

Evaluation of the translated multidimensional Gaussian integral

$$\mathcal{I}[A, \bar{b}] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n x \, e^{-\frac{1}{2} \bar{x}^t A \bar{x} + \bar{x}^t \cdot \bar{b}}$$

We want to try the same strategy employed in the 1 dimensional case, so we begin by finding the stationary point of the exponent:

$$\nabla_{\bar{x}} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \bar{x}^t A \bar{x} + \bar{x}^t \cdot \bar{b} \right) = 0$$

Considering a generic component of the gradient:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{x_k} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j A_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum_i x_i b_i \right) &= \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j A_{ij} (x_i \delta_{jk} + x_j \delta_{ik}) + \sum_i \delta_{ik} b_i = -\frac{1}{2} \left[\sum_i A_{ik} x_i + \sum_j A_{kj} x_j \right] + b_k = \\ &= \text{Due to } A \text{ symmetry } A_{kj} = A_{jk} = -\frac{1}{2} \left[2 \sum_i A_{ik} x_i \right] + b_k = -\sum_i A_{ik} x_i + b_k \end{aligned}$$

So that one has:

$$\nabla_{\bar{x}} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \bar{x}^t A \bar{x} + \bar{x}^t \cdot \bar{b} \right) = -A \bar{x} + \bar{b} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \bar{x} = A^{-1} \bar{b}$$

A is invertible, given the fact that $\det A \neq 0$

So, we propose the following change of variable:

$$\bar{y} = \bar{x} - A^{-1} \bar{b} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \bar{x} = \bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b}$$

And that will give us:

$$\mathcal{I}[A, \bar{b}] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n x \, e^{-\frac{1}{2} \bar{x}^t A \bar{x} + \bar{x}^t \cdot \bar{b}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \, \left| \frac{\partial \bar{x}}{\partial \bar{y}} \right| e^{-\frac{1}{2} (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b})^t A (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b}) + (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b})^t \cdot \bar{b}}$$

One can see that the determinant of the Jacobian is 1. This is also obvious if we consider that the change we made is a translation.

Continuing we have:

$$\mathcal{I}[A, \bar{b}] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \, e^{-\frac{1}{2} (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b})^t A (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b}) + (\bar{y} + A^{-1} \bar{b})^t \cdot \bar{b}} =$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t + \bar{b}^t A^{-t}] A (\tilde{y} + A \bar{b}) + [\tilde{y}^t + \bar{b}^t A^{-t}] \cdot \bar{b}} =$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t + \bar{b}^t A^{-t}] (A \tilde{y} + \bar{b}) + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-t} \bar{b}} =$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y} + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-t} A \tilde{y} + \bar{b}^t A^{-t} \bar{b}] + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-t} \bar{b}} =$$

We used

$$[A+B]^t = A^t + B^t$$

$$[AB]^t = B^t A^t$$

Before continuing we make the following observation: the inverse of a symmetric matrix is itself symmetric, so in our calculation we can simplify greatly by considering that $(A^{-1})^t = A^{-1}$. So we apply this simplification and obtain:

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y} + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} A \tilde{y} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}] + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} =$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y} + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t \tilde{y} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}] + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} =$$

Note that $\bar{b}^t \tilde{y} = \tilde{y}^t \bar{b}$ by the dot product commutativity

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y} + 2 \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}] + \tilde{y}^t \bar{b} + \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} =$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} \tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y} + \frac{1}{2} \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} = e^{\frac{1}{2} \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} d^n y \quad e^{-\frac{1}{2} \tilde{y}^t A \tilde{y}} = e^{\frac{1}{2} \bar{b}^t A^{-1} \bar{b}} \mathcal{I}[A, \bar{b}]$$

□