

The Gamma-distribution

Parametrisation

The Gamma-distribution has the following density

$$\pi(y) = \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} y^{a-1} \exp(-by), \quad a > 0, \quad b > 0, \quad y > 0,$$

where $E(y) = \mu = a/b$ and $\text{Var}(y) = 1/\tau = a/b^2$, where τ is the precision and μ is the mean. We will use the following parameterisation for the precision

$$\tau = (s\phi)/\mu^2$$

where ϕ is the precision parameter (or $1/\phi$ is the dispersion parameter) and $s > 0$ is a fixed scaling, which gives this density

$$\pi(y) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s\phi)} \left(\frac{(s\phi)}{\mu} \right)^{(s\phi)} y^{(s\phi)-1} \exp \left(- (s\phi) \frac{y}{\mu} \right)$$

Link-function

The linear predictor η is linked to the mean μ using a default log-link

$$\mu = \exp(\eta)$$

Hyperparameter

The hyperparameter is the precision parameter ϕ , which is represented as

$$\phi = \exp(\theta)$$

and the prior is defined on θ .

Specification

- family = **gamma** for regression models and family = **gamma.surv** for survival models.
- Required arguments: for **gamma.surv**, y (to be given in a format by using **inla.surv()**), and for **gamma**, y and s .

The scalings have default value 1.

Hyperparameter specification and default values

doc The Gamma likelihood

hyper

theta

hyperid 58001

name precision parameter

short.name prec

initial 4.60517018598809

fixed FALSE

```
prior loggamma
param 1 0.01
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)
```

survival FALSE

discrete FALSE

link default log quantile

pdf gamma

doc The Gamma likelihood (survival)

hyper

theta

```
hyperid 58101
name precision parameter
short.name prec
initial 0
fixed FALSE
prior loggamma
param 1 0.01
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)
```

survival TRUE

discrete FALSE

status experimental

link default log quantile

pdf gammasurv

Example

In the following example we estimate the parameters in a simulated example.

```
n = 1000
x = rnorm(n)
eta = 1 + x
mu = exp(eta)
prec.scale = runif(n, min = 0.5, max = 2)
prec.par = 1.2
a = prec.par * prec.scale
b = mu / (prec.par * prec.scale)
y = rgamma(n, shape = a, scale = b)
r = inla(y ~ 1 + x, data = data.frame(y, x),
        scale = prec.scale, family = "gamma")
```

Notes

None.