Statistical Modeling 2
Exercise 2

February 6, 2017

1 A simple Gaussian location model

A

The joint prior over the mean parameter θ and precision parameter ω is:

$$p(\theta, \omega) \propto \omega^{(d+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2}{2}\right\} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\eta}{2}\right\}$$

To get the marginal prior, we integrate out the parameter ω:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\theta) &\propto \int_0^\infty \omega^{(d+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2+\eta}{2}\right\} \\
&\propto \left(\frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2+\eta}{2}\right)^{-(d+1)/2} \\
&= \left(\frac{\eta}{2}+\frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2}{2}\right)^{-(d+1)/2} \\
&= \left(1+\frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2}{\eta}\right)^{-(d+1)/2} \left(\frac{\eta}{2}\right)^{-(d+1)/2} \\
&\propto \left(1+\frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2}{\eta}\right)^{-(d+1)/2} \\
&= \left(1+\frac{1}{d}\frac{\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2}{\eta}\right)^{-(d+1)/2}
\end{aligned}$$

Let $\nu = d, m = \mu$ and $s = \sqrt{\eta/\kappa}$, we have a Student t distribution with ν degrees of freedom and scale s:

$$p(\theta) \propto \left(1+\frac{1}{\nu}\frac{(\theta-m)^2}{s^2}\right)^{-(\nu+1)/2}$$

B

The sampling model is:

$$(y_i \mid \theta, \omega) \sim N(\theta, 1/\omega)$$

where $y_1, \dots, y_n$ are the datapoints, θ is the mean and ω is the precision. We have that the likelihood for all the datapoints can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\mathbf{y} \mid \theta, \omega) &\propto \prod_{i=1}^{n} \omega^{1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega(y_i - \theta)^2\right\} \\
&= \omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega \sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_i - \theta)^2\right\} \\
&= \omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \theta^2 - 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i\theta\right)\right\} \\
&= \omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2 + n\theta^2 - 2n\overline{y}\theta + n\overline{y}^2 - n\overline{y}^2\right)\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\overline{y} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i\right)/n$. Let $S_y = \sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_i - \overline{y})^2$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_y &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2 + n\overline{y}^2 - 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i\overline{y} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i^2 - n\overline{y}^2
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the likelihood is:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\mathbf{y} \mid \theta, \omega) &= \omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega\left[S_y + n(\theta^2 - 2\overline{y}\theta + \overline{y}^2)\right]\right\} \\
&= \omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega\left[S_y + n(\overline{y} - \theta)^2\right]\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

The posterior is proportional to the product of the likelihood and the prior:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\theta, \omega \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto{}& \omega^{(d+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\kappa(\theta - \mu)^2}{2}\right\} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\eta}{2}\right\} \\
&\omega^{n/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}\omega\left[S_y + n(\overline{y} - \theta)^2\right]\right\} \\
&= \omega^{(d+n+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\kappa(\theta - \mu)^2 + n(\theta - \overline{y})^2}{2}\right\} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\eta + S_y}{2}\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

We also have:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\kappa(\theta-\mu)^2 + n(\theta-\overline{y})^2 &= \kappa\theta^2 + \kappa\mu^2 - 2\kappa\theta\mu + n\theta^2 + n\overline{y}^2 - 2n\theta\overline{y} \\
&= (\kappa+n)\theta^2 - 2\theta(\kappa\mu + n\overline{y}) + (\kappa\mu^2 + n\overline{y}^2) \\
&= (\kappa+n)\left(\theta^2 - 2\theta\frac{\kappa\mu+n\overline{y}}{\kappa+n} + \frac{(\kappa\mu+n\overline{y})^2}{(\kappa+n)^2}\right) - \frac{(\kappa\mu+n\overline{y})^2}{\kappa+n} + (\kappa\mu^2 + n\overline{y}^2) \\
&= (\kappa+n)\left(\theta^2 - \frac{\kappa\mu+n\overline{y}}{\kappa+n}\right)^2 - \frac{(\kappa\mu+n\overline{y})^2}{\kappa+n} + (\kappa\mu^2 + n\overline{y}^2)
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, the posterior is:

$$
p(\theta, \omega \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto \omega^{(d^*+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\kappa^*(\theta-\mu^*)^2}{2}\right\} \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\eta^*}{2}\right\}
$$

where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
d^* &= d + n \\
\kappa^* &= \kappa + n \\
\mu^* &= \frac{\kappa\mu + n\overline{y}}{\kappa+n}
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\eta^* &= \eta + S_y - \frac{(\kappa\mu+n\overline{y})^2}{\kappa+n} + (\kappa\mu^2 + n\overline{y}^2) \\
&= \eta + S_y + \frac{(\kappa+n)(\kappa\mu^2+n\overline{y}^2) - \kappa^2\mu^2 - n^2\overline{y}^2 + 2\kappa n\mu\overline{y}}{\kappa+n} \\
&= \eta + S_y + \frac{\kappa n\mu^2 + \kappa n\overline{y}^2 + 2\kappa n\mu\overline{y}}{\kappa+n} \\
&= \eta + S_y + \frac{\kappa n(\mu+\overline{y})^2}{\kappa+n}
\end{aligned}
$$

C

The conditional distribution is:

$$
p(\theta \mid \mathbf{y}, \omega) \propto \exp\left\{-\omega\frac{\kappa^*(\theta-\mu^*)^2}{2}\right\}
$$

We see that this is a Normal distribution with mean μ^* and variance $1/(\omega\kappa^*)$.

D

The marginal posterior of ω is:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\omega \mid \mathbf{y}) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(\omega, \theta \mid \mathbf{y}) d\theta \\
&\propto \omega^{(d^*+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\eta^*}{2}\right\} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\kappa^*(\theta-\mu^*)^2}{2}\right\} d\theta \\
&\propto \omega^{(d^*+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\eta^*}{2}\right\} \qquad \text{(Gaussian integral)}
\end{aligned}$$

We see that this marginal is a Gamma distribution with parameter $(d^*/2, \eta^*/2)$.

E

The marginal posterior of θ is:

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\theta \mid \mathbf{y}) &= \int_{0}^{\infty} p(\theta, \omega \mid \mathbf{y}) d\omega \\
&= \int_{0}^{\infty} \omega^{(d^*+1)/2-1} \exp\left\{-\omega \frac{\kappa^*(\theta-\mu^*)^2 + \eta^*}{2}\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

This is the same integral in part A. By the results in A, we can see that this marginal is a Student t distribution with parameters $\nu = d^*, m = \mu^*$ and $s = \sqrt{\eta^*/\kappa^*}$.

F

FALSE. As κ approaches 0, the Normal prior on θ approaches a point distribution but the density at that point is infinite. As d and η approach 0, the Gamma prior on ω also approach a point distribution with infinite density.

G

By the results in D and E, we see that when the prior parameters approach 0, the posterior parameters are not 0 then $p(\theta \mid \mathbf{y})$ and $p(\omega \mid \mathbf{y})$ are valid distribution.

H

The classical frequentest confidence interval for θ is:

$$\overline{y} \pm t^* \frac{\sqrt{S_y}}{\sqrt{n(n-1)}}$$

As the prior parameters κ, d, η approach 0, we have the Bayesian credible interval for θ is:

$$m \pm t^* s$$

from the results in B and E, we have

$$m = \mu^* = \overline{y}$$

and

$$s = \sqrt{\eta^*/\kappa} = \sqrt{\frac{S_y + \overline{y}/n}{n}}$$

We see that this is different from the classical confidence interval.

2 The conjugate Gaussian linear model

A

$$p(\beta \mid \mathbf{y}, \omega) \propto p(\beta \mid \omega) p(\mathbf{y} \mid \beta, \omega)$$