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REVIEW ARTICLE

QUASI BAYESIAN ESTIMATION OF STRESS STRENGTH MODEL FOR THE POWER FUNCTION DISTRIBUTION

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ABSTRACT

The reliability of a system is the probability that when operating under stated environmental conditions, the system will perform its intended function adequately. We consider the strength of the system  $X$  and the stress  $Y$  as random variables. The component fails at the instant that the stress applied to it exceeds the strength and the component will function satisfactorily whenever  $X > Y$ . The quasi-likelihood function was introduced by Wedderburn (1974), to be used for estimating the unknown parameters in generalized linear models. In Quasi-Bayesian Estimation to construct a posterior distribution the likelihood function could be replaced with the natural exponential of the quasi-likelihood function. This method reduces to the usual Bayesian estimation if the quasi-likelihood and the log-likelihood function are identical. In this paper, we obtain Quasi Bayesian estimates for the stress –strength reliability for the power function distribution. We illustrate the performance of the estimators using a simulation study.

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of estimating the probability that one random variable exceeds another, that is,  $R = P(X > Y)$ , has been continuous interest where  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent random variables. The parameter  $R$  is referred to as the reliability parameter. This problem arises in the classical stress–strength reliability where one is interested in assessing the proportion of the times the random strength  $X$  of a component exceeds the random stress  $Y$  to which the component is subjected. If  $X \leq Y$ , then either the component fails or the system that uses the component may malfunction. This problem also arises in situations where  $X$  and  $Y$  represent lifetimes of two devices and has to estimate the probability that one fails before the other. Some practical examples can be found in Hall (1984) and Weerahandi and Johnson (1992).

Hall provided an example of a system application where the breakdown voltage  $X$  of a capacitor must exceed the voltage output  $Y$  of a transverter (power supply) in order for a component to work properly. Weerahandi and Johnson (1992) presented a rocket–motor experiment data where  $X$  represents the chamber burst strength and  $Y$  represents the operating pressure. These authors proposed inferential procedures for  $P(X > Y)$  assuming that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent normal random variables. There are several papers that considered the stress–strength reliability problem, and for references see the recent article by Guo and Krishnamoorthy (2004) or the book by Kotz *et al.* (2003). The quasi-likelihood function was introduced by Wedderburn (1974), to be used for estimating the unknown parameters in generalized linear models. The idea of quasi-likelihood weakens the assumption that we know exactly the distribution of the random component in the model, and replace it by an assumption about how the variance changes with the mean. The quasi-likelihood function could be used for estimation in the same way as the usual likelihood function. Wedderburn (1974) and McCullagh and Nelder (1983) showed that the maximum quasi-likelihood estimates have many properties similar to the maximum likelihood estimate of the vector  $\beta$  (the vector of parameters in regression models).

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Also, if the underlying distribution comes from a natural exponential family the maximum quasi-likelihood estimate maximizes the likelihood function and so it has full asymptotic efficiency; under more general distributions there is some loss of efficiency, which had been investigated by Hill and Tsai (1988). Youssef (2009) introduce the maximum quasi-likelihood estimates of the unknown parameters of the Pareto distribution and new quasi-Bayesian method of estimation. Many man made and naturally occurring phenomena including city sizes, incomes, word frequencies and earth quake magnitudes are distributed according to a power-law distribution. In the field of information technology the power law distribution is widely used in Networking and web trafficking. For example a power law distribution can be used to model the usage time of the commercial web site by any customer, the time interval having maximum visit etc. In fact a power law implies that small occurrence are extremely common, where as large instance are extremely rare.

### Quasi-Bayesian Estimation

In Quasi-Bayesian Estimation to construct a posterior distribution the likelihood function could be replaced with the natural exponential of the quasi-likelihood function. This method reduces to the usual Bayesian estimation if the quasi-likelihood and the log-likelihood function are identical. Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be an independent random sample, with mean  $\mu = \mu(\theta)$ , where  $\theta$  is a vector of parameters, and the variance  $\text{var}(x) = V(\mu)$ , where  $V(\cdot)$  is some known variance function, and  $\phi$  is a dispersion parameter which could be known or unknown. The quasi-likelihood  $Q(x, \mu, \phi)$  can be derived as defined by the relation

$$\frac{\partial Q(x_i, \mu_i)}{\partial \mu_i} = \frac{x_i - \mu_i}{V(\mu_i)} \quad (1.1)$$

and the natural exponential of  $Q(x, \mu, \phi)$  will be used as a likelihood function. Using a suitable prior density  $g(\mu, \phi)$  the posterior distribution

$$f(\mu, \phi | x) \propto \left( \prod_{i=1}^n [\exp\{Q(x, \mu, \phi)\}] \right) g(\mu, \phi) \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\mu = \mu(\theta)$ ,  $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n)$  and  $\phi > 0$ . Consider the power function distribution

$$f(x, \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \left( \frac{\beta - x}{\beta} \right)^{\alpha-1}, \quad 0 < x < \beta, \alpha, \beta > 0 \quad (1.3)$$

Mean and variance of X

$$E(X) = \beta(\alpha + 1)^{-1} \text{ and } V(X) = \alpha \beta^2 (\alpha + 1)^{-2} (\alpha + 2)^{-1} \quad (1.4)$$

So if we take  $\mu = E(X) = \beta (\alpha + 1)^{-1}$ , we have  $V(X) = \left( \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + 2} \right) V(\mu)$ , with  $V(\mu) = \mu^2$ , is the variance function. Thus for a sample  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  of size  $n$ , the quasi-likelihood function is given by

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \mu} = \frac{\sum x_i - n\mu}{\mu^2}$$

which gives

$$Q(x, \mu) = \frac{-\sum x_i}{\mu} - n \ln \mu$$

substituting for  $\mu$  we get

$$Q(x, \alpha, \beta) = -v \frac{(\alpha+1)}{\beta} + n \ln \left( \frac{\alpha+1}{\beta} \right) \quad (1.5)$$

with  $v = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ .

To obtain the posterior density of  $(\alpha, \beta)$  we take natural exponent of  $Q(x, \alpha, \beta)$  as the likelihood function. So we have

$$\ell(\underline{x}|\alpha, \beta) = \frac{(\alpha+1)^n}{\beta^n} e^{-\frac{(\alpha+1)}{\beta}v}. \tag{1.6}$$

We consider the prior of  $\alpha = \alpha^{p-1} e^{-\alpha\tau}$ ,  $p, \tau, \alpha > 0$  (1.7)

The joint posterior density function  $f(\alpha, \beta)$  is as follows

$$f(\alpha, \beta|\underline{x}) = [C_{qb}(1)]^{-1} \frac{(\alpha+1)^n}{\beta^n} \alpha^{p-1} \exp\left\{-\left[\alpha\tau + \frac{(\alpha+1)}{\beta}v\right]\right\}, \alpha>0, \beta>0$$

$$C_{qb}(d) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty d \frac{(\alpha+1)^n}{\beta^n} \alpha^{p-1} \exp\left\{-\left[\alpha\tau + \frac{(\alpha+1)}{\beta}v\right]\right\} d\beta d\alpha$$

**ESTIMATION OF STRESS STRENGTH RELIABILITY**

Let X and Y are two independent power function distribution random variables with parameters  $(\alpha_1, \beta)$  and  $(\alpha_2, \beta)$  respectively. Therefore

$$R = P(X>Y) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^x \alpha_1 \beta (1 + \beta x)^{-(\alpha_1+1)} \alpha_2 \beta (1 + \beta y)^{-(\alpha_2+1)} dy dx = \frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}. \tag{2.1}$$

Now we consider this in two cases

**(i)  $\beta$  known**

In the inference problem considered here we assume that the scale parameter is  $\beta$  known and both  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are greater than 2. Let  $\underline{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is random sample from power  $(\alpha_1, \beta)$ . Taking the gamma prior

$$g(\alpha_1) \propto \alpha_1^{p-1} e^{-\alpha_1\tau}, \quad p, \tau > 0, \alpha_1 > 0 \tag{2.2}$$

The quasi posterior density of  $\alpha_1$  is obtained as

$$f(\alpha_1|\underline{x}) = \alpha_1^{p-1} (\alpha_1 + 1)^n e^{-\alpha_1 T}, \quad \alpha_1 > 0. \tag{2.3}$$

where  $T = \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\beta} + \tau\right)$

Similarly let  $\underline{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$  is random sample from power distribution  $(\alpha_2, \beta)$ . Taking the gamma prior

$$g(\alpha_2) \propto \alpha_2^{q-1} e^{-\alpha_2\theta}, \quad q, \theta > 0, \alpha_2 > 0 \tag{2.4}$$

The posterior density,  $f(\alpha_2|\underline{y}) = \alpha_2^{q-1} (\alpha_2 + 1)^m e^{-\alpha_2 S}, \alpha_2 > 0$  (2.5)

Where  $S = \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^m y_j}{\beta} + \theta\right)$

Hence the quasi joint density of  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  can be written as

$$f(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = [C_{RQB}(1)]^{-1} \alpha_1^{p-1} (\alpha_1 + 1)^n \alpha_2^{q-1} (\alpha_2 + 1)^m e^{-(\alpha_1 T + \alpha_2 S)}, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 > 0 \tag{2.6}$$

Where

$$C_{RQB}(d) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty d \alpha_1^{p-1} (\alpha_1 + 1)^n \alpha_2^{q-1} (\alpha_2 + 1)^m e^{-(\alpha_1 T + \alpha_2 Z)} d\alpha_1 d\alpha_2 \tag{2.7}$$

Under Square error loss the estimate of R is

$$\hat{R}_{SL} = \frac{C_{RQB}\left(\frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}\right)}{C_{RQB}(1)} \tag{2.8}$$

and under Linex loss the estimate of R is

$$\hat{R}_{LL} = \frac{1}{a C_{RQB}(1)} \ln C_{RQB}\left[\exp\left(\left(\frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}\right)a\right)\right] \tag{2.9}$$

**(ii)β unknown**

In this case we suggest the joint prior distribution for the parameters as

$$g(\alpha_1, \beta) = g_1(\beta|\alpha_1) g_2(\alpha_1) \tag{2.10}$$

$$\text{where } g_1(\beta|\alpha_1) \propto \alpha_1^{-1} \tag{2.11}$$

which is the Jeffrey’s non-informative prior and a gamma prior for  $\alpha_1$  as

$$g_2(\alpha_1) = \frac{(\tau)^{p+1}}{\Gamma(p+1)} \alpha_1^p e^{-\alpha_1 \tau}, p, \tau, \alpha_1 > 0 \tag{2.12}$$

Hence using (2.11) and (2.12) the joint posterior density is obtained as

$$f(\alpha_1, \beta | \underline{x}) = (\alpha_1 + 1)^n \alpha_1^{(p-1)} \beta^{-n} \exp\left(-\alpha_1 T + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\beta}\right), \text{ where } T = \tau + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\beta} \tag{2.13}$$

Similarly let  $\underline{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$  is random sample from power function distribution  $(\alpha_2, \beta)$ . Then the posterior density of  $\alpha_2$  based on a gamma prior

$$f(\alpha_2, \beta | \underline{y}) = (\alpha_2 + 1)^m \alpha_2^{(q-1)} \beta^{-m} \exp\left(-\alpha_2 Z + \frac{\sum_{j=1}^m y_j}{\beta}\right) \tag{2.14}$$

$$\text{where } Z = \nu + \frac{\sum_{j=1}^m y_j}{\beta}$$

Quasi joint density of  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta)$  is

$$f(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta) = [C_{RQB}(1)]^{-1} \alpha_1^{p-1} \alpha_2^{q-1} (\alpha_1 + 1)^n (\alpha_2 + 1)^m \beta^{-(m+n)} e^{-\left[ \alpha_1 T + \alpha_2 Z + \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{j=1}^m y_j)}{\beta} \right]} \tag{2.15}$$

Where  $C_{RQB}(d) = \int_2^\infty \int_2^\infty d\alpha_1^{p-1} \alpha_2^{q-1} (\alpha_1 + 1)^n (\alpha_2 + 1)^m \beta^{-(m+n)} e^{-\left[ \alpha_1 T + \alpha_2 Z + \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{j=1}^m y_j)}{\beta} \right]} d\alpha_1 d\alpha_2$

Under Square error loss the estimate of R is

$$\hat{R}_{sl} = \frac{C_{RQB}\left(\frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}\right)}{C_{RQB}(1)} \tag{2.16}$$

and under Linex loss the estimate of R is

$$\hat{R}_{ll} = \frac{1}{a} \ln \left[ \frac{C_{RQB} \left[ \exp \left( \left( \frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2} \right) a \right) \right]}{C_{RQB}(1)} \right] \tag{2.17}$$

**SIMULATION STUDY**

In order to assess the performance of the estimators, we perform a simulation study of 2000 samples of sizes  $n = 10, 20, 50$  and  $100$  generated from power function distribution for values of  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = (0.2, 0.25), (0.3, 0.35), (0.4, 0.45)$  and  $(0.5, 0.55)$ . The estimators was evaluated for the prior hyper-parameters  $p, \tau = 1$  and  $2$ . We present the simulation results concerning the bias and mean square errors of all these estimators. In all the simulation results presented here, the bias of an estimator can be determined as the average value of the estimate report in the table – True value. The variance of an estimator was determined as the sample variance obtained from all the simulations carried out. Finally, the mean square error of estimator is (variance of the estimator +  $(Bias)^2$ ). The bias and mean squared errors (in parentheses) of the estimators are presented in Tables .

**Tables**

**Table 1.β Known, when τ=1 and p=1**

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$	N	Estimator	Bias	MSE
(0.2,0.25)	20	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.0424	0.0125
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	0.0342	0.006
	50	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.0354	0.0157
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	0.0122	0.0014
	100	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.007	0.0002
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	0.002	0.0003
(0.3,0.35)	20	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.0533	0.0125
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	0.0483	0.0014
	50	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.0067	.0005
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	0.0049	.0002
	100	$\hat{R}_{sl}$	0.007	.0003
		$\hat{R}_{ll}$	.0011	.0002

Table 2.  $\beta$  Unknown, when  $\tau=1$  and  $p=1$ 

$(a_1, a_2, \beta)$	N	Estimator	Bias	MSE
(0.2, 0.25, .5)	20	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.0335	0.0025
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0221	0.0012
	50	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.0044	0.0014
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0037	0.0012
	100	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.0219	.0060
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0025	0.0001
(.3, .35, .55)	20	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.0521	0.0062
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0483	0.0014
	50	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.007	.0005
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0059	.0018
	100	$\hat{R}_{SL}$	0.0007	0.0003
		$\hat{R}_{LL}$	0.0008	0.0000

## Conclusion

We obtained the estimators of the reliability function. From the table we can observe that the estimate under Linex Loss function has lesser bias and MSE than the squared error loss. Also the bias and the MSE reduces as the sample size increases.

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