Practical Statistics for Particle Physicists

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disclaimers

Ireely taking from other people's lecture materials, w/o properly citing the references

- just a rough list (from which I composed this lecture mostly) ...
- In the second second
- It will be impossible to cover "everything" even with the allocated time of 225 minutes...
 - so, I end up covering just a little fraction of the story, with a subjective choice of topics
- Please stop me any time if you don't follow the story, otherwise it will be merely a pointless series of slides.

Why bother with stat? How come not?



what to make sense of m_H plots, statistically



the green & yellow plots



the *p*₀ plots



(Example) T2K result PRL 107, 041801 (2011)



T2K observed 6 candidate events of $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ while a background of 1.5±03 events is expected.

- How significant is this signal?
- How to include the systematic uncertainty in the analysis?
- What is the relevant 'limit' from this result?

Particle ID and probabilities

Since $B \to K^* \gamma$ has much higher branching fraction than $B \to \rho \gamma$, the former can be a serious background to the latter. It is crucial to understand the "efficiency" and "fake rate" of K/π identification system of your experiment in this study. The figure below shows the $M_{K\pi}$ invarianbt mass distribution, where one of the pion mass (in $\rho^0 \to \pi^+\pi^-$ decay) is replaced by the Kaon mass, for the $B^0 \to \rho^0 \gamma$ signal candidates (Belle, PRL 2008).



Express the following observables in Type-I & Type-II errors.

- $f_{\pi^+ \to K^+}$ = probability of misidentifying a π^+ as a K^+
- $f_{K^+ \to \pi^+}$ = probability of misidentifying a K^+ as a π^+
- ϵ_{K^+} = prob. of identifying a K^+ correctly as a K^+
- ϵ_{π^+} = prob. of identifying a π^+ correctly as a π^+

References (a very rough list)

• "Statistical Data Analysis" by Glen Cowan

http://www.pp.rhul.ac.uk/~cowan/stat_cern.html (lectures at CERN)

- "Statistical Data Analysis for the Physical Sciences" by Adrian Bevan (2013)
- Tom Junk @ TRIUMF, July 2009
- mini-reviews on Probability & Statistics in RPP (PDG)

http://pdg.lbl.gov/2015/reviews/rpp2015-rev-statistics.pdf



Review

The Physics of the B Factories

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Part

Outline

Basic elements

- some vocabulary
- Probability axioms
- some probability distributions
- Two approaches: Frequentist vs. Bayesian
- Hypothesis testing
- Parameter estimation
- Other subjects "nuisance", "spurious", "look elsewhere"

Basic elements

some vocabulary

- Statistics, probability
- In the second second
- expectation values
- 🎯 mean, median, mode
- Standard deviation, variance, covariance matrix
- **correlation coefficients**
- weighted average and error

...

Statistics & Probability

Statistics is largely the inverse problem of probability.

• Probability:

Know parameters of the theory \Rightarrow predict distributions of possible experimental outcomes

• Statistics:

Know the outcome of an experiment \Rightarrow extract information about the parameters and/or the theory

- Probability is the easier of the two *more straightforward*.
- Statistics is what we need as HEP analysts.
- In HEP, the statistics issues often get very complex because we know so much bout our data and need to incorporate all of what we find.

Param. Est. Adv. subjects

Probability Axioms

Consider a set S with subsets A, B, ...
For all
$$A \subset S$$
, $P(A) \ge 0$
For all $P(\overline{S}) = 1$
Folf $A \cap B = \emptyset$, $\overline{P}(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$
If $A \cap B = \emptyset$, $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$
 $P(S) = 1$



Kolmogorov (1933)

If Also define conditional probability:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$

Note: $P(A|B) \neq P(B|A)$

Consider an extreme case (*with some made-up numbers*)

- Ω: all people
- P(woman) = 50%
- P(pregnant|woman) = 3%
- P(pregnant) = 1.5%
- P(woman|pregnant) = 100%
- a consequence of $P(A|B) \neq P(B|A)$

$P(\text{data}|\text{theory}) \neq P(\text{theory}|\text{data})$

Random variables and PDFs

- A random variable is a numerical characteristic assigned to an element of the sample space; it can be discrete or continuous.
- Suppose outcome of experiments is continuous:

 $P(x \in [x, x + dx]) = f(x)dx$

 $\Rightarrow f(x)$ is the **probability density function** (PDF) with

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$

• Or, for discrete outcome x_i with e.g. $i = 1, 2, \cdots$

*
$$P(x_i) = p_i$$
 "probability mass function"
* $\sum_i P(x_i) = 1$

Cumulative distribution function (CDF)

• The probability *F*(*x*) to have an outcome less than or equal to *x* is called the **cumulative distribution function** (CDF).

$$\int_{-\infty}^{x} f(x') dx' \equiv F(x) \; .$$



• Alternatively, we have $f(x) = \partial F(x) / \partial x$.

Expectation value

g(X), h(X): functions of random variable X

• for discrete $X \in \Omega$

$$E(g) = \sum_{\Omega} P(X) g(X)$$

• for continuous $X \in \Omega$

$$E(g) = \int_{\Omega} dX f(X) g(X)$$

• *E* is a linear operator

$$E[\alpha g(X) + \beta h(X)] = \alpha E[g(X)] + \beta E[h(X)]$$

Param. Est. Adv. subjects

Examples of expectation values

mean – expectation value for the PDF (f(X) or $P(X_i)$)

$$\mu = \overline{X} = E(X) = \langle X \rangle = \int_{\Omega} dX f(X) X$$

• **variance** – it may not always exist!

$$\sigma^2 = V(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2]$$
$$= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$$
$$= \int_{\Omega} dX f(X)(X - \mu)^2$$

sample mean & sample variance

- *n* measurements $\{x_i\}$ where x_i follows $N(\mu, \sigma)$
- sample mean

$$\overline{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

With more measurements, the estimation of the mean will become more accurate.

sample variance

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 = \bar{x}^2 - \bar{x}^2$$

Sample variance approaches σ^2 for large *n*.

Mean and Variance in 2-D

• Expectation value in 2-D: (*X*, *Y*) as RV

$$E[g(X,Y)] = \iint_{\Omega} dX \, dY f(X,Y) \, g(X,Y)$$

 \Rightarrow Extension to higher dimension is straightforward!

• mean of X

$$\mu_X = E[X] = \iint_{\Omega} dX \, dY f(X, Y) \, X$$

• **variance** of *X*

$$\sigma_X^2 = E[(X - \mu_X)^2] = \iint_{\Omega} dX \, dY f(X, Y) \, (X - \mu_X)^2$$

Covariance matrix

• Given a *n*-dimensional random variable $\vec{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, the covariance matrix C_{ij} is defined as:

$$C_{ij} = E[(X_i - \mu_i)(X_j - \mu_j)]$$
$$= E[X_i X_j] - \mu_i \mu_j$$

• more intuitive is the **correlation coefficient**, ρ_{ii} , given by

$$\rho_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{\sigma_i \sigma_j}$$

Basics

Adv. subjects

properties of covariance matrix

- bounded by one: $-1 \le \rho_{ij} \le +1$
- for independent variables $X, Y: \rho(X, Y) = 0$ But the reverse is not true! (e.g. $Y = X^2$)
- If $f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is a multi-dim. Gaussian, then $cov(X_i, X_j)$ gives the *tilt* of the ellipsoid in (X_i, X_j)



Basics

Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

Correlations - 2D examples



(Quiz time)

ρ =?
Are x and y correlated?



(Quiz time)

ρ =?
Are x and y correlated?





from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Correlation_and_dependence

Error propagation on *f*(*x*,*y*)

$$\sigma_f^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{xx} & V_{xy} \\ V_{yx} & V_{yy} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix}$$

(Q) What if *x* and *y* are independent?

(HW) Obtain the error on f(x,y) = C x/y

If x and y are uncorrelated (independent),

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_{f}^{2} = (f_{x} \ f_{y}) \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{x}^{2} & \sigma_{y} \\ \sigma_{y}^{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_{x} \\ f_{y} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$f_{x} = \partial f \partial x, \text{ at } . \qquad = \sigma_{x}^{2} (\partial f)^{2} + \sigma_{y}^{2} (\partial f)^{2}$$
$$f(x, y) = Cx/y \rightarrow \delta f/f = \sqrt{(\delta x/x)^{2} + (\delta y/y)^{2}}$$

If x and y are 100% (+) correlated, e.g. $y = \alpha x$

g Para

Param. Est. Adv. subjects

Weighted average and error

We how to combine uncorrelated measurements (x_j, σ_j) with different amount of errors?

$$\overline{x} \pm \sigma_x = \frac{\sum_i x_i / \sigma_i^2}{\sum_i 1 / \sigma_i^2} \pm \left(\sum_{i=1}^n 1 / \sigma_i^2\right)^{-1/2}$$

What will happen if the measurements are correlated?

$$\overline{x} = \left[\sum_{j=1}^{M} V_j^{-1}\right]^{-1} \cdot \left[\sum_{j=1}^{M} V_j^{-1} x_j\right]$$

$$V = \left[\sum_{j=1}^{M} V_j^{-1}\right]^{-1}$$

(Ex) to measure S and C from $B^0 \to \rho^+ \rho^-$



(Ex) to measure S and C from $B^0 \to \rho^+ \rho^-$

Exp	S	С	V _{ij}
BaBar	-0.17 ±0.21	-0.01 ±0.16	-0.0012
Belle	-0.13 ±0.16	0.00 ±0.12	0.00033

Let j = 1 for BaBar, = 2 for Belle

- Obtain $\vec{X}^{(j)}$ where $X_1 = S$, $X_2 = C$
- Obtain $V = [V_1^{-1} + V_1^{-1}]^{-1}$
- Calculate the weighted average of S and C, and their errors

some useful distributions

Basics	Freq. vs. Bayes. Hyp. Testi	ng Param. E	st.	Adv. subjects
Distribution	Probability density function f (variable; parameters)	Characteristic function $\phi(u)$	Mean	Variance σ^2
Uniform	$f(x; a, b) = \begin{cases} 1/(b-a) & a \le x \le b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	$\frac{e^{ibu} - e^{iau}}{(b-a)iu}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
Binomial	$f(r; N, p) = \frac{N!}{r!(N-r)!} p^r q^{N-r}$ $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N ; 0 \le p \le 1 ; q = 1-p$	$(q + pe^{iu})^N$	Np	Npq
Poisson	$f(n;\nu) = \frac{\nu^n e^{-\nu}}{n!}$; $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$; $\nu > 0$	$\exp[\nu(e^{iu}-1)]$	ν	ν
Normal (Gaussian)	$f(x;\mu,\sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2)$ $-\infty < x < \infty ; -\infty < \mu < \infty ; \sigma > 0$	$\exp(i\mu u - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 u^2)$	μ	σ^2
Multivariate Gaussian	$f(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\mu},V) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}\sqrt{ V }}$ $\times \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^T V^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})\right]$	$\exp\left[ioldsymbol{\mu}\cdotoldsymbol{u}-rac{1}{2}oldsymbol{u}^TVoldsymbol{u} ight]$	μ	V_{jk}
	$-\infty < x_j < \infty; -\infty < \mu_j < \infty; V > 0$			
χ^2	$f(z;n) = \frac{z^{n/2-1}e^{-z/2}}{2^{n/2}\Gamma(n/2)} ; z \ge 0$	$(1-2iu)^{-n/2}$	n	2n 35

Binomial distribution

Given a repeated set of N trials, each of which has probability p of "success" (hence 1-p of "failure"), what is the distribution of the number of successes if the N trials are repeated over and over?

Binom
$$(k \mid N, p) = \left(\frac{N}{k}\right) p^k (1-p)^{N-k}, \quad \sigma(k) = \sqrt{\operatorname{Var}(k)} = \sqrt{Np(1-p)}$$

where k is the number of success trials

• (Ex) events passing a selection cut, with a fixed total N

$$\epsilon = \frac{N_{\text{pass}}}{N}$$

$$\sigma_{\epsilon} = \sigma_{N_{\text{pass}}}/N = \sqrt{Np(1-p)}/N = \sqrt{p(1-p)/N}$$

Binomial error: an example

What is the uncertainty σ_A on an asymmetry given by $A = (N_1 - N_2)/(N_1 + N_2)$, where $N_1 + N_2 = N$ is the (fixed) total # of events obtained in the counting experiment? Take, e.g., $N_1 = 80$ and $N_2 = 20$.

Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

Poisson distribution

ome Probability Distributions useful in HEP ^{; finite} and fixed



Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

Poisson distribution



Param. Est. Adv. subjects

Gaussian (Normal) distribution

$$f(x;\mu,\sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2)$$
$$\int_{-\infty}^x f(x)dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2}}\right)\right]$$



Gaussian (Normal) distribution



Table 36.1: Area of the tails α outside $\pm \delta$ from the mean of a Gaussian distribution.

BasicsFreq. vs. Bayes.Hyp. TestingParam. Est.Adv. subjects

Poisson for large μ is approximately Gaussian of width $\sigma = \sqrt{\mu}$



If in a counting experiment all we have is a measurement n, we often use this to estimate μ .

We then draw \sqrt{n} error bars on the data. This is just a convention, and can be misleading. (It is still recommended you do it, however.)



Not all distributions are Gaussian

(Ex) track impact parameter distributions



"All models are wrong, but some are useful." from Box & Draper (1987)

Chi-square(χ^2) distribution

The χ^2 pdf f(z; n) for continuous random variable $z \ge 0$ with n deg. of freedom:



- For independent Gaussian r.v. $x_i (i = 1, \dots, n)$ each with mean μ_i and variance σ_i^2 , $z = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i \mu_i)^2 / \sigma_i^2$ follows χ^2 pdf with *n* dof.
- Useful for *goodness-of-fit* test with method of least squares.

Cauchy (Breit-Wigner) distribution

$$f_{\rm BW}(x;\Gamma,x_0) = rac{1}{\pi} rac{\Gamma/2}{(x-x_0)^2 + (\Gamma/2)^2}$$

E(x), V(x): not well-defined

 $x_0 = mode, median$ $\Gamma = full width at half-maximum$



• (Ex) invariant mass distribution of strongly-decaying hadrons, e.g. ρ , K^* , ϕ , with $\Gamma(=1/\tau)$ being the decay rate

Practical Statistics for Particle Physicists

Why not make your own random variables?

- a free & powerful utility: ROOT http://root.cern.ch/
- **Some frequently used random variables by ROOT**
 - flat on [0,1]
 - Gaussian
 - Exponential
 - Poisson
 - and so on...

xl = rl.Rndm(); x2 = r2.Gaus(0.0,1.0); x3 = r3.Exp(1.0); x4 = r4.Poisson(3.0);







some theorems, laws...

the Law of Large Numbers

• Suppose you have a sequence of indep't random variables *x_i*

- with the same mean μ
- and variances σ_i^2
- but otherwise distributed "however"
- the variances are not too large

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} (1/N^2) \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^2 = 0 \tag{1}$$

Then the average $\overline{x}_N = (1/N) \sum_i x_i$ converges to the true mean μ

- (Note) What if the condition (1) is finite but non-zero?
 - \Rightarrow the convergence is "almost certain" (*i.e.* the failures have measure zero)

In short, if you try many times, eventually you get the true mean!

Practical Statistics for Particle Physicists

the Central Limit Theorem

• Suppose you have a sequence of indep't random variables x_i

- with means μ_i and variances σ_i^2
- but otherwise distributed "however"
- and under certain conditions on the variances

The sum $S = \sum_{i} x_i$ converges to a Gaussian

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{S - \sum \mu_i}{\sqrt{\sum \sigma_i^2}} \to \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$
(2)

- (Note) important not to confuse LLN with CLT
 - LLN: with enough samples, the average \rightarrow the true mean
 - **CLT**: if you put enough random numbers into your processor, the distribution of their average $\rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

an example of the CLT at work



Statistics/Thomas R. Junk/TSI July 2009

more examples of CLT at work









more examples of CLT at work









the Neyman-Pearson Lemma

For a test of size α of the simple hypothesis H_0 , to obtain the highest power w.r.t. the simple alternative H_1 , choose the critical region w such that the likelihoot ratio satisfies

$$\frac{P(\vec{x}|H_1)}{P(\vec{x}|H_0)} \ge k$$

everywhere in *w* and is < k elsewhere, where *k* is a constant chosen for each pre-determined size α .

Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

the Neyman-Pearson Lemma

Application in Belle particle ID



Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

the Neyman-Pearson Lemma

Application in Belle particle ID



$P_i \equiv P_i^{dE/dx} \times P_i^{\text{TOF}} \times P_i^{\text{Ch}}$ e.g. $(i = \pi \text{ or } K)$

For optimal statistic, construct the likelihood ratio $R_{K/\pi} = P_K/P_{\pi}$ (or any ftn. that is monotonic to it)

more on this lemma, later

the Wilk's theorem

We will encounter it later when we discuss the "likelihood ratio" ...

THE LARGE-SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIKELIHOOD RATIO FOR TESTING COMPOSITE HYPOTHESES¹

By S. S. Wilks

By applying the principle of maximum likelihood, J. Neyman and E. S. Pearson² have suggested a method for obtaining functions of observations for testing what are called *composite statistical hypotheses*, or simply *composite*

We can summarize in the

Theorem: If a population with a variate x is distributed according to the probability function $f(x, \theta_1, \theta_2 \cdots \theta_h)$, such that optimum estimates $\tilde{\theta}_i$ of the θ_i exist which are distributed in large samples according to (3), then when the hypothesis H is true that $\theta_i = \theta_{0i}$, i = m + 1, m + 2, \cdots h, the distribution of $-2 \log \lambda$, where λ is given by (2) is, except for terms of order $1/\sqrt{n}$, distributed like χ^2 with h - mdegrees of freedom.

. . .

¹ Presented to the American Mathmatical Society, March 26, 1937.

the Wilk's theorem

http://wwwusers.ts.infn.it/~milotti/Didattica/StatisticaAvanzata/Cowan_2013.pdf

Suppose we model the data \vec{X} with a likelihood $L(\vec{\mu})$ that depends on a set of N parameters $\vec{\mu} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_N)$. (For simplicity, let's just consider a single parameter μ .)

- Define the statistic $t_{\mu} = -2 \ln[L(\mu)/L(\hat{\mu})]$, where $\hat{\mu}$ is the ML estimator.
- The value of t_{μ} is a measure of how well the hypothesized parameter μ stand in agreement with the observed data.
- Larger values of t_{μ} indicate increasing incompatibility between the data and the hypothesized μ .
- According to Wilk's theorem, if the parameter value μ is true, then in the asymptotic limit of a large data sample, the PDF of t_{μ} is a χ^2 distribution for N d.o.f.

$$f(t_{\mu}|\mu) \sim \chi_N^2$$

A TALE OF TWO STATISTICS ... Frequentist vs. Bayesian

"Bayes and Frequentism: a particle physicist's perspective" by Louis Lyons, arXiv:1301.1273

Two approaches

Relative frequency

A, B, ... are outcomes of a repeatable experiment Frequentist $P(A) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\text{times outcome is } A}{\text{times outcome is } A}$ n

Subjective probability

A, B, ... are hypotheses (statements that are true or false) Bayesian P(A) = degree of belief that A is true

Frequentist approach is, in general, easy to understand, but some HEP phenomena are best expressed by subjective prob., e.g. systematic uncertainties, prob(Higgs boson exists), ...

Param. Est.

Adv. subjects

Bayes' theorem
P(A|B) =
$$\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$$
, we $P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)}$
P(A|B) = $\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ and $P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)}$
P(A|B) = $P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A)$
P(A \cap B) = $P(I^{P(A|B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$
• but $P(A \cap B) = P(B \cap A)$
• th $P(A|B)P(A|B)P(B) = P(B \cap A)$
• First published (posthumous) by Rev. Thom.
An essay towards solving a problem in the doctr
Phil. Trans. R. Soc. 53 (1763) 370.

BasicsFreq. vs. Bayes.Hyp. TestingParam. Est.Adv. subjectsP, Conditional P, and Derivation of Bayes' Theorem
in Pictures



Frequentist statistics – general philosophy

 In frequentist statistics, probabilities such as P(SUSY does exist)

 $P(0.117 < \alpha_s < 0.121)$

are either 0 or 1, but we don't have the answer

Bayesian statistics – general philosophy

- In Bayesian statistics, interpretation of probability is extended to the degree of belief (*i.e.* subjective).
- suitable for **hypothesis testing** (but no golden rule for priors)

probability of the data assuming hypothesis *H* (the likelihood) prior probability, i.e., before seeing the data $P(H|\vec{x}) = \frac{P(\vec{x}|H)\pi(H)}{\int P(\vec{x}|H)\pi(H) dH}$ posterior probability, i.e., after seeing the data over all possible hypotheses

• can also provide more natural handling of non-repeatable things: *e.g.* systematic uncertainties, *P*(Higgs boson exists)

(Ex) Bayesian answer for coin toss

Suppose I stand to win or lose money in a single coin-toss. My companion gives me a coin to use for the game.

- Do I trust the coin? What is *P*(faircoin)?
- Frequentist answer:
 - toss the coin *n* times
 - $P(\text{heads}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} (n_{\text{H}}/n)$
 - make a complicated statement about the results, which is *only indirectly* about whether the coin is fair ...
- But I can only test the coin with five throws:
 - What if I get 4H, 1T?
 - Do I trust the coin, or claim that the game is unfair?
- What about Bayesian answer?

Basics

Param. Est. Adv. subjects

(Ex) Bayesian answer for coin toss

Priors: a 'bad' coin has a 75% probability to show 'head' for a 'fair' coin, it's 50%

P(fair | BG) = 0.50P(bad|BG) = 0.50

Likelihoods: P(4H, 1T | fair) = 0.1563P(4H, 1T|bad) = 0.3955

Posterior:

$$P(\text{fair}|4\text{H}, 1\text{T}, \text{BG}) = \frac{P(4\text{H}, 1\text{T}|\text{fair}) \cdot P(\text{fair}|\text{BG})}{\sum_{i} P(4\text{H}, 1\text{T}|i) \cdot P(i|\text{BG})}$$
$$= \frac{0.1563 \cdot 0.50}{0.1563 \cdot 0.50 + 0.3955 \cdot 0.50} = 0.283$$

Basics

Param. Est. Adv. subjects

(Ex) Bayesian answer for coin toss

Priors: a 'bad' coin has a 75% probability to show 'head' for a 'fair' coin, it's 50%

P(fair | GG) = 0.95P(bad|GG) = 0.05

Likelihoods: P(4H, 1T | fair) = 0.1563P(4H, 1T|bad) = 0.3955

Posterior:

$$P(\text{fair}|4\text{H}, 1\text{T}, \text{GG}) = \frac{P(4\text{H}, 1\text{T}|\text{fair}) \cdot P(\text{fair}|\text{GG})}{\sum_{i} P(4\text{H}, 1\text{T}|i) \cdot P(i|\text{GG})}$$
$$= 0.88$$

Frequentist or Bayesian?

- While the classic or frequentist approach can lead to a well-defined probability for a given situation, it is not always usable.
 - \rightarrow In such circumstances one is left with only one option: **Bayesian**.
- When data are scarce \rightarrow these two approaches can give somewhat different predictions,

but given sufficiently large data sample, they give pretty much the same conclusion. In that case the choice between the two may be regarded arbitrary.

• Perhaps, we may choose one for the main result, and try the other for a cross-check.