

Inverse Wishart Distribution for an Omega Prior

Given a desired mean and coefficient of variation (CV) of a prior for an OMEGA matrix, we can derive the required parameters of the inverse Wishart distribution as follows. We define the inverse Wishart distribution in terms of two parameters: the degrees of freedom df and scale matrix Ψ . The mean and diagonal elements of the variance of a $p \times p$ random variable \mathbf{X} with an inverse Wishart distribution ($\mathbf{X} \sim W^{-1}(\Psi, df)$) are as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \frac{\Psi}{df - n - 1} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Var}(X_{i,i}) = \frac{2 \cdot \Psi_{i,i}^2}{(df - n - 1)^2 (df - n - 3)} \quad (2)$$

Given the required CV of the i th diagonal of \mathbf{X} ($X_{i,i}$) we can derive the appropriate degrees of freedom for that component:

$$CV(X_{i,i})^2 = \frac{\text{Var}(X_{i,i})}{\mathbb{E}[X_{i,i}]^2} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{\frac{2 \cdot \Psi_{i,i}^2}{(df - n - 1)^2 (df - n - 3)}}{\frac{\Psi_{i,i}^2}{(df - n - 1)^2}} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{2}{df - n - 3} \quad (5)$$

$$df - n - 3 = 2 \cdot CV(X_{i,i})^{-2} \quad (6)$$

$$df = 2 \cdot CV(X_{i,i})^{-2} + n + 3 \quad (7)$$

Now, taking into account our target mean $\mathbb{E}[\Omega]$, assuming that NONMEM parameterizes the inverse Wishart as $\Omega \sim W^{-1}(df \cdot \Omega_{\text{prior}}, df)$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\Omega] = \frac{df \cdot \Omega_{\text{prior}}}{df - n - 1} \quad (8)$$

$$\Omega_{\text{prior}} = \frac{df - n - 1}{df} \cdot \mathbb{E}[\Omega] \quad (9)$$