

# HOMEWORK-3 | MATH 541A

Problem 1:  
MLE for  
Poisson  
Regression

Suppose  $y_i \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . Assume  $y_i$  are independent Poisson random variables such that  $P(y_i | x_i) = \frac{e^{-\lambda_i} \lambda_i^{y_i}}{y_i!}$  where  $\lambda_i > 0$ .

Let  $\eta_i = \ln \lambda_i$  and assume  $\eta_i = \langle x_i, \theta \rangle$

1. Write the pmf  $P(y_i | \lambda_i)$  in an exponential form.

Soln:  $P(y | \lambda) = \frac{1}{y!} \exp\{-\lambda\} \lambda^y$ . Since  $\eta = \ln \lambda$ ,  $\lambda = e^\eta$ .

$$\therefore P(y | \lambda) = \frac{1}{y!} \exp\{-e^\eta\} e^{\eta y} = \frac{1}{y!} \exp\{\eta y - e^\eta\}$$

$$\therefore P(y | \lambda) = h(y) \exp\{\eta \cdot T - A(\eta)\} \text{ where } h(y) = 1/y!, \eta(\lambda) = \ln \lambda$$

$$T(y) = y \text{ and } A(\eta) = e^\eta.$$

2. Given  $n$  independent data  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ , write down the likelihood function  $L(\theta | x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n)$ .

Soln: Recall that  $\eta = \ln \lambda = \langle \eta, \theta \rangle$  which implies  $\lambda = e^{\langle \eta, \theta \rangle}$

$$L(\theta) := L(\theta | x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_n, y_n) = P(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_n, y_n | \theta)$$

$$L(\theta) = P(x_1, y_1 | \theta) \cdot P(x_2, y_2 | \theta) \cdot \dots \cdot P(x_n, y_n | \theta).$$

$$P(x, y | \theta) = P(y | \underline{\eta}, \theta) \cdot P(x | \theta) = P(y | \underline{\lambda}) \cdot P(x | \theta).$$

As data is independent of  $\eta$  (hence  $\theta$ ),  $P(x | \theta) = P(x)$ .

$$\therefore P(x, y | \theta) = P(y | \lambda) \cdot P(x | \theta) = P(y | \lambda) P(x).$$

$$\Rightarrow P(x_1, y_1 | \theta) \cdot \dots \cdot P(x_n, y_n | \theta) = P(y_1 | \lambda_1) \cdot \dots \cdot P(y_n | \lambda_n) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i, y_i | \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(y_i | \lambda_i) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow L(\theta) = \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^n h(y_i)}_{H(y)} \cdot \exp\left\{\sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n e^{\eta_i}\right\} \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i)}_{G(x)}$$

$$\Rightarrow L(\theta) = H(y) G(x) \exp\left\{\sum_{i=1}^n [\eta_i y_i - e^{\eta_i}]\right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow L(\theta) = H(y) G(x) \exp\left\{\sum_{i=1}^n [\langle x_i, \theta \rangle y_i - e^{\langle x_i, \theta \rangle}]\right\}$$



3. Write the MLE for  $\theta$  as a solution to an optimization problem.

Sol<sup>n</sup>:  $\hat{\theta}_{MLE} = \arg\max_{\theta} L(\theta)$

$$= \arg\max_{\theta} H(y) G(x) \exp \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n [\langle x_i, \theta \rangle y_i - e^{\langle x_i, \theta \rangle}] \right\}$$

$$= \arg\max_{\theta} \exp \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n [\langle x_i, \theta \rangle y_i - e^{\langle x_i, \theta \rangle}] \right\}$$

Problem 2: Consider the following questions:

Bayesian Estimator

1. Assume  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are sampled i.i.d. from  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$

a) Find the conjugacy family for a  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  distribution.

Sol<sup>n</sup>: We know from the lecture notes that the conjugacy family of Poisson distribution is  $\lambda \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ , i.e. a Gamma distribution

$$f(\lambda | \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \lambda^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta \lambda}, \quad \lambda > 0, \alpha, \beta > 0$$

b) Assuming the prior of  $\lambda$  is from the conjugacy family, compute the posterior distribution.

Let  $x \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  and the prior be  $\lambda \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

$$f(x | \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!}$$

$$f(\lambda | \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha \lambda^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta \lambda}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$$

$$\text{posterior} = f(\lambda | \vec{x}) \propto f(\vec{x} | \lambda) f(\lambda)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(\lambda | \vec{x}) \propto \lambda^{\sum x_i} e^{-\lambda n} \cdot \lambda^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta \lambda}$$

$$\propto \underbrace{\lambda^{\sum x_i + \alpha - 1} \cdot e^{-\lambda(\beta + n)}}_{\text{Gamma}(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \alpha - 1, \beta + n)}$$

$$\text{Gamma}(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \alpha - 1, \beta + n)$$

c) Compute the posterior mean and the MAP estimators for  $\lambda$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup>: Since the mean of  $\text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$  is  $\alpha/\beta$ , the posterior mean

$$\text{estimate is } \bar{\lambda} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \alpha}{\beta + n}$$

$$\text{The MAP estimate is } \hat{\lambda}_{MAP} = \arg\max_{\lambda} f(\lambda | \vec{x}) = \arg\max_{\lambda} \lambda^{\sum x_i + \alpha - 1} \cdot e^{-\lambda(\beta + n)}$$

$$\therefore \hat{\lambda}_{MAP} = \arg\max_{\lambda} \lambda^{\sum x_i + \alpha - 1} \cdot e^{-\lambda(\beta + n)} = \arg\max_{\lambda} \text{Gamma}(\sum x_i + \alpha, \beta + n)$$

Since the mode of a Gamma distribution is  $\frac{\alpha-1}{\beta}$  and MAP gives

$$\text{us this mode, } \hat{\lambda}_{MAP} = \frac{(\sum x_i + \alpha - 1) - 1}{\beta + n} = \frac{\sum x_i + \alpha - 2}{\beta + n}$$

2. Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be iid samples from  $N(\theta, \sigma^2)$  where  $\sigma^2$  is a known constant. Let the prior distribution of  $\theta$  be a Laplace distribution, that is,  $\pi(\theta) = \frac{1}{2a} e^{-|\theta|/a}$ ,

where  $a$  is a known constant. Note that in this case, the prior distribution is not from the conjugacy family.

a) Find the posterior distribution  $\pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .

Soln:  $x \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2)$  and  $\theta \sim \pi(\theta)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{posterior} &= \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n | \theta) \cdot \pi(\theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \cdot \frac{1}{2a} \exp\left\{-|\theta|/a\right\} \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}\right]^n \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \theta)^2\right\} \cdot \frac{1}{2a} \exp\left\{-\frac{|\theta|}{a}\right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2a} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}\right]^n \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \theta)^2 + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right)\right\} \end{aligned}$$

This distribution, the posterior, seems to be from exponential family.

Simplifying further,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\theta | x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) &\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum (x_i - \theta)^2 + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right)\right\} \\ \Rightarrow \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) &\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} [\sum x_i^2 + n\theta^2 - 2\theta \sum x_i] + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right)\right\} \\ &\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \cdot \sum x_i^2\right\} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} [n\theta^2 - 2\theta \sum x_i] - \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right)\right\} \\ &\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{n\theta^2 - 2\theta \sum x_i}{\sigma^2} - \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right)\right\} \\ &\propto \exp\left\{-\frac{n\theta^2 + 2\theta \sum x_i}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \cdot \exp\left\{-\frac{|\theta|}{a}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

The posterior's mean can be computed as  $\bar{\theta} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) d\theta$ .

This would be the posterior mean estimate. I am not sure if there is a closed form value of this integral but one can always use numerical methods.

For the MAP estimate,  $\hat{\theta}_{\text{MAP}} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_{\text{MAP}} &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \exp \left\{ +\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{-n\theta^2 + 2\theta \sum x_i}{\sigma^2} + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right) \right\} \\ &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \frac{2\theta \sum x_i - n\theta^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right) \\ &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \frac{n\theta [2\bar{x} - \theta]}{\sigma^2} + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right), \quad \bar{x} := \frac{\sum x_i}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } g(\theta) &= \left[ \frac{n\theta [2\bar{x} - \theta]}{\sigma^2} + \frac{2|\theta|}{a} \right] \\ g'(\theta) &= \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (-\theta + 2\bar{x} - \theta) + \frac{2}{a} \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where  $\operatorname{sgn}(\theta) = \begin{cases} 1, & \theta > 0 \\ -1, & \theta \leq 0 \end{cases}$

$$\Rightarrow g'(\theta) = \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (-2\theta + 2\bar{x}) + \frac{2}{a} \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) \right]$$

Setting this derivative to zero,

$$g'(\theta) = 0 = \frac{2n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta) + \frac{2}{a} \operatorname{sgn}(\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta) = -\frac{1}{a} \operatorname{sgn}(\theta)$$

Since  $\operatorname{sgn}(\theta) \neq 0 \forall \theta$ , we can multiply both sides by  $\operatorname{sgn}(\theta)$ .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta) \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) = -\frac{1}{a} \underbrace{\operatorname{sgn}^2(\theta)}_{+1} = -\frac{1}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{an}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta) \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{an}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta) \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\bar{x} - \theta) \operatorname{sgn}(\theta) = -\frac{\sigma^2}{na}$$

For  $\theta > 0$ ,  $\theta_1 = \bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{na}$  & for  $\theta \leq 0$ ,  $\theta_2 = \bar{x} - \frac{\sigma^2}{na}$ .

We will need to check at which of these points  $g(\theta)$  is maximized.

$$\text{i.e. } \hat{\theta}_{\text{MLE}} = \underset{\theta \in \{\theta_1, \theta_2\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} g(\theta)$$



Problem 3: The following questions are from textbook.

1. Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be i.i.d random variables with the probability density function  $f(x|\theta)$ , where if  $\theta=0$ , then

$$f(x|\theta) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } 0 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

while if  $\theta=1$ , then

$$f(x|\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, & \text{if } 0 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Find the MLE of  $\theta$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup>: We only know  $f(x|\theta)$  when  $\theta=0$  or  $\theta=1$ . So we can only say if  $\theta=0$  or  $\theta=1$  maximizes <sup>likelihood of</sup> some given sample  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

$$L(\theta|\vec{x}) = f(\vec{x}|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta)$$

Let us try to represent  $f(x|\theta)$  in a single expression instead of the piecewise definition.  $f(x|\theta) = \prod_{\{x \in (0,1)\}} \left[ \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \right]$   
indicator fn.

When any one of  $x_i$  lies outside  $(0,1)$ , we get  $L(\theta|\vec{x})=0$  for both  $\theta=0$  &  $\theta=1$ . Hence both are equally likely. We could break tie and pick any one in this situation.

When all  $x_i$  are in the interval  $(0,1)$ , then

$$f(x|\theta) = \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}}$$

Notice that  $\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} = 0$  as  $\theta$  cannot be 0 & 1 at the same time.

$$\therefore L(\theta|\vec{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left[ \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \right]$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \right)$$

(this happens because the cross terms contain  $\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} \cdot \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}}$  and hence go to zero.



$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore L(\theta|x) &= \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \\
&= \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \right) \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \right) \\
&= \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \right) \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \right) \\
&= \underbrace{\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}}}_{\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}}}_{\mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}}} \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \right) \\
&= \underbrace{1}_{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} \underbrace{\left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x_i}} \right)}_{\mathbf{B}} = \underbrace{1}_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \mathbf{B} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}}
\end{aligned}$$

Note: If  $g(z) = a \mathbb{I}_{\{z=z_1\}} + b \mathbb{I}_{\{z=z_2\}}$ ,

$$\text{then } \arg\max_z g(z) = \begin{cases} z_1, & a > b \\ z_2, & a < b \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{i.e. } \arg\max g(z) &= z_1 \mathbb{I}_{\{a > b\}} + z_2 \mathbb{I}_{\{b > a\}} \\
&= z_1 \mathbb{I}_{\{a > b\}} + (1 - \mathbb{I}_{\{a > b\}}) z_2 \\
&= z_2 + (z_1 - z_2) \mathbb{I}_{\{a > b\}}
\end{aligned}$$

Also note that in this case, we are dealing with  $x_i \in (0,1)$  as for the case where  $\exists x_i \notin (0,1)$ , we mentioned that there is a tie bet<sup>n</sup>  $\theta=0$  &  $\theta=1$  & any one of them is a good MLE estimate.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{so } 0 < x_i < 1 &\Rightarrow 0 < \sqrt{x_i} < 1 \Rightarrow 1 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_i}} < \infty \\
&\text{or } 1 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_i}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_i}}}_{\mathbf{B}} > \underbrace{1}_{\mathbf{A}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{B} > \mathbf{A} = 1 > 0$$

$$\therefore \hat{\theta}_{MLE} = \arg\max_{\theta} L(\theta|x) = \arg\max_{\theta} \mathbf{A} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=0\}} + \mathbf{B} \mathbb{I}_{\{\theta=1\}} = 1$$

$$\therefore \hat{\theta}_{MLE} = \begin{cases} 0 \text{ or } 1 & ; \quad \exists x_i \notin (0,1) \\ 1 & ; \quad \forall x_i \in (0,1) \end{cases}$$

2. Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be iid random variables with distribution  $N(\theta, \sigma^2)$  and suppose the parameter  $\theta$  is random with a prior distribution  $N(\mu, \tau^2)$ .

Assume that  $\sigma^2, \mu, \tau^2$  are all known.

a) Find the joint probability density function of  $\bar{X} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  and  $\theta$ .

b) Show that the marginal distribution  $m(\bar{x} | \sigma^2, \mu, \tau^2)$  of  $\bar{X}$  is  $N(\mu, (\sigma^2/n) + \tau^2)$ .

c) Derive the posterior distribution  $\pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .

Soln a) Since  $x_i \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2)$ , the sample mean  $\bar{X}$  is also normally distributed with the same mean but smaller variance  $\sigma^2/n$ .  $\therefore \bar{X} \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2/n)$

$$\therefore p(\bar{X} | \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(\sigma^2/n)}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\bar{x} - \theta)^2}{2(\sigma^2/n)} \right\}$$

Need to find the joint density function  $p(\bar{X}, \theta)$ .

$$\theta \sim N(\mu, \tau^2) \therefore p(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\tau^2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{2\tau^2} \right\}$$

By definition of joint density;

$$\begin{aligned} p(\bar{X}, \theta) &= p(\bar{X} | \theta) p(\theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(\sigma^2/n)}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\bar{x} - \theta)^2}{2(\sigma^2/n)} \right\} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\tau^2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{2\tau^2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow p(\bar{X}, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{(\sigma\tau)^2}{n}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(\bar{x} - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2/n} + \frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{\tau^2} \right) \right\}$$

b) By definition of marginal distribution,  $m(\bar{x} | \sigma^2, \mu, \tau^2) = \int p(\bar{x}, \theta) d\theta$

$$m(\bar{x} | \sigma^2, \mu, \tau^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{(\sigma\tau)^2}{n}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2/n} - \frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{\tau^2} \right\} d\theta$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{(\sigma\tau)^2}{n}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x - \theta)^2}{\sigma^2/n} \right\} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{\tau^2} \right\} d\theta$$

This expression is the convolution of <sup>pdf of</sup> two normal distributions.

We know that the convolution of two pdf is the distribution of the sum of two random variables whose pdf are involved in the Convolution. i.e. if  $X_1 \sim f_1$ ,  $X_2 \sim f_2$ , then  $X_1 + X_2 \sim f_1 * f_2$  where  $*$  is the convolution operator.

We also know that the Convolution of two normal pdfs is another normal pdf. i.e. if  $Z_1 \sim N(a_1, b_1^2)$   
 $Z_2 \sim N(a_2, b_2^2)$

$$\text{then } Z_1 + Z_2 \sim N(a_1 + a_2, b_1^2 + b_2^2)$$

Recall that  $p(\bar{X}|\theta) = N(\theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$  or  $\bar{X} \sim N(\theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$   
and  $p(\theta) = N(\mu, \tau^2)$  or  $\theta \sim N(\mu, \tau^2)$

$$\begin{aligned} p(\bar{X}, \theta) &= p(\bar{X}|\theta) p(\theta) \\ &= N(\theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}) N(\mu, \tau^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{And } \int p(\bar{X}, \theta) d\theta = N(\theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}) * N(\mu, \tau^2)$$

By inspecting the previous integral, we can tell that the integration will yield another normal distribution. Hence, if we can find the mean & variance of this new normal distribution, we have all the information.

In general, we want to show that if  $X|Y \sim N(Y, \sigma^2)$   
and  $Y \sim N(\mu, \tau^2)$ , then  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2 + \tau^2)$ .

Proof: We assume that we know the distribution of  $X$  is normal.

$$\text{Then mean}(X) = E[X] = E[E[X|Y]] = E[Y] = \mu$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[\text{Var}(X|Y)] + \text{Var}[E[X|Y]] = E[\sigma^2] + \text{Var}(Y) = \sigma^2 + \tau^2$$

Ignore this



Since  $E(x) = \mu$  &  $\text{Var}(x) = \sigma^2 + \tau^2$  and we assumed that  $x$  is normally distributed, we have

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2 + \tau^2).$$

Now, in our case, we have  $\bar{x}|\theta \sim N(\theta, \sigma_n^2)$  &  $\theta \sim N(\mu, \tau^2)$

$$\therefore f(\bar{x}) = \bar{m}(\bar{x}|\sigma^2, \mu, \tau^2) = N(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \tau^2)$$

$\int f(\bar{x}, \theta) d\theta = f(\bar{x}) \leftarrow$  the marginal of  $f(\bar{x}, \theta)$  gives the density of  $f(\bar{x})$  and we know that the density of  $\bar{x}$  is  $N(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \tau^2)$

c) Derive the posterior distribution  $\pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$\text{Sol}^n: \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) \propto f(x_1, \dots, x_n | \theta) \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i | \theta) \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x_i - \theta)^2 \right\} \right) \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \left( \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \right)^{n/2} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \theta)^2 \right\} \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x} + \bar{x} - \theta)^2 \right\} \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(\bar{x} - \theta) \right) \right\} \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}_{\text{independent of } \theta} + n(\bar{x} - \theta)^2 \right) \right\} \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} \cdot (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 \right\} \cdot \pi(\theta)$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} \cdot (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 \right\} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\tau^2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{2\tau^2} \right\}}_{\text{independent of } \theta}$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 - \frac{(\theta - \mu)^2}{2\tau^2} \right\}$$

$$\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 + \frac{1}{\tau^2} (\theta - \mu)^2 \right] \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) &\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - \theta)^2 + \frac{1}{\tau^2} (\theta - \mu)^2 \right] \right\} \\
&\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x}^2 + \theta^2 - 2\bar{x}\theta) \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{\tau^2} (\theta^2 + \mu^2 - 2\mu\theta) \right] \right\} \\
&\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\tau^2} \right) \theta^2 + \underbrace{\left( \frac{n\bar{x}^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu^2}{\tau^2} \right)}_{\text{indep. of } \theta} \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. - 2 \left[ \frac{n}{\sigma^2} \bar{x} + \frac{\mu}{\tau^2} \right] \theta \right] \right\} \\
&\propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\tau^2} \right)}_A \theta^2 - 2 \underbrace{\left[ \frac{n\bar{x}}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu}{\tau^2} \right]}_B \theta \right] \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

This is a normal distribution. We want to know the mean & std.

One could complete the squares but it is easier to find the mode & for normal mean = mode.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Mode} &= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} A\theta^2 - 2B\theta = A\left(\theta^2 - \frac{2B}{A}\theta\right) \\
&= A\left(\theta - \frac{2B}{A}\right)\theta
\end{aligned}$$

This is a parabola and the peak is the mean of the roots.  
The roots are  $\theta = 0$  &  $\theta = \frac{2B}{A}$ , Center =  $\frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2}{2} = \frac{B}{A}$ .

$$\therefore \mu_{\text{posterior}} = B/A$$

Similarly, for a Normal distribution, the coefficient of  $x^2$  is  $-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}$

$$-\frac{1}{2\sigma_{\text{posterior}}^2} = -\frac{1}{2}A \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{posterior}}^2} \Rightarrow \sigma_{\text{posterior}}^2 = \frac{1}{A}$$

$$\therefore \pi(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_n) = N\left(\mu_{\text{posterior}}, \sigma_{\text{posterior}}^2\right)$$

$$\text{where } \mu_{\text{posterior}} = \frac{\frac{n}{\sigma^2}\bar{x} + \frac{\mu}{\tau^2}}{\frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\tau^2}} \quad \& \quad \sigma_{\text{posterior}}^2 = \frac{1}{\frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\tau^2}}$$