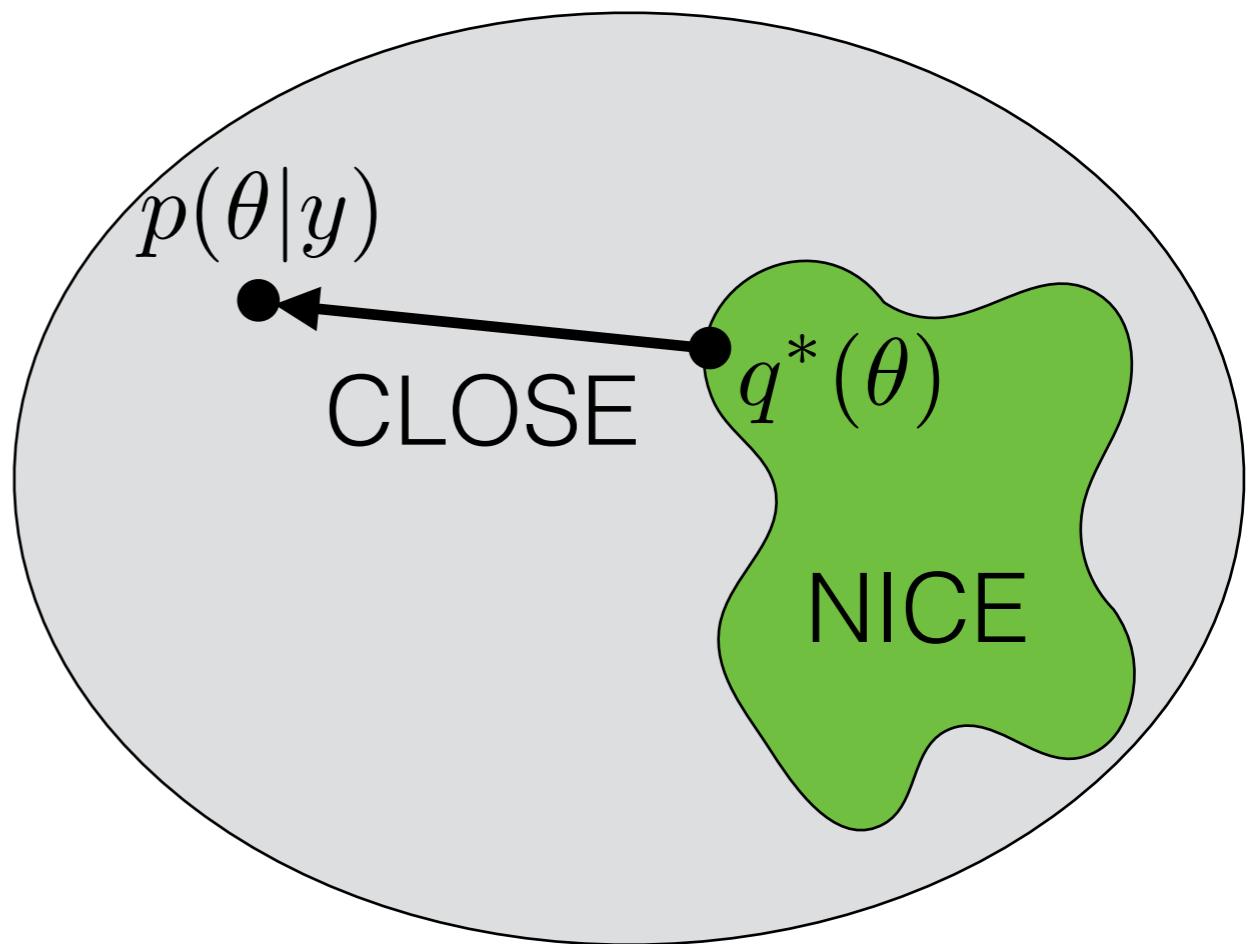
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$



- Exercise: Show  $\text{KL} \geq 0$  [Bishop 2006, Sec 1.6.1]
- $\text{KL} \geq 0 \Rightarrow \log p(y) \geq \text{ELBO}$
- $q^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{q \in Q} \text{ELBO}(q)$

“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Why KL?

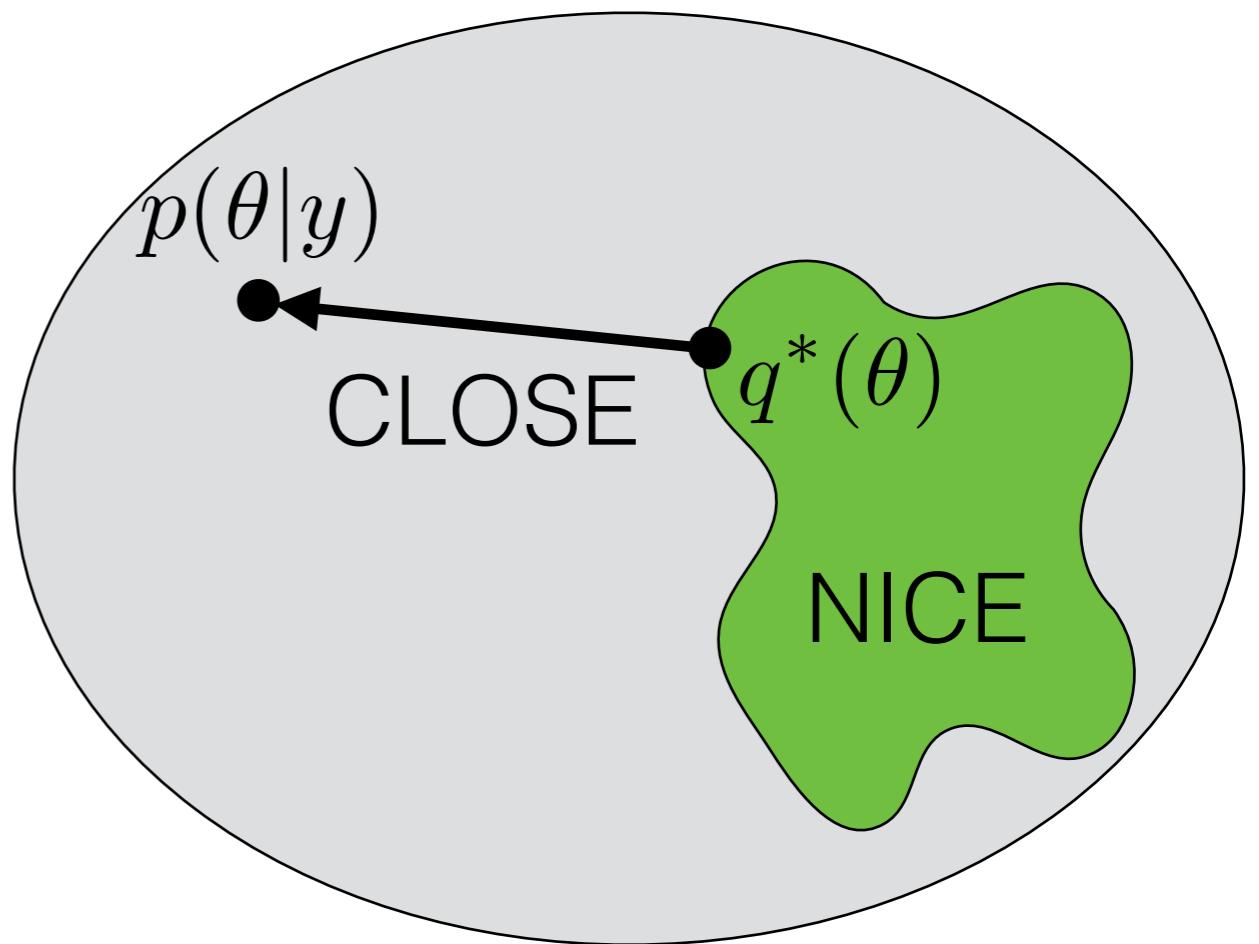
- Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

$$:= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta | y)} d\theta$$

$$= \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(y)}{p(\theta, y)} d\theta = \log p(y) - \int q(\theta) \log \frac{p(\theta, y)}{q(\theta)} d\theta$$

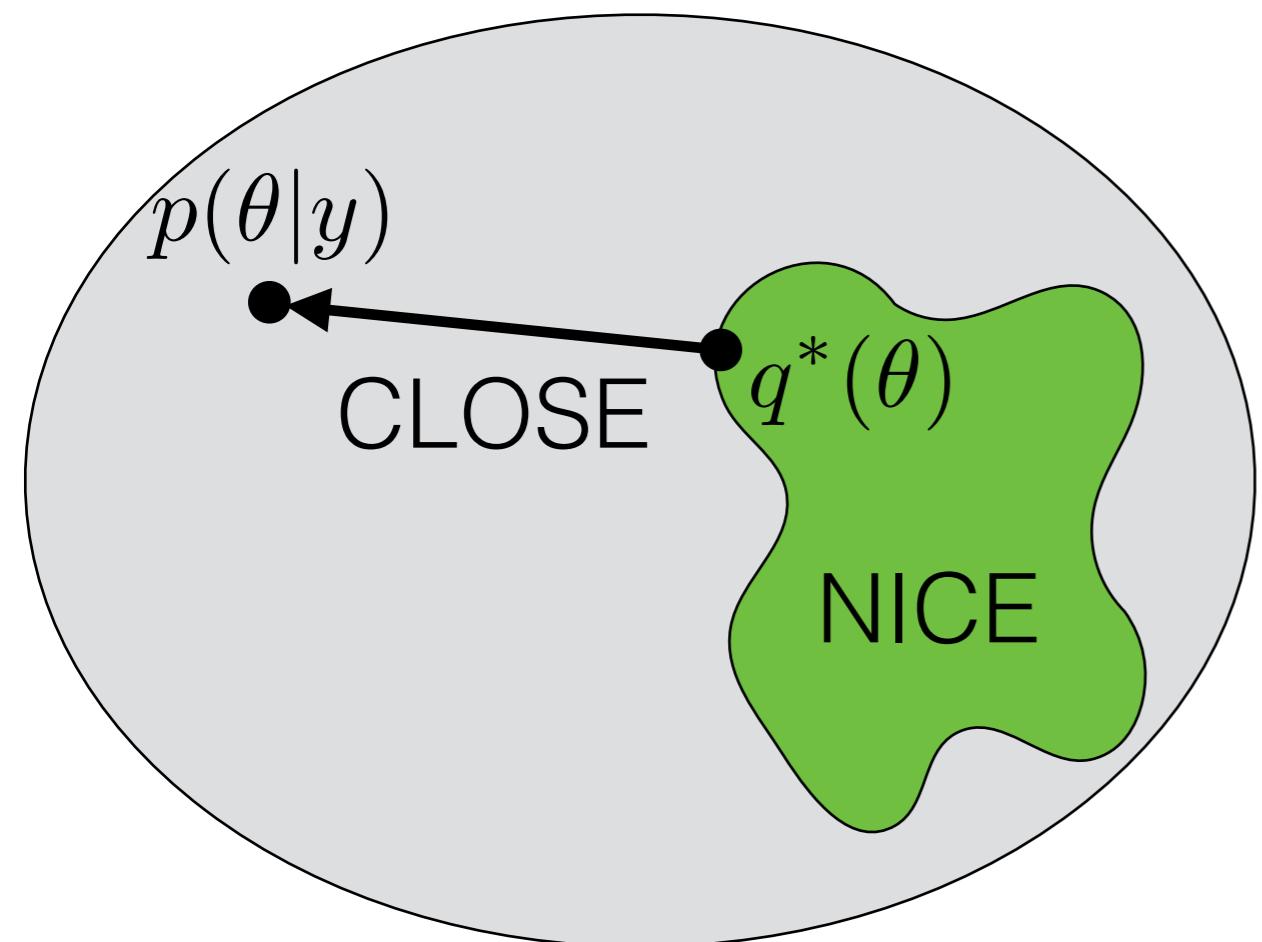


- Exercise: Show  $\text{KL} \geq 0$  [Bishop 2006, Sec 1.6.1]
- $\text{KL} \geq 0 \Rightarrow \log p(y) \geq \text{ELBO}$
- $q^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{q \in Q} \text{ELBO}(q)$
- Why KL (in this direction)?

“Evidence lower bound” (ELBO)

# Variational Bayes

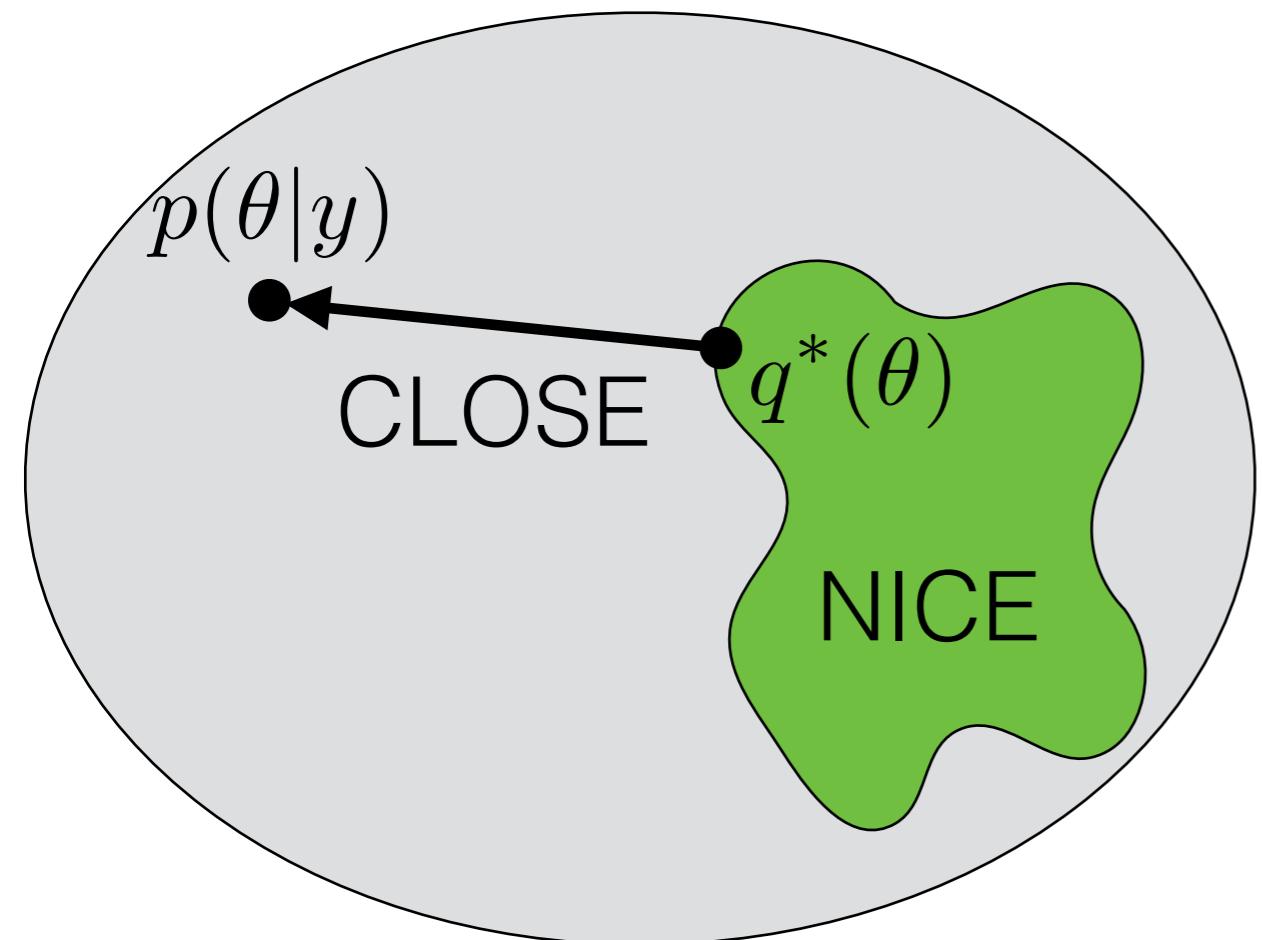
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

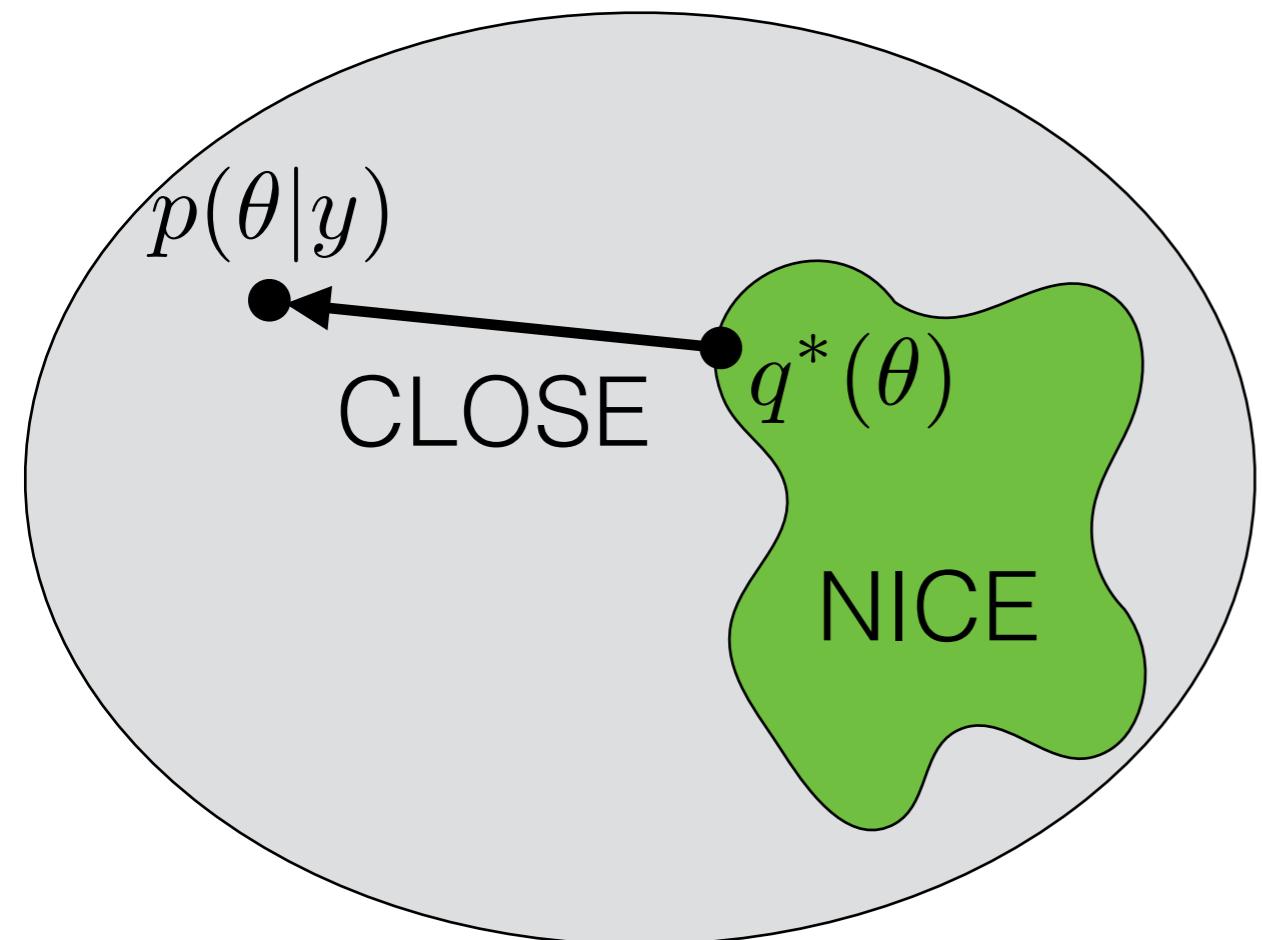
Choose “NICE” distributions



# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

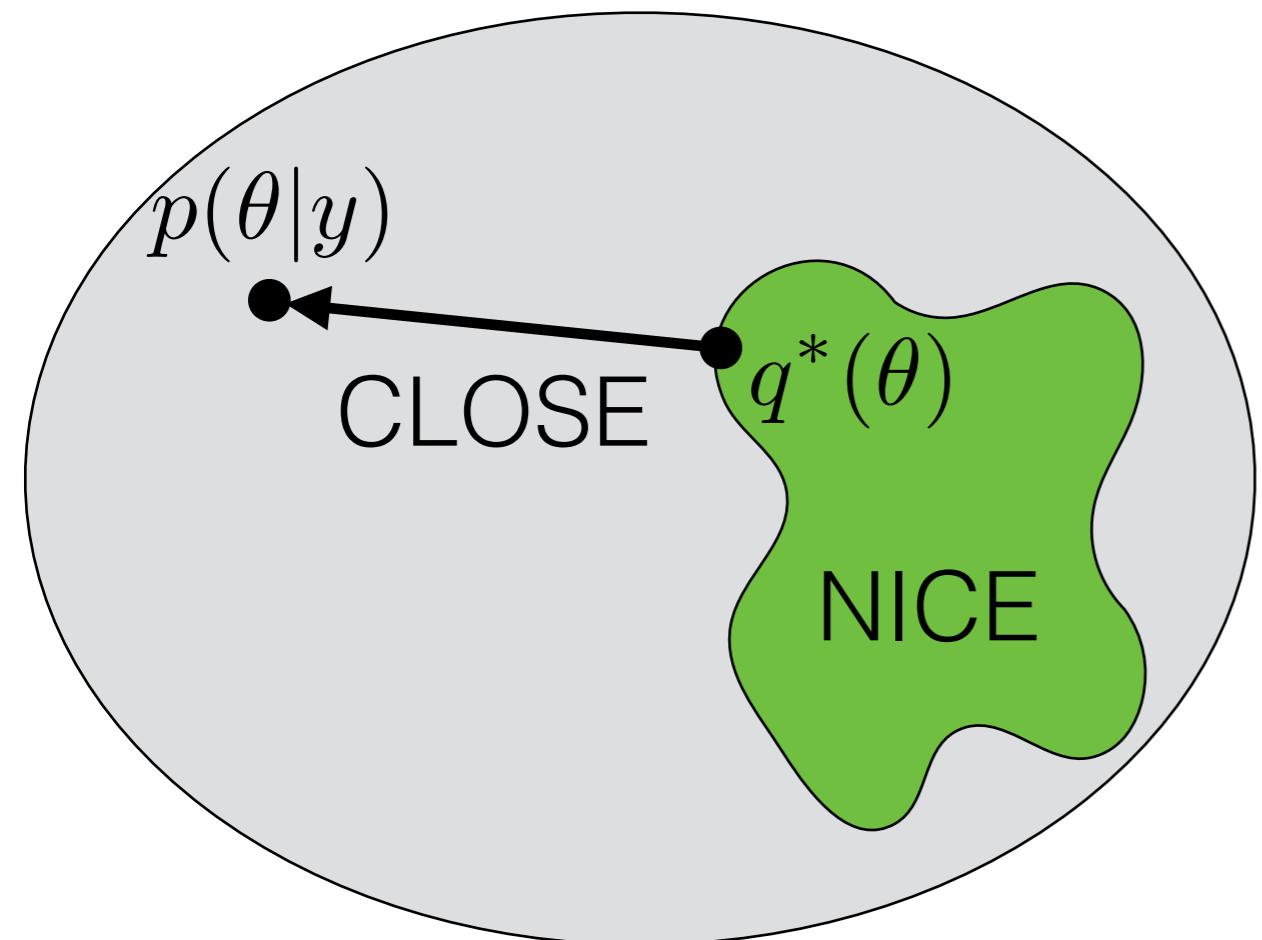
Choose “NICE” distributions



# Variational Bayes

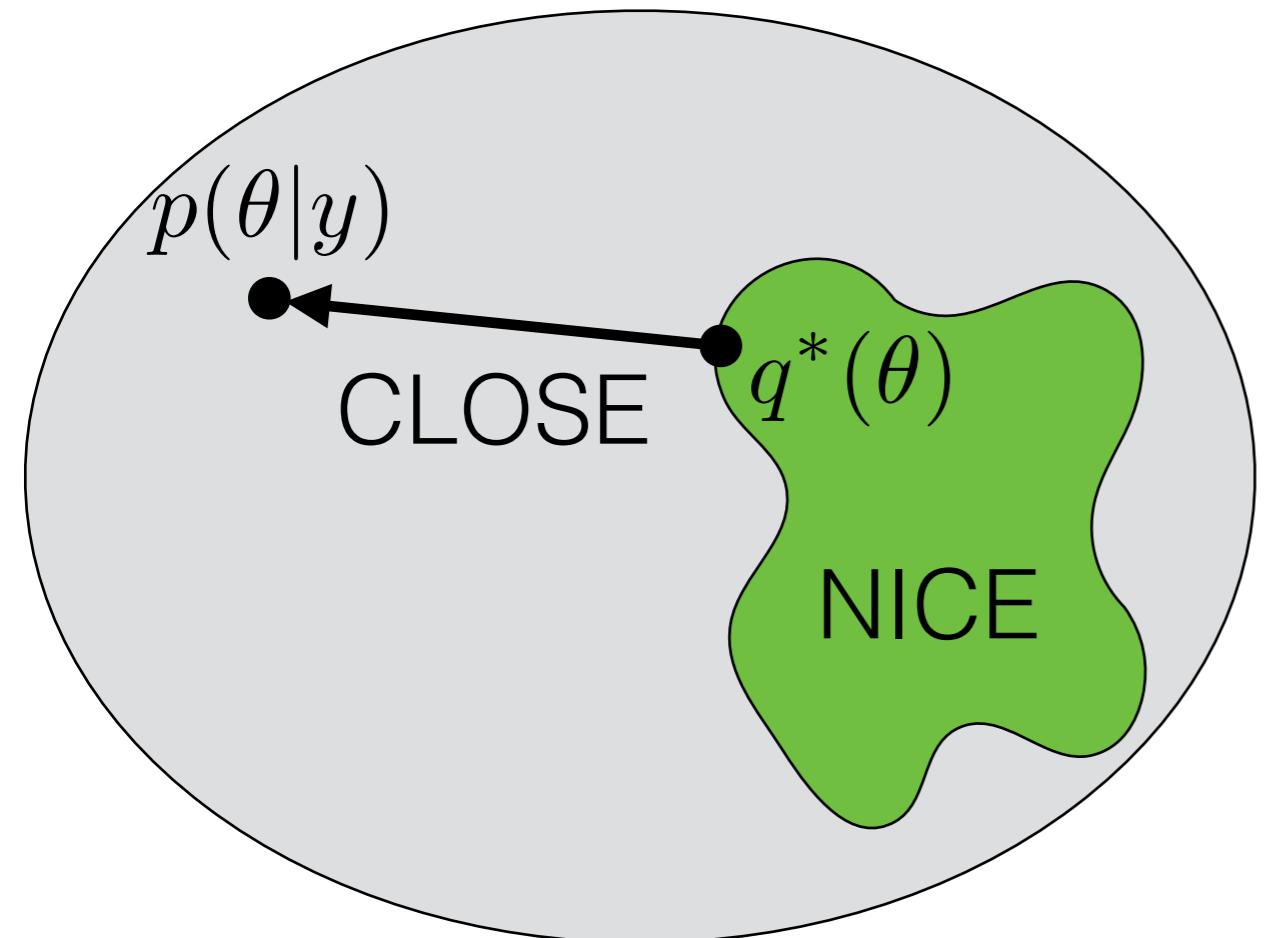
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

Choose “NICE” distributions



# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



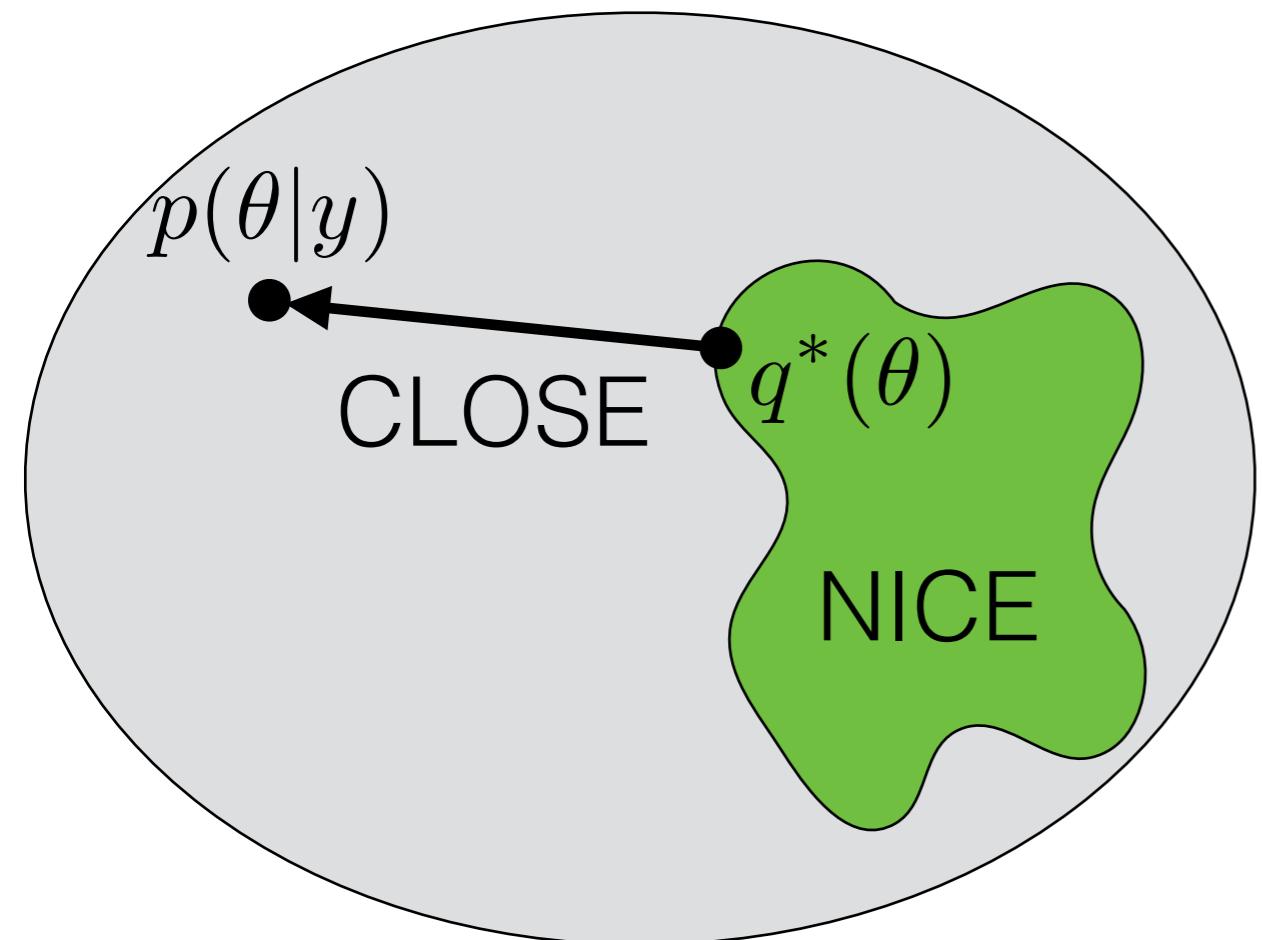
Choose “NICE” distributions

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



Choose “NICE” distributions

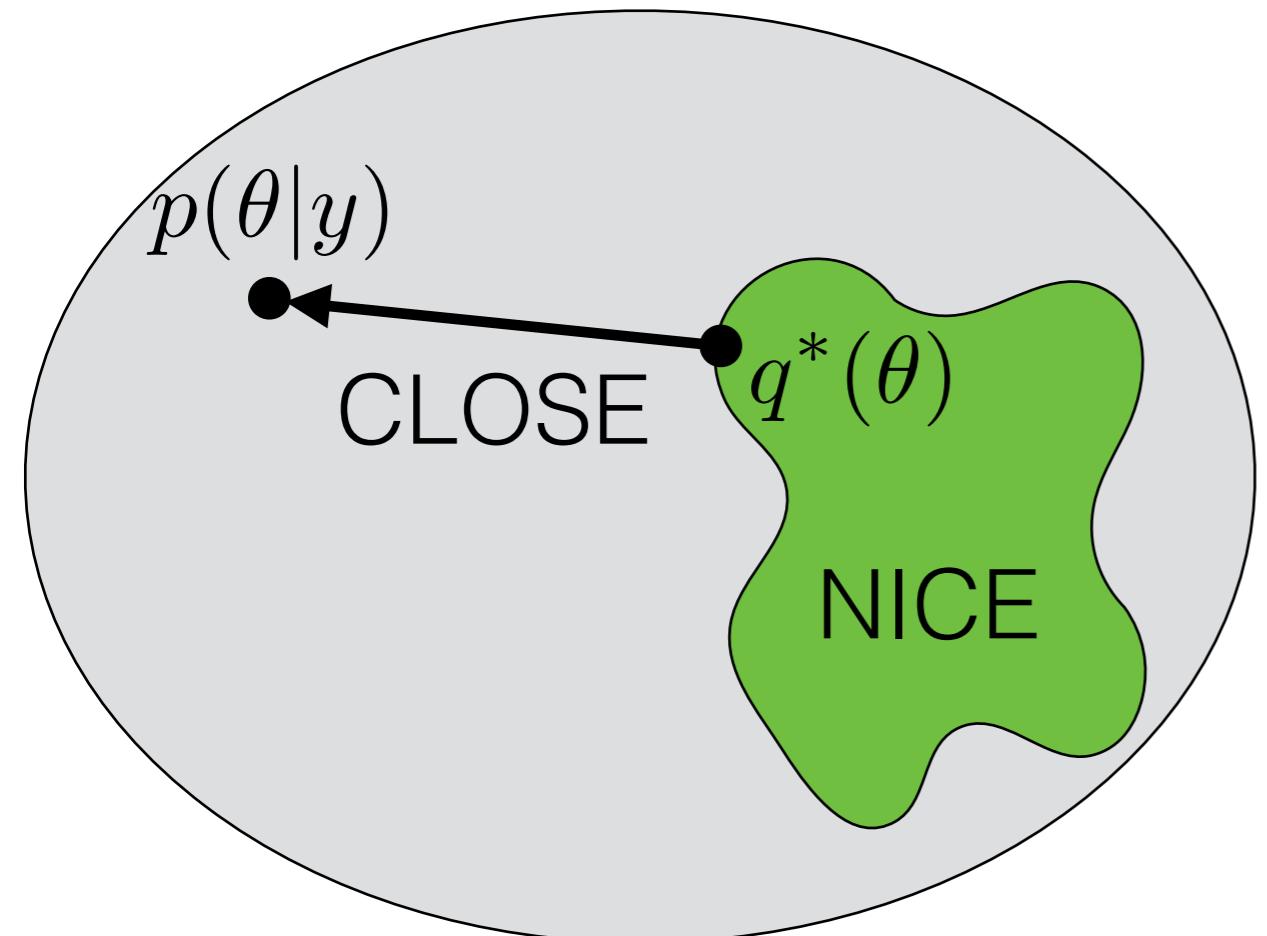
- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

- Often also exponential family

# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



Choose “NICE” distributions

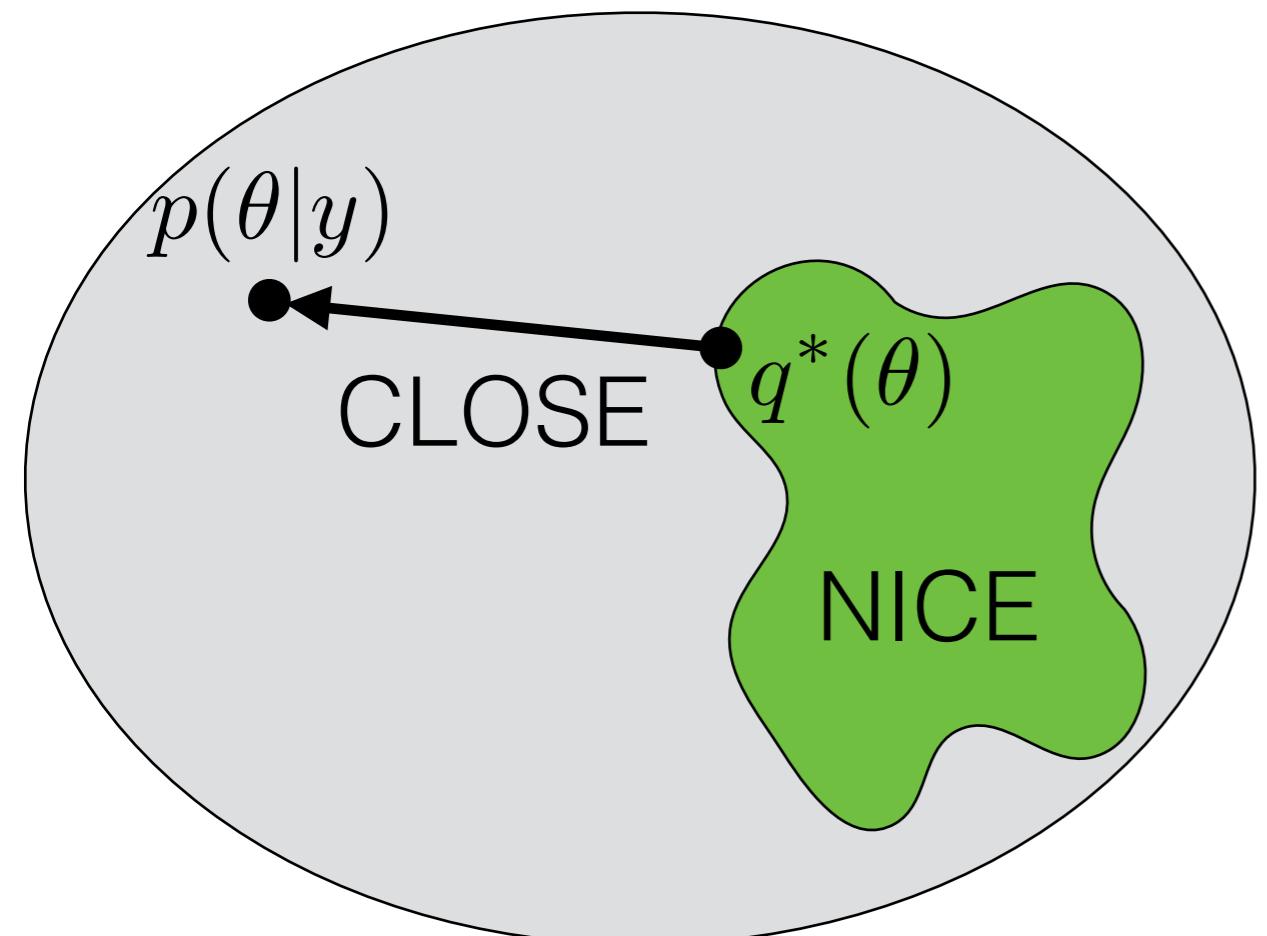
- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

- Often also exponential family
- Not a modeling assumption

# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

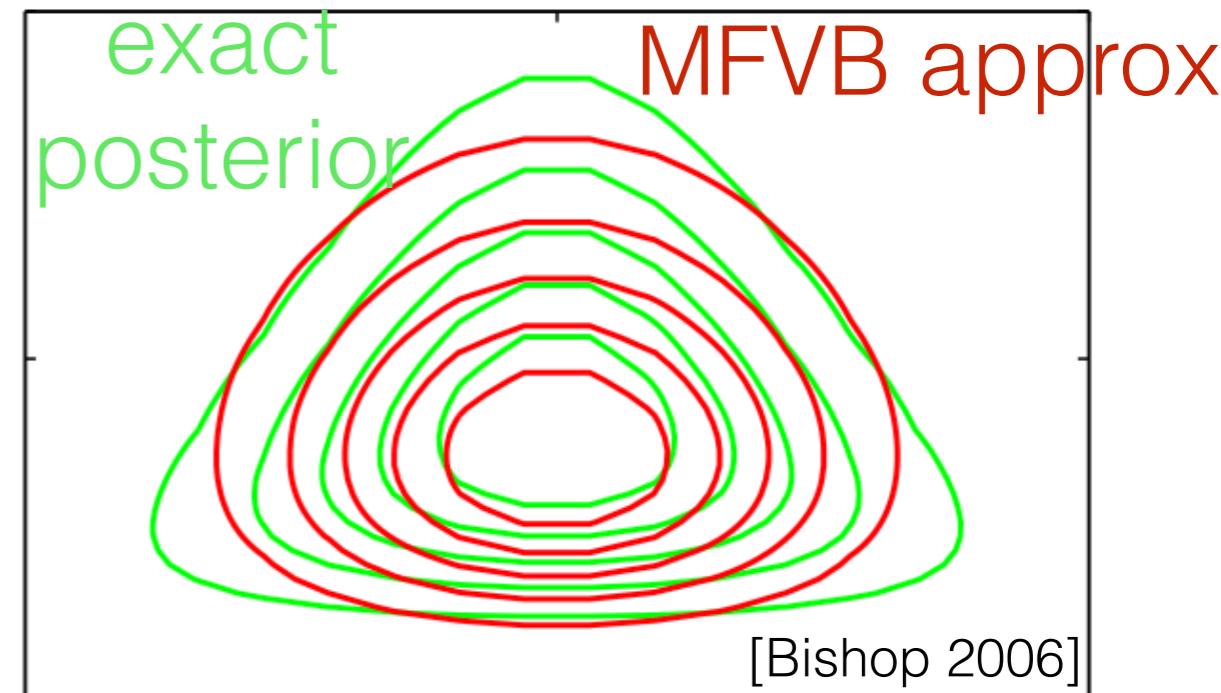


Choose “NICE” distributions

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

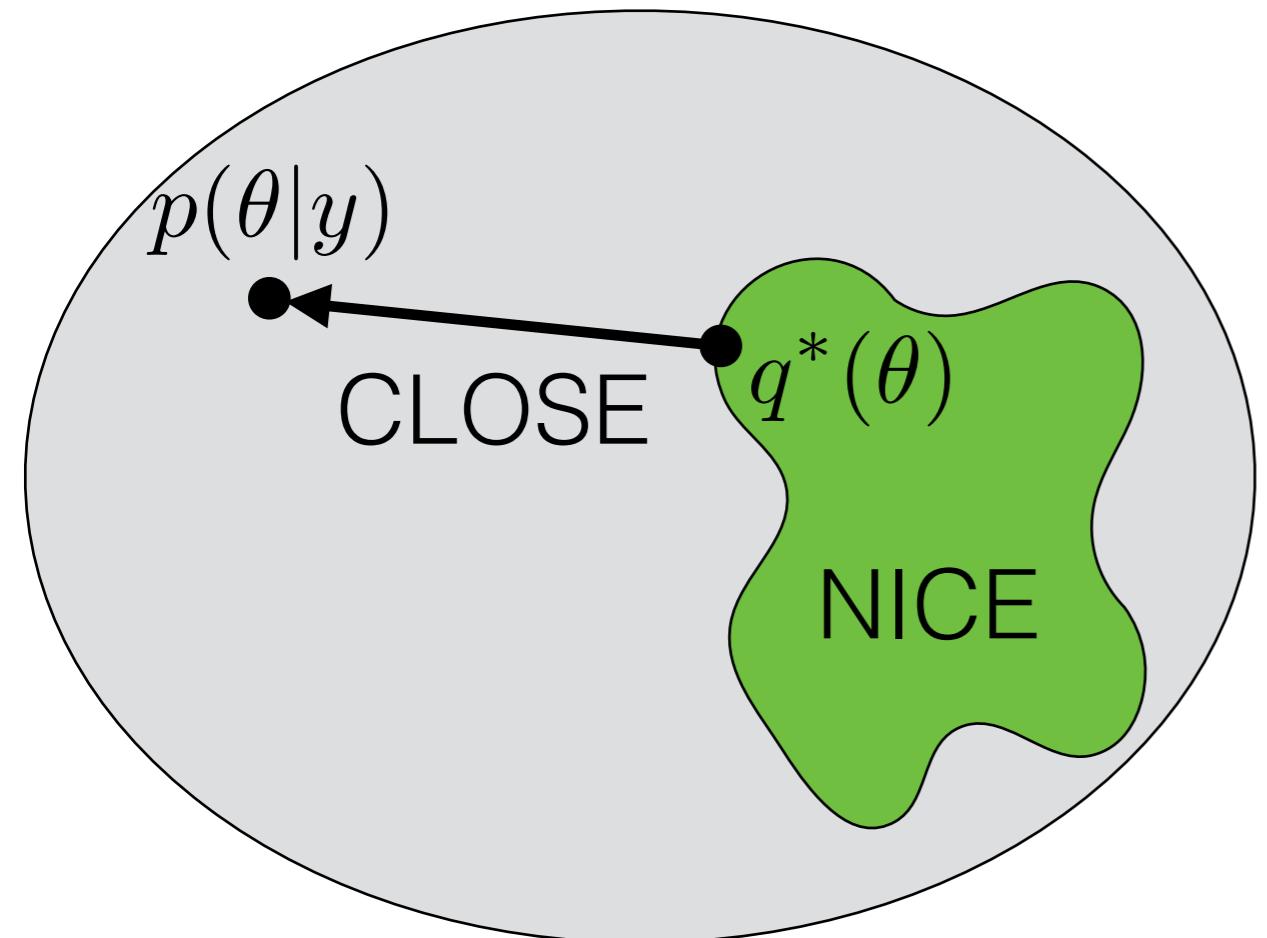
$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

- Often also exponential family
- Not a modeling assumption



# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



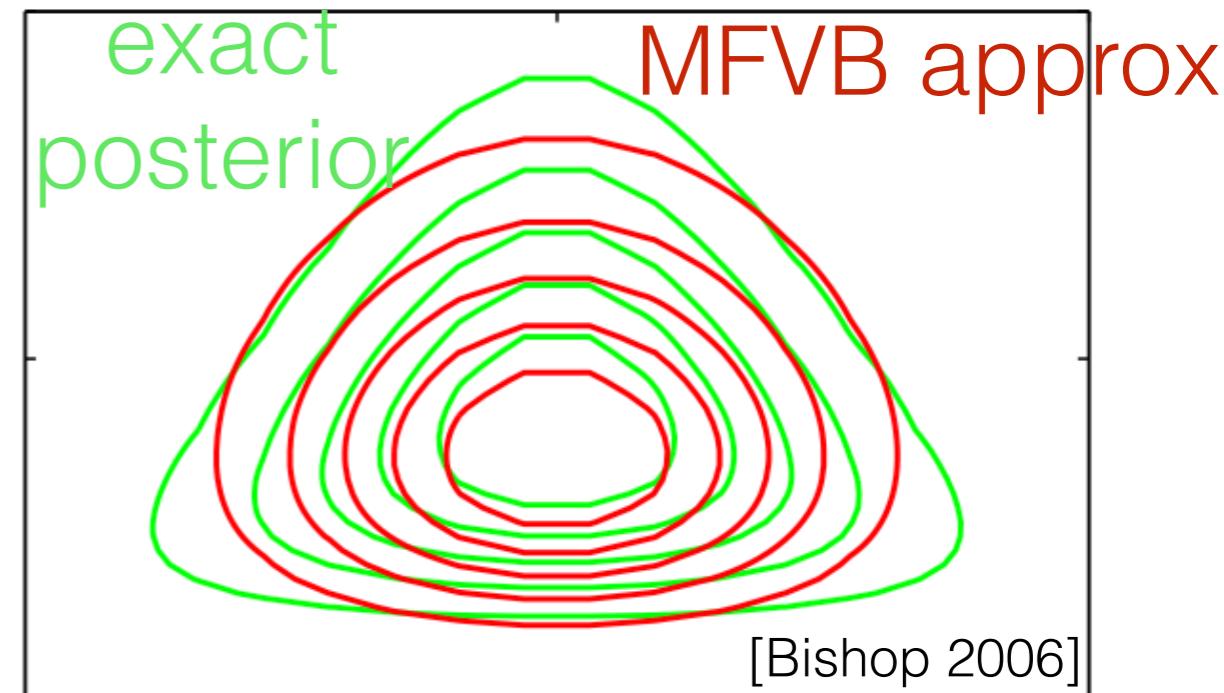
Choose “NICE” distributions

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

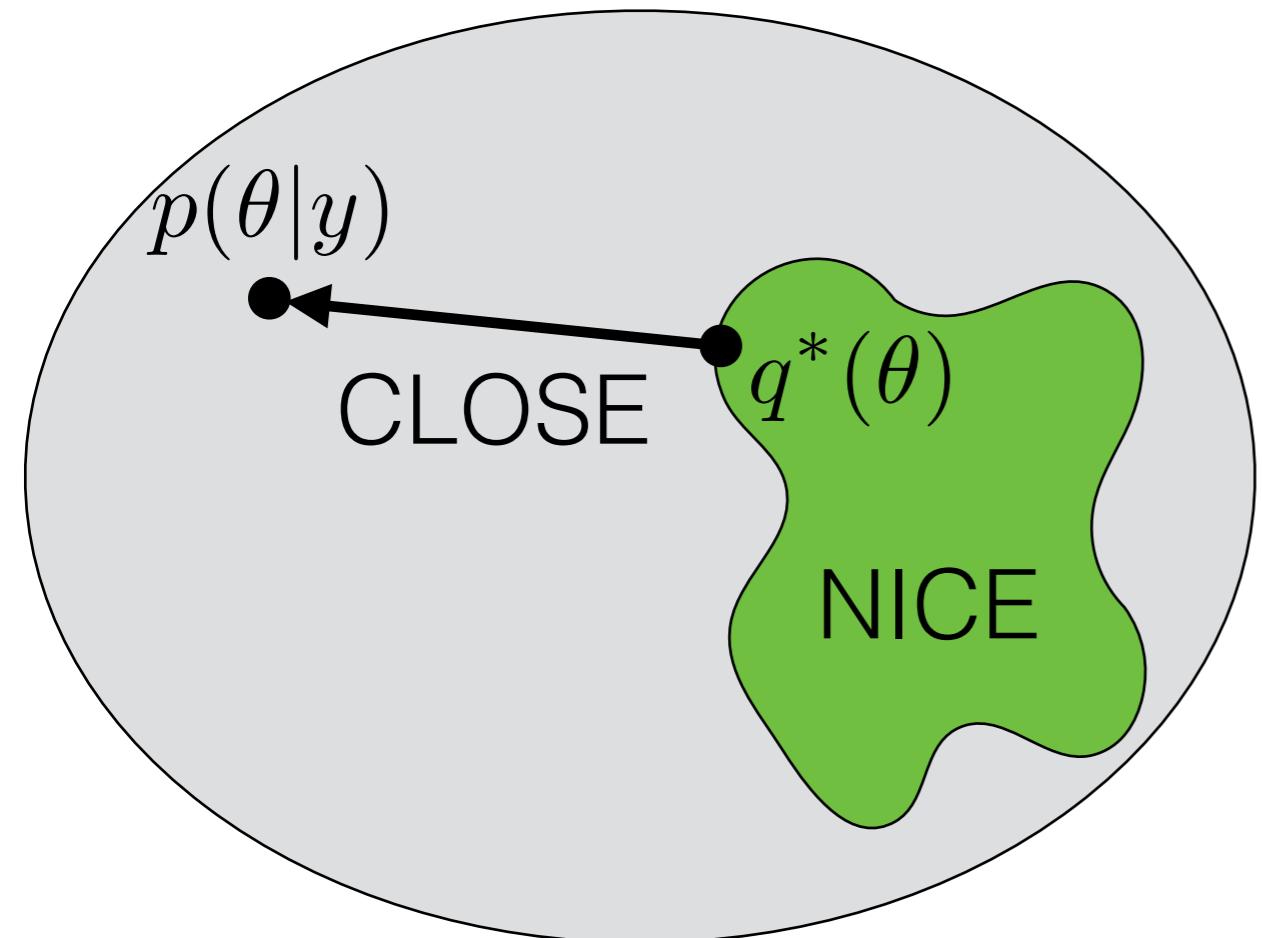
- Often also exponential family
- Not a modeling assumption

Now we have an optimization problem; how to solve it?



# Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



Choose “NICE” distributions

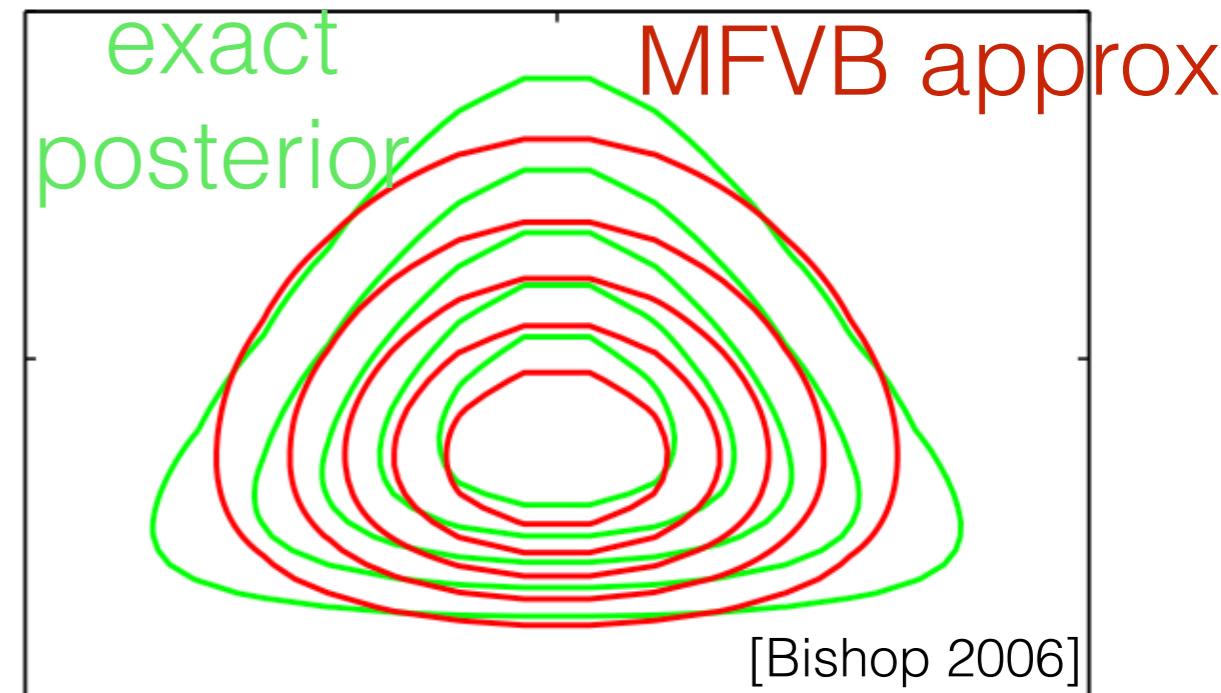
- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$Q_{MFVB} := \left\{ q : q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j) \right\}$$

- Often also exponential family
- Not a modeling assumption

Now we have an optimization problem; how to solve it?

- One option: Coordinate descent in  $q_1, \dots, q_J$



# Approximate Bayesian inference

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot|y))$$

- Coordinate descent

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

- Coordinate descent
- Stochastic variational inference (SVI) [Hoffman et al 2013]

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

- Coordinate descent
- Stochastic variational inference (SVI) [Hoffman et al 2013]
- Automatic differentiation variational inference (ADVI) [Kucukelbir et al 2015, 2017]

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$



[CSIRO 2004]

# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Model:

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$



# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and variance
- Model:  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$



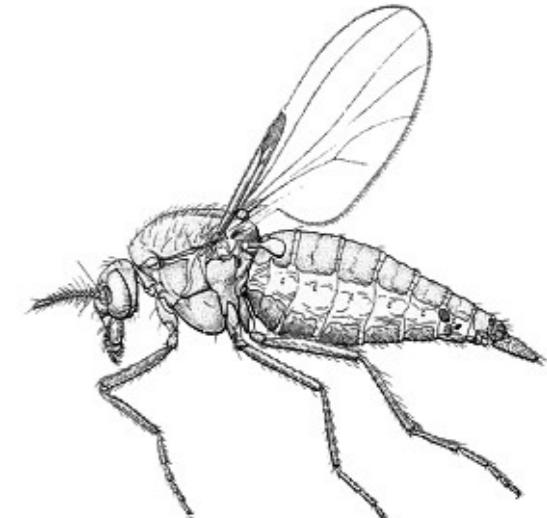
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and variance  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$
- Model:

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

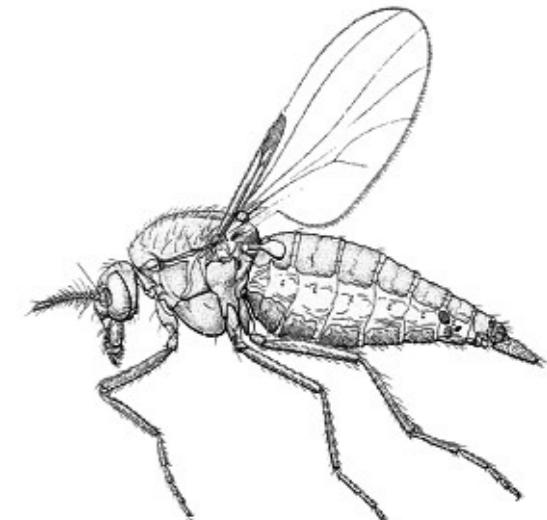
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and variance
- Model (conjugate prior):  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

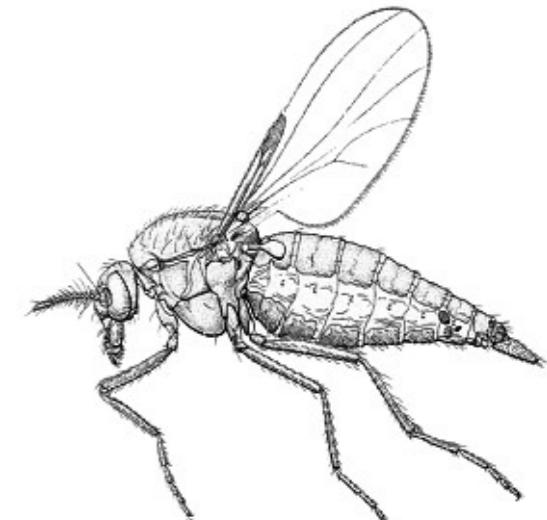
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and variance
- Model **(conjugate prior)**: [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

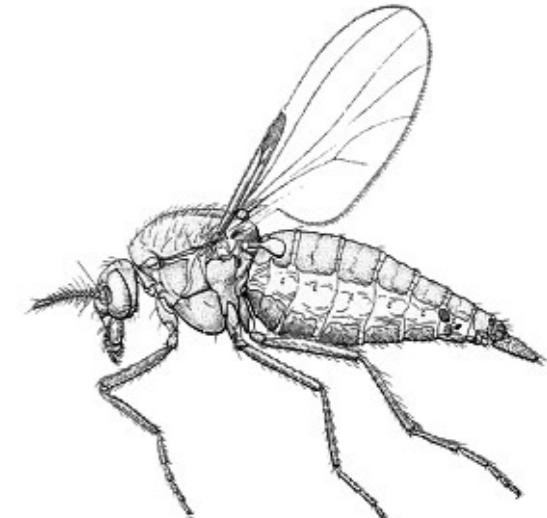
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and variance  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

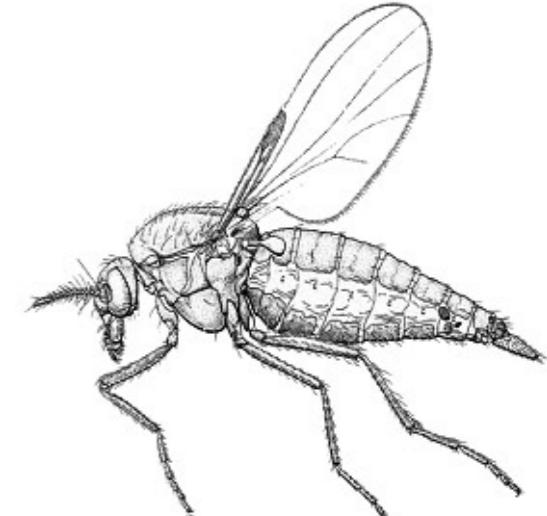
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision  
 $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

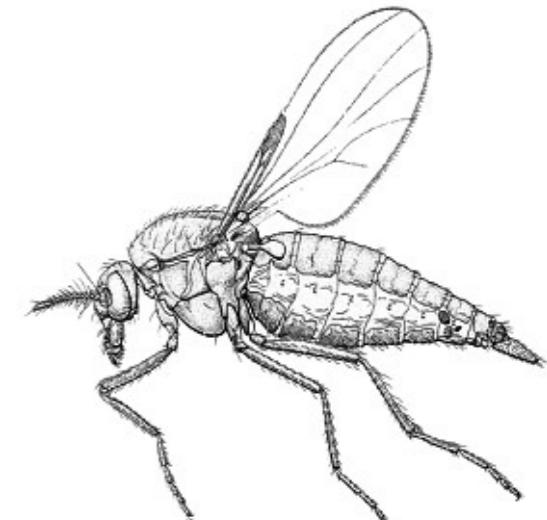
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \lambda_0 \sigma^2)$$



[CSIRO 2004]

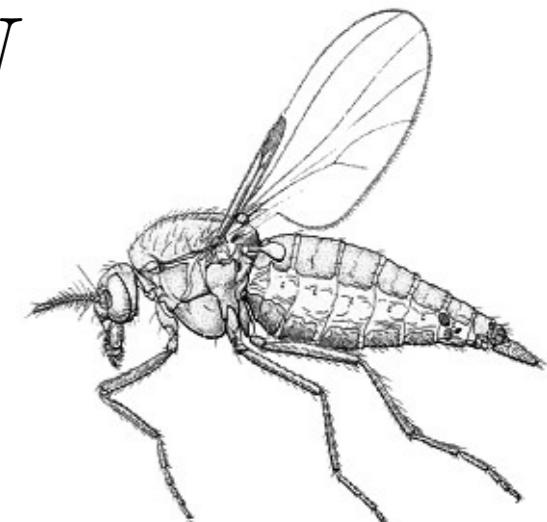
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$



[CSIRO 2004]

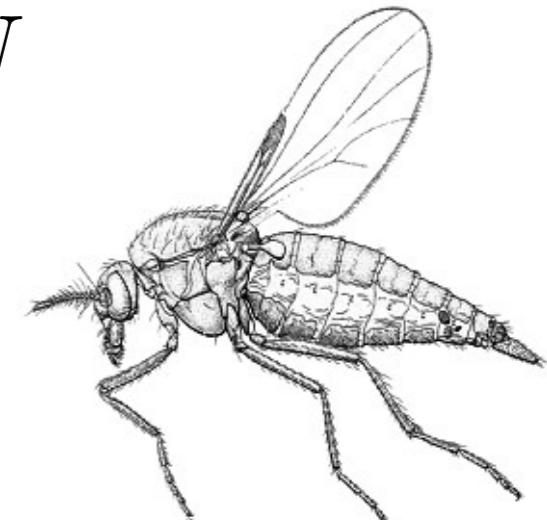
# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

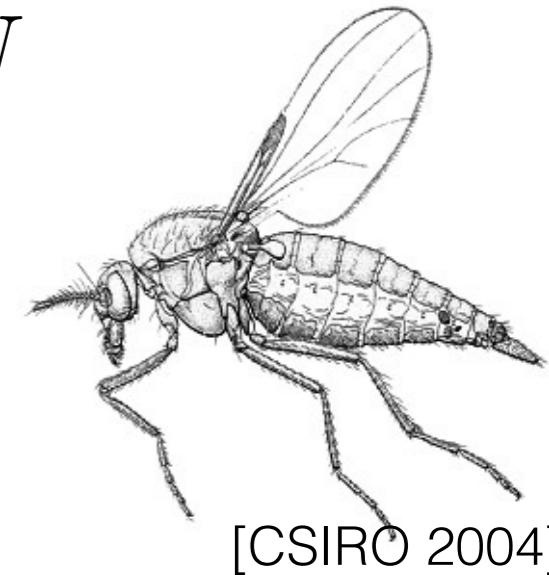
$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$



[CSIRO 2004]

# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$ 
$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$
$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$
$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$
- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$



# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

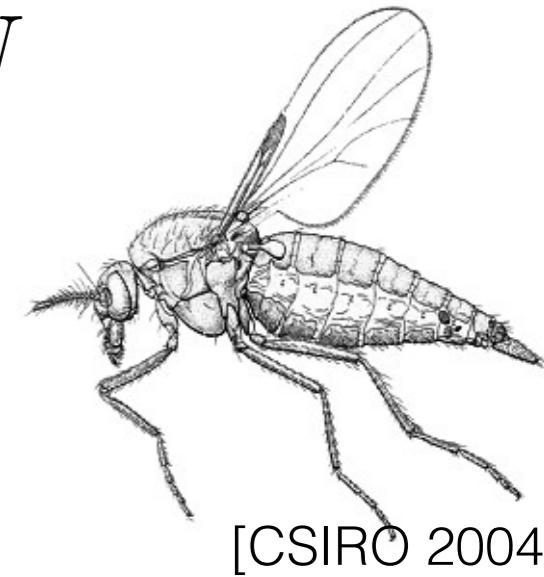
$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$

- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$
- MFVB approximation:

$$q^*(\mu, \tau) = q_\mu^*(\mu) q_\tau^*(\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$



# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

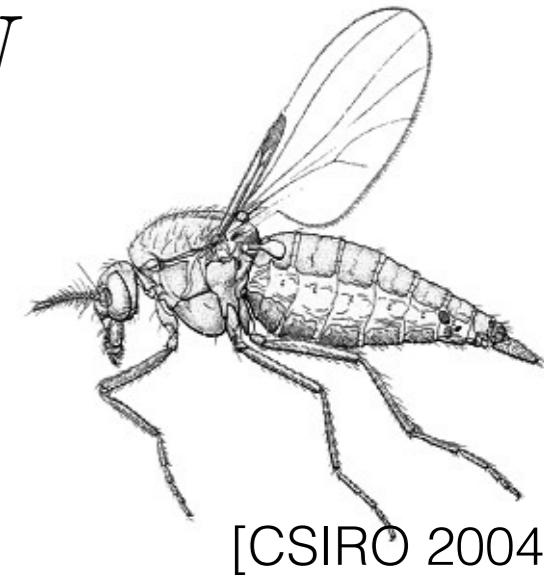
$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$

- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$
- MFVB approximation:

$$q^*(\mu, \tau) = q_\mu^*(\mu) q_\tau^*(\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

- Coordinate descent [Exercise: derive this] [Bishop 2006, Sec 10.1.3]



[CSIRO 2004]

# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

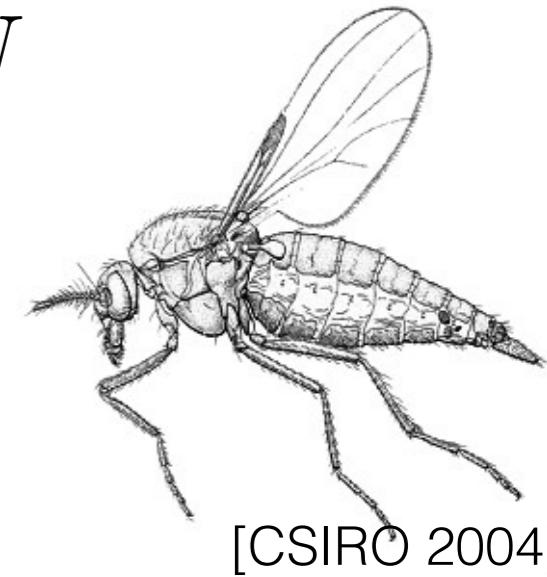
$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$

- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$
- MFVB approximation:

$$q^*(\mu, \tau) = q_\mu^*(\mu) q_\tau^*(\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

- Coordinate descent [Exercise: derive this] [Bishop 2006, Sec 10.1.3]

$$q_\mu^*(\mu) = \mathcal{N}(\mu | \mu_N, \rho_N^{-1}) \quad q_\tau^*(\tau) = \text{Gamma}(\tau | a_N, b_N)$$



# Midge wing length

- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$

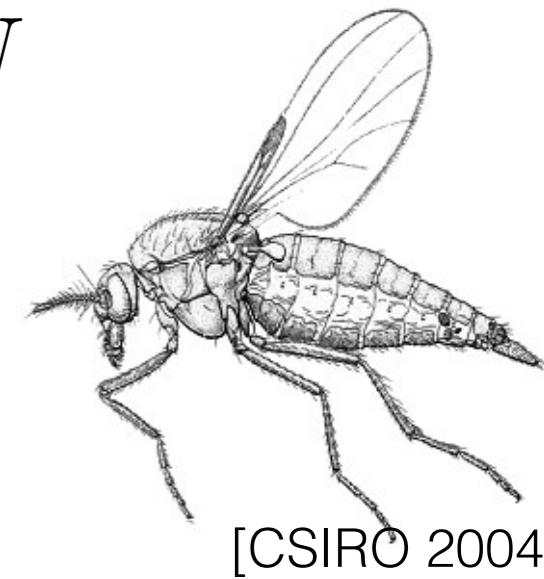
- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$
- MFVB approximation:

$$q^*(\mu, \tau) = q_\mu^*(\mu) q_\tau^*(\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

- Coordinate descent [Exercise: derive this] [Bishop 2006, Sec 10.1.3]

$$q_\mu^*(\mu) = \mathcal{N}(\mu | \mu_N, \rho_N^{-1}) \quad q_\tau^*(\tau) = \text{Gamma}(\tau | a_N, b_N)$$

“variational  
parameters”



# Midge wing length

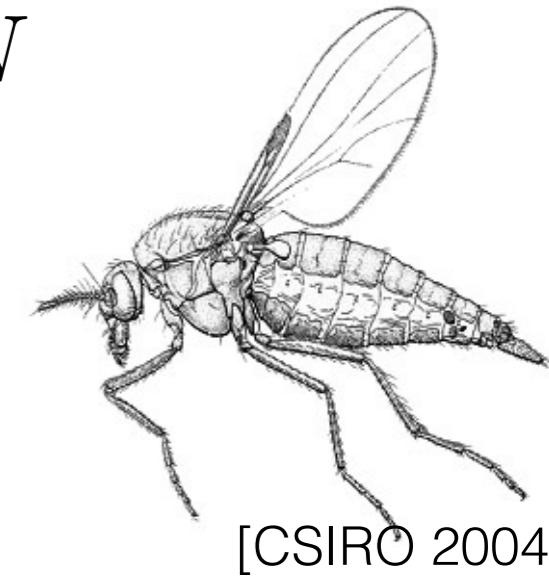
- Catalogued midge wing lengths (mm)  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$
- Parameters of interest: population mean and precision
- Model (conjugate prior): [Exercise: find the posterior]  $\theta = (\mu, \tau)$

$$p(y|\theta) : y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \tau^{-1}), \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

$$p(\theta) : \tau \sim \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$$

$$\mu | \tau \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, (\rho_0 \tau)^{-1})$$

- Exercise: check  $p(\mu, \tau | y) \neq f_1(\mu, y) f_2(\tau, y)$



- MFVB approximation:

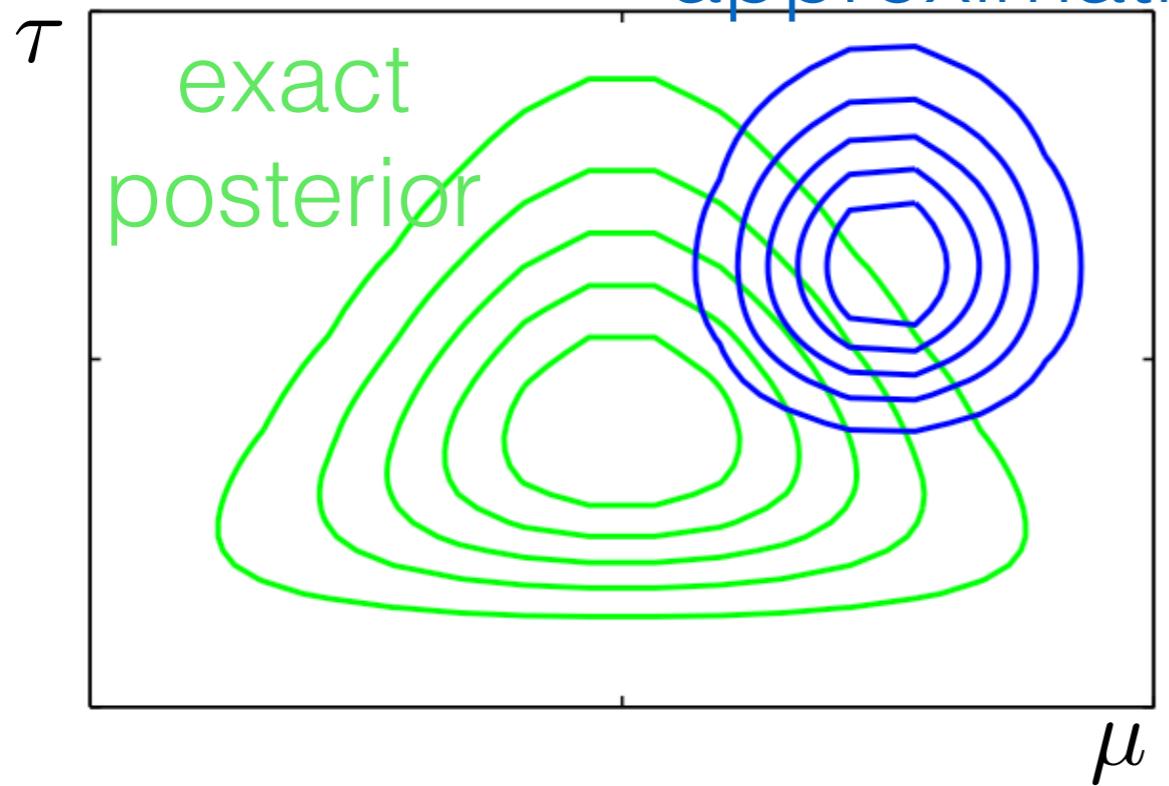
$$q^*(\mu, \tau) = q_\mu^*(\mu) q_\tau^*(\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot) || p(\cdot | y))$$

- Coordinate descent [Exercise: derive this] [Bishop 2006, Sec 10.1.3]

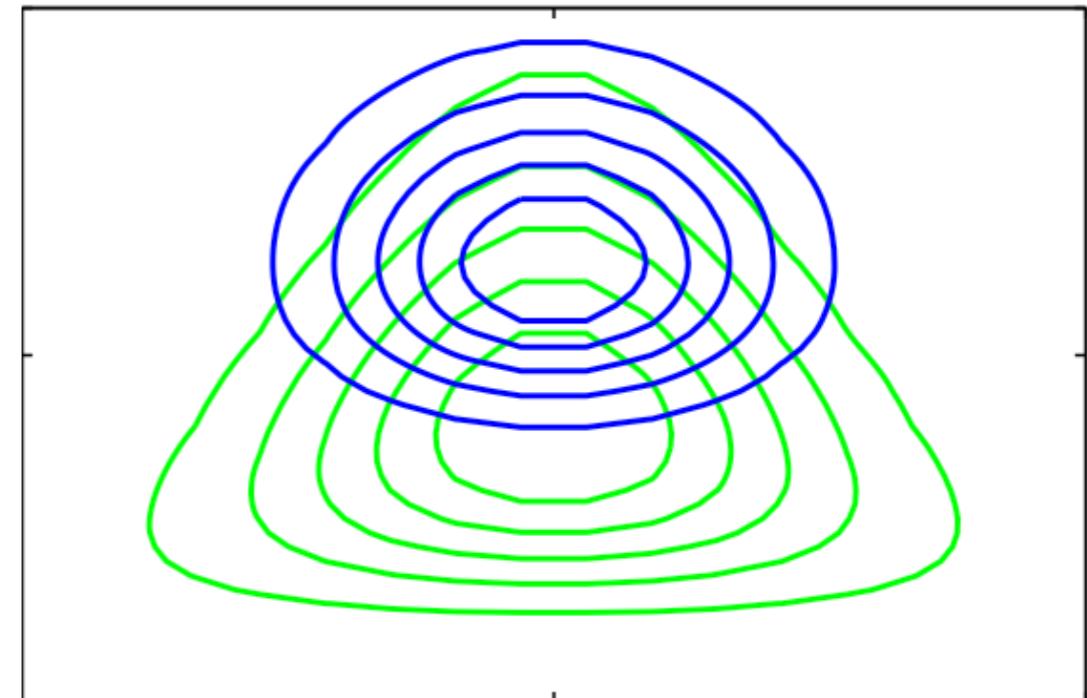
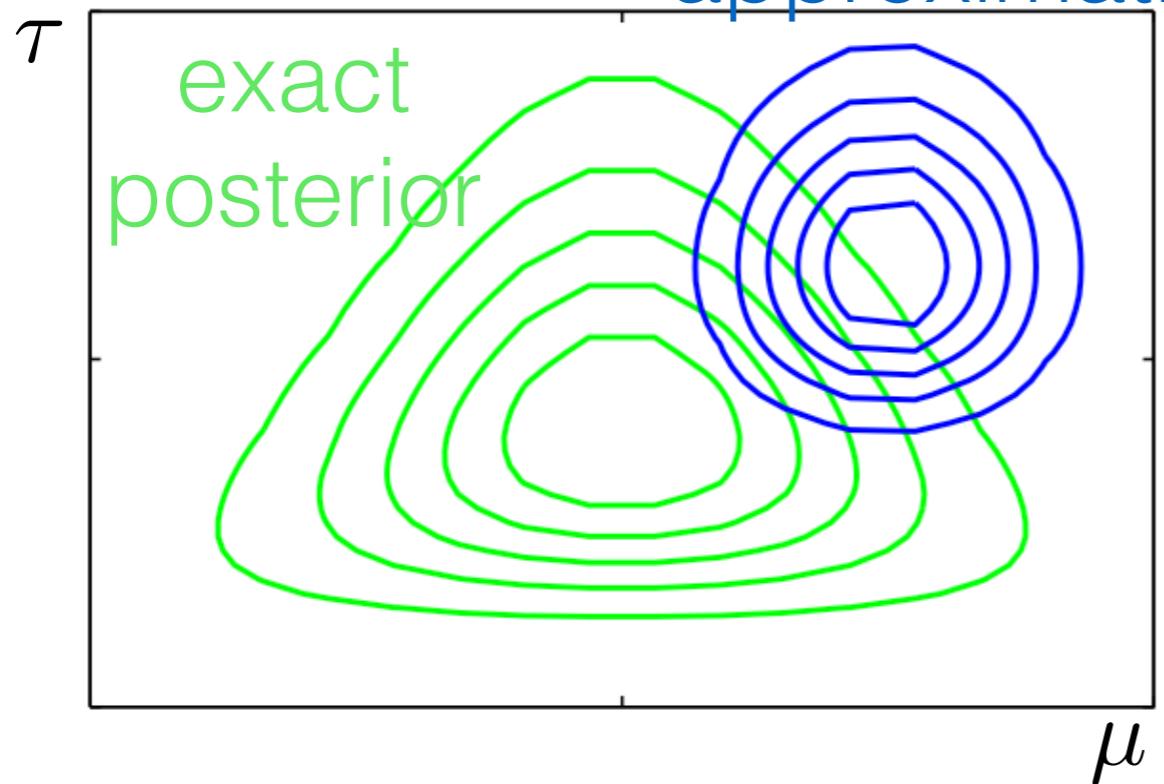
$$q_\mu^*(\mu) = \mathcal{N}(\mu | \mu_N, \rho_N^{-1}) \quad q_\tau^*(\tau) = \text{Gamma}(\tau | a_N, b_N)$$

- Iterate:  $(\mu_N, \rho_N) = f(a_N, b_N)$  “variational parameters”  
 $(a_N, b_N) = g(\mu_N, \rho_N)$

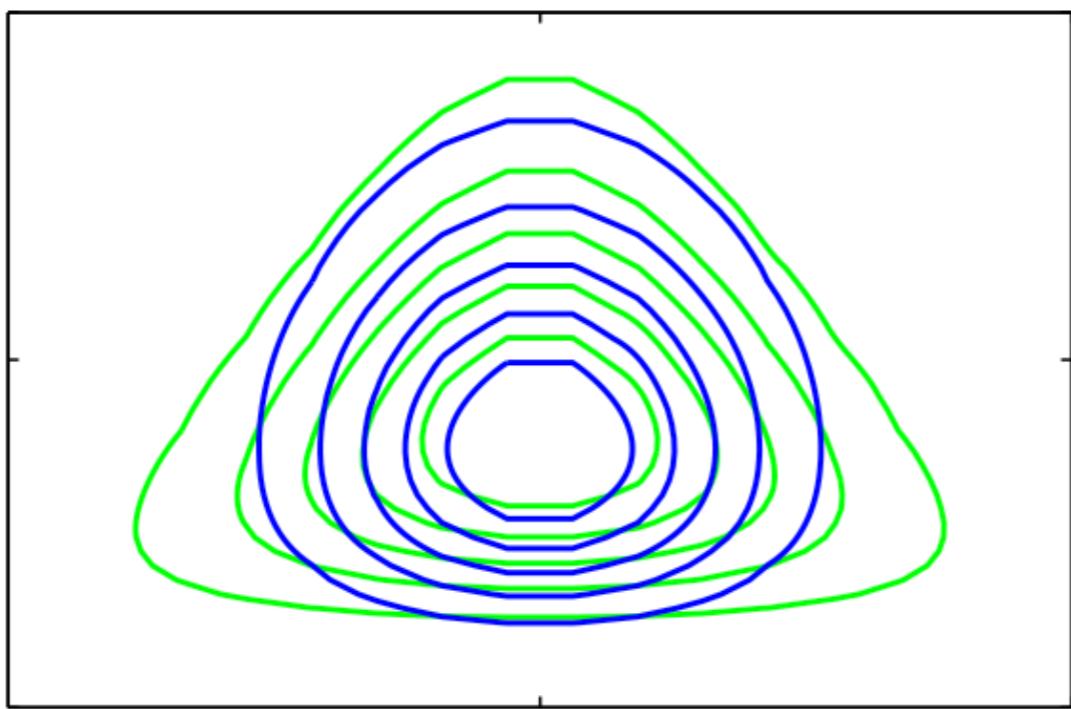
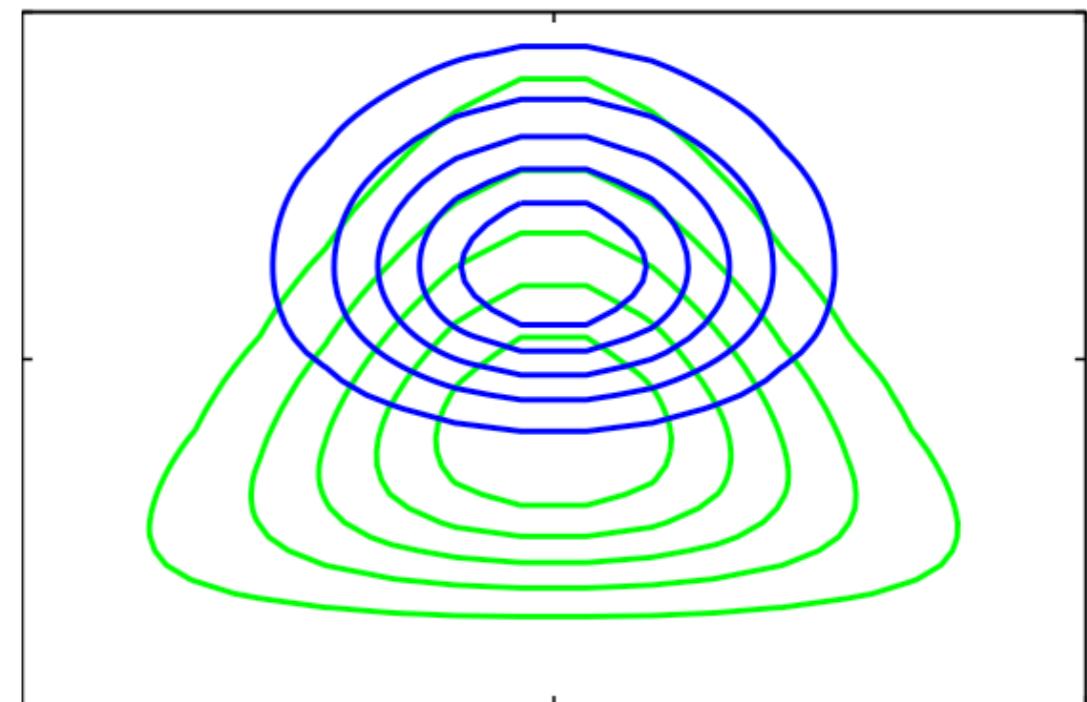
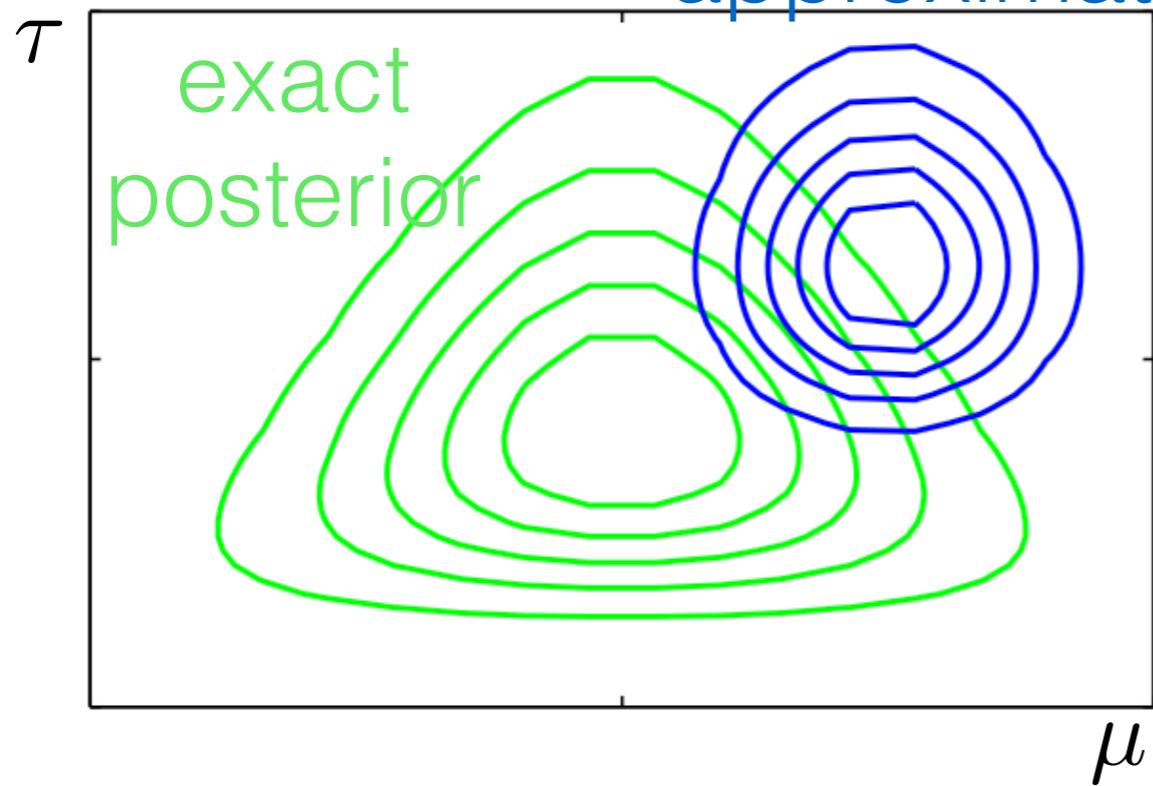
# Midge wing length approximation



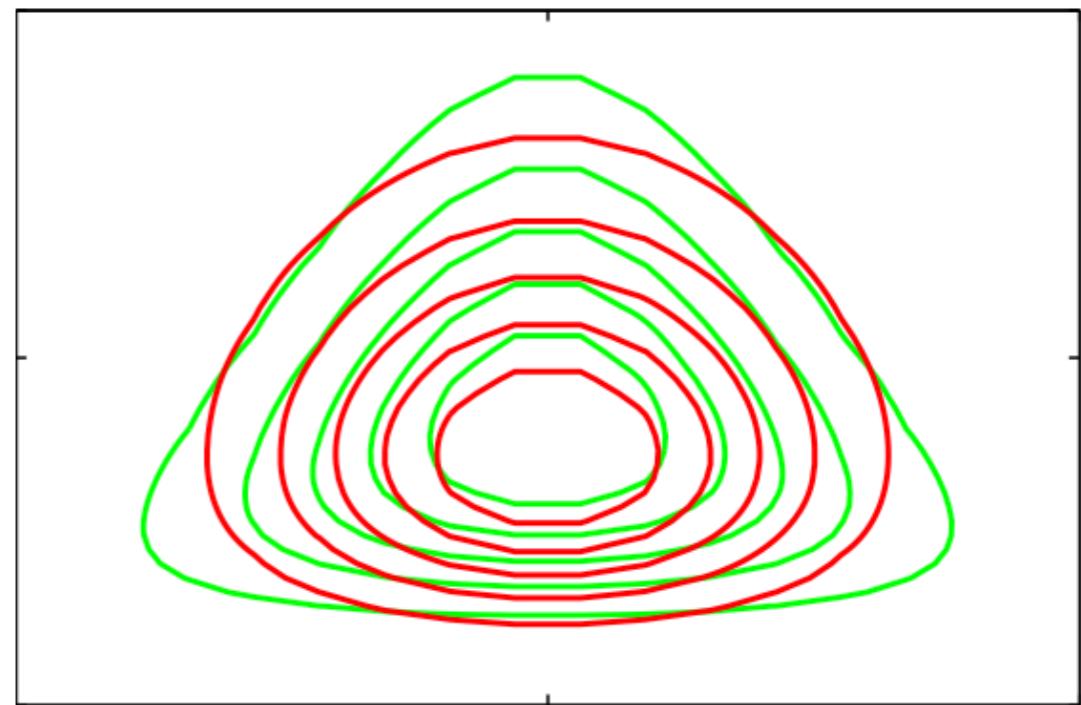
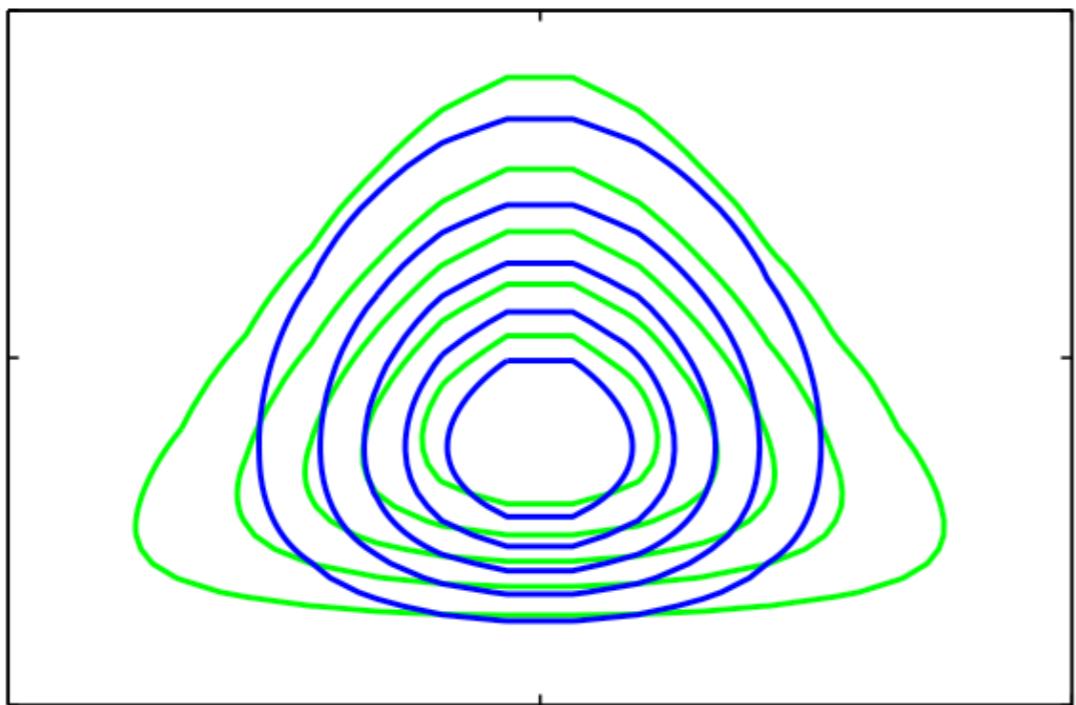
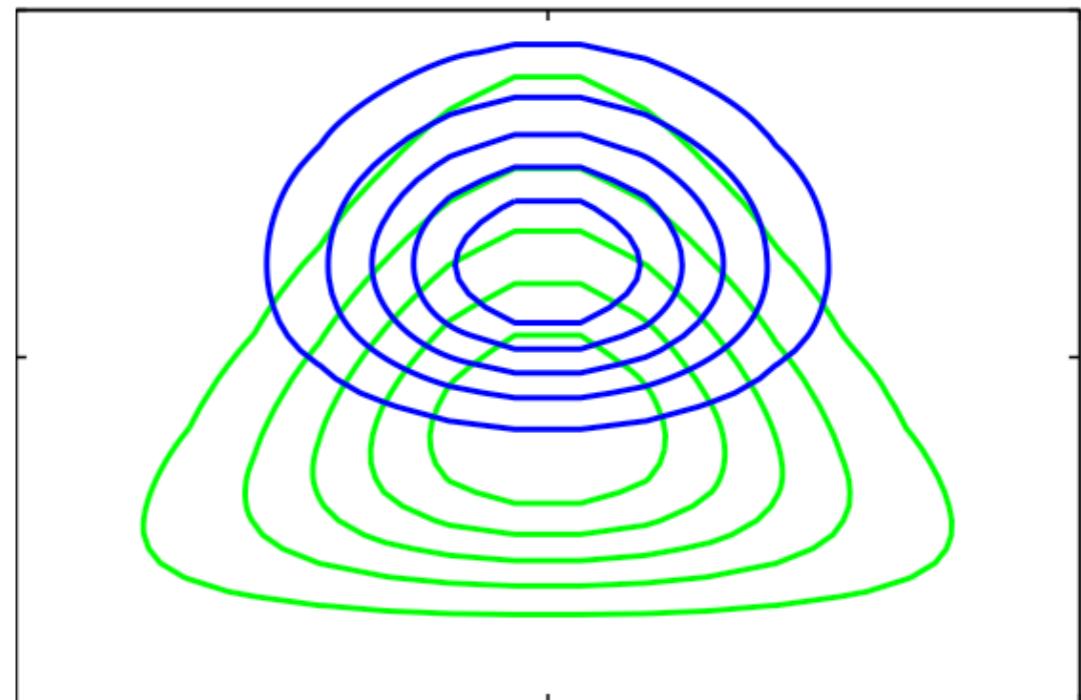
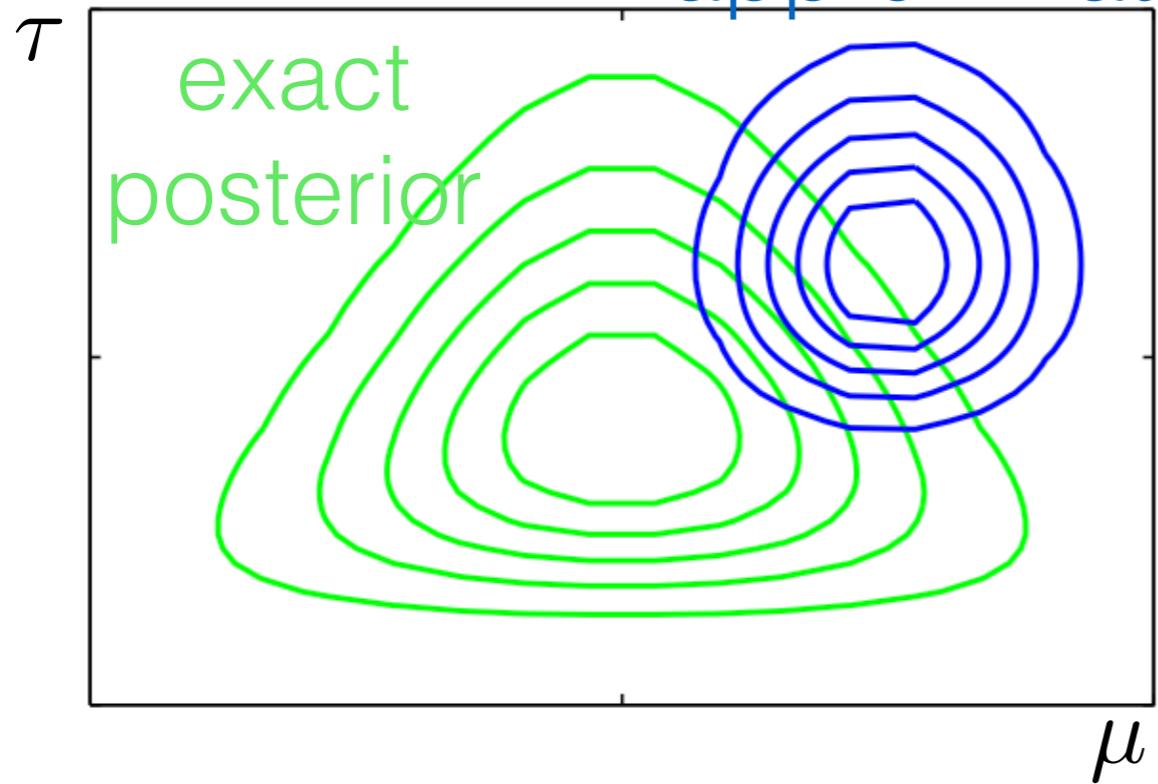
# Midge wing length approximation



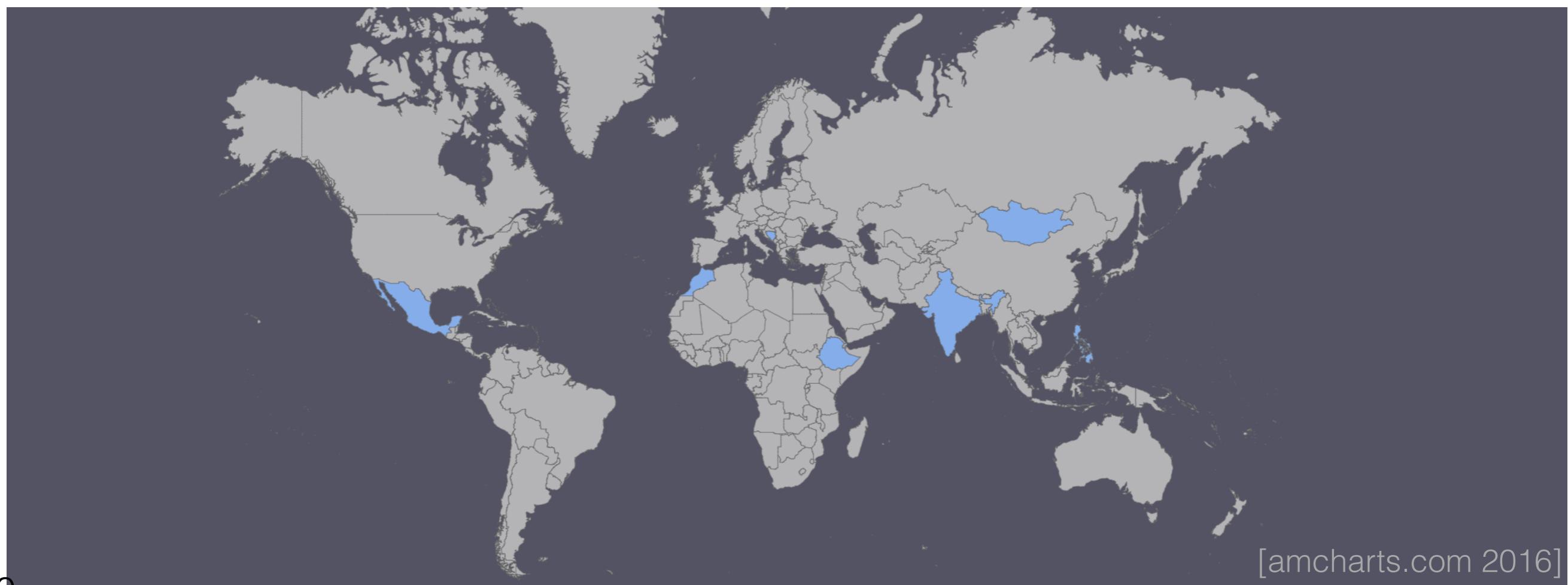
# Midge wing length approximation



# Midge wing length approximation

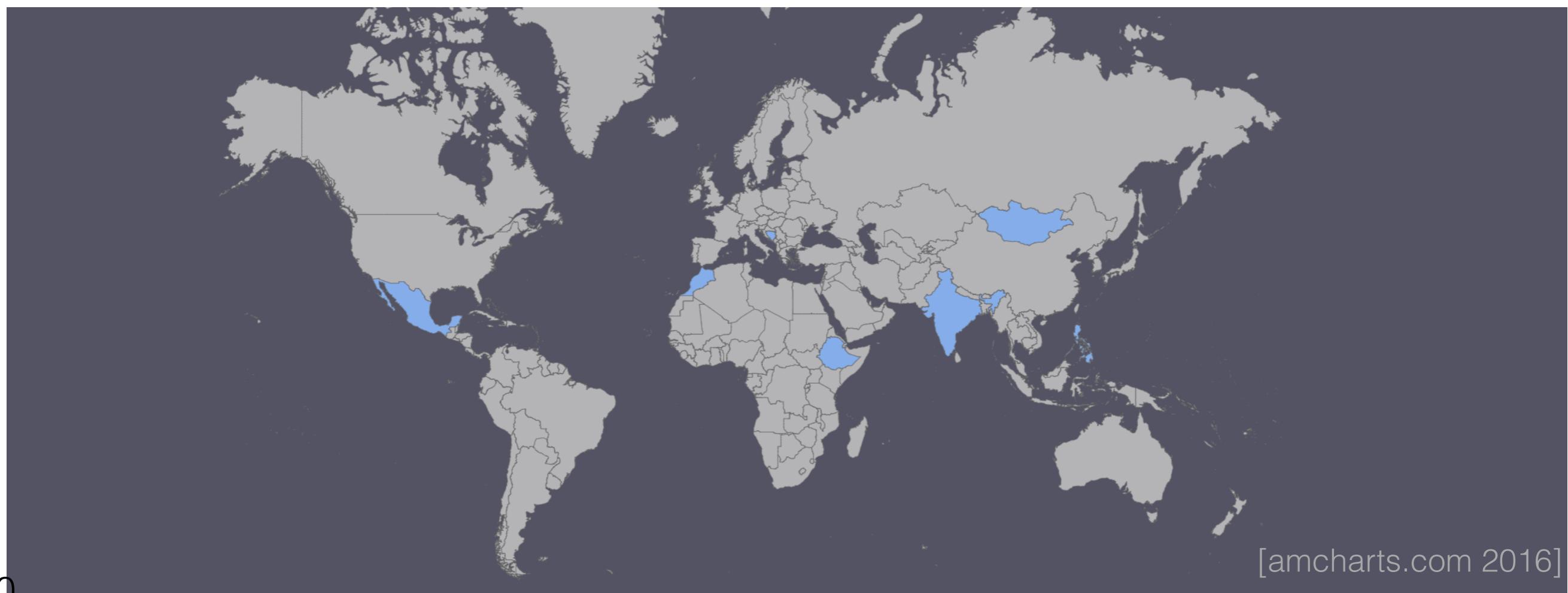


# Microcredit Experiment



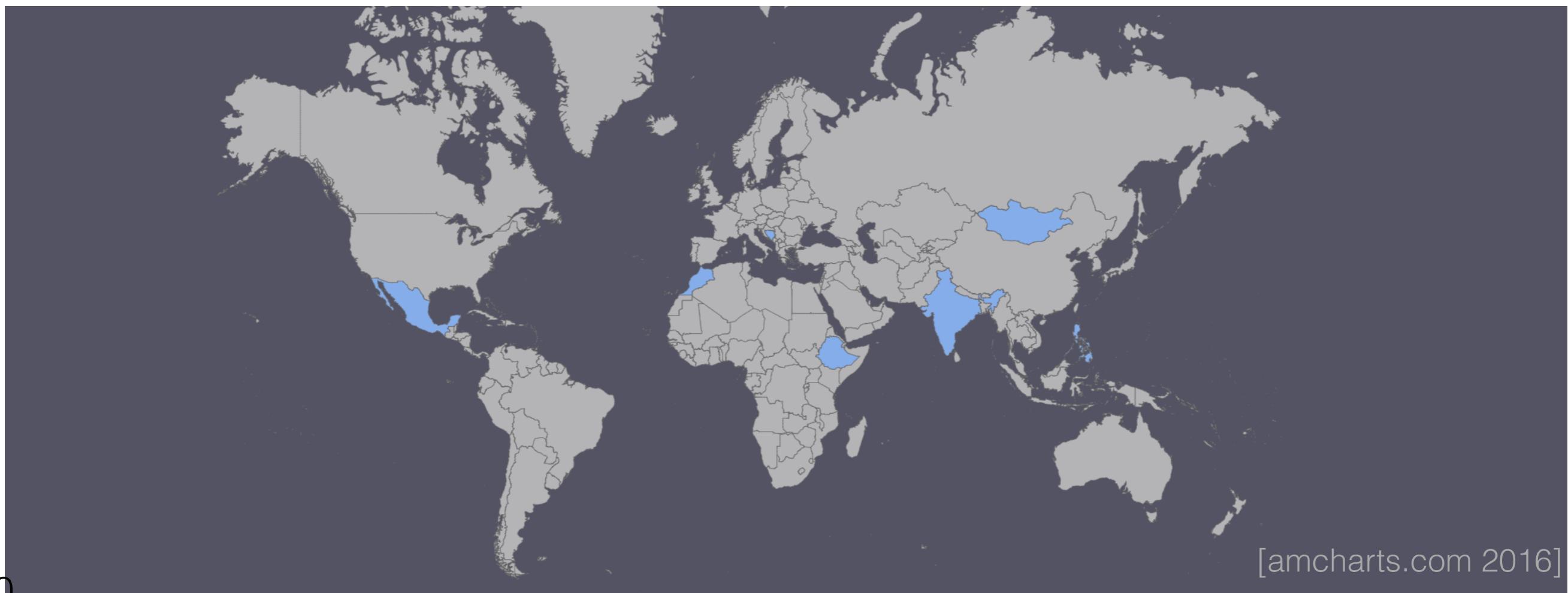
# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)



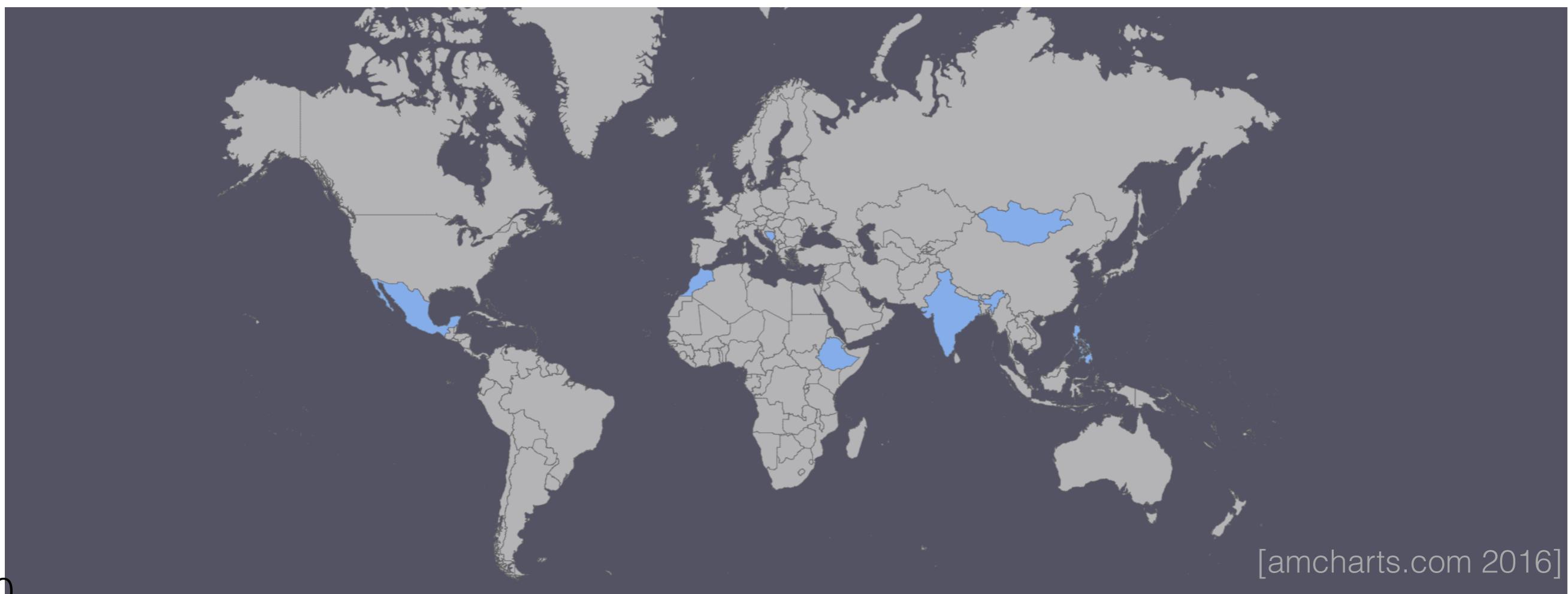
# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)



# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )



# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

profit  
  $y_{kn}$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$\text{profit} \rightarrow y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}( , )$$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$\text{profit} \rightarrow y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k, \sigma^2)$$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

 profit

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \quad )$$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma^2)$$

profit  $\rightarrow y_{kn}$

1 if microcredit  $\rightarrow \tau_k$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$\text{profit} \rightarrow y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \quad )$$

1 if microcredit

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

profit  $\rightarrow y_{kn}$   $\rightarrow 1 \text{ if microcredit}$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

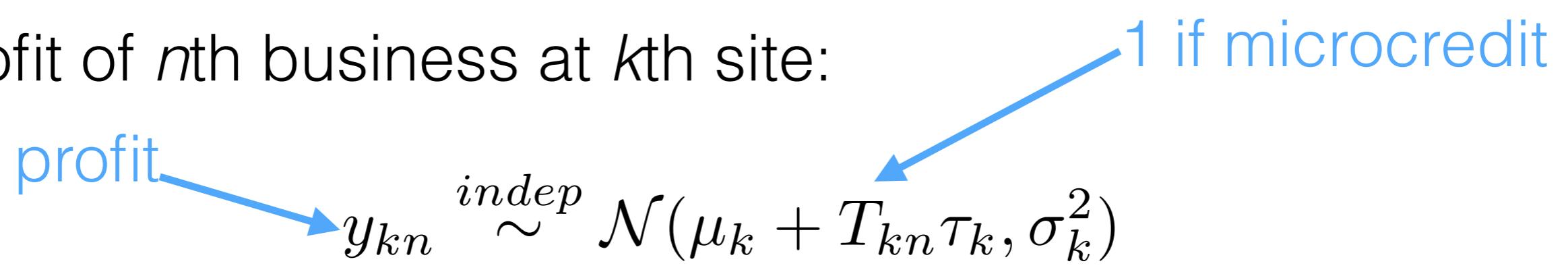
$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

profit 1 if microcredit

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$



- Priors and hyperpriors:

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

**profit** →  $y_{kn}$  ← 1 if microcredit

- Priors and hyperpriors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mu_k \\ \tau_k \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}, C\right)$$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

**profit** →  $y_{kn}$  ← 1 if microcredit

- Priors and hyperpriors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mu_k \\ \tau_k \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}, C\right)$$

$$\sigma_k^{-2} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \Gamma(a, b)$$

# Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- $K = 7$  microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- $N_k$  businesses in  $k$ th site ( $\sim 900$  to  $\sim 17K$ )
- Profit of  $n$ th business at  $k$ th site:

$$y_{kn} \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

profit → 1 if microcredit

- Priors and hyperpriors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mu_k \\ \tau_k \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}, C\right)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu_0 \\ \tau_0 \end{pmatrix}, \Lambda^{-1}\right)$$

$$\sigma_k^{-2} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \Gamma(a, b)$$

$$C \sim \text{Sep\&LKJ}(\eta, c, d)$$

# Microcredit

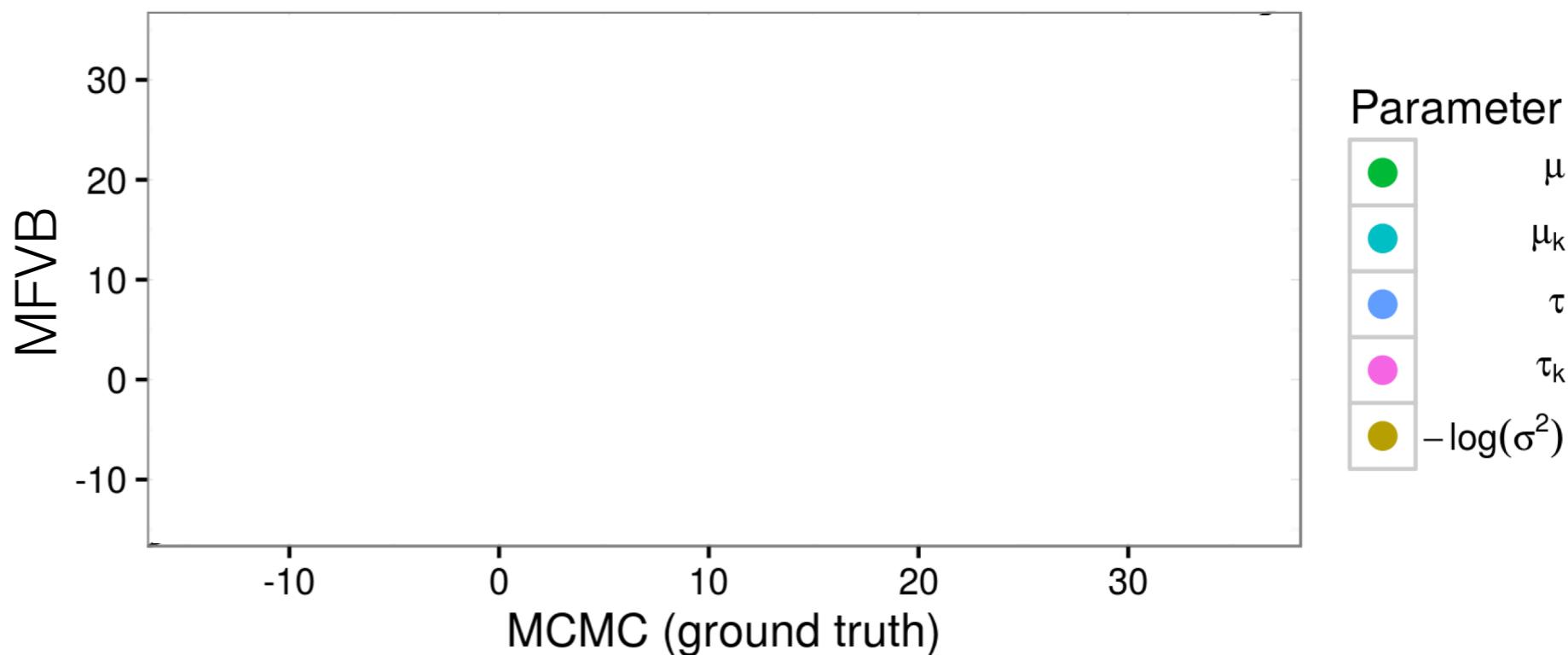
MFVB: Do we need to check the output?

# Microcredit

MFVB: How will we know if it's working?

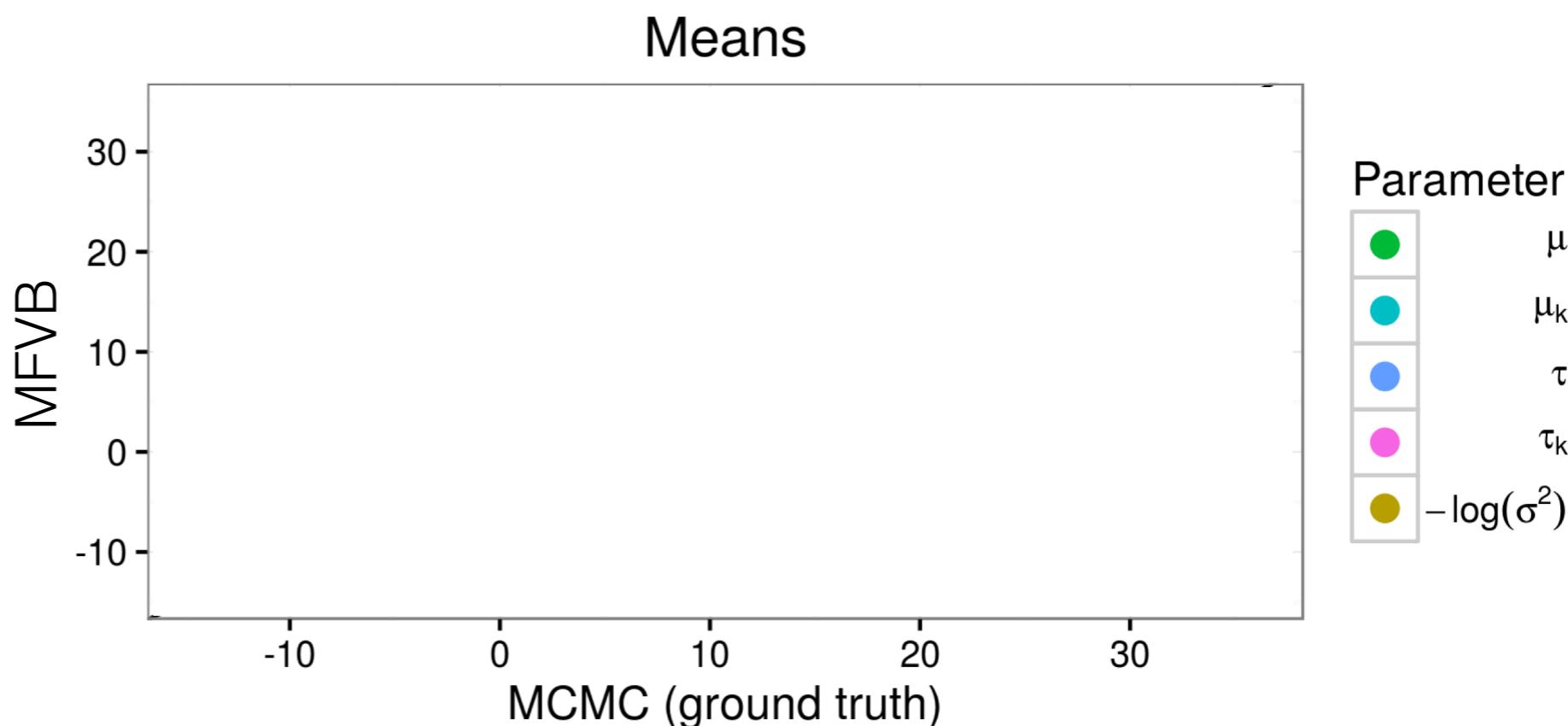
# Microcredit

Means



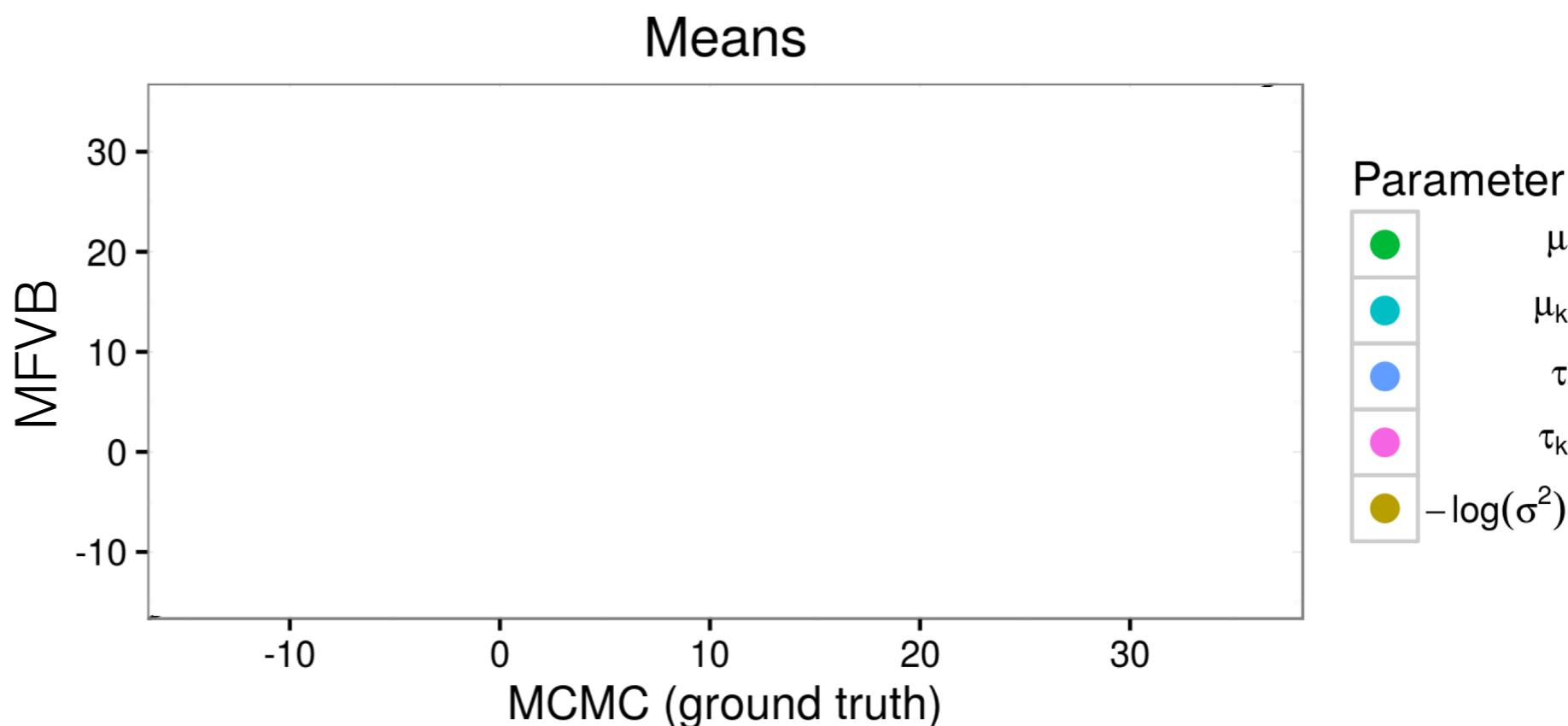
# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**



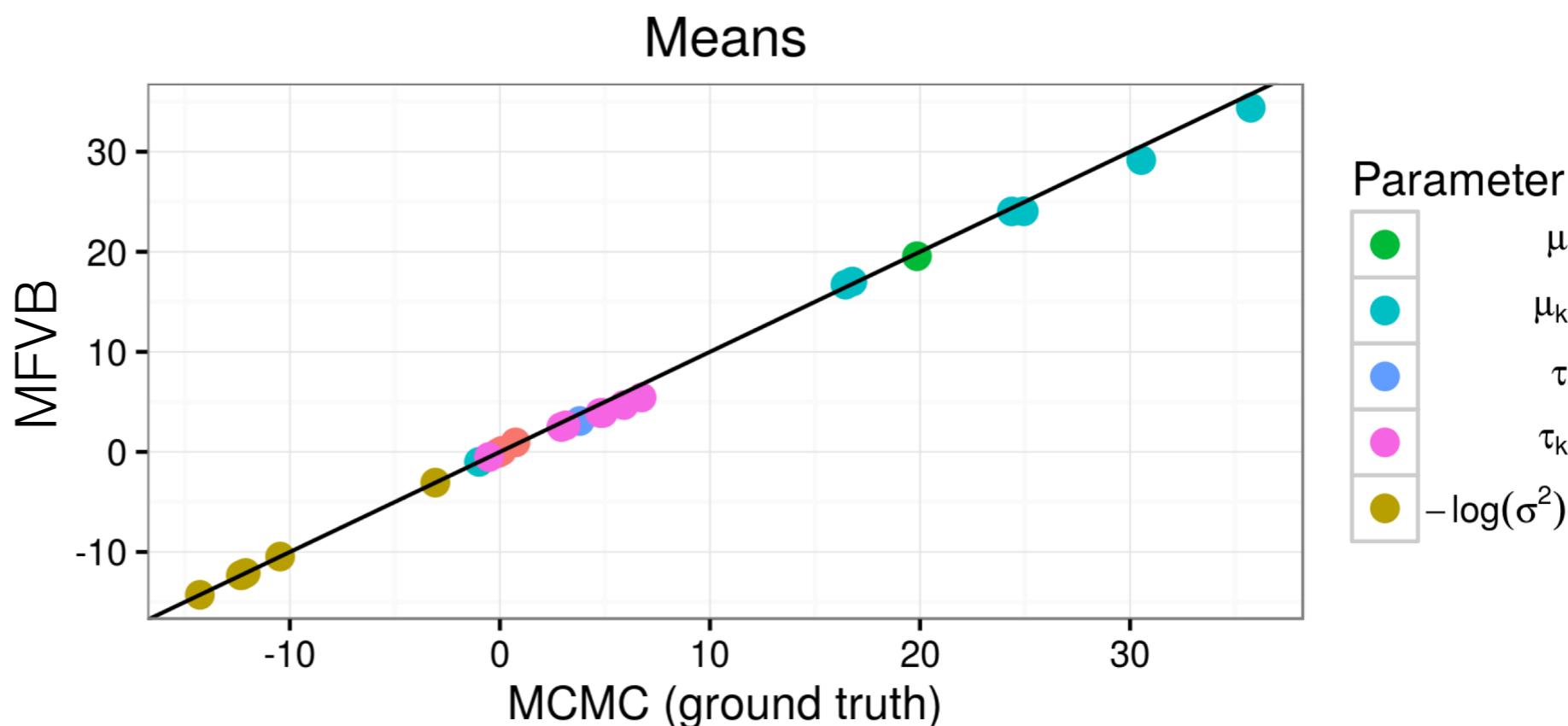
# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**



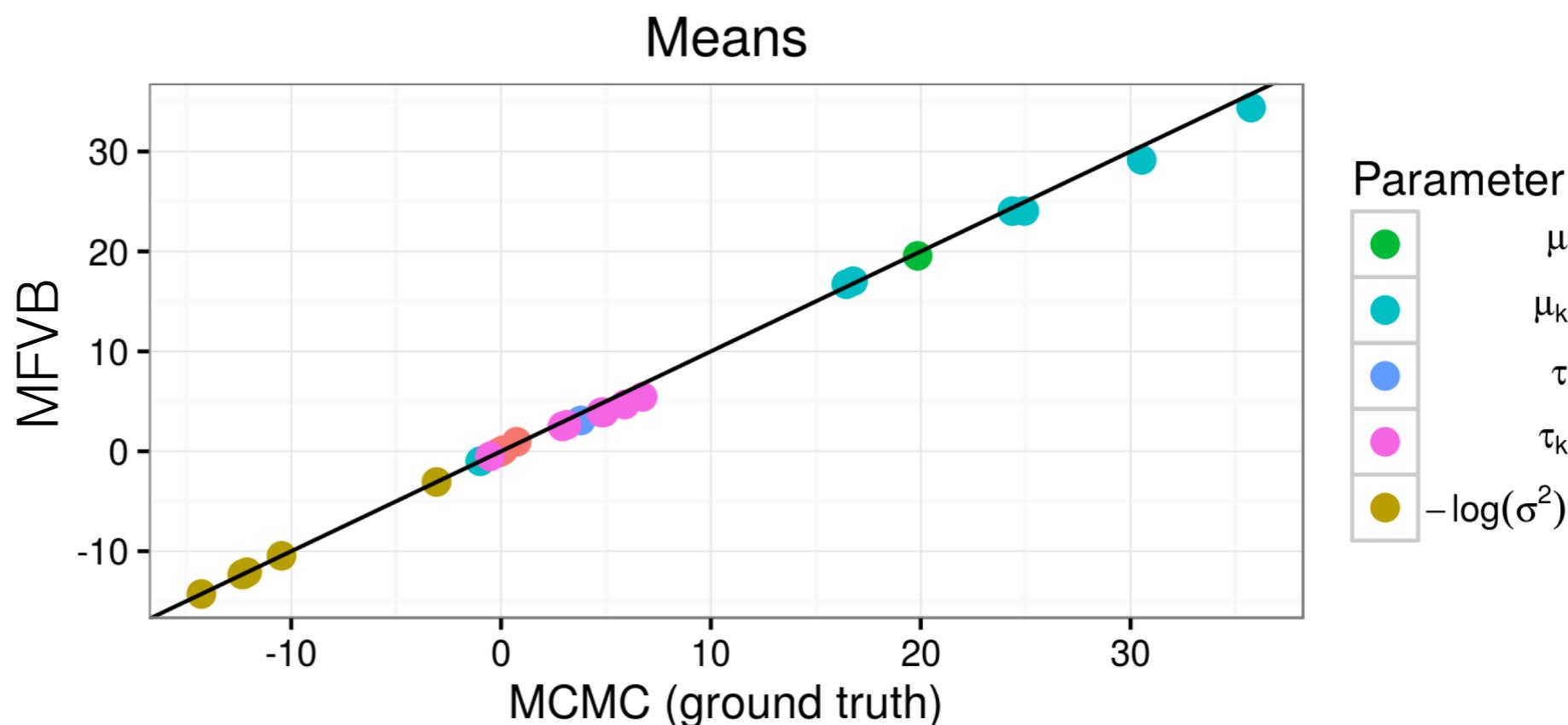
# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**



# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**

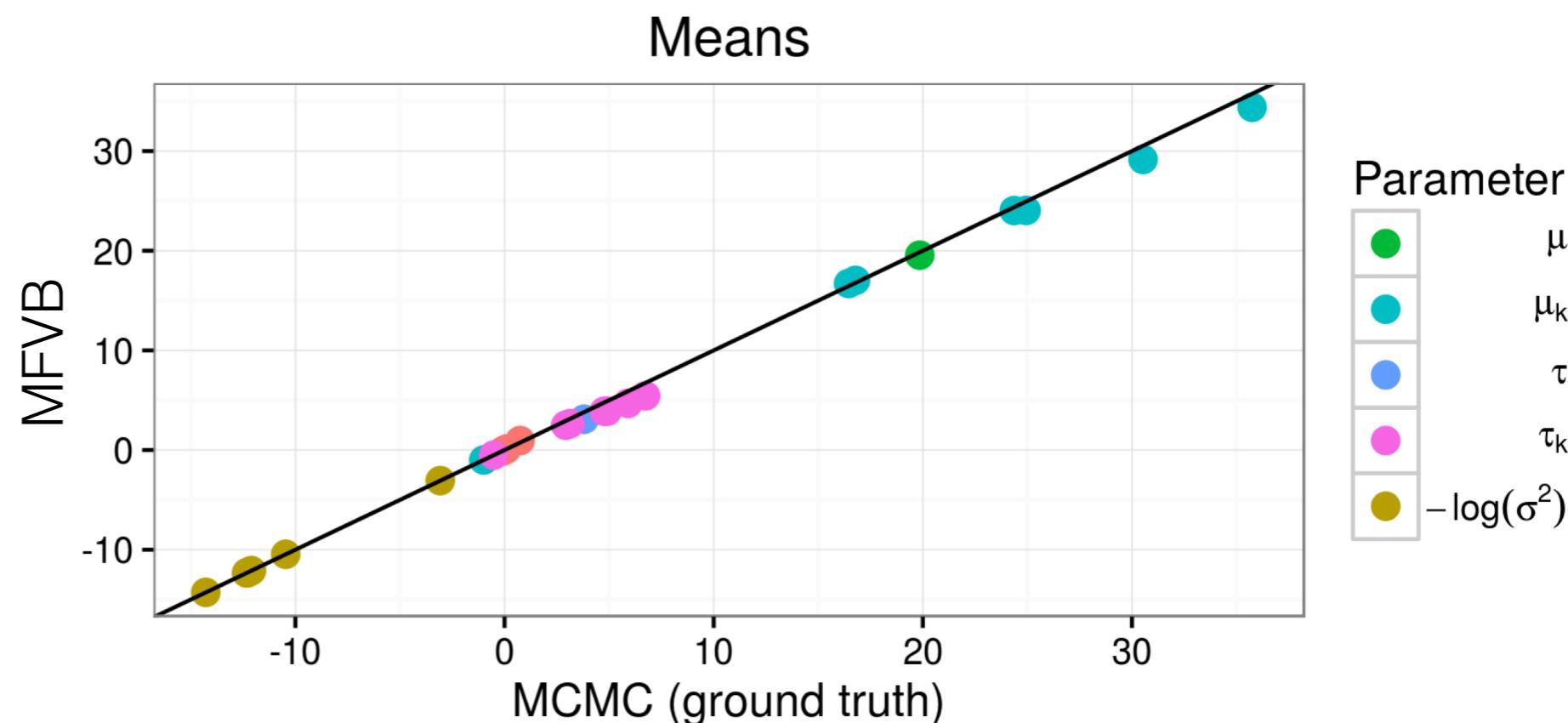


# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- Click-through conversion prediction
- Q: Will a customer (e.g.) buy a product after clicking?

# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**

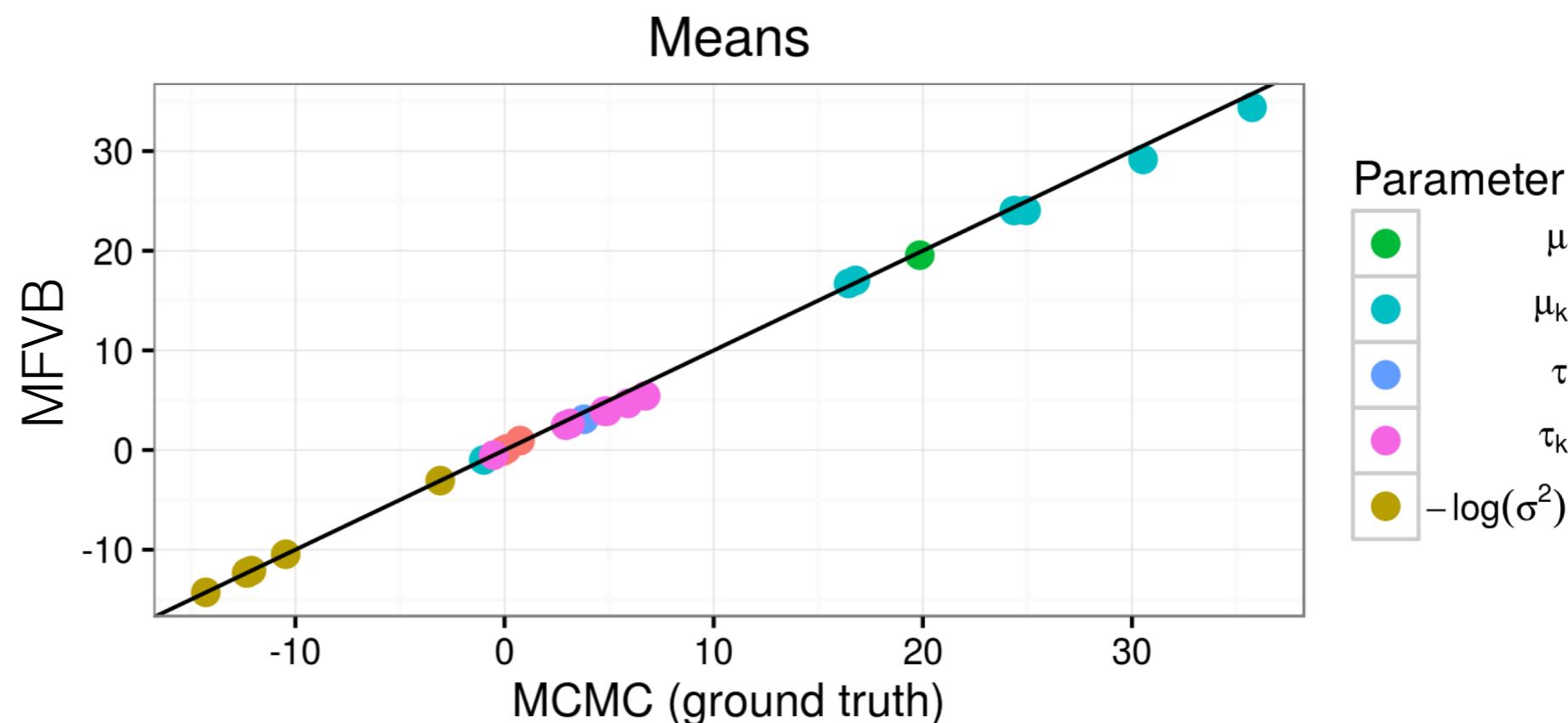


# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- Click-through conversion prediction
- Q: Will a customer (e.g.) buy a product after clicking?
- Q: How predictive of conversion are different features?

# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**

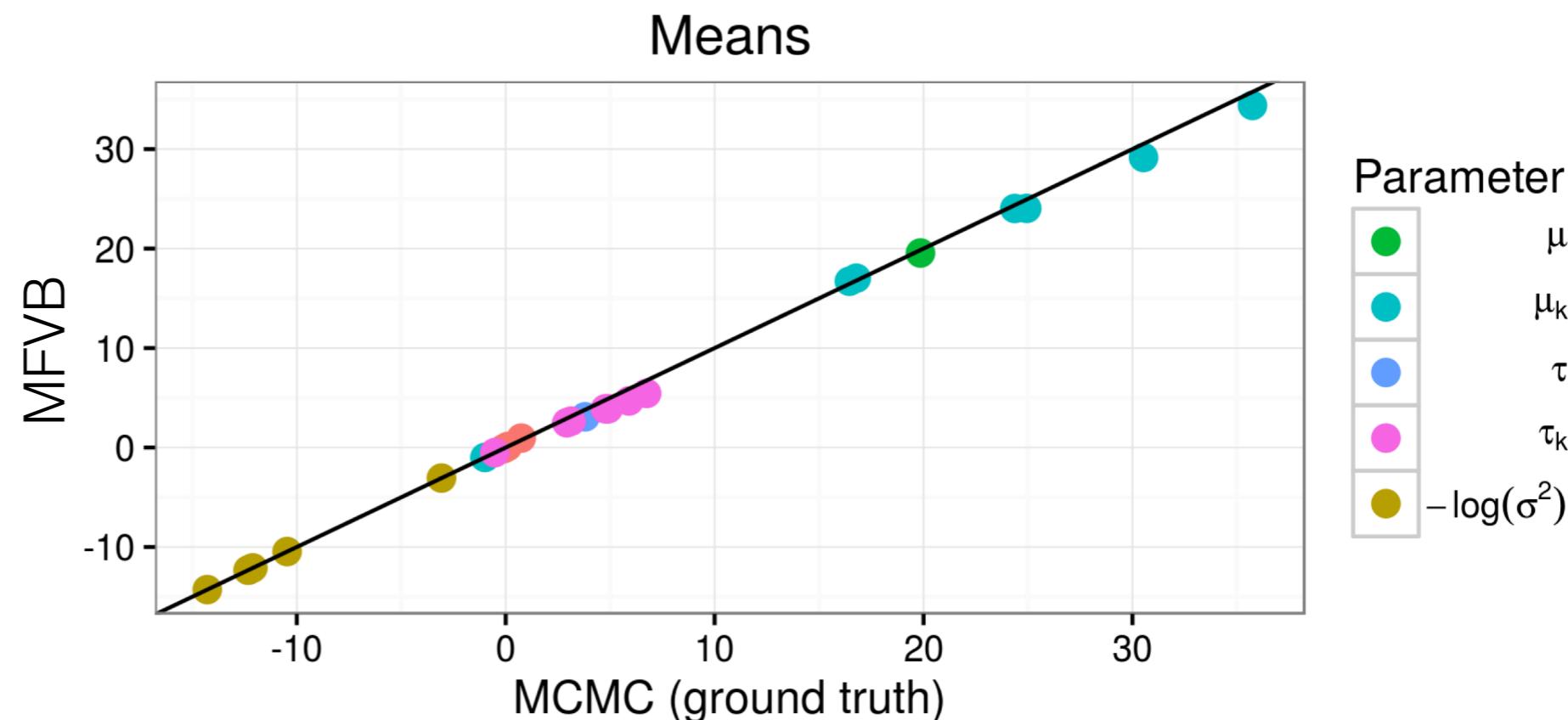


# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- Click-through conversion prediction
- Q: Will a customer (e.g.) buy a product after clicking?
- Q: How predictive of conversion are different features?
- Logistic GLMM

# Microcredit

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:  
**45 minutes**
- MFVB optimization:  
**<1 min**



# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- Click-through conversion prediction
- Q: Will a customer (e.g.) buy a product after clicking?
- Q: How predictive of conversion are different features?
- Logistic GLMM;  $N = 61,895$  subset to compare to MCMC

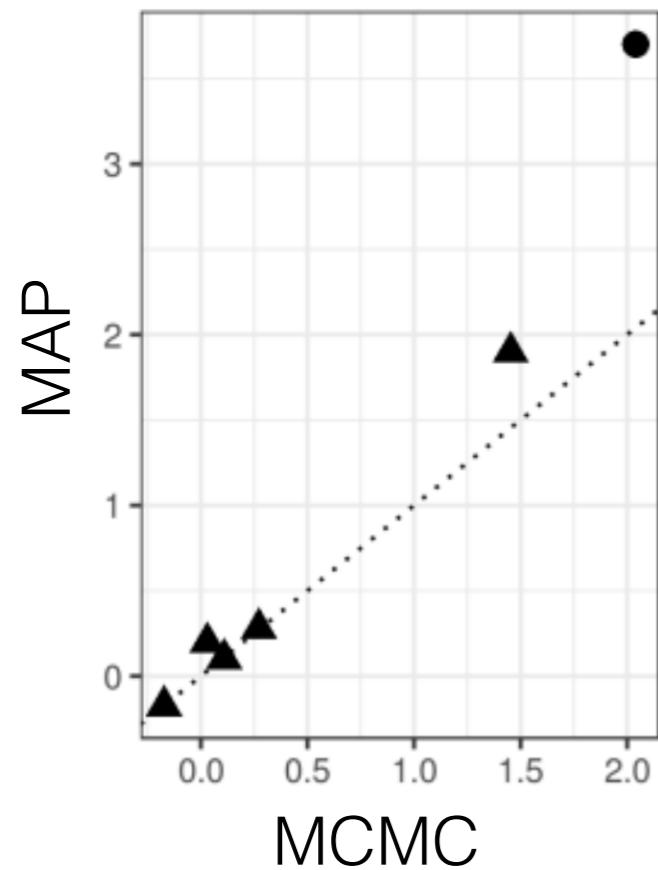
# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

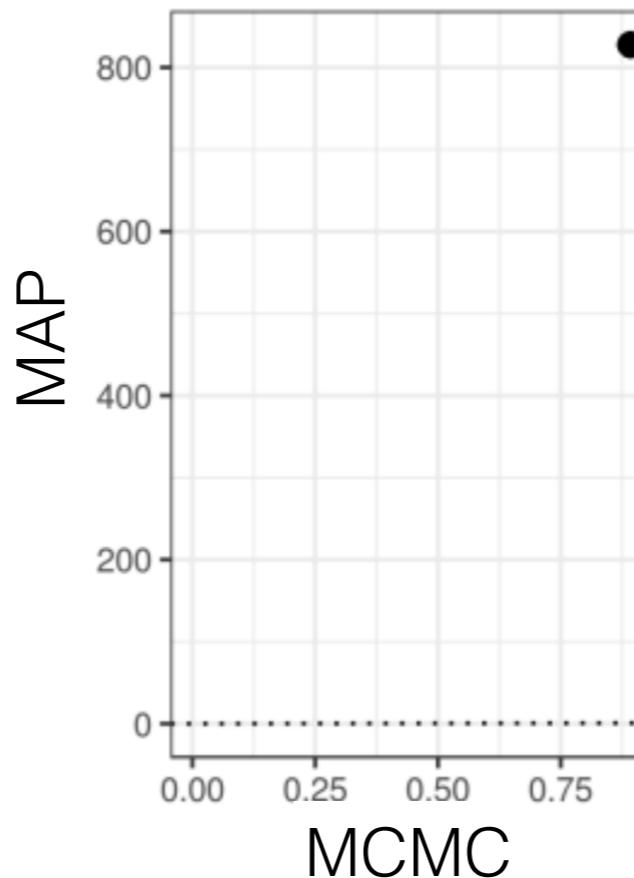
- MAP: **12 s**

# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

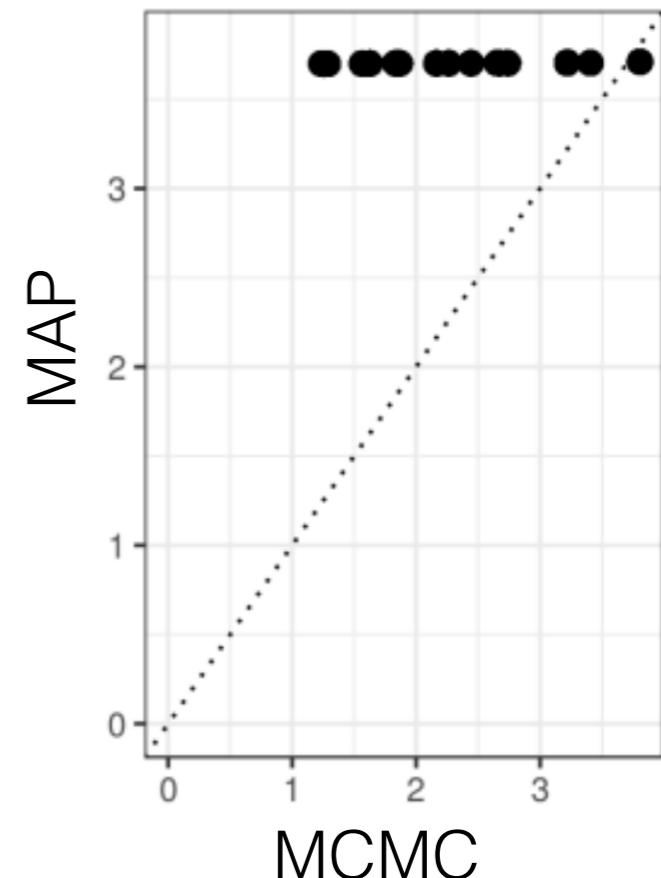
Global parameters ( $-\tau$ )



Global parameter  $\tau$



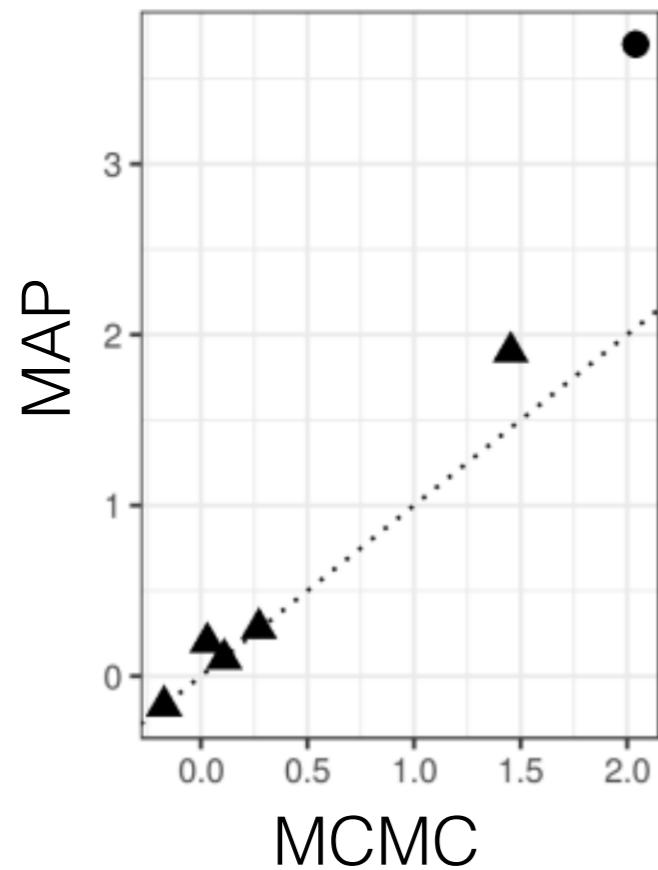
Local parameters



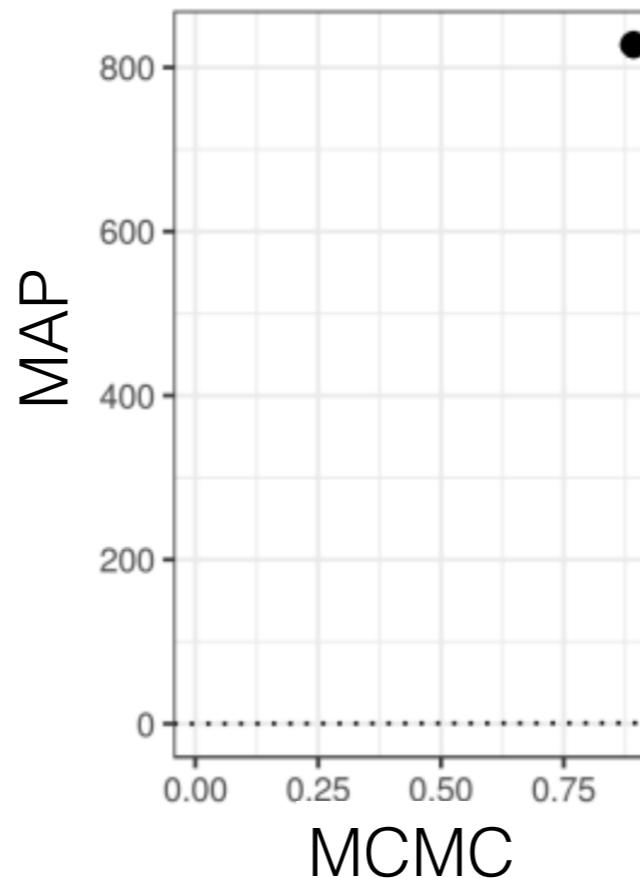
- MAP: **12 s**

# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

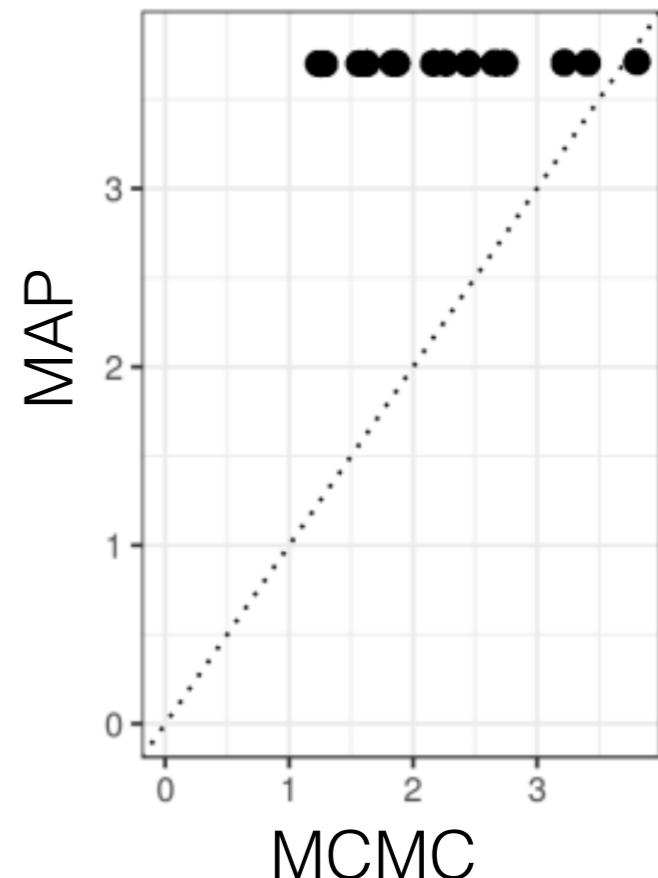
Global parameters ( $-\tau$ )



Global parameter  $\tau$



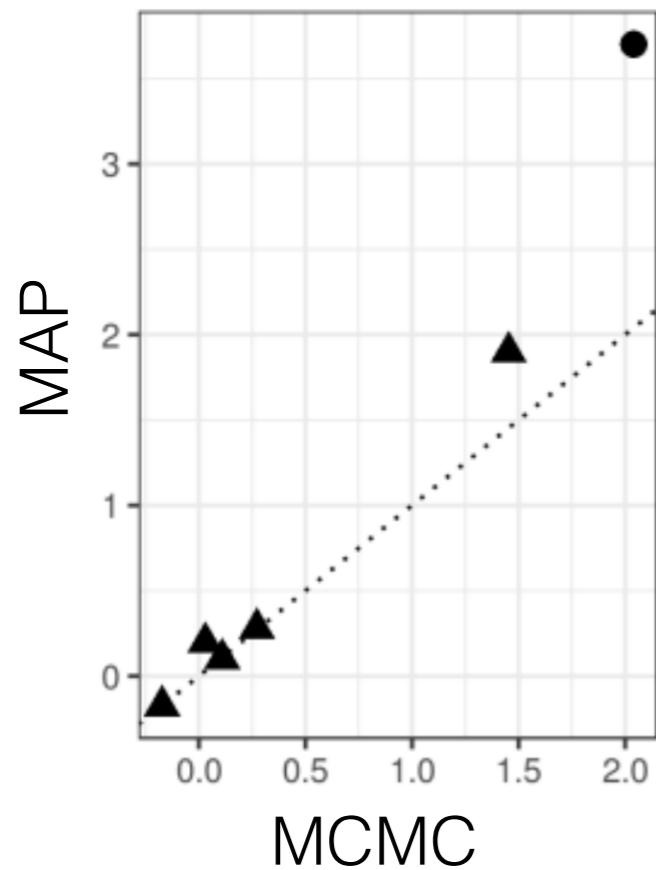
Local parameters



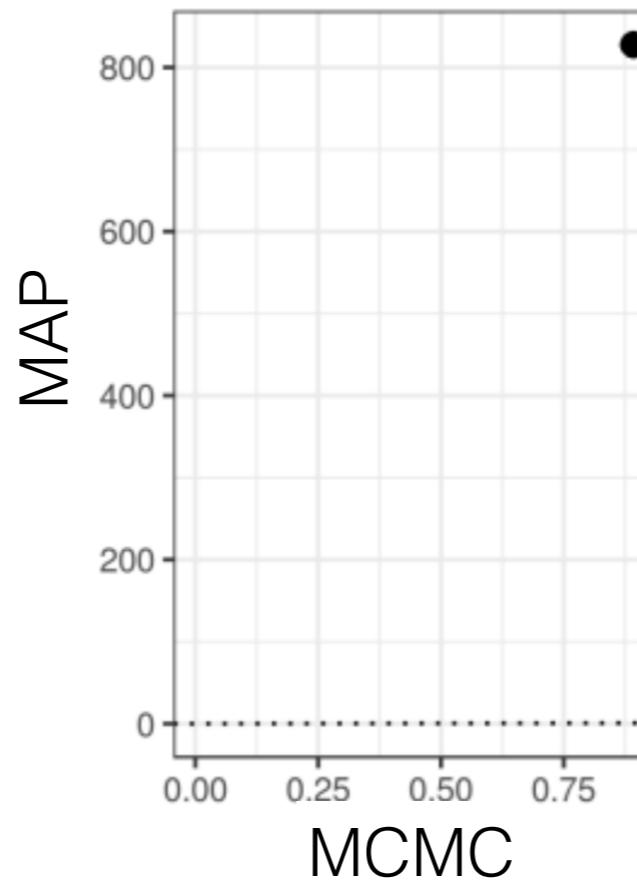
- MAP: **12 s**
- MFVB: **57 s**

# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

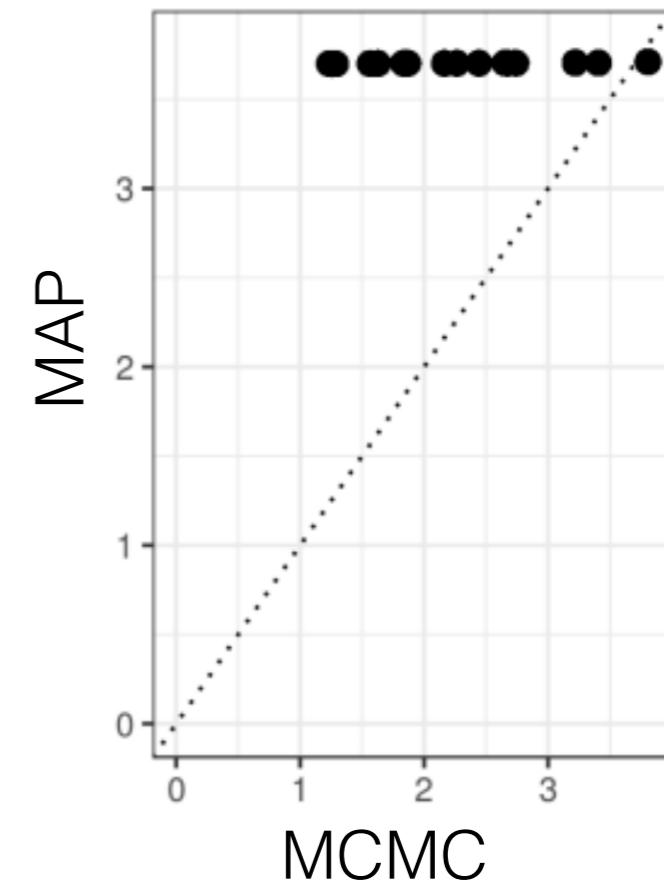
Global parameters ( $-\tau$ )



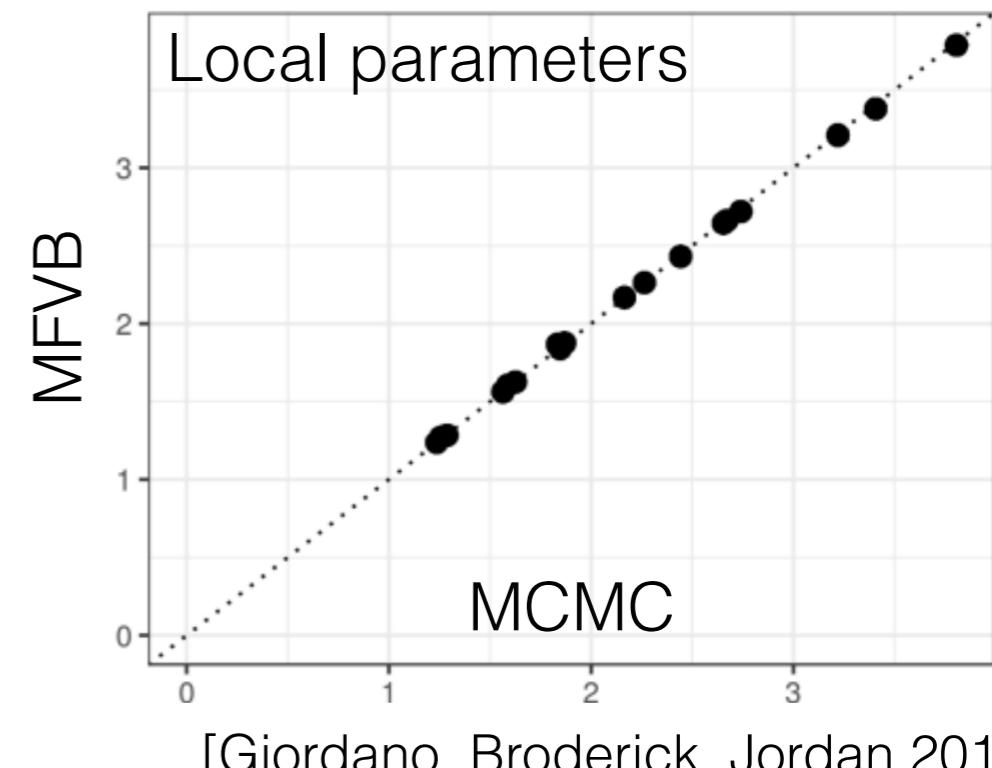
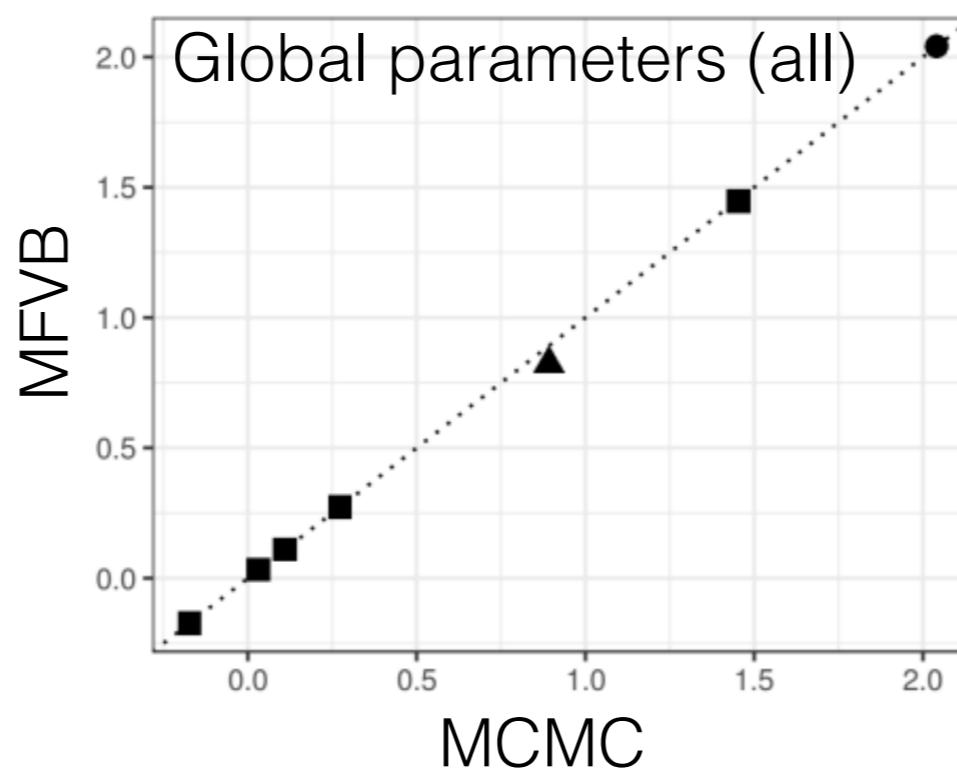
Global parameter  $\tau$



Local parameters

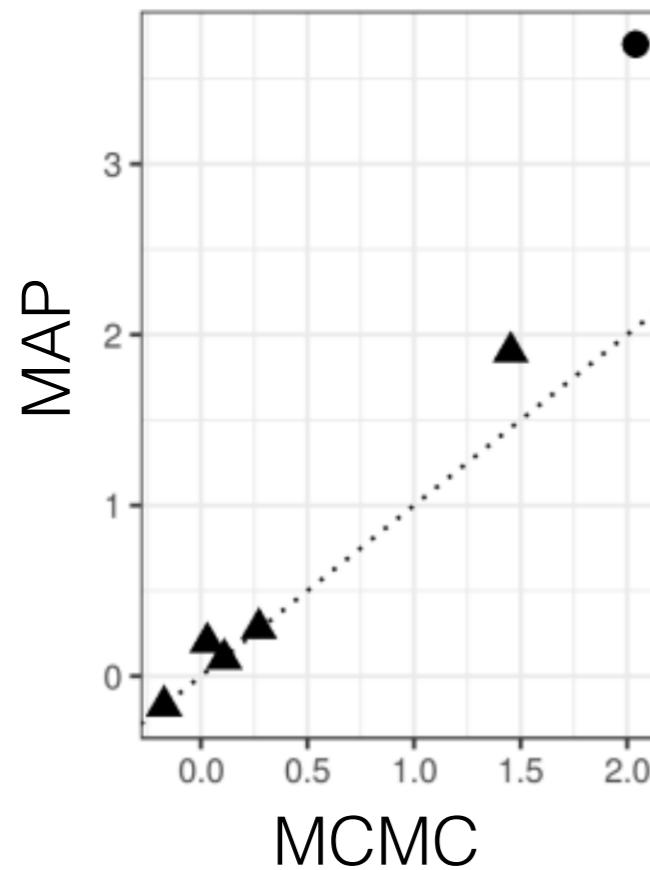


- MAP: **12 s**
- MFVB: **57 s**

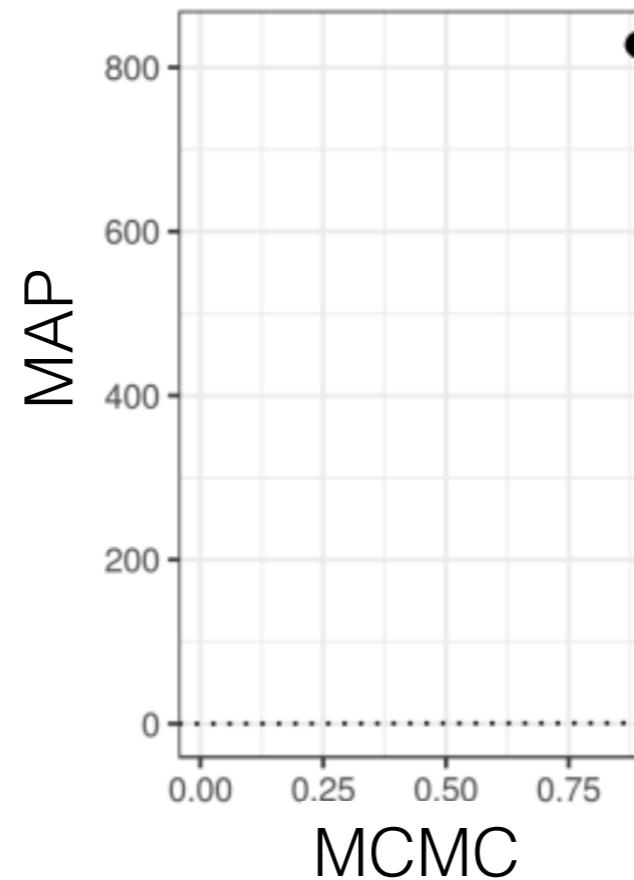


# Criteo Online Ads Experiment

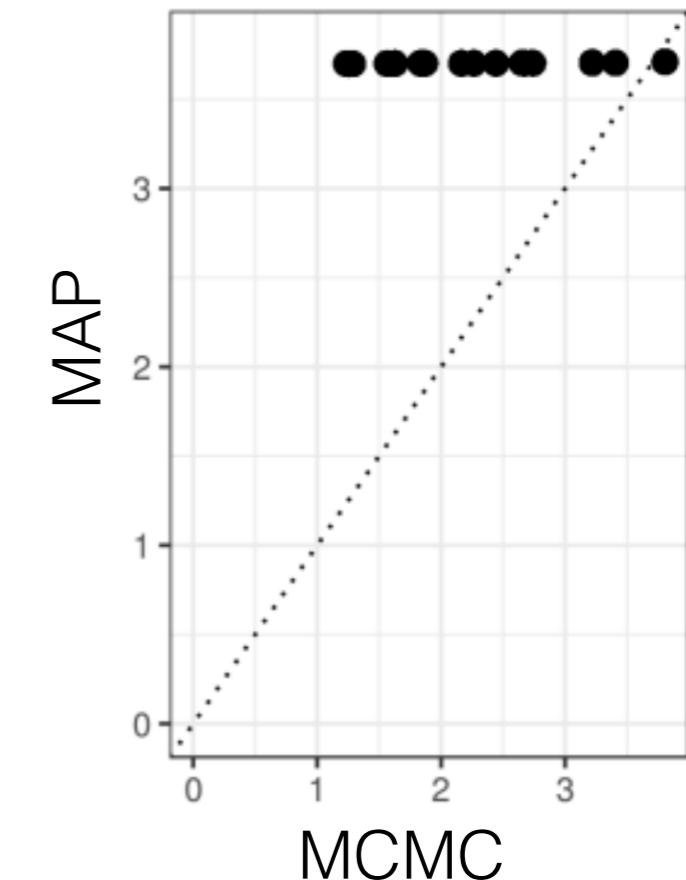
Global parameters ( $-\tau$ )



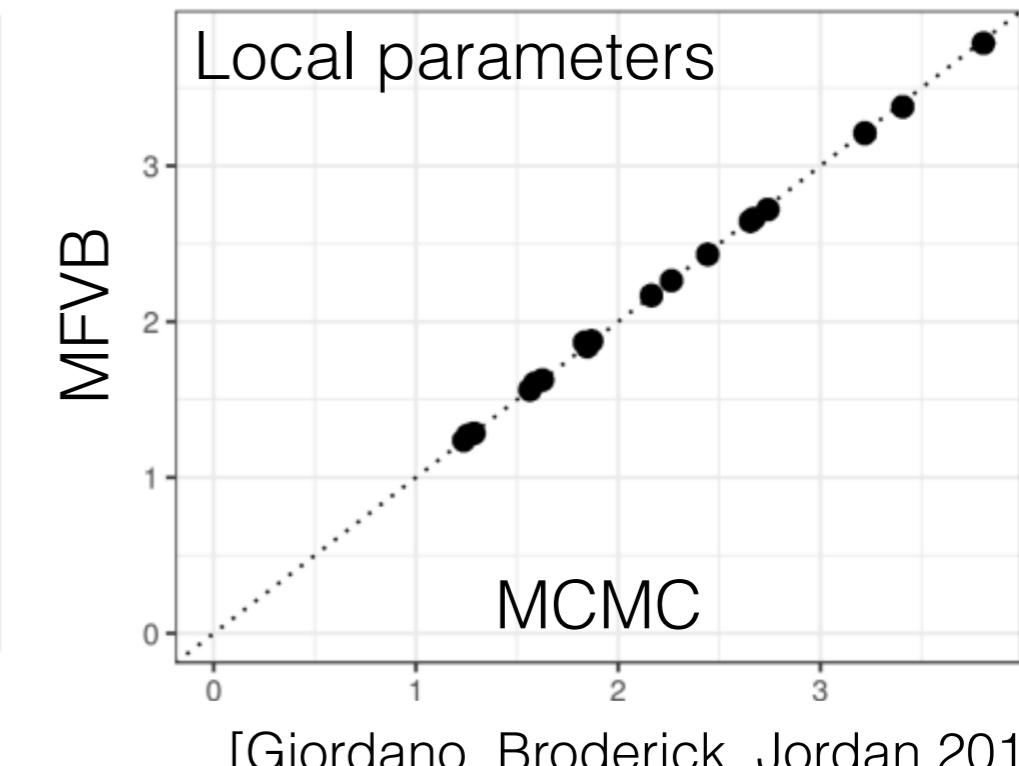
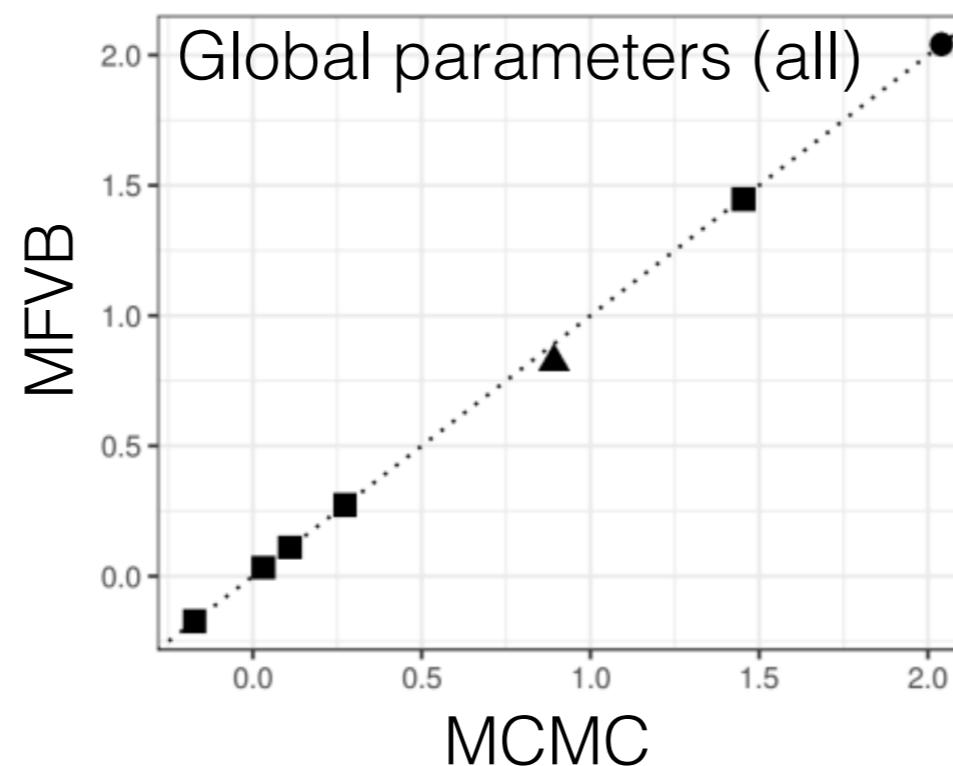
Global parameter  $\tau$



Local parameters



- MAP: **12 s**
- MFVB: **57 s**
- MCMC (5K samples):  
21,066 s  
**(5.85 h)**



# Why use MFVB?

- Topic discovery

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# Why use MFVB?

- Topic discovery
  - Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA)

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# Why use MFVB?

- Topic discovery
  - Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA): 27,700+ citations

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

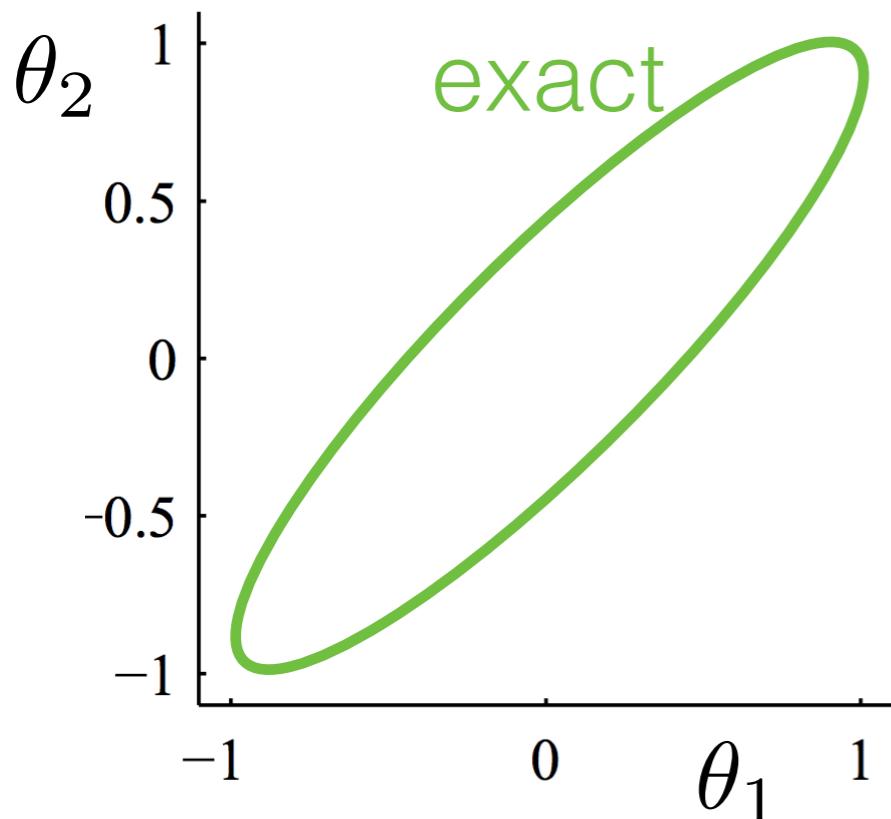
# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta \quad q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$

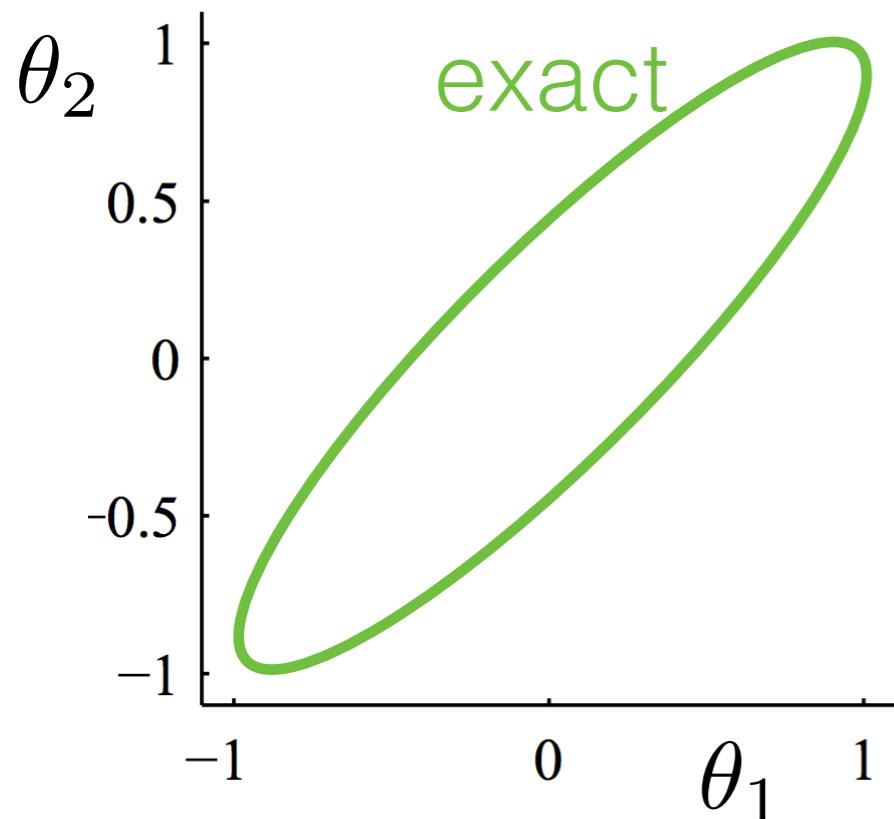


[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



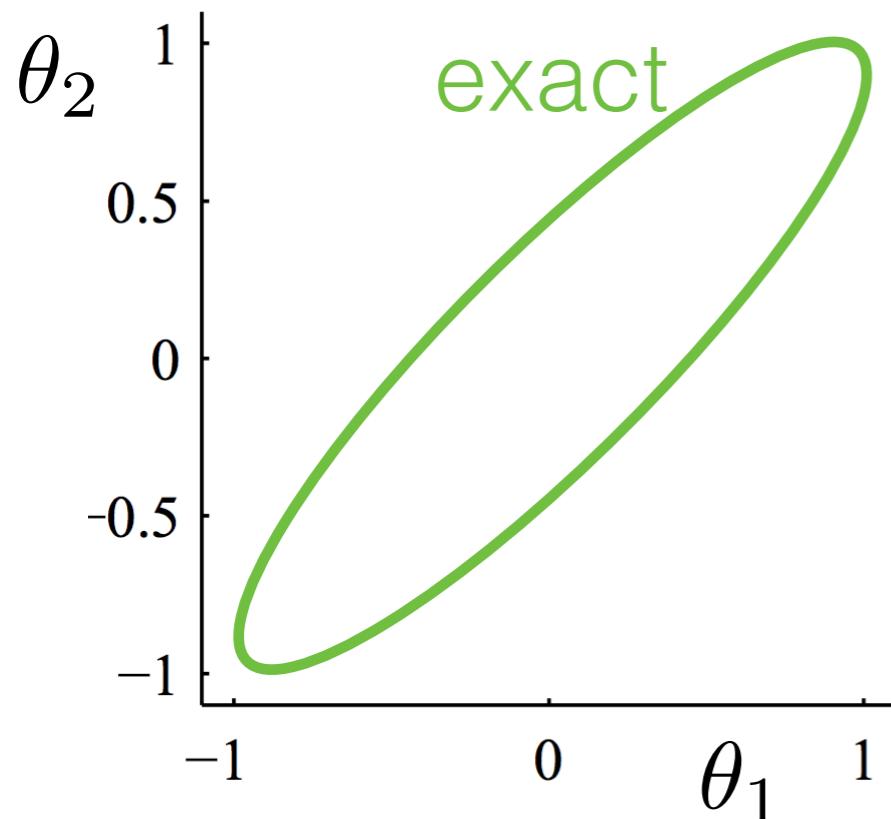
[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

- Conjugate linear regression

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



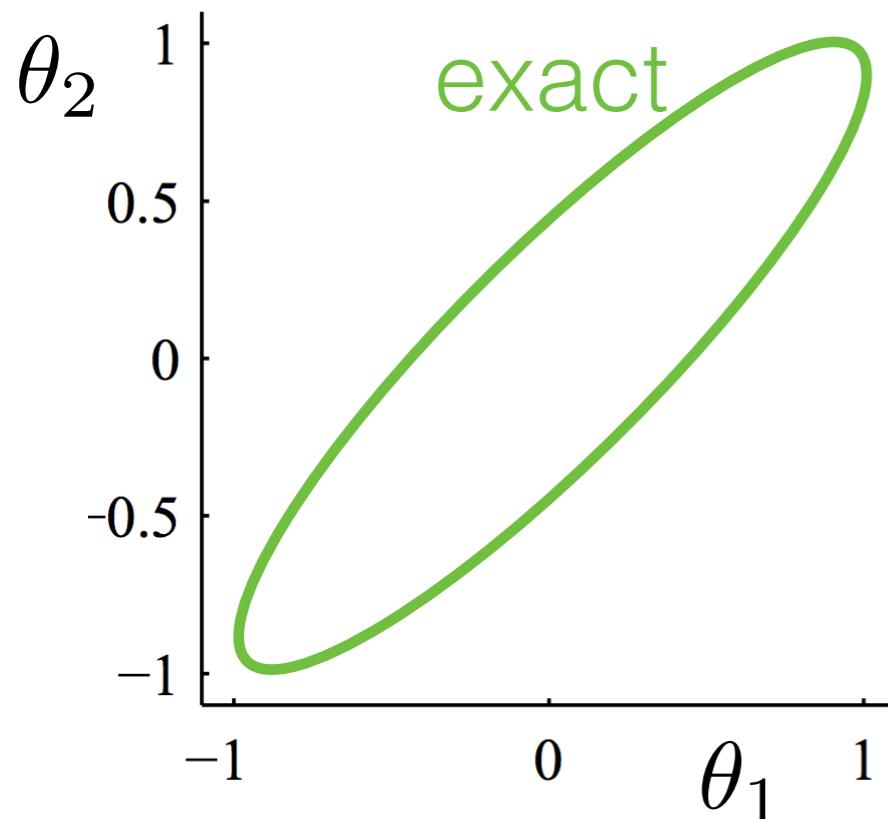
[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



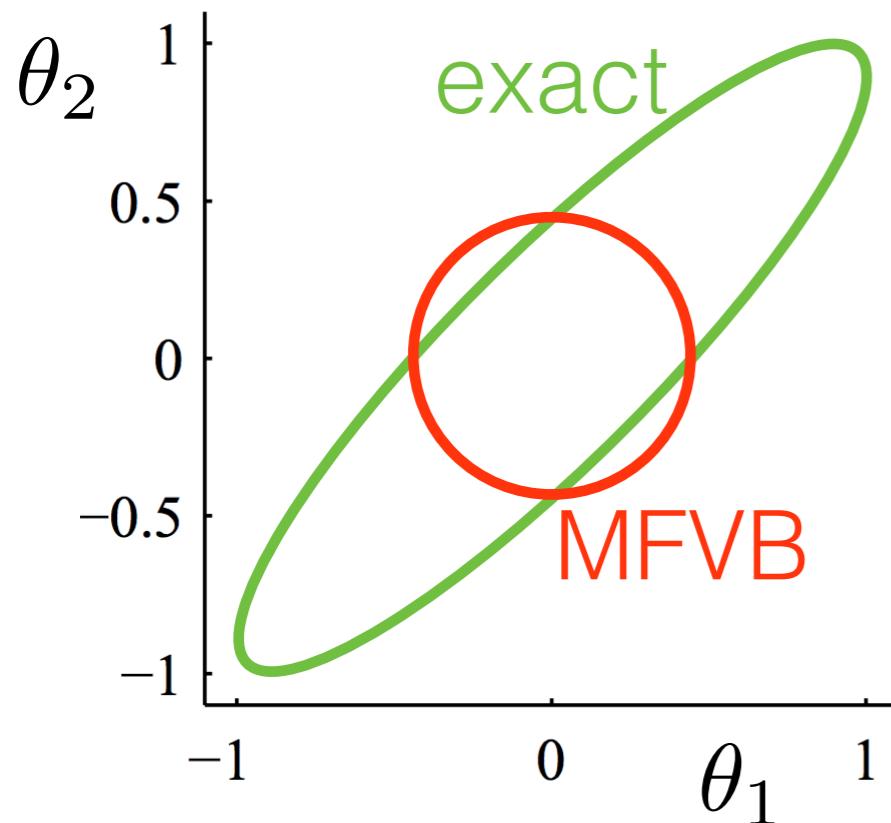
[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

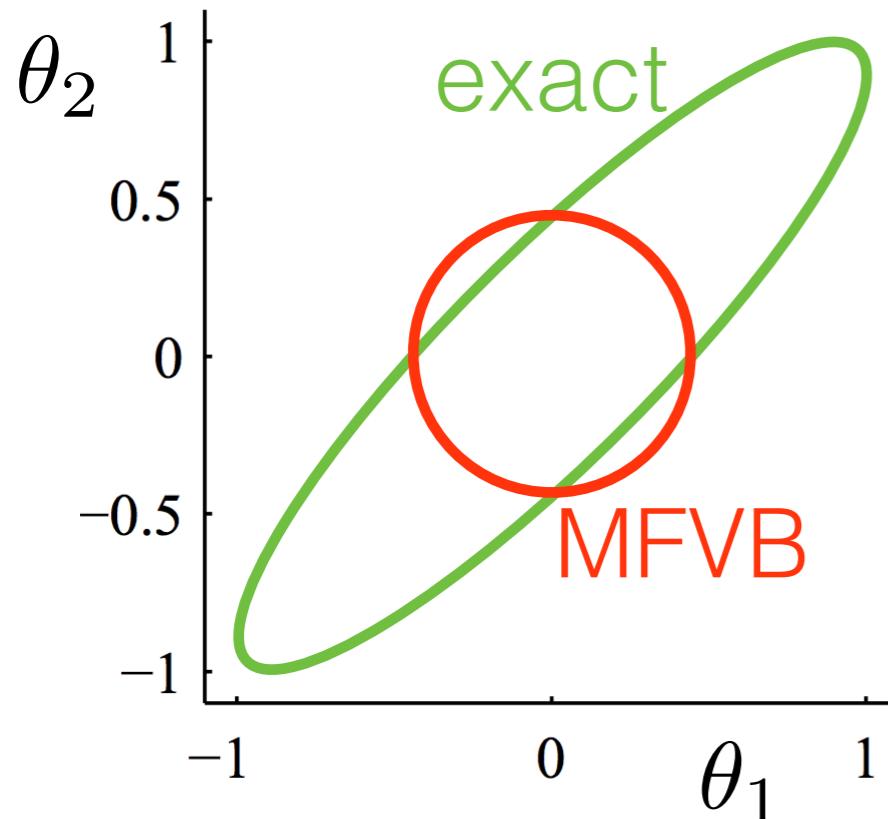
- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

[Exercise: derive the MFVB-CA steps. Hint: use precision matrix.]

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

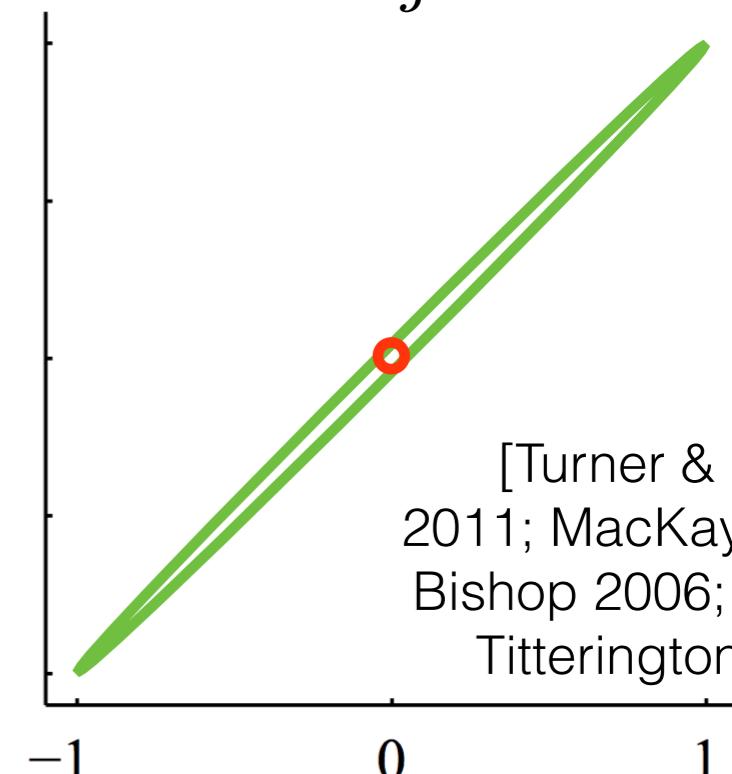
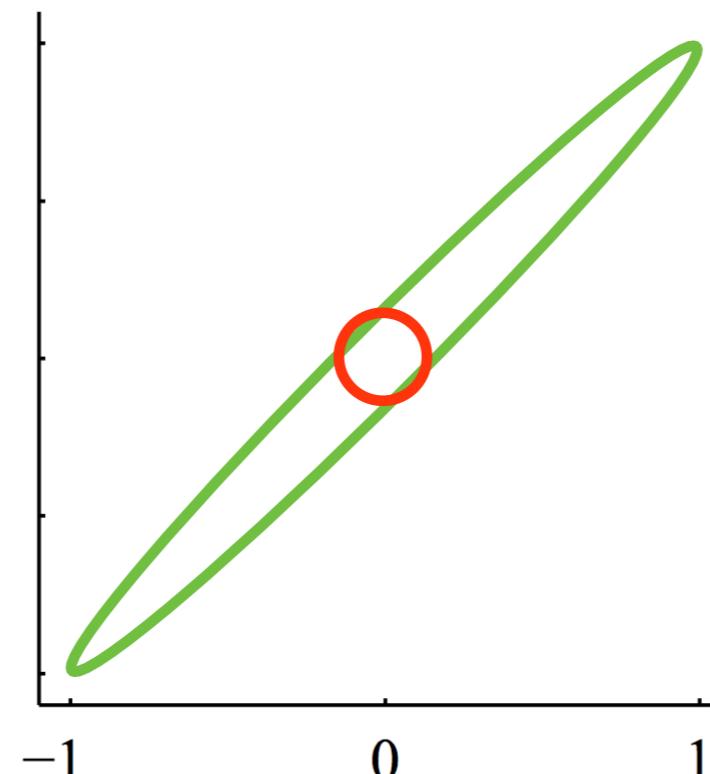
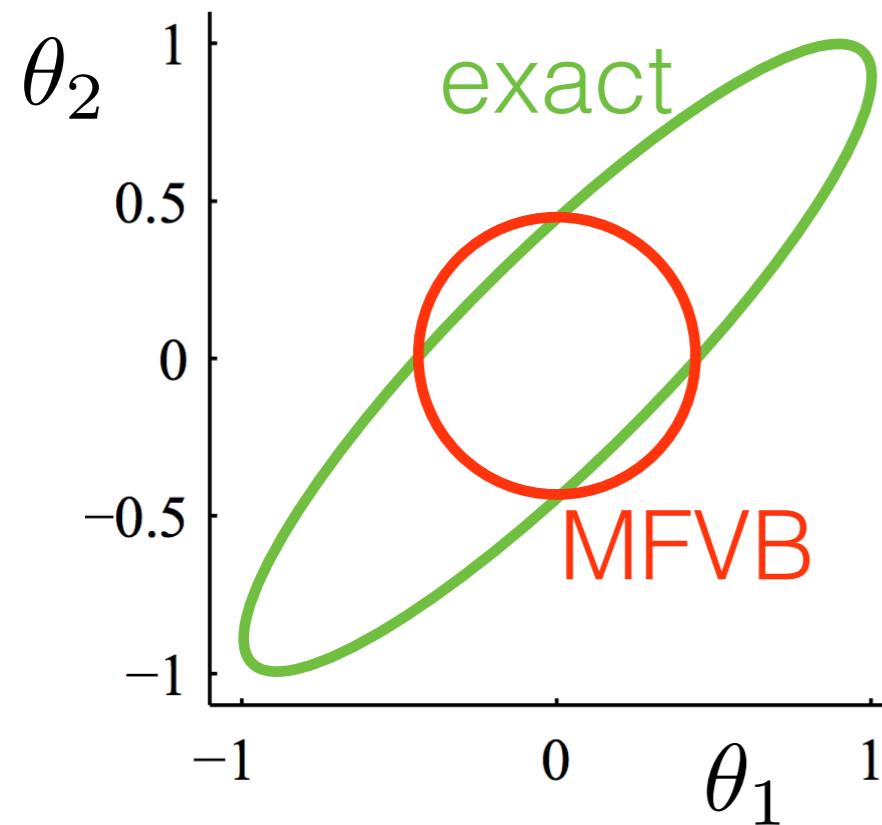
- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

[Exercise: derive the MFVB-CA steps. Hint: use precision matrix.]

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

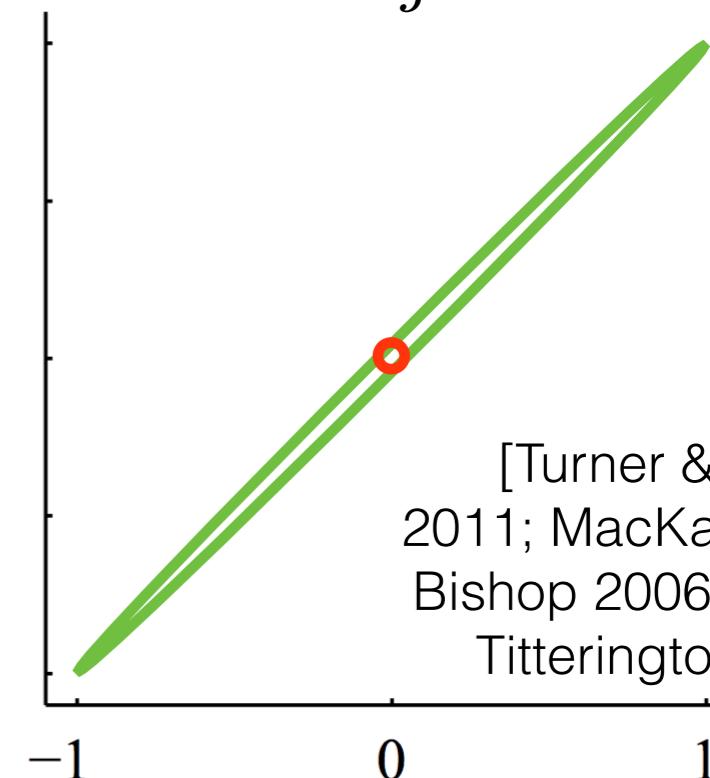
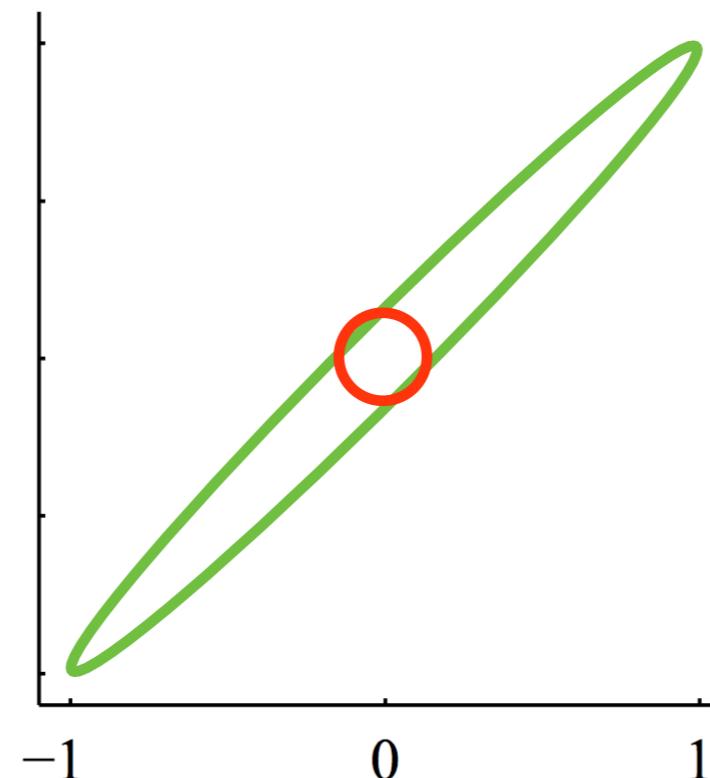
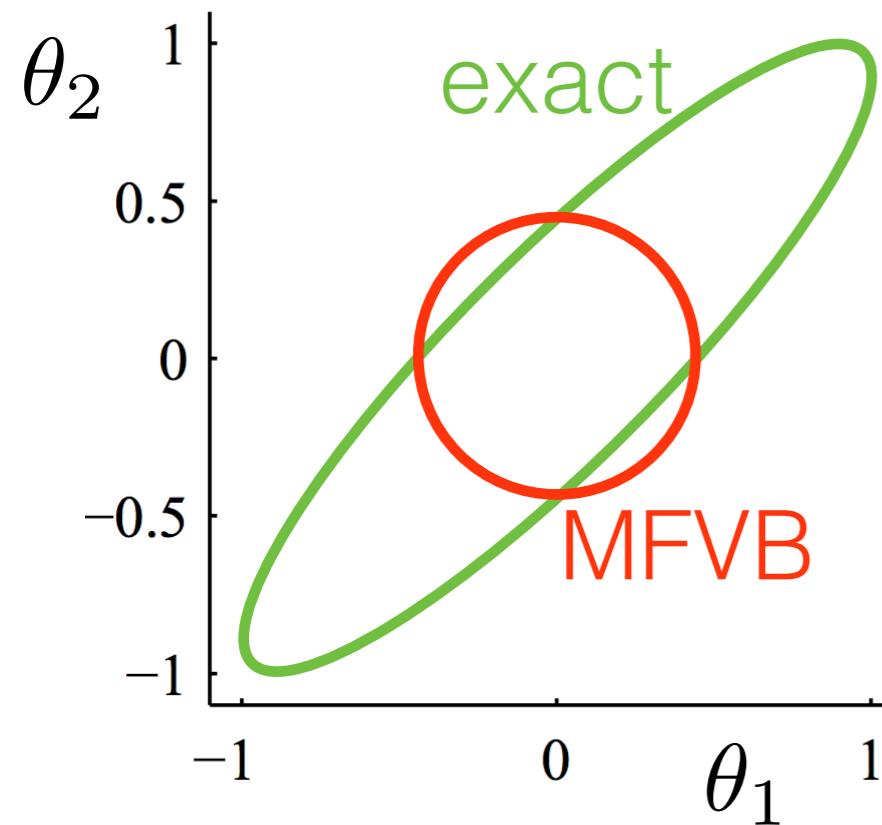
- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

[Exercise: derive the MFVB-CA steps. Hint: use precision matrix.]

# What about uncertainty?

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q_j(\theta_j)$$



[Turner & Sahani  
2011; MacKay 2003;  
Bishop 2006; Wang,  
Titterington 2004]

- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- No covariance estimates
- Conjugate linear regression
- Bayesian central limit theorem

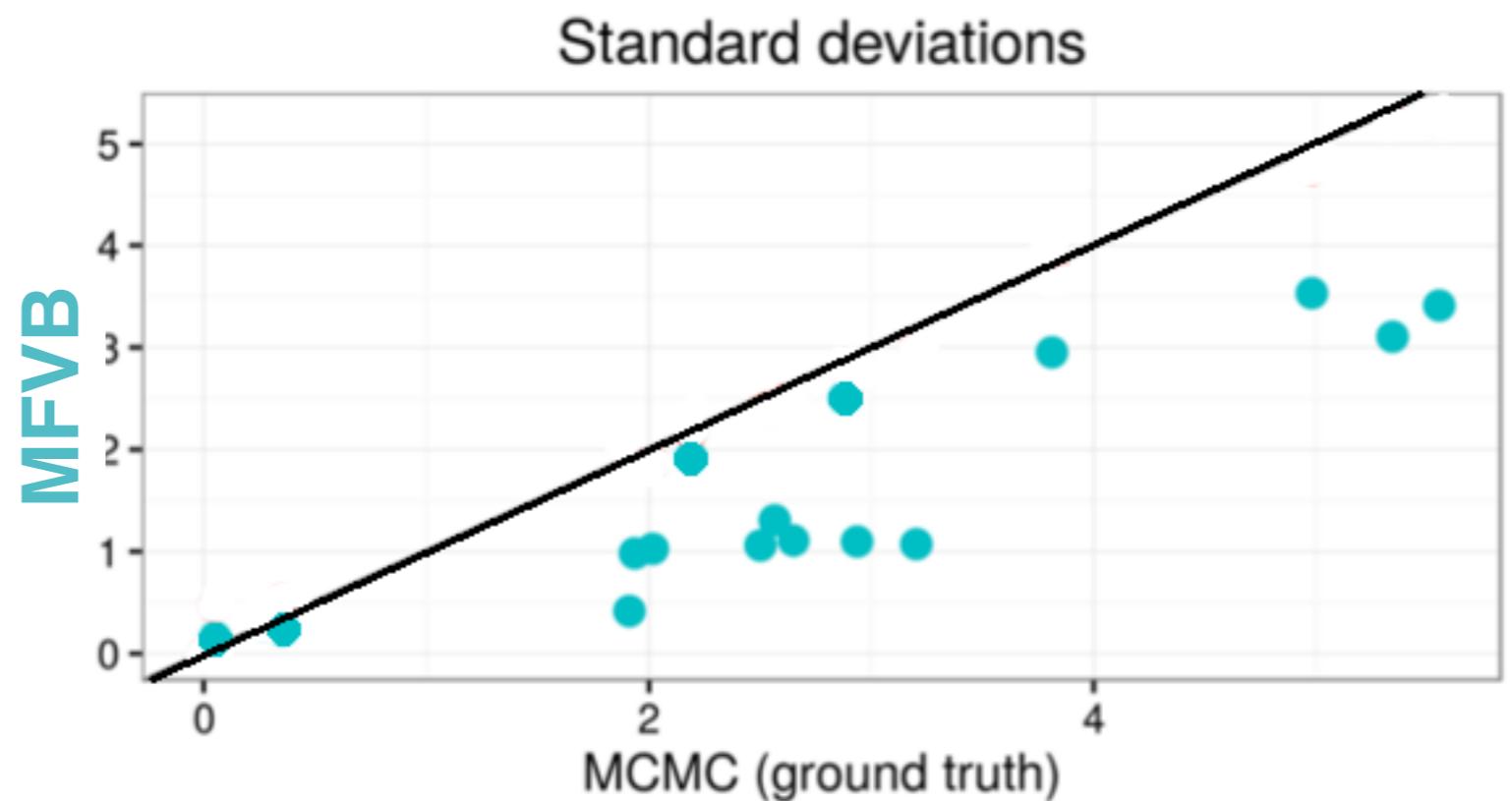
[Exercise: derive the MFVB-CA steps. Hint: use precision matrix.]

# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit

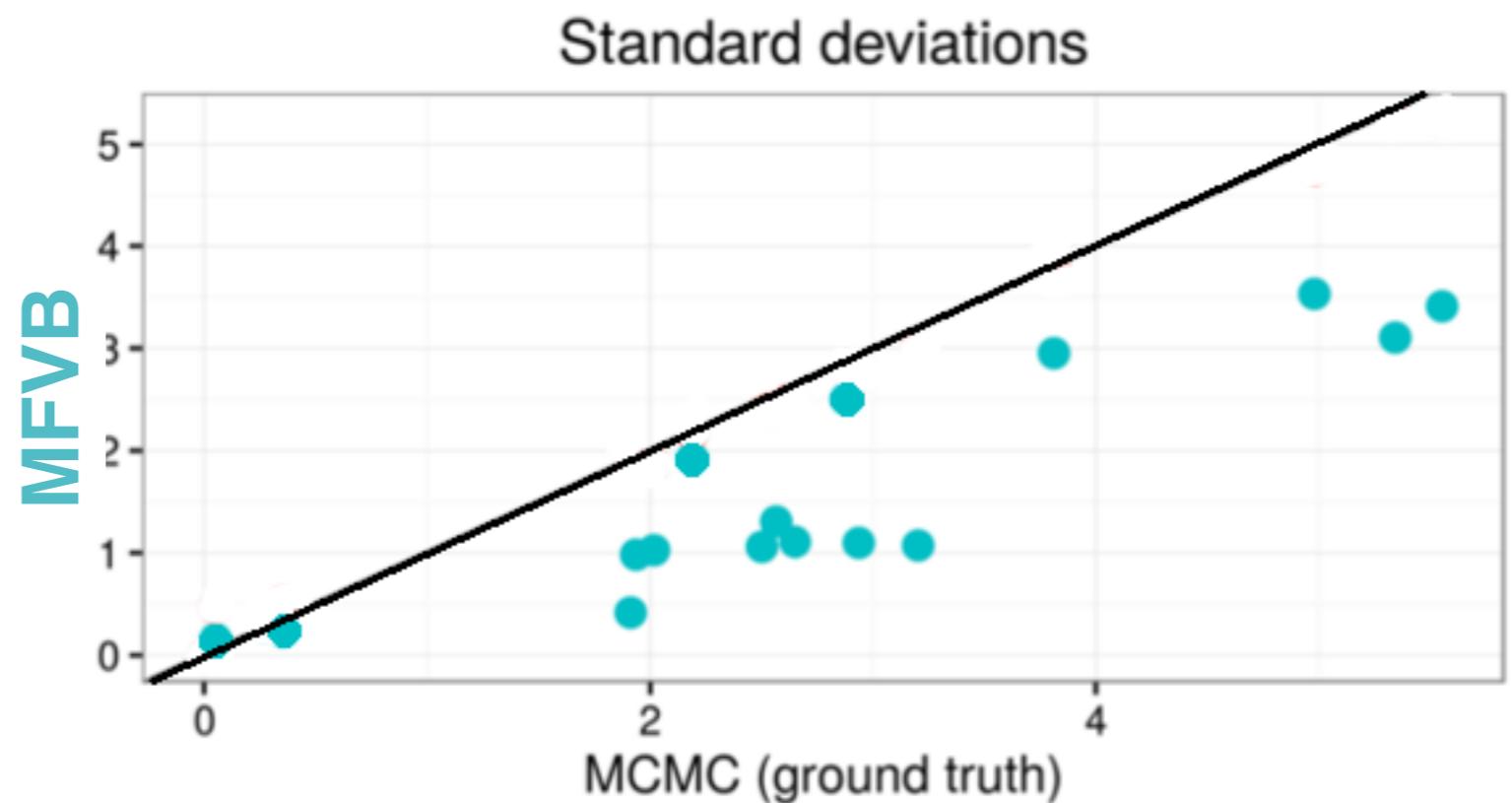
# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit



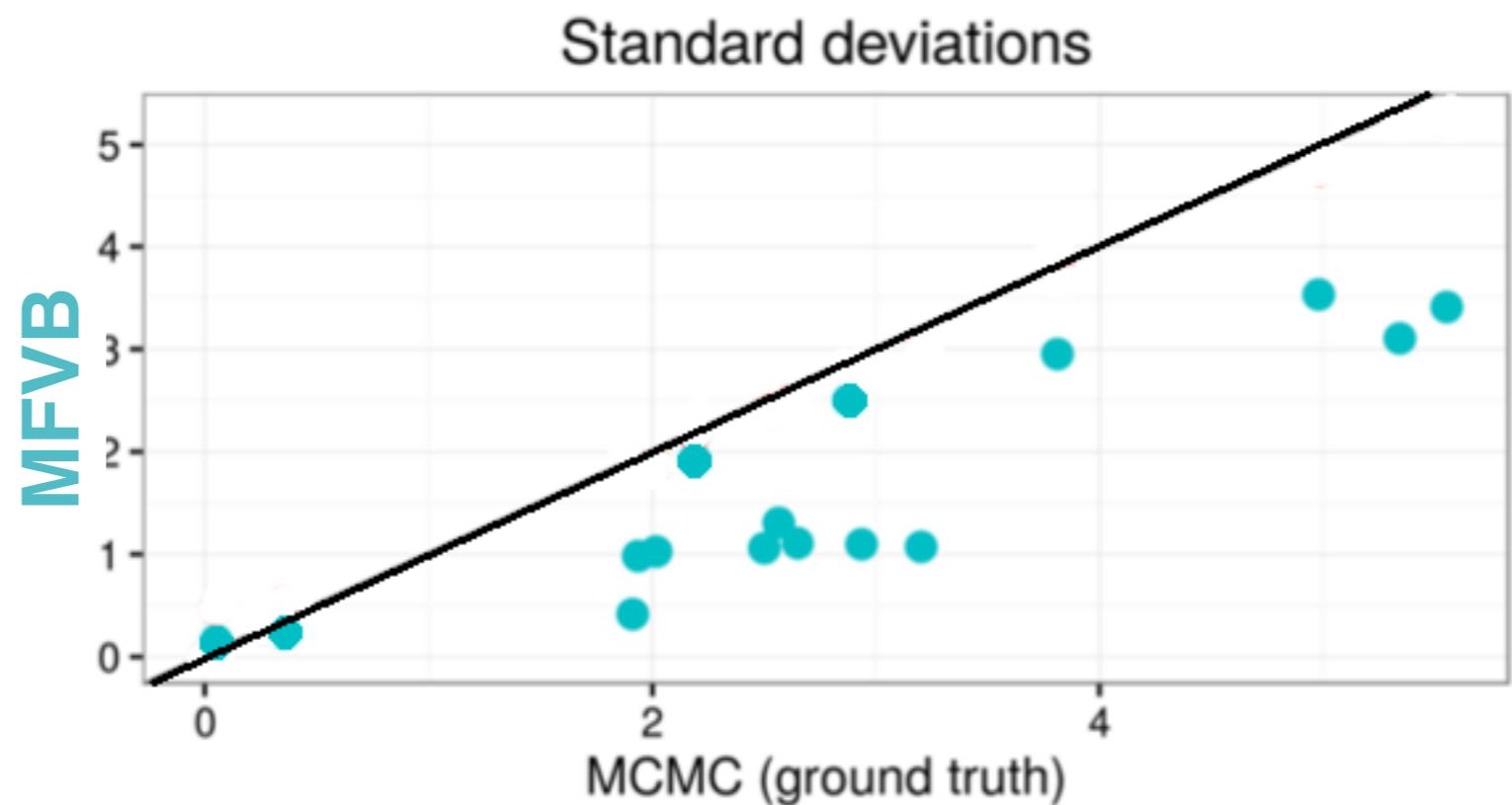
# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit effect
- $\tau$  mean:  
3.08 USD PPP



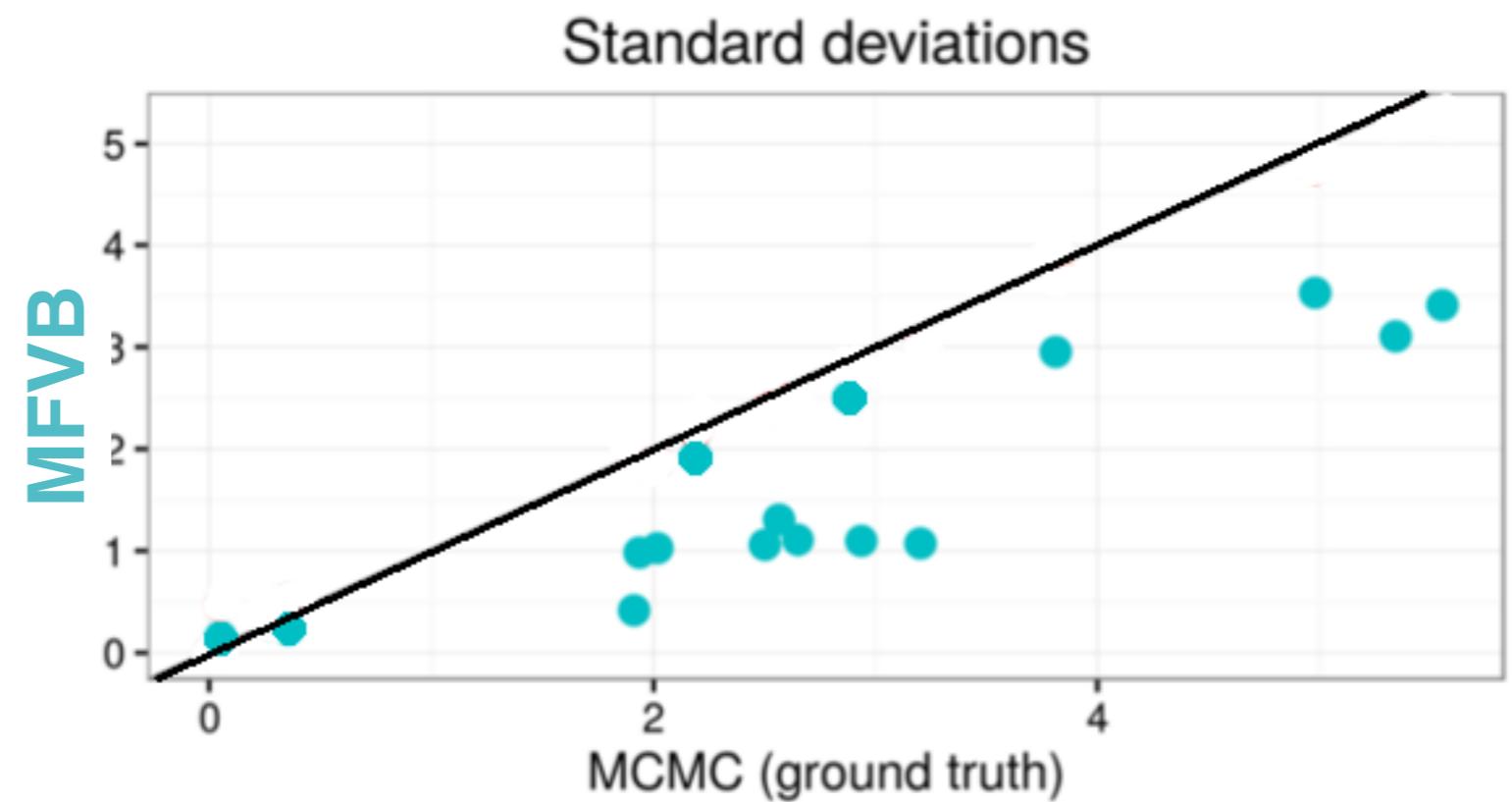
# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit effect
- $\tau$  mean:  
3.08 USD PPP
- $\tau$  std dev:  
1.83 USD PPP



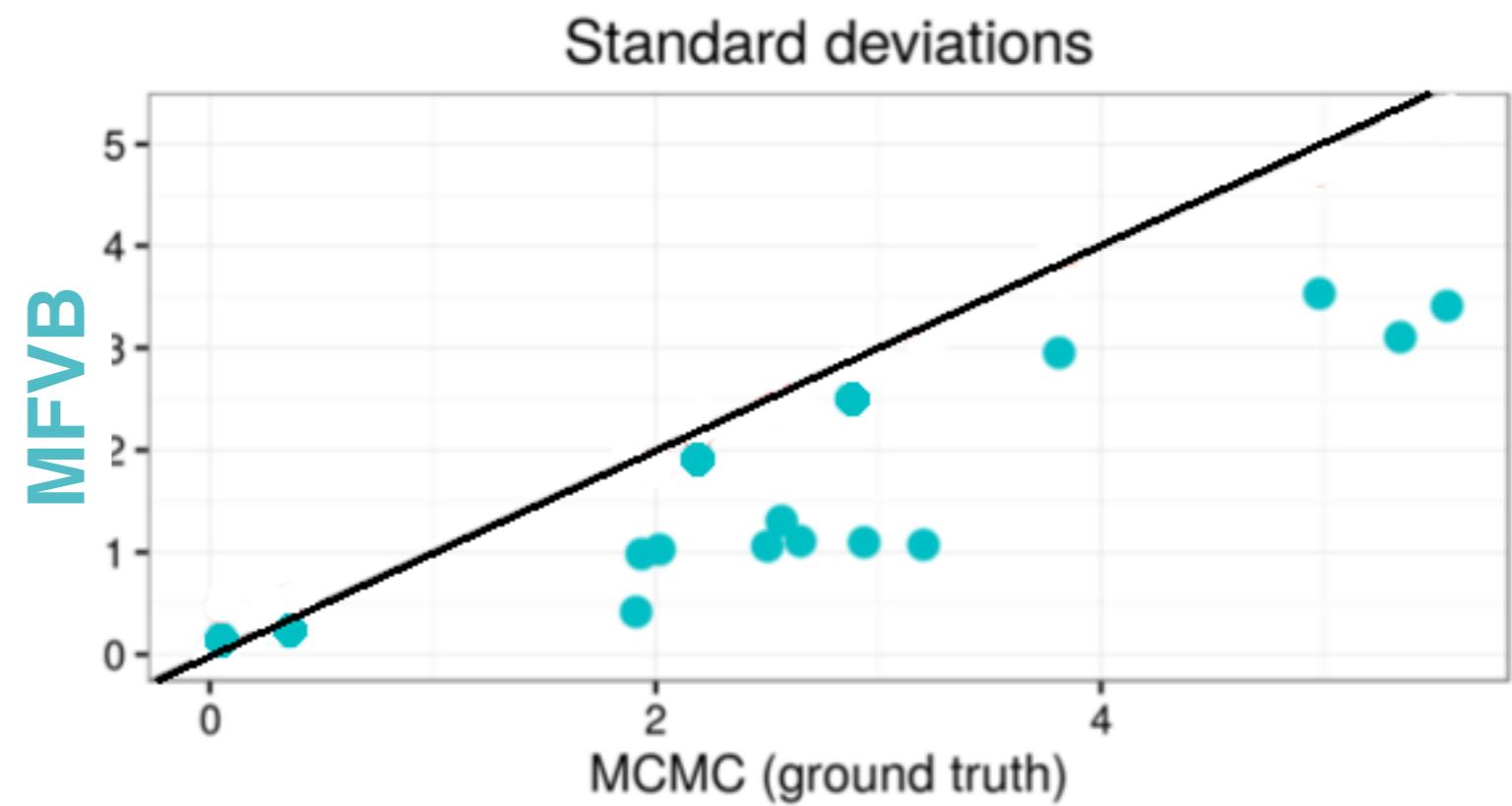
# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit effect
- $\tau$  mean:  
3.08 USD PPP
- $\tau$  std dev:  
1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0

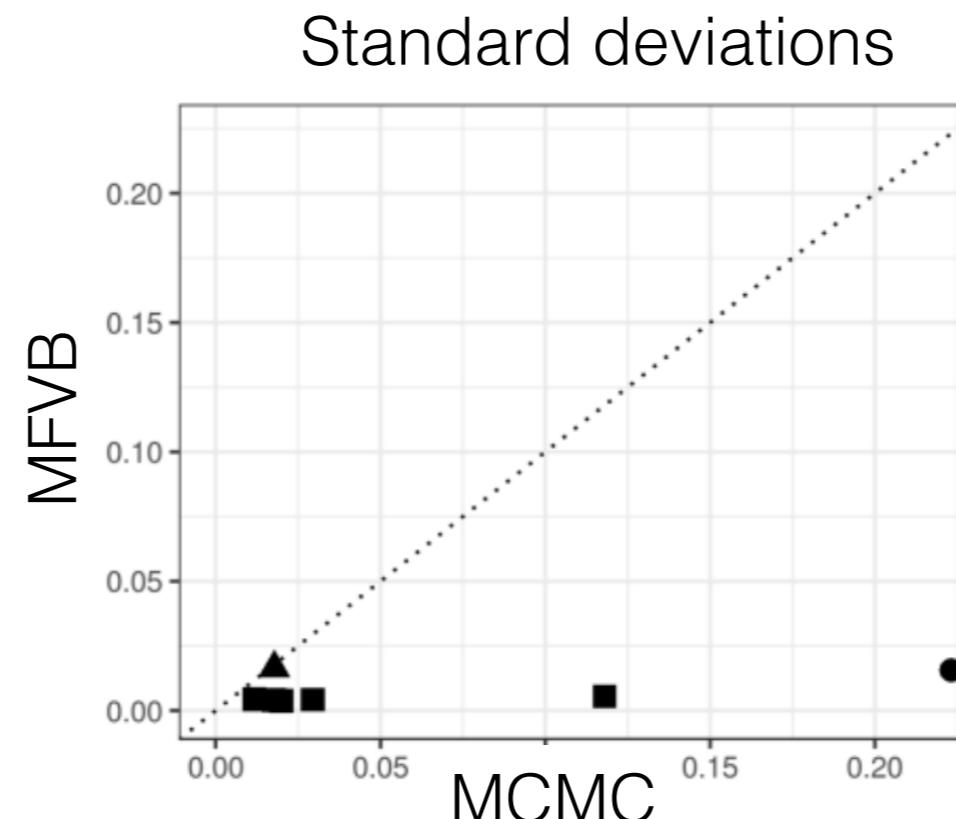


# What about uncertainty?

- Microcredit effect
- $\tau$  mean:  
3.08 USD PPP
- $\tau$  std dev:  
1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0



- Criteo  
online ads  
experiment

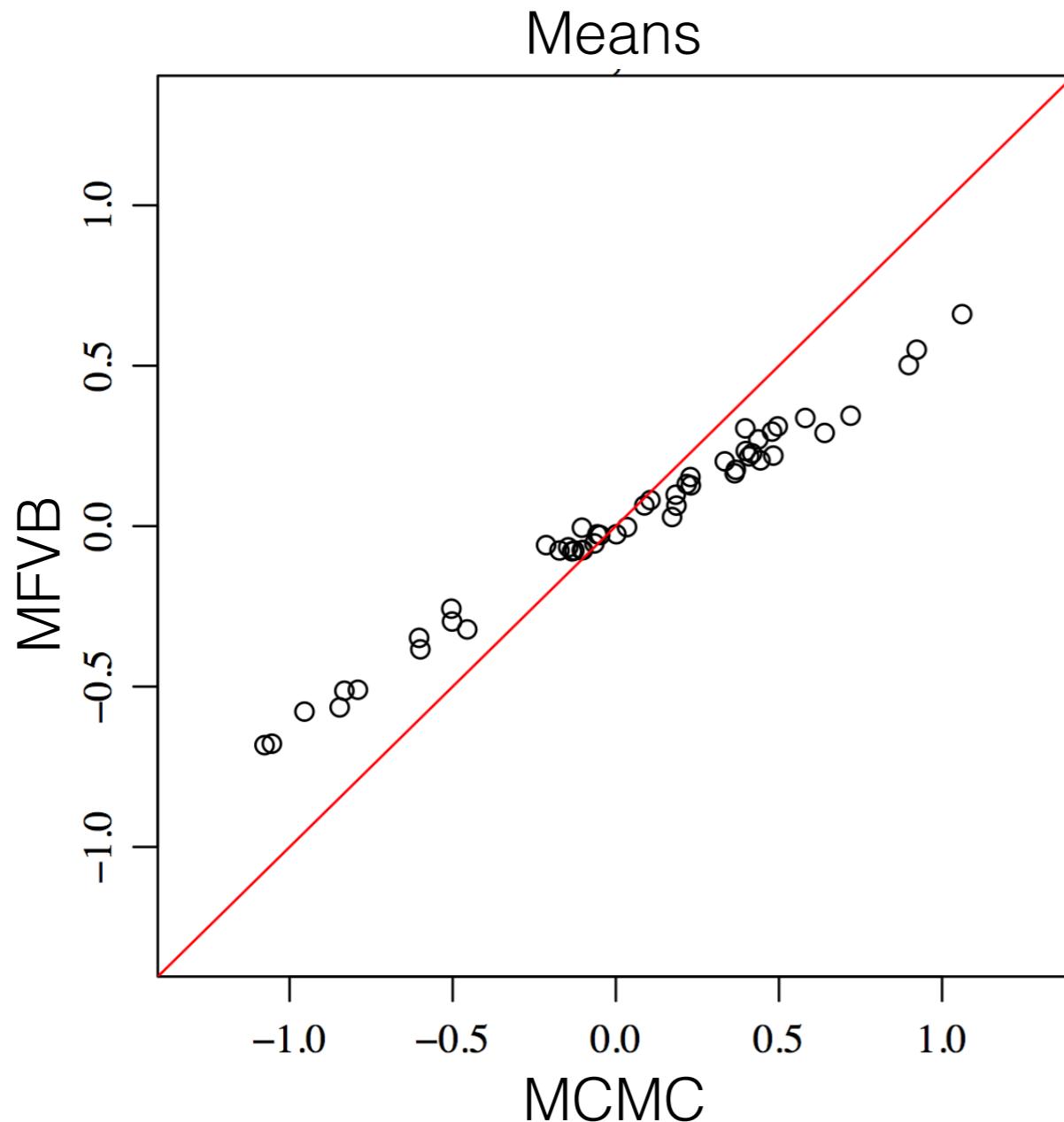


# What about means?

- Model for relational data with covariates
- When 1000+ nodes, MCMC > 1 day [Fosdick 2013, Ch 4]

# What about means?

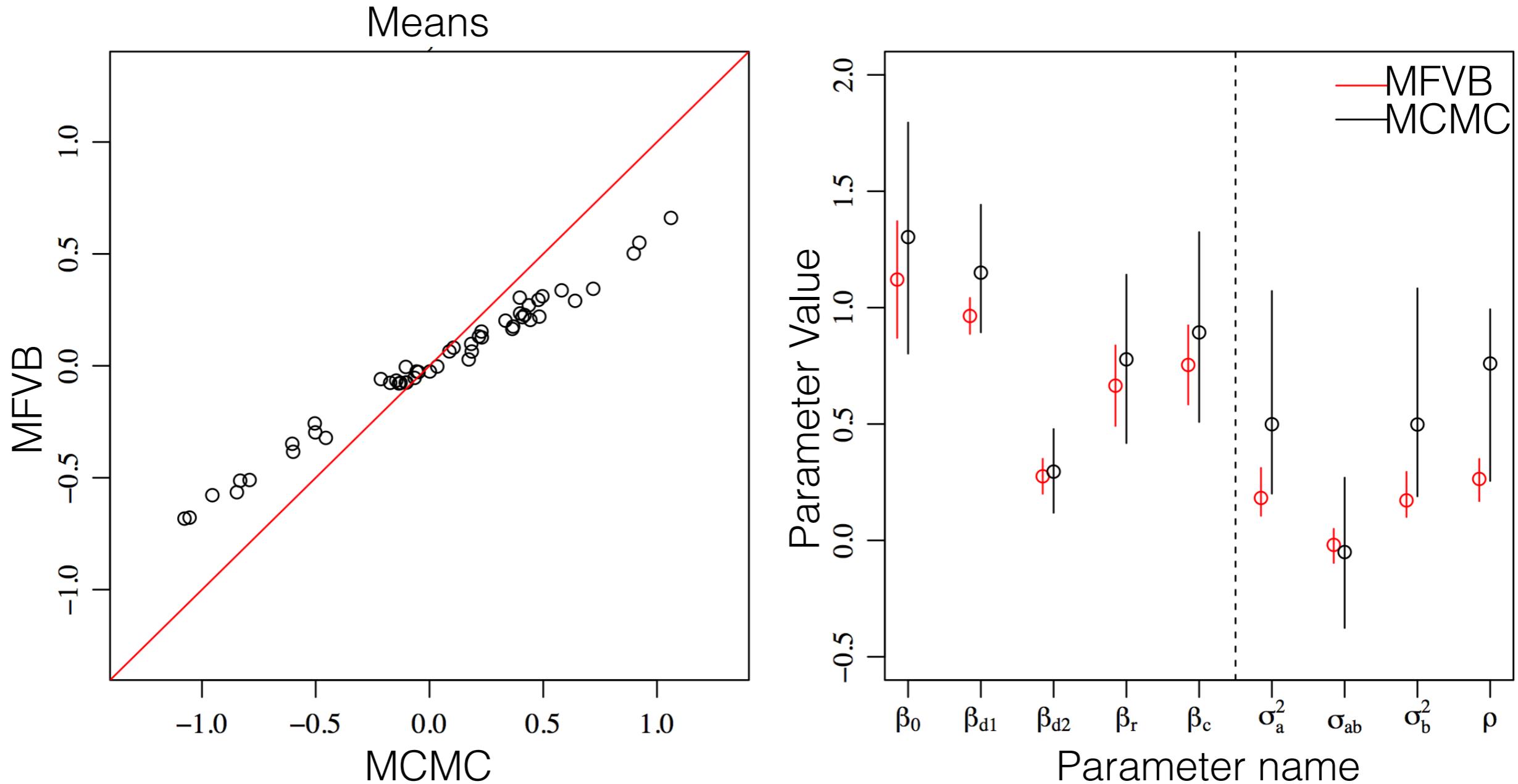
- Model for relational data with covariates
- When 1000+ nodes, MCMC > 1 day [Fosdick 2013, Ch 4]



[Fosdick 2013, Ch 4, Fig 4.3]

# What about means?

- Model for relational data with covariates
- When 1000+ nodes, MCMC > 1 day [Fosdick 2013, Ch 4]



[Fosdick 2013, Ch 4, Fig 4.3]

# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$

# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$

# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$

# Posterior means: revisited

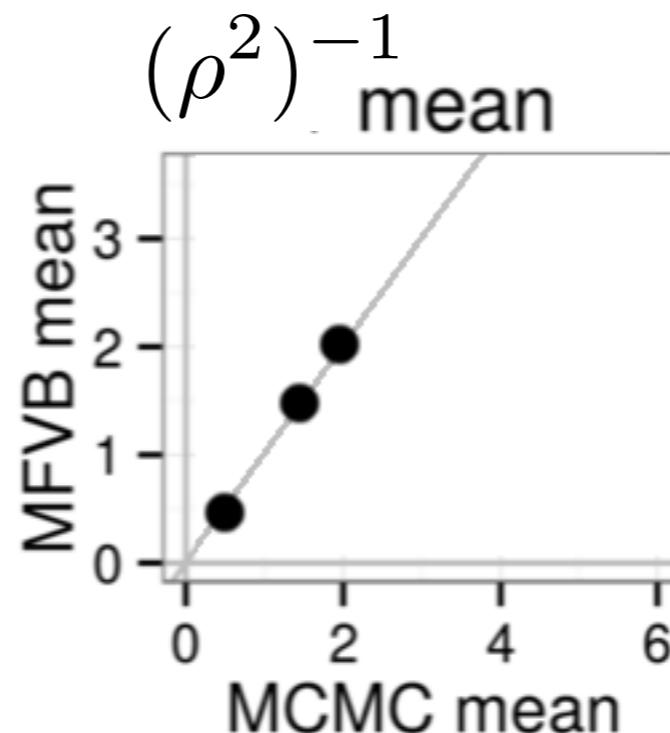
- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$

# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  
 $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$   
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2) \quad (\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$   
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma) \quad (\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$

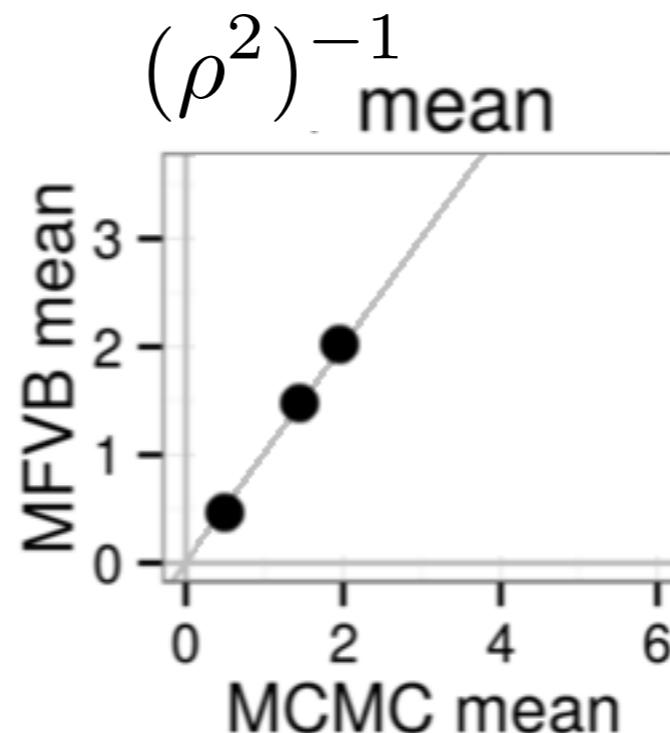
# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$   
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$        $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$   
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$        $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$
- Data simulated from model (3 data sets, 300 data points):



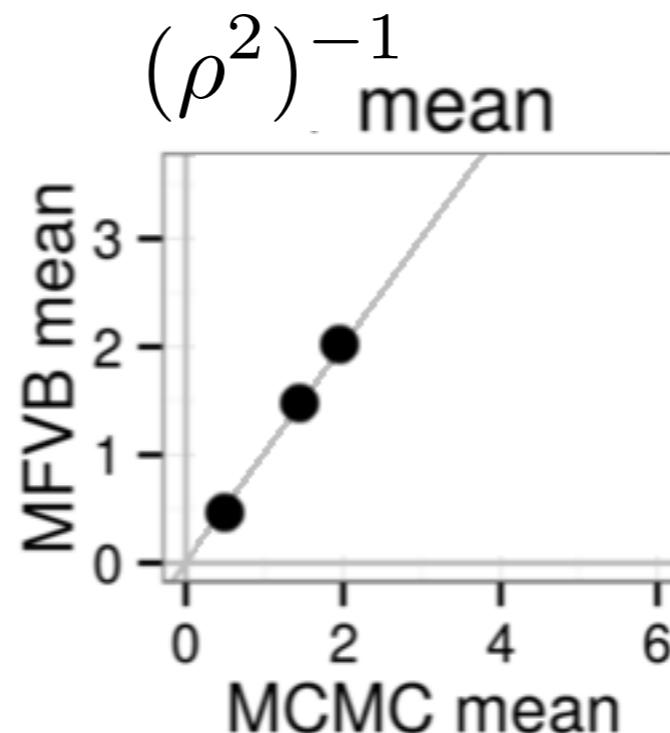
# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$   
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$        $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$   
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$        $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$
- Data simulated from model (3 data sets, 300 data points):



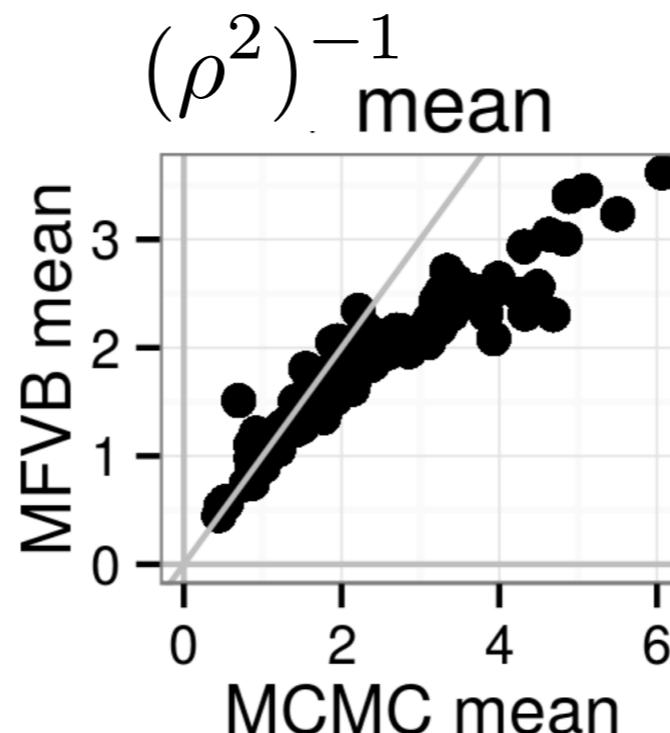
# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$   
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$        $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$   
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$        $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$
- Data simulated from model (100 data sets, 300 data points):



# Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA  $y_n$
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT)  $x_n$
- Collect: regional test scores  $r_n$
- Model:  $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$   
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$        $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$   
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$        $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$
- Data simulated from model (100 data sets, 300 data points):



# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

- Coordinate descent
- Stochastic variational inference (SVI) [Hoffman et al 2013]
- Automatic differentiation variational inference (ADVI) [Kucukelbir et al 2015, 2017]

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

Implementation

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

**Implementation**

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

**Implementation**

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

Gaussian example  
was exact

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

**Algorithm**

Implementation

**How  
deep is  
the  
issue?**

Gaussian example  
was exact

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

How  
deep is  
the  
issue?

**Mean-field variational Bayes**

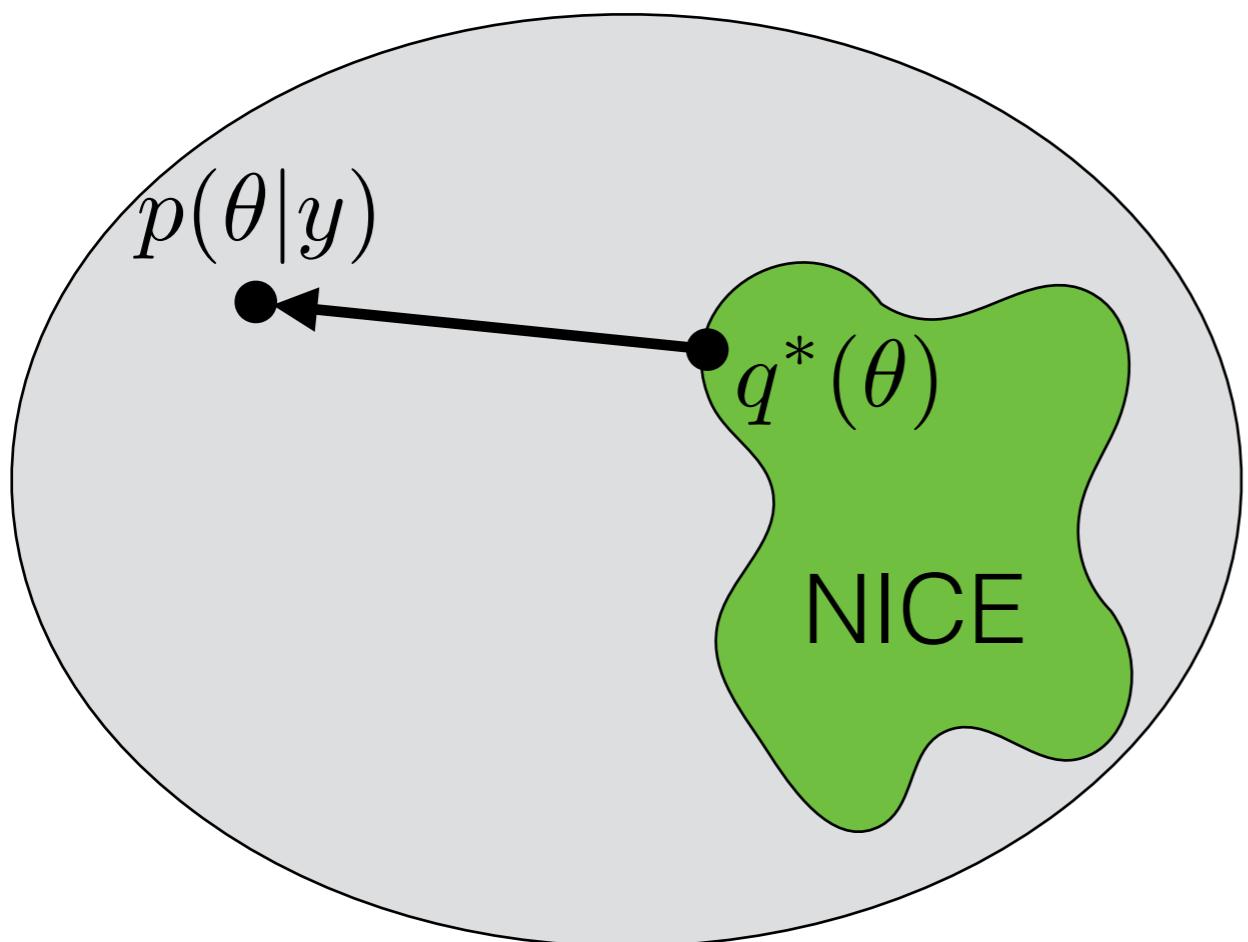
$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

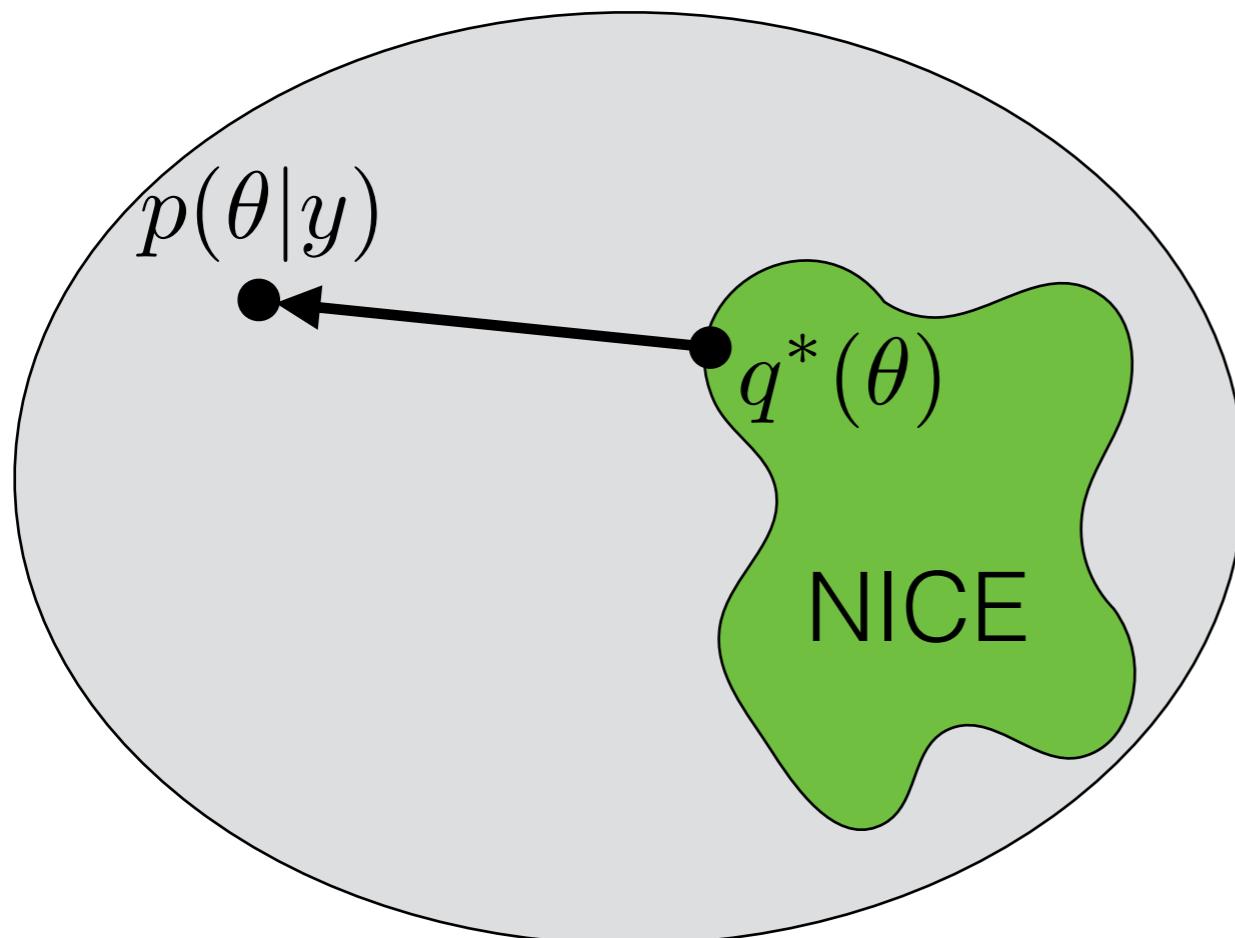
Implementation

Gaussian example  
was exact

# Is it just MFVB?

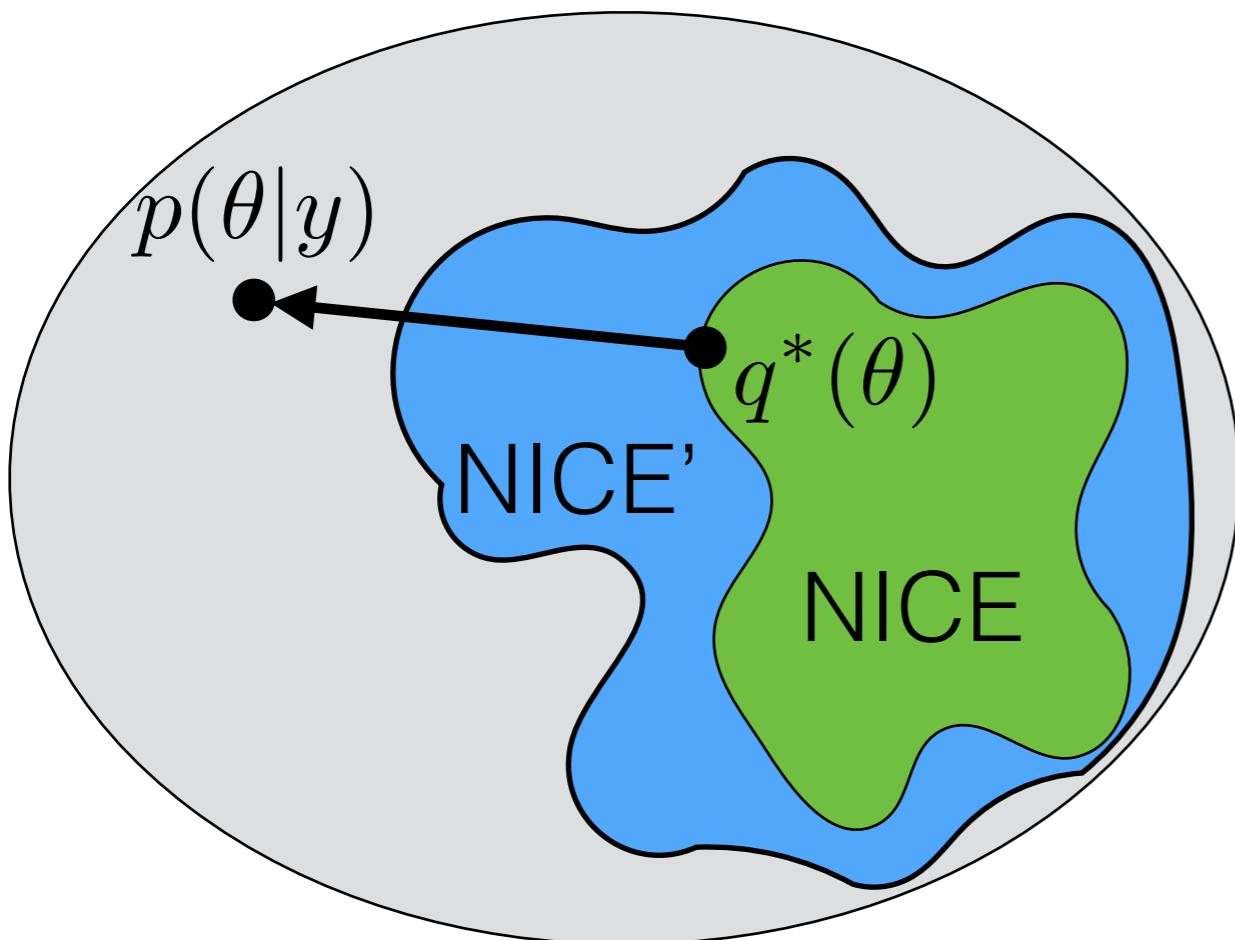


# Is it just MFVB?



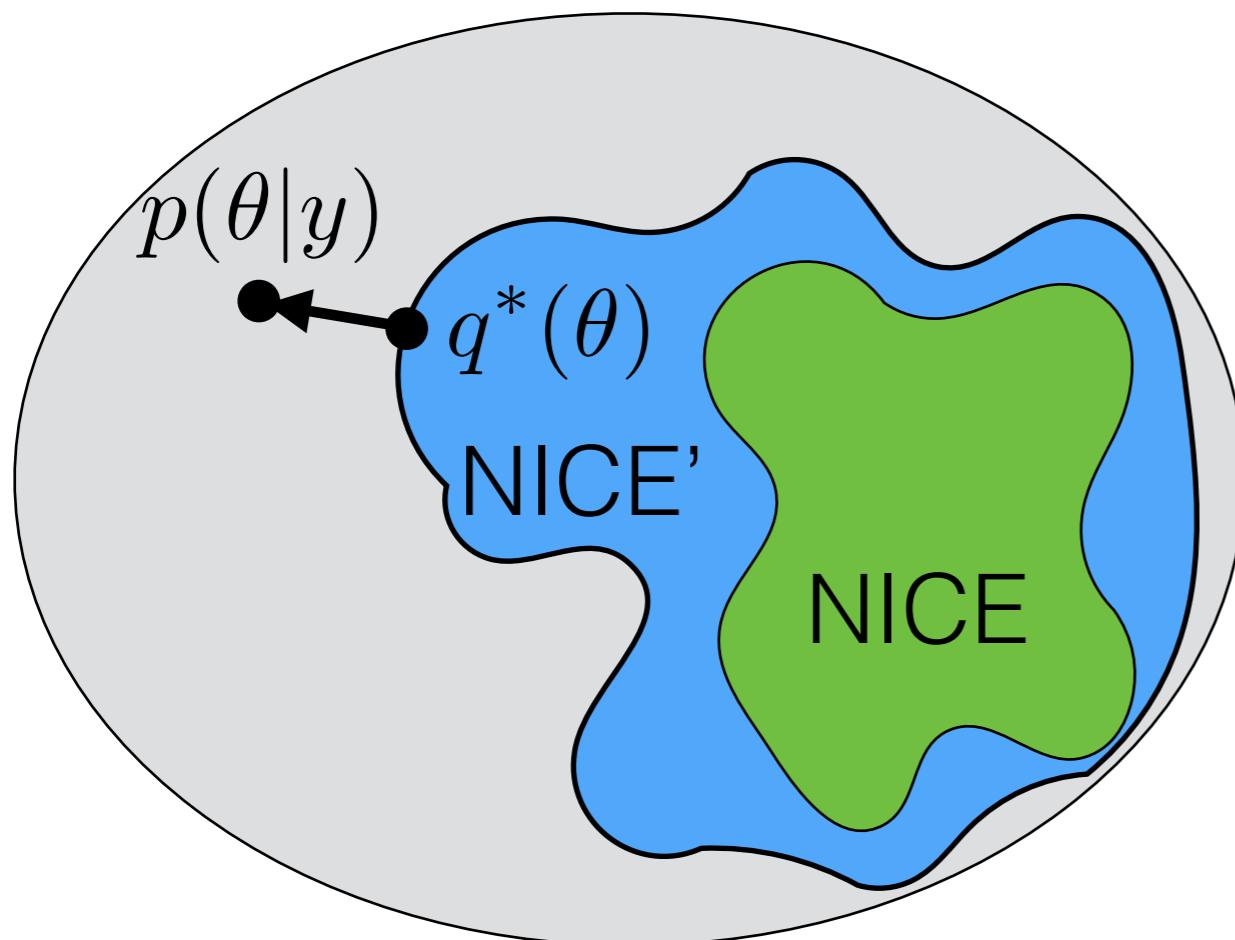
- Turner, Sahani (2011) showed (empirically) can have strictly larger NICE set but worse mean & variance estimates

# Is it just MFVB?



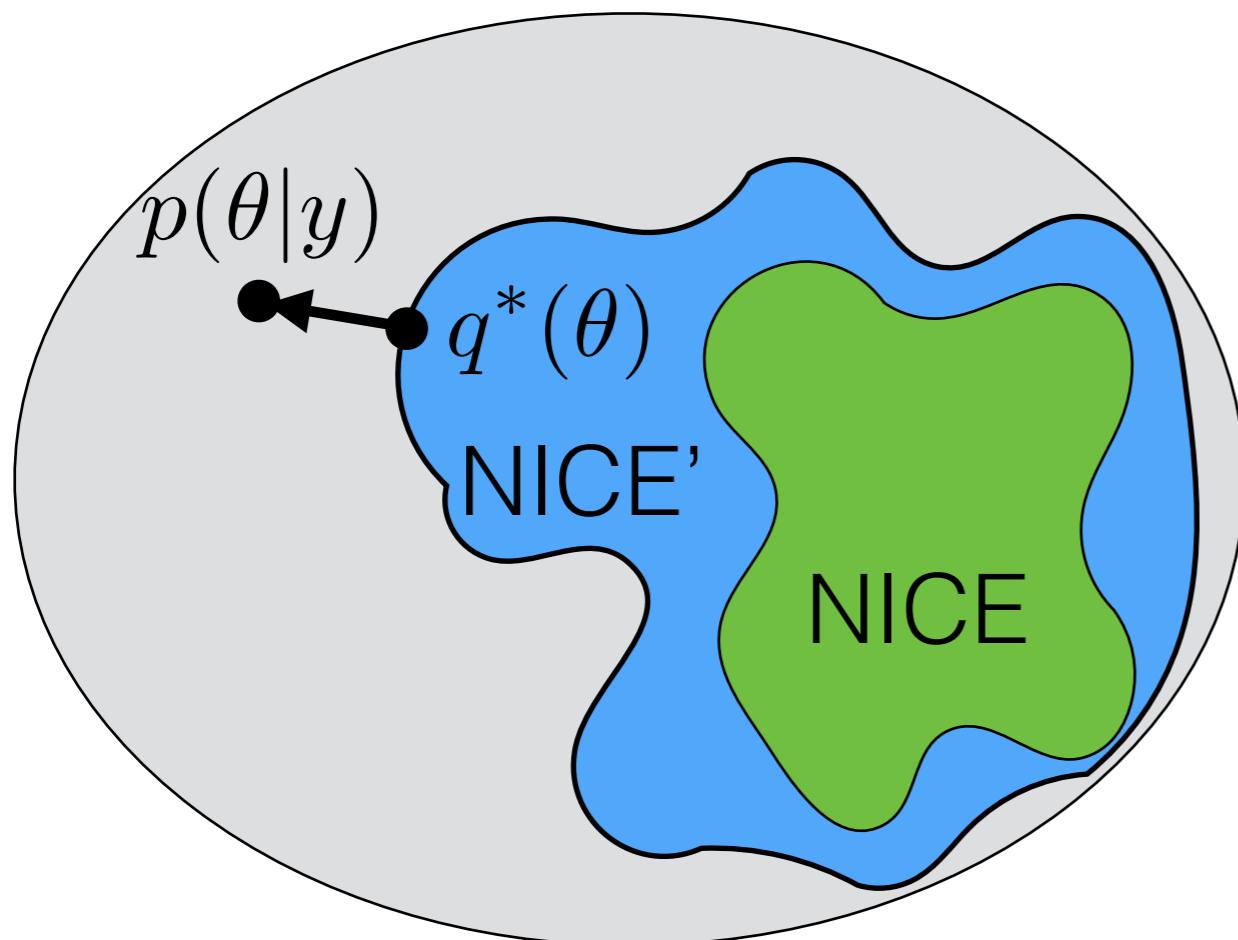
- Turner, Sahani (2011) showed (empirically) can have strictly larger NICE set but worse mean & variance estimates

# Is it just MFVB?



- Turner, Sahani (2011) showed (empirically) can have strictly larger NICE set but worse mean & variance estimates

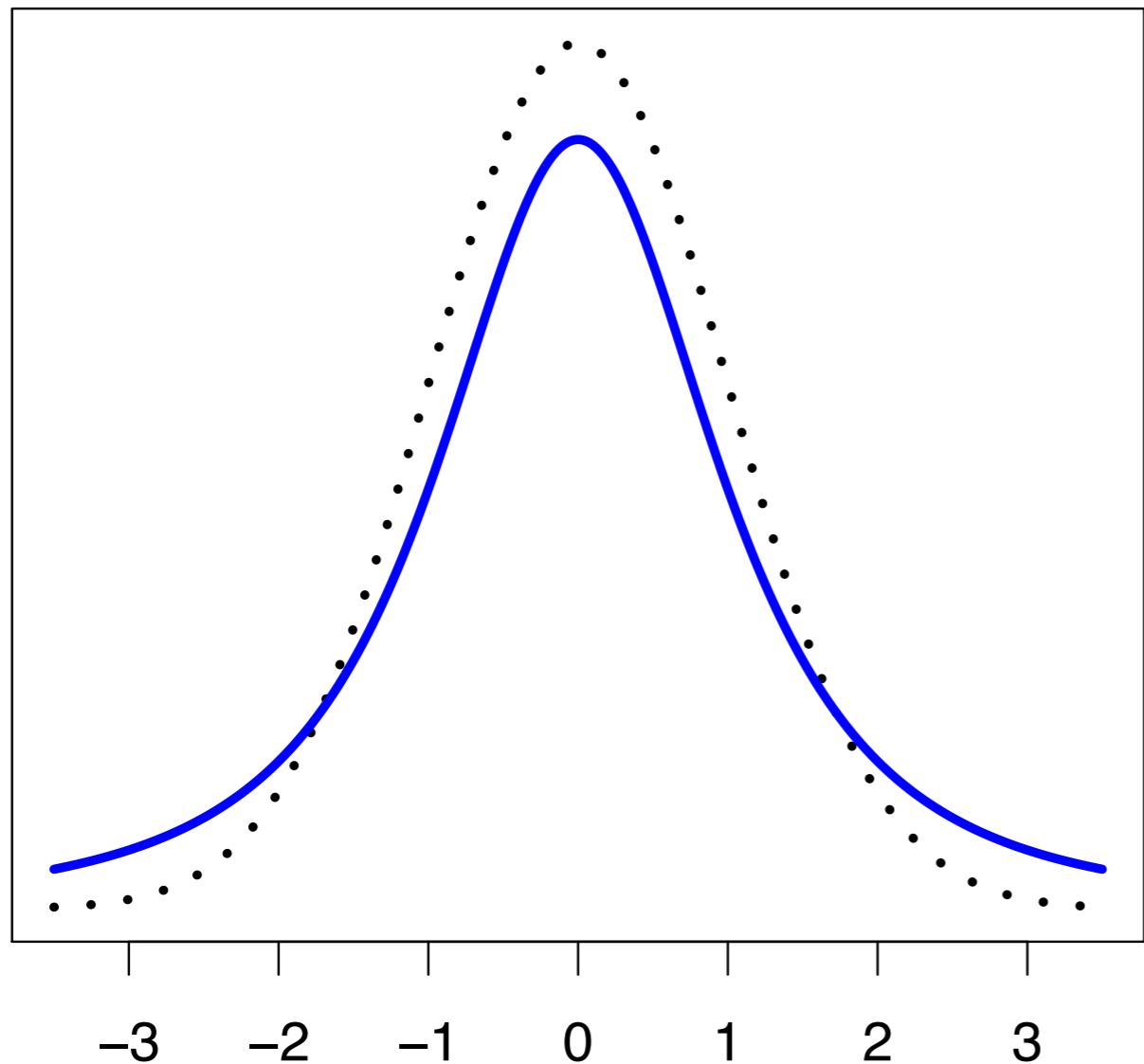
# Is it just MFVB?



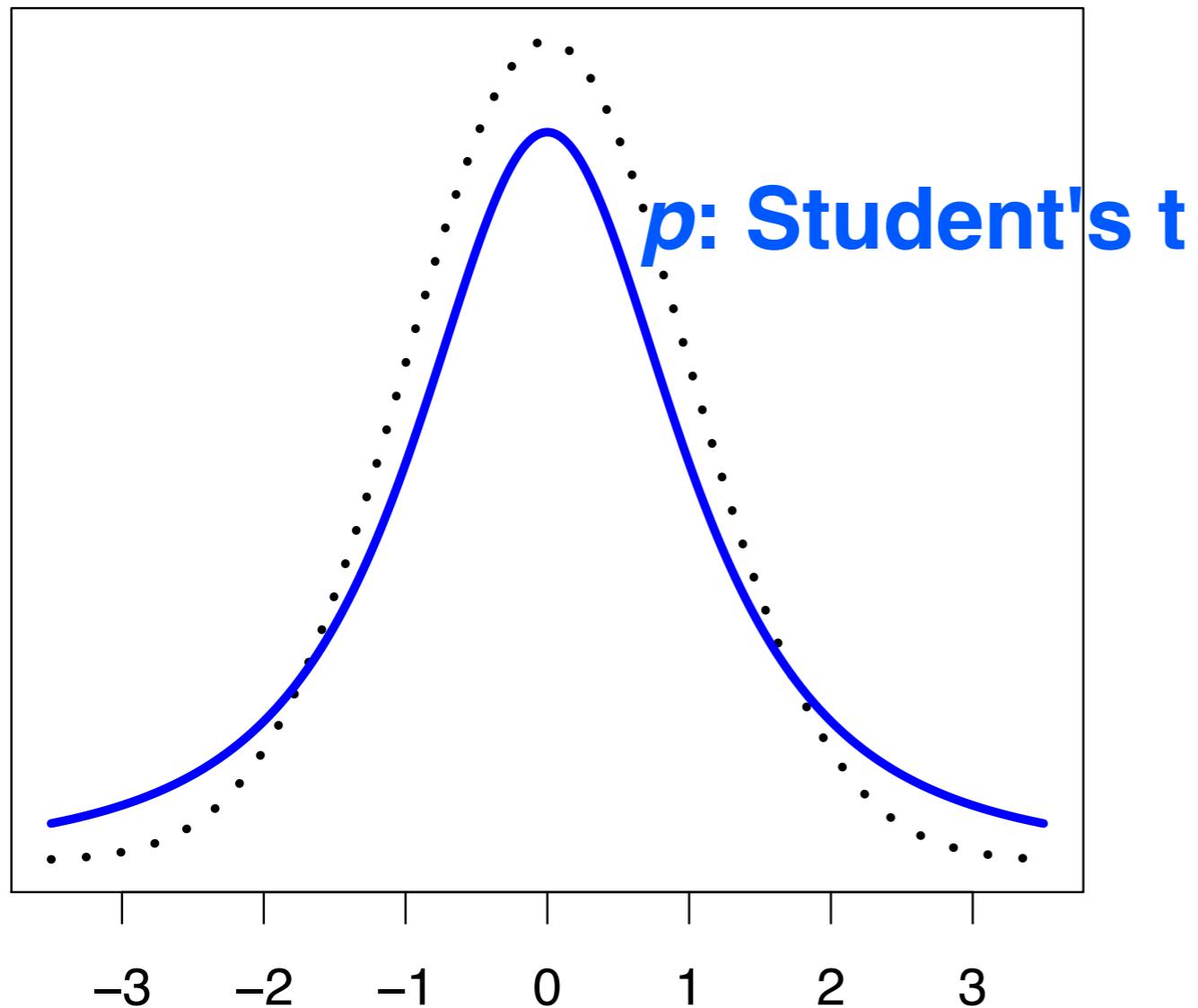
- Turner, Sahani (2011) showed (empirically) can have strictly larger NICE set but worse mean & variance estimates
- Takeaway: A smaller KL does not imply better mean and variance estimates
- Exercise: show this

# Is it just MFVB?

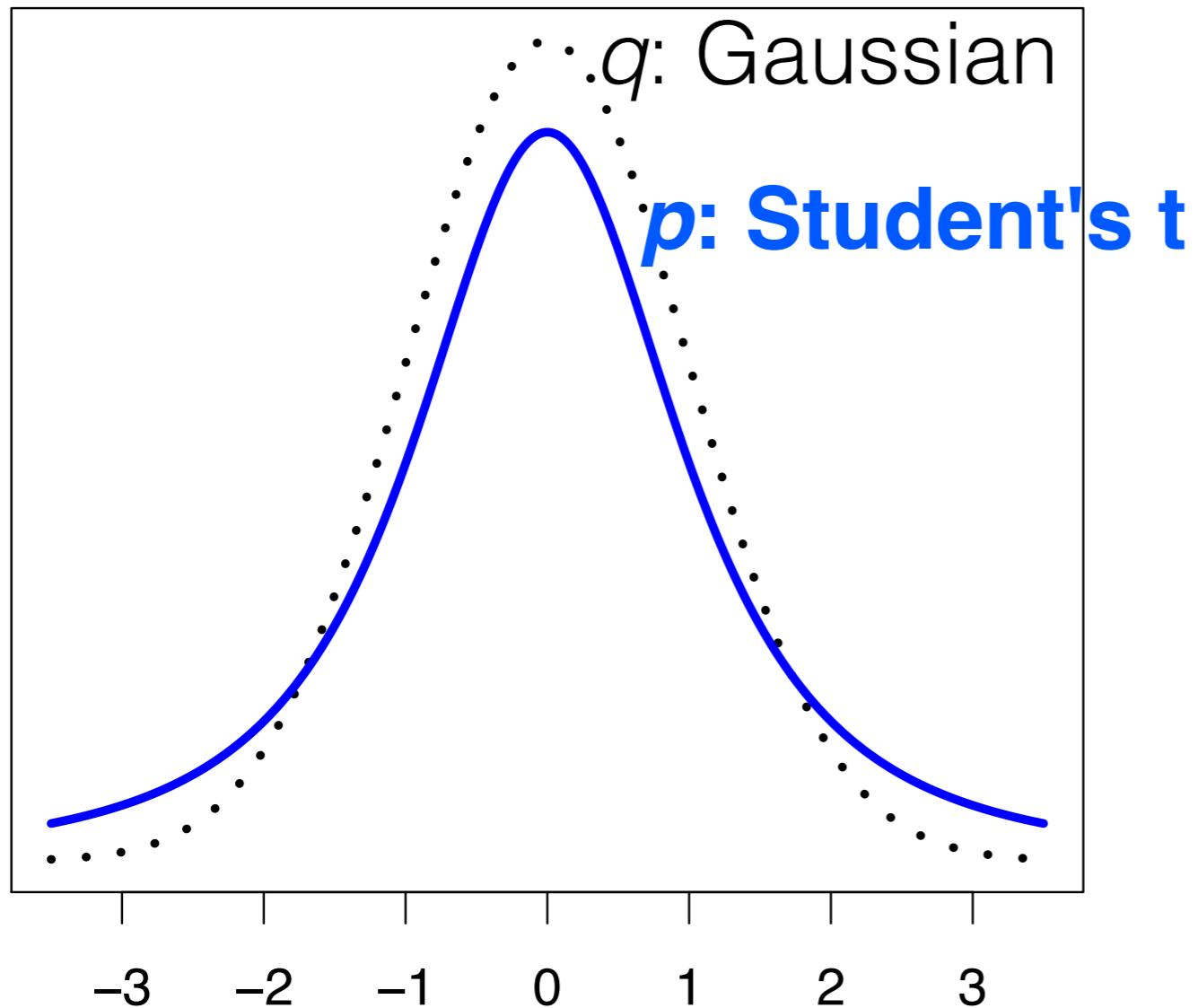
# Is it just MFVB?



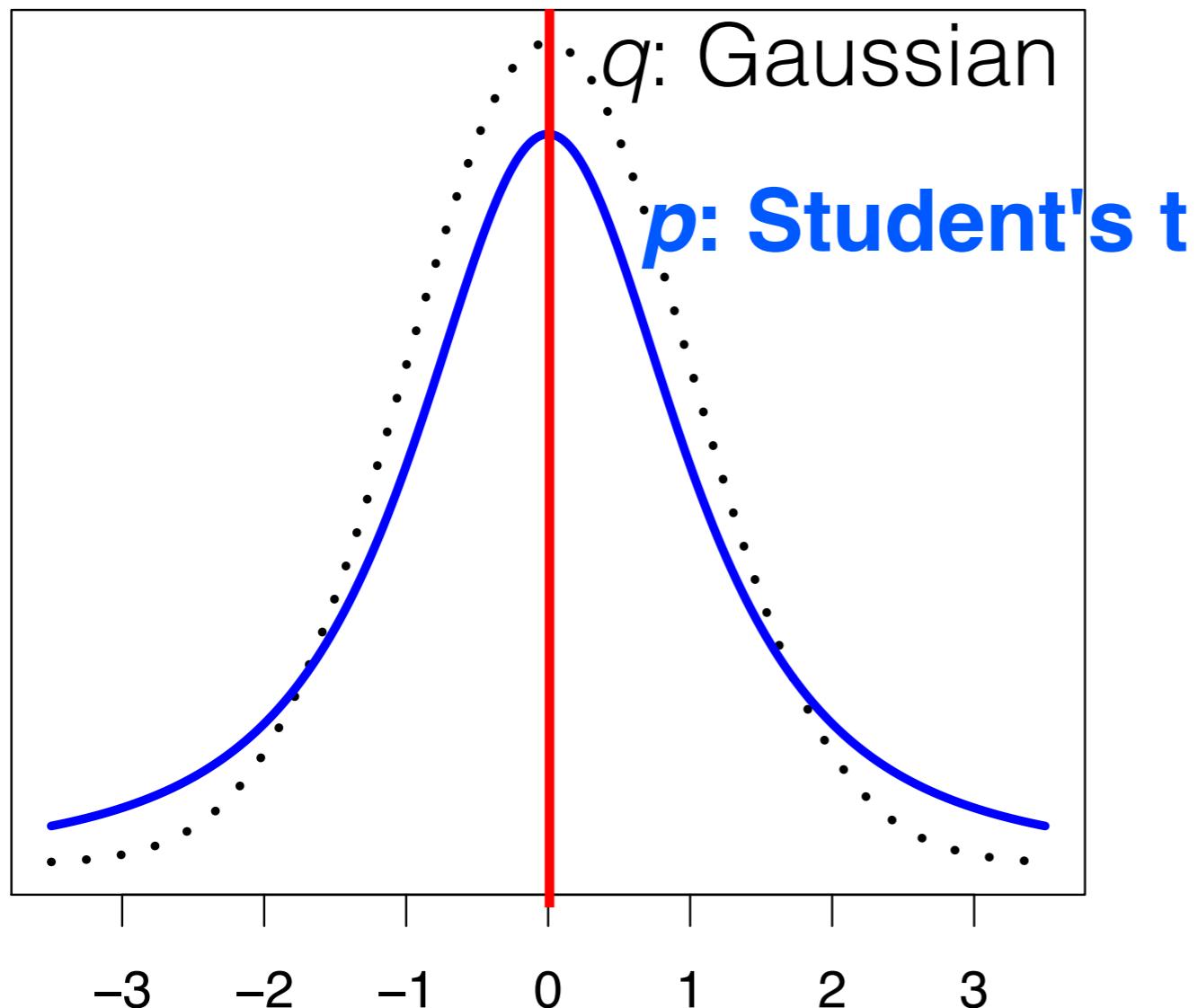
# Is it just MFVB?



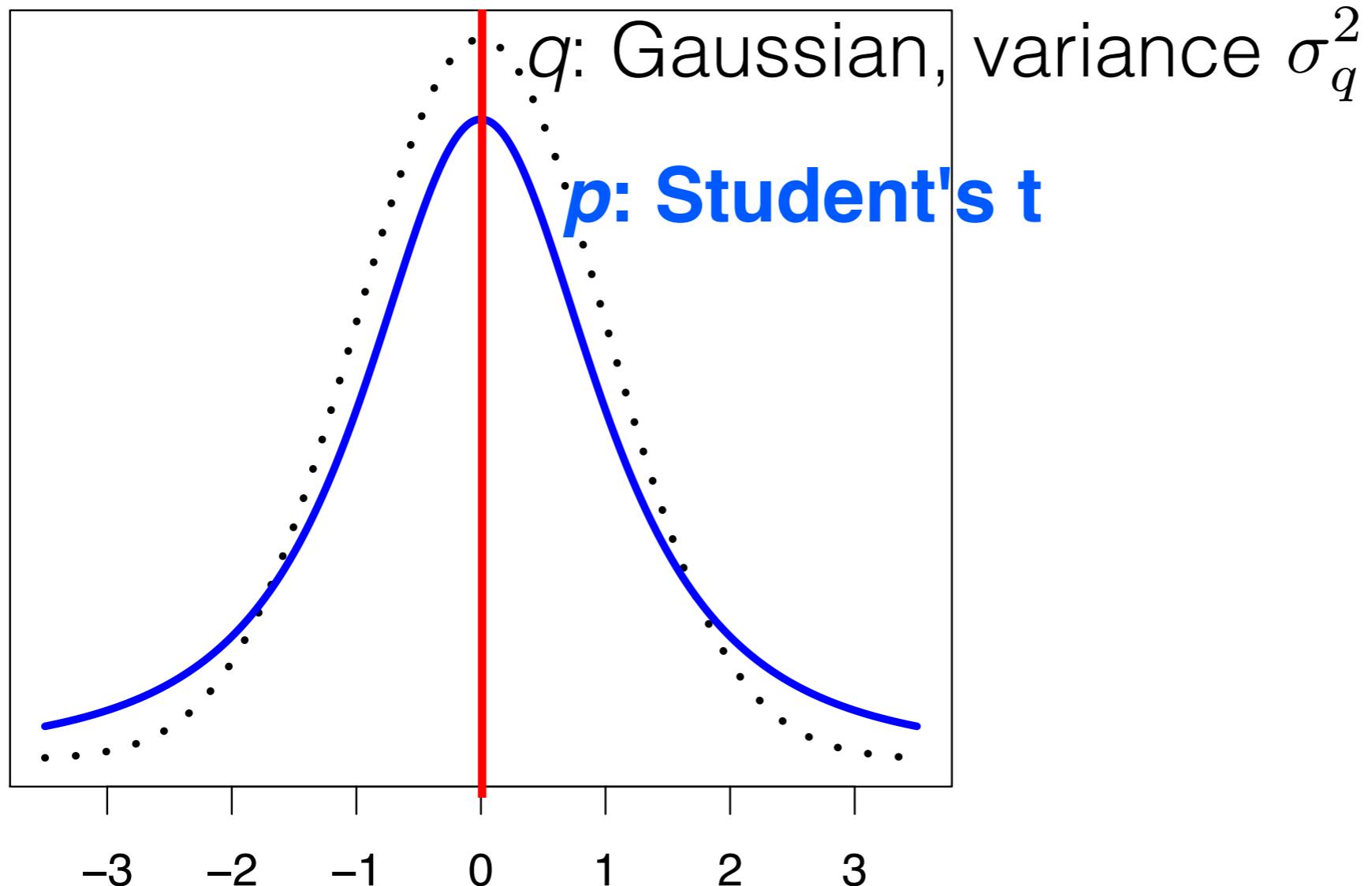
# Is it just MFVB?



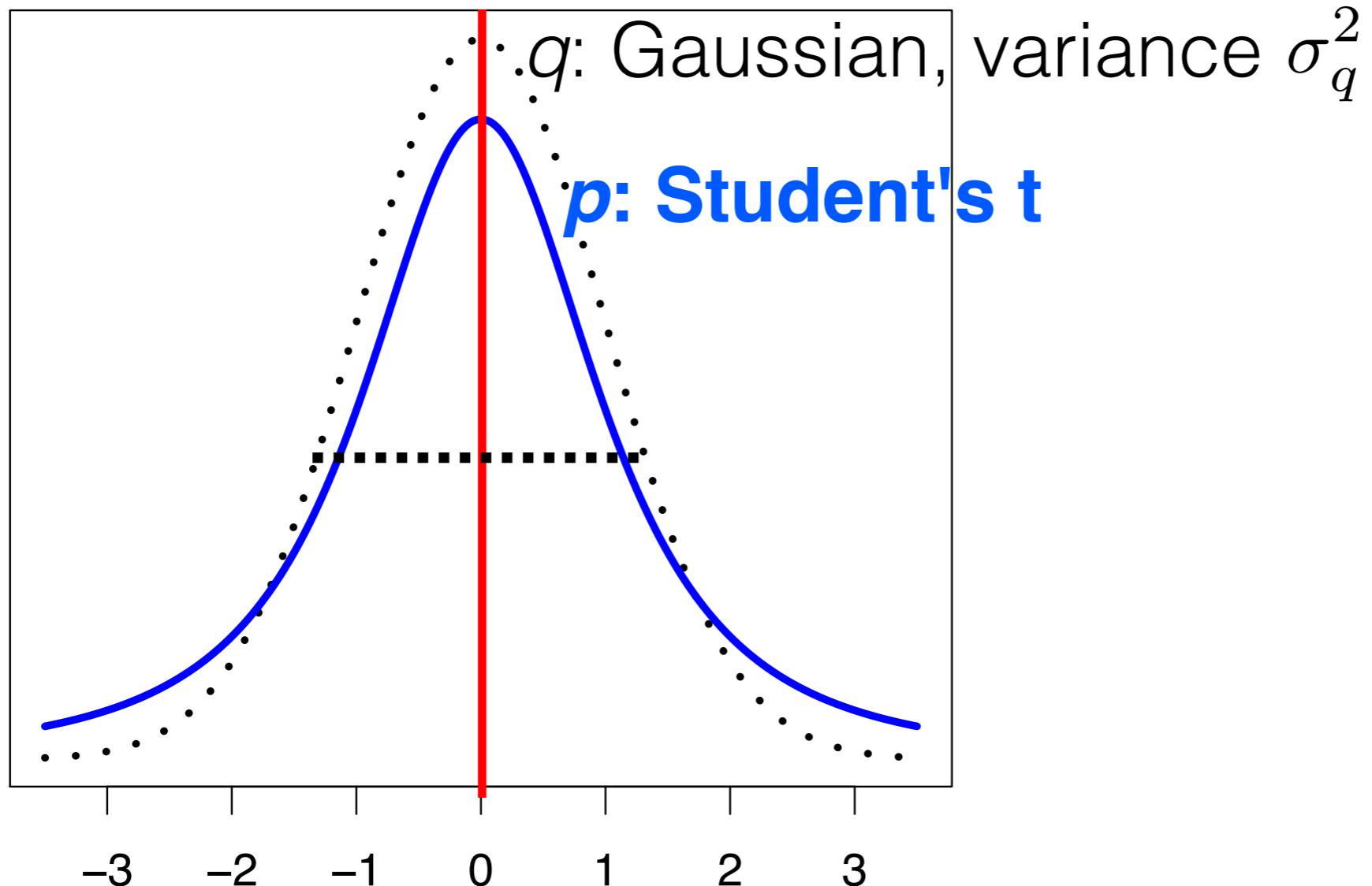
# Is it just MFVB?



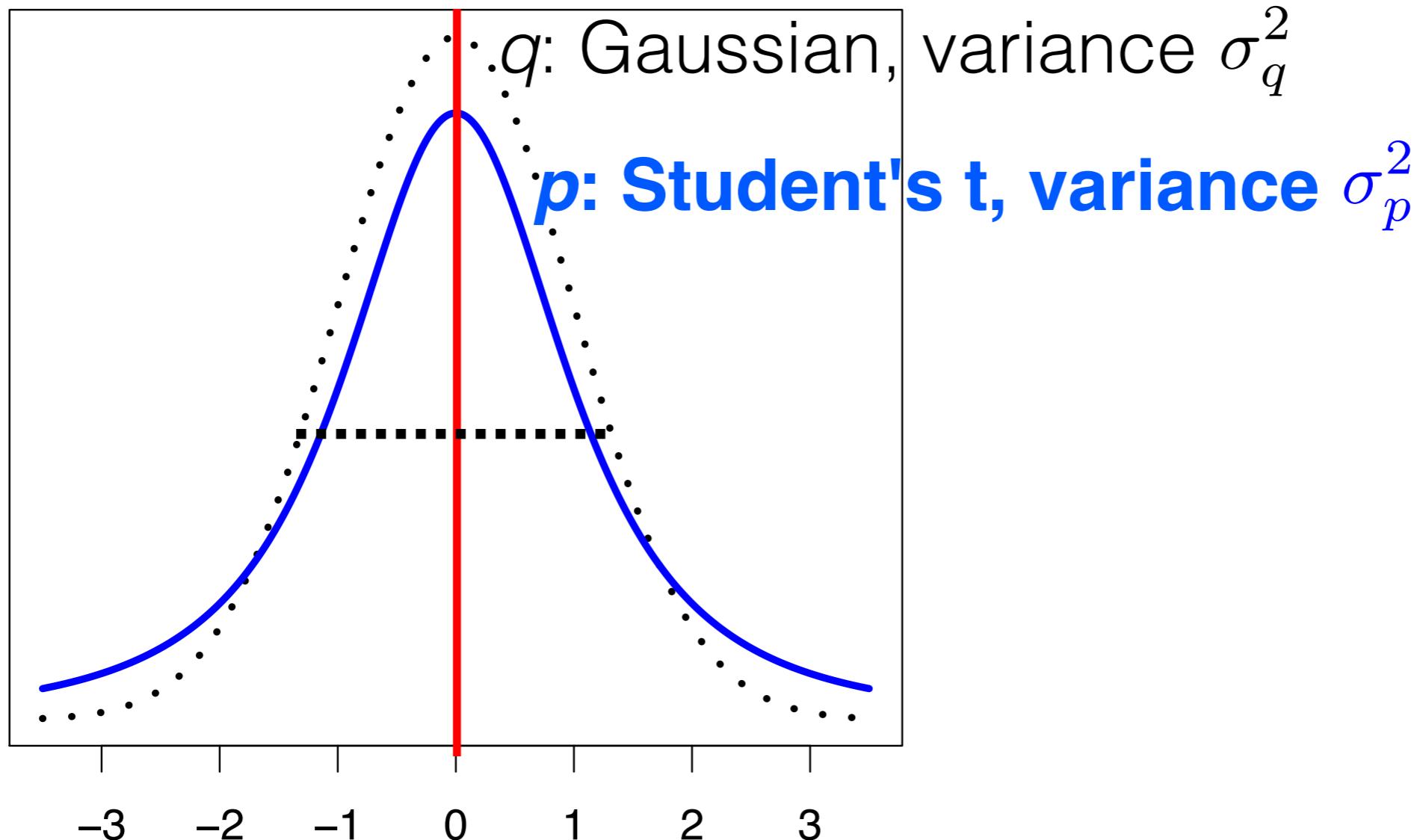
# Is it just MFVB?



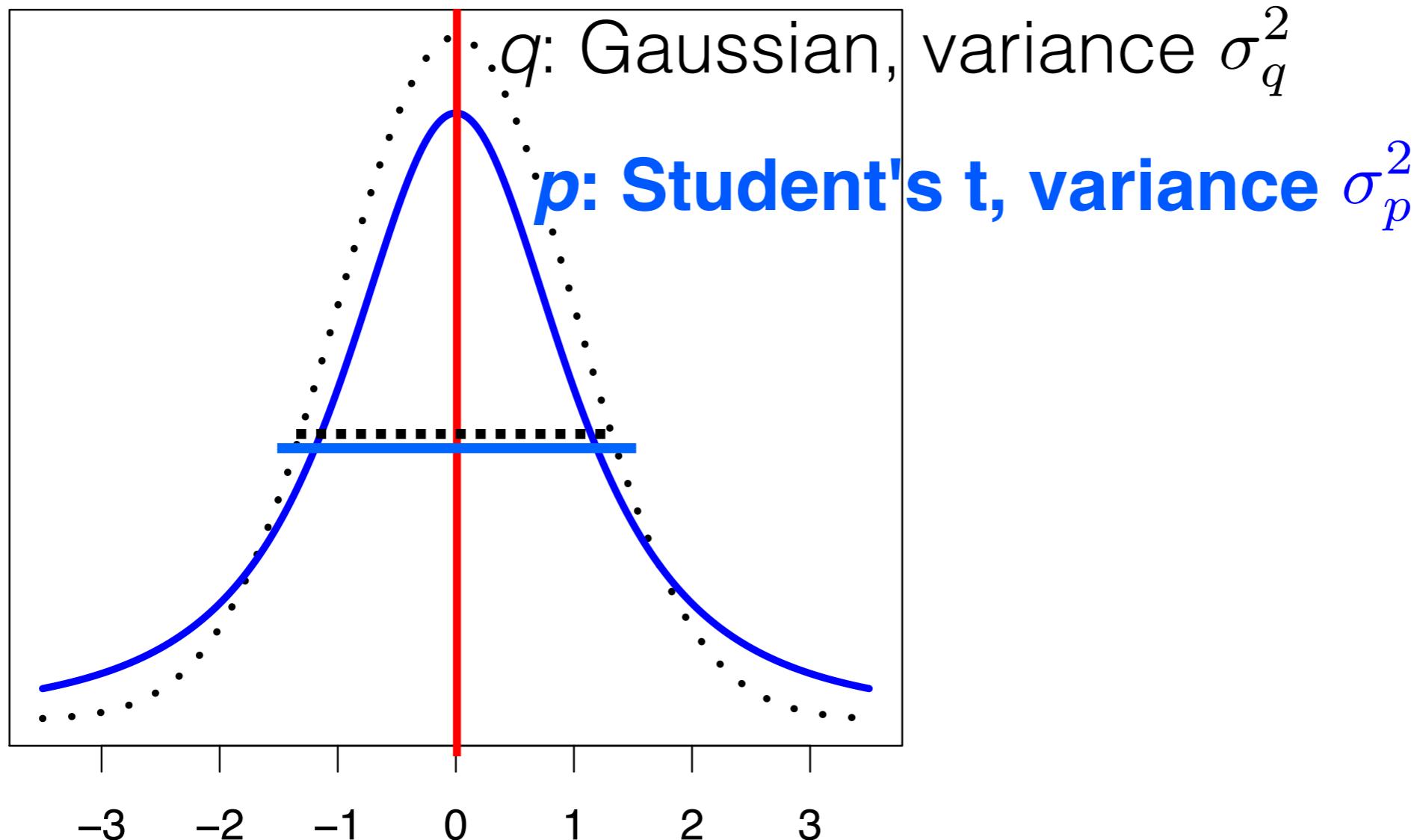
# Is it just MFVB?



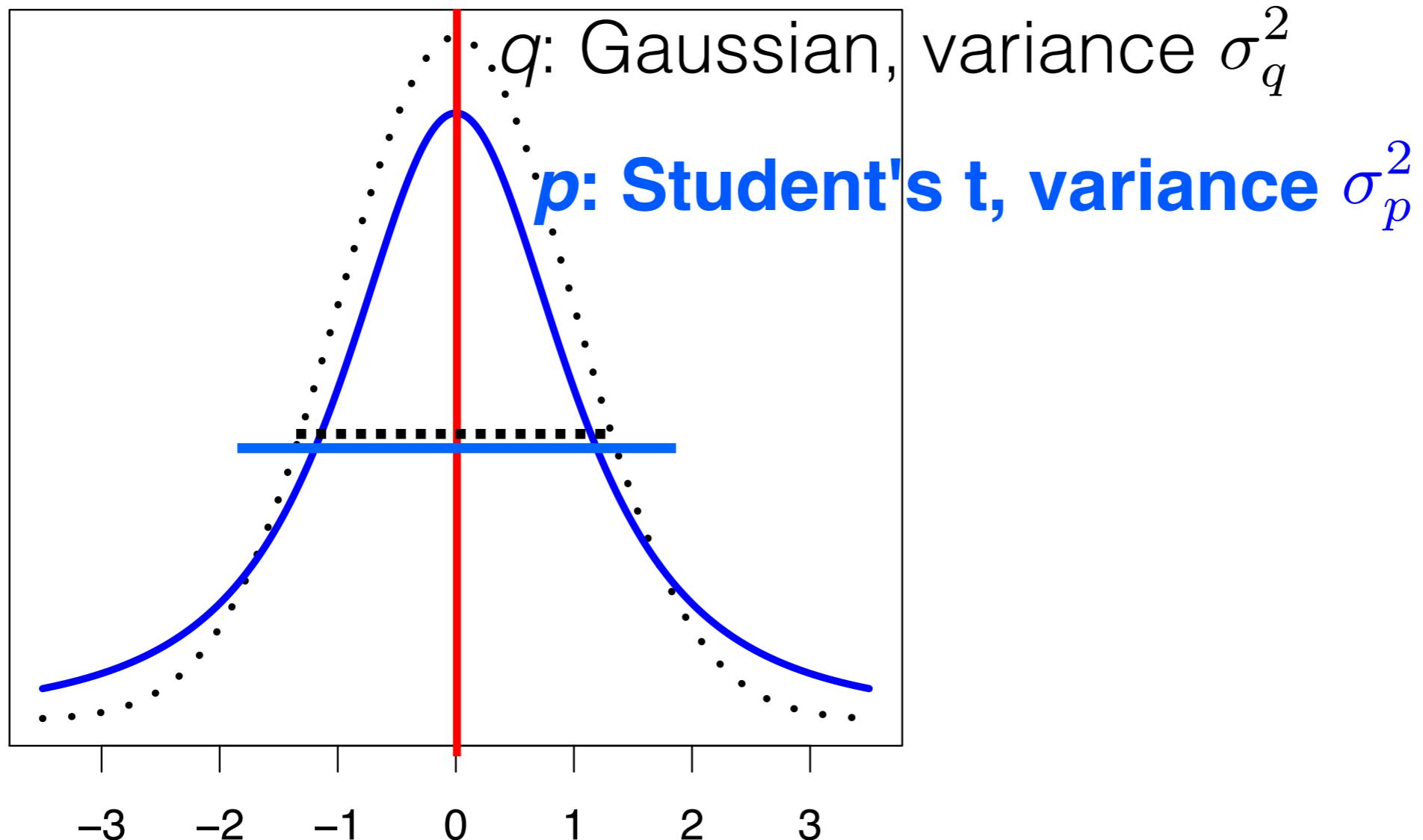
# Is it just MFVB?



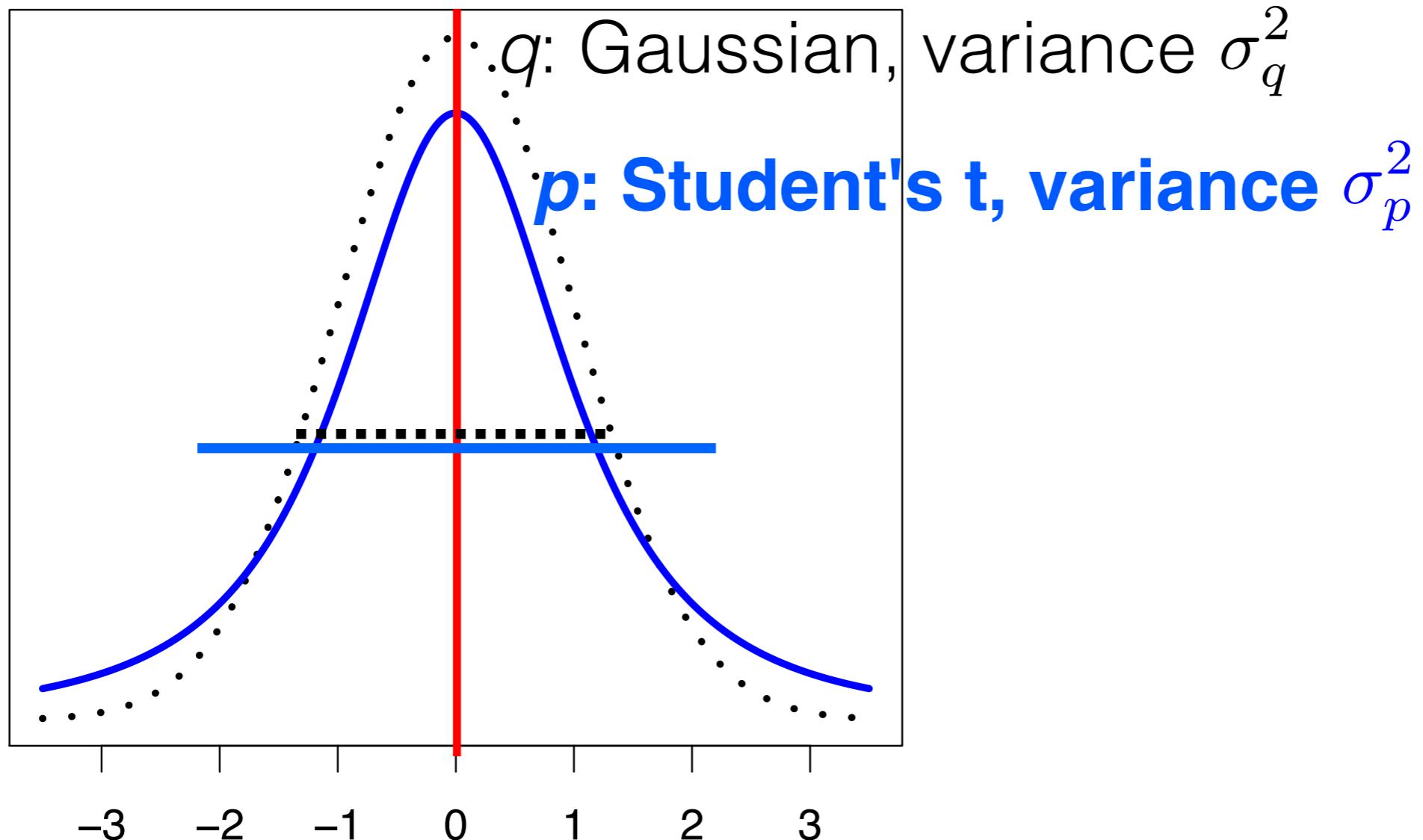
# Is it just MFVB?



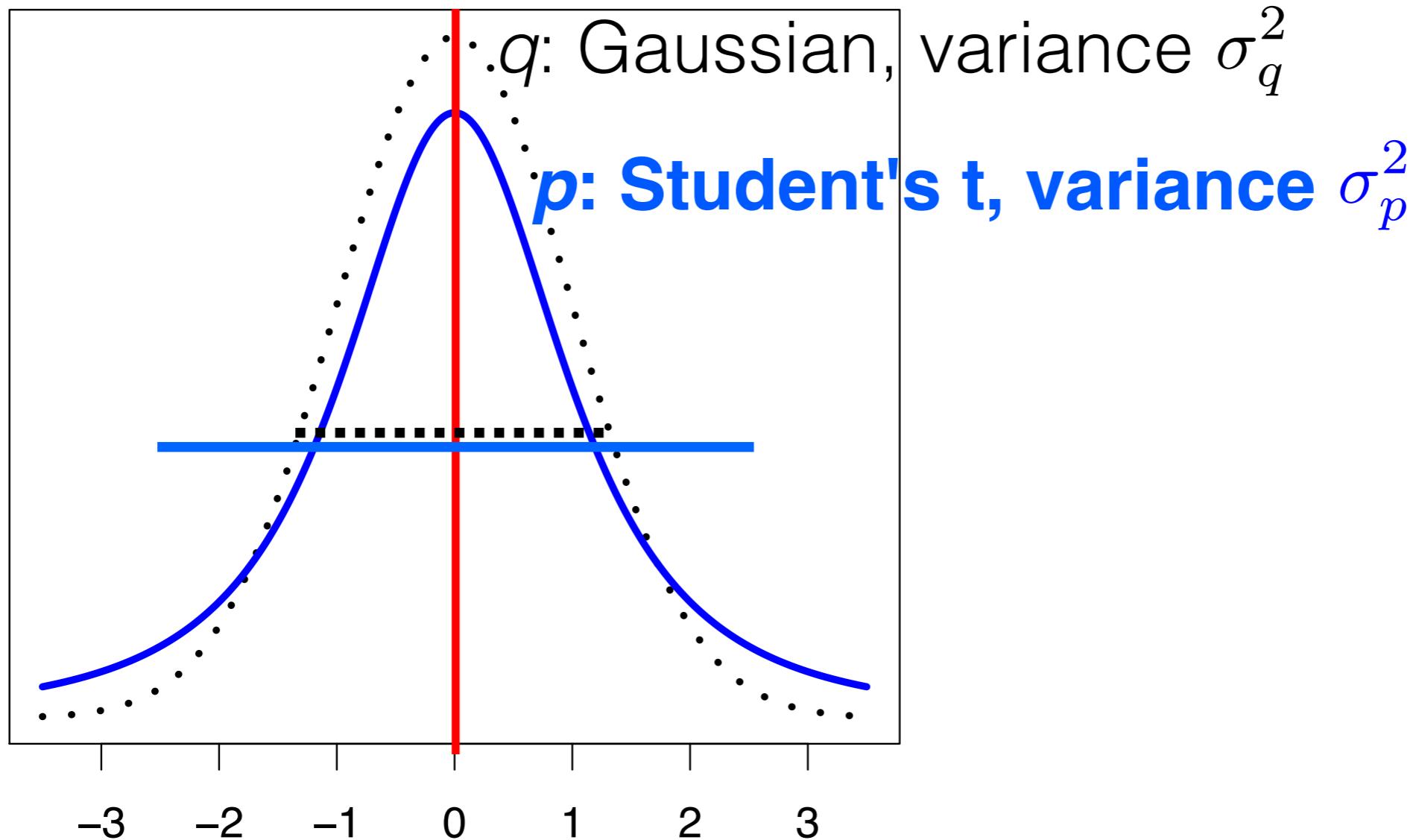
# Is it just MFVB?



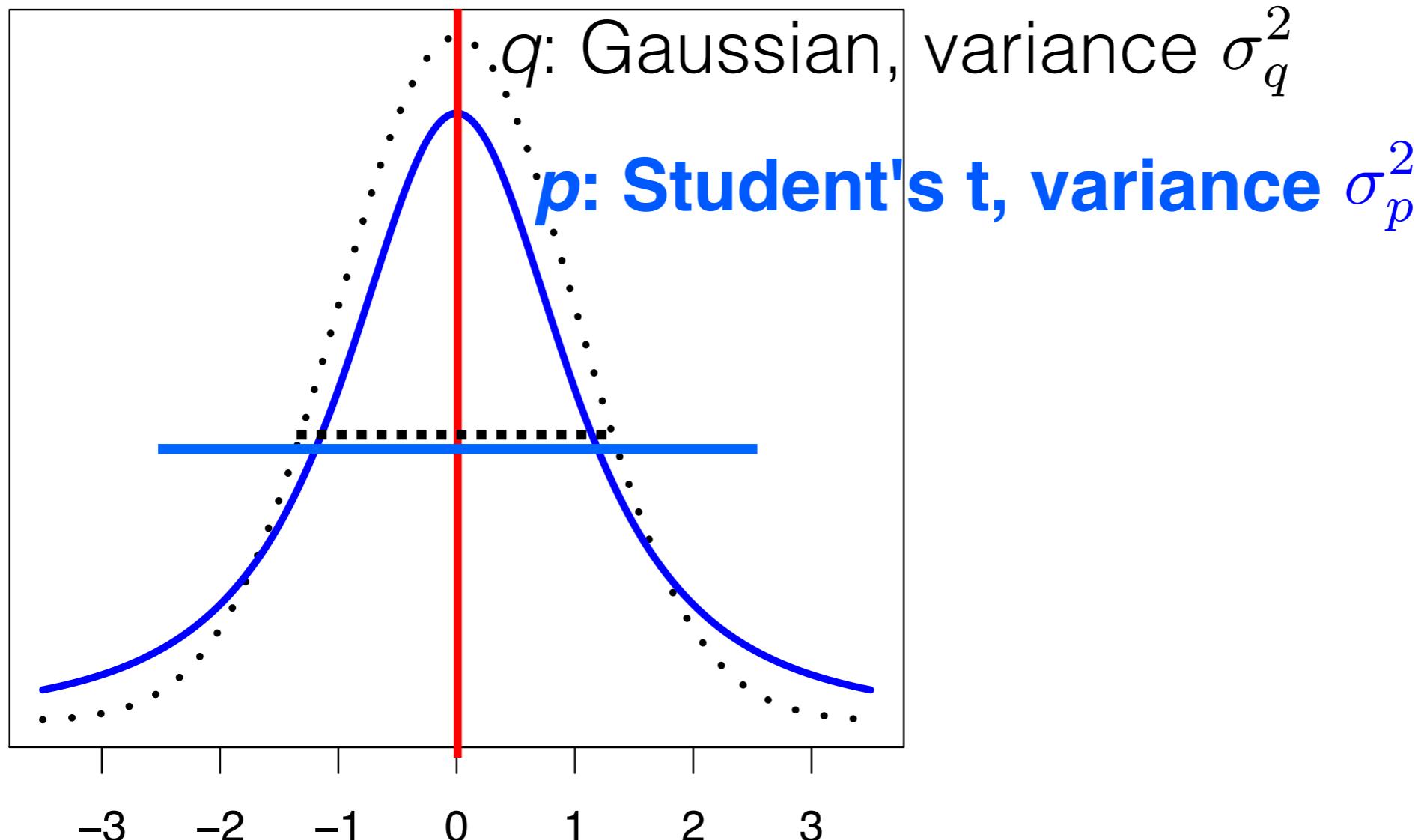
# Is it just MFVB?



# Is it just MFVB?

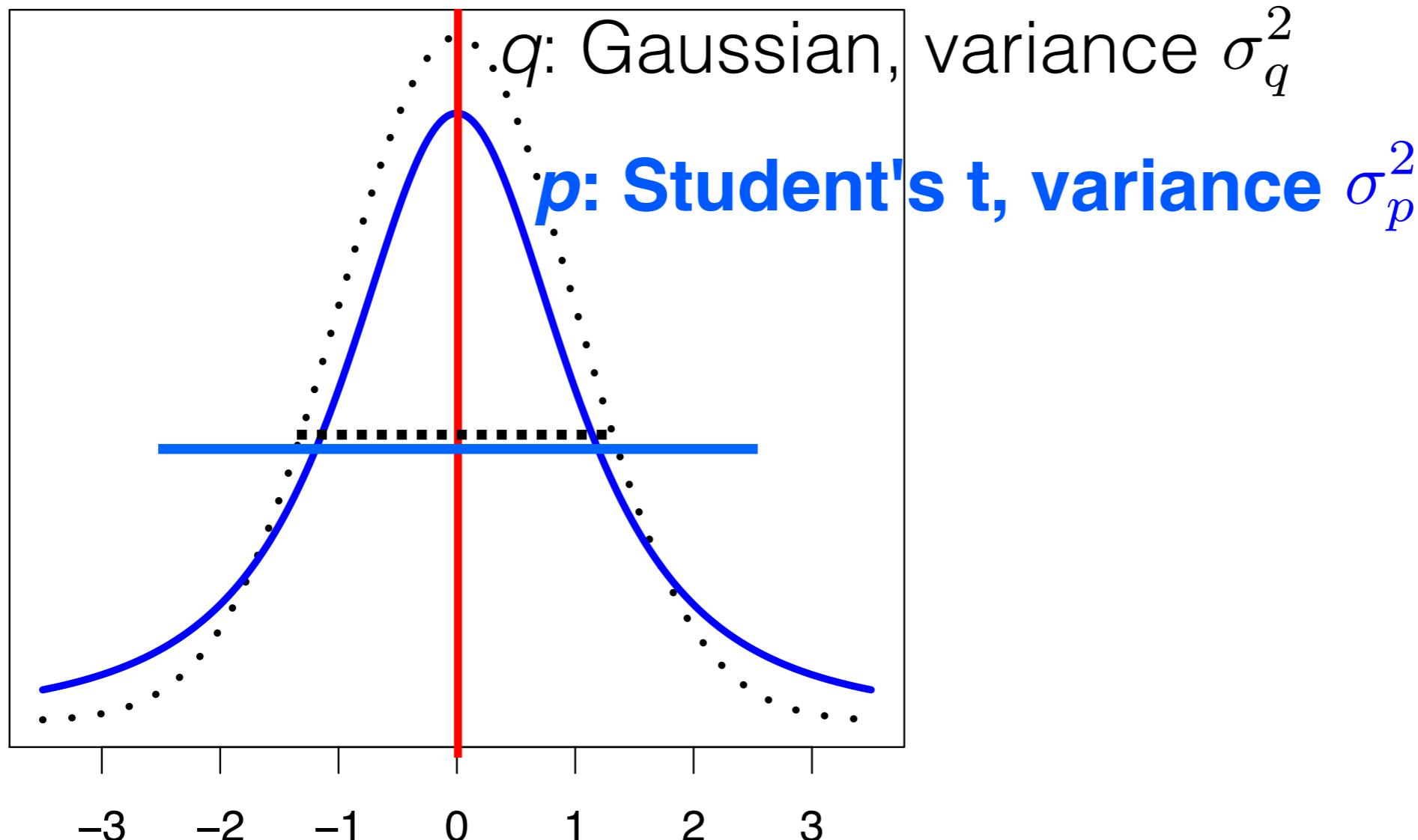


# Is it just MFVB?



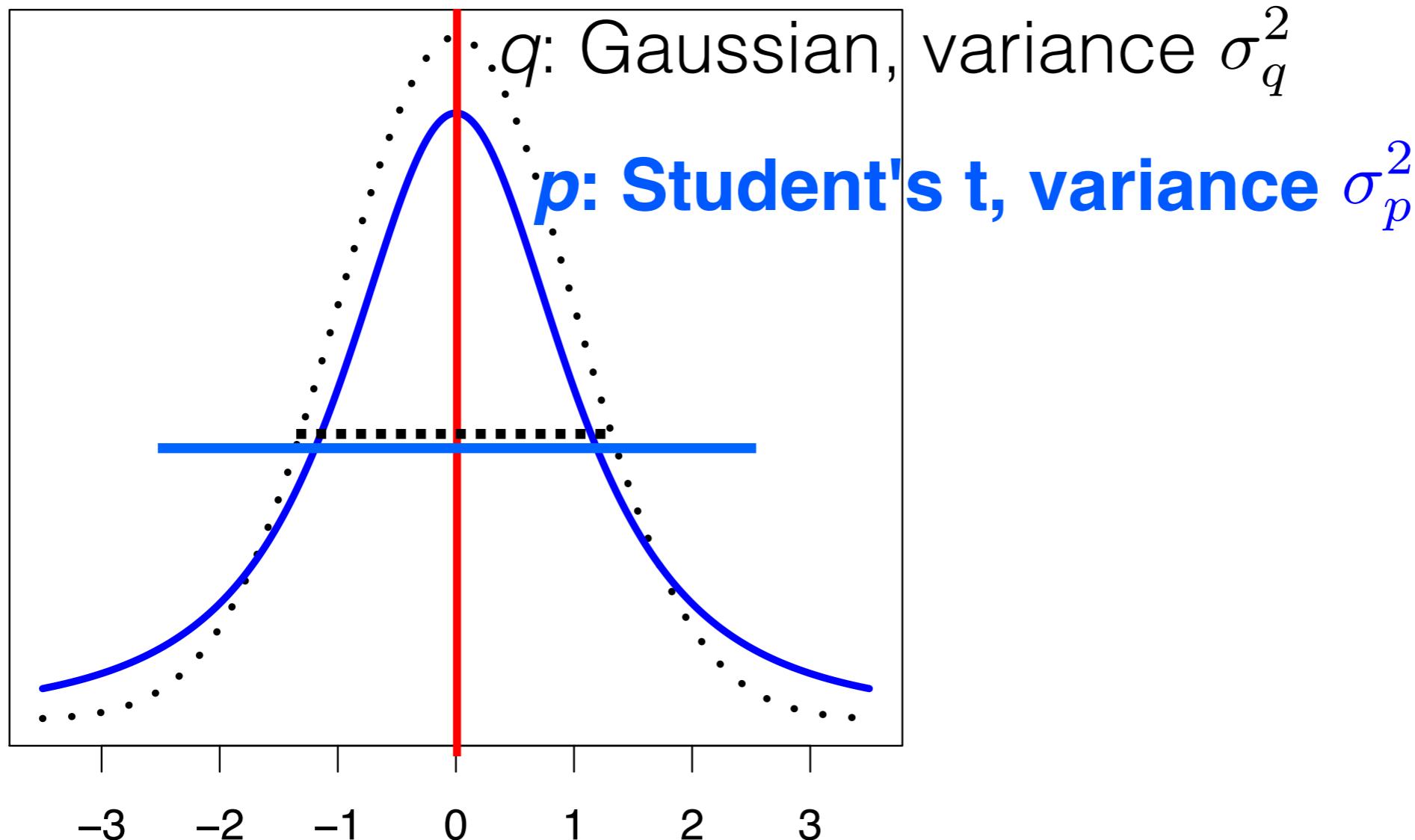
$$\sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

# Is it just MFVB?



$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

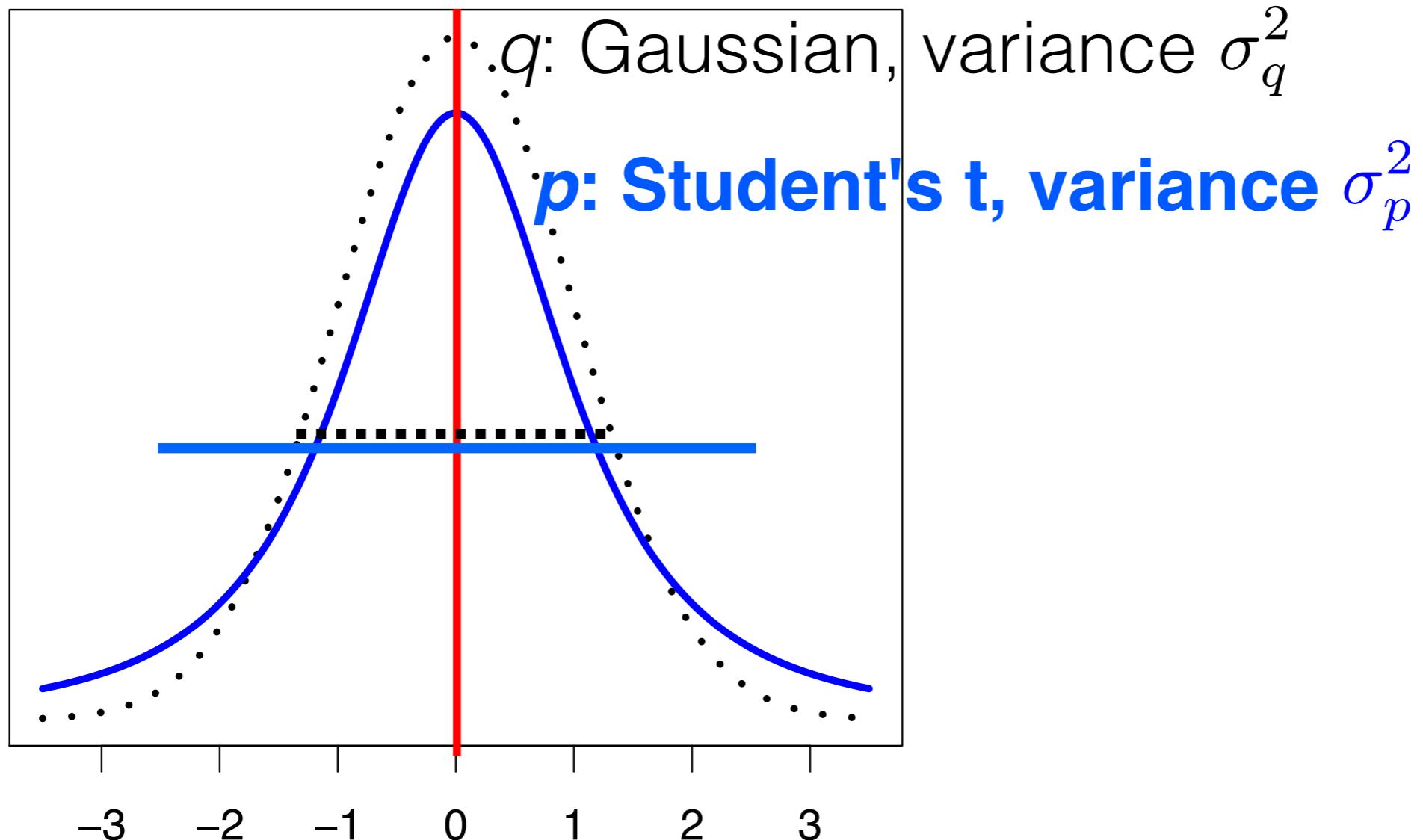
# Is it just MFVB?



**Proposition (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

# Is it just MFVB?

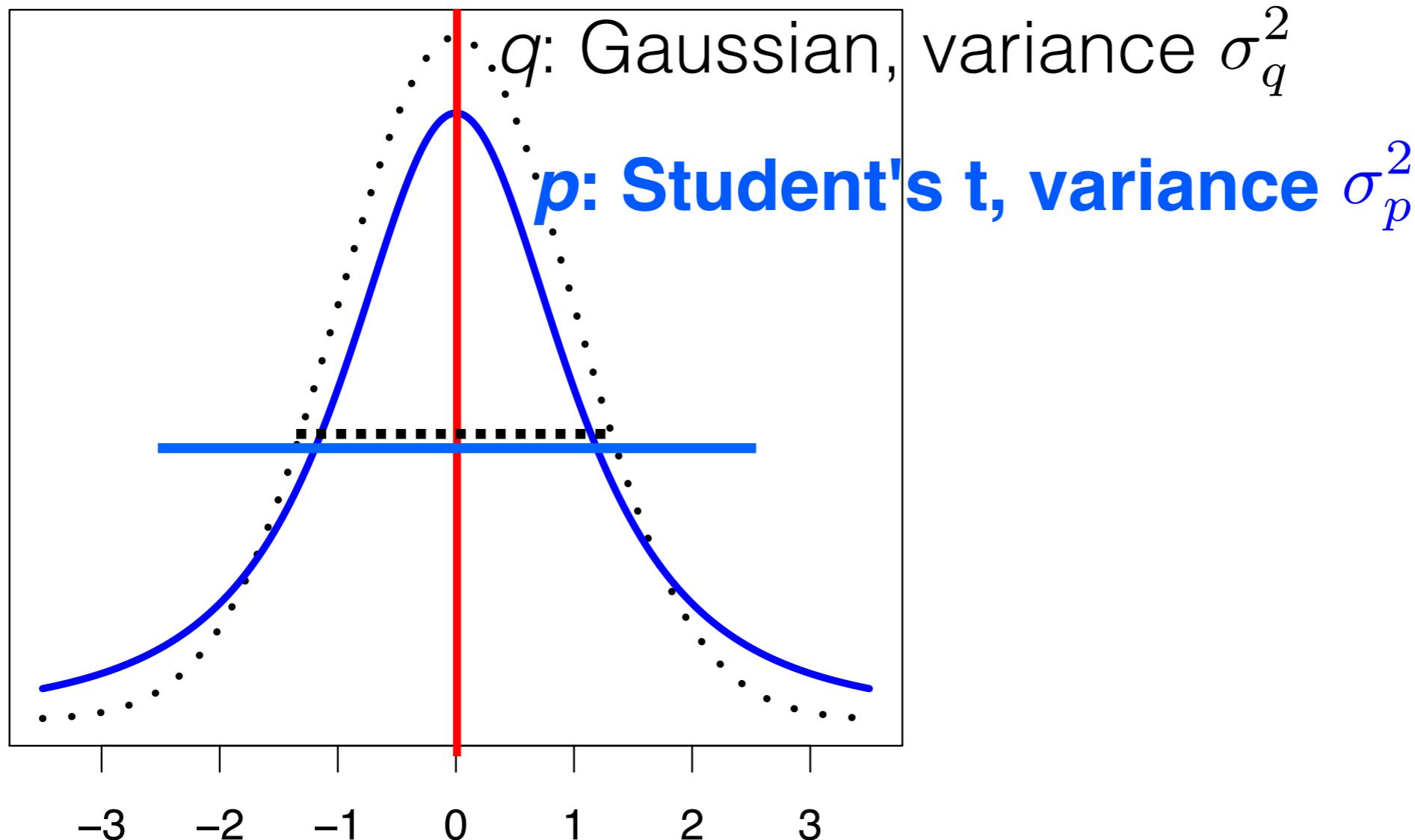


**Proposition (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

Can have small KL and arbitrarily bad variance estimate

# Is it just MFVB?

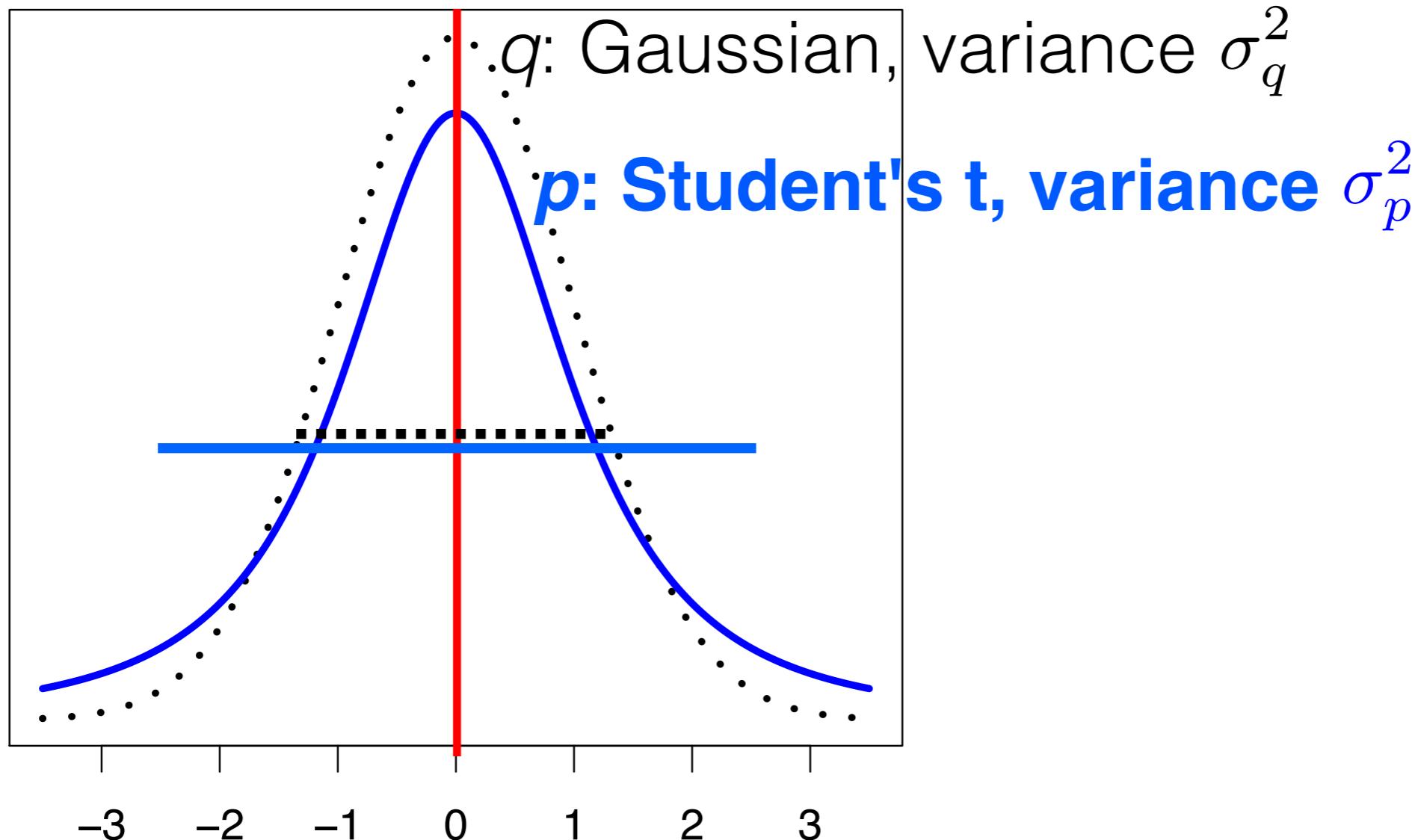


**Proposition (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

Can have small KL and arbitrarily bad variance estimate

# Is it just MFVB?

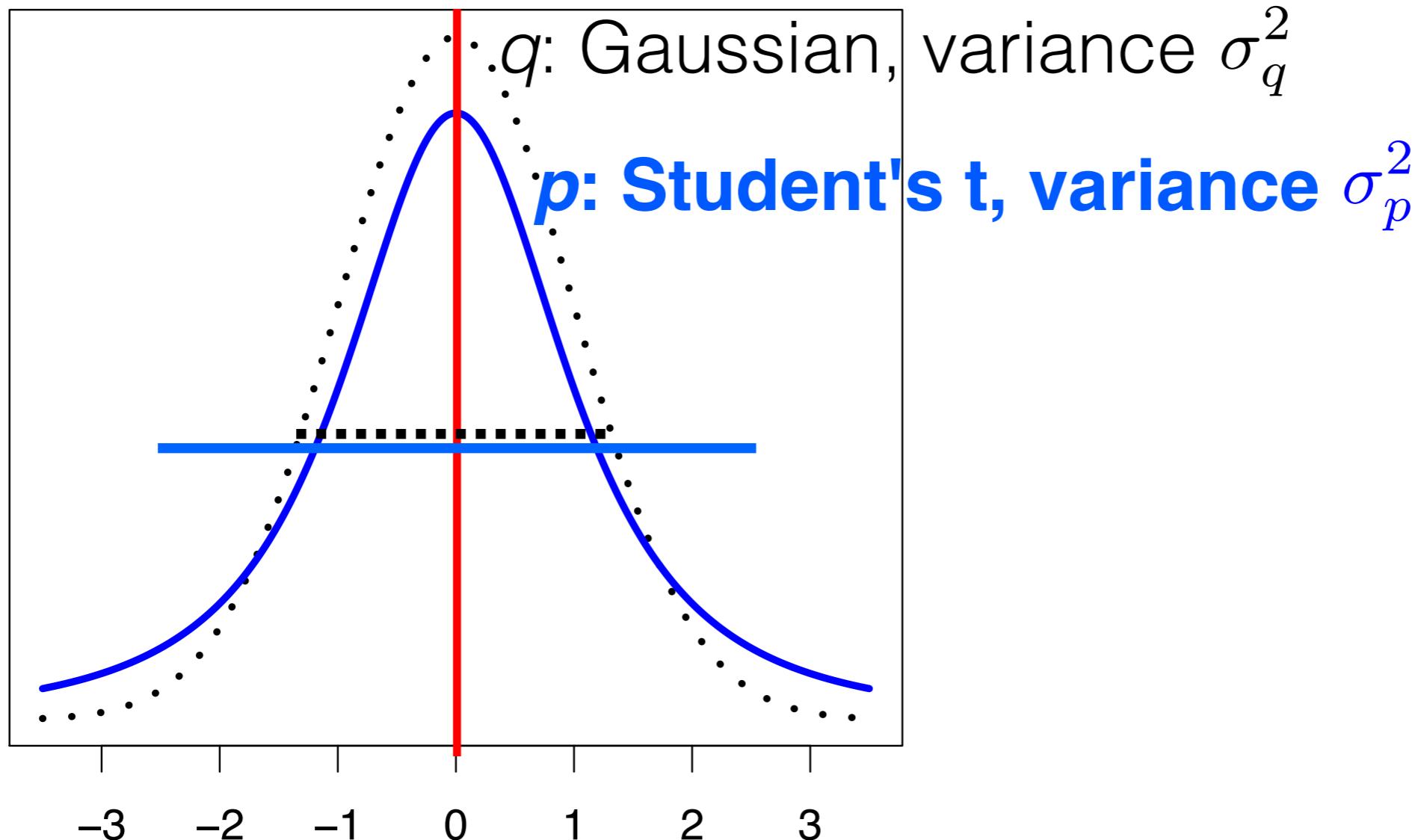


**Conjecture (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

Can have small KL and arbitrarily bad variance estimate

# Is it just MFVB?

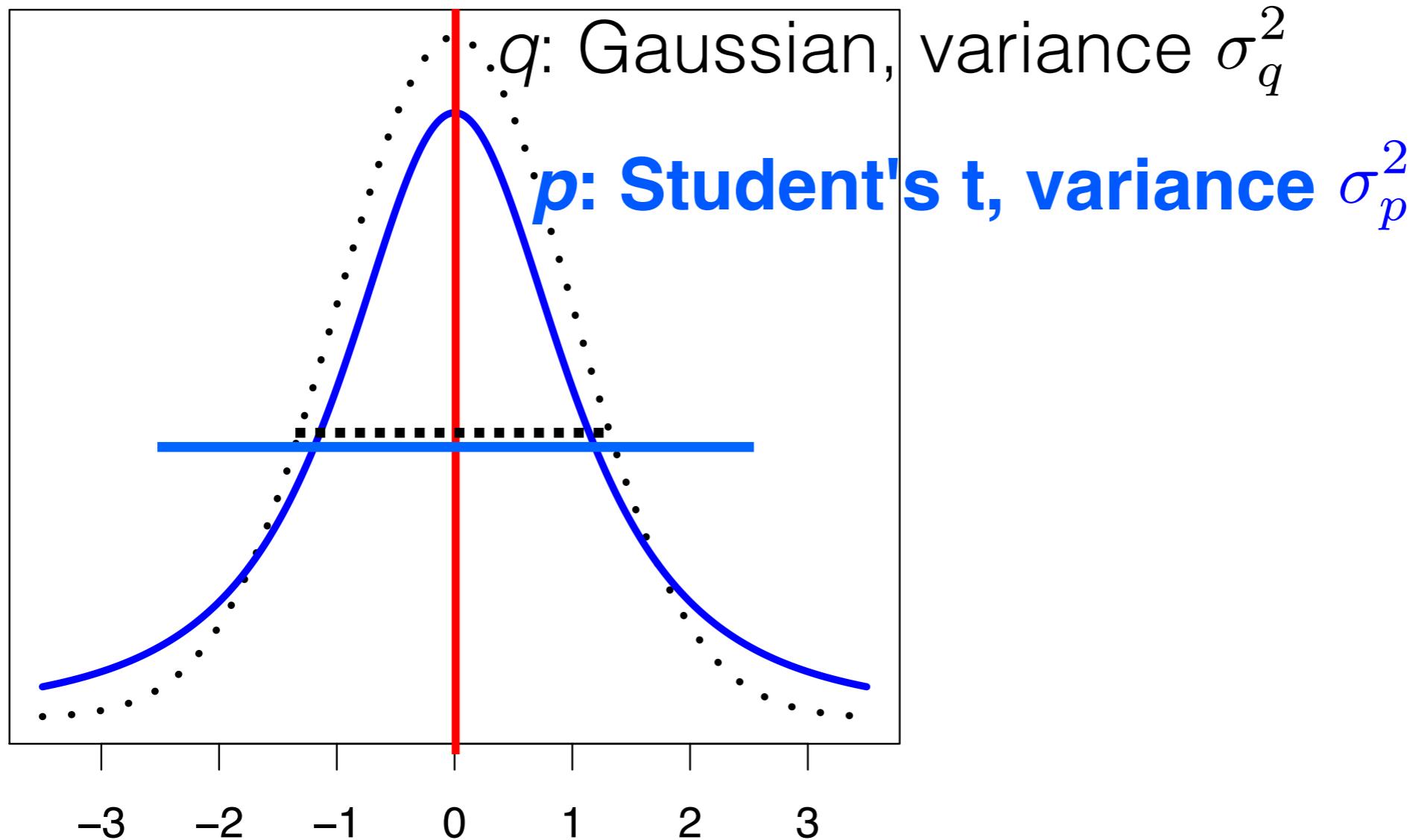


**Conjecture (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.802 \text{ but also } \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

Can have small KL and arbitrarily bad variance estimate

# Is it just MFVB?



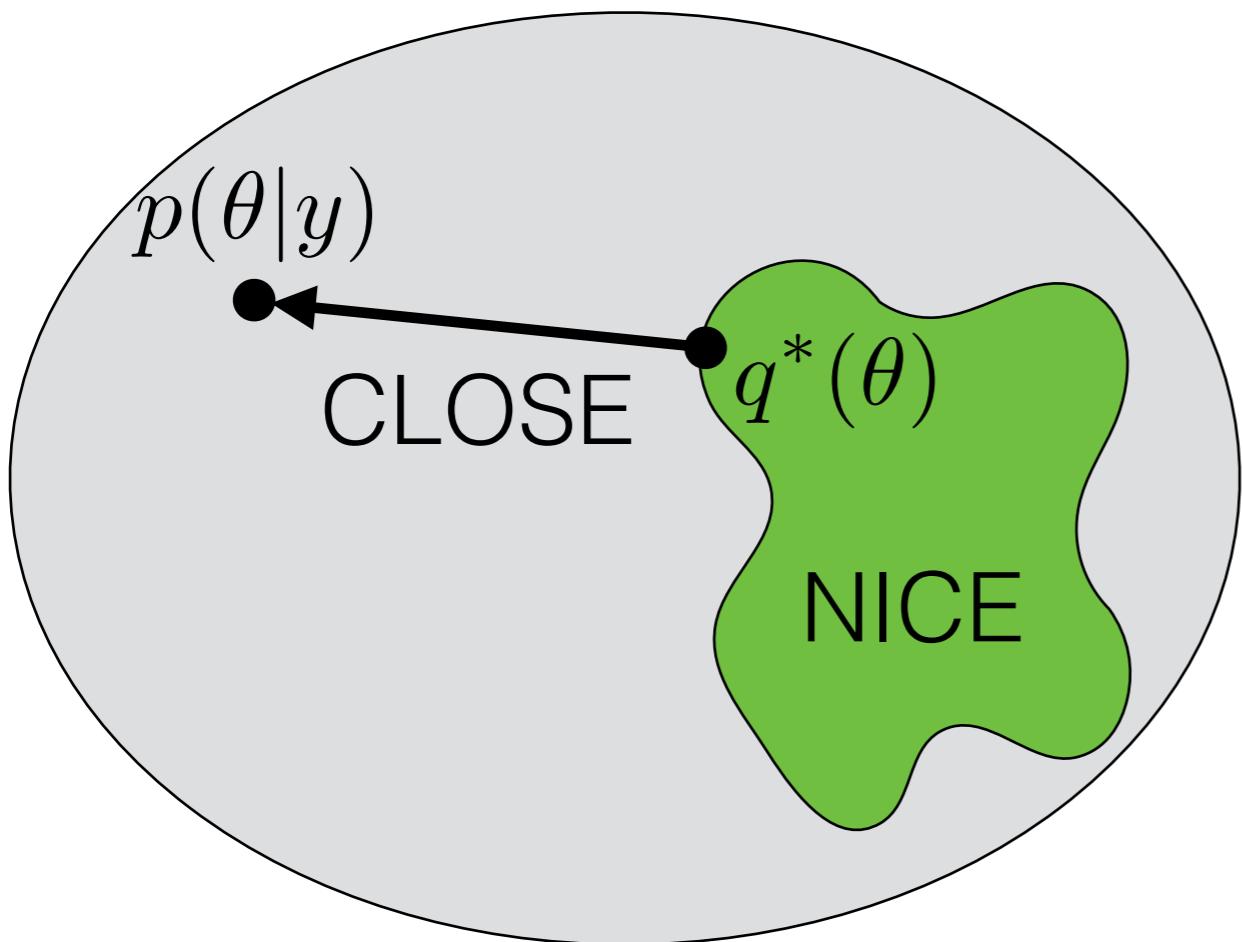
**Conjecture (HKCB).** For any  $c > 1$ , there exist zero-mean, unimodal distributions  $q$  and  $p$  such that

$$KL(q||p) < 0.12 \quad \text{but also} \quad \sigma_p^2 \geq c\sigma_q^2$$

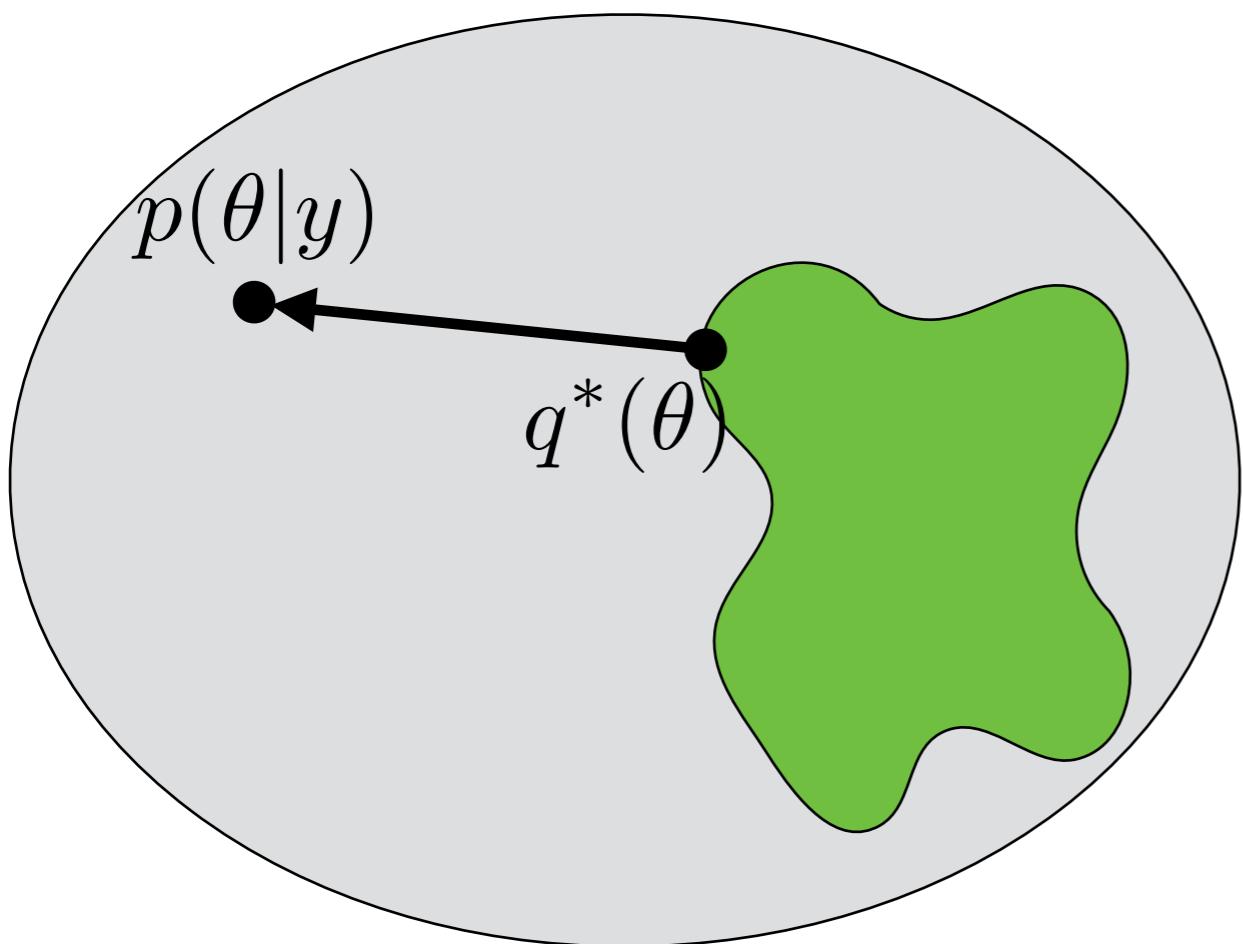
Can have small KL and arbitrarily bad variance estimate

# How small is KL in practice?

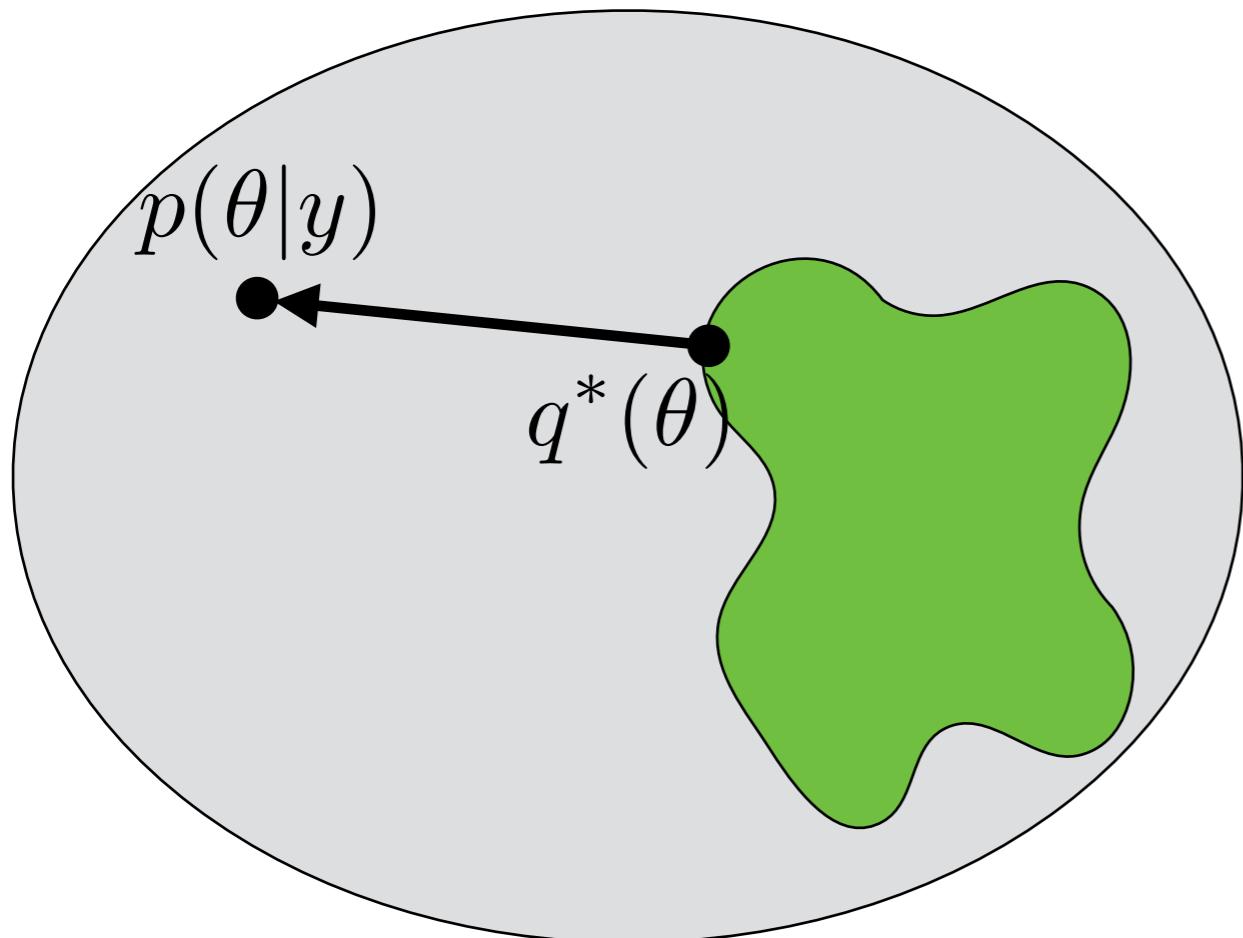
# How small is KL in practice?



# How small is KL in practice?

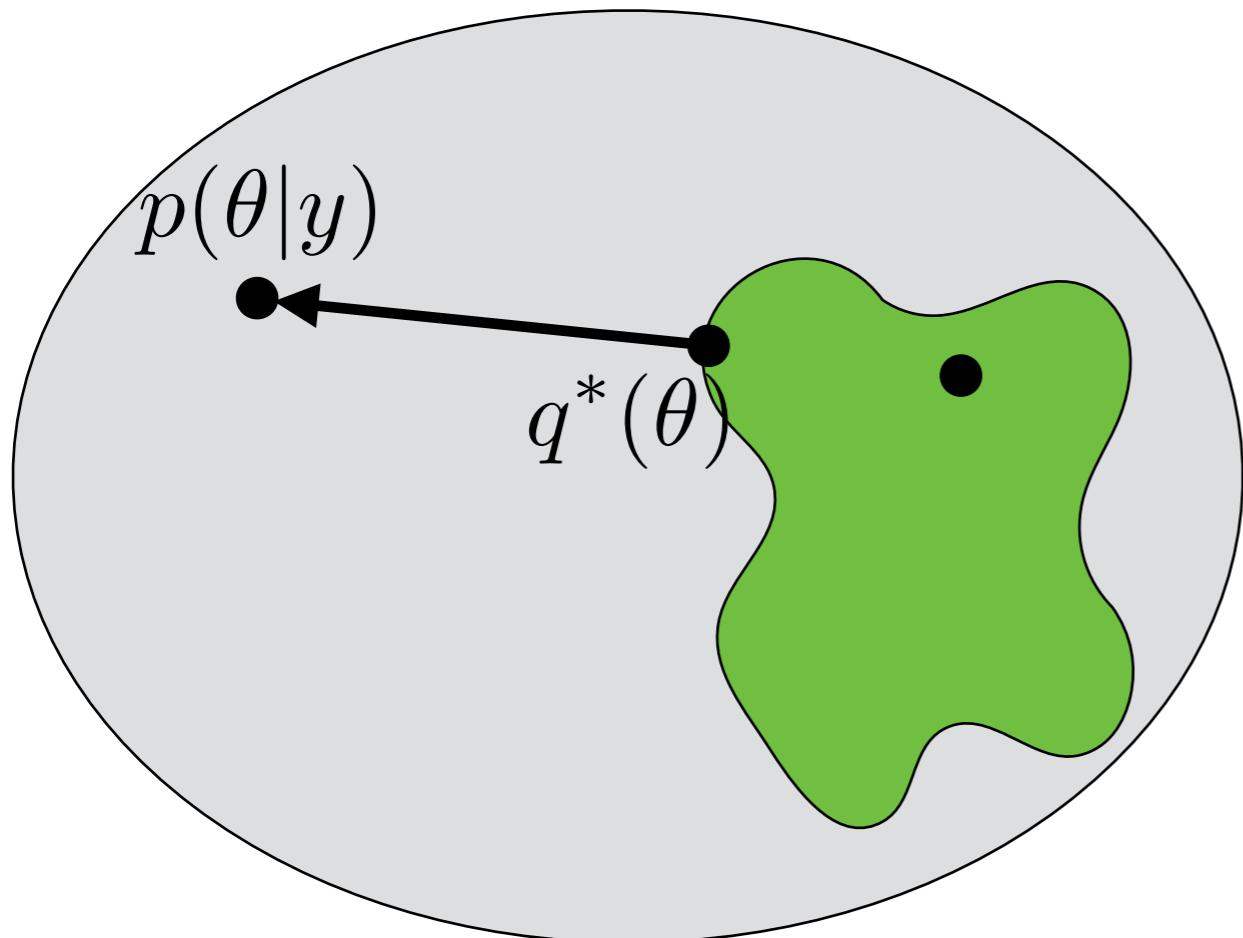


# How small is KL in practice?



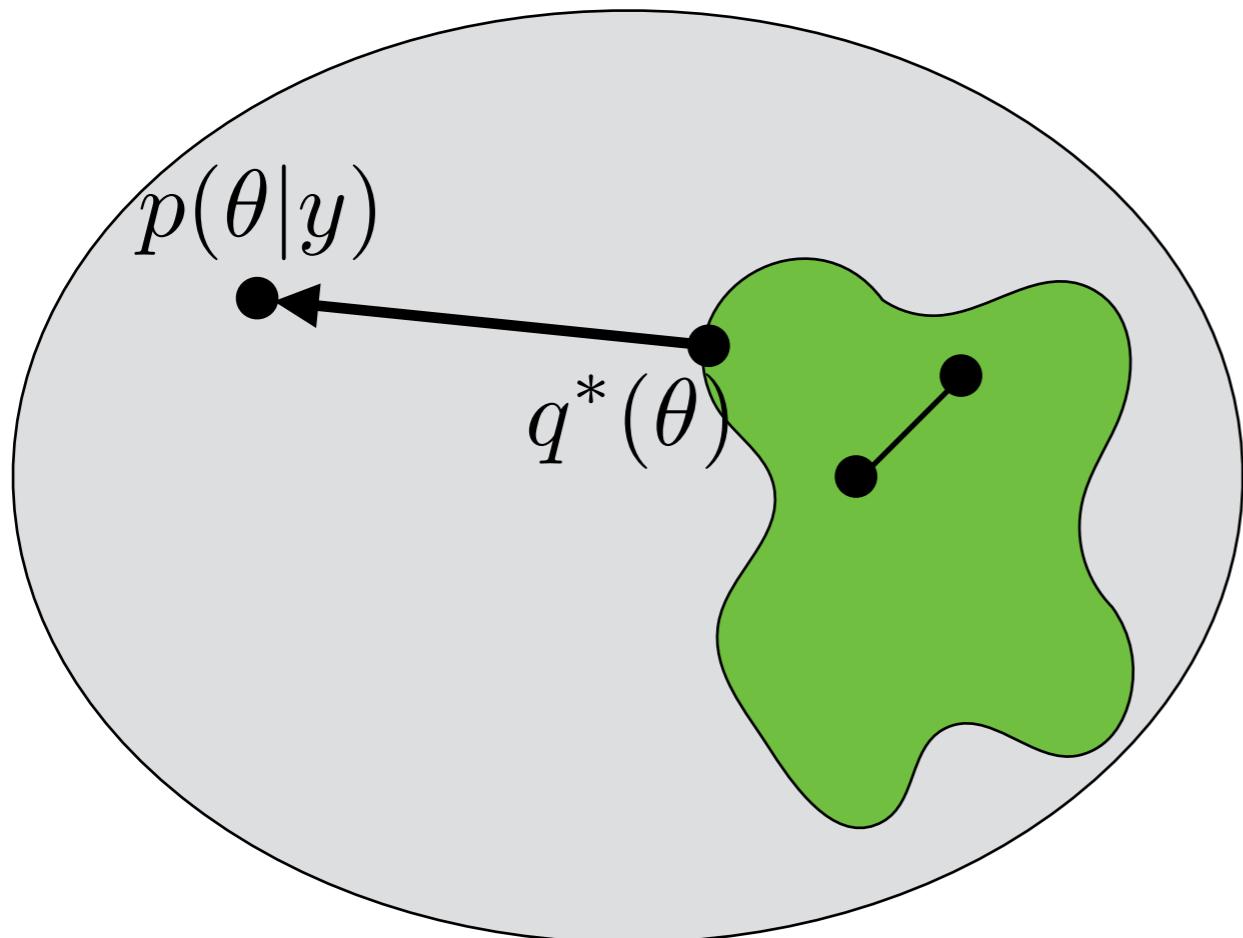
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



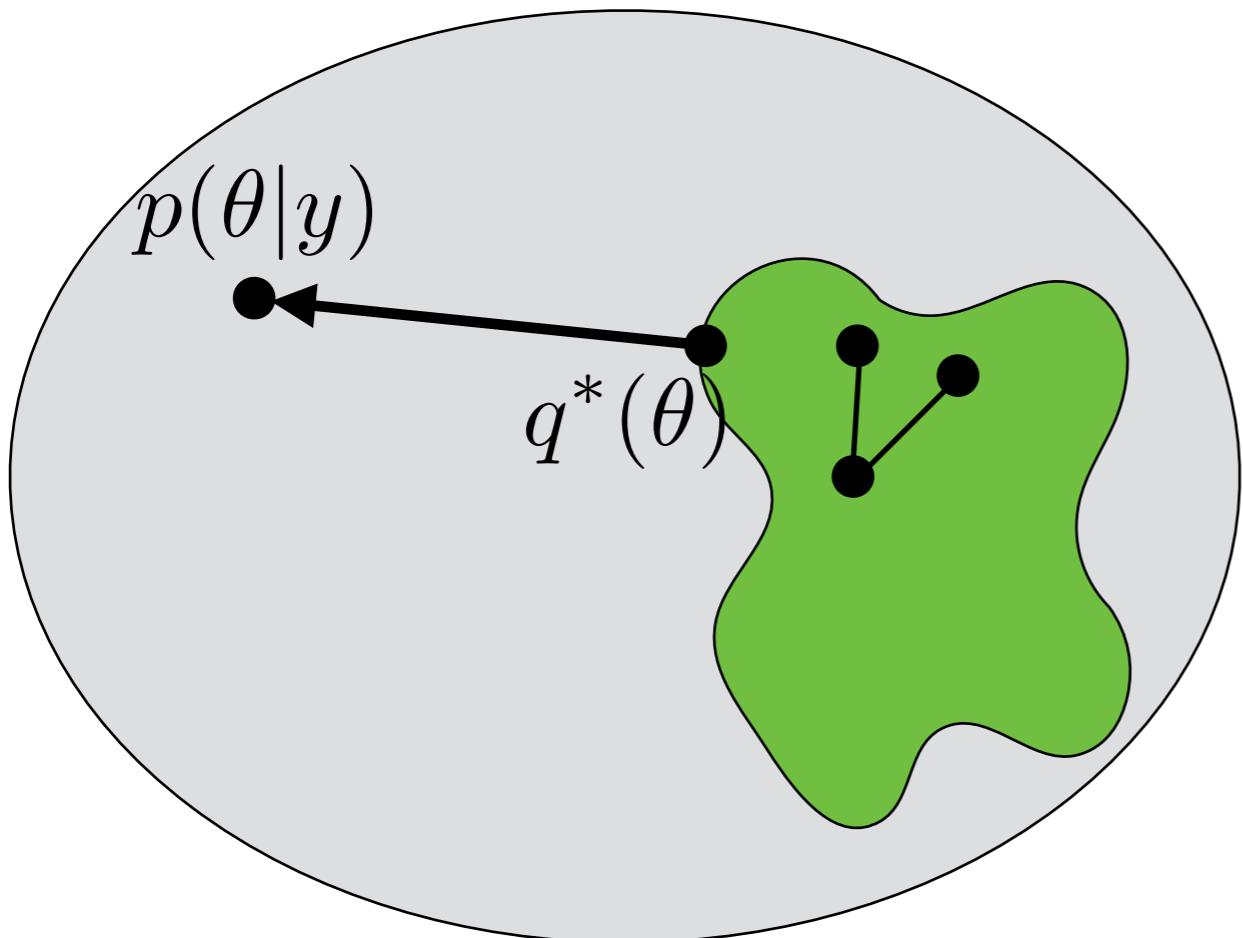
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



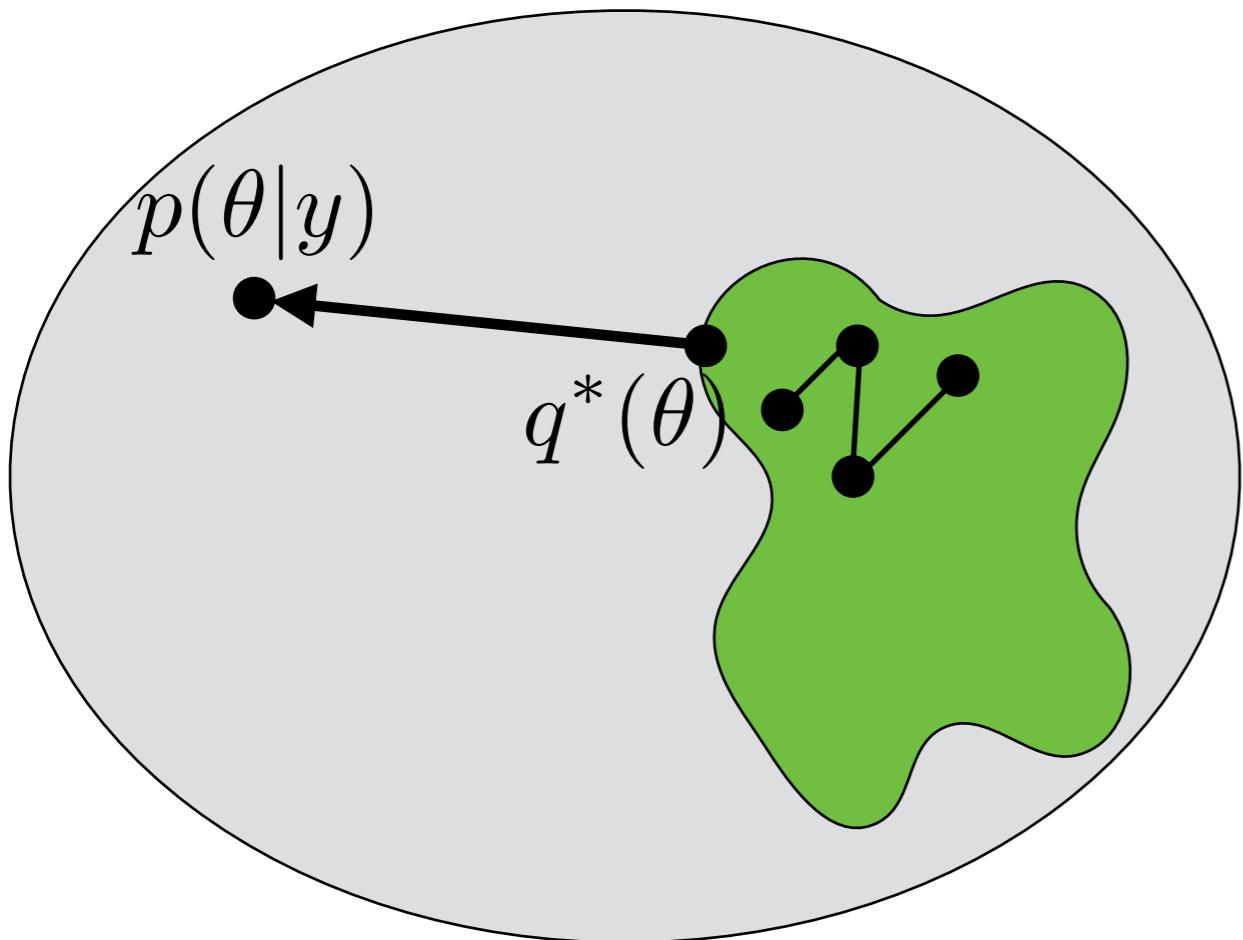
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



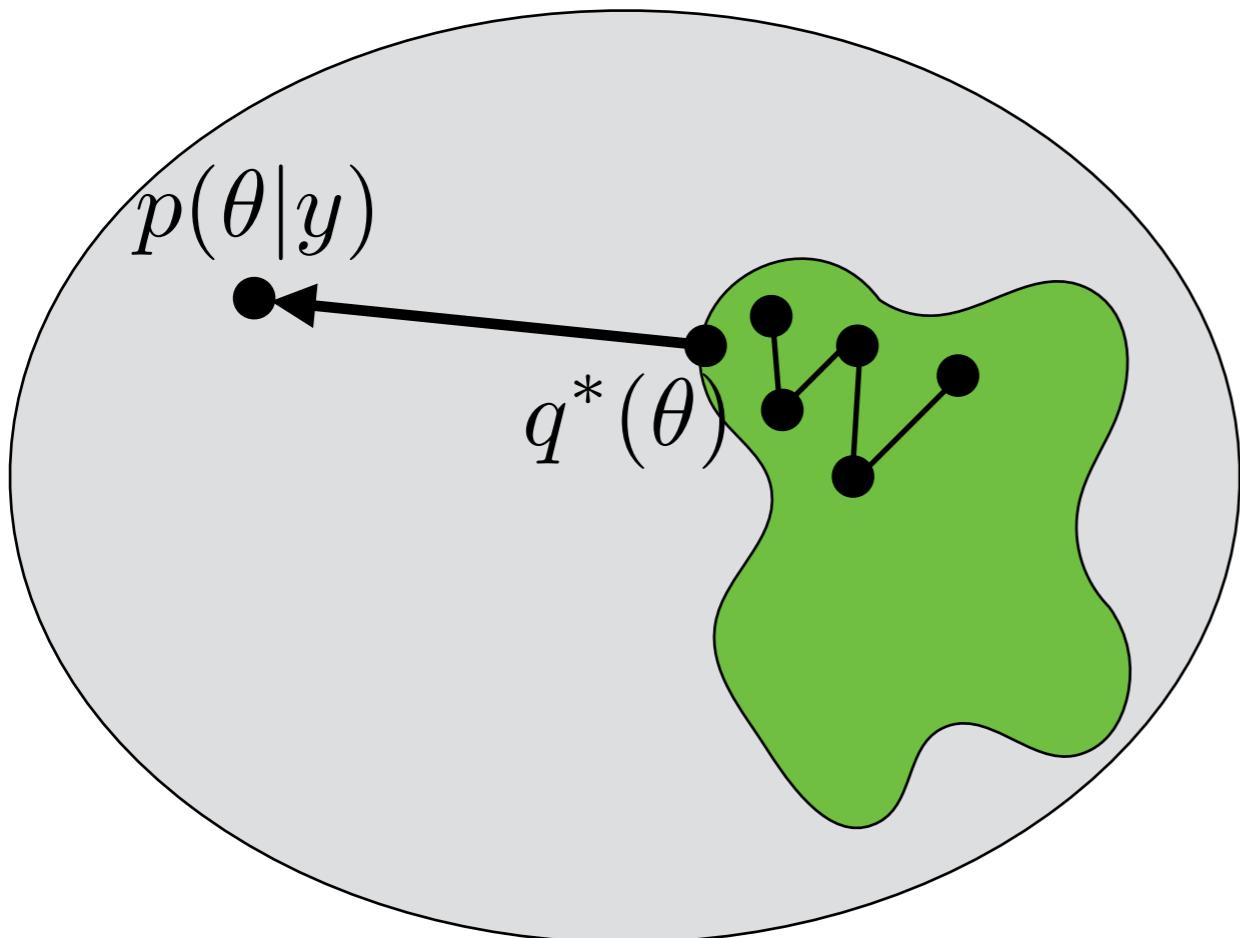
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



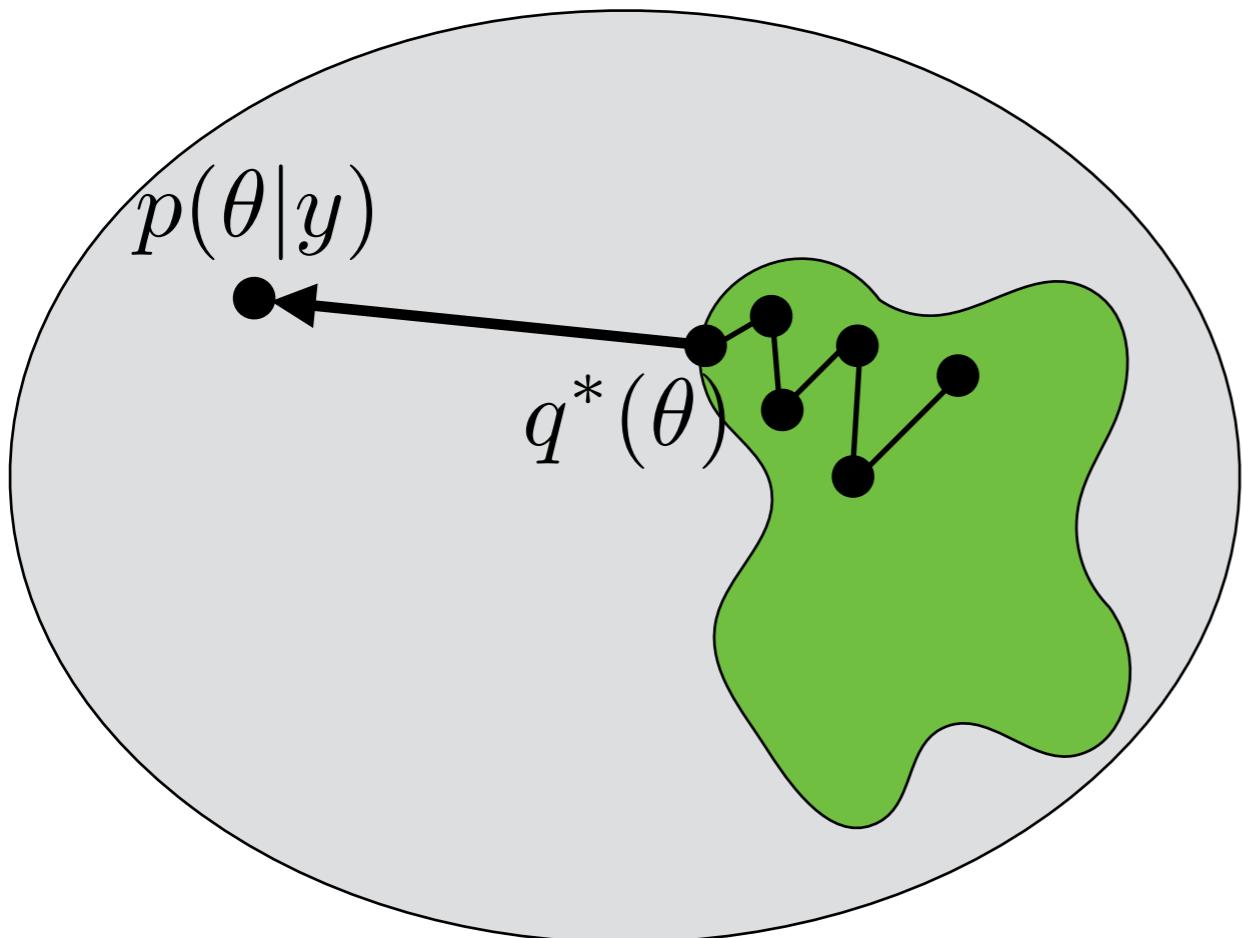
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



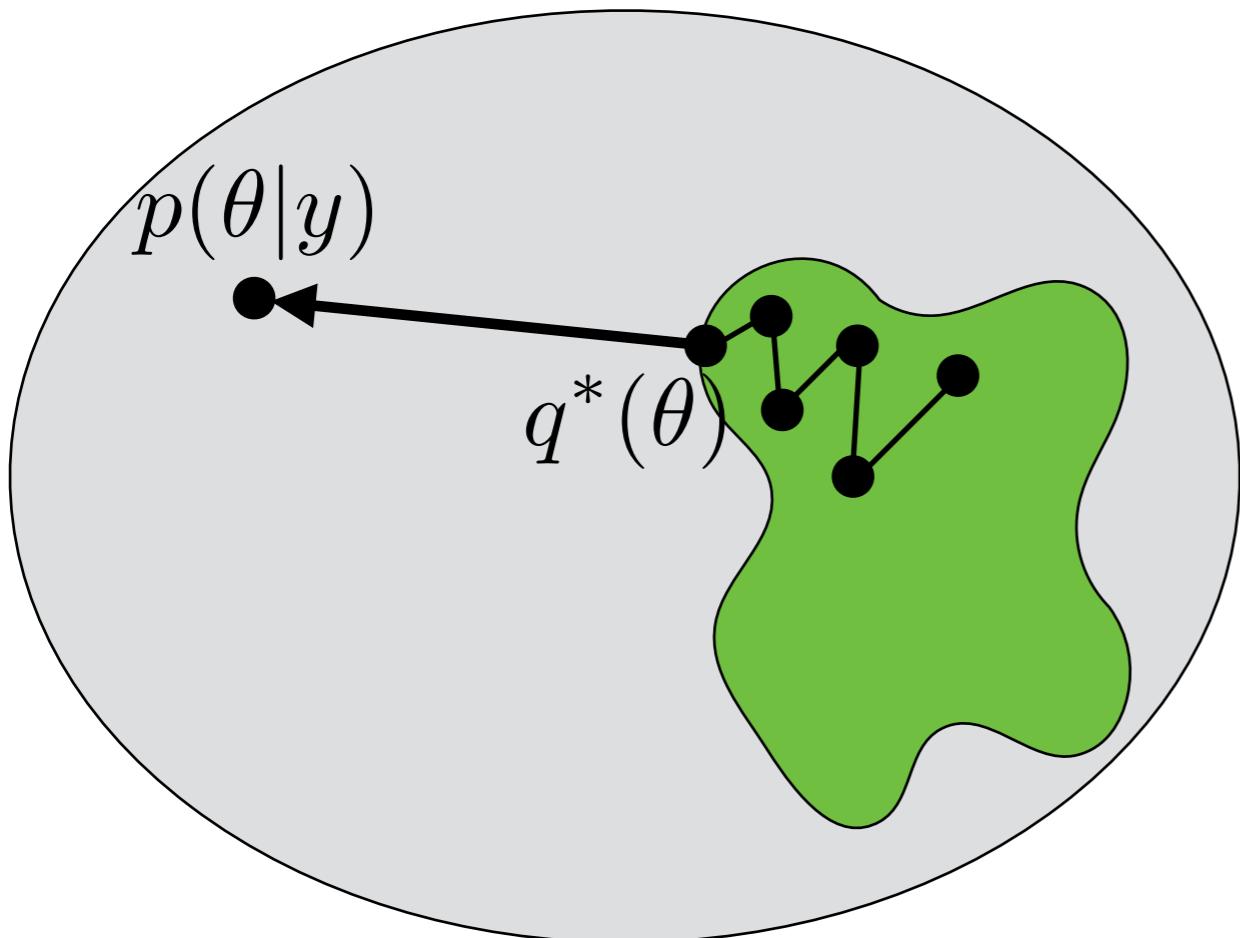
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



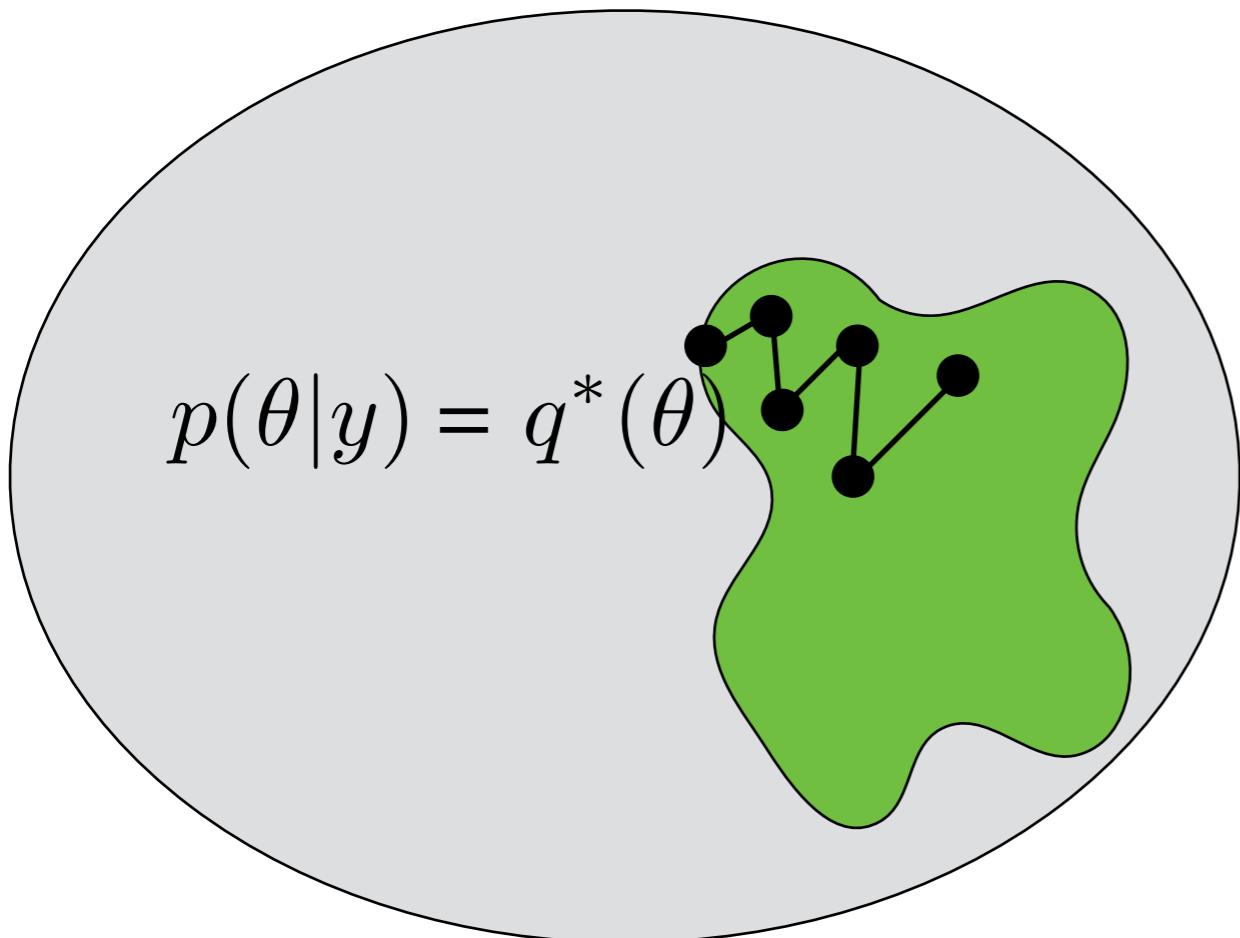
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)

# How small is KL in practice?



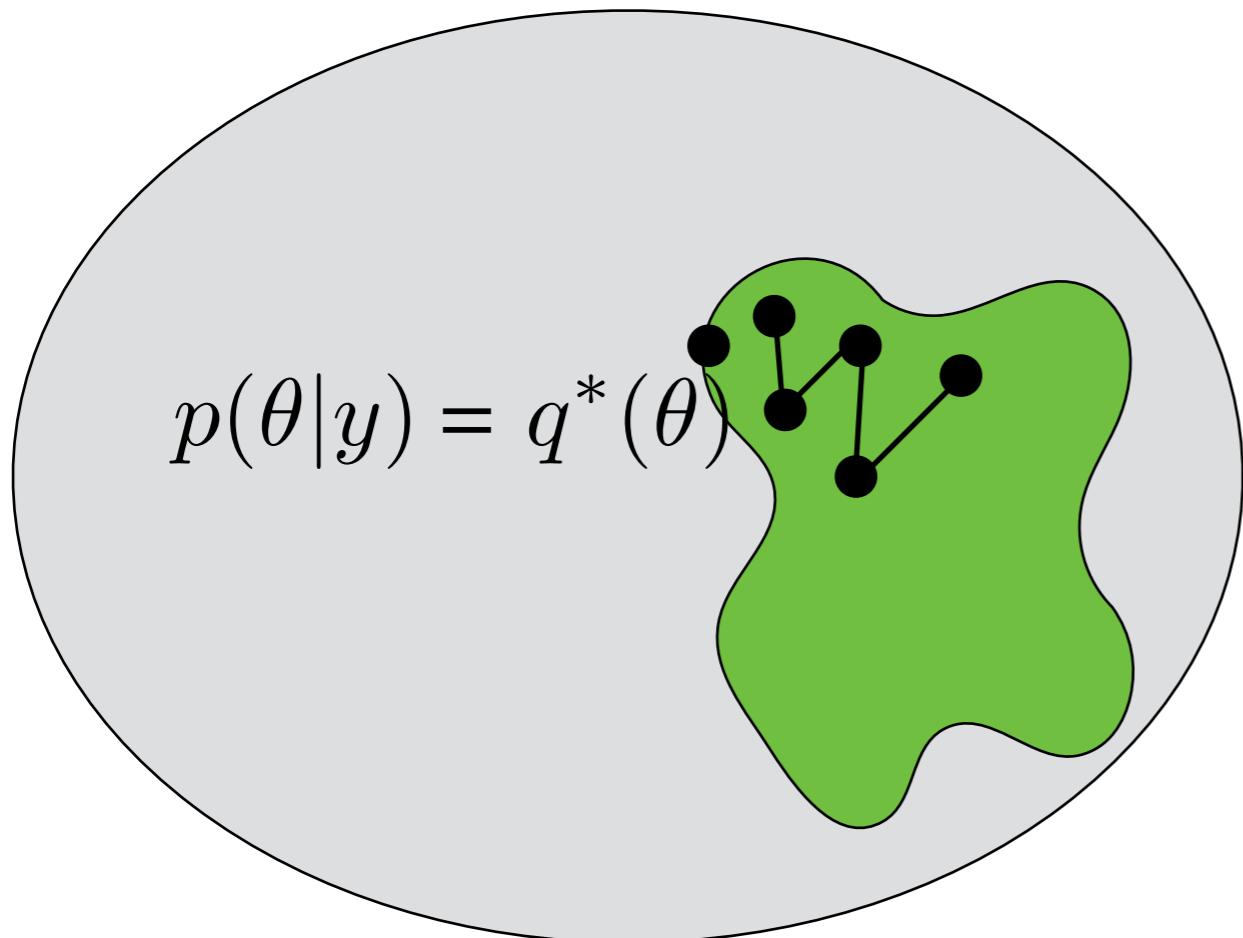
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



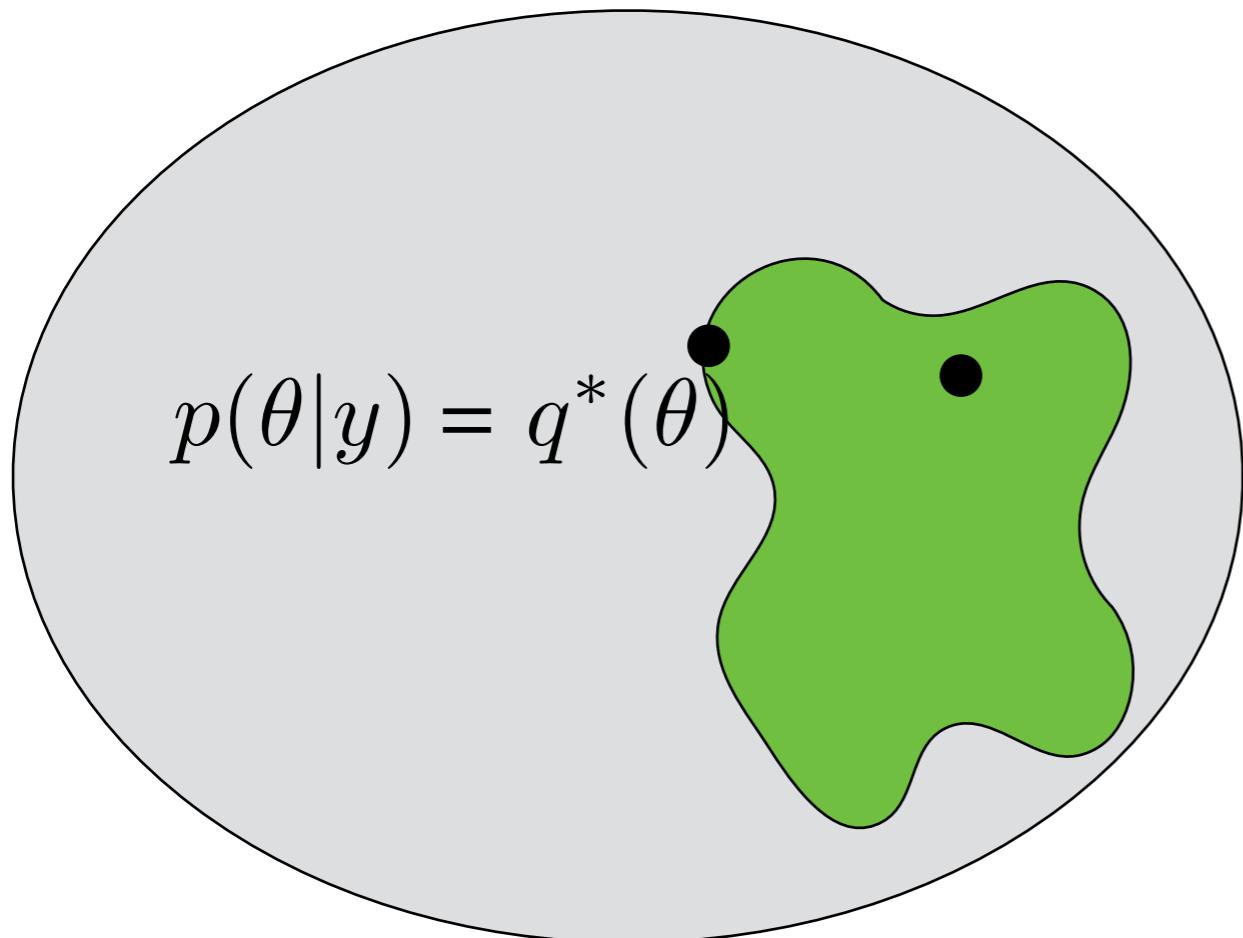
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



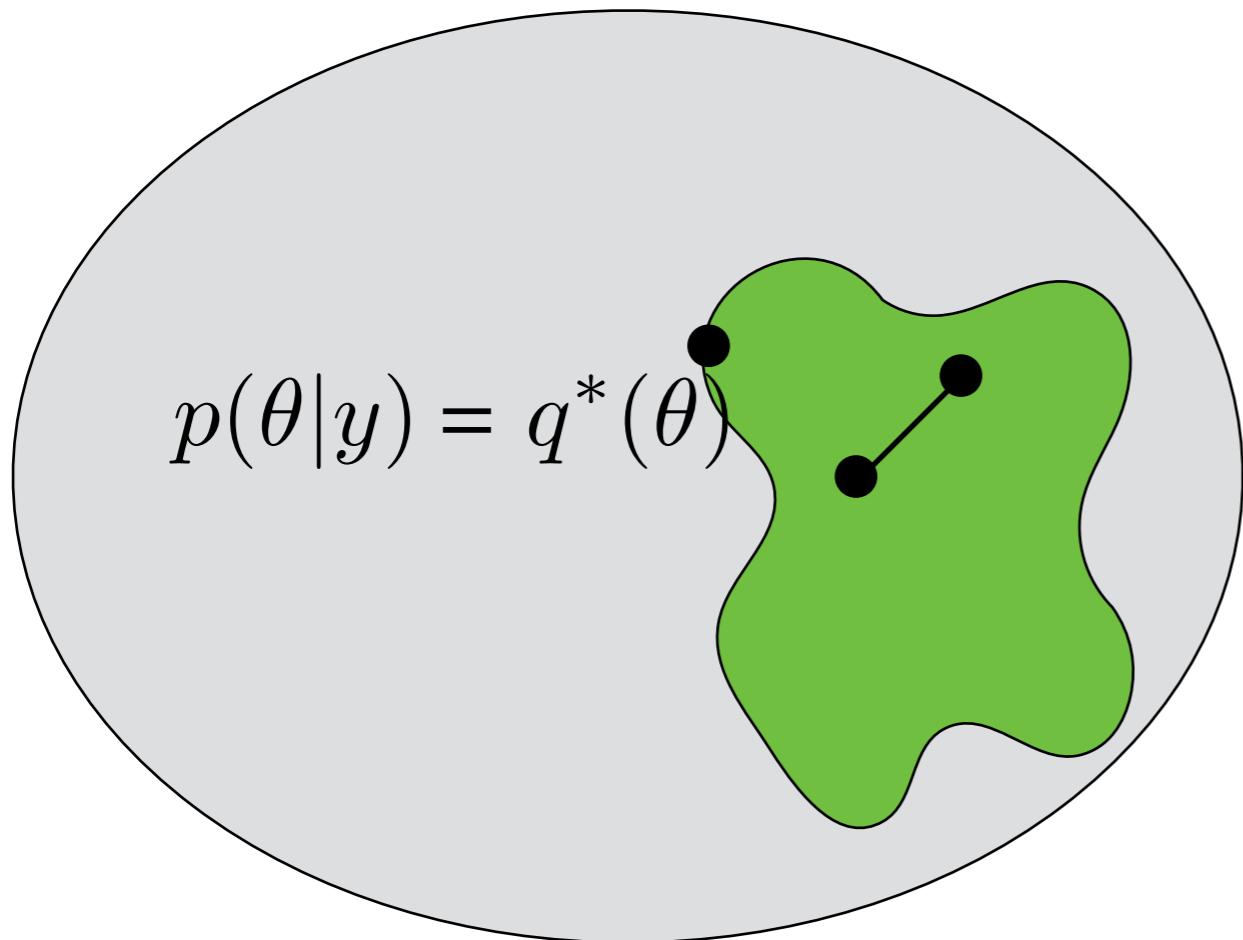
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



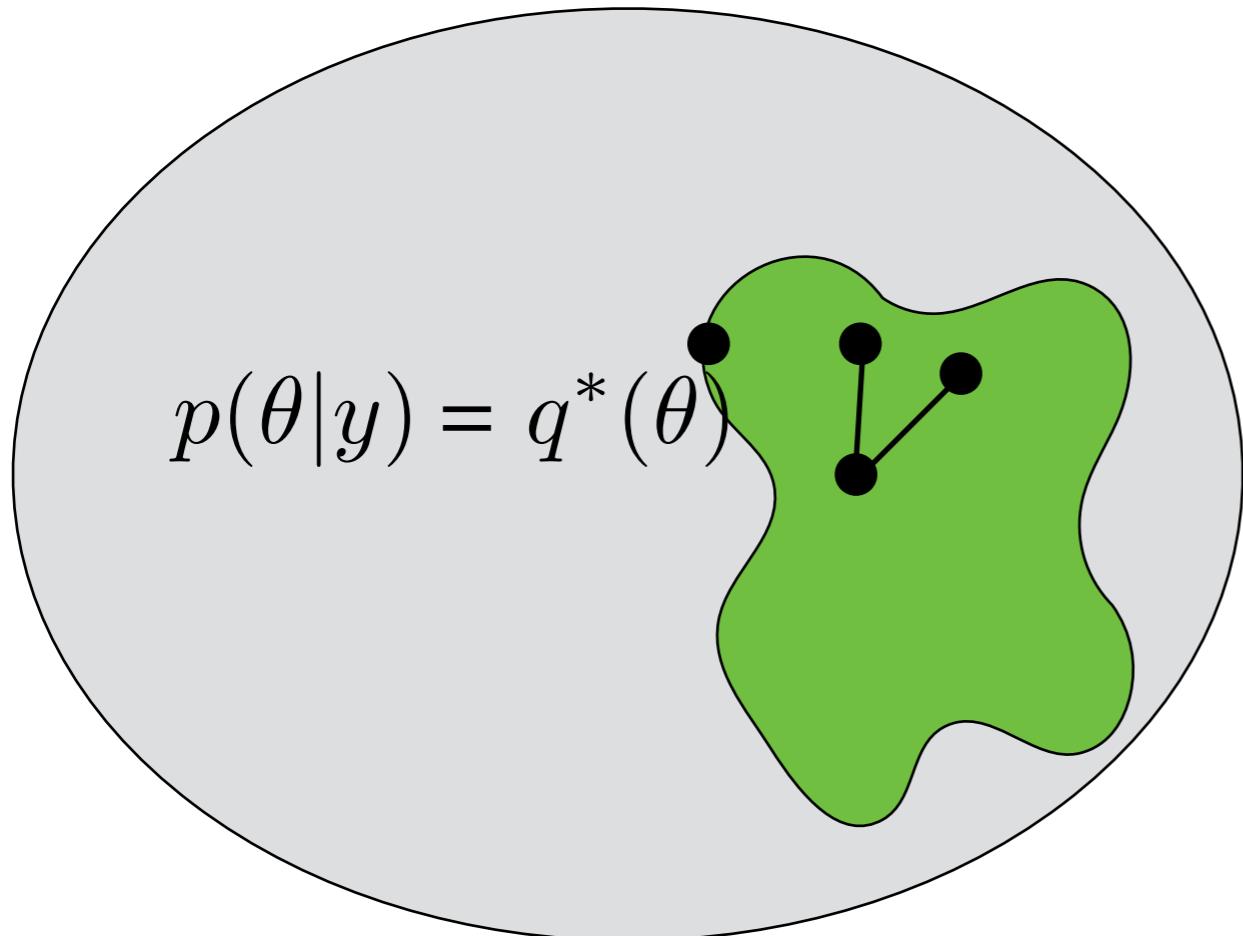
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



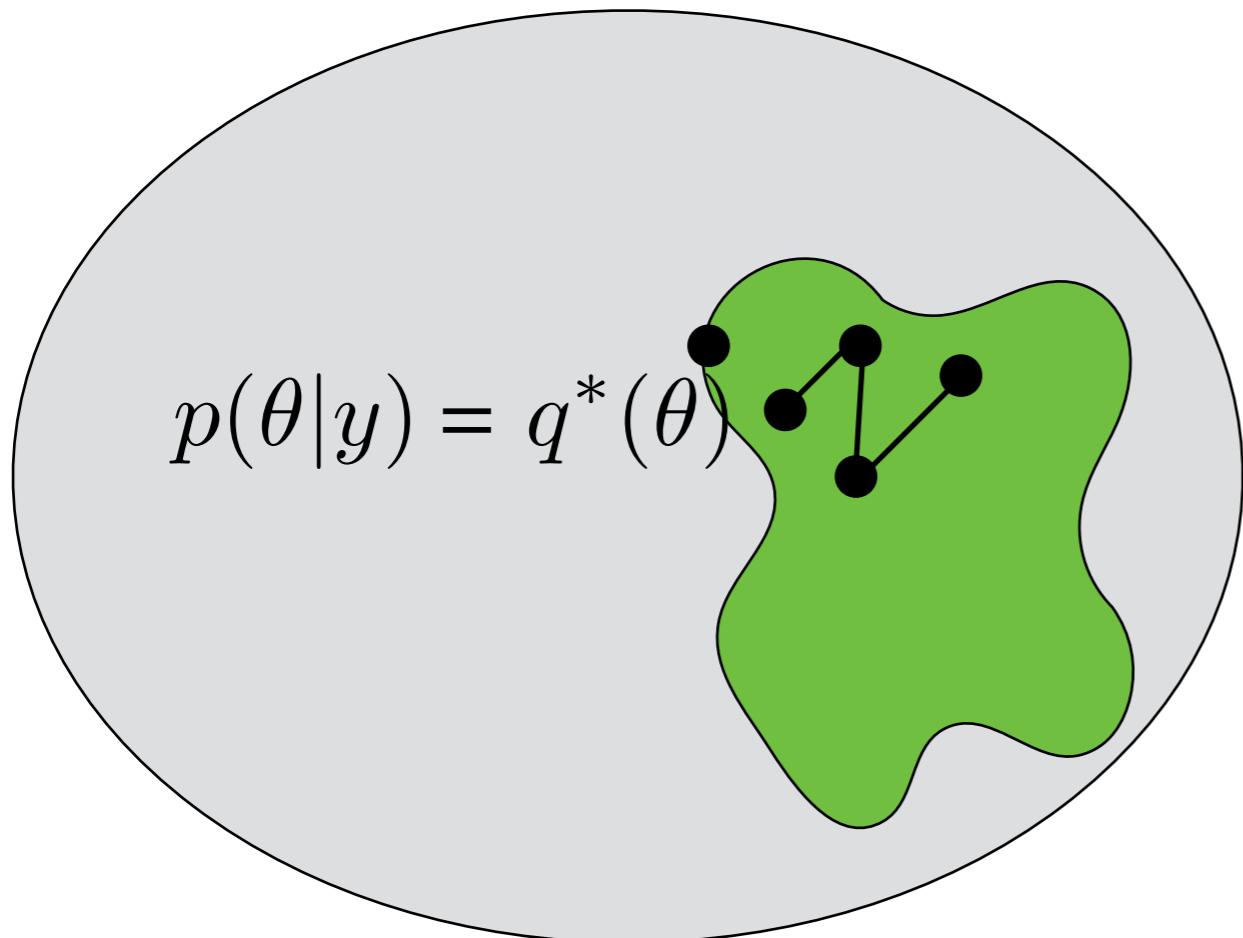
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



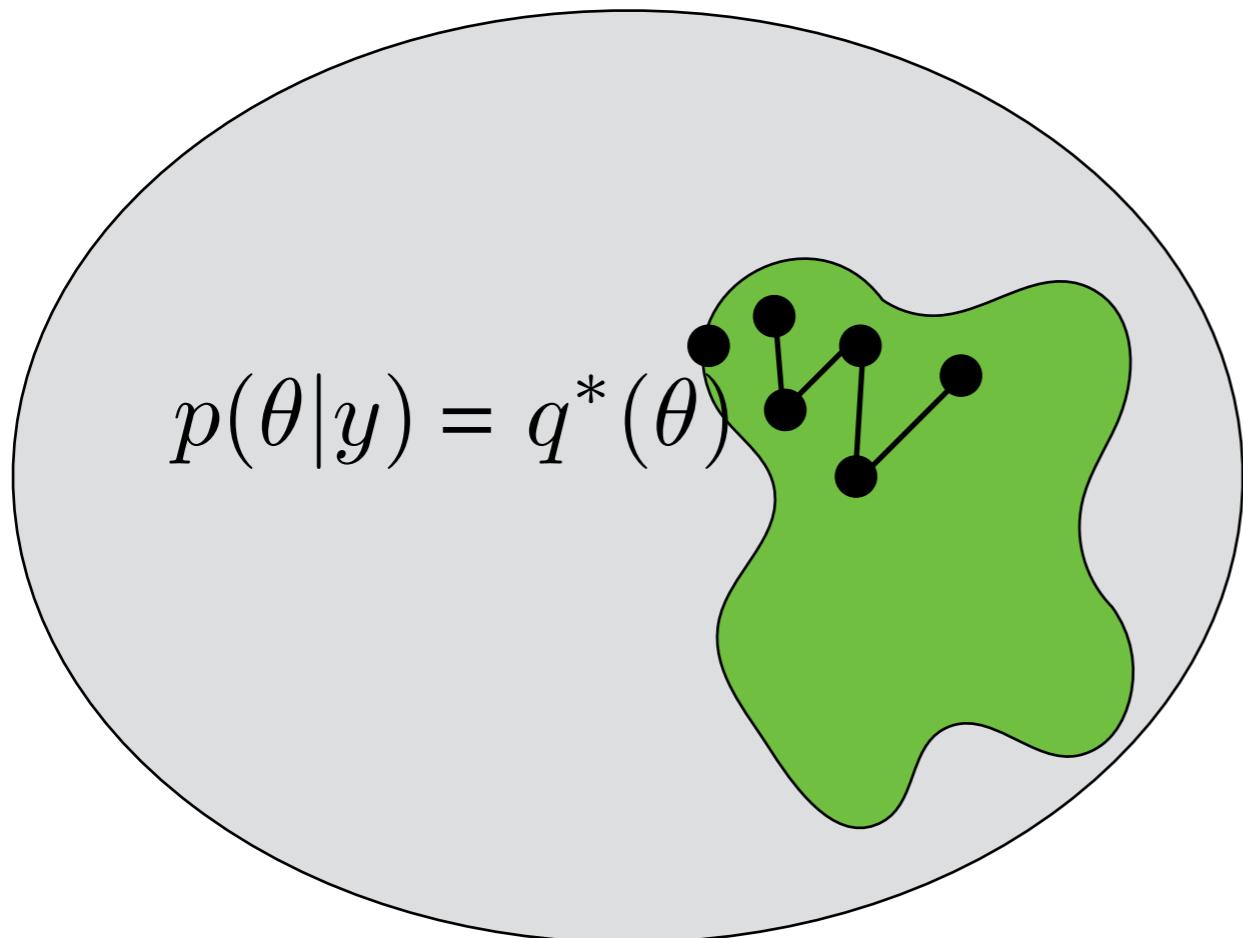
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



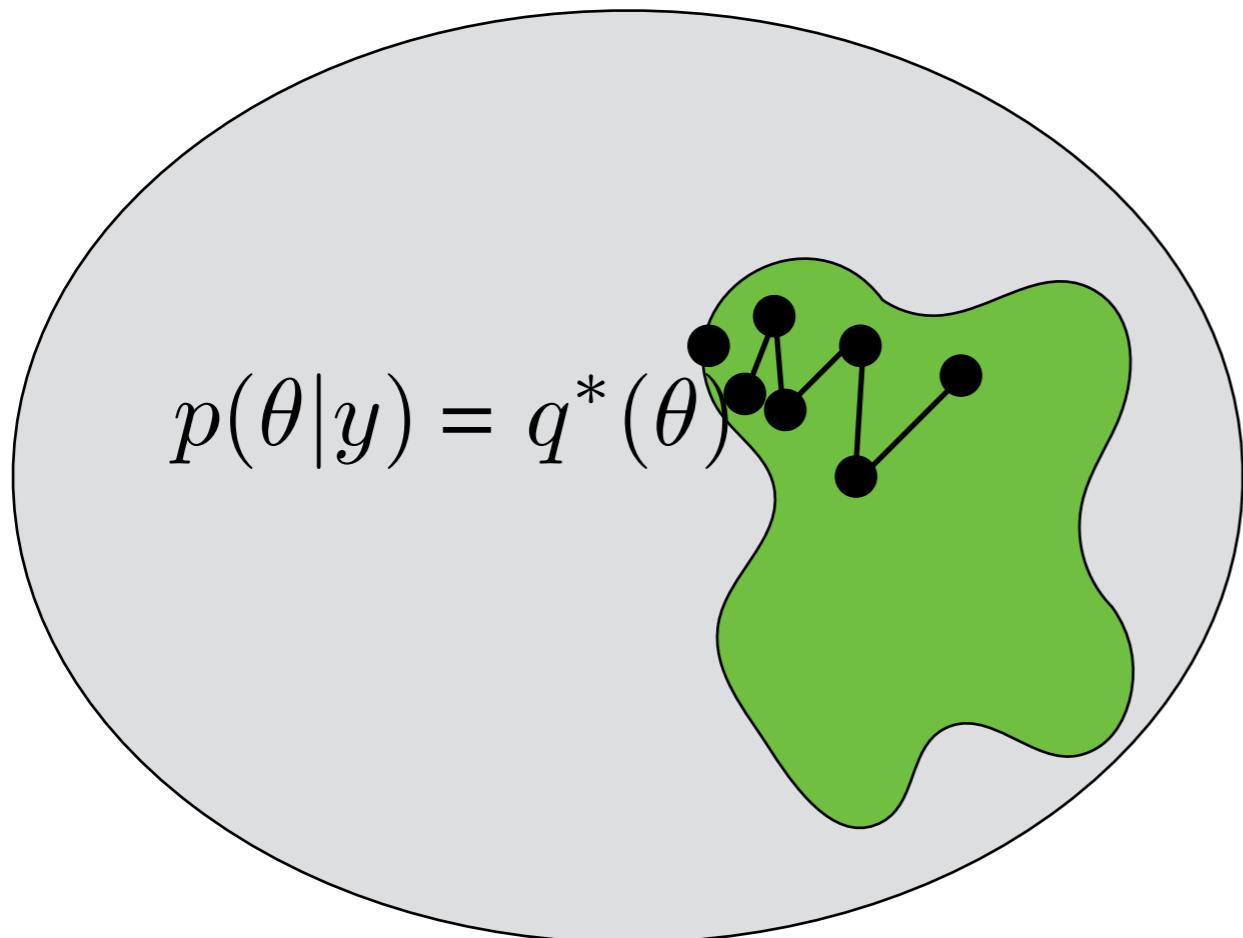
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



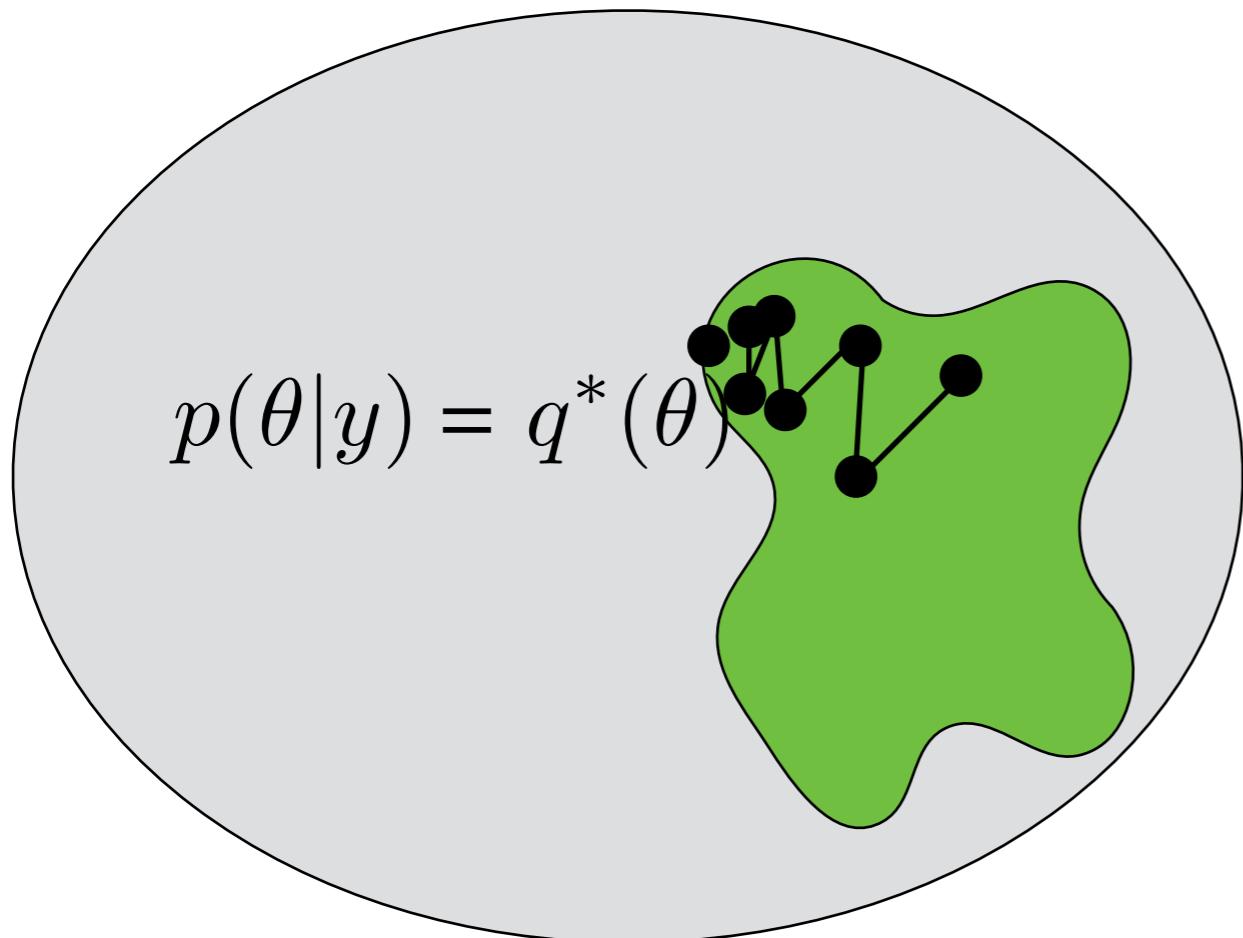
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



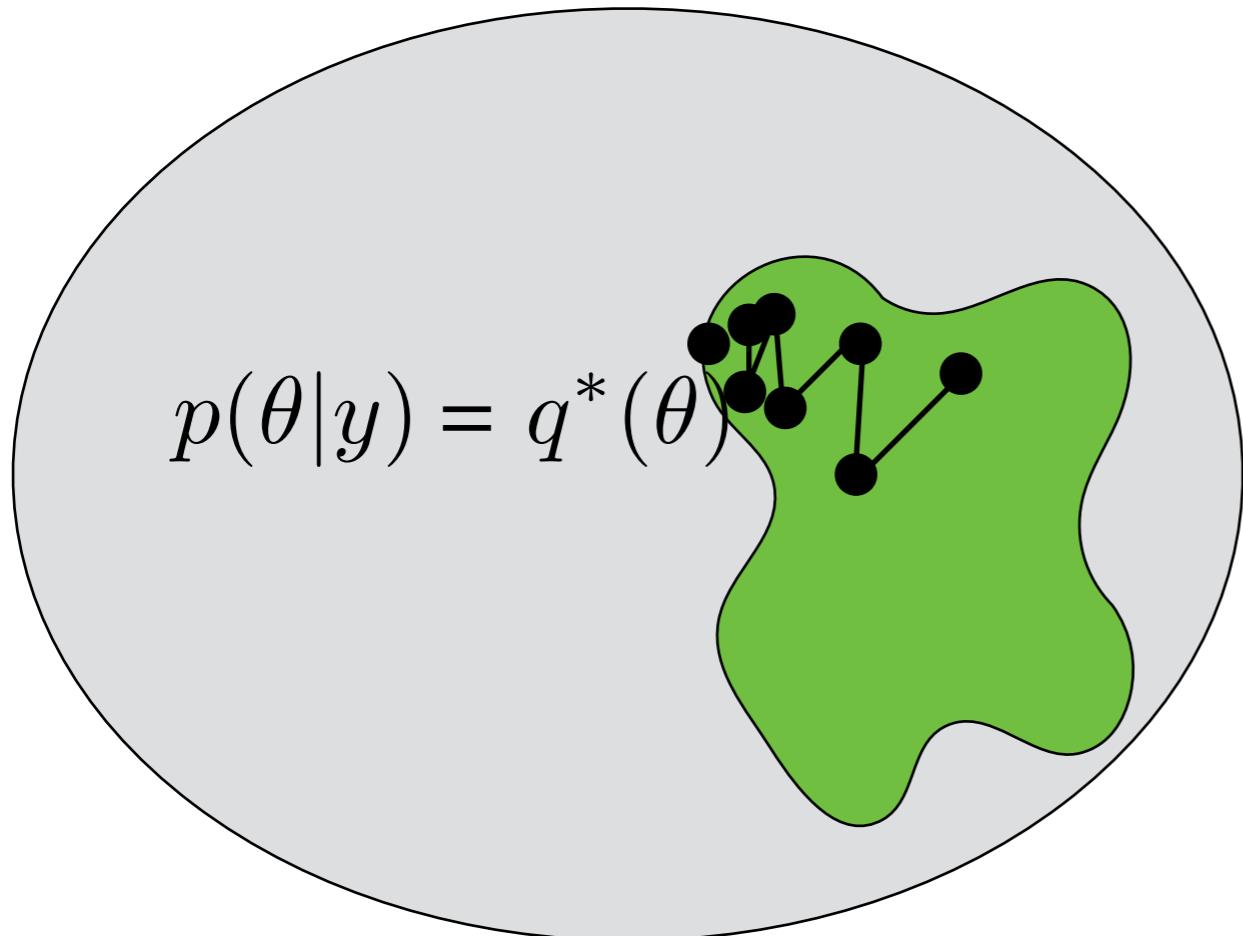
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

# How small is KL in practice?



- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

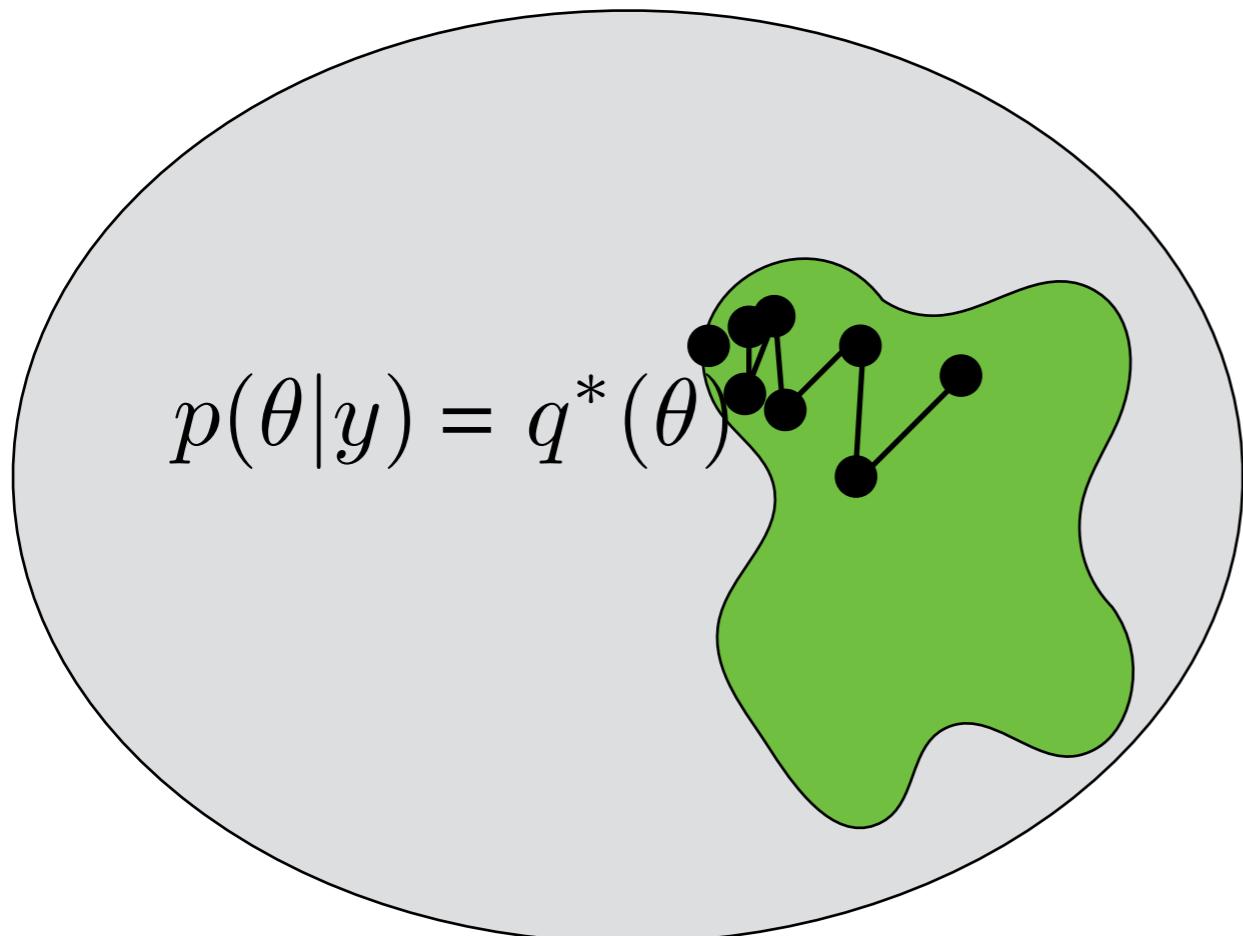
# How small is KL in practice?



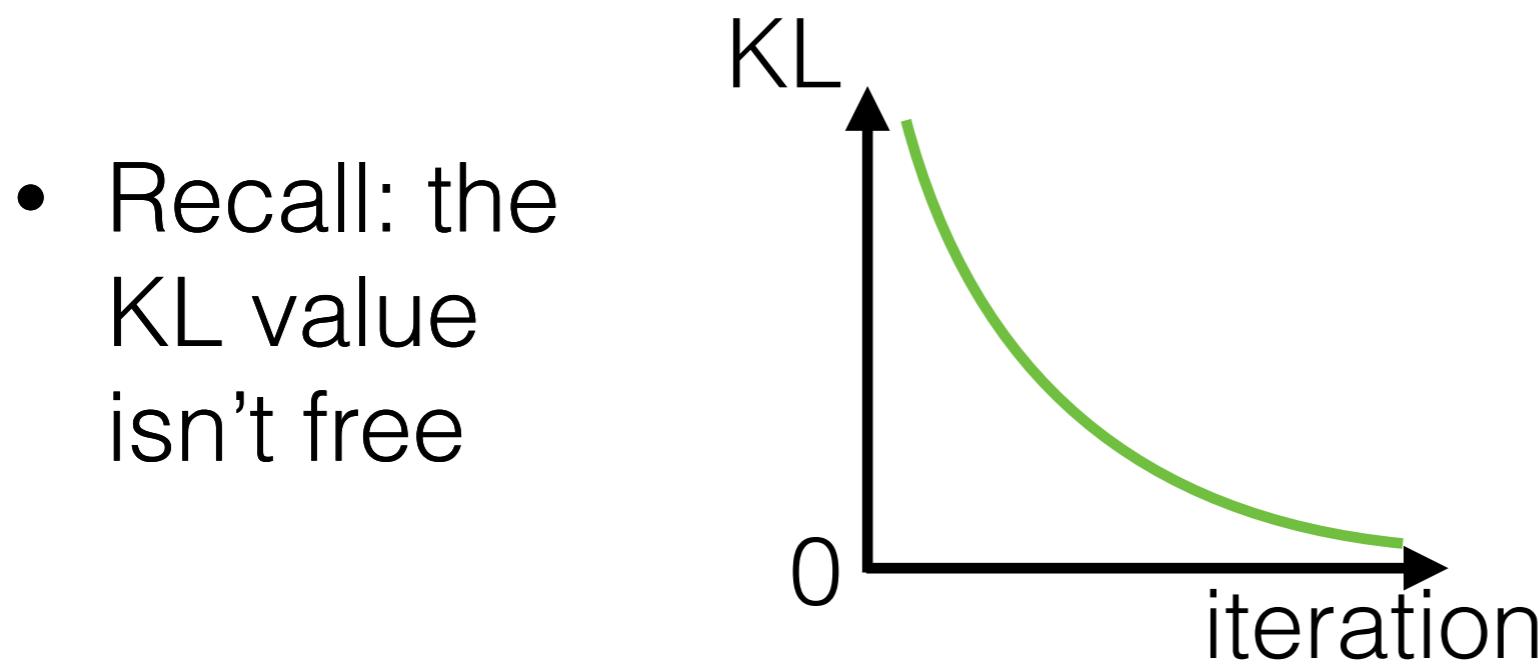
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero

- Recall: the KL value isn't free

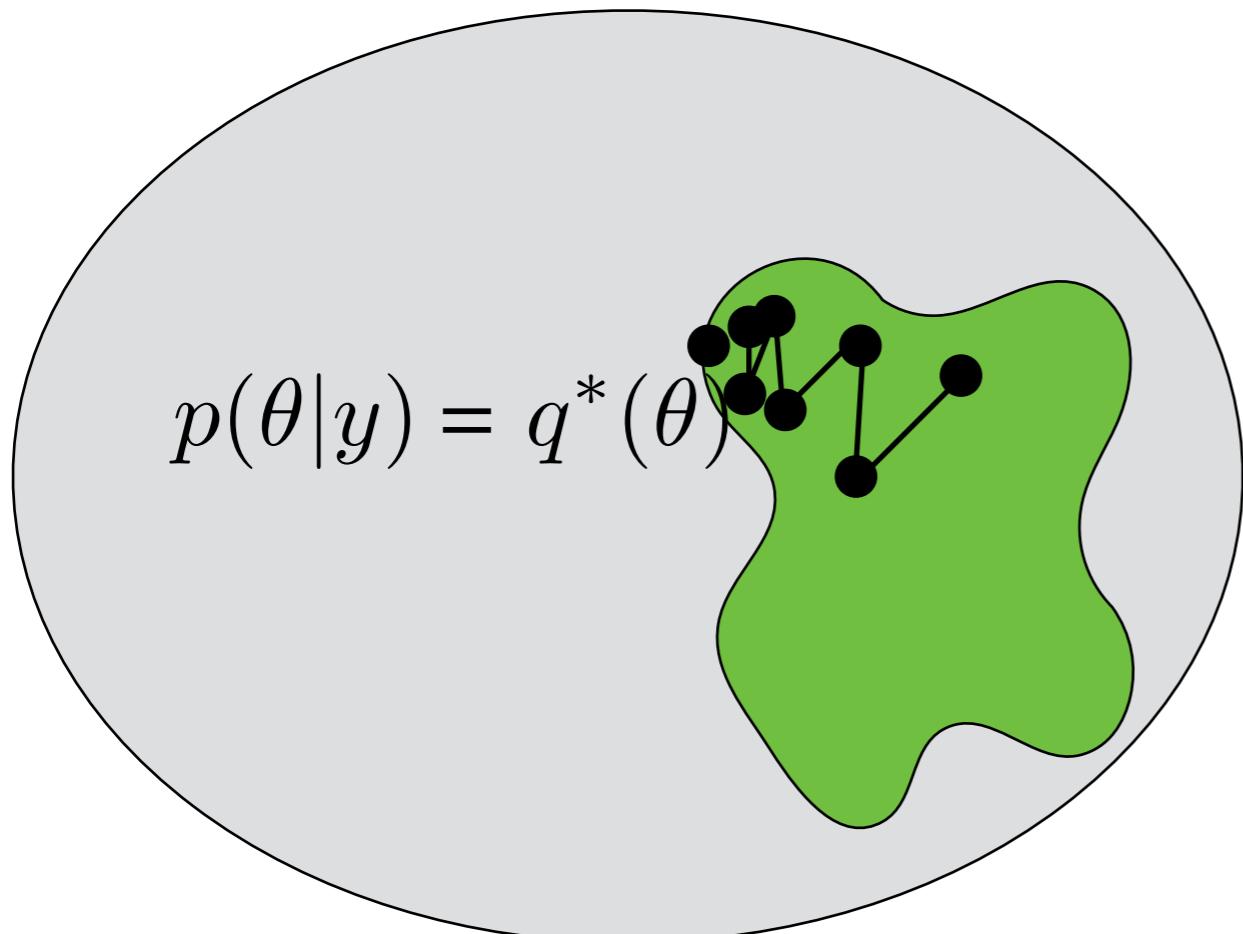
# How small is KL in practice?



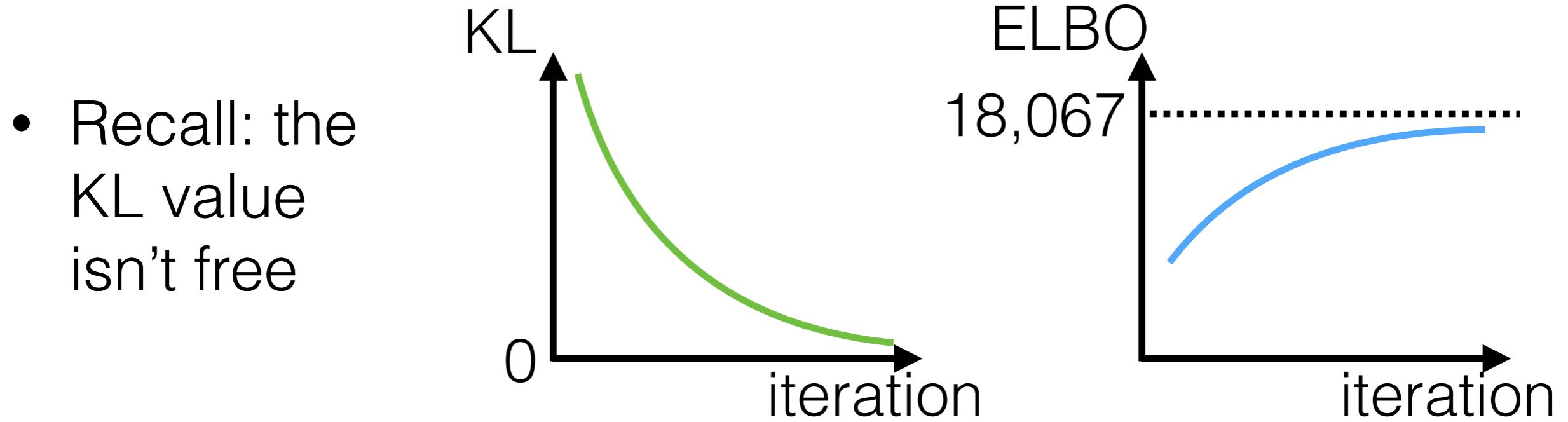
- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero



# How small is KL in practice?



- Often optimum has non-zero KL (MFVB, Gaussian VB)
- Even if optimum has zero KL, algorithm might not reach zero



# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

How  
deep is  
the  
issue?

**Mean-field variational Bayes**

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

Implementation

Gaussian example  
was exact

# Approximate Bayesian inference

Use  $q^*$  to approximate  $p(\cdot|y)$

Optimization

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} f(q(\cdot), p(\cdot|y))$$

## Variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

## Mean-field variational Bayes

$$q^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in Q_{\text{MFVB}}} KL(q(\cdot)||p(\cdot|y))$$

Algorithm

Implementation

How  
deep is  
the  
issue?

Gaussian example  
was exact

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust MFVB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust VB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust VB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Roadmap

- Bayes & Approximate Bayes review
- What is:
  - Variational Bayes (VB)
  - Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)
- Why use MFVB?
- When can we trust VB?
- Where do we go from here?

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

| “Arts”  | “Budgets”  | “Children” | “Education” |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|
| NEW     | MILLION    | CHILDREN   | SCHOOL      |
| FILM    | TAX        | WOMEN      | STUDENTS    |
| SHOW    | PROGRAM    | PEOPLE     | SCHOOLS     |
| MUSIC   | BUDGET     | CHILD      | EDUCATION   |
| MOVIE   | BILLION    | YEARS      | TEACHERS    |
| PLAY    | FEDERAL    | FAMILIES   | HIGH        |
| MUSICAL | YEAR       | WORK       | PUBLIC      |
| BEST    | SPENDING   | PARENTS    | TEACHER     |
| ACTOR   | NEW        | SAYS       | BENNETT     |
| FIRST   | STATE      | FAMILY     | MANIGAT     |
| YORK    | PLAN       | WELFARE    | NAMPHY      |
| OPERA   | MONEY      | MEN        | STATE       |
| THEATER | PROGRAMS   | PERCENT    | PRESIDENT   |
| ACTRESS | GOVERNMENT | CARE       | ELEMENTARY  |
| LOVE    | CONGRESS   | LIFE       | HAITI       |

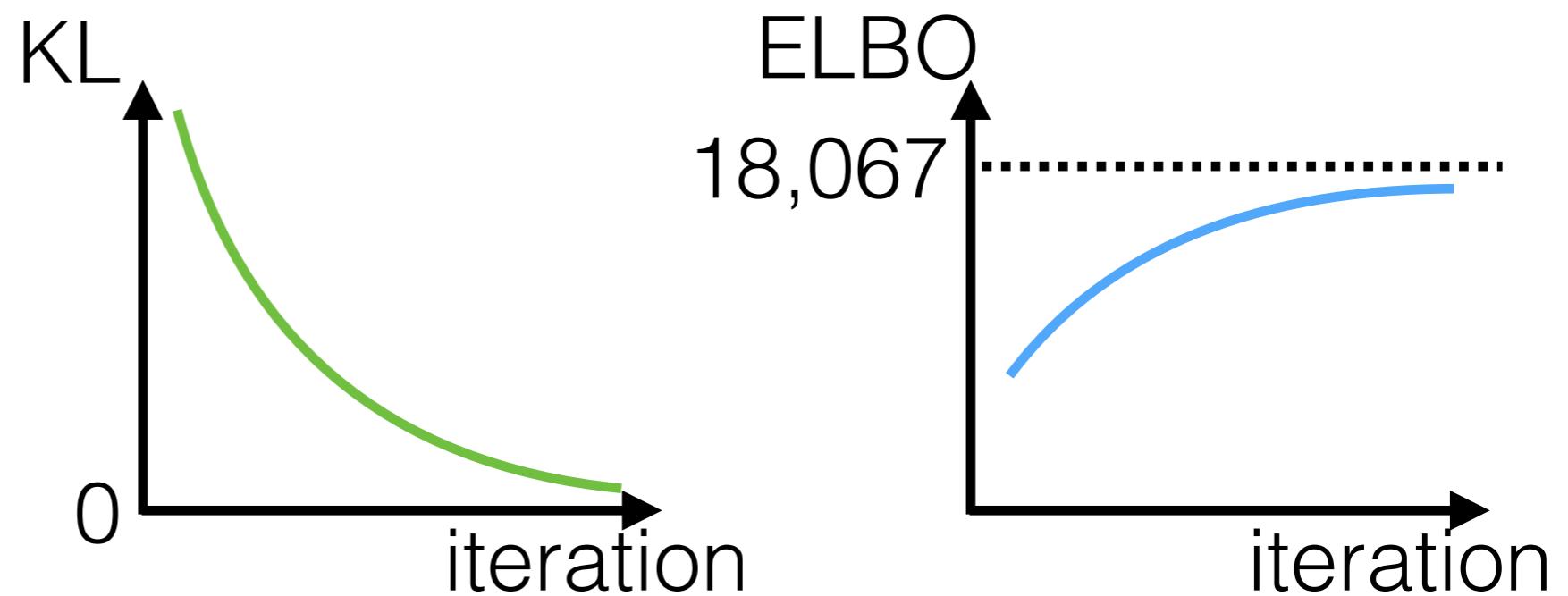
The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will give \$1.25 million to Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Opera Co., New York Philharmonic and Juilliard School. “Our board felt that we had a real opportunity to make a mark on the future of the performing arts with these grants an act every bit as important as our traditional areas of support in health, medical research, education and the social services,” Hearst Foundation President Randolph A. Hearst said Monday in announcing the grants. Lincoln Center’s share will be \$200,000 for its new building, which will house young artists and provide new public facilities. The Metropolitan Opera Co. and New York Philharmonic will receive \$400,000 each. The Juilliard School, where music and the performing arts are taught, will get \$250,000. The Hearst Foundation, a leading supporter of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund, will make its usual annual \$100,000 donation, too.

# What can we do?

- Reliable diagnostics

# What can we do?

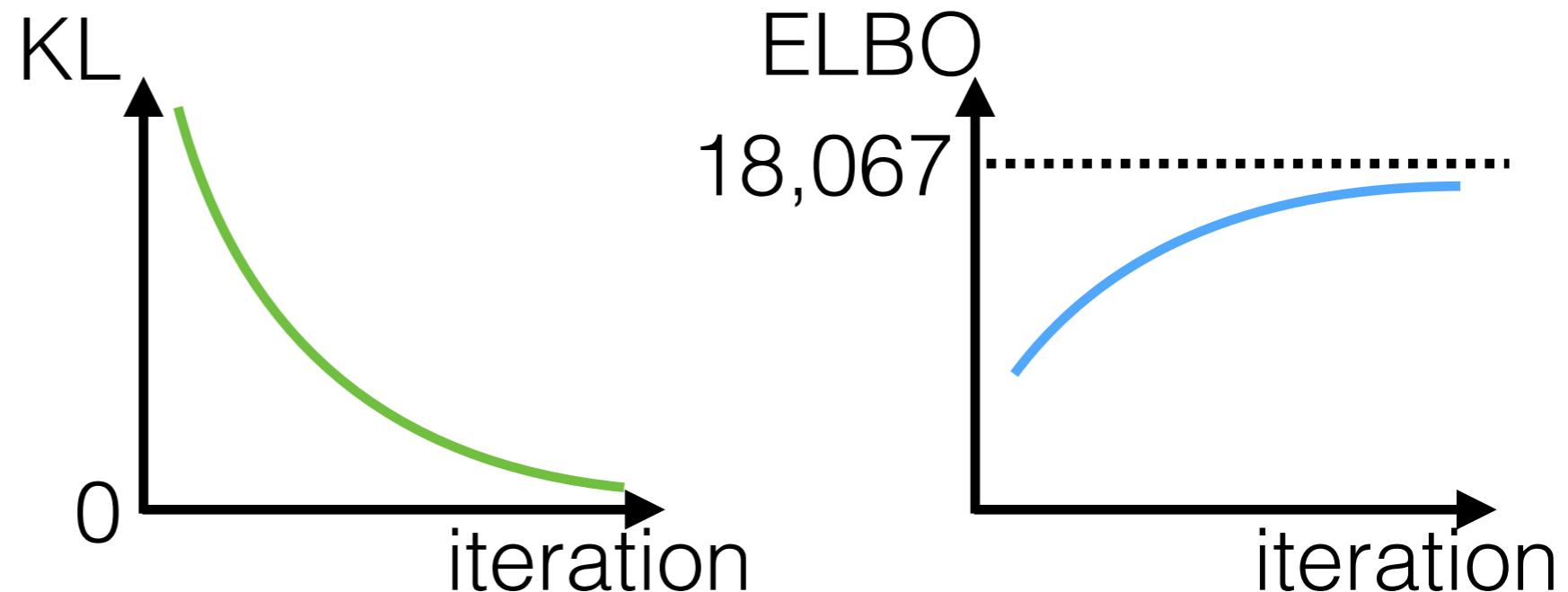
- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO



# What can we do?

- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO

[Gorham, Mackey 2015, 2017; Chwialkowski, Strathmann, Gretton 2016; Jitkrittum et al 2017; Talts et al 2018; Yao et al 2018, etc.]

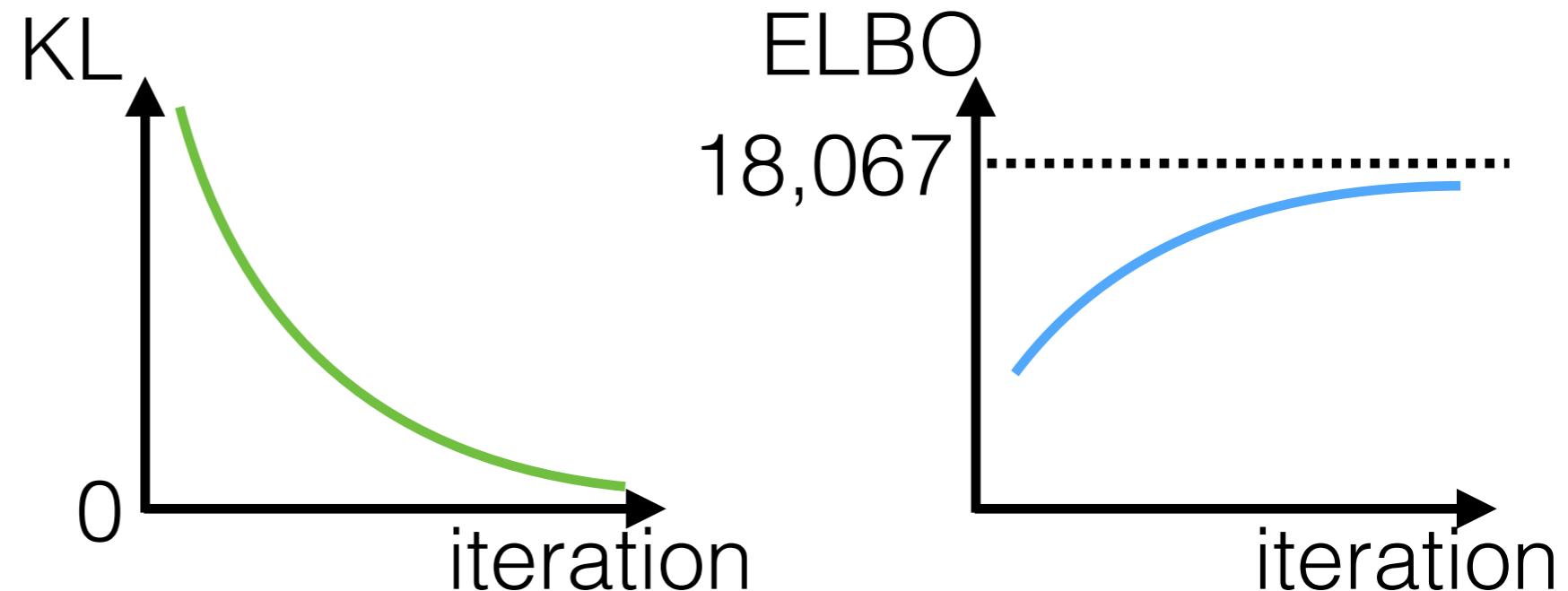


→ “Yes, but did it work? Evaluating variational inference” ICML 2018

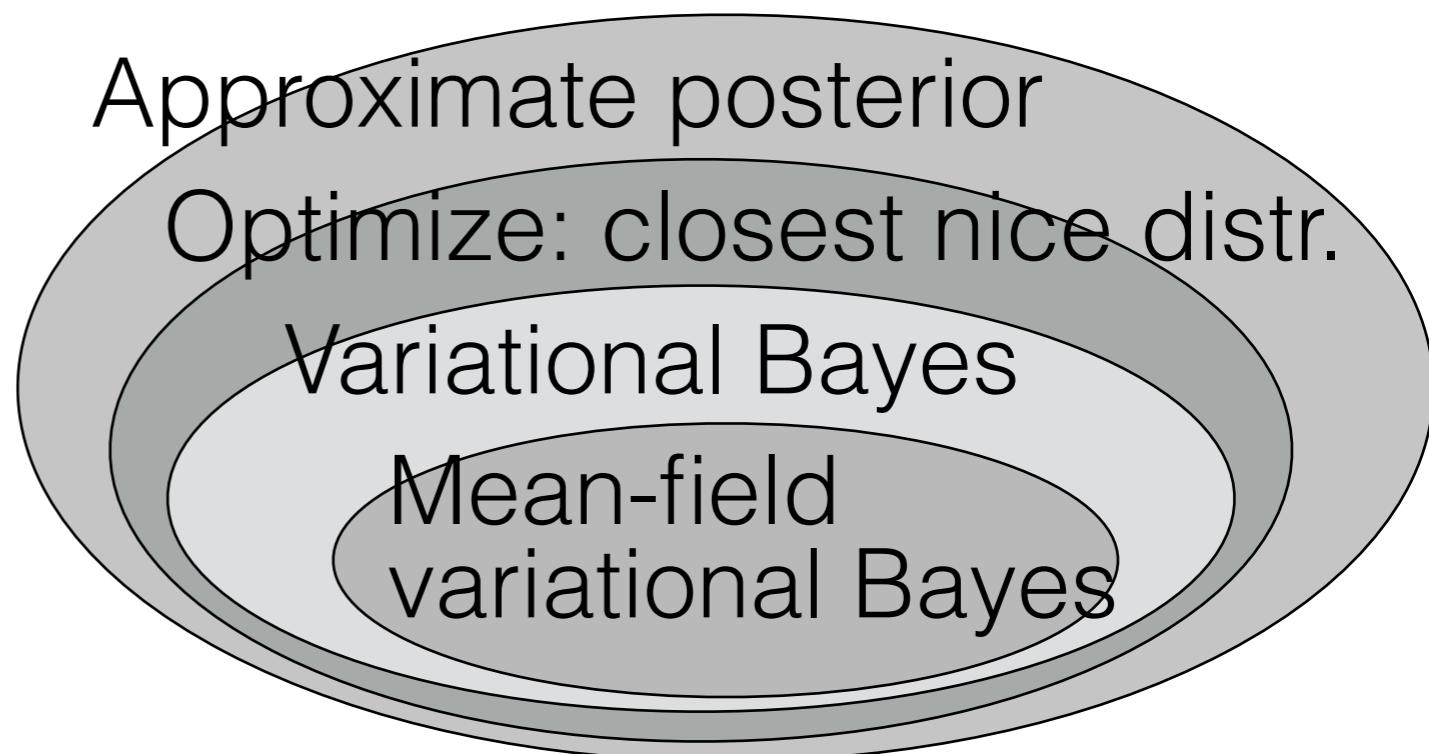
# What can we do?

- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO

[Gorham, Mackey 2015, 2017; Chwialkowski, Strathmann, Gretton 2016; Jitkrittum et al 2017; Talts et al 2018; Yao et al 2018, etc.]



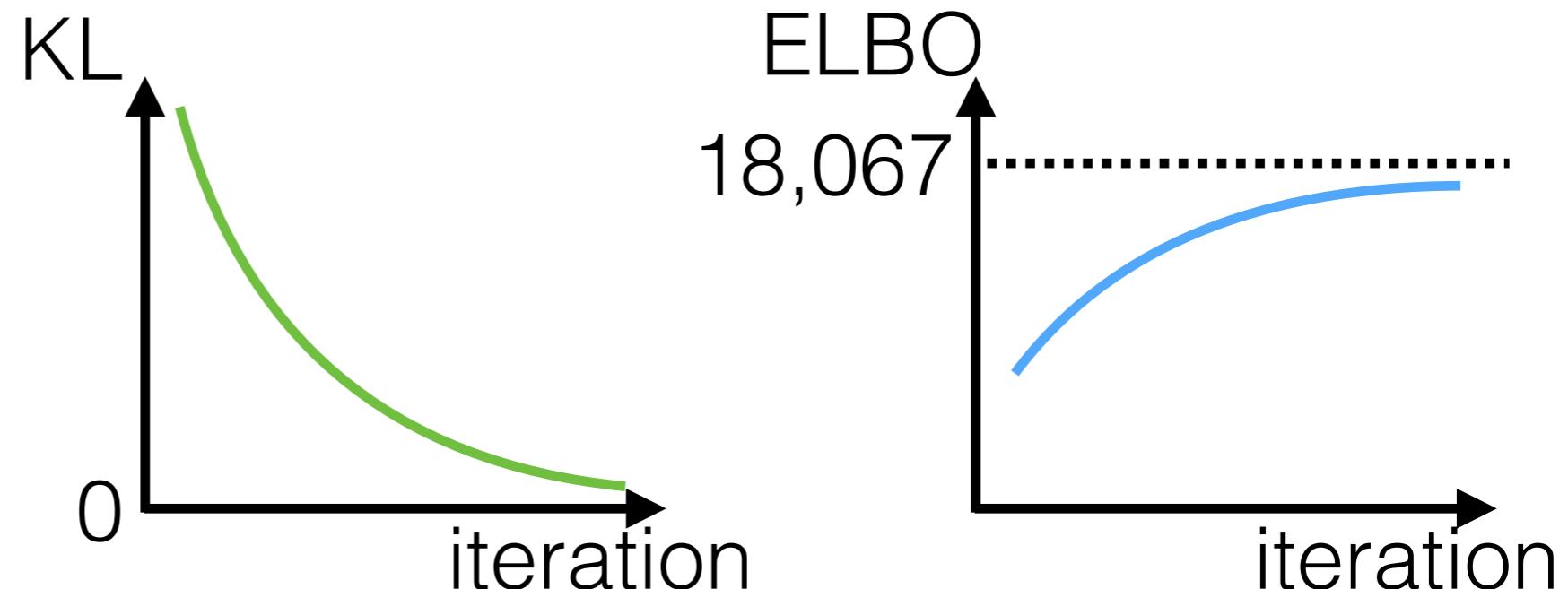
→ “Yes, but did it work? Evaluating variational inference” ICML 2018



# What can we do?

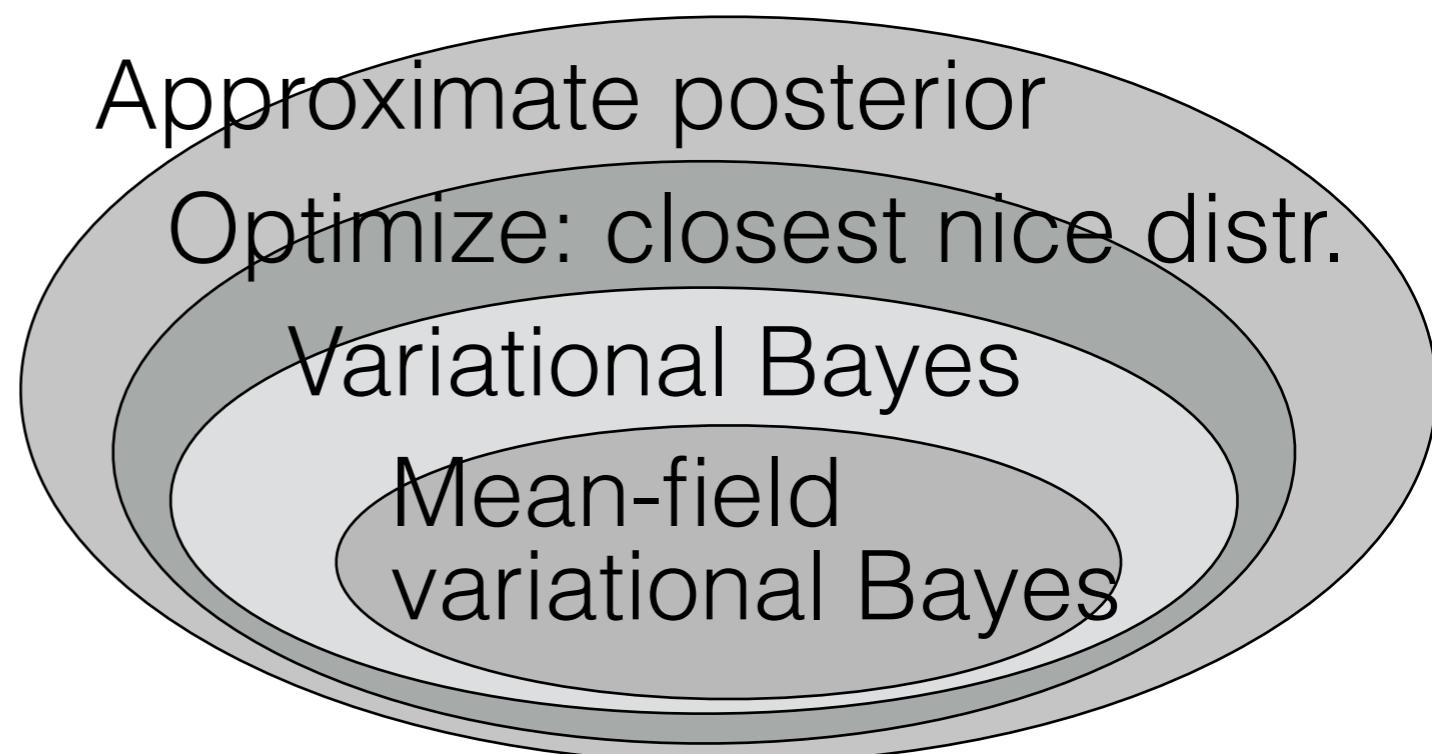
- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO

[Gorham, Mackey 2015, 2017; Chwialkowski, Strathmann, Gretton 2016; Jitkrittum et al 2017; Talts et al 2018; Yao et al 2018, etc.]



- “Yes, but did it work? Evaluating variational inference” ICML 2018
- Alternative divergences:  
Time & accuracy

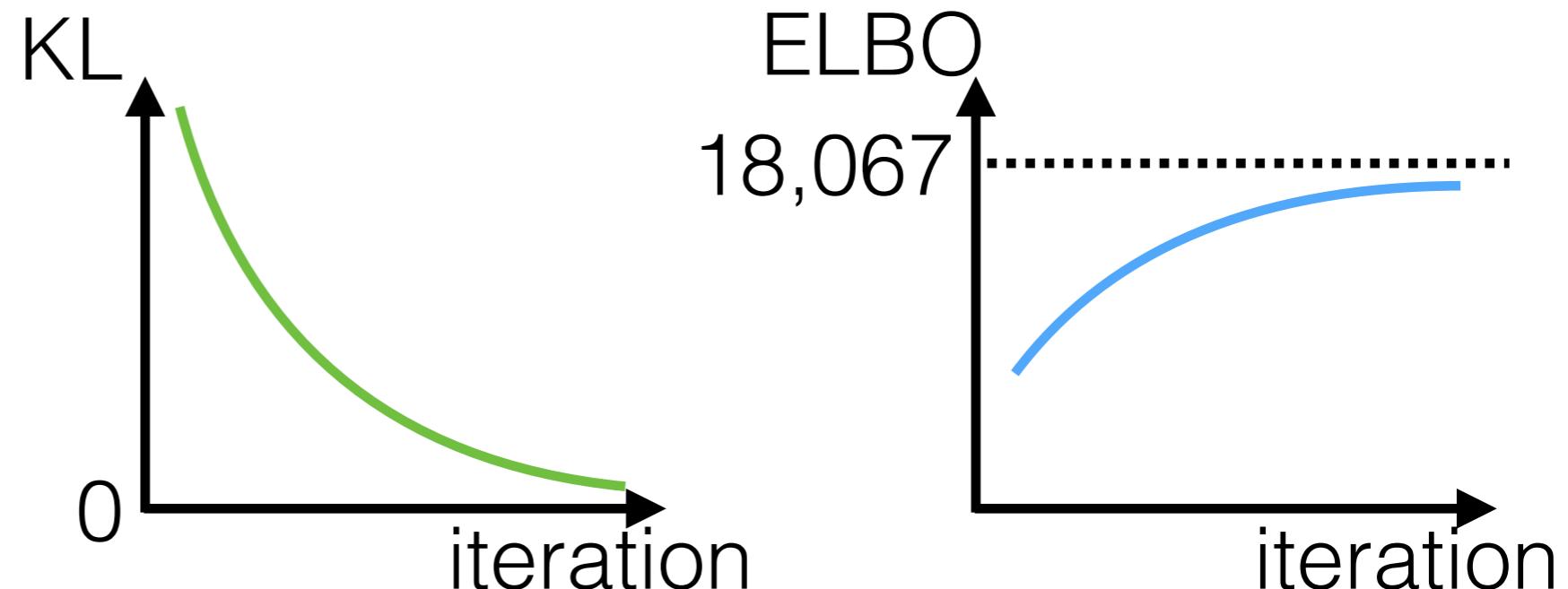
[Huggins, Kasprzak, Campbell, Broderick, 2018]



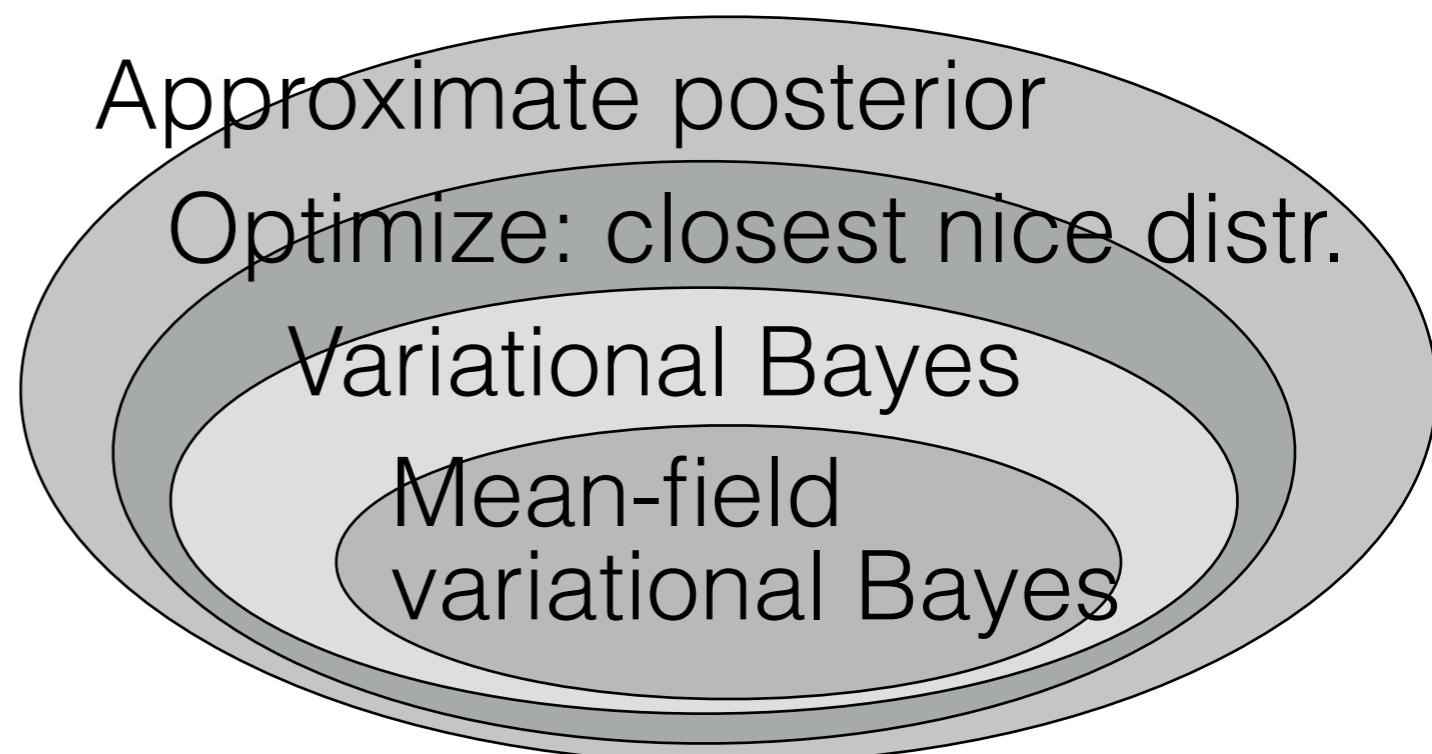
# What can we do?

- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO

[Gorham, Mackey 2015, 2017; Chwialkowski, Strathmann, Gretton 2016; Jitkrittum et al 2017; Talts et al 2018; Yao et al 2018, etc.]



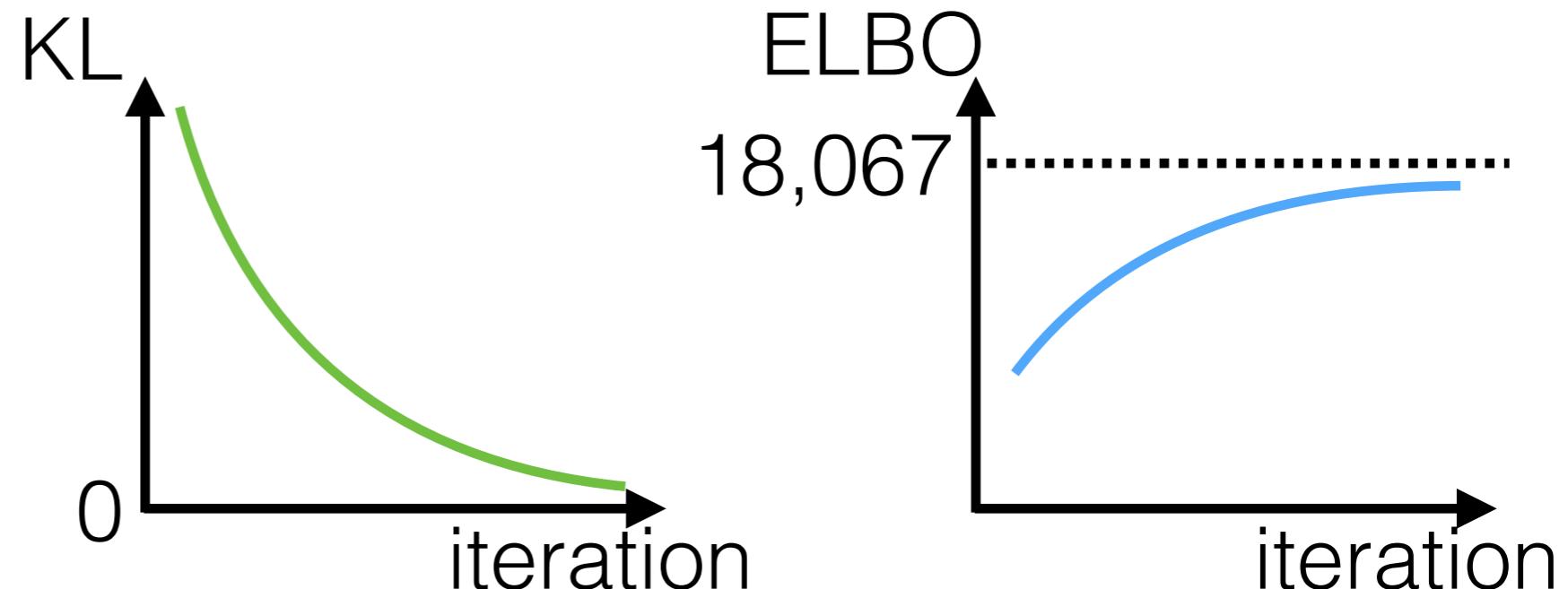
- “Yes, but did it work? Evaluating variational inference” ICML 2018
- Alternative divergences:  
Time & accuracy  
[Huggins, Kasprzak, Campbell, Broderick, 2018]
  - Corrections  
[Giordano, Broderick, Jordan 2018]



# What can we do?

- Reliable diagnostics
  - cf. KL, ELBO

[Gorham, Mackey 2015, 2017; Chwialkowski, Strathmann, Gretton 2016; Jitkrittum et al 2017; Talts et al 2018; Yao et al 2018, etc.]



→ “Yes, but did it work? Evaluating variational inference” ICML 2018

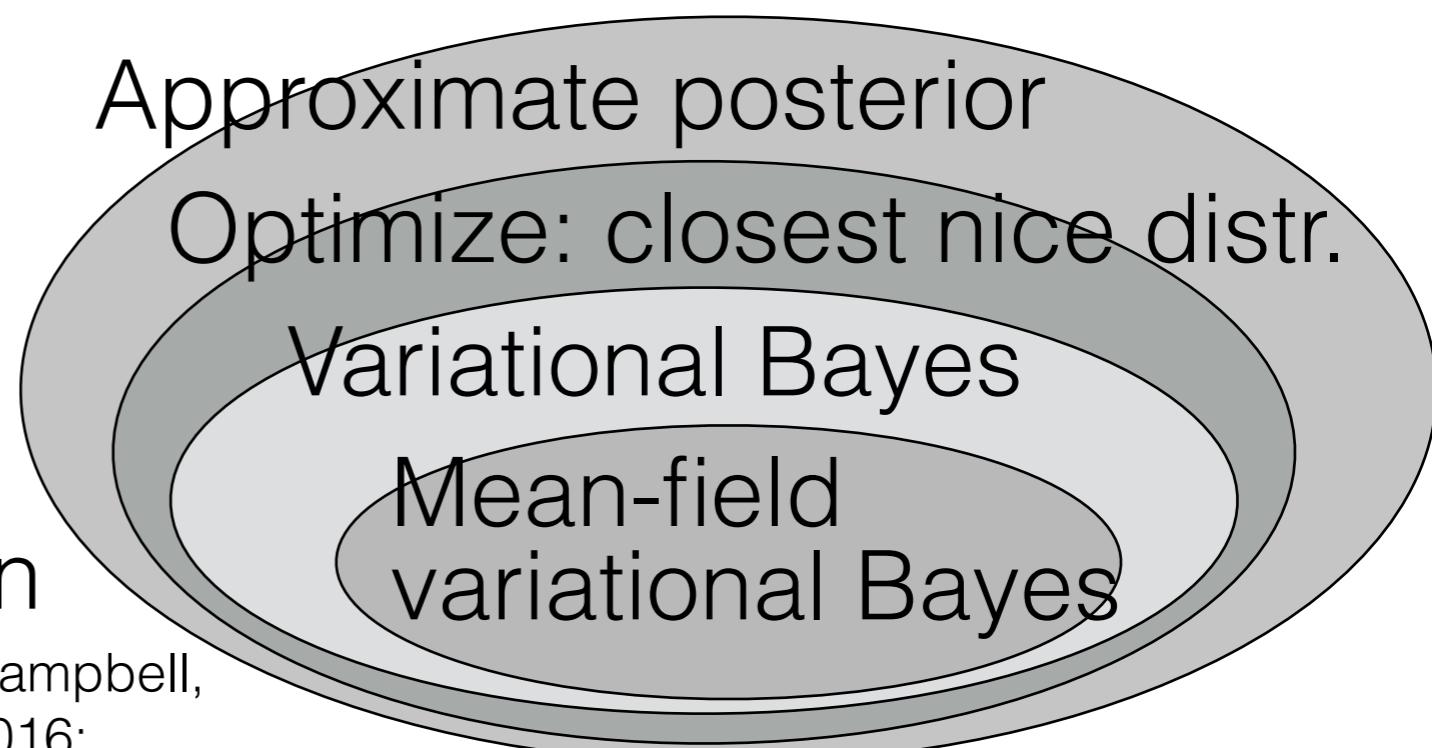
- Alternative divergences:  
Time & accuracy

[Huggins, Kasprzak, Campbell, Broderick, 2018]

- Corrections [Giordano, Broderick, Jordan 2018]

- Theoretical guarantees on finite-data quality

[Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016; Campbell, Broderick 2018, 2019]



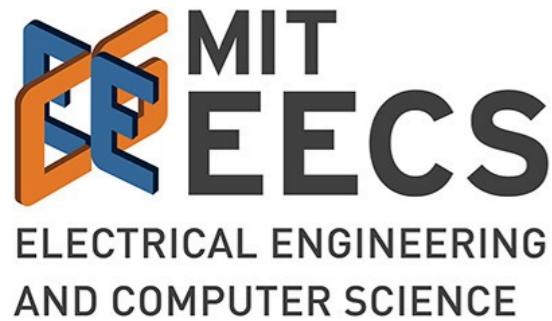
# What to read next

## Textbooks and Reviews

- Bishop. *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning*, Ch 10. 2006.
- Blei, Kucukelbir, McAuliffe. Variational inference: A review for statisticians, *JASA* 2016.
- MacKay. *Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms*, Ch 33. 2003.
- Murphy. *Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective*, Ch 21. 2012.
- Ormerod, Wand. Explaining Variational Approximations. *Amer Stat* 2010.
- Turner, Sahani. Two problems with variational expectation maximisation for time-series models. In *Bayesian Time Series Models*, 2011.
- Wainwright, Jordan. Graphical models, exponential families, and variational inference. *Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning*, 2008.

## Our Experiments

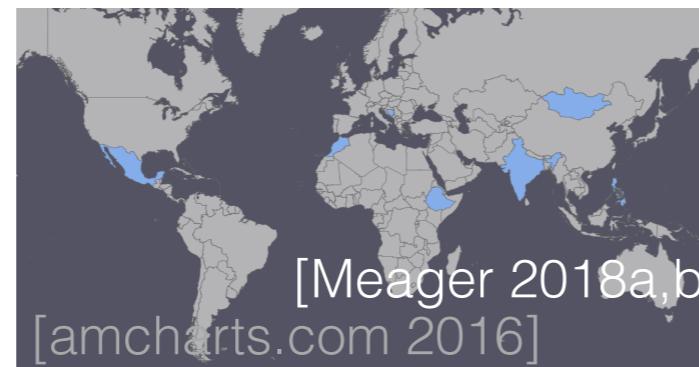
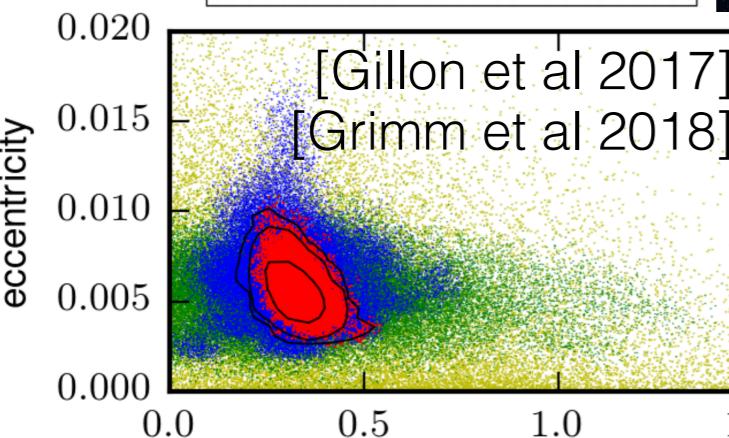
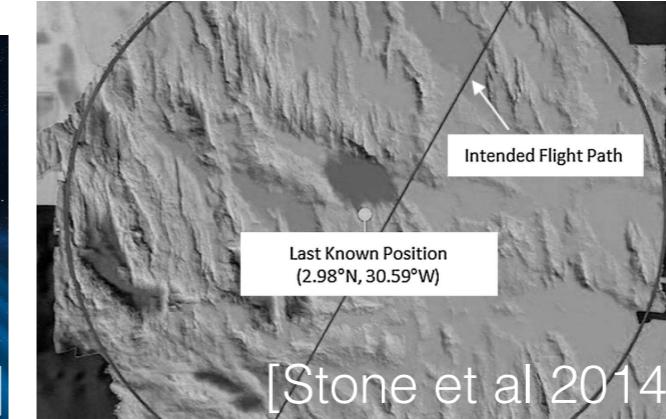
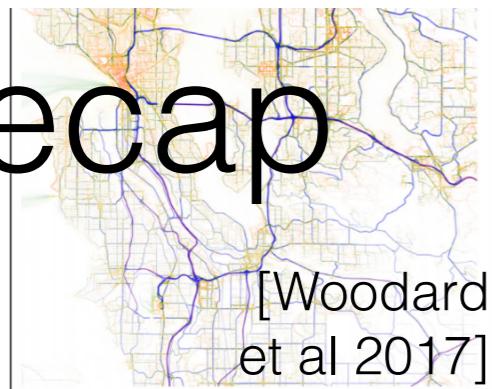
- RJ Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Linear response methods for accurate covariance estimates from mean field variational Bayes. *NeurIPS* 2015.
- RJ Giordano, T Broderick, R Meager, J Huggins, and MI Jordan. Fast robustness quantification with variational Bayes. *ICML Data4Good Workshop* 2016.
- RJ Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Covariances, robustness, and variational Bayes. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2018.
- J Huggins, M Kasprzak, T Campbell, T Broderick. Practical bounds on the error of Bayesian posterior approximations: A nonasymptotic approach, 2018. ArXiv: 1809.09505.



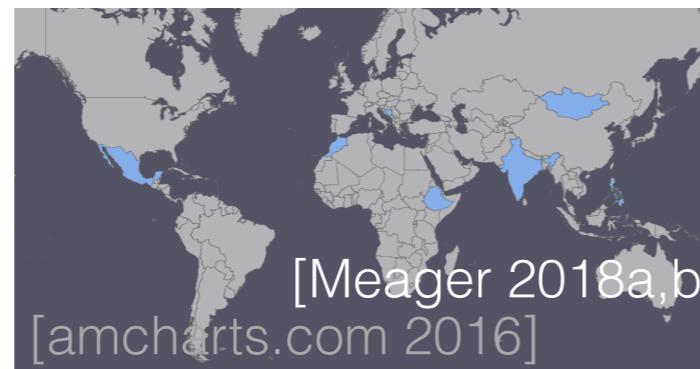
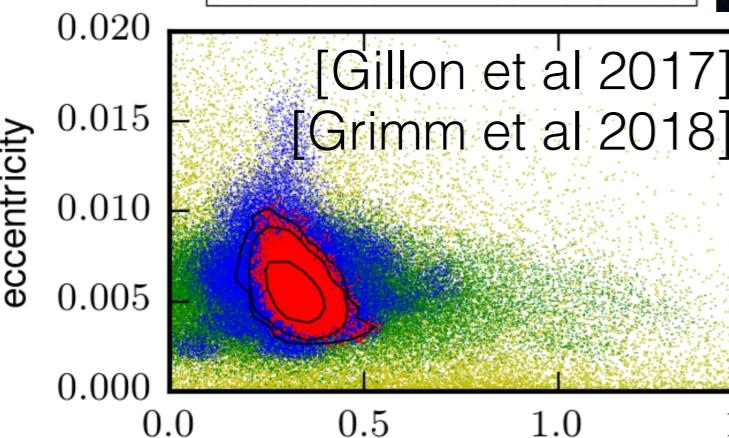
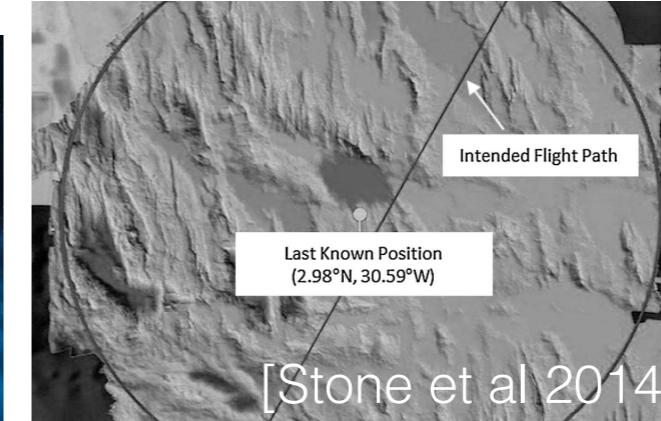
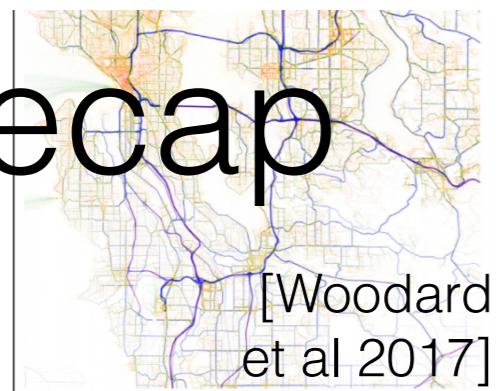
# Automated, Scalable Bayesian Inference via Data Summarization

<http://www.tamarabroderick.com/tutorials.html>

# Recap

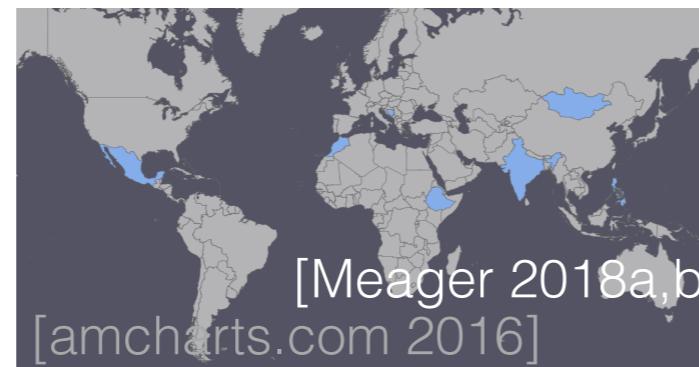
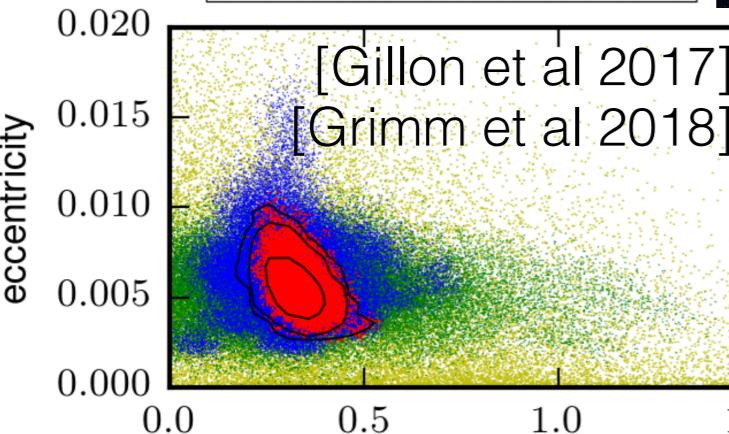
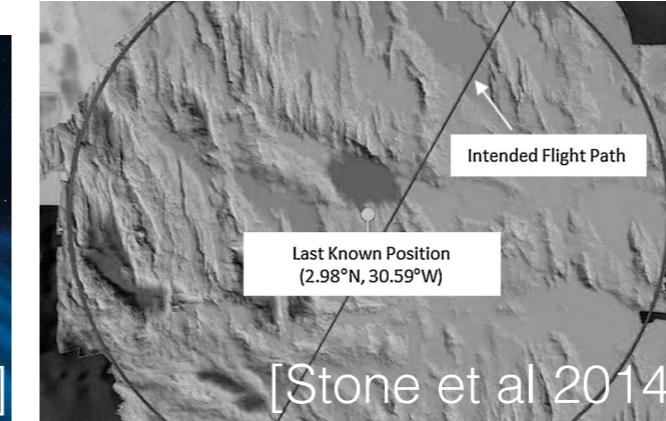
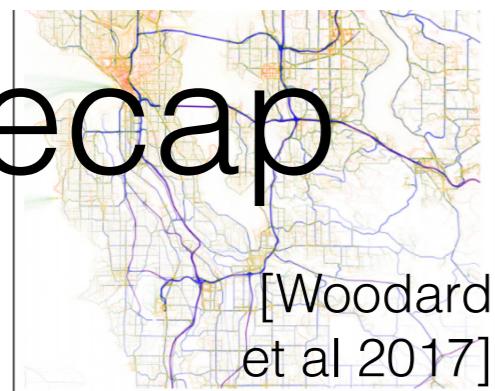


# Recap

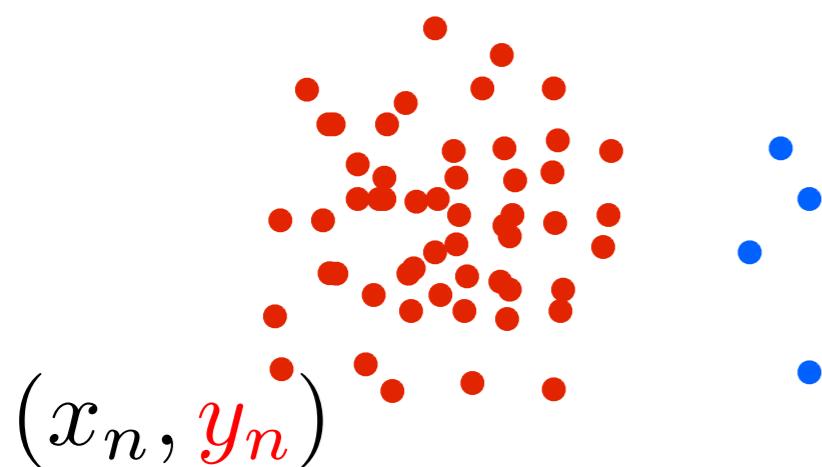


$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$
$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

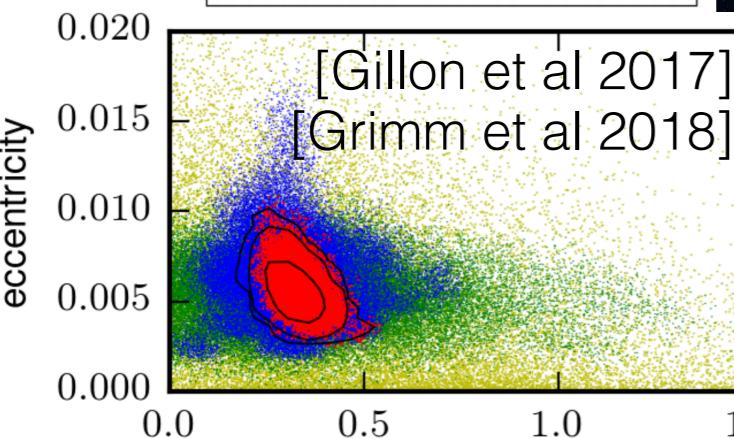
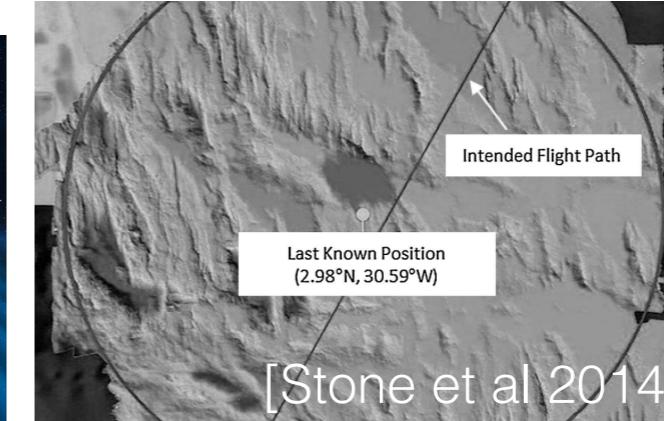
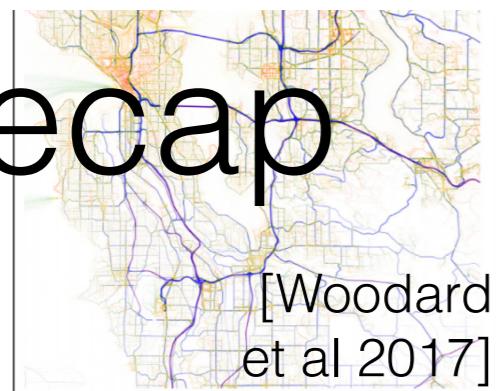
# Recap



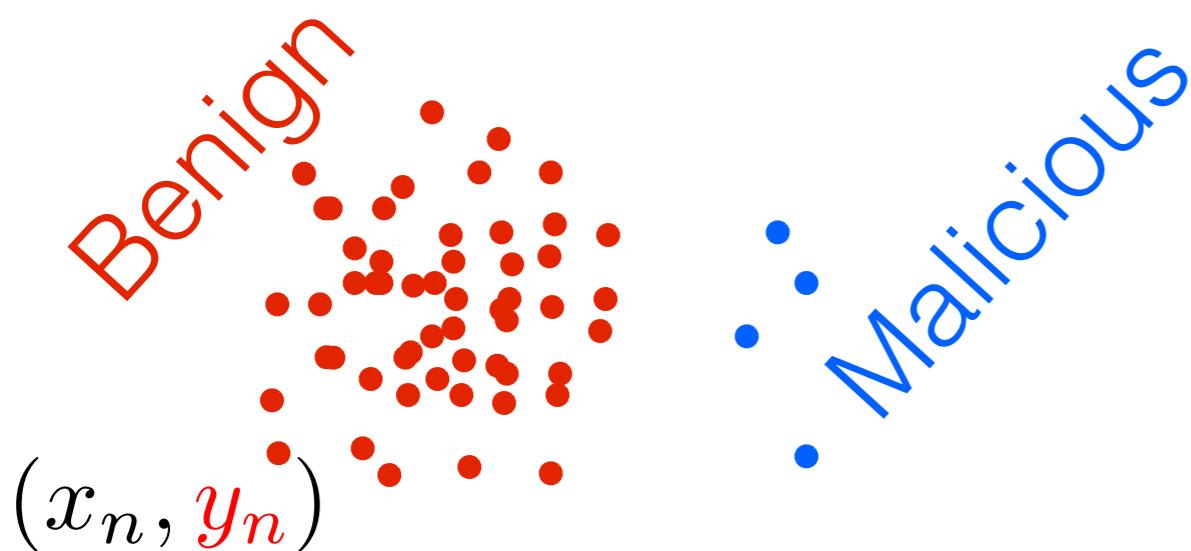
$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$
$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$



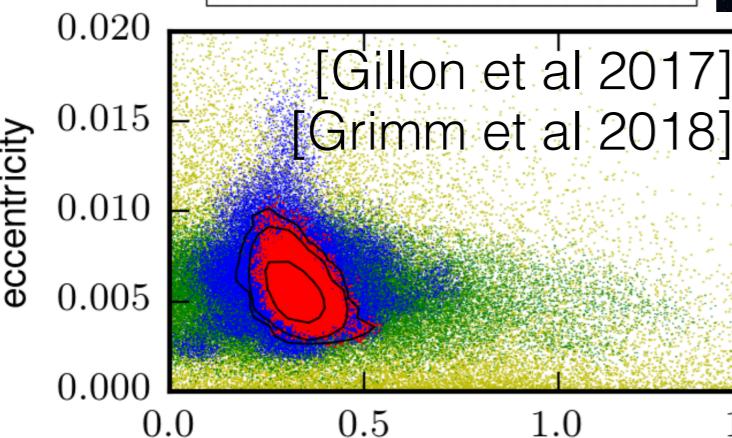
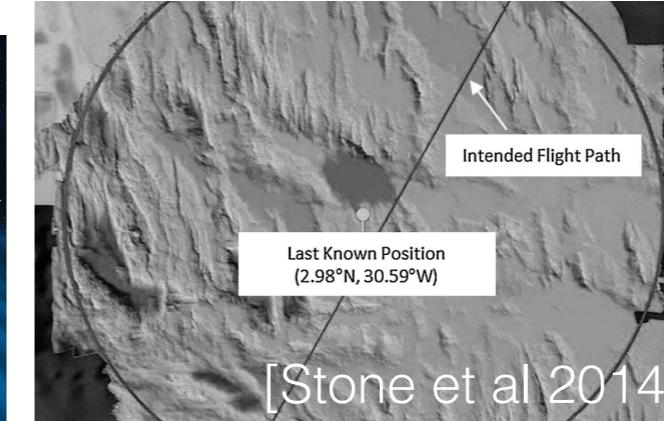
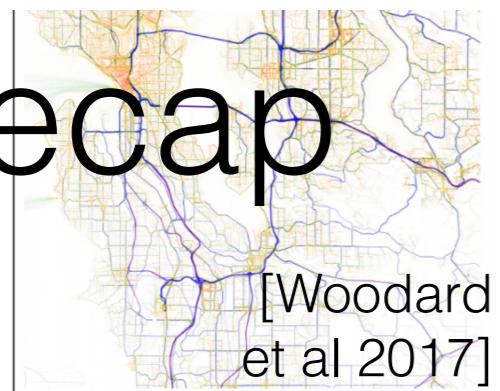
# Recap



$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$
$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

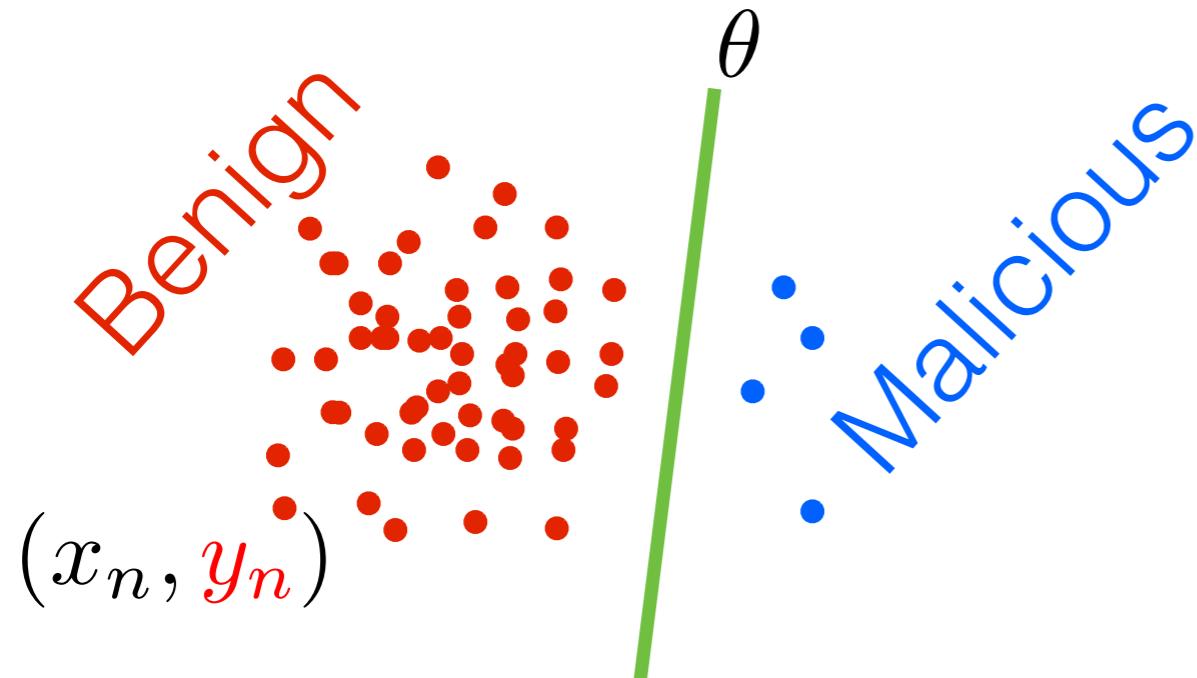


# Recap

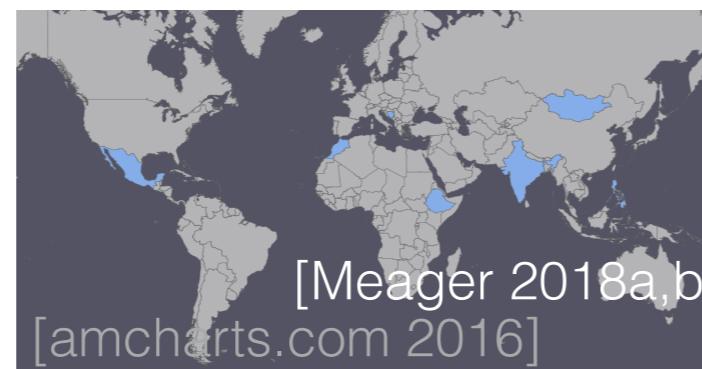
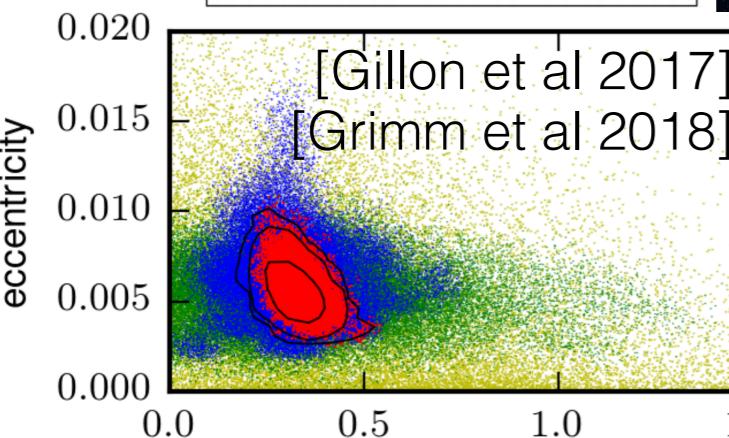
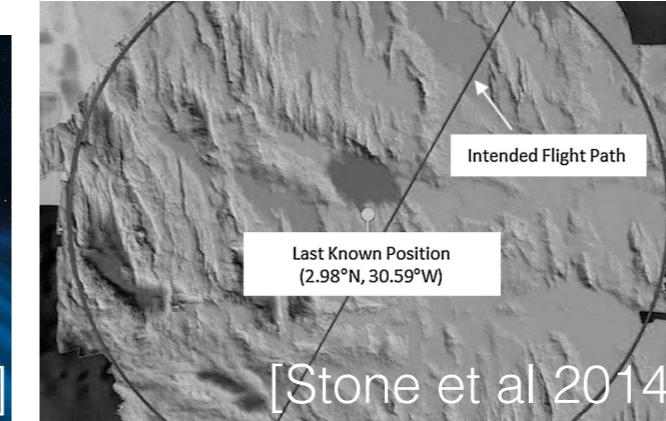
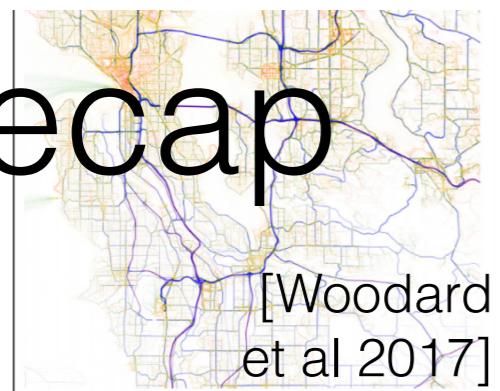


$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$

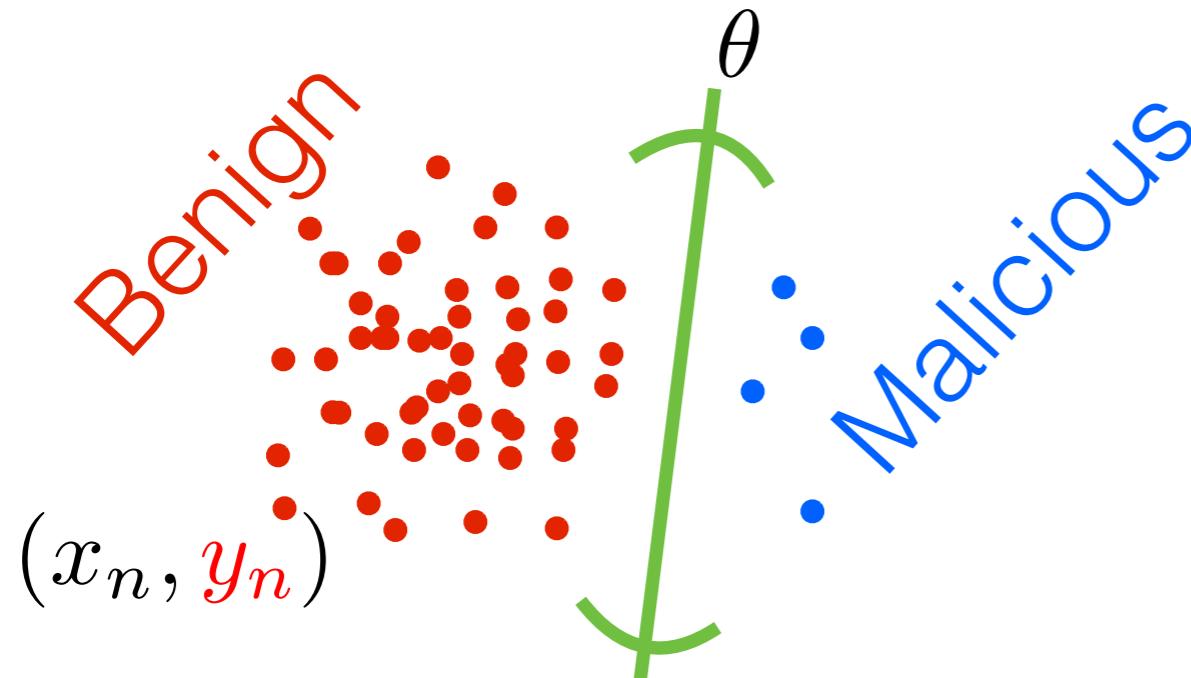
$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$



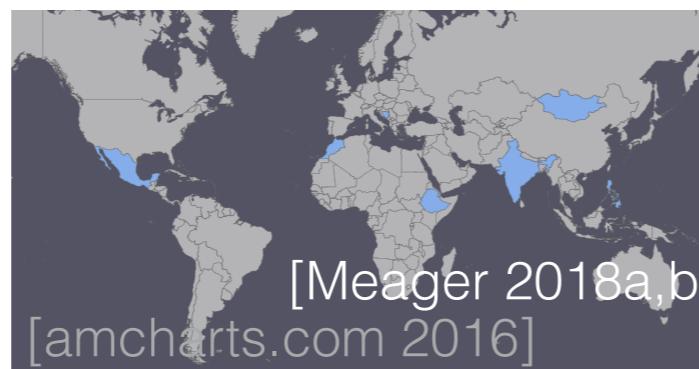
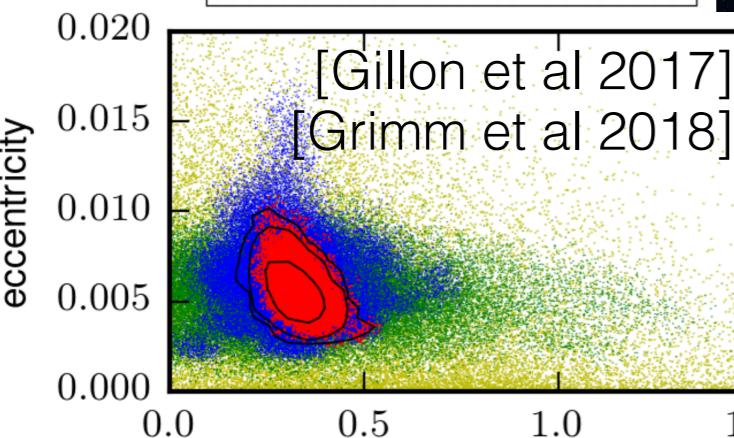
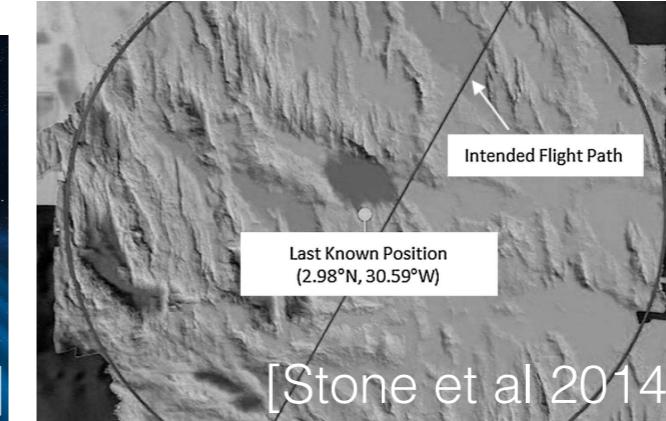
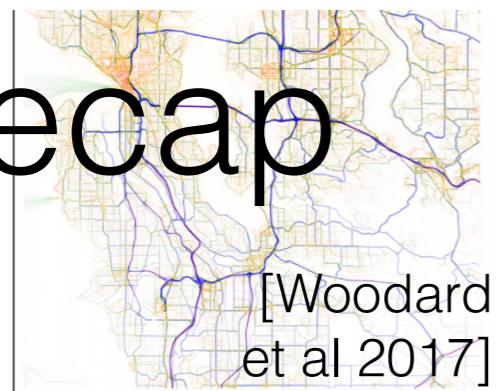
# Recap



$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$
$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

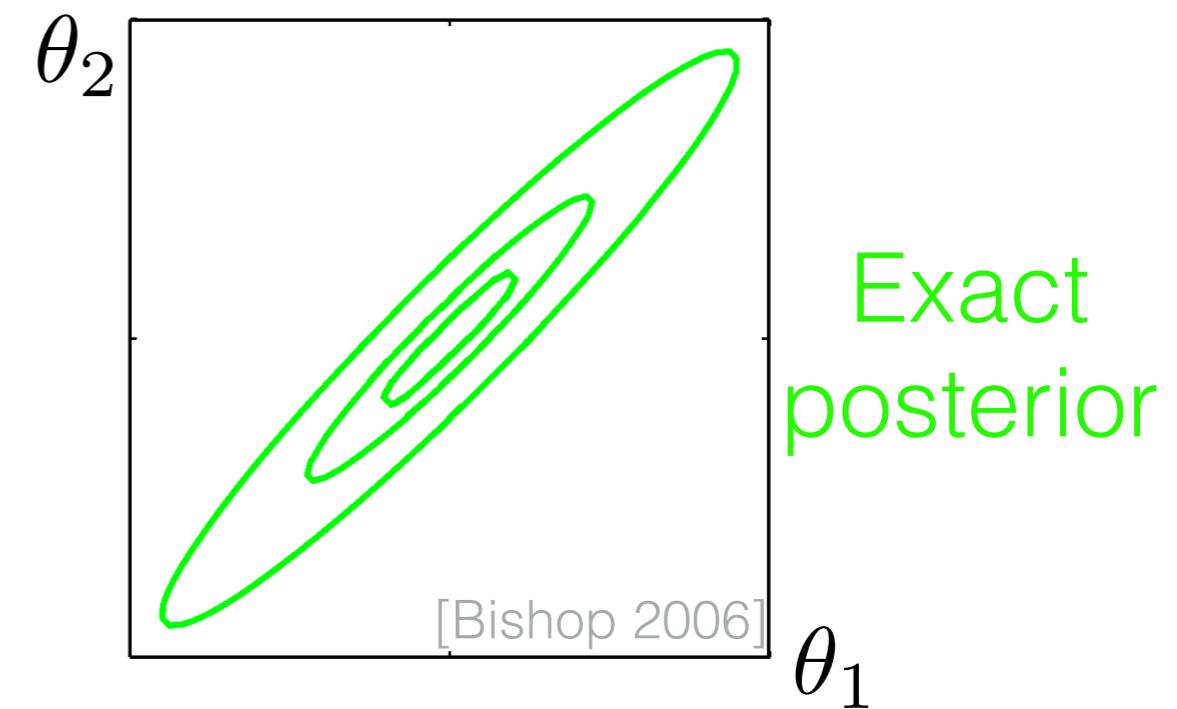
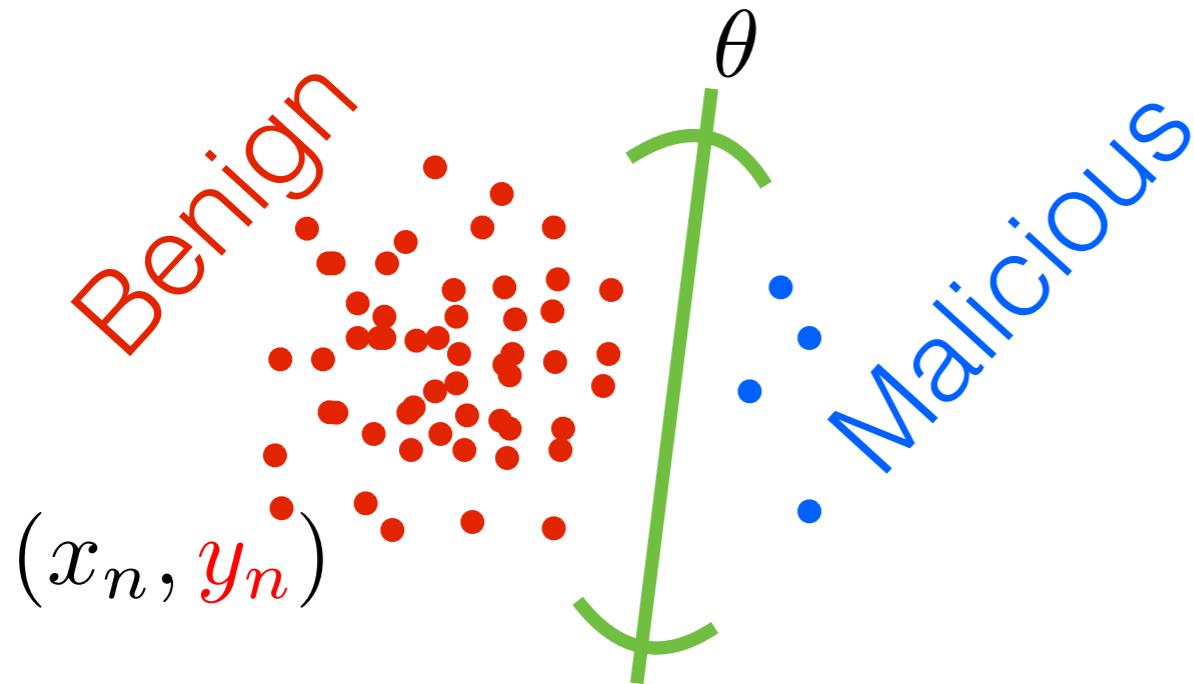


# Recap

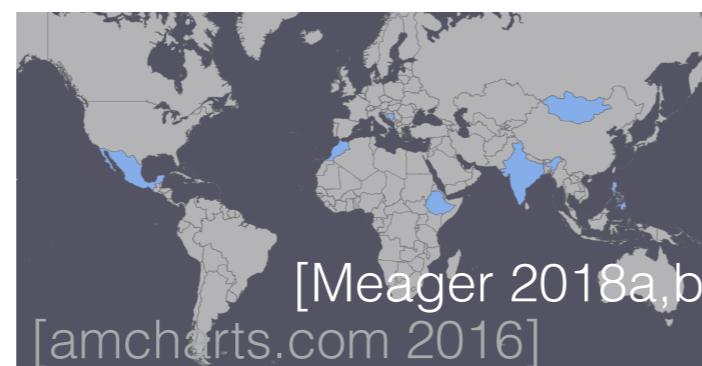
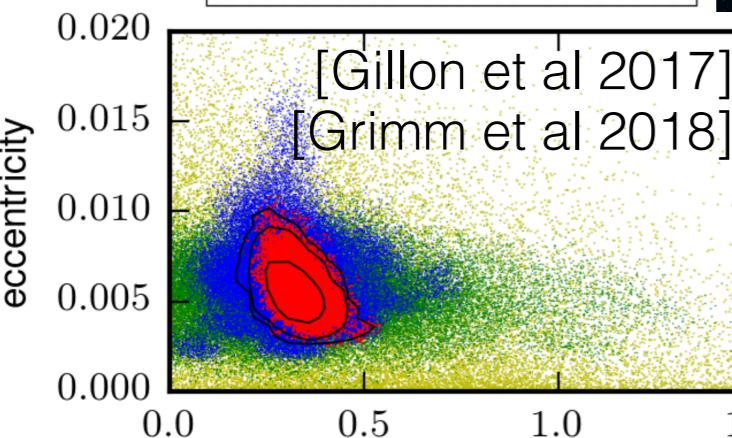
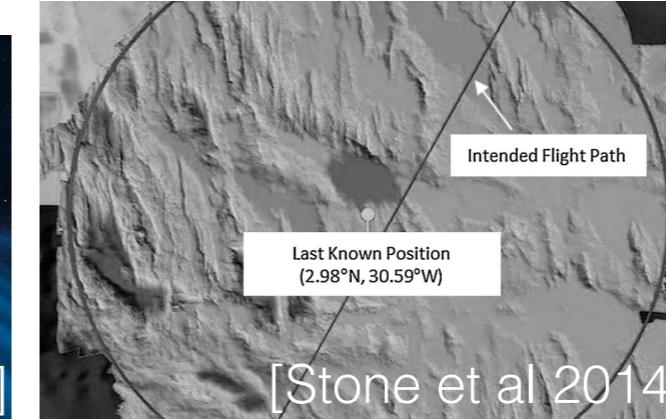
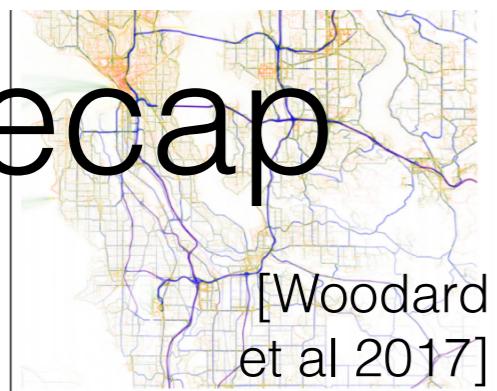


$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$

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

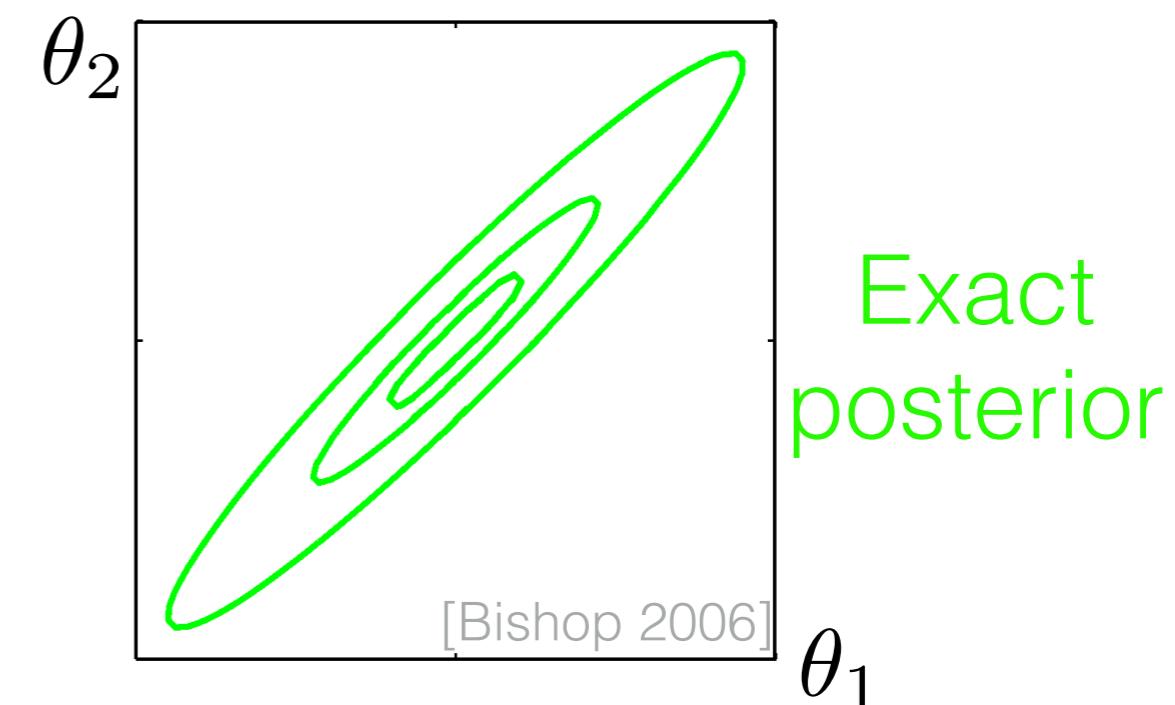
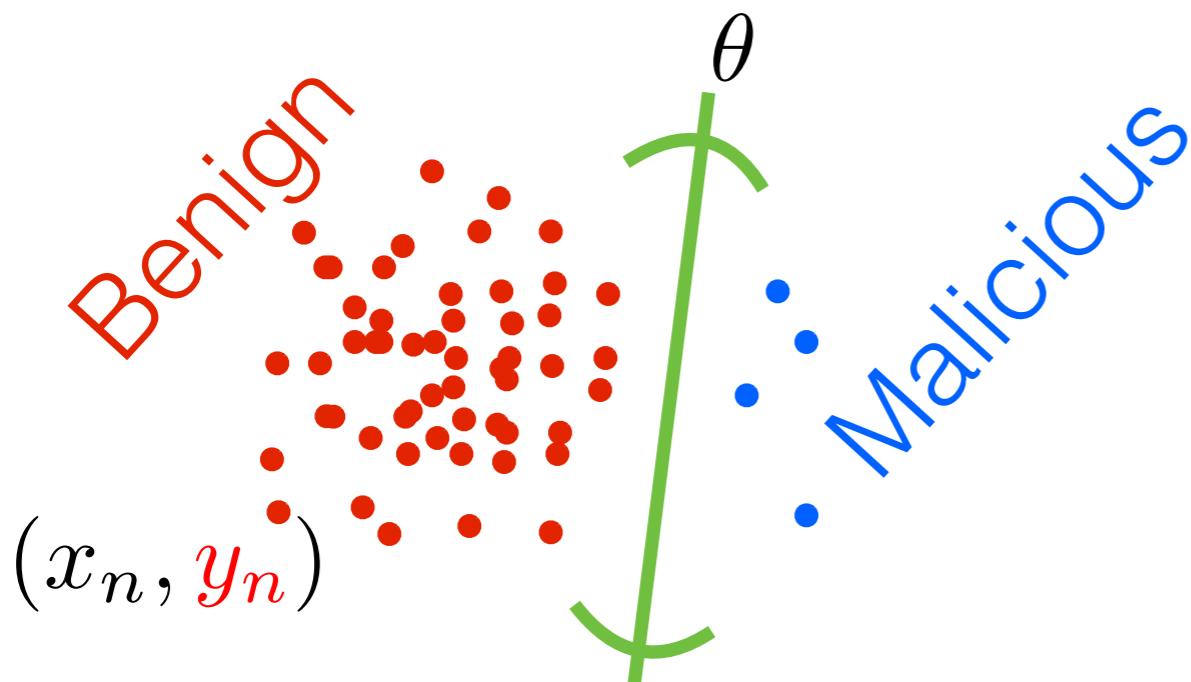


# Recap



$$\text{posterior} \quad \text{likelihood} \quad \text{prior}$$

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



- Proposal: *efficient data summaries for fast, automated, approximations with error bounds for finite data*

# Roadmap

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

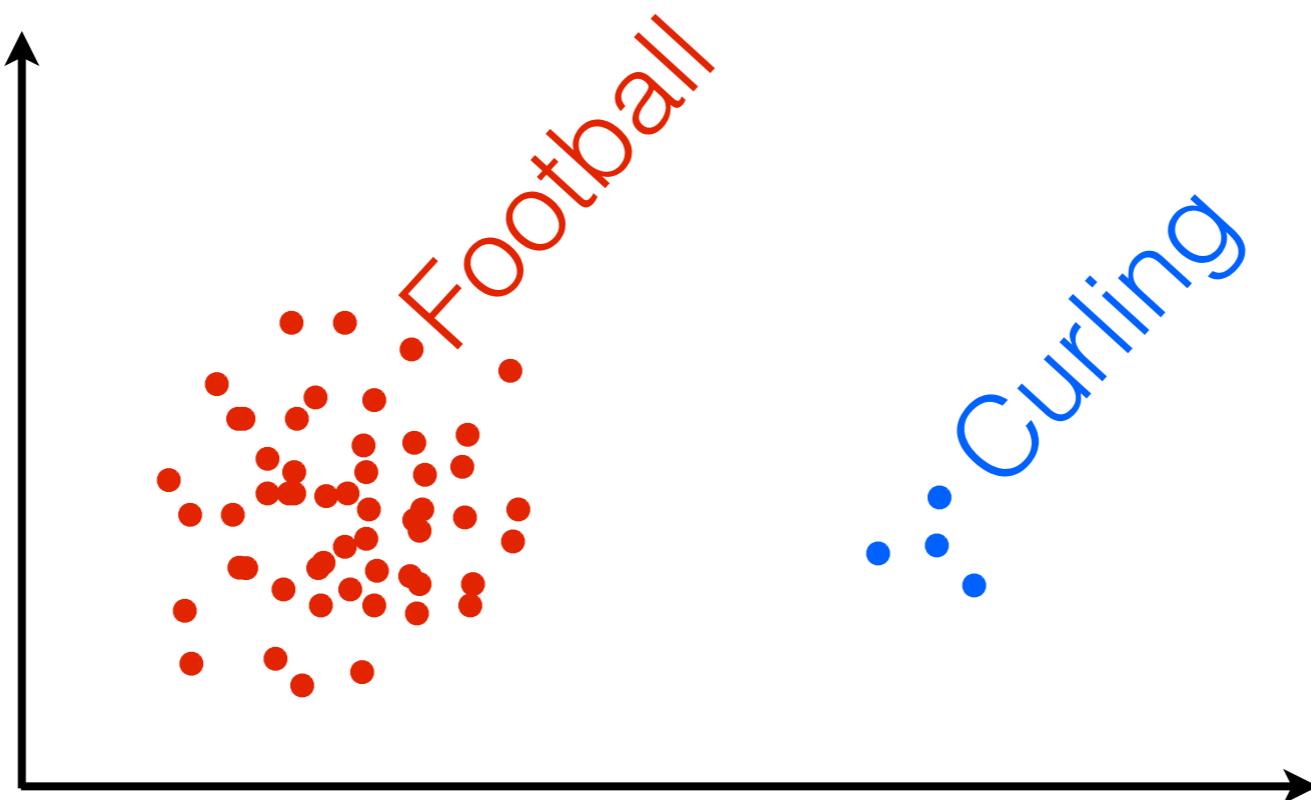
# “Core” of the data set

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”

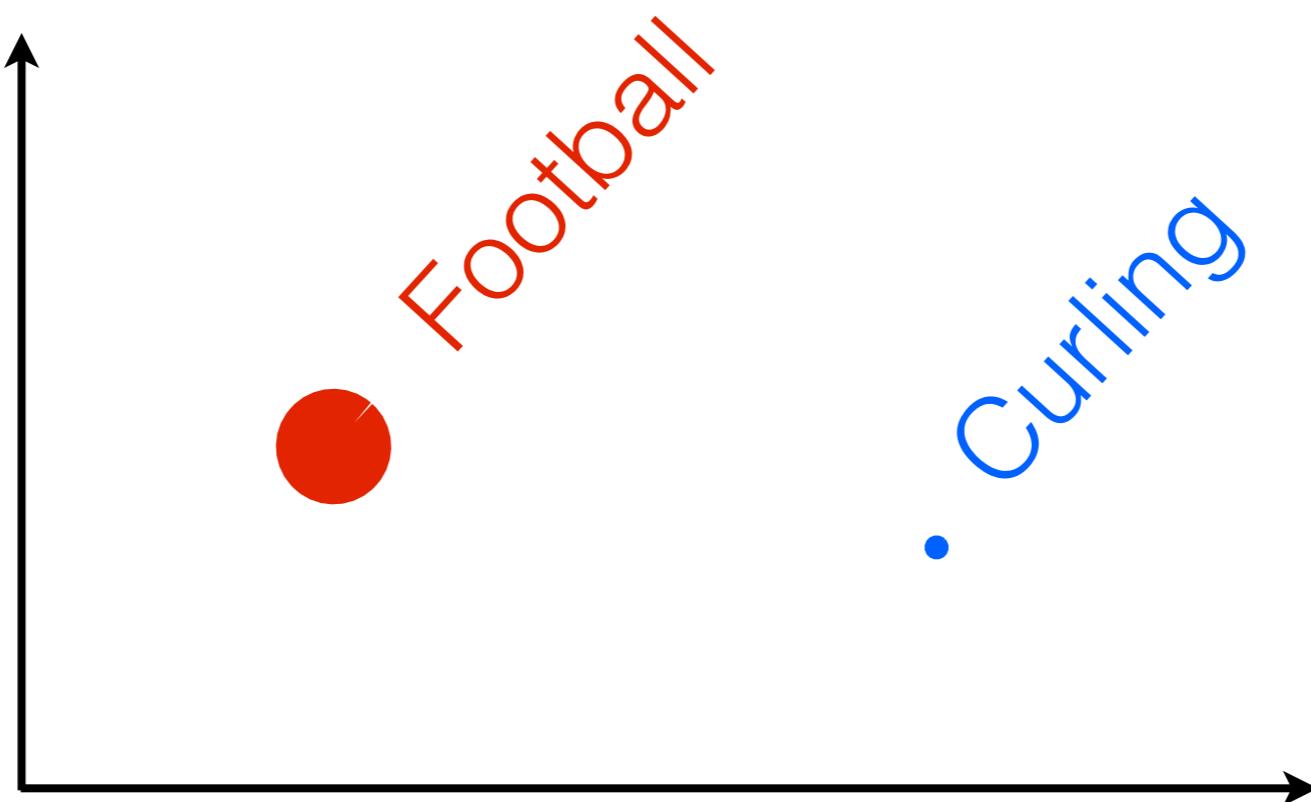
# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”



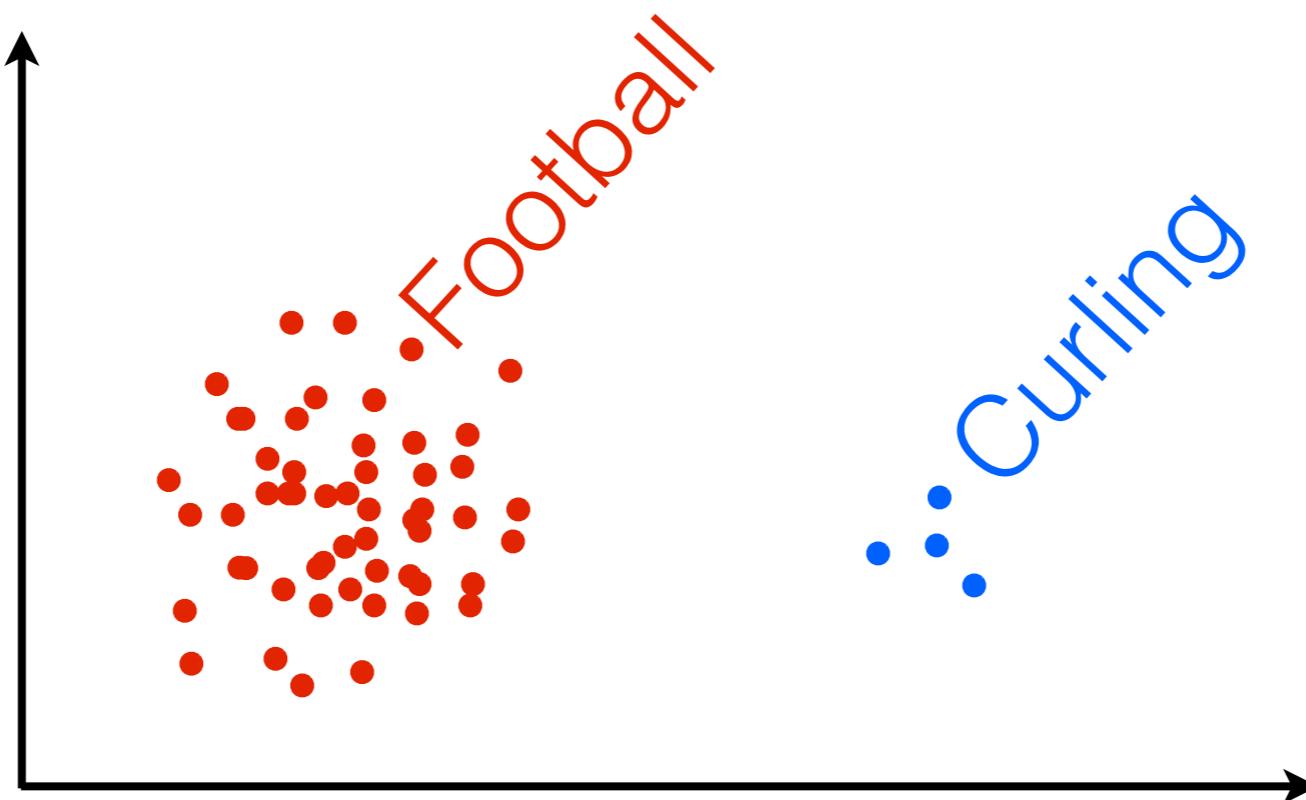
# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”



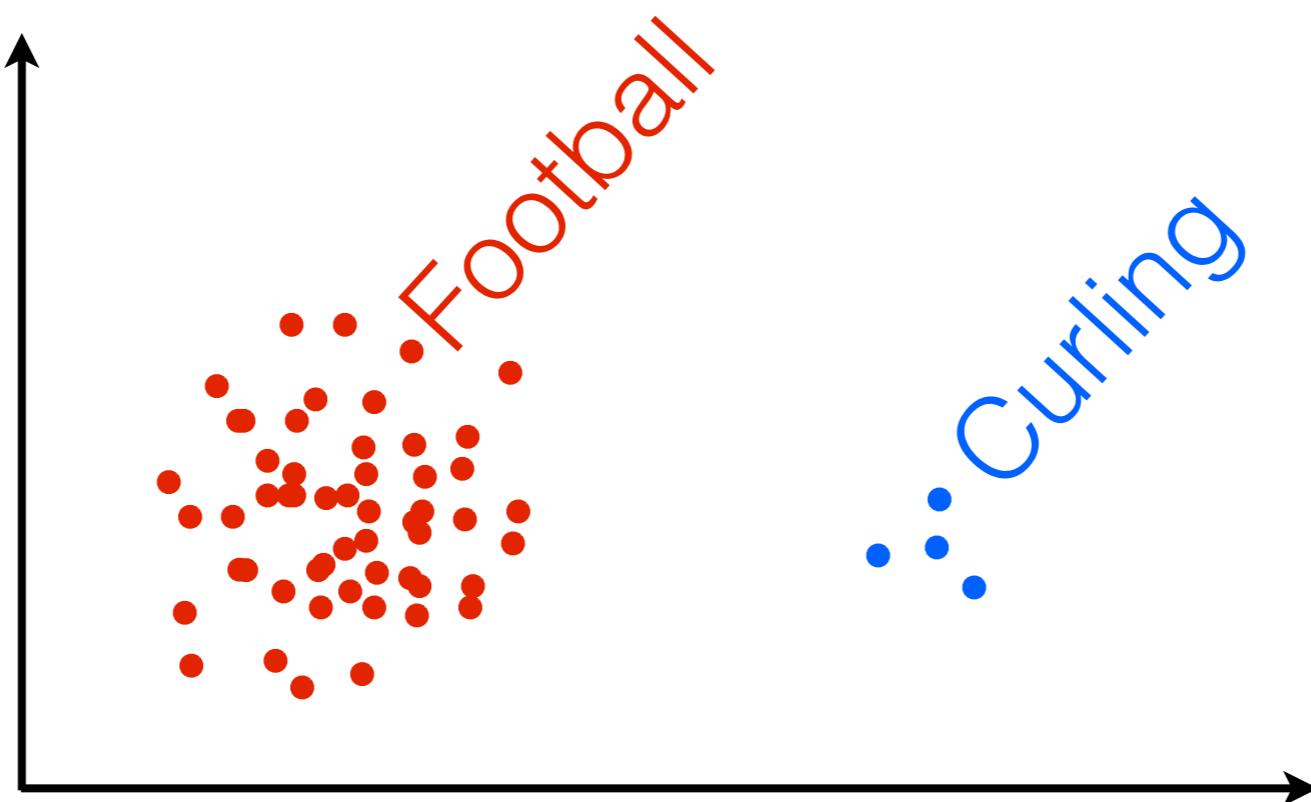
# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”



# “Core” of the data set

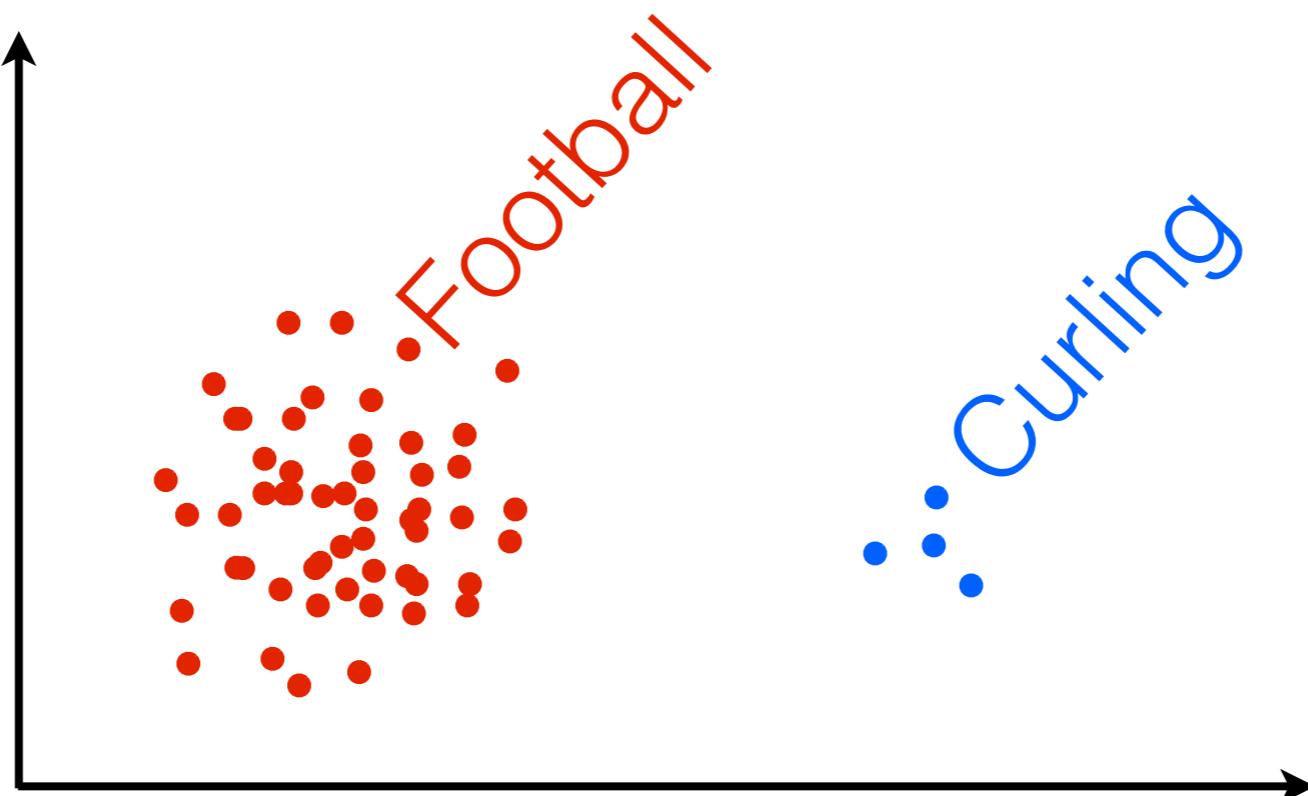
- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005; Feldman & Langberg 2011]

# “Core” of the data set

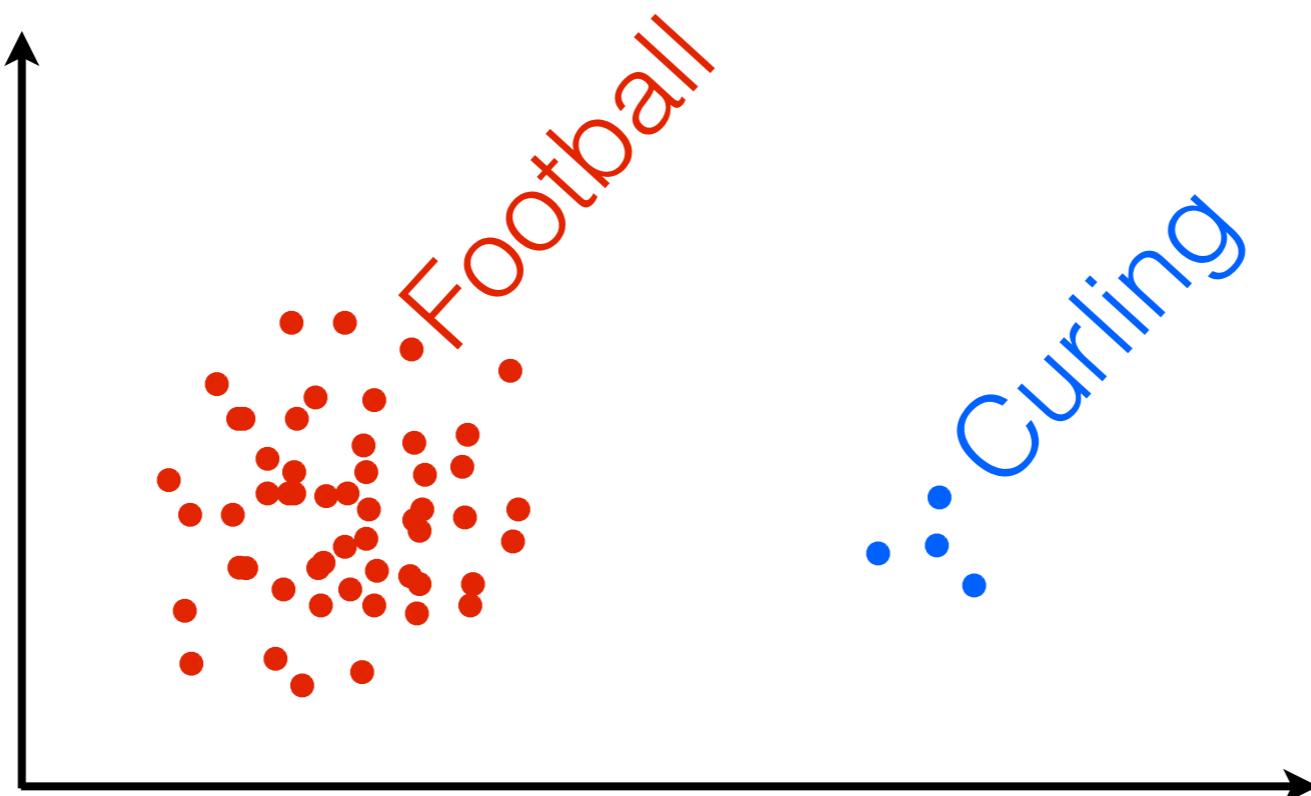
- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality

# “Core” of the data set

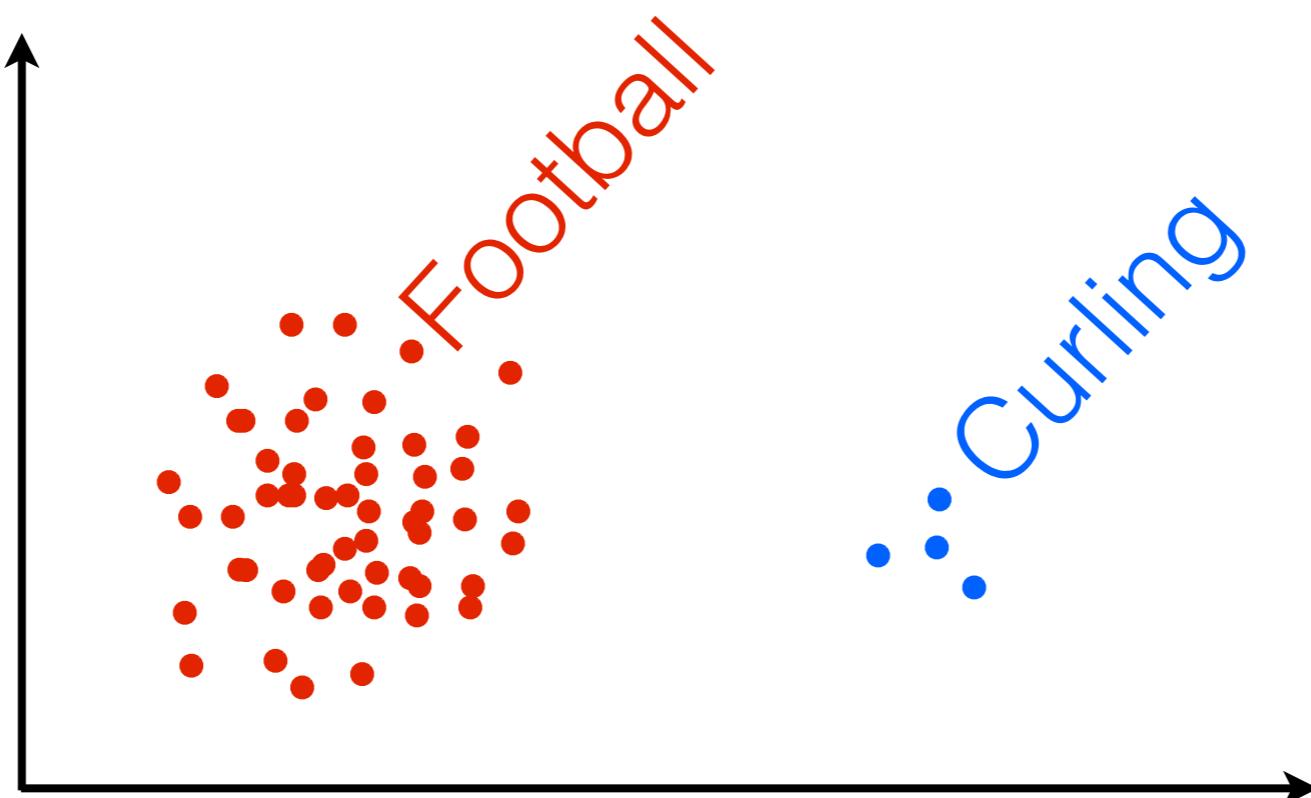
- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn't “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for Bayes?**

# “Core” of the data set

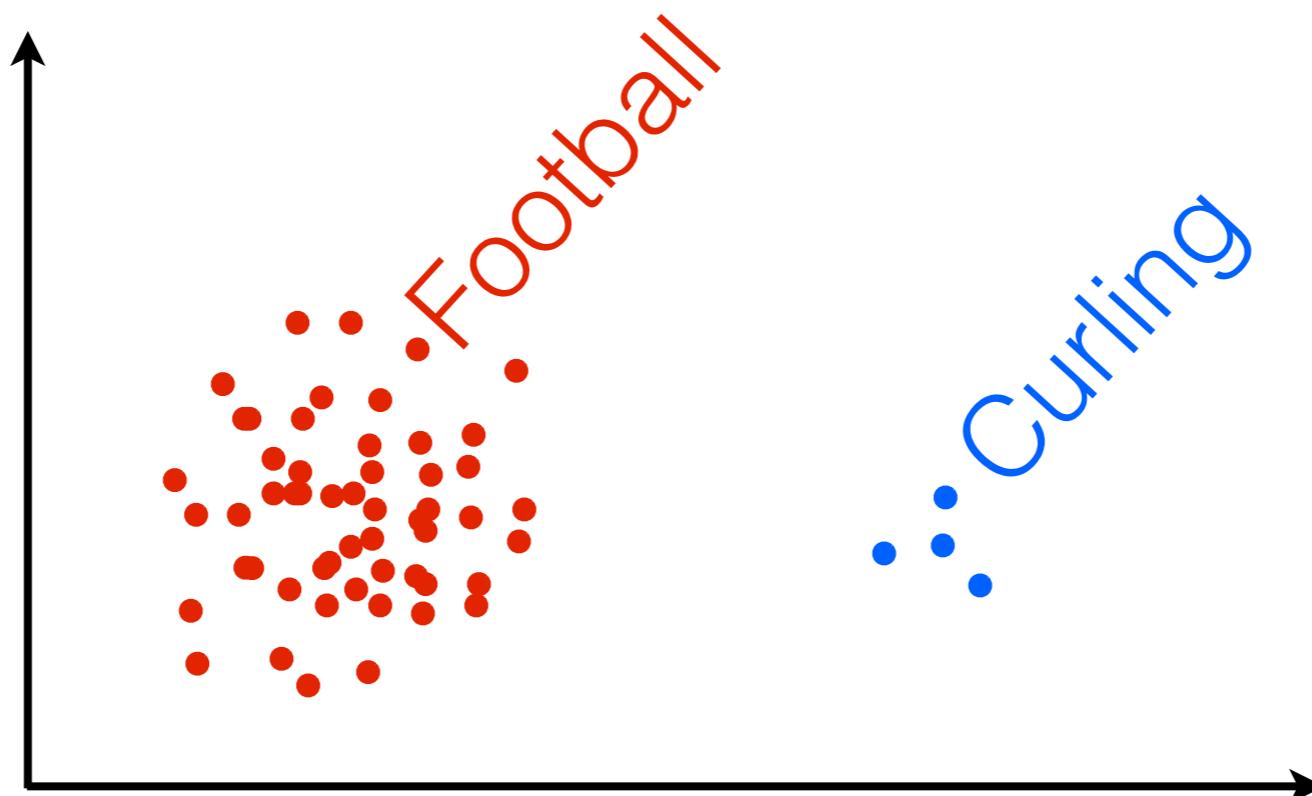
- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs

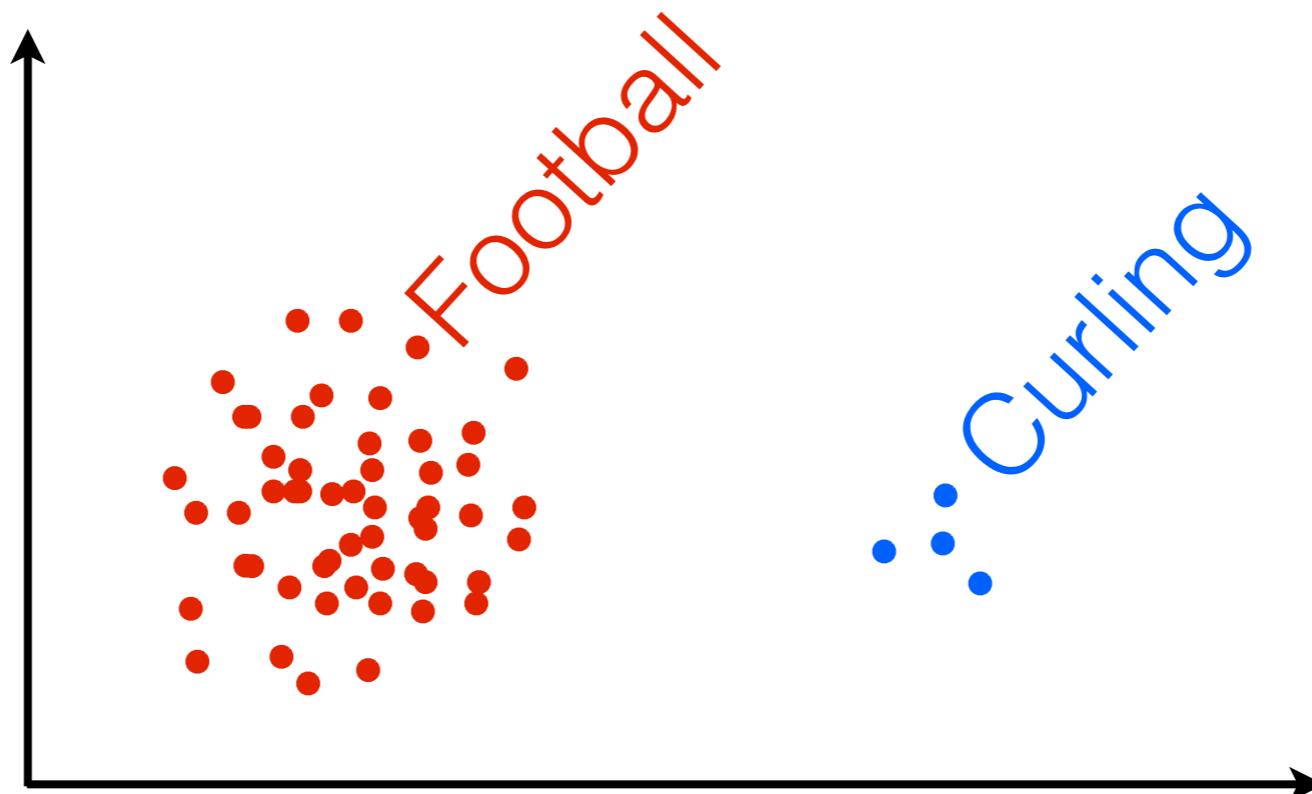
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs
- Compare to subsampling

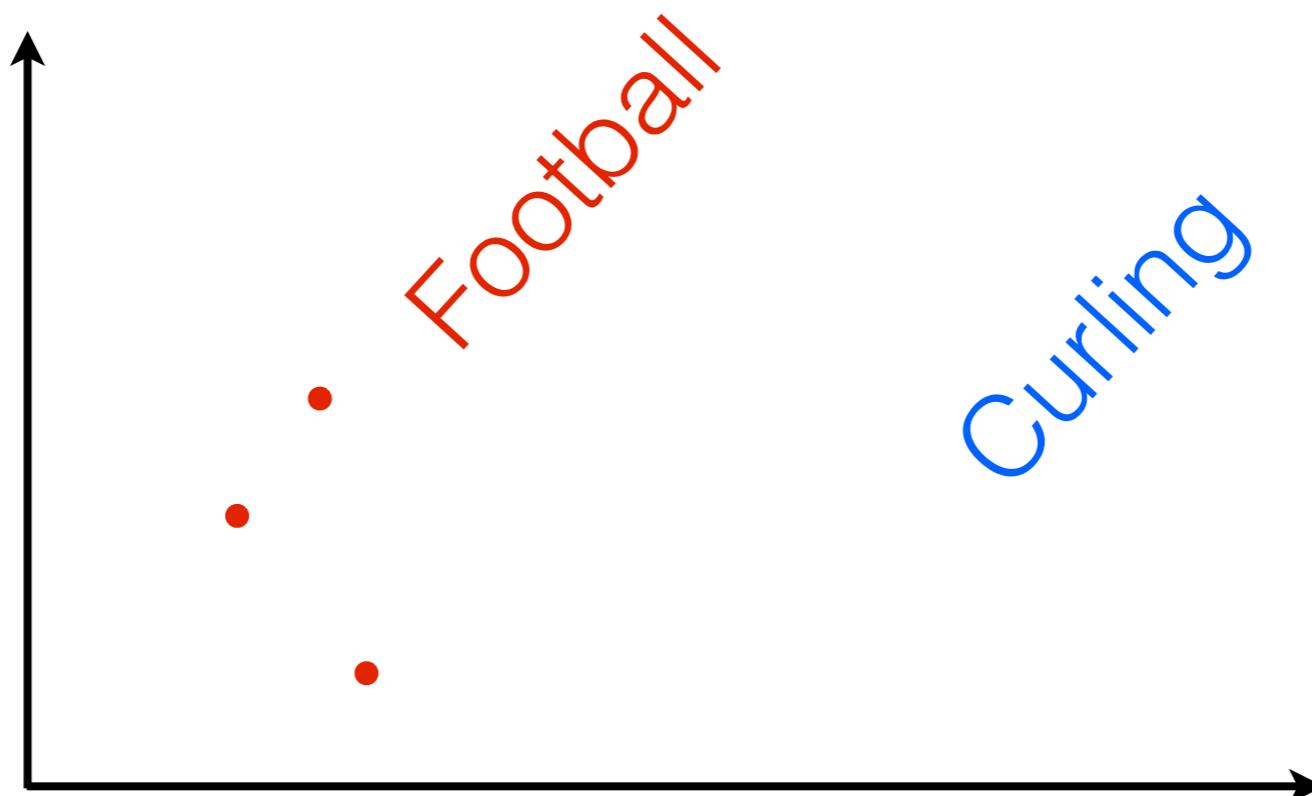
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs
- Compare to subsampling

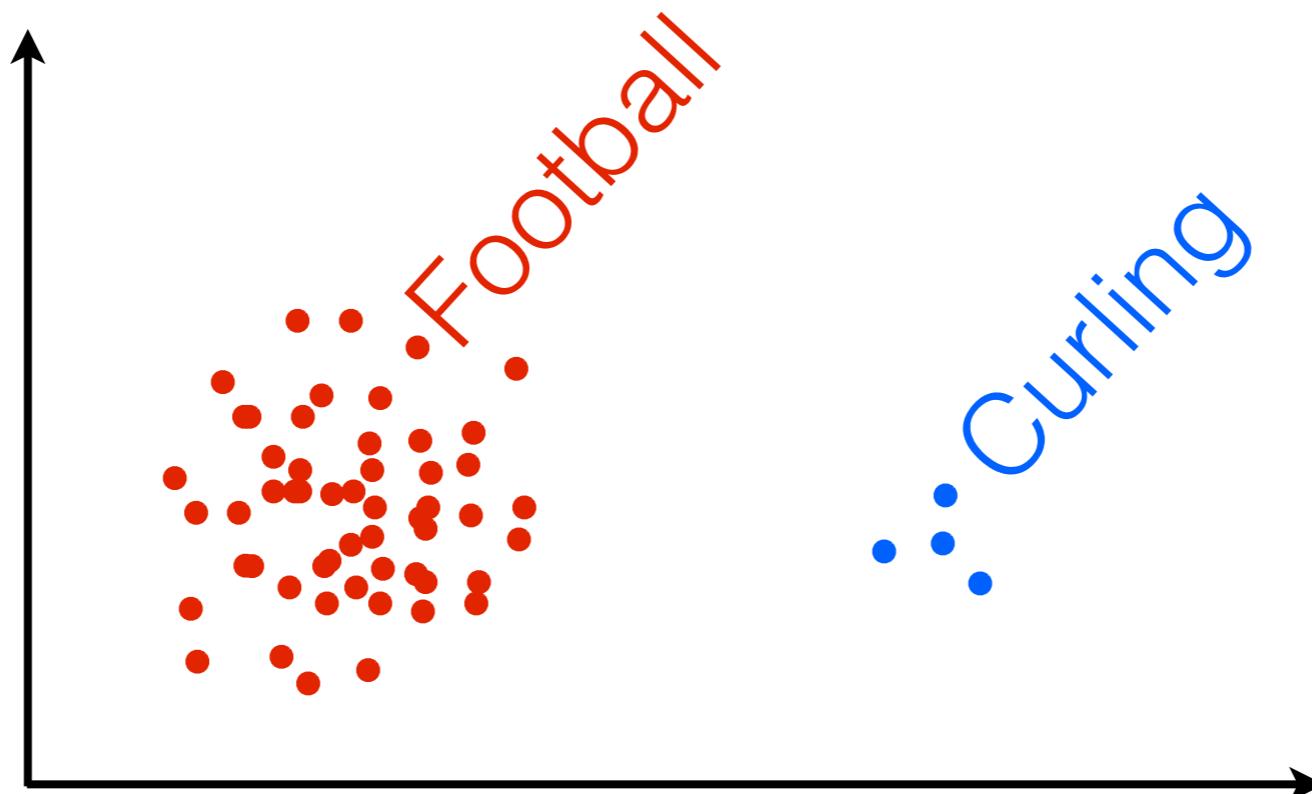
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs
- Compare to subsampling

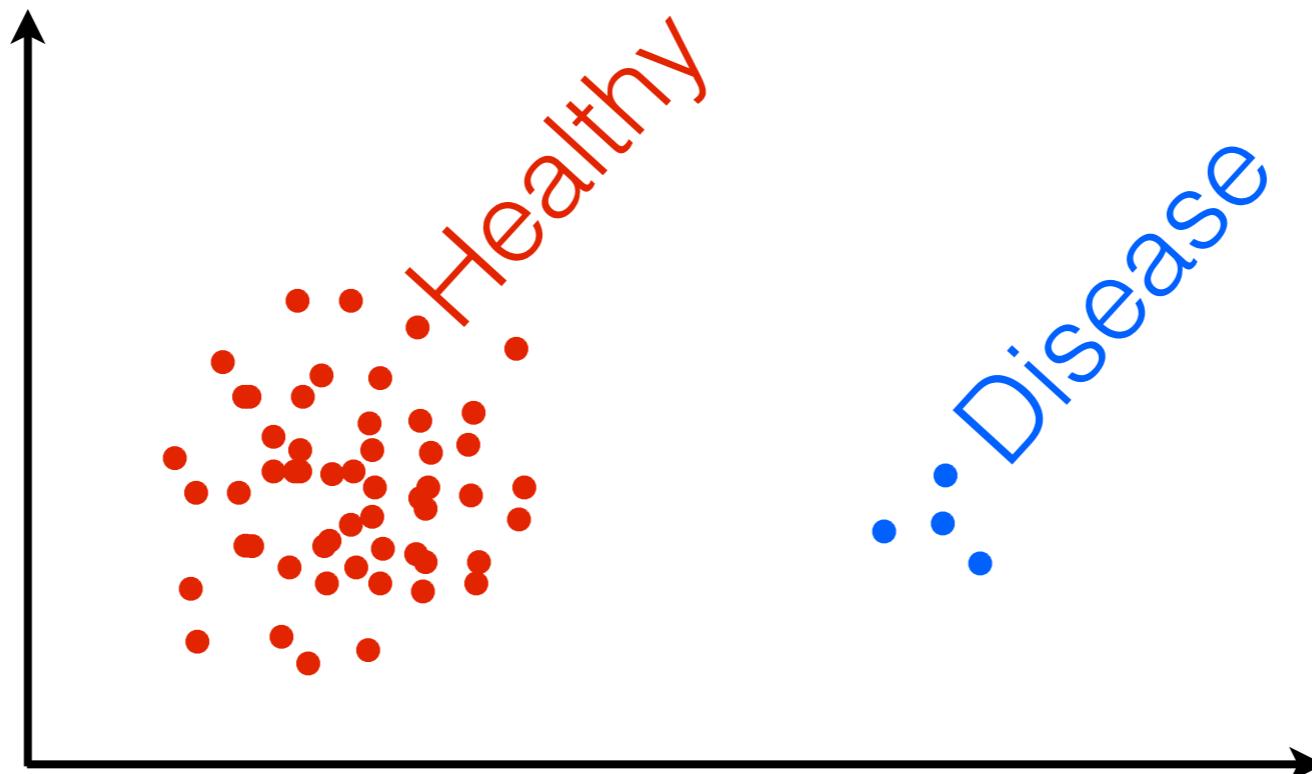
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs
- Compare to subsampling

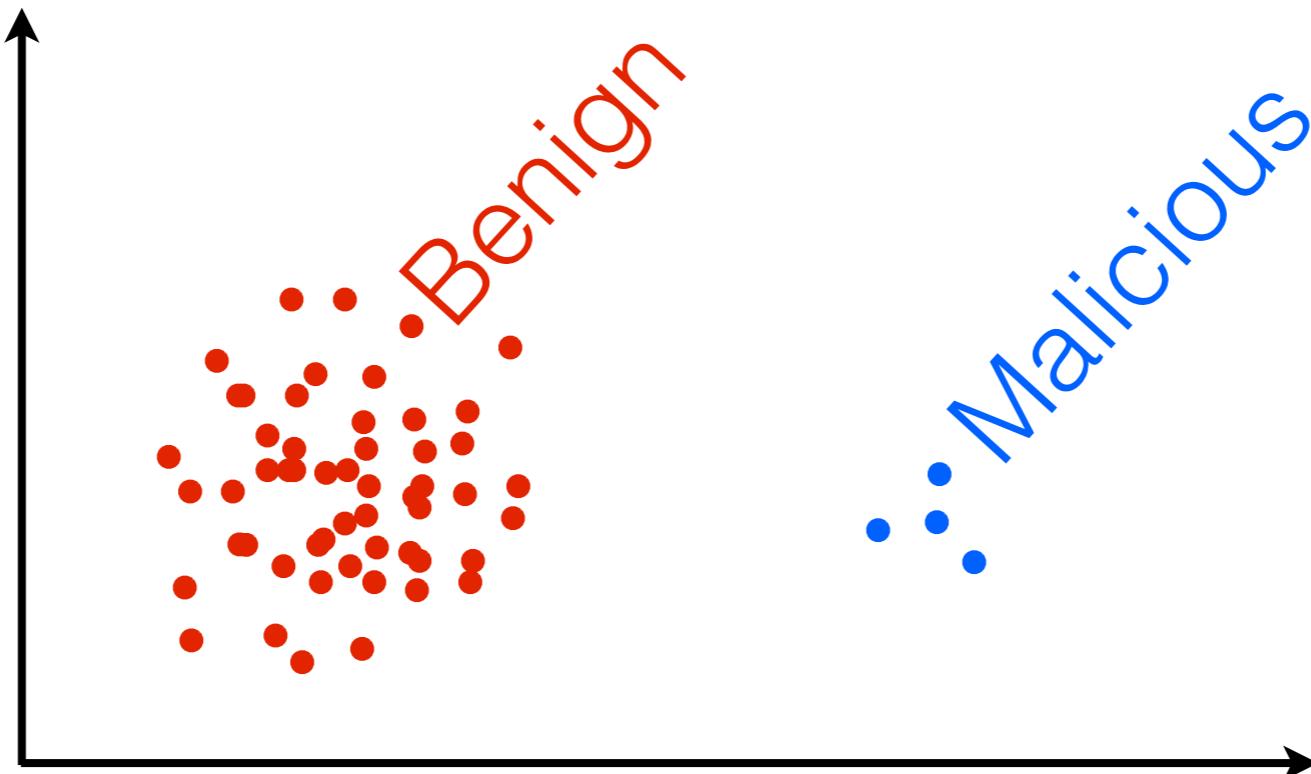
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

# “Core” of the data set

- Observe: redundancies can exist even if data isn’t “tall”
- Coresets: pre-process data to get a smaller, weighted data set



- Theoretical guarantees on quality
- How to develop **coresets for diverse tasks/geometries?**
- Previous heuristics: data squashing, big data GPs
- Compare to subsampling

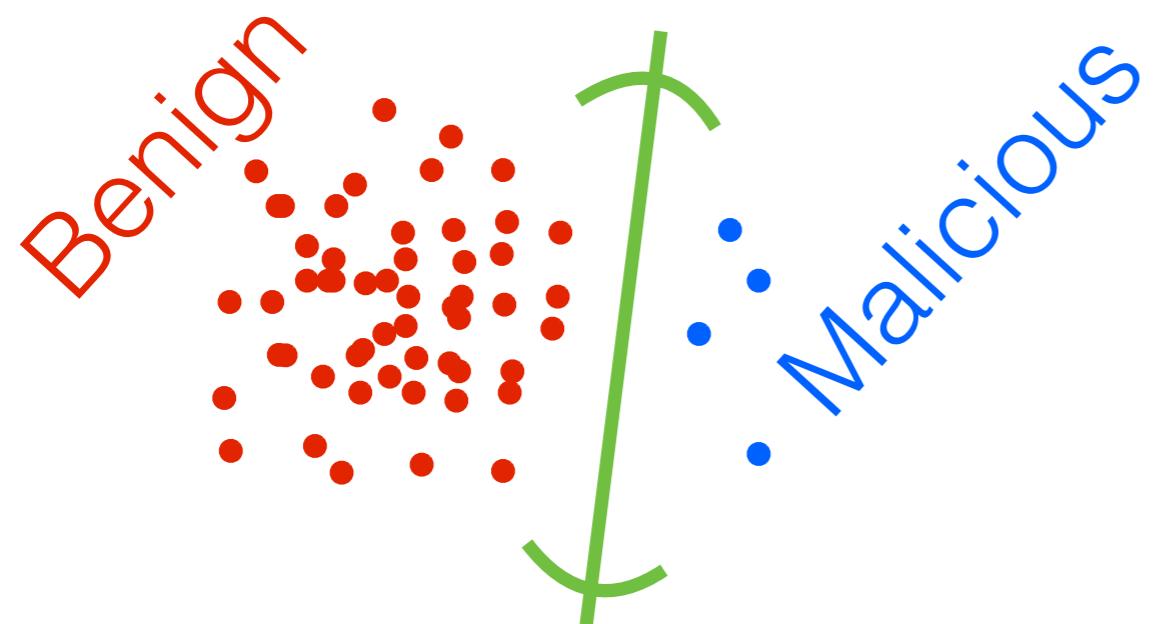
[Bădoiu, Har-Peled, Indyk 2002; Agarwal et al 2005;

Feldman & Langberg 2011; DuMouchel et al 1999; Madigan et al 2002; Huggins, Campbell, Broderick 2016;

Campbell, Broderick 2019; Campbell, Broderick 2018; Agrawal, Campbell, Huggins, Broderick 2019]

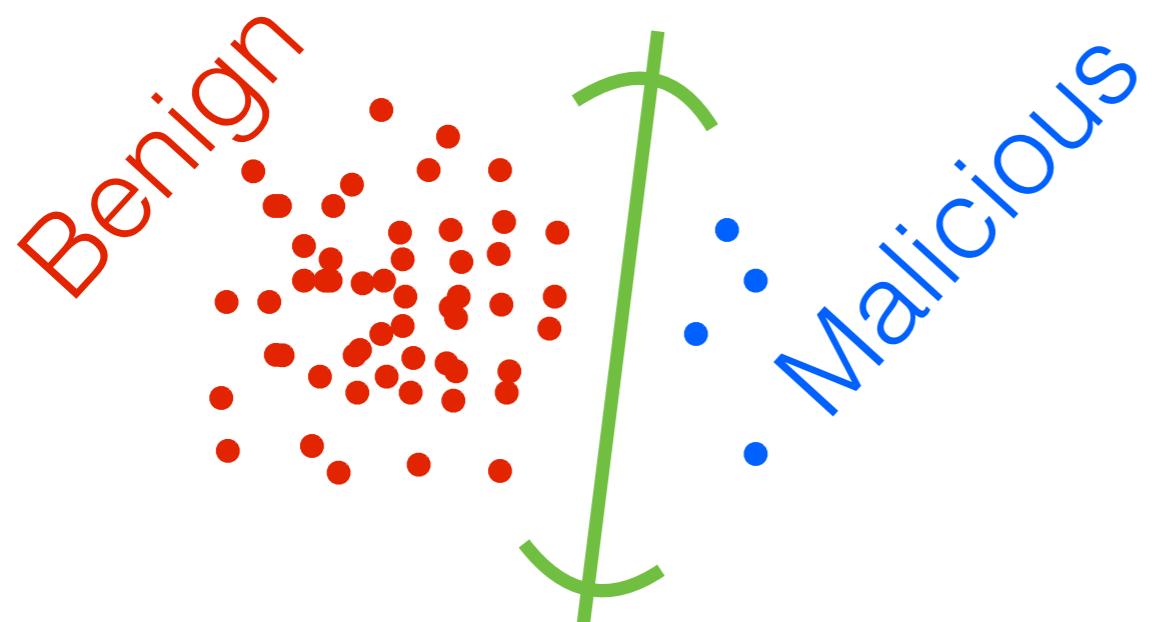
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$



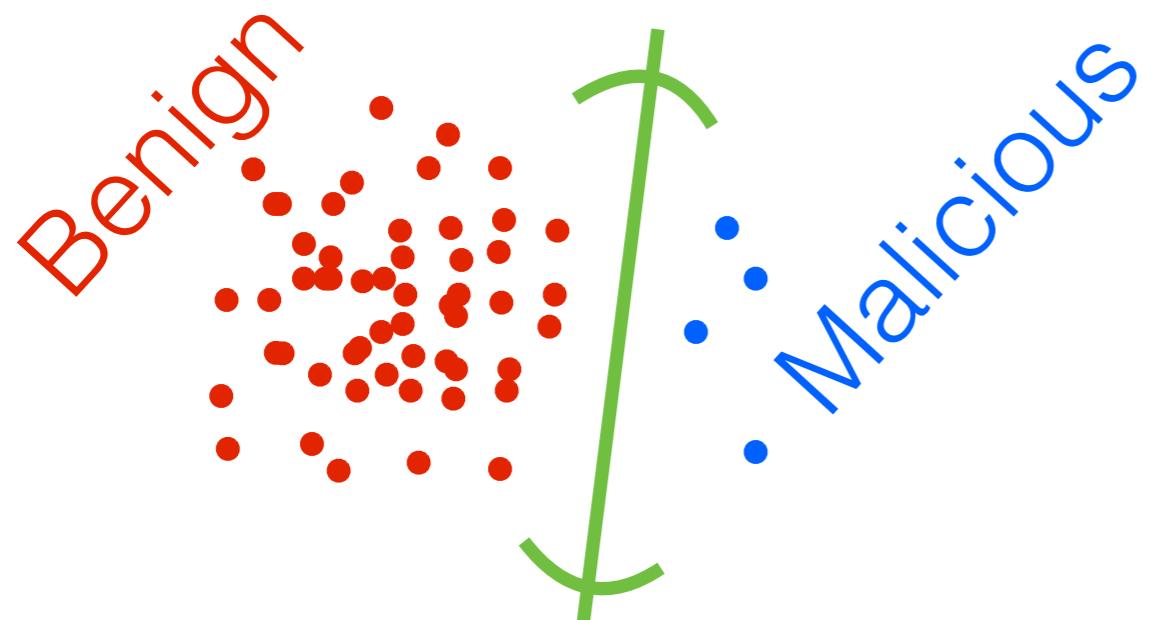
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$



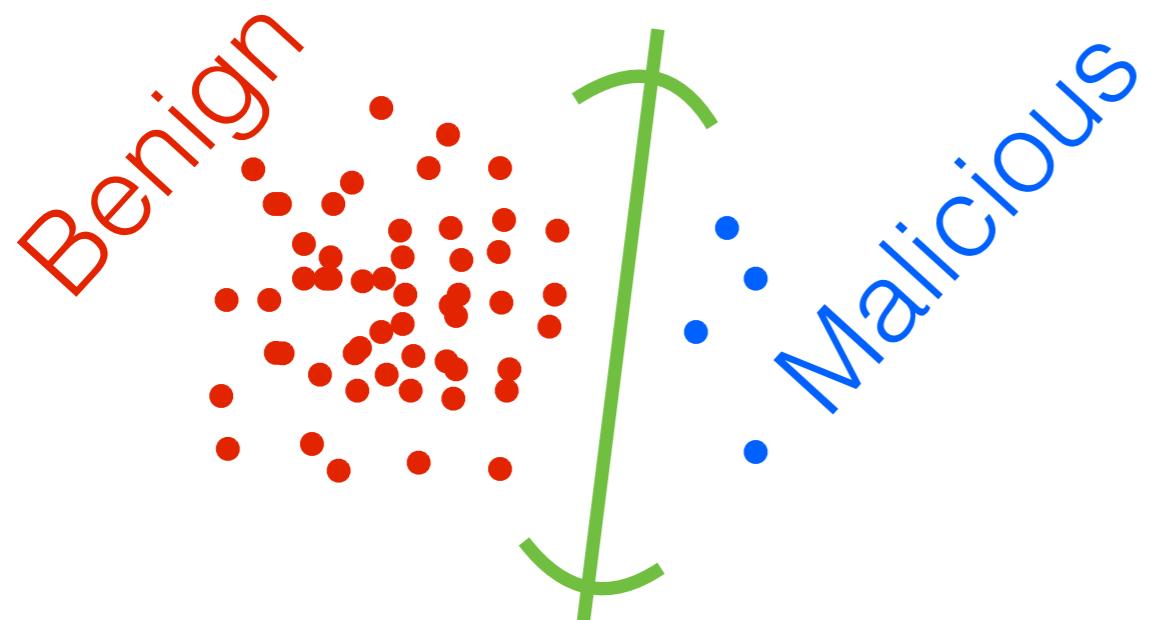
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood



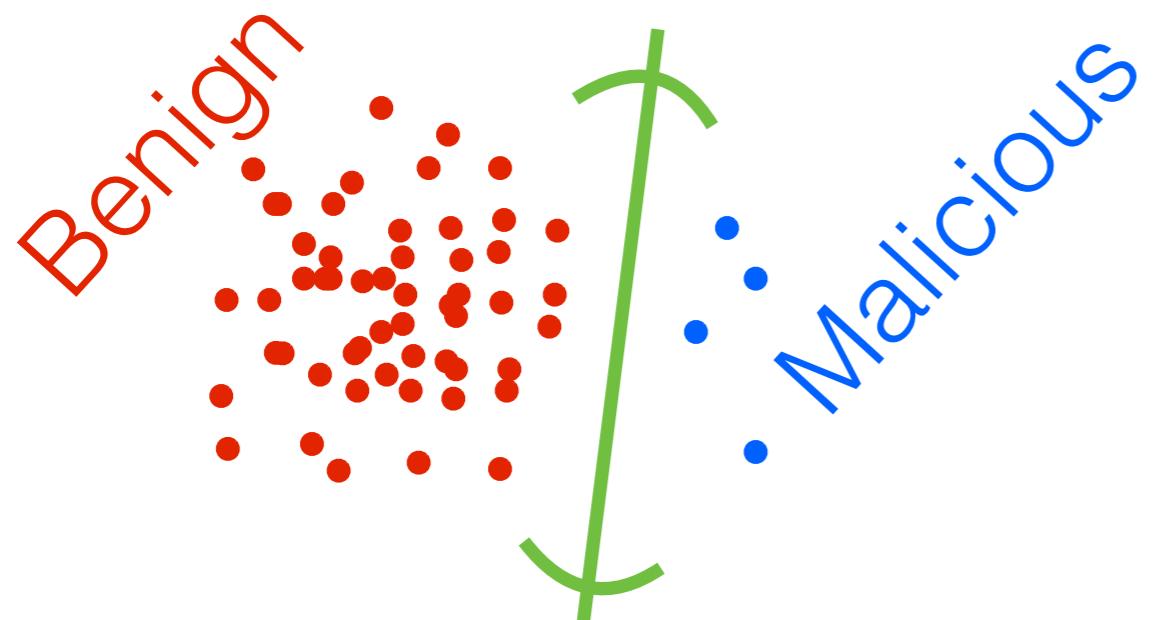
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood  $\|w\|_0 \ll N$



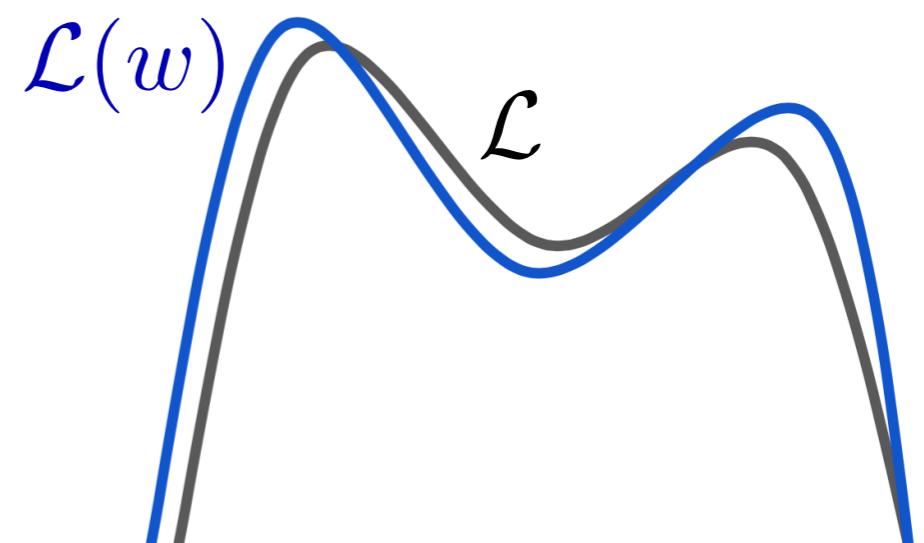
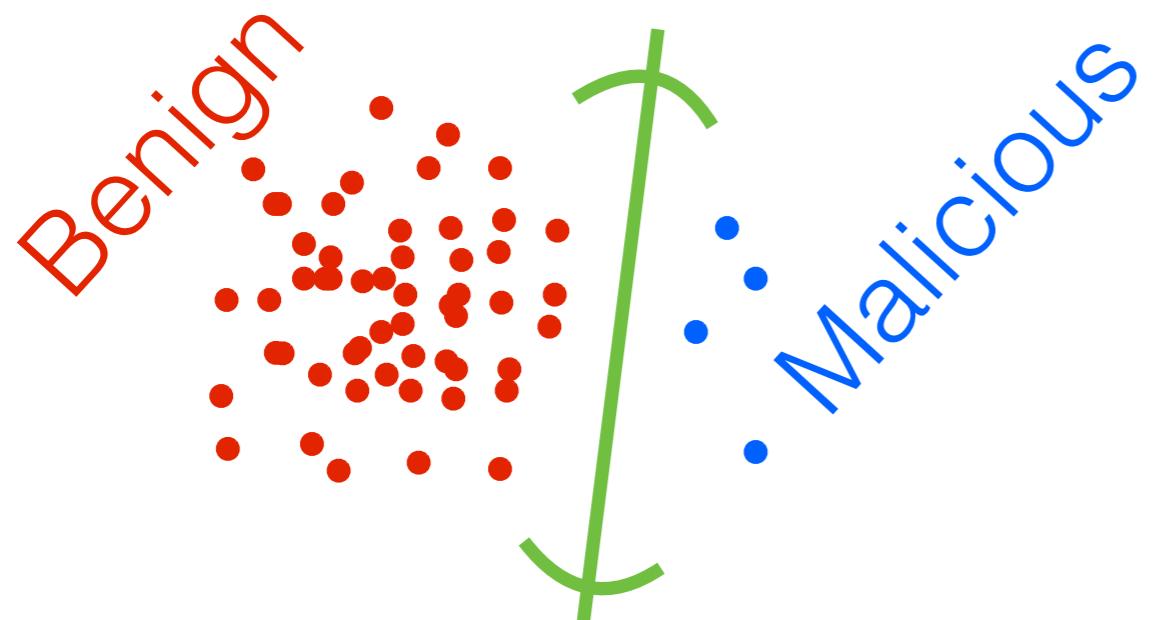
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(w, \theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$  s.t.  
 $\|w\|_0 \ll N$



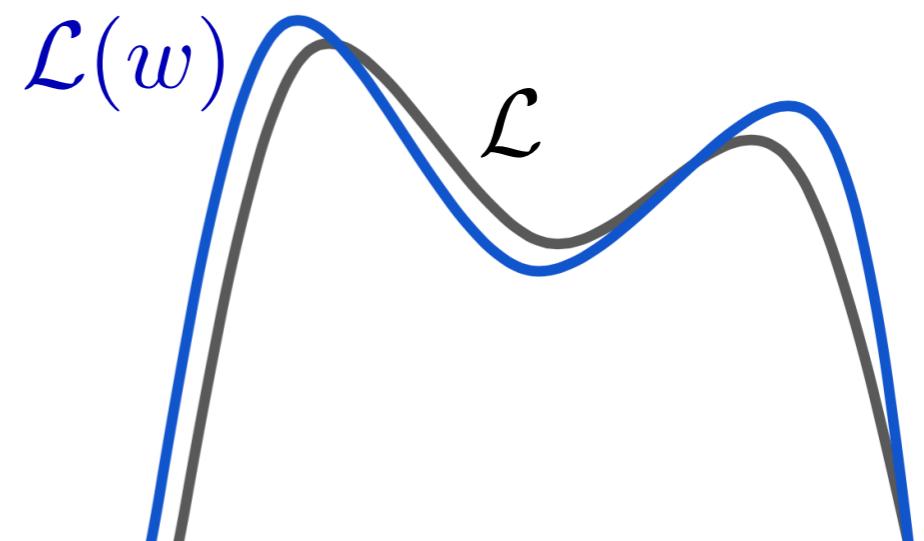
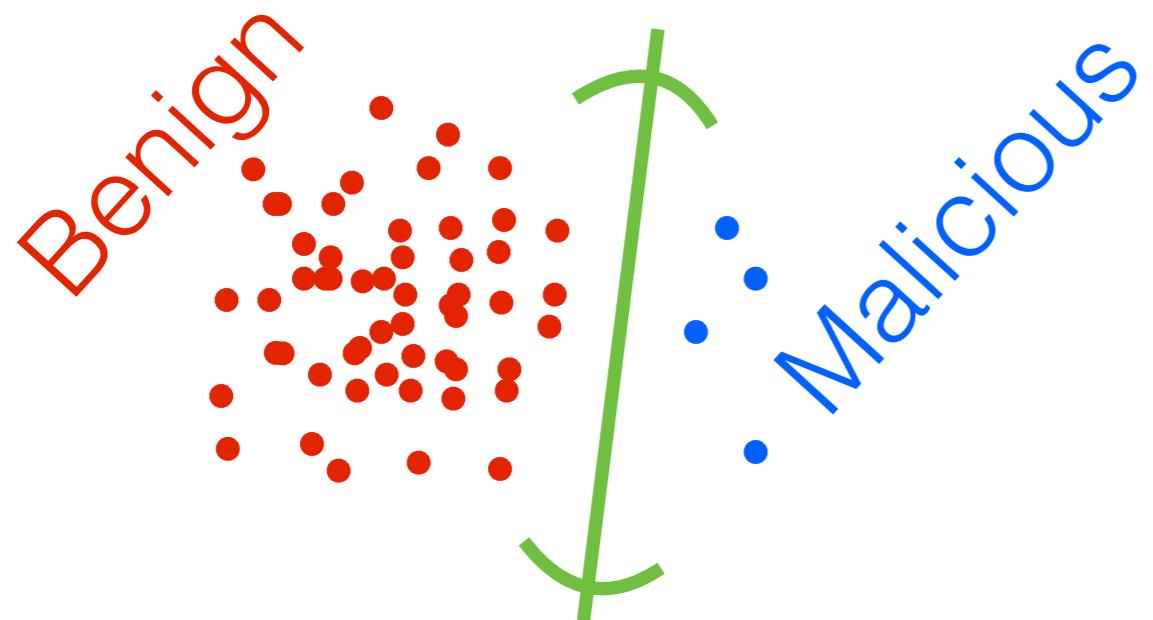
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(w, \theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$  s.t.  
 $\|w\|_0 \ll N$



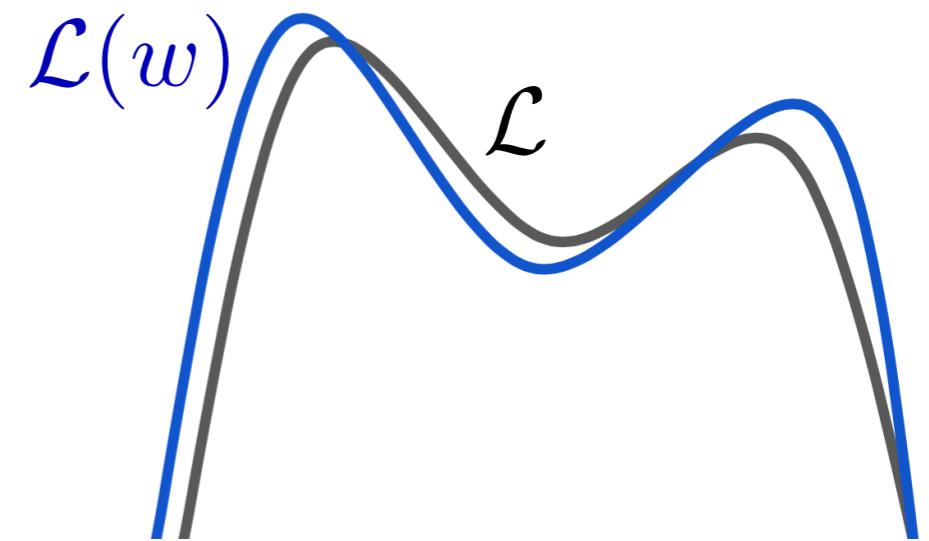
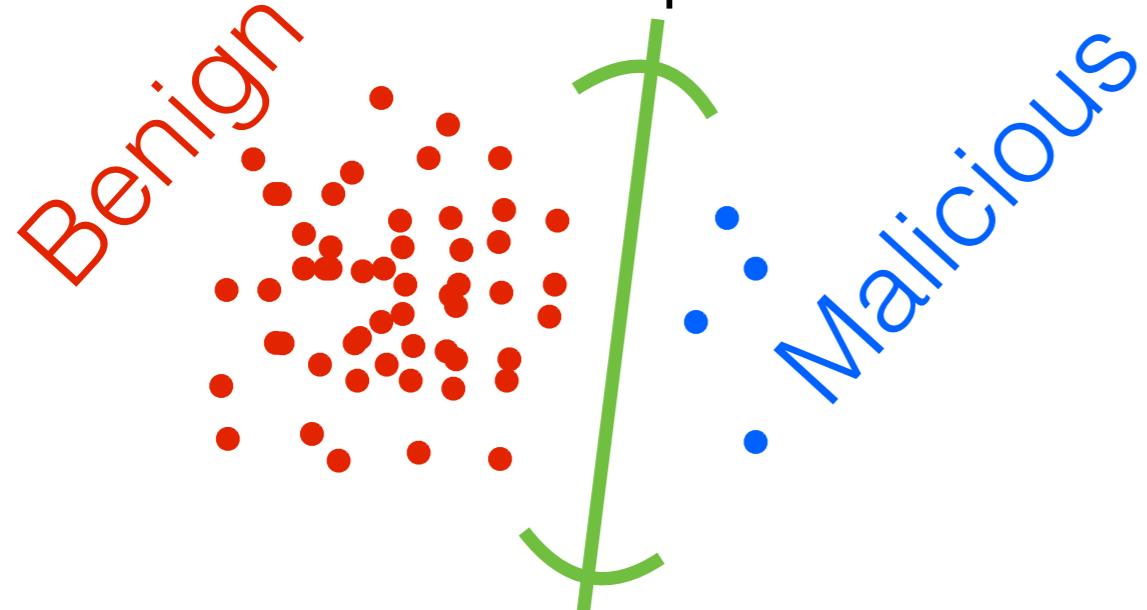
# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(w, \theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$  s.t.  $\|w\|_0 \ll N$
- $\epsilon$ -coreset:  $\|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\| \leq \epsilon$



# Bayesian coresets

- Posterior  $p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$
- Log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}_n(\theta) := \log p(y_n|\theta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$
- Coreset log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(w, \theta) := \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \mathcal{L}_n(\theta)$  s.t.  $\|w\|_0 \ll N$
- $\epsilon$ -coreset:  $\|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\| \leq \epsilon$ 
  - Bound on Wasserstein distance to exact posterior  $\rightarrow$  bound on posterior mean/uncertainty estimate quality



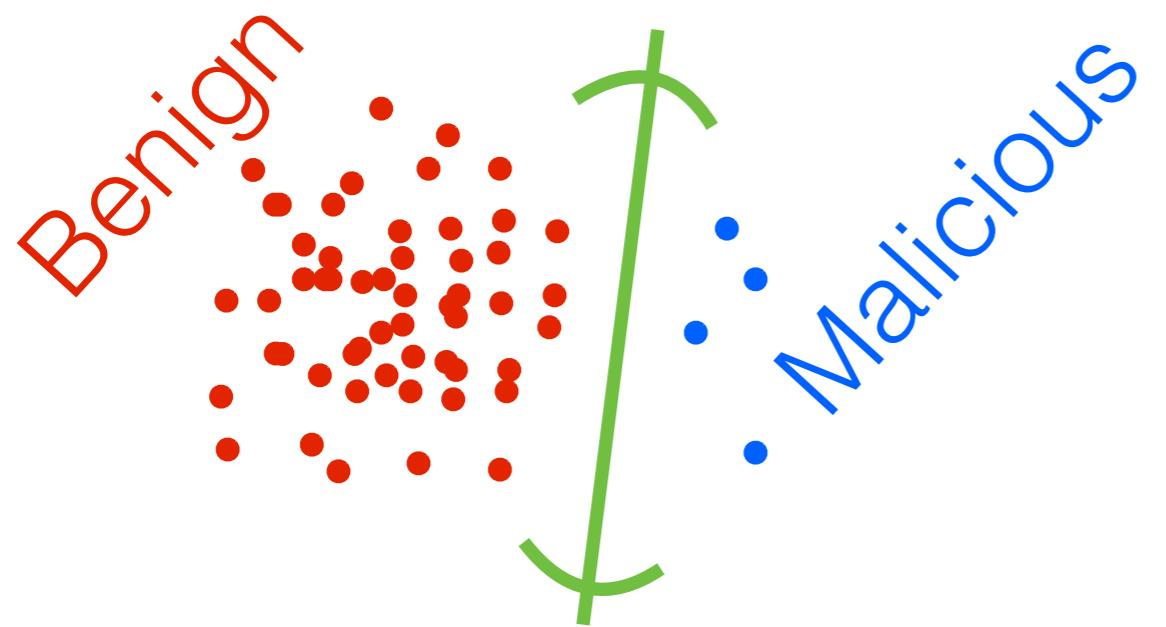
# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

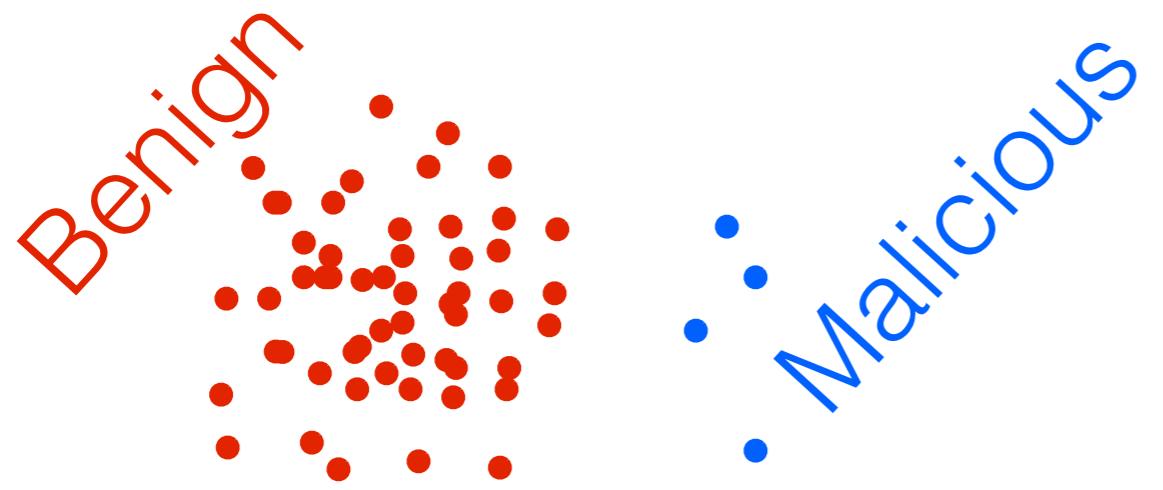
# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
  - Importance sampling for “coresets”
  - Optimization for “coresets”
  - Approximate sufficient statistics

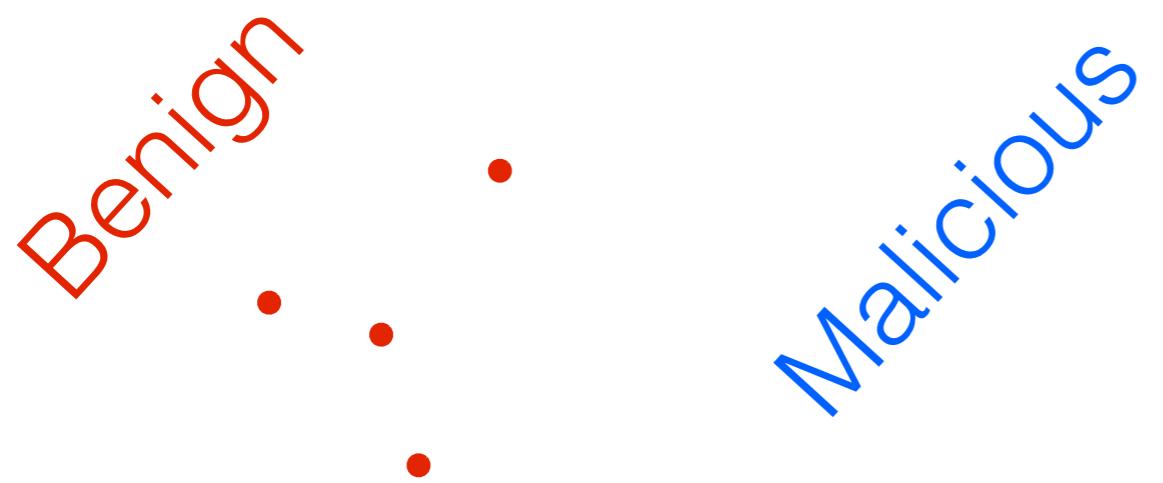
# Uniform subsampling



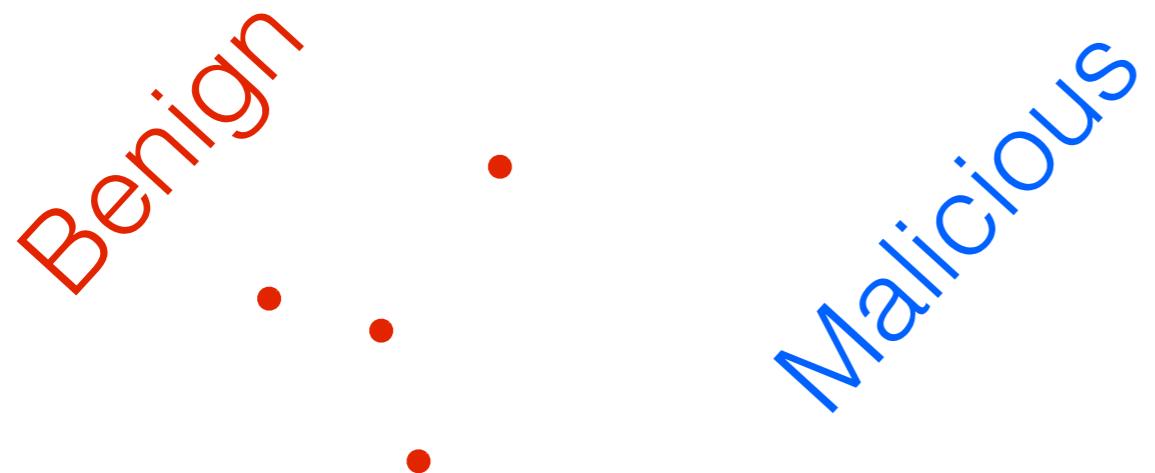
# Uniform subsampling



# Uniform subsampling

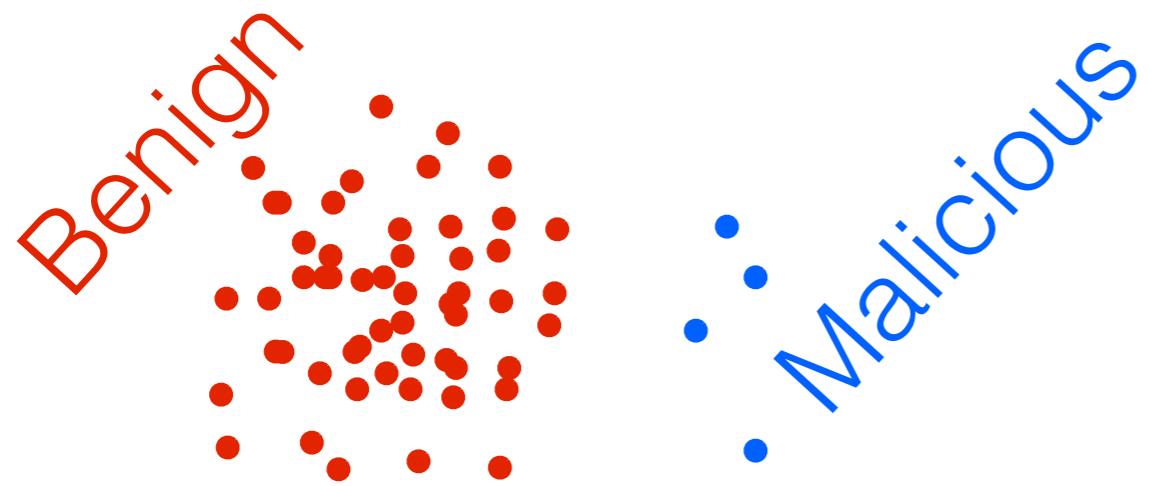


# Uniform subsampling



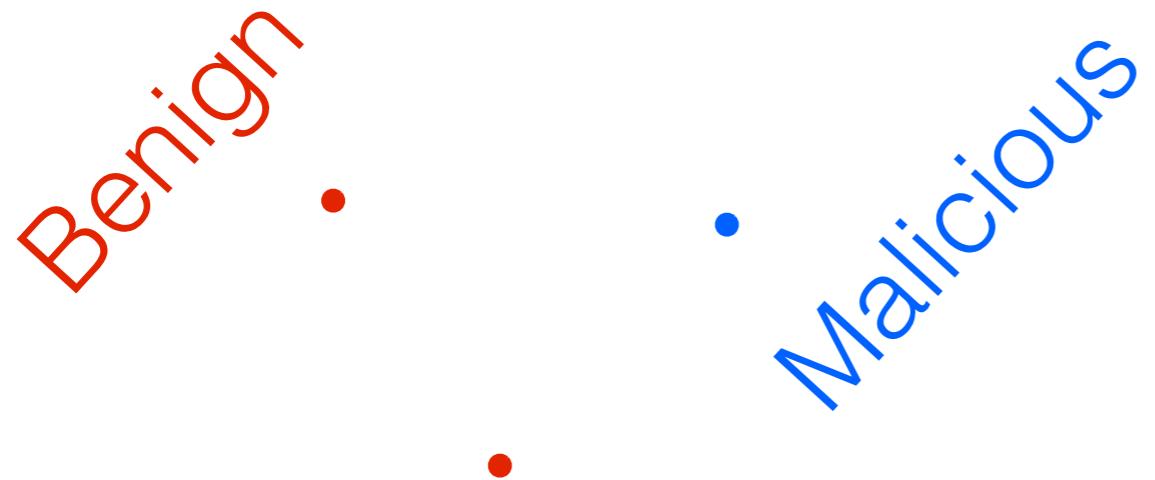
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



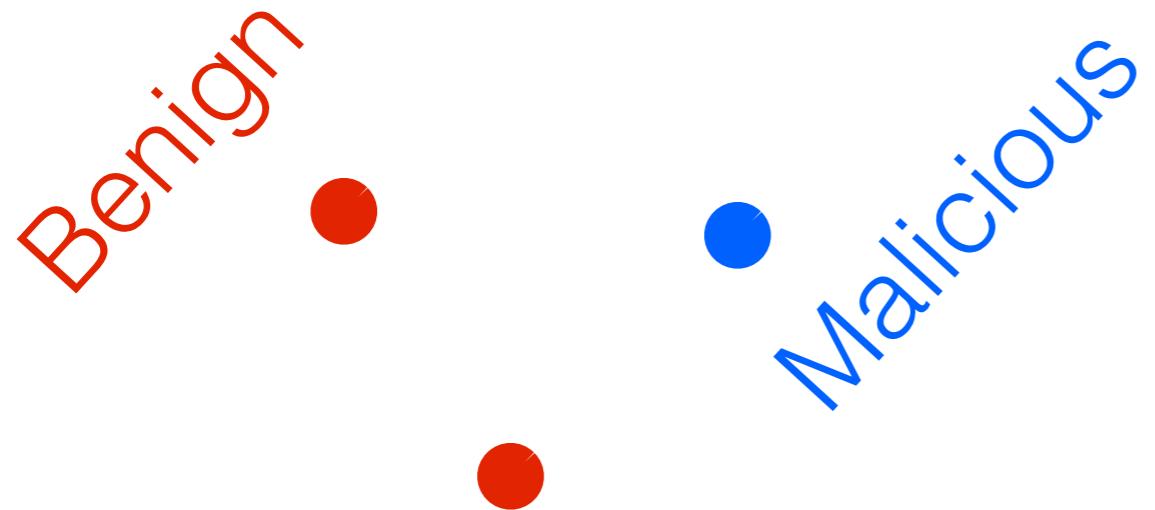
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



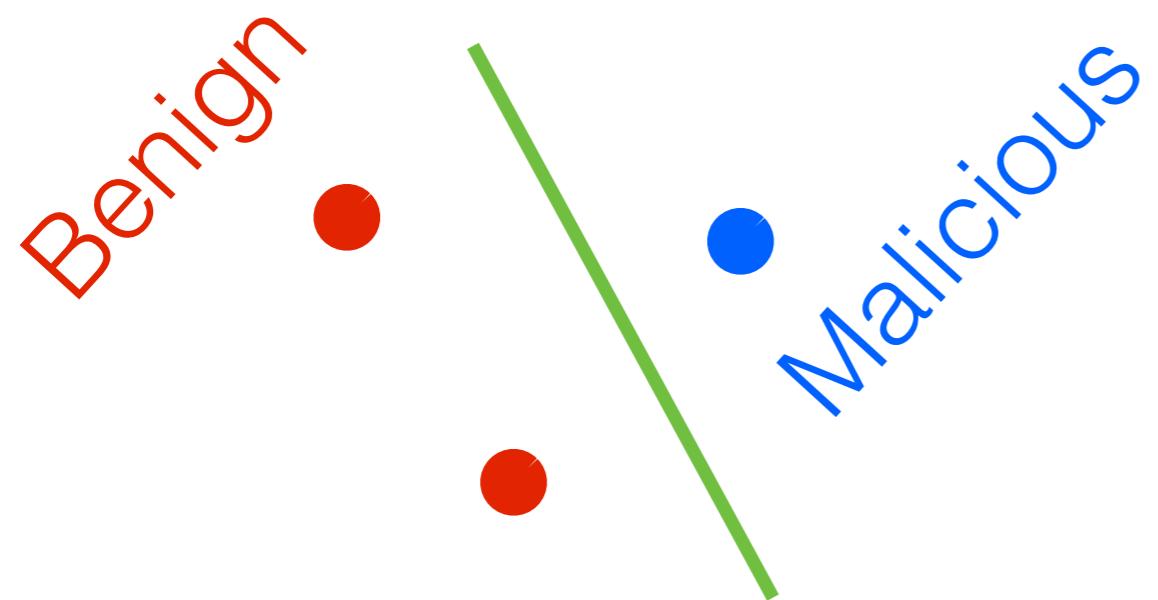
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



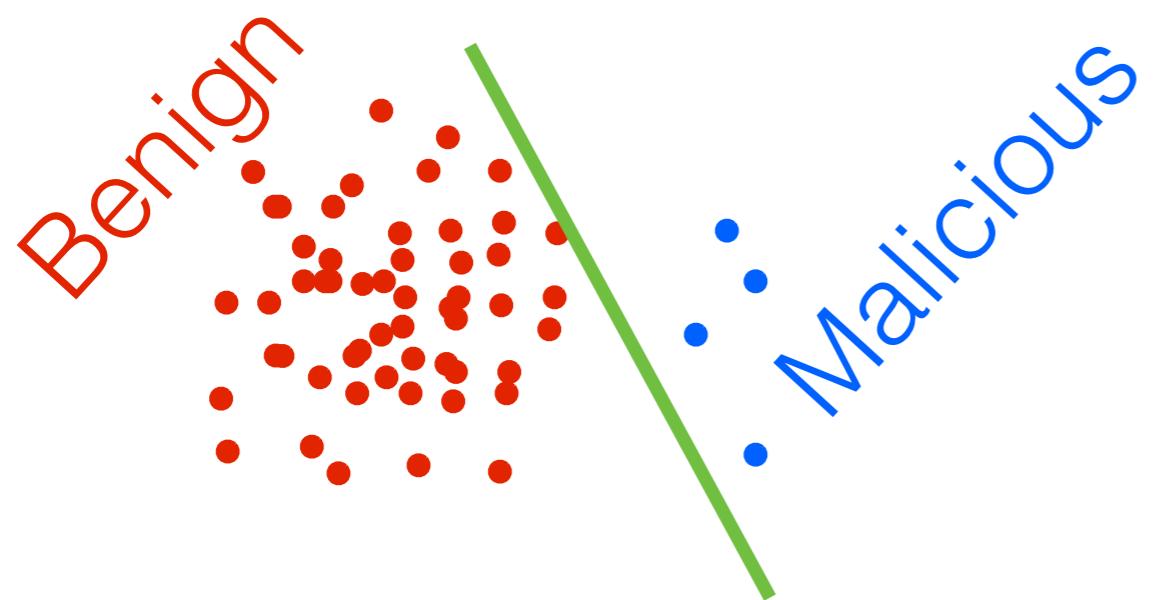
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



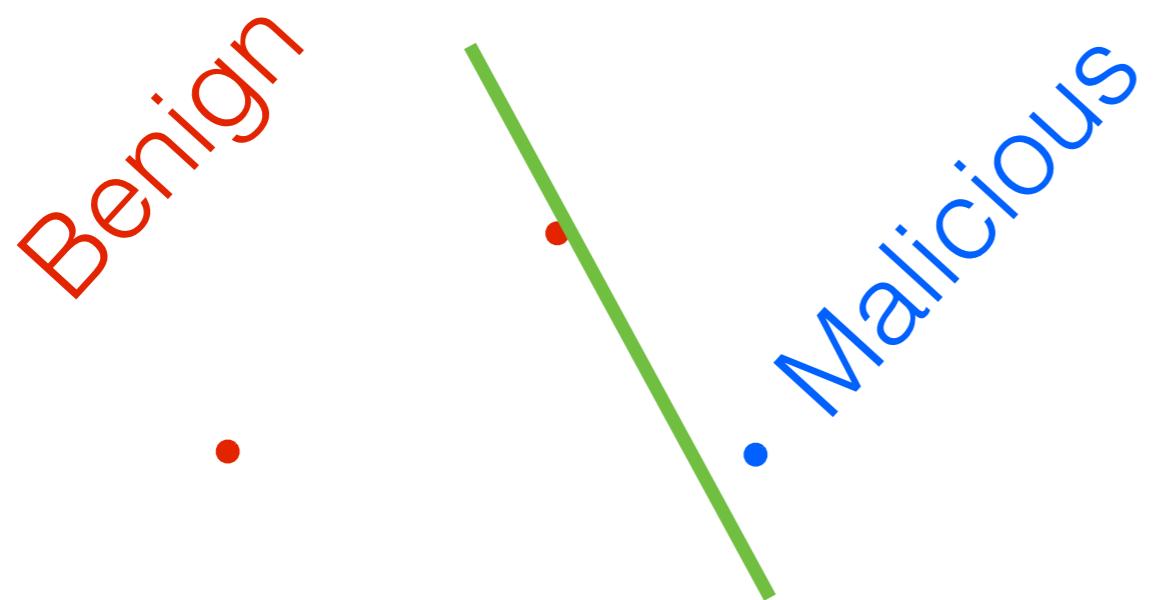
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



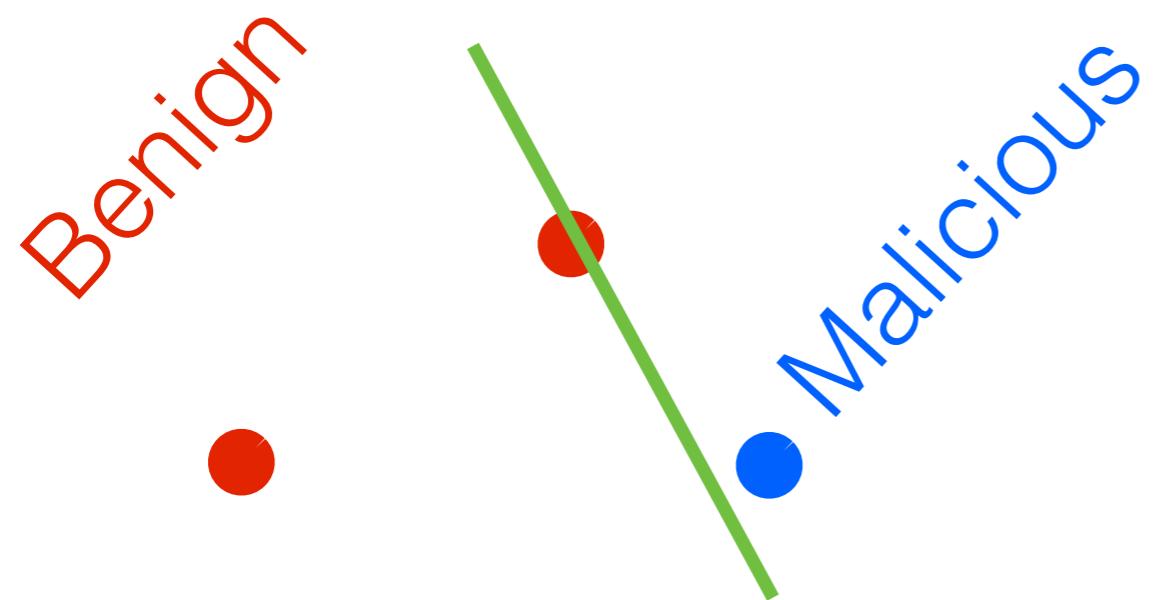
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



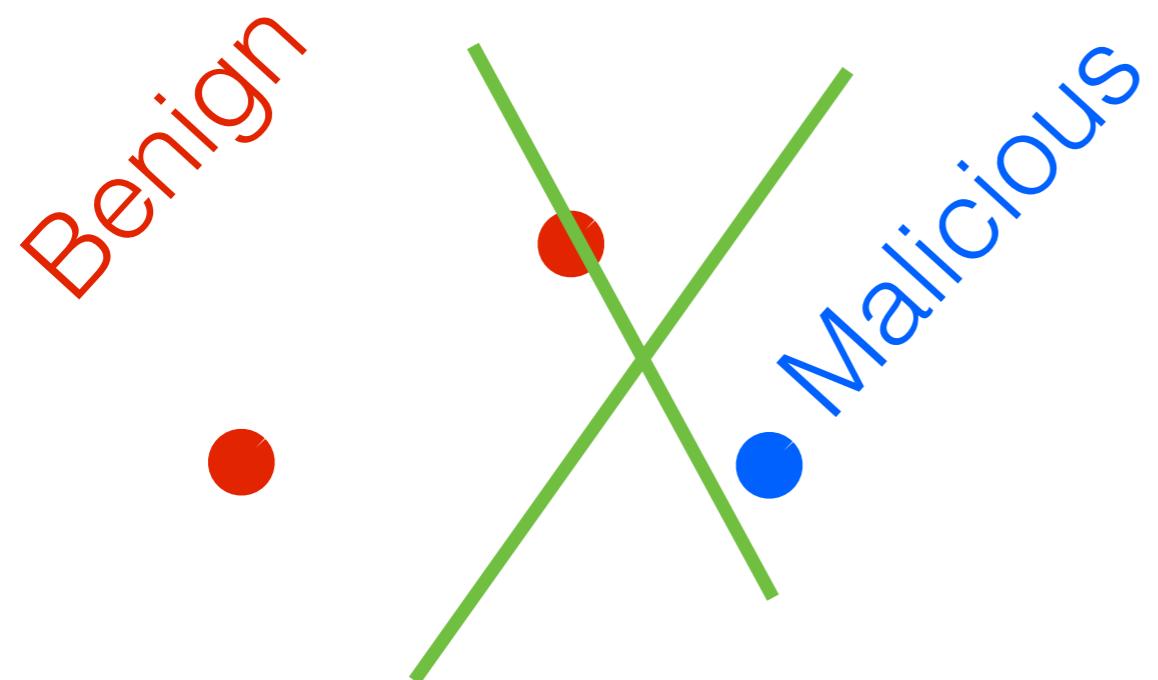
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



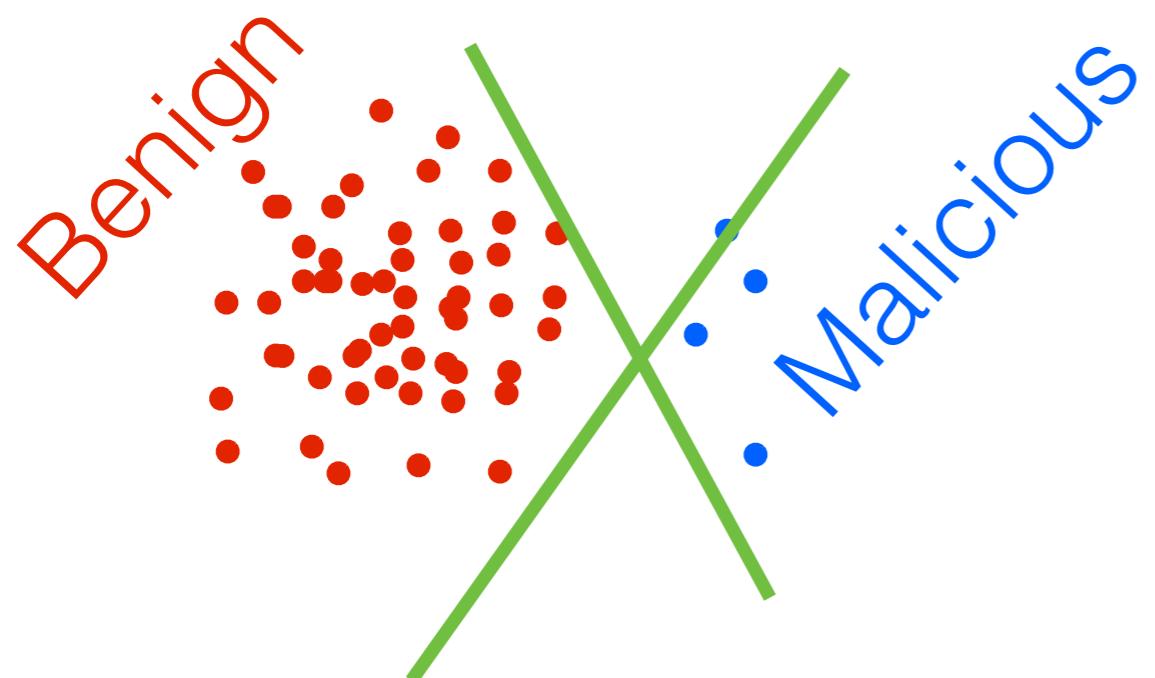
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



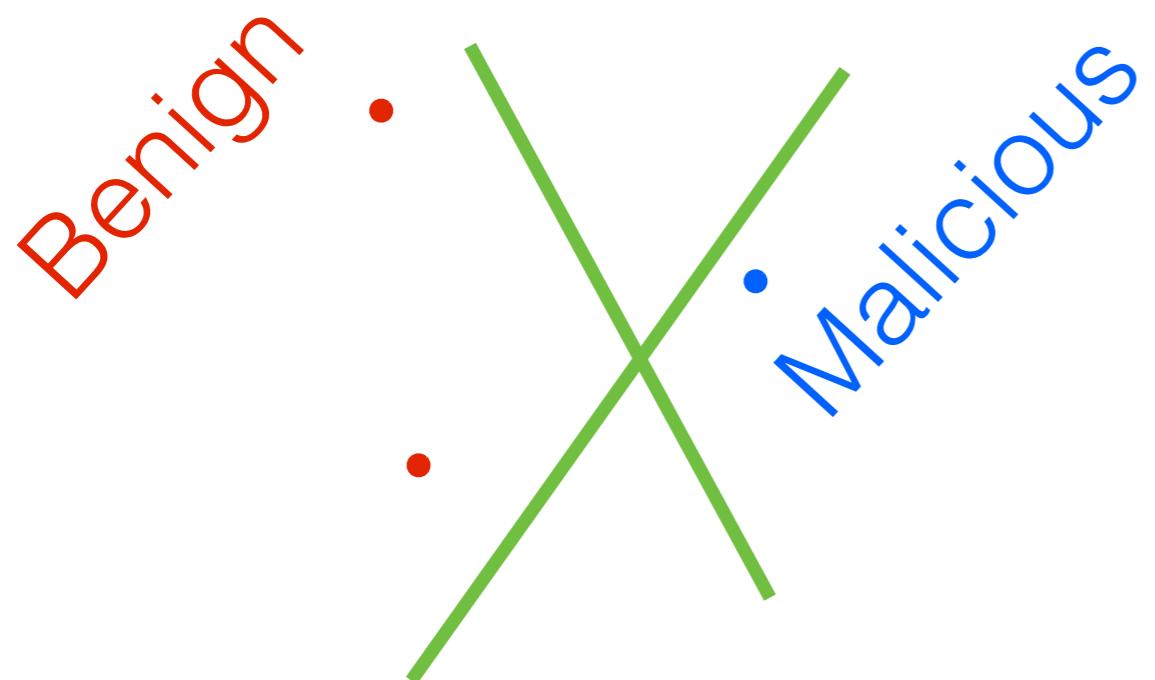
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



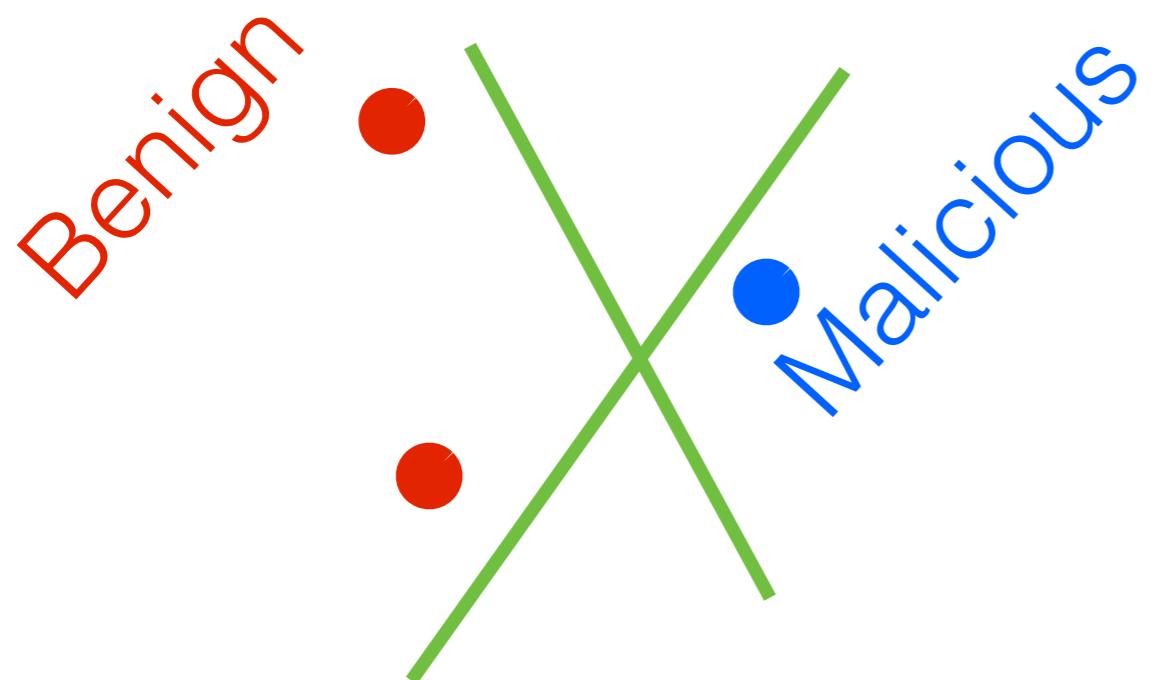
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



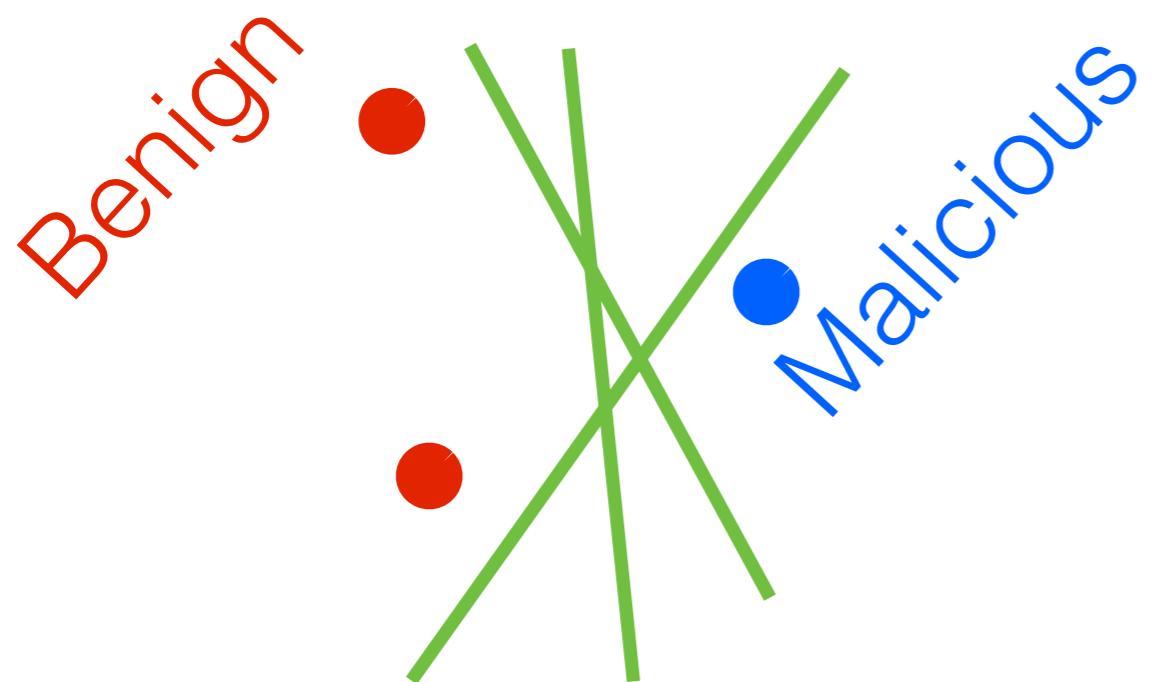
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



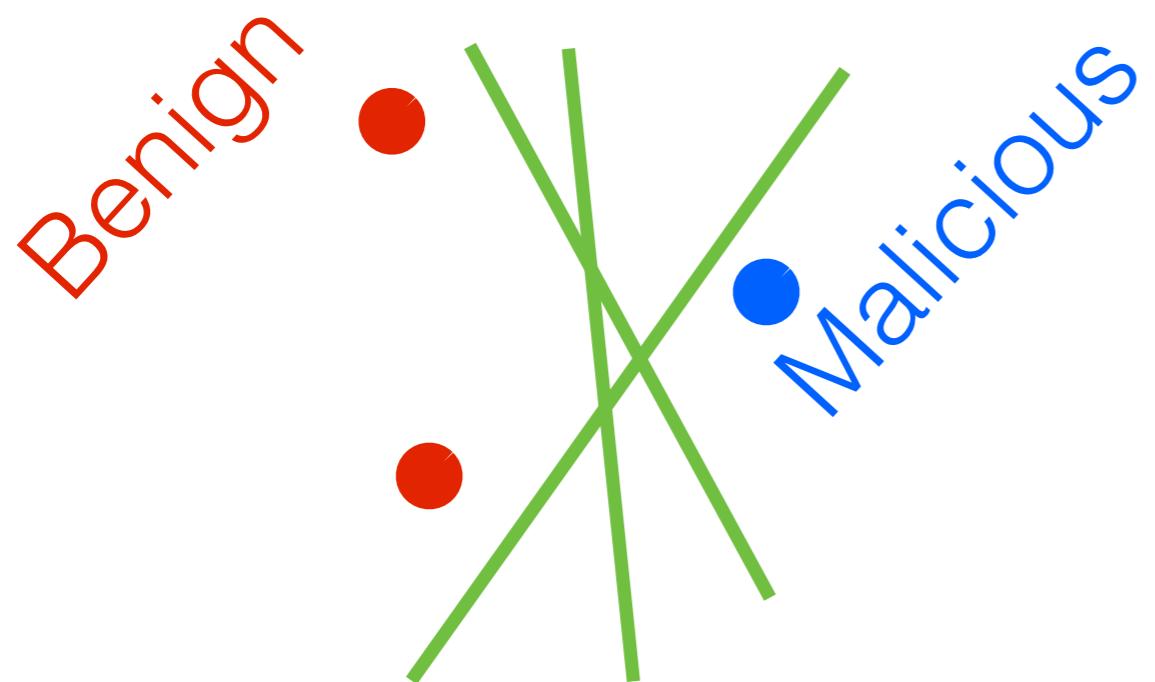
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling



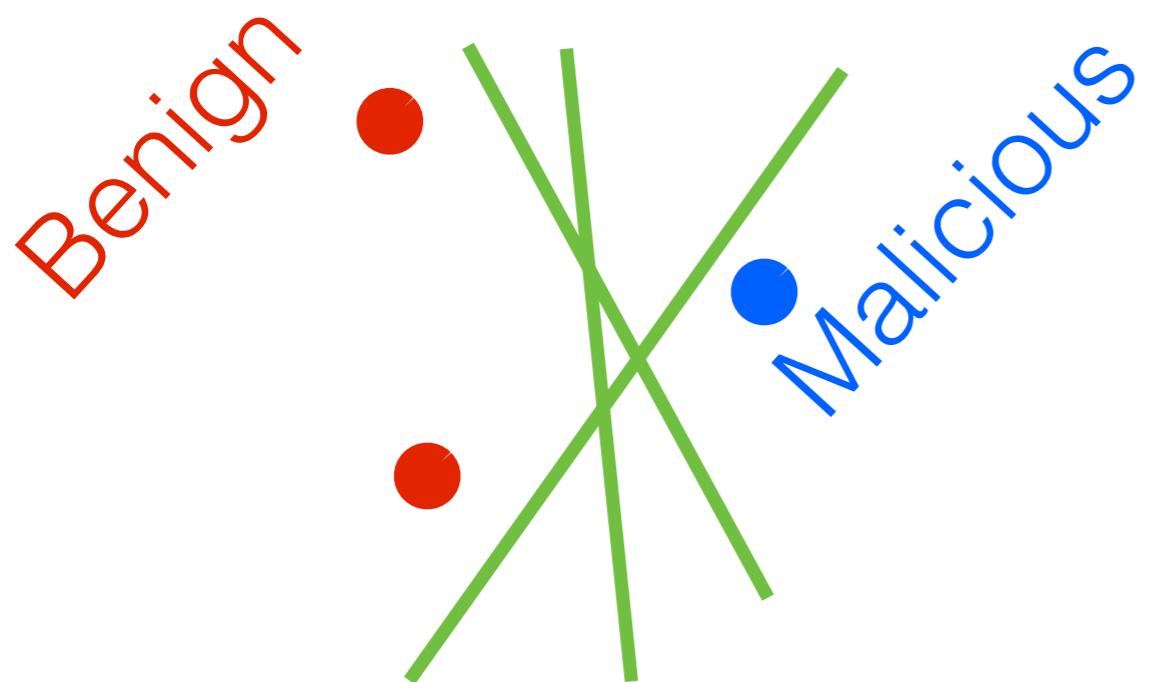
- Might miss important data

# Uniform subsampling

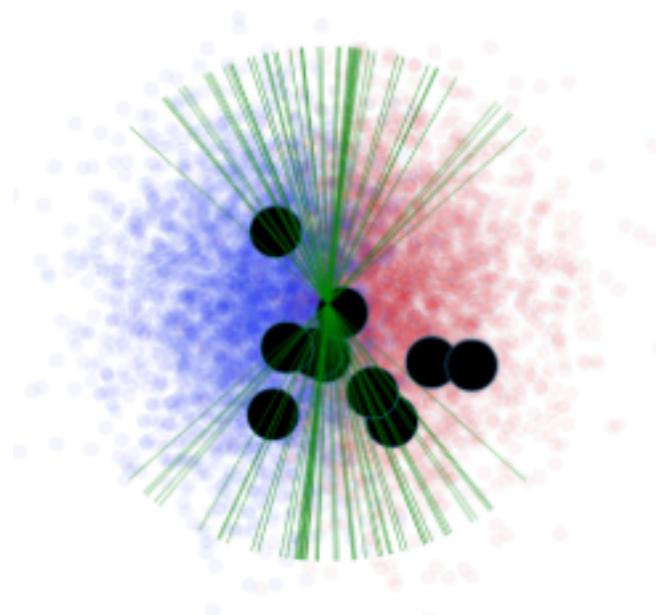


- Might miss important data
- Noisy estimates

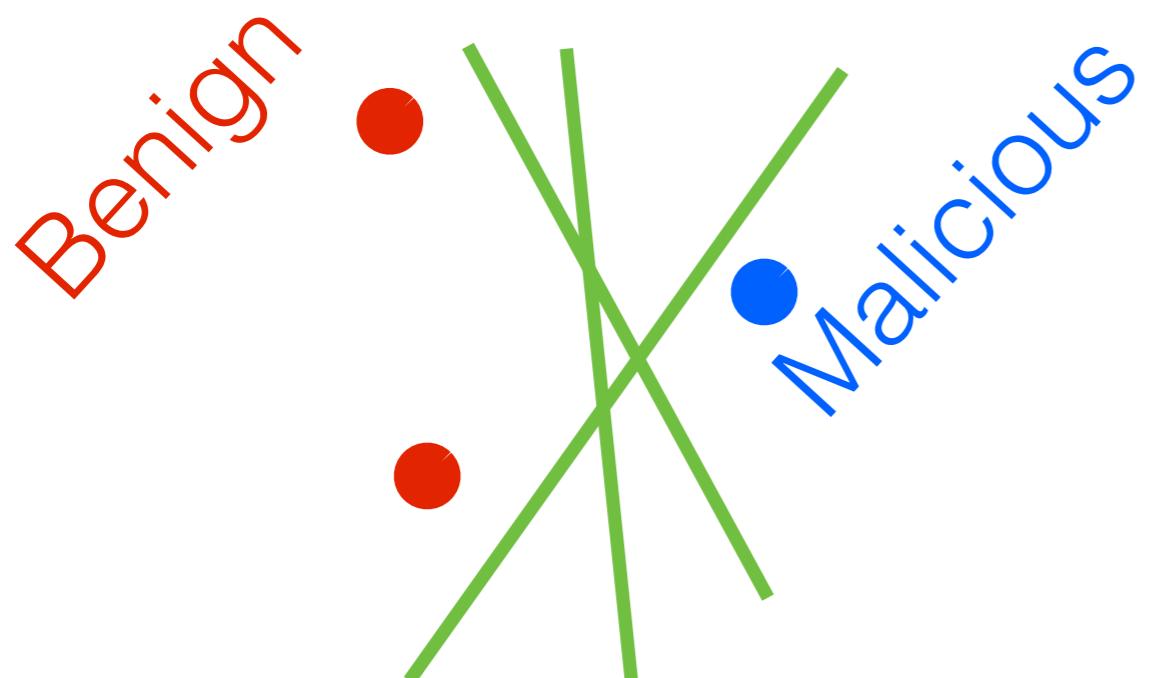
# Uniform subsampling



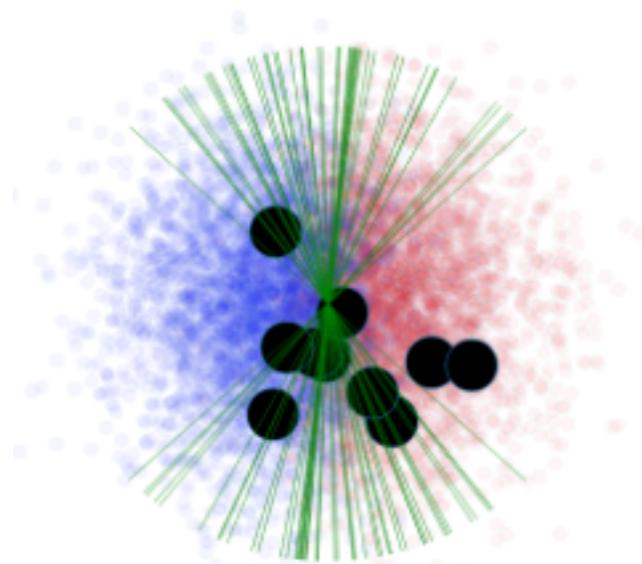
- Might miss important data
- Noisy estimates



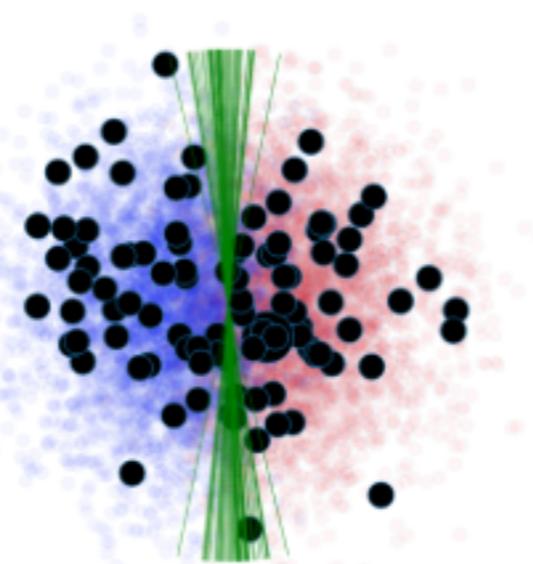
# Uniform subsampling



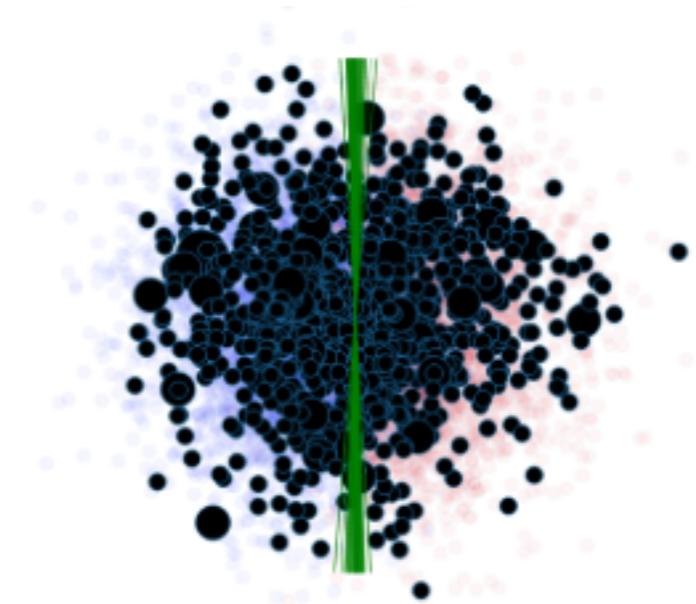
- Might miss important data
- Noisy estimates



$M = 10$



$M = 100$



$M = 1000$

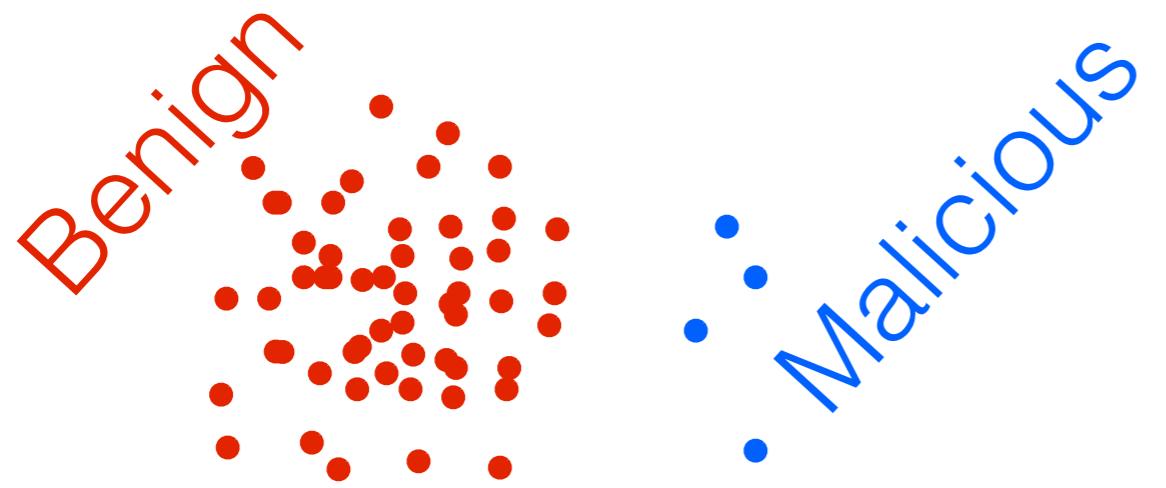
# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
  - Importance sampling for “coresets”
  - Optimization for “coresets”
  - Approximate sufficient statistics

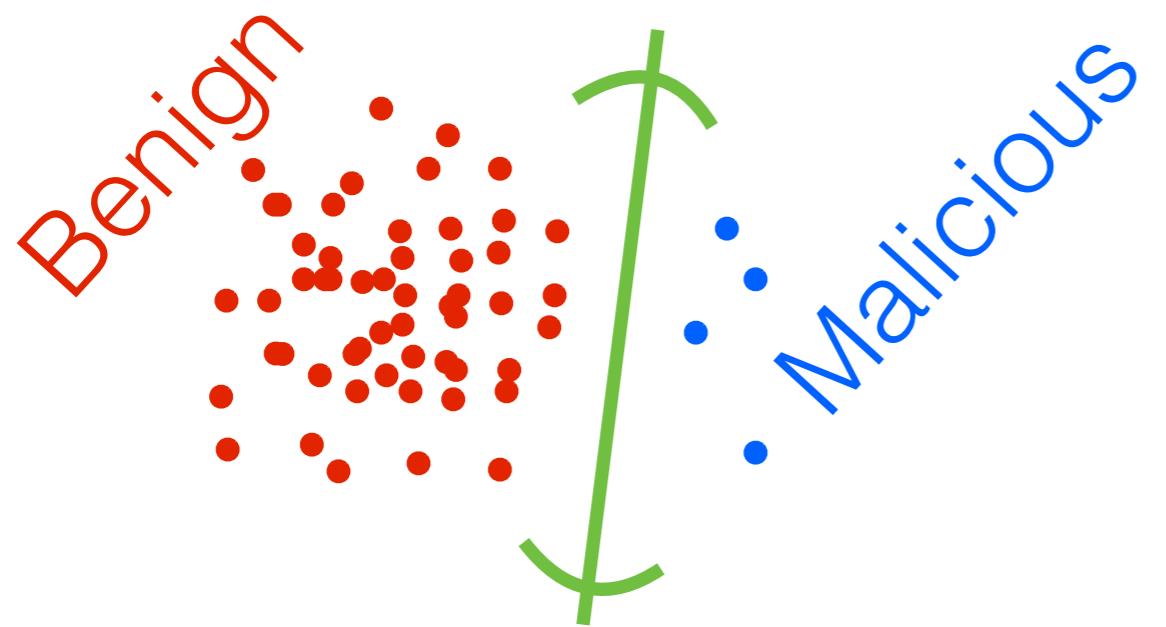
# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

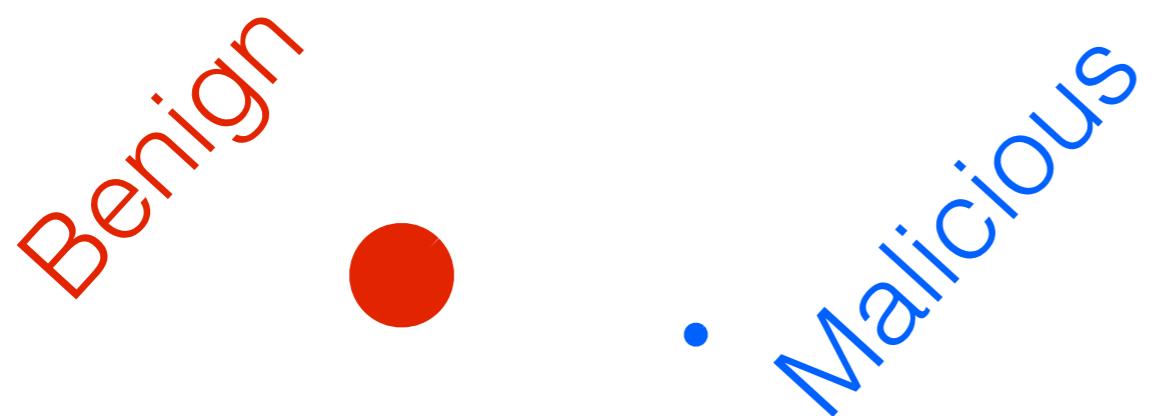
# Importance sampling



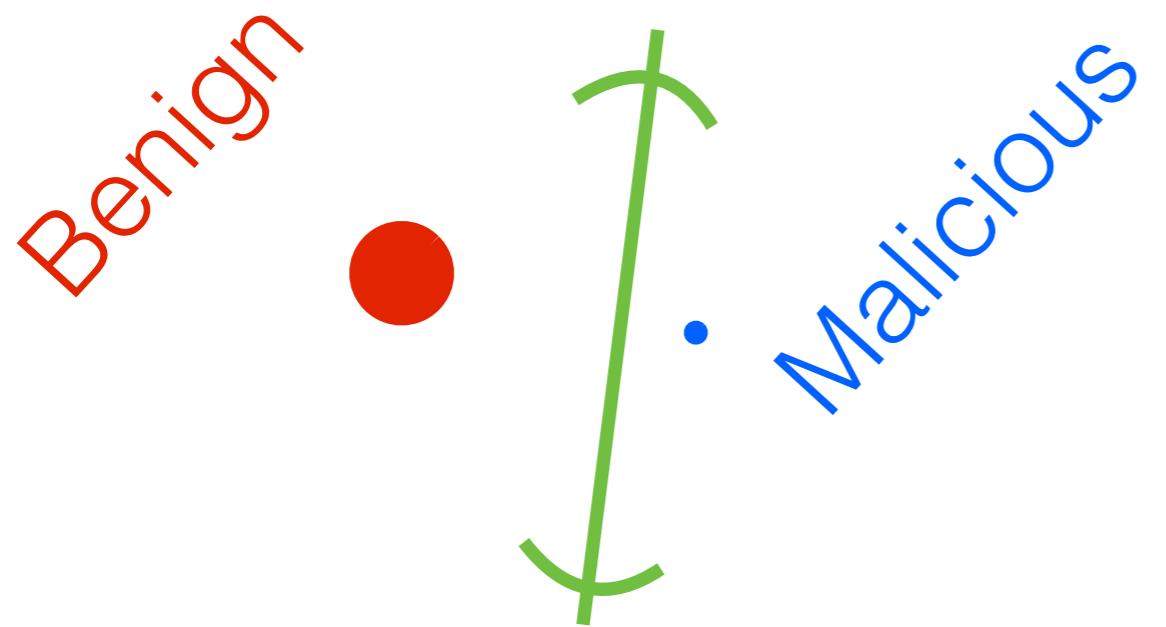
# Importance sampling



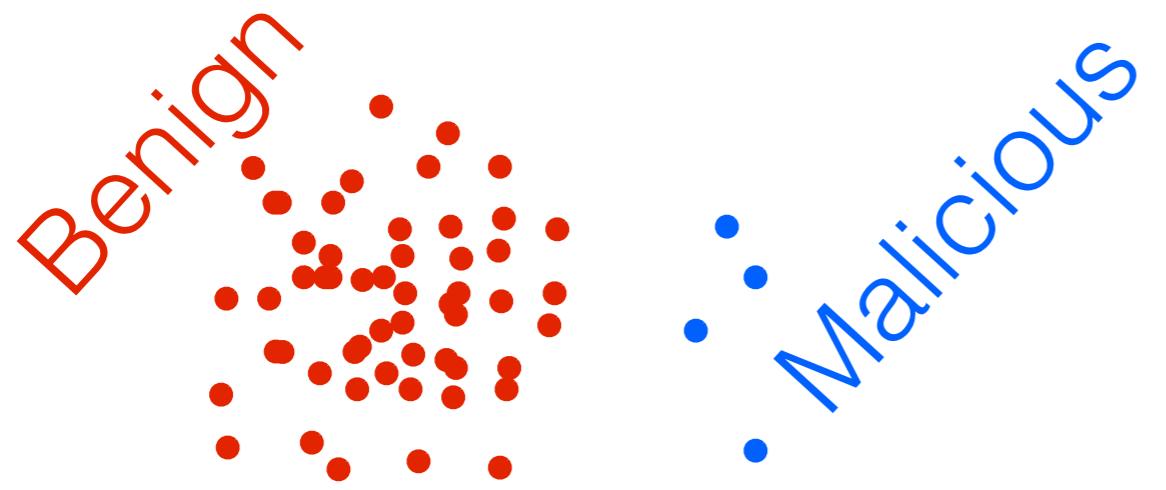
# Importance sampling



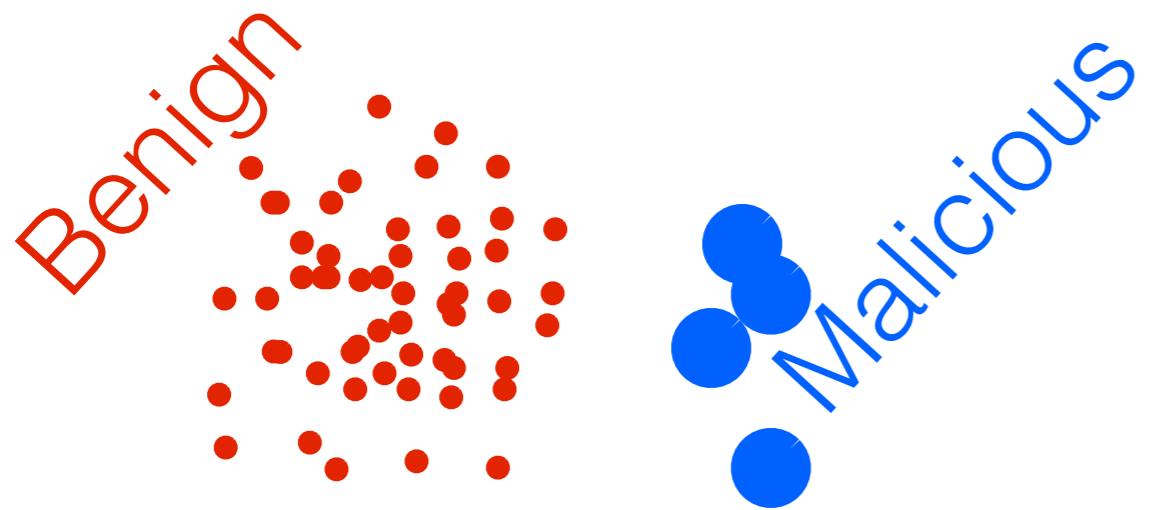
# Importance sampling



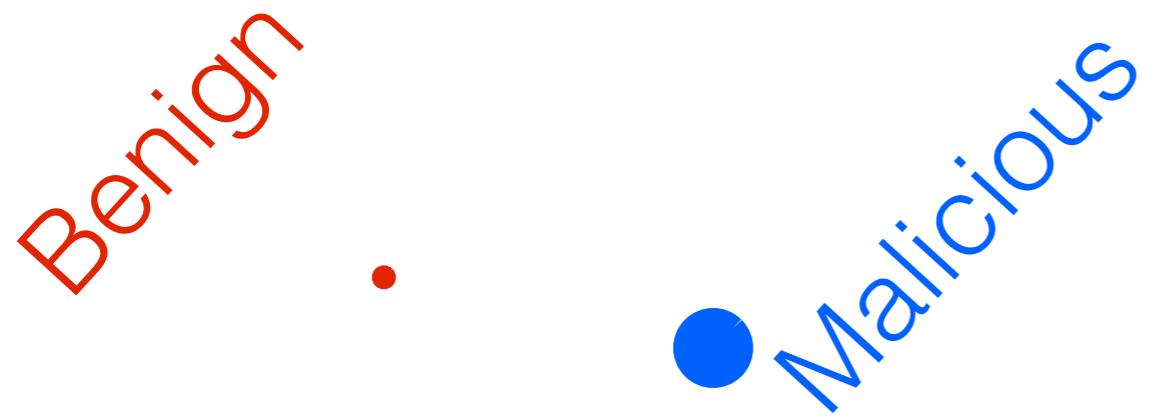
# Importance sampling



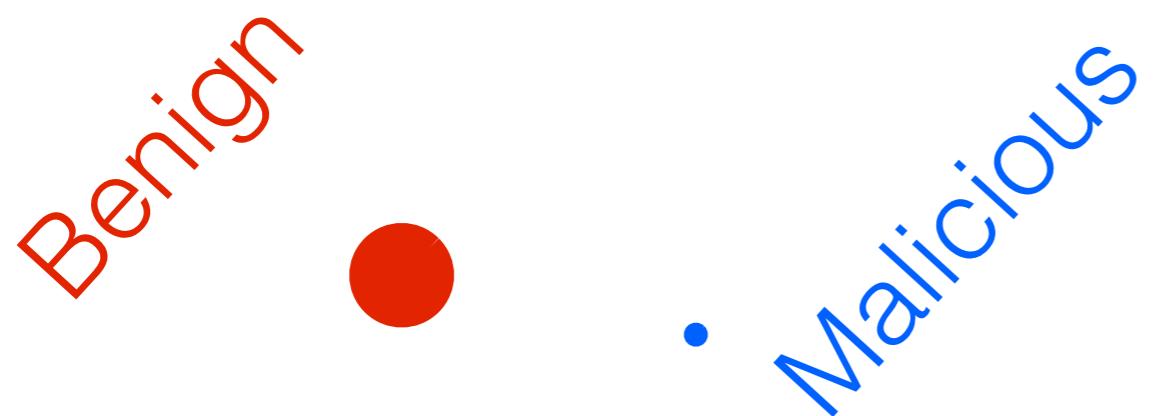
# Importance sampling



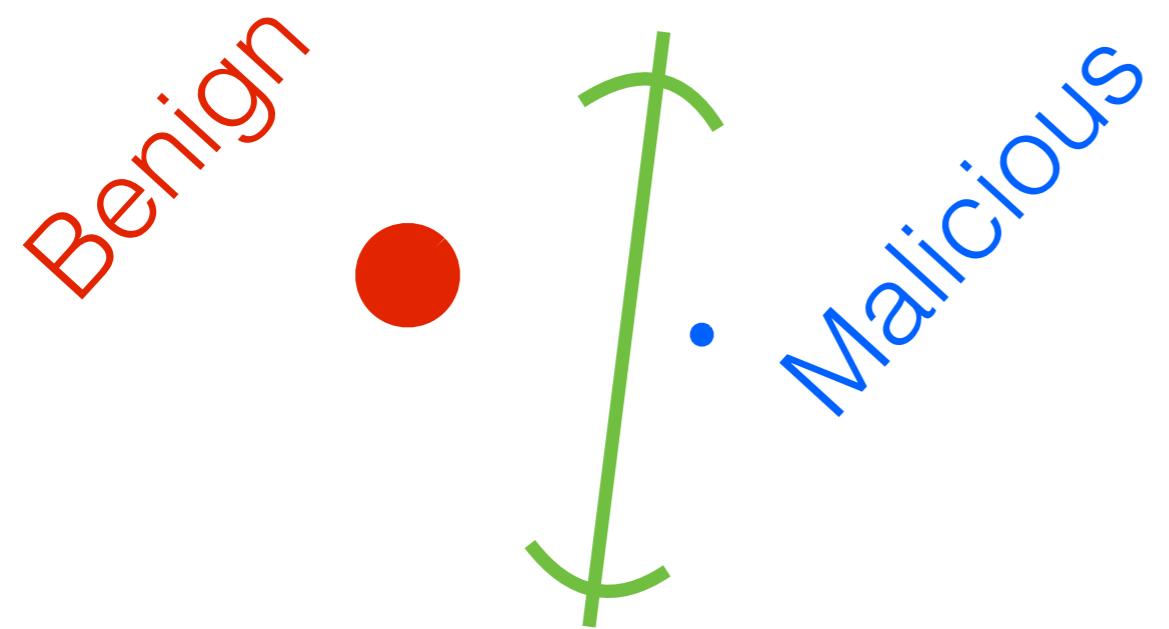
# Importance sampling



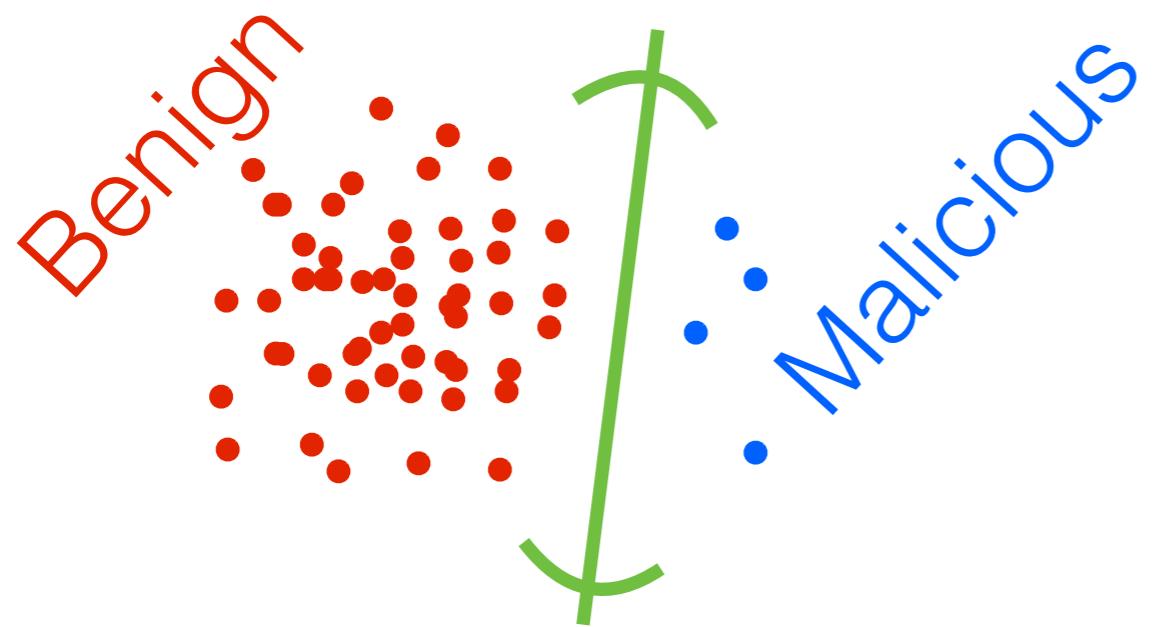
# Importance sampling



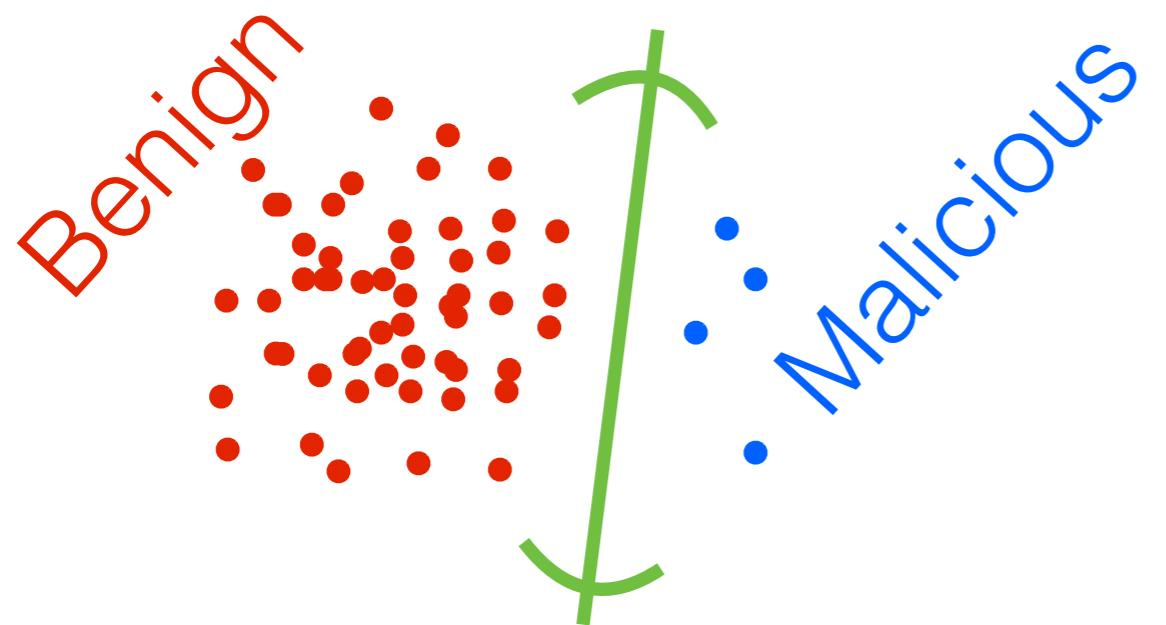
# Importance sampling



# Importance sampling

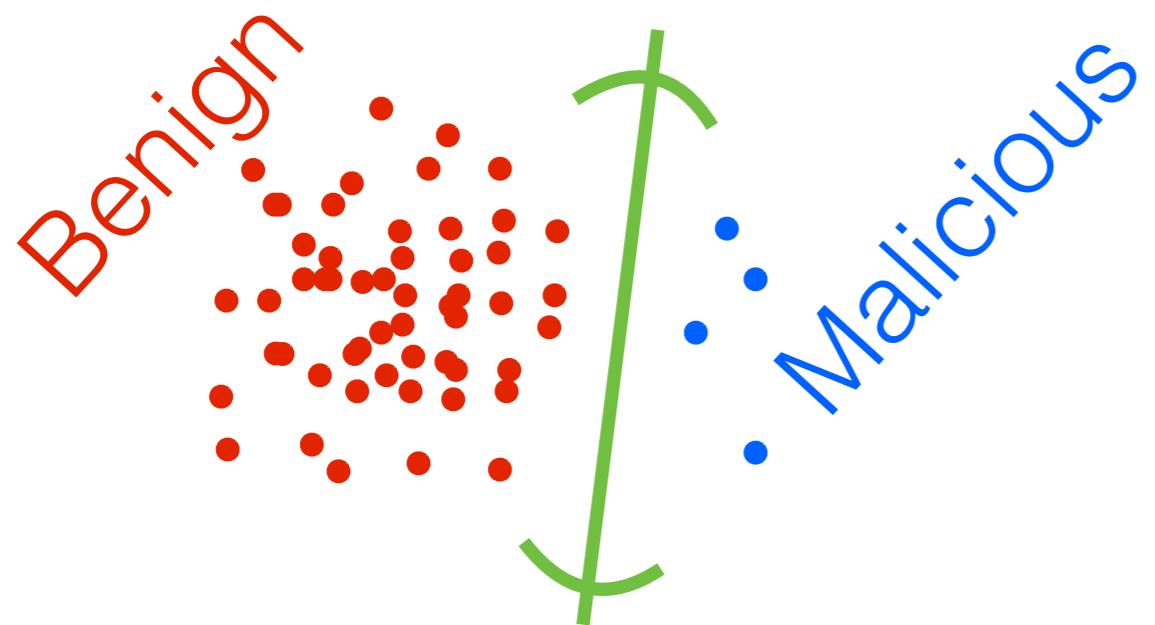


# Importance sampling



$$\sigma_n \propto \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$

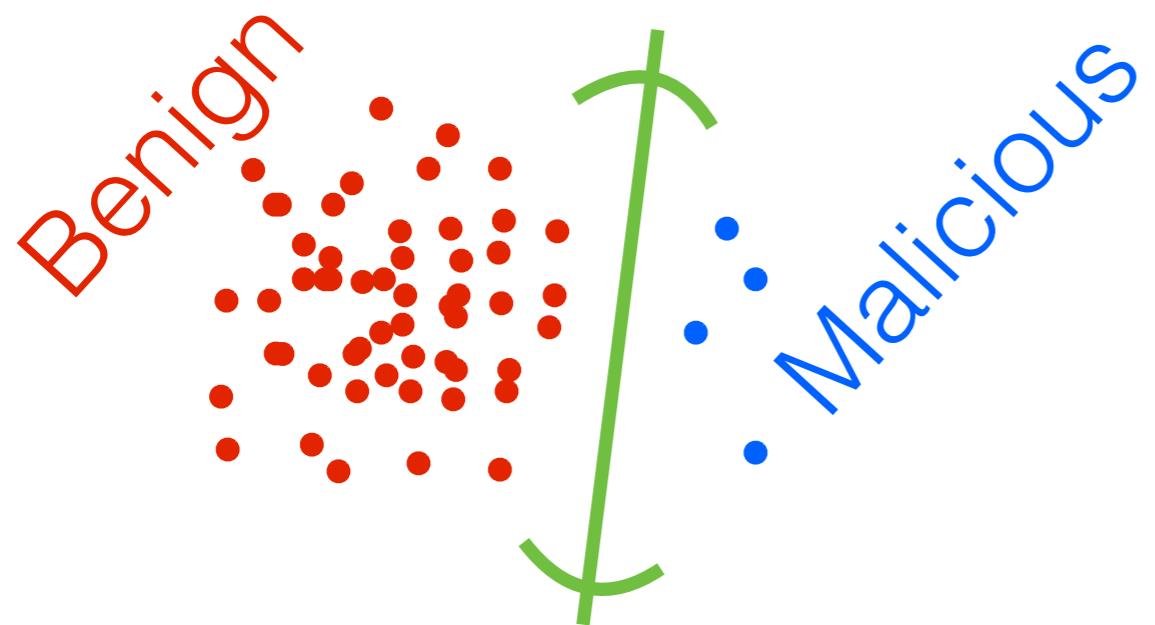
# Importance sampling



$$\sigma := \sum_{n=1}^N \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$

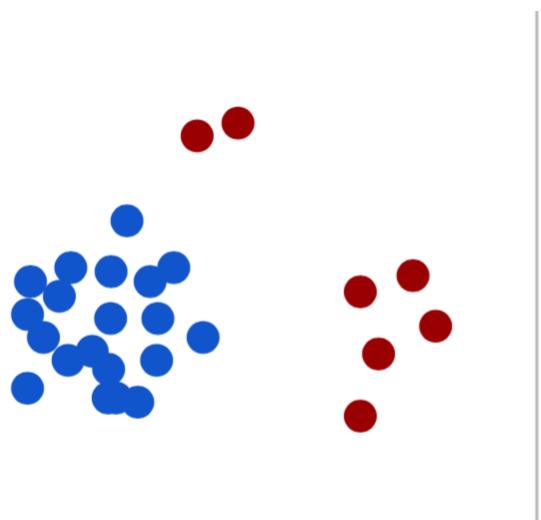
$$\sigma_n := \|\mathcal{L}_n\|/\sigma$$

# Importance sampling

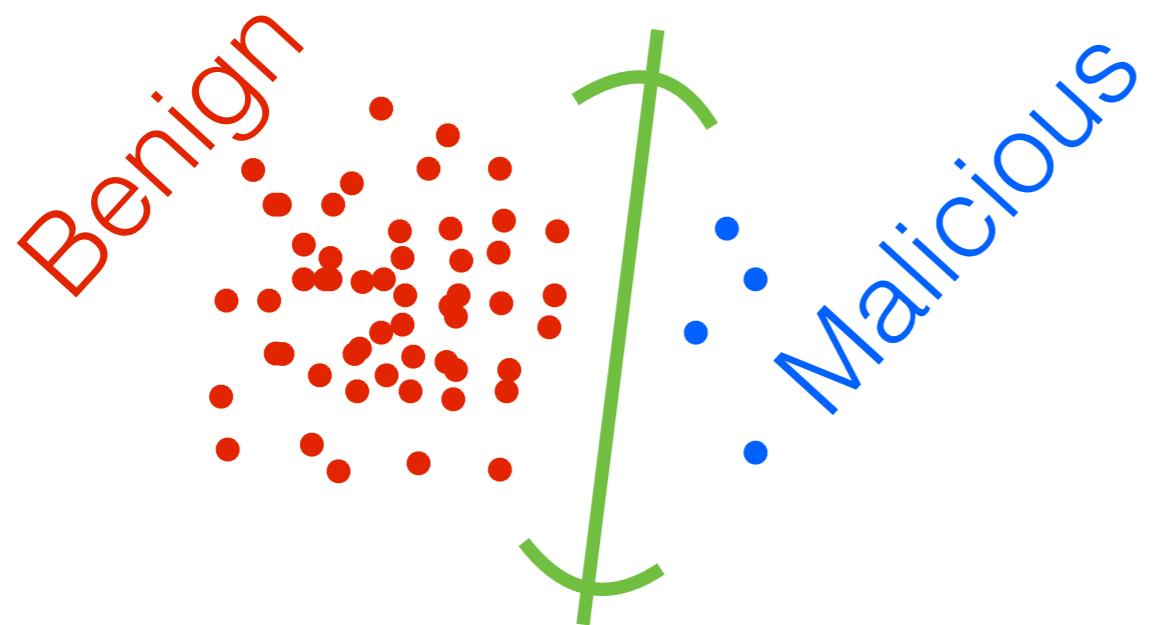


$$\sigma := \sum_{n=1}^N \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$
$$\sigma_n := \|\mathcal{L}_n\|/\sigma$$

1. data



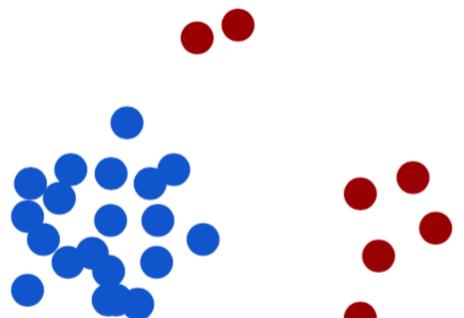
# Importance sampling



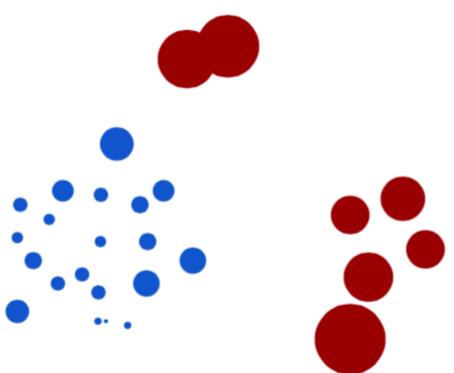
$$\sigma := \sum_{n=1}^N \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$

$$\sigma_n := \|\mathcal{L}_n\|/\sigma$$

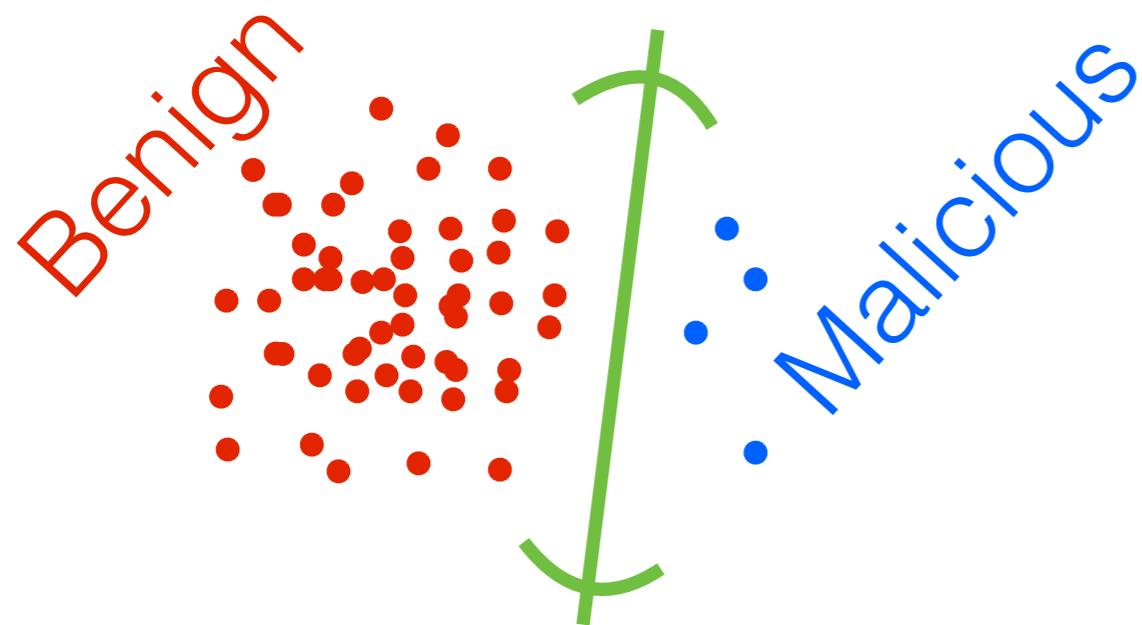
1. data



2. importance weights

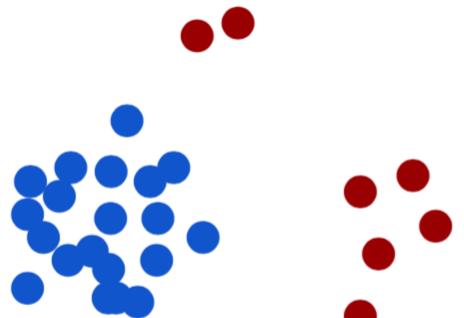


# Importance sampling

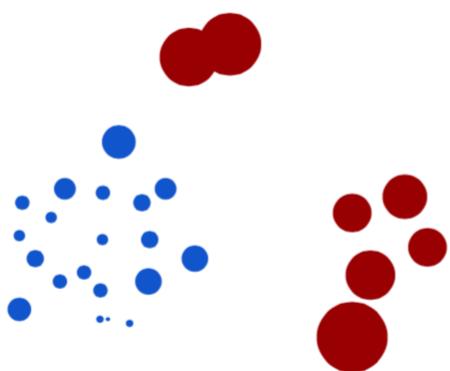


$$\sigma := \sum_{n=1}^N \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$
$$\sigma_n := \|\mathcal{L}_n\|/\sigma$$

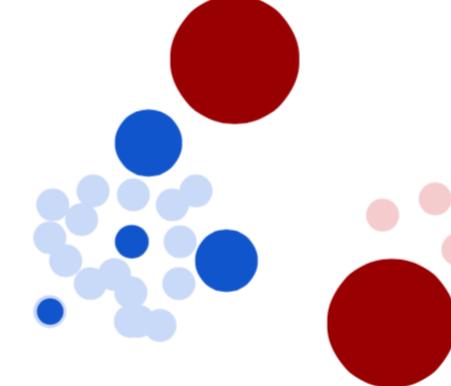
1. data



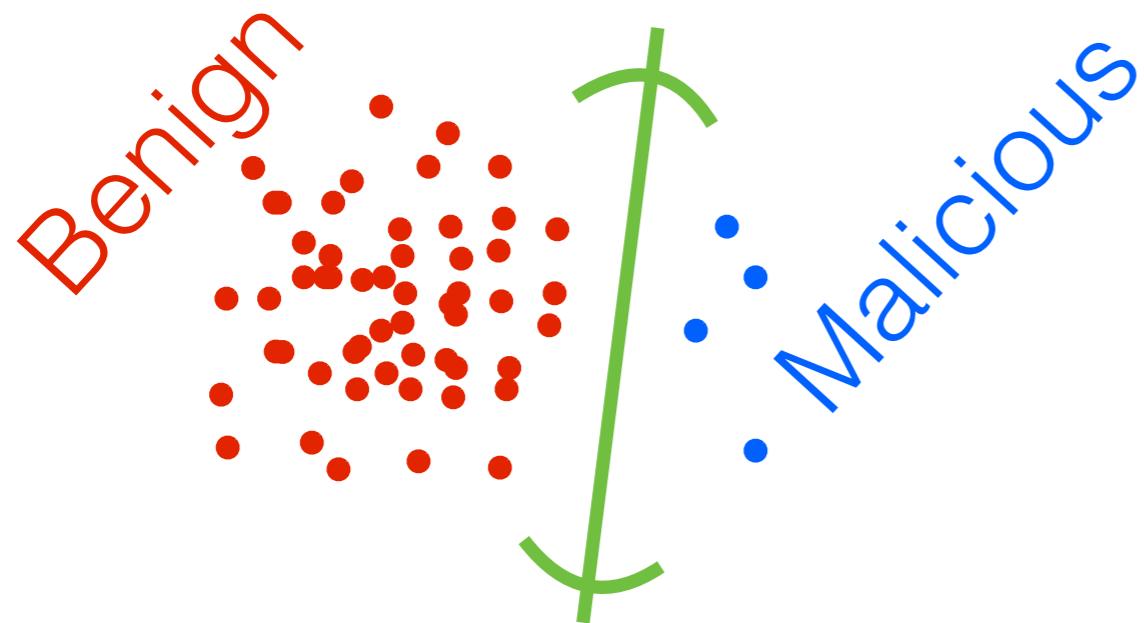
2. importance  
weights



3. importance  
sample



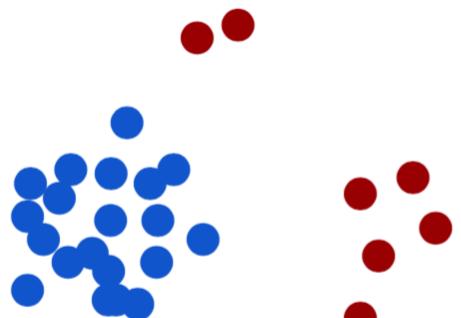
# Importance sampling



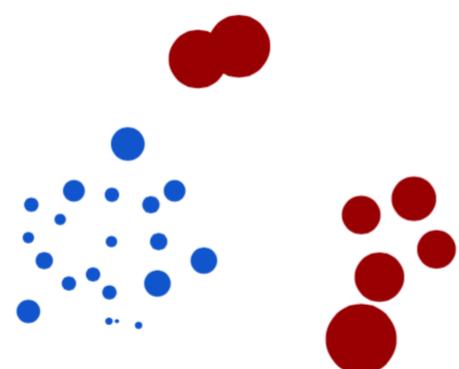
$$\sigma := \sum_{n=1}^N \|\mathcal{L}_n\|$$

$$\sigma_n := \|\mathcal{L}_n\|/\sigma$$

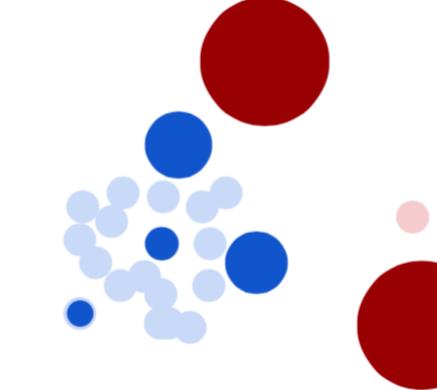
1. data



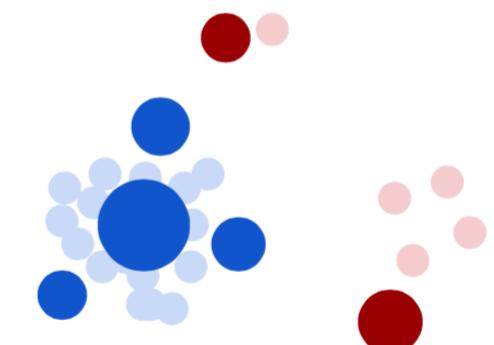
2. importance  
weights



3. importance  
sample



4. invert  
weights



# Importance sampling

**Thm (CB).**  $\delta \in (0,1)$ . With probability  $\geq 1 - \delta$ , after  $M$  iterations,

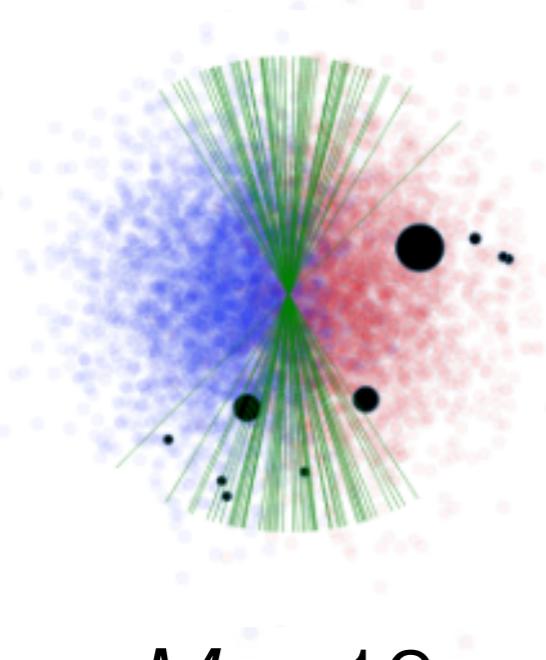
$$\|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\| \leq \frac{\sigma\bar{\eta}}{\sqrt{M}} \left( 1 + \sqrt{2 \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \right)$$

# Importance sampling

**Thm (CB).**  $\delta \in (0,1)$ . With probability  $\geq 1 - \delta$ , after  $M$  iterations,

$$\|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\| \leq \frac{\sigma\bar{\eta}}{\sqrt{M}} \left( 1 + \sqrt{2 \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \right)$$

- Still noisy estimates



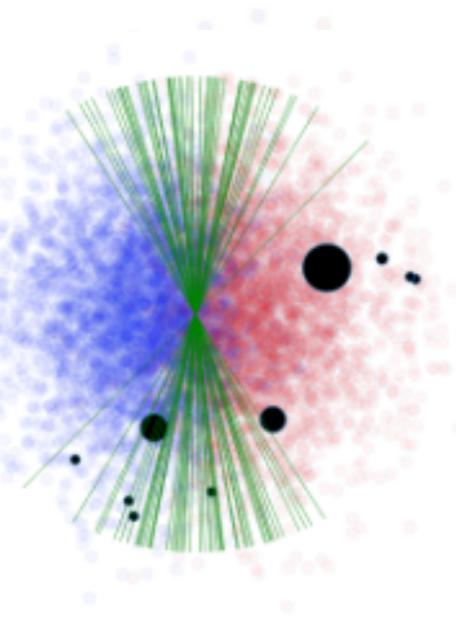
$M = 10$

# Importance sampling

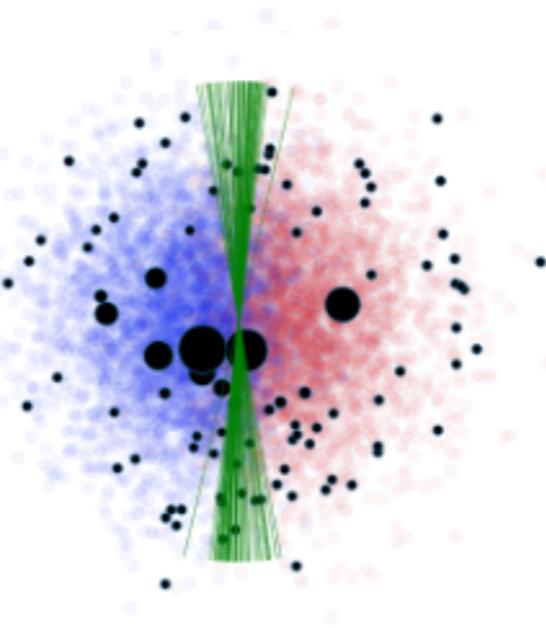
**Thm (CB).**  $\delta \in (0,1)$ . With probability  $\geq 1 - \delta$ , after  $M$  iterations,

$$\|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\| \leq \frac{\sigma\bar{\eta}}{\sqrt{M}} \left( 1 + \sqrt{2 \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \right)$$

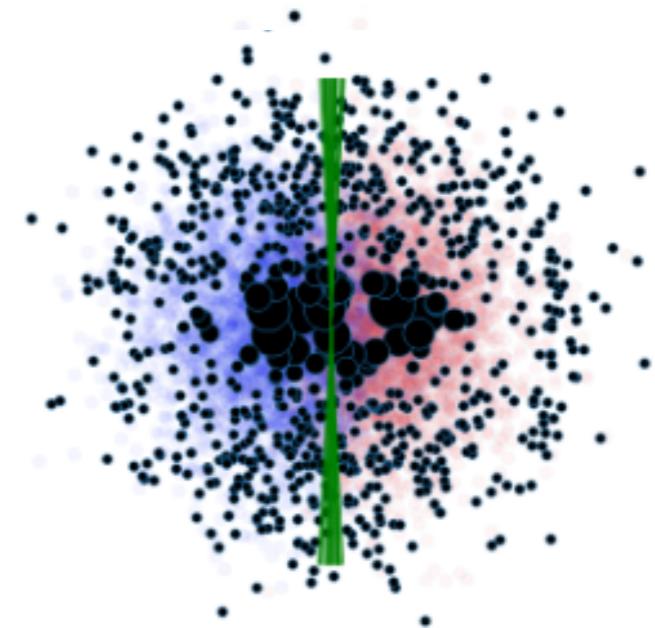
- Still noisy estimates



$M = 10$



$M = 100$



$M = 1000$

# Hilbert coresets

- Want a good coreset:

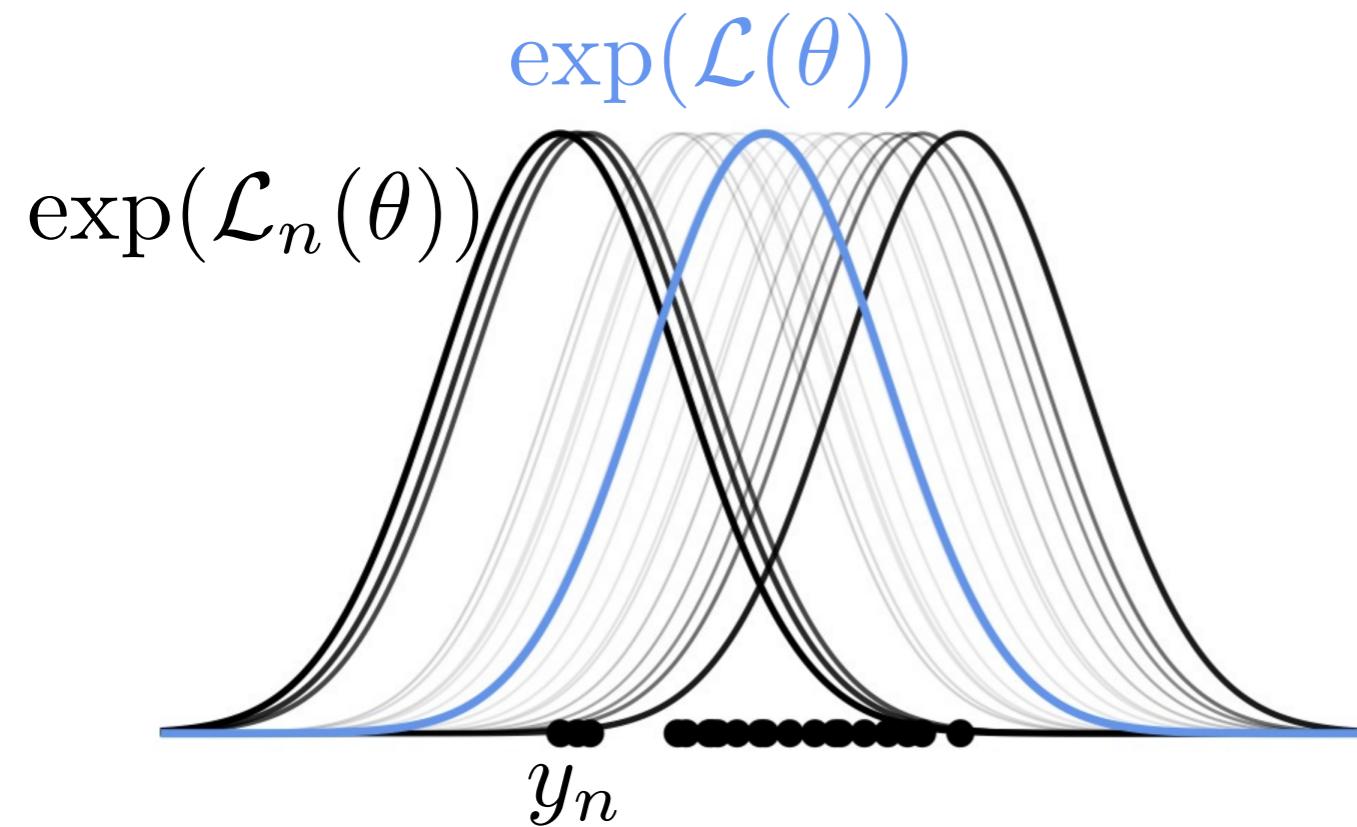
$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M \end{aligned}$$

# Hilbert coresets

- Want a good coreset:

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2$$

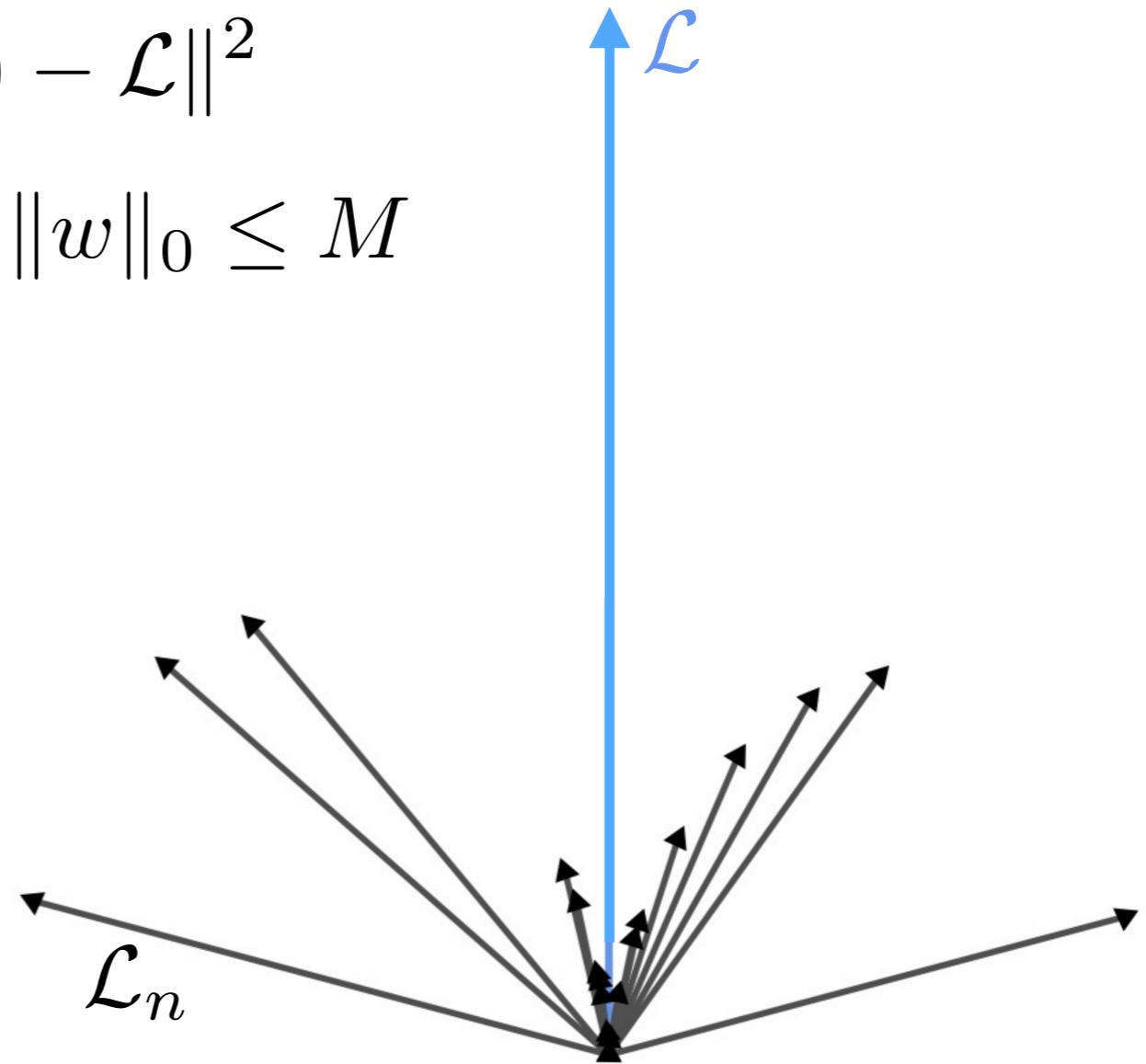
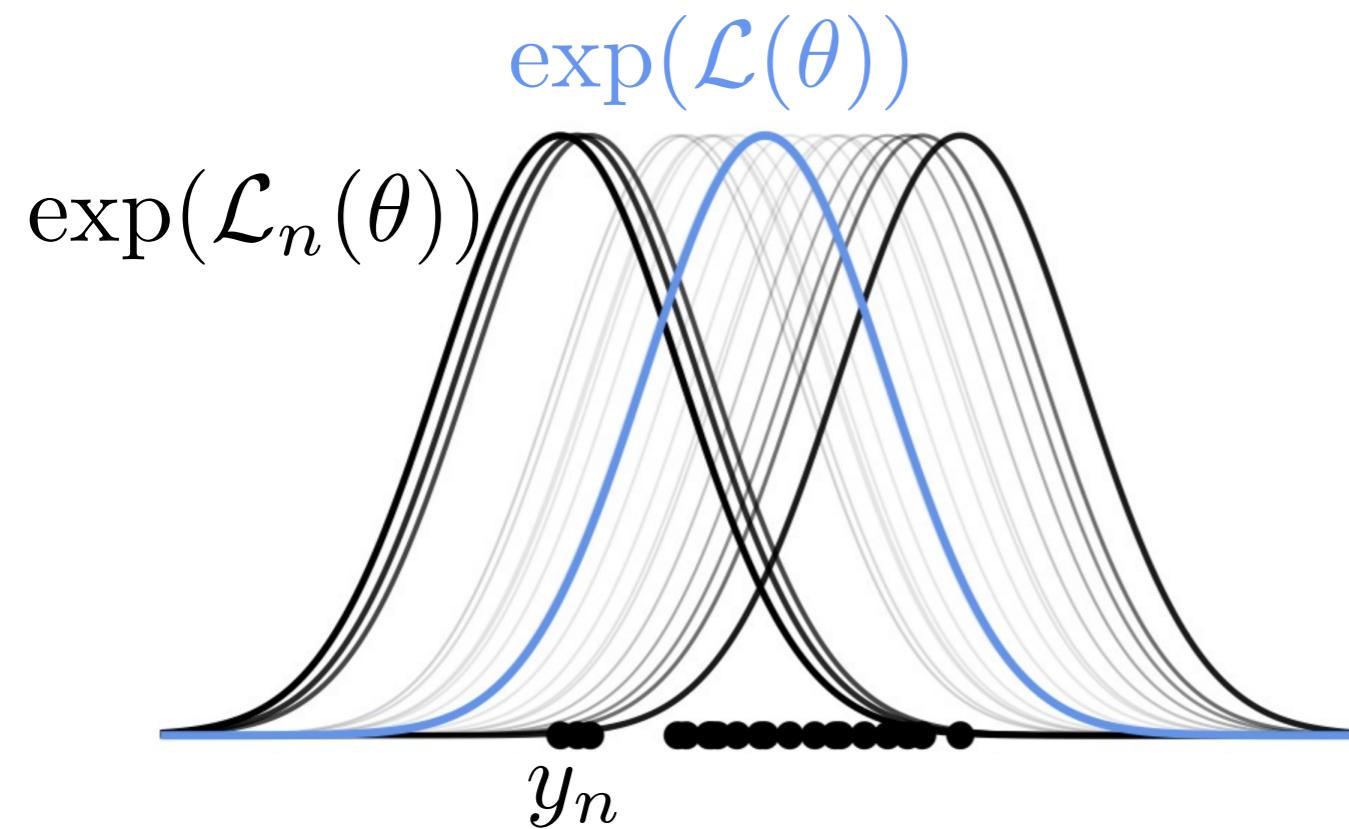
s.t.  $w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M$



# Hilbert coresets

- Want a good coreset:

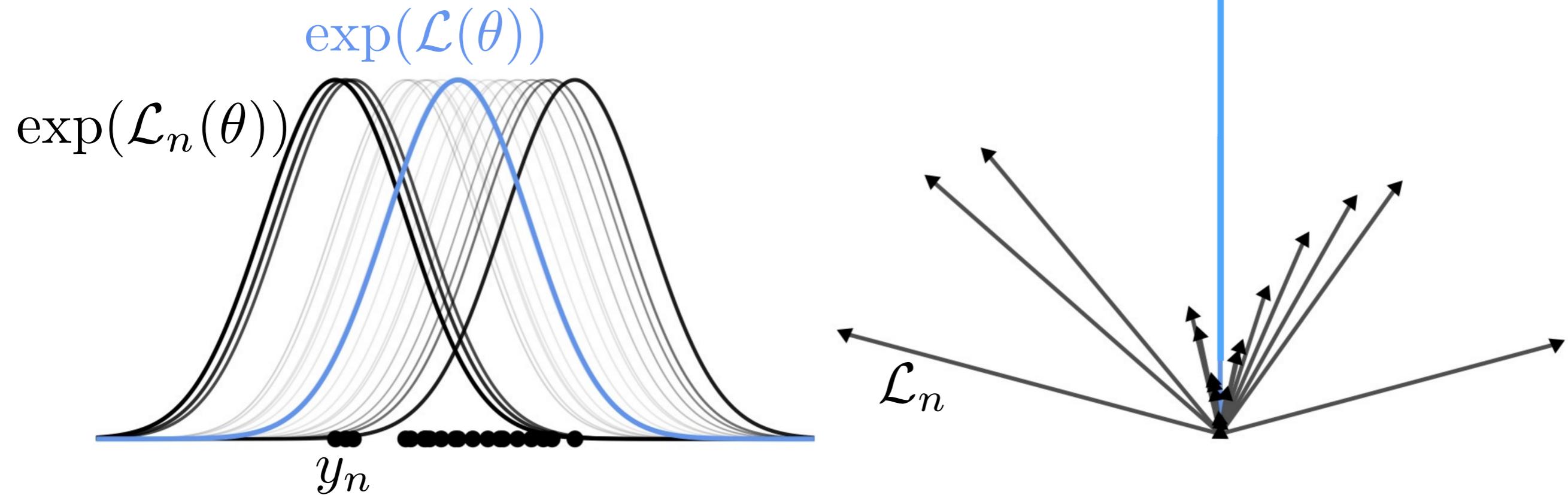
$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M \end{aligned}$$



# Hilbert coresets

- Want a good coreset:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M \end{aligned}$$

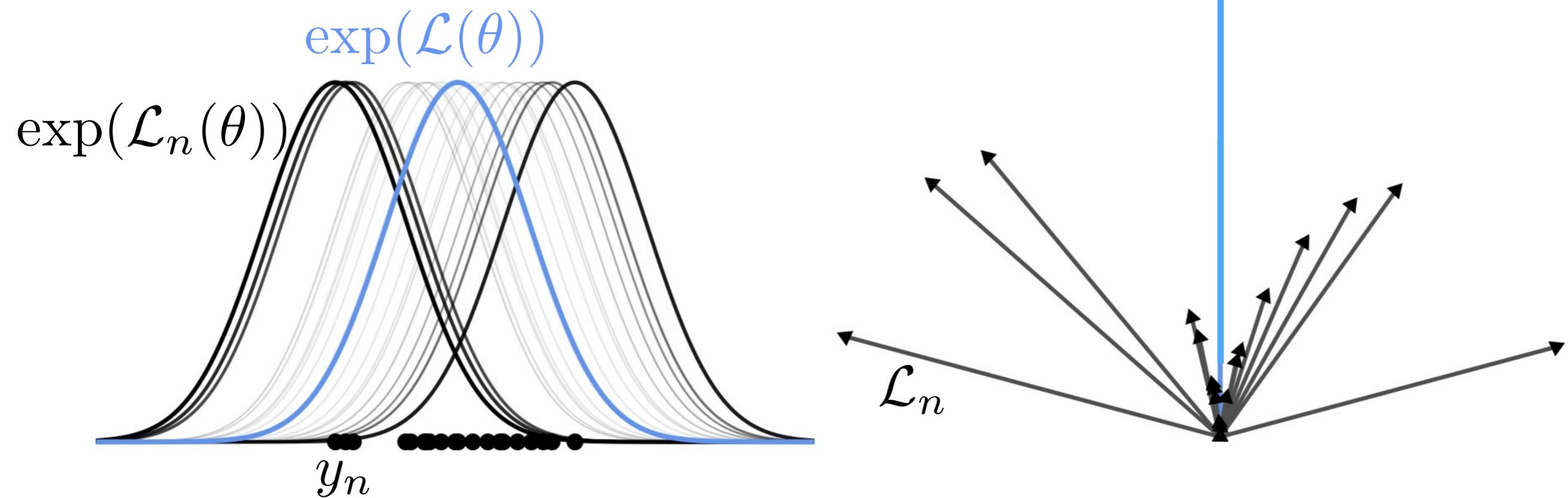


- need to consider (residual) error direction

# Hilbert coresets

- Want a good coreset:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M \end{aligned}$$



- need to consider (residual) error direction
- sparse optimization

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

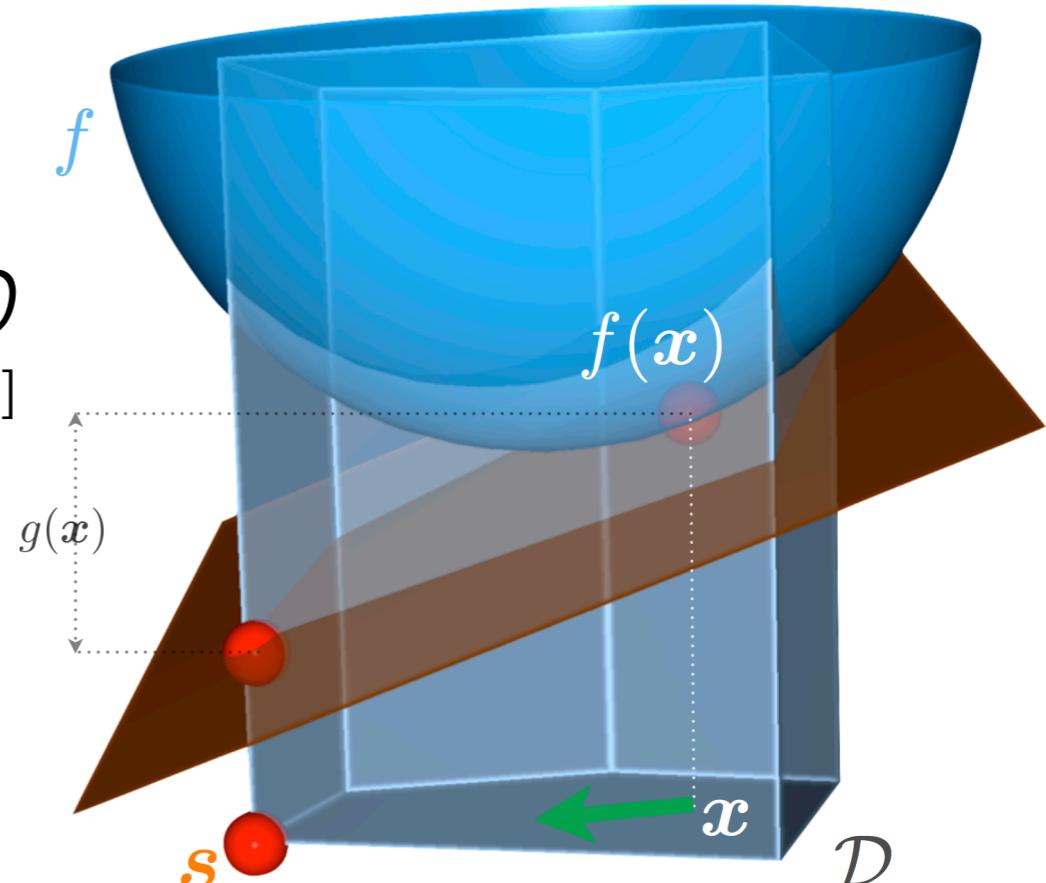
# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]



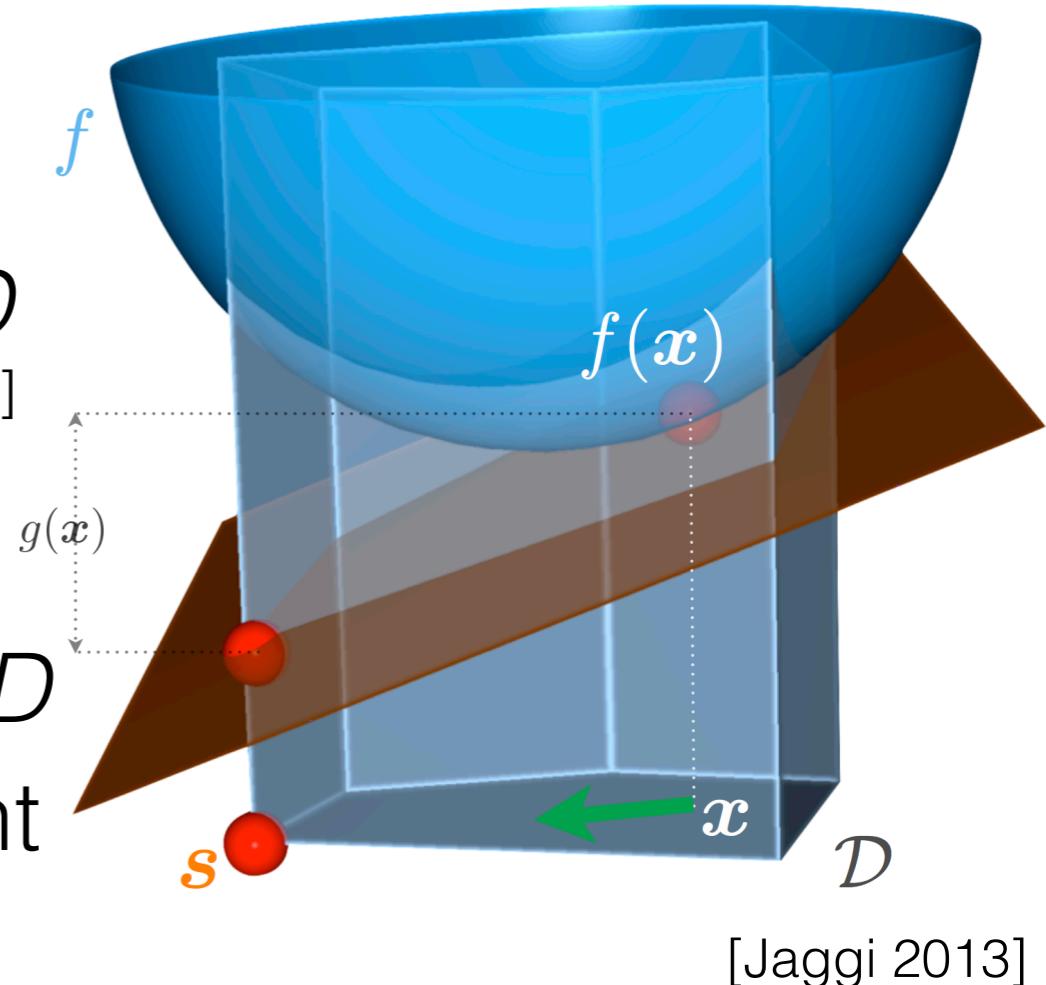
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point



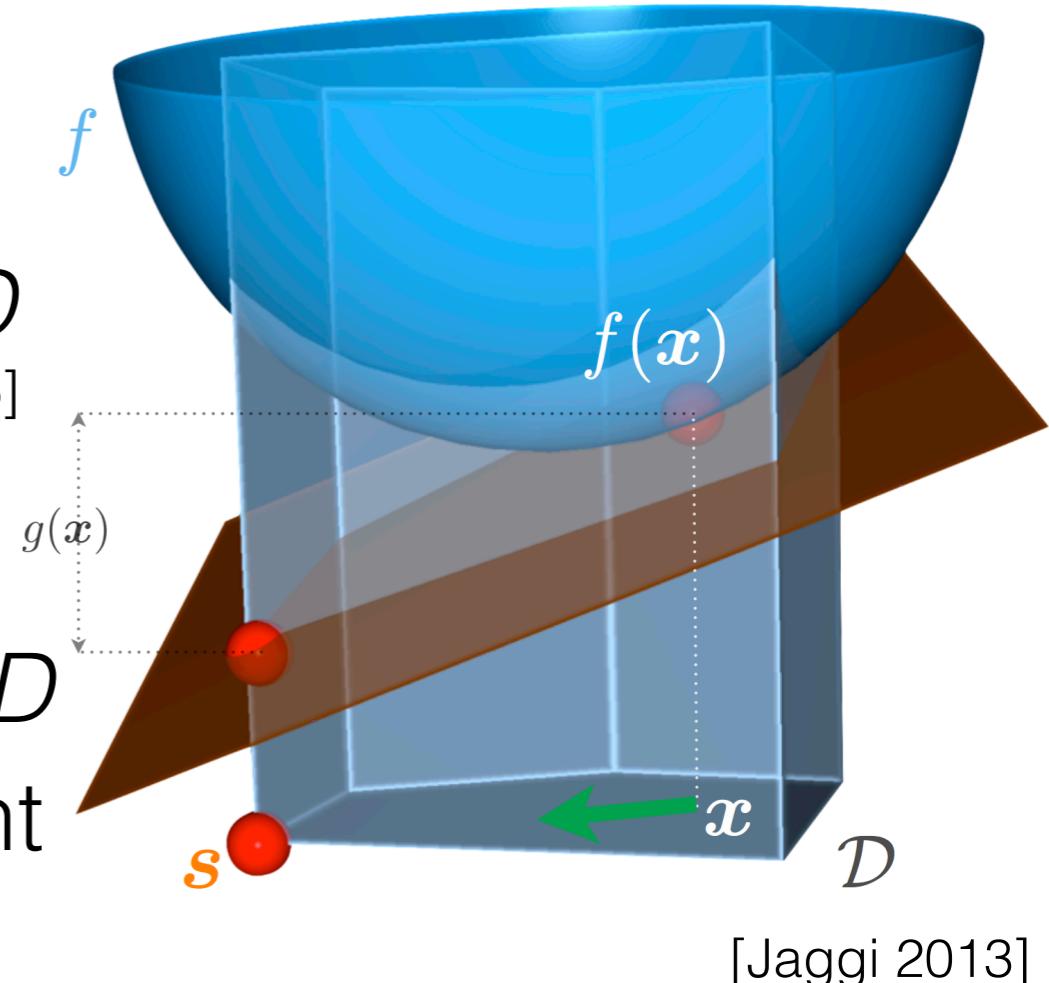
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point
- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps



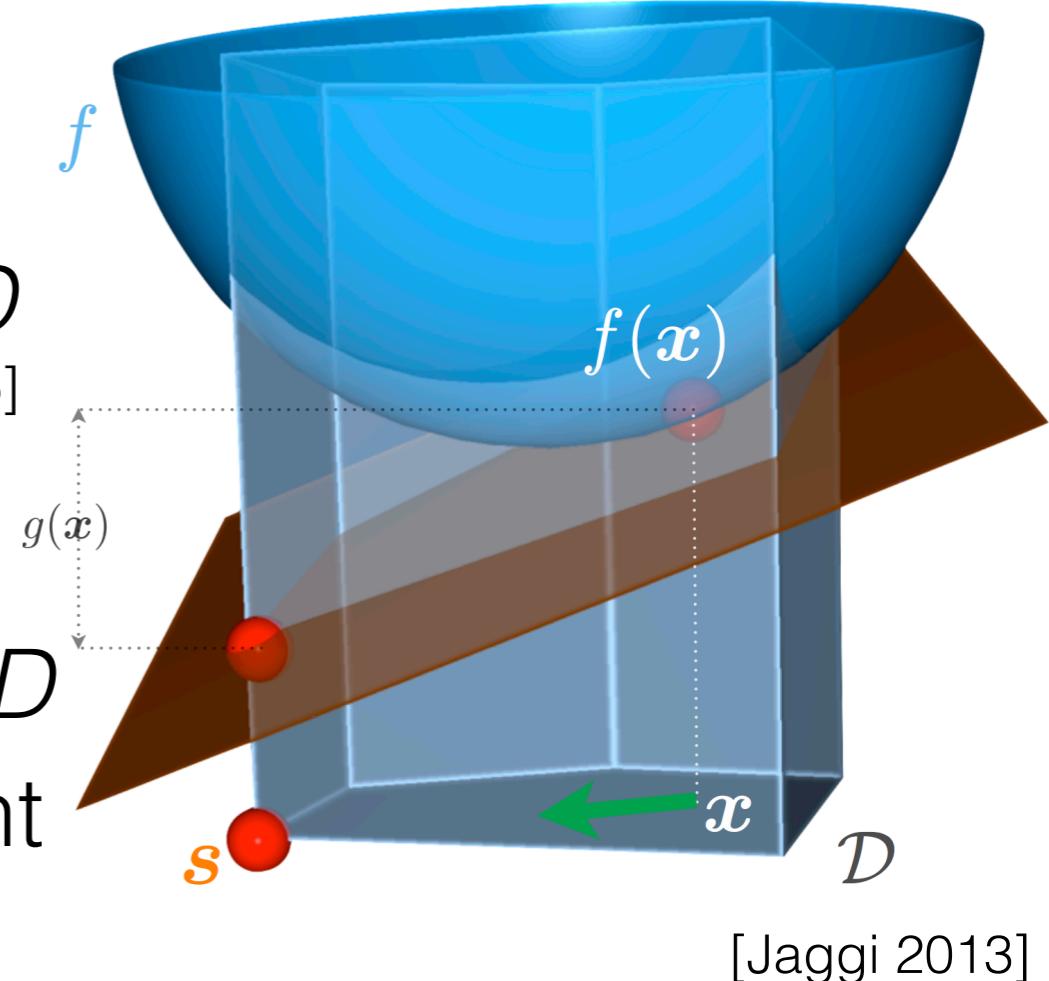
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point
- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps
- Our problem:  $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|$



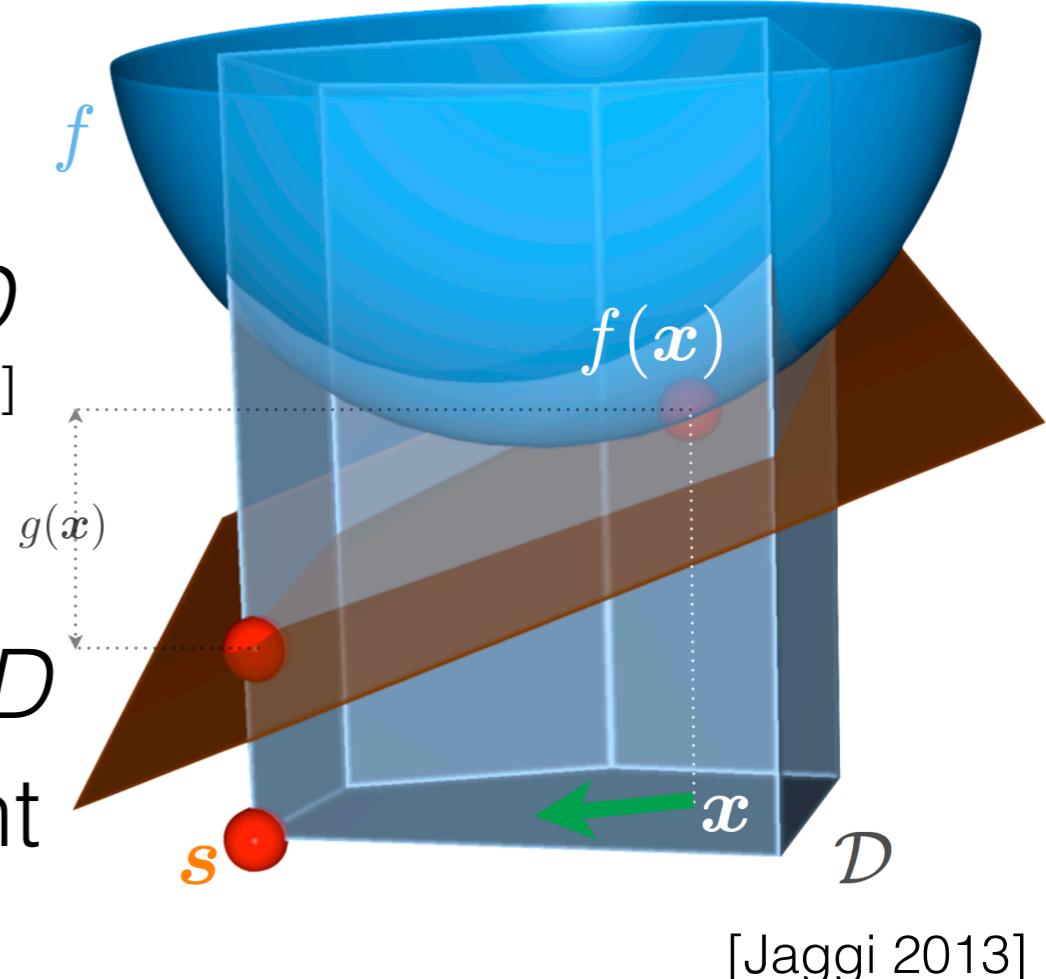
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point
- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps
- Our problem:  $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2$



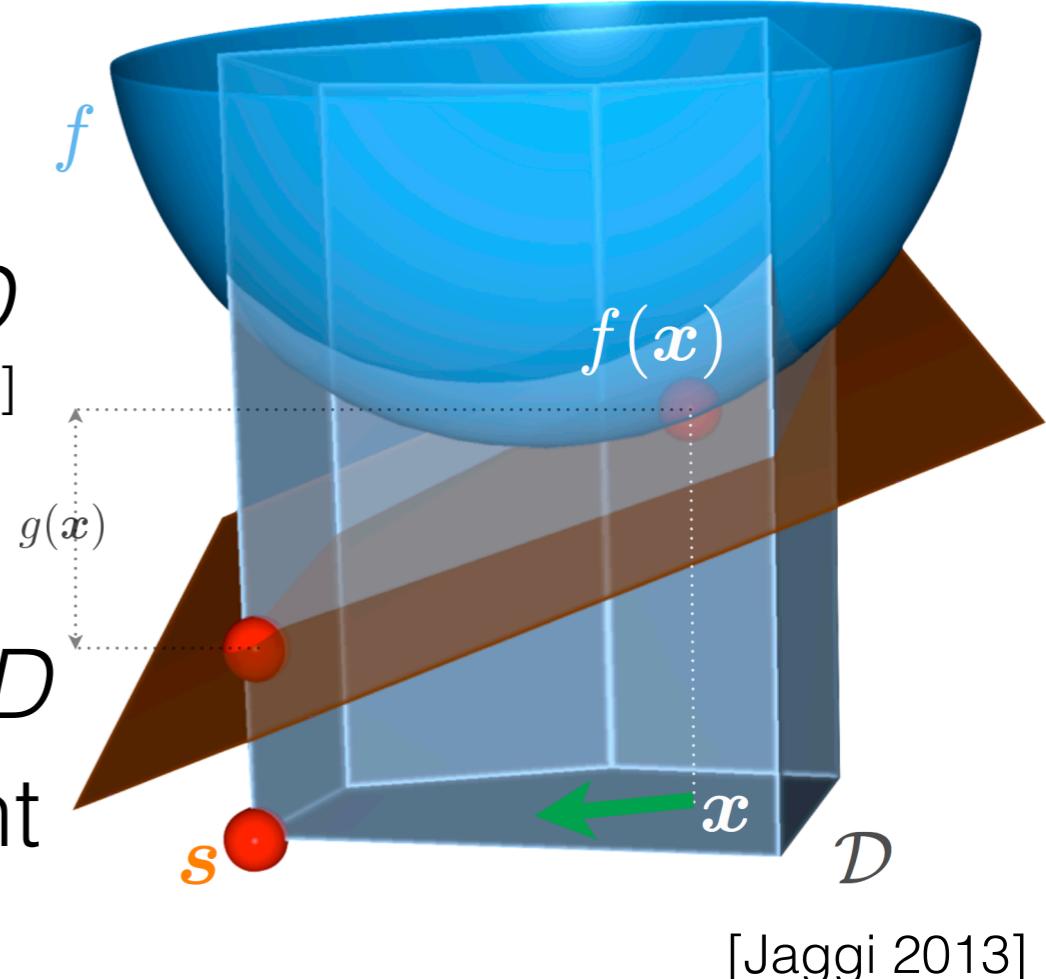
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point
- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps
- Our problem:  $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2$   
s.t.  $w \geq 0, \|w\|_0 \leq M$



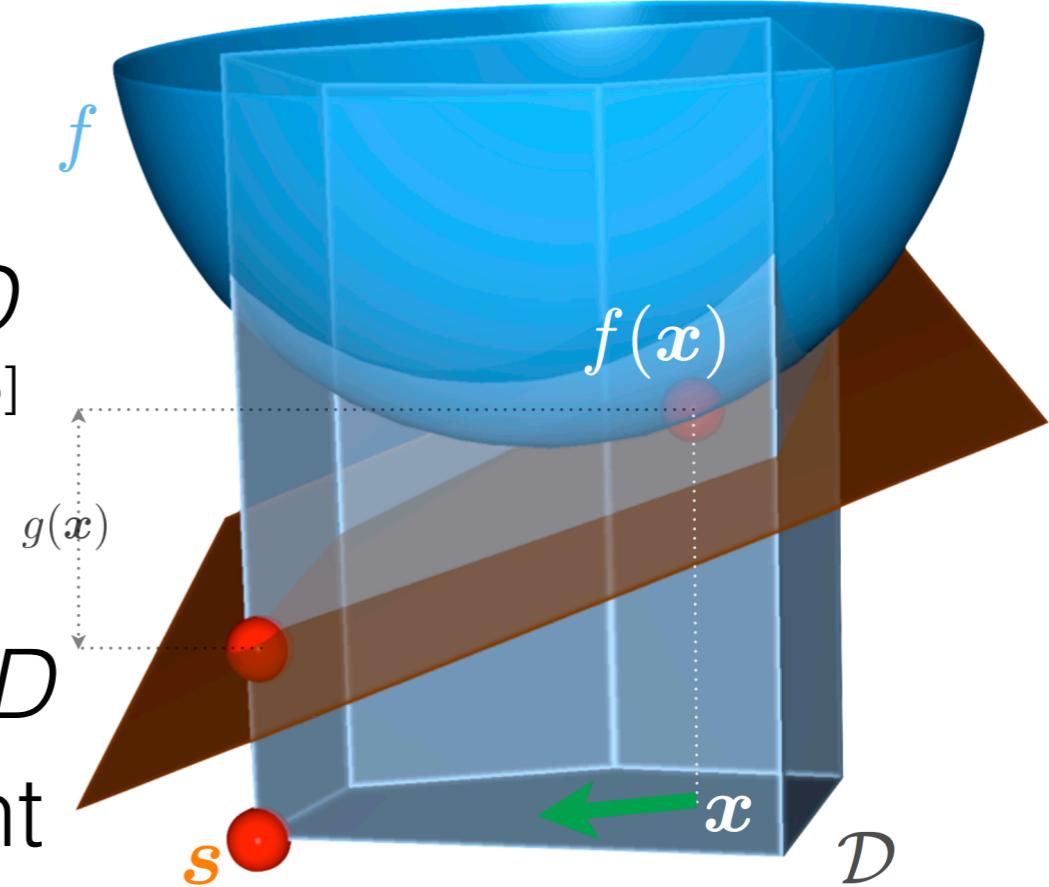
[Jaggi 2013]

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point



[Jaggi 2013]

- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps
- Our problem:

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L}\|^2$$

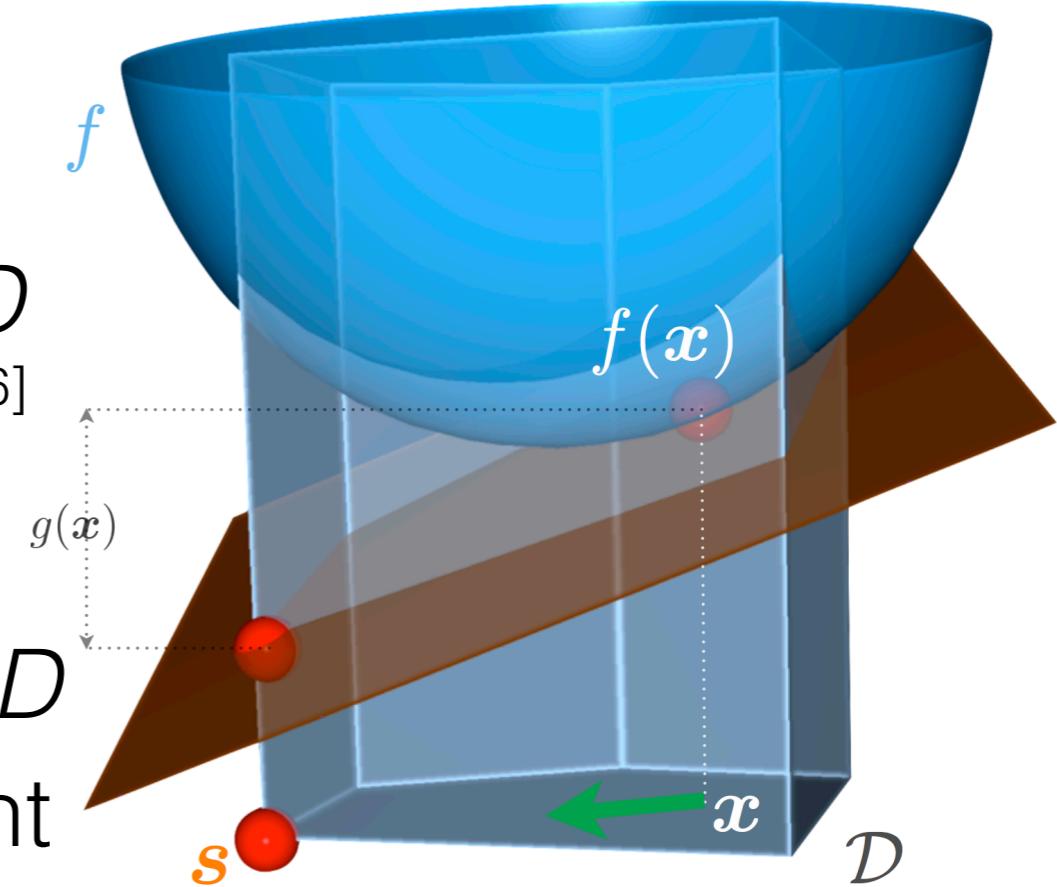
$$\Delta^{N-1} := \left\{ w \in \mathbb{R}^N : \sum_{n=1}^N \sigma_n w_n = \sigma, w \geq 0 \right\}$$

# Frank-Wolfe

Convex optimization on a polytope  $D$

[Frank, Wolfe 1956]

- Repeat:
  1. Find gradient
  2. Find argmin point on plane in  $D$
  3. Do line search between current point and argmin point



[Jaggi 2013]

- Convex combination of  $M$  vertices after  $M-1$  steps
- Our problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^N} & \| \mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L} \|^2 \\ \Delta^{N-1} := & \left\{ w \in \mathbb{R}^N : \sum_{n=1}^N \sigma_n w_n = \sigma, w \geq 0 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

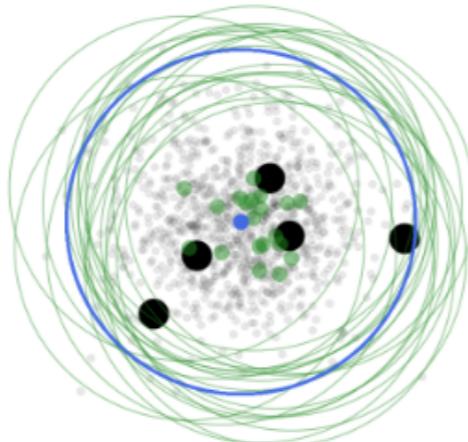
**Thm (CB).** After  $M$  iterations,

$$\| \mathcal{L}(w) - \mathcal{L} \| \leq \frac{c}{\sqrt{\alpha^{2M} + c' M}}$$

# Gaussian model (simulated)

- 1K pts; norms, inference: closed-form

Uniform  
subsampling

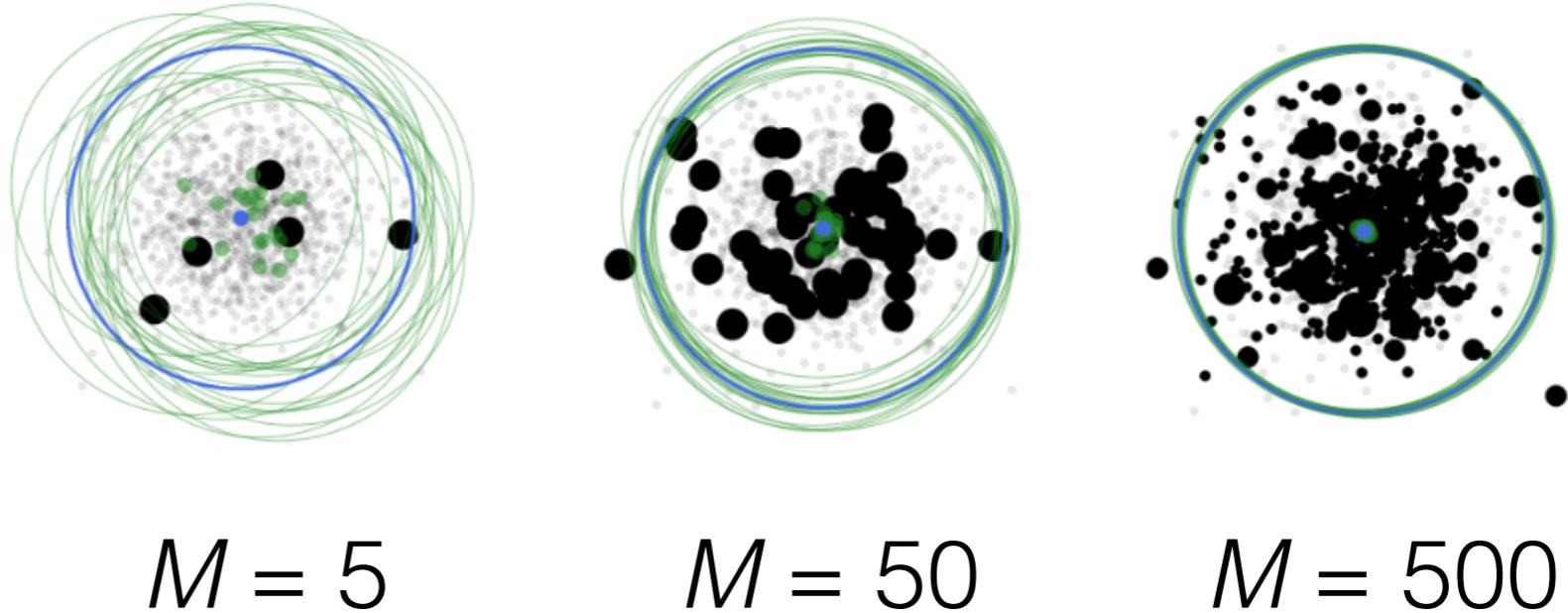


$$M = 5$$

# Gaussian model (simulated)

- 1K pts; norms, inference: closed-form

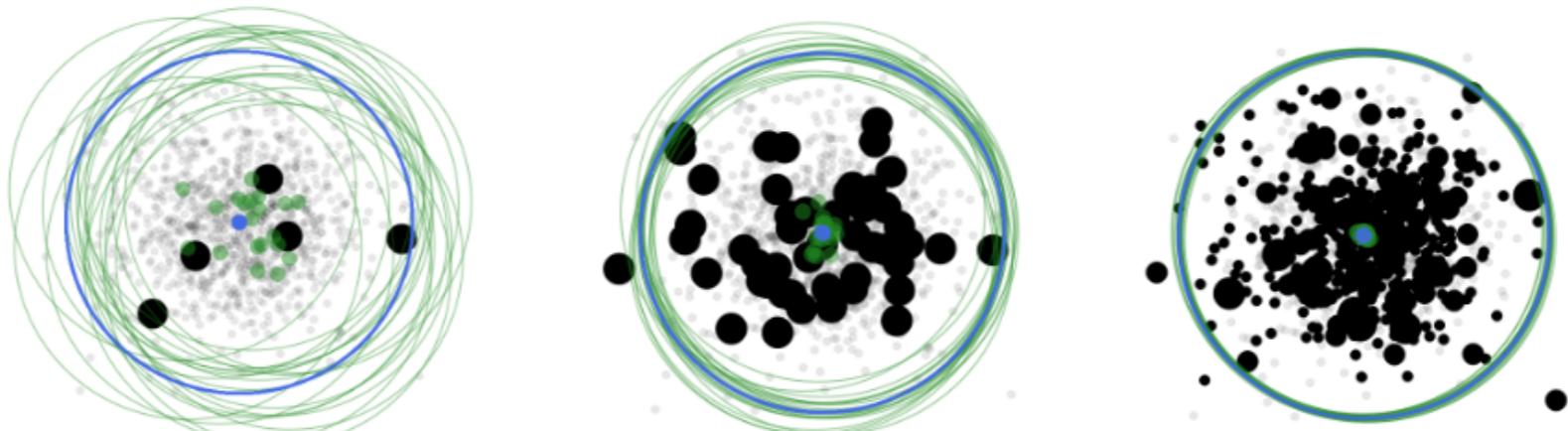
Uniform  
subsampling



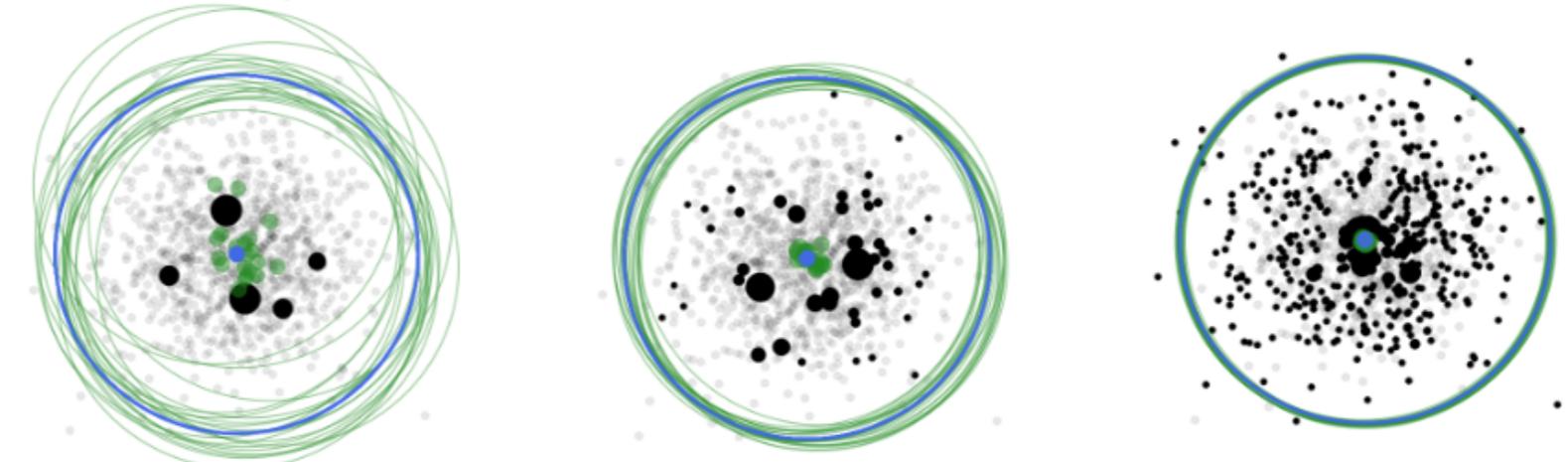
# Gaussian model (simulated)

- 1K pts; norms, inference: closed-form

Uniform  
subsampling



Importance  
sampling



$M = 5$

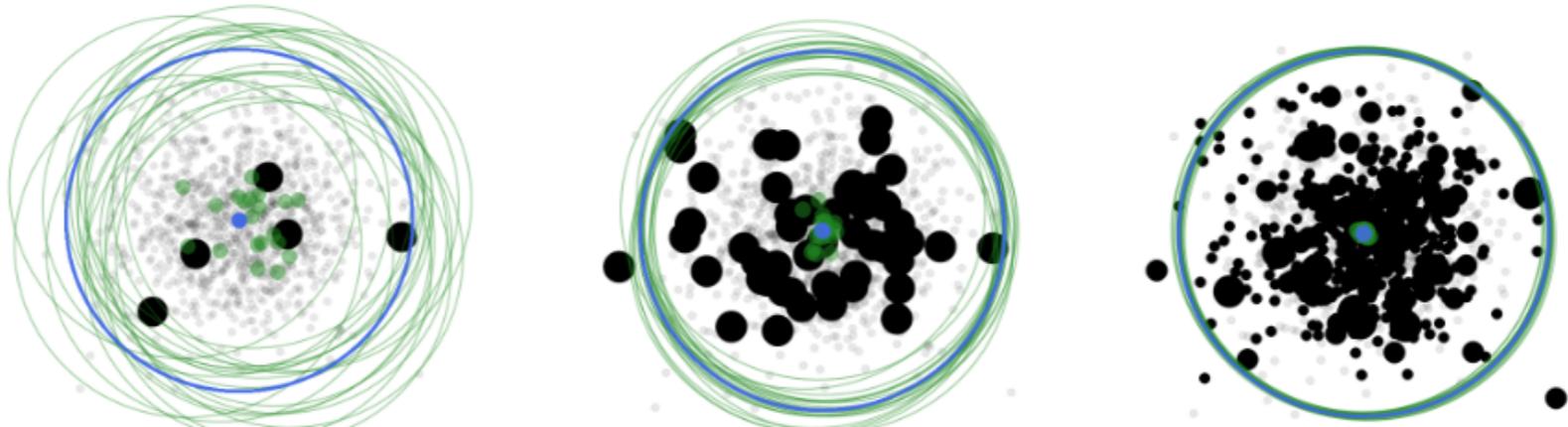
$M = 50$

$M = 500$

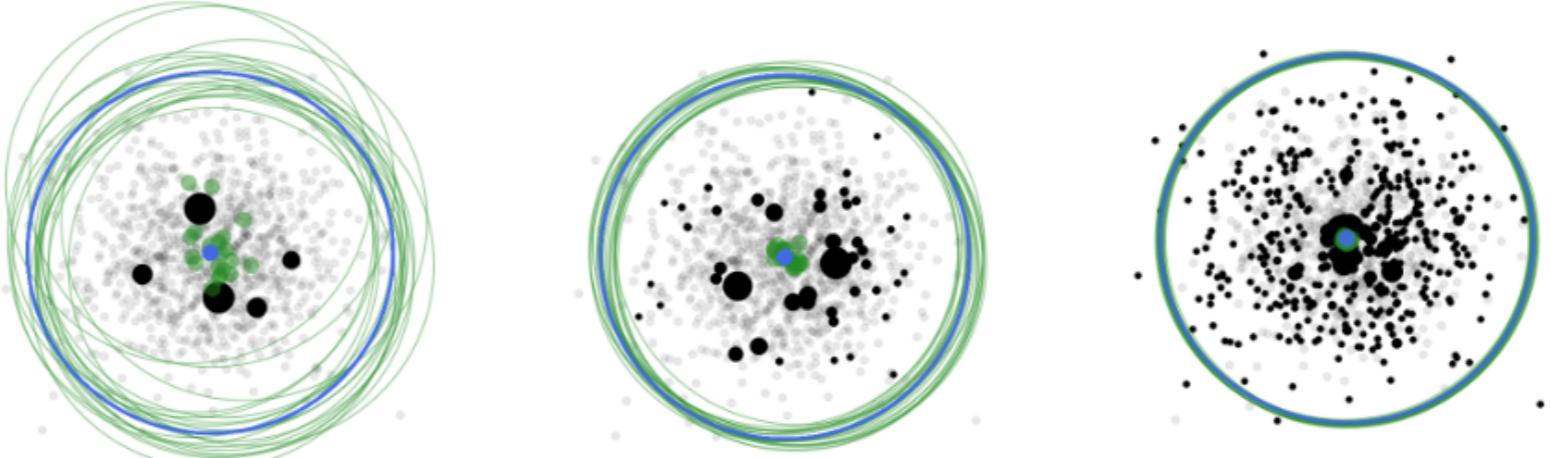
# Gaussian model (simulated)

- 1K pts; norms, inference: closed-form

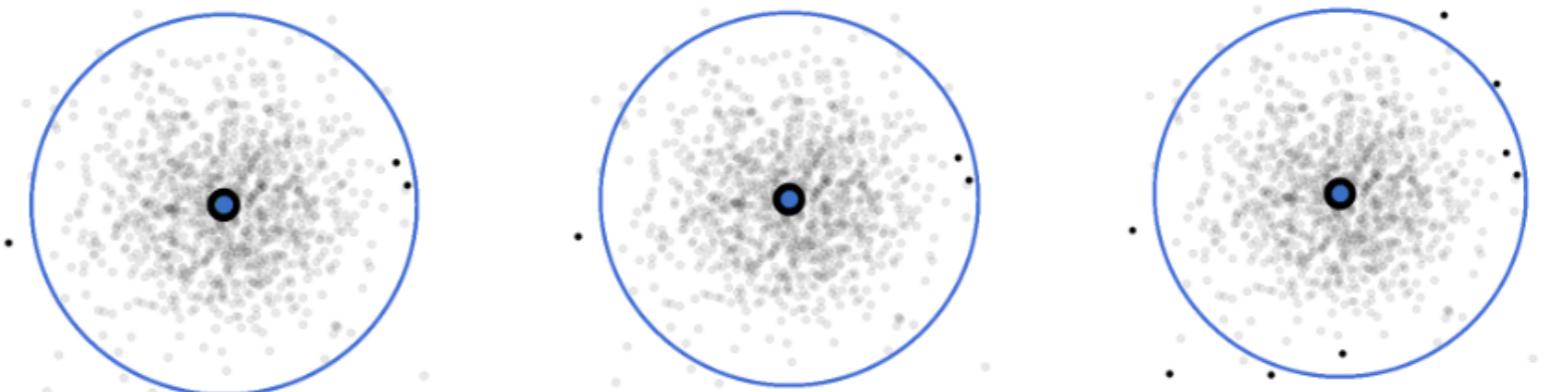
Uniform  
subsampling



Importance  
sampling



Frank-Wolfe



$M = 5$

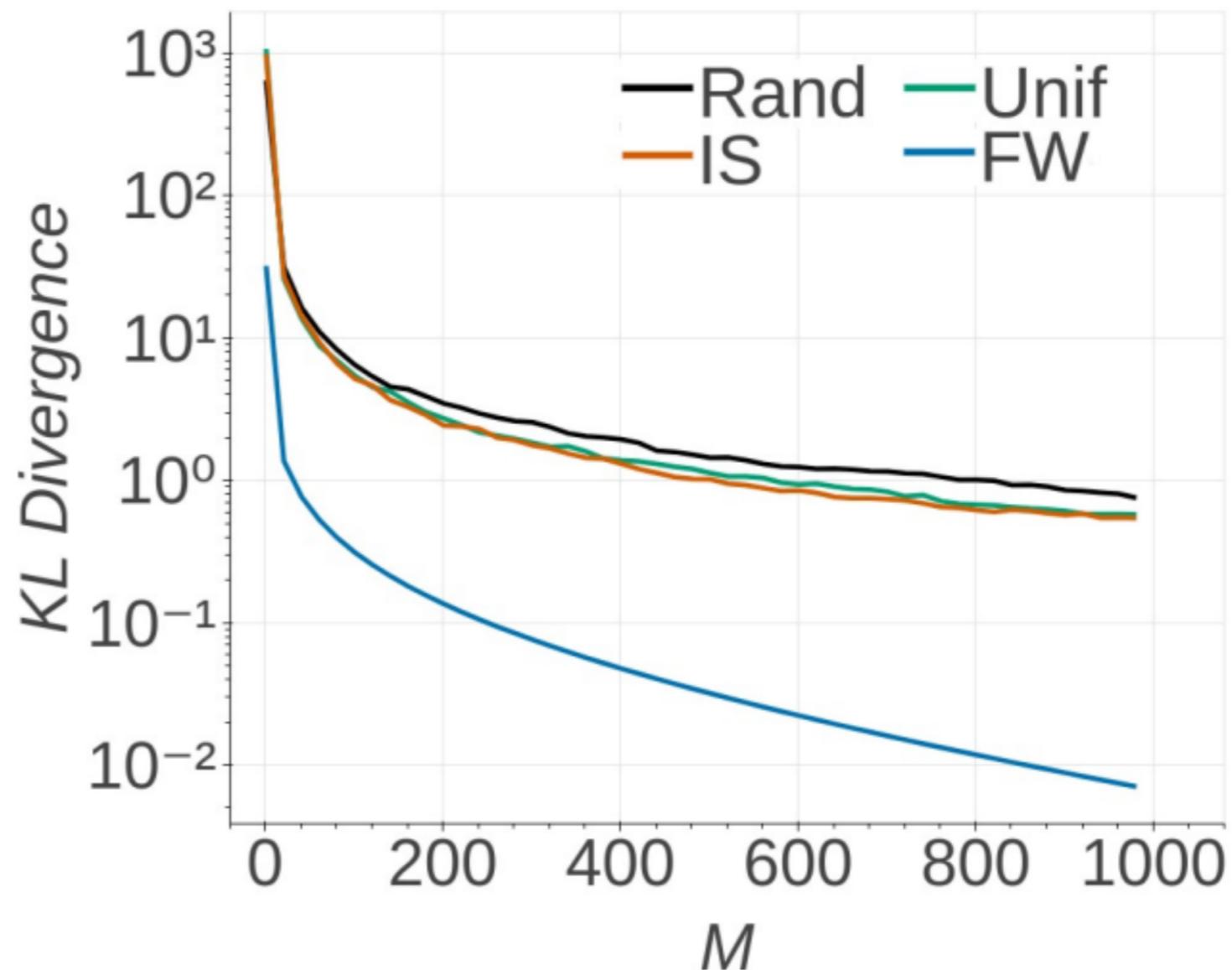
$M = 50$

$M = 500$

# Gaussian model (simulated)

- 1K pts; norms, inference: closed-form

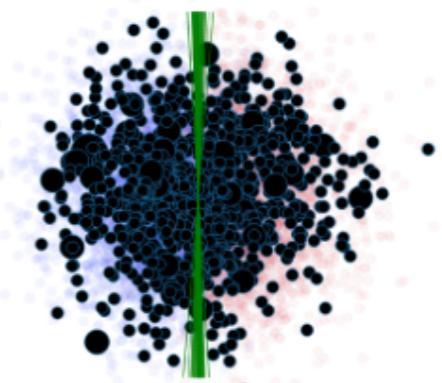
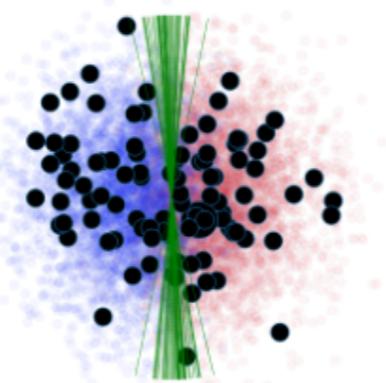
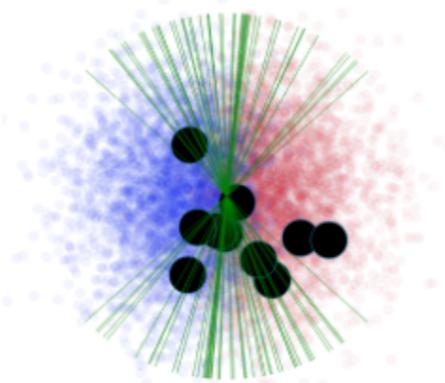
lower  
error



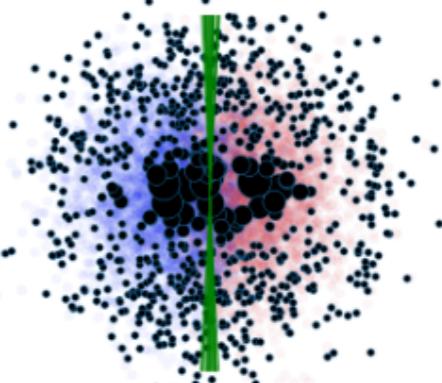
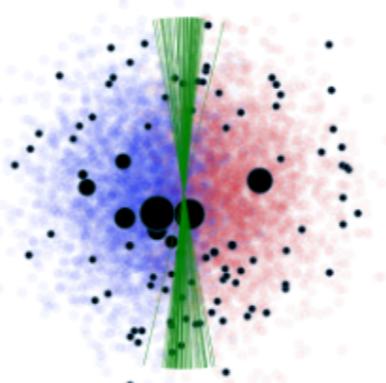
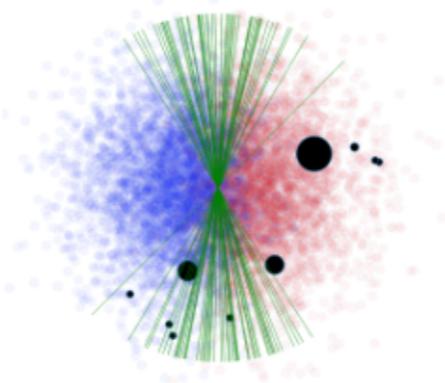
# Logistic regression (simulated)

- 10K pts; general inference

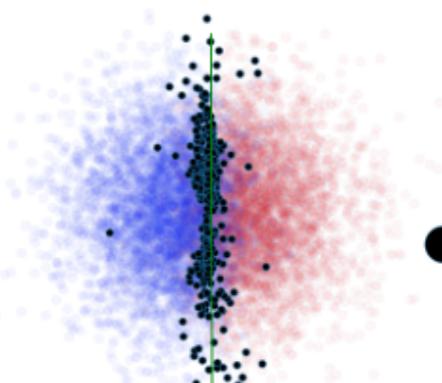
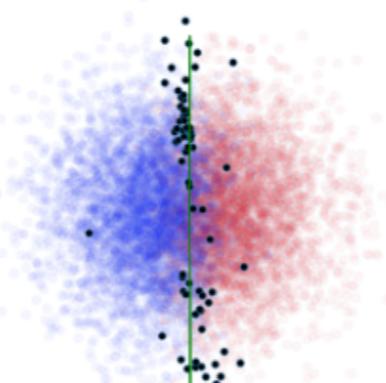
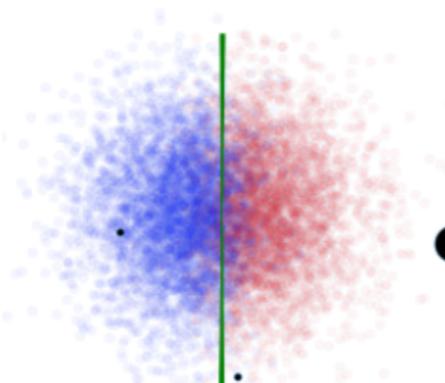
Uniform  
subsampling



Importance  
sampling



Frank-Wolfe



$M = 10$

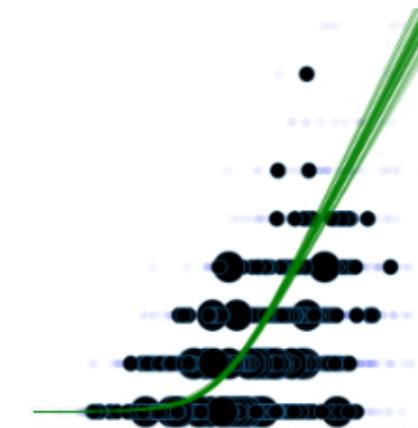
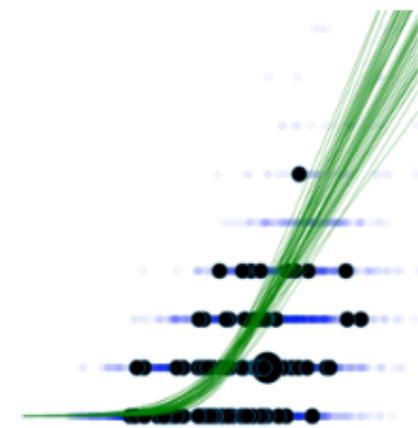
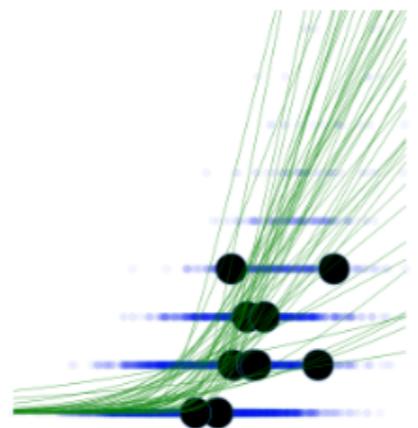
$M = 100$

$M = 1000$

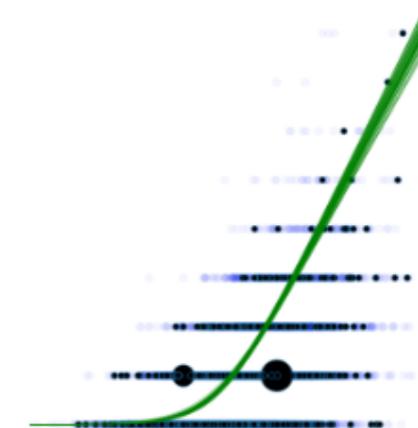
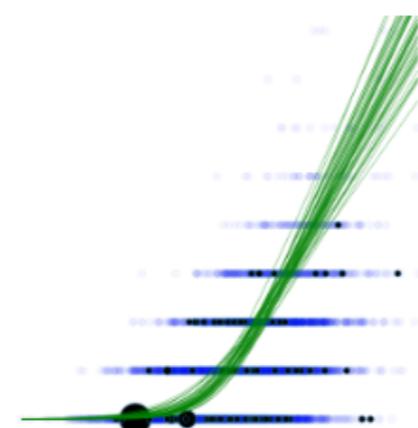
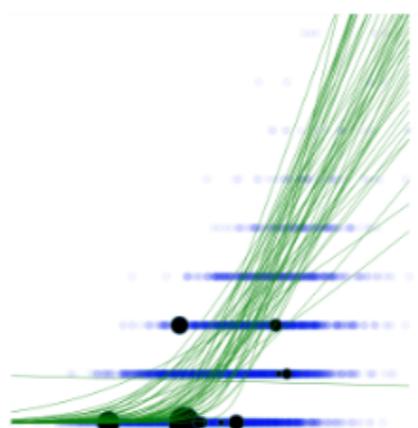
# Poisson regression (simulated)

- 10K pts; general inference

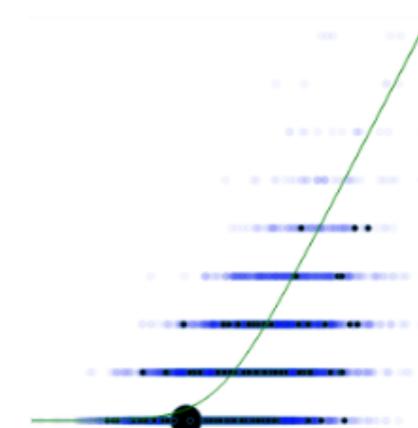
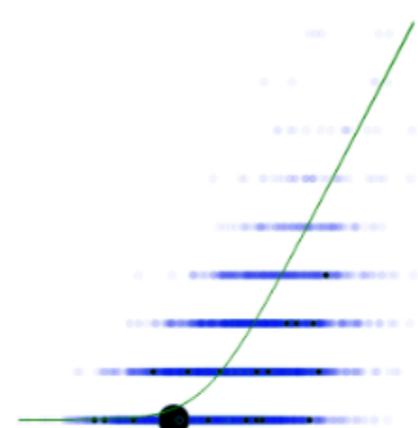
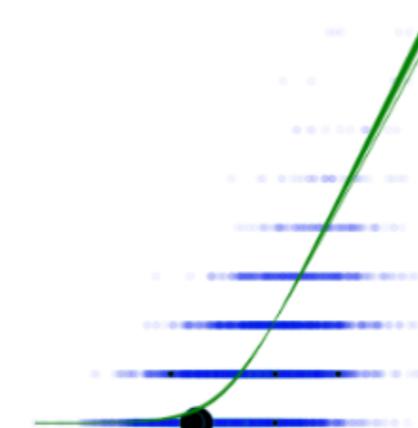
Uniform  
subsampling



Importance  
sampling



Frank-Wolfe



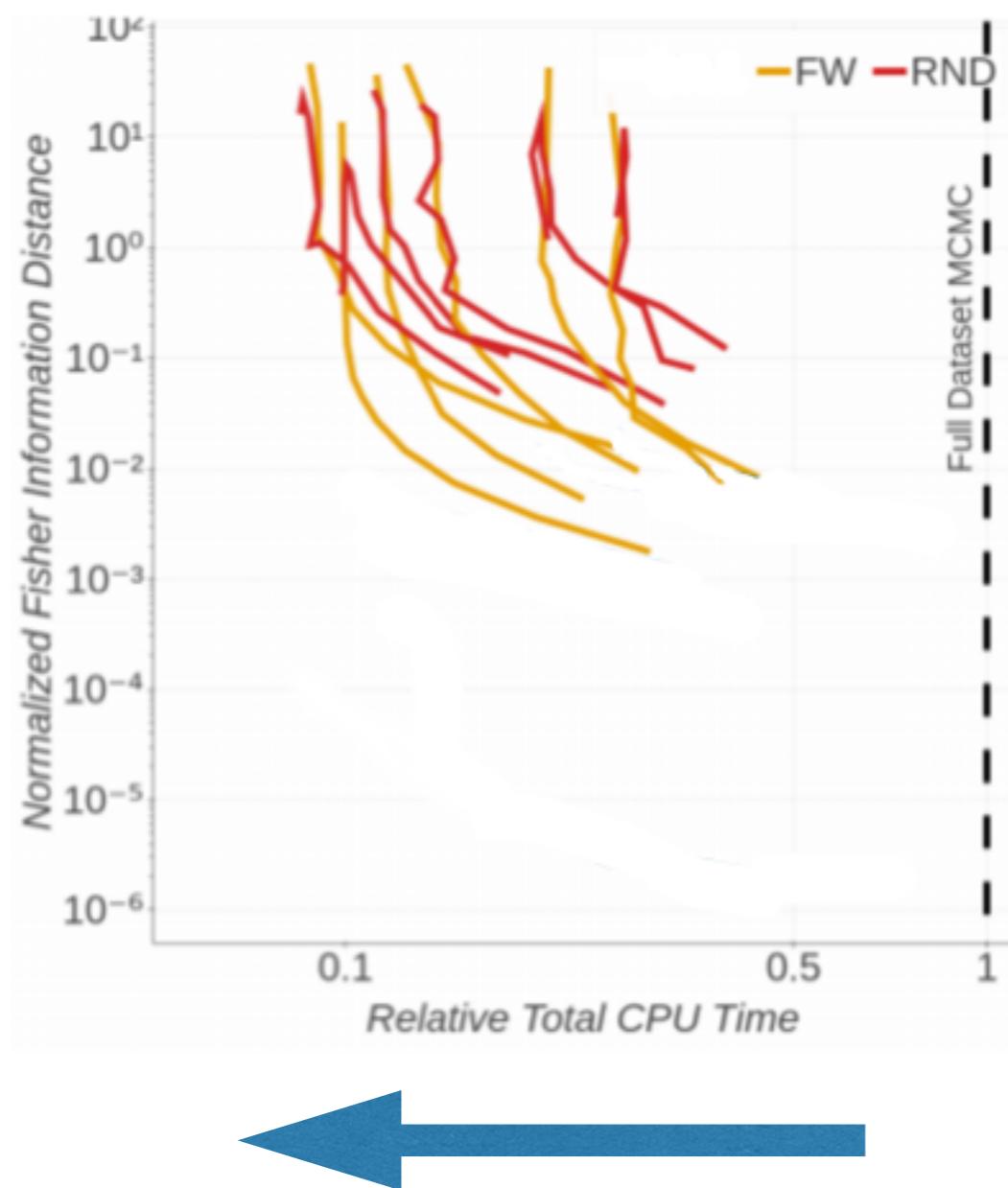
$M = 10$

$M = 100$

$M = 1000$

# Real data experiments

lower error



less total time



Uniform  
subsampling

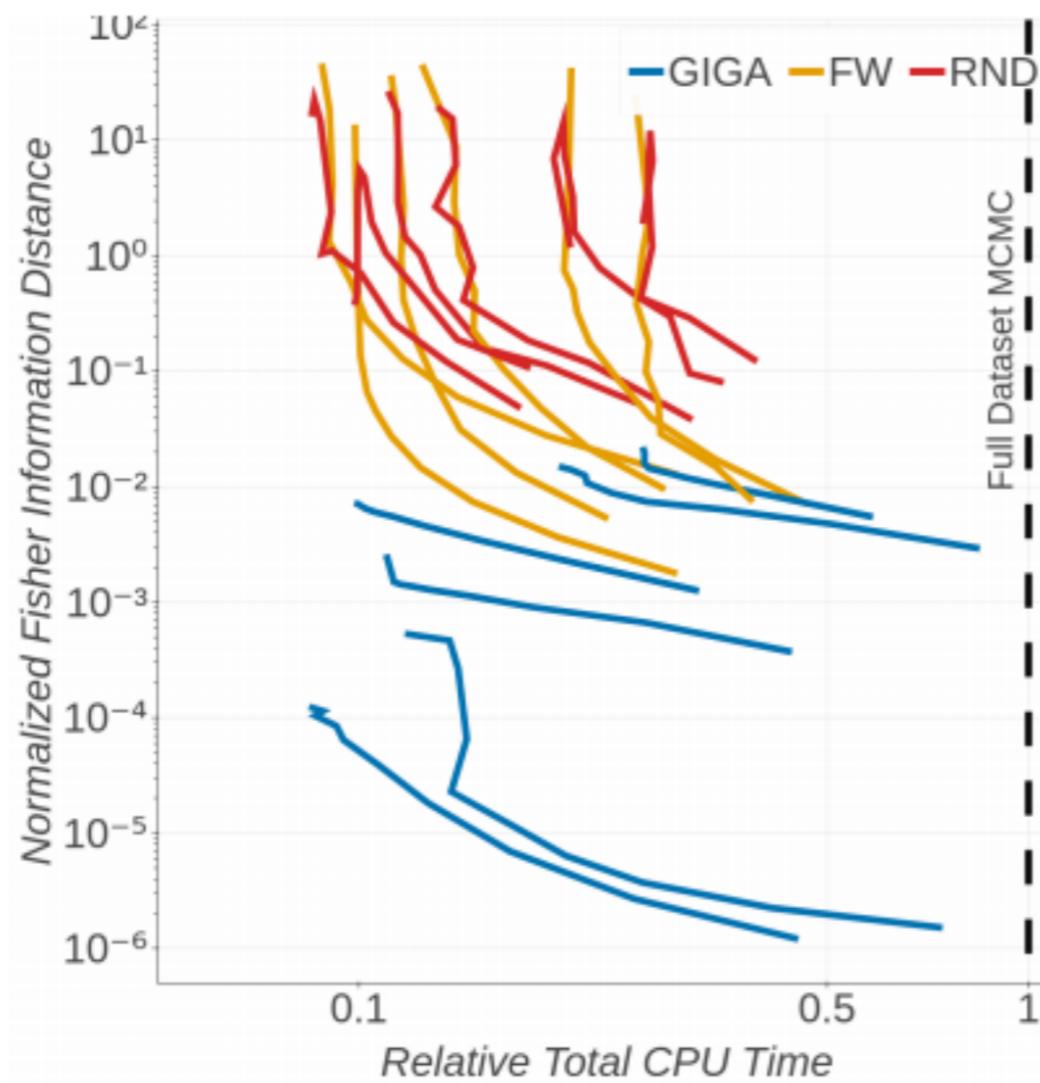
Frank Wolfe  
coresets

Data sets include:

- Phishing
- Chemical reactivity
- Bicycle trips
- Airport delays

# Real data experiments

lower  
error



less total time



- Uniform  
subsampling
- Frank Wolfe  
coresets
- GIGA coresets

- Data sets include:
- Phishing
  - Chemical reactivity
  - Bicycle trips
  - Airport delays

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

# Roadmap

- The “core” of the data set
- Uniform data subsampling isn’t enough
- Importance sampling for “coresets”
- Optimization for “coresets”
- Approximate sufficient statistics

# Data summarization

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$p(y_{1:N} | x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)]$$

**Sufficient statistics**

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$\begin{aligned} p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) &= \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)] \\ &= \exp \left[ \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^N T(y_n, x_n) \right\} \cdot \eta(\theta) \right] \end{aligned}$$

**Sufficient statistics**

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$p(y_{1:N} | x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)]$$

**Sufficient statistics**

$$= \exp \left[ \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^N T(y_n, x_n) \right\} \cdot \eta(\theta) \right]$$

- Scalable, single-pass, streaming, distributed, complementary to MCMC

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)]$$

**Sufficient statistics**

$$= \exp \left[ \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^N T(y_n, x_n) \right\} \cdot \eta(\theta) \right]$$

- Scalable, single-pass, streaming, distributed, complementary to MCMC
- *But:* Often no simple sufficient statistics

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)]$$

**Sufficient statistics**

$$= \exp \left[ \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^N T(y_n, x_n) \right\} \cdot \eta(\theta) \right]$$

- Scalable, single-pass, streaming, distributed, complementary to MCMC
- *But:* Often no simple sufficient statistics

- E.g. Bayesian logistic regression; GLMs; “deeper” models

- Likelihood  $p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y_n x_n \cdot \theta)}$

# Data summarization

- Exponential family likelihood

$$p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \exp [T(y_n, x_n) \cdot \eta(\theta)]$$

**Sufficient statistics**

$$= \exp \left[ \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^N T(y_n, x_n) \right\} \cdot \eta(\theta) \right]$$

- Scalable, single-pass, streaming, distributed, complementary to MCMC
- *But:* Often no simple sufficient statistics
  - E.g. Bayesian logistic regression; GLMs; “deeper” models
    - Likelihood  $p(y_{1:N}|x_{1:N}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y_n x_n \cdot \theta)}$
  - Our proposal: (polynomial) *approximate* sufficient statistics

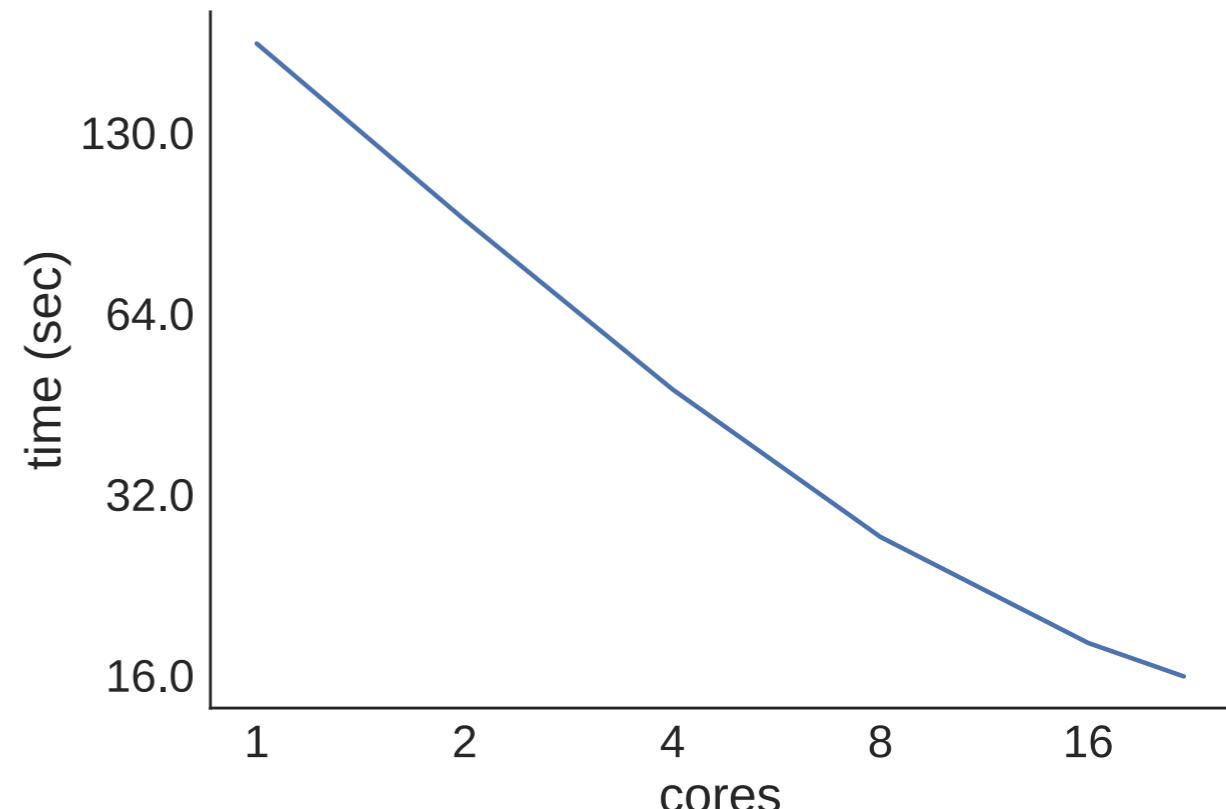
# Data summarization

Criteo Labs > Algorithms > Criteo Releases its New Dataset

## Criteo Releases its New Dataset

By: CriteoLabs / 31 Mar 2015

- 6M data points, 1000 features
- Streaming, distributed; minimal communication
- 22 cores, 16 sec
- Finite-data guarantees on Wasserstein distance to exact posterior



[Huggins, Adams, Broderick 2017]

# Conclusions

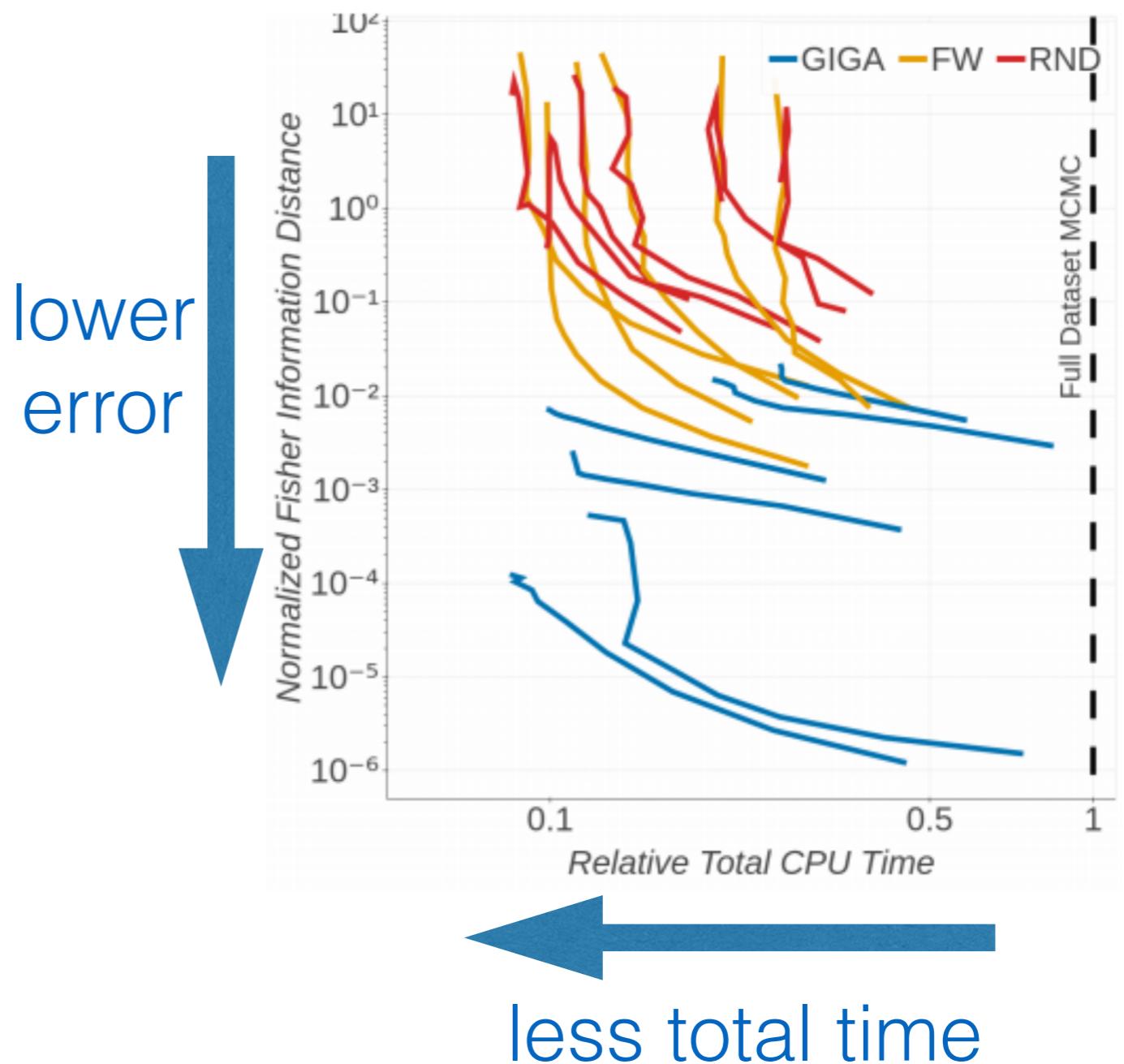
- *Data summarization for **scalable, automated** approximate Bayes algorithms with **error bounds on quality for finite data***

# Conclusions

- *Data summarization for **scalable, automated** approximate Bayes algorithms with **error bounds on quality for finite data***
  - Coresets
  - Approx. suff. statistics

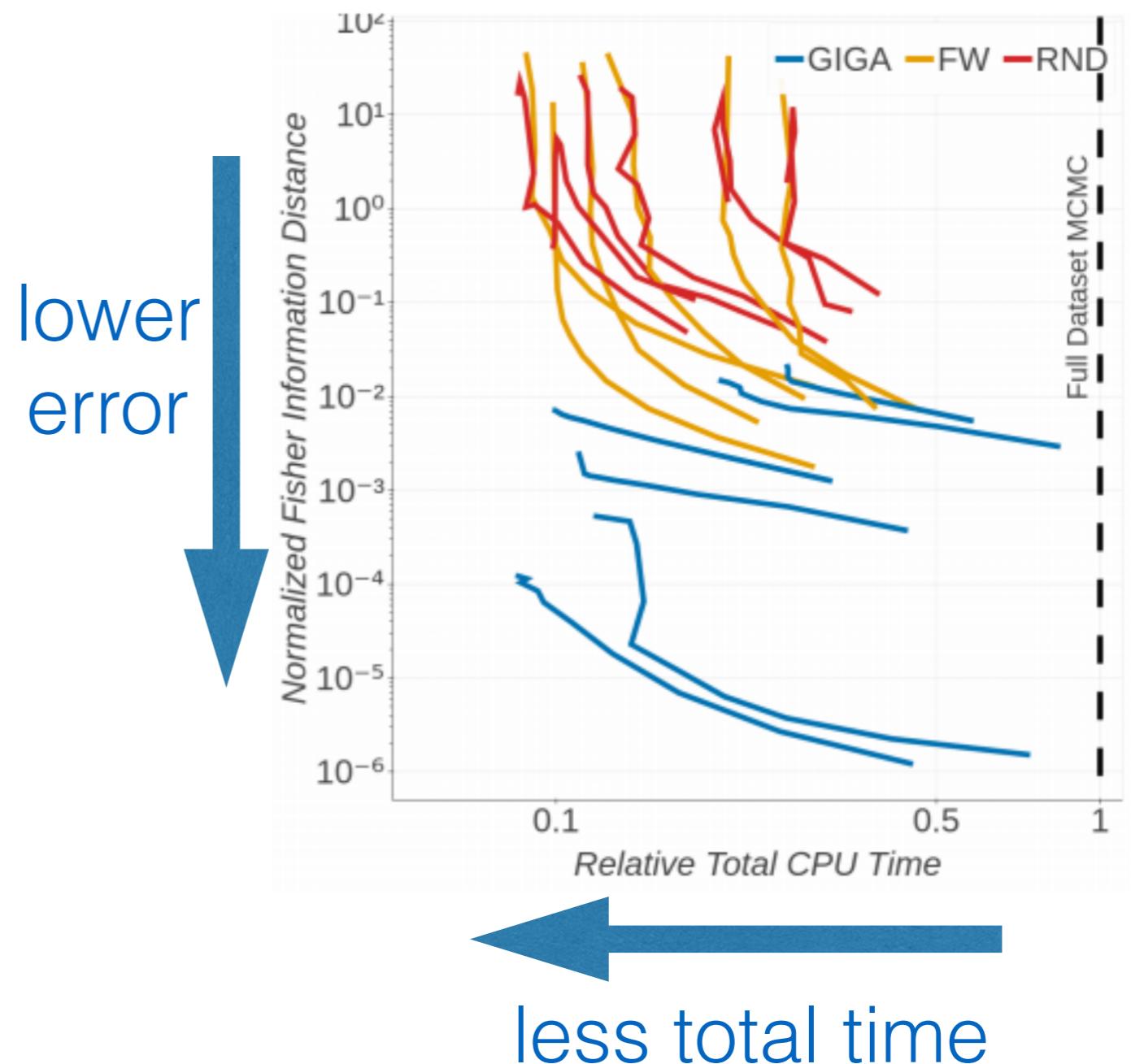
# Conclusions

- *Data summarization for **scalable, automated** approximate Bayes algorithms with **error bounds on quality for finite data***
  - Coresets
  - Approx. suff. statistics



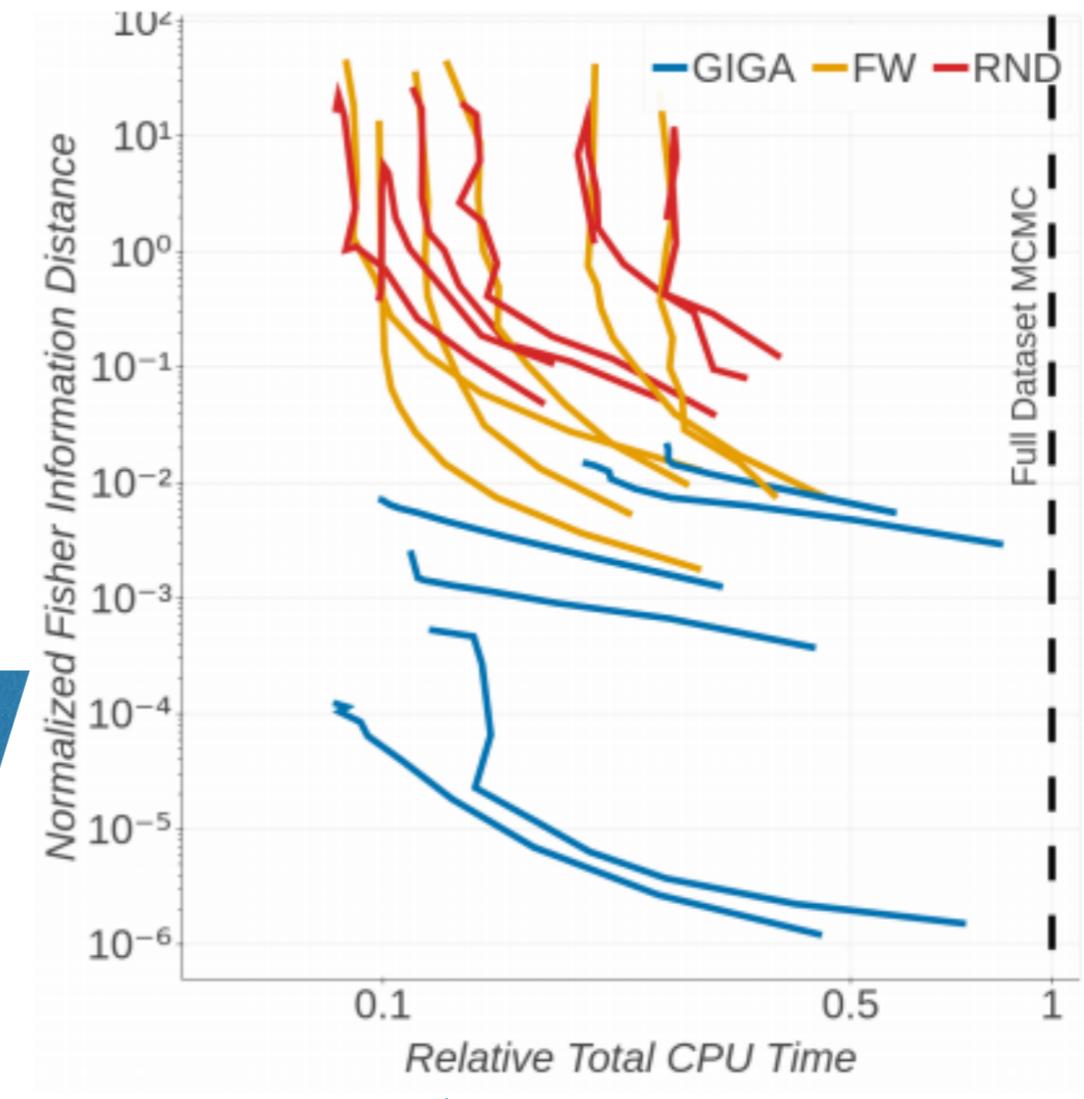
# Conclusions

- *Data summarization for **scalable, automated** approximate Bayes algorithms with **error bounds on quality for finite data***
  - Coresets
  - Approx. suff. statistics
  - More accurate with more computation investment



# Conclusions

- *Data summarization for **scalable, automated** approximate Bayes algorithms with **error bounds on quality for finite data***
    - Coresets
    - Approx. suff. statistics
    - More accurate with more computation investment
  - A start
    - Lots of potential improvements/ directions
- lower error
- less total time



# References

**T Campbell and T Broderick. Automated scalable Bayesian inference via Hilbert coresets. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2019.**

T Campbell and T Broderick. Bayesian coreset construction via greedy iterative geodesic ascent. *ICML* 2018.

JH Huggins, T Campbell, M Kasprzak, and T Broderick. Practical bounds on the error of Bayesian posterior approximations: A nonasymptotic approach. ArXiv:1809.09505.

JH Huggins, T Campbell, and T Broderick. Coresets for scalable Bayesian logistic regression. *NeurIPS* 2016.

**JH Huggins, RP Adams, and T Broderick. PASS-GLM: Polynomial approximate sufficient statistics for scalable Bayesian GLM inference. *NeurIPS* 2017.**

R Agrawal, T Campbell, JH Huggins, and T Broderick. Data-dependent compression of random features for large-scale kernel approximation. *AISTATS* 2019.

# Bayesian inference



# Bayesian inference



- Challenge: fast (compute, user), reliable inference

# Bayesian inference



- Challenge: fast (compute, user), reliable inference
- Today: variational Bayes and beyond

# Bayesian inference



- Challenge: fast (compute, user), reliable inference
- Today: variational Bayes and beyond
- **Fundamental questions**
  - **What is achievable in speed and accuracy?**

# References (1/6)

R Bardenet, A Doucet, and C Holmes. "On Markov chain Monte Carlo methods for tall data." *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 18.1 (2017): 1515-1557.

AG Baydin, BA Pearlmutter, AA Radul, and JM Siskind. "Automatic differentiation in machine learning: a survey." *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2018.

DM Blei, A Kucukelbir, and JD McAuliffe. "Variational inference: A review for statisticians." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 112.518 (2017): 859-877.

T Broderick, N Boyd, A Wibisono, AC Wilson, and MI Jordan. Streaming variational Bayes. *NeurIPS* 2013.

CM Bishop. *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning*. Springer-Verlag New York, 2006.

T Campbell and T Broderick. Automated scalable Bayesian inference via Hilbert coresets. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2019.

T Campbell and T Broderick. Bayesian Coreset Construction via Greedy Iterative Geodesic Ascent. *ICML* 2018.

RJ Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. "Linear response methods for accurate covariance estimates from mean field variational Bayes." *NeurIPS* 2015.

R Giordano, T Broderick, R Meager, J Huggins, and MI Jordan. "Fast robustness quantification with variational Bayes." *ICML 2016 Workshop on #Data4Good: Machine Learning in Social Good Applications*, 2016.

RJ Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Covariances, robustness, and variational Bayes. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2018.

# References (2/6)

- J Gorham and L Mackey. "Measuring sample quality with Stein's method." *NeurIPS* 2015.
- J Gorham, and L Mackey. "Measuring sample quality with kernels." ArXiv:1703.01717 (2017).
- PD Hoff. *A first course in Bayesian statistical methods*. Springer Science & Business Media, 2009.
- MD Hoffman, DM Blei, C Wang, and J Paisley. "Stochastic variational inference." *The Journal of Machine Learning Research* 14.1 (2013): 1303-1347.
- JH Huggins, T Campbell, and T Broderick. Coresets for scalable Bayesian logistic regression. *NeurIPS* 2016.
- JH Huggins, RP Adams, and T Broderick. PASS-GLM: Polynomial approximate sufficient statistics for scalable Bayesian GLM inference. *NeurIPS* 2017.
- J Huggins, T Campbell, M Kasprzak, T Broderick. Practical bounds on the error of Bayesian posterior approximations: A nonasymptotic approach, 2018. ArXiv:1809.09505.
- A Kucukelbir, R Ranganath, A Gelman, and D Blei. Automatic variational inference in Stan. *NeurIPS* 2015.
- A Kucukelbir, D Tran, R Ranganath, A Gelman, and DM Blei. Automatic differentiation variational inference. *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 18.1 (2017): 430-474.
- DJC MacKay. *Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Stan (open source software). <http://mc-stan.org/> Accessed: 2018.

# References (3/6)

- S Talts, M Betancourt, D Simpson, A Vehtari, and A Gelman. Validating Bayesian Inference Algorithms with Simulation-Based Calibration. ArXiv:1804.06788 (2018).
- RE Turner and M Sahani. Two problems with variational expectation maximisation for time-series models. In D Barber, AT Cemgil, and S Chiappa, editors, *Bayesian Time Series Models*, 2011.
- Y Yao, A Vehtari, D Simpson, and A Gelman. Yes, but Did It Work?: Evaluating Variational Inference. *ICML* 2018.

# Application References (4/6)

Abbott, Benjamin P., et al. "Observation of gravitational waves from a binary black hole merger." *Physical Review Letters* 116.6 (2016): 061102.

Abbott, Benjamin P., et al. "The rate of binary black hole mergers inferred from advanced LIGO observations surrounding GW150914." *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* 833.1 (2016): L1.

Airoldi, Edoardo M., David M. Blei, Stephen E. Fienberg, and Eric P. Xing. "Mixed membership stochastic blockmodels." *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 9.Sep (2008): 1981-2014.

Blei, David M., Andrew Y. Ng, and Michael I. Jordan. "Latent Dirichlet allocation." *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 3.Jan (2003): 993-1022.

Chatz, Yashovardhan Sushil, and Hamsa Balakrishnan. "A Gaussian process regression approach to model aircraft engine fuel flow rate." *Cyber-Physical Systems (ICCPs), 2017 ACM/IEEE 8th International Conference on*. IEEE, 2017.

Gershman, Samuel J., David M. Blei, Kenneth A. Norman, and Per B. Sederberg. "Decomposing spatiotemporal brain patterns into topographic latent sources." *NeuroImage* 98 (2014): 91-102.

Gillon, Michaël, et al. "Seven temperate terrestrial planets around the nearby ultracool dwarf star TRAPPIST-1." *Nature* 542.7642 (2017): 456.

Grimm, Simon L., et al. "The nature of the TRAPPIST-1 exoplanets." *Astronomy & Astrophysics* 613 (2018): A68.

# Application References (5/6)

Grogan Jr, William L., and Willis W. Wirth. "A new American genus of predaceous midges related to Palpomyia and Bezzia (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae). Un nuevo género Americano de purujas depredadoras relacionadas con Palpomyia y Bezzia (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*. 94.4 (1981): 1279-1305.

Kuikka, Sakari, Jarno Vanhatalo, Henni Pulkkinen, Samu Mäntyniemi, and Jukka Corander. "Experiences in Bayesian inference in Baltic salmon management." *Statistical Science* 29.1 (2014): 42-49.

Meager, Rachael. "Understanding the impact of microcredit expansions: A Bayesian hierarchical analysis of 7 randomized experiments." *AEJ: Applied*, to appear, 2018a.

Meager, Rachael. "Aggregating Distributional Treatment Effects: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of the Microcredit Literature." Working paper, 2018b.

Stegle, Oliver, Leopold Parts, Richard Durbin, and John Winn. "A Bayesian framework to account for complex non-genetic factors in gene expression levels greatly increases power in eQTL studies." *PLoS computational biology* 6.5 (2010): e1000770.

Stone, Lawrence D., Colleen M. Keller, Thomas M. Kratzke, and Johan P. Strumpfer. "Search for the wreckage of Air France Flight AF 447." *Statistical Science* (2014): 69-80.

Woodard, Dawn, Galina Nogin, Paul Koch, David Racz, Moises Goldszmidt, and Eric Horvitz. "Predicting travel time reliability using mobile phone GPS data." *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies* 75 (2017): 30-44.

Xing, Eric P., Wei Wu, Michael I. Jordan, and Richard M. Karp. "LOGOS: a modular Bayesian model for de novo motif detection." *Journal of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology* 2.01 (2004): 127-154.

# Additional image references (6/6)

amCharts. Visited Countries Map. [https://www.amcharts.com/visited\\_countries/](https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/) Accessed: 2016.

Baltic Salmon Fund. [https://www.en.balticsalmonfund.org/about\\_us](https://www.en.balticsalmonfund.org/about_us) Accessed: 2018.

ESO/L. Calçada/M. Kornmesser. 16 October 2017, 16:00:00. Obtained from: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artist%20impression\\_of\\_merging\\_neutron\\_stars.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artist%20impression_of_merging_neutron_stars.jpg) || Source: <https://www.eso.org/public/images/eso1733a/> (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License)

J. Herzog. 3 June 2016, 17:17:30. Obtained from: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Airbus\\_A350-941\\_F-WWCF\\_MSN002ILA\\_Berlin\\_2016\\_17.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Airbus_A350-941_F-WWCF_MSN002ILA_Berlin_2016_17.jpg) (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License)

E. Xing. 2003. Slides “LOGOS: a modular Bayesian model for de novo motif detection.” Obtained from: [https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~epxing/papers/Old\\_papers/slides\\_CSB03/CSB1.pdf](https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~epxing/papers/Old_papers/slides_CSB03/CSB1.pdf) Accessed: 2018.