

Lecture 8.1: Singular Value Decomposition

Optimization and Computational Linear Algebra for Data Science

- ❖ Data matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$
- ❖ “Covariance matrix” $S = A^T A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$.
- ❖ S is symmetric positive semi-definite.
- ❖ **Spectral Theorem:** there exists an orthonormal basis v_1, \dots, v_m of \mathbb{R}^m such that the v_i ’s are eigenvectors of S associated with the eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_m \geq 0$.

Singular values/vectors

For $i = 1, \dots, m$:

- ❖ we define $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$, called the i^{th} singular value of A .
- ❖ we call v_j the i^{th} right singular vector of A .

Singular Value decomposition

Theorem

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$. Then there exists two orthogonal matrices $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $V \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ and a matrix $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ such that $\Sigma_{1,1} \geq \Sigma_{2,2} \geq \dots \geq 0$ and $\Sigma_{i,j} = 0$ for $i \neq j$, that verify

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

Geometric interpretation of $U\Sigma V^T$

