

# Bayesian Model Choice

Hoff Chapter 9, Liang et al 2007, Hoeting et al (1999), Clyde & George (2004) Statistical Science

October 26, 2022

# Posterior Distribution

With a Normal-Gamma Prior  $\text{NG}(\mathbf{b}_0, \Phi_0, \nu_0, SS_0)$ , the posterior is  $\text{NG}(\mathbf{b}_n, \Phi_n, \nu_n, SS_n)$ : with

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and hyper-parameters

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# Marginal Distribution from Normal–Gamma

## Theorem

Let  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \phi \sim N(m, \frac{1}{\phi}\Sigma)$  and  $\phi \sim G(\nu/2, \nu\hat{\sigma}^2/2)$ . Then  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  ( $p \times 1$ ) has a  $p$  dimensional multivariate  $t$  distribution

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \sim t_{\nu}(m, \hat{\sigma}^2\Sigma)$$

with density

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \propto \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\nu} \frac{(\boldsymbol{\theta} - m)^T \Sigma^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\theta} - m)}{\hat{\sigma}^2} \right]^{-\frac{p+\nu}{2}}$$

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Any linear combination  $\mathbf{x}^T \beta$

$$\mathbf{x}^T \beta \mid Y \sim t_{\nu_n}(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{b}_n, \hat{\sigma}^2 \mathbf{x}^T \Phi_n^{-1} \mathbf{x})$$

has a univariate  $t$  distribution with  $\nu_n$  degrees of freedom

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Requires completing the square/quadratic!

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## Definition

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Choice of conjugate prior?

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$$\mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\partial^2 \log(\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))}{\partial \theta_i \partial \theta_j}\right]$$

# Fisher Information Matrix

Log Likelihood

$$\log(\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \phi)) = \frac{n}{2} \log(\phi) - \frac{\phi}{2} \|(I - P_X)Y\|^2 - \frac{\phi}{2} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T (X^T X) (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$$

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$$\frac{\partial^2 \log \mathcal{L}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta} \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^T} = \begin{bmatrix} -\phi(X^T X) & -(X^T X)(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \\ -(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T (X^T X) & -\frac{n}{2} \frac{1}{\phi^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Improper prior  $\iint p_J(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \phi) d\boldsymbol{\beta} d\phi$  not finite

# Formal Bayes Posterior

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Jeffreys did not recommend using this Posterior does not depend on dimension  $p$

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Bayesian Credible Sets  $p(\beta \in C_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha$  correspond to frequentist Confidence Regions

$$\frac{\lambda^T \beta - \lambda^T \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2 \lambda^T (X^T X)^{-1} \lambda}} \sim t_{n-p}$$

## Zellner's $g$ -prior

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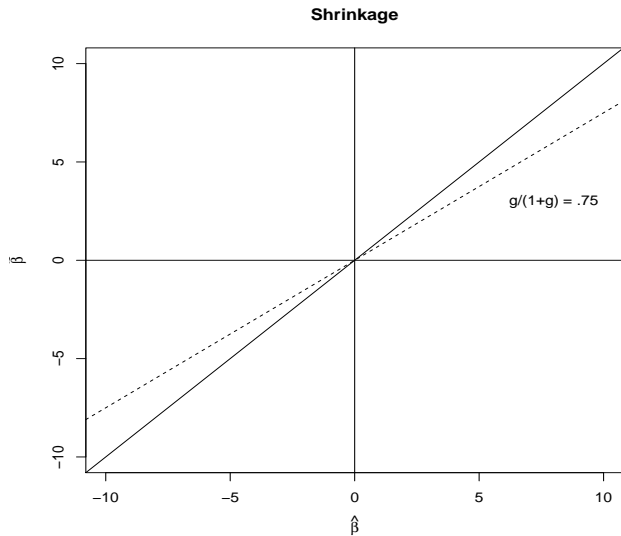
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- ▶  $\frac{g}{1+g}$  weight given to the data
- ▶ Fixed  $g$  effect does not vanish as  $n \rightarrow \infty$
- ▶ Use  $g = n$  or place a prior distribution on  $g$

# Shrinkage

Posterior mean under  $g$ -prior with  $b_0 = 0$   $\frac{g}{1+g}\hat{\beta}$



# Ridge Regression

- ▶ If  $X^T X$  is nearly singular, certain elements of  $\beta$  or (linear combinations of  $\beta$ ) may have huge variances under the  $g$ -prior (or flat prior) as the MLEs are highly unstable!
- ▶ **Ridge regression** protects against the explosion of variances and ill-conditioning with the conjugate prior:

$$\beta \mid \phi \sim N(0, \frac{1}{\phi\lambda} I_p)$$

- ▶ Posterior for  $\beta$  (conjugate case)

$$\beta \mid \phi, \lambda, Y \sim N \left( (\lambda I_p + X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y, \frac{1}{\phi} (\lambda I_p + X^T X)^{-1} \right)$$

- ▶ induces shrinkage as well!

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- ▶ Redundant variables lead to unstable estimates
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- ▶ Can we infer a "good" model from the data?
- ▶ Expand model hierarchically to introduce another latent variable  $\gamma$  that encodes models  $\mathcal{M}_\gamma$   $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_p)^T$  where

$$\gamma_j = 0 \Leftrightarrow \beta_j = 0$$

$$\gamma_j = 1 \Leftrightarrow \beta_j \neq 0$$

- ▶ Find Bayes factors and posterior probabilities of models  $\mathcal{M}_\gamma$
- ▶  $2^p$  models!

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Centered model:

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which leads to marginal likelihood of  $\gamma$  that is proportional to

$$p(Y \mid \gamma) = C(1 + g)^{\frac{n-p-1}{2}} (1 + g(1 - R_\gamma^2))^{-\frac{(n-1)}{2}}$$

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Trade-off of model complexity versus goodness of fit

Lastly, assign distribution to space of models

# Sketch

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- ▶ algebra to simplify quadratic forms to  $R_\gamma^2$

Or integrate  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta_\gamma$  and  $\phi$  (complete the square!)

# Priors on Model Space

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 $p_\gamma \sim \text{Bin}(p, .5)$
- ▶  $\gamma_j \mid \pi \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Ber}(\pi)$  and  $\pi \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$  then  $p_\gamma \sim \text{BB}_p(a, b)$

$$p(p_\gamma \mid p, a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(p+1)\Gamma(p_\gamma+a)\Gamma(p-p_\gamma+b)\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(p_\gamma+1)\Gamma(p-p_\gamma+1)\Gamma(p+a+b)\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}$$

- ▶  $p_\gamma \sim \text{BB}_p(1, 1) \sim \text{Unif}(0, p)$

# Posterior Probabilities of Models

- Calculate analytically under enumeration

$$p(\mathcal{M}_\gamma | Y) = \frac{p(Y | \gamma)p(\gamma)}{\sum_{\gamma' \in \Gamma} p(Y | \gamma')p(\gamma')}$$

Express as a function of Bayes factors and prior odds!

- Use MCMC over  $\Gamma$  - Gibbs, Metropolis Hastings
- Do we need to run MCMC over  $\gamma$ ,  $\beta_\gamma$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\phi$ ?

Inference/Decisions ?