# Slide 26-Singular Value Decomposition MAT2040 Linear Algebra

### Motivation

**Recall:** If A is a real symmetric matrix,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , we know that there is an orthogonal matrix Q such that  $Q^{-1}AQ = Q^TAQ = \Lambda$ , where  $\Lambda$  is a diagonal matrix. Thus,  $A = Q\Lambda Q^T$  is the eigen decomposition.

**Question:** If  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , do we still have a similar matrix decomposition?

Yes. The idea is to use the  $A^TA$  or  $AA^T$  to do the eigen decomposition.

## Singular Value Decomposition

For any  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , it can be decomposed into

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

where U is a  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix, V is a  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix,  $\Sigma$  is a diagonal-like matrix.  $\Sigma = (\tilde{\sigma}_{ij})_{m \times n}$  is defined as  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ij} = 0$ , if  $i \neq j$ ,  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ii} = \sigma_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, \min(m, n)$ .

Case 1: If  $m \geq n$  (tall matrix),  $\Sigma = (\tilde{\sigma}_{ij})_{m \times n}$  is defined as  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ij} = 0$ , if  $i \neq j$ ,  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ii} = \sigma_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n \geq 0$ . If rank of A is r, then  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0 = \sigma_{r+1} = \dots = \sigma_n = 0$ .

Case 2: If m < n (fat matrix),  $\Sigma = (\tilde{\sigma}_{ij})_{m \times n}$  is defined as  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ij} = 0$ , if  $i \neq j$ ,  $\tilde{\sigma}_{ii} = \sigma_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , where  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_m \geq 0$ . If rank of A is r, then  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0 = \sigma_{r+1} = \dots = \sigma_m = 0$ .

In fact, if  $m \ge n$  and rank(A) = r, then

where

$$\sigma_1 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_r > 0 = \sigma_{r+1} = \cdots = \sigma_n = 0$$

$$\Sigma_1=\mathrm{diag}(\sigma_1,\cdots,\sigma_r),\,O_1=O_{r\times(n-r)},\,O_2=O_{(m-r)\times r},\,O_3=O_{(m-r)\times(n-r)}$$

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If m < n and rank(A) = r, then

$$\Sigma = \left[ egin{array}{c|cccc} \sigma_1 & & & & & & & \\ & \sigma_2 & & & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & & & & \\ & & & \sigma_r & & & & \\ & & & & \sigma_{r+1} & & & \\ & & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & \sigma_m & \end{array} 
ight]_{m imes n}$$

where

$$\sigma_1 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_r > 0 = \sigma_{r+1} = \cdots = \sigma_m = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \Sigma_1=\mathrm{diag}(\sigma_1,\cdots,\sigma_r),\,O_1=O_{r\times(n-r)},\,O_2=O_{(m-r)\times r},\,O_3=O_{(m-r)\times(n-r)} \end{array}$$

If rank(A) = r, then for both cases  $(m \ge n \text{ and } m \le n)$ ,  $\Sigma$  is defined as

$$\Sigma_{m\times n} = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \Sigma_1 & O_1 \\ O_2 & O_3 \end{array} \right]$$

 $\Sigma_1 = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_r), O_1 = O_{r \times (n-r)}, O_2 = O_{(m-r) \times r}, O_3 = O_{(m-r) \times (n-r)},$  where  $\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_r$  are positive numbers.

**Theorem 25.1** Let A be a  $m \times n$  real matrix, then A has the singular value decomposition  $A = U \Sigma V^T$ .

#### **Analysis:**

$$\begin{array}{l} A = U \Sigma V^T \Rightarrow A^T = V \Sigma^T U^T \Rightarrow A A^T = U \Sigma \Sigma^T U^T \text{ and } \\ A^T A = V \Sigma^T \Sigma V^T \Rightarrow U^{-1} A A^T U = \Sigma \Sigma^T \text{ and } V^{-1} A^T A V = \Sigma^T \Sigma. \end{array}$$

Suppose that r(A) = r, then

$$\Sigma = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \Sigma_1 & O_1 \\ O_2 & O_3 \end{array} \right]$$

where  $\Sigma_1 = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_r), \sigma_1 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_r > 0, O_1 = O_{r \times (n-r)}, O_2 = O_{(m-r) \times r}, O_3 = O_{(m-r) \times (n-r)}.$ 

 $(\Sigma^T \Sigma)_{n \times n} = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1^2, \cdots, \sigma_r^2, 0, \cdots, 0)$  (with n-r zeros elements on the diagonal). Thus,  $\sigma_1^2, \cdots, \sigma_r^2, 0, \cdots, 0$  (with n-r zeros) are eigenvalues of  $A^T A$ .

 $(\Sigma\Sigma^T)_{m\times m}=\mathrm{diag}(\sigma_1^2,\cdots,\sigma_r^2,0,\cdots,0)$  (with m-r zeros elements on the diagonal). Thus,  $\sigma_1^2,\cdots,\sigma_r^2,0,\cdots,0$  (with m-r zeros) are eigenvalues of  $AA^T$ .

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, we first consider  $m \ge n$ . The case for m < n can be proved in a similar way.

Since  $A^TA$  is a  $n \times n$  real symmetric matrix, which is diagonalizable by spectral theorem. All eigenvalues of  $A^TA$  are nonnegative. (Suppose that  $A^TA\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0})$ , then  $\mathbf{x}^TA^TA\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{x}$ , thus  $\lambda = \frac{\|A\mathbf{x}\|^2}{\|\mathbf{x}\|^2} \geq 0$ .)

The construction for  $A = U\Sigma V^T$  is as follows:

Step 1 (construction of V). Suppose rank(A) = r, then  $rank(A^TA) = r$ . Since  $A^TA$  is symmetric, there is an orthogonal matrix V that diagonalizes matrix  $A^TA$  ( $V^TA^TAV = \Lambda$ ), and the rank of  $A^TA$  also equals to the number of nonzero eigenvalues of  $A^TA$  ( $rank(A^TA) = rank(\Lambda) = the number of nonzero eigenvalues of <math>A^TA$ ).

Suppose that  $\lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_r > \lambda_{r+1} = \cdots = \lambda_n = 0$  be the eigenvalues of  $A^TA$ . The singular values of A are defined as  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}, i = 1, \cdots, n$ . Then  $\sigma_1 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_r > \sigma_{r+1} = \cdots = \sigma_n = 0$ .

Let  $V \triangleq [\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_n]$ , where  $\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_n$  are the eigenvectors of  $A^TA$  corresponds to eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_r > \lambda_{r+1} = \cdots = \lambda_n = 0$ , respectively. Since V is an orthogonal matrix,  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_n\}$  is the orthonormal set.

Let  $V = [V_1, V_2]$ , where  $V_1 = [\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r]$ ,  $V_2 = [\mathbf{v}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n]$ Since  $A^T A \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $i = r+1, \dots, n$  and  $\text{Null}(A^T A) = \text{Null}(A)$ . Thus,  $A \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $i = r+1, \dots, n$  and  $AV_2 = O$ .

Since V is an orthogonal matrix, one has

$$I = VV^{T} = [V_{1}, V_{2}][V_{1}, V_{2}]^{T} = V_{1}V_{1}^{T} + V_{2}V_{2}^{T}$$

$$A = AI = A(V_{1}V_{1}^{T} + V_{2}V_{2}^{T}) = AV_{1}V_{1}^{T} + AV_{2}V_{2}^{T} = AV_{1}V_{1}^{T}$$

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Step 2 (construction of  $\Sigma$ ). As discussed in the previous slides, once the singular values are obtained, one can construct  $\Sigma$  as follows: let  $\Sigma_1 = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_r), O_1 = O_{r \times (n-r)}, O_2 = O_{(m-r) \times r}, O_3 = O_{(m-r) \times (n-r)},$  then define

$$\Sigma = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \Sigma_1 & {\it O}_1 \\ {\it O}_2 & {\it O}_3 \end{array} \right].$$

Step 3 (construction of U). To complete the proof, we need to construct U, we need to find the  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix U such that  $A = U \Sigma V^T$ . This gives  $AV = U \Sigma$ . Comparing the first r columns of this identity, one has  $A \mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} \mathbf{u}_i, i = 1, \cdots, r$ . Define  $\mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A \mathbf{v}_i, i = 1, \cdots, r$ , it follows that  $AV_1 = U_1 \Sigma_1$ , where  $U_1 = [\mathbf{u}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_r]$ .

Now we have  $A^T \mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A^T A \mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \ (i = 1, \dots, r)$ , thus,  $\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A^T \mathbf{u}_i \ (i = 1, \dots, r)$ .

In addition,  $AA^T\mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}}A(A^TA\mathbf{v}_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}}\lambda_iA\mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}}A\mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i\mathbf{u}_i$  since  $A^TA\mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i\mathbf{v}_i$ . Thus,  $\lambda_i$   $(i=1,\cdots,r)$  are the nonzero eigenvalues of  $AA^T$  and  $\mathbf{u}_i$   $(i=1,\cdots,r)$  are the corresponding eigenvectors.

Moreover, 
$$\mathbf{u}_i^T \mathbf{u}_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i} \sqrt{\lambda_j}} \mathbf{v}_i^T A^T A \mathbf{v}_j = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_j}}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} \mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{v}_j = \delta_{ij} \ (i,j=1,\cdots,r),$$
 where  $A^T A \mathbf{v}_j = \lambda_j \mathbf{v}_j$  is used. Here  $\delta_{ij} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1, & \text{if } i=j, \\ 0, & \text{if } i\neq j. \end{array} \right.$ 

Thus,  $\{\mathbf{u_1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u_r}\}$  is the orthonormal set. In addition, since  $\mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A \mathbf{v}_i, i = 1, \cdots, r, \ \{\mathbf{u_1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u_r}\} \in \operatorname{Col}(A)$ . In addition,  $\dim(\operatorname{Col}(A)) = \operatorname{rank}(A) = r$ , thus,  $\{\mathbf{u_1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u_r}\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\operatorname{Col}(A)$ .

Since  $\operatorname{Col}(A)^{\perp} = \operatorname{Null}(A^T)$ , thus  $\dim(\operatorname{Null}(A^T)) = m - r$  since  $\operatorname{Col}(A)$  is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $\operatorname{rank}(A) = r$  and  $\dim(\operatorname{Col}(A)) + \dim(\operatorname{Col}(A)^{\perp}) = m$ .

Let  $\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_m$  are orthonormal basis of  $\text{Null}(A^T)$ , then  $\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_m$  satisfies  $A^T \mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{0}, i = r+1, \cdots, m$ . Indeed,  $\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_m$  are also the orthonormal basis of  $\text{Null}(AA^T)$  since  $\text{Null}(AA^T) = \text{Null}(A^T)$ .

Set  $U_2=[\mathbf{u}_{r+1},\cdots,\mathbf{u}_m]$  and  $U=[U_1,U_2]$ , then  $\{\mathbf{u}_1,\cdots,\mathbf{u}_r,\mathbf{u}_{r+1},\cdots,\mathbf{u}_m\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . By using the theorem 19.19.

Step 4 (Verification of  $A = U\Sigma V^T$ ). Compute

$$U\Sigma V^{T} = [U_{1}, U_{2}] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1} & O_{1} \\ O_{2} & O_{3} \end{bmatrix} [V_{1}, V_{2}]^{T} = U_{1}\Sigma_{1}V_{1}^{T} = AV_{1}V_{1}^{T} = A$$

Thus A can be written as:

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

This is called **Singular Value Decomposition**.



#### Example 25.2 Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

then

$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

whose eigenvalues are  $\lambda_1=4, \lambda_2=0.$  The unit eigevector w.r.t.  $\lambda_1=4$  is

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = rac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ egin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} 
ight]$$

The unit eigevector w.r.t.  $\lambda_2 = 0$  is

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right]$$

Now  $\sigma_1 = \sqrt{\lambda_1} = 2$  so

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A \mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

is the eigenvector of  $AA^T$  corresponding to eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 4$ . In addition,

$$A^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

An orthonormal basis for  $Null(A^T)=Null(AA^T)$  is

$$\{\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\-1\\0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Thus

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = A = U \Sigma V^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Note:** For real symmetric matrix S, the rank of matrix S equals to the number of nonzero eigenvalues. Since S is real symmetric, there is an orthogonal matrix Q, such that  $Q^TSQ = \Lambda$  and  $\operatorname{rank}(S) = \operatorname{rank}(Q^TSQ) = \operatorname{rank}(\Lambda) = \operatorname{the number of nonzero eigenvalues of } S$ .

#### Remark 1

For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $A = U \Sigma V^T$  and  $\operatorname{rank}(A) = r$ , one has  $\lambda_1 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_r > \lambda_{r+1} = \cdots = \lambda_n = 0$  are the eigenvalues of  $A^T A$ .  $\lambda_1 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_r > \lambda_{r+1} = \cdots = \lambda_m = 0$  are the eigenvalues of  $AA^T$ .

(1) If  $m \ge n$ , as shown in above, let  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} (i = 1, \dots, n)$ , then  $\sigma_1 \ge \dots \ge \sigma_r > \sigma_{r+1} = \dots = \sigma_n = 0$  (with n-r zeros) are the **singular values**.

If m < n, let  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} (i = 1, \dots, m)$ , then  $\sigma_1 \ge \dots \ge \sigma_r > \sigma_{r+1} = \dots = \sigma_m = 0$  (with m-r zeros) are the **singular values**.

- (2) The singular values of A are unique, but the orthogonal matrices U and V are not unique.
- (3)  $AV = U\Sigma$ , Thus,  $A\mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i$ ,  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda}_i > 0$   $(i = 1, \dots, r)$  and  $A\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $(i = r + 1, \dots, n)$ .
- (4) Take transpose for  $A = U\Sigma V^T$ , thus  $A^T = V\Sigma^T U^T$ .  $A^T U = V\Sigma^T$ , write in the vector form  $A^T \mathbf{u}_j = \sigma_j \mathbf{v}_j$   $(j = 1, \dots, r)$ ,  $A^T \mathbf{u}_j = \mathbf{0}$   $(j = r + 1, \dots, m)$ .

And the columns of U are called **left singular vector** of A; the columns of V are called **right singular vector** of A;

**Remark 2** The rank of  $m \times n$  matrix A is the number of nonzero singular values.

- The number of nonzero singular values (counting the multiplicity) equals to the rank of A.
- rank(A)  $\neq$  number of nonzero eigenvalues. Example:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  then eigenvalues are  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$ , the number of nonzero eigenvalue is 0, but rank(A) = 1.
- rank(A) = number of nonzero eigenvalues if A is real symmetric.

#### Remark 3 Four fundamental subspaces

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

$$= [\mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{r}, \mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{m}] \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1} & O_{1} \\ O_{2} & O_{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_{1}^{T} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_{r}^{T} \\ \mathbf{v}_{r+1}^{T} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_{n}^{T} \end{bmatrix}$$

where 
$$O_1=O_{r imes(n-r)}, O_2=O_{(m-r) imes r}, O_3=O_{(m-r) imes(n-r)}$$

- 1) First r columns of V is an orthonormal basis for  $\operatorname{Row}(A) = \operatorname{Col}(A^T) = (\operatorname{Null}(A))^{\perp}$ , since  $A^T A \mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i (i = 1, \cdots, r)$ ,  $\lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_r > 0$  ( $\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A^T \mathbf{u}_i (i = 1, \cdots, r)$ ),  $\mathbf{v}_i (i = 1, \cdots, r)$  are orthonormal vector set and  $\operatorname{dim}(\operatorname{Row}(A)) = r$ .
- 2) Last n-r columns of V is an orthonormal basis for Null(A), since  $A^T A \mathbf{v}_i = 0 (i = r+1, \cdots, n)$ ,  $Null(A^T A) = Null(A)$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_i (i = r+1, \cdots, n)$  are orthonormal vector set and  $A \mathbf{v}_i = 0 (i = r+1, \cdots, n)$ .
- 3) First r columns of U is an orthonormal basis for  $\operatorname{Col}(A) = (\operatorname{Null}(A^T))^{\perp}$  since  $\mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A \mathbf{v}_i, i = 1, \cdots, r, \ \mathbf{u}_i (i = 1, \cdots, r)$  are orthonormal vector set and  $\operatorname{dim}(\operatorname{Col}(A)) = r$ .
- 4) Last m-r columns of U is an orthonormal basis for  $Null(A^T)$ , since  $AA^T\mathbf{u}_i = 0 (i = r+1, \cdots, m)$ ,  $Null(AA^T) = Null(A^T)$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_i (i = r+1, \cdots, m)$  are orthonormal vector set and  $A^T\mathbf{u}_i = 0 (i = r+1, \cdots, m)$ .

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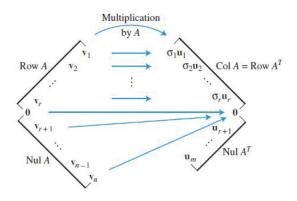


Figure: Here  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ 

#### Remark 4 Compact SVD:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{A} = & \boldsymbol{U} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \, \boldsymbol{V}^T \\ = & [\boldsymbol{u}_1, \cdots, \boldsymbol{u}_r] \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1 \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{v}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{v}_r^T \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Sigma_1 = diag(\sigma_1, \cdots, \sigma_r)$$

This gives  $A\mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i, \sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}, (i = 1, \dots, r)$  and

$$A = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r \mathbf{u}_r \mathbf{v}_r^T$$

**Remark:**  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^T$  is the out product of two vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ .

The **outer product**  $xy^T$  will result in a matrix.

$$\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1} \\ \vdots \\ x_{m} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1} \cdots & y_{n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} x_{1}y_{1} & \cdots & x_{1}y_{n} \\ x_{2}y_{1} & \cdots & x_{2}y_{n} \\ \vdots & & & \\ x_{m}y_{1} & \cdots & x_{m}y_{n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\triangleq [\mathbf{b}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{b}_{n}]$$

Suppose  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  are both nonzero vectors. Let  $\mathbf{y} = [y_1, \cdots, y_n]^T$ , and assume  $y_1 \neq 0$ , then  $\mathbf{b}_i = \frac{y_i}{y_1} \mathbf{b}_1, i = 2, \cdots, n$ . Thus,  $\operatorname{Col}(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}^T) = \operatorname{Span}(\mathbf{b}_1)$ . Therefore, the rank of the outer product  $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}^T$  is 1.

**Proposition** Every rank 1 matrix A has the form  $A = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}^T = \text{column}$  vector $\times$  row vector.

#### Remark 5 Vector form

• Recall a real symmetric matrix A has the eigen decomposition as follows:

$$A = \lambda_1 \mathbf{q}_1 \mathbf{q}_1^T + \dots + \lambda_n \mathbf{q}_n \mathbf{q}_n^T$$

where  $\lambda_i$   $(i=1,\cdots,n)$  are the eigenvalues of A, and  $Q=[\mathbf{q}_1,\cdots,\mathbf{q}_n]$  is the orthogonal matrix which diagonalizes A.

• For  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , the SVD decomposition gives:

$$A = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r \mathbf{u}_r \mathbf{v}_r^T$$

where  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ ,  $\lambda_i (i = 1, \dots, r)$  are nonzero eigenvalues of  $A^T A$  (or nonzero eigenvalues of  $AA^T$ ) and  $r = \operatorname{rank}(A) = \operatorname{number}$  of nonzero singular values of  $A(\sigma_i (i = 1, \dots, r))$  are nonzero singular values).