Problem class 1 a

Nuisance parameters, the Normal model, and the Normal linear regression with unknown variance

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Nuisance parameters

<concept

Definition 1. Assume observable quantities $y=(y_1,...,y_n)$. Assume that the sampling distribution is $dF(y|\theta)$ labeled by an unknown parameter $\theta \in \Theta$. Let $\theta=(\phi,\lambda)^{\top}$ with $\phi \in \Phi$ and $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Assume You are interested in learning parameter $\phi \in \Phi$, and You are not interested in learning the unknown parameter $\lambda \in \Lambda$; but both ϕ,λ are parts of the statistical model parameterisation. The unknown quantity $\lambda \in \Lambda$ is called <u>nuisance parameter</u>. We an call $\phi \in \Phi$ parameter of interest.

Note 2. In Bayesian Stats, learning (or quantifying uncertainty about) parameter of interest ϕ under the presence of a nuisance parameter $\lambda \in \Lambda$ is performed according to the Bayesian paradigm as usual: You specify a prior $d\Pi(\phi,\lambda)$ with PDF/PMF $\pi(\phi,\lambda) = \pi(\phi|\lambda)\pi(\lambda)$ on the joint space of ALL Your unknown parameters $\theta = (\phi,\lambda)^{\top}$; you compute the joint posterior distribution $d\Pi(\theta|y)$ of $\theta = (\phi,\lambda)^{\top}$ via the Bayesian theorem. Reasonably, Your posterior degree of believe about the parameter of interest ϕ given the data $y = (1_1,...,y_n)$ is given through the marginal posterior distribution $d\Pi(\phi|y)$.

Note 3. To summarize; Specify the Bayesian model as:

<sum-up

$$\begin{cases} y | \overbrace{\phi, \lambda}^{=\theta} \sim \mathrm{d}F(y| \overbrace{\phi, \lambda}^{=\theta}) &, \text{ the statistical model} \\ (\underbrace{\phi, \lambda}_{=\theta}) \sim \mathrm{d}\Pi(\underbrace{\phi, \lambda}_{=\theta}) &, \text{ the prior model} \end{cases}$$

The joint posterior of θ given y is $d\Pi(\theta|y) = d\Pi(\lambda|y,\phi)d\Pi(\phi|y)$ is with PDF/PMF

$$\pi(\overbrace{\phi,\lambda}|y) = \underbrace{\frac{f(y)\overbrace{\phi,\lambda})\pi(\overbrace{\phi,\lambda})}{f(y)}}_{=\pi(\lambda|y,\phi)} = \underbrace{\frac{f(y)\phi,\lambda)\pi(\lambda|\phi)}{f(y)}}_{=\pi(\lambda|y,\phi)} \underbrace{\frac{f(y)\phi)\pi(\phi)}{f(y)}}_{=\pi(\phi|y)} = \pi(\lambda|y,\phi)\pi(\phi|y)$$

The (marginal) likelihood $f(y|\phi)$ of y given ϕ is

$$f(y|\phi) = \underbrace{\int_{\Lambda} f(y|\phi,\lambda) \mathrm{d}\Pi(\lambda|\phi)}_{= \mathbb{E}_{\Pi(\lambda|\phi)}(f(y|\phi,\lambda)|\phi)} = \begin{cases} \int_{\Lambda} f(y|\phi,\lambda) \pi(\lambda|\phi) \mathrm{d}\lambda & \text{, if } \lambda \text{ cont} \\ \\ \sum_{\forall \lambda \in \Lambda} f(y|\phi,\lambda) \pi(\lambda|\phi) & \text{, if } \lambda \text{ discr} \end{cases}$$

The PDF/PMF $\pi(\phi|y)$ of marginal posterior $d\Pi(\phi|y)$ of ϕ is

$$\pi(\phi|y) = \underbrace{\int_{\Lambda} \pi(\phi, \lambda|y) \mathrm{d}\lambda}_{=\mathrm{E}_{\Pi(\lambda|y)}(\pi(\phi|y, \lambda))} \qquad \text{or equivalently} \qquad \pi(\phi|y) = \frac{f(y|\phi)\pi(\phi)}{f(y)}$$

The predictive distribution dG(z|y) of the next outcome $z=(y_{n+1},...y_{n+m})$ given y has pdf/pmf

$$g(z|y) = \int f(y|\overbrace{\phi,\lambda}) \mathrm{d}\Pi(\overbrace{\phi,\lambda}|y)$$

and the marginal likelihood f(y) is

$$f(y) = \int f(y|\overbrace{\phi,\lambda}) \pi(\overbrace{\phi,\lambda}) \mathrm{d}\phi \mathrm{d}\lambda$$

Practice in challenging problems

Exercise 4. $(\star\star)$ (Nuisance parameters are involved)

<-story

Assume observable quantities $y=(y_1,...,y_n)$ forming the available data set of size n. Assume that the observations are drawn i.i.d. from a sampling distribution which is judged to be in the Normal parametric family of distributions $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ with unknown mean μ and variance σ^2 . We are interested in learning μ and the next outcome $z=y_{n+1}$. We do not care about σ^2 .

Assume You specify a Bayesian model

<-set-up

$$\begin{cases} y_i|\mu,\sigma^2 \sim \mathrm{N}(\mu,\sigma^2), \text{ for all } i=1,...,n & \text{, Statistical model} \\ \mu|\sigma^2 \sim \mathrm{N}(\mu_0,\sigma^2\frac{1}{\tau_0}) & \text{, prior} \\ \sigma^2 \sim \mathrm{IG}(a_0,k_0) & \text{, prior} \end{cases}$$

1. Show that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \theta)^2 = n(\bar{y} - \theta)^2 + ns^2,$$

where $s^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2$.

2. Show that the joint posterior distribution $\Pi(\mu, \sigma^2|y)$ is such as

$$\mu|y, \sigma^2 \sim N(\mu_n, \sigma^2 \frac{1}{\tau_n})$$

 $\sigma^2|y \sim IG(a_n, k_n)$

with

$$\mu_n = \frac{n\bar{y} + \tau_0 \mu_0}{n + \tau_0};$$
 $\tau_n = n + \tau_0;$ $a_n = a_0 + n$

$$k_n = k_0 + \frac{1}{2}ns_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\tau_0 n(\mu_0 - \bar{y})^2}{n + \tau_0}$$

Hint: It is

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_1)^2}{v_1} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_2)^2}{v_2}... - \frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_n)^2}{v_n} = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\hat{\mu})^2}{\hat{v}} + C$$

where

$$\hat{v} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{v_i}\right)^{-1}; \quad \hat{\mu} = \hat{v}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\mu_i}{v_i}\right); \quad C = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\hat{\mu}^2}{\hat{v}} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\mu_i^2}{v_i}$$

3. Show that the marginal posterior distribution $\Pi(\mu|y)$ is such as

$$\mu|y \sim \mathrm{T}_1\left(\mu_n, \frac{k_n}{a_n} \frac{1}{\tau_n}, 2a_n\right)$$

Hint-1: If $x \sim IG(a, b)$, y = cx, then $y \sim IG(a, cb)$.

Hint-2: The definition of Student T is considered as known

4. Show that the predictive distribution $\Pi(z|y)$ is Student T such as

$$z|y \sim T_1\left(\mu_n, \frac{k_n}{a_n}(\frac{1}{\tau_n} + 1), 2a_n\right)$$

Hint-1: Consider that

$$N(x|\mu_1, \sigma_1^2) N(x|\mu_2, \sigma_2^2) = N(x|m, v^2) N(\mu_1|\mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$$

where

$$v^2 = \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_2^2}\right)^{-1}; \quad m = v^2 \left(\frac{\mu_1}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{\mu_2}{\sigma_2^2}\right)$$

Hint-2: The definition of Student T is considered as known

Solution.

1. It is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \theta)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} [(y_i - \bar{y}) - (\theta - \bar{y})]^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} [(y_i - \bar{y})^2 + (\theta - \bar{y})^2 - 2(y_i - \bar{y})(\theta - \bar{y})]$$

$$= ns^2 + n(\bar{y} - \theta)^2, \text{ where } s^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2$$

2. I use the Bayes theorem

$$\begin{split} \pi(\mu,\sigma^{2}|y) \propto & f(y|\mu,\sigma^{2})\pi(\mu,\sigma^{2}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{N}(y_{i}|\mu,\sigma^{2})\mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_{0},\sigma^{2}\frac{1}{\tau_{0}}) \mathbf{IG}(\sigma^{2}|a_{0},k_{0}) \\ & \propto \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{(y_{i}-\mu)^{2}}{\sigma^{2}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_{0})^{2}}{\sigma^{2}/\tau_{0}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{a_{0}+1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}k_{0}\right) \\ & \propto \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}+\frac{1}{2}+a_{0}+1} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\left[-\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{(y_{i}-\mu)^{2}}{1}-\frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_{0})^{2}}{1/\tau_{0}}\right]-\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}k_{0}\right) \end{split}$$
 It is

$$-\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{(y_i-\mu)^2}{1} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu-\mu_0)^2}{1/\tau_0} = -\frac{1}{2}\underbrace{\frac{(\mu-\mu_n)^2}{v_n^2}}_{=1/\tau_n} + C_n$$

where

$$\begin{split} v_n &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1/\tau_0}\right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{n+\tau_0} \implies \tau_n = n+\tau_0 \\ \mu_n &= v_n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i}{1} + \frac{\mu_0}{1/\tau_0}\right) \implies \mu_n = \frac{n\bar{y} + \tau_0\mu_0}{n+\tau_0} \\ C_n &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu_n^2}{v_n} - \frac{1}{2} \left(n\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 + \tau_0\mu_0^2\right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\left(n\bar{y} + \tau_0\mu_0\right)^2}{n+\tau_0} - \frac{1}{2} \left(n\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 + \tau_0\mu_0^2\right) \\ &= \dots \text{Quest. } 1\dots = -\frac{1}{2} ns_n^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\tau_0 n(\mu_0 - \bar{y})^2}{n+\tau_0} \end{split}$$

So

$$\pi(\mu, \sigma^{2}|y) \propto \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{n}{2} + a_{0} + 1} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}} \left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(\mu - \mu_{n})^{2}}{1/\tau_{n}} + C_{n}\right] - \frac{1}{\sigma^{2}} k_{0}\right)$$

$$\propto \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(\mu - \mu_{n})^{2}}{\sigma^{2}/\tau_{n}}\right)}_{\propto \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_{n}, \sigma^{2}/\tau_{n})} \times \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}\right)^{\frac{-a_{n}}{2} + a_{0} + 1}}_{\propto \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_{n}, \sigma^{2}/\tau_{n})} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}} \frac{(\mu - \mu_{n})^{2}}{\sigma^{2}/\tau_{n}}\right)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_{n}, \sigma^{2}/\tau_{n}) \operatorname{IG}(\sigma^{2}|a_{n}, k_{n})$$

where

$$\mu_n = \frac{n\bar{y} + \tau_0 \mu_0}{n + \tau_0}; \qquad a_n = \frac{n}{2} + a_0;$$

$$\tau_n = n + \tau_0; \qquad k_n = k_0 + \frac{1}{2} n s_n^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\tau_0 n (\mu_0 - \bar{y})^2}{n + \tau_0}.$$

3. It is

$$\pi(\mu|y) = \int \pi(\mu, \sigma^2|y) d\sigma^2 = \int N(\mu|\mu_n, \sigma^2/\tau_n) IG(\sigma^2|a_n, k_n) d\sigma^2$$

by change of variable $\xi = \sigma^2 \frac{1}{2k_n}$, it is

$$\begin{split} \pi(\mu|y) &= \int \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_n, \xi 2k_n \frac{1}{\tau_n} \frac{2a_n}{2a_n}) \mathcal{IG}(\xi|\frac{2a_n}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \mathrm{d}\xi = \int \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_n, \xi \frac{1}{\tau_n} \frac{k_n}{a_n} 2a_n) \mathcal{IG}(\xi|\frac{2a_n}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \mathrm{d}\xi \\ &= \mathcal{T}_1(\mu|\mu_n, \frac{k_n}{a_n} \frac{1}{\tau_n}, 2a_n) \end{split}$$

4. It is

$$\begin{split} g(z|y) &= \int f(z|\mu,\sigma^2) \pi(\mu,\sigma^2|y) \mathrm{d}\mu \mathrm{d}\sigma^2 = \int \mathrm{N}(z|\mu,\sigma^2) \mathrm{N}(\mu|\mu_n,\sigma^2/\tau_n) \mathrm{IG}(\sigma^2|a_n,k_n) \mathrm{d}\mu \mathrm{d}\sigma^2 \\ &= \int \left[\int \mathrm{N}(z|\mu,\sigma^2) \mathrm{N}(\mu|\mu_n,\sigma^2/\tau_n) \mathrm{d}\mu \right] \mathrm{IG}(\sigma^2|a_n,k_n) \mathrm{d}\sigma^2 \end{split}$$

Normal density is symmetric $N(z|\mu,\sigma^2)N(\mu|\mu_n,\sigma^2/\tau_n)=N(\mu|z,\sigma^2)N(\mu|\mu_n,\sigma^2/\tau_n)$, and by using the Hint

$$\int \mathrm{N}(\mu|z,\sigma^2)\mathrm{N}(\mu|\mu_n,\sigma^2/\tau_n)\mathrm{d}\mu = \int \mathrm{N}(\mu|\mathrm{const.},\mathrm{const.})\mathrm{N}\left(z|\mu_n,\sigma^2\left[\frac{1}{\tau_n}+1\right]\right)\mathrm{d}\mu = \mathrm{N}\left(z|\mu_n,\sigma^2\left[\frac{1}{\tau_n}+1\right]\right)$$

So

$$g(z|y) = \int \mathbf{N}\left(z|\mu_n, \sigma^2\left[\frac{1}{\tau_n} + 1\right]\right) \mathbf{IG}(\sigma^2|a_n, k_n) \mathrm{d}\sigma^2$$

by change the variable $\xi = \sigma^2 \frac{1}{2k_n}$, it is

$$g(z|y) = \int \mathbf{N}\left(z|\mu_n, \xi\left[\frac{1}{\tau_n} + 1\right]\frac{k_n}{a_n} 2a_n\right) \mathbf{IG}(\xi|\frac{2a_n}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \mathrm{d}\xi = \mathbf{T}_1\left(z|\mu_n, \left[\frac{1}{\tau_n} + 1\right]\frac{k_n}{a_n}, 2a_n\right)$$

General practice

Exercise 5. $(\star\star)$ Consider the Bayesian model

$$\begin{cases} x_i | \theta & \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Ex}(\theta), \ \forall i = 1, ..., n \\ \theta & \sim \text{Ga}(a, b) \end{cases}$$

Hint-1: The PDF of $x \sim \mathrm{G}(a,b)$ is $\mathrm{Ga}(x|a,b) = \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} x^{a-1} \exp(-bx) \mathbb{1}_{(0,+\infty)}(x)$

Hint-2: The PDF of $x \sim \text{Ex}(\theta)$ is $\text{Ex}(x|\theta) = \text{Ga}(x|1,\theta)$

- 1. Show that the parametric model is member of the Exponential family, and the sufficient statistic for a sample of observables $x = (x_1, ..., x_n)$.
- 2. Show that the posterior distribution θ given x is Gamma and compute its parameters.
- 3. Show that the predictive distribution G(z|x) of a future z given $x = (x_1, ..., x_n)$, has PDF

$$g(z|x) = \frac{a^*(b^*)^{a^*}}{(z+b^*)^{a^*+1}} \mathbf{1}(x \ge 0)$$

Solution.

1. The parametric model is

$$\operatorname{Ex}(x|\theta) = \theta \exp(-\theta x) \mathbf{1}(x \ge 0)$$

It is member of the exponential family

$$\mathrm{Ef}_1(x|u,g,h,c,\phi,\theta,c) = u(x)g(\theta)\exp(\sum_{j=1}^k c_j\phi_j(\theta)h_j(x))$$

with $u(x_{1:n}) = 1$, $g(\theta) = \theta$, $c_1 = -1$, $\phi_1(\theta) = \theta$, $h_1(x) = x$. The sufficient statistic is $t_n = (n, \sum_{i=1}^n x_i)$.

2. I can get the posterior by using the Bayes theorem

$$\pi(\theta|x) \propto f(x|\theta)\pi(\theta|a,b) \qquad \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{Ex}(x_{i}|\theta)\operatorname{Ga}(\theta|a,b)$$

$$\propto \theta^{n} \exp(-\theta \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i})\theta^{a-1} \exp(-\theta b) \propto \theta^{a+n-1} \exp(-\theta (\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}+b))$$

$$\propto \operatorname{Ga}(\theta|\underbrace{a+n}_{=a^{*}}, \underbrace{b+\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}}_{=b^{*}})$$

3. By using the definition of the predictive distribution, it is ...

$$\begin{split} g(z|x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} f(z|\theta) \pi(\theta|x) \mathrm{d}\theta \quad \stackrel{z \geq 0}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \theta \exp(-\theta z) \, \frac{(b^*)^{a^*}}{\Gamma(a^*)} \theta^{a^*-1} \exp(-\theta b^*) \mathrm{d}\theta \\ &= \frac{(b^*)^{a^*}}{\Gamma(a^*)} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \theta^{a^*+1-1} \exp(-\theta (z+b^*)) \mathrm{d}\theta \, = \frac{(b^*)^{a^*}}{\Gamma(a^*)} \frac{\Gamma(a^*+1)}{(z+b^*)^{a^*+1}} = \frac{a^*(b^*)^{a^*}}{(z+b^*)^{a^*+1}} \\ &= \frac{a^*(b^*)^{a^*}}{(z+b^*)^{a^*+1}} \end{split}$$

Exercise 6. (**)Consider the Bayesian model

$$\begin{cases} x_i | \theta & \stackrel{\text{IID}}{\sim} \text{Mu}_k(\theta) \\ \theta & \sim \text{Di}_k(a) \end{cases}$$

where $\theta \in \Theta$, with $\Theta = \{\theta \in (0,1)^k | \sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j = 1\}$ and $\mathcal{X}_k = \{x \in \{0,...,n\}^k | \sum_{j=1}^k x_j = 1\}$.

Hint-1: Mu_k denotes the Multinomial probability distribution with PMF

$$\mathbf{Mu}_{k}(x|\theta) = \begin{cases} \prod_{j=1}^{k} \theta_{j}^{x_{j}} & \text{, if } x \in \mathcal{X}_{k} \\ 0 & \text{, otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (1)

Hint-2: $Di_k(a)$ denotes the Dirichlet distribution with PDF

$$\mathrm{Di}_k(\theta|a) = \begin{cases} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k a_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(a_j)} \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{a_j-1} & \text{, if } \theta \in \Theta \\ 0 & \text{, otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 1. Show that the parametric model (1) is a member of the k-1 exponential family.
- 2. Compute the likelihood $f(x_{1:n}|\theta)$, and find the sufficient statistic $t_n := t_n(x_{1:n})$.
- 3. Compute the posterior distribution. State the name of the distribution, and expresses its parameters with respect to the observations and the hyper-parameters of the prior. Justify your answer.
- 4. Compute the probability mass function of the predictive distribution for a future observation $y = x_{n+1}$ in closed form.

Hint
$$\Gamma(x) = (x-1)\Gamma(x-1)$$
.

Solution.

1. There are k-1 independent parameters in $\operatorname{Mu}_k(\theta)$ because $\sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j = 1$. I consider as parameters $(\theta_1,...,\theta_{k-1})$ and the last one is a function of them as $\theta_k = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j$.

It is

$$\operatorname{Mu}_k(x|\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{x_j} = \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j^{x_j} (1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j)^{1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} x_j} = (1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j) \exp(\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} x_j \log(\frac{\theta_j}{1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j}))$$

This is the k-1 exponential family PDF with

$$u(x) = 1; g(\theta) = (1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j); c = (1, ..., 1)$$

$$h(x) = (x_1, ...x_{k-1}); \phi(\theta) = (\log(\frac{\theta_1}{1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j}), ..., \log(\frac{\theta_{k-1}}{1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_j})),$$

2. The likelihood is

$$f(x_{1:n}|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_{k}(x_{i}|\theta) = \prod_{j=1}^{k} \theta_{j}^{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i,j}} = \prod_{j=1}^{k} \theta_{j}^{x_{*,j}} = (1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_{j})^{n} \exp\left(\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} x_{*,j} \log(\frac{\theta_{j}}{1 - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \theta_{j}})\right)$$

and the sufficient statistic is

$$t_n = (n, x_{*,1}, ..., x_{*,k-1})$$

3. It is

$$\pi(\theta|x_{1:n}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathrm{Mu}_k(x_i|\theta) \mathrm{Di}_k(\theta|a) \propto \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{x_{*,j}} \prod_{i=1}^k \theta_j^{a_j-1} = \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{x_j+a_{*,j}-1} \propto \mathrm{Di}_k(\theta|\tilde{a})$$

where $\tilde{a}=(\tilde{a}_1,...,\tilde{a}_k)$, with $\tilde{a}_j=a_j+x_{*,j}$ for j=1,...,k. So the posterior is $\theta|x_{1:n}\sim \mathrm{Di}_k(\tilde{a})$.

4. It is

$$\begin{split} p(y|x_{1:n}) &= \int \text{Mu}_k(y|\theta) \text{Di}_k(\theta|\tilde{a}) \text{d}\theta = \int \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{y_j} \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{a}_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(\tilde{a}_j)} \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{\tilde{a}_j-1} \text{d}\theta \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{a}_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(\tilde{a}_j)} \int \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{y_j+\tilde{a}_j-1} \text{d}\theta = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k \tilde{a}_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(\tilde{a}_j)} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(y_j+\tilde{a}_j)}{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k (y_j+\tilde{a}_j))} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k (a_j+x_{*,j}))}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(a_j+x_{*,j})} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(y_j+a_j+x_{*,j})}{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k (y_j+a_j+x_{*,j}))} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(a_*+x_{*,*})}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(a_j+x_{*,j})} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(y_j+a_j+x_{*,j})}{\Gamma(\sum_{j=1}^k y_j+a_*+x_{*,*})} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(a_*+n)}{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(a_j+x_{*,j})} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(y_j+a_j+x_{*,j})}{\Gamma(1+a_*+n)} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(n+a_*)}{\Gamma(1+a_*+n)} \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{\Gamma(y_j+a_j+x_{*,j})}{\Gamma(a_j+x_{*,j})} \end{split}$$

so $p(y|x_{1:n}) = \frac{1}{n+a_*}(a_{j'} + x_{*,j'})$, where j' such that $y_{j'} = 1$.