

Let us write the data model's density $p(x|\eta)$ in exponential family form, and assume that the prior $p(\eta)$ has an exponential family construction as well. $p(x|\eta) = h(x) \exp\{\eta^T t(x) - a(\eta)\}$

Our goal is to find the form of a conjugate prior, given the form of the data model. To do this, we work with the posterior

$$p(\eta|x, \phi) \propto p(x|\eta) p(\eta)$$

where in (1) we reorganize the likelihood to isolate terms in η , and then take $t(\eta)$ to have this same form in order to get conjugacy.

From this, we conclude

The vector $t(\eta) = \text{matrix}$

As this derivation shows, there are multiple possible conjugate priors, depending on the choice of h . For instance, whenever the normal distribution is conjugate, so is the truncated normal, since those distributions differ only in their carrier density (see Remark rk:truncated_normal_differs_from_normal_only_in_terms_of_carrier_density on Φ ; for a discussion, see <https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/176668/can-anyone-explain-conjugate-priors-in-simplest-possible-terms> *here* : conjugate prior can have any desired carrier density