

## Week 12: Nov. 14 - Nov. 18

### Bayesian GLMs and Metropolis-Hastings Algorithm

We have seen that with conjugate or semi-conjugate prior distributions the Gibbs sampler can be used to sample from the posterior distribution. In situations, such as Generalized Linear Models (GLMs), where conjugate prior distributions are not available the Gibbs sampler cannot be used.

#### Poisson Regression Model

Example. (Hoff p. 171) A sample was taken of 52 female sparrows to study their reproductive habits. The number of offspring and the age of the sparrow are recorded. The response (number of offspring) is a non-negative integer. A logical distribution for this data is the Poisson distribution. The conditional expectation from a Poisson regression model, as a function of age, can be formulated as:

$$\log E[Y|x] = \quad (1)$$

This implies

$$E[Y|x] = \quad (2)$$

where  $\theta_x$  is the mean term in the Poisson model.

**Q:** This forces the expectation to be positive, but not an integer. Is this a problem?

Formally, the Poisson regression model can be expressed as:

$$Y|x$$

In a generalized linear model there are three defining components:

1.

2.

3.

Note it is important to consider the restriction of the Poisson distribution, namely that the mean and variance are the same. **Q:** If this is not appropriate, what do we do?

Up until now, we haven't talked about anything inherently Bayesian. So what do we need to think about this model from a Bayesian perspective?

hmm... we don't see a kernel of a distribution and the integration looks nasty, so what now?

Metropolis-Hastings, coming soon...

## Logistic Regression Model

Another common GLM is logistic regression, which is used for modeling binary outcomes. The logistic regression model uses the logistic link function where:

$$y_i | \tilde{x}_i, \tilde{\beta} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\text{logit}^{-1}(\tilde{\beta}^T \tilde{x}_i)) \quad (3)$$

$$\tilde{\beta}^T \tilde{x}_i = \theta_i \quad (4)$$

$$\text{which implies } \theta_i = \text{logit}^{-1}(\tilde{\beta}^T \tilde{x}_i) \quad (5)$$

The logistic link function restricts  $\theta_x$  to the interval  $(0, 1)$ .

Let's consider the structure of the posterior distribution as a function of the prior for  $\tilde{\beta}$ .

$$p(\tilde{\beta} | X, y_i) \propto \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i | \tilde{x}_i, \tilde{\beta}) p(\tilde{\beta}) \quad (6)$$

$$\propto \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Bernoulli}(y_i | \text{logit}^{-1}(\tilde{\beta}^T \tilde{x}_i)) p(\tilde{\beta}) \quad (7)$$

Again there is not a conjugate prior for easy computation or sampling from the posterior distribution.

Note, often Bayesians will use the probit link that enables the use of a Gibbs sampler on a latent variable, where  $p_i = \Phi(\tilde{\beta}^T \tilde{x}_i)$ , where  $\Phi(\cdot)$  is the cumulative distribution function of a standard normal random variable.

## Metropolis Algorithm

Before considering the sampling for the GLMs detailed above, first consider a generic case. Assume we have a sampling model  $p(y|\theta)$  and a prior distribution  $p(\theta)$ . In general:

$$p(\theta|y) = \frac{p(y|\theta)p(\theta)}{\int p(y|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta}$$

is hard to sample from due to the integration. However, given samples from  $p(\theta|y)$  we can compute functions of the posterior distribution.

The challenge is drawing samples from  $p(\theta|y)$ , so far we have done this using Monte Carlo and Markov Chain Monte Carlo procedures (Gibbs sampler).

The goal is to create a sampler where the empirical distribution of the samples corresponds to the true samples. In other words,

(8)

and if  $p(\theta_A|y) > p(\theta_B|y)$  then we want more samples in  $\theta_A$  than  $\theta_B$  and specifically

**Q:** So how do we design a sampler to meet this requirement?

Assume the current value of  $\theta$  is denoted as  $\theta^{(s)}$ , suppose we propose a new value  $\theta^*$ . The question is should we include this in our samples, or in other words should we move from  $\theta^{(s)}$  to  $\theta^*$ ?

Ideally we would evaluate the ratio of:

(9)

however in many cases computing this value is difficult due to the required integration. Fortunately, it is not necessary as:

(10)

Now the question is, what do we do when:

- $r \geq 1$

- $r < 1$ .

This intuitive algorithm that we have devised is known as the Metropolis Algorithm, which is a special case of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm where the proposal distribution (to select  $\theta^*$ ) is symmetric.

Formally, the Metropolis algorithm follows as:

1. Sample  $\theta^* | \theta^{(s)} \sim$

2. Compute the acceptance ratio:

3. Let

$$\theta^{(s+1)} =$$

In practice to complete step 3, sample  $u \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$  and set  $\theta^{(s+1)} = \theta^*$  if  $u < r$ . Furthermore, in many cases we need to consider  $\log(r)$  as the likelihood calculations can easily end up being numerically zero.

## Metropolis for Poisson - with R code

```
# Metropolis Algorithm for Poisson Regression
set.seed(11112016)
library(mnormt) # rmnorm

# Simulate Data
n <- 1000
p <- 3
beta.true <- c(2,.5,.5)
X <- matrix(c(rep(1,n),rnorm(n*2)),nrow=n,ncol=p)
theta <- exp(X %*% beta.true)
y <- rpois(n,theta)
hist(y,breaks='FD')

# Run Metropolis Algorithm

num.mcmc <- 10000
step.size <- .0001
accept.ratio <- rep(0,num.mcmc)
beta.mcmc <- matrix(0,num.mcmc,p)
beta.prior.var <- diag(p) * 100 # b ~n(0,100*I)

for (i in 2:num.mcmc){
  beta.star <- beta.mcmc[i-1,] + rmnorm(1,0,step.size * diag(p))

  #compute r
  theta.current <- exp(X %*% beta.mcmc[i-1,])
  theta.star <- exp(X %*% beta.star)

  log.p.current <- sum(dpois(y,theta.current,log=T)) + dnorm(beta.mcmc[i-1,],0,beta.prior.var,log=T)
  log.p.star <- sum(dpois(y,theta.star,log=T)) + dnorm(beta.star,0,beta.prior.var,log=T)

  log.r <- log.p.star - log.p.current

  if (log(runif(1)) < log.r){
    beta.mcmc[i,] <- beta.star
    accept.ratio[i] <- 1
  } else{
    beta.mcmc[i,] <- beta.mcmc[i-1,]
  }
}

mean(accept.ratio)
colMeans(beta.mcmc)

plot(beta.mcmc[,1],type='l')
abline(h=beta.true[1],lwd=2,col='gray')
plot(beta.mcmc[,2],type='l')
abline(h=beta.true[2],lwd=2,col='gray')
plot(beta.mcmc[,3],type='l')
abline(h=beta.true[3],lwd=2,col='gray')
```

Note the step size in as important consideration in a Metropolis-Hastings Algorithm. If the proposal is too large, the algorithm will tend to

Consider three figures below for an example of what happens as the acceptance ratio varies.

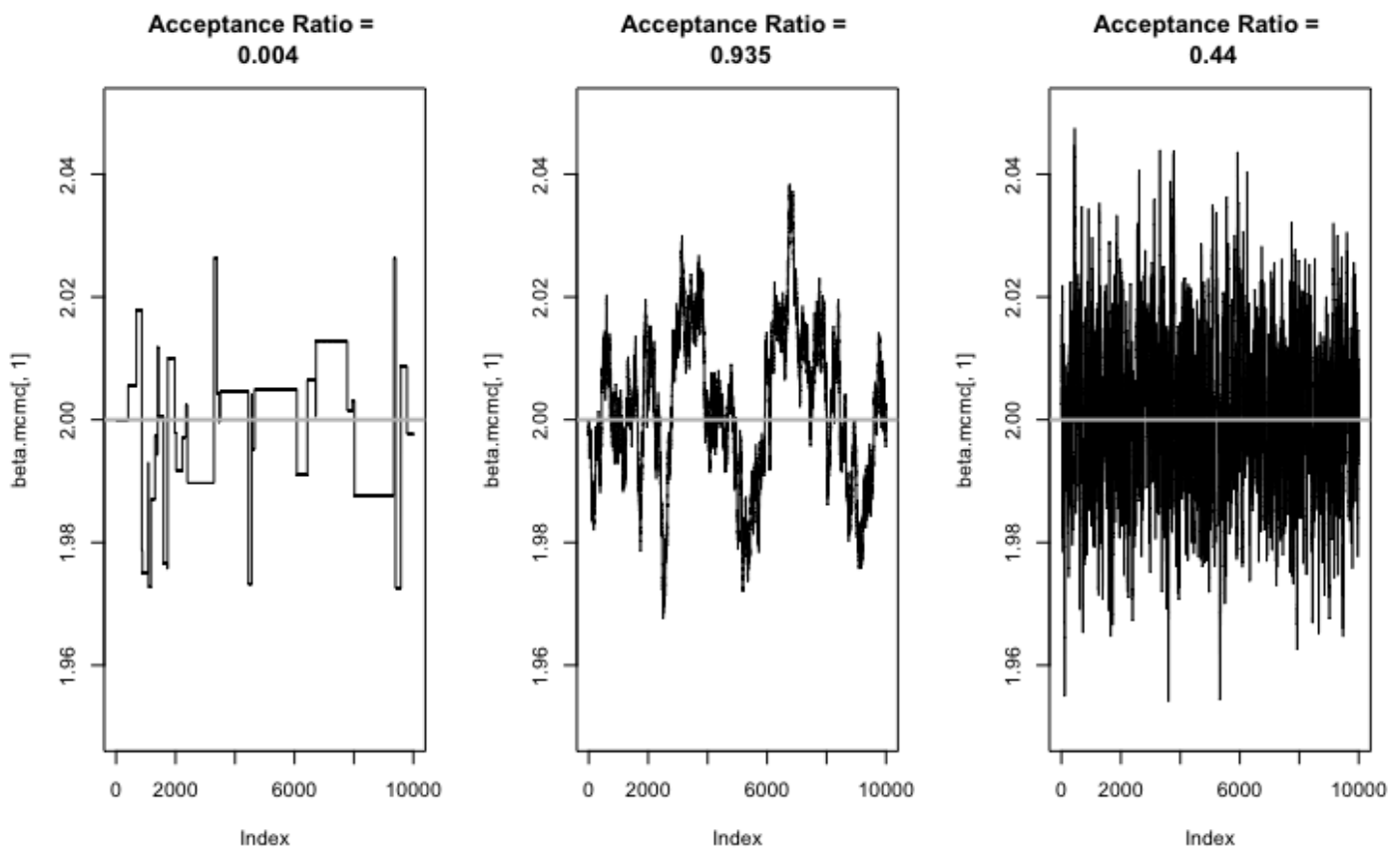


Figure 1: Trace plots for a step size that is too large, too small, and just right.

## Metropolis-Hastings

Example. Assume we observe data from a negative-binomial distribution where the probability of a success (or failure)  $p$  is known. Use the following parametrization,

$$Pr(X = x) = \binom{x+r-1}{x} (1-p)^r p^x \quad (11)$$

where  $r$  is t

Assume that the parents favorite Halloween candy are Reese's peanut butter cups. Unbeknownst to their children they have decided to continue visiting homes until  $r$  more Reese's peanut butter cups have been obtained. In this example the probability of visiting a home and not getting a peanut butter cup (a failure) is  $p$ . The child is allowed to trick-or-treat until receiving  $r$  Reese's peanut butter cups.

1. Consider using a Metropolis algorithm to learn the value of  $r$ . What is the support of  $r$  and what will you use as a proposal distribution  $J(r^*|r)$ ?
2. Is your proposal distribution symmetric? In other words, does the  $Pr(r^* \rightarrow r) = Pr(r \rightarrow r^*)$  for all  $r^*, r$ ?
3. Assume, you have devised a non-symmetric proposal, where:

$$\frac{J(1|0)}{J(0|1)} \approx 2.$$

In other words, you are twice as likely to propose a move from 0 to 1 than from 1 to 0. This could be due to a random step proposal near the end of the support for  $r$ . What implications do you suppose this has on the posterior probabilities ( $Pr(r = 1|x)$  and  $Pr(r = 0|x)$ ) using the standard Metropolis algorithm, with



an acceptance ratio of proportional to  $\min(1, \alpha)$  where :

$$\alpha = \frac{p(\theta^*|y)}{p(\theta^{(s)})} = \frac{p(y|\theta^*)p(\theta^*)}{p(y|\theta^{(s)})p(\theta^{(s)})}.$$

The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm permits non-symmetric proposals, by ‘correcting’ for values that are proposed more frequently. The acceptance ratio now can be written as:

(12)

where  $\pi$  denotes the target distribution (typically a posterior probability factorized as the product of sampling model the prior in this course).

**Q:** What does the second term in the acceptance ratio do? Consider the case from above where  $\frac{J(1|0)}{J(0|1)} \approx 2$  what impact does this have on moving from  $\theta^{(s)} = 1$  to  $\theta^* = 0$  ?

**A:**

It is obvious that the Metropolis algorithm is a special case of Metropolis-Hastings, but how about a Gibbs sampler? Assume we are interested in moving from  $\theta_1^{(s)}$  to  $\theta_1^*$ .

$$r = \frac{\pi(\theta_1^*, \theta_2^{(s)})}{\pi(\theta_1^{(s)}, \theta_2^{(s)})} \times \frac{J(\theta_1^{(s)}|\theta_1^*, \theta_2^{(s)})}{J(\theta_1^*|\theta_1^{(s)}, \theta_2^{(s)})}$$

the proposal is the full conditional =

=

=

## MCMC Theory

We have seen some empirical results that suggest these MCMC algorithms are reasonable, but what about theoretical guarantees? Recall the first (MC) chunk stand for Markov chain. The **Markov property**, in this case, is that

First we establish some general properties of Markov chains that are useful for convergence of our MCMC algorithms.

- **irreducible**
- **aperiodic.**
- **recurrent.**

Recall, our Monte Carlo algorithms use central limit theorem ideas to show convergence of quantities compute from the posterior samples. However, given the dependence in the MCMC samples, we use theory of Markov Chains.

**Ergodic Theorem.** *If  $\{x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots\}$  is an irreducible, aperiodic, and recurrent Markov chain, then there is a unique probability distribution  $\pi$  such that as  $s \rightarrow \infty$ , then*

- 
-

Here  $\pi()$  is denoted as the stationary distribution of the Markov Chain and has the following property: if  $x^{(s)} \sim \pi$  and  $x^{(s+1)}$  comes from that Markov Chain started by  $x^{(s)}$  then  $Pr(x^{(s+1)} \in A) = \pi(A)$ . In other words, if a sample comes from the stationary distribution and used to generate more realizations from the Markov chain, then those appear according to the probabilities of  $\pi$ .

Now we need to show that  $\pi(.) =$  the target distribution,  $p_0()$  (joint posterior) for our MCMC examples. To verify this, assume  $x^{(s)}$  comes from the target distribution and  $x^{(s)}$  is generated from  $x^{(s)}$  via the M-H algorithm, then we need to show  $Pr(x^{(s+1)} = x) = p_0(x)$ . Let  $x_a$  and  $x_b$  be any two x values. WLOG assume  $p_0(x_a)J(x_b|x_a) \geq p_0(x_b)J(x_a|x_b)$ . Then for MH, the probability of transitioning from  $x^{(s)} = x_a$  to  $x^{(s+1)} = x_b$  is equal to the probability of:

1.

2.

3.

The probability of these three steps is:

$$Pr(x^{(s)} = x_a, x^{(s+1)} = x_b) = \tag{13}$$

$$= \tag{14}$$

To go the other direction, where  $x^{(s)} = x_b$  and  $x^{(s+1)} = x_a$  the acceptance probability is 1 (as  $p_0(x_a)J(x_b|x_a) \geq p_0(x_b)J(x_a|x_b)$ ). So  $Pr(x^{(s)} = x_b, x^{(s+1)} = x_a) = p_0(x_b)J(x_a|x_b)$ . This implies that the joint probability of observing  $x^{(s)}$  and  $x^{(s+1)}$  is the same for any order of  $x_b$  and  $x_a$ . The final step of the proof is to show that  $Pr(x^{(s+1)} = x) = p_0(x)$ .

$$Pr(x^{(s+1)} = x) =$$

$$=$$

$$=$$

### Metropolis with Gibbs - Bayesian Kriging

Often a Gibbs sampler and a more vanilla Metropolis-Hastings style proposal can be used together in the same algorithm.

Recall the Bayesian spatial model:

$$y \sim N(X\tilde{\beta}, \sigma^2 H(\phi) + \tau^2 I), \quad (15)$$

Where  $H(\phi)$  is a correlation matrix, such as  $h_{ij} = \exp(-d_{ij}/\phi)$  where  $h_{ij}$  is the correlation between sites  $i$  and  $j$  and  $d_{ij}$  is the distance between sites  $i$  and  $j$ .

Sketch out an algorithm to sample the following parameters:  $\tilde{\beta}$ ,  $\sigma^2$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\tau^2$ .