



**Class time** : MW 4:00 – 5:15 pm  
**Room** : Keller 3-230 or Online  
**Instructor** : Daniel Boley

Lecture notes: <http://www-users.cselabs.umn.edu/classes/Fall-2021/csci5304/>

August 27, 2021

## SYMMETRIC POSITIVE DEFINITE (SPD) MATRICES

### SPD LINEAR SYSTEMS

- Symmetric positive definite matrices.
- The  $LDL^T$  decomposition; The Cholesky factorization

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### Positive-Definite Matrices

- A real matrix is said to be positive definite if

$$(Au, u) > 0 \text{ for all } u \neq 0, u \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- Let  $A$  be a real positive definite matrix. Then there is a scalar  $\alpha > 0$  such that

$$(Au, u) \geq \alpha \|u\|_2^2.$$

- Consider now the case of Symmetric Positive Definite (SPD) matrices.
- Consequence 1:  $A$  is nonsingular
- Consequence 2: the eigenvalues of  $A$  are (real) positive

### A few properties of SPD matrices

- Diagonal entries of  $A$  are positive
- Recall: the  $k$ -th principal submatrix  $A_k$  is the  $k \times k$  submatrix of  $A$  with entries  $a_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq k$  (Matlab:  $A(1:k, 1:k)$ ).

☞<sub>1</sub> Each  $A_k$  is SPD

☞<sub>2</sub> Consequence:  $\text{Det}(A_k) > 0$  for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ . In fact  $A$  is SPD iff this condition holds.

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☞<sub>3</sub> If  $A$  is SPD then for any  $n \times k$  matrix  $X$  of rank  $k$ , the matrix  $X^T A X$  is SPD.

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➤ The mapping :  $x, y \rightarrow (x, y)_A \equiv (Ax, y)$

defines a proper inner product on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The associated norm, denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_A$ , is called the **energy norm**, or simply the **A-norm**:

$$\|x\|_A = (Ax, x)^{1/2} = \sqrt{x^T A x}$$

➤ Related measure in Machine Learning, Vision, Statistics: the **Mahalanobis distance** between two vectors:

$$d_A(x, y) = \|x - y\|_A = \sqrt{(x - y)^T A (x - y)}$$

Appropriate distance (measured in # standard deviations) if  $x$  is a sample generated by a Gaussian distribution with covariance matrix  $A$  and center  $y$ .

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### More terminology

- A matrix is **Positive Semi-Definite** if:  $(Au, u) \geq 0$  for all  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- Eigenvalues of symmetric positive semi-definite matrices are real nonnegative, i.e., ...
- ...  $A$  can be singular [If not,  $A$  is SPD]
- A matrix is said to be **Negative Definite** if  $-A$  is positive definite. Similar definition for Negative Semi-Definite

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➤ A matrix that is neither positive semi-definite nor negative semi-definite is **indefinite**

☞<sub>4</sub> Show that if  $A^T = A$  and  $(Ax, x) = 0 \forall x$  then  $A = 0$

☞<sub>5</sub> Show:  $A \neq 0$  is indefinite iff  $\exists x, y : (Ax, x)(Ay, y) < 0$

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### The $LDL^T$ and Cholesky factorizations

☞<sub>6</sub> The (standard) LU factorization of an SPD matrix  $A$  exists

➤ Let  $A = LU$  and  $D = \text{diag}(U)$  and set  $M \equiv (D^{-1}U)^T$ .

Then  $A = LU = LD(D^{-1}U) = LDM^T$

➤ Both  $L$  and  $M$  are unit lower triangular

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➤ Consider  $L^{-1}AL^{-T} = DM^T L^{-T}$

➤ Matrix on the right is upper triangular. But it is also symmetric. Therefore  $M^T L^{-T} = I$  and so  $M = L$

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➤ Alternative proof: exploit uniqueness of LU factorization without pivoting + symmetry:  $A = LDM^T = MDL^T \rightarrow M = L$

➤ The diagonal entries of  $D$  are positive [Proof: consider  $L^{-1}AL^{-T} = D$ ]. In the end:

$$A = LDL^T = GG^T \text{ where } G = LD^{1/2}$$

➤ Cholesky factorization is a specialization of the LU factorization for the SPD case. Several variants exist.

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**First algorithm:** row-oriented LDLT

Adapted from Gaussian Elimination. **Main observation:** The working matrix  $A(k+1 : n, k+1 : n)$  in standard LU remains symmetric.  
→ Work only on its upper triangular part & ignore lower part

1. For  $k = 1 : n - 1$  Do:
2.   For  $i = k + 1 : n$  Do:
3.      $piv := a(k, i) / a(k, k)$
4.      $a(i, i : n) := a(i, i : n) - piv * a(k, i : n)$
5.   End
6. End

► This will give the U matrix of the LU factorization. Therefore  $D = diag(U)$ ,  $L^T = D^{-1}U$ .

**Row-Cholesky (outer product form)**

Scale the rows as the algorithm proceeds. Line 4 becomes

$$a(i, :) := a(i, :) - [a(k, i) / \sqrt{a(k, k)}] * [a(k, :) / \sqrt{a(k, k)}]$$

**ALGORITHM : 1.** Outer product Cholesky

1. For  $k = 1 : n$  Do:
2.    $A(k, k : n) = A(k, k : n) / \sqrt{A(k, k)}$  ;
3.   For  $i := k + 1 : n$  Do :
4.      $A(i, i : n) = A(i, i : n) - A(k, i) * A(k, i : n)$ ;
5.   End
6. End

► Result: Upper triangular matrix  $U$  such  $A = U^T U$ .

**Example:**

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

- 6-7 Is  $A$  symmetric positive definite?
- 6-8 What is the  $LDL^T$  factorization of  $A$  ?
- 6-9 What is the Cholesky factorization of  $A$  ?

**Column Cholesky.** Let  $A = GG^T$  with  $G$  = lower triangular. Then equate  $j$ -th columns:

$$a(:, j) = \sum_{k=1}^j g(:, k)g^T(k, j) \rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} A(:, j) &= \sum_{k=1}^j G(j, k)G(:, k) \\ &= G(j, j)G(:, j) + \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} G(j, k)G(:, k) \rightarrow \\ G(j, j)G(:, j) &= A(:, j) - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} G(j, k)G(:, k) \end{aligned}$$

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- Assume that first  $j - 1$  columns of  $G$  already known.
- Compute unscaled **column-vector**:

$$v = A(:, j) - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} G(j, k)G(:, k)$$

- Notice that  $v(j) \equiv G(j, j)^2$ .
- Compute  $\sqrt{v(j)}$  and scale  $v$  to get  $j$ -th column of  $G$ .

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## ALGORITHM : 2. Column Cholesky

1. For  $j = 1 : n$  do
2.   For  $k = 1 : j - 1$  do
3.      $A(j : n, j) = A(j : n, j) - A(j, k) * A(j : n, k)$
4.   EndDo
5.   If  $A(j, j) \leq 0$  ExitError("Matrix not SPD")
6.    $A(j, j) = \sqrt{A(j, j)}$
7.    $A(j + 1 : n, j) = A(j + 1 : n, j) / A(j, j)$
8. EndDo

 10 Try algorithm on:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 2 \\ -1 & 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

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