

Bayesian approach to statistics

Gregor Gorjanc

University of Edinburgh / University of Ljubljana



2025-05-27

Sodobni statistični pristopi na doktorskem študiju Statistike
Ljubljana

Provisional agenda

Introduction

Probability

Likelihood

Bayesian

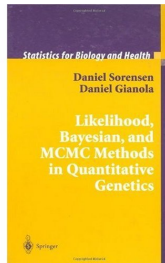
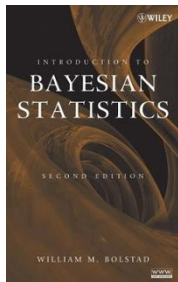
MCMC

General Bayes programs/packages (demo)

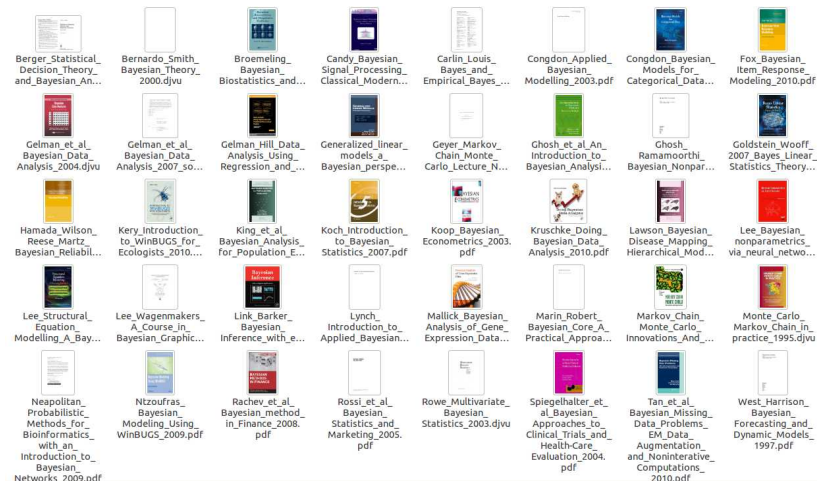
0. Introduction

- ▶ History (Laplace in Bayes)
- ▶ My experience (statistical/quantitative genetics)
- ▶ Terminology in Slovenian
 - ▶ Bayesova
 - ▶ Bayesovska
- ▶ Bayesian = “probabilistic modelling”

Literature (I studied from these sources)



Plenty of literature



Recommended

Richard McElreath

Anthropology, Evolutionary Ecology, Bayesian Data Analysis

[HOME](#)[PUBLICATIONS](#)[SOFTWARE](#)[SR2 FOR INSTRUCTORS](#)[STATISTICAL RETHINKING](#)[TALKS](#)[TEACHING](#)

Statistical Rethinking

[FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER](#)

A Bayesian Course with Examples in R and Stan (& PyMC3 & brms & Julia too, see links below)

Most recent set of free lectures: [Statistical Rethinking 2023](#)

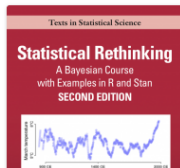
Second Edition

The second edition is now out in print. Publisher information on the [CRC Press page](#). For more detail about what is new, [look here](#).

Materials

2nd Edition

- Book: [CRC Press](#)
- Book sample: [Chapters 1 and 2](#) (2MB PDF)
- Lectures and slides:



Tweets from @rlmcelreath



Richard McElr...
@ · Aug 16, 2023

I used to teach game theory both undergrad & phd level. One game I would do at school was a version of Keynesian beauty contest: everyone picks a number 0-100, person closest to 2/3 of average wins. Nash is 0. For anyone choosing 0 loses, the class aren't (yet) game theorists. >

🗨 100 🍷 6K



Richard McElr...
@ · Nov 30, 2022

Recommended (next level)



Michael Betancourt

Once and future physicist
masquerading as an applied
statistician.

📍 New York, NY

✉ Email

🐦 Twitter

🐙 GitHub

Part II: Modeling and Inference

[Modeling and Inference](#)

[Generative Modeling](#)

[Prior Modeling](#)

[Introduction to Stan](#)

[Identifiability and Degeneracies](#)

[Principled Model Building Workflow](#)

Part III: Modeling Techniques

[Hierarchical Modeling](#)

[Factor Modeling](#)

[Modeling Sparsity](#)

[Modeling Ordinal Outcomes](#)

[Survival Modeling](#)

[Modeling Consensus](#) [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

[Variate-Covariate Modeling](#)

[Modeling Functional Behavior I: Linearized Models](#)

[Modeling Functional Behavior II: General Linearized Models](#)

[Underdetermined Linearized Regression](#)

[The QR Decomposition for Linearized Regression](#)

[Modeling Functional Behavior III: Gaussian Processes](#)

[Modeling Functional Behavior IV: Stochastic Differential Equations](#)

[Modeling Functional Behavior V: The Brownian Bridge](#)

1. Probability



Probability



- ▶ Rolling a die
- ▶ Two views on probability:
 - ▶ probability to see six dots: $\Pr(6 \text{ dots}) = 1/6$
 - ▶ rolling a die and track frequency (= probability) of events
- ▶ Probability distribution, $\sum_i \Pr(i \text{ dots}) = 1$:

No. dots	1	2	3	4	5	6
Probability	$1/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$

Exercise



- ▶ Start R
- ▶ Run this code

```
## Calculator
1 + 1
log(1)
## Rolling a die 10x
sample(x=1:6, size=10, replace=TRUE)
sample(x=1:6, size=10, replace=TRUE)
## ... 10.000x
x <- sample(x=1:6, size=10000, replace=TRUE)
t <- table(x)
p <- prop.table(x=t)
p
```

Joint probability

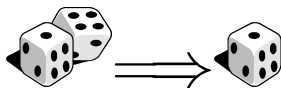


- ▶ Roll **two** dice
- ▶ Is no. of dots on the dies dependent? NO.
→ Events are independent.
- ▶ Probability of joint event, to see 2x 6 dots:
 $\Pr(6 \text{ dots}, 6 \text{ dots}) = \Pr(6 \text{ dots}) \times \Pr(6 \text{ dots}) = 1/6 \times 1/6 = 1/36$
- ▶ Probability distribution, $\sum_{i,j} \Pr(i \text{ dots}, j \text{ dots}) = 1$:

No. dots	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36
2	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36
3	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36
4	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36
5	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36
6	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36

Marginal probability

- ▶ Rolling **two** dice



- ▶ Probability distribution for 1, 2, ..., 6:

No. dots	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
2	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
3	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
4	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
5	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
6	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/36	1/6
Total	1/6	1/6	1/6	1/6	1/6	1/6	1

$$\Pr(A) = \sum_B \Pr(A, B) \quad p(a) = \int p(a, b) db$$

Exercise



► Run

```
## Joint probability
x1 <- sample(x=1:6, size=10000, replace=TRUE)
x2 <- sample(x=1:6, size=10000, replace=TRUE)
t <- table(x1, x2)
p <- prop.table(x=t)
p
## Marginal probability
rowSums(x=p)
colSums(x=p)
```

Joint probability II



- ▶ Rolling **one** die
- ▶ Is no. of dots on the die dependent on the no. being odd or even?
YES.
→ Events are dependent.
- ▶ Probability for an even number and 6 dots:

$$\Pr(6 \text{ dots}, \text{even no.}) = \Pr(6 \text{ dots} | \text{even no.}) \times \Pr(\text{even no.})$$

$$\Pr(6 \text{ dots}, \text{even no.}) = 1/6$$

$$\Pr(\text{even no.}) = 1/2$$

$$\Pr(6 \text{ dots} | \text{even no.}) = \frac{\Pr(6 \text{ dots}, \text{even no.})}{\Pr(\text{even no.})} = \frac{1/6}{1/2} = 1/3$$

- ▶ $\Pr(6 \text{ dots} | \text{even no.})$ → Conditional probability

Conditional probability



- ▶ Probability to observe 6 dots, conditionally on even no.:

$$\Pr(6 \text{ dots} | \text{even no.}) = 1/3$$

- ▶ Probability distribution, $\sum_i \Pr(i \text{ dots} | \text{odd no.}) = 1$:

Odd no.						
No. dots	1	2	3	4	5	6
Probability	1/3	0	1/3	0	1/3	0

- ▶ Probability distribution, $\sum_i \Pr(i \text{ dots} | \text{even no.}) = 1$:

Even no.						
No. dots	1	2	3	4	5	6
Probability	0	1/3	0	1/3	0	1/3

Bayes theorem



$$\Pr(A, B) = \Pr(A|B) \times \Pr(B) = \Pr(B|A) \times \Pr(A)$$

$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(B|A) \times \Pr(A)}{\Pr(B)}$$

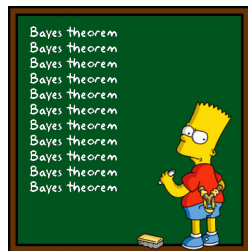
$$= \frac{\Pr(B|A) \times \Pr(A)}{\sum_A \Pr(B|A) \times \Pr(A)}$$

$$\Pr(A|B) \propto \Pr(B|A) \times \Pr(A)$$

Exercise

Frequency of diseased in population is 0.008. There is a test for disease, with false positive rate of 10% and false negative rate of 5%.

- ▶ What is probability that an individual is diseased, given that they test positive?
- ▶ What is the impact of (apriori) information?
- ▶ What is probability that an individual is diseased, given that they test positive two times?



Exercise (solution)

Events:

- ▶ status: healthy, diseased
- ▶ test: negative, positive

Prior probability of being diseased without taking the test:

$$\Pr(\text{diseased}) = 0.008$$

Test:

Test	Status	
	Healthy	Sick
Negative	$\Pr(\text{negative} \text{healthy}) = 0.90$	$\Pr(\text{negative} \text{diseased}) = 0.05$
Positive	$\Pr(\text{positive} \text{healthy}) = 0.10$	$\Pr(\text{positive} \text{diseased}) = 0.95$
Total	1	1

Exercise (solution) II

- Probability of being diseased given positive test?

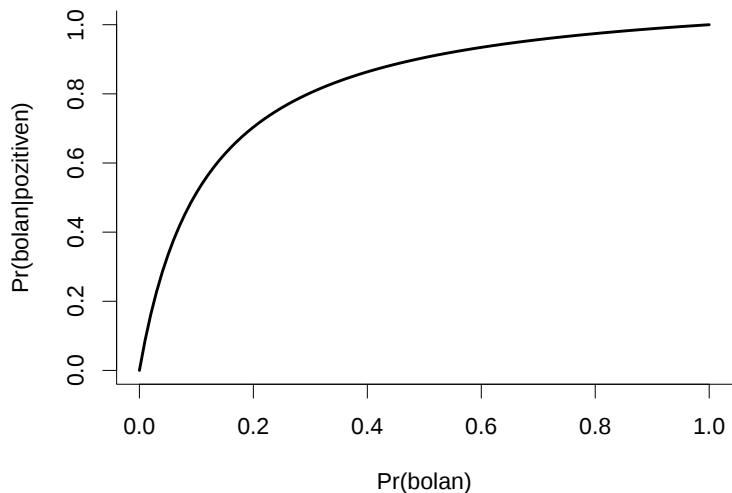
$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(\text{diseased}|\text{positive}) &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased})}{\Pr(\text{positive})} \\ &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased})}{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased}) + \Pr(\text{positive}|\text{healthy}) \times \Pr(\text{healthy})} \\ &= \frac{0.95 \times 0.008}{0.95 \times 0.008 + 0.1 \times 0.992} = \frac{0.0076}{0.1068} = 0.071\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(\text{healthy}|\text{positive}) &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{healthy}) \times \Pr(\text{healthy})}{\Pr(\text{positive})} \\ &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{healthy}) \times \Pr(\text{healthy})}{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased}) + \Pr(\text{positive}|\text{healthy}) \times \Pr(\text{healthy})} \\ &= \frac{0.10 \times 0.992}{0.95 \times 0.008 + 0.1 \times 0.992} = \frac{0.0992}{0.1068} = 0.929\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(\text{diseased}|\text{positive}) + \Pr(\text{healthy}|\text{positive}) &= 0.071 + 0.929 = 1 \\ \Pr(\text{positive}) &= 0.0076 + 0.0992 = 0.1068\end{aligned}$$

Exercise (solution) III

- What is the impact of (apriori) information?



Exercise (solution) IV

- What is probability that an individual is diseased, given that they test positive two times?

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(\text{diseased}|\text{positive}) &= 0.071 \implies \Pr(\text{diseased}) \\ \Pr(\text{diseased}|2\times \text{positive}) &\implies \Pr(\text{diseased}|\text{positive}) \\ \Pr(\text{diseased}|\text{positive}) &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased})}{\Pr(\text{positive})} \\ &= \frac{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased})}{\Pr(\text{positive}|\text{diseased}) \times \Pr(\text{diseased}) + \Pr(\text{positive}|\text{healthy}) \times \Pr(\text{healthy})} \\ &= \frac{0.95 \times 0.071}{0.95 \times 0.071 + 0.1 \times 0.929} = \frac{0.06745}{0.16035} = 0.421\end{aligned}$$

Questions?

Distributions

Common distributions used in statistics

Distributions - discrete

Distribution	Notation	$\Pr(x)$	$E(x)$	$Var(x)$
--------------	----------	----------	--------	----------

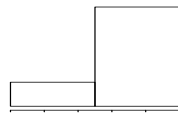
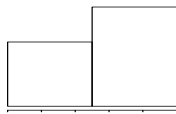
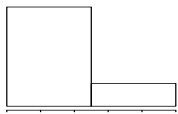
Bernoulli

$B(1, \theta)$

$\theta^x (1 - \theta)^{1-x}$

θ

$\theta(1 - \theta)$



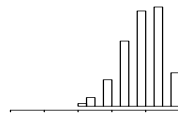
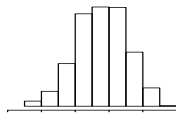
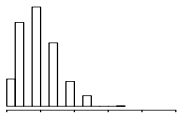
Binomial

$B(n, \theta)$

$\binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}$

$n\theta$

$n\theta(1 - \theta)$



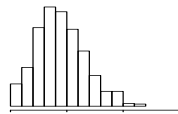
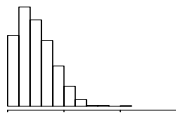
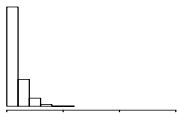
Poisson

$P(\lambda)$

$\frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!}$

λ

λ



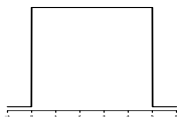
Distributions - continuous

Distribution	Notation	$p(x)$	$E(x)$	$Var(x)$
--------------	----------	--------	--------	----------

Uniform

$U(\alpha, \beta)$

$$\frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}$$



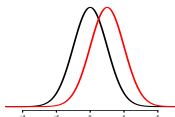
$$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}$$

$$\frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12}$$

Gauss

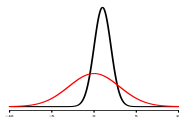
$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



μ

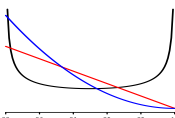
σ^2



Beta¹

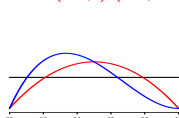
$Be(\alpha, \beta)$

$$\frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1 - x)^{\beta-1}$$



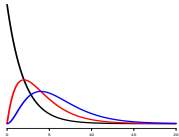
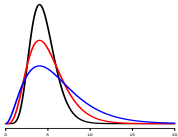
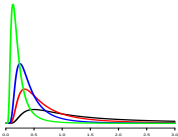
$$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$$

$$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2(\alpha + \beta + 1)}$$



¹ $\Gamma(x)$ = gamma function

Distributions - continuous II

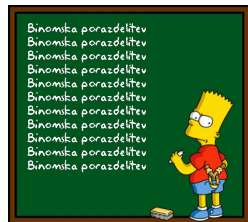
Distribution	Notation	$p(x)$	$E(x)$	$Var(x)$
Gamma ²	$G(\alpha, \beta)$	$\beta^\alpha \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \exp(-\beta x)$	α/β	α/β^2
	$G(\alpha, \theta = 1/\beta)$	$\frac{1}{\theta^\alpha} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \exp(-\frac{x}{\theta})$	$\alpha\theta$	$\alpha\theta^2$
				
Inverse gamma	$IG(\alpha, \beta)$	$\beta^\alpha \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} (x)^{-\alpha-1} \exp(-\frac{\beta}{x})$	$\frac{\beta}{\alpha-1}$	$\frac{\beta^2}{(\alpha-1)^2(\alpha-2)}$
				

² $\Gamma(x)$ = gamma function

Exercise

Explain probability mass function for binomial distribution:

$$\Pr(x) = \binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}$$



Exercise (solution)

Probability mass function for binomial distribution $B(1, \theta)$:

$$\Pr(x) = \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{1-x}$$

- ▶ range of value $[0, 1]$
(0=head or 1=tail for a coin, 0=healthy or 1=diseased,...)
- ▶ probability of event 1: $\Pr(x = 1) = \theta$
($\theta = 1/2$ for a fair coin)
- ▶ genrally (see above):
 - ▶ $\Pr(x = 0) = \theta^0 (1 - \theta)^{1-0} = 1 (1 - \theta)^1 = 1 - \theta$
 - ▶ $\Pr(x = 1) = \theta^1 (1 - \theta)^{1-1} = \theta^1 (1 - \theta)^0 = \theta$

For multiple events from $B(1, \theta)$ the number of combination is $\binom{n}{x}$.
Hence probability mass function for binomial distribution $B(n, \theta)$:

$$\Pr(x) = \binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}$$

Exercise



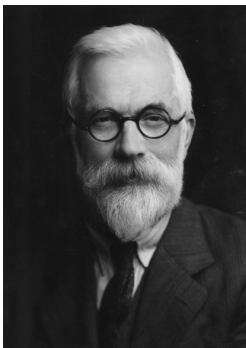
► Run the code

```
n <- 10; theta <- 0.5
## Probability to see x=1, x=5, or x=9?
x <- c(1, 5, 9)
choose(n, x)*theta^x*(1-theta)^(n-x)
## Sample from Binomial distribution
x <- rbinom(n=100, size=n, prob=theta)
## Inspect the sample
table(x); hist(x)
## Calculate mean and variance
n*theta; n*theta*(1-theta)  ## expected
mean(x); var(x)           ## observed
```

- Increase sample size from 100 to 100.000 and repeat. What do you observe?
- Homework: Study documentation: [?rpois](#), [?runif](#), [?rnorm](#), ...

**Questions?
(break)**

2. Likelihood



Example

We visit 7 independent locations and conduct 5 independent and accurate tests for disease. Results are:

Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
No. positive	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	8

- ▶ What is the proportion (rate) of diseased in the population?
 - ▶ No. of positive tests per location: y_i (known)
 - ▶ Proportion of diseased: θ (unknown)
 - ▶ Assumed model: $\Pr(y_i | n = 5, \theta) \sim B(5, \theta)$
 - ▶ Likelihood principle (Fisher): “**Find parameter values (θ), which will maximise the likelihood of observed data ($\mathbf{y}$).**”
 - ▶ Probability density/mass $\Pr(\mathbf{y} | n = 5, \theta)$ and likelihood $L(\mathbf{y} | n = 5, \theta)$:

$$\Pr(\mathbf{y} | n = 5, \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^7 \binom{n}{y_i} \theta^{y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - y_i} \quad L(\mathbf{y} | n = 5, \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^7 \binom{n}{y_i} \theta^{y_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - y_i}$$

Example II

Find parameter values (θ), which will maximise the likelihood of observed data ($\mathbf{y}$). $\rightarrow$ Find maximum of $L(\mathbf{y}|n, \theta)$.

Standard procedure:

1. "Computers don't like small numbers and multiplications are more work than additions"
 $\log(L(\mathbf{y}|n, \theta)) = l(\mathbf{y}|n, \theta)$
2. "Massage" $l(\mathbf{y}|n, \theta)$
3. Take the first derivative and find where it's equal to zero (check for second too)
4. Solve expression $\rightarrow$ calculate estimate $(\hat{\theta}_{MLE})$
(direct or numerically)
5. Calculate variance of estimate from information matrix
$$\left(\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_{MLE}) = \left(-E \left(\frac{\partial^2 \log(L(\mathbf{y}|n, \theta))}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'} \right) \right)^{-1} \right)$$

MLE = eng. Maximum Likelihood Estimate, slo. cenilka po metodi največjega verjetja

Example II

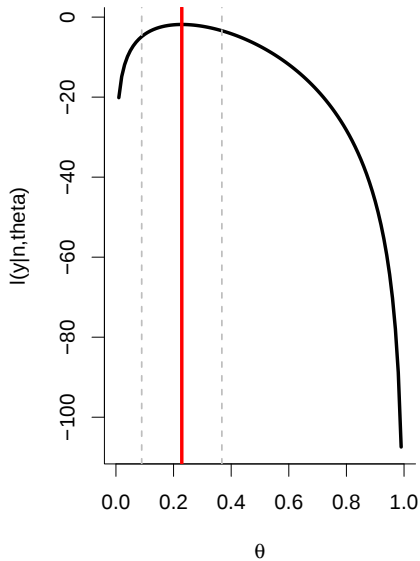
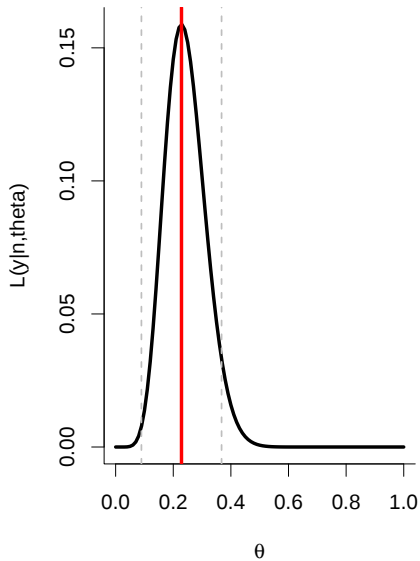
Estimate of the proportion of diseased given the observed data:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\theta}_{MLE} &= \frac{y}{n} \\ &= \frac{8}{35} = 0.23\end{aligned}$$

Standard error of the estimate:

$$\begin{aligned}SE(\hat{\theta}_{MLE}) &= \sqrt{\frac{-1}{-\frac{y}{p^2} - \frac{n-y}{(1-p)^2}}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{-1}{-\frac{8}{0.23^2} - \frac{35-8}{(1-0.23)^2}}} = 0.07\end{aligned}$$

Example III



Exercise



- Use this code

```
n <- 35
y <- 8
p <- seq(from=0, to=1, by=0.01)
MLE <- y/n
MLE_SE <- sqrt(-1 / (-y/MLE^2 - (n-y)/(1-MLE)^2))
MLE_CI <- MLE + c(-1.96, 0, 1.96) * MLE_SE
L <- choose(n, y)*p^y*(1-p)^(n-y)
l <- log(L)
par(mfrow=c(1, 2))
plot(L ~ p, type="l"); abline(v=MLE_CI)
plot(l ~ p, type="l"); abline(v=MLE_CI)
```

- What changes if $n = 2$ and we have two positive outcomes or $n = 1000$ and 230 positive outcomes?

3. Bayesian statistics



Bayes theorem

- ▶ What is the proportion (rate) of diseased in the population?
 - ▶ No. of all positive tests: $n = 35, y = 8$ (known)
 - ▶ Proportion of diseased: θ (unknown)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n) &= \frac{p(y|n, \theta) \times p(\theta)}{p(y)} \\ &= \frac{p(y|n, \theta) \times p(\theta)}{\int_{\theta} p(y|n, \theta) \times p(\theta)} \\ p(\theta|y, n) &\propto p(y|n, \theta) \times p(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

“posterior is proportional to likelihood times prior”

- ▶ Glossary:
 - ▶ $p(\theta|y, n)$ = posterior distribution (result)
 - ▶ $p(y|n, \theta)$ = likelihood (assumed model + data)
 - ▶ $p(\theta)$ = prior distribution (assumption = prior knowledge)

Type of distribution?

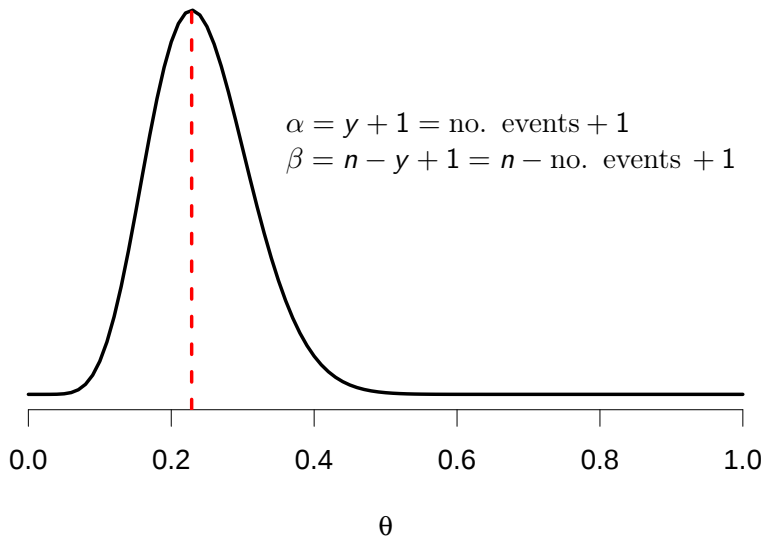
- ▶ What is the proportion (rate) of diseased in the population?
 - ▶ No. of all positive tests: $n = 35, y = 8$ (known)
 - ▶ Proportion of diseased: θ (unknown)

$$\begin{aligned}p(\theta|y, n) &\propto p(y|n, \theta) \times p(\theta) \\&\propto \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y} \times p(\theta) \\&\propto \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y} \times p(\theta)\end{aligned}$$

“after the inspection beta distribution can be recognized”

$$\begin{aligned}x &\sim Be(\alpha, \beta) & p(x|\alpha, \beta) &= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1} \\p(y|n, \theta) &= Be(y + 1, n - y + 1)\end{aligned}$$

Type of distribution $Be(y + 1, n - y + 1)$



Conjugate prior distribution

- Conjugate prior distribution has the same “form” as likelihood:

$$p(y|n, \theta) = \text{Be}(y + 1, n - y + 1)$$

$$p(\theta) = \text{Be}(\alpha, \beta)$$

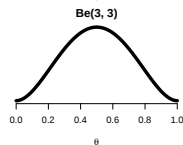
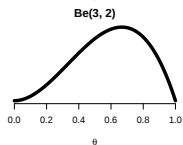
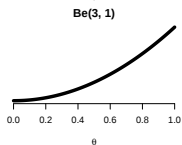
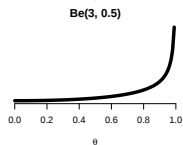
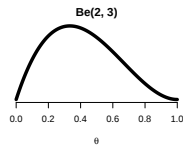
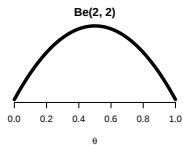
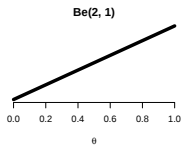
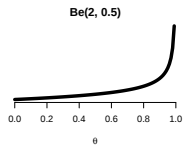
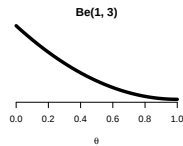
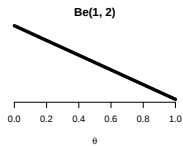
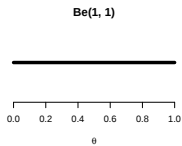
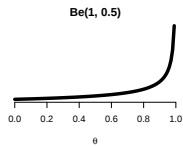
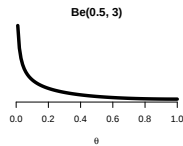
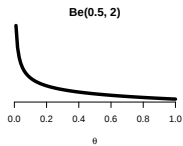
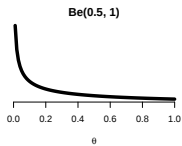
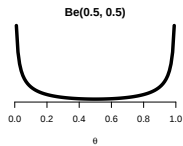
$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n) &\propto \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y} \times \theta^{\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{\beta-1} \\ &\propto \theta^{y+\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{n-y+\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

“after the inspection beta distribution can be recognized”

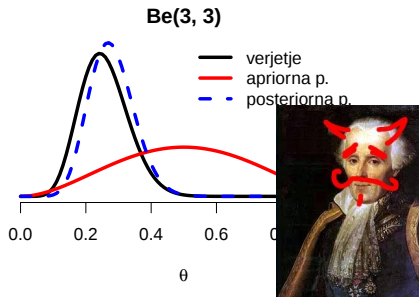
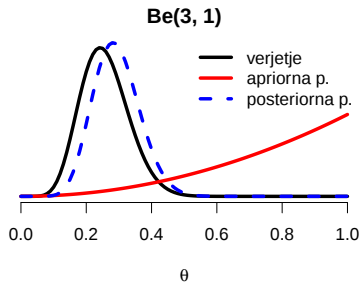
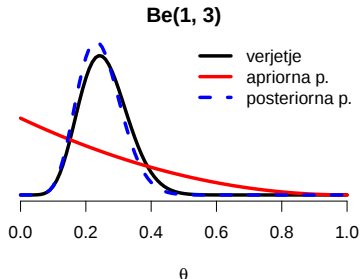
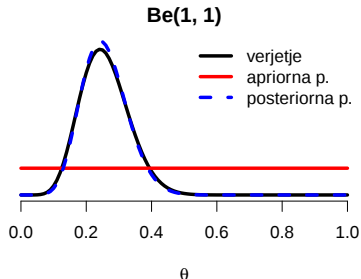
$$p(\theta|y, n) = \text{Be}(y + 1 + \alpha, n - y + 1 + \beta)$$

Provide parameters of the prior distribution: α, β

Prior distribution $Be(\alpha, \beta)$



Posterior distribution $Be(y + 1 + \alpha, n - y + 1 + \beta)$



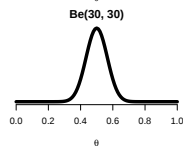
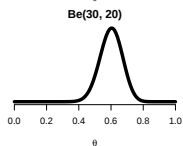
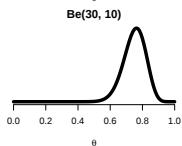
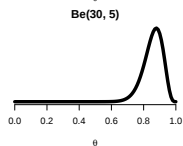
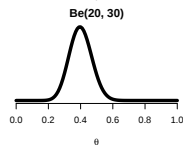
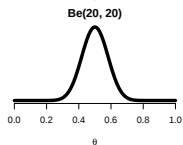
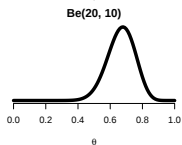
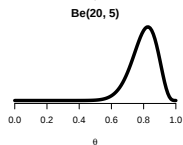
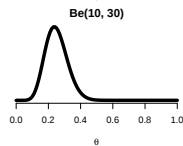
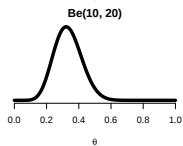
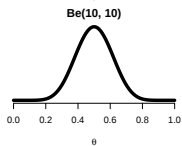
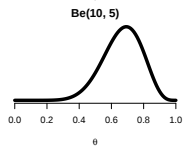
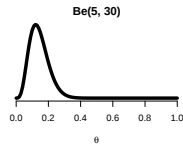
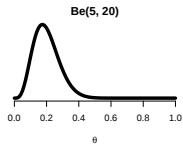
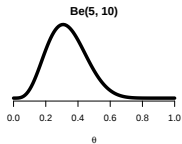
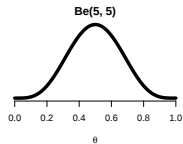
Posterior distribution $Be(y + 1 + \alpha, n - y + 1 + \beta)$

$$E(x|\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} \quad \text{Var}(x|\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2 (\alpha + \beta + 1)}$$

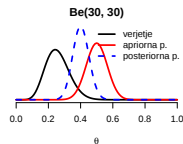
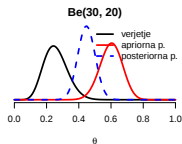
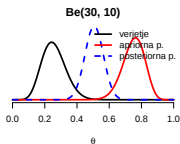
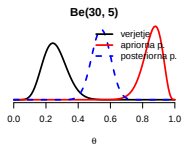
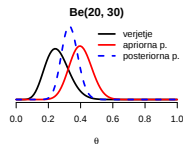
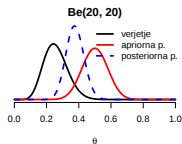
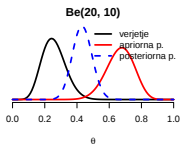
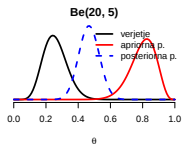
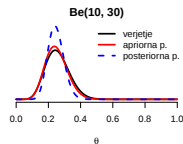
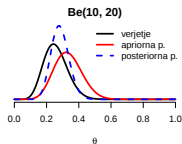
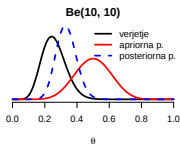
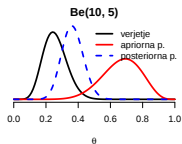
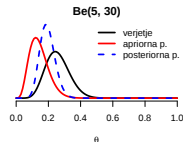
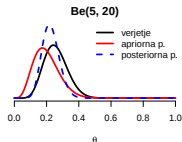
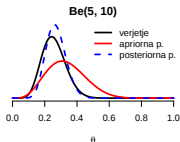
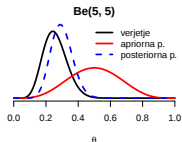
Prior d.	$E(\theta y, n, \alpha, \beta)$	$SE(\theta y, n, \alpha, \beta)$
$Be(1, 1)$	0.256	0.069
$Be(1, 3)$	0.243	0.066
$Be(3, 1)$	0.293	0.070
$Be(3, 3)$	0.279	0.068

$$\hat{\theta}_{MLE} = 0.23, \quad SE(\hat{\theta}_{MLE}) = 0.07$$

Prior distribution $Be(\alpha, \beta)$



Posterior distribution $Be(y + 1 + \alpha, n - y + 1 + \beta)$



Exercise



- Using the code, calculate and plot posterior distribution for:

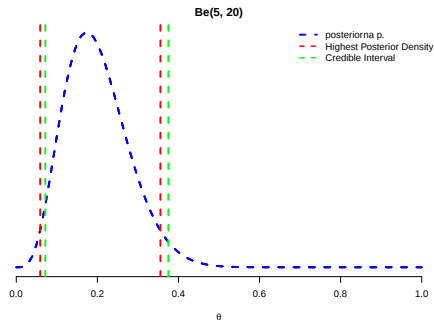
- sample size 10 and 2 positive events
- sample size 1000 and 230 positive events

```
n <- 35; y <- 8
alpha <- 1; beta <- 10
a <- y + alpha; b <- n - y + beta
MLE <- y/n
MLE_SE <- sqrt(-1 / (-y/MLE^2 - (n-y)/(1-MLE)^2))
POS <- a / (a + b)
POS_SE <- sqrt(a * b / (((a + b)^2) * (a + b + 1)))
p <- seq(from=0, to=1, by=0.01)
dL <- dbeta(x=p, shape1=y+1, shape2=n-y+1)
dPRI <- dbeta(x=p, shape1=alpha, shape2=beta)
dPOS <- dbeta(x=p, shape1=a, shape2=b)
matplot(y=cbind(dL, dPRI, dPOS), x=p, type="l",
        col=c("black", "red", "blue"))
abline(v=MLE)
```

Interval

- ▶ Credible interval (analogous to confidence interval; when we know the posterior distribution we can obtain quantiles)
- ▶ Highest Posterior Density (HPD) (shortest interval covering % of distribution!)

$$CI(\theta|y, n, \alpha, \beta) = 0.07 - 0.38, \quad HPD(\theta|y, n, \alpha, \beta) = 0.06 - 0.36$$



Exercise II



- ▶ Using the code, sample from posterior distribution and calculate:

- ▶ mean
- ▶ standard deviation
- ▶ credible interval
- ▶ highest posterior density

```
n <- 35; y <- 8
alpha <- 1; beta <- 1
a <- y + 1 + alpha; b <- n - y + 1 + beta
x <- rbeta(n=100000, shape1=a, shape2=b)
hist(x)
mean(x)
sd(x)
mean(x) + c(-1, 1)*1.96*sd(x)
library(package="LaplacesDemon")
p.interval(x, plot=TRUE)
p.interval(x, plot=TRUE, HPD=FALSE)
```

Questions?

Prior distribution

“Bayesians start with a vague expectation of seeing a horse, but at a glimpse of a donkey conclude they have seen a mule.” Senn (1997)

- ▶ Non-informative prior **does not exist**. Even uniform prior distribution says that all values are equally likely.
- ▶ There are approaches for deriving “non-informative prior distribution”
 - ▶ Jeffrey's prior distribution
 - ▶ reference prior distribution (Bernardo)
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ Sensitivity analysis
- ▶ Use of prior information can bias estimates, which have smaller variance (combination of two sources of information → smaller variance)
- ▶ Preference for conjugate priors to simplify calculations
- ▶ Priors less important with more records
- ▶ Can improve model fitting!

“General” prior distribution

- For prior distribution we can pick any valid (proper) distribution:

$$p(y|n, \theta) = \text{Be}(y+1, n-y+1)$$

$$p(\theta) = U(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$p(\theta|y, n) \propto \theta^y (1-\theta)^{n-y} \times \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}$$

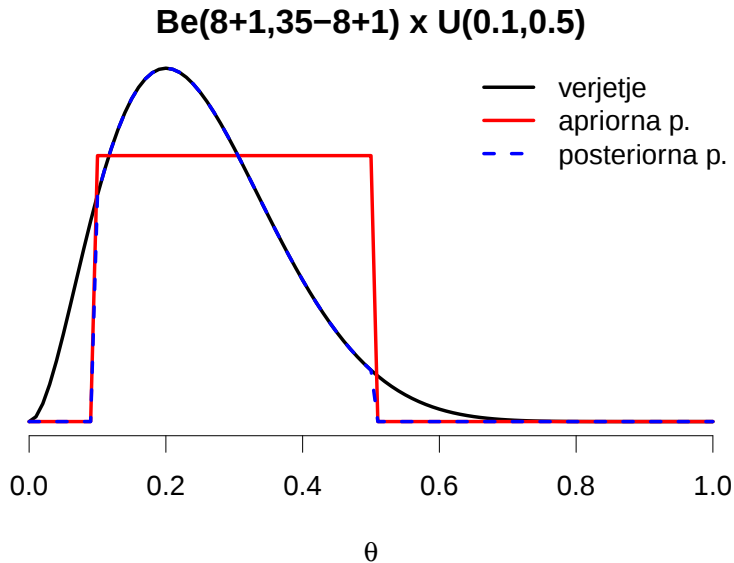
$$\propto \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \text{Be}(y+1, n-y+1) \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha} d\theta$$

$$\propto \text{????}$$

“after the inspection no standard distribution can be recognized”

Cannot directly solve this. Need an alternative approach!

“General” prior distribution - uniform



More parameters?

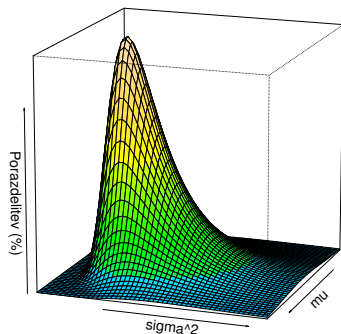
- ▶ Statistical models have usually more than one parameter!
- ▶ For example in Gauss distribution

$$p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$p(\mu) = N(\dots)$$

$$p(\sigma^2) = IG(\dots)$$

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2|y) \propto p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu) p(\sigma^2)$$



But, we want as result marginal (one-dimensional) posterior distributions:

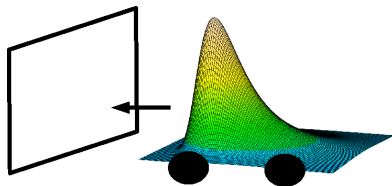
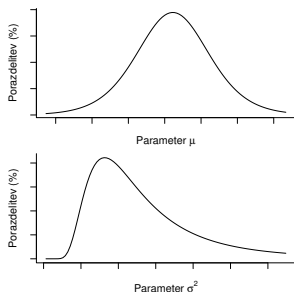
$$p(\mu|y) \text{ and } p(\sigma^2|y)$$

More parameters?

But, we want as result marginal (one-dimensional) posterior distributions!

$$p(\mu|y) = \int_0^{\infty} p(\mu, \sigma^2|y) d\sigma^2$$

$$p(\sigma^2|y) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(\mu, \sigma^2|y) d\mu$$



Even more parameters?

$$\begin{aligned}p(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p | y) &\propto p(y | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p) p(\theta_1) p(\theta_2) \dots p(\theta_p) \\p(\theta_1 | y) &= \int_{\theta_2} \int_{\dots} \int_{\theta_p} p(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p | y) d\theta_2 d\dots d\theta_p \\p(\theta_2 | y) &= \int_{\theta_1} \int_{\dots} \int_{\theta_p} p(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p | y) d\theta_1 d\dots d\theta_p \\&\dots \\ \boldsymbol{\theta} &= \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_p \\p(\theta_i | y) &= \int_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i}} p(\boldsymbol{\theta} | y) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_{-i}\end{aligned}$$

Usually analytically impossible to solve!!!



Modern computational methods for Bayesian statistics

- ▶ MCMC
- ▶ Variational Bayes (Expectation Propagation, Mean-Field, ...)
- ▶ INLA (Integrated Nested Laplace Approximation) - for some models
- ▶ ...

**Questions?
(break)**

4. MCMC



MCMC

- ▶ MCMC
 - ▶ eng. Monte Carlo Markov Chain
 - ▶ slo. Monte Carlo z Markovskimi verigami
- ▶ Monte Carlo - stochastic method for solution of compute intense problems
- ▶ Markov chain - current value of a variable depends only on the previous value
- ▶ In Bayesian statistics we use MCMC for sampling from (conditional) posterior distributions
- ▶ Algorithms
 - ▶ Metropolis in Metropolis-Hastings sampling
 - ▶ Gibbs sampling
 - ▶ NUTS
 - ▶ HMC
 - ▶ ...

Larger number of parameters?

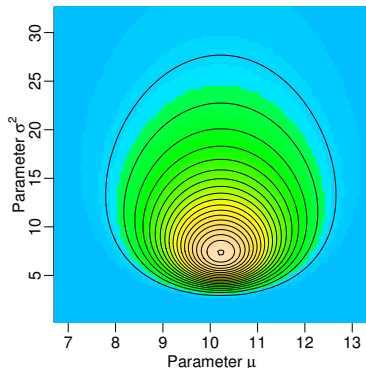
- ▶ Statistical models have usually more than one parameter!
- ▶ For example in Gauss distribution

$$p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$p(\mu) = N(\dots)$$

$$p(\sigma^2) = IG(\dots)$$

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2|y) \propto p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu) p(\sigma^2)$$



But, we want as result marginal (one-dimensional) posterior distributions:

$$p(\mu|y) \text{ and } p(\sigma^2|y)$$

MCMC - conditional distributions

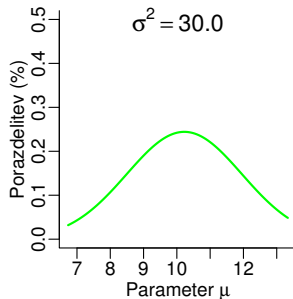
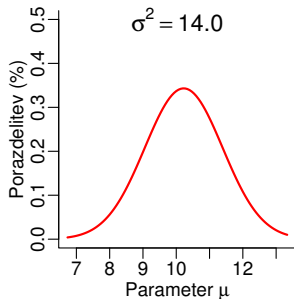
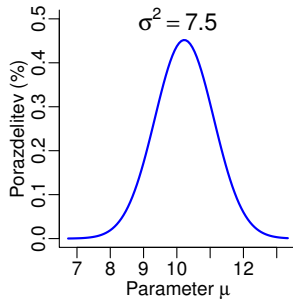
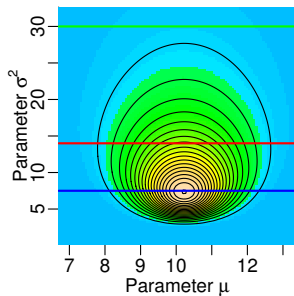
- ▶ Derive conditional distributions for each parameter (possibly for a group/block of parameters)
- ▶ Simple to sample from one-dimensional conditional distributions
- ▶ Conditional distributions for Gauss' model:

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2 | y) \propto p(y | \mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu) p(\sigma^2)$$

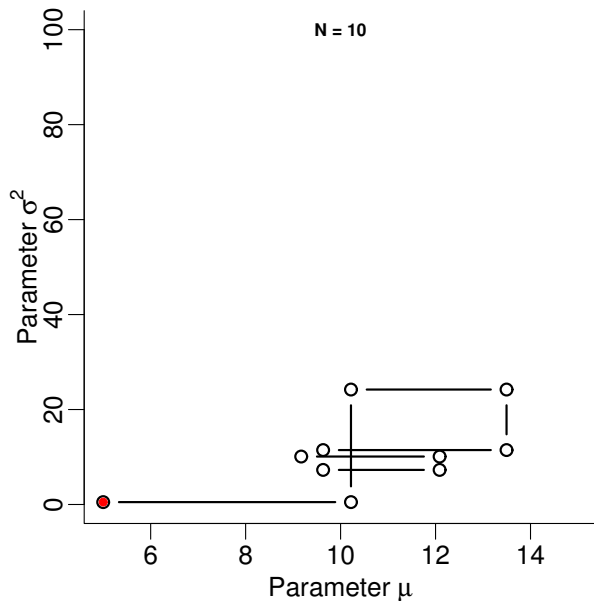
$$p(\mu | y, \sigma^2) \propto p(y | \mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu) \cancel{p(\sigma^2)}$$

$$p(\sigma^2 | y, \mu) \propto p(y | \mu, \sigma^2) \cancel{p(\mu)} p(\sigma^2)$$

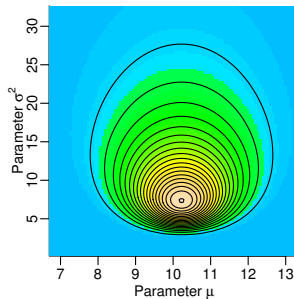
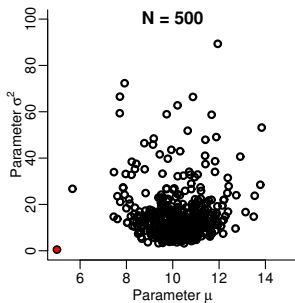
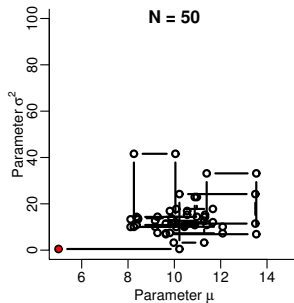
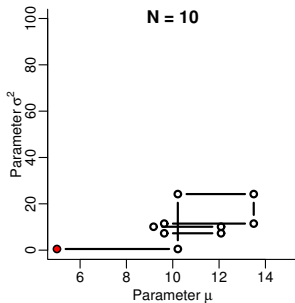
MCMC - conditional distributions (demo)



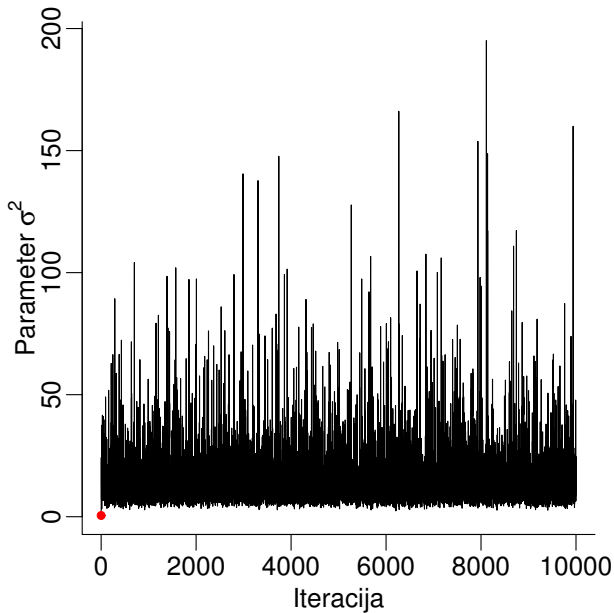
MCMC - sampling



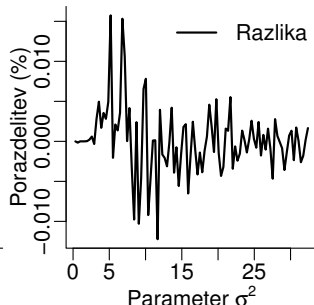
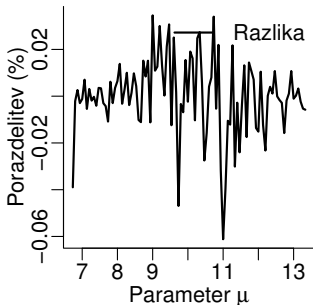
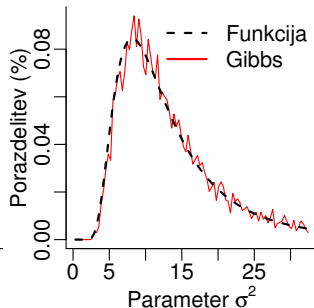
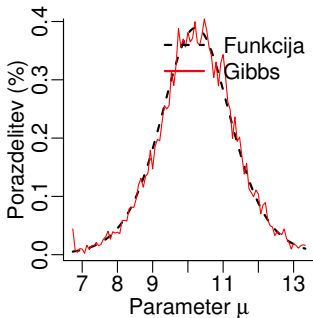
MCMC - sampling II



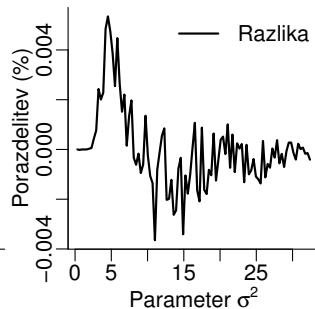
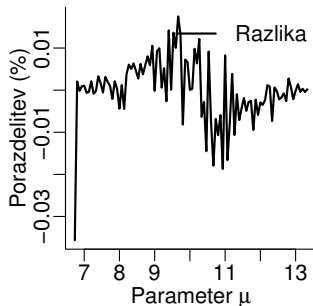
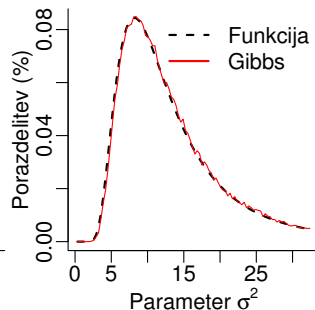
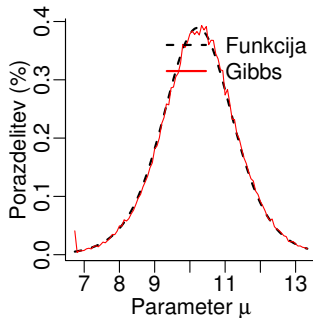
MCMC - Markov chain



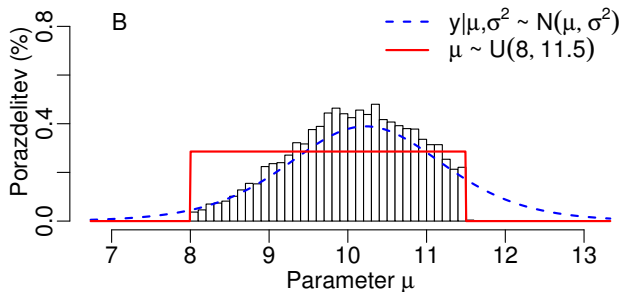
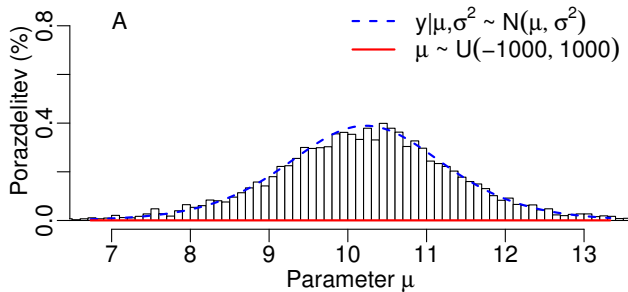
MCMC - marginal distributions



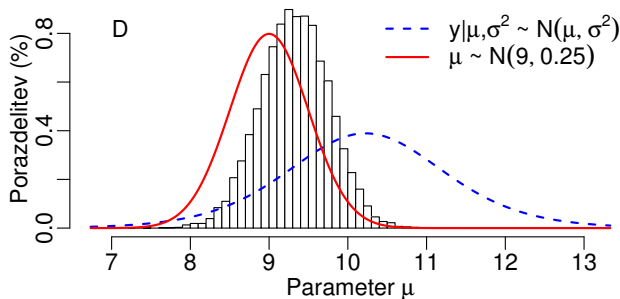
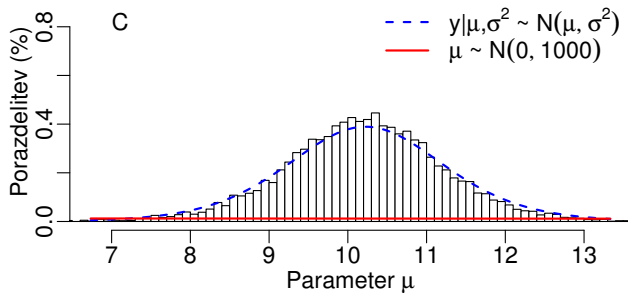
MCMC - marginal distributions II



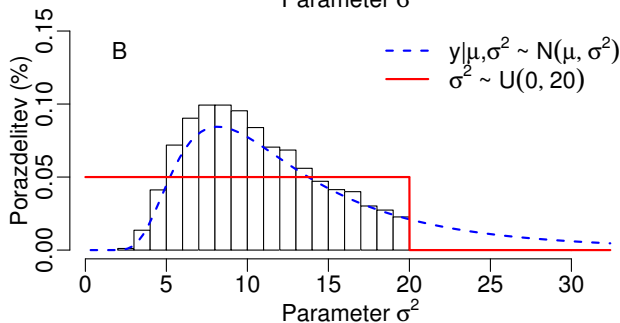
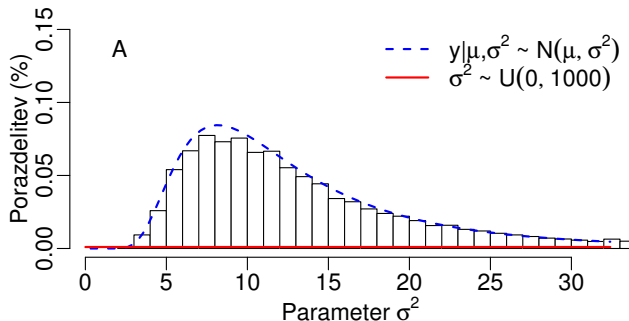
MCMC - different priors for μ



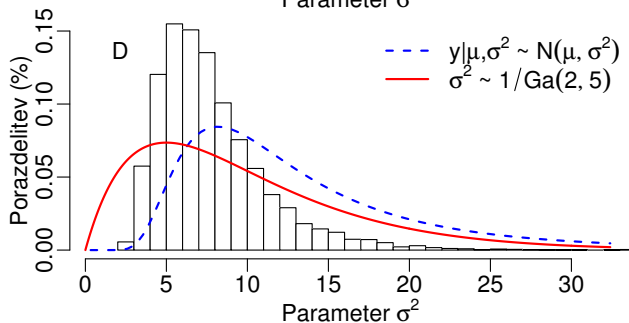
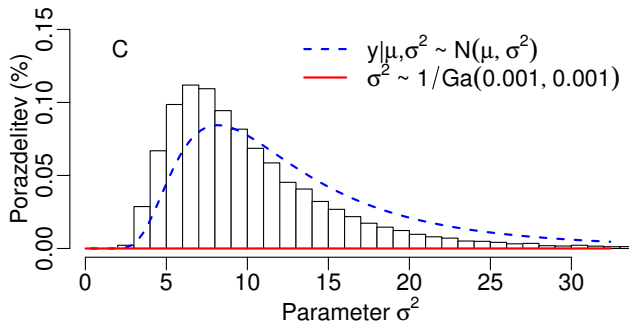
MCMC - different priors for μ II



MCMC - different priors for σ^2



MCMC - different priors for σ^2 II



Questions?

General Bayes programs/packages

- ▶ BUGS, JAGS, and Stan family

- ▶ R paketi

<http://cran.r-project.org/web/views/Bayesian.html>

- ▶ brms

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/brms/index.html>

- ▶ rstan [https:](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rstan/index.html)

[//cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rstan/index.html](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rstan/index.html)

- ▶ R-INLA [https://https://www.r-inla.org](https://www.r-inla.org)

- ▶ ...