

The “value” form of SVD is expressed in equation 7.

$$\mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{v}}_i = \sigma_i\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i$$

The mathematical intuition behind the construction of the matrix form is that we want to express all n “value” equations in just one equation. It is easiest to understand this process graphically. Drawing the matrices of equation 7 looks like the following.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{---} m \text{---} \\ | \\ n \\ | \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} \begin{pmatrix} | \\ m \\ | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{positive} \\ \text{number} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} | \\ n \\ | \end{pmatrix}$$

We can construct three new matrices \mathbf{V} , \mathbf{U} and $\mathbf{\Sigma}$. All singular values are first rank-ordered $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r$, and the corresponding vectors are indexed in the same rank order. Each pair of associated vectors $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_i$ and $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i$ is stacked in the i^{th} column along their respective matrices. The corresponding singular value σ_i is placed along the diagonal (the ii^{th} position) of $\mathbf{\Sigma}$. This generates the equation $\mathbf{XV} = \mathbf{U\Sigma}$, which looks like the following.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{---} m \text{---} \\ | \\ n \\ | \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} \begin{pmatrix} \text{---} m \text{---} \\ | \\ m \\ | \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{---} n \text{---} \\ | \\ n \\ | \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} \begin{pmatrix} n \times m \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{checkerboard} \\ \text{diagonal} \end{array} & 0 \\ 0 & \text{checkerboard} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The matrices \mathbf{V} and \mathbf{U} are $m \times m$ and $n \times n$ matrices respectively and $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ is a diagonal matrix with a few non-zero values (represented by the checkerboard) along its diagonal. Solving this single matrix equation solves all n “value” form equations.

FIG. 4 How to construct the matrix form of SVD from the “value” form.