

Lecture 10: More MCMC: Blocked Metropolis-Hastings and Gibbs

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- convenient to break problems in to K blocks and update them separately
- $\theta = (\theta_{[1]}, \dots, \theta_{[K]}) = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p)$

At iteration s , for $k = 1, \dots, K$ Cycle thru blocks: (fixed order or random order)

- propose $\theta_{[k]}^* \sim q_k(\theta_{[k]}^* \mid \theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)})$
- set $\theta_{[k]}^{(s)} = \theta_{[k]}^*$ with probability

$$\min \left\{ 1, \frac{\pi(\theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[k]}^*, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)}) \mathcal{L}(\theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[k]}^*, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)}) / q_k(\theta_{[k]}^* \mid \theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)})}{\pi(\theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[k]}^{(s-1)}, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)}) \mathcal{L}(\theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[k]}^{(s-1)}, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)}) / q_k(\theta_{[k]}^{(s-1)} \mid \theta_{[<k]}^{(s)}, \theta_{[>k]}^{(s-1)})} \right\}$$



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special case of Blocked MH



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- proposal distribution q_k for the k th block is the **full conditional** distribution for $\theta_{[k]}$

$$\pi(\theta_{[k]} \mid \theta_{[-k]}, y) = \frac{\pi(\theta_{[k]}, \theta_{[-k]} \mid y)}{\pi(\theta_{[-k]} \mid y)} \propto \pi(\theta_{[k]}, \theta_{[-k]} \mid y)$$



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- acceptance probability is always 1!
- even though joint distribution is messy, full conditionals may be (conditionally) conjugate and easy to sample from!



Univariate Normal Example

Model

$$\begin{aligned}Y_i \mid \mu, \sigma^2 &\stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1/\phi) \\ \mu &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, 1/\tau_0) \\ \phi &\sim \text{Gamma}(a/2, b/2)\end{aligned}$$



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- Joint prior is a product of independent Normal-Gamma
- Is $\pi(\mu, \phi \mid y_1, \dots, y_n)$ also a Normal-Gamma family?



Full Conditional for the Mean

The full conditional distributions $\mu \mid \phi, y_1, \dots, y_n$

$$\mu \mid \phi, y_1, \dots, y_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\hat{\mu}, 1/\tau_n)$$

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{\tau_0 \mu_0 + n \phi \bar{y}}{\tau_0 + n \phi}$$

$$\tau_n = \tau_0 + n \phi$$



Full Conditional for the Precision

$$\phi \mid \mu, y_1, \dots, y_n \sim \text{Gamma}(a_n/2, b_n/2)$$

$$a_n = a + n$$

$$b_n = b + \sum_i (y_i - \mu)^2$$



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$$a = b = \epsilon \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0?$$



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$$Y_i \mid \beta, \phi \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathbf{N}(x_i^T \beta, 1/\phi)$$

$$Y \mid \beta, \phi \sim \mathbf{N}(X\beta, \phi^{-1}I_n)$$

$$\beta \sim \mathbf{N}(b_0, \Phi_0^{-1})$$

$$\phi \sim \mathbf{N}(v_0/2, s_0/2)$$



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Multivariate Normal density for β

$$\pi(\beta | b_0, \Phi_0) = \frac{|\Phi_0|^{1/2}}{(2\pi)^{p/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\beta - b_0)^T \Phi_0 (\beta - b_0)\right\}$$



Full Conditional for β

$$\begin{aligned}\beta \mid \phi, y_1, \dots, y_n &\sim \mathbf{N}(b_n, \Phi_n^{-1}) \\ b_n &= (\Phi_0 + \phi X^T X)^{-1} (\Phi_0 b_0 + \phi X^T X \hat{\beta}) \\ \Phi_n &= \Phi_0 + \phi X^T X\end{aligned}$$



Derivation continued



Full Conditional for ϕ

$$\phi \mid \beta, y_1, \dots, y_n \sim \text{Gamma}((v_0 + n)/2, (s_0 + \sum_i (y_i - x_i^T \beta)))$$



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- needs $X^T X$ to be full rank for distribution to be unique



Invariance and Choice of Mean/Precision

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- or the posterior of $H^{-1}\beta$ and $\tilde{\beta}$ should be the same
- with some linear algebra we can show that this is true if $b_0 = 0$ and Φ_0 is $kX^T X$ for some k (show!)



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Popular choice is to take $k = \phi/g$ which is a special case of Zellner's g-prior

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Conjugate so we could skip Gibbs sampling and sample directly from gamma and then conditional normal!



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Posterior for β (conjugate case)

$$\beta \mid \phi, \lambda, y_1, \dots, y_n \sim \mathbf{N}\left((\lambda I_p + X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y, \frac{1}{\phi} (\lambda I_p + X^T X)^{-1}\right)$$



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- Bayes Regression and choice of Φ_0 in general is a very important problem and provides the foundation for many variations on shrinkage estimators, variable selection, hierarchical models, nonparameteric regression and more!
- Be sure that you can derive the full conditional posteriors for β and ϕ as well as the joint posterior in the conjugate case!



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- Introduce latent variables (data augmentation) to allow Gibbs steps (Next class)

