

BAYESIAN ANALYSIS OF CHOICE DATA

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Discrete Choice

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- multinomial models for unordered choices: e.g., multinomial logit (MNL), multinomial probit (MNP). We won't consider models for “tree-like” choice structures (nested logit, GEV, etc).

Binary Choices: logit or probit

- for “standard” models (e.g., no “fancy” hierarchical structure, no concerns re missing data etc), other avenues besides BUGS/JAGS
- e.g., MCMCpack
- implementations in BUGS/JAGS: don’t use data augmentation *a la* Albert & Chib (1991).
- `dbbern` or `dbin` and sample from the conditional distributions using Metropolis-within-Gibbs, slice sampling

Binary Choices: logit or probit

Voter turnout example.

JAGS code

```
model{
  for (i in 1:N){
    y[i] ~ dbern(p[i])          ## loop over observations
    logit(p[i]) <- ystar[i]     ## binary outcome
    ystar[i] <- beta[1]         ## logit link
                                ## regression structure for covariates
    + beta[2]*educ[i]
    + beta[3]*(educ[i]*educ[i])
    + beta[4]*age[i]
    + beta[5]*(age[i]*age[i])
    + beta[6]*south[i]
    + beta[7]*govelec[i]
    + beta[8]*closing[i]
    + beta[9]*(closing[i]*educ[i])
    + beta[10]*(educ[i]*educ[i]*closing[i])
  }

  ## priors
  beta[1:10] ~ dmnorm(mu[] , B[ , ])  # diffuse multivariate Normal prior
                                        # see data file
}
```

Binary Data Is Binomial Data when Grouped (§8.1.4)

- big, micro-level data sets with binary data (e.g., CPS)
- MCMC gets slow
- collapse the data into *covariate classes*, treat as *binomial* data; much smaller data set, much shorter run-times
- $y_i | \mathbf{x}_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(F[\mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}])$, where \mathbf{x}_i is a vector of covariates.
- *Covariate classes*: a set $\mathcal{C} = \{i : \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{C}}\}$ i.e., the set of respondents who have covariate vector $\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{C}}$.
- probability assignments over $y_i \forall i \in \mathcal{C}$ are conditionally exchangeable given their common \mathbf{x}_i and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$.
- binomial model $r_{\mathcal{C}} \sim \text{Binomial}(p_{\mathcal{C}}; n_{\mathcal{C}})$, where $p_{\mathcal{C}} = F(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{C}} \boldsymbol{\beta})$, $r_{\mathcal{C}} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} y_i$ is the number of “successes” in \mathcal{C} and $n_{\mathcal{C}}$ is the cardinality of \mathcal{C} .

Example 8.5; binomial model for grouped binary data

Form covariate classes, and groupedData object; original data set $n \approx 99000$; only 636 unique covariates classes.

R code

```
## collapse by covariate classes
X <- cbind(nagler$age,nagler$educYrs)
X <- apply(X,1,paste,collapse=":")
covClasses <- match(X,unique(X))
covX <- matrix(unlist(strsplit(unique(X),":")),ncol=2,byrow=TRUE)
r <- tapply(nagler$turnout,covClasses,sum)
n <- tapply(nagler$turnout,covClasses,length)
groupedData <- list(n=n,r=r,
                    age=as.numeric(covX[,1]),
                    educYrs=as.numeric(covX[,2]),
                    NOBS=length(n))
```

Example 8.5; binomial model for grouped binary data

We can then pass the `groupedData` data frame to JAGS. We specify the binomial model $r_i \sim \text{Binomial}(p_i; n_i)$ with $p_i = F(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta})$ and vague normal priors on $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ with the following code:

JAGS code

```
model{
  for (i in 1:NOBS){
    logit(p[i]) <- beta[1] + age[i]*beta[2]
                      + pow(age[i],2)*beta[3]
                      + educYrs[i]*beta[4]
                      + pow(educYrs[i],2)*beta[5]
    r[i] ~ dbin(p[i],n[i])  ## binomial model for each covariate class
  }

  beta[1:5] ~ dmnorm(b0[],B0[,])
}
```

Ordinal Responses

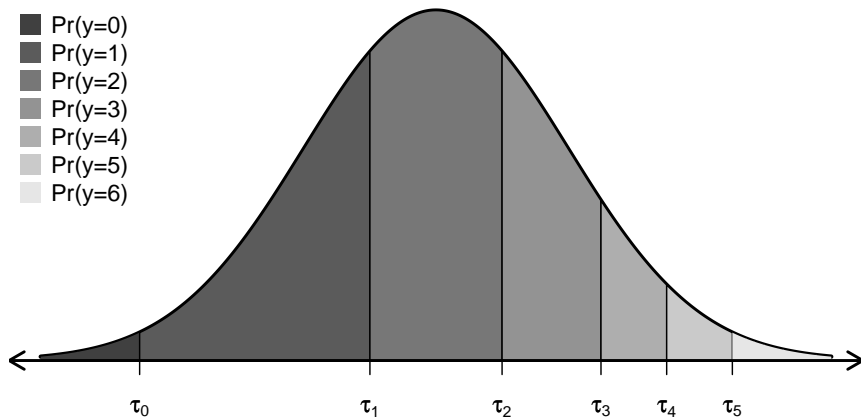
- e.g., 7-point scale when measuring party identification in the U.S., assigning the numerals $y_i \in \{0, \dots, 6\}$ to the categories {"Strong Republican", "Weak Republican", ..., "Strong Democrat"}.
- Censored, latent variable representation:

$$\begin{aligned}y_i^* &= \mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_i, \quad \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2), \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \\y_i = 0 &\iff y_i^* < \tau_1 \\y_i = j &\iff \tau_j < y_i^* \leq \tau_{j+1}, \quad j = 1, \dots, J-1 \\y_i = J &\iff y_i^* > \tau_J\end{aligned}$$

- threshold parameters obey the ordering constraint
 $\tau_1 < \tau_2 < \dots < \tau_J$.
- The assumption of normality for ε_i generates the probit version of the model; a logistic density generates the ordinal logistic model.
- Bayesian analysis: we want $p(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\tau} | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}) \propto p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\tau}) p(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\tau})$.

Ordinal responses, $y_i^* \sim N(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$

$$\Pr[y_i = j] = \Phi[(\tau_{j+1} - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta})/\sigma] - \Phi[(\tau_j - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta})/\sigma]$$



Identification

$$\begin{aligned}y_i^* &= \mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_i, \quad \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2), \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \\y_i = 0 &\iff y_i^* < \tau_1 \\y_i = j &\iff \tau_j < y_i^* \leq \tau_{j+1}, \quad j = 1, \dots, J-1 \\y_i = J &\iff y_i^* > \tau_J\end{aligned}$$

- Model needs identification constraints
- Set one of the τ to a point (zero); set σ to a constant (one)
- Drop the intercept and fix σ
- Fix two of the τ parameters.

Priors on thresholds

- $\tau_j \sim N(0, 10^2)$, subject to ordering constraint $\tau_j > \tau_{j-1}, \forall j = 2, \dots, J$.
In JAGS only, use nifty sort function:

JAGS code

```
1 for(j in 1:4){
2   tau0[j] ~ dnorm(0,.01)
3 }
4 tau[1:4] <- sort(tau0)  ## JAGS only, not in WinBUGS!
```

- BUGS:

$$\tau_1 \sim N(t_1, T_1)$$

$$\delta_j \sim \text{Exponential}(d), \quad j = 2, \dots, J,$$

$$\tau_j = \tau_{j-1} + \delta_j, \quad j = 2, \dots, J,$$

BUGS code

```
1 tau[1] ~ dnorm(0,.01)
2 for(j in 1:3){
3   delta[j] ~ dexp(2)
4   tau[j+1] <- tau[j] + delta[j]
5 }
```

Example 8.6, interviewer ratings of respondents

- 5 point rating scale used by interviewers in assessing respondents' levels of political information
- In 2000 ANES:

Label	y	n	%
Very Low	0	105	6
Fairly Low	1	334	19
Average	2	586	33
Fairly High	3	450	25
Very High	4	325	18

- covariates: education, gender, age, home-owner, public sector employment

Ordinal Logistic Model

JAGS code

```
model{
  for(i in 1:N){ ## loop over observations
    ## form the linear predictor (no intercept)
    mu[i] <- x[i,1]*beta[1] +
              x[i,2]*beta[2] +
              x[i,3]*beta[3] +
              x[i,4]*beta[4] +
              x[i,5]*beta[5] +
              x[i,6]*beta[6]

    ## cumulative logistic probabilities
    logit(Q[i,1]) <- tau[1]-mu[i]
    p[i,1] <- Q[i,1]
    for(j in 2:4){
      logit(Q[i,j]) <- tau[j]-mu[i]
      ## trick to get slice of the cdf we need
      p[i,j] <- Q[i,j] - Q[i,j-1]
    }
    p[i,5] <- 1 - Q[i,4]
    y[i] ~ dcat(p[i,1:5]) ## p[i,] sums to 1 for each i
  }

  ## priors over betas
  beta[1:6] ~ dmnorm(b0[],B0[,])

  ## thresholds
  for(j in 1:4){
    tau0[j] ~ dnorm(0, .01)
  }
  tau[1:4] <- sort(tau0) ## JAGS only not in BUGS!
}
```


Redundant Parameterization

- exploit lack of identification
- run the MCMC algorithm deployed in the space of *unidentified parameters*
- *post-processing*: map MCMC output back mixes better than the MCMC algorithm in the space of the *identified* parameters
- get a better mixing Markov chain
- in ordinal model case, exploit lack of identification between thresholds and intercept parameters
- take care!

Interviewer heterogeneity in scale-use

- Different interviewers use the rating scale differently: e.g., interviewer k is a tougher grader than interviewer k' .
- We tap this with a set of interviewer terms, varying over interviewers $k = 1, \dots, K$
- We augment the usual ordinal model as follows:

$$\Pr(y_i \geq j) = F(\tau_j - \mu_i), \quad j = 0, \dots, J-1$$

$$\Pr(y_i = J) = 1 - F(\tau_{J-1} - \mu_i)$$

$$\mu_i = \mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \eta_k$$

$$\eta_k \sim N(0, \sigma^2) \quad k = 1, \dots, K$$

- A positive η_k is equivalent to the thresholds being shifted down (i.e., interviewer k is an easier-than-average grader).
- Zero-mean restriction on η_k : why?
- Alternative model: each interviewer gets their own set of thresholds, perhaps fit these hierarchically.

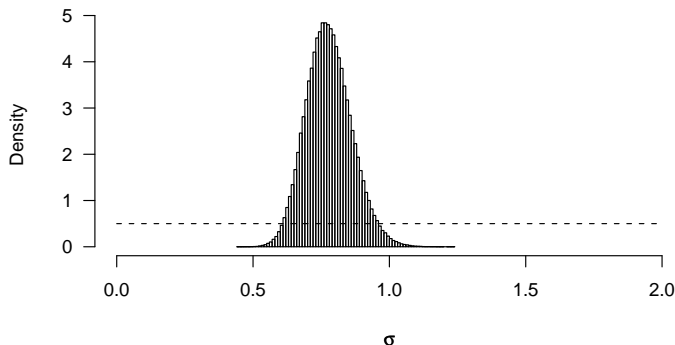
JAGS code for hierarchical model

JAGS code

```
model{
  for(i in 1:N){ ## loop over observations
    ## form the linear predictor
    mu[i] <- x[i,1]*beta[1] + x[i,2]*beta[2] + x[i,3]*beta[3] +
      x[i,4]*beta[4] + x[i,5]*beta[5] + x[i,6]*beta[6] + eta[id[i]]

    ## cumulative logistic probabilities
    logit(Q[i,1]) <- tau[1]-mu[i]
    p[i,1] <- Q[i,1]
    for(j in 2:4){
      logit(Q[i,j]) <- tau[j]-mu[i]
      p[i,j] <- Q[i,j] - Q[i,j-1]
    }
    p[i,5] <- 1 - Q[i,4]
    y[i] ~ dcat(p[i,1:5]) ## p[i,] sums to 1 for each i
  }
  ## priors over betas
  beta[1:6] ~ dmnorm(b0[],B0[,])
  ## hierarchical model over etas, note zero mean restriction
  for(k in 1:NID){
    eta[k] ~ dnorm(0.0,eta.tau)
  }
  eta.tau <- 1/pow(sigma,2) ## convert stddev to precision
  sigma ~ dunif(0,2)
  ## priors over thresholds
  for(j in 1:4){
    tau0[j] ~ dnorm(0,.01)
  }
  tau[1:4] <- sort(tau0) ## JAGS only, not in WinBUGS!
}
```

σ , prior and posterior densities



- since $\eta_k \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$, if we set σ to its posterior mean of .77, then half of the interviewer effects will lie more than $1.35 \sigma \approx 1.04$ “logits” away from zero.

Tabular summary of results

	Non-Hierarchical	Hierarchical
College Degree	1.46 (.10)	1.61 (.10)
Female	-.66 (.09)	-.76 (.09)
log(Age)	.47 (.12)	.42 (.13)
Home Owner	.45 (.10)	.48 (.10)
Government Employee	.17 (.14)	.16 (.14)
log(Interview Length)	1.13 (.15)	1.45 (.18)
σ	0	.77 (.08)
Threshold parameters:		
τ_0	3.85 (.67)	4.69 (.75)
τ_1	5.66 (.67)	6.60 (.75)
τ_2	7.37 (.68)	8.46 (.76)
τ_3	8.83 (.69)	10.08 (.77)

Models for Multinomial Choices, §8.3

- multinomial logit (MNL), §8.3.1
- multinomial probit (MNP) §8.3.2

Multinomial logit (MNL), §8.3.1

- Random utility rationale: utility to decision-maker i of choice j is linear in some predictors, plus a random component,

$$U_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \varepsilon_{ij}, j = 0, \dots, J$$

- ε_{ij} are drawn a distribution whose cumulative distribution function is a Type-1 extreme value distribution with functional form $F(\varepsilon_{ij}) = \exp[-\exp(-\varepsilon_{ij})]$ and hence ε_{ij} has density

$$p(\varepsilon_{ij}) = \exp(-\varepsilon_{ij})\exp[-\exp(-\varepsilon_{ij})].$$

- Decision-maker i chooses option j with probability

$$\pi_{ij} = \Pr(y_i = j) = \Pr[U_{ij} > U_{ik}], \quad \forall k \neq j.$$

Multinomial logit (MNL), §8.3.1

- Consider a choice set with 3 elements, {"0", "1", "2"}.
- Suppose we observe $y_i = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(y_i = 2) &= \Pr(U_{i2} > U_{i1}, U_{i2} > U_{i0}) \\&= \Pr[\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 + \varepsilon_{i2} > \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + \varepsilon_{i1}, \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 + \varepsilon_{i2} > \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_0 + \varepsilon_{i0}], \\&= \Pr[\varepsilon_{i2} + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 > \varepsilon_{i1}, \varepsilon_{i2} + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_0 > \varepsilon_{i0}], \\&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\varepsilon_2) \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\varepsilon_{i2} + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_1} f(\varepsilon_1) d\varepsilon_1 \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\varepsilon_{i2} + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_0} f(\varepsilon_0) d\varepsilon_0 \right] d\varepsilon_2, \\&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\varepsilon_2) \times \exp[-\exp(-\varepsilon_{i2} - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_1)] \times \exp[-\exp(-\varepsilon_{i2} - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2 + \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_0)] \\&= \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2)}{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_0) + \exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_1) + \exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_2)}.\end{aligned}$$

- Thus:

$$\pi_{ij} = \Pr(y_i = j) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_j)}{\sum_{k=0}^J \exp(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_k)}.$$

Multinomial logit (MNL), §8.3.1

$$\pi_{ij} = \Pr(y_i = j) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}_j)}{\sum_{k=0}^J \exp(\mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}_k)}.$$

- Identification by normalizing on a “baseline outcome”, e.g., $\boldsymbol{\beta}_0 = \mathbf{0}$.
- Independence of irrelevant alternatives §8.3.2

Example 8.7

- Vote choice in the 1992 U.S. Presidential election
- ANES data; choices are Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Perot. $n = 909$.
- Original analysis by Alvarez and Nagler (1995), who used MNP.
- Predictors: dummies for Dem or Rep party-id, dummy for gender, retrospective evaluations of the national economy (-1, 0, 1), and z_{ij} , square of the distance of respondent i from candidate j .
-

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(U_{ij} > U_{ik}) &= \Pr(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_j + z_{ij}\gamma + \varepsilon_{ij} - \mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}_k - z_{ij}\gamma - \varepsilon_{ik} > 0) \\ &= \Pr(\mathbf{x}_i[\boldsymbol{\beta}_j - \boldsymbol{\beta}_k] + [z_{ij} - z_{ik}]\gamma > \varepsilon_{ik} - \varepsilon_{ij}).\end{aligned}$$

Example 8.7, using dcat

JAGS code

```
model{
  for(i in 1:NOBS){
    for(j in 1:3){    ## loop over choices
      mu[i,j] <- beta[j,1]
        + beta[j,2]*dem[i]
        + beta[j,3]*ind[i]
        + beta[j,4]*rep[i]
        + beta[j,5]*female[i]
        + beta[j,6]*natlecon[i]
        + gamma*dist[i,j]
      emu[i,j] <- exp(mu[i,j])
      p[i,j] <- emu[i,j]/sum(emu[i,1:3])
    }
    y[i] ~ dcat(p[i,1:3])
  }

  ## priors
  for(k in 1:6){
    beta[1,k] <- 0    ## identifying restriction
  }
  for(j in 2:3){
    beta[j,1:6] ~ dmnorm(b0,B0)    ## b0, B0 passed as data from R
  }
  gamma ~ dnorm(0,.01)

  ## plus code for mapping to identified parameters, see book
}
```

Multinomial Probit, §8.4

- same random utility rationale:

$$U_{ij} = \mathbf{r}_{ij}\boldsymbol{\beta} + v_{ij}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, J; i = 1, \dots, n$$

- MNP for MVN model for un-modelled sources of utility:

$$\mathbf{v}_i = (v_{i1}, \dots, v_{iJ})' \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V})$$

where \mathbf{V} is a $(J + 1)$ -by- $(J + 1)$ covariance matrix.

- But probabilities are difficult to compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{ij} &= \Pr(y_i = j) = \Pr(U_{ij} > U_{ik}), \quad \forall k \neq j \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{U_{ij}} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{U_{ij}} f(U_0, U_1, \dots, U_J) dU_0 dU_1 \dots dU_J \end{aligned}$$

Multinomial Probit, MCMC via data augmentation

- if choice j is observed for person i , we know that $U_{ij} - U_{ik} > 0 \forall j \neq k$.
- Without loss of generality choose a “baseline” outcome, $j = 0$, and define the utility differences $\mathbf{w}_i = (w_{i1}, \dots, w_{iJ})'$ with $w_{ij} = U_{ij} - U_{i0}, j = 1, \dots, J$:

$$w_{ij} = (\mathbf{r}_{ij} - \mathbf{r}_{i0})\boldsymbol{\beta} + v_{ij} - v_{i0} = \mathbf{x}_{ij}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_{ij}.$$

where $\varepsilon_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$

- mapping from latent variables to observed choices:

$$y_i = h(\mathbf{w}_i) \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \max(\mathbf{w}_i) < 0 \\ j & \text{if } \max(\mathbf{w}_i) = w_{ij} > 0 \end{cases}$$

- Identification: the distribution of $\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is the same as the distribution of $\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, c\boldsymbol{\beta}, c^2\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$
- solution: set $\sigma_{11} = 1$.

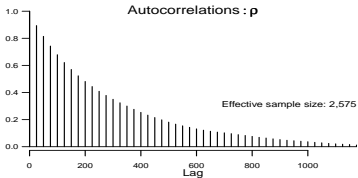
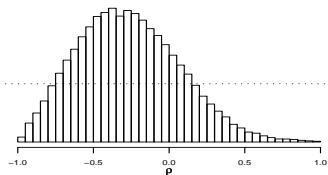
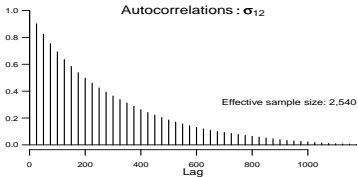
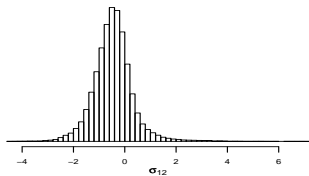
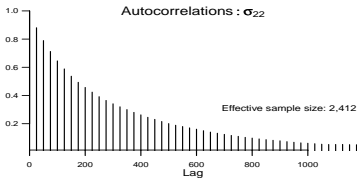
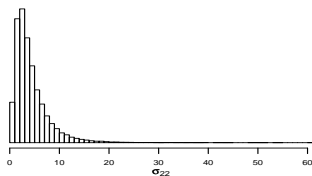
Multinomial Probit, MCMC via data augmentation

- posterior density $p(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma} | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X})$
 - 1 sample $\mathbf{w}_i^{(t)}$ from $p(\mathbf{w}_i | \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t-1)}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{(t-1)}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X})$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, the data-augmentation step
 - 2 sample $\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t)}$ from $p(\boldsymbol{\beta} | \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{(t-1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(t)}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X})$.
 - 3 sample $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{(t)}$ from $p(\boldsymbol{\Sigma} | \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t)}, \mathbf{W}^{(t)}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X})$.
- Conditional on the latent \mathbf{w}_i , we have a very simple multivariate normal regression (McCulloch and Rossi 1994; Chib and Greenberg 1997; McCulloch, Polson and Rossi 1998).
- For step 3, the prior and the conditional distribution for $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is complicated by the identifying constraint $\sigma_{11} = 1$.
- Implemented in MNP package in R (Imai and van Dyk 2005).

Example 8.8, 1992 U.S. Presidential election

- $n = 909, j \in \{\text{Perot, Bush, Clinton}\}$
- mix of individual (party-id, gender, evaluations of the economy) and choice-specific covariates (squared ideological distance from candidates)
- MNP in R, 1.5M iterations, extremely inefficient exploration of the posterior densities for some parameters

Example 8.8, 1992 U.S. Presidential election



Example 8.8, 1992 U.S. Presidential election

1.5 million iterations:

	z	p	ρ	N	I	EffSamp
β_{11} , Intercept, Perot	-0.82	0.62	0.37	303,375	81.00	5,908
β_{21} , Intercept, Clinton	-0.36	0.36	0.46	547,875	146.00	6,211
β_{12} , Dem Id, Perot	-1.12	0.49	0.48	320,025	85.40	4,076
β_{22} , Dem Id, Clinton	-0.27	0.69	0.73	860,850	230.00	3,175
β_{13} , Repub Id, Perot	0.66	0.72	0.34	659,850	176.00	6,599
β_{23} , Repub Id, Clinton	0.42	0.72	0.75	958,400	256.00	2,763
β_{14} , Female, Perot	-0.07	0.32	0.01	94,025	25.10	58,544
β_{24} , Female, Clinton	1.04	0.51	0.02	99,850	26.70	50,304
β_{15} , Econ Retro, Perot	0.51	0.97	0.18	198,950	53.10	11,272
β_{25} , Econ Retro, Clinton	0.15	0.57	0.59	607,750	162.00	3,709
γ , Ideological Distance	0.21	0.57	0.72	967,950	258.00	2,778
σ_{12}	-1.46	0.09	0.90	975,375	260.00	2,540
σ_{22}	-0.78	0.98	0.88	902,500	241.00	2,412
ρ	-1.16	0.33	0.89	1,159,350	309.00	2,575

References

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