

classical Inference, that is considered to be ‘arbitrary’ and ‘subjective’. However, model specification [$Y|0$] must be converted to a joint distribution for $[Y|\theta]$ by specifying a marginal distribution $p(\theta|Y)$, hence $[Y|\theta] = [Y|0]/\theta$. The marginal distribution of θ is also called the *prior* for θ . Its role is to describe the (lack of) knowledge about θ in the absence of the data Y . The process of inference then consists of finding how conditioning on the realised data, y , changes the prior distribution and the posterior distribution $[Y|\theta] = [y|\theta]/y$.

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