

STAT 447 Assignment 9

MCMC Hacking

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Data Import

We import the primary data set inspired by Davidson-Pilon, (2013) below:

```
# main data vector
sms_data = c(
  13,24,8,24,7,35,14,11,15,11,22,22,11,57,11,19,29,6,19,
  12,22,12,18,72,32,9,7,13,19,23,27,20,6,17,13,10,14,6,
  16,15,7,2,15,15,19,70,49,7,53,22,21,31,19,11,18,20,12,
  35,17,23,17,4,2,31,30,13,27,0,39,37,5,14,13,22)
# data frame
df = data.frame(
  num_texts = sms_data,
  day = 1:length(sms_data)
)
```

Bayesian Model

We denote C to be the change point, selected uniformly from days $d \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ where N is the number of observations. Then, there is a likelihood for days less than change point C and a likelihood for days above the change point.

We can denote the model as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1 &\sim \exp(1/100) \\ \lambda_2 &\sim \exp(1/100) \\ C &\sim \text{unif}(\{1, 2, \dots, N\}) \\ Y_d \mid \{C, \lambda_1, \lambda_2\} &\sim \text{pois}(\mathbb{1}[d < C]\lambda_1 + \mathbb{1}[d \geq C]\lambda_2)\end{aligned}$$

We provide an implementation of the joint distribution of this model below.

```
# inputs are lambdas, C and y
log_joint = function(rates, change_point, y) {

  # Return log(0.0) if parameters are outside of the support
  if (rates[[1]] < 0 | rates[[2]] < 0 | change_point < 1 | change_point > length(y))
    return(-Inf)

  log_prior =
```

```

    dexp(rates[[1]], 1/100, log = TRUE) +
    dexp(rates[[2]], 1/100, log = TRUE)

log_likelihood = 0.0
for (i in 1:length(y)) {
  rate = if (i < change_point) rates[[1]] else rates[[2]]
  log_likelihood = log_likelihood + dpois(y[[i]], rate, log = TRUE)
}

return(log_prior + log_likelihood)
}

```

Question 1: A Custom MCMC Sampler

Part 1: Algorithm

Define mathematically an irreducible and invariant MCMC algorithm to sample from the change point model's posterior.

We will begin by defining two separate kernels K_λ and K_C for the rate parameters $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$ and the change-point parameter C , respectively. We then unify these kernels by defining a kernel mixture for a selection probability ρ .

TODO

Now, we consider K_C . Ideally, we would like to define a symmetric proposal q_C ; however, we cannot use a Normal Distribution as before so we must find a symmetric discrete distribution. As per the recommendation, this distribution should have variance greater than 3 to avoid slow mixing.

The simplest possible proposal in this situation would be the discrete $\text{unif}(\{a = 1, b = N\})$ distribution, i.e.:

$$q_C(x' | x) = \frac{1}{b - a + 1} = \frac{1}{N - 1 + 1} = \frac{1}{N}$$

Where, in this case, $N = 74$. This choice ensures that every possible change point in the support of C can be proposed with nonzero probability.

We can verify by computing the variance of this distribution (to check it will mix nicely):

$$\text{var}(\text{unif}\{a, b\} | a = 1, b = N) = \frac{(b - a + 1)^2 - 1}{12} = \frac{(N - 1 + 1)^2 - 1}{12} = \frac{N^2 - 1}{12} \approx 456 \text{ for } N = 74$$

Which is certainly a large enough variance to have a breadth of proposal options.

Then, as before, we define the acceptance probability $\alpha_C(x' | x)$ as:

$$\alpha_C(x' | x) = \min\{1, r(x', x)\} = \min\left\{1, \frac{\gamma(x')}{\gamma(x)}\right\}$$

We also know that this element of the kernel is irreducible, assuming $\pi(x), \pi(x') > 0$. We know that this is the case because for any arbitrary x' , there is a finite number of steps m with nonzero probability required to reach the destination state. In other words, $\mathbb{P}(X^{(m)} = x' | X^{(0)} = x) > 0$. We know that this is the case because the m -step transition kernel $K_m = \mathbb{P}(X^{(m)} = x' | X^{(0)} = x) > 0$ is nonzero for all valid x, x' under the restrictions defined earlier.

Let's outline this fact using an arbitrary $K_m(x | x')$:

$$\begin{aligned} K_m(x | x') &= \mathbb{P}(X^{(m+1)} = x' | X^{(m)} = x) \\ K_m(x | x') &= q_C(x' | x) \times \alpha_C(x' | x) \\ K_m(x | x') &= \frac{1}{N} \times \min \left\{ 1, \frac{\gamma(x')}{\gamma(x)} \right\} \\ K_m(x | x') &= \frac{1}{N} \times \min \left\{ 1, \frac{p_{\text{pois}}(x'; \lambda)}{p_{\text{pois}}(x; \lambda)} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Where the rate parameter λ is simplified from $\mathbb{1}[d < C]\lambda_1 + \mathbb{1}[d \geq C]\lambda_2 \equiv$ Let's take a moment to verify the term in the MH Ratio. Ideally, $r(x, x')$ should be well-defined and nonzero $\forall (x, x')$ that could be proposed from $q_C(x' | x)$. We assume that x is already well-proposed (i.e. $x^{(0)}$ isn't bad). Directly, we know by definition of the Poisson PMF that $\forall x \in \mathbb{Z}^+, p_X(x) > 0$. Hence, the ratio is well defined.

Since the ratio is well defined, we know by the above that it will always be the case that $K_m(x | x') > 0$, hence all steps are accessible from one another. Thus, K_C does not "break" the irreducibility clause in the MCMC algorithm.

Part 2: π -Invariance

Prove that the MCMC algorithm you defined in part 1 is π -invariant.

Since detailed balance implies global balance, it is sufficient to show that the DBEs hold to show invariance. We know that if each K_i in the kernel mixture is π -invariant that their mixture is π -invariant. Hence, we will separately prove π -invariance for K_λ and K_C hold under detailed balance to show that K is invariant.

Part 3: Implementation

Similar to in the slides, we define the kernel function as follows:

```
# true change point at around 25
simulated_yvals = c(round(runif(24, 10, 15)), round(runif(60, 30, 50)))
```

Implement the MCMC algorithm you describe mathematically in R.

```
N = nrow(df)
# we build such that dim = 1
mcmc = function(rates, CP, y, n_iterations, debug = FALSE) {
  change_point_trace = rep(-1, n_iterations)
  # initial point
  current_CP = CP
  current_RT = rates
  current = list(rates, CP)
  # iteration station
  for (i in 1:n_iterations) {
    if (debug) {print(unlist(rep("#", times = 10)))}
    if (debug) {print(paste("Iteration:", i))}
    # bernoulli trial
    kernel_choice = ifelse(runif(1) < 0.5, 1, 2)
    if (debug) {print(paste("Chose Kernel", kernel_choice, "..."))}
    # Kernel for Change Point
    if (kernel_choice == 1){
```

```

# Discrete Uniform Proposal
prop = rdunif(1, 1, N)
if (debug) {print(paste("Proposed", prop, "..."))}
# MH ratio
ratio = (log_joint(current[[1]], prop, y) -
         log_joint(current[[1]], current[[2]], y))
# Bernoulli Trial
if (log(runif(1)) < ratio) {
  # accept
  current[[2]] = prop
  if (debug) {print("Accepted!")}
} else {
  # reject (redundant but nice)
  current[[2]] = current[[2]]
  if (debug) {print("Rejected!")}
}
}
# Kernel for Lambdas
else {
  # normal at current point
  ell_1 = rnorm(1, mean = current[[1]][1])
  ell_2 = rnorm(1, mean = current[[1]][2])
  # then the proposal is the vector
  prop = c(ell_1, ell_2)
  if (debug) {print(paste("Proposed", unlist(round(prop,2)), "..."))}
  # MH Ratio
  ratio = (log_joint(prop, current[[2]], y) -
           log_joint(current[[1]], current[[2]], y))
  if (log(runif(1)) < ratio) {
    # accept
    current[[1]] = prop
    if (debug) {print("Accepted!")}
  } else {
    # reject (redundant but nice)
    current[[1]] = current[[1]]
    if (debug) {print("Rejected!")}
  }
  # update trace
  change_point_trace[i] = current[[2]]
  if(debug) {Sys.sleep(3)}
}
}
return(
  list(
    change_point_trace = change_point_trace,
    last_iteration_rates = current[[1]]
  )
)
}

## ADDITIONAL TESTING
# test = mcmc(c(0.1, 0.2), 34, simulated_yvals, 200, debug = FALSE)
# plot(test$change_point_trace[test$change_point_trace > 0], type = 'l',
#       ylim = c(1, 74))

```

```
# abline(h = 25, col = 'red')
```