2. Linear algebra

- matrices and vectors
- linear equations
- range and nullspace of matrices
- function of vectors, gradient and Hessian

Vector notation

n-vector x:

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- also written as $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$
- set of n-vectors is denoted $\mathbf{R}^n$ (Euclidean space)
- x_i: ith **element** or **component** or **entry** of x
- x is also called a column vector
- $y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_n \end{bmatrix}$ is called a row vector

unless stated otherwise, a vector typically means a column vector

Special vectors

zero vectors: $x = (0, 0, \ldots, 0)$

all-ones vectors: $x = (1, 1, \cdots, 1)$ (we will denote it by $\mathbf{1}$)

standard unit vectors: e_k has only 1 at the kth entry and zero otherwise

$$e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad e_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(standard unit vectors in $\mathbf{R}^3$)

unit vectors: any vector u whose norm (magnitude) is 1, *i.e.*,

$$\|u\| \triangleq \sqrt{u_1^2 + u_2^2 + \cdots + u_n^2} = 1$$

example: $u = (1/\sqrt{2}, 2/\sqrt{6}, -1/\sqrt{2})$

Inner products

definition: the inner product of two n-vectors x, y is

$$x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + \cdots + x_ny_n$$

also known as the **dot product** of vectors x, y

notation: x^Ty

properties ✎

- $(\alpha x)^Ty = \alpha(x^Ty)$ for scalar α
- $(x + y)^Tz = x^Tz + y^Tz$
- $x^Ty = y^Tx$

Euclidean norm

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2} = \sqrt{x^T x}$$

properties

- also written $\|x\|_2$ to distinguish from other norms
- $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha| \|x\|$ for scalar α
- $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ (triangle inequality)
- $\|x\| \geq 0$ and $\|x\| = 0$ only if $x = 0$

interpretation

- $\|x\|$ measures the *magnitude* or length of x
- $\|x - y\|$ measures the *distance* between x and y

Matrix notation

an $m \times n$ matrix A is defined as

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad A = [a_{ij}]_{m \times n}$$

- a_{ij} are the **elements**, or **coefficients**, or **entries** of A
- set of $m \times n$-matrices is denoted $\mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$
- A has m rows and n columns (m, n are the **dimensions**)
- the (i, j) entry of A is also commonly denoted by A_{ij}
- A is called a **square** matrix if $m = n$

Special matrices

zero matrix: $A = 0$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$a_{ij} = 0$, for $i = 1, \ldots, m, j = 1, \ldots, n$

identity matrix: $A = I$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

a square matrix with $a_{ii} = 1, a_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq j$

diagonal matrix: a square matrix with $a_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq j$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_n \end{bmatrix}$$

triangular matrix:

a square matrix with zero entries in a triangular part

upper triangular

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$a_{ij} = 0$ for $i \geq j$

lower triangular

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$a_{ij} = 0$ for $i \leq j$

Block matrix notation

example: 2×2-block matrix A

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ D & E \end{bmatrix}$$

for example, if B, C, D, E are defined as

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 8 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 1 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad E = \begin{bmatrix} -4 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

then A is the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 7 \\ 3 & 8 & 1 & 9 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -4 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

note: dimensions of the blocks must be compatible

Column and Row partitions

write an $m \times n$-matrix A in terms of its columns or its rows

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1^T \\ b_2^T \\ \vdots \\ b_m^T \end{bmatrix}$$

- a_j for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ are the columns of A
- b_i^T for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, m$ are the rows of A

example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 9 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$a_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b_1^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b_2^T = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 9 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix-vector product

product of $m \times n$-matrix A with n-vector x

$$Ax = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \ldots + a_{1n}x_n \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \ldots + a_{2n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \ldots + a_{mn}x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- dimensions must be compatible: $\#$ columns in $A = \#$ elements in x

if A is partitioned as $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix}$, then

$$Ax = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n$$

- Ax is a linear combination of the column vectors of A
- the coefficients are the entries of x

Product with standard unit vectors

post-multiply with a column vector

$$Ae_k = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1k} \\ a_{2k} \\ \vdots \\ a_{mk} \end{bmatrix} = \text{the } k\text{th column of } A$$

pre-multiply with a row vector

$$\begin{aligned} e_k^T A &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a_{k1} & a_{k2} & \cdots & a_{kn} \end{bmatrix} = \text{the } k\text{th row of } A \end{aligned}$$

Trace

Definition: trace of a square matrix A is the sum of the diagonal entries in A

$$\mathbf{tr}(A) = a_{11} + a_{22} + \cdots + a_{nn}$$

example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & 5 \\ 3 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

trace of A is $2 - 1 + 6 = 7$

properties ✎

- $\mathbf{tr}(A^T) = \mathbf{tr}(A)$
- $\mathbf{tr}(\alpha A + B) = \alpha\,\mathbf{tr}(A) + \mathbf{tr}(B)$
- $\mathbf{tr}(AB) = \mathbf{tr}(BA)$

Inverse of matrices

Definition:

a *square* matrix A is called **invertible** or **nonsingular** if there exists B s.t.

$$AB = BA = I$$

- B is called an **inverse** of A
- it is also true that B is invertible and A is an inverse of B
- if no such B can be found A is said to be **singular**

assume A is invertible

- an inverse of A is unique
- the inverse of A is denoted by A^{-1}

assume A, B are invertible

Facts ✎

- $(\alpha A)^{-1} = \alpha^{-1} A^{-1}$ for nonzero α
- A^T is also invertible and $(A^T)^{-1} = (A^{-1})^T$
- AB is invertible and $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1} A^{-1}$
- $(A+B)^{-1} \neq A^{-1} + B^{-1}$

Inverse of 2×2 matrices

the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

is invertible if and only if

$$ad - bc \neq 0$$

and its inverse is given by

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A^{-1} = \frac{1}{7} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Invertible matrices

✌ **Theorem:** for a square matrix A, the following statements are equivalent

1. A is invertible

2. $Ax = 0$ has only the trivial solution ($x = 0$)

3. the reduced echelon form of A is I

4. A is invertible if and only if $\det(A) \neq 0$

Inverse of special matrices

diagonal matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_n \end{bmatrix}$$

a diagonal matrix is invertible iff the diagonal entries are all nonzero

$$a_{ii} \neq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$$

the inverse of A is given by

$$A^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1/a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1/a_n \end{bmatrix}$$

the diagonal entries in A^{-1} are the inverse of the diagonal entries in A

triangular matrix:

upper triangular | **lower triangular**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \qquad A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$a_{ij} = 0 \text{ for } i \geq j \qquad a_{ij} = 0 \text{ for } i \leq j$$

a triangular matrix is invertible iff the diagonal entries are all nonzero

$$a_{ii} \neq 0, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$$

- product of lower (upper) triangular matrices is lower (upper) triangular
- the inverse of a lower (upper) triangular matrix is lower (upper) triangular

symmetric matrix: $A = A^T$

✎

- for any square matrix A, AA^T and A^TA are always symmetric
- if A is symmetric and invertible, then A^{-1} is symmetric
- if A is invertible, then AA^T and A^TA are also invertible

Symmetric matrix

$A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$ is called *symmetric* if $A = A^T$

Facts: if A is symmetric

- all eigenvalues of A are real
- all eigenvectors of A are orthogonal
- A admits a decomposition
$$A = UDU^T$$
where $U^T U = UU^T = I$ (U is unitary) and D is diagonal

(of course, the diagonals of D are eigenvalues of A)

Unitary matrix

a matrix $U \in \mathbf{R}^{n\times n}$ is called **unitary** if

$$U^T U = U U^T = I$$

example: $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{bmatrix}1 & -1\\ 1 & 1\end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix}\cos\theta & -\sin\theta\\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta\end{bmatrix}$

Facts:

- a real unitary matrix is also called **orthogonal**
- a unitary matrix is always invertible and $U^{-1} = U^T$
- columns vectors of U are mutually orthogonal
- norm is preserved under a unitary transformation:

$$y = Ux \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \|y\| = \|x\|$$

Orthogonal projection matrix

P is said to be an **orthogonal projection** if $P = P^T$ and $P^2 = P$

- examples:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad P = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- P is bounded, $i.e.$, $\|Px\| \leq \|x\|$

  $y = (y - Py) + Py$, and $Py \perp (y - Py)$ (by using $P = P^T$ and $P^2 = P$)

  hence, $\|y\|^2 = \|Py\|^2$ and that the norm of Py must be less than $\|y\|$

- if P is an orthogonal projection onto a line spanned by a unit vector u,

$$P = uu^T$$

  (we see that $\mathbf{rank}(P) = 1$ as the dimension of a line is 1)

- another example: $P = A(A^TA)^{-1}A^T$ for any matrix A

Positive definite matrix

a symmetric matrix A is **positive semidefinite**, written as $A \succeq 0$ if

$$x^T A x \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

and **positive definite**, written as $A \succ 0$ if

$$x^T A x > 0, \quad \text{for all } \textit{nonzero } x \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

Facts: $A \succeq 0$ if and only if

- all eigenvalues of A are non-negative
- all principle minors of A are non-negative

example: $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0$ because

$$\begin{aligned} x^T A x &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 - 2x_1 x_2 \\ &= (x_1 - x_2)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

or we can check from

- eigenvalues of A are 0.38 and 2.61 (real and positive)
- the principle minors are 1 and $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 1$ (all positive)

note: $A \succeq 0$ does not mean all entries of A are positive!

Schur complement

a consider a symmetric matrix X partitioned as

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B^T & C \end{bmatrix}$$

Schur complement of A in X is defined as

$$S_1 = C - B^T A^{-1} B, \quad \text{if } \det A \neq 0$$

Schur complement of C in X is defined as

$$S_2 = A - BC^{-1} B^T, \quad \text{if } \det C \neq 0$$

we can show that

$$\det X = \det A \det S_1 = \det C \det S_2$$

Schur complement of positive definite matrix

Facts:

- $X \succ 0$ if and only if $A \succ 0$ and $S_1 \succ 0$
- if $A \succ 0$ then $X \succeq 0$ if and only if $S_1 \succeq 0$

analogous results for S_2

- $X \succ 0$ if and only if $C \succ 0$ and $S_2 \succ 0$
- if $C \succ 0$ then $X \succeq 0$ if and only if $S_2 \succeq 0$

Linear equations

a general linear system of m equations with n variables is described by

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\ \vdots &= \vdots \\ a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n &= b_m \end{aligned}$$

where a_{ij}, b_j are constants and $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ are unknowns

- equations are linear in $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$
- existence and uniqueness of a solution depend on a_{ij} and b_j

Linear equation in matrix form

the linear system of m equations in n variables

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1 \\
a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\
\vdots &= \vdots \\
a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \cdots + a_{mn}x_n &= b_m
\end{aligned}$$

in matrix form: $Ax = b$ where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Three types of linear equations

- **square** if $m = n$ (A is square)

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **underdetermined** if $m < n$ (A is fat)

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- **overdetermined** if $m > n$ (A is skinny)

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Existence and uniqueness of solutions

existence:

- no solution
- a solution exists

  uniqueness:

  - the solution is unique
  - there are infinitely many solutions

every system of linear equations has zero, one, or infinitely many solutions

there are no other possibilities

Nullspace

the **nullspace** of an $m \times n$ matrix is defined as

$$\mathcal{N}(A) = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n \mid Ax = 0\}$$

- the set of all vectors that are mapped to zero by $f(x) = Ax$
- the set of all vectors that are orthogonal to the rows of A
- if $Ax = b$ then $A(x + z) = b$ for all $z \in \mathcal{N}(A)$
- also known as **kernel** of A
- $\mathcal{N}(A)$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^n$ ✎

Zero nullspace matrix

- A has a zero nullspace if $\mathcal{N}(A) = \{0\}$
- if A has a zero nullspace and $Ax = b$ is solvable, the solution is unique
- columns of A are independent

✌ **equivalent conditions:** $A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times n}$

- A has a zero nullspace
- A is invertible or nonsingular
- columns of A are a basis for $\mathbf{R}^n$

Range space

the **range** of an $m \times n$ matrix A is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}(A) = \{y \in \mathbf{R}^m \mid y = Ax \text{ for some } x \in \mathbf{R}^n\}$$

- the set of all m-vectors that can be expressed as Ax
- the set of all linear combinations of the columns of $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & \cdots & a_n \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathcal{R}(A) = \{y \mid y = x_1 a_1 + x_2 a_2 + \cdots + x_n a_n, \quad x \in \mathbf{R}^n\}$$

- the set of all vectors b for which $Ax = b$ is solvable
- also known as the **column space** of A
- $\mathcal{R}(A)$ is a subspace of $\mathbf{R}^m$ ✎

Full range matrices

A has a full range if $\mathcal{R}(A) = \mathbf{R}^m$

✌ **equivalent conditions:**

- A has a full range
- columns of A span $\mathbf{R}^m$
- $Ax = b$ is solvable for *every* b
- $\mathcal{N}(A^T) = \{0\}$

Rank and Nullity

rank of a matrix $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ is defined as

$$\mathbf{rank}(A) = \dim \mathcal{R}(A)$$

nullity of a matrix $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ is

$$\mathbf{nullity}(A) = \dim \mathcal{N}(A)$$

Facts ✌

- $\mathbf{rank}(A)$ is maximum number of independent columns (or rows) of A

$$\mathbf{rank}(A) \leq \min(m, n)$$

- $\mathbf{rank}(A) = \mathbf{rank}(A^T)$

Full rank matrices

for $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$ we always have $\mathbf{rank}(A) \leq \min(m, n)$

we say A is **full rank** if $\mathbf{rank}(A) = \min(m, n)$

- for **square** matrices, full rank means nonsingular (invertible)
- for **skinny** matrices ($m \geq n$), full rank means columns are independent
- for **fat** matrices ($m \leq n$), full rank means rows are independent

Theorems

- Rank-Nullity Theorem: for any $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$,

$$\mathbf{rank}(A) + \dim \mathcal{N}(A) = n$$

- the system $Ax = b$ has a solution if and only if $b \in \mathcal{R}(A)$

- the system $Ax = b$ has a unique solution if and only if

$$b \in \mathcal{R}(A), \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{N}(A) = \{0\}$$

Derivative and Gradient

Suppose $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}^m$ and $x \in \mathbf{int}\,\mathbf{dom}\, f$

the **derivative** (or **Jacobian**) of f at x is the matrix $Df(x) \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times n}$:

$$Df(x)_{ij} = \frac{\partial f_i(x)}{\partial x_j}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \quad j = 1, \ldots, n$$

- when f is scalar-valued (*i.e.*, $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$), the derivative $Df(x)$ is a row vector
- its transpose is called the **gradient** of the function:

$$\nabla f(x) = Df(x)^T, \qquad \nabla f(x)_i = \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_i}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n$$

which is a column vector in $\mathbf{R}^n$

Second Derivative

suppose f is a scalar-valued function ($i.e.$, $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$)

the second derivative or **Hessian matrix** of f at x, denoted $\nabla^2 f(x)$ is

$$\nabla^2 f(x)_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n, \quad j = 1, \ldots, n$$

example: the quadratic function $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$

$$f(x) = (1/2)x^T P x + q^T x + r,$$

where $P \in \mathbf{S}^n, q \in \mathbf{R}^n$, and $r \in \mathbf{R}$

- $\nabla f(x) = Px + q$
- $\nabla^2 f(x) = P$

Chain rule

assumptions:

- $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}^m$ is differentiable at $x \in \mathbf{int\,dom}\, f$
- $g : \mathbf{R}^m \to \mathbf{R}^p$ is differentiable at $f(x) \in \mathbf{int\,dom}\, g$
- define the composition $h : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}^p$ by

$$h(z) = g(f(z))$$

then h is differentiable at x, with derivative

$$Dh(x) = Dg(f(x))Df(x)$$

special case: $f : \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$, $g : \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$, and $h(x) = g(f(x))$

$$\nabla h(x) = g'(f(x))\nabla f(x)$$

example: $h(x) = f(Ax + b)$

$$Dh(x) = Df(Ax + b)A \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nabla h(x) = A^T \nabla f(Ax + b)$$

example: $h(x) = (1/2)(Ax - b)^T P(Ax - b)$

$$\nabla h(x) = A^T P(Ax - b)$$

References

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