

33. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a normal(θ, σ^2) population, and suppose the hypotheses to be tested are

$$H_0 : \theta \leq 0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta > 0.$$

The prior distribution on θ is normal($0, \tau^2$) with τ^2 known, which is symmetric about the hypothesis in the sense that $P(\theta \leq 0) = P(\theta > 0) = 0.5$.

- (a) It can be shown that the normal distribution is a conjugate prior for estimating the mean of a normal distribution. The mean and variance of the posterior are

$$E[\theta|\mathbf{x}] = \frac{\tau^2}{\tau^2 + (\sigma^2/n)}\bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2/n}{(\sigma^2/n) + \tau^2}\theta$$

$$\text{Var}(\theta|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sigma^2\tau^2/n}{(\sigma^2/n) + \tau^2}$$

Find an expression for the posterior probability that H_0 is true, $P(\theta \leq 0|\mathbf{x})$.

- (b) Find an expression for the p -value of the test corresponding to a value of \bar{x} , using tests that reject for large values of \bar{X} .
- (c) For the special case of $\sigma^2 = \tau^2 = 1$, compute $P(\theta \leq 0|\mathbf{x})$ and the p -value for values of $\bar{x} > 0$. Show that in this case the Bayes probability is always greater than the p -value. This shows that the Bayes probability is always greater than the p -value.
- (d) Using the expression derived in parts (a) and (b), show that

$$\lim_{\tau^2 \rightarrow \infty} P(\theta \leq 0|\mathbf{x}) = p\text{-value}.$$