

Full conditional distributions for a Bayesian change point model

Our goal is to draw samples from the 5-dimensional **posterior** distribution $f(k, \theta, \lambda, b_1, b_2 | \mathbf{Y})$. The posterior distribution is

$$\begin{aligned} f(k, \theta, \lambda, b_1, b_2 | \mathbf{Y}) &\propto \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\theta^{Y_i} e^{-\theta}}{Y_i!} \prod_{i=k+1}^n \frac{\lambda^{Y_i} e^{-\lambda}}{Y_i!} \\ &\times \frac{1}{\Gamma(0.5)b_1^{0.5}} \theta^{-0.5} e^{-\theta/b_1} \times \frac{1}{\Gamma(0.5)b_2^{0.5}} \lambda^{-0.5} e^{-\lambda/b_2} \quad (1) \\ &\times \frac{e^{-1/b_1}}{b_1} \frac{e^{-1/b_2}}{b_2} \times \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

From 1 we can obtain full conditional distributions for each parameter by ignoring all terms that are constant with respect to the parameter.

For θ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(\theta | k, \lambda, b_1, b_2, \mathbf{Y}) &\propto \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\theta^{Y_i} e^{-\theta}}{Y_i!} \times \frac{1}{\Gamma(0.5)b_1^{0.5}} \theta^{-0.5} e^{-\theta/b_1} \\ &\propto \theta^{\sum_{i=1}^k Y_i - 0.5} e^{-\theta(k+1/b_1)} \quad (2) \\ &\propto \text{Gamma} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k Y_i + 0.5, \frac{b_1}{kb_1 + 1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

For λ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda | k, \theta, b_1, b_2, \mathbf{Y}) &\propto \prod_{i=k+1}^n \frac{\lambda^{Y_i} e^{-\lambda}}{Y_i!} \times \frac{1}{\Gamma(0.5)b_2^{0.5}} \lambda^{-0.5} e^{-\lambda/b_2} \\ &\propto \text{Gamma} \left(\sum_{i=k+1}^n Y_i + 0.5, \frac{b_2}{(n-k)b_2 + 1} \right) \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

For k :

$$f(k | \theta, \lambda, b_1, b_2, \mathbf{Y}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\theta^{Y_i} e^{-\theta}}{Y_i!} \prod_{i=k+1}^n \frac{\lambda^{Y_i} e^{-\lambda}}{Y_i!} \quad (4)$$

For b_1 :

$$f(b_1 | k, \theta, \lambda, b_2, \mathbf{Y}) \propto \frac{1}{b_1^{0.5}} e^{-\theta/b_1} \times \frac{e^{-1/b_1}}{b_1} \propto b_1^{-1.5} e^{-(1+\theta)/b_1} \propto IG(0.5, 1/(\theta+1)) \quad (5)$$

For b_2 :

$$f(b_2|k, \theta, \lambda, b_1|\mathbf{Y}) \propto \frac{1}{b_2^{0.5}} e^{-\lambda/b_2} \times \frac{e^{-1/b_2}}{b_2} \propto b_2^{-1.5} e^{-(1+\lambda)/b_2} \propto IG(0.5, 1/(\lambda+1)) \quad (6)$$

Note: The Inverse Gamma density is said to be a **conjugate** prior in this case since it results in a posterior that is also Inverse Gamma and therefore trivial to sample. As such, this density is mathematically convenient (due to its conjugacy property) but has poorly behaved moments; it may be better to adopt another prior density (such as a Gamma) instead.