Short way:

Prerequisites

The simplest most high-level way is to use predefined rules for matrix differentiation. The rules for this algebra are laid out in the "Matrix Cookbook" on page 8 and page 10.

The book can be found here:

https://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/~hwolkowi/matrixcookbook.pdf

Some important rules form this book (let x be a column vector):

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T (\mathbf{A}^T + \mathbf{A})$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{X}^{-1} \mathbf{b}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = -\mathbf{X}^{-T} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{X}^{-T}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln|\det \mathbf{X}|}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = (\mathbf{X}^{-1})^T = (\mathbf{X}^T)^{-1}.$$

We have:

$$L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}|\Sigma|^{-\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})} = (2\pi)^{-\frac{dN}{2}|\Sigma|^{-\frac{N}{2}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{N} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})}$$

As usual, we take the logarithmic transform:

$$\ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) = -\frac{dN}{2} \log 2\pi + \frac{N}{2} \log |\boldsymbol{\Lambda}| - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}).$$

Calculation of the mean:

First, let us calculate out the brackets in the previous exponent:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_n^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{x}_n^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\mu} - \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{x}_n + \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\mu}.$$

Now apply the rules of matrix differentiation algebra:

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}} \ln L(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}) &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}} \left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\mu} - \boldsymbol{\mu}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \mathbf{x}_{n} + \boldsymbol{\mu}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\mu} \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} -\mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} - \mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} + \boldsymbol{\mu}^{T} \left(\underbrace{\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^{T} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}}_{=2\boldsymbol{\Lambda} \ due \ symmetry} \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} -2\mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} + 2\boldsymbol{\mu}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \right] \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left[\mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} - \boldsymbol{\mu}^{T} \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \right]. \end{split}$$

Now we can solve for μ :

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} [\mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} - \mathbf{\mu}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda}] = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{\mu}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_{n}^{T} = \mathbf{\mu}^{T}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_{n} = \mathbf{\mu}$$

Calculation of Variance:

This one is more involved. But by just utilizing the rules of the Matrix Cookbook, we quickly get to a solution. Note: Now I use Σ instead of Λ for convenience.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{\mu}} \ln L(\mathbf{\mu}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) = -\frac{N}{2} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-T} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left[-\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-T} (\mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{\mu}) (\mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{\mu})^T \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-T} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{N}{2} \underbrace{\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}}_{symmetry} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left[-\underbrace{\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}}_{symmetry} (\mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{\mu}) (\mathbf{x}_n - \mathbf{\mu})^T \underbrace{\mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}}_{symmetry} \right]$$

Now solve for Σ^{-1} :

$$-\frac{N}{2} \underbrace{\sum_{symmetry}^{-1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left[-\underbrace{\sum_{symmetry}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})^{T} \underbrace{\sum_{symmetry}^{-1}} \right]}_{symmetry} = 0 \quad | \cdot \mathbf{\Sigma} \ left \mid \cdot \mathbf{2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \qquad -N + \sum_{n=1}^{N} [(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})^{T} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}] \qquad = 0 \quad | \cdot \mathbf{\Sigma} \ right$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \qquad -N \mathbf{\Sigma} + \sum_{n=1}^{N} [(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})^{T}] \qquad = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \qquad \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} [(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})(\mathbf{x}_{n} - \mathbf{\mu})^{T}] \qquad = \mathbf{\Sigma}$$

It appears that the original task that says

$$\mathbf{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{x}_n \mathbf{x}_n^T$$

is wrong, as the μ is also part of other solutions found on the web:

https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/351549/maximum-likelihood-estimators-multivariate-gaussian

I have to check that with Bertschinger.

2A-3.

Direct calculation:

$$N(x;\mu_1,\sigma_1^2)N(x;\mu_2,\sigma_2^2) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{1}{4}}\sigma_1\sigma_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(x-\mu_2)^2}{\sigma_2^2}\right]}.$$

Calculation of the exponent and completing the square:

$$\begin{split} \frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(x-\mu_2)^2}{\sigma_2^2} &= \frac{x^2 - 2\mu_1 x + \mu_1^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{x^2 - 2\mu_2 x + \mu_2^2}{\sigma_2^2} \\ &= \frac{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2) x^2 - 2x(\sigma_2^2 \mu_1 + \sigma_1^2 \mu_2) + \sigma_2^2 \mu_1^2 + \sigma_1^2 \mu_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - 2x \frac{(\sigma_2^2 \mu_1 + \sigma_1^2 \mu_2)}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)} + \frac{\sigma_2^2 \mu_1^2}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)} + \frac{\sigma_1^2 \mu_2^2}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)}}{\frac{\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)}} \\ &\propto \frac{\left(x - \frac{(\sigma_2^2 \mu_1 + \sigma_1^2 \mu_2)}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)}\right)^2}{\frac{\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2}{(\sigma_2^2 + \sigma_1^2)}} \end{split}$$

Let

$$\sigma^{2} = \frac{\sigma_{1}^{2}\sigma_{2}^{2}}{(\sigma_{2}^{2} + \sigma_{1}^{2})}$$

$$\mu = \frac{(\sigma_{2}^{2}\mu_{1} + \sigma_{1}^{2}\mu_{2})}{(\sigma_{2}^{2} + \sigma_{1}^{2})}$$

Now insert into the original equation:

$$\begin{split} N(x;\mu_1,\sigma_1^2)N(x;\mu_2,\sigma_2^2) &\propto (2\pi)^{-\frac{1}{4}}\sigma_1\sigma_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]} \\ &\propto (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]} \\ &= N\left(\frac{(\sigma_2^2\mu_1+\sigma_1^2\mu_2)}{(\sigma_2^2+\sigma_1^2)},\frac{\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2}{(\sigma_2^2+\sigma_1^2)}\right) \end{split}$$

2A-4.

As usual, we are taking the partial derivate $\frac{\partial SE(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_i}$:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_i} 0.5 \sum_{n=1}^{N} r_n (w^T \phi(x_n) - t_n)^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \phi_i(x_n) r_n (w^T \phi(x_n) - t_n).$$

If we tried to solve this for w_i , we would encounter dependencies on the other w_j 's. This is an indicator that it would make sense to convert the equation into matrix form and treat the entire derivative as a solution to a system of d equations.

Converting each term step by step leads to:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} \phi_i(x_n) r_n(\mathbf{w}^T \phi(x_n) - t_n) = (r_1 \phi_i(x_1), \dots, r_n \phi_i(x_n)) [(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{\Phi}^T)^T - \mathbf{t}].$$

where

$$\mathbf{\Phi} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1(x_1) & \dots & \phi_n(x_1) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \phi_1(x_n) & \dots & \phi_n(x_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

is the design matrix. For the entire vector, this would lead to:

$$\frac{\partial SE(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \phi_1(x_1) & \dots & r_n \phi_1(x_n) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ r_1 \phi_d(x_1) & \dots & \dots r_n \phi_d(x_n) \end{pmatrix} [(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{\Phi}^T)^T - \mathbf{t}] = \mathbf{0}.$$

Solving for \mathbf{w} and utilizing the Penrose inverse A^+ :

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \phi_1(x_1) & \dots & r_n \phi_1(x_n) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ r_1 \phi_d(x_1) & \dots & \dots r_n \phi_d(x_n) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi} \right]^+ \begin{pmatrix} r_1 \phi_1(x_1) & \dots & r_n \phi_1(x_n) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ r_1 \phi_d(x_1) & \dots & \dots r_n \phi_d(x_n) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{t}$$
$$= \left(\sum_{n=1}^N r_n \phi(x_n) \phi(x_n)^T \right)^+ \left(\sum_{n=1}^N r_n t_n \phi(x_n) \right).$$