Solving Linear Least Squares with SVD

What we have learned so far...

A is a $m \times n$ matrix where m > n (more points to fit than coefficient to be determined)

Normal Equations: $A^T A x = A^T b$

• The solution $A \ x \cong b$ is unique if and only if rank(A) = n(A is full column rank)

• $rank(\mathbf{A}) = n \rightarrow columns of \mathbf{A}$ are *linearly independent* $\rightarrow n$ non-zero singular values $\rightarrow \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ has only positive eigenvalues $\rightarrow \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is a symmetric and positive definite matrix $\rightarrow \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is invertible

$$\boldsymbol{x} = (\boldsymbol{A}^T \boldsymbol{A})^{-1} \boldsymbol{A}^T \boldsymbol{b}$$

If rank(A) < n, then A is rank-deficient, and solution of linear least squares problem is not unique.

SVD to solve linear least squares problems

A is a $m \times n$ rectangular matrix where m > n, and hence the SVD decomposition is given by:

$$\boldsymbol{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{u}_1 & \dots & \boldsymbol{u}_m \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_n \\ & & & \sigma_n \\ & & & 0 \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \boldsymbol{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \boldsymbol{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

We want to find the least square solution of $A \ x \cong b$, where $A = U \Sigma V^T$

or better expressed in reduced form: $A = U_R \Sigma_R V^T$



Shapes of the Reduced SVD

Suppose you compute a reduced SVD $A = U\Sigma V^T$ of a 10×14 matrix A. What will the shapes of U, Σ , and V be? **Hint:** Remember the transpose on V!



SVD to solve linear least squares problems

$$\boldsymbol{A} = \boldsymbol{U}_{\boldsymbol{R}} \ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{R}} \ \boldsymbol{V}^{\boldsymbol{T}}$$
$$\boldsymbol{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{u}_{1} & \dots & \boldsymbol{u}_{n} \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{1} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_{n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \mathbf{v}_{1}^{T} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_{n}^{T} & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$









Example:

Consider solving the least squares problem $A \ x \cong b$, where the singular value decomposition of the matrix $A = U \Sigma V^T x$ is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0\\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1\\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 14 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 1 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \cong \begin{bmatrix} 12\\ 9\\ 9\\ 9\\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

Determine $\|\boldsymbol{b} - \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{x}\|_2$



Example

Suppose you have $A = U \Sigma V^T x$ calculated. What is the cost of solving

 $\min_{x} \| \boldsymbol{b} - \boldsymbol{A} \, \boldsymbol{x} \|_{2}^{2} ?$

A) O(n)
B) O(n²)
C) O(mn)
D) O(m)
E) O(m²)