

# 14\_SVD

March 28, 2017

## 1 14 Linear Algebra: Singular Value Decomposition

One can always decompose a matrix  $A$

$$A = U \operatorname{diag}(w_j) V^T \quad (1)$$

$$U^T U = U U^T = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$V^T V = V V^T = 1 \quad (3)$$

where  $U$  and  $V$  are orthogonal matrices and the  $w_j$  are the *singular values* that are assembled into a diagonal matrix  $W$ .

$$W = \operatorname{diag}(w_j)$$

The inverse (if it exists) can be directly calculated from the SVD:

$$A^{-1} = V \operatorname{diag}(1/w_j) U^T$$

### 1.1 Solving ill-conditioned coupled linear equations

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
```

#### 1.1.1 Non-singular matrix

Solve the linear system of equations

$$Ax = b$$

Using the standard linear solver in numpy:

```
In [2]: A = np.array([
        [1, 2, 3],
        [3, 2, 1],
        [-1, -2, -6],
    ])
        b = np.array([0, 1, -1])
```

```
In [3]: np.linalg.solve(A, b)
```

```
Out[3]: array([ 0.83333333, -0.91666667,  0.33333333])
```

Using the inverse from SVD:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

```
In [4]: U, w, VT = np.linalg.svd(A)
        print(w)
```

```
[ 7.74140616  2.96605874  0.52261473]
```

First check that the SVD really factors  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \text{diag}(w_j) \mathbf{V}^T$ :

```
In [5]: U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT))
```

```
Out[5]: array([[ 1.,  2.,  3.],
               [ 3.,  2.,  1.],
               [-1., -2., -6.]])
```

```
In [6]: np.allclose(A, U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT)))
```

```
Out[6]: True
```

Now calculate the matrix inverse  $\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \mathbf{V} \text{diag}(1/w_j) \mathbf{U}^T$ :

```
In [7]: inv_w = 1/w
        print(inv_w)
```

```
[ 0.1291755  0.33714774  1.91345545]
```

```
In [8]: A_inv = VT.T.dot(np.diag(inv_w)).dot(U.T)
        print(A_inv)
```

```
[[ -8.33333333e-01  5.00000000e-01 -3.33333333e-01]
 [  1.41666667e+00 -2.50000000e-01  6.66666667e-01]
 [ -3.33333333e-01 -1.38777878e-17 -3.33333333e-01]]
```

Check that this is the same that we get from `numpy.linalg.inv()`:

```
In [9]: np.allclose(A_inv, np.linalg.inv(A))
```

```
Out[9]: True
```

Now, *finally* solve (and check against `numpy.linalg.solve()`):

```
In [10]: x = A_inv.dot(b)
         print(x)
         np.allclose(x, np.linalg.solve(A, b))
```

```
[ 0.83333333 -0.91666667  0.33333333]
```

```
Out[10]: True
```

```
In [11]: A.dot(x)
```

```
Out[11]: array([ -8.88178420e-16,  1.00000000e+00, -1.00000000e+00])
```

```
In [12]: np.allclose(A.dot(x), b)
```

```
Out[12]: True
```

### 1.1.2 Singular matrix

If the matrix *A* is *singular* (i.e., its rank (linearly independent rows or columns) is less than its dimension and hence the linear system of equation does not have a unique solution):

For example, the following matrix has the same row twice:

```
In [78]: C = np.array([
    [ 0.87119148,  0.9330127, -0.9330127],
    [ 1.1160254,  0.04736717, -0.04736717],
    [ 1.1160254,  0.04736717, -0.04736717],
    ])
    b1 = np.array([ 2.3674474, -0.24813392, -0.24813392])
    b2 = np.array([0, 1, 1])
```

```
In [79]: np.linalg.solve(C, b1)
```

```
-----
LinAlgError                                Traceback (most recent call last)

<ipython-input-79-0d740b22028e> in <module>()
----> 1 np.linalg.solve(C, b1)

/Users/oliver/anaconda3/lib/python3.5/site-packages/numpy/linalg/linalg.py
382     signature = 'DD->D' if isComplexType(t) else 'dd->d'
383     extobj = get_linalg_error_extobj(_raise_linalgerror_singular)
--> 384     r = gufunc(a, b, signature=signature, extobj=extobj)
385
386     return wrap(r.astype(result_t, copy=False))

/Users/oliver/anaconda3/lib/python3.5/site-packages/numpy/linalg/linalg.py
88
89 def _raise_linalgerror_singular(err, flag):
```

```

---> 90     raise LinAlgError("Singular matrix")
      91
      92 def _raise_linalgerror_nonposdef(err, flag):

```

```

LinAlgError: Singular matrix

```

NOTE: failure is not always that obvious: numerically, a matrix can be *almost* singular

```

In [80]: D = C.copy()
          D[2, :] = C[0] - 3*C[1]
          D

```

```

Out[80]: array([[ 0.87119148,  0.9330127 , -0.9330127 ],
                [ 1.1160254 ,  0.04736717, -0.04736717],
                [-2.47688472,  0.79091119, -0.79091119]])

```

```

In [81]: np.linalg.solve(D, b1)

```

```

Out[81]: array([ -1.70189831e+00,  2.34823174e+16,  2.34823174e+16])

```

Note that some of the values are huge, and suspiciously like the inverse of machine precision?  
Sign of a nearly singular matrix.

Now back to the example with C:

**SVD for singular matrices** If a matrix is *singular* or *near singular* then one can *still* apply SVD.  
One can then compute the *pseudo inverse*

$$A^{-1} = V \text{diag}(\alpha_j) U^T \quad (4)$$

$$\alpha_j = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{w_j}, & \text{if } w_j \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } w_j = 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

i.e., any singular  $w_j = 0$  is being “augmented” by setting

$$\frac{1}{w_j} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{if } w_j = 0$$

in  $\text{diag}(1/w_j)$ .

Perform the SVD for the singular matrix C:

```

In [82]: U, w, VT = np.linalg.svd(C)
          print(w)

```

```

[ 1.99999999e+00  1.00000000e+00  1.06263691e-33]

```

Note the third value  $w_2 \approx 0$ : sign of a singular matrix.  
Test that the SVD really decomposes  $A = U \text{diag}(w_j) V^T$ :

```
In [83]: U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT))

Out[83]: array([[ 0.87119148,  0.9330127 , -0.9330127 ],
                [ 1.1160254 ,  0.04736717, -0.04736717],
                [ 1.1160254 ,  0.04736717, -0.04736717]])

In [84]: np.allclose(C, U.dot(np.diag(w).dot(VT)))

Out[84]: True
```

There are the **singular values**:

```
In [85]: singular_values = np.abs(w) < 1e-12
         print(singular_values)

[False False  True]
```

**Pseudo-inverse** Calculate the **pseudo-inverse** from the SVD

$$A^{-1} = V \text{diag}(\alpha_j) U^T \quad (6)$$

$$\alpha_j = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{w_j}, & \text{if } w_j \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } w_j = 0 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Augment:

```
In [88]: inv_w = 1/w
         inv_w[singular_values] = 0
         print(inv_w)

[ 0.5  1.   0. ]

In [89]: C_inv = VT.T.dot(np.diag(inv_w)).dot(U.T)
         print(C_inv)

[[-0.04736717  0.46650635  0.46650635]
 [ 0.5580127  -0.21779787 -0.21779787]
 [-0.5580127   0.21779787  0.21779787]]
```

Now solve the linear problem with SVD:

```
In [90]: x1 = C_inv.dot(b1)
         print(x1)

[-0.34365138  1.4291518  -1.4291518 ]
```

```
In [91]: C.dot(x1)
```

```
Out[91]: array([ 2.3674474 , -0.24813392, -0.24813392])
```

```
In [92]: C.dot(x1) - b1
```

```
Out[92]: array([ 8.88178420e-16, -1.11022302e-16, -1.11022302e-16])
```

Thus, using the pseudo-inverse  $C^{-1}$  we can obtain solutions to the equation

$$C\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{b}_1$$

However,  $\mathbf{x}_1$  is not the only solution: there's a whole line of solutions that are formed the special solution and a combination of the basis vectors in the *null space* of the matrix:

The (right) *kernel* or *null space* contains all vectors  $\mathbf{x}^0$  for which

$$C\mathbf{x}^0 = 0$$

(The dimension of the null space corresponds to the number of singular values.) You can find a basis that spans the null space. Any linear combination of null space basis vectors will also end up in the null space when  $\mathbf{A}$  is applied to it.

Specifically, if  $\mathbf{x}_1$  is a special solution and  $\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1^0 + \lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2^0 + \dots$  is a vector in the null space then

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_1 + (\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1^0 + \lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2^0 + \dots)$$

is **also a solution** because

$$C\mathbf{x} = C\mathbf{x}^0 + C(\lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1^0 + \lambda_2\mathbf{x}_2^0 + \dots) = C\mathbf{x}^0 + 0 = \mathbf{b}_1 + 0 = \mathbf{b}_1$$

The  $\lambda_i$  are arbitrary real numbers and hence there is an infinite number of solutions.

In SVD:

- The columns  $U_{:,i}$  of  $\mathbf{U}$  (i.e.  $\mathbf{U.T}[i]$  or  $\mathbf{U}[:, i]$ ) corresponding to non-zero  $w_i$ , i.e.  $\{i : w_i \neq 0\}$ , form the basis for the *range* of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ .
- The columns  $V_{:,i}$  of  $\mathbf{V}$  (i.e.  $\mathbf{V.T}[i]$  or  $\mathbf{V}[:, i]$ ) corresponding to zero  $w_i$ , i.e.  $\{i : w_i = 0\}$ , form the basis for the *null space* of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ .

Note that  $\mathbf{x}_1$  can be written as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{U.T}[0]$  and  $\mathbf{U.T}[1]$ :

```
In [93]: x1
```

```
Out[93]: array([-0.34365138,  1.4291518 , -1.4291518 ])
```

```
In [94]: U.T
```

```
Out[94]: array([[ -7.07106782e-01,  -4.99999999e-01,  -4.99999999e-01],
                [  7.07106780e-01,  -5.00000001e-01,  -5.00000001e-01],
                [ -8.23369199e-17,  -7.07106781e-01,   7.07106781e-01]])
```

```
In [95]: VT
```

```
Out[95]: array([[ -0.8660254 , -0.35355339,  0.35355339],
               [ -0.5       ,  0.61237244, -0.61237244],
               [ -0.        , -0.70710678, -0.70710678]])
```

```
In [96]: U.T[0].dot(x1), U.T[1].dot(x1)
```

```
Out[96]: (0.24299822382783764, -0.24299822305983237)
```

```
In [97]: VT[2].dot(x1)
```

```
Out[97]: 0.0
```

```
In [98]: U.T[0].dot(x1) * U.T[0] + U.T[1].dot(x1) * U.T[1] + 2 * VT[2]
```

```
Out[98]: array([-0.34365138, -1.41421356, -1.41421356])
```

Thus, **all** solutions are

$x_1 + \lambda * VT[2]$

The solution vector  $x_2$  is in the null space:

```
In [99]: x2 = C_inv.dot(b2)
         print(x2)
         print(C.dot(x2))
         print(C.dot(x2) - b2)
```

```
[ 0.9330127 -0.43559574  0.43559574]
[ -5.55111512e-16  1.00000000e+00  1.00000000e+00]
[ -5.55111512e-16  2.22044605e-16  2.22044605e-16]
```

```
In [100]: C.dot(10*x2)
```

```
Out[100]: array([ -4.44089210e-15,  1.00000000e+01,  1.00000000e+01])
```

```
In [101]: C.dot(VT[2])
```

```
Out[101]: array([ 0.00000000e+00, -6.93889390e-18, -6.93889390e-18])
```

```
In [34]: VT[2]
```

```
Out[34]: array([-0.        , -0.70710678, -0.70710678])
```

```
In [102]: null_basis = VT[singular_values]
```

```
In [103]: C.dot(null_basis.T)
```

```
Out[103]: array([[ 0.00000000e+00],
                 [ -6.93889390e-18],
                 [ -6.93889390e-18]])
```

## 1.2 SVD for fewer equations than unknowns

$N$  equations for  $M$  unknowns with  $N < M$ :

- no unique solutions (underdetermined)
- $M - N$  dimensional family of solutions
- SVD: at least  $M - N$  zero or negligible  $w_j$ : columns of  $V$  corresponding to singular  $w_j$  span the solution space when added to a particular solution.

Same as the above **Solving ill-conditioned coupled linear equations**.

## 1.3 SVD for more equations than unknowns

$N$  equations for  $M$  unknowns with  $N > M$ :

- no exact solutions in general (overdetermined)
- but: SVD can provide best solution in the least-square sense

$$\mathbf{x} = V \operatorname{diag}(1/w_j) U^T \mathbf{b}$$

where

- $\mathbf{x}$  is a  $M$ -dimensional vector of the unknowns,
- $V$  is a  $M \times N$  matrix
- the  $w_j$  form a square  $M \times M$  matrix,
- $U$  is a  $M \times N$  matrix (and  $U^T$  is a  $N \times M$  matrix), and
- $\mathbf{b}$  is the  $N$ -dimensional vector of the given values

It can be shown that  $\mathbf{x}$  minimizes the residual

$$\mathbf{r} := |\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}|.$$

(For a  $N \leq M$ , one can find  $\mathbf{x}$  so that  $\mathbf{r} = 0$  – see above.)

(In the following,  $\mathbf{x}$  will correspond to the  $N$  parameter values of the model and  $M$  is the number of observations.)

### 1.3.1 Linear least-squares fitting

This is the *linear least-squares fitting problem*: Given  $N$  data points  $(x_i, y_i)$  (where  $1 \leq i \leq N$ ), fit to a linear model  $y(x)$ , which can be any linear combination of  $M$  functions of  $x$ .

For example, if we have  $N$  functions  $x^k$  with parameters  $a_k$

$$y(x) = a_1 + a_2x + a_3x^2 + \cdots + a_Mx^{M-1}$$

or in general

$$y(x) = \sum_{k=1}^M a_k X_k(x)$$



The goal is to determine the  $M$  coefficients  $a_k$ .

Define the **merit function**

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i - \sum_{k=1}^M a_k X_k(x_i)}{\sigma_i} \right]^2$$

(sum of squared deviations, weighted with standard deviations  $\sigma_i$  on the  $y_i$ ).

Best parameters  $a_k$  are the ones that *minimize*  $\chi^2$ .

*Design matrix*  $\mathbf{A}$  ( $N \times M$ ,  $N \geq M$ ), vector of measurements  $\mathbf{b}$  ( $N$ -dim) and parameter vector  $\mathbf{a}$  ( $M$ -dim):

$$A_{ij} = \frac{X_j(x_i)}{\sigma_i} \quad (8)$$

$$b_i = \frac{y_i}{\sigma_i} \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_M) \quad (10)$$

Minimum occurs when the derivative vanishes:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial a_k} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^{-2} \left[ y_i - \sum_{k=1}^M a_k X_k(x_i) \right] X_k(x_i), \quad 1 \leq k \leq M$$

( $M$  coupled equations)

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \alpha_{kj} a_j = \beta_k \quad (11)$$

$$\alpha \mathbf{a} = \beta \quad (12)$$

with the  $M \times M$  matrix

$$\alpha_{kj} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{X_j(x_i) X_k(x_i)}{\sigma_i^2} \quad (13)$$

$$\alpha = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \quad (14)$$

and the vector of length  $M$

$$\beta_k = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{y_i X_k(x_i)}{\sigma_i^2} \quad (15)$$

$$\beta = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b} \quad (16)$$

The inverse of  $\alpha$  is related to the uncertainties in the parameters:

$$\mathbf{C} := \alpha^{-1}$$

in particular

$$\sigma(a_i) = C_{ii}$$

(and the  $C_{ij}$  are the co-variances).

**Solution of the linear least-squares fitting problem with SVD** We need to solve the overdetermined system of  $M$  coupled equations

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \alpha_{kj} a_j = \beta_k \quad (17)$$

$$\alpha \mathbf{a} = \beta \quad (18)$$

SVD finds  $\mathbf{a}$  that minimizes

$$\chi^2 = |\mathbf{Aa} - \mathbf{b}|$$

The errors are

$$\sigma^2(a_j) = \sum_{i=1}^M \left( \frac{V_{ji}}{w_i} \right)^2$$

**Example** Synthetic data

$$y(x) = 3 \sin x - 2 \sin 3x + \sin 4x$$

with noise  $r$  added (uniform in range  $-5 < r < 5$ ).

```
In [37]: import matplotlib
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
matplotlib.style.use('ggplot')

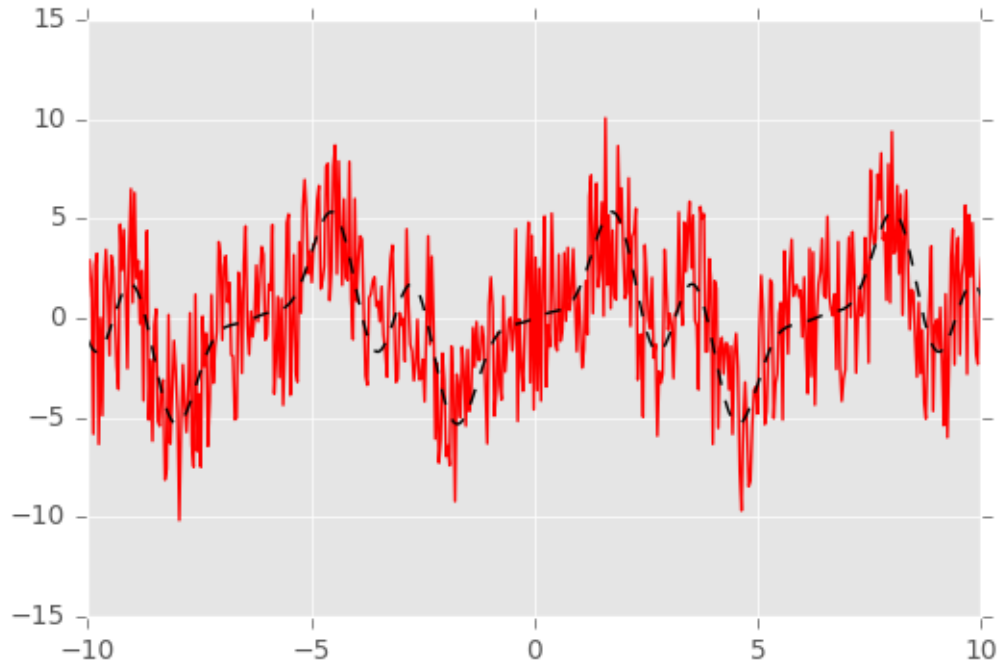
import numpy as np

In [38]: def signal(x, noise=0):
r = np.random.uniform(-noise, noise, len(x))
return 3*np.sin(x) - 2*np.sin(3*x) + np.sin(4*x) + r

In [59]: X = np.linspace(-10, 10, 500)
Y = signal(X, noise=5)

In [60]: plt.plot(X, Y, 'r-', X, signal(X, noise=0), 'k--')

Out[60]: [<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x10e84ceb8>,
<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x10e852198>]
```



```
In [61]: def fitfunc(x, a):
    return a[0]*np.cos(x) + a[1]*np.sin(x) + \
           a[2]*np.cos(2*x) + a[3]*np.sin(2*x) + \
           a[4]*np.cos(3*x) + a[5]*np.sin(3*x) + \
           a[6]*np.cos(4*x) + a[7]*np.sin(4*x)

    def basisfuncs(x):
        return np.array([np.cos(x), np.sin(x),
                          np.cos(2*x), np.sin(2*x),
                          np.cos(3*x), np.sin(3*x),
                          np.cos(4*x), np.sin(4*x)])

In [62]: M = 8
    sigma = 1.
    alpha = np.zeros((M, M))
    beta = np.zeros(M)
    for x in X:
        Xk = basisfuncs(x)
        for k in range(M):
            for j in range(M):
                alpha[k, j] += Xk[k]*Xk[j]
    for x, y in zip(X, Y):
        beta += y * basisfuncs(x)/sigma

In [63]: U, w, VT = np.linalg.svd(alpha)
    V = VT.T
```

In this case, the singular values do not immediately show if any basis functions are superfluous (this would be the case for values close to 0).

```
In [64]: w
```

```
Out[64]: array([ 296.92809624,  282.94804954,  243.7895787 ,  235.7300808 ,
                235.15938555,  235.14838812,  235.14821093,  235.14821013])
```

... nevertheless, remember to routinely mask any singular values or close to singular values:

```
In [65]: w_inv = 1/w
         w_inv[np.abs(w) < 1e-12] = 0
         alpha_inv = V.dot(np.diag(w_inv)).dot(U.T)
```

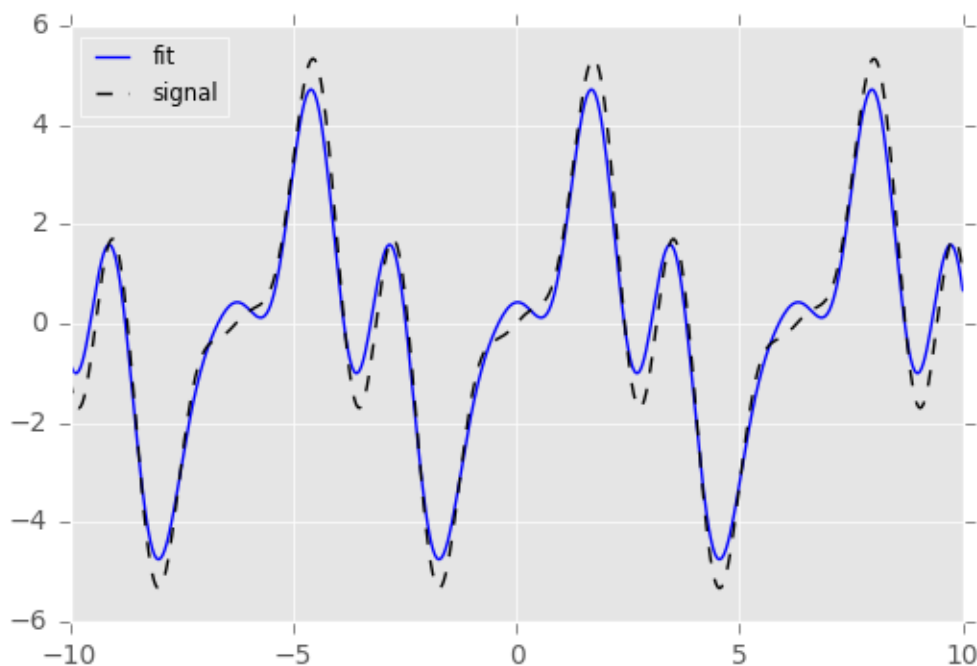
Compare the fitted values to the original parameters  $a_j = 0, +3, 0, 0, 0, -2, 0, +1$ .

```
In [66]: a_values = alpha_inv.dot(beta)
         print(a_values)
```

```
[-0.05602761  2.76553973  0.25531225 -0.03780974 -0.05668003 -1.76371356
  0.28272354  0.68902357]
```

```
In [67]: plt.plot(X, fitfunc(X, a_values), 'b-', label="fit")
         plt.plot(X, signal(X, noise=0), 'k--', label="signal")
         plt.legend(loc="best", fontsize="small")
```

```
Out[67]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x10e8bd400>
```



```
In [ ]:
```