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| Tutorial on Bayesian Model and Variable Selection <br> Ioannis Ntzoufras <br> Department of Business Administration University of the Aegean <br> (c) 2002, Athens, Greece |  | Contents <br> 1. Introduction to Model Selection. <br> 2. Bayesian Model Selection via MCMC. <br> (a) General Model Selection Algorithms (RJ, CC, MCC) <br> (b) Variable Selection Algorithms (KM, SSVS, GVS) <br> (c) Proposal Selection <br> 3. Prior Specification. <br> 4. Bayesian Model and Variable Selection Using BUGS <br> 5. Model Diagnostics. <br> 6. Model Diagnostics in BUGS. |
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| 1 Introduction to Model Selection <br> What is Model Selection? <br> - Evaluation of performance of scientific scenarios and <br> - Selection of the 'best'. <br> 'Best' Model? <br> - The 'best' performed model is totally subjective <br> - Different procedures (or scientists) support different scientific theories, scenarios and models. |  | Two MAJOR principles: <br> 1. Goodness of Fit <br> How close is theory [model] to reality [data]. <br> 2. Parsimony <br> Simplicity of theory; <br> In stats: Economy in parameters. |
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| Available Methods <br> - Classical Model Selection: Significance Tests and Stepwise Methods: <br> (Forward Strategy, Backward Elimination, Stepwise Procedures). <br> - Bayesian Model Selection <br> - Posterior odds and posterior model probabilities. <br> - Utility measures. <br> - Predictive criteria. <br> - Model Selection Criteria <br> - Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). <br> - Bayes Information Criterion (BIC). <br> - Other criteria. |  | Disadvantages of Classical Stepwise Procedures <br> - Large datasets we observe small p-values even if the hypothesized model is plausible. <br> - Exact significance level cannot be calculated since stepwise methods are sequential application of simple significance tests (Freedman, 1983). <br> - The maximum $F$-to-enter statistic is not even remotely like an F-distribution' (Miller, 1984). <br> - The selection of a single model ignores model uncertainty. <br> - We can compare only nested models. <br> - Different models are selected if we use different procedures or start from different models. |

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## Bayesian Model Selection

Bayesian model selection is based on

1. Posterior odds of model $m_{0}$ versus model $m_{1}$ given by

$$
P O_{01}=\frac{f\left(m_{0} \mid \underline{y}\right)}{f\left(m_{1} \mid \underline{y}\right)}=\underbrace{\frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid m_{0}\right)}{f\left(\underline{y} \mid m_{1}\right)}}_{\text {Bayes Factor }} \times \underbrace{\frac{f\left(m_{0}\right)}{f\left(m_{1}\right)}}_{\text {Prior Odds }}
$$

2. Posterior probabilities given by

$$
f(m \mid \underline{y})=\frac{f(\underline{y} \mid m) f(m)}{\sum_{m_{l} \in \mathcal{M}} f\left(\underline{y} \mid m_{l}\right) f\left(m_{l}\right)}=\left(\sum_{m_{l} \in \mathcal{M}} P O_{m_{l}, m}\right)^{-1}
$$

- $\mathcal{M}$ : set of models under consideration,
- $\sum_{m^{\prime} \in \mathcal{M}} f(m \mid \underline{y})=1$.

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| $\log _{10}\left(B_{10}\right)$ | $B_{10}$ | Evidence against $H_{0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 to 0.5 | 1.0 to 3.2 | Not worth than a bare mention |
| 0.5 to 1.0 | 3.2 to 10 | Substantial |
| 1.0 to 2.0 | 10 to 100 | Strong |
| greater than 2 | greater than 100 | Decisive |

Table 1: Bayes Factor Interpretation according to Kass and Raftery ( $\log$ of 10 ).

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| $\ln \left(B_{10}\right)$ | $B_{10}$ | Evidence against $H_{0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 to 2 | 1 to 3 | Not worth than a bare mention |
| 2 to 5 | 3 to 12 | Positive |
| 5 to 10 | 12 to 150 | Strong |
| greater than 10 | greater than 150 | Decisive |

Table 2: Bayes Factor Interpretation according to Kass and Raftery (Natural logarithm).

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## Bayesian Model Averaging

- Adjust predictions (and inference) according to the observed model uncertainty.
- Average over all conditional model specific posterior distributions. weighted by their posterior model probabilities.
- Base predictions on all models under consideration and therefore account for model uncertainty.
- Predictive distribution of a quantity $\Delta$

$$
f(\Delta \mid \underline{y})=\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} f(\Delta \mid m, \underline{y}) f(m \mid \underline{y})
$$

## 2 Model Selection via Markov Chain

## Monte Carlo Methods

$\underline{\text { Problems in Bayesian model selection: }}$

- Integrals involved in $f(m \mid \underline{y})$ and
- Size of $\mathcal{M}$.

Hence, MCMC methods become an extremely attractive alternative.

Descriprion:

- Generate sample $\left(m^{\left(t^{\prime}\right)}, \underline{\beta}^{\left(t^{\prime}\right)}, t^{\prime}=1, \ldots, t\right)$
- Estimate posterior model probabilities by

$$
\hat{f}(m)=\frac{1}{t} \sum_{t^{\prime}=1}^{t} I\left(m^{\left(t^{\prime}\right)}=m\right) \quad m \in \mathcal{M}
$$

$I(\cdot)$ : Indicator function.

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Why use MCMC in Model selection:

- Automatic after defining the prior distribution,
- Cannot explore the model space otherwise,
- Integrals involved are intractable.
- Bayesian model averaging is straightforward.
- Get samples from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m, \underline{y}\right)$ (automatically available).

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- General Model Selection Algorithms
- Reversible jump (Green, 1995, Bk).
- Carlin and Chib (1995, JRSS B) Gibbs sampler.
- Markov chain Monte Carlo model composition [MC ${ }^{3}$ ] (Madigan and York, 1995, I.S.R.).
- Metropolised Carlin and Chib Algorithm (Dellaportas et al. , 2002, Stats \& Comp.)
- Variable selection samplers
- Stochastic Search Variable Selection [SSVS] (George and McCulloch, 1993, JASA).
- Kuo and Mallick (1998, Sank, B) Gibbs sampler.
- Gibbs Variable Selection (Dellaportas et al., 2000,2002).

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- Fast variable selection algorithms for normal models
- Clyde et al. (1996).
- Smith and Kohn (1996).
- Clyde (1998).

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### 2.1 General Model Selection Methods

### 2.1.1 Reversible Jump

The Procedure
If the current state of the Markov chain is $\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m\right)$, then

- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \underline{\mid}, m\right)$ (optional).
- Propose a new model $m^{\prime}$ with probability $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$.
- Generate $\underline{u}$ from proposal $q\left(\underline{u} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m, m^{\prime}\right)$.
- $\operatorname{Set}\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, \underline{u}^{\prime}\right)=h_{m, m^{\prime}}\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)}, \underline{u}\right)$.
$-d(m)+d(\underline{u})=d\left(m^{\prime}\right)+d\left(\underline{u}^{\prime}\right)$ and
$-h_{m^{\prime}, m}=h_{m, m^{\prime}}^{-1}$
- Accept the proposed move to model $m^{\prime}$ with probability $\alpha=\min (1, A)$
$A=\frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m^{\prime}\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m^{\prime}\right) f\left(m^{\prime}\right) j\left(m^{\prime}, m\right) q\left(\underline{u}^{\prime} \mid \underline{\mid}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m^{\prime}, m\right)}{f\left(\underline{\beta} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m\right) f(m) j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right) q\left(\underline{u} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m, m^{\prime}\right)}\left|\frac{\partial h\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)}, \underline{u}\right)}{\left.\partial \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, \underline{u}\right)}\right|$

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### 2.1.2 Carlin and Chib Gibbs Sampler

Characteristic:
Requires realisations of $\left\{\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{k}\right)}: m_{k} \in \mathcal{M}, m\right\}$.

- The model indicator $m$ is generated by

The Procedure
Suppose that the current state is $\left(\left\{\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{k}\right)}: m_{k} \in \mathcal{M}, m\right\}\right)$, then

- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \underline{y}, m\right)$.
- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m_{l} \neq m\right)$.
- Pseudo-parameters: $\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)}$ are called,
- Pseudopriors or linking densities: $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m_{l} \neq m\right)$.
- No need to specify different $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m_{l} \neq m\right)$ for different $m$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
f\left(m \mid\left\{\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{k}\right)}: m_{k} \in \mathcal{M}\right\}, \underline{y}\right)=\frac{A_{m}}{\sum_{m_{k} \in \mathcal{M}} A_{m_{k}}} \\
A_{m}=f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m\right) \prod_{m_{l} \in \mathcal{M}}\left\{f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m\right)\right\} f(m) .
\end{gathered}
$$

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Drawback:
Specification and generation from many pseudopriors (at least
$|\mathcal{M}|-1)$

- computationally demanding (time, memory and hard disk limitations)
- procedure is impracticable for large problems.

Important Features

- Requires (only) $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ and $\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}$ to calculate $\alpha$.
- Model $m^{\prime}$ is proposed with probability $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$, independently of the values of any model parameters.

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$\underline{\text { Only need }}$ to sample from pseudoprior $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m^{\prime} \neq m\right)!!!$

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### 2.1.3 Metropolised Carlin and Chib Algorithm

The Procedure
Suppose that the current state is $\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m\right)$, then

- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid \underline{y}, m\right)$.
- Propose a new model $m^{\prime}$ with probability $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$.
- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}$ from the proposal $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m^{\prime} \neq m\right)$.
- Accept the proposed move with probability $\alpha=\min (1, A)$

$$
A=\frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m^{\prime}\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m^{\prime}\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m^{\prime}\right) f\left(m^{\prime}\right) j\left(m^{\prime}, m\right)}{f\left(\underline{\underline{\beta}} \underline{\underline{\beta}}_{(m)}, m\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m\right) f(m) j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)} .
$$

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## RJ and MCC

- MCC is a reversible jump with ...
$-\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, \underline{u}^{\prime}\right)=(\underline{u}, \underline{\beta}(m))$,

$$
\underline{u}^{\prime}=\left\{\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)}: m_{l} \neq m^{\prime}\right\}, \underline{u}=\left\{\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)}: m_{l} \neq m\right\}
$$

- proposal densities are replaced by $\left.q\left(\underline{u} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m, m^{\prime}\right)=\prod_{m_{l} \in \mathcal{M} \backslash\left\{m^{\prime}\right\}}\left\{f{\underline{(\underline{\beta}}\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m^{\prime}\right)\right\}$ and $q\left(\underline{u}^{\prime} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m^{\prime}, m\right)=\prod_{m_{l} \in \mathcal{M} \backslash\{m\}}\left\{f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m_{l}\right)} \mid m\right)\right\}$.
- MCC also coincides to the simpler RJ with:
$-\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, \underline{u}^{\prime}\right)=\left(\underline{u}, \underline{\beta}_{(m)}\right), \underline{u}^{\prime}=\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ and $\underline{u}=\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}$,
- proposal densities are replaced by

$$
q\left(\underline{u} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m, m^{\prime}\right)=f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m^{\prime} \neq m\right) \text { and }
$$

$$
q\left(\underline{u}^{\prime} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m, m^{\prime}\right)=f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m \neq m^{\prime}\right)
$$

### 2.1.4 Markov chain Monte Carlo model composition (MC ${ }^{3}$ )

## The Procedure

- Suppose that ...
- $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m, \underline{y}\right)$ is available for all models $m \in \mathcal{M}$,
$-f(\underline{y} \mid m)$ is also known.
- Consider MCC (or RJ) with

$$
\left.q\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}, m, m^{\prime}\right)=f \underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m, \underline{y}\right)
$$

- If $\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)}, m\right)$ is the current state, then
- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid \underline{y}, m\right)$ (optional).
- Propose a new model $m^{\prime}$ with probability $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$.
- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime}$ from the posterior $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{\left(m^{\prime}\right)}^{\prime} \mid m, \underline{y}\right)$.
- Accept the proposed model $m^{\prime}$ with probability

$$
\begin{aligned}
\alpha & =\min \left(1, \frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid m^{\prime}\right) f\left(m^{\prime}\right) j\left(m^{\prime}, m\right)}{f(\underline{y} \mid m) f(m) j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)}\right) \\
& =\min \left(1, B_{m^{\prime} m} \frac{f\left(m^{\prime}\right) j\left(m^{\prime}, m\right)}{f(m) j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

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### 2.2 Variable Selection Algorithms

### 2.2.1 Stochastic Search Variable Selection

- Originally for Normal models (1993) and then applied in other GLM type models.
- The dimension of the model is constant.
- The model likelihood is given by $f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta})$ for all models.
- The model indicator $m$ is substituted by $\underline{\gamma}^{T}=\left(\gamma_{1}, \ldots, \gamma_{p}\right)$.
- For specified $k_{j}$ and $\underline{\Sigma}_{j}$, the indicator variables $\gamma_{j}$ are involved in the model through the prior

$$
\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \gamma_{j} \sim \gamma_{j} N\left(0, \underline{\Sigma}_{j}\right)+\left(1-\gamma_{j}\right) N\left(0, k_{j}^{-2} \underline{\underline{ }}_{j}\right)
$$

- Generally SSVS results differ from usual model selection (tend to be close for large $k_{j}$ ).

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The Procedure
Suppose that the current state is $(\underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma})$, then, for $j=1, \ldots, p$,

- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{j}$ from

$$
f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\backslash j}, \underline{\gamma}, \underline{y}\right) \propto f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \gamma_{j}\right)
$$

$\underline{\beta}_{j}$ : vector of parameters of $j$ term.

- Generate $\gamma_{j} \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}\left(\frac{O_{j}}{1+O_{j}}\right)$ with

$$
O_{j}=\frac{f\left(\gamma_{j}=1 \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}, \underline{y}\right)}{f\left(\gamma_{j}=0 \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}, \underline{y}\right)}=\underbrace{\frac{f\left(\underline{\beta} \mid \gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\underline{\beta} \mid \gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Prior Ratio }} \underbrace{\frac{f\left(\gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Prior Odds }}
$$

$\underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}$ : all components of $\underline{\gamma}$ except $\gamma_{j}$.
Variable selection step does not (directly) depend on the model likelihood!

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### 2.2.2 Kuo and Mallick Sampler

## Characteristics:

- Originally for Normal models (1993) but can be applied in other GLM type models.
- Likelihood is given by $f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma})$.
- Model indicator $m$ is substituted by $\underline{\gamma}$.
- Indicator variables $\gamma_{j}$ are involved in the model by substituting $\underline{\beta}_{j}$ by $\gamma_{j} \underline{\beta}_{j}$ in the linear predictor.
- Prior is given by $f(\underline{\beta})$ for all models.
- Generally KM results differ than other model selection methods due to the fact that the underlying priors are automatically defined by $f(\beta)$.

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The Procedure
If the current state is $(\underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma})$, then, for $j=1, \ldots, p$,

- Generate $\underline{\beta}_{j}$ from
$-f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\backslash j}\right)$ if $\gamma_{j}=1$
$-f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\backslash j}\right)$ if $\gamma_{j}=0$
- Generate $\gamma_{j} \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}\left(\frac{O_{j}}{1+O_{j}}\right)$ with

$$
O_{j}=\underbrace{\frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Likelihood Ratio }} \underbrace{\frac{f\left(\gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Prior Odds }} .
$$

Advantage: extremely straightforward.
Disadvantage: There is no flexibility to improve efficiency.

### 2.2.3 Gibbs Variable Selection

## Characteristics

- Natural hybrid of SSVS and the Kuo and Mallick (1998) sampler
- Same likelihood as in Kuo and Mallick Sampler.
- Specify prior as $f(\underline{\beta} \mid \underline{\gamma}) f(\underline{\gamma})$.

Consider the partition of $\underline{\beta}=\left\{\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}, \underline{\beta}_{(\backslash \underline{\gamma})}\right\}$ into
$-\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}:$ parameters in model $\left(\gamma_{j}=1\right)$
$-\underline{\beta}_{(\backslash \underline{\gamma})}:$ parameters not in model $\left(\gamma_{j}=0\right)$
then $f(\underline{\beta} \mid \underline{\gamma})$ may be partitioned into

- Prior: $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})} \mid \underline{\gamma}\right)$ and Pseudoprior: $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\backslash \gamma)} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}, \underline{\gamma}\right)$.

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The Procedure
If the current state is $(\underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma})$, then

- Generate parameters $\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}$ from

$$
f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})} \mid \underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}, \gamma, \underline{\gamma}\right) \propto f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})} \mid \underline{\gamma}\right) f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\gamma \underline{\gamma})} \underline{\beta}_{(\gamma)}, \underline{\gamma}\right)
$$

- Generate pseudo-parameters $\underline{\beta}_{(\backslash \underline{\gamma})}$ from $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(\backslash \underline{\gamma})} \underline{\beta}_{(\underline{\gamma})}, \underline{\gamma}^{\prime}\right)$
- Generate $\gamma_{j} \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}\left(\frac{O_{j}}{1+O_{j}}\right)$ with

$$
O_{j}=\underbrace{\frac{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Likelihood Ratio }} \underbrace{\frac{f\left(\underline{\beta} \mid \gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\underline{\beta} \mid \gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Prior/Pseudoprior Ratio }} \underbrace{\frac{f\left(\gamma_{j}=1, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}{f\left(\gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}}_{\text {Prior Odds }}
$$

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## $\underline{\text { Simpler Approach }}$

- Assume prior: $f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\gamma}_{j}\right)=\gamma_{j} N\left(\mathbf{0}, \underline{\Sigma}_{j}\right)+\left(1-\gamma_{j}\right) N\left(\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}, \underline{S}_{j}\right)$, $\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}$ and $\underline{S}_{j}$ : are pseudoprior parameters (tuned to achieve optimal convergence).
- The full conditional posterior distribution is now given by

$$
f\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\backslash j}, \underline{\gamma}, \underline{y}\right) \propto\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
f(\underline{y} \mid \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}) N\left(0, \underline{\Sigma}_{j}\right) & \gamma_{j}=1 \\
N\left(\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}, \underline{S}_{j}\right) & \gamma_{j}=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

This approach is ...

- Simple to apply
- Efficient when covariates are not highly correlated.
- Easy to specify pseudopriors Get $\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}$ and $\underline{S}_{j}$ : from a pilot run of the full model; see

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### 2.3 Proposal Distributions

- Proposal Distributions for Model Parameters
- Independent distributions for each term $j: N\left(\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}, \underline{S}_{j}\right)$.
- SSVS type proposal: $N\left(\mathbf{0}_{d_{j}}, \underline{\Sigma}_{j} / k_{j}^{2}\right)$.
- Maximum likelihood based: $N\left(\underline{\hat{\beta}}_{(m)}, \underline{\hat{\Sigma}}_{(m)}\right)$.
- Alternative easy-to-use choice: $N\left(\underline{\hat{\beta}}_{(m)}, \underline{\underline{\Sigma}}_{(m)} / k^{2}\right)$.
- Using conditional maximised likelihood.
- Giudici and Roberts (1998) automatic choice.
- Brooks, Giudici and Roberts (2001): Optimal Proposals
- Green and Mira (2001): Delayed rejection algorithm. Dellaportas and Forster (1999).

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- Proposal Distributions on Model Space
- Common proposal: Uniform distribution.
- 'Local' and 'Global' proposals.
$-j(m, m)=0$ better than $j(m, m)>0$ (Liu 1996a,b).
- Set $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$ using Laplace or BIC approximations.
- Use an $M C^{3}$ when size of $\mathcal{M}$ is large.

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### 2.3.1 Proposal Distributions for Model Parameters

- Independent distributions for each term $j: N\left(\underline{\bar{\mu}}_{j}, \underline{S}_{j}\right)$. Get pseudoparameters from pilot run of the full model.
- SSVS type proposal: $N\left(\mathbf{0}_{d_{j}}, \underline{\Sigma}_{j} / k_{j}^{2}\right)$, with $\underline{\Sigma}_{j}$ the prior covariance matrix.
- Maximum likelihood based: $N\left(\underline{\hat{\beta}}_{(m)}, \underline{\underline{\hat{\Sigma}}}_{(m)}\right)$; where $\underline{\hat{\beta}}_{(m)}$ and $\underline{\hat{\Sigma}}_{(m)}$ are the MLE of model $m$.
- Alternative easy-to-use choice: $N\left(\underline{\underline{\beta}}_{(m)}, \underline{\Sigma}_{(m)} / k^{2}\right)$.

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| :---: | :---: |
| - Using conditional maximised likelihood: $\begin{gathered} q\left(\underline{\beta}_{j} \mid \underline{\beta}_{\left(\gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)}, \gamma_{j}=1, \gamma_{j}=0, \underline{\gamma}_{\backslash j}\right)= \\ N\left(\left(\underline{X}_{j}^{T} \underline{\hat{H} X}_{j}\right)^{-1} \underline{X}_{j}^{T} \underline{\hat{H}} \underline{\eta}_{j}^{*},\left(\underline{X}_{j}^{T} \underline{\hat{H} X}_{j}\right)^{-1}\right), \end{gathered}$ <br> where <br> - $\underline{\hat{H}}$ is the weight matrix used in observed information matrix of $t$ e 'saturated' model and <br> - $\underline{\eta}_{j}^{*}$ is a vector with elements given by $\left\{\underline{\eta}_{j}^{*}\right\}_{i}=g\left(y_{i}\right)-\sum_{l \in \mathcal{V} \backslash\{j\}} \gamma_{l} \underline{x}_{i l} \underline{\beta}_{l} .$ <br> Alternatively, for simplicity, we may substitute the covariance matrix by $\underline{\Sigma}_{j} / k^{2}$. |  |

- Giudici and Roberts (1998) automatic choice. Scale parameter varies according to proposed values maximizing the acceptance probability when proposed parameters are zero.
- Brooks, Giudici and Roberts (2001) proposals by maximising acceptance ratio.

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### 2.3.2 Proposal Distributions on Model Space

- Common proposal: Uniform distribution.
- 'Local' and 'Global' proposals.
- Global proposals result in low acceptance rates
- Local proposals are preferred (in structured $\mathcal{M}$ ).
- Generally, RJ with local proposals perform well. May exhibit difficulties in some ill-posed problems. In such cases combination may be optimal.
- $j(m, m)=0$ is more efficient than $j(m, m)>0$ (Liu 1996a,b).
- Set $j\left(m, m^{\prime}\right)$ using Laplace or BIC approximations.
- When size of $\mathcal{M}$ is large:

Use an $M C^{3}$ based on approximations to get rough estimates of posterior weights.

Alternatively, for simplicity, we may substitute the covariance matrix by $\underline{\Sigma}_{j} / k^{2}$.

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## 3 Prior Specification

### 3.1 Jeffreys-Lindley Paradox

Consider two models $m_{0}$ and $m_{1}$;

- $d(m)$ dimension of model $m$,
- $d\left(m_{0}\right)<d\left(m_{1}\right) ;$ model $m_{0}$ is simpler.

1. If sample size $n \rightarrow \infty$ : $B_{10} \rightarrow 0$

Bayes factor supports simpler models in contradiction to significance tests (Lindley, 1957, Bk).
2. If prior variance of additional parameters $\rightarrow \infty: B_{10} \rightarrow 0$ (Bartlett, 1957, Bk).

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(1) and/or (2) are referred in literature as

We focus on Variable Selection Problems for GLM.
Let us consider a GLM with $n \times 1$ vector of linear predictors given by

$$
\underline{\eta}=\underline{X}_{(m)} \underline{\beta}_{(m)}
$$

- $\underline{X}_{(m)}=$ design matrix of model $m$
- $\underline{\beta}_{(m)}=$ vector of parameters involved in the linear predictors.


### 3.2 Prior Distributions for the parameters of the

 linear predictor$$
f\left(\underline{\beta}_{(m)} \mid m\right) \sim N\left(\underline{\mu}_{\beta_{(m)}}, \underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}\right)
$$

Low Information Prior Distributions proposed in literature:
Normal Independent priors, $\underline{V}_{(m)}=\operatorname{Diagonal}\left(v_{i}^{2}\right)$ :

- George and McCullogh (1993, JASA) in SSVS
- Geweke (1996, B.Stat.): Independent truncated normal distributions in regression.
- $\underline{\mu}_{\beta_{m}}=\mathbf{0}$ : prior centered against alternative hypothesis.
- $\underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}=c^{2} \underline{V}_{(m)}$ or $\underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}=c^{2} \underline{V}_{(m)} \sigma^{2}$ in regression.

The choice of $\underline{\underline{\Sigma}}_{(m)}$ remains difficult. Two types of prior distributions
Non-diagonal Covariance Matrix

- REGRESSION: $\underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}=c^{2} \underline{V}_{(m)} \sigma^{2}$
* $\quad \underline{V}_{(m)}^{-1}=\underline{X}_{(m)}^{T} \underline{X}_{(m)} \rightarrow$ Zellner's g-priors (Zellner, 1980).
* $\quad c^{2} \in[10,100]$ proposed by Smith and Kohn (1996, J.Econ.).
* $\quad c^{2}=n \rightarrow$ Unit Information priors (Kass and Wasserman,

1995, JASA).

* Fernandez et al. (2001, J.Econ.) used various values for $c^{2}$; proposed $c^{2}=\max \left\{d(m)^{2}, n\right\}$.
proposed $c^{2}=\max \left\{d(m)^{2}, n\right\}$.

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- Contingency tables: $\underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}=c^{2} \underline{V}_{(m)}$
* Albert (1996, Can.J.St.): based on prior beliefs on odds ratios.
* Dellaportas and Forster (1999,Bk) based on Knuinman and Speed $(1988, B c) ; \underline{V}_{(m)}^{-1}=\underline{X}_{(m)}^{T} \underline{X}_{(m)}, c^{2}=2 \times \#$ cells.
* Ntzoufras et al. (2000, JSCS): combination of the above for SSVS.
- GLM $\rightarrow$ Raftery (1996, Bk):
* diagonal covariance matrix and mean zero for covariates based on sample variances.
* Nonzero mean and correlation of intercept with the rest of parameters.
* $c^{2}=2.85^{2}$ based on mathematical arguments.
- Ntzoufras et al. (2001): Constructed 'equivalent' priors across GLM with different link function based on Taylor expansion.

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- Unit Information Prior $\underline{\Sigma}_{(m)}=n\left(-\underline{H}_{(m)}\right)^{-1}$ (Kass and Wasserman, 1995, JASA); $\underline{H}_{(m)}$ is the Hessian matrix.
- Kuo and Mallick (1998, Sankya): Define prior only on full model.
- Using Imaginary data to construct an informative prior: Chen et al. (1999, JRSSB).
- George and Foster (2000, Bk): Empirical Bayes Approach.
- Expected Posterior Prior Distributions (Perez and Berger, 2000)

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### 3.3 Prior Distributions on Model Space

- Usual naive prior: Uniform prior on model space $\mathcal{M}$ $p(m)=1 /|\mathcal{M}|$. Informative in terms of dimension (Chipman et al., 2000, Tec.Rep.).
- Alternative: Use prior on dimension (Chipman et al. , 2000, Tec.Rep.).
- Use Beta prior on common inclusion probability (George and McCullogh, 1997, St.Sin., Kohn et al., 2001 St.Comp.).
- Elicit imaginary data: Chen et al. (1999, JRSSB)
- Use Empirical Bayes Approach (George and Foster, 2000, Bk)
- Prior distribution based on Dilution of models (George, 1999, B.Stat).

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### 3.4 What Prior in BUGS

- Standardize variables or use STZ constraints
- Use unit information priors (may incorporate data)
- Empirical approach: Estimate posterior variance and set prior variance $=c^{2} \times$ posterior variance.
For $c^{2}=1$ (approx) posterior Bayes factor.
For $c^{2}=n$ (approx) unit information prior (BIC)
- Use $\underline{\Sigma}_{m}=\left(\underline{X}_{m}^{T} \underline{X}_{m}\right)^{-2} \sigma^{2}$ for Normal models
- For logistic regression models and/or poisson log-linear models may use priors of Dellaportas et al. $(2000,2002)$.
- Generally use a range of prior distribution base inference.


### 4.1 Carlin and Chib Method Using BUGS

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- BUGS Examples vol.2, page 47, example 13: Pines dataset.
- Data originally used by Williams (1959, Regression Analysis) and Using Bugs re-analyzed by Carlin and Chib (1995, JRSS,B).
- 42 speciments of radiata pine.
$-y_{i}$ : maximum comprehensive strength.
$-x_{i}$ : density.
$-z_{i}$ : density adjusted for resin content.

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- Two competing models:
- Model 1: $y_{i} \sim \operatorname{Normal}\left(\alpha+\beta x_{i}, \tau_{1}\right)$
- Model 2: $y_{i} \sim \operatorname{Normal}\left(\gamma+\delta z_{i}, \tau_{2}\right)$
- Data originally used by Williams (1959, Regression Analysis) and re-analyzed by Carlin and Chib (1995, JRSS,B).
- 42 speciments of radiata pine.
$-y_{i}$ : maximum comprehensive strength.
$-x_{i}$ : density.
$-z_{i}$ : density adjusted for resin content.
Alternative we could have written $\mu_{i}=I(m=1)\left(\alpha+\beta x_{i}\right)+[1-I(m=1)]\left(\gamma+\delta z_{i}\right)$

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|  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
|  | Model 1 | Model 2 |
| Model Structure | $Y_{i} \sim N\left(0, \tau_{1}\right)$ | $Y_{i} \sim N\left(0, \tau_{2}\right)$ |
| Prior | $\mu_{i}=\alpha+\beta x_{i}$ | $\mu_{i}=\gamma+\delta z_{i}$ |
| Pseudoprior | $f\left(\alpha, \beta, \tau_{1} \mid m=1\right)$ | $f\left(\gamma, \delta, \tau_{2} \mid m=2\right)$ |

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## Procedure:

$-f(\alpha \mid m)=N\left(\mu_{\alpha}[m], \tau_{\alpha}[m]\right)$
$-f(\beta \mid m)=N\left(\mu_{\beta}[m], \tau_{\beta}[m]\right)$
$-f\left(\tau_{1} \mid m\right)=\Gamma(r 1[m], l 1[m])$

- for $m=1$ : Prior
- for $m=2$ : Pseudo-Prior
- MODEL 2

1. Pilot Run 1: Run MCMC for Model 1
2. Estimate parameters of Model 1
3. Pilot Run 2: Run MCMC for Model 2
4. Estimate parameters of Model 2
5. Run CC algorithm with pseudoparameters specified by 2 and 4
$-f(\gamma \mid m)=N\left(\mu_{\gamma}[m], \tau_{\gamma}[m]\right)$
$-f(\delta \mid m)=N\left(\mu_{\delta}[m], \tau_{\delta}[m]\right)$
Comment 1: The Effect of Lindley's Paradox is not direct since the two models have the same dimension.
$-f\left(\tau_{2} \mid m\right)=\Gamma(r 2[m], l 2[m])$
Comment 2: We may change prior model probabilities to achieve

- for $m=2$ : Prior mobility across models and estimate posterior or Bayes factors more accurately.




### 4.2 Bayesian Variable Selection in BUGS

### 4.2.1 Illustrative Example: $2 \times 2 \times 2$ Contingency Table

- Data taken from Healy (1988).
- 3-way table
- Factor $\mathrm{A}=$ condition of the patient (more or less severe),
- Factor $\mathrm{B}=$ if the patient was accepting antitoxin medication
- Factor C (response) $=$ whether the patient survived or not.
- Use a Logistic Regression Model

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- RESPONSE: Factor C (response) $=$ Survival
- EXPLANATORY TERMS:
- Factor A =Condition
- Factor B =Antitoxin
- Interaction $\mathrm{AB}=$ Condition*Antitoxin
- MODELS
- MODEL 1: $\mathrm{AB}=\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}+\mathrm{AB}$
- MODEL 2: $\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}=\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}$
- MODEL 3: A = A
- MODEL 4: $\mathrm{B}=\mathrm{B}$
- MODEL 5: null= constant

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| Condition (A) | Antitoxin (B) | Survival(C) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | No | Yes |
| More Severe | Yes | 15 | 6 |
|  | No | 22 | 4 |
| Less Severe | Yes | 5 | 15 |
|  | No | 7 | 5 |

Table 3: Example Dataset

Tampe Dast

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## PRIOR DISTRIBUTIONS

- prior variance $=4 \times 2$
- prior probability of each model $1 / 5$ :
$-\gamma_{A B} \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}(1 / 5)$
$-\gamma_{i} \mid \gamma_{A B} \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}(\pi)$, with $\pi=0.5\left(1-\gamma_{A B}\right)+\gamma_{A B}$ for $i \in\{A, B\}$.

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BUGS CODE FOR SSVS
The Model
for (i in 1:N) \{
$r$ [i] ~dbin(p[i],n[i]);
$\operatorname{logit}(\mathrm{p}[\mathrm{i}])<-\mathrm{b}[1]+\mathrm{x}[, 2] * \mathrm{~b}[2]+\mathrm{x}[, 3] * \mathrm{~b}[3]+\mathrm{x}[, 4] * \mathrm{~b}[4]$; \}
The Prior on Model Parameters
for (i in $2: N$ ) \{
c[i]<-1000.0
tau[i]<-pow(c[i] , $2-2 * g[i]) / 8$; bpriorm[i]<-0.0;
b[i]~dnorm(bpriorm[i], tau[i]); b[i]~dnorm(bpriorm[i],tau[i]);
\}

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The Prior on constant Model Parameters (we may use "non-informative") ```tau[1]<-0.1; bpriorm[1]<-0.0; b[1] ~dnorm(bpriorm[1],tau[1]);``` <br> The Model Prior (common for all approaches) ```g[4] ~ dbern(0.2); include<-(1-g[4])*0.5+g[4]*1.0 g[2] ~ dbern(include); g[3] ~ dbern(include); g[1] ~dbern(1.0);``` |  | BUGS CODE FOR KM <br> The Model ```for (i in 1:N) { r[i] ~dbin(p[i],n[i]); logit(p[i])<-b[1] + x[,2]* g[2]* b[2] + x[,3]* g[3]* b[3] + x[,4]* g[4]* b[4]; }``` <br> The Prior on Model Parameters ```for (i in 2:N) { tau[i]<-1/8; bpriorm[i]<-0.0; b[i]~dnorm(bpriorm[i],tau[i]); }``` |  |
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| BUGS CODE FOR GVS <br> The Model ```for (i in 1:N) { r[i]~dbin(p[i],n[i]); logit(p[i])<-b[1] + x[,2]* g[2]* b[2] + x[,3]* g[3]* b[3] + x[,4]* g[4]* b[4]; }``` <br> The Prior on Model Parameters ```for (i in 2:N) { # tau[i]<-pow(100,1-g[i])/8; # bpriorm[i]<-0.0; tau[i]<-g[i]/8+(1-g[i])/(se[i]*se[i]); bpriorm[i]<-mean[i]*(1-g[i]); b[i]~dnorm(bpriorm[i],tau[i]); }``` |  | In model specification we may use ```for (i in 1:N) {for (j in 1:N) { z[i,j]<-x[i,j]*b[j]*g[j] }} for (i in 1:N) { r[i]~ dbin(p[i],n[i]); logit(p[i])<-sum(z[i,]); }``` |  |
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| ESTIMATING POSTERIOR PROBABILITIES IN BUGS <br> \# defining model code <br> \# 0 for constant, 1 for [A], 2 for [B], 3 for [A] [B], <br> \# 6 for [AB] <br> \# <br> $\mathrm{mdl}<-\mathrm{g}[2]+2 * \mathrm{~g}[3]+3 * \mathrm{~g}[4]$; <br> pmdl[1]<-equals(mdl,0) <br> pmdl[2]<-equals(mdl,1) <br> pmdl[3]<-equals(mdl,2) <br> pmdl[4]<-equals(mdl,3) <br> pmdl[5]<-equals(mdl,6) |  | burn-in period: 10,000 iterations. <br> SSVS -> 500,000 iterations <br> Kuo and Mallick's method ->500,000 iterations GVS -> and 100,000 iterations |  |



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### 5.4 Goodness of Fit

BUGS CODE: P-value for Skewness
for (i in $1: N$ ) \{
Y.rep[i]<-dnorm(mu[i],tau);
m3[i]<-power(sresid[i],3);
m3.rep[i]<-power( (Y.rep[i]-mu[i])*sqrt(tau),3); \}
skew.obs<-sum (m3[])/N ;
skew.rep<-sum(m3.rep[])/N
p.skew<-step(skew.rep-skew.obs);

BUGS CODE: P-value for Kurtosis
for (i in $1: N$ ) \{
Y.rep[i]<-dnorm(mu[i],tau);
m4[i]<-power(sresid[i],4);
m4.rep[i]<-power( (Y.rep[i]-mu[i])*sqrt(tau),4); \}
kur.obs<-sum (m4[])/N ;
ku.rep<-sum (m4.rep[])/N ;
p.kur<-step(kur.rep-kur.obs);

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| RESULTS (1000 burnin, 10000 iterations) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Original With Outlier |  |  |  |  |
| deviance | 12.92 | 25.34 |  |  |
| p.skew | 0.498 | 0.43 |  |  |
| p.kur | 0.733 | 0.70 |  |  |
|  | 1/mean(p.in[i]) |  |  |  |
| p.inv [1] | 5.32 | 25.83 | 0.188 | 0.039 |
| p.inv [2] | 6.82 | 136.20 | 0.147 | 0.007 |
| p.inv [3] | 2.85 | 10.35 | 0.351 | 0.097 |
| p.inv [4] | 6.89 | 11.85 | 0.145 | 0.084 |
| p.inv [5] | 5.12 | 14.44 | 0.195 | 0.069 |
| NCV |  |  | 8.20 | 15.69 |
|  |  | min(p.smaller, 1-p.smaller) |  |  |
| p.smaller [1] | 0.356 | 0.300 | 0.356 | 0.300 |
| p.smaller [2] | 0.799 | 0.853 | 0.201 | 0.147 |
| p.smaller [3] | 0.502 | 0.400 | 0.488 | 0.400 |
| p.smaller [4] | 0.202 | 0.352 | 0.202 | 0.352 |
| p.smaller [5] | 0.659 | 0.552 | 0.341 | 0.448 |

