

Equation (7): The detailed derivation of the Bayesian updating

The detailed derivation of the Bayesian updating for the normal distribution is presented in this supplementary material. Recall Equation (3) of the text.

$$f(\mu|x) = cf(\mu)f(x|\mu) = \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\mu)f(x|\mu) d\mu \right]^{-1} f(\mu)f(x|\mu) \quad (S.1)$$

In Equation (S.1), an unknown parameter μ for which the prior beliefs can be express in terms of a normal distribution, so that

$$f(\mu) \sim N(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_0^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2} \right\} \quad (S.2)$$

Where μ_0 and σ_0^2 are known, and, if the likelihood uncertainty (σ) is known, Equation (S.3) can be defined as follow.

$$f(x|\mu) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\} \quad (S.3)$$

In this case, the derivation of the posterior distribution when μ given that we have on observation data x can be calculated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mu|x) &= c \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_0^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2} \right\} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\} \\ &= c \times \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\mu^2 + 2\mu\mu_0 - \mu_0^2}{2\sigma_0^2} - \frac{x^2 - 2\mu x + \mu^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\} \\ &= c \times \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\mu^2\sigma^2 + 2\mu\mu_0\sigma^2 - \mu_0^2\sigma^2 - x^2\sigma^2 + 2\mu x\sigma^2 - \mu^2\sigma^2}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} \\ &= c \times \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\mu^2(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2) + 2\mu(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x) - (\mu_0^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x^2)}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} \\ &= c \times \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\mu^2 + 2\mu \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)} - \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)^2} + \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)^2} - \frac{\mu_0^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}}{\frac{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} \\ &= c \times \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2}\right)^2}{2 \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} \times \exp\left\{ \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)^2}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)} \right\} \times \exp\left\{ \frac{-(\mu_0^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x^2)}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (S.4)$$

In this step, a normalizing constant c is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} c &= \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{-\left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2}\right)^2}{2 \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} \exp\left\{ \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)^2}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)} \right\} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(\mu_0^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x^2)}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} \right] d\mu \right]^{-1} \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ \frac{(\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x)^2}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)} \right\} \exp\left\{ \frac{-(\mu_0^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x^2)}{2\sigma_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\exp\left\{ \frac{-\left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2 x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2}\right)^2}{2 \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} \right] d\mu \right]^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (S.5)$$

To calculate $f(\mu|x)$, Equation (S.5) are inserted into c of Equation (S.4) to obtain Equation (S.6):

$$f(\mu|x) = \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp \left\{ \frac{-\left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2}\right)^2}{2 \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} d\mu \right]^{-1} \exp \left\{ \frac{-\left(\mu - \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2}\right)^2}{2 \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)}} \right\} \quad (\text{S.6})$$

Letting

$$\mu_1 = \frac{\mu_0\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2x}{\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2} \quad (\text{S.7})$$

$$\sigma_1^2 = \frac{\sigma_0^2\sigma^2}{(\sigma^2 + \sigma_0^2)} \quad (\text{S.8})$$

The Equation (S.6) can be redefined with Equations (S.7) and (S.8):

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mu|x) &= \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} d\mu \right]^{-1} \times \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} \\ &= \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} d\mu \right]^{-1} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} \\ &= [1]^{-1} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2} \right\} = N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.9})$$

Considering the inspection or monitoring time (T) of a bridge, prior ($f(\mu)$), likelihood ($f(x|\mu)$), and posterior ($f(\mu|x)$) can be redefined as follows.

$$f(\mu) \sim N(\mu_T^{exi}, (\sigma_T^{exi})^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} (\sigma_T^{exi})^2} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(\mu - \mu_T^{exi})^2}{2 (\sigma_T^{exi})^2} \right\} \quad (\text{S.10})$$

$$f(x|\mu) \sim N(\mu_T^{ins}, (\sigma_T^{ins})^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} (\sigma_T^{ins})^2} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(x - \mu_T^{ins})^2}{2 (\sigma_T^{ins})^2} \right\} \quad (\text{S.11})$$

$$f(\mu|x) \sim N(\mu_T^{bayes}, (\sigma_T^{bayes})^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} (\sigma_T^{bayes})^2} \exp \left\{ \frac{-(x - \mu_T^{bayes})^2}{2 (\sigma_T^{bayes})^2} \right\} \quad (\text{S.11})$$

Also, these are equal to Equations (4) to (6) of the text.

Equation (8): The detailed derivation of the characteristic for the posterior variance

The variance of prior and likelihood function of the text has the characteristic as follows.

$$\sigma_T^{exi} \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \geq 0 \quad (\text{S.12})$$

$$\sigma_T^{ins} \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \geq 0 \quad (\text{S.13})$$

According to the characteristic in Equations (S.12) and (S.13), Equations (S.14) and (S.15) can be derived.

$$(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times ((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2) \geq (\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \geq \frac{(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2}{((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2)} \quad (\text{S.14})$$

$$(\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \times ((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2) \geq (\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \geq \frac{(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2}{((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2)} \quad (\text{S.15})$$

Also, these Equations (S.14) and (S.15) can be expressed as follows.

$$(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \geq \frac{(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2}{((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2)} \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \geq (\sigma_T^{bayes})^2 \Leftrightarrow \sigma_T^{exi} \geq \sigma_T^{bayes} \quad (\text{S.16})$$

$$(\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \geq \frac{(\sigma_T^{exi})^2 \times (\sigma_T^{ins})^2}{((\sigma_T^{exi})^2 + (\sigma_T^{ins})^2)} \Leftrightarrow (\sigma_T^{ins})^2 \geq (\sigma_T^{bayes})^2 \Leftrightarrow \sigma_T^{ins} \geq \sigma_T^{bayes} \quad (\text{S.17})$$

So, these Equations (S.16) and (S.17) are equal to Equation (8).