

# Conjugate Priors

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## Problem 1. Binomial

```
p1 <- read.table("https://madison.byu.edu/bayes/binomial2.dat", header = FALSE)
```

```
sum_ni <- sum(p1$V2); sum_ni
```

```
## [1] 476
```

```
sum_yi <- sum(p1$V3); sum_yi
```

```
## [1] 73
```

```
sum_ni_yi <- sum(p1$V2 - p1$V3); sum_ni_yi
```

```
## [1] 403
```

We have that  $\sum_{i=1}^{153} n_i = 476$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^{153} y_i = 73$ , and  $\sum_{i=1}^{139} n_i - y_i = 403$ .

The conjugate prior distribution is a **Beta** distribution with parameters  $a$  and  $b$ .  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$ .

It follows that

$$P(\theta) \propto \theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-1}$$

The likelihood  $L(y \mid \theta)$  of  $P(y \mid \theta)$  is given by

$$L(y \mid \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{159} \binom{n_i}{y_i} \theta^{y_i} (1-\theta)^{n_i-y_i} \propto \theta^{73} (1-\theta)^{403}$$

Multiplying the likelihood by the prior, we get that

$$P(\theta \mid y) \propto \theta^{73+a-1} (1-\theta)^{403+b-1}$$

which follows a Beta distribution with parameters  $73 + a$  and  $403 + b$ .

We select  $a = 1$  and  $b = 249$  so that our posterior follows a Beta distribution with parameters 74 and 652. This way, our expected value is around 0.10, which is the record proportion of at-bats that are home runs.

The prior distribution is  $\text{Beta}(1, 652)$  such that

$$P(\theta | y) \propto \theta^{74-1}(1 - \theta)^{652-1}$$

Deriving the maximum likelihood estimate of our likelihood  $L(y | \theta) = \theta^{73}(1 - \theta)^{403}$

$$\begin{aligned} \log L(y | \theta) &= 73 \log(\theta) + 403 \log(1 - \theta) \\ \frac{\partial \log L(y | \theta)}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (73 \log(\theta) + 403 \log(1 - \theta)) \\ 0 &= \frac{73}{\theta} - \frac{403}{1 - \theta} \end{aligned}$$

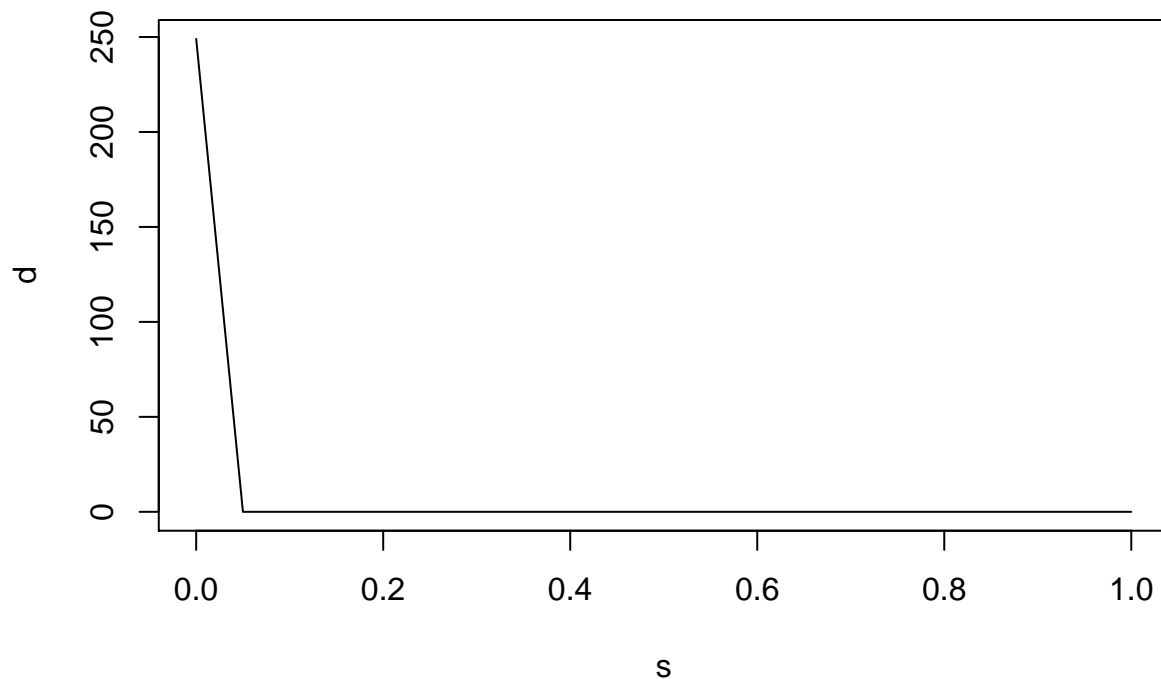
$$\frac{73}{\theta} = \frac{403}{1 - \theta}$$

$$\theta = \frac{73}{476} \approx 0.1533613$$

Plotting the prior distribution, we get:

```
a <- 1
b <- 249
s <- seq(0, 1, by = 0.05)
d <- dbeta(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Beta with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
```

### Beta with parameters 1 and 249



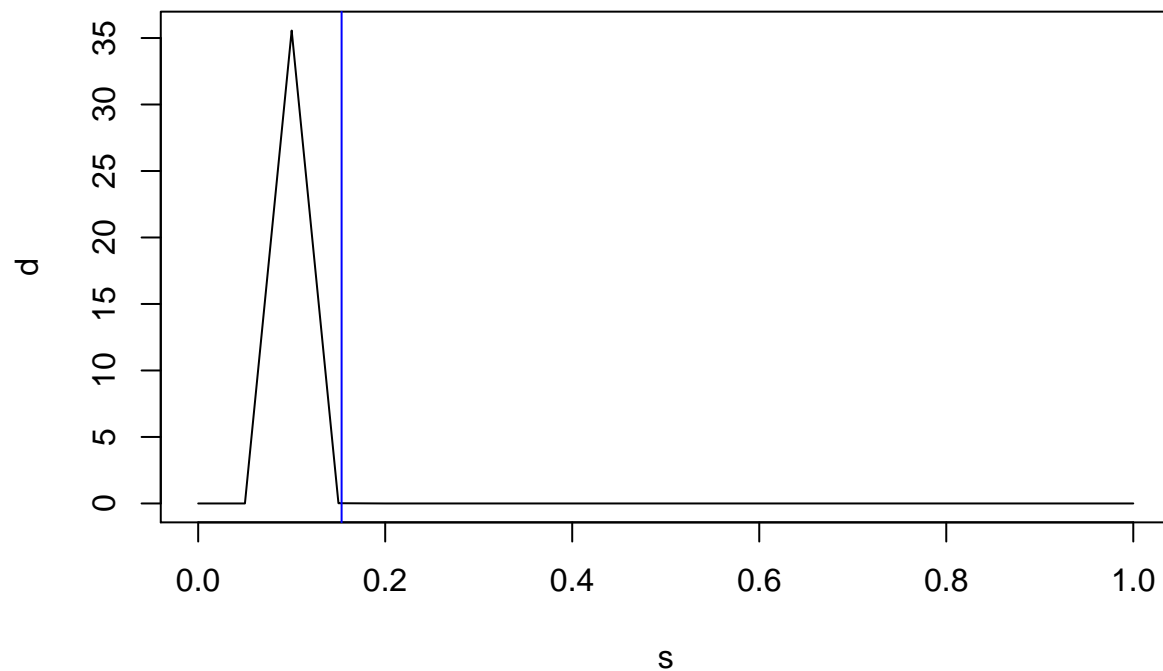
Plotting the posterior distribution, we get:

```

mle <- 73/476
a <- 74
b <- 652
s <- seq(0, 1, by = 0.05)
d <- dbeta(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Beta with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
abline(v = mle, col = "blue")

```

### Beta with parameters 74 and 652



### Posterior Mean

The expected value of a Beta Distribution is

$$E(X) = \frac{a}{a+b} = \frac{74}{726} \approx 0.102$$

### Posterior Median

```

n <- rgamma(10e6, 74, 652)
median(n)

```

```
## [1] 0.1129851
```

### Posterior Mode

$$\frac{a-1}{a+b-2} = \frac{73}{724} \approx 0.101$$

## Posterior Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{ab}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)} = 0.0001259133$$

## Posterior Standard Deviation

```
sd <- sqrt(0.0001259133); sd
```

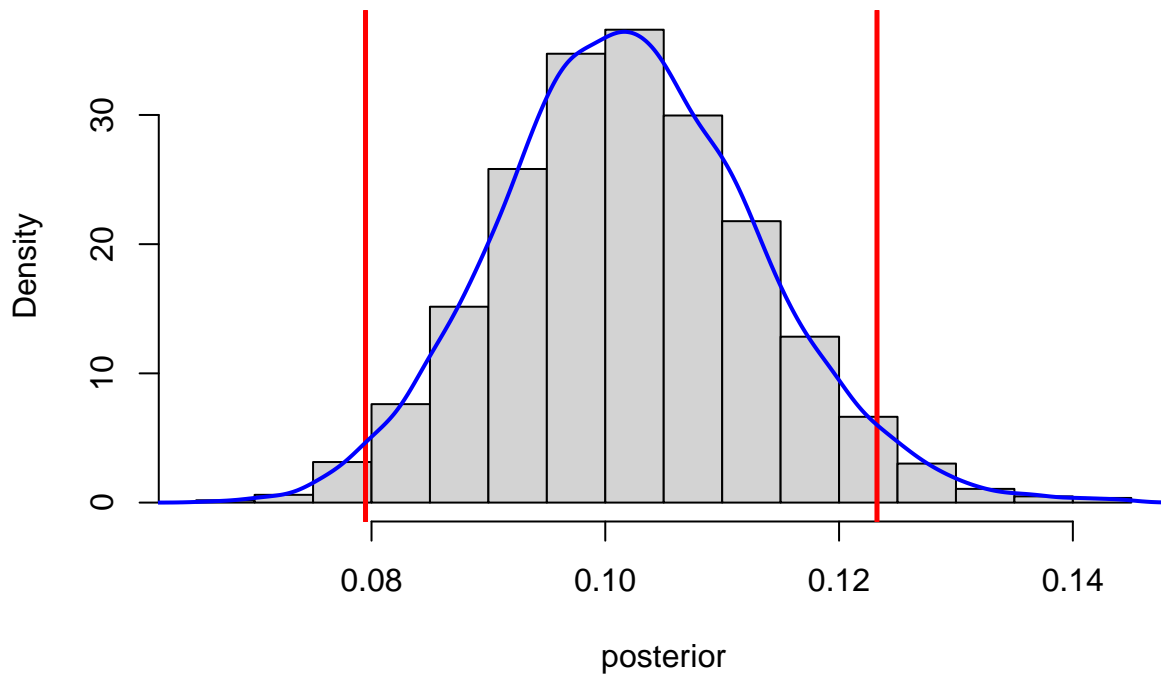
```
## [1] 0.01122111
```

## 95% Credible Interval

Acknowledgments: [https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/bayestestR/vignettes/credible\\_interval.html#what-is-a-credible-interval](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/bayestestR/vignettes/credible_interval.html#what-is-a-credible-interval)

```
posterior <- rbeta(10000, 74, 652)
ci_hdi <- ci(posterior, method = "HDI", ci = 0.95)
low <- ci_hdi$CI_low
high <- ci_hdi$CI_high
ci <- c(low, high)
hist(posterior, prob = TRUE)
abline(v = ci, col = "red", lwd = 2.5)
lines(density(posterior), lwd = 2, col = "blue")
```

**Histogram of posterior**



## Problem 2. Poisson

```
p2 <- read.table("https://madison.byu.edu/bayes/poisson.dat")
p2 <- as.vector(p2[,1])
p2
```

```
## [1] 3 4 3 1 1 4 1 4 2 1 1 3 1 1 4
```

```
sum(p2)
```

```
## [1] 34
```

The conjugate prior of a Poisson distribution is a Gamma distribution with parameters  $a$  and  $b$ .

$$\theta \sim \Gamma(a, b)$$

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^{15} \frac{\lambda^{y_i} \exp(-\lambda)}{y_i!}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{15} y_i = 34$$

$$L(y \mid \theta) \propto \lambda^{34} \exp(-15\lambda)$$

$$P(\theta) = \frac{\lambda^{a-1} \exp(-\frac{\lambda}{b})}{b^a \Gamma(a)} \propto \lambda^{a-1} \exp(-\frac{\lambda}{b})$$

It then follows that

$$P(\theta \mid y) \propto \lambda^{34+a-1} \exp(-\lambda(15 + \frac{1}{b}))$$

We see that  $P(\theta \mid y)$  is proportional to a gamma distribution with parameters  $34 + a - 1$  and  $1 + \frac{1}{b}$ ,  $\Gamma(34 + a, \frac{1}{15 + \frac{1}{b}})$ .

We let  $a = b = 1$  so that

$$P(\theta \mid y) \propto \lambda^{35-1} \exp(-\frac{\lambda}{16})$$

$$P(\theta \mid y) \sim \Gamma(35, \frac{1}{16})$$

We compute the MLE:

$$L(y \mid \theta) = \lambda^{34} \exp(-15\lambda)$$
$$\log L(y \mid \theta) = 34 \log(\lambda) - \frac{\lambda}{15}$$

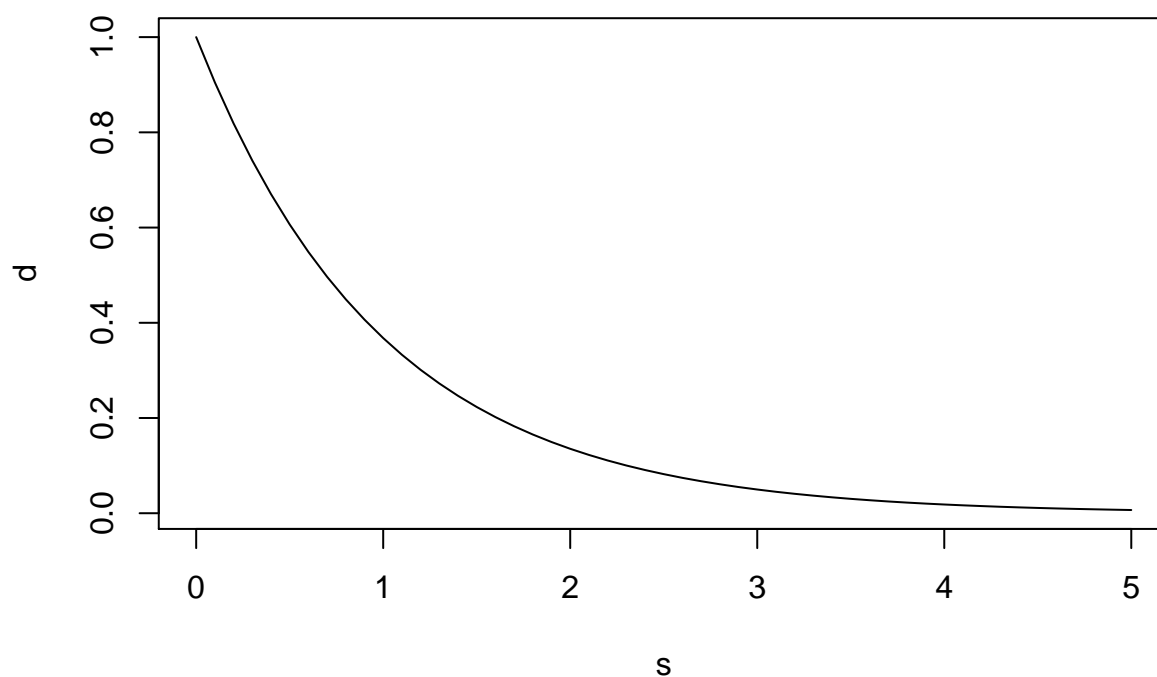
$$\frac{\partial \log L(y | \theta)}{\partial \lambda} = \frac{34}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{15} = 0$$

$$\hat{\lambda} = 34(15) = 510$$

Plotting the prior distribution, we get

```
a <- 1
b <- 1
s <- seq(0,5, by = 0.1)
d <- dgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
```

### Gamma with parameters 1 and 1



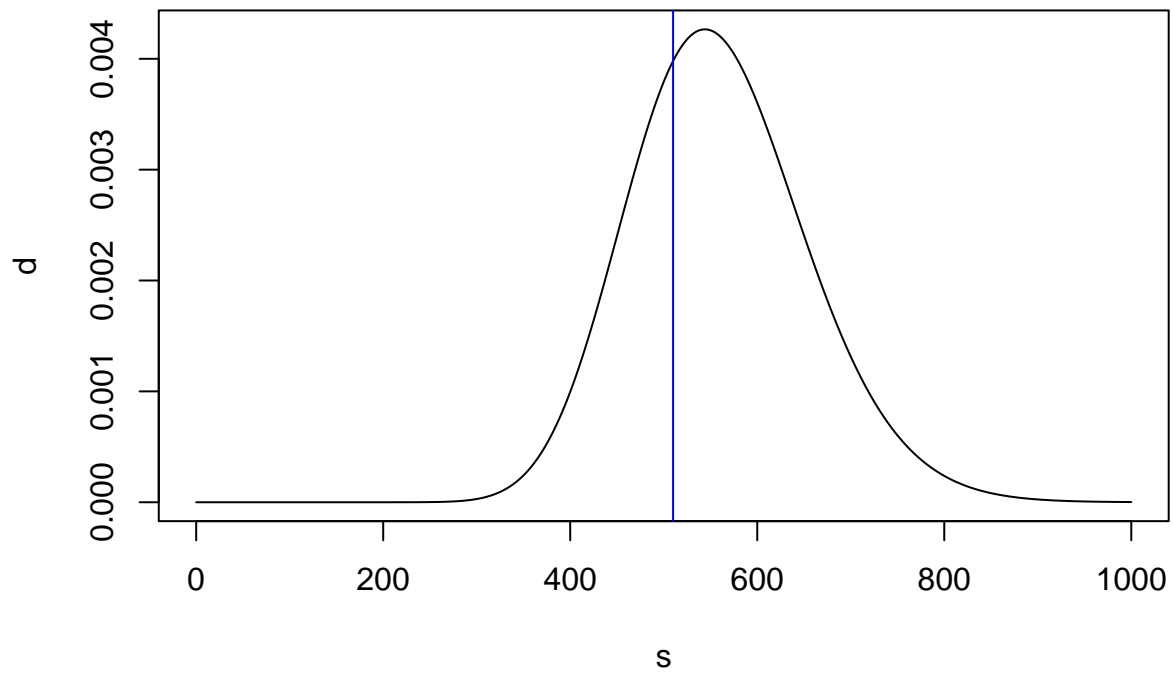
Our posterior is

$$\Gamma(35, \frac{1}{16})$$

Plotting the posterior distribution, we get

```
a <- 35
b <- 1/16
s <- seq(0, 1000, by = 0.1)
d <- dgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title); abline(v = 510, col = "blue") #MLE
```

## Gamma with parameters 35 and 0.0625



### Posterior Mean

$$E(X) = ab = (35)16 = 560$$

### Posterior Median

```
n <- rgamma(10e6, 35, 1/16)
median(n)
```

```
## [1] 554.6399
```

### Posterior Mode

$$(a - 1)b = 544$$

### Posterior Variance

$$Var(X) = ab^2 = 8960$$

### Posterior Standard Deviation

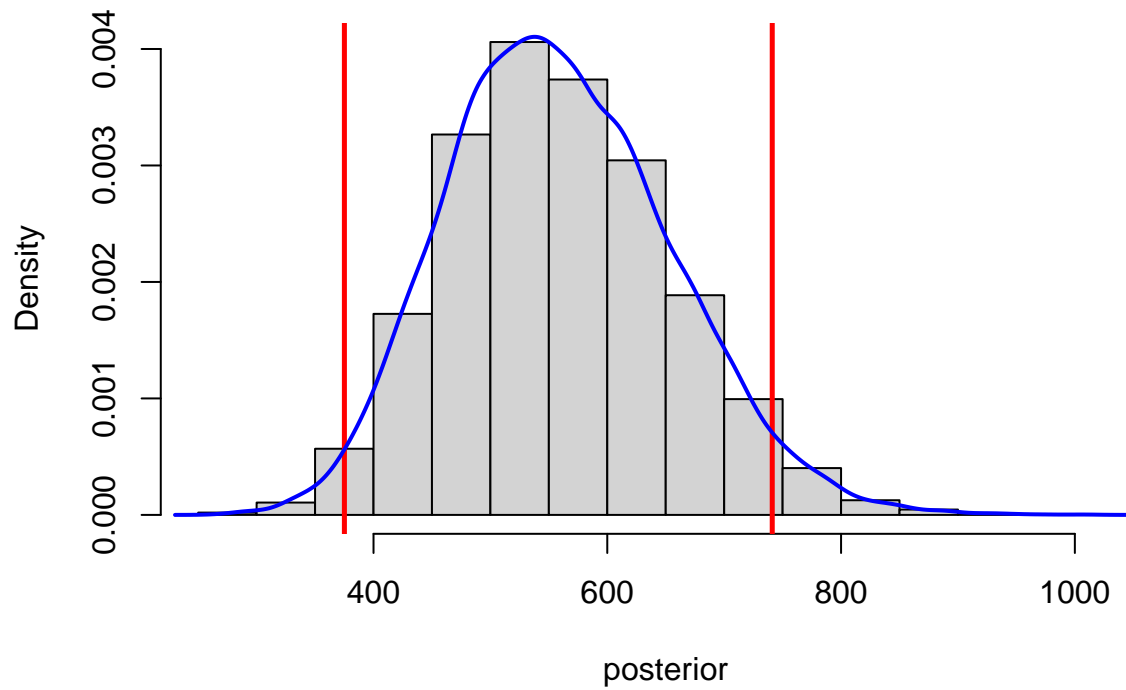
```
sqrt(8960)
```

```
## [1] 94.65728
```

## 95% Credible Interval

```
posterior <- rgamma(10000, 35, 1/16)
ci_hdi <- ci(posterior, method = "HDI", ci = 0.95)
low <- ci_hdi$CI_low
high <- ci_hdi$CI_high
ci <- c(low, high)
hist(posterior, prob = TRUE)
abline(v = ci, col = "red", lwd = 2.5)
lines(density(posterior), lwd=2, col="blue")
```

**Histogram of posterior**





### Problem 3. Exponential

```
p3 <- read.table("http://madison.byu.edu/bayes/exponential.dat")
p3 <- as.vector(p3[,1])
```

$$P(y_i | \lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{y_i}{\lambda}\right)$$

```
sum(p3)
```

```
## [1] 83357
```

$$\sum_{i=1}^{141} y_i = 83357$$

Then,

$$L(y | \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^{141} \lambda^{-1} \exp(-\lambda y_i) = \lambda^{-141} \exp\left(-\frac{83357}{\lambda}\right)$$

The conjugate prior of an Exponential distribution is an Inverse Gamma Distribution with parameters  $a$  and  $b$ .

Our prior:

$$P(\lambda) \propto \lambda^{-a-1} \exp\{-b/\lambda\}$$

Our posterior:

$$P(\lambda|y) \propto L(y|\lambda)P(\lambda)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\propto \lambda^{-141-a-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(83357+b)\right\} \\ &\propto \Gamma^{-1}(141+a, 83357+b) \end{aligned}$$

Computing the MLE we get:

$$L(y | \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^{141} \lambda^{-1} \exp(-\lambda y_i) = \lambda^{-141} \exp\left(-\frac{83357}{\lambda}\right)$$

$$\log L(y | \lambda) = -141 \log \lambda - \frac{83357}{\lambda}$$

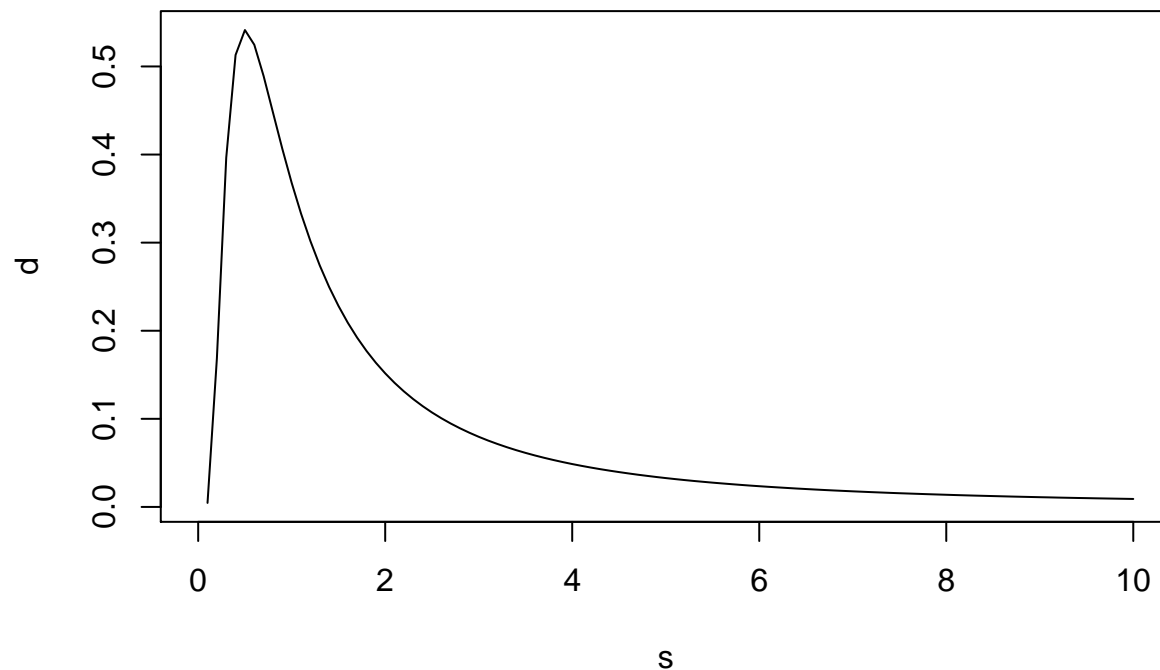
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L(y | \lambda)}{d\lambda} &= -\frac{141}{\lambda} + \frac{83357}{\lambda^2} = 0 \\ -141 + \frac{83357}{\lambda} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{83357}{141} = 591.1844$$

We let  $a = 100$  and  $b = 1$ . Plotting the prior distribution, we get

```
library(invgamma)
a <- 1
b <- 1
s <- seq(0, 10, by = 0.1)
d <- dinvgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Inverse Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
```

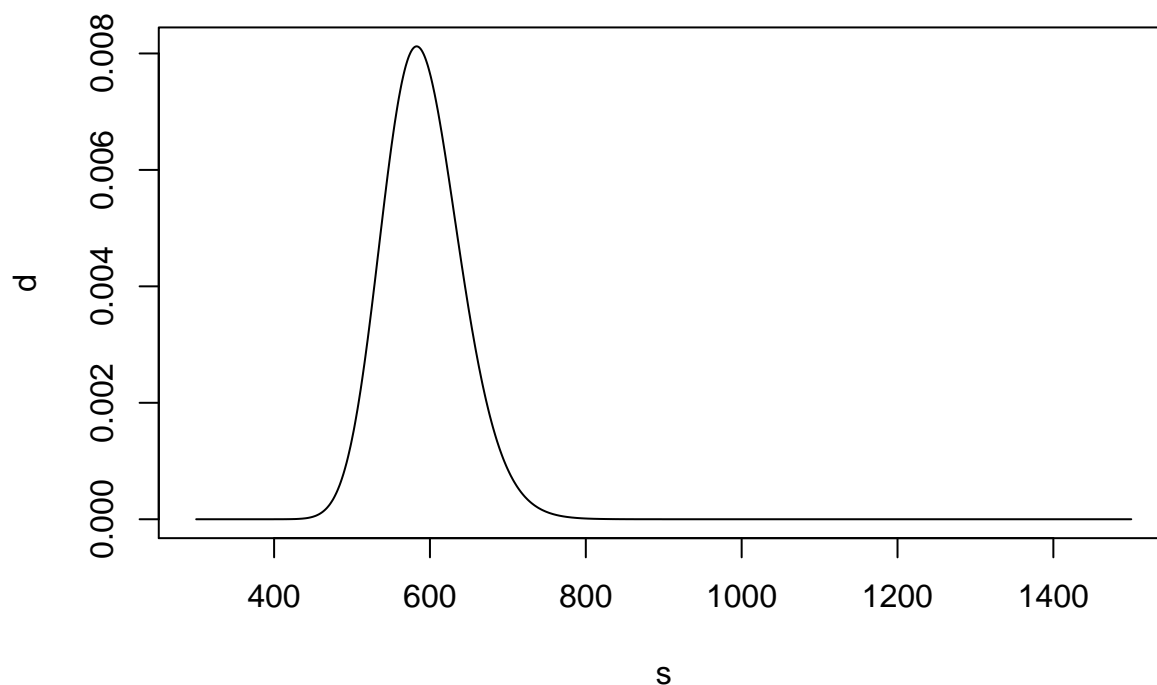
### Inverse Gamma with parameters 1 and 1



Plotting the posterior distribution, we get

```
a <- 142
b <- 83358
s <- seq(300, 1500)
d <- dinvgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Inverse Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
abline(v = 0.121644, col = "blue")
```

## Inverse Gamma with parameters 142 and 83358



$$a = 142, b = 83358$$

### Posterior Mean

$$E(X) = \frac{b}{a-1} = 591.1915$$

## Posterior Median

```
n <- rinvgamma(1e6, 142, 83358)
median(n)
```

```
## [1] 588.3826
```

### Posterior Mode

$$\frac{b}{a+1} = 582.9231$$

### Posterior Variance and SD

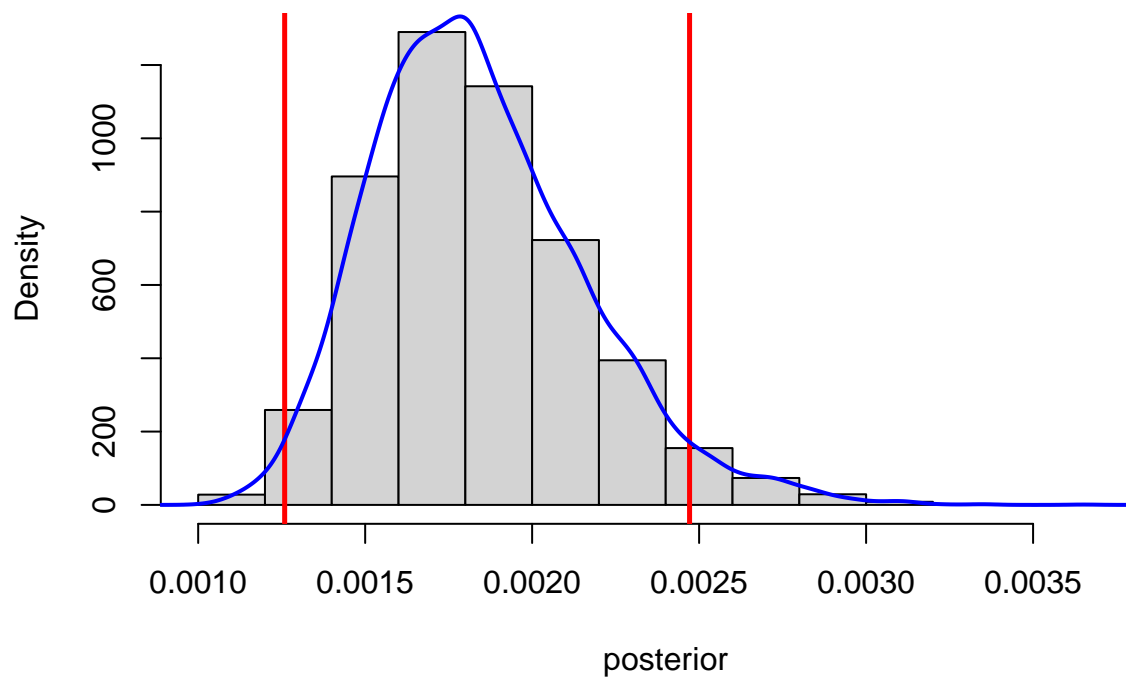
$$Var(X) = \frac{b^2}{(a-1)^2(a-2)} = 2496.481$$

$$sd(X) = 49.9648$$

## 95% Credible Interval

```
posterior <- rinvgamma(10000, 35, 1/16)
ci_hdi <- ci(posterior, method = "HDI", ci = 0.95)
low <- ci_hdi$CI_low
high <- ci_hdi$CI_high
ci <- c(low, high)
hist(posterior, prob = TRUE)
abline(v = ci, col = "red", lwd = 2.5)
lines(density(posterior), lwd = 2, col = "blue")
```

**Histogram of posterior**



## Problem 4. Normal with Constant Variance

```
p4 <- read.table("http://madison.byu.edu/bayes/normalmean.dat")
p4 <- as.vector(p4$V1)
p4

## [1] 98 92 89 77 87 84 75 73 95 86 67 86 86 100 100 92 100 97 95
## [20] 77 87 87 95 84 84 74 86 84 94

sum(p4)

## [1] 2531
```

$$\sum_{i=1}^{29} y_i = 2531$$

$$P(y \mid \theta) = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(y_i - \theta)^2}{162}}$$

$$L(y \mid \theta) \propto e^{-\frac{\sum (y_i - \theta)^2}{162}}$$

$$P(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma_0 \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}}$$

Then, we have that our posterior likelihood,  $P(\theta \mid y)$  is proportional to

$$e^{(-\frac{\sum (y_i - \theta)^2}{162} - \frac{(\theta - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2})} \quad (1)$$

We know our posterior is proportional to

$$e^{-\frac{(\theta - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}} \quad (2)$$

For some  $\mu_1$  and  $\sigma_1$

We then expand (1) and set it equal to (2) to get the result that

$$\theta \sim N\left(\frac{1}{\frac{n}{81} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}}\left(\frac{2531}{81} + \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2}\right), \sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{81} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}\right)^{-1}}\right)$$

We let  $\mu_0 = 85$  and  $\sigma_0^2 = 12$ .

Then, we have that

$$P(\theta \mid y) \sim N(86.84615, 1.505236)$$

We calculate the MLE:

$$L(y \mid \theta) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum (y_i - \mu)^2}$$

$$\log L = -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum (y_i - \mu)^2$$

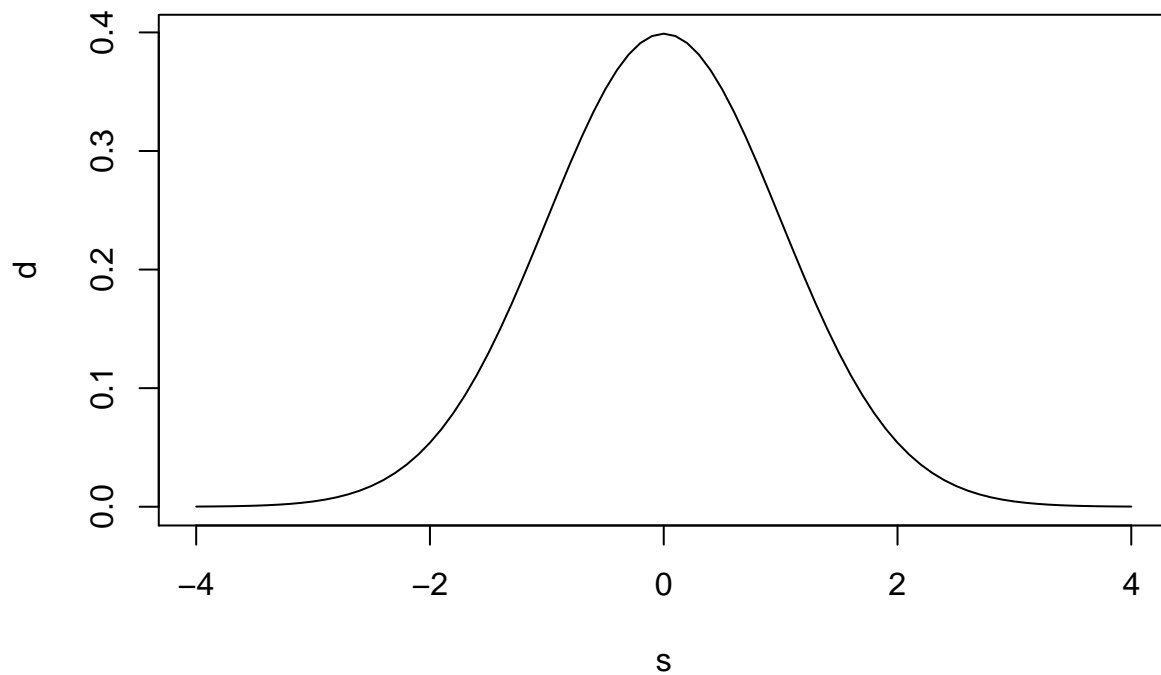
$$\hat{\mu} = \bar{y} = 86.84615$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = 2.265734$$

Plotting our prior distribution, we get:

```
mu <- 0
sd <- 1 # Already the defaults for dnorm() I think
s <- seq(-4, 4, by = 0.1)
d <- dnorm(s)
title <- paste0("Normal with mean ", mu, " and variance ", sd^2, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
```

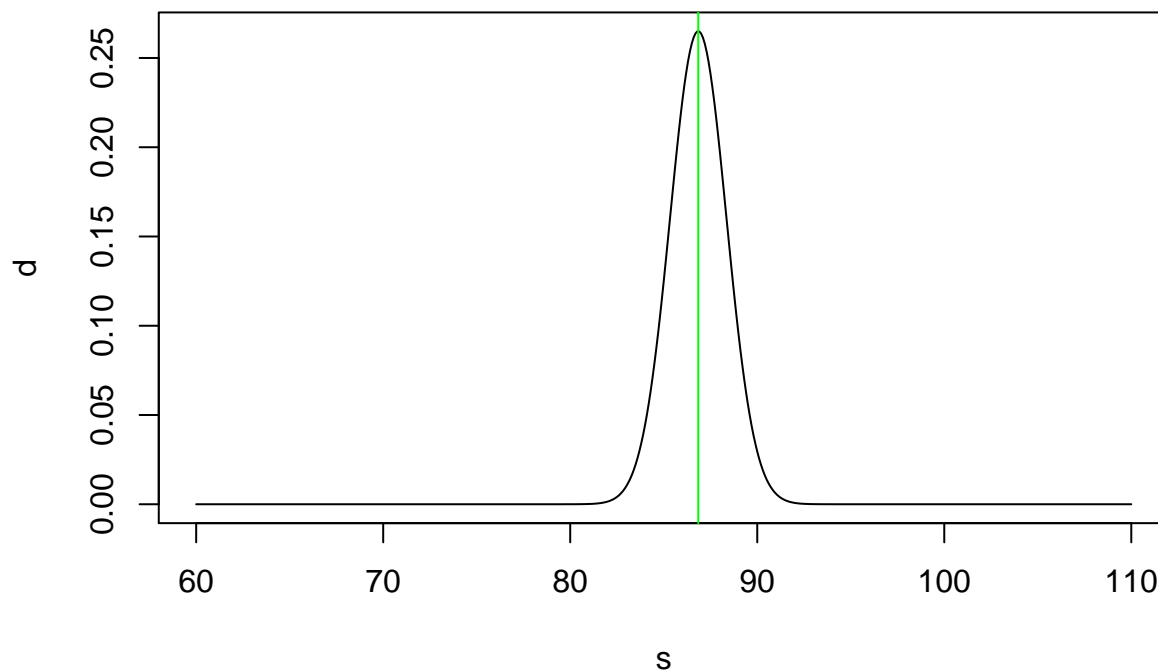
### Normal with mean 0 and variance 1



Plotting the posterior, we get

```
mu <- 86.84615
sd <- 1.505236
s <- seq(60, 110, by = 0.1)
d <- dnorm(s, mu, sd)
title <- paste0("Normal with mean ", mu, " and variance ", sd^2, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
abline(v = mu, col = "green")
```

**Normal with mean 86.84615 and variance 2.265735415696**



Posterior Mean

```
mu
## [1] 86.84615
```

Posterior Median

```
mu
## [1] 86.84615
n <- rnorm(10e6, mu, sd)
median(n) #interesting finding
## [1] 86.8465
```

Posterior Mode

```
mu
## [1] 86.84615
```

## Poster Variance and Standard Deviation

```
var <- sd^2; var
```

```
## [1] 2.265735
```

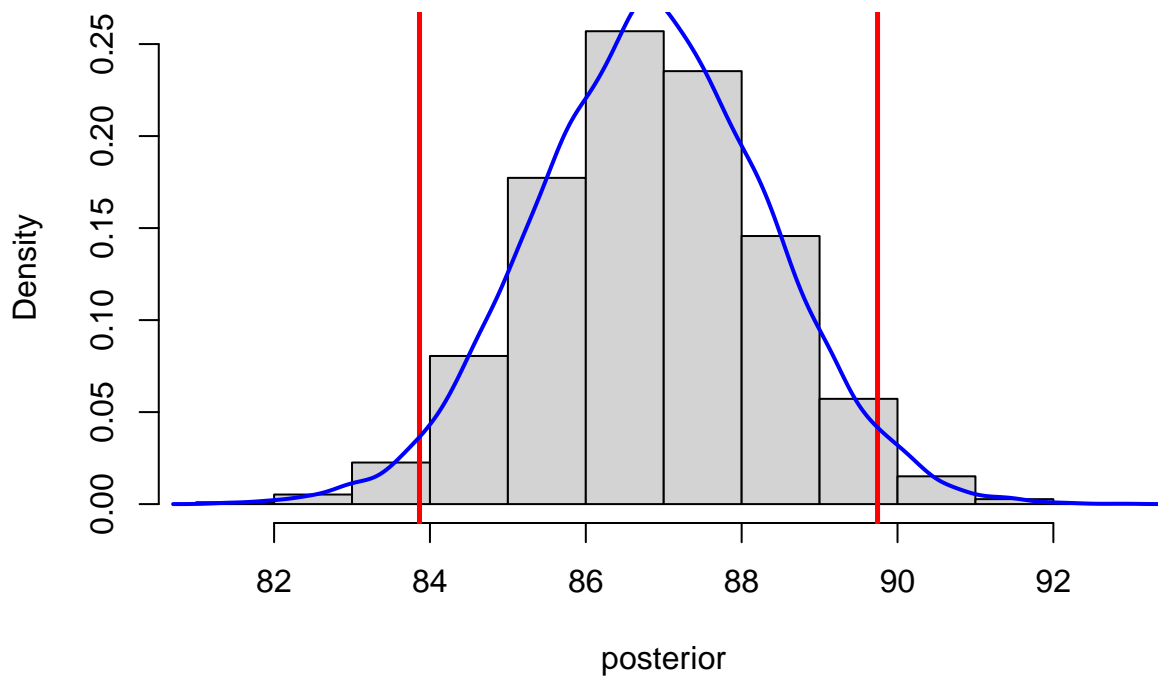
```
sd
```

```
## [1] 1.505236
```

## 95% Credible Interval

```
posterior <- rnorm(10000, mu, sd)
ci_hdi <- ci(posterior, method = "HDI", ci = 0.95)
low <- ci_hdi$CI_low
high <- ci_hdi$CI_high
ci <- c(low, high)
hist(posterior, prob = TRUE)
abline(v = ci, col = "red", lwd = 2.5)
lines(density(posterior), lwd = 2, col = "blue")
```

**Histogram of posterior**





## Problem 5. Normal with Constant Mean

```
p5 <- read.table("http://madison.byu.edu/bayes/normalvariance.dat")
p5 <- as.vector(p5$V1)
p5

## [1] 98 92 89 77 87 84 75 73 95 86 67 86 86 100 100 92 100 97 95
## [20] 77 87 87 95 84 84 74 86 84 94

sum(p5)

## [1] 2531
```

$$\sum_{i=1}^{29} y_i = 2531$$

We are given that  $\mu = 85$ .

We use the **Inverse Gamma Distribution** as our conjugate prior distribution.

$$P(y \mid \theta) = \frac{1}{\theta \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(y_i - 85)^2}{2\theta^2}}$$

Then, we have that

$$L(y \mid \theta) \propto (\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{\sum (y_i - 85)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$P(\theta) \propto (\sigma^2)^{-a-1} e^{-\frac{2b}{2\sigma^2}}$$

Since our mean  $\mu$  is fixed our parameter  $\theta$  is  $\sigma^2$ .

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} P(\sigma^2 \mid y) &\propto L(y \mid \sigma^2) P(\sigma^2) \\ &\propto (\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}-a-1} e^{-\frac{2b + \sum (y_i - 85)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \\ &= (\sigma^2)^{-(\frac{n}{2}+a)-1} e^{-\frac{b+0.5 \sum (y_i - 85)^2}{\sigma^2}} \propto (\sigma^2)^{-(\alpha_1)-1} e^{-\frac{\beta_1}{\sigma^2}} \end{aligned}$$

We see that our variance  $\sigma^2$  follows an Inverse Gamma distribution with parameters  $a + \frac{n}{2}$  and  $b + \frac{1}{2} \sum (y_i - 85)^2$ .

Therefore,

$$\sigma^2 \sim \Gamma^{-1}\left(a + \frac{n}{2}, b + \frac{1}{2} \sum (y_i - 85)^2\right)$$

$$\sigma^2 \sim \Gamma^{-1}(a + \frac{29}{2}, b + \frac{1}{2} \sum (y_i - 85)^2)$$

Expanding the sum  $\sum (y_i - 85)^2$  gives us:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum (y_i^2 - 170y_i + 85^2) \\ &= \sum y_i^2 - 170 \sum y_i + (29)85^2 \\ &= 223065 - 430270 + 209525 = 2320 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, our posterior  $\sigma^2$  is distributed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2 &\sim \Gamma^{-1}(a + \frac{29}{2}, b + \frac{1}{2} \sum (y_i - 85)^2) \\ \sigma^2 &\sim \Gamma^{-1}(a + \frac{29}{2}, b + 1160) \end{aligned}$$

If we choose  $a = \frac{5}{2}$  and  $b = 120$ , we get that

$$\sigma^2 \sim \Gamma^{-1}(17, 1280)$$

So our expected value is

$$E(X) = \frac{b}{a-1} = 80$$

Computing the MLE, we get that

$$L(y \mid \sigma^2) \propto (\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{\sum (y_i - 85)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$\log L(y \mid \sigma^2) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \frac{2320}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial L(y \mid \sigma^2)}{\partial \sigma^2} = -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{2320}{2\sigma^4} = 0$$

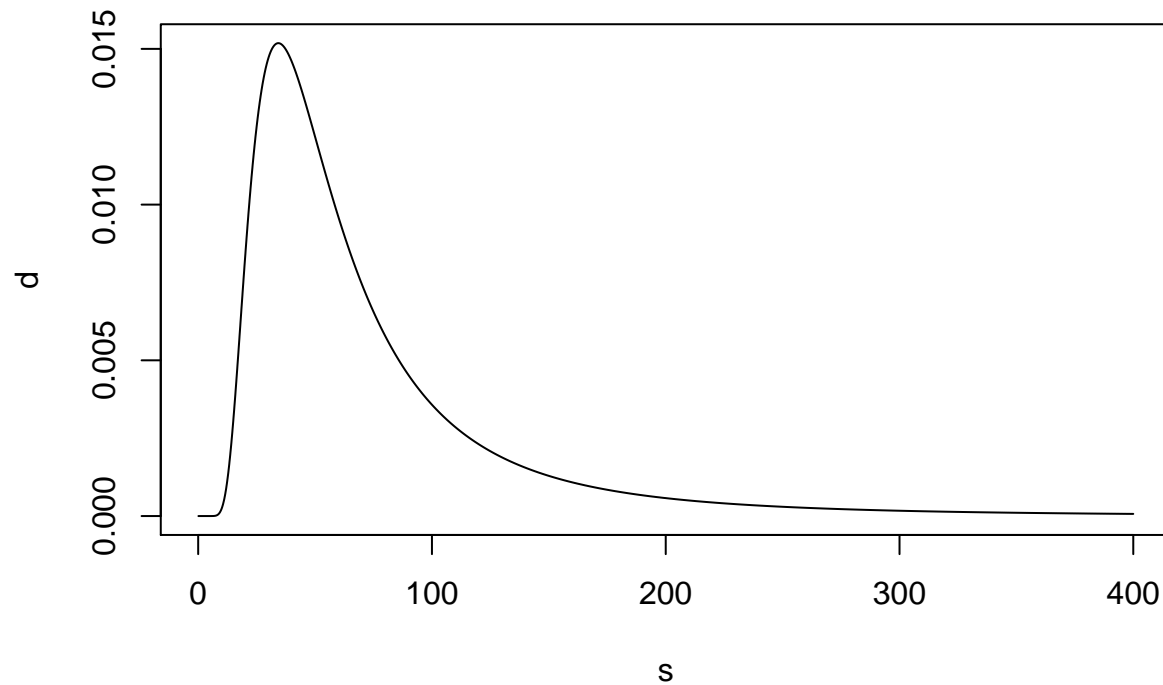
$$n = 29 = \frac{2320}{\sigma^2}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{2320}{29} = 80$$

Plotting the prior, we get that

```
library(invgamma)
a <- 2.5
b <- 120
s <- seq(0, 400, by = 0.1)
d <- dinvgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Inverse Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
```

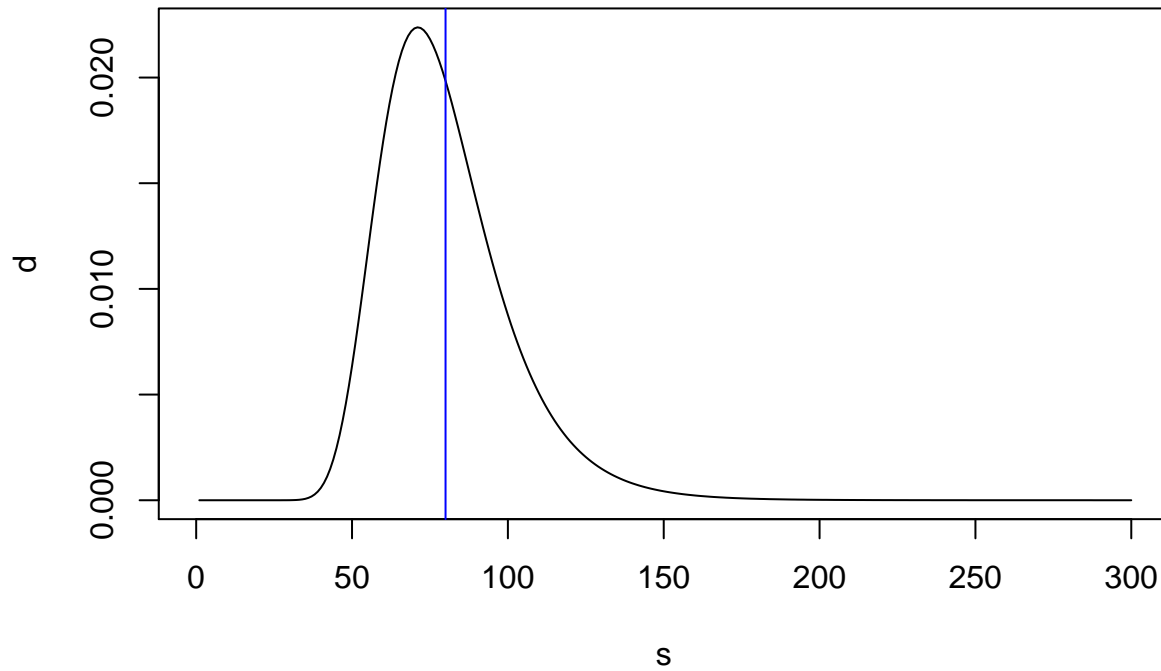
## Inverse Gamma with parameters 2.5 and 120



Plotting the posterior distribution, we get

```
a <- 17
b <- 1280
s <- seq(0, 300)
d <- dinvgamma(s, a, b)
title <- paste0("Inverse Gamma with parameters ", a, " and ", b, "\n")
plot(s, d, type = "l", main = title)
abline(v = 80, col = "blue")
```

## Inverse Gamma with parameters 17 and 1280



### Posterior Mean

$$E(X) = \frac{b}{a-1} = 80$$

### Posterior Median

```
n <- rinvgamma(10e6, 17, 1280)
median(n)
```

```
## [1] 76.79556
```

### Posterior Mode

$$\frac{b}{a+1} = 71.111$$

### Posterior Variance and SD

$$Var(X) = \frac{b^2}{(a-1)^2(a-2)} = 426.667$$

$$SD = 20.656$$

## 95% Credible Interval

```
posterior <- rinvgamma(10000, 17, 1280)
ci_hdi <- ci(posterior, method = "HDI", ci = 0.95)
low <- ci_hdi$CI_low
high <- ci_hdi$CI_high
ci <- c(low, high)
hist(posterior, prob = TRUE)
abline(v = ci, col = "red", lwd = 2.5)
lines(density(posterior), lwd = 2, col = "blue")
```

**Histogram of posterior**

