

# Matrix Analysis and Applications

## Chapter 4: Positive Semidefinite Matrices

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- 3 Matrix Inequality

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# Quadratic Form

**Quadratic Form:** given  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , the function

$$\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_i^* x_j a_{ij}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n \quad (1)$$

is called a **quadratic form**.

- for complex-valued Hermitian  $\mathbf{A}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$  is real-valued for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ .
- for the real-valued case, (1) is often replaced by  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Notation:**

$\mathcal{H}^n \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , the set of all  $n \times n$  complex Hermitian matrices.  
 $\mathcal{S}^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , the set of all  $n \times n$  real symmetric matrices.

# Positive Semidefinite Matrices

- 1) A matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$  (resp.  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}^n$ ) is said to be **positive semidefinite** (PSD) if

$$\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n \quad (2)$$

$$(\text{resp. } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n) \quad (3)$$

- 2) A matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$  (resp.  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}^n$ ) is said to be **positive definite** (PD) if

$$\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0} \quad (4)$$

$$(\text{resp. } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}) \quad (5)$$

- 3) A matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$  or  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}^n$  is said to be **indefinite** if it is not PSD.

# Positive Semidefinite Matrices (cont'd)

## Example 1 (Correlation Matrix)

Let  $\{\mathbf{y}_n\}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_n \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , be a WSS process. The correlation matrix  $\mathbf{R}_y = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{y}_n \mathbf{y}_n^H\}$  is PSD.

**Proof:**

$$\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{R}_y \mathbf{x} = \mathbb{E} \{ \mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{y}_n \mathbf{y}_n^H \mathbf{x} \} = \mathbb{E} \{ |\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{y}_n|^2 \} \geq 0, \text{ for any } \mathbf{x}.$$

The sample correlation matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_y = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{y}_n \mathbf{y}_n^H$  is also PSD.

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**Exercise:** let  $\mathbf{C}_y = \mathbb{E} \{ (\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{y}_n\})(\mathbf{y}_n - \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{y}_n\})^H \}$  denote the covariance matrix of  $\mathbf{y}_n$ . Verify that  $\mathbf{C}_y$  is PSD.

# Hessian Matrix of a Function

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function, and  $\text{dom } f$  be the domain of the function. Assume twice differentiable  $f$ .

## 1) Gradient:

$$\Delta f(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

## 2) Hessian: $\Delta^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{S}^n$ is a matrix whose $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$ elements are

$$[\Delta^2 f(\mathbf{x})]_{ij} \triangleq \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}. \quad (7)$$



## Hessian Matrix of a Function (cont'd)

**Fact:** a twice differentiable function  $f$  is convex if (also only if)

$$\Delta^2 f(x) \text{ is PSD for all } x \in \text{dom} f.$$

- The class of convex functions is important to many areas, esp., optimization.

## Hessian Matrix of a Function (cont'd)

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### Example 2 (Quadratic Function)

The quadratic function

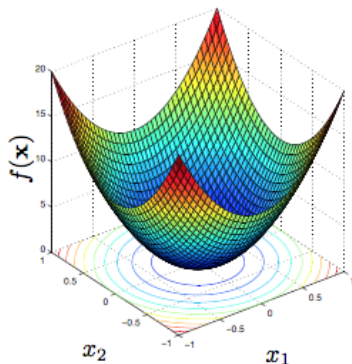
$$f(x) = x^T A x + 2b^T x + c, \quad (8)$$

where  $A \in \mathcal{S}^n$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Its gradient and Hessian are

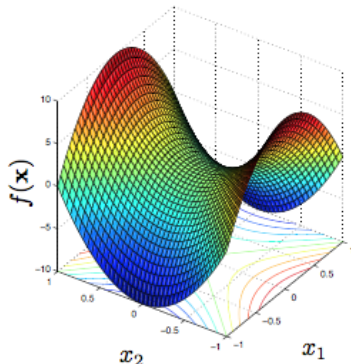
$$\Delta f(x) = 2Ax + 2b, \quad \Delta^2 f(x) = 2A. \quad (9)$$

- The quadratic function is convex if  $A$  is PSD.

# Illustration of Quadratic Functions



(a) PSD  $A$ .



(b) indefinite  $A$ .

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# Principal Submatrices

A **principal submatrix** of  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ , denoted by  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{I}}$ , where  $\mathcal{I} = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $m < n$ , is a submatrix obtained by keeping only the rows and columns indicated by  $\mathcal{I}$ .

## Property 1

*If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD (resp. PD), then any  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{I}}$  is PSD (resp. PD).*

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## Property 1

*If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD (resp. PD), then any  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{I}}$  is PSD (resp. PD).*

Some immediate results:

- Partition  $\mathbf{A}$  as

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{11} & \mathbf{A}_{12} \\ \mathbf{A}_{21} & \mathbf{A}_{22} \end{bmatrix},$$

if  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD, then both  $\mathbf{A}_{11}$  and  $\mathbf{A}_{22}$  are also PSD.

- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD, then  $a_{ii} \geq 0$  for all  $i$ . If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PD, then  $a_{ii} > 0$  for all  $i$ .

# Eigenvalues

## Property 2

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$  (or  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}^n$ ) and let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  denote the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$ . Then,  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD (resp. PD) if and only if

$$\lambda_i \geq 0 \text{ (resp. } \lambda_i > 0 \text{ for all } i). \quad (10)$$

Some immediate results:

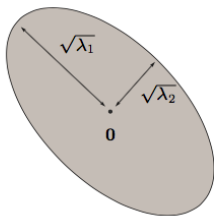
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD (resp. PD), then  $\det(\mathbf{A}) \geq 0$  (resp.  $\det(\mathbf{A}) > 0$ ).
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD (resp. PD), then  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) \geq 0$  (resp.  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) > 0$ ).
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PD, then  $\mathbf{A}$  is nonsingular (and invertible).

## Example: Ellipsoid

**Ellipsoid:**

$$\varepsilon = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P}^{-1} \mathbf{x} \leq 1 \}, \quad (11)$$

where  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{S}^n$  is PD.



Let  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}^T$  be the eigendecomposition.

- $\mathbf{Q}$  determines the directions of the semi-axes;
- $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  determine the lengths of the semi-axes.



## Example: Multivariate Gaussian Distribution

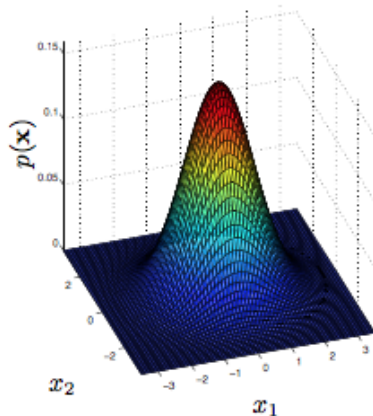
PDF for a Gaussian-distributed vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}} (\det(\mathbf{\Sigma}))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right), \quad (12)$$

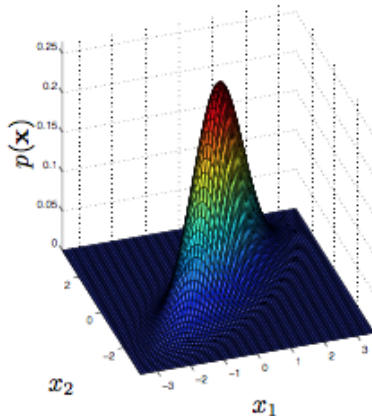
where  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  and  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  are the mean and covariance of  $\mathbf{x}$ , resp.

- $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is PD.
- $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  determines how  $\mathbf{x}$  is spread, by the same way as in ellipsoid.

# Example: Multivariate Gaussian Distribution



(a)  $\mu = 0, \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$



(b)  $\mu = 0, \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.8 \\ 0.8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$

# Square-Root Factorization

## Theorem 3 (Square-Root Factorization)

A matrix  $A \in \mathcal{H}^n$  can be factorized as

$$A = B^H B, \quad (13)$$

for some  $B$  of appropriate dimension if and only if  $A$  is PSD.

- Eq. (13) is called a **square-root factorization** of  $A$ , and a  $B$  satisfying (13) is called a **square root** of  $A$ .

# Square-Root Factorization

## Theorem 3 (Square-Root Factorization)

A matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$  can be factorized as

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- Eq. (13) is called a **square-root factorization** of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and a  $\mathbf{B}$  satisfying (13) is called a **square root** of  $\mathbf{A}$ .

**Exercise 1:** For the square-root factorization in (13), does  $\mathbf{B}$  have to be square?

**Exercise 2:** Suppose that  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD, and that the matrix dimension of its square root  $\mathbf{B}$  is fixed. Is  $\mathbf{B}$  unique? Can we find a PSD  $\mathbf{B}$ ?

# Transformation

## Theorem 4

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$  and

$$\mathbf{C} \triangleq \mathbf{B}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}. \quad (14)$$

The following properties hold:

- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PSD, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is PSD.
- If  $\mathbf{A}$  is PD, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is PD if and only if  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{B}) = m$ .
- If  $\mathbf{B}$  is square and nonsingular, then  $\mathbf{C}$  is PD (resp. PSD) if and only if  $\mathbf{A}$  is PD (resp. PSD).

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# Matrix Inequality

**Notation:** the symbols ' $\preceq$ ' and ' $\succ$ ' mean that

$$\mathbf{A} \preceq \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \text{ is PSD.}$$

$$\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \text{ is PD.}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Dennis S. Bernstein, *Scalar, Vector, and Matrix Mathematics: Theory, Facts, and Formulas (Revised and Expanded Edition)*, Princeton University Press, 2018.

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**Notation:** the symbols ' $\succeq$ ' and ' $\succ$ ' mean that

$$A \succeq B \iff A - B \text{ is PSD.}$$

$$A \succ B \iff A - B \text{ is PD.}$$

**Basic results** (assuming  $A, B, C \in \mathcal{H}^n$ ):

- If  $A \succeq 0, \alpha \geq 0$  (resp.  $A \succ 0, \alpha > 0$ ), then  $\alpha A \succeq 0$  (resp.  $\alpha A \succ 0$ ).
- If  $A \succeq 0, B \succeq 0$  (resp.  $A \succ 0$ ), then  $A + B \succeq 0$  (resp.  $A + B \succ 0$ ).
- If  $A \succeq B, B \succeq C$  (resp.  $B \succ C$ ), then  $A \succeq C$  (resp.  $A \succ C$ ).

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- If  $A \succeq B, B \succeq C$  (resp.  $B \succ C$ ), then  $A \succeq C$  (resp.  $A \succ C$ ).

**Exercise:** Suppose  $A \not\succeq B$ , which means that  $A - B$  is not PSD. Does this imply  $B \succeq A$ ?

**Note:** There are more results arising from the PSD matrix inequality.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Dennis S. Bernstein, *Scalar, Vector, and Matrix Mathematics: Theory, Facts, and Formulas (Revised and Expanded Edition)*, Princeton University Press, 2018.

# Some Matrix Inequality Results

Denote  $\lambda_1(\mathbf{A}), \dots, \lambda_n(\mathbf{A})$  as the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^n$ .

**Some results** (assuming  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{H}^n$ )<sup>2</sup>:

- $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{I}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{A} \succ \mathbf{I}$ )  $\iff \lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) \geq 1$  (resp.  $\lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) > 1$ ) for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .  
 $\mathbf{I} \succeq \mathbf{A}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{I} \succ \mathbf{A}$ )  $\iff \lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) \leq 1$  (resp.  $\lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) < 1$ ) for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .
- If  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{B}$ , then  $\lambda_k(\mathbf{A}) \geq \lambda_k(\mathbf{B})$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .
- Suppose  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \succ \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{B} \iff \mathbf{B}^{-1} \succeq \mathbf{A}^{-1}$ .

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<sup>2</sup>R. A. Horn and C. R. Johnson, *Matrix Analysis*, 2nd Ed., Cambridge University Press, 2013.

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Some results from the above results:

- If  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ , then  $\det(\mathbf{A}) \geq \det(\mathbf{B})$ .
- If  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{B}$ , then  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}) \geq \text{tr}(\mathbf{B})$ .
- If  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \succ \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{B}$ , then  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^{-1}) \leq \text{tr}(\mathbf{B}^{-1})$ .

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# Schur Complement

Let

$$\mathbf{X} \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^H & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{H}^{m+n}, \quad (15)$$

where  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{H}^m$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathcal{H}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{C} \succ \mathbf{0}$ .

Define  $\mathbf{S} \triangleq \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}^{-1}\mathbf{B}^H$ , which is called the **Schur complement** of the block  $\mathbf{C}$  of the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ . Then,

$$\mathbf{X} \succeq \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{resp. } \mathbf{X} \succ \mathbf{0}) \iff \mathbf{S} \succeq \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{resp. } \mathbf{S} \succ \mathbf{0}). \quad (16)$$

Likewise,  $\mathbf{S}' \triangleq \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^H\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$ , called the **Schur complement** of the block  $\mathbf{A}$  of the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ .

# Schur Complement

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Likewise,  $\mathbf{S}' \triangleq \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{B}^H\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}$ , called the **Schur complement** of the block  $\mathbf{A}$  of the matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ .

**Application:** see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schur\\_complement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schur_complement)

**Thank you  
for your attention!**



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