## Gaussian estimates

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ABSTRACT. Maximal function! An attempt! A good attempt! I hope!

### 1. The Mehler kernel and friends

**1.1. Notation.** To begin, let us fix some notation. As is common, we use N to represent a positive integer. That is,  $N \in \mathbb{Z}_+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ . In the same way we cast letters that denote the number of dimensions, e.g. d in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  as positive integers.

We use the capital letter T to denote a "time" endpoint, for instance, when writing t in (0, T].

**1.2. Setting.** Given the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck operator *L* defined as:

$$(1) L = -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + x \cdot \nabla,$$

We define the Mehler kernel (see e.g., Sjögren [4]) as the Schwartz kernel associated to the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck semigroup  $(e^{-tL})_t$ . More precisely, this means:

(2) 
$$e^{-tL}u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} M_t(x,\cdot)u \, d\gamma.$$

It is often more convenient to use  $e^{-t^2L}$  instead of  $e^{-tL}$  as is done in e.g., Portal [3] and we will also do so.

**1.3. The Mehler kernel.** For the computation of the Mehler kernel in (2) we refer to e.g., Sjögren [4] which additionally offers related results such as those concerning Hermite polynomials.

If one observes that the kernel  $M_{t^2}$  is symmetric in its arguments, a useful expression is:

(3) 
$$M_{t^2}(x,y) = \frac{\exp\left(-e^{-t^2} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1 - e^{-2t^2}}\right)}{(1 - e^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \frac{\exp\left(e^{-t^2} \frac{|x|^2 + |y|^2}{1 + e^{-t^2}}\right)}{(1 + e^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}}.$$

## 2. Some fine lemmata and definitions

**2.1.** *m***inimal function.** We recall the lemma from [1, lemma 2.3] which first, –although implicitly– appeared in [2]. It will be convenient to define a function m as:

$$m(x) := \min\left\{1, \frac{1}{|x|}\right\} = 1 \lor \frac{1}{|x|}.$$

1. Lemma. Let a, A be strictly positive numbers. We have for x, y in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  that:

(1) If 
$$|x - y| < At$$
 and  $t \le am(x)$ , then  $t \le (1 + aA)m(y)$ ;

(2) Likewise, if |x-y| < Am(x), then  $m(x) \le (1+A)m(y)$  and  $m(y) \le 2(1+A)m(y)$ A)m(x).

We rewrite this lemma using the Gaussian cone  $\Gamma_{r}^{(A,a)}$ . Recall that:

(4) 
$$\Gamma_x^{(A,a)} := \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}(\gamma) := \{ (y,t) \in \mathbf{R}_+^d : |x-y| < At \text{ and } t \le am(x) \}.$$

We will also write  $\Gamma_r^a$  to mean  $\Gamma_r^{(1,a)}$ . So we can infer from Lemma 1 that:

- 2. Lemma. Let a, A be strictly positive numbers. Then:
- (1) If  $(y, t) \in \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$  then  $t \leq (1 + aA)m(y)$ ; (2) If  $(y, t) \in \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$  then  $(x, t) \in \Gamma_y^{(1+aA,a)}$ .

We will use a global/local region dichotomy which we define as follows.

1. Definition. Given  $\tau > 0$ , the set  $N_{\tau}$  is given as:

(5) 
$$N_{\tau}(x) := N_{\tau} := \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^{2d} : |x - y| \le \tau m(x)\}.$$

Sometimes it is easier to work with the set  $N_{\tau}(B)$ , which is given for  $B := B_r(y)$  as:

(6) 
$$N_{\tau}(B) := \{ y \in \mathbf{R}^d : |x - y| \le \tau m(x) \}.$$

When we partition the space into  $N_{\tau}$  and its complement, we call the part belonging to  $N_{\tau}$ the local region and the part belonging to  $CN_{\tau}$  the global region.

The set  $t \leq am(x)$  is used in the definition of the cones  $\Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$  and we will name it  $D^a$ , that is:

(7) 
$$D^{a} := \{(x, t) \in \mathbf{R}^{d}_{+} : t \leq am(x)\}.$$

We will write  $D := D^1$  for simplicity.

The next lemma will come useful when we want to cancel exponential growth in one variable with exponential decay in the other as long both variables are in a Gaussian cone.

3. Lemma. Let  $(y,t) \in \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$ . Then the Gaussians in x and y respectively are comparable. In particular this means that,

$$e^{-|x|^2} \simeq e^{-|y|^2}$$
.

REMARK. More precisely, from the proof we get the estimates (8) and (9). That is:

$$e^{-|x|^2} \le e^{(1+aA)^2-1}e^{-|y|^2}$$

and,

$$e^{-|y|^2} \le e^{(1+aA)^2} e^{2(1+aA)} e^{-|x|^2}$$
.

PROOF. Let  $(y, t) \in \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$ . Unwrapping the definition we have

$$|x - y| < At$$
 and  $t \le am(x)$ .

Hence, by the inverse triangle inequality we get

$$|y|^{2} \le (aAm(x) + |x|)^{2}$$

$$= (aA)^{2} + 2aAm(x)|x| + |x|^{2}$$

$$\le (aA)^{2} + 2aA + |x|^{2}.$$

Therefore,

(8) 
$$e^{-|y|^2} \ge e^{-(aA)^2} e^{-2aA} e^{-|x|^2}.$$

By Lemma 1 we have  $t \leq (1 + aA)m(y)$ 

$$|x|^{2} \le ((1+aA)m(y)+|y|)^{2}$$

$$= ((1+aA)m(y))^{2} + 2(1+aA)m(y)|y|+|y|^{2}$$

$$\le (1+aA)^{2} + 2(1+aA) + |y|^{2}.$$

Therefore,

(9) 
$$e^{-|x|^2} \ge e^{-(1+aA)^2} e^{-2(1+aA)} e^{-|y|^2}.$$

Summarizing we thus have that,

$$e^{-|x|^2} \simeq e^{-|y|^2}$$

as required.

4. Lemma. Let x, y and z in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Set

$$\tau = \frac{1}{2}(1 + 2aA)(1 + aA).$$

If  $|y-z| > \tau m(y)$  (i.e.,  $(y,z) \notin N_{\tau}$ ) and  $(y,t) \in \Gamma_{x}^{(A,a)}$  then  $|x-z| > \frac{1}{2}m(x)$  (i.e.,  $(x,z) \notin N_{\frac{1}{2}}$ ).

PROOF. We assume that  $(y,z) \notin N_{\tau}$  and  $(y,t) \in \Gamma_x^{(A,a)}$ . Written out this gives by (5) the inequality  $|y-z| > \tau m(y)$ , and by (4) the inequality |x-y| < aAm(x). Note that the latter inequality together with Lemma 1 yields,

(10) 
$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{1+aA} m(y) \le m(x) \le (1+aA)m(y).$$

Combining we get |x - y| < aA(1 + aA)m(y). Now we are in position to apply the triangle inequality:

$$|x - z| \ge |y - z| - |x - y| > \tau m(y) - aA(1 + aA)m(y).$$

As we require an lower bound in terms of m(x) and not m(y), we again apply (10) to obtain:

$$\begin{split} |x-z| \geqslant |y-z| - |x-y| &> \tau m(y) - aAm(y) \\ &\geqslant \tau \frac{1}{1+aA} m(x) - aAm(x) \\ &\geqslant \frac{1}{2} m(x). \end{split}$$

So we are done.

# 3. On-diagonal estimates

- **3.1. Kernel estimates.** We begin with a technical lemma which will be useful on several occasions.
  - 5. Lemma. Let t in (0, T] and  $\alpha > 1$ . Then,

(11) 
$$\alpha e^{-T^2} \leqslant \frac{1 - e^{-t^2}}{1 - e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} \leqslant \alpha.$$

PROOF. Let t in (0, T] and  $\alpha > 1$ . Applying the mean value theorem to the function  $f(\xi) = \xi^{\alpha}$  gives, for  $0 < \xi < \xi'$ :

$$f(\xi) - f(\xi') = \alpha \hat{\xi}^{\alpha - 1}(\xi - \xi')$$
 for some  $\hat{\xi}$  in  $[\xi, \xi']$ .

Picking  $\xi = 1$  and  $\xi' = e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}$  gives:

(12) 
$$\frac{1 - e^{-t^2}}{1 - e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} = \alpha \hat{\xi}^{\alpha - 1} \text{ for some } \hat{\xi} \text{ in } [e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}, 1].$$

Applying this result together with the monotonicity of  $\xi \mapsto \alpha \xi^{\alpha-1}$  we get:

$$\alpha e^{-T^2} \le \alpha e^{-t^2} \le \alpha \exp\left(-t^2 \frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha}\right) \le \frac{1 - e^{-t^2}}{1 - e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}}.$$

Hence,

$$\alpha e^{-T^2} \leqslant \frac{1 - e^{-t^2}}{1 - e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}} \downarrow \alpha.$$

Which completes the proof.

The following lemma will be useful when transfering estimates from  $M_{\frac{t^2}{a}}$  to  $M_{t^2}$ . It follows from the mean value theorem applied to  $\xi \mapsto \xi^{\alpha}$ .

6. Lemma. For  $C, T > 0, \alpha > 1$ , t in (0, T] and all x, y in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  we have that

(13) 
$$\exp\left(-C\frac{|x-y|^2}{1 - e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right) \le \exp\left(-C\frac{\alpha}{e^{T^2}}\frac{|x-y|^2}{1 - e^{-t^2}}\right).$$

PROOF. Let t in (0, T]. Applying Lemma 5 we get:

$$\exp\left(-C\frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right) \leqslant \exp\left(-C\frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\frac{1-e^{-t^2}}{1-e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right) \leqslant \exp\left(-C\frac{\alpha}{e^{T^2}}\frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right).$$

Which is as asserted.

Later on we will study kernel estimates of kernels related to the Mehler kernel, but our first lemma is about estimating  $M_{\frac{t}{2}}$  in terms of  $M_t$ .

7. LEMMA. Let  $\alpha \ge 2e^{T^2}$ , t in (0,T] and x,y in  $\mathbf{R}^d$ . If  $t|x| \lesssim 1$  and  $t|y| \lesssim 1$  then:

(14) 
$$M_{\frac{t^2}{a}}(x,y) \lesssim \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right) M_{t^2}(x,y),$$

where the implied constant does not depend on x, y and t.

REMARK. If *C* is the positive constant such that  $t|x| \le C$  and  $t|y| \le C$  then the proof gives that the implied constant is bounded from above by  $\alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} e^{\frac{\alpha}{2}C^2}$ .

PROOF. To prove the lemma we compute  $M_{\frac{t^2}{a}}M_{t^2}^{-1}$ . First note that dividing the time-parts by (11) gives the upper-bound  $\alpha^{\frac{d}{2}}$ . Furthermore, we can verify that

$$\frac{1}{1+e^{-t^2}}-\frac{1}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}}\geqslant 0.$$

Also,

$$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right)\exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{1}{1+e^{-t^2}} - \frac{1}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right]|x+y|^2\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{t^2}\left[\frac{1}{1+e^{-t^2}} - \frac{1}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right]t^2|x+y|^2\right).$$

Next, as the inner most function is decreasing,

$$\lim_{t \to 0} \frac{1}{t^2} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + e^{-t^2}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} \right] = \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{1}{2t} \left[ \frac{2te^{-t^2}}{(1 + e^{-t^2})^2} - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{2te^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}}{(1 + e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}})^2} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{t \to 0} \left[ \frac{e^{-t^2}}{(1 + e^{-t^2})^2} - \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}}{(1 + e^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}})^2} \right]$$

$$\uparrow \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha} \right).$$

So that

$$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right)\exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(\frac{1}{8}\left(1-\frac{1}{a}\right)t^2|x+y|^2\right)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|x|^2\right)\exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|y|^2\right).$$

So using Lemma 6 and equation (13) we get

$$\begin{split} \frac{M_{\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}(x,y)}{M_{t^2}(x,y)} &\leqslant \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}} \right) \exp \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{|x+y|^2}{1+\mathrm{e}^{t^2}} \right) \\ &\times \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|x+y|^2}{1+\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} \right) \\ &\leqslant \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} \exp \left( \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2\mathrm{e}^{T^2}} \right] \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha}{2\mathrm{e}^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}} \right) \\ &\times \exp \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{|x+y|^2}{1+\mathrm{e}^{t^2}} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|x+y|^2}{1+\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}} \right). \end{split}$$

Thus that,

$$\begin{split} \frac{M_{\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}(x,y)}{M_{t^2}(x,y)} & \leq \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}}\right] \frac{|x-y|^2}{1 - e^{-t^2}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1 - e^{-t^2}}\right) \\ & \times \exp\left(t^2 \frac{|x|^2 + |y|^2}{4}\right). \end{split}$$

For  $\alpha \ge 2e^{T^2}$  we then obtain:

$$\frac{M_{\frac{t^2}{a}}(x,y)}{M_{t^2}(x,y)} \le \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right) \exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|x|^2\right) \exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|y|^2\right).$$

From  $t|x| \lesssim 1$  and  $t|y| \lesssim 1$  we infer that there exists a positive constant C such that  $t|x| \leqslant C$  and  $t|y| \leqslant C$ .

$$\frac{M_{\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}(x,y)}{M_{t^2}(x,y)} \leqslant \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} e^{\frac{C^2}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right).$$

Which is as asserted.

Remark. More precisely we have the estimate:

$$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-\frac{t^2}{a}}}\right)\exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{|x+y|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right) \\ \leq \exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|x|^2\right)\exp\left(\frac{1}{4}t^2|y|^2\right)\exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{a}\frac{1}{8}|x+y|^2\right).$$

Which then produces:

$$\frac{M_{\frac{t^2}{\alpha}}(x,y)}{M_{t^2}(x,y)} \leqslant \alpha^{\frac{d}{2}} e^{\frac{C^2}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2e^{T^2}} \frac{|x-y|^2}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{\alpha} \frac{|x+y|^2}{8}\right).$$

**3.2.** On-diagonal kernel estimates on annuli. As is common in harmonic analysis, we often wish to decompose  $\mathbf{R}^d$  into sets on which certain phenomena are easier to handle. Thus we will decompose the space into annuli  $C_k$ . We will write  $B:=B_t(x)$  and assume that B is the closed ball with center x and radius t. Recall that 2B is the ball obtain from B by multiplying its radius by a.

The  $C_k$  are given by,

(15) 
$$C_k(B) := C_k = \begin{cases} 2B & \text{if } k = 0, \\ 2^{k+1}B \setminus 2^k B & \text{for } k \ge 1. \end{cases}$$

So, whenever  $\xi$  is in  $C_k$ , we get for  $k \ge 1$ :

(16) 
$$2^{k}at < |y - \xi| \le 2^{k+1}at.$$

While we get for k = 0:

$$(17) |y - \xi| \le 2at.$$

8. Lemma. Given a > 0, let  $B = B_{at}(y)$  and  $\xi$  in  $C_k$ . Furthermore, assume that  $t \le aAm(y)$  for some A > 0. Then we have for  $k \ge 1$ :

$$M_{t^2}(y,\xi) \le \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{a^2}{2}4^{k+1}\right) \exp\left(2^{k+1}at|y|\right).$$

and for k = 0:

$$M_{t^2}(y,\xi) \leqslant \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp(2^{k+1}at|y|).$$

PROOF. Let  $B = B_{at}(y)$  and let  $C_k$  be as in (15). We consider the two exponentials in the Mehler kernel (3) separately. First we consider

$$\exp\left(e^{-t^2}\frac{|y|^2+|\xi|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right).$$

Using the triangle inequality we note that:

(18) 
$$|\xi|^2 \le |y - \xi|^2 + |y|^2 + 2|y - \xi||y|.$$

Next, note that

$$\frac{e^{-t^2}}{1 + e^{-t^2}} \leqslant \frac{1}{2}.$$

Together with (18) this gives for  $k \ge 1$ 

$$\exp\left(e^{-t^2} \frac{|y|^2 + |\xi|^2}{1 + e^{-t^2}}\right) \le \exp\left(e^{-t^2} \frac{|y - \xi|^2}{1 + e^{-t^2}}\right) \exp(|y - \xi||y|) \exp(|y|^2)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{(i)}}{\le} \exp\left(e^{-t^2} \frac{|y - \xi|^2}{1 + e^{-t^2}}\right) \exp(2^{k+1}at|y|) \exp(|y|^2)$$

Where (i) uses (16) or (17). Next we consider the exponential:

$$\exp\left(e^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right).$$

Combining this with the first exponential in the Mehler kernel (3) we get:

$$\begin{split} \exp\!\left(-e^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1-e^{-2t^2}}\right) &\exp\!\left(e^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\right) \\ &\leqslant \exp\!\left(-e^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\left[\frac{1}{1-e^{-t^2}}-1\right]\right) \\ &\leqslant \exp\!\left(-e^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1+e^{-t^2}}\left[\frac{1}{1-e^{-t^2}}-\frac{1-e^{-t^2}}{1-e^{-t^2}}\right]\right) \\ &\leqslant \exp\!\left(-e^{-2t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1-e^{-2t^2}}\right). \end{split}$$

Using (16) or (17) we get:

$$\exp\left(-e^{-2t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1-e^{-2t^2}}\right) \le \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k=0, \\ \exp\left(-\frac{a^2}{2e^{2t^2}}4^{k+1}\right) & \text{if } k \ge 1. \end{cases}$$

Using the assumption that  $t \leq aAm(y)$  gives that

$$\exp\left(-\frac{a^2}{2e^{2t^2}}4^{k+1}\right) \le \exp\left(-\frac{a^2}{2e^{2a^2A^2}}4^{k+1}\right).$$

Combining we get for the Mehler kernel (3):

$$M_{t^2}(y,\xi) \leqslant \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp(2^{k+1}at|y|)$$
  
 $\leqslant \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp(2^{k+1}a^2A).$ 

This inequality together with

$$\frac{t^2}{1 - e^{-2t^2}} \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$$

yields,

$$\exp\biggl(-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1-\mathrm{e}^{-2t^2}}\biggr)\exp\biggl(-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}\frac{|y-\xi|^2}{1+\mathrm{e}^{-t^2}}\biggr)\leqslant \exp\biggl(-\frac{a^2}{2\mathrm{e}^{2t^2}}4^{k+1}\biggr).$$

Thus, we can estimate the Mehler kernel  $M_{t^2}$  on  $C_k$  for  $k \ge 1$  from above by:

$$M_{t^2}(y,\xi) \leqslant \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{a^2}{2}4^{k+1}\right) \exp\left(2^{k+1}at|y|\right).$$

We are left with the case k = 0, which can be done similarly and yields:

$$M_{t^2}(y,\xi) \leqslant \frac{\mathrm{e}^{|y|^2}}{(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t^2})^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp(2^{k+1}at|y|).$$

Done.

### 3.3. The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck maximal function.

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