

# Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

Mathematical Tools for Neuroscience (NEU 314)  
Fall, 2021

lecture 8

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# Quiz

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(1) Is  $v_1$  in the column space of  $A$ ?

(2) Is  $v_1$  in the row space of  $A$ ?

(3) Is  $v_1$  in the null space of  $A$ ?

(4) What is the rank of  $A$ ?

1/2 point each

(5a) Is this a linear function:  $f(\vec{x}) = 3\vec{x} + 1$

(5b) Is this a linear function:  $f(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$

# Next up: the amazing SVD!



**Daniela Witten** @daniela\_witten · Jul 5

Everybody knows that the #SVD is the #bestmatrixdecomposition !!!

#UDVt #minimumreconstructionerror #maximalvariance  
#nonconvexbutstillsolvable  
#nothanksQR  
#seeyoulaterEigenDecomp  
#blessed



**Women in Statistics and Data Science** @WomenInStat · Jul 21

So a lot of people think of the SVD as “just another matrix decomposition”.

But today I will argue that if you are in statistics or data science, it is the #1 matrix decomposition, and likely the only one you will ever need.

And believe me: you are going to need it.



**Women in Statistics and Data Science** @WomenInStat · Jul 21

And please don't troll me with your comments about how you prefer the QR or LU decompositions.

I'm a working mom with 3 kids at home in the midst of a pandemic, I know you don't mean it, and I literally don't have time for this.

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# Next up: the amazing SVD!



# quick recap:

1. What is an orthogonal matrix?

2. compute the transpose of the following two matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

# quick recap:

also known as  
“unitary” matrix

## 1. What is an orthogonal matrix?

- square matrix whose rows & columns are orthogonal unit vectors

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ \vec{b}_1 & \vec{b}_2 & \cdots & \vec{b}_n \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \vec{b}_i \cdot \vec{b}_i = 1 \\ \vec{b}_i \cdot \vec{b}_j = 0, i \neq j \end{array}$$

### Properties:

$$BB^T = B^T B = I \quad \text{transpose is its inverse}$$
$$B^{-1} = B^T$$

$$\|B\vec{v}\| = \|B^T\vec{v}\| = \|\vec{v}\| \quad \text{length-preserving}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{pmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

# one weird fact about transposes & inverses

- **transpose of a product:**

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

(we can verify this with  
a simple example)



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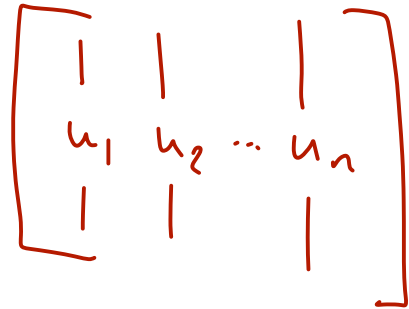
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- **inverse of a product:**

$$(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1} A^{-1}$$

# Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

$$A = USV^T$$



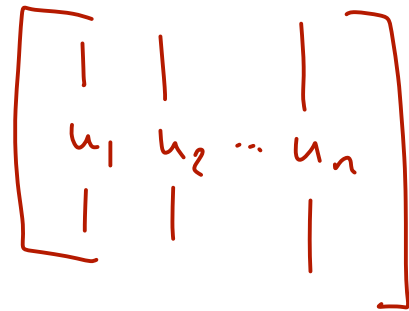
A hand-drawn diagram of a matrix  $U$ . The matrix is enclosed in large square brackets. Inside, there are three vertical columns. The first column is labeled  $u_1$ , the second  $u_2$ , and the third  $u_n$ . There are ellipses between  $u_2$  and  $u_n$ . Each column is flanked by vertical lines, suggesting the columns of the matrix.

left singular vectors  
(orthogonal/unitary)

$$U^T U = U U^T = \underline{I}$$

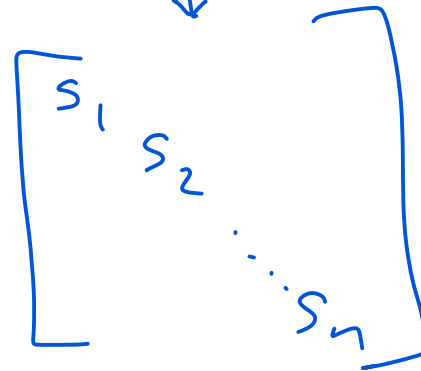
# Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

$$A = USV^T$$


$$\begin{bmatrix} | & | & | \\ u_1 & u_2 & \dots & u_n \\ | & | & | \end{bmatrix}$$

left singular vectors  
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$$U^T U = U U^T = \underline{I}$$


$$\begin{bmatrix} s_1 & & & \\ & s_2 & & \\ & & \dots & \\ & & & s_n \end{bmatrix}$$

singular values  
(all  $\geq 0$ )

$$s_1 \geq s_2 \geq \dots \geq s_n$$

(by convention)

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(by convention)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow v_1 \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow v_2 \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ \leftarrow v_n \rightarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

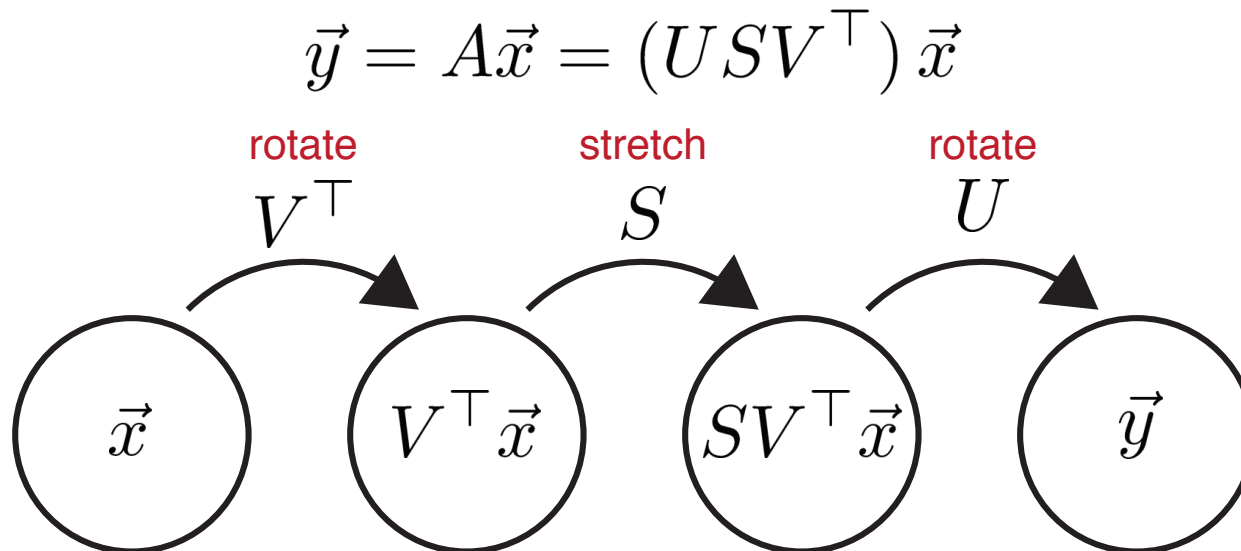
right singular vectors  
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$$V^T V = V V^T = I$$

# conceptual picture

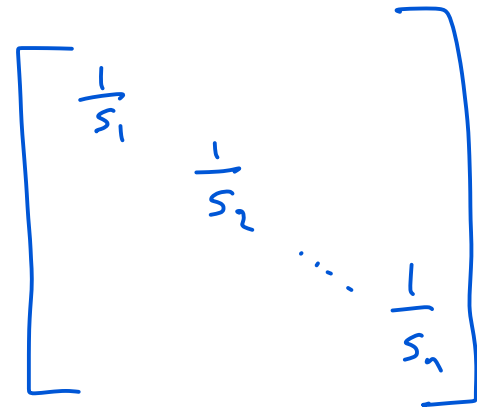
This means we can think of the linear map,  $\vec{x} \longrightarrow A\vec{x}$  in terms of the following three steps:

1. rotation (multiplication by  $V^\top$ , which doesn't change vector length of  $\vec{x}$ ).
2. stretching along the cardinal axes (where the  $i$ 'th component is stretched by  $s_i$ ).
3. another rotation (multiplication by  $U$ ).



inverse

$$A = USV^T$$



A handwritten blue bracket containing the inverse of the singular values matrix  $S^{-1}$ . The elements are  $\frac{1}{s_1}$ ,  $\frac{1}{s_2}$ , an ellipsis, and  $\frac{1}{s_n}$ .

inverse:  $A^{-1} = VS^{-1}U^T$

# inverse

let's check:

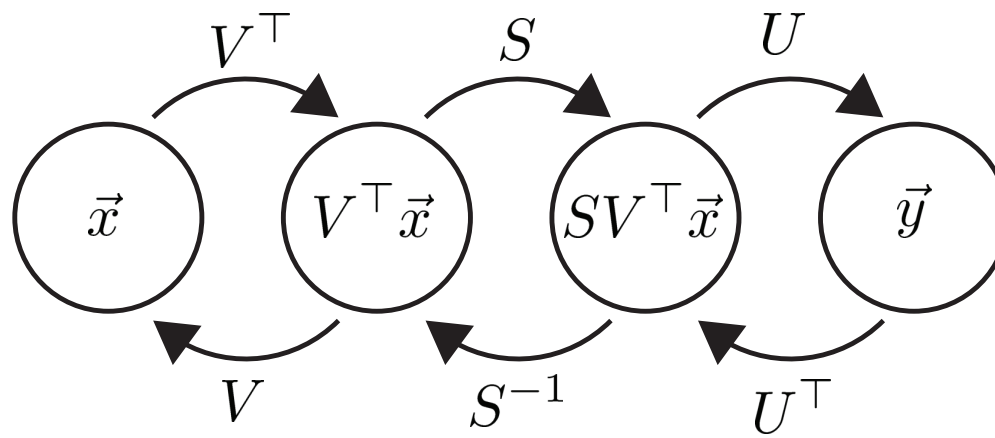
$$\begin{aligned}A^{-1}A &= (VS^{-1}U^{\top})(USV^{\top}) \\ &= VS^{-1}(U^{\top}U)SV^{\top} \\ &= V(S^{-1}S)V^{\top} \\ &= VV^{\top} \\ &= I\end{aligned}$$

inverse:  $A^{-1} = VS^{-1}U^{\top}$

can you check:  $AA^{-1}$

# mapping by $A$ and its inverse

$$\vec{y} = A\vec{x}$$

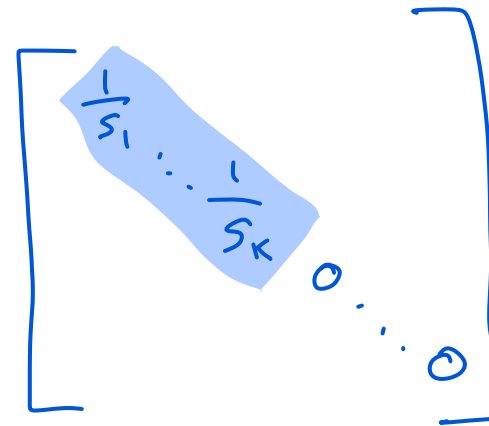


$$A^{-1}\vec{y} = \vec{x}$$



# Pseudo-inverse

$$A = USV^T$$



If we have  $k$  non-zero  
singular values,

pseudo-inverse:  $A^\dagger = V \underbrace{S^\dagger} U^T$

# Rank

$\text{rank}(A) = \#$  non-zero singular values

if  $s_1, \dots, s_k > 0$   
and  $s_{k+1}, \dots, s_n = 0$   
rank =  $k$

# Summary

- transpose of a product
- inverse of a product
- singular value decomposition (SVD)
- inverse
- pseudo-inverse
- rank