

STOCHASTIC PROCESSES AND CALCULUS 2016

2. MULTIVARIATE GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION

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CONTENTS

References	1
1. Standard Gaussian Distribution	1
2. Positive Definite Matrices	2
3. General Gaussian Distribution	2
4. Conditioning of Jointly Gaussian Random Variables	3
5. Conditional independence	5
References	5
Home work	6

REFERENCES

- The importance of the Gaussian distribution depend largely on the Central Limit Theorem, see [2, Part C]
- A classic on Multivariate Statistics is T. W. Anderson's monograph [1].

1. STANDARD GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION

1. The real random variable Z is *standard Gaussian*, $Z \sim N_1(0, 1)$ if its distribution γ has density

$$\mathbb{R} \ni z \mapsto \phi(z) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}z^2\right)$$

with respect to the Lebesgue measure.

2. The \mathbb{R}^n -valued random variable $Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$ is *standard Gaussian*, $Z \sim N_n(0_n, I_n)$ if its components are IID $N_1(0, 1)$. We write $\gamma^{\otimes n}$ to denote the n -fold product measure.

3. For each multi-index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ define Hermite polynomial $H_\alpha(x_1, \dots, x_n) = H_{\alpha_1}(x_1) \cdots H_{\alpha_n}(x_n)$. The sequence $\frac{1}{\alpha!} H_\alpha$ is orthonormal and total in $L^1(\gamma^{\otimes n})$.

4.

(1) The distribution $\gamma_n = \gamma^{\otimes n}$ of $Z \sim N_n(0, I)$ has the product density

$$\mathbb{R}^n \ni z \mapsto \phi(z) = \prod_{j=1}^n \phi(z_j) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\|z\|^2\right)$$

(2) The *moment generating function* $t \mapsto E(\exp(t \cdot Z)) \in \mathbb{R}_{>}$ is

$$\mathbb{R}^n \ni t \mapsto M_Z(t) = \prod_{j=1}^n \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}t_j^2\right) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\|t\|^2\right)$$

M_Z is everywhere strictly convex and analytic.

(3) The *characteristic function* $\zeta \mapsto \check{\gamma}_n(\zeta) = \mathbb{E}(\exp(\sqrt{-1}\zeta \cdot Z)) \in \mathbb{C}$ is

$$\mathbb{R}^n \ni \zeta \mapsto \check{\gamma}_n(\zeta) = \prod_{j=1}^2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\zeta_j^2\right) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\|\zeta\|^2\right)$$

$\check{\gamma}_n$ is nonnegative definite and analytic.

2. POSITIVE DEFINITE MATRICES

We collect here useful properties of matrices. See [1, Appendix A].

- (1) Denote by $\mathbb{M}_{m \times n}$ the *vector space* of $m \times n$ real matrices. We have $M_{n,1} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Let \mathbb{M}_n be the vector space of $n \times n$ real matrices and by GL_n the group of invertible matrices. We denote by \mathbb{S}_n its sub-vector space of real symmetric matrices.
- (2) The vector space $\mathbb{M}_{m,n}$ is an Hilbert space for the scalar product $\langle A, B \rangle = \text{Tr}(B'A)$. The general linear group GL_n is an open subset of $\mathbb{M}_{n,n}$.
- (3) The mapping $f: \mathbb{M}_n$, $f(A) = \det(A)$ has derivative at A in the direction H (that is derivative at zero of $t \mapsto \det(A + tH) \in \mathbb{R}$), equal to $\text{Tr}(\text{adj}(A)H)$.
- (4) The mapping $f: \text{GL}_n$, $f(A) = A^{-1}$ has derivative at A in the direction H , that is the derivative at zero of $t \mapsto (A + tH) \in \text{GL}_n$, equal to $-A^{-1}HA^{-1}$.
- (5) Each symmetric matrix $A \in \mathbb{S}_n$ has n real eigen-values λ_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$ and correspondingly an orthonormal basis of eigen-vectors \mathbf{u}_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$.
- (6) A matrix $A \in \mathbb{M}_n$ is positive definite, respectively strictly positive definite, if $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \neq 0$ implies $\mathbf{x}'A\mathbf{x} \geq 0$, respectively > 0 . We denote by \mathbb{S}_n^+ the closed cone of \mathbb{S}_n of positive definite matrices. A positive definite matrix is strictly positive definite if it is invertible. The set of strictly positive symmetric matrices is the interior of the cone \mathcal{S}_n .
- (7) A symmetric matrix A is positive definite, respectively strictly positive definite, if, and only if, all eigen-values are non-negative, respectively positive.
- (8) A symmetric matrix B is positive definite if, and only if, $A = B'B$ for some $B \in \mathbb{M}_n$. Moreover, $A \in \text{GL}_n$ if, and only if, $B \in \text{GL}_n$.
- (9) A symmetric matrix B is positive definite, if, and only if, there exist an upper triangular matrix T such that $A = T'T$. T can be chosen to have nonnegative diagonal entries and it is unique if A is invertible.
- (10) A symmetric matrix is positive definite, respectively strictly positive definite, if and only if all leading principal minors are nonnegative.
- (11) A symmetric matrix A is positive definite if, and only if $A = B^2$ and B is positive definite. We write $B = A^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and call B the *positive square root* of A .
- (12) A symmetric matrix A is positive definite, respectively strictly positive definite, if there exist an Hilbert space \mathbb{H} and vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$, respectively linear independent vectors, with $a_{ij} = \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle$.

3. GENERAL GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION

Proposition 1. (1) Let $Z \sim N_n(0, I)$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\Sigma = AA^T$. Then $Y = b + AZ$ has a distribution that depends on Γ and b only. The distribution of Y is Gaussian with mean b and variance Σ , $N_m(b, \Sigma)$.

(2) Given any non-negative definite Σ , there exists matrices A such that $\Sigma = AA^T$.

(3) If $\det(\Sigma) \neq 0$, then the distribution of $Y = b + AZ \sim N_m(b, \Sigma)$, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, $AA^T = \Sigma$, has a density given by

$$\mathbb{R}^m \ni y \mapsto p_Y(y) = |\det(A^{-1})| \phi(A^{-1}(y - b)) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{m}{2}} \det(\Sigma)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(y - b)^T \Sigma^{-1}(y - b)\right)$$

(4) If $\det(\Sigma) = 0$ the distribution of $N(b, \Sigma)$ has no density w.r.t. the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n .

4. CONDITIONING OF JOINTLY GAUSSIAN RANDOM VARIABLES

Proposition 2. *Consider a partitioned Gaussian vector*

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim N_{n_1+n_2} \left(\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

Let $r_i = \text{Rank}(\Sigma_{ii})$ and $\Sigma_{ii} = U_i \Lambda_i U_i^T$ with $U_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times r_i}$, $\Lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}^{r_i \times r_i}$ positive diagonal, $i = 1, 2$.

- (1) *The blocks Y_1, Y_2 are independent, say $Y_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_2$, if, and only if, $\Sigma_{12} = 0$ and $\Sigma_{21} = 0$. More precisely, if, and only if, there exist two independent standard Gaussian $Z_i \sim N_{r_i}(0, I)$ and $Z_2 \sim N_{r_2}(0, I)$ and matrices A_1, A_2 such that*

$$\begin{cases} Y_1 = b_1 + A_1 Z_1, \\ Y_2 = b_2 + A_2 Z_2. \end{cases}$$

- (2) *Define $\Sigma_{22}^+ = U_2 \Lambda_2^{-1} U_2^T$. The Gaussian random vector with components*

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{Y}_1 &= Y_1 - (b_1 + L_{12}(Y_2 - b_2)), \quad L_{12} = \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^+ \\ \tilde{Y}_2 &= Y_2 - b_2 \end{aligned}$$

is such that $E(\tilde{Y}_1) = 0$, $\text{Var}(\tilde{Y}_1) = \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^+ \Sigma_{21}$, and $\tilde{Y}_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp \tilde{Y}_2$. It follows

$$E(Y_1 | Y_2) = b_1 + L_{12}(Y_2 - b_2)$$

- (3) *The conditional distribution of Y_1 given $Y_2 = y_2$ is Gaussian with*

$$Y_1 | (Y_2 = y_2) \sim N_{n_1}(b_1 + L_{12}(y_2 - b_2), \Sigma_{11} - L_{12} \Sigma_{21})$$

- (4) *Assume $\det(\Sigma) \neq 0$. Then both $\det(\Sigma_{1|2}) \neq 0$ and $\det(\Sigma)_{22} \neq 0$. If we define the partitioned concentration to be*

$$K = \Sigma^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{11} & K_{12} \\ K_{21} & K_{22} \end{bmatrix},$$

then $K_{11} = \Sigma_{1|2}^{-1}$ and $K_{11}^{-1} K_{12} = -\Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^{-1}$, so that the conditional density of Y_1 given $Y_2 = y_2$ in terms of the partitioned concentration is

$$\begin{aligned} p_{Y_1|Y_2}(y_1|y_2) &= (2\pi)^{-\frac{n_1}{2}} \det(K_{1|2})^{\frac{1}{2}} \times \\ &\quad \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(y_1 - b_1 - K_{11}^{-1} K_{12}(y_2 - b_2))^T K_{11}(y_1 - b_1 - K_{11}^{-1} K_{12}(y_2 - b_2))\right) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of (1). If the blocks are independent, they are uncorrelated. Viceversa, assume $\Sigma_{12} = 0$ and $\Sigma_{21} = \Sigma_{12}^T = 0$. As Σ_{ii} are nonnegative definite, $i = 1, 2$, there are spectral decompositions $\Sigma_{11} = U_1 \Lambda_1 U_1^T$, $\Sigma_{22} = U_2 \Lambda_2 U_2^T$, with $U_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times r_i}$, $U_i U_i^T = I_{r_i}$ and Λ_i positive diagonal, $i = 1, 2$. We define

$$A_i = U_i \Lambda_i^{1/2}, \quad A_i^+ = \Lambda_i^{-1/2} U_i^T,$$

so that $A_i A_i^T = \Sigma_{ii}$ and $A_i^+ \Sigma_{ii} A_i^{+T} = I_{r_i}$, $i = 1, 2$. The Gaussian random vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_1 \\ Z_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1^+ & 0 \\ 0 & A_2^+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 - b_1 \\ Y_2 - b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is $N_{r_1+r_2}(0, I_{r_1+r_2})$, in particular $Z_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp Z_2$. We have

$$A_i Z_i = A_i A_i^+ (Y_i - b_i) = U_i U_i^T (Y_i - b_i) = Y_i - b_i$$

because $U_i U_i^T$ is the orthogonal projection of \mathbb{R}^{n_i} on the subspace of the values of the random vector Y_i , $i = 1, 2$. In conclusion, for $i = 1, 2$ there exist independent white noise presentations. \square

Proof of (2). We start with an algebraic property sometimes called *Schur complement lemma*. Write $\Sigma_{22}^+ = U_2 \Lambda_2^{-1} U_2^T$ and compute

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} I & -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+ \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ -\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{21} & I \end{bmatrix} = \\ \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{12} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{22} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ -\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{21} & I \end{bmatrix} = \\ \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{21} & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the equalities $\Sigma_{22}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{22}^+ = \Sigma_{22}^+$, $\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{22}\Sigma_{22} = \Sigma_{22}$, $(I - \Sigma_{22}\Sigma_{22}^+)\Sigma_{21} = 0$. In particular, the last one depends on $U_2 U_2^T$ being the orthogonal projection on the support of Y_2 .

The matrix $\Sigma_{1|2} = \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{21}$ is sometimes called the Schur complement of the partitioned matrix. From the computation above we see that the Schur complement is nonnegative definite and that

$$\det \left(\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det(\Sigma_{1|2}) \det(\Sigma_{22}) .$$

It follows that $\det(\Sigma) \neq 0$ implies both $\det(\Sigma_{1|2}) \neq 0$ and $\det(\Sigma_{22}) \neq 0$.

We have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{Y}_1 \\ \tilde{Y}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+ \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 - b_1 \\ Y_2 - b_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim N_{n_1+n_2} \left(0, \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2} & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

It follows

$$\mathbb{E}(Y_1|Y_2) = \mathbb{E} \left(\tilde{Y}_1 + b_1 + L_{12}(Y_2 - b_2) \middle| Y_2 \right) = \mathbb{E}(\tilde{Y}_1) + b_1 + L_{12}(Y_2 - b_2)$$

□

Proof of (3). The conditional distribution of Y_1 given Y_2 is a transition probability $\mu_{Y_1|Y_2} : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^{n_1}) \times \mathbb{R}^{n_2}$ such that for all bounded $f : \mathbb{R}^{n_1}$

$$\mathbb{E}(f(Y_1)|Y_2) = \int f(y_1) \mu_{Y_1|Y_2}(dy_1|Y_2).$$

We have

$$\mathbb{E}(f(Y_1)|Y_2) = \mathbb{E} \left(f(\tilde{Y}_1 + \mathbb{E}(Y_1|Y_2)) \middle| Y_2 \right) = \int f(x + \mathbb{E}(Y_1|Y_2)) \gamma(dx; 0, \Sigma_{1|2})$$

where $\gamma(dx; 0, \Sigma_{1|2})$ is the measure of $N_{n_1}(0, \Sigma_{1|2})$. We obtain the statement by considering the effect on the distribution $N_{n_1}(0, \Sigma_{1|2})$ of the translation $x \mapsto x + (b_1 + L_{12}(y_2 - b_2))$. □

Proof of (4). A further application of the Schur complement gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2} & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ \Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21} & I \end{bmatrix}$$

whose inverse is

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} K_{11} & K_{12} \\ K_{21} & K_{22} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ -\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21} & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2}^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_{22}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2}^{-1} & 0 \\ -\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21}\Sigma_{1|2}^{-1} & \Sigma_{22}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I & -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2}^{-1} & -\Sigma_{1|2}^{-1}\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} \\ -\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21}\Sigma_{1|2}^{-1} & \Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21}\Sigma_{1|2}^{-1}\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1} + \Sigma_{22}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

In particular, we have $K_{11} = \Sigma_{1|2}^{-1}$ and $K_{11}^{-1}K_{12} = -\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}$, hence

$$Y_1|Y_2 = y_2 \sim N_{n_1}(b_1 - K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}(y_2 - b_2), K_{11}^{-1})$$

so that the exponent of the Gaussian density has the factor

$$(y_1 - b_1 + K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}(y_2 - b_2))^T K_{11}(y_1 - b_1 + K_{11}^{-1}K_{12}(y_2 - b_2))$$

□

5. CONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Conditional independence is a key property in Statistics e.g. Graphical Models, in Stochastic Processes e.g., Markov processes, in Random Fields, in Machine Learning.

Definition 1.

- (1) The nonzero events A, B, C are such that A and C are independent given B , $A \perp\!\!\!\perp C | B$, if each one of the following equivalent conditions are satisfied:

$$P(A \cap C | B) = P(A | B) P(C | B)$$

$$P(A | B \cap C) = P(A | B)$$

$$P(A \cap B \cap C) P(B) = P(A \cap B) P(B \cap C)$$

- (2) Random variables Y_1, Y_3 are conditionally independent given the random variable Y_2 , $Y_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_3 | Y_2$ if each one of the following equivalent conditions are satisfied. If f_i , $i = 1, \dots, 3$, are bounded,

$$E(f_1(Y_1)f_3(Y_3)|Y_2) = E(f_1(Y_1)|Y_2) E(f_3(Y_3)|Y_2)$$

$$E(f_1(Y_1)|Y_2, Y_3) = E(f_1(Y_1)|Y_2)$$

- (3) A stochastic process Y_1, \dots, Y_N is a *Markov Process* if $(Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_{k+1}, \dots, Y_N | Y_k$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

Proposition 3. *Let be given*

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ Y_3 \end{bmatrix} \sim N_{n_1+n_2+n_3} \left(\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} & \Sigma_{13} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} & \Sigma_{23} \\ \Sigma_{31} & \Sigma_{32} & \Sigma_{33} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

We have $Y_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_3 | Y_2$ if, and only if, $\Sigma_{13} = \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^+\Sigma_{23}$. In such a case,

(1)

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_3 \end{bmatrix} \Big| (Y_2 = y_2) \sim N_{n_1+n_3} \left(\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{32} \end{bmatrix} \Sigma_{22}^+(y_2 - b_2), \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1|2} & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_{3|2} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

(2)

$$Y_1 | (Y_2 = y_2, Y_3 = y_3) = Y_1 | (Y_2 = y_2) \sim N_{n_1} (b_1 + \Sigma_{1,2}\Sigma_{22}^+(y_2 - b_2), \Sigma_{1|2})$$

REFERENCES

1. T. W. Anderson, *An introduction to multivariate statistical analysis*, third ed., Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics, Wiley-Interscience [John Wiley & Sons], Hoboken, NJ, 2003. MR 1990662
2. David Williams, *Probability with martingales*, Cambridge Mathematical Textbooks, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1991.

HOME WORK

Read all the texts below, then pick up and solve 2 exercises. The paper is due Mon May 16.

Exercise 1. Derive in detail the conditional density of Proposition 2(4) for the bi- and tri-variate Gaussian distribution.

Exercise 2. Prove the equivalences in Definition 1.

Exercise 3. Derive in detail the two forms of the conditional independence in Proposition 3 for the tri-variate Gaussian distribution.

Exercise 4. Compute the joint density of $(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) \sim N(b, \Sigma)$, $\det(\Sigma) \neq 0$, if the process is Markov.

Exercise 5. Compute the joint density of $(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3) \sim N(b, \Sigma)$, $\det(\Sigma) \neq 0$, if the process is a martingale, i.e. $E(Y_2|Y_1) = Y_1$ and $E(Y_3|Y_1, Y_2) = Y_2$.

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