

Linear Algebra



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6

Positive Definite Matrices (正定矩阵)

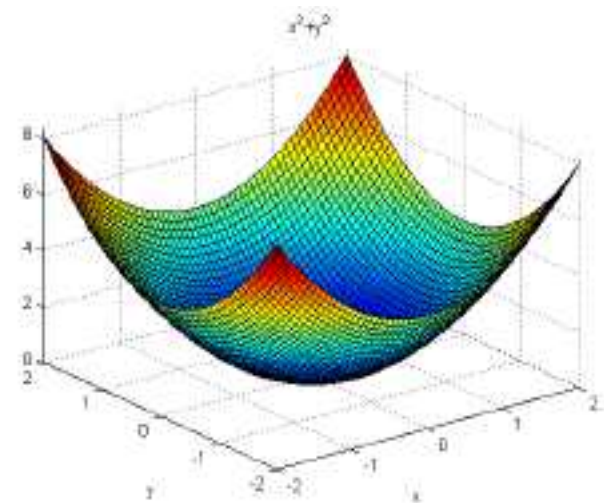
6.1

MINIMA, MAXIMA AND SADDLE POINTS

(最小值、最大值和鞍点)

Definite vs. Indefinite

Quadratic forms (二次型)



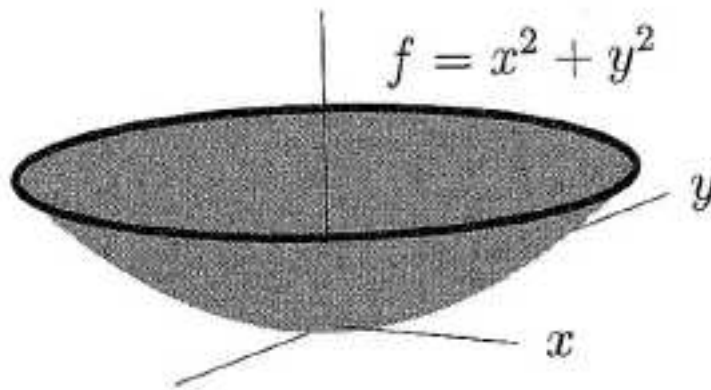
- ❑ *The signs of the eigenvalues* are often crucial.
- ❑ The new and highly important problem is to recognize a *minimum point*. This arises throughout science and engineering and every problem of optimization (优化).
- ❑ We will find a test that can be applied directly to \mathbf{A} , which will *guarantee that all those eigenvalues are positive (negative, ...)*.
- ❑ The test brings together three of the most basic ideas — *pivots, determinants*, and *eigenvalues*.

Every quadratic form (二次型)

$$f(x, y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$$

has a stationary point at the origin, where $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$.

A local minimum *would* also be a global minimum. The surface $z = f(x, y)$ will then be shaped like a bowl, resting on the origin.



a bowl

When $f(x, y)$ is *strictly positive* at all other points (the bowl goes up), it is called **positive definite** (正定), i.e.,

$$f(x, y) > 0, \forall (x, y) \neq (0, 0).$$

I. Definite vs Indefinite

- ❑ **Question.** *What conditions on a , b , and c ensure that the quadratic $f(x, y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ is positive definite?*
- ❑ (i) If $f(x, y)$ is positive definite, then necessarily $a > 0$.
(fix $y = 0$ and look in the x direction where $f(x, 0) = ax^2$)
- ❑ (ii) If $f(x, y)$ is positive definite, then necessarily $c > 0$.
(fix $x = 0$ and look in the y direction where $f(0, y) = cy^2$)
- ❑ $a > 0$ and $c > 0$ *do not guarantee* that $f(x, y)$ is always positive, a large cross term $2bxy$ can pull the graph below zero.

For instance, $f(x, y) = x^2 - 10xy + y^2$.

Here $a = 1$ and $c = 1$ are both positive, but f is not positive definite, because $f(1, 1) = -8$. The conditions $a > 0$ and $c > 0$ ensure that $f(x, y)$ is positive on the x and y axes. But this function is negative on the line $x = y$, because $b = -5$ overwhelms a and c .

❑ **Question.** *What conditions on a , b , and c ensure that the quadratic $f(x, y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ is positive definite?*

❑ (continued) $b > 0$ does not guarantee that $f(x, y)$ is always positive.

For instance, in $f(x, y) = 2x^2 + 4xy + y^2$, $2b = 4 > 0$, this does not ensure a minimum, the sign of b is not important.

f does not have a minimum at $(0,0)$ because

$$f(1, -1) = 2 - 4 + 1 = -1.$$

What really matters?

❑ *It is the size of b , compared to a and c , that must be controlled.*

The simplest technique is to complete the square:

$$f(x, y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2 = a \left(x + \frac{b}{a}y \right)^2 + \left(c - \frac{b^2}{a} \right) y^2$$

❑ (iii) If $f(x, y)$ stays positive, then necessarily $ac > b^2$.

❑ The conditions $a > 0$ and $ac > b^2$ guarantee $c > 0$.

□ **Theorem (Test for a minimum).**

$ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ is positive definite if and only if
 $a > 0$ and $ac > b^2$.

□ **Remark. (Test for a maximum)**

f has a maximum whenever $-f$ has a minimum.

We reverse the signs of a , b and c .

The quadratic form $ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ is **negative definite (负定)** if and only if $a < 0$ and $ac > b^2$.

□ **Singular case** $ac = b^2$.

$$f = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2 = a\left(x + \frac{b}{a}y\right)^2 + \left(c - \frac{b^2}{a}\right)y^2 = a\left(x + \frac{b}{a}y\right)^2$$

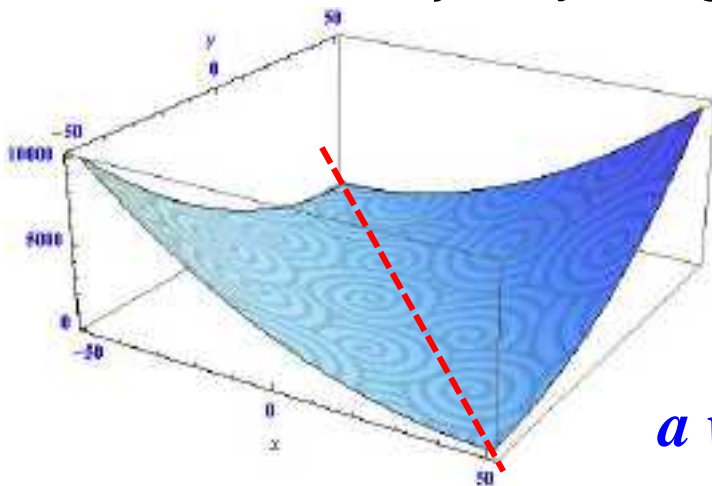
The quadratic form is **positive semidefinite** (半正定) when $a > 0$.

The quadratic form is **negative semidefinite** (半负定) when $a < 0$.

□ **Remark.**

□ The prefix *semi* allows the possibility that f can equal zero, as it will at the point $x = b, y = -a$.

□ The surface $z = f(x, y)$ degenerates from a bowl into a valley.



$$f(x, y) = (x + y)^2$$

a valley

The valley runs along the line
 $x + y = 0$.

❑ **Saddle Point** $ac < b^2$.

❑ **Example. Saddle points at (0,0)**

$$f_1 = 2xy \quad \text{and} \quad f_2 = x^2 - y^2 \quad \text{and} \quad ac - b^2 = -1$$

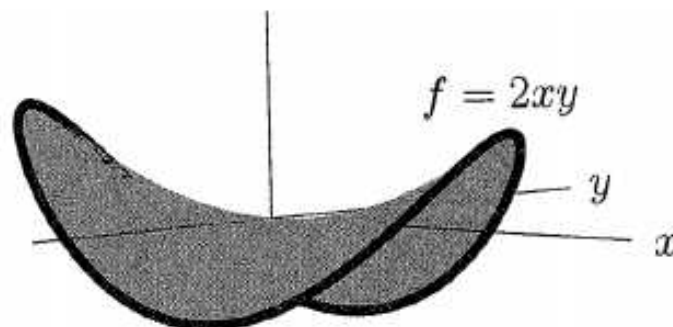
In f_1 , $b = 1$ dominates $a = c = 0$.

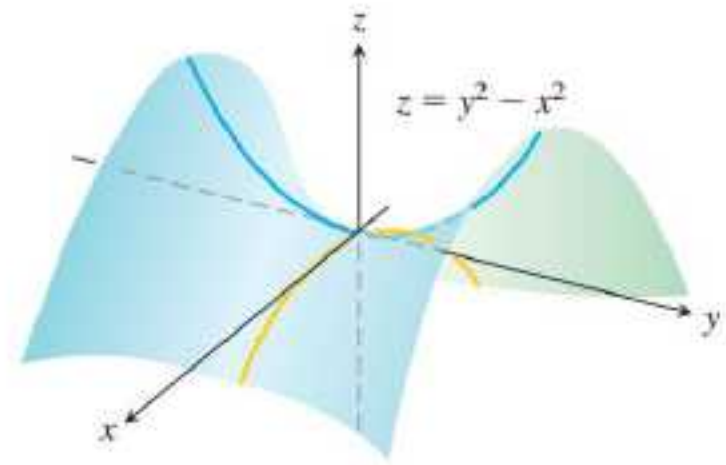
In f_2 , $a = 1$ and $c = -1$ have opposite sign.

These quadratic forms are **indefinite** (不定), because they can take either sign. So we have a stationary point that is neither a maximum or a minimum. It is called a **saddle point** (鞍点).

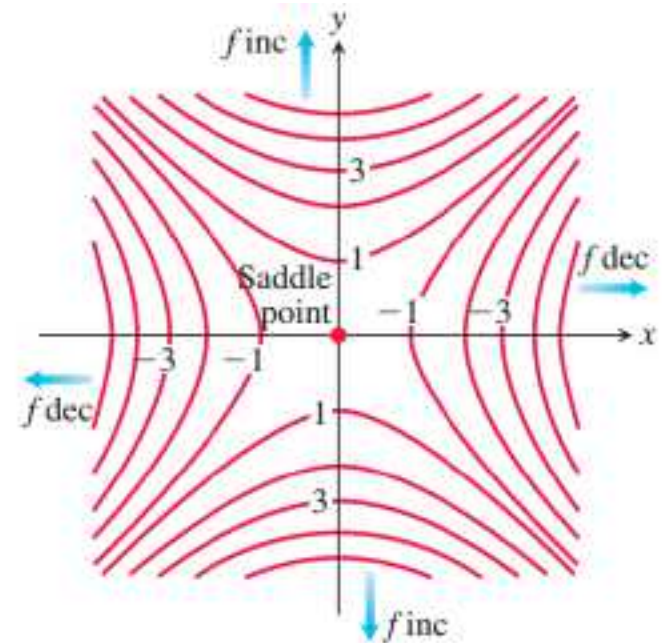
❑ **Remark.** *The saddles $2xy$ and $x^2 - y^2$ are practically the same, if we turn one through 45° we get the other.*

a saddle





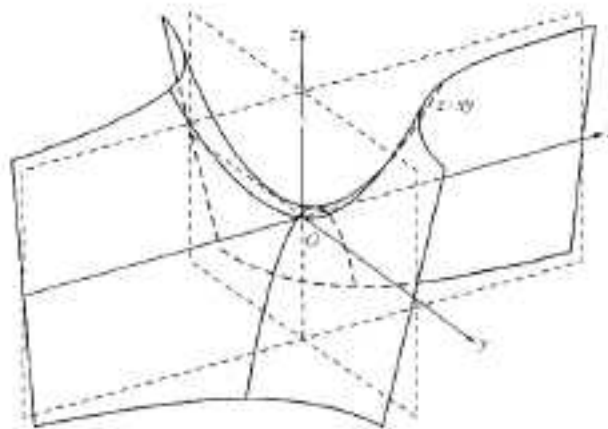
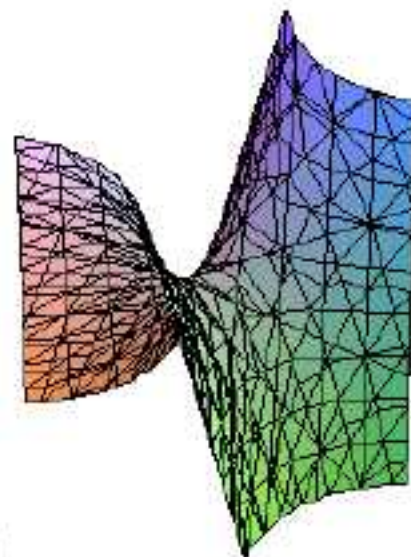
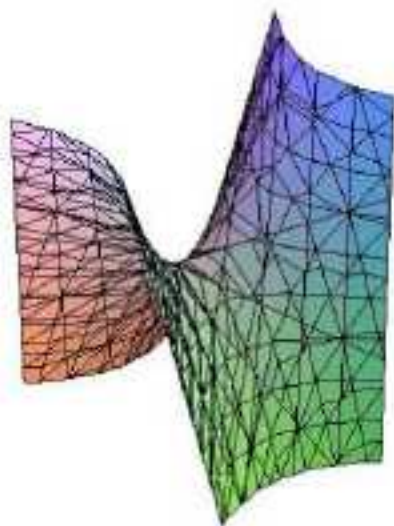
(a)



(b)

Saddle (马鞍面)

$$z = xy$$



II. Quadratic Forms (二次型) & Real Symmetric Matrices

A quadratic form $f(x, y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2$ comes directly from a symmetric 2 by 2 matrix \mathbf{A} :

$$ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2 = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$

where $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$.

For example, $4x^2 + 2xy - 3y^2 = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$.

It generalizes immediately to n dimensions. (We will only discuss *real* case: \mathbf{R}^n)

When the variables are x_1, \dots, x_n , they go into a column vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T \in \mathbf{R}^n$.

For any real symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} , the product $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is a pure quadratic form $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii} x_i^2 + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} 2 a_{ij} x_i x_j \\
 &= a_{11} x_1^2 + 2a_{12} x_1 x_2 + 2a_{13} x_1 x_3 + \dots + 2a_{1n} x_1 x_n \\
 &\quad a_{22} x_2^2 + 2a_{23} x_2 x_3 + \dots + 2a_{2n} x_2 x_n \\
 &\quad + \dots \dots \dots + a_{nn} x_n^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ ($1 \leq i < j \leq n$), then

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= a_{11} x_1^2 + a_{12} x_1 x_2 + \dots + a_{1n} x_1 x_n \\
 &\quad + a_{21} x_2 x_1 + a_{22} x_2^2 + \dots + a_{2n} x_2 x_n \\
 &\quad + \dots \dots \dots \\
 &\quad + a_{n1} x_n x_1 + a_{n2} x_n x_2 + \dots + a_{nn} x_n^2 \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j.
 \end{aligned}$$

For any real symmetric matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$, the product $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is a pure quadratic form $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} &= [x_1 \quad x_2 \quad \cdots \quad x_n] \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j \end{aligned}$$

(with $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$, i.e., $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^T$; $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T \in \mathbf{R}^n$)

The matrix \mathbf{A} is called the **matrix of the quadratic form**.

For example, $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 2x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 - 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2$:

$$f = [x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Example 1 Let

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 2x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + 2x_1x_3 + 4x_2x_4 + x_3^2 + 5x_4^2$$

The corresponding matrix for this quadratic form is

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & \frac{1}{2} & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

For

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 2x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 - 10x_2x_3$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & -5 \\ 2 & -5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 - x_3^2 + 5x_4^2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 2 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Definition 1 For a *real* quadratic form $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ in n variables, if $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0$ for *any* $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T \neq \mathbf{0}$ ($\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n$), then $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is called a **positive definite quadratic form**, and the corresponding real symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} is called a **positive definite matrix**.

如果 n 元实二次型 $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$,

$\forall \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T \neq \mathbf{0}$ ($\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n$), 恒有 $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0$,

就称 $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ 为**正定二次型**; 称实对称矩阵 \mathbf{A} 为**正定矩阵**.

For example, $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + 4y^2 + 16z^2$

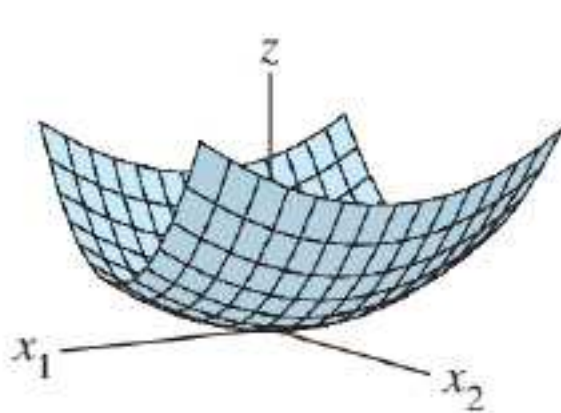
is a positive definite quadratic form.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 4 & \\ & & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

Check the eigenvalue, determinant, pivot, ...?

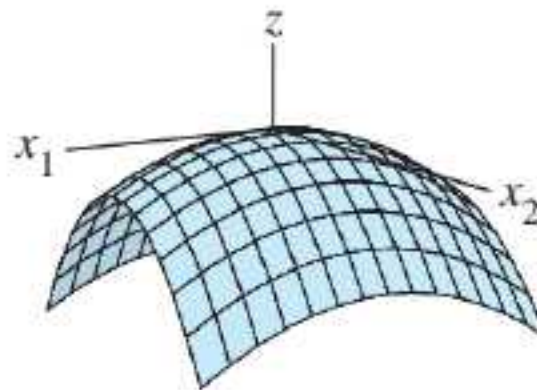
When \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ matrix, the quadratic form $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is a real-valued function with domain \mathbf{R}^n .

We distinguish several important classes of quadratic forms by the type of their values.



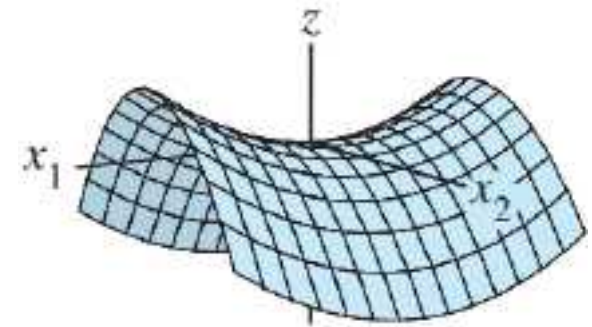
Positive definite

正定



Negative definite

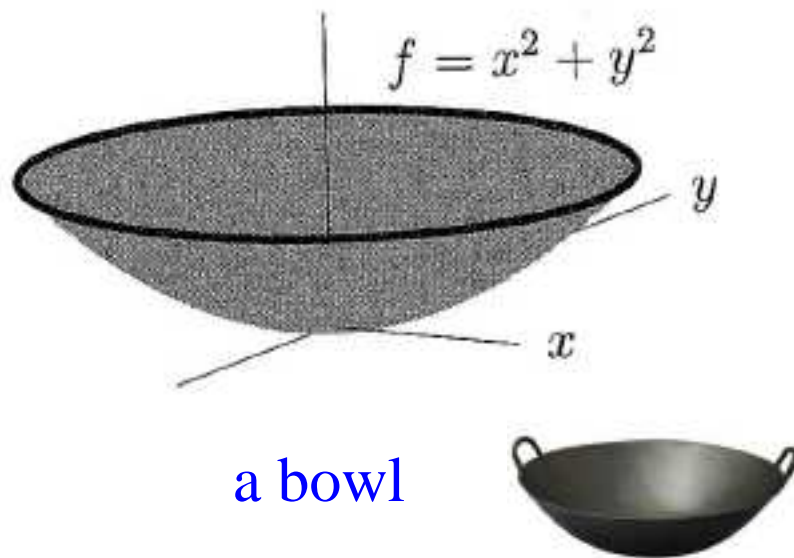
负定



Indefinite

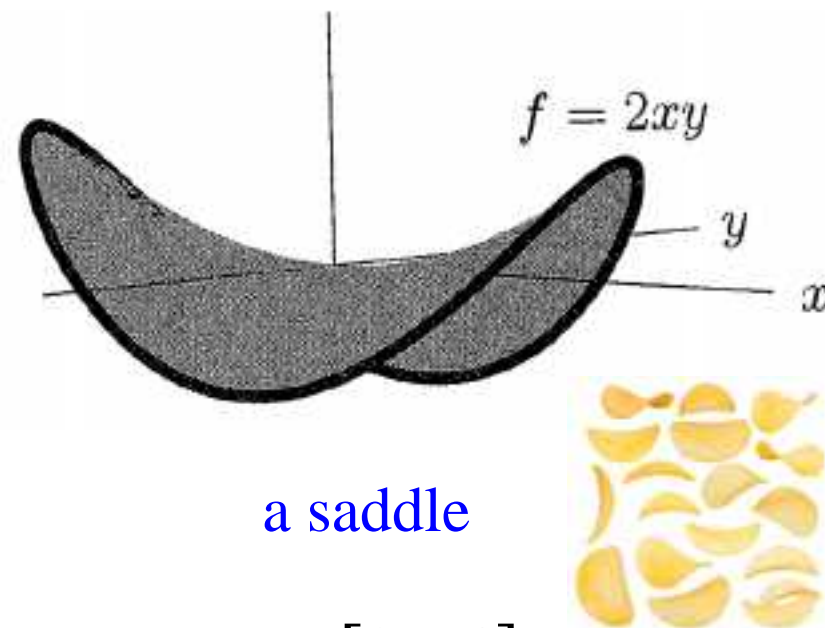
不定

Graphs of quadratic forms



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

Positive definite (正定)



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

Indefinite (不定)

Which symmetric matrices have the property that $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0$ for all nonzero vectors \mathbf{x} ?

Key words:

Definite vs Indefinite

Quadratic Forms and Real Symmetric Matrices

Homework

See Blackboard

