

# PREDICTIVE INFERENCE TOOLS FOR RESEARCHERS

by

Voyze G. Harris III

---

Copyright © Voyze G. Harris III 2021

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the

STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE  
GRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

In the Graduate College

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
GRADUATE COLLEGE

As members of the Master's Committee, we certify that we have read the thesis prepared by Voyze Gabriel Harris III, titled *[Enter Thesis Title]* and recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the dissertation requirement for the Master's Degree.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dean Billheimer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Edward Bedrick

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Walter Piegorsch

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Final approval and acceptance of this thesis is contingent upon the candidate's submission of the final copies of the thesis to the Graduate College.

I hereby certify that I have read this thesis prepared under my direction and recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the Master's requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dean Billheimer  
Master's Thesis Committee Chair  
*Biostatistics*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



ARIZONA

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Thesis Abstract</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction: Predictive Inference</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Why is predictive inference important? . . . . .	5
2.2	Difference between parametric inference and predictive inference . . . . .	5
2.2.1	When is predictive inference more useful? . . . . .	5
2.2.2	When is parametric inference more useful? . . . . .	5
2.3	The Bayesian Parametric Prediction Format . . . . .	5
2.4	[Maybe] Example of Difference between results from Plug-in estimator and results using Predictive Inference . . . . .	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Chapter 1: Predictive Problems with Conjugate Priors</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Prediction of Future Successes: Beta-Binomial (Geisser p. 73) . . . . .	6
3.1.1	Derivation . . . . .	6
3.1.2	R Implementation . . . . .	7
3.1.3	Example . . . . .	7
3.2	Survival Time: Exponential-Gamma (Geisser p. 74) . . . . .	7
3.2.1	Derivation . . . . .	7
3.2.2	R Implementation . . . . .	9
3.2.3	Example . . . . .	9
3.3	Poisson-Gamma Model (Hoff p. 43ff) . . . . .	11
3.3.1	Derivation . . . . .	11
3.3.2	R Implementation . . . . .	15
3.3.3	Example . . . . .	15
3.4	Normal Observation with Normal-Inverse Gamma Prior . . . . .	17
3.4.1	One sample . . . . .	17
3.4.1.1	Derivation . . . . .	17
3.4.1.2	R Implementation . . . . .	18
3.4.1.3	Example . . . . .	19
3.4.2	Two samples . . . . .	22
3.4.2.1	Derivation . . . . .	22
3.4.2.2	R Implementation . . . . .	23
3.4.2.3	Example . . . . .	23
3.4.3	$k$ samples . . . . .	23
3.4.3.1	Derivation . . . . .	23
3.4.3.2	R Implementation . . . . .	23
3.4.3.3	Example . . . . .	23
3.4.3.4	Ranking Treatments . . . . .	23
<b>4</b>	<b>Chapter 2: Normal Regression with Zellner's <math>g</math>-prior</b>	<b>24</b>
4.0.0.1	Derivation . . . . .	24
4.0.0.2	R Implementation . . . . .	24
4.0.0.3	Example . . . . .	24
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>25</b>

# 1 Thesis Abstract

- (paragraph) Statement of the thesis topic and objectives
- (paragraph) Explanation of R package

## 2 Introduction: Predictive Inference

### 2.1 Why is predictive inference important?

### 2.2 Difference between parametric inference and predictive inference

#### 2.2.1 When is predictive inference more useful?

#### 2.2.2 When is parametric inference more useful?

[examples, comparisons]

### 2.3 The Bayesian Parametric Prediction Format

[Geisser p. 49]

Let

$$f(x^{(N)}, x_{(M)} | \theta) = f(x_{(M)} | x^{(N)}, \theta) f(x^{(N)} | \theta).$$

Here  $x^{(N)}$  represents observed events and  $x_{(M)}$  are future events. We calculate

$$f(x_{(M)}, x^{(N)}) = \int f(x^{(N)}, x_{(M)} | \theta) p(\theta) d\theta$$

where  $p(\theta)$  is the prior density and

$$f(x_{(M)} | x^{(N)}) = \frac{f(x_{(M)}, x^{(N)})}{f(x^{(N)})} = \int f(x_{(M)} | \theta) p(\theta | x^{(N)}) d\theta$$

where

$$p(\theta | x^{(N)}) \propto f(x^{(N)} | \theta) p(\theta).$$

### 2.4 [Maybe] Example of Difference between results from Plug-in estimator and results using Predictive Inference

### 3 Chapter 1: Predictive Problems with Conjugate Priors

[Problems with closed-form solutions. These problems will be what the R package is designed for. Use problems from Geisser, Casella & Berger (Bayesian chapter), other sources. Regression problem—predictive distributions of models that include and exclude some predictor]

#### 3.1 Prediction of Future Successes: Beta-Binomial (Geisser p. 73)

##### 3.1.1 Derivation

Let  $X_i$  be independent binary variables with  $\Pr(X_i = 1) = \theta$ , and let  $T = \sum X_i$ . Then  $T$  has probability

$$\binom{N}{t} \theta^t (1 - \theta)^{N-t}.$$

Assume  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$ , so

$$p(\theta) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta) \theta^{\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha) \Gamma(\beta)}.$$

Then

$$p(\theta | X^{(N)}) = \frac{\Gamma(N + \alpha + \beta) \theta^{t+\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{N-t+\beta-1}}{\Gamma(t + \alpha) \Gamma(N - t + \beta)}$$

So for  $R = \sum_{i=1}^M X_{N+i}$  we have Beta-Binomial predictive distribution

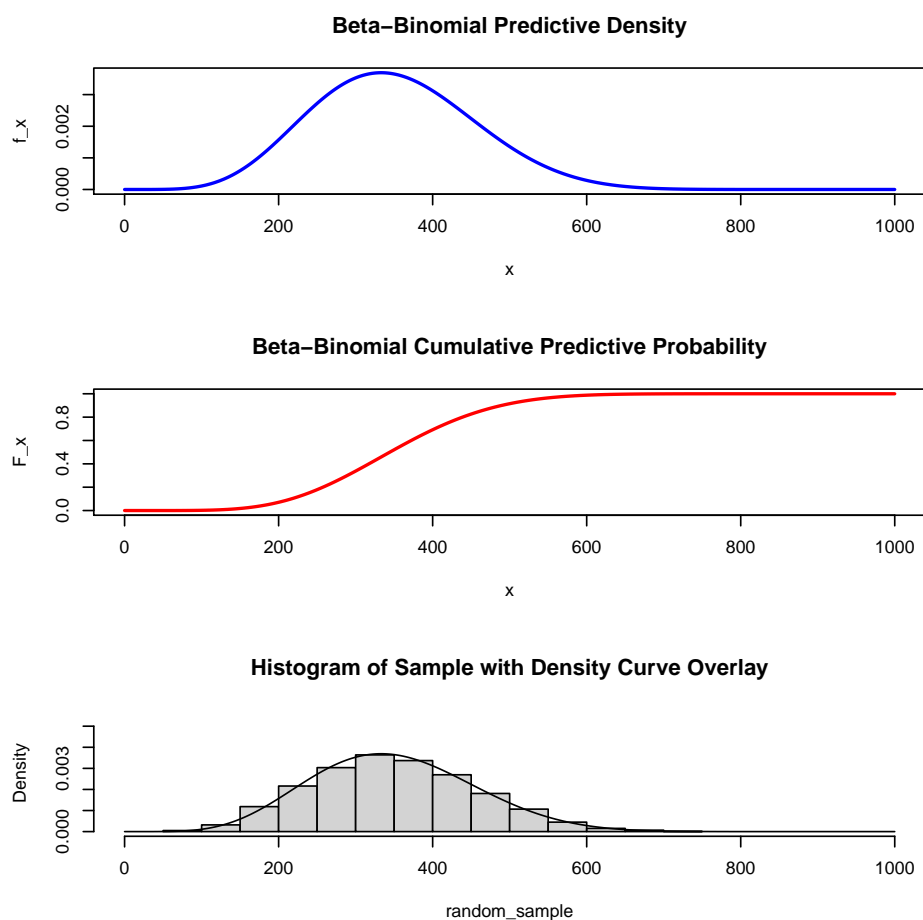
$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[R = r | t] &= \int \binom{M}{r} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^{M-r} p(\theta | X^{(N)}) d\theta \\ &= \binom{M}{r} \int \theta^r (1 - \theta)^{M-r} \frac{\Gamma(N + \alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(t + \alpha) \Gamma(N - t + \beta)} \theta^{t+\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{N-t+\beta-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{M!}{r!(M-r)!} \frac{\Gamma(N + \alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(t + \alpha) \Gamma(N - t + \beta)} \int \theta^{r+t+\alpha-1} (1 - \theta)^{M-r+N-t+\beta-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(M+1) \Gamma(N + \alpha + \beta) \Gamma(r+t+\alpha) \Gamma(M-r+N-t+\beta)}{\Gamma(r+1) \Gamma(M-r+1) \Gamma(t+\alpha) \Gamma(N-t+\beta) \Gamma(M+N+\alpha+\beta)} \end{aligned}$$

### 3.1.2 R Implementation

This result has been used to create “standard” R functions `dpredBB()`, `ppredBB()`, and `rpredBB()` for the Beta-Binomial distribution for density, cumulative probability, and random sampling, respectively (see appendix). These functions are exercised in the following example.

### 3.1.3 Example

Suppose  $t = 5$  successes have been observed out of  $N = 10$  binary events,  $\alpha = 2$  and  $\beta = 8$ . For  $M = 1000$  future observations, the figures below show the predictive distribution from `dpredBB()`, the cumulative distribution from `ppredBB()`, and a histogram of random draws from `rpredBB()`.



## 3.2 Survival Time: Exponential-Gamma (Geisser p. 74)

### 3.2.1 Derivation

Suppose  $X^{(N)} = (X^{(d)}, X^{(N-d)})$  where  $X^{(d)}$  represents copies fully observed from an exponential survival time density

$$f(x|\theta) = \theta e^{-\theta x}$$

and  $X^{(N-d)}$  represents copies censored at  $x_{d+1}, \dots, x_N$ , respectively. Hence

$$L(\theta) \propto \theta^d e^{-\theta N\bar{x}}$$

when  $N\bar{x} = \sum_1^N x_i$ , as shown below.

The usual exponential likelihood is used for the fully observed copies, whereas for the censored copies we need  $\Pr(x > \theta) = 1 - \Pr(x \leq \theta) = 1 - F(x|\theta) = 1 - (1 - e^{-\theta x}) = e^{-\theta x}$ . Thus the overall likelihood is

$$L(\theta|x) = \prod_{i=1}^d \theta e^{-\theta x_i} \prod_{i=d+1}^N e^{-\theta x_i} = \theta^d e^{-\theta N\bar{x}}$$

Assuming a Gamma( $\delta, \gamma$ ) prior for  $\theta$ ,

$$p(\theta) = \frac{\gamma^\delta \theta^{\delta-1} e^{-\gamma\theta}}{\Gamma(\delta)}$$

we obtain the posterior

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta|X^{(N)}) &= \frac{p(x^{(N)}|\theta) p(\theta)}{\int p(X^{(N)}|\theta) p(\theta) d\theta} \\ &= \frac{\theta^d e^{-\theta N\bar{x}} \cdot \frac{\gamma^\delta \theta^{\delta-1} e^{-\gamma\theta}}{\Gamma(\delta)}}{\int \left( \theta^d e^{-\theta N\bar{x}} \cdot \frac{\gamma^\delta \theta^{\delta-1} e^{-\gamma\theta}}{\Gamma(\delta)} \right) d\theta} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{\frac{\gamma^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta)}} (\theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})})}{\cancel{\frac{\gamma^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta)}} \int (\theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})}) d\theta} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(\gamma+N\bar{x})^{d+\delta}}{\Gamma(d+\delta)} (\theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})})}{\cancel{\frac{(\gamma+N\bar{x})^{d+\delta}}{\Gamma(d+\delta)}} \int \cancel{(\theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})})} d\theta} \\ &= \frac{(\gamma+N\bar{x})^{d+\delta} \theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})}}{\Gamma(d+\delta)} \end{aligned}$$

with the Gamma( $d+\delta, \gamma+N\bar{x}$ ) density in the next to last step integrating to 1.

Thus the survival time predictive probability is



$$\begin{aligned}
P(X = x|\theta, X^{(N)}) &= \int p(\theta|X^{(N)}) p(x|\theta) d\theta \\
&= \int \frac{(\gamma + N\bar{x})^{d+\delta} \theta^{d+\delta-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x})}}{\Gamma(d+\delta)} \cdot \theta e^{-\theta x} d\theta \\
&= (d+\delta)(\gamma + N\bar{x})^{d+\delta} \int \frac{\theta^{(d+\delta+1)-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x}+x)}}{(d+\delta)\Gamma(d+\delta)} d\theta \\
&= \frac{(d+\delta)(\gamma + N\bar{x})^{d+\delta}}{(\gamma + N\bar{x} + x)^{d+\delta+1}} \int \frac{(\gamma + N\bar{x} + x)^{d+\delta+1} \theta^{(d+\delta+1)-1} e^{-\theta(\gamma+N\bar{x}+x)}}{\Gamma(d+\delta+1)} d\theta \\
&= \frac{(d+\delta)(\gamma + N\bar{x})^{d+\delta}}{(\gamma + N\bar{x} + x)^{d+\delta+1}}
\end{aligned}$$

(simplifying by constructing a  $\text{Gamma}(d + \delta + 1, \gamma + N\bar{x} + x)$  density in the final integrand.)

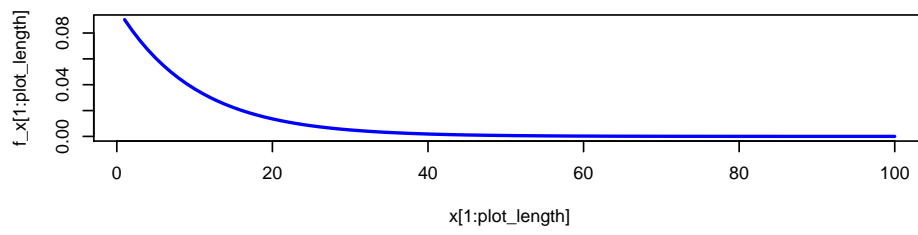
### 3.2.2 R Implementation

This result has been used to create standard format R functions `dpredEG()`, `ppredEG()`, and `rpredEG()` for the Gamma-Exponential distribution for density, cumulative probability, and random sampling, respectively (see appendix). These functions are exercised in the following example.

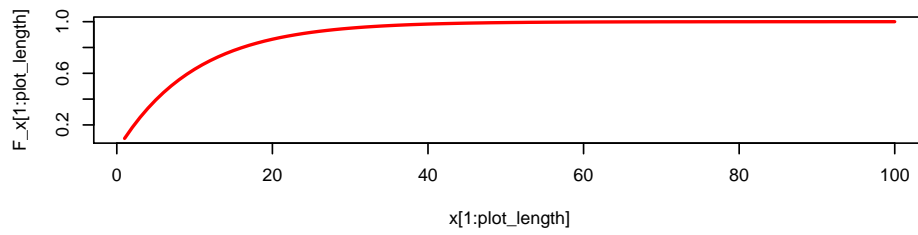
### 3.2.3 Example

Suppose  $d = 800$  out of  $N = 1000$  copies have been observed, and the remaining 200 censored. Say  $\delta = 20$ ,  $\gamma = 5$ , and we are interested in the number of survivors out of  $M = 1000$  future observations. The figures below illustrate the predictive probability using `dpredEG()` and `rpredEG()`, along with a histogram of a random sample taken using `rpredEG()`.

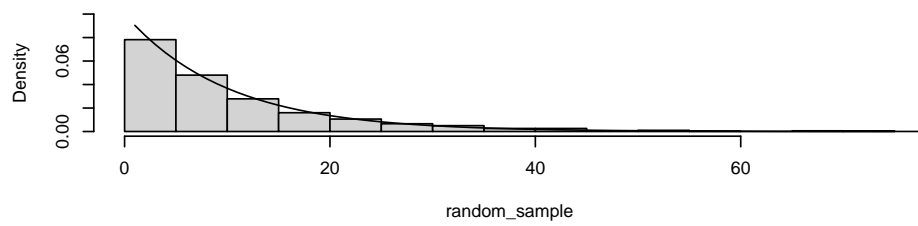
**Exponential-Gamma Predictive Density**



**Exponential-Gamma Cumulative Predictive Probability**



**Histogram of Sample with Density Curve Overlay**



### 3.3 Poisson-Gamma Model (Hoff p. 43ff)

#### 3.3.1 Derivation

[using Hoff's notation and variable names below. Should I convert this to Geisser's  $x^{(N)}, x_{(M)}$  convention for uniformity throughout my thesis?]

Suppose  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n | \theta \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\theta)$  with Gamma prior  $\theta \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ . That is,

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y_1 = y_1, \dots, Y_n = y_n | \theta) &= \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i | \theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{y_i!} \theta^{y_i} e^{-\theta} \\ &= \left( \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{y_i!} \right) \theta^{\sum y_i} e^{-n\theta} \\ &= c(y_1, \dots, y_n) \theta^{\sum y_i} e^{-n\theta} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$p(\theta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta\theta}, \theta, \alpha, \beta > 0.$$

Then we have posterior distribution

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta | y_1, \dots, y_n) &= \frac{p(y_1, \dots, y_n | \theta) p(\theta)}{\int_{\theta} p(y_1, \dots, y_n | \theta) p(\theta)} \\ &= \frac{p(y_1, \dots, y_n | \theta) p(\theta)}{p(y_1, \dots, y_n)} \\ &= \frac{1}{p(y_1, \dots, y_n)} \theta^{\sum y_i} e^{-n\theta} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta\theta} \\ &= C(y_1, \dots, y_n, \alpha, \beta) \theta^{\alpha + \sum y_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n)\theta} \\ &\sim \text{Gamma}\left(\alpha + \sum y_i, \beta + n\right). \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned}
C(y_1, \dots, y_n, \alpha, \beta) &= \frac{1}{p(y_1, \dots, y_n)} \cdot \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\int_\theta p(y_1, \dots, y_n | \theta) p(\theta)} \cdot \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\int_\theta \left( \prod \frac{1}{y_i!} \right) \theta^{\sum y_i} e^{-n\theta} \left( \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta\theta} \cancel{\left( \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)}} \cdot \left( \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\left( \prod \frac{1}{y_i!} \right) \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)}{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum y_i}} \int_\theta \frac{(\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)} \theta^{\sum y_i + \alpha - 1} e^{-(\beta + n)\theta}} \\
&= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i! (\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)}
\end{aligned}$$

Call this constant  $C_n$  (for  $n$  observations).

Note that an additional observation  $y_{n+1} = \tilde{y}$  the constant becomes

$$C_{n+1} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i! (\beta + n + 1)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i)}.$$

Also note that the marginal joint distribution of  $k$  observations is

$$p(\tilde{y} | y_1, \dots, y_k) = \frac{1}{C_k} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}.$$

For future observation  $\tilde{y}$ , then, we compute predictive distribution

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\tilde{y}|y_1, \dots, y_n) &= \frac{p(y_1, \dots, y_n, \tilde{y})}{p(y_1, \dots, y_n)} = \frac{p(y_1, \dots, y_{n+1})}{p(y_1, \dots, y_n)} = \frac{\frac{1}{C_{n+1}} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}}{\frac{1}{C_n} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}} = \frac{C_n}{C_{n+1}} \\
&= \frac{\frac{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i! (\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i)}}{\frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i! (\beta + n + 1)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i)}} \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i) (\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}}{(y_{n+1}!) \Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i) (\beta + n + 1)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} y_i}} \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i + \tilde{y}) (\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i}}{(\tilde{y}!) \Gamma(\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i) (\beta + n + 1)^{\alpha + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i + \tilde{y}}} \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i + \tilde{y})}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1) \Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)} \cdot \left( \frac{\beta + n}{\beta + n + 1} \right)^{\alpha + \sum y_i} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{\beta + n + 1} \right)^{\tilde{y}}
\end{aligned}$$

This is a negative binomial distribution:  $\tilde{y} \sim NB(\alpha + \sum y_i, \beta + n)$ , for which

$$\begin{aligned}
E[\tilde{Y}|y_1, \dots, y_n] &= \frac{a + \sum y_i}{b + n} = E[\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n]; \\
\text{Var}[\tilde{Y}|y_1, \dots, y_n] &= \frac{a + \sum y_i}{b + n} \frac{b + n + 1}{b + n} \\
&= \text{Var}[\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n] \times (b + n + 1) \\
&= E[\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n] \times \frac{b + n + 1}{b + n}
\end{aligned}$$

---

[Showing here that it is indeed a NB distribution]

$$\theta \sim NB(\alpha, \beta) \Rightarrow p(\theta) = \binom{\theta + \alpha - 1}{\alpha - 1} \left( \frac{\beta}{\beta + 1} \right)^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \right)^\theta$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{y} \sim NB\left(\alpha + \sum y_i, \beta + n\right) &\Rightarrow p(\tilde{y}) = \binom{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i - 1}{\alpha + \sum y_i - 1} \left(\frac{\beta + n}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\alpha + \sum y_i} \left(\frac{1}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\tilde{y}} \\
&= \frac{(\alpha + \sum y_i + \tilde{y} - 1)!}{(\alpha + \sum y_i - 1)! (\tilde{y})!} \left(\frac{\beta + n}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\alpha + \sum y_i} \left(\frac{1}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\tilde{y}} \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i + \tilde{y})}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i) \Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1)} \left(\frac{\beta + n}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\alpha + \sum y_i} \left(\frac{1}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\tilde{y}}
\end{aligned}$$


---

[This is the result in Hoff. The straightforward derivation below is off by a constant multiple. Need to figure out what went awry.]

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\tilde{y}|y_1, \dots, y_n) &= \int_0^\infty p(\tilde{y}|\theta, y_1, \dots, y_n) p(\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n) d\theta \\
&= \int p(\tilde{y}|\theta) p(\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n) d\theta \\
&= C \int \left(\frac{1}{\tilde{y}!} \theta^{\tilde{y}} e^{-\theta}\right) \theta^{\alpha + \sum y_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n)\theta} d\theta \\
&= \frac{C}{\tilde{y}!} \int \theta^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n + 1)\theta} d\theta \\
&= \frac{C \Gamma(\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i)}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1) (\beta + n + 1)^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i}} \int \frac{(\beta + n + 1)^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i}}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i)} \theta^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i - 1} e^{-(\beta + n + 1)\theta} d\theta \\
&= C \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i)}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1) (\beta + n + 1)^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i}} \\
&= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i! (\beta + n)^{\alpha + \sum y_i}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i)}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1) (\beta + n + 1)^{\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i}} \\
&= \prod_{i=1}^n y_i! \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + \alpha + \sum y_i)}{\Gamma(\tilde{y} + 1) \Gamma(\alpha + \sum y_i)} \cdot \left(\frac{\beta + n}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\alpha + \sum y_i} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\beta + n + 1}\right)^{\tilde{y}}
\end{aligned}$$

Hoff p.47:

- $b$  is interpreted as the number of prior observations
- $a$  is interpreted as the sum of counts from  $b$  prior observations

Hoff p. 49 (Birth rate example):  $a = 2, b = 1$ .

### 3.3.2 R Implementation

This result has been used to create standard format R functions `dpredPG()`, `ppredPG()`, and `rpredPG()` for the Poisson-Gamma distribution for density, cumulative probability, and random sampling, respectively (see appendix). These functions are exercised in the following example.

Developing the random sample function `rpredPG()`: I need to establish the support of the predictive distribution  $f_x$  from which to sample. the `uniroot()` function is not working because it keeps feeding non-integer values to `dnbinom()`. Strategy: a modified bisection method as follows:

1. set a desired tolerance  $\epsilon$ .
2. Find the expected value  $E_x$  (closed formula, see above).
3. Step to the right of  $E_x$  by whole integers, in the sequence  $E_x + \{1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^n\}$ , stopping at  $U = f_x(E_x + 2^n) < 0$ . This is the upper bound for the bisection method.
4. Bisect the interval, rounding to the nearest integer. Call the resulting mid-interval number  $B$ .
5. If  $B$  is positive, test whether  $0 \leq f_x(B) \leq \epsilon$ . If so, DONE. If not:
6. Establish new interval, choosing endpoints from  $E_x$ ,  $B$ , and  $U$  so that the interval straddles 0, and repeat the steps until the condition in step 5 is reached.

### 3.3.3 Example

Suppose we have 10 prior observations with counts 27, 79, 21, 100, 8, 4, 37, 15, 3, 97. Let  $\alpha = 11$  and  $\beta = 3$ . For  $\tilde{y} = 1 : 100$  possible future occurrences, the figures below show the predictive distribution from `dpredPG()`, the cumulative distribution from `ppredPG()`, and a histogram of random draws from `rpredPG()`.





### 3.4 Normal Observation with Normal-Inverse Gamma Prior

#### 3.4.1 One sample

##### 3.4.1.1 Derivation [Hoff p. 69ff]

Let  $\{Y_1, \dots, Y_n | \theta, \sigma^2\} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} N(\theta, \sigma^2)$ . Then the joint sampling density is

$$\begin{aligned} p(y_1, \dots, y_n | \theta, \sigma^2) &= \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i | \theta, \sigma^2) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{y_i - \theta}{\sigma}\right)^2} \\ &= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{y_i - \theta}{\sigma}\right)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Following Hoff (p. 74ff), for joint inference on both  $\theta$  and  $\sigma$ , assume priors

$$\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sim \text{gamma}(\nu_0/2, \nu_0\sigma_0^2/2)$$

$$\theta | \sigma^2 \sim \text{normal}(\mu_0, \sigma^2/\kappa_0)$$

where  $(\sigma_0^2, \nu_0)$  are the sample variance and sample size of prior observations, and  $(\mu_0, \kappa_0)$  are the sample mean and sample size of prior observations.

Note:  $\mu_0, \kappa_0, \nu_0$ , and  $\sigma_0^2$  come from prior knowledge. [in the Hoff example (Midge Wing Length),  $\kappa_0$  and  $\nu_0$  are both set to 1 so that “our prior distributions are only weakly centered around these estimates from other populations.”]

From this we derive joint posterior distribution

$$\{\theta | y_1, \dots, y_n, \sigma^2\} \sim \text{normal}(\mu_n, \sigma^2/\kappa_n)$$

$$\{\sigma^2 | y_1, \dots, y_n\} \sim \text{inverse-gamma}(\nu_n/2, \sigma_n^2\nu_n/2).$$

where

$$\kappa_n = \kappa_0 + n$$

$$\mu_n = \frac{\kappa_0 \mu_0 + n \bar{y}}{\kappa_n}$$

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n$$

$$\sigma_n^2 = \frac{1}{\nu_n} \left[ \nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1) s^2 + \frac{\kappa_0 n}{\kappa_n} (\bar{y} - \mu_0)^2 \right].$$

Here  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$  is the sample mean and  $s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2$  is the sample variance.

From the joint posterior distribution we generate marginal samples by means of the Monte Carlo method (Hoff, p. 77):

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^{2(1)} &\sim \text{inverse-gamma}(\nu_n/2, \sigma_n^2 \nu_n/2), & \theta^{(1)} &\sim \text{normal}(\mu_n, \sigma^{2(1)}/\kappa_n) \\ &\vdots & &\vdots \\ \sigma^{2(S)} &\sim \text{inverse-gamma}(\nu_n/2, \sigma_n^2 \nu_n/2), & \theta^{(S)} &\sim \text{normal}(\mu_n, \sigma^{2(S)}/\kappa_n) \end{aligned}$$

For prediction of future  $\tilde{y}|y_1, \dots, y_n, \theta, \sigma^2$ , generate  $\tilde{y}_i \sim \text{normal}(\theta^{(i)}, \sigma^{2(i)})$ .

For prediction without the influence of any previous knowledge (Hoff p. 79), we can employ Jeffreys prior  $\tilde{p}(\theta, \sigma^2) = 1/\sigma^2$ . This leads to the same conditional distribution for  $\theta$  but a  $\text{gamma}(\frac{n-1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \sum (y_i - \bar{y})^2)$  distribution for  $1/\sigma^2$ . This joint posterior distribution can be used to predict future  $\tilde{y}$  by first drawing  $\theta, \sigma^2$  and then simulating  $\tilde{y} \sim \text{normal}(\theta, \sigma^2)$ . Alternatively, the joint posterior can be integrated to show that

$$\frac{\theta - \bar{y}}{s/\sqrt{n}} | y_1, \dots, y_n \sim t_{n-1}.$$

The resulting predictive distribution for  $\tilde{y}$  is a t-distribution with location  $\bar{y}$  and scale  $s\sqrt{1+1/n}$  and  $n-1$  degrees of freedom (Gelman et. al. p. 66).

**3.4.1.2 R Implementation** Standard format R functions `dpredNormIG()`, `ppredNormIG()`, and `rpredNormIG()` have been created for the Normal-Inverse Gamma distribution for density, cumulative probability, and random sampling, respectively (see appendix). These functions all include options for implementation with or without previous knowledge as desired. If Jeffreys prior is used, the functions simply implement R's Student's t-distribution functions `rt()`, `dt()`, and `pt()`, applying the location and scale parameters as described above. For predictions using previous knowledge, the functions work as follows: For the random sampler `rpredNormIG()`, the Monte-Carlo method described above

is directly employed. The predictive density and cumulative predictive density functions (`dpredNormIG()` and `ppredNormID()`, respectively) depend on the random sample. `ppredNormIG()` utilizes the empirical cumulative density function `ecdf()` from R's `stats` package. `dpredNormIG()` utilizes a Kernel Density Estimation (KDE) method and R's built-in `density()` function. The KDE is computed by definition, using a normal kernel:

$$\hat{f}_K(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{h} K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h}\right),$$

where

$X_i$  is the random sample generated using `rpredNormIG()`

$K$  is `Normal(0,1)`

$h$  is the bandwidth from R's `density()` function (that is,  $h = \text{density}(X_i)\$bw$ )

These functions are exercised in the following example.

**3.4.1.3 Example** *Example (Hoff p. 72ff, using data from Grogan and Wirth (1981)): Midge wing length*

Grogan and Wirth (1981) provide 9 measurements of midge wing length, in millimeters:  $y = \{1.64, 1.7, 1.72, 1.74, 1.82, 1.82, 1.82, 1.90, 2.08\}$ . Previous studies suggest values  $\mu_0 = 1.9$  and  $\sigma_0^2 = 0.01$ . We choose  $\kappa_0 = \nu_0 = 1$  “...so that our prior distributions are only weakly centered around these estimates from other populations” (Hoff p. 76). We compute

$$\bar{y} = 1.804$$

$$\text{var}(y) = 0.0169$$

$$\kappa_n = 1 + 9 = 10$$

$$\mu_n = \frac{1 \cdot 1.9 + 9 \cdot 1.804}{10} = 1.814$$

$$\nu_n = 1 + 9 = 10$$

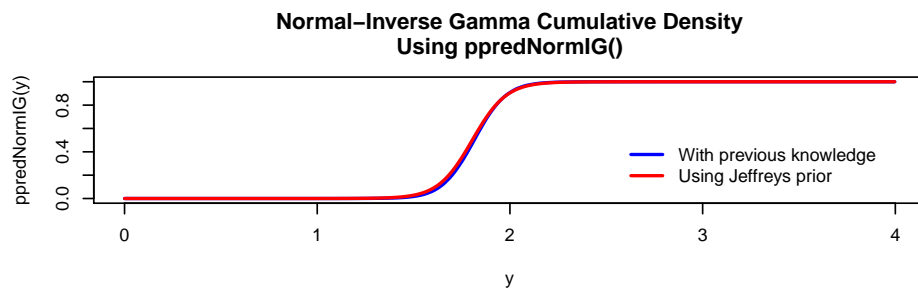
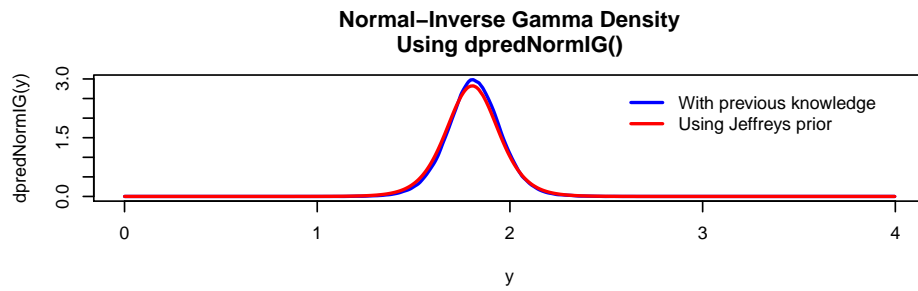
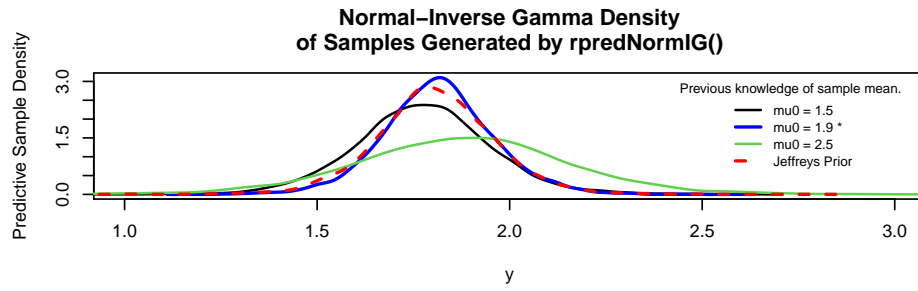
$$\sigma_n^2 = \frac{1}{10} \left[ 1 \cdot 0.01 + (9 - 1) \cdot 0.0169 + \frac{1 \cdot 9}{10} (1.804 - 1)^2 \right] = 0.0153$$

Thus  $\nu_n/2 = 5$  and  $\nu_n\sigma_n^2/2 = 0.7662$  and we have posteriors

$$\{\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n, \sigma^2\} \sim \text{normal}(1.814, \sigma^2/10)$$

$$\{\sigma^2|y_1, \dots, y_n\} \sim \text{inverse-gamma}(5, 0.7662)$$

The plot below illustrates the influence of previous knowledge of the population mean, and compares to the predictions resulting from Jeffreys prior.



### 3.4.2 Two samples

**3.4.2.1 Derivation** For a Bayesian analysis comparing two groups we use the following sampling model (Hoff p. 127):

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{i,1} &= \mu + \delta + \epsilon_{i,1} \\ Y_{i,2} &= \mu + \delta + \epsilon_{i,2} \\ \{\epsilon_{i,j}\} &\sim \text{i.i.d. normal}(0, \sigma^2). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $\theta_1 = \mu + \delta$  and  $\theta_2 = \mu - \delta$  we see that  $\delta = (\theta_1 - \theta_2) / 2$  is half the population difference in means, and  $\mu = (\theta_1 + \theta_2) / 2$  is the pooled average. We'll assume conjugate prior distributions

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mu, \delta, \sigma^2) &= p(\mu) \times p(\delta) \times p(\sigma^2) \\ \mu &\sim \text{normal}(\mu_0, \gamma_0^2) \\ \delta &\sim \text{normal}(\delta_0, \tau_0^2) \\ \sigma^2 &\sim \text{inverse-gamma}(\nu_0/2, \nu_0\sigma_0^2/2), \end{aligned}$$

from which the full conditional distributions follow:

$$\{\mu | \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \delta, \sigma^2\} \sim \text{normal}(\mu_n, \gamma_n^2), \text{ where}$$

$$\mu_n = \gamma_n^2 \times \left[ \frac{\mu_0}{\gamma_0^2} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (y_{i,1} - \delta) + \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (y_{i,2} + \delta)}{\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$\gamma_n^2 = \left[ \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2} + \frac{(n_1 + n_2)}{\sigma^2} \right]^{-1}$$

$$\{\delta | \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \mu, \sigma^2\} \sim \text{normal}(\delta_n, \tau_n^2), \text{ where}$$

$$\delta_n = \tau_n^2 \times \left[ \frac{\delta_0}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (y_{i,1} - \mu) - \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (y_{i,2} - \mu)}{\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$\tau_n^2 = \left[ \frac{1}{\tau_0^2} + \frac{(n_1 + n_2)}{\sigma^2} \right]^{-1}$$

$$\{\sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \mu, \delta\} \sim \text{inverse-gamma}\left(\frac{\nu_n}{2}, \frac{\nu_n \sigma_n^2}{2}\right), \text{ where}$$

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n_1 + n_2$$

$$\nu_n \sigma_n^2 = \nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (y_{i,1} - [\mu + \delta])^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (y_{i,2} - [\mu - \delta])^2$$

### 3.4.2.2 R Implementation

#### 3.4.2.3 Example Hoff p. 128-129 *Analysis of math score data*

The math scores were based on results of a national exam in the United States, standardized to produce a nationwide mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10. Unless these two schools were known in advance to be extremely exceptional, reasonable prior parameters can be based on this information. For the prior distributions of  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ , we'll take  $\mu_0 = 50$  and  $\sigma_0^2 = 10^2 = 100$ , although this latter value is likely to be an overestimate of the within-school sampling variability. We'll make these prior distributions somewhat diffuse, with  $\gamma_0^2 = 25^2 = 625$  and  $\nu_0 = 1$ . For the prior distribution on  $\delta$ , choosing  $\delta_0 = 0$  represents the prior opinion that  $\theta_1 > \theta_2$  and  $\theta_2 > \theta_1$  are equally probable. Finally, since the scores are bounded between 0 and 100, half the difference between  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  must be less than 50 in absolute value, so a value of  $\tau_0^2 = 25^2 = 625$  seems reasonably diffuse.

Using the full-conditional distributions given above, we can construct a Gibbs sampler to approximate the posterior distribution  $p(\mu, \delta, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2)$ .

### 3.4.3 $k$ samples

#### 3.4.3.1 Derivation

#### 3.4.3.2 R Implementation

#### 3.4.3.3 Example

#### 3.4.3.4 Ranking Treatments

## **4 Chapter 2: Normal Regression with Zellner's $g$ -prior**

### **4.0.0.1 Derivation**

### **4.0.0.2 R Implementation**

### **4.0.0.3 Example**



## 5 Conclusion