

# Review of Matrix Algebra

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## Matrices and Vectors

Matrix

$$\underset{(n \times m)}{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nm} \end{bmatrix}$$

$n = \# \text{ of rows}, m = \# \text{ of columns}$

Square matrix :  $n = m$

Vector

$$\underset{(n \times 1)}{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

## Remarks

- R is a matrix oriented programming language
- Excel can handle matrices and vectors in formulas and some functions
- Excel has special functions for working with matrices. There are called *array* functions. Must use

`<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>`

to evaluate array function

## Transpose of a Matrix

Interchange rows and columns of a matrix

$$\mathbf{A}_{(m \times n)}' = \text{transpose of } \mathbf{A}_{(n \times m)}$$

Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{A}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{x}' = [1 \ 2 \ 3]$$

### R function

`t(A)`

### Excel function

`TRANSPOSE(matrix)`  
`<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>`

## Symmetric Matrix

A square matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric if

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}'$$

Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{A}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remark: Covariance and correlation matrices are symmetric

## Basic Matrix Operations

### Addition and Subtraction (element-by-element)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 9 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4+2 & 9+0 \\ 2+0 & 1+7 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 9 \\ 2 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 9 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4-2 & 9-0 \\ 2-0 & 1-7 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 9 \\ 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Scalar Multiplication (element-by-element)

$$c = 2 = \text{scalar} \\ A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ 2 \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cdot 3 & 2 \cdot (-1) \\ 2 \cdot 0 & 2 \cdot 5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -2 \\ 0 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Matrix Multiplication (not element-by-element)

$$\underset{(3 \times 2)}{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underset{(2 \times 3)}{\mathbf{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & b_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note:  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are conformable matrices: # of columns in  $A$  = # of rows in  $B$

$$\begin{aligned} &\underset{(3 \times 2)}{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \underset{(2 \times 3)}{\mathbf{B}} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} & a_{11}b_{13} + a_{12}b_{23} \\ a_{21}b_{11} + a_{22}b_{21} & a_{21}b_{12} + a_{22}b_{22} & a_{21}b_{13} + a_{22}b_{23} \\ a_{31}b_{11} + a_{32}b_{21} & a_{31}b_{12} + a_{32}b_{22} & a_{31}b_{13} + a_{32}b_{23} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Remark: In general,

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}$$

## Example

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 + 14 & 6 + 16 \\ 15 + 28 & 18 + 32 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 19 & 22 \\ 43 & 50 \end{bmatrix}$$

## R operator

$$\mathbf{A} \%* \% \mathbf{B}$$

## Excel function

$$\text{MMULT}(\text{matrix1}, \text{matrix2})$$

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## Identity Matrix

The  $n$ — dimensional identity matrix has all diagonal elements equal to 1, and all off diagonal elements equal to 0.

Example

$$\mathbf{I}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remark: The identity matrix plays the roll of “1” in matrix algebra

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}_2 \cdot \mathbf{A} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} + 0 & a_{12} + 0 \\ 0 + a_{21} & 0 + a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \mathbf{A} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{I}_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{A} \end{aligned}$$

**R function**

`diag(n)`

creates  $n$ — dimensional identity matrix

## Matrix Inverse

Let  $\mathbf{A}_{(n \times n)}$  = square matrix.  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  = “inverse of  $\mathbf{A}$ ” satisfies

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A}=\mathbf{I}_n$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{-1}=\mathbf{I}_n$$

Remark:  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  is similar to the inverse of a number:

$$a = 2, \quad a^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$a \cdot a^{-1} = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

$$a^{-1} \cdot a = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 = 1$$

## R function

`solve(A)`

## Excel function

`MINVERSE(matrix)`

`<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>`

## Representing Systems of Linear Equations Using Matrix Algebra

Consider the system of two linear equations

$$x + y = 1$$

$$2x - y = 1$$

The equations represent two straight lines which intersect at the point

$$x = \frac{2}{3}, y = \frac{1}{3}$$

Matrix algebra representation:

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

or

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{b}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$



We can solve for  $z$  by multiplying both sides by  $A^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} A^{-1} \cdot A \cdot z &= A^{-1} \cdot b \\ \implies I \cdot z &= A^{-1} \cdot b \\ \implies z &= A^{-1} \cdot b \end{aligned}$$

or

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

Remark: As long as we can determine the elements in  $A^{-1}$ , we can solve for the values of  $x$  and  $y$  in the vector  $z$ . Since the system of linear equations has a solution as long as the two lines intersect, we can determine the elements in  $A^{-1}$  provided the two lines are not parallel.

There are general numerical algorithms for finding the elements of  $A^{-1}$  and programs like Excel and R have these algorithms available. However, if  $A$  is a  $(2 \times 2)$  matrix then there is a simple formula for  $A^{-1}$ . Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{bmatrix} a_{22} & -a_{12} \\ -a_{21} & a_{11} \end{bmatrix}.$$

where

$$\det(A) = a_{11}a_{22} - a_{21}a_{12} \neq 0$$

Let's apply the above rule to find the inverse of  $\mathbf{A}$  in our example:

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \frac{1}{-1-2} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \frac{-1}{3} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Notice that

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \frac{-1}{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Our solution for  $\mathbf{z}$  is then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{z} &= \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{2}{3} & \frac{-1}{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

so that  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  and  $y = \frac{1}{3}$ .

In general, if we have  $n$  linear equations in  $n$  unknown variables we may write the system of equations as

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\ &\vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{nn}x_n &= b_n \end{aligned}$$

which we may then express in matrix form as

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

or

$$\underset{(n \times n)}{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \underset{(n \times 1)}{\mathbf{x}} = \underset{(n \times 1)}{\mathbf{b}}.$$

The solution to the system of equations is given by

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

where  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{I}$  is the  $(n \times n)$  identity matrix. If the number of equations is greater than two, then we generally use numerical algorithms to find the elements in  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$ .

### Representing Summation Using Matrix Notation

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n$$
$$\underset{(n \times 1)}{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underset{(n \times 1)}{\mathbf{1}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{1} &= \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\end{aligned}$$

Equivalently

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{1}'\mathbf{x} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \\ &= x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\end{aligned}$$

Sum of Squares

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 &= x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 \\ \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{x} &= \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \\ &= x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\end{aligned}$$

Sums of cross products

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i = x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_n y_n$$

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \cdots + x_n y_n = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i$$

$$= \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{x}$$

R function

```
t(x)%*%y, t(y)%*%x  
crossprod(x,y)
```

Excel function

```
MMULT(TRANSPOSE(x),y)  
MMULT(TRANSPOSE(y),x)  
<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>
```

## Portfolio Math with Matrix Algebra

### Three Risky Asset Example

Let  $R_i$  denote the return on asset  $i = A, B, C$  and assume that  $R_1, R_2$  and  $R_3$  are jointly normally distributed with means, variances and covariances:

$$\mu_i = E[R_i], \sigma_i^2 = \text{var}(R_i), \text{cov}(R_i, R_j) = \sigma_{ij}$$

Portfolio “ $\mathbf{x}$ ”

$x_i$  = share of wealth in asset  $i$

$$x_A + x_B + x_C = 1$$

Portfolio return

$$R_{p,x} = x_A R_A + x_B R_B + x_C R_C.$$

Portfolio expected return

$$\mu_{p,x} = E[R_{p,x}] = x_A \mu_A + x_B \mu_B + x_C \mu_C$$

Portfolio variance

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{p,x}^2 = \text{var}(R_{p,x}) &= x_A^2 \sigma_A^2 + x_B^2 \sigma_B^2 + x_C^2 \sigma_C^2 \\ &+ 2x_A x_B \sigma_{AB} + 2x_A x_C \sigma_{AC} + 2x_B x_C \sigma_{BC} \end{aligned}$$

Portfolio distribution

$$R_{p,x} \sim N(\mu_{p,x}, \sigma_{p,x}^2)$$

## Matrix Algebra Representation

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} R_A \\ R_B \\ R_C \end{pmatrix}, \mu = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_A \\ \mu_B \\ \mu_C \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A \\ x_B \\ x_C \end{pmatrix}, \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_A^2 & \sigma_{AB} & \sigma_{AC} \\ \sigma_{AB} & \sigma_B^2 & \sigma_{BC} \\ \sigma_{AC} & \sigma_{BC} & \sigma_C^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Portfolio weights sum to 1

$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{1} = (x_A \ x_B \ x_C) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1$$

## Digression on Covariance Matrix

Using matrix algebra, the covariance matrix of the return vector  $\mathbf{R}$  is defined as

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{R}) = E[(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)'] = \Sigma$$

If  $\mathbf{R}$  has  $N$  elements then  $\Sigma$  will be the  $N \times N$  matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1n} \\ \sigma_{12} & \sigma_2^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{1n} & \sigma_{2n} & \cdots & \sigma_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

For the case  $N = 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)'] &= E \left[ \begin{pmatrix} R_1 - \mu_1 \\ R_2 - \mu_2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot (R_1 - \mu_1, R_2 - \mu_2) \right] \\
 &= E \left[ \begin{pmatrix} (R_1 - \mu_1)^2 & (R_1 - \mu_1)(R_2 - \mu_2) \\ (R_2 - \mu_2)(R_1 - \mu_1) & (R_2 - \mu_2)^2 \end{pmatrix} \right] \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} E[(R_1 - \mu_1)^2] & E[(R_1 - \mu_1)(R_2 - \mu_2)] \\ E[(R_2 - \mu_2)(R_1 - \mu_1)] & E[(R_2 - \mu_2)^2] \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} \text{var}(R_1) & \text{cov}(R_1, R_2) \\ \text{cov}(R_2, R_1) & \text{var}(R_2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_{12} \\ \sigma_{12} & \sigma_2^2 \end{pmatrix} = \Sigma.
 \end{aligned}$$

### Portfolio return

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{p,x} &= \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A & x_B & x_C \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} R_A \\ R_B \\ R_C \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= x_A R_A + x_B R_B + x_C R_C \\
 &= \mathbf{R}'\mathbf{x}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Portfolio expected return

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_{p,x} &= \mathbf{x}'\mu = \begin{pmatrix} x_A & x_B & x_X \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_A \\ \mu_B \\ \mu_C \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= x_A \mu_A + x_B \mu_B + x_C \mu_C \\
 &= \mu'\mathbf{x}
 \end{aligned}$$



### Excel formula

```
MMULT(transpose(xvec),muvec)  
<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>
```

### R formula

```
crossprod(x,mu)  
t(x)%*%mu
```

### Portfolio variance

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{p,x}^2 &= \text{var}(\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R}) = E[\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)'\mathbf{x}] = \\ &= \mathbf{x}'E[(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)']\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}'\Sigma\mathbf{x} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} x_A & x_B & x_C \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_A^2 & \sigma_{AB} & \sigma_{AC} \\ \sigma_{AB} & \sigma_B^2 & \sigma_{BC} \\ \sigma_{AC} & \sigma_{BC} & \sigma_C^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_A \\ x_B \\ x_C \end{pmatrix} \\ &= x_A^2\sigma_A^2 + x_B^2\sigma_B^2 + x_C^2\sigma_C^2 \\ &\quad + 2x_Ax_B\sigma_{AB} + 2x_Ax_C\sigma_{AC} + 2x_Bx_C\sigma_{BC}\end{aligned}$$

## Excel formulas

```
MMULT(TRANSPOSE(xvec),MMULT(sigma,xvec))  
MMULT(MMULT(TRANSPOSE(xvec),sigma),xvec)  
<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>
```

## R formulas

```
t(x)%*%sigma%*%x
```

## Portfolio distribution

$$R_{p,x} \sim N(\mu_{p,x}, \sigma_{p,x}^2)$$

## Covariance Between 2 Portfolio Returns

2 portfolios

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A \\ x_B \\ x_C \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_A \\ y_B \\ y_C \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{1} = 1, \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{1} = 1$$

Portfolio returns

$$R_{p,x} = \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R}$$
$$R_{p,y} = \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{R}$$

Covariance

$$\text{cov}(R_{p,x}, R_{p,y}) = \mathbf{x}'\Sigma\mathbf{y}$$
$$= \mathbf{y}'\Sigma\mathbf{x}$$

## Derivation

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}(R_{p,x}, R_{p,y}) &= \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{y}'\mathbf{R}) \\ &= E[(\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R} - E[\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{R}])(\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{R} - E[\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{R}])'] \\ &= E[\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)'\mathbf{y}] \\ &= \mathbf{x}'E[(\mathbf{R} - \mu)(\mathbf{R} - \mu)']\mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{x}'\Sigma\mathbf{y}\end{aligned}$$

## Excel formula

```
MMULT(TRANSPOSE(xvec),MMULT(sigma,yvec))  
MMULT(TRANSPOSE(yvec),MMULT(sigma,xvec))  
<ctrl>-<shift>-<enter>
```

## R formula

```
t(x)%*%sigma%*%y
```

## Bivariate Normal Distribution

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be distributed bivariate normal. The joint pdf is given by

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_X\sigma_Y\sqrt{1-\rho_{XY}^2}} \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2(1-\rho_{XY}^2)} \left[ \left( \frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{y-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y} \right)^2 - \frac{2\rho_{XY}(x-\mu_X)(y-\mu_Y)}{\sigma_X\sigma_Y} \right] \right\}$$

where  $E[X] = \mu_X$ ,  $E[Y] = \mu_Y$ ,  $\text{sd}(X) = \sigma_X$ ,  $\text{sd}(Y) = \sigma_Y$ , and  $\rho_{XY} = \text{cor}(X, Y)$ .

Define

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \mu = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_X \\ \mu_Y \end{pmatrix}, \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_X^2 & \sigma_{XY} \\ \sigma_{XY} & \sigma_Y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then the bivariate normal distribution can be compactly expressed as

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2\pi \det(\Sigma)^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)'\Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\Sigma) &= \sigma_X^2\sigma_Y^2 - \sigma_{XY}^2 = \sigma_X^2\sigma_Y^2 - \sigma_X^2\sigma_Y^2\rho_{XY}^2 \\ &= \sigma_X^2\sigma_Y^2(1 - \rho_{XY}^2). \end{aligned}$$

We use the shorthand notation

$$\mathbf{X} \sim N(\mu, \Sigma)$$