

The Importance of Jeffreys's Legacy

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Theory of Probability serves as one of the great historical landmarks in Bayesian analysis. From my current vantage point it is most remarkable for (i) its treatment of a wide variety of practical problems, many of which continue to be of interest; (ii) its emphasis on first-order approximation; (iii) its development of Bayes factors; and, related to this, (iv) an underlying philosophy that identifies statistical models with scientific laws. In my talk I will go over these basic points, and give illustrations of the way they play out in problems I've worked on in neuroscience.