## Matrices of Data and Singular Values Gilbert Strang MIT gilstrang@gmail.com Problem: Find the important part of a matrix

Best approximation to A by a matrix B of rank k min  $||A - B|| = \sigma_{k+1}$  for  $B = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \sigma_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{v}_k^T$ 

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$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \text{ one independent column rank } = 1$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ column times row } (n \times 1)(1 \times n) = n \times n$$
$$= 5 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \text{ unit column vector } \mathbf{q}$$
$$= \lambda \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \quad \mathbf{q} = \text{eigenvector of } S, \ \lambda = 5 = \text{eigenvalue of } S$$

#### Flag of France (rank 1)

 $= \begin{bmatrix} B & B & W & W & R & R \\ B & B & W & W & R & R \\ B & B & W & W & R & R \\ B & B & W & W & R & R \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B & B & W & W & R & R \end{bmatrix}$ 

Symmetric matrices  $S^T = S$   $S\mathbf{q} = \lambda \mathbf{q}$   $S[\mathbf{q}_1 \dots \mathbf{q}_n] = [\lambda_1 \mathbf{q}_1 \dots \lambda_n \mathbf{q}_n]$   $SQ = Q\Lambda$ Orthogonal eigenvectors  $Q^T Q = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{q}_n^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{q}_1 \dots \mathbf{q}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

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$$Q^T = Q^{-1}$$
 and  $S = Q\Lambda Q^T = \lambda_1 \mathbf{q}_1 \mathbf{q}_1^T + \dots + \lambda_n \mathbf{q}_n \mathbf{q}_n^T$ 

Rank one pieces  $\rightarrow$  columns **q** times rows **q**<sup>T</sup>



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

Symmetric matrix  $S = Q\Lambda Q^T$ 

Singular Value Decomposition Spectral Theorem

$$AV = U\Sigma$$
 means  $A\mathbf{v}_i = \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i$ 

 $SQ = Q\Lambda$  means  $S\mathbf{q}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{q}_i$ 

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 $A^{T}A\mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v} \quad \text{Multiply by } A \quad (AA^{T})A\mathbf{v} = \lambda A\mathbf{v}$  $AA^{T} \text{ has same eigenvalues } \lambda > 0 \text{ as } A^{T}A$  $AA^{T} \text{ has eigenvectors } \mathbf{u} = \frac{A\mathbf{v}}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  $\boxed{A^{T}A = V\Lambda V^{T}} \quad \boxed{AA^{T} = U\Lambda U^{T}}$  $\text{The goal is the SVD } \boxed{A = U\Sigma V^{T} \text{ with } \sigma_{i} = \sqrt{\lambda_{i}}}$  $\lambda_{1} \ge \lambda_{2} \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_{r} > 0 \qquad \sigma_{1} \ge \sigma_{2} \ge \cdots \ge \sigma_{r} > 0$ 

 $\mathbf{v}$  's are right singular vectors,  $\mathbf{u}$  's are left singular vectors

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#### Crazy proof of the SVD

$$\begin{split} A(A^T A) &= (AA^T)A\\ AV\Lambda V^T &= U\Lambda U^T A\\ U^T AV\Lambda &= \Lambda U^T AV \end{split}$$

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 $U^T A V$  commutes with diagonal matrix  $\Lambda$ Suppose none of the  $\lambda$ 's is repeated  $U^T A V$  is also diagonal!!! Call it  $\Sigma$ Then  $\Sigma^T \Sigma = \Lambda$   $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$   $\begin{aligned} A^{T}A & AA^{T} & A \\ \text{eigenvalues } \lambda_{1} \geq \lambda_{2} \geq \dots \lambda_{r} > 0 & \sigma_{i} = \sqrt{\lambda_{i}} \\ A^{T}A\mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v} & AA^{T}\mathbf{u} = \lambda \mathbf{u} & A\mathbf{v} = \sigma \mathbf{u} \\ V^{T}V = I & U^{T}U = I & \text{orthonormal } \mathbf{u}\text{'s and } \mathbf{v}\text{'s} \\ A^{T}A = V\Lambda V^{T} & AA^{T} = U\Lambda U^{T} & A = U\sqrt{\Lambda}V^{T} \text{ (the SVD)} \\ = \lambda_{1}\mathbf{v}_{1}\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T} + & = \lambda_{1}\mathbf{u}_{1}\mathbf{u}_{1}^{T} + & = \boxed{\sigma_{1}\mathbf{u}_{1}\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T}} + \\ \lambda_{2}\mathbf{v}_{2}\mathbf{v}_{2}^{T} + \cdots & \lambda_{2}\mathbf{u}_{2}\mathbf{u}_{2}^{T} + \cdots & \sigma_{2}\mathbf{u}_{2}\mathbf{v}_{2}^{T} + \cdots \end{aligned}$ 

Columns of V, U multiply rows of  $V^T, U^T$ : rank one pieces

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 $12\ {\rm numbers}\ {\rm instead}\ {\rm of}\ 36\ {\rm numbers}$ 

2N numbers instead of  $N^2$  numbers

Flag with 3 stripes also has rank 1

Don't send  $\begin{bmatrix} a & a & c & c & e & e \\ a & a & c & c & e & e \\ a & a & c & c & e & e \\ a & a & c & c & e & e \\ a & a & c & c & e & e \\ a & a & c & c & e & e \end{bmatrix}$  Send  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & a & c & c & e & e \end{bmatrix}$ 

France, Italy, Germany, 20 more countries have 3 stripes

2 by 2 triangular matrix Rank 2

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

No saving to compress a 2 by 2 image!

The example shows rank  $2 = \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{v}_2^T$ 

Many choices for the **u**'s and **v**'s / this choice was not the SVD The SVD choice:  $\mathbf{u}_1^T \mathbf{u}_2 = 0$   $\mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{v}_2 = 0$   $||\mathbf{u}_2|| ||\mathbf{v}_2|| \to \min$  $\mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T$  is the closest rank 1 matrix to A

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0\\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \sigma_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{v}_2^T$$
  
SVD gives  $\sigma_1 = \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2} \approx 1.6$   $\sigma_2 = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} \approx 0.6$ 

Remember 
$$\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2$$
 = eigenvalues of  $A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Example 2 = Hilbert matrix = very compressible!

$$H_{ij} = \frac{1}{i+j+1} =$$
 symmetric positive definite

This Hilbert matrix is nearly singular and very ill-conditioned Determinant of H is incredibly small

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Not much decay for a lower triangular matrix of 1's Fast decay for the Hilbert matrix (and many others)

## Key to applications

The nearest rank k matrix to A: Truncate the SVD

$$A_k = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \sigma_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{v}_k^T$$

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"Pieces of A in order of importance"

Most useful when the  $\sigma$ 's are exponentially decreasing.

Symmetric  $S = Q\Lambda Q^T = \lambda_1 \mathbf{q}_1 \mathbf{q}_1^T + \dots + \lambda_N \mathbf{q}_N \mathbf{q}_N^T$ Any matrix  $A = U\Sigma V^T = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \dots + \sigma_N \mathbf{u}_N \mathbf{v}_N^T$ Could find these pieces (column × row) one at a time The top eigenvector  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{q}_1 = \mathbf{u}_1$  gives  $\lambda_1$  and  $\sigma_1^2$ 

$$\lambda_1 = \max \frac{\mathbf{x}^T S \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = \text{ largest eigenvalue of } S$$
$$\sigma_1^2 = \max \frac{||A\mathbf{x}||^2}{||\mathbf{x}||} = \max \frac{\mathbf{x}^T A^T A \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}} = (\text{largest singular value})^2$$

This shows how S (symmetric) corresponds to  $A^T A$  $\lambda$  (positive) corresponds to  $\sigma^2$ 

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### Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Find the closest line (or closest subspace) to n data points Centered matrix  $A = A_0 - (average of each row)$ Every row of A adds to zero: The mean has been subtracted. n columns in original  $A_0$  give the data from the n individuals One row could record heart rate for all individuals Want to find the important information in  $A_0$  and A

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#### Data comes in a matrix!

### Principal Components when A has m = 2 rows



Each column of A is a point (x, y). Each row adds to zero. Average x and average y are zero: data is centered at (0, 0)**PCA finds the closest line to the data** Closest = smallest sum of (**perpendicular distances**)<sup>2</sup>  $S = AA^{T} = (2 \text{ by } n)(n \text{ by } 2) = 2 \text{ by } 2$ 

Top eigenvector  $\mathbf{u}_1$  gives the closest line

Finance, genetics, model reduction, many applications

 $S = AA^{T}/(N-1)$  is the sample covariance matrix Each  $\sigma_{i}^{2}$  tells how much of S is "explained" by  $\mathbf{u}_{i}$ Total variance  $= \sigma_{1}^{2} + \dots + \sigma_{m}^{2} =$  trace of SIn practice: Stop when  $\sigma_{i}^{2}$  is small This gives the "effective rank" of S and A $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -4 & 7 & 1 & -4 & -3 \\ 7 & -6 & 8 & -1 & -1 & -7 \end{bmatrix}$  has  $S = \frac{AA^{T}}{5} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 25 \\ 25 & 40 \end{bmatrix}$ 

#### Research question with Alex Townsend

Start from f(x, y) on the square  $0 \le x \le 1$ ,  $0 \le y \le 1$ Create N by N matrix  $A_{ij} = f\left(\frac{i}{N}, \frac{j}{N}\right) =$  "picture of f" Is this matrix compressible like Hilbert?

Is it incompressible like this triangular flag? Circular flag?

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ comes from } f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \ge y \\ 0 & x < y \end{cases}$$

US flag and UK flag are incompressible / they have diagonals What is the rank of the Japanese flag? Circle.

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1-0 matrix A with a circular disk of all 1's. Radius R.



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rank 
$$\approx 2\left(R - \frac{R}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \left(2 - \sqrt{2}\right)R$$

Remarkable fact: singular values  $\sigma \ge 1$  constant

Townsend found a description of compressible matrices CSolve Sylvester's equation AC - CB = F

1. F should have rapidly decreasing  $\sigma$ 's

2. Eigenvalues of A should be separated from eigenvalues of BSingular value decay for C depends on rational approximation Rational approximation is often exponentially close

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