

Ex 1 Trace : $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

is it possible to have $AB - BA = I_n$?

sol the problem is harder if you don't know that you should use the trace. Let's take the trace of the equation above:

$$\text{tr}(AB - BA) = \text{tr}(AB) - \text{tr}(BA) = \text{tr}(AB) - \text{tr}(AB) = 0$$

↑ linearity of trace ↑ invariance by rotation

while $\text{tr}(I_n) = \text{tr}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = n > 0$

so this equality cannot be true

$$\hookrightarrow AB - BA = I_n$$

□

Ex 2 We consider $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ such that :

$$(*) AB - BA = A$$

Calculate $\text{tr}(A^p)$ for $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$

sol Let's try to calculate it directly

$$\text{tr}(A^p) = \text{tr}(A^{p-1} \cdot A) = \text{tr}(A^{p-1}(AB - BA)) = \text{tr}(A \cdot A \cdot B - A \cdot B \cdot A)$$

Because we only know an expression of A, we have to extract it

$$\xrightarrow{\text{linearity of trace}} = \text{tr}(A^p B) - \text{tr}(A^{p-1} B A)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{invariance by rotation}} = \text{tr}(A^p B) - \text{tr}(A \underbrace{A^{p-1} B}_{\text{tr}(A^p B)})$$

$$= \boxed{0}$$

□

Ex 3 (determinant)

We consider $A \in \mathbb{R}^{(2n+1) \times (2n+1)}$ and A being anti-symmetric

Show that $\det A = 0$

Sol First let's extract the information we have above:

(i) A is antisymmetric means that: $A = -A^T$

(ii) A 's size is odd \Rightarrow it might be useful: it reminds us of $(-1)^{2n+1} = -1$

let's try to calculate directly then: (iii)

$$\det A = \det(-A^T) = (-1)^{2n+1} \det A^T = (-1) \det A$$

A antisymmetric (i) property of \det property of \det : $\det A^T = \det A$.

so we have $\det A = -\det A$

$$\text{i.e. } 2\det A = 0 \text{ i.e. } \boxed{\det A = 0} \quad \square$$

Ex 4 A matrix A is said to be idempotent if $A^2 = A$

(i) Show that the only possible eigenvalues for A are 0 and 1

(ii) Give an example of an idempotent matrix that has eigenvalues 0 and 1 (both).

Sol: (i) This question can be resolved with this classic method

1) Assuming the existence of λ , an eigenvalue of A

2) Showing that λ is necessarily 0 or 1.

Let's consider (λ, α) an eigenvalue/eigenvector pair of A .

we have $A\alpha = \lambda\alpha$ (definition) $\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\text{so } \lambda\alpha = A^2\alpha = A \cdot A\alpha = A\lambda\alpha = \lambda A\alpha = \lambda^2\alpha$$

$A = A^2$ ↑ separate A^2 ↑ definition $A\alpha = \lambda\alpha$

and because α is a non zero vector (eigenvector)

$$\text{we have } \lambda = \lambda^2 \rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = 0 \text{ or } \lambda = 1} \quad \square$$

(ii) $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ works because $A^2 = A$ and we can read

the eigenvalues on the diagonal $\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 0$

Ex5 We consider $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ "A" for all
 $x \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$

Show that f is a norm in \mathbb{R}^n .

Sol The method to show that a function is a norm is:

① Show positivity: ie $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n f(x) \geq 0$

② Show definiteness: ie $x = 0 \iff f(x) = 0$

most often, this is the hard part \rightarrow ③ Show Homogeneity: ie $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, f(\lambda x) = |\lambda| f(x)$

Let's do it:

① $\forall i \in \{1, n\}$, we know that $|x_i| \geq 0$

so by summing them together we have: $\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| \geq 0 \Rightarrow f(x) \geq 0$

② if $x = 0$ then $\forall i \in \{1, n\} x_i = 0$ because $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$

then by summing all the x_i 's we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| = 0$$

if $f(x) = 0$ we have $\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| = 0$

which means that $\forall i \in \{1, n\} |x_i| = 0$

so $\forall i \in \{1, n\} x_i = 0$ and thus $x = 0$

③ $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ factorize

$$f(\lambda x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda x_i| = \sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda| |x_i| = |\lambda| \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| = |\lambda| f(x)$$

④ $\forall (x, y) \in (\mathbb{R}^n)^2$ because $\forall i \in \{1, n\} |x_i + y_i| \leq |x_i| + |y_i|$

$$f(x+y) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i + y_i| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n (|x_i| + |y_i|) = f(x) + f(y)$$

We proved ①②③④ $\rightarrow f$ is a norm!

Practice Prove that $f: x \mapsto \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2 \right)^{1/2}$ is a norm

$g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 $x \mapsto \max|x_i|$ is a norm

Ex6 Find the local extrema of $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^3 + x_2^3 - 3x_1x_2$

Sol METHOD : ① Calculate $\nabla f(x)$ and solve $\nabla f(x) = \vec{0}$

② Calculate $\nabla^2 f(x)$ and apply it at specific points
(the solutions of $\nabla f(x) = \vec{0}$)

③ Check if $\nabla^2 f(x)$ is Positive/Negative Semi definite

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3x_1^2 - 3x_2 \\ 3x_2^2 - 3x_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\nabla f(x) = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1^2 = x_2 \\ x_2^2 = x_1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} (x_1, x_2) = (0, 0) \\ \text{or} \\ (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1) \end{cases}$$

These are inflection points or local extrema?
(The Hessian will tell us!)

$$H(x) = \nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_2^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6x_1 & -3 \\ -3 & 6x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{so } H(0, 0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -3 \\ -3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and } H(1, 1) = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -3 \\ -3 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$H(0, 0)$ PSD? \rightarrow Symmetric OK

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow x^T H(0, 0) x = -6x_1x_2 \text{ which can be } > 0 \text{ or } < 0$$

if x_1, x_2
different signs

so $(0, 0)$ is not a local extrema

$H(1, 1)$ PSD? \rightarrow Symmetric OK

$$\rightarrow x^T H(1, 1) x = 6(x_1^2 - x_1x_2 + x_2^2) \geq 0$$

so $(1, 1)$ is a local minima

↑
to prove this
look at $(x_1 + x_2)^2 \geq 0$
 $(x_1 - x_2)^2 \geq 0$