

CS 215 Assignment 3 Report

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Problem 1

0.1 Maximum Likelihood Estimate

Given that the data x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N are drawn from $G(\mu, \sigma^2)$ where σ is known and μ is unknown. We know that,

$$\hat{\mu}^{\text{ML}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{N}$$

0.2 Gaussian Prior

Given that the data x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N are drawn from $G(\mu, \sigma^2)$ where σ is known and μ is unknown. Also, μ is known to be drawn from $G(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$ where $\sigma = 4$, $\mu_0 = 10.5$ and $\sigma_0 = 1$. The mean of the data is $\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{N}$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mu}^{\text{MAP1}} &= \frac{\bar{x}\sigma_0^2 + \mu_0\sigma^2/N}{\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2/N} \\ &= \frac{\bar{x} \times 1 + 10.5 \times \frac{16}{N}}{1 + \frac{16}{N}}\end{aligned}$$

0.3 Uniform Prior

Given that the data x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N are drawn from $G(\mu, \sigma^2)$ where σ is known and μ is unknown. Also, μ is known to be drawn from $U(9.5, 11.5)$ where $\sigma = 4$.

$$\text{posterior PDF} = \begin{cases} \frac{P(x_1, \dots, x_N | \mu) P(\mu)}{\int_{9.5}^{11.5} P(x_1, \dots, x_N | \mu) P(\mu) d\mu} & \text{for } \mu \in (9.5, 11.5) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since $P(\mu) = 1$ for $\mu \in (9.5, 11.5)$,

$$\text{Posterior PDF} = \frac{P(x_1, \dots, x_N | \mu)}{\int_{9.5}^{11.5} P(x_1, \dots, x_N | \mu) d\mu}, \text{ for } \mu \in (9.5, 11.5)$$

Maximum of the posterior within $(9.5, 11.5)$ = maximum of $P(x_1, \dots, x_N | \mu)$ within $(9.5, 11.5)$

If the mode of the likelihood function lied within this then the mode of the posterior \equiv ML estimate

Therefore, we have that

$$\hat{\mu}^{\text{MAP2}} = \min(\max(9.5, \hat{\mu}^{\text{ML}}), 11.5)$$

Where

$$\hat{\mu}^{\text{ML}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{N}$$

0.4 Boxplots and Interpretation

1. As the value of N increases the error decreases and approaches zero in all the three cases
2. The second estimate, ie. the MAP estimate with a Gaussian Prior is the most preferable since it has the smallest error values even for small values of N . Since in practice, we only have finite data, this estimate should be a good choice. Also, for large values of N it converges to the ML estimate and hence possesses all the desired asymptotic properties(consistency, asymptotic normality, efficiency) of the ML estimate.



