# 14\_SVD

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# 1 14 Linear Algebra: Singular Value Decomposition

One can always decompose a matrix A

$$A = U \operatorname{diag}(w_i) V^T \tag{1}$$

$$U^T U = U U^T = 1 \tag{2}$$

$$V^T V = V V^T = 1 \tag{3}$$

where U and V are orthogonal matrices and the  $w_j$  are the *singular values* that are assembled into a diagonal matrix W.

$$W = diag(w_i)$$

The inverse (if it exists) can be directly calculated from the SVD:

$$A^{-1} = V \operatorname{diag}(1/w_i) U^T$$

## 1.1 Solving ill-conditioned coupled linear equations

In [1]: import numpy as np

### 1.1.1 Non-singular matrix

Solve the linear system of equations

$$Ax = b$$

Using the standard linear solver in numpy:

In [3]: np.linalg.solve(A, b)

```
Out[3]: array([ 0.83333333, -0.91666667,  0.33333333])
   Using the inverse from SVD:
                                         \mathbf{x} = \mathsf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}
In [4]: U, w, VT = np.linalg.svd(A)
        print(w)
[7.74140616 2.96605874 0.52261473]
   First check that the SVD really factors A = U \operatorname{diag}(w_i) V^T:
In [5]: U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT))
Out[5]: array([[ 1., 2., 3.],
                 [3., 2., 1.],
                [-1., -2., -6.]])
In [6]: np.allclose(A, U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT)))
Out[6]: True
   Now calculate the matrix inverse A^{-1} = V \operatorname{diag}(1/w_i) U^T:
In [7]: inv_w = 1/w
        print(inv_w)
[0.1291755 0.33714774 1.91345545]
In [8]: A_inv = VT.T.dot(np.diag(inv_w)).dot(U.T)
        print(A_inv)
[[-8.33333333e-01 5.0000000e-01 -3.33333333e-01]
 [ 1.41666667e+00 -2.50000000e-01 6.66666667e-01]
 [-3.3333333e-01 -1.08335035e-16 -3.33333333e-01]]
   Check that this is the same that we get from numpy.linalg.inv():
In [9]: np.allclose(A_inv, np.linalg.inv(A))
Out[9]: True
   Now, finally solve (and check against numpy.linalg.solve()):
In [10]: x = A_{inv.dot(b)}
         print(x)
          np.allclose(x, np.linalg.solve(A, b))
```

```
[ 0.83333333 -0.91666667  0.33333333]
Out[10]: True
In [11]: A.dot(x)
Out[11]: array([-7.77156117e-16,  1.00000000e+00, -1.00000000e+00])
In [12]: np.allclose(A.dot(x), b)
Out[12]: True
```

#### 1.1.2 Singular matrix

If the matrix A is *singular* (i.e., its rank (linearly independent rows or columns) is less than its dimension and hence the linear system of equation does not have a unique solution):

For example, the following matrix has the same row twice:

```
In [13]: C = np.array([
              [ 0.87119148, 0.9330127, -0.9330127],
              [ 1.1160254, 0.04736717, -0.04736717],
              [ 1.1160254, 0.04736717, -0.04736717],
            1)
         b1 = np.array([2.3674474, -0.24813392, -0.24813392])
         b2 = np.array([0, 1, 1])
In [14]: np.linalg.solve(C, b1)
                                                  Traceback (most recent call last)
       LinAlgError
        <ipython-input-14-8be5ef6ba3bc> in <module>
    ----> 1 np.linalg.solve(C, b1)
        ~/anaconda3/lib/python3.6/site-packages/numpy/linalg/linalg.py in solve(a, b)
        392
                signature = 'DD->D' if isComplexType(t) else 'dd->d'
                extobj = get_linalg_error_extobj(_raise_linalgerror_singular)
        393
    --> 394
                r = gufunc(a, b, signature=signature, extobj=extobj)
        395
        396
               return wrap(r.astype(result_t, copy=False))
        ~/anaconda3/lib/python3.6/site-packages/numpy/linalg/linalg.py in _raise_linalgerror_s
         87
         88 def _raise_linalgerror_singular(err, flag):
```

```
---> 89 raise LinAlgError("Singular matrix")
90
91 def _raise_linalgerror_nonposdef(err, flag):
```

LinAlgError: Singular matrix

NOTE: failure is not always that obvious: numerically, a matrix can be *almost* singular. Try solving the linear system of equations

$$D\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}_1$$

with matrix D below:

Note that some of the values are huge, and suspiciously like the inverse of machine precision? Sign of a nearly singular matrix.

**Note**: *Just because a function did not throw an exception it does not mean that the answer is correct.* **Always check your output!** 

Now back to the example with C:

**SVD for singular matrices** If a matrix is *singular* or *near singular* then one can *still* apply SVD. One can then compute the *pseudo inverse* 

$$A^{-1} = V \operatorname{diag}(\alpha_j) U^T \tag{4}$$

$$\alpha_j = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{w_j}, & \text{if } w_j \neq 0\\ 0, & \text{if } w_j = 0 \end{cases}$$
 (5)

i.e., any singular  $w_i = 0$  is being "augmented" by setting

$$\frac{1}{w_i} \to 0$$
 if  $w_j = 0$ 

in diag $(1/w_i)$ .

Perform the SVD for the singular matrix C:

**Pseudo-inverse** Calculate the **pseudo-inverse** from the SVD

$$A^{-1} = V \operatorname{diag}(\alpha_j) U^T$$

$$\alpha_j = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{w_j}, & \text{if } w_j \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } w_j = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$(7)$$

Augment:

**Solution for b\_1** Now solve the linear problem with SVD:

Thus, using the pseudo-inverse  $C^{-1}$  we can obtain solutions to the equation

$$Cx_1 = b_1$$

However,  $x_1$  is not the only solution: there's a whole line of solutions that are formed by the special solution and a combination of the basis vectors in the *null space* of the matrix:

The (right) *kernel* or *null space* contains all vectors  $\mathbf{x}^0$  for which

$$Cx^{0} = 0$$

(The dimension of the null space corresponds to the number of singular values.) You can find a basis that spans the null space. Any linear combination of null space basis vectors will also end up in the null space when **A** is applied to it.

Specifically, if  $x_1$  is a special solution and  $\lambda_1 x_1^0 + \lambda_2 x_2^0 + \dots$  is a vector in the null space then

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_1 + (\lambda_1 \mathbf{x}_1^0 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{x}_2^0 + \dots)$$

is also a solution because

The rank space comes from  $U^T$ :

$$Cx = Cx_1 + C(\lambda_1 x_1^0 + \lambda_2 x_2^0 + \dots) = Cx_1 + 0 = \mathbf{b}_1 + 0 = \mathbf{b}_1$$

The  $\lambda_i$  are arbitrary real numbers and hence there is an infinite number of solutions. In SVD:

- The columns  $U_{\cdot,i}$  of U (i.e. U.T[i] or U[:, i]) corresponding to non-zero  $w_i$ , i.e.  $\{i : w_i \neq 0\}$ , form the basis for the *range* of the matrix A.
- The columns  $V_{\cdot,i}$  of V (i.e. V.T[i] or V[:, i]) corresponding to zero  $w_i$ , i.e.  $\{i: w_i = 0\}$ , form the basis for the *null space* of the matrix A.

```
In [27]: x1
Out[27]: array([-0.34365138, 1.4291518 , -1.4291518 ])
```

```
In [28]: U.T
```

The basis vectors for the rank space (~ bool\_array applies a logical NOT operation to the entries in the boolean array so that we can pick out "not singular values"):

The null space comes from  $V^T$ :

In [30]: VT

The basis vector for the null space:

The component of  $x_1$  along the basis vector of the null space of C (here a 1D space) – note that this component is zero, i.e., the special solution lives in the rank space:

```
In [32]: x1.dot(VT[singular_values][0])
Out[32]: 2.220446049250313e-16
```

We can create a family of solutions by adding vectors in the null space to the special solution  $\mathbf{x}_1$ , e.g.  $\lambda_1 = 2$ :

Thus, all solutions are

```
x1 + lambda * VT[2]
```

**Solution for b**<sub>2</sub> The solution vector  $x_2$  solves

```
Cx_2 = b_2
```

... and the general solution will again be obtained by adding any multiple of the null space basis vector.

**Null space** The Null space is spanned by the following basis vectors (just one in this example):

### 1.2 SVD for fewer equations than unknowns

*N* equations for *M* unknowns with N < M:

- no unique solutions (underdetermined)
- M N dimensional family of solutions
- SVD: at least M-N zero or negligible  $w_j$ : columns of V corresponding to singular  $w_j$  span the solution space when added to a particular solution.

Same as the above Section 1.1.

## 1.3 SVD for more equations than unknowns

N equations for M unknowns with N > M:

- no exact solutions in general (overdetermined)
- but: SVD can provide best solution in the least-square sense

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathsf{V} \operatorname{diag}(1/w_i) \mathsf{U}^T \mathbf{b}$$

where

- x is a M-dimensional vector of the unknowns (parameters of the fit),
- V is a  $M \times N$  matrix
- the  $w_i$  form a square  $M \times M$  matrix,
- U is a  $M \times N$  matrix (and U<sup>T</sup> is a  $N \times M$  matrix), and
- **b** is the *N*-dimensional vector of the given values (data)

It can be shown that x minimizes the residual

$$\mathbf{r} := |\mathsf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}|.$$

where the matrix A will be described below and will contain the evaluation of the fit function for each data point in **b**.

(For a  $N \le M$ , one can find **x** so that  $\mathbf{r} = 0$  – see above.)

(In the following, we will switch notation and denote the vector of M unknown parameters of the model as  $\mathbf{a}$ ; this  $\mathbf{a}$  corresponds to  $\mathbf{x}$  above. N is the number of observations.)

#### 1.3.1 Linear least-squares fitting

This is the *liner least-squares fitting problem*: Given N data points  $(x_i, y_i)$  (where  $1 \le i \le N$ ), fit to a linear model y(x), which can be any linear combination of M functions of x.

For example, if we have N functions  $x^k$  with parameters  $a_k$ 

$$y(x) = a_1 + a_2x + a_3x^2 + \dots + a_Mx^{M-1}$$

or in general

$$y(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_k X_k(x)$$

The goal is to determine the M coefficients  $a_k$ .

Define the **merit function** 

$$\chi^{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \frac{y_{i} - \sum_{k=1}^{M} a_{k} X_{k}(x_{i})}{\sigma_{i}} \right]^{2}$$

(sum of squared deviations, weighted with standard deviations  $\sigma_i$  on the  $y_i$ ).

Best parameters  $a_k$  are the ones that *minimize*  $\chi^2$ .

*Design matrix* A ( $N \times M$ ,  $N \ge M$ ), vector of measurements **b** (N-dim) and parameter vector **a** (M-dim):

$$A_{ij} = \frac{X_j(x_i)}{\sigma_i} \tag{8}$$

$$b_i = \frac{y_i}{\sigma_i} \tag{9}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_M) \tag{10}$$

The design matrix A contains the *predicted* values from the basis functions for all values  $x_i$  of the independent variable x for which we have measured data  $y_i$ .

Minimum occurs when the derivative vanishes:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial a_k} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_i^{-2} \left[ y_i - \sum_{j=1}^{M} a_j X_j(x_i) \right] X_k(x_i), \quad 1 \le k \le M$$

(*M* coupled equations)

To simplify the notation, define the  $M \times M$  matrix

$$\alpha_{kj} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{X_k(x_i) X_j(x_i)}{\sigma_i^2}$$
 (11)

$$ff = A^T A (12)$$

and the vector of length M

$$\beta_k = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{y_i X_k(x_i)}{\sigma_i^2} \tag{13}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathsf{A}^T \mathbf{b} \tag{14}$$

Then the *M* coupled equations can be compactly written as

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} \alpha_{kj} a_j = \beta_k \tag{15}$$

$$\mathsf{ff}\mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\beta} \tag{16}$$

ff and  $\beta$  are known, so we have to solve this matrix equation for the vector of the unknown parameters **a**.

**Error estimates for the parameters** The inverse of ff is related to the uncertainties in the parameters:

$$C := ff^{-1}$$

in particular

$$\sigma(a_i) = C_{ii}$$

(and the  $C_{ij}$  are the co-variances).

**Solution of the linear least-squares fitting problem with SVD** We need to solve the overdetermined system of *M* coupled equations

$$\sum_{j=1}^{M} \alpha_{kj} a_j = \beta_k \tag{17}$$

$$\mathsf{ff}\mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\beta} \tag{18}$$

We can solve the above equation with SVD.

SVD finds a that minimizes

$$\chi^2 = |\mathsf{A}\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}|$$

(proof in *Numerical Recipes* Ch 2.) and so SVD is suitable to solve the equation above. We can alternatively use SVD to directly solve the overdetermined system

$$Aa = b$$

and we should get the same answer.

The first approach might be preferrable because the matrix ff is a relatively small  $M \times M$  matrix, i.e., its size depends on the number of parameters. The design matrix A is a  $N \times M$  matrix and can be large (in one dimensions) because its size depends on the possibly large number N, the number of data points.

The errors are

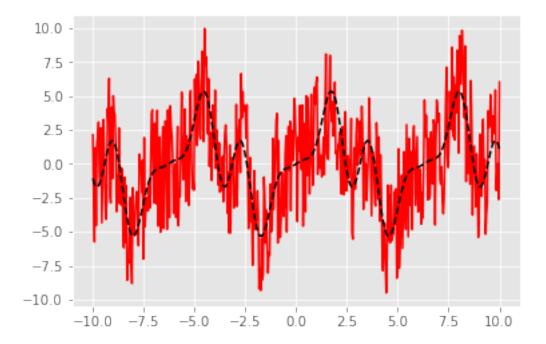
$$\sigma^2(a_j) = \sum_{i=1}^M \left(\frac{V_{ji}}{w_i}\right)^2$$

(see also Numerical Recipes Ch. 15) where  $V_{ji}$  are elements of V.

#### **Example** Synthetic data

$$y(x) = 3\sin x - 2\sin 3x + \sin 4x$$

with noise r added (uniform in range -5 < r < 5).



Define our fit function (the model) and the basis functions. We need the basis functions for setting up the problem and we will later use the fitfunction together with our parameter estimates to compare our fit to the true underlying function.

(Note that we could have used the basisfuncs() in fitfunc() – left as an exercise for the keen reader...)

Set up the ff matrix and the  $\beta$  vector (here we assume that all observations have the same error  $\sigma = 1$ ):

```
In [43]: M = 8
    sigma = 1.
    alpha = np.zeros((M, M))
    beta = np.zeros(M)
    for x in X:
        Xk = basisfuncs(x)
```

```
for k in range(M):
    for j in range(M):
        alpha[k, j] += Xk[k]*Xk[j]
for x, y in zip(X, Y):
    beta += y * basisfuncs(x)/sigma
```

Finally, solving the problem follows the same procedure as before: Get the SVD:

In this case, the singular values do not immediately show if any basis functions are superfluous (this would be the case for values close to 0).

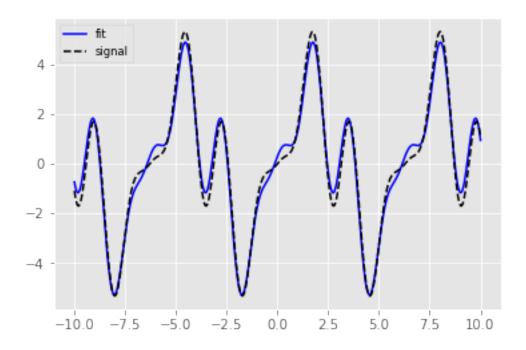
... nevertheless, remember to routinely mask any singular values or close to singular values:

Solve the system of equations with the pseudo-inverse:

Compare the fitted values to the original parameters  $a_i = 0, +3, 0, 0, 0, -2, 0, +1$ .

The original parameters show up as 3.15, -2.04 and 1.08 but the other parameters also have appreciable values. Given that the noise was sizable, this is not unreasonable.

Compare the plot of the underlying true function ("signal", dashed line) to the model ("fit", solid line):



We get some spurious oscillations but overall the result looks reasonable.

#### In []:

**Direct calculation** Instead of solving the compact  $M \times M$  matrix equation  $ff \mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\beta}$ , we can try to directly solve the overdetermined  $M \times N$  equation

$$Aa = b$$

Creating the design matrix is straight-forward (but because of the way that basisfuncs() returns values, we need to transpose the output to get the proper  $N \times M$  matrix A):

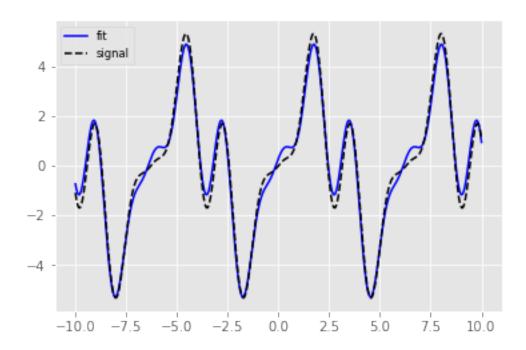
Calculate the pseudo-inverse  $A^{-1}$ .

Note that we need to explicitly construct the matrix with the inverses of the singular values by filling a  $M \times N$  matrix with diag( $w_i$ ).

```
Ainv = V.dot(winvmat).dot(U.T)
  The singular values are all well behaved:
In [82]: w
Out[82]: array([17.23160167, 16.8210597, 15.61376248, 15.35350386, 15.33490742,
                15.33454884, 15.33454306, 15.33454304])
In [83]: V.shape, winvmat.shape, U.T.shape
Out[83]: ((8, 8), (8, 500), (500, 500))
In [84]: Ainv.shape
Out[84]: (8, 500)
In [85]: A.shape
Out[85]: (500, 8)
  Now solve directly
                                     A^{-1}b = a
In [88]: a = Ainv.dot(b)
         a
Out[88]: array([-0.08436957, 3.01646 , 0.30062685, 0.03492872, -0.03711539,
                -1.70048432, 0.12217945, 1.03404778)
  The parameter estimates are the same as above.
In [90]: a_values - a
Out [90]: array([-6.80011603e-16, 5.32907052e-15, -1.11022302e-16, -2.74780199e-15,
                -1.03389519e-15, -4.44089210e-16, 5.55111512e-17, 2.22044605e-15])
  and hence the plot looks the same:
In [89]: plt.plot(X, fitfunc(X, a_values), 'b-', label="fit")
         plt.plot(X, signal(X, noise=0), 'k--', label="signal")
         plt.legend(loc="best", fontsize="small")
Out[89]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x113f1cc18>
```

winv[singular\_values] = 0

winvmat = np.zeros((V.shape[0], U.shape[0]))
winvmat[:len(winv), :len(winv)] = np.diag(winv)



In []: