

## Problem class 3: Hypothesis tests ; Inference under model uncertainty ; Hierarchical Bayes

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### 1 Hypothesis test

**Exercise 1.** (\*\*) Consider a Bayesian model

$$\begin{cases} x_i | \lambda & \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Pn}(\lambda), \forall i = 1, \dots, n \\ \lambda & \sim \Pi(\lambda) \end{cases}$$

**Hint-1** Poisson distribution has PMF:  $\text{Pn}(x|\lambda) = \frac{1}{x!} \lambda^x \exp(-\lambda) 1_{\mathbb{N}}(x)$

**Hint-2** Gamma distribution has PDF:  $\text{Ga}(x|a, b) = \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} x^{a-1} \exp(-bx) 1_{(0, \infty)}(x)$ , with  $E(x) = a/b$ ,  $\text{Var}(x) = a/b^2$ .

**Hint-3** Negative Binomial distribution has PMF:  $\text{Nb}(x|r, \theta) = \binom{r+x-1}{r-1} \theta^r (1-\theta)^x 1_{\mathbb{N}}(x)$ . with  $\theta \in (0, 1)$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Consider that we are interested in testing the hypothesis whether  $\lambda = \lambda_0$ , (where  $\lambda_0$  is a fixed known number), or not.

1. Design the test of hypotheses in Bayesian framework: Namely, set pair of hypotheses, specify priors, and compute the associated Bayes Factor.
2. Compute the posterior probability that  $\lambda = \lambda_0$ .
3. Perform the hypothesis test to test if  $\lambda = 2$  or not based on the Jeffrey's scaling rule, by considering that
  - we have collected two observations  $x_1 = 2, x_2 = 3$ ,
  - a priori the probability that  $\{\lambda = 2\}$  is 0.5,
  - given  $\{\lambda \neq 2\}$ , the prior distr. of  $\lambda$  is a conjugate one with  $E(\lambda) = 2$ , and  $\text{Var}(\lambda) = 1$ .

1.

- The pair of hypotheses for this test is

$$\begin{cases} H_0 : & x_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Pn}(\lambda_0 = 2), \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n \\ H_1 : & x_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Pn}(\lambda), \lambda > 0 \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $H_0$  is a single hypothesis, and  $H_1$  is the general alternative.

- The overall prior can be specified as

$$\pi(\lambda) = \pi_0 1_{\{\lambda_0\}}(\lambda) + (1 - \pi_0) \text{Ga}(\lambda|a, b)$$

for  $\pi_0 > 0$ , which in this case is  $\pi_0 = 1/2$ , and  $\lambda_0 = 2$ .

- Do not get confused that the above notation in  $H_1$  in (1) states  $\lambda > 0$ . Given  $H_1$ ,  $\lambda$  is a continuous random variable. Because  $\lambda$  is a continuous random variable and  $\lambda \sim \text{Ga}(a, b)$  given  $H_1$ , the probability that  $\lambda = 2$  given on  $H_1$ .
- The Bayes factor is

$$B_{01}(x_{1:n}) = \frac{p_0(x_{1:n})}{p_1(x_{1:n})} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n \text{Pn}(x_i|\lambda_0)}{\int \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Pn}(x_i|\lambda) \text{Ga}(\lambda|a, b) d\lambda}$$

where

$$p_0(x_{1:n}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Pn}(x_i | \lambda_0) = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i!} \lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} \exp(-n\lambda_0)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x_{1:n}) &= \int \prod_{i=1}^n \text{Pn}(x_i | \lambda) \text{Ga}(\lambda | a, b) d\lambda = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i!} \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} \int_0^\infty \lambda^{n\bar{x}+a-1} \exp(-(n+b)\lambda) d\lambda \\ &= \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i!} \frac{\Gamma(n\bar{x}+a)}{\Gamma(a)} \frac{b^a}{(n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a}} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} B_{01}(x_{1:n}) &= \frac{\lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} \exp(-n\lambda_0)}{\frac{b^a \Gamma(n\bar{x}+a)}{\Gamma(a)(n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a}}} = \lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} (n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a} \exp(-n\lambda_0) \frac{1}{b^a} \frac{\Gamma(a)}{\Gamma(n\bar{x}+a)} \\ &= \lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} \exp(-n\lambda_0) \frac{(n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a}}{b^a} \frac{\Gamma(a)}{(n\bar{x}+a-1) \cdots a \Gamma(a)} \\ &= \frac{\lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} \exp(-n\lambda_0)}{(n\bar{x}+a-1) \cdots a} \frac{(n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a}}{b^a} \end{aligned}$$

2. Obviously, for the posterior probability that  $\pi(\lambda = \lambda_0 | x_{1:n})$ , it is

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\lambda = \lambda_0 | x_{1:n}) &= \pi(H_0 | x_{1:n}) = \left(1 + \frac{1 - \pi_0}{\pi_0} \frac{p_1(x_{1:n})}{p_0(x_{1:n})}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1 - \pi_0}{\pi_0} \frac{b^a (n\bar{x} + a - 1) \cdots a}{\lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} (n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a} \exp(-n\lambda_0)}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{\pi_0 \lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} (n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a} \exp(-n\lambda_0)}{\pi_0 \lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} (n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a} \exp(-n\lambda_0) + (1 - \pi_0) b^a (n\bar{x} + a - 1) \cdots a} \end{aligned}$$

3. This is actually the aforesaid hypothesis test with  $\lambda_0 = 2$ .

- Based on the prior information, it is  $\pi_0 = 0.5$ , and  $a = 4$ , and  $b = 2$  because

$$\begin{cases} E^{\text{Ga}(a,b)}(\lambda) = 2 \\ \text{Var}^{\text{Ga}(a,b)}(\lambda) = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} a/b = 2 \\ a/b^2 = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} a/b = 2 \\ 2/b = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} a = 4 \\ b = 2 \end{cases}$$

- Based on the sample I have  $n\bar{x} = 2 + 3 = 5$ ,  $n = 2$
- Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} B_{01}(x_{1:n}) &= \frac{\lambda_0^{n\bar{x}} (n+b)^{n\bar{x}+a} \exp(-n\lambda_0)}{b^a (n\bar{x} + a - 1) \cdots a} \\ &= \frac{2^5 (2+2)^{5+4} \exp(-2 \times 2)}{2^4 (5+4-1) \cdots 4} = \frac{2^5 \times 4^9 \times \exp(-4)}{16 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4} \\ &\approx 1.42 \end{aligned}$$

- Then  $B_{01}(x_{1:n}) \approx 1.42$ , and  $\log_{10}(B_{01}(x_{1:n})) \approx 0.15$ . According to Jeffrey's scaling rule,  $H_0$  is supported

## 2 Inference under model uncertainty

**Exercise 2.** (★★) Let  $B_{k,j}(y)$  be the Bayes factor of model  $\mathcal{M}_k$  against model  $\mathcal{M}_j$ , for all  $\forall k, i, j \in \mathcal{K}$ . . Show that  $B_{k,j}(y) = B_{k,i}(y)B_{i,j}(y)$ , for all  $\forall k, i, j \in \mathcal{K}$ .

**Solution.** It is

$$B_{k,j}(y) = \frac{\pi(\mathcal{M}_k|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_k)}{\pi(\mathcal{M}_j|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_j)} = \frac{\pi(\mathcal{M}_k|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_k)}{\pi(\mathcal{M}_i|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_i)} \frac{\pi(\mathcal{M}_i|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_i)}{\pi(\mathcal{M}_j|y) / \pi(\mathcal{M}_j)} = B_{k,i}(y)B_{i,j}(y)$$

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### 3 Hierarchical Bayes

#### Exercise 3. (★★)[Relevance Vector Machine]

Regarding the statistical model: Long story short (supplementary material)

Consider that we are interested in recovering the mapping

$$x \mapsto \eta(x)$$

in the sense that  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  is the response (output quantity) that depends on  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  which is the independent variable (input quantity) in a procedure; E.g.:

- $y$ : precipitation in log scale
- $x = (\text{longitude}, \text{latitude})$ : geographical coordinates.

Consider a set of observed data  $\{(y_i, x_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , which may be contaminated by additive noise of unknown variance; i.e.

$$y_i = \eta(x_i) + \epsilon_i,$$

where  $\epsilon_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$  and  $\sigma^2 > 0$  is unknown. We wish to recover  $\eta(x)$  by using the Tikhonov regularization on the functional space  $\mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\eta = \arg \min_{\tilde{\eta} \in \mathcal{H}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i - \tilde{\eta}(x_i)) + \lambda \|\tilde{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \right\} \quad (2)$$

By assuming that  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (RKHS), the solution to (2) is such that

$$\eta(x) = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^n k(x, x_j) \beta_j = k(x)^\top \beta$$

where  $k(x) = (1, k(x, x_1), \dots, k(x, x_n))^\top$ ,  $k(x, x_j)$  is the reproducing kernel (such as  $k_\phi(x, x_j) = \exp(-\phi \|x - x_j\|^2)$  for some known parameter  $\phi > 0$ ), and  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is an unknown vector.

Consider the following Bayesian model

$$\begin{cases} y|\beta, \sigma^2 & \sim \mathcal{N}(K\beta, I\sigma^2) \\ \beta|\lambda & \sim \mathcal{N}(0, D^{-1}), \quad D = (\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \\ \lambda_i & \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} d\Pi(\lambda_i) \propto \lambda_i^{a-1} \exp(-b\lambda_i) d\lambda_i, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n \\ \sigma^2 & \sim d\Pi(\sigma^2) \propto (\sigma^2)^{c-1} \exp(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2}d) d\sigma^2 \\ \beta, \sigma^2 & \text{a priori independent} \end{cases}$$

where  $K$  is a known matrix with size  $n \times (n+1)$  such that

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k(x_1, x_1) & \cdots & k(x_1, x_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & k(x_n, x_1) & \cdots & k(x_n, x_n) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The quantities  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $c > 0$ ,  $d > 0$ , and  $\phi > 0$  are considered as fixed.

1. When  $b = 0$ , show that a necessary condition for a valid posterior inference is  $a \in (-1/2, 0)$  for any choice of prior for  $\tau$  (i.e. any choice of  $(c, d)$ ).

2. Let  $P = K (K^\top K)^{-1} K^\top$ . Show that (2a) and (2b) are sufficient conditions for the Bayesian model to lead to a valid posterior inference
  - (a) if  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , or
  - (b) if  $y^\top (I - P) y + 2d > 0$  and  $c > -\frac{n}{2}$
3. Does the the improper Uniform prior on the joint  $\log (\lambda_i)$  and  $\log (\sigma^2)$ , i.e.  $\pi (\log (\lambda_i), \log (\sigma^2)) \propto 1$ , lead to a valid inference?
4. Does the Jeffreys' prior  $\pi (\lambda_i) \propto 1/\lambda_i$  lead to a valid inference?

**Hint-1:**

$$(y - K\beta)^\top (y - K\beta) + (\beta - \mu)^\top V^{-1}(\beta - \mu) = (\beta - \mu^*)^\top (V^*)^{-1}(\beta - \mu^*) + S^*;$$

$$S^* = \mu^\top V^{-1}\mu - (\mu^*)^\top (V^*)^{-1}(\mu^*) + y^\top y; \quad V^* = (V^{-1} + K^\top K)^{-1}; \quad \mu^* = V^* (V^{-1}\mu + K^\top y)$$

**Hint-2:** Sherman-Morrison-Woodbury formula:

$$(A + UCV)^{-1} = A^{-1} - A^{-1}U (C^{-1} + VA^{-1}U)^{-1} VA^{-1}$$

**Hint-3:**

$$-\frac{y^\top y}{2\sigma^2} \leq -\frac{y^\top (I\sigma^2 + KD^{-1}K^\top)^{-1} y}{2} \leq -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top (I - P) y$$

where  $P = K (K^\top K)^{-1} K$ .

**Hint-4:** It is given that  $\int_{(0,\infty)} \frac{t^{-(a+1)}}{(\xi+t)^{1/2}} dt < \infty$  if and only if  $a \in (-1/2, 0)$ .

**Solution.** The posterior pdf is given by

$$\pi (\beta, \sigma^2, \lambda|y) = \frac{f (y|\beta, \sigma^2) \pi (\beta, \sigma^2, \lambda)}{f (y)}$$

and is proper iff  $f (y) < \infty$  where

$$f (y) = \int \left( \underbrace{\int \left( \underbrace{f (y|\beta, \sigma^2) \pi (\beta, \sigma^2) d\beta}_{=f(y|\lambda, \sigma^2)} \right) \pi (\lambda) d\lambda}_{=f(y|\sigma^2)} \right) \pi (\sigma^2) d\sigma^2$$

It is

$$\begin{aligned} f (y|\lambda, \sigma^2) &= \int f (y|\beta, \sigma^2) \pi (\beta, \sigma^2) d\beta \\ &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n+n+1}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \det (D)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( (y - K\beta)^\top (y - K\beta) + \beta^\top (D\sigma^2) \beta \right) \right) d\beta \\ &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n+n+1}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \det (D)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\beta - \mu^*)^\top V^* (\beta - \mu^*) \right) d\beta \right] \left[ \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} S^* \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Because

$$\begin{aligned} \int \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\beta - \mu^*)^\top V^* (\beta - \mu^*) \right) d\beta &= (2\pi)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} \det(V^*/\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= (2\pi)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} \det(K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} S^* \right) &= \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \mu^\top (D\sigma^2) \mu - (\mu^*)^\top (V^*)^{-1} (\mu^*) + y^\top y \right) \\ &= \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( y^\top y - y^\top K (K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-1} K^\top y \right) \right) \\ &= \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( y^\top \left( I - K (K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-1} K^\top \right) y \right) \right) \\ &= \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( y^\top (K^\top D^{-1} K + I\sigma^2)^{-1} y \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} f(y|\lambda, \sigma^2) &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \det(D)^{\frac{1}{2}} \det(K^\top K + \sigma^2 D)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad \times \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( y^\top (I\sigma^2 + K^\top D^{-1} K)^{-1} y \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

1. I have

$$\begin{aligned} f(y|\sigma^2) &= \int f(y|\lambda, \sigma^2) \pi(\lambda) d\lambda \\ &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int \left[ \det(D)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] \left[ \det(K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \\ &\quad \times \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \left( y^\top (I\sigma^2 + K^\top D^{-1} K)^{-1} y \right) \right) \left[ \prod_{i=0}^n \lambda_i^{a-1} \right] d\lambda_0 \dots d\lambda_n \end{aligned}$$

- It is  $\exp \left( -\frac{y^\top y}{2\sigma^2} \right) \leq \exp \left( -\frac{y^\top (I\sigma^2 + K^\top D^{-1} K)^{-1} y}{2} \right)$
- It is  $\det(D)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \prod_{i=0}^n \lambda_i^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .
- If  $\{e_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$  are eigenvalues of  $K^\top K$  and  $e_{\max} = \max(\{e_j\})$ , then  $K^\top K + D\sigma^2 \leq \prod_{j=0}^n (\lambda_j \sigma^2 + e_{\max})^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ , consequently  $\det(K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \geq \prod_{j=0}^n (\lambda_j \sigma^2 + e_{\max})^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(y|\sigma^2) &\geq (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int \prod_{j=0}^n \lambda_j^{\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{j=0}^n (\lambda_j \sigma^2 + e_{\max})^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top y \right) \prod_{j=0}^n \lambda_j^{a-1} d\lambda_0 \dots d\lambda_n \\ &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top y \right) \int \dots \int \prod_{j=0}^n \left[ \lambda_j^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] \left[ \prod_{j=0}^n (\lambda_j \sigma^2 + e_{\max})^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \left[ \prod_{j=0}^n \lambda_j^{a-1} \right] d\lambda_0 \dots d\lambda_n \\ &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top y \right) \prod_{j=0}^n \int \frac{\lambda_j^{a-\frac{1}{2}}}{(\lambda_j \sigma^2 + e_{\max})^{\frac{1}{2}}} d\lambda_j \end{aligned}$$

Let  $t_i = 1/\lambda_i$ , then

$$f(y|\sigma^2) \geq (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top y\right) \prod_{j=0}^n \int \frac{t_{jj}^{-a-1}}{\left(t_j + \frac{\sigma^2}{e_{\max}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} d\lambda_j$$

which is finite if and only if  $a \in (-1/2, 0)$ .

2.

(a) If  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$  then  $\lambda_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Ga}(a, b)$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and if  $c > 0$ ,  $d > 0$  then  $\tau \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Ga}(c, d)$  which are proper. So  $\Pi(\beta, \sigma^2, \lambda, \tau)$  is a proper prior, and hence it leads to proper posterior.

(b) I have

$$\begin{aligned} f(y|\sigma^2) &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int \left[ \det(D)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] \left[ \det(K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \\ &\quad \times \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left( y^\top (I\sigma^2 + K^\top D^{-1}K)^{-1} y \right)\right) \pi(\lambda) d\lambda \end{aligned}$$

It is  $\det(D)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \prod_{i=0}^n \lambda_i^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Also, it is  $K^\top K + D\sigma^2 \geq D\sigma^2$  then  $\det(K^\top K + D\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \leq \prod_{j=0}^n (\lambda_j \sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ . Hence

$$f(y|\sigma^2) \leq (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} (\sigma^2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^\top (I - P) y\right) \int \pi(\lambda) d\lambda$$

which implies that  $f(y|\sigma^2) < \infty$  if  $\pi(\lambda)$  is proper. Yet,

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= \int f(y|\sigma^2) \pi(\sigma^2) d\sigma^2 \\ &\leq (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \int (\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}+c+1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left( \frac{y^\top (I - P) y}{2} + d \right)\right) d\sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

which is finite if  $y^\top (I - P) y + 2d > 0$  and  $c > -\frac{n}{2}$ .

(c) No. This implies  $\pi(\lambda, \sigma^2) \propto \sigma^2 \prod_{j=0}^n \lambda_j^{-1}$ . It is improper prior as  $\int \pi(\lambda, \sigma^2) d(\lambda, \sigma^2) = \infty$ , and  $(a, b, c, d) = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  which violates the necessary conditions.

(d) No, it violates the necessary conditions.