

## Bayesian Inference

**Qiang Liu**  
UT Austin

## Bayesian Inference

$$\underline{p(\theta \mid D)} = \frac{\underline{p(D \mid \theta)} \underline{p(\theta)}}{p(D)} \propto \underline{p(D \mid \theta)} \underline{p(\theta)}.$$

*parameter*

*data.*

$P(\theta)$ : prior

# Example: Predicting the Commute Time

- You move to a new apartment.
- Your friend told you the commute time is  $30 \pm 10$  min. (prior) ☆
- You also drove yourself a few time, and found the time is 25, 45, 30, 50, ... ☆
- How should you predict the commute time?

$\theta$ : time.

Prior:  $P(\theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$

$$\begin{cases} \mu_0 = 30 \\ \sigma_0 = 10 \end{cases}$$

observe:  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \triangleq D$

$$x_i = \theta + \sigma_1 \xi_i$$

$$\xi_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$[\sigma_1 = 5]$$

$$P(x_i | \theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma_1^2)$$

Posterior:

$$P(\theta | D) = \frac{P(D | \theta) P(\theta)}{P(D)} \propto P(D | \theta) P(\theta)$$

$$= \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i | \theta) \right] P(\theta)$$

$P(D | \theta)$

$$\mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma_1^2)$$

$$P(x_i | \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_1} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}\right)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}\right)$$

$$\propto \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}\right) \right] \exp\left(-\frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(-\frac{n}{2\sigma_1^2} (\theta - \bar{x})^2 - \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(A\theta^2 - 2B\theta + C)\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}A\left(\theta - \frac{B}{A}\right)^2 + \text{const}\right)$$

$$\sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{B}{A}, \frac{1}{A}\right)$$

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}$$

$$= \frac{n}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}$$

$$B = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2}$$

$$C = ??$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_p &= \frac{B}{A} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2}}{\frac{n}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}} \\ \sigma_p^2 &= \frac{1}{A} = \left(\frac{n}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}\right)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

If  $n=0$  (No data),  $\mu_p = \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2} / \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2} = \mu_0$ .

$$\sigma_p^2 = \sigma_0^2$$

If  $n > 0$  (have data)

If  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (Infinite data)

$$\mu_p \approx \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\sigma_1^2} + 0}{\frac{n}{\sigma_1^2} + 0} \approx \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

$$\sigma_p^2 \rightarrow \sigma_1^2$$

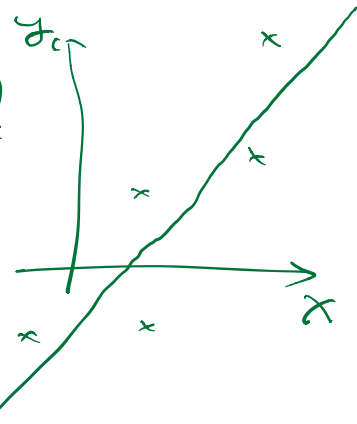
$$\sigma_p \sim \sqrt{\sigma_z} = \frac{\sigma_z}{\sqrt{n}}$$

# Bayesian Linear Regression

Given data points  $\{x_i, y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  want to find  $\theta$ , such that  $y \approx x^T \theta$

Least Square:

$$\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - x_i^T \theta)^2$$



Bayesian Inference:

Treat  $\theta$  as a Random Variable.

Assume Prior:

$$P(\theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$$

$$y = x\theta + b = \underbrace{[x, 1]^T}_{\tilde{x}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ b \end{bmatrix}}_{\tilde{\theta}}$$

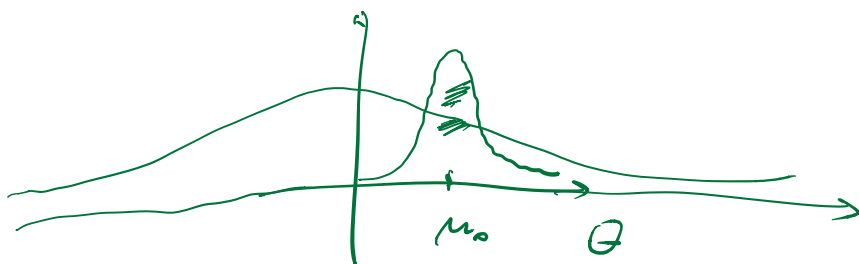
$$\mu_0 = 0, \quad \sigma_0^2 \neq \text{Large Number.} \quad = \tilde{x}^T \tilde{\theta}$$

Assume Likelihood:

$$y_i = x_i^T \theta + \sigma_i \xi_i$$

$\sigma_i$ : Variance

$$\xi_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$



$$P(y_i, x_i | \theta) = \underbrace{P(y_i | x_i, \theta)}_{\text{Likelihood}} \underbrace{P(x_i)}_{\text{Prior}}$$

$$P(\theta | D) \propto \underline{P(D | \theta)} P(\theta)$$

$$= \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n P(y_i, x_i | \theta) \right] P(\theta)$$

$$= \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n P(y_i | x_i, \theta) \underline{P(x_i)} \right] P(\theta)$$

$$\propto \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n P(y_i | x_i, \theta) \right] \underline{P(\theta)}$$

$$\propto \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - x_i^T \theta)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right) \right] \exp\left(-\frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - x_i^T \theta)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}}_{\text{Likelihood}} - \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right)$$

$$\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \end{bmatrix}_{d \times 1}$$

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\theta^T A \theta - 2B^T \theta + \text{const})\right)$$

$$\sim \mathcal{N}(\underline{\bar{A}^{-1} B}, \underline{\bar{A}^{-1}})$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \dots \end{bmatrix}_{d \times d}$$

$$\underline{\mu_p = \bar{A}^{-1} B}$$

$$\underline{\sigma_p^2 = \bar{A}^{-1}}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} A &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i x_i^T}{\sigma_i^2} + \frac{I}{\sigma_0^2} \\ B &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i x_i}{\sigma_i^2} + \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2} \end{aligned} \right.$$

