

# Quadratic Form

Ex 1

$$\begin{aligned}
 q &= 3x_1^2 + 4x_1x_2 - x_2^2 \\
 &= \underbrace{x^T}_{1 \times 2} \underbrace{A}_{2 \times 2} \underbrace{x}_{2 \times 1} \\
 &= [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4/2 \\ 4/2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Diagram illustrating the mapping from the quadratic form to the matrix representation. Blue arrows connect the coefficients of  $x_1^2$  and  $x_2^2$  to the diagonal elements of the matrix  $A$ . Red arrows connect the coefficient of  $x_1x_2$  to the off-diagonal elements, with a factor of 2 indicated for the lower triangular part.

(1, 2)

$$q(x_1, x_2)$$

$$x_1 \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \checkmark$$

$$\underbrace{A = A^T}_{\text{Symmetric}}$$

Ex 2.a

$$q = x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 7x_3^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3$$

$$\underline{q} = \underbrace{[x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3]}_{\underline{x}^T} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{x}}$$

$$A = A^T$$



$$q = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j$$

$$= \underline{x}^T \underset{\substack{1 \times n \\ n \times n}}{A} \underline{x}$$

"General form"

$$A = [a_{ij}]$$

$$A = A^T$$

$$\underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$q = \underline{x}^T A \underline{x}$  is +ve definite if  $q > 0$  for all  $\underline{x} \neq 0$

$q$

is -ve definite if  $q < 0$  for all  $\underline{x} \neq 0$

$q$

is +ve semi-definite if  $q \geq 0$

is -ve semi-definite if  $q \leq 0$

$q$

is indefinite if it can be +ve. and negative values.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ex 2b. } f &= x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 7x_3^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3 \\ &= (x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3)^2 + 2x_2^2 + 7x_3^2 - 2x_2x_3 - 4x_3^2 + 4x_2x_3 \\ &= (x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3)^2 + \underline{x_2^2 + 3x_3^2 + 2x_2x_3} \\ &= (x_1 - x_2 + 2x_3)^2 + (x_2 + x_3)^2 + 2x_3^2 \end{aligned}$$

$q > 0$  for any choice of  $x_1, x_2, x_3$

$g$  and  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 2 & -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$  are positive definite

$$f = \underline{x^T A x} > 0$$

for any choice of  $\underline{x}$

How do we associate  
with eigenvalues?

check all  $\lambda_i > 0$ . ✓

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} f &= 3x_1^2 + 4x_1x_2 - x_2^2 \\ &= 3\left(x_1^2 + \frac{4}{3}x_1x_2 - \frac{1}{3}x_2^2\right) \\ &= 3\left(x_1^2 + 2\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)x_1x_2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}x_2\right)^2 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2x_2^2 - \frac{1}{3}x_2^2\right) \\ &= 3\left(\left(x_1 + \frac{2}{3}x_2\right)^2 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2x_2^2 - \frac{1}{3}x_2^2\right) \\ &= 3\left(\left(x_1 + \frac{2}{3}x_2\right)^2 - \frac{7}{9}x_2^2\right) \\ f &= \underbrace{3\left(x_1 + \frac{2}{3}x_2\right)^2}_{+ve} - \underbrace{\frac{7}{3}x_2^2}_{+ve} \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} f &= [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \underline{x}^T \underline{A} \underline{x} \end{aligned}$$

"f" and "A" are indefinite

f could be +ve/-ve  
for different choices  
of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$

For eg: Choose  $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 3)$

$$f = 6 > 0$$

Choose  $(x_1, x_2) = (0, 3)$

$$f = -9 < 0$$

check A has ~~the~~ <sup>+ve and -ve</sup> eigenvalues

Recall

( $A$  is  $n \times n$  matrix)

- " $A$ " is a real symmetric matrix, it is possible to find  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors,  $\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2, \dots, \underline{x}_n$
- If  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct, then these eigenvectors  $\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2, \dots, \underline{x}_n$  will also be orthogonal.  $\boxed{\underline{x}_i^T \underline{x}_j = 0 \quad i \neq j}$
- [Of course, if they are not distinct, it is in fact still possible to obtain  $n$  orthogonal eigenvectors via "Gram-Schmidt process" (We did not cover this process in our course.)]
- If  $\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2, \dots, \underline{x}_n$  are normalized, i.e.  $\underline{x}_1^T \underline{x}_1 = 1, \underline{x}_2^T \underline{x}_2 = 1, \dots, \underline{x}_n^T \underline{x}_n = 1$

$$P = [\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2, \dots, \underline{x}_n] ;$$

$$P^T P = I \iff \underbrace{P^T = P^{-1}}$$

$P$  is  $\swarrow$  orthogonal matrix  $\searrow$

Thus, it is possible to diagonalize a symmetric matrix using an orthogonal matrix  $P$

$$P^T A P = D \quad \checkmark$$

Suppose a quadratic form  $\mathcal{F} = \underline{x}^T A \underline{x}$

Make the change of variable

$$\underline{x} = P \underline{y}$$

$$P^T \underline{x} = P^T P \underline{y} = \underline{y}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F} &= \underline{x}^T A \underline{x} = (P \underline{y})^T A P \underline{y} \\ &= \underline{y}^T P^T A P \underline{y} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \underline{y}^T D \underline{y} = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \lambda_2 & \\ 0 & & \ddots \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathcal{F}$

$$= \lambda_1 y_1^2 + \lambda_2 y_2^2 + \dots + \lambda_n y_n^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i y_i^2$$

$\mathcal{F}$  is written as a sum of squares with the coefficients of the  $y_i^2$  being  $\lambda_i$  of  $A$ .

Thm

A quadratic form and its associated matrix are positive definite iff

all eigenvalues of the associated symmetric matrix are positive

i.e.  $\lambda_i$  of  $A > 0$  for all  $i$   
 $\checkmark$   
 $0$

Example

$$f = 2x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 = [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{\underline{x^T A x}}$$

The eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A$  are

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$\lambda_2 = 3$$

$$\underline{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

normalized vectors

$$\hat{\underline{x}}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\underline{x}}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\hat{x}_1}{\downarrow} 1/\sqrt{2} & \overset{\hat{x}_2}{\downarrow} -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{-1} = P^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}; \quad P^T A P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = D$$

If we make the change of variable

$$\underline{x} = P \underline{y} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{P^{-1}x} = \underline{y} \quad \text{or} \quad P^T \underline{x} = \underline{y}$$

$$\therefore \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (y_1 - y_2)/\sqrt{2} \\ (y_1 + y_2)/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f = \underline{x}^T A \underline{x} = \underline{y}^T D \underline{y} = \sum_{i=1}^2 \lambda_i y_i^2 = \lambda_1 y_1^2 + \lambda_2 y_2^2$$

$$f = y_1^2 + 3y_2^2$$

Verification (i)  $\underline{y} = P^T \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} =$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (x_1 + x_2)/\sqrt{2} \\ (x_2 - x_1)/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}; \quad f = \frac{(x_1 + x_2)^2}{2} + 3 \frac{(x_2 - x_1)^2}{2}$$



### Verification (ii)

$$q = 2x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2(y_1 - y_2)^2/2 - 2 \frac{(y_1 - y_2)}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{(y_1 + y_2)}{\sqrt{2}} + 2 \frac{(y_1 + y_2)^2}{2} \\ &= y_1^2 + 3y_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

### Verification (iii)

"Completing the Square" does not necessarily give the same factorization.

$$\begin{aligned} q &= 2x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 = 2(x_1^2 - x_1x_2 + x_2^2) \\ &= 2 \left[ \left(x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{x_2^2}{4} + x_2^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$= 2 \left( x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} \right)^2 + 3x_2^2/2$$

[ factorization Different from (i) ]

## Example

- For any constant  $c > 0$ , the points  $(x_1, x_2)$  satisfying

$$2x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 = c \quad \checkmark$$

form a conic in the plane.

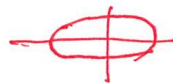
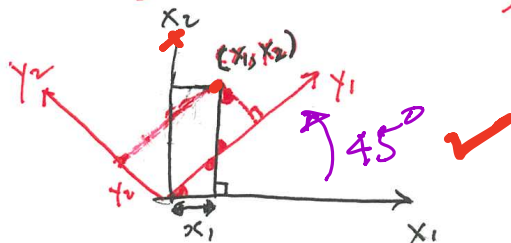
- change of variable, we have

$$\underline{y_1^2 + 3y_2^2 = c}$$

with transformation

$$\underline{x = P y}, \text{ where } P = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \checkmark$$

represents a rotation of the axes through  $45^\circ$ ,



→ This is an equation of an ellipse  $\checkmark$

## Equivalent definitions

A) If  $A_1 = a_{11}$  ,  $A_2 = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix}$  ,  $A_3 = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} \dots$

$A_n = \det(A)$ , then  $A$  is +ve iff  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are all positive.  
 $n \times n$

B)  $A$  is +ve iff  $A \rightarrow$  echelon form; all the diagonal elements are positive.

$A$



eg

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & * & * \\ 0 & d_{22} & * \\ 0 & 0 & d_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$d_{11}$ ,  $d_{22}$ ,  $d_{33}$   $> 0$

Example The Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 & 4 \\ -3 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is } \textcircled{+ve} \text{ definite}$$

Since

$$\det [2] = 2 \quad ; \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \quad ; \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 & 4 \\ -3 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = 1$$

Thm : A quadratic form  $\underline{x}^T A \underline{x}$  on a symmetric matrix  $A$  is

$$q = \underline{x}^T A \underline{x}$$

$q$  is +ve definite iff

$$\lambda(A) > 0$$

$$\lambda_i > 0 \text{ some}$$

$q$  is semidefinite iff

$$\lambda(A) \geq 0$$

$$\lambda_i > 0 \neq \lambda_i = 0$$

$q$  is -ve definite iff

$$\lambda(A) < 0$$

$$\lambda_i < 0$$

$q$  is <sup>-ve</sup> semidefinite iff

$$\lambda(A) \leq 0$$

$$\lambda_i < 0 + \lambda_i = 0$$

$q$  is indefinite iff

$$\text{some } \lambda(A) > 0 \text{ and}$$

$$\lambda(A) < 0$$

Eg: Check if  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$  is positive definite.

(Hints:  $\lambda = 2, 8$ )

Eg: Find a change of variables that reduces the quadratic form  $x_1^2 - x_3^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 4x_2x_3$  to a sum of squares and express the quadratic form in terms of the new variables.

Ans:  $-3y_2^2 + 3y_3^2$