

Linear Algebra

Quadratic Forms, Eigenvalues, and Eigenvectors

Given

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 3(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) + 4(x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_2x_3)$$

$$\text{Let } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix}^T.$$

(a) Find the symmetric matrix (A) to let $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$.

Step 1: Introduction and Matrix Representation

The given quadratic form can be represented in the form $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$, where (A) is a symmetric matrix.

Step 2: Constructing Matrix (A)

The given function is

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 3(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) + 4(x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_2x_3)$$

This can be written as:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = 3x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 3x_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 + 4x_2x_3$$

By comparing with $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$, the symmetric matrix (A) is formed:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Since (A) is symmetric, $(A = A^T)$, we have:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Explanation: Each coefficient of (x_i^2) represents the diagonal elements, scaled by the given quantity, and each cross term (x_ix_j) represents off-diagonal elements with appropriate scaling to maintain symmetry.

(b) Find eigenvalues and eigenvectors of (A) . Then find a nonsingular matrix (P) and a diagonal matrix (D) to diagonalize (A) .

Step 1: Introduction to Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

To diagonalize (A) , find its eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors.

Step 2: Finding Eigenvalues

The eigenvalues (λ) are found by solving the characteristic equation:

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, the characteristic polynomial is:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 3-\lambda & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 3-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 3-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Expanding the determinant:

$$(3-\lambda)[(3-\lambda)(3-\lambda) - 2 \cdot 2] - 2[2(3-\lambda) - 2 \cdot 2] + 2[2(3-\lambda) - 2 \cdot 2] = 0$$

$$(3-\lambda)[(3-\lambda)^2 - 4] - 2[2(3-\lambda) - 4] + 2[2(3-\lambda) - 4] = 0$$

$$(3-\lambda)[\lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 9 - 4] - 2[6 - 2\lambda - 4] + 2[6 - 2\lambda - 4] = 0$$

$$((3-\lambda)(\lambda^2-6\lambda+5)=0, \quad$$

So the eigenvalues are:

$$\lambda_1 = 1, \quad \lambda_2 = 5, \quad \lambda_3 = 5.$$

Step 3: Finding Eigenvectors

For $(\lambda_1 = 1)$:

$$(A - \lambda_1 I)\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{1,1} \\ v_{1,2} \\ v_{1,3} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0},$$

$$2v_{1,1} + 2v_{1,2} + 2v_{1,3} = 0.$$

Eigenvector $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Similarly, for $(\lambda_2 = 5)$:

$$(A - \lambda_2 I)\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{2,1} \\ v_{2,2} \\ v_{2,3} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0},$$

Eigenvectors $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Together, the nonsingular matrix (P) (largest set of eigenvectors) and the diagonal matrix (D) (matrix with eigenvalues) are:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Explanation: The matrix (A) is diagonalized by finding its eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors. Eigenvalues are the roots of the characteristic polynomial, and eigenvectors are solutions to $(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$.