### BAYESIAN LINEAR REGRESSION

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#### 1. Framework

#### 1.1. Notations.

- (1.1)  $y = x \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon, \ \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ 
  - (1) Individual observations  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}$
  - (2) Observed data  $(X,Y) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k} \times \mathbb{R}^n$
  - (3) Linear regression weights  $\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$
  - (4) Model parameter distribution mean  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and covariance matrix  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$
  - (5) Observation error variance  $\sigma^2$

# 1.2. Model Assumptions.

- (1) Observations (x, y) satisfy linear relation 1.1
- (2) Observation errors are independent normally distributed with mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2$
- (3) For posterior estimation, observations X must have full rank
- (4) For known error variance  $\sigma^2$ , the prior on the space of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is  $\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$
- (5) For unknown error variance, the prior for  $(\beta, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1}$  has  $\sigma^2$  following inverse gamma distribution with parameters  $(a_0, b_0)$ , and conditional distribution for linear relation weights  $f(\beta \mid \sigma^2) = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2 \Sigma)$

# 2. Gaussian Prior with Known Variance

# 2.1. Summary of Results.

**Proposition 2.1** (Posterior paramer distribution with known variance). The posterior distribution of model parameters is normal  $f(\beta \mid X, Y) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2 \Sigma_1)$  with parameters:

(2.1) 
$$\Sigma_1^{-1} = \Sigma_0^{-1} + X^T X$$

$$(2.2) \quad \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \left( \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{X} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_0 \right)$$

$$(2.3) \quad \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \left(X^T X\right)^{-1} X^T Y$$

**Proposition 2.2** (Posterior predictive distribution with known variance). For an observation (x, y) and its expectation  $(x, \hat{y} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \cdot \beta)$ , posterior conditional distributions of y and  $\hat{y}$  are normal with parameters given below:

(2.4) 
$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = \mathcal{N}\left(x\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \sigma^2\left(1 + x\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 x^T\right)\right)$$

(2.5) 
$$f(\widehat{y} \mid x, X, Y) = \mathcal{N}(x\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \sigma^2 x \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 x^T)$$

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**Proposition 2.3** (Bayesian regression under known vairance and non-informative prior). If the prior on parameter  $\beta$  is non-informative, i.e.  $\mu_0 = 0$  and  $\Sigma_0^{-1} = 0$ , then posterior distribution of model parameters and predictive distributions recover standard OLS formulas:

$$(2.6) \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}X^{T}Y, \sigma^{2}\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}\right)$$

(2.7) 
$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = \mathcal{N}\left(x(X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y, \sigma^2 \left(1 + x(X^T X)^{-1} x^T\right)\right)$$

$$(2.8) \quad f(\widehat{y} \mid x, X, Y) = \mathcal{N}\left(x\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}X^{T}Y, \sigma^{2}x\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}x^{T}\right)$$

Proof of Proposition 2.1. Define for convenience  $\Lambda_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Sigma_0^{-1}$ . Using  $f(\beta \mid X, Y) \propto f(X, Y \mid \beta) f(\beta)$  and taking logarithms one has:

$$\begin{split} \ln f(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X, Y) + \mathrm{const} &= -\left(\frac{n}{2} \ln \sigma^2 + \frac{n}{2} \ln 2\pi + \frac{1}{2} \ln \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0 + \frac{k}{2} \ln 2\pi\right) - \\ &- \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (Y - X\boldsymbol{\beta})^T (Y - X\boldsymbol{\beta}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_0)^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_0) = \\ &= -\left(\frac{n}{2} \ln \sigma^2 + \frac{n}{2} \ln 2\pi + \frac{1}{2} \ln \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0 + \frac{k}{2} \ln 2\pi\right) - \\ &- \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(\boldsymbol{\beta}^T \left(X^T X + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0\right) \boldsymbol{\beta} - (Y^T X + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0) \boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \left(X^T Y + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 \boldsymbol{\mu}_0\right) + Y^T Y + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 \boldsymbol{\mu}_0\right) \end{split}$$

It suffices to show that this expression is a quadratic form  $-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\beta-\mu_1)^T\Lambda_1(\beta-\mu_1)$  up to an additive term independent of  $\beta$ . Here  $\mu_1$  and  $\Lambda_1$  are as in 2.1-2.3. This follows immediately from the lemma on completing squares:

**Lemma 2.4.** For any symmetric quadratic form Q, liner form L and vector v:

$$v^T Q v - v^T L - L^T v = (v - Q^{-1} L)^T Q (v - Q^{-1} L) - L^T Q^{-1} L$$

*Proof of Proposition 2.2.* To find the posterior predictive distribution 2.4, we integrate out parameter  $\beta$ :

$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = \int_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k} f(y \mid x, \boldsymbol{\beta}) f(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X, Y) d\boldsymbol{\beta} =$$

$$= \int_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k} \frac{(\det \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{1+k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( (y - x\beta)^2 + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1)^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1) \right) \right) d\boldsymbol{\beta}$$

Set  $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1$  and  $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \boldsymbol{y} - x \boldsymbol{\mu}_1$ . The expession under the exponential can be rewritten as:

$$(y - x\beta)^{2} + (\beta - \mu_{1})^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} (\beta - \mu_{1}) = (\widetilde{y} - x\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^{2} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} =$$

$$= \widetilde{y}^{2} - \widetilde{y}x (\mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} + x^{T}x)^{-1} x^{T} \widetilde{y} + (\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - (\mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} + x^{T}x)^{-1} x^{T} \widetilde{y})^{T} (\mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} + x^{T}x) (\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - (\mathbf{\Lambda}_{1} + x^{T}x)^{-1} x^{T} \widetilde{y})$$

Using that for any positive definite form Q the integral  $\exp(-(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{v})^T Q(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{v}))$  is independent of  $\boldsymbol{v} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ , we find that up to a multiplicative constant:

$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = \operatorname{const} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\widetilde{y}^2}{2\sigma^2} \left(1 - x\left(\mathbf{\Lambda}_1 + x^T x\right)^{-1} x^T\right)\right) = \operatorname{const} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\widetilde{y}^2}{2\sigma^2} \left(1 + x\mathbf{\Sigma}_1 x^T\right)^{-1}\right)$$

Consequently,  $\tilde{y} = y - x \mu_1$  is normally distributed with variance as prescribed by 2.4. The second equality above follows from Sherman-Morrison formula.

**Theorem 2.5** (Sherman-Morrison formula). Suppose  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  is an invertible matrix and  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^k$  are vectors. Then  $A + uv^T$  is invertible iff  $1 + v^T A^{-1}u \neq 0$ . In this case,

(2.9) 
$$(A + uv^T)^{-1} = A^{-1} - \frac{A^{-1}uv^TA^{-1}}{1 + v^TA^{-1}u}$$

(2.10) 
$$v^T (A + uv^T)^{-1} u = \frac{v^T A^{-1} u}{1 + v^T A^{-1} u}$$

The proof of 2.5 may be seen as a direct consequence of the general result on convolution of multivariate normal distributions. The result is well-known and is usually demonstrated using Fourier transform. We give an "elementary" proof in Appendix A  $\Box$ 

Proof of Proposition 2.3. Straightforward by substituting  $\mu_0 = 0$  and  $\Sigma_0^{-1} = 0$  in propositions 2.1 and 2.2

## 3. Inverse Gamma Prior for Variance Scale Parameter

**Proposition 3.1** (Posterior paramer distribution). Under assumptions with unknown variance 1.2, the posterior distribution decomposes as  $f(\beta, \sigma^2 \mid X, Y) = f(\beta \mid X, Y, \sigma^2) \cdot f(\sigma^2 \mid X, Y)$  where the conditional posterior distribution  $f(\beta \mid X, Y, \sigma^2) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2 \Sigma_1)$  is normal with parameters as in 2.1-2.3 and  $f(\sigma^2 \mid X, Y) = Inv \cdot \Gamma(a_1, b_1)$  with parameters:

$$(3.1) a_1 = a_0 + \frac{n}{2}$$

$$(3.2) \quad b_1 = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \left( Y^T Y + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0 \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^T \right)$$

In particular, for  $\Lambda_0 = 0$  the increment in the update of  $b_0$  is the residual sum of squares for OLS regression:

$$b_1 = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \left( Y^T Y - Y^T X \left( X^T X \right)^{-1} X^T Y \right)$$

**Proposition 3.2** (Posterior predictive distribution). For an observation (x, y) and its expectation  $(x, \hat{y} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \cdot \beta)$ , posterior conditional distributions of y and  $\hat{y}$  are location-scale t-distributions with parameters given below:

(3.3) 
$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = lst\left(x\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \frac{b_1}{a_1} \left(1 + x\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 x^T\right), 2a_1\right)$$

(3.4) 
$$f(\widehat{y} \mid x, X, Y) = lst\left(x\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \frac{b_1}{a_1}x\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1x^T, 2a_1\right)$$

**Proposition 3.3** (Bayesian regression and non-informative prior). Assume that prior on parameters has form  $f(\beta, \sigma^2) \propto \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ . Then posterior distribution of model parameters and predictive distributions recover standard OLS formulas:

$$(3.5) \quad \widehat{\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{n-k} \left( Y^T Y - Y^T X \left( X^T X \right)^{-1} X^T Y \right)$$

$$(3.6) \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} \sim t_{n-k} \left( \left( \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{X} \right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{Y}, \widehat{\sigma^2} \left( \boldsymbol{X}^T \boldsymbol{X} \right)^{-1} \right)$$

(3.7) 
$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) = t_{n-k} \left( x \left( X^T X \right)^{-1} X^T Y, \widehat{\sigma^2} \left( 1 + x \left( X^T X \right)^{-1} x^T \right) \right)$$

$$(3.8) \quad f(\widehat{y}\mid x,X,Y) = t_{n-k} \left(x \left(X^T X\right)^{-1} X^T Y, \widehat{\sigma^2} \ x \left(X^T X\right)^{-1} x^T\right)$$

More specifically, the poseteror parameter distribution can be decomposed as in Proposition 3.1 with:

$$(3.9) \quad f\left(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X, Y, \sigma^{2}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1} X^{T}Y, \sigma^{2}\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}\right)$$

$$(3.10) \quad f\left(\sigma^{2} \mid X, Y\right) = Inv - \Gamma\left(\frac{n-k}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\left(Y^{T}Y - Y^{T}X\left(X^{T}X\right)^{-1}X^{T}Y\right)\right)$$

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose the distribution of  $(\beta, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}_+$  is  $f(\beta, \sigma^2) = f(\beta \mid \sigma^2) \cdot f(\sigma^2)$  with  $f(\beta \mid \sigma^2)$  normal  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  and  $f(\sigma^2) = Inv \cdot \Gamma(a, b)$ . Then the marginal distribution of  $\beta$  is multivariate t-distribution with 2a degrees of freedom:  $f(\beta) = t_{2a}(\mu, \frac{b}{a}\Sigma)$ .

Proof of Proposition 3.1. Using  $f(\beta, \sigma^2 \mid X, Y) \propto f(X, Y \mid \beta, \sigma^2) f(\beta \mid \sigma^2) f(\sigma^2)$  and substituting assumptions for model distributions one gets:

$$\begin{split} f(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mid X, Y) &\propto \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(Y - X\boldsymbol{\beta}\right)^T \left(Y - X\boldsymbol{\beta}\right)\right) \cdot \\ &\cdot \frac{\left(\det \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_0)^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_0)\right) \frac{b_0^{a_0}}{\Gamma(a_0)} \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-a_0 - 1} \exp\left(-\frac{b_0}{\sigma^2}\right) \end{split}$$

Following the proof of Proposition 2.1, completing the squares under the exponential gives:

$$\begin{split} -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 + Y^T Y + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 \boldsymbol{\mu}_0 \right) = \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left( (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1)^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1) + Y^T Y + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 \boldsymbol{\mu}_0 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \right) \end{split}$$

It follows that up to a constant independent of  $\beta$  and  $\sigma^2$ , the posterior  $f(\beta, \sigma^2 \mid X, Y)$  can be written as:

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1)^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1)\right) \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-a_0 - \frac{n}{2} - 1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \left(Y^T Y + \boldsymbol{\mu}_0^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_0 \boldsymbol{\mu}_0 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^T \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1 \boldsymbol{\mu}_1\right)\right)\right)$$

Proof of Proposition 3.2. We only give the proof for predictive distribution of y, the result for  $\hat{y}$  is shown analogously. By definition,

$$(3.11) \quad f(y \mid x, X, Y) = \int_{\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+} \left[ \int_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^k} f(y \mid x, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) f(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid X, Y, \sigma^2) d\boldsymbol{\beta} \right] f(\sigma^2 \mid X, Y) d\sigma^2$$

Following the proof and reusing notations of Proposition 2.2, the inner integral has the form:

$$\begin{split} \int\limits_{\boldsymbol{\beta}\in\mathbb{R}^k} \frac{\left(\det\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\left(2\pi\sigma^2\right)^{\frac{1+k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left((\boldsymbol{y}-\boldsymbol{x}\boldsymbol{\beta})^2+(\boldsymbol{\beta}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_1)^T\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1(\boldsymbol{\beta}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_1)\right)\right) d\boldsymbol{\beta} = \\ &= \int\limits_{\boldsymbol{\beta}\in\mathbb{R}^k} \frac{\left(\det\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\left(2\pi\sigma^2\right)^{\frac{1+k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}^2}{2\sigma^2}\left(1+\boldsymbol{x}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1\boldsymbol{x}^T\right)^{-1}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left((\boldsymbol{\beta}-\boldsymbol{v})^T\boldsymbol{Q}(\boldsymbol{\beta}-\boldsymbol{v})\right)\right) d\boldsymbol{\beta} = \\ &= \operatorname{const}\cdot\frac{1}{\left(\sigma^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}^2}{2\sigma^2}\left(1+\boldsymbol{x}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1\boldsymbol{x}^T\right)^{-1}\right) \end{split}$$

where  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is a vector and Q is a positive-definite quadratic form, both independent of  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\sigma^2$ . In the second equality we used that the k-th power of  $\sigma^2$  cancels out after integrating the second exponential (k-dimensional volume scale).

Denote  $s^2 = (1 + x \Sigma_1 x^T)$ . Substituting the above expression in 3.11 and using the explicit form of Inv- $\Gamma(a_1, b_1)$  distribution one gets:

$$f(y \mid x, X, Y) \propto \int_{\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+} \frac{1}{(\sigma^2)^{a_1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(b_1 + \frac{\widetilde{y}^2}{2s^2}\right)\right) d\sigma^2 =$$

$$= \Gamma\left(a_1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(b_1 + \frac{\widetilde{y}^2}{2s^2}\right)^{-a_1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\Gamma\left(a_1 + \frac{1}{2}\right)}{b_1^{\frac{2a_1 + 1}{2}}} \left(1 + \frac{a_1\widetilde{y}^2}{2a_1b_1s^2}\right)^{-\frac{2a_1 + 1}{2}}$$

Where the first step follows from  $\int_{\mathbb{R}_+} r^{-A-1} \exp\left(-\frac{B}{r}\right) dr = \frac{\Gamma(A)}{B^A}$  for any A > 0, B > 0. Hence, the variable  $\frac{a_1 \widetilde{y}^2}{b_1 s^2}$  follows t-distribution with  $2a_1$  degrees of freedom which readily implies the proposition.

Proof of Lemma 3.4. The proof is similar to the last part of proof of Proposition 3.2. Denote for convenience  $\Lambda \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Sigma^{-1}$ .

$$f(\beta) = \int_{\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+} f\left(\beta, \sigma^2\right) d\sigma^2 =$$

$$= \int_{\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+} \frac{\left(\det \mathbf{\Lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\left(2\pi\sigma^2\right)^{\frac{k}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{\Lambda}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right) \cdot \frac{b^a}{\Gamma(a)} \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-a-1} \exp\left(-\frac{b}{\sigma^2}\right) d\sigma^2 =$$

$$= \operatorname{const} \cdot \int_{\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}_+} \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-a-\frac{k}{2}-1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(b + \frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{\Lambda}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)\right) d\sigma^2 =$$

$$= \operatorname{const} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(a + \frac{k}{2})}{(b + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{\Lambda}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}))^{a+\frac{k}{2}}} = \frac{\operatorname{const} \cdot b^{-a-\frac{k}{2}} \Gamma(a + \frac{k}{2})}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{2a}(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \left(\frac{a}{b}\mathbf{\Lambda}\right)(\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)^{\frac{2a+k}{2}}}$$

It remains to recognize the expression above as the standard representation of  $t_{2a}\left(\boldsymbol{\mu},\frac{b}{a}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\right)$ .

## APPENDIX A. "ELEMENTARY" PROOF OF GAUSSIAN CONVOLUTION

**Proposition A.1.** Let  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^k$  be a gaussian vector with distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$  and let A be any  $l \times k$  matrix. Then  $A\beta \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is a gaussian vector with distribution  $\mathcal{N}(A\mu, A\Sigma A^T)$ 

*Proof.* We only consider the case l=1 with  $A=a=(a_1,a_2,\ldots,a_k)$  and  $A\beta$  is a one dimensional random variable. Without loss of generality we may assume  $a_1\neq 0$ . Introduce notations:

(A.1) 
$$\hat{y} = a\beta$$

$$(A.2) \quad \widetilde{y} = \widehat{y} - a\mu$$

(A.3) 
$$a = (a_1, \mathbf{a}_{-1}), a_1 \in \mathbb{R}^k, \mathbf{a}_{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{k-1}$$

(A.4) 
$$\boldsymbol{\beta} = \left(\beta_1, \ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}^T\right)^T, \ \beta_1 \in \mathbb{R}^k, \ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{k-1}$$

(A.5) 
$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \left(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{1}, \ \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}^{T}\right)^{T} = \boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

(A.6) 
$$\Lambda = \Sigma^{-1}$$

(A.7) 
$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{11} & \lambda_1 \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

We note that the volume element  $d\boldsymbol{\beta} = d\beta_1 d\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1} = d\left(\frac{\widehat{y} - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}}{a_1}\right) d\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1} = \frac{1}{a_1}d\widehat{y}d\boldsymbol{\beta}-1$ . Thus to get the density of  $\widehat{y}$  it suffices to integrate out  $d\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}$ . It's easy to re-center variables for convenience using:

$$\left(\frac{1}{a_1}\left(\widehat{y} - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}\right) - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}^T - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{-1}^T\right) = \left(\frac{1}{a_1}\left(\widehat{y} - a_1\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\left(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{-1}\right) - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\boldsymbol{\mu}_{-1}\right), \ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{-1}^T - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{-1}^T\right) = \left(\frac{1}{a_1}\left(\widetilde{y} - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}\right) - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \ \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}^T\right)$$

We will use that the integral of the exponent of a qudratic form in a shift of  $\widetilde{\beta}$  gives a multiplicative constant that does not depend on  $\widetilde{y}$  (same idea as in the proof of Proposition 2.2, see 2.4):

$$\begin{split} & \left(\frac{\frac{1}{a_{1}}\left(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}} - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}\right)}{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(\frac{\frac{1}{a_{1}}\left(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}} - \boldsymbol{a}_{-1}\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}\right)}{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}}\right) = \\ & = \left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right) + \left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}^{T}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}^{T}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1} \\ & = \left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right) + \left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1}^{T}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(\frac{\widetilde{\boldsymbol{y}}}{a_{1}}\right)^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}}{a_{1}}\right)\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{-1} \end{split}$$

Completing squares in  $\widetilde{\beta}_{-1}$  and integrating it out, we're left with an exponential of the following expression in  $\widetilde{y}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \end{pmatrix}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \frac{\widetilde{y}^{2}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} - \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}^{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{a_{-1}}{a_{1}} \\ \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1}^{T} \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \frac{\widetilde{y}^{2}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} - \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a_{1}^{2}} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{a}_{-1} - \frac{1}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{a}_{-1} - \frac{1}{a_{1}} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{\lambda}_{-1} + \mathbf{\Lambda}_{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1}^{T} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{\widetilde{y}^{2}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} - \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a_{1}^{2}} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{a}_{-1} - \frac{1}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{a}_{-1} - \frac{1}{a_{1}} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} \mathbf{\lambda}_{-1} + \mathbf{\Lambda}_{-1} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}^{2}} \lambda_{11} \mathbf{a}_{-1}^{T} + \frac{\widetilde{y}}{a_{1}} \mathbf{\lambda}_{1}^{T} \end{pmatrix}$$

The next step is to apply recognize the above expression as the inverse of a matrix using two versions of the block-matrix inverse:

**Lemma A.2.** If matrices A and  $D - CA^{-1}B$  are invertible then:

(A.9) 
$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} A^{-1} + A^{-1}B \left( D - CA^{-1}B \right)^{-1}CA^{-1} & -A^{-1}B \left( D - CA^{-1}B \right)^{-1} \\ - \left( D - CA^{-1}B \right)^{-1}CA^{-1} & \left( D - CA^{-1}B \right)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

If matrices D and  $A - BD^{-1}C$  are invertible then:

$$(A.10) \quad \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \left(A - BD^{-1}C\right)^{-1} & -\left(A - BD^{-1}C\right)^{-1}BD^{-1} \\ -D^{-1}C\left(A - BD^{-1}C\right)^{-1} & D^{-1} + D^{-1}C\left(A - BD^{-1}C\right)^{-1}BD^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

If matrices A and D are invertible then:

(A.11) 
$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \left(A - BD^{-1}C\right)^{-1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \left(D - CA^{-1}B\right)^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & -BD^{-1} \\ -CA^{-1} & \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix}$$

Applying the above to  $A = \frac{a_1^2}{\lambda_{11}}$ ,  $B = \boldsymbol{a}_{-1} - \frac{a_1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1$ ,  $C = -B^T$ ,  $D = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{-1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1$  we see that the right hand side of A.8 can be rewrittn further

$$(A.12) \qquad = \widetilde{y}^2 \left( \frac{a_1^2}{\lambda_{11}} + \left( -\boldsymbol{a}_{-1} + \frac{a_1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1 \right) \left( \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{-1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1 \right)^{-1} \left( -\boldsymbol{a}_{-1}^T + \frac{a_1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T \right) \right)^{-1} = \\ = \widetilde{y}^2 + \left( \boldsymbol{a} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} & \boldsymbol{0} \\ \boldsymbol{0} & \boldsymbol{0} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1 \\ -\boldsymbol{I} \end{pmatrix} \left( \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{-1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1 \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_{11}} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_1^T & -\boldsymbol{I} \right) \right) \boldsymbol{a}^T \right)^{-1}$$

It suffices to observe that the quadratic form in a in the expression above equals  $\Sigma$ . Indeed this follows from the formula A.9 applied to  $\Sigma = \Lambda^{-1}$ .