Posterior Predictive Distribution on Coin Toss

Sreejith Sreekumar

August 15, 2018

After an experiment, posterior distribution for the prediction of y_2 depends on the knowledge of θ and the outcome of the first toss experiment

$$f(y_2|y_1) = \int f(y_2|\theta, y_1) f(\theta|y_1) d\theta$$

The experiment follows an IID, therefore y2 is not dependent on y1. The integral can be simplified to

$$f(y_2|y_1) = \int f(y_2|\theta)f(\theta|y_1)d\theta$$

Probability of y_2 , given that we got a head in the first experiment:

$$\implies P(y_2|y_1 = 1) = \int_0^1 \theta^{y_2} (1 - \theta)^{1 - y_2} 2\theta d\theta$$
$$= \int_0^1 2\theta^{y_2 + 1} (1 - \theta)^{(1 - y_2)} d\theta$$

Probability of $y_2=1$ given $y_1=1$

$$P(y_2 = 1|y_1 = 1) = \int_0^1 2\theta^2 d\theta = \frac{2}{3}$$

Probability of $y_2=0$ (tails) given $y_1=1$ (heads)

$$P(y_2 = 0|y_1 = 1) = \frac{1}{3}$$