

Towards Encrypted Inference for Arbitrary Models

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Joint work with Sam Livingstone, UCL

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Durham
University

Introduction

Motivation

Security in statistics applications is a growing concern:

- computing in a ‘hostile’ environment (e.g. cloud computing);
- donation of sensitive/personal data (e.g. medical/genetic studies);
- complex models on constrained devices (e.g. smart watches)
- running confidential algorithms on confidential data (e.g. engineering reliability)

Perspectives on “privacy”

- Differential privacy
 - on outcomes of ‘statistical queries’
 - guarantees of privacy for individual observations

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- Data privacy
 - at rest
 - during fitting
 - data pooling
- Model privacy
 - prior distributions
 - model formulation

The perspective for today ...

- **Eve** has a private model, including prior information which may itself be private.
- **Cain** and **Abel** have private data which is relevant to the fitting of Eve's model.

Can Eve fit a model, pooling data from Cain and Abel without observing their raw data and without revealing her model and prior information? Abel also doesn't trust Cain ...



$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\cdot | \psi) \\ \pi(\psi) \end{aligned}$$



$$\{\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id})\}_{i=1}^{n_1}$$



$$\{\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id})\}_{i=n_1+1}^N$$

Cryptography the solution?

Encryption can provide security guarantees ...

$$\text{Enc}(k_p, m) \rightleftharpoons c$$

Easy

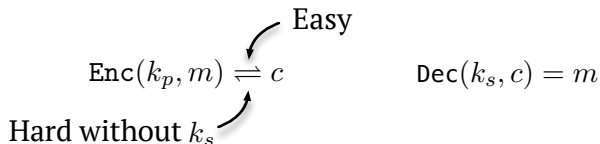
Hard without k_s

$$\text{Dec}(k_s, c) = m$$

... but is typically 'brittle'.

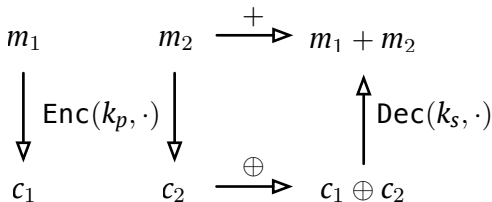
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Arbitrary addition and multiplication is possible with **fully homomorphic encryption** schemes (Gentry, 2009).



Back to the problem ...



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$$\mathbf{x}_i^* = \text{Enc}(k_p, \mathbf{x}_i)$$

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$$\pi(\cdot | \psi)$$

$$\pi(\psi)$$

$$\pi(\psi | X) \propto$$

$$\text{Dec} \left[k_s, \prod_{i=1}^N \pi(\mathbf{x}_i^* | \text{Enc}(k_p, \psi)) \times \right.$$

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- ✗ Likelihood restricted to low degree polynomials
- ✗ Can only handle very small N due to multiplicative depth
- ✗ MAP/posterior? How? MCMC?



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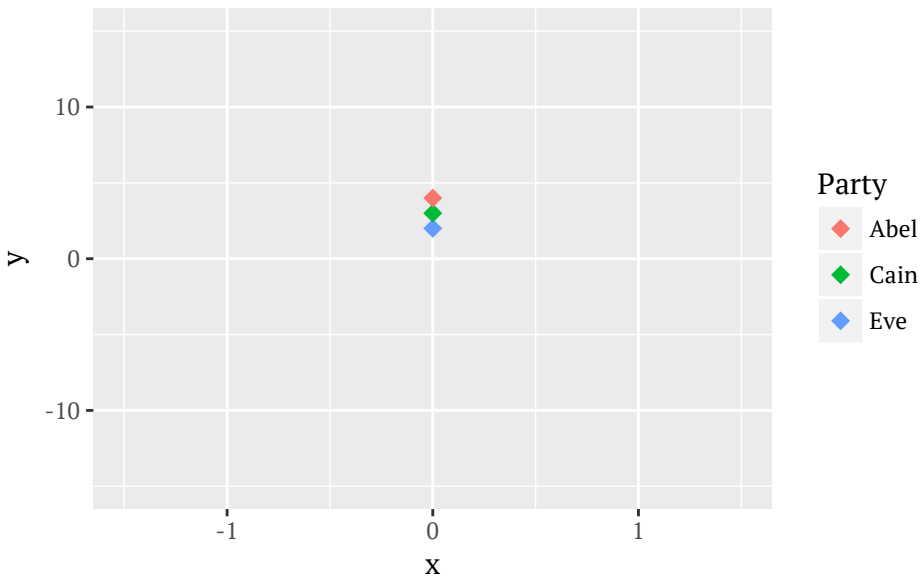


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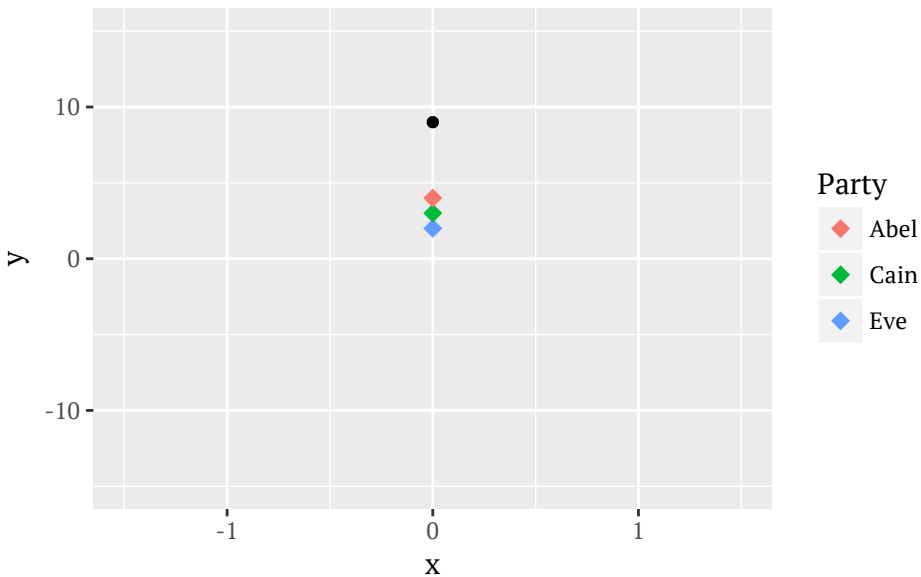


- ✗ Who holds secret key?

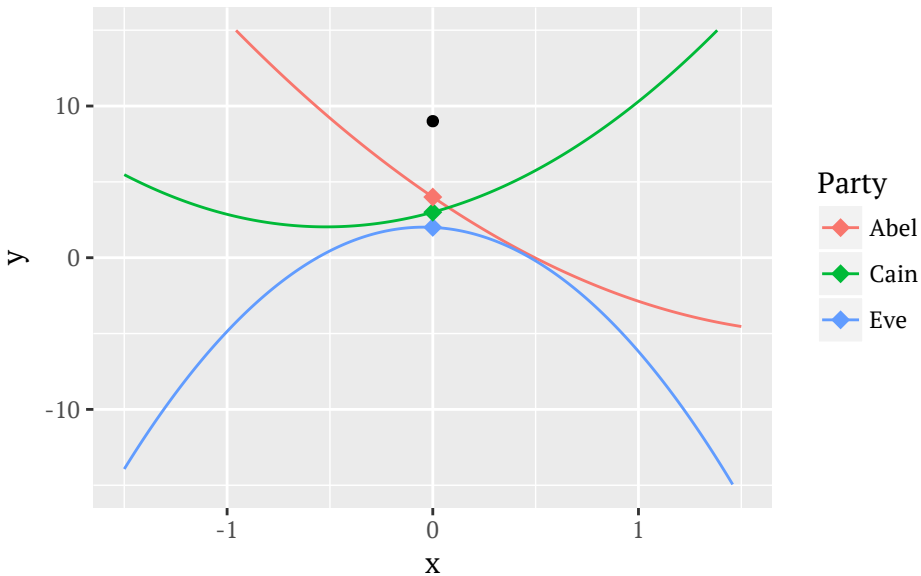
(Simplified) look at Homomorphic Secret Sharing



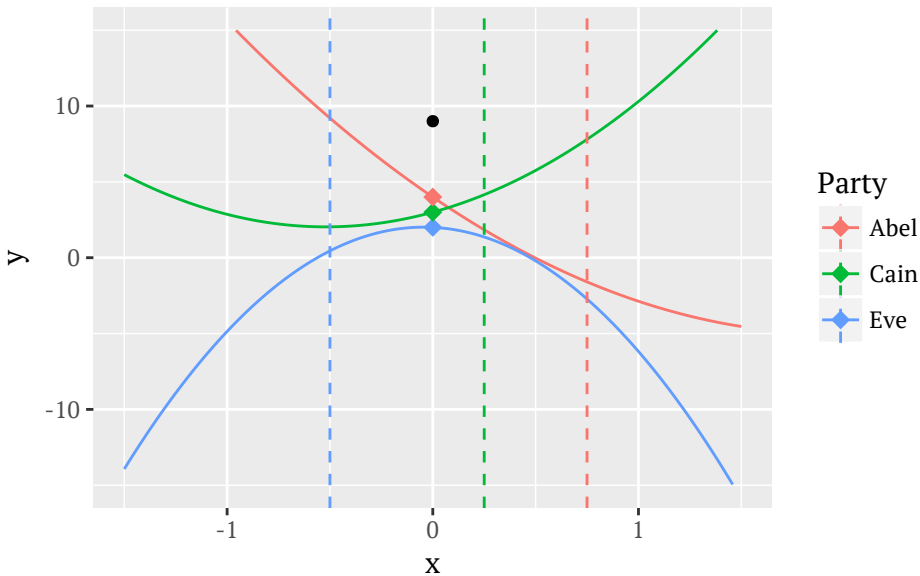
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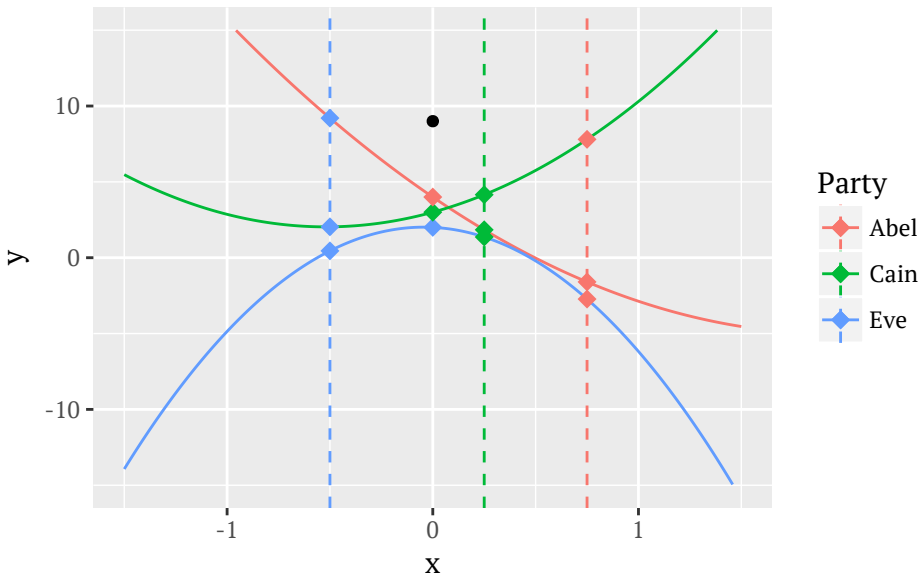
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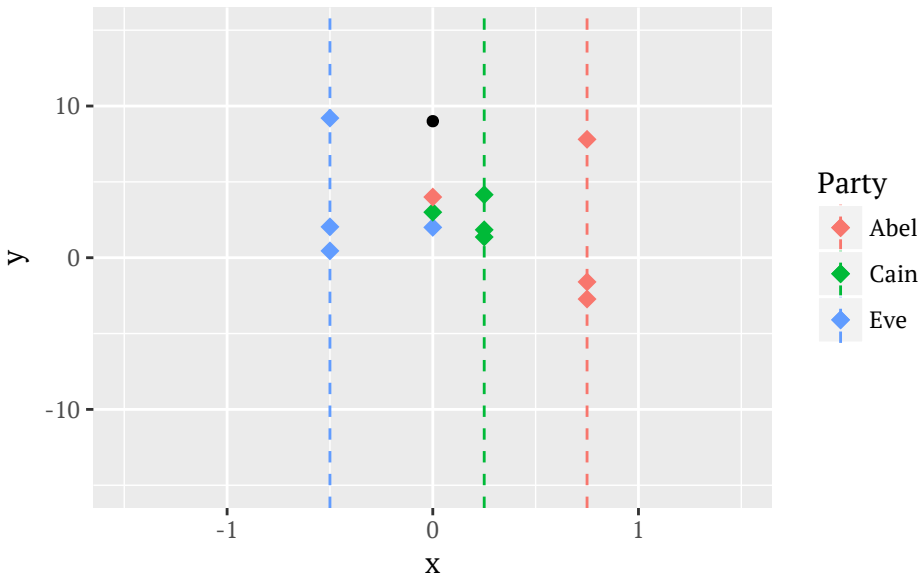
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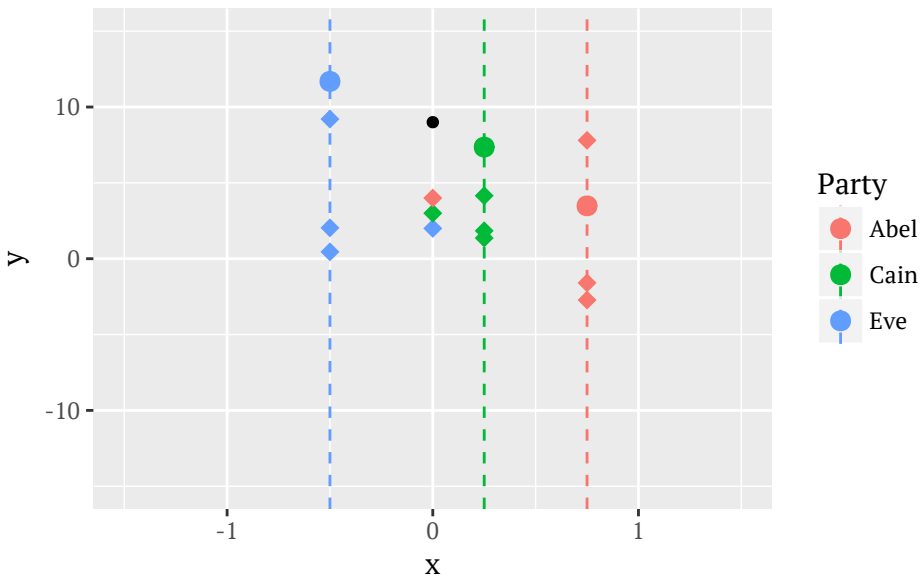
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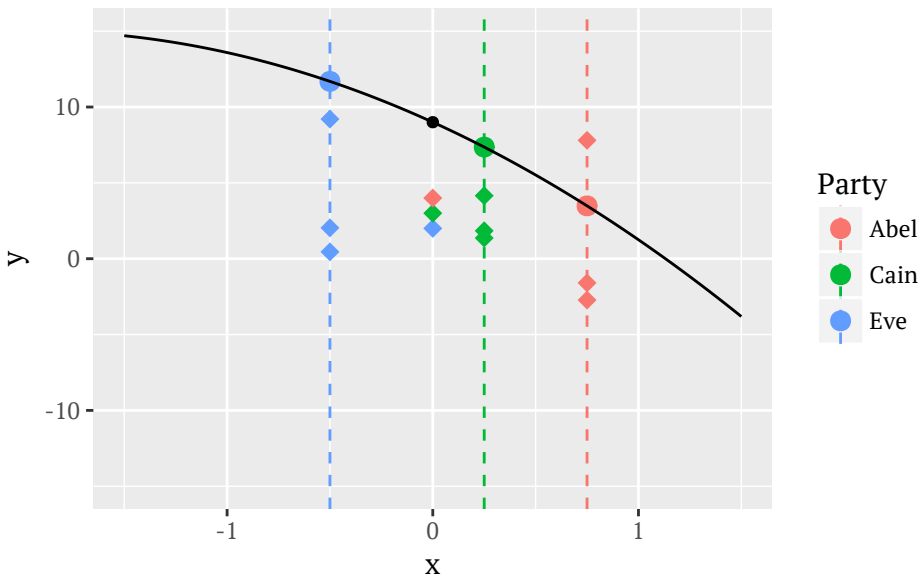
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Eve, Cain & Abel



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Approximate Bayesian Computation

Approximate Bayesian Computation

- 1 Sample $\psi_j \sim \pi(\psi)$, $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$
- 2 For each ψ_j , simulate a dataset Y_j from $\pi(\cdot | \psi_j)$ of the same size, N , as X .
- 3 Accept ψ_j if $d(S(X), S(Y_j)) < \varepsilon$.

Where $S(\cdot)$ is some (vector) of summary statistics; $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a distance metric; and ε is a user defined threshold.

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Problems: $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ can only be low degree polynomials;
Must compute $S(\cdot)$ secretly for Cain and Abel's pooled data;
Naïve ABC performs poorly & choosing ε blindfolded.

Naïve encrypted ABC (I) – Eve & data owners $1, \dots, P$

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- 4 All compute $S^{*p}(X) = \tilde{S}(\bigcup_k S^{*p}(X_k))$, where $\tilde{S}(\cdot)$ is a **homomorphically computable pooling function**.
- 5 All compute $d_j^{*p} = d(S^{*p}(X), S^{*p}(Y_j))$, where $d(\cdot)$ is a **homomorphically computable distance metric**.

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- 8 Data owner k sends to Eve a list of those indices j such that $d_j < \varepsilon$.

Naïve encrypted ABC (III) – in pictures



$$\pi(\psi) \longrightarrow \{\psi_j\}_{j=1}^m$$

$$\swarrow \pi(\cdot | \psi)$$

$$\{S^*(Y_j)\}_{j=1}^m$$



$$d_j^* = d(S^*(Y_j), S^*(X))$$



$$X_1 = \{\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id})\}_{i=1}^{n_1}$$



$$X_2 = \{\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id})\}_{i=n_1+1}^N$$



$$S^*(X) = \tilde{S}(X_1^*, X_2^*, S^*(X_1), S^*(X_2))$$



$$d_j = \text{Dec}(d_j^{\text{Eve}}, d_j^{\text{Cain}}, d_j^{\text{Abel}})$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \{j : d_j < \varepsilon\}$$



Accept $\{\psi_j : j \in \mathcal{J}\}$

Points to note

- Samples ψ_j are never seen by Cain and Abel
- Eve learns only an accept/reject
 - Final distances between summary statistics decrypted by Cain or Abel
- Cain and Abel do not learn about each other's data
 - only see composite distance between pooled summary stats and Eve's simulation
 - can make distances information theoretically secure by adding random values generated by Cain, Abel and Eve
- **BUT**, Cain and Abel do have to know $S(\cdot)$, which in most ABC settings is model dependent \implies risk to Eve

Obstacles to cryptographic ABC

- Homomorphically computable pooling of summary statistics
- Summary statistics that don't reveal model
- Homomorphically computable distance metric
- Blindfold selection of ϵ

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- Homomorphically computable pooling of summary statistics
- Summary statistics that don't reveal model
- Homomorphically computable distance metric
- Blindfold selection of ε
 - Propose using ABC-PMC/SMC, with distance chosen to retain $\alpha\%$ of samples instead. Eve then uses accepted ψ_j on step t to propose step $t + 1$ and repeat algorithm.
 - Standard idea — details omitted.

Cryptographically Secure Inference

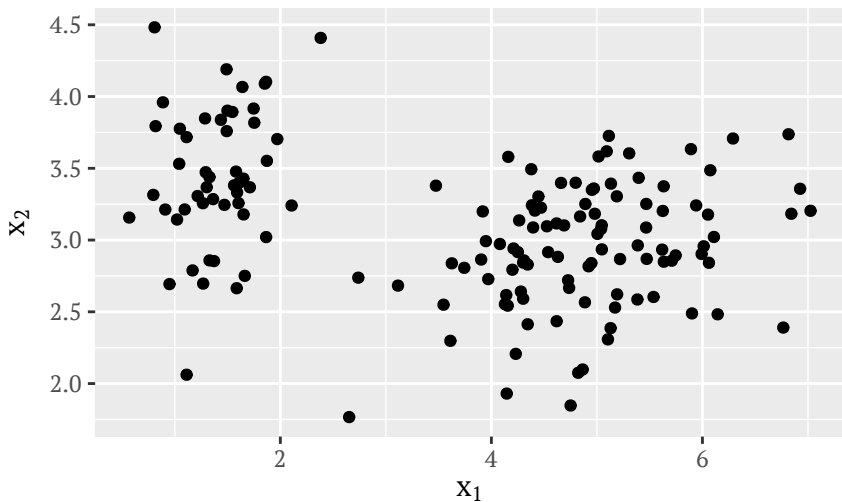
Collection of Coarse Random Marginals (CCRM)

Construct in the manner of a decision forest:

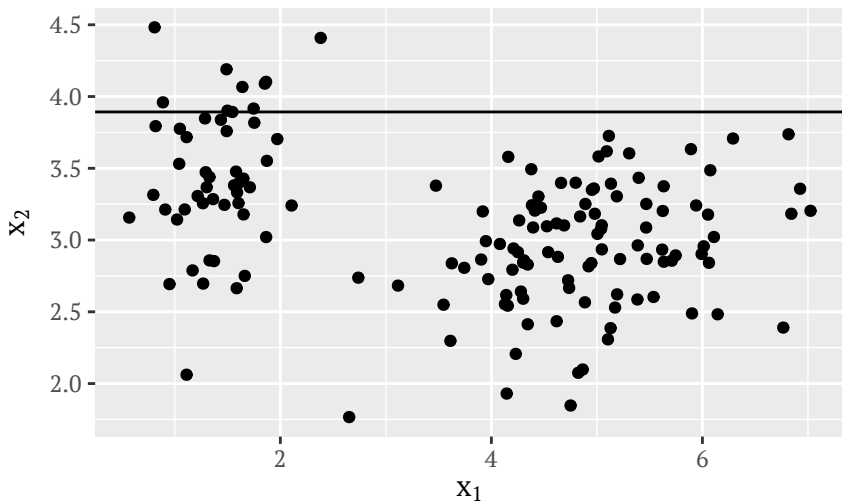
- Grow T trees, each to predetermined fixed depth L
- Choose variable $v \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ uniformly at random
- Each split point uniformly at random in range of $x_{\cdot v}$
 - Thus Cain and Abel must provide range of each variable in the data, though this range need not be tight
 - e.g. release $(\min_i x_{iv} + \eta, \max_i x_{iv} + \eta)$ for $\eta \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ with σ^2 chosen not to exclude too large a range
- $\mathbf{s} = S(\cdot)$ is then the counts of observations in each terminal leaf
 - vector of $T2^L$ counts
 - $\tilde{S}(\cdot)$ is then simply vector addition
- Define

$$d(S(X), S(Y_j)) = \sum_{i=1}^{T2^L} \left(s_i^X - s_i^{Y_j} \right)^2$$

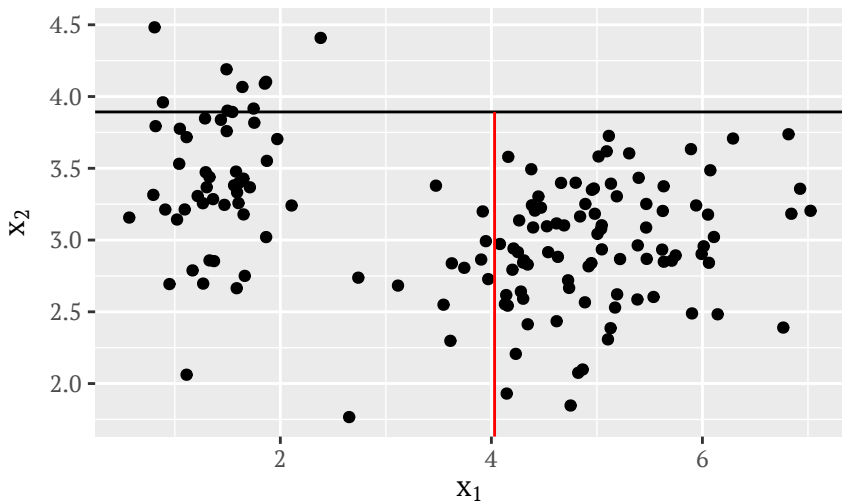
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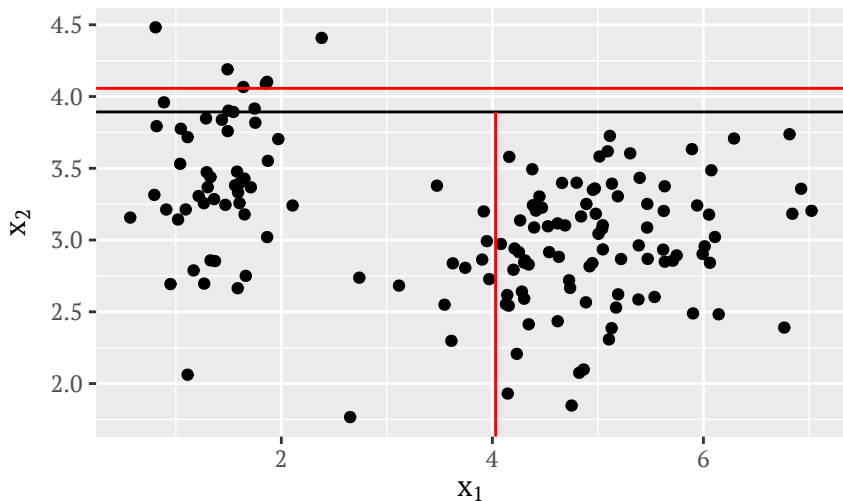
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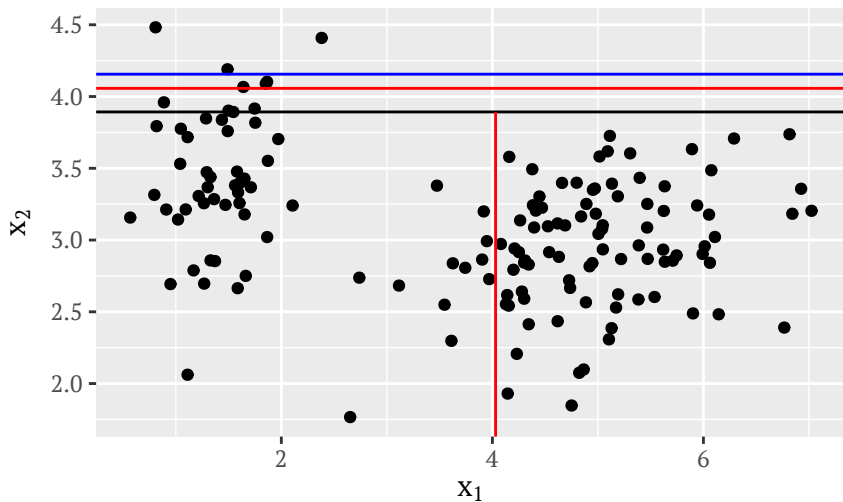
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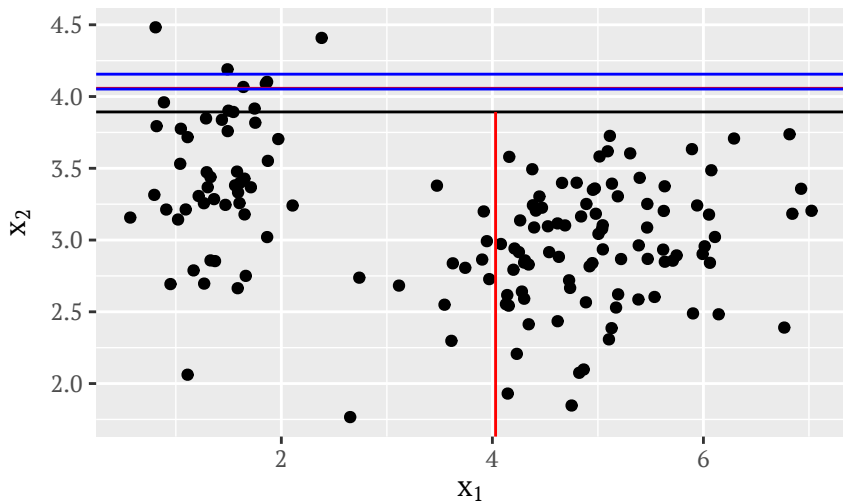
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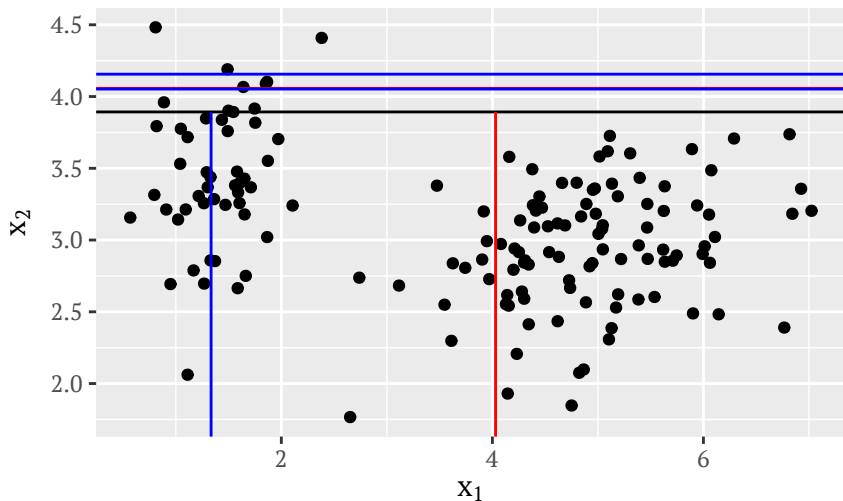
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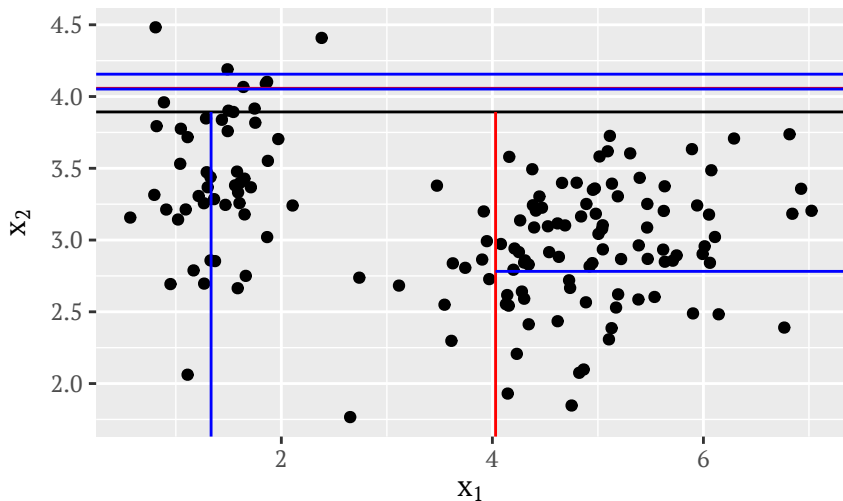
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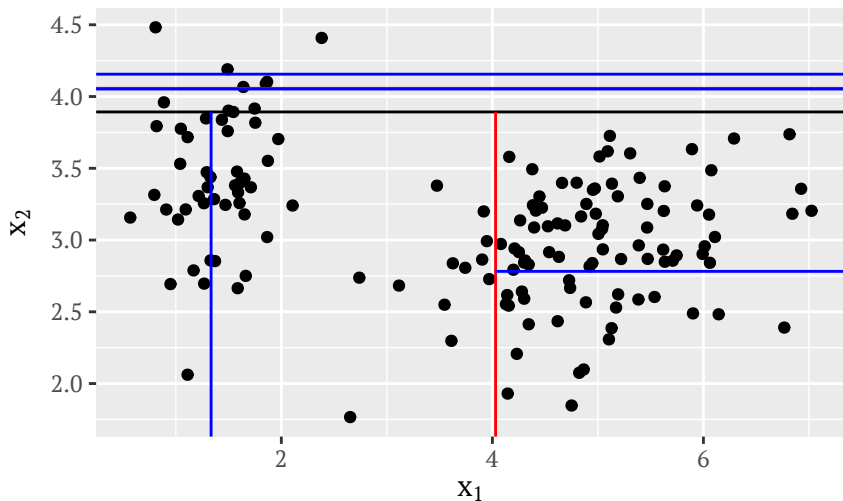
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$$S(X) = (\dots, 3, 3, 0, 3, 43, 33, 64, 24, \dots)$$

CCRM solutions

- Homomorphically computable pooling of summary statistics
 - **simple vector addition**
- Summary statistics that don't reveal model
 - **CCRM is completely random, grown the same way for all models and data sets. Only weak information about range of each variable leaked.**
- Homomorphically computable distance metric
 - **sum of squared differences**

Variance of distance metric per CRM

Lemma *Let the random variable V be multinomially distributed with success probabilities $p = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$ for n trials. Then,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Var} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k (V_i - c_i)^2 \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \left[\left({}^n C_{n-4} - n^2(n-1)^2 \right) p_i^4 + \left(6^n C_{n-3} + 2n(n-1)(4c_i - n) \right) p_i^3 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \left(7n(n-1) - n^2 - 4c_i n(2n-3)(1+c_i) \right) p_i^2 + \left(n + 4c_i n(c_i - 1) \right) p_i \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^k \left[-n(2c_i - 1)(2c_j - 1) p_i p_j + 2n(n-1)(2c_j - 1) p_i^2 p_j \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + 2n(n-1)(2c_i - 1) p_i p_j^2 - 2n(n-1)(2n-3) p_i^2 p_j^2 \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

\implies can be used to weight random marginals differently.

ABCDE: Approximate Bayesian Computation Done Encrypted

Tying it all together:

- ABC-PMC/SMC
- Homomorphic Secret Sharing with data pooling
- CCRM summary statistic protecting model/prior privacy
- Pooled $S(\cdot)$ computable encrypted from multiple data owners
- Distance computable encrypted and not learned by modeller
- Variance of each CRM computable encrypted for weighting

Selected connections in ABC literature

- Bernton, E., Jacob, P. E., Gerber, M., & Robert, C. P. (2019). Approximate Bayesian computation with the Wasserstein distance. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B*, 81(2), 235-269.
- Gutmann, M. U., Dutta, R., Kaski, S., & Corander, J. (2017). Likelihood-free inference via classification. *Statistics and Computing*, 1-15.
- Fearnhead, P., & Prangle, D. (2012). Constructing summary statistics for approximate Bayesian computation: semi-automatic approximate Bayesian computation. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B*, 74(3), 419-474.

Examples

Toy example

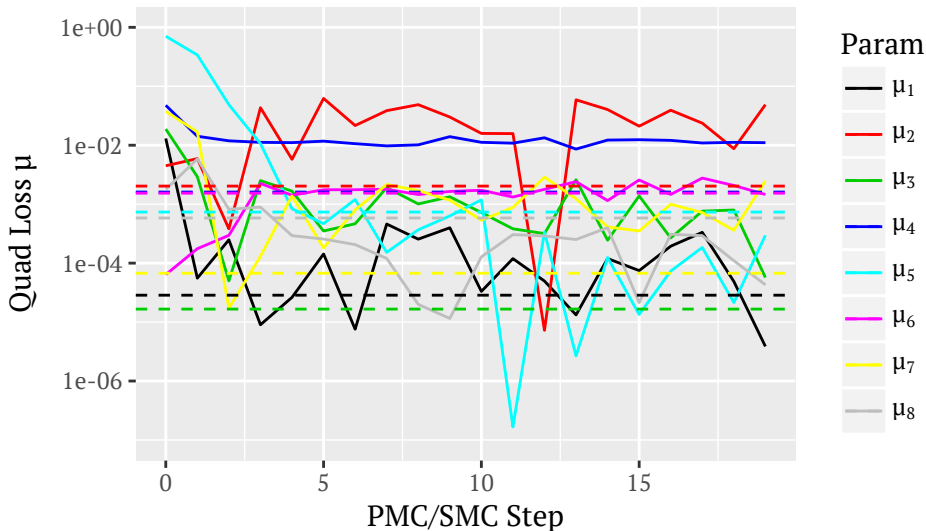
Super simple first example, 8-dimensional multivariate Normal.

$$X \sim \mathbf{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0}, \Sigma = I)$$
$$\mu_i \sim \mathbf{N}(\eta_i, \sigma = 2)$$

where η_i chosen independently uniformly at random on the interval $[-1, 1]$ for repeated experiments.

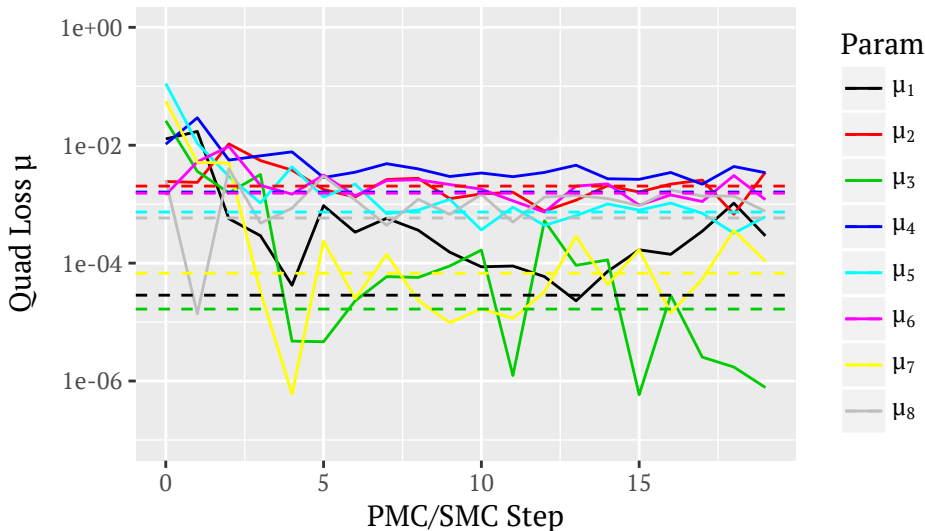
- Simulate $n = 1000$ observations
- Range of all dimensions taken to be $[-4, 4]$ for construction of CCRM, without checking true range of X
- Standard ABC used $S(X) = (\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_8)$

Toy example: 8D Normal, marginal quadratic loss



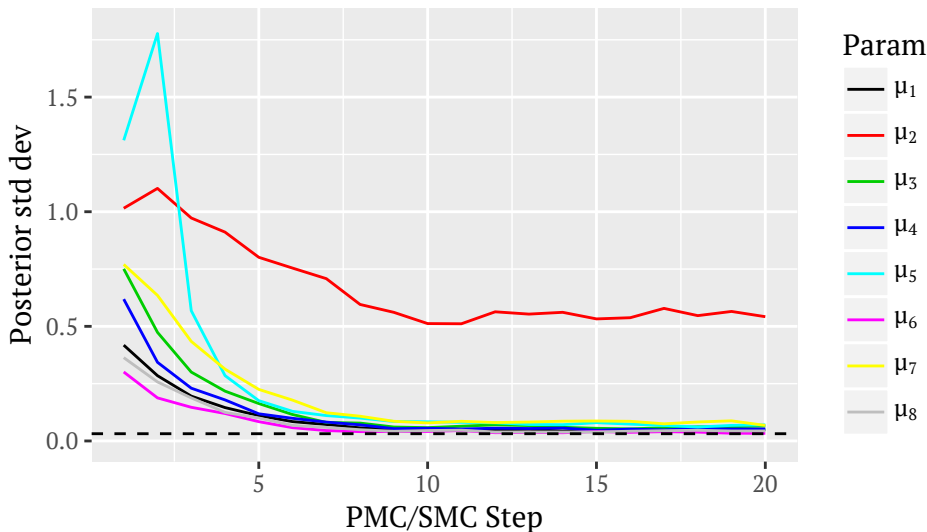
$$n = 10^3, T = 20, L = 2, m = 10^4, \alpha = 0.01$$

Toy example: 8D Normal, marginal quadratic loss



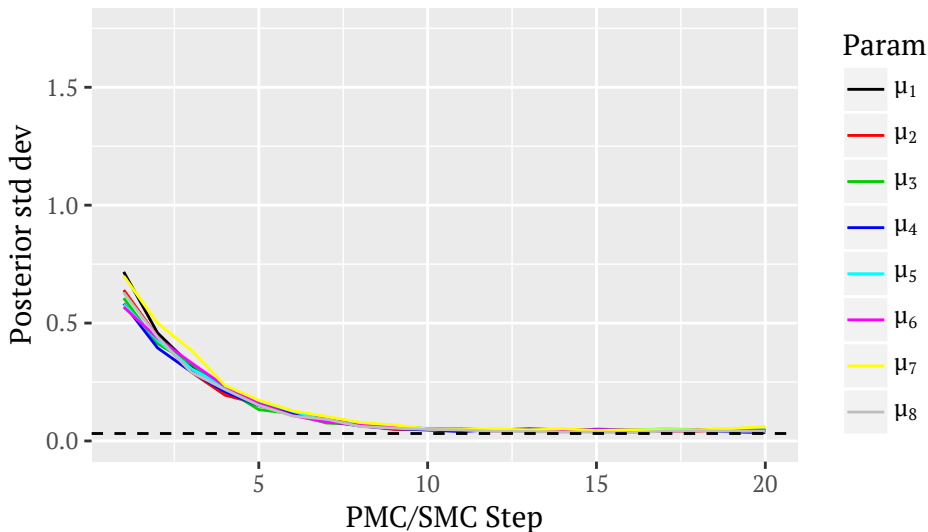
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Toy example: 8D Normal, marginal posterior σ



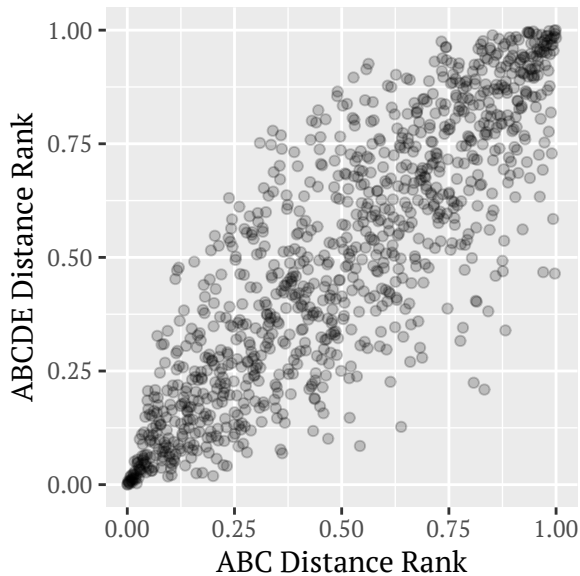
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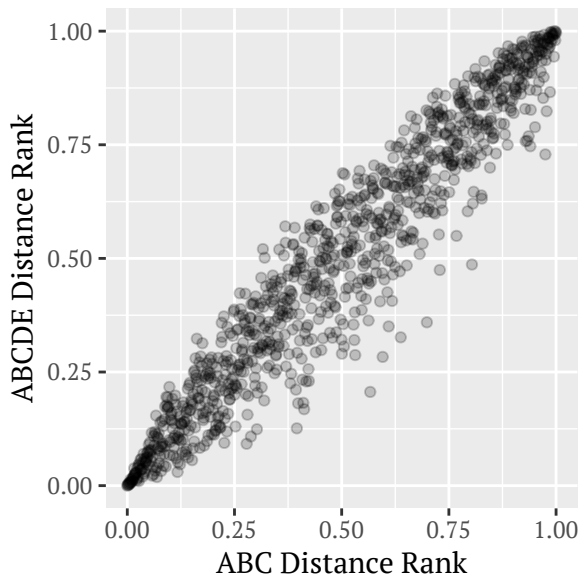
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Toy example: distance concordance



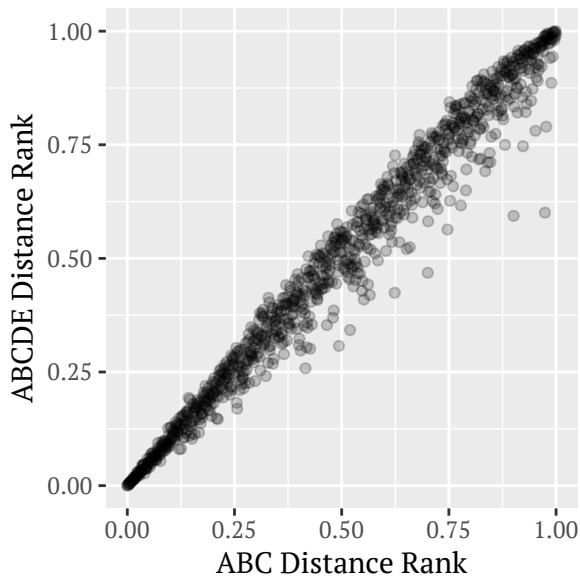
$T = 20$

Toy example: distance concordance



$T = 100$

Toy example: distance concordance



$T = 1000$

Expected quadratic loss

Can understand lowest ABC error achievable without Monte Carlo error:

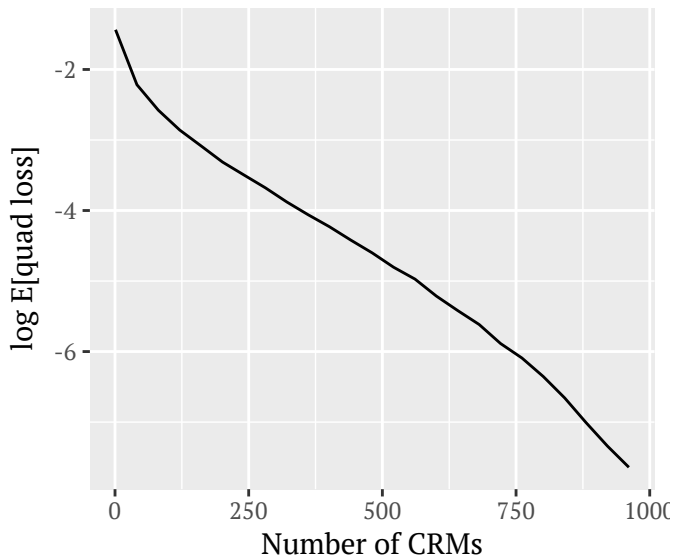
$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left[(\mu - \hat{\mu})^2 \mid T = t \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}^t|} \int_{\mathcal{A}^t} \left(\mu - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta \mathbb{P} \left(S(x) = S(x^{\text{obs}}) \mid da_1, \dots, da_t \right) \pi(d\theta) \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

because for 1-level CRMs:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P} \left(S(x) = S(x^{\text{obs}}) \mid da_1, \dots, da_t \right) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^t \binom{n}{m_k} F_{v_k}(X < a_k)^{m_k} (1 - F_{v_k}(X < a_k))^{n-m_k} \end{aligned}$$

where $m_k = \#\{i : x_i^{\text{obs}} < a_k\}$.

Expected quadratic loss



g-and-k distribution (Haynes et al. 1997)

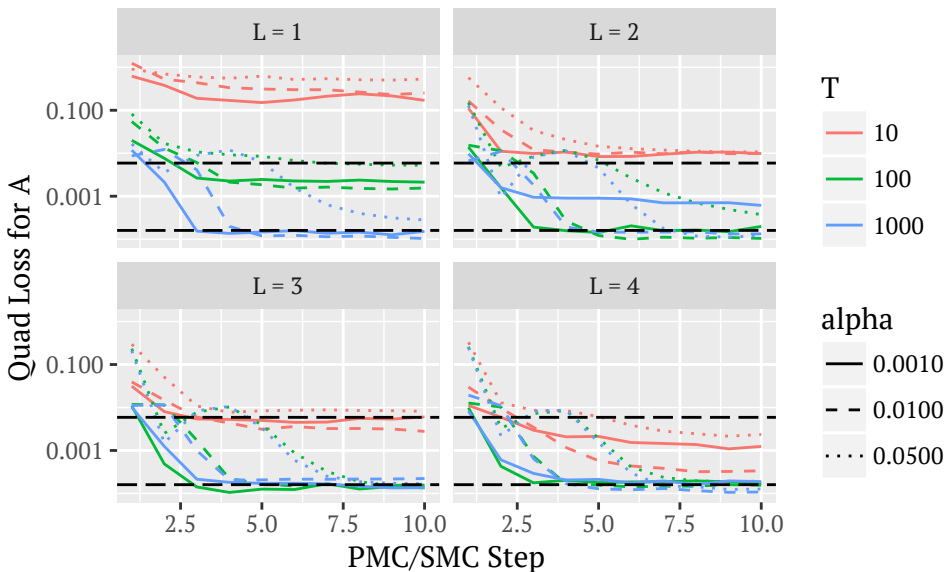
Defined via inverse distribution function

$$F^{-1}(x | A, B, g, k) = A + B \left[1 + 0.8 \frac{1 - \exp(-g\Phi^{-1}(x))}{1 + \exp(-g\Phi^{-1}(x))} \right] (1 + \Phi^{-1}(x)^2)^k \Phi^{-1}(x)$$

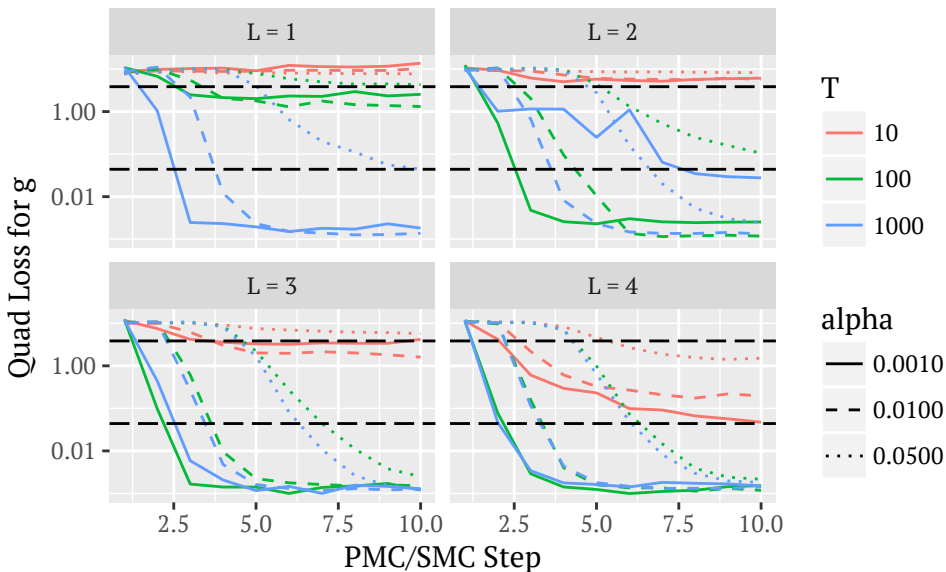
Following Allingham et al. (2009) and Fearnhead & Prangle (2012), take:

- $A = 3, B = 1, g = 2, k = \frac{1}{2}$
- simulate $n = 10000$ observations
- standard ABC uses the order statistics,
 $S(X) = (x_{(1)}, \dots, x_{(n)})$

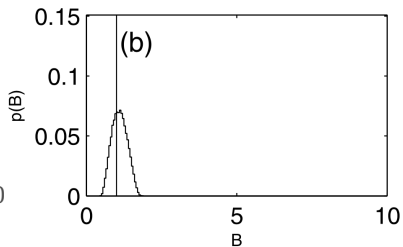
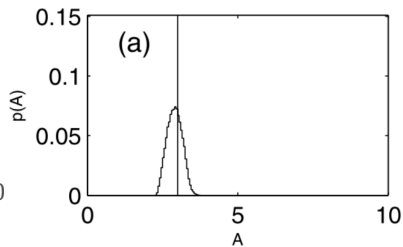
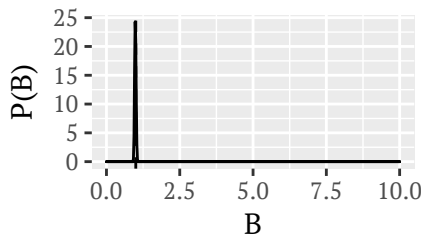
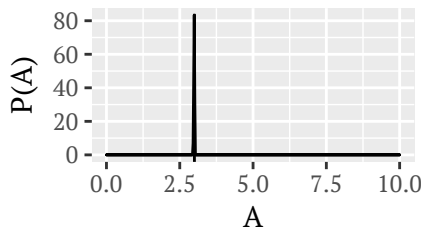
g-and-k: quadratic loss



g-and-k: quadratic loss



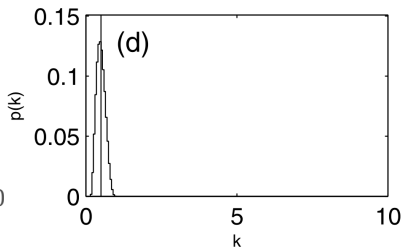
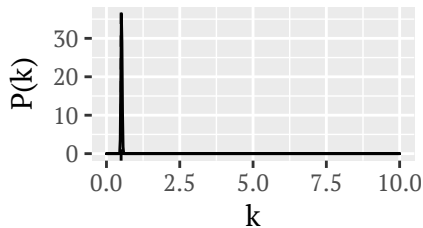
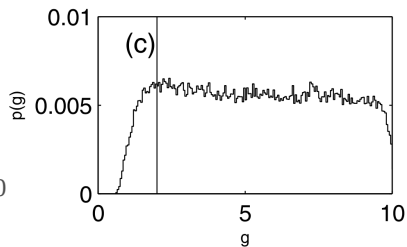
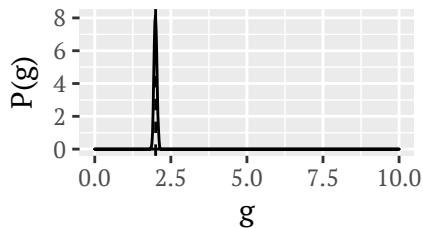
g-and-k: density plots



$T = 1000, L = 3, m = 10^5, \alpha = 0.01$

Allingham et al (2009)

g-and-k: density plots



$T = 1000, L = 3, m = 10^5, \alpha = 0.01$

Allingham et al (2009)

Tuberculosis Transmission (Tanaka et al. 2006)

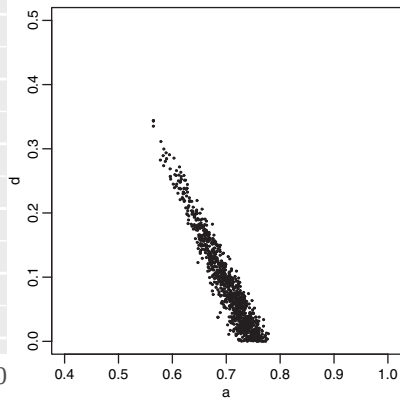
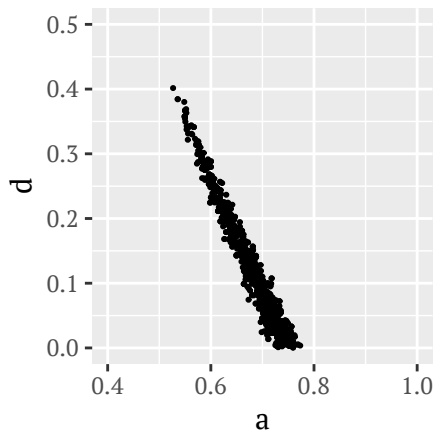
Model of transmission of disease,

- ‘birth’ of new infections, rate α
- ‘death’ recovery or mortality of carrier, rate δ
- ‘mutation’ genotype of bacterium mutates within carrier, rate θ (infinite-alleles assumption)

$X_i(t)$ num infections type i at time t ; $G(t)$ num unique genotypes.

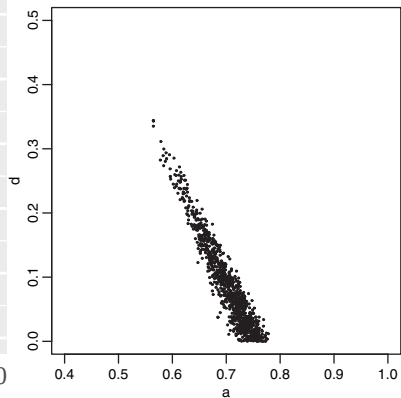
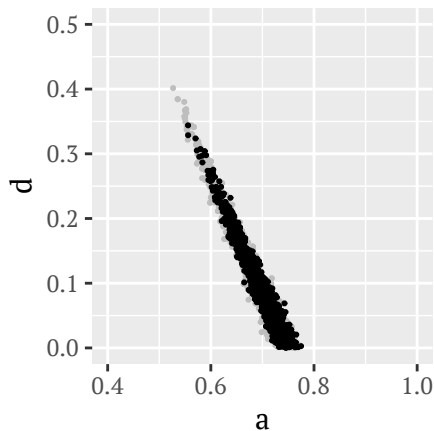
- San Francisco tuberculosis data 1991/2, 473 samples (no time)
- Fearnhead & Prangle (2012) transform
($\alpha/(\alpha + \delta + \theta)$, $\delta/(\alpha + \delta + \theta)$)
- $S(X) = (G(t_{\text{end}})/473, 1 - \sum_i (X_i(t_{\text{end}})/473)^2)$

Posterior samples



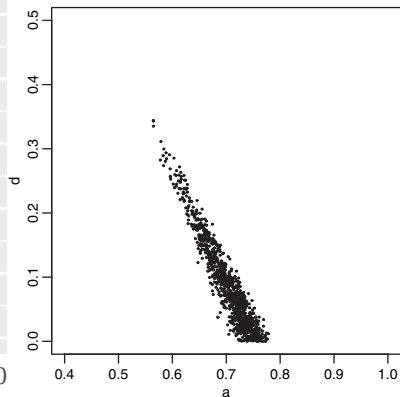
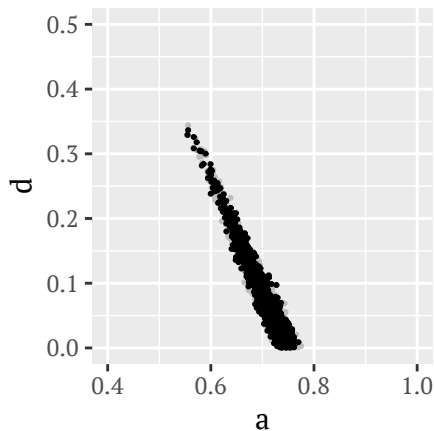
Semi-automatic ABC

Posterior samples



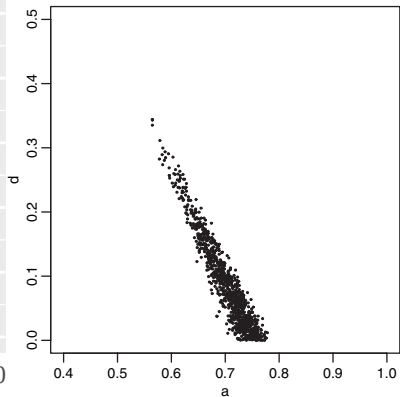
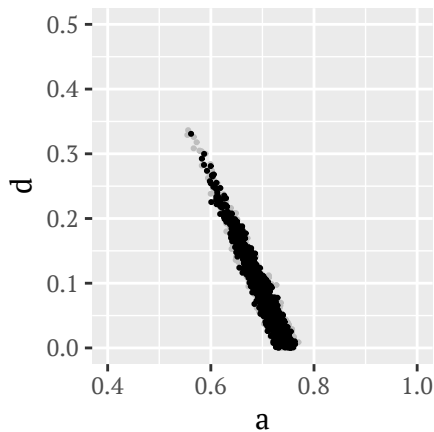
Semi-automatic ABC

Posterior samples



Semi-automatic ABC

Posterior samples



Semi-automatic ABC

Theory

One dimensional asymptotics (I)

Proposition: When $d = 1$, if

$\rho_T(S(x), S(y)) := \sum_{k=1}^T \rho(S_k(x), S_k(y))$ for some discrepancy $\rho : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ then as $T \rightarrow \infty$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\rho_T(S(x), S(y))}{T} \xrightarrow{a.s.} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho(F_X(z), F_Y(z)) dz,$$

where F_X and F_Y are the empirical cumulative distribution functions for the data sets $x_{1:n}$ and $y_{1:n}$ respectively. In particular

- 1 If $\rho_T(S(x), S(y)) := \|S(x) - S(y)\|_1$, then $T^{-1} \rho_T(S(x), S(y)) \xrightarrow{a.s.} W_1(x_{1:n}, y_{1:n})$
- 2 If $\rho_T(S(x), S(y)) := \|S(x) - S(y)\|_2^2$, then $T^{-1} \rho_T(S(x), S(y)) \xrightarrow{a.s.} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (F_X(z) - F_Y(z))^2 dz$.

One dimensional asymptotics (II)

Corollary: As $T \rightarrow \infty$ the following Central Limit Theorem holds:

$$\frac{T^{-1} \rho_T(S(x), S(y)) - \int \rho(F_X(z), F_Y(z)) dz}{\sqrt{T}} \Rightarrow N(0, \sigma^2),$$

where $\sigma^2 := \text{Var}_u[\rho(F_X(u), F_Y(u))]$.

\implies

- convergence of the distance is $O(\sqrt{T})$
- for large enough T estimates of uncertainty can be made using the Gaussian approximation.

Higher dimensions

- Currently hard to see that it matches known distances
- Can get non-asymptotic bounds on uncertainty of CCRM estimator
- Asymptotics in L
- Some very early work on benefits of $L > 1$ with correlation structure

Conclusions

- So far, this ...
 - Provides encrypted inference whilst preserving model, prior and data privacy
 - Enables pooling of multiple data owners
 - Theoretically arbitrary low-dimensional models
 - Some theoretical justification in 1D case
- ... but this is work-in-progress! Currently in progress:
 - Method of ensuring differential privacy
 - Encrypted software implementation of this scheme
 - Best use of weights
 - Fuller understanding of accuracy for CCRM choices
 - Data as a service
- Perhaps also useful as a model independent summary statistic for unencrypted ABC too?
- Questions, comments and discussion welcome!