

# Multiparameter models (cont.)

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# Outline

- Multinomial
- Multivariate normal
  - Unknown mean
  - Unknown mean and covariance

In the process, we'll introduce the following distributions

- Multinomial
- Dirichlet
- Multivariate normal
- Inverse Wishart (and Wishart)
- normal-inverse Wishart distribution

# Motivating examples

Multivariate count data:

- Item-response (Likert scale)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
ScaleWeek is a worthwhile feature on The Research Bunker Blog.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to read more posts about survey rating scales.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Vance Marriner is, without a doubt, the most insightful contributor to The Research Bunker Blog.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- Voting



# Multinomial distribution

Suppose there are  $K$  categories and each individual independently chooses category  $k$  with probability  $\pi_k$  such that  $\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1$ . Let  $y_k$  be the number of individuals who choose category  $k$  with  $n = \sum_{k=1}^K y_k$  being the total number of individuals.

Then  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_K)$  has a multinomial distribution, i.e.  $Y \sim \text{Mult}(n, \pi)$ , with probability mass function (pmf)

$$p(y) = n! \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{\pi_k^{y_k}}{y_k!}.$$

# Properties of the multinomial distribution

The multinomial distribution with pmf:

$$p(y) = n! \prod_{k=1}^k \frac{\pi_k^{y_k}}{y_k!}$$

has the following properties:

- $E[Y_k] = n\pi_k$
- $V[Y_k] = n\pi_k(1 - \pi_k)$
- $Cov[Y_k, Y_{k'}] = -n\pi_k\pi_{k'}$  for  $k \neq k'$

Marginally, each component of a multinomial distribution is a binomial distribution with  $Y_k \sim Bin(n, \pi_k)$ .

# Dirichlet distribution

Let  $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_K)$  have a Dirichlet distribution, i.e.  $\pi \sim \text{Dir}(a)$ , with concentration parameter  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_K)$  where  $a_k > 0$  for all  $k$ .

The probability density function (pdf) for  $\pi$  is

$$p(\pi) = \frac{1}{\text{Beta}(a)} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{a_k-1}$$

with  $\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1$  and  $\text{Beta}(a)$  is the multinomial beta function, i.e.

$$\text{Beta}(a) = \frac{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(a_k)}{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K a_k)}.$$

# Properties of the Dirichlet distribution

The Dirichlet distribution with pdf

$$p(\pi) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{a_k-1}$$

has the following properties (where  $a_0 = \sum_{k=1}^K a_k$ ):

- $E[\pi_k] = \frac{a_k}{a_0}$
- $V[\pi_k] = \frac{a_k(a_0 - a_k)}{a_0^2(a_0 + 1)}$
- $Cov[\pi_k, \pi_{k'}] = \frac{-a_k a_{k'}}{a_0^2(a_0 + 1)}$

Marginally, each component of a Dirichlet distribution is a beta distribution with  $\pi_k \sim Be(a_k, a_0 - a_k)$ .

# Bayesian inference

The conjugate prior for a multinomial distribution, i.e.  $Y \sim Mult(n, \pi)$ , with unknown probability vector  $\pi$  is a Dirichlet distribution. The Jeffreys prior is a Dirichlet distribution with  $a_k = 0.5$  for all  $k$ . Some argue that for large  $K$ , this prior will put too much mass on rare categories and would suggest the Dirichlet prior with  $a_k = 1/K$  for all  $k$ .

The posterior under a Dirichlet prior is

$$\begin{aligned} p(\pi|y) &\propto p(y|\pi)p(\pi) \\ &\propto \left[ \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{y_k} \right] \left[ \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{a_k-1} \right] \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{a_k+y_k-1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\pi|y \sim Dir(a + y)$ .



# Multivariate normal distribution

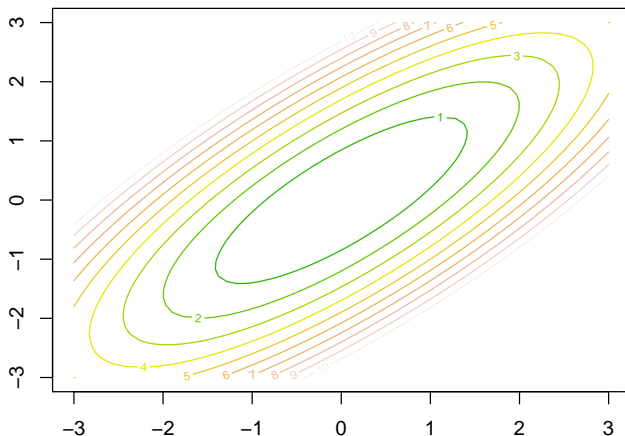
Let  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_K)$  have a multivariate normal distribution, i.e.  $Y \sim N_K(\mu, \Sigma)$  with mean  $\mu$  and variance-covariance matrix  $\Sigma$ .

The probability density function (pdf) for  $Y$  is

$$p(y) = (2\pi)^{-k/2} |\Sigma|^{-1/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (y - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (y - \mu) \right)$$

# Bivariate normal contours

Contours of a bivariate normal with correlation of 0.8



# Properties of the multivariate normal distribution

The multivariate normal distribution with pdf

$$p(y) = (2\pi)^{-k/2} |\Sigma|^{-1/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (y - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (y - \mu) \right)$$

has the following properties:

- $E[Y_k] = \mu_k$
- $V[Y_k] = \Sigma_{kk}$
- $Cov[Y_k, Y_{k'}] = \Sigma_{k,k'}$
- Marginally, each component of a multivariate normal distribution is a normal distribution with  $Y_k \sim N(\mu, \Sigma_{kk})$ .
- Conditional distributions are also normal, i.e. if

$$\begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \end{pmatrix} \sim N \left( \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

then

$$Y_1 | Y_2 = y_2 \sim N \left( \mu_1 + \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^{-1} (y_2 - \mu_2), \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^{-1} \Sigma_{21} \right).$$

# Representing independence in a multivariate normal

Let  $Y \sim N(\mu, \Sigma)$  with precision matrix  $\Omega = \Sigma^{-1}$ .

- If  $\Sigma_{k,k'} = 0$ , then  $Y_k$  and  $Y_{k'}$  are independent of each other.
- If  $\Omega_{k,k'} = 0$ , then  $Y_k$  and  $Y_{k'}$  are conditionally independent of each other given  $Y_j$  for  $j \neq k, k'$ .

# Default inference with an unknown mean

Let  $Y_i \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} N_K(\mu, S)$  with default prior  $p(\mu) \propto 1$  where  $Y_i = (Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{iK})$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mu|y) &\propto p(y|\mu)p(\mu) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^\top S^{-1} (y_i - \mu)\right) \\ &= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(S^{-1} S_0)\right) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)(y_i - \mu)^\top.$$

This posterior is proper if  $n \geq K$  and, in that case, is

$$\mu|y \sim N_K\left(\bar{y}, \frac{1}{n}S\right).$$

where this  $\bar{y} = (\bar{y}_1, \dots, \bar{y}_K)$  has elements

$$\bar{y}_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{y}_{ik}.$$

# Conjugate inference with an unknown mean

Let  $Y_i \stackrel{ind}{\sim} N(\mu, S)$  with conjugate prior  $\mu \sim N_K(m, C)$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mu|y) &\propto p(y|\mu)p(\mu) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu)^\top S^{-1} (y_i - \mu)\right) \\ &\quad \times \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (\mu - m)^\top C^{-1} (\mu - m)\right) \\ &= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (\mu - m')^\top C'^{-1} (\mu - m')\right) \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\mu|y \sim N(m', C')$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C' &= [C^{-1} + nS^{-1}]^{-1} \\ m' &= C' [C^{-1}m + nS^{-1}\bar{y}]. \end{aligned}$$

# Inverse Wishart distribution

Let the  $K \times K$  matrix  $\Sigma$  have an inverse Wishart distribution, i.e.  $\Sigma \sim IW(v, W^{-1})$ , with degrees of freedom  $v > K - 1$  and positive definite scale matrix  $W$ .

The pdf for  $\Sigma$  is

$$p(\Sigma) \propto |\Sigma|^{-(v+K+1)/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (W\Sigma^{-1}) \right).$$

# Properties of the inverse Wishart distribution

The inverse Wishart distribution with pdf

$$p(\Sigma) \propto |\Sigma|^{-(v+K+1)/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(W\Sigma^{-1})\right).$$

has the following properties:

- $E[\Sigma] = (v - K - 1)^{-1}W$  for  $v > K + 1$ .
- Marginally,  $\sigma_k^2 = \Sigma_{kk} \sim \text{Inv} - \chi^2(v, W_{kk})$ .
- If a  $K \times K$  matrix  $W$  has a Wishart distribution, i.e.  $W \sim \text{Wishart}(v, S)$ , then  $W^{-1} \sim \text{IW}(v, S^{-1})$ .



# Normal-inverse Wishart distribution

A multivariate generalization of the normal-scaled-inverse- $\chi^2$  distribution is the normal-inverse Wishart distribution. For a vector  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^K$  and  $K \times K$  matrix  $\Sigma$ , the normal-inverse Wishart distribution is

$$\begin{aligned}\mu|\Sigma &\sim N(m, \Sigma/c) \\ \Sigma &\sim IW(v, W^{-1})\end{aligned}$$

The marginal distribution for  $\mu$ , i.e.

$$p(\mu) = \int p(\mu|\Sigma)p(\Sigma)d\Sigma,$$

is a multivariate t-distribution, i.e.

$$\mu \sim t_{v-K+1}(m, W/[c(v-K+1)]).$$

# Conjugate inference with unknown mean and covariance

Let  $Y_i \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} N(\mu, \Sigma)$  with conjugate prior

$$\mu|\Sigma \sim N(m, \Sigma/c) \quad \Sigma \sim IW(v, W^{-1})$$

which has pdf

$$p(\mu, \Sigma) \propto |\Sigma|^{-((v+K)/2+1)} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(W\Sigma^{-1}) - \frac{c}{2} (\mu - m)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (\mu - m) \right).$$

The posterior is a normal-inverse Wishart with parameters

$$\begin{aligned} c' &= c + n \\ v' &= v + n \\ m' &= \frac{k}{k+n} m + \frac{n}{k+n} \bar{y} \\ W' &= W + S + \frac{kn}{k+n} (\bar{y} - m)(\bar{y} - m)^\top \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})(y_i - \bar{y})^\top.$$

# Default inference with unknown mean and covariance

- The prior  $\Sigma \sim IW(K + 1, I)$  is non-informative in the sense that marginally each correlation has a uniform distribution on  $(-1, 1)$ .
- The prior

$$p(\mu, \Sigma) \propto |\Sigma|^{-(K+1)/2},$$

which can be thought of as a normal-inverse-Wishart distribution with  $c \rightarrow 0$ ,  $v \rightarrow -1$ , and  $|W| \rightarrow 0$ , results in the posterior distribution

$$\begin{aligned}\mu|\Sigma, y &\sim N(\bar{y}, \Sigma/n) \\ \Sigma|y &\sim IW(n - 1, S^{-1}).\end{aligned}$$

# Issues with the inverse Wishart distribution

- Marginals of the IW have an IG (or scaled-inverse- $\chi^2$ ) distribution and therefore inherit the low density near zero resulting in a (possible) bias for small variances toward larger values.
- Due to the above issue, and the relationship between the variances and the correlations (<http://www.themattsimpson.com/2012/08/20/prior-distributions-for-covariance-matrices-the-scaled-inverse-wishart-prior/>) the correlations can be biased:
  - small variances imply small correlations
  - large variances imply large correlations

## Remedies:

- Don't blindly use I for the scale matrix in an IW, instead use a reasonable diagonal matrix for your data set.
- Use the scaled Inverse wishart distribution (see pg 74)
- Use the separation strategy, i.e.  $\Sigma = \Delta\Lambda\Delta$  where  $\Delta$  is diagonal and  $\Lambda$  is a correlation matrix, where you specify the standard deviations (or variances) and correlations separately. In this case, Gelman recommends putting the LKJ prior (see page 582) on the correlation matrix.