Goal: Given a matrix A compute its singular value decomposition

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

How to compute SVD of a matrix A

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

1) Compute an orthogonal diagonalization of the symmetric $n \times n$ matrix $A^T A$:

$$A^T A = QDQ^T$$

such that eigenvalues on the diagonal of the matrix D are arranged from the largest to the smallest. We set $V = Q$.

2) If

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

then $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$. This gives the matrix Σ.

Note: if $n > m$ then we use only $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$. The remaining eigenvalues $\lambda_{m+1}, \dots, \lambda_n$ of D will be equal to 0 in this case.

3) Let $V = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_n \end{bmatrix}$ and let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$ be non-zero singular values of A. The first r columns of the matrix $U = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_m \end{bmatrix}$ are given by

$$\mathbf{u}_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} A\mathbf{v}_i$$

The remaining columns $\mathbf{u}_{r+1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$ can be added arbitrarily so that U is an orthogonal matrix (i.e.$\{\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m\}$) is an orthonormal basis of $\mathbb{R}^m$.

Example. Find SVD of the following matrix:

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

Solution.

1) Compute an orthogonal diagonalization of $A^T A$.

2) Get matrices V and Σ.

3) Compute the matrix U.

4) Write the singular value decomposition of A.