# easygsvd documentation

Jonathan Lindbloom\*

September 18, 2025

The goal of this package is to provide a pure-Python, friendly interface to the generalized singular value decomposition (GSVD). Throughout this package, we assume that the matrices  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  and  $L \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N}$  satisfy the common kernel condition

$$\operatorname{rank}\left(\begin{bmatrix}A\\L\end{bmatrix}\right) = N, \quad \text{or, equivalently,} \quad \ker(A) \cap \ker(L) = \{0_N\}. \tag{1}$$

See [1, 2, 3, 4] for more background on the GSVD than is provided here.

#### Description of the GSVD

The starting point for our description of the GSVD is contained in the following theorem regarding the "economic" GSVD.

**Theorem 1** (Economic GSVD). Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  and  $L \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N}$  with  $\ker(A) \cap \ker(L) = \{0_N\}$ . Let  $r_A = \operatorname{rank}(A)$ ,  $r_L = \operatorname{rank}(L)$ ,  $n_A = \operatorname{nullity}(A)$ , and  $n_L = \operatorname{nullity}(L)$ . Then, there exists an invertible matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ , semi-orthogonal matrices  $\hat{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times r_A}$  and  $\hat{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times r_L}$ , a nonincreasing sequence  $\{c_i\}_{i=1}^N \subseteq [0,1]$  and a nondecreasing sequence  $\{s_i\}_{i=1}^N \subseteq [0,1]$  such that

$$\hat{U}^T A X = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{C} & 0_{r_A \times n_A} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \hat{V}^T L X = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{r_L \times n_L} & \hat{S} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2}$$

where  $\hat{C} = \operatorname{diag}(c_1, \ldots, c_{r_A})$  and  $\hat{S} = \operatorname{diag}(s_{n_L+1}, \ldots, s_N)$ . Here the  $c_i$  and  $s_i$  satisfy the properties:

- $c_i^2 + s_i^2 = 1$  for each  $1 \le i \le N$ .
- $c_i = 0$  for  $i = r_A + 1, ..., N$  and  $s_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, ..., n_L$ .
- $c_i = 1$  for  $i = 1, ..., n_L$  and  $s_i = 1$  for  $i = r_A + 1, ..., N$ ,

In addition, we have the identities

$$X^T A^T A X = C, \quad X^T L^T L X = S, \quad X^T \left( A^T A + L^T L \right) X = I_N, \tag{3}$$

where  $C = \operatorname{diag}(c_1, \ldots, c_N), S = \operatorname{diag}(s_1, \ldots, s_N).$ 

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Mathematics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA (jonathan@lindbloom.com).

Note that although there are N of the  $c_i$  and  $s_i$ , only  $r_A$  and  $r_L$  of them appear in the economic GSVD, respectively. For convenience, we define the *common-action rank* 

$$r_{\cap} := \dim \left( \operatorname{col}(A^T) \cap \operatorname{col}(L^T) \right) \tag{4}$$

which satisfies the generalized rank-nullity condition

$$r_{\cap} + n_A + n_L = N \tag{5}$$

due to (1). We also define the generalized singular values of the pair (A, L) as the extended real-valued scalars

$$\gamma_{i} = \begin{cases}
+\infty, & i \leq n_{L}, \\
c_{i}s_{i}^{-1}, & n_{L} < i \leq r_{A}, \\
0, & r_{A} < i \leq N.
\end{cases}$$
(6)

The generalized singular values are given in nonincreasing order, and for  $i > n_L$  satisfy the generalized eigenvalue problem

$$(A^T A)x_i = \gamma_i^2 (L^T L)x_i \tag{7}$$

where  $x_i$  denotes the *i*th column of X appearing in the GSVD. Next, we define the "full" SVD.

**Theorem 2** (Full SVD). The semi-orthogonal matrices  $\hat{U}$  and  $\hat{V}$  can be extended to orthogonal matrices

$$U := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{U} & U_{\perp} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}, \quad V := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{V} & V_{\perp} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K}$$
 (8)

such that

$$U^{T}AX = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{C} & 0_{r_A \times n_A} \\ 0_{(M-r_A) \times r_A} & 0_{(M-r_A) \times n_A} \end{bmatrix}, \quad V^{T}LX = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{r_L \times n_L} & \hat{S} \\ 0_{(K-r_L) \times n_L} & 0_{(K-r_L) \times r_L} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(9)

It is possible to directly express A and L in terms of either the full or economic GSVDs as

$$A = U \begin{bmatrix} \hat{C} & 0_{r_A \times n_A} \\ 0_{(M-r_A) \times r_A} & 0_{(M-r_A) \times n_A} \end{bmatrix} X^{-1}, \quad L = V \begin{bmatrix} 0_{r_L \times n_L} & \hat{S} \\ 0_{(K-r_L) \times n_L} & 0_{(K-r_L) \times r_L} \end{bmatrix} X^{-1}. \quad (10)$$

The GSVD reveals the four fundamental subspaces of both A and L.

**Theorem 3** (Fundamental subspaces revealed by GSVD). Let  $Y := X^{-T}$  and  $\check{C} := \operatorname{diag}(c_{n_L+1}, \ldots, c_{r_A})$ ,  $\check{S} := \operatorname{diag}(s_{n_L+1}, \ldots, s_{r_A})$  which includes only the scalars  $c_i$  and  $s_i$  which are not equal to zero or one. Introduce the partitionings

$$n_{\mathbf{L}}$$
  $r_{\cap}$   $n_{\mathbf{A}}$   $n_{\mathbf{L}}$   $r_{\cap}$   $n_{\mathbf{A}}$   $X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 & Y_2 & Y_3 \end{bmatrix}$   $U = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 & U_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{bmatrix} V_2 & V_3 \end{bmatrix}$   $n_{\mathbf{L}}$   $r_{\cap}$   $n_{\mathbf{A}}$ 

Then,

$$A\begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 & U_2 \check{C} & 0_{M \times n_A} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{11}$$

$$L\begin{bmatrix} X_1 & X_2 & X_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{K \times n_L} & V_2 \check{S} & V_3 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{12}$$

$$A^{T} \begin{bmatrix} U_1 & U_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_1 & Y_2 \check{C} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{13}$$

$$L^{T} \begin{bmatrix} V_2 & V_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_2 \check{S} & V_3 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{14}$$

and we have the following characterizations of the four fundamental subspaces related to A and L:

$$\ker(A) = \operatorname{col}(X_3), \qquad \ker(L) = \operatorname{col}(X_1), \tag{15}$$

$$\ker(A^T) = \operatorname{col}(U_\perp), \qquad \ker(L^T) = \operatorname{col}(V_\perp), \tag{16}$$

$$col(A) = col(\hat{U}), \qquad col(L) = col(\hat{V}), \qquad (17)$$

$$\operatorname{col}(A^{T}) = \operatorname{col}([Y_{1} \quad Y_{2}]), \qquad \operatorname{col}(L^{T}) = \operatorname{col}([Y_{2} \quad Y_{3}]). \tag{18}$$

Additionally,

$$\mathbb{R}^N = \operatorname{col}(X_1) \oplus \operatorname{col}(X_2) \oplus \operatorname{col}(X_3), \tag{19}$$

and

$$\operatorname{col}(A^T) \cap \operatorname{col}(L^T) = \operatorname{col}(Y_2). \tag{20}$$

Note that we have not defined matrices  $U_3$  and  $V_1$  — this is done to ensure that in the partitioning  $U_2$  and  $V_2$  have the same number of columns. Since  $Y = X^{-T}$ , the  $X_i$  and  $Y_i$  satisfy the conditions

$$\sum_{i=1}^{3} X_i Y_i^T = X Y^T = I_N, \quad Y_i^T X_j = \begin{cases} I, & i = j, \\ 0, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$
 (21)

The matrices A and L can be expressed directly in terms of the economic GSVD as

$$A = U_1 Y_1^T + U_2 \check{C} Y_2^T, \quad L = V_2 \check{S} Y_2^T + V_3 Y_3^T. \tag{22}$$

## Performing the GSVD

Performing the GSVD of the matrix pair (A, L) is simple:

The tolerance parameter tol is a threshold used to determine the numerical rank of A, and the full\_matrices option is used to determine whether or not  $U_{\perp}$  and  $V_{\perp}$  are computed (this can be expensive if M and/or K are very large, and is not needed for most uses of the GSVD). The output of gsvd is a GSVDResult object which provides an interface to the computed GSVD.

### Interfacing with the GSVD

Any of the quantities defined in the description of the GSVD can be accessed as attributes of the GSVDResult object:

```
gsvd_result.A # A
    gsvd_result.L # L
2
3
    gsvd_result.U1 # U1
4
    gsvd_result.U2 # U2
5
    gsvd_result.V2 # V2
6
    gsvd_result.V3 # V3
    gsvd_result.Uhat # Uhat = [U1, U2]
8
    gsvd_result. Vhat # Vhat = [V2, V3]
    gsvd_result.Uperp # only available if full_matrices=True
10
    gsvd_result.Vperp # only available if full_matrices=True
11
    gsvd_result.U # U = [U1, U2, Uperp], only available if full_matrices=True
12
    gsvd_result.V # V = [V2, V3, Vperp], only available if full_matrices=True
13
14
    gsvd_result.X # X
    gsvd_result.X1 # X1, first n_L columns of X
16
    gsvd_result.X2 # X2, middle r_int columns of X
17
    gsvd_result.X3 # X3, last n_A columns of X
18
    gsvd_result.Y # Y
19
    gsvd_result.Y1 # Y1, first n_L columns of Y
20
    gsvd_result.Y2 # Y2, middle r_int columns of Y
21
    gsvd_result.Y3 # Y3, last n_A columns of Y
22
23
    gsvd_result.c = c # all N c's
24
    gsvd_result.s = s # all N s's
25
    gsvd_result.c_hat # first r_A c's
26
    gsvd_result.s_hat # last r_L s's
27
    gsvd_result.c_check # middle r_int c's
28
    gsvd_result.s_check # middle r_int s's
29
30
    gsvd_result.gamma # all N generalized SVs
31
    gsvd_result.gamma_check # middle r_int generalized SVs (finite and nonzero)
32
```

We provide easy access to orthogonal projectors onto the fundamental subspaces:

```
# valid_subspaces = ["col(A)", # "col(A.T)", "ker(A)", "ker(A.T)",

# "col(L)", "col(L.T)", "ker(L)", "ker(L.T)"]

gsvd_result.get_orthogonal_projector("col(A)", matrix=True)
```

The parameter matrix controls whether or not the projector is returned as a matrix. If matrix=False is passed, instead of a matrix a scipy.sparse.linalg.LinearOperator object is returned represented the projection.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the orthogonal projectors, we also provide access to certain oblique projectors. Given a splitting  $\mathbb{R}^N = \mathcal{X} \oplus \mathcal{Y}$ , the oblique projection onto a subspace  $\mathcal{X}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>All operations are implemented to be efficient in the regime  $N \ll M, K$ .

along a subspace  $\mathcal{Y}$  is defined as the unique operator  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{X}}^{\mathcal{Y}}$  satisfying

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{X} \quad \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{X}}^{\mathcal{Y}} x = x, \qquad \forall y \in \mathcal{Y} \quad \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{X}}^{\mathcal{Y}} y = 0_N, \qquad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^N \quad \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{X}}^{\mathcal{Y}} z \in \mathcal{X}.$$
 (23)

We also define the M-weighted orthogonal complement of a subspace  $\mathcal{X}$  as

$$\mathcal{X}^{\perp_M} = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^N : \forall y \in \mathcal{X} \ x^T M^T M y = 0 \}. \tag{24}$$

In terms of the GSVD matrices, we have

$$\mathcal{E}_{\ker(L)}^{\ker(L)^{\perp_A}} = X_1 Y_1^T, \qquad \qquad \mathcal{E}_{\ker(L)^{\perp_A}}^{\ker(L)} = X_2 Y_2^T + X_3^T Y_3^T, \qquad (25)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\ker(A)}^{\ker(A)^{\perp_L}} = X_3 Y_3^T, \qquad \qquad \mathcal{E}_{\ker(A)^{\perp_L}}^{\ker(A)} = X_1 Y_1^T + X_2 Y_2^T. \qquad (26)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\ker(A)}^{\ker(A)^{\perp_L}} = X_3 Y_3^T, \qquad \qquad \mathcal{E}_{\ker(A)^{\perp_L}}^{\ker(A)} = X_1 Y_1^T + X_2 Y_2^T. \tag{26}$$

```
# valid_options = [
1
        1, # projection onto ker(L) along ker(L)^{perp_A}
        2, # projection onto ker(L)^{perp_A} along ker(L)
        3, # projection onto ker(A) along ker(A)^{perp_L}
        4, # projection onto ker(A)^{perp_L} along ker(A)
6
   gsvd_result.get_oblique_projector(which=1, matrix=True)
```

Alongside the oblique projectors, we also give access to the oblique pseudoinverses  $L_A^{\dagger}$ and  $A_L^{\dagger}$ . These are defined as the unique operators satisfying

$$\forall z \in \operatorname{col}(L) \quad L_A^{\dagger} z = \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : Lx = z}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \quad \|x\|_{A^T A}, \quad \forall z \in \operatorname{col}(L)^{\perp} \quad L_A^{\dagger} z = 0_N, \tag{27}$$

$$\forall z \in \operatorname{col}(A) \quad A_L^{\dagger} z = \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : Ax = z}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \quad \|x\|_{L^T L}, \quad \forall z \in \operatorname{col}(A)^{\perp} \quad A_L^{\dagger} z = 0_N, \tag{28}$$

and can be written explicitly in terms of the GSVD quantities as

$$L_A^{\dagger} = X_2 \check{S}^{-1} V_2^T + X_3 V_3^T, \quad A_L^{\dagger} = X_1 U_1^T + X_2 \check{C}^{-1} U_2^T. \tag{29}$$

The quantities

$$AL_A^{\dagger} = U_2 \check{\Gamma} V_2^T, \quad LA_L^{\dagger} = U_2 \check{\Gamma}^{-1} V_2^T. \tag{30}$$

where here  $\check{\Gamma} = \operatorname{diag}(\gamma_{n_L+1}, \dots, \gamma_{r_A})$  is comprised of the generalized singular values which are finite and nonzero. The oblique pseudoinverse may be used for bringing a regularized least squares problem into standard form [5, 6]:

$$x^* := \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^N}{\arg \min} \ \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|Lx\|_2^2 \tag{31}$$

$$= L_A^{\dagger} \left( \arg \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^K} ||AL_A^{\dagger} z - b||_2^2 + \lambda ||z||_2^2 \right) + X_1 U_1^T b$$
 (32)

$$= A_L^{\dagger} \left( \underset{z \in \mathbb{R}^M}{\arg \min} \|z - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|L A_L^{\dagger} z\|_2^2 \right). \tag{33}$$

#### References

- [1] Charles F Van Loan. "Generalizing the singular value decomposition". In: SIAM Journal on numerical Analysis 13.1 (1976), pp. 76–83.
- [2] Christopher C Paige and Michael A Saunders. "Towards a generalized singular value decomposition". In: SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis 18.3 (1981), pp. 398–405.
- [3] Gene H Golub and Charles F Van Loan. Matrix computations. JHU press, 2013.
- [4] Alan Edelman and Yuyang Wang. "The GSVD: Where are the ellipses?, matrix trigonometry, and more". In: SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications 41.4 (2020), pp. 1826–1856.
- [5] Per Christian Hansen. "Oblique projections and standard-form transformations for discrete inverse problems". In: *Numerical linear algebra with applications* 20.2 (2013), pp. 250–258.
- [6] Lars Eldén. "A weighted pseudoinverse, generalized singular values, and constrained least squares problems". In: *BIT Numerical Mathematics* 22.4 (1982), pp. 487–502.