

Notes

WAIC: (widely available information criterion)

Bayesian approach for estimating out of sample expectation. Starts with the computed log pointwise posterior predictive density (lppd) and then adds a correction for effective number of parameters to adjust for overfitting.

Approach 1:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{WAIC1} &= 2 \sum (\log(E_{post}p(y_i|\theta)) - E_{post}(\log(p(y_i|\theta))) \\ &= 2 \sum (\log(\frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S p(y_i|\theta^s)) - \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^S \log(p(y_i|\theta^s))) \end{aligned}$$

Approach 2: (variance of individual terms in the log predictive density summed over the n data points)

$$\begin{aligned} p_{WAIC2} &= \sum_{i=1}^n V_{s=1}^S(\log p(y_i|\theta^s)) \\ \text{where } V_{s=1}^S \alpha_s &= \frac{1}{S-1} \sum_{s=1}^S (\alpha_s - \bar{\alpha})^2 \end{aligned}$$

The second approach is more stable since it computes the variance separately for each point and then sums, which gives more stability.

WAIC evaluates the predictions that are actually being used for new data in a Bayesian context.

A cost of using WAIC is that it relies on a partitions of the data into n pieces which is not so easy to do in some structured data settings (such as times series, spatial and network data).

Source: Bayesian Data Analysis, Gelman, Carlin, Stern...