

# More on Probability

## Random Vectors

ROB 501

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- Random Vectors
  - Covariance matrices
- Multi-variate Normal Distribution
- BLUE: Best Linear Unbiased Estimator
- (if time) QR decomposition

$$Q = E((X - m)(X - m)^T)$$

If we have two random variables  $X_1, X_2$  s.t.

$E(X_1 X_2) = 0$ , we call  $X_1, X_2$  to be uncorrelated.

Covariance matrix examples:

$$1) Q = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow Q^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{10} & 0 \\ 0 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$2) Q = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\Theta^T}_{\Sigma} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 &= 4 & \lambda_1 &= 3 \\ \lambda_1 \lambda_2 &= 3 & \lambda_2 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Sigma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Define a new random vector by

$$\underline{Y} = \underline{\Theta} \cdot X = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 + X_2 \\ X_1 - X_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} Y_1 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (X_1 + X_2) \\ Y_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (X_1 - X_2) \end{aligned}$$

Assume  $m = E(\underline{X}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$E(Y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} E(X_1) + E(X_2) \\ E(X_1) - E(X_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Cov}(Y) = E((Y - m_Y)(Y - m_Y)^T)$$

\*Expected value operator is a linear operator.  
 $E(Y_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (E(X_1) + E(X_2))$   
 $\quad \quad \quad = 0$   
 $E(Y_2) = 0$

$$= E(YY^T)$$

$$= E(\Theta \cancel{XX^T} \Theta^T) = \Theta \underbrace{E(XX^T)}_Q \Theta^T$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

↓  
lower uncertainty  
in  $Y_2$  than  $Y_1$

$$m_Y = \begin{bmatrix} E(Y_1) \\ E(Y_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q = \Theta^T \Sigma \Theta$$

$$\Theta Q = \Sigma \Theta$$

$$\Theta Q \Theta^T = \Sigma$$

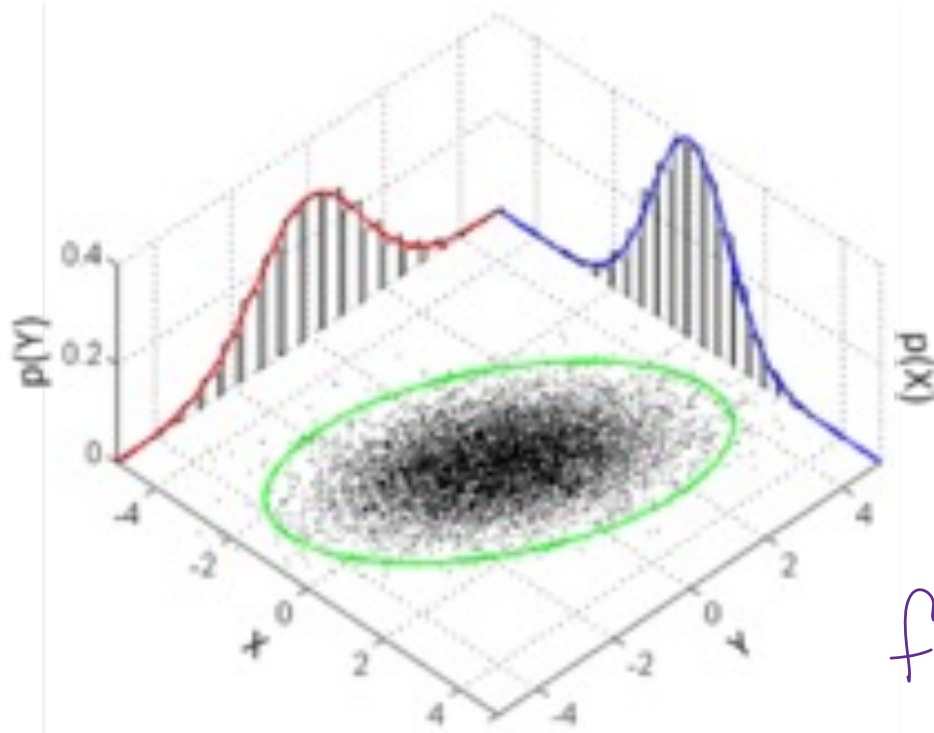
With slight abuse of terminology, let's define the variance of a random vector  $X$

$$\text{var}(X) = E((X - m_X)^T (X - m_X)) = E(\|X - m_X\|_2^2)$$

$$= E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - m_{x_i})(x_i - m_{x_i})\right)$$

$$= \text{tr}(Q)$$

$$Q = E((X - m)(X - m)^T)$$

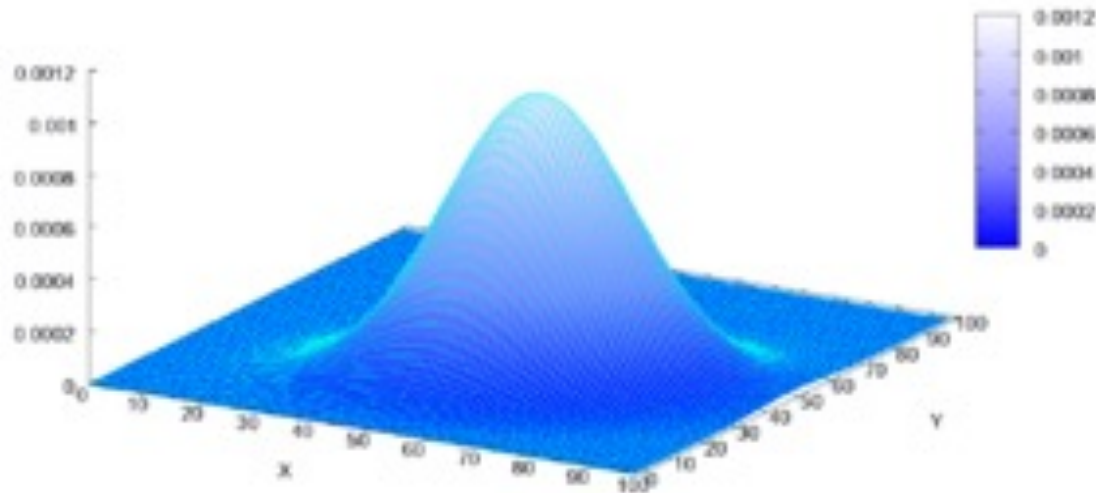


Multivariate Normal Distribution

k-dimensional Gaussian

$$\left( -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{X} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{X} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right)$$

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k \det(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})}} e$$



# From: [https://proofwiki.org/wiki/Variance\\_of\\_Gaussian\\_Distribution/Proof\\_1](https://proofwiki.org/wiki/Variance_of_Gaussian_Distribution/Proof_1)

From the definition of the [Gaussian distribution](#),  $X$  has [probability density function](#):

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

From [Variance as Expectation of Square minus Square of Expectation](#):

$$\text{var}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 f_X(x) \, dx - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$$

So:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(X) &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) dx - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sqrt{2}\sigma t + \mu)^2 \exp(-t^2) dt - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( 2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 \exp(-t^2) dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t \exp(-t^2) dt + \mu^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) dt \right) - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( 2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 \exp(-t^2) dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \exp(-t^2) \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \mu^2 \sqrt{\pi} \right) - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( 2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 \exp(-t^2) dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \cdot 0 \right) + \mu^2 - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 \exp(-t^2) dt \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \left[ -\frac{t}{2} \exp(-t^2) \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) dt \right) \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) dt \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2 \sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \\ &= \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

[Expectation of Gaussian Distribution](#)

[substituting](#)  $t = \frac{x-\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}$

[Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Gaussian Integral](#)

[Exponential Tends to Zero and Infinity](#)

[Integration by Parts](#)

[Exponential Tends to Zero and Infinity](#)

[Gaussian Integral](#)

# BLUE: Best Linear Unbiased Estimator

Recap: on non-stochastic setting:

Underdetermined case:

$$y = Cx \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

rows are linearly indep.

$n > m$ .

Given weight matrix  $S > 0$ ,  $\|x\|_S^2 = x^T S x$

$$\left( \hat{x} := \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|x\|_S^2 \right. \\ \left. \text{s.t. } y = Cx \right) = S^{-1} C^T (C S^{-1} C^T)^{-1} y$$

cols are lin. indep

Overdetermined case:

$$y = Cx + e \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^n, y \in \mathbb{R}^m \\ m > n$$

$S > 0$

$$\left( \hat{x} := \arg \min_{\substack{e \in \mathbb{R}^m, x \in \mathbb{R}^n}} \|e\|_S^2 \right. \\ \left. \text{s.t. } y = Cx + e \right) = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|y - Cx\|_S^2 \\ = (C^T S C)^{-1} C^T S y$$

Back to BLUE:

Goal: Given a stochastic noise model, we will find out how to choose the weight

matrix in an overdetermined setting ( $m > n$ )  
s.t. the resulting estimator has some  
nice properties.

$$y = Cx + \varepsilon, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

Noise model: Assume  $\varepsilon$  is a R.V. with  
 $m = E(\varepsilon) = 0$ ,  $\underline{Q} = \text{cov}(\varepsilon) > 0$ .

$x$  is unknown constant, no probabilistic  
model for  $x$ .

Want to find a linear estimator:  $\hat{x} = Ky$   
 $\swarrow$   
 $K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

Unbiased estimator:  $E(\hat{x}) = x$

Best in terms of minimizing the  
variance  
$$\text{var}(\hat{x}) = E((\hat{x} - m_{\hat{x}})^T (\hat{x} - m_{\hat{x}}))$$

since, we want  $\underbrace{E(\hat{x})}_{m_{\hat{x}}} = x$

$$\text{var}(\hat{x}) = E((\hat{x} - x)^T (\hat{x} - x))$$

we want linear estimator:  $\hat{x} = Ky = K(Cx + \varepsilon)$

\*  $\hat{x} - x = KCx + K\varepsilon - x$

→ To have  $E(\hat{x}) = x \Rightarrow E(\hat{x}) = E(KCx + K\varepsilon)$   
 $= KCx + \cancel{KE(\varepsilon)}^0$   
 $= KCx$

To have  $E(\hat{x}) = x \Rightarrow \underline{KC = I}$

↳ guarantees unbiasedness

\* becomes

→ for  $KC = I$ ,  $\hat{x} - x = K\varepsilon$

$$\text{var}(\hat{x}) = E((K\varepsilon)^T K\varepsilon)$$

$$= E(\text{tr}((K\varepsilon)(K\varepsilon)^T))$$

$$= E(\text{tr}(K\varepsilon\varepsilon^T K^T))$$

$$= \text{tr}(K \underbrace{E(\varepsilon\varepsilon^T)} K^T)$$

$$\varepsilon^T K^T K \varepsilon = \text{tr}(K\varepsilon(K\varepsilon)^T)$$

$$\boxed{x^T x = \text{tr}(x x^T)}$$

trace is a linear operator  
→ expectation



$$= \text{tr}(K Q K^T)$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \text{find } \hat{K} = \underset{K}{\text{argmin}} \text{tr}(K Q K^T) \\ \text{s.t. } K C = I \end{array}}$$

Theorem: Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $y = Cx + \varepsilon$ ,  
 $E(\varepsilon) = 0$ ,  $E(\varepsilon \varepsilon^T) = Q > 0$ , and  $\text{rank}(C) = n$ .  
 Then, the BLUE is  $x = \hat{K} y$  where

$$\hat{K} = (C^T Q^{-1} C)^{-1} C^T Q^{-1}$$

Moreover, the covariance of the error is

$$E((\hat{x} - x)(\hat{x} - x)^T) = (C^T Q^{-1} C)^{-1} = \hat{K} Q \hat{K}^T$$

Key observation:

BLUE  $\equiv$  Weighted least squares w/  
 (weight matrix)  $S = Q^{-1}$  (information matrix)

Proof:

$k_i$  is  $i$ th row of  $K$

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} k_1 \\ k_2 \\ \vdots \\ k_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{K} = \underset{K}{\operatorname{argmin}} \operatorname{tr}(KQK^T) \\ \text{s.t. } KC = I$$

$$K^T = [k_1^T \mid k_2^T \mid \dots \mid k_n^T]$$

$$\operatorname{tr}(KQK^T) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\begin{bmatrix} k_1 \\ k_2 \\ \vdots \\ k_n \end{bmatrix} Q \begin{bmatrix} k_1^T & k_2^T & \dots & k_n^T \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$= \operatorname{tr}\left(\begin{bmatrix} k_1 \\ k_2 \\ \vdots \\ k_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Qk_1^T & Qk_2^T & \dots & Qk_n^T \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n k_i Q k_i^T = \sum_{i=1}^n \|k_i\|_Q^2$$

objective function  
can be separated into a  
sum of functions of each  
 $k_i$

$$KC = I$$



$$C^T K^T = I \Leftrightarrow C^T [k_1^T | k_2^T | \dots | k_n^T] = I$$

$$\Leftrightarrow C^T k_i^T = e^i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n$$

↓  
i<sup>th</sup> col'n of  
the identity  
matrix

→ Since both the objective function and constraints are decomposed, we can solve  $n$  independent <sup>smaller</sup> optimization problems of the form:

$$\hat{k}_i^T = \operatorname{argmin} \|k_i^T\|_Q$$

$$\text{s.t. } C^T k_i^T = e^i$$

Minimum norm solution  
of an undetermined set  
of equations:

$$\Leftrightarrow \hat{k}_i^T = Q^{-1} C (C^T Q^{-1} C)^{-1} e^i$$