#### Interim Design Analysis Using Bayes Factor Forecasts



Angelika M. Stefan, Quentin F. Gronau, & E.-J. Wagenmakers

#### Overview

- Arguments pro Bayes
- Stubborn and wrong: when Bayes fails
- When frequentists are stubborn and wrong
- Bayes factors
- Interim design analyses

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- Quantifies evidence (data-driven change in reasonable belief)
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- Conditions on the observed data



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- Differentiates evidence for absence from absence of evidence
- Allows probability statements for parameters and hypotheses
- Directly addresses the questions of interest



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- Suppose a reasonable Bayesian re-analysis <u>undercuts</u> the frequentist conclusions.
- Should the regulatory body be aware? Should they care? Should they prevent this possibility from arising?

## Type B Error

- Arises when a reasonable Bayesian analysis yields a conclusion that conflicts with the frequentist analysis.
- Currently, this error is entirely ignored.

## Type B Error

- Controlling Type I error rate is commendable, but not at the expense of:
  - -Quantifying the evidence
  - -Assessing the probability that you are correct *for the case at hand*.

## Type F Error

 We may also introduce the "Type F" Error: executing a frequentist analysis to answer questions that are fundamentally Bayesian. However, I don't want to be too provocative.

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## Being Stubborn and Wrong

In a nutshell, a Bayesian will perform poorly if he/she is both misguided (with prior mean far from the true value of the parameter) and stubborn (placing a good deal of weight near the prior mean).

Samaniego, 2013



Definition of a Bayesian (Adjusted from Senn, 2007)

"One who, strongly expecting a horse and clearly viewing a donkey, confidently asserts having seen a mule."













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CEO / Founder. Guides the development of JASP. SE'Vin

Alexander Ly CTO. Responsible for guiding JASP's scientific and technological strategy and developer of some Bayesian tests.

Responsible for the core development of JASP.

Software Developer, Responsible for the core development of JASP. 20



Software Developer. Responsible

for the implementation of UI elements. Implemented the

Summary Stats module.



Analyst Responsible for the t-

tests and the binomial test. Implemented the figures for the

Bayesian analyses.

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Jan G. Voelkel vare Developer. Responsible for improving the R analyses. multinomial analysis, the video tutorials, and the JASP workshop.





Analyst. Responsible for the

frequentist and Bayesian reliability

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organization team.

Alexander Etz

The voice of many JASP video tutorials and other videos on our Youtube channel.

≅⊡'in

Joris Mulder

Contributing to the Informative

Hypotheses module.

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Analyst. Responsible for Bayesian

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of the workshop organization

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Erik-Jan van Kesteren

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Contributing to the Informative

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Analyst. Responsible for developing and maintaining the help functionality and the JASP documentation ≊⊠°in



Analyst, Responsible for factor

analysis and the SEM module.

-

Herbert Holitink Contributing to the Informative

Hypotheses module.

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Manager: Responsible for

marketing strategy, website, blog, and the YouTube channel. Sin

Analyst. Responsible for the

Bayesian linear models (e.g.,

ANOVA and regression).

-









Raoul Grasman Software developer. Responsible for adding plots, functions, and UI tributar. Responsible for elements, and interfacing R and improving code and developing new modules. Zin



Author and maintainer of the BayesFactor package. -



Koen Derks Contributing to the Machine Learning module, and the Bayesian Informative Hypothesis Testing module.

are developer. Rasponsible for the core development of JASP. SC'

Contributing to the blog, YouTube channel and manual of JASR ⊠in





#### Tenth Annual JASP Workshop Theory and Practice of Bayesian Hypothesis Testing



June ?? & ??, 2024 University of Amsterdam
## Twelfth Annual JAGS Workshop Bayesian Modeling for Cognitive Science



## June ??-??, 2024 University of Amsterdam



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# Frequentist Planning

- Assume a single population effect size δ under the alternative hypothesis H1;
- Determine the sample size that gives a reasonable chance of correctly rejecting H0.



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- Assume a single population effect size δ under the alternative hypothesis H1;
- Determine the sample size that gives a reasonable chance of correctly rejecting H0.
- But how should  $\delta$  be chosen?



## The Smallest Effect Size of Interest?

#### • Whose interest?



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- Whose interest?
- What if we want to establish a theoretical causal connection, so any δ > 0 suffices?
  [Higg's boson, ESP]



The Smallest Effect Size of Interest?

- Whose interest?
- What if we want to establish a theoretical causal connection, so any δ > 0 suffices?
  [Higg's boson, ESP]
- Does method X affect the biological mechanism at all? [Does whiskey cure snake bite? If so we could enhance the dose for a better effect]



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# Take Home Message, I

- When planning a study, even frequentists must confront the issue of what effect sizes are *plausible*.
- The frequentist selects one value of δ for planning, and decides on a sample size.



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- When planning a study, even frequentists must confront the issue of what effect sizes are *plausible*.
- The frequentist selects one value of δ for planning, and decides on a sample size.
- But what if this value proves to be completely wrong?



# Take Home Message, II

- The frequentist now finds themselves in Senn's donkey scenario, but without the ability to learn *at all*.
- The single value of δ cannot be updated inbetween; the experiment cannot be redesigned on the fly.
- There is no recovery from this, except to start all over. The frequentist is simply screwed.

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# Bayes Factors: Data-Driven Change in Beliefs

 $p(\mathcal{H}_1 \mid \text{data})$  $p(\mathcal{H}_0 \mid \text{data})$ Posterior beliefs about hypotheses





# Testicular volume is inversely correlated with nurturing-related brain activity in human fathers

Jennifer S. Mascaro<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Patrick D. Hackett<sup>a</sup>, and James K. Rilling<sup>a,b,c,d,1</sup>

15746–15751 | PNAS | September 24, 2013 | vol. 110 | no. 39

#### Results

**Reproductive Biology and Parenting Behavior.** Although testes volume was not related to body mass, there was a significant linear correlation between testes volume and height [r(53) = 0.27, P < 0.05]. Therefore, residual testes volume, controlling for height, was used in subsequent analyses. Residual testes volume was negatively related to paternal caregiving [r(52) = -0.29, P < 0.05]



#### Discussion

Collectively, these data provide the most direct support to date that the biology of human males reflects a trade-off between mating and parenting effort. <u>Fathers' testicular volume and</u> testosterone levels were inversely related to parental investment











Conclusion for PNAS Study: A Type B Error

 The strength of evidence provided by the Bayes factor is weak-to-modest, and conflicts with the frequentist all-or-none decision to "reject the null hypothesis". Bayes Factor Design Analysis: Planning for Compelling Evidence

- We may design a study such that the probability of obtaining compelling evidence is relatively high.
  - -Fix *n*, assess distribution on BFs
  - -Fix BF, assess distribution on n





n = 20,  $\delta = 0.5$ 







BRIEF REPORT

# **Bayes factor design analysis: Planning for compelling evidence**

Felix D. Schönbrodt<sup>1</sup> · Eric-Jan Wagenmakers<sup>2</sup>

Behavior Research Methods (2019) 51:1042–1058 https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-018-01189-8

#### A tutorial on Bayes Factor Design Analysis using an informed prior

Angelika M. Stefan<sup>1</sup> · Quentin F. Gronau<sup>1</sup> · Felix D. Schönbrodt<sup>2</sup> · Eric-Jan Wagenmakers<sup>1</sup>

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Key Insight: BFDA May Be Executed on the Fly

- As the data accumulate, we learn about the values of  $\delta$  that are plausible.
- At any time we may conduct a new BFDA to quantify our updated expectations regarding evidence and sample size.



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Angelika M. Stefan<sup>*a,b*</sup>, Quentin F. Gronau<sup>*c*</sup>, Eric-Jan Wagenmakers<sup>*a*</sup>






# **Reasons for Stopping**

- Compelling evidence either way
- Resources depleted
- Futility





## Conclusions I

- Bayesian inference is theoretically attractive, but also affords great *practical* advantages.
- I believe it is counterproductive for regulators to ignore Bayesian analyses. You may ask "what about Type I error control?", but instead ask "what about the evidence?"

## **Conclusions II**

- Key questions:
  - -"in light of the data, what is the probability that the treatment is effective?"
  - -"how much do the data enhance the credibility of H1 versus H0?"
- These fundamental questions can only be answered by a Bayesian analysis.

#### Conclusions III

- Another key question is "in light of the data, should we allow this drug on the market ?"
- This is *also* fundamentally a Bayesian question! Rational decision making requires that we bring together prior knowledge, data, and *utilities*.

### Conclusions IV

- Instead of focusing on Type I errors, regulators ought to start worrying about:
  - *Type B errors*, where a reasonable Bayesian analysis contradicts the frequentist analysis;
  - -*Type F errors*, where frequentist analyses are misused to answer Bayesian questions.



# Thanks for your Attention!