

In our models, we have something similar to  $y \sim N(0, \tau^2)$  with  $\tau \sim No^+(0, 1)$  (I'm using a half-normal here because the plots aren't so heavy tailed).

## 1 Thinking about $\eta = \tau^2$ as the parameter

If we think about a parameter  $\eta = \tau^2$ , then the prior for  $\eta$  is

$$p(\eta|\dots) \propto e^{-\eta/2} |\eta^{-1/2}|$$

where the  $|\eta^{-1/2}|$  comes from the Jacobian for the transformation  $\eta = \tau^2$ .

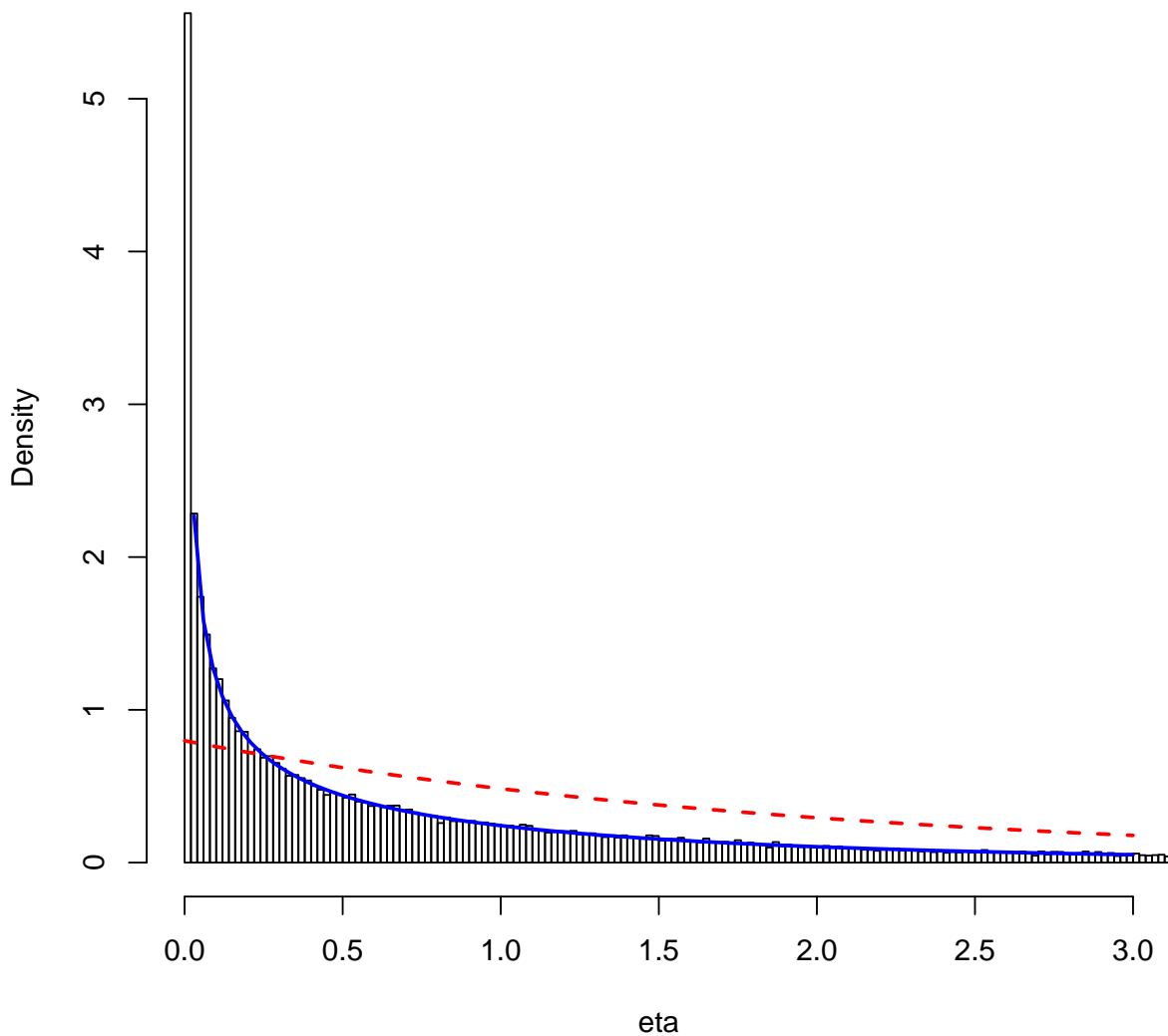
The code here shows that you need to incorporate the Jacobian.

```
tau = abs(rnorm(1e5))
eta = tau^2

# eta = tau^2
no_jacobian = function(eta) 2*dnorm(sqrt(eta))
with_jacobian = function(eta) dnorm(sqrt(eta))/sqrt(eta)

hist(eta, 1000, freq=F, xlim=c(0,3))
curve(no_jacobian, col='red', lwd=2, add=TRUE, lty=2)
curve(with_jacobian, col='blue', lwd=2, add=TRUE)
```

**Histogram of eta**



The full conditional is then

$$p(\eta|\dots) \propto \eta^{-1/2} e^{-y^2/2\eta} e^{-\eta/2} |\eta^{-1/2}|$$

and using this full conditional will get you exactly what you want.

## 2 Thinking about $\tau$ as the parameter

If we think about  $\tau$  as the parameter, then the prior is immediate. The full conditional is

$$p(\tau|\dots) \propto (\tau^2)^{-1/2} e^{-y^2/2\tau^2} e^{-\tau^2/2}.$$

The code here shows that this also fits.

```
tau_conditional = function(tau) exp(dnorm(0,tau,log=TRUE)+dnorm(tau, log=TRUE))  
i = integrate(tau_conditional, 0, Inf)  
hist(tau, 1000, freq=F, xlim=c(0,3))  
curve(tau_conditional(x)/i$value, col='red', lwd=2, add=TRUE)
```

