

# UNIT 6: The singular value decomposition.

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- A **square** matrix is **symmetric** if  $A^T = A$ .
- A **square** matrix  $A$  is **orthogonally diagonalizable** if there exist an orthogonal matrix  $P$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that

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

where  $P$ ,  $D$  and  $A$  have all the same size.

### Remember that...

an orthogonal matrix satisfies  $P^T = P^{-1}$ .

### Theorems.

- ① A  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  **orthogonally diagonalize if and only if  $A$  is a symmetric matrix.**
- ② Let  $A$  be a symmetric matrix. **The eigenvectors of different eigenvalues are orthogonal.**

## Steps to orthogonally diagonalize a matrix $A$ .

- 1 Find the eigenvalues of  $A$ , which are the zeroes of the characteristic polynomial,  $P_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I_n)$ .
- 2 Find the eigenvectors of each eigenvalue.
  - 1 If an eigenvalue has more than one eigenvector, check if they are orthogonal.
  - 2 If they are not orthogonal, obtain an orthogonal basis by Gram-Schmidt method.
- 3 Normalize those eigenvectors that are not unit.
- 4 The columns of  $P$  are the eigenvectors which determine a set of orthonormal vectors.
- 5 The diagonal matrix  $D$  has the eigenvalues in the main diagonal in the same order as the eigenvectors in  $P$ .

## A VECTOR NORM is...

a function  $\|\cdot\|: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V$  that assigns a real-valued length to each vector in  $V$  and satisfies the following conditions:

- 1  $\|x\| \geq 0$  and  $\|x\| = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ .
- 2  $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ .
- 3  $\|\lambda x\| = |\lambda| \|x\|$ .

## Examples of norms in $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

- 1 **Euclidean norm or 2-norm:**  $\|x\|_2 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2}$   
(the usual one).
- 2 **1-norm:**  $\|x\|_1 = |x_1| + \cdots + |x_n|$ .
- 3 **Infinity norm:**  $\|x\|_\infty = \max\{|x_1|, \dots, |x_n|\}$ .

The matrix norm of  $A \in M_{m \times n}$  is defined as follows

$$\|A\|_{(m,n)} = \max_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ x \neq 0}} \frac{\|Ax\|_{(m)}}{\|x\|_{(n)}} = \max_{\|x\|_{(n)}=1, x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax\|_{(m)}.$$

Examples of matrix norms.

①  $\|A\|_1 = \max_{\|x\|_1=1} \|Ax\|_1 = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m |a_{jk}| \right\}.$

It is the maximum of the 1-norm of each column of the matrix.

②  $\|A\|_\infty = \max_{\|x\|_\infty=1} \|Ax\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq k \leq m} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{kj}| \right\}.$

It is the maximum of the 1-norm of each row of the matrix.

The singular values  $\sigma$  of  $A \in M_{m \times n}$

are the square roots of the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of the square matrix  $A^T A$ , that is,

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\lambda},$$

where  $\lambda$  are the zeroes of the characteristic polynomial of  $A^T A$ ,  
 $P_{A^T A}(\lambda) = \det(A^T A - \lambda I_n)$ .

### REMARK:

The matrix  $A^T A$  is square and symmetric. It has size  $n \times n$ .

$$\|A\|_2 = \max\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r\}$$

where  $r$  is the number of the singular values of  $A$ .

The rank of  $A$  is equal to the number of nonzero singular values.

## The image of the unit sphere...

under any matrix  $A$  of size  $m \times n$  is an **hyperellipse**.

## An hyperellipse is...

a surface obtained by stretching the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by some factors  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$  in some orthogonal directions.

## The principal semiaxes of the hyperellipse are $A v_i$ ,

where  $v_i$ 's are the eigenvectors of  $A^T A$ , and the semiaxes have length  $\sigma_i$ .

## Singular value decomposition theorem (SVD).

Let  $A$  be a  $m \times n$  matrix with rank  $r$ . Then there exists a unique  $m \times n$  matrix,  $\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} D & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , for which the diagonal entries in the  $r \times r$  matrix  $D$  are the  $r$  singular values of  $A$ ,  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > \mathbf{0}$ ; and there exist an  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix  $U$  and an  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix  $V$  such that

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T.$$

### REMARK:

- The matrices  $U$  and  $V$  are not uniquely determined.
- The columns of  $U$  are called **left singular vectors** of  $A$ .
- The columns of  $V$  are called **right singular vectors** of  $A$ .



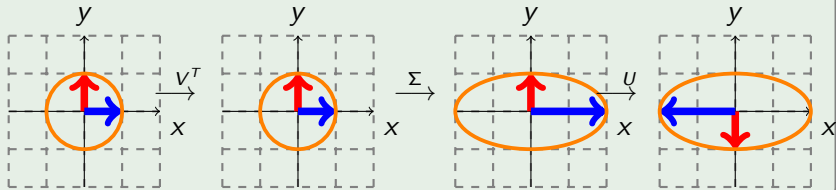
## Steps to find the SVD of a $m \times n$ matrix $A$ with $m \geq n$ :

- 1 Find the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of  $A^T A$  and a set of ORTHONORMAL eigenvectors. (Use the Gram-Schmidt method to orthogonalize and normalize whenever is necessary).
- 2 Find  $\Sigma$  by writing the singular values  $\sqrt{\lambda}$  in decreasing order in the main diagonal. The remaining entries of the matrix are zero up to obtain a  $m \times n$  matrix, the same size as  $A$ .
- 3 Find  $V$  whose columns are the set of orthonormal eigenvectors written in the same order as the singular values in  $\Sigma$ . The size of  $V$  is  $n \times n$ .
- 4 Find  $U$  whose size is  $m \times m$  and whose columns are:
  - 1  $u_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} A v_i$ .
  - 2 Complete  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  to an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^m$  computing the orthogonal subspace of  $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$  and normalizing the spanning set of it.

## Example of SVD of $A$ .

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{Rotate} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{Stretch} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{Rotate} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} = U\Sigma V^T$$

The image of the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  under  $A$  is an ellipse in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with center at  $(0,0)$  and semiaxis over the coordinate axis of length 2 and 1.



## Reduced SVD

Let  $A$  be a  $m \times n$  matrix with  $m \geq n$  and SVD given by  $U\Sigma V^T$ . The **reduced singular valued decomposition** of  $A$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_n & u_{n+1} & \dots & u_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_{n \times n} \\ 0_{(m-n) \times n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_n & u_{n+1} & \dots & u_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_{n \times n} V^T \\ 0_{(m-n) \times n} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_n \end{pmatrix} D_{n \times n} V^T. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark:** Note that to obtain the reduced singular value decomposition of  $A$  we do not need to extend the singular vectors in  $V$  to obtain a  $m \times m$  matrix for  $U$ , we only use the left most  $m \times n$  submatrix of  $U$ .

## Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse $A^\dagger$ of $A$ .

- If  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then  $\mathbf{A}^\dagger = \mathbf{A}^{-1}$ .
- If  $A$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix with  $m \geq n$  and SVD given by  $U\Sigma V^T$ , then **the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse matrix is a  $n \times m$  matrix** given by

$$\mathbf{A}^\dagger = (\mathbf{V}^T)^{-1} \Sigma^\dagger \mathbf{U}^{-1} = \mathbf{V} \Sigma^\dagger \mathbf{U}^T,$$

where

$$\Sigma^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} D \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} D^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma_1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sigma_2} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & & \frac{1}{\sigma_r} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Properties of the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse:

- 1  $AA^\dagger A = A.$
- 2  $A^\dagger AA^\dagger = A^\dagger.$
- 3  $(AA^\dagger)^T = AA^\dagger.$
- 4  $(A^\dagger A)^T = A^\dagger A.$

## Application

When  $m > n$ , the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse matrix gives a least-square solution of  $Ax = b$ .

- If  $A$  has full rank,  $\mathbf{A}^\dagger = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T$ .  
(Note:  $A^\dagger b$  is a least-square solution of  $Ax = b$  and it is exactly the solution to the normal equations in UNIT 5.)
- If  $A$  does not have full rank, we need SVD to obtain  $A^\dagger$ . A least-square solution of  $Ax = b$  is given by  $A^\dagger b$ .

## More details on the previous application when $A$ does not have full rank

- 1 Find the SVD of  $A$ :  $A = U\Sigma V^T$ .
- 2 A least-square solution of  $Ax = b$  is given by  $A^\dagger b$  because

$$\begin{aligned}(U\Sigma V^T)x &= Ax = b, \\ (U^T U)\Sigma V^T x &= U^T b, \\ \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma V^T x &= \Sigma^\dagger U^T b \quad \text{because } \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma = I_{n \times n}, \\ (VV^T)x &= V\Sigma^\dagger U^T b, \\ \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{V}\Sigma^\dagger \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}^\dagger \mathbf{b}.\end{aligned}$$

**Remark:** Remember that the SVD is not unique because the matrices  $U$  and  $V$  are not unique. Hence, depending on the SVD we find different least-square solutions of  $Ax = b$ .