

Example:

$$y_i | \theta \stackrel{iid}{\sim} p_\theta(x_i | \theta)$$

$$\theta \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$\theta | y \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha + \sum y_i, \beta + \sum x_i)$$

$$\hat{y} | y \sim \text{NB}(\alpha + \sum y_i, \frac{\bar{x}}{\bar{x} + \beta + \sum x_i})$$

Data

x y

1 2

2 4

4 16

Prior

• On average 4 tr/hr

• Most likely between

1-6/hr.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\theta] = 4 = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} &\Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha = 4\beta} \\ \boxed{\mathbb{P}(\theta \in [1, 6]) = 0.95} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{System of Eqs for prior elicitation}$$

Solving this system numerically yields $\beta \approx 3, \alpha \approx 12$

- Can then do post inference using $\text{Gamma}(\alpha + \sum y_i, \beta + \sum x_i)$

- Rule: variance should always decrease in prior \rightarrow post comparison

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Suppose that $z = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ has distribution

$$\mathbb{P}(z=j) = \theta_j : \sum_{j=1}^k \theta_j = 1 \text{ then } z \sim \text{Categorical}(k, \theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k))$$

$z_i | \theta \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Cat}(k, \theta)$ and we summarize them with $y_j = \sum_{i=1}^n I(z_i = j)$

where $\sum_j y_j = n$ generalization of the binomial

In this case we say $y|\theta \sim \text{Multinomial}(n, \theta)$

$$P(y|\theta) \propto \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{y_j} \xrightarrow[\text{prior}]{\text{conjugate}} P(\theta) \propto \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{\alpha_j - 1}$$

looks like beta
 $(\theta)^{\alpha-1} (1-\theta)^{\beta-1}$

post. $\rightarrow P(\theta|y) = \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{y_j + \alpha_j - 1}$

different value for
each class

In this case $\theta \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha)$ and

$$\theta|y \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha + y)$$

• Generalization of Beta