

Prove Beta-Binomial conjugation.

Def. Let Φ be a parametric family. A prior $p(\theta)$ belonging to Φ is said to be conjugate for the likelihood $p(x|\theta)$ if and only if the posterior $p(\theta|x)$ belongs to Φ .

Pf. Suppose the prior $p(\theta) = \text{Beta}(\mu|a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} \mu^{a-1} (1-\mu)^{b-1}$,
 where a, b are hyperparameters and $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt$,
 and the likelihood $p(x|\theta) = \text{Bin}(x|N, \mu)$, where
 N is the number of samples

By Bayes theorem, $p(\theta|x) = \frac{p(x|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(x)}$

$$\therefore p(\theta|x) = \frac{p(x|\theta)p(\theta)}{\int_{\theta} p(x|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta}$$

$$= \frac{\binom{N}{x} \theta^x (1-\theta)^{N-x} \frac{1}{\beta(a,b)} \theta^{a-1} (1-\theta)^{b-1}}{\int_0^1 \binom{N}{x} \theta^x (1-\theta)^{N-x} \frac{1}{\beta(a,b)} \theta^{a-1} (1-\theta)^{b-1} d\theta}$$

$$= \frac{\binom{N}{x} \frac{1}{\beta(a,b)} \theta^{x+a-1} (1-\theta)^{N+b-x-1}}{\binom{N}{x} \frac{1}{\beta(a,b)} \int_0^1 \theta^{x+a-1} (1-\theta)^{N+b-x-1} d\theta}$$

$$= \text{Beta}(x+a, N+b-x)$$

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