

6. Negative (Semi-)Definite Matrices

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Some Facts from Linear Algebra

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

- ▶ M is said to be *nonsingular* if there exists $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ such that $MA = AM = I$.

In this case, A is called the *inverse matrix* of M and denoted by M^{-1} .

- ▶ The following are equivalent:
 - ▶ M is nonsingular.
 - ▶ $\text{rank } M = N$.
 - ▶ $|M| \neq 0$.
 - ▶ $\{z \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid Mz = 0\} = \{0\}$.
 - ▶ 0 is not a characteristic root of M .

Some Facts from Linear Algebra

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

- ▶ The equation in λ ,

$$|M - \lambda I| = 0,$$

is called the *characteristic equation* of M .

- ▶ The characteristic equation of M has N solutions in \mathbb{C} (counted with multiplicity).
- ▶ The solutions to the characteristic equation of M are called the *characteristic roots* of M .
- ▶ If $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ are the characteristic roots of M , then $|M| = \prod_{n=1}^N \lambda_n$.
- ▶ If M is nonsingular and $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ are its characteristic roots, then $\lambda_1^{-1}, \dots, \lambda_N^{-1}$ are the characteristic roots of M^{-1} .

Some Facts from Linear Algebra

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

- ▶ $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ is an *eigenvalue* of M if there exists $z \in \mathbb{C}^N$ with $z \neq 0$ such that

$$Mz = \lambda z.$$

In this case, z is called an *eigenvector* of M that corresponds (or belongs) to λ .

- ▶ λ is an eigenvalue of M if and only if it is a characteristic root of M .

Some Facts from Linear Algebra

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be a symmetric matrix.

- ▶ All the eigenvalues (hence characteristic roots) of M are real.
- ▶ Each eigenvalue of M has real eigenvectors.
- ▶ $\exists U \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ orthogonal (i.e., $U^T U = U U^T = I$) such that

$$U^T M U = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & O \\ & \ddots & \\ O & & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix} \quad (= \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)),$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N \in \mathbb{R}$ are the eigenvalues of M .

- ▶ If M is nonsingular, then M^{-1} is symmetric.

Negative (Semi-)Definite Matrices

Definition 6.1

- ▶ $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is *negative semi-definite* if

$$z \cdot Mz \leq 0$$

for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

- ▶ $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is *negative definite* if

$$z \cdot Mz < 0$$

for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$ with $z \neq 0$.

- ▶ $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is *positive definite* (*positive semi-definite*, resp.) if $-M$ is *negative definite* (*negative semi-definite*, resp.).

Remark

- ▶ In many math books, negative definiteness is defined only for symmetric matrices, or for quadratic forms $\sum_{i,j=1}^N a_{ij} z_i z_j$.
(Any quadratic form is written as $z \cdot Mz$ for some symmetric M .)
- ▶ Sometimes, matrices (not necessarily symmetric) that are negative definite in our sense are called negative quasi-definite.

Example: Negative (Semi-)Definiteness of Jacobi Matrices

Let $X \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a non-empty open convex set.

Suppose that $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ is differentiable.

1. $(y - x) \cdot (f(y) - f(x)) \leq 0$ for all $x, y \in X$ if and only if $Df(x)$ is negative semi-definite for all $x \in X$.
 2. If $Df(x)$ is negative definite for all $x \in X$, then $(y - x) \cdot (f(y) - f(x)) < 0$ for all $x, y \in X, x \neq y$.
- For $N = 1$,
“ $(y - x) \cdot (f(y) - f(x)) \leq 0$ (< 0) for all $x, y \in X$ ” implies that f is nonincreasing (strictly decreasing).
- Cf. Proposition 5.20.

Example: Negative (Semi-)Definiteness of Hesse Matrices

Let $X \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a non-empty open convex set.

Suppose that $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable and ∇f is differentiable.

1. f is concave if and only if $D^2f(x)$ is negative semi-definite for all $x \in X$.
2. If $D^2f(x)$ is negative definite for all $x \in X$, then f is strictly concave.

► Proposition 5.21.

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

Proposition 6.1

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

1. M is negative definite
 $\iff M + M^T$ is negative definite.
2. Suppose that M is symmetric.
 M is negative definite
 \iff all the characteristic roots of M are negative.
3. M is negative definite
 $\implies M$ is nonsingular and M^{-1} is negative definite.

Proof

1. For any $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $z^T(M + M^T)z = 2z^T Mz$.
2. Since $M = U^T \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)U$ for some U orthogonal (hence nonsingular),

$$z^T Mz < 0 \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$$

$$\iff (Uz)^T \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)(Uz) < 0 \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$$

$$\iff \sum_{n=1}^N \lambda_n (y_n)^2 = y^T \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)y < 0$$

for all $y \in \{Uz \mid z \in \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}\} = \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$

$$\iff \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N < 0.$$

3. Suppose $Mz = 0$. Then $z^T(M + M^T)z = 0$.
Thus, if M is negative definite (and so is $M + M^T$),
we must have $z = 0$.

Take any $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $z \neq 0$.

Let $x = M^{-1}z$ ($\neq 0$). Then $z = Mx$.

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} z^T M^{-1} z &= (Mx)^T M^{-1} (Mx) \\ &= x^T M^T x = x^T M x < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

Proposition 6.2

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be symmetric.

1. M is negative semi-definite

$$\iff \exists B \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \text{ such that } M = -B^T B.$$

2. M is negative definite

$$\iff \exists B \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \text{ nonsingular such that } M = -B^T B.$$

Proof

- ▶ The “if” part:

Suppose that $M = -B^T B$. Then for any $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$z^T M z = -z^T B^T B z = -\|Bz\|^2 \leq 0.$$

- ▶ If B is nonsingular and $z \neq 0$, then $\|Bz\| \neq 0$.

Proof

- ▶ The “only if” part:

Since M is symmetric, we have $U^T M U = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & O \\ & \ddots & \\ O & & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$

for some U orthogonal (hence nonsingular).

If M is negative semi-definite, then $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N \leq 0$.

- ▶ Let $B = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{-\lambda_1} & & O \\ & \ddots & \\ O & & \sqrt{-\lambda_N} \end{pmatrix} U^T$.

Then $-B^T B = U \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & O \\ & \ddots & \\ O & & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix} U^T = M$.

- ▶ If M is negative definite, then $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N < 0$, so that B is nonsingular.

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

Proposition 6.3

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be symmetric.

M is negative definite

$\iff (-1)^r |{}_r M_r| > 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$.

- ▶ ${}_r M_r \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ is the $r \times r$ submatrix of M obtained by deleting the last $N - r$ columns and rows of M , which is called the *leading principal submatrix* of order r of M .
- ▶ $|{}_r M_r|$ is called the *leading principal minor* of order r of M .
- ▶ ${}_r M \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times N}$ will denote the $r \times N$ submatrix of M obtained by deleting the last $N - r$ rows of M .

Proof

- ▶ The “only if” part:

If M is negative definite, then ${}_rM_r$ is negative definite and its characteristic roots $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r$ are all negative, and thus,

$$(-1)^r |{}_rM_r| = (-\lambda_1) \times \dots \times (-\lambda_r) > 0.$$

- ▶ The “if” part: by induction:

Trivial for $N = 1$.

- ▶ Assume that the assertion holds for $N - 1$.

Suppose that $(-1)^r |{}_rM_r| > 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$.

Then $L = {}_{N-1}M_{N-1}$ is negative definite by the induction hypothesis.

Hence,

- ▶ L is nonsingular, and
- ▶ $L = -\tilde{B}^T \tilde{B}$ for some nonsingular \tilde{B} .

Proof

- ▶ Write $M = \begin{pmatrix} L & b \\ b^T & a_{NN} \end{pmatrix}$, where $b \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times 1}$.
- ▶ Let $U = \begin{pmatrix} I_{N-1} & L^{-1}b \\ 0^T & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Then one can verify that $M = U^T \begin{pmatrix} L & 0 \\ 0^T & c \end{pmatrix} U$,

where $c = a_{NN} - b^T L^{-1} b$.

- ▶ Thus, $|M| = c|L|$.

But by assumption, $(-1)^N |M| > 0$ and $(-1)^{N-1} |L| > 0$, so that $c < 0$.

- ▶ Let $B = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{B} & 0 \\ 0^T & \sqrt{-c} \end{pmatrix} U$, which is nonsingular, where $L = -\tilde{B}^T \tilde{B}$.

Then $M = -B^T B$. Hence, M is negative definite.

Note

- ▶ “ $(-1)^r |M_r| \geq 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$ ” does not imply that M is negative semi-definite.
- ▶ For example,

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfies this condition ($(-1)^1 |M_1| = (-1)^2 |M| = 0$), but is not negative semi-definite.

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

Proposition 6.4

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

1. Suppose that M is symmetric.

M is negative semi-definite

$\iff (-1)^r |{}_r M_r^\pi| \geq 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$ and for all permutations π of $\{1, \dots, N\}$.

2. If (not necessarily symmetric) M is negative semi-definite, then $(-1)^r |{}_r M_r^\pi| \geq 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$ and for all permutations π of $\{1, \dots, N\}$.

Application to Concave Functions

Denote $f_{ij}(x) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}(x)$.

► $f(x_1, x_2)$ is strictly concave

$\iff D^2 f(x_1, x_2)$ is negative definite $\forall (x_1, x_2)$

$\iff (-1)f_{11} > 0$ and $(-1)^2 \begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{vmatrix} > 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$

$\iff f_{11} < 0$ and $f_{11}f_{22} - (f_{12})^2 > 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$

► $f(x_1, x_2)$ is concave

$\iff D^2 f(x_1, x_2)$ is negative semi-definite $\forall (x_1, x_2)$

$\iff (-1)f_{11} \geq 0$, $(-1)^2 \begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{vmatrix} \geq 0$,

$(-1)f_{22} \geq 0$, and $(-1)^2 \begin{vmatrix} f_{22} & f_{21} \\ f_{12} & f_{11} \end{vmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$

$\iff f_{11} \leq 0$, $f_{22} \leq 0$, and $f_{11}f_{22} - (f_{12})^2 \geq 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

Proposition 6.5

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be symmetric, and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times S}$ with $S \leq N$ be such that $\text{rank } B = S$. Let $W = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid B^T z = 0\}$.

1. M is negative definite on W if and only if

$$(-1)^r \begin{vmatrix} {}_r M_r & {}_r B \\ ({}_r B)^T & 0 \end{vmatrix} > 0$$

for all $r = S + 1, \dots, N$.

2. M is negative semi-definite on W if and only if

$$(-1)^r \begin{vmatrix} {}_r M_r^\pi & {}_r B^\pi \\ ({}_r B^\pi)^T & 0 \end{vmatrix} \geq 0$$

for all $r = S + 1, \dots, N$ and for all permutations π of $\{1, \dots, N\}$.

Application to Quasi-Concave Functions

Denote $f_i(x) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x)$ and $f_{ij}(x) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}(x)$.

► $f(x_1, x_2)$ is strictly quasi-concave

$\iff D^2 f(x_1, x_2)$ is negative definite on $T_{\nabla f(x_1, x_2)} \forall (x_1, x_2)$

$$\iff (-1)^2 \begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_1 \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_2 \\ f_1 & f_2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} > 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$$

$$\iff 2f_1 f_2 f_{12} - (f_1)^2 f_{22} - (f_2)^2 f_{11} > 0 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2)$$

where $T_{\nabla f(x_1, x_2)} = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid \nabla f(x_1, x_2) \cdot z = 0\}$.

Characterizations of Negative (Semi-)Definiteness

For $p \in \mathbb{R}^N$, we denote $T_p = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid p \cdot z = 0\}$.

Proposition 6.6

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$,

and suppose that $p \gg 0$, $Mp = 0$, and $M^T p = 0$.

Let $\hat{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times (N-1)}$ be the matrix obtained by deleting the n th row and column for some n .

1. If $\text{rank } M = N - 1$, then $\text{rank } \hat{M} = N - 1$.
2. If M is negative definite on T_p , then M is negative definite on $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{z \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid z = \lambda p \text{ for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}$.
3. M is negative definite on T_p if and only if \hat{M} is negative definite.

Stable Matrices

Definition 6.2

$M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is *stable* if all of its characteristic roots have a negative real part.

Proposition 6.7

For $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ and $K \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$,
suppose that M is negative definite and K is symmetric.
Then KM is stable if and only if K is positive definite.

Some Other Results

Definition 6.3

$M = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ has a *dominant diagonal* if there exists $p \gg 0$ such that $|p_i a_{ii}| > \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}|$ for all $i = 1, \dots, N$.

Definition 6.4

- ▶ $M = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ has the *gross substitute sign pattern* if $a_{ij} > 0$ for all i, j with $i \neq j$.
- ▶ $M = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is a *Metzler matrix* if $a_{ij} \geq 0$ for all i, j with $i \neq j$.
- ▶ M is a *Z-matrix* if $-M$ is a Metzler matrix.
- ▶ Obviously, if M has the gross substitute sign pattern, then it is a Metzler matrix.

Some Other Results

Proposition 6.8

Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

1. *If M has a dominant diagonal, then it is nonsingular.*
2. *Suppose that M is symmetric.
If M has a negative and dominant diagonal,
then it is negative definite.*
3. *If M is a Metzler matrix and if $Mp \ll 0$ and $M^T p \ll 0$ for
some $p \gg 0$, then M is negative definite.*
4. *If M has the gross substitute sign pattern and
if $Mp = 0$ and $M^T p = 0$ for some $p \gg 0$,
then \hat{M} is negative definite,
where $\hat{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-1) \times (N-1)}$ is the matrix obtained by deleting
the n th row and column for some n .*

Proof

1. Suppose that $Mz = 0$. We want to show that $z = 0$.

Let $p \gg 0$ be as in the definition of diagonal dominance.

Let $y_i = z_i/p_i$, and let i be such that $|y_i| \geq |y_j|$ for all j .

Since $a_{ii}(p_i y_i) = -\sum_{j \neq i} a_{ij}(p_j y_j)$, we have

$$|p_i a_{ii}||y_i| = \left| \sum_{j \neq i} p_j a_{ij} y_j \right| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| |y_j| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| |y_i|,$$

and hence $\left(|p_i a_{ii}| - \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| \right) |y_i| \leq 0$.

Since $|p_i a_{ii}| - \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| > 0$ by the dominant diagonal, it follows that $|y_i| = 0$, which implies that $z = 0$.

2. We show that all the eigenvalues of M are negative.

Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ be any eigenvalue of M , and let $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $z \neq 0$, be a corresponding eigenvector, i.e., we have $Mz = \lambda z$.

Let $y_i = z_i/p_i$, and let i be such that $|y_i| \geq |y_j|$ for all j , where $|y_i| \neq 0$.

Since $(a_{ii} - \lambda)(p_i z_i) = -\sum_{j \neq i} a_{ij}(p_j z_j)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |p_i a_{ii} - p_i \lambda| |y_i| &= \left| \sum_{j \neq i} p_j a_{ij} y_j \right| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| |y_j| \\ &\leq \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j a_{ij}| |y_i| < |p_i a_{ii}| |y_i| \end{aligned}$$

by the dominant diagonal, and hence $|a_{ii} - \lambda| < |a_{ii}|$.

By $a_{ii} < 0$, this holds if and only if $2a_{ii} < \lambda < 0$, in particular only if $\lambda < 0$.

3. We show that $M + M^T$ is a negative and dominant diagonal, which implies that $M + M^T$ is negative definite by 2.

By $Mp \ll 0$ and $M^T p \ll 0$ where $p \gg 0$, we have $p_i(2a_{ii}) < -\sum_{j \neq i} p_j(a_{ij} + a_{ji})$ for all i .

By $a_{ij} \geq 0$ for all $i \neq j$, we have $2a_{ii} < 0$ and $|p_i(2a_{ii})| = -p_i(2a_{ii}) > \sum_{j \neq i} p_j(a_{ij} + a_{ji}) = \sum_{j \neq i} |p_j(a_{ij} + a_{ji})|$ for all i .

4. Take any $n = 1, \dots, N$, and let \hat{M} be the $(N - 1) \times (N - 1)$ matrix obtained by deleting the n th row and column.

By the assumptions, \hat{M} is a Metzler matrix, and for all $i \neq n$, $\sum_{j \neq n} p_j a_{ij} = -p_n a_{in} < 0$ and $\sum_{j \neq n} p_j a_{ji} = -p_n a_{ni} < 0$, so that $\hat{M}p \ll 0$ and $\hat{M}^T p \ll 0$.

Hence, by 3, \hat{M} is negative definite.

Some Results on Nonnegative Matrices

- ▶ $M = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is called a *nonnegative (positive) matrix* if $a_{ij} \geq 0$ ($a_{ij} > 0$) for all $i, j = 1, \dots, N$.

Some Results on Nonnegative Matrices I

Proposition 6.9

For a nonnegative matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$,
the following conditions are equivalent:

1. For every $c \geq 0$, there exists $z \geq 0$ such that $Mz + c = z$.
2. There exists $z \geq 0$ such that $Mz \ll z$.
3. There exists $z \gg 0$ such that $Mz \ll z$.
4. $|_r(I - M)_r| > 0$ for all $r = 1, \dots, N$ ("Hawkins-Simon condition").
5. There exist lower and upper triangular matrices L and U with positive diagonals and nonpositive off-diagonals such that $I - M = LU$.
6. $I - M$ is nonsingular, and $(I - M)^{-1} \geq 0$.

Some Results on Nonnegative Matrices II

Proposition 6.9

7. $|\lambda_i| < 1$ for all $i = 1, \dots, N$,
where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ are the characteristic roots of M .
8. $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\ell=0}^k M^\ell$ exists (which is equal to $(I - M)^{-1}$).
9. $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} M^k = O$.

Spectral Radius

- ▶ For $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, let

$$\lambda(M) = \max\{|\lambda_1|, \dots, |\lambda_N|\},$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ are the characteristic roots of M .

- ▶ $\lambda(M)$ is called the *spectral radius* of M .

Some Results on Nonnegative Matrices

Proposition 6.10 (Perron-Frobenius Theorem)

1. Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be a positive matrix.
 - ▶ $\lambda(M) > 0$, $\lambda(M)$ is an eigenvalue of M , and there exists a positive eigenvector that belongs to $\lambda(M)$.
 - ▶ $\lambda(M)$ is a simple root of the characteristic equation.
 - ▶ An eigenvector that belongs to $\lambda(M)$ is unique (up to multiplication).
 - ▶ If $Mz = \mu z$, $\mu \geq 0$, for some $z \geq 0$, $z \neq 0$, then $\mu = \lambda(M)$.
 - ▶ If $M \geq L \geq O$ and $M \neq L$, then $\lambda(M) > \lambda(L)$.
2. Let $M \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ be a nonnegative matrix.
 - ▶ $\lambda(M)$ is an eigenvalue of M , and there exists a nonnegative eigenvector that belongs to $\lambda(M)$.
 - ▶ If $M \geq L \geq O$, then $\lambda(M) \geq \lambda(L)$.