Weakly Informative Prior for Covariance Matrices v2.0.1_20230911

Boundary Estimation Problem

ML and REML $\hat{\Sigma}$ are close to not being positive definite (degenerate, singular).

• Most variables have zero variances or some variables are a linear combination of others. p. 140

In Bayesian statistics, the Wishart distribution is the conjugate prior for the inverse covariance matrix (i.e., the precision matrix $\Omega = \Sigma^{-1}$) of a multivariate normal random vector.

$$\Omega \sim \mathcal{W}(\Psi^{-1}, \nu) \qquad \text{Degrees of freedom } \nu > p-1 \qquad \qquad \Omega \mid \text{Data} \sim \mathcal{W}\left((n\mathbf{S} + \Psi)^{-1}, n + \nu\right)$$
 Scale matrix $\Psi_{p \times p}^{-1} > 0$
$$\mathbb{E}[\Omega] = \nu \Psi^{-1} \qquad \text{Omega } \sim \text{dwish}(\text{Psi}, \text{nu}) \; \text{\#JAGS} \qquad \text{Omega } \sim \text{wishart(nu, InvPsi); //Stan}$$

Alternatively, the inverse-Wishart distribution is the conjugate prior for the covariance matrix.

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \sim \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\Psi},\,\boldsymbol{\nu}) & \text{Degrees of freedom } \boldsymbol{\nu} > p-1 \\ & \text{Scale matrix } \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{p \times p} > 0 \end{split}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\Sigma}] = \frac{\boldsymbol{\Psi}}{\boldsymbol{\nu} - p - 1} \text{ for } \boldsymbol{\nu} > p + 1$$
 Sigma ~ inv_wishart(nu, Psi); //Stan

Remark: If
$$\Sigma \sim \mathcal{W}\left(\frac{\mathbf{I}_{p \times p}}{2\theta}, \nu\right)$$
, then $p(\Sigma) \propto \prod_{r=1}^{p} f_{\Gamma}\left(\lambda_r; \frac{\nu-p+1}{2}, \theta\right)$. p. 142-143, eq. 6

> dgamma(.001, shape=1.5, rate=10^-4) #≈0

$$(u_{0i}, u_{1i})^{\top} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}_2(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma) \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & \rho \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \\ \rho \sigma_0 \sigma_1 & \sigma_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } p = 2$$
 (1)

$$\Sigma \sim \mathcal{W}^{-1}\left((\nu_0 - 3) \cdot \mathbf{S}, \ \nu_0\right)$$
 Both prior and posterior means are the sample covariance matrix. (2.1)

$$\Sigma \sim \mathcal{W}^{-1}(I_{2\times 2},\,2) \hspace{1cm} \text{A multivariate generalization of the inverse-gamma distribution.} \hspace{1cm} (2.2)$$

$$\rho \sim U[-1, 1], \quad \sigma_0^2 \sim \text{Inv-Gamma}(10^{-4}, 10^{-4}), \quad \sigma_1^2 \sim \text{Inv-Gamma}(10^{-4}, 10^{-4})$$
 (2.3)

$$\rho \sim U[-1, \ 1], \quad \sigma_0 \sim U[0, \ \infty), \quad \sigma_1 \sim U[0, \ \infty) \qquad \qquad \text{Unconstrained?} \tag{2.4}$$

$$\rho \sim U[-1, 1], \quad \sigma_0 \sim HC(0, 25), \quad \sigma_1 \sim HC(0, 25)$$
 (2.5)

$$\Sigma \sim \mathcal{W}(5 \times 10^3 \cdot \mathbf{I}_{2 \times 2}, 4)$$
 Let θ be sufficiently small and $\nu = p + 2$ by default. (2.6)

DISCUSSIONS

$$Y_{it} = (\beta_0 + u_{0i}) + (\beta_1 + u_{1i}) \cdot t + \epsilon_{it}$$
 p. 144 fixed intercept random intercept fixed slope random slope

- 1. What are fixed effects and random effects?
 - assumed to be constant for all trials a subset of the entire population of treatments
- What is restricted maximum likelihood (REML)?

p. 139

ML is generally preferred when comparing models with different fixed effects.

3. Does $|\hat{\Sigma}| > 0$ imply that $\hat{\Sigma} > 0$ and $\hat{\Sigma}^{-1}$ exists?

https://rpubs.com/sherloconan/1015445

```
# one negative eigenvalue
```

```
> issue < matrix(c(1.1295254,0.4658979,-0.8727553,-0.2521035,
                    0.4663502, 1.1937169, -0.9350007, -0.4105077,
                    -0.8733574, -0.9346202, 1.1152784, 0.1664068,
                     -0.2525762,-0.4106099,0.1664256,0.4964147), ncol=4, byrow=T)
```

eigenvalue close to zero

```
> singular <- matrix(c(0.7573508, 0.6297603, -0.78943891, -0.28205123,
                       0.6305914, 1.2464388, -1.23028009, -0.53885046,
                       -0.7887137, -1.2304128, 1.65066378, 0.08047224,
                       -0.2813410, -0.5389635, 0.08109029, 0.78802955), ncol=4, byrow=T)
```

two negative eigenvalues

```
> error <- matrix(c(1.0466132, 1.1008902, -1.3268045, -0.7891338,
                        1.1003529, 0.9572582, -1.2419223, -0.7404087,
                        -1.3267065, -1.2419124, 1.2020524, 0.7253173, -0.7893596, -0.7404482, 0.7249186, 0.7322508), ncol=4, byrow=T)
> error.sym <- (error + t(error)) / 2</pre>
> CholWishart::dWishart(error.sym, 5, diag(4), log=T) #ERROR
```

R only has a default function stats::rwishart to generate random Wishart distributed matrices. Other packages:

CholWishart::dWishart can compute the density of a random Wishart distributed matrix. MCMCpack::riwish can generate a random inverse-Wishart distributed matrix.

LaplacesDemon::rinvwishart also generates a random inverse-Wishart distributed matrix.

Why Bayes modal (BM) estimation?

p. 141, eq. 4

- viewed as maximum penalized likelihood estimation where the prior is a penalty function
- 5. Constrained data type and variable declaration in Stan

```
parameters {
 cov matrix[4] Sigma; // 4×4 covariance matrix
```