

Consider a sub-region  $\Omega$  of a  $D$ -dimensional space with surface  $\partial\Omega$ . Given a probability distribution  $P$  on this space, the probability mass within and volume of  $\Omega$  are respectively:

$$M = \int_{\Omega} P dV, \quad V = \int_{\Omega} dV \quad (1)$$

In the proof below we will need the following result: If we deform the region  $\Omega$  of integration of some function  $f$ , such that the surface moves by a small vector field  $\delta x$ , then the total integral variation can be expressed as a surface integral:

$$\delta \int_{\Omega} f dV = \int_{\partial\Omega} f \delta x \cdot dS \quad (2)$$

(this is a specification of Reynolds transport theorem/Leibniz integral rule).

We wish to prove that for a constant probability mass  $M$ , the minimum volume region  $\Omega$  has an iso-probability surface. Introducing a Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda$ , we consider the standard Lagrangian and differentiate

$$\mathcal{L} = V - \lambda M \quad (3)$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d\theta - \lambda \int_{\Omega} P(\theta) dV \quad (4)$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} 1 - \lambda P d\theta \quad (5)$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta \mathcal{L} = \int_{\partial\Omega} (1 - \lambda P(\theta)) \delta x \cdot dS \quad (6)$$

We therefore find if we wish this to be zero for arbitrary surface displacements  $\delta x$ , we require  $P = \lambda^{-1}$ , so that  $P$  is constant on the surface  $\partial\Omega$ .