

## Quadratic forms:

Def: A quadratic form is a polynomial of degree 2 in  $n$  variables, where each term has exactly degree 2.  $q(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

Ex:  $q(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2$

Note:  $q(x_1, x_2) = [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $= [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} x_1+x_2 \\ x_1+x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_1x_2 + x_2^2$

We can always do this! For: (projection  $x+y+z=0$ )

$$\frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

we have  $q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \frac{1}{3} x_1^2 + \frac{2}{3} x_2^2 + \frac{2}{3} x_3^2 - \frac{2}{3} x_1x_2 - \frac{2}{3} x_2x_3 - \frac{2}{3} x_1x_3$

$q(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \vec{x}^T A \vec{x}$  for  $A$  symmetric.

We can now use the Spectral Theorem to simplify  $q(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .

Recall:  $A$  orthogonally diagonalizable if and only if  $A$  symmetric.

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$   $D = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $B = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$   
 $\vec{n}_1 \quad \vec{n}_2$

$$q(x_1, x_2) = (c_1 \vec{n}_1^T + c_2 \vec{n}_2^T) A (c_1 \vec{n}_1 + c_2 \vec{n}_2) = (c_1 \vec{n}_1^T + c_2 \vec{n}_2^T) (c_1 2 \vec{n}_1 + c_2 0 \vec{n}_2) = 2c_1^2 + 0c_2^2 \text{ where } [\vec{x}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thm:  $A$  symmetric,  $q(x_1, x_2) = \vec{x}^T A \vec{x}$ ,  $B$  orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  for  $A$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  (with multiplicity), then:  $q(\vec{x}) = \lambda_1 c_1^2 + \lambda_2 c_2^2$  with  $[\vec{x}]_B = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$ .



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The signs of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are extremely important!  
 They can help in solving max-min problems at  $q(0,0)$ !

Def: A symmetric,  $q(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}^T A \vec{x}$ . A positive definite if  $q(\vec{x}) > 0$  positive for all  $\vec{x} \neq 0$ . A positive semidefinite if  $q(\vec{x}) \geq 0$  for all  $\vec{x}$ . A indefinite if  $q(\vec{x})$  is positive and negative.

Thm: A positive definite if and only if positive eigenvalues. A positive semidefinite if and only if positive or zero eigenvalues.

Ex:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is positive semidefinite.

Applications: physics:  $\langle \psi | A | \psi \rangle$  A operator.  
 probability:  $\|A \cdot \vec{x}\|^2$  is quadratic form.

Singular values: Finding orthonormal vectors that remain orthogonal after doing a transformation.  
 A  $n \times n$

Def: Singular values are the square roots of the eigenvalues of  $A^T A$ ; with algebraic multiplicities.

singular value  $\sigma$   $\rightarrow \sigma = \sqrt{\lambda}$   $\leftarrow$  eigenvalue  $A^T A$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sigma_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$n_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A \vec{v}_1$$

$$A = U \Sigma V^T$$

$$n_n = \frac{1}{\sigma_n} A \cdot \vec{v}_n$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} n_1 \\ \vdots \\ n_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} -\sigma_1 \\ \vdots \\ -\sigma_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Examples in the class notes.

A  $n \times n$   
 $\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$   
 ascending order