

Financial Mathematics

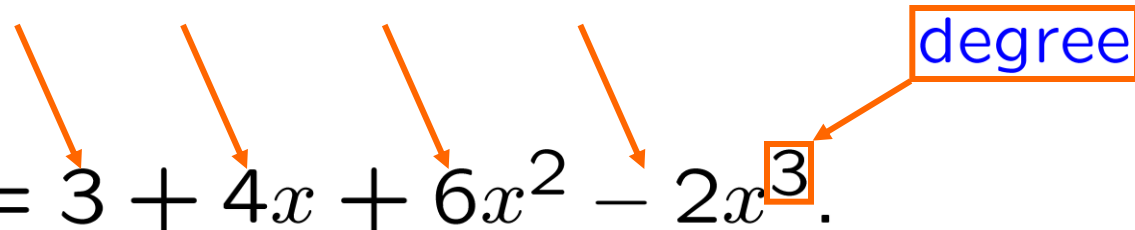
Bilinear forms and quadratic forms

Definition:

A **polynomial in x**

is a (finite) linear combination of
1, x , x^2 , x^3 , x^4 , x^5 , x^6 , x^7 , ...

e.g.: $P(x) = 3 + 4x + 6x^2 - 2x^3$.



Definition:

A **polynomial in x, y**

is a (finite) linear combination of
1, x, y , x^2, xy, y^2 ,

x^3, x^2y, xy^2, y^3 , ...

monomials in x, y of
(total) degree = 3

Definition:

A **polynomial in x, y, z**

is a (finite) linear combination of

1, constant monomial
(total degree 0)

x, y, z , linear monomials
(total degree 1)

$x^2, y^2, z^2, xy, xz, yz$, quadratic monomials
(total degree 2)

$x^3, y^3, z^3, x^2y, x^2z, xy^2, y^2z, xz^2, yz^2, xyz$,

...

cubic monomials
(total degree 3)

Definition:

A **polynomial in x, y, z**

is a (finite) linear combination of

1,

$x, y, z,$

$x^2, y^2, z^2, xy, xz, yz,$

$x^3, y^3, z^3, x^2y, x^2z, xy^2, y^2z, xz^2, yz^2, xyz,$

...

cubic monomials
(total degree 3)

Definition:

A **homogeneous polynomial
in x, y, z of degree = 3**

is a linear combination of

$x^3, y^3, z^3, x^2y, x^2z, xy^2, y^2z, xz^2, yz^2, xyz.$

e.g.: $F(x, y, z) = 5x^3 + 3xz^2 - 4xyz$
three inputs one output

\mathbb{R} -valued
scalar-valued

Definition: A function $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a **homogeneous polynomial of degree = 5** if there are two homogeneous polynomials in x, y, z of degree = 5, $A(x, y, z)$ and $B(x, y, z)$, such that $G(x, y, z) = (A(x, y, z), B(x, y, z))$.

\mathbb{R}^2 -valued
vector-valued

Definition:
A **homogeneous polynomial**
in x, y, z of degree = 3

is a linear combination of
 $x^3, y^3, z^3, x^2y, x^2z, xy^2, y^2z, xz^2, yz^2, xyz$.

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Definition: A function $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$
is a **homogeneous polynomial of degree = 5**

if there are two homogeneous polynomials
in s, p, w of degree = 5,
 $A(s, p, w)$ and $B(s, p, w)$,

such that $G(s, p, w) = (A(s, p, w), B(s, p, w))$.
etc., etc., etc.

Definition:

A **homogeneous polynomial**
in x, y, z of degree = 3

is a linear combination of

$x^3, y^3, z^3, x^2y, x^2z, xy^2, y^2z, xz^2, yz^2, xyz$.

Polynomial approximation

General mathematical theme:

Given a function, *e.g.*: $f(x) = e^x$,
even if it's not a polynomial,
we can approximate it by polynomials.

E.g.: $f(x) = e^x \approx 1,$

$$f(x) = e^x \approx 1 + x,$$

$$f(x) = e^x \approx 1 + x + (x^2/(2!)),$$

$$f(x) = e^x \approx 1 + x + (x^2/(2!)) + (x^3/(3!)),$$

...

agree at 0 to order three

Works with any number of input variables,
and any number of output variables.

e.g.: Black-Scholes gives a function that maps
(spot, strike, risk-free rate, volatility)

four input

↦ (price, Delta)

two output

Denote this function by F .

S	=	spot
K	=	strike
ρ	=	risk-free rate
σ	=	volatility

$K' := K/\rho$
$d_{\pm} := \frac{\ln(S/K')}{\sigma} \pm \frac{\sigma}{2}$

$$\Phi(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

price = $S[\Phi(d_+)] - K'[\Phi(d_-)]$

Delta = $\Phi(d_+)$

$F(S, K, \rho, \sigma) = (\text{price}, \text{Delta})$ highly nonlinear

e.g.: Black-Scholes gives a function that maps
(spot, strike, risk-free rate, volatility)

four input

\vec{F} (price, Delta)

two output

Denote this function by F .

Say we've computed $F(100, 97, 0.01, 0.2)$.

Say we want to compute

$$F(100.1, 97.03, 0.0102, 0.204).$$

More generally, say we want to compute

$$F(100 + \underline{w}, 97 + \underline{x}, 0.01 + \underline{y}, 0.2 + \underline{z})$$

for "small" values of w, x, y, z .

e.g.: Black-Scholes gives a function that maps
(spot, strike, risk-free rate, volatility)

four input

\overrightarrow{F} (price, Delta)

two output

Denote this function by F .

Say we've computed $F(100, 97, 0.01, 0.2)$.

There are

a constant $C \in \mathbb{R}^2$,

a homogeneous linear $L : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

& a homogeneous quadratic $Q : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

s.t. $C + L(w, x, y, z) + Q(w, x, y, z)$

agrees, at $(0, 0, 0, 0)$, to order two, with

$F(100 + w, 97 + x, 0.01 + y, 0.2 + z)$.

defined in topic
on multivariable
polynomial approximation

e.g.: Black-Scholes gives a function that maps
(spot, strike, risk-free rate, volatility)

four input

\vec{F} (price, Delta)

two output

Denote this function by F .

Say we've computed $F(100, 97, 0.01, 0.2)$.

There are

- a constant $C \in \mathbb{R}^2$,
- a homogeneous linear $L: \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,
- & a homogeneous quadratic $Q: \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

s.t. $C + L(w, x, y, z) + Q(w, x, y, z)$ agrees, at $(0, 0, 0, 0)$, to order two, with $F(100 + w, 97 + x, 0.01 + y, 0.2 + z)$.

$G(w, x, y, z)$

"2nd order Maclaurin approximation" of G

e.g.: Black-Scholes gives a function that maps (spot, strike, risk-free rate, volatility)

four input

\vec{F} (price, Delta)

two output

degree 0
 a constant $C \in \mathbb{R}^2$,
degree 1
 a homogeneous linear $L: \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,
degree 2
 & a homogeneous quadratic $Q: \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$,

Constants are easy to understand.

Homogeneous linear functions are studied by
 “Linear Algebra”.

Do we need new subjects called

“Quadratic Algebra”, “Cubic Algebra”,
 “Quartic Algebra”, etc.?

degree 4

degree 3

NO! There's a subject called
tensor algebra

which can be used to reduce
questions about degree ≥ 2 polynomials
to questions in linear algebra.

So linear algebra suffices!

It is the study of EVERYTHING!

We'll only need quadratic approximations,
where tensor algebra is particularly simple.

Constants are easy to understand.

Homogeneous linear functions are studied by
"Linear Algebra".

Do we need new subjects called

"Quadratic Algebra", "Cubic Algebra",

"Quartic Algebra", etc.?

degree 3

degree 4

Quadratic tensor algebra (naive formulation)

Let $Q : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be homogeneous quadratic.

Then there are homogeneous quadratics

$Q_1 : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $Q_2 : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
such that

$$Q(w, x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} Q_1(w, x, y, z) \\ Q_2(w, x, y, z) \end{pmatrix}.$$

It's enough to understand quadratic functions
 $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Definition: A homogeneous quadratic function
 $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called a **quadratic form**.

e.g.: $F(s, t, u, v, w, x) = 4st - 2uv + u^2 - 3v^2 + wx$

e.g.: $F(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2$

Also denoted: $v \mapsto |v|^2 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Bilinear Forms

Def'n: A fn $B : \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **bilinear form** if both of the following two conditions hold:

- for all $v \in \mathbb{R}^p$,
the function $B(v, \bullet) : \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
is linear; and,
- for all $w \in \mathbb{R}^q$,
the function $B(\bullet, w) : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
is linear.

Let e_1, \dots, e_p be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^p .

$$e_1 := (1, 0, \dots, 0), \quad \dots, \quad e_p := (0, \dots, 0, 1)$$

\cap \mathbb{R}^p ← \cap \mathbb{R}^p

Let f_1, \dots, f_q be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^q .

$$f_1 := (1, 0, \dots, 0), \quad \dots, \quad f_q := (0, \dots, 0, 1)$$

\cap \mathbb{R}^q ← \cap \mathbb{R}^q

Bilinear Forms

a bilinear form

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be **bilinear**.

Let e_1, \dots, e_p be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^p .

Let f_1, \dots, f_q be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^q .

The **matrix of B** is

the $p \times q$ matrix whose (j, k) entry is
 $B(e_j, f_k)$.

The matrix of B is denoted **$[B]$** .

$$[B] := [B(e_j, f_k)]_{\substack{j=1, \dots, p \\ k=1, \dots, q}}$$

Bilinear Forms

a bilinear form

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

Let e_1, \dots, e_p be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^p .

Let f_1, \dots, f_q be the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^q .

The **matrix** of B is

$$[B] := \begin{bmatrix} B(e_1, f_1) & B(e_1, f_2) & \cdots & B(e_1, f_q) \\ B(e_2, f_1) & B(e_2, f_2) & \cdots & B(e_2, f_q) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ B(e_p, f_1) & B(e_p, f_2) & \cdots & B(e_p, f_q) \end{bmatrix}$$

Next:

A bilinear form is determined by its matrix

A bilinear form is determined by its matrix

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^5 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

A bilinear form is determined by its matrix

A bilinear form is determined by its matrix

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^5 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

Suppose the matrix of B is

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{2} & \boxed{5} & 3 & -9 & 1 \\ -5 & 4 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 7 & -6 & 4 & -5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{2} \\ \xrightarrow{2} \\ \xrightarrow{1} \end{matrix}$$

$\begin{matrix} \uparrow 3 & \uparrow 7 & & & \\ & & -5 & 6 & -2 \end{matrix}$

Problem: Compute

$$B \left(\begin{matrix} (2, 2, 1) \\ \parallel \\ (3, 7, -5, 6, -2) \end{matrix} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (2)(3)(2) + (5)(7)(2) + (3)(-5)(2) + (-9)(6)(2) + (1)(-2)(2) \\ & + (-5)(3)(2) + (4)(7)(2) + (2)(-5)(2) + (1)(6)(2) + (0)(-2)(2) \\ & + (7)(3)(1) + (-6)(7)(1) + (4)(-5)(1) + (-5)(6)(1) + (2)(-2)(1) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise: Show $B(v, w) = (L_{[B]}(w)) \cdot v$.

Symmetric Bilinear Forms

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

Def'n: We say B is **symmetric** if,
for all $v, v' \in \mathbb{R}^n$,
 $B(v, v') = B(v', v)$.

e.g.: The dot product

$$(v, v') \mapsto v \cdot v' : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

e.g.: Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the bilinear form whose matrix is

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

symmetric
matrix

Fact: A bilinear form $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

is symmetric iff its matrix is symmetric.

Symmetric Bilinear Forms

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Note: If $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bilinear form,
then the function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
defined by $Q(v) = B(\boxed{v}, \boxed{v})$
is a quadratic form. on the "diagonal"

Question:

Can we go from Q to B , (i.e., to $[B]$),
thereby reducing questions about Q
to matrix questions?

e.g.: Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the bilinear form whose matrix is

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let $Q : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$.

Problem: Compute $Q(x, y, z)$.

Solution: $Q(x, y, z) = B((x, y, z), (x, y, z))$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} x & y & z & \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 4 & x \\ 3 & 4 & 7 & y \\ 2 & 3 & 6 & z \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 1xx + 1xy + 4xz \\ & + 3yx + 4yy + 7yz \\ & + 2zx + 3zy + 6zz \end{aligned}$$

$$x^2 + 4y^2 + 6z^2 + 4xy + 6xz + 10yz$$

e.g.: Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the bilinear form whose matrix is

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$$x^2 + 4y^2 + 6z^2 + 4xy + 6xz + 10yz$$

First study how to go from $[B]$ to Q Different $[B]$ lead to the same Q

e.g.: Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the bilinear form whose matrix is

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{symmetric} \\ \text{Coming up:} \\ \text{The Spectral} \\ \text{Theorem} \end{array}$$

Let $Q : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$.

Problem: Compute $Q(x, y, z)$.

Solution: $Q(x, y, z) = B((x, y, z), (x, y, z))$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|c} x & y & z & \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & x \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & y \\ 3 & 5 & 6 & z \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \parallel \\ & 1xx + 2xy + 3xz \\ & + 2yx + 4yy + 5yz \\ & + 3zx + 5zy + 6zz \\ & \parallel \end{aligned}$$

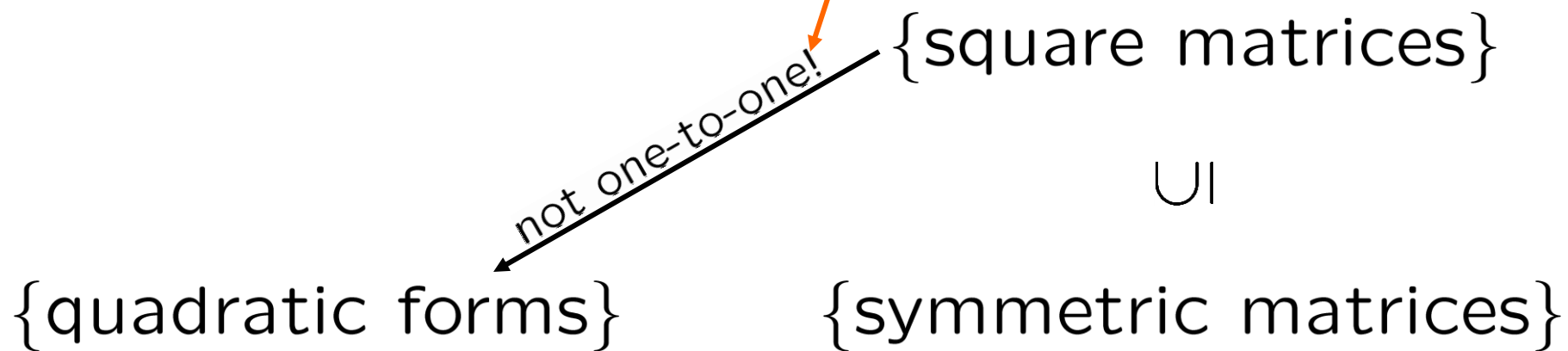
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Let $Q : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$.

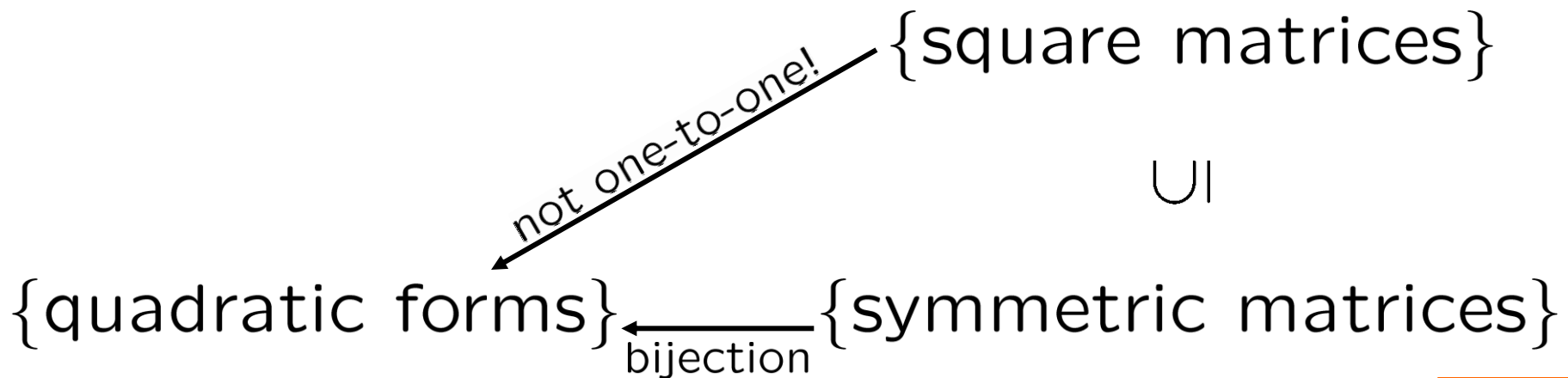


Different $[B]$ lead to the same Q Q Different $[B]$ lead to the same Q Q to $[B]$

e.g.: Let $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the bilinear form whose matrix is

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Different $[B]$ lead to the same Q

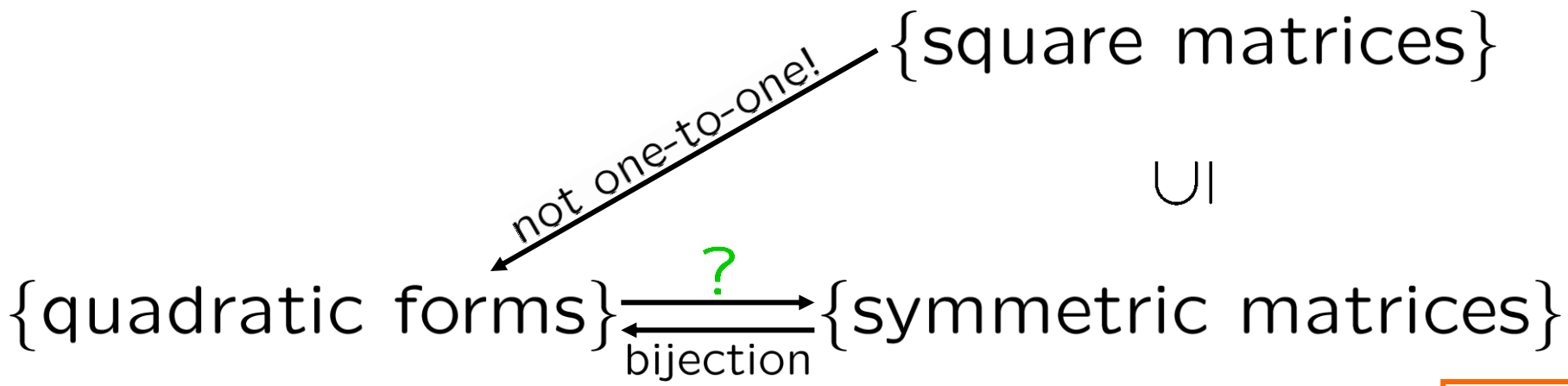
Now learn to go from Q to $[B]$ and B

Symmetric Bilinear Forms

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

We say B is **symmetric** if,
for all $v, v' \in \mathbb{R}^n$,
 $B(v, v') = B(v', v)$.

symmetry is needed!



Symmetric Bilinear Forms

Let $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be bilinear.

We say B is **symmetric** if,

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From B to Q

Note: If $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bilinear form, then the function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$ is a quadratic form.

From Q to B

Goal: If $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a quadratic form,

then \exists **SBF** $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

s.t. $\forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$Q(v) = B(v, v).$$

unique

symmetric bilinear form

Now learn to go from Q to $[B]$
and B
symmetry
is needed!

e.g.: Define $Q : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$Q(w, x, y, z) =$$

$$w^2 + 6wx - 4wz + 3y^2 - 2yz + 7z^2.$$

$$[B] = \begin{array}{cccc|c} & w & x & y & z & \\ \hline & 1 & 3 & ? & -2 & w \\ & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x \\ & ? & 0 & 3 & -1 & y \\ & -2 & 0 & -1 & 7 & z \end{array}$$

Goal: If $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a quadratic form,
then \exists ! **SBF** $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

unique

symmetric
bilinear form

s.t. $\forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n,$

$$Q(v) = B(v, v).$$

Now recall how to go from $[B]$ to B

Now learn to go from Q to $[B]$

e.g.: Define $Q : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$Q(w, x, y, z) =$$

$$w^2 + 6wx - 4wz + 3y^2 - 2yz + 7z^2.$$

and B

symmetry
is needed!

$$[B] = \begin{array}{cccc|c} & w & x & y & z & \\ \hline & 1 & 3 & 0 & -2 & w \\ & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & x \\ & 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 & y \\ & -2 & 0 & -1 & 7 & z \end{array}$$

{quadratic forms} \iff {symmetric matrices}

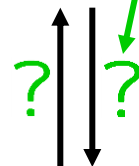
Now recall how to go from $[B]$ to B

Now learn how to go from B to $[B]$

$$B((w, x, y, z), (w', x', y', z')) = ww' + 3yy' + 7zz' + 3(xw' + x'w) - 2(w'z + wz') - (y'z + yz')$$

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} w' \\ x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{matrix}$$

{symmetric bilinear forms}



{quadratic forms} \iff {symmetric matrices}

Now recall how to go from B to Q

Now learn how to go from B to $[B]$

$$B((w, x, y, z), (w', x', y', z')) = \\ ww' + 3yy' + 7zz' + \\ 3(xw' + x'w) - 2(w'z + wz') - (y'z + yz')$$

$$[B] = \begin{bmatrix} w & x & y & z \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & -2 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 & -1 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} w' \\ x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{matrix}$$

{symmetric bilinear forms}



{quadratic forms} \iff {symmetric matrices}

Note: If $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bilinear form,
 then the function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$
 is a quadratic form.

$B(v, w) =$ **Formula involving Q**

$v \mapsto v + w$

$$Q(v) = B(v, v)$$

$$Q(w) = B(w, w)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(v+w) &= B(v+w, v+w) \quad \leftarrow \text{expand to four terms} \\
 &= B(v, v) + B(v, w) + B(w, v) + B(w, w) \quad \leftarrow \text{symmetry} \\
 &= Q(v) + 2[B(v, w)] + Q(w)
 \end{aligned}$$

restr. to diagonal
 Formula?

{symmetric bilinear forms}



{quadratic forms} \iff {symmetric matrices}

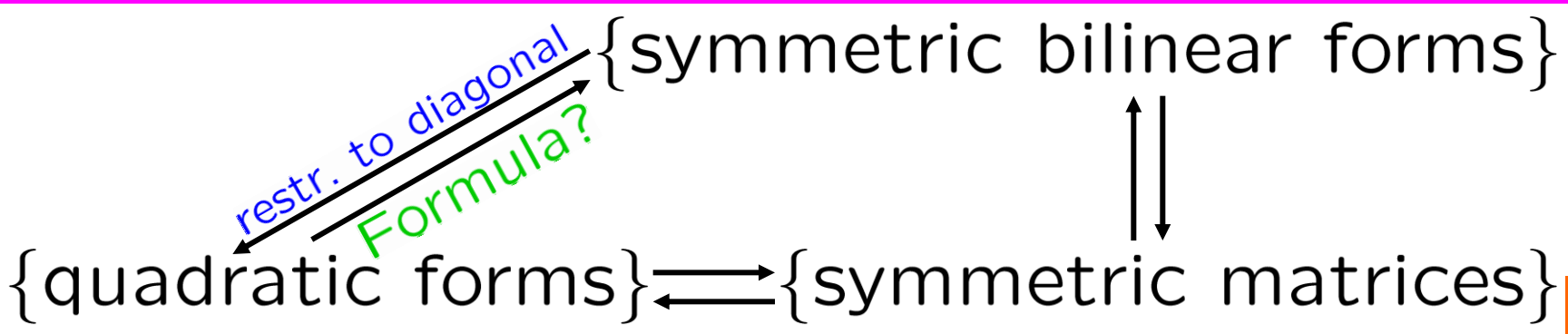
Note: If $B : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bilinear form,
 then the function $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 defined by $Q(v) = B(v, v)$
 is a quadratic form.

$$B(v, w) = \frac{[Q(v+w)] - [Q(v)] - [Q(w)]}{2}$$

Formula involving Q

$$[Q(v+w)] - [Q(v)] - [Q(w)] = Q(v) + 2[B(v, w)] + Q(w)$$

DIVIDE BY 2



Def'n: The SBF B s.t., $\forall v, Q(v) = B(v, v)$ is called the **polarization** of Q .

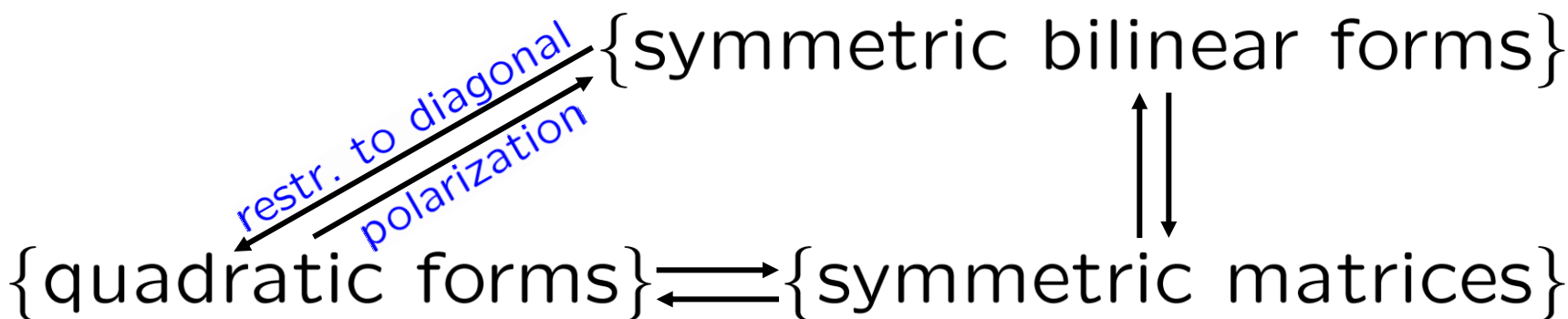
The Polarization Formula

$$B(v, w) = \frac{[Q(v + w)] - [Q(v)] - [Q(w)]}{2}$$

$$Q(v + w) \neq Q(v) + Q(w)$$

$$Q(v + w) = Q(v) + 2[B(v, w)] + Q(w)$$

the "cross term"



Def'n: The SBF B s.t., $\forall v, Q(v) = B(v, v)$ is called the **polarization** of Q .

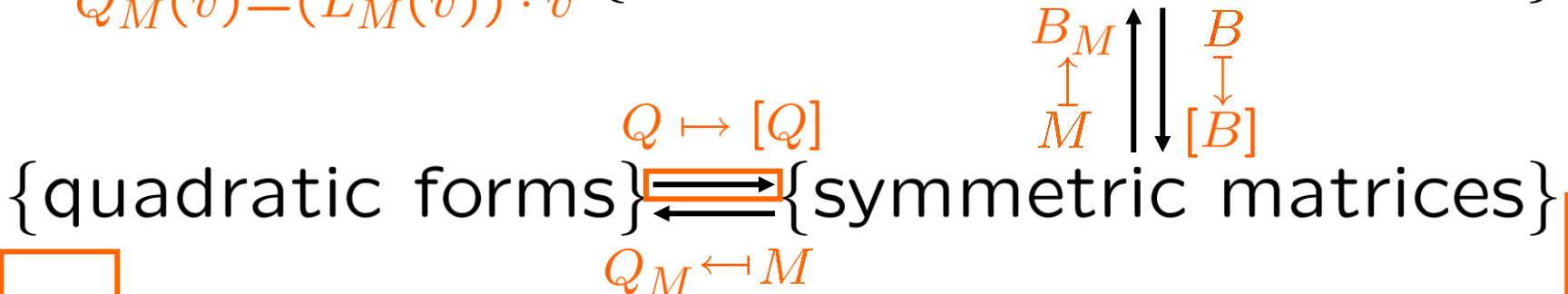
The Polarization Formula

$$B(v, w) = \frac{[Q(v + w)] - [Q(v)] - [Q(w)]}{2}$$

Def'n: For any quadratic form $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with polarization B , the **matrix** of Q , denoted $[Q]$, is the matrix of B .

$$B_M(v, w) = (L_M(v)) \cdot w \quad \{\text{symmetric bilinear forms}\}$$

$$Q_M(v) = (L_M(v)) \cdot v$$



Polarization of squaring is multiplication

e.g.:

Define $Q : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $Q(x) = x^2$.

The polarization formula:

$$\begin{aligned} B(x, y) &= \frac{[Q(x + y)] - [Q(x)] - [Q(y)]}{2} \\ &= \frac{(x + y)^2 - x^2 - y^2}{2} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{x^2} + \cancel{y^2} + \cancel{2xy} - \cancel{x^2} - \cancel{y^2}}{\cancel{2}} = xy \end{aligned}$$

On your calculator,

if the \times button breaks, **but not** the x^2 button,
you can still multiply!

Polarization of length squared is dot product

e.g.:

Define $Q : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $Q(v) = |v|^2$.

The polarization formula:

$$\begin{aligned} B(v, w) &= \frac{[Q(v + w)] - [Q(v)] - [Q(w)]}{2} \\ &= \frac{|v + w|^2 - |v|^2 - |w|^2}{2} \\ &= \frac{(\cancel{|v|^2} + \cancel{|w|^2} + \cancel{2v \cdot w}) - \cancel{|v|^2} - \cancel{|w|^2}}{\cancel{2}} = v \cdot w \end{aligned}$$

If you know how to compute $|\bullet|^2$,
then you know how to compute dot products.

The BIG IDEA:

Questions about quadratic forms reduce to questions about (symmetric) bilinear forms, which then reduce to questions about (symmetric) matrices.

Thus “quadratic algebra” reduces to linear algebra!!

homogeneous polynomials
of degree = 3

Similarly:

Questions about cubic forms reduce to questions about (symmetric) trilinear forms, which then reduce to questions about (symmetric) 3-tensors.

Thus “cubic algebra” reduces to linear algebra!!

The BIG IDEA:

Questions about homogeneous polynomials of degree k reduce to questions about (symmetric) k -linear forms, which then reduce to questions about (symmetric) k -tensors.

Thus “polynomial algebra” reduces to linear algebra!!

Similarly:

Questions about cubic forms reduce to questions about (symmetric) trilinear forms, which then reduce to questions about (symmetric) 3-tensors.

Thus “cubic algebra” reduces to linear algebra!!

The BIG IDEA:

Questions about homogeneous polynomials of degree k reduce to questions about (symmetric) k -linear forms, which then reduce to questions about (symmetric) k -tensors.

Thus “polynomial algebra” reduces to linear algebra!!

Concluding remark:

Since any reasonable function is well-approximated by polynomials, these observations turn linear algebra into the study of everything!!

