

# **Symmetric Matrices**

**Geometric Algorithms**

**Lecture 25**

# Recap Problem

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

*Find the matrices  $X$  ~~as in the previous example~~ to find the least squares best fit parabola and the least squares best fit cubic for this dataset.*

# Answer

$$\{(0,3), (1,1), (-1,1), (2,3)\}$$

$x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3 \quad x_4$

$$f(x) = a + bx + cx^2$$

$$g(x) = a + bx + cx^2 + dx^3$$

$1 \quad x \quad x^2 \quad x^3$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$X \quad \vec{B} \quad Y$

$$(X \vec{B})_i = [1 \ x \ x^2 \ x^3] \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = a + bx + cx^2 + dx^3$$

# Objectives

1. Talk about about symmetric matrices and eigenvalues.
2. Describe an application to constrained optimization problems.

# Keywords

linear models

design matrices

general linear regression

symmetric matrices

the spectral theorem

orthogonal diagonalizability

quadratic forms

definiteness

constrained optimization

# Symmetric Matrices

# Recall: Symmetric Matrices

**Definition.** A square matrix  $A$  is **symmetric** if  $A^T = A$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 10 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & 3 & 1 \\ 10 & 3 & 5 & 9 \\ 0 & 1 & 9 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Orthogonal Eigenvectors

**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , if  $u$  and  $v$  are eigenvectors for *distinct* eigenvalues, then  $u$  and  $v$  are orthogonal.

$$\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \Rightarrow \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle = 0$$

Verify:  $\overset{u^T v}{\langle u, v \rangle} = 0$

$$\langle \vec{u}, A\vec{v} \rangle = \langle u, \lambda_1 \vec{v} \rangle = \lambda_1 \langle u, \vec{v} \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \overset{||}{u^T}(A\vec{v}) &= u^T A^T v = (Au)^T v = \langle Au, \vec{v} \rangle \\ &= \lambda_2 \langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle \end{aligned}$$



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*There is an invertible matrix  $P$  and diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $A = PDP^{-1}$ .*

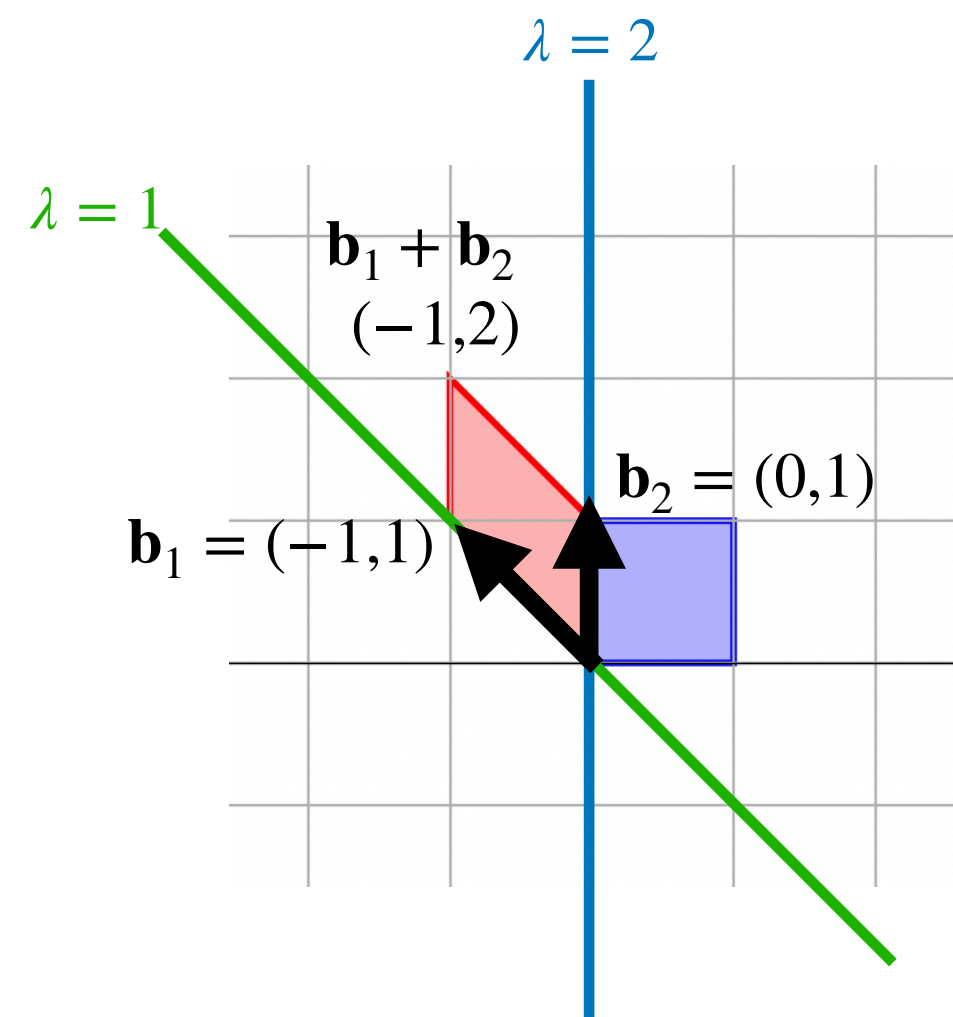
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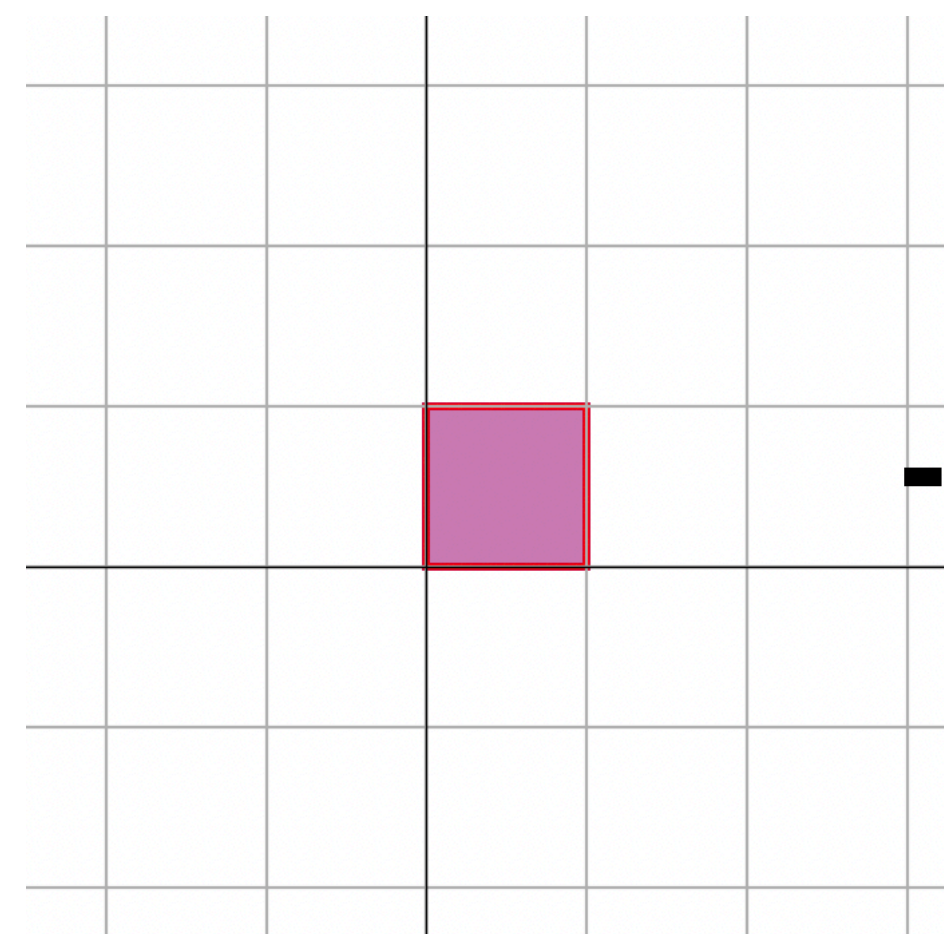
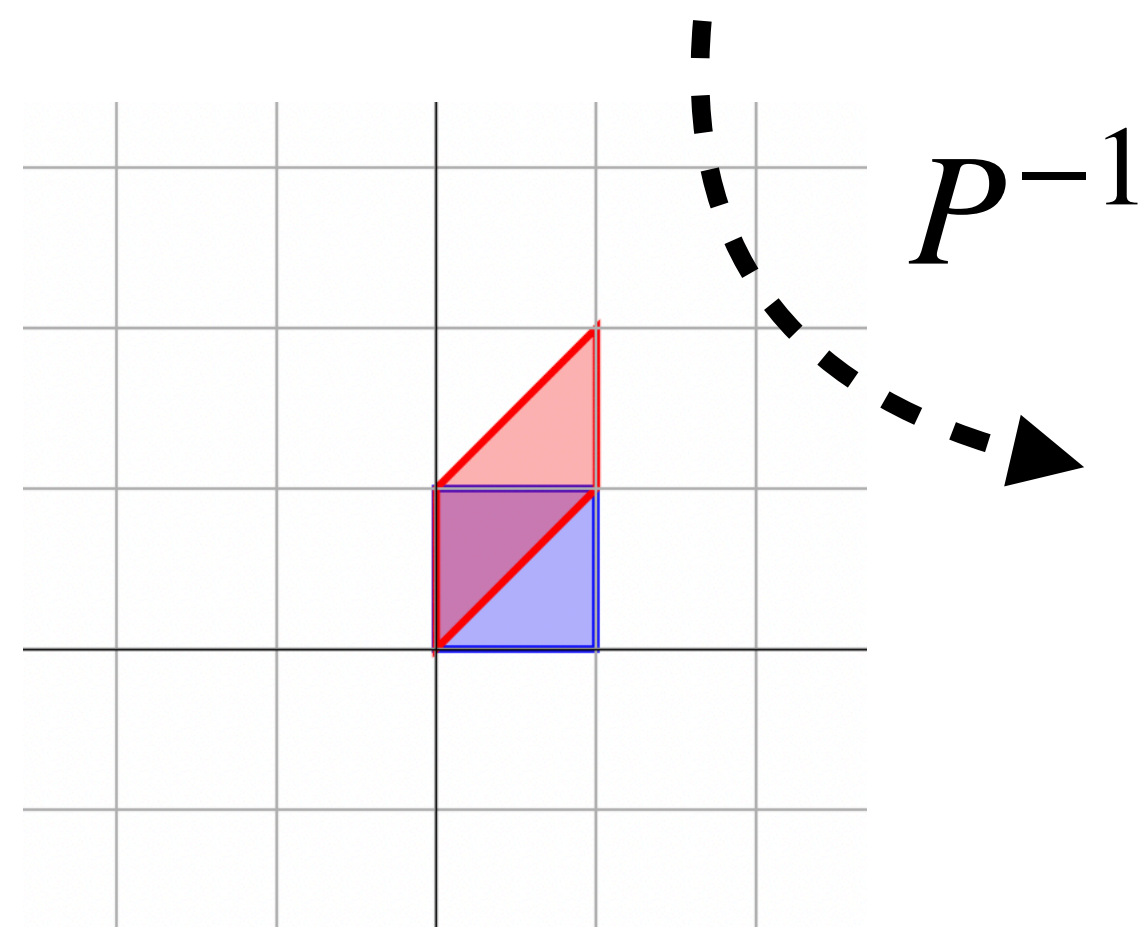
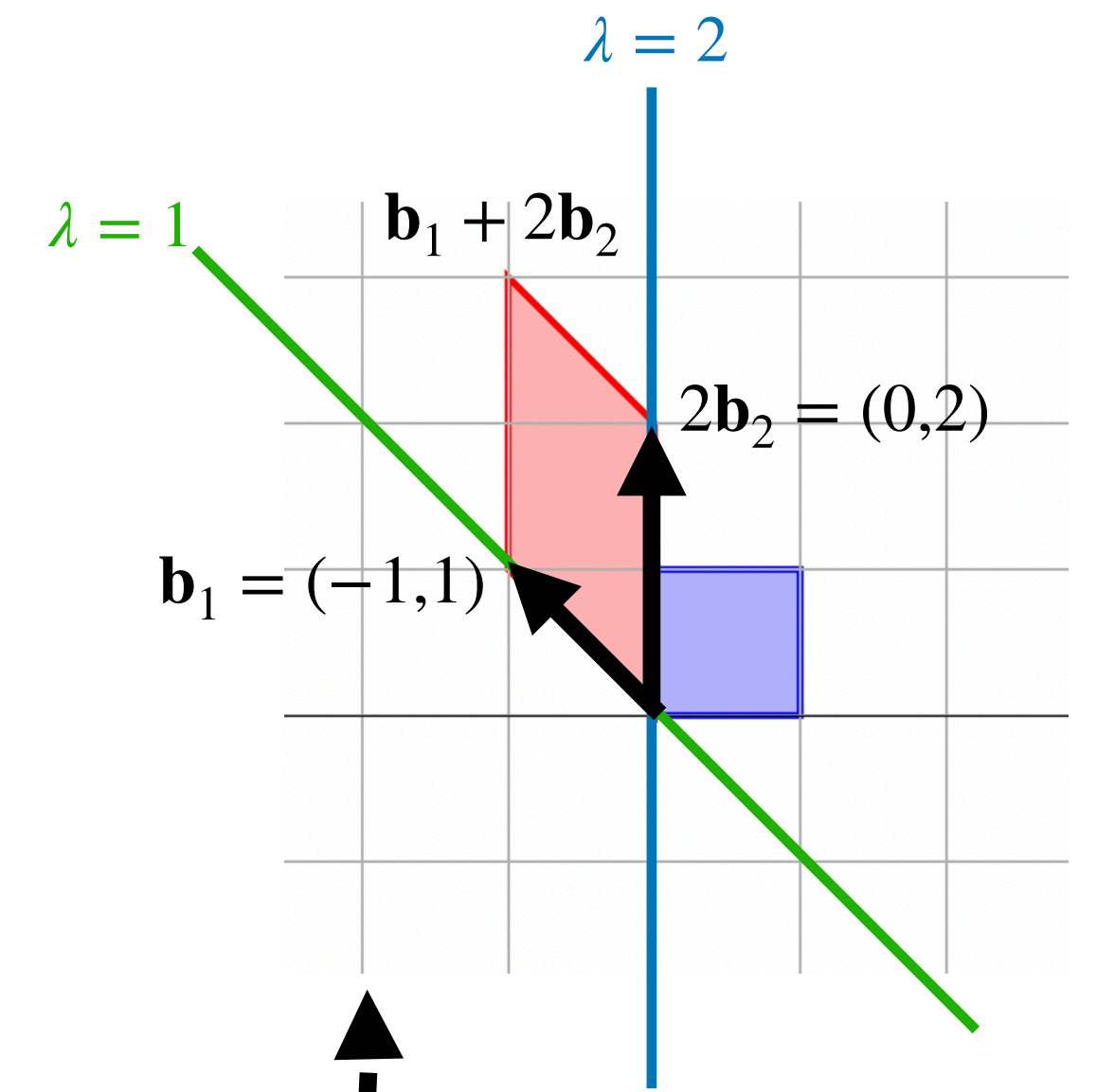
**Diagonalizable matrices are the same as scaling matrices up to a change of basis.**

# Recall: The Picture

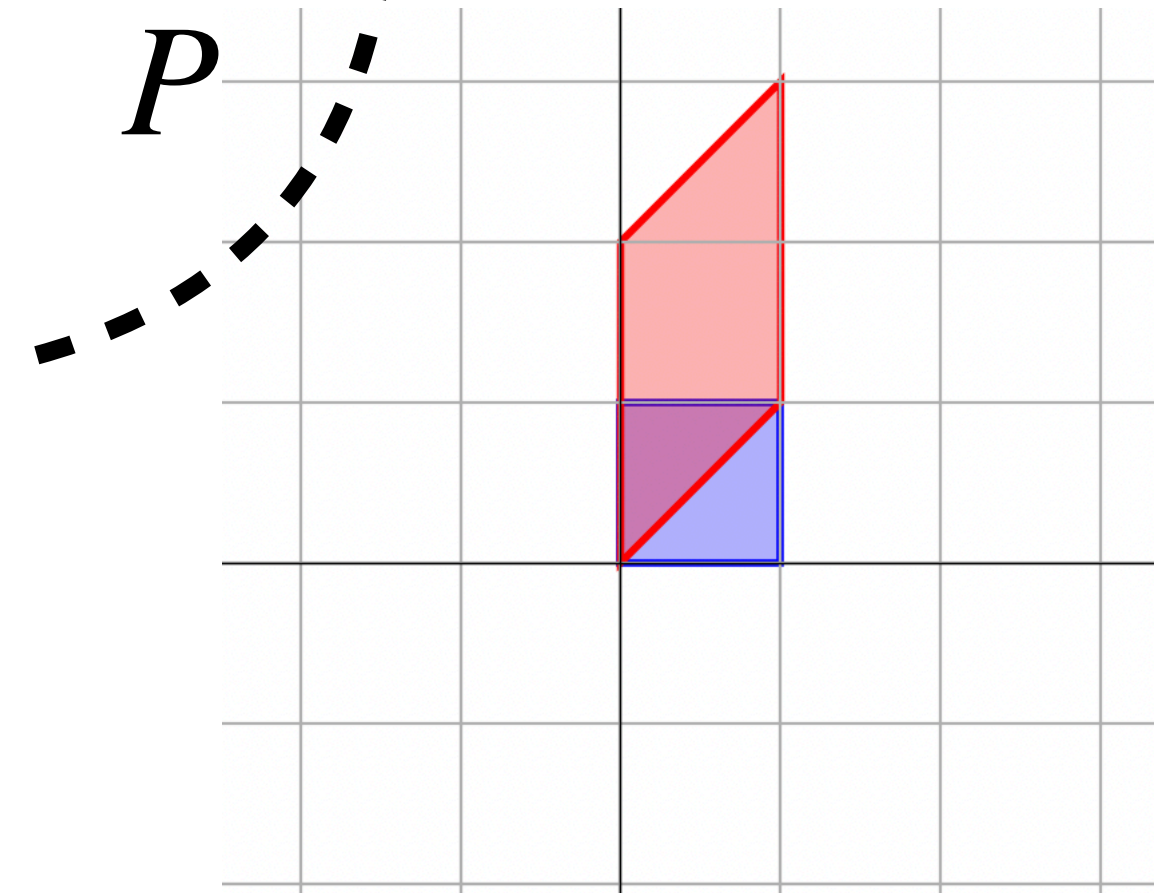
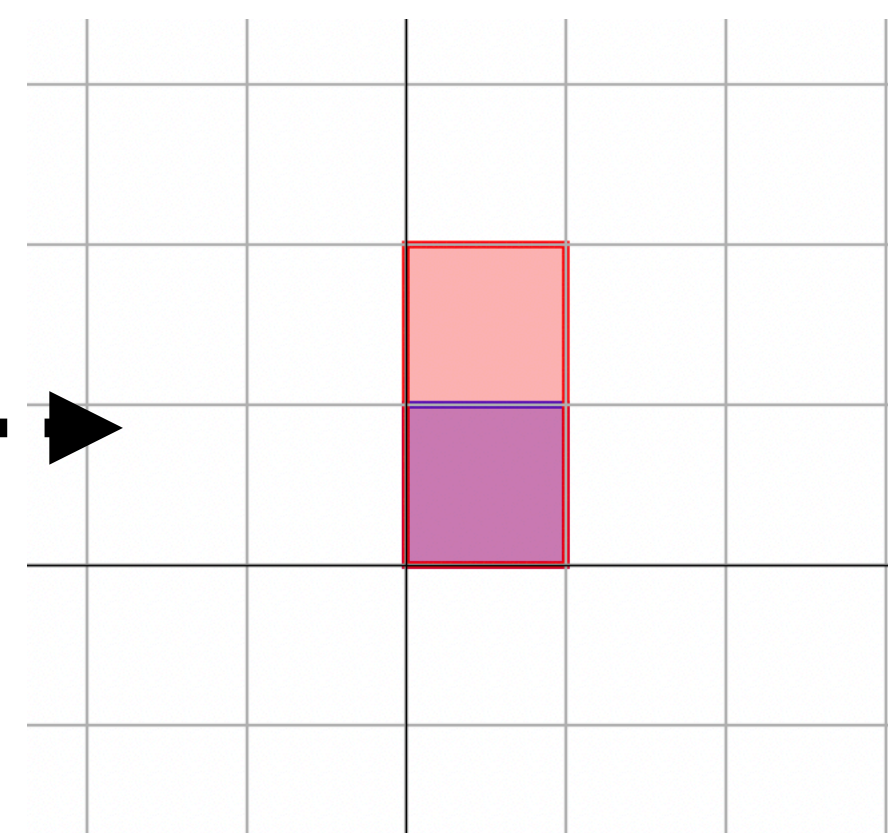


$$A = PDP^{-1}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$



$$D$$



# Recall: The Diagonalization Theorem

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The columns of  $P$  form an eigenbasis for  $A$ .

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The diagonal of  $D$  are the eigenvalues for each column of  $P$ .

**The matrix  $P^{-1}$  is a change of basis to this eigenbasis of  $A$ .**

# The Spectral Theorem

**Theorem.** If  $A$  is symmetric, then it has an *orthonormal* eigenbasis.

(we won't prove this)

Symmetric matrices are diagonalizable.

But more than that, we can choose  $P$  to be *orthogonal*.

# Recall: Orthonormal Matrices

**Definition.** A matrix is **orthonormal** if its columns form an orthonormal set.

The notes call a square orthonormal matrix an **orthogonal** matrix.

# Recall: Inverses of Orthogonal Matrices

**Theorem.** If an  $n \times n$  matrix  $U$  is orthogonal (square orthonormal) then it is invertible and

$$U^{-1} = U^T$$

Verify:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vec{u}_i^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{u}_j \end{bmatrix}$$

$U^T \quad U$

$$\begin{aligned} (U^T U)_{ij} &= \langle \vec{u}_i, \vec{u}_j \rangle \\ &= \begin{cases} 1 & i=j \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

# Orthogonal Diagonalizability

**Definition.** A matrix  $A$  is **orthogonally diagonalizable** if there is a diagonal matrix  $D$  and matrix  $P$  such that

$$A = PDP^T = PDP^{-1}$$

$P$  must be an orthonormal matrix.

**Symmetric matrices are  
orthogonally diagonalizable**

# Orthogonal Diagonalizability and Symmetry

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

**Fact.** All orthogonally diagonalizable matrices are symmetric.

Verify:

$$(PDP^T)^T =$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & 0 \\ & \lambda_2 & \\ 0 & & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(DP^T)^T P^T =$$

$$(P^T)^T D^T P^T = P D^T P^T = P D P^T$$



# Orthogonal Diagonalizability and Symmetry

**Theorem.** A matrix is orthogonally diagonalizable if and only if it is symmetric.

*(We'll usually just use NumPy)*

# Practice Problem

*Find an orthogonal diagonalization of  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$*

$$(3-\lambda)(3-\lambda) = (\cancel{\lambda-3})(\cancel{\lambda-3}) \quad \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = 0 \quad \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Answer

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 3-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 3-\lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= (3-\lambda)^2 - 1$$

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = (\lambda - 3)^2 - 1$$

$$= \lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 9 - 1$$

$$= (\lambda - 4)(\lambda - 2)$$

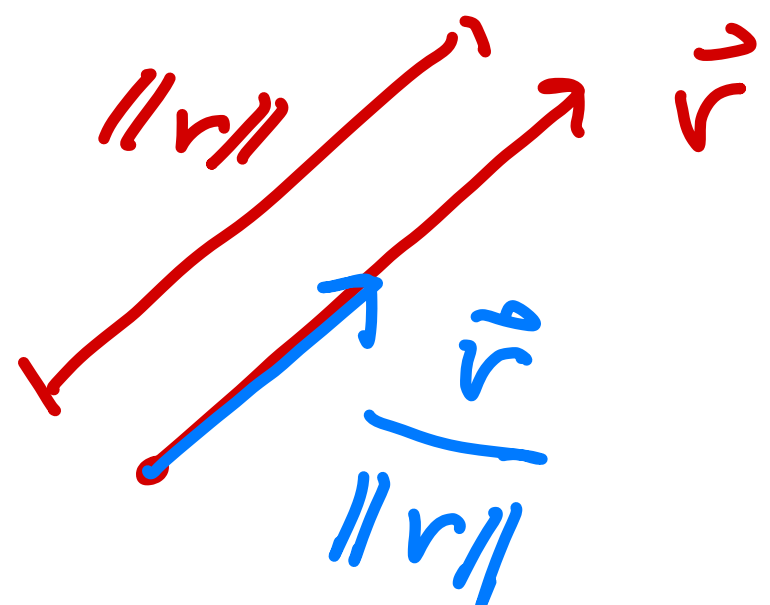
$$\lambda = 4, 2$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A - 4I = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = x_2$   
 $x_2$  is free



$$\sqrt{2} = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2}$$

$$A - 2I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -x_2$   
 $x_2$  is free

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-1)^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$


$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

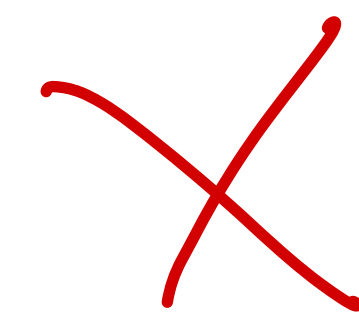
# Quadratic Forms

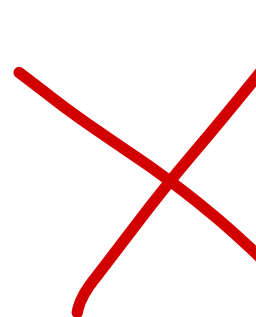
# Quadratic Forms

**Definition.** A quadratic form is an function of variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  in which every term has degree two.

Examples:

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 4x_1^2 + 8x_2^2 + x_1x_2$$


$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 4x_1^3$$


$$Q(x_1, x_2) = 4x_1^2 + x_2$$


# Quadratic Forms and Symmetric Matrices

**Fact.** Every quadratic form can be represented as

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \langle \vec{x}, \mathbf{A} \vec{x} \rangle$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric.

Example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1 + 3x_2 \end{bmatrix} = x_1(2x_1 + x_2) + x_2(x_1 + 3x_2)$$
$$= 2x_1^2 + \underline{2}x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2$$

# Example: Computing the Quadratic Form for a Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

This means, given a symmetric matrix  $A$ , we can compute its corresponding quadratic form:

(exercise.)  $[x_1 \ x_2] \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \dots$

$$3x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2$$

# Quadratic forms and Symmetric Matrices (Again)

Furthermore, we can generally say

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} x_i x_j = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii} x_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} (A_{ij} + A_{ji}) x_i x_j$$

Verify:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})_i = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \left( \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} x_j \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} x_i x_j \end{aligned}$$



# A Slightly more Complicated Example

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

Let's expand  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix} A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 5x_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 - 2x_1x_3$$

# Matrices from Quadratic Forms

$$Q(\mathbf{x}) = 5x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - x_1x_2 + 8x_2x_3$$

We can also go in the other direction. Let's express this as  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ :

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

# How To: Matrices of Quadratic Forms

**Problem.** Given a quadratic form  $Q(\mathbf{x})$ , find the symmetric matrix  $A$  such that  $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ .

**Solution.**

» if  $Q(\mathbf{x})$  has the term  $\alpha x_i^2$  then  $A_{ii} = \alpha$

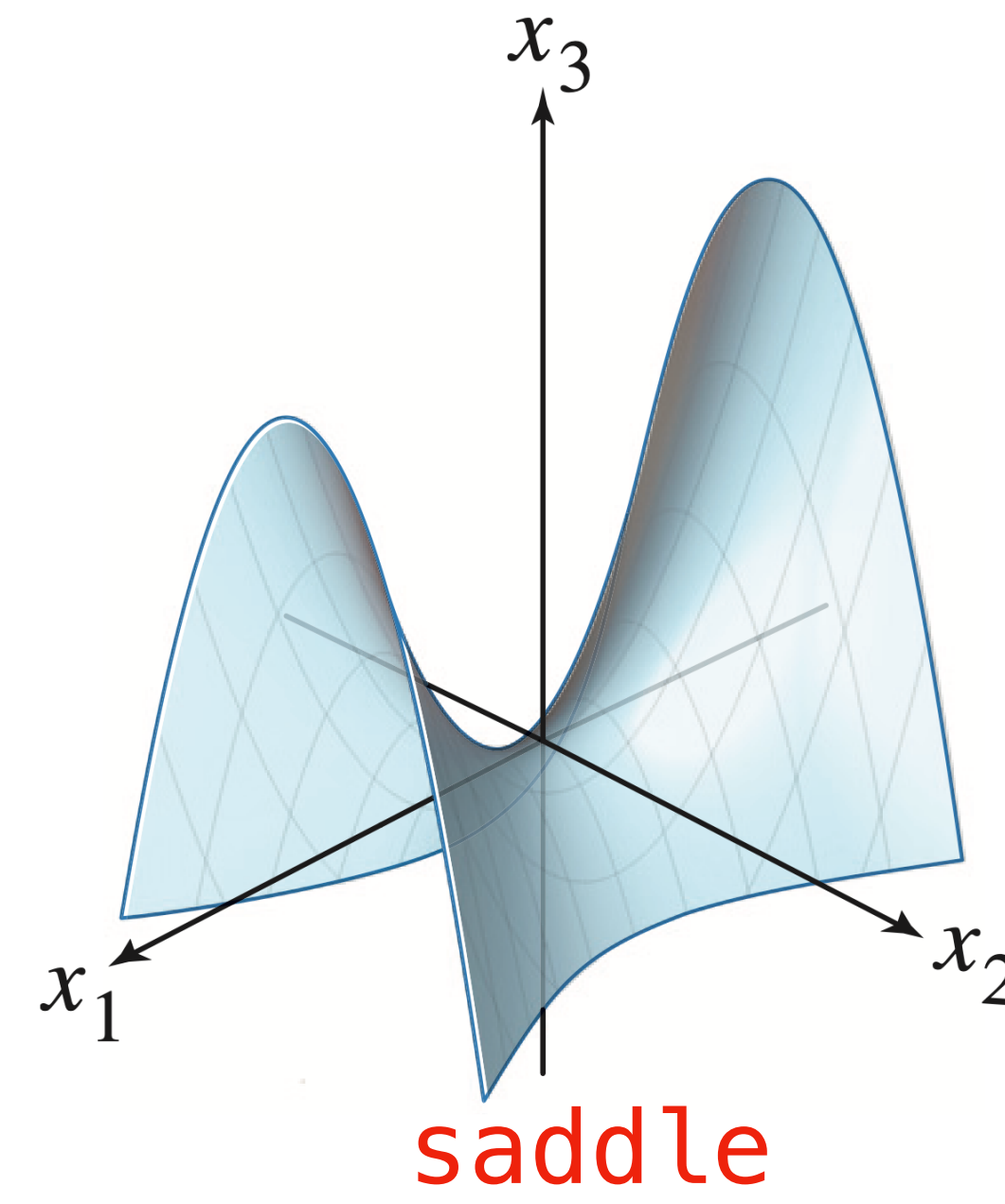
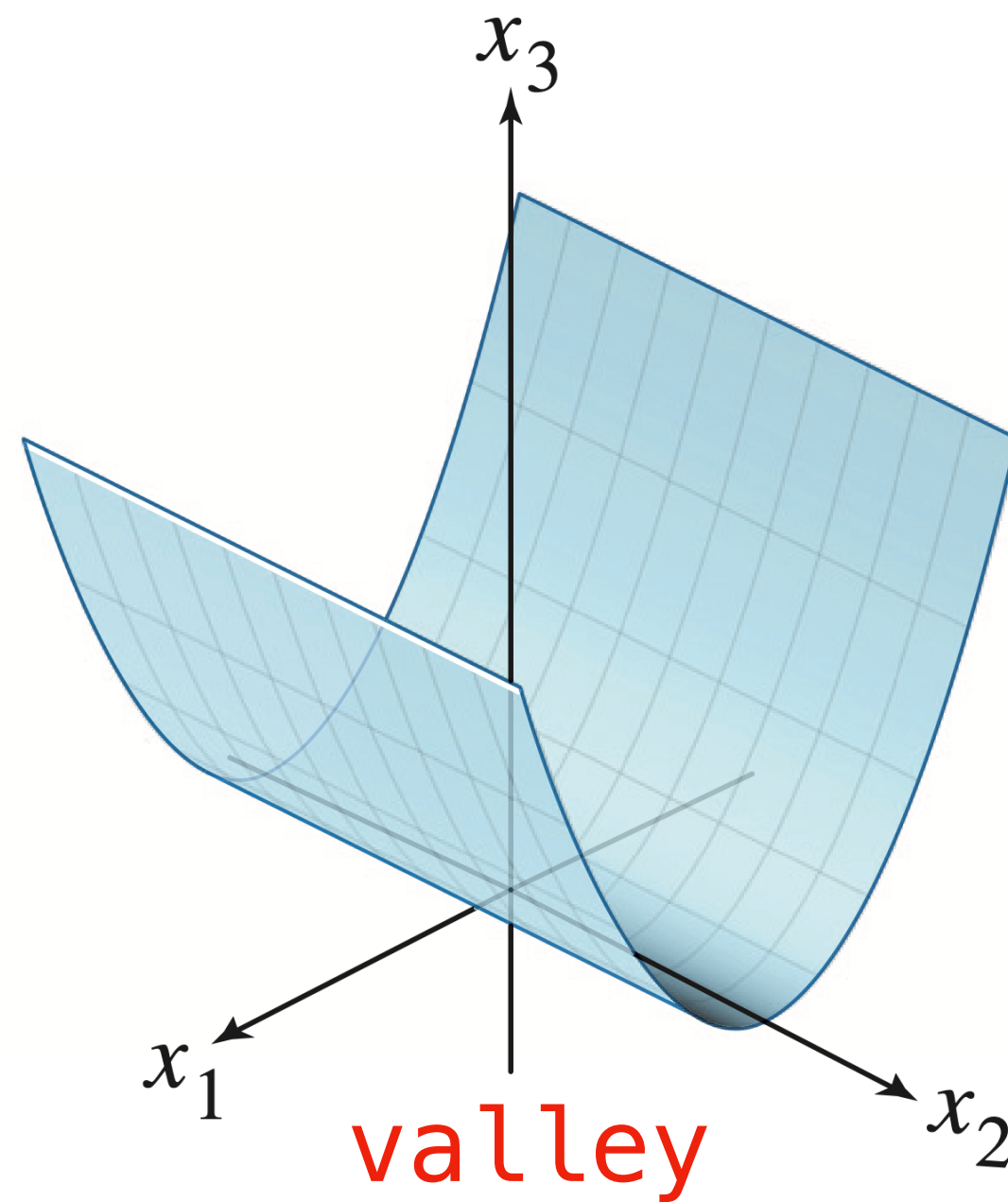
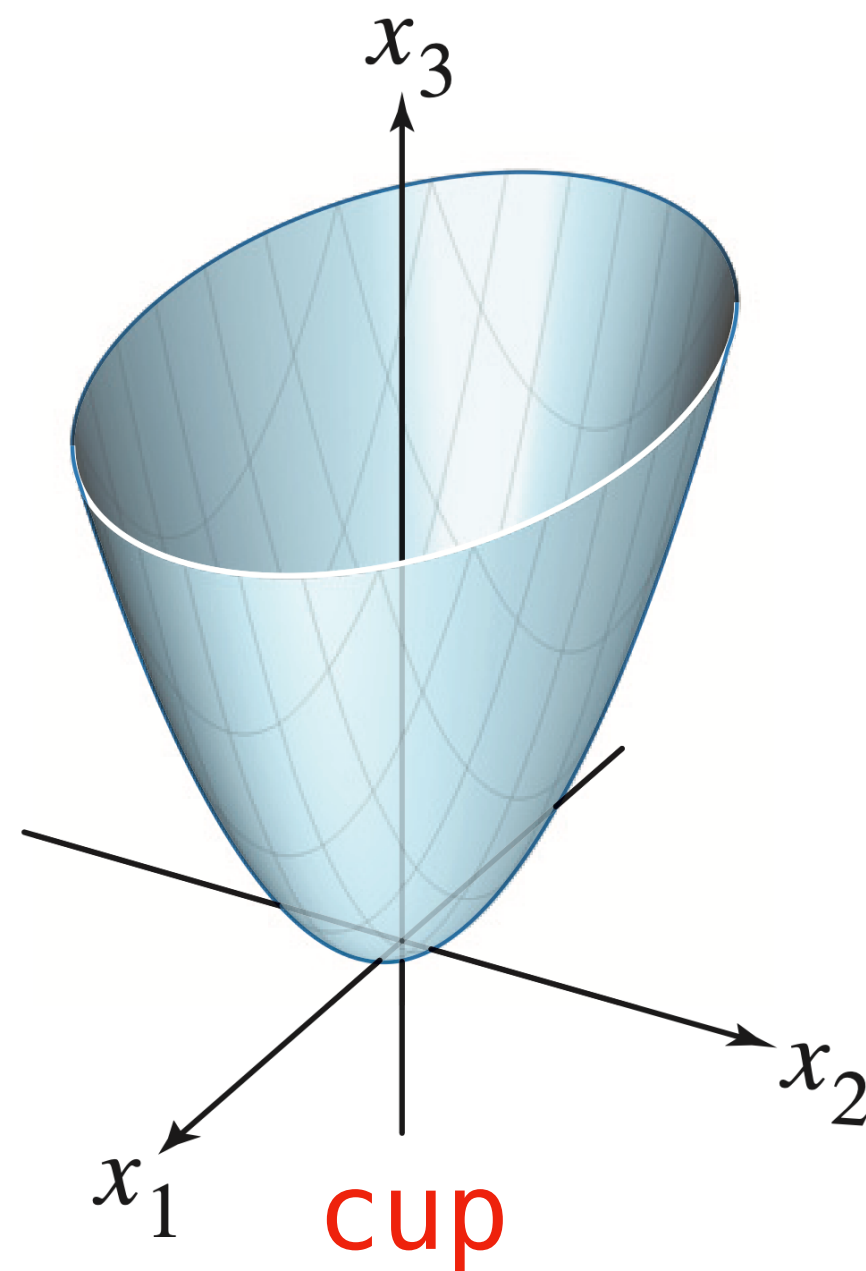
» if  $Q(\mathbf{x})$  has the term  $\alpha x_i x_j$ , then  $A_{ij} = A_{ji} = \frac{\alpha}{2}$

# Practice Problem

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 - 2x_3x_4 - 6x_4^2 + 7x_1x_3$$

*Find the symmetric matrix  $A$  such that  $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ .*

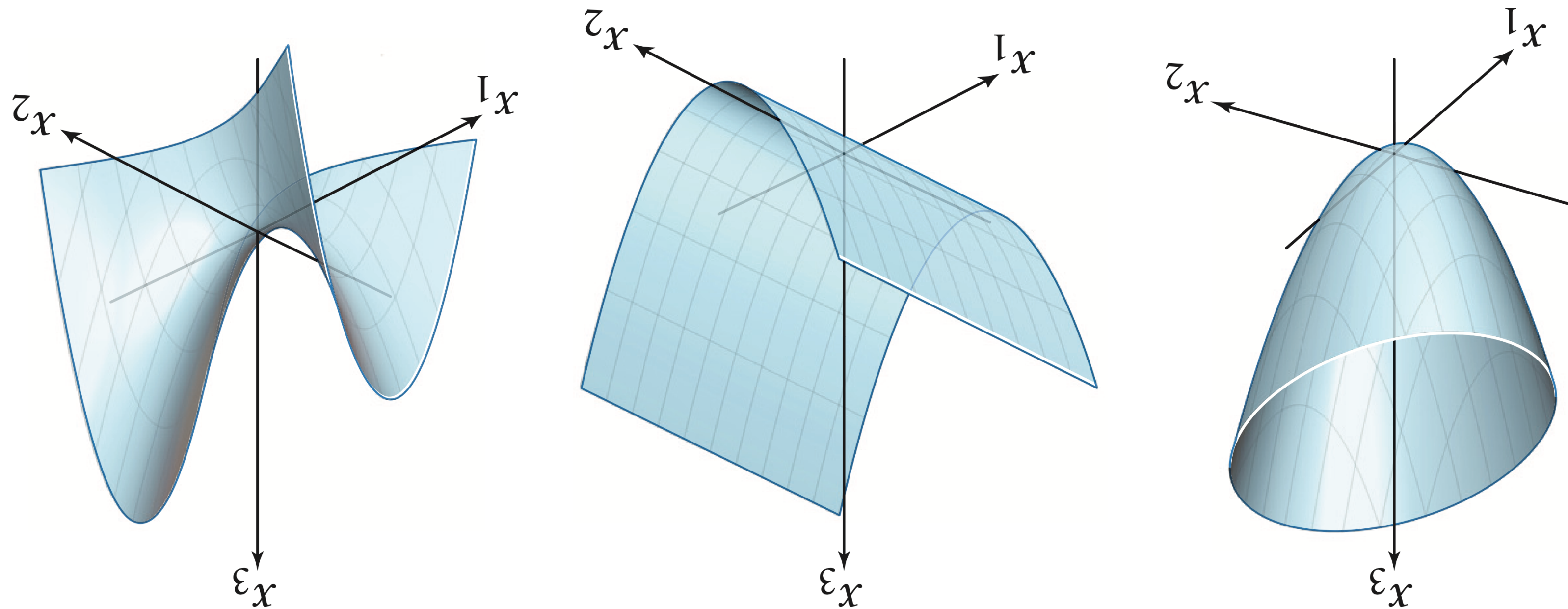
# Shapes of of Quadratic Forms



There are essentially three possible shapes (six if you include the negations).

*Can we determine what shape it will be mathematically?*

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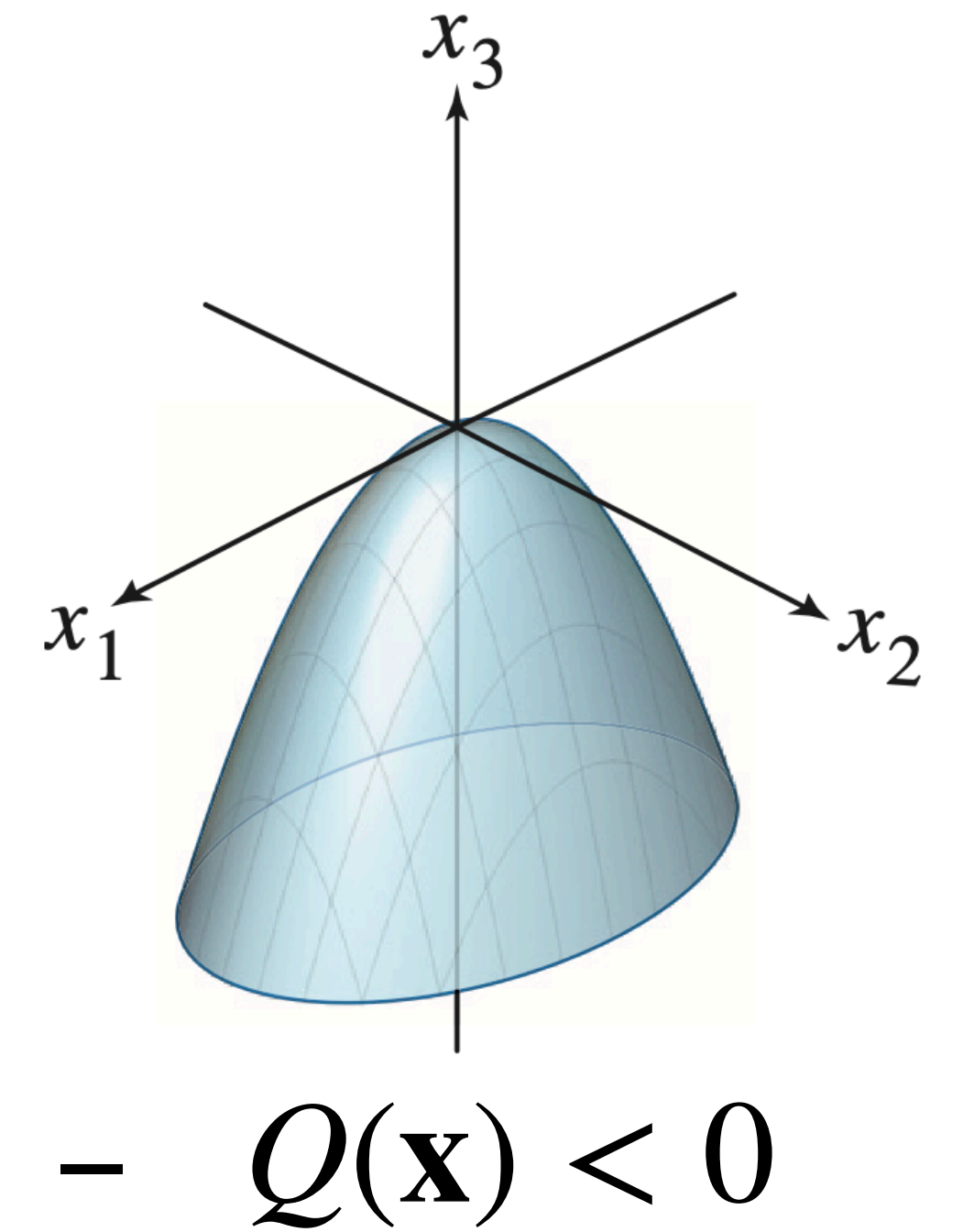
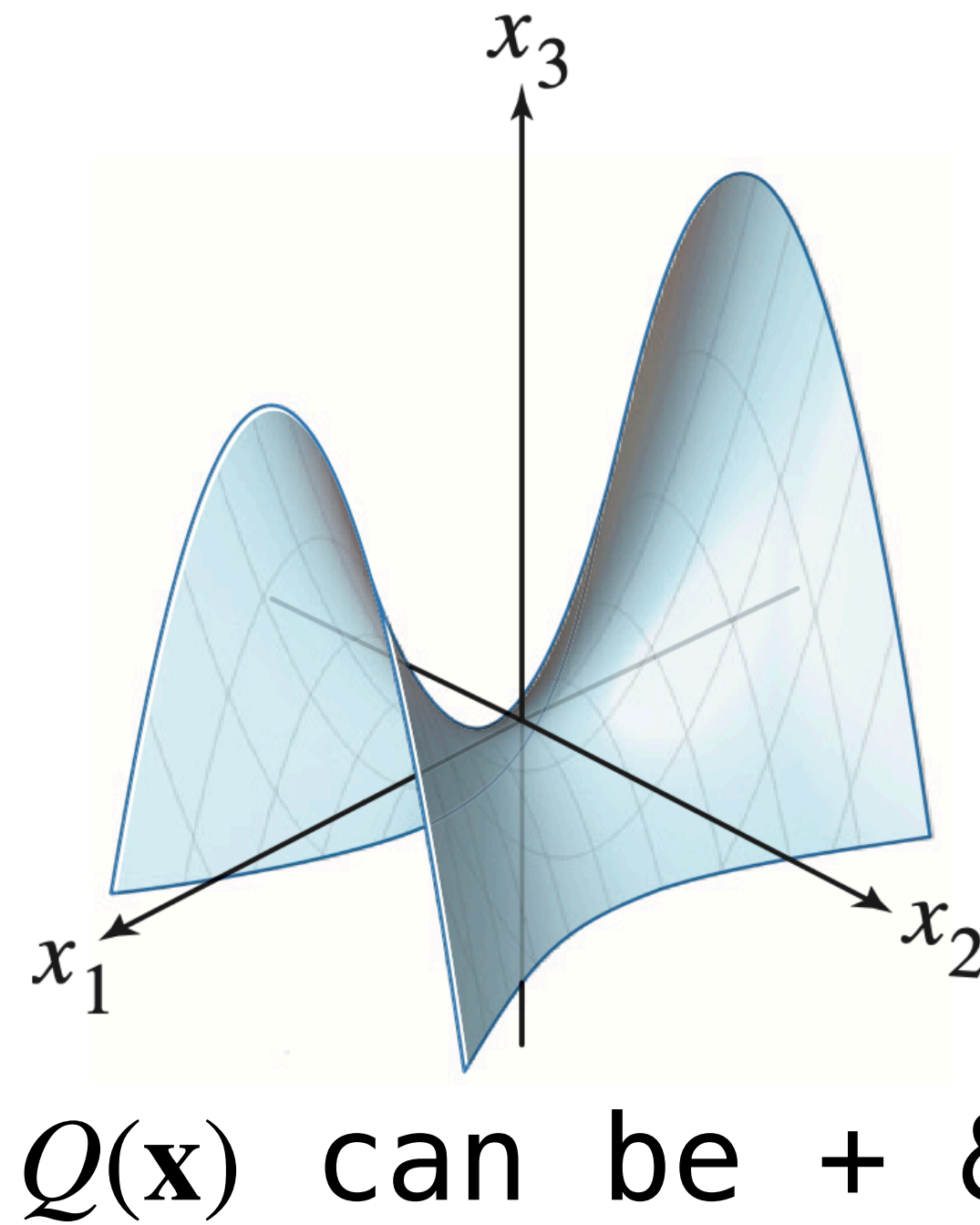
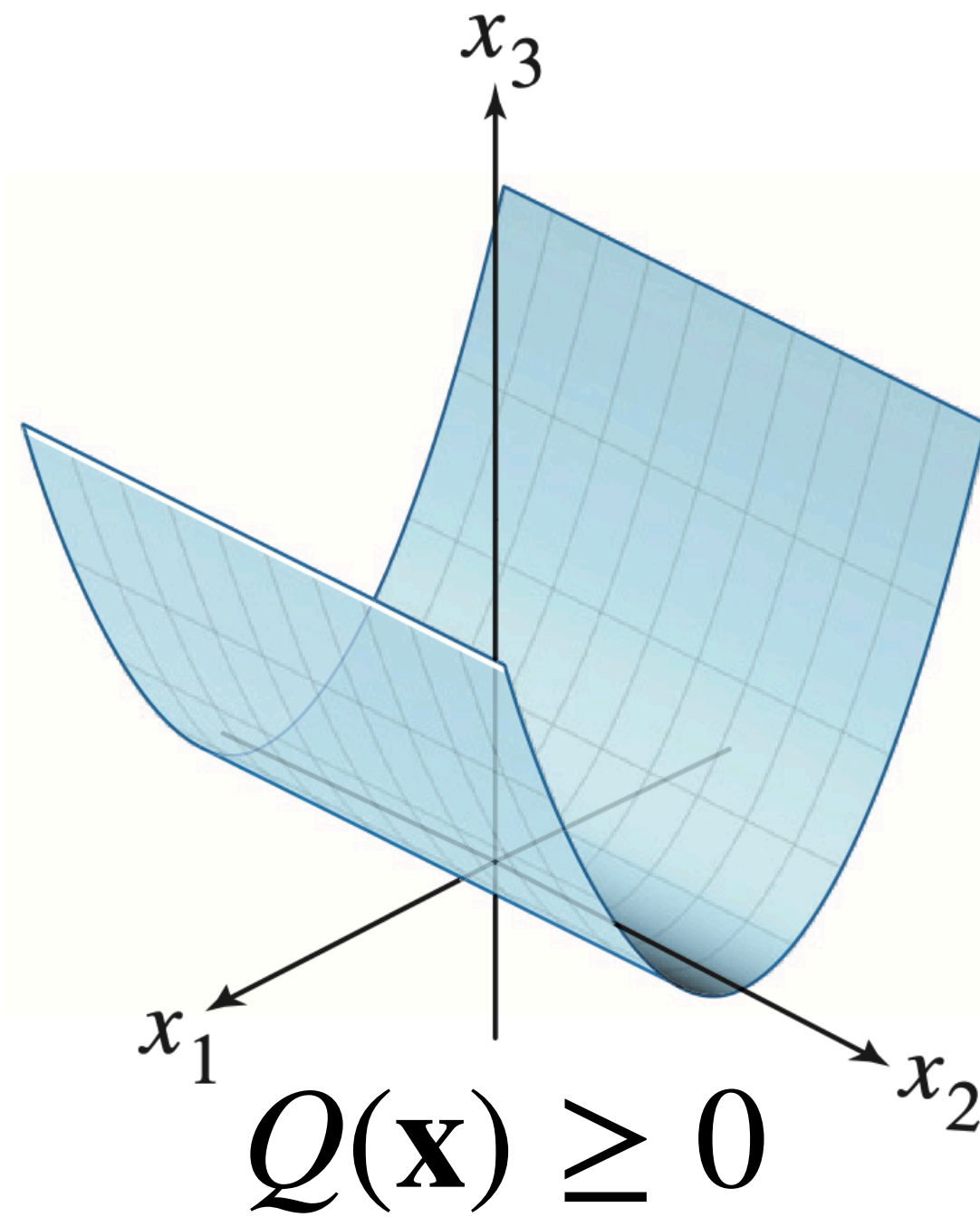
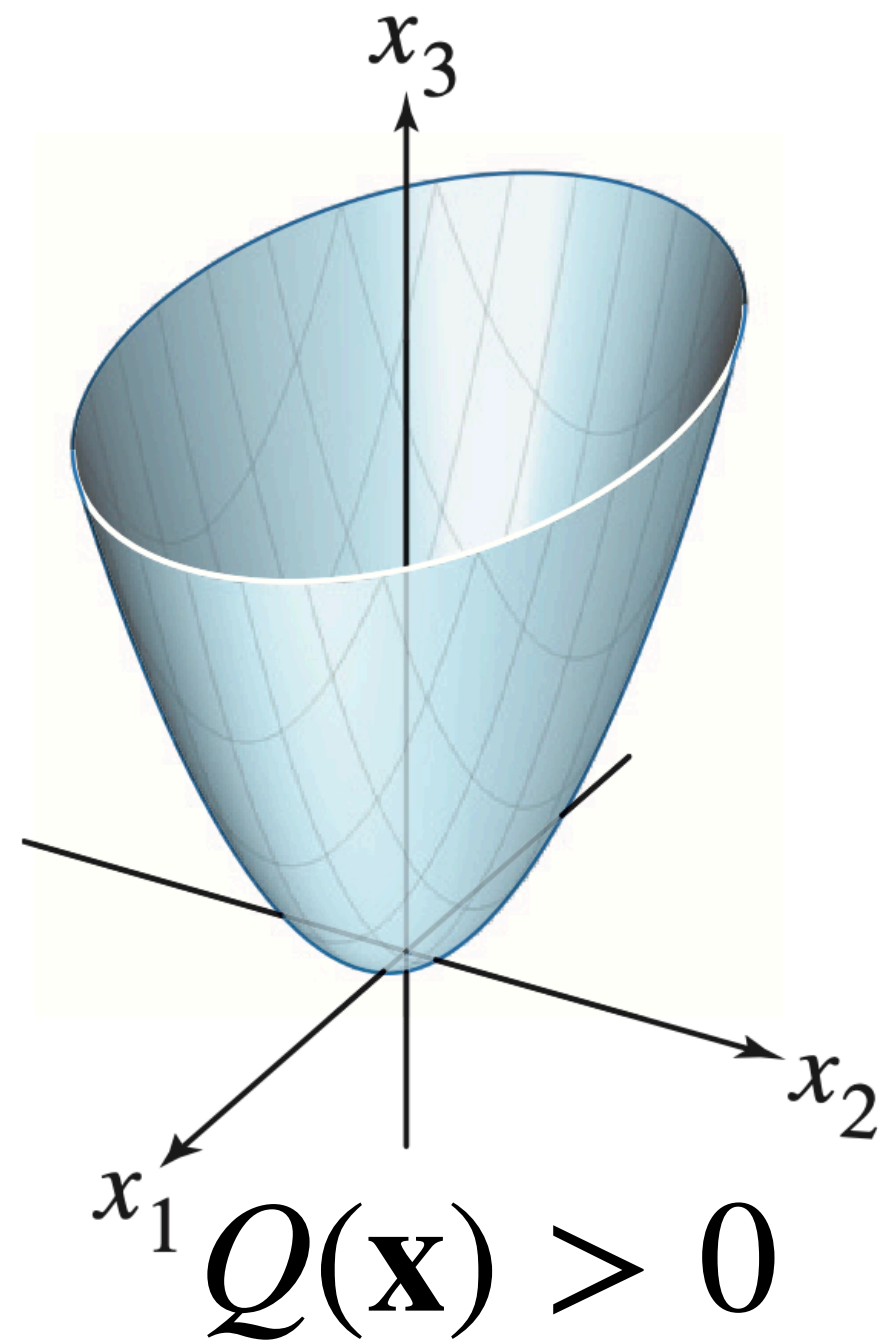
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# Definiteness

$$Q(\vec{0}) = 0 \quad \text{always}$$

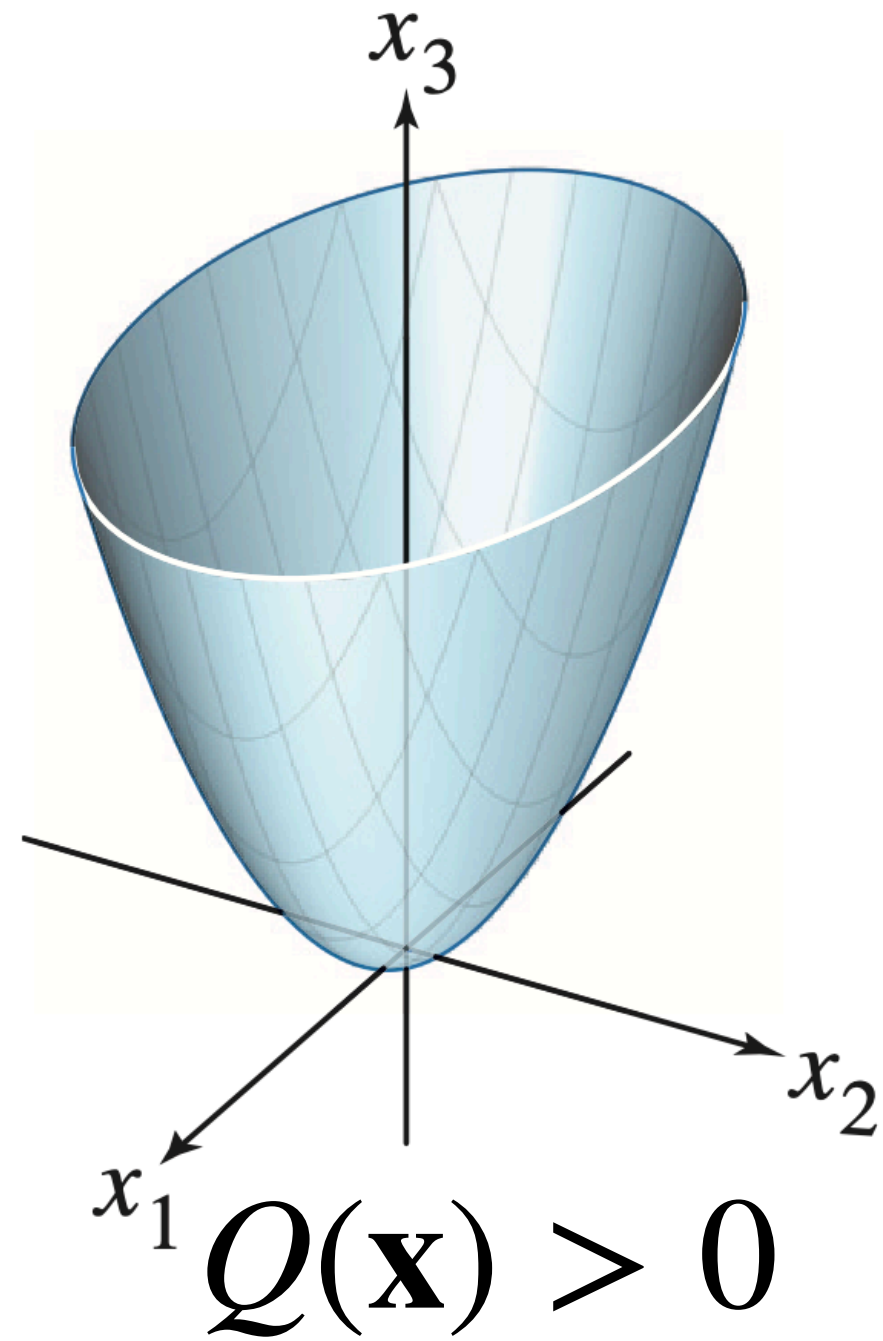


For  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , each of the above graphs satisfy the associated properties.

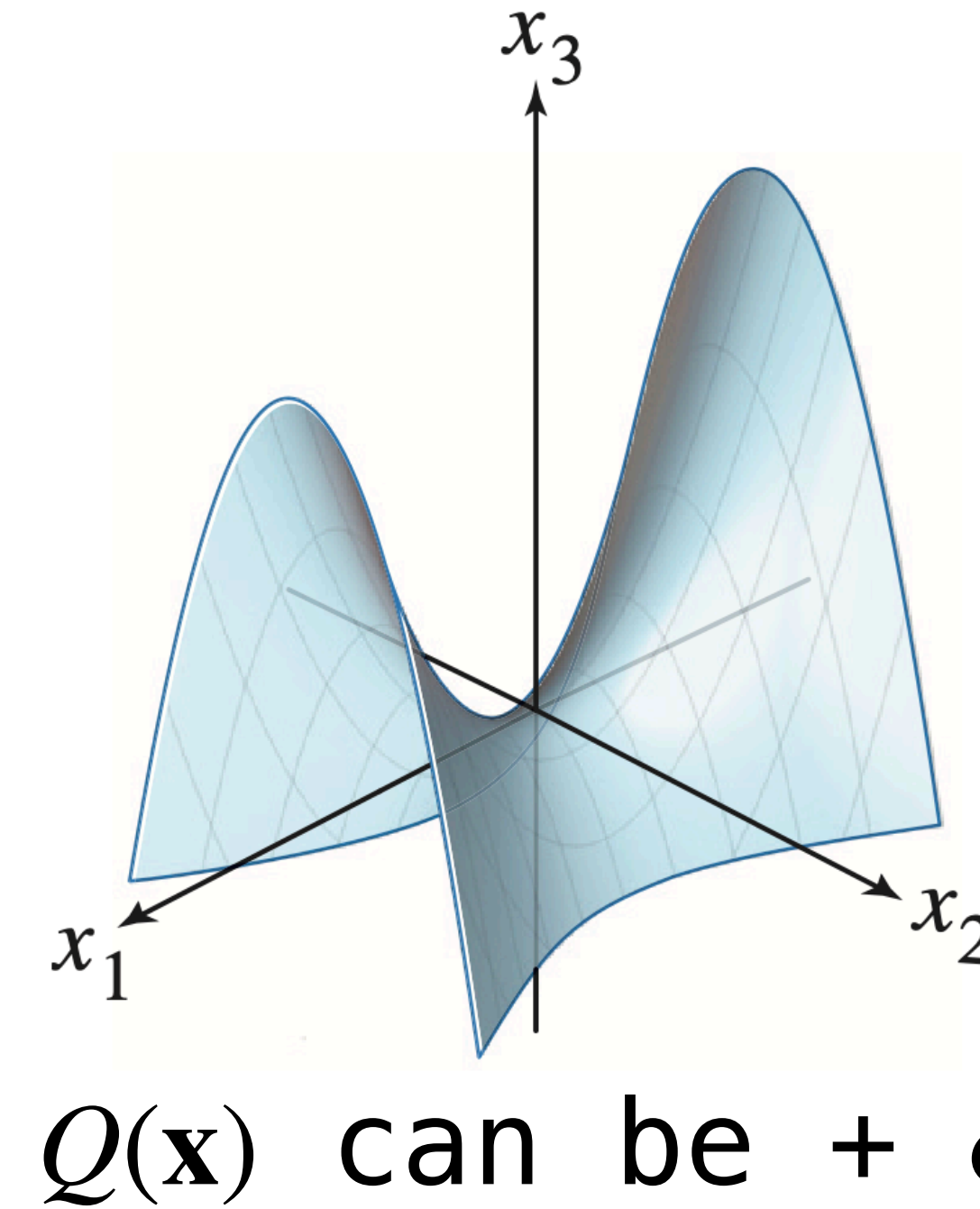
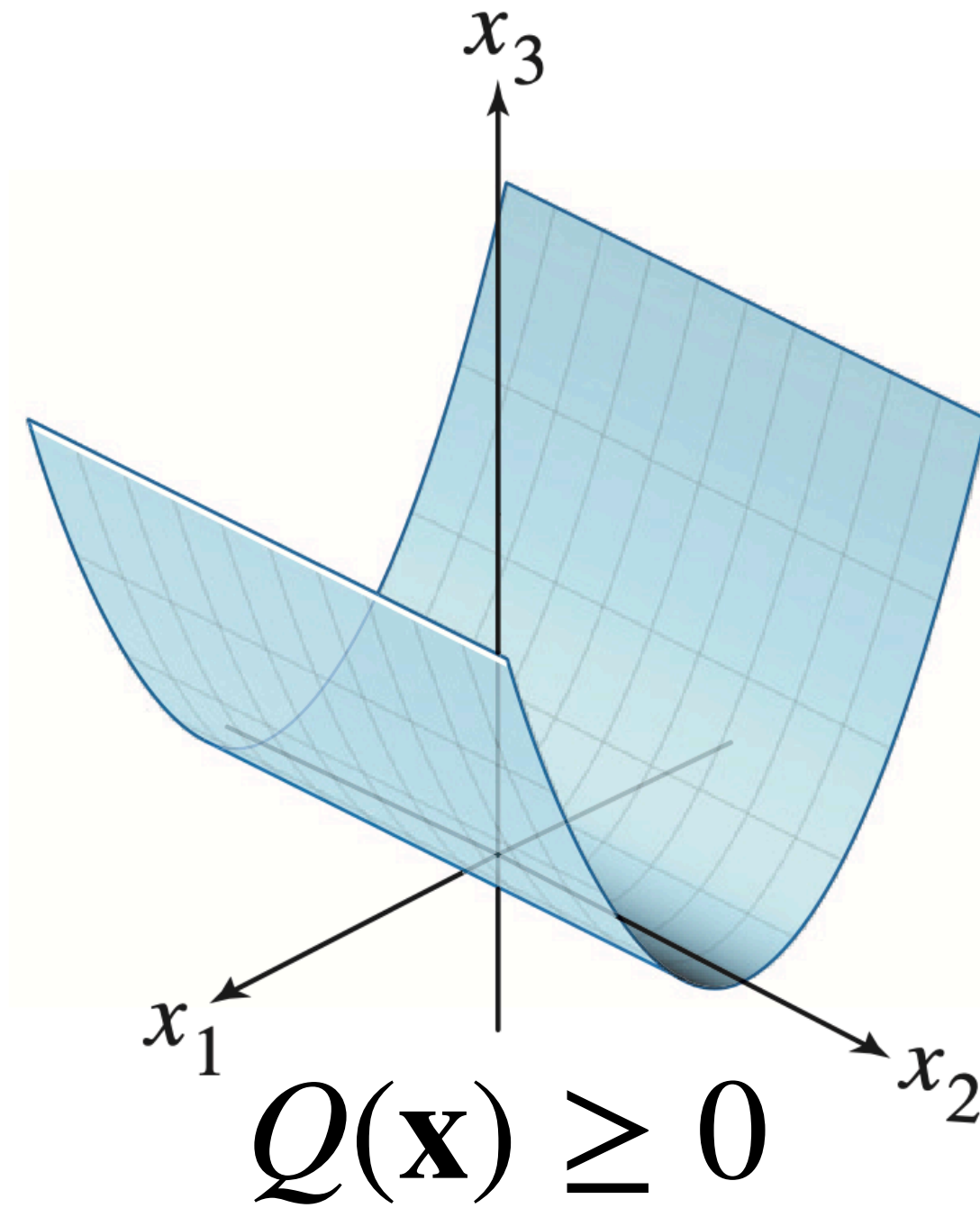
# Definiteness

positive semidefinite

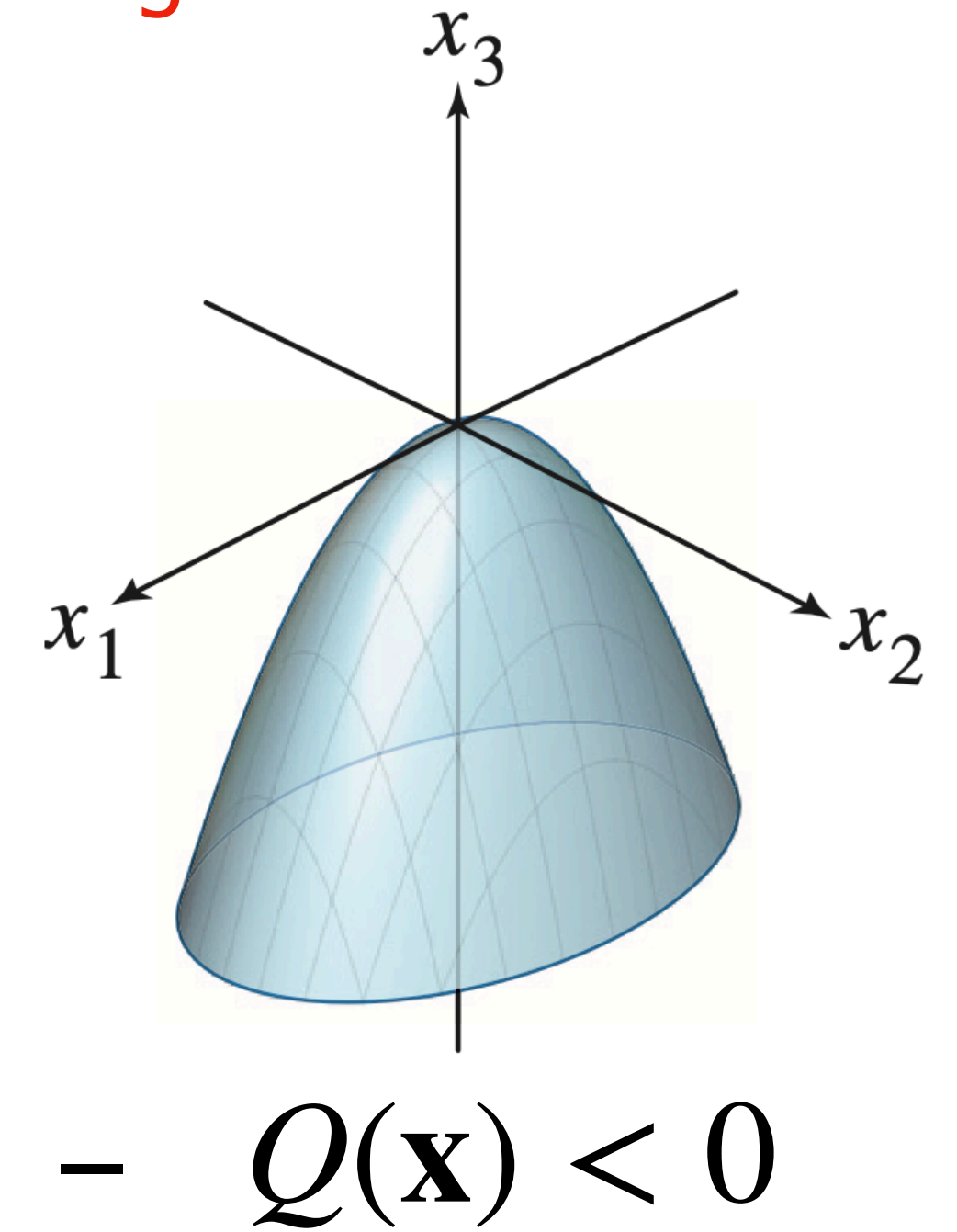
negative definite



positive definite



indefinite



For  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , each of the above graphs satisfy the associated properties.



# Definiteness and Eigenvectors

$v$  is an eigenvector of  $A$

$$Q(x) > 0 \Rightarrow v^T A v = v^T \lambda v = \lambda \langle v, v \rangle = \lambda \|v\|^2$$

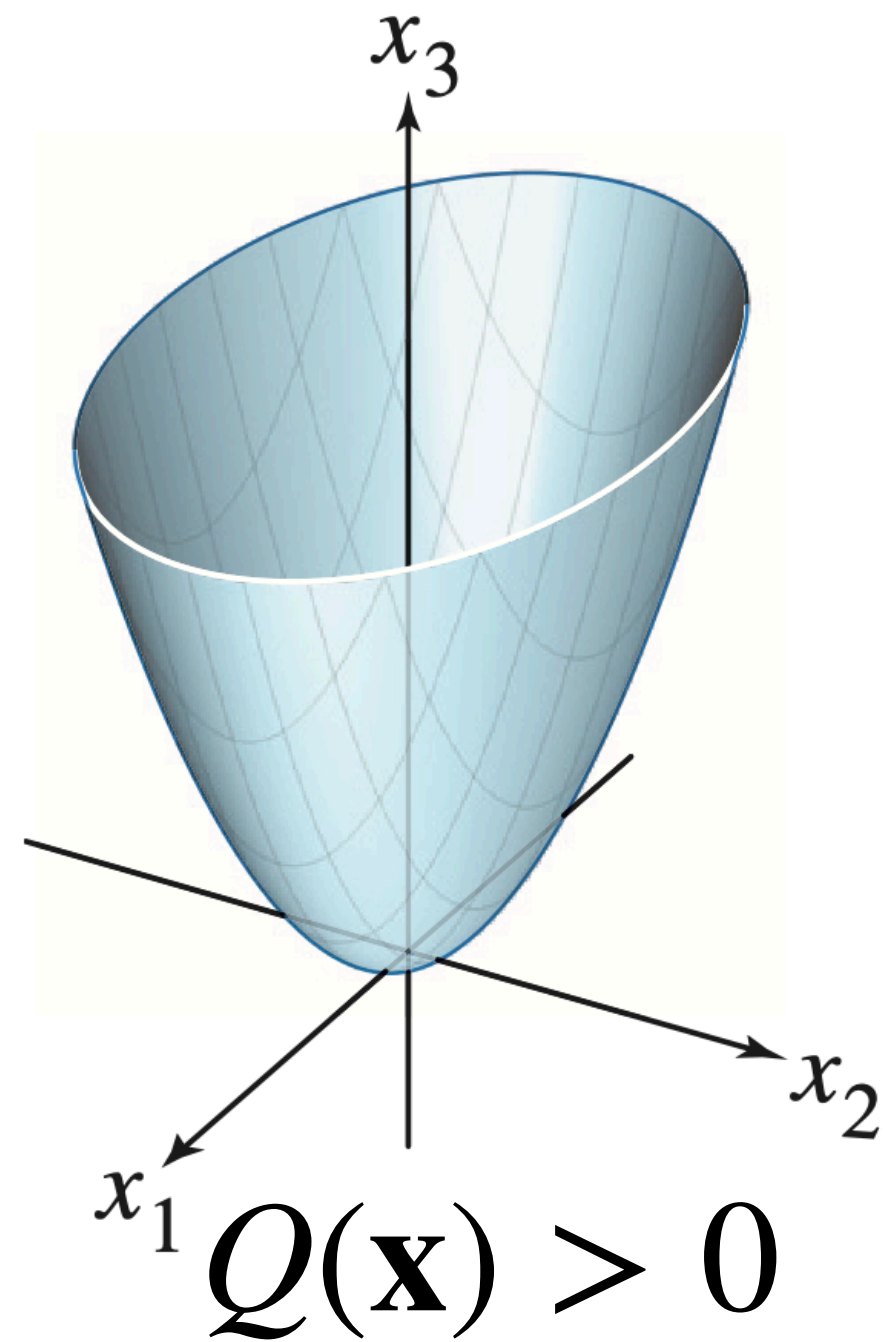
**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , the quadratic form  $x^T A x$

- » **positive definite**  $\equiv$  all positive eigenvalues
- » **positive semidefinite**  $\equiv$  all nonnegative eigenvalues
- » **indefinite**  $\equiv$  positive and negative eigenvalues
- » **negative definite**  $\equiv$  all negative eigenvalues

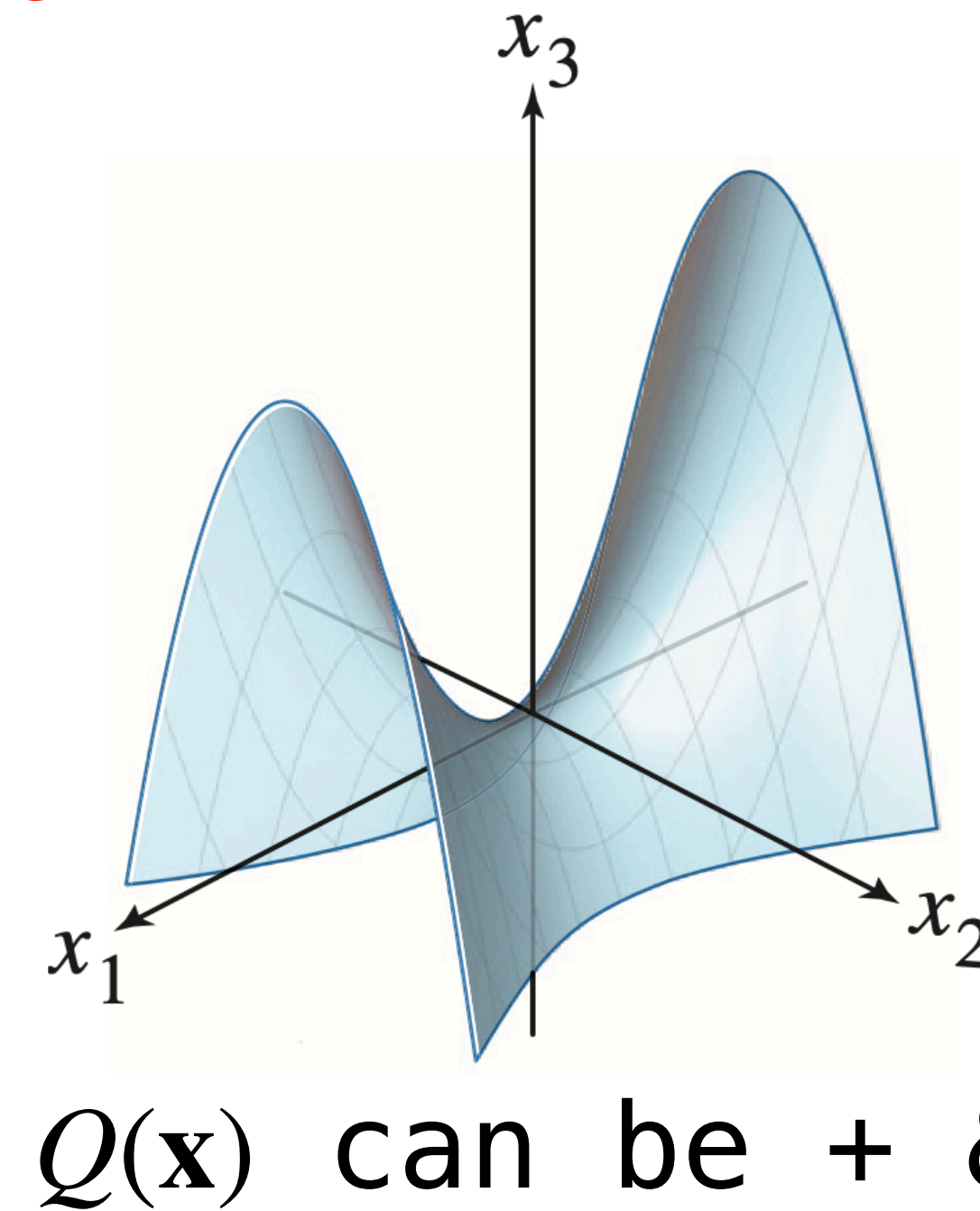
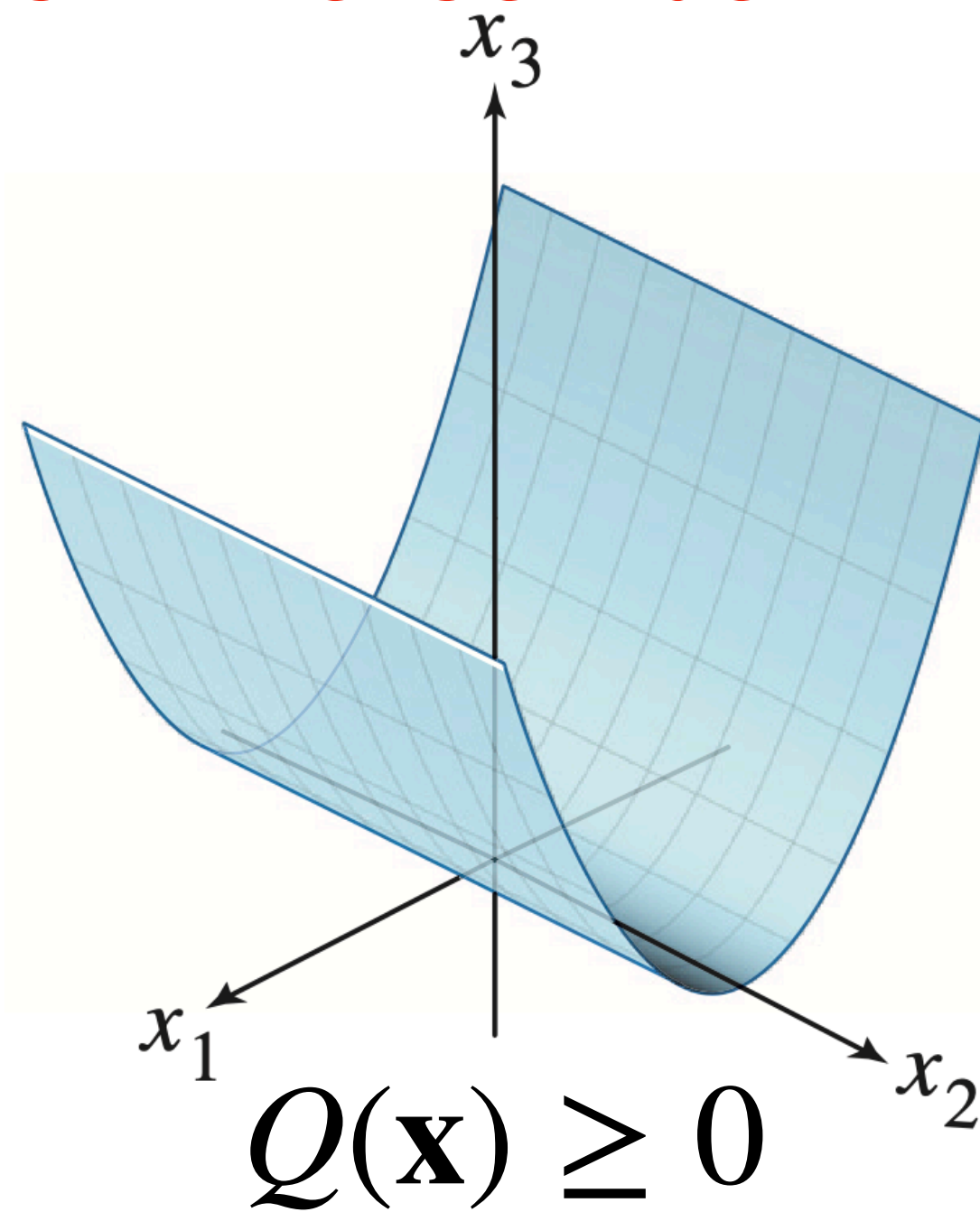
# Definiteness

all nonneg. eigenvals  
positive semidefinite

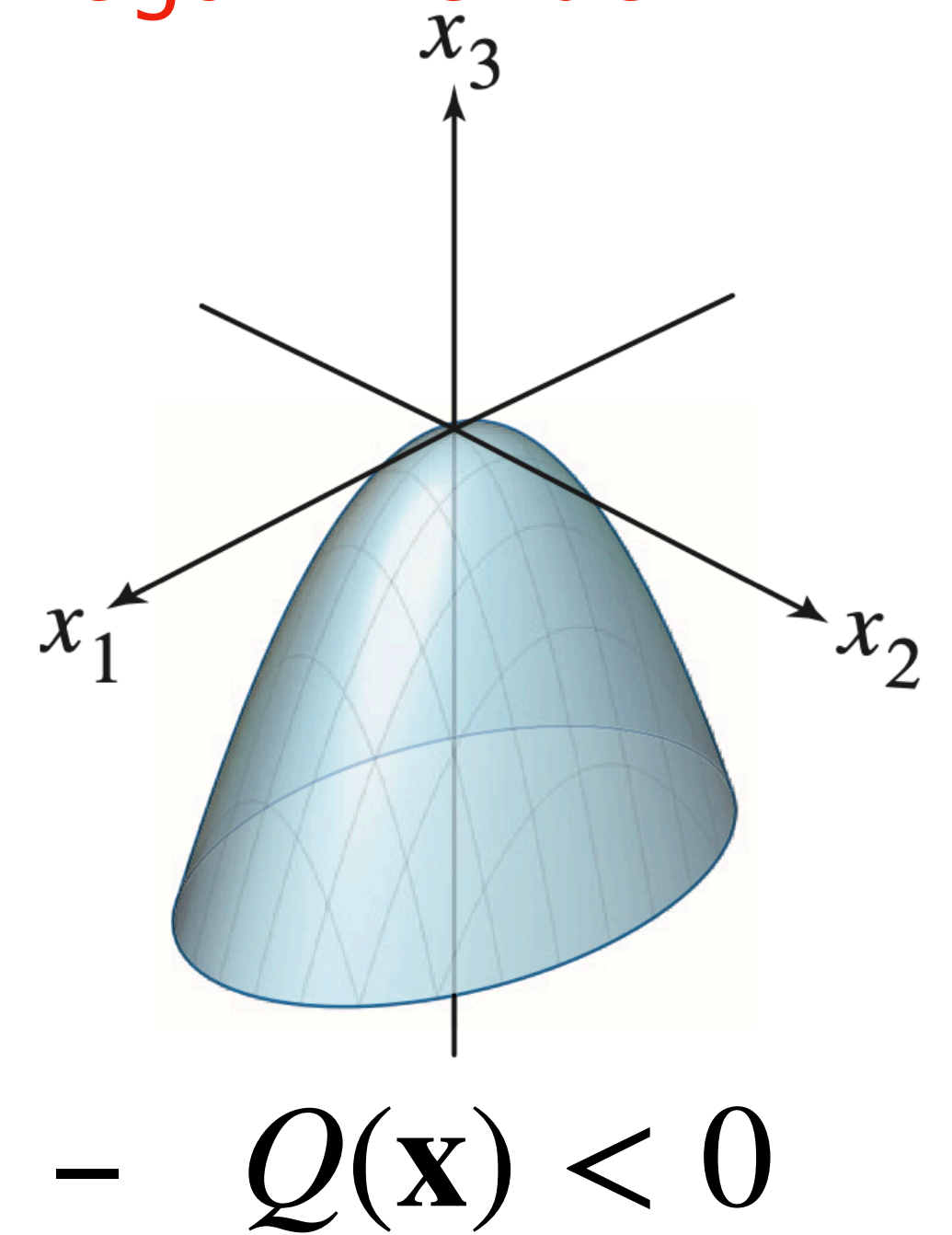
all neg. eigenvals  
negative definite



positive definite  
all pos. eigenvals



indefinite  
pos. and neg. eigenvals



# Example

$$\begin{aligned}\det(A - \lambda I) &= (3 - \lambda)(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 - 4) \\ &= (3 - \lambda)(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3) = (3 - \lambda)(\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 1)\end{aligned}$$

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 4x_2x_3 + x_3^2$$

$$\lambda = -3, 1$$

Let's determine which case this is:

$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x^T A x, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

*indefinite*

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \frac{(3 - \lambda) \cancel{(1 - \lambda)} ((1 - \lambda)^2 - 4)}{\cancel{1 - \lambda}}$$

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \lambda & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \lambda & 2 \\ 0 & 2(1 - \lambda) & (1 - \lambda)^2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \lambda & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & (1 - \lambda)^2 - 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Constrained Optimization

# In General

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Given a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a set of vectors  $X$  from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  the **constrained minimization problem** for  $f$  over  $X$  is the problem of determining

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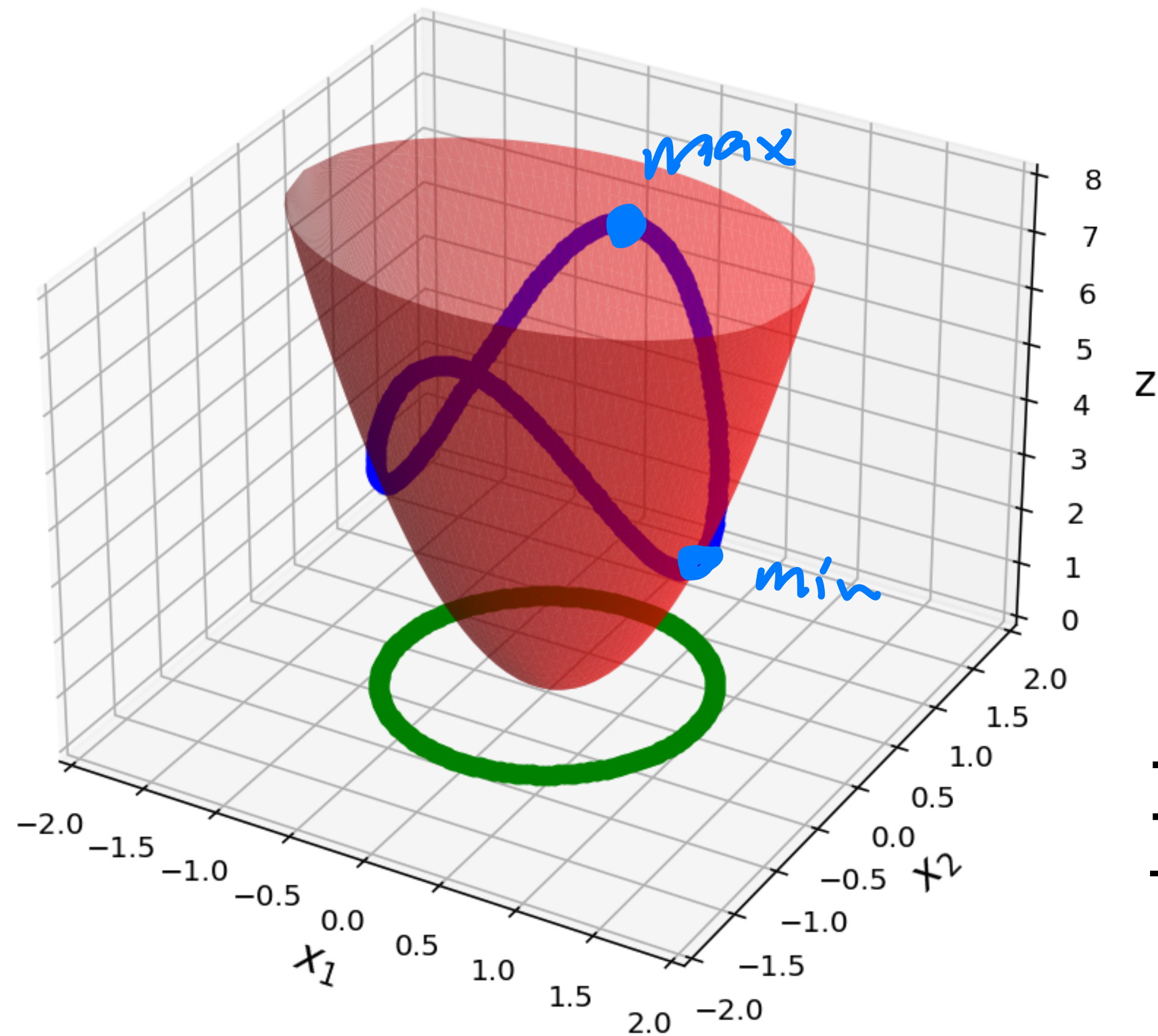
(analogously for maximization)

*Find the smallest value of  $f(\mathbf{v})$  subject to choosing a vector in  $X$*



# Constrained Optimization for Quadratic Forms and Unit Vectors

$$\text{mini/maximize } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$$



It's common to constraint to unit vectors.

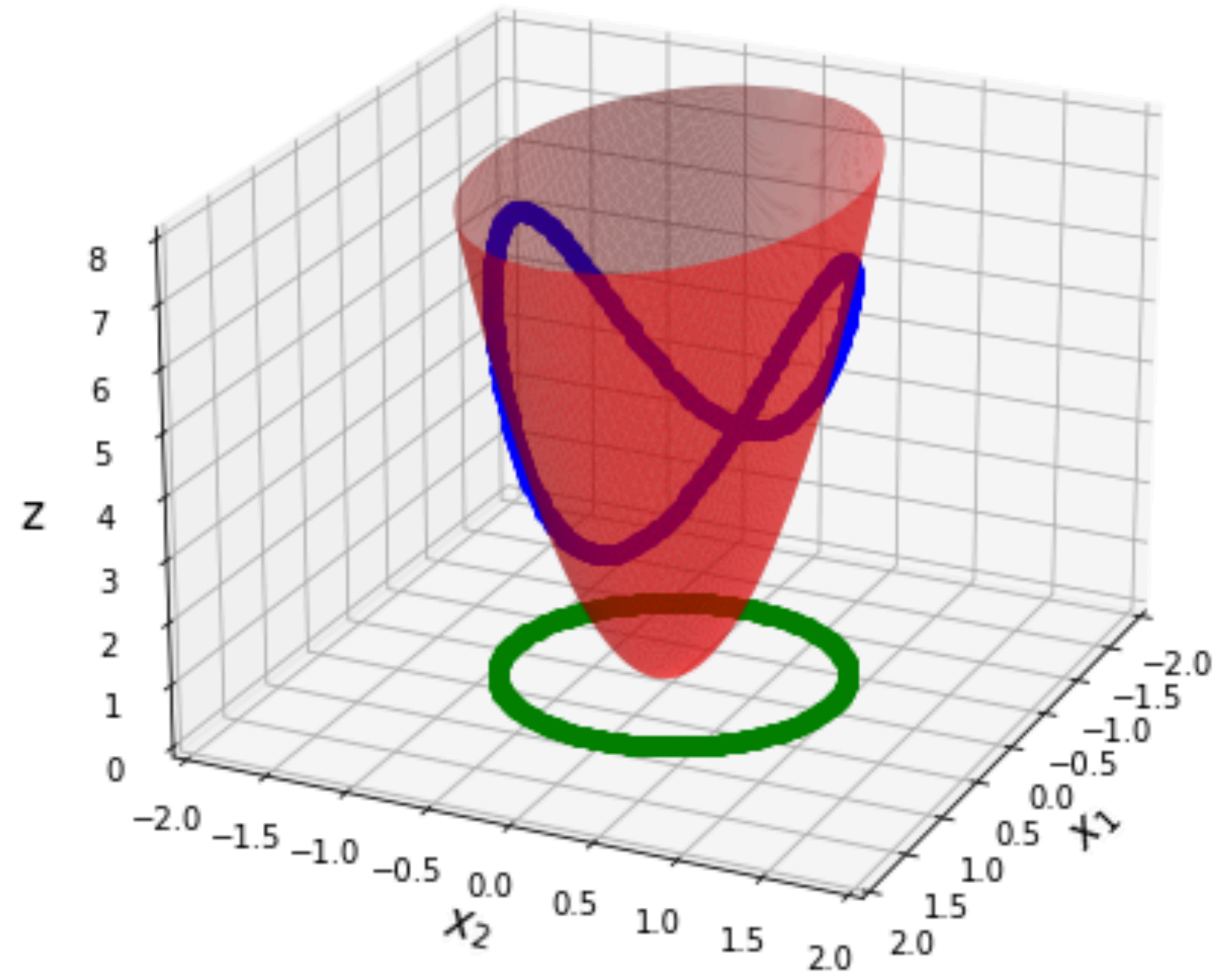
**Example:**  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

What are the min/max values?:

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2 &\leq 7x_1^2 + 7x_2^2 \\ &= 7(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ &= 7(1) \end{aligned}$$

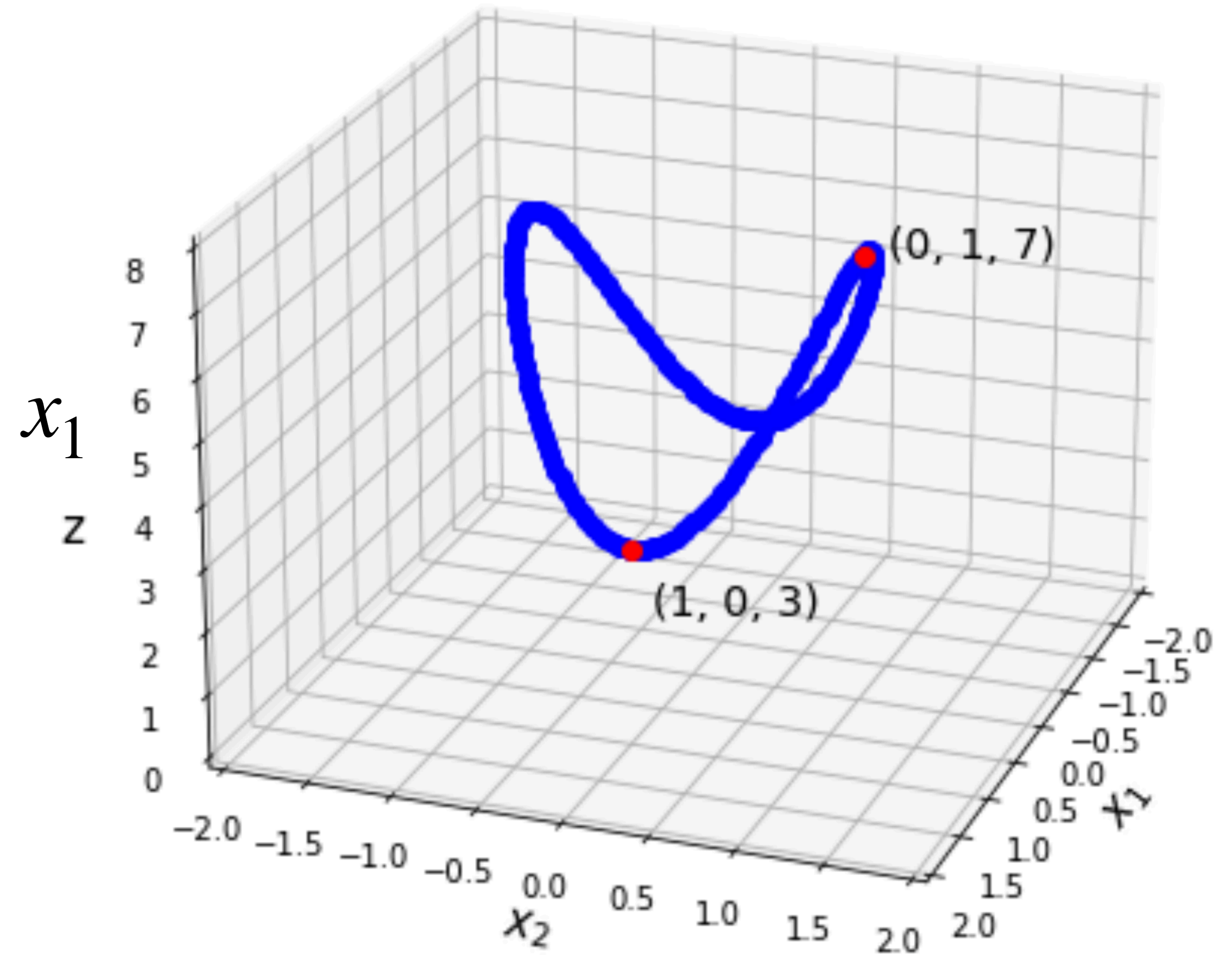
$$3(0) + 7(1) = 7$$

(similar for min)



**Example:**  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

The minimum and maximum values are attained when the "weight" of the vector is distributed all on  $x_1$  or  $x_2$ .



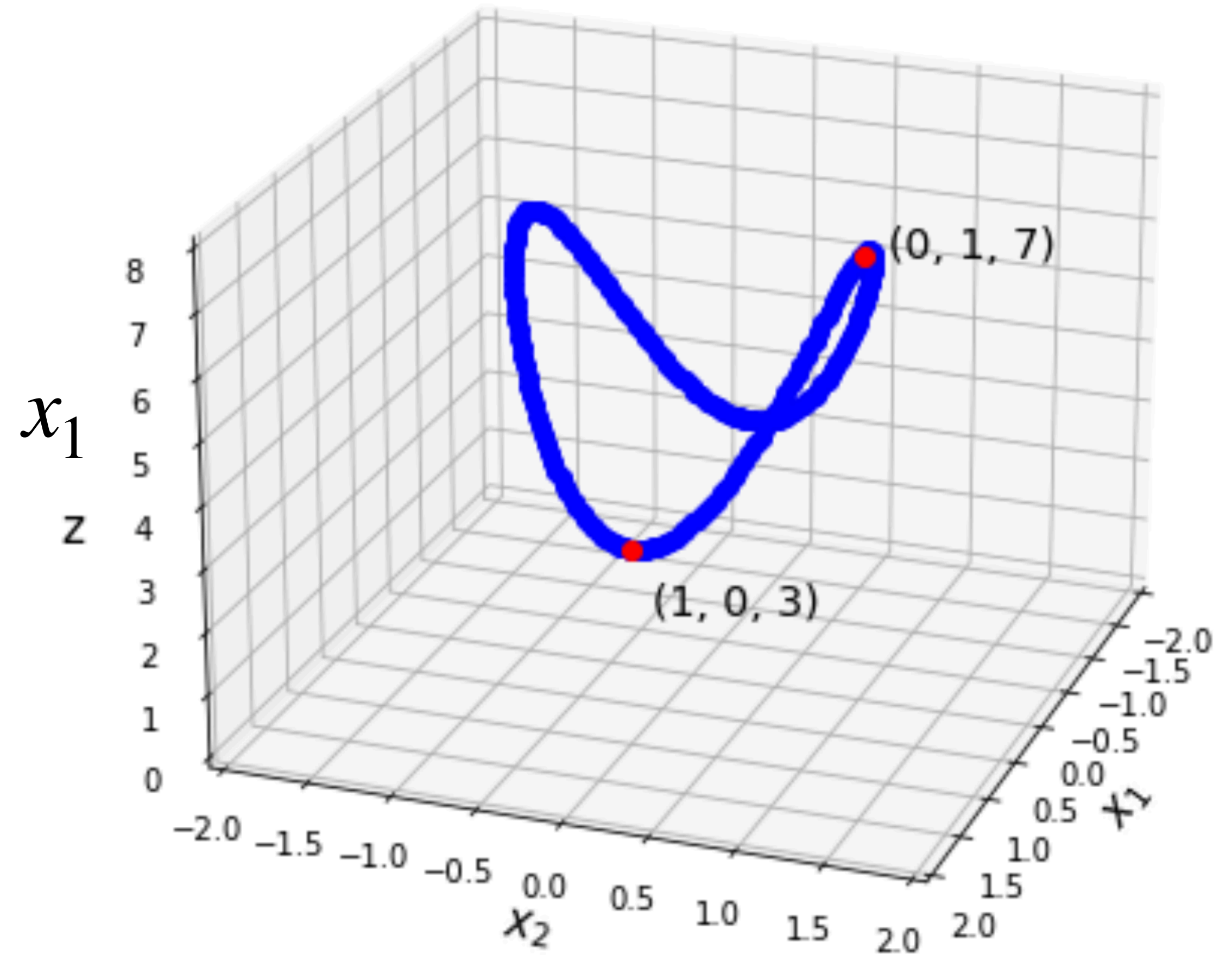


**Example:**  $3x_1^2 + 7x_2^2$

What is the matrix?:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 3, 7$$



# Constrained Optimization and Eigenvalues

**Theorem.** For a symmetric matrix  $A$ , with *largest* eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  and *smallest* eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$

$$\max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|=1} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \lambda_1 \qquad \min_{\|\mathbf{x}\|=1} \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} = \lambda_n$$

*No matter the shape of  $A$ , this will hold.*

# How To: Constrained Optimization

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**Problem.** Find the maximum value of  $\mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$  subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$ .

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*(Use NumPy)*

# Practice Problem

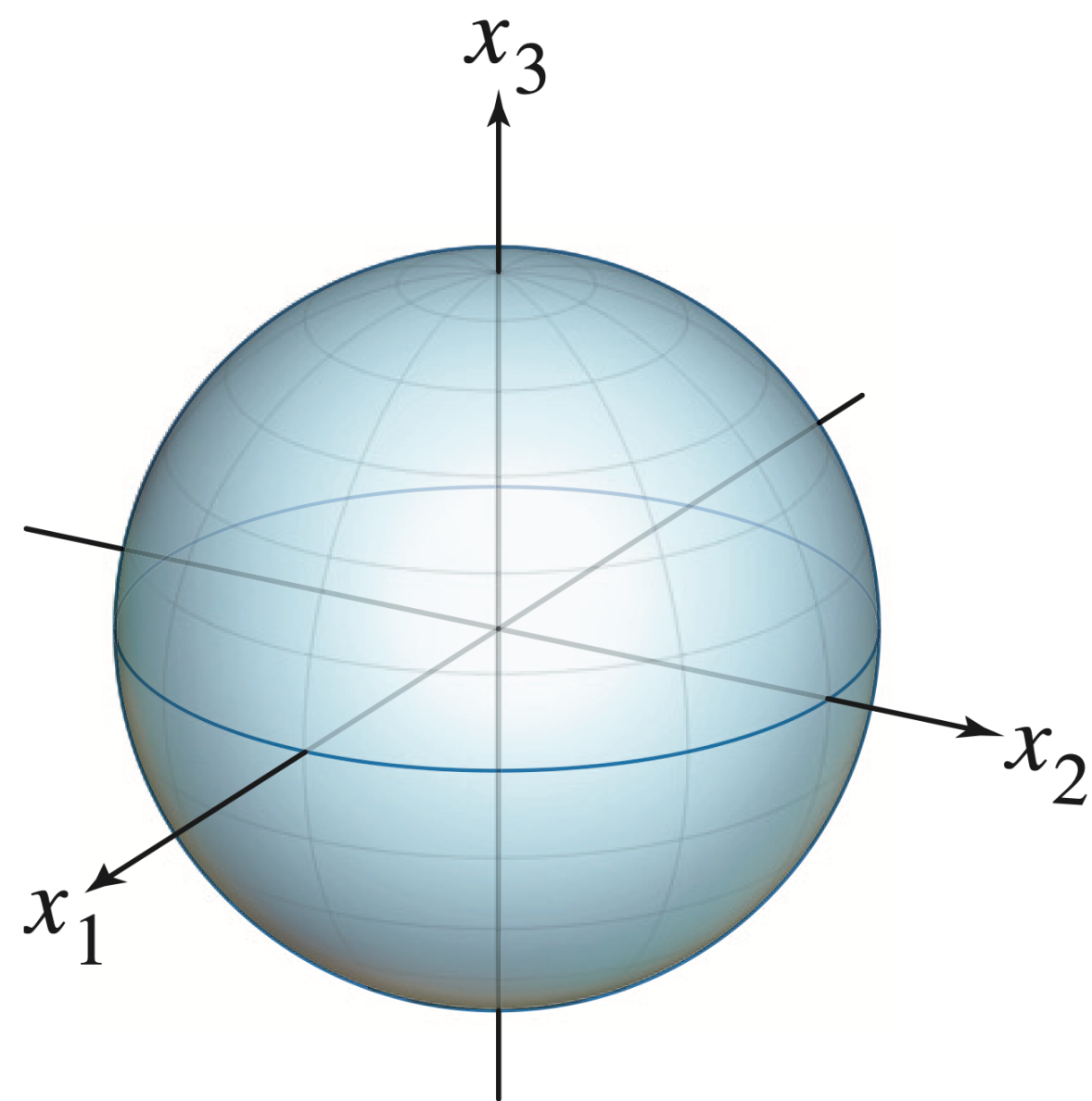
$$Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 4x_2x_3 + x_3^2$$

Find the maximum value of  $Q(\mathbf{x})$  subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$

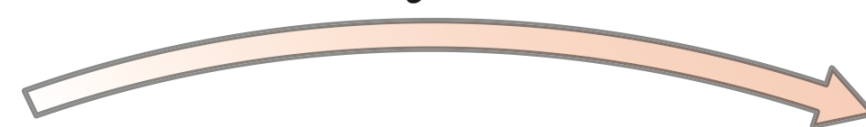
# Singular Value Decomposition (Looking Ahead)

# Question

*What shape is a the unit sphere after a linear transformation?*



Multiplication  
by  $A$

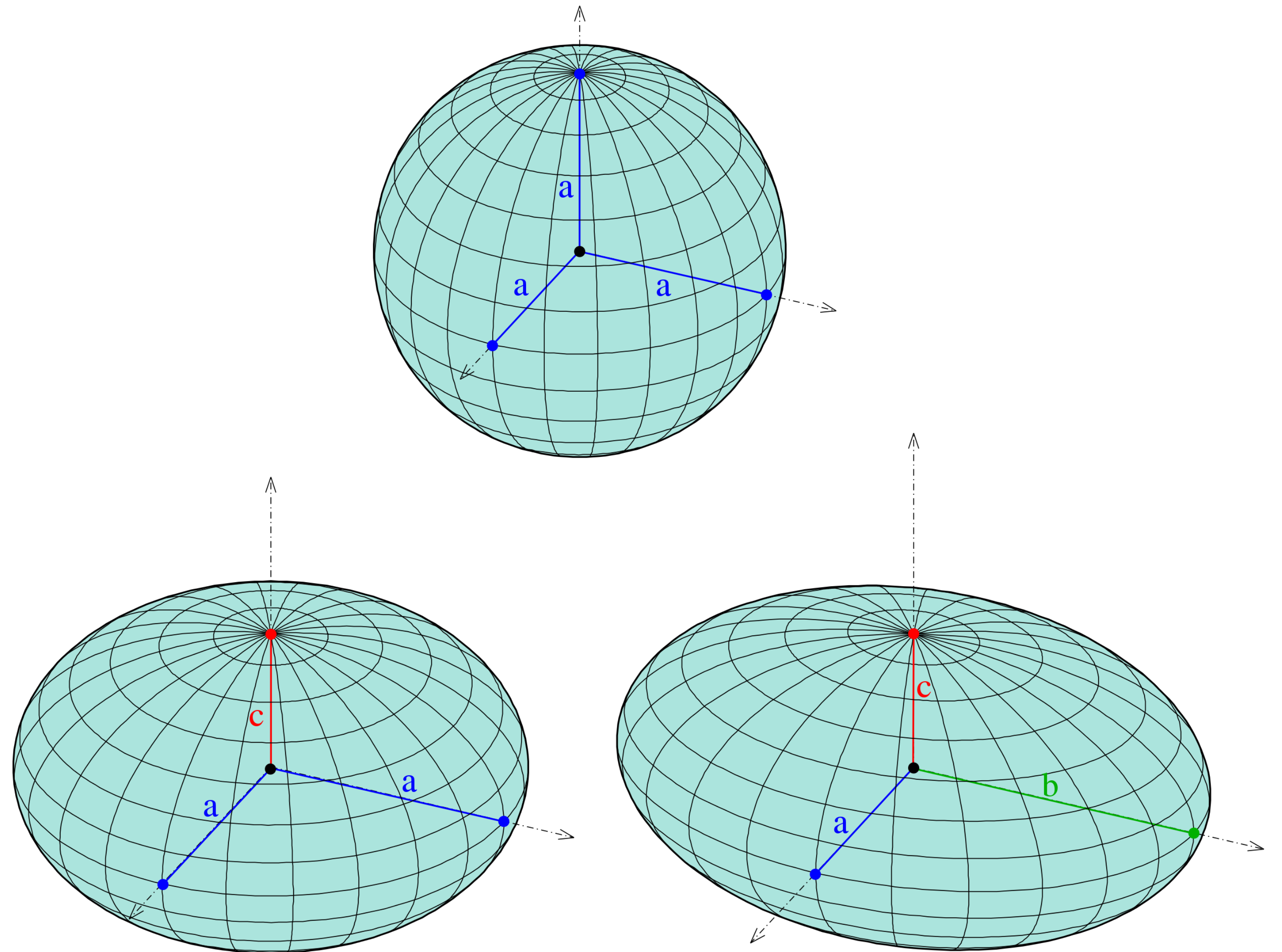


???

# Ellipsoids

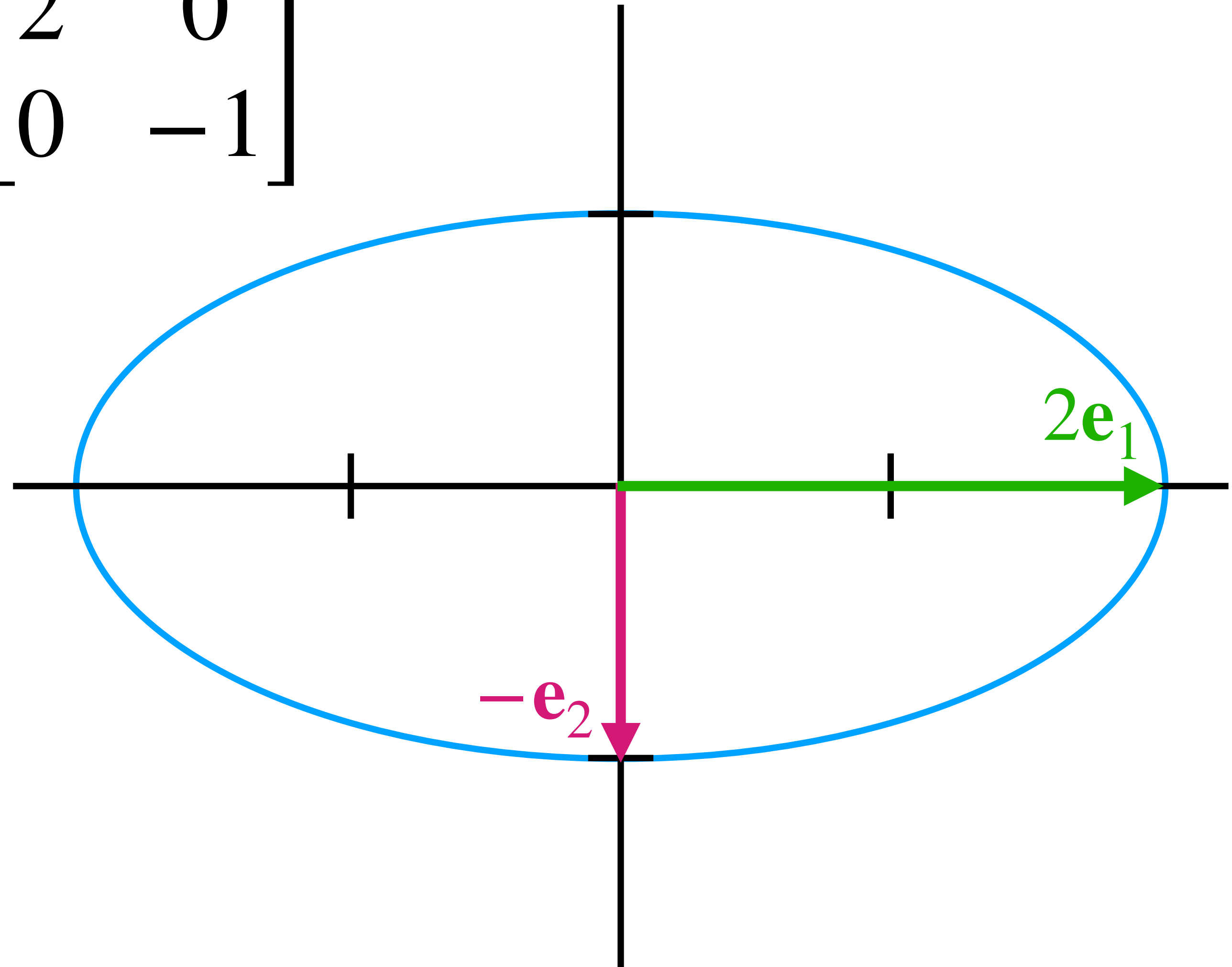
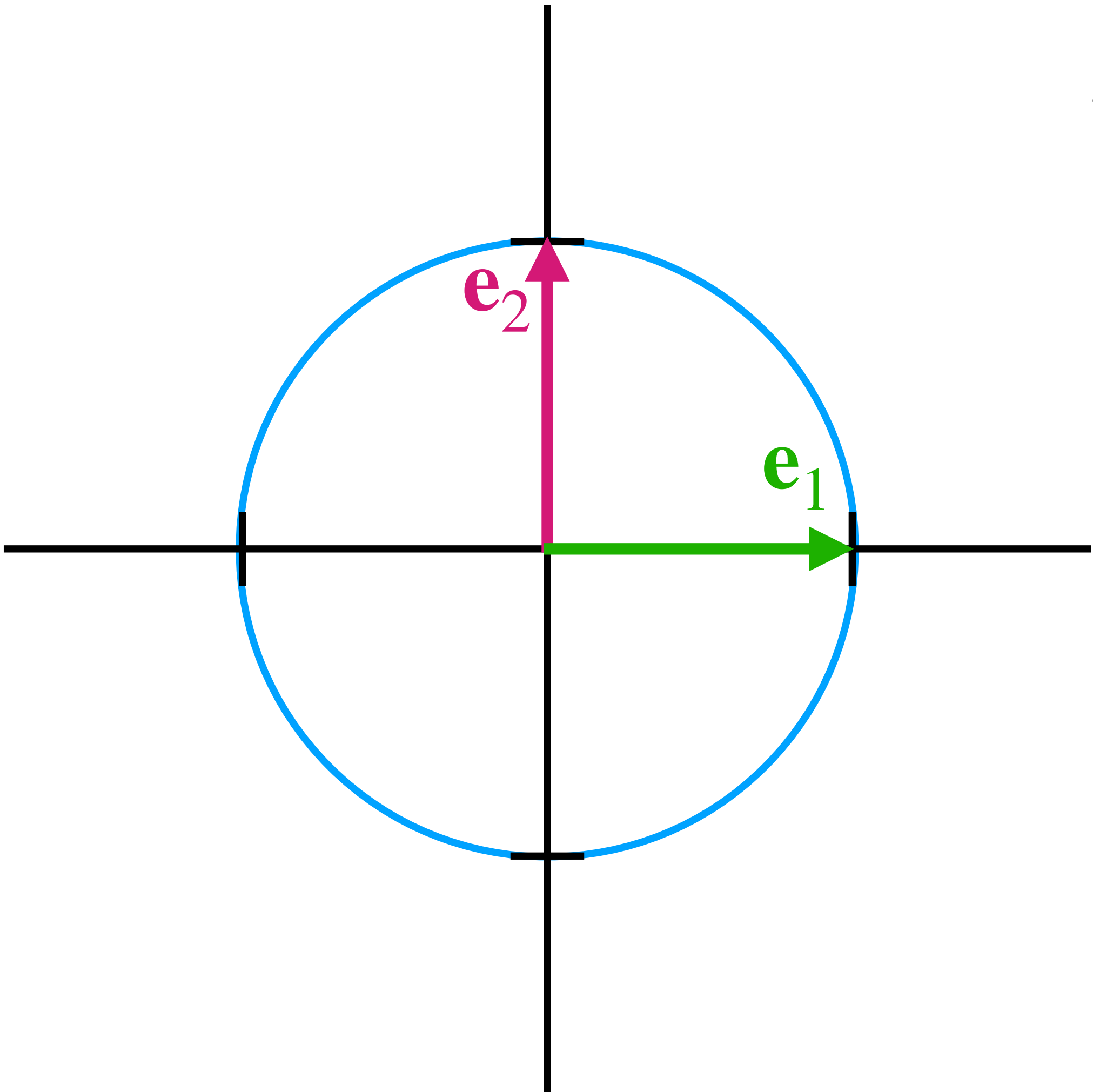
Ellipsoids are spheres "stretched" in orthogonal directions called the **axes of symmetry** or the **principle axes**.

**Linear transformations maps spheres to ellipsoids.**

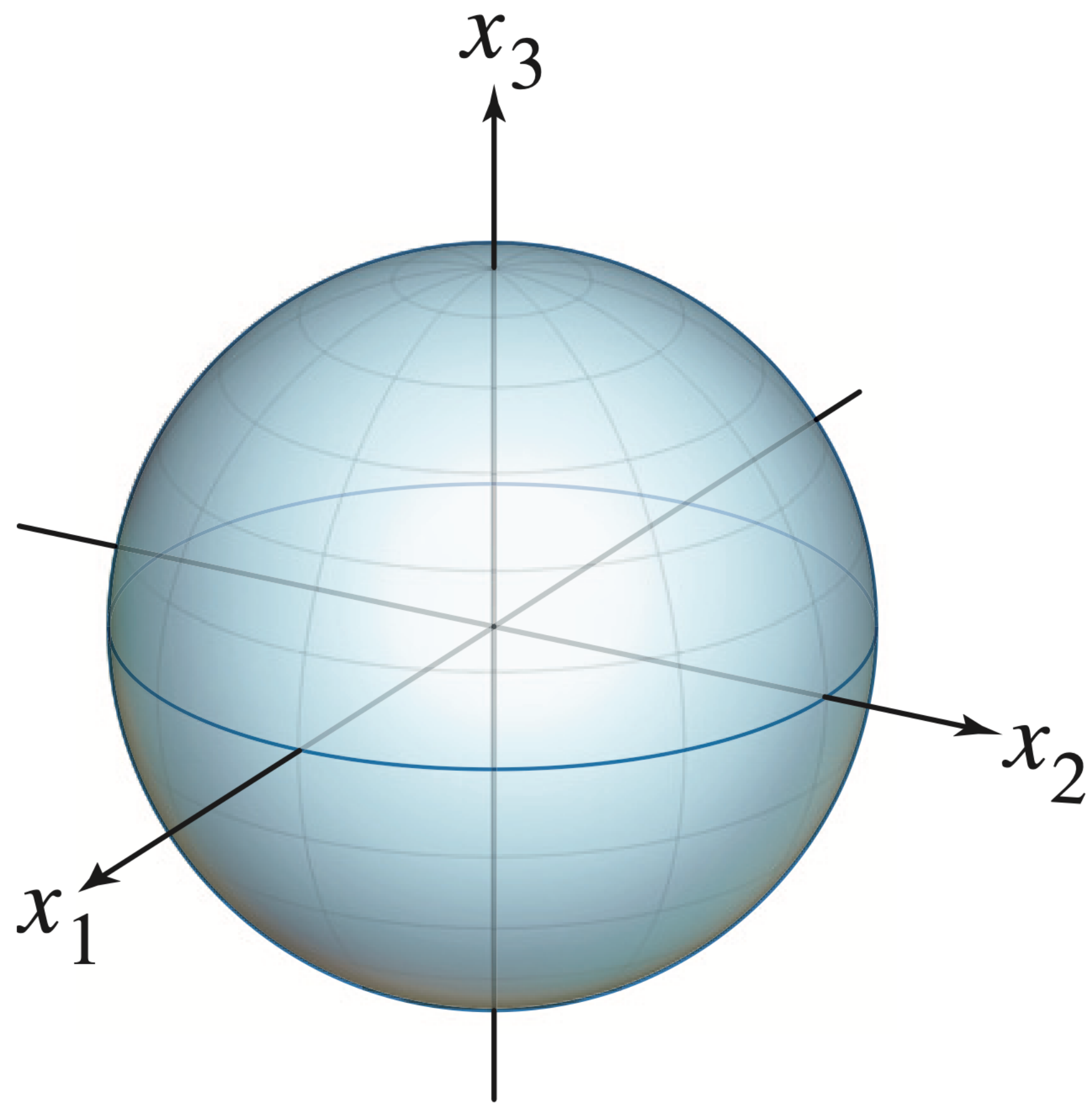


# Simple Example : Scaling Matrices

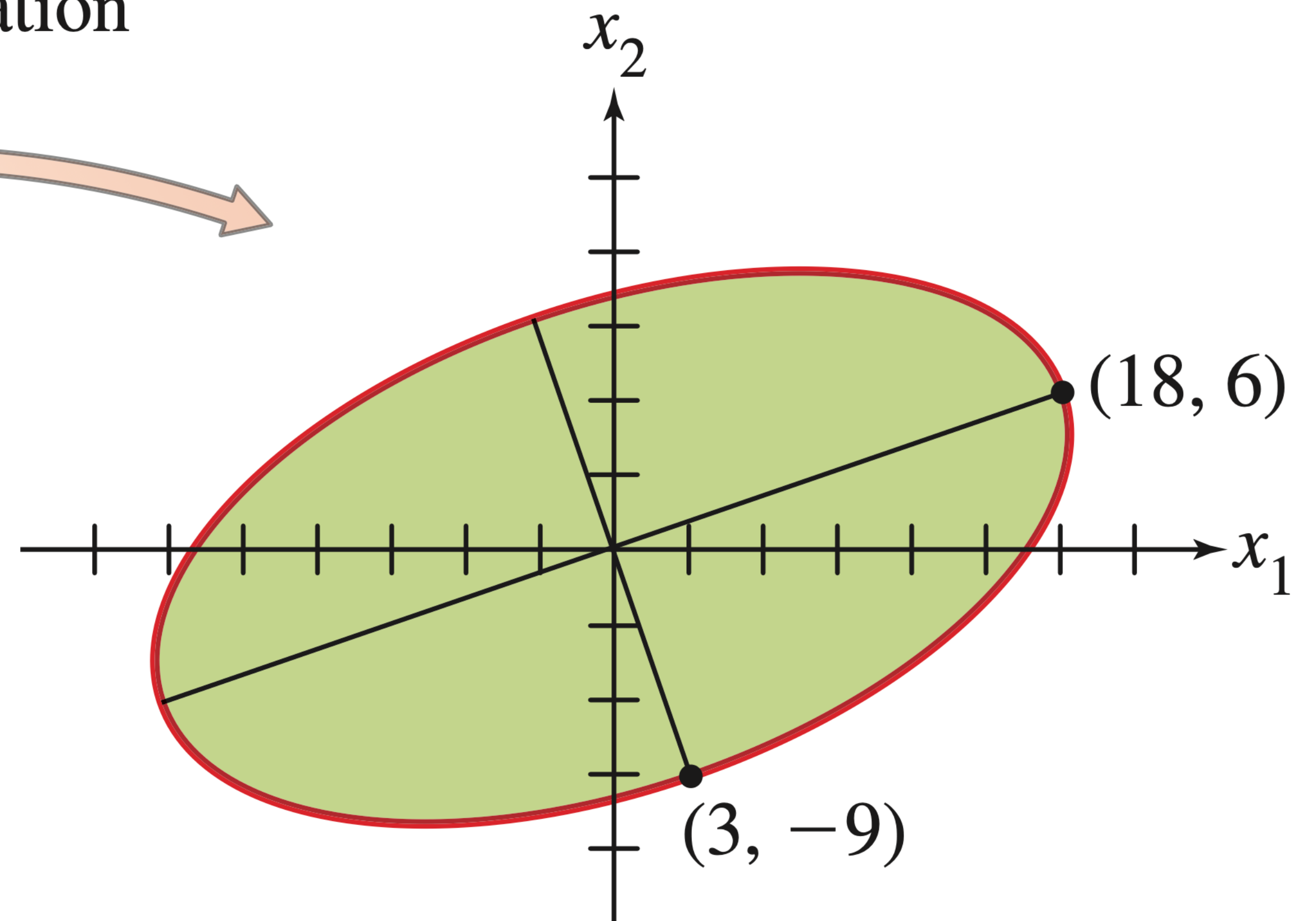
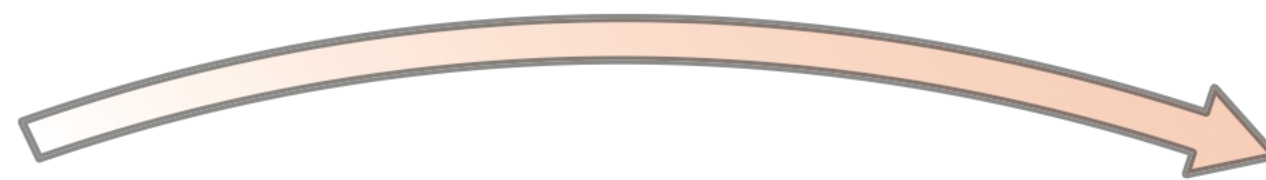
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# The Picture

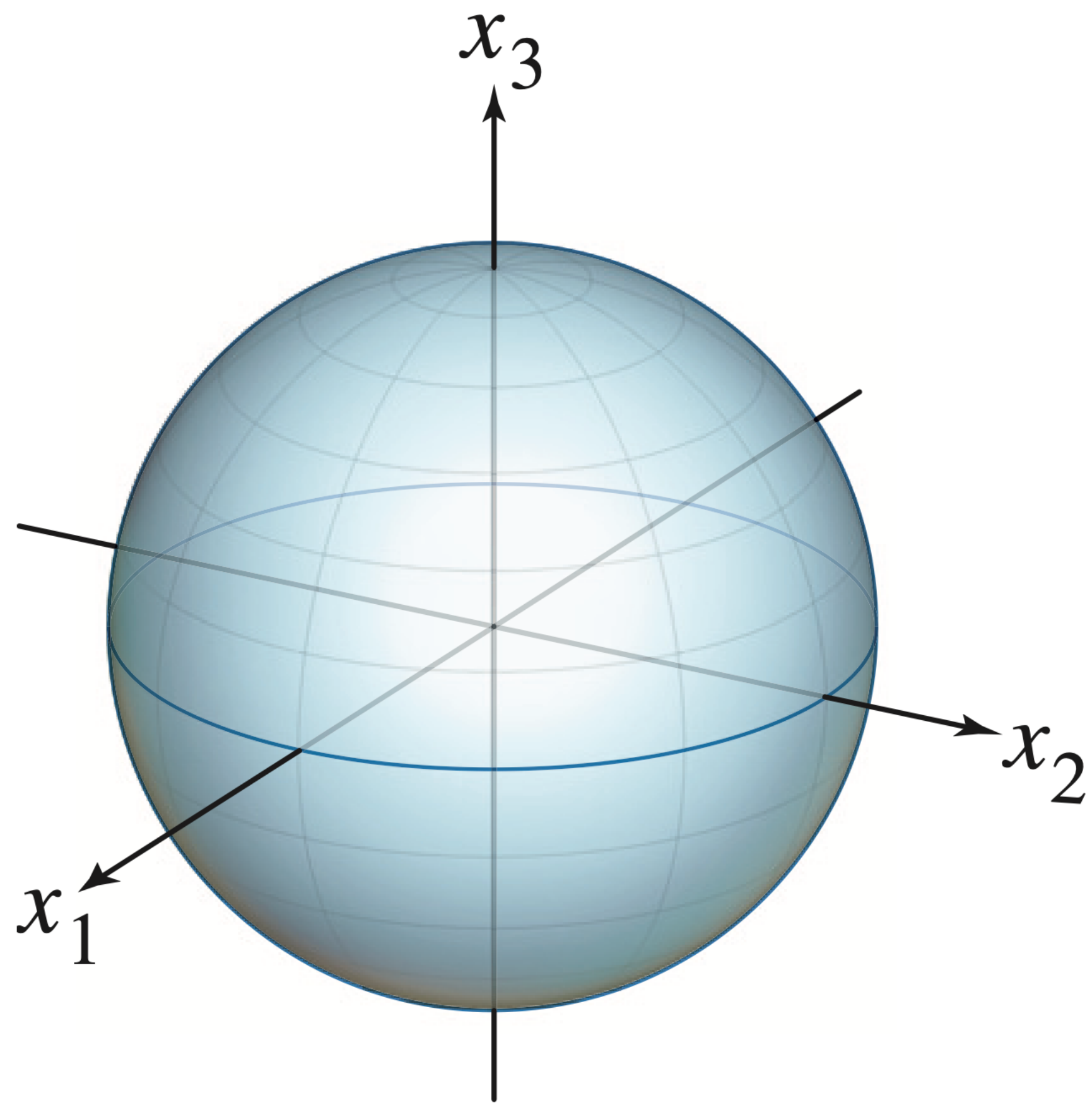


Multiplication  
by  $A$

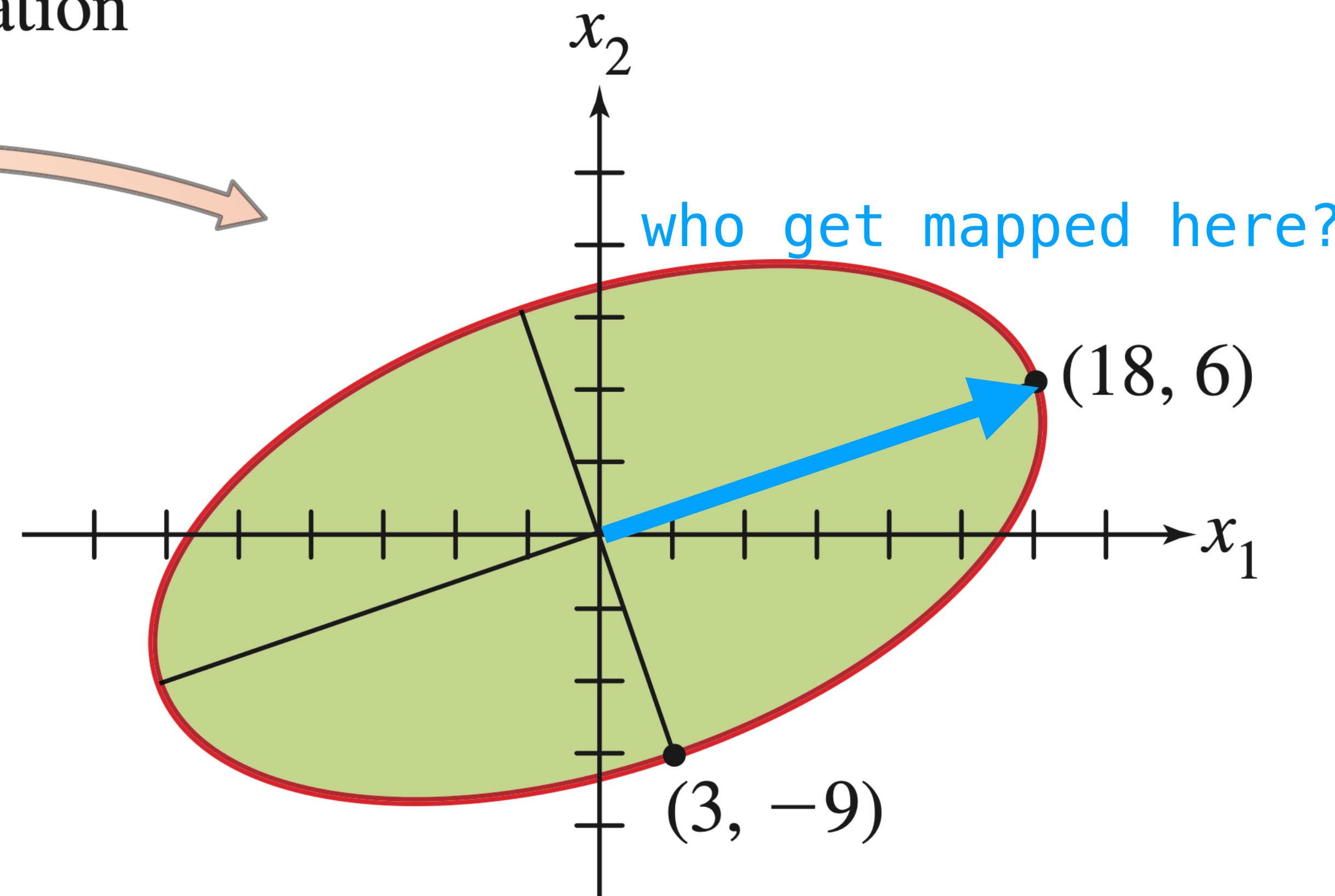
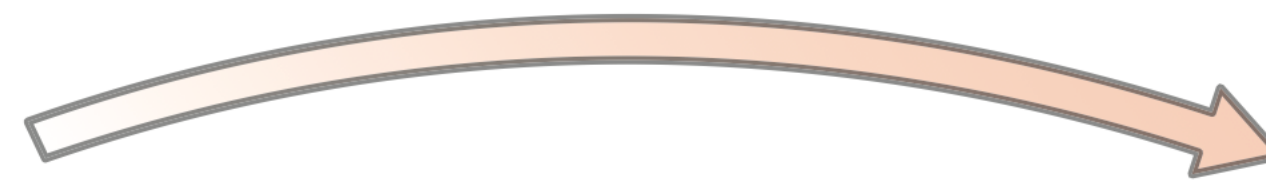




# The Picture



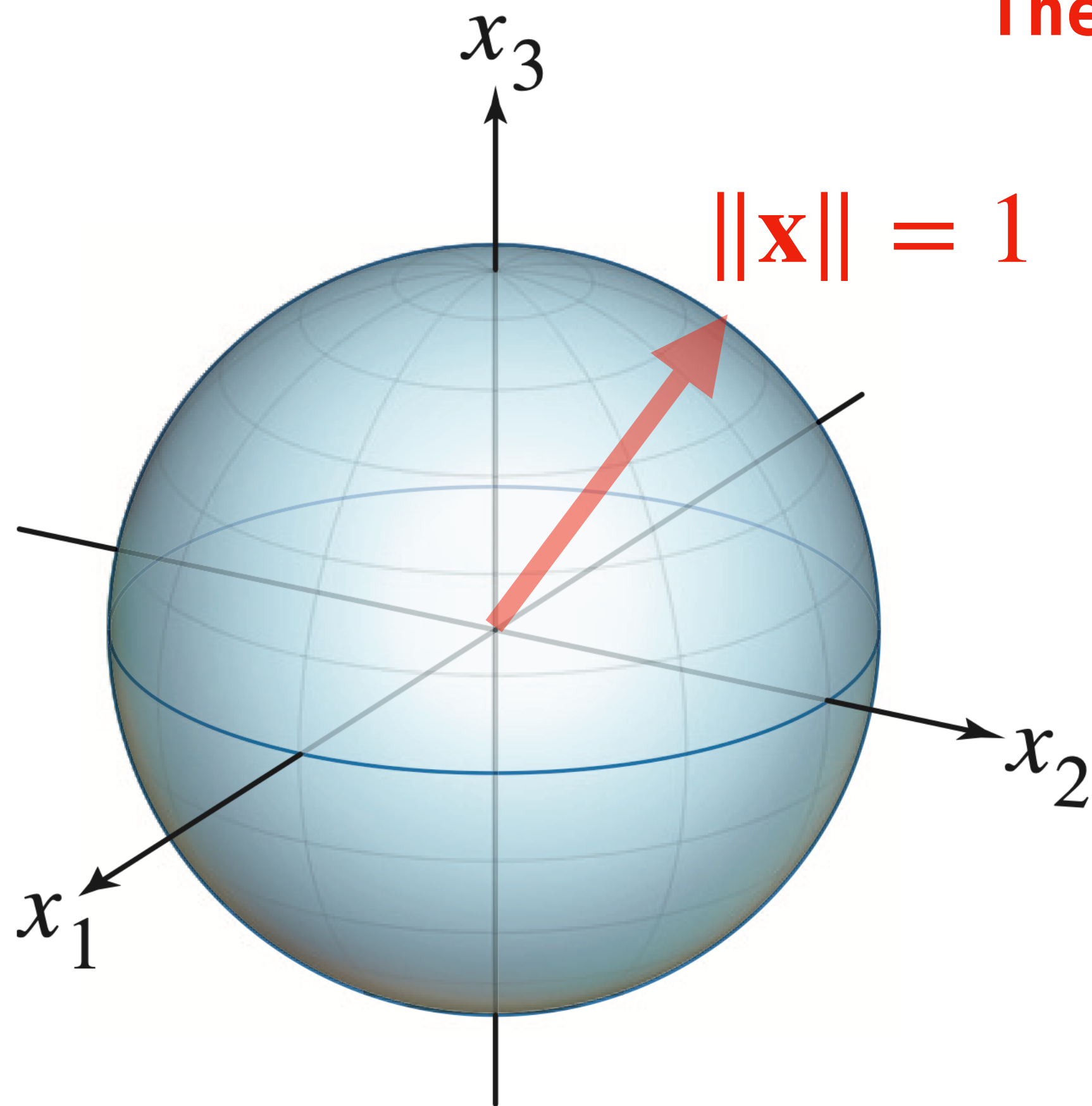
Multiplication  
by  $A$



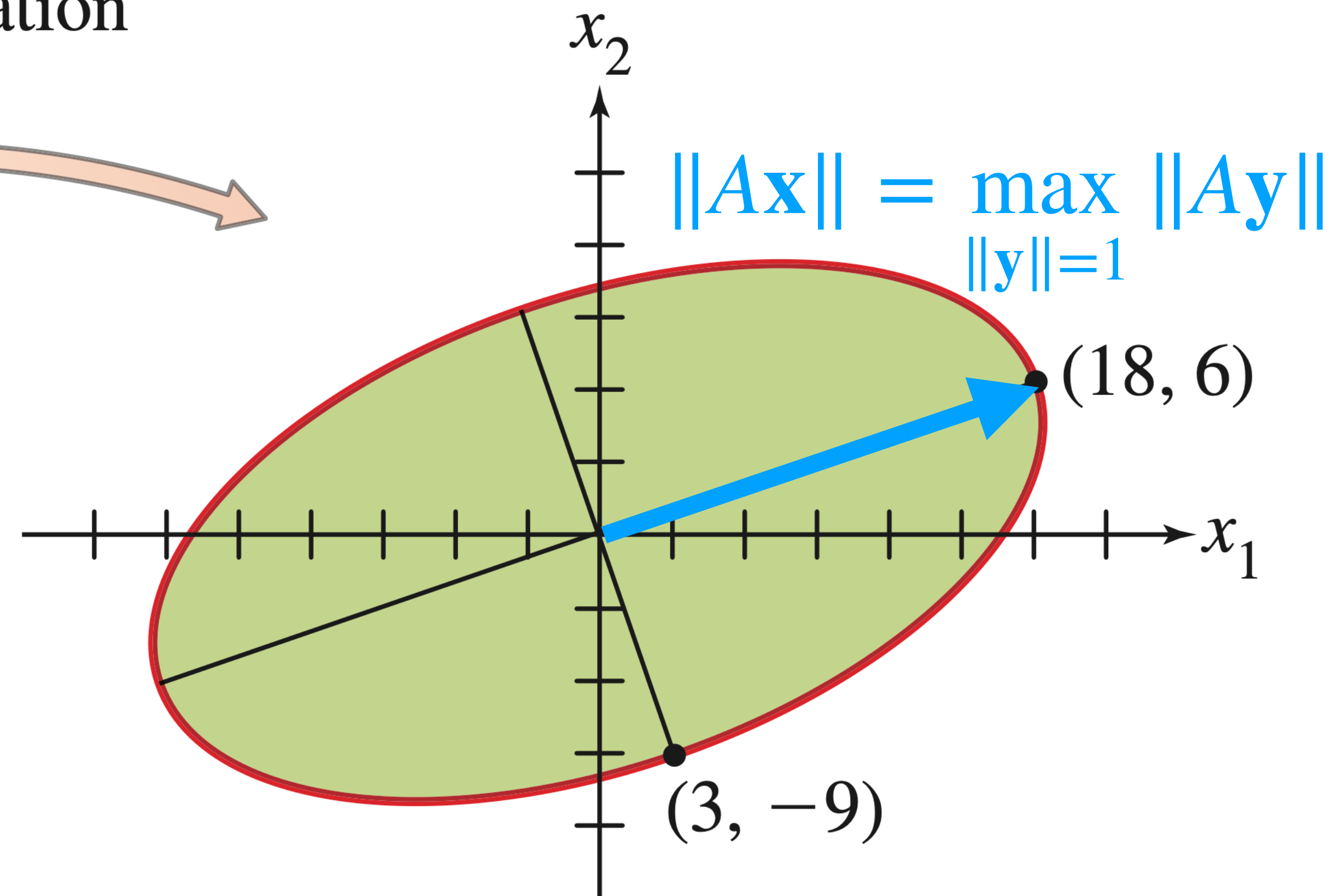
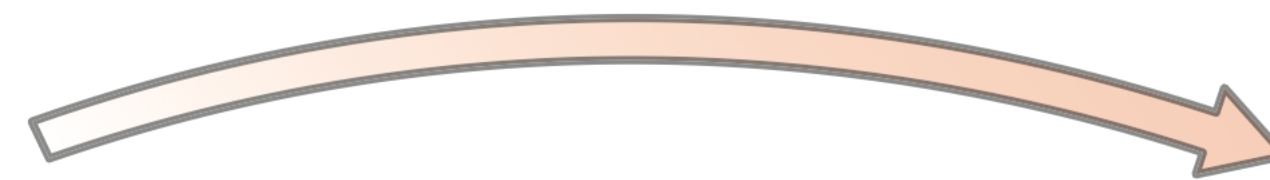


# The Picture

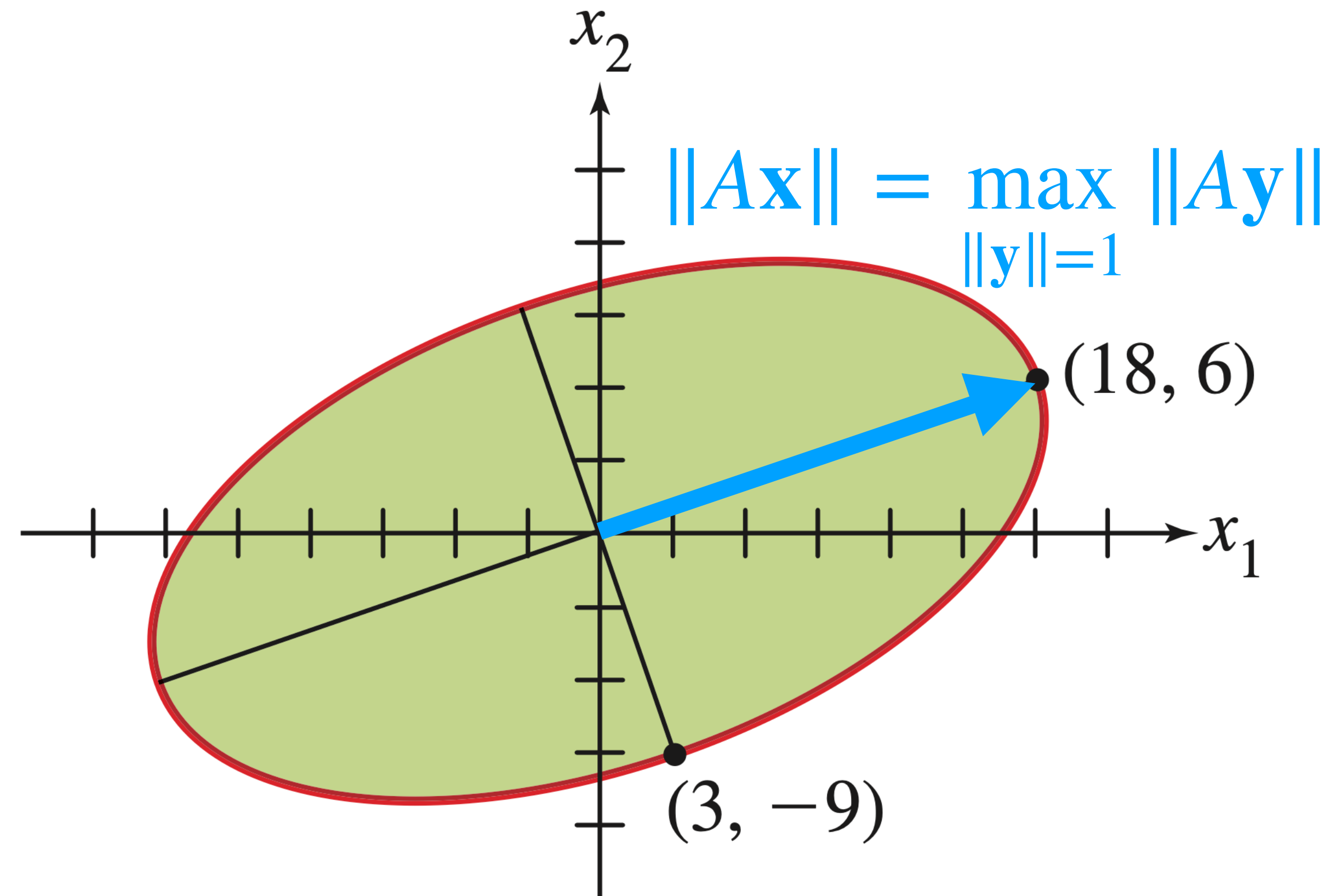
The longest end of the ellipse is the solution to a constrained optimization problem



Multiplication  
by  $A$

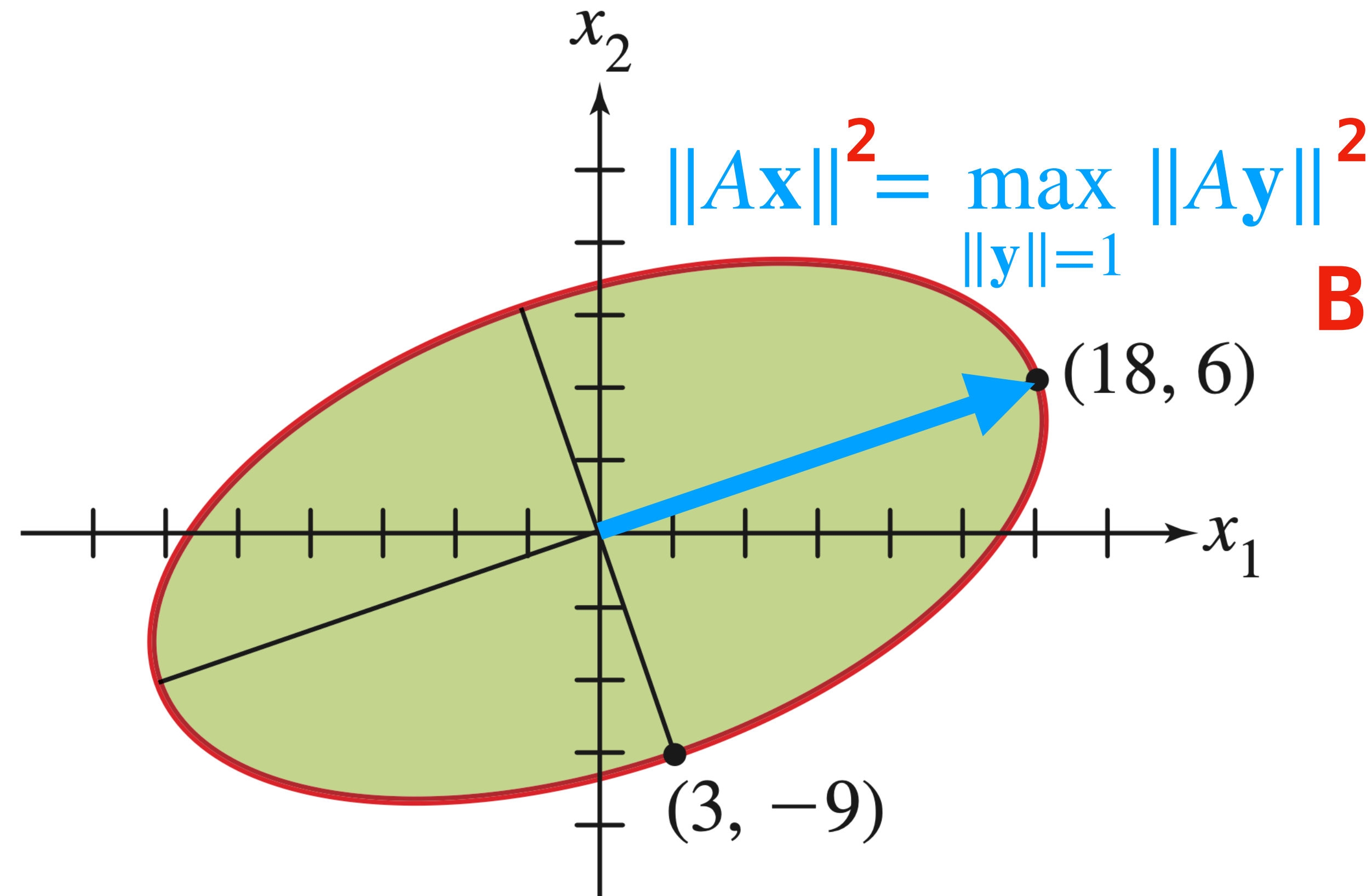


# The Picture



This is not a quadratic form...

# The Picture



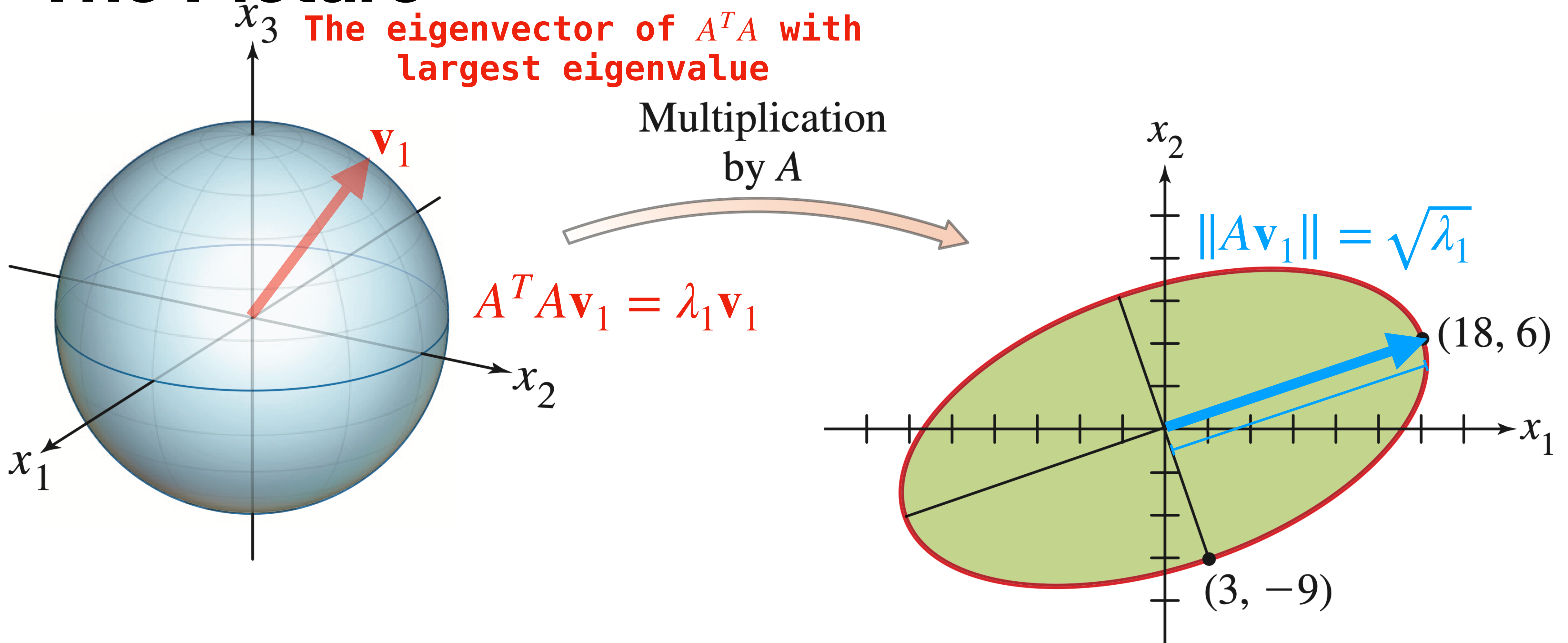
**But this is.**

This is not a quadratic form...

# A Quadratic Form

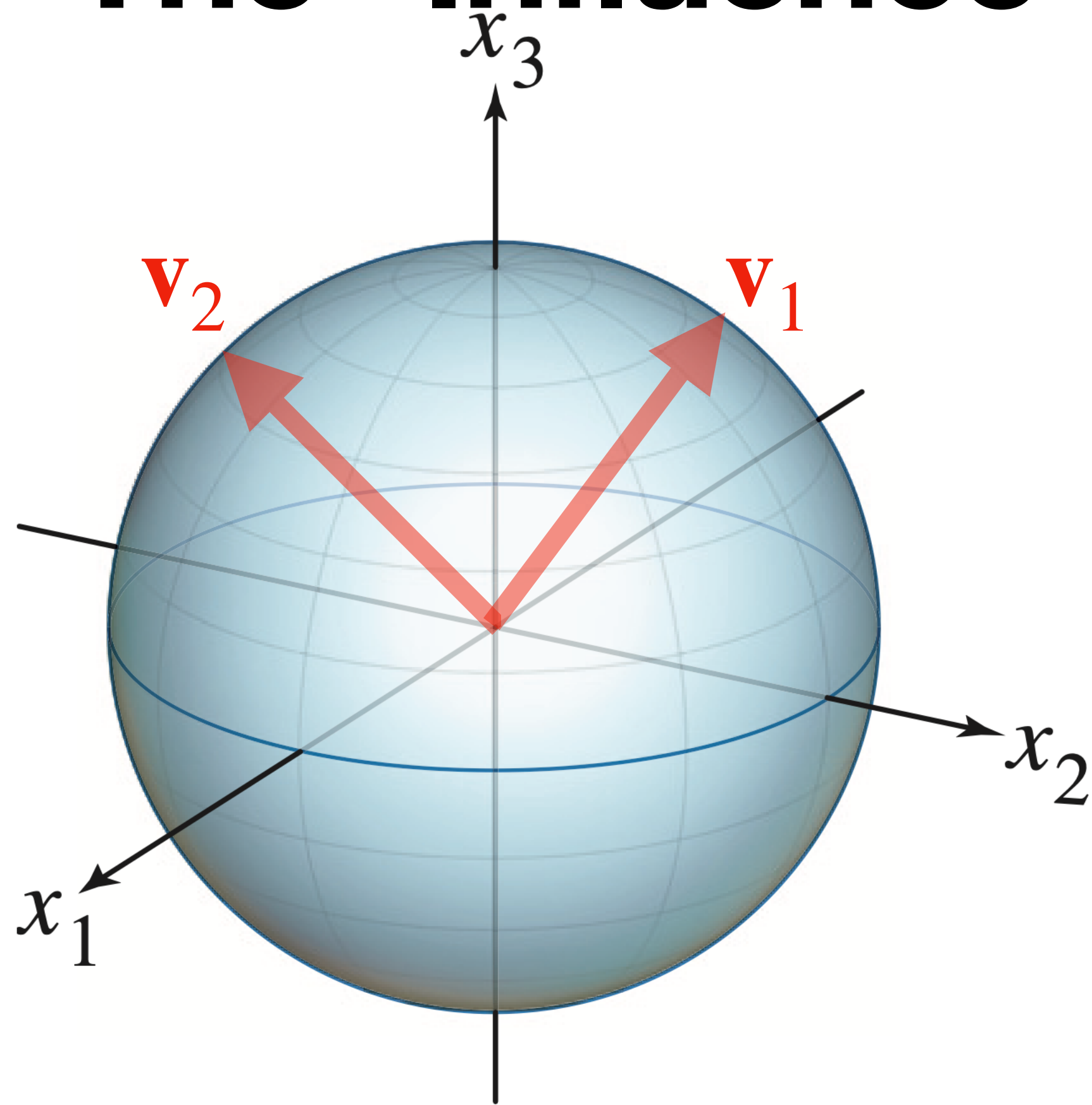
What does  $\|A\mathbf{x}\|^2$  look like?:

# The Picture

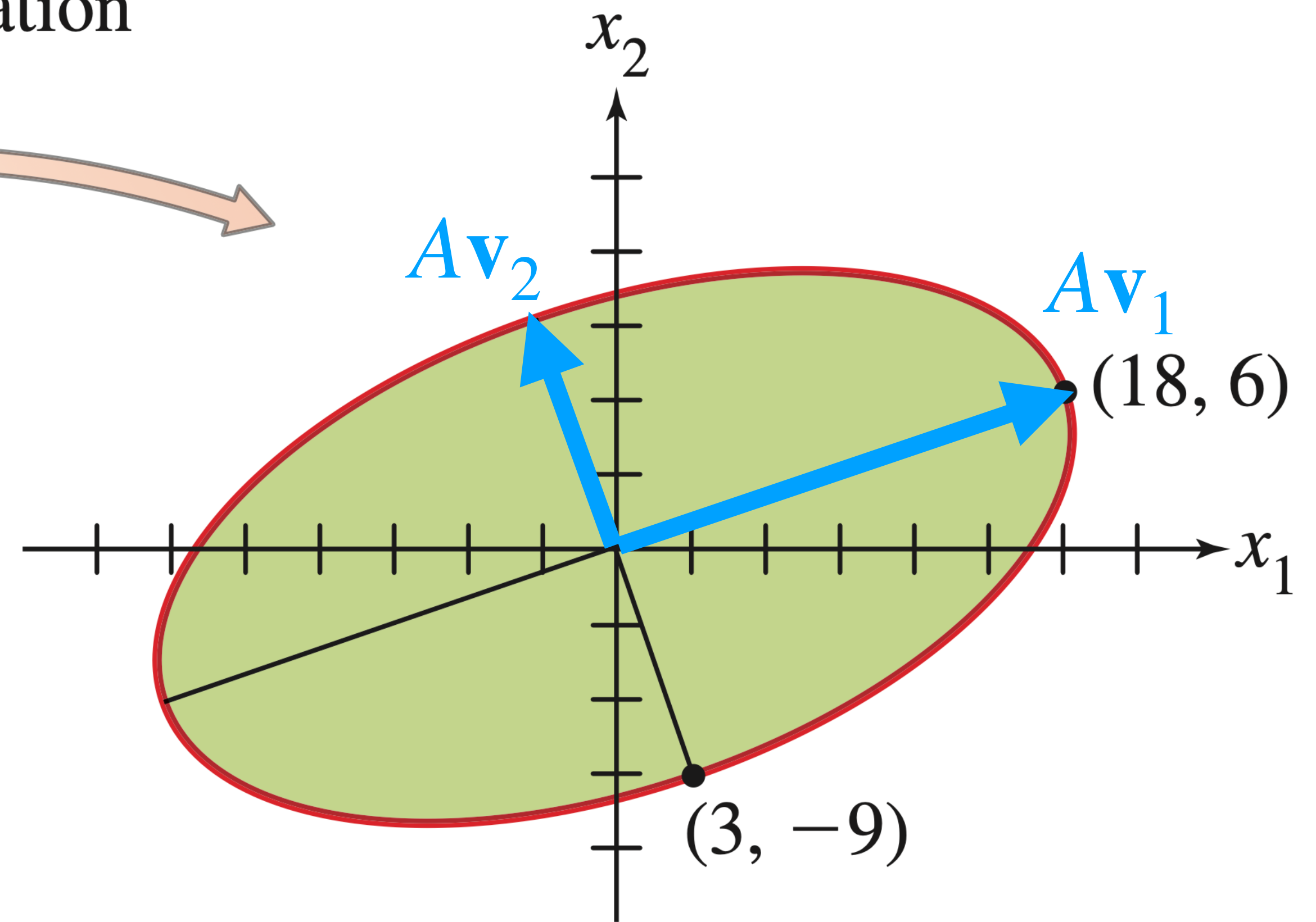
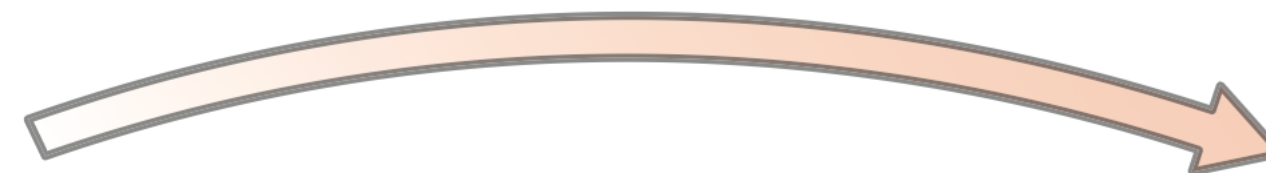


$\mathbf{v}_1$  solves the constrained optimization problem.

# The "Influence" of $A$



Multiplication  
by  $A$



$v_1$  is "most affected" by  $A$  and  $v_2$  is "least affected"

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- » **There is an orthogonal basis of eigenvectors.**
- » It's eigenvalues are nonnegative.
- » **It's positive semidefinite.**

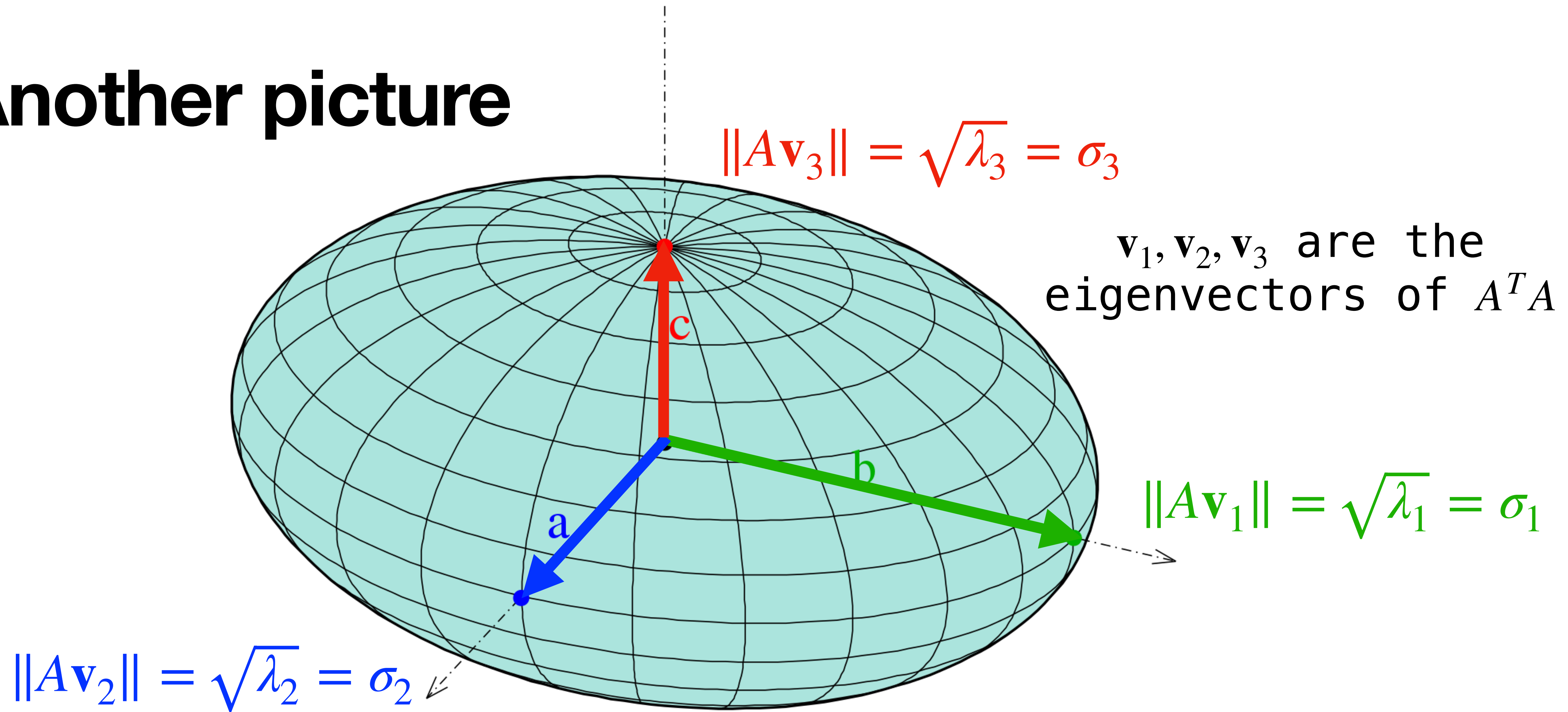
# Singular Values

**Definition.** For an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the **singular values** of  $A$  are the  $n$  values

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \dots \geq \sigma_n \geq 0$$

where  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$  and  $\lambda_i$  is an eigenvalue of  $A^T A$ .

# Another picture



The **singular values** are the lengths of the *axes of symmetry* of the ellipsoid after transforming the unit sphere.

Every  $m \times n$  matrix transforms the unit  $m$ -sphere into an  $n$ -ellipsoid.

So every  $m \times n$  matrix has  
 $n$  singular values.