

# Lecture Notes: Gaussian identities

Marc Toussaint

January 25, 2011

## Definitions

We define a Gaussian over  $x$  with mean  $a$  and covariance matrix  $A$  as the function

$$\mathcal{N}(x | a, A) = \frac{1}{|2\pi A|^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(x-a)^\top A^{-1} (x-a)\right\} \quad (1)$$

with property  $\mathcal{N}(x | a, A) = \mathcal{N}(a | x, A)$ . We also define the canonical form with precision matrix  $A$  as

$$\mathcal{N}[x | a, A] = \frac{\exp\{-\frac{1}{2}a^\top A^{-1} a\}}{|2\pi A^{-1}|^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}x^\top A x + x^\top a\right\} \quad (2)$$

with properties

$$\mathcal{N}[x | a, A] = \mathcal{N}(x | A^{-1}a, A^{-1}) \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(x | a, A) = \mathcal{N}[x | A^{-1}a, A^{-1}]. \quad (4)$$

Non-normalized Gaussian

$$\bar{\mathcal{N}}(x, a, A) = |2\pi A|^{1/2} \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) \quad (5)$$

$$= \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(x-a)^\top A^{-1} (x-a)\right\} \quad (6)$$

Matrices [[matrix cookbook](#)]

$$(A^{-1} + B^{-1})^{-1} = A(A+B)^{-1} B = B(A+B)^{-1} A \quad (7)$$

$$(A^{-1} - B^{-1})^{-1} = A(B-A)^{-1} B \quad (8)$$

$$\partial_x |A_x| = |A_x| \operatorname{tr}(A_x^{-1} \partial_x A_x) \quad (9)$$

$$\partial_x A_x^{-1} = -A_x^{-1} (\partial_x A_x) A_x^{-1} \quad (10)$$

$$(A + UBV)^{-1} = A^{-1} - A^{-1}U(B^{-1} + VA^{-1}U)^{-1}VA^{-1} \quad (11)$$

$$(A^{-1} + B^{-1})^{-1} = A - A(B+A)^{-1}A \quad (12)$$

$$(A + J^\top B J)^{-1} J^\top B = A^{-1} J^\top (B^{-1} + JA^{-1}J^\top)^{-1} \quad (13)$$

$$(A + J^\top B J)^{-1} A = \mathbf{I} - (A + J^\top B J)^{-1} J^\top B J \quad (14)$$

(11)=Woodbury; (13,14) holds for pos def  $A$  and  $B$

Derivatives

$$\partial_x \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) = \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) (-h^\top), \quad h := A^{-1}(x-a) \quad (15)$$

$$\partial_\theta \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) = \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) \cdot$$

$$\left[ -h^\top (\partial_\theta x) + h^\top (\partial_\theta a) - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(A^{-1} \partial_\theta A) + \frac{1}{2} h^\top (\partial_\theta A) h \right] \quad (16)$$

$$\partial_\theta \mathcal{N}[x | a, A] = \mathcal{N}[x | a, A] \left[ -\frac{1}{2} x^\top \partial_\theta A x + \frac{1}{2} a^\top A^{-1} \partial_\theta A A^{-1} a \right.$$

$$\left. + x^\top \partial_\theta a - a^\top A^{-1} \partial_\theta a + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(\partial_\theta A A^{-1}) \right] \quad (17)$$

$$\partial_\theta \bar{\mathcal{N}}_x(a, A) = \bar{\mathcal{N}}_x(a, A) \cdot$$

$$\left[ h^\top (\partial_\theta x) + h^\top (\partial_\theta a) + \frac{1}{2} h^\top (\partial_\theta A) h \right] \quad (18)$$

## Product

The product of two Gaussians can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) \mathcal{N}(x | b, B) &= \mathcal{N}[x | A^{-1}a + B^{-1}b, A^{-1} + B^{-1}] \mathcal{N}(a | b, A + B), \quad (19) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(x | B(A+B)^{-1}a + A(A+B)^{-1}b, A(A+B)^{-1}B) \mathcal{N}(a | b, A + B), \quad (20) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}[x | a, A] \mathcal{N}[x | b, B] &= \mathcal{N}[x | a + b, A + B] \mathcal{N}(A^{-1}a | B^{-1}b, A^{-1} + B^{-1}) \quad (21) \\ &= \mathcal{N}[x | \dots] \mathcal{N}[A^{-1}a | A(A+B)^{-1}b, A(A+B)^{-1}B] \quad (22) \\ &= \mathcal{N}[x | \dots] \mathcal{N}[A^{-1}a | (1-B(A+B)^{-1})b, (1-B(A+B)^{-1})B], \quad (23) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) \mathcal{N}(x | b, B) &= \mathcal{N}[x | A^{-1}a + b, A^{-1} + B^{-1}] \mathcal{N}(a | B^{-1}b, A + B^{-1}) \quad (24) \\ &= \mathcal{N}[x | \dots] \mathcal{N}[a | (1-B(A^{-1}+B^{-1})^{-1})b, (1-B(A^{-1}+B^{-1})^{-1})B] \quad (25) \end{aligned}$$

## Convolution

$$\int_x \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) \mathcal{N}(y - x | b, B) dx = \mathcal{N}(y | a + b, A + B) \quad (26)$$

## Division

$$\mathcal{N}(x | a, A) / \mathcal{N}(x | b, B) = \mathcal{N}(x | c, C) / \mathcal{N}(c | b, C + B)$$

$$C^{-1}c = A^{-1}a - B^{-1}b$$

$$C^{-1} = A^{-1} - B^{-1} \quad (27)$$

$$\mathcal{N}[x | a, A] / \mathcal{N}[x | b, B] \propto \mathcal{N}[x | a - b, A - B] \quad (28)$$

## Expectations

Let  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x | a, A)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_x\{g(x)\} := \int_x \mathcal{N}(x | a, A) g(x) dx \quad (29)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_x\{x\} = a, \quad \mathbb{E}_x\{xx^\top\} = A + aa^\top \quad (30)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_x\{f + Fx\} = f + Fa \quad (31)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_x\{x^\top x\} = a^\top a + \operatorname{tr}(A) \quad (32)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_x\{(x-m)^\top R(x-m)\} = (a-m)^\top R(a-m) + \operatorname{tr}(RA) \quad (33)$$

**Transformation** Linear transformations imply the following identities,

$$\mathcal{N}(x|a, A) = \mathcal{N}(x+f|a+f, A), \quad \mathcal{N}(x|a, A) = |F| \mathcal{N}(Fx|Fa, FAF^\top) \quad (34)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(Fx+f|a, A) = \frac{1}{|F|} \mathcal{N}(x|F^{-1}(a-f), F^{-1}AF^{-\top}) = \frac{1}{|F|} \mathcal{N}[x|F^\top A^{-1}(a-f), F^\top A^{-1}F], \quad (35)$$

$$\mathcal{N}[Fx+f|a, A] = \frac{1}{|F|} \mathcal{N}[x|F^\top(a-Af), F^\top AF]. \quad (36)$$

**“Propagation”** (propagating a message along a coupling, using eqs (19) and (25), respectively)

$$\int_y \mathcal{N}(x|a+Fy, A) \mathcal{N}(y|b, B) dy = \mathcal{N}(x|a+Fb, A+FBF^\top) \quad (37)$$

$$\int_y \mathcal{N}(x|a+Fy, A) \mathcal{N}[y|b, B] dy = \mathcal{N}[x|(F^{-\top}-K)(b+BF^{-1}a), (F^{-\top}-K)BF^{-1}], \quad K = F^{-\top}B(F^{-\top}A^{-1}F^{-1}+B)^{-1} \quad (38)$$

**marginal & conditional:**

$$\mathcal{N}(x|a, A) \mathcal{N}(y|b+Fx, B) = \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} a & A & A^\top F^\top \\ b+Fa & FA & B+FA^\top F^\top \end{matrix}\right) \quad (39)$$

$$\mathcal{N}\left(\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} a & A & C \\ b & C^\top & B \end{matrix}\right) = \mathcal{N}(x|a, A) \cdot \mathcal{N}(y|b+C^\top A^{-1}(x-a), B-C^\top A^{-1}C) \quad (40)$$

$$\mathcal{N}[x|a, A] \mathcal{N}(y|b+Fx, B) = \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} a+F^\top B^{-1}b & A+F^\top B^{-1}F & -F^\top B^{-1} \\ B^{-1}b & -B^{-1}F & B^{-1} \end{matrix}\right] \quad (41)$$

$$\mathcal{N}[x|a, A] \mathcal{N}[y|b+Fx, B] = \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} a+F^\top B^{-1}b & A+F^\top B^{-1}F & -F^\top \\ b & -F & B \end{matrix}\right] \quad (42)$$

$$\mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} a & A & C \\ b & C^\top & B \end{matrix}\right] = \mathcal{N}[x|a-CB^{-1}b, A-CB^{-1}C^\top] \cdot \mathcal{N}[y|b-C^\top x, B] \quad (43)$$

$$\left| \begin{matrix} A & C \\ D & B \end{matrix} \right| = |A| |\hat{B}| = |\hat{A}| |B|, \text{ where } \begin{matrix} \hat{A} = A - CB^{-1}D \\ \hat{B} = B - DA^{-1}C \end{matrix} \quad (44)$$

$$\left[ \begin{matrix} A & C \\ D & B \end{matrix} \right]^{-1} = \left[ \begin{matrix} \hat{A}^{-1} & -A^{-1}C\hat{B}^{-1} \\ -\hat{B}^{-1}DA^{-1} & \hat{B}^{-1} \end{matrix} \right] = \left[ \begin{matrix} \hat{A}^{-1} & -\hat{A}^{-1}CB^{-1} \\ -B^{-1}D\hat{A}^{-1} & \hat{B}^{-1} \end{matrix} \right] \quad (45)$$

**pair-wise belief** We have a message  $\alpha(x) = \mathcal{N}[x|s, S]$ , transition  $P(y|x) = \mathcal{N}(y|Ax+a, Q)$ , and a message  $\beta(y) = \mathcal{N}[y|v, V]$ , what is the belief  $b(y, x) = \alpha(x)P(y|x)\beta(y)$ ?

$$b(y, x) = \mathcal{N}[x|s, S] \mathcal{N}(y|Ax+a, Q^{-1}) \mathcal{N}[y|v, V] \quad (46)$$

$$= \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} s & S & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix}\right] \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} A^\top Q^{-1}a & A^\top Q^{-1}A & -A^\top Q^{-1} \\ Q^{-1}a & -Q^{-1}A & Q^{-1} \end{matrix}\right] \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ v & 0 & V \end{matrix}\right] \quad (47)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}\left[\begin{matrix} x \\ y \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} s+A^\top Q^{-1}a & S+A^\top Q^{-1}A & -A^\top Q^{-1} \\ v+Q^{-1}a & -Q^{-1}A & V+Q^{-1} \end{matrix}\right] \quad (48)$$

**Entropy**

$$H(\mathcal{N}(a, A)) = \frac{1}{2} \log |2\pi e A| \quad (49)$$

**Kullback-Leibler divergence**

$$p = \mathcal{N}(x|a, A), \quad q = \mathcal{N}(x|b, B), \quad n = \dim(x), \quad D(p||q) = \sum_x p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \quad (50)$$

$$2 D(p||q) = \log \frac{|B|}{|A|} + \text{tr}(B^{-1}A) + (b-a)^\top B^{-1}(b-a) - n \quad (51)$$

$$4 D_{\text{sym}}(p||q) = \text{tr}(B^{-1}A) + \text{tr}(A^{-1}B) + (b-a)^\top (A^{-1}+B^{-1})(b-a) - 2n \quad (52)$$

$\lambda$ -divergence

$$2 D_\lambda(p||q) = \lambda D(p||\lambda p + (1-\lambda)q) + (1-\lambda) D(p||(1-\lambda)p + \lambda q) \quad (53)$$

For  $\lambda = .5$ : Jensen-Shannon divergence.

**Log-likelihoods**

$$\log \mathcal{N}(x|a, A) = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \log|2\pi A| + (x-a)^\top A^{-1} (x-a) \right] \quad (54)$$

$$\log \mathcal{N}[x|a, A] = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \log|2\pi A^{-1}| + a^\top A^{-1} a + x^\top A x - 2x^\top a \right] \quad (55)$$

$$\sum_x \mathcal{N}(x|b, B) \log \mathcal{N}(x|a, A) = -D(\mathcal{N}(b, B) \parallel \mathcal{N}(a, A)) - H(\mathcal{N}(b, B)) \quad (56)$$

**Mixture of Gaussians** Collapsing a MoG into a single Gaussian

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{b, B} D\left(\sum_i p_i \mathcal{N}(a_i, A_i) \parallel \mathcal{N}(b, B)\right) = \left(b = \sum_i p_i a_i, B = \sum_i p_i (A_i + a_i a_i^\top - b b^\top)\right) \quad (57)$$