


Estimation

Thanks to MCMC algorithms, one can obtain a **Monte Carlo sample from the *posterior* distribution** for a **Bayesian model**

Monte Carlo method can then be used to get *posterior* estimates :

- Point estimates (*posterior* mean, *posterior* median, ...)
- Credibility interval (shortest: *Highest Density Interval* – *HDI* with  package `HDInterval`)
- ...

Deviance Information Criterion (*DIC*)

Deviance is: $D(\theta) = -2\log(p(\theta|\mathbf{y})) + C$ with C a constant

Deviance Information Criterion is then:

$$DIC = \overline{D(\theta)} + p_D$$

where $p_D = \left(\overline{D(\bar{\theta})} - \overline{D(\theta)} \right)$ represents a penalty for the effective number of parameters

⇒ *DIC* allows to compare different models estimated on the same data
the smaller the DIC, the better the model !

[M Plummer, Penalized loss functions for Bayesian model comparison, *Biostatistics*, 2008]

Your turn !



Practical: exercise 5