

Lecture 4 : Quadratic forms.

Def.: A function $Q(\vec{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j$
on \mathbb{R}^n .

Note: no linear / constant term, only the quadratic part of $c + \vec{p}^T \vec{x} + \underbrace{Q(\vec{x})}_1$.

"Why" ?

What is the use of ax^2 ?

- $ax^2 + bx + c$, the "prototypical nonlinear function".
- also, prototypical concave / convex
↳ but: $Q(\vec{x})$ could be neither if $n > 1$, example: xy .
- under the hood of 2nd derivative tests and 2nd order cond's: a quadratic approximation.
- applications like, e.g:

Let \vec{Y} be a random vector
with $E[\vec{Y}] = 0$ and covariance matrix $\vec{A} = E[\vec{Y} \vec{Y}^T]$. The variance of $\vec{w}^T \vec{Y}$, (\vec{w} nonrandom) is $\vec{w}^T \vec{A} \vec{w} = Q(\vec{w}) = \sum_i \sum_j a_{ij} w_i w_j$.

Matrix formulation:

$$Q(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}^T \vec{A} \vec{x} \quad \text{with} \quad \vec{A} = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^n$$

\vec{A} can be taken as symmetric:

→ because $x_i x_j = x_j x_i$, we have

$$a_{ij} x_i x_j + a_{ji} x_j x_i = \frac{1}{2} (a_{ij} + a_{ji}) (x_i x_j + x_j x_i)$$

→ linear algebra: $Q(\vec{x})$ is a number,

so $\vec{x}^T \vec{A} \vec{x} =$ its own transpose

$$= \vec{x}^T \vec{A} (\vec{x}^T)^T$$

As $\vec{x}^T \vec{A} \vec{x} = \vec{x}^T \vec{A}^T \vec{x}$, both equal

$$\frac{1}{2} \vec{x}^T (\underbrace{\vec{A} + \vec{A}^T}_{\text{symmetric}}) \vec{x}$$

The matrix tools to follow will require

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}^T.$$

• $Q(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}^T \vec{M} \vec{x}$ makes sense if \vec{M} isn't symmetric, but you are

expected to remember to rewrite as
 $\vec{x}^T \vec{A} \vec{x}$ by putting $\vec{A} = \frac{1}{2} (\vec{M} + \vec{M}^T)$.

Call the symmetric \vec{A} the matrix associated with the function Q .

Definiteness:

For $n=1$, the function ax^2 is

- for $a > 0$: strictly convex,
and $ax^2 > 0$ except for $x=0$.
- for $a < 0$: strictly concave
and $ax^2 < 0$ except for $x=0$
- for $a = 0$: concave and convex
(not strictly!) and is zero
on the entire line.

What about $n > 1$?

Definition: Q , and its associated
(symmetric!) matrix \vec{A} , will be called

- positive definite if $Q(\vec{x}) > 0 \forall \vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$
- positive semidefinite $\stackrel{\text{if}}{\iff} Q(\vec{x}) \geq 0$, all \vec{x}
- negative semidefinite $\stackrel{\text{if}}{\iff} Q(\vec{x}) \leq 0$, all \vec{x}
- negative definite if $Q(\vec{x}) < 0, \forall \vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$
- indefinite otherwise, i.e. if Q
attains both values > 0 and < 0 .

Ex.: $2xy$ is indefinite. $(x \ y)^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$.

Notes:

* Every $Q(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}^T \vec{M} \vec{x}$ is either
pos. def., pos. semidef.,
neg. def., neg. semidef or indefinite, but:
these properties are not defined for
a non-symmetric \vec{M} . You have to
use $\frac{1}{2}(\vec{M} + \vec{M}^T)$ if $\vec{M}^T \neq \vec{M}$.

* Once we have defined (strict) concavity/
convexity, it shall turn out that
 Q pos. def $\Leftrightarrow Q$ strictly convex
etc.

∴ and
 Q indefinite \Leftrightarrow " Q nowhere convex and
 Q nowhere concave"

* Terminology like "nonnegative definite"
etc., can be found in the literature,
but is less common.

* Some texts use, e.g. " $\vec{A} \succeq \vec{B}$ "
for " $\vec{A} - \vec{B}$ " is positive semidefinite".

* "Positive definite function" means one
of two distinct (but related) properties.

How to decide definiteness?

↳ "Analysis" vs "linear algebra"

↓
 $Q(t\vec{x}) = t^2 Q(\vec{x})$ so it suffices to
consider $\max/\min Q(\vec{x})$ s.t. $\vec{x}^T \vec{x} = 1$ (why?)
→ will be a seminar problem and will
lead to linear algebra too!

Today: criteria in terms of minors
of \vec{A} (← the symmetric, remember!)

Definitions: For a square matrix,
[we shall only have use for this
for symmetric matrices,]

* a $(k \times k)$ principal minor is formed by
deleting the "same-numbered rows and
columns"

If delete all columns $j \in J$, then we also
delete all rows $j \in J$.

and

* a $k \times k$ leading principal minor deletes
rows $j > k$ col's $j > k$ and retains
the top-left $k \times k$ corner.

The book's notation:

D_r for the $r \times r$ leading principal minor
(r is not rank!)

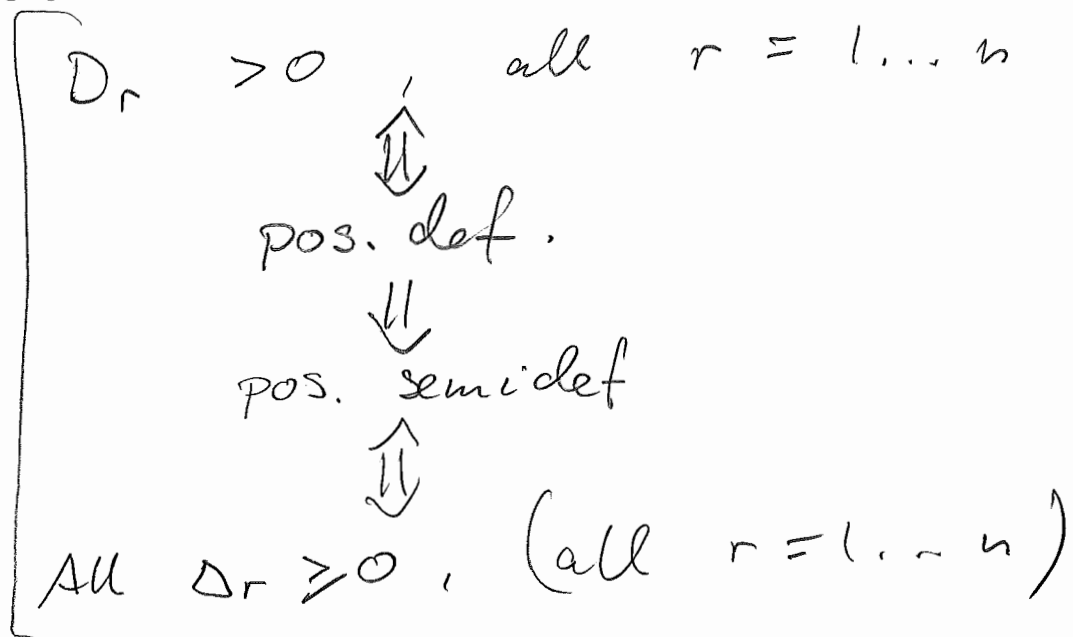
Δ_r for any of the $\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$ principal
minors (including D_r)

(When I say "the Δ_r are" it means all.)

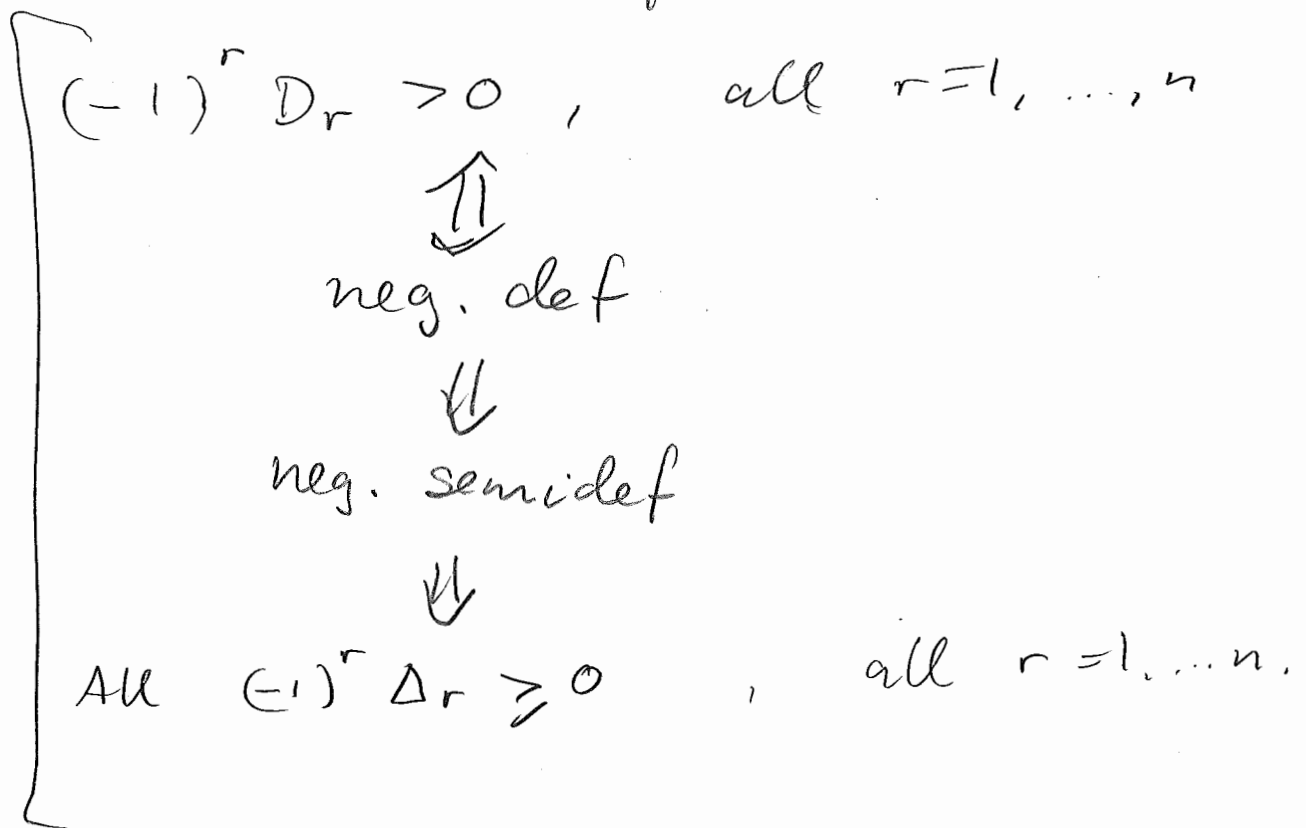
Ex.: $\vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$ has $D_2 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{vmatrix}$

and six Δ_2 's: $D_{2,1} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 7 \end{vmatrix},$
 $\begin{vmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 5 & 7 \end{vmatrix}$ and $\begin{vmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ 6 & 7 \end{vmatrix}.$

Criteria: we have the following implications:



Since \vec{A} neg. def $\Leftrightarrow (-\vec{A})$ pos def, etc., we have the implications



(Why the $(-1)^r$?)

Ex. $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \text{Whatever}_1^T \\ 2 & 3 & \\ \text{Whatever}_1 & \text{Whatever}_2 & \end{pmatrix}$ is indefinite,

as $D_2 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = -1$

2x2: $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}$

$\Delta_2 = D_2$

- Indefinite if and only if $ac - b^2 < 0$.
- If $ac - b^2 = 0$: neither pos. def nor neg. def,
 but: $\begin{cases} \text{pos. semidef if } a \geq 0 \text{ \& } c \geq 0 \\ \text{neg. semidef if } a \leq 0 \text{ \& } c \leq 0. \end{cases}$
- If $ac - b^2 > 0$, then:
 - $\begin{cases} \text{pos. def if } a > 0 \text{ and } c > 0 \\ \text{neg. def if } a < 0 \text{ and } c < 0 \end{cases}$
 - If $a > 0 = c$ or $c > 0 = a$, we would have "pos. semidef but not pos def"
 - but if $ac = 0$, we cannot have $D_2 > 0$. Likewise for "neg. semidef but not neg. def", impossible if $D_2 > 0$.

Actually: If \vec{A} pos. semidef & $|\vec{A}| \neq 0$,
 then \vec{A} pos. definite!
 \rightarrow Covariance matrices are always pos. semidef - just check invertibility!

To verify that the criteria work for 2×2 , let us do that case thoroughly:

$$Q(x,y) = ax^2 + 2bxy + cy^2,$$

• Case $a=b=c=0$: Easy.

• Case $b=0, ac=0$: Semidef:

$$D_2=0 \text{ and } Q = ax^2 \text{ or } = cy^2$$

One $\Delta_i=0$, the other decides
pos semidef or neg. semidef.

• Case $b \neq 0, ac=0$: Say, $a \neq 0 = c$
(other case similar)

$$ax^2 + bxy = x \cdot (ax + by)$$

\uparrow
 $\neq 0$

\uparrow
 $\neq 0$

Fix $x \neq 0$, let y vary,
Indefinite,

as the criteria say: $D_2 < 0$

• Case $abc \neq 0$.

$$Q(x,y) = a \left[x^2 + 2 \frac{b}{a} xy + \frac{c}{a} y^2 \right]$$

$$= a \left[\left(x + \frac{b}{a} y \right)^2 + \left(\frac{c}{a} - \frac{b^2}{a^2} \right) y^2 \right]$$

$$= a \cdot [\text{square}] + \frac{1}{a} (ac - b^2) y^2,$$

a and $\frac{1}{a}$ have same sign.

✓

Case $abc \neq 0$ (cont'd: assume $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$)

$$Q(x, y) = a \cdot \left(x + \frac{b}{a}y\right)^2 + \frac{1}{a}y^2 \det \vec{A}.$$

note a and $\frac{1}{a}$ have same sign.

... if $\det \vec{A} < 0$, then

$Q(x, 0)$ and $Q\left(-\frac{b}{a}y, 0\right)$ have opposite signs. Indefinite.

... if $\det \vec{A} = 0$, then $Q(x, y)$

$$= a \cdot \underbrace{\left(x + \frac{b}{a}y\right)^2}_{\geq 0, \text{ but } = 0}$$

when $x = -\frac{b}{a}y$, semidef but not definite.

... if $\det \vec{A} > 0$: $y^2 \det \vec{A} \geq 0$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{a}y\right)^2 \geq 0$$

not both zero except at $\vec{0}$.

For $n > 2$: Everything works by completing squares.

$$\hookrightarrow \begin{vmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \ominus & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \ominus \end{vmatrix}$$

these minors check $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ etc.

3x3 example:

For each t , decide the definiteness

property of $\vec{A}_t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 3 & t & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & t-4 \end{pmatrix}$ cf prev
lecture
for \vec{A}_t .

(i.e. of $(x, y, z) \vec{A}_t \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} =: Q(x, y, z)$.)

• As one Δ_1 is $1 > 0$ ($Q(x, 0, 0) = x^2$)
we cannot have negative semidefiniteness
(\Rightarrow ----- def.)

• If $t \geq 4$ (> 4), all Δ_i are ≥ 0 (> 0)

• $D_2 = t - 9$, so $t < 9 \Rightarrow$ indef. Remains: $t \geq 9$.

$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & t-4 \end{vmatrix} = t-5$, weaker test

$\begin{vmatrix} t & -1 \\ -1 & t-4 \end{vmatrix} = t^2 - 4t - 1$ is > 0 if $t \geq 9$.

• $|\vec{A}| = t^2 - 10t - 7$ is negative for $t = 9$, so

this will decide: largest zero for

$$t = 5 + \sqrt{25 - 7} = 5 + \sqrt{18}$$

Conclusion: If $t > 5 + \sqrt{18}$ then $\min\{D_1, D_2, D_3\} > 0$

and \vec{A}_t pos. def.

If $t = 5 + \sqrt{18}$ then $\min\{\text{all } \Delta_i\} = 0$,

and \vec{A}_t pos. semidef (but not pos. def.)

If $t < 5 + \sqrt{18}$, $D_1 > 0 > D_3 \Rightarrow$ indef.

There is a shortcut for such problems that depend continuously on a parameter:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t^*} \min_{\|\vec{x}\|=1} Q(\vec{x}) = \min_{\|\vec{x}\|=1} \lim_{t \rightarrow t^*} Q(\vec{x})$$

and likewise for max.

So since $Q(\vec{x}) > 0$ for all \vec{x} with $\|\vec{x}\|=1$
 When $t > 5 + \sqrt{18}$
 for all $\vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$, by homogeneity of Q

$$\text{then } \lim_{t \searrow 5 + \sqrt{18}} \min_{\|\vec{x}\|=1} Q(\vec{x}) \geq 0.$$

So we could have done as follows:

- $D_1 = 1 > 0$ always. (\Rightarrow : not neg. semidef.)
- $D_2 = t - 9$ is > 0 for $t > 9$
- $D_3 = t^2 - 10t - 7$ is > 0 for $t > 5 + \sqrt{18}$.

$$\text{So: } \begin{aligned} t > 5 + \sqrt{18} &\Rightarrow \text{pos. def} \\ t < 5 + \sqrt{18} &\Rightarrow D_1 > 0 > D_3 \Rightarrow \text{indef} \end{aligned}$$

By continuity: pos. semidef for $t = 5 + \sqrt{18}$.

Eigenvalue characterization:

Let $\vec{A}^T = \vec{A}$, \vec{A} be $n \times n$. Then we have the following

facts:

- \vec{A} has n lin. indep. eigenvectors.
- The char. pol. is $p(\lambda) = (\lambda_1 - \lambda) \cdots (\lambda_n - \lambda)$
i.e. n real eigenvalues, counted with multiplicity.
- The eigenvectors $\vec{v}^{(i)}$ corr. to λ_i
and $\vec{v}^{(j)}$ corr. to λ_j , $i \neq j$:
 - are orthogonal ($\vec{v}^{(i)} \cdot \vec{v}^{(j)} = 0$) if $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$.
 - can be chosen orthogonal if $\lambda_i = \lambda_j$.
- \vec{A} pos. def \Leftrightarrow all $\lambda_i > 0$
pos. semidef \Leftrightarrow all $\lambda_i \geq 0$
neg det \Leftrightarrow all $\lambda_i < 0$
neg semidef \Leftrightarrow all $\lambda_i \leq 0$.
- $n=2$ for simplicity (generalizes!)

Suppose \vec{A} indefinite: $\lambda_2 > 0 > \lambda_1$
 $\begin{matrix} \hookrightarrow \\ \vec{w} \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} \hookrightarrow \\ \vec{v} \end{matrix}$

Then "Q" convex along \vec{w} and concave along \vec{v}

Ex: x, y . $y=x$ yields x^2 , convex } $\vec{0}$ is
 $y=-x$ yields $-x^2$, concave. } Saddle!

Ex: the "previous" with $t = 1$. ($< 5 + \sqrt{18}$, indef.)
 Last time: eigenvalues $-4, -1, 4$.

Ex: For every $t \in \mathbb{R}$, decide the definiteness of $A_{t,n} = \vec{I}_n + t \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & 1 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 1 & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, which has eigenvectors $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$ and $\vec{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\vec{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \vec{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \vec{e}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Here, $\vec{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \vec{e}_2 = (0, 1, 0, \dots), \dots$

Calculate eigenvalues: $A_{t,n} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{e}^{(i)} \\ -\vec{e}^{(i)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{e}^{(i)} \\ -\vec{e}^{(i)} \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} \vec{1} \cdot (\vec{e}^{(i)} - \vec{e}^{(i)}) \\ \vdots \\ \vec{1} \cdot (\vec{e}^{(i)} - \vec{e}^{(i)}) \end{pmatrix}$

$\lambda_i = 1, i = 2, \dots, n$
 \uparrow
 > 0

$A_{t,n} \vec{1} = \vec{1} + t \begin{pmatrix} \vec{1} \cdot \vec{1} \\ \vdots \\ \vec{1} \cdot \vec{1} \end{pmatrix} = \vec{1} + t n \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

so $\lambda_1 = 1 + tn$. If $t < -\frac{1}{n}$: indefinite.

If we can show that we have found all n lin. indep. eigenvectors, then: pos. def for $t > -\frac{1}{n}$

and: pos. semidef, but not pos. def, for $t = -\frac{1}{n}$.

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & -1 & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \vdots & \dots & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Exercise: add rows $2, 3, \dots, n$ to row 1 and then col's $2, 3, \dots, n$ to col. 1. Get something $\neq 0$.

Eigenvalues, square roots, ...

Knowing the conclusion of this page, is not curriculum.

Being able to understand the calculations, is curriculum. Take it as exercise.

Let \vec{V} have eigenvectors of \vec{A} as columns.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \vec{A} \vec{V} &= \left(\vec{A} \vec{v}^{(1)} \mid \dots \mid \vec{A} \vec{v}^{(n)} \right) \\ &= \vec{V} \vec{\Lambda} \text{ where } \vec{\Lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

A symmetric matrix has n lin. indep eigenvectors, stacking these into \vec{V} , it is invertible.

$$\vec{A} = \vec{V} \vec{\Lambda} \vec{V}^{-1}$$

High powers? $\vec{A}^{2018} = \vec{V} \vec{\Lambda}^{2018} \vec{V}^{-1}$ $\ddot{\smile}$

Low powers, like $\dots \frac{1}{2}$? $\vec{V} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sqrt{\lambda_n} \end{pmatrix} \vec{V}^{-1}$?

Ok if \vec{A} pos. semidef or pos. def.

Fact: a pos. semidef \vec{A} has a unique pos. semidef square root \vec{S} often denoted $\vec{A}^{1/2}$.

If $\vec{Y} = \text{random } n \times 1$ $E \vec{Y} = \vec{0}$, $E \vec{Y} \vec{Y}^T = \vec{A}$ invertible,

what is the covar of $\vec{Z} = (\vec{A}^{-1})^{1/2} \vec{Y}$?

Quadratic forms under linear constraints

Consider a restriction to a subspace: $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$
 (\vec{B} can be assumed to have full rank).

$Q = \vec{x}^T \vec{A} \vec{x}$ is called pos. def. subject to $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$
 if $Q(\vec{x}) > 0$ for all $\vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$ such that $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$.

Pos semidef subject to $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ if

Neg _____ " _____

Neg. def _____ " _____

Indef _____ " _____

Fact: \vec{A} pos. def \Rightarrow pos. def subject to $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0}$
 but not \Leftarrow



But Q indefinite subject to $\vec{B}\vec{x} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{A}$ indef.

Application: approximate a Lagrange problem

Criteria ... ? Definiteness only, not semidef.

First, in order for the following to work, the leftmost $m \times m$ minor of the full-rank $m \times n$ matrix \vec{B} must be nonzero.

If not: re-enumerate the variables, redefine \vec{A} and \vec{B} .

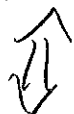
Form the bordered Hessian

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{0}_{m \times m} & \vec{B} \\ \vec{B}^T & \vec{A} \end{pmatrix}$$

Let b_r = the leading principal $(m+r) \times (m+r)$ minor - covering "down" to variable r

Then:

\mathcal{Q} pos. def. subject to $\vec{B}_x \vec{x} = \vec{0}$



$(-1)^m b_r > 0$ for all $r = m+1, \dots, n$



\mathcal{Q} neg. def. subject to $\vec{B}_x \vec{x} = \vec{0}$



$(-1)^r b_r > 0$ for all $r \geq m+1$.

Example:

\vec{A} indef.

$$\vec{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -9 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let's be lazy. First row of \vec{B} says $x_1 = 0$.

Just put $x_1 = 0$ to get the following in $\vec{y} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$:

$$\vec{A}_{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{B}_{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -9 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

nonzero minor

Form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \vec{B} \\ \vec{B}^T & \vec{A} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -9 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -9 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

I shall never check $_$, remember?

2 constraints, b_2 is 3×3 , shall check

b_{m+1} and up, b_{m+1} is 5×5 .

Cofactor exp: $\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -9 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -9 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & -9 & -1 & 0 \end{vmatrix}$

$$= -81 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 81 - 4$$

$m = 2$ now, so $(-1)^m b_r > 0, r = 3 \dots 3$.

pos. def
s.t the
constraint