

Normal–Inverse–Wishart Distribution

Juan F. Rubio-Ramírez

Emory University

Inverse Wishart and Matrix Gaussian Distributions

For $\mathbf{\Sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, positive definite matrices. Parameters: degrees of freedom $\nu > n - 1$, and scale matrix $\mathbf{\Psi} > 0$.

$$f_{IW}(\mathbf{\Sigma}; \nu, \mathbf{\Psi}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{\nu+n+1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(\mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1})\right),$$

For $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, if $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ and $\mathbf{\Omega}$ are p.d. matrices of dimensions n and m respectively,

$$f_{MG}(\mathbf{B}; \mu, \mathbf{\Sigma} \otimes \mathbf{\Omega}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{m}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}\left((\mathbf{B} - \mu)' \mathbf{\Omega}^{-1}(\mathbf{B} - \mu) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right)\right].$$

Vector Autoregression (VAR) Setup

Let with

$$\mathbf{x}'_t = [\mathbf{y}'_{t-1} \dots \mathbf{y}'_{t-p} \ 1] \text{ and } \mathbf{u}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{\Sigma}).$$

Reduced form:

$$\mathbf{y}'_t = \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u}'_t$$

Reduced-Form Likelihood

$$p(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{T}{2}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}'_t - \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t) \right].$$

Using

$$\mathbf{Y}' = [\mathbf{y}_1 \dots \mathbf{y}_T], \quad \mathbf{X}' = [\mathbf{x}_1 \dots \mathbf{x}_T],$$

we get

$$p(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{T}{2}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}((\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{B})' (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}) \right].$$

Reduced-Form Likelihood

The likelihood of the data given parameters $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma})$ is:

$$p(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) = \prod_{t=1}^T p(\mathbf{y}_t \mid \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}).$$

Since $\mathbf{y}_t \mid \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{\Sigma})$,

$$p(\mathbf{y}_t \mid \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y}_t' - \mathbf{x}_t' \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t)\right].$$

Combining terms over $t = 1, \dots, T$:

$$p(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{T}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}_t' - \mathbf{x}_t' \mathbf{B}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t)\right].$$

Algebra: Expanding the Likelihood Trace Term

We start from the log-likelihood quadratic form:

$$\sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}'_t - \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{B}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t) = \text{tr} \left(\sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t) (\mathbf{y}'_t - \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{B}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \right)$$

where we have used $\text{tr}(\mathbf{X} \mathbf{Y}) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{Y} \mathbf{X})$, then

$$\sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{y}'_t - \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{B}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{B}' \mathbf{x}_t) = \text{tr}((\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{B})' (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{B}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1})$$

where we have used $\mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}'_i$ and $\mathbf{X}' = [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n]$.

Likelihood Simplification

Rewrite in matrix form:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{tr}[(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B})'(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B})\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}] &= \text{tr}\left[\left(\hat{\mathbf{\Psi}} + (\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}})' \hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1} (\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}})\right) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right] = \\ &\text{tr}\left[\hat{\mathbf{\Psi}} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right] + \text{tr}\left[(\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}})' \hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1} (\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right]\end{aligned}$$

Define:

$$\hat{\mathbf{\Omega}} = (\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}, \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{Y}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{\Psi}} = \mathbf{Y}'\mathbf{Y} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'\hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1}\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}.$$

Then:

$$p(\mathbf{Y} | \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \propto |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{T}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}\left(\hat{\mathbf{\Psi}} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\text{tr}\left((\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}})' \hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1} (\mathbf{B} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}\right)\right].$$

Degrees of freedom. We need $|\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{m}{2}}$ for the normal, hence we have $|\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{T-m}{2}} |\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-\frac{m}{2}}$.

This means $\hat{v} + n + 1 = T - m$, hence $\hat{v} = T - m - n - 1$.

Gaussian Inverse Wishart Prior

A likelihood:

$$p(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = f_{IW}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}; \hat{\nu}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Psi}}) f_{MG}(\mathbf{B}; \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}).$$

A conjugate prior:

$$p(\mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = f_{IW}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}; \bar{\nu}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\Psi}}) f_{MG}(\mathbf{B}; \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}).$$

Implied posterior:

$$p(\mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mid \mathbf{Y}) = f_{IW}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}; \tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Psi}}) f_{MG}(\mathbf{B}; \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \otimes \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\nu} &= T + \bar{\nu}, \quad \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1} + \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1})^{-1}, \quad \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1}\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} + \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1}\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}), \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Psi}} &= \hat{\boldsymbol{\Psi}} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'\hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1}\hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} + \bar{\boldsymbol{\Psi}} + \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'\bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1}\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}'\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}^{-1}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}. \end{aligned}$$

Completing the Square in the Matrix Case

Let $\Lambda_i = \Omega_i^{-1}$ (symmetric p.d.). Then

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mu_1)' \Lambda_1 (\mathbf{B} - \mu_1) + (\mathbf{B} - \mu_2)' \Lambda_2 (\mathbf{B} - \mu_2) =$$

$$\mathbf{B}' (\Lambda_1 + \Lambda_2) \mathbf{B} - 2 \mathbf{B}' (\Lambda_1 \mu_1 + \Lambda_2 \mu_2) + \mu_1' \Lambda_1 \mu_1 + \mu_2' \Lambda_2 \mu_2$$

Choose $\Lambda^* = \Lambda_1 + \Lambda_2$ and $\mu^* = (\Lambda^*)^{-1} (\Lambda_1 \mu_1 + \Lambda_2 \mu_2)$. Then

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mu^*)' \Lambda^* (\mathbf{B} - \mu^*) = \mathbf{B}' \Lambda^* \mathbf{B} - 2 \mathbf{B}' \Lambda^* \mu^* + (\mu^*)' \Lambda^* \mu^*,$$

so $(\mathbf{B} - \mu_1)' \Lambda_1 (\mathbf{B} - \mu_1) + (\mathbf{B} - \mu_2)' \Lambda_2 (\mathbf{B} - \mu_2) = (\mathbf{B} - \mu^*)' \Lambda^* (\mathbf{B} - \mu^*) + \mathbf{C}$, with $\mathbf{C} = \mu_1' \Lambda_1 \mu_1 + \mu_2' \Lambda_2 \mu_2 - (\mu^*)' \Lambda^* \mu^*$.

The Degrees of Freedom

Finally, collect the powers of $|\mathbf{\Sigma}|$. The product has

$$-\frac{\nu_1 + n + 1}{2} - \frac{\nu_2 + n + 1}{2} - \frac{m}{2} - \frac{m}{2} = -\frac{\nu_1 + \nu_2 + (n + 1) + m + (n + 1) + m}{2}.$$

To express the result as one IW part and one matrix-normal part (i.e., one $|\mathbf{\Sigma}|^{-m/2}$ kept with the matrix-normal), set

$$-\frac{\nu^* + n + 1}{2} - \frac{m}{2} = -\frac{\nu_1 + \nu_2 + n + 1 + m + n + 1}{2} - \frac{m}{2},$$

which gives the updated degrees of freedom $\nu^* = \nu_1 + \nu_2 + n + 1 + m$. In our case $\nu_1 = \bar{\nu}$, $\nu_2 = \hat{\nu} = T - m - n - 1$, and $\nu^* = \tilde{\nu}$, hence $\tilde{\nu} = T + \bar{\nu}$.