



Rec 10

18.06-Pan

Symmetric and positive definite matrices

Worksheet 10

1. Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix.(a)  $A$  is diagonalizable and the eigenvalues of  $A$  are Real.(b)  $A$  can be decomposed as  $Q\Sigma Q^T$ . $Q$ : orthogonal square matrix $\Sigma$ : diagonal matrix

$$Q = (u_1 \dots u_n)$$

$$(u_1 \dots u_n) \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1^T \\ \vdots \\ u_n^T \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A = \lambda_1 u_1 u_1^T + \dots + \lambda_n u_n u_n^T$$

2. Equivalent conditions for positive definite (semi-positive definite.)

• All the eigenvalues are  $> 0$  ( $\geq 0$ )• All the pivots are  $> 0$  ( $\geq 0$ )• All upper-left determinants  $> 0$  ( $\geq 0$ )• Any vector  $x$ ,  $x^T A x > 0$  ( $\geq 0$ )

$$x^T A x = y^T Q^T A Q y = y^T Q^T Q \Sigma Q^T Q y = y^T \Sigma y = \sum \lambda_i |y_i|^2 > 0$$

( $y = Q^T x$ )

**Problems**1. Is the set of <sup>semi-positive</sup> positive definite  $n \times n$  matrices a vector space?

No

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ Not}$$

semi-positive.

Page 1 of 2

18.06-Pan

Symmetric and positive definite matrices

Worksheet 10

2. Let  $A$  be a  $2 \times 2$  symmetric matrix with two different eigenvalues  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ . The corresponding eigenvectors are  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ .(a) Prove that  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are perpendicular to each other.

$$u_1^T A u_2 = u_1^T \lambda_2 u_2 = \lambda_2 u_1^T u_2$$

$$u_1^T A u_2 = u_1^T A^T u_2 = (A u_1)^T u_2 = \lambda_1 u_1^T u_2$$

$$\text{So } \lambda_1 (u_1^T u_2) = \lambda_2 u_1^T u_2$$

$$\text{Since } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2, \quad u_1^T u_2 = 0$$

(b) If  $\lambda_1 = 0$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 1$ , interpret  $Ab$  using projection of a vector  $b$ .

$$A = (u_1 u_2) \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \\ & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1^T \\ u_2^T \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= u_2 u_2^T$$

So  $Ab$  is the projection of  $b$  to  $u_2$ (c) If  $\lambda_1 = 1$ ,  $\lambda_2 = -1$ , interpret  $Ab$  geometrically.

$$Ab = u_1 u_1^T b - u_2 u_2^T b$$

 $Ab$  is the reflection of $b$  along  $u_1$ .3. Given an invertible matrix  $A$ , can  $A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ? How about  $A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ?

① No

$$\det(A^T A) = \det(A^T) \det A = (\det A)^2 \neq -1$$

$$\text{or } \text{tr}(A^T A) = \sum (a_{ij})^2 \neq 0.$$

② No

$$(A^T A)_{ii} = \sum_{j=1}^5 (a_{ji})^2 \neq 0 \quad \text{If } = 0,$$

then  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & \times & & & \end{pmatrix}$  is not invertible.

Page 2 of 2