

Linear Algebra

Seminar 11: Symmetric matrices and quadratic forms (make sure you can write on the board)

Problem 1. (3 pts) Find a matrix P that orthogonally diagonalizes A , and determine $P^{-1}AP$:

$$(a) \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -2 \\ -2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (b) \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad (c) \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (d) \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Problem 2. (3 pts) Decide for or against the positive definiteness of :

$$(a) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (b) \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad (c) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2$$

Problem 3. (3 pts) Let c be a constant and let

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -1 & 3 \\ 2 & c \end{pmatrix}$$

(a) For what value(s) of c will the matrix $B^\top B$ be invertible?

(b) For what value(s) of c will the matrix $B^\top B$ be positive definite?

Justify your answers.

Problem 4. (3 pts)

(a) Find the (generalized) Cholesky decomposition of the symmetric matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 & 2 \\ -4 & 1 & -2 \\ 2 & -2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

In other words, find a lower-triangular L with 1 on the diagonal and a diagonal matrix D such that $A = LDL^\top$.

Hint: $A = L(DL^\top)$ is an LU-factorization of A

(b) The Gram matrix $G = (g_{jk})_{j,k=1}^n$ of the set of vectors $S = \{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n\}$ in \mathbb{R}^m is defined via $g_{jk} = \mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{u}_k$. Show that G is always positive semi-definite; moreover, G is positive definite iff the set S is linearly independent. In the latter case, what is the Cholesky decomposition of G ?

Hint: it is related to QR-decomposition of the $m \times n$ matrix U with columns $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$

Problem 5. (4 pts) Find an orthogonal change of variables that eliminates the cross product terms in the quadratic form Q , and express Q in terms of the new variables:

(a) $Q(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 - 2x_1x_2$;

(b) $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3x_1^2 + 4x_2^2 + 5x_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 - 4x_2x_3$

(c) Sketch the curve $3x^2 + 4xy + 6y^2 = 14$ in the xy -plane.

Problem 6. (4 pts)

(a) Find all values of a and b for which there exists a 3×3 symmetric matrix with eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = -1$, $\lambda_2 = 3$, $\lambda_3 = 7$ and the corresponding eigenvectors

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(b) Reconsider the problem if $\lambda_3 = 3$.

(c) Find all symmetric matrices A satisfying the conditions of part (b).

Extra problems

(to be discussed if time permits)

Problem 7. Find all s and t for which the following matrices are (a) positive or (b) negative definite:

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} s & -4 & -4 \\ -4 & s & 4 \\ -4 & 4 & s \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} t & -3 & 0 \\ -3 & t & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & t \end{pmatrix}$$

Problem 8. Find all values of k for which the quadratic form

$$5x_1^2 + x_2^2 + kx_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 - 2x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3$$

is positive definite.

Problem 9. Consider the matrix A and the vector \mathbf{v}_1 , where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 6 & -2 \\ 1 & -2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Show that \mathbf{v}_1 is an eigenvector of A , and find its corresponding eigenvalue. Then find the other two eigenvalues and eigenvectors and orthogonally diagonalize A .
- (b) Is the quadratic form $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top A \mathbf{x}$ positive definite, negative definite or indefinite? Find the principal axes of Q and the corresponding transition matrix.

