

What can we expect
from "Distributions for parameters"?

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Statistical Sciences

U Toronto

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2016

Rutgers: BFF

www.utstat.toronto.edu/dfraser/documents/BFF2016
some references: / xxxxx.pdf

Preamble:

Distributions for parameters?

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Distributions for parameters?

Around for a long time

1763 +

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Around for a long time

1763 +

Vicious disagreements

1935 +

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Do they (the Distributions) do as they say?

Preamble

Distributions for parameters?

Around for a long time 1763 +

Vicious disagreements 1935 +

Inate? Predator & Prey

Do they (the Distributions) do as they say?

Or... Is there misrepresentation?

- 1 p-values recently
- 2 What is a p-value?
- 3 Does $p(\theta)$ give a distribution for θ ? Reproducibility?
- 4 A Proposed Distribution for θ ? Evaluate it!
- 5 A simple example: Linearity and Reproducibility
- 6 The simple example: Curvature and Irreproducibility
- 7 p-value vs. Integrated posterior
- 8 Marginalization and Inversion
- 9 Discussion

1 p-values recently
Everywhere Science science journals even some saying "No p-values"

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ASA Blue ribbon committee: 25 statistical leaders

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6 principles - Can indicate incompatibility

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- Can indicate incompatibility
 - Full info & transparency

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- Maybe
- Be good!

Don't be evil!

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But ... "What is a p-value?"

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Fisher: Prob. as far or farther from expectation as that observed,
under the Hypothesis 1930's deference

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But: Why not tell it as it is?

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Scalar θ

$p(\theta) =$ Where y^o is with respect to θ in statistical units

$$= F(y^o; \theta)$$

$$= F^o(\theta)$$

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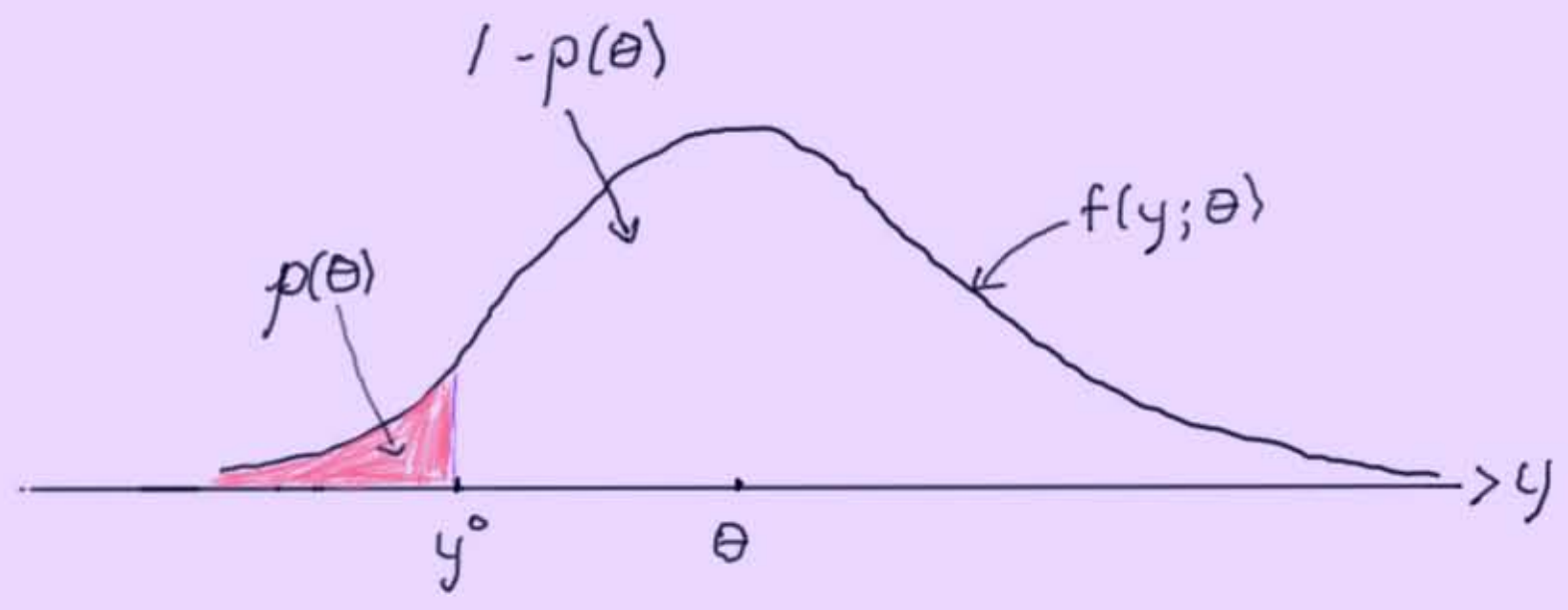
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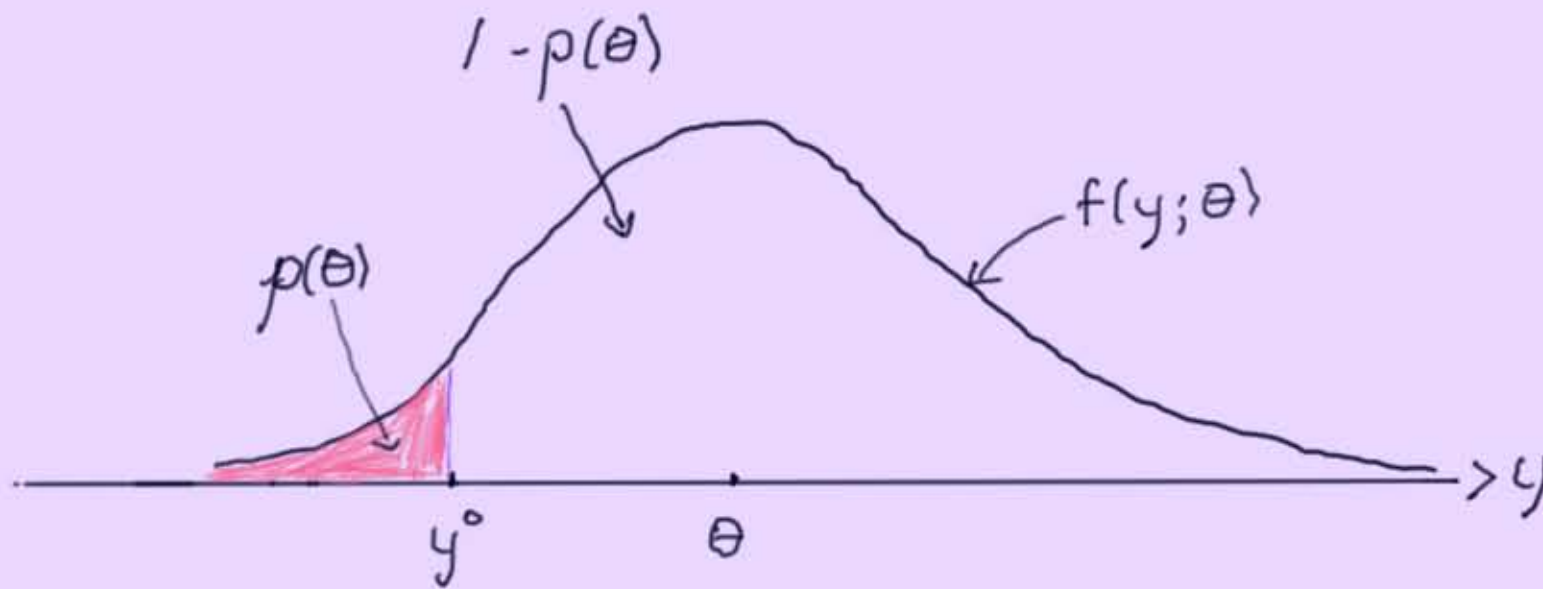
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Scalar θ

$p(\theta)$ = Where y° is with respect to θ in statistical units

$$= F(y^\circ; \theta)$$

$$= F^\circ(\theta)$$



$p(\theta)$ = Statistical position of y° re θ

Forget: left tail; right tail; two sided; and other pacifiers
Leave to user/scientist... in context 1 in 20, 1 in 3.5 million

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Data: y^o Scalar case

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Check it out!

Get β -quantile of $p(\theta; y^\circ)$, say

$$p(\hat{\theta}_\beta(y^\circ) < \theta; y^\circ) = \beta$$

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Logic ...]

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\Rightarrow Full Reproducibility

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Parameter θ

Proposed: Dist'n for θ $\hat{\pi}(\theta; y^\circ)$

... by some argument or other

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Try scalar interest parameter $\psi(\theta)$:

- get marginal right tail df for $\psi(\theta)$

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- Does it behave as a quantile?

- Is $P\{\tilde{\psi}_\beta < \psi(\theta); \theta\}$ equal to β ?

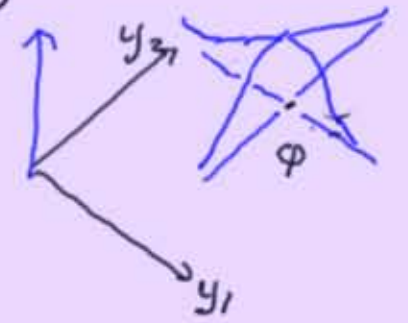
5 The simple example: Curvature and Irreproducibility

Model $\underline{y} \sim N\left\{\begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 \\ \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\right\}$

Data $\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$

Interest $\psi(\varphi) = \varphi_1 + \frac{\gamma}{2}\varphi_2^2$

Nonlinear curved



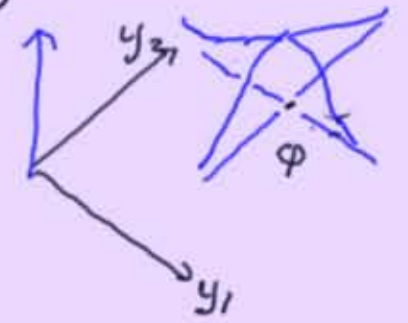
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...also Jeffreys; also Laplace...

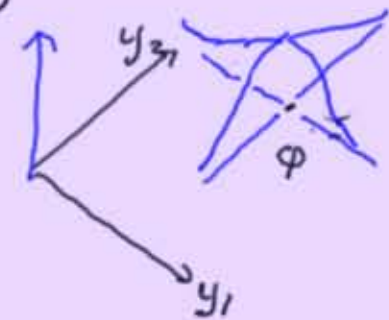
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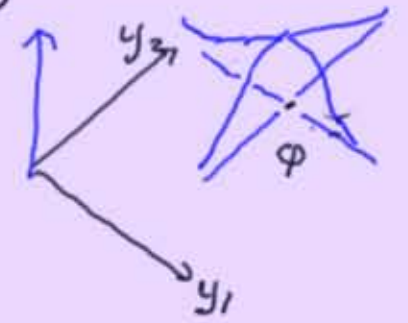
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Data $\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow$ Marginal dist'n for $\psi(\varphi)$

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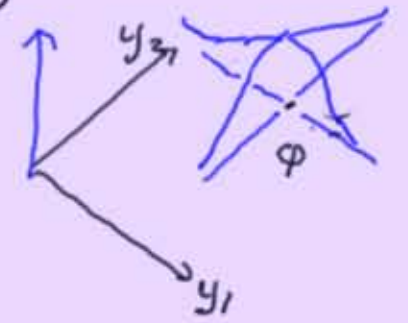
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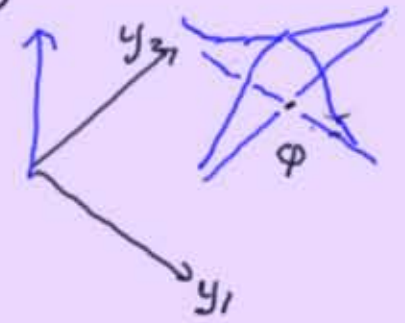
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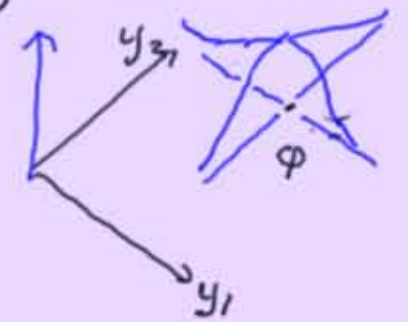
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Is it reproducible? Would it happen 90% of time

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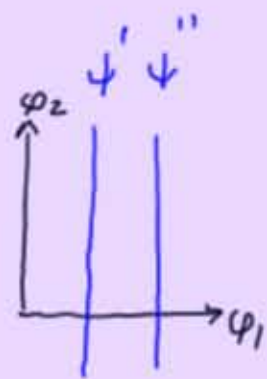
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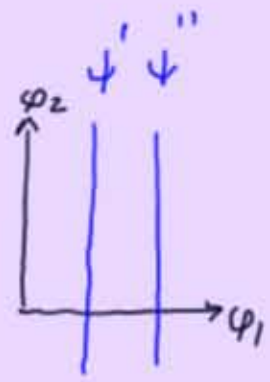
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Try it out a few times ... say $N = 10,000$

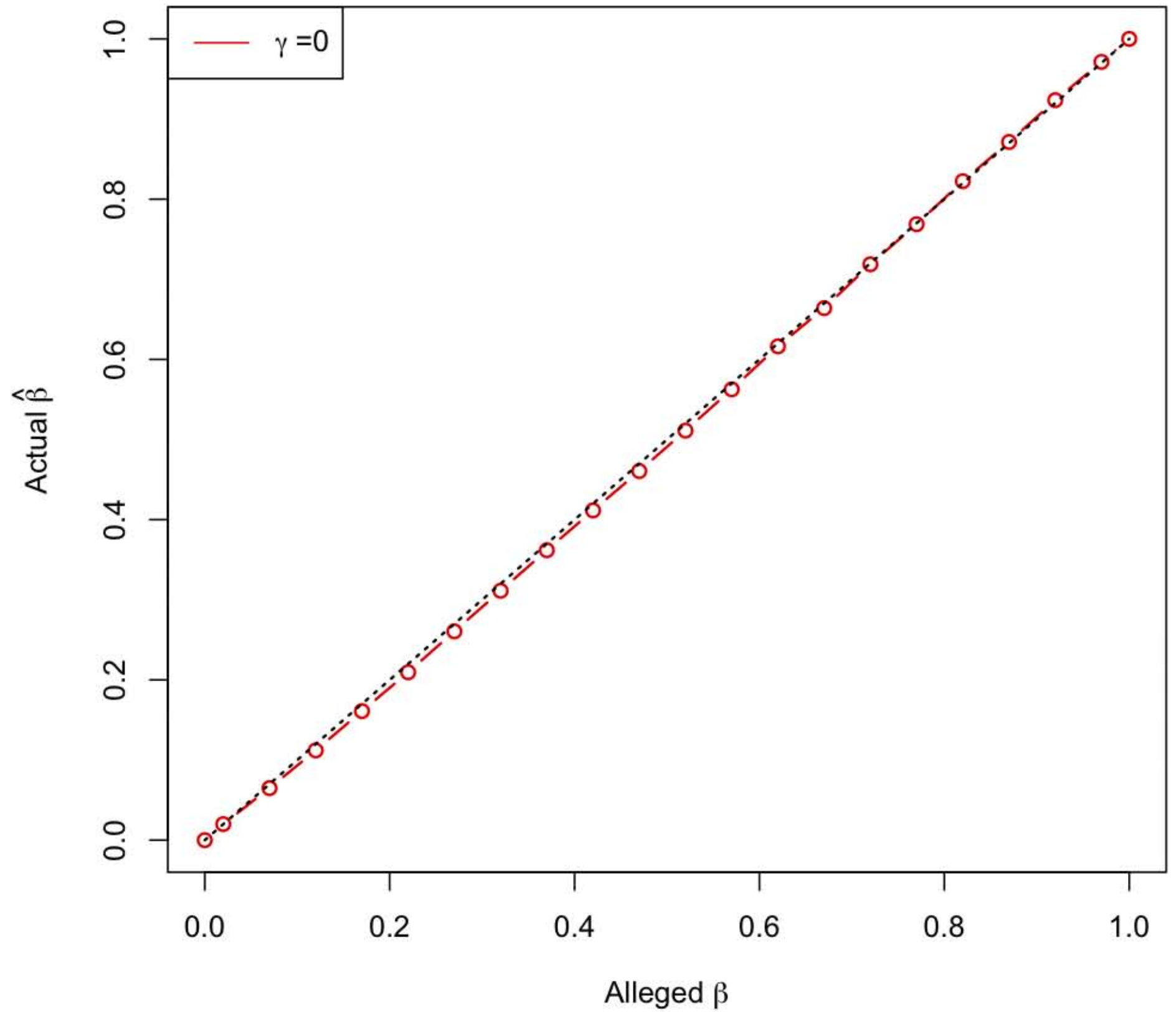


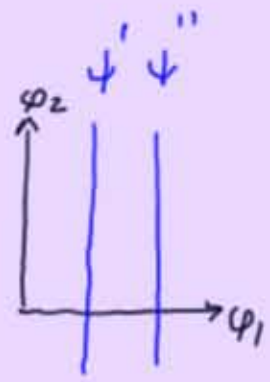
Case ψ linear $\delta=0$



Case ψ linear $\gamma=0$

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$$

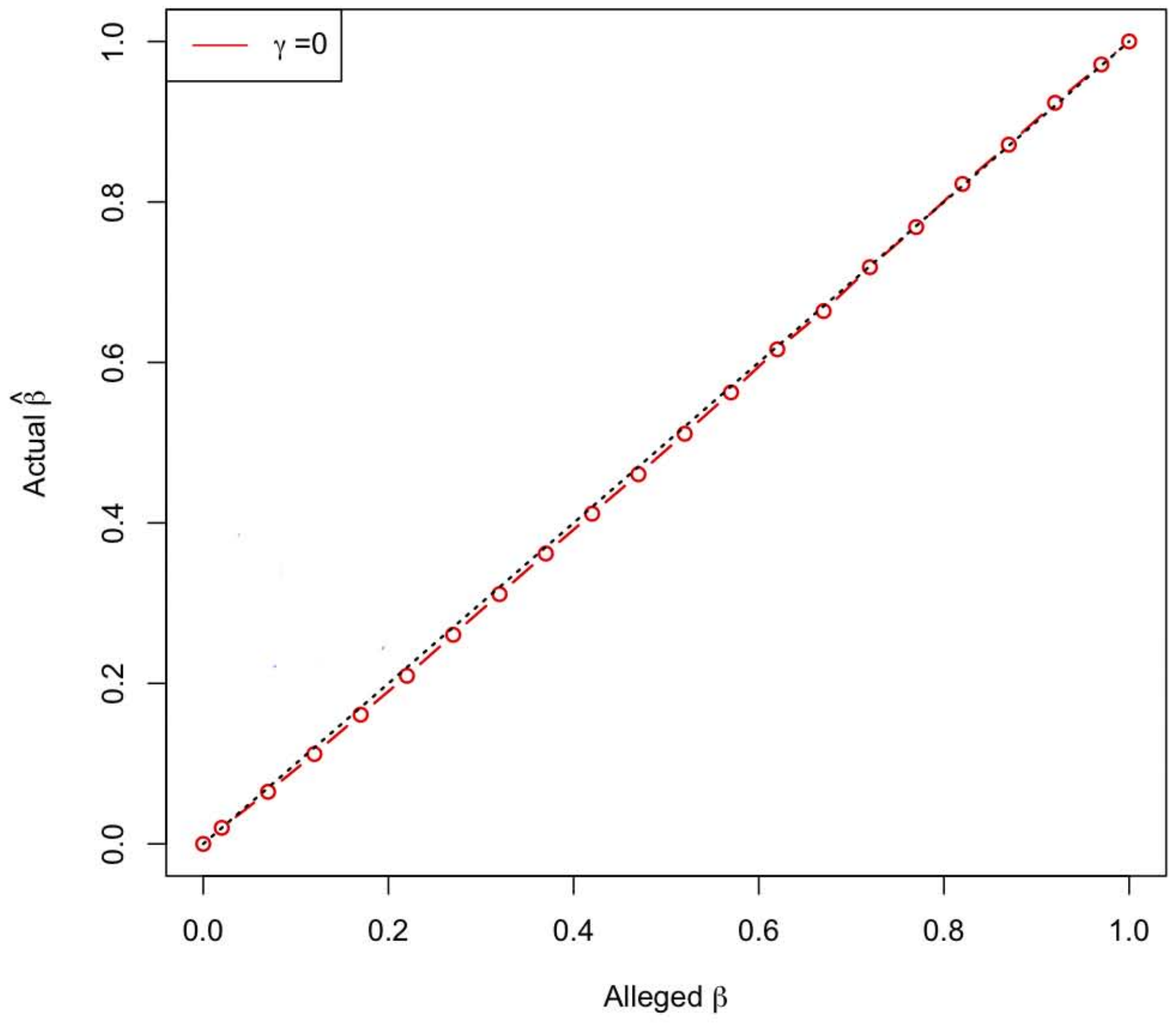


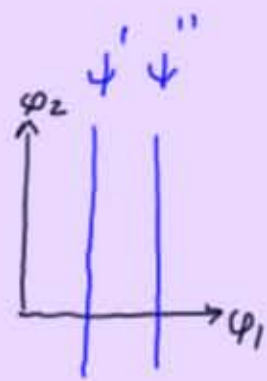


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Case ψ linear $\gamma = 0$

p-p looks pretty good



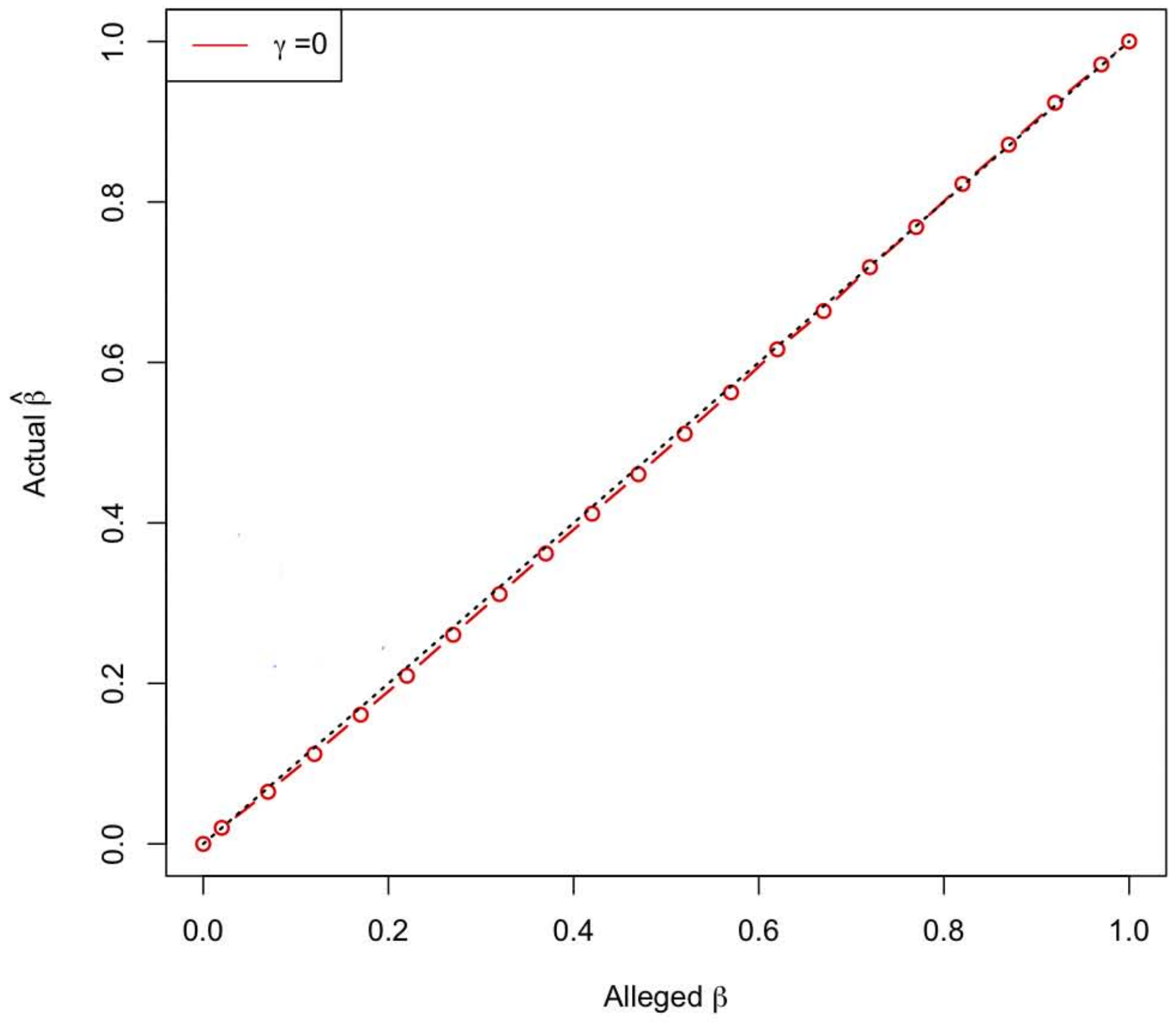


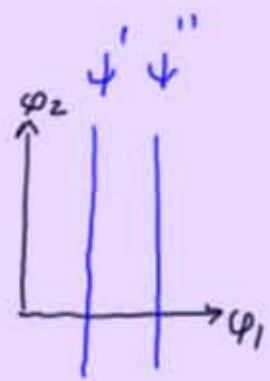
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Reproducibility!





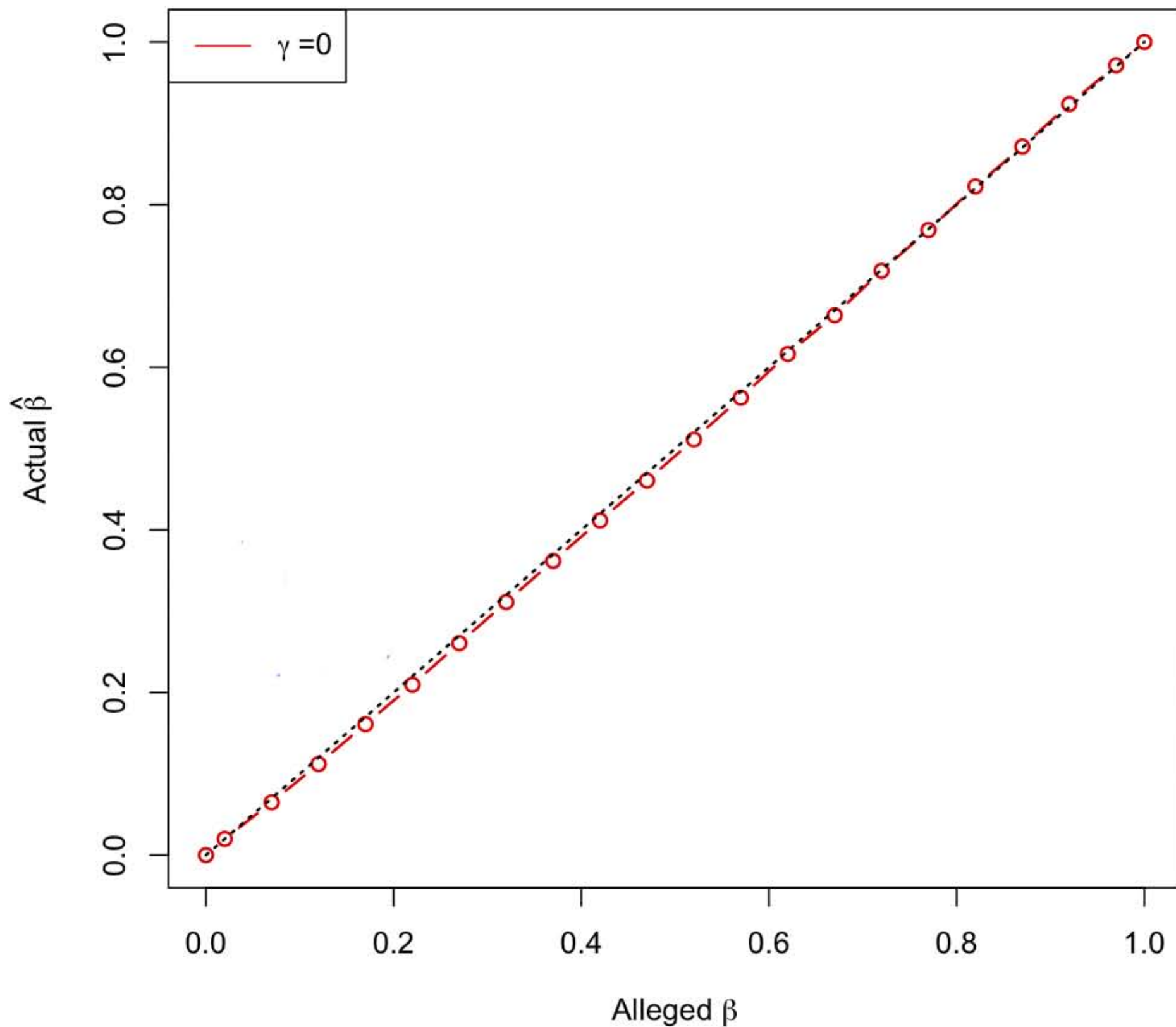
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but
Dawid Stone židek 1973

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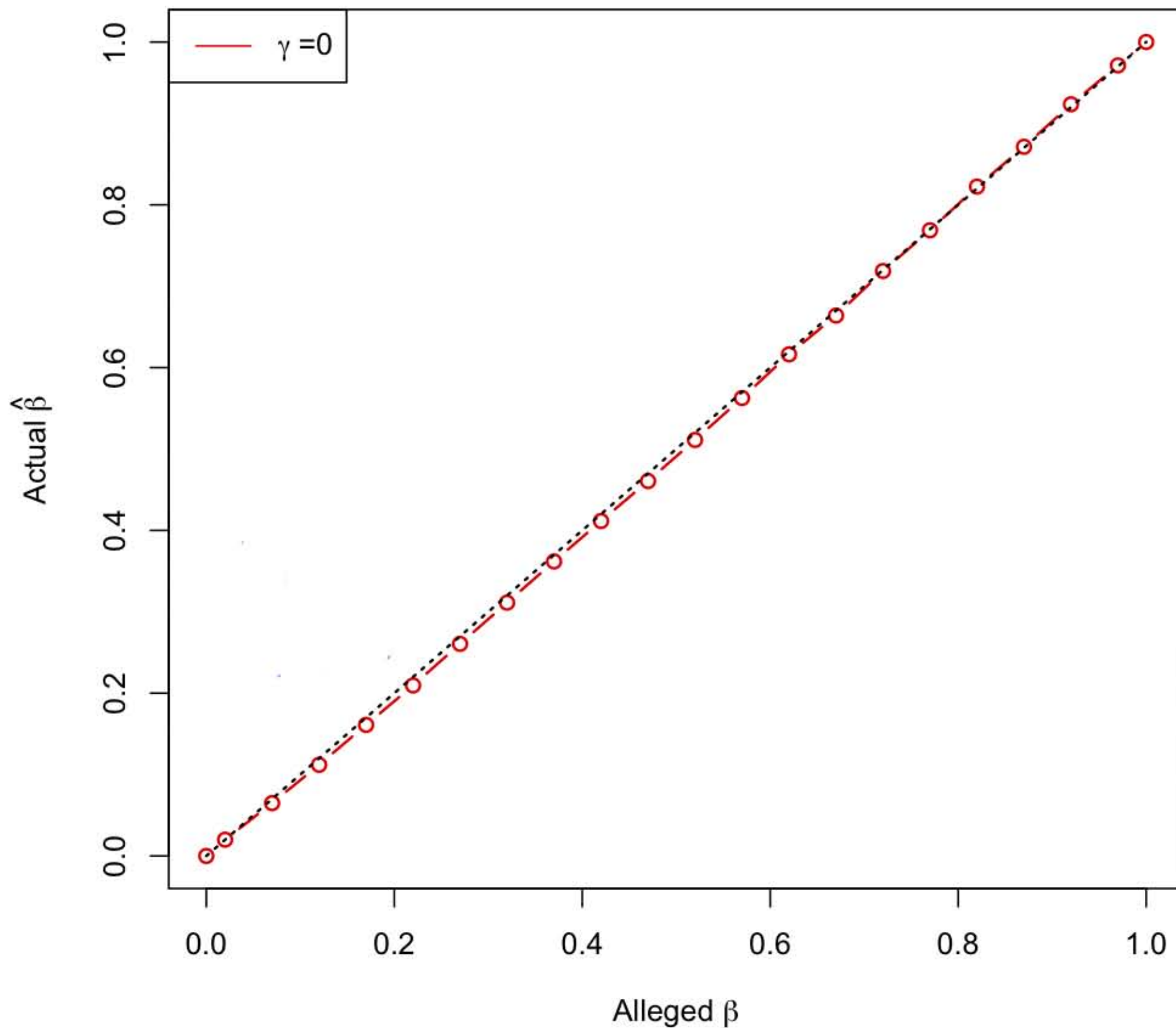
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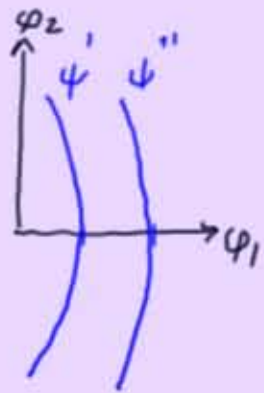
but curvature?

Fraser 2011 [247.pdf](#)
[258.pdf](#)

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$$



6 Curved parameter



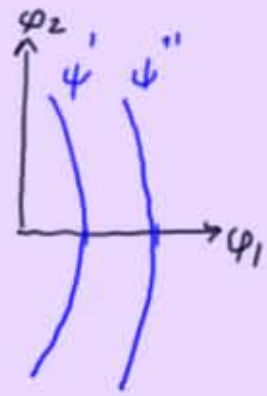
Try $\gamma_1 = 1$

$$\psi' = \varphi_1 + \frac{1}{2} \varphi_2^2$$

Curved interest

$$N = 10,000$$

6 Curved parameter



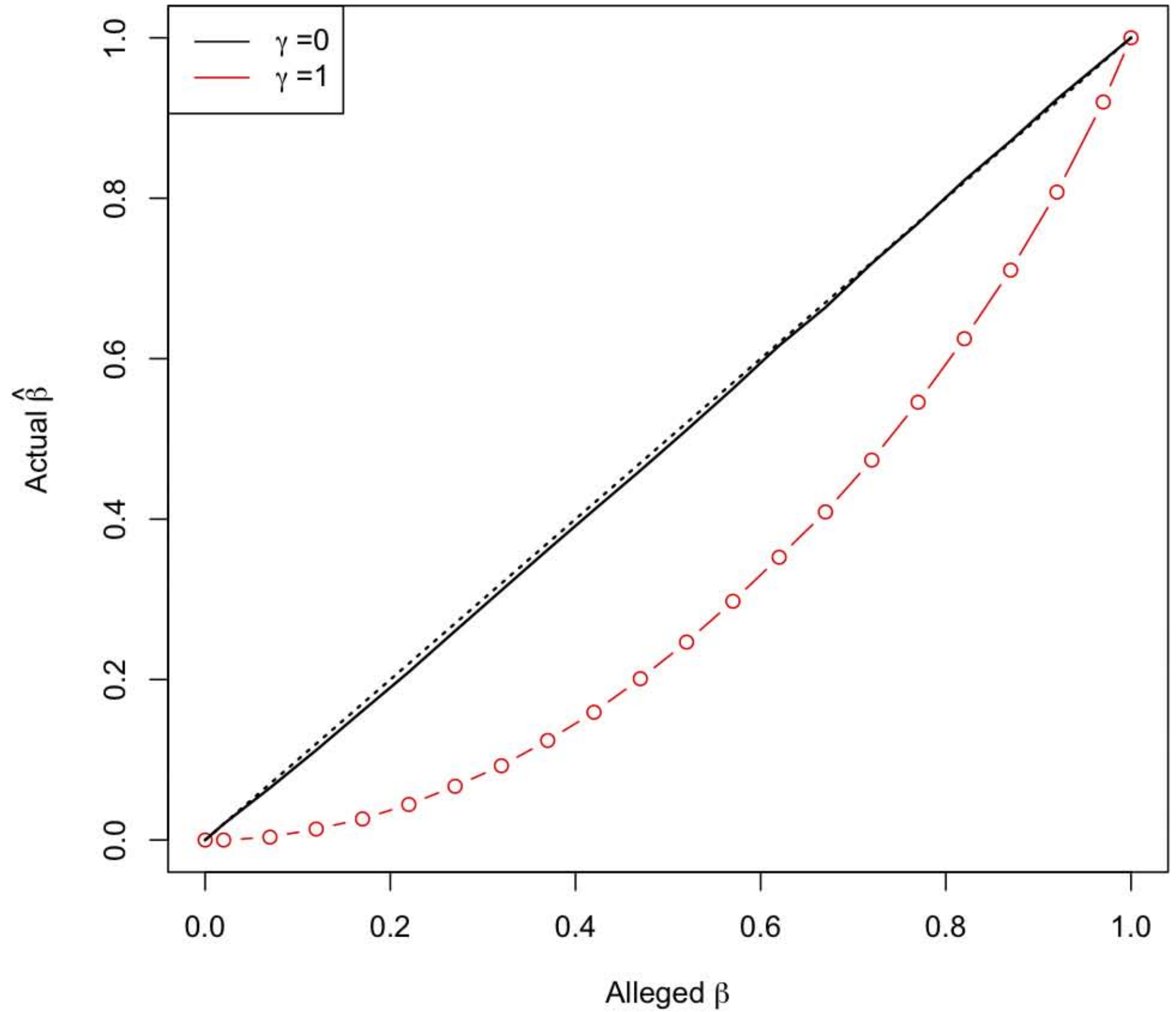
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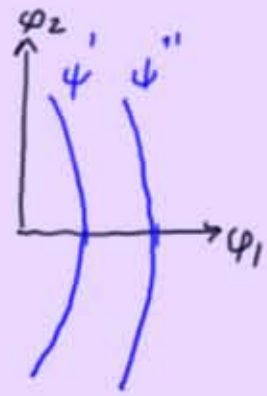
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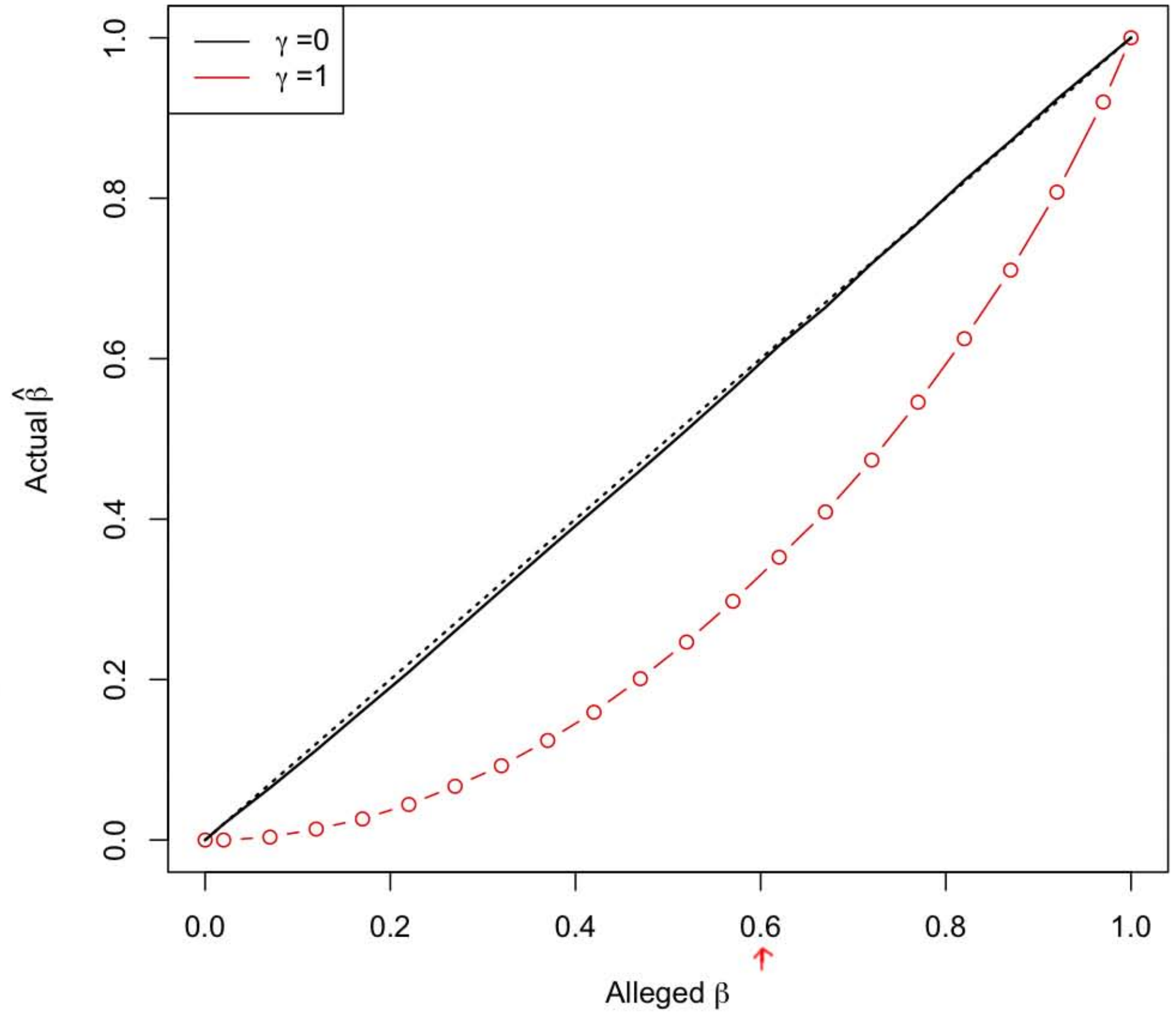
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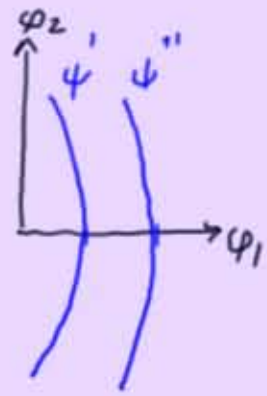
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Choose 60% Conf. lower bd

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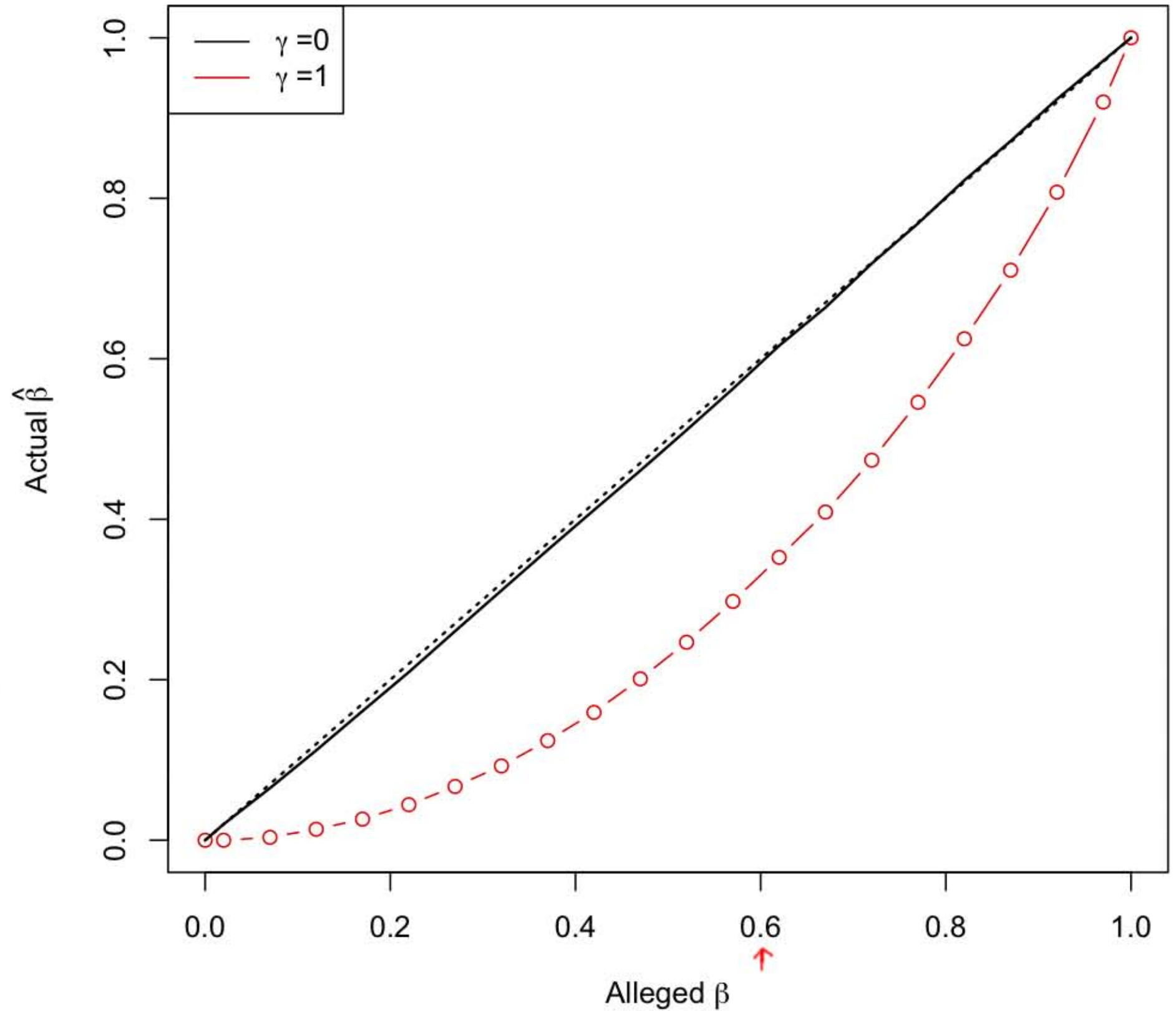
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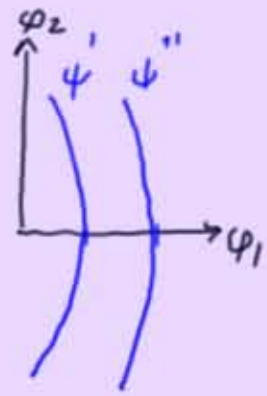
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Looks like actual is 30%

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Curved interest

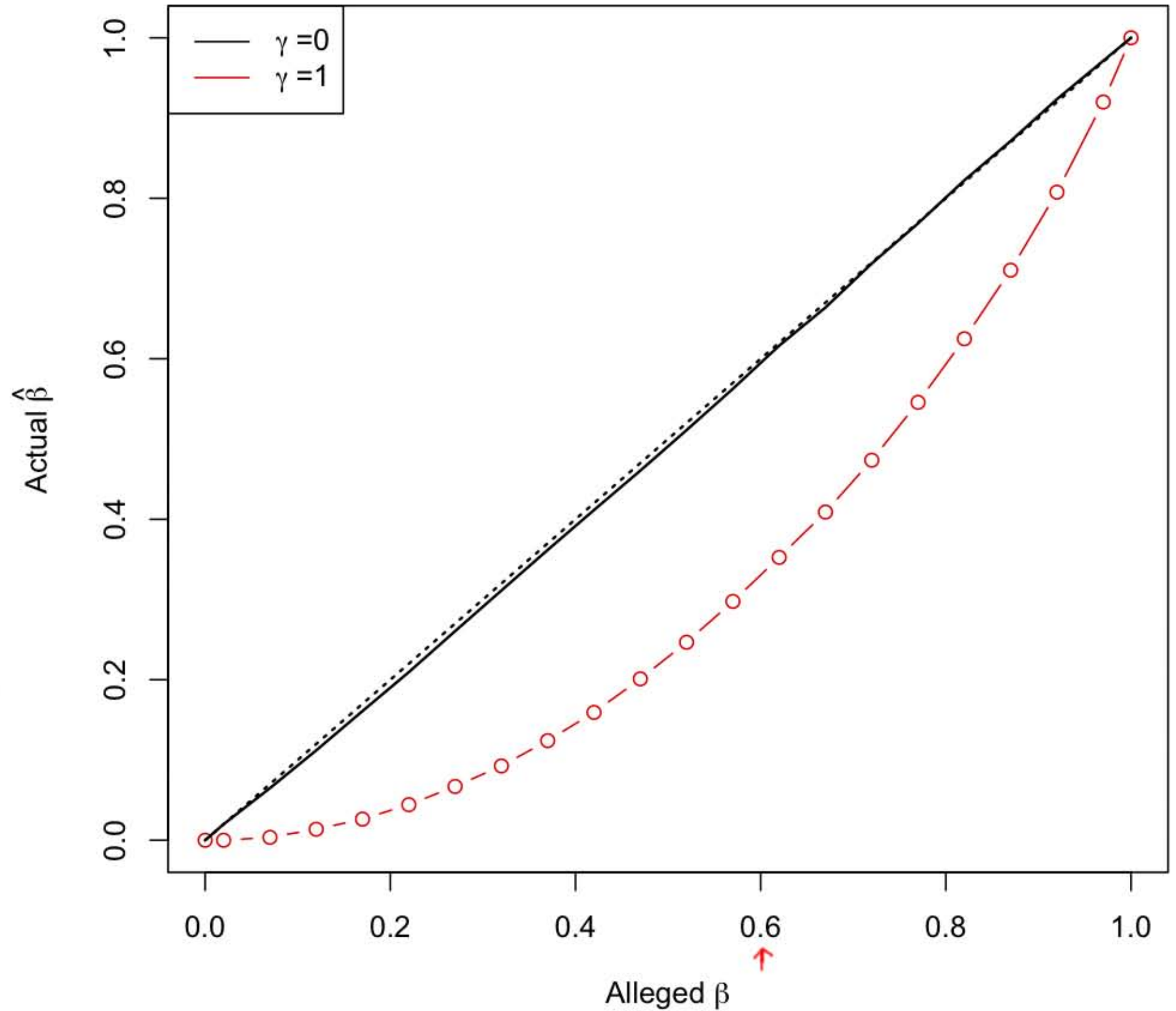
$N = 10,000$

Choose 60% Conf. lower bd

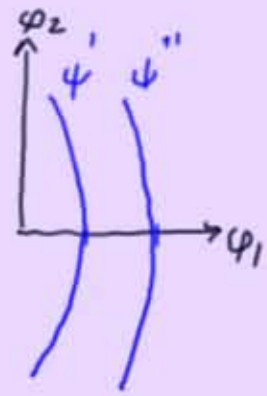
Looks like actual is 30%

Not very good

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$$



6 Curved parameter



Try $\gamma = 1$

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \frac{1}{2} \varphi_2^2$$

Curved interest

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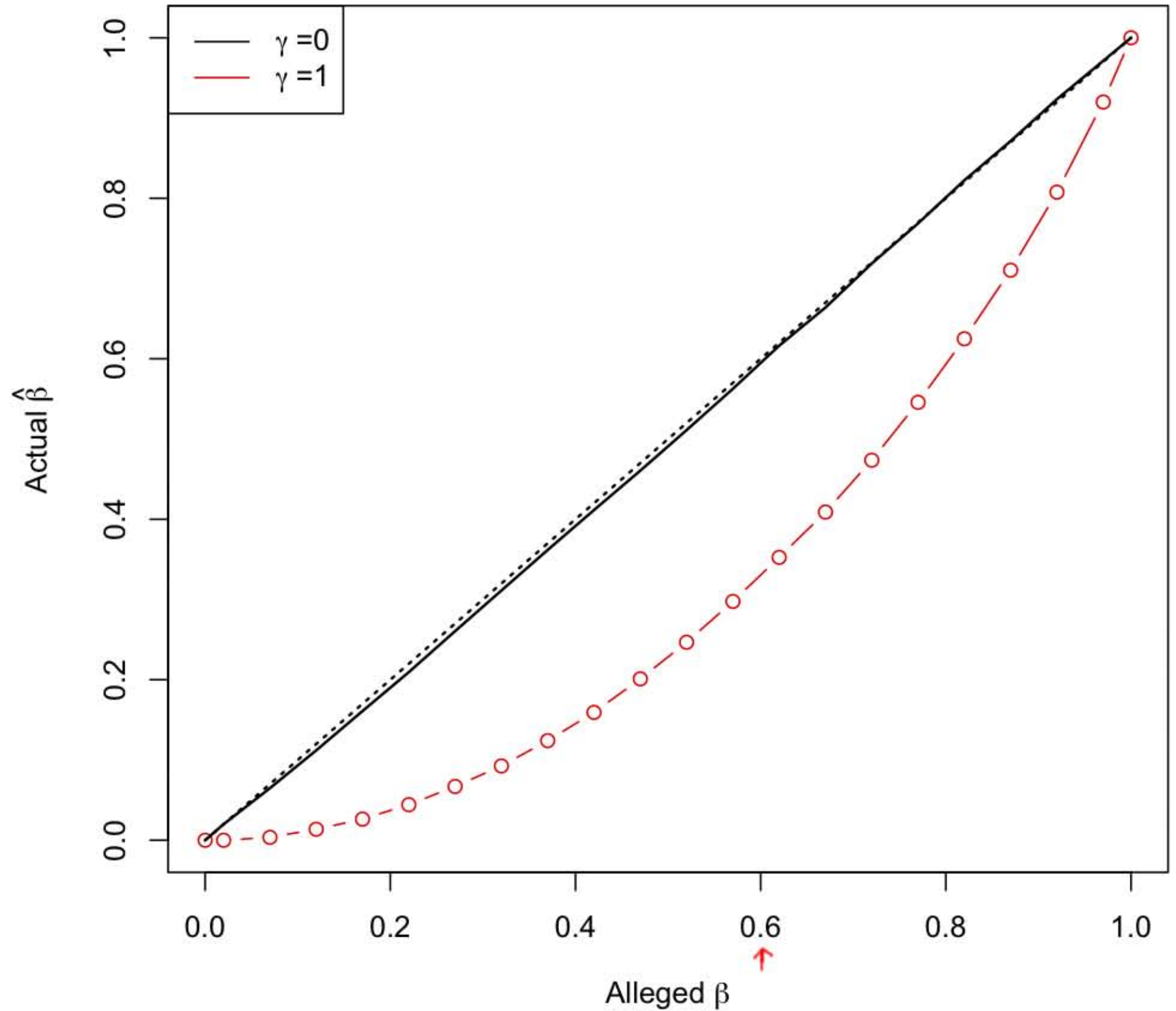
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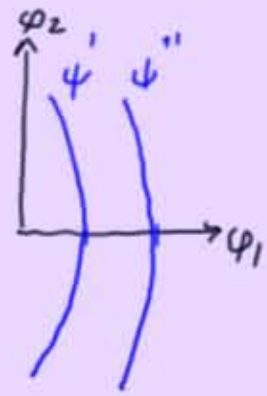
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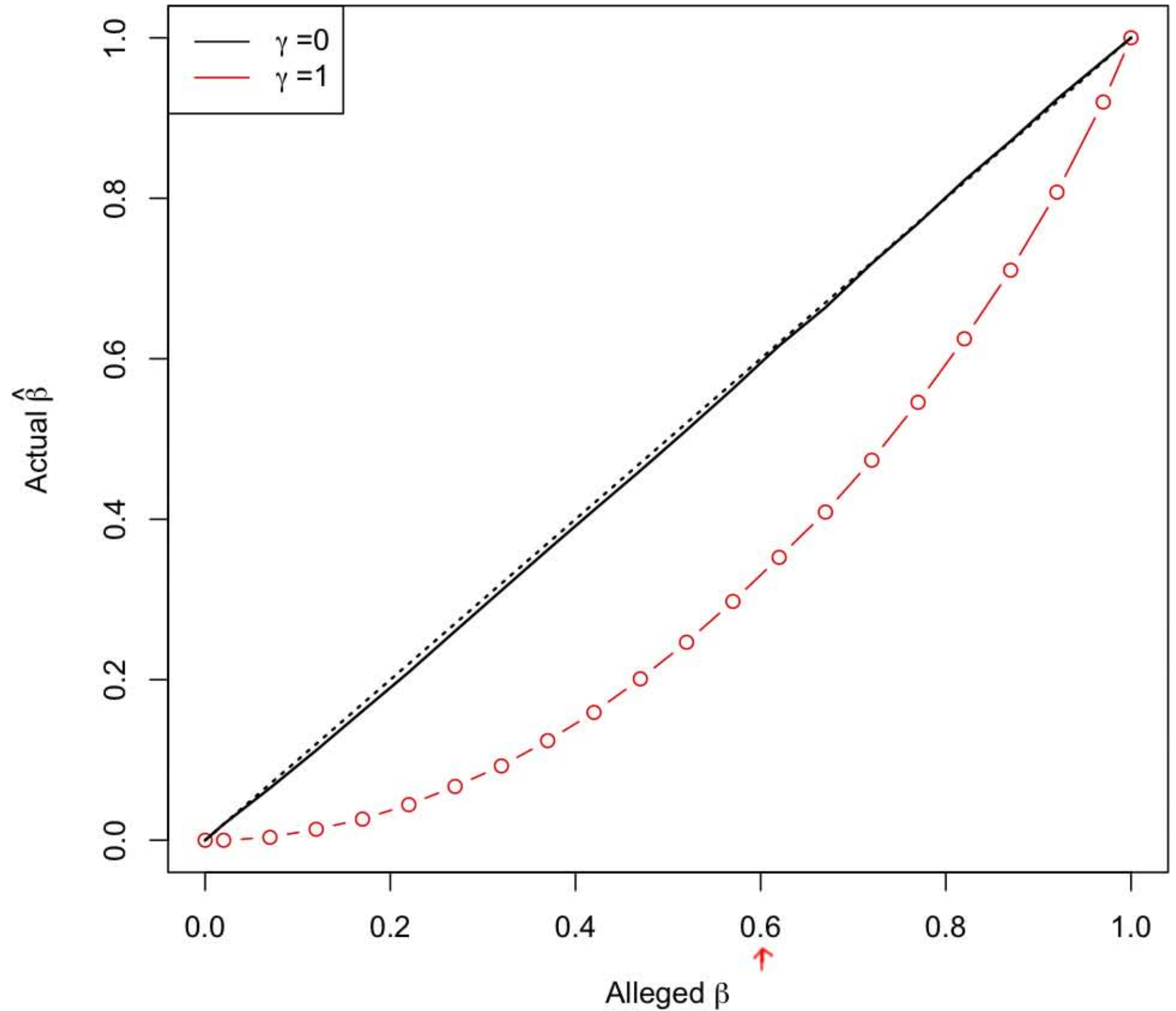
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Irreproducibility!

and if you had to defend your results in court ?

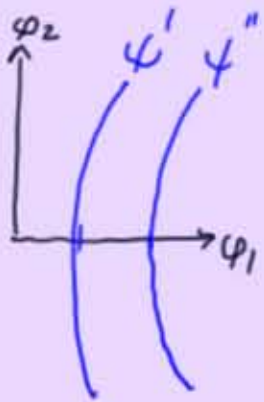
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Try $\gamma = -1$

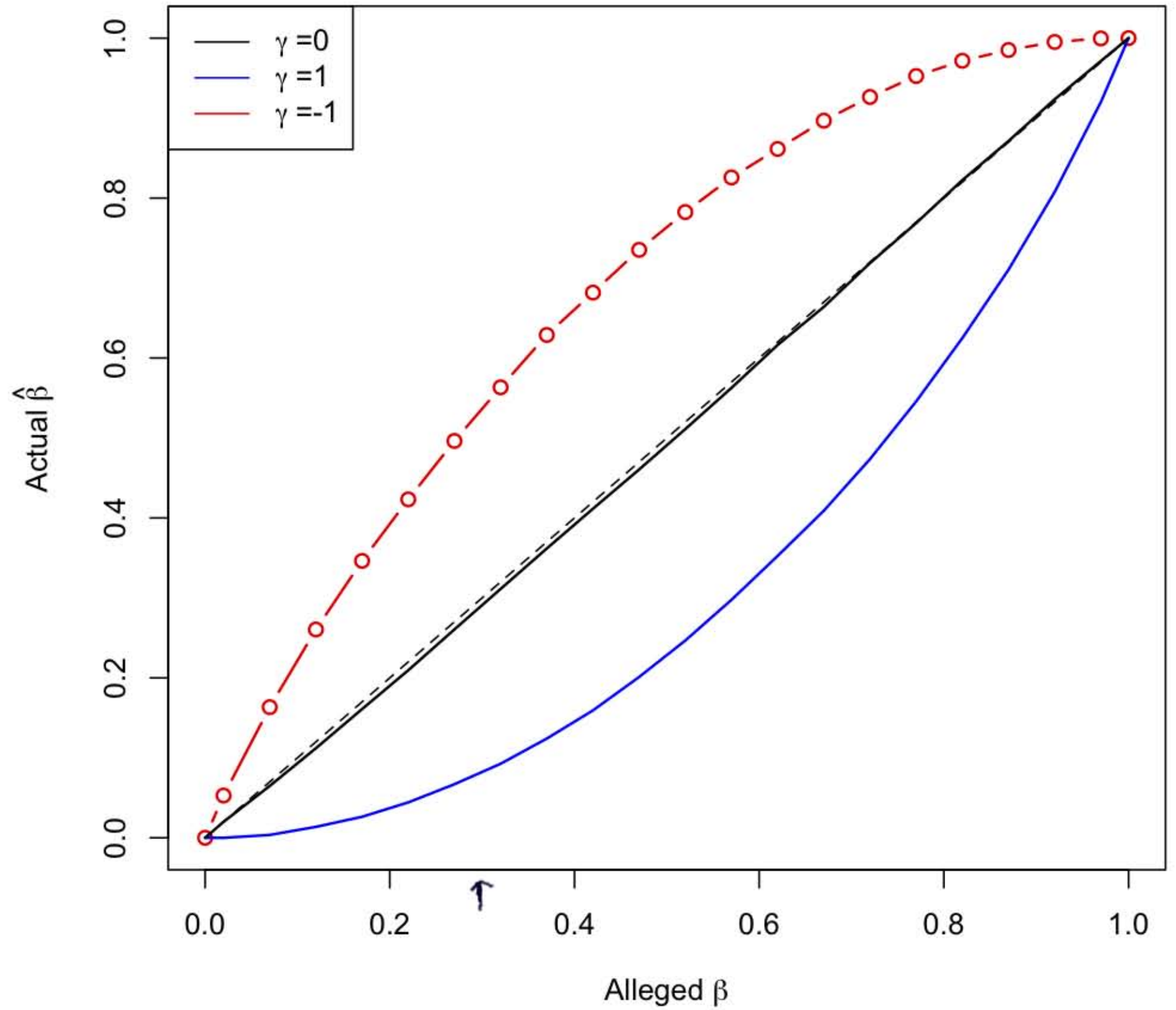
$$\psi = \varphi_1 - \frac{1}{2} \varphi_2^2 \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{opposite} \\ \text{curvature} \end{array} \right.$$



Try $\gamma = -1$

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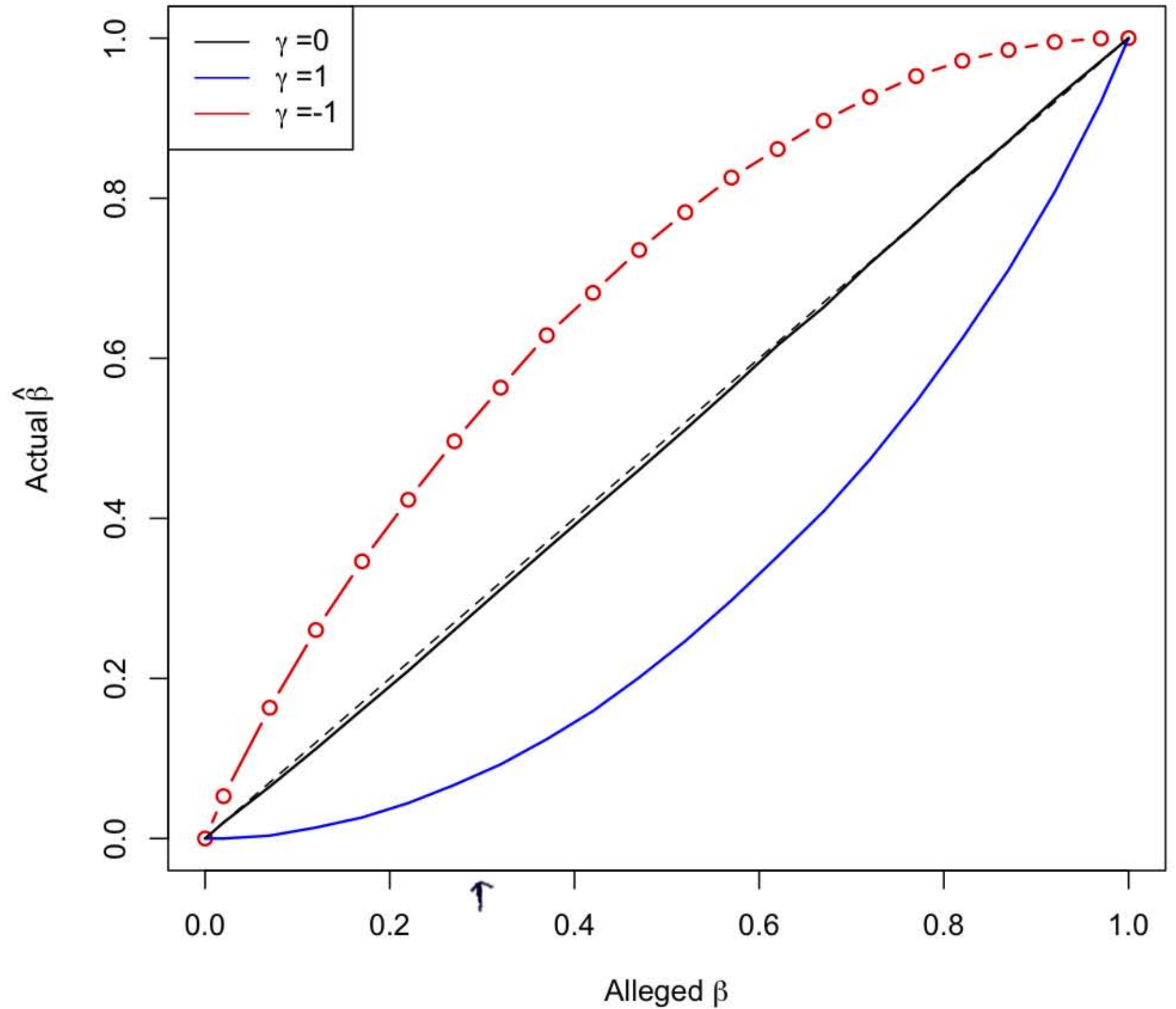


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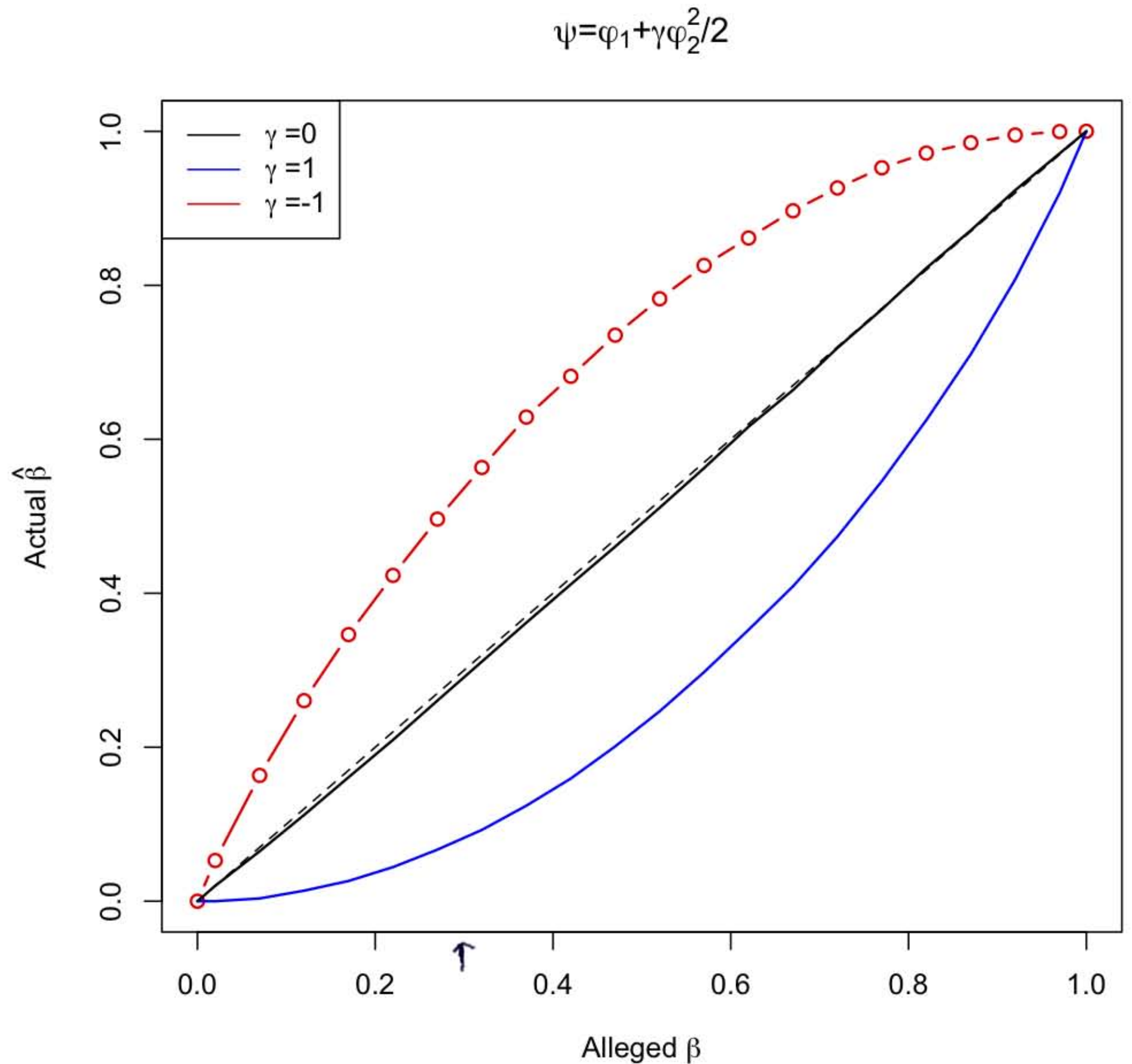


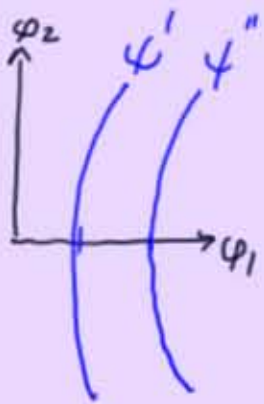
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Looks like 50% repeat coverage





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$$\psi = \varphi_1 - \frac{1}{2} \varphi_2^2 \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{opposite} \\ \text{curvature} \end{array} \right.$$

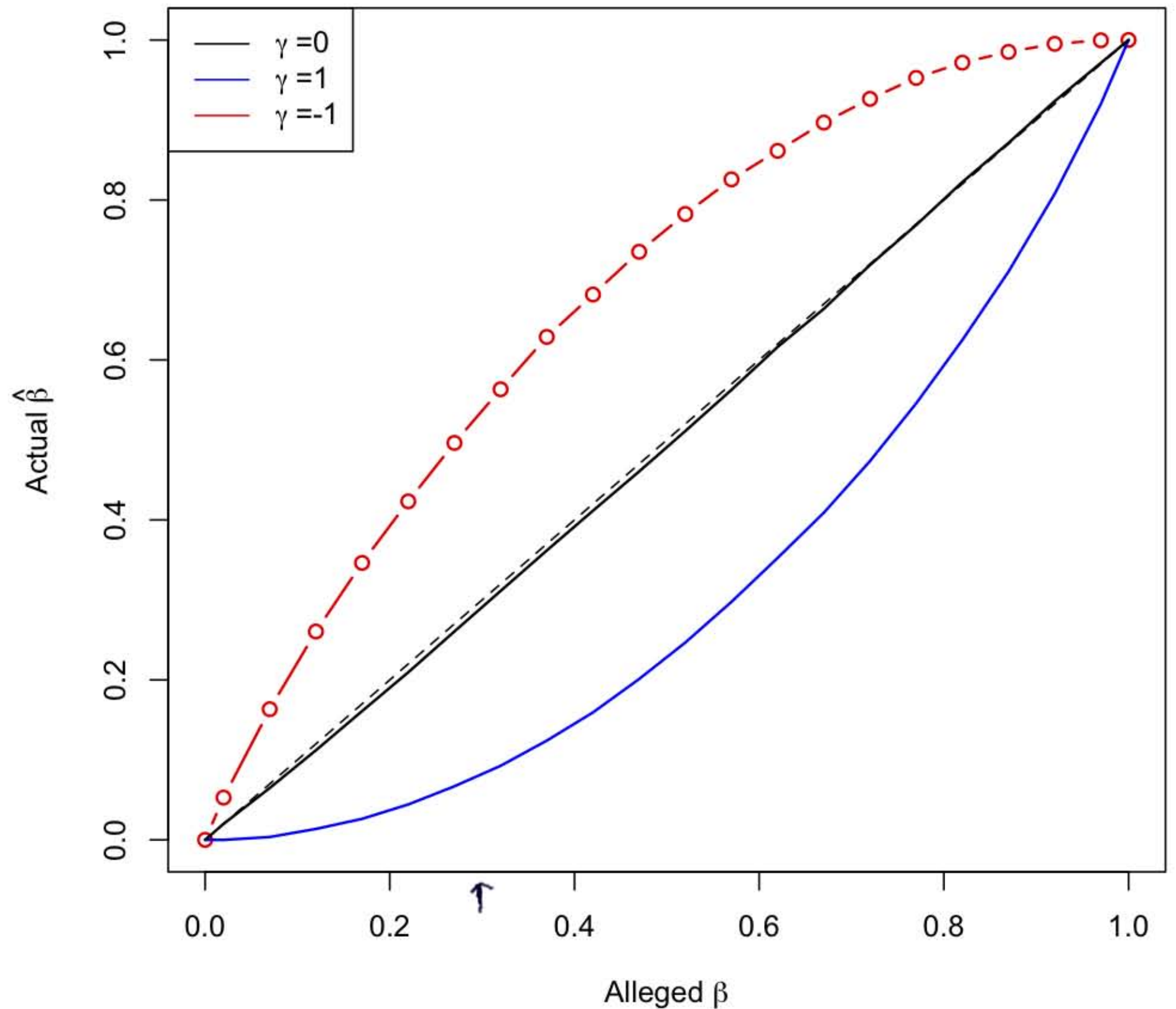
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Irrep....

!

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$$





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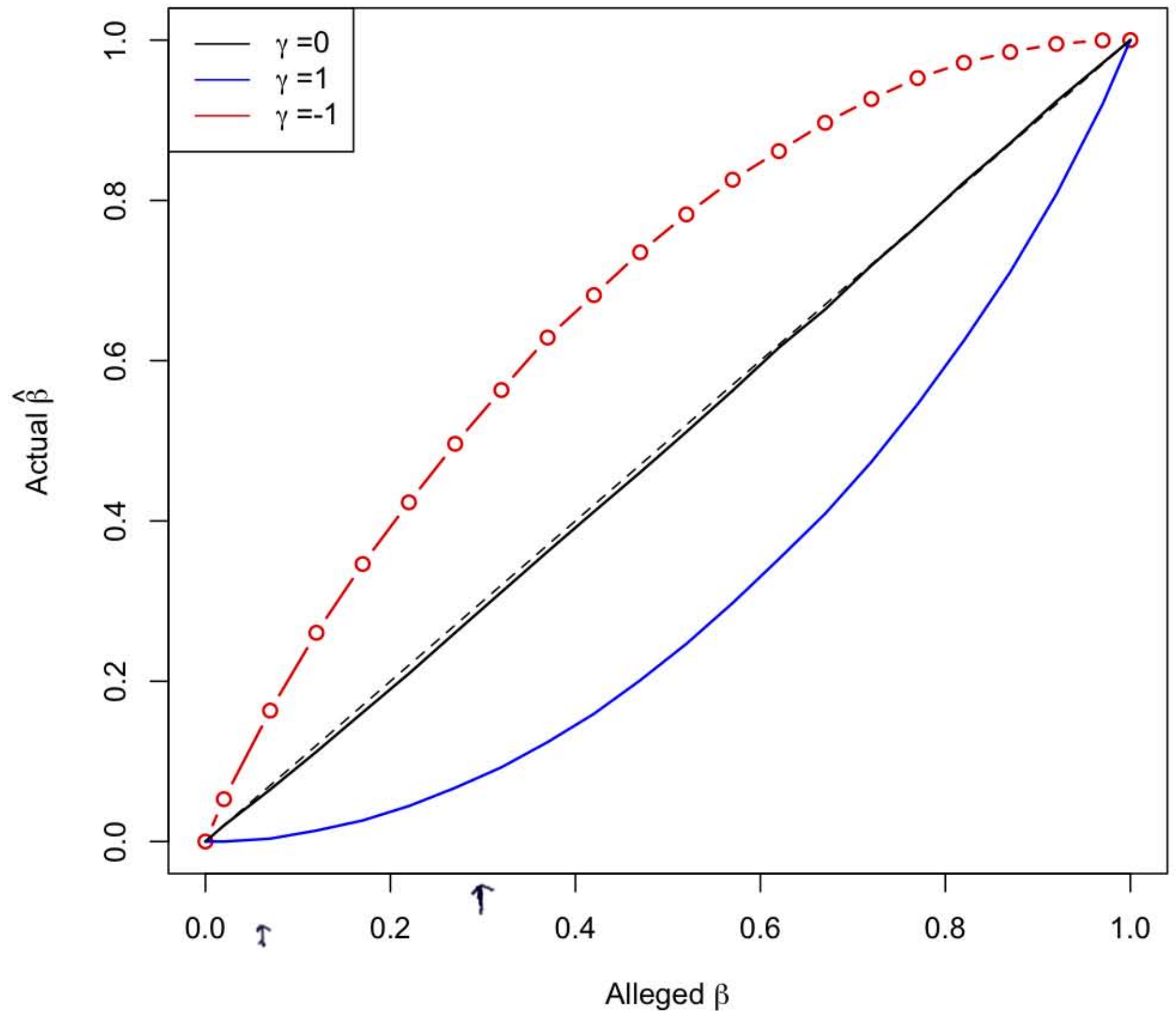
Try 30% Conf. lower bnd

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Irrep....

!

$$\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$$



and 5% is close to 17% ?

7 p-value function
vs
Integrated confidence

Data y^o

Curved $\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2 / 2$

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Vary curvature γ

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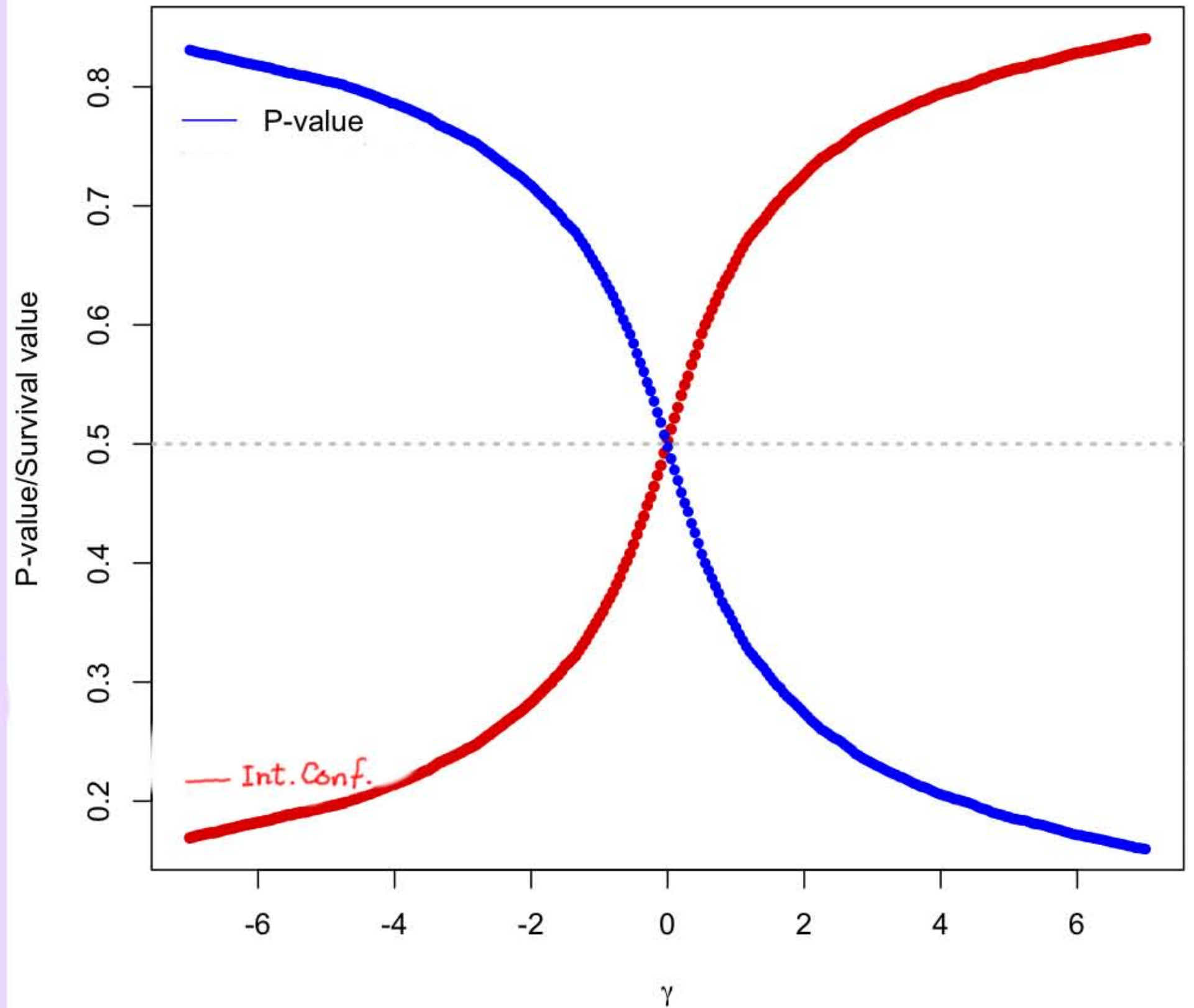
Vary curvature γ

Simulation $N=10,000$

7 p-value function
vs
Integrated confidence

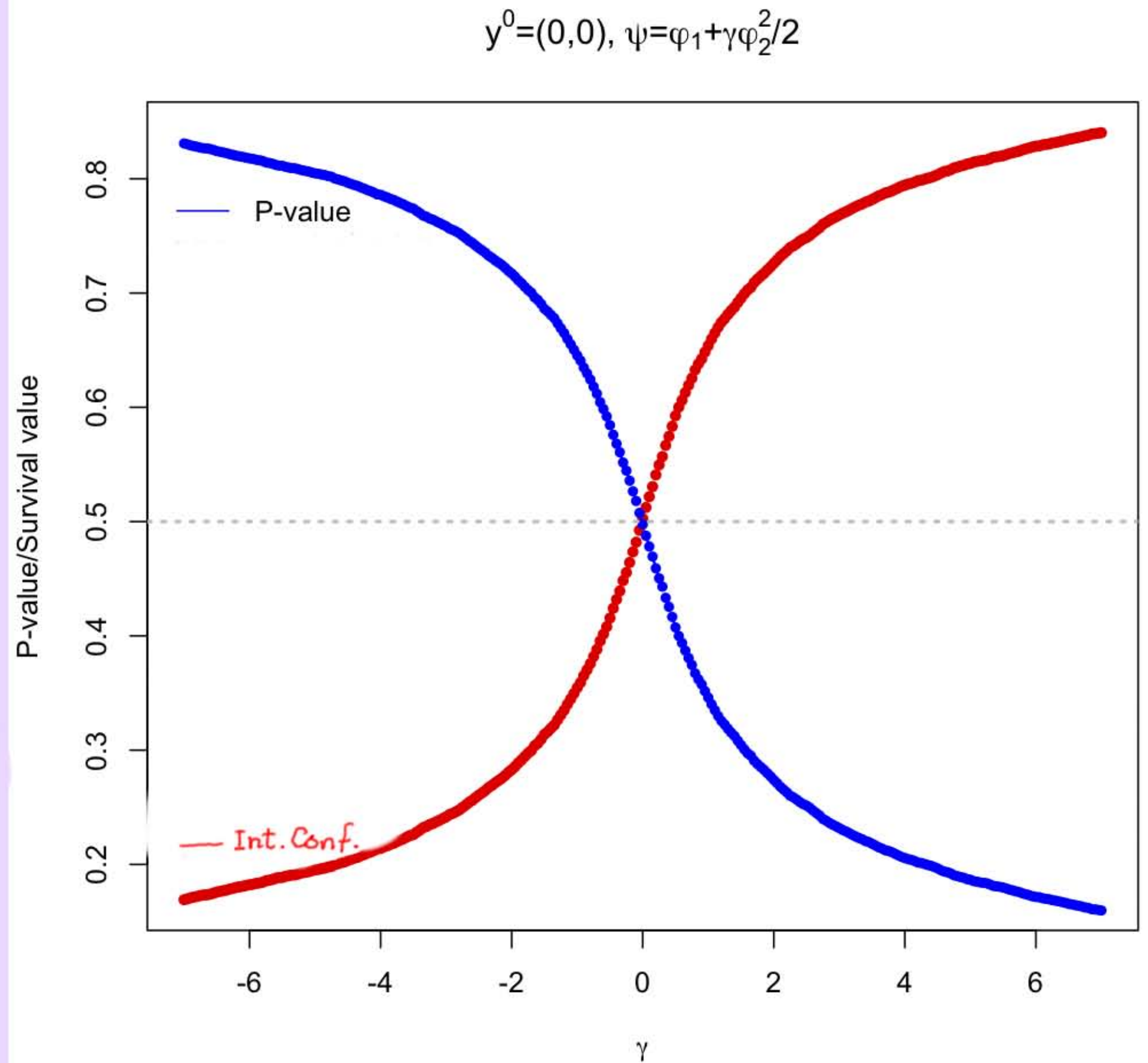
Data y^0
Curved $\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2/2$
Vary curvature γ
Simulation $N=10,000$

$$y^0 = (0,0), \psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2/2$$



7 p-value function
vs
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Data y^0
Curved $\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2/2$
Vary curvature γ
Simulation $N=10,000$



p-value function gives confidence intervals, is reproducible

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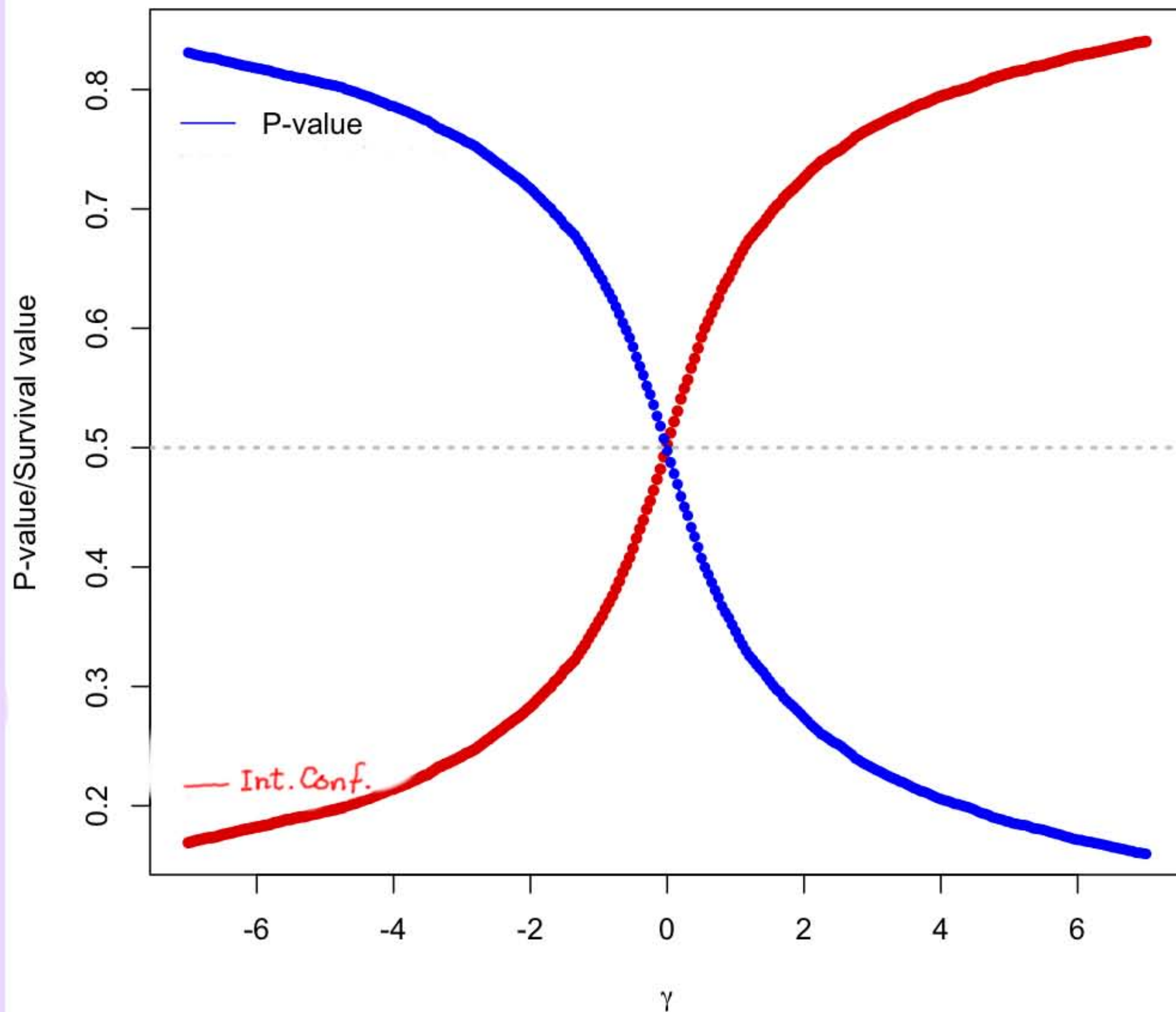
Data y^0

Curved $\psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2/2$

Vary curvature γ

Simulation $N=10,000$

$$y^0 = (0,0), \psi = \varphi_1 + \gamma \varphi_2^2/2$$



p-value function gives confidence intervals, is reproducible

Integrated confidence distribution does NOT give confidence intervals
changes wrong direction

8 Marginalization and Inversion

Marginalize ... to be relevant to interest parameter

Invert ... from pivot to parameter

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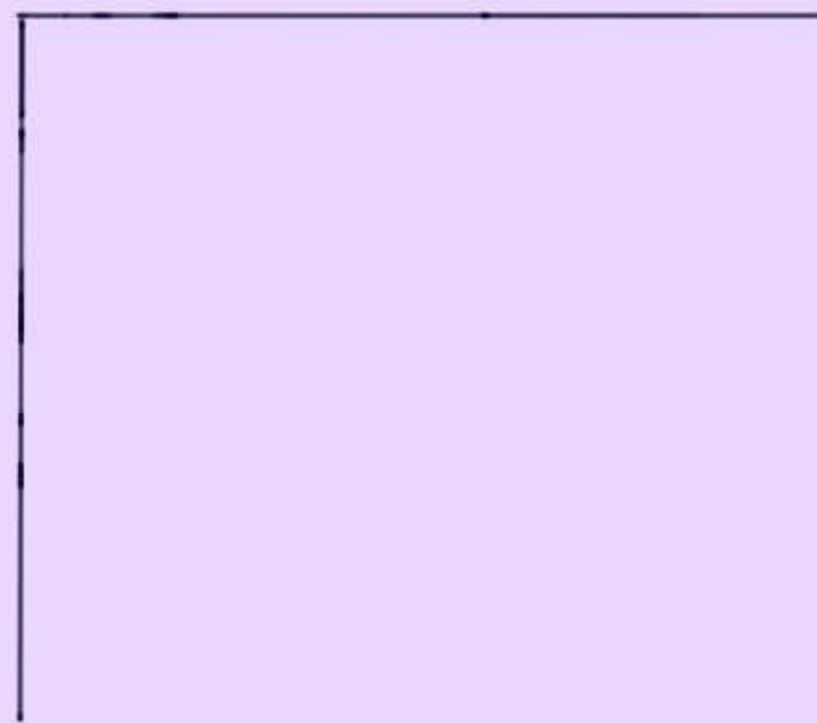
Non-commutative Order matters!

Interest
 $m\psi$

Model
Data

Marginalize \rightarrow

Invert \downarrow

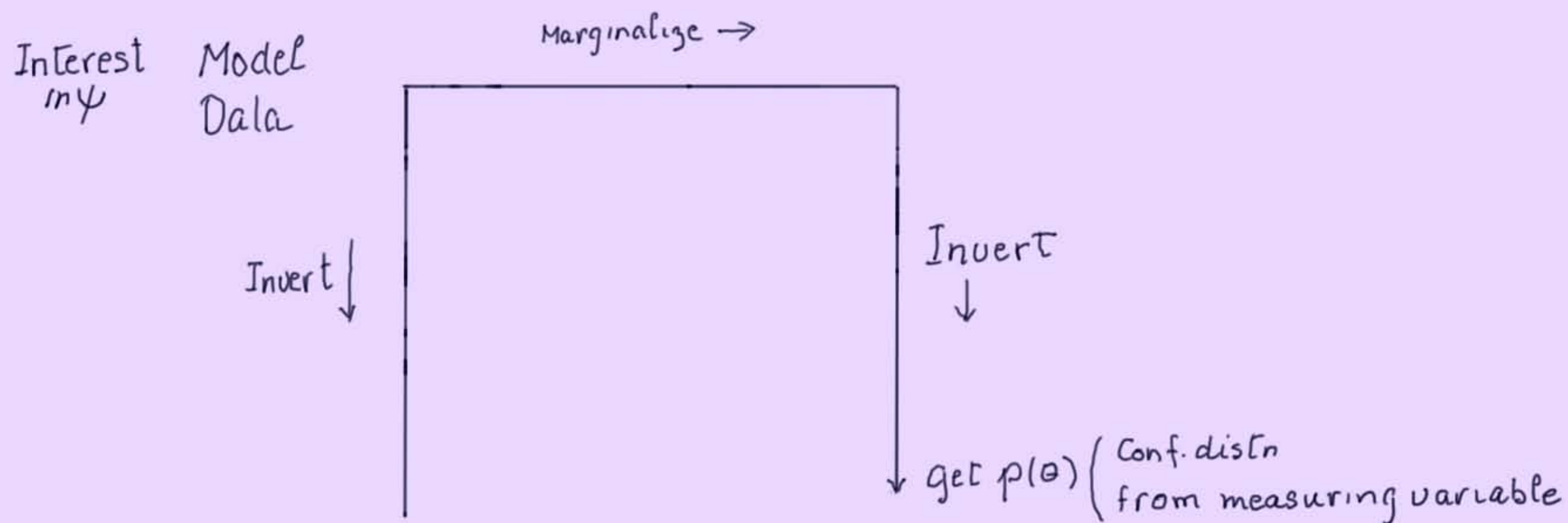


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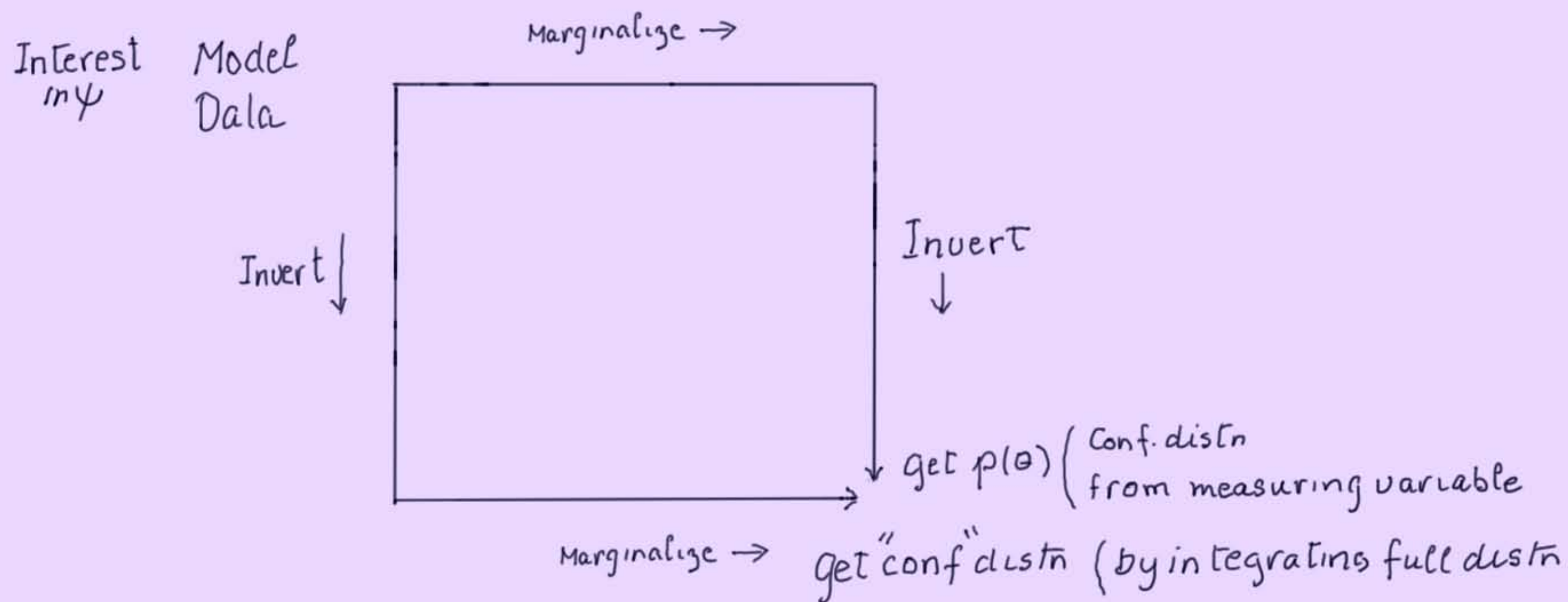


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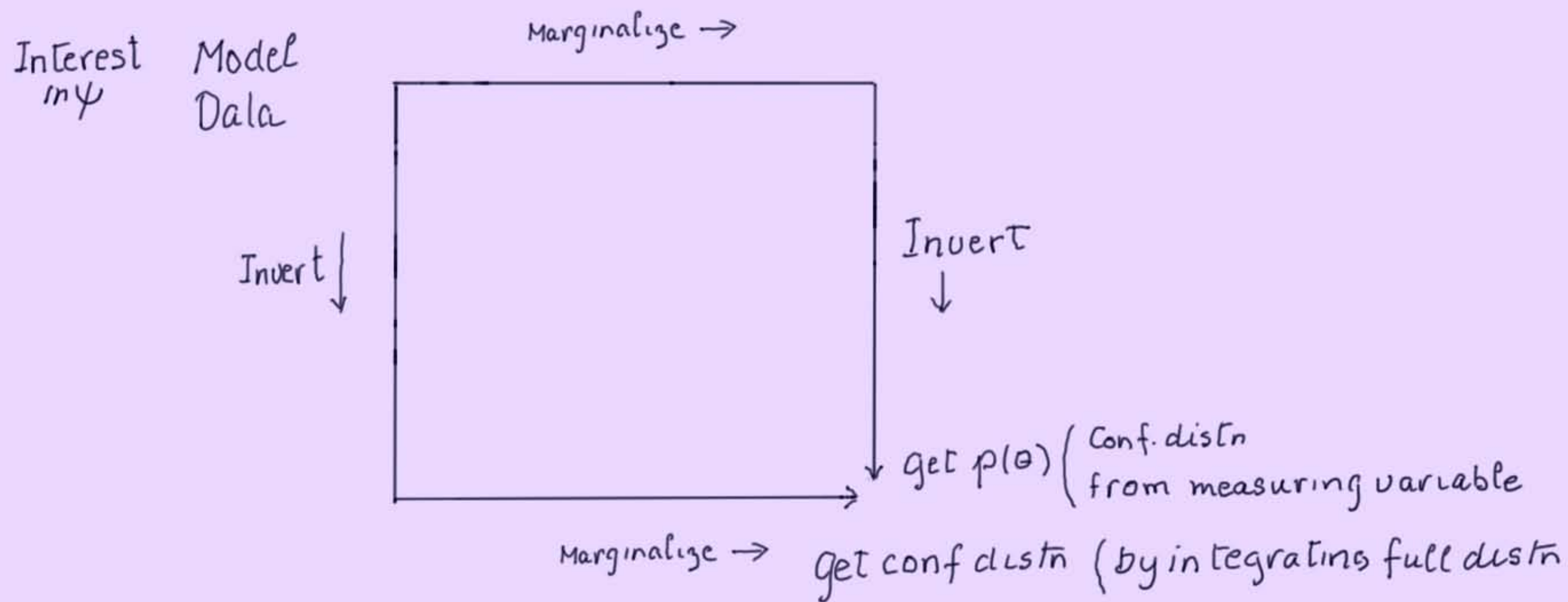


8 Marginalization and Inversion

Marginalize ... to be relevant to interest parameter

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Non-commutative Order matters!



and they are radically different!

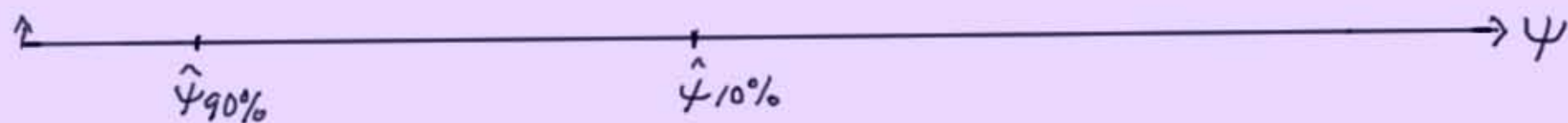
Discussion

Interest ψ scalar

Nuisance λ

Data ... Joint distn (ψ, λ)
Marginal for ψ

Get



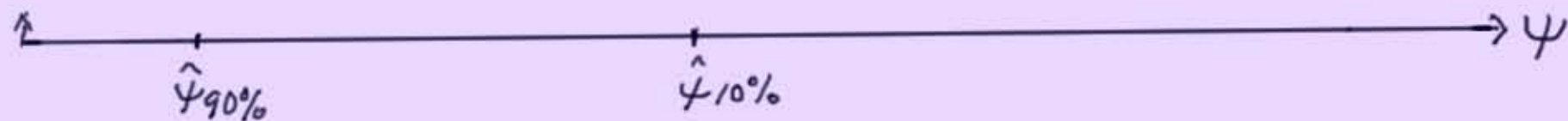
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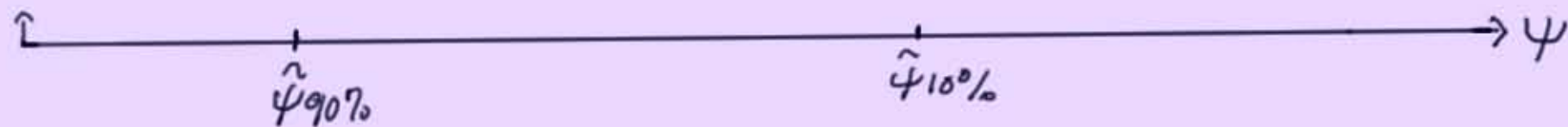
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But distn depends only on λ
Conf distn from λ gives:



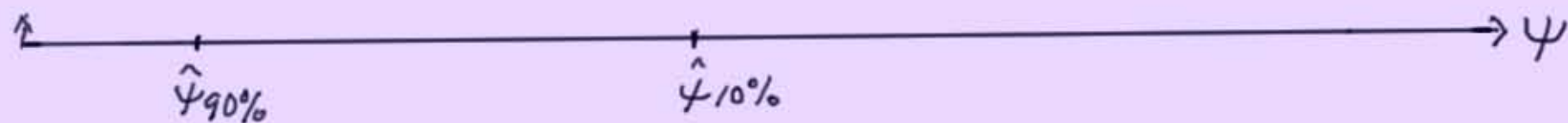
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Interest ψ scalar

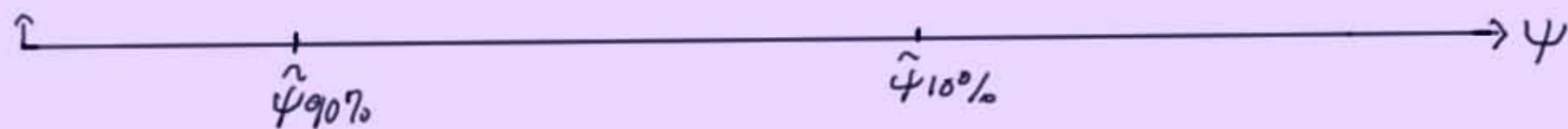
Nuisance λ

Data ... Joint distrn (ψ, λ)
Marginal for ψ

Get



But distrn depends only on λ
Conf distrn from λ gives:



Which do you report ?

First has reproducibility !
Second doesn't

Can a calculation from a vector parameter distribution (pivot/flat Bayes/Jeffreys) give reproducible statements concerning true value of interest parameter $\psi(\theta)$?

- Yes, but reliably only for scalar interest ψ
- Such p-values (frequency) are available by conditioning
- Continuity determines such conditioning
- Should not try to obtain such from vector parameter distributions by marginalization
- Parameter curvature is the culprit
- Jeffreys prior can be OK but use only on profile for scalar interest