

AM783: Applied Markov processes | MCMC simulation of Gaussian RVs

Hugo Touchette

Started: 16 August 2019

Last updated: 30 August 2022

Python 3

```
In [3]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from scipy import stats
```

```
In [45]: # Magic command for vectorised figures
%config InlineBackend.figure_format = 'svg'
```

Metropolis ratio

```
In [4]: def pdfratio(dist,x,xp):
return dist(xp)/dist(x)
```

```
In [5]: pdfratio(stats.norm.pdf,1.0,2.0)
```

```
Out[5]: 0.22313016014842985
```

Simulation

```

In [41]: # Number of steps - play with this hyperparameter
nsteps = 10**4

# Step size - play with this hyperparameter
a = 2.0

xsample = np.zeros(nsteps)
cntlist = np.zeros(nsteps)

x = 0.0
cnt = 0.0 # Counter for number of accepted move

for i in range(nsteps):
    dx = 2.0*a*np.random.random()-a # Symmetric displacement with uniform
    xtry = x + dx # Move

    # Accept move with Metropolis probability
    r = np.random.random()
    if r < min(1, pdfratio(stats.norm.pdf, x, xtry)): # The min over 1 is
        x = xtry
        cnt += 1.0

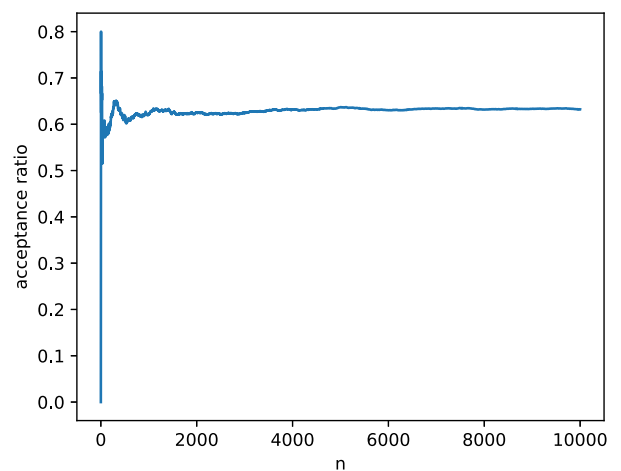
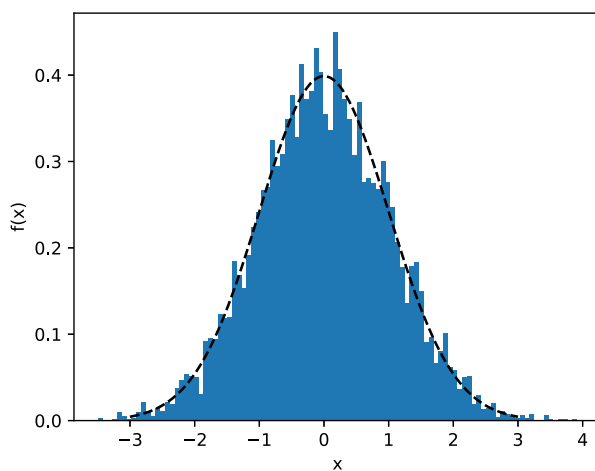
    xsample[i] = x # Keep sample whether move is accepted or no
    cntlist[i] = cnt/(i+1.0) # Track acceptance ratio

```

```

In [51]: # Plot results
xvals = np.linspace(-3,3,100)
plt.figure(figsize=(10,4))
plt.subplot(1,2,1)
plt.hist(xsample,100, density=True)
plt.plot(xvals, stats.norm.pdf(xvals), 'k--')
plt.xlabel('x')
plt.ylabel('f(x)')
plt.subplot(1,2,2)
plt.plot(range(nsteps),cntlist)
plt.xlabel('n')
plt.ylabel('acceptance ratio')
#plt.xscale('log')
plt.tight_layout()

```



A good simulation is one for which the acceptance ratio is close to 0.5.

A high acceptance ratio means that the moves are too small - they're always accepted, which is not good.

A low acceptance ratio means that the moves are too big - they're rarely accepted, which is also not good.

In []: