

We are dealing with the situation where X follows a mixture of Poisson distributions, and where we want to estimate the moments of $\log(\Lambda)$, where Λ is the latent Poisson mean. Since we only have one observation of X for each Λ , we want to obtain an estimator for $\log(\Lambda)$ from this single observation X . One approach is the posterior mean estimator. We assume an improper uniform prior on the interval $[a, \infty]$. The difficulty here is that if we observe the value $X = 0$, the posterior distribution will be heavily weighted towards $\log(\Lambda) \approx -\infty$, which may lead to bad results. However, from a practical point of view, it is impossible to distinguish results for very small values of $\log(\Lambda)$, since they are all almost certain to result in $X = 0$. We therefore, for convenience choose the lower bound a to represent the smallest value that we are able to detect (more details on the choice of a will follow in Section 2).

1 Estimating the Posterior Mean

Let $U = \log(\Lambda)$. Suppose we have chosen the lower bound a . Now the likelihood of u from X is proportional to $e^{-\lambda} \lambda^X$, where $\lambda = e^u$. The posterior mean is therefore

$$\frac{\int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du}{\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du}$$

we can perform a change of variable in the denominator:

$$\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du = \int_{e^a}^\infty e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x-1} d\lambda = \Gamma(x; e^a)$$

an incomplete gamma function. Recall that by integrating by parts, we have

$$\Gamma(x; l) = (x-1)! e^{-l} \left(1 + l + \frac{l^2}{2} + \cdots + \frac{l^{x-1}}{(x-1)!} \right)$$

For the numerator, we can use integration by parts: if we let

$$g(x, a) = \int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x, a) &= \int_a^\infty \left(u e^{-e^u} \right) e^{ux} du \\
&= \left[\frac{u e^{-e^u} e^{ux}}{x} \right]_a^\infty - \frac{1}{x} \int_a^\infty e^{ux} \left(e^{-e^u} - u e^u e^{-e^u} \right) du \\
&= -\frac{a e^{-e^a} e^{ax}}{x} - \frac{1}{x} \int_a^\infty e^{ux} e^{-e^u} du + \frac{1}{x} \int_a^\infty u e^{u(x+1)} e^{-e^u} du \\
&= -\frac{a e^{-e^a} e^{ax}}{x} - \frac{\Gamma(x; e^a)}{x} + \frac{g(x+1, a)}{x} \\
g(x+1, a) &= x g(x, a) + \Gamma(x, e^a) + a e^{-e^a} e^{ax} \\
&= x! g(1, a) + \sum_{m=1}^x \frac{x!}{m!} \left(\Gamma(m, e^a) + a e^{-e^a} e^{am} \right) \\
&= x! g(1, a) + e^{-e^a} \sum_{m=1}^x \frac{x!}{m!} \left(a e^{am} + (m-1)! \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \right) \\
&= x! g(1, a) + e^{-e^a} \left(a \sum_{m=1}^x \frac{x! e^{am}}{m!} + \sum_{m=1}^x \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{x! e^{ka}}{k! m} \right) \\
&= x! g(1, a) + x! e^{-e^a} \left(a \sum_{m=1}^x \frac{e^{am}}{m!} + \sum_{k=0}^x \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \sum_{m=k+1}^x \frac{1}{m} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

If we let $h(x, a) = \frac{g(x, a)}{\Gamma(x, e^a)}$, then the recurrence becomes

$$h(x+1, a) = (h(x, a)x + 1) \frac{\Gamma(x, e^a)}{\Gamma(x+1, e^a)} + \frac{a e^{-e^a} e^{ax}}{\Gamma(x+1, e^a)}$$

From the formula, we have

$$\Gamma(x+1, e^a) = x \Gamma(x, e^a) + e^{-e^a} e^{xa}$$

giving us the recurrence

$$h(x+1, a) = h(x, a) + \frac{1}{x} + \frac{\left(a - h(x, a) - \frac{1}{x} \right) e^{-e^a} e^{ax}}{\Gamma(x+1, e^a)}$$

To start this recurrence, we need to calculate $h(0, a)$, which is based on $g(0, a) = \int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} du$. If we let $g(0, 0) = c$, then we have $g(0, a) = c +$

$\int_a^0 ue^{-e^u} du$. We can now expand a Taylor series to get

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_a^0 ue^{-e^u} du &= \int_a^0 u \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-e^u)^n}{n!} du \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \int_a^0 ue^{nu} du \\
&= -\frac{a^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \left(\left[u \frac{e^{nu}}{n} \right]_a^0 - \int_a^0 \frac{e^{nu}}{n} du \right) \\
&= -\frac{a^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \left(-a \frac{e^{na}}{n} - \left[\frac{e^{nu}}{n^2} \right]_a^0 \right) \\
&= -\frac{a^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \left(-a \frac{e^{na}}{n} - \frac{1 - e^{na}}{n^2} \right) \\
&= -\frac{a^2}{2} + a \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} e^{na}}{n!n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n e^{na}}{n!n^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n!n^2}
\end{aligned}$$

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dx} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!n} \right) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n-1}}{n!} \\
&= \frac{e^x - 1}{x} \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!n} &= \int_0^x \frac{e^t - 1}{t} dt
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dx} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!n^2} \right) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n-1}}{n!n} \\
&= 1 + \frac{1}{x} \int_0^x \frac{e^t - 1}{t} dt \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!n^2} &= \int_0^x 1 + \frac{1}{s} \int_0^s \frac{e^t - 1}{t} dt ds \\
&= x + \int_0^x \int_0^s \frac{e^t - 1}{st} dt ds \\
&= x + \int_0^x \int_t^x \frac{e^t - 1}{st} ds dt \\
&= x + \int_0^x \frac{e^t - 1}{t} (\log(x) - \log(t)) dt
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_a^0 u e^{-e^u} du &= a \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} e^{na}}{n!n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n e^{na}}{n!n^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n!n^2} \\
&= \int_{-e^a}^0 \frac{e^t - 1}{t} (a + \log(-t) - \log(e^a)) dt + \int_{-1}^0 \frac{e^t - 1}{t} (\log(-t) - \log(1)) dt \\
&= \int_{-e^a}^0 \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \log(-t) dt + \int_{-1}^0 \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \log(-t) dt \\
\int_a^0 u e^{-e^u} du &= \int_{e^a}^1 \frac{e^{-t} \log(t)}{t} dt
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x, a) &= \int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du \\
&= \int_a^0 u e^{-e^u} e^{ux} du + g(x, 0) \\
&= \int_a^0 u \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n e^{nu} e^{ux}}{n!} du + g(x, 0) \\
&= g(x, 0) + \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \int_a^0 u e^{(x+n)u} du \\
&= g(x, 0) + \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \left(\left[\frac{u e^{(x+n)u}}{x+n} \right]_a^0 - \int_a^0 \frac{e^{(x+n)u}}{x+n} du \right) \\
&= g(x, 0) + \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n e^{(x+n)a}}{n!} \left(-\frac{a}{x+n} + \frac{1}{(x+n)^2} \right) - \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(-1)^n}{n! (x+n)^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x+1, 0) &= x!g(1, 0) + x!e^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=0}^x \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \sum_{m=k+1}^x \frac{1}{m} \right) \\
&= x!g(1, 0) + e^{-1} \left(\sum_{k=0}^x \sum_{m=k+1}^x \prod_{l \geq k, l \neq m} l \right) \\
&= x!g(1, 0) + e^{-1} \left(\sum_{m=1}^x \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \prod_{l \neq m} l \right) \\
&= x!g(1, 0) + e^{-1} \left(\sum_{m=1}^x m \prod_{l \neq m} l \right) \\
&= x!g(1, 0) + e^{-1} \left(\sum_{m=1}^x \prod_{k \neq m} k + x!x \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$g(x+1, 0) = xg(x, 0) + \Gamma(x, 1)$$

We also have the recurrence

$$\Gamma(x, 1) = (x-1)!e^{-1} \sum_{m=0}^{x-1} \frac{1}{m!} = (x-1)\Gamma(x-1, 1) + e^{-1}$$

Numerically, we get $g(1, 0) = 0.2193839$.

We have recurrences for the numerator and denominator, but computationally, both increase to infinity for moderate n , so for computational purposes, we need to derive a recurrence for the ratio.

We have that the numerator satisfies the recurrence

$$p_{n+1} = np_n + ae^{an}e^{-e^a} + \Gamma(n, e^a)$$

while the denominator satisfies

$$\Gamma(n+1, e^a) = n\Gamma(n, e^a) + e^{an}e^{-e^a}$$

This means the ratio is

$$\begin{aligned} r_{n+1} &= \frac{p_{n+1}}{\Gamma(n+1, e^a)} = \frac{np_n + ae^{an}e^{-e^a} + \Gamma(n, e^a)}{n\Gamma(n, e^a) + e^{an}e^{-e^a}} \\ &= r_n \frac{n\Gamma(n, e^a)}{n\Gamma(n, e^a) + e^{an}e^{-e^a}} + \frac{\Gamma(n, e^a) + ae^{an}e^{-e^a}}{n\Gamma(n, e^a) + e^{an}e^{-e^a}} \end{aligned}$$

If we define $t_n = \frac{e^{na}e^{-e^a}}{\Gamma(n+1, e^a)}$, then our recurrence becomes

$$r_{n+1} = r_n(1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n} + \left(a - \frac{1}{n}\right)t_n$$

Substituting $x = e^a$, we get

$$t_n = \frac{x^n e^{-x}}{e^{-x} n! \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{x^i}{i!}} = \frac{\frac{x^n}{n!}}{\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{x^i}{i!}}$$

Now we have

$$(1 - t_n) \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{x^i}{i!} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{x^i}{i!}$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= \frac{x}{n} t_{n-1} (1 - t_n) \\ t_n \left(1 + \frac{x}{n} t_{n-1}\right) &= \frac{x}{n} t_{n-1} \\ t_n &= \frac{xt_{n-1}}{xt_{n-1} + n} \end{aligned}$$

We see that as $a \rightarrow -\infty$, we will get $at_n \rightarrow 0$ and $t_n \rightarrow 0$, so that our recurrence becomes $t_{n+1} = t_n + \frac{1}{n}$. This means that t_n is not sensitive to the choice of a for $n \geq 1$ and a close to $-\infty$. We can simplify calculations by choosing this limiting value for r_n when $n \geq 1$.

2 Choosing the Lower Bound

The choice of lower bound a has a large impact on the posterior mean for an observation of zero, but a small impact on the posterior mean for other observations. One way to choose a is to cut off values of λ which will not be distinguishable in the dataset. For example, if our dataset has size n , and the parameter is $\lambda = e^u$, the probability of observing a zero value is e^{-e^u} , so the probability of observing all zero values is e^{-ne^u} . This means that with 95% confidence, if u is smaller than the solution to $e^{-ne^u} = 0.95$, then the dataset will contain all zeros. We therefore choose to set a to this solution

$$a = \log\left(-\frac{\log(0.95)}{n}\right) = -2.970195 - \log(n)$$

Recall that our objective is to estimate the underlying variance of $\log(\Lambda)$, which we plan to estimate as $\text{Var}(R) - \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(R|\Lambda))$. When we set r_0 , we are controlling the second term, while creating a bias in our estimator R . Suppose that we compare our lower bound a with a smaller lower bound a' . The bias from using a instead of a' is $a - a'$. The variance $\text{Var}(R|\Lambda = \lambda)$ is $P(X > 0) \text{Var}(R|\Lambda = \lambda, X > 0) + P(X = 0)P(X > 0) (\mathbb{E}(R|X > 0) - r_0)^2$. As always, this variance will be averaged over all samples, so that the best choice of r_0 is the one such that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{da} \mathbb{E}((a - \lambda)_+^2) &= \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{da} \mathbb{E}\left(P(X = 0)P(X > 0) (\mathbb{E}(R|X > 0) - r_0)^2\right) \\ \mathbb{E}((a - \lambda)_+) &= \frac{1}{n} (\mathbb{E}(P(X = 0)P(X > 0) (r_0 - \mathbb{E}(R|X > 0)))) \frac{dr_0}{da} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} (r_0 P(X = 0)P(X > 0) - \mathbb{E}(P(X = 0)P(X > 0)\mathbb{E}(R|X > 0))) \frac{dr_0}{da} \\ &= P(\Lambda < a) \mathbb{E}_{\Lambda < a}(P(X = 0)P(X > 0) (r_0 - \mathbb{E}(R|X > 0))) \\ &\quad + P(\Lambda > a) \mathbb{E}_{\Lambda > a}(P(X = 0)P(X > 0) (r_0 - \mathbb{E}(R|X > 0))) \end{aligned}$$

When $\Lambda < e^a$, we have that $P(X = 0) = e^{-\Lambda} \approx 1 - \Lambda$, $P(X > 0) \approx \Lambda - \frac{\Lambda^2}{2}$, and

If we assume $\mathbb{E}(R|X > 0) \approx r_1$ then our expression becomes:

$$\mathbb{E}((a - \lambda)_+) \approx \frac{1}{n} (r_0 - r_1) \mathbb{E}(P(X = 0)P(X > 0)) \frac{dr_0}{da}$$

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned}
r_0 &= \frac{\int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} du}{\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} du} \\
\frac{dr_0}{da} &= \frac{d}{da} \left(\frac{\int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} du}{\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} du} \right) \\
&= \frac{a e^{-e^a} \int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} du - e^{-e^a} \int_a^\infty u e^{-e^u} du}{\left(\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} du \right)^2} \\
&= \frac{e^{-e^a}}{\int_a^\infty e^{-e^u} du} (a - r_0)
\end{aligned}$$

For very negative u , we have $e^{-e^u} \approx 1$, giving

$$\frac{dr_0}{da} \approx \frac{a - r_0}{c - a}$$

which has solution $r_0 \approx \frac{a}{2}$.

$$\mathbb{E}((a - \lambda)_+) \approx \frac{r_0 - r_1}{2n} \mathbb{E}(e^{-\Lambda} - e^{-2\Lambda})$$

3 Conditional Variance

Having determined that our posterior mean estimate given an observation $X = n$ is r_n , we now need to find the conditional mean of r_X when $X \sim \text{Po}(\lambda)$. This is given by

$$m = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} r_n$$

The mean of $(r_X)^2$ is given by

$$s = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} (r_n)^2$$

The variance of r_X is therefore

$$s - m^2 = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} (r_n)^2 - e^{-2\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{n+m}}{n!m!} r_m r_n$$

Recall that our recurrence is

$$r_{n+1} = r_n(1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n} + \left(a - \frac{1}{n}\right) t_n$$

where

$$t_n = \frac{e^{-a} t_{n-1}}{e^{-a} t_{n-1} + n}$$

We expand this recurrence to get

$$\begin{aligned} r_{n+1} &= r_n(1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n} + \left(a - \frac{1}{n}\right) t_n \\ &= \left(r_{n-1}(1 - t_{n-1}) + \frac{1}{n-1} + \left(a - \frac{1}{n-1}\right) t_{n-1}\right) (1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n} + \left(a - \frac{1}{n}\right) t_n \\ &= r_{n-1}(1 - t_{n-1})(1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n-1}(1 - t_{n-1})(1 - t_n) + \frac{1}{n}(1 - t_n) + a(t_n + t_{n-1}(1 - t_n)) \\ &= r_{n-2}s_{n-2}s_{n-1}s_n + \frac{1}{n-2}s_{n-2}s_{n-1}s_n + \frac{1}{n-1}s_{n-1}s_n + \frac{1}{n}s_n + a(t_n + t_{n-1}s_n + t_{n-2}s_{n-1}s_n) \\ &= \dots \\ &= r_1 \prod_{i=1}^n s_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \prod_{j=i}^n s_j + a \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \prod_{j=i+1}^n s_j \end{aligned}$$

where

$$s_n = 1 - t_n = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{e^{ia}}{i!}}{\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{e^{ia}}{i!}}$$

This gives

$$\prod_{j=i+1}^n s_j = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^i \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}}$$

and

$$t_i \prod_{j=i+1}^n s_j = \frac{\frac{e^{ia}}{i!}}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \prod_{j=i+1}^n s_j &= 1 - \frac{1}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}} \\ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \prod_{j=i}^n s_j &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!i}}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}} = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \sum_{i=k+1}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!i}}{\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}} \end{aligned}$$

If we write $\tau_n = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} s_j = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}}$ then we get

$$r_n = r_1 \tau_n + \tau_n \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} + a(1 - \tau_n)$$

If we let $\nu_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!}$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\nu_n &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{(k+1)!} - \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \left(\frac{1}{k+1} - \frac{1}{i} \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{(k+1)!} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{(i-1-k)e^{ka}}{(k+1)!i} \\
\nu_{n+1} &= \nu_n + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{e^{ka}}{k!} \\
&= \nu_n + \frac{1}{n\tau_n} \\
\nu_{n+1}\tau_{n+1} &= \tau_{n+1}\nu_n + \frac{\tau_{n+1}}{n\tau_n} \\
&= s_n \left(\tau_n \nu_n + \frac{1}{n} \right) \\
&= s_n \left(s_{n-1} \left(\tau_{n-1} \nu_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n-1} \right) + \frac{1}{n} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$r_n = r_1\tau_n + \tau_n\nu_n + a(1 - \tau_n)$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned}
r_k r_l &= (r_1\tau_k + \tau_k\nu_k + a(1 - \tau_k))(r_1\tau_l + \tau_l\nu_l + a(1 - \tau_l)) \\
&= \tau_k\tau_l(r_1\nu_k - a)(r_1\nu_l - a) + \tau_k a(r_1\nu_l - a) + \tau_l a(r_1\nu_k - a) + a^2
\end{aligned}$$

In practice, we will need to estimate the conditional variance from an observation of X . Given the observation $X = n$, recall that our posterior density of Λ is $\pi_{\Lambda|X}(\lambda|n) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^{n-1}}{\int_{e^a}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda}\lambda^{n-1}}$. Therefore, the posterior mean of conditional

variance is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{e^a}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{n-1}}{\int_{e^a}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{n-1} d\lambda} \left(e^{-\lambda} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^m}{m!} (r_m)^2 - e^{-2\lambda} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{m+k}}{m!k!} r_m r_k \right) d\lambda \\
&= \frac{1}{\int_{e^a}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{n-1} d\lambda} \left(\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r_m)^2}{m!} \int_{e^a}^{\infty} e^{-2\lambda} \lambda^{n+m-1} d\lambda - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_m r_k}{m!k!} \int_{e^a}^{\infty} e^{-3\lambda} \lambda^{n+m+k-1} d\lambda \right) \\
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(r_m)^2}{2^{n+m} m!} \frac{\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{2})}{\Gamma(n; e^a)} - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_m r_k}{3^{n+m+k} m!k!} \frac{\Gamma(n+m+k; \frac{e^a}{3})}{\Gamma(n; e^a)} \\
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(r_m)^2}{2^{n+m} m!} \frac{\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{2})}{\Gamma(n; e^a)} - \left(\sum_{k+l=m}^{\infty} \frac{r_k r_l}{3^{n+m} k!l!} \right) \frac{\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{3})}{\Gamma(n; e^a)} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Now recall that

$$\Gamma(x+1; l) = x\Gamma(x; l) + l^x e^{-l}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\Gamma(n+1+m; \frac{e^a}{2})}{\Gamma(n+1; e^a)} &= \frac{(n+m)\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{2}) + 2^{-(n+m)} e^{(n+m)a} e^{-\frac{e^a}{2}}}{n\Gamma(n; e^a) + e^{na} e^{-e^a}} \\
&= \frac{(n+m)\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{2})}{n\Gamma(n; e^a)} (1 - t_n) + 2^{-(n+m)} e^{ma} e^{\frac{e^a}{2}} t_n
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{\Gamma(n+1+m; \frac{e^a}{3})}{\Gamma(n+1; e^a)} = \frac{(n+m)\Gamma(n+m; \frac{e^a}{3})}{n\Gamma(n; e^a)} (1 - t_n) + 3^{-(n+m)} e^{ma} e^{\frac{2e^a}{3}} t_n$$

We are assuming that a is small enough that $e^{\frac{a}{3}} \approx 0$, so our expression for expected conditional variance becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(r_m)^2}{2^{n+m}} \binom{n+m-1}{m} - \left(\sum_{k+l=m}^{\infty} \frac{r_k r_l}{3^{n+m}} \right) \binom{n+m-1}{n-1, k, l} \right) \\
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+m-1}{m} \left(\frac{(r_m)^2}{2^{n+m}} - \left(\sum_{k+l=m}^{\infty} \binom{m}{k} \frac{r_k r_l}{3^{n+m}} \right) \right) \\
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{n+m}} \binom{n+m-1}{m} (r_m)^2 - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3} \right)^n \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^m \binom{n+m-1}{m} \sum_{k+l=m}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^m} \binom{m}{k} r_k r_l
\end{aligned}$$

We see that the first term in the first sum is proportional to the probability mass function of a negative binomial distribution with $r = n$ and $\beta = 1$. This has mean n and variance $2n$. In the second sum, it is proportional to the

probability mass function of a negative binomial distribution with $r = n$ and $\beta = 2$. This has mean n and variance $6n$. For large n , we can use a normal approximation to this, and see that the probability is almost entirely in the interval $n \pm \sqrt{300n}$ (5 standard deviations either side of the mean). Since $r_m \approx \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{k}$ does not change much, we can let this be the range over which we evaluate the expectation. Since r_m can grow slowly, we will actually use the range $n \pm 20\sqrt{n}$.

Finally, the inner sum in the second term is the expectation over a binomial distribution.

Recalling that $r_m \approx \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{i}$ for $m > 0$, we have that $(r_m)^2 = \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{ij}$.

To compute this sum in practice, we need to determine which terms should be included in the sum.