



Check for updates

Bayesian Nonparametrics (BNP)

Chapter 7 by David B. Dunson

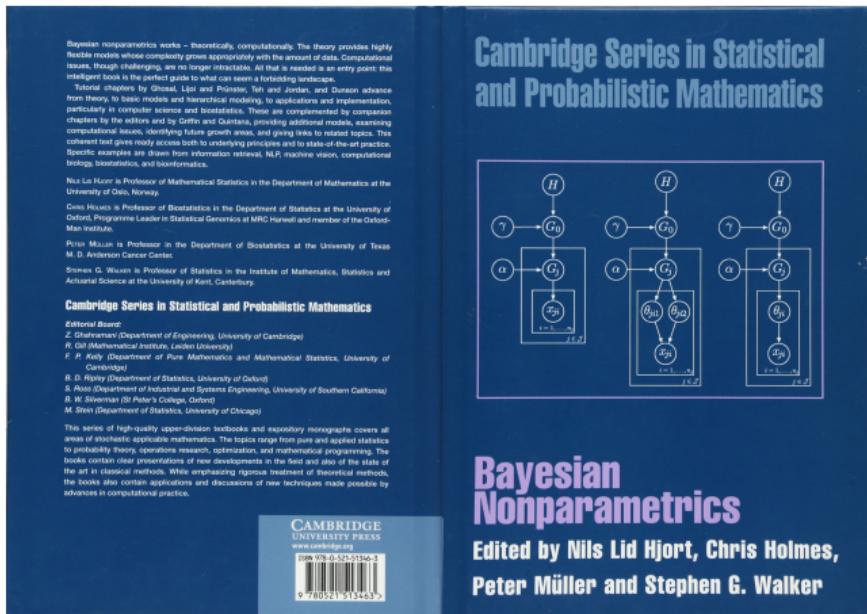
Zhengxiao Wei

April 29, 2022 & November 7, 2023

Textbook

ISBN: 978-0-521-51346-3

Dunson, D. B. (2010). Nonparametric Bayes applications to biostatistics. *Bayesian Nonparametrics*, 28, 223-273.



Preliminary

Real Analysis: Lebesgue measure

Probability Theory: Borel σ -field, probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P)

Stochastic Process: e.g., Chinese restaurant process, Indian buffet process

Experimental Design: linear mixed model

Generalized Linear Model: generalized estimating equations, generalized least squares

Bayesian Statistics: exchangeability, mixtures of g -priors, Markov chain Monte Carlo

Machine Learning: clustering, Gaussian mixture model

Nonparametric Bayes

Bayes' theorem: Posterior \propto Likelihood \times Prior

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A).P(A)}{P(B)}$$

LIKELIHOOD
The probability of "B" being True, given "A" is True

PRIOR
The probability "A" being True. This is the knowledge.

POSTERIOR
The probability of "A" being True, given "B" is True

MARGINALIZATION
The probability "B" being True.

The diagram illustrates the components of Bayes' theorem. At the top, two boxes define 'LIKELIHOOD' (the probability of 'B' given 'A') and 'PRIOR' (the probability of 'A'). Below these, a fraction represents the formula. The numerator is the product of 'LIKELIHOOD' and 'PRIOR'. The denominator is 'MARGINALIZATION'. Four yellow arrows point to these components: one from 'LIKELIHOOD' to the first term in the numerator, one from 'PRIOR' to the same term, one from 'POSTERIOR' to the denominator, and one from 'MARGINALIZATION' to the denominator.

Image: Towards Data Science

Bayesian parametric model: A - parameters; B - data.

Bayesian nonparametric model: unbounded / growing / **infinite** number of parameters.

Repeated-Measures Design

- ▶ Longitudinal data: collected on the same subjects over time.
- ▶ Clustered data: measurements made on all units within a cluster in Eq. 1 & 2.

Intraclass correlation (Adjusted repeatability) $\rho = \frac{g}{g + \sigma^2}$

- proportion of total variance due to within-cluster variance;
- how strongly units within same cluster resemble each other.

$$\mathcal{M}_1: \quad y_{ij} = \mu_i + \epsilon_{ij}, \quad \epsilon_{ij} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \quad (1)$$

where y_{ij} is the j th observation within subject i ,
 μ_i is a subject-specific mean,
 ϵ_{ij} is an observation-specific residual,
 σ is the within-subject standard deviation,
 g is the between-subject variance on p. 7,
for $j = 1, \dots, n_i$ and $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Same Mixed Model but Different Designs

- **Clustered data** (Dobson & Barnett, 2018, p. 259; Dunson, 2010, p. 224)

e.g., the income of the j th household in the randomly selected council area i
e.g., the weight of the j th piglet in the randomly selected litter i

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_1: \quad y_{ij} &= \mu + b_i + \epsilon_{ij} && \leftarrow \text{P} \\ \text{versus } \mathcal{M}_0: \quad y_{ij} &= \mu + \epsilon_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

- **One-way within-subject data** (Rouder et al., 2012 & 2017)

e.g., the response time of the i th subject for the j th Stroop task

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_1: \quad y_{ij} &= \mu + b_i + t_j + \epsilon_{ij} \\ \text{versus } \mathcal{M}_0: \quad y_{ij} &= \mu + b_i + \epsilon_{ij} && \leftarrow \text{b} \end{aligned}$$

Bayesian Parametric Modeling

$$\mathcal{M}_1: \quad y_{ij} = \mu_i + \epsilon_{ij}, \quad \epsilon_{ij} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \quad (1)$$

$$\mu_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, g) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{or } \mu_i = \underset{\text{fixed}}{\mu} + \underset{\text{random effects}}{b_i}, \quad b_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, g) \quad (3)$$

BNP Motivation

The normal distribution has light tails and does **not** allow some subjects to be very different from other subjects or to have groups of subjects that cluster close together. Hence, outlying subjects tend to have their means **over-shrunk** towards the population mean, and the data from such subjects may be overly-influential in estimation of the overall mean μ .

The t -distribution has heavier tails, but it still has a very restrictive unimodal and symmetric shape.

Bayesian Nonparametric Modeling

$$\mathcal{M}_1: \quad y_{ij} = \mu_i + \epsilon_{ij}, \quad \epsilon_{ij} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \quad (1)$$

$$\mu_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P \quad (4)$$

$$P \sim DP(P_0, \alpha) \quad (5)$$

Choose a **Dirichlet process** (DP) prior for P .

P corresponds to a distribution function, or more formally, a random probability measure.

- ▶ Eq. 5 allows P to be an unknown distribution.
- ▶ P_0 is a fixed baseline probability measure (the expected value of the process), corresponding to one's best guess for P *a priori*,
e.g., P_0 is a normal distribution with the normal-inverse gamma hyperpriors.
- ▶ α is the concentration parameter ($\alpha > 0$), characterizing prior precision and clustering (expressing confidence in P guess),
e.g., $\alpha \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 1)$, a gamma hyperprior.

Hierarchical Dirichlet Process

Chinese restaurant *franchise* (Teh et al., 2006)

$$\mu_i \mid P_i \sim P_i$$

$$P_i \mid P_0, \alpha_i \sim DP(P_0, \alpha_i)$$

$$P_0 \mid H, \alpha \sim DP(H, \alpha)$$

mixed model \neq mixture model

Dirichlet Distribution

The Dirichlet distribution, $\text{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$, is a multivariate generalization of the beta distribution for $K \geq 2$. The PDF is

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_K; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K) = \frac{1}{B(\boldsymbol{\alpha})} \prod_{i=1}^K x_i^{\alpha_i - 1}, \quad (6)$$

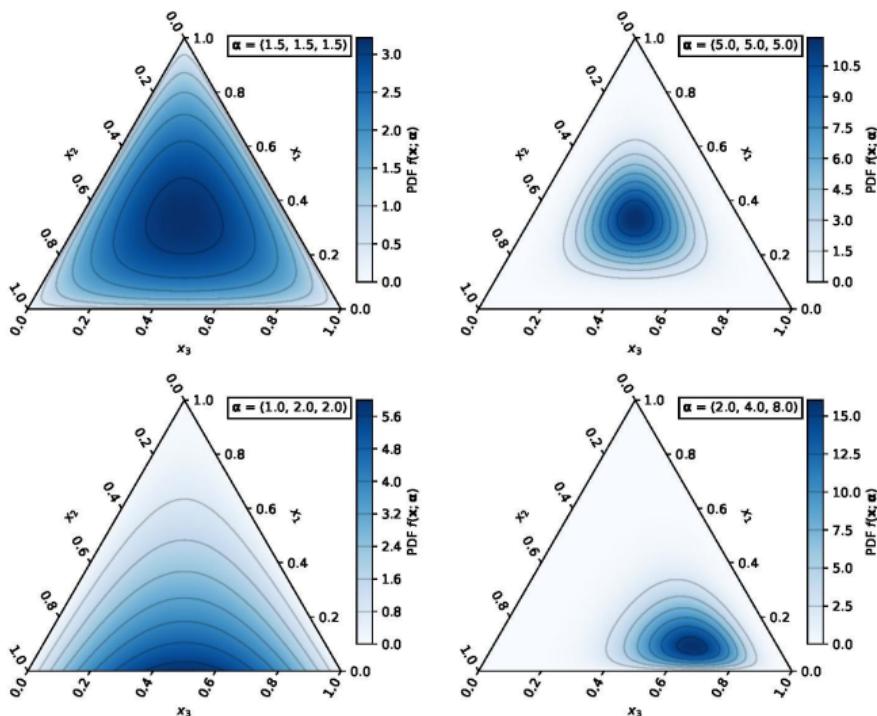
where $B(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_i)}{\Gamma(\alpha_0)}$,

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K), \quad \alpha_0 = \sum_{i=1}^K \alpha_i \quad (7)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^K x_i = 1 \text{ and } x_i \geq 0, \quad \alpha_i > 0 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, K.$$

- ▶ If $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_K = \alpha$, the Dirichlet distribution will be symmetric.
- ▶ When $\alpha = 1$, it is a uniform distribution over the open standard $(K - 1)$ -simplex.

Simplex



Source: Wikipedia

R Scripts

```
options(digits=3); set.seed(277)
# LaplacesDemon::rdirichlet()
(pis <- gtools::rdirichlet(n=3, #number of random vectors to generate
                           alpha=rep(1,5)))
#      [,1]   [,2]   [,3]   [,4]   [,5]
# [1,] 0.35982 0.2053 0.0148 0.07106 0.3490
# [2,] 0.00204 0.2274 0.6151 0.00293 0.1525
# [3,] 0.61949 0.0075 0.2448 0.06353 0.0647

rowSums(pis) # 1 1 1
gtools::rdirichlet(3, rep(1000,5))
#      [,1]   [,2]   [,3]   [,4]   [,5]
# [1,] 0.208 0.200 0.207 0.193 0.193
# [2,] 0.190 0.210 0.199 0.199 0.203
# [3,] 0.194 0.207 0.195 0.206 0.198
```

Dir(α) is the canonical Bayesian distribution for the parameter estimates of a multinomial distribution.
 $z_i \mid \pi \sim \text{Cat}(\pi)$. A Distribution over distributions.

Relation to the Gamma Distribution

For K independently distributed gamma distributions,

$$Y_i \stackrel{\text{ind.}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha_i, \beta) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, K,$$

it can be proved that the sum is also a gamma distribution,

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^K Y_i \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha_0, \beta). \quad (8)$$

Then, the K -dimensional Dirichlet distributed random vector is

$$\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_K) = \left(\frac{Y_1}{Y}, \dots, \frac{Y_K}{Y} \right) \sim \text{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}). \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = \frac{-\alpha_i \alpha_j}{\alpha_0^2 (\alpha_0 + 1)} \text{ for } i \neq j, \text{ not independent.}$$

The marginal distributions are $X_i \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha_i, \alpha_0 - \alpha_i)$. Exponential family.

Properties

If $(X_1, \dots, X_K) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K)$, $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \alpha_i/\alpha_0$ and $\text{Var}(X_i) = \alpha_i(\alpha_0 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_0^2(\alpha_0 + 1))$

- Collapsing

then $(X_1 + X_2, X_3, \dots, X_K) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_K)$.

- Splitting

$(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_N) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1 w_1, \dots, \alpha_1 w_N)$, and $\sum_{j=1}^N w_j = 1$,

then $(X_1 \varphi_1, \dots, X_1 \varphi_N, X_2, \dots, X_K) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_1 w_1, \dots, \alpha_1 w_N, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_K)$.

- Renormalization

then $(X_2/S, \dots, X_K/S) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_K)$, where $S = \sum_{i=2}^K X_i$.

Transitioning to the Dirichlet Process

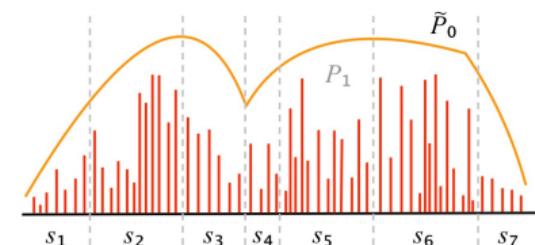
For any finite partition S_1, \dots, S_K of the measurable set S ,

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^K P_0(S_i) = 1 \right),$$

$$P \sim DP(P_0, \alpha),$$



$$(P(S_1), \dots, P(S_K)) \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha P_0(S_1), \dots, \alpha P_0(S_K)).$$



Recall marginal betas.

Note that $\mathbb{E}[P(S_i)] = P_0(S_i)$ and $\text{Var}(P(S_i)) = \frac{P_0(S_i)(1 - P_0(S_i))}{\alpha + 1}$.
 α determines the variance of the random probability measure.

Dirichlet Process

The infinite-dimensional generalization of the Dirichlet distribution is the Dirichlet process $DP(P_0, \alpha)$.

[View 1](#)

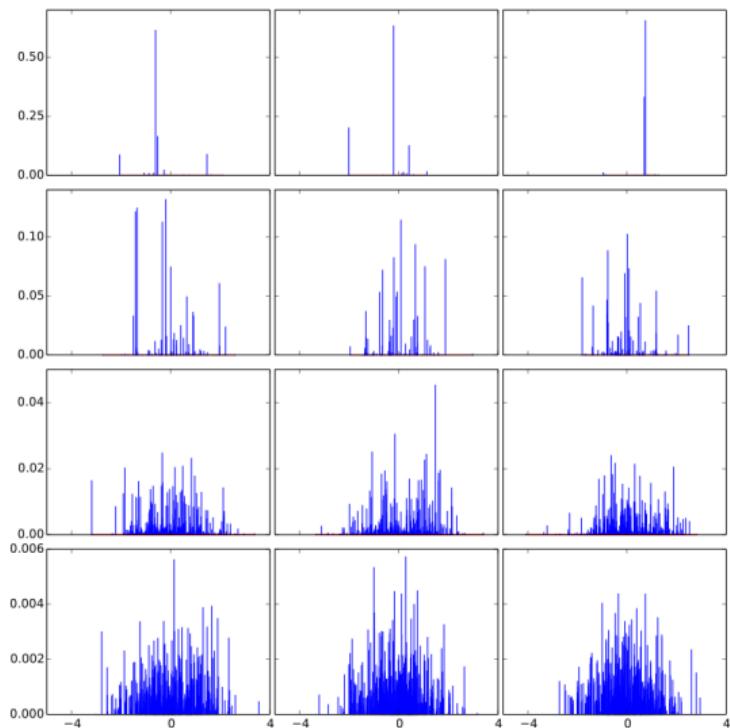
- ▶ Even if P_0 is continuous, the distributions drawn from the Dirichlet process are almost surely **discrete**.
- ▶ α specifies how strong this discretization is.
 - As $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, the realizations are all concentrated at a single value.
 - As $\alpha \rightarrow +\infty$, the realizations become continuous.

$DP(P_0, \alpha)$ is often used in Bayesian inference to describe the prior knowledge about the distribution of random variables — how likely it is that the random variables are distributed according to one or another particular distribution.

Example: $DP(\mathcal{N}(0, 1), \alpha)$

$\alpha = 1, 10, 100, 1,000$ from top to bottom.

Each row contains three repetitions of the same process.



Source: Wikipedia

Why DP?

In continuous measures, the probability of picking the **same** value twice is zero,

whereas in discrete measures, it is non-zero.

Infinite, discrete, and random probability measures.

Posterior: Spike-and-Slab

$$\begin{aligned} m_i &\stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n \\ P &\sim DP(P_0, \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Given observed data and a DP prior, we update our beliefs about the underlying distribution based on that data.

The **posterior** of P is

$$P | \mathbf{m} \sim DP\left(\frac{\alpha P_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{m_i}}{\alpha + n}, \alpha + n\right). \quad (10)$$

The base probability measure for the posterior DP can involve a mix of the continuous distribution (the “slab”) and the point masses (the “spikes”).

See also the Bayesian variable selection.

Predictive Distribution

A new data point can join either an existing or a new cluster k .

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = \theta_k \mid X_1, \dots, X_n) \\ &= \int \mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = \theta_k \mid \pi) \cdot \mathbb{P}(\pi \mid X_1, \dots, X_n) d\pi \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\text{Dir}(n_1, \dots, n_K, \alpha)} [\pi_k] \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{n_k}{\alpha + n}, & \text{if } k \leq K, \\ \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + n}, & \text{for a new cluster,} \end{cases}$$

where n_k is the number of times that $X_i = \theta_k$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$,
and K is the total number of existing clusters.

Chinese Restaurant Process (CRP)

Jim Pitman and Lester E. Dubins, San Francisco

Metaphorical Setting:

View 2

Imagine a restaurant with an infinite number of tables, each capable of seating an infinite number of customers. The first customer sits at the first table.

Each subsequent customer decides where to sit according to certain probabilistic rules.

The probability of the i th customer ($i \geq 2$) sitting at

- ▶ an existing table k is $\frac{n_k}{\alpha + i - 1}$,
- ▶ a new table is $\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + i - 1}$.

Recall Eq. 4, $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}_0: \mu_h = \mu_l) = \frac{1}{\alpha + 1}$.

Stick-Breaking Representation

Question: How do we draw a random distribution P from the Dirichlet process?

View 3

$P \sim DP(P_0, \alpha)$ is equivalent to **assigning weights to point masses at atoms** θ_h ,

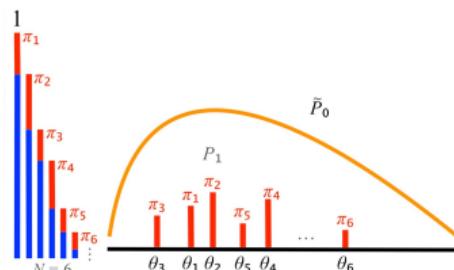
$$\text{PMF} \quad P = p(\theta) = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \pi_h \cdot \delta_{\theta_h}(\theta), \quad \theta_h \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P_0, \quad (12)$$

where $\pi_1 = V_1$ and $\pi_h = V_h \prod_{l < h} (1 - V_l)$ are probability weights that are formulated

from a stick-breaking process with $V_h \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Beta}(1, \alpha)$ for $h = 1, \dots, \infty$,

and $\delta_{\theta_h}(\cdot)$ is the indicator function $\delta_{\theta_h}(\theta_h) = 1$, otherwise 0.

In practice, we choose some N to truncate the series.



R Scripts (continued)

```
stick_breaking_process <- function(N, alpha) {  
  #' Input -  
  #' N:      number of weights (stick-breaks)  
  #' alpha:   concentration  
  #' Output - a vector of weights  
  V <- rbeta(N, 1, alpha)  
  V * c(1, cumprod(1-V))[1:N]  
}  
  
N <- 1000; alpha <- 100; set.seed(277)  
# Each random number from the base measure  $N(0,1)$  is  
# replicated a number of times corresponding to its weight.  
draws <- rep(rnorm(N),  
             round(stick_breaking_process(N, alpha) * 10000))  
  
hist(draws, prob=T, col="white", yaxt="n", ylab="", xlab=expression(theta),  
     main="Random Distribution From the Dirichlet Process")  
lines(density(draws), col="red", lwd=2)
```

“The rich get richer” (Shelley, 1821): Frequently sampled values in the past are more likely to be picked again.

Modified Pólya Urn Scheme

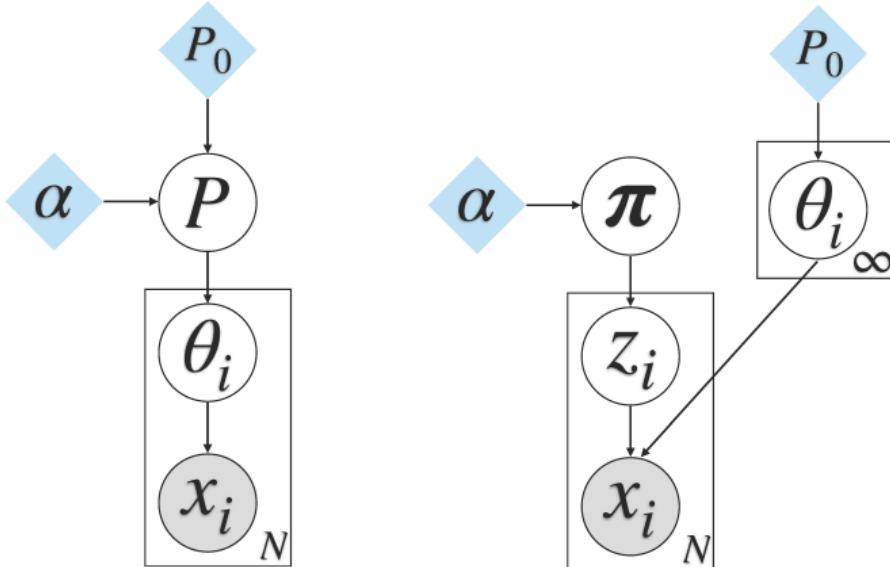
Blackwell-MacQueen Sampling Scheme

View 4

- ① An urn contains balls of different colors, $\bullet\bullet\bullet\bullet\bullet\bullet\dots$, e.g., α black balls \bullet .
- ② A ball is drawn randomly from the urn.
- ③ **Reinforcement:**
If the drawn ball is black, place \bullet back along with a (new) non-black ball, e.g., \bullet .
Otherwise, place it back with an additional ball of the same color, e.g., \bullet in the urn.
- ④ Repeat Steps 2 and 3.

The resulting distribution over generated colors is the same as P over tables in the CRP, $P \sim DP(P_0, \alpha)$.

Graphical Models



The Pólya Urn Scheme

≡

The Stick-Breaking Representation

References

- Aldous, D. J. (1985). Exchangeability and related topics. *École d'Été de Probabilités de Saint-Flour XIII — 1983*, 1117, 1-198.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/BFb0099421>
- Blackwell, D., & MacQueen, J. B. (1973). Ferguson distributions via Pólya urn schemes. *The Annals of Statistics*, 1, 353-355.
<https://doi.org/10.1214/aos/1176342372>
- Dunson, D. B. (2010). Nonparametric Bayes applications to biostatistics. *Bayesian Nonparametrics*, 28, 223-273.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511802478.008>
- Ferguson, T. S. (1973). A Bayesian analysis of some nonparametric problems. *The Annals of Statistics*, 1, 209-230.
<https://doi.org/10.1214/aos/1176342360>
- George, E. I., & McCulloch, R. E. (1993). Variable selection via Gibbs sampling. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 88, 881-889.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1993.10476353>
- Ishwaran, H., & Rao, J. S. (2005). Spike and slab variable selection: Frequentist and Bayesian strategies. *The Annals of Statistics*, 33, 730-773.
<https://doi.org/10.1214/00953604000001147>
- Schielzeth, H., Dingemanse, N. J. , Nakagawa, S., et al. (2020). Robustness of linear mixed-effects models to violations of distributional assumptions. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 11, 1141-1152. <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13434>
- Sethuraman, J. (1994). A constructive definition of Dirichlet priors. *Statistica Sinica*, 4, 639-650. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24305538>
- Shelley, P. B. (1821). *A Defence of Poetry*.
- Teh, Y. W., Jordan, M. I., Beal, M. J., & Blei, D. M. (2006). Hierarchical Dirichlet processes. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 101, 1566-1581. [https://www.jstor.org/stable/27639773](http://www.jstor.org/stable/27639773)
- Xing, E. P. (2019). Lecture 22: Bayesian non-parametrics. *An Introduction to Bayesian Non-Parametrics and the Dirichlet Process*.
<https://sailinglab.github.io/pgm-spring-2019/notes/lecture-22/>
- Xu, R. Y. D. (2018). Bayesian nonparametrics and its inference. *Advanced Probabilistic Model*.
<https://github.com/roboticcamm/machine-learning-notes>

Thank you.

Contact: zhengxiao@uvic.ca