

Let $f(z) = x - z$

$$\therefore f'(z) = -1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d((x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu))}{d\mu} &= \frac{d(f(\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} f(\mu))}{d\mu} \\ &= \frac{d(f(\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} f(a))}{d\mu} + \frac{d(f(a)^T \Sigma^{-1} f(\mu))}{d\mu} \end{aligned}$$

($a = \mu$, dummy variable for product rule)

$$= \frac{d((\Sigma^{-1} f(a))^T f(\mu))}{d\mu} + f(\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} * -1$$

$$= -(\Sigma^{-1} f(\mu))^T - f(\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}$$

$$= -f(\mu)^T ((\Sigma^{-1})^T + \Sigma^{-1})$$

$$= -(x - \mu)^T ((\Sigma^{-1})^T + \Sigma^{-1})$$

Is this the chain rule?

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{t}} f(g(\mathbf{t})) = \nabla f(g(\mathbf{t}))^T \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{t}}$$

where g is a vector-valued function and f is a vector-to-scalar function.

Sources: <http://math.stackexchange.com/questions/20694/vector-derivative-w-r-t-its-transpose-frac{d}{d\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{x}^T>
http://www.cs.rochester.edu/~gildea/2013_Spring/Notes/csc446multivar_review_notes.pdf