



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Bayesian Statistics and Data Analysis

Lecture 2

Måns Magnusson

Department of Statistics, Uppsala University
Thanks to Aki Vehtari, Aalto University



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Assignment 1

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- "The formatting was quite time-consuming and could be improved."



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Assignment 1

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- "The formatting was quite time-consuming and could be improved."
- "Maybe the first exercise could be slightly adjusted to be a bit more interesting and fun to work with."



Assignment 1

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- "The formatting was quite time-consuming and could be improved."
- "Maybe the first exercise could be slightly adjusted to be a bit more interesting and fun to work with."
- "I would appreciate exploring the concepts of aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty in greater length. Maybe one of the exercises could be about writing about these concepts more thoroughly."



Assignment 1

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- "The formatting was quite time-consuming and could be improved."
- "Maybe the first exercise could be slightly adjusted to be a bit more interesting and fun to work with."
- "I would appreciate exploring the concepts of aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty in greater length. Maybe one of the exercises could be about writing about these concepts more thoroughly."
- "A more detailed, question-specific example for using markmyassignment would be very helpful. "



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Master theses using Stan

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Joint supervision and work with researchers and students (PhD and masters)
- For students that want to work with research



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Master theses using Stan

- **Posterior distributions**
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Joint supervision and work with researchers and students (PhD and masters)
- For students that want to work with research
- Multiple project (two from stats and three from IT) on Stan and Bayes:



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Master theses using Stan

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Joint supervision and work with researchers and students (PhD and masters)
- For students that want to work with research
- Multiple project (two from stats and three from IT) on Stan and Bayes:
- Projects
 - Modelling of pollen data in Ancient greece (with Anton Bonnier)
 - Modelling proteins in pharmacometrics



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Master theses using Stan

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Joint supervision and work with researchers and students (PhD and masters)
- For students that want to work with research
- Multiple project (two from stats and three from IT) on Stan and Bayes:
- Projects
 - Modelling of pollen data in Ancient greece (with Anton Bonnier)
 - Modelling proteins in pharmacometrics
- Deadline to show interest this *Sunday at 23.59*.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Binomial: known θ

- Probability of event 1 in trial is θ

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Binomial: known θ

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Probability of event 1 in trial is θ
- Probability of event 2 in trial is $1 - \theta$



Binomial: known θ

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Probability of event 1 in trial is θ
- Probability of event 2 in trial is $1 - \theta$
- Probability of several events in independent trials is e.g.
 $\theta\theta(1 - \theta)\theta(1 - \theta)(1 - \theta)\dots$



Binomial: known θ

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Probability of event 1 in trial is θ
- Probability of event 2 in trial is $1 - \theta$
- Probability of several events in independent trials is e.g. $\theta\theta(1 - \theta)\theta(1 - \theta)(1 - \theta)\dots$
- If there are n trials and we don't care about the order of the events, then the probability that event 1 happens y times is

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- **Observation model** (function of y , discrete)

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$



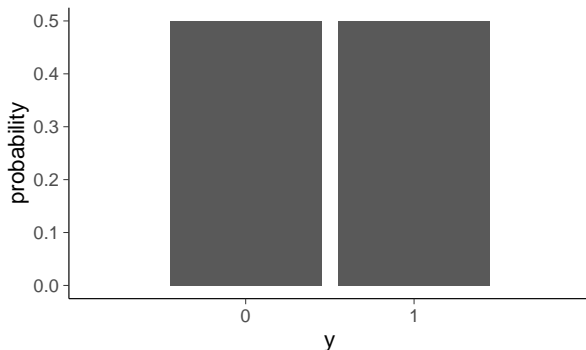
- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Binomial: known θ

- Observation model (function of y , discrete)

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$

Binomial distribution with $\theta = 0.5$, $n=1$





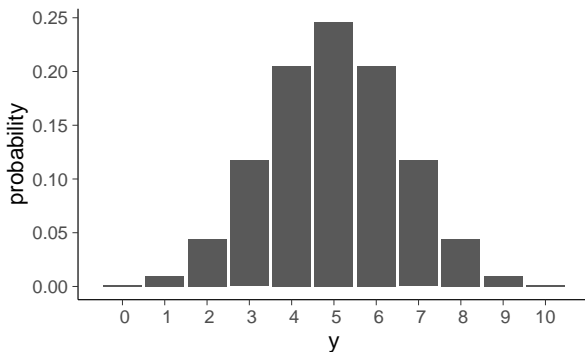
- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Binomial: known θ

- Observation model (function of y , discrete)

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$

Binomial distribution with $\theta = 0.5$, $n=10$



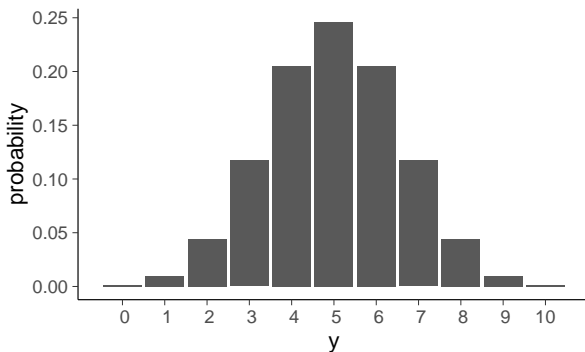


Binomial: known θ

- Observation model (function of y , discrete)

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$

Binomial distribution with $\theta = 0.5$, $n=10$



$p(y|n = 10, \theta = 0.5)$: 0.00 0.01 0.04 0.12 0.21 0.25 0.21 0.12 0.04 0.01 0.00

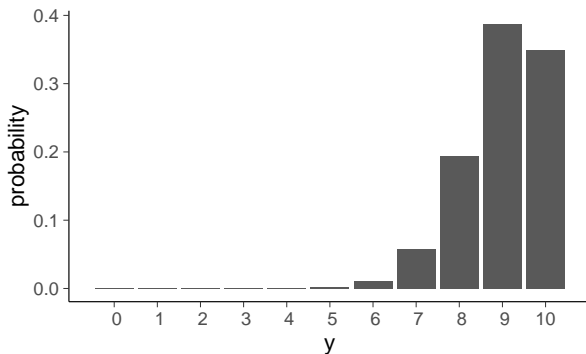


Binomial: known θ

- Observation model (function of y , discrete)

$$p(y|\theta, n) = \binom{n}{y} \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y}$$

Binomial distribution with $\theta = 0.9$, $n = 10$



$p(y|n = 10, \theta = 0.9)$: 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.01 0.06 0.19 0.39 0.35



Binomial: unknown θ

- Posterior with Bayes rule (function of θ , continuous)

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)}{p(y|n, M)}$$

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



Binomial: unknown θ

- Posterior with Bayes rule (function of θ , continuous)

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)}{p(y|n, M)}$$

$$\text{where } p(y|n, M) = \int p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)d\theta$$

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Binomial: unknown θ

- Posterior with Bayes rule (function of θ , continuous)

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)}{p(y|n, M)}$$

where $p(y|n, M) = \int p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)d\theta$

- Start with uniform prior

$$p(\theta|n, M) = p(\theta|M) = 1, \text{ when } 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$$



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Binomial: unknown θ

- Posterior with Bayes rule (function of θ , continuous)

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)}{p(y|n, M)}$$

where $p(y|n, M) = \int p(y|\theta, n, M)p(\theta|n, M)d\theta$

- Start with uniform prior

$$p(\theta|n, M) = p(\theta|M) = 1, \text{ when } 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$$

- Then

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n, M) &= \frac{p(y|\theta, n, M)}{p(y|n, M)} = \frac{\binom{n}{y}\theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}}{\int_0^1 \binom{n}{y}\theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}d\theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{Z}\theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y} \\ &\propto \theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y} \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Normalization term Z (constant given y)

$$Z = \int_0^1 \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{n-y} d\theta = \frac{\Gamma(y+1)\Gamma(n-y+1)}{\Gamma(n+2)}$$

- Normalisation term has *Beta* function form
 - when integrated over $(0, 1)$ the result can be presented with Gamma functions
 - with integers $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$
 - for large integers even this is challenging and usually $\log \Gamma(\cdot)$ is computed instead of $\Gamma(\cdot)$



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Posterior is

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{\Gamma(n+2)}{\Gamma(y+1)\Gamma(n-y+1)} \theta^y (1-\theta)^{n-y},$$



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Binomial: unknown θ

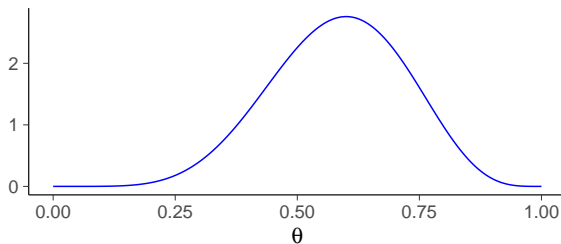
- Posterior is

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \frac{\Gamma(n+2)}{\Gamma(y+1)\Gamma(n-y+1)}\theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y},$$

which is called Beta distribution

$$\theta|y, n \sim \text{Beta}(y+1, n-y+1)$$

$p(\theta | y=6, n=10, M=\text{binom}) + \text{unif. prior}$





UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Binomial: computation

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- R

- density `dbeta`
- CDF `pbeta`
- quantile `qbeta`
- random number `rbeta`

- Python

- `from scipy.stats import beta`
- density `beta.pdf`
- CDF `beta.cdf`
- prctile `beta.ppf`
- random number `beta.rvs`



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Binomial: computation*

- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Beta CDF not trivial to compute
- For example, `pbeta` in R uses a continued fraction with weighting factors and asymptotic expansion
- Laplace developed normal approximation (Laplace approximation), because he didn't know how to compute Beta CDF



- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Placenta previa

- Probability of a girl birth given placenta previa (BDA3 p. 37)
 - 437 girls and 543 boys have been observed
 - is the ratio 0.445 different from the population average 0.485?

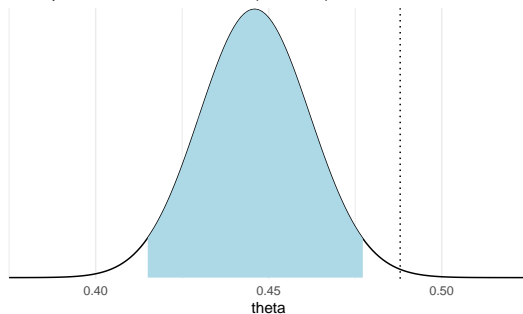


- Posterior distributions
- **Posterior distributions**
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Placenta previa

- Probability of a girl birth given placenta previa (BDA3 p. 37)
 - 437 girls and 543 boys have been observed
 - is the ratio 0.445 different from the population average 0.485?

Uniform prior \rightarrow Posterior is Beta(438,544)



95% posterior interval



Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1 | \theta, y, n, M)$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) = \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) &= \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\ &= \int_0^1 \theta p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \end{aligned}$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) &= \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\ &= \int_0^1 \theta p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\ &= E[\theta|y] \end{aligned}$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) &= \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\ &= \int_0^1 \theta p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\ &= E[\theta|y] \end{aligned}$$

- With uniform prior

$$E[\theta|y] = \frac{y+1}{n+2}$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Predictive distribution – Effect of integration

- Predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$\begin{aligned}p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) &= \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\&= \int_0^1 \theta p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta \\&= E[\theta|y]\end{aligned}$$

- With uniform prior

$$E[\theta|y] = \frac{y+1}{n+2}$$

- Extreme cases

$$\begin{aligned}p(\tilde{y} = 1|y = 0, n, M) &= \frac{1}{n+2} \\p(\tilde{y} = 1|y = n, n, M) &= \frac{n+1}{n+2}\end{aligned}$$

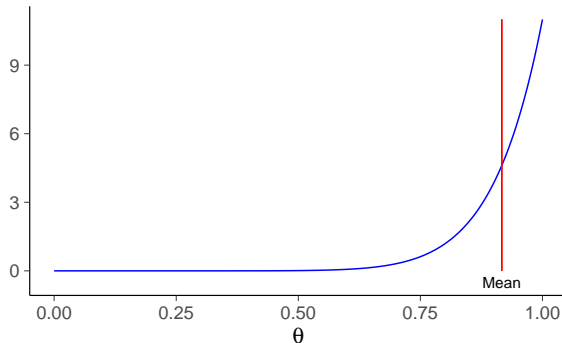
- cf. maximum likelihood



Benefits of integration

Example: $n = 10, y = 10$

Posterior of θ of Binomial model with $y=10, n=$





- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Prior predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1|M) = \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|M)d\theta$$

- Posterior predictive distribution for new \tilde{y} (discrete)

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1|y, n, M) = \int_0^1 p(\tilde{y} = 1|\theta, y, n, M)p(\theta|y, n, M)d\theta$$



Justification for uniform prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- $p(\theta|M) = 1$ if
 - 1) we want the prior predictive distribution to be uniform

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1 | n = 0, M) = \frac{1}{2}$$

- nice justification as it is based on observables y and n



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- $p(\theta|M) = 1$ if
 - 1) we want the prior predictive distribution to be uniform

$$p(\tilde{y} = 1 | n = 0, M) = \frac{1}{2}$$

- nice justification as it is based on observables y and n
- 2) we think all values of θ are equally likely



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Priors

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Conjugate prior (BDA3 p. 35)
- Noninformative prior (BDA3 p. 51)
- Proper and improper prior (BDA3 p. 52)
- Weakly informative prior (BDA3 p. 55)
- Informative prior (BDA3 p. 55)
- Prior sensitivity (BDA3 p. 38)



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Conjugate prior

- Posterior distributions
 - Posterior distributions
 - Predictive distributions
 - **Prior distributions**
 - Demo
 - The Normal model
- Prior and posterior have the same form
 - only for exponential family distributions (plus for some irregular cases)



Conjugate prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Prior and posterior have the same form
 - only for exponential family distributions (plus for some irregular cases)
- Used to be important for computational reasons
- Still used for special models to allow partial analytic marginalization (Ch 3)
 - with dynamic Hamiltonian Monte Carlo used e.g. in Stan no any computational benefit



- Prior

$$\text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha, \beta) \propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$$

- Posterior

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) \propto \theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}\theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model



- Prior

$$\text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha, \beta) \propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$$

- Posterior

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n, M) &\propto \theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}\theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \\ &\propto \theta^{y+\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{n-y+\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model



- Prior

$$\text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha, \beta) \propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$$

- Posterior

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n, M) &\propto \theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}\theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \\ &\propto \theta^{y+\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{n-y+\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

after normalization

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + y, \beta + n - y)$$

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Beta prior for Binomial model

- Prior

$$\text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha, \beta) \propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$$

- Posterior

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y, n, M) &\propto \theta^y(1-\theta)^{n-y}\theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \\ &\propto \theta^{y+\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{n-y+\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

after normalization

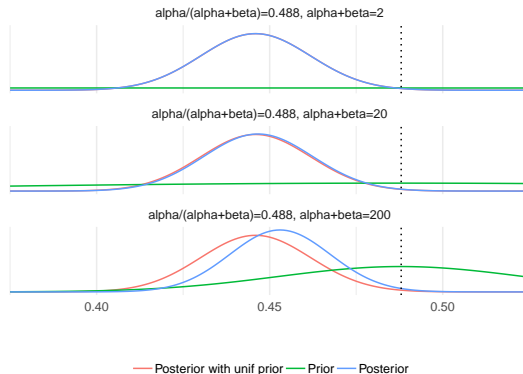
$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + y, \beta + n - y)$$

- α and β can be considered to be number of prior observations
- Uniform prior when $\alpha = 1$ and $\beta = 1$



Placenta previa

- Beta prior centered on population average 0.485



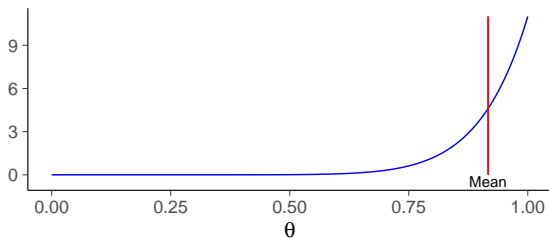


- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

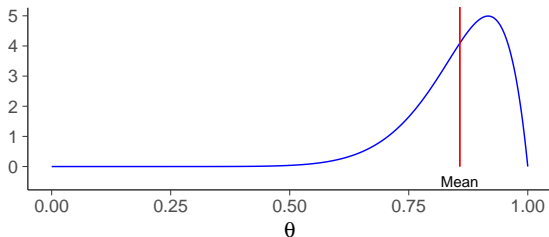
Benefits of integration and prior

Example: $n = 10, y = 10$ - uniform vs Beta(2,2) prior

$p(\theta | y=10, n=10, M=\text{binom}) + \text{unif. prior}$



$p(\theta | y=10, n=10, M=\text{binom}) + \text{Beta}(2,2) \text{ prior}$





- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Beta prior for Binomial model

- Posterior

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + y, \beta + n - y)$$

- Posterior mean

$$E[\theta|y] = \frac{\alpha + y}{\alpha + \beta + n}$$

- combination prior and likelihood information
- when $n \rightarrow \infty$, $E[\theta|y] \rightarrow y/n$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Beta prior for Binomial model

- Posterior

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + y, \beta + n - y)$$

- Posterior mean

$$E[\theta|y] = \frac{\alpha + y}{\alpha + \beta + n}$$

- combination prior and likelihood information
 - when $n \rightarrow \infty$, $E[\theta|y] \rightarrow y/n$
- Posterior variance

$$\text{var}[\theta|y] = \frac{E[\theta|y](1 - E[\theta|y])}{\alpha + \beta + n + 1}$$

- decreases when n increases
 - when $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\text{var}[\theta|y] \rightarrow 0$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Vague, flat, diffuse, or noninformative
 - try to “to let the data speak for themselves”
 - flat is not non-informative
 - flat can be stupid
 - making prior flat somewhere can make it non-flat somewhere else



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Proper and improper prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Proper prior has $\int p(\theta) = 1$
- Improper prior density doesn't have a finite integral
 - the posterior can still sometimes be proper



Proper and improper prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Proper prior has $\int p(\theta) = 1$
- Improper prior density doesn't have a finite integral
 - the posterior can still sometimes be proper
- Example: Binomial model
 - Beta(0,0) prior is improper
 - If $y \neq 0$ and $y \neq n$, the posterior is proper
- *Be careful with improper priors!*



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Weakly informative priors

- Weakly informative priors produce computationally better behaving posteriors
 - If we want to model IQ in children, how to construct a prior?

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model



Weakly informative priors

- Weakly informative priors produce computationally better behaving posteriors
 - If we want to model IQ in children, how to construct a prior?
 - often there's some knowledge about the scale
 - Using the **prior predictive** distribution

$$p(\tilde{y}|M) = \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta, M)p(\theta|M)d\theta,$$

we can simulate data from the model:

Does it look (remotely) reasonable?

- useful if there's more information from previous observations - not certain how well that information is applicable in a new case



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Construction of weakly informative priors

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Prior prediction checks!
- Start with some version of a noninformative prior, then add information until reasonable.
- Start with a strong prior, then broaden it to account for uncertainty



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Construction of weakly informative priors

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Prior prediction checks!
- Start with some version of a noninformative prior, then add information until reasonable.
- Start with a strong prior, then broaden it to account for uncertainty
- Stan team prior choice recommendations
<https://github.com/stan-dev/stan/wiki/Prior-Choice-Recommendations>



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Example of informative prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- The percentage of girl births is remarkably stable at about 48.8% girls, rarely varying by more than 0.5% from this rate



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Example of informative prior

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

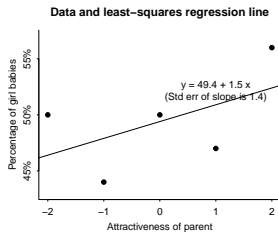
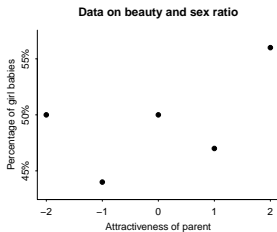
- The percentage of girl births is remarkably stable at about 48.8% girls, rarely varying by more than 0.5% from this rate
- There was a study on the percentage of girl births among parents in attractiveness categories 1–5 (assessed by interviewers in a face-to-face survey)



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Example of informative prior

- The percentage of girl births is remarkably stable at about 48.8% girls, rarely varying by more than 0.5% from this rate
- There was a study on the percentage of girl births among parents in attractiveness categories 1–5 (assessed by interviewers in a face-to-face survey)



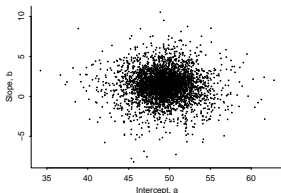


Example of informative prior

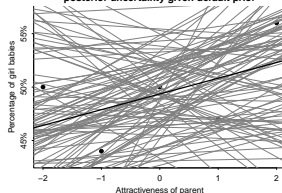
- The percentage of girl births is remarkably stable at about 48.8% girls, rarely varying by more than 0.5% from this rate

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

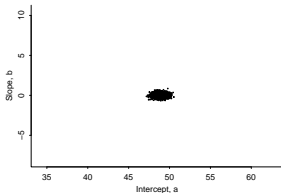
Posterior simulations under default prior



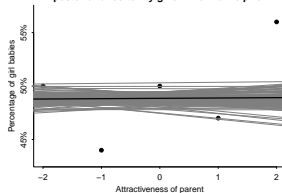
Least-squares regression line and posterior uncertainty given default prior



Posterior simulations under informative prior



Bayes estimated regression line and posterior uncertainty given informative prior





Example of weakly informative prior

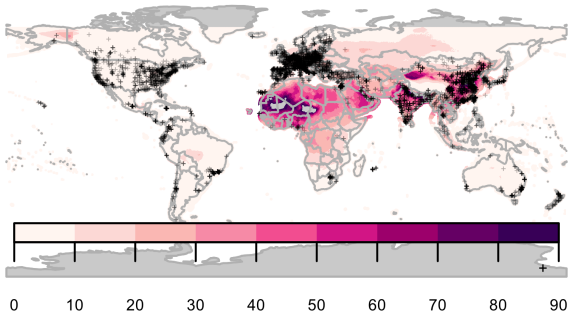
- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Gabry et al (2019). Visualization in Bayesian workflow.
 - Estimation of human exposure to air pollution from particulate matter measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$)
 - A recent report estimated that $PM_{2.5}$ is responsible for three million deaths worldwide each year (Shaddick et al, 2017)



Example of weakly informative prior

- Gabry et al (2019). Visualization in Bayesian workflow.

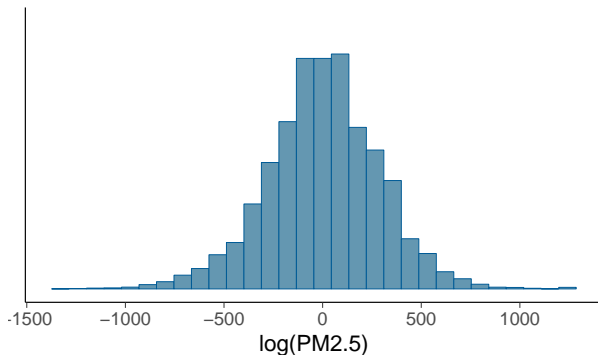


Satellite estimates and ground monitor locations



Example of weakly informative prior

Prior predictive distribution with vague prior

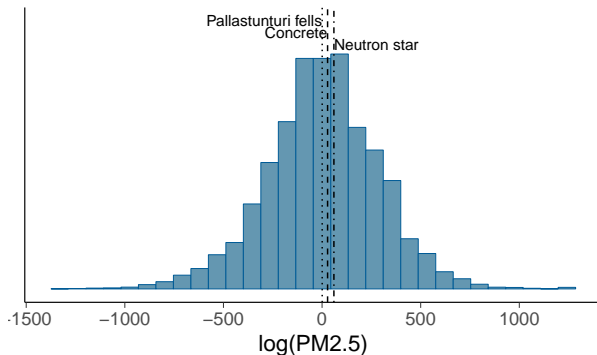


- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model



Example of weakly informative prior

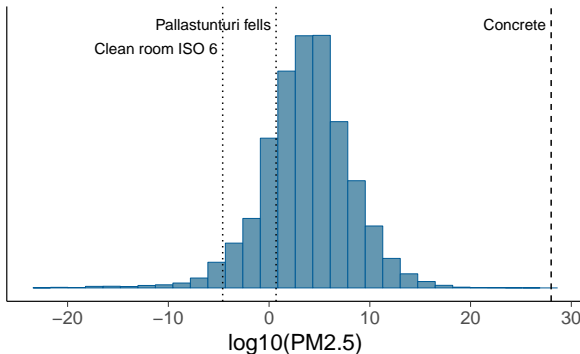
Prior predictive distribution with vague prior





Example of weakly informative prior

Prior predictive distribution with weakly informative





UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Effect of incorrect priors?

- Posterior distributions
 - Posterior distributions
 - Predictive distributions
 - **Prior distributions**
 - Demo
 - The Normal model
- Introduce bias, but often still produce smaller estimation error because the variance is reduced
 - bias-variance tradeoff



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(\theta) \prod^n p(y_i|\theta)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta) \prod^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \prod^n \theta^{y_i} (1-\theta)^{1-y_i} \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{y_i} (1-\theta)^{1-y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \theta^{\sum y_i} (1-\theta)^{n-\sum y_i} \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{y_i}(1-\theta)^{1-y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \theta^{\sum y_i} (1-\theta)^{n-\sum y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\sum y_i + \alpha - 1} (1-\theta)^{n - \sum y_i + \beta - 1} \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{y_i} (1-\theta)^{1-y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \theta^{\sum y_i} (1-\theta)^{n-\sum y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\sum y_i + \alpha - 1} (1-\theta)^{n - \sum y_i + \beta - 1} \end{aligned}$$

after normalization

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i, \beta + n - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- **Prior distributions**
- Demo
- The Normal model

Sufficient statistics

- The function $t(y)$ of data y is said to be a *sufficient statistic* for θ if the likelihood for θ depends on the data y only through the value of $t(y)$.
- Example: Binomial model (with known n , and $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{y_i}(1-\theta)^{1-y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\alpha-1}(1-\theta)^{\beta-1} \theta^{\sum y_i} (1-\theta)^{n-\sum y_i} \\ &\propto \theta^{\sum y_i + \alpha - 1} (1-\theta)^{n - \sum y_i + \beta - 1} \end{aligned}$$

after normalization

$$p(\theta|y, n, M) = \text{Beta}(\theta|\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i, \beta + n - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i)$$

Hence, $\sum y_i$ is a sufficient statistic for θ **in this model**.



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Demo in R

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- L2demo.R



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Algae status is monitored in 274 sites at Finnish lakes and rivers. The observations for the 2008 algae status at each site are presented in file *algae.mat* ('0': no algae, '1': algae present). Let π be the probability of a monitoring site having detectable blue-green algae levels.

- Use a binomial model for observations and a $beta(2,10)$ prior.
- What can you say about the value of the unknown π ?
- Experiment how the result changes if you change the prior.

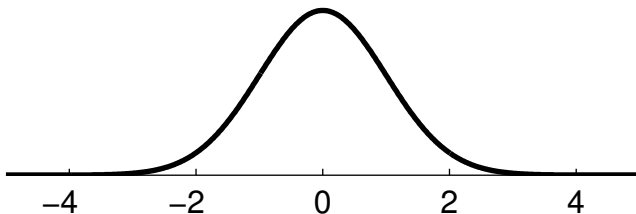


- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal / Gaussian

- Observations $y \in \mathcal{R}$ (real valued)
- Mean θ and variance σ^2 (or deviation σ)
- For now: assume σ^2 is known

$$p(y|\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y - \theta)^2\right)$$
$$y \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$$





UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Reasons to use Normal distribution

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Normal distribution often justified based on central limit theorem
- More often used due to the computational convenience or tradition



Central limit theorem (recap)

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- De Moivre, Laplace, Gauss, Chebysev, Liapounov, Markov, et al.
- Given certain conditions, sums (and means) of random variables approach Gaussian distribution as $n \rightarrow \infty$
- Problems
 - does not hold for all distributions, e.g., Cauchy
 - may require large n , e.g. Binomial, when θ close to 0 or 1



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Assume σ^2 known

Likelihood

$$p(y|\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y - \theta)^2\right)$$

Prior

$$p(\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_0^2}(\theta - \mu_0)^2\right)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Assume σ^2 known

Likelihood $p(y|\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y - \theta)^2\right)$

Prior $p(\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_0^2}(\theta - \mu_0)^2\right)$

$$\exp(a) \exp(b) = \exp(a + b)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Assume σ^2 known

Likelihood $p(y|\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y - \theta)^2\right)$

Prior $p(\theta) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_0^2}(\theta - \mu_0)^2\right)$

$$\exp(a) \exp(b) = \exp(a + b)$$

Posterior

$$p(\theta|y) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{(y - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2} \right]\right)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Posterior (see ex 2.14a)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{(y-\theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta-\mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_1^2}(\theta-\mu_1)^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

$\theta|y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \tau_1^2)$, where

$$\mu_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2}\mu_0 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}y}{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}} \text{ and } \frac{1}{\tau_1^2} = \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Posterior (see ex 2.14a)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{(y-\theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta-\mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_1^2}(\theta-\mu_1)^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

$\theta|y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \tau_1^2)$, where

$$\mu_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2}\mu_0 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}y}{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}} \text{ and } \frac{1}{\tau_1^2} = \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$$

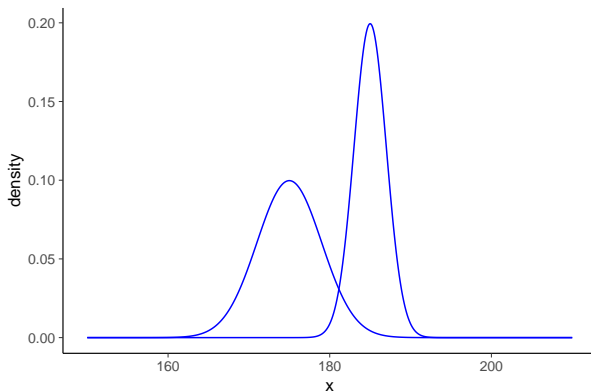
- $1/\text{variance} = \text{precision}$
- Posterior precision = prior precision + data precision
- Posterior mean is precision weighted mean



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - example



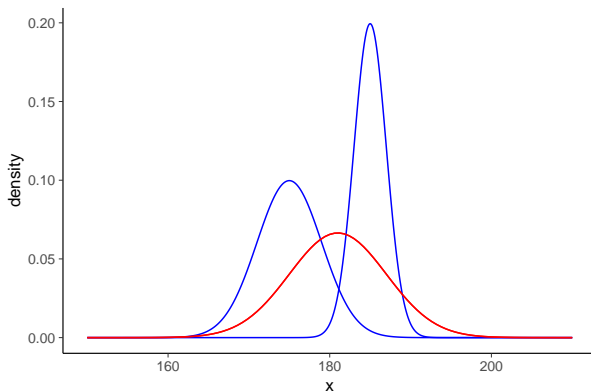
Blue: data point(s), Red: Prior, Purple: Posterior



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - example



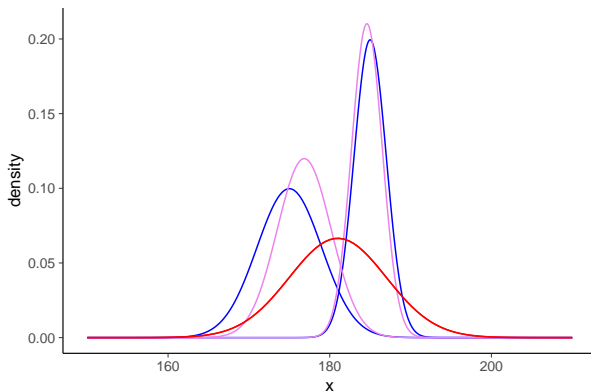
Blue: data point(s), Red: Prior, Purple: Posterior



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - example



Blue: data point(s), Red: Prior, Purple: Posterior



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

Posterior (several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$)

$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(\theta)p(y|\theta)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

Posterior (several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta)p(y|\theta) \\ &= p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

Posterior (several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta)p(y|\theta) \\ &= p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\sum^n (y_i - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

Posterior (several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$)

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|y) &\propto p(\theta)p(y|\theta) \\ &= p(\theta) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i|\theta) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\sum^n (y_i - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \\ &= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{n(\bar{y} - \theta)^2 + \sum^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{n(\bar{y} - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{\tau_0^2}\right]\right) \end{aligned}$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$

$$p(\theta|y) = \mathcal{N}(\theta|\mu_n, \tau_n^2)$$

$$\text{where } \mu_n = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2}\mu_0 + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}\bar{y}}{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{\tau_n^2} = \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}$$

- If $\tau_0^2 = \sigma^2$, prior corresponds to one virtual observation with value μ_0



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$

$$p(\theta|y) = \mathcal{N}(\theta|\mu_n, \tau_n^2)$$

$$\text{where } \mu_n = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2}\mu_0 + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}\bar{y}}{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{\tau_n^2} = \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}$$

- If $\tau_0^2 = \sigma^2$, prior corresponds to one virtual observation with value μ_0
- If $\tau_0 \rightarrow \infty$ when n fixed
or if $n \rightarrow \infty$ when τ_0 fixed

$$p(\theta|y) \rightarrow^d \mathcal{N}(\theta|\bar{y}, \sigma^2/n)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Several observations $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$

$$p(\theta|y) = \mathcal{N}(\theta|\mu_n, \tau_n^2)$$

$$\text{where } \mu_n = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2}\mu_0 + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}\bar{y}}{\frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{\tau_n^2} = \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}$$

- If $\tau_0^2 = \sigma^2$, prior corresponds to one virtual observation with value μ_0
- If $\tau_0 \rightarrow \infty$ when n fixed
or if $n \rightarrow \infty$ when τ_0 fixed

$$p(\theta|y) \rightarrow^d \mathcal{N}(\theta|\bar{y}, \sigma^2/n)$$

- Find the **sufficient statistic** for θ !



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Posterior predictive distribution

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) = \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta)p(\theta|y)d\theta$$

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) \propto \int \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\tilde{y} - \theta)^2\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_1^2}(\theta - \mu_1)^2\right) d\theta$$

$$\tilde{y}|y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2 + \tau_1^2)$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Posterior predictive distribution

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) = \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta)p(\theta|y)d\theta$$

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) \propto \int \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\tilde{y} - \theta)^2\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_1^2}(\theta - \mu_1)^2\right) d\theta$$

$$\tilde{y}|y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2 + \tau_1^2)$$

- Can be derived in multiple ways
 1. integrate
 2. $p(\tilde{y}, \theta)$ is a bivariate normal - marginalize out θ
- Predictive variance
 1. observation model variance σ^2
 2. posterior variance τ_1^2



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

Normal distribution - conjugate prior for θ

- Posterior predictive distribution

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) = \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta)p(\theta|y)d\theta$$

$$p(\tilde{y}|y) \propto \int \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\tilde{y} - \theta)^2\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\tau_1^2}(\theta - \mu_1)^2\right) d\theta$$

$$\tilde{y}|y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2 + \tau_1^2)$$

- Can be derived in multiple ways
 1. integrate
 2. $p(\tilde{y}, \theta)$ is a bivariate normal - marginalize out θ
- Predictive variance
 1. observation model variance σ^2
 2. posterior variance τ_1^2
- Aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty?



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Poisson model

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Poisson likelihood/model: $Po(\lambda)$
- Used for **count** data



Poisson model

- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Poisson likelihood/model: $Po(\lambda)$
- Used for **count** data
- Let $X \sim Po(\lambda)$, then

$$E(X) = V(X) = \lambda$$



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Poisson likelihood/model: $Po(\lambda)$
- Used for **count** data
- Let $X \sim Po(\lambda)$, then

$$E(X) = V(X) = \lambda$$

- The gamma distribution is a conjugate prior - what is the posterior?



- Posterior distributions
- Posterior distributions
- Predictive distributions
- Prior distributions
- Demo
- The Normal model

- Poisson likelihood/model: $Po(\lambda)$
- Used for **count** data
- Let $X \sim Po(\lambda)$, then

$$E(X) = V(X) = \lambda$$

- The gamma distribution is a conjugate prior - what is the posterior?
- Today: Mostly the negative binomial is used for count data