

# Linear Algebra for Computer Science

## Lecture 26

### Positive definiteness

# Remember: Eigendecomposition of Real Symmetric and Hermitian matrices



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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \\ A^T = A \end{array} \right\}$$

$$A = V \Lambda V^T$$

orthogonal ( $V^T V = V V^T = I$ )  
 $\Lambda, V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$   
diagonal

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \\ A^* = A \end{array} \right\}$$

$$A = V \Lambda V^*$$

$$\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \text{ diagonal}$$
$$V^* V = V V^* = I$$

# Positive Definite (PD) matrices



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Positive definite

مثبت حقیقی

$$\boxed{A > 0}$$

Symmetric  $A^T = A$

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

positive definite  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A^T = A \\ \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ x \neq 0 \end{array} \right.$

$$\underline{x^T A x} > 0$$

# Positive Semi-definite (PSD) matrices



Positive Semi-definite

$$A^T = A$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$x^T A x \geq 0$$

$$A \succeq 0$$

$$A \succ 0 \implies A \succeq 0$$

Positive definite matrices  $\subset$  positive semi-definite matrices

# Positive negative and semi-negative matrices



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Negative definite

$$A = A^T$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n, x \neq 0 \quad x^T A x < 0$$

Negative semi-definite

$$A = A^T$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad x^T A x \leq 0$$

# Definiteness for complex matrices



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For  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  positive-definite

for complex matrices

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A^* = A \\ \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^n \\ x \neq 0 \quad x^* A x > 0 \end{array} \right.$$

# Positive definite



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Note: Here, by positive-definite we mean symmetric positive definite

# PD matrices might have negative (off-diagonal) elements



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\varepsilon \\ -\varepsilon & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x^T A x = [x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\varepsilon \\ -\varepsilon & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2\varepsilon x_1 x_2$$

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2x_1 x_2 = (x_1 - x_2)^2$$

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_1 x_2 = (x_1 + x_2)^2$$



# Positive Definite matrices are non-singular



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$A \succ 0$  (A is PD)

LA26 (

Can A be singular?

A singular  $\Rightarrow \exists x \neq 0$   
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$Ax = 0 \Rightarrow x^T Ax = 0$

$\Rightarrow A$  is not PD  
! ناقص

All PD matrices are non-singular

# Does $x^T A x = 0$ imply singularity?

## Case 1: $A$ symmetric



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for some  $x \neq 0$  we have  $x^T A x = 0$   
& ( $A = A^T$ )  $A$  symmetric. Is  $A$  singular.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad x^T A x = 0$$

Does  $x^T A x = 0$  imply singularity?

Case 2:  $A$  is PSD



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$A$ : positive-semidefinite,  $x^T A x = 0$  for some  $x \neq 0$

is  $A$  singular?

$$x^T v \wedge v^T x \neq 0 \Rightarrow y \neq 0 \quad y^T A x = 0$$

# Eigenvalues of PD and PSD matrices



$$A \text{ symmetric} \Rightarrow A = V\Lambda V^T \Rightarrow Av_i = \lambda_i v_i$$

$A$  is PD  $\Rightarrow$  what about its eigenvalues?

Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of  $A$ , &  $v \neq 0$  be ~~the~~ a corresponding eigenvector.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} Av = \lambda v \Rightarrow \underline{v^T Av} = \lambda \underline{v^T v} \\ A \text{ is PD} \Rightarrow v^T Av > 0 \\ v \neq 0 \Rightarrow v^T v = \|v\|^2 > 0 \end{array} \right\} \lambda > 0$$

$A$  is PD  $\Rightarrow$  All eigenvalues ( $> 0$ ) are positive.

$A$  is PSD  $\Rightarrow$  All eigenvalues ( $\geq 0$ ) are nonnegative.

# PD $\Leftrightarrow$ Positive Eigenvalues



real & symmetric }  $\Rightarrow A = V \Lambda V^T$  LA 26 (III)  
all eigenvalues  
are positive

$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$   $\lambda_i > 0 \quad i=1 \dots n$

For any  $x \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$   $x^T A x = x^T V \Lambda V^T x$   
 $= (V^T x)^T \Lambda (V^T x)$

let  $y = V^T x \Rightarrow y \neq 0$   
 $x = Vy$   
 $x = 0$

$x^T A x = y^T \Lambda y \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$   
 $y_1^2 \lambda_1 + y_2^2 \lambda_2 + \dots + y_n^2 \lambda_n > 0$

$\Rightarrow A$  positive definite

# PD $\Leftrightarrow$ Positive Eigenvalues



real & symmetric }  $\Rightarrow A = V \Lambda V^T$  LA 26 (III)  
all eigenvalues  
are positive

$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$   $\lambda_i > 0 \quad i=1 \dots n$

For any  $x \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$   $x^T A x = x^T V \Lambda V^T x$   
 $= (V^T x)^T \Lambda (V^T x)$

let  $y = V^T x \Rightarrow y \neq 0$   
 $x = Vy$   
 $x = 0$

$x^T A x = y^T \Lambda y \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$   
 $y_1^2 \lambda_1 + y_2^2 \lambda_2 + \dots + y_n^2 \lambda_n > 0$

$\Rightarrow A$  positive definite

# PSD $\Leftrightarrow$ Nonnegative Eigenvalues



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A symmetric matrix  
A is positive definite  $\Leftrightarrow$  All eigenvalues are <sup>positive</sup>  $> 0$

~~Symmetric~~  
 $A = A^T$  is PSD  $\Leftrightarrow$  all eigenvalues are nonnegative.

# When is $A^T A$ PD?



$$C = A^T A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, A \text{ has full column rank.}$$

LA26 (IV)

~~rank~~

$$\downarrow \text{rank}(A) = n, m \geq n$$

$\downarrow$

there are  $n$  independent rows

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T \\ a_2^T \\ \vdots \\ a_m^T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A^T = [a_1 \ a_2 \ \dots \ a_m]$$

$$C = A^T A$$

$A$  has full column rank  $\Rightarrow Ax \neq 0$

Choose any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, x \neq 0 \Rightarrow$

$$x^T C x = x^T A^T A x \Rightarrow (Ax)^T (Ax) = \|Ax\|^2 > 0$$

for all  $x \neq 0$

$A^T A$  is positive definite.



# The Correlation Matrix is PSD



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Assume  $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \dots, \vec{a}_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\text{span}(a_1, \dots, a_m) = \mathbb{R}^n$

(there are  $n$  independent vector among  $\vec{a}_1, \dots, \vec{a}_m$ )

Let  $A^T = [a_1 \ a_2 \ \dots \ a_m]$ .

$C = A^T A = \sum a_i a_i^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is positive-definite

$C$  is called the correlation matrix made

of  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ .

# The Covariance Matrix is PSD



Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\vec{\mu} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m a_i$ ,

$$\bar{a}_i = a_i - \mu$$

The correlation matrix of  $\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \dots, \bar{a}_n$  is called the covariance matrix.



# Covariance Matrix and Distribution of Data



$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m a_i$$

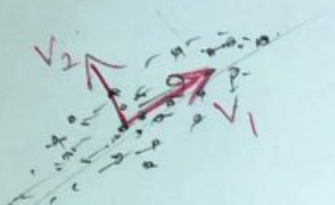
LA 26 (V)

$$\bar{a}_i = a_i - \mu$$

$$\Sigma = \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{a}_i \bar{a}_i^T = \sum_{i=1}^m (a_i - \mu)(a_i - \mu)^T$$

↓  
covariance matrix is positive semidefinite

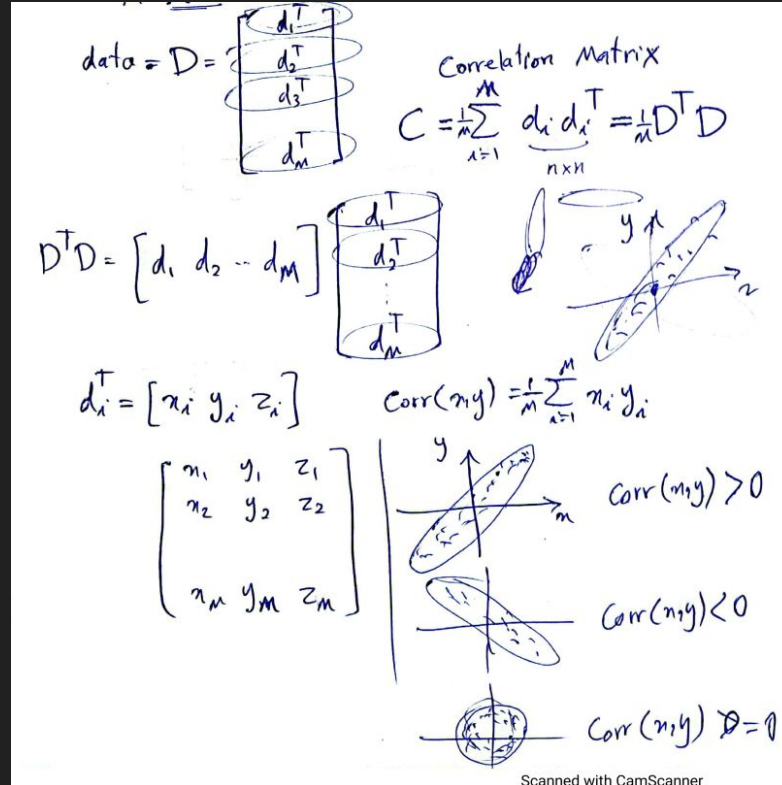
$\text{span}(\bar{a}_1, \dots, \bar{a}_m) = \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \Sigma$  is PD



# Covariance Matrix and Distribution of Data



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# Decomposition of PSD matrices



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Any positive semi-definite matrix  $P$  can be decomposed as  $P = A^T A$ .  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

# Orthogonal Ambiguity in the Decomposition of PSD matrices



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$$P = A^T \underline{A} \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

Let  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is orthogonal

$$\begin{aligned} P &= A^T A = A^T \underline{I} A = A^T H^{-1} H^T A = A^T \underline{H^T H} A \\ &= (\underline{H A})^T (\underline{H A}) \\ &= \underline{A'^T} \underline{A'} \end{aligned}$$

# Square root of a PSD matrix



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For a (symmetric) positive semi-definite matrix  $A$  there is a unique positive semi-definite matrix  $P$  such that  $A = P P$  ( $= P^H P$ ).  $P$  is called the square root of  $A$  and is denoted by  $A^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .

# Cholskey Decomposition



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## Cholskey Decomposition

Every positive semi-definite matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  can be decomposed as  $A = L L^T$  where  $L$  is ~~lower-triangular~~ lower-triangular.

$$A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$$

$$A = L L^H = L L^*$$



# Solving $Ax = b$ with Cholesky Decomposition When $A$ is PD



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Solving Linear Equation  $Ax = b$   $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$   $A$  is PD  
 $A = LL^T$   $Ax = b = LL^T x = b$

The Cholesky decomposition can be computed much faster than the LU decomposition for a PSD matrix.

To Solve  $Ax = LL^T x = b$ , let  $y = L^T x$ . First solve for  $Ly = b$ ; Then solve for  $L^T x = y$  (similarly to LU decomposition).