

## Bayesian Interpretation of Probability in Evolutionary Theory: A Case of Genetic Drift Model<sup>†</sup>

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The concept of probability is an integral part of evolutionary theory. What does probability represent? If it represents the reality of the biological world, then it means that the world is indeterministic. In the classical world view, however, the probabilities appearing in the scientific context are interpreted as our ignorance of the deterministic world: they do not represent the real world. Alex Rosenberg (1994) argues that the probabilities used in evolutionary theory shouldn't be interpreted realistically because they only reflect our ignorance of details. In this paper, I propose an alternative to Rosenberg's interpretation. First, I give a critical appraisal of his arguments and show that the probabilities reflect not merely our ignorance but some aspects of reality. I discuss this issue by using genetic drift model as an example. Second, I compare evolutionary theory with statistical mechanics and show that in evolutionary theory we can update the probabilities rationally depending on what we know. Then I suggest that probability in evolutionary theory can be interpreted in Bayesian terms.

**【Key Words】** evolutionary theory, genetic drift, Bayesianism,  
interpretation of probability, population-level, maximum  
entropy principle

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## 1. Macroscopic Worldview

Genetic drift is considered one of the major evolutionary factors. It refers to chance fluctuation of gene frequency. To express genetic drift mathematically, probability is an indispensable concept. This raises a philosophical question: What is the appropriate interpretation of probability in drift model?

First of all, we will make sure of macroscopic worldview. Imagine that a woman and a man are walking over the bridge without handrail between mountains. The woman follows behind the man, and if the woman pushes the man's back, what happens? Logically there are infinite possibilities, *e.g.*, flying away, moving backwards and so on. But in our actual world there is only one trajectory, *i.e.*, falling down. And Newtonian mechanics describes it.

Pierre Laplace (1814) formulates Newtonian worldview. Laplace assumes an intelligence, which is called Laplace's demon after his name. Laplace supposes demon has complete information and perfect calculating power. Demon knows initial state of the system, and substituting it into the laws of Newtonian mechanics, then it can calculate an unique final state with perfect computation. For an intelligence, as Laplace says, "nothing would be uncertain and the future, as the past, would be present to its eyes"<sup>1)</sup>. So the world is deterministic, and there is no chance-like or probabilistic event in the world. In deterministic worldview, probability concept is interpreted as our ignorance, not represented the world. Laplace says, "probability is relative, in part to this our ignorance"<sup>2)</sup>. This is deterministic worldview in material world.

Let us turn our attention to the biological world. There seems to

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<sup>1)</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>2)</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

be chance-like event, *e.g.*, natural selection, random drift. I will focus only on random genetic drift in this paper. Random drift is often explained as an example of random sampling. Assume that diploid organisms in some population have either allele  $A$  or  $a$  on some locus and that the frequency of  $A$  is  $p$  in the parental generation. There are a large number of gametes at the time of reproduction of parental generation, but only  $2N$  gametes are sampled from them in offspring generation. So there will be  $N$  individuals in offspring generation. The probability  $p(i)$  that the number of allele  $A$  is  $i$  in the next generation is expressed by

$$(1) \quad p(i) = \binom{2N}{i} p^i (1-p)^{2N-i}$$

This is a standard genetic drift model called Wright–Fisher model. Notice that probability concept appears in this equation.

What is the appropriate interpretation of the probability concept in drift model? Alex Rosenberg (1994) provides an answer to this question. I will summarize his argument briefly. Rosenberg says evolution including drift occurs at the individual level. Individual organism behaves at the macroscopic level. From Newtonian mechanical point of view, macroscopic phenomena are deterministic as Laplace formulates. Then evolutionary phenomena are deterministic. According to deterministic worldview, as I explained, probability concept in drift model is interpreted as our ignorance. Ignorance interpretation of probability is classical or Laplacian version of subjective interpretations. This is Rosenberg’s answer to the problem of interpretation of probability concept in drift model.

## 2. Population-Level Phenomena

There are some critiques of Rosenberg's argument. Let me introduce a critique of first sentence of his argument, *i.e.*, evolution including drift occurs at the individual level. Walsh, Lewens, and Ariew (2002) criticize Rosenberg's argument. They raise simple questions. When you toss a coin ten times, 6 heads and 4 tails is more likely than 9 heads and 1 tail. And when you toss the coin, 9 heads and 1 tail is more likely than 99 heads and 1 tail. In these cases, similar probability distributions are obtained whoever tries, so these are objective phenomena to be explained. Why such phenomena happen? Walsh *et al.* claim that dynamical or Newtonian mechanical account at the individual level cannot explain such phenomena, but statistical account can. So there exist population level phenomena. Citing some examples of drift case, like Hagedoorn effect, Wright effect and bottle neck effect, Walsh *et al.* claim drift can occur at not the individual but the population level.

On this point I agree with them. Francis Galton, who is a half cousin of Charles Darwin, invented the quincunx machine to visualize population-level phenomena. Every time one drops balls into this machine, similar result, *i.e.* normal distribution, can be obtained. Galton measures various kinds of human characters and shows that each of them reveals normal distribution. Admiring Galton's work, Ian Hacking (1990) insists that statistical laws became autonomous. Galton invented a new way of thinking. Before Galton, average value, *e.g.* average measured position of object, is supposed to be real, and standard deviation or variance is just a measurement error, that is unreal. However after Galton, we have another way of thinking about distribution. Average is one of

representations like median and mode, and variation became real. Hence Hacking claims that statistical laws became autonomous.

Galton's way of thinking inherits to modern evolutionary theory. Soon after Galton, founders of population genetics Ronald Fisher, Sewall Wright, and J. B. S. Haldane built mathematical models of evolutionary theory which represent the change of biological population. And evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr coined the term 'population thinking' to explain the evolutionary theoretical way of thinking. So evolutionary phenomena including genetic drift are at the population-level and evolutionary theory adopts population thinking to explain such population-level phenomena. Therefore, it seems too difficult for Rosenberg to explain population-level phenomena on the base of Newtonian mechanics.

Let us turn our attention to Wright-Fisher drift model. It says the probability that the number of allele  $A$  is  $i$  in the next generation is expressed binominal distribution in equation (1). In the standard derivation of drift model we need some assumptions, for example, random gamete sampling, sexual reproduction, constant population size, no selection. Among these assumptions I focus on the assumption of random gamete sampling. This assumption means each gamete has an 'equal probability' of sampling. Are all gametes the same? Is this equality assumption empirically grounded? At the molecular level empirical data shows there are selectively neutral or nearly neutral alleles (Kimura 1983). But how about organism or population level? No consensus exists yet. Application of Wright-Fisher model is not restricted to the molecular level. It can also be applied to higher level phenomena.

Fortunately, we can derive Wright-Fisher drift model without equality or neutrality assumption. I adopt Jayens' works to drift model (Morimoto 2009a). Statistical physicist Edward Jaynes

(1957a, 1957b) derives equal probability by the use of the maximum entropy principle, which is a method of information theory. According to this principle, when entropy is maximum, we can make rational inference. Jaynes adopts maximum entropy principle to statistical mechanics. Standard approaches to statistical mechanics are based on the postulate of equal *a priori* probability, which is introduced by statistical physicist Richard Tolman (1938). It says that for an isolated system in equilibrium, it is found with equal probability in any of its accessible microstates. On the other hand, Jaynes shows the standard formalisms in statistical mechanics can be derived without assuming ‘equal probability’ by using the maximum entropy principle and claimed that statistical mechanics is a consequence of rational inference. He suggests that probability concept in statistical mechanics can be interpreted as subjective, and his attitude to statistical mechanics is called ultra-subjectivism (Guttmann 1999).

I will summarize Jaynes’ work by applying it to gamete sampling case. What we want to know is the probability that  $i$  gametes are sampled from  $2N$  gametes. Now we know the sum of all probabilities equals to 1. This is one of axioms of probability theory. Suppose that this is all information we have. Notice that we have no information about equality or neutrality. And then we maximize information entropy which is derived by Claude Shannon (1948). Subject to partial information  $D_1$  (in this case axiom of probability) we maximize entropy, that is, utilize our information most efficiently, then we obtain equal sampling probability

(2)

$$p(i | D_1) = \frac{i}{2N}$$

This equation expresses that sampling probability of each gametes is ‘equal’ (see Appendix 1 for detailed derivation). In this derivation equal probability is not an assumption, but a consequence of rational inference. Then Jaynes says there is no need for the principle of indifference nor of a priori probability in statistical mechanics.

Jaynes’ work is not about biology but about physics. I adopt his work to drift model (Morimoto 2009a). There are many gametes in one generation and in the next generation only finite  $2N$  gametes are drawn, so there are  $N$  individuals because of assumption of diploid organism. Suppose that in parental generation the frequency of gamete  $A$  is  $p$  and that in offspring generation the number of  $A$  is  $i$ . Let us number the gamete and define random variable  $x_k$  as follows.  $x_k$  is 1 if the number  $k$  allele is  $A$ , and  $x_k$  is 0 if the number  $k$  allele is  $a$ . Let  $p_k$  be the probability that  $k$  allele is  $A$ , and we don’t know what it is. In offspring generation, the number of allele  $A$  is  $i$  and the expected number of allele  $A$  in offspring generation is

$$(3) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k p_k = 2Np$$

and call this information  $D_2$ .

In this situation we know axiom of probability which is denoted  $D_1$  above and we have further information, that is, expectation of the number of gametes  $A$  in offspring generation, which is denoted  $D_2$ . Here again we don’t assume equal probability. Subject to these partial information ( $D_1$  &  $D_2$ ), we maximize information entropy function by the use of maximum entropy principle, we obtain

$$(4) \quad p(i | D_1 \& D_2) = \binom{2N}{i} p^i (1-p)^{2N-i}$$

This equation is identical to Wright–Fisher model in equation (1) (see Appendix 2 for detailed derivation).

By the use of maximum entropy principle we can derive drift model without equality assumption. Therefore complete or total information which Laplace’s demon could have is not needed to derive drift model. However this doesn’t mean that drift model is incomplete nor that it can’t capture the real aspect of biological world. For we use information about observable and objective properties of population, *e.g.*, frequency of  $A$ , population size and so on. Such information reflects some aspects of reality.

Let us summarize the derivation of drift model by the use of maximum entropy principle. Maximum entropy principle is a tool for rational inference from partial information. Here we have two kinds of information, *i.e.*, one of axioms of probability and the expectation. Notice that we don’t assume equal probability and we use information about objective properties of population. Under these constraints we can derive drift model by using maximum entropy principle.

### 3 Bayesian Interpretation

To clarify the meaning of probability concept in drift model, I will explore maximum entropy principle further. Economist and statistician Arnold Zellner (1988) derives Bayes’ theorem by using maximum entropy principle. He says that updating information by



using Maximum Entropy Principle is optimal information processing.

Suppose that there are some hypothesis  $H_k$  and data  $D$  and we have information in hypothesis  $p(H_k)$ , information in data  $p(D)$ , and information in data given hypothesis  $p(D | H_k)$ . And by using some information processing rule, we get output information, that is, information in hypothesis given data  $p(H_k | D)$ . Zellner claims that when we use different information processing rule like rule of adding irrelevant information or rule of decreasing information, we get different output information. To minimize difference between input and output information, that is, to minimize information loss, is an optimal information processing rule. And according to this rule, we can obtain Bayes' theorem as shown below. Here again we know the sum of all probabilities equals to 1 ( $D_1$ ). If we maximize entropy, that is, we minimize information loss, subject to partial information  $D_1$ , we obtain

$$(5) \quad p(H_k | D_1) = \frac{p(D_1 | H_k)p(H_k)}{\sum_k (D_1 | H_k)p(H_k)}$$

This equation is identical to Bayes' theorem (see Appendix 3 for detailed derivation). To maximize information entropy means to utilize our information most efficiently, that is, to minimize information loss. Therefore Bayes' theorem can be derived from maximum entropy principle.

From information theoretical point of view, Bayes' theorem is a result of optimal information processing rule. When we update partial information optimally, we can derive drift model. If we just know one of axioms of probability, we can obtain equal probability

by using Maximum Entropy Principle. If we have additional information, we can derive drift model by updating information optimally.

I have attempted to interpret the probability concept in genetic drift model from information theoretical point of view. If my attempt meets with success, drift model can be derived from partial information about biological world. To derive drift model, we don't need complete or total but partial information. It is enough to know axiom of probability and the expectation, and other assumptions including equality one is not needed. Even if we could have further information or total information, we dare to dismiss it. So, not total but partial information is sufficient to construct drift model.

Moreover I show that probability concept in drift model can be interpreted as Bayesian, *i.e.*, degree of belief. Bayesian interpretation is one of the subjective interpretations. In this sense, I'm in the position similar to that of Rosenberg. But there are some differences between us. His interpretation is ignorance one and stresses a negative aspect of subjective interpretations. On the other hand I insist a positive aspect of subjective interpretations. Namely, Bayesian belief updating is optimal. Probability may change optimally depending on what we know. If we just know axiom of probability, then we obtain equal probability by the use of maximum entropy principle. And if we have additional information of expectation, we get genetic drift model by optimal belief-updating. So my interpretation stresses a positive aspect of subjectivism which reveals an important feature of drift model.

Notice that even if we put Bayesian interpretation on drift model, it doesn't mean drift model fails to capture objective characters of biological world. In fact, as we saw, in derivation of drift model we use information about objective properties of population, like

population size, frequency of allele  $A$ . So probability concept in drift model can be interpreted as not just our ignorance as Rosenberg says, but rational inference from partial information.

### Appendix 1. Equal Probability

Let  $p_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 2N$ ) stand for probability that gamete  $k$  is sampled from  $2N$  ones. Suppose that we are not given the value of probability  $p_k$ , but we just know one of the axioms of probability

$$(A \ 1.1) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} p_k = 1$$

We call this information data 1;  $D_1$ . In addition, Shannon (1948) proved that the quantity, which is positive, which increases with increasing uncertainty, and which is additive for independent source of uncertainty, is the information entropy function

$$(A \ 1.2) \quad H = -\sum_{k=1}^{2N} p_k \log p_k$$

In deriving  $p_k$  on the basis of partial information, we ought to use the probability which has maximum entropy subject to whatever we know. We show that maximization of  $H$  leads to probability  $p_k$  by equating the derivation to 0 subject to the constraint. Maximizing  $H$  yields

$$(A \ 1.3) \quad dH = 0$$

Now there is a constraint; one of the axioms of probability (A 1.1).

Differentiating this gives

$$(A\ 1.4) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} dp_k = 0$$

We maximize  $H$  by using the method of maximum entropy principle. We obtain

$$(A\ 1.5) \quad dH - \alpha \sum_{k=1}^{2N} dp_k = 0$$

where  $\alpha$  is a Lagrange multiplier. Now differentiating (A 1.2) gives

$$(A\ 1.6) \quad \frac{dH}{dp_k} = -\sum_{k=1}^{2N} (1 + \log p_k)$$

Substituting this into (A 1.5) yields

$$(A\ 1.7) \quad -\sum_{k=1}^{2N} [(1 + \log p_k) + \alpha] dp_k = 0$$

All these coefficients of  $dp_k$  must be 0 in order to satisfy this identical equation. Then

$$(A\ 1.8) \quad (1 + \log p_k) + \alpha = 0$$

Transforming this equation yields

$$(A\ 1.9) \quad p_k = \exp(-\alpha - 1)$$

Substituting this into (A 1.1) becomes

$$(A1.10) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} p_k = \sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\alpha - 1) = \exp(-\alpha - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{2N} 1 = 2N \exp(-\alpha - 1) = 1$$

Then

$$(A 1.11) \quad \exp(-\alpha - 1) = 1/2N$$

Substituting this into (A 1.9) gives

$$(A 1.12) \quad p_k = 1/2N$$

Thus probability  $p_k$  can be derived by using maximum entropy principle. Further, when  $i$  gametes are sampled, we obtain

$$(A1.13) \quad p(i | D_1) = i/2N$$

## Appendix 2. Wright-Fisher Drift Model

We will derive Wright-Fisher drift model by using maximum entropy principle. Initially, assume that diploid organisms in some population have either allele  $A$  or  $a$  on a specific locus and that the frequency of  $A$  is  $p$  in the parental generation. There are a large number of gametes at the time of reproduction of parental generation, but we suppose that only  $2N$  gametes are sampled from them in offspring generation. So there will be  $N$  individuals in offspring generation. Now we want to know the probability that

the number of allele  $A$  is  $i$  in the next generation. Let  $p_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 2N$ ) stand for the probability that  $k$  allele in the offspring generation is  $A$  and we don't know what it is. Again suppose that we know normalization. As we see in A1 above, this is one of the axioms of probability theory;

$$(A2.1) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} p_k = 1$$

and call this information  $D_1$ . Further, we know expected number of allele  $A$  in offspring generation.

Let us number each allele in this time from 1 to  $2N$  and define random variables  $x_k$  as follows.  $x_k$  is 1 if the number  $k$  allele is  $A$ , and  $x_k$  is 0 if the number  $k$  allele is  $a$ . In offspring generation, the number of allele  $A$  is  $i$ , then

$$(A2.2) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k = i$$

And expected number of allele  $A$  in offspring generation is

$$(A2.3) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k p_k = 2Np$$

and call this information  $D_2$ . Suppose that we know only  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ , then here are two constraints; normalization and expectation. Differentiating each constraint gives

$$(A2.4) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} dp_k = 0$$

and

$$(A2.5) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k dp_k = 0$$

By maximizing  $H$  under these constraints, we obtain

$$(A2.6) \quad dH - \alpha \sum_{k=1}^{2N} dp_k - \beta \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k dp_k = 0$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are Lagrange multipliers. Substituting entropy  $H$  into (A2.6) yields

$$(A2.7) \quad - \sum_{k=1}^{2N} [(1 + \log p_k) + \alpha + \beta x_k] dp_k = 0$$

and then

$$(A2.8) \quad 1 + \log p_k + \alpha + \beta x_k = 0$$

Transforming this equation yields

$$(A2.9) \quad p_k = \exp(-\alpha - \beta x_k - 1)$$

Substituting this equation into (A2.1) yields

$$(A2.10) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} p_k = \sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\alpha - \beta x_k - 1) = \exp(-\alpha - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k) = 1$$

Then we obtain

$$(A2.11) \quad \exp(-\alpha - 1) = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k)}$$

Substituting this into (A2.9) becomes

$$(A2.12) \quad p_k = \frac{\exp(-\beta x_k)}{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k)} = \frac{\exp(-\beta x_k)}{(\exp(-\beta) + 1)^{2N}}$$

Next, to erase multiplier  $\beta$ , we ought to differentiate entropy function  $H$  subject to the two constraints. Entropy function and normalization are not the function of multiplier  $\beta$ . So we only differentiate expected value with respect to  $\beta$ , then we obtain

$$(A2.13) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k p_k - 2Np = 0$$

Substituting (A2.12) into this equation yields

$$(A2.14) \quad \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k \exp(-\beta x_k)}{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k)} = 2Np$$

The left hand side of this equation is transformed to



(A2.15)

$$\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} x_k \exp(-\beta x_k)}{\sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k)} = \frac{d}{d\beta} \log \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{2N} \exp(-\beta x_k) \right] = \frac{d}{d\beta} \log(\exp(-\beta) + 1)^{2N}$$

$$= \frac{2N}{\exp(\beta) + 1}$$

Then multiplier  $\beta$  is

(A2.16)

$$\beta = \log \frac{1-p}{p}$$

Substituting this into (A2.12) yields

(A2.17)

$$p_k = \frac{\left( \frac{p}{1-p} \right)^{x_k}}{\left( \frac{p}{1-p} + 1 \right)^{2N}} = p^{x_k} (1-p)^{2N-x_k}$$

This is the probability that  $k$  allele in the offspring generation is  $A$ . Summing (A2.17) from  $k = 1$  to  $2N$  and substituting (A2.2) into the result, we obtain the probability of sampling  $i$  allele  $A$ , regardless of the order. So considering the binomial coefficient, we obtain

(A2.18)

$$p(i \mid D_1 \& D_2) = \binom{2N}{i} p^i (1-p)^{2N-i}$$

This result is identical to Wright Fisher drift model. Therefore it can be derived by using the method of maximum entropy principle.

### Appendix 3. Bayes' Theorem

Let  $H_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) stand for hypothesis and  $D$  for data. There is a need to measure information in the input and output probability functions. The following measures will be employed;

$$(A3.1) \quad \text{Information in } p(H_k) \equiv -\sum_{k=1}^n p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k)$$

$$(A3.2) \quad \text{Information in } p(D) \equiv -\sum_{k=1}^n p(H_k | D) \log p(D) = -\log p(D)$$

$$(A3.3) \quad \text{Information in } p(D | H_k) \equiv -\sum_{k=1}^n p(H_k | D) \log p(D | H_k)$$

$$(A3.4) \quad \text{Information in } p(H_k | D) \equiv -\sum_{k=1}^n p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k | D).$$

In each case, information is given as an average of a log probability function with  $p(H_k|D)$  used as a weight function. The difference between the output and input information is represented as

$$(A3.5)$$

$$L = \sum_i p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k | D) + \log p(D) - \sum_k p(H_k | D) \log p(D | H_k) - \sum_k p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k)$$

According to an optimal information processing rule, the output information should be as close as possible to the input information and ideally equal to it. To minimize information loss with this rule, we ought to minimize (A3.5). Here again, suppose that we know only that the sum of all probabilities equals to 1;

$$(A3.6) \quad \sum_k p(H_k | D) = 1$$

Minimize (A3.5) subject to the condition (A3.6) by using the method of maximum entropy principle, we obtain

$$(A3.7) \quad \frac{d[L + \alpha \{\sum_k dp(H_k | D) - 1\}]}{dH_k} = 0$$

where  $\alpha$  is a Lagrange multiplier. The left hand side of this equation is transformed to

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dH_k} [\sum_k p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k | D) + \log p(D) - \sum_k p(H_k | D) \log p(D | H_k) \\ & \quad - \sum_k p(H_k | D) \log p(H_k) + \alpha \{\sum_k dp(H_k | D) - 1\}] \\ &= \sum_k [\log p(H_k | D) - \log p(D | H_k) - \log p(H_k) + \alpha] + \sum_k \frac{p(H_k | D)}{p(H_k | D)} - \sum_k \frac{p(H_k | D)}{p(H_k)} \\ &= \sum_k [\log p(H_k | D) - \log p(D | H_k) - \log p(H_k) + \alpha] + 1 - 1 \\ &= \sum_k [\log p(H_k | D) - \log p(D | H_k) - \log p(H_k) + \alpha] \end{aligned}$$

Then we get

$$(A3.8) \quad \log p(H_k | D) = \log p(D | H_k) + \log p(H_k) - \alpha$$

Substituting this equation into (A3.6) and differentiating respect to  $H_k$  yields

$$(A3.9) \quad \sum_k \log p(H_k | D) = \sum_k \log p(D | H_k) + \sum_k \log p(H_k) - \alpha = 0$$

So we obtain

$$(A3.10) \quad \alpha = \sum_k \log p(D | H_k) \log p(H_k)$$

Substituting this into (A3.8) gives

$$(A3.11) \quad p(H_k | D) = \frac{p(D | H_k) p(H_k)}{\sum_k (D | H_k) p(H_k)}$$

This equation is identical to Bayes' theorem. Therefore we can derive Bayes' theorem from maximum entropy principle.

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## 진화론에서의 확률에 대한 베이즈적 해석: 유전자 부동 모형의 경우

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확률 개념은 진화론에서 필수불가결한 부분이다. 진화론에서 확률은 무엇을 나타내는가? 만약 확률이 생물학적 세계의 실재들을 나타낸다면, 그것은 세계가 비결정론적이라는 점을 의미한다. 그러나 고전적 세계관에서는 과학적 맥락에 등장하는 확률들은 결정론적 세계에 대한 우리의 무지로 해석되었다. 즉 확률은 실재 세계를 나타내지 않는다. 알렉스 로젠버그(1994)는 진화론에서 사용되는 확률은 단순히 실재에 대한 우리의 무지를 반영하기 때문에 실재론적으로 해석되서는 안 된다고 주장했다. 이 논문에서 나는 로젠버그 해석에 대한 대안을 제안할 것이다. 첫째, 나는 로젠버그의 논변을 비판적으로 평가하고 확률은 우리의 무지가 아니라 실재의 측면들을 반영하다는 점을 보일 것이다. 둘째, 나는 진화론을 통계역학과 비교하고 진화론에서는 우리가 알고 있는 바에 의존하여 합리적으로 확률을 개정할 수 있다는 점을 보일 것이다. 이를 통하여 나는 진화론에서의 확률이 베이즈적 용어로 해석될 수 있다는 점을 제안할 것이다.

**주요어:** 진화론, 유전자 부동, 베이즈주의, 확률해석, 집단수준, 최대 엔트로피 원리