

## tf.contrib.distributions.MultivariateNormalTriL

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Class **MultivariateNormalTriL**Defined in [tensorflow/contrib/distributions/python/ops/mvn\\_tril.py](#).See the guide: [Statistical Distributions \(contrib\)](#) > [Multivariate distributions](#)The multivariate normal distribution on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ .

The Multivariate Normal distribution is defined over  $\mathbb{R}^k$  and parameterized by a (batch of) length- $k$  `loc` vector (aka "mu") and a (batch of)  $k \times k$  `scale` matrix; `covariance = scale @ scale.T` where `@` denotes matrix-multiplication.

## Mathematical Details

The probability density function (pdf) is,

```
pdf(x; loc, scale) = exp(-0.5 ||y||**2) / Z,  
y = inv(scale) @ (x - loc),  
Z = (2 pi)**(0.5 k) |det(scale)|,
```

where:

- `loc` is a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,
- `scale` is a matrix in  $\mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ , `covariance = scale @ scale.T`,
- `Z` denotes the normalization constant, and,
- `||y||**2` denotes the squared Euclidean norm of `y`.

A (non-batch) `scale` matrix is:

```
scale = scale_tril
```

where `scale_tril` is lower-triangular  $k \times k$  matrix with non-zero diagonal, i.e., `tf.diag_part(scale_tril) != 0`.

Additional leading dimensions (if any) will index batches.

The MultivariateNormal distribution is a member of the [location-scale family](#), i.e., it can be constructed as,

```
X ~ MultivariateNormal(loc=0, scale=1)  # Identity scale, zero shift.  
Y = scale @ X + loc
```

Trainable (batch) lower-triangular matrices can be created with `ds.matrix_diag_transform()` and/or

```
ds.fill_triangular()
```

## Examples

```
ds = tf.contrib.distributions

# Initialize a single 3-variate Gaussian.
mu = [1., 2, 3]
cov = [[ 0.36,  0.12,  0.06],
        [ 0.12,  0.29, -0.13],
        [ 0.06, -0.13,  0.26]]
scale = tf.cholesky(cov)
# ==> [[ 0.6,  0. ,  0. ],
#      [ 0.2,  0.5,  0. ],
#      [ 0.1, -0.3,  0.4]]
mvn = ds.MultivariateNormalTriL(
    loc=mu,
    scale_tril=scale)

mvn.mean().eval()
# ==> [1., 2, 3]

# Covariance agrees with cholesky(cov) parameterization.
mvn.covariance().eval()
# ==> [[ 0.36,  0.12,  0.06],
#      [ 0.12,  0.29, -0.13],
#      [ 0.06, -0.13,  0.26]]

# Compute the pdf of an observation in `R^3` ; return a scalar.
mvn.prob([-1., 0, 1]).eval() # shape: []

# Initialize a 2-batch of 3-variate Gaussians.
mu = [[1., 2, 3],
      [11, 22, 33]] # shape: [2, 3]
tril = ... # shape: [2, 3, 3], lower triangular, non-zero diagonal.
mvn = ds.MultivariateNormalTriL(
    loc=mu,
    scale_tril=tril)

# Compute the pdf of two `R^3` observations; return a length-2 vector.
x = [[-0.9, 0, 0.1],
      [-10, 0, 9]] # shape: [2, 3]
mvn.prob(x).eval() # shape: [2]
```

## Properties

### allow\_nan\_stats

Python `bool` describing behavior when a stat is undefined.

Stats return +/- infinity when it makes sense. E.g., the variance of a Cauchy distribution is infinity. However, sometimes the statistic is undefined, e.g., if a distribution's pdf does not achieve a maximum within the support of the distribution, the mode is undefined. If the mean is undefined, then by definition the variance is undefined. E.g. the mean for Student's T for  $df = 1$  is undefined (no clear way to say it is either + or - infinity), so the variance =  $E[(X - \text{mean})^2]$  is also undefined.

Returns:

- `allow_nan_stats`: Python `bool`.

## batch\_shape

Shape of a single sample from a single event index as a `TensorShape` .

May be partially defined or unknown.

The batch dimensions are indexes into independent, non-identical parameterizations of this distribution.

Returns:

- `batch_shape` : `TensorShape` , possibly unknown.

## bijector

Function transforming  $x \Rightarrow y$ .

## distribution

Base distribution,  $p(x)$ .

## dtype

The `DType` of `Tensor` s handled by this `Distribution` .

## event\_shape

Shape of a single sample from a single batch as a `TensorShape` .

May be partially defined or unknown.

Returns:

- `event_shape` : `TensorShape` , possibly unknown.

## loc

The `loc` `Tensor` in  $Y = \text{scale} @ X + \text{loc}$  .

## name

Name prepended to all ops created by this `Distribution` .

## parameters

Dictionary of parameters used to instantiate this `Distribution` .

## reparameterization\_type

Describes how samples from the distribution are reparameterized.

Currently this is one of the static instances `distributions.FULLY_REPARAMETERIZED` or `distributions.NOT_REPARAMETERIZED` .

Returns:

An instance of `ReparameterizationType`.

## scale

The `scale` `LinearOperator` in  $Y = \text{scale} @ X + \text{loc}$ .

## validate\_args

Python `bool` indicating possibly expensive checks are enabled.

## Methods

---

### `__init__`

```
__init__(
    loc=None,
    scale_tril=None,
    validate_args=False,
    allow_nan_stats=True,
    name='MultivariateNormalTril'
)
```

Construct Multivariate Normal distribution on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ .

The `batch_shape` is the broadcast shape between `loc` and `scale` arguments.

The `event_shape` is given by last dimension of the matrix implied by `scale`. The last dimension of `loc` (if provided) must broadcast with this.

Recall that `covariance = scale @ scale.T`. A (non-batch) `scale` matrix is:

```
scale = scale_tril
```

where `scale_tril` is lower-triangular  $k \times k$  matrix with non-zero diagonal, i.e., `tf.diag_part(scale_tril) != 0`.

Additional leading dimensions (if any) will index batches.

Args:

- `loc`: Floating-point `Tensor`. If this is set to `None`, `loc` is implicitly `0`. When specified, may have shape `[B1, ..., Bb, k]` where `b >= 0` and `k` is the event size.
- `scale_tril`: Floating-point, lower-triangular `Tensor` with non-zero diagonal elements. `scale_tril` has shape `[B1, ..., Bb, k, k]` where `b >= 0` and `k` is the event size.
- `validate_args`: Python `bool`, default `False`. When `True` distribution parameters are checked for validity despite possibly degrading runtime performance. When `False` invalid inputs may silently render incorrect outputs.
- `allow_nan_stats`: Python `bool`, default `True`. When `True`, statistics (e.g., mean, mode, variance) use the value "NaN" to indicate the result is undefined. When `False`, an exception is raised if one or more of the statistic's batch members are undefined.
- `name`: Python `str` name prefixed to Ops created by this class.

Raises:

- `ValueError` : if neither `loc` nor `scale_tril` are specified.

## batch\_shape\_tensor

```
batch_shape_tensor(name='batch_shape_tensor')
```

Shape of a single sample from a single event index as a 1-D `Tensor` .

The batch dimensions are indexes into independent, non-identical parameterizations of this distribution.

Args:

- `name` : name to give to the op

Returns:

- `batch_shape` : `Tensor` .

## cdf

```
cdf(
    value,
    name='cdf'
)
```

Cumulative distribution function.

Given random variable `X` , the cumulative distribution function `cdf` is:

```
cdf(x) := P[X <= x]
```

Args:

- `value` : `float` or `double Tensor` .
- `name` : The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `cdf` : a `Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype` .

## copy

```
copy(**override_parameters_kwargs)
```

Creates a deep copy of the distribution.

★ **Note:** the copy distribution may continue to depend on the original initialization arguments.

Args:

- `**override_parameters_kwargs`: String/value dictionary of initialization arguments to override with new values.

Returns:

- `distribution`: A new instance of `type(self)` initialized from the union of `self.parameters` and `override_parameters_kwargs`, i.e., `dict(self.parameters, **override_parameters_kwargs)`.

## covariance

```
covariance(name='covariance')
```

Covariance.

Covariance is (possibly) defined only for non-scalar-event distributions.

For example, for a length-`k`, vector-valued distribution, it is calculated as,

```
Cov[i, j] = Covariance(X_i, X_j) = E[(X_i - E[X_i]) (X_j - E[X_j])]
```

where `Cov` is a (batch of) `k x k` matrix, `0 <= (i, j) < k`, and `E` denotes expectation.

Alternatively, for non-vector, multivariate distributions (e.g., matrix-valued, Wishart), `Covariance` shall return a (batch of) matrices under some vectorization of the events, i.e.,

```
Cov[i, j] = Covariance(Vec(X)_i, Vec(X)_j) = [as above]
```

where `Cov` is a (batch of) `k' x k'` matrices, `0 <= (i, j) < k' = reduce_prod(event_shape)`, and `Vec` is some function mapping indices of this distribution's event dimensions to indices of a length-`k'` vector.

Args:

- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `covariance`: Floating-point `Tensor` with shape `[B1, ..., Bn, k', k']` where the first `n` dimensions are batch coordinates and `k' = reduce_prod(self.event_shape)`.

## entropy

```
entropy(name='entropy')
```

Shannon entropy in nats.

## event\_shape\_tensor

```
event_shape_tensor(name='event_shape_tensor')
```

Shape of a single sample from a single batch as a 1-D int32 `Tensor`.

Args:

- `name`: name to give to the op

Returns:

- `event_shape`: `Tensor` .

## `is_scalar_batch`

```
is_scalar_batch(name='is_scalar_batch')
```

Indicates that `batch_shape == []` .

Args:

- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `is_scalar_batch`: `bool` scalar `Tensor` .

## `is_scalar_event`

```
is_scalar_event(name='is_scalar_event')
```

Indicates that `event_shape == []` .

Args:

- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `is_scalar_event`: `bool` scalar `Tensor` .

## `log_cdf`

```
log_cdf(  
    value,  
    name='log_cdf'  
)
```

Log cumulative distribution function.

Given random variable `X` , the cumulative distribution function `cdf` is:

```
log_cdf(x) := Log[ P[X <= x] ]
```

Often, a numerical approximation can be used for `log_cdf(x)` that yields a more accurate answer than simply taking the logarithm of the `cdf` when `x << -1` .

Args:

- `value`: `float` or `double Tensor` .
- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `logcdf`: a `Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype`.

## `log_prob`

```
log_prob(  
    value,  
    name='log_prob'  
)
```

Log probability density/mass function.

Additional documentation from `MultivariateNormalLinearOperator`:

`value` is a batch vector with compatible shape if `value` is a `Tensor` whose shape can be broadcast up to either:

```
self.batch_shape + self.event_shape
```

or

```
[M1, ..., Mm] + self.batch_shape + self.event_shape
```

Args:

- `value`: `float` or `double Tensor`.
- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `log_prob`: a `Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype`.

## `log_survival_function`

```
log_survival_function(  
    value,  
    name='log_survival_function'  
)
```

Log survival function.

Given random variable `X`, the survival function is defined:

```
log_survival_function(x) = Log[ P[X > x] ]  
                        = Log[ 1 - P[X <= x] ]  
                        = Log[ 1 - cdf(x) ]
```

Typically, different numerical approximations can be used for the log survival function, which are more accurate than `1 - cdf(x)` when `x >> 1`.

Args:

- `value`: `float` or `double Tensor`.
- `name`: The name to give this op.



Returns:

**Tensor** of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype`.

## mean

```
mean(name='mean')
```

Mean.

## mode

```
mode(name='mode')
```

Mode.

## param\_shapes

```
param_shapes(  
    cls,  
    sample_shape,  
    name='DistributionParamShapes'  
)
```

Shapes of parameters given the desired shape of a call to `sample()`.

This is a class method that describes what key/value arguments are required to instantiate the given **Distribution** so that a particular shape is returned for that instance's call to `sample()`.

Subclasses should override class method `_param_shapes`.

Args:

- `sample_shape`: **Tensor** or python list/tuple. Desired shape of a call to `sample()`.
- `name`: name to prepend ops with.

Returns:

**dict** of parameter name to **Tensor** shapes.

## param\_static\_shapes

```
param_static_shapes(  
    cls,  
    sample_shape  
)
```

`param_shapes` with static (i.e. **TensorShape**) shapes.

This is a class method that describes what key/value arguments are required to instantiate the given **Distribution** so that a particular shape is returned for that instance's call to `sample()`. Assumes that the sample's shape is known statically.

Subclasses should override class method `_param_shapes` to return constant-valued tensors when constant values are fed.

Args:

- `sample_shape` : `TensorShape` or python list/tuple. Desired shape of a call to `sample()` .

Returns:

`dict` of parameter name to `TensorShape` .

Raises:

- `ValueError` : if `sample_shape` is a `TensorShape` and is not fully defined.

## prob

```
prob(  
    value,  
    name='prob'  
)
```

Probability density/mass function.

Additional documentation from `MultivariateNormalLinearOperator` :

`value` is a batch vector with compatible shape if `value` is a `Tensor` whose shape can be broadcast up to either:

```
self.batch_shape + self.event_shape
```

or

```
[M1, ..., Mm] + self.batch_shape + self.event_shape
```

Args:

- `value` : `float` or `double Tensor` .
- `name` : The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `prob` : a `Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype` .

## quantile

```
quantile(  
    value,  
    name='quantile'  
)
```

Quantile function. Aka "inverse cdf" or "percent point function".

Given random variable `X` and `p in [0, 1]` , the `quantile` is:

```
quantile(p) := x such that P[X <= x] == p
```

Args:

- `value`: `float` or `double Tensor`.
- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `quantile`: a `Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype`.

## sample

```
sample(  
    sample_shape=(),  
    seed=None,  
    name='sample'  
)
```

Generate samples of the specified shape.

Note that a call to `sample()` without arguments will generate a single sample.

Args:

- `sample_shape`: 0D or 1D `int32 Tensor`. Shape of the generated samples.
- `seed`: Python integer seed for RNG
- `name`: name to give to the op.

Returns:

- `samples`: a `Tensor` with prepended dimensions `sample_shape`.

## stddev

```
stddev(name='stddev')
```

Standard deviation.

Standard deviation is defined as,

$$\text{stddev} = E[(X - E[X])**2]**0.5$$

where `X` is the random variable associated with this distribution, `E` denotes expectation, and `stddev.shape = batch_shape + event_shape`.

Args:

- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `stddev`: Floating-point `Tensor` with shape identical to `batch_shape + event_shape`, i.e., the same shape as `self.mean()`.

## survival\_function

```
survival_function(  
    value,  
    name='survival_function'  
)
```

Survival function.

Given random variable  $X$ , the survival function is defined:

```
survival_function(x) = P[X > x]  
                    = 1 - P[X <= x]  
                    = 1 - cdf(x).
```

Args:

- `value`: `float` or `double Tensor`.
- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

`Tensor` of shape `sample_shape(x) + self.batch_shape` with values of type `self.dtype`.

## variance

```
variance(name='variance')
```

Variance.

Variance is defined as,

```
Var = E[(X - E[X])**2]
```

where  $X$  is the random variable associated with this distribution,  $E$  denotes expectation, and `Var.shape = batch_shape + event_shape`.

Args:

- `name`: The name to give this op.

Returns:

- `variance`: Floating-point `Tensor` with shape identical to `batch_shape + event_shape`, i.e., the same shape as `self.mean()`.

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