

[Scipy.org \(http://scipy.org/\)](http://scipy.org/)
[Docs \(http://docs.scipy.org/\)](http://docs.scipy.org/)

[SciPy v0.14.0 Reference Guide \(../index.html\)](#)
[Statistical functions \(**scipy.stats**\) \(../stats.html\)](#)

[index \(../genindex.html\)](#)
[modules \(../py-modindex.html\)](#)
[next \(scipy.stats.bernoulli.html\)](#)

[previous \(scipy.stats.wrapcauchy.html\)](#)

scipy.stats.multivariate_normal

scipy.stats.multivariate_normal = <scipy.stats._multivariate.multivariate_normal_gen object at 0x2b45d3298990> [source]

[\(http://github.com/scipy/scipy/blob/v0.14.0/scipy/stats/_multivariate.py\)](http://github.com/scipy/scipy/blob/v0.14.0/scipy/stats/_multivariate.py)

A multivariate normal random variable.

The *mean* keyword specifies the mean. The *cov* keyword specifies the covariance matrix.

New in version 0.14.0.

Parameters: *x* : *array_like*

Quantiles, with the last axis of *x* denoting the components.

mean : *array_like, optional*

Mean of the distribution (default zero)

cov : *array_like, optional*

Covariance matrix of the distribution (default one)

Alternatively, the object may be called (as a function) to fix the mean and covariance parameters, returning a “frozen” multivariate normal random variable:

rv = **multivariate_normal**(mean=None, scale=1)

- Frozen object with the same methods but holding the given mean and covariance fixed.

Notes

Setting the parameter *mean* to *None* is equivalent to having *mean* be the zero-vector. The parameter *cov* can be a scalar, in which case the covariance matrix is the identity times that value, a vector of diagonal entries for the covariance matrix, or a two-dimensional *array_like*.

The covariance matrix *cov* must be a (symmetric) positive semi-definite matrix. The determinant and inverse of *cov* are computed as the pseudo-determinant and pseudo-inverse, respectively, so that *cov* does not need to have full rank.

The probability density function for *multivariate_normal* is

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k \det \Sigma}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu) \right),$$

where μ is the mean, Σ the covariance matrix, and k is the dimension of the space where x takes values.

Examples

```
>>> from scipy.stats import multivariate_normal
>>> x = np.linspace(0, 5, 10, endpoint=False)
>>> y = multivariate_normal.pdf(x, mean=2.5, cov=0.5); y
array([ 0.00108914,  0.01033349,  0.05946514,  0.20755375,  0.43939129,
        0.56418958,  0.43939129,  0.20755375,  0.05946514,  0.01033349])
>>> plt.plot(x, y)
```

The input quantiles can be any shape of array, as long as the last axis labels the components. This allows us for instance to display the frozen pdf for a non-isotropic random variable in 2D as follows:

```
>>> x, y = np.mgrid[-1:1:.01, -1:1:.01]
>>> pos = np.empty(x.shape + (2,))
>>> pos[:, :, 0] = x; pos[:, :, 1] = y
>>> rv = multivariate_normal([0.5, -0.2], [[2.0, 0.3], [0.3, 0.5]])
>>> plt.contourf(x, y, rv.pdf(pos))
```

Methods

<code>pdf(x, mean=None, cov=1)</code>	Probability density function.
<code>logpdf(x, mean=None, cov=1)</code>	Log of the probability density function.
<code>rvs(mean=None, cov=1)</code>	Draw random samples from a multivariate normal distribution.
<code>entropy()</code>	Compute the differential entropy of the multivariate normal.

Previous topic

[scipy.stats.wrapcauchy \(scipy.stats.wrapcauchy.html\)](#)

Next topic

[scipy.stats.bernoulli \(scipy.stats.bernoulli.html\)](#)