

# Singular Value Decomposition (matrix factorization)

# Singular Value Decomposition

The SVD is a factorization of a  $m \times n$  matrix into

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T$$

where  $\mathbf{U}$  is a  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix,  $\mathbf{V}^T$  is a  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix and  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is a  $m \times n$  diagonal matrix.

For a square matrix ( $m = n$ ):

$$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3 \dots$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}^T$$



# Reduced SVD

2)  $n > m$

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_m \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}}_{m \times m} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_m & \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}}_{m \times n} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_m^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix}}_{n \times n}$$

We can instead re-write the above as:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma}_R \mathbf{V}_R^T$$

where  $\mathbf{V}_R$  is a  $n \times m$  matrix and  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_R$  is a  $m \times m$  matrix

In general:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}_R \mathbf{\Sigma}_R \mathbf{V}_R^T$$

$\mathbf{U}_R$  is a  $m \times k$  matrix

$\mathbf{\Sigma}_R$  is a  $k \times k$  matrix

$\mathbf{V}_R$  is a  $n \times k$  matrix

$k = \min(m, n)$

Let's take a look at the product  $\Sigma^T \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  has the singular values of a  $\mathbf{A}$ , a  $m \times n$  matrix.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Sigma^T \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & 0 & \cdots \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_n & \\ & & & \ddots \\ 0 & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \sigma_n & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_n^2 & \\ & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}} \\
 m > n \qquad n \times m \qquad m \times n \qquad n \times n
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Sigma^T \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \sigma_m & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 \\ & & & & \vdots \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & 0 & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \sigma_m & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \sigma_m^2 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}} \\
 n > m \qquad n \times m \qquad m \times n \qquad n \times n
 \end{array}$$

Assume  $\mathbf{A}$  with the singular value decomposition  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T$ . Let's take a look at the eigenpairs corresponding to  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} &= (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T)^T (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T) \\ (\mathbf{V}^T)^T (\mathbf{\Sigma})^T \mathbf{U}^T (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T) &= \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Sigma}^T \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Sigma}^T \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Sigma}^2 \mathbf{V}^T$

Recall that columns of  $\mathbf{V}$  are all linear independent (orthogonal matrix), then from diagonalization ( $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{X} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{X}^{-1}$ ), we get:

- the columns of  $\mathbf{V}$  are the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$
- The diagonal entries of  $\mathbf{\Sigma}^2$  are the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$

Let's call  $\lambda$  the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ , then  $\sigma_i^2 = \lambda_i$

In a similar way,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T &= (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T) (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T)^T \\ (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T) (\mathbf{V}^T)^T (\mathbf{\Sigma})^T \mathbf{U}^T &= \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Sigma}^T \mathbf{U}^T = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{\Sigma}^T \mathbf{U}^T \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma}^2 \mathbf{U}^T$

Recall that columns of  $\mathbf{U}$  are all linear independent (orthogonal matrices), then from diagonalization ( $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{X}^{-1}$ ), we get:

- The columns of  $\mathbf{U}$  are the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T$

# How can we compute an SVD of a matrix $A$ ?

1. Evaluate the  $n$  eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$  and eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$
2. Make a matrix  $\mathbf{V}$  from the normalized vectors  $\mathbf{v}_i$ . The columns are called “right singular vectors”.

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

3. Make a diagonal matrix from the square roots of the eigenvalues.

$$\mathbf{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3 \dots$$

4. Find  $\mathbf{U}$ :  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T \Rightarrow \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V} \Rightarrow \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}$ . The columns are called the “left singular vectors”.



# True or False?

$\mathbf{A}$  has the singular value decomposition  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T$ .

- The matrices  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  are not singular
- The matrix  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  can have zero diagonal entries
- $\|\mathbf{U}\|_2 = 1$
- The SVD exists when the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is singular
- The algorithm to evaluate SVD will fail when taking the square root of a negative eigenvalue

# Singular values are always non-negative

Singular values cannot be negative since  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  is a **positive semi-definite matrix** (for real matrices  $\mathbf{A}$ )

- A matrix is positive definite if  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{x} > \mathbf{0}$  for  $\forall \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$
- A matrix is positive semi-definite if  $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$  for  $\forall \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$
- What do we know about the matrix  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  ?

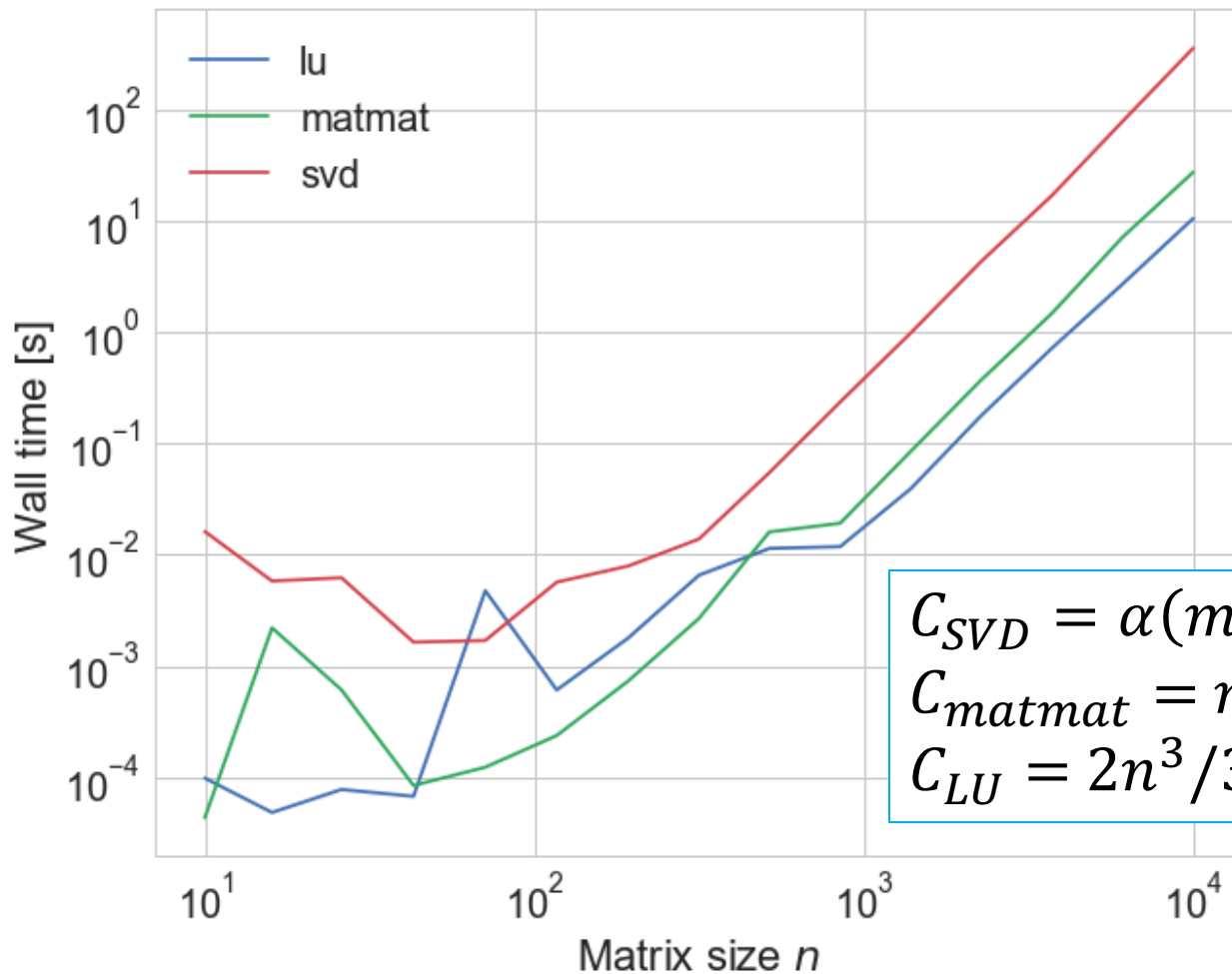
$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \geq 0$$

- Hence we know that  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  is a positive semi-definite matrix
- A positive semi-definite matrix has non-negative eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{B} \mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x} \implies \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T \lambda \mathbf{x} = \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \geq 0 \implies \lambda \geq 0$$

# Cost of SVD

The cost of an SVD is proportional to  $m n^2 + n^3$  where the constant of proportionality constant ranging from 4 to 10 (or more) depending on the algorithm.



$$C_{SVD} = \alpha(m n^2 + n^3) = O(n^3)$$
$$C_{matmat} = n^3 = O(n^3)$$
$$C_{LU} = 2n^3/3 = O(n^3)$$

# SVD summary:

- The SVD is a factorization of a  $m \times n$  matrix into  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T$  where  $\mathbf{U}$  is a  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix,  $\mathbf{V}^T$  is a  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix and  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is a  $m \times n$  diagonal matrix.
- In reduced form:  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}_R \mathbf{\Sigma}_R \mathbf{V}_R^T$ , where  $\mathbf{U}_R$  is a  $m \times k$  matrix,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}_R$  is a  $k \times k$  matrix, and  $\mathbf{V}_R$  is a  $n \times k$  matrix, and  $k = \min(m, n)$ .
- The columns of  $\mathbf{V}$  are the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ , denoted the right singular vectors.
- The columns of  $\mathbf{U}$  are the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^T$ , denoted the left singular vectors.
- The diagonal entries of  $\mathbf{\Sigma}^2$  are the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ .  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$  are called the singular values.
- The singular values are always non-negative (since  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  is a positive semi-definite matrix, the eigenvalues are always  $\lambda \geq 0$ )

# Singular Value Decomposition (applications)

# 1) Determining the rank of a matrix

Suppose  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $m \times n$  rectangular matrix where  $m > n$ :

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_n & \dots & \mathbf{u}_m \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \sigma_n & & \\ & & 0 & & \\ & & \vdots & & \\ & & 0 & & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \sigma_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \sigma_n \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \sigma_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{v}_2^T + \dots + \sigma_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{v}_n^T$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^T$$

$\mathbf{A}_1 = \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T$  what is  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_1) = ?$

A) 1

B) n

C) depends on the matrix

D) NOTA

In general,  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_k) = k$

# Rank of a matrix

For general rectangular matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  with dimensions  $m \times n$ , the reduced SVD is:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}_R \mathbf{\Sigma}_R \mathbf{V}_R^T$$

$m \times n$        $m \times k$        $k \times k$        $k \times n$

$k = \min(m, n)$

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^T$$

$$\mathbf{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & \\ & & \sigma_k & & & \\ 0 & & 0 & & & \\ & \ddots & \vdots & & & \\ & & 0 & & & \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & 0 & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_k & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

If  $\sigma_i \neq 0 \forall i$ , then  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = k$  (Full rank matrix)

In general,  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = r$ , where  $r$  is the number of non-zero singular values  $\sigma_i$

$r < k$  (Rank deficient)

# Rank of a matrix

- The rank of  $\mathbf{A}$  equals the number of non-zero singular values which is the same as the number of non-zero diagonal elements in  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ .
- Rounding errors may lead to small but non-zero singular values in a rank deficient matrix, hence the rank of a matrix determined by the number of non-zero singular values is sometimes called “effective rank”.
- The right-singular vectors (columns of  $\mathbf{V}$ ) corresponding to vanishing singular values span the null space of  $\mathbf{A}$ .
- The left-singular vectors (columns of  $\mathbf{U}$ ) corresponding to the non-zero singular values of  $\mathbf{A}$  span the range of  $\mathbf{A}$ .



## 2) Pseudo-inverse

- **Problem:** if  $\mathbf{A}$  is rank-deficient,  $\mathbf{\Sigma}$  is not be invertible
- **How to fix it:** Define the Pseudo Inverse
- **Pseudo-Inverse of a diagonal matrix:**

$$(\mathbf{\Sigma}^+)_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sigma_i}, & \text{if } \sigma_i \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } \sigma_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

- **Pseudo-Inverse of a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ :**

$$\mathbf{A}^+ = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{\Sigma}^+\mathbf{U}^T$$

# 3) Matrix norms

**The Euclidean norm of an orthogonal matrix is equal to 1**

$$\|U\|_2 = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \|Ux\|_2 = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \sqrt{(Ux)^T(Ux)} = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \sqrt{x^T x} = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \|x\|_2 = 1$$

**The Euclidean norm of a matrix is given by the largest singular value**

$$\begin{aligned} \|A\|_2 &= \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \|Ax\|_2 = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \|U \Sigma V^T x\|_2 = \max_{\|x\|_2=1} \|\Sigma V^T x\|_2 = \\ &= \max_{\|V^T x\|_2=1} \|\Sigma V^T x\|_2 = \max_{\|y\|_2=1} \|\Sigma y\|_2 = \max(\sigma_i) \end{aligned}$$

Where we used the fact that  $\|U\|_2 = 1$ ,  $\|V\|_2 = 1$  and  $\Sigma$  is diagonal

$$\|A\|_2 = \max(\sigma_i) = \sigma_{max}$$

$\sigma_{max}$  is the largest singular value

## 4) Norm for the inverse of a matrix

**The Euclidean norm of the inverse of a square-matrix is given by:**

Assume here  $\mathbf{A}$  is full rank, so that  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  exists

$$\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|_2 = \max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2=1} \|(\mathbf{U} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{x}\|_2 = \max_{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2=1} \|\mathbf{V} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{x}\|_2$$

Since  $\|\mathbf{U}\|_2 = 1$ ,  $\|\mathbf{V}\|_2 = 1$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is diagonal then

$$\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_{min}}$$

$\sigma_{min}$  is the smallest singular value

# 5) Norm of the pseudo-inverse matrix

**The norm of the pseudo-inverse of a  $m \times n$  matrix is:**

$$\|\mathbf{A}^+\|_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_r}$$

where  $\sigma_r$  is the smallest **non-zero** singular value. This is valid for any matrix, regardless of the shape or rank.

Note that for a full rank square matrix,  $\|\mathbf{A}^+\|_2$  is the same as  $\|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|_2$ .

Zero matrix: If  $\mathbf{A}$  is a zero matrix, then  $\mathbf{A}^+$  is also the zero matrix, and  $\|\mathbf{A}^+\|_2 = 0$

## 6) Condition number of a matrix

**The condition number of a matrix is given by**

$$\mathit{cond}_2(\mathbf{A}) = \|\mathbf{A}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}^+\|_2$$

If the matrix is full rank:  $\mathit{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = \min(m, n)$

$$\mathit{cond}_2(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{\sigma_{\max}}{\sigma_{\min}}$$

where  $\sigma_{\max}$  is the largest singular value and  $\sigma_{\min}$  is the smallest singular value

If the matrix is rank deficient:  $\mathit{rank}(\mathbf{A}) < \min(m, n)$

$$\mathit{cond}_2(\mathbf{A}) = \infty$$

# 7) Low-Rank Approximation

Another way to write the SVD (assuming for now  $m > n$  for simplicity)

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_m \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_n & \\ & & & 0 \\ & & & \vdots \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{u}_n \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \sigma_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \sigma_n \mathbf{v}_n^T & \dots \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \sigma_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{v}_2^T + \dots + \sigma_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{v}_n^T \end{aligned}$$

The SVD writes the matrix  $A$  as a sum of outer products (of left and right singular vectors).

## 7) Low-Rank Approximation (cont.)

The best **rank- $k$**  approximation for a  $m \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{A}$ , (where  $k \leq \min(m, n)$ ) is the one that minimizes the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{A_k} \|\mathbf{A} - A_k\| \\ \text{such that } \text{rank}(A_k) \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

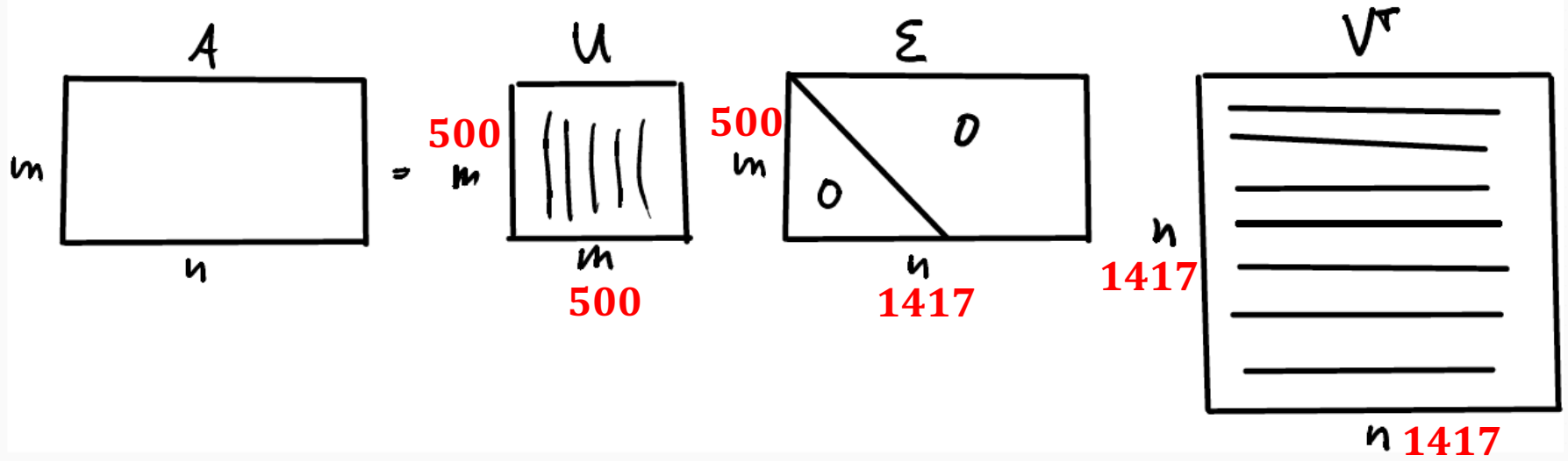
When using the induced 2-norm, the best **rank- $k$**  approximation is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}_k &= \sigma_1 \mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T + \sigma_2 \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{v}_2^T + \cdots + \sigma_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{v}_k^T \\ \sigma_1 &\geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3 \dots \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = n$  and  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_k) = k$  and the norm of the difference between the matrix and its approximation is

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}_k\|_2 = \|\sigma_{k+1} \mathbf{u}_{k+1} \mathbf{v}_{k+1}^T + \sigma_{k+2} \mathbf{u}_{k+2} \mathbf{v}_{k+2}^T + \cdots + \sigma_n \mathbf{u}_n \mathbf{v}_n^T\|_2 = \sigma_{k+1}$$

# Example: Image compression





# Example: Image compression

1417

500

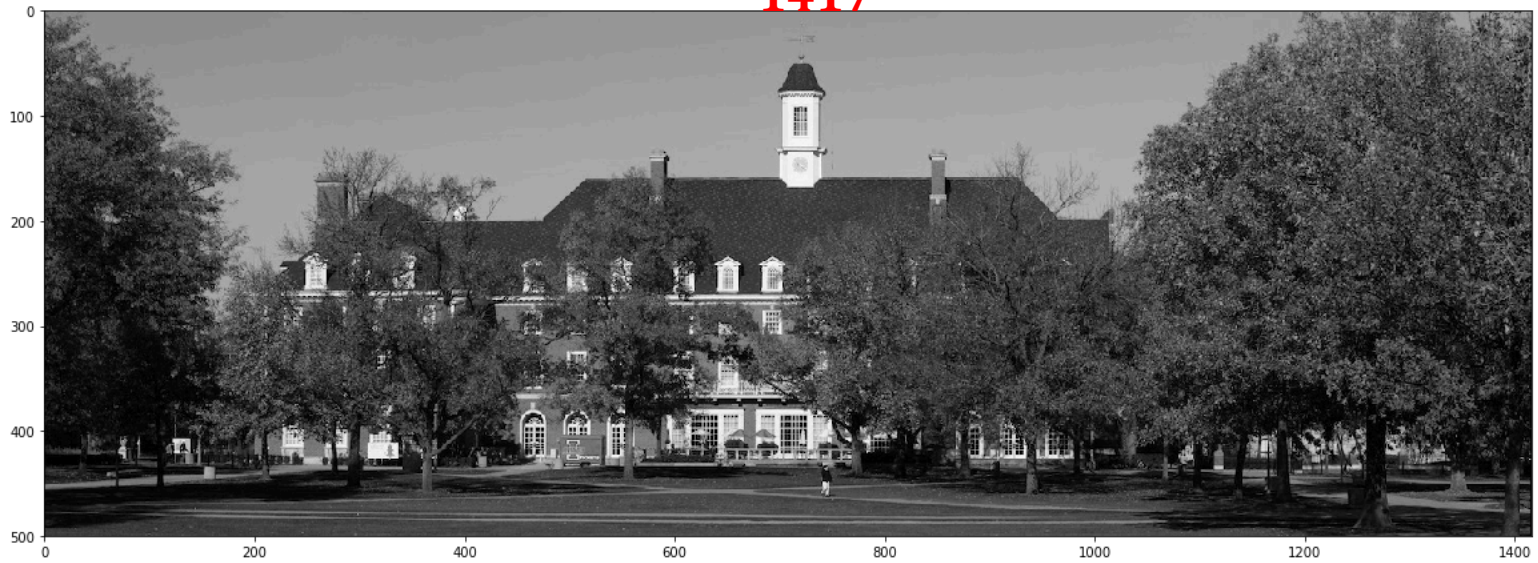
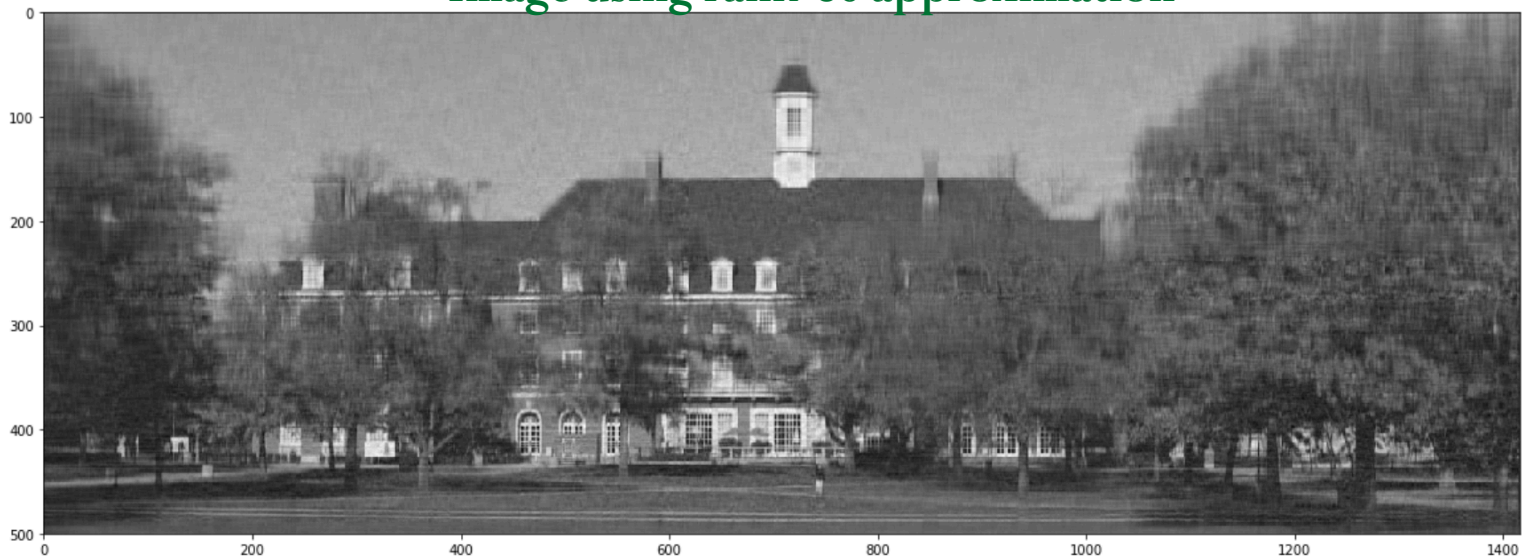


Image using rank-50 approximation



## 8) Using SVD to solve square system of linear equations

If  $\mathbf{A}$  is a  $n \times n$  square matrix and we want to solve  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ , we can use the SVD for  $\mathbf{A}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{b} \end{aligned}$$

Solve:  $\mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{b}$  (diagonal matrix, easy to solve!)

Evaluate:  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{y}$

Cost of solve:  $O(n^2)$

Cost of decomposition  $O(n^3)$  (recall that SVD and LU have the same cost asymptotic behavior, however the number of operations - constant factor before  $n^3$  - for the SVD is larger than LU)