

Bayes and the normal distribution

Exercise 7.22

$X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2)$. $\pi(\theta) \sim N(\mu, \tau^2)$. μ, τ^2 and σ^2 are known.

Then $\bar{X} \sim N\left(\theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$

We get $f(\bar{x}, \theta) = f(\bar{x}|\theta)\pi(\theta) = (2\pi)^{-1} n^{\frac{1}{2}} \sigma^{-1} \tau^{-1} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{(\sqrt{n}(\bar{x}-\theta))^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta-\mu)^2}{\tau^2} \right\}}$

Let us consider the exponent:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(\sqrt{n}(\bar{x}-\theta))^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{(\theta-\mu)^2}{\tau^2} &= \frac{n\bar{x}^2 - 2n\bar{x}\theta + n\theta^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\theta^2 - 2\mu\theta + \mu^2}{\tau^2} \\ &= \theta^2 \left(\frac{1}{\tau^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2} \right) - 2\theta \left(\frac{\mu}{\tau^2} + \frac{n\bar{x}}{\sigma^2} \right) + \left(\frac{n\bar{x}^2}{\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu^2}{\tau^2} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}{\sigma^2 \tau^2} \right) \left[\theta^2 - 2\theta \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right) + \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\tau^2 n\bar{x}^2 + \mu^2 \sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \left(\frac{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}{\sigma^2 \tau^2} \right) \left[\theta^2 - \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right)^2 \right] - \frac{(\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2)^2}{(\sigma^2 + n\tau^2) \sigma^2 \tau^2} + \left(\frac{\tau^2 n\bar{x}^2 + \mu^2 \sigma^2}{\sigma^2 \tau^2} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}{\sigma^2 \tau^2} \right) \left[\theta^2 - \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right)^2 \right] - \frac{n(\bar{x} - \mu)^2}{(\sigma^2 + n\tau^2)} \\ f(\bar{x}, \theta) &= \frac{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma\tau} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\left[\theta^2 - \left(\frac{\sigma^2 \mu + n\bar{x}\tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2} \right)^2 \right]}{\frac{\sigma^2 \tau^2}{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}} \right]} \cdot \frac{n^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sqrt{\sigma^2 + n\tau^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{(\bar{x} - \mu)^2}{\frac{(\sigma^2 + n\tau^2)}{n}} \right]} \end{aligned}$$

This is the product of two normal distributions and the first is $\pi(\theta|\bar{x}, \mu, \tau, \sigma^2)$ and the posterior mean

$$\text{is: } E[\theta|\bar{x}] = \frac{\mu \frac{\sigma^2}{n}}{\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \tau^2} + \frac{\bar{x} \tau^2}{\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \tau^2}$$