7.2 QUADRATIC FORMS

Until now, our attention in this text has focused on linear equations, except for the sums of squares encountered in Chapter 6 when computing $\mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{x}$. Such sums and more general expressions, called *quadratic forms*, occur frequently in applications of linear algebra to engineering (in design criteria and optimization) and signal processing (as output noise power). They also arise, for example, in physics (as potential and kinetic energy), differential geometry (as normal curvature of surfaces), economics (as utility functions), and statistics (in confidence ellipsoids). Some of the mathematical background for such applications flows easily from our work on symmetric matrices.

A **quadratic form** on $\mathbb{R}^n$ is a function Q defined on $\mathbb{R}^n$ whose value at a vector $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ can be computed by an expression of the form $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$, where A is an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. The matrix A is called the **matrix of the quadratic form**.

The simplest example of a nonzero quadratic form is $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T I\mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$. Examples 1 and 2 show the connection between any symmetric matrix A and the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$.

EXAMPLE 1 Let $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$. Compute $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$ for the following matrices:

a. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ b. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$

SOLUTION

a. $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 4x_1 \\ 3x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 4x_1^2 + 3x_2^2.$

b. There are two -2 entries in A. Watch how they enter the calculations. The $(1,2)$-entry in A is in boldface type.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 3 & \mathbf{-2} \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 - \mathbf{2}x_2 \\ -2x_1 + 7x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\
&= x_1(3x_1 - \mathbf{2}x_2) + x_2(-2x_1 + 7x_2) \\
&= 3x_1^2 - \mathbf{2}x_1x_2 - 2x_2x_1 + 7x_2^2 \\
&= 3x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2
\end{aligned}$$

The presence of $-4x_1x_2$ in the quadratic form in Example 1(b) is due to the -2 entries off the diagonal in the matrix A. In contrast, the quadratic form associated with the diagonal matrix A in Example 1(a) has no x_1x_2 *cross-product* term.

EXAMPLE 2 For $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$, let $Q(\mathbf{x}) = 5x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - x_1x_2 + 8x_2x_3$. Write this quadratic form as $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$.

SOLUTION The coefficients of x_1^2, x_2^2, x_3^2 go on the diagonal of A. To make A symmetric, the coefficient of x_ix_j for $i \neq j$ must be split evenly between the (i,j)- and (j,i)-entries in A. The coefficient of x_1x_3 is 0. It is readily checked that

$$Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1/2 & 0 \\ -1/2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

EXAMPLE 3 Let $Q(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^2 - 8x_1x_2 - 5x_2^2$. Compute the value of $Q(\mathbf{x})$ for $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$.

SOLUTION

$$Q(-3, 1) = (-3)^2 - 8(-3)(1) - 5(1)^2 = 28$$
$$Q(2, -2) = (2)^2 - 8(2)(-2) - 5(-2)^2 = 16$$
$$Q(1, -3) = (1)^2 - 8(1)(-3) - 5(-3)^2 = -20$$

In some cases, quadratic forms are easier to use when they have no cross-product terms—that is, when the matrix of the quadratic form is a diagonal matrix. Fortunately, the cross-product term can be eliminated by making a suitable change of variable.

Change of Variable in a Quadratic Form

If $\mathbf{x}$ represents a variable vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$, then a **change of variable** is an equation of the form

$$\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}, \quad \text{or equivalently,} \quad \mathbf{y} = P^{-1}\mathbf{x} \tag{1}$$

where P is an invertible matrix and $\mathbf{y}$ is a new variable vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Here $\mathbf{y}$ is the coordinate vector of $\mathbf{x}$ relative to the basis of $\mathbb{R}^n$ determined by the columns of P. (See Section 4.4.)

If the change of variable (1) is made in a quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$, then

$$\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} = (P\mathbf{y})^T A(P\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}^T P^T AP\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^T(P^T AP)\mathbf{y} \tag{2}$$

and the new matrix of the quadratic form is $P^T AP$. Since A is symmetric, Theorem 2 guarantees that there is an *orthogonal* matrix P such that $P^T AP$ is a diagonal matrix D, and the quadratic form in (2) becomes $\mathbf{y}^T D\mathbf{y}$. This is the strategy of the next example.

EXAMPLE 4 Make a change of variable that transforms the quadratic form in Example 3 into a quadratic form with no cross-product term.

SOLUTION The matrix of the quadratic form in Example 3 is

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ -4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

The first step is to orthogonally diagonalize A. Its eigenvalues turn out to be $\lambda = 3$ and $\lambda = -7$. Associated unit eigenvectors are

$$\lambda = 3: \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}; \qquad \lambda = -7: \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

These vectors are automatically orthogonal (because they correspond to distinct eigenvalues) and so provide an orthonormal basis for $\mathbb{R}^2$. Let

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & 1/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad D = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then $A = PDP^{-1}$ and $D = P^{-1}AP = P^T AP$, as pointed out earlier. A suitable change of variable is

$$\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}, \qquad \text{where } \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^2 - 8x_1x_2 - 5x_2^2 &= \mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x} = (P\mathbf{y})^TA(P\mathbf{y}) \\ &= \mathbf{y}^TP^TAP\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^TD\mathbf{y} \\ &= 3y_1^2 - 7y_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

To illustrate the meaning of the equality of quadratic forms in Example 4, we can compute $Q(\mathbf{x})$ for $\mathbf{x} = (2, -2)$ using the new quadratic form. First, since $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$,

$$\mathbf{y} = P^{-1}\mathbf{x} = P^T\mathbf{x}$$

so

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & -1/\sqrt{5} \\ 1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6/\sqrt{5} \\ -2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} 3y_1^2 - 7y_2^2 &= 3(6/\sqrt{5})^2 - 7(-2/\sqrt{5})^2 = 3(36/5) - 7(4/5) \\ &= 80/5 = 16 \end{aligned}$$

This is the value of $Q(\mathbf{x})$ in Example 3 when $\mathbf{x} = (2, -2)$. See Fig. 1.

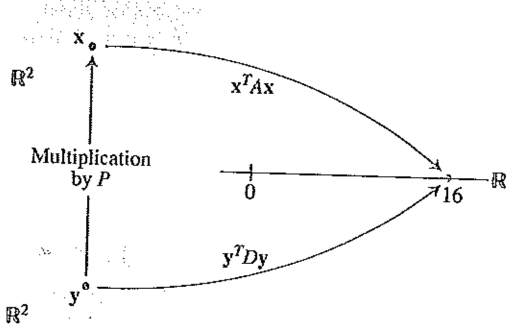


FIGURE 1 Change of variable in $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$.

Example 4 illustrates the following theorem. The proof of the theorem was essentially given before Example 4.

THEOREM 4 **The Principal Axes Theorem**

Let A be an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. Then there is an orthogonal change of variable, $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$, that transforms the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ into a quadratic form $\mathbf{y}^TD\mathbf{y}$ with no cross-product term.

The columns of P in the theorem are called the **principal axes** of the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$. The vector $\mathbf{y}$ is the coordinate vector of $\mathbf{x}$ relative to the orthonormal basis of $\mathbb{R}^n$ given by these principal axes.

A Geometric View of Principal Axes

Suppose $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$, where A is an invertible 2×2 symmetric matrix, and let c be a constant. It can be shown that the set of all $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^2$ that satisfy

$$\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x} = c \tag{3}$$

either corresponds to an ellipse (or circle), a hyperbola, two intersecting lines, or a single point, or contains no points at all. If A is a diagonal matrix, the graph is in *standard position*, such as in Fig. 2. If A is not a diagonal matrix, the graph of equation (3) is

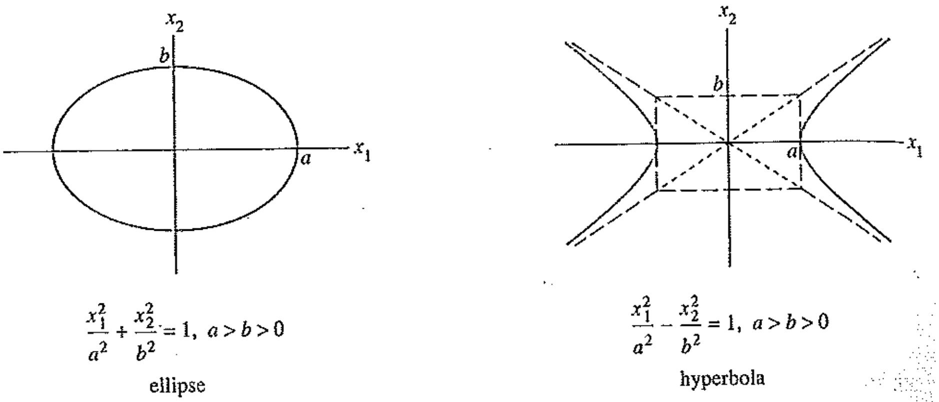


FIGURE 2 An ellipse and a hyperbola in standard position.

rotated out of standard position, as in Fig. 3. Finding the *principal axes* (determined by the eigenvectors of A) amounts to finding a new coordinate system with respect to which the graph is in standard position.

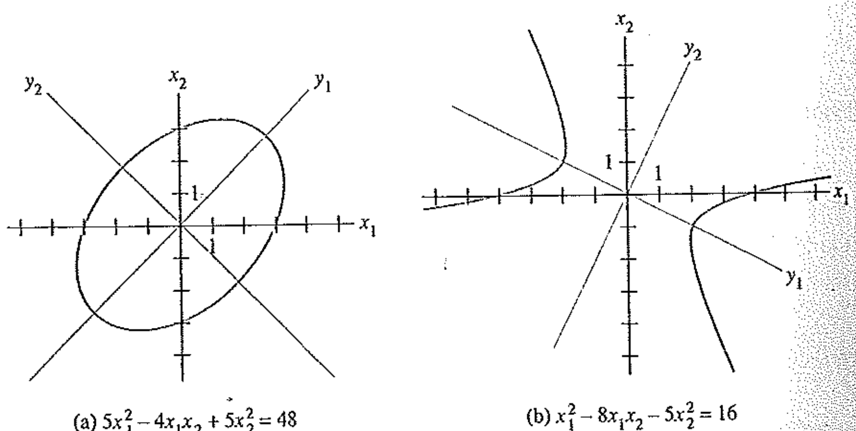


FIGURE 3 An ellipse and a hyperbola *not* in standard position.

The hyperbola in Fig. 3(b) is the graph of the equation $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} = 16$, where A is the matrix in Example 4. The positive y_1-axis in Fig. 3(b) is in the direction of the first column of the matrix P in Example 4, and the positive y_2-axis is in the direction of the second column of P.

EXAMPLE 5 The ellipse in Fig. 3(a) is the graph of the equation $5x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 5x_2^2 = 48$. Find a change of variable that removes the cross-product term from the equation.

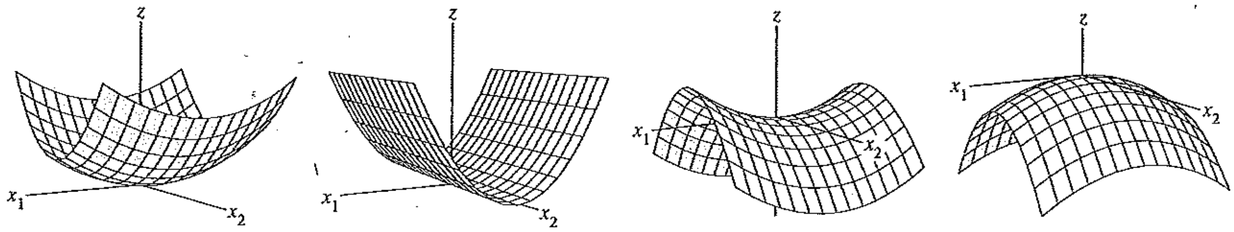
SOLUTION The matrix of the quadratic form is $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$. The eigenvalues of A turn out to be 3 and 7, with corresponding unit eigenvectors

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Let $P = [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \ \mathbf{u}_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$. Then P orthogonally diagonalizes A, so the change of variable $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$ produces the quadratic form $\mathbf{y}^T D\mathbf{y} = 3y_1^2 + 7y_2^2$. The new axes for this change of variable are shown in Fig. 3(a). ■

Classifying Quadratic Forms

When A is an $n \times n$ matrix, the quadratic form $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$ is a real-valued function with domain $\mathbb{R}^n$. Figure 4 displays the graphs of four quadratic forms with domain $\mathbb{R}^2$. For each point $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2)$ in the domain of a quadratic form Q, the graph displays the point (x_1, x_2, z) where $z = Q(\mathbf{x})$. Notice that except at $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, the values of $Q(\mathbf{x})$ are all positive in Fig. 4(a) and all negative in Fig. 4(d). The horizontal cross-sections of the graphs are ellipses in Figs. 4(a) and 4(d) and hyperbolas in Fig. 4(c).



(a) $z = 3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$ (b) $z = 3x_1^2$ (c) $z = 3x_1^2 - 7x_2^2$ (d) $z = -3x_1^2 - 7x_2^2$

FIGURE 4 Graphs of quadratic forms.

The simple 2×2 examples in Fig. 4 illustrate the following definitions.

DEFINITION

A quadratic form Q is:

a. **positive definite** if $Q(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$,

b. **negative definite** if $Q(\mathbf{x}) < 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$,

c. **indefinite** if $Q(\mathbf{x})$ assumes both positive and negative values.

Also, Q is said to be **positive semidefinite** if $Q(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$ for all $\mathbf{x}$, and to be **negative semidefinite** if $Q(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$ for all $\mathbf{x}$. The quadratic forms in parts (a) and (b) of Fig. 4 are both positive semidefinite, but the form in (a) is better described as positive definite.

Theorem 5 characterizes some quadratic forms in terms of eigenvalues.

THEOREM 5

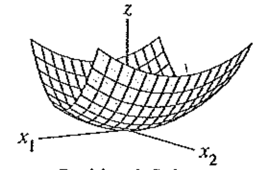
Quadratic Forms and Eigenvalues

Let A be an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. Then a quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$ is:

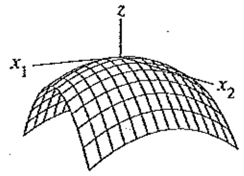
a. positive definite if and only if the eigenvalues of A are all positive,

b. negative definite if and only if the eigenvalues of A are all negative, or

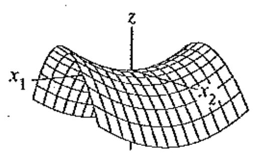
c. indefinite if and only if A has both positive and negative eigenvalues.



Positive definite



Negative definite



Indefinite

PROOF By the Principal Axes Theorem, there exists an orthogonal change of variable $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$ such that

$$Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}^T D\mathbf{y} = \lambda_1 y_1^2 + \lambda_2 y_2^2 + \cdots + \lambda_n y_n^2 \tag{4}$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ are the eigenvalues of A. Since P is invertible, there is a one-to-one correspondence between all nonzero $\mathbf{x}$ and all nonzero $\mathbf{y}$. Thus the values of $Q(\mathbf{x})$ for $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ coincide with the values of the expression on the right side of (4), which is obviously controlled by the signs of the eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$, in the three ways described in the theorem. ∎

EXAMPLE 6 Is $Q(\mathbf{x}) = 3x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 4x_2x_3$ positive definite?

SOLUTION Because of all the plus signs, this form "looks" positive definite. But the matrix of the form is

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and the eigenvalues of A turn out to be 5, 2, and -1. So Q is an indefinite quadratic form, not positive definite. ∎

WEB

The classification of a quadratic form is often carried over to the matrix of the form. Thus a **positive definite matrix** A is a *symmetric* matrix for which the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$ is positive definite. Other terms, such as **positive semidefinite matrix**, are defined analogously.

NUMERICAL NOTE

A fast way to determine whether a symmetric matrix A is positive definite is to attempt to factor A in the form $A = R^T R$, where R is upper triangular with positive diagonal entries. (A slightly modified algorithm for an LU factorization is one approach.) Such a *Cholesky factorization* is possible if and only if A is positive definite. See Supplementary Exercise 7 at the end of Chapter 7.

PRACTICE PROBLEM

Describe a positive semidefinite matrix A in terms of its eigenvalues.

WEB

7.2 EXERCISES

1. Compute the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$, when $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1/3 \\ 1/3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and

   a. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ b. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ c. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

2. Compute the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T A\mathbf{x}$, for $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and

   a. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$ b. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$ c. $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$

3. Find the matrix of the quadratic form. Assume $\mathbf{x}$ is in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

   a. $10x_1^2 - 6x_1x_2 - 3x_2^2$ b. $5x_1^2 + 3x_1x_2$

4. Find the matrix of the quadratic form. Assume $\mathbf{x}$ is in $\mathbb{R}^2$.

   a. $20x_1^2 + 15x_1x_2 - 10x_2^2$ b. x_1x_2

5. Find the matrix of the quadratic form. Assume $\mathbf{x}$ is in $\mathbb{R}^3$.
   a. $8x_1^2 + 7x_2^2 - 3x_3^2 - 6x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 - 2x_2x_3$
   b. $4x_1x_2 + 6x_1x_3 - 8x_2x_3$

6. Find the matrix of the quadratic form. Assume $\mathbf{x}$ is in $\mathbb{R}^3$.
   a. $5x_1^2 - x_2^2 + 7x_3^2 + 5x_1x_2 - 3x_1x_3$
   b. $x_3^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 4x_2x_3$

7. Make a change of variable, $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$, that transforms the quadratic form $x_1^2 + 10x_1x_2 + x_2^2$ into a quadratic form with no cross-product term. Give P and the new quadratic form.

8. Let A be the matrix of the quadratic form

$$9x_1^2 + 7x_2^2 + 11x_3^2 - 8x_1x_2 + 8x_1x_3$$

It can be shown that the eigenvalues of A are 3, 9, and 15. Find an orthogonal matrix P such that the change of variable $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$ transforms $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ into a quadratic form with no cross-product term. Give P and the new quadratic form.

Classify the quadratic forms in Exercises 9–18. Then make a change of variable, $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$, that transforms the quadratic form into one with no cross-product term. Write the new quadratic form. Construct P using the methods of Section 7.1.

9. $3x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 6x_2^2$
10. $9x_1^2 - 8x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2$
11. $2x_1^2 + 10x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2$
12. $-5x_1^2 + 4x_1x_2 - 2x_2^2$
13. $x_1^2 - 6x_1x_2 + 9x_2^2$
14. $8x_1^2 + 6x_1x_2$
15. [M] $-2x_1^2 - 6x_2^2 - 9x_3^2 - 9x_4^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 4x_1x_3 + 4x_1x_4 + 6x_3x_4$
16. [M] $4x_1^2 + 4x_2^2 + 4x_3^2 + 4x_4^2 + 3x_1x_2 + 3x_3x_4 - 4x_1x_4 + 4x_2x_3$
17. [M] $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2 + 9x_1x_2 - 12x_1x_4 + 12x_2x_3 + 9x_3x_4$
18. [M] $11x_1^2 - x_2^2 - 12x_1x_2 - 12x_1x_3 - 12x_1x_4 - 2x_3x_4$
19. What is the largest possible value of the quadratic form $5x_1^2 + 8x_2^2$ if $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2)$ and $\mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{x} = 1$, that is, if $x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1$? (Try some examples of $\mathbf{x}$.)
20. What is the largest value of the quadratic form $5x_1^2 - 3x_2^2$ if $\mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{x} = 1$?

In Exercises 21 and 22, matrices are $n \times n$ and vectors are in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Mark each statement True or False. Justify each answer.

21. a. The matrix of a quadratic form is a symmetric matrix.
   b. A quadratic form has no cross-product terms if and only if the matrix of the quadratic form is a diagonal matrix.
   c. The principal axes of a quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ are eigenvectors of A.
   d. A positive definite quadratic form Q satisfies $Q(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ for all $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$.
   e. If the eigenvalues of a symmetric matrix A are all positive, then the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ is positive definite.
   f. A Cholesky factorization of a symmetric matrix A has the form $A = R^TR$, for an upper triangular matrix R with positive diagonal entries.

22. a. The expression $\|\mathbf{x}\|^2$ is a quadratic form.
   b. If A is symmetric and P is an orthogonal matrix, then the change of variable $\mathbf{x} = P\mathbf{y}$ transforms $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ into a quadratic form with no cross-product term.
   c. If A is a 2×2 symmetric matrix, then the set of $\mathbf{x}$ such that $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x} = c$ (for a constant c) corresponds to either a circle, an ellipse, or a hyperbola.
   d. An indefinite quadratic form is either positive semidefinite or negative semidefinite.
   e. If A is symmetric and the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ has only negative values for $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then the eigenvalues of A are all negative.

Exercises 23 and 24 show how to classify a quadratic form $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$, when $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & d \end{bmatrix}$ and $\det A \neq 0$, without finding the eigenvalues of A.

23. If λ_1 and λ_2 are the eigenvalues of A, then the characteristic polynomial of A can be written in two ways: $\det(A - \lambda I)$ and $(\lambda - \lambda_1)(\lambda - \lambda_2)$. Use this fact to show that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = a + d$ (the diagonal entries of A) and $\lambda_1\lambda_2 = \det A$.

24. Verify the following statements.
   a. Q is positive definite if $\det A > 0$ and $a > 0$.
   b. Q is negative definite if $\det A > 0$ and $a < 0$.
   c. Q is indefinite if $\det A < 0$.

25. Show that if B is $m \times n$, then B^TB is positive semidefinite; and if B is $n \times n$ and invertible, then B^TB is positive definite.

26. Show that if an $n \times n$ matrix A is positive definite, then there exists a positive definite matrix B such that $A = B^TB$. [*Hint:* Write $A = PDP^T$, with $P^T = P^{-1}$. Produce a diagonal matrix C such that $D = C^TC$, and let $B = PCP^T$. Show that B works.]

27. Let A and B be symmetric $n \times n$ matrices whose eigenvalues are all positive. Show that the eigenvalues of $A + B$ are all positive. [*Hint:* Consider quadratic forms.]

28. Let A be an $n \times n$ invertible symmetric matrix. Show that if the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA\mathbf{x}$ is positive definite, then so is the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^TA^{-1}\mathbf{x}$. [*Hint:* Consider eigenvalues.]

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