

- 1. Let $X_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{U}(0, \theta)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

(a) Show that $X_{(n)}/\theta$ is a pivotal quantity.

Let $Y_i = X_i/\theta$. We know (previous hws) that $Y_i \sim U(0, 1)$. Then $X_{(n)}/\theta = Y_{(n)}$ has a distribution independent of θ , and thus it is a pivotal quantity.

(b) Derive a formula for a $100(1 - \alpha)\%$ confidence interval for θ .

$$\begin{aligned} P_\theta(\theta \in [aX_{(n)}, bX_{(n)}]) &= P_\theta(aX_{(n)} \leq \theta \leq bX_{(n)}) \\ &= P_\theta(1/b \leq Y_{(n)} \leq 1/a) \\ &= \int_{1/b}^{1/a} nt^{n-1} dt = (1/a)^n - (1/b)^n \end{aligned}$$

So a $100(1-\alpha)\%$ CI would be $[aX_{(n)}, bX_{(n)}]$ that satisfies $a, b > 0$ and $(1/a)^n - (1/b)^n = 1 - \alpha$. Note: Practically, it wouldn't make sense to have a lower and upper bound in this case since it is impossible to have the maximum value be greater than θ . Thus, a one-sided confidence interval would make more sense, but a two sided one is presented for an example.

(c) Find the expected width of your confidence interval for θ .

$$\begin{aligned} E_\theta(bX_{(n)} - aX_{(n)}) &= (b - a)E_\theta(X_{(n)}) \\ &= (b - a)\left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right)\theta \end{aligned}$$

- 2. Let $X_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{B}(1, p)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Suppose we observe $\sum x_i = 0$. Find a 95% upper confidence bound for p . Show that for large n , this bound is approximately $3/n$.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{p_U}(\sum X_i \leq 0) &= (1 - p_U)^n = 0.05 \\ \Rightarrow p_U &= 1 - 0.05^{1/n} \end{aligned}$$

For large n , assume $\sum X_i \sim N(np, npq)$

$$P_{p_U}(\sum X_i \leq 0) = P_{p_U}\left(\frac{\sum X_i - np}{(npq)^{1/2}} \leq -(np/q)^{1/2}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(np/q)^{1/2} &\approx 1.64 \\
p &\approx 2.7(1-p)/n \\
p &\approx 2.7/n(1-2.7/n) \\
p &\approx 2.7/(n-2.7) \\
p &\approx 3/n \text{ As } n \text{ gets large}
\end{aligned}$$

Something else one might consider is using a Taylor's series expansion after taking the ln of both sides since $\ln(1-p) \approx -p$ and $\ln(0.05) = -2.9975$.

- 3. Suppose $X_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ are independent and identically distributed random variables which, conditional upon a parameter $\theta > 0$, have the exponential distribution $\mathcal{E}(\theta)$ with density $f(x) = \theta e^{-\theta x}, x > 0$, and 0 otherwise. Consider a prior distribution for θ according to the gamma distribution $\theta \sim \Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$ with density $b(\theta) = \beta^\alpha \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta\theta} / \Gamma(\alpha)$ and mean α/β

- (a) Show that the above prior distribution is the conjugate prior for this problem. The prior will be conjugate if the resulting distribution is also gamma.

$$\begin{aligned}
p(\theta | \vec{x}) &\propto p(\vec{x} | \theta) \pi(\theta) = \prod p(x_i | \theta) \pi(\theta) \\
&= \prod_{i=1}^n (\theta e^{-\theta x_i}) \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\theta\beta} \\
&\propto \theta^n e^{-\theta \sum x_i} \theta^{\alpha-1} e^{-\theta\beta} = \theta^{\alpha+n-1} e^{-\theta(\beta + \sum x_i)} \\
&\propto \Gamma(\alpha + n, \beta + \sum x_i)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus gamma is conjugate for the exponential since the prior was a gamma as was the posterior.

- (b) Find the posterior distribution of $\theta | (X_1, \dots, X_n)$.
Done in part (a).

- (c) Find the Bayes estimator for squared error loss, i.e. $L(\theta, d) = (\theta - d)^2$.
The Bayes estimator to minimize squared error loss is the posterior mean.

$$E(\theta | X) = E \left[\Gamma(\alpha + n, \beta + \sum x_i) \right] = \frac{\alpha + n}{\beta + \sum x_i}$$

- (d) Consider now the case of observing a single additional random variable X_{n+1} which is independent of the previous sample and distributed according to $X_{n+1}|\theta \sim \mathcal{E}(\theta)$. Using the posterior distribution found in (b) as your prior, find the posterior distribution of θ based on the observation of X_{n+1} .

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\theta|x_{n+1}) &\propto p(x_{n+1}|\theta) \pi^*(\theta) \\
 &= \theta e^{-\theta x_{n+1}} \frac{(\beta + \sum x_i)^{\alpha+n}}{\Gamma(\alpha+n)} \theta^{\alpha+n-1} e^{-\theta(\beta+\sum x_i)} \\
 &\propto \theta^{\alpha+n+1-1} e^{-\theta(\beta+\sum x_i+x_{n+1})} \\
 &\propto \Gamma(\alpha+n+1, \beta + \sum x_i + x_{n+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

Note: This is the same result as if we started with all $i = 1, \dots, n + 1$ data points.

- (e) Compare the posterior distribution of θ derived in (d) to that obtained by using the original prior ($\theta \sim \Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$) and the total sample having $n + 1$ observations X_1, \dots, X_n, X_{n+1} . It's the same as noted in part (d).