

①. Consider any 2 vectors.

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(a, b) = a^T b = [a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3] \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3}$$

$$\text{Similarly } b^T a = [b_1 \ b_2 \ b_3] \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \underline{b_1 a_1 + b_2 a_2 + b_3 a_3}.$$

$$\frac{\partial a^T b}{\partial b} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial a^T b}{\partial b_1} \\ \frac{\partial a^T b}{\partial b_2} \\ \frac{\partial a^T b}{\partial b_3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = a.$$

$$\frac{\partial b^T a}{\partial b} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial b^T a}{\partial b_1} \\ \frac{\partial b^T a}{\partial b_2} \\ \frac{\partial b^T a}{\partial b_3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = a = \frac{\partial a^T b}{\partial b}$$

② Consider a symmetric matrix $P = \begin{bmatrix} P_1 & b \\ b & P_2 \end{bmatrix}$.

and a vector $a = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$.

$$a^T P a = [a_1 \ a_2] \begin{bmatrix} P_1 & b \\ b & P_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} a_1 p_1 + a_2 b & a_1 b + a_2 p_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \underline{a_1^2 p_1 + a_1 a_2 b + a_1 a_2 b + a_2^2 p_2}$$

$$f(a, p) = a_1^2 p_1 + 2a_1 a_2 b + a_2^2 p_2. \checkmark \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\partial a^T p a}{\partial a} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial a^T p a}{\partial a_1} \\ \frac{\partial a^T p a}{\partial a_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2a_1 p_1 + 2a_2 b + 0 \\ 0 + 2a_1 b + 2a_2 p_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \begin{bmatrix} a_1 p_1 + a_2 b \\ a_1 b + a_2 p_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 2 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} p_1 & b \\ b & p_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \underline{\underline{2 p a}}$$