

1 Deriving posteriors

Q 1.1

$$p(\mu|x) = p(x|\mu)p(\mu) \propto \text{Likelihood} \times \text{prior} = p(x|\mu)p(\mu)$$

$$p(x|\mu) = \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}\right)^N \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right)$$

We set $\tau = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ to simplify the derivation

$$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^N \tau^{\frac{N}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{-\tau}{2} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right)$$

For the prior we set $\tau_0 = \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}$

$$p(\mu) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_0^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\tau_0} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right)$$

$$p(\mu|x) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{-\tau}{2} \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - 2N\bar{x}\mu + N\mu^2\right) - \frac{\tau_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{-\tau}{2} \cdot (2N\mu + N\mu^2) - \frac{\tau_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-\tau N\bar{x}\mu + \frac{\tau N\mu^2}{2} - \frac{\tau_0\mu^2}{2} + \tau_0\mu\mu_0 - \frac{\tau_0\mu_0^2}{2}\right) \propto \exp\left(\frac{\mu^2}{2}(\tau_0 - N\tau) + \mu(\tau N\bar{x} + \tau_0\mu_0)\right)$$

Completing the square gives us

$$\propto \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\tau_0 + N\tau) \left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\tau_0 + N\bar{x}\tau}{\tau_0 + N\tau}\right)^2\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{-1}{2} \left(\frac{N}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}\right) \left(\mu - \frac{\sigma_0^2 N}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \mu_0\right)^2\right)$$

As we can see the posterior of the mean is now the form of a gaussian distribution with

$$\mu' = \left(\mu - \frac{\sigma_0^2 N}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \mu_0\right), \sigma'^2 = \left(\frac{N}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\mu \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{\sigma_0^2 N}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + N\sigma_0^2} \mu_0, \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_0^2} + \frac{N}{\sigma^2}\right)^{-1}\right)$$

Q.E.D

Q 1.2

This time μ is fixed and we want to find $p(\sigma^2|X)$

$$p(\sigma^2|x) \propto p(x|\sigma^2)p(\sigma^2) \propto p(x|\sigma^2)p(\sigma^2)$$

The prior is:

$$p(\sigma^2) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\alpha+1} \exp \left(-\frac{\beta}{\sigma^2} \right)$$

The likelihood is:

$$p(x|\sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left(-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \right)^N \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right)$$

The posterior is

$$\begin{aligned} p(\sigma^2|x) &\propto \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\alpha+1} \exp \left(-\frac{\beta}{\sigma^2} \right) \times \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \right)^N \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{\alpha+1+\frac{N}{2}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \right) \\ &\propto \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right)^{N/2+\alpha} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

We see that the posterior has the shape of the inverse gamma pdf with the right parameters

$$p(\sigma^2|x) \sim \text{InvGamma} \left(\frac{N}{2} + \alpha, \beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \quad Q.E.D$$

Q1.3

In this exercise we treat both the mean and precision as unknown.

Posterior for μ

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mu|X, \tau) &\propto p(X|\mu, \tau^{-1})p(\mu|\mu_0, (n_0\tau^{-1})) \\
 p(\mu|X, \tau^{-1}) &\propto \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \tau^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{\tau n_0}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-\tau}{2}(x_i - \mu)^2 + \frac{-\tau n_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right) \\
 &\propto \exp\left(\frac{-\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{\tau n_0}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2\right) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\tau n_0 + N\tau) \left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0 \tau n_0 + N\bar{x}\tau}{\tau n_0 + N\tau}\right)^2\right) \\
 p(\mu|X, \tau^{-1}) &\propto N \left(\frac{N}{N + n_0} \bar{x} + \frac{n_0}{n_0 + N} \mu_0, (\tau n_0 + N\tau)^{-1} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Moving on to the precision. We want to find out $p(\mu, \tau^{-1}|X)$. We can use a normal gamma prior and utilize our previous results

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mu, \tau^{-1}|X) &\propto \text{NormalGamma}(\mu, \tau|\mu_0, (n_0\tau)^{-1}, \alpha, \beta) p(X|\mu, \tau) \\
 &\propto \text{Gaussian}\left(\frac{N}{N + n_0} \bar{x} + \frac{n_0}{n_0 + N} \mu_0, (\tau n_0 + N\tau)^{-1}\right) \text{Gamma}\left(\frac{N}{2} + \alpha, \beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right) \cdot p(X|\mu, \tau) \\
 &\propto \tau^{\frac{N}{2} + \alpha} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\tau n_0 + N\tau) \left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0 \tau n_0 + N\bar{x}\tau}{\tau n_0 + N\tau}\right)^2 - \tau \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right) + \frac{-\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right) \\
 &\propto \tau^{\frac{N}{2} + \alpha} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\tau n_0 + N\tau) \left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0 \tau n_0 + N\bar{x}\tau}{\tau n_0 + N\tau}\right)^2 - \tau \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right)\right) \\
 &\text{We take advantage of the fact that } \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + N(\bar{x} - \mu)^2 \\
 &= \tau^{\frac{N}{2} + \alpha} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\tau n_0 + N\tau) \left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0 \tau n_0 + N\bar{x}\tau}{\tau n_0 + N\tau}\right)^2 - \tau \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + N(\bar{x} - \mu)^2\right)\right) \\
 &= \tau^{\frac{N}{2} + \alpha} \exp\left(\tau \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{N n_0}{2(N + n_0)} (\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2\right)\right) \\
 &= \text{Ga}\left(\tau \mid \alpha + \frac{N}{2}, \beta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{N n_0}{2(N + n_0)} (\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D