

7. Symmetric Matrices and Quadratic Forms

7.1 Diagonalization of symmetric matrices ... 2
 7.2 Quadratic forms 9
 7.4 The singular value decomposition 21

7.1 Diagonalization of symmetric matrices

🌸 Definition

A symmetric matrix is a matrix \mathbf{A} such that $\mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{A}$.

🌸 A symmetric matrix is necessarily square. Its main diagonal entries are arbitrary, but its other entries occur in pairs on opposite sides of the main diagonal.

🌸 Example 1.

Symmetric: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 6 & -2 \\ 6 & 2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} a & d & e \\ d & b & f \\ e & f & c \end{bmatrix}.$

Nonsymmetric: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 6 & -2 \\ 6 & 2 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & -3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} a & d & e \\ -d & b & f \\ e & f & c \end{bmatrix}.$

What is about eigenvectors of a symmetric matrix ?

Theorem 1

If \mathbf{A} is symmetric, then any two distinct eigenvectors from different eigenspaces are orthogonal.

Proof.

Let \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 be eigenvectors that correspond to eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 . To show that $\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 = 0$, compute

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 &= (\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1)^T \mathbf{v}_2 = (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_1)^T \mathbf{v}_2 \\ &= (\mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{A}^T) \mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{v}_1^T (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_2) \\ &= \mathbf{v}_1^T (\lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2) \\ &= \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{v}_2 = \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 = 0$, but $\lambda_1 - \lambda_2 \neq 0$, so $\mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 = 0$.

A matrix \mathbf{A} is said to be orthogonally diagonalizable if there are an orthogonal matrix \mathbf{P} (with $\mathbf{P}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}^T$) and a diagonal matrix \mathbf{D} such that

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^{-1}. \tag{1}$$

To orthogonally diagonalize an $n \times n$ matrix, we must find n linearly independent and orthonormal eigenvectors.

Moreover, if \mathbf{A} is orthogonally diagonalizable as the above equation, then

$$\mathbf{A}^T = (\mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T)^T = \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{A}.$$

Theorem 2.

An $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} is orthogonally diagonalizable if and only if \mathbf{A} is a symmetric matrix.

Proof.

The proof is much harder and is omitted.

Easy orthogonally diagonalizable \Rightarrow symmetric
 Hard orthogonally diagonalizable \Leftarrow symmetric

🌸 Example 3.

Orthogonally diagonalize the matrix $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 & 4 \\ -2 & 6 & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution.

$$\lambda_1 = 7, \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \lambda_2 = -2, \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Although \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 are only linearly independent, not orthogonal; but they can become orthogonal by the the Gram-Schmidt process.

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{18} \\ 4/\sqrt{18} \\ 1/\sqrt{18} \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_3 \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -2/3 \\ -1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Then } \mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{18} & -2/3 \\ 0 & 4/\sqrt{18} & -1/3 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{18} & 2/3 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The spectral theorem

- 🌸 The set of eigenvalues of a matrix \mathbf{A} is sometimes called the *spectrum* of \mathbf{A} , and the following description of the eigenvalues is called a *spectral theorem*.
- 🌸 Theorem 3. (*The spectral theorem for symmetric matrices*)
An $n \times n$ symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} has the following properties:
 - a. \mathbf{A} has n real eigenvalues, counting multiplicities.
 - b. The dimension of the eigenspace for each eigenvalue λ equals the multiplicity of λ as a root of the characteristic equation.
 - c. The eigenspaces are mutually orthogonal, in the sense that eigenvectors corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal.
 - d. \mathbf{A} is orthogonally diagonalizable.

Spectral decomposition

- ✿ Support $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^{-1}$, where the columns of \mathbf{P} are orthonormal eigenvectors $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n$ of \mathbf{A} and the corresponding eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ are in the diagonal matrix \mathbf{D} . Then, since $\mathbf{P}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}^T$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T &= [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \dots \ \mathbf{u}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \\ &= [\lambda_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \ \dots \ \lambda_n \mathbf{u}_n] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_n^T \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Ch.2, p.24, Theorem 10

Using the column-row expansion of a product, we can write

$$\mathbf{A} = \lambda_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^T + \lambda_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^T + \dots + \lambda_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{u}_n^T. \quad (2)$$

This representation of \mathbf{A} is called a spectral decomposition of \mathbf{A} . Each term in the above equation is a $n \times n$ matrix of rank 1. Every column of $\lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^T$ is a multiple of \mathbf{u}_i . Furthermore, each matrix $\mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^T$ is a projection matrix in the sense that for each \mathbf{x} in \mathbf{R}^n , the vector $(\mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}_i^T) \mathbf{x}$ is the orthogonal projection of \mathbf{x} onto the subspace spanned by \mathbf{u}_i . (Ch.6, p.18, Theorem 10)

✿ Example 4.

Construct a spectral decomposition of the matrix \mathbf{A} that has the orthogonal diagonalization

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Solution.

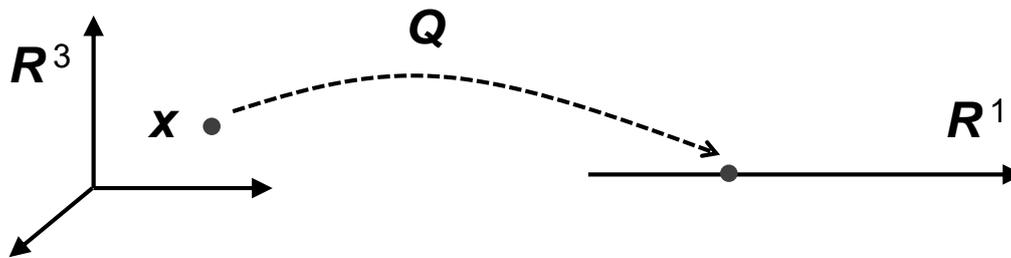
Denote the columns of \mathbf{P} by \mathbf{u}_1 and \mathbf{u}_2 . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} &= 8 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^T + 3 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{u}_2^T \\ &= 8 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 8 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{1}{5} \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & -\frac{2}{5} \\ -\frac{2}{5} & \frac{4}{5} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

✿ Exercises of Section 7.1.

7.2 Quadratic forms

- A quadratic form on \mathbf{R}^n is a function Q defined on \mathbf{R}^n whose value at a vector \mathbf{x} in \mathbf{R}^n can be computed by an expression of the form $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$, where \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. The matrix \mathbf{A} is called the matrix of the quadratic form.



- The simplest example of a nonzero quadratic form is $Q(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{I} \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$.

- Example 1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 4x_1^2 + 3x_2^2.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ -2 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 3x_1 + 2x_2 & -2x_1 + 7x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 3x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 - 2x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2 \\ &= 3x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 7x_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

- Example 2. For \mathbf{x} in \mathbf{R}^3 ,

$$5x_1^2 + 3x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 - x_1x_2 + 8x_2x_3 =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1/2 & 0 \\ -1/2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Change of variable in a quadratic form

- ✿ If \mathbf{x} is a variable vector in \mathbf{R}^n , then a change of variable is an equation of the form

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{y} \text{ or } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{x},$$

where \mathbf{P} is an invertible matrix and \mathbf{y} is a new variable vector in \mathbf{R}^n .

- ✿ The \mathbf{y} is the coordinate vector of \mathbf{x} relative to the basis of \mathbf{R}^n determined by the columns of \mathbf{P} . $[\mathbf{x}]_E = \mathbf{P}_\beta [\mathbf{x}]_\beta$

- ✿ If the change of variable is substituted into a quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$, then

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{P}\mathbf{y})^\top \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{P}\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^\top (\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}) \mathbf{y}.$$

Since \mathbf{A} is orthogonally diagonalizable (Theorem 2), there is a orthonormal matrix \mathbf{P} such that $\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{P}$ is a diagonal matrix \mathbf{D} and thus, the quadratic form becomes $\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{D} \mathbf{y}$.

- ✿ Example 4.

Make a change of variable that transforms a quadratic form

with $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ -4 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$ into a quadratic form with no

cross-product term.

Solution.

Step 1. Find eigenvalues and eigenvectors of \mathbf{A}

$$\lambda_1 = 3, \quad \mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}; \quad \lambda_2 = -7, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 2. Construct \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{D} ,

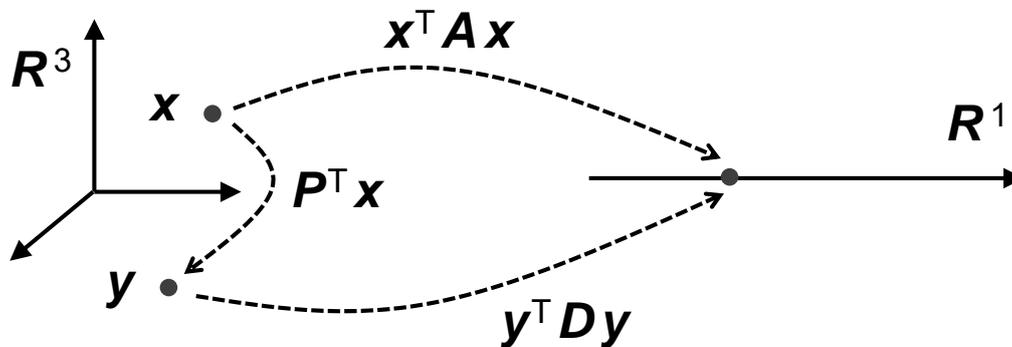
$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} & 1/\sqrt{5} \\ -1/\sqrt{5} & 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 3. Transform quadratic form with no cross-product term

$$\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{D} \mathbf{y} = 3y_1^2 - 7y_2^2.$$

❁ Theorem 4. (The principal axes theorem)

Let \mathbf{A} be an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. Then there is an orthogonal change of variable, $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{y}$, that transforms the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ into a quadratic form $\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{y}$ with no cross-product term.

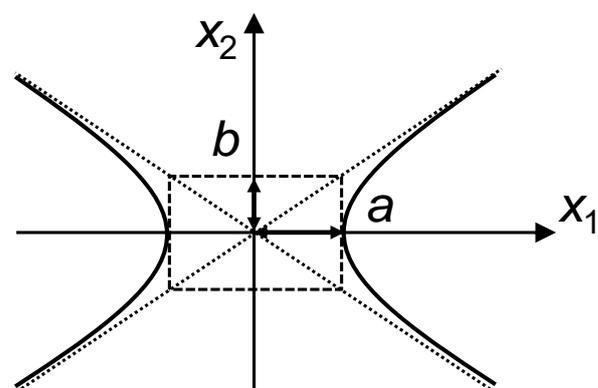
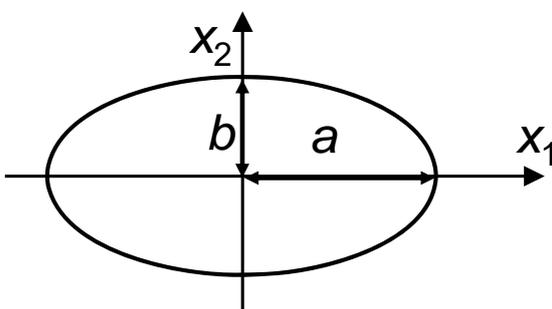


❁ The columns of \mathbf{P} in Theorem 4 are called the principal axes of the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$.

A geometric view of principal axes

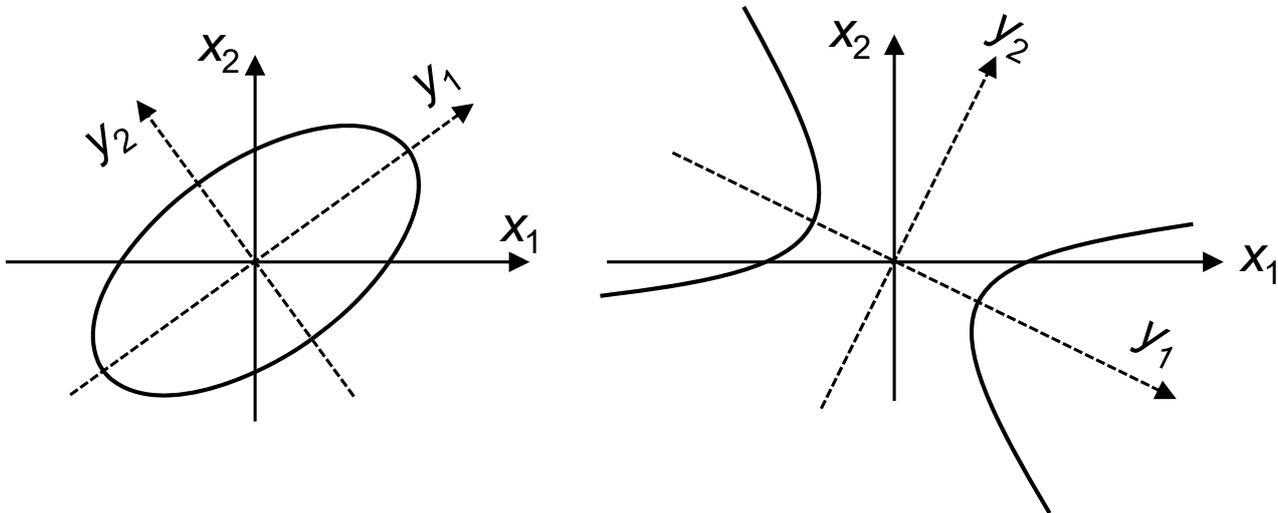
❁ Support $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$, where \mathbf{A} is an invertible 2×2 symmetric matrix and let c be a constant. Then any \mathbf{x} in \mathbf{R}^2 that satisfy $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = c$ corresponds to

- i. an ellipse,
- ii. a circle,
- iii. a hyperbola,
- iv. two intersecting lines,
- v. a single point, or
- vi. an empty set.



✿ If \mathbf{A} is a diagonal matrix, the graph of $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = c$ is in standard position.

If \mathbf{A} is not a diagonal matrix, the graph of $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = c$ is rotated out of standard position.



An ellipse and a hyperbola are not in standard position (out of standard position).

✿ Example 5.

Find a change of variable that removes the cross-product term from $5x_1^2 - 4x_1x_2 + 5x_2^2 = 48$.

Solution.
$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 1. Find eigenvalues and eigenvectors of \mathbf{A}

$$\lambda_1 = 3, \quad \mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}; \quad \lambda_2 = 7, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 2. Construct \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{D} ,

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 3. Transform quadratic form with no cross-product term

$$\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{y} = 3y_1^2 + 7y_2^2.$$

Classifying quadratic forms

✿ When \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ matrix, the quadratic form $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is a real-values function with \mathbf{R}^n .

✿ Definition. A quadratic form \mathbf{Q} is:

- positive definite if $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \neq 0$,
- negative definite if $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) < 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \neq 0$,
- indefinite if $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x})$ has both positive and negative values,
- positive semidefinite if $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$ for all \mathbf{x} ,
- negative semidefinite if $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$ for all \mathbf{x} .

✿ Theorem 5. (Quadratic forms and eigenvalues)

Let \mathbf{A} be an $n \times n$ symmetric matrix. Then a quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is:

- positive definite if and only if the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are all positive.
- negative definite if and only if the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are all negative.
- indefinite if and only if \mathbf{A} has both positive and negative eigenvalues.

✿ Example 6. is $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) = 3x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4x_1x_2 + 4x_2x_3$ positive definite?

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

The eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} are 5, 2, and -1. So \mathbf{Q} is an indefinite quadratic form.

- ✿ A fast way to determine whether a symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} is positive definite.

To factor \mathbf{A} into the form $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R}$, where \mathbf{R} is a upper triangular with positive diagonal. Such a *Cholesky factorization* is possible if and only if \mathbf{A} is positive definite.

- ✿ If \mathbf{B} is $m \times n$, then $\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}$ is positive semidefinite.
If \mathbf{B} is $n \times n$ and invertible, then $\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}$ is positive definite.
Since $\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}$ is symmetric, $\mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{B} \mathbf{x}\|^2 \geq 0$.

- ✿ If $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} is positive definite, then there exists a positive definite matrix \mathbf{B} such that $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}$.

Since $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T$, we can take a diagonal matrix \mathbf{C} , $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{C}$, and let $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{P}^T$. Then

$$\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{C}^2 \mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{P}^T = \mathbf{A}.$$

Proof for *Cholesky factorization*

“ \Rightarrow ”

If $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R}$ and \mathbf{R} is invertible, then \mathbf{A} is positive definite.

“ \Leftarrow ”

\mathbf{A} is positive definite, $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}$ for some positive definite matrix \mathbf{B} .

Since the eigenvalues of \mathbf{B} are positive and 0 is not an eigenvalue of \mathbf{B} ; thus \mathbf{B} is invertible and then the columns of \mathbf{B} are linearly independent.

By Theorem of QR factorization, $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{R}$ for some $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{Q} with orthonormal columns and some upper triangular matrix \mathbf{R} with positive entries on its diagonal.

Hence $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R}$.

- ✿ Exercises of Section 7.2.

7.4 The singular value decomposition

✿ We know that not all matrices can be factored as $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{PDP}^{-1}$ with \mathbf{D} diagonal; however, a factorization $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{QDP}^{-1}$ is possible for any $m \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} . A special factorization of this type, called the singular value decomposition, is one of the most useful matrix factorizations in applied linear algebra.

✿ The principal of the singular value decomposition

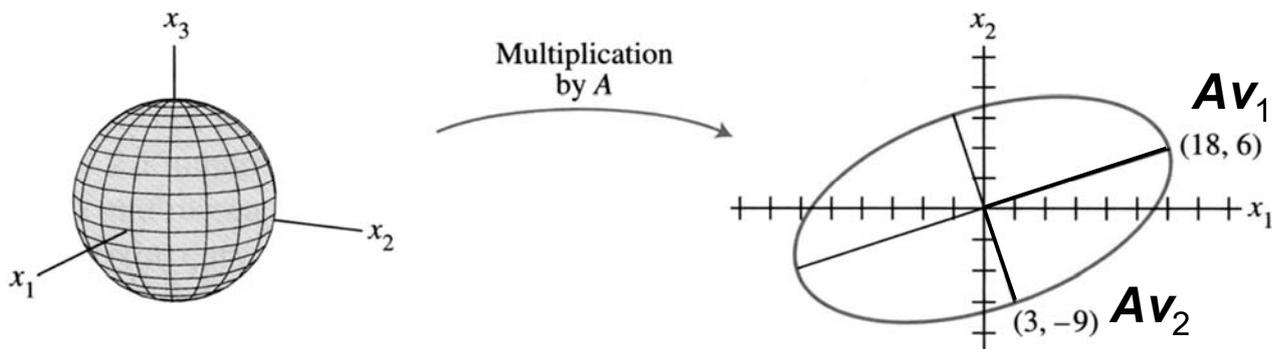
The absolute values of the eigenvalues of a symmetric matrix \mathbf{A} measure the amounts that \mathbf{A} stretches or shrinks certain vectors (the eigenvectors). If $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ and $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$, then

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\| = \|\lambda\mathbf{x}\| = |\lambda| \|\mathbf{x}\| = |\lambda|. \quad (1)$$

If λ_1 is the eigenvalue with the greater magnitude, then a corresponding unit eigenvector \mathbf{v}_1 identifies a direction in which the stretching effect of \mathbf{A} is greater.

✿ Example 1.

If $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$, then the linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ maps the unit sphere $\{\mathbf{x} : \|\mathbf{x}\| = 1\}$ in \mathbf{R}^3 onto an ellipse in \mathbf{R}^2 .



Find a unit vector \mathbf{x} at which the length $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|$ is maximized, and compute this maximum length.

Solution.

The quantity $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|^2$ is maximized at the same \mathbf{x} that maximizes $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|$, and $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|^2$ is easier to study.

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|^2 = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}.$$

$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is a symmetric matrix, since $(\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A})^T = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}^{TT} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$. So the problem now is to maximize the quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{x}$ subject to the constrain $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$.

The maximum value is the greatest eigenvalue λ_1 of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$. Also, the maximum value is attained at a unit eigenvector of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ corresponding to λ_1 .

$$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 8 \\ 11 & 7 \\ 14 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 80 & 100 & 40 \\ 100 & 170 & 140 \\ 40 & 140 & 200 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ are $\lambda_1 = 360$, $\lambda_2 = 90$, and $\lambda_3 = 0$.

The corresponding unit eigenvectors are, respectively :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ 2/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -2/3 \\ -1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2/3 \\ -2/3 \\ 1/3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The maximum value of $\|\mathbf{Ax}\|^2$ is 360, attained when \mathbf{x} is the unit vector \mathbf{v}_1 . The vector \mathbf{Av}_1 is a point on the ellipse in the above figure farthest from the origin, namely,

$$\mathbf{Av}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ 2/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 18 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 1$, the maximum value of $\|\mathbf{Ax}\|$ is $\|\mathbf{Av}_1\| = \sqrt{360} = 6\sqrt{10}$.

For the second unit eigenvector, \mathbf{v}_2 ,

$$\mathbf{Av}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -2/3 \\ -1/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 are orthogonal; $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Av}_1 = \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Av}_2 = \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2$.

$\mathbf{Av}_1 \cdot \mathbf{Av}_2 = (\mathbf{Av}_1)^T \mathbf{Av}_2 = \mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Av}_2 = \mathbf{v}_1^T (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Av}_2) = \mathbf{v}_1^T \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 = \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{v}_2 = 0$. \mathbf{Av}_1 and \mathbf{Av}_2 are also orthogonal.

#

The singular values of an $m \times n$ matrix

- ✿ Let \mathbf{A} be an $m \times n$ matrix. Then $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is a symmetric and can be orthogonally diagonalized. Let $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathbf{R}^n consisting of eigenvectors of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$, and let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ be the associated eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$. Then for $1 \leq i \leq n$,

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i\|^2 = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i)^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{v}_i^T (\lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i) = \lambda_i. \quad (2)$$

So the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ are all nonnegative. By renumbering, we can get $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0$.

- ✿ The *singular values* of \mathbf{A} are the square roots of the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$, denoted by $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$, and they are arranged in decreasing order. That is, $\sigma_i = (\lambda_i)^{1/2}$. The singular values of \mathbf{A} are the lengths of the vectors $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n$.

✿ Theorem 9.

Suppose $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathbf{R}^n consisting of eigenvectors of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$, arranged so that the corresponding eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ satisfy $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$, and suppose \mathbf{A} has r nonzero singular values. Then $\{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r\}$ is an orthogonal basis for $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$, and $\text{rank } \mathbf{A} = r$.

Proof.

Because \mathbf{v}_i and \mathbf{v}_j are orthogonal for $i \neq j$,

$$(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i)^T (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j) = \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_j = \mathbf{v}_i^T (\lambda_j \mathbf{v}_j) = 0.$$

Thus $\{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n\}$ is an orthogonal set. Furthermore, since the lengths of the vectors $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n$ are the singular values of \mathbf{A} , and since there are r nonzero singular values, $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i \neq 0$ if and only if $1 \leq i \leq r$. So $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r$ are linearly independent vectors, and they are in $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$. Finally, for any \mathbf{y} in $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$, say, $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$, we can write $\mathbf{x} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{v}_n$, and

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = c_1 \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_n \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_n = c_1 \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_r \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r + 0 + \dots + 0.$$

Thus \mathbf{y} is in $\text{Span}\{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r\}$, which shows that $\{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r\}$ is an orthogonal basis for $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$. Hence $\text{rank } \mathbf{A} = \dim \text{Col } \mathbf{A} = r$.

The singular value decomposition

- ✿ The decomposition of \mathbf{A} involves an $m \times n$ “diagonal” matrix Σ of the form

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{D} is an $r \times r$ diagonal matrix for some r not exceeding the smaller of m and n . (If r equals m or n or both, some or all of the zero matrices do not appear.)

- ✿ Theorem 10. (The singular value decomposition)

Let \mathbf{A} be an $m \times n$ matrix with rank r . Then there exists an $m \times n$ matrix Σ as in Eq.(3) for which the diagonal entries in \mathbf{D} are the first r singular values of \mathbf{A} , $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$, and there exist an $m \times m$ orthogonal matrix \mathbf{U} and an $n \times n$ orthogonal matrix \mathbf{V} such that

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

- ✿ Any factorization $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \Sigma \mathbf{V}^T$, with \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} orthogonal, Σ as in Eq.(3), and positive diagonal entries in \mathbf{D} , is called a singular value decomposition (or SVD) of \mathbf{A} .

- ✿ The matrix \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} are not uniquely determined by \mathbf{A} , but the diagonal entries of Σ are necessarily the singular values of \mathbf{A} . The columns of \mathbf{U} in such a decomposition are called left singular vectors of \mathbf{A} , and the columns of \mathbf{V} are called right singular vectors of \mathbf{A} .

Proof of Theorem 10.

Let λ_i and \mathbf{v}_i be a corresponding eigenvalue and eigenvector, so that $\{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_r\}$ is an orthogonal basis for $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$.

Normalize each $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i$ to obtain an orthonormal basis $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$,

$$\text{where } \mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i\|} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i$$

$$\text{and } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq r. \quad (4)$$

Now extend $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$ to an orthonormal basis $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$ of \mathbf{R}^m , and let $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1 \dots \mathbf{u}_m]$ and $\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \dots \mathbf{v}_n]$.

By construction, \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} are orthogonal matrices. Also from Eq.(4),

$\mathbf{AV} = [\mathbf{Av}_1 \dots \mathbf{Av}_r \ 0 \dots 0]$ and $\mathbf{AV} = [\sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \dots \sigma_r \mathbf{u}_r \ 0 \dots 0]$. Let \mathbf{D} be the diagonal matrix with diagonal entries $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$ and let Σ be as in Eq.(3). Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U}\Sigma &= [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \mathbf{u}_2 \ \dots \ \mathbf{u}_m] \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \sigma_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= [\sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \ \dots \ \sigma_r \mathbf{u}_r \ 0 \ \dots \ 0] \\ &= \mathbf{AV}. \end{aligned}$$

Since \mathbf{V} is an orthogonal matrix, $\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{AV}\mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{A}$.

Example 3.

Using the results of Example 1 to construct a singular value

decomposition of $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 11 & 14 \\ 8 & 7 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution.

A construction can be divided into three steps.

Step 1. Find an orthogonal diagonalization of $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$. That is to find the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}$ and a corresponding orthonormal set of eigenvectors.

Step 2. Set up \mathbf{V} and Σ .

$$\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \mathbf{v}_3] = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & -2/3 & 2/3 \\ 2/3 & -1/3 & -2/3 \\ 2/3 & 2/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 6\sqrt{10} & 0 \\ 0 & 3\sqrt{10} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Sigma = [\mathbf{D} \ 0] = \begin{bmatrix} 6\sqrt{10} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3\sqrt{10} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 3. Construct \mathbf{U} .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_1 &= \frac{1}{\sigma_1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{6\sqrt{10}} \begin{bmatrix} 18 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{10} \\ 1/\sqrt{10} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{u}_2 &= \frac{1}{\sigma_2} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_2 = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{10}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{10} \\ -3/\sqrt{10} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{and } \mathbf{U} &= [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \mathbf{u}_2] \end{aligned}$$

Thus the singular value decomposition of \mathbf{A} is

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 3/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{10} \\ 1/\sqrt{10} & -3/\sqrt{10} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 6\sqrt{10} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3\sqrt{10} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 2/3 & 2/3 \\ -2/3 & -1/3 & 2/3 \\ 2/3 & -2/3 & 1/3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

✿ **Example 4.**

Find a singular value decomposition of $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Solution.

Step 1. Find the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ and a corresponding orthonormal set of eigenvectors.

$$\lambda_1 = 18, \ \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \lambda_2 = 0, \ \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 2. Set up \mathbf{V} and Σ .

$$\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2] = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & -9 \\ -9 & 9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \sqrt{18} = 3\sqrt{2}.$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Step 3. Construct \mathbf{U} .

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{2} \\ -4/\sqrt{2} \\ 4/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 \\ -2/3 \\ 2/3 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ but } \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix};$$

thus we need two orthogonal unit vectors \mathbf{u}_2 and \mathbf{u}_3 that are orthogonal to \mathbf{u}_1 . That is, we want to find two vectors \mathbf{x} such that $\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{x} = 0$. The problem is equivalent to the equation $\mathbf{x}_1 - 2\mathbf{x}_2 + 2\mathbf{x}_3 = 0$.

A basis for the solution set is

$$\mathbf{w}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{w}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Apply the Gram – Schmidt process to $\{\mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3\}$ to get

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2/\sqrt{5} \\ 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{45} \\ 4/\sqrt{45} \\ 5/\sqrt{45} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finally, set $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1 \ \mathbf{u}_2 \ \mathbf{u}_3]$.

$$\text{Then } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 2/\sqrt{5} & -2/\sqrt{45} \\ -2/3 & 1/\sqrt{5} & 4/\sqrt{45} \\ 2/3 & 0 & 5/\sqrt{45} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Applications of the singular value decomposition

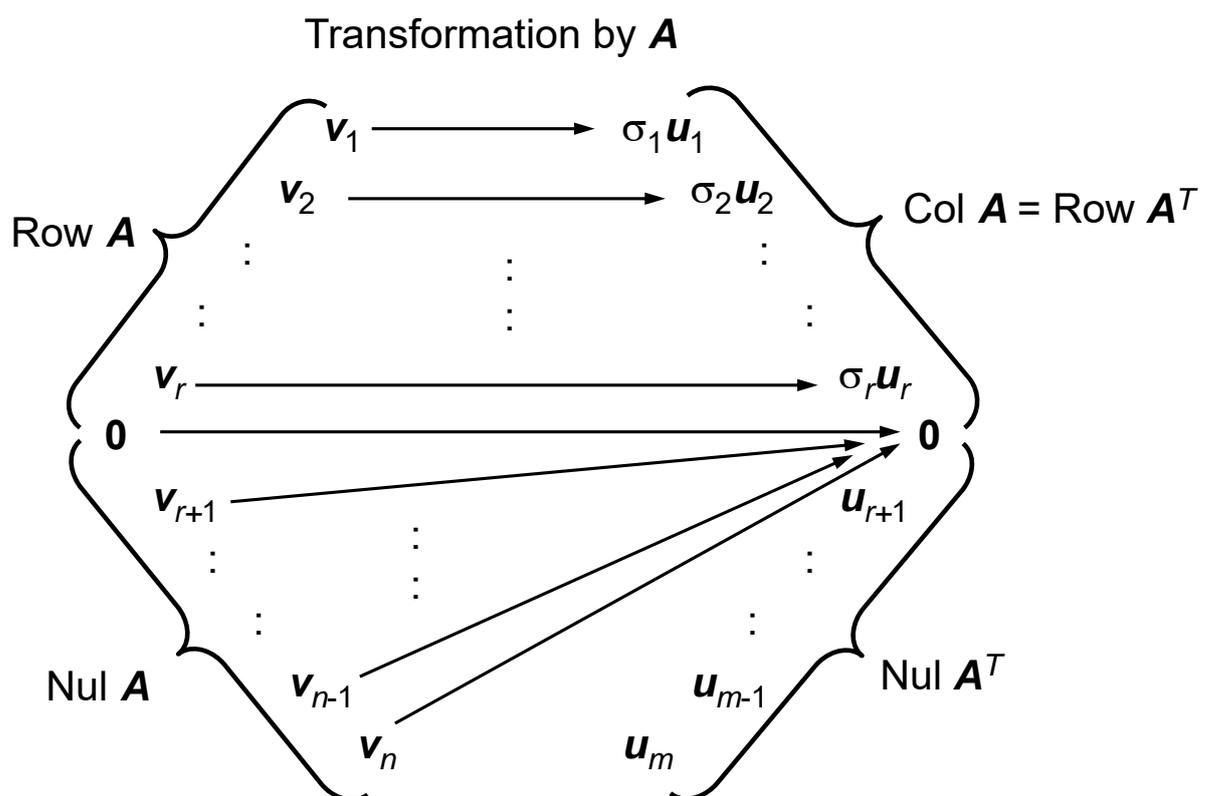
- ✿ The *SVD* is often used to estimate the rank of a matrix, as note above. Several other numerical applications are described briefly below, and an application to image processing is presented in my course of Image Processing.
- ✿ Example 5. (The condition number)
Consider the equation $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. If the singular values of \mathbf{A} are extremely large or small, roundoff errors are almost inevitable, but an error analysis is aided by knowing the entries in Σ and \mathbf{V} . If \mathbf{A} is an invertible $n \times n$ matrix, then the ratio σ_1/σ_n of the largest and smallest singular values given the *condition number* of \mathbf{A} .

❁ Example 6. (*Bases for fundamental subspaces*)

Given an SVD for an $m \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} , let $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$ be the left singular vectors, $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ be the right singular vectors, $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ be the singular values, and r be the rank of \mathbf{A} .

- i. By Theorem 9, $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$.
- ii. Since $(\text{Col } \mathbf{A})^\perp = \text{Nul } \mathbf{A}^T$, $\{\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\text{Nul } \mathbf{A}^T$.
- iii. Since $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_i\| = \sigma_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$, and σ_i is 0 if and only if $i > r$, the vectors $\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$ span a subspace of $\text{Nul } \mathbf{A}$ of dimension $n - r$. By the Rank Theorem, $\dim \text{Nul } \mathbf{A} = n - \text{rank } \mathbf{A}$. It follows that $\{\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\text{Nul } \mathbf{A}$.
- iv. Since $(\text{Nul } \mathbf{A}^T)^\perp = \text{Col } \mathbf{A}$, interchanging \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{A}^T , we have $(\text{Nul } \mathbf{A})^\perp = \text{Col } \mathbf{A}^T = \text{Row } \mathbf{A}$; thus $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $\text{Row } \mathbf{A}$.

❁ The four fundamental subspaces and the action of \mathbf{A} are diagrammed as follows.



❁ Theorem. (The invertible matrix theorem (concluded))

Let \mathbf{A} be an $n \times n$ matrix. Then the following statements are each equivalent to the statement that \mathbf{A} is an invertible matrix.

u. $(\text{Col } \mathbf{A})^\perp = \{0\}$.

v. $(\text{Nul } \mathbf{A})^\perp = \mathbf{R}^n$.

w. $\text{Row } \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{R}^n$.

x. \mathbf{A} has n nonzero singular values.

❁ Example 7. (*Reduced SVD and the pseudoinverse of \mathbf{A}*)

When Σ contains rows or columns of zeros, a more compact decomposition of \mathbf{A} is possible. Using the notation established above, let $r = \text{rank } \mathbf{A}$, and partition \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} into submatrices whose first blocks contain r columns:

$$\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{U}_r \quad \mathbf{U}_{m-r}], \text{ where } \mathbf{U}_r = [\mathbf{u}_1 \dots \mathbf{u}_r] \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{V}_r \quad \mathbf{V}_{n-r}], \text{ where } \mathbf{V}_r = [\mathbf{v}_1 \dots \mathbf{v}_r] \text{ and}$$

Then \mathbf{U}_r is $m \times r$ and \mathbf{V}_r is $n \times r$. Then partitioned matrix multiplication shows that

$$\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{U}_r \quad \mathbf{U}_{m-r}] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_r^T \\ \mathbf{V}_{n-r}^T \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}_r^T. \quad (9)$$

This factorization of \mathbf{A} is called a reduced singular value decomposition of \mathbf{A} . Since the diagonal entries in \mathbf{D} are nonzero, we can form the following matrix, called the *pseudoinverse* (also, *Moore-Penrose inverse*) of \mathbf{A} :

$$\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{V}_r \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}_r^T. \quad (10)$$

❁ Example 8. (*Least-square solution*)

Given the equation $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$, use the pseudo inverse of \mathbf{A} to define $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}^+ \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{V}_r \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}_r^T \mathbf{b}$.

Then, from the SVD in Eq.(9),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}} &= (\mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{V}_r^T) (\mathbf{V}_r \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}_r^T \mathbf{b}) \\ &= \mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{D} \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}_r^T \mathbf{b} \quad (\because \mathbf{V}_r^T \mathbf{V}_r = \mathbf{I}_r) \\ &= \mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{U}_r^T \mathbf{b}. \end{aligned}$$

Where $\mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{U}_r^T \mathbf{b}$ is the orthogonal projection $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ of \mathbf{b} onto $\text{Col } \mathbf{A}$.

Thus $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is a least – square solution of $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. In fact, this $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ has the smallest length among all least – square solution $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$.

❁ Exercises of Section 7.4.

- ❁ A $n \times n$ square matrix exactly has n eigenvalues, but may has less than or equal to n eigenvectors.
- ❁ For a general square matrix, eigenvalues can be real or complex number, and eigenvectors may be linearly dependent or independent.
- ❁ If a matrix has eigenvalue 0, the matrix is not invertible. If a $n \times n$ matrix has n LI eigenvector, the matrix is diagonalizable.
- ❁ For a symmetric matrix, the eigenvalues must be real number, the eigenvectors must be orthogonalized.
- ❁ For $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ matrix, the eigenvalues must be nonnegative, the eigenvectors must be orthogonalized.