

# QUANTIFYING THE EVIDENCE FOR A PLANET IN RADIAL VELOCITY DATA

**Ben Nelson**

@exobenelson

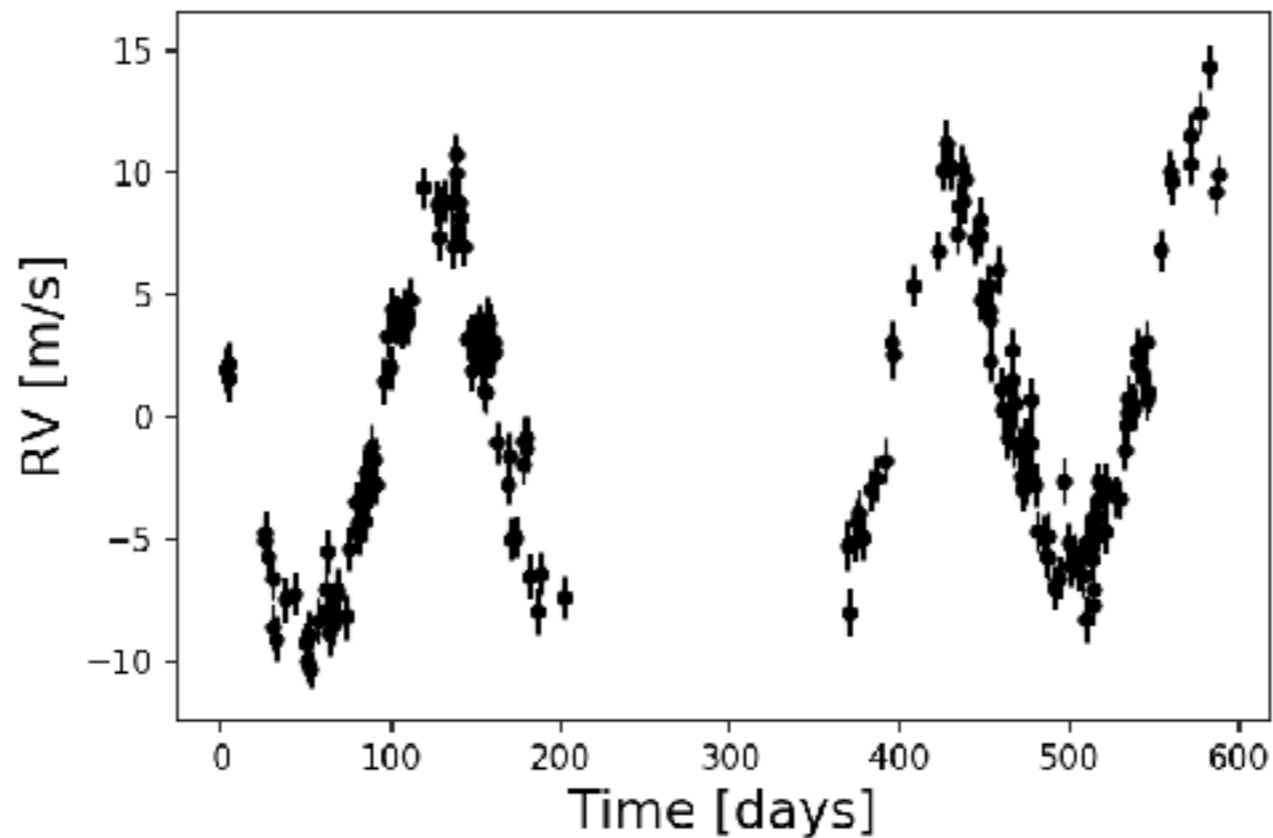
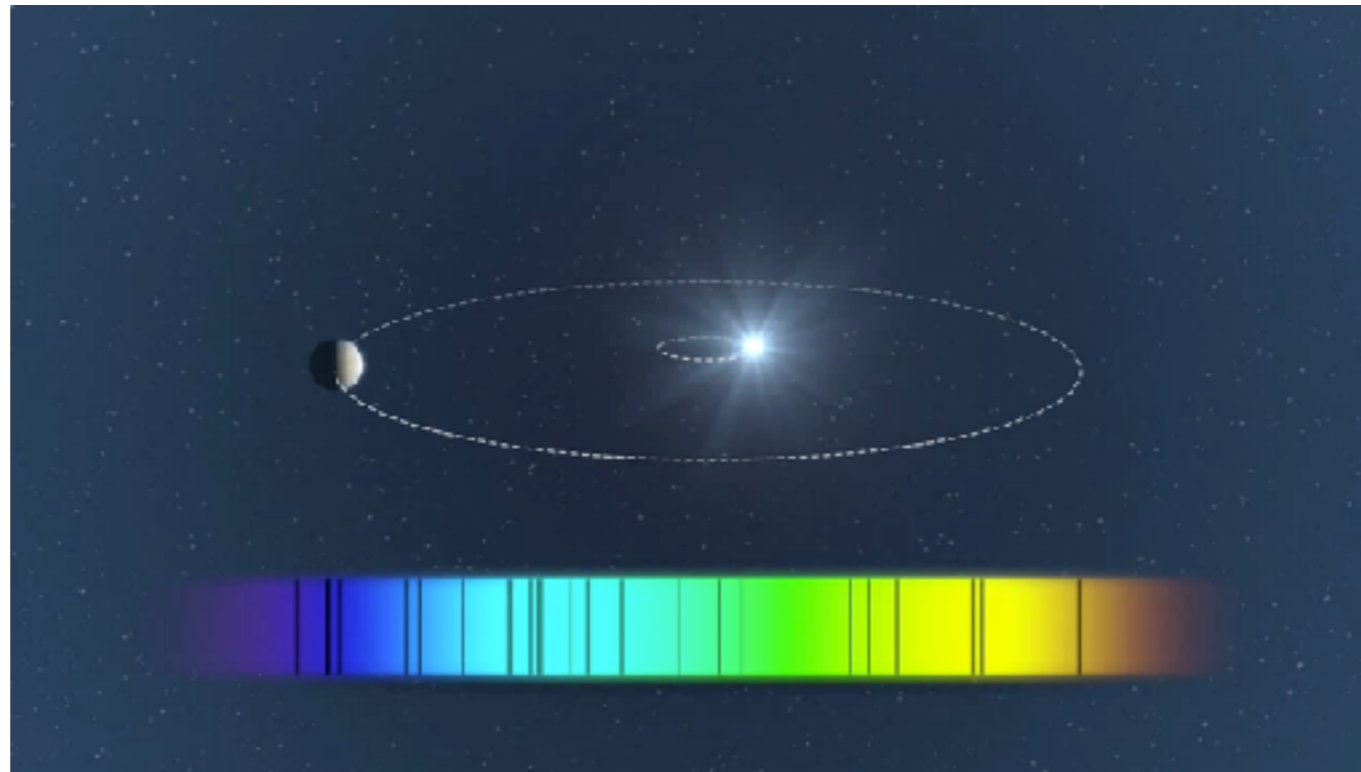
Northwestern University  Insight Data Science Fellow

**With:** Johannes Buchner (PUC/Chile), Ryan Cloutier (Toronto), Rodrigo Diaz (IAFE), João Faria (Porto), Fabo Feng (Hertfordshire), Eric Ford (Penn State), Nathan Hara (IMCEE), Vinesh Rajpaul (Oxford), Suri Rukdee (PUC/Chile)

arXiv:1806.04683

[github.com/EPRV3EvidenceChallenge](https://github.com/EPRV3EvidenceChallenge)

# Radial Velocity Observations



5 parameters describe a planet's RV signature

- orbital period
- orbital eccentricity
- argument of pericenter
- orbital phase
- mass

# What does it mean to “discover” a planet?

## Frequentist Approach

Reject the null hypothesis that a model without a planet could reasonably explain the data

conceptually difficult, computationally easy

## Bayesian Approach

Evidence (i.e., marginalized likelihood) for a model with the planet is much greater than alternative models without the planet

conceptually easy, computationally difficult

Further reading

[jakevdp.github.io](https://github.com/jakevdp)

Frequentism & Bayesianism Part 5: Model Selection

July 24, 2018  
Sagan Workshop

# Methods for dealing with new RV challenges

## Computing the “evidence”

$$\mathcal{Z} \equiv p(d|\mathcal{M}) = \int p(\theta|\mathcal{M})p(d|\theta, \mathcal{M})d\theta$$

Thermodynamic integration  
([HD208487](#), Gregory 2007)

Nested sampling / MultiNest  
([GJ667C](#), Feroz & Hobson 2014)

Geometric path Monte Carlo  
([GJ581](#), Hou+ 2014)

Transdimensional MCMC w/ nested sampling  
([v Oph](#), Brewer & Donovan 2015)

Importance sampling  
([GJ876](#), Nelson+ 2016; [HD9174](#), Jenkins+ 2017)



Dumusque 2016  
Dumusque+ 2017



# Evidence Challenge

How accurately/precisely can one compute the “evidence” for  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  planets in RV data, given a set of priors and likelihood function?

$$\mathcal{Z} \equiv p(d|\mathcal{M}) = \int p(\theta|\mathcal{M}) p(d|\theta, \mathcal{M}) d\theta$$

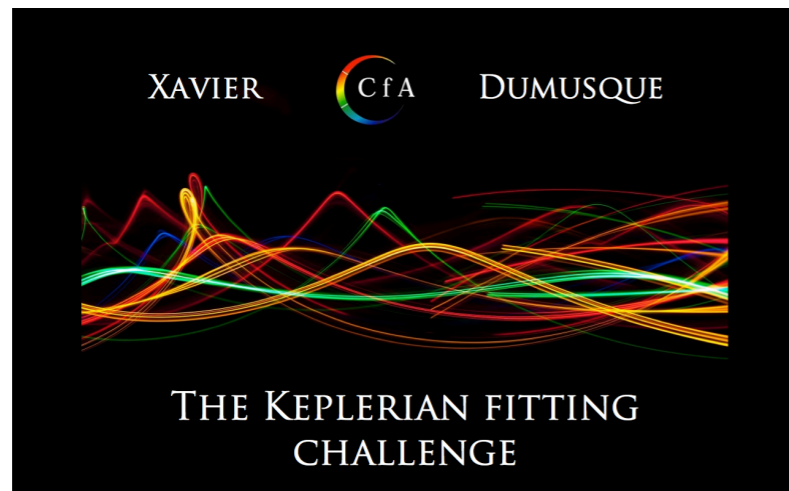
# How is this NOT Xavier Dumusque's RV Fitting Challenge?



Evidence Challenge



# How is this NOT Xavier Dumusque's RV Fitting Challenge?



## Evidence Challenge

what methods are good at finding  
“real” planets in data

data: RVs and activity indicators  
(FWHM,  $\log R'_{\{hk\}}$ , BIS span)

prize: 30 year old Tawny Port wine

what methods are good at  
computing an accurate “evidence”

data: just RVs

prize: knowledge

# Four Questions of the Evidence Challenge

1. What is the dispersion in  $\mathcal{Z}$ ?
2. Does the uncertainty in  $\mathcal{Z}$  accurately reflect the observed dispersion?
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# EPRV3 Evidence Challenge

We generate 6 RV datasets. Each dataset contained **two** planets with varying levels of detectability.

Data are drawn from a multivariate Gaussian with correlated observations, measured uncertainties, and an additional unknown white noise term (i.e., jitter).

We use a quasi-periodic kernel (Rajpaul+ 2015)...

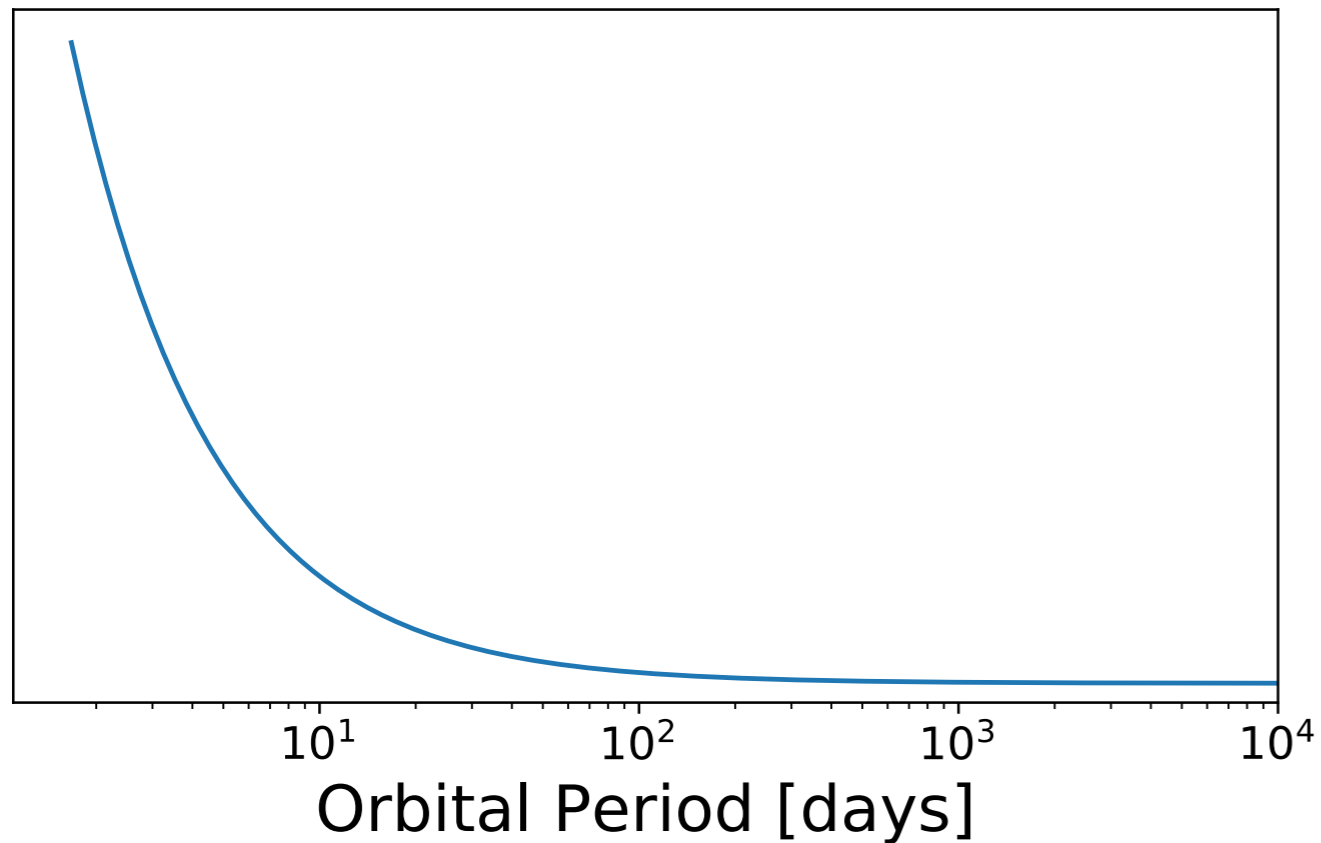
$$K_{i,j} = \alpha^2 \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{\sin^2[\pi(t_i - t_j)/\tau]}{\lambda_p^2} + \frac{(t_i - t_j)^2}{\lambda_e^2} \right\} \right]$$

...with known hyperparameters  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda_p$ ,  $\lambda_e$ , and  $\tau$ .

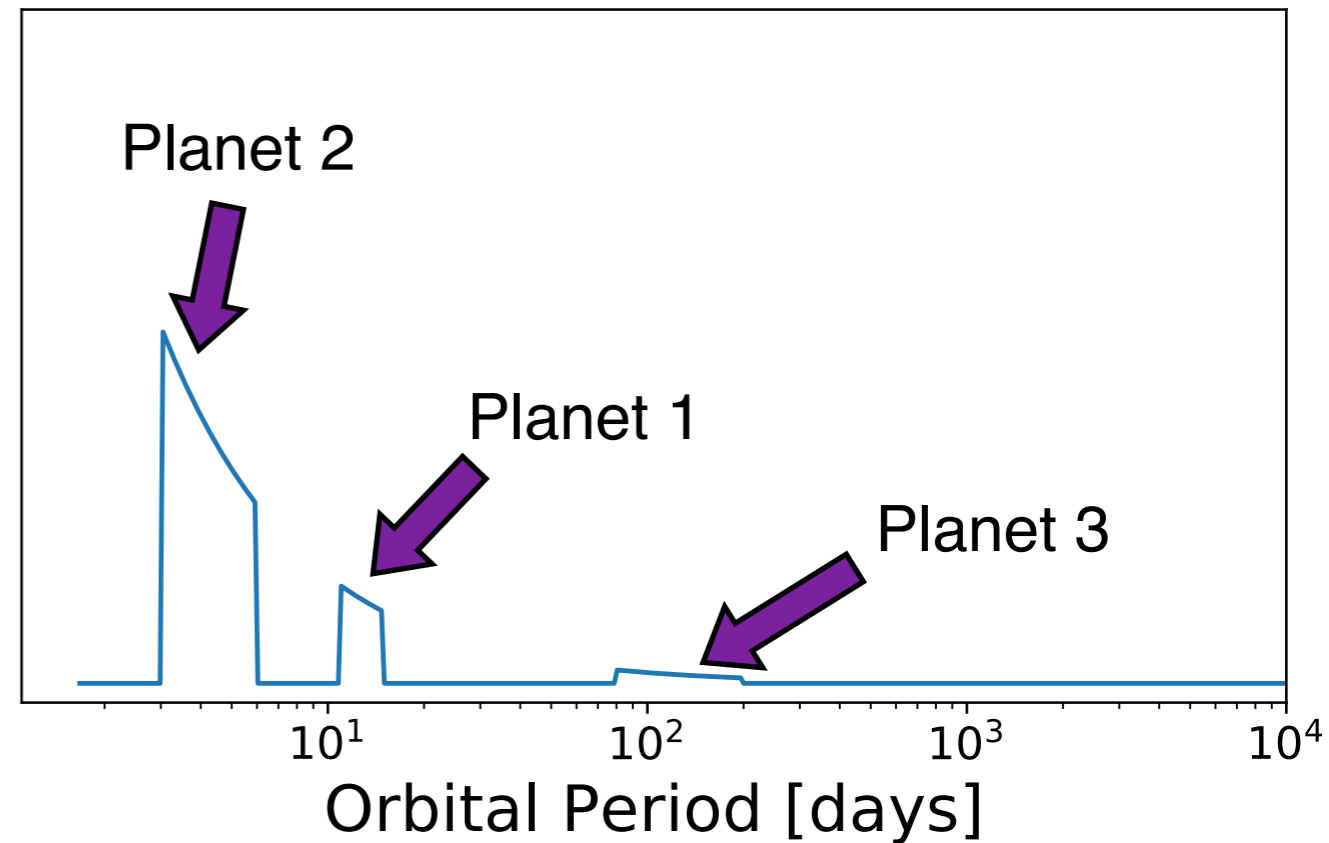
# EPRV3 Evidence Challenge

Two sets of priors

Broad



Narrow



# EPRV3 Evidence Challenge

More details and results at:

[github.com/EPRV3EvidenceChallenge/](https://github.com/EPRV3EvidenceChallenge/)

Methods teams submitted:

## Frequentist

BIC

leave-one-out cross-validation

time-series cross-validation

## Bayesian

Chib's approximation

Laplace approximation

Laplace approximation + I1 periodogram

Perrakis estimator

importance sampling + MCMC

importance sampling + variational Bayes

nested sampling (MultiNest)

nested sampling + MCMC

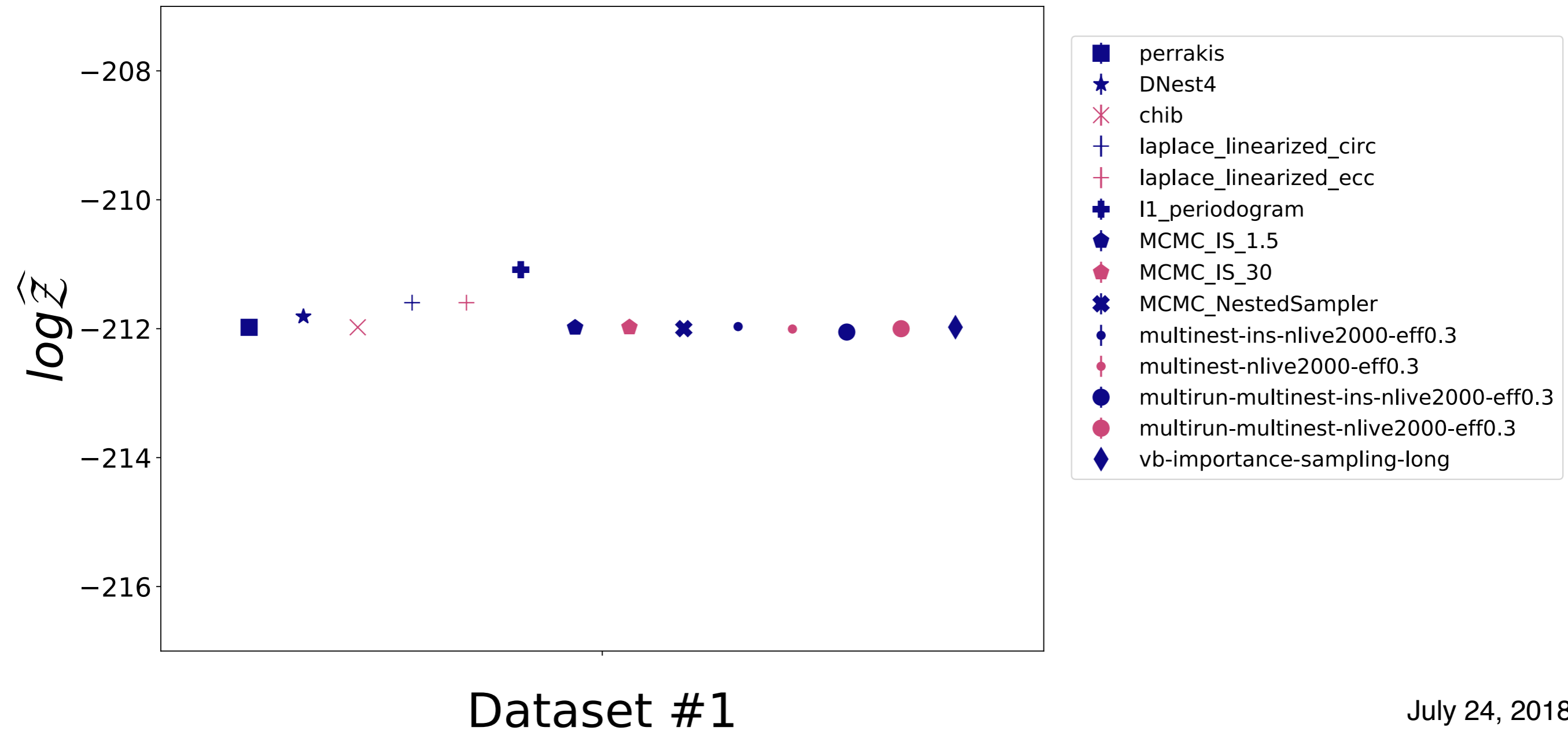
diffusive nested sampling (DNest4)

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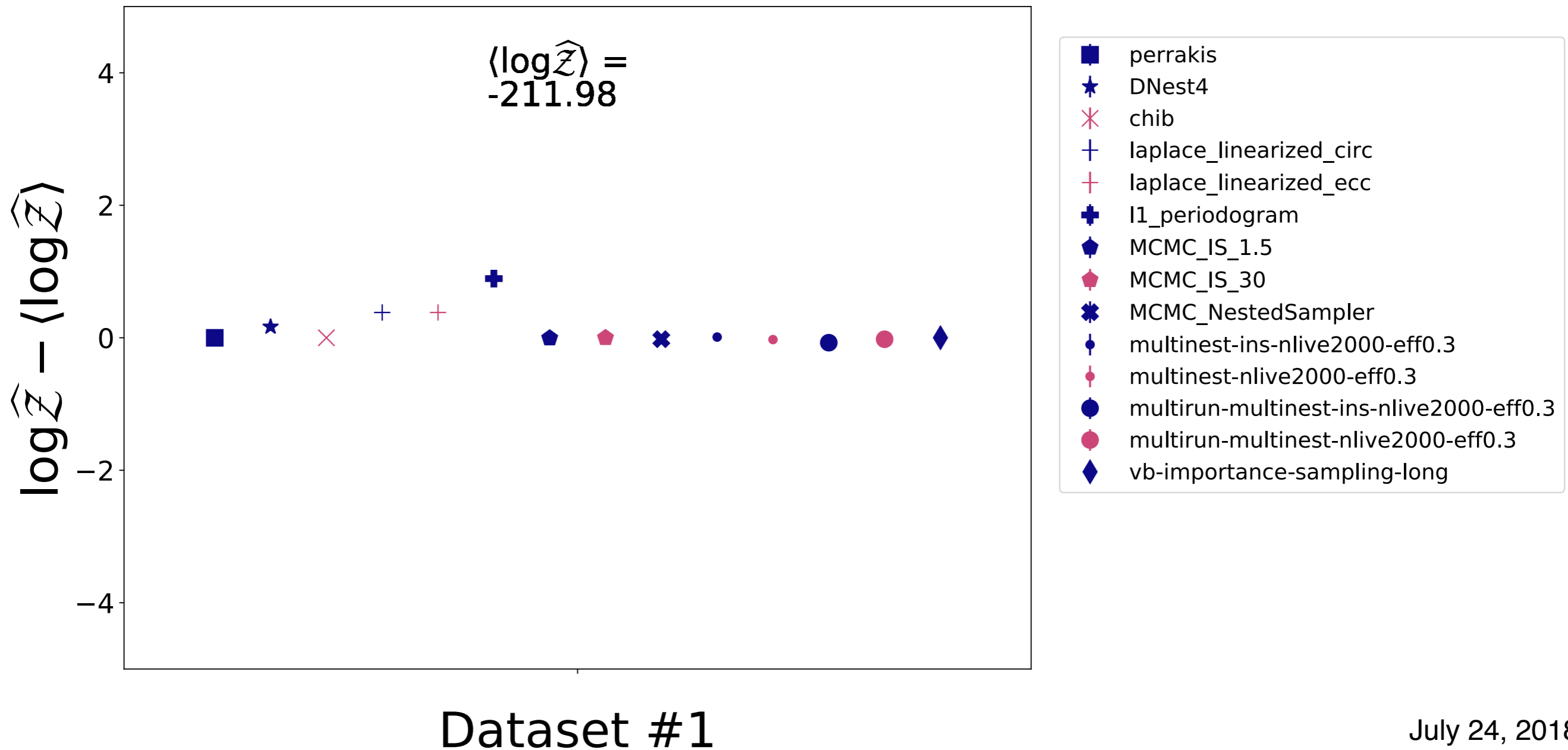
# Evidence Challenge Results

0-planet model (2 parameters)



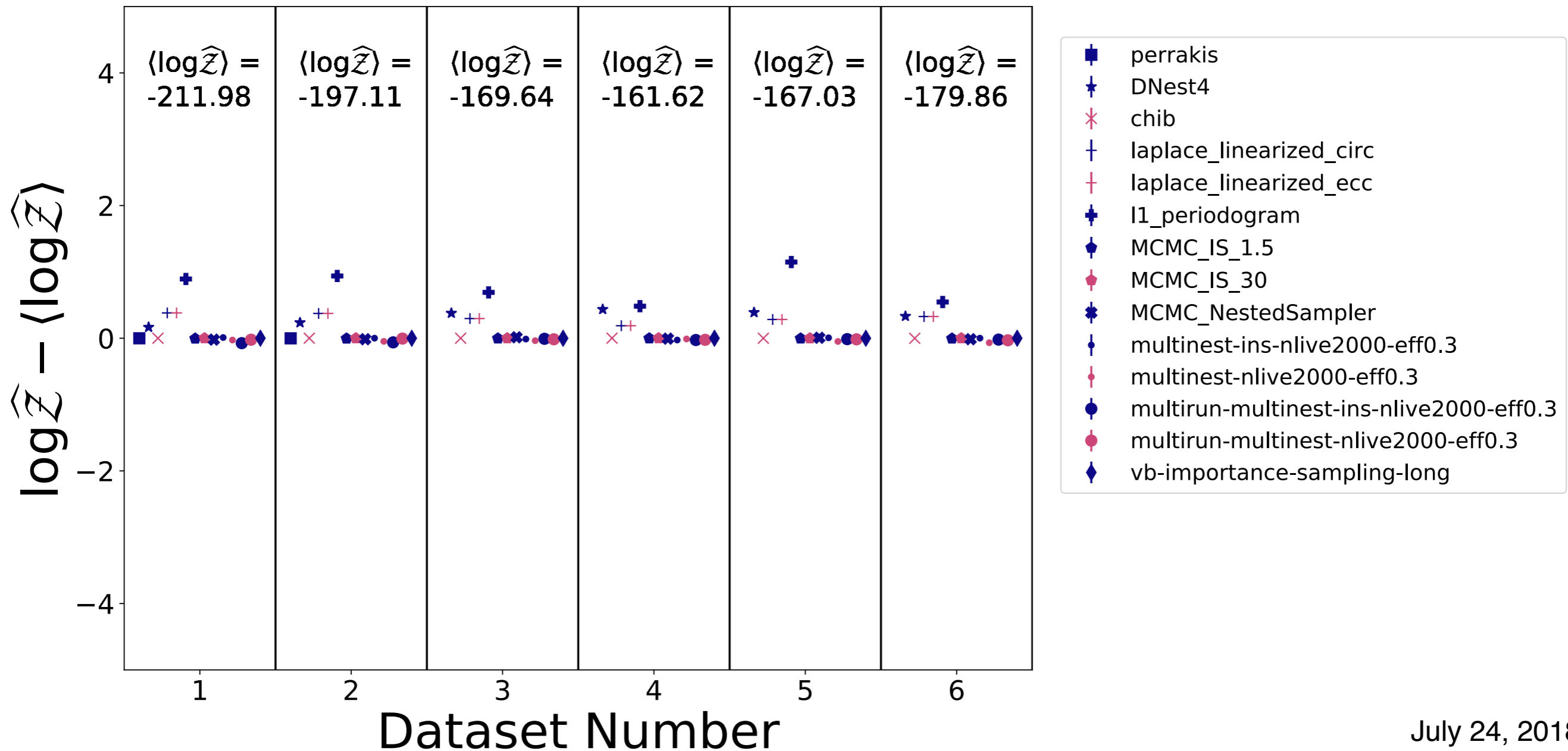
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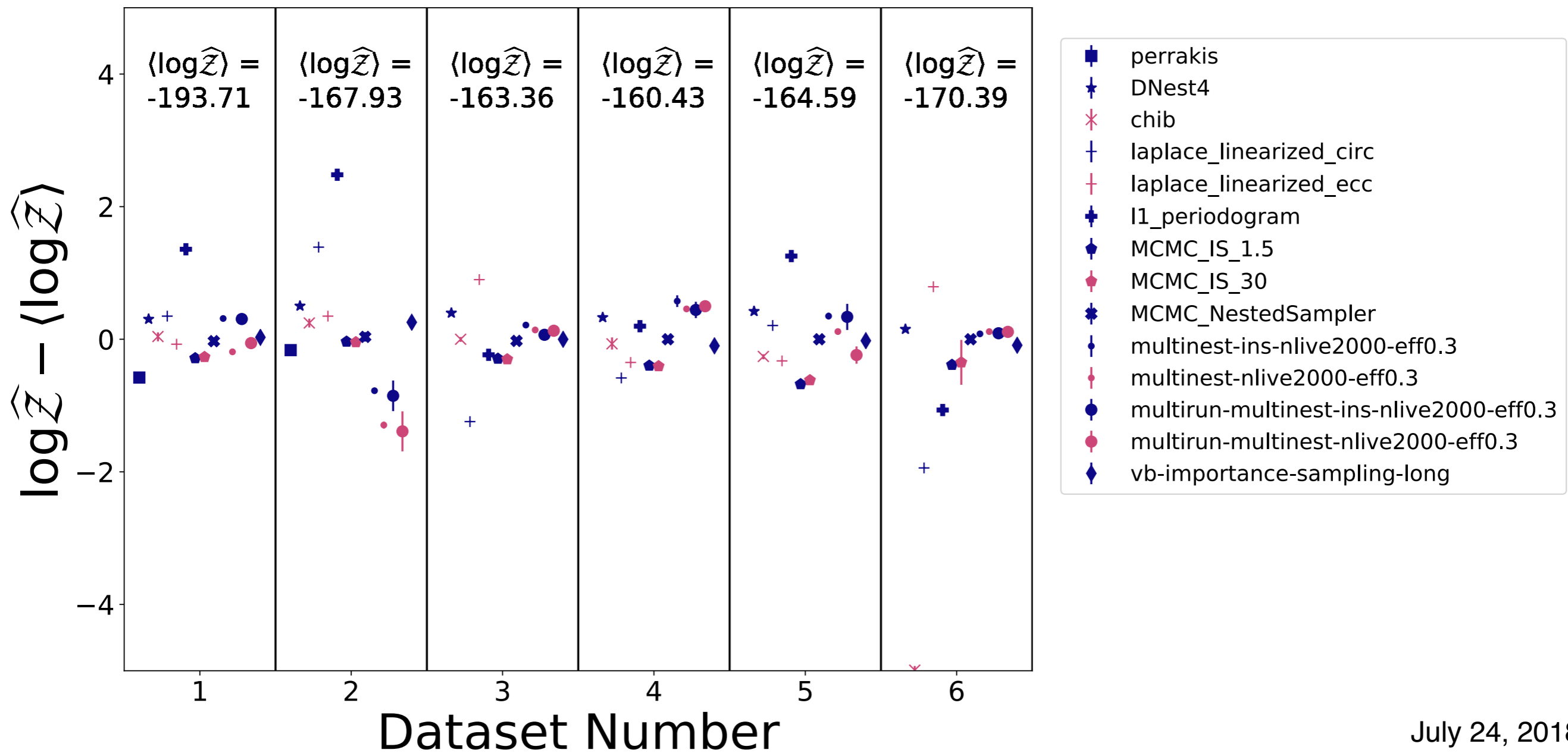
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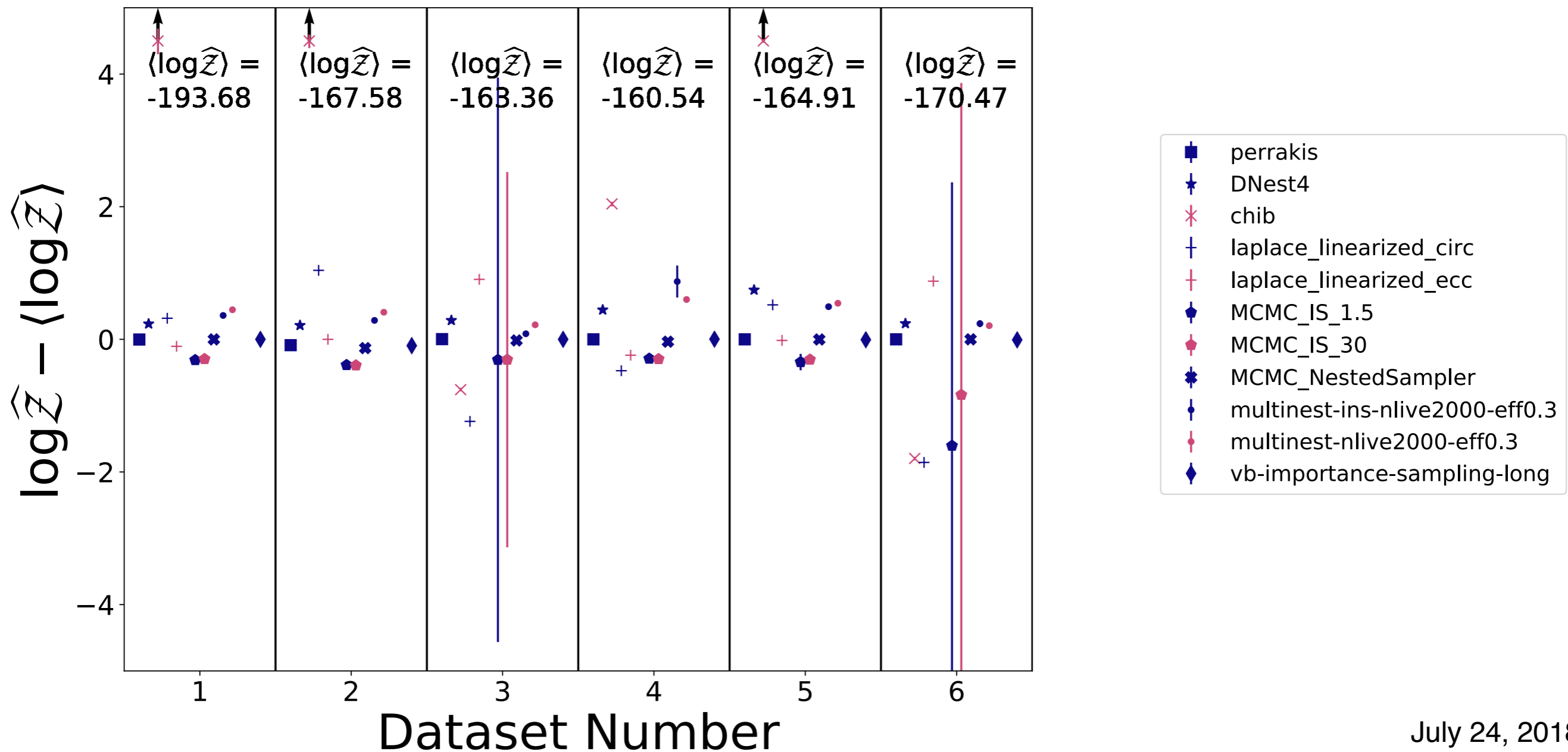
# Evidence Challenge Results

1-planet model (7 parameters)



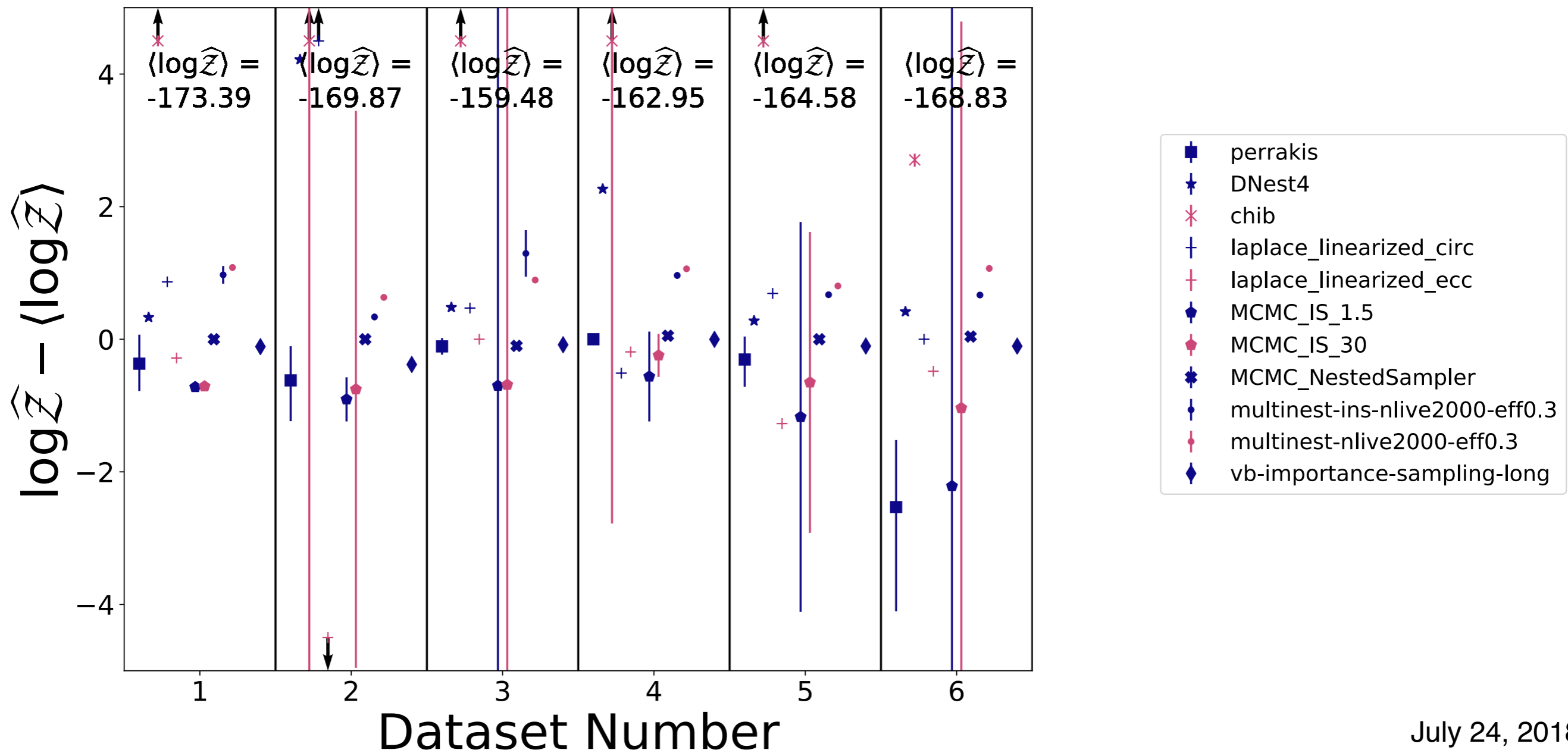
# Evidence Challenge Results

1-planet model (7 parameters) narrow priors



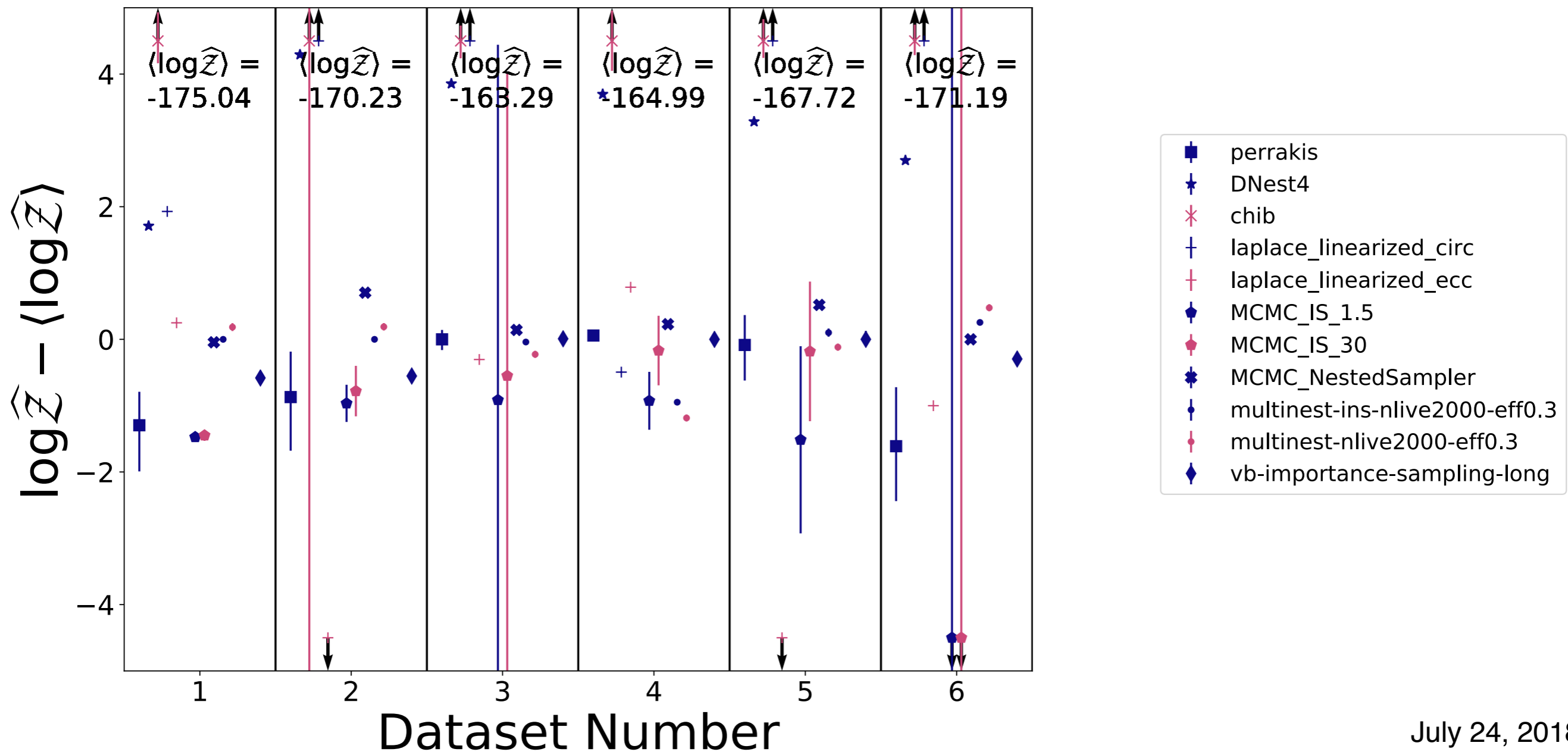
# Evidence Challenge Results

2-planet model (12 parameters) narrow priors



# Evidence Challenge Results

3-planet model (17 parameters) narrow priors



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Internal estimates of one evidence calculation underestimate the uncertainty.  
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...and can I somehow cram all this  
**information** into a single figure?

datasets

models

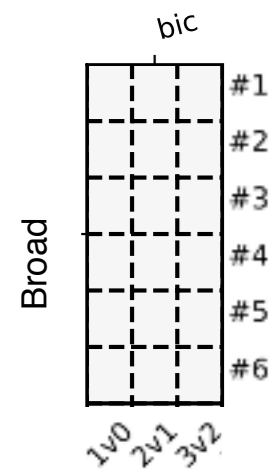
priors

methods

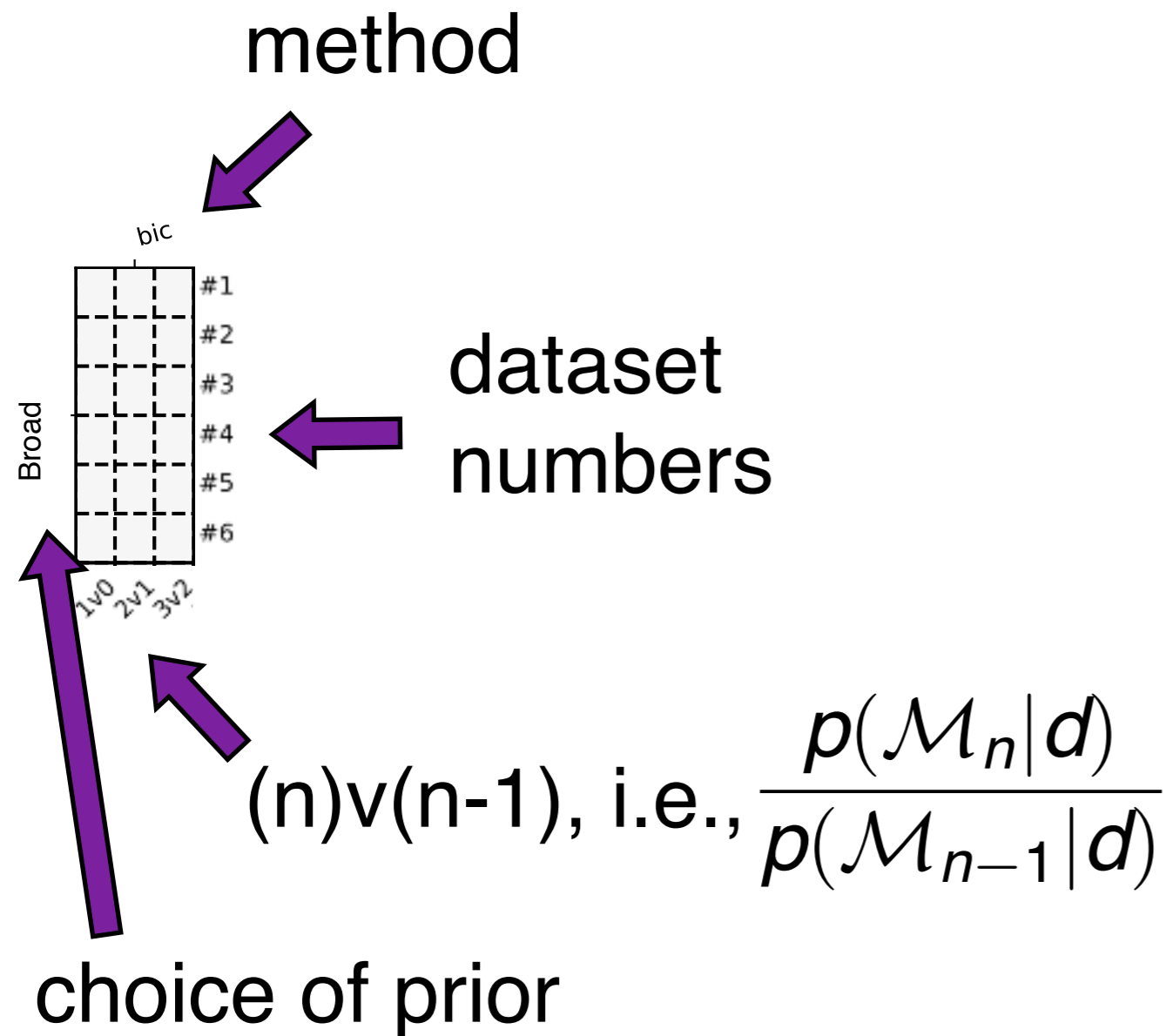
logZ or logOddsRatio



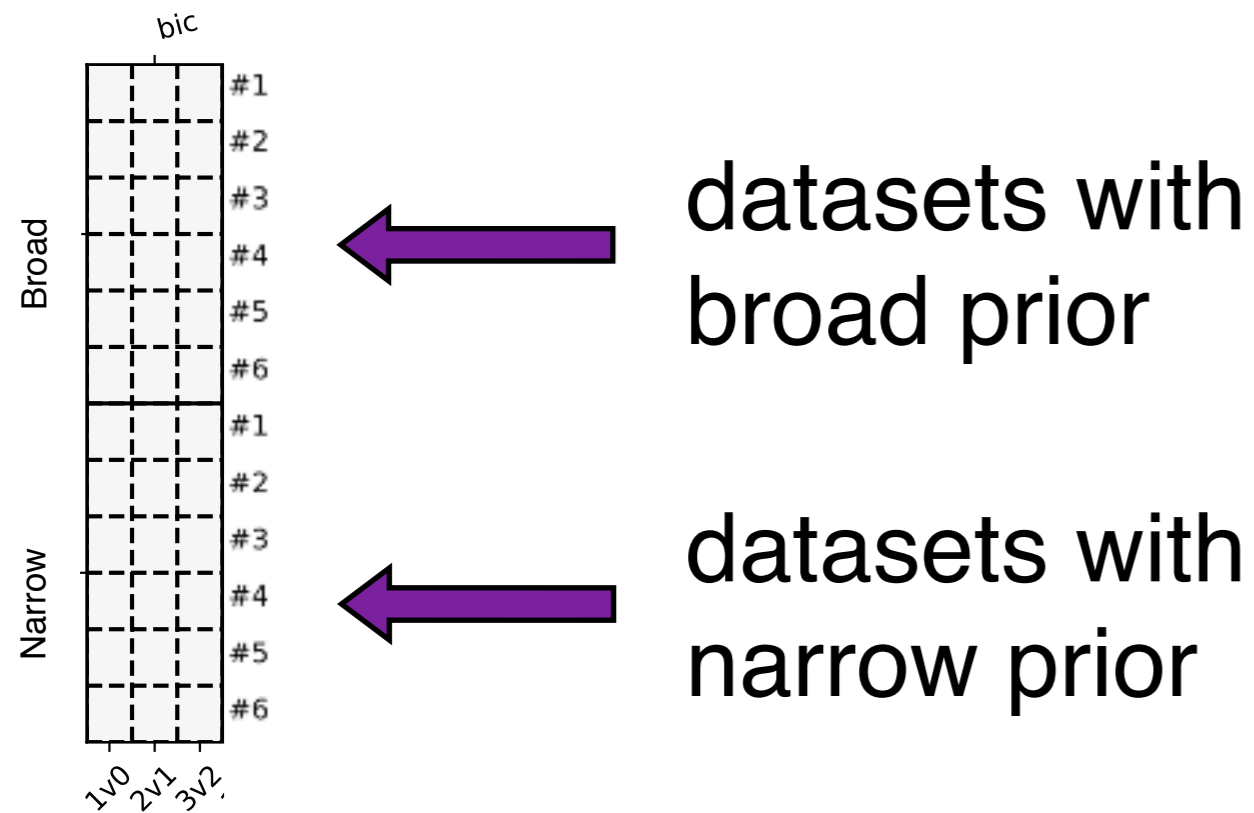
# What different methods say about n vs n-1 planets



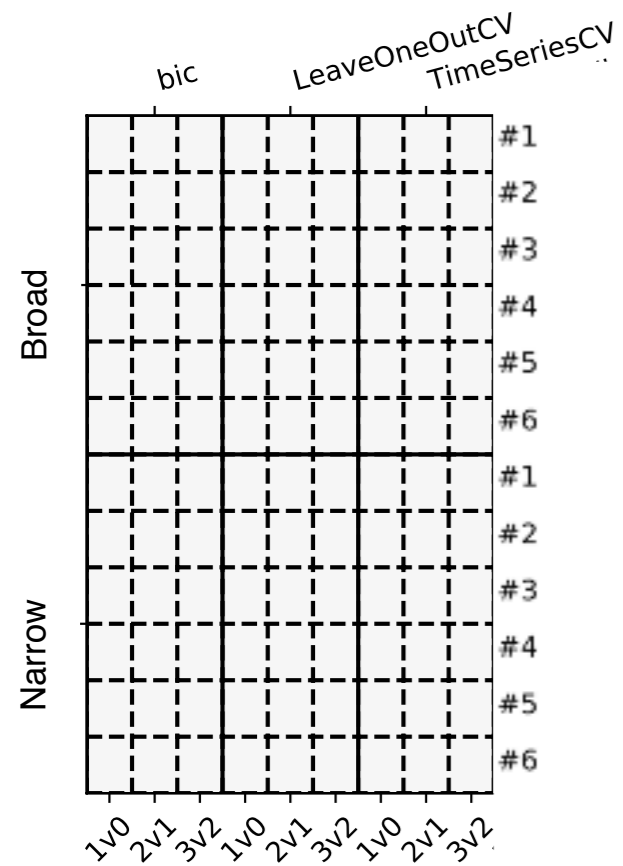
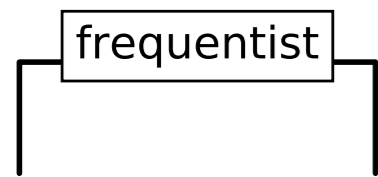
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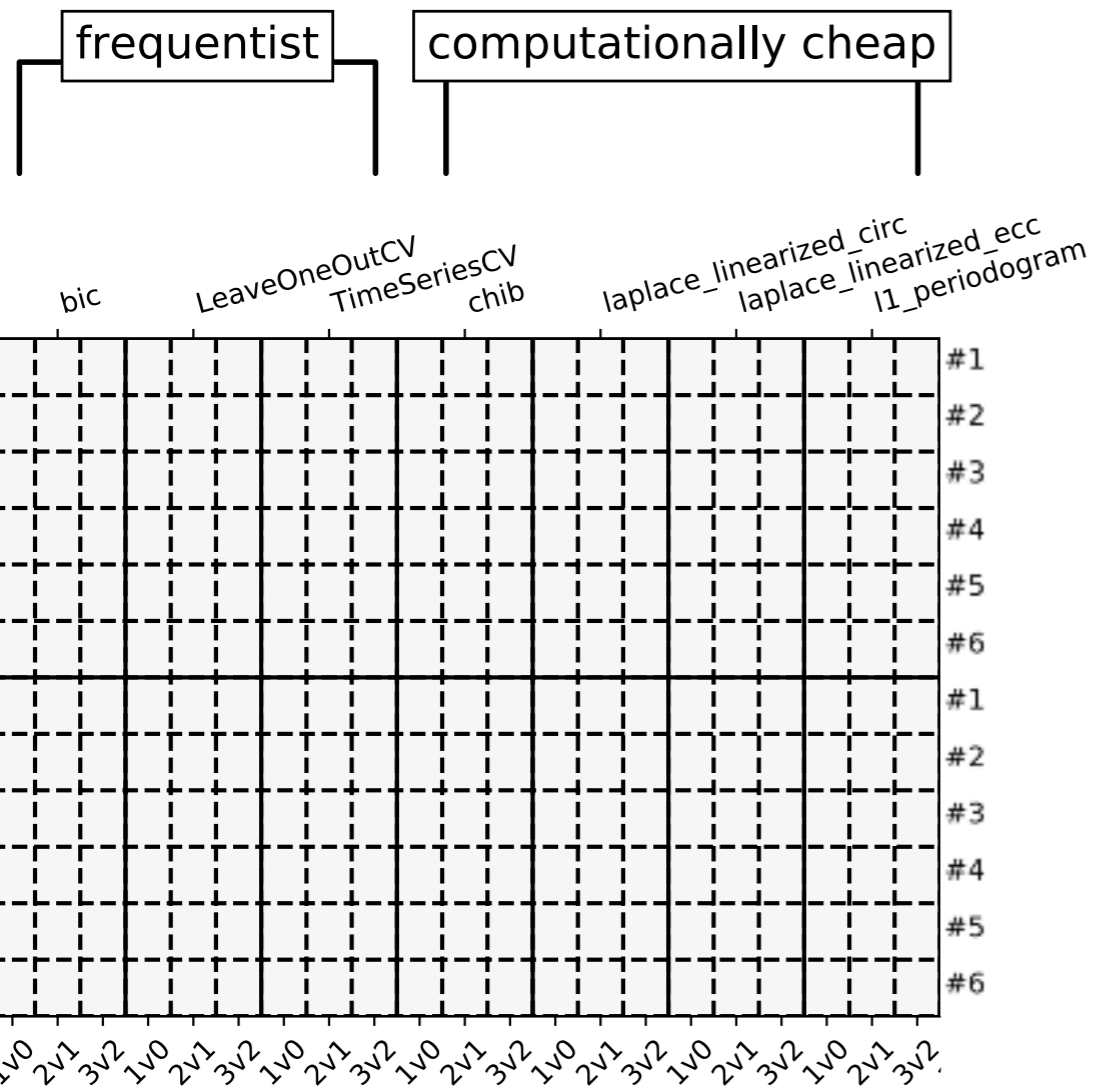
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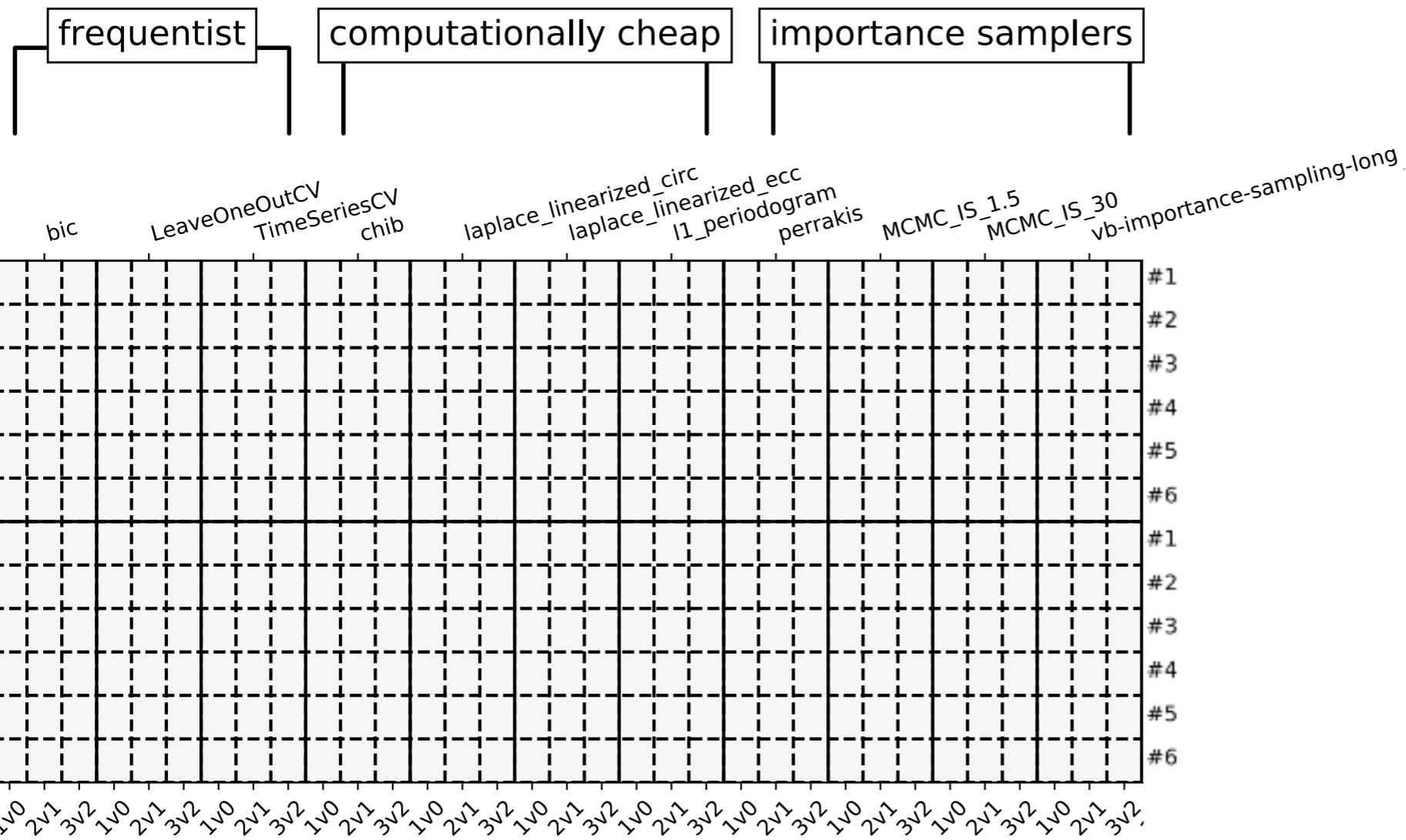
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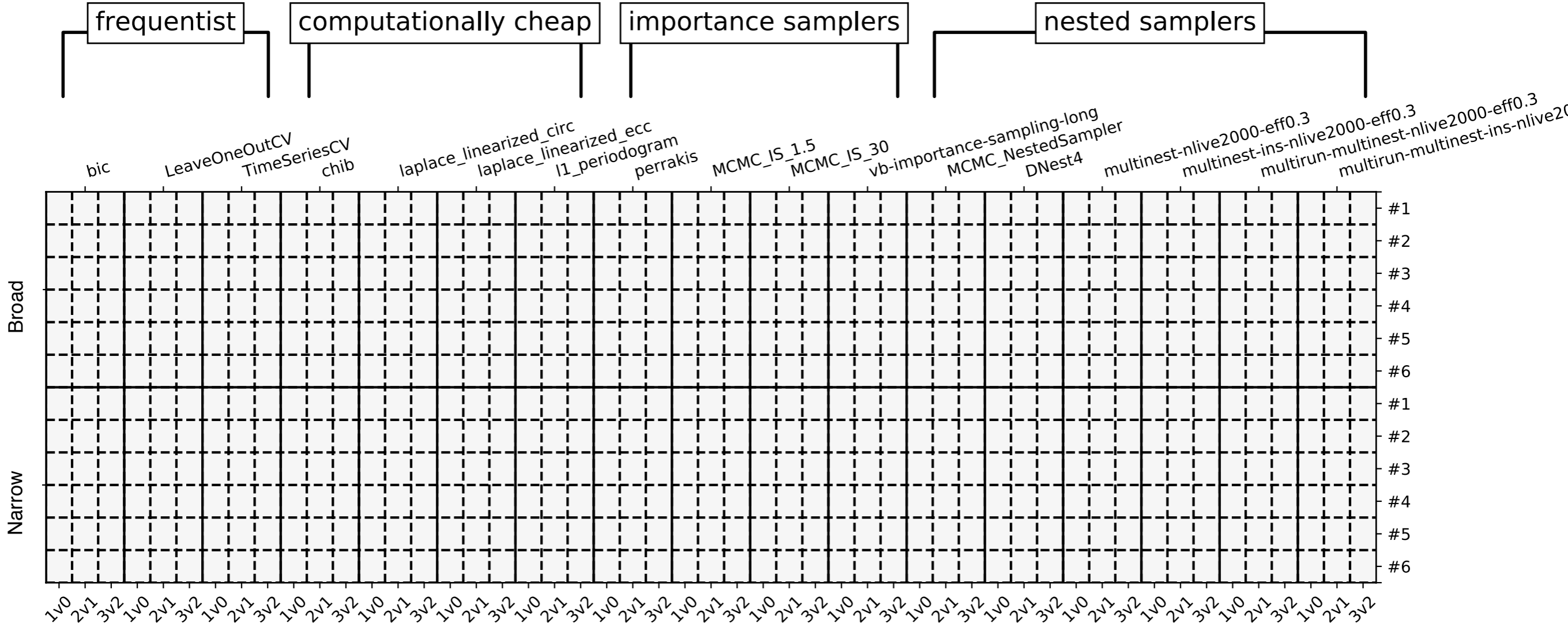
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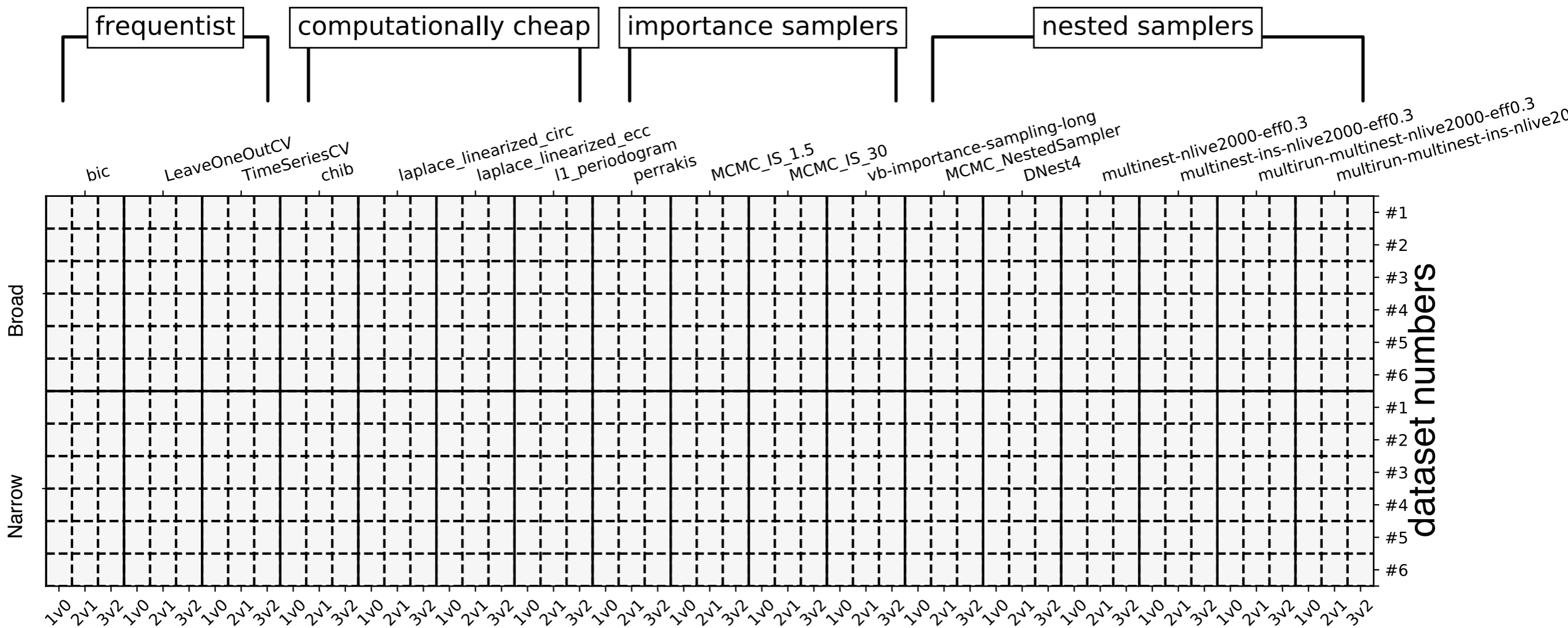


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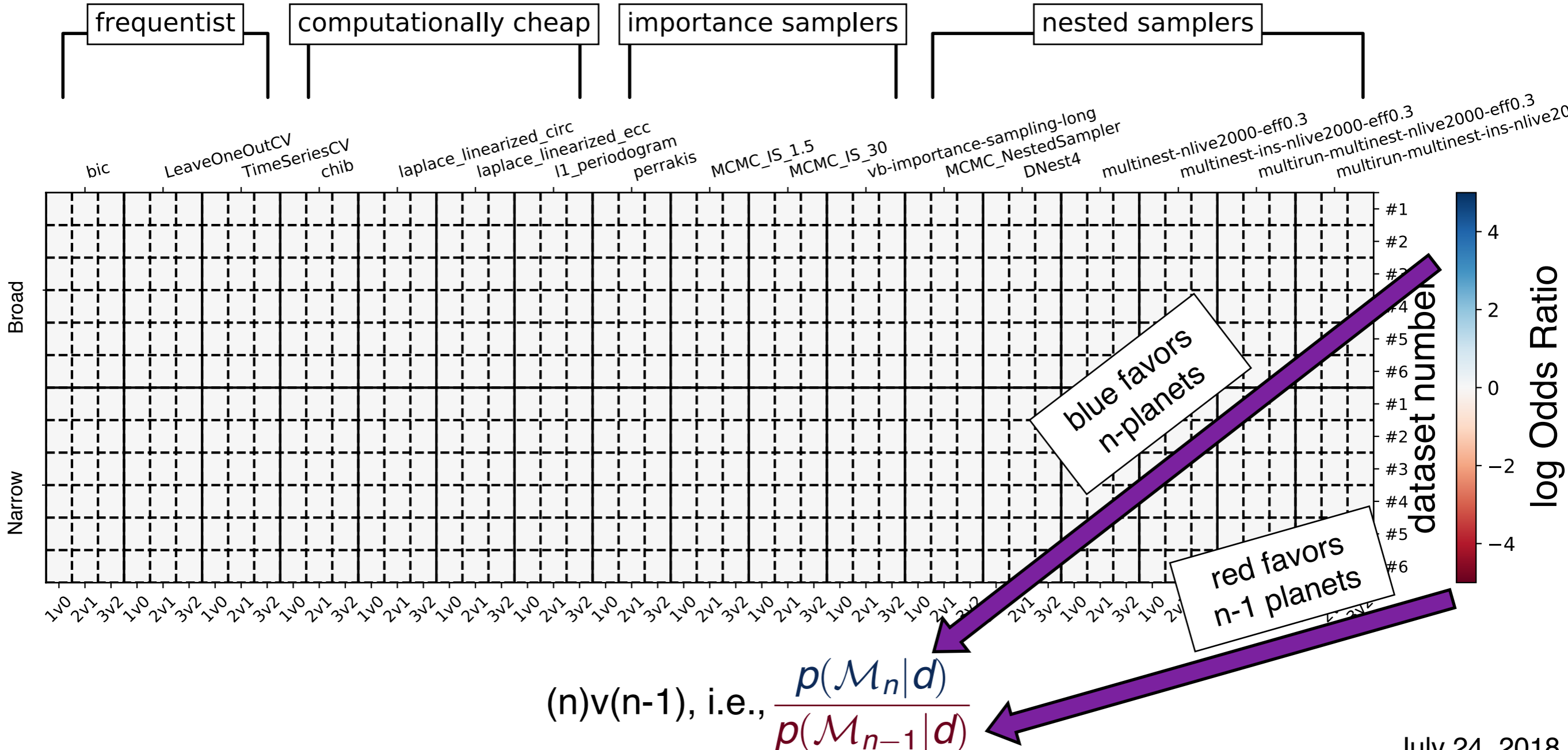


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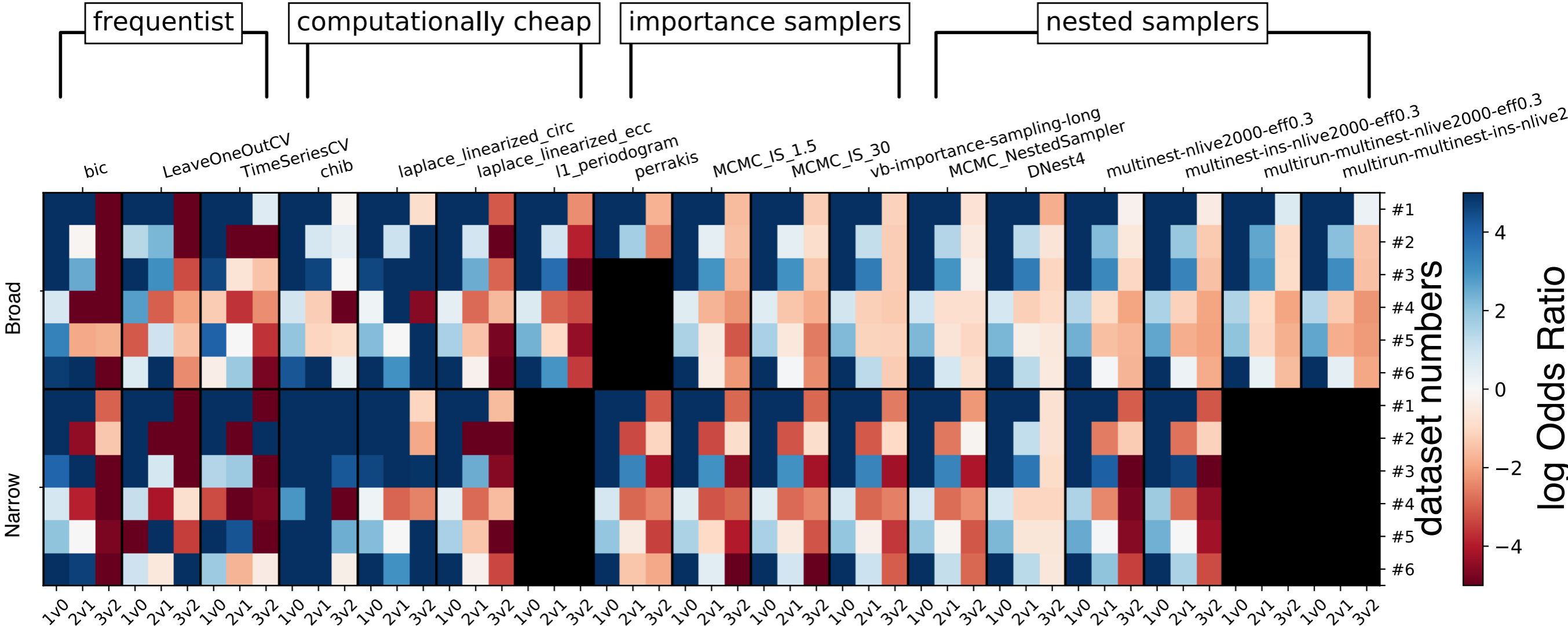


$$(n)v(n-1), \text{ i.e., } \frac{p(\mathcal{M}_n|d)}{p(\mathcal{M}_{n-1}|d)}$$

# What different methods say about n vs n-1 planets



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**Importance and nested sampling methods mostly arrive at the same conclusions.  
Cheaper methods are relatively overconfident in estimated odds ratios.**

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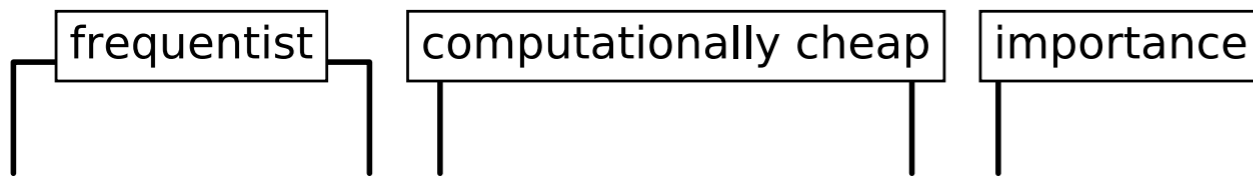
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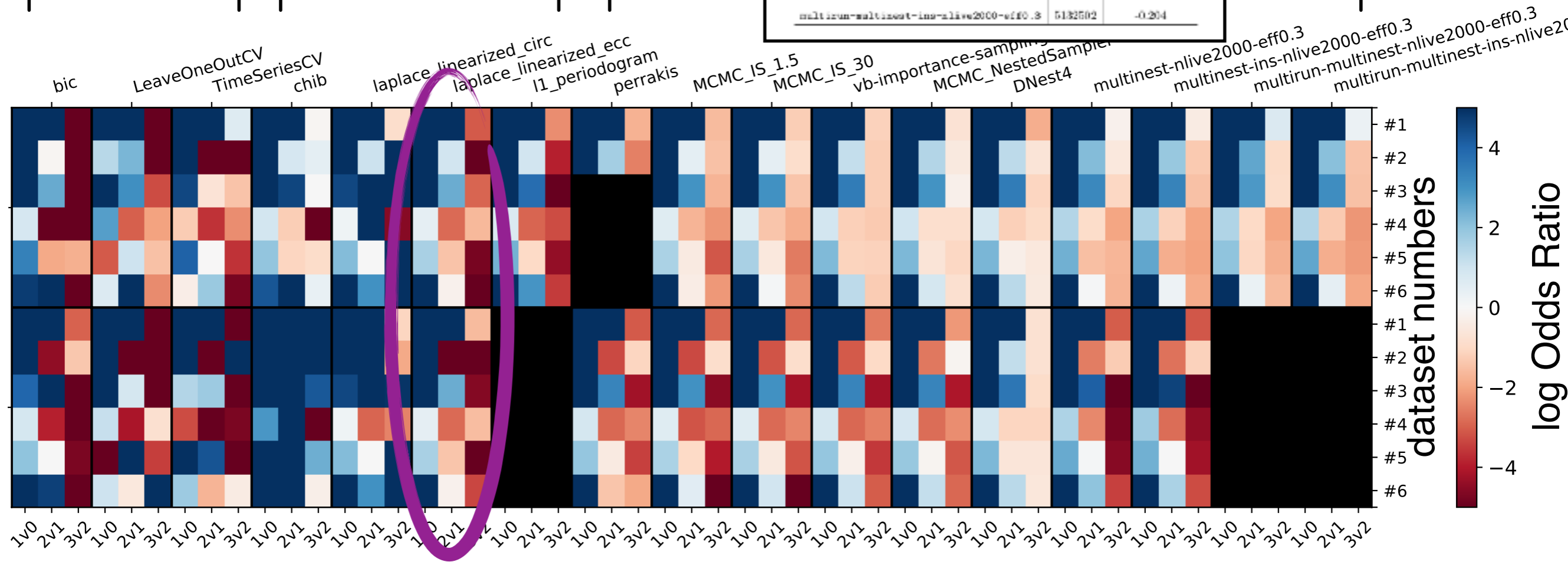
out

Table 4. Number of likelihood evaluations ( $n_L$ ) reported to calculate  $\log \hat{\mathcal{Z}}$  for Dataset 2 and  $\mathcal{M}_2$ , assuming broad period priors. Similar methods with different tuning parameters or simplifying assumptions are grouped together. The median  $\log \hat{\mathcal{Z}}$  for this set of methods is -194.005.

Method (directory name)	$n_L$	$\log \hat{\mathcal{Z}} - (\log \hat{\mathcal{Z}})$
chib	1000000	-0.342
laplace_linearized_circ	264	1.012
laplace_linearized_ecc	319	-0.128
vb-importance-sampling	281879	-0.448
vb-importance-sampling-long	2883883	-0.012
MCMC_NestedSampler	8814939	0.062
multinest-nlive400-eff0.3	173480	-0.510
multinest-nlive400-eff0.01	788668	0.551
multinest-nlive2000-eff0.3	1017587	-0.578
multinest-ins-nlive400-eff0.3	173480	0.018
multinest-ins-nlive400-eff0.01	788668	0.984
multinest-ins-nlive2000-eff0.3	1017587	-0.34
multirun-multinest-nlive400-eff0.3	1184856	0.012
multirun-multinest-nlive400-eff0.01	5093831	0.588
multirun-multinest-nlive2000-eff0.3	5132502	-0.234
multirun-multinest-ins-nlive400-eff0.3	1184856	0.107
multirun-multinest-ins-nlive400-eff0.01	5093831	1.105
multirun-multinest-ins-nlive2000-eff0.3	5132502	-0.204



rs



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**Recommended: Laplace approximation (for large datasets or complex likelihoods)**

**Recommended/further improved: most of the numerical methods**

# Evidence Challenge Conclusions and Links

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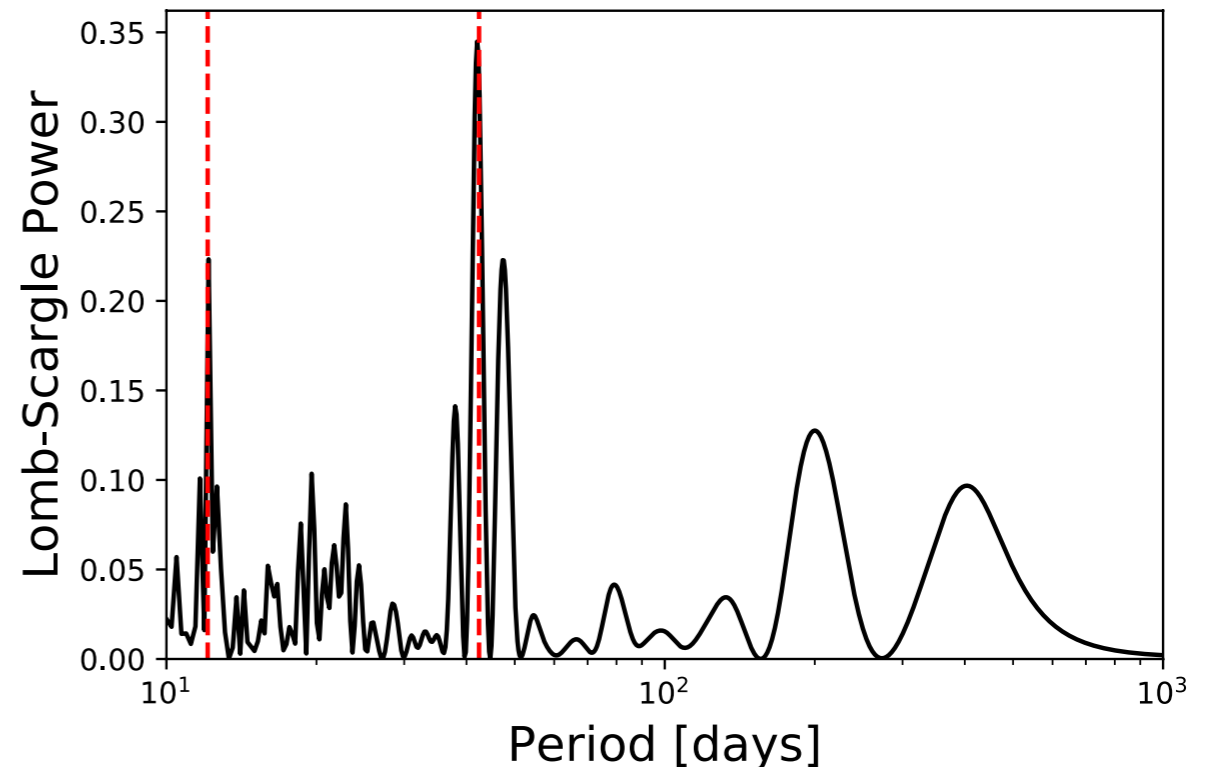
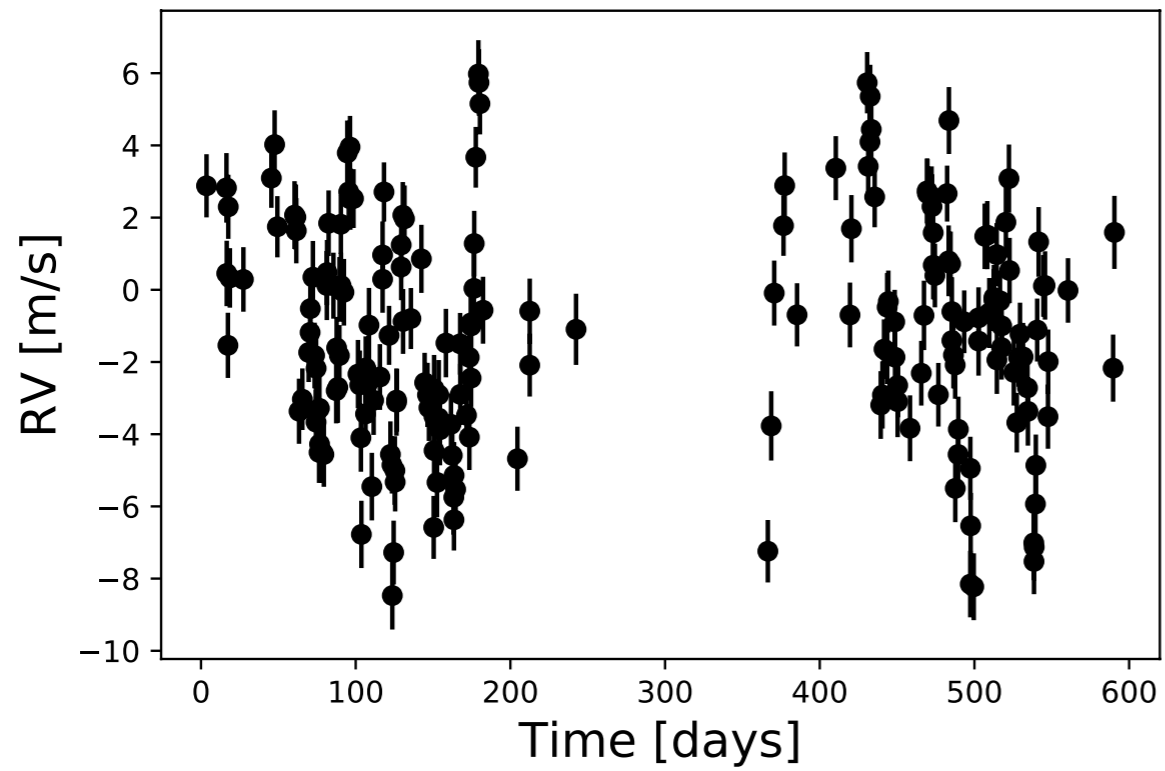
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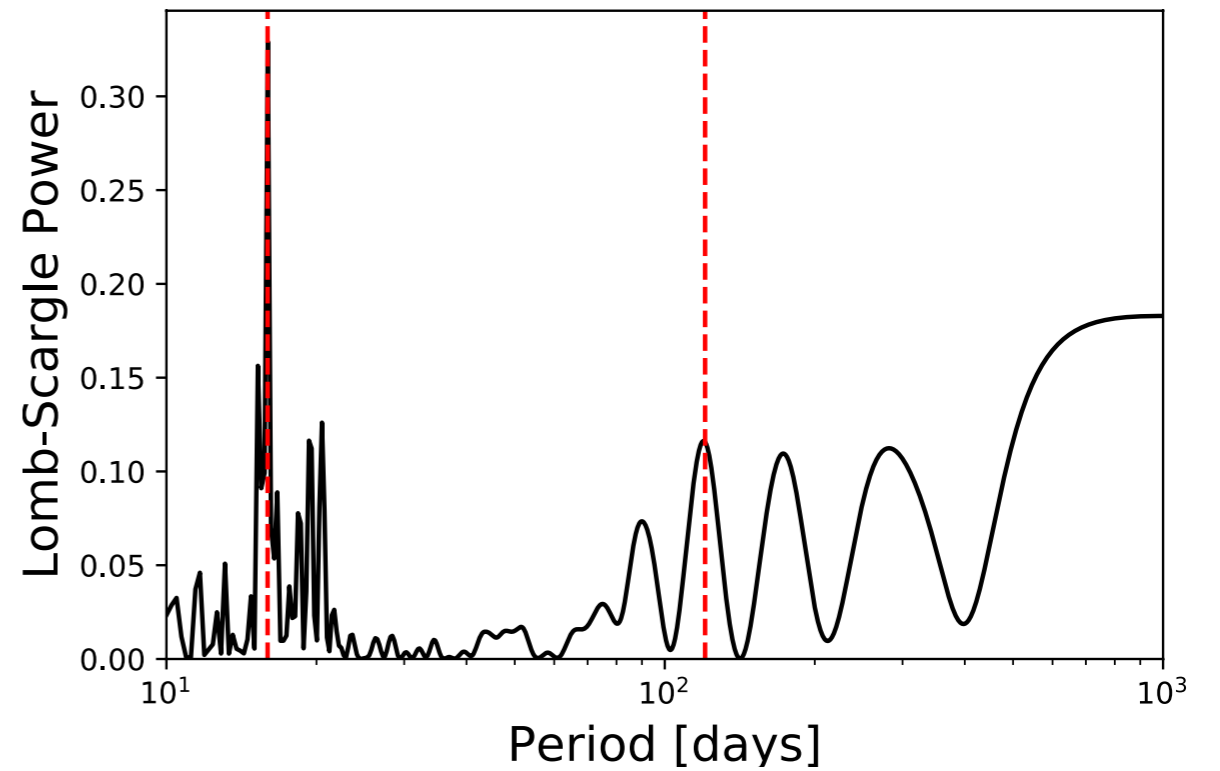
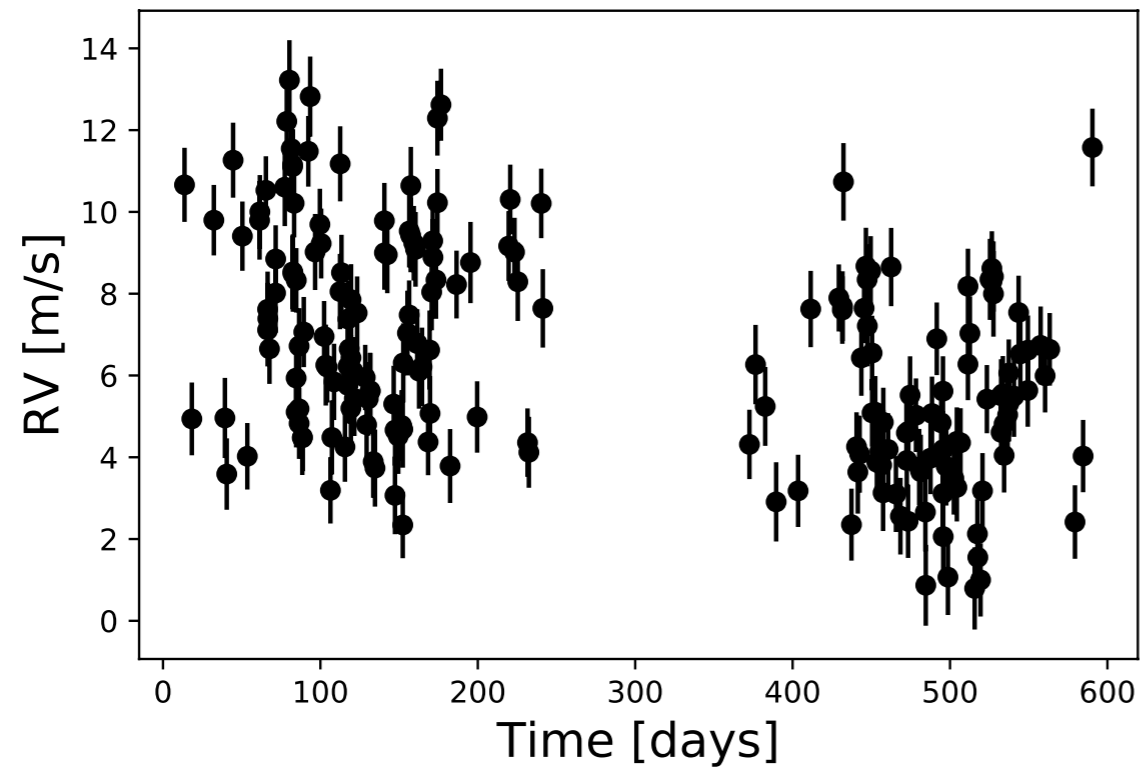


# Supplemental Slides

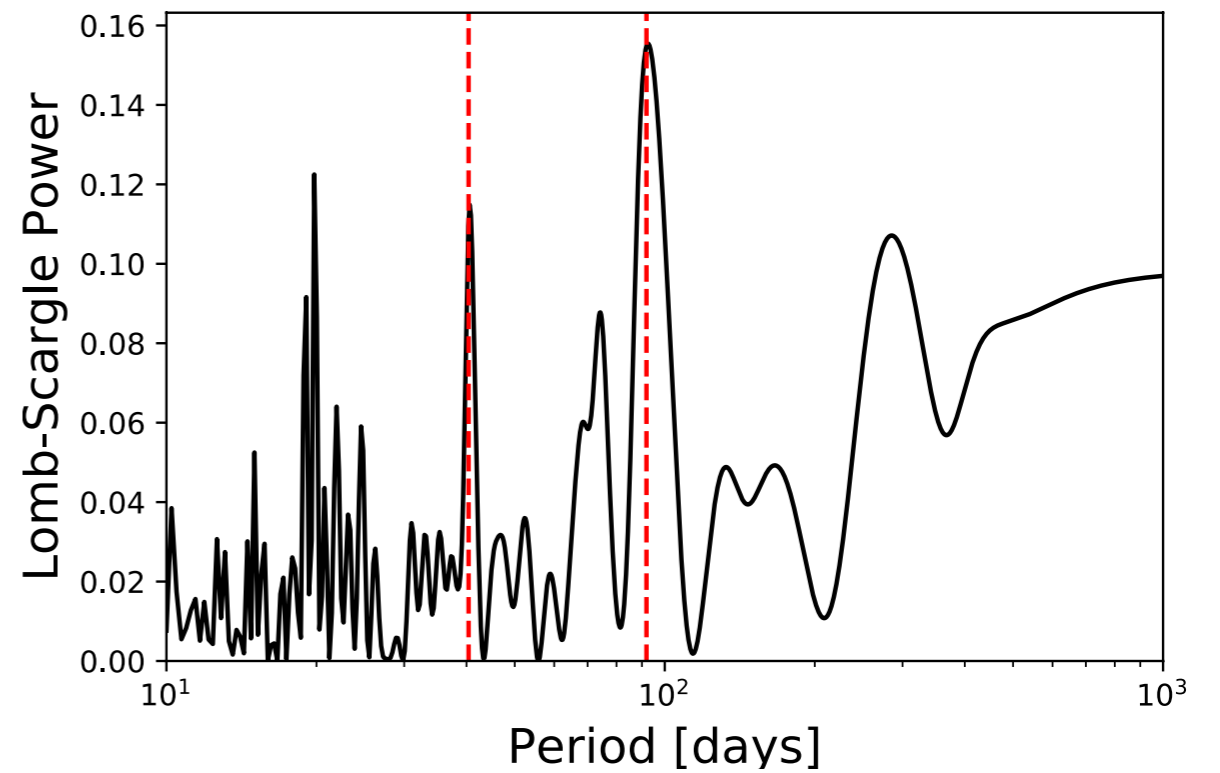
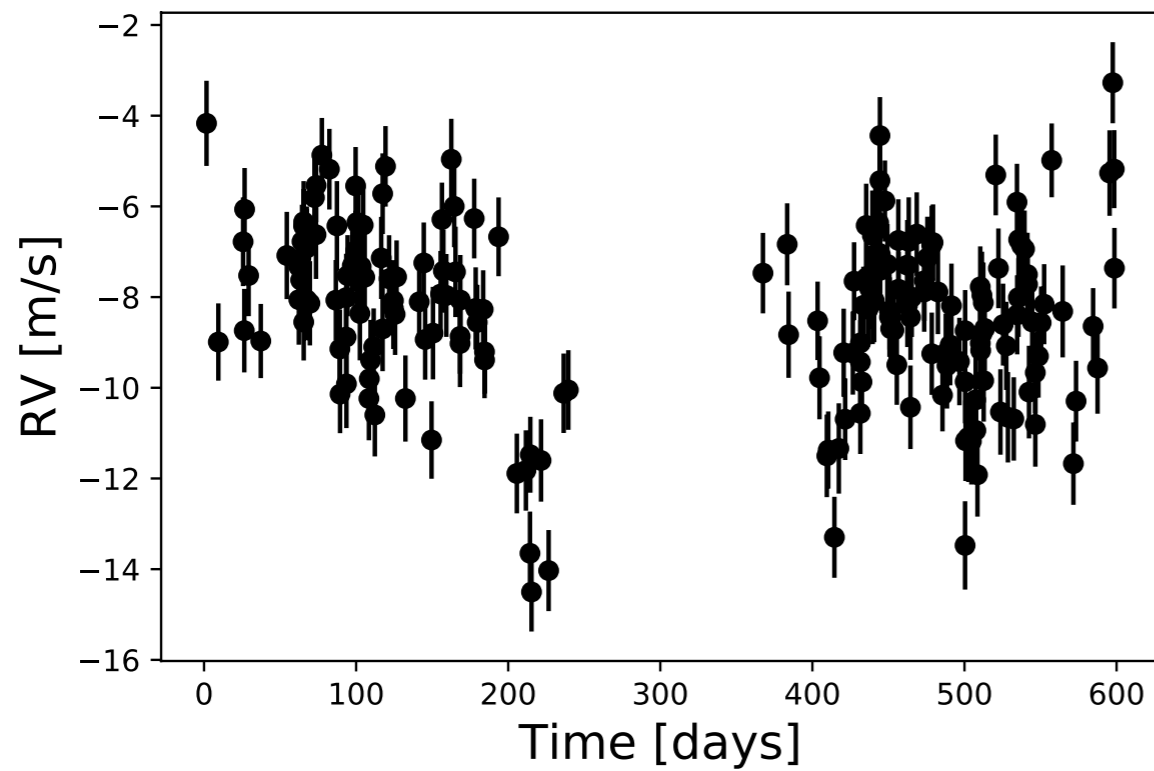
# Dataset #1



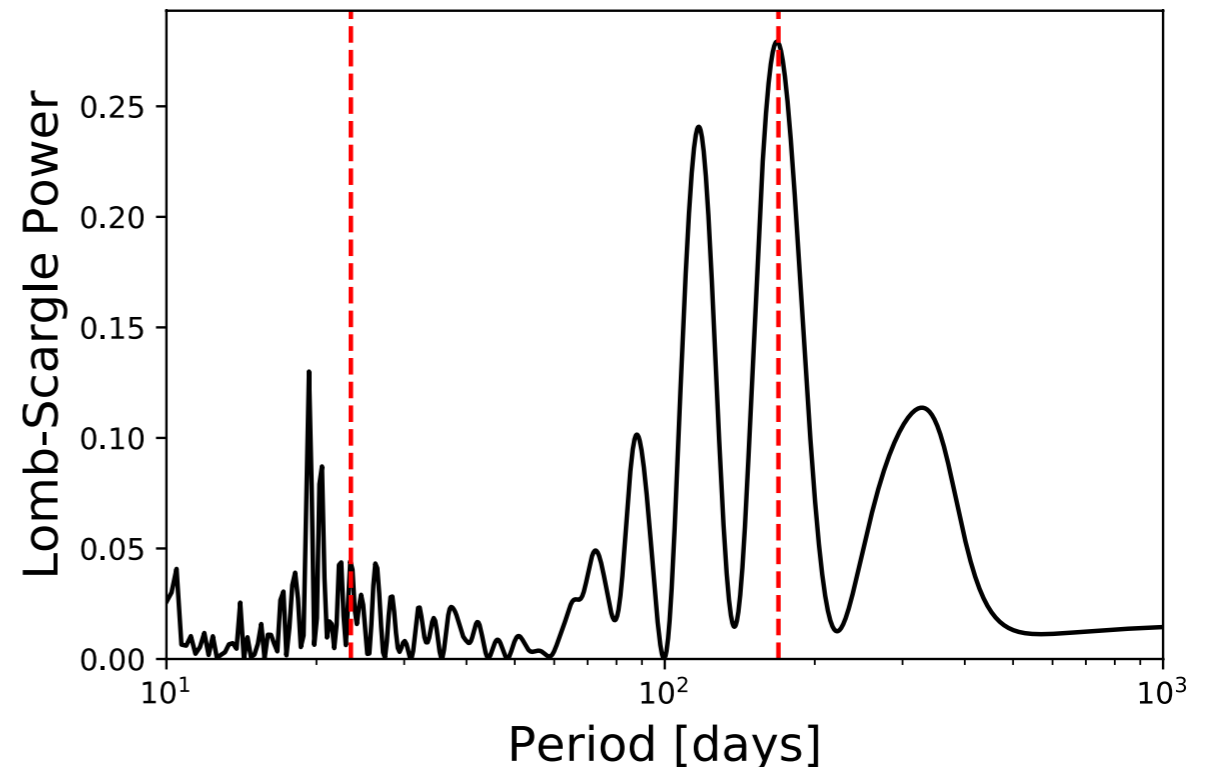
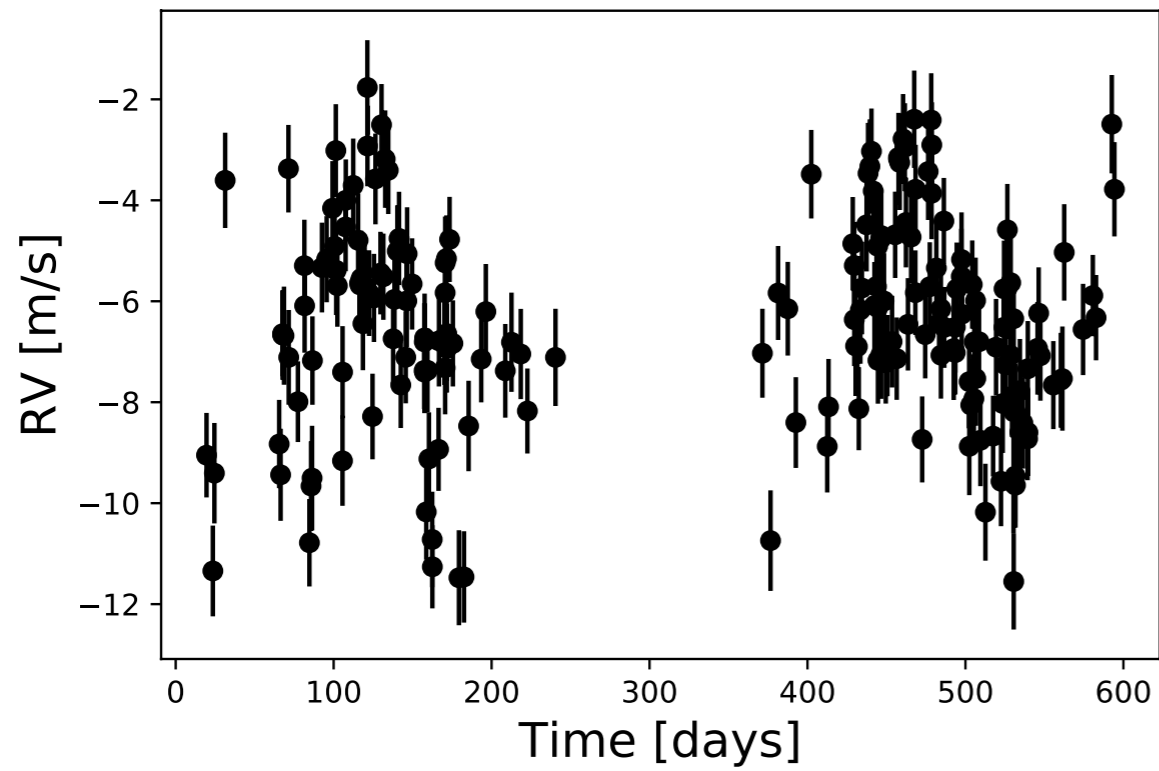
# Dataset #2



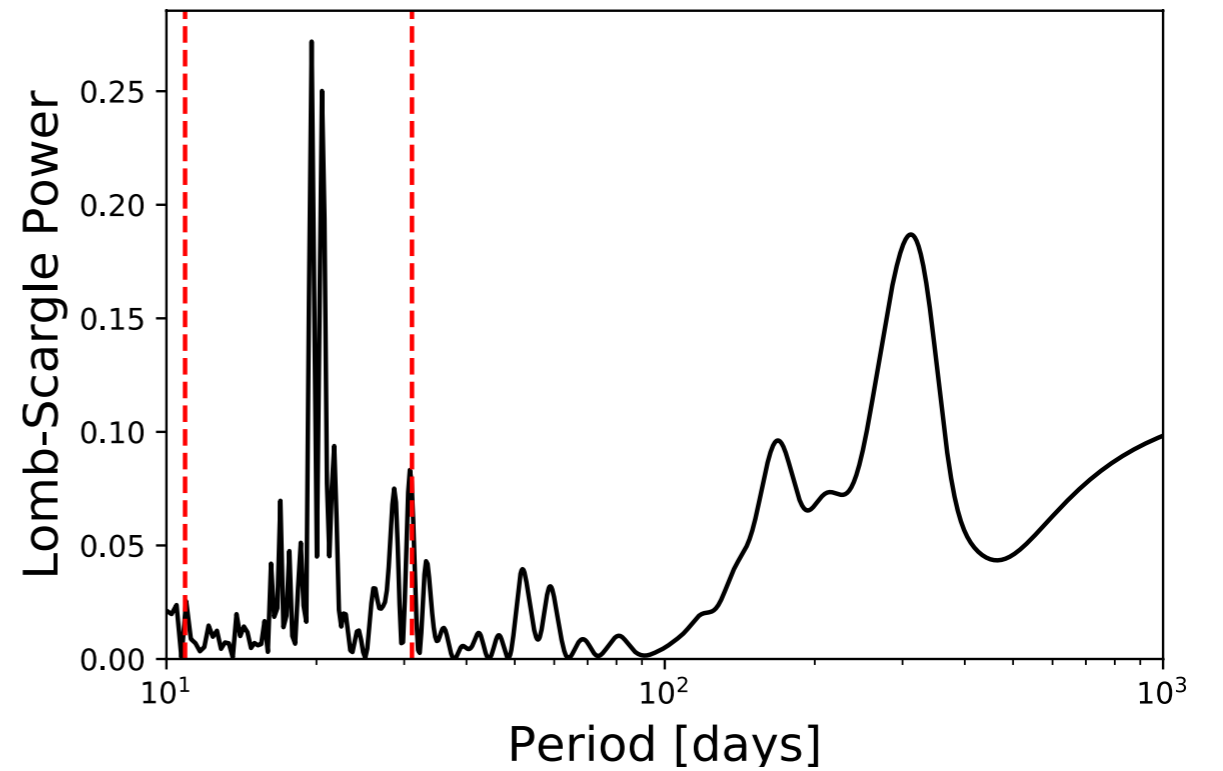
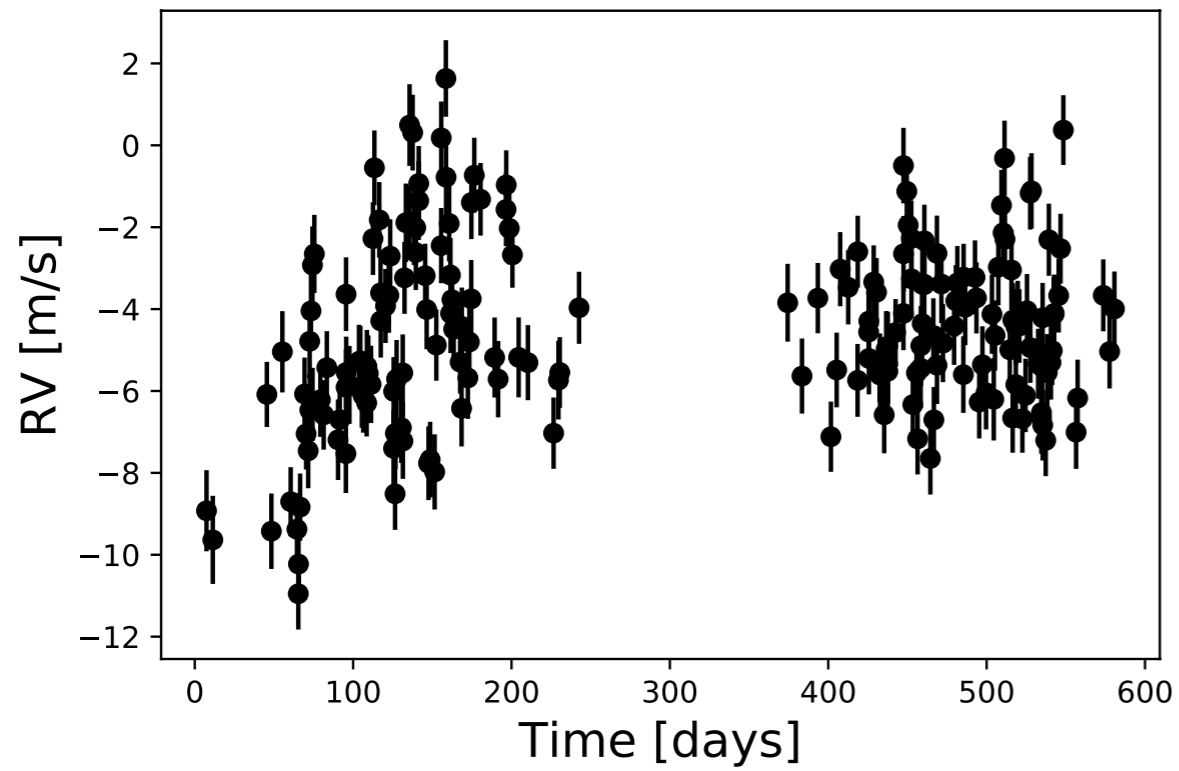
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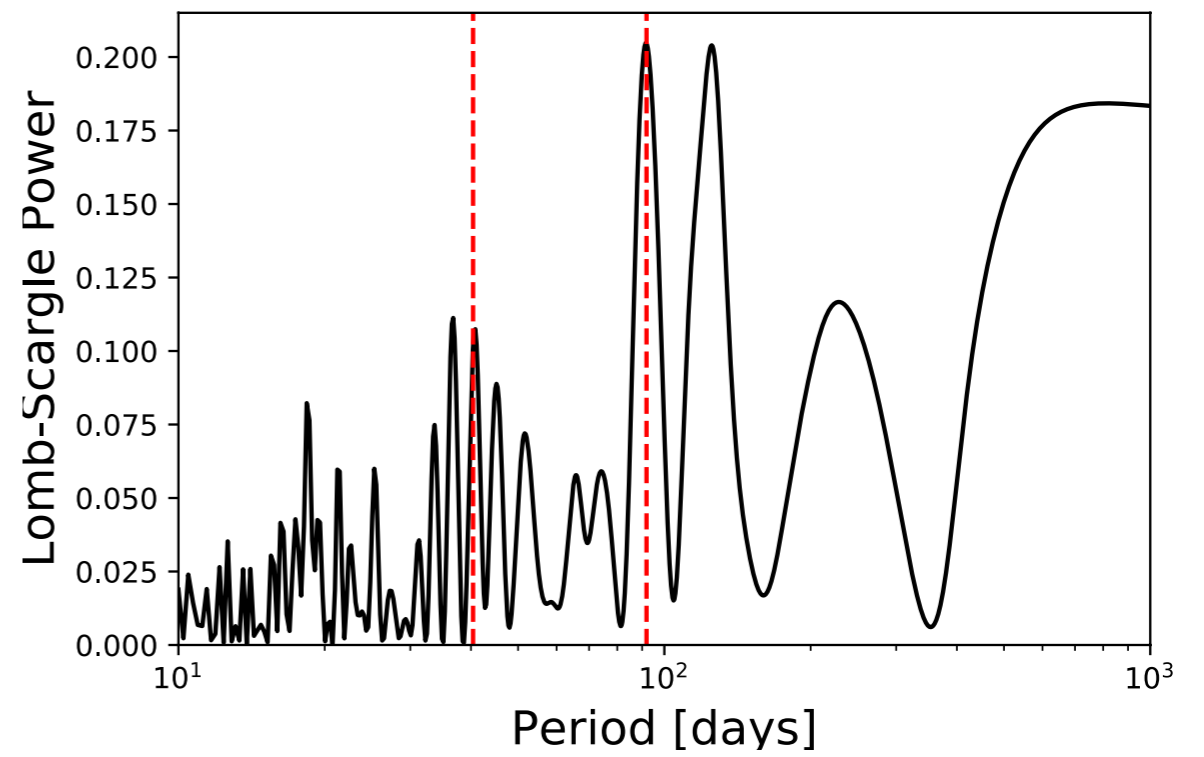
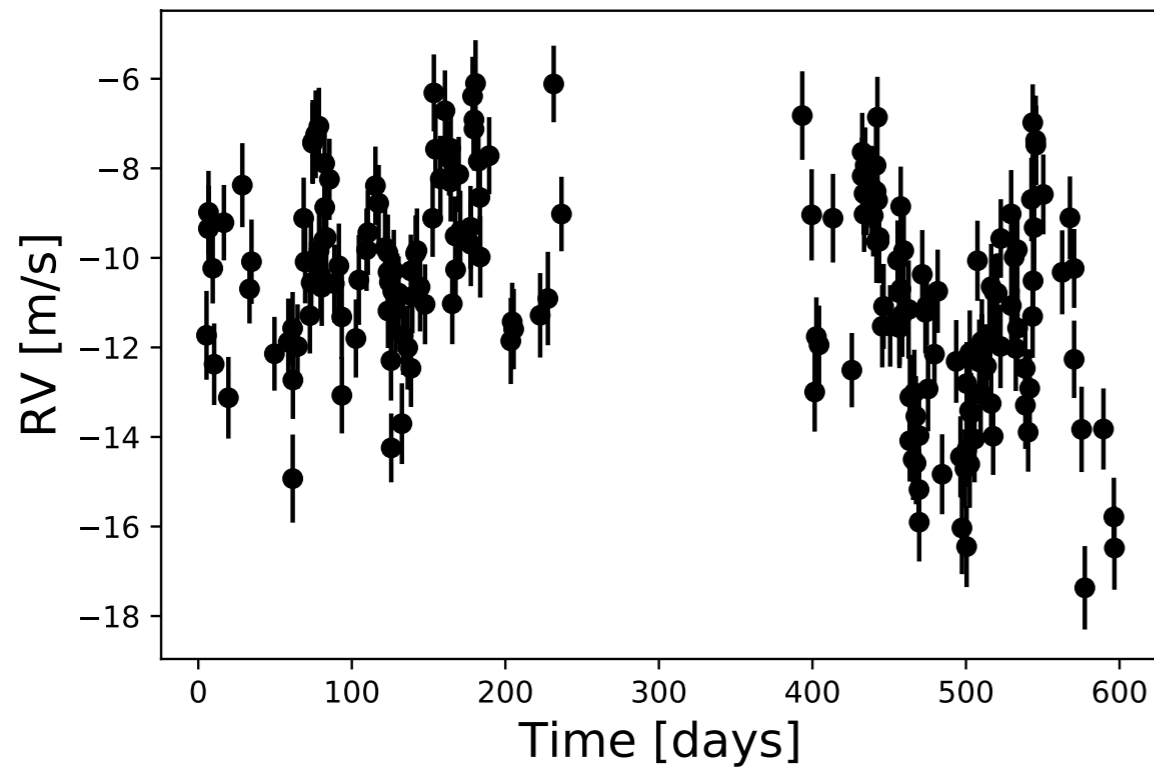
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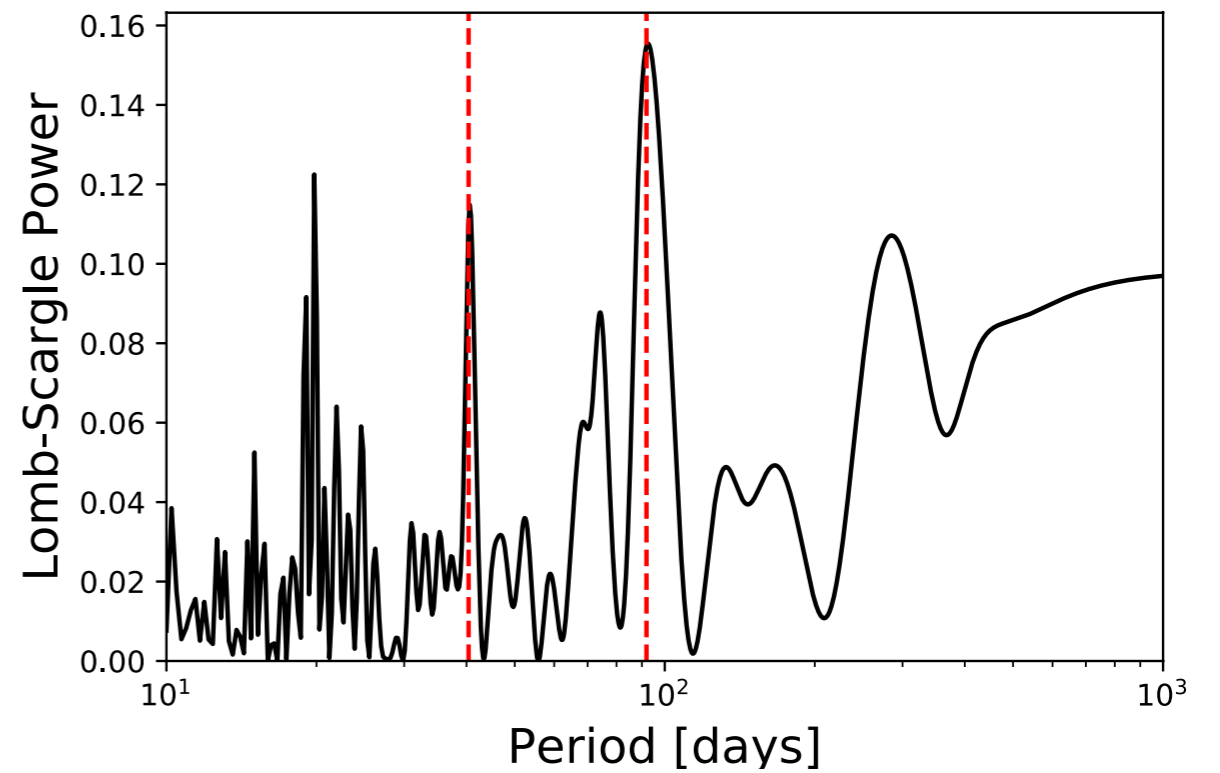
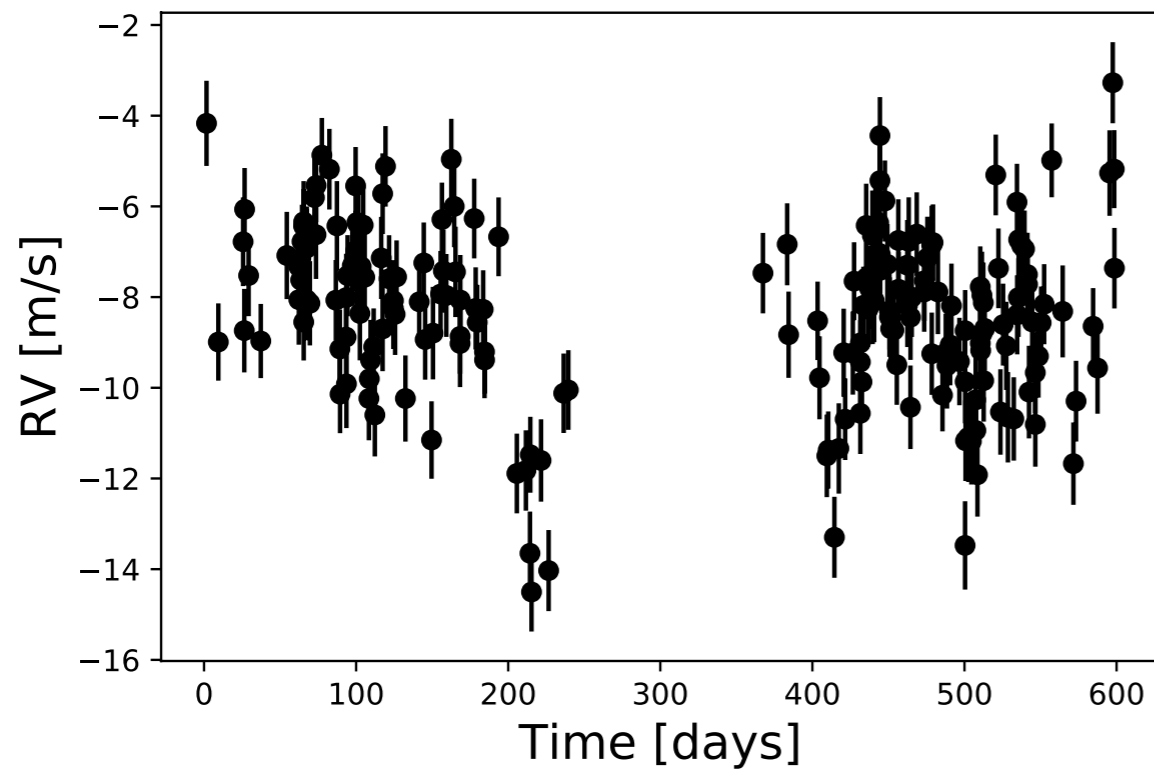
# Dataset #5



# Dataset #6

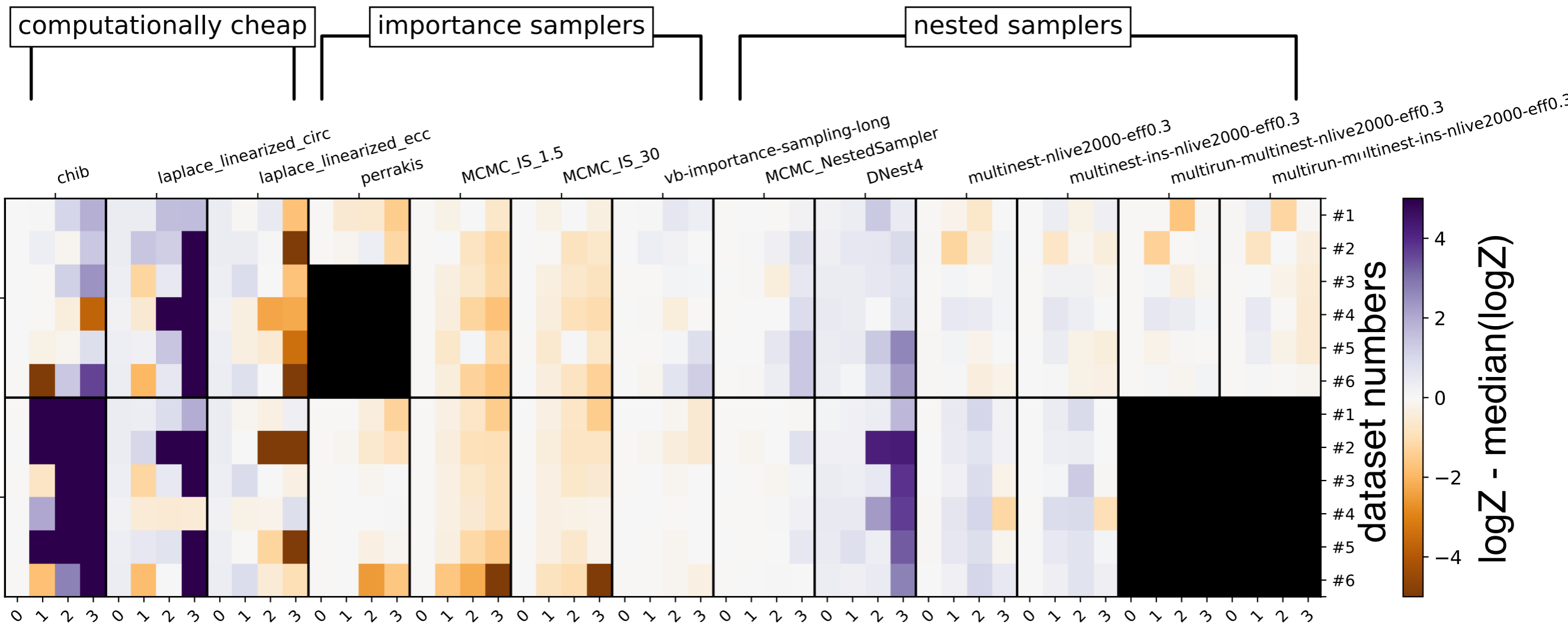


# Dataset #3





# What different methods say about the evidence estimate



# Efficiently computing the FML for thousands of datasets

## Systematic mischaracterization of exoplanetary system dynamical histories from a model degeneracy near mean-motion resonance

[John H. Boisvert](#), [Benjamin E. Nelson](#), [Jason H. Steffen](#)

*(Submitted on 26 Apr 2018)*

There is a degeneracy in the radial velocity exoplanet signal between a single planet on an eccentric orbit and a two-planet system with a period ratio of 2:1. This degeneracy could lead to misunderstandings of the dynamical histories of planetary systems as well as measurements of planetary abundances if the correct architecture is not established. We constrain the rate of mischaracterization by analyzing a sample of 60 non-transiting, radial velocity systems orbiting main sequence stars from the NASA Exoplanet Archive (NASA Archive) using a new Bayesian model comparison pipeline. We find that 15 systems (25% of our sample) show compelling evidence for the two-planet case with a confidence level of 95%.

Comments: 4 pages, 4 figures, and a two-page appendix containing 2 figures

Subjects: **Earth and Planetary Astrophysics** (astro-ph.EP)

Cite as: [arXiv:1804.10143](#) [astro-ph.EP]

(or [arXiv:1804.10143v1](#) [astro-ph.EP] for this version)

# arXiv:1804.10143

# The Laplace Approximation

Want to solve...

$$\int d\mathbf{x} \exp[f(\mathbf{x})]$$

Taylor expand around  $\mathbf{x}_o$ ,  
the location of the global  
mode...

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \simeq f(\mathbf{x}_o) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_a \partial x_b} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_o)^2$$

Approximate integral as...

$$\int d\mathbf{x} \exp[f(\mathbf{x})] \simeq \left[ \frac{(2\pi)^2}{|\det H(\mathbf{x}_o)|} \right]^{1/2} \exp[f(\mathbf{x}_o)]$$