Bayesian Ideas and Modern Bayesian Methods

An Introduction

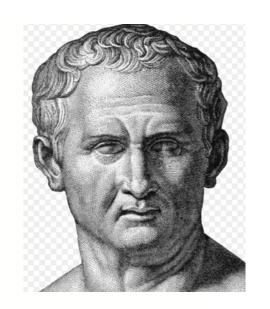
ICPSR 2017 at York University

Georges Monette

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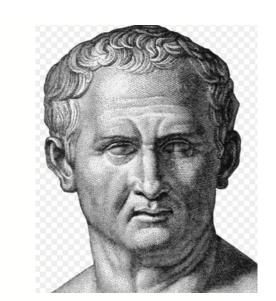
Cicero (106 BCE – 43 BCE) gave two definitions for *probabile*:

That which usually happens



• That which is commonly believed

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- That which usually happens
 - o relative frequency
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- That which is commonly believed
 - o degree of belief in a hypothesis
 - Bayesian subjective interpretation

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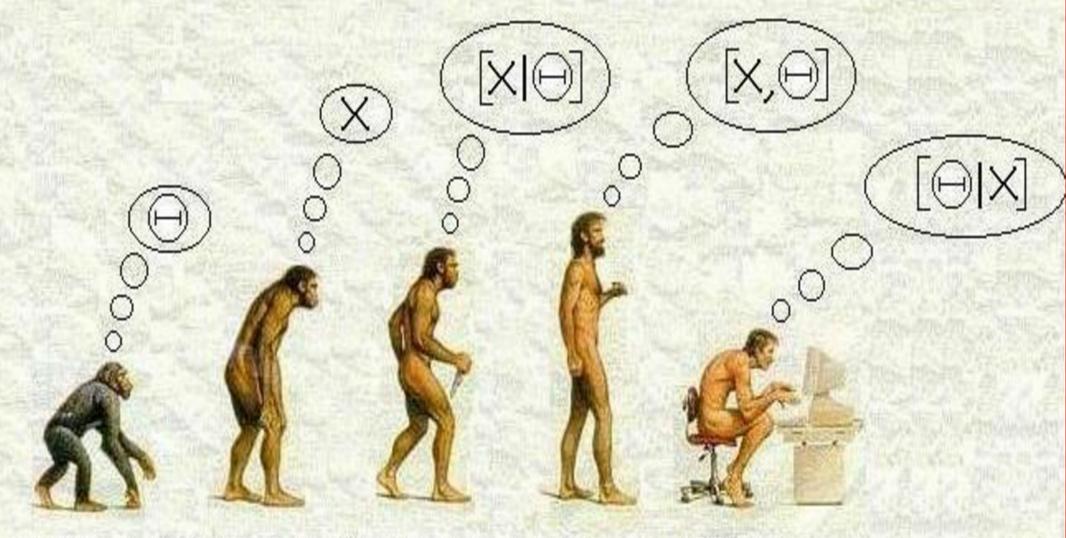
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From ideology to utility

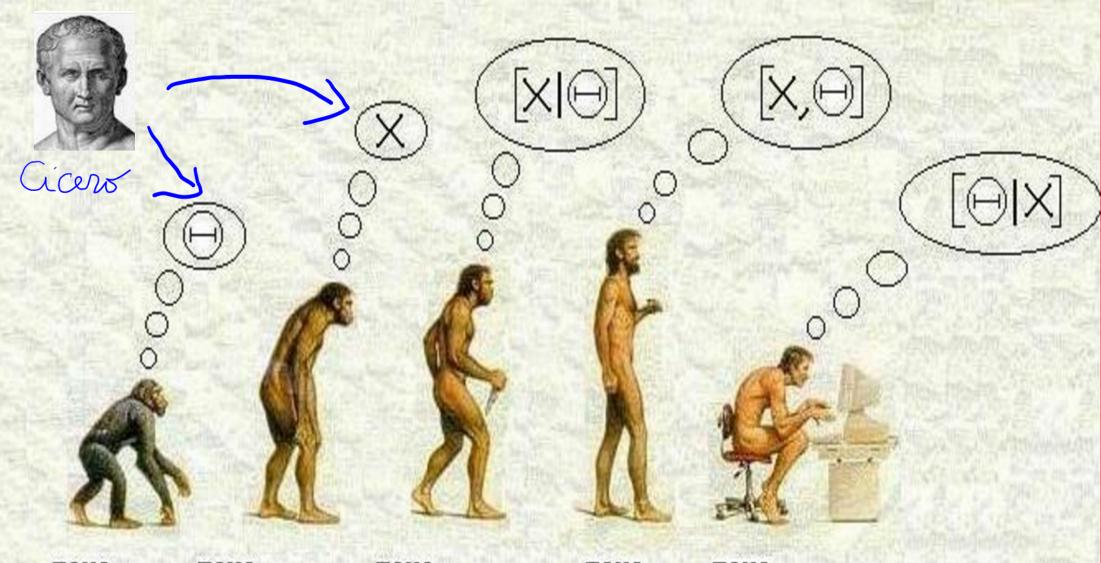
- ▶ Until recently the debate was mainly philosophical. F methods were much easier
- ▶ With improvements in MCMC, B methods have become more feasible and surpass F methods for many complex problems

(YET ANOTHER) HISTORY OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT ...



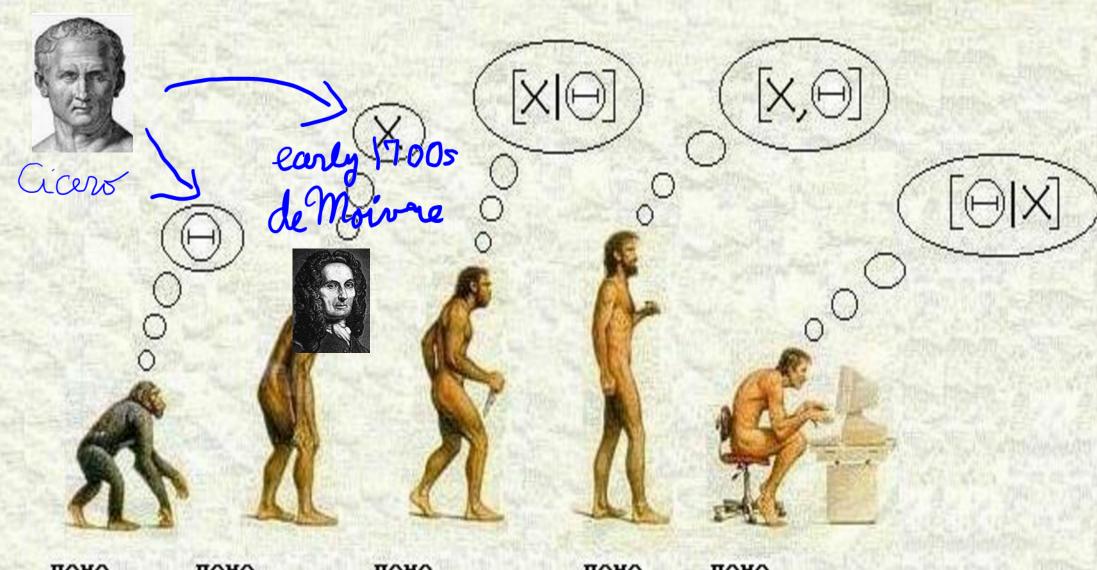
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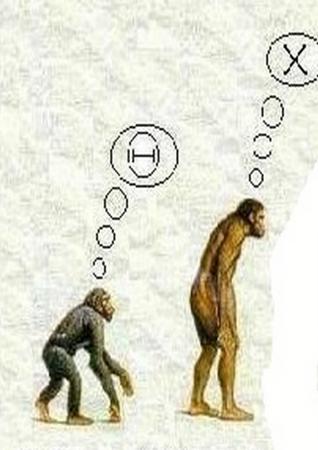
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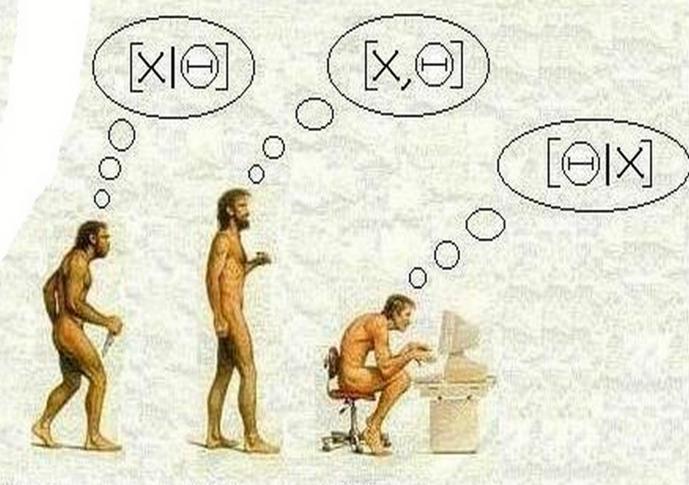


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HOMO HOMO APRIORIUS PRAGMATICUS



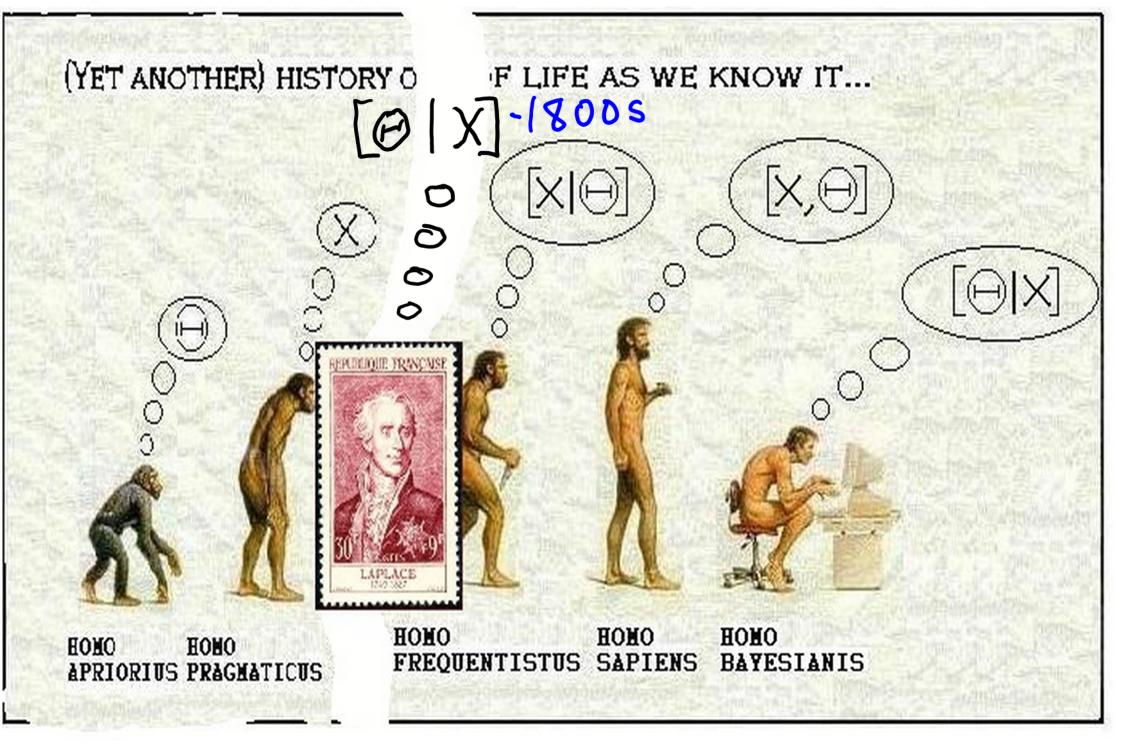
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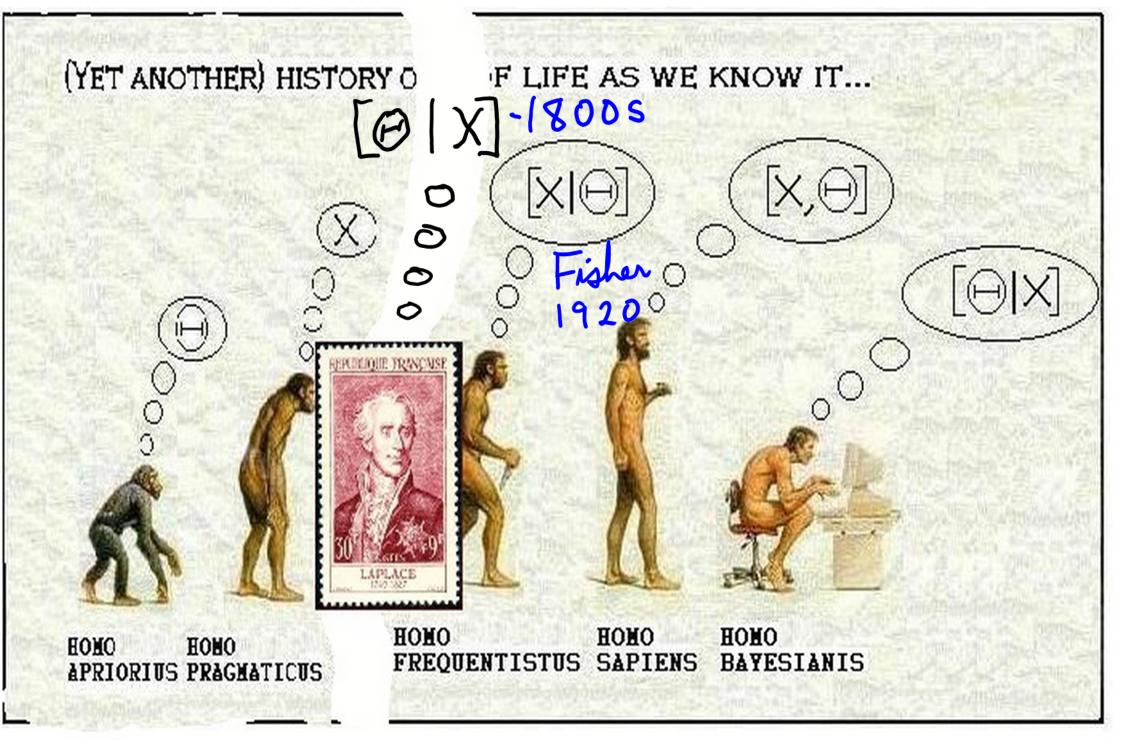
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HOMO HOMO APRIORIUS PRAGMATICUS

FREQUENTISTUS SAPIENS

BAYESIANIS





R. A. Fisher's clever idea

The Lady Tasting Tea and the p-value: a frequentist basis for inference

In 1919, Dr. Muriel Bristol at Rothampsted Experimental Station claimed she could tell whether the milk was poured in first or the tea first.

- ► Imagine that she was offered 12 cups of tea in random order 6 prepared milk first and 6 tea first
- ► She got 10 of the 12 right

What does this tell us about her ability to tell the difference?

Rationale behind the p-value

How can we quantify the evidence that she can tell the difference?

- \triangleright Pretend that she can't tell the difference: 'null hypothesis' H_0
- ▶ The probability of getting 10 out 12 right is $p(y|H_0) = 0.038961$
- ▶ But the probability of any single outcome, even one consistent with H_0 , might be very small and might say nothing against H_0
- \blacktriangleright Fisher's idea: use the *tail probability*, the probability of y as or more extreme than the observed value of y

p-value:

$$Pr(y^{+}|H_{0}) = p(y = 10|H_{0}) + p(y = 12|H_{0})$$

$$= 0.038961 + 0.001082$$

$$= 0.040043$$

Proof by contradiction/implausibility

Contradiction Implausibility

A implies not B A implies B is improbable

B true B is observed

Therefore A is false Therefore A is unlikely

Courtroom analogy: presumption of innocence

 H_0 : Innocence

Consider probability of data (evidence) | innocence

If evidence inconsistent with innocence, then reject innocence and find guilt



Sally Clark

- ▶ Young lawyer, gives birth to first son in September 1996
- ▶ son dies, apparently of SIDS, at 10 weeks
- second son born a year later
- ▶ dies, apparently of SIDS, at 8 weeks
- only evidence of trauma consistent with resuscitation attempts
- charged with two counts of murder



Sir Roy Meadow

- distinguished pediatrician
- ▶ as expert witness testifies:
 - ▶ probability of one SIDS death: $\frac{1}{8,500}$
 - probability of two: $\left(\frac{1}{8,500}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{72,250,000}$
 - 'if she's innocent, the chances of this happening are 1 in 72 million'
- jury convicts Sally Clark of murder in November 1999
- first appeal lost in October 2000
- second appeal succeeds and Sally Clark is released in January 2003
- ▶ she dies in 2007 at the age of 42

Ho: Sally is innocent

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Criticism:

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Ho: Sally is innocent Y: 2 children die for no apparent cause P-value = Pr (Y+ | Ho) Meadow's calculation $\approx \frac{1}{8,500} \times \frac{1}{8,500} = 72,250,000$ (riticism: 1) assumes independence 2) 1/8,500 too small Correct p. value is larger-maybe 10,006!

So anyways: P < 0.0001 Therefore guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Do me really want P(Y+1Ho)?

Do we really want $P(Y^{+}|H_{o})$? Don't we really want $P(H_{o}|Y)$?

Do me really want P(Y+1Ho)? Pont we really want P(Ho | Y)?

- Must be close!?

- Qs P(Y+1Ho) a good

proxy for P(Ho | Y)?

Por we really want $P(Y^+|H_0)$?

Pon It we really want $P(H_0|Y)$?

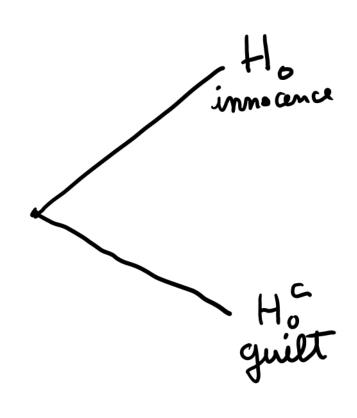
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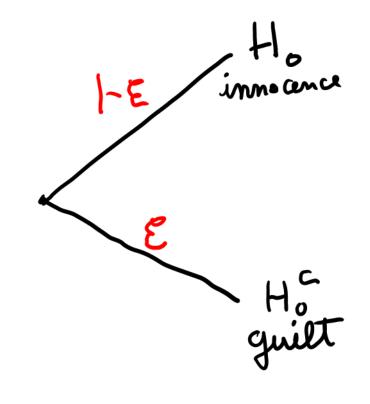
2007 proxy for P(Holy)? $P(H_{6}|Y) = P(H_{6},Y) = P(Y|H_{6})P(H_{6})$ P(Y) P(Y)

Bayesian tree:

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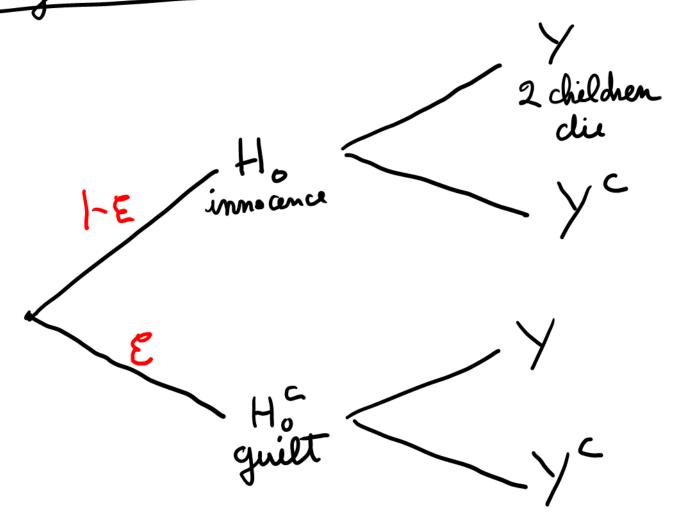


Bayesian tree:



E = very small number

Bayesian tree:



Sayesian bree:

8 = very small number

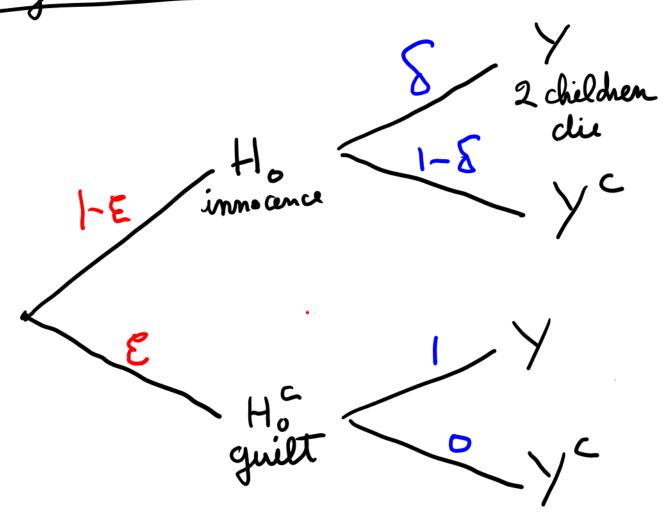
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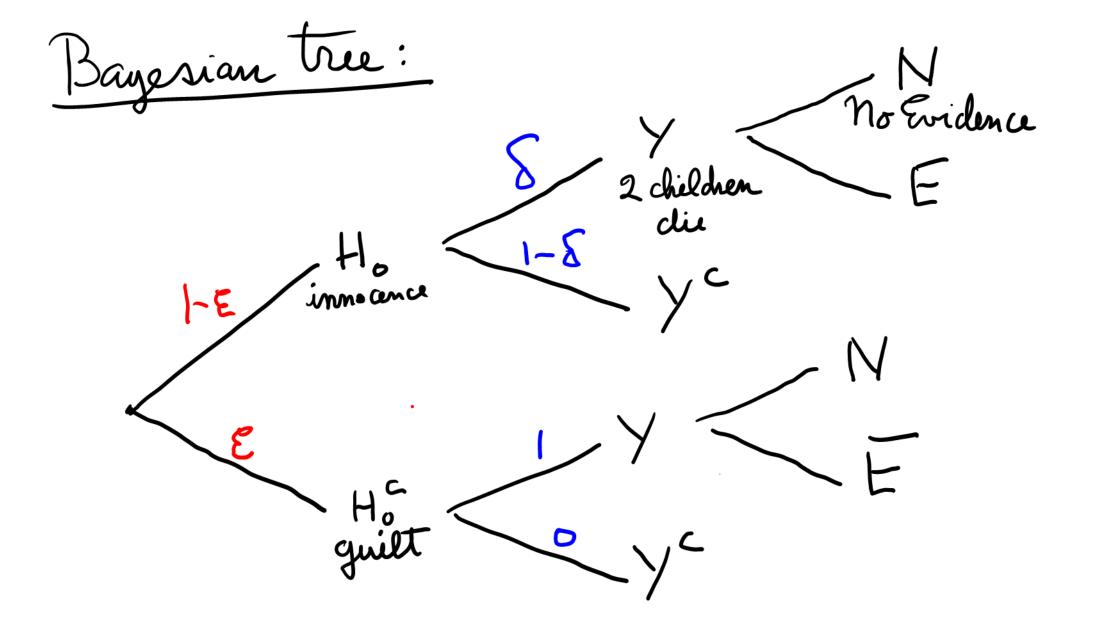
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Sayesian tree: y (1-€)x 5 2 children EX P(Holy) = (1-E) 5 (1-E) 5+E

Dayssian y (1-E)x 8 2 children EX P(Holy) = (1-E) 5 (1-E) 5+E 8+E 157

Bayesian tree:





Bayesian bree:

w = another small number

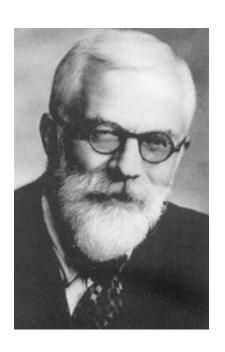
Sayesian Tree:

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Sally Clark is

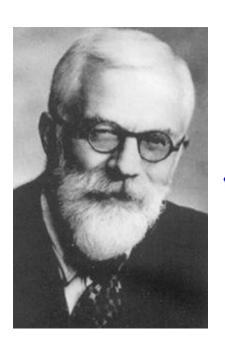
<u>innocent</u>
begond a reasonable doubt.







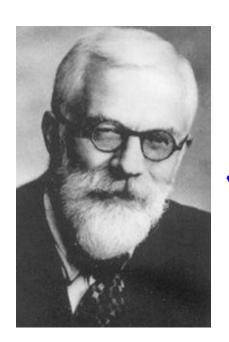












GUILTY
INNOCENTE



A very small value of the probability of innocence 'given' the evidence?

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Probability (Innocence | Evidence)?

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Probability (Innocence | Evidence)?

What did Roy Meadow learn from stats?

How to calculate:

Probability (Evidence | Innocence)

the *p-value*, the probability of obtaining evidence as or more contradictory assuming innocence.

The fundamental neurosis of statistics

- ▶ We really want $p(\theta|y)$ but we'd have to accept $p(\theta)$
- ▶ So we give the world $p(y^+|\theta)$
 - ▶ Most people quietly think it's a proxy for $p(\theta|y)$
 - ▶ if not, what in the world could it be?
- ► Gigerenzer:
 - ▶ the confusion created by this unresolved conflict among statisticians, which is both suppressed and inherent in statistics textbooks, leads to a systemic neurosis in science for which the ritual of NHST is a form of conflict resolution − like compulsive hand washing − which makes it resistant to logical arguments
- ▶ One is most strongly committed to the beliefs one does not understand

P(Y+) Ho) Was a poor proxy for 12 (Ho1 X)

If p-values are so bad, why do we still use them?

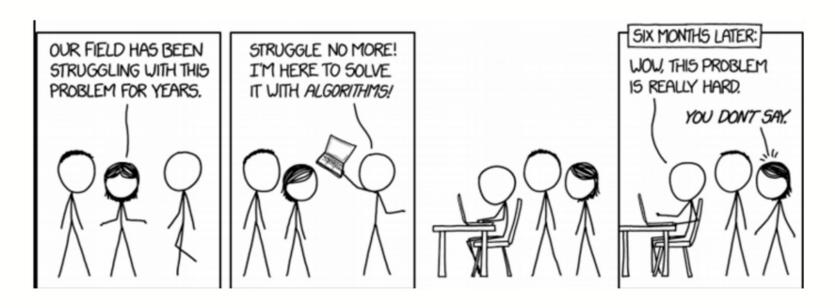
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- For many common problems they are consistent with Bayesian answers
 - o see Fiducial and Structural Inference
- Bayesian Inference except for very simple problems can be very difficult
 - o This is changing thanks to MCMC
- You don't need to justify a choice of priors
- Fisher finally cautioned to use p-value only if there is little other information on H₀

If you feel puzzled, you are not alone: (Reid, 2017)

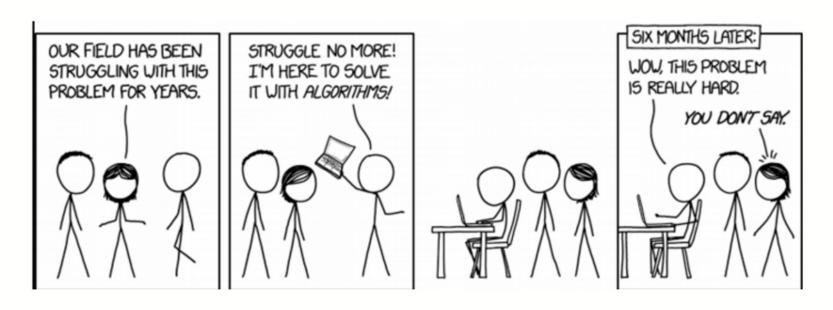


From a 1996 interview:

Nancy Reid: Why is conditional inference so hard?

Sir David Cox: I expect we're all missing something but I don't know what it is.

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- cited in 2017

Philosophical Basic problem

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Philosophical Sasie problem Given a model P(X|B) Philosophical Sasie problem Given a model P(X 16) To get P(O(X) you need to be willing to speafy P(b)

Philosophical Isasie problem Given a model P(X (6) To get P(O(X) you need to be willing to specify P(b) Then P(X, 6)=P(X/6)P(6) and $P(\theta|X) = P(X, \theta)$ P(X)

Philosophical problem Given a model P(X/6) Moder To get P(O(X) you need to be willing to specify P(b) Prior Then P(X, 6)=P(X/6)P(6) and $P(\theta|X) = P(X, \theta)$ Posterior P(X)

Philosophical Basis problem Given a model P(X/6) Model To get P(O(X) you need to be willing to specify P(b) Prior Then P(X, 6)=P(X/6)P(6) and $P(\theta|X) = P(X, \theta)$ Postrior P(X)- You need a prior to get a posterior. Can we justify a particular prior?

Frequentists only use P(X16) and don'+ need P(B)





Frequentists only use P(X|B)and don't need P(B)

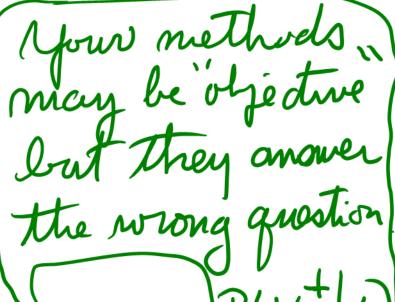
Egour methods are subjective. Syou have no olje time justification ; for your prior)



Frequentists only use P(X16) and don't need P(0)

Gour methods are subjective. you have no objective justification

for your priors





instead

of

P(Y 16)

P(B)

P(B)

Practical problem: $P(X, \theta) = P(X | \theta) P(\theta)$

Practical problem:

$$P(X, \theta) = P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$$

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$$P(X)$$

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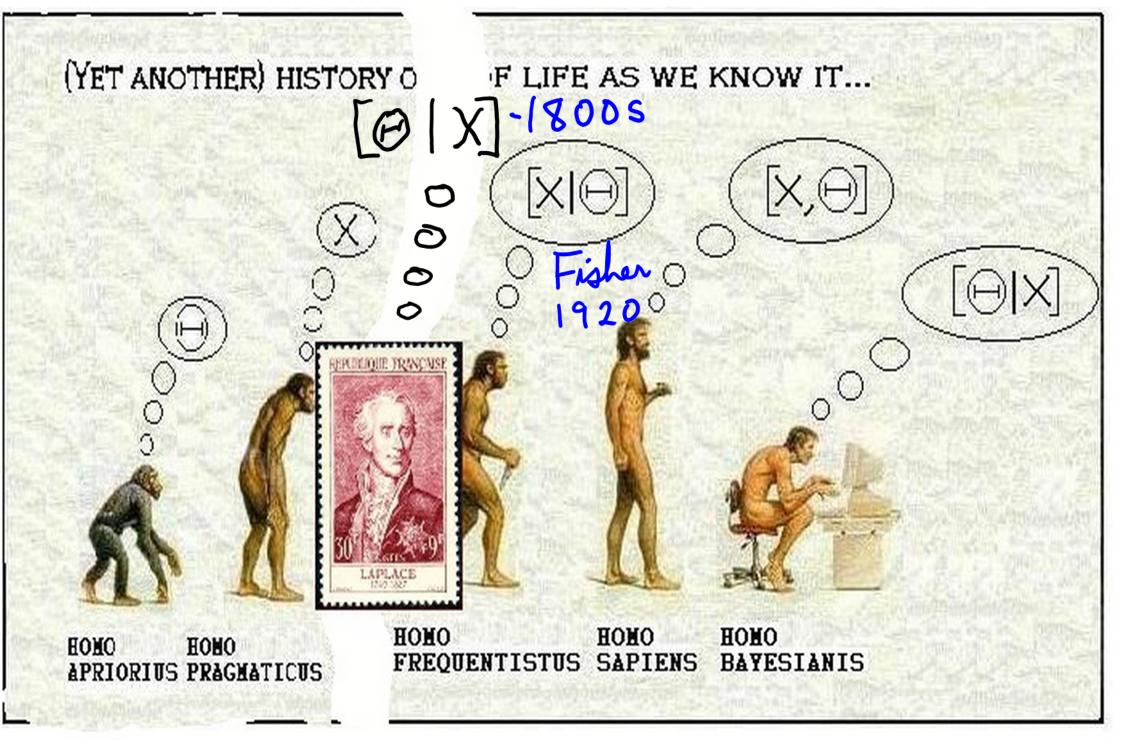
$$P(X)$$

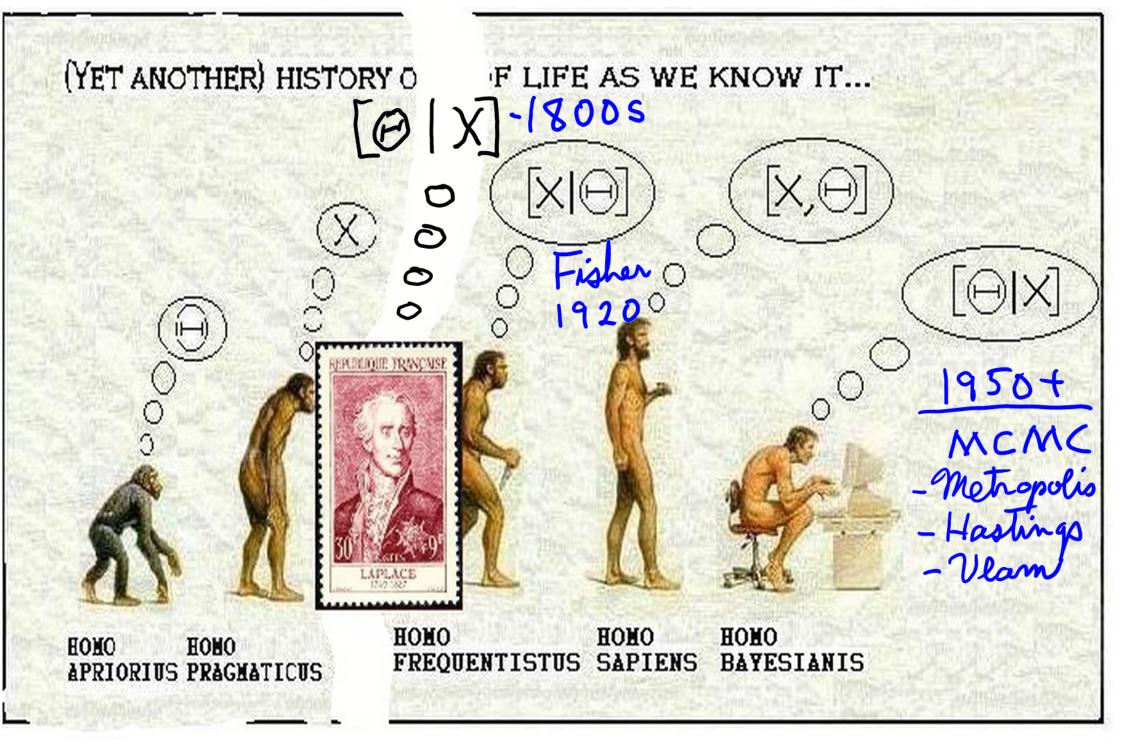
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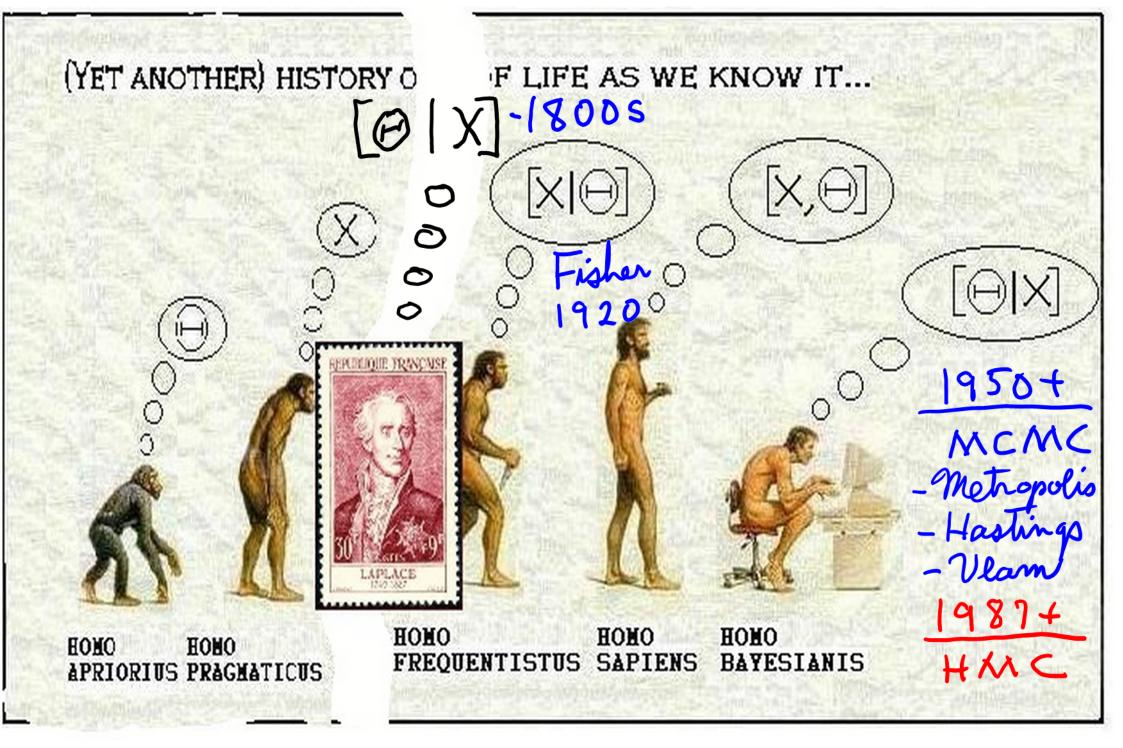
$$P(X)$$

$$P(X)$$

Practical problem: $p(X, \theta) = p(X|\theta)p(\theta)$ $P(\theta|X) = P(X, \theta)$ P(X) $(P(X,b)d\theta$ If the has high dimension this becomes easily impossible.







Practical problem: $p(X, \theta) = p(X|\theta)p(\theta)$ $P(\theta|X) = P(X, \theta)$ P(X)MCMC (mid 20th C.) comes to the rescue; Ot's possible to sample from
P(OIX) knowing only P(X,0) Posteriors without priors! Fisher-Fiducial inference Fraser - Structural inference Objective Bayesian inference Baking the Bayesian omelette without breaking The Bayesian ogg. Emerging practice: Voing weakly informative priors.

Markov Chain Monte Carlo

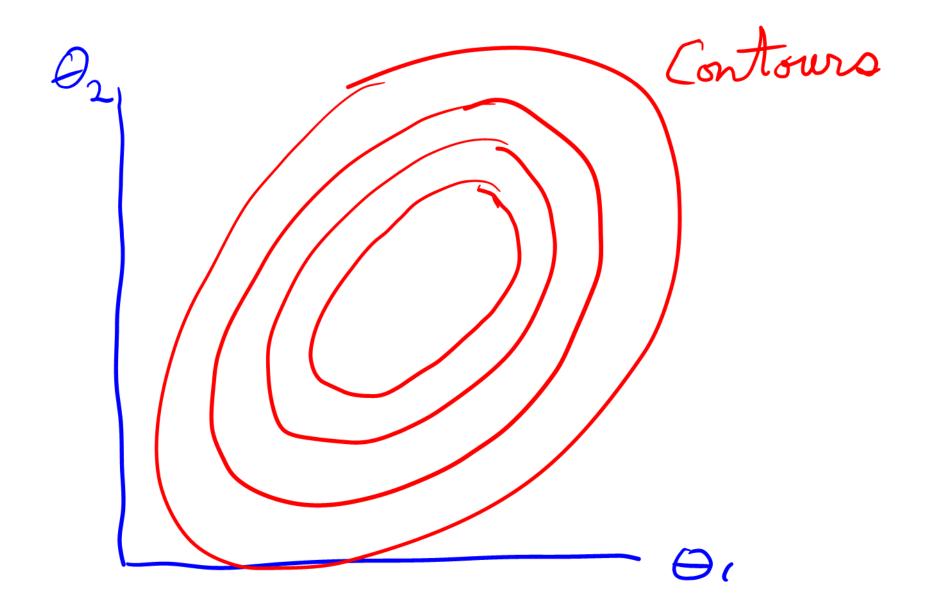
One $P(\theta, X) = P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$

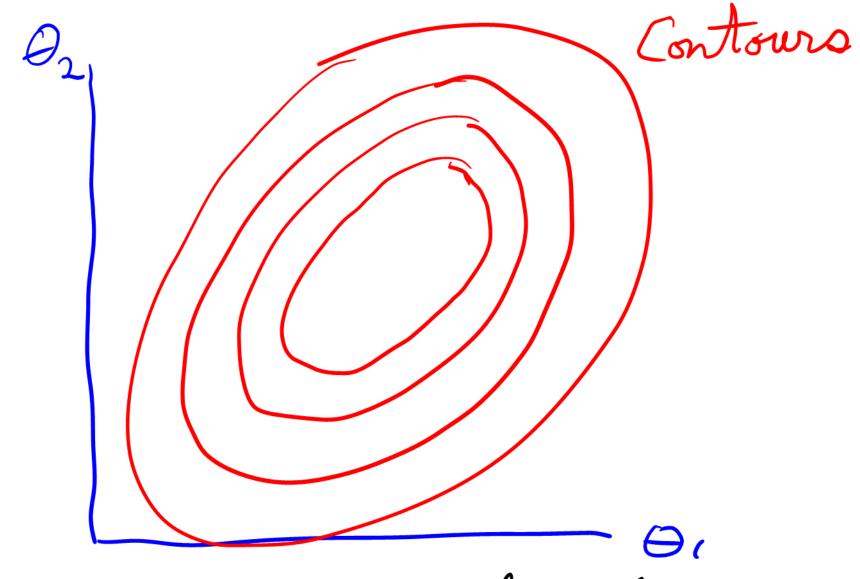
Markov Chain Monte Carlo

The $P(\theta, X) = P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$ joint model \times prior Samples from $P(\theta|X)$ using only $P(\theta,X)$ i.e. no need to find elusive P(X)

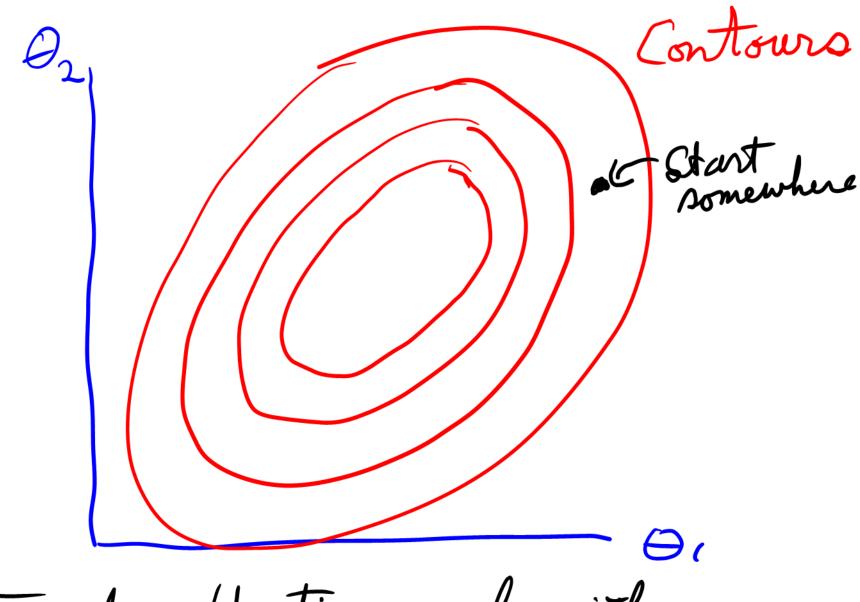
Markov Chain Monte Carlo $P(\theta, X) = P(X|\theta)P(\theta)$ joint model x prior 1) Re Samples from $P(\theta|X)$ waring only $P(\theta,X)$ i.e. no need to find elusive P(X)With X fixed, think of P(O,X) as défining a mountain over 0 space

P(0,X) fixed

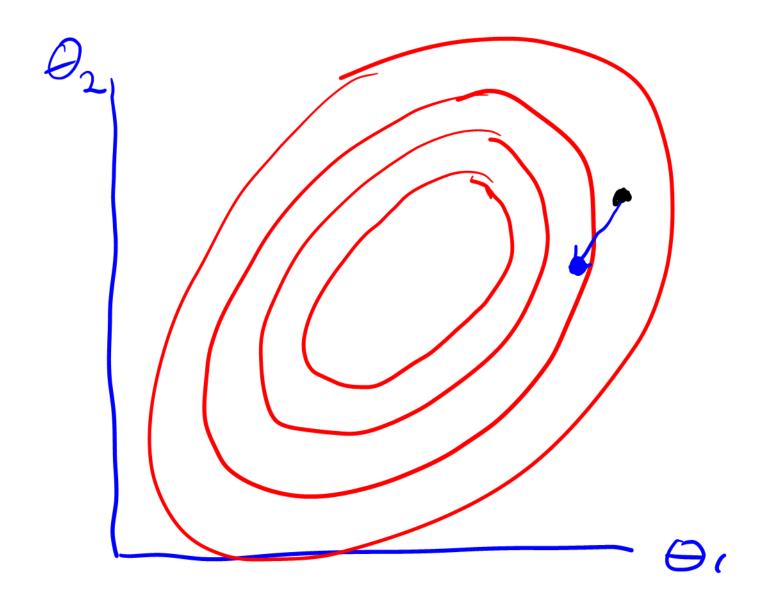


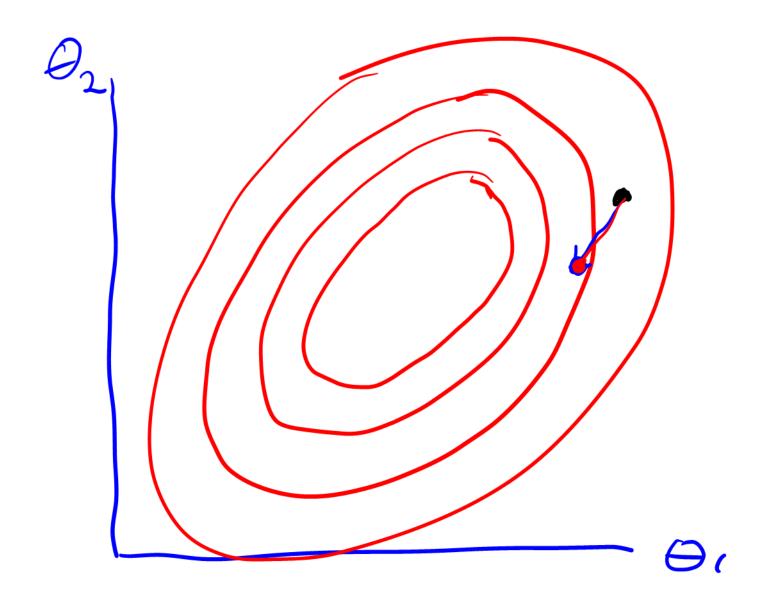


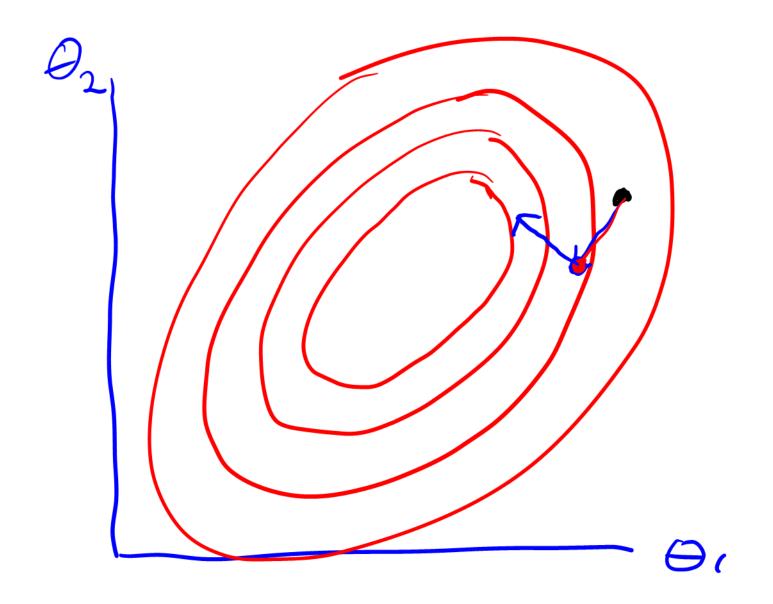
Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

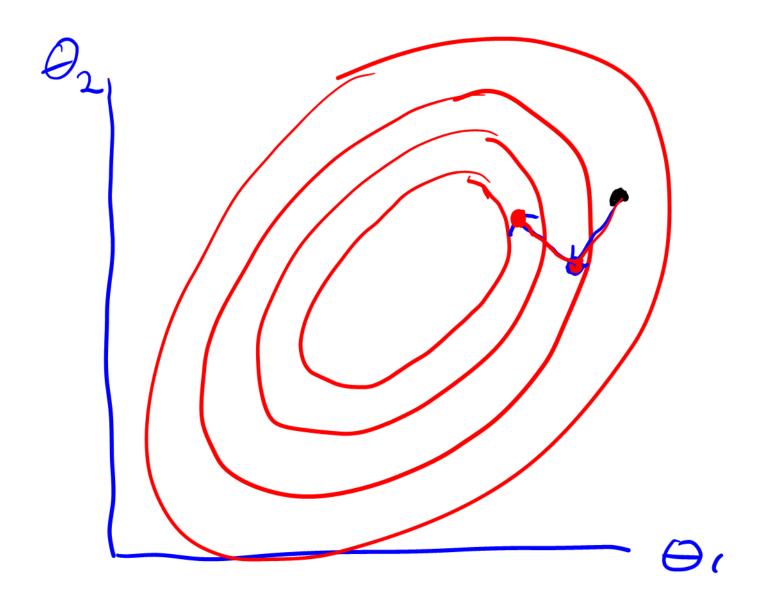


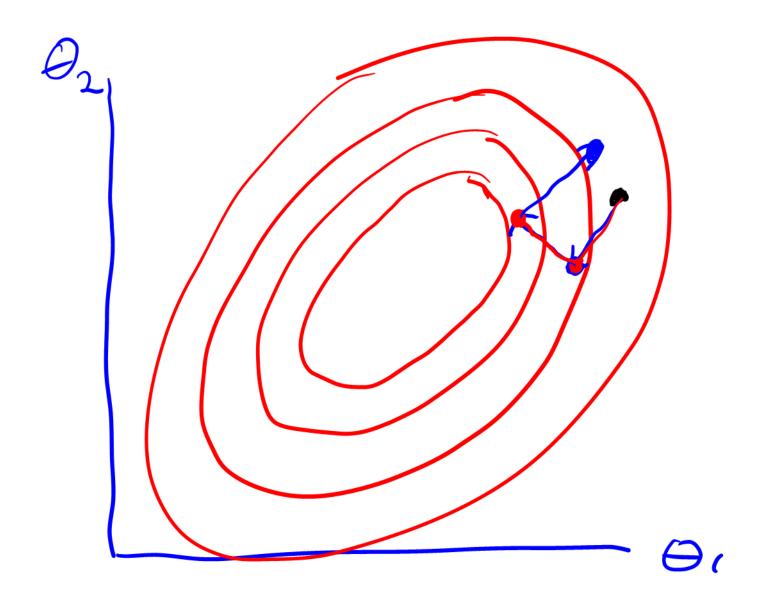
Metropolis-Hastings algorithm











If you've walked downhill, you need to toss a biased coin with:

$$Pr(Heads) = rac{p(heta_{new}|Y)}{p(heta_{last}|Y)}$$

Usually, it's very hard to compute the **numerator** and the **denominator** of this **ratio**.

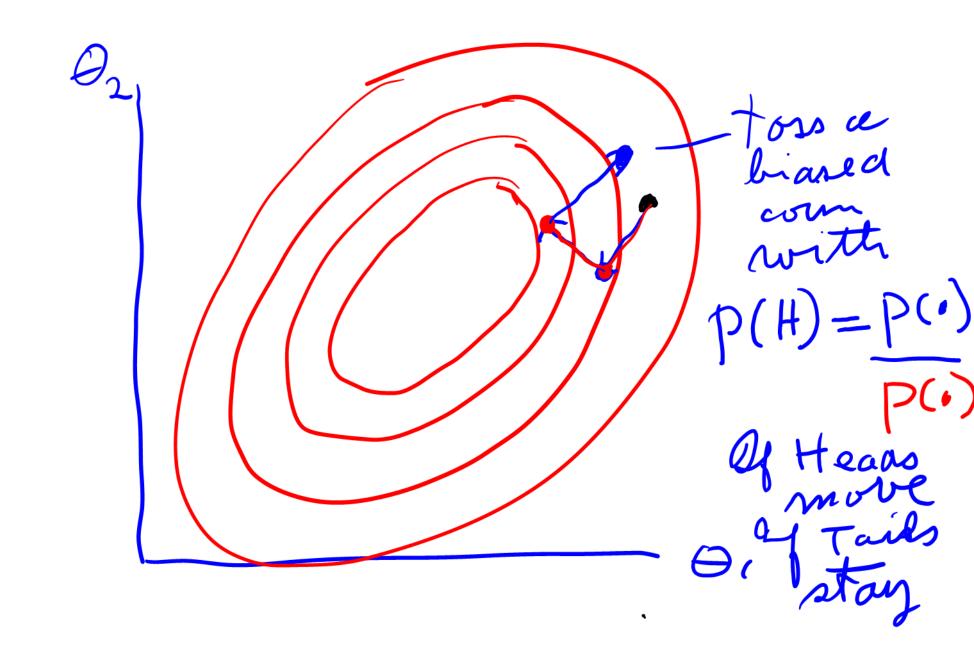
However, the ratio itself is, for many models, a relative cinch:

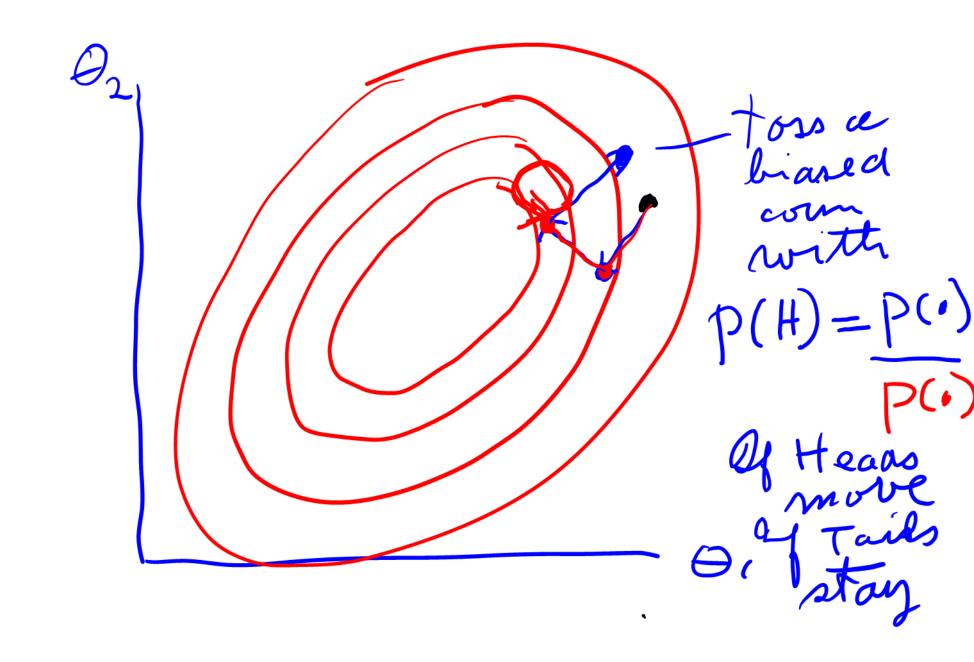
$$Pr(Heads) = rac{p(heta_{new}|Y)}{p(heta_{last}|Y)} = rac{p(heta_{new}|Y)/p(Y)}{p(heta_{last}|Y)/p(Y)} = rac{p(Y, heta_{new})}{p(Y, heta_{last})} imes rac{p(heta_{new})}{p(heta_{last})}$$

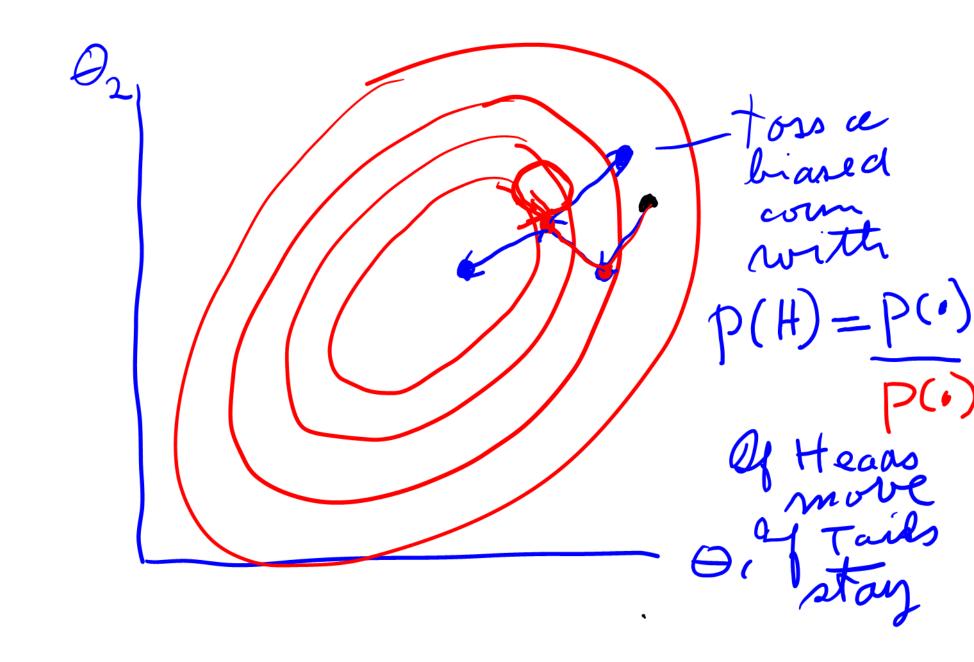
Which is just the **likelihood ratio** times the **prior ratio**.

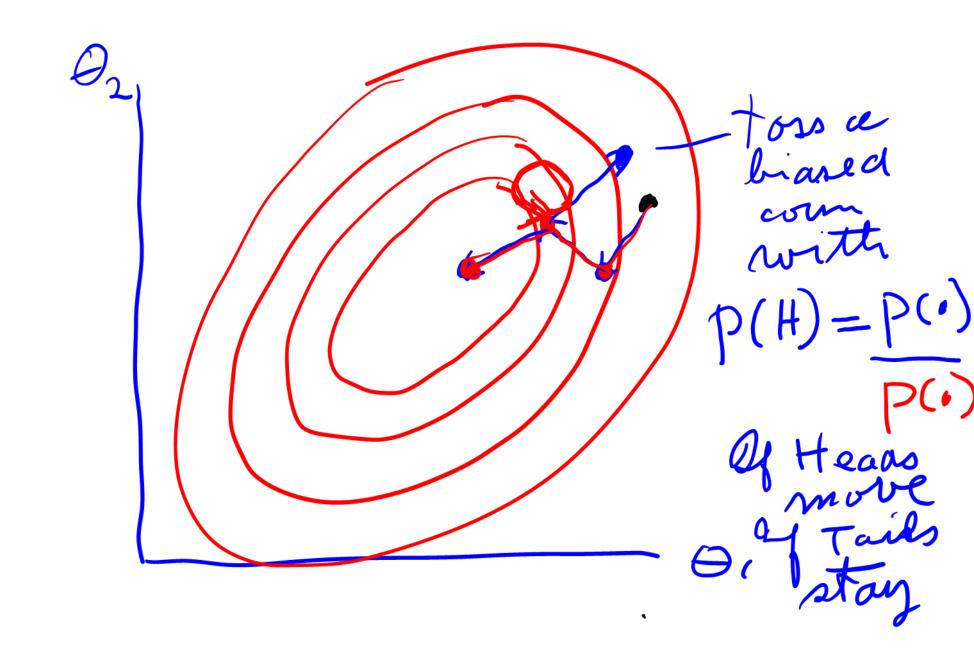
The more you've gone down, the lower the probability of a Head.

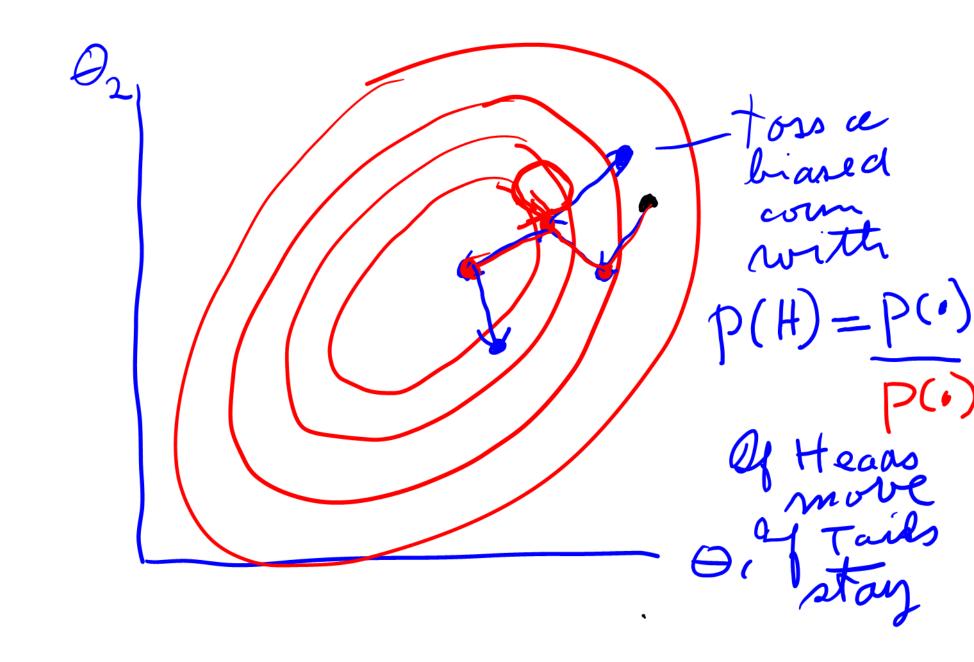
- If you get a Head, plant a stake at your new position.
- If you get a Tail, step back to the last position and plant a second stake there.

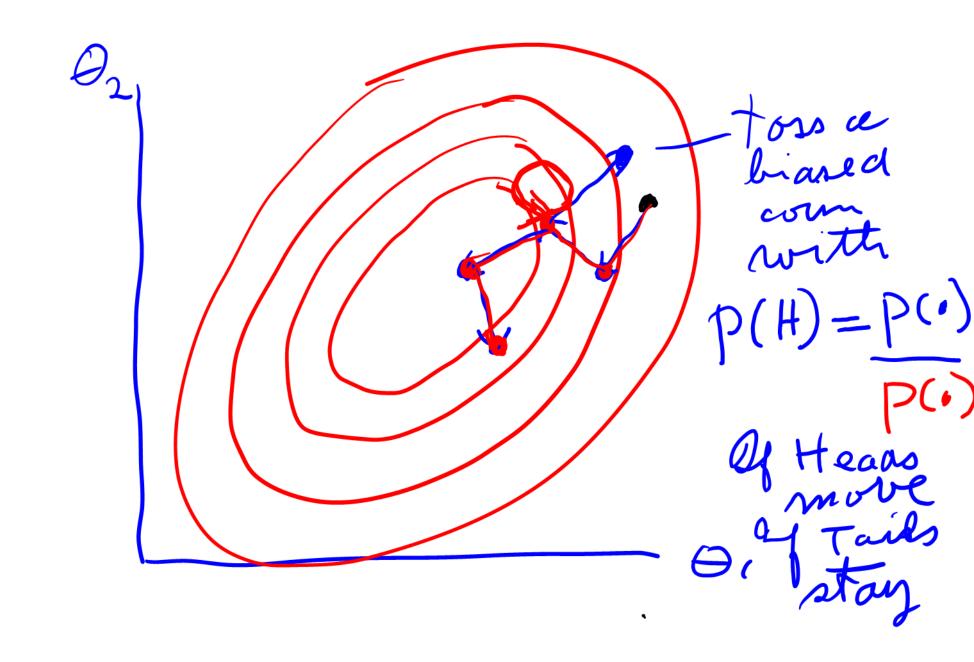








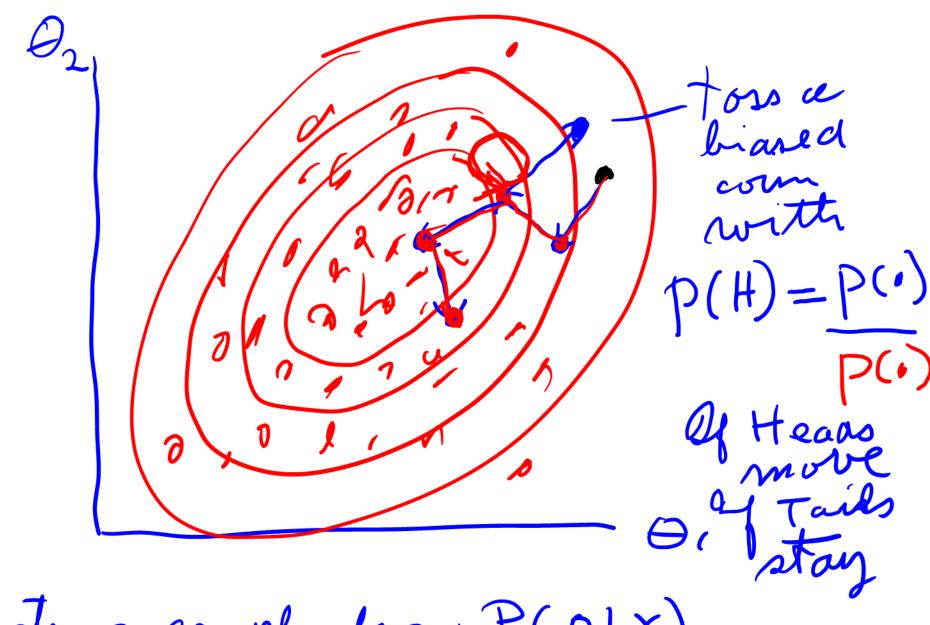




 $(H) = P(\cdot)$ Heads Keep doing this for a very long

more

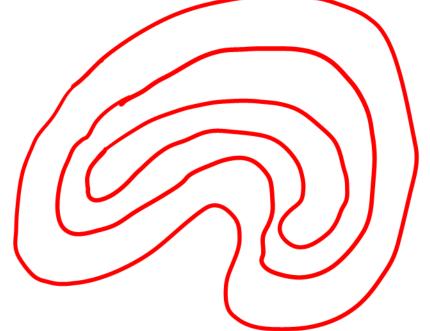
Keep doing this for a very long



- Generales a sample from P(OIX)

I hat's the M-H algorithm

- points can be highly correlated very slow to cover distribution especially with large # of parameters, e.g. multilevel models



- can get stuck in corners of distribution



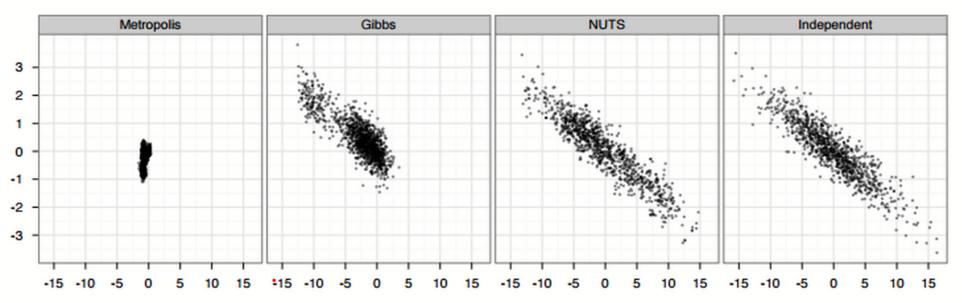


Figure 7: Samples generated by random-walk Metropolis, Gibbs sampling, and NUTS. The plots compare 1,000 independent draws from a highly correlated 250-dimensional distribution (right) with 1,000,000 samples (thinned to 1,000 samples for display) generated by random-walk Metropolis (left), 1,000,000 samples (thinned to 1,000 samples for display) generated by Gibbs sampling (second from left), and 1,000 samples generated by NUTS (second from right). Only the first two dimensions are shown here.

from Hoffman & Gelman (2014)



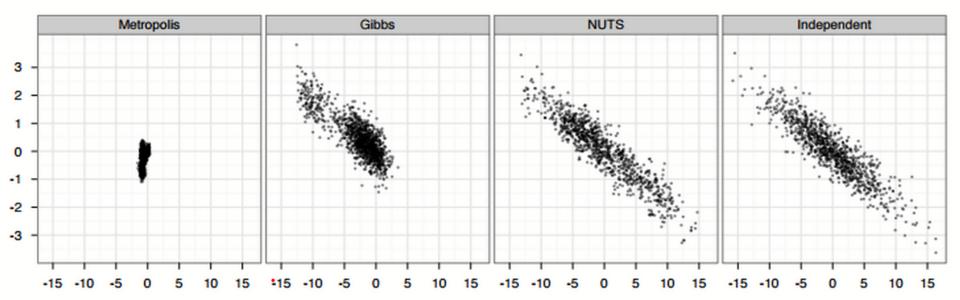


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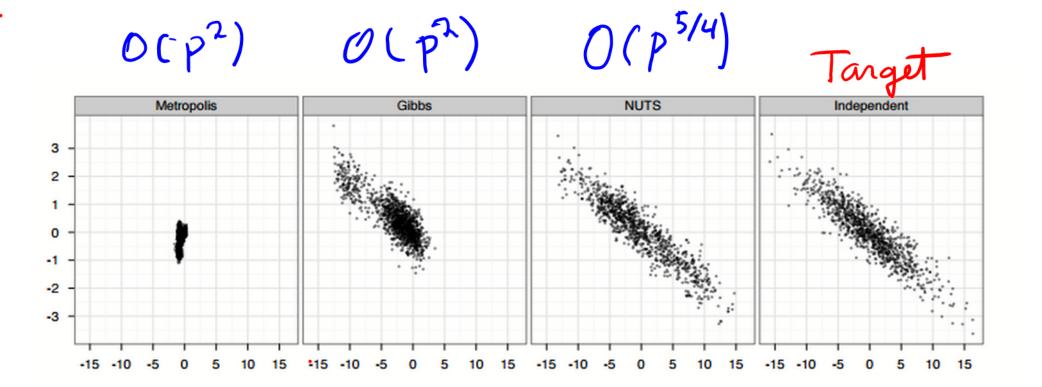


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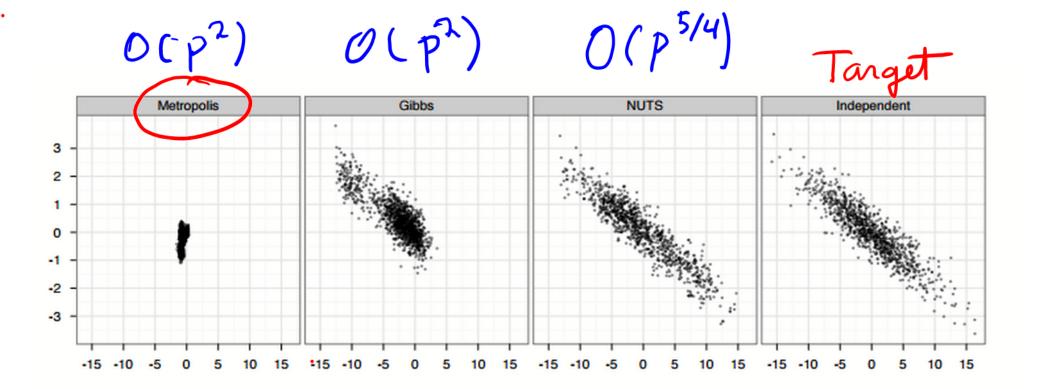


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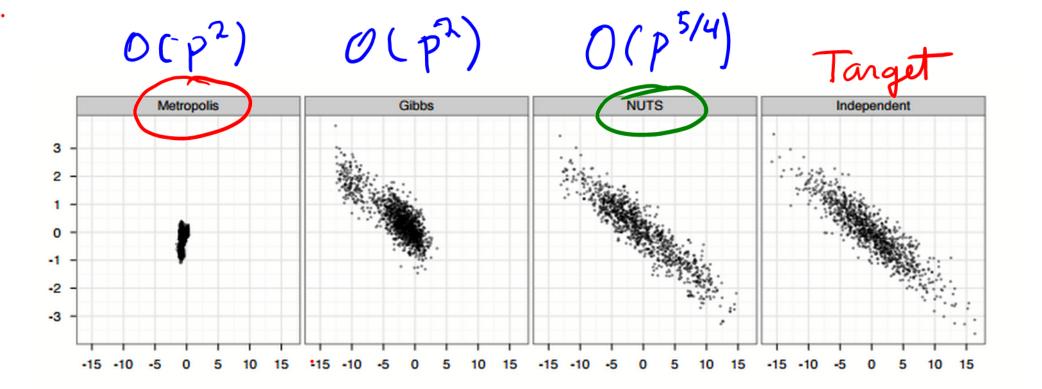


Figure 7: Samples generated by random-walk Metropolis, Gibbs sampling, and NUTS. The plots compare 1,000 independent draws from a highly correlated 250-dimensional distribution (right) with 1,000,000 samples (thinned to 1,000 samples for display) generated by random-walk Metropolis (left), 1,000,000 samples (thinned to 1,000 samples for display) generated by Gibbs sampling (second from left), and 1,000 samples generated by NUTS (second from right). Only the first two dimensions are shown here.

from Hoffman & Gelman (2014)

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

Turn the mountain P(X, Q) into a bowl Q ly using -log P(X, Q)





Hamiltonian Monte Carlo Turn the mountain P(X, E)

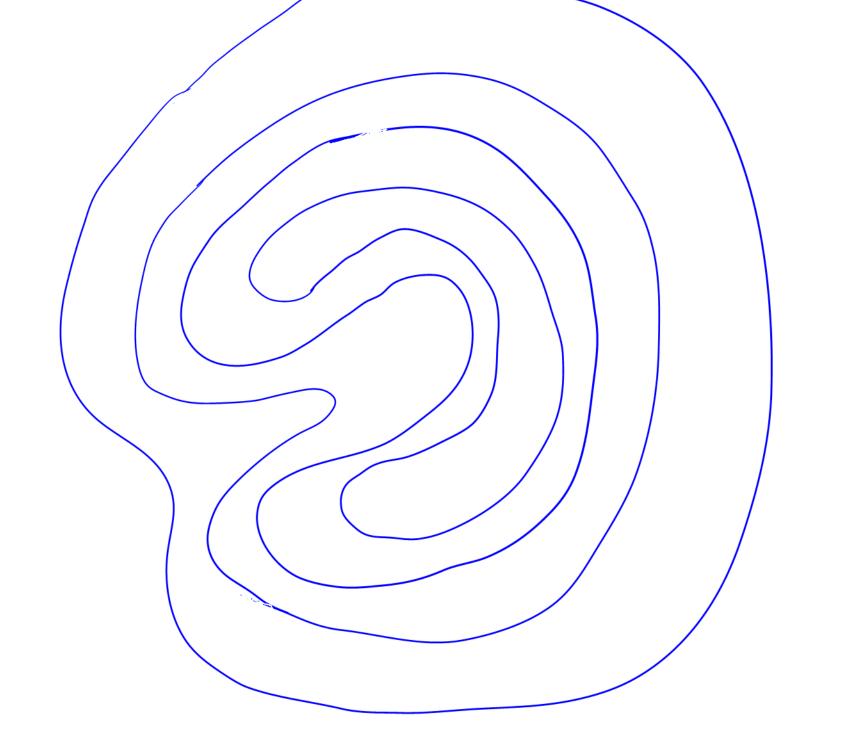
into a bowl by using -log P(x, 0)

- Instead of taking random steps, go for a ride on a frictionless skateboard with swivel wheels - starting with a random push.

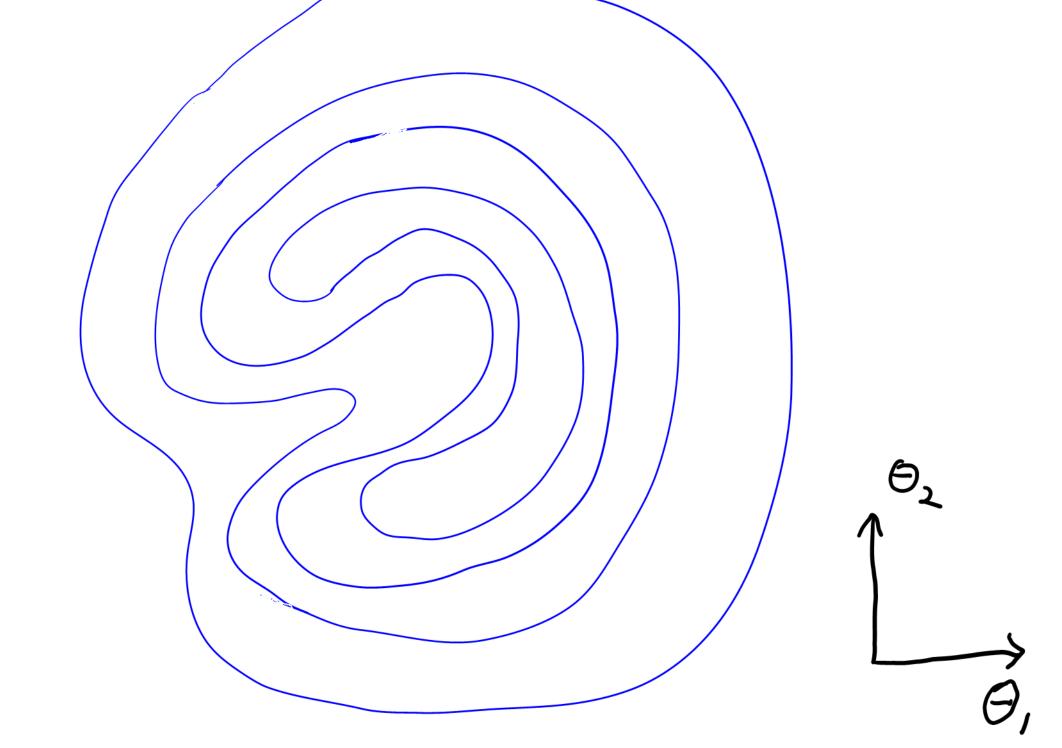


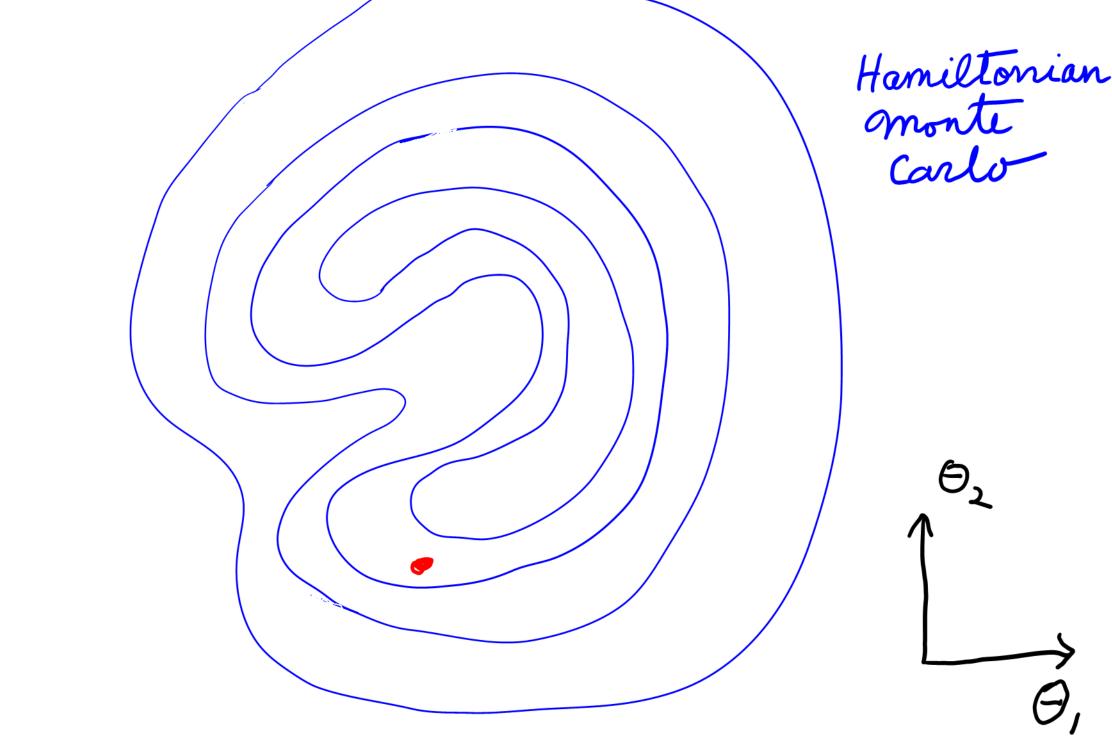


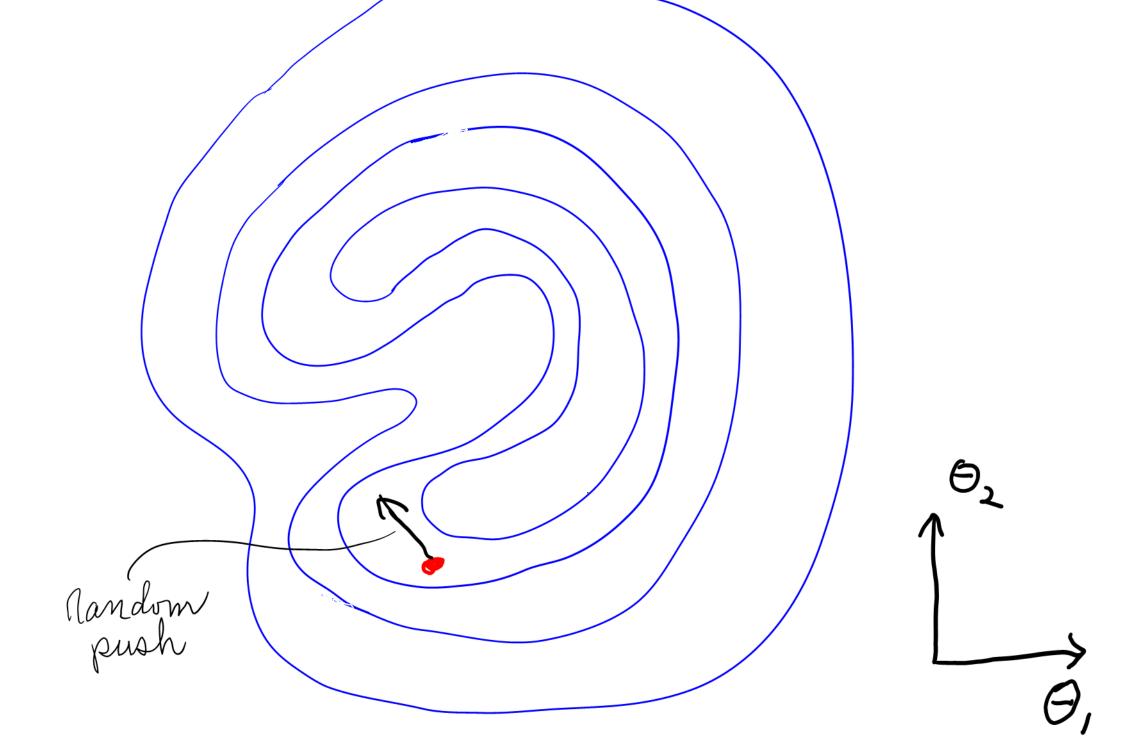


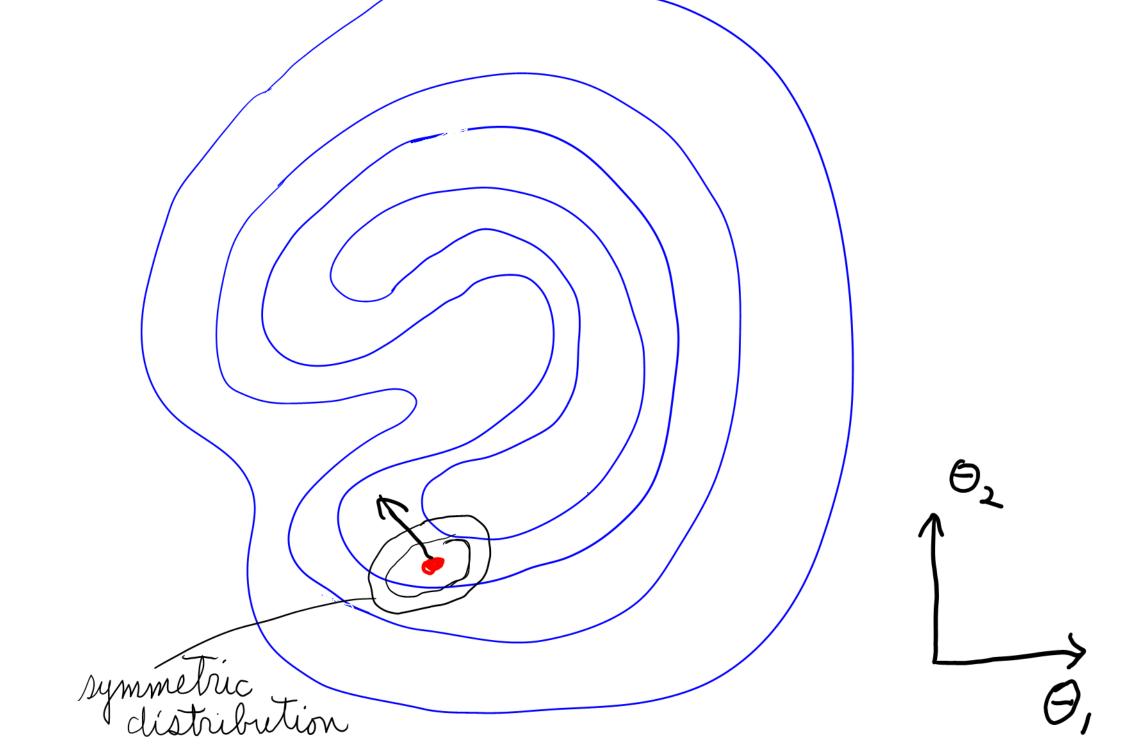


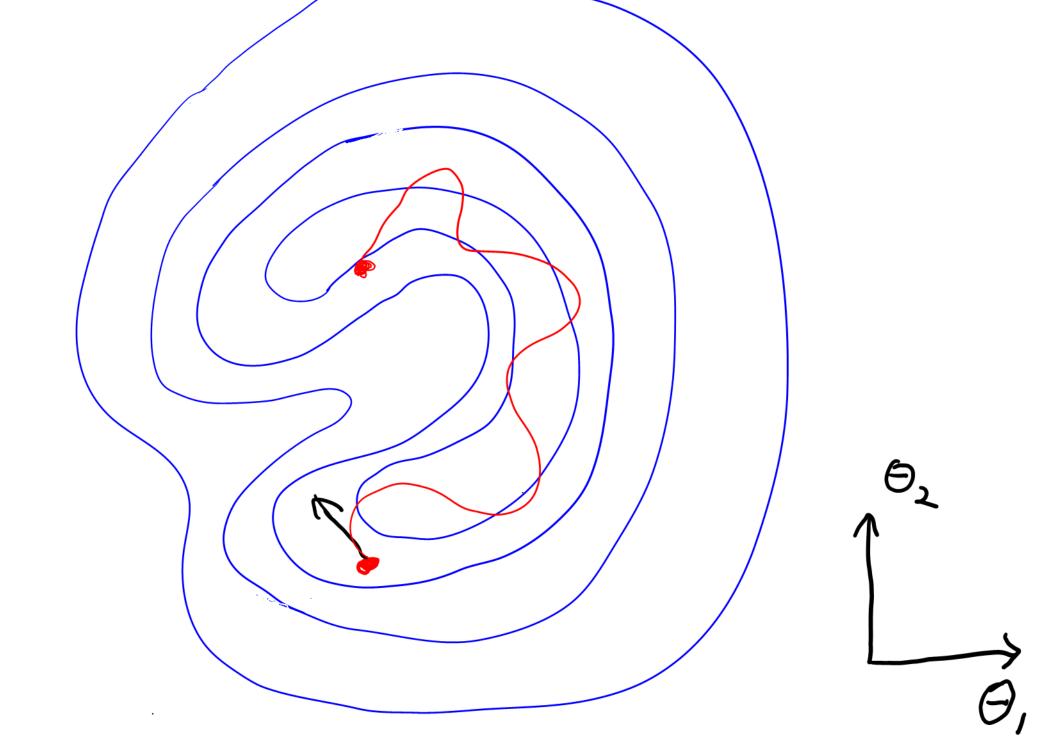


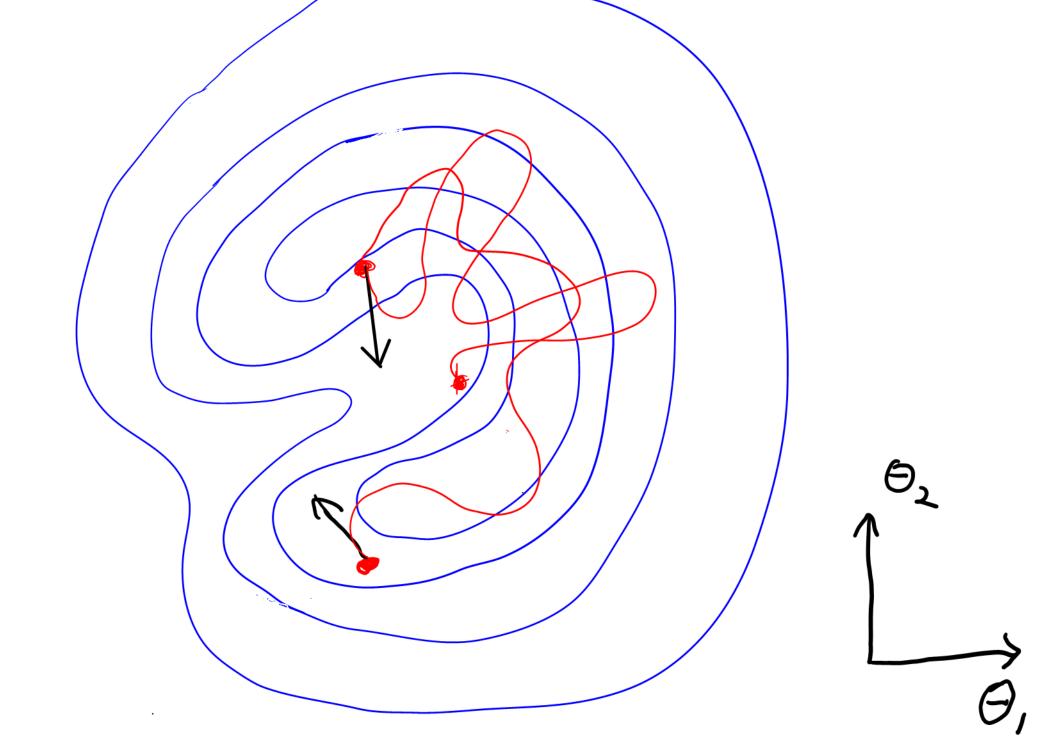






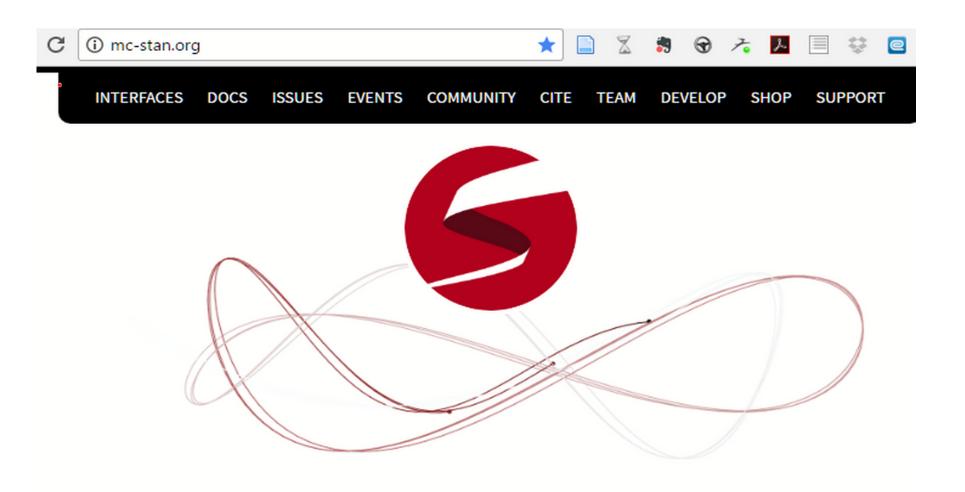






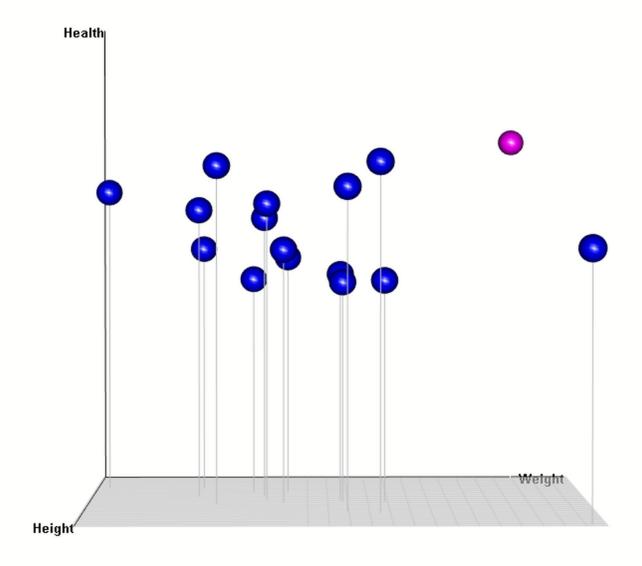


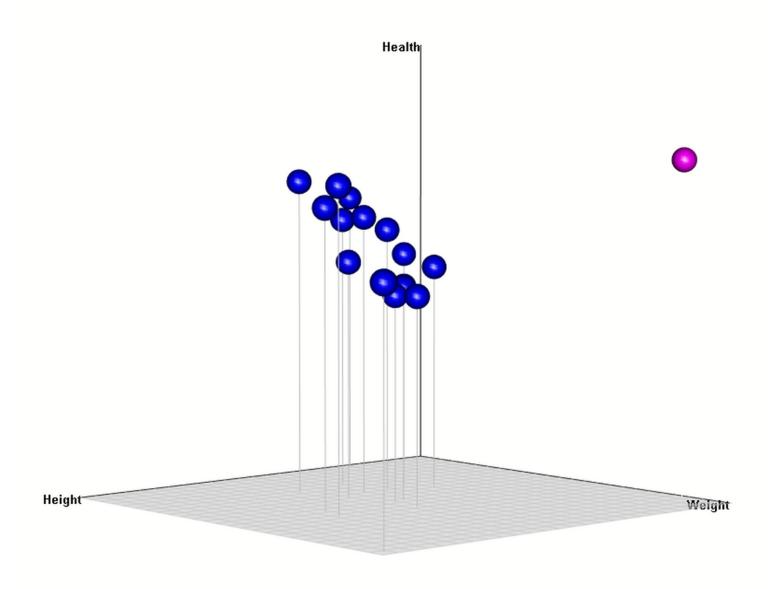
- Much less dependency between successive points in comparison with other MCMC methods - However, each point is more expensive to generate - much faster with large # of parameters

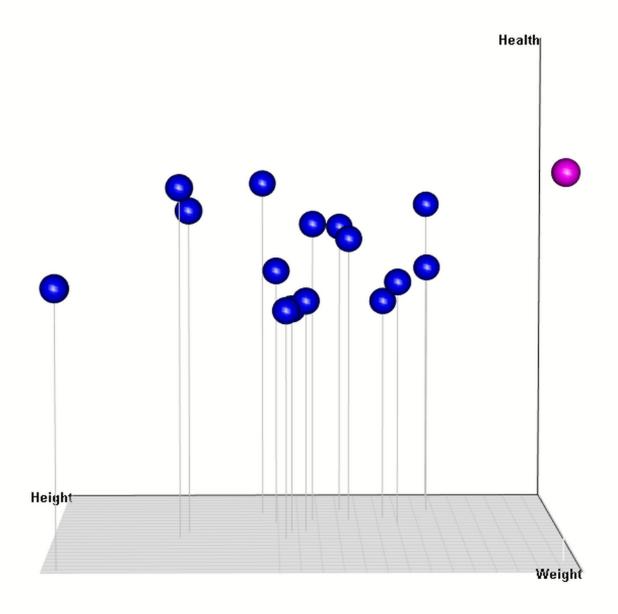


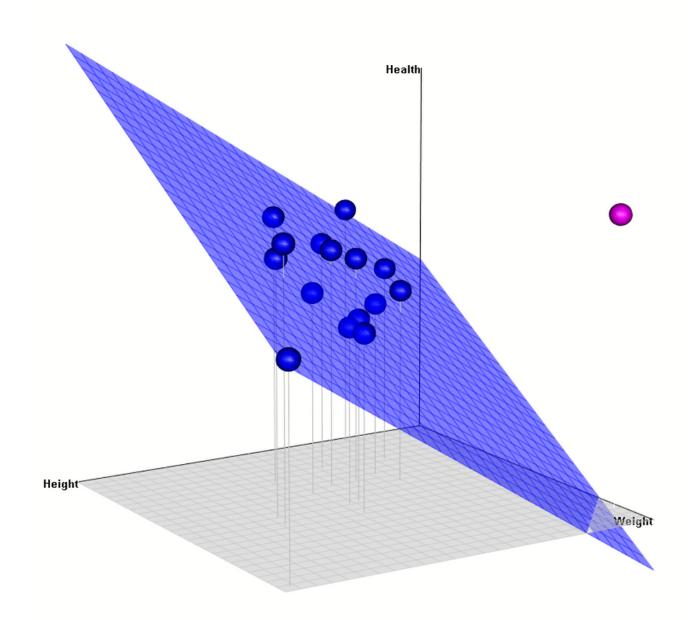
Stan

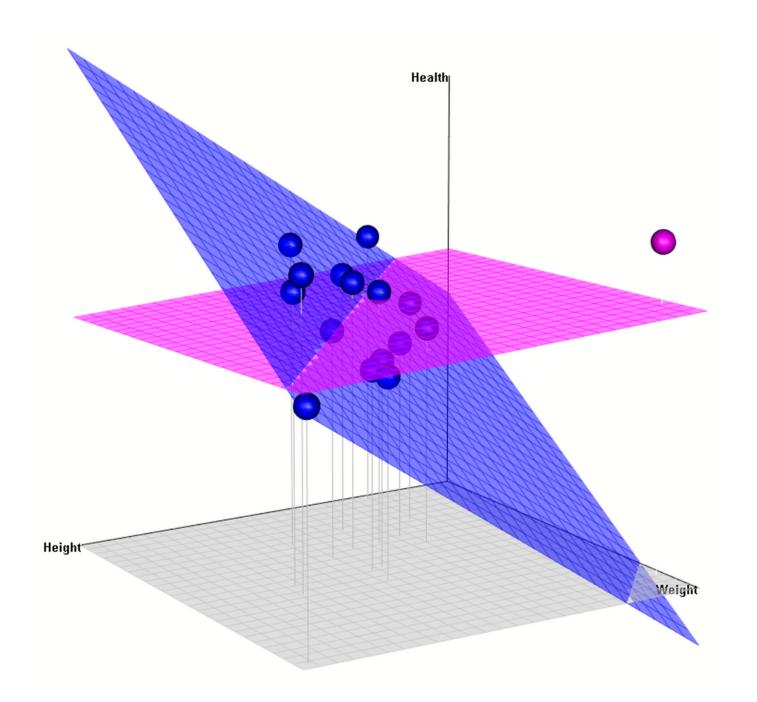
Thousands of users rely on Stan for statistical modeling, data analysis, and prediction in the social, biological, and physical sciences, engineering, and business.

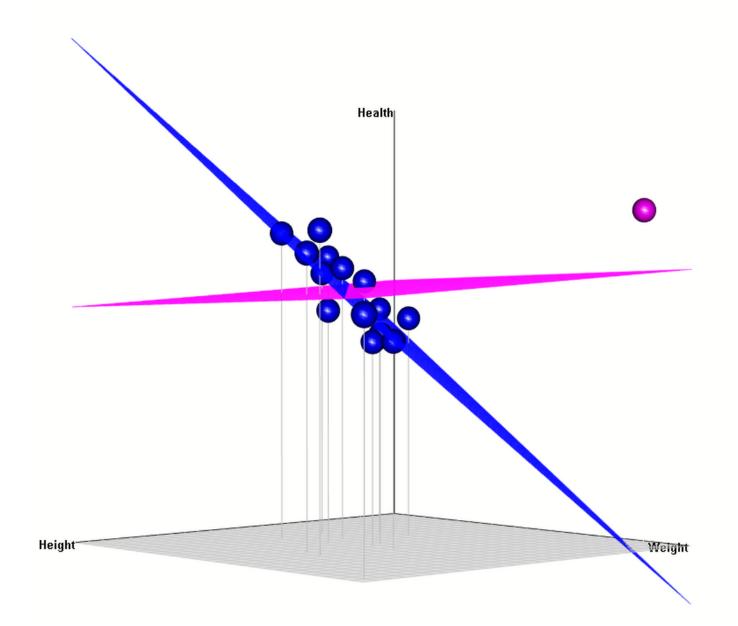












Defining a model in Stan

```
data {
  int N; // number of observations
  int P; // number of columns of X matrix (including intercept)
  matrix[N,P] X; // X matrix including intercept
 vector[N] y; // response
parameters {
 vector[P] beta;  // default uniform prior if nothing specied in model
  real <lower=0> sigma; // uniform on positive reals
model {
  y ~ normal( X * beta, sigma ); // note that * is matrix mult.
                                // For elementwise multiplication use .*
```

Data

```
$N
[1] 16
$P
[1] 3
$X
   (Intercept) Weight Height
1
             1 0.3355 0.6008
             1 0.6890 0.9440
3
             1 0.6980 0.6150
4
             1 0.7617 1.2340
5
             1 0.8910 0.7870
6
             1 0.9330 0.9150
7
             1 0.9430 1.0490
8
             1 1.0060 1.1840
9
             1 1.0200 0.7370
10
             1 1.2150 1.0770
11
             1 1.2230 1.1280
12
             1 1.2360 1.5000
13
             1 1.3530 1.5310
             1 1.3770 1.1500
14
15
             1 2.0734 1.9340
18
             1 1.9000 0.2000
attr(,"assign")
[1] 0 1 2
$y
 [1] 1.280 1.208 1.036 1.395 0.912 1.175 1.237 1.048 1.003 0.943 0.912
[12] 1.311 1.411 0.920 1.073 1.500
```

fit_stan <- sampling(reg_model_dso, dat_list)</pre>

```
w Snip
```

Inference for Stan model: 5a6361673e39acd797b5518d36e20615.
4 chains, each with iter=2000; warmup=1000; thin=1;
post-warmup draws per chain=1000, total post-warmup draws=4000.

```
      mean se_mean
      sd
      2.5%
      25%
      50%
      75%
      97.5%
      n_eff
      Rhat

      beta[1]
      1.16
      0.00
      0.20
      0.77
      1.03
      1.16
      1.29
      1.55
      2035
      1

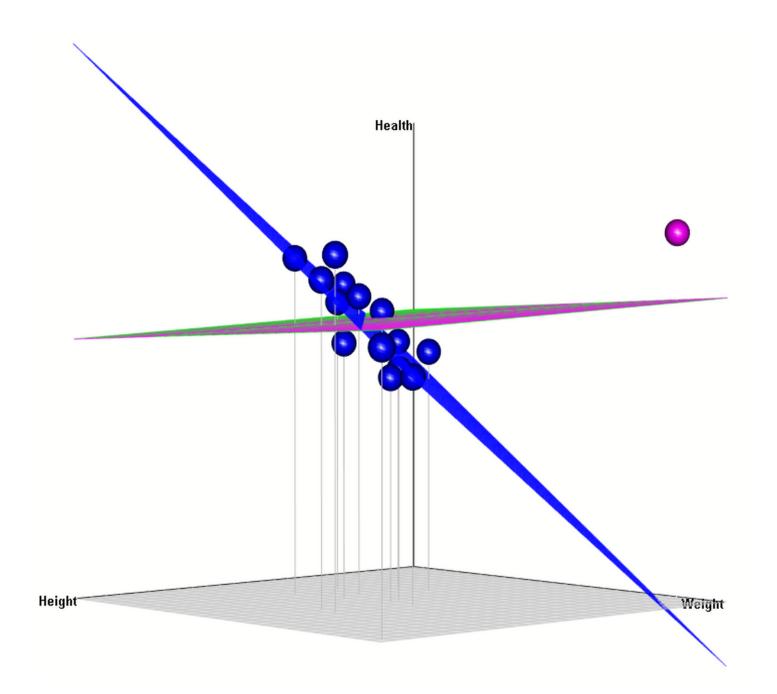
      beta[2]
      0.04
      0.04
      0.05
      0.04
      0.04
      0.14
      0.34
      1980
      1

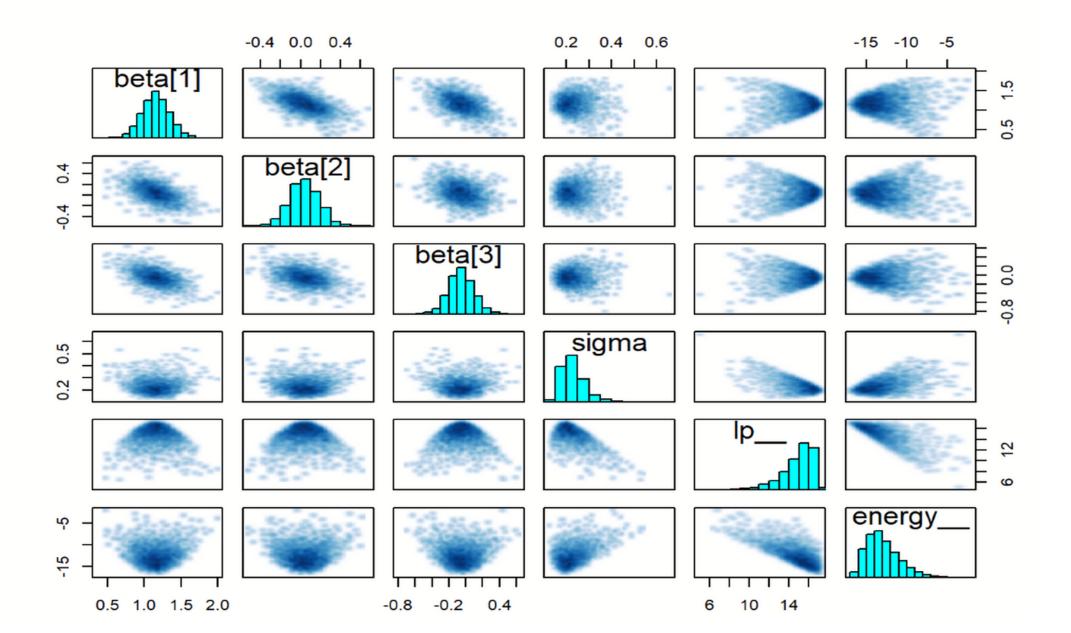
      beta[3]
      -0.05
      0.00
      0.16
      -0.36
      -0.15
      -0.06
      0.04
      0.26
      2135
      1

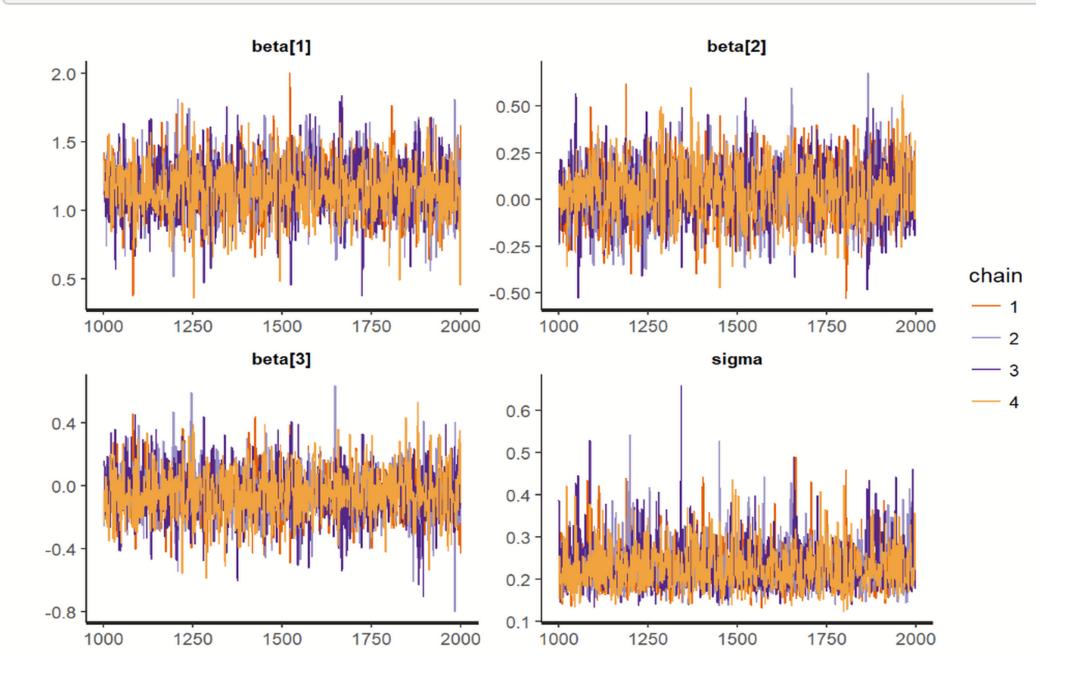
      sigma
      0.23
      0.00
      0.05
      0.15
      0.19
      0.22
      0.26
      0.36
      1713
      1

      lp__
      14.88
      0.05
      1.64
      10.52
      14.08
      15.25
      16.08
      16.93
      1084
      1
```

Samples were drawn using NUTS(diag_e) at Mon Jun 05 22:52:12 2017. For each parameter, n_eff is a crude measure of effective sample size, and Rhat is the potential scale reduction factor on split chains (at convergence, Rhat=1).



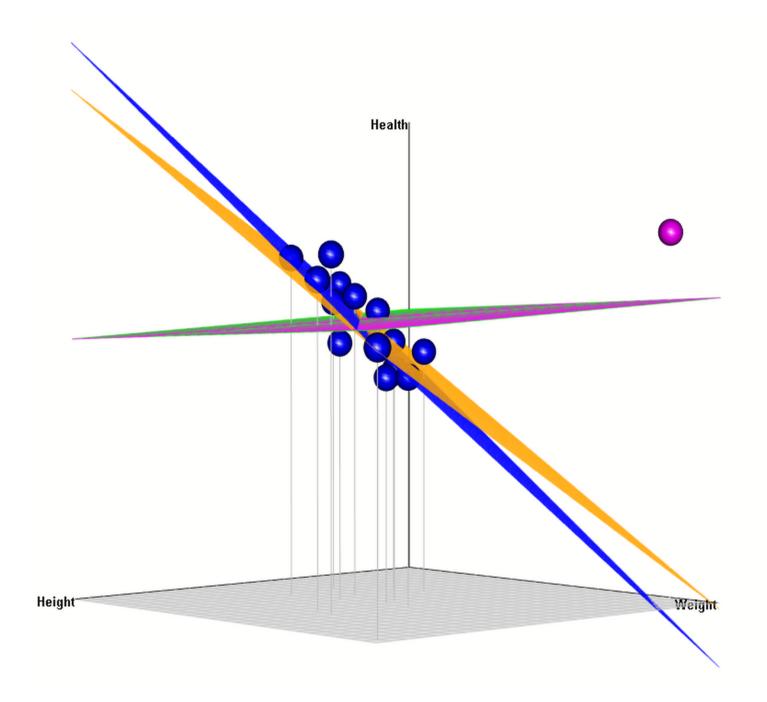




Robust model: Just change the distribution of Y

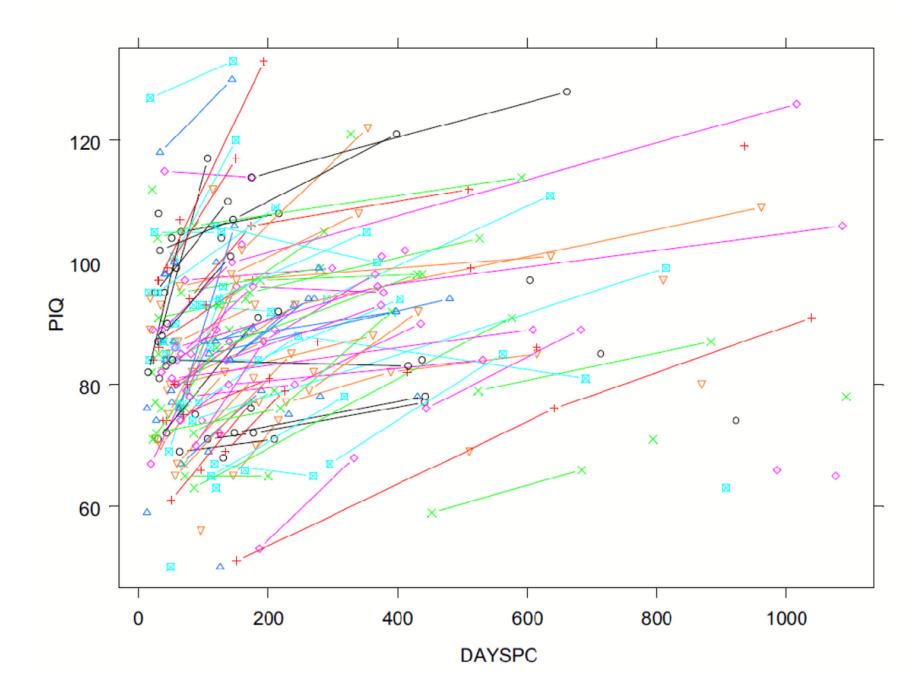
```
data {
 int N; // number of observations
 int P; // number of columns of X matrix (including intercept)
 matrix[N,P] X; // X matrix including intercept
 vector[N] y; // response
  int nu; // degrees for freedom for student_t
parameters {
 vector[P] beta; // default uniform prior if nothing specied in model
 real <lower=0> sigma;
model {
 y ~ student_t(nu, X * beta, sigma );
```

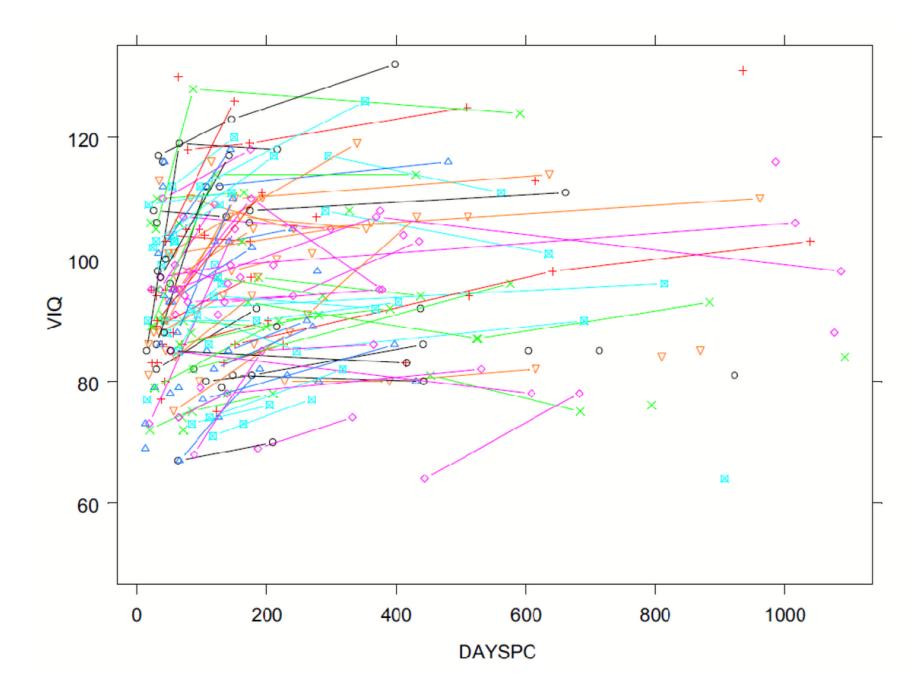
```
fit3_stan_2 <- sampling(robust_model_dso, c(dat_list, nu = 2))</pre>
```

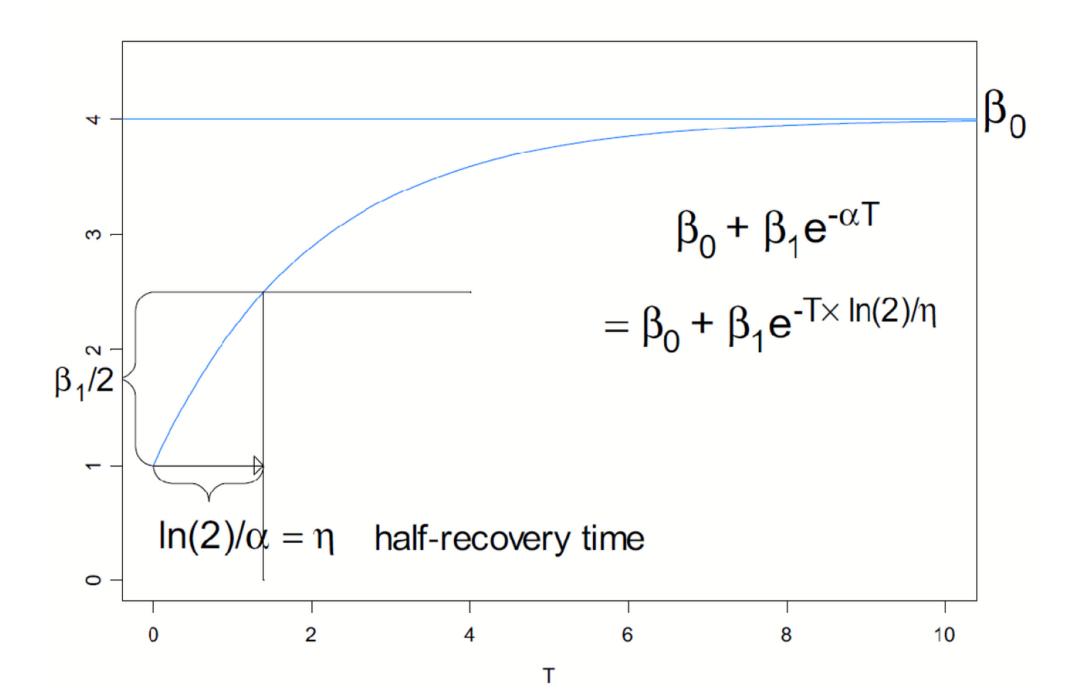


Traumatic Brain Injury

- Recovery after coma
- Non-linear asymptotic recovery curves



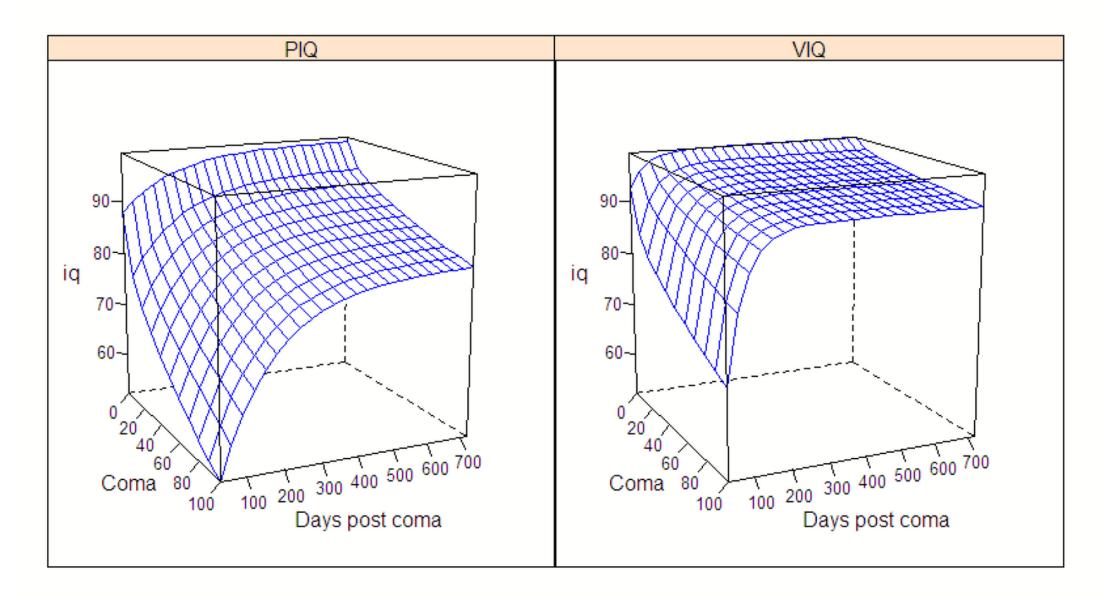




```
//
// Multivariate model for VIQ and PIQ
//

data {
  int N;
  int J;
  matrix[N,2] iq;
  vector[N] time;
  vector[N] coma;
  int id[N];
}
```

```
parameters {
 vector <lower=1,upper=10000>[2] hrt;
 vector <lower=0,upper=200>[2] asymp;
 vector <lower=-100,upper=100>[2] init_def;
 vector [2] bcoma;
 vector[2] u[J];
 cov_matrix[2] Sigma;
 cov_matrix[2] Sigma_u;
transformed parameters {
  real hrt_diff;
  real bcoma_diff;
  hrt_diff = hrt[2] - hrt[1];
 bcoma_diff = bcoma[2] - bcoma[1];
```



Inference for Stan model: asymp_model_4.
4 chains, each with iter=2000; warmup=1000; thin=1;
post-warmup draws per chain=1000, total post-warmup draws=4000.

	mean	se_mean	sd	2.5%	25%	50%	75%	97.5%	n_eff Rhat
hrt[1]	65.18	0.42	18.23	36.67	52.36	62.78	75.12	108.37	1867 1.00
hrt[2]	249.32	1.02	53.51	160.66	211.31	244.72	279.99	373.35	2741 1.00
asymp[1]	99.79	0.06	1.61	96.57	98.73	99.80	100.87	102.86	639 1.01
asymp[2]	100.53	0.07	1.97	96.62	99.23	100.52	101.86	104.38	818 1.00
<pre>init_def[1]</pre>	-23.34	0.12	4.88	-34.91	-25.94	-22.77	-20.00	-15.66	1633 1.00
<pre>init_def[2]</pre>	-19.46	0.04	1.95	-23.17	-20.77	-19.52	-18.15	-15.57	1916 1.00
bcoma[1]	-0.72	0.02	0.40	-1.50	-0.99	-0.72	-0.44	0.05	565 1.00
bcoma[2]	-1.93	0.02	0.42	-2.78	-2.22	-1.94	-1.64	-1.11	629 1.00
Sigma[1,1]	33.16	0.10	4.19	25.82	30.24	32.82	35.79	42.37	1632 1.00
Sigma[2,1]	20.38	0.12	4.22	13.02	17.47	20.00	22.96	29.64	1298 1.00
Sigma[1,2]	20.38	0.12	4.22	13.02	17.47	20.00	22.96	29.64	1298 1.00
Sigma[2,2]	49.72	0.17	6.55	38.23	45.07	49.34	53.68	63.89	1446 1.00
Sigma_u[1,1]	162.62	0.31	19.63	128.29	148.57	160.99	175.41	202.97	4000 1.00
Sigma_u[2,1]	119.42	0.34	18.19	86.67	106.59	118.38	131.11	158.27	2916 1.00
Sigma_u[1,2]	119.42	0.34	18.19	86.67	106.59	118.38	131.11	158.27	2916 1.00
Sigma_u[2,2]	176.27	0.43	22.67	135.45	160.26	174.76	191.17	224.59	2766 1.00
hrt_diff	184.14	0.93	52.12	99.58	147.66	178.34	213.67	303.20	3125 1.00
bcoma_diff	-1.22	0.01	0.33	-1.88	-1.44	-1.22	-1.01	-0.56	3120 1.00
lp	-2604.98	0.66	20.41	-2644.44	-2619.18	-2605.04	-2590.67	-2565.84	945 1.00

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