

# MCMC

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# Bayesian Statistics

Bayesian statistics, subjective view of probability:

- ▶ Personal belief in a statement
- ▶ Can be affected by different sources of information: personal beliefs, prior experience
- ▶ Does not rely on repeated sampling or large  $n$  assumptions (but the posterior  $\approx$  MLE estimation when  $n$  is large)

# Run a Bayesian Model

How does belief update?

$$p(\theta|y) \propto p(y|\theta)p(\theta)$$

$$\text{Posterior} = \text{Evidence} \times \text{Prior}$$

- ▶ Make probabilistic assumptions for the prior of parameters ( $p(\theta)$ ) and data ( $y$ ) and specify a model
- ▶ Derive analytically or simulate numerically for the posterior ( $p(\theta|y)$ ) distribution
- ▶ Obtain quantities of interest using the quantities summarized from the posterior distribution of parameters

# Example: Binomial-Beta Model

The Golden State Warriors play 82 games during a regular NBA season. In the 2015-2016 season, they became the most winning team in NBA regular season history and won 73 games. Suppose our subjective belief that the probability for Warriors to win each game is probability  $\pi$ , and the outcome of a game is independent of the other, how would you estimate  $\pi$  after the regular season?

We have observation  $Y$  that follows binomial distribution

$$Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, \pi) \text{ with } n = 82$$

The **prior** distribution we use here is a beta distribution since the domain of beta distribution is  $[0, 1]$

## Example: Binomial-Beta Model

$$\begin{aligned} p(\pi|y) &\propto p(y|\pi) p(\pi) \\ &= \text{binomial}(n, \pi) \times \text{beta}(\alpha, \beta) \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \pi^y (1 - \pi)^{(n-y)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \pi^{\alpha-1} (1 - \pi)^{\beta-1} \\ &\propto \pi^{Y+\alpha-1} (1 - \pi)^{n-y+\beta-1} \end{aligned}$$

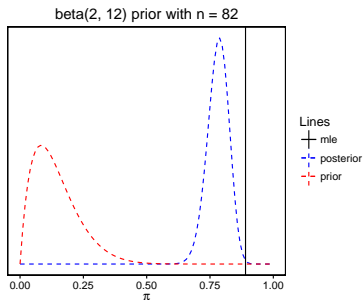
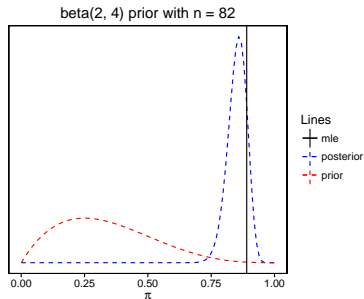
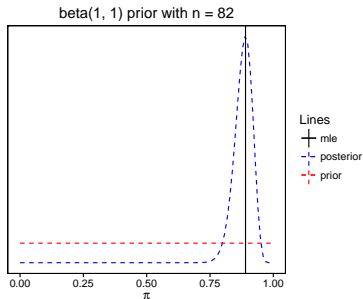
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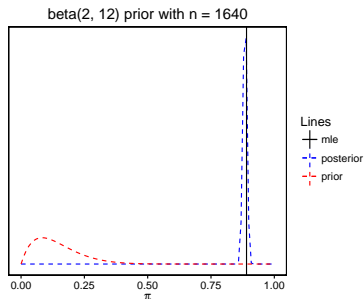
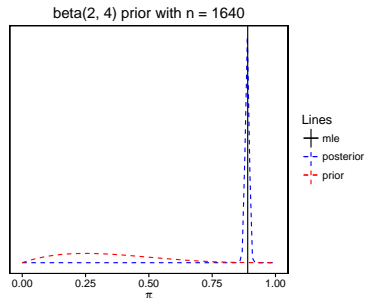
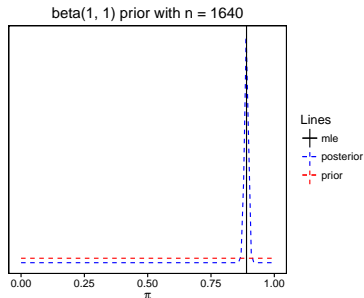
The **posterior** distribution is a beta distribution

$\text{Beta}(y + \alpha, n - Y + \beta)$ , by having a beta **prior** we add  $\alpha - 1$  successes and  $\beta - 1$  failures to the dataset. Since we know the posterior distribution, we can get the following quantities: posterior mean, posterior SD, posterior credible intervals and highest posterior density region

# Example: Binomial-Beta Model



# Posterior close to MLE when $n$ increases





# Conjugacy

- ▶ In the example of binomial-beta model, we can see that prior and posterior follow the same family of probability distribution. We call them conjugate distributions and the prior is called a conjugate prior for the likelihood function.
- ▶ Conjugacy is great because we can analytically derive posterior and therefore easily obtain the quantities of interest
- ▶ The limitation of conjugacy is that only a small set of problems can make use of conjugacy.

# Conjugacy summary

Prior	Data/Likelihood	Posterior
$\theta \sim \text{Beta}$	$r \sim \text{Binomial}(\theta; n)$	$\theta   r, n \sim \text{Beta}$
$\mu   \sigma^2 \sim N$	$y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\mu   y, \sigma^2 \sim N$
		$\mu   y \sim t$
$\sigma^2 \sim \text{inverse-Gamma}$	$y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\sigma^2   y \sim \text{inverse-Gamma}$
$\theta \sim \text{Gamma}$	$y \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta)$	$\theta   y \sim \text{Gamma}$
$\Sigma \sim \text{inverse-Wishart}$	$\mathbf{y} \sim N(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$	$\Sigma   \mathbf{y} \sim \text{inverse-Wishart}$
$\alpha \sim \text{Dirichlet}$	$\mathbf{r} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\alpha; n)$	$\alpha   \mathbf{r}, n \sim \text{Dirichlet}$

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo

- ▶ If we do not have conjugacy, then it is MCMC coming to rescue.  
**Markov Chain Monte Carlo** (MCMC): a class of algorithms that produce a **chain of simulated draws** from a distribution where each draw is **dependent** on the previous draw. And the chain would converge to a stationary distribution (posterior distribution).

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo

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**Markov Chain Monte Carlo** (MCMC): a class of algorithms that produce a **chain of simulated draws** from a distribution where each draw is **dependent** on the previous draw. And the chain would converge to a stationary distribution (posterior distribution).
- ▶ Even if the draws are slightly dependent, but the three properties (aperiodic, irreducible and positive recurrent) of Markov Chain ensure that we can use Monte Carlo simulation to calculate our quantities of interest from our draws.

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo

## Gibbs sampler

- ▶ When there are multiple parameters to be estimated for the posterior distribution, sometimes it is easier to consider the joint posterior distribution  $p(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3|y)$  instead of simulating each of  $p(\theta_1|y)$ ,  $p(\theta_2|y)$  and  $p(\theta_3|y)$ .
- ▶ We can use the Gibbs sampler to sample from the joint distribution if we knew the full **conditional distributions** for each parameter (this idea comes from  $f(x, y) = f(x|y)f(y)$ ).
- ▶ For each parameter, the full conditional distribution is the distribution of the parameter conditional on the known information and all the other parameters:  $p(\theta_j|\theta_{-j}, y)$ .

Suppose  $\theta|y = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_d|y)$

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**Algorithm 1** Gibbs Sampling

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**for**  $t = 1$  to  $T$  **do**

    sample  $\theta_1^{t+1}$  from  $p(\theta_1|\theta_2^t, \theta_3^t, \dots, \theta_d^t, y)$

    sample  $\theta_2^{t+1}$  from  $p(\theta_2|\theta_1^t, \theta_3^t, \dots, \theta_d^t, y)$

    ...

    sample  $\theta_d^{t+1}$  from  $p(\theta_d|\theta_1^t, \theta_2^t, \dots, \theta_{d-1}^t, y)$

$\theta^{t+1}|y \leftarrow (\theta_1^{t+1}, \theta_2^{t+1}, \dots, \theta_d^{t+1}|y)$

**end for**

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# Markov Chain Monte Carlo

## Gibbs Sampler

Example: You are asked to conduct a normal Bayesian analysis assuming that  $(y_1, \dots, y_n) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Assume that  $\mu \sim N(\mu_0, \tau^2)$  and assume that  $\sigma^2 \sim \text{InverseGamma}(a, b)$ . Full conditionals:

$$\blacktriangleright p(\mu | \sigma^2, y) \propto N\left(\frac{\frac{\mu_0}{\tau^2} + \frac{n\bar{y}}{\sigma^2}}{\frac{1}{\tau^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}}, \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\tau^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}}\right)$$

▶ trick here is

$$f(x) = \exp(a(y-x)^2 + b(x-z)^2) \propto \exp((a+b)[x - \frac{ay+bz}{a+b}]^2)$$

$$\blacktriangleright p(\sigma^2 | \mu, y) \propto \text{InverseGamma}\left(\frac{n}{2} + a, \frac{1}{2} \sum (y - \mu)^2 + b\right)$$