ON THE EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN BAYESIAN AND FREQUENTIST NONPARAMETRIC HYPOTHESIS TESTING

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ON THE EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN BAYESIAN AND FREQUENTIST
NONPARAMETRIC HYPOTHESIS TESTING

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Abstract

Testing of hypotheses about the population parameter is one of the most fundamental tasks in the empirical sciences and is often conducted by using parametric tests (e.g., the $t$-test and $F$-test), in which they assume that the samples are from populations that are normally distributed. When the normality assumption is violated, nonparametric tests are employed as alternatives for making statistical inference. In recent years, the Bayesian versions of parametric tests have been well studied in the literature, whereas in contrast, the Bayesian versions of nonparametric tests are quite scant (for exception, [17]) in the literature, mainly due to the lack of sampling distribution of data.

It is well known that like the frequentist counterparts, the Bayesian tests perform well in practical applications, whereas unlike the frequentist ones, they are generally fail to control the Type I error and can even result in different decisions from them. To avoid these issues, we integrate the ideas of [17] and [2] and develop Bayes factor tests for comparing the difference between the means among several populations, which can not only control the Type I error, but also allow researchers to make the identical decisions between frequentists and Bayesians on the basis of the observed data. In addition, they depend on the data only through nonparametric statistics and can thus be easily computed, so long as one has conducted the nonparametric tests. More importantly, they can quantify evidence from empirical data favoring the null hypothesis, and this property is not shared by the frequentist counterparts, which lack the ability to quantify evidence favoring the null hypothesis in the case of failing to reject the null hypothesis.
Chapter 1

Introduction

Testing of hypotheses about a population parameter is one of the most fundamental tasks in virtually most areas of scientific study, as it helps researchers answer practical questions: Did the gasoline price increase by an average of only $0.10 per gallon last year? Is there a difference in median yields per acre between two fertilizers A and B of growing corn? Do the different types of diets appear to affect the amount of iron present in the livers of white rates after feeding them one of the diets for a certain period of time. There are always two hypotheses involved for these problems at hand: one is the alternative hypothesis \((H_1)\), which represents the statement that researchers would like to support, the other is the null hypothesis \((H_0)\), which is an initial statement that researchers may specify according to their prior knowledge. For instance, the hypotheses correspond to oil price example are: \(H_0\): the oil price has not increased by $0.10 per gallon and \(H_1\): the oil price was increased by $0.10 per gallon.
The problem of hypothesis testing is usually covered in most elementary statistics courses, and in particular, we were taught how to implement parametric tests in making statistical inference, such as the \( t \)-test and the analysis of variance (ANOVA) for comparing group means. A parametric test often requires certain assumptions of the parameters of the population distribution. For instance, the \( t \)-test assumes the samples to be drawn from normal populations, even though this assumption is seldom met in practical applications, especially when the data exhibit heavy-tailed behavior. When the normality assumption is violated and/or outliers are present, the power of parametric tests can drop considerably, and thus nonparametric tests, free of the distribution assumption of the data, are good alternative to parametric ones. For instance, the Wilcoxon signed rank test is generally more powerful than the \( t \)-test for comparing the difference between two population means for paired data, when the data are asymmetric while heavy-tailed. More details about the implementation of nonparametric statistics can be found in [1].

No matter whether we adopt the parametric or nonparametric testing procedures, the common decision rule of these tests for rejecting or failing to reject \( H_0 \) is based on the \( p \)-value from a certain test statistic: we reject \( H_0 \) if the \( p \)-value < \( \alpha \), say \( \alpha = 5\% \), a specified significance level. The advantage of this decision rule is its ability to control the Type I error rate, whereas its drawback is that it provides little information about the truth of \( H_0 \) if it is not rejected. In addition, the \( p \)-value approach has a tendency to overstate the evidence against \( H_0 \), leading to instances where it has been banned by [15]. This motivates researchers to consider Bayesian hypothesis testing as an alternative to the \( p \)-value test, given that Bayesian procedures to model testing can quantify evidence in favor of both hypotheses.
Bayesian testing procedures are often conducted by comparing the posterior probability of each hypothesis. In this report, let \( p(Y \mid \theta_j) \) and \( \pi_j(\theta_j) \) be the likelihood function of \( Y \) and the prior for \( \theta_j \) under \( H_j \) and let \( \pi_j \) be the prior probability for \( H_j \) satisfying \( \pi_0 + \pi_1 = 1 \) for \( j = 1, 2 \). In the absence of prior knowledge, the equal prior probabilities can be assigned for both hypotheses (i.e., \( \pi_0 = \pi_1 = 1/2 \)), the so-called assumption of equipoise in this report. By using Bayes theorem, the posterior probability of \( H_j \) is given by

\[
P(H_j \mid Y) = \frac{\pi_j m_j(Y)}{\pi_0 m_0(Y) + \pi_1 m_1(Y)},
\]

where \( m_j(Y) \) represents the marginal likelihood of \( Y \) given \( H_j \), i.e.,

\[
m_j(Y) = \int p(Y \mid \theta_j)\pi_j(\theta_j)\,d\theta_j.
\]

Note that the posterior probability of \( H_1 \) can be rewritten in the form

\[
P(H_1 \mid Y) = \frac{\pi_1 BF_{10}}{\pi_0 + \pi_1 BF_{10}} = \left[ 1 + \frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1 BF_{10}} \right]^{-1},
\]

where \( BF_{10} \) is the Bayes factor (BF) between hypotheses \( H_1 \) to \( H_0 \) given by

\[
BF_{10} = \frac{m_1(Y)}{m_0(Y)}.
\]

One appearing property of the BF is that it represents the relative plausibility of the observed data under two considered hypotheses. For example, \( BF_{10} = 10 \) means that the data are 10 times as more likely to be generated under \( H_1 \) than under \( H_0 \).

We here refer the interested readers to [5] and [7] for a detailed interpretation of
the BF. As a Bayes test of decision making, the null hypothesis is rejected if the
BF (equivalently, the posterior probability of $H_1$) exceeds a certain threshold, and
in general, we are more likely to choose $H_1$ ($H_0$) if BF$^{10} > 1$ ($< 1$). The value of
1 results in an optimal action to reject $H_0$ under the zero-one loss function; see [9].
Here, the optimal decision means that the expected posterior loss of failing to reject
$H_0$ exceeds the expected posterior loss of rejecting $H_0$.

Unlike the $p$-value approach, the BF may fail to control the Type I error and result
in different decisions from the parametric and nonparametric tests. To remedy these
limitations, [6] followed the idea of a uniformly most powerful test of statistical hy-
potheses and proposed a uniformly most powerful Bayes test (for short, UMPBT),
which was obtained by maximizing the probability that the BF favoring $H_1$ exceeds a
specified threshold. The UMPBT can lead to an identical decision with the frequen-
tist counterpart, whereas it only exists in a few testing scenarios. This motivates [2]
to consider a natural extension of the UMPBT, the so-called restricted most pow-
erful Bayes test (RMPBT), which is obtained by restricting the class of priors for
the unknown parameters under the alternative hypothesis to a certain parametric
class. They have shown that the RMPBT performs well for testing the regression
coefficients in linear models. More recently, [16] developed the Bayes $t$-tests based on
the RMPBT for testing the presence of correlations between two continuous random
variables. The developed Bayes $t$-tests depend simply on the $t$-statistics and can also
result in an identical decision with the $t$-tests on the basis of the observed data.

It is of particular note that the current literature mainly focuses on the implemen-
tation of the UMPBT for hypothesis testing in a parametric setting. To the best
of our knowledge, it is unclear whether the RMPBT can be generalized to develop
efficient Bayesian testing approaches in a nonparametric setting. In this report, we follow the seminal work of [17] and develop the BFs to model testing based on a combined use of nonparametric statistics and the UMPBT. The developed Bayesian tests enjoy various appealing properties: (i) they depend simply on the commonly used nonparametric statistics and their associated quantiles of the nonparametric statistics, (ii) they can be easily computed, so long as researchers are familiar with the nonparametric paradigm, and more importantly, (iii) they can result in an identical conclusion with the associated nonparametric tests, which allows researchers to interpret the results from both Bayesian and frequentist points of view.

This report is organized as follows. In Chapter 2, we briefly overview several commonly used nonparametric test statistics covered in most statistics courses. We derive Bayesian nonparametric tests based on a combined use of nonparametric statistics and the RMPBT, and we then discuss their corresponding properties in Chapter 3. We evaluate the performance of the developed Bayesian tests through using simulations and three real-data examples in Chapter 4. Concluding remarks are provided in Chapter 5 with computer codes written in R [12] and mathematical derivations given in the Appendix.
Chapter 2

Frequentist nonparametric test statistics

In this chapter, we overview several commonly used nonparametric tests, which are treated as alternatives to their parametric analogs when the normality assumption of the data appears to be violated. In Section 2.1 we discuss the Wilcoxon signed rank test for one-sample and/or paired-sample problem. In Section 2.2 we provide the Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test for two independent sample problem, and in Section 2.3 we consider the Kruskal-Wallis test for locations in several independent samples.
2.1 The Wilcoxon signed rank test

Let $(X_i, Y_i)$ be a paired observation and $D_i = X_i - Y_i$ for $i = 1, \cdots, n$. In the one-sample problem, $D_i$'s can be viewed as observations in the sample. Suppose that all $D_i$'s are independent and identically distributed with a distribution function $F(D \mid \theta)$, which is assumed to be symmetric with the unknown parameter $\theta$. We wish to test the hypothesis if the unknown parameter is $\theta_0 = 0$, that is,

$$H_0 : \theta = 0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta \neq 0. \quad (2.1)$$

Note that in case of $\theta_0 \neq 0$, we reparameterize each observation by using $\tilde{D}_i = D_i - \theta_0$.

To obtain the Wilcoxon signed rank test, we calculate the absolute values of the differences, denoted by $|D_1|, \cdots, |D_n|$, and sort them in an ascending order. Let $R_i$ be the rank of $|D_i|$ for $i = 1, \cdots, n$. The test statistic $T$ is defined as the sum of the positive signed ranks given by

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (R_i \text{ where } D_i \text{ is positive}). \quad (2.2)$$

We reject $H_0$ at the level of $\alpha$ if $T$ is less than its $\alpha/2$ quantile ($\tau_{\alpha/2}$) or greater than its $1-\alpha/2$ quantile $(n(n+1)/2 - \tau_{\alpha/2})$ for the distribution of $T$ under $H_0$. The value of $\tau_{\alpha/2}$ can be found in Table A12 of [1] or Table A.4 of [3]. It deserves mentioning that $T$ and $\tau_{\alpha/2}$ can also be easily calculated in R by using `wilcox.test()` and `qsignrank()` functions, respectively; see [12].

When the sample size is large ($n \geq 20$), $T$ can be approximately normally distributed
with mean \( \mathbb{E}[T] = n(n + 1)/4 \) and variance \( \text{var}(T) = n(n + 1)(2n + 1)/24 \); see [3]. The standardized version of \( T \), denoted by \( T^* \), is defined as

\[
T^* = \frac{T - n(n + 1)/4}{\sqrt{n(n + 1)(2n + 1)/24}},
\]

(2.3)

which has limiting normal distributions under both null and alternative hypotheses. This limiting property plays a key role in deriving the BF for testing the hypotheses in (2.1) using nonparametric statistics studied by [17].

2.2 The Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test

Let \( X = (x_1, \cdots, x_{n_1})' \) and \( Y = (y_1, \cdots, y_{n_2})' \) be two data vectors from two populations: the first sample comes from a control group having a distribution function \( F \), and the second from a treatment group with a distribution function \( G \). Without loss of generality, we assume \( n_1 \leq n_2 \). Suppose also that a location-shift model for \( G \), such that \( G(t) = F(t - \theta) \) for some \( \theta \in R \). After an appropriate reparametrization mentioned above, we are interested in testing

\[
H_0 : \theta = 0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta \neq 0.
\]

(2.4)

For the calculation of the Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test, we combine samples of \( X \) and \( Y \) and calculate the rank of \( X_j \) in the combined sample, denoted by \( S_j \) for
\( j = 1, \cdots, n_1 \). The test statistic \( W \) is given by

\[
W = \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} S_j. \tag{2.5}
\]

We reject \( H_0 \) at the level of \( \alpha \) if \( W \) is less than its \( \alpha/2 \) quantile \((\omega_{\alpha/2})\) or greater than its \( 1 - \alpha/2 \) quantile \((n_1(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/2 - \omega_{\alpha/2})\) of \( W \) under \( H_0 \). The value of \( \omega_{\alpha/2} \) can be found from Table A7 of [1] when \( n_1 \leq 20 \) and \( n_2 \leq 20 \) or can be approximated by a standard normal quantile given in Table A1 of [1] for larger sample sizes. Similar to the Wilcoxon signed rank test, \( W \) and \( \omega_{\alpha/2} \) can be easily calculated in R by using \textit{wilcox.test()} and \textit{qsignrank()} functions, respectively.

When the sample sizes are large, \( T \) can be approximately normally distributed with mean \( \mathbb{E}[W] = n_1(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/2 \) and variance \( \text{var}(W) = n_1n_2(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/12 \). The standardized version of \( W \), denoted by \( W^* \) is defined as

\[
W^* = \frac{T - n_1(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/2}{\sqrt{n_1n_2(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/12}}, \tag{2.6}
\]

which has limiting normal distributions under both null and alternative hypotheses; see [3].

### 2.3 The Kruskal-Wallis test

The Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test is often employed to test difference of two independent samples, and later on, [8] extended this test for analyzing \( k (\geq 3) \) independent
samples. Suppose that the data consist of \( k \) independent random samples of different sample sizes. Let \( X_i = (X_{i1}, \ldots, X_{in_i}) \) be the \( i \)th sample of size \( n_i \) drawn from a distribution function \( F(x - \theta_i) \), where \( \theta_i \) represents the median of the \( i \)th population for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \). We are interested in testing

\[
H_0 : \theta_1 = \cdots = \theta_k \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta_i \neq \theta_j, \quad \text{for some} \ 1 \leq i, j \leq k. \quad (2.7)
\]

Let \( R(X_{ij}) \) be the rank of \( X_{ij} \) and \( R_i \) be the sum of the ranks assigned to the \( i \)th sample for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \). The Kruskal-Wallis test statistic \( U \) is defined as

\[
U = \frac{12}{n(n+1)} \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i \left( \frac{R_i}{n_i} - \frac{n+1}{2} \right)^2, \quad (2.8)
\]

where \( n = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i \) is the total sample size. We reject \( H_0 \) at the level of \( \alpha \) if \( U \) is greater than its \( 1 - \alpha \) quantile (\( \nu_\alpha \)) from the null distribution of \( U \). The value of \( \nu_\alpha \) can be found in \([4]\) and \([11]\). In the large sample approximation, the approximate quantile can be obtained by the quantile of the central chi-square distribution with \( k - 1 \) degrees of freedom. This is because when \( H_0 \) is true, the test statistic \( U \) follows an asymptotic chi-square distribution with \( k - 1 \) degrees of freedom, denoted by \( \chi^2_{k-1} \), as \( n_i \to \infty \) simultaneously for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \). Under \( H_1 \), the limiting distribution of \( U \) has a non-central \( \chi^2 \) distribution with \( k - 1 \) degrees of freedom, denoted by \( \chi^2_{k-1}(\rho) \), where

\[
\rho = 12 \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f^2(x) \, dx \right)^2 \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i (\Delta_i - \overline{\Delta}),
\]

\( 11 \)
where \( f(\cdot) \) is the probability density function of \( F \), \( a_i = n_i / n \), and \( \Delta = \sum_{k=1}^{k} a_i \Delta_i \).

The limiting distributions of \( U \) under both hypotheses play an important role in developing the Bayes factor test to model hypotheses in (2.7) based on the Kruskal-Wallis test.
Chapter 3

Bayesian hypothesis testing

In this chapter, we overview the Bayes factors using nonparametric statistics of [17] (Section 3.1) and restricted most powerful Bayes test of [2] (Section 3.2). In Section 3.3 we combine ideas of these two procedures and develop alternative Bayesian testing procedures using nonparametric statistics in Chapter 2.

3.1 Bayesian modeling test statistics

Yuan and Johnson [17] developed Bayesian hypothesis tests using nonparametric statistics. In particular, they obtained the BFs based on the sampling distributions of nonparametric statistics, which can be grouped into normal and chi-square distributions, respectively.
For the one- and two-sample testing problems given by (2.1) and (2.4), respectively, [17] adopted the Pitman translation alternative [13] to the alternative hypothesis $H_1$, leading to the following hypotheses of form

$$H_0 : \theta = \theta_0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta = \theta_0 + \frac{\Delta}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad (3.1)$$

where $\theta_0 = 0$ and $\Delta$ is the non-centrality parameter distinguishing the null and alternative hypotheses. Note that the standardized Wilcoxon signed rank test ($T^*$) and the Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test ($W^*$) have limiting normal distributions under the null and alternative hypotheses, which can be represented as

$$H_0 : S^* \sim N(0, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad H_1 : S^* \sim N(c\Delta, 1), \quad (3.2)$$

where $c$ represents the efficacy of the test $S^*$ ($T^*$ or $W^*$). Yuan and Johnson [17] specified a normal prior distribution for $\Delta$ given by

$$\Delta \sim N(0, \kappa^2), \quad (3.3)$$

where $\kappa$ is a hyperparameter that needs to be prespecified. The Bayes factor in (1.4) under the specified prior can be simplified as

$$BF_{10} = (1 + g)^{-1/2} \exp \left( \frac{T^*}{2} \frac{g}{1+g} \right), \quad (3.4)$$

where $g = (c\kappa)^2$. Yuan and Johnson [17] determined the value of $g$ by finding an upper bound of the Bayes factor in (3.4) over the parameter $g \in (0, \infty)$.
For $k$-sample testing problem in (2.7), Yuan and Johnson [17] adopted the Pitman translation alternative and obtained the sequence of the local alternatives given by

$$H_0 : \theta = \theta_0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta \neq \theta_0 + \frac{\Delta_i}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad i = 1, \cdots, k,$$

where $\theta_0 = 0$, $\Delta_i$ is not all equal for $i = 1, \cdots, k$, and $n = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i$. The Kruskal-Wallis test $U$ has limiting chi-squared distributions under the null and alternative hypotheses, which are given by

$$H_0 : U \sim \chi^2_{k-1} \quad \text{and} \quad H_1 : U \sim \chi^2_{k-1}(\rho).$$

Yuan and Johnson [17] specified a multivariate normal distribution for $\Delta = (\Delta_1, \cdots, \Delta_k)'$ given by

$$\Delta \sim N_k(0, c(R'R)^{-1}),$$

where $c$ is a scaling constant and $R$ is a nonsingular $k \times k$ matrix satisfying

$$P'QP = R' \begin{bmatrix} I_{k-1} & 0 \\ 0' & 0 \end{bmatrix} R$$

with

$$P = I_k - \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & \cdots & a_k \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_1 & \cdots & a_k \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_k \end{bmatrix}.$$ 

We here refer the interested readers to [17] in detail. The Bayes factor in (1.4) under
the specified prior is given by

\[
BF_{10} = (1 + g)^{-(k-1)/2} \exp\left\{ \frac{U}{2} \frac{g}{1 + g} \right\},
\]  

(3.6)

where \( g = 12c\left( \int f^2(x) \, dx \right)^2 \). Again, \[17\] determined the value of \( g \) by finding an upper bound of this Bayes factor over the parameter \( g \in (0, \infty) \).

It deserves mentioning that the Bayes factors in (3.4) and (3.6) depend on the data only through the associated nonparametric test statistics and can thus be easily implemented, so long as one has performed nonparametric tests. We observe that they depend on the choice of \( g \), in which \[17\] determined this value by finding an upper bound of the Bayes factor. Even though the Bayes factors based on this choice of \( g \) have been shown to perform well in practical applications, they lack of ability to make the identical decisions between Bayesians and frequentists on the basis of the observed data.

In this report, we adopt an alternative way to determine the value of \( g \) by matching the rejection regions of both Bayesian and nonparametric testing procedures; see, for example, \[6\], \[2\], \[16\], among others. One appealing property of fixing the value of \( g \) in this manner allows researchers to make the identical decisions between two different testing procedures and interpret the results from both Bayesian and frequentist points of view.
3.2 Restricted most powerful Bayes tests

Goddard and Johnson followed the idea of uniformly most powerful Bayes test and developed a restricted most powerful Bayes test (RMPBT), which has been shown to perform well for testing the regression coefficients in the context of normal linear models. They restricted the class of the alternative hypotheses into the form of Zellner’s $g$-prior and obtained the Bayes factor having the same rejection region as the frequentist $F$-test, provided that its evidence threshold is determined by the significance level of the $F$-test. They formally defined a RMPBT for hypothesis testing in linear models as follows.

**Definition 1** Let $\theta$ be the parameter of interest. A $\pi$-restricted most powerful Bayesian test with its evidence threshold $\delta > 0$ in favor of $H_1 : \theta \sim \pi(\theta \mid \psi_1)$ against a fixed null hypothesis $H_0$ about $\theta$, is a Bayesian hypothesis test, denoted by $\pi$-RMPBT($\delta$), where the Bayes factor for hypothesis testing satisfies

$$P_{\theta_1}[BF_{10} > \delta] \geq P_{\theta_2}[BF_{20} > \delta],$$

for all possible values of the data generating parameter $\theta_1$ and all alternative hypotheses $H_2 : \theta \sim \pi(\theta \mid \psi_2)$, where $\pi(\cdot)$ is a density function parameterized by $\psi$, and $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \psi$. 

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The $\pi$-RMPBT($\delta$) is a Bayes test for which the alternative hypothesis is restricted to a class of priors on $\theta$ so as to maximize the probability of rejecting $H_0$, when the Bayes factor exceeds $\delta$ over all possible values of $\psi$ and $\theta_t$. An attractive property of this test is that its rejection region can be coincident with that of the frequentist test, provided that $\delta$ is determined by the significance level of the associated test.

Goddard and Johnson [2] developed the Bayes factor based on the RMPBT for testing the regression coefficients in linear models. Later on, [16] developed the Bayes factors based on the RMPBT for testing the presence of correlations between two continuous random variables. We observe that these Bayesian tests are developed through a combined use of the RMPBT and parametric testing procedures. To the best of our knowledge, Bayesian tests based on a combined use of the RMPBT and nonparametric tests have not yet been studied in the literature.

3.3 The developed Bayes factors

In this section, we obtain Bayesian tests by determining the value of $g$ through maximizing the probability that the BF exceeds a specified threshold. This is achieved by letting the rejection regions of Bayesian tests and $\alpha$-sized nonparametric tests be coincident (see Appendix B in detail). In particular, by integrating the ideas from [17] and [2], we obtain the Bayes factors using three nonparametric test statistics in Section [2] which are summarized in the following theorem with proofs given in the Appendix B.
Theorem 1  (i) For one-sample or paired-samples problem, the Bayes factor based on the Wilcoxon signed rank test is given by

\[ BF_{10} = \frac{1}{|\tau_{\alpha/2}^*|} \exp \left( \frac{T^* \tau_{\alpha/2}^2 - 1}{2} \right), \]  

(3.7)

where \( \tau_{\alpha/2}^* \) the standardized critical value of \( \tau_{\alpha/2} \) given by

\[ \tau_{\alpha/2}^* = \frac{\tau_{\alpha/2} - n(n + 1)/4}{\sqrt{n(n+1)(2n+1)/24}}. \]  

(3.8)

The corresponding evidence threshold \( \delta_{\tau} \) is given by

\[ \delta_{\tau} = \frac{1}{|\tau_{\alpha/2}^*|} \exp \left( \frac{\tau_{\alpha/2}^* - 1}{2} \right). \]  

(3.9)

(ii) For two independent sample problem, the Bayes factor based on the Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test is given by

\[ BF_{10} = \frac{1}{|\omega_{\alpha/2}^*|} \exp \left( \frac{W^* \omega_{\alpha/2}^2 - 1}{2} \right), \]  

(3.10)

where \( \omega_{\alpha/2}^* \) is the standardized critical value of \( \omega_{\alpha/2} \) given by

\[ \omega_{\alpha/2}^* = \frac{\omega_{\alpha/2} - n_1(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/2}{\sqrt{n_1n_2(n_1 + n_2 + 1)/12}}. \]  

(3.11)
The corresponding evidence threshold $\delta_\omega$ is given by

$$\delta_\omega = \frac{1}{|\omega_{\alpha/2}|} \exp \left( \frac{\omega_{\alpha/2}^2 - 1}{2} \right). \quad (3.12)$$

(iii) For $k (\geq 3)$ independent sample problems, the Bayes factor based on the Kruskal-Wallis test is given by

$$BF_{10} = \left( \frac{\nu_\alpha}{k-1} \right)^{-(k-1)/2} \exp \left( \frac{U \nu_\alpha - (k-1)}{2 \nu_\alpha} \right), \quad (3.13)$$

where $\nu_\alpha$ is the $1 - \alpha$ quantile of the null distribution defined in Section 2.3. The corresponding evidence threshold $\delta_\nu$ is given by

$$\delta_\nu = \left( \frac{\nu_\alpha}{k-1} \right)^{-(k-1)/2} \exp \left( \frac{\nu_\alpha - k + 1}{2} \right). \quad (3.14)$$

This theorem justifies that there is a close relationship between the Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric methods. In addition, we observe that these Bayes factors with their evidence thresholds depend only on nonparametric statistics with their associated critical values and that they can be easily computed by just adding one more step after one has performed the hypothesis testing using nonparametric statistics.

For decision making, the Bayes factor greater than its corresponding evidence threshold indicates that $H_0$ is rejected and its value smaller than the evidence threshold indicates that we fail to reject $H_0$. 

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This theorem also shows that the Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric testing procedures can result in an identical decision when we match their rejection regions. This property allows researchers to simultaneously report the conclusions from both Bayesian and frequentist points of view, and more importantly they can quantify evidence in favor of both $H_0$ and $H_1$ in terms of the Bayes factors and the posterior probability in (1.3).

We observe that like the nonparametric test, the evidence threshold of the Bayesian approach depends on the specified significance level $\alpha$. As an illustration, we consider the evidence threshold $\delta_r$ in (3.9), since other evidence thresholds behave similarly. It can be seen from Figure 3.1 that $\delta$ is a decreasing convex function of $\alpha$ and that we need to choose $\delta_r$ to be larger than 1 to achieve its agreement with the nonparametric test at the $\alpha \leq 0.10$ level of significance.
Figure 3.1: The relationship between the evidence threshold $\delta_r$ and the significance level $\alpha$ when $n = 50$. 
Chapter 4

Numerical studies

In this chapter, we examine the performance of both Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric methods using simulated data in Section 4.1 and three real-data examples in Section 4.2.

4.1 Simulation studies

We employ simulated data to assess the agreement between the Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric methods. For illustrative purposes, we here only illustrate the agreement between the Bayes factor in (3.7) and the Wilcoxon signed rank test in (2.2), since similar conclusions can be achieved for other two Bayes factors in Theorem 1 and are thus omitted for simplicity.
First, $n$ random variables are generated from the normal distribution with mean $\mu$ and standard deviation $\sigma = 1$, where $\mu$ ranges from $-4$ to 4 in increments of 0.01. For each value of $\mu$, we generate 10,000 simulated datasets with $n = 10$ (small) and $n = 100$ (moderate), respectively. The decision criterion is that we select $H_1$ if the Bayes factor is larger than its evidence threshold $\delta$, and $H_0$, otherwise. We consider two different choices of $\delta$: (i) $\delta = 1$ from [7] and (ii) $\delta = \delta_r$ determined by (3.9), which can control the Type I error at a specified significant level, say $\alpha = 5\%$. The relative frequencies of rejecting $H_0$ are depicted in Figure 4.1 for two different choices of $\delta$.

Rather than providing exhaustive conclusions from Figure 4.1 we only highlight some most important findings. (i) Like its nonparametric counterpart, the Bayes factor in (3.7) with $\delta_r$ in (3.9) is able to control the Type I error for the given value of $\alpha$. For instance, when $n = 10$, the frequency of rejecting $H_0$ is 0.05 when we choose $\alpha = 0.05$, leading to $\delta_r = 2.529$; (ii) as the sample size increases, the Type I error rate of the Bayes factor in (3.7) still remains a constant, mainly because we fix the Type I error of the test to be $\alpha = 5\%$, and (iii) when the sample size is large, the Bayes factor with $\delta_r$ in (3.9) behave similarly to the one with $\delta_r = 1$. This behavior occurs the value of $\delta$ decreases to its limit 1 shown in Figure 3.1 as the sample size increases.

### 4.2 Real data applications

We here apply the developed Bayes factors in Theorem 1 to three real-data examples. The first is about the paired-sample problem, the second about two independent samples, and the third about three or more independent samples.
Figure 4.1: The relative frequency of rejection of $H_0$ under the Bayes factors with two different choices of $\delta$ and the Wilcoxon signed rank test (left figures); the relationship between the Bayesian and nonparametric tests (right figures) when $\alpha = 0.05$.

Example 1 The depression data set from [10] is available from the R ACSWR package, created by [14]. The purpose of this data is to investigate changes to Hamilton depression scale Factor IV measurements. The data consist of nine patients with anxiety or depression before and after tranquilizer therapy. We are interested in testing if there exists a treatment effect for reducing symptoms of depression. The Wilcoxon signed rank test is $T = 5$ with the two-sided $p$-value of 0.03906, and thus we reject
the null hypothesis of no treatment effect at a $\alpha = 5\%$ significance level.

We calculate the Bayes factor $BF_{10}$ in (3.7) and the evidence threshold $\delta_\tau$ in (3.9) corresponding to the Wilcoxon signed rank test. By using equation in (3.8) with $n = 9$ and $T = 5$, we have $T^* = -2.073221$. Thus, by plugging $T^* = -2.073221$ and $\tau^*_\alpha/2 = -1.954751$ into two functions, we obtain that $BF_{10} = 2.500316$ and $\delta_\tau = 2.096488$, indicating that the data are about 2.50 times more likely to be generated under $H_1$ than under $H_0$ and $H_0$ should be rejected, since $BF_{10} > \delta_\tau$. In addition, by using equation in (1.3) with the assumption of equipoise, the posterior probability of $H_1$ is $0.7143115$, or equivalently, the posterior probability of $H_0$ is $1 - 0.7143115 = 0.2856885$.

**Example 2** The blood pressure data consist of the blood pressure measurements for 21 African-American men: ten of the men took calcium supplements and 11 took placebos. The data can be found via the link [http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/DASL/Datafiles/Calcium.html](http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/DASL/Datafiles/Calcium.html). In this study, the researchers are interested in testing if blood pressure can be reduced by increasing calcium intake. The Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test is $W = 124.5$ with the two-sided $p$-value of 0.3228, and thus, we fail to reject $H_0$ of no treatment effect at the $\alpha = 5\%$ significance level.

By plugging $W^* = 1.021059$ and $\omega^*_\alpha/2 = -1.971701$ into the Bayes factor $BF_{10}$ in (3.10) and the evidence threshold $\delta_\omega$ in (3.12), we obtain that $BF_{10} = 0.74699$ and $\delta_\omega = 2.148791$, indicating that the data are about 0.75 times more likely to be generated under $H_1$ than under $H_0$ and that we fail to reject $H_0$ since $BF_{10} < \delta_\omega$, corresponding to the 5% Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test. Under the assumption of equipoise, the posterior probability of $H_1$ is $0.42759$, or equivalently, the posterior
Table 4.1
The growing corn data set from Example 4.3.1 of [1].

<table>
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<td>84</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The growing corn data set from Example 4.3.1 of [1].

probability of $H_0$ is $1 - 0.42759 = 0.5724131$.

**Example 3** The growing corn data set from [1] is to investigate whether there exists a difference in yields per acre among four different methods of growing corn. The data is given in Table 4.1. The value of the Kruskal-Wallis test in (2.8) for this dataset is $U = 25.464$ with the two-sided $p$-value of $1.141e - 05$, which clearly leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis at the 5% significance level. We may thus conclude that some methods of growing corn tend to furnish higher yields than others.

By plugging $U = 25.62884$, $\nu_\alpha = 7.548731$ from [11] into the Bayes factor in (3.13) and the evidence threshold $\delta_\nu$ in (3.12), we obtain that $BF_{10} = 565.4317$ and $\delta_\nu = 2.435653$, indicating that the data are about 565 times more likely to be generated under $H_1$ than under $H_0$ and that we choose $H_1$ since $BF_{10} > \delta_\nu$, corresponding to the 5% Kruskal-Wallis test. Under the assumption of equipoise, the posterior probability of $H_1$ is 0.9982346, and the posterior probability of $H_0$ is $1 - 0.9981448 = 0.0017654$. 

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Chapter 5

Concluding remarks

Based on a combined use of the testing procedures from [17] and [2], we obtained the Bayes factor tests for comparing the difference between the means among two or more populations. The proposed Bayes factors will not only have closed-form expressions in terms of the associated nonparametric statistics and their associated critical values under the null hypothesis, but also justify that there exists a close relationship between the Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric testing procedures. From a practical point of view, they can be easily calculated by one step further, so long as one has performed the corresponding nonparametric tests for the testing problem at hand. In addition, like the nonparametric counterparts, they are able to control the Type I error and also allow researchers to make the identical decisions between frequentists and Bayesians. More importantly, they can quantify evidence from empirical data in favor of $H_0$, and this property is not shared by the frequentist counterparts, which lack this ability when we fail to reject $H_0$. 
It is noteworthy that this report mainly focuses on the agreement between Bayesian and nonparametric testing procedures for the location parameters. Given that the Pearson correlation coefficient is a commonly used criterion to measure the strength of a linear relationship between two quantitative variables, [16] recently studied the agreement between Bayesian and frequent $t$-test procedures for the presence of correlations and partial correlations. In an ongoing project, we study the relationship between Bayesian and nonparametric testing (e.g., Kendall’s $\tau$) procedures for testing the dependence of two variables, which are currently under investigation and will be reported elsewhere.
References


Appendix A

Sample Code

A.1 SimulationCode.R

# R codes for Figure 4.1 when n = 10
n = 10
alpha = 0.05
iter = 10000
mu = seq(-4, 4, by = 0.1)
Rep = length(mu)
Avg_rej = matrix(0, ncol = 3, nrow = Rep)
result = matrix(0, ncol = 3, nrow = iter)
for (j in 1:Rep) {
  for (i in 1:iter) {
    x = rnorm(n, mu[j], 1)
    test = wilcox.test(x, exact = T)
    # calculate T^ast
Tast = (test$statistic - n * (n + 1)/4)/sqrt(n * (n + 1) * (2 * n + 1)/24)

# calculate tau
tau_1_orig = qsignrank(alpha/2, n, lower.tail = TRUE, log.p = FALSE)
tau_2_orig = qsignrank(1 - alpha/2, n, lower.tail = TRUE, log.p = FALSE)
tau_orig = tau_1_orig * (Tast <= 0) + tau_2_orig * (Tast > 0)
tau = (tau_orig - n * (n + 1)/4)/sqrt(n * (n + 1) * (2 * n + 1)/24)

# The proposed Bayes factor
BF = 1/abs(tau) * exp(Tast^2/2 * (tau^2 - 1)/tau^2)
delta = 1/abs(tau) * exp((tau^2 - 1)/2)

# The previous Bayes factor
BF_tilde = 1/abs(Tast) * exp(-(1 - Tast^2)/2)

result[i, ] = c(1 * (BF > delta), 1 * (BF > 1), 1 * (test$p.value < 0.05))

Avg_rej[j, ] = c(colMeans(result))

# Upper left of Figure 1
plot(mu, Avg_rej[, 1], lwd = 2, xlab = expression(mu), ylab = expression(paste("Proportion of rejecting ", H[0])), type = "l", main = "n = 10")
lines(mu, Avg_rej[, 2], lwd = 2, col = 2, lty = 2)
lines(mu, Avg_rej[, 3], lwd = 2, col = 3, lty = 3)
abline(h = 0.05, lty = 4, col = 4, lwd = 2)
A.2 Example1Code.R

# Example 1
# Attache the depression data
library(ACSWR)
attach(depression)
data(depression)

X = depression$X
Y = depression$Y
n = length(X)

# The Wilcoxon signed rank test
(test = wilcox.test(Y, X, paired = TRUE, exact = T))
\[ T_{\text{ast}} = \frac{\text{test}\$\text{statistic} - n \times (n + 1)/4}{\sqrt{n \times (n + 1) \times (2 \times n + 1)/24}} \]

\[ \alpha = 0.05 \]

\[ \tau = \text{qsignrank}(\alpha/2, n, \text{lower.tail} = \text{TRUE}, \text{log.p} = \text{FALSE}) \]

\[ \tau_{\text{ast}} = \frac{\tau - n \times (n + 1)/4}{\sqrt{n \times (n + 1) \times (2 \times n + 1)/24}} \]

# Calculate BF and delta_\tau

\[ BF = \frac{1}{\text{abs}(\tau_{\text{ast}})} \times \exp\left(\frac{T_{\text{ast}}^2}{2} \times \frac{\tau_{\text{ast}}^2 - 1}{\tau_{\text{ast}}^2}\right) \]

\[ \text{delta} = \frac{1}{\text{abs}(\tau_{\text{ast}})} \times \exp\left(\frac{(\tau_{\text{ast}}^2 - 1)}{2}\right) \]

\[ \text{list}(BF = BF, \text{delta} = \text{delta}) \]

### A.3 Example2Code.R

```
# Example 2
x = c(7, -4, 18, 17, -3, -5, 1, 10, 11, -2)
y = c(-1, 12, -1, -3, 3, -5, 5, 2, -11, -1, -3)

n1 = length(x)
n2 = length(y)

# The Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test
W = sum((rank(c(x, y))[1:n1]))

# calculate T^ast
```
\[
W_{ast} = (W - n_1 \times (n_2 + n_1 + 1)/2)/\sqrt{n_2 \times n_1 \times (n_2 + n_1 + 1)/12)
\]

# The value of 82 was from Table A12 of Conover (1999)
\[
\omega_{ast} = (82 - n_1 \times (n_2 + n_1 + 1)/2)/\sqrt{n_2 \times n_1 \times (n_2 + n_1 + 1)/12)
\]

# Calculate BF and delta_omega
\[
BF = 1/|\omega_{ast}| \times \exp(W_{ast}^2/2 \times (\omega_{ast}^2 - 1)/\omega_{ast}^2)
\]
\[
delta = 1/|\omega_{ast}| \times \exp((\omega_{ast}^2 - 1)/2)
\]
\[
\text{list}(BF = BF, \delta = \delta)
\]

### A.4 Example3Code.R

# Example 3
\[
m_1 = c(83, 91, 94, 89, 89, 96, 91, 92, 90)
m_2 = c(91, 90, 81, 83, 84, 83, 88, 91, 89, 84)
m_3 = c(101, 100, 91, 93, 96, 95, 94)
m_4 = c(78, 82, 81, 77, 79, 81, 80, 81)
\]

# The Kruskal-Wallis test
\[
type <- c(rep(1, times = 9), rep(2, times = 10), rep(3, times = 7), rep(4, times = 8))
gross = c(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4)
test = kruskal.test(gross ~ type)
U = test$statistic
\]

\[
k = 4
\]
\[
nu_{alpha} = 7.548731 \quad \text{# from Meyer and Seaman (2013)}
\]
# we can use chi-square approximation alpha = 0.05

\[ \alpha = \text{qchisq}(1-\alpha, \text{df}=k-1) \]

Calculate BF and \( \nu_\tau \)

\[
BF = \exp\left(-\frac{(k - 1)}{2} \log\left(\frac{\nu_\alpha}{(k - 1)}\right) + \frac{U}{2} \times \frac{(\nu_\alpha - k + 1)}{\nu_\alpha}\right)
\]

\[
delta = \exp\left(-\frac{(k - 1)}{2} \log\left(\frac{\nu_\alpha}{(k - 1)}\right) + \frac{(\nu_\alpha - k + 1)}{2}\right)
\]

\[
\text{list}(BF = BF, \delta = \delta)
\]
Appendix B

Appendix B: Deviations of $BF_{10}$ and $\delta_T$ given by (3.7) and (3.9)

In this Appendix, we only provide the proof for part (i), since the proofs for others are exactly the same and are thus omitted here for simplicity. It can be seen from [17] that under the limiting distributions of $T$ in (3.2) and the proposed prior in (3.3), the Bayes factor for comparing two competing models in (3.1) is given by

$$BF_{10} = (1 + g)^{-1/2} \exp \left\{ \frac{T\ast^2}{2} \frac{g}{1 + g} \right\},$$  \hspace{1cm} (B.1)
Simple algebra shows that the probability of the Bayes factor in (B.1) exceeding the
evidence threshold $\delta$ can be rewritten as

$$P_{\theta}(\text{BF}_{10} > \delta_r) = P_{\theta}\left( T^{*2} > 2 \frac{1+g}{g} \log[\delta_r(1+g)^{1/2}] \right).$$

The maximum of this probability can be achieved by minimizing the term

$$\frac{1+g}{g} \log[\delta_r(1+g)^{1/2}]$$

with respect to $g \in (0, \infty)$. By taking derivative of this term with respect to $g$ and then setting it equal to 0, we obtain that

$$\delta_r = (1 + g)^{-1/2} \exp(g/2). \quad (B.2)$$

In order to match the rejection regions between Bayesian and frequentist nonparametric testing procedures, we reexpress the inequality of $\text{BF}_{10} > \delta_r$ as

$$(1 + g)^{-1/2} \exp\left\{ \frac{T^{*2}}{2} \frac{g}{1 + g} \right\} > \delta_r$$

$$\Rightarrow T^{*2} > 2 \frac{1+g}{g} \log[\delta_r(1+g)^{1/2}].$$

This shows that by using the Bayes factor for decision making, we reject the null hypothesis if $T^* > \kappa$ or $T^* < -\kappa$, where

$$\kappa = \left\{ 2 \frac{1+g}{g} \log[\delta(1+g)^{1/2}] \right\}^{1/2}.$$

Also, the rejection region of the standardized nonparametric statistic $T^*$ is defined as

$$\{ Y : T^* < -|T^*_a/2| \quad \text{or} \quad T^* > |T^*_a/2| \},$$
where $\tau^*_{\alpha/2}$ is defined in Section 2.1. Note that the Bayesian and frequentist tests can make an identical decision if we match their rejection regions by

$$\tau^*_{\alpha/2} = -\kappa \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{n(n + 1)}{2} - \tau^*_{\alpha/2} = \kappa.$$  

(B.3)

By solving two equations in (B.2) and (B.3) with respect to $\delta$ and $g$, we obtain that $\hat{g} = \tau^2_{\alpha/2} - 1$. We also obtain that $\delta_r = |\tau^*_{\alpha/2}|^{-1} \exp[(\tau^2_{\alpha/2} - 1)/2]$. By replacing $g$ in (B.1) with $\tau^2_{\alpha/2} - 1$, we have

$$BF_{10} = \frac{1}{|\tau^*_{\alpha/2}|} \exp\left\{ \frac{T^* \tau^2_{\alpha/2} - 1}{2 \tau^2_{\alpha/2}} \right\}.$$  

This completed the proof of Theorem 1 (i).