

be positive definite. Writing  $C$  for  $R^{-1}$ , and multiplying through by  $(R^T)^{-1} = C^T$ , this becomes a standard eigenvalue problem for the single symmetric matrix  $C^T AC$ :

$$\text{Equivalent problem} \quad C^T ACy = \lambda y. \quad (10)$$

The eigenvalues  $\lambda_j$  are the same as for the original  $Ax = \lambda Mx$ , and the eigenvectors are related by  $y_j = Rx_j$ . The properties of  $C^T AC$  lead directly to the properties of  $Ax = \lambda Mx$ , when  $A = A^T$  and  $M$  is positive definite:

1. The eigenvalues for  $Ax = \lambda Mx$  are real, because  $C^T AC$  is symmetric.
2. The  $\lambda$ 's have the same signs as the eigenvalues of  $A$ , by the law of inertia.
3.  $C^T AC$  has orthogonal eigenvectors  $y_j$ . So the eigenvectors of  $Ax = \lambda Mx$  have

$$\text{"M-orthogonality"} \quad x_i^T M x_j = x_i^T R^T R x_j = y_i^T y_j = 0. \quad (11)$$

$A$  and  $M$  are being simultaneously diagonalized. If  $S$  has the  $x_j$  in its columns, then  $S^T AS = \Lambda$  and  $S^T MS = I$ . This is a congruence transformation, with  $S^T$  on the left, and not a similarity transformation with  $S^{-1}$ . The main point is easy to summarize: As long as  $M$  is positive definite, the generalized eigenvalue problem  $Ax = \lambda Mx$  behaves exactly like  $Ax = \lambda x$ .

## Problem Set 6.2

1. Decide for or against the positive definiteness of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^2.$$

2. For what range of numbers  $a$  and  $b$  are the matrices  $A$  and  $B$  positive definite?

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & a & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & a \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & b & 8 \\ 4 & 8 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. If  $A$  and  $B$  are positive definite, then  $A + B$  is positive definite. Pivots and eigenvalues are not convenient for  $A + B$ . Much better to prove  $x^T(A + B)x > 0$ .

4. Construct an indefinite matrix with its largest entries on the main diagonal:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b & -b \\ b & 1 & b \\ -b & b & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ with } |b| < 1 \text{ can have } \det A < 0.$$

5. If  $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$  is symmetric positive definite, then  $R = Q\sqrt{\Lambda}Q^T$  is its symmetric positive definite square root. Why does  $R$  have positive eigenvalues? Compute  $R$  and verify  $R^2 = A$  for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 6 \\ 6 & 10 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -6 \\ -6 & 10 \end{bmatrix}.$$

6. The ellipse  $u^2 + 4v^2 = 1$  corresponds to  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ . Write the eigenvalues and eigenvectors, and sketch the ellipse.
7. Show from the eigenvalues that if  $A$  is positive definite, so is  $A^2$  and so is  $A^{-1}$ .
8. Reduce the equation  $3u^2 - 2\sqrt{2}uv + 2v^2 = 1$  to a sum of squares by finding the eigenvalues of the corresponding  $A$ , and sketch the ellipse.
9. From the pivots, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$ , write  $A$  as  $R^T R$  in three ways:  $(L\sqrt{D})(\sqrt{D}L^T)$ ,  $(Q\sqrt{\Lambda})(\sqrt{\Lambda}Q^T)$ , and  $(Q\sqrt{\Lambda}Q^T)(Q\sqrt{\Lambda}Q^T)$ .
10. Write down the five conditions for a 3 by 3 matrix to be negative definite ( $-A$  is positive definite) with special attention to condition III: How is  $\det(-A)$  related to  $\det A$ ?
11. If  $A = R^T R$  prove the generalized Schwarz inequality  $|x^T A y|^2 \leq (x^T A x)(y^T A y)$ .
12. Decide whether the following matrices are positive definite, negative definite, semidefinite, or indefinite:
- $$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 5 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 6 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 5 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = -B, \quad D = A^{-1}.$$
- Is there a real solution to  $-x^2 - 5y^2 - 9z^2 - 4xy - 6xz - 8yz = 1$ ?
13. If  $A$  is symmetric positive definite and  $C$  is nonsingular, prove that  $B = C^T A C$  is also symmetric positive definite.
14. In three dimensions,  $\lambda_1 y_1^2 + \lambda_2 y_2^2 + \lambda_3 y_3^2 = 1$  represents an ellipsoid when all  $\lambda_i > 0$ . Describe all the different kinds of surfaces that appear in the positive semidefinite case when one or more of the eigenvalues is zero.
15. Suppose  $A$  is symmetric positive definite and  $Q$  is an orthogonal matrix. True or false:
- (a)  $Q^T A Q$  is a diagonal matrix.
  - (b)  $Q^T A Q$  is symmetric positive definite.

- (c)  $Q^T A Q$  has the same eigenvalues as  $A$ .  
 (d)  $e^{-A}$  is symmetric positive definite.
16. A positive definite matrix cannot have a zero (or even worse, a negative number) on its diagonal. Show that this matrix fails to have  $x^T A x > 0$ :
- $$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is not positive when } (x_1, x_2, x_3) = (\quad, \quad, \quad).$$
17. (Lyapunov test for stability of  $M$ ) Suppose  $AM + M^H A = -I$  with positive definite  $A$ . If  $Mx = \lambda x$  show that  $\operatorname{Re} \lambda < 0$ . (Hint: Multiply the first equation by  $x^H$  and  $x$ .)
18. If  $A$  is positive definite and  $a_{11}$  is increased, prove from cofactors that the determinant is increased. Show by example that this can fail if  $A$  is indefinite.
19. Give a quick reason why each of these statements is true:
- (a) Every positive definite matrix is invertible.
  - (b) The only positive definite projection matrix is  $P = I$ .
  - (c) A diagonal matrix with positive diagonal entries is positive definite.
  - (d) A symmetric matrix with a positive determinant might not be positive definite!
20. From  $A = R^T R$ , show for positive definite matrices that  $\det A \leq a_{11}a_{22} \cdots a_{nn}$ . (The length squared of column  $j$  of  $R$  is  $a_{jj}$ . Use determinant = volume.)
21. For which  $s$  and  $t$  do  $A$  and  $B$  have all  $\lambda > 0$  (and are therefore positive definite)?
- $$A = \begin{bmatrix} s & -4 & -4 \\ -4 & s & -4 \\ -4 & -4 & s \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} t & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & t & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & t \end{bmatrix}.$$
22. Compute the three upper left determinants to establish positive definiteness. Verify that their ratios give the second and third pivots.
- $$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$
23. You may have seen the equation for an ellipse as  $\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^2 = 1$ . What are  $a$  and  $b$  when the equation is written as  $\lambda_1 x^2 + \lambda_2 y^2 = 1$ ? The ellipse  $9x^2 + 16y^2 = 1$  has half-axes with lengths  $a = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  and  $b = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .
24. A diagonal entry  $a_{jj}$  of a symmetric matrix cannot be smaller than all the  $\lambda$ 's. If it were, then  $A - a_{jj}I$  would have \_\_\_\_\_ eigenvalues and would be positive definite. But  $A - a_{jj}I$  has a \_\_\_\_\_ on the main diagonal.
25. Which 3 by 3 symmetric matrices  $A$  produce these functions  $f = x^T A x$ ? Why is the first matrix positive definite but not the second one?
- (a)  $f = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - x_1x_2 - x_2x_3)$ .
  - (b)  $f = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - x_1x_2 - x_1x_3 - x_2x_3)$ .

26. With positive pivots in  $D$ , the factorization  $A = LDL^T$  becomes  $L\sqrt{D}\sqrt{D}L^T$ . (Square roots of the pivots give  $D = \sqrt{D}\sqrt{D}$ .) Then  $C = L\sqrt{D}$  yields the **Cholesky factorization**  $A = CCT^T$ , which is "symmetrized LU":

$$\text{From } C = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ find } A. \quad \text{From } A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 8 \\ 8 & 25 \end{bmatrix} \text{ find } C.$$

27. Without multiplying  $A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ , find  
 (a) the determinant of  $A$ .      (b) the eigenvalues of  $A$ .  
 (c) the eigenvectors of  $A$ .      (d) a reason why  $A$  is symmetric positive definite.

28. For the semidefinite matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (rank 2)} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (rank 1)},$$

write  $x^T Ax$  as a sum of two squares and  $x^T Bx$  as one square.

29. For  $C = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , confirm that  $C^T AC$  has eigenvalues of the same signs as  $A$ . Construct a chain of nonsingular matrices  $C(t)$  linking  $C$  to an orthogonal  $Q$ . Why is it impossible to construct a nonsingular chain linking  $C$  to the identity matrix?

30. Draw the tilted ellipse  $x^2 + xy + y^2 = 1$  and find the half-lengths of its axes from the eigenvalues of the corresponding  $A$ .

31. The symmetric factorization  $A = LDL^T$  means that  $x^T Ax = x^T LDL^T x$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ b/a & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & (ac - b^2)/a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b/a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}.$$

The left-hand side is  $ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ . The right-hand side is  $a(x + \frac{b}{a}y)^2 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}y^2$ . The second pivot completes the square! Test with  $a = 2, b = 4, c = 10$ .

32. In the Cholesky factorization  $A = CCT^T$ , with  $C = L\sqrt{D}$ , the square roots of the pivots are on the diagonal of  $C$ . Find  $C$  (lower triangular) for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}.$$

33. If the pivots of a matrix are all greater than 1, are the eigenvalues all greater than 1? Test on the tridiagonal  $-1, 2, -1$  matrices.

34. Apply any three tests to each of the matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

to decide whether they are positive definite, positive semidefinite, or indefinite.

35. An algebraic proof of the *law of inertia* starts with the orthonormal eigenvectors  $x_1, \dots, x_p$  of  $A$  corresponding to eigenvalues  $\lambda_i > 0$ , and the orthonormal eigenvectors  $y_1, \dots, y_q$  of  $C^T AC$  corresponding to eigenvalues  $\mu_i < 0$ .

- (a) To prove that the  $p + q$  vectors  $x_1, \dots, x_p, Cy_1, \dots, Cy_q$  are independent, assume that some combination gives zero:

$$a_1x_1 + \dots + a_px_p = b_1Cy_1 + \dots + b_qCy_q (= z, \text{ say}).$$

Show that  $z^T Az = \lambda_1a_1^2 + \dots + \lambda_pa_p^2 \geq 0$  and  $z^T Az = \mu_1b_1^2 + \dots + \mu_qb_q^2 \leq 0$ . From that deduce that the  $a$ 's and  $b$ 's are zero (proving linear independence). From that deduce  $p + q \leq n$ .

- (c) The same argument for the  $n - p$  negative  $\lambda$ 's and the  $n - q$  positive  $\mu$ 's gives  $n - p + n - q \leq n$ . (We again assume no zero eigenvalues—which are handled separately). Show that  $p + q = n$ , so the number  $p$  of positive  $\lambda$ 's equals the number  $n - q$  of positive  $\mu$ 's—which is the law of inertia.

36. If  $C$  is nonsingular, show that  $A$  and  $C^T AC$  have the same rank. Thus they have the same number of zero eigenvalues.

37. In equation (9) with  $m_1 = 1$  and  $m_2 = 2$ , verify that the normal modes are  $M$ -orthogonal:  $x_1^T M x_2 = 0$ .

38. A group of nonsingular matrices includes  $AB$  and  $A^{-1}$  if it includes  $A$  and  $B$ . “Products and inverses stay in the group.” Which of these sets are groups? Positive definite symmetric matrices  $A$ , orthogonal matrices  $Q$ , all exponentials  $e^{tA}$  of a fixed matrix  $A$ , matrices  $P$  with positive eigenvalues, matrices  $D$  with determinant 1. Invent a group containing only positive definite matrices.

39. Use the pivots of  $A - \frac{1}{2}I$  to decide whether  $A$  has an eigenvalue smaller than  $\frac{1}{2}$ :

$$A - \frac{1}{2}I = \begin{bmatrix} 2.5 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 9.5 & 7 \\ 0 & 7 & 7.5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

40. Do  $A$  and  $C^T AC$  always satisfy the law of inertia when  $C$  is not square?

41. If the symmetric matrices  $A$  and  $M$  are indefinite,  $Ax = \lambda Mx$  might not have real eigenvalues. Construct a 2 by 2 example.

42. Find by experiment the number of positive, negative, and zero eigenvalues of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} I & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

when the block  $B$  (of order  $\frac{1}{2}n$ ) is nonsingular.

43. Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $Ax = \lambda Mx$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 6 & -3 \\ -3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} x = \frac{\lambda}{18} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} x.$$

$$\|v\| = \|U\Sigma V^T x - b\| = \|\Sigma V^T x - U^T b\|.$$

Introduce the new unknown  $y = V^T x = V^{-1}x$ , which has the same length as  $x$ . Then, minimizing  $\|Ax - b\|$  is the same as minimizing  $\|\Sigma y - U^T b\|$ . Now  $\Sigma$  is diagonal and we know the best  $y^+$ . It is  $y^+ = \Sigma^+ U^T b$ , so the best  $x^+$  is  $Vy^+$ :

**Shortest solution**  $x^+ = Vy^+ = V\Sigma^+ U^T b = A^+ b$ .

$Vy^+$  is in the row space, and  $A^T Ax^+ = A^T b$  from the SVD.

### Problem Set 6.3

**Problems 1–2 compute the SVD of a square singular matrix  $A$ .**

1. (a) Compute  $AA^T$  and its eigenvalues  $\sigma_1^2, 0$  and unit eigenvectors  $u_1, u_2$ .  
 (b) Choose signs so that  $Av_1 = \sigma_1 u_1$  and verify the SVD:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \end{bmatrix}^T.$$

(c) Which four vectors give orthonormal bases for  $C(A), N(A), C(A^T), N(A^T)$ ?

2. Compute  $A^T A$  and its eigenvalues  $\sigma_1^2, 0$  and unit eigenvectors  $v_1, v_2$ :

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Problems 3–5 ask for the SVD of matrices of rank 2.**

3. Compute  $A^T A$  and  $AA^T$ , and their eigenvalues and unit eigenvectors, for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Multiply the three matrices  $U\Sigma V^T$  to recover  $A$ .

4. Find the SVD from the eigenvectors  $v_1, v_2$  of  $A^T A$  and  $Av_i = \sigma_i u_i$ :

**Fibonacci matrix**  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

5. Use the SVD part of the MATLAB demo `eigshow` (or Java on the course page [web.mit.edu/18.06](http://web.mit.edu/18.06)) to find the same vectors  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  graphically.

**Problems 6–13 bring out the underlying ideas of the SVD.**

6. Find  $U\Sigma V^T$  if  $A$  has orthogonal columns  $w_1, \dots, w_n$  of lengths  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ .

7. Explain how  $U\Sigma V^T$  expresses  $A$  as a sum of  $r$  rank-1 matrices in equation (3):

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T.$$

8. Construct the matrix with rank 1 that has  $Av = 12u$  for  $v = \frac{1}{2}(1, 1, 1, 1)$  and  $u = \frac{1}{3}(2, 2, 1)$ . Its only singular value is  $\sigma_1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ .

9. Suppose  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  are orthonormal bases for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Construct the matrix  $A$  that transforms each  $v_j$  into  $u_j$  to give  $Av_1 = u_1, \dots, Av_n = u_n$ .

10. (a) If  $A$  changes to  $4A$ , what is the change in the SVD?  
 (b) What is the SVD for  $A^T$  and for  $A^{-1}$ ?
11. Suppose  $A$  is a 2 by 2 symmetric matrix with unit eigenvectors  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ . If its eigenvalues are  $\lambda_1 = 3$  and  $\lambda_2 = -2$ , what are  $U$ ,  $\Sigma$ , and  $V^T$ ?
12. Why doesn't the SVD for  $A + I$  just use  $\Sigma + I$ ?
13. Suppose  $A$  is invertible (with  $\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > 0$ ). Change  $A$  by as small a matrix as possible to produce a singular matrix  $A_0$ . Hint:  $U$  and  $V$  do not change:

$$\text{Find } A_0 \text{ from } A = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & \\ & \sigma_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \end{bmatrix}^T.$$

14. Find the SVD and the pseudoinverse  $V\Sigma^+U^T$  of  
 $A = [1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1]$ ,  $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .
15. Is  $(AB)^+ = B^+A^+$  always true for pseudoinverses? I believe not.
16. (a) If  $A$  has independent columns, its left-inverse  $(A^TA)^{-1}A^T$  is  $A^+$ .  
 (b) If  $A$  has independent rows, its right-inverse  $A^T(AA^T)^{-1}$  is  $A^+$ .  
 In both cases, verify that  $x^+ = A^+b$  is in the row space, and  $A^T Ax^+ = A^T b$ .
17. Find the SVD and the pseudoinverse  $0^+$  of the  $m$  by  $n$  zero matrix.
18. If an  $m$  by  $n$  matrix  $Q$  has orthonormal columns, what is  $Q^+$ ?
19. Explain why  $AA^+$  and  $A^+A$  are projection matrices (and therefore symmetric). What fundamental subspaces do they project onto?
20. Diagonalize  $A^TA$  to find its positive definite square root  $S = V\Sigma^{1/2}V^T$  and its polar decomposition  $A = QS$ :

$$A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 6 \\ 0 & 8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

21. Removing zero rows of  $U$  leaves  $A = \underline{L}\underline{U}$ , where the  $r$  columns of  $\underline{L}$  span the column space of  $A$  and the  $r$  rows of  $\underline{U}$  span the row space. Then  $A^+$  has the explicit formula  $\underline{U}^T(\underline{U}\underline{U}^T)^{-1}(\underline{L}^T\underline{L})^{-1}\underline{L}^T$ .  
 Why is  $A^+b$  in the row space with  $\underline{U}^T$  at the front? Why does  $A^TAA^+b = A^Tb$ , so that  $x^+ = A^+b$  satisfies the normal equation as it should?
22. Split  $A = U\Sigma V^T$  into its reverse polar decomposition  $QS'$ .
23. What is the minimum-length least-squares solution  $x^+ = A^+b$  to the following?

$$Ax = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ D \\ E \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

You can compute  $A^+$ , or find the general solution to  $A^T A \hat{x} = A^T b$  and choose the solution that is in the row space of  $A$ . This problem fits the best plane  $C + Dt + Ez$  to  $b = 0$  and also  $b = 2$  at  $t = z = 0$  (and  $b = 2$  at  $t = z = 1$ ).