

## **Empirical Normal**

## 1 Why

What is a reasonable normal density to associate with some data?

## 2 Definition

Let  $x^1, \ldots, x^n$  be a dataset in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . The *empirical mean* of the dataset is

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} x^k.$$

The *empirical covariance* of the dataset is

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x^k - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} x^k) (x^k - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} x^k)^{\top}.$$

The *empirical normal* associated with the dataset is the normal density whose mean is the empirical mean and whose covariance is the empirical

