

Advanced Linear Algebra

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January 2019 - May 2019

Singular Value Decomposition

Recall that the diagonalization of A can be written as:

$$A = [\vec{v}_1 \ \dots \ \vec{v}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} [\vec{v}_1 \ \dots \ \vec{v}_n]^{-1}$$

If A is symmetric, we can orthogonally diagonalize it as $A = PDP^T$.

$$A = [\hat{v}_1 \ \dots \ \hat{v}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \hat{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \dots & \hat{v}_n^T & \dots \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

Recall from the definition of singular values of A :

$$(A^T A)\hat{v}_i = \lambda_i \hat{v}_i \quad (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n)$$

We define the singular values $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} = \|A\hat{v}_i\|$.

$$\begin{aligned} \|A\hat{v}_i\|^2 &= (A\hat{v}_i)^T (A\hat{v}_i) \\ &= \hat{v}_i^T A^T A \hat{v}_i \\ &= \lambda(\hat{v}_i^T \hat{v}_i) = \lambda \end{aligned}$$

Singular Value Decomposition

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

$$[A] = [\hat{u}_1 \ \dots \ \hat{u}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \hat{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \dots & \hat{v}_n^T & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Find the eigenvalues λ_i and eigenvectors \hat{v}_i of $A^T A$.
2. Let $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$ and normalize \hat{v}_i .
3. Let $\hat{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} A \hat{v}_i$

Why does this work?

$$\begin{aligned}
 AV &= U\Sigma \\
 A [\hat{v}_1 \ \dots \ \hat{v}_n] &\stackrel{?}{=} [\hat{u}_1 \ \dots \ \hat{u}_n] \Sigma \\
 [A\hat{v}_1 \ \dots \ A\hat{v}_n] &\stackrel{?}{=} [\sigma_1 \hat{u}_1 \ \dots \ \sigma_n \hat{u}_n] \\
 [\sigma_1 \hat{u}_1 \ \dots \ \sigma_n \hat{u}_n] &= [\sigma_1 \hat{u}_1 \ \dots \ \sigma_n \hat{u}_n]
 \end{aligned}$$

Observations:

- V is orthogonal because the columns are eigenvectors of the symmetric matrix $A^T A$.
- U is orthogonal because the columns \hat{u}_i and \hat{u}_j are orthogonal.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{u}_i \cdot \hat{u}_j &= \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_i} A \hat{v}_i \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_j} A \hat{v}_j \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} (A \hat{v}_j)^T (A \hat{v}_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} \hat{v}_j^T (A^T A \hat{v}_i) \\
 &= \frac{\lambda_i}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} \hat{v}_j^T \hat{v}_i \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

In general, $A = U\Sigma V^T$ where

- A is an $m \times n$ matrix
- U is an $m \times m$ orthogonal matrix
- Σ is an $m \times n$ matrix
- V^T is an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix

Example

Find the singular value decomposition of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

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

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 2 \quad \sigma_1 = \sqrt{2} \quad \hat{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1 \quad \sigma_2 = \sqrt{1} \quad \hat{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_3 = 0 \quad \sigma_3 = 0 \quad \hat{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A \hat{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{u}_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A \hat{v}_2 = \frac{1}{1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

Example

Find the singular value decomposition of $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = U\Sigma V^T$$

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 3 \quad \sigma_1 = \sqrt{3} \quad \hat{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1 \quad \sigma_2 = \sqrt{1} \quad \hat{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A \hat{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{u}_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A \hat{v}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

The question now is, how do we find a \hat{u}_3 such that it is an orthonormal vector to both \hat{u}_1 and \hat{u}_2 . Let

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

be a basis for \mathbb{R}^3 and use the Gram-Schmidt process to get \hat{u}_3 as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{u}_3 &= \hat{e}_3 - \text{proj}_W \hat{e}_3 \quad W = \text{span}(\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2) \\ &= \hat{e}_3 - \left(\frac{\hat{u}_1 \cdot \hat{e}_3}{\hat{u}_1 \cdot \hat{u}_1} \right) \hat{u}_1 - \left(\frac{\hat{u}_2 \cdot \hat{e}_3}{\hat{u}_2 \cdot \hat{u}_2} \right) \hat{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix} \\ U &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Projection form of a symmetric matrix

$$A = PDP^T = \lambda_1 \hat{v}_1 \hat{v}_1^T + \cdots + \lambda_n \hat{v}_n \hat{v}_n^T$$

This can be analogously done for a singular value decomposition.

$$A = U\Sigma V^T = \sigma_1 \hat{u}_1 \hat{v}_1^T + \cdots + \sigma_r \hat{u}_r \hat{v}_r^T \quad (\sigma_1 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_r, \sigma_{r+1} = \cdots = \sigma_n = 0)$$

You can find all my notes at <http://omgimanerd.tech/notes>. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at alvin@omgimanerd.tech