

## Bayesian Computing

SDS	Page No.
Date	

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### Experiment no. 10

Aim = Study of R to interface with winBUGS, a stand-alone software program for the windows operating system.

#### Theory

##### Introduction to winBUGS

The BUGS project is focused on the development of software to facilitate Bayesian fitting of complex statistical models using MCMC algorithms. winBUGS is a program for sampling from a general posterior distribution of a Bayesian model by use of Gibbs sampling and a general class of proposal densities. To describe the use of winBUGS in a very simple setting, suppose you observe  $y$  distributed binomial  $(n, p)$  and a beta  $(\alpha, \beta)$  prior is placed on  $p$  where  $\alpha = 0.5$  and  $\beta = 0.5$ . you observe  $y = 7$  successes in a sample of  $n = 50$  and you wish to construct a 90% interval estimate for  $p$ . The Bayesian model for this task can be developed using the following winBUGS model script =

```
model {  
  y ~ dbin(p, n)  
  p ~ dbeta(alpha, beta)  
}
```

Once model, data, and initial values are defined, the sample Monitor Tool in winBUGS can be used to monitor parameters in simulation.

An R interface to winBUGS = R/winBUGS is an R interface to winBUGS which allows the use of winBUGS using R. It is easy to define Bayesian problem for winBUGS by use of R interface. There are 4 necessary inputs that are similar to the inputs require

within the winBUGS programs:

1. Model - One describes statistical model by means of a "model" file that describes model in the BUGS language.
2. Data - One inputs data directly into R in the form of constants, vectors, matrices and model parameters.
3. parameters - within R, one specifies the parameters to be monitored in simulation run.
4. Initial values - One specifies initial values of parameters in R console. The defined model can be simulated using following command.

```
> model.sim <- bugs (data, init, parameters, "model.bug")
```

### Conclusion

In this study, we examined integration of R with winBUGS, a widely used software for Bayesian computation using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. In conclusion, the study found that employing R as an interface to winBUGS offers a convenient and adaptable approach to perform Bayesian analysis using MCMC methods.