3: Introduction to multiparameter models

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Introduction

We discuss a few examples of models with more than one parameter.

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Consider a normal likelihood

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(y \mid \mu, \sigma^2) &\propto (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_i (y_i - \mu)^2\right] \\
&= (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_i ([y_i - \bar{y}] + [\bar{y} - \mu])^2\right] \\
&= (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2 + 0\right\}\right] \\
&= (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2\right\}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

and the noninformative, improper prior $p(\mu, \sigma^2) \propto \sigma^{-2}$. Clearly

$$
p(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) \propto (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2\right\}\right]
$$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Suppose instead that σ^2 is a nuisance parameter, and we're only interested in μ. Then, we want the marginal posterior.

Let $z = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right\} = \frac{A}{2\sigma^2}$. Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(\mu \mid y) &\propto \int_0^\infty (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right\}\right] d\sigma^2 \\
&= \int_\infty^0 (A/2)^{-(n+2)/2} z^{(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-z\right] (-A/2) z^{-2} dz \\
&= (A/2)^{-n/2} \underbrace{\int_0^\infty z^{n/2-1} \exp\left[-z\right] dz}_{\Gamma(n/2)}
\end{aligned}
$$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

So

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(\mu|y) &\propto (A/2)^{-n/2} \\
&\propto A^{-n/2} \\
&\propto A^{-n/2}[(n-1)s^2]^{n/2} \\
&\propto \left(1 + \frac{(\bar{y}-\mu)^2}{(n-1)s^2/n}\right)^{-n/2}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\mu \mid y \sim t_{n-1}(\bar{y}, s^2/n)$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Suppose that μ is a nuisance parameter, and we're only interested in σ^2. Then, we want he marginal posterior:

$$
\begin{aligned}
p(\sigma^2 \mid y) &\propto \int (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right\}\right] \mathrm{d}\mu \\
&= (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{(n-1)}{2\sigma^2}s^2\right] \int \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} n(\mu-\bar{y})^2\right] \mathrm{d}\mu \\
&\propto (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{(n-1)}{2\sigma^2}s^2\right] (\sigma^2)^{1/2} \\
&= (\sigma^2)^{-[(n-1)/2+1]} \exp\left[-\frac{(n-1)s^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

$\sigma^2 \mid y \sim \text{Inv-Gamma}\left(\frac{n-1}{2}, \frac{(n-1)s^2}{2}\right)$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Recall the joint posterior:

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) \propto (\sigma^2)^{-(n+2)/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left\{(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right\}\right]$$

Clearly:

$$p(\mu \mid \sigma^2, y) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{n}{2\sigma^2}(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right]$$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Recall the joint posterior:

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Clearly:

$$p(\mu \mid \sigma^2, y) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{n}{2\sigma^2}(\bar{y}-\mu)^2\right]$$

We also have $p(\sigma^2 \mid y)$ from the last slide. This means that we can figure out the normalizing constants for the joint posterior if we multiply these two known densities together:

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) = p(\mu \mid \sigma^2, y) p(\sigma^2 \mid y).$$

Sometimes this is called a **normal-inverse-gamma** distribution.

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

After we have figured out the joint posterior, we may be interested in predicting new observations with the **posterior predictive distribution**:

$$p(\tilde{y} \mid y) = \iint p(\tilde{y} \mid \mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) \mathrm{d}\mu \mathrm{d}\sigma^2.$$

It's a homework question to show that

$$\tilde{y} \mid y \sim t_{n-1} \left(\bar{y}, s^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \right)$$

A noninformative prior with a normal likelihood

Let's get some practice simulating predictions, which will come in handy when we are dealing with more complicated scenarios where a closed-form posterior predictive distribution isn't available. We can simulate each $\tilde{y}_i$ as follows:

Sampling Strategy

For $i = 1, 2, \ldots$

1. draw $\sigma_i^2 \mid y \sim p(\sigma^2 \mid y)$
2. draw $\mu_i \mid \sigma_i^2, y \sim p(\mu \mid \sigma_i^2, y)$
3. draw $\tilde{y}_i \mid \mu_i, \sigma_i^2 \sim p(\tilde{y} \mid \mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$

Each triple
$(\tilde{y}_i, \mu_i, \sigma_i^2) \sim p(\tilde{y}, \mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) = p(\tilde{y} \mid \mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu \mid \sigma^2 \mid y) p(\sigma^2 \mid y)$.

So $\tilde{y}_i \sim p(\tilde{y} \mid y) = \iint p(\tilde{y} \mid \mu, \sigma^2) p(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid y) \mathrm{d}\mu \mathrm{d}\sigma^2$