Model-Acentric, Focused Bayesian Prediction

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- As does $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{y}_{1:T})$

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 - (up to simulation error)

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- The conditional predictive: $p(y_{T+1}|\theta, \mathbf{y}_{1:T})$
- and $p(\theta|\mathbf{y}_{1:T}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}_{1:T}|\theta) \times p(\theta)$
- In what sense does $p(y_{T+1}|\mathbf{y}_{1:T})$ remain the gold standard?

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 - non-parametric conditional distributions

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- \bullet Aim is to focus on the elements of ${\cal P}$ that minimize this loss

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- Fit P on $\mathcal{D} \Rightarrow \widehat{P}_{1:t} = \widehat{P}[.|y_{1:t}]$
- Use \mathcal{T} (and expanding \mathcal{D}) to compute:

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- ⇔ small loss
- $\Rightarrow \Pi({\it P}|.)$ is 'focused' on elements of ${\cal P}$ that minimize this particular loss

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• Conditional on $y_{1:t}$, and the observed $s = S_n(\widehat{P}_{1:t}^i, F)$

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$$\pi_{\varepsilon_n}[P|s] = \frac{\pi(P)g_n[s|P]\mathbb{I}\{s \in A_{\varepsilon_n}\}}{\int\limits_{\mathcal{P}} \pi(P)g_n[s|P]\mathbb{I}\{s \in A_{\varepsilon_n}\}dP}$$
$$A_{\varepsilon_n} = \{P \in \mathcal{P}, \ s \in \mathcal{B}: s \sim G_n(.|P), \text{ and } s \ge \varepsilon_n\}$$

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• where $G_n(.|P)$ is the **distribution** of $S_n(P, F)$, under F, with **pdf** $g_n[s|P]$

• Draws produce a **nonparametric** estimate of $\pi_{\varepsilon_n}[P|s]$ that:

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- Different (problem-specific) measures of loss \Rightarrow different $\pi_{\varepsilon_n}[P|s]$
Focused Bayesian Prediction

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- i.e. explicitly accommodates model mis-specification
- Different (problem-specific) measures of $\mathbf{loss} \Rightarrow \mathrm{different}$ $\pi_{\varepsilon_n}[P|s]$
- Different choices for ε_n
- \Rightarrow different aversion to (or tolerance of) loss

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• Theorem 1: Posterior Concentration (of $\prod_{\varepsilon_n} [P|s]$) :

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- Define:

$$P^* = rg\max_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{S}(P, F) ext{ with } \varepsilon^* = \mathcal{S}(P^*, F)$$

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• As $\varepsilon_n \to \varepsilon^*$ (and under other mild conditions.....):

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 ⇒ posterior distribution of the expected score of P ∈ P concentrates onto the maximum expected score possible under F

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- maximizes the expected score \Leftrightarrow minimizes loss

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= the posterior mean of P

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i.e. (squared) total variation distance of P
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- Actual magnitude of the bound is (of course) affected by ${\cal P}$ and the chosen loss function

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- The **true DGP**, *F*, is a stochastic volatility model with random **jumps**:

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Illustrative Example: Financial Asset Return

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- No guarantee of out-of-sample performance
- **FBF ensures** accurate *out-of-sample* performance according to any given score/loss

Focused Bayesian Prediction

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 - Adopting the flavour of auxiliary model-based ABC

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Auxiliary predictive-based loss function

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- And select $p(y_{t+1}|y_{1:t}, \theta^i)$ such that its predictive performance closely matches that of $q(y_{t+1}|y_{1:t}, \beta)$ over the test period

• i.e. select
$$p(y_{t+1}|y_{1:t}, \theta^i)$$
 such that:

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left| p(y_{(\tau+i)+1}|y_{1:(\tau+i)}, \theta^i) - q(y_{(\tau+i)+1}|y_{1:(\tau+i)}, \widehat{\beta}) \right|$$

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 - with normal errors (expected to be a poorer 'benchmark')

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- Compare with results for exact (MCMC) mis-specified: $p(y_{t+1}|y_{1:t})$

Posterior distributions



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- A larger number of out-of-sample evaluations is needed for precise conclusions.....(the particle filtering takes time.....)

• New loss-based approach to Bayesian forecasting

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- More to come.....