



Covariances, Robustness, and Variational Bayes

Tamara Broderick

ITT Career Development
Assistant Professor,
MIT

With: Ryan Giordano, Rachael Meager,
Jonathan H. Huggins, Michael I. Jordan

<http://www.tamarabroderick.com/tutorials.html>

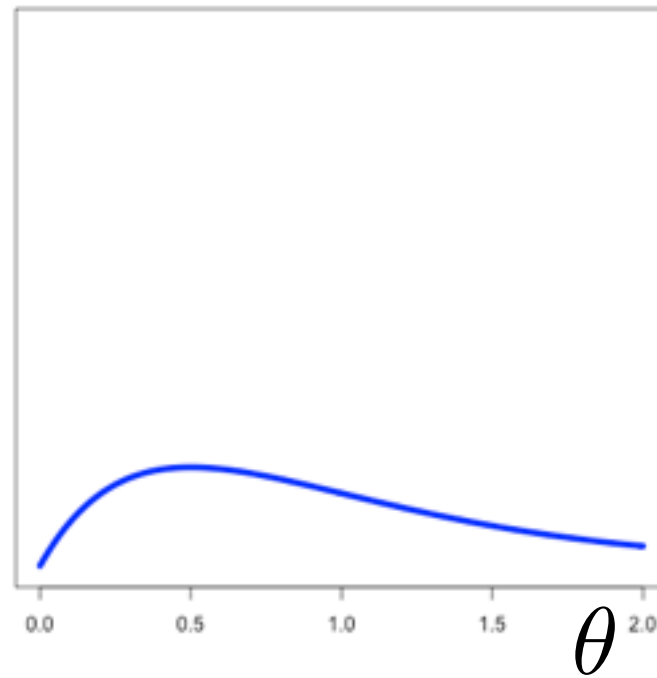
- Bayesian inference

- Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta)$$

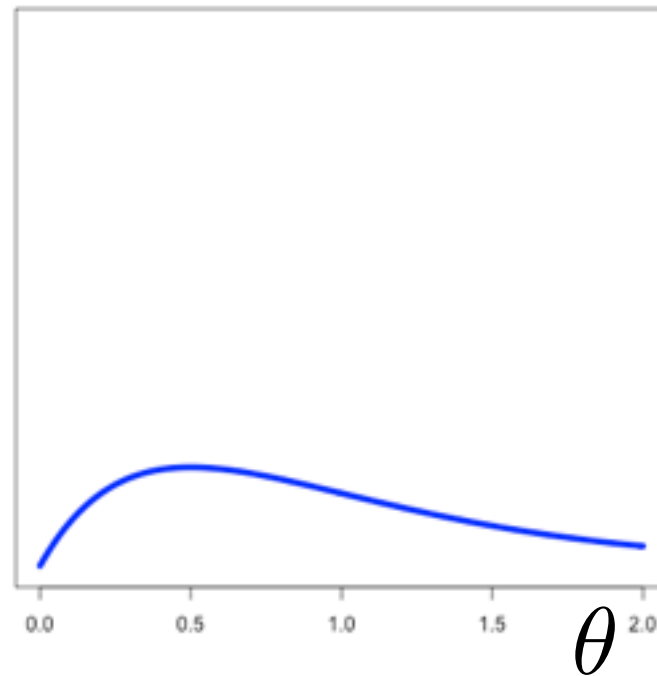
- Bayesian inference

$$p(\theta)$$

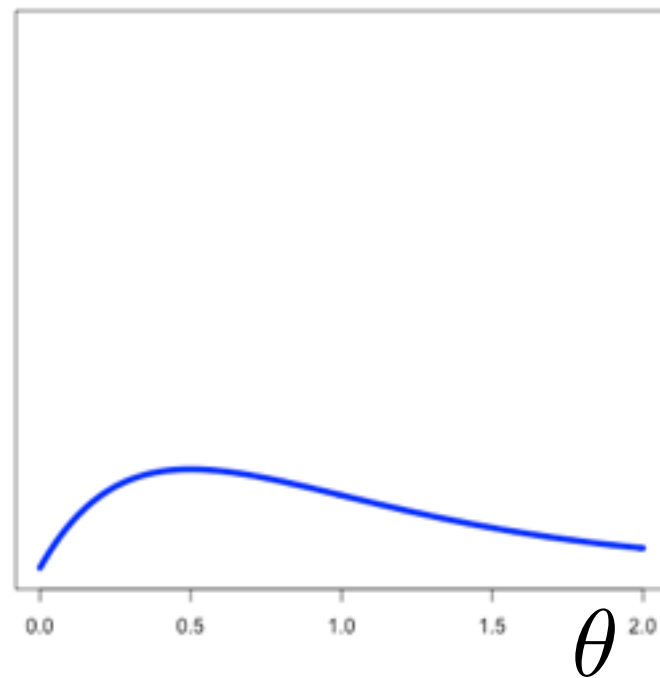


- Bayesian inference

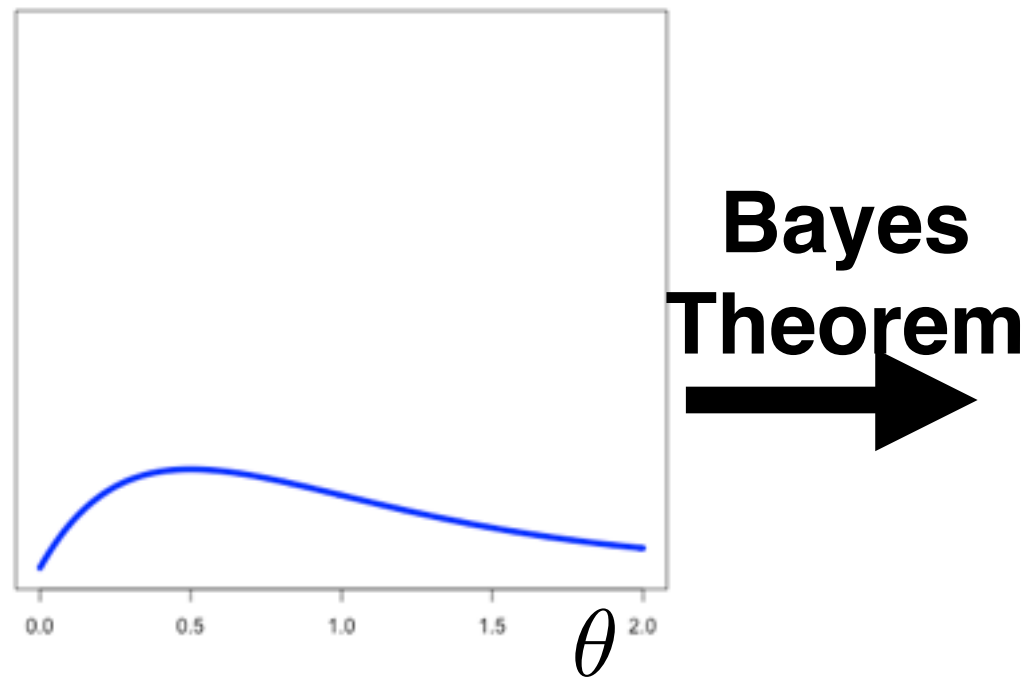
$$p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$



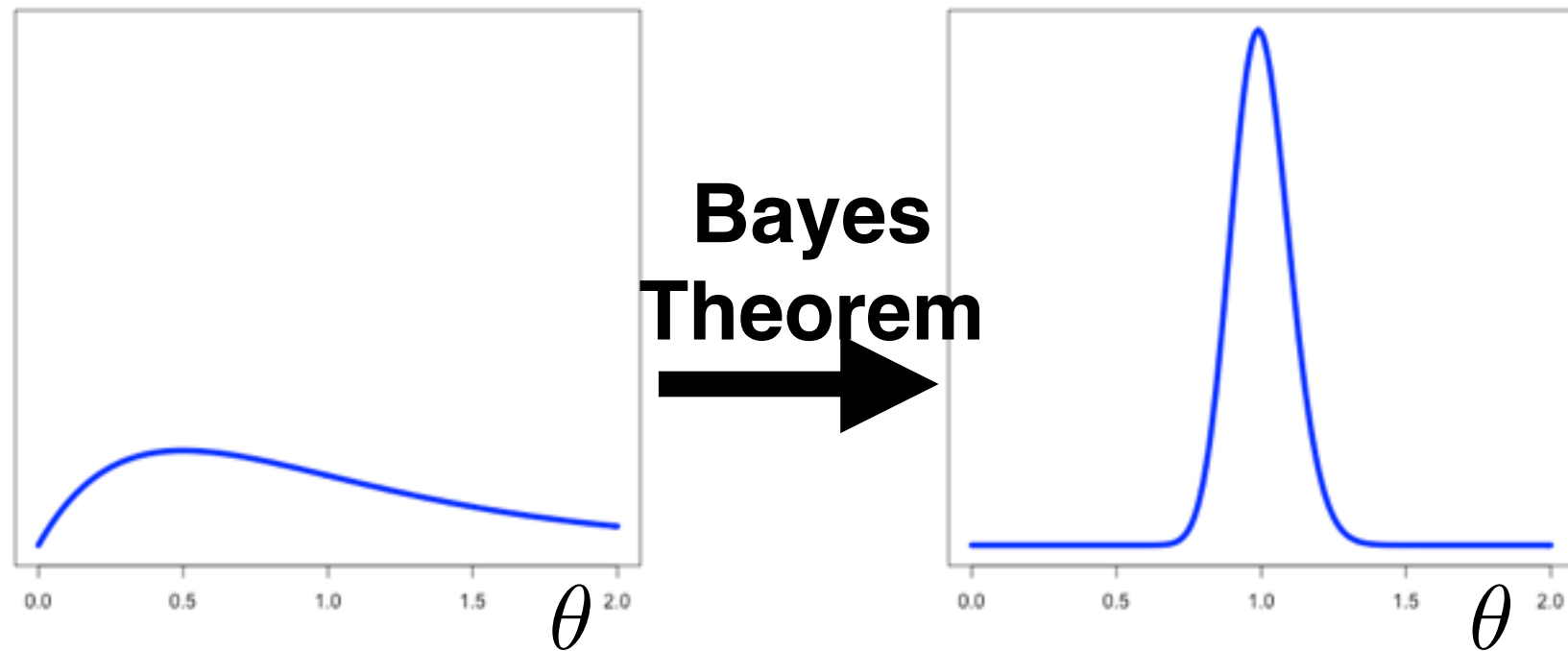
- Bayesian inference $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$



- Bayesian inference $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$

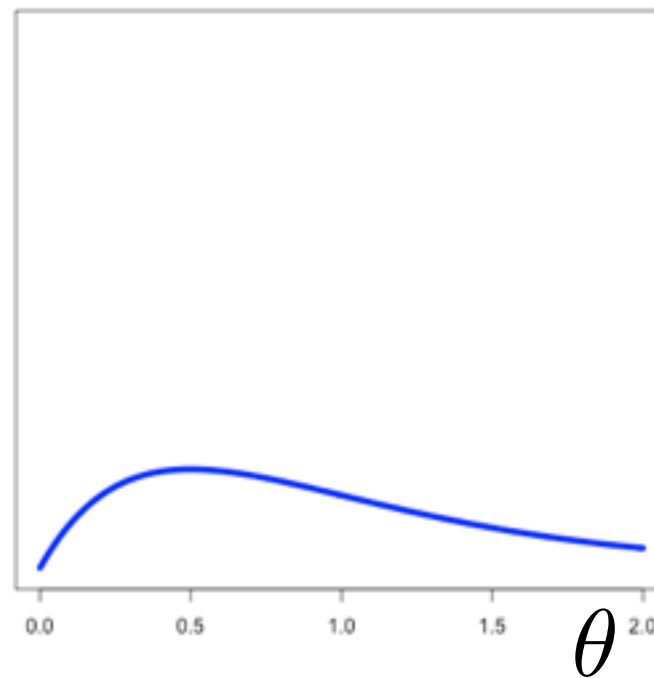


- Bayesian inference $p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$

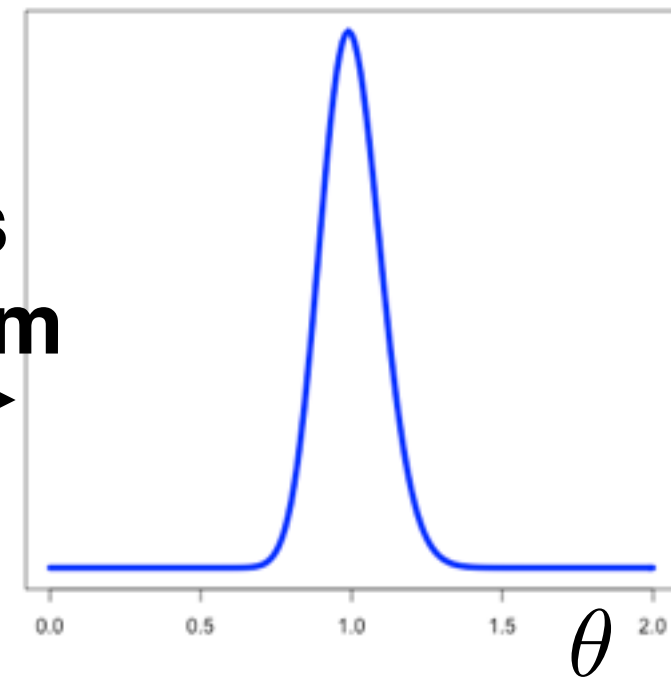


- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

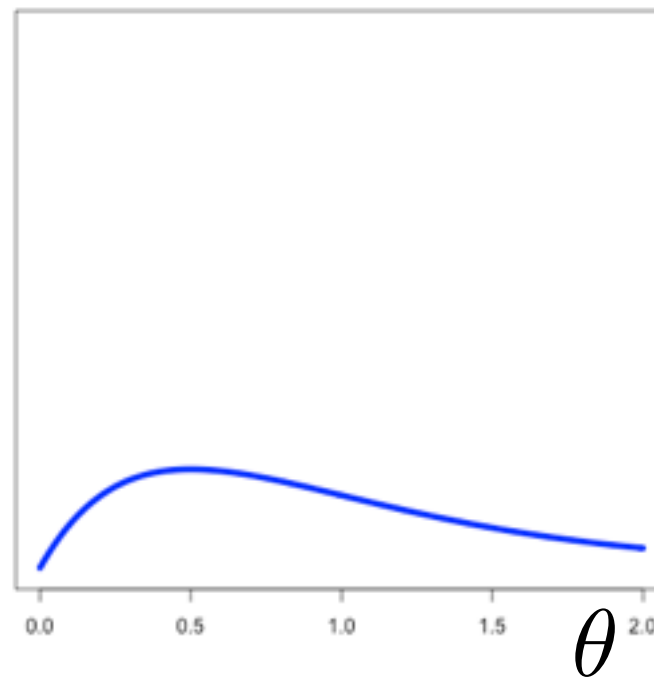


**Bayes
Theorem**
→

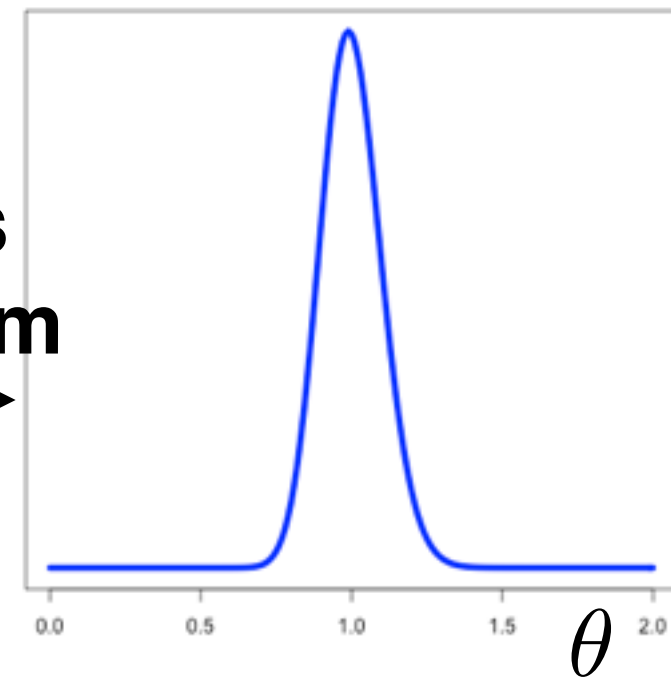


- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

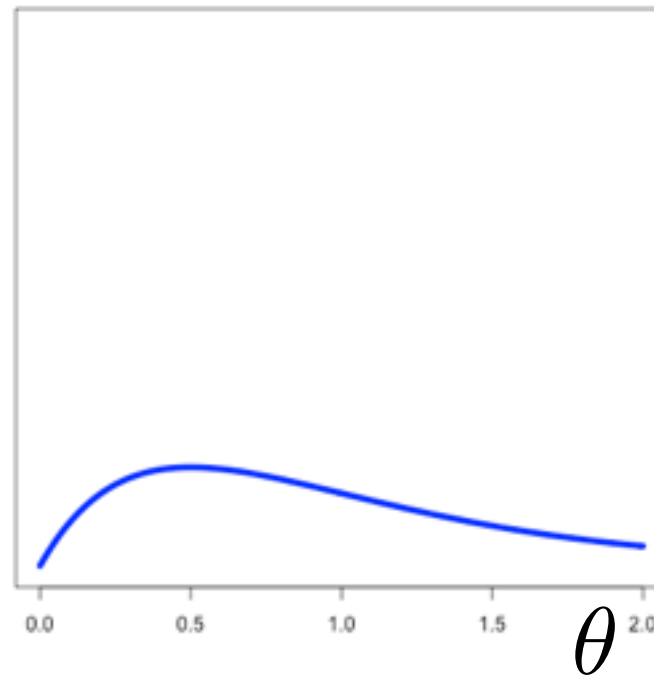


**Bayes
Theorem**
→

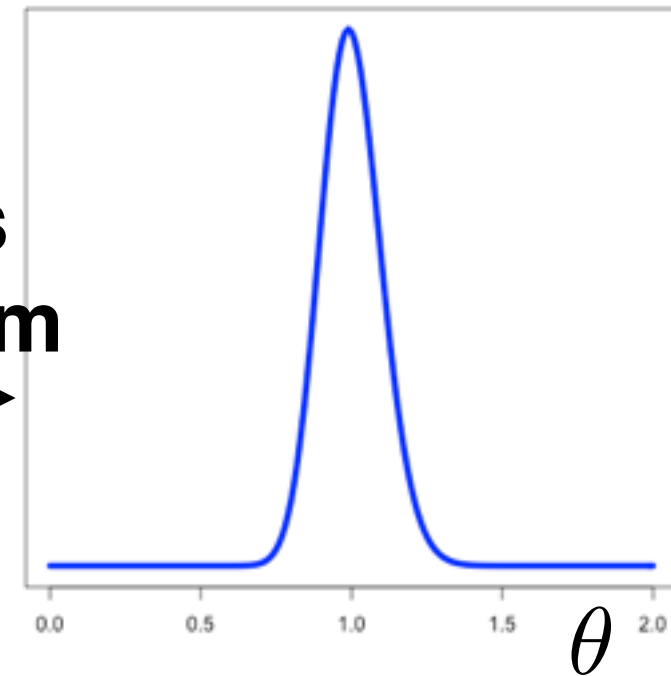


- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$



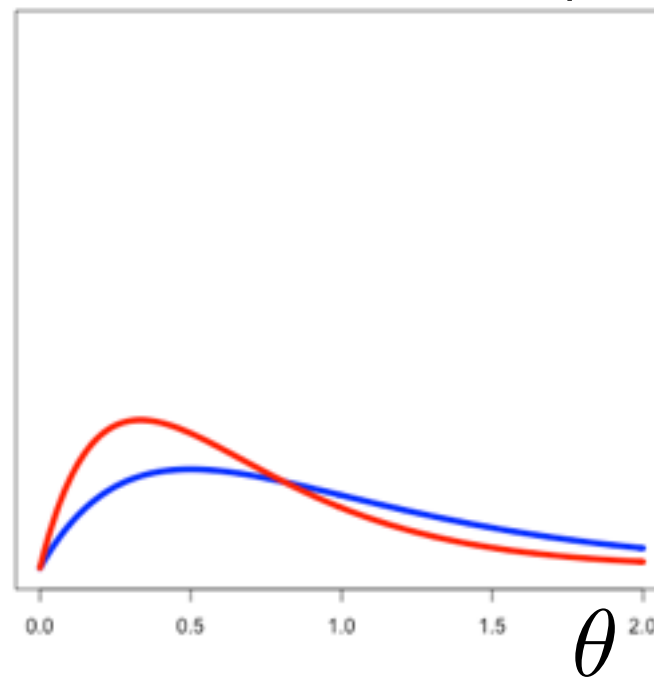
**Bayes
Theorem**



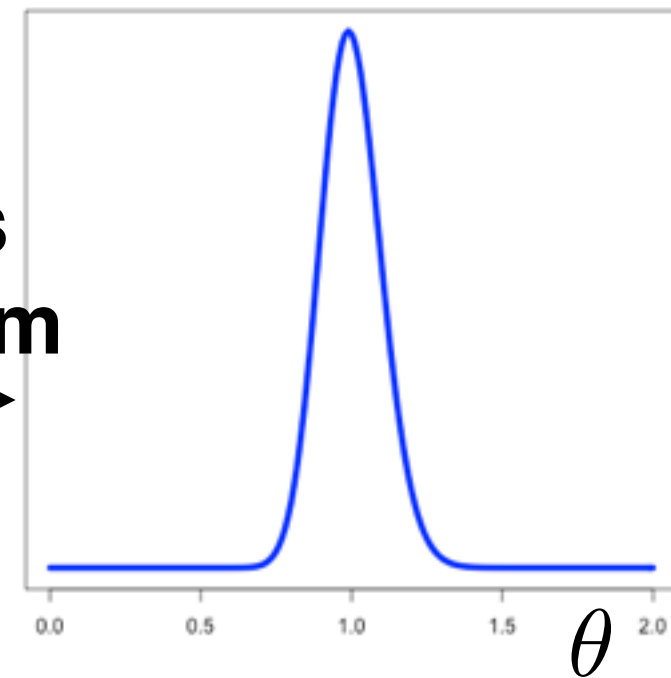

- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
- Time-consuming; subjective

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



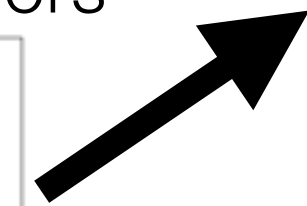
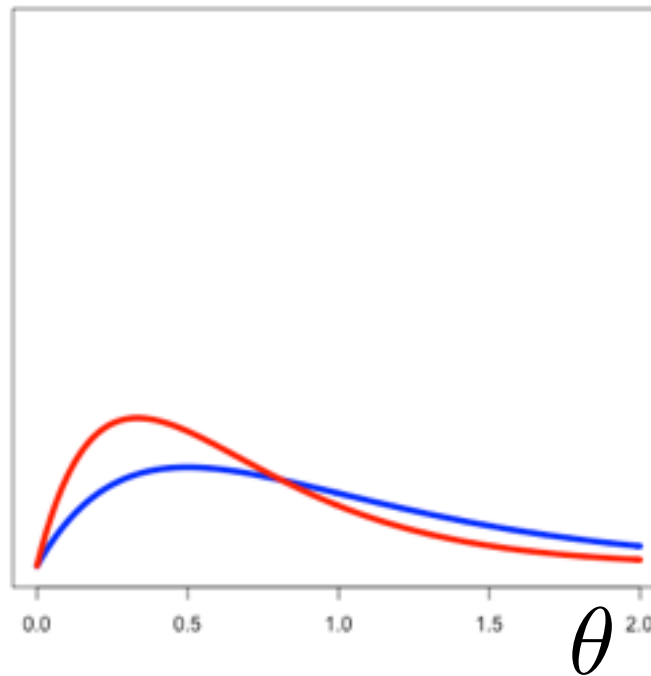
**Bayes
Theorem**



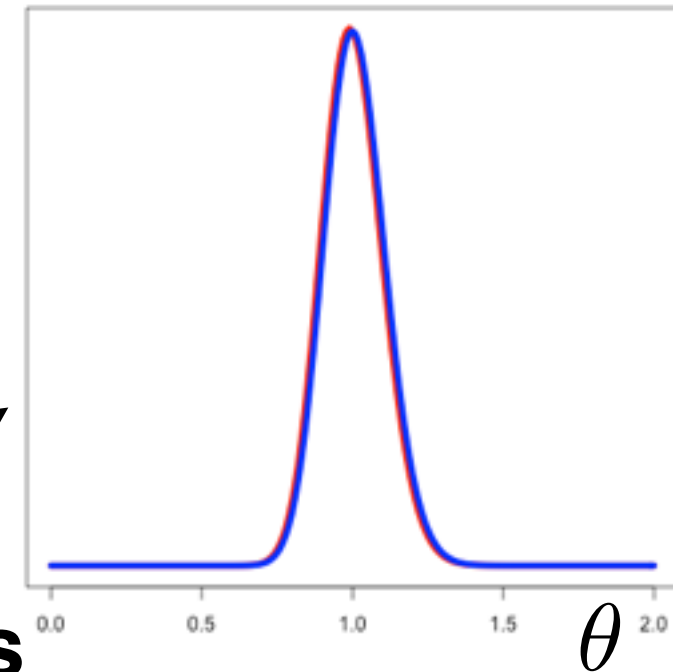
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
- Time-consuming; subjective

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



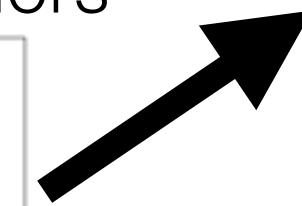
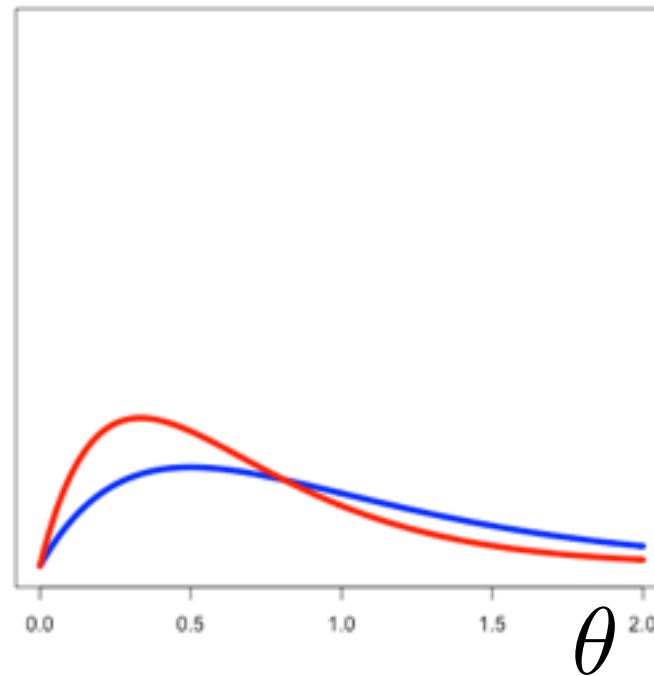
**Bayes
Theorem**



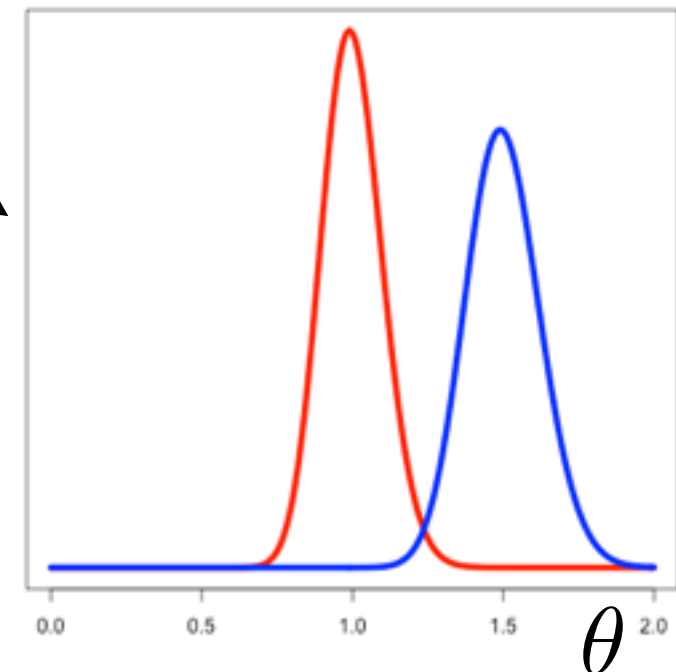
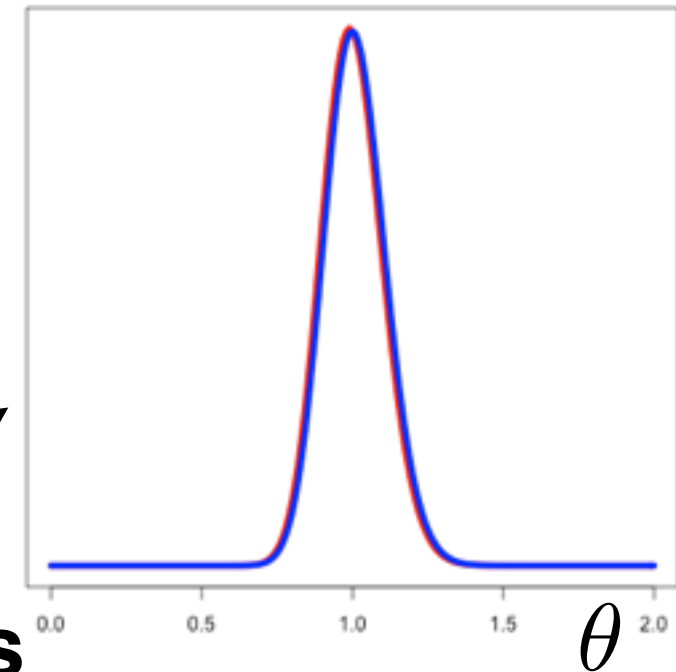
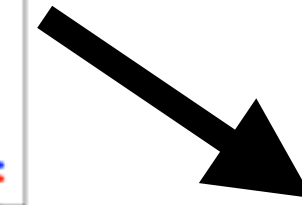
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
- Time-consuming; subjective

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



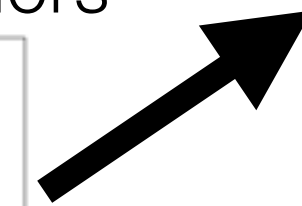
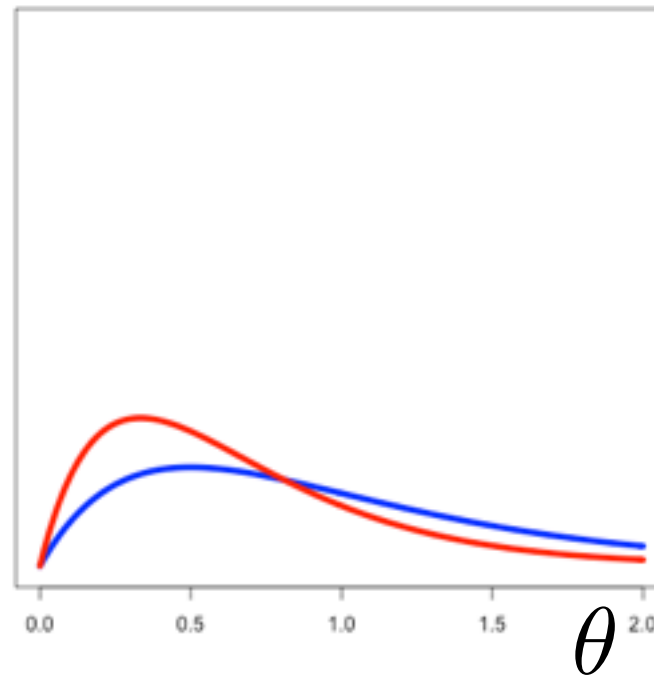
**Bayes
Theorem**



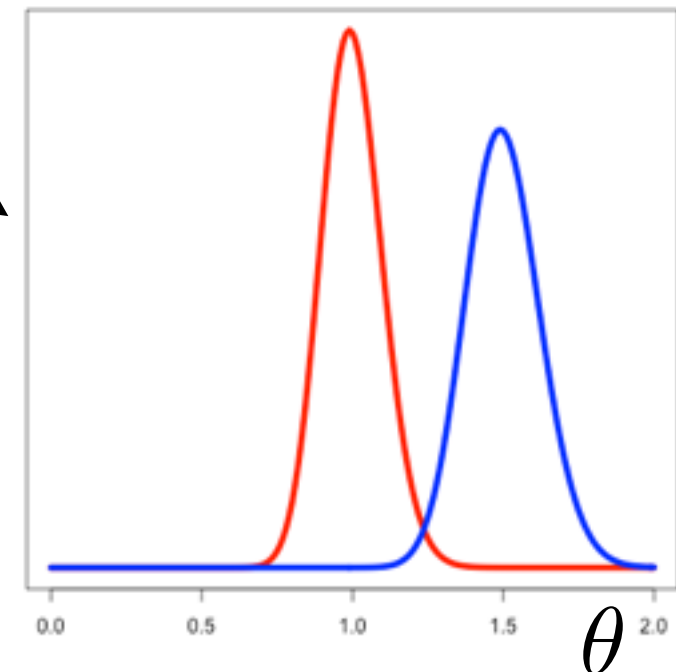
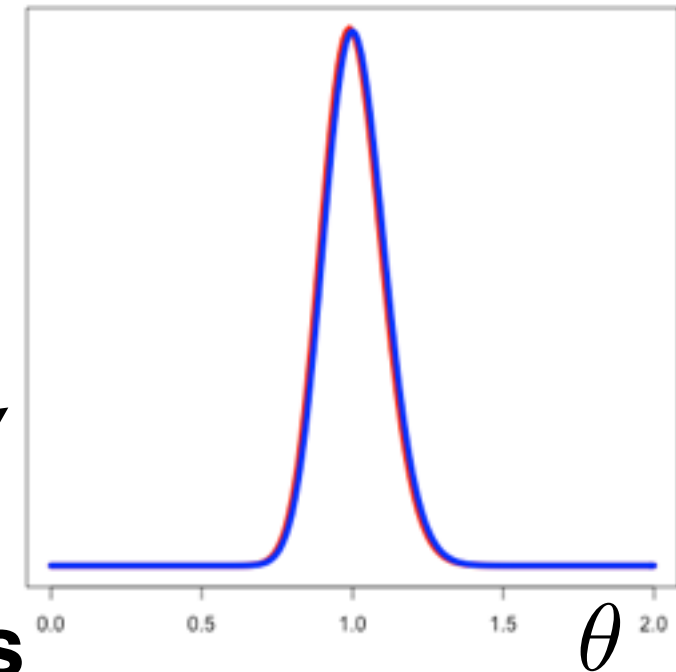
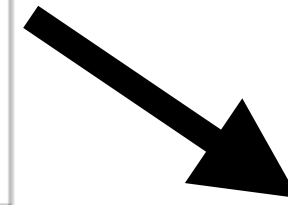
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
- Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**

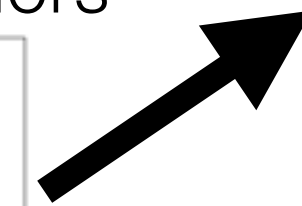
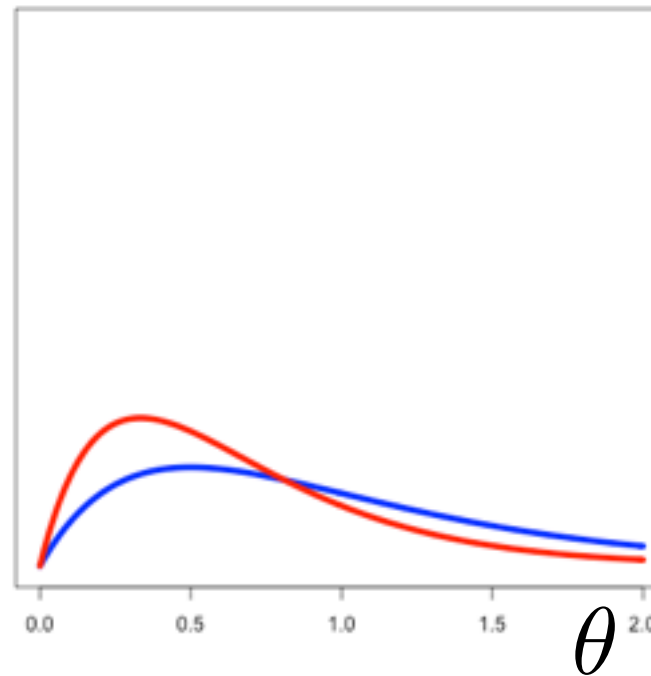


robustness quantification

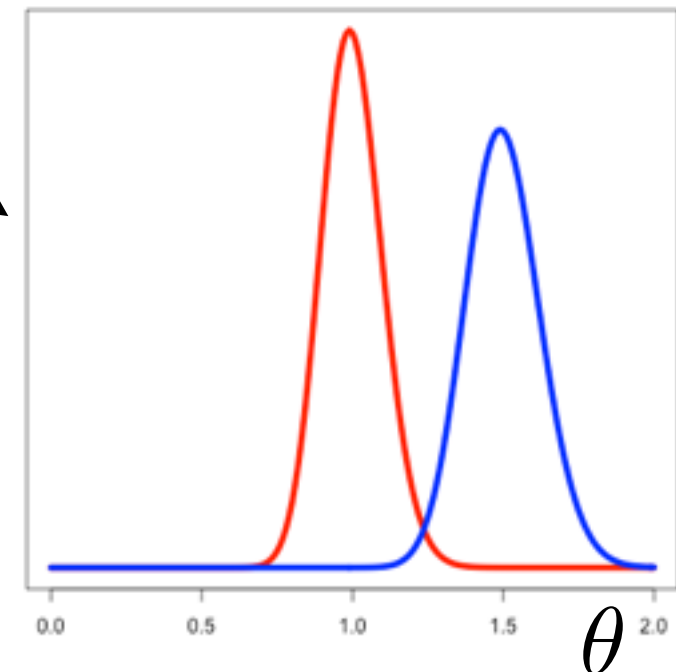
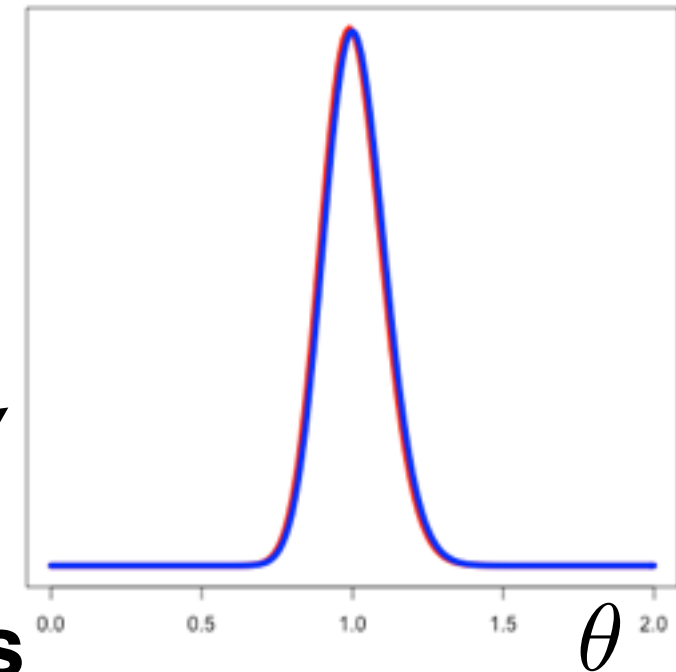
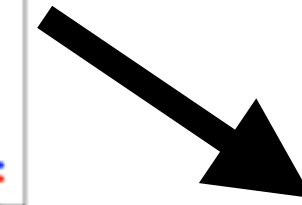
$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
- Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**

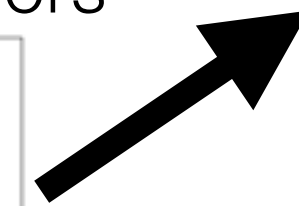
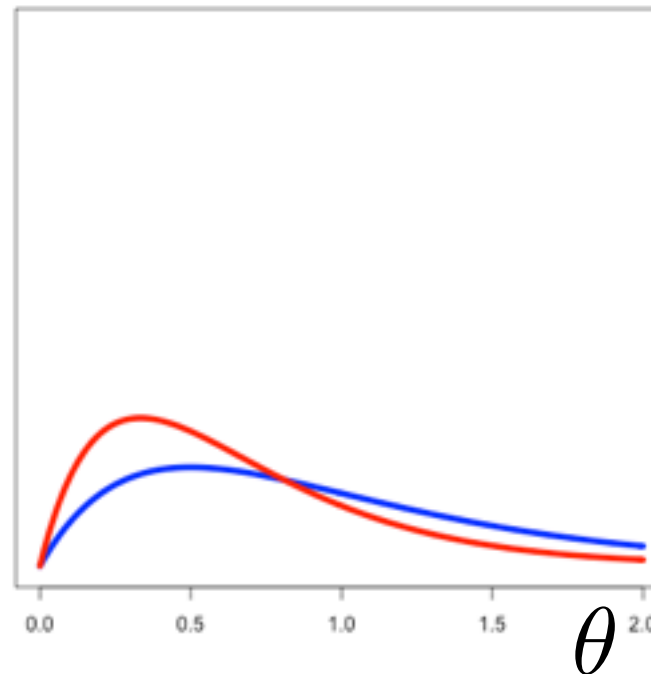


robustness quantification

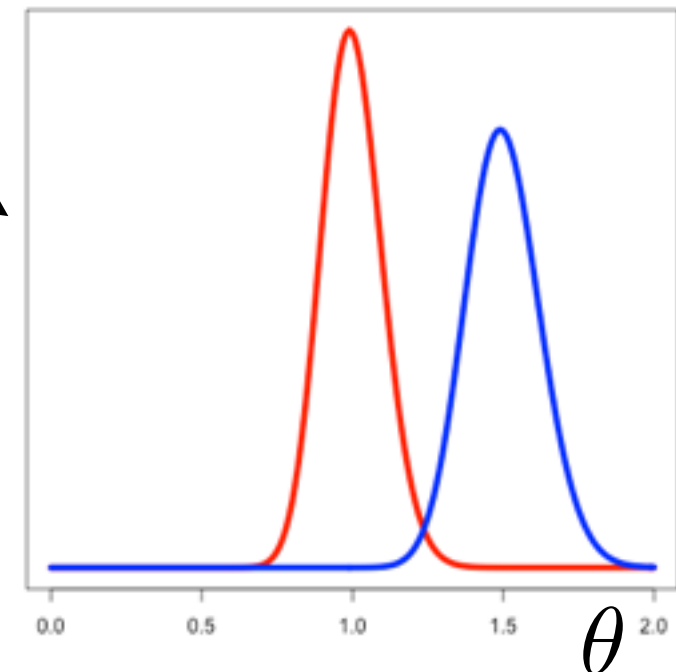
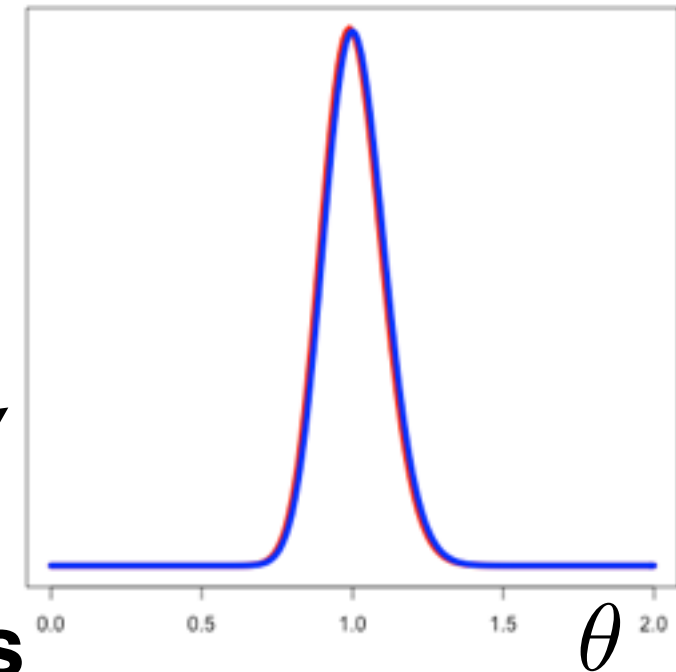
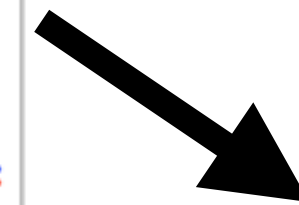
$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models
- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**

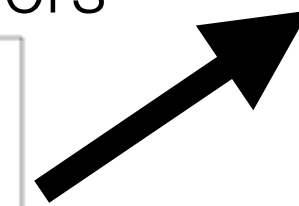
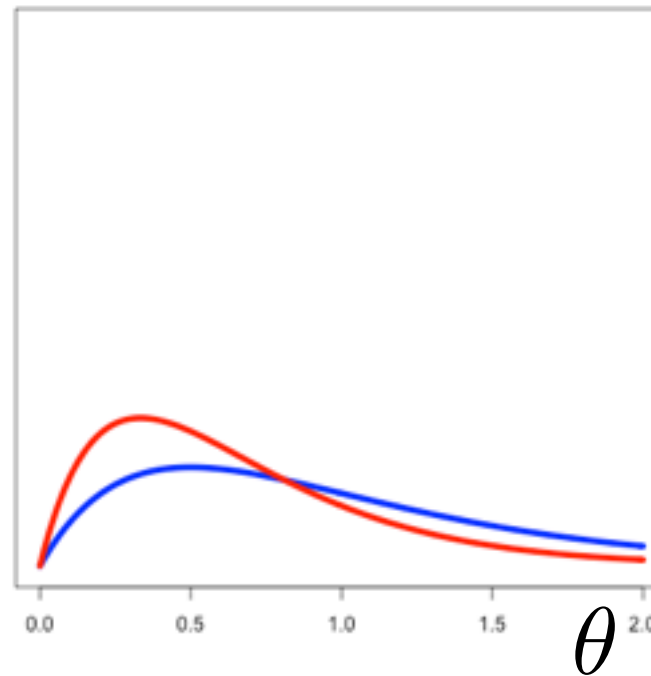


robustness quantification

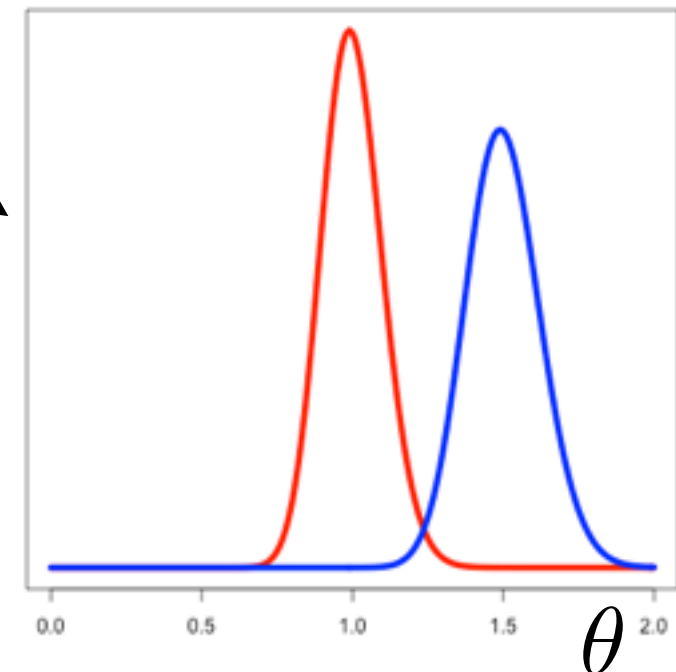
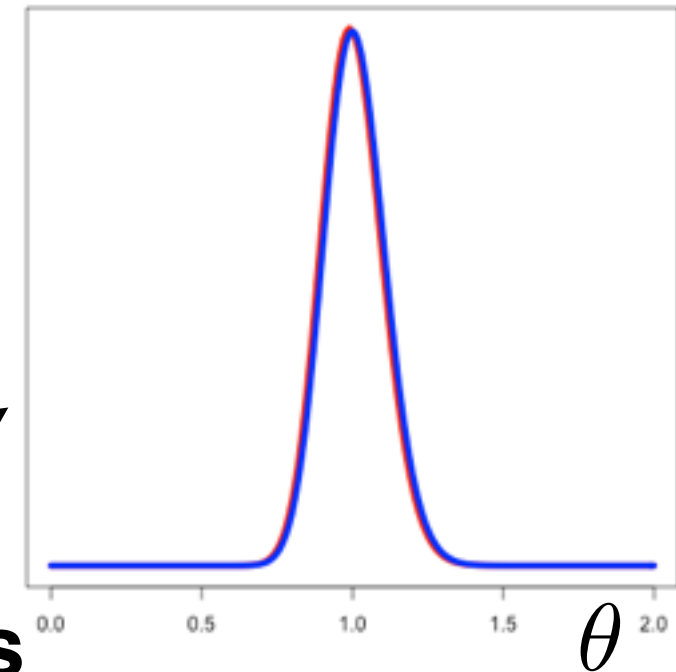
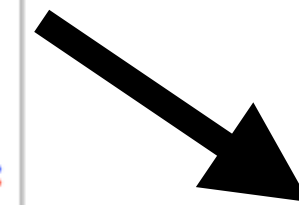
$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models
- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**

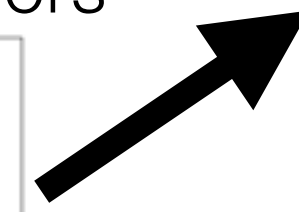
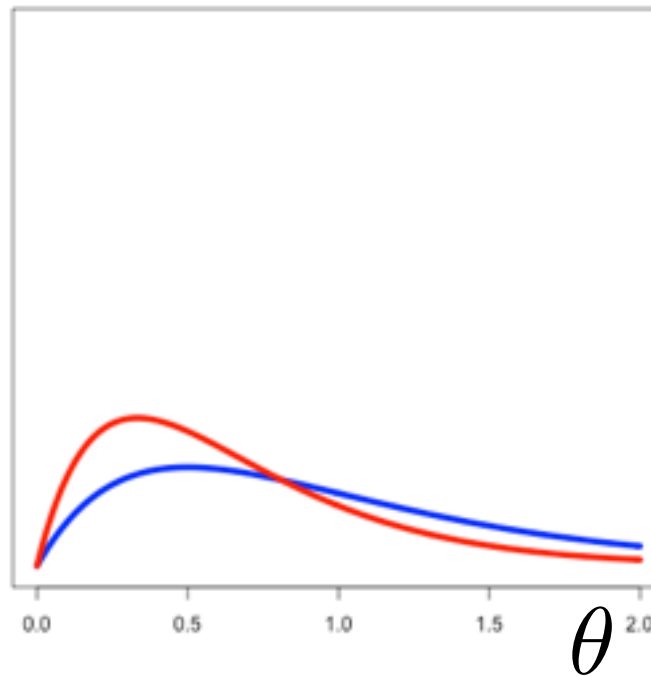


robustness quantification

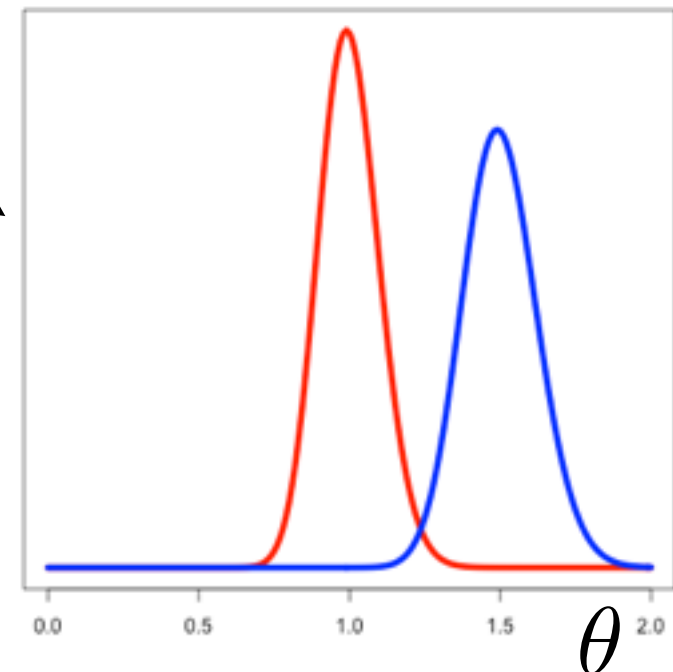
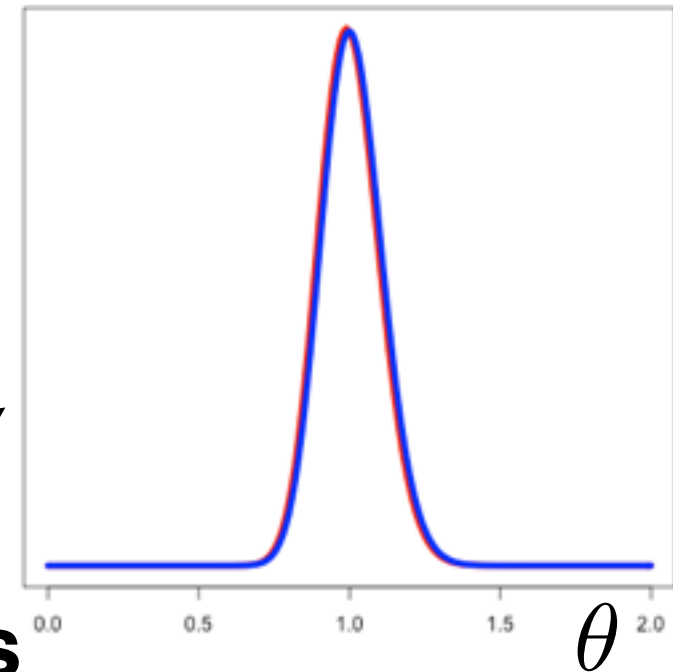
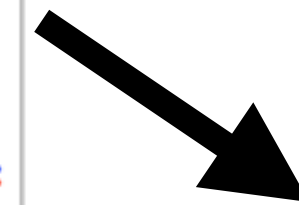
$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo
- Carlo

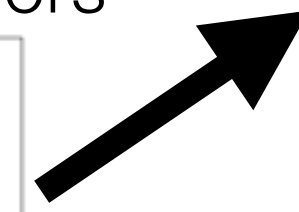
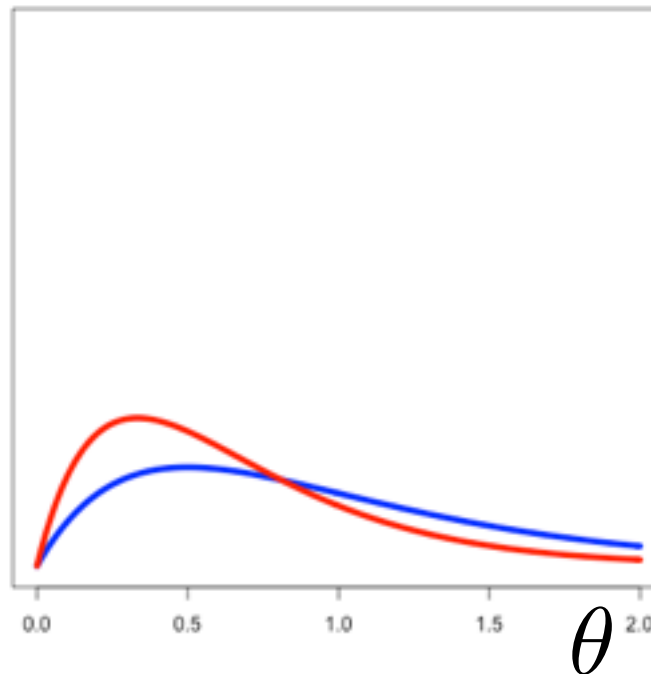
variational Bayes

Uncertainty & robustness quantification

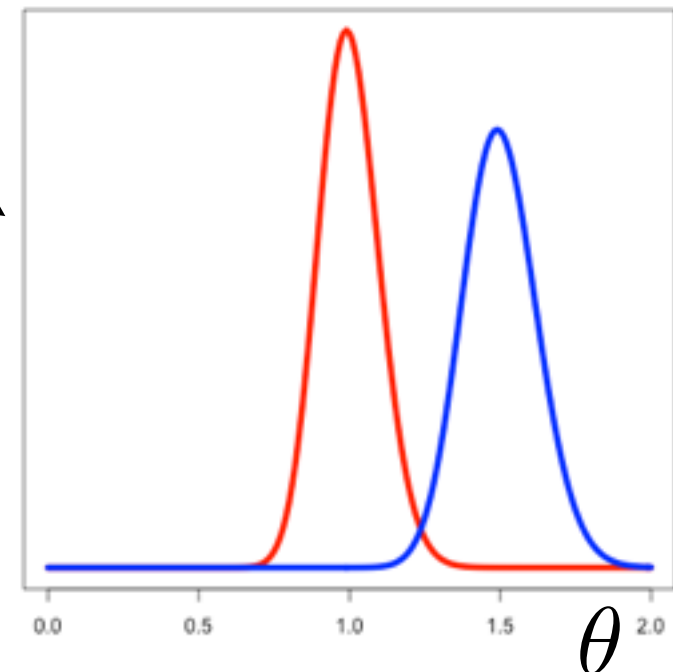
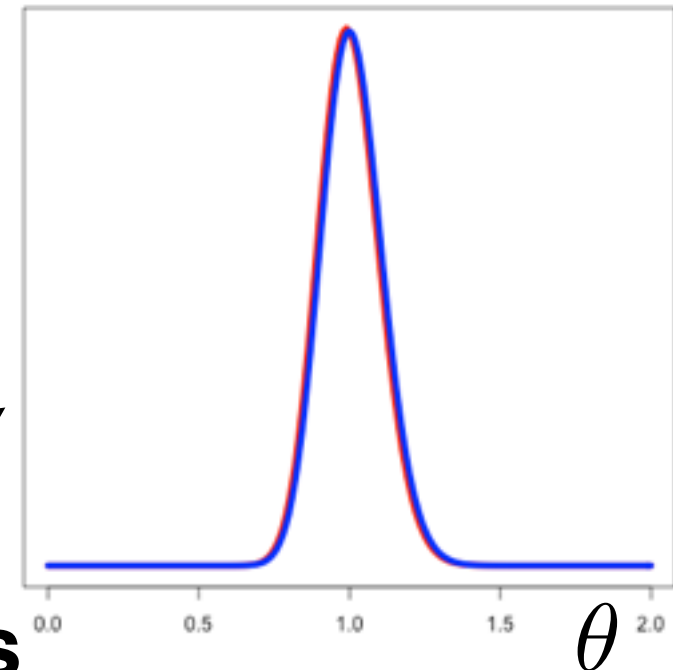
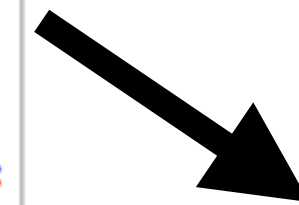
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



Bayes Theorem



- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo

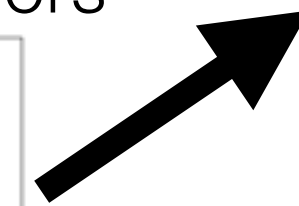
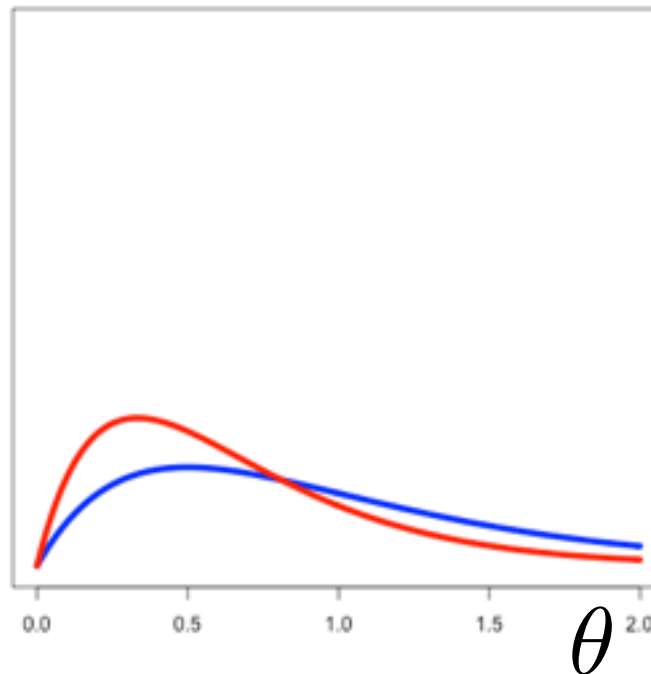
variational Bayes

Uncertainty & robustness quantification

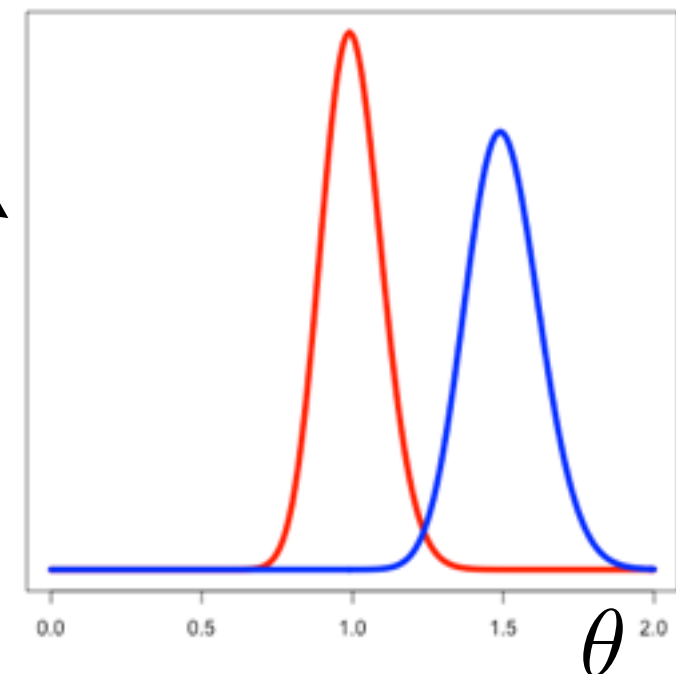
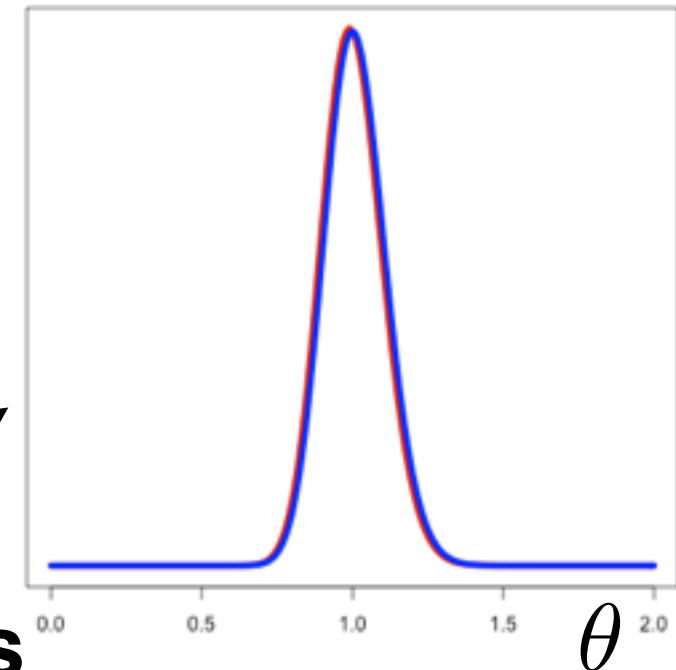
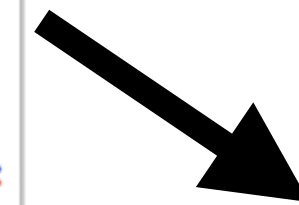
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo

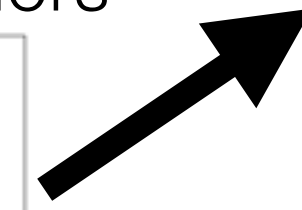
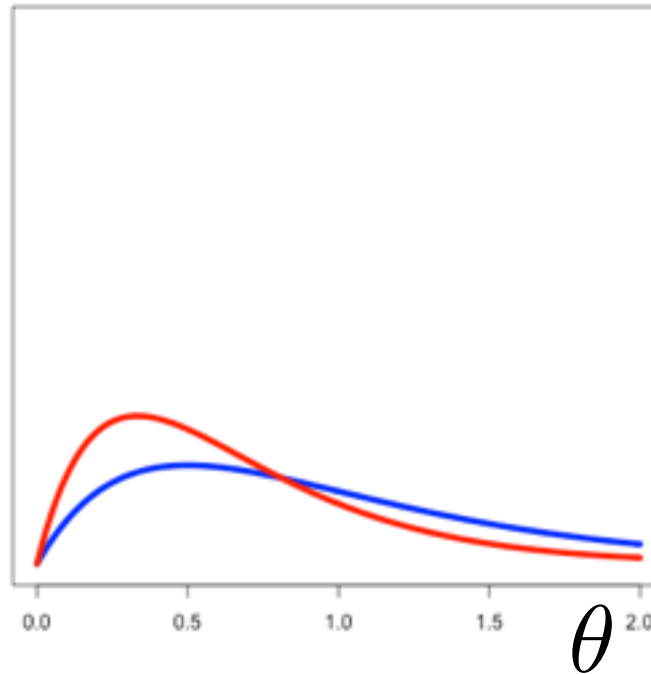
- We propose: *linear response variational Bayes*

Uncertainty & robustness quantification

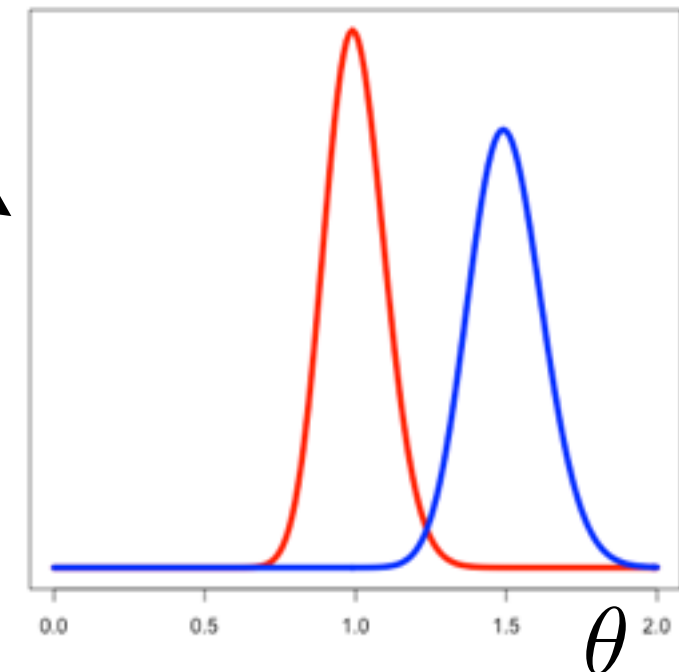
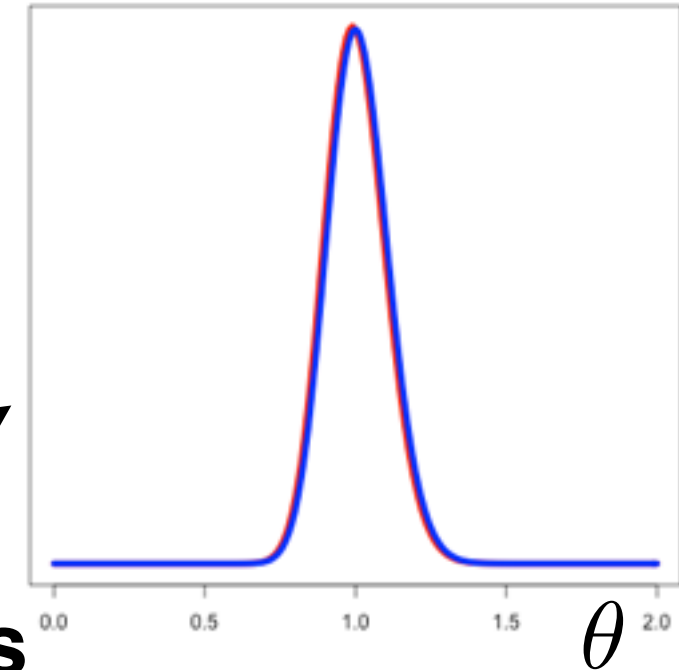
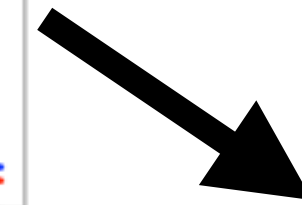
- Bayesian inference
- Challenge: Express knowledge in a distribution (prior, likelihood)
 - Time-consuming; subjective; complex models

$$p(\theta|y) \propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Some reasonable priors



Bayes Theorem



- Challenge: Approximating the posterior can be computationally expensive
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo

- We propose: *linear response variational Bayes*

[see also Opper, Winther 2003]

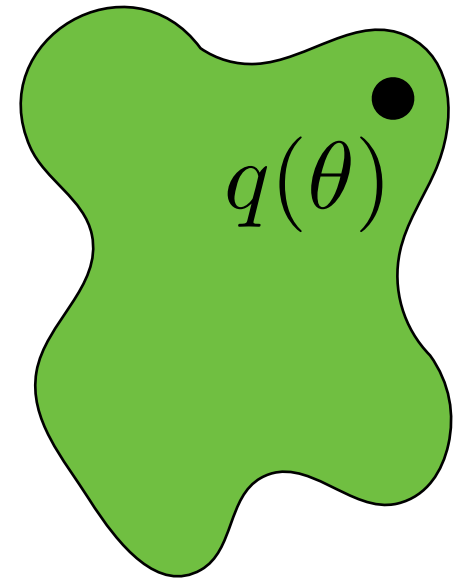
Roadmap

- Challenges of VB
- Accurate uncertainties from VB
- Accurate robustness quantification from VB
 - Big idea: derivatives/perturbations are relatively easy in VB

Roadmap

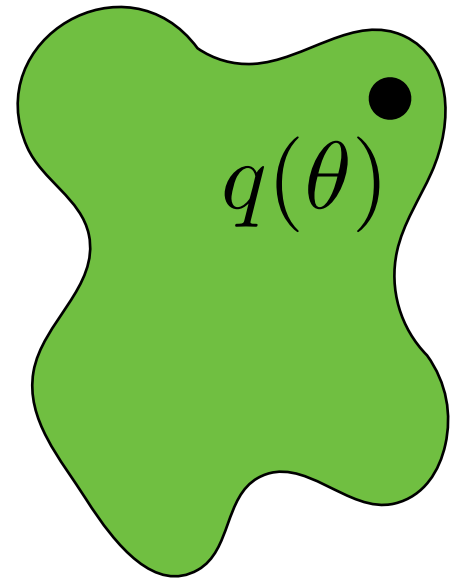
- Challenges of VB
- Accurate uncertainties from VB
- Accurate robustness quantification from VB
 - Big idea: derivatives/perturbations are relatively easy in VB

What about uncertainty?

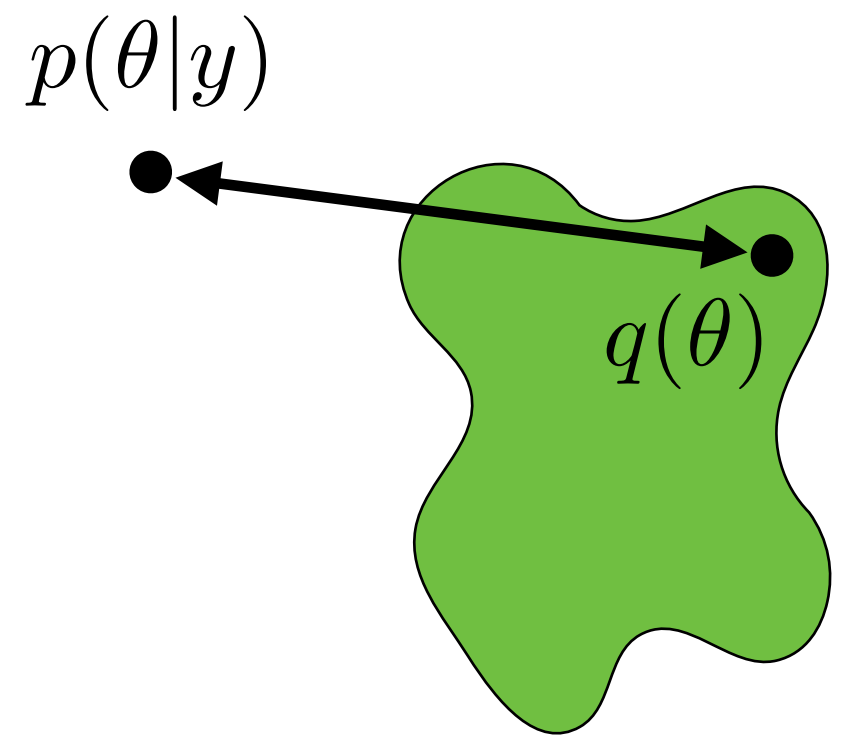


What about uncertainty?

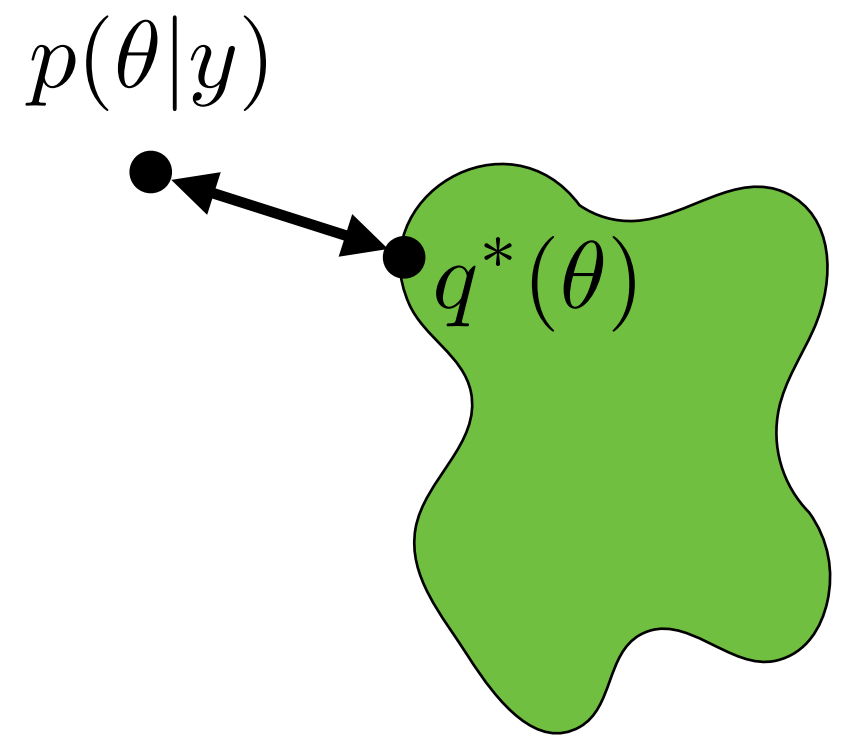
$p(\theta|y)$



What about uncertainty?



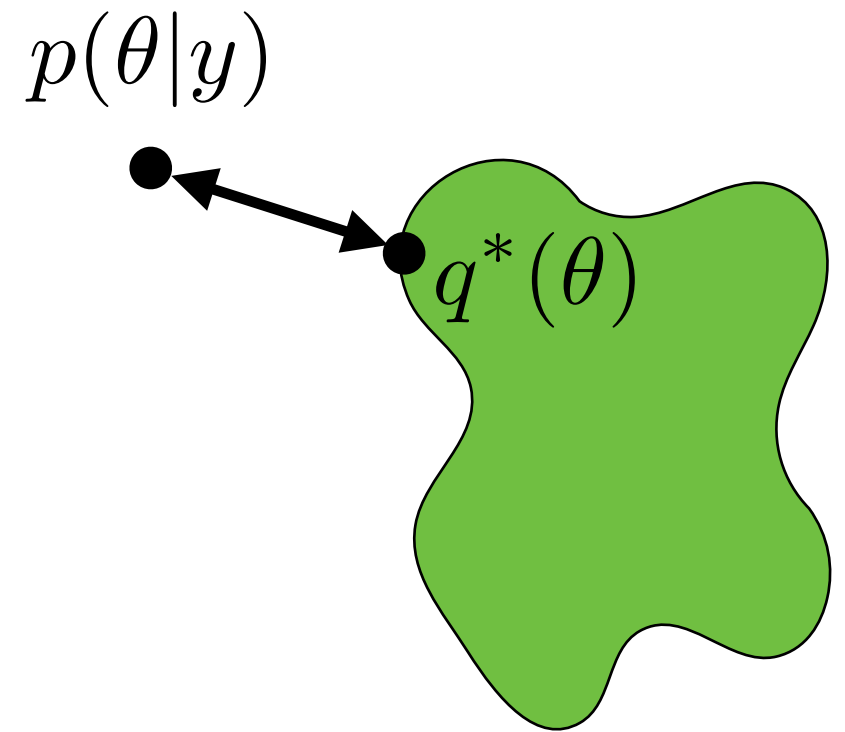
What about uncertainty?



What about uncertainty?

- Variational Bayes

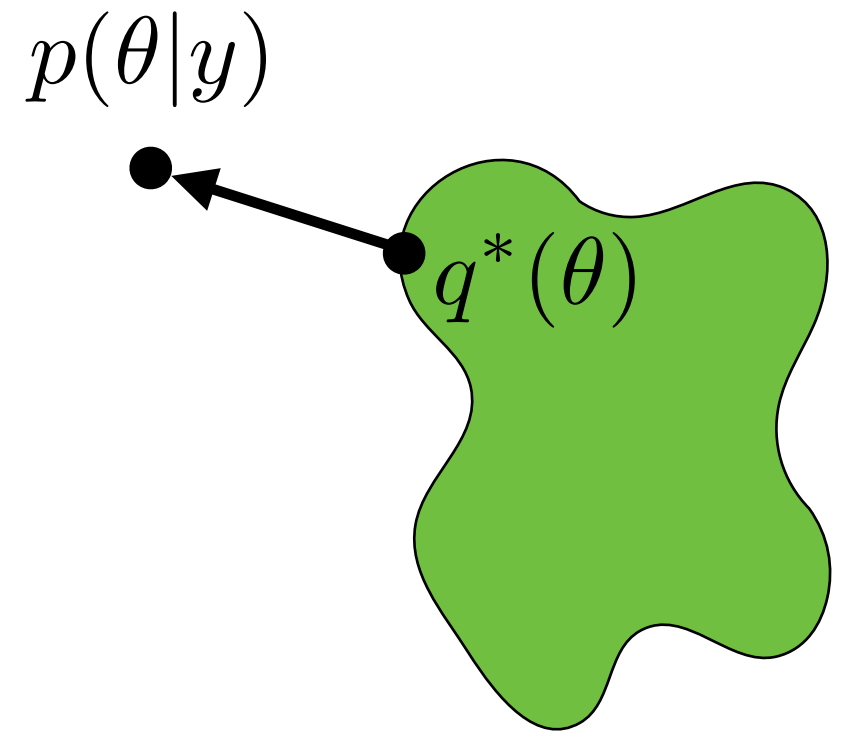
$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$



What about uncertainty?

- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$



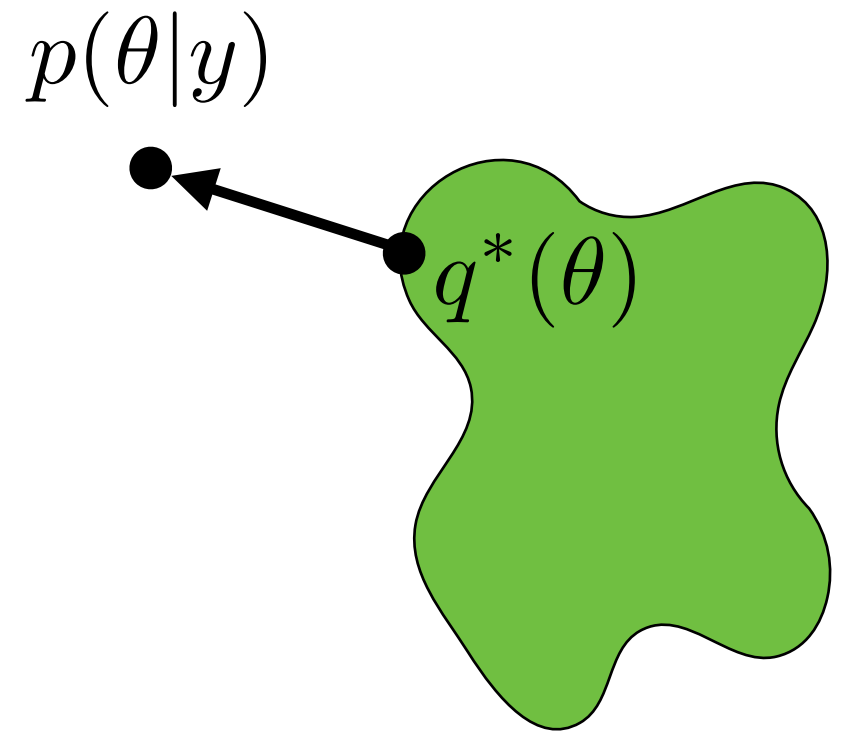
What about uncertainty?

- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$



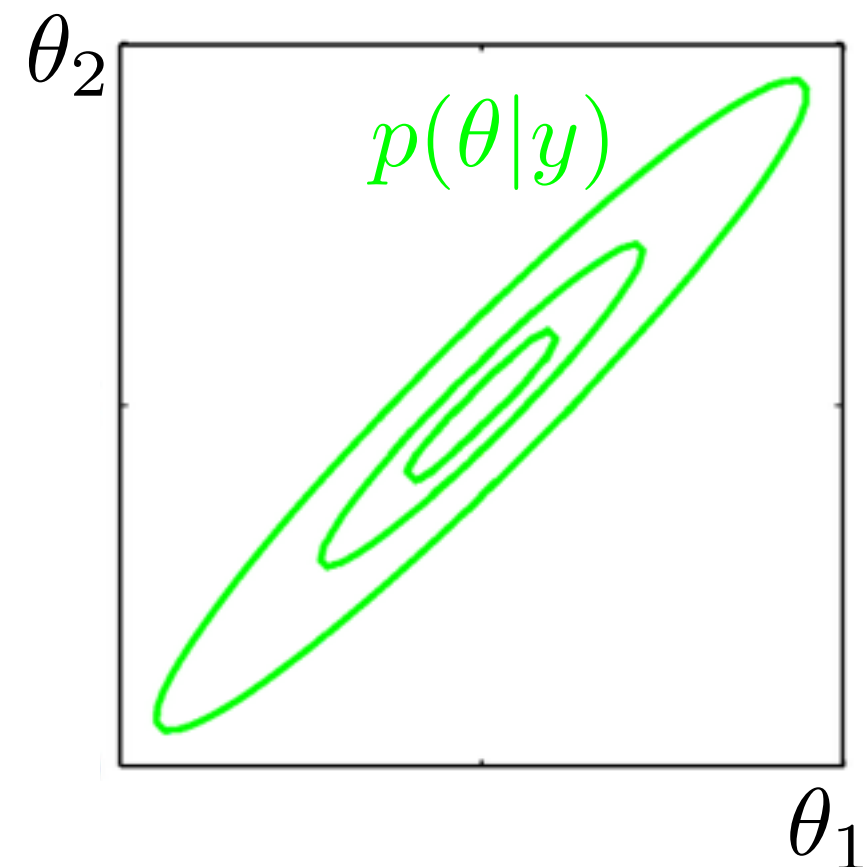
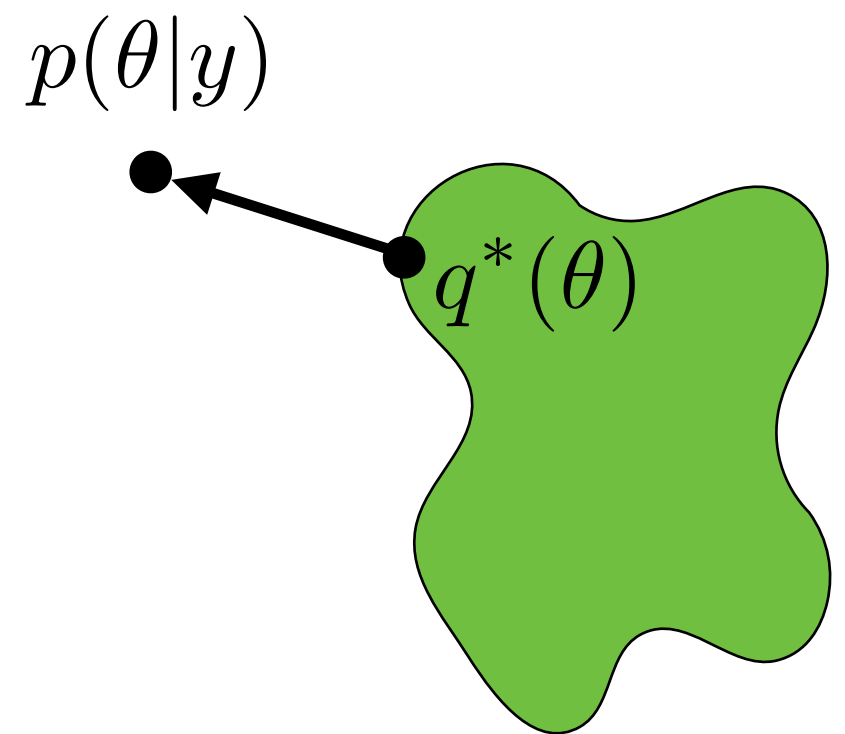
What about uncertainty?

- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$



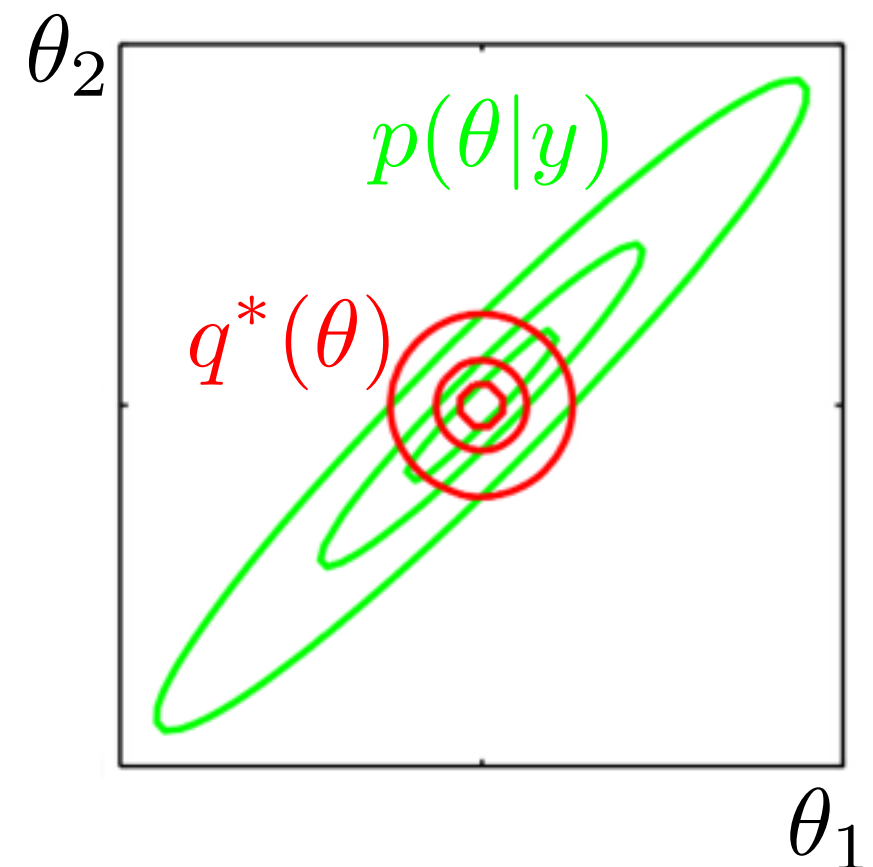
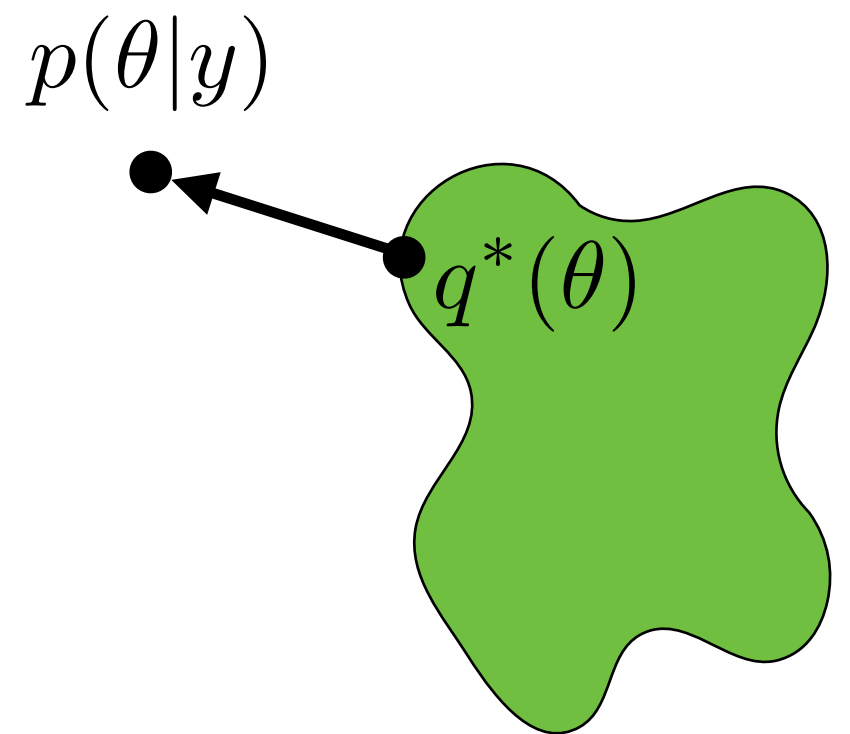
What about uncertainty?

- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$



What about uncertainty?

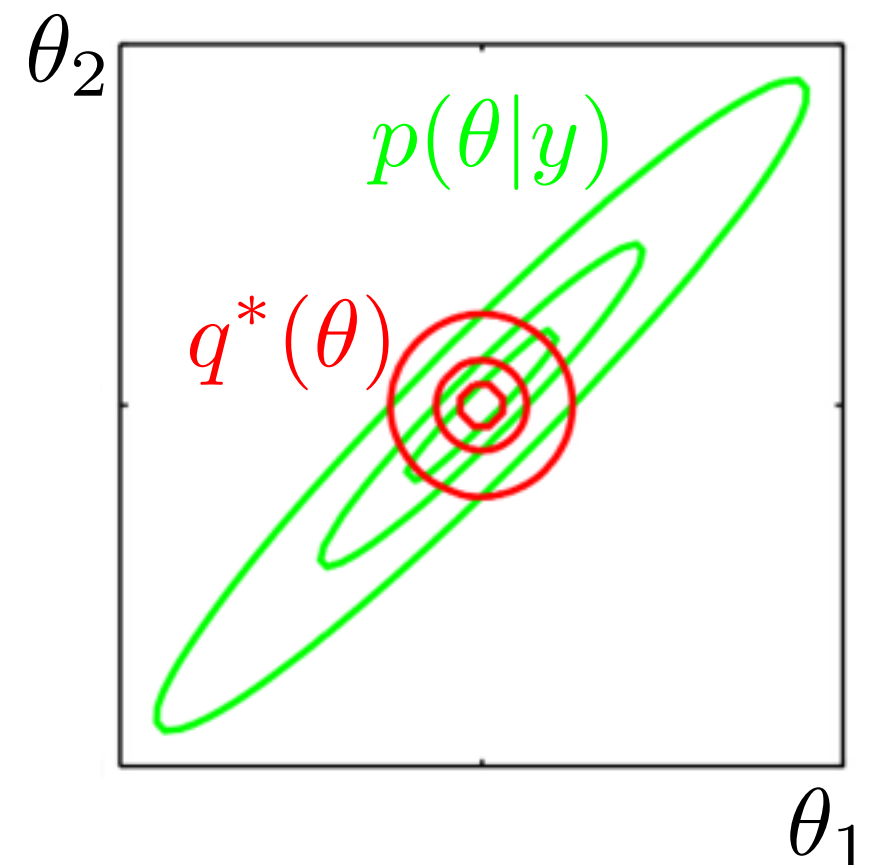
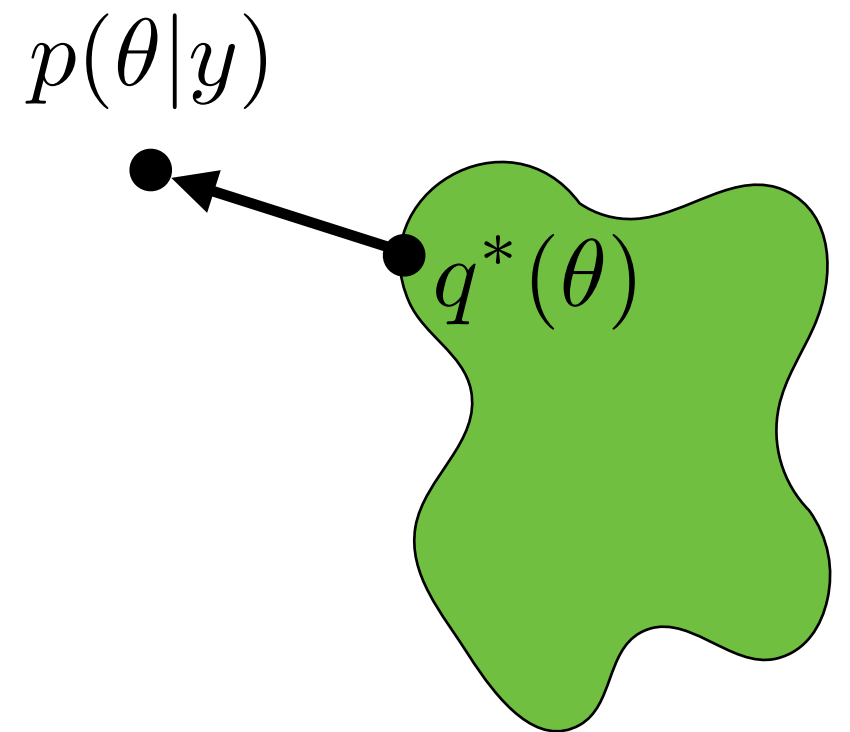
- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$

- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)



What about uncertainty?

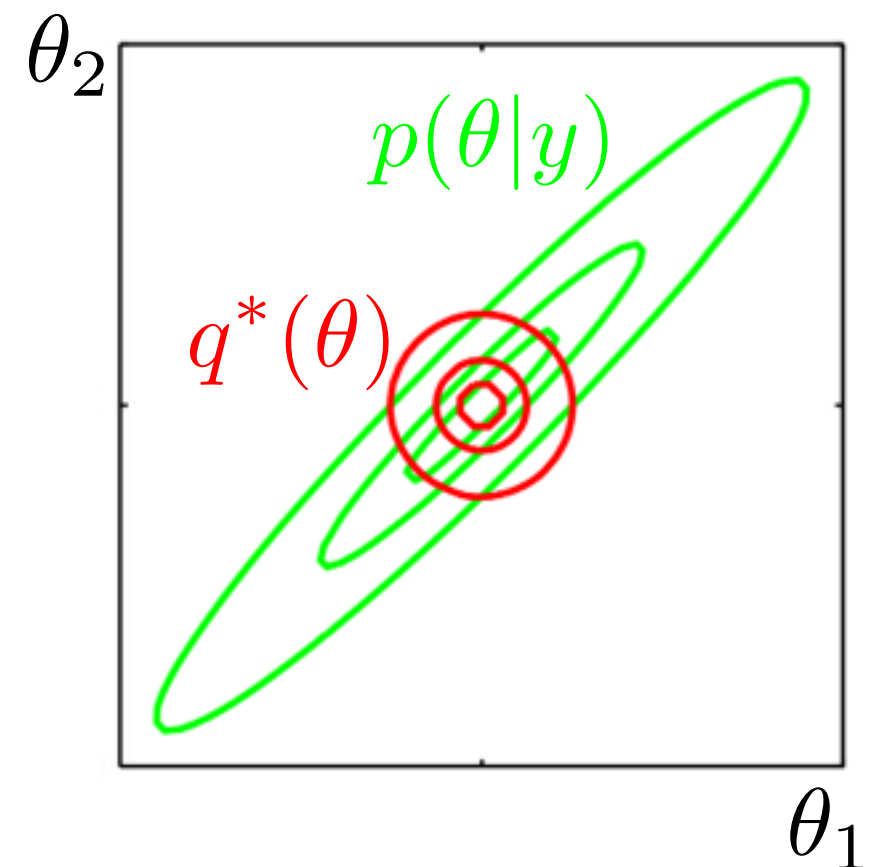
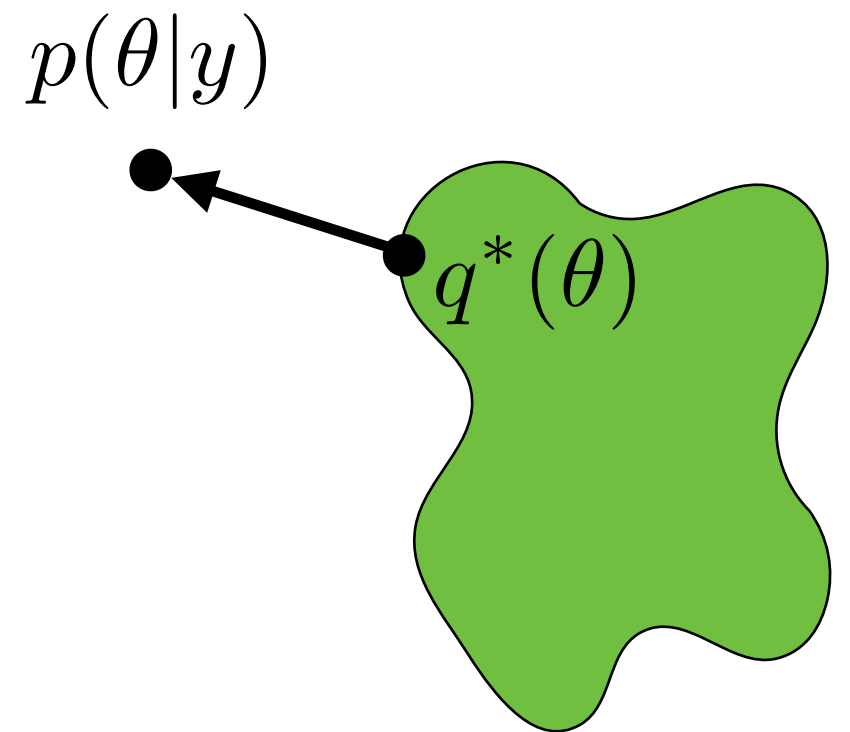
- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$

- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- No covariance estimates



What about uncertainty?

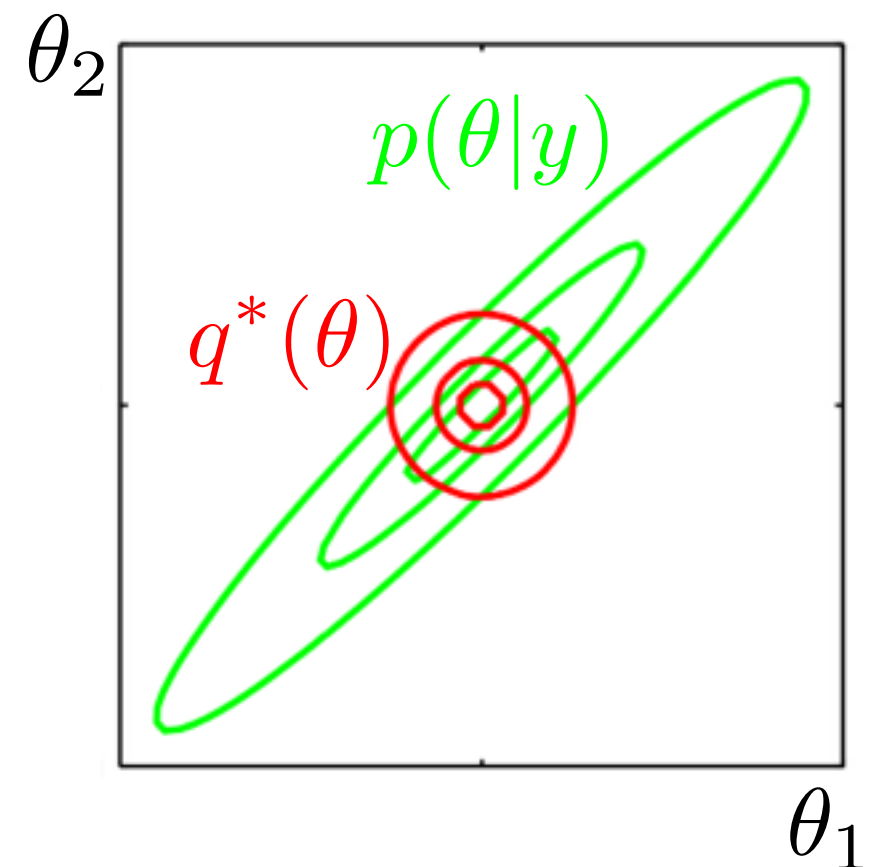
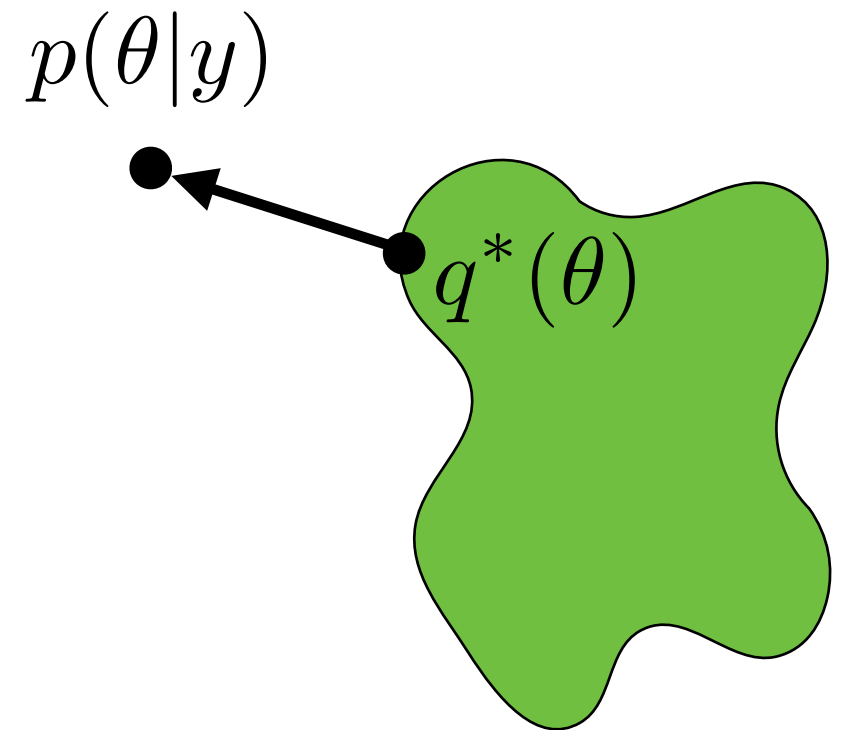
- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$

- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- No covariance estimates



What about uncertainty?

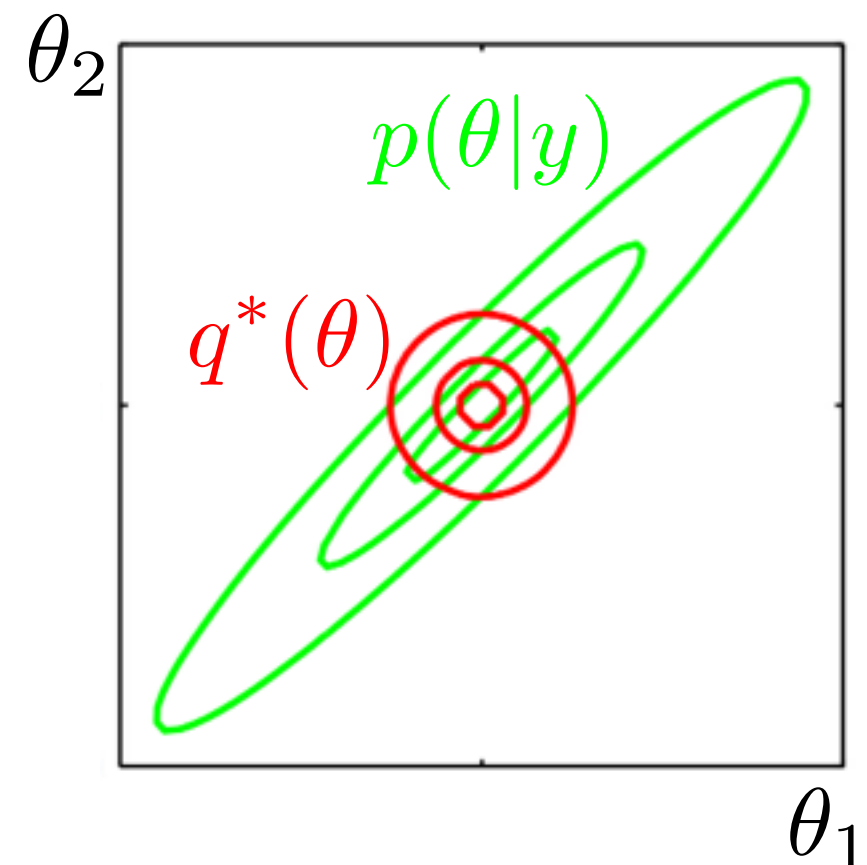
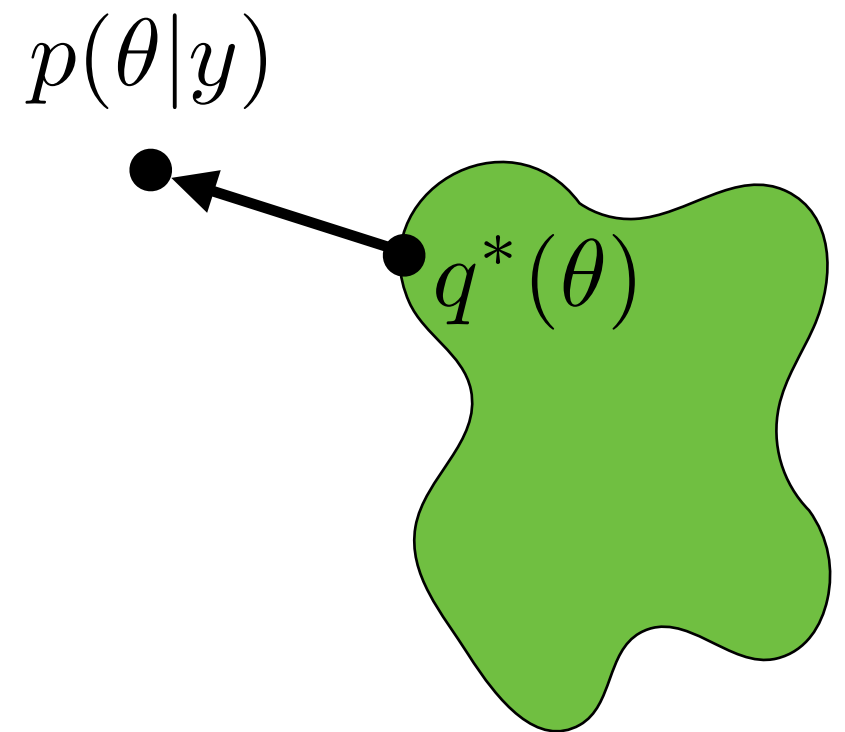
- Variational Bayes

$$KL(q||p(\cdot|y)) = \int_{\theta} q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|y)} d\theta$$

- Mean-field variational Bayes (MFVB)

$$q(\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^J q(\theta_j)$$

- Underestimates variance (sometimes severely)
- No covariance estimates



[MacKay 2003; Bishop 2006; Wang, Titterton 2004; Turner, Sahani 2011]

[Fosdick 2013; Dunson 2014; Bardenet, Doucet, Holmes 2017]

Linear response

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

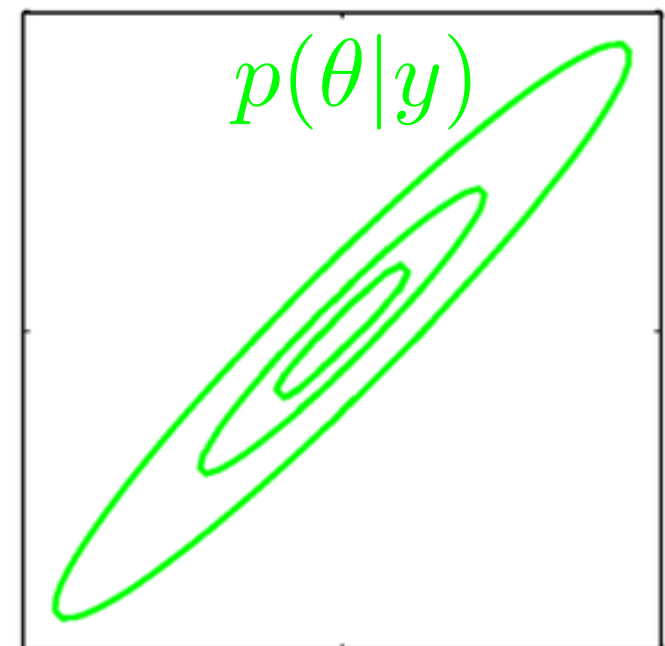
Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

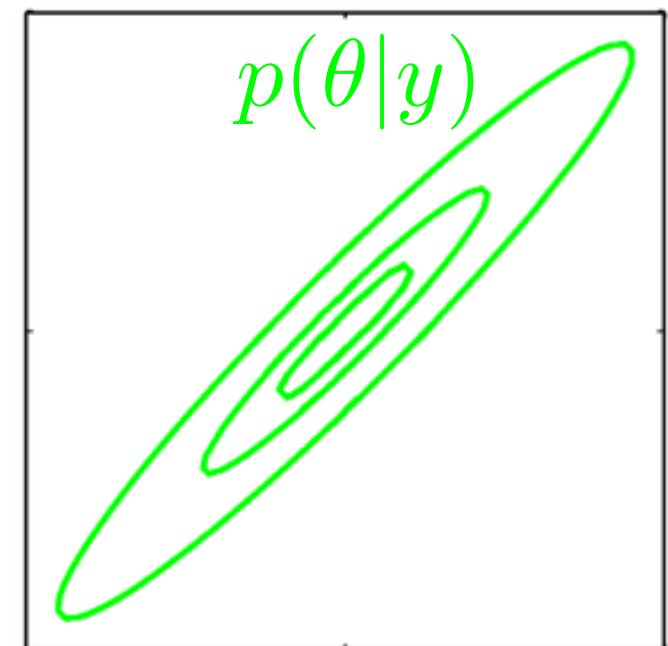
- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

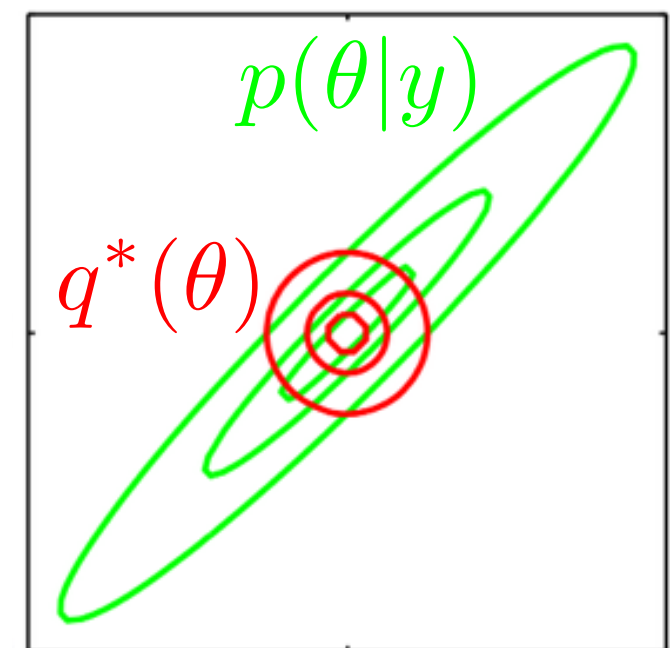
- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

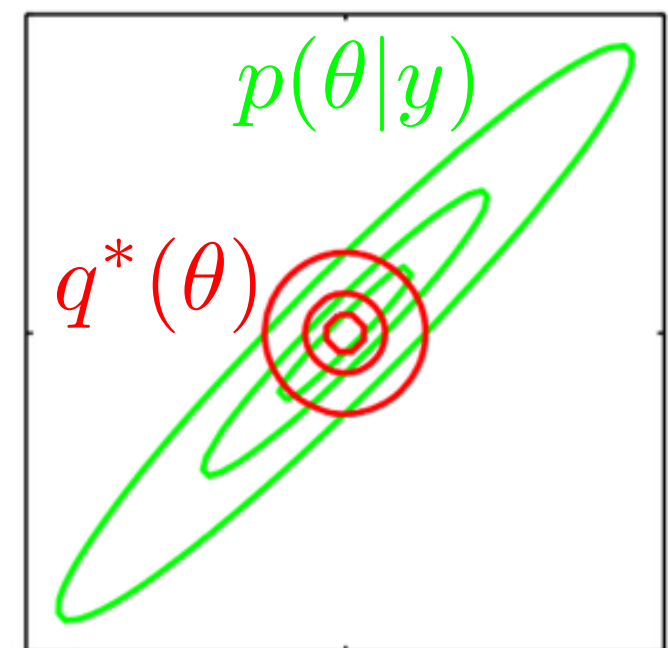
Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

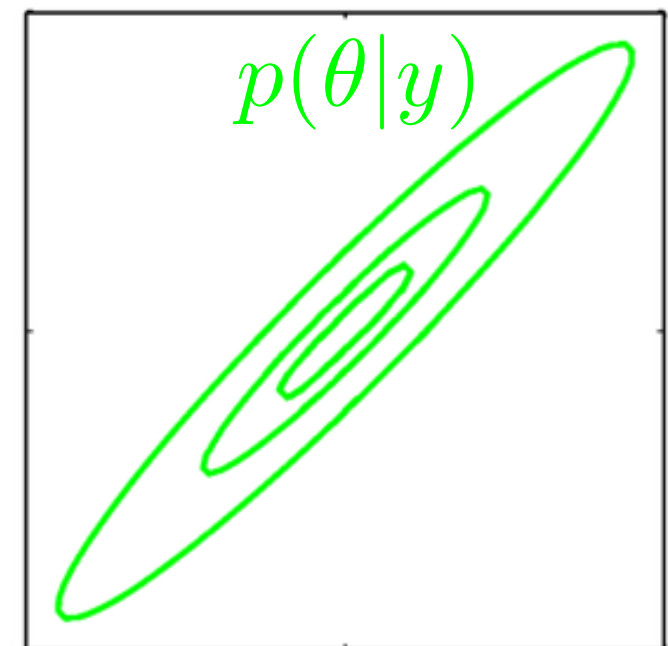
$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

$$V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

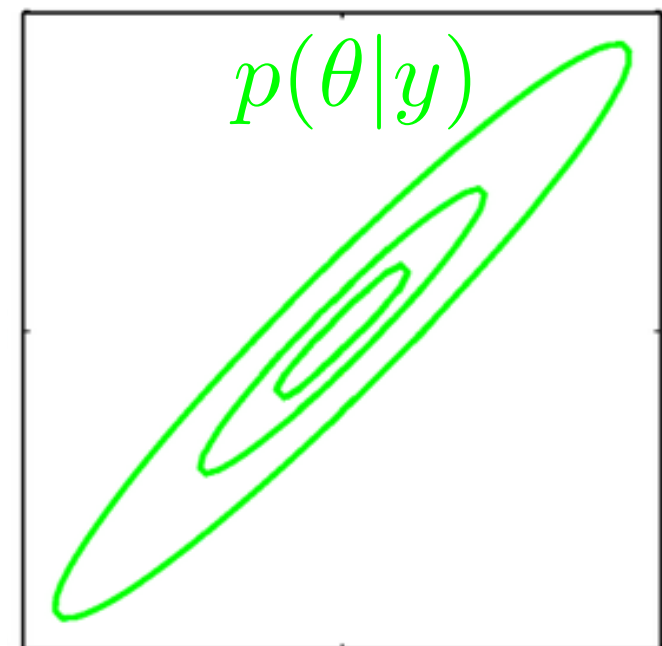
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p(\theta|y)$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

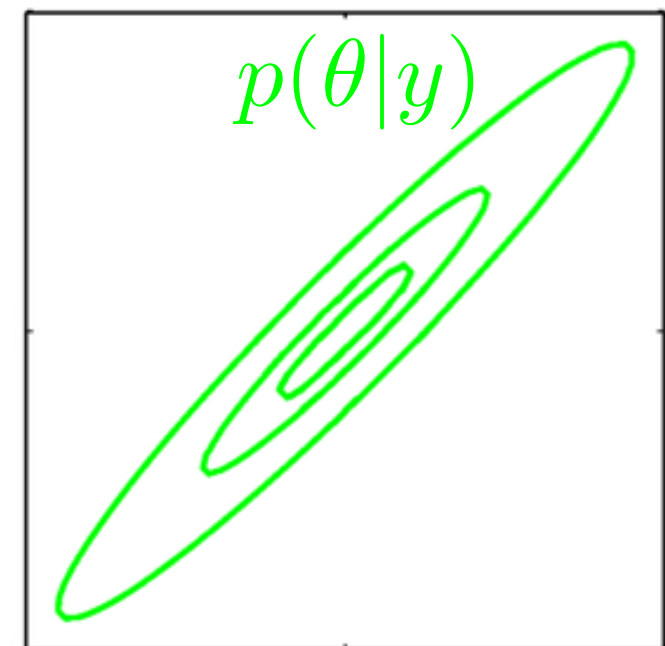
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

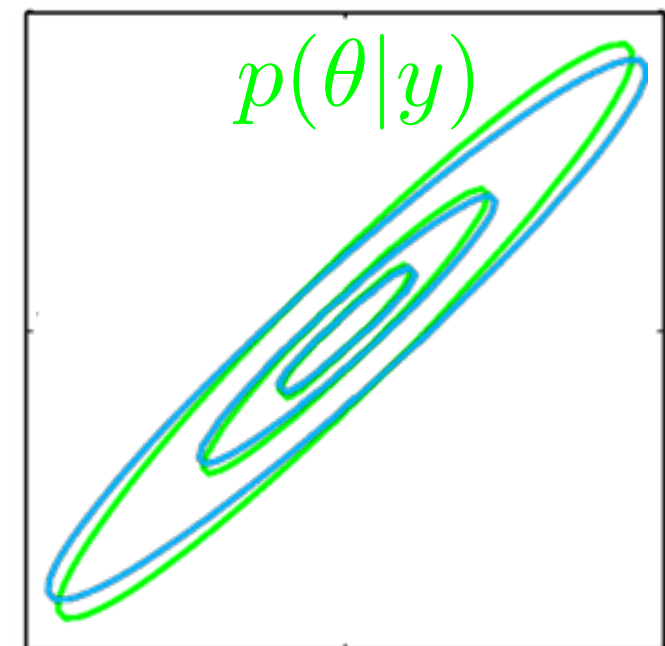
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta}$$

$$\text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

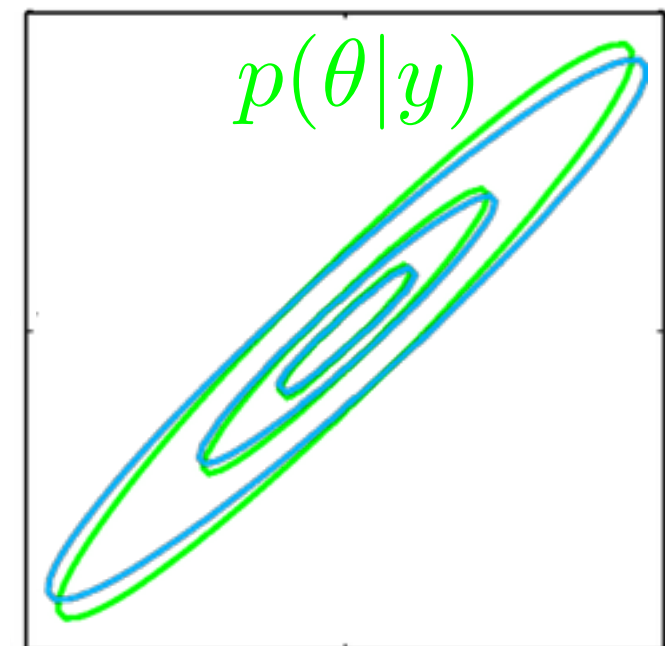
- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

$$V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

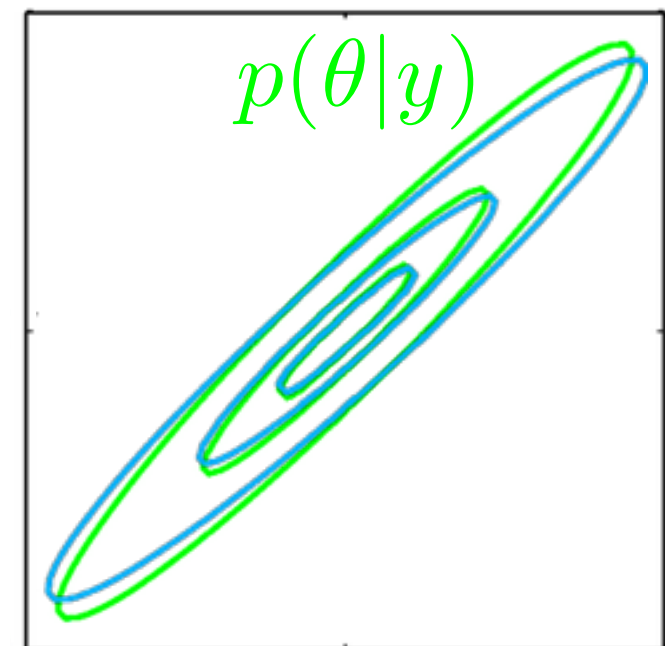
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t)$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

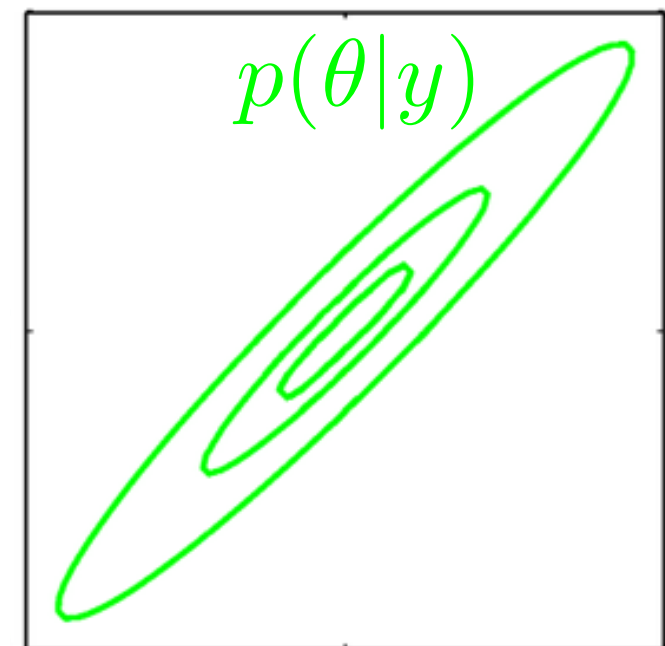
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t)$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

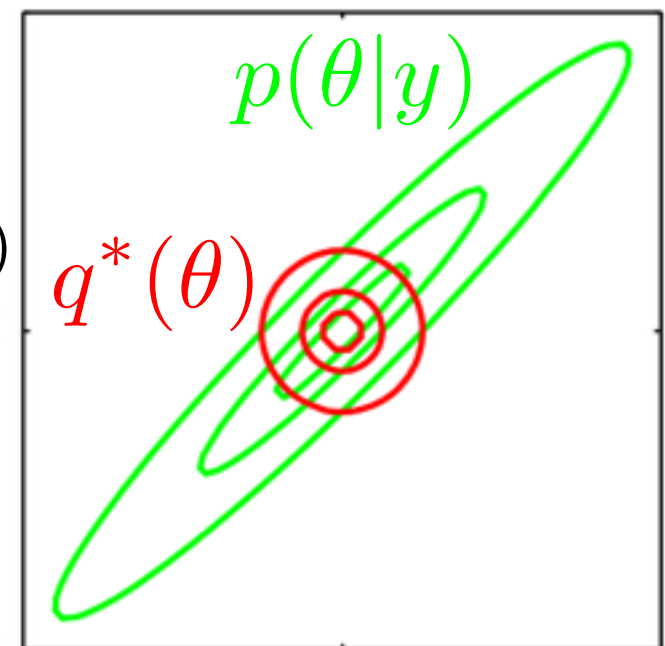
$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

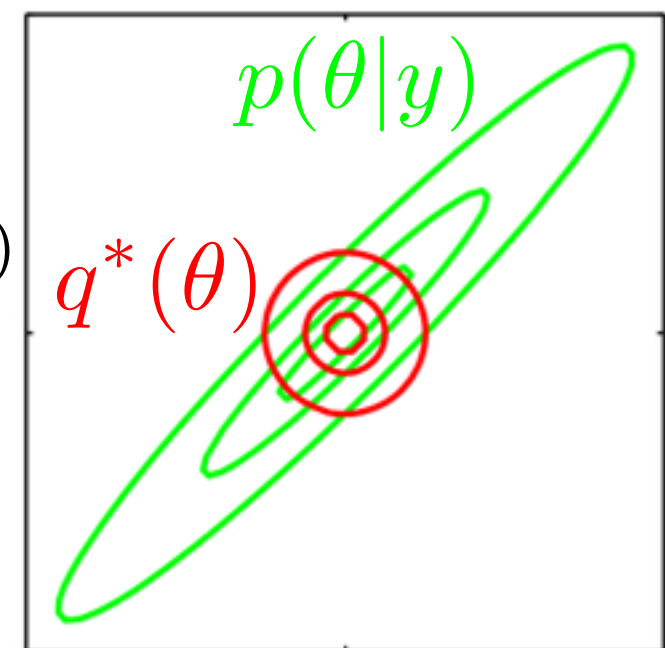
- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

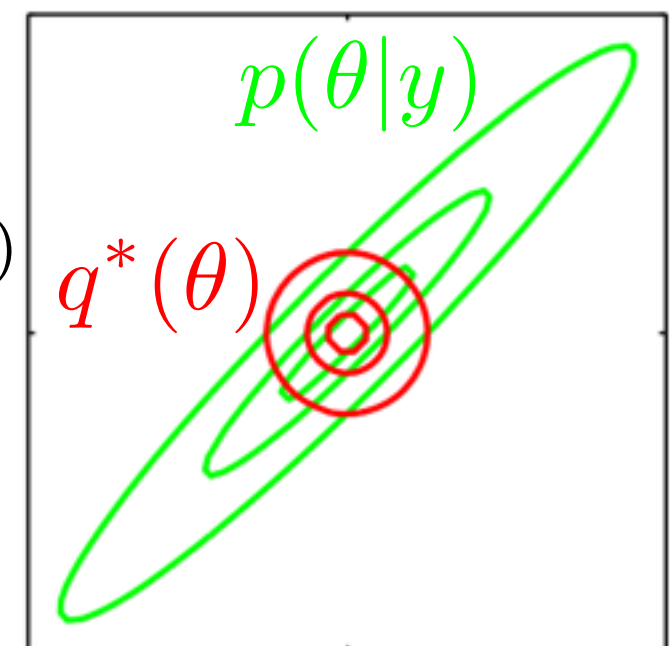
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \frac{d}{dt^T} \left[\frac{d}{dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right] \Big|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

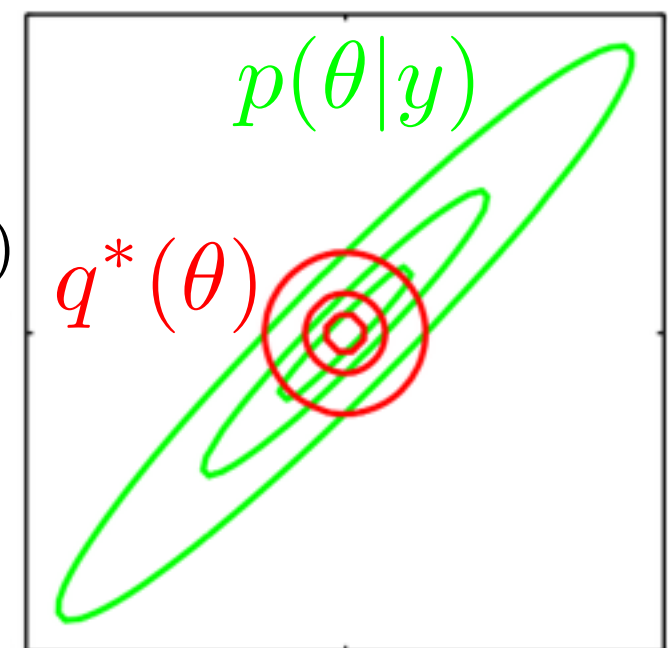
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

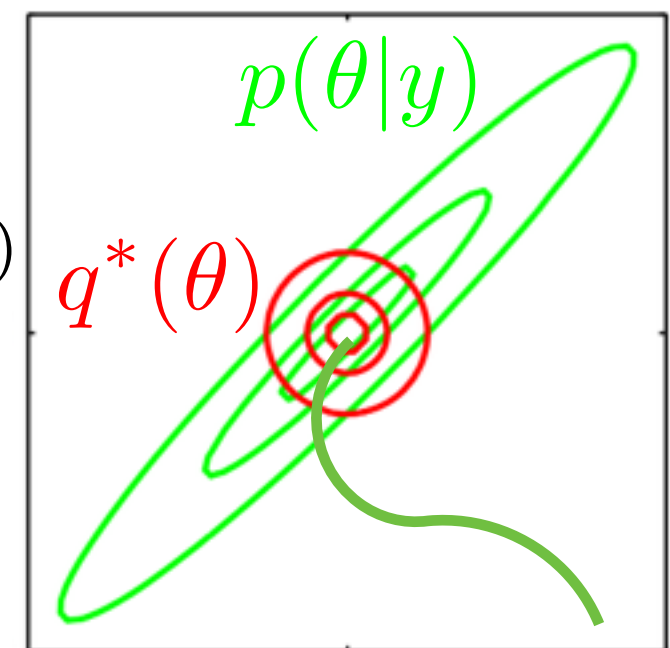
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

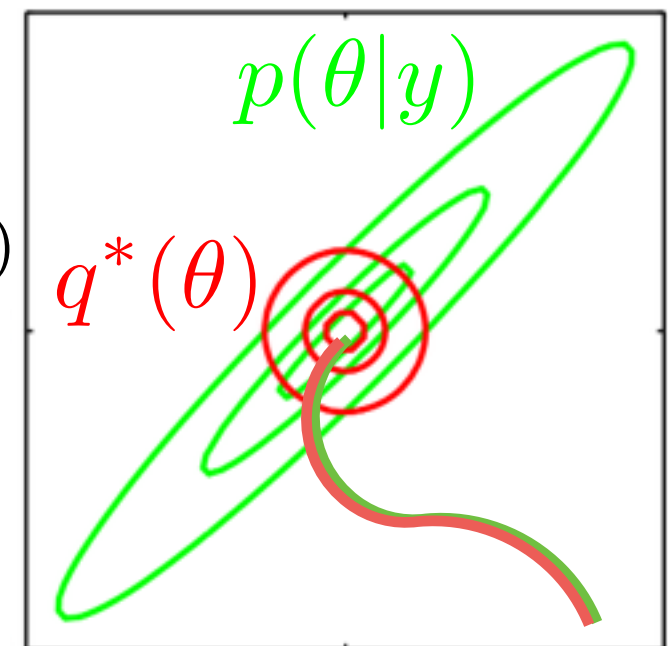
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

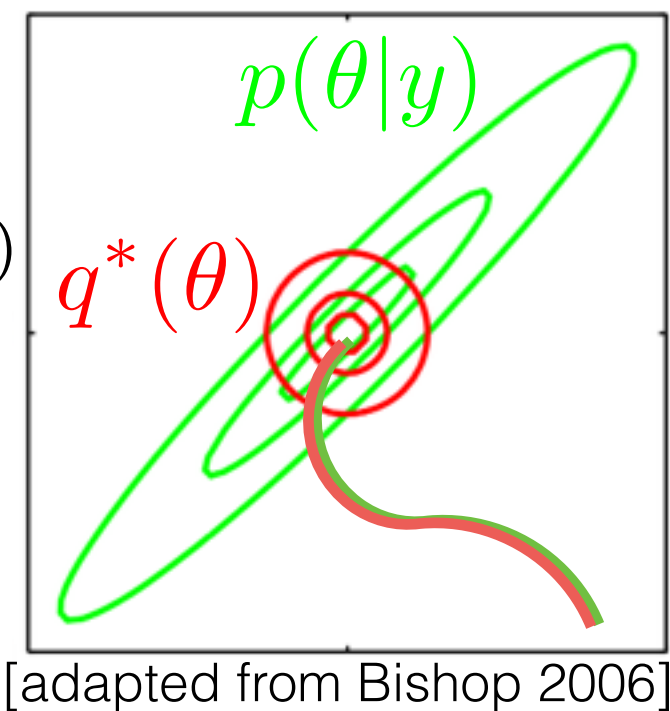
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0} \approx \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\eta^*}(t)} \theta \right|_{t=0}$$



Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs MFVB covariance

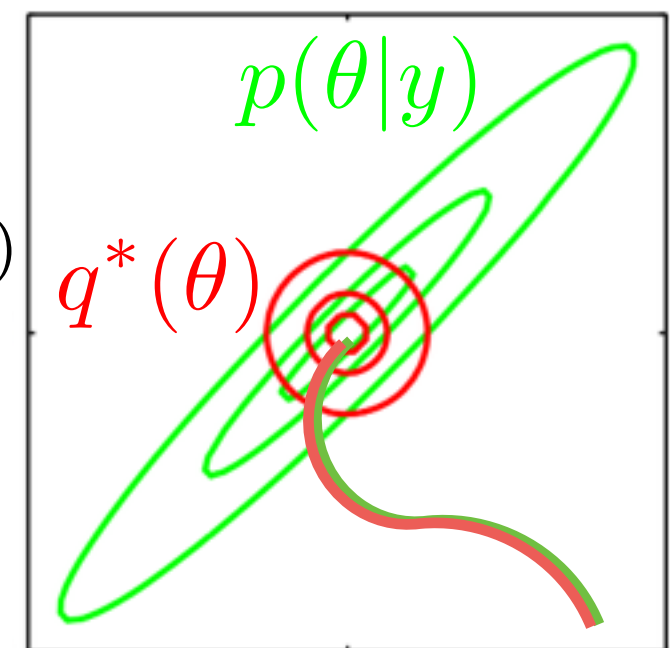
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \text{ MFVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0} \approx \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\eta^*}(t)} \theta \right|_{t=0} =: \hat{\Sigma}$$



[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs ~~M~~FVB covariance

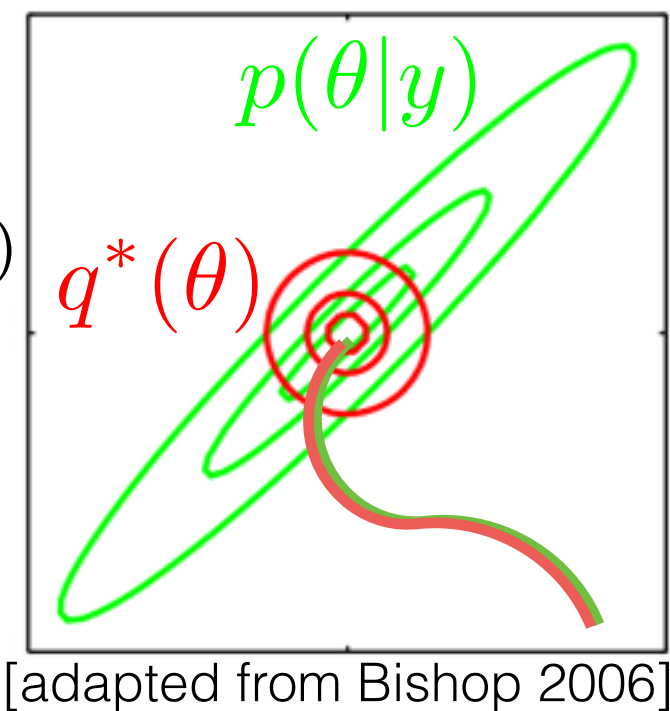
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \quad \text{vs } \log q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0} \approx \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\eta^*}(t)} \theta \right|_{t=0} =: \hat{\Sigma}$$



Linear response

- Cumulant-generating function

$$C(t) := \log \mathbb{E} e^{t^T \theta} \quad \text{mean} = \left. \frac{d}{dt} C(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- Exact posterior covariance vs ~~M~~FVB covariance

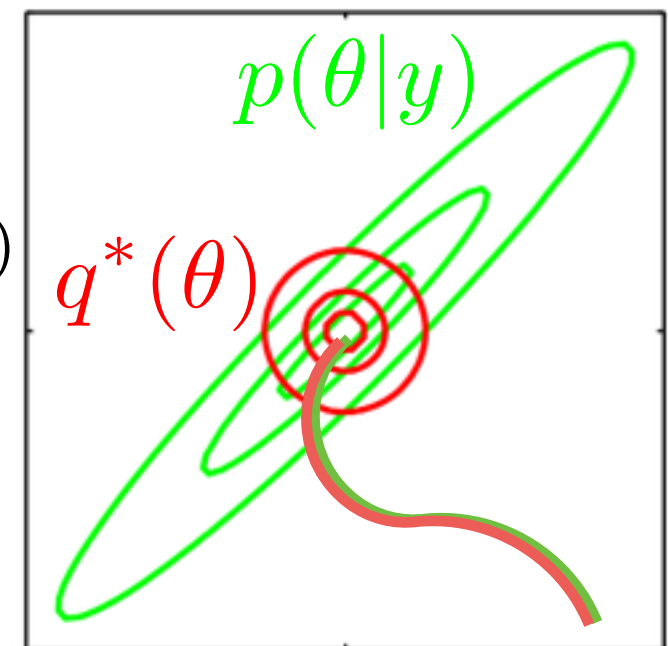
$$\Sigma := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{p(\cdot|y)}(t) \right|_{t=0} \quad V := \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^T dt} C_{q_{\eta^*}}(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- “Linear response”

$$\log p_t(\theta) := \log p(\theta|y) + t^T \theta - C(t), \quad \text{vs } \text{M} \text{FVB } q_{\eta^*}(t)$$

- The LRVB approximation

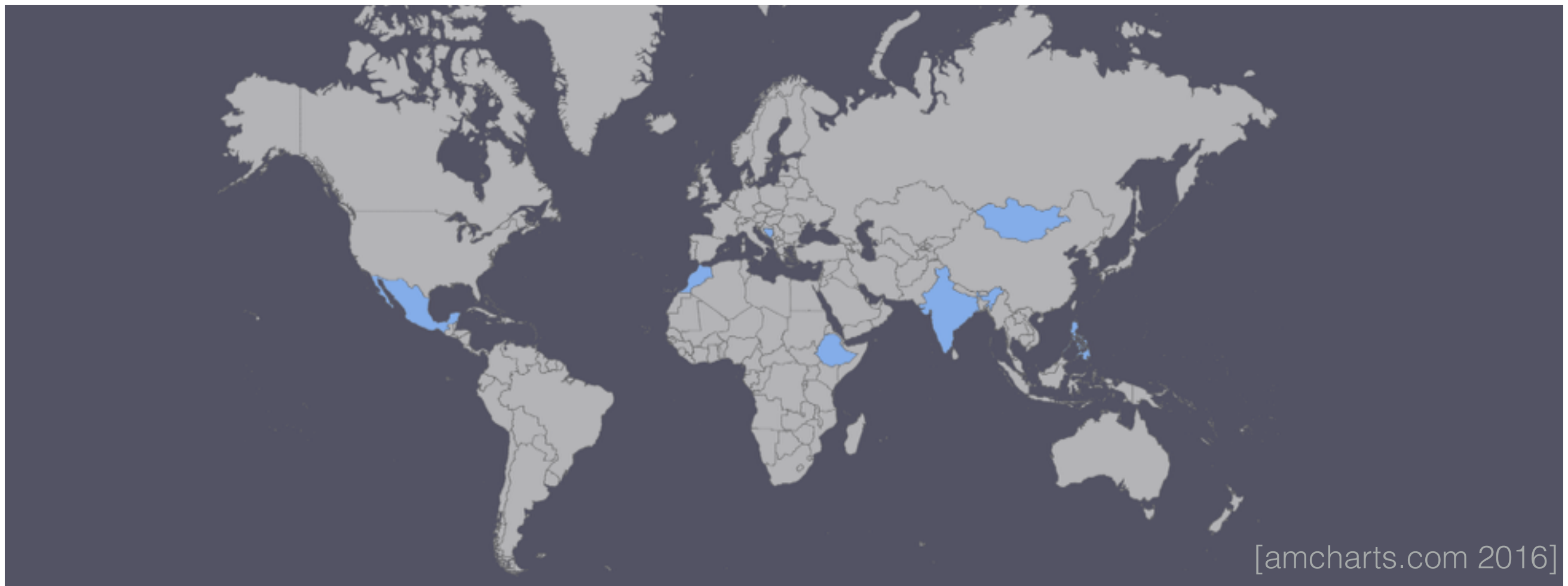
$$\Sigma = \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{p_t} \theta \right|_{t=0} \approx \left. \frac{d}{dt^T} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\eta^*}(t)} \theta \right|_{t=0} =: \hat{\Sigma} \quad \text{[board]}$$



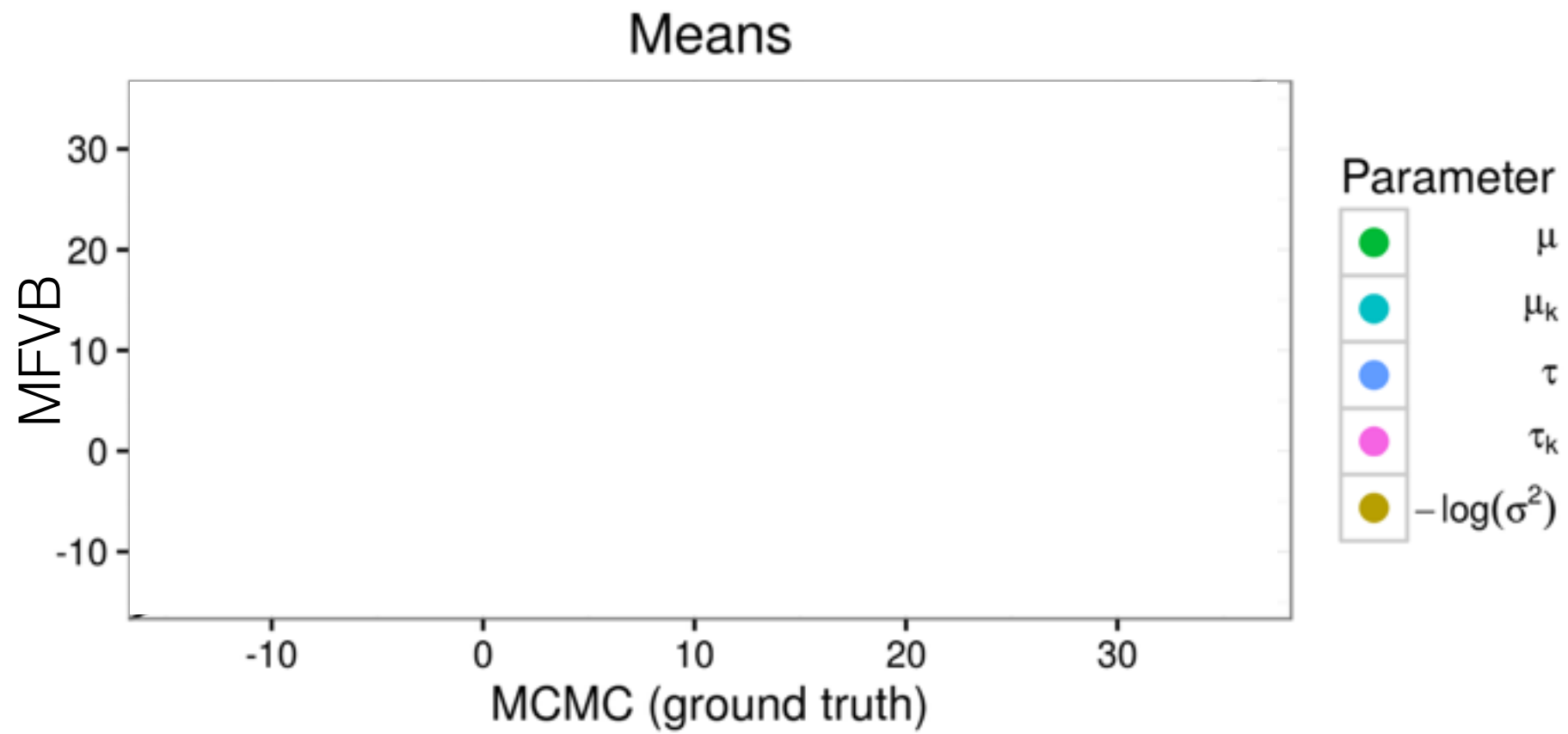
[adapted from Bishop 2006]

Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2018a)
- K microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- N_k businesses in k th site (~ 900 to $\sim 17K$)

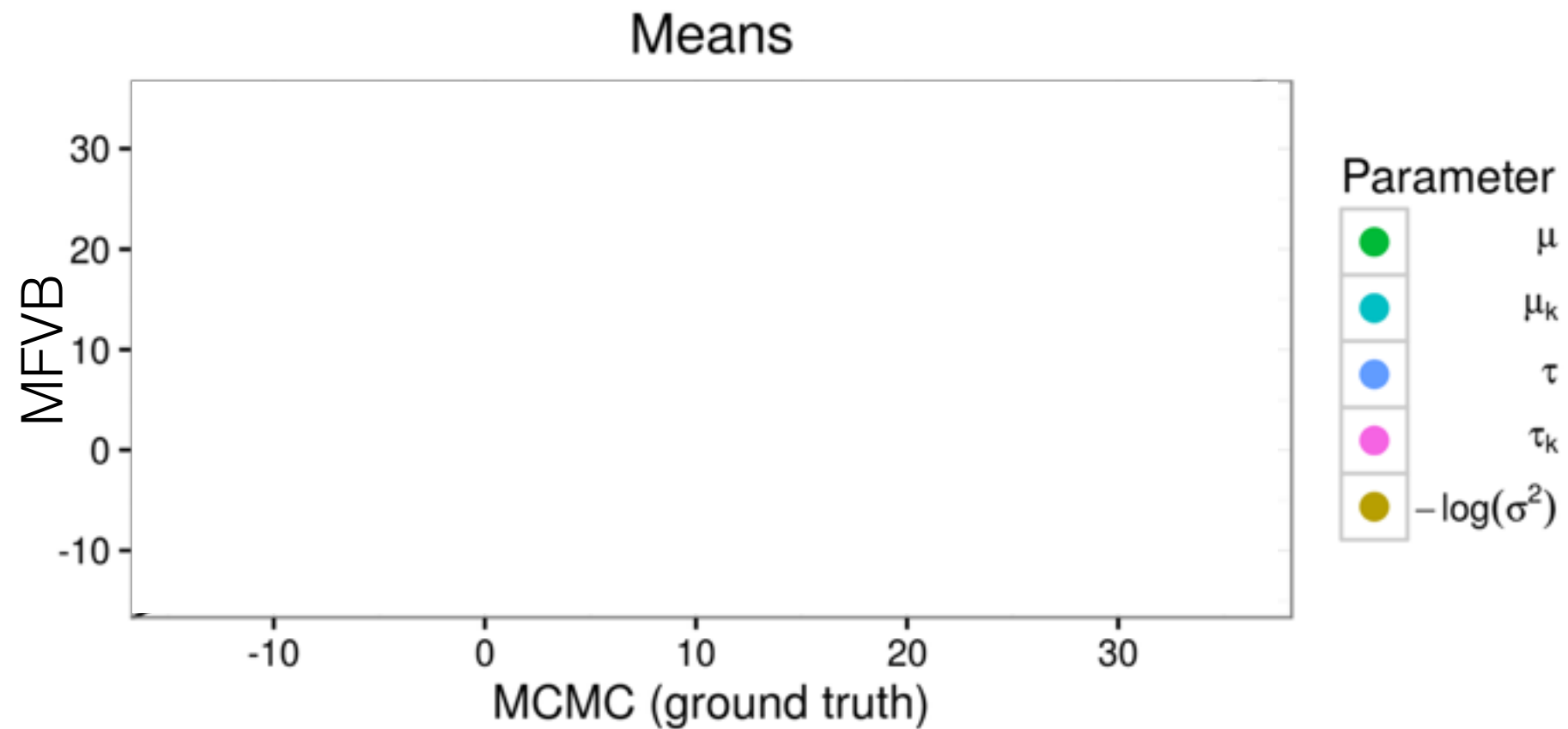


Microcredit Experiment



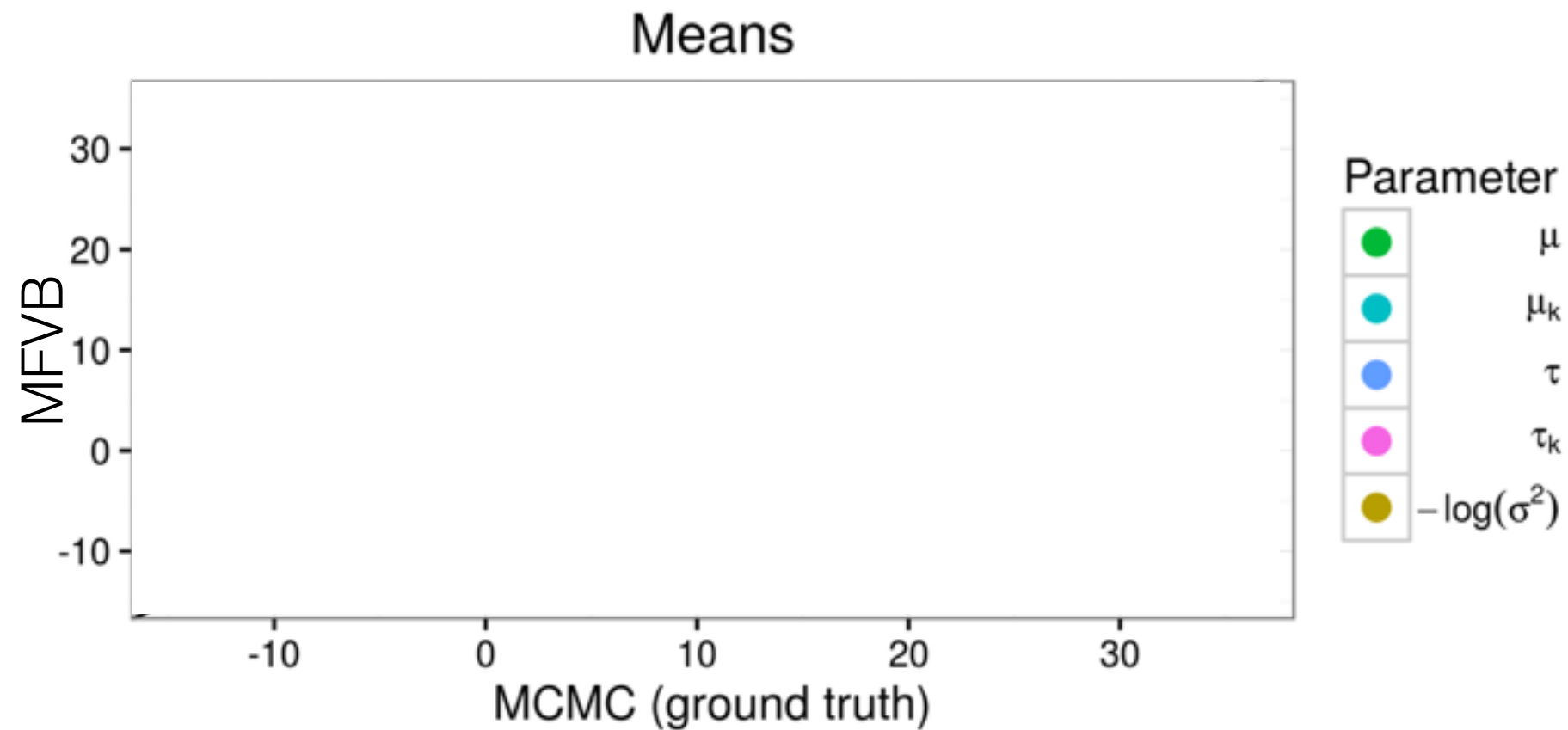
Microcredit Experiment

- *One set of 2500*
MCMC draws:
45 minutes



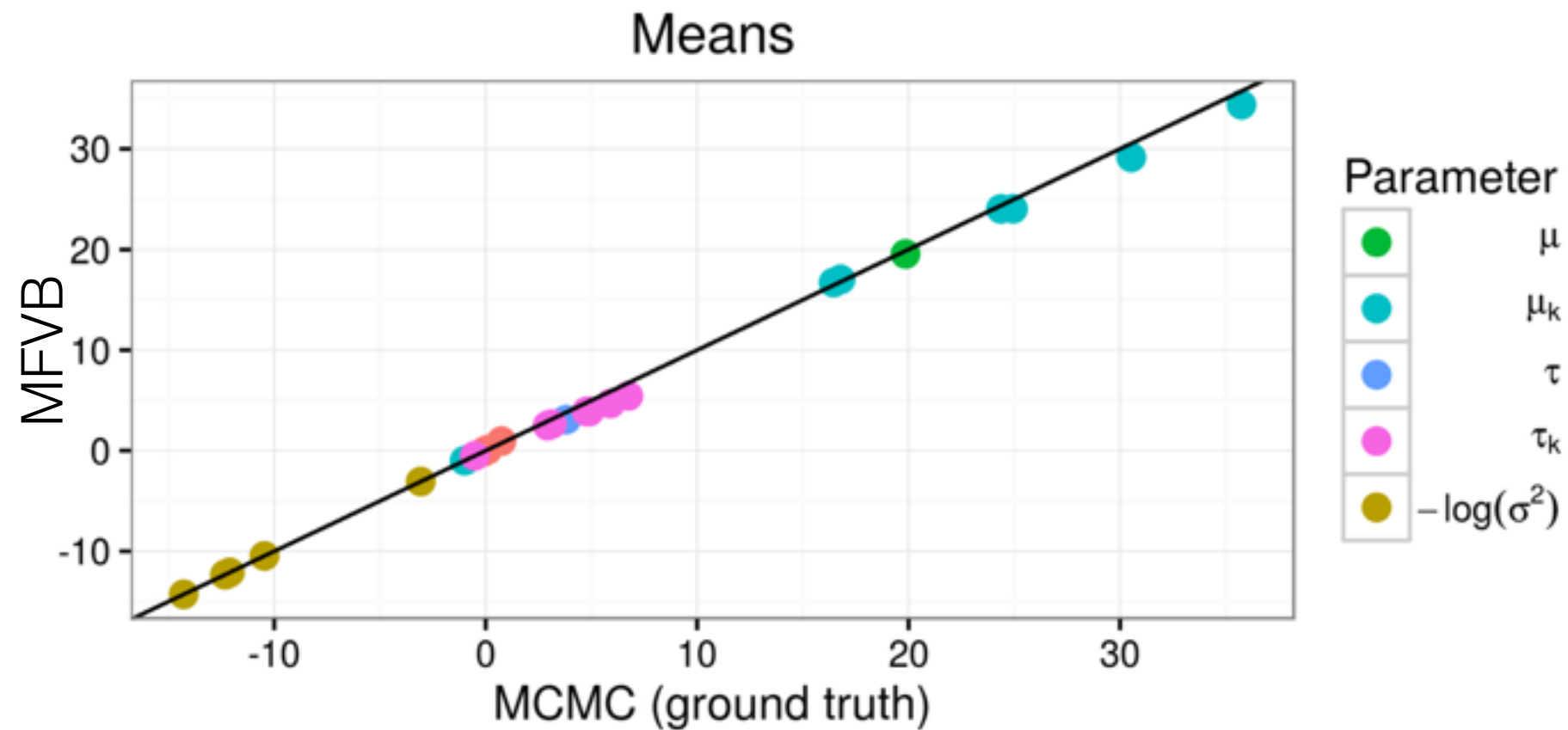
Microcredit Experiment

- *One set of 2500* MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds



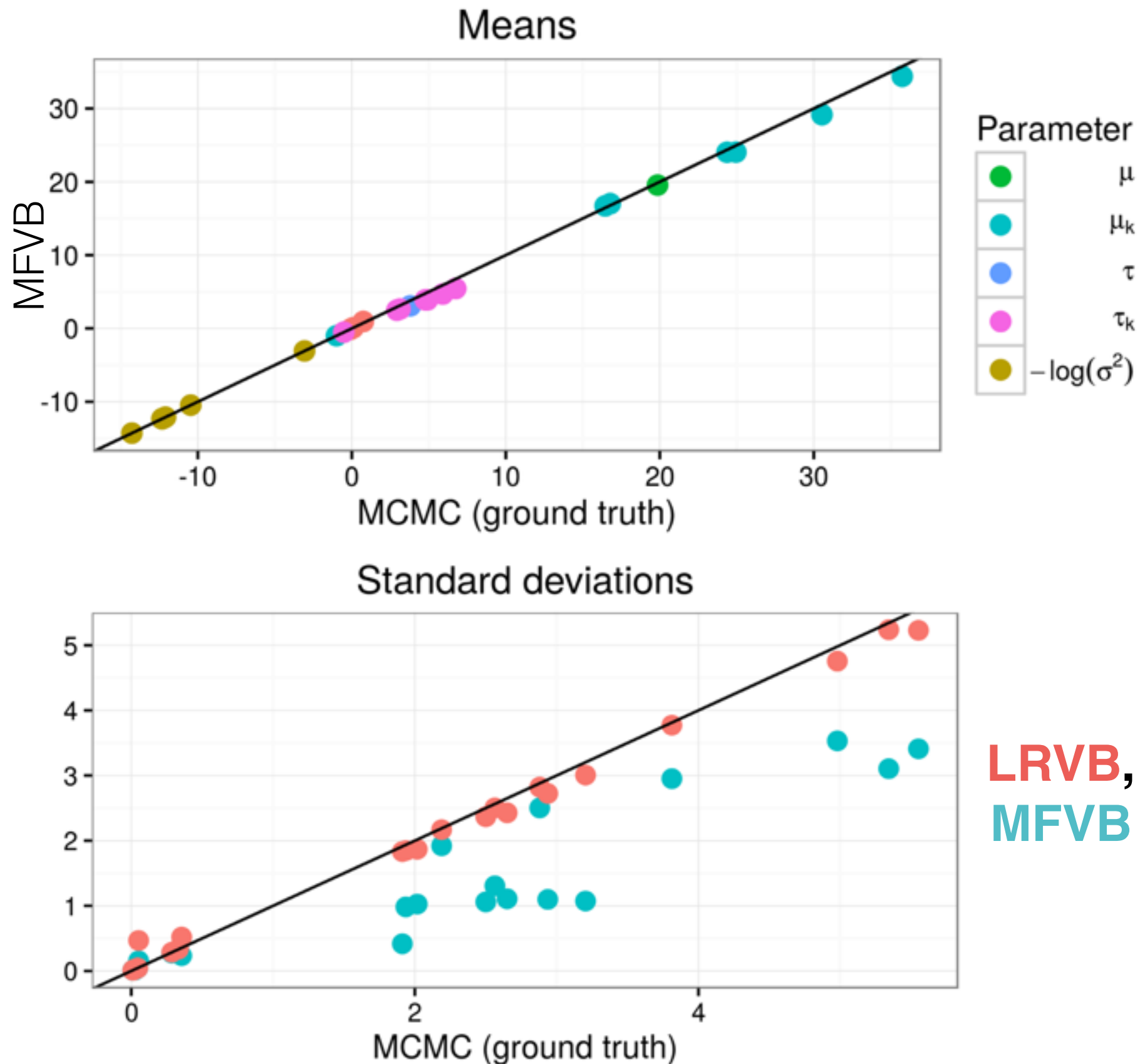
Microcredit Experiment

- *One set of 2500* MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds



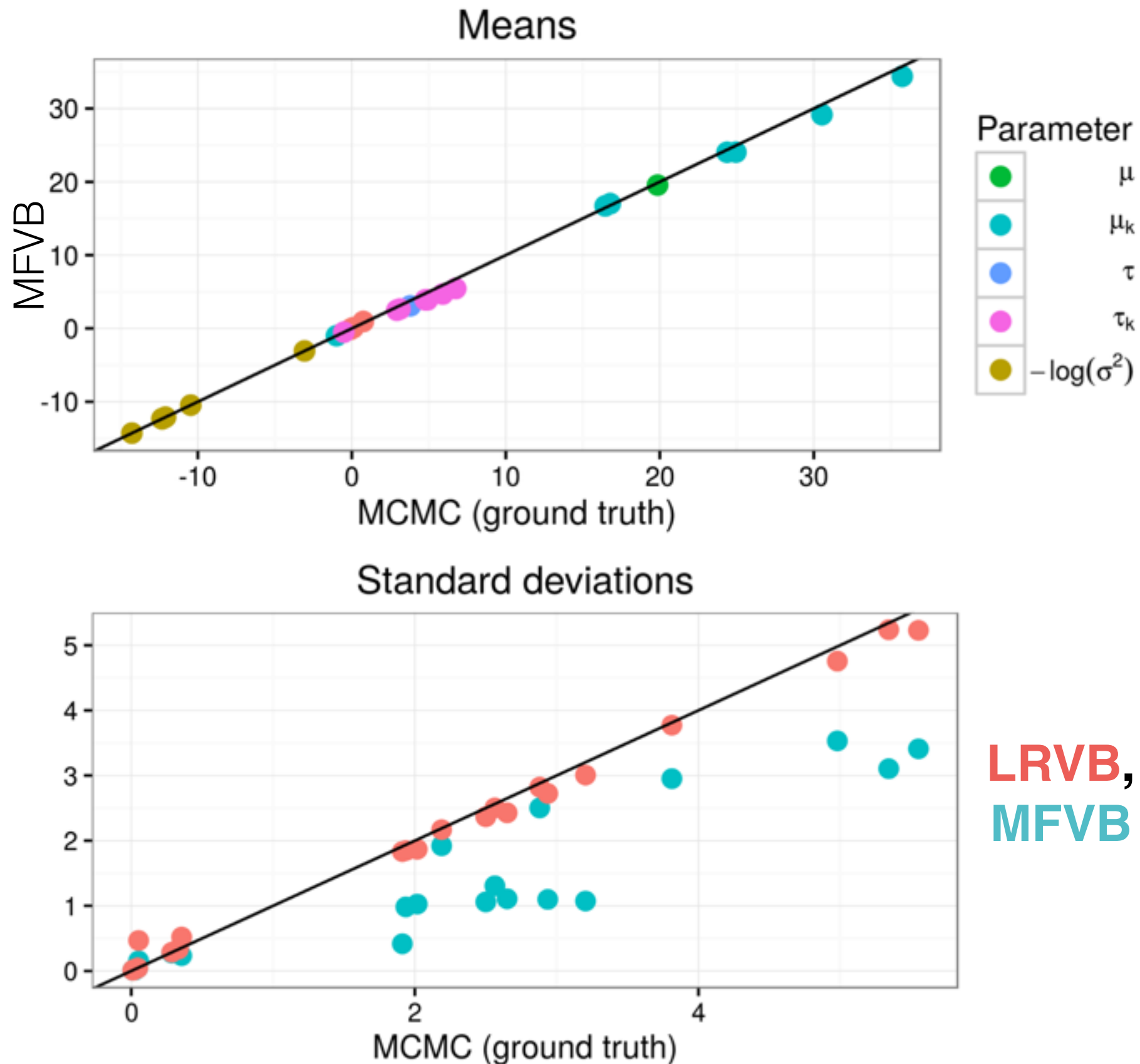
Microcredit Experiment

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds



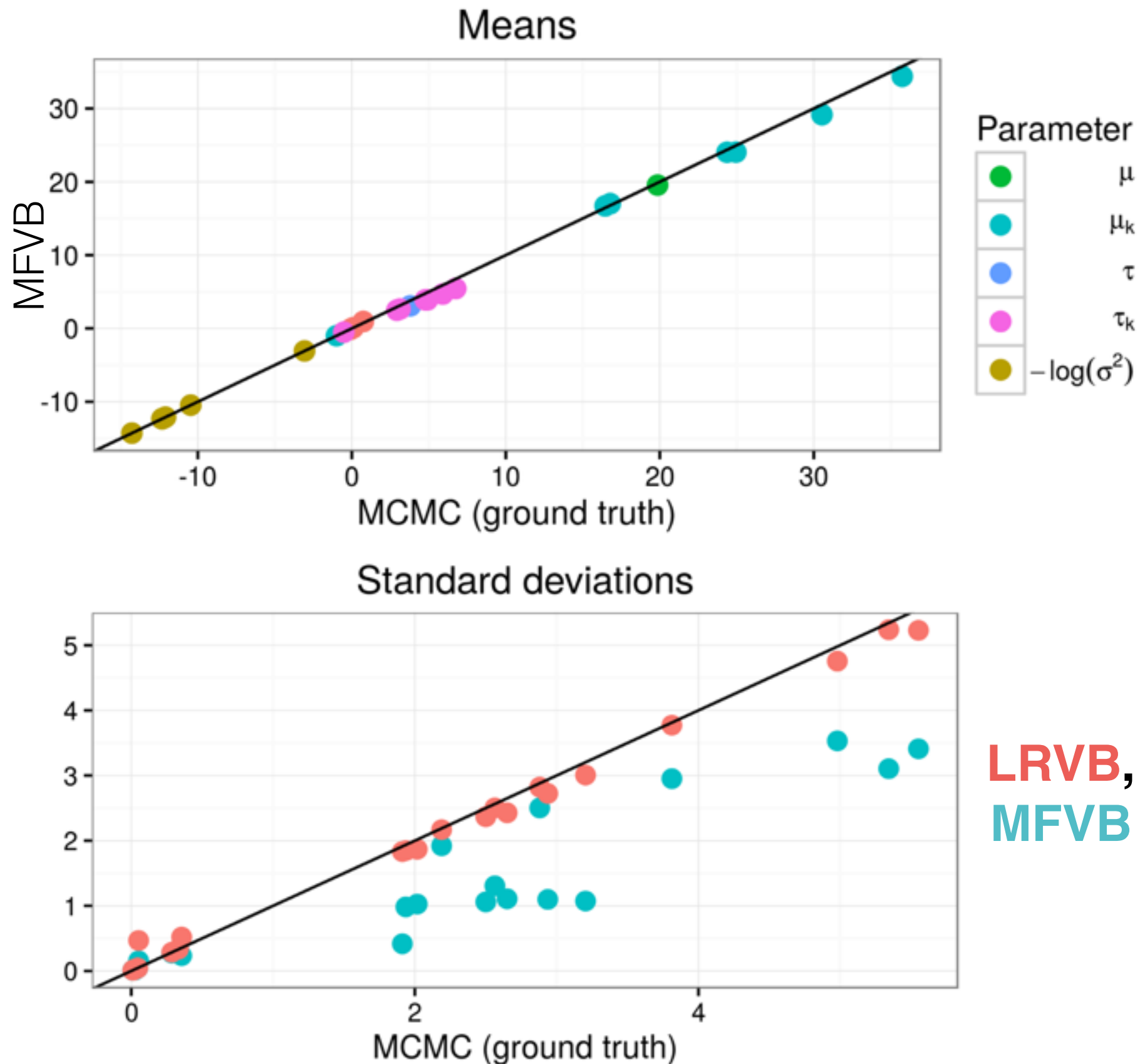
Microcredit Experiment

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds
- τ mean (MFVB):
3.08 USD PPP



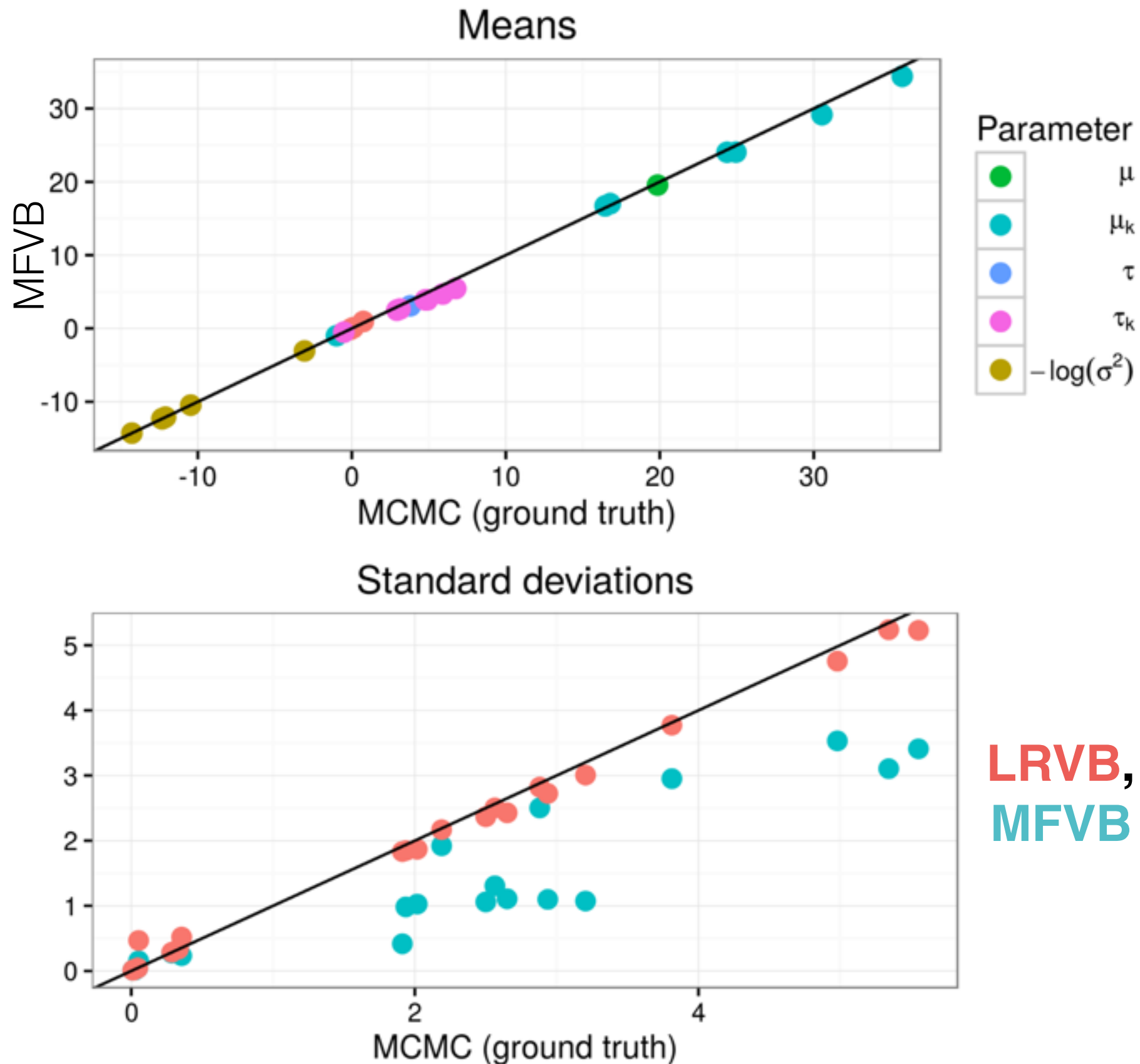
Microcredit Experiment

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds
- τ mean (MFVB):
3.08 USD PPP
- τ std dev (LRVB):
1.83 USD PPP



Microcredit Experiment

- One set of 2500 MCMC draws:
45 minutes
- All of MFVB optimization, LRVB uncertainties, all sensitivity measures:
58 seconds
- τ mean (MFVB):
3.08 USD PPP
- τ std dev (LRVB):
1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0



Roadmap

- Challenges of VB
- Accurate uncertainties from VB
- Accurate robustness quantification from VB

Roadmap

- Challenges of VB
- Accurate uncertainties from VB
- Accurate robustness quantification from VB

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p(\theta|y)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$
$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity

Robustness quantification

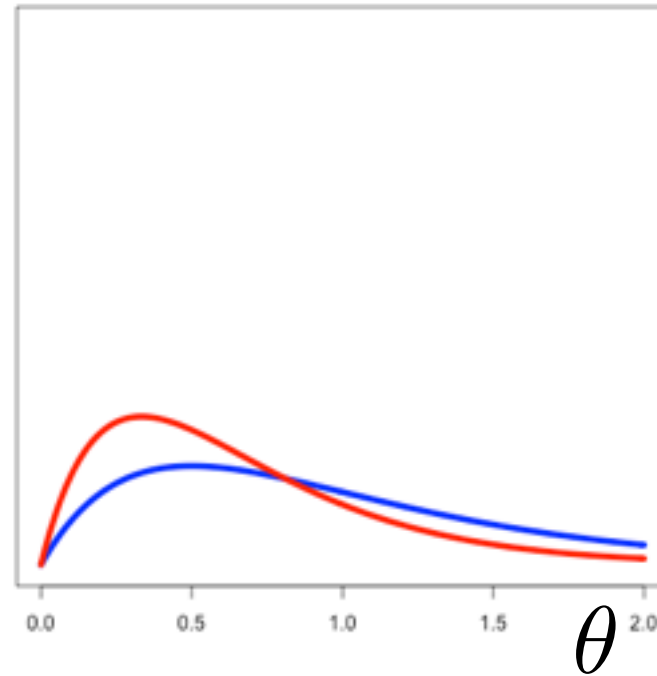
- Bayes Theorem

$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

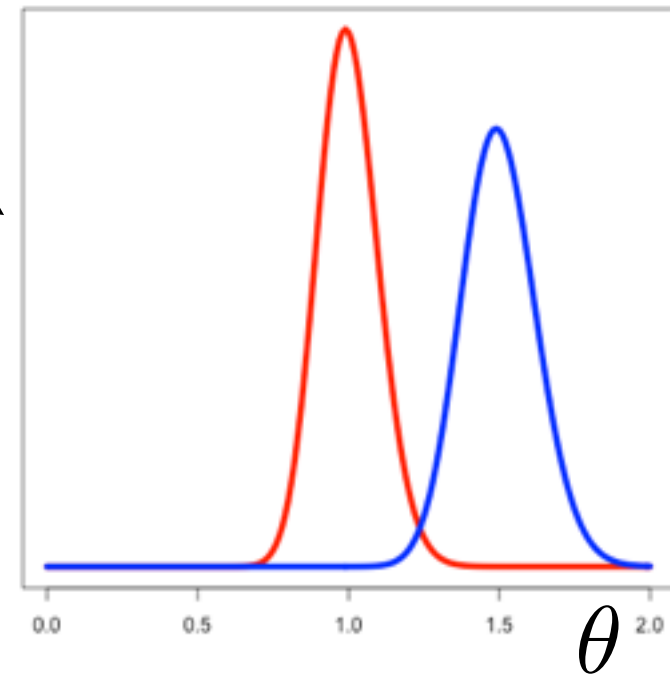
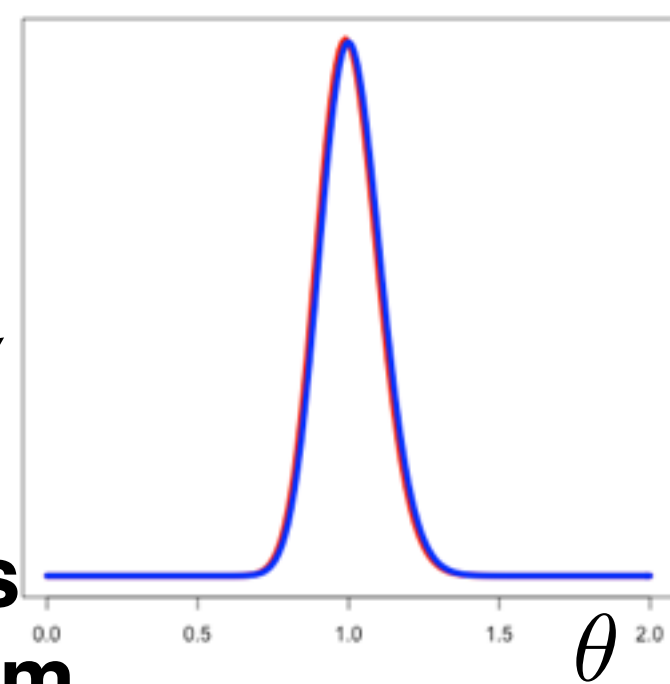
$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

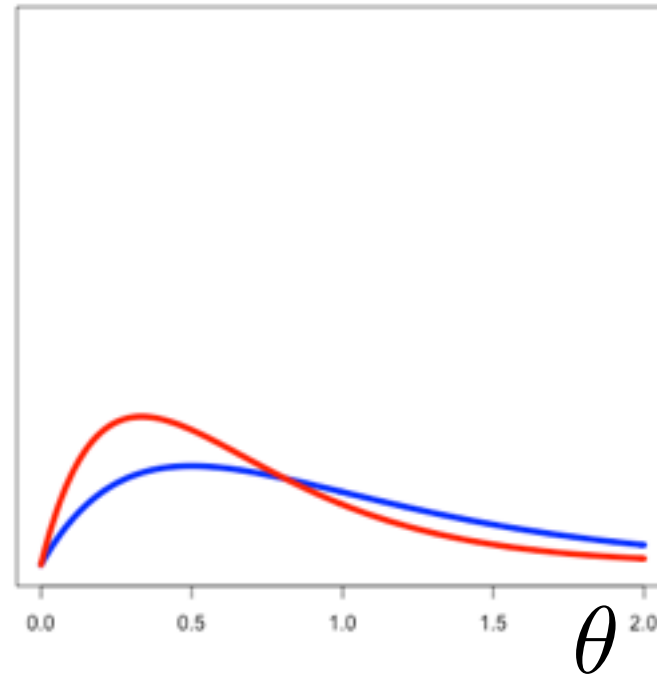
$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

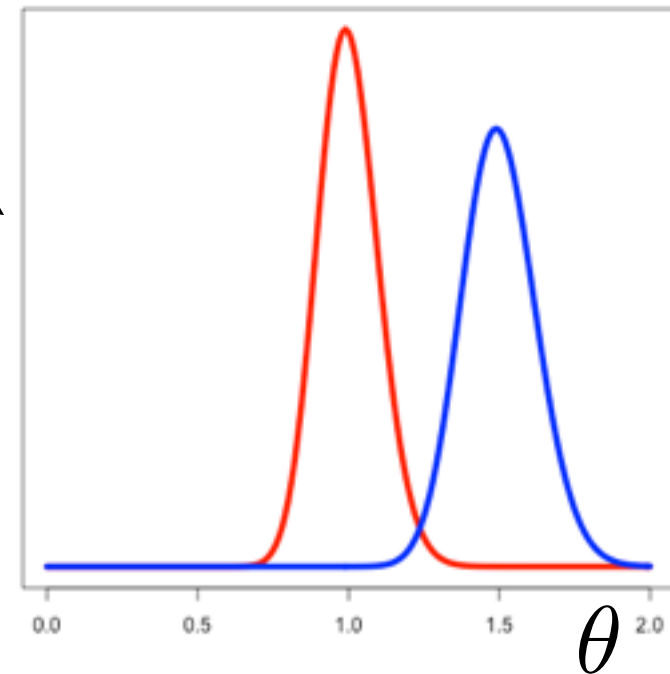
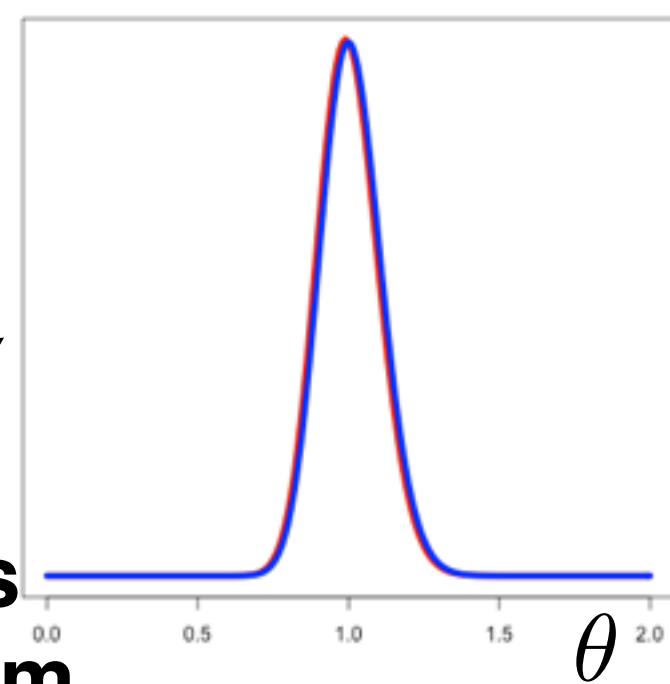
- Sensitivity

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}}[g(\theta)]$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

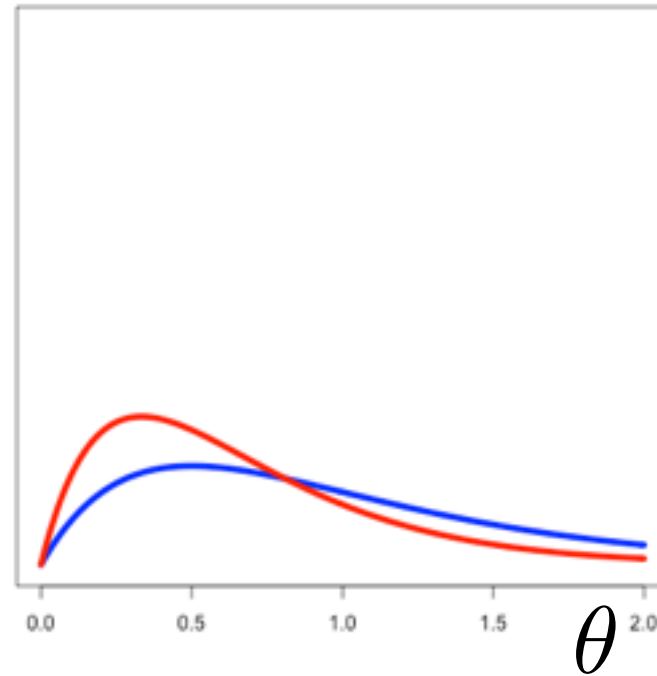
$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

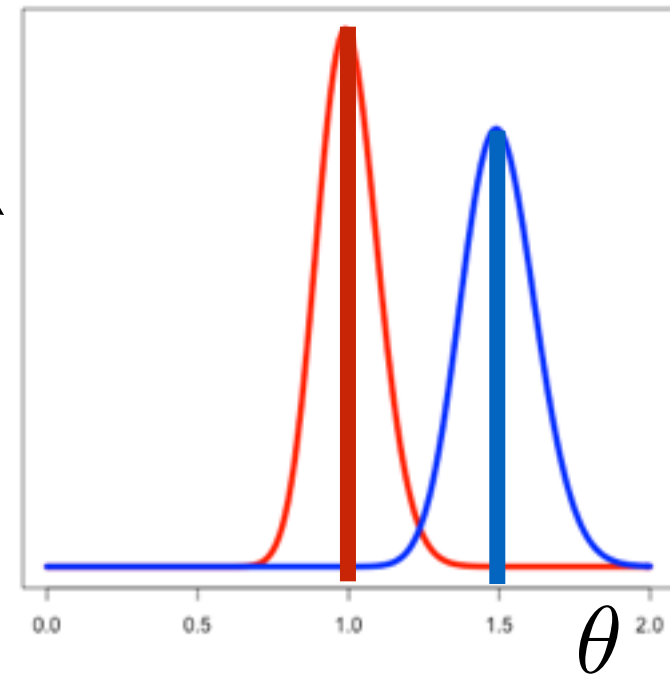
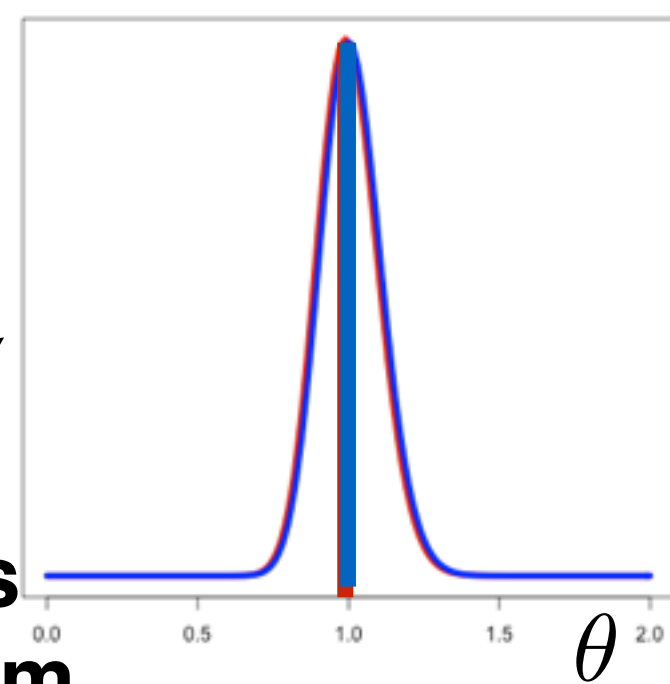
- Sensitivity

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}}[g(\theta)]$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

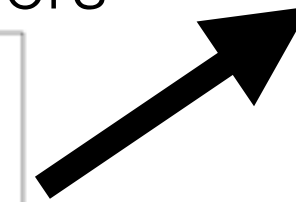
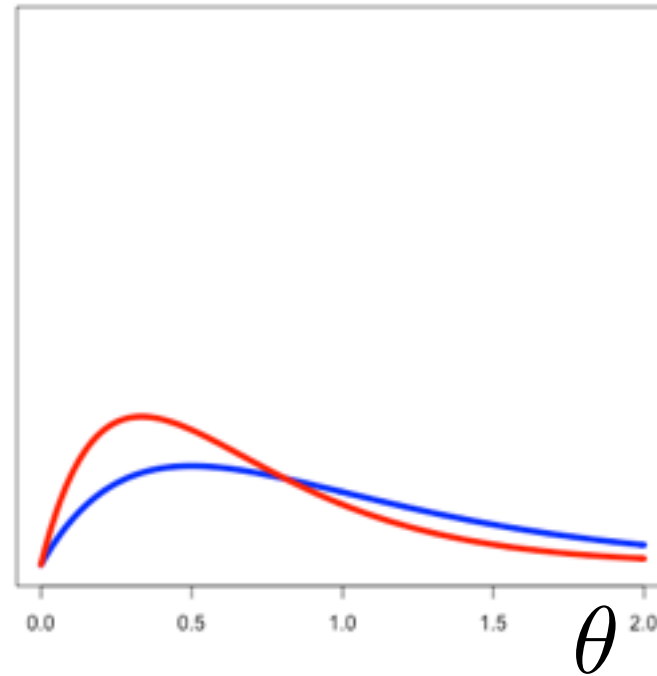
$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

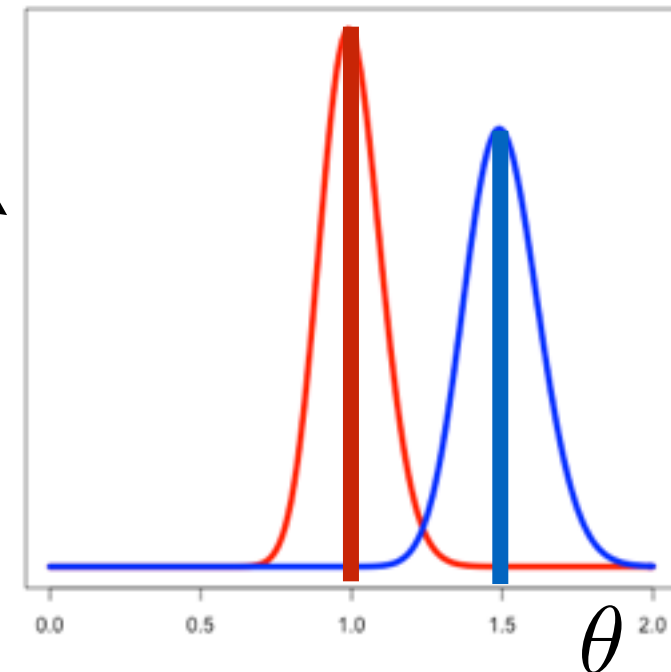
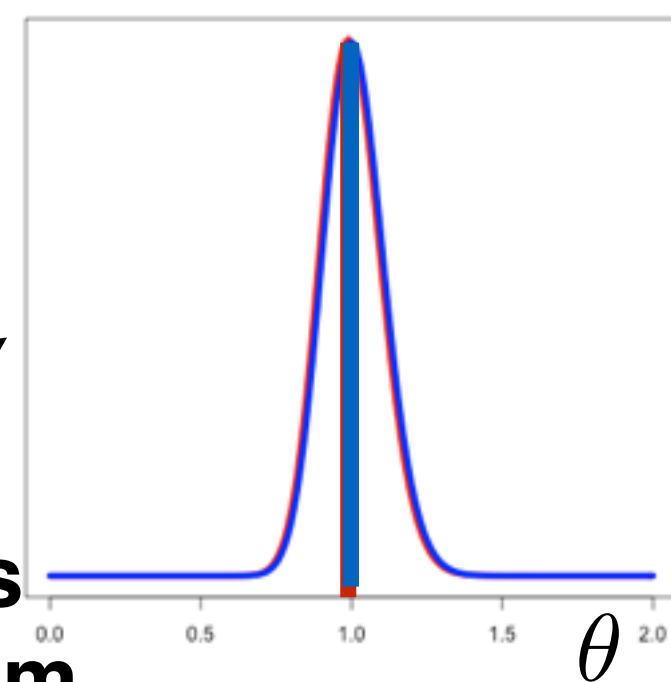
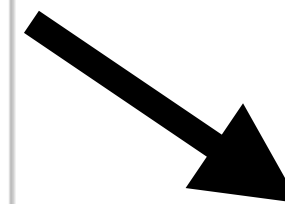
- Sensitivity (local)

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}}[g(\theta)]$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

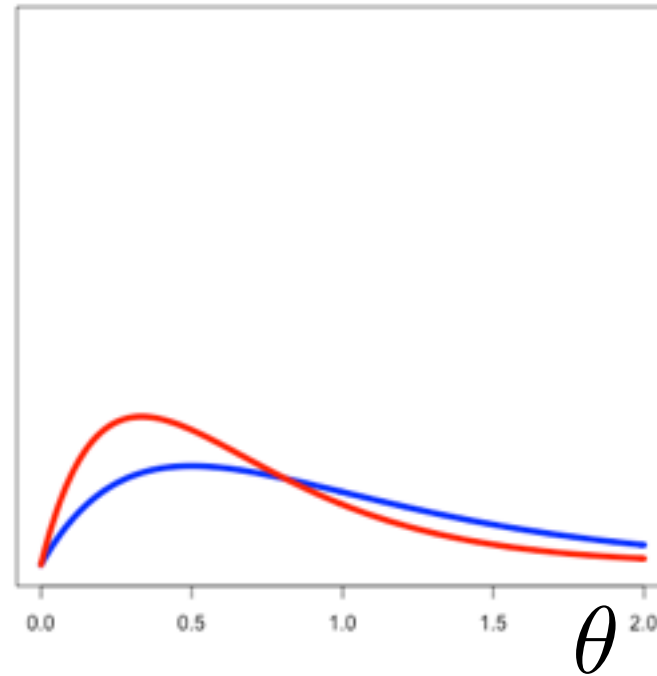
$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

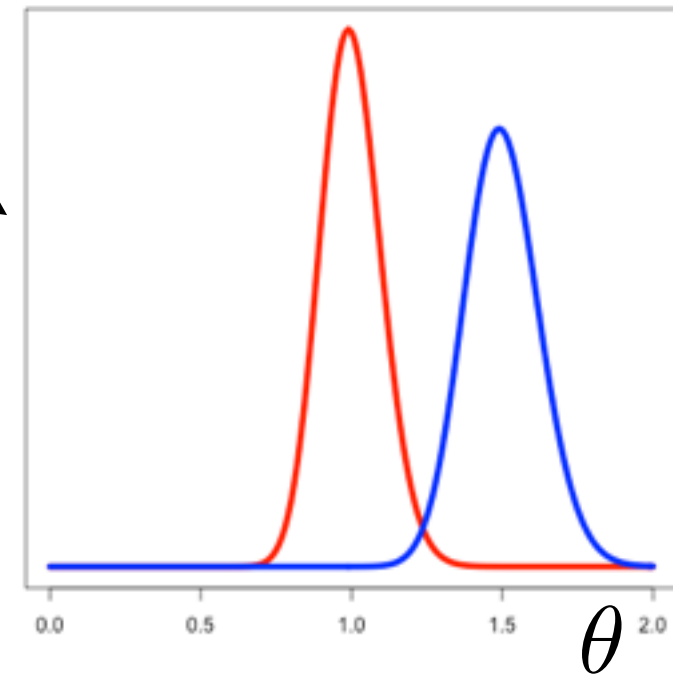
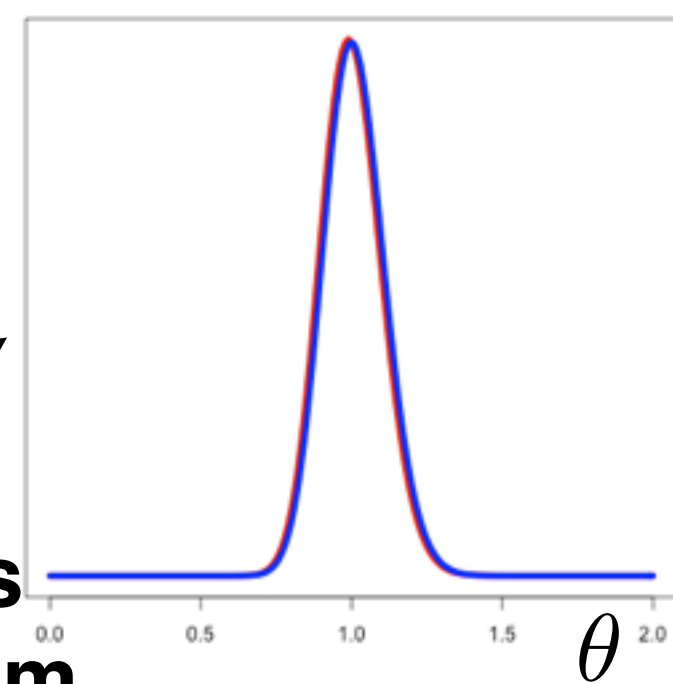
- Sensitivity (local)

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}}[g(\theta)]$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

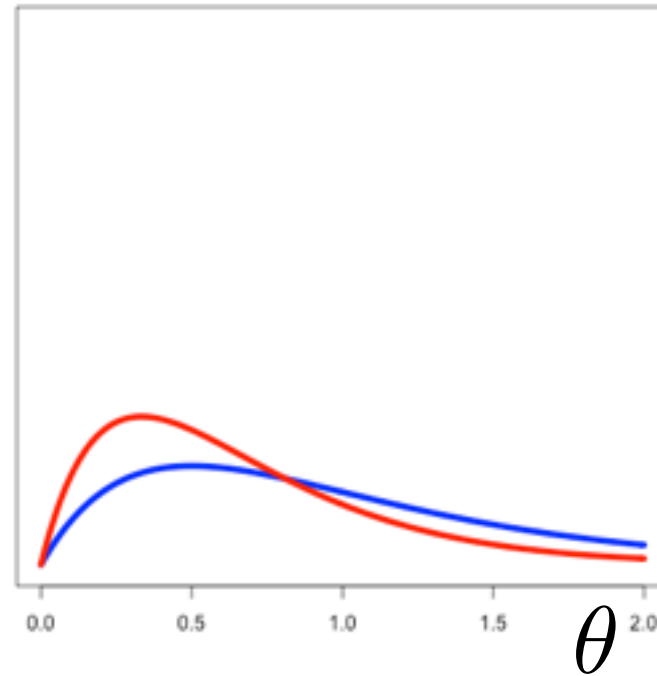
$$p_{\alpha}(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_{\theta} p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

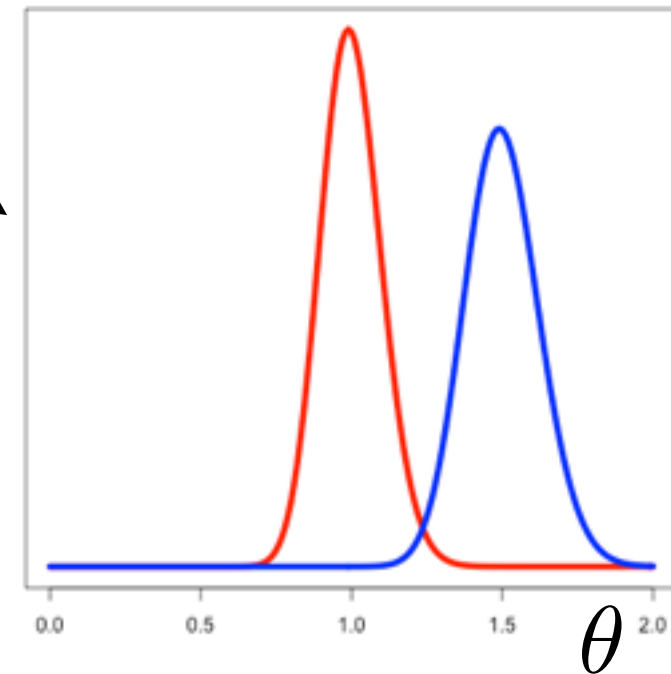
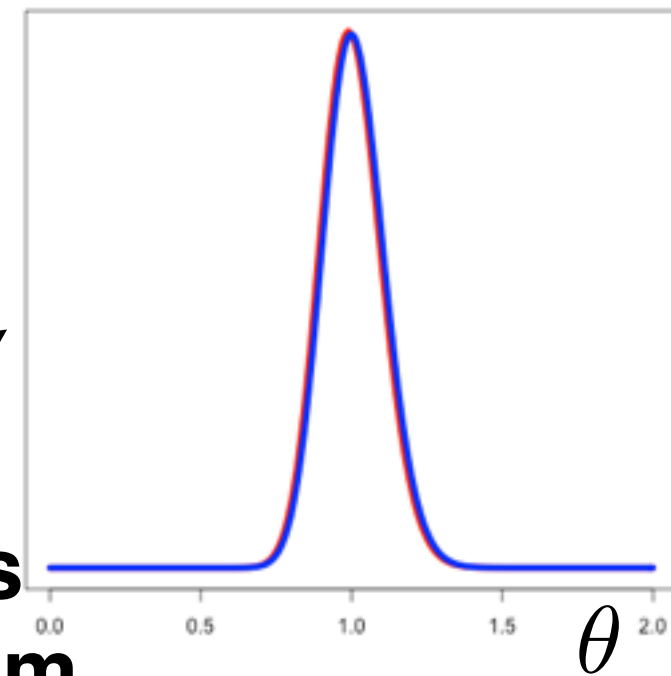
- Sensitivity (local)

$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_{\alpha} \Delta\alpha$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

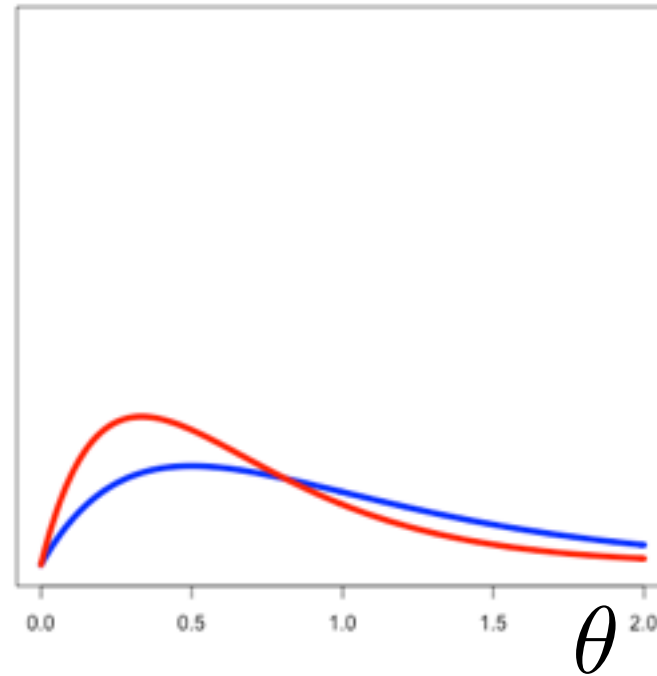
$$p_\alpha(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_\theta p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

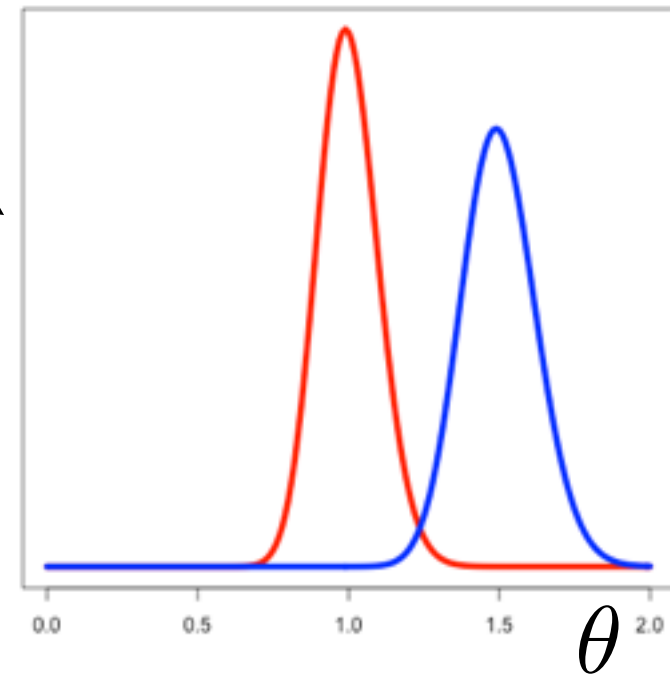
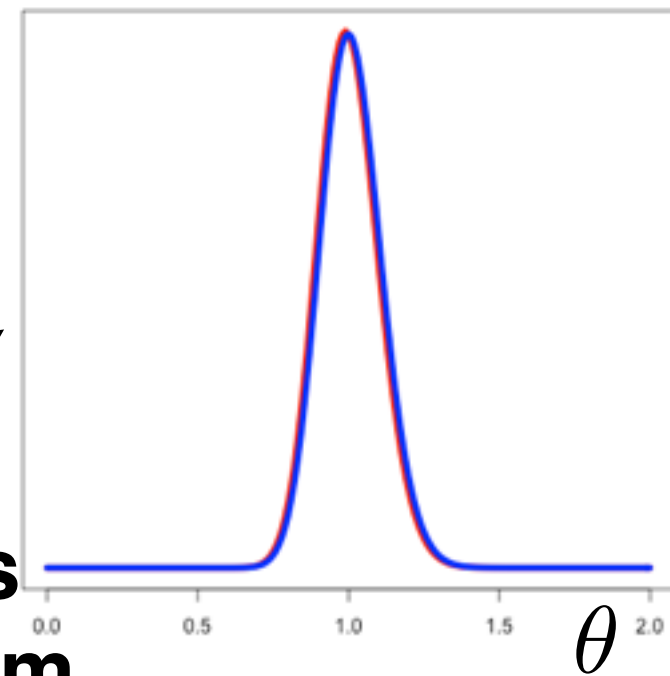
- Sensitivity (local)

$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_\alpha}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_\alpha(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

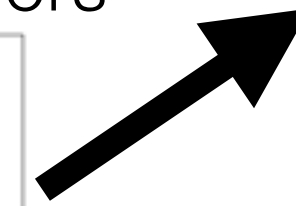
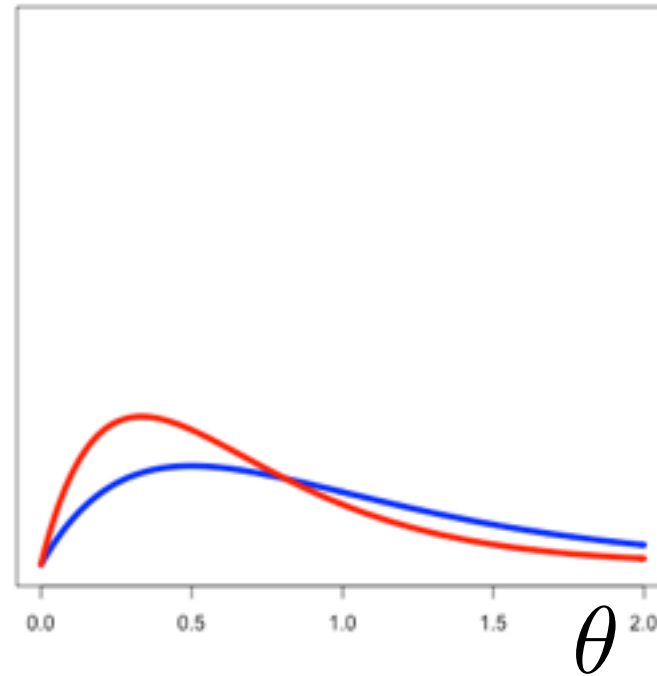
$$\propto_\theta p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity (local)

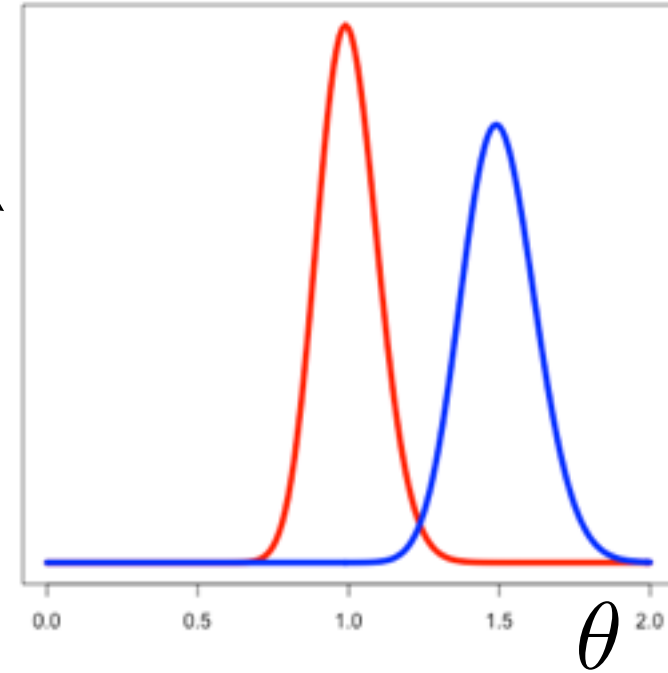
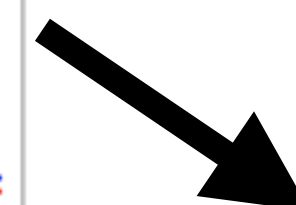
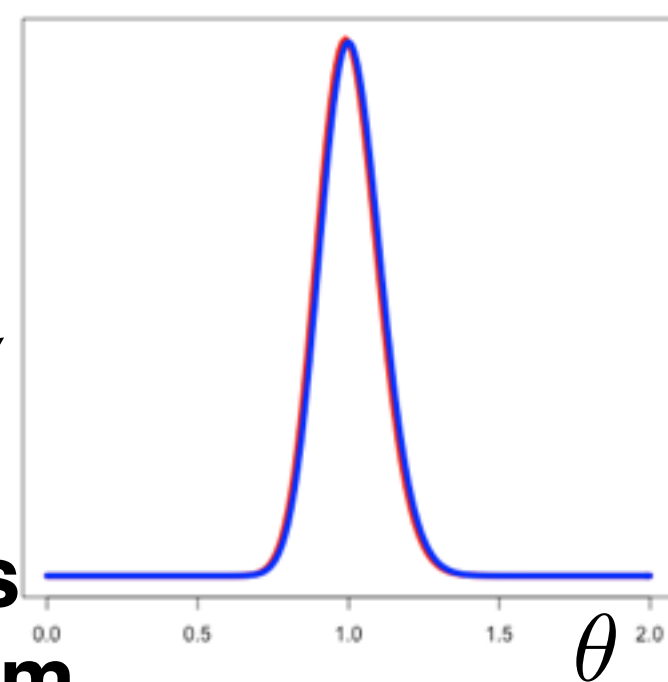
$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_\alpha}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha$$

$$\approx \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{q_\alpha^*}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha =: \hat{S}$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_\alpha(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

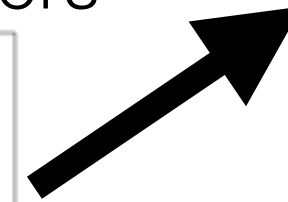
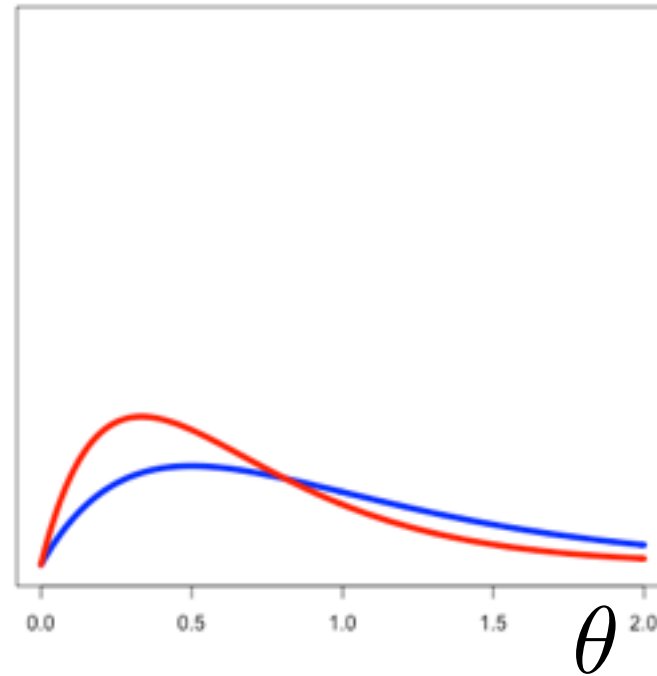
$$\propto_\theta p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity (local)

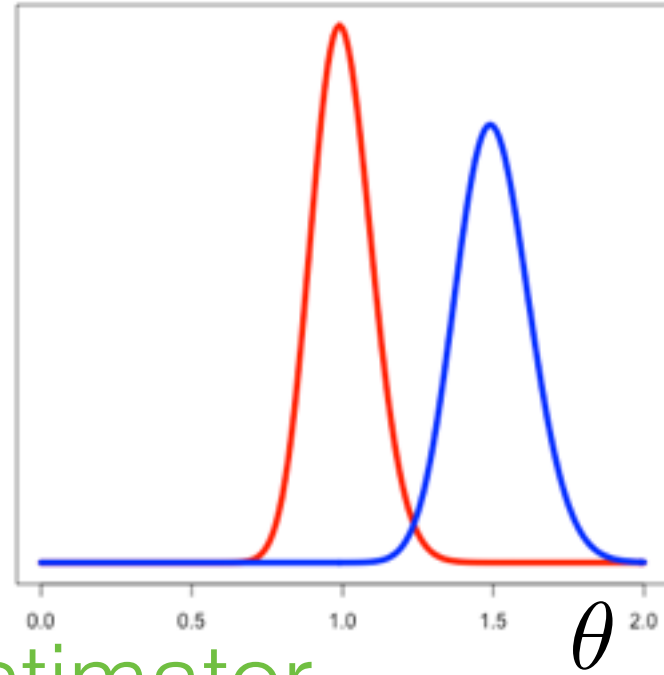
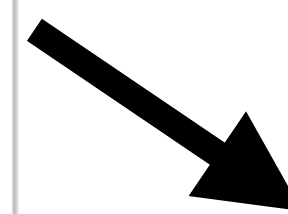
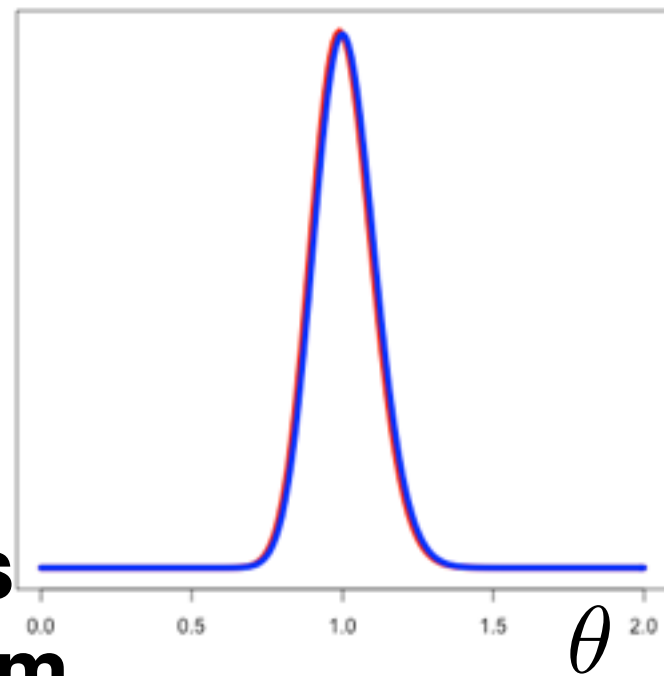
$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_\alpha}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha$$

$$\approx \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{q_\alpha^*}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha =: \hat{S}$$

Some reasonable priors



Bayes Theorem



LRVB estimator

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_\alpha(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_\theta p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity (local)

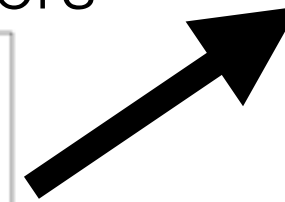
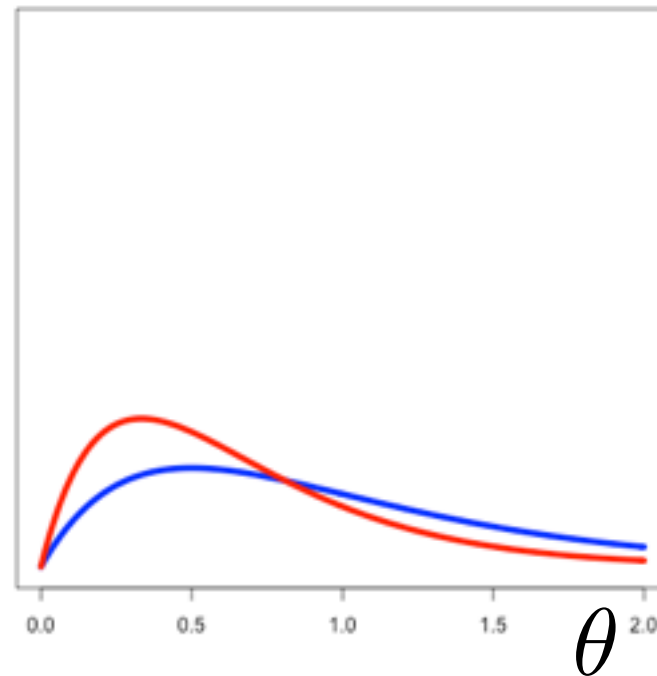
$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_\alpha}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha$$

$$\approx \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{q_\alpha^*}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha =: \hat{S}$$

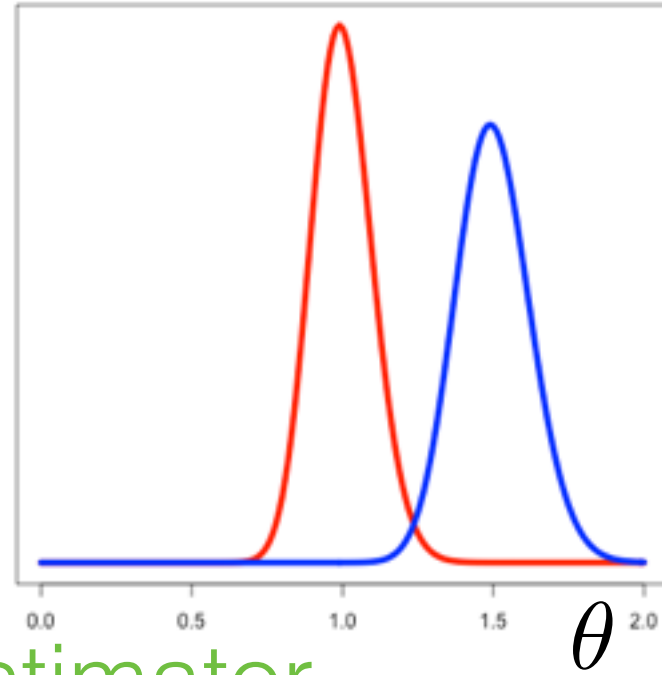
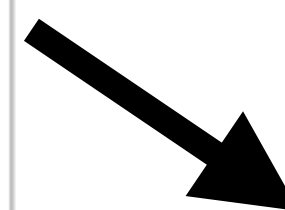
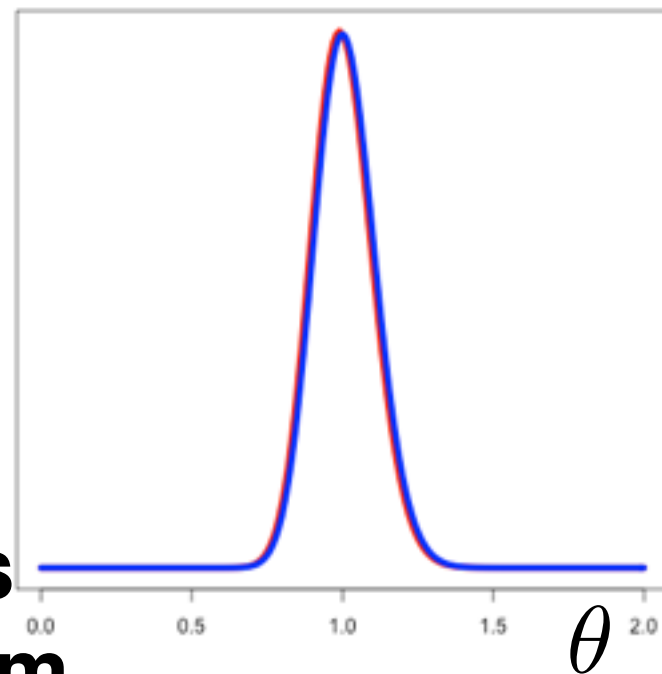
- Recall: our general LRVB formula applies for:

$$\log p_t(\theta) = \log p(\theta|y) + f(\theta, t) - \text{Const}(t)$$

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



LRVB estimator

Robustness quantification

- Bayes Theorem

$$p_\alpha(\theta) := p(\theta|y, \alpha)$$

$$\propto_\theta p(y|\theta)p(\theta|\alpha)$$

- Sensitivity (local)

$$S := \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{p_\alpha}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha$$

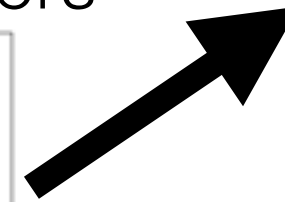
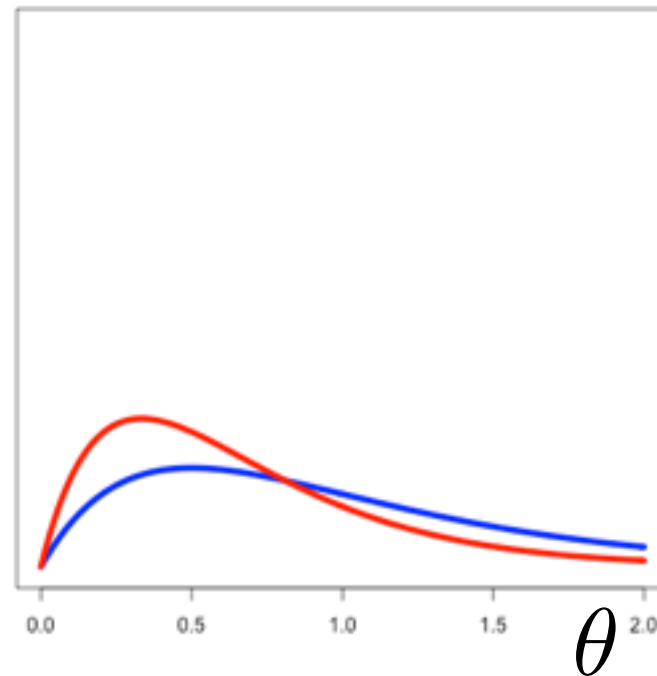
$$\approx \left. \frac{d\mathbb{E}_{q_\alpha^*}[g(\theta)]}{d\alpha} \right|_\alpha \Delta\alpha =: \hat{S}$$

- Recall: our general LRVB formula applies for:

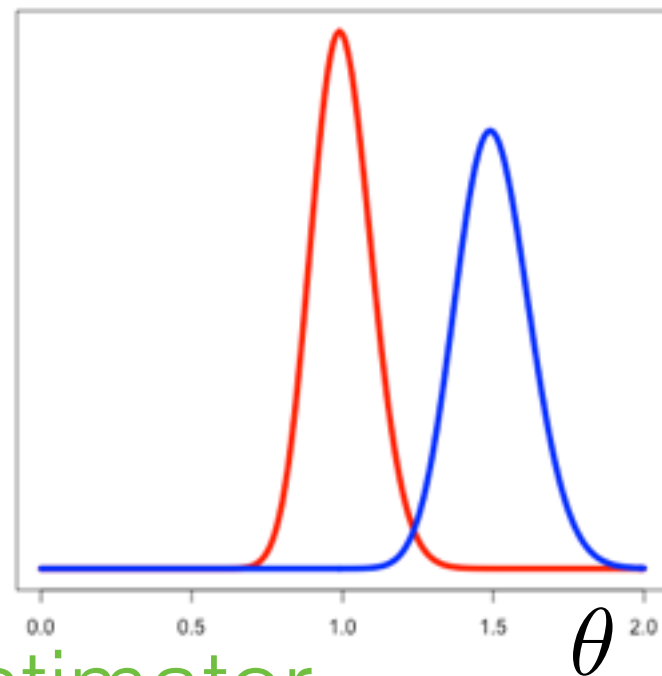
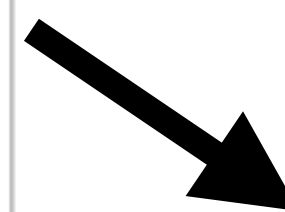
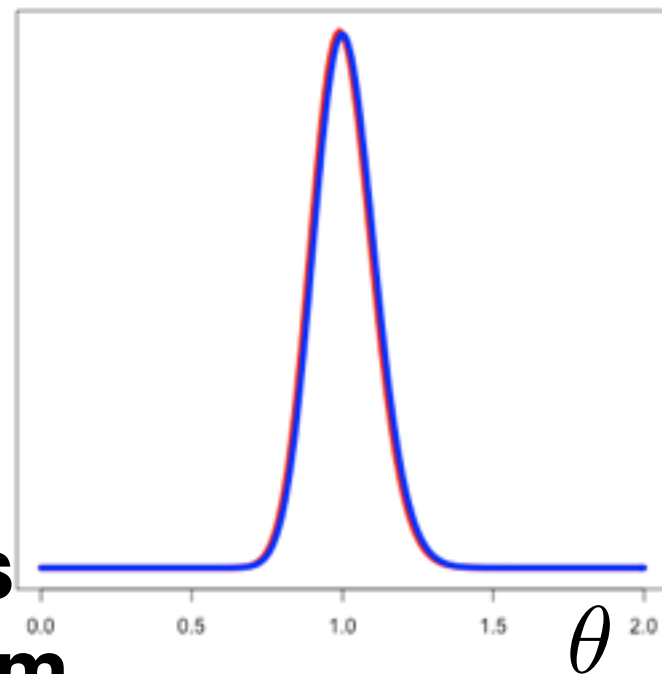
$$\log p_t(\theta) = \log p(\theta|y) + f(\theta, t) - \text{Const}(t)$$

[board]

Some reasonable priors



**Bayes
Theorem**



← LRVB estimator

Microcredit Experiment

- Simplified from Meager (2015)
- K microcredit trials (Mexico, Mongolia, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Philippines, Ethiopia)
- N_k businesses in k th site (~ 900 to $\sim 17K$)
- Profit of n th business at k th site:

profit $\rightarrow y_{kn} \stackrel{indep}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_k + T_{kn}\tau_k, \sigma_k^2)$ $\leftarrow 1 \text{ if microcredit}$

- Priors and hyperpriors:

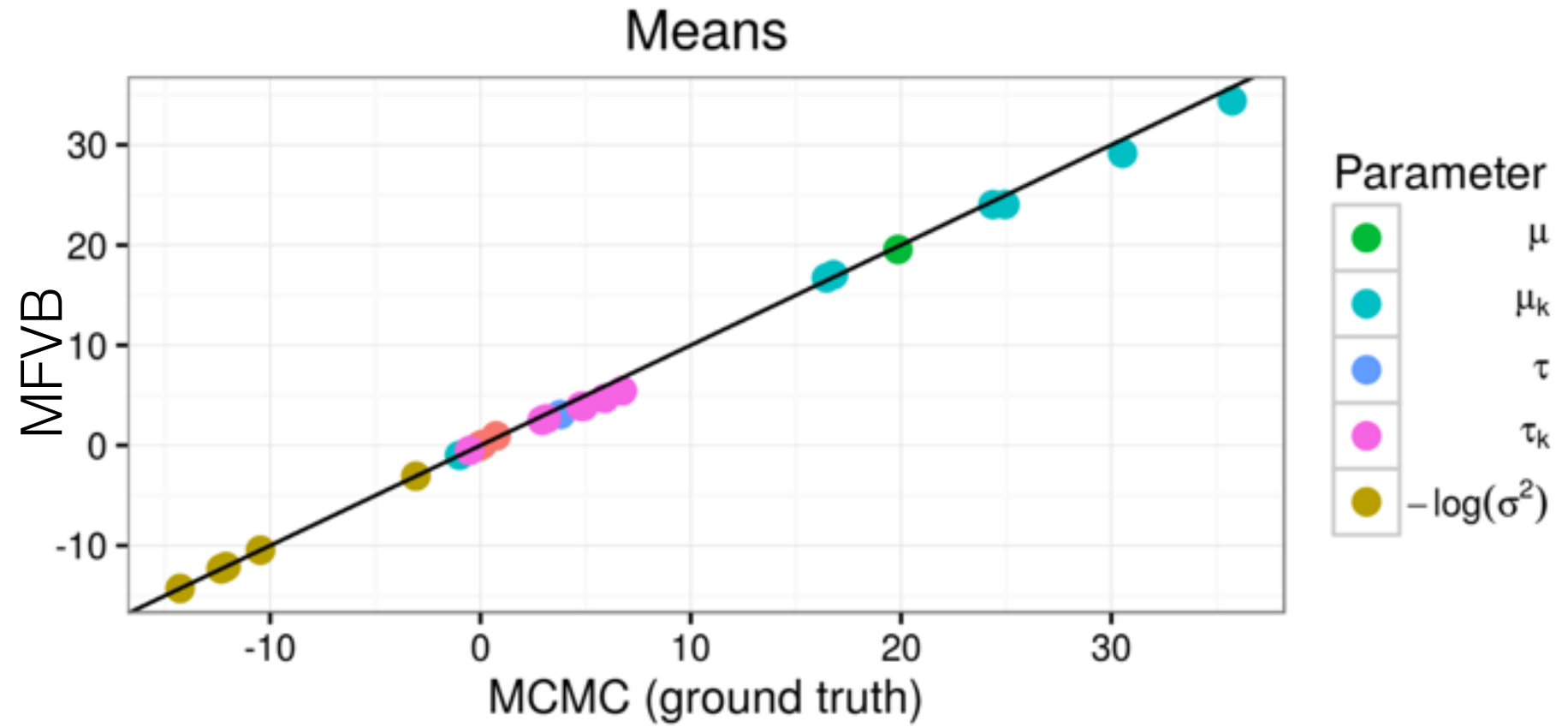
$$\begin{pmatrix} \mu_k \\ \tau_k \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}, C\right) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mu \\ \tau \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu_0 \\ \tau_0 \end{pmatrix}, \Lambda^{-1}\right)$$

$$\sigma_k^{-2} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \Gamma(a, b)$$

$$C \sim \text{Sep\&LKJ}(\eta, c, d)$$

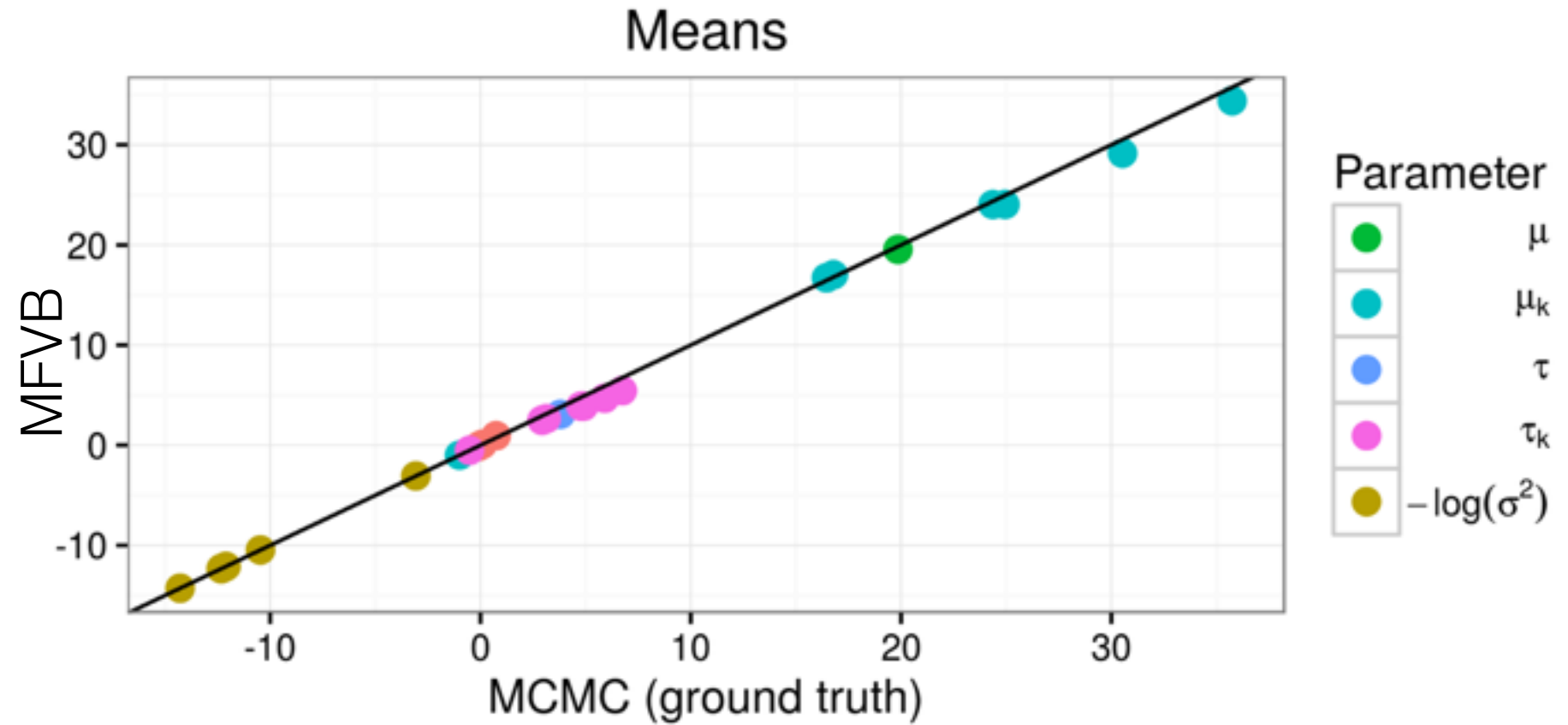
Microcredit Experiment

Microcredit Experiment



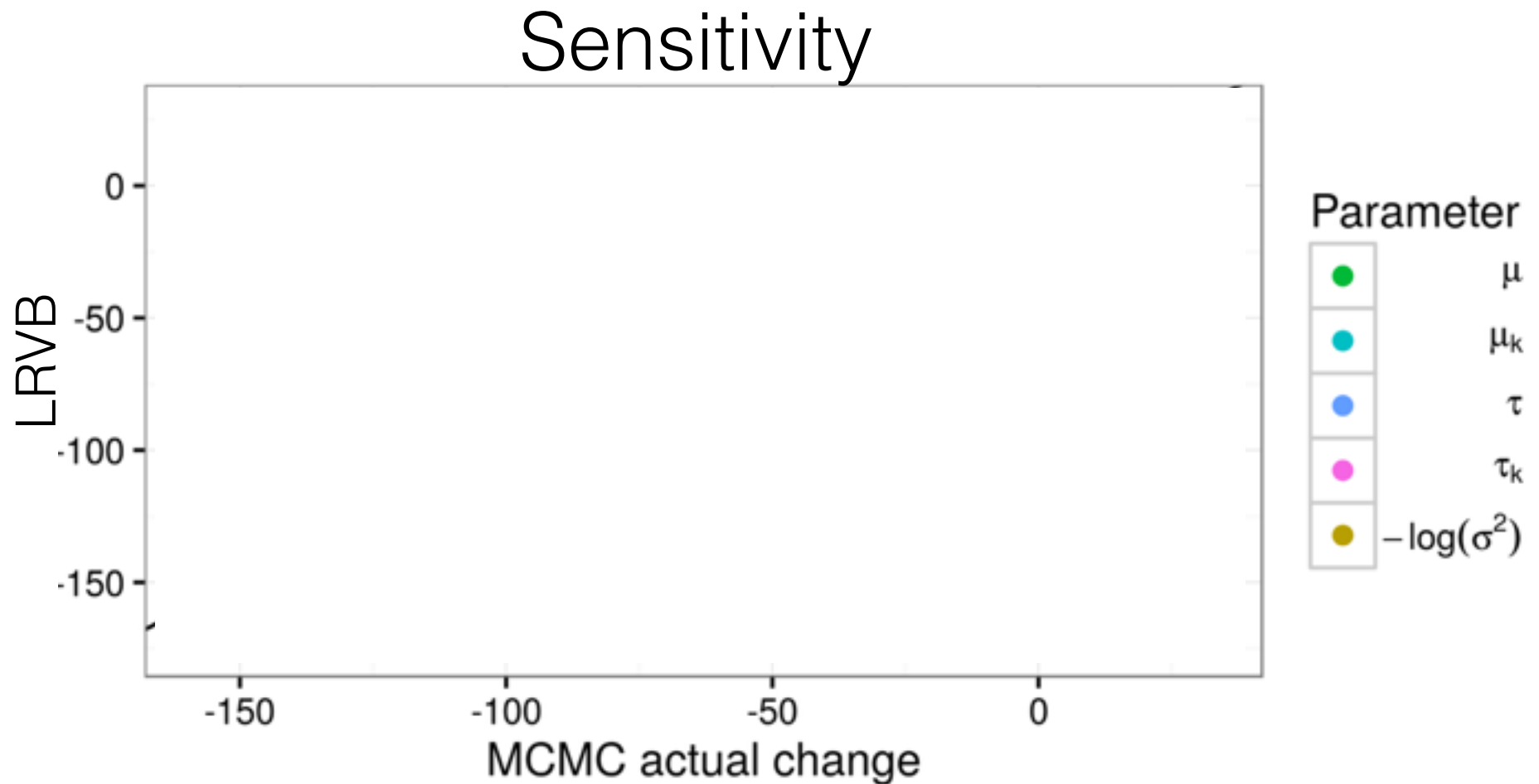
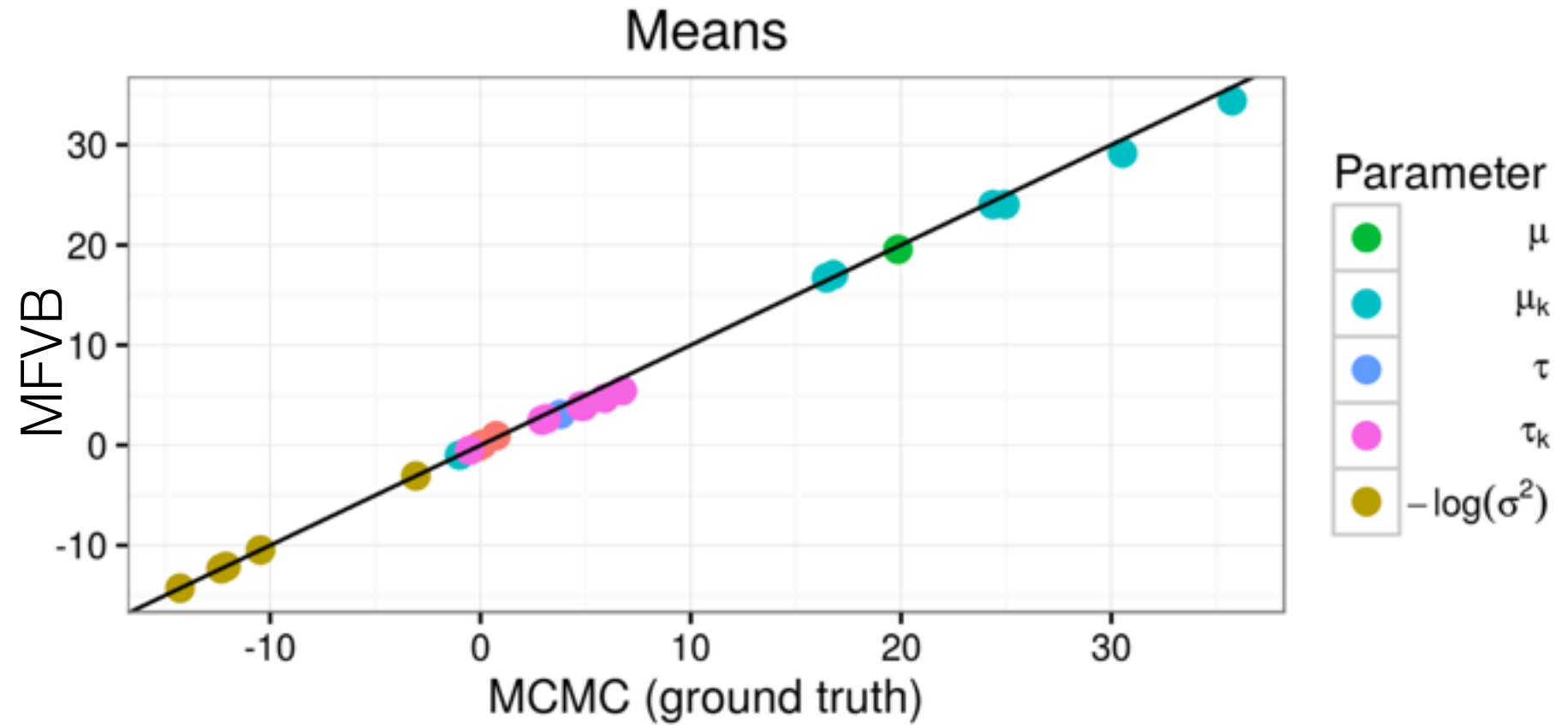
Microcredit Experiment

- Perturb Λ_{11} :
0.03 \rightarrow 0.04



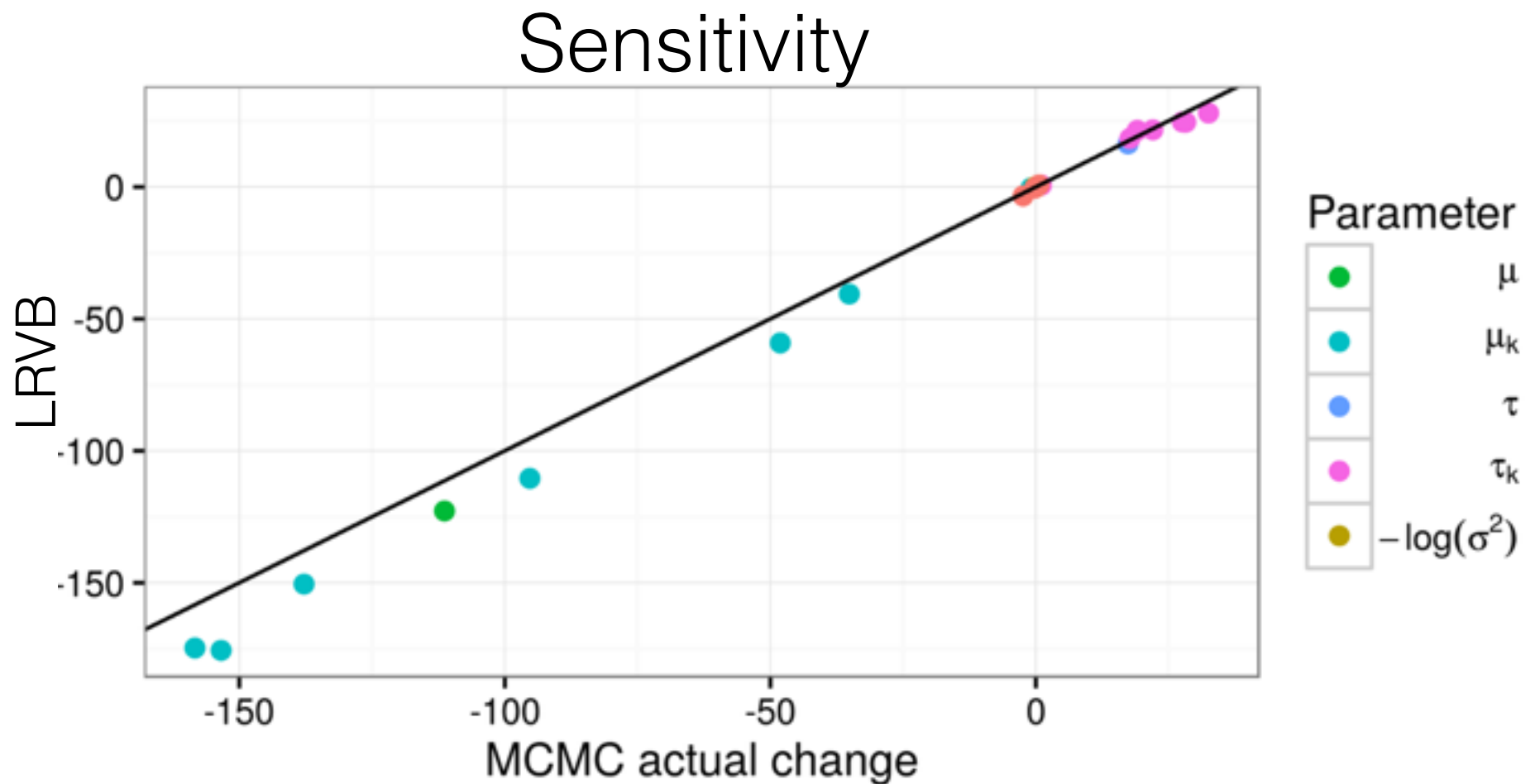
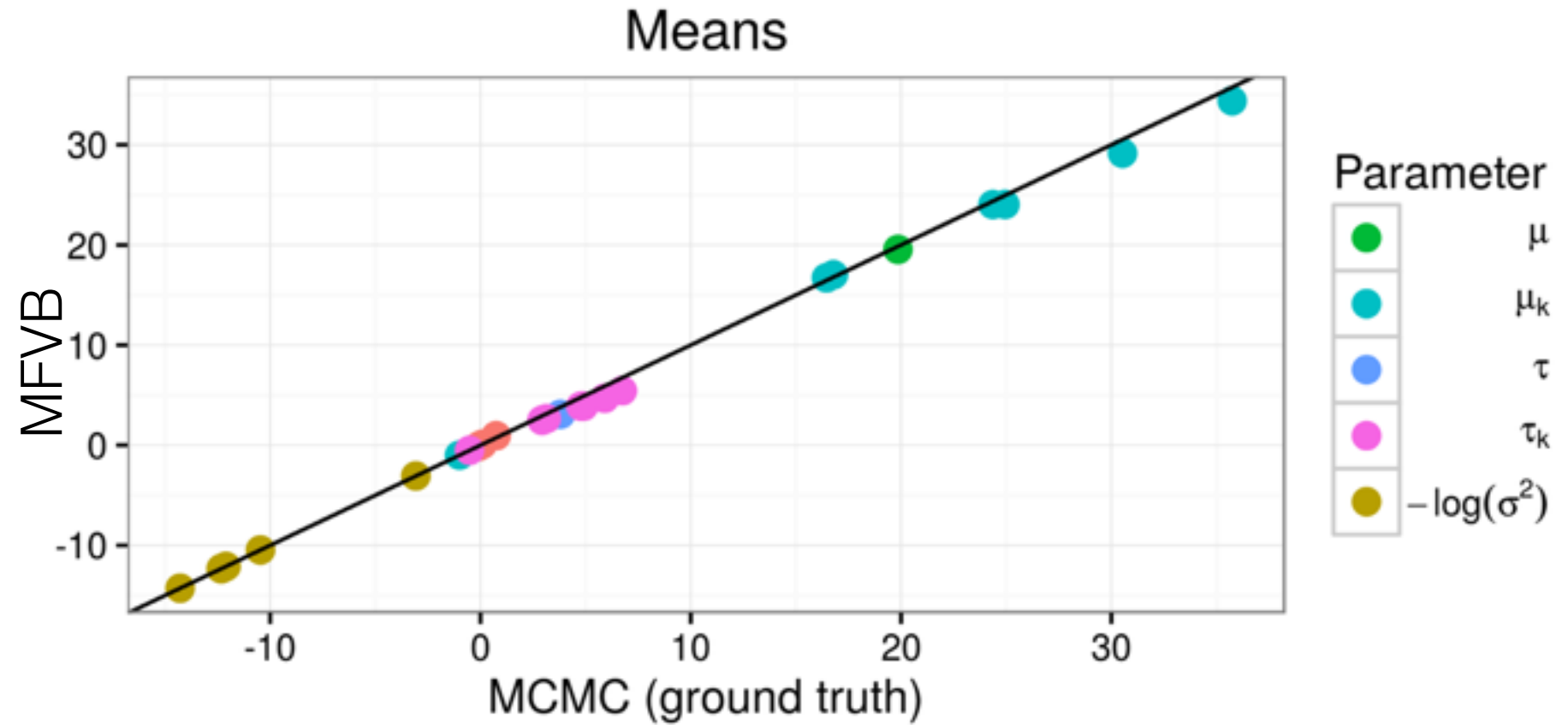
Microcredit Experiment

- Perturb Λ_{11} :
0.03 \rightarrow 0.04



Microcredit Experiment

- Perturb Λ_{11} :
0.03 \rightarrow 0.04



Microcredit Experiment

Microcredit Experiment

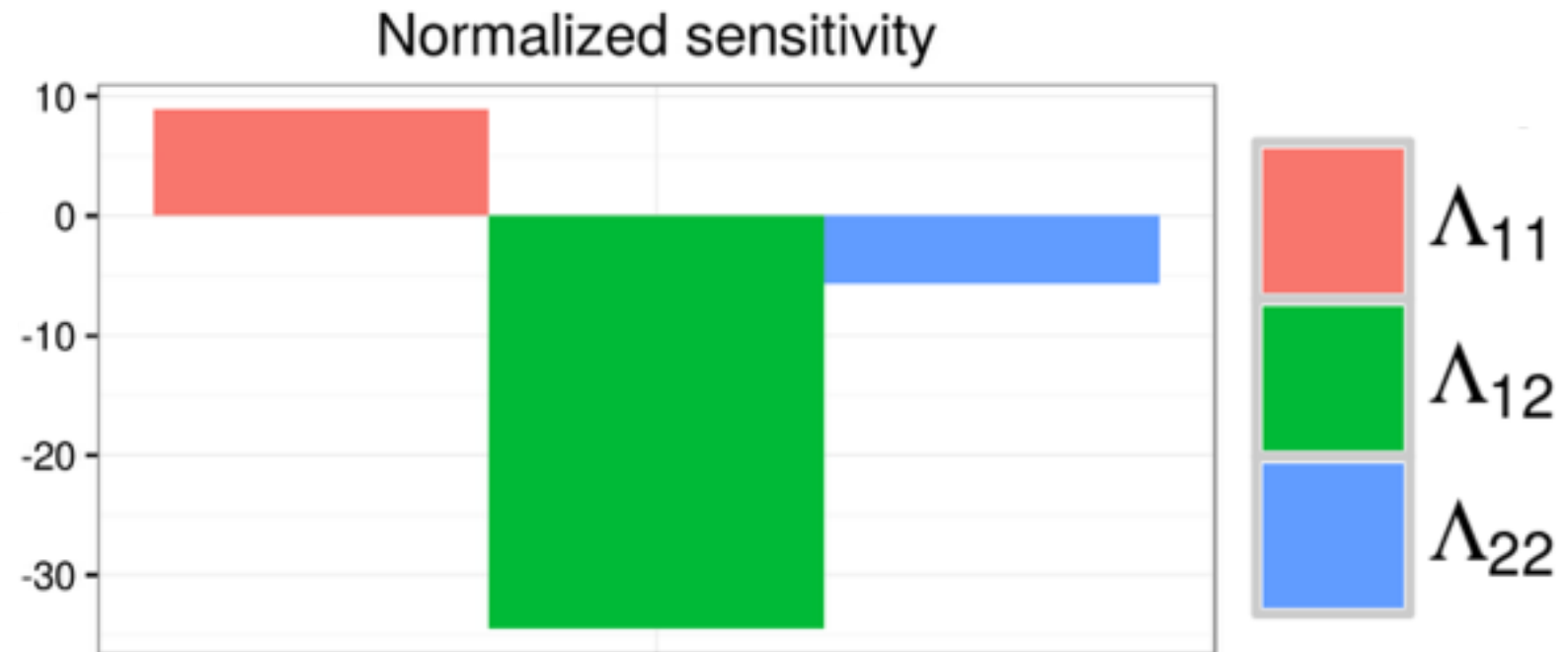
- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)

Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs

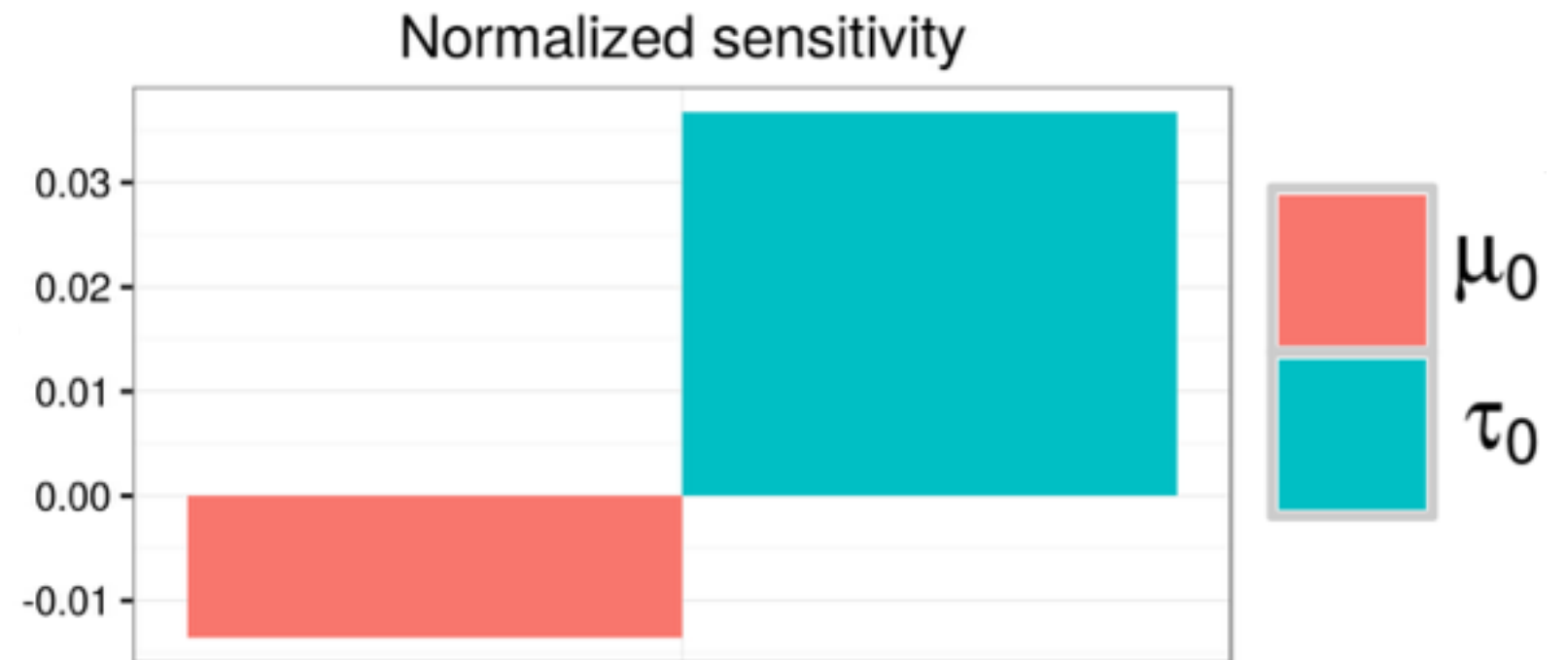
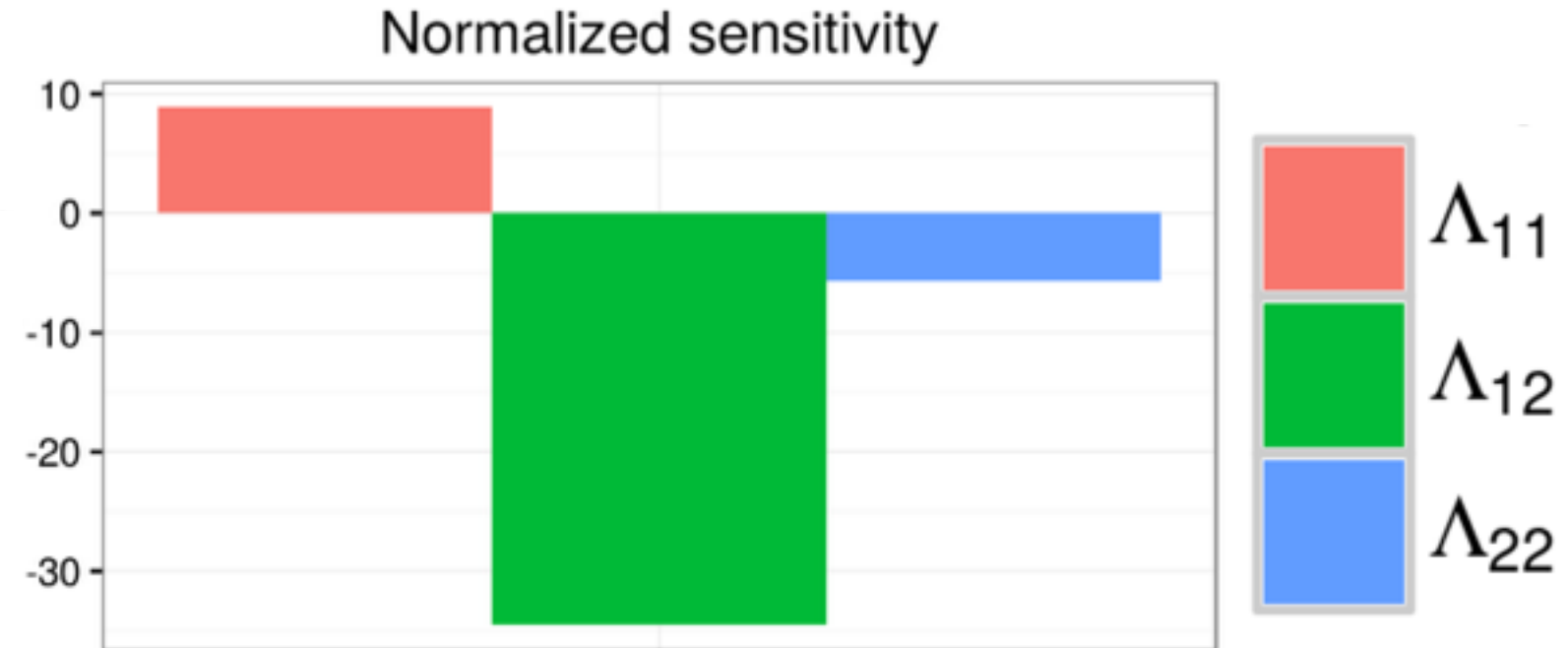
Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs



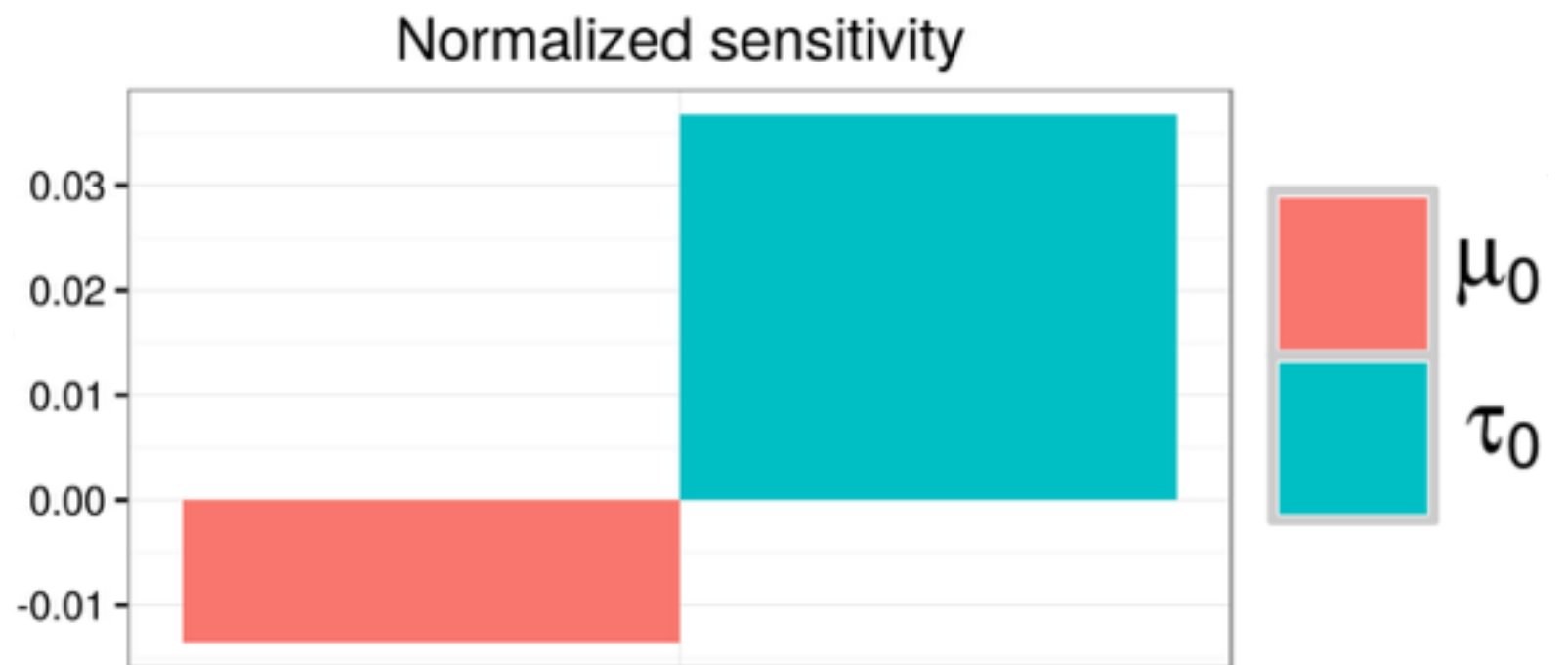
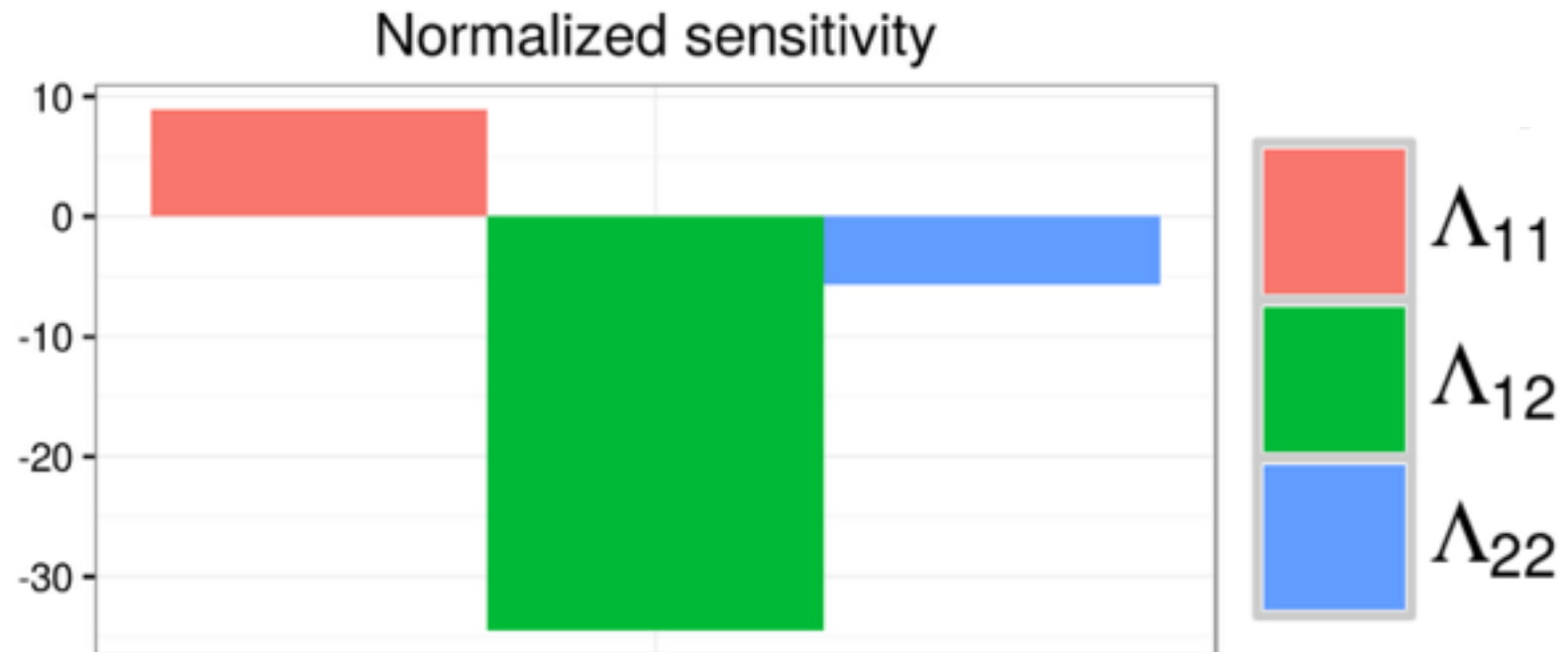
Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs



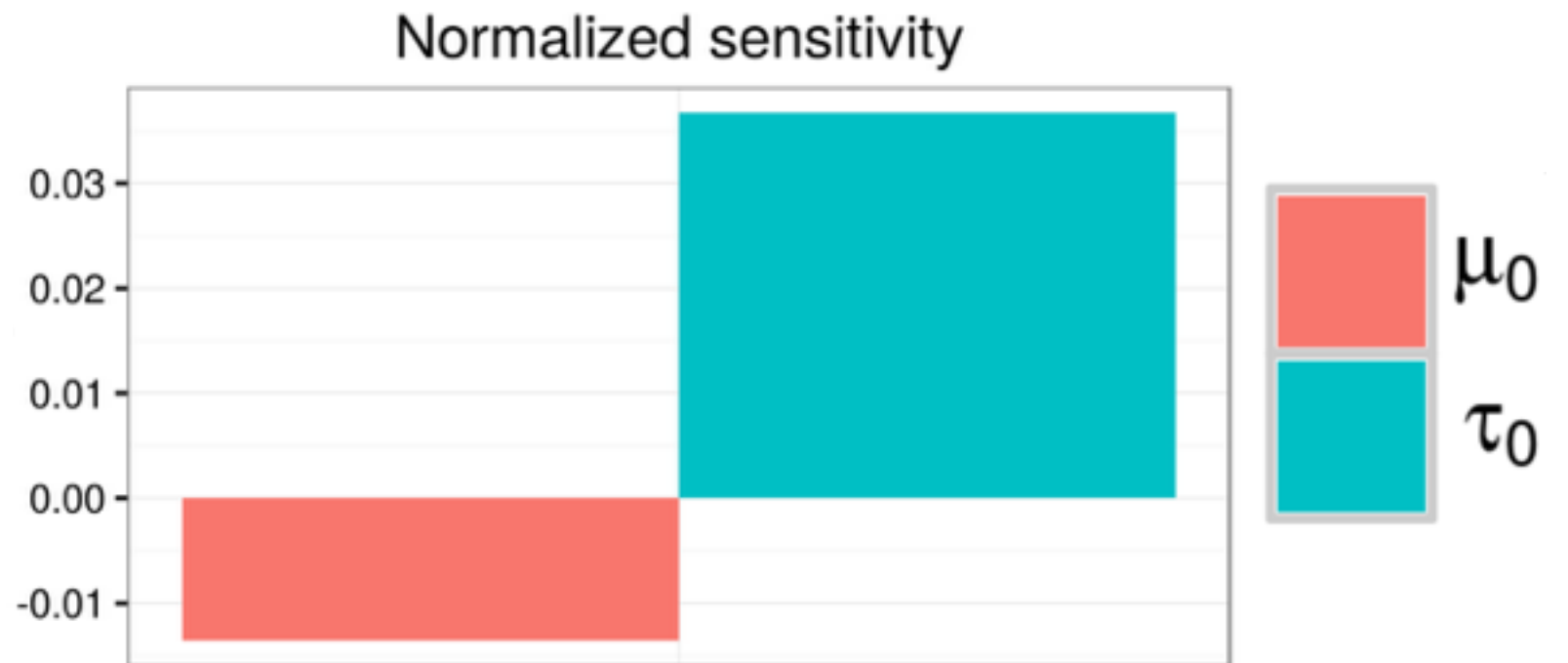
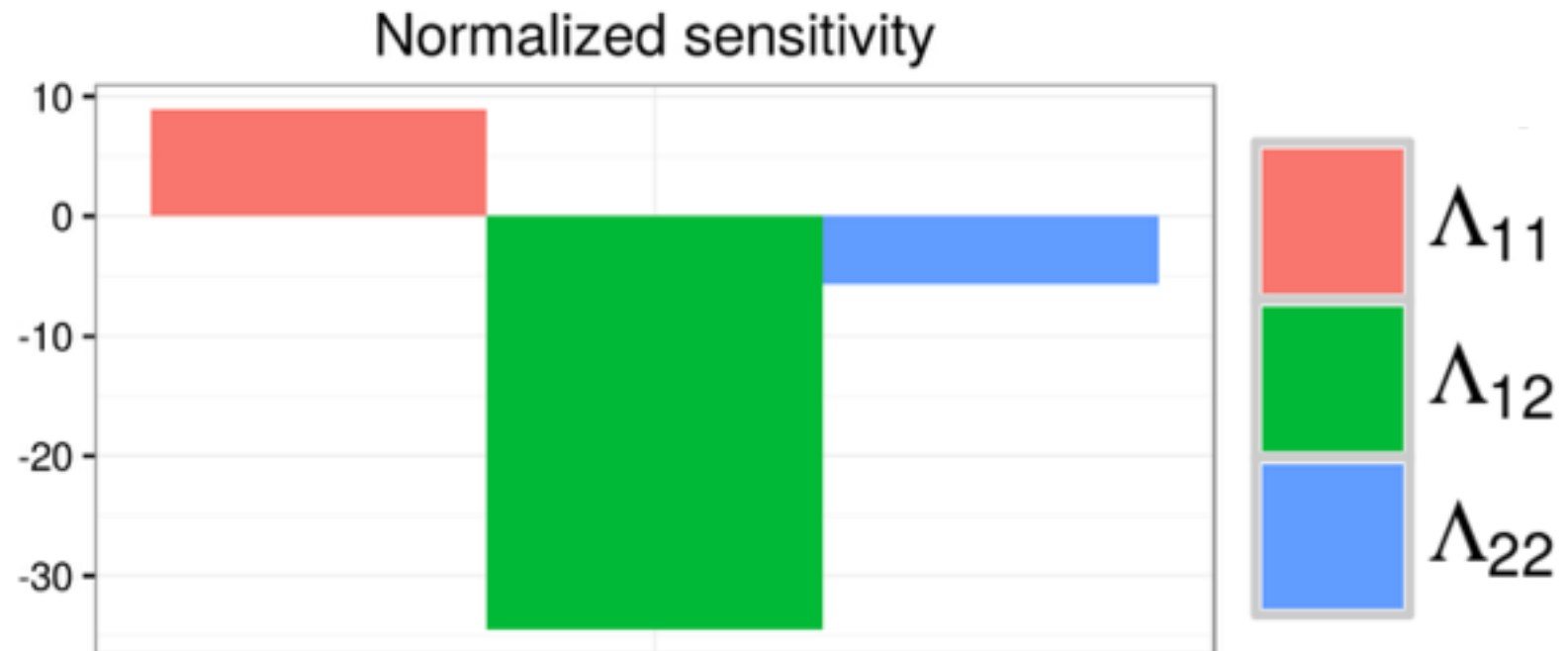
Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs
- τ mean (MFVB): 3.08 USD PPP
- τ std dev (LRVB): 1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0



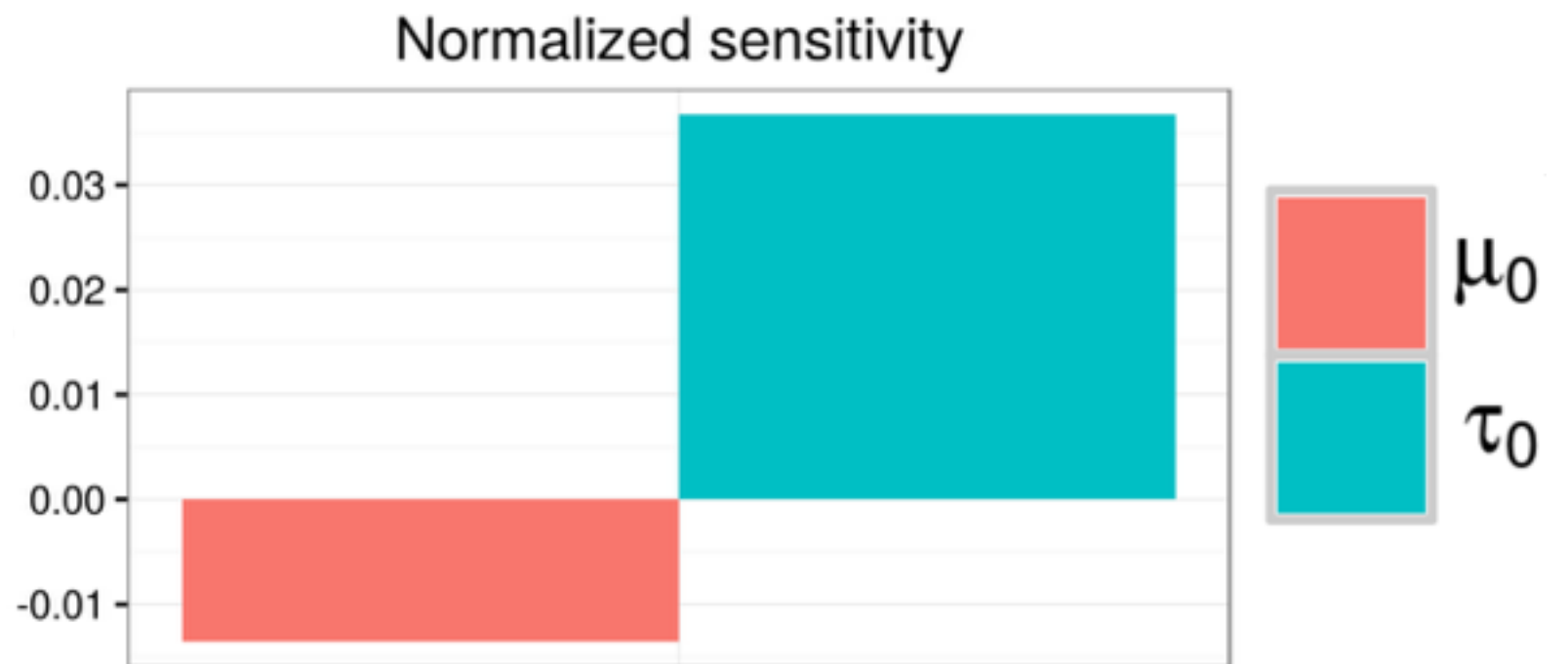
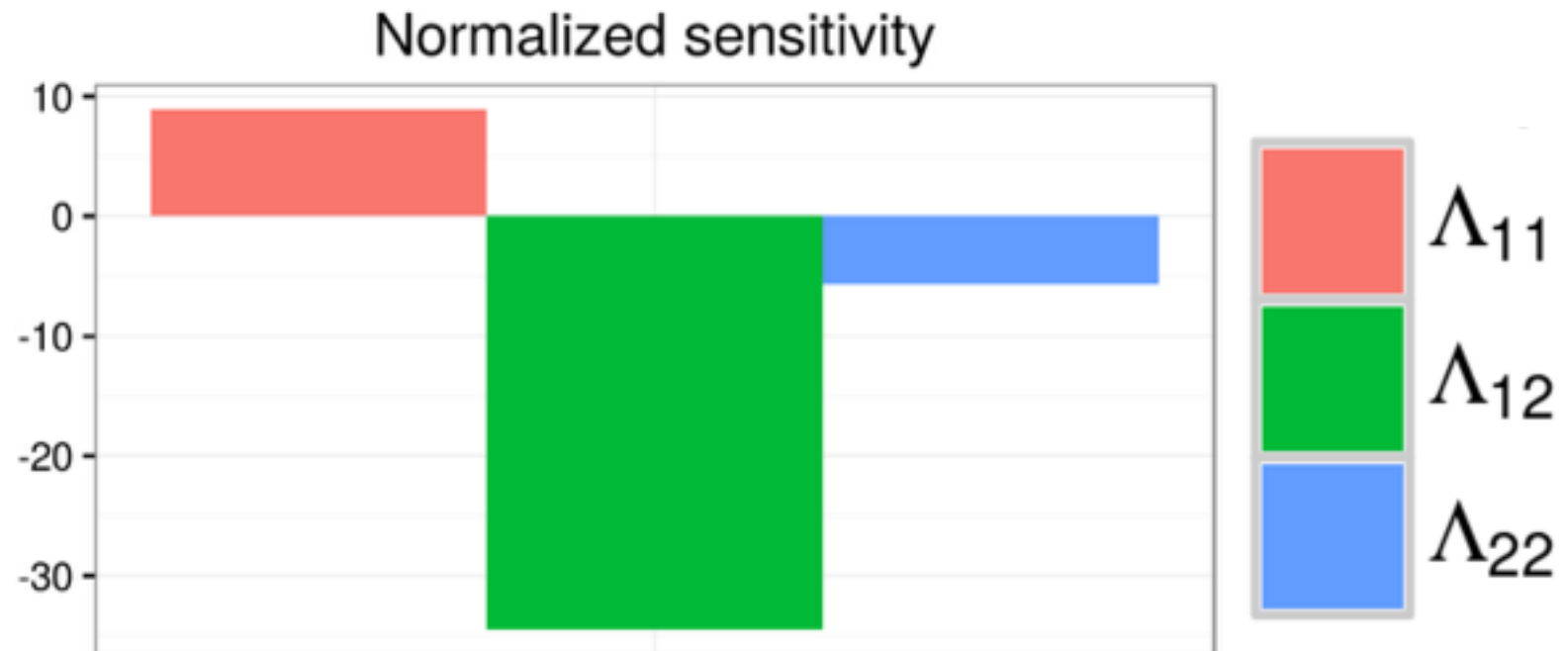
Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs
- τ mean (MFVB):
3.08 USD PPP
- τ std dev (LRVB):
1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0
- $\Lambda_{11} \pm 0.04$



Microcredit Experiment

- Sensitivity of the expected microcredit effect (τ)
- Normalized to be on scale of τ std devs
- τ mean (MFVB):
3.08 USD PPP
- τ std dev (LRVB):
1.83 USD PPP
- Mean is 1.68 std dev from 0
- $\Lambda_{11} \pm 0.04$
 \Rightarrow Mean $>$ 2 std dev



Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- Click-through conversion prediction
- Q: Will a customer (e.g.) buy a product after clicking?
- Q: How predictive of conversion are different features?
- Logistic GLMM; $N = 61,895$ subset to compare to MCMC
- Model:

$$y_{kn} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_{kn}) \quad p_{kn} = \frac{\exp(\rho_{kn})}{1 + \exp(\rho_{kn})}$$

$$\rho_{kn} = x_{kn}^T \beta + u_k$$

- Priors and hyperpriors:

$$u_k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(\beta_0, \text{diag}(\gamma))$$

$$\mu \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$$

$$(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a, b)$$

Criteo Online Ads Experiment

Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- VB: 57 sec

Criteo Online Ads Experiment

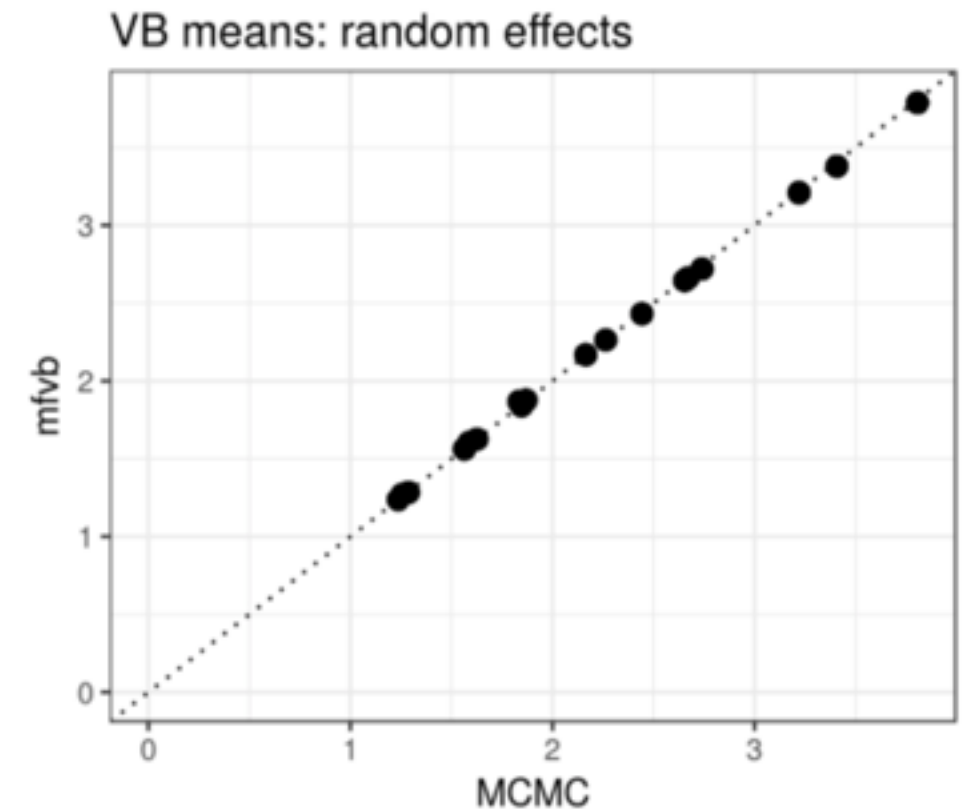
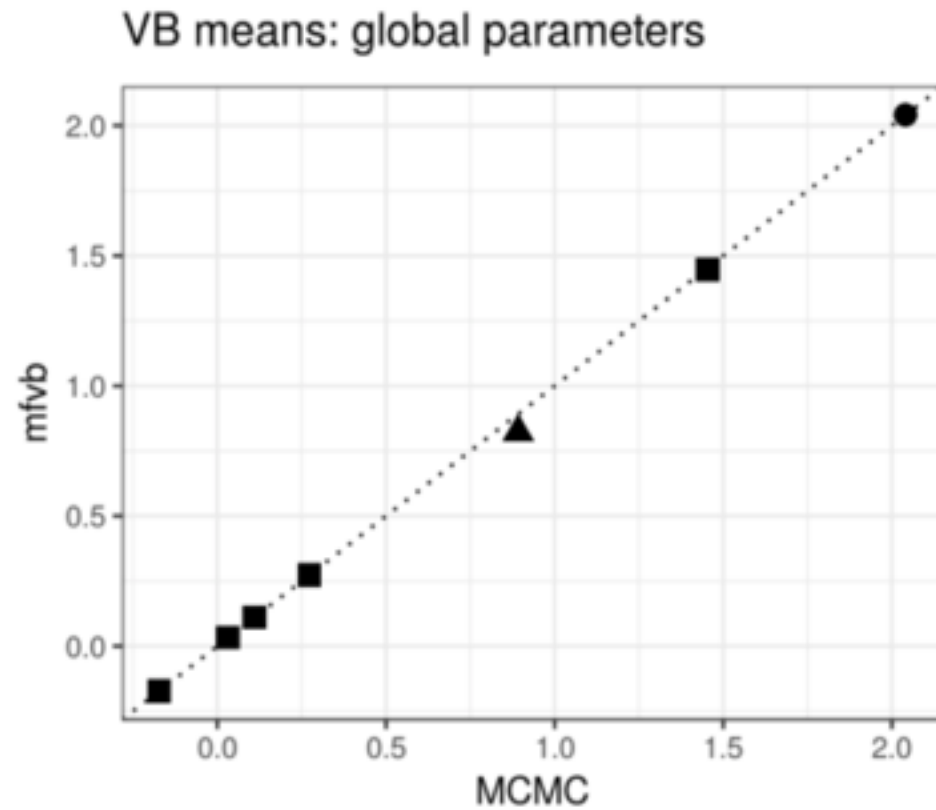
- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB:
553 sec
(9.2 min)

Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB:
553 sec
(9.2 min)
- MCMC (5k
samples):
21,066 sec
(5.85 h)

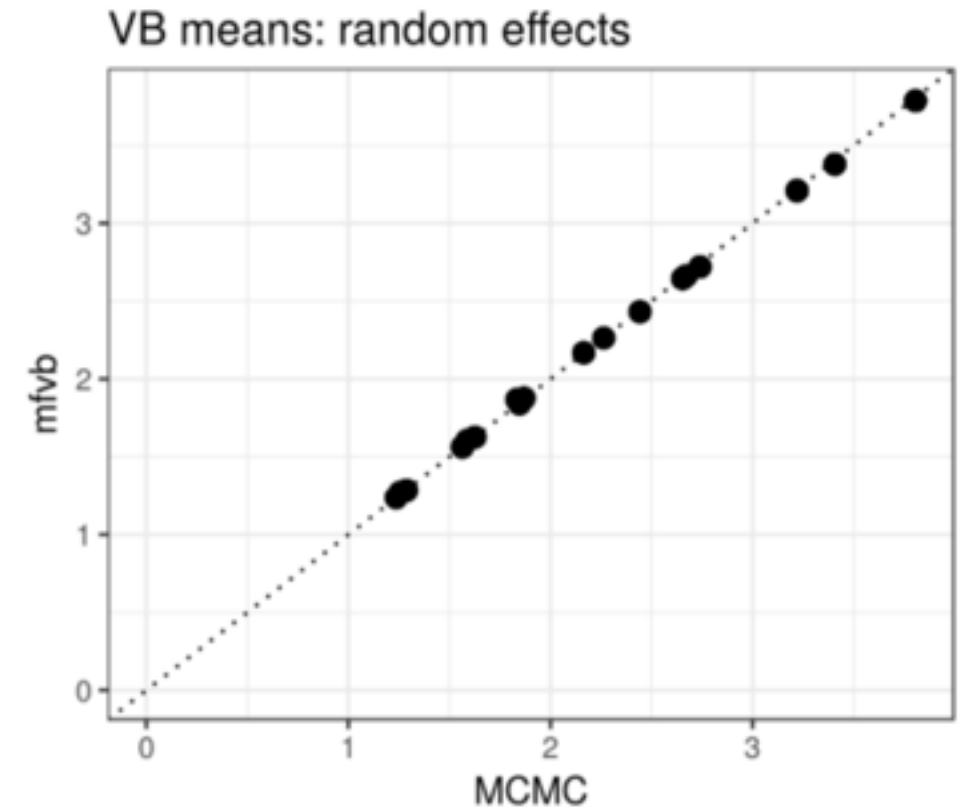
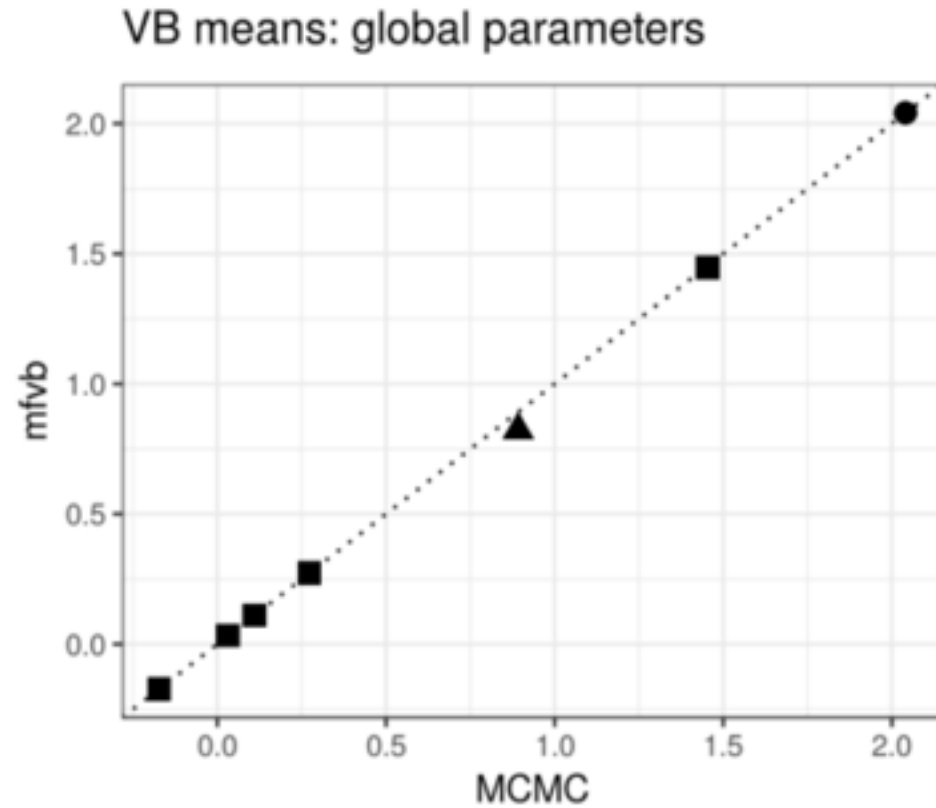
Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB:
553 sec
(9.2 min)
- MCMC (5k samples):
21,066 sec
(5.85 h)

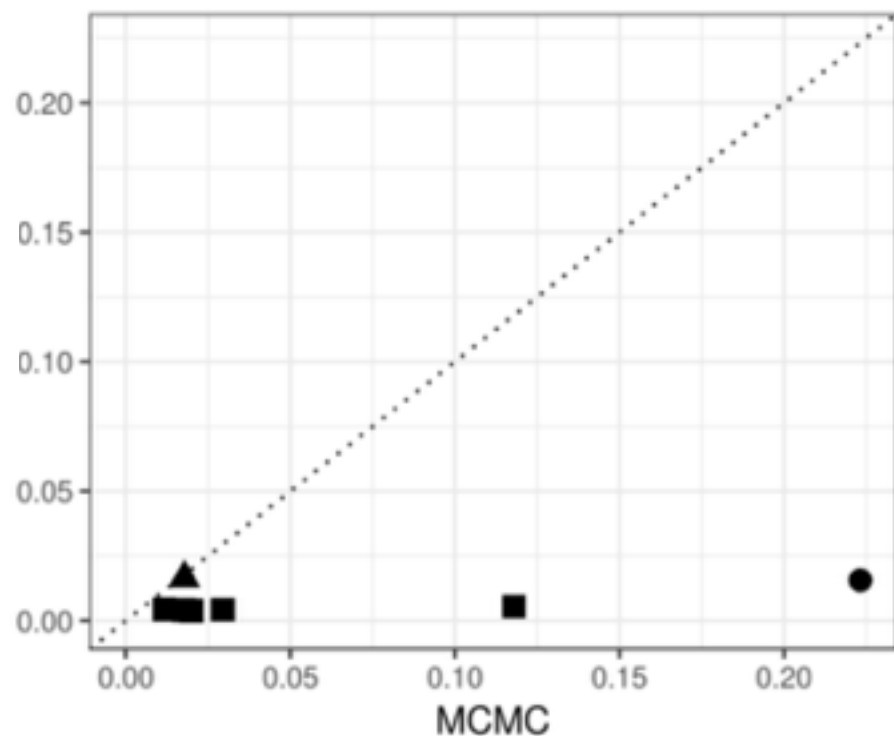


Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB: 553 sec
(9.2 min)
- MCMC (5k samples):
21,066 sec
(5.85 h)



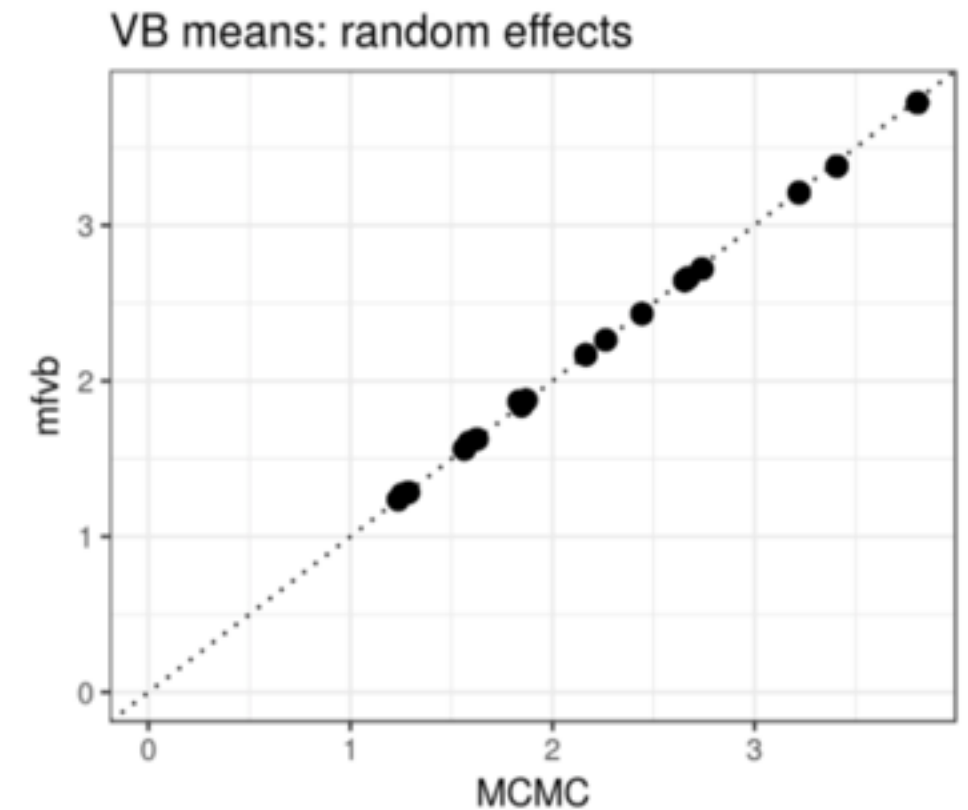
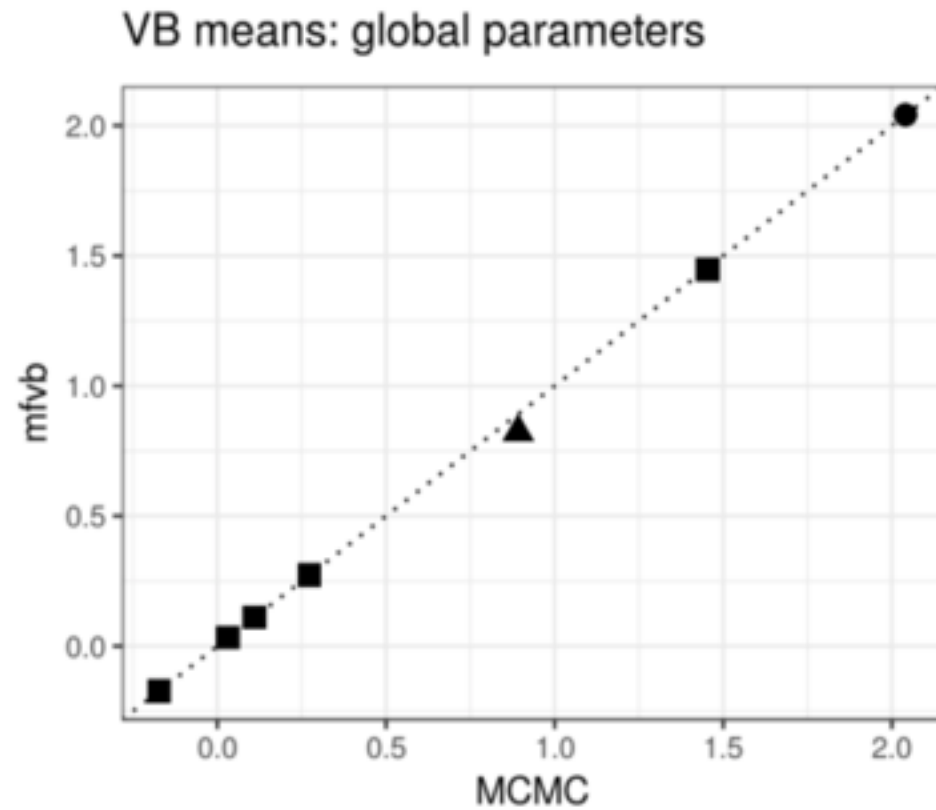
Uncorrected MFVB sd: global parameters



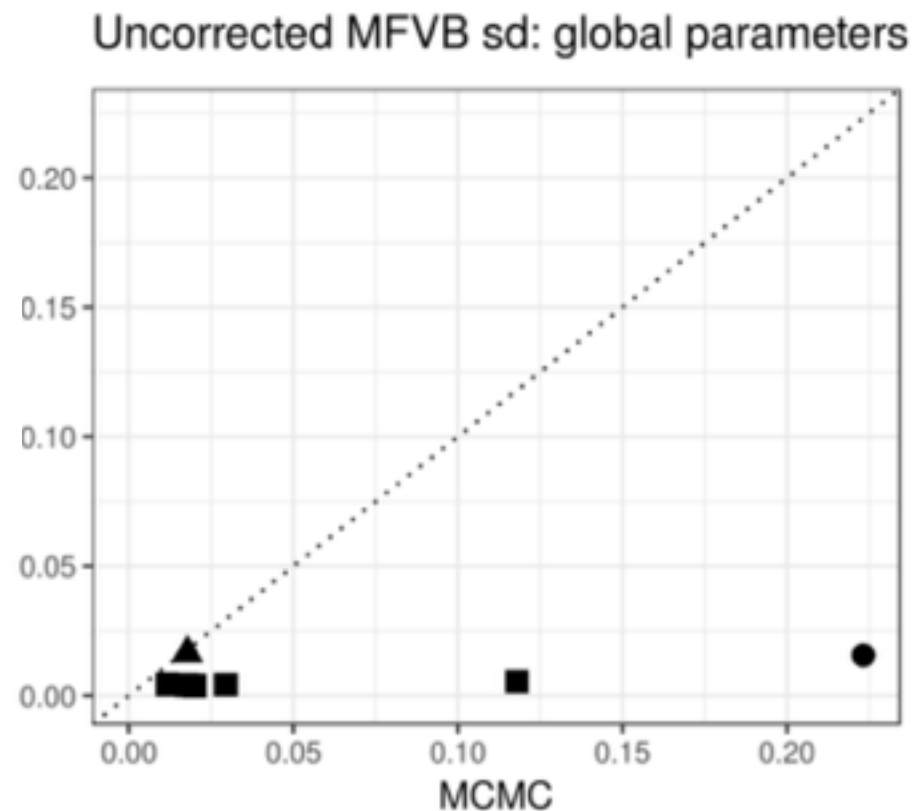
MFVB

Criteo Online Ads Experiment

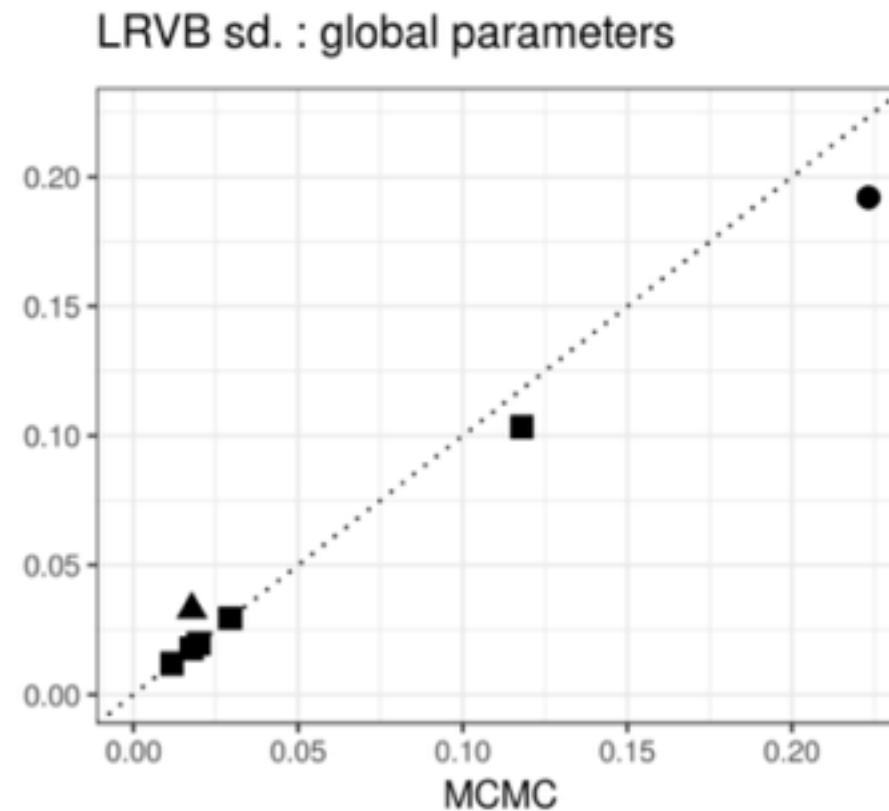
- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB: 553 sec
(9.2 min)
- MCMC (5k samples): 21,066 sec
(5.85 h)



MFVB

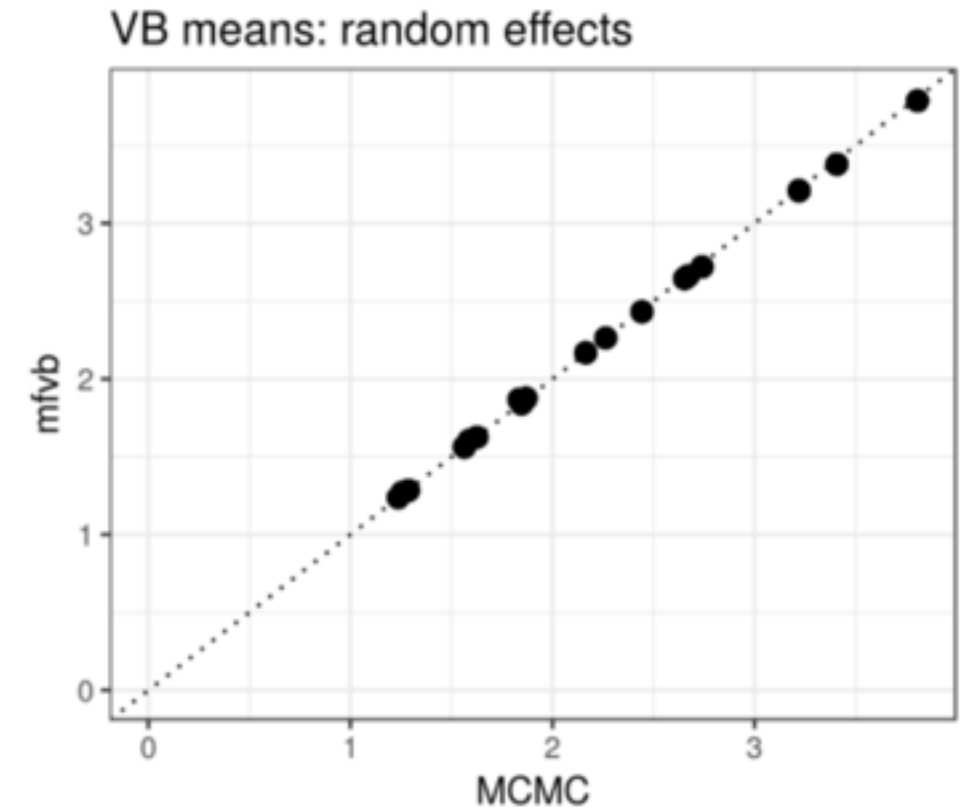
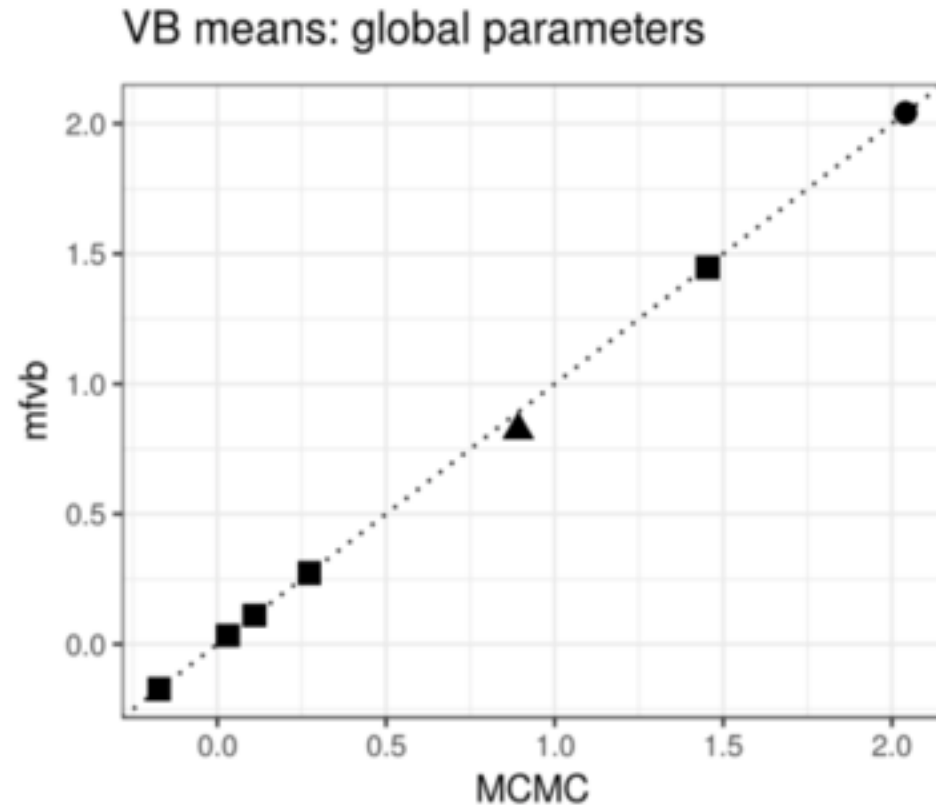


LRVB

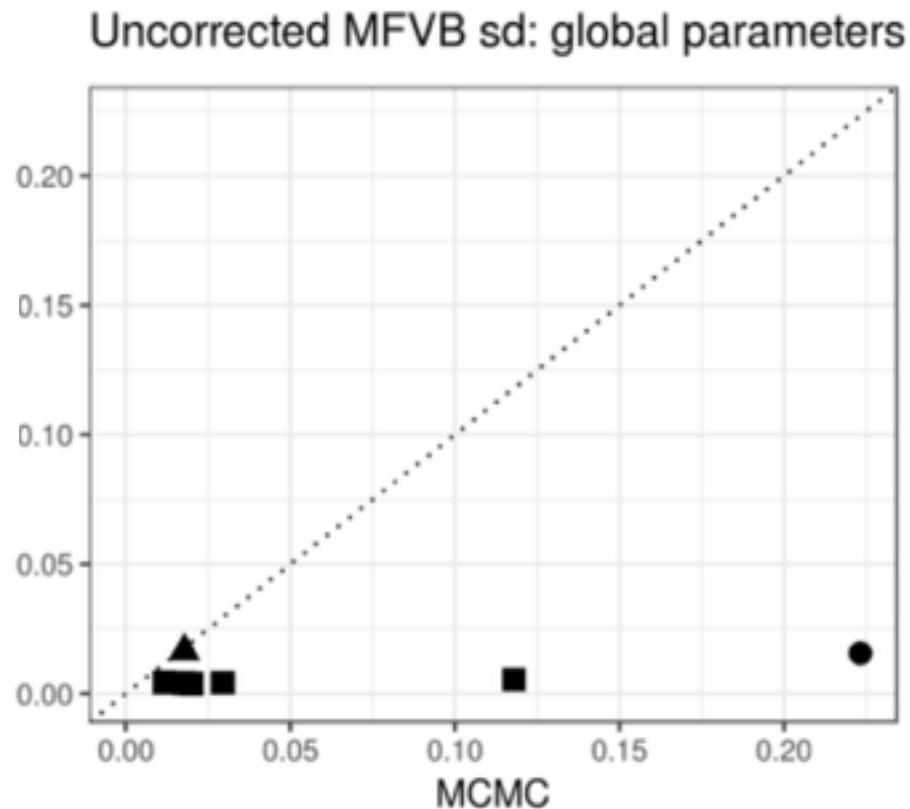


Criteo Online Ads Experiment

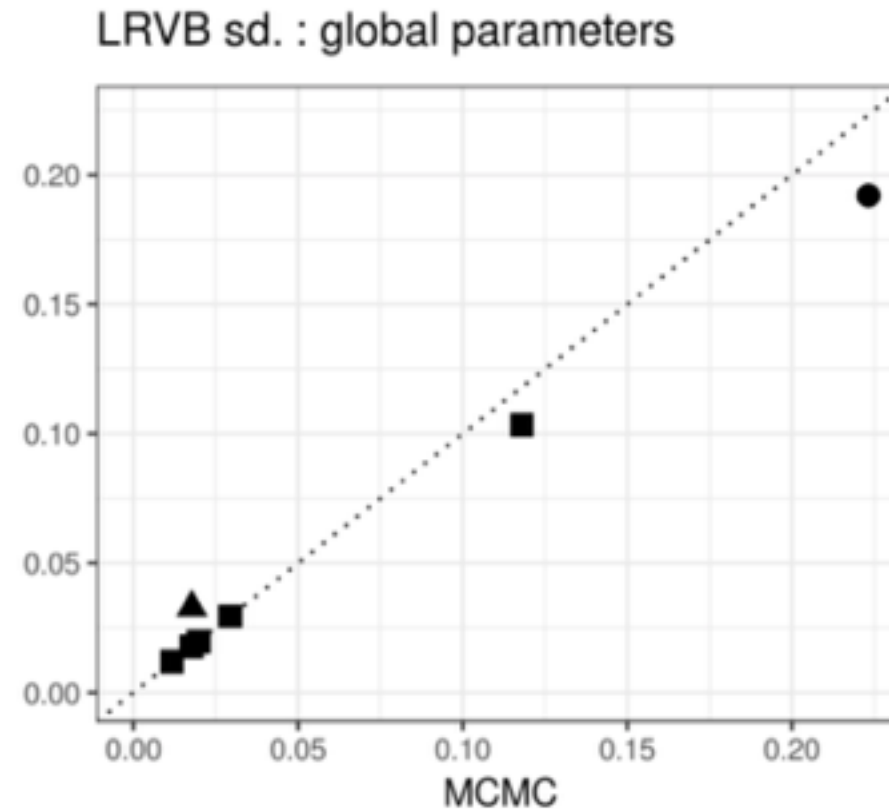
- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB: 553 sec
(**9.2 min**)
- MCMC (5k samples):
21,066 sec
(**5.85 h**)



MFVB



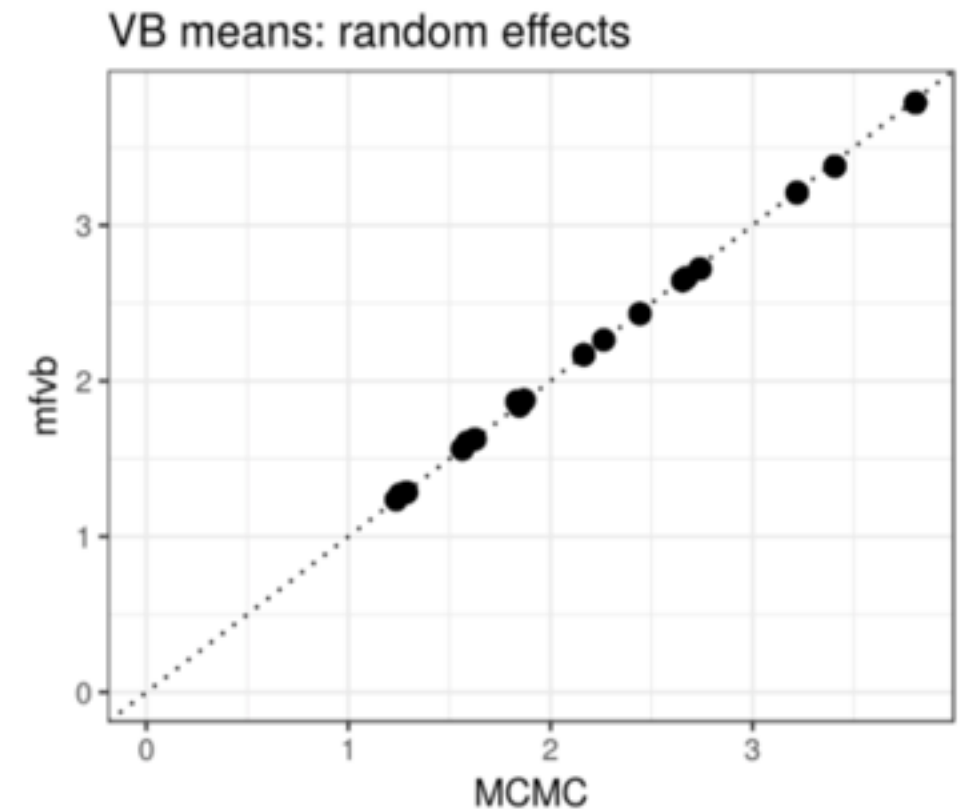
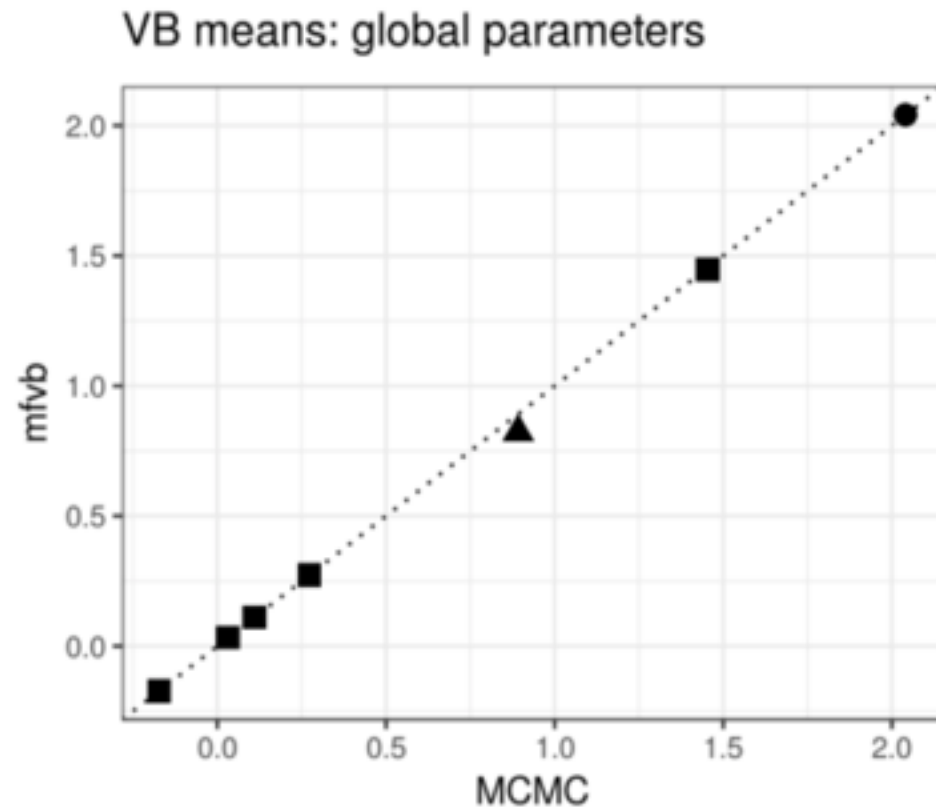
LRVB



Also good
random
effects sd and
covariances

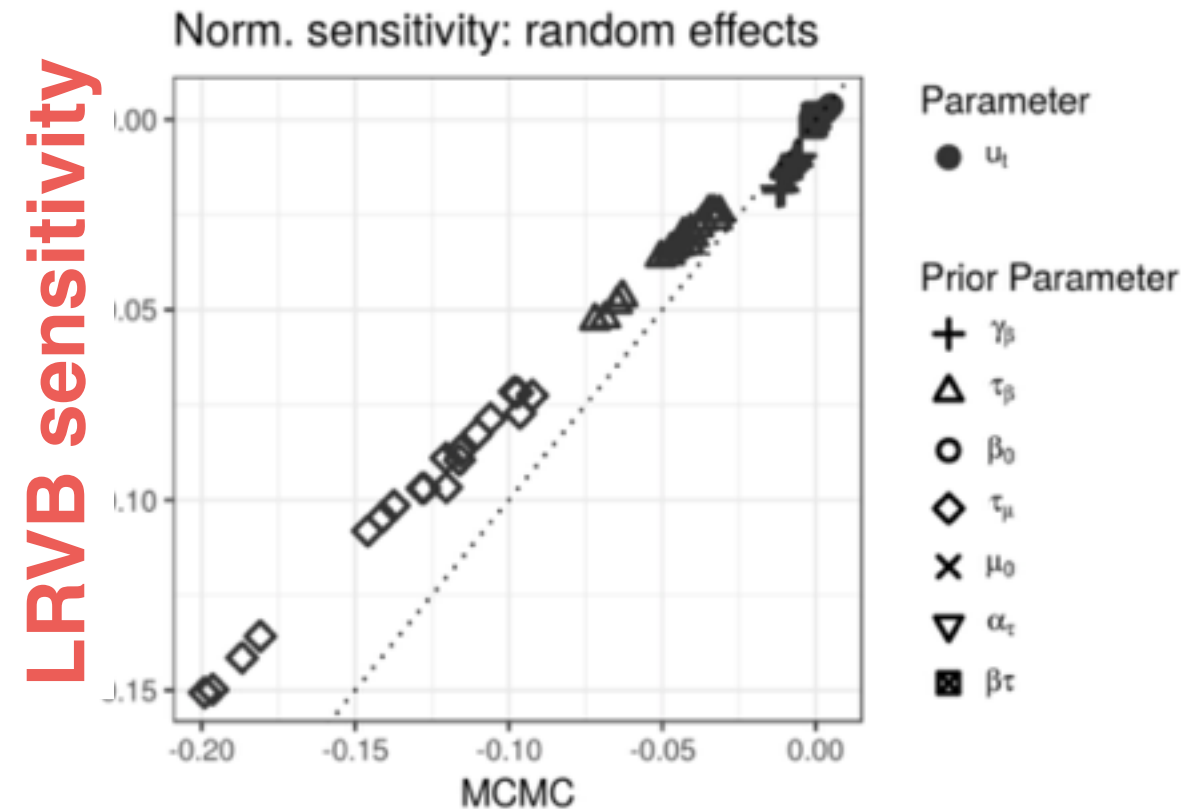
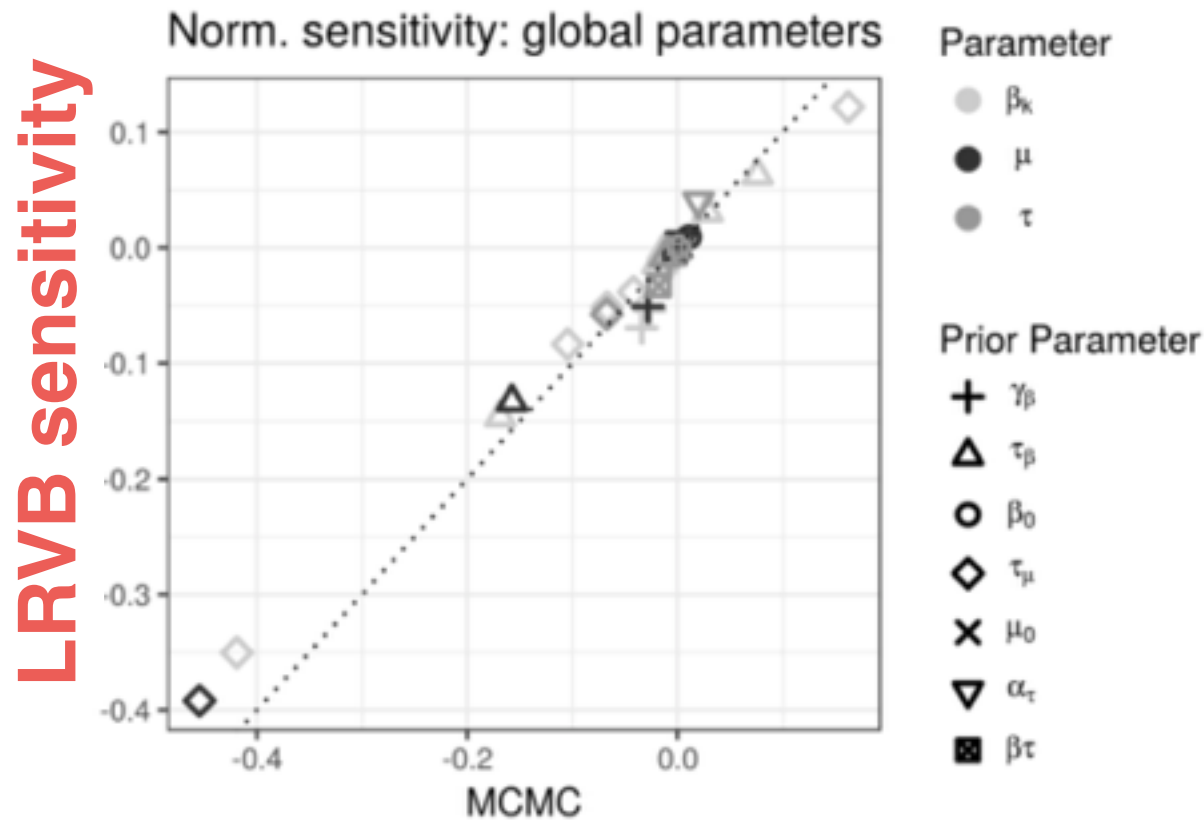
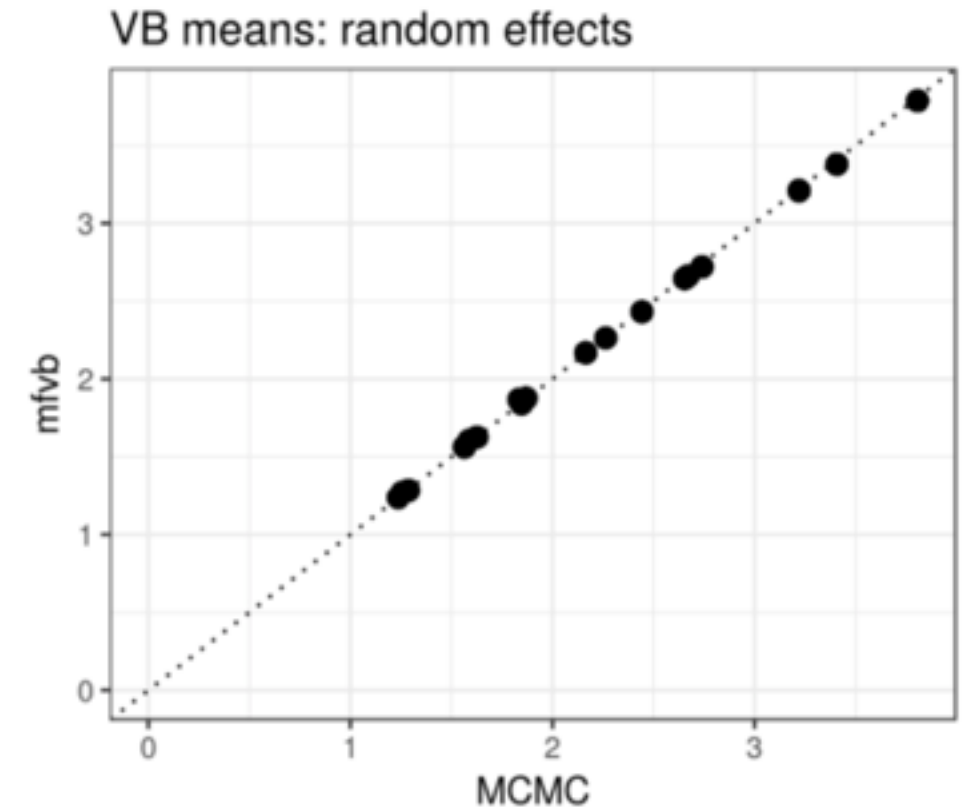
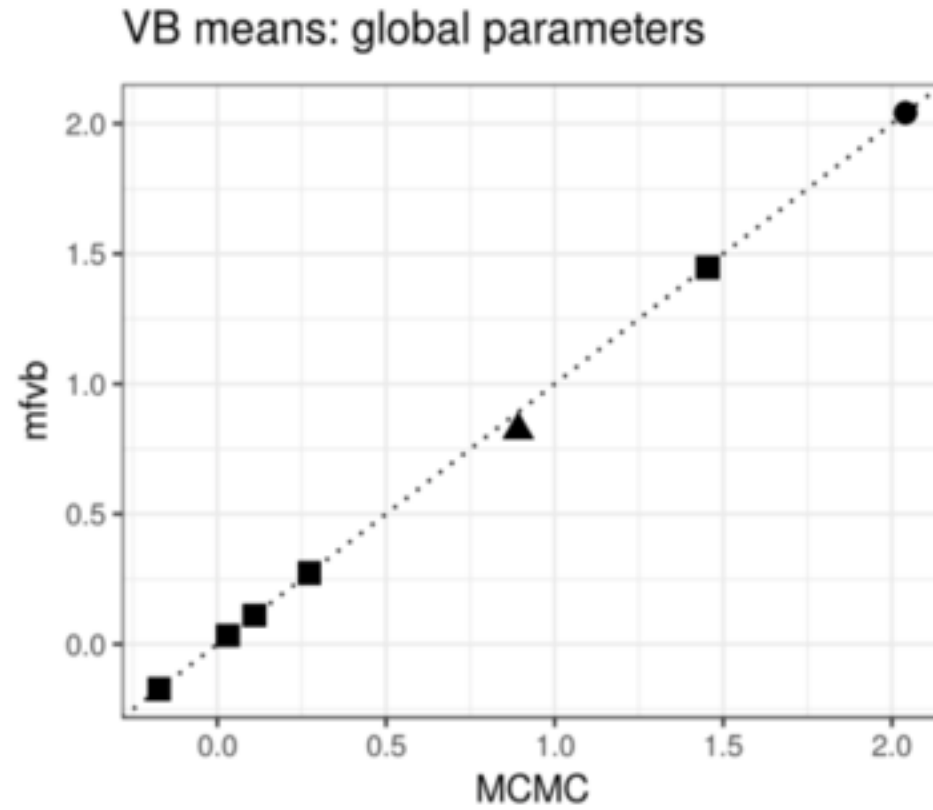
Criteo Online Ads Experiment

- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB:
553 sec
(9.2 min)
- MCMC (5k samples):
21,066 sec
(5.85 h)



Criteo Online Ads Experiment

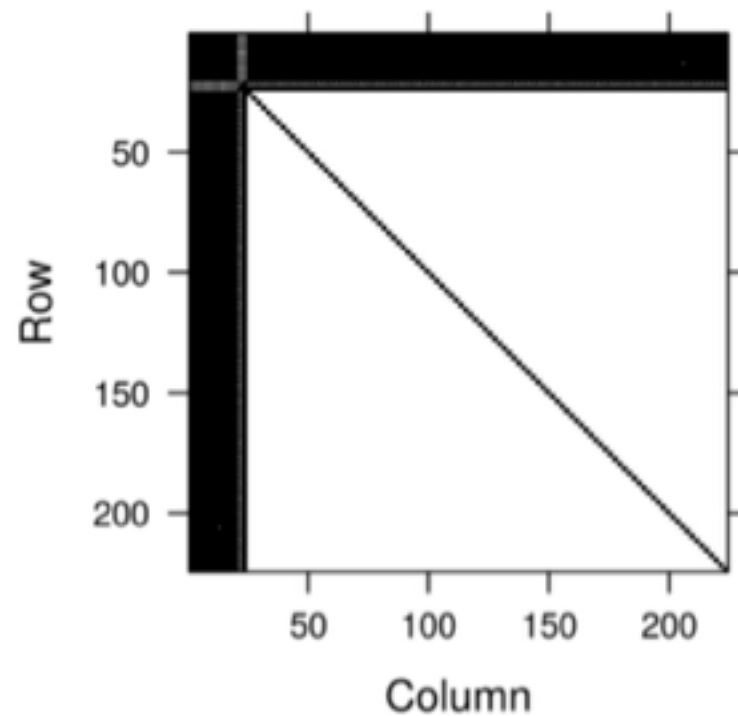
- VB: 57 sec;
VB + LRVB: 553 sec
(**9.2 min**)
- MCMC (5k samples): 21,066 sec
(**5.85 h**)



Computational complexity

Computational complexity

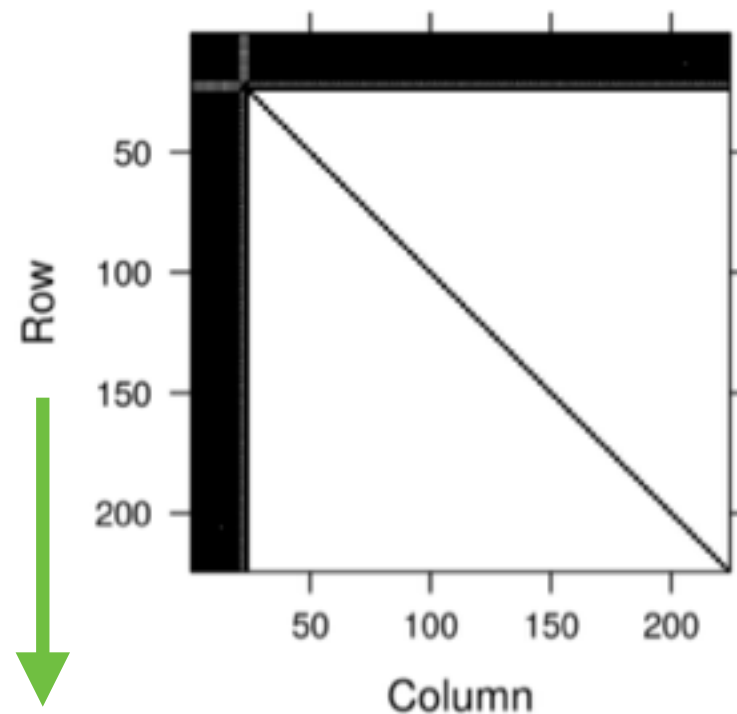
- Top left submatrix for Criteo analysis



Computational complexity

- Top left submatrix for Criteo analysis

10,014 params →



Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n

Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n

Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n
- Collect: regional test scores r_n

Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n
- Collect: regional test scores r_n
- Model: $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$

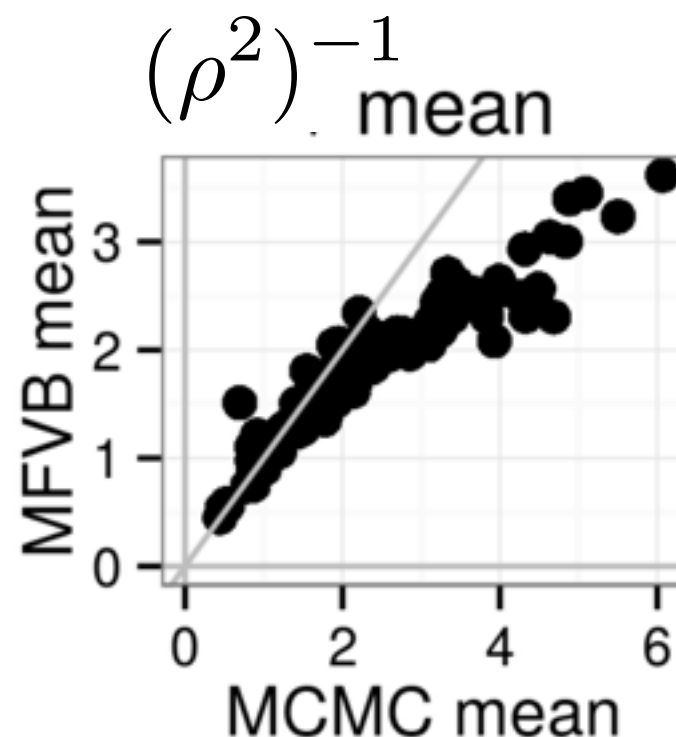
Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n
- Collect: regional test scores r_n
- Model: $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{indep}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$ $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$

Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n
- Collect: regional test scores r_n
- Model: $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{indep}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$ $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$

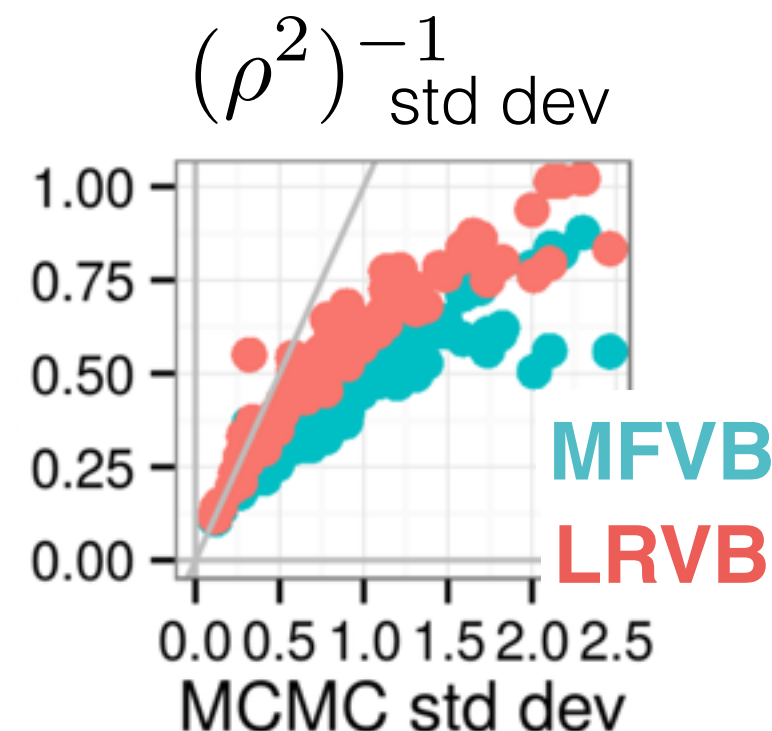
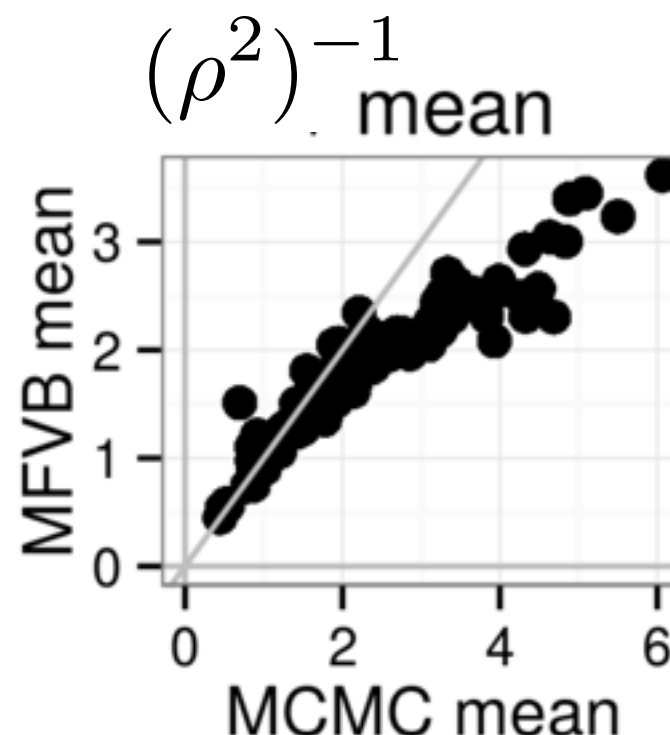
- Data simulated from model (100 data sets, 300 data points):



Posterior means: revisited

- Want to predict college GPA y_n
- Collect: standardized test scores (e.g., SAT, ACT) x_n
- Collect: regional test scores r_n
- Model: $y_n | \beta, z, \sigma^2 \stackrel{indep}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\beta^T x_n + z_{k(n)} r_n, \sigma^2)$
 $z_k | \rho^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$ $(\sigma^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\sigma^2}, b_{\sigma^2})$
 $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ $(\rho^2)^{-1} \sim \text{Gamma}(a_{\rho^2}, b_{\rho^2})$

- Data simulated from model (100 data sets, 300 data points):



Conclusions

- *Linear response variational Bayes (LRVB)*: supplements VB for:
 - Fast **covariance** estimates
 - Fast **robustness** quantification
 - Priors, likelihood, data

Conclusions

- *Linear response variational Bayes (LRVB)*: supplements VB for:
 - Fast **covariance** estimates
 - Fast **robustness** quantification
 - Priors, likelihood, data
- When can we trust LRVB?

Conclusions

- *Linear response variational Bayes (LRVB)*: supplements VB for:
 - Fast **covariance** estimates
 - Fast **robustness** quantification
 - Priors, likelihood, data
- When can we trust LRVB?
- Data summarization for scalability (Next part)

References (1/2)

R Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Linear response methods for accurate covariance estimates from mean field variational Bayes. *NIPS* 2015.

R Giordano, T Broderick, R Meager, JH Huggins, and MI Jordan. Fast robustness quantification with variational Bayes. *ICML Workshop on #Data4Good: Machine Learning in Social Good Applications*, 2016. ArXiv:1606.07153.

R Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Covariances, robustness, and variational Bayes. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, to appear. ArXiv:1709.02536.

References (1/2)

R Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Linear response methods for accurate covariance estimates from mean field variational Bayes. *NIPS* 2015.

R Giordano, T Broderick, R Meager, JH Huggins, and MI Jordan. Fast robustness quantification with variational Bayes. *ICML Workshop on #Data4Good: Machine Learning in Social Good Applications*, 2016. ArXiv:1606.07153.

R Giordano, T Broderick, and MI Jordan. Covariances, robustness, and variational Bayes. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, to appear. ArXiv:1709.02536.

R Giordano, W Stephenson, R Liu, MI Jordan, and T Broderick. Return of the infinitesimal jackknife. Under review. ArXiv:1806.00550.

References (2/2)

R Bardenet, A Doucet, and C Holmes. "On Markov chain Monte Carlo methods for tall data." *The Journal of Machine Learning Research* 18.1 (2017): 1515-1557.

T Broderick, N Boyd, A Wibisono, AC Wilson, and MI Jordan. Streaming variational Bayes. *NIPS* 2013.

CM Bishop. *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning*. Springer-Verlag New York, 2006.

D Dunson. Robust and scalable approach to Bayesian inference. Talk at *ISBA* 2014.

B Fosdick. *Modeling Heterogeneity within and between Matrices and Arrays*, Chapter 4.7. PhD Thesis, University of Washington, 2013.

DJC MacKay. *Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

R Meager. Understanding the impact of microcredit expansions: A Bayesian hierarchical analysis of 7 randomized experiments. *AEJ: Applied*, to appear, 2018a.

R Meager. Aggregating Distributional Treatment Effects: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of the Microcredit Literature. Working paper, 2018b.

M Opper and O Winther. Variational linear response. *NIPS* 2003.

RE Turner and M Sahani. Two problems with variational expectation maximisation for time-series models. In D Barber, AT Cemgil, and S Chiappa, editors, *Bayesian Time Series Models*, 2011.

B Wang and M Titterton. Inadequacy of interval estimates corresponding to variational Bayesian approximations. In *AISTATS*, 2004.