

Models

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1 Univariate Normal

The Univariate Normal model consists of a Normal likelihood (in canonical form), and a conjugate Normal-Gamma prior.

1.1 Parameters

The canonical Normal is parametrized by the mean μ and precision (or inverse-variance) λ .

The Normal-Gamma prior is parametrized by the hyperparameters μ_0 , ν_0 , α_0 , and β_0 . μ_0 is the prior mean. ν_0 can be viewed as the prior sample weight - the effective number of existing observations upon which the prior mean has been estimated. α_0 and β_0 are the shape and rate parameters for a gamma distribution respectively.

By default, these hyperparameters are initialized to $\mu_0 = 0$, $\nu_0 = 1e-8$, $\alpha_0 = 2$, and $\beta_0 = 0.5$. This choice of parameters approximates an improper flat prior over the mean (we cannot set $\nu_0 = 0$ directly due to limitations from other packages we are using which do not accept improper distributions). Unfortunately, we cannot use a similarly weak prior over the precision as this will result in an improper posterior (see Prior distributions for variance parameters in hierarchical models by A. Gelman) [CITATION - <http://www.stat.columbia.edu/gelman/research/published/taumain.pdf>]. We use some simple values for α_0 , and β_0 that seem to perform well, but more work may be necessary to find a more principled choice of defaults for these parameters.

1.2 Likelihood

$$F(y|\mu, \lambda) = \left(\frac{\lambda}{2\pi}\right)^{-1/2} e^{-\frac{\lambda}{2}(y-\mu)^2} \quad (1)$$

1.3 Prior

$$G_0(\mu, \lambda | \mu_0, \nu_0, \alpha_0, \beta_0) = N(\mu | \mu_0, \nu_0 \lambda) \cdot \text{Gamma}(\lambda | \alpha_0, \beta_0) \quad (2)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\nu_0}{2\pi}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\beta_0^{\alpha_0}}{\Gamma(\alpha_0)} \lambda^{\alpha_0 - \frac{1}{2}} e^{-\beta_0 \lambda} e^{-\frac{\lambda}{2}(\mu - \mu_0)^2} \quad (3)$$

1.4 Posterior

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n \quad (4)$$

$$\alpha_n = \alpha_0 + \frac{n}{2} \quad (5)$$

$$\mu_n = \frac{\nu_0}{\nu_n} \mu_0 + \frac{n}{\nu_n} \bar{x} \quad (6)$$

$$\beta_n = \beta_0 + \frac{n}{2} \left(s^2 + \frac{\nu_0}{\nu_n} (\bar{x} - \mu)^2 \right) \quad (7)$$

where $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x x$ and $s^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x (x - \bar{x})^2$

1.5 Marginal Likelihood

$$p(y | \eta) = \int F(y | \mu, \lambda) dG_0(\mu, \lambda | \mu_0, \nu_0, \alpha_0, \beta_0) \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_n)}{\Gamma(\alpha_0)} \sqrt{\frac{\nu_0}{\nu_n}} \frac{\beta_0^{\alpha_0}}{\beta_n^{\alpha_n}} \quad (9)$$

2 Multivariate Normal

The Multivariate Normal model consists of a Multivariate Normal likelihood (in canonical form), and a conjugate Normal-Wishart prior.

2.1 Parameters

The canonical Multivariate Normal is parametrized by the mean vector μ and precision (or inverse-covariance) matrix Λ .

The Normal-Wishart prior is parametrized by the hyperparameters μ_0 , κ_0 , Λ_0 , and ν_0 . μ_0 is the prior mean vector. κ_0 can be viewed as the prior sample weight - the effective number of existing observations upon which the prior mean has been estimated (similar to ν_0 in the univariate case). Λ_0 can be thought of as the prior covariance matrix, or the scale matrix for a Wishart distribution. ν_0 is the number of degrees of freedom for a Wishart distribution (must be $\geq d$ where d is the number of dimensions).

By default, these hyperparameters are initialized to $\mu_0 = 0$, $\kappa_0 = 1e-8$, $\Lambda_0 = \text{id}$, and $\nu_0 = d$. Similarly to the univariate case, this choice of parameters approximates an improper flat prior over the mean (we cannot set $\kappa_0 = 0$ directly due to limitations from other packages we are using which do not accept improper distributions). Again, the default choice of parameters for the Wishart is not particularly principled, and requires further development.

Rather than using these default parameters, a much better option is to calculate reasonable hyperparameters from the data. Since the mean of a Wishart distribution is νT_0 , setting $T_0 = \nu^{-1} \Sigma$, where Σ is the covariance matrix for the data, uses the covariance for the data as the prior mean for the cluster covariances.

2.2 Likelihood

$$F(y|\mu, \Lambda) = (2\pi)^{-d/2} |\Lambda|^{1/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(y-\mu)^T \Lambda (y-\mu)} \quad (10)$$

2.3 Prior

$$G_0(\mu, \Lambda|\mu_0, \kappa_0, \Lambda_0, \nu_0) = N(\mu|\mu_0, \kappa_0 \Lambda) \cdot \text{Wishart}(\Lambda|\Lambda_0, \nu_0) \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{|\Lambda|^{(\frac{\nu-d}{2})} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(T^{-1} \Lambda)} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mu-\mu_0)^T \Lambda (\mu-\mu_0)}}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} 2^{\frac{\nu d}{2}} |T|^{\frac{\nu}{2}} \Gamma_d(\frac{\nu}{2})} \quad (12)$$

2.4 Posterior

$$\kappa_n = \kappa_0 + n \quad (13)$$

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n \quad (14)$$

$$\mu_n = \frac{\kappa_0}{\kappa_n} \mu_0 + \frac{n}{\kappa_n} \bar{x} \quad (15)$$

$$T_n^{-1} = T_0^{-1} + nS + \frac{n\kappa_0}{\kappa_n} (\bar{x} - \mu_0)(\bar{x} - \mu_0)^T \quad (16)$$

where $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x x$ and $S^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x (x - \bar{x})(x - \bar{x})^T$

2.5 Marginal Likelihood

$$p(y|\eta) = \int F(y|\mu, \lambda) dG_0(\mu, \Lambda|\mu_0, \kappa_{0,0}, \nu_0) \quad (17)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_n)}{\Gamma\alpha_0} \sqrt{\frac{\nu_0}{\nu_n}} \frac{\beta_0^{\alpha_0}}{\beta_n^{\alpha_n}} \quad (18)$$