

lec 14

Laplace's Prior: the prior of indifference / uniformity.

In the Poisson model $\theta \in (0, \infty)$, we need a distribution that is uniform on that set. A distribution would look like:

$$P(\theta) = c > 0, \int_0^{\infty} P(\theta) d\theta = \int_0^{\infty} c d\theta = c \int_0^{\infty} 1 d\theta = \infty \Rightarrow P(\theta) = c \text{ d.n.e.}$$

there cannot be a proper Laplace prior. But there is an improper Laplace prior.

$P(\theta) \propto 1 \Rightarrow$ Laplace's idea

$$P(\theta|x) \propto P(x|\theta) P(\theta) = e^{-n} \theta^{\sum x_i} P(\theta) \propto e^{-n\theta} \theta^{\sum x_i + 1 - 1}$$

$$\propto \text{Gamma}(\underbrace{1 + \sum x_i}_{\alpha}, \underbrace{n}_{\alpha + n - \beta})$$

$\Rightarrow P(\theta) = \text{Gamma}(1, 0)$, an improper prior

\Downarrow implies

$X_0 = 1, n_0 = 0$ non sense!

Is the posterior proper? Yes. ALWAYS. Since $\sum x_i \geq 0$, its first parameter is always $\geq 1 > 0$ and since $n \geq 1$, its second \rightarrow

parameter is always \geq Since $\sum x_i \geq 0$, it's first parameter is always $\geq 1 > 0$ and since $n \geq 1$ it's second parameter.

Haladane prior of complete ignorance, setting all pseudodata to zero i.e. $x_0 = 0, n_0 = 0 \Rightarrow p(\theta) = \text{Gamma}(0, 0)$ improper

$$\Rightarrow P(\theta | x) = \text{Gamma}(\sum x_i, n) = \hat{\theta}_{\text{MMSE}} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n} = \bar{x} = \hat{\theta}_{\text{MLE}}$$

Is this posterior proper? only if $\sum x_i > 0$.

Jeffrey's prior. $p_j(\theta) \propto \sqrt{I(\theta)} = \sqrt{\frac{n}{\theta}} \propto \theta^{-\frac{1}{2}} \propto \text{Gamma}(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ improper

$$\dots \ell'(\theta) = -n + \frac{\sum x_i}{\theta} \Rightarrow \ell''(\theta) = -\frac{\sum x_i}{\theta^2}$$

$$I[\theta] = E_x [-\ell''(\theta)] = \frac{E[\sum x_i]}{\theta^2} = \frac{n E[x_i]}{\theta^2} = \frac{n}{\theta}$$

$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta)$

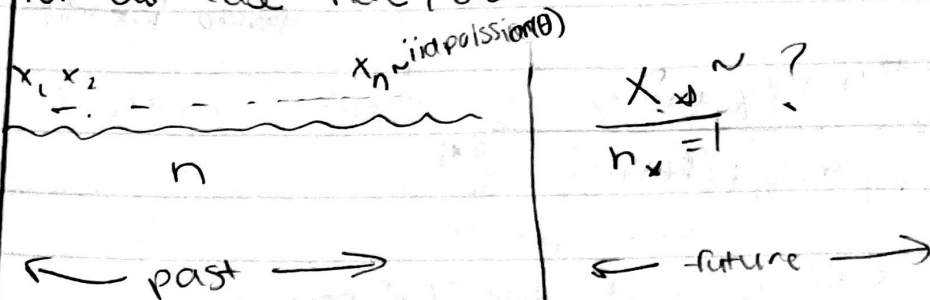
$$E[X] = \sum_{x \in \text{support}} x P(x) = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^x}{x!} = e^{-\theta} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{x \theta^x}{x!} = e^{-\theta} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^x}{(x-1)!} = e^{-\theta} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^{y+1}}{y!} = \theta e^{-\theta} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^y}{y!} = \theta e^{-\theta} e^{\theta} = \theta$$

$$y = x - 1 \Leftrightarrow x = y + 1$$

$$e^{-\theta} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^{y+1}}{y!} = \theta e^{-\theta} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{\theta^y}{y!} = \theta e^{-\theta} e^{\theta} = \theta$$

distribution
of where

Posterior predictive distribution. You see n observations & you want the distribution of n^* future observations. For our case here, we let $n^* = 1$.



what is the support of θ ?

$$P(x_{n+1} | x) = \int P(x_{n+1} | \theta) P(\theta | x) d\theta$$

$\sim \text{Poisson}(\theta)$ $\sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha + \sum x_i, \beta + n)$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_{n+1}}}{x_{n+1}!} \frac{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum x_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum x_i)} \theta^{\alpha + \sum x_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n)\theta} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum x_i}}{x_{n+1}! \Gamma(\alpha + \sum x_i)} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_{n+1}} \theta^{\alpha + \sum x_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n)\theta} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum x_i}}{x_{n+1}! \Gamma(\alpha + \sum x_i)} \int_0^{\infty} \theta^{x_{n+1} + \alpha + \sum x_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n + 1)\theta} d\theta$$

let $t = (\beta + n + 1)\theta = \theta = \frac{t}{\beta + n + 1} = \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{1}{\beta + n + 1} dt$

if $\theta = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0$, if $\theta = \infty \Rightarrow t = \infty$

$$\frac{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum x_i}}{x_{n+1}! \Gamma(\alpha + \sum x_i)} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{t^{x_{n+1} + \alpha + \sum x_i - 1}}{(\beta + n + 1)^{x_{n+1} + \alpha + \sum x_i - 1}} e^{-t} \frac{1}{\beta + n + 1} dt \rightarrow$$

$$= \frac{(\beta+n)^{\alpha+\sum x_i}}{x_*! \Gamma(\alpha+\sum x_i) (\beta+n+1)^{x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i}} \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} t^{(x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i)-1} e^{-t} dt}_{\text{gamma integral}}$$

$$= \frac{(\beta+n)^{\alpha+\sum x_i} \Gamma(x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i)}{x_*! \Gamma(\alpha+\sum x_i) (\beta+n+1)^{x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i}}$$

$$= \frac{(\beta+n)^{\alpha+\sum x_i}}{(\beta+n+1)^{\alpha+\sum x_i}} \frac{1}{(\beta+n+1)^{x_*}} \frac{\Gamma(x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i)}{x_*! \Gamma(\alpha+\sum x_i)}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\beta+n}{\beta+n+1} \right)^{\alpha+\sum x_i} \left(\frac{1}{\beta+n+1} \right)^{x_*} \frac{\Gamma(x_*+\alpha+\sum x_i)}{x_*! \Gamma(\alpha+\sum x_i)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{let } p := \frac{\beta+n}{\beta+n+1} \in (0,1), 1-p = \frac{1}{\beta+n+1} \in (0,1), r := \sum x_i + \alpha > 0 \\ & \Rightarrow p^r (1-p)^{x_*} \frac{\Gamma(x_*+r)}{x_*! \Gamma(r)} = \text{ExtNegBin}(r, p) \end{aligned}$$

extended negative binomial
random variable model

if $\alpha \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

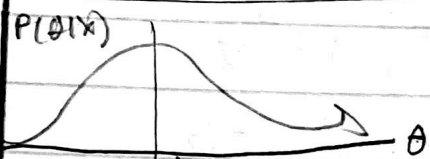
$$\Rightarrow \binom{x_*+r-1}{r} p^r (1-p)^{x_*} = \text{NegBin}(r, p)$$

Thus the posterior predictive distribution has variance up to 2x the poisson (i.e. more spread out or less sure of where the realization will be.)

From 368... the negative binomial is the sum of iid geometric random variable. Since the expectation of the geometric rv is $(1-p)/p$, the expectation of the negative binomial by linearity is

$$P(X_0 | x) = \text{Neg Bin}(r, p) \Rightarrow E[X_0 | x] = r \frac{1-p}{p}$$

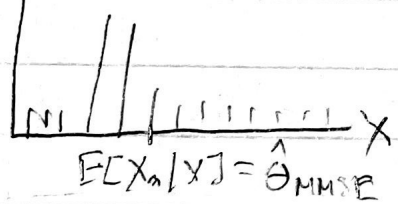
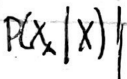
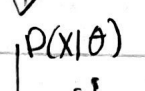
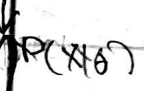
beats



side Note:

The negative binomial model is a "dispersed Poisson" analogous to the betabinomial model being a dispersed binomial

$$\begin{aligned} &= (\sum x_i + \alpha) \frac{1}{n + \beta + 1} \\ &= \frac{\sum x_i + \alpha}{n + \beta} = \hat{\theta}_{MMSE} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[X_0 | x] &= r \frac{1-p}{p} = \hat{\theta}_{MMSE} \cdot \frac{1}{p} = \frac{\beta + n + 1}{\beta + n} \\ &= \hat{\theta}_{MMSE} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Gaussian: one } (N(\theta, \sigma^2)) = P(x | \theta, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\theta)^2}$$

let σ^2 be fixed / known in advance

$$P(x | \theta, \sigma^2) \propto e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\theta)^2} = e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x^2 - 2x\theta + \theta^2)}$$