

Objective Bayesian Methods for Model Selection: Introduction and Comparison

James O. Berger and Luis R. Pericchi

Duke University and University of Puerto Rico

Abstract

The basics of the Bayesian approach to model selection are first presented, as well as the motivations for the Bayesian approach. We then review four methods of developing default Bayesian procedures that have undergone considerable recent development, the Conventional Prior approach, the Bayes Information Criterion, the Intrinsic Bayes Factor, and the Fractional Bayes Factor. As part of the review, these methods are illustrated on examples involving the normal linear model. The later part of the chapter focuses on comparison of the four approaches, and includes an extensive discussion of criteria for judging model selection procedures.

James O. Berger is the Arts and Sciences Professor of Statistics, Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0251, U.S.A; email: jberger@stat.duke.edu. Luis R. Pericchi is Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, P.O. Box 23355, San Juan, PR 00931-3355, U.S.A; email: pericchi@goliath.cnet.clu.edu. This research was supported by the National Science Foundation (U.S.A.), Grants DMS-9303556 and DMS-9802261, and by CONICIT-Venezuela G-97000592. The second author held a Guggenheim Fellowship during part of his research. An earlier version of this manuscript was presented at the workshop *Bayesian Model Selection*, held in Cagliari in June, 1997.