

– **9. Conjugate normal model**

Suppose y is an i.i.d sample of size n from the distribution $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Prior for (μ, σ^2) is

$$\mathbf{N}\text{-Inv-}\chi^2(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mu_0, \sigma_0^2 / \kappa_0; \nu_0, \sigma_0^2)$$

This is derived from

$$\begin{aligned}\mu | \sigma^2 &\sim N(\mu_0, \sigma^2 / \kappa_0) \\ \sigma^2 &\sim \mathbf{Inv-}\chi^2(\nu_0, \sigma_0^2)\end{aligned}$$

Notice the formula for $\mathbf{Inv-}\chi^2(\nu, s^2)$ is

$$p(\theta) \propto s^\nu \theta^{-(\nu/2+1)} e^{1/(2\theta)}$$

and $\mathbf{N}\text{-Inv-}\chi^2(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mu_0, \sigma_0^2 / \kappa_0; \nu_0, \sigma_0^2)$

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2) \propto \sigma^{-1} (\sigma^2)^{-(\nu_0/2+1)} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + \kappa_0 (\mu_0 - \mu)^2]\right)$$

Therefore, the posterior

$$\begin{aligned}p(\mu, \sigma^2 | y) &\propto p(\mu, \sigma^2) \prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i | \mu, \sigma^2) \\ &= \sigma^{-1} (\sigma^2)^{-(\nu_0/2+1)} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + \kappa_0 (\mu_0 - \mu)^2]\right) \times \\ &\quad (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2]\right)\end{aligned}$$

The rest arithmetic is rather dull, but I guess it's good to do it at least once.

First, merge the terms outside the $\exp(\dots)$:

$$\sigma^{-1} \sigma^{-(\nu_0+n)/2+1}$$

Let's focus on the terms inside $\exp(\dots)$, discarding the exponential:

$$\begin{aligned}& -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + \kappa_0 (\mu_0 - \mu)^2] - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [(n-1)s^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1)s^2 + \kappa_0 (\mu_0 - \mu)^2 + n(\bar{y} - \mu)^2) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1)s^2 + \kappa_0 \mu_0^2 + n\bar{y}^2 + (\kappa_0 + n)\mu^2 - 2(\kappa_0 \mu_0 + n\bar{y})\mu) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1)s^2 + \kappa_0 \mu_0^2 + n\bar{y}^2 + (\kappa_0 + n) \left(\mu - \frac{\kappa_0 \mu_0 + n\bar{y}}{\kappa_0 + n} \right)^2 - \frac{(\kappa_0 \mu_0 + n\bar{y})^2}{\kappa_0 + n} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(\nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1)s^2 + \frac{\kappa_0 n}{\kappa_0 + n} (\bar{y} - \mu_0)^2 + (\kappa_0 + n) \left(\mu - \frac{\kappa_0 \mu_0 + n\bar{y}}{\kappa_0 + n} \right)^2 \right)\end{aligned}$$

Let

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

$$\kappa_n = \kappa_0 + n$$

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n$$

$$\nu_n \sigma_n^2 = \nu_0 \sigma_0^2 + (n-1) s^2 + \frac{\kappa_0 n}{\kappa_0 + n} (\bar{y} - \mu_0)^2$$

, then

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2 | y) = \mathbf{N-Inv-}\chi^2(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mu_n, \sigma_n^2 / \kappa_n; \nu_n, \sigma_n^2)$$