

# Linear Algebra II

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## TUTORIAL 6

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## Tests for Positive Definiteness:



Problem set 6.2: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 19, 23, 30

## Tutorial (6)

### Positive Definite Matrices

- All tests are done on ((Symmetric Matrices))

$$\hookrightarrow A = A^T$$

\* Tests for Positive Definiteness:

1- All Eigenvalues ( $\lambda$ ) are Positive

2- All Pivots are Positive

3- All Sub-determinants are Positive

4- The Quadratic equation  $x^T A x > 0$

# (if you put any value for  $x$  in the equation  $x^T A x$ , you'll always get a Positive number except for  $x = 0$ )

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

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

$$1) A = \begin{bmatrix} a & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & a & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & a \end{bmatrix}$$

→ A is Positive definite for  $a > 2$

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

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & b \end{vmatrix} > 0 \Rightarrow b - 4 > 0$$

$$b > 4$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & b & 8 \\ 4 & 8 & 7 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} b & 8 \\ 8 & 7 \end{vmatrix} - 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 4 & 7 \end{vmatrix} + 4 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & b \\ 4 & 8 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 7b - 64 - 28 + 64 + 64 - 16b$$

$$= 36 - 9b > 0$$

$$9b > 36$$

$$b > 4$$

$$\Rightarrow b > 4$$

**2.** Decide for or against the positive definiteness of

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



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Pivots test :  $R_2 + \frac{1}{2}R_1 \rightarrow R_2$   
 $R_3 + \frac{1}{2}R_1 \rightarrow R_3$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 3/2 & -3/2 \\ 0 & -3/2 & 3/2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 3/2 & -3/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$R_3 + R_2 \rightarrow R_3$

→ 3rd Pivot = 0 (not Positive)

3. Determinant test

$$\det(A_1) = |2| = 2$$

$$\det(A_2) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 4 - 1 = 3$$

$$\det(A_3) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ -1 & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= 2(3) - 3 - 3 = 0 \rightarrow \text{not Positive}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

4. Quadratic form ( $X^T A X = 0$ ) test

$$X^T A X = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\text{Put } x = (1, 1, 1)$$

$$X^T A X = 2 + 2 + 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 = 0$$

not Positive

→ This matrix is not Positive Definite matrix

# you can try only one test

4. Show from the eigenvalues that if  $A$  is positive definite, so is  $A^2$  and so is  $A^{-1}$ .

(4) if  $A$  is Positive definite, it means that its eigenvalues ( $\lambda$ s) are Positive

$\therefore$  eigenvalues of  $A^2 = \lambda^2$

if  $\lambda$  is +ve  $\rightarrow \therefore \lambda^2$  is +ve

$\therefore A^2$  is Positive definite

$\therefore$  eigenvalues of  $A^{-1} = 1/\lambda$

if  $\lambda$  is +ve  $\rightarrow \therefore 1/\lambda$  is +ve

$\therefore A^{-1}$  is Positive definite



**19.** Which 3 by 3 symmetric matrices  $A$  produce these functions  $f = x^T Ax$ ? 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)  $f = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - x_1x_2 - x_1x_3 - x_2x_3).$

$$19) f = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - x_1x_2 - x_2x_3)$$

A that produce  $f = x^T A x$

$$\Rightarrow 2x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - 2x_1x_2 - 2x_2x_3$$

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

$\Rightarrow$  This matrix is Positive definite because it has Pivots:  $2, 3/2, 4/3 > 0$

$$f = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - x_1x_2 - x_1x_3 - x_2x_3)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - 2x_1x_2 - 2x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow$  This matrix is not Positive definite because if we put  $x = (1, 1, 1)$

$$f = 2 + 2 + 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 = 0 \text{ not Positive}$$

**23.** 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!

(23) a) Every Positive definite matrix is invertible

$\Rightarrow$  True, since the determinant of any Positive definite matrix is always greater than Zero, then it's not Singular  
 $\therefore$  invertible

b) The only Positive definite projection matrix is  $P = I$

$\Rightarrow$  True, All Projection matrices except  $I$  are Singular, since the Projection matrix has eigenvalues: 0, 1 and  $I$  has the eigenvalues 1 only.

c) A diagonal matrix with Positive diagonal entries is Positive definite

$\Rightarrow$  True, The diagonal entries of a diagonal matrix are its eigenvalues

d) A Symmetric matrix with a +ve det might not be +ve def

$\Rightarrow$  True, if the det is +ve it doesn't mean that the Subdet of Submatrices are +ve.



THANK YOU