

# With extra notes by JWG.

## Singular Value Decomposition

### The SVD and Numerical Rank of a Matrix

**Motivation:** In abstract linear algebra, a set of vectors is either linearly independent or not. There is nothing in between. For example, the set of vectors

$$\left\{ v^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, v^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.999 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

is linearly independent. In this case, you look at it and say, yes, BUT, the vectors are “almost” dependent because when I take the determinant

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.999 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0.001,$$

I get something pretty small, so I am OK with calling them dependent. Well, what about the set

$$\left\{ v^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, v^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 10^4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}?$$

When you form the matrix and check the determinant, you get

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10^4 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1,$$

which seems pretty far from zero. So are these vectors “adequately” linearly independent?

**Maybe not!** Let’s note that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10^4 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 10^{-4} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 10^4 \\ 10^{-4} & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

is clearly singular! Hence, we can add a very small perturbation to our vectors and make them dependent! This cannot be good! :(

**Question:** How to quantify the statement, “the rank is *nearly* 1” or more generally, how to quantify that a set of vectors is *nearly* linearly dependent?

**Answer:** The Singular Value Decomposition (**SVD**).

## Properties of the Singular Value Decomposition or SVD (Based on a handout of Prof. Freudenberg)

A good reference on numerical linear algebra is

G. H. Golub and C. F. van Loan, *Matrix Computations*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983.

**Background required:** inner products, orthogonal vectors, norms.

**Remark:** In lecture, we will develop the SVD for real matrices. In practice, you may have a need to deal with matrices that have complex entries, so the handout also does things for inner products in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The generalization of a real *symmetric* matrix is called a *Hermitian* matrix. And the generalization of a real *orthogonal* matrix is called a *unitary matrix*. These are developed below.

**Real matrices:** The statement and proof of the SVD Theorem in the case of real matrices is given at the end of the handout.

**Hermitian:** Consider  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Then we define the vector " $x$  Hermitian" by  $x^H := \bar{x}^\top$ . That is,  $x^H$  is the complex conjugate transpose of  $x$ . Similarly, for a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ , we define  $A^H \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$  by  $\bar{A}^\top$ . We say that a square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is a *Hermitian matrix* if  $A = A^H$ .

**Important things to note:**

Responsible only  
for real matrices.

- Similar to  $A^\top A$  for real matrices, when  $A$  is complex,  $A^H A$  has eigenvalues that are real and non-negative. The proof is similar to things we have done in lecture; if you care to see it, you can find it online.
- In MATLAB,  $A' = A^H$ . Yikes! It is not the ordinary transpose? No, it is the complex conjugate transpose. If you want the ordinary transpose, use `transpose(A)`.

```

>> A=[j,0;0,-j]

A =

0 + 1.0000i      0
0                  0 - 1.0000i

>> A'

ans =

0 - 1.0000i      0
0                  0 + 1.0000i

```

**Inner product on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :** Given  $x, y \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Let the elements  $x$  and  $y$  be noted

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then the Euclidean inner product is defined as

$$\langle x, y \rangle := x^H y \tag{1}$$

$$= \bar{x}_1 y_1 + \bar{x}_2 y_2 + \cdots + \bar{x}_n y_n \tag{2}$$

We note that this puts the linearity on the right side of the “bracket”, but as we have noted in HW, both definitions are common.

Euclidean vector norm: As in class, the vector norm associated with this inner product is given by

$$\|x\|_2 := \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle} \quad (3)$$

$$= \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^2} \quad (4)$$

We often omit the subscript "2" when we are discussing the Euclidean norm (or "2-norm") exclusively.

Induced matrix  $\|\cdot\|_2$ -norm.

Euclidean matrix norm: Given  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ . Then the matrix norm induced by the Euclidean vector norm is given by:

Real Case

$$\|A\|_2 := \max_{x^H x = 1} \|Ax\| \quad (5)$$

$$= \max_{x^H x = 1} \sqrt{x^H A^H A x} \quad (6)$$

$$= \sqrt{\max_{x^H x = 1} x^H A^H A x} \quad (7)$$

$$= \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(A^H A)} \quad (8)$$

where  $\lambda_{\max}(A^H A)$  denotes the largest eigenvalue of the matrix  $A^H A$ . (As noted above, all the eigenvalues of a matrix having the form  $A^H A$  are real and non-negative.) (Also, recall HW 2)

Orthogonality: Two vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{C}^n$  are *orthogonal* if  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$ .

Orthonormal Set: A collection of vectors  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  is said to be an *orthonormal set* if

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \begin{cases} 0, & i \neq j \\ 1, & i = j \end{cases} \quad (\text{Hence } \|x_i\| = 1, \forall i.)$$

Unitary Matrix: A matrix  $U \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$  is *unitary* if  $U^H U = U U^H = I_n$ .

**Fact:** If  $U$  is a unitary matrix, then the columns of  $U$  form an orthonormal basis (ONB) for  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

Proof of Fact: Denote the columns of  $U$  as  $U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \cdots \ u_n]$ . Then

$$U^H U = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^H \\ u_2^H \\ \vdots \\ u_n^H \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & \cdots & u_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1^H u_1 & u_1^H u_2 & \cdots & u_1^H u_n \\ u_2^H u_1 & u_2^H u_2 & \cdots & u_2^H u_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_n^H u_1 & u_n^H u_2 & \cdots & u_n^H u_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

For real matrices, unitary is the same thing as orthogonal.

Example:

$U =$

$$\begin{array}{cc} 0.1259 & 0.9920 \\ 0.9920 & -0.1259 \end{array}$$

$>> U * U'$

$ans =$

$$\begin{array}{cc} 1.0000 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 1.0000 \end{array}$$

**Unitary matrices are effectively rotation matrices:** they do not change the length of a vector, nor the angle between two vectors. Indeed,

1) From  $U^H U = U U^H = I_n$ , it follows that  $U^{-1} = U^H$

2) Let's compute the inner product of  $Ux$  and  $Uy$ :

$$\langle Ux, Uy \rangle := (Ux)^H Uy = x^H U^H Uy = x^H y =: \langle x, y \rangle$$

3) It follows that

(a) norm of  $Ux$  equals the norm of  $x$ :

$$\|Ux\|^2 := \langle Ux, Ux \rangle = \langle x, x \rangle =: \|x\|^2$$

(b) angle between  $x$  and  $y$  is the same as the angle between  $Ux$  and  $Uy$ :

$$\cos(\angle(x, y)) := \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{\|x\| \|y\|} = \frac{\langle Ux, Uy \rangle}{\|Ux\| \|Uy\|} =: \cos(\angle(Ux, Uy))$$

4) All of the e-values of  $U$  have magnitude 1. Indeed, suppose that  $\lambda$  is an e-value with e-vector  $v$ :  $Uv = \lambda v$

Applying norms to both sides of the above yields:  $\|Uv\| = \|\lambda v\|$

But, by item (3) above and properties of norms:

$$\|Uv\| = \|v\| \text{ and } \|\lambda v\| = |\lambda| \|v\|$$

which, with the above, implies  $|\lambda| = 1$ .

## Singular Value Decomposition Theorem

**Complex matrices:** Consider  $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ . Then there exist unitary matrices

$$U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \cdots \ u_m]$$

$$V = [v_1 \ v_2 \ \cdots \ v_n]$$

such that

$$A = \begin{cases} U \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} V^H, & m \geq n \\ U \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & 0 \end{bmatrix} V^H, & m \leq n \end{cases}$$

where

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sigma_p \end{bmatrix}, \quad p = \min(m, n)$$

and

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_p \geq 0$$

Terminology: We refer to  $\sigma_i$  as the  $i$ 'th singular value, to  $u_i$  as the  $i$ 'th left singular vector, and to  $v_i$  as the  $i$ 'th right singular vector.

*Know this one!*

**Real Matrices:** Consider  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Then there exist orthogonal matrices

$$U = [u_1 \ u_2 \ \cdots \ u_m]$$

$$V = [v_1 \ v_2 \ \cdots \ v_n]$$

such that

$$A = \begin{cases} U \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} V^\top, & m \geq n \\ U \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & 0 \end{bmatrix} V^\top, & m \leq n \end{cases}$$

$\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_p)$

$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_p \geq 0.$

$p = \min(m, n)$

where

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sigma_p \end{bmatrix}, \quad p = \min(m, n)$$

and

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_p \geq 0$$

Terminology: We refer to  $\sigma_i$  as the  $i$ 'th singular value, to  $u_i$  as the  $i$ 'th left singular vector, and to  $v_i$  as the  $i$ 'th right singular vector.

**Theorem:**  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{number of nonzero singular values.}$

**Idea:** numerical  $\text{rank}(A) = \# \text{ of nonzero singular values larger than a threshold?}$

**Matlab:** help SVD

SVD Singular value decomposition.

`[U,S,V] = SVD(X)` produces a diagonal matrix  $S$ , of the same dimension as  $X$  and with non-negative diagonal elements in decreasing order, and unitary matrices  $U$  and  $V$  so that  $X = U*S*V'$ .

By itself,  $\text{SVD}(X)$  returns a vector containing  $\text{diag}(S)$ .

Example 1:

>> A=[1,2,3;2,1,3]

A =

$$\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{matrix}$$

>> [U,S,V]=svd(A)

U =

$$\begin{matrix} 0.7071 & 0.7071 \\ 0.7071 & -0.7071 \end{matrix}$$

S =

$$\begin{matrix} 5.1962 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.0000 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

V =

$$\begin{matrix} 0.4082 & -0.7071 & 0.5774 \\ 0.4082 & 0.7071 & 0.5774 \\ 0.8165 & -0.0000 & -0.5774 \end{matrix}$$

>> U'\*U

ans =

$$\begin{matrix} 1.0000 & 0.0000 \\ 0.0000 & 1.0000 \end{matrix}$$

```
>> A-U*S*V'
```

```
ans =
```

```
1.0e-14 *  
  
-0.0222    -0.0444    0.0444  
-0.0888    0.1110    0.0444
```

### Example 2:

```
>> A=[1,0.98;1,1]
```

```
A =
```

```
1.0000    0.9800  
1.0000    1.0000
```

```
>> [U,S,V]=svd(A)
```

```
U =
```

```
0.7036    -0.7106  
0.7106    0.7036
```

```
S =
```

```
1.9900      0  
0        0.0100
```

```
V =
```

```
0.7106 -0.7036  
0.7036 0.7106
```

```
>> U'*U
```

```
ans =
```

```
1.0000 0.0000  
0.0000 1.0000
```

```
>> A-U*S*V'
```

```
ans =
```

```
1.0e-15 *
```

```
0 0.5551  
0 0.4441
```

**Fact:** The numerical rank of  $A$  is the number of singular values that are larger than a given threshold. Often the threshold is chosen as a percentage of the largest singular value.

**Example:  $5 \times 5$  matrix**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -32.57514 & -3.89996 & -6.30185 & -5.67305 & -26.21851 \\ -36.21632 & -11.13521 & -38.80726 & -16.86330 & -1.42786 \\ -5.07732 & -21.86599 & -38.27045 & -36.61390 & -33.95078 \\ -36.51955 & -38.28404 & -19.40680 & -31.67486 & -37.34390 \\ -25.28365 & -38.57919 & -31.99765 & -38.36343 & -27.13790 \end{bmatrix}$$

`[U,Sigma,V]=svd(A);`

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 132.459 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 37.70811 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 33.41836 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 19.34060 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.79164 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that the smallest singular value  $\sigma_5 = 0.79164$  is less than 1% of the largest singular value  $\sigma_1 = 132.459$ . In many cases, one might say that the numerical rank of  $A$  was 4 instead of 5.

**This notion of numerical rank can be formalized by asking the following question:** Suppose  $\text{rank}(A) = r$ . How far away is  $A$  from a matrix of rank strictly less than  $r$ ?

# SVD and Rank

$A = n \times n$  for simplicity

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

$$U = [U_1 | \dots | U_n], \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sigma_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = [V_1 | \dots | V_n] \Rightarrow V^T = \begin{bmatrix} V_1^T \\ \vdots \\ V_n^T \end{bmatrix}$$

## Exercise

$$1) \quad U \Sigma = [\sigma_1 U_1 | \dots | \sigma_n U_n]$$

$$2) \quad \underbrace{A}_{n \times n} = U \Sigma V^T = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \underbrace{U_i V_i^T}_{n \times n}$$

Calculate the induced  
2-norm of  $U_i V_i^T$ .

# (Induced) Matrix 2-norm

$M = n \times n$

$$\|M\|_2 = \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(M^T M)}$$

What is the 2-norm of  $U_i V_i^T$ ?

∴ We need the eigenvalues?

$$M = U_i V_i^T$$

$$M^T M = V_i U_i^T U_i V_i^T = V_i V_i^T$$

$$M^T M v_j = V_i V_i^T v_j = \begin{cases} v_i & i=j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

e-values of  $M^T M$  are  $\{1, 0, \dots, 0\}$

$$\lambda_{\max}(M^T M) = 1$$

$$\|V_i V_i^T\|_2 = 1$$

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

(1)

$$A = \sigma_1 U_1 V_1^T + \sigma_2 U_2 V_2^T + \dots + \sigma_n U_n V_n^T \quad \{$$

$$A + (-\sigma_n U_n V_n^T) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sigma_i U_i V_i^T$$

$\sigma_n$  measures the distance  
of  $A$  from being singular !!

Proof in 4.4 minutes.

$$AA^T = \text{pos. def.} \quad (\text{for simplicity})$$

Let  $\{u^1, \dots, u^n\}$  be ortho-normal  
e-vectors of  $AA^T$

$$(AA^T)u^i = \lambda_i u^i$$

Re-order so that  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$ .

Define  $v^i = A^T u^i$

$$\langle v^i, v^j \rangle = (v^i)^T v^j$$

$$= u^i{}^T A A^T u^j$$

$$= \lambda_j u^i{}^T u^j = \begin{cases} \lambda_j & i=j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Re-label  $v^i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} A^T u^i$

then  $\{v^1, \dots, v^n\}$  orthonormal

$$V = [v^1 | v^2 | \dots | v^n]$$

$$U = [u^1 | u^2 | \dots | u^n]$$

$$AV = [Av^1 | Av^2 | \dots | Av^n]$$

$$= \left[ \frac{A A^T u^1}{\sqrt{\lambda_1}} | \frac{A A^T u^2}{\sqrt{\lambda_2}} | \dots | \frac{A A^T u^n}{\sqrt{\lambda_n}} \right]$$

$$= [\sqrt{\lambda_1} u^1 | \sqrt{\lambda_2} u^2 | \dots | \sqrt{\lambda_n} u^n]$$

$$= [u^1 | u^2 | \dots | u^n] \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\lambda_1} & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sqrt{\lambda_n} & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = U \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\lambda_1} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sqrt{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix} V^T$$

## Know.

**Fact:** Suppose that  $\text{rank}(A) = r$ , so that  $\sigma_r$  is the smallest non-zero singular value. Then

- (i) if an  $n \times m$  matrix  $E$  satisfies  $\|E\| < \sigma_r$ , then  $\text{rank}(A + E) = r$ .
- (ii) there exists  $E$  with  $\|E\| = \sigma_r$  and  $\text{rank}(A + E) < r$ .

**Corollary:** Suppose  $A$  is square and invertible. Then  $\sigma_r$  measures the distance from  $A$  to the nearest singular matrix.

**Example: Using A above**

```
>> d=diag(Sigma);
>> d(end)=0;
>> D=diag(d);
>> B=U*D*V';
>> E=A-B;
```

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} -0.04169 & 0.12122 & 0.09818 & -0.21886 & 0.05458 \\ 0.02031 & -0.05906 & -0.04784 & 0.10663 & -0.02659 \\ 0.01966 & -0.05716 & -0.04629 & 0.10320 & -0.02574 \\ 0.07041 & -0.20476 & -0.16584 & 0.36968 & -0.09220 \\ -0.08160 & 0.23728 & 0.19218 & -0.42839 & 0.10684 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
>> max(sqrt(eig(E'*E)))
```

0.7916

```
>> [U,Sigma,V]=svd(A-E);
```

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 132.45977 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 37.70811 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 33.41836 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 19.34060 & 0.00000 \\ 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 & 0.00000 \end{bmatrix}$$

I added a matrix with norm 0.7916 and made the (exact) rank drop from 4 to 5! How cool is that? It really shows that the matrix was close to a singular matrix.

### Another Example:

```
>> N=100;A=[1,N;0,1]; [U,S,V]=svd(A); A,S
```

A =

```
1    100
0      1
```

S =

```
100.0100      0
0      0.0100
```

## Final comments:

- (a) We have not had the time to do anything with the nullspace and range of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$ ; they are important subspaces.

**Nullspace:**  $\mathbf{N}(A) := \{x \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid Ax = 0\}$

**Range:**  $\mathbf{R}(A) := \{y \in \mathbb{C}^m \mid \exists x \in \mathbb{C}^n \text{ such that } y = Ax\}$

- (b) **Fact:** Let  $[U, \Sigma, V] = \text{svd}(A)$ ; Then the columns of  $U$  are a basis for  $\mathbf{R}(A)$  and the columns of  $V$  are a basis for  $\mathbf{N}(A)$ .
- (c) The SVD can also be used to compute an "effective" range and an "effective" nullspace of a matrix.
- (d) Suppose that  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > \epsilon \geq \sigma_{r+1} \geq \dots \sigma_n \geq 0$ , so that  $r$  is the "effective" or numerical rank of  $A$ . (Note the  $\epsilon$  inserted between  $\sigma_r$  and  $\sigma_{r+1}$  to denote the break point.)
- (e) Let  $\mathbf{R}_{\text{eff}}(A)$  and  $\mathbf{N}_{\text{eff}}(A)$  denote the effective range and effective nullspace of  $A$ , respectively. Then we can calculate bases for these subspaces by choosing appropriate singular vectors:

$$\mathbf{R}_{\text{eff}}(A) := \text{span}\{u_1, \dots, u_r\} \text{ and } \mathbf{N}_{\text{eff}}(A) := \text{span}\{v_{r+1}, \dots, v_n\}.$$

## The SVD for Real Matrices

**Def.** An  $m \times n$  matrix  $\Sigma$  is rectangular diagonal if  $\Sigma_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . The diagonal of  $\Sigma$  is

$$\text{diag}(\Sigma) = (\Sigma_{11}, \Sigma_{22}, \dots, \Sigma_{kk})$$

where  $k = \min(m, n)$ .

**Examples** Consider rectangular matrices

$$\Sigma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then,

$$\text{diag}(\Sigma_1) = [3 \ 4 \ -1] \quad \text{and} \quad \text{diag}(\Sigma_2) = [1 \ -6]$$

**SVD Theorem:** Any  $m \times n$  real matrix  $A$  can be factored as

$$A = Q_1 \Sigma Q_2^\top$$

where

$Q_1 = m \times m$  orthogonal matrix

$Q_2 = n \times n$  orthogonal matrix

$\Sigma = m \times n$  rectangular diagonal matrix

and  $\text{diag}(\Sigma) = [\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_k]$  satisfies  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_k \geq 0$  where  $k = \min(m, n)$ . Moreover, the columns of  $Q_1$  are eigenvectors of  $AA^\top$ , the columns of  $Q_2$  are eigenvectors of  $A^\top A$ , and the  $(\sigma_i)^2$  are eigenvalues of both  $AA^\top$  and  $A^\top A$ .

**Remark:** The entries of  $\text{diag}(\Sigma)$  are called singular values of  $A$ .

**Proof of the theorem:**  $A^\top A$  is  $n \times n$ , real, and symmetric. Hence, there exist orthonormal eigenvectors  $\{v^1, \dots, v^n\}$  such that  $A^\top A v^j = \lambda_j v^j$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0$$

If not, we simply re-order the  $v^i$ 's to make it so.

For  $\lambda_j > 0$ , say  $1 \leq j \leq r$ , we define

$$\sigma_j = \sqrt{\lambda_j}$$

and

$$q^j = \frac{1}{\sigma_j} A v^j \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

Claim:  $(q^i)^\top q^j = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq r$ .

Proof of Claim:

$$\begin{aligned} (q^i)^\top q^j &= \frac{1}{\sigma_i} \frac{1}{\sigma_j} (v^i)^\top A^\top A v^j \\ &= \frac{\lambda_j}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} (v^i)^\top v^j \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda_j}{(\sigma_i)^2} & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \\ &= \begin{cases} 1 & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

End of proof of Claim.

If  $r < m$ , we can extend the  $q^i$ 's to an orthonormal basis for  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 &= [q^1 \mid q^2 \mid \dots \mid q^m] \\ Q_2 &= [v^1 \mid v^2 \mid \dots \mid v^n] \end{aligned}$$

and define  $\Sigma = m \times n$  by

$$\Sigma_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sigma_i \delta_{ij} & 1 \leq i, j \leq r \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then,  $\Sigma$  is rectangular diagonal with

$$\text{diag}(\Sigma) = [\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_r, 0, \dots, 0]$$

To complete the proof of the theorem, it is enough to show that  $Q_1^\top A Q_2 = \Sigma$ . We note that the  $ij$  element of this matrix is

$$(Q_1^\top A Q_2)_{ij} = q_i^\top A v^j$$

If  $j > r$ , then  $A v^j = 0$ , and thus  $q_i^\top A v^j = 0$ , as required. If  $i > r$ , then  $q^i$  was selected to be orthogonal to

$$\{q^1, \dots, q^r\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A v^1, \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A v^2, \dots, \frac{1}{\sigma_r} A v^r \right\}$$

and thus  $(q^i)^\top A v^j = 0$ .

Hence we now consider  $1 \leq i, j \leq r$  and compute that

$$\begin{aligned} (Q_1^\top A Q_2)_{ij} &= \frac{1}{\sigma_i} (v^i)^\top A^\top A v^j \\ &= \frac{\lambda_j}{\sigma_i} (v^i)^\top v^j \\ &= \sigma_i \delta_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

as required. **End of Proof.**