

*Prevádzat' p-hodnotu na Bayesov faktor?*  
*[To translate p-value into Bayes factor?]*

marian.grendar@savba.sk<sup>1</sup>

Robust 2012, Nĕmĉičky, Sep 9 - 14

---

<sup>1</sup>KM FPV UMB, BB; ÚM SAV BA; MÚ SAV BA.  
Supported by VEGA 2/0038/12.

# Outline

- Statistical evidence
- Sellke, Bayarri and Berger: p-value overstates evidence against point  $H_0$
- p-value is not consistent measure of evidence
- SBB trafo of p-value into Bayes Factor
- Transform p-value into BF?

# *Intro*

- Frequentist decision making: Neyman Pearson Wald
- Bayesian belief revision
- Evidence: what is the extent of support in data for a hypothesis  $H_0$  relative to  $H_1$

## Setup, measure of evidence

r.v.  $X \in \mathbb{R}^K$  with pmf/pdf  $f_X(x|\theta)$ , where  $\theta \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^L$ .

partition of  $\Theta$ :  $\Theta_0, \Theta_1$

associate  $\Theta_j$  with the hypothesis  $H_j$ ,  $j = 0, 1$ .

$X_1^n \triangleq X_1, \dots, X_n \sim f_X(x|\theta)$  random sample from  $f_X(x|\theta)$ .

Measure of evidence  $\epsilon(H_0, H_1, X_1^n)$ ,

- in data  $X_1^n$ ,
- for the hypothesis  $H_0 : X_1^n \sim f_X(x|\theta)$  where  $\theta \in \Theta_0$ ,
- relative to  $H_1 : X_1^n \sim f_X(x|\theta)$  where  $\theta \in \Theta_1$ ,

is a mapping  $\epsilon(H_0, H_1, X_1^n) : \Theta_0 \times \Theta_1 \times (\mathbb{R}^K)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Measure of evidence *against*  $H_0$ , relative to  $H_1$  denoted  $\epsilon(\neg H_0, H_1, X_1^n)$ .

*Calibration.* The partition of  $\mathbb{R}$  that corr. to the extreme values of evidence that corr. to the strongest evidence is denoted  $S$ .

## *Measures of evidence*

- Fisherian: p-value
- Likelihood-wallahs': ratio of likelihoods, extended ratio of likelihoods, ...
- Bayesian: Bayes factor, posterior odds, ratio of posterior modes, ...

## *Measures of evidence: Fisherian*

The p-value  $\pi(\neg H_0, \cdot, X_1^n) = \inf\{\alpha : T(X_1^n) \in R_\alpha\}$ , where  $T(\cdot)$  is a test statistic,  $\alpha$  is the size of the test with the rejection region  $R_\alpha$  for  $H_0$ .

Measures evidence in a data  $X_1^n$ , against a hypothesis  $H_0$ .  
The smaller the p-value, the stronger the evidence against  $H_0$  in the data.

The p-value in (0.01, 0.05) suggests strong, and smaller than 0.01 very strong evidence against  $H_0$ ; i.e.,  $S = (0, 0.01)$

## *Measures of evidence: likelihood-ratios*

The ratio of likelihoods  $r_{01}(H_0, H_1, X_1^n) = f(X_1^n | H_0) / f(X_1^n | H_1)$ .

Measures evidence in a data for a simple hypothesis  $H_0$ , rel. to a simple hypothesis  $H_1$ .

$r_{01} > \text{app.}30$  suggests a very strong evidence for  $H_0$  rel. to  $H_1$ ;  
i.e.,  $S = [30, \infty)$ .

## *Measures of evidence: Bayesian*

Bayesian?

The Bayes Factor

$$BF_{01} = \int_{H_0} f(X_1^n | \theta) q(\theta) d\theta / \int_{H_1} f(X_1^n | \theta) q(\theta) d\theta,$$

where  $q(\cdot)$  is the prior.

$BF_{01} > 150$ , very strong evidence for  $H_0$  rel. to  $H_1$ .



## *Sellke, Bayarri, Berger: hierarchical sampling*

Sellke, Bayarri, Berger, '01

Ex.: yield (per hectare) of corn of sort  $D_l$ ,  $l = 1, 2, \dots$

$\Theta_0$  corr. to 'mean yield is uninteresting',

$\Theta_1$  corr. to 'mean yield is interesting'.

Experiment with corn  $D_l$  gives a random sample  $X_1^n$ .

Some sorts of corn give interesting mean yield, some give the uninteresting one.

i.e., some experimental data  $X_1^n$  come from  $H_0$ , other data sets are from  $H_1$ .

Interest in:  $P(H_0 | \epsilon(\neg H_0, H_1, X_1^n) \text{ supports } H_1)$ .

## SBB: MC study of $P(H_0 | p\text{-val} \approx 0.05)$

Setup:  $X_1^n \sim n(\theta = 0, 1)$ .

Point  $H_0 : \theta = 0$ , point  $H_1 : \theta = a, a > 0$ .

$\pi_0$ , proportion of data sets generated under  $H_0$ .

$p\text{-val} = 1 - \Phi(\sqrt{n}\bar{x})$ .

$P(H_0 | p\text{-val} \approx 0.05)$ ; prob. that if  $p\text{-val}$  testifies strongly against  $H_0$ , then the data come from  $H_0$ .

$a$	$n$	$\pi_0$	$P(H_0   p\text{-val} \in (0.04, 0.05))$
0.5	20	1/3	0.12
		0.5	0.25
		2/3	0.30

"...  $p$ -value near 0.05 provides at best weak evidence against  $H_0$ "

## *SBB setup: what about BF?*

In the point-vs-point setting  $BF = \text{likelihood ratio}$ .

$P(H_0 | BF_{10} > 150)$ , analytically. Prob. that if BF testifies very strongly against  $H_0$ , then the data come from  $H_0$ .

$a$	$n$	$\pi_0$	$P(H_0   BF_{10} > 150)$
0.5	10	1/3	0.0015
		0.5	0.003
		2/3	0.006
		0.95	0.054
		0.99	0.23

Also BF can overstate evidence against  $H_0$ , though in more extreme case than p-val.

## Consistency criterion

Data-sampling scheme:

1. First,  $\theta$  is drawn from a pdf (or pmf)  $p(\theta)$ .
2. Given  $\theta$ , a random sample  $X_1^n$  is drawn from  $f_X(x|\theta)$ .

We say that a measure of evidence  $\epsilon(\neg H_0, H_1, X_1^n)$  against  $H_0$ , relative to  $H_1$ , is *consistent*, if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Pr(H_0 | \epsilon(\neg H_0, H_1, X_1^n) \in S) = 0.$$

The probability that  $\theta$  is in  $\Theta_0$ , given that the measure of evidence  $\epsilon(\neg H_0, H_1, X_1^n)$  *very strongly* testifies against  $H_0$ , relative to  $H_1$ , should go to zero, as the sample size  $n$  goes beyond any limit.

p-val is not consistent, BF and LR are.

## *SBB: translation of p-val into BF*

Under  $H_0$ , p-val is uniform. For a good test, under  $H_1$  density  $f(p)$  of p-val  $p$  should be decreasing in  $p$ . Take  $H_1 : p \sim \text{Beta}(\xi, 1)$ . Then, the lowest value  $\underline{\text{BF}}_{01}$  of  $\text{BF}_{01}$  over all priors  $\pi(\xi)$  is:

$$\underline{\text{BF}}_{01}(p) = -e p \log p.$$

The SBB trafo is meaningful for  $p < 1/e$ , where  $\underline{\text{BF}}_{01}(p)$  is increasing.

Ex. p-val  $p = 0.05$  translates into  $\underline{\text{BF}}_{01}(p) = 0.407$ , ie., almost none evidence against  $H_0$ .

## *SBB translation of p-val into BF: yes or no?*

1) Since p-val is inconsistent and SBB translation does not depend on the sample size, the SBB-translated  $BF(p)$  is inconsistent as well.

2) SBB trafo becomes asymptotically useless.

Ex. Take  $n = 10^{12}$ , and  $p = 0.05$ . SBB will translate it into  $BF_{01} \geq 0.407$ , whereas the true  $BF_{01}$  will with high probability give either very strong evidence for  $H_0$  (if  $X_1^n \sim f_0$ ), or for  $H_1$  (if  $X_1^n \sim f_1$ ).

3) The probab. that  $p > 1/e$  converges to  $(1 - 1/e)\pi_0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Ex. for  $\pi_0 = 0.5$  it is 0.32.

## *Good's translation of p-val into BF: yes or no?*

Good:  $BF_{01}^G(p) = \sqrt{n} p$ .

Pros: Unlike SBB's,  $BF_{01}^G(p)$  is consistent.

Cons: Good's BF cannot be greater than  $\sqrt{n}$ . Odd.

## Summary





SBB demonstrate that p-val overstates evidence against  $H_0$ ; and Bayes Factor does not. They propose a translation of p-val into BF.

BF can also overstate evidence against  $H_0$ . Unlike to p-val, however, to BF this happens asymptotically with zero probability. BF is consistent, p-val is not.

SBB translation of p-val into BF does not depend on  $n$ ; the resulting measure of evidence is not consistent, and becomes asymptotically useless.



## References

-  Good, I. J. (1992). The Bayes/Non-Bayes compromise: a brief review. *JASA*, 87(419):597-606.
-  g (2012). Is the p-value a good measure of evidence? Asymptotic consistency criteria, *Stat. & Probab. Lett.*, 82, 1116-1119.
-  Sellke, T., Bayarri, M. J., and Berger, J. O. (2001). Calibration of p values for testing precise null hypotheses. *Amer. Statist.*, 55(1):62-71.
-  Shafer, G., Shen, A., Vereschagin, N., and Vovk, V. (2011). Test martingales, Bayes Factors and p-values. *Stat. Sci.*, 26(1):84-101.