

Econometrics Homework 3

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Question 1

θ is an unknown parameter satisfying $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$. We have the following two experiments involving θ .

$\mathcal{E}_1 = \{Y_1, \theta, f_1(y_1|\theta)\}$ is a binomial experiment in which a coin is flipped T_1 times, where T_1 is predetermined and Y_1 is the number of “heads” obtained in the T_1 flips.

$\mathcal{E}_2 = \{Y_2, \theta, f_2(y_2|\theta)\}$ is a negative binomial experiment in which a coin is flipped until m “tails” are obtained, where $m > 0$ is predetermined, and Y_2 is defined to be the number of “heads” obtained in the process.

Part (a)

We assume θ as the probability of the coin landing on head.

Clearly Y_1 follows a binomial distribution with parameters T_1 and θ , i.e. $Y_1 \sim \text{Bin}(T_1, \theta)$. So the p.m.f. for Y_1 is

$$f_1(k|\theta, T_1) = \begin{cases} \binom{T_1}{k} \times \theta^k (1-\theta)^{T_1-k} & \text{if } 0 \leq k \leq T_1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Now,

For $Y_2 = k, k \geq 0$, we must have $m-1$ tails and k heads come up in $m+k-1$ tosses of the coin and a tail in the next toss i.e. $(m+k)^{\text{th}}$ toss of the coin.

The probability of getting k heads in the first $m+k-1$ tosses of the coin is

$$P(k \text{ heads in } (m+k-1) \text{ tosses}) = \binom{m+k-1}{k} \times \theta^k (1-\theta)^{m-1}$$

So the p.m.f. for Y_2 is

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(k|\theta, m) &= P(k \text{ heads in } (m+k-1) \text{ tosses}) \times P(\text{tail in next toss}) \times I(k \geq 0) \\ &= \binom{m+k-1}{k} \times \theta^k (1-\theta)^{m-1} \times (1-\theta) \times I(k \geq 0) \\ &= \binom{m+k-1}{k} \times \theta^k (1-\theta)^m \times I(k \geq 0) \end{aligned}$$

where $I(\cdot)$ is the indicator function.

Part (b)

Given $T_1 = 12$ and $m = 3$ and for both the experiments $y_1 = y_2 = 9$

The likelihood for the first experiment \mathcal{E}_1 is,

$$\begin{aligned} L_1(\theta|y_1 = 9, T_1 = 12) &= \binom{12}{9} \times \theta^9 (1-\theta)^{12-9} \\ &= 220 \times \theta^9 (1-\theta)^3 \end{aligned}$$

The likelihood for the second experiment \mathcal{E}_2 is,

$$\begin{aligned} L_2(\theta|y_2 = 9, m = 3) &= \binom{3+9-1}{9} \times \theta^9 (1-\theta)^3 \\ &= \binom{11}{9} \theta^9 (1-\theta)^3 \\ &= 55 \times \theta^9 (1-\theta)^3 \end{aligned}$$

The Likelihood Principle states that, given a statistical model, all the evidence in a sample relevant to model parameters is contained in the likelihood function. As the likelihoods of the two experiments are non-zero scalar multiples of each other, the inferences drawn from them about θ will also be the same.

For example:

- The maximum likelihood estimate (MLE), which is the parameter value that maximizes the likelihood function, will be the same for both the likelihoods.
- Likelihood ratios, which are used for hypothesis testing, will also be the same.

Question 2

We have the uniform distribution with density function,

$$f(y_i|\theta) = \frac{1}{\theta}, \quad 0 \leq y_i \leq \theta$$

where θ is unknown.

Part(a)

The pdf for the Pareto distribution is,

$$\pi(\theta) = \begin{cases} ak^a\theta^{-(a+1)} & \text{if } \theta \geq k, a \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We wish to show that it is the conjugate prior for the Uniform distribution.

From Bayes' Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\theta|y) &\propto f(y|\theta)\pi(\theta) = \frac{1}{\theta} \times ak^a\theta^{-(a+1)}I(\theta \geq k) \\ \implies \pi(\theta|y) &\propto ak^a\theta^{-(a+2)}I(\theta \geq k) \end{aligned}$$

From the last expression we can see that $\pi(\theta|y)$ is proportional to the kernel of the Pareto distribution. Hence the Pareto distribution is a conjugate prior distribution for the uniform distribution.

Part(b)

The likelihood function for y is,

$$\begin{aligned} L(\theta|y) &= \prod_{i=1}^n f(y_i|\theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{\theta} \times I(0 \leq y_i \leq \theta) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta^n} \times I(\theta \geq \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{y_i\}) \quad [\text{since } \theta \geq y_i \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n] \end{aligned}$$

For $\theta \geq \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{y_i\}$, $L(\theta|y)$ is a decreasing function of θ and equals 0 for $\theta < \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{y_i\}$. So, $L(\theta|y)$ is maximized at $\theta = \max(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$.

Therefore, $\hat{\theta} = \max(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ is the MLE of θ .

Part(c)

From part (a),

$$\pi(\theta|y) \propto ak^a\theta^{-(a+2)}I(\theta \geq k)$$

The marginal likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= \int_k^\infty ak^a\theta^{-(a+2)} d\theta \\ &= \frac{a}{(a+1)k} \int_k^\infty (a+1)k^{a+1}\theta^{-(a+2)} d\theta \\ &= \frac{a}{(a+1)k} \quad [\text{as expression being integrated is pdf of Pareto distribution}] \end{aligned}$$

So the posterior distribution of θ is

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(\theta|y) &= \frac{f(y|\theta)\pi(\theta)}{f(y)} \\ &= \frac{k(a+1)}{a} ak^a \theta^{-(a+2)} I(\theta \geq k) \\ &= (a+1)k^{a+1} \theta^{-(a+2)} I(\theta \geq k)\end{aligned}$$

Now, the posterior mean of θ given is

$$\begin{aligned}E(\theta|y) &= \int_k^\infty \theta \cdot \pi(\theta|y) d\theta \\ &= \int_k^\infty \theta \cdot (a+1)k^{a+1} \theta^{-(a+2)} d\theta \\ &= (a+1)k^{a+1} \int_k^\infty \theta^{-(a+1)} d\theta \\ &= \frac{(a+1)k^{a+1}}{ak^a} \int_k^\infty ak^a \theta^{-(a+1)} d\theta \\ &= \frac{k(a+1)}{a} \quad \quad \quad [\text{as } \pi(\theta) = ak^a \theta^{-(a+1)} I(\theta \geq k)]\end{aligned}$$

Question 3

n	1	2	3	4	5	6
100	19	12	17	18	20	14
1000	190	120	170	180	200	140

Table 1: Data obtained from tossing a die 100 and 1000 times

We assume our prior for all the probabilities is a Dirichlet distribution, where each $\alpha_i = 2$. That is,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(\theta) &= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^6 2)}{\prod_{i=1}^6 \Gamma(2)} \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i, \text{ where } \sum_{i=1}^6 \theta_i = 1 \\ &= 11! \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i\end{aligned}$$

The likelihood for the n die tosses will be ,

$$f(y|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i^{y_i}, \text{ where } \sum_{i=1}^6 y_i = n$$

where y_i corresponds to the number of times the number i shows up in n tosses of the die, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, 6$.

From Bayes' Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(\theta|y) &\propto f(y|\theta)\pi(\theta) \\ &\propto \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i^{y_i} \times 11! \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i \\ &\propto \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i^{y_i+1}\end{aligned}$$

So $\pi(\theta|y)$ is proportional to the kernel of the Dirichlet distribution, so $\theta|y \sim D(y_1 + 2, y_2 + 2, \dots, y_6 + 2)$.

Therefore,

$$\pi(\theta|y) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^6 (y_i + 2))}{\prod_{i=1}^6 \Gamma(y_i + 2)} \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i^{y_i+1} = \frac{\Gamma(n + 12)}{\prod_{i=1}^6 \Gamma(y_i + 2)} \prod_{i=1}^6 \theta_i^{y_i+1}$$

where,

$$\sum_{i=1}^6 \theta_i = 1 \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^6 y_i = n.$$

Claim:

The marginal of θ_1 for a Dirichlet distribution, $\theta \sim D(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ is Beta $\left(\alpha_1, \sum_{i=2}^d \alpha_i - \alpha_1\right)$ for $d \geq 3$.

Proof:

We will prove the claim by using induction on d .

For $d = 3$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi(\theta_1) &= \int_{\theta_2=0}^{1-\theta_1} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^3 \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} \theta_2^{\alpha_2-1} (1-\theta_1-\theta_2)^{\alpha_3-1} d\theta_2 \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^3 \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} \int_0^{1-\theta_1} \theta_2^{\alpha_2-1} (1-\theta_1-\theta_2)^{\alpha_3-1} d\theta_2 \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^3 \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} \int_0^1 (1-\theta_1)^{\alpha_2} u^{\alpha_2-1} (1-\theta_1-(1-\theta_1)u)^{\alpha_3-1} du \quad [\text{set } \theta_2 = (1-\theta_1)u] \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^3 \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} (1-\theta_1)^{\alpha_2+\alpha_3-1} \int_0^1 u^{\alpha_2-1} (1-u)^{\alpha_3-1} du \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^3 \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} (1-\theta_1)^{\alpha_2+\alpha_3-1} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_2)\Gamma(\alpha_3)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2+\alpha_3)} \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_1+\alpha_2+\alpha_3)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(\alpha_2+\alpha_3)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} (1-\theta_1)^{\alpha_2+\alpha_3-1}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, θ_1 follows a Beta distribution with parameters α_1 and $\alpha_2 + \alpha_3$.

Now suppose the claim holds for some $n = k$.

Now for $n = k + 1$, we have the Dirichlet distribution $D(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k+1})$. We want to find the marginal distribution of θ_1 .

$$\pi(\theta_1) = \int_{\theta_2=0}^{1-\theta_1} \int_{\theta_3=0}^{1-\theta_1-\theta_2} \dots \int_{\theta_k=0}^{1-\theta_1-\dots-\theta_{k-1}} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \theta_i^{\alpha_i-1} d\theta_k \dots d\theta_2$$

Let's integrate out θ_k first. We substitute $\theta_k = (1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i)u$, where $0 \leq u \leq 1 - \theta_1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i$. Then $d\theta_k = (1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i)du$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi(\theta_1) &= \int_{\theta_2=0}^{1-\theta_1} \dots \int_{\theta_{k-1}=0}^{1-\theta_1-\dots-\theta_{k-2}} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \theta_i^{\alpha_i-1} \\
&\quad \times \int_0^1 \left(1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i\right)^{\alpha_k-1} u^{\alpha_k-1} \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \theta_i - (1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i)u\right)^{\alpha_{k+1}-1} \left(1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i\right) du \\
&= \int_{\theta_2=0}^{1-\theta_1} \dots \int_{\theta_{k-1}=0}^{1-\theta_1-\dots-\theta_{k-2}} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \theta_i^{\alpha_i-1} \left(1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i\right)^{\alpha_k+\alpha_{k+1}-1} \\
&\quad \times \int_0^1 u^{\alpha_k-1} (1-u)^{\alpha_{k+1}-1} du d\theta_{k-1} \dots d\theta_2 \\
&= \int_{\theta_2=0}^{1-\theta_1} \dots \int_{\theta_{k-1}=0}^{1-\theta_1-\dots-\theta_{k-2}} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \alpha_i) \Gamma(\alpha_k) \Gamma(\alpha_{k+1})}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\alpha_k + \alpha_{k+1}) \prod_{i=2}^{k-1} \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \theta_i^{\alpha_i-1} \left(1 - \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \theta_i\right)^{\alpha_k+\alpha_{k+1}-1} d\theta_{k-1} \dots d\theta_2
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we recognize that the remaining integral is the marginal distribution for a Dirichlet distribution of dimension k , with parameters $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}, \alpha_k + \alpha_{k+1}$. By the inductive hypothesis, this integral, after normalization, will result in a Beta distribution.

$$\pi(\theta_1) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \alpha_i)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\sum_{i=2}^{k+1} \alpha_i)} \theta_1^{\alpha_1-1} (1-\theta_1)^{\sum_{i=2}^{k+1} \alpha_i-1}$$

This is the kernel of a Beta distribution with parameters α_1 and $\sum_{i=2}^{k+1} \alpha_i$.

Hence, the claim holds for $n = k+1$. By the principle of mathematical induction, the marginal distribution of θ_1 for a Dirichlet distribution $D(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ is $\text{Beta}(\alpha_1, \sum_{i=2}^d \alpha_i)$ for all $d \geq 2$.

Now it follows from our claim that $\theta_1|y \sim \text{Beta}(y_1 + 2, n - y_1 + 8)$.

Therefore,

$$\pi(\theta_1|y) = \frac{\Gamma(n+10)}{\Gamma(y_1+2)\Gamma(n-y_1+8)} \theta_1^{y_1+1} (1-\theta_1)^{n-y_1+7}$$

For $n = 100$

From the table we have $y_1 = 19, y_2 = 12, y_3 = 17, y_4 = 18, y_5 = 20, y_6 = 14$.

The posterior distribution of θ_1 is,

$$\pi(\theta_1|y) = \frac{\Gamma(110)}{\Gamma(21)\Gamma(89)} \theta_1^{20} (1-\theta_1)^{88}$$

For $n = 1000$

From the table we have $y_1 = 190, y_2 = 120, y_3 = 170, y_4 = 180, y_5 = 200, y_6 = 140$.

The posterior distribution of θ_1 is,

$$\pi(\theta_1|y) = \frac{\Gamma(1010)}{\Gamma(192)\Gamma(818)} \theta_1^{191} (1-\theta_1)^{817}$$

Plots for the two resulting posterior distributions of θ_1

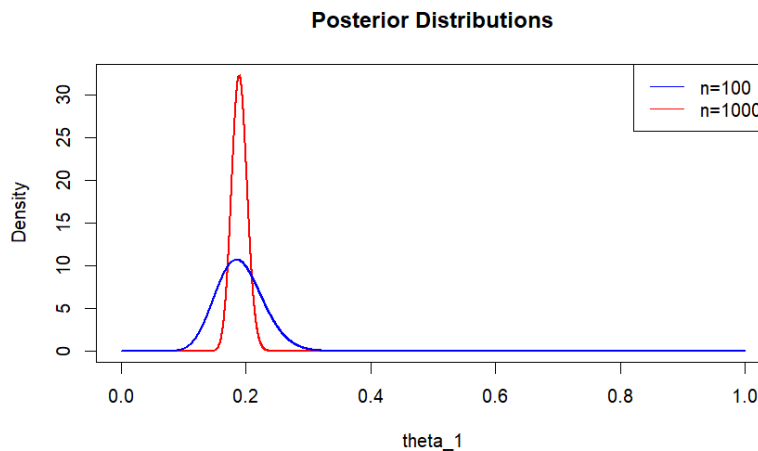


Figure 1: Resulting Posterior Distributions of θ_1 for $n = 100$ and $n = 1000$

From the plots we can clearly observe that the posterior distribution for $n = 1000$ is much more concentrated at around 0.19 ($= \frac{19}{100} = \frac{190}{1000}$) than the posterior distribution for $n = 100$.

Effect of having a larger sample size

As the sample size increases, the likelihood function (which represents the information from the data) becomes increasingly dominant over the prior distribution (which represents our initial beliefs).

With larger samples, the posterior distribution tends to become more concentrated around the true value of the parameter being estimated. This concentration reflects the increased certainty that comes with more data. The variance of the posterior distribution decreases, indicating a narrower range of plausible values for the parameter.

Question 4

Given $Y_i (i = 1, \dots, n)$ are i.i.d EXP(θ), where the pdf of y is given by,

$$f(y_i|\theta) = \frac{1}{\theta} \exp\left(-\frac{y_i}{\theta}\right)$$

Part(a)

Jeffrey's prior for θ is the square root of the information number of θ , $I(\theta)$.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} I(\theta) &= E \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log(f(y|\theta)) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= E \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta} \exp \left(-\frac{y_i}{\theta} \right) \right) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= E \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log \left(\frac{1}{\theta^n} \exp \left(-\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i}{\theta} \right) \right) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= E \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(-n \log \theta - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i}{\theta} \right) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= E \left[\left(-\frac{n}{\theta} + \frac{1}{\theta^2} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)^2 \right] \\ &= E \left[\frac{n^2}{\theta^2} - 2 \frac{n}{\theta^3} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i + \frac{1}{\theta^4} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{n^2}{\theta^2} + 2 \frac{n}{\theta^3} \sum_{i=1}^n E[y_i] + \frac{1}{\theta^4} E \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$