STAT 5443: Computational Statistics

Homework 1 – Due October 13, 2021

Consider the coal-mining disaster data, available in the R scripts and examples folder in Blackboard. As we did in class, assume that there is a change point in the series after θ observations. Suppose θ has a discrete uniform distribution on the set $\{1, 2, ..., 111\}$. If X_j is the number of accidents in year j, for j = 1, ..., 111, the model is

$$X_1, \dots, X_{\theta} \sim \mathcal{P}oi(\lambda_1),$$

 $X_{\theta+1}, \dots, X_{111} \sim \mathcal{P}oi(\lambda_2).$

Assume that $\lambda_2 = \alpha \lambda_1$. Use the prior defined as follows.

$$\lambda_1 | a \sim \mathcal{G}am(3, a),$$

$$a \sim \mathcal{G}am(10, 10),$$

$$\log \alpha \sim \mathcal{U}nif(\log 1/8, \log 2).$$

- 1. Using a SIR approach, estimate the posterior mean (Bayes estimate) of θ , providing a histogram of the posterior distribution and a 90% Credible Interval.
- 2. Provide similar information for λ_1 and for λ_2 .
- 3. Make a scatterplot of λ_1 against λ_2 for the initial SIR sample, highlighting the points resampled at the second stage of SIR.
- 4. Report your initial sample size and resampling sampling size, the number of unique points and the highest observed frequency in the final sample. Report also a measure of the effective sampling size.
- 5. Discuss your results.