Linear statistical models Linear algebra

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Linear algebra

Much of the theory of linear models is underpinned by linear algebra (rather unsurprisingly).

We will spend some time reviewing some linear algebra results. It might take a while, but it lays the foundation for all of our statistical results.

Much of the material in the first part of this section will be familiar. However, it is always useful to have a reminder, and some things later on will be new to you.

Basics

Matrices can be partitioned into smaller (rectangular) submatrices:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & -1 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Basics

Partitioned matrices can be manipulated as if the submatrices were single elements (using matrix multiplication instead of scalar multiplication). However, the dimensions of the submatrices must be compatible!

For example, let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 \\ \hline 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} \\ \hline Y_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$

Basics

Then

$$XY = \begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Y_{11} \\ Y_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} X_{11}Y_{11} + X_{12}Y_{21} \\ X_{21}Y_{11} + X_{22}Y_{21} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + [0] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + [1] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

using matrix multiplication for the submatrices.

Basics

However, if we partition Y into

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

then we cannot do this!

Transposition

Basics

The *transpose* of a matrix results when the rows and columns are interchanged. Remember that:

- $(X^T)^T = X.$
- $(XY)^T = Y^T X^T \neq X^T Y^T!$
- ▶ A matrix X is symmetric if and only if $X^T = X$.

Identity

Basics

The matrix *identity* I is a square matrix of arbitrary size with 1's on the diagonal and 0's off the diagonal:

$$I = \left[\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{array} \right].$$

It has the property that for any X of size $m \times n$,

$$XI_n = I_m X = X,$$

where I_k is the $k \times k$ identity matrix.

Inverse

Basics

If X is a square matrix, its *inverse* is the matrix X^{-1} of the same size which satisfies

$$XX^{-1} = X^{-1}X = I.$$

The inverse does not always exist. If it does exist, it is unique and X is called *nonsingular* or *invertible*. Otherwise it is *singular* or *noninvertible* (though some may prefer *vertible*).

X is singular if and only if it has a 0 determinant, |X| = 0.

Inverse properties

Basics

If X and Y are nonsingular and of the same size, then

- $ightharpoonup X^{-1}$ is nonsingular and $(X^{-1})^{-1}=X$.
- ► XY is nonsingular and $(XY)^{-1} = Y^{-1}X^{-1} \neq X^{-1}Y^{-1}!$
- $ightharpoonup X^T$ is nonsingular and $(X^T)^{-1} = (X^{-1})^T$.

Matrices in R

```
> A < -c(1,2,0,2,3,-1,0,-1,8)
> dim(A) <- c(3,3)
> A
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 1 2
[2,] 2 3 -1
[3.] 0 -1
> A \leftarrow matrix(c(1,2,0,2,3,-1,0,-1,8),3,3)
> A
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
    1 2
[2,] 2 3 -1
[3.]
              8
```

```
> c <- 2
> c*A
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
       2
[2,] 4 6 -2
[3,] 0
           -2
               16
> B \leftarrow matrix(c(1,7,-4,8,2,-5,2,2,7),3,3)
> B
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
[2,] 7 2
[3,] -4
```

```
> A+B
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
       2
           10
[2,] 9
         5
              1
[3,]
      -4
           -6
               15
> A-B
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
[2,] -5 1
              -3
[3,]
    4
          4
                1
```

```
> A%*%B
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 15
            12
[2,] 27 27
                  3
[3,] -39
           -42
                 54
> dim(A)
[1] 3 3
> det(A)
[1] -9
```

```
> A[1,1]
[1] 1
> A[c(1,2),c(1,3)]
    [,1] [,2]
[1,] 1
[2,] 2 -1
> A[1,]
[1] 1 2 0
> A[-1,-1]
    [,1] [,2]
[1,] 3
[2,]
      -1
            8
```

Transposition and identity

```
> t(B)
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
[2,] 8 2 -5
   2
               7
[3,]
> I <- diag(3)
> I
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,]
[2,] 0 1
[3,]
```

Inverse

```
> AI <- solve(A)
> AI
           [,1]
                      [.2]
                                 [,3]
[1.] -2.5555556 1.7777778 0.2222222
      1.7777778 -0.8888889 -0.1111111
[2,]
[3.] 0.2222222 -0.1111111 0.1111111
> AI%*%A
     [,1]
                  [,2]
                                [3]
[1,]
        1 2.775558e-17 6.661338e-16
[2,]
     0 1.000000e+00 -4.440892e-16
[3,]
       0 0.000000e+00 1.000000e+00
```

Orthogonal vectors

Two $n \times 1$ vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} are orthogonal if and only if

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i = 0.$$

In this case, the geometric depictions of the vectors are perpendicular.

Orthogonal matrices

A square matrix X is *orthogonal* if and only if

$$X^T X = I$$
.

If X is orthogonal, then

$$X^{-1} = X^T.$$

Orthogonal vectors

```
> (x < -c(1,2,3))
[1] 1 2 3
> (y \leftarrow c(1,1,-1))
[1] 1 1 -1
> x%*%y
     [,1]
[1,] 0
> t(x)%*%y
     [,1]
[1,]
```

Orthogonal matrices

```
> X \leftarrow matrix(c(c(1,2,3)/sqrt(14),c(1,1,-1)/sqrt(3),
                c(5,-4,1)/sqrt(42)),3,3)
+
> X
          [,1] \qquad [,2]
                                 [,3]
[1,] 0.2672612 0.5773503 0.7715167
[2,] 0.5345225 0.5773503 -0.6172134
[3,] 0.8017837 -0.5773503 0.1543033
> round(t(X)%*%X,5)
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1.]
[2,]
[3,]
```

Orthogonal matrices

```
> round(X%*%t(X),5)

[,1] [,2] [,3]

[1,] 1 0 0

[2,] 0 1 0

[3,] 0 0 1
```

Orthogonality

If
$$\mathbf{x}=\left[egin{array}{c} x_1\\x_2\\ \vdots\\x_n \end{array}
ight]$$
 , then $\mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{x}=\|\mathbf{x}\|^2=\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2.$

The square root of this quantity, denoted by $\|\mathbf{x}\|$, is called the *norm* or *length* of \mathbf{x} .

A set of vectors $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}$ is called an *orthonormal set* if and only if each pair of vectors is orthogonal, and each vector has unit length.

Orthogonality

X is an orthogonal matrix if and only if the columns (or rows) of X form an orthonormal set.

```
> X[.1]%*%X[.2]
     [,1]
[1,]
> X[1,]%*%X[3,]
               [,1]
[1,] -8.326673e-17
> X[,1]%*%X[,1]
     [,1]
[1,]
```

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Suppose A is a $n\times n$ matrix and ${\bf x}$ is a $n\times 1$ nonzero vector which satisfies the equation

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$

where λ is a scalar. Then we say that λ is an eigenvalue of A, with associated eigenvector \mathbf{x} .

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Rearranging the definition, we get

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Now if $A - \lambda I$ is invertible, this produces

$$\mathbf{x} = (A - \lambda I)^{-1} \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}.$$

But ${\bf x}$ is nonzero by definition, so $A-\lambda I$ must be singular. In particular, its determinant must be 0. Therefore we can find the eigenvalues of a matrix by solving the *characteristic equation*

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0.$$

Eigenvalue example

Let

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{array} \right].$$

To find the eigenvalues of A, we solve the equation

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 1 \\ -2 & 4 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1 - \lambda)(4 - \lambda) - (-2) = 0.$$

This becomes

$$\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6 = (\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 3) = 0.$$

Therefore A has two eigenvalues, 2 and 3.

Eigenvalue example

To find the eigenvector(s) of A associated with eigenvalue 2, we solve the system of equations

$$A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 2\mathbf{x} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This is a linear system which has two equations and two unknowns; however, the equations are redundant. Therefore the system has an infinite number of solutions, which always happens for an eigenvector system. One solution is

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
.

Eigenvalue example

> A

- > e <- eigen(A)
- > e\$values
- [1] 8.2145852 4.0555651 -0.2701503
- > e\$vectors

Eigenvalue example

```
> det(A - e\$values[1]*I)
[1] -2.799516e-14
> A %*% e$vectors[,1]
            \lceil , 1 \rceil
[1,] -0.4769745
[2,] -1.7205868
[3,] 8.0181972
> e$values[1]*e$vectors[,1]
[1] -0.4769745 -1.7205868 8.0181972
```

Eigenvalue properties

- ▶ If *A* is (real and) symmetric, then its eigenvalues are all real, and its eigenvectors are orthogonal.
- ▶ If P is an orthogonal matrix of the same size as A, then the eigenvalues of P^TAP are the same as the eigenvalues of A.

Diagonalization

Theorem 2.1

Let A be a symmetric $k \times k$ matrix. Then an orthogonal matrix P exists such that

$$P^T A P = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_k \end{bmatrix},$$

where λ_i , i = 1, 2, ..., k, are the eigenvalues of A.

Diagonalization

We say that P diagonalizes A.

It can be shown that the columns of ${\cal P}$ must be eigenvectors of ${\cal A}$ associated with the respective eigenvalues.

Hence (from above) they must be an orthonormal set, which we also know because P is an orthogonal matrix.

Diagonalization example

> A

> e\$values

```
[1] 8.2145852 4.0555651 -0.2701503
```

```
> P <- e$vectors
```

```
[,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 8.21459 0.00000 0.00000
[2,] 0.00000 4.05557 0.00000
```

[3,] 0.00000 0.00000 -0.27015

Linear independence

Suppose that we have a set of vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k$.

We say that this set is *linearly dependent* if and only if there exists some numbers a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_k , which are not all zero, such that

$$a_1\mathbf{x}_1 + a_2\mathbf{x}_2 + \ldots + a_k\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{0}.$$

If the only way in which this equation is satisfied is for all a's to be zero, then we say that the x's are *linearly independent*.

Linear independence

If a set of vectors is linearly dependent, then at least one of the vectors can be written as a linear combination of some or all of the rest.

In particular, a set of two vectors is linearly dependent if and only if one of the vectors is a constant multiple of the other.

Linear independence

Example. Are the vectors

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \left[egin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array}
ight], \mathbf{x}_2 = \left[egin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{array}
ight], \mathbf{x}_3 = \left[egin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{array}
ight]$$

linearly independent?

We substitute them into the equation:

$$a_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + a_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + a_3 \mathbf{x}_3 = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

so they are linearly independent.

Linear independence

Example. Are the vectors

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{x}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

linearly independent?

It is easy to see that $\mathbf{x}_3 = \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2$, that is $\mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3 = \mathbf{0}$. Thus the vectors are linearly dependent.

However, since x_1 is not a constant multiple of x_2 , the subset $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2\}$ is linearly independent.

Rank

We define the rank of an $n \times k$ matrix by splitting the matrix into columns:

$$X = [\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{x}_1 & \mathbf{x}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{x}_k \end{array}]$$

where $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k$ are $n \times 1$ vectors. The rank of X, denoted by r(X), is the dimension of the column space of X, i.e. the greatest number of linearly independent vectors in the set $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}$.

It is obvious that $r(X) \le k$. If $n \ge k$ and r(X) = k, we say that X is of full rank

Rank example

- > library(Matrix)
- > rankMatrix(A)[1]
- [1] 3

Rank example

Rank properties

- For any matrix X we have $r(X) = r(X^T) = r(X^TX)$.
- ▶ If X is $k \times k$, then X is nonsingular if and only if r(X) = k.
- ▶ If X is $n \times k$, P is $n \times n$ and nonsingular, and Q is $k \times k$ and nonsingular, then r(X) = r(PX) = r(XQ).
- ► The rank of a diagonal matrix is equal to the number of nonzero diagonal entries in the matrix.
- $ightharpoonup r(XY) \le r(X), r(Y).$

Idempotence

We say that a square matrix A is idempotent if and only if

$$A^2 = A$$
.

Example. The identity matrix I is idempotent.

Exercise. Let X be an $n \times k$ matrix of full rank, $n \ge k$. Show that

$$H = X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T$$

exists and is idempotent.

Trace

The *trace* of a square $k \times k$ matrix X, denoted by tr(X), is the sum of its diagonal entries:

$$tr(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} x_{ii}.$$

Example.

$$tr\left(\left[\begin{array}{ccc} 2 & 0 & 1\\ 1 & 1 & 0\\ 3 & 2 & -1 \end{array}\right]\right) = 2 + 1 - 1 = 2.$$

Trace properties

- ▶ If c is a scalar, tr(cX) = c tr(X).
- $tr(X \pm Y) = tr(X) \pm tr(Y).$
- ▶ If XY and YX both exist, tr(XY) = tr(YX).

Trace properties

Example. Let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, Y = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$tr(XY) = tr\left(\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 2 & 0\\ 1 & 5 & 0\\ 1 & 11 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 3$$
$$tr(YX) = tr\left(\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1\\ 8 & 4 \end{bmatrix}\right) = 3$$

so even though $XY \neq YX$, their traces are equal.

Theorem 2.2

The eigenvalues of idempotent matrices are always either 0 or 1.

Proof.

Let A be an idempotent matrix with eigenvalue λ and associated eigenvector ${\bf x}$. By definition,

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$
.

Multiplying by A,

$$A^2$$
x = $A\lambda$ **x** = λA **x** = λ^2 **x**.

Theorem 2.2

The eigenvalues of idempotent matrices are always either 0 or 1.

Proof.

But A is idempotent, so

$$\lambda^2 \mathbf{x} = A^2 \mathbf{x} = A \mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$
$$(\lambda^2 - \lambda) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}.$$

By definition, $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$, so $\lambda = \lambda^2$. Therefore $\lambda = 0$ or 1.

Theorem 2.3

If A is a symmetric and idempotent matrix, r(A) = tr(A).

Proof.

We take A to be $k \times k$. First we diagonalize A, i.e. find P such that

$$P^T A P = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_k \end{bmatrix},$$

where $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ are the eigenvalues of A.

Theorem 2.3

If A is a symmetric and idempotent matrix, r(A) = tr(A).

Proof.

Since P is orthogonal, both P and P^T are nonsingular. Therefore

$$r(P^T A P) = r(P^T A) = r(A).$$

Because P^TAP is diagonal, $r(P^TAP)$ is the number of nonzero eigenvalues of A.

But A is idempotent, so its eigenvalues are either 0 or 1.

Theorem 2.3

If A is a symmetric and idempotent matrix, r(A) = tr(A).

Proof.

To count the number of nonzero eigenvalues, we just need to sum them. But since they are the diagonal elements of P^TAP , we can just take its trace.

Therefore

$$r(A) = r(P^T A P) = tr(P^T A P) = tr(PP^T A) = tr(A)$$

since P is orthogonal.

Orthogonality Eigenthings Rank Idempotence Trace Theorems Quadratic forms

Some linear algebra theorems

Theorem 2.4

Let A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m be a collection of symmetric $k \times k$ matrices. Then the following are equivalent:

- ► There exists an orthogonal matrix P such that $P^T A_i P$ is diagonal for all i = 1, 2, ..., m;
- $ightharpoonup A_i A_j = A_j A_i$ for every pair $i, j = 1, 2, \ldots, m$.

Orthogonality Eigenthings Rank Idempotence Trace Theorems Quadratic forms

Some linear algebra theorems

Theorem 2.5

Let A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m be a collection of symmetric $k \times k$ matrices. Then any two of the following conditions implies the third:

- ightharpoonup All A_i , $i=1,2,\ldots,m$ are idempotent;
- $\triangleright \sum_{i=1}^m A_i$ is idempotent;
- $ightharpoonup A_i A_j = 0 \text{ for } i \neq j.$

Theorem 2.6

Let A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m be a collection of symmetric $k \times k$ matrices. If the conditions in Theorem 2.5 are true, then

$$r\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} r\left(A_i\right).$$

Proof.

Consider $\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_i$. By assumption, this matrix is idempotent. As a sum of symmetric matrices it is also symmetric.

Thus by Theorem 2.3,

$$r\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_i\right) = tr\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_i\right)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{m} tr(A_i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{m} r(A_i).$$

Orthogonality Eigenthings Rank Idempotence Trace Theorems Quadratic forms

```
> X <- matrix(c(1/2,1/2,0,1/2,1/2,0,0,0,1),3,3)
> X %*% X
        [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 0.5 0.5 0
[2,] 0.5 0.5 0
[3,] 0.0 0.0 1
> sum(diag(X))
[1] 2
```

```
> eigen(X)$values
[1] 1.000000e+00 1.000000e+00 5.551115e-16
> rankMatrix(X)[1]
[1] 2
```

```
> A1 \leftarrow matrix(c(1/2,-1/2,-1/2,1/2),2,2)
> A1 %*% A1
     [,1] [,2]
[1.] 0.5 -0.5
[2,] -0.5 0.5
> A2 \leftarrow matrix(c(1/2,1/2,1/2,1/2),2,2)
> A2 %*% A2
     [,1] [,2]
[1,] 0.5 0.5
[2,] 0.5 0.5
```

```
> A1 + A2
    [,1] [,2]
[1,] 1
[2,] 0
> (A1 + A2) %*% (A1 + A2)
    [,1] [,2]
[1,] 1
[2,] 0
> A1 %*% A2
    [,1] [,2]
[1,] 0
[2,] 0
```

Let A be a $k \times k$ matrix and \mathbf{y} a $k \times 1$ vector containing variables.

The quantity

$$q = \mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y}$$

is called a *quadratic form* in y, and A is called the matrix of the quadratic form.

Note the dimensions: \mathbf{y}^T is $1 \times k$, so q is 1×1 . That is, q is a scalar.

In fact it can be expressed as

$$q = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} a_{ij} y_i y_j.$$

Example. Let

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 4 & 6 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y} = 2y_1^2 + 3y_1 y_2 + y_1 y_3 + y_2 y_1 + 2y_2^2 + 4y_3 y_1 + 6y_3 y_2 + 3y_3^2$$

= $2y_1^2 + 2y_2^2 + 3y_3^2 + 4y_1 y_2 + 5y_1 y_3 + 6y_2 y_3$.

This can be found from either the summation formula or multiplying out the matrices.

Positive definiteness

If $\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y} > 0$ for all $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then we say that the quadratic form $\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y}$ is *positive definite*; we also say that the matrix A is positive definite.

If $\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y} \geq 0$ for all \mathbf{y} , then we say that the quadratic form $\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y}$ is *positive semi-definite*; we also say that the matrix A is positive semi-definite.

Positive definiteness

Example. Let

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{cc} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{array} \right].$$

Then

$$\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y} = 2y_1^2 + 2y_2^2 - 2y_1 y_2 = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2.$$

The quadratic form will never be negative, and the only way that it can be 0 is if all the squares are 0, i.e. $y_1 = y_2 = 0$. Therefore, $\mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y}$ is positive definite.

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Positive definiteness theorems

Theorem 2.7

A symmetric matrix A is positive definite if and only if its eigenvalues are all (strictly) positive.

Theorem 2.8

A symmetric matrix A is positive semi-definite if and only if its eigenvalues are all non-negative.

Positive definiteness

Example. Consider the matrix in the previous example:

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{cc} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{array} \right].$$

The eigenvalues of A solve the quadratic equation

$$(2 - \lambda)^2 - 1 = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3 = (\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 1) = 0.$$

Therefore its eigenvalues are 1 and 3, which are both positive, and it is positive definite.

Positive definiteness

Differentiation of quadratic forms

Occasionally we may wish to differentiate some quadratic forms (e.g. to minimise them). We introduce the idea of differentiation by vectors.

Suppose we have a vector of variables $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)^T$, and some scalar function of them:

$$z = f(\mathbf{y}).$$

Differentiation of quadratic forms

We define the derivative of z with respect to y as follows:

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial z/\partial y_1 \\ \partial z/\partial y_2 \\ \vdots \\ \partial z/\partial y_k \end{bmatrix}.$$

Differentiation of quadratic forms

Example. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Consider the quadratic form

$$z = \mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y} = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + 2y_3^2 - 2y_1 y_2 + 4y_1 y_3 + 6y_2 y_3.$$

Taking partial derivatives gives

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2y_1 - 2y_2 + 4y_3 \\ 2y_2 - 2y_1 + 6y_3 \\ 4y_3 + 4y_1 + 6y_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Vector differentiation properties

- ▶ If $z = \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{y}$ where \mathbf{a} is a vector of constants, then $\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{a}$.
- ▶ If $z = \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y}$, then $\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = 2\mathbf{y}$.
- ▶ If $z = \mathbf{y}^T A \mathbf{y}$, then $\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{y}} = A \mathbf{y} + A^T \mathbf{y}$. In particular, if A is symmetric, then $\frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = 2A \mathbf{y}$.

Vector differentiation properties

Example. Consider the previous example. We have

$$2A\mathbf{y} = 2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= 2 \begin{bmatrix} y_1 - y_2 + 2y_3 \\ -y_1 + y_2 + 3y_3 \\ 2y_1 + 3y_2 + 2y_3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 2y_1 - 2y_2 + 4y_3 \\ -2y_1 + 2y_2 + 6y_3 \\ 4y_1 + 6y_2 + 4y_3 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial \mathbf{y}}.$$