

# Lecture 19:

Solutions to in-class exercises.

Today: Singular Value Decomposition (SVD).

Discussion: the SVD of a matrix is a factorization

$$A = U \Sigma V^T$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{Orthogonal}}$        $\xrightarrow{\text{Diagonal-ish}}$

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

It has some of the most important applications across STEM.

The point: Setting the last few  $\sigma_i$ 's to 0 loses very little information (they tend to be small).

How does it work?

The whole idea is finding an orthonormal basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $Av_1, \dots, Av_n$  are orthogonal.

For instance: if  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  rotation matrix, any orthonormal basis will do. If  $A$  is symmetric and  $2 \times 2$ , we can find its orthogonal diagonalization with respect to the basis  $v_1, v_2$ . Then

$$Av_1 \cdot Av_2 = \lambda_1 (v_1 \cdot v_2) = 0$$

But what if  $A$  is, say, a shear? Then it's not so clear.

Brilliant idea:  $A^T A$  is symmetric, so it has an orthonormal diagonalization with basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ .

Then  $Av_1, \dots, Av_n$  are orthogonal! Indeed,  $Av_i \cdot Av_j = v_i^T A^T A v_j = v_i^T \lambda_j v_j = \lambda_j \cdot v_i^T v_j = 0$

Furthermore  $\|Av_i\| = \sqrt{Av_i \cdot Av_i} = \sqrt{(Av_i)^T (Av_i)} = \sqrt{v_i^T A^T A v_i} = \sqrt{\lambda_i \cdot v_i^T v_i} = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$ .

Important observation:  $A$  and  $v_i$  are real, so  $\|Av_i\|$  is real. Therefore  $\lambda_i$  cannot be negative!

**Definition 1:** Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \geq 0$  be the eigenvalues of  $A^T A$  (with repetitions possibly).

Then the singular values of  $A$  are  $\sigma_1 = \sqrt{\lambda_1}, \dots, \sigma_n = \sqrt{\lambda_n}$ .

From now on, order the singular values so that  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n \geq 0$ .



Finally,  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{11} \\ 3/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{11} \\ 2/\sqrt{2} & 0 & -3/\sqrt{11} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}^T$

SVD for A

[Application on Octave]

In-class exercise: find the SVD of  $\begin{pmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ -7 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$ .