

L18: Singular Value Decomposition (the SVD)

Mar 18, 2026

FODA

Jeff M. Phillips

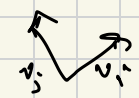
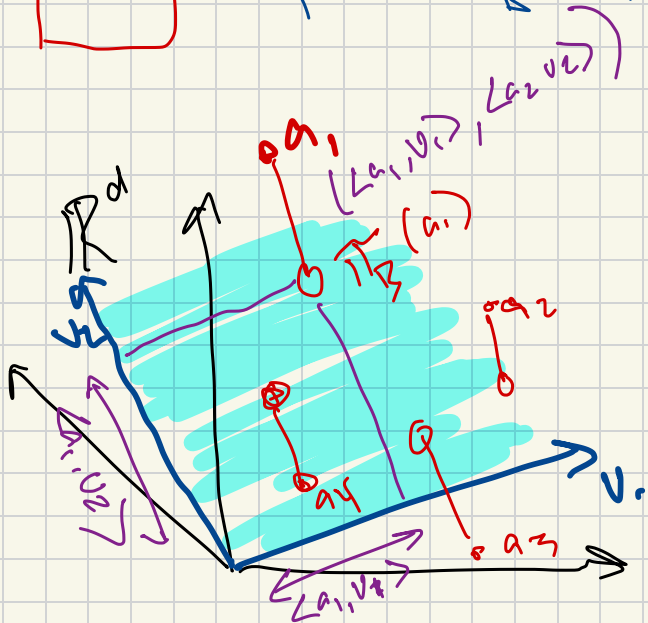


Input: $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$

A

Goal Basis B $V_B = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ $k \leq d$
 $\|v_j\| = 1$ $\langle v_j, v_i \rangle = 0$

projection $\pi_B(a)$

Choose V_B

$$V_B^* = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\} = \underset{V_B}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\|a_i - \pi_B(a_i)\|}_{\text{residual}}^2$$

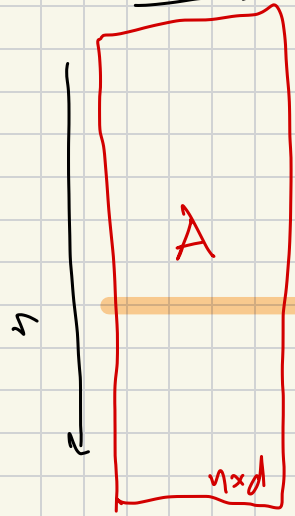
either
 $\rightarrow \pi_B(a_i) \in \mathbb{R}^d$
 $\rightarrow (\langle a_i, v_1 \rangle, \langle a_i, v_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle a_i, v_k \rangle) \in \mathbb{R}^k$

Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

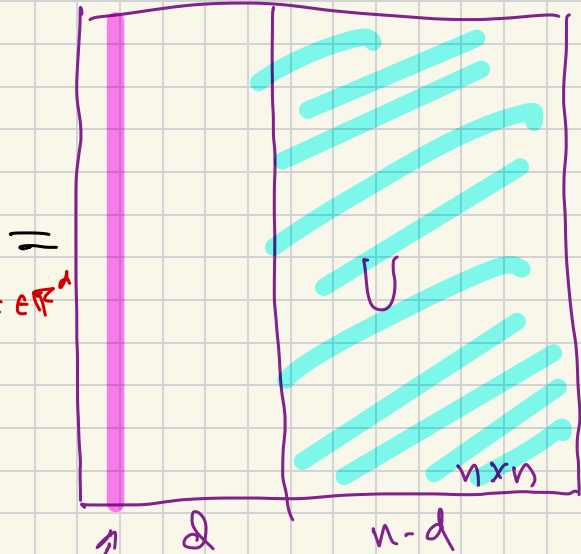
$$A = U \underset{d}{S} V^T$$

$$A = \sum_{j=1}^d \underbrace{u_j \sigma_j v_j^T}_{\in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}}$$

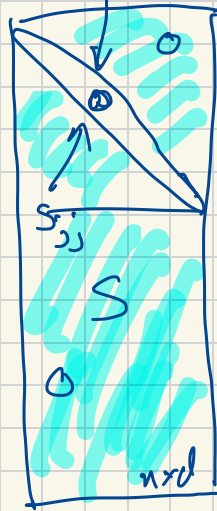
$(n \times 1) \times (1 \times 1) \times (1 \times d)$



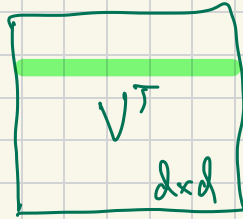
$\|u_j\| = 1$
 $\langle u_j, u_i \rangle = 0$
 U orthogonal



$u_j = j$ th left singular vector



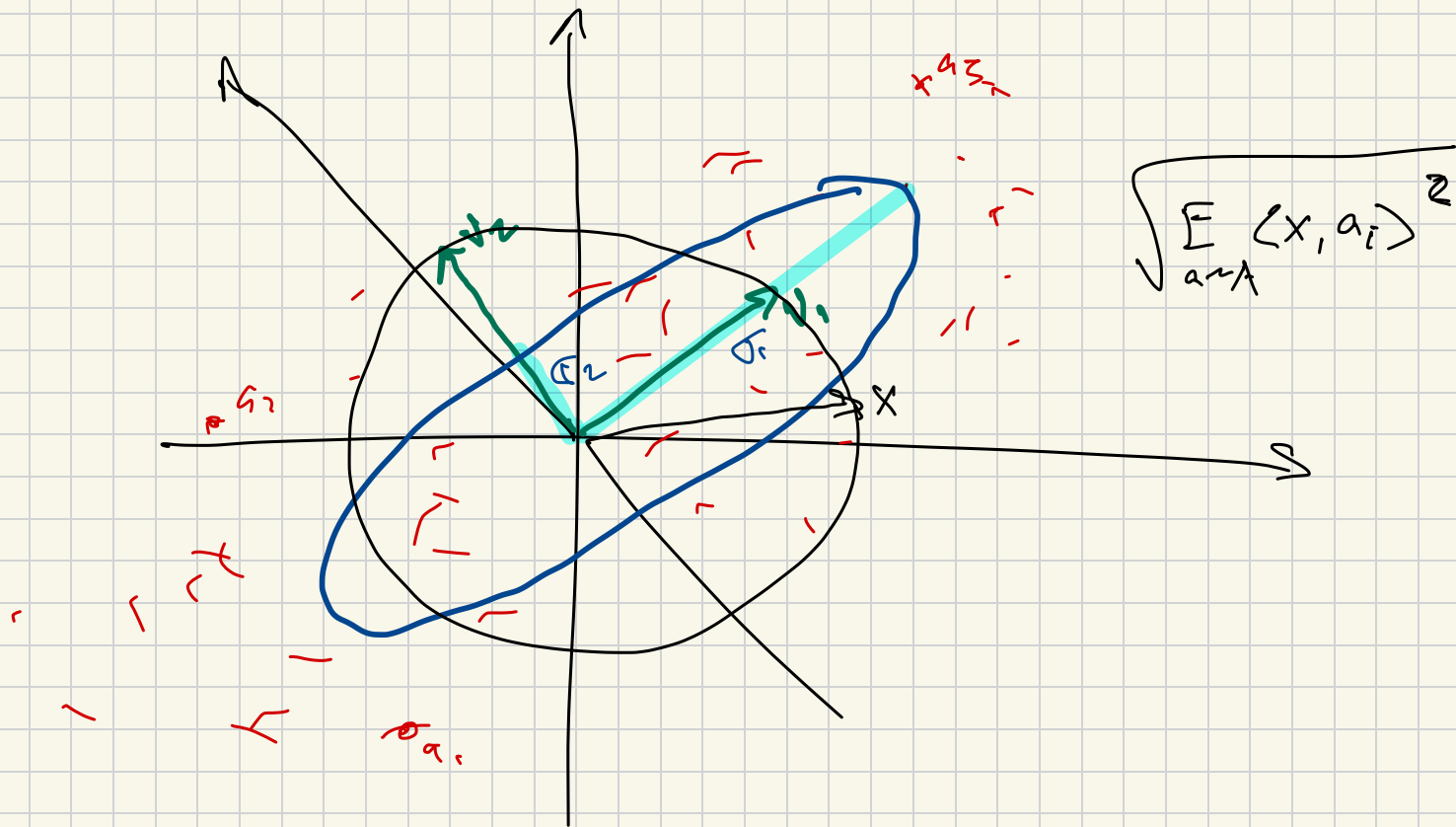
$\sigma_j = \sigma_j = j$ th singular value



$v_j = j$ th right singular vector

$\|v_j\| = 1$
 $\langle v_j, v_i \rangle = 0$
 V orthogonal

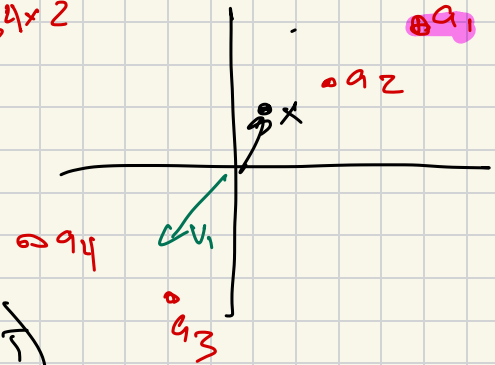
$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_d \geq 0$$



$$\text{svd}(A) \rightarrow v_1, v_2$$

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} -0.8142 & 0.5805 \\ 0.5805 & 0.8142 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 \\ -1 & -3 \\ -5 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 2}$$



$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 8.1635 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.3074 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

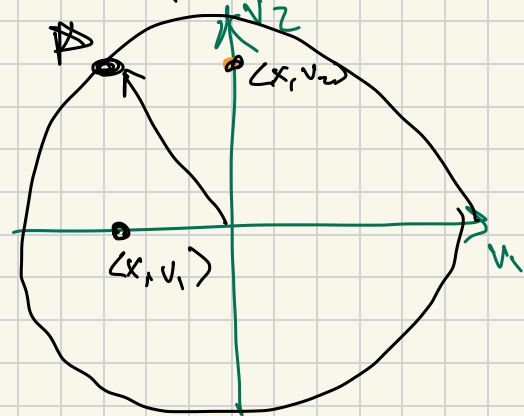
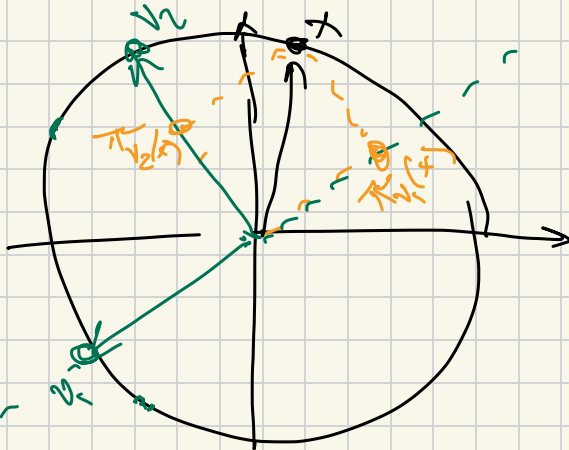
$$Ax = (USV^T)x$$

new coordinate frame

$$\begin{matrix} \rightarrow V^T x \\ S V^T x \end{matrix}$$

$$x = (0.243, 0.970)$$

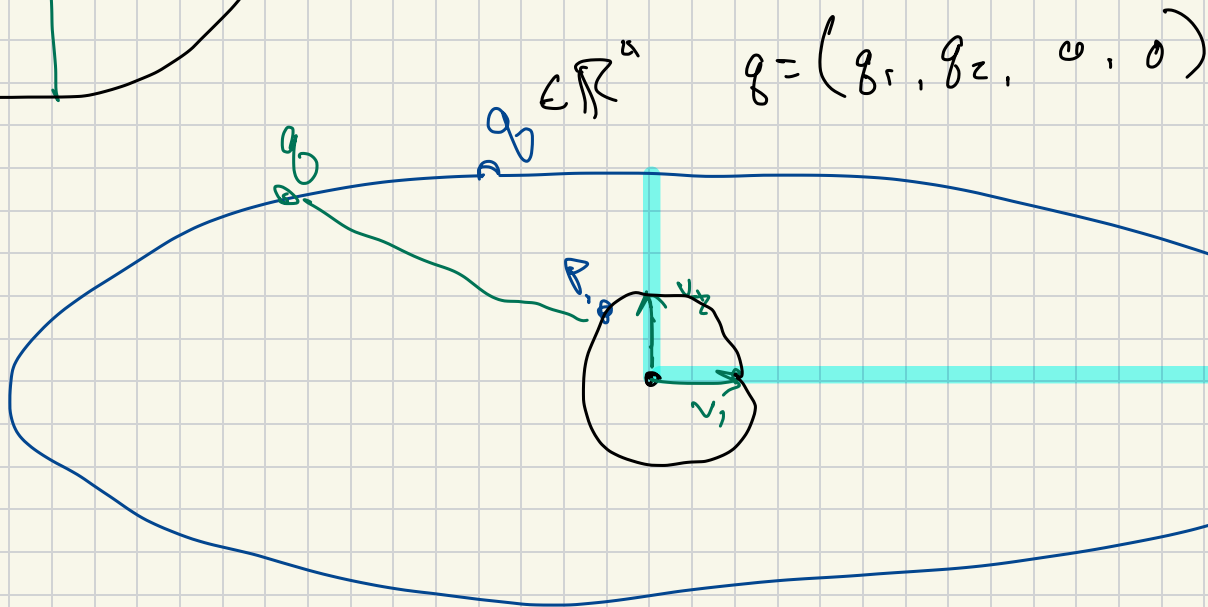
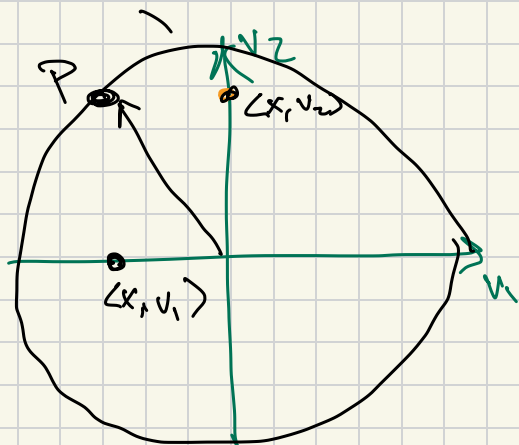
$$p = V^T x = (-.5, .9)$$



$$P = V^T x = (\langle v_1, x \rangle, \langle v_2, x \rangle)$$

$$g = S V^T x = S P$$

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 8.16 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.5 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



Input $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$

$$\text{svd}(A) = U S V^T$$

$$U = \{ \overset{\text{first } k}{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d} \}$$

$$\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\} = \underset{\substack{V_B \\ |V_B|=k}}{\text{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|a_i - \Pi_B(a_i)\|^2$$

(given B contains origin)

what is

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|a_i - \Pi_{B^*}(a_i)\|^2 = \sum_{j=k+1}^d \sigma_j^2$$

bottom $d-k$
sing values
squared.

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|a_i - \Pi_B(a_i)\|^2$$

$V_B = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ ← top k right v_i

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \sum_{j=1}^k v_j \langle v_j, a_i \rangle - \sum_{j=1}^k v_j \langle v_j, a_i \rangle \right\|^2$$

$\underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^k v_j \langle v_j, a_i \rangle}_{\Pi_{V_B}(a_i)}$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \sum_{j=k+1}^d v_j \langle v_j, a_i \rangle \right\|^2$$

Pythagorean
 $\langle v_j, v_{j'} \rangle = 0$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=k+1}^d \|v_j \langle v_j, a_i \rangle\|^2$$

$\|v_j\| = 1$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=k+1}^d \cancel{\|v_j\|^2} \langle v_j, a_i \rangle^2$$

$$= \sum_{j=k+1}^d \|A v_j\|^2 = \sum_{j=k+1}^d \sigma_j^2$$

Best Rank-k Approximation

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

$$\Rightarrow A_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

$$\text{rank}(A_k) = k$$

"best"

$$A_k = \underset{\text{rank}(B)=k}{\text{argmin}} \quad \left\| B - A \right\|_F^2$$

or

$$\left\| B - A \right\|_F^2$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \| \text{row}(A_i) - \text{row}(B_i) \|^2$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^d \| \text{col}(A_j) - \text{col}(B_j) \|^2$$

or
 $\text{argmin}_{\text{rank}(B)=k} \left\| B - A \right\|_F^2$

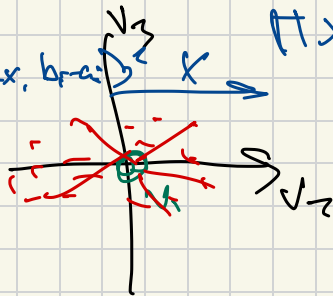
$$\left\| B - A \right\|_2^2 = \sigma_{k+1}^2$$

both

$$A_k = \sum_{j=1}^k \sigma_j u_j v_j^T$$

top k singular values + vectors
 $v_j \quad u_j \quad \sigma_j$

$$\left\| B - A \right\|_2^2 = \max_{\|x\|=1} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^2(x, B-A)$$



$$\|x\|=1$$

