

## Problem Sheet - Bilinear forms

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**Problem 1.** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be real  $n \times n$  matrices. Prove that if  $x^T Ay = x^T By$  for all vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $A = B$ .

**Problem 2.** Prove directly that the bilinear form represented by the matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ b & d \end{bmatrix}$  is positive definite if and only if  $a > 0$  and  $ad - b^2 > 0$ .

**Problem 3.** Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with respect to the form  $x^T Ay$ .

**Problem 4.** Prove that  $AA^T$  and  $A^T A$  are positive semidefinite matrices for any  $m \times n$  real matrix  $A$ .

**Problem 5.** Prove that if the columns of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  forms an orthonormal basis, then the rows do too.

**Problem 6.** Let  $A, B$  be symmetric matrices such that  $A = PBP^T$ , where  $P \in GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ . Is it true that the ranks of  $A$  and of  $B$  are equal?

**Problem 7.** Let  $A$  be the matrix of a symmetric bilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  with respect to some basis. Prove or disprove: The eigenvalues of  $A$  are independent of basis.

**Problem 8.** (a) Prove that every real square matrix is the sum of a symmetric and a skew-symmetric matrix in exactly one way.

(b) Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be a bilinear form on a real vector space  $V$ . Show that there is a symmetric form  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  and a skew-symmetric form  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  so that  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle = (\cdot, \cdot) + [\cdot, \cdot]$ .

**Problem 9.** Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be a symmetric bilinear form on a vector space over a field  $F$ . Consider the function  $q : V \rightarrow F$  defined by  $q(v) = \langle v, v \rangle$ . Show how to recover the bilinear form from  $q$ , if the characteristic of the field  $F$  is not 2, by expanding  $q(v + w)$ .

**Problem 10.** Let  $x, y$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and assume that  $x \neq 0$ . Prove that there is a symmetric matrix  $B$  such that  $Bx = y$ .

**Problem 11.** The vector space  $P$  of all real polynomials of degree at most 2 has a bilinear form defined by

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 f(x)g(x)dx.$$

Find an orthonormal basis for  $P$ .

**Problem 12.** Let  $V$  denote the vector space of real  $n \times n$  matrices. Prove that  $\langle A, B \rangle = \text{trace}(A^T B)$  is a positive definite form on  $V$ . Find an orthonormal basis for this form.

**Problem 13.** Let  $W$  be a subspace of  $V$ , and consider the restriction of a symmetric form  $\langle, \rangle$  to  $W$ . If the form is nondegenerate on  $W$ , then  $V = W \oplus W^\perp$ .

**Problem 14.** Prove that every symmetric nonsingular complex matrix  $A$  has the form  $A = P^T P$ .

**Problem 15.** Prove that if  $x^* A x$  is real for all complex vectors  $x$ , then  $A$  is hermitian.

**Problem 16.** Prove that a hermitian matrix  $A$  is positive definite if and only if  $A = P^* P$  for some invertible matrix  $P$ .

**Problem 17.** Prove that the eigenvalues of hermitian matrices are real numbers, and the eigenvalues of real symmetric matrices are real numbers

**Problem 18.** Prove that the eigenvectors associated to distinct eigenvalues of a hermitian matrix  $A$  are orthogonal.

**Problem 19.** Prove or disprove:  $\dim V = \dim U + \dim U^\perp$ , for any subspace  $U \subset V$ .

**Problem 20.** Let  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  be subspaces of a vector space  $V$  with a symmetric bilinear form. Prove:

1.  $(W_1 + W_2)^\perp = W_1^\perp \cap W_2^\perp$
2.  $W \subset W^{\perp\perp}$
3. If  $W_1 \subset W_2$ , then  $W_2^\perp \subset W_1^\perp$ .

**Problem 21.** Prove that  $AB$  and  $BA$  has same eigenvalues for any two matricse  $A$  and  $B$ .

**Problem 22.** Let  $A$ (symmetric) and  $ABA$  be positive definite matrices, then prove that  $B$  is positive definite.

**Problem 23.** Prove that if  $A$  is normal, then  $A^2$  is normal. Is the converse true?

**Problem 24.** Prove that if  $A$  is normal and  $AB = BA$ , then  $A^T B = BA^T$ .

**Problem 25.** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two matrices with  $PAP^{-1}$  and  $PBP^{-1}$  are diagonal matrices for some matrix  $P$ , then  $AB = BA$ .

**Problem 26.** Prove that for any square matrix  $A$ ,  $Ker A = (Im A^*)^\perp$

**Problem 27.** Show that, if  $A$  is a real normal matrix with real eigenvalues, then  $A$  is symmetric.

**Problem 28.** Let  $A$  be a normal matrix. Prove that  $A$  is hermitian if and only if all the eigenvalues of  $A$  are real, and that the eigenvalues of  $A$  have absolute value 1 if and only if  $A$  is unitary.