

Objectives

1. Evaluate normalization constant of a 3D normal distribution.
2. Evaluate different moments.

Consider the following function:

$$e^{-bx^2}$$

where b is a constant. We would like to know the following integral:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-bx^2} dx$$

It can be rewritten in polar coordinate, with the knowledge that $x = r \cos \theta$, $y = r \sin \theta$. The corresponding Jacobian matrix has the following form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Determinant of the Jacobian matrix is therefore r .

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-b(x^2+y^2)} dx dy &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-br^2} r dr d\theta \\ &= 2\pi \cdot \left[-\frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} \right]_0^{\infty} = \frac{\pi}{b}\end{aligned}$$

This shows that:

$$\boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-bx^2} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}}} \quad (1)$$

Then, we know for three dimensional case that:

$$\boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-bx^2} dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-by^2} dy \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-bz^2} dz = \left(\frac{\pi}{b}\right)^{1.5}} \quad (2)$$

Therefore, a 3D normal distribution must be normalized as follows:

$$\left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} e^{-b(x^2+y^2+z^2)} dx dy dz$$

We know that in spherical coordinate:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r \sin \theta \cos \psi \\ r \sin \theta \sin \psi \\ r \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

With this Jacobian matrix, this can be transformed to spherical coordinate:

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \theta \cos \psi & r \cos \psi \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \sin \psi \\ \sin \theta \sin \psi & r \cos \theta \sin \psi & r \sin \theta \cos \psi \\ \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

The determinant of $\mathbf{J}$ is $r^2 \sin \theta$. Then, we have:

$$\left(\frac{b}{\pi} \right)^{1.5} e^{-br^2} r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\psi$$

We are interested in the mean value $\langle r \rangle$:

$$\langle r \rangle = 4\pi \left(\frac{b}{\pi} \right)^{1.5} \int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} r^3 dr$$

Pay attention to the integral:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} r^3 dr$$

That it can be solved by integration by part. In integration by part, we have:

$$\int_a^b u dv = uv \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b v du \quad (5)$$

By setting:

$$\boxed{dv = e^{-br^2} r dr}, \quad \boxed{v = -\frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b}}$$
$$\boxed{u = r^2}, \quad \boxed{du = 2r dr}$$

We then have:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} r^3 dr &= -\frac{r^2 e^{-br^2}}{2b} \Big|_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2} 2r}{2b} dr \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} dr^2\end{aligned}$$

This gives us:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} r^3 dr = \left[-\frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b^2} \right]_0^\infty = \frac{1}{2b^2}$$

Finally,

$$\boxed{\langle r \rangle = 4 \cdot \pi^{1-1.5} \cdot b^{1.5-2} \cdot 0.5 = \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi b}}}$$

Now, we are interested in the mean square value $\langle r^2 \rangle$:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = 4\pi \left(\frac{b}{\pi} \right)^{1.5} \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr$$

Integration by part:

$$\boxed{dv = e^{-br^2} r dr}, \quad \boxed{v = \frac{-e^{-br^2}}{2b}}$$
$$\boxed{u = r^3}, \quad \boxed{du = 3r^2 dr}$$

We get:

$$\int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr = \left. \frac{-r^3 e^{-br^2}}{2b} \right|_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty \frac{3r^2 e^{-br^2}}{2b} dr = \frac{3}{2b} \int_0^\infty r^2 e^{-br^2} dr$$

Integration by part for the second time:

$$\boxed{dv = e^{-br^2} r dr}, \quad \boxed{v = \frac{-e^{-br^2}}{2b}}$$
$$\boxed{u = r}, \quad \boxed{du = dr}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{2b} \int_0^\infty r^2 e^{-br^2} dr &= \frac{3}{2b} \left(\frac{-r^2 e^{-br^2}}{2b} \Big|_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} dr \right) \\ &= \frac{3}{2b} \frac{1}{4b} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} \end{aligned}$$

This is because $\int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-br^2} dr = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}}$, therefore
 $\int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} dr = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}}.$

Finally, this gives us:

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = 4\pi \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \frac{3}{8b^2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} = \frac{3}{2} \cdot b^{1.5-2-0.5} \cdot \pi^{1-1.5+0.5} = \frac{3}{2b}$$

One interesting question to ask: what are $\langle xy \rangle$, $\langle xz \rangle$ and $\langle yz \rangle$?
Let us start with $\langle xy \rangle$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle xy \rangle &= \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin \psi \cos \psi d\psi \int_0^\pi \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta d\theta \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr \\ &= \frac{3}{8b^2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin \phi \cos \phi d\phi \int_0^\pi \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Solve the integral for θ :

$$\int_0^\pi \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta d\theta = \int_0^\pi \sin^3 \theta d \sin \theta = \frac{\sin^4 \theta}{4} \Big|_0^\pi = 0$$

Therefore, $\langle xy \rangle = 0$

$$\langle xz \rangle = \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos \psi d\psi \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr$$

It can be found that:

$$\int_0^\pi \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta = \int_0^\pi \cos \theta d \cos \theta = -\frac{\cos^2 \theta}{2} \Big|_0^\pi = 0$$

Again we obtain $\langle xz \rangle = 0$.

$$\langle yz \rangle = \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin \psi d\psi \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr$$

Again, $\int_0^\pi \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta = 0$, $\langle yz \rangle = 0$. Maybe a good question to ask is ‘What are the values of $\langle x^2 \rangle$, $\langle y^2 \rangle$, $\langle z^2 \rangle$?’

$$\langle xx \rangle = \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \psi d\psi \int_0^\pi \sin^3 \theta d\theta \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \psi d\psi &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(e^{i\psi} + e^{-i\psi})^2}{4} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{2i\psi} + e^{-2i\psi} + 2}{4} d\psi \\ &= \frac{e^{2i\psi}}{8i} \Big|_0^{2\pi} - \frac{e^{-2i\psi}}{8i} \Big|_0^{2\pi} + \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\psi}{2} = \pi \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_0^\pi \sin^3 \theta d\theta = - \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos^2 \theta) d \cos \theta = \frac{4}{3}$$

Then, these give us:

$$\boxed{\langle xx \rangle = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^\infty r^4 e^{-br^2} dr = \frac{1}{2b}}$$

It is also interesting to evaluate $\langle xyxy \rangle$, as later this is useful in evaluating the viscosity of ideal gas.

$$\langle xyxy \rangle = \left(\frac{b}{\pi}\right)^{1.5} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \psi \sin^2 \psi d\psi \int_0^\pi \sin^5 \theta d\theta \int_0^\infty r^6 e^{-br^2} dr$$

$$\cos^2 \psi \sin^2 \psi = \left(\frac{e^{i\psi} + e^{-i\psi}}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{e^{i\psi} - e^{-i\psi}}{2i}\right)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \psi \sin^2 \psi d\psi &= -\frac{1}{16} \int_0^{2\pi} [(e^{4i\psi} + e^{-4i\psi}) - 2] d\psi \\ &= -\frac{1}{16} \left[\frac{e^{4i\psi}}{4i} - \frac{e^{-4i\psi}}{4i} - 2\theta \right]_0^{2\pi} \\ &= -\frac{1}{16} \left(\frac{2i \sin 4\psi}{2} \right)_0^{2\pi} = \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Next integral to solve:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^\pi \sin^5 \theta d\theta &= - \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos^2 \theta)^2 d \cos \theta \\&= - \int_0^\pi (1 - 2 \cos^2 \theta + \cos^4 \theta) d \cos \theta \\&= - \left(\cos \theta \right)_0^\pi + \frac{2}{3} \left(\cos^3 \theta \right)_0^\pi - \frac{1}{5} \left(\cos^5 \theta \right)_0^\pi \\&= -(-1 - 1) + \frac{2}{3}(-1 - 1) - \frac{1}{5}(-1 - 1) = 2 - \frac{4}{3} + \frac{2}{5} \\&= \frac{16}{15}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\langle xyxy \rangle = \frac{4\pi}{15} \left(\frac{b}{\pi} \right)^{1.5} \int_0^\infty r^6 e^{-br^2} dr$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^\infty r^6 e^{-br^2} dr &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} 5r^4 dr \\
&= \frac{5}{2b} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} 3r^2 dr \\
&= \frac{15}{4b^2} \int_0^\infty e^{-br^2} r^2 dr \\
&= \frac{15}{4b^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-br^2}}{2b} dr \\
&= \frac{15}{8b^3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} = \frac{15}{16b^3} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}}
\end{aligned}$$

Then, we have:

$$\langle xyxy \rangle = \frac{4\pi}{15} \left(\frac{b}{\pi} \right)^{1.5} \frac{15}{16b^3} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} = \frac{1}{4b^2}$$

In summary, we have the following values:

Average	Value
$\langle r \rangle$	$\sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi b}}$
$\langle r^2 \rangle$	$\frac{3}{2b}$
$\langle xy \rangle = \langle xz \rangle = \langle yz \rangle$	0
$\langle xx \rangle = \langle yy \rangle = \langle zz \rangle$	$\frac{1}{2b}$
$\langle xyxy \rangle$	$\frac{1}{4b^2}$