

# Lecture 12

A quadratic form on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is

$Q(\underline{x}) = \underline{x}^t A \underline{x}$  homogeneous polynomial of degree 2 in the variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

We can always assume  $A$  is symmetric.

Ex:-

$$\begin{aligned} Q\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} &= 2x_1^2 - x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1/2 \\ -1/2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Real Quadratic forms.

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$$Q(\underline{x}) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n x_i x_j a_{ij} \quad \text{Symmetric.}$$

$$Q(\underline{x}) = \underline{x}^t A \underline{x}, \quad A \text{ is symmetric matrix.}$$

$Q$  is a real quadratic form on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

We know there exists an orthogonal matrix  $S$  such that  $S^t A S = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$

$$\text{Now } Q(\underline{x}) = \underline{x}^t S \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} S^t \underline{x}.$$

$$\text{Let } \underline{y} = S^t \underline{x}$$

$\therefore$  ...

$$Q(\underline{y}) = \underline{y}^T \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \underline{y}$$

$$= \lambda_1 y_1^2 + \dots + \lambda_n y_n^2 - \text{diagonal form}$$

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

$\therefore Q(\underline{y}) = Q'(\underline{y})$ ,  $Q'$  is in diagonal form.

$\Rightarrow$  Every quadratic form is equivalent to a diagonal form.

Theorem (Principal axis thm):

Let  $Q(\underline{x}) = \underline{x}^t A \underline{x}$  be a real quadratic form on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $A$  is symmetric. Then  $Q$  is equivalent to a diagonal form

$$\lambda_1 y_1^2 + \dots + \lambda_n y_n^2 \quad (\text{Canonical form}).$$

Qn: how to find a canonical form of a given quadratic form?

Lagrange reduction method.

① Let  $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 4x_1^2 + 10x_2^2 + 11x_3^2$   
 $- 4x_1x_2 + 12x_1x_3 - 12x_2x_3.$

$$= 4(x_1^2 - x_1x_2 + 3x_1x_3) + 10x_2^2 + 11x_3^2 - 12x_2x_3.$$

$$= 4\left(x_1 - \underline{x_1(x_2 - 3x_3)}\right) + 10x_2^2 + 11x_3^2 - 12x_2x_3.$$

$$= 4\left(x_1 - \frac{1}{2}(x_2 - 3x_3)\right)^2 - (x_2 - 3x_3)^2 + 10x_2^2 + 11x_3^2 - 12x_2x_3$$

$$= 4\left(x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} + \frac{3}{2}x_3\right)^2 + 9x_2^2 - 6x_2x_3 + 2x_3^2$$

$$= 4\left(x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} + \frac{3}{2}x_3\right)^2 + 9\left(x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_3\right)^2 + 2x_3^2$$

$$= \quad + 9\left(x_2 - \frac{x_3}{3}\right)^2 - x_3^2 + 2x_3^2$$

$$= 4\left(x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} + \frac{3}{2}x_3\right)^2 + 9\left(x_2 - \frac{x_3}{3}\right)^2 + x_3^2$$

$$= 4y_1^2 + 9y_2^2 + y_3^2 \quad \text{--- diagonal form}$$

where  $y_1 = x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} + \frac{3}{2}x_3$  (need not be unique).

$$y_2 = x_2 - \frac{x_3}{3}$$

$$y_3 = x_3.$$

$$\underline{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x}.$$

Let  $Q(\underline{x}) = \underline{x}^t A \underline{x}$ ,  $A$  symmetric.  
on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Def. The discriminant of  $Q$  is defined  
as  $\det(A)$ .

- $Q$  is said to be non-singular if  $\det(A) \neq 0$ .
- $Q$  is said to be singular if  $\det(A) = 0$ .

We know

$$Q(\underline{x}) = c_1 y_1^2 + \dots + c_r y_r^2$$

where all  $c_i \neq 0 \quad \forall i=1, 2, \dots, r$ .

Rearrange the terms if necessary ( $r \leq n$ )  
& write the quadratic form as

$$Q(\underline{x}) = \alpha_1 y_1^2 + \dots + \alpha_k y_k^2 - \alpha_{k+1} y_{k+1}^2 - \dots - \alpha_r y_r^2$$

where all  $\alpha_i > 0 \quad \forall i=1, 2, \dots, r$

Definition:- The number  $r$  in the above diagonal form is called the rank of the quadratic form  $Q$ .

Def:- The number of +ve terms  $^k$  in the above diagonal form is called the index of the quadratic form  $Q$ .

Def:- The excess number of +ve terms over -ve terms in the above diagonal form is called the signature of  $Q$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\text{is signature}(Q) &= k - (r - k) \\ &= 2k - r.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{where } r &= \text{rank}(Q) \\ k &= \text{index}(Q).\end{aligned}$$

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Examples:- ①  $Q(x) = -x_1^2 - x_2^2 + x_3^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$$\text{rank}(Q) = 3$$

$$\text{index}(Q) = 1$$

$$\text{Signature}(Q) = 2(1) - 3 = -1.$$

Theorem (Sylvester Law of inertia):

Under all real, non-singular transformation the rank  $r$ , the index  $k$  (& hence the signature) of a real quadratic form  $Q$  are invariants.

Theorem (Classification of quadratic forms):

Two real quadratic forms are equivalent



they have the same rank & index.

Example:  $Q_1(x) = x_1^2 - x_2^2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$$Q_2(x) = -x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 - x_3^2 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3.$$

$$\text{rank}(Q_1) = 2$$

$$\text{rank}(Q_2) = 3$$

$$\neq \text{rank}(Q_1)$$

$\therefore Q_1, Q_2$  are not equivalent.

Definition:

Let  $Q(x) = x^T A x$ , 'A' symmetric matrix on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(i)  $Q$  is said to be positive definite (PD)

if  $Q(x) \geq 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  &  $Q(x) > 0 \forall x \neq \underline{0}$   
in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(ii)  $Q$  is said to be negative definite (ND)

if  $Q(x) < 0 \forall x \neq \underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(iii)  $Q$  is said to be positive semi-definite (PSD)

if  $Q(x) \geq 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  &  $Q(x) = 0$  for  
some  $x \neq \underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(iv)  $Q$  is said to be negative semi-definite (NSD)

if  $Q(x) \leq 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  &  $Q(x) = 0$  for some  
 $x \neq \underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

(v)  $Q$  is said to be indefinite (ID) if  $Q(x) \geq 0$

for some  $x \neq \underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  &  $Q(x) \leq 0$

for some  $x \neq \underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .



Defn A real symmetric matrix  $A_{n \times n}$  is said to be ±ve definite matrix (or -ve def etc) if the corresponding quadratic form  $Q(x) = x^t A x$  is ±ve definite (or -ve def. etc).

Examples:-

$$\textcircled{1} \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 3x_3^2 \geq 0$$

$$\& \quad Q(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \neq \underline{0},$$

$Q$  is +ve definite.

$$\textcircled{2} \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\& \quad Q(\underbrace{0, 0, 1}_{\neq \underline{0}}) = 0$$

$Q$  is +ve semi-definite.

$$\textcircled{3} \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -x_1^2 - 2x_2^2 - 5x_3^2 \leq 0$$

$$\& \quad Q(x) < 0 \quad \forall x \neq \underline{0}$$

$\therefore Q$  is -ve definite.

$$(4) \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -x_1^2 - 3x_3^2 \leq 0, \quad \forall x$$

$$\& \quad Q(\underbrace{0, 1, 0}_{H_0}) = 0$$

$Q$  is -ve semi-definite.

$$(5) \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 3x_3^2$$

$$Q(\underbrace{1, 0, 0}_{H_0}) = -1 < 0$$

$$\& \quad Q(\underbrace{0, 1, 1}_{H_0}) = 4 > 0.$$

$Q$  is indefinite.

$$(6) \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 \quad \text{indefinite.}$$

Theorem: Let  $Q(x) = x^t A x$ ,  $A = A^t$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $Q$  has rank  $r$ , index  $k$  & signature  $s$ .

Then

$$(i) \quad Q \text{ is +ve def.} \Leftrightarrow r = s = n.$$

$$(ii) \quad Q \text{ is +ve semi-def.} \Leftrightarrow r = s < n.$$

(iii)  $Q$  is +ve def.  $\Leftrightarrow r = -s = n$ .

(iv)  $Q$  is -ve semi-def  $\Leftrightarrow r = -s < n$ .

(v)  $Q$  is indef.  $\Leftrightarrow |s| < r$ .

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Example: (i)  $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 3x_3^2$ .

$$\text{rank}(Q) = 3 = r$$

$$\text{index}(Q) = 3 = k$$

$$\text{signature}(Q) = 3 = s$$

$$\underline{n=3}$$

(ii)  $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -x_1^2 + x_2^2$

$$n=3$$

$$r=2$$

$$k=0$$

$$s = 2k - r$$

$$= -2$$

$$\therefore r = -s < n$$

$\therefore Q$  is -ve semi-def.

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Theorem: Let  $Q(x) = x^t A x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $A = A^t$ .

Suppose  $Q$  is +ve definite. Then

(a)  $\det(A) > 0$

(b) every principal minors of  $A$  is +ve

(c)  $a_{ii} > 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, n$ , when  $A = [a_{ij}]_{n \times n}$ .

Theorem  $Q(x) = x^T A x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

If  $Q$  is PSD, then

- (a)  $\det(A) = 0$ .
- (b) every principal minor of  $A$  is non-ve.
- (c)  $a_{ii} > 0$  if  $x_i^2$  appears in  $Q(x)$ .

Thm (Sylvester Criterion for +ve definiteness of real quadratic forms).

Let  $Q(x) = x^T A x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $A = A^T$ . Then

$Q$  is +ve def.  $\Leftrightarrow$  all the leading principal minors of  $A$  are +ve.

$$\Rightarrow a_{11} > 0, \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{vmatrix} > 0, \dots, \det(A) > 0.$$

$$\text{i.e., } |A(1|1)|, |A(1,2|1,2)|, \dots, |A(1, \dots, n|1, \dots, n)| \quad \boxed{\begin{matrix} \square \\ \square \\ \square \end{matrix}}$$

Example:

$$(1) \quad Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x^T \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 5 \\ -1 & 5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} x.$$

$$\boxed{\begin{matrix} |A(i_1, \dots, i_r| i_1, \dots, i_r)| \\ \hline \text{principals.} \end{matrix}}$$

"A".

$$1, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 3, \quad \det(A) = \begin{vmatrix} (-4) & -1 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix} = -1 < 0.$$

$Q$  is not +ve def.

Theorem:- A real quadratic form  $Q(x) = x^t A x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $A = A^t$ , is -ve definite



$A_{n \times n}$   
order  $n$

All the principal minors of  $A$  of even order are +ve & those of odd order are -ve.

Theorem:-  $Q(x) = x^t A x$ , is +ve semi-definite.



$A$  is singular & all its principal minors are non -ve.

Theorem:-  $Q(x) = x^t A x$  is -ve semi-definite



$A$  is singular & all its principal minors of even order of  $A$  are  $\geq 0$  & those of odd order are  $\leq 0$ .

Theorem  $Q(x) = x^t A x$  is indefinite.



At least one of the following hold(s):

(a) A has a -ve principal minor of even order

(b) A has a +ve principal minor of odd order & a -ve principal minor of odd order.

(equivalent to none of above conditions for PD, PSD, ND, NND?)

Example:

$$Q(x) = x^t \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1/2 & -3/2 \\ 1/2 & 5 & 3/2 \\ -3/2 & 3/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x.$$

principal minors of order 1:  $\textcircled{2}, 5, 1$ .

principal minors of order 2:  $|A(1,2|1,2)|$ .

$$|A(1,3|1,3)|, |A(2,3|2,3)|$$

$$= \frac{39}{4}, \textcircled{-\frac{1}{4}}, \frac{1}{4}.$$

principal minors of order 3:  $\det(A) = \textcircled{-\frac{33}{4}}$ .

$\therefore Q$  is indefinite.

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Theorem  $Q(x) = x^t A x$ ,  $A = A^t$ .

- (a)  $Q$  is +ve definite  $\Leftrightarrow$  all the eigenvalues of  $A$  are +ve
- (b)  $Q$  is -ve def.  $\Leftrightarrow$  all the eigenvalues of  $A$  are -ve.
- (c)  $Q$  is +ve semi-definite  $\Leftrightarrow$  all the eigenvalues of  $A$  are non-ve & at least one zero eigenvalue.
- (d)  $Q$  is -ve semi-definite  $\Leftrightarrow$  all the eigenvalues of  $A$  are  $\leq 0$  & at least one zero eigenvalue.
- (e)  $Q$  is indefinite  $\Leftrightarrow$   $A$  has at least one +ve eigenvalue & at least one -ve eigenvalue.