

# Solving the cocktail party problem

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(<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20414667/cocktail-party-algorithm-svd-implementation-in-one-line-of-code>)

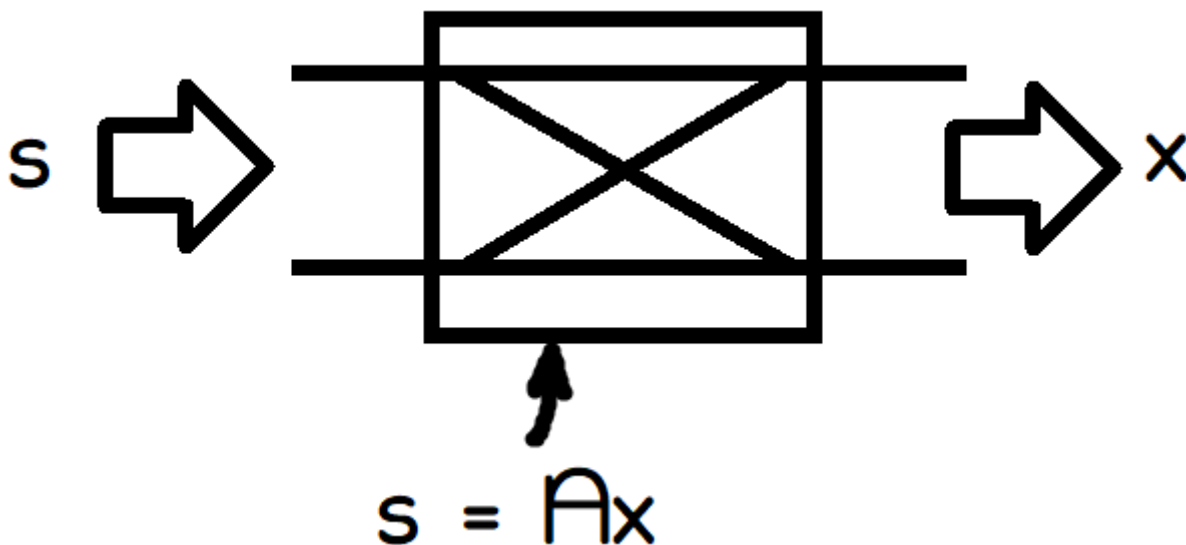
(Andrew Ng) The original one-liner was:

```
[W,s,v]=svd(  
**(repmat(sum(x.*x,1),size(x,1),1).x)x'  
);
```

The matrix being svd'ed is an estimate of the power spectrum of  $x(t)$ . Actually it is the time-frequency spectrogram. Columns are instantaneous fft's, while rows run in time.

```
X = repmat(sum(x.*x,1),size(x,1),1).x*x'
```

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([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5mnh\\_xOSAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5mnh_xOSAA))

Assumptions:

1. The mixing matrix  $A$  is invertible
2. Sources are statistically independent (ie no correlation)
3. The independent components have non-Gaussian distributions
4. The data has been centered, both  $x$  and  $s$  have zero mean.

$$x = As$$

The goal is to estimate an unmixing matrix  $W$ :

$$\hat{s} = Wx \approx s$$

Strategy to find  $W$ :

$$W = (U\Sigma V)^{-1} = V\Sigma^{-1}U^T$$

1. Covariance of the observed (microphone) data gives  $U$  and  $\Sigma$

2. Independence of the *sources* gives  $V$

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Covariance of the centered data:

$$\langle xx^T \rangle = \langle A s s^T A^T \rangle = \langle U \Sigma V^T s s^T V \Sigma U^T \rangle$$

(The  $U, V, \Sigma$  matrices are all constant)

$$= U \Sigma V^T \langle s s^T \rangle V \Sigma U^T$$

Now,  $\langle s s^T \rangle$  is the covariance of the source vector itself. Note that the source vector is structured as  $s = s(t) = \begin{bmatrix} s_1(t) \\ s_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$ . We are talking about the covariance of the two sub-processes  $s_1(t)$  and  $s_2(t)$ .

Assumption: The covariance matrix  $\langle s s^T \rangle = I$ , justify this!

This gives:

$$\langle xx^T \rangle = U \Sigma^2 U^T \text{ (Since } V V^T = I \text{). This is a spectral decomposition of } xx^T$$

So to obtain  $U$  and  $\Sigma$ , perform spectral decomposition of the covariance matrix  $\langle xx^T \rangle$  (*after removing the mean, of course*)

The guiding idea here is that a good way to unmix the signals is to use a linear transform that separates the data out into statistically independent channels (ie if there is a trace of one signal common to both channels, then that would show up in covariance)

Covariance is  $\langle xy \rangle \equiv E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)]$ , and the expectation operator is realized as an integration over time samples, rather than an instantaneous ensemble average (ie we assume ergodicity)

So do the following:

1. Call the actual signals  $s_1(t)$  and  $s_2(t)$ , and let  $s(t) \equiv$

$$\text{Similar packaging for the mixed signal, } x(t) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} s_1(t) \\ s_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Center the recorded data  $x(t) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) - \tilde{x}_1 \\ x_2(t) - \tilde{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$ . So from now on  $x_i$  means  $(x_i(t) - \tilde{x}_i)$

3. Evaluate the covariance:

$$1. \langle xx^T \rangle = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 & x_1 x_2 \\ x_2 x_1 & x_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \equiv C \text{ (say).}$$

2. Diagonalize  $C$  to catch  $U$  and  $\Sigma$ , as  $C \simeq U \Sigma U^T$ .

