

Quadratic forms

Let A be a symmetric matrix, and $\varphi(x) = x^T A x$ be the corresponding quadratic form.

Then define $m = \min \{ x^T A x \mid \|x\| = 1 \}$

$$M = \max \{ x^T A x \mid \|x\| = 1 \}$$

Question what is the value of m & M ?

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\varphi(x) = 4x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 5x_3^2$$

Find the value of m & M

$$\|x\| = 1 \Rightarrow x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 1$$

$$4x_1^2 \leq 5x_1^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$2x_2^2 \leq 5x_2^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= 4x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 5x_3^2 \\ &\leq 5x_1^2 + 5x_2^2 + 5x_3^2 \\ &= 5(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) \\ &= 5\|x\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \varphi(x) \leq 5 \|x\|^2$$

$$\text{If } \|x\|=1, \quad \varphi(x) \leq 5$$

$$\text{If } x=(0,0,1), \text{ then } \varphi(x) = 4 \cdot 0^2 + 2 \cdot 0^2 + 5 \cdot 1^2$$

$$M=5 \quad x=e_3$$

Find the value of $m=2$ (Prove it.)

$$\text{If } x=(0,1,0), \text{ then } \varphi(x)=2.$$

$$m=2, \quad x=e_2$$

Suppose $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ What is $M \times m$

\downarrow \downarrow
 x y

In previous example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M=5$$

$$e_3$$

largest eigenvalue

Corresponding eigenvector

$$m=2$$

$$e_2$$

least eigenvalue

Then let A be a symmetric matrix. Then
 \Rightarrow M is the greatest eigenvalue of A and m
 is the least eigenvalue of A . The value of

$x^T A x$ is m when x is a unit eigenvector of A , i.e. the value $x^T A x$ is m when x is a unit eigenvector corresponding to m of A .

Pf Let A be a symmetric matrix.

Let P be an orthogonal matrix s.t.
 $P^T A P = D$, diagonal elements of D
 are eigenvalues of A .

Now maximize $x^T A x$ subject to $\|x\|=1$

Let $x = Py$

$$\begin{aligned}\|x\| &= \|Py\| = \sqrt{(Py)^T Py} = \sqrt{y^T \underbrace{P^T P}_{I} y} \\ &= \sqrt{y^T I y} = \sqrt{y^T y} = \|y\|\end{aligned}$$

$\|x\| = 1$ iff and only if $\|y\| = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}Q(x) &= x^T A x = (Py)^T A Py \\ &= y^T P^T A P y \\ &= y^T D y = Q(y)\end{aligned}$$

The theorem is reduced to

maximize $y^T D y$ subject to $\|y\|=1$

$$M = \text{maximum eigenvalue of } D \\ = \text{maximum eigenvalue of } A$$

The value M can be obtained at
e.g. if the diagonal element of D is M

$$x = Py = P e_l = \text{lth column of } P \\ = \text{unit eigenvector corresponding to} \\ \text{eigenvalue } M.$$

Uly Prove for m (Exercise)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Maximise } 4x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 5x_3^2 \\ \text{Subject to } \|x\| = 1 \\ e_3^T x = 0$$

On this case the maximum value is 4. at e_1

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} e_3^T x = 0 \Rightarrow (0, 0, 1) \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_3 = 0 \\ \|x\| = 1 \\ x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 1 \\ \boxed{x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1, x_3 = 0} \end{array} \right.$$

Thm Let A be a symmetric matrix and λ be the largest eigenvalue of A and u be a corresponding eigenvector. Then the maximum value of $x^T A x$ subject to $\|x\|=1$, $u^T \cdot x = 0$ is the second largest eigenvalue of A . The value attained at corresponding unit eigenvector.

(Proof is easy) Exercise

Ques. Let A be a symmetric matrix.

Maximize $x^T A x$

subject to $\|x\|=1$

$u_1^T x = 0 \rightarrow u_1$ unit eigenvector to largest
 $u_2^T x = 0$, u_2 - eigenvector to 2nd largest eigen

Let us see in example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \quad e_1^T x = 0$$

In this way, we can find all the eigenvalues in a decreasing order.

ex Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

Then the l.t maps unit sphere to an ellipse in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Find a unit vector x s.t $\|Ax\|$ is largest.

want to maximize $\|Ax\|$ subject to $\|x\|=1$

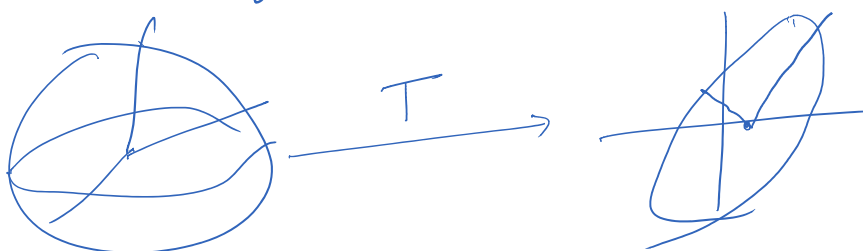
$$\|Ax\|^2 = (Ax)^T Ax$$

$$= x^T A^T A x$$

$$= x^T B x, \text{ where } B = A^T A$$

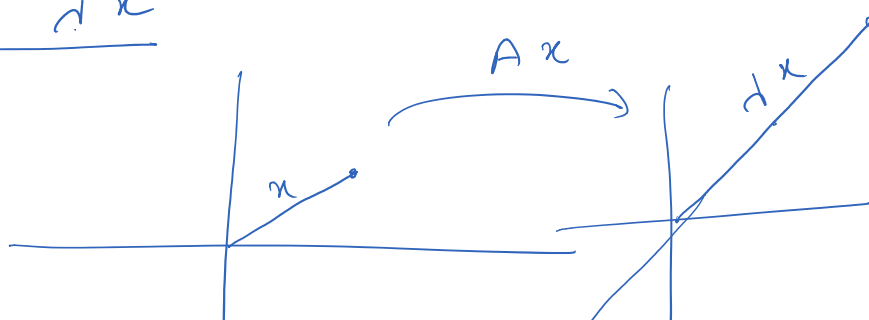
→ Fact B is symmetric

The largest value of $\|Ax\|^2$ is the largest eigenvalue of $B = A^T A$ correspond to unit eigenvector.

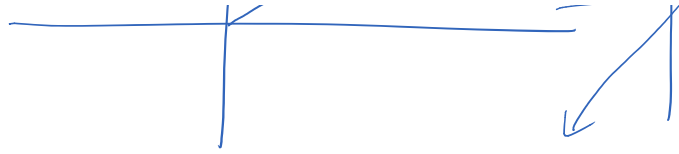


$$Ax = \lambda x$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \longrightarrow & Ax \\ \mathbb{R}^n & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^n \end{array}$$



$\mathbb{R} \rightarrow$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

