

# 2018 SISG Module 20: Bayesian Statistics for Genetics

## Lecture 5: Multinomial Sampling

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# Outline

Introduction and Motivating Examples

Bayesian Analysis of Multinomial Data

Derivation of the Posterior and Prior Specification

Inference for Parameters of Interest

Analysis of HWE Data

Appendix: Bayes Factor Details

# Introduction

- In this lecture we will consider the Bayesian modeling of multinomial data.
- The examination of **Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium** will be used to motivate the multinomial model.
- Again, **conjugate priors** will be used, though sampling from the posterior will be emphasized as a method for flexible inference.
- **Bayes factors** will be used as a measure of evidence for hypothesis testing.

## Motivating Example: Testing for HWE

- For simplicity we consider a diallelic marker, and suppose we obtain a random sample of genotypes for  $n$  individuals.
- The form of the data is

	Genotype			Total
	$A_1A_1$	$A_1A_2$	$A_2A_2$	
Count	$n_1$	$n_2$	$n_3$	$n$
Population Frequency	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	1

- So the model contains 3 probabilities (which sum to 1)  $q_1, q_2, q_3$ ; hence, there are 2 **free** parameters.
- Suppose the proportions of alleles  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  in a given generation are  $p_1$  and  $p_2 = 1 - p_1$ .
- In terms of  $q_1, q_2, q_3$ :

$$p_1 = q_1 + \frac{q_2}{2}$$

$$p_2 = \frac{q_2}{2} + q_3$$

## Motivating Example: Testing for HWE

- HWE is the **statistical independence** of an individual's alleles at a locus.
- Under HWE, the probability distribution for the genotype of an individual in the next generation is:

	Genotype			
	$A_1A_1$	$A_1A_2$	$A_2A_2$	
Proportion	$p_1^2$	$2p_1p_2$	$p_2^2$	1

- Reasons for **deviation** from HWE include: small population size, selection, inbreeding and population structure.

## A Toy Example

### Example:

- Consider the data  $n_1 = 88$ ,  $n_2 = 10$ ,  $n_3 = 2$ .
- Are these frequencies consistent with HWE?
- The MLEs are:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{q}_1 &= 0.88 & \hat{q}_2 &= 0.10 & \hat{q}_3 &= 0.02 \\ \hat{p}_1 &= 0.93 & \hat{p}_2 &= 0.07 & & \end{aligned}$$

- For these data the **exact  $p$ -value** for

$$H_0 : q_1 = p_1^2, \quad q_2 = 2p_1p_2, \quad q_3 = p_2^2$$

is 0.0654.

## Critique of Non-Bayesian Approach

- Testing for HWE is carried out via (**asymptotic**, i.e., large sample)  $\chi^2$  tests or **exact** tests.
- $\chi^2$  tests require very large sample sizes for accurate  $p$ -values.
- The exact test can be **computationally expensive** to perform, when there are many alleles/samples.
- Under the null of HWE, the **discreteness** of the test statistic causes difficulties.
- In general, how to decide on a **significance level**? The level should be a function of sample size (and in particular should decrease as sample size increases), but how should it be chosen?
- Estimation depends on **asymptotic approximations** (i.e., large sample sizes).
- Estimation also difficult due to **awkward constraints** on parameters (particularly with many alleles).

# Bayes Theorem

	Genotype			Total
	$A_1A_1$	$A_1A_2$	$A_2A_2$	
Count	$n_1$	$n_2$	$n_3$	$n$
Population Frequency	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	1

- The multinomial with three counts is known as the trinomial distribution.
- We have three parameters,  $q_1, q_2, q_3$ , but they sum to 1, so that effectively we have two parameters.
- We write  $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, q_3)$  to represent the vector of probabilities, and  $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, n_2, n_3)$  for the data vector.
- Via **Bayes Theorem**:

$$p(\mathbf{q}|\mathbf{n}) = \frac{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|\mathbf{q}) \times p(\mathbf{q})}{\Pr(\mathbf{n})}$$

Posterior     $\propto$     Likelihood  $\times$  Prior



## Elements of Bayes Theorem: The Likelihood

- We assume  $n$  independent draws with common probabilities  $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, q_3)$ .
- In this case, the distribution of  $n_1, n_2, n_3$  is **multinomial**:

$$\Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3 | q_1, q_2, q_3) = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! n_3!} q_1^{n_1} q_2^{n_2} q_3^{n_3}. \quad (1)$$

- For fixed  $\mathbf{n}$ , we may view (1) as a function of  $\mathbf{q}$  – this is the **likelihood function**.
- The **maximum likelihood estimate** (MLE) is

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = \left( \frac{n_1}{n}, \frac{n_2}{n}, \frac{n_3}{n} \right).$$

- The MLE gives the highest probability to the observed data, i.e. maximizes the likelihood function.

# The Dirichlet Distribution as a Prior Choice for a Multinomial $\mathbf{q}$

- Once the likelihood is specified we need to think about the **prior** distribution.
- We require a prior distribution over  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$  — not straightforward since the three probabilities all lie in  $[0,1]$ , and must sum to 1.
- A distribution that satisfies these requirements is the **dirichlet** distribution, denoted **dirichlet** $(v_1, v_2, v_3)$  and has density:

$$p(q_1, q_2, q_3) = \frac{\Gamma(v_1 + v_2 + v_3)}{\Gamma(v_1)\Gamma(v_2)\Gamma(v_3)} \times q_1^{v_1-1} q_2^{v_2-1} q_3^{v_3-1}$$

$$\propto q_1^{v_1-1} q_2^{v_2-1} q_3^{v_3-1}$$

where  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  denotes the gamma function.

# The Dirichlet Distribution as a Prior Choice for a Multinomial $\mathbf{q}$

- The **dirichlet**( $v_1, v_2, v_3$ ) prior:

$$p(q_1, q_2, q_3) = \frac{\Gamma(v_1 + v_2 + v_3)}{\Gamma(v_1)\Gamma(v_2)\Gamma(v_3)} \times q_1^{v_1-1} q_2^{v_2-1} q_3^{v_3-1}$$

$$\propto q_1^{v_1-1} q_2^{v_2-1} q_3^{v_3-1}.$$

- $v_1, v_2, v_3 > 0$  are specified to reflect prior beliefs about  $(q_1, q_2, q_3)$ .
- The dirichlet distribution can be used with general multinomial distributions (i.e. for  $k = 2, 3, \dots$  categories).
- The beta distribution is a special case of the dirichlet when there are two categories only.

## Dirichlet Prior

- The **mean** and **variance** are

$$E[q_i] = \frac{v_i}{v_1 + v_2 + v_3} = \frac{v_i}{v}$$

$$\text{var}(q_i) = \frac{E[q_i](1 - E[q_i])}{v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + 1} = \frac{E[q_i](1 - E[q_i])}{v + 1}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , where  $v = v_1 + v_2 + v_3$ .

- Large values of  $v$  increase the influence of the prior.
- The dirichlet has a single parameter only ( $v$ ) to control the **spread** for all of the dimensions, which is a deficiency.
- The quartiles may be empirically calculated from samples.

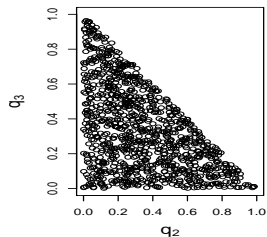
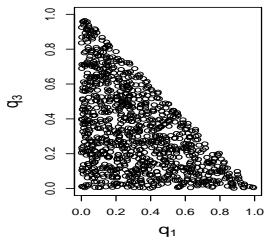
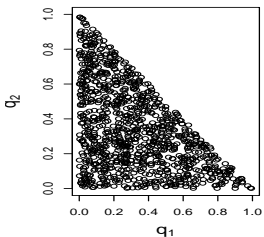
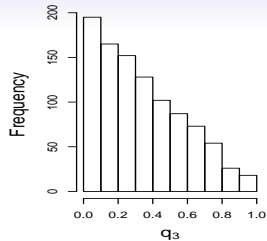
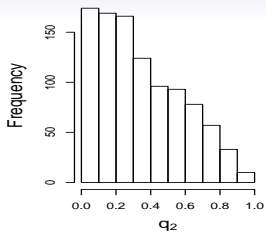
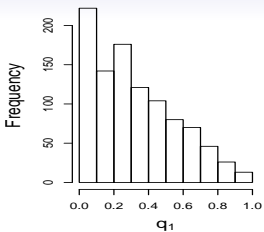


Figure 1: Samples from a  $\text{dirichlet}(1, 1, 1)$  distribution. The mean is  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ .

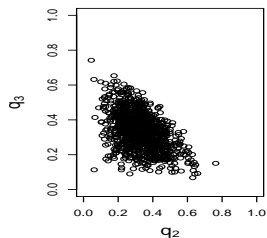
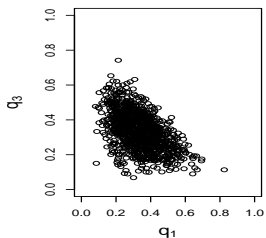
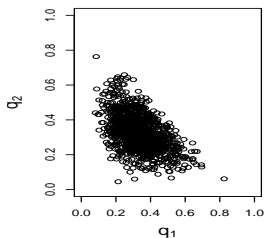
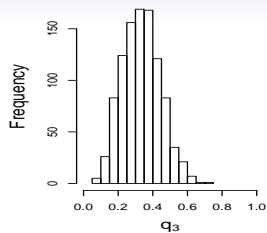
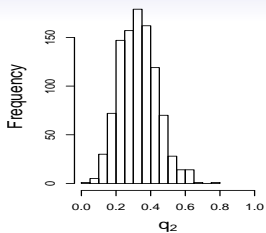
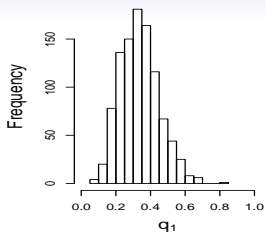
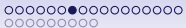


Figure 2: Samples from a  $\text{dirichlet}(6, 6, 6)$  distribution. The mean is  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ .

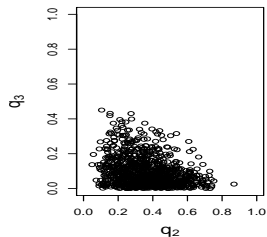
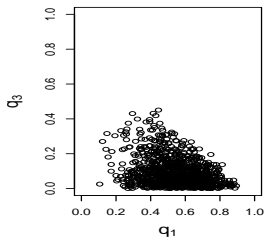
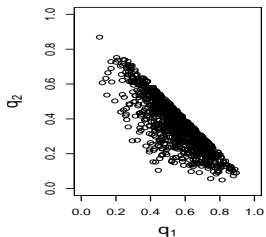
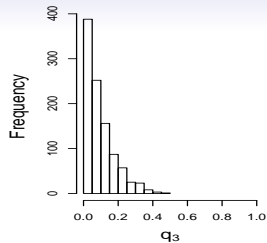
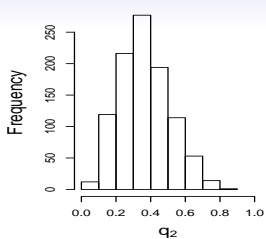
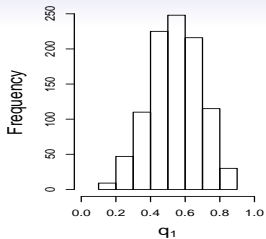


Figure 3: Samples from a  $\text{dirichlet}(6, 4, 1)$  distribution. The mean is  $\left(\frac{6}{11}, \frac{4}{11}, \frac{1}{11}\right) = (0.55, 0.36, 0.09)$ .

## Posterior Distribution

- Combining the Dirichlet prior,  $\text{dirichlet}(v_1, v_2, v_3)$ , with the multinomial likelihood gives the posterior:

$$\begin{aligned} p(q_1, q_2, q_3 | \mathbf{n}) &\propto \text{Pr}(\mathbf{n} | \mathbf{q}) \times p(\mathbf{q}) \\ &\propto q_1^{n_1} q_2^{n_2} q_3^{n_3} \times q_1^{v_1-1} q_2^{v_2-1} q_3^{v_3-1} \\ &= q_1^{n_1+v_1-1} q_2^{n_2+v_2-1} q_3^{n_3+v_3-1}. \end{aligned}$$

- This distribution is another Dirichlet:

$$\text{dirichlet}(n_1 + v_1, n_2 + v_2, n_3 + v_3).$$

- Notice: “as if” we had observed counts  $(n_1 + v_1, n_2 + v_2, n_3 + v_3)$ .



## Choosing a Prior

- The **posterior mean** for the expected proportion of counts in cell  $i$  is, for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ :

$$\begin{aligned} E[q_i|\mathbf{n}] &= \frac{n_i + v_i}{n + v} \\ &= \frac{n_i}{n} \frac{n}{n + v} + \frac{v_i}{v} \frac{v}{n + v} \\ &= \text{MLE} \times W + \text{Prior Mean} \times (1 - W) \end{aligned}$$

where  $n = n_1 + n_2 + n_3$ ,  $v = v_1 + v_2 + v_3$ .

- The **weight**  $W$  is

$$W = \frac{n}{n + v}$$

which is the proportion of the **total information** ( $n + v$ ) that is contributed by the data ( $n$ ).

## Choosing a Prior

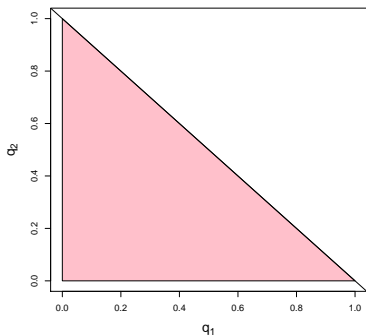
- Recall the prior mean is

$$\left( \frac{v_1}{v}, \frac{v_2}{v}, \frac{v_3}{v} \right)$$

- These forms help to choose  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ .
- As with the beta distribution we may specify the prior means, and the relative weight that the prior and data contribute:  $n$  and  $v$  are on a comparable scale.
- For example, suppose we believe that event 1 is four times as likely as each of event 2 or event 3.
- Then we may specify the means in the ratios 4:1:1.
- Suppose  $n = 24$  and we wish to allow the prior contribution to be a half of this total (and therefore a third of the complete information). Then the **prior sample size** is  $v = 12$  and the prior mean requirement gives

$$v_1 = 8, v_2 = 2, v_3 = 2.$$

## A Uniform Prior



An obvious choice of parameters is  $v_1 = v_2 = v_3 = 1$  to give a prior that is uniform over the simplex:

$$\pi(q_1, q_2, q_3) = 2$$

for

$$0 < q_1, q_2, q_3 < 1, \quad q_1 + q_2 + q_3 = 1$$

Note: not uniform over all parameter of interests, as we see shortly

## Simple HWE Example

- The data is

$$n_1 = 88, n_2 = 10, n_3 = 2.$$

- We assume a flat dirichlet prior on the allowable values of  $\mathbf{q}$ :

$$v_1 = v_2 = v_3 = 1.$$

- This gives the posterior as **dirichlet(88 + 1, 10 + 1, 2 + 1)** with posterior means:

$$\begin{aligned} E[q_1 | \mathbf{n}] &= \frac{1 + 88}{3 + 100} = \frac{89}{103} \\ E[q_2 | \mathbf{n}] &= \frac{1 + 10}{3 + 100} = \frac{11}{103} \\ E[q_3 | \mathbf{n}] &= \frac{1 + 2}{3 + 100} = \frac{3}{103}. \end{aligned}$$

- Note the similarity to the MLEs of

$$\left( \frac{88}{100}, \frac{10}{100}, \frac{2}{100} \right).$$

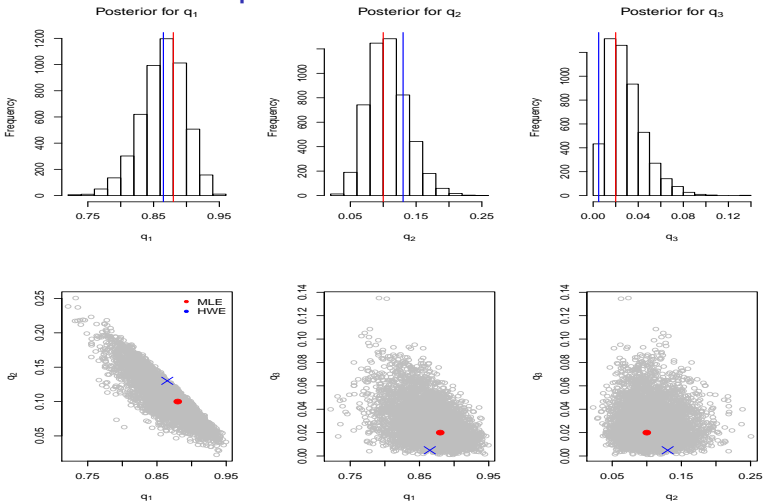
## Simple HWE Example

- We continue with this example and now examine posterior distributions.
- We generate samples from

$\text{dirichlet}(88 + 1, 10 + 1, 2 + 1)$ .

- As posterior summaries we display, in Figure 4:
  - Histograms of the 3 univariate marginal distributions  $p(q_1|\mathbf{y})$ ,  $p(q_2|\mathbf{y})$ ,  $p(q_3|\mathbf{y})$ .
  - Scatterplots of the 3 bivariate marginal distributions  $p(q_1, q_2|\mathbf{y})$ ,  $p(q_1, q_3|\mathbf{y})$ ,  $p(q_2, q_3|\mathbf{y})$ .
- On each plot we indicate the MLEs for the general model, i.e. the non-HWE model (in red) and under the assumption of HWE (in blue).

# Samples from the Posterior



**Figure 4:** Univariate and bivariate posterior distributions for  $n = (88, 10, 2)$ . MLEs in red for the general model and in blue for the HWE model.

## Bayes analysis of (88,10,2) data

- As expected with a sample size of  $n = 100$  and a flat prior, the MLEs (in red) lie close to the center of the posteriors.
- Note the asymmetry of the posteriors.
- Asymptotic confidence intervals of the form  $\hat{q}_i \pm 1.96 \times \text{se}(\hat{q}_i)$  would be symmetric.

## Bayes analysis of (88,10,2) data

- In the context of a binomial sampling model and interest in a particular point (for example,  $\theta = 0.5$ ) we could examine intervals for  $\theta$ .
- In a multinomial context the situation is more complex; shortly we will examine **Bayes factors** to carry out hypothesis testing.



## Parameters of Interest

	Genotype			Total
	$A_1A_1$	$A_1A_2$	$A_2A_2$	
Population Frequency	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$	1

- Rather than  $q_1, q_2, q_3$ , we may be interested in other parameters of interest.
- In the HWE context: Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be 0/1 indicators of the  $A_1$  allele for the two possibilities at a locus; so  $X_1 = X_2 = 1$  corresponds to the genotype  $A_1A_1$ .
- The covariance between  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is the **disequilibrium coefficient**:

$$D = q_1 - p_1^2$$

Under HWE  $q_1 = p_1^2$ , and the covariance is zero.

- Another quantity of interest (Shoemaker *et al.*, 1998) is

$$\psi = \frac{q_2^2}{q_1 q_3}.$$

Under HWE,  $\psi = 4$ .

## Parameters of Interest

- The **inbreeding coefficient** is

$$f = \frac{q_1 - p_1^2}{p_1 p_2}$$

- The variance of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is  $p_1(1 - p_1) = p_1 p_2$  and so  $f$  is the correlation.
- We may express  $q_1, q_2, q_3$  as

$$q_1 = p_1^2 + p_1(1 - p_1)f$$

$$q_2 = 2p_1(1 - p_1)(1 - f)$$

$$q_3 = (1 - p_1)^2 + p_1(1 - p_1)f$$

- Positive** values of  $f$  indicate an excess of homozygotes (and may indicate inbreeding), while **negative** values indicate an excess of heterozygotes.

## Parameters of Interest

- Each of  $D$ ,  $\psi$  and  $f$  are complex functions of  $q_1, q_2, q_3$  and given a Dirichlet prior for the latter do not have known posterior forms.
- The “flat” prior for  $\mathbf{q}$ ,  $\text{dirichlet}(1, 1, 1)$ , does not correspond to a flat prior for  $D, f, \psi$ , as Figure 5 shows.

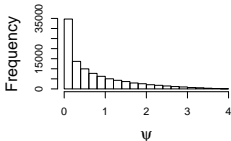
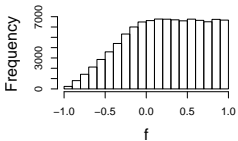
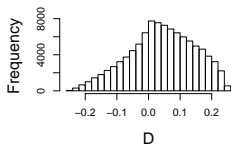
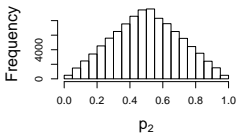
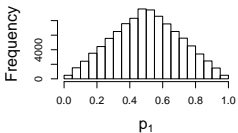
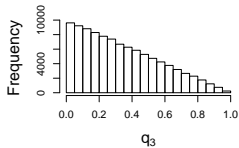
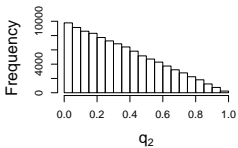
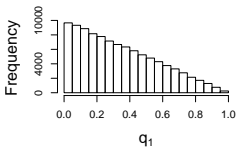
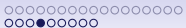


Figure 5: Samples from a  $\text{dirichlet}(1,1,1)$  for various functions.

## Implied Prior on Functions of Interest

- **Very important point:** As we saw in the binomial development, you can't be "flat" on every scale, but the implications of particular priors can be assessed via simulation.
- We emphasize that we are not uniform on the marginal distributions for  $q_i$ , since these follow

$$\text{beta}(v_i, v - v_i)$$

distributions, i.e.  $\text{beta}(1,2)$  if  $v_1 = v_2 = v_3 = 1$ .

- The priors on the measures of distance from HWE are far from uniform.
- For example, with a "flat" Dirichlet prior  $\text{dirichlet}(1,1,1)$  the prior probability that  $f > 0$  is 0.67.

# Bayesian Approaches to HWE

Previous Bayesian approaches include:

- Altham (1971).
- Pereira and Rogatko (1984).
- Lindley (1988).
- Shoemaker *et al.* (1998).
- Montoya-Delgado *et al.* (2001).
- Consonni *et al.* (2008).
- Wakefield (2010).
- Consonni *et al.* (2011).
- Puig *et al.* (2017).

## Bayes factors for HWE

- Recall that Bayes factors measure the evidence in a sample for one hypothesis, as compared to an alternative.
- We derive the Bayes factor for multinomial data in the context of testing for HWE.
- We wish to test

$H_0$  : HWE versus  $H_1$  : Not HWE.

- We need to specify priors on the null and alternatives, and then calculate the **Bayes factor**:

$$\frac{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_0)}{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_1)}$$

where  $p_1$  and  $(q_1, q_2)$  are the parameters under the null and alternative, respectively.

## The HWE Bayes Factor

- The **Bayes factor**, measuring the evidence in the data for the null, as compared to the alternative is:

$$\text{BF} = \frac{2^{n_2} \Gamma(w) \Gamma(2n_1 + n_2 + w_1) \Gamma(v_1) \Gamma(v_2) \Gamma(v_3) \Gamma(n_2 + 2n_3 + w_2) \Gamma(n + v)}{\Gamma(w_1) \Gamma(w_2) \Gamma(2n + w) \Gamma(v) \Gamma(n_1 + v_1) \Gamma(n_2 + v_2) \Gamma(n_3 + v_3)}.$$

- This appears complex, but is just a function of the **observed data**, and the **prior inputs**, and can be easily evaluated<sup>1</sup>.
- If  $\text{BF} > 1$  ( $< 1$ ) the data are **more** (**less**) likely to have come from the null.
- Can be readily extended to  $k > 2$  alleles.
- We next consider a formal decision rule.

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<sup>1</sup>When we work out a  $\chi^2$  tail area we don't worry about the form of the distribution we just use the relevant function in our favorite software



## Bayesian Decision Theory

- Decision as to reject  $H_0$  in favor of  $H_1$  depends on the **costs** of making the two types of error:

		Decision	
		Report $H_0$	Report $H_1$
Truth	$H_0$	0	$C_I$
	$H_1$	$C_{II}$	0

- Costs of making the two types of error  $C_I$  is the cost of a type I error and  $C_{II}$  the cost of a type II error.
- The decision theory solution is to **report  $H_1$**  if:

$$\text{Posterior Odds of } H_0 = \text{BF} \times \text{Prior Odds} < \frac{C_{II}}{C_I} = R$$

so that we only need to consider the ratio of costs  $R$ .

- If  $\frac{C_{II}}{C_I} = 4$  (type II errors four times as bad as type I errors) then report  $H_1$  if

$$\text{Posterior Odds of } H_0 < 4,$$

i.e. if

$$\Pr(H_1 | \text{data}) > 0.2.$$

## A Simple Example

We again consider the data  $n_1 = 88, n_2 = 10, n_3 = 2$ .

These data give a *p-value* of 0.0654.

With “flat” conjugate Dirichlet priors ( $w_1 = w_2 = v_1 = v_2 = v_3 = 1$ ) we obtain a **Bayes factor** of 1.54 so that the data are 50% more likely under the null than the alternative, so the evidence in favor of  $H_0$  is not strong.

With a prior probability of the null  $\pi_0$ , to give a prior odds of  $\pi_0/(1 - \pi_0)$ , we have

$$\text{Posterior Odds of } H_0 = \text{BF} \times \frac{\pi_0}{1 - \pi_0}$$

Hence, with  $\pi_0 = 0.5$  the posterior odds equal the Bayes factor, i.e. 1.54.

## A Simple Example

The posterior probability of the null is

$$\frac{1.54}{1 + 1.54} = 0.61.$$

This probability is **very sensitive** to the prior on the null,  $\pi_0$ .

For example, with  $\pi_0 = 2/3$  we obtain a posterior odds of  $1.54 \times 2 = 3.08$  to give a posterior probability on the null of

$$\frac{3.08}{1 + 3.08} = 0.75.$$

# Posterior Inference for Functions of Interest

Figure 6 shows functions of interest for the  $(88, 10, 2)$  example.

Note that the asymptotic confidence interval for  $f$  is  $(-0.1032, 0.5632)$ .

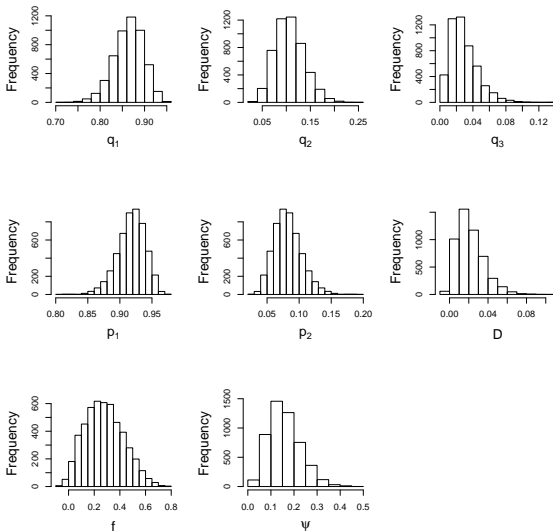
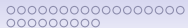


Figure 6: Posterior inference for simple HWE example.

## A Non-Conjugate Test of HWE

The above prior specifications are convenient analytically, but in some situations we would like to perform Bayesian inference using priors that are based on contextual information.

If we are really interested in the deviations from HWE of a sample from a particular population, then we may have strong prior information which perhaps can be represented through a prior on the **inbreeding coefficient  $f$** .

## A Different Prior for the Alternative

Under the null we have a single probability  $p_1$ , the probability of an  $A_1$  allele.

Under the alternative we may specify the prior

$$\pi(p_1, f) = \pi(p_1) \times \pi(f|p_1)$$

where the conditioning allows the constraints on  $f$ :

$$f_{\min} = \max\left(-\frac{p_1}{1-p_1}, -\frac{1-p_1}{p_1}\right) < f < 1$$

Unfortunately there is no closed form calculations for finding posterior distributions and Bayes factors, instead we describe a simulation-based technique —[the rejection algorithm](#).

## A Rejection Algorithm

Let  $\theta$  denote the parameters with prior distribution  $\pi(\theta)$ , and let  $\hat{\theta}$  be the MLE and  $p(\mathbf{y}|\hat{\theta})$  the maximized likelihood.

Then the rejection algorithm (e.g., Wakefield, 2013, Chapter 3) proceeds as follows:

1. Generate  $U \sim U(0, 1)$  and  $\theta \sim \pi(\theta)$ , independently.
2. Accept  $\theta$  if

$$U < \frac{p(\mathbf{y}|\theta)}{p(\mathbf{y}|\hat{\theta})},$$

otherwise reject  $\theta$ .

3. Return to 1.

The resultant  $\theta^{(s)}$ ,  $s = 1, \dots, S$ , are an independent sample from the posterior  $p(\theta|\mathbf{y})$ .



## A Rejection Algorithm

The rejection algorithm may be very inefficient if the prior and likelihood differ substantially (e.g., prior is dispersed and/or likelihood is peaked).

An estimate of the normalizing constant (required for Bayes factor calculation) is given by

$$\hat{p}(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S p(\mathbf{y}|\theta^{(s)})$$

where  $\theta^{(s)} \sim \pi(\cdot)$ .

Note that this only requires samples from the prior — the rejection algorithm is not needed.

In the HW context the maximized likelihood is available in closed form.

## Specific Non-Conjugate Priors

Recall the prior is

$$\pi(p_1, f) = \pi(p_1) \times \pi(f|p_1)$$

Two components:

- For  $\pi(p_1)$  we take a  $\text{Be}(w_1, w_2)$  prior.
- For  $\pi(f|p_1)$  we transform to

$$\phi = \log((f - f_{\min})/(1 - f))$$

and assume  $\phi|p_1$  is normal.

## HWE Example Revisited

We again consider the data  $n_{11} = 88$ ,  $n_{12} = 10$ ,  $n_{22} = 2$ .

These data give a  $p$ -value of 0.0654. The MLE for  $f$  is 0.23 with asymptotic standard error 0.17. MLE of HWE proportions: (0.865, 0.130, 0.05).

With flat conjugate Dirichlet priors we obtained a Bayes factor of 1.54 so that the data are 50 % more likely under the null, but the evidence is low.

## HWE Example Revisited

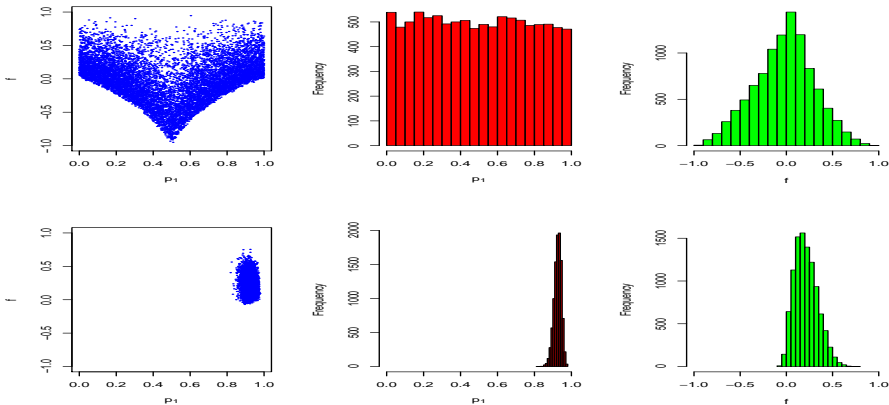
We assume that the 50% point of the prior on  $f$  is 0, and the 95% point is 0.5

We obtain a Bayes factor of 0.29 so that the data are 3.4 times as likely under the alternative, but the evidence is again weak.

The posterior probability that  $f > 0$  is 0.98.

The difference between the priors is that the non-conjugate version gives more weight close to where the data are located.

# Graphical Summaries



**Figure 7:** Prior (top) and Posterior (bottom). Notice the clear constraint in the top left plot.

## Influence of Prior

In contrast to estimation, in which the prior influence generally disappears with increasing sample size, the Bayes factor remains influenced by the prior.

To illustrate we multiply the data of the previous example by different factors.

Factor	Conj BF	Non-conj BF	Post prob $f > 0$	$p$ -value
1	1.54	0.29	0.984	0.0654
2	0.40	0.070	0.997	0.0089
5	0.0039	0.000639	1	$3.6 \times 10^{-5}$
10	$1.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-7}$	1	$5.3 \times 10^{-9}$

The conjugate and non-conjugate Bayes factors remain quite different (though the substantive conclusions are the same).

# The HWEBayes Package

- The R package `HWEBayes` implements the rejection algorithm and importance sampling (a numerical integration technique), for **testing and estimation** in the HWE context:

<http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/HWEBayes/index.html>

- The *vignette* contains a worked example.
- Code for a four-allele example is here:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/jonno/HWEBayesFourAllele.R>

- More details of the methodology: Wakefield (2010).

# Conclusions

- The dirichlet distribution is convenient but quite inflexible as a prior distribution.
- Alternative priors are more difficult to specify since they are on scales that are more difficult to interpret (e.g. the logistic-normal distribution).
- Bayes factors are **sensitive** to the prior.
- **Monte Carlo sampling** is a powerful tool for inference.
- For **multiple alleles** computation is slow whether the approach is frequentist or Bayesian.



# Derivation of Bayes Factor for Assessing HWE

- We need to specify priors on the null and alternatives, and then calculate the **Bayes factor**:

$$\frac{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_0)}{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_1)} = \frac{\int \Pr(\mathbf{n}|p_1)p(p_1)dp_1}{\int \Pr(\mathbf{n}|q_1, q_2)p(q_1, q_2)dq_1 dq_2}$$

where  $p_1$  and  $(q_1, q_2)$  are the parameters under the null and alternative, respectively.

- Under the null we have a single parameter, and under the alternative two.
- **Important point:** When Bayes factors are evaluated we need to include the normalizing constants.

## HWE Bayes Factor

- Under  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  we must take care to evaluate the probability of the same data,  $n_1, n_2, n_3$ .
- Under the **null**,

$$\Pr(\mathbf{n}|\rho_1) = \Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3|\rho_1) = \frac{n!2^{n_1}}{n_2!n_12!n_3!} \rho_1^{2n_1+n_2} (1 - \rho_1)^{n_2+2n_3}.$$

- With a  $\text{Be}(w_1, w_2)$  prior on  $\rho_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3|H_0) &= \int \Pr(\mathbf{n}|\rho_1) \times p(\rho_1) d\rho_1 \\ &= \frac{n!2^{n_2}\Gamma(w)\Gamma(2n_1 + n_2 + w_1)\Gamma(n_2 + 2n_3 + w_2)}{n_1!n_2!n_3!\Gamma(w_1)\Gamma(w_2)\Gamma(2n + w)} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

- This is the probability of the observed data under the null.

## HWE Bayes Factor

- The Bayes factor is

$$\frac{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_0)}{\Pr(\mathbf{n}|H_1)}$$

and we have just given the form of the numerator.

- We now turn to the denominator.
- Under the **alternative** we assume  $\mathbf{q} \sim \text{dirichlet}(v_1, v_2, v_3)$ .
- The probability of the data under the alternative is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3|H_1) &= \int \Pr(\mathbf{n}|\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) \times p(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) d\mathbf{q}_1 d\mathbf{q}_2 \\ &= \frac{n! \Gamma(v) \Gamma(n_1 + v_1) \Gamma(n_2 + v_2) \Gamma(n_3 + v_3)}{n_1! n_2! n_3! \Gamma(v_1) \Gamma(v_2) \Gamma(v_3) \Gamma(n + v)}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

- Again, just a probability distribution, which we may evaluate for any realization of  $(n_1, n_2, n_3)$ .

## The HWE Bayes Factor

- Hence, the **Bayes factor**, measuring the evidence in the data for the null, as compared to the alternative is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{BF} &= \frac{\Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3 | H_0)}{\Pr(n_1, n_2, n_3 | H_1)} \\
 &= \frac{2^{n_2} \Gamma(w) \Gamma(2n_1 + n_2 + w_1) \Gamma(v_1) \Gamma(v_2) \Gamma(v_3) \Gamma(n_2 + 2n_3 + w_2) \Gamma(n + v)}{\Gamma(w_1) \Gamma(w_2) \Gamma(2n + w) \Gamma(v) \Gamma(n_1 + v_1) \Gamma(n_2 + v_2) \Gamma(n_3 + v_3)}
 \end{aligned}$$

which is (2) divided by (3).

- This appears complex, but is just a function of the **observed data**, and the **prior inputs**, and can be easily evaluated.
- If  $\text{BF} > 1$  ( $< 1$ ) the data are **more** (**less**) likely to have come from the null.
- Can be readily extended to  $k > 2$  alleles.

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