

Properties of Orthonormal Vectors

Please refer to the lecture 10A notes online for proofs of the following properties.

(a) **Definition:** *Orthonormal*

A set of vectors $\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$ is **orthonormal** if all the vectors are mutually orthogonal to each other and all are of unit length. That is:

- **Orthogonal:** For all pairs of vectors \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_j where $i \neq j$, $\langle \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_j \rangle = 0$. For real vectors, this means $\vec{v}_i^T \vec{v}_j = 0$.
- **Normalized:** For all i , $\|\vec{v}_i\| = 1$. (This implies that $\|\vec{v}_i\| = \langle \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_i \rangle = 1$.)

(b) Any set of orthogonal (and by extension orthonormal) vectors are linearly independent.

(c) Any set of orthogonal (and orthonormal) vectors $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \dots, \vec{p}_n\}$ form a basis in \mathbb{R}^n .

Let us consider the orthonormal set of vectors $\{\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2, \dots, \vec{q}_n\}$, which form a basis in \mathbb{R}^n . For any vector \vec{v} represented in this basis, we have

$$\vec{v} = \alpha_1 \vec{q}_1 + \alpha_2 \vec{q}_2 + \dots + \alpha_n \vec{q}_n.$$

Hence, $\alpha_i = \vec{q}_i^T \vec{v}$. More compactly, we can write

$$\vec{\alpha} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow & \vec{q}_1^T & \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow & \vec{q}_2^T & \rightarrow \\ & \vdots & \\ \leftarrow & \vec{q}_n^T & \rightarrow \end{bmatrix} \vec{v} = Q^T \vec{v}$$

\vec{v} , $\vec{\alpha}$, $\{\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2, \dots, \vec{q}_n\}$, and Q have the following properties.

(d) The vector of projections, $\vec{\alpha}$, has the same norm as the original vector \vec{v} .

(e) Given that the columns of Q are orthonormal, the rows of Q are also orthonormal.

(f) Given a set of orthonormal vectors $\{\vec{q}_1, \vec{q}_2, \dots, \vec{q}_n\}$, for any $r \leq n$, we have

$$\|\vec{q}_1\|^2 + \|\vec{q}_2\|^2 + \dots + \|\vec{q}_r\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^n q_{ji}^2 = r.$$

Here, q_{ji} is the j^{th} element of \vec{q}_i .

Properties of Real Symmetric Matrices

Let T be a symmetric matrix on $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. Then,

- The eigenvalues of T are real.
- A set of real eigenvectors $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \dots, \vec{p}_n\}$ of T can be found.
- The eigenvectors $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \dots, \vec{p}_n\}$ of T are orthogonal.
- A real orthonormal set of eigenvectors of T can be found by normalizing each vector in the set $\{\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \dots, \vec{p}_n\}$.

That is, there exists n real eigenvalues and n real linearly independent eigenvectors of T that form a basis for \mathbb{R}^n . Furthermore, these eigenvectors can be normalized to make an orthonormal basis.

Outer Products

We can define an outer product between two vectors $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ as follows:

$$\vec{x}\vec{y}^T = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}_{n \times 1} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_m \end{bmatrix}_{1 \times m} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 y_1 & x_1 y_2 & \cdots & x_1 y_m \\ x_2 y_1 & x_2 y_2 & \cdots & x_2 y_m \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_n y_1 & x_n y_2 & \cdots & x_n y_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence, the outer product gives us an $n \times m$ rank-1 matrix. *Note: Do not confuse the outer product $\vec{x}\vec{y}^T$ with the inner product given by $\vec{x}^T \vec{y}$.*

We can represent the matrix multiplication as a sum of outer products as follows,

$$XY^T = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \cdots & | \\ \vec{x}_1 & \vec{x}_2 & \cdots & \vec{x}_r \\ | & | & \cdots & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{---} & \vec{y}_1^T & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \vec{y}_2^T & \text{---} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \\ \text{---} & \vec{y}_r^T & \text{---} \end{bmatrix} = \vec{x}_1 \vec{y}_1^T + \vec{x}_2 \vec{y}_2^T + \cdots + \vec{x}_r \vec{y}_r^T = \sum_{i=1}^r \vec{x}_i \vec{y}_i^T.$$

Where X and Y^T are any $n \times r$ and $r \times m$ matrices.

Singular Value Decomposition

The SVD is a useful way to characterize a matrix. Let A be a matrix from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R}^m (or $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$) of rank r . It can be decomposed into a sum of r rank-1 matrices:

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i \vec{u}_i \vec{v}_i^T$$

where

- $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_r$ are orthonormal vectors in \mathbb{R}^m ; $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$ are orthonormal vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

- the singular values $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$ are always real and positive.

We can rewrite the decomposition in the form

$$A = U_1 S V_1^T,$$

where

- U_1 is an $[m \times r]$ matrix whose columns consist of $\vec{u}_1, \dots, \vec{u}_r$ (orthonormal vectors in \mathbb{R}^m). Consequently,

$$U_1^T U_1 = I_{r \times r}$$

- V_1 is an $[n \times r]$ matrix whose columns consist of $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_r$ (orthonormal vectors in \mathbb{R}^n). Consequently,

$$V_1^T V_1 = I_{r \times r}$$

- U_1 characterizes the column space of A and V_1 characterizes the row space of A .
- S is an $[r \times r]$ matrix whose diagonal entries are the singular values of A arranged in descending order. The singular values are the square roots of the nonzero eigenvalues of $A^T A$ (or, identically, AA^T).

The full matrix form of SVD is

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

where $U^T U = I_{m \times m}$, $V^T V = I_{n \times n}$, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, which contains S and elsewhere zero.

Questions

1. Eigenvectors are Orthogonal

Prove the following: For any symmetric matrix A , any two eigenvectors corresponding to distinct eigenvalues of A are orthogonal.

Hint: Use the definition of an eigenvalue to show that $\lambda_1(\vec{v}_1^T \vec{v}_2) = \lambda_2(\vec{v}_1^T \vec{v}_2)$.

2. Frobenius Norm

In this problem we will investigate the properties of the Frobenius norm.

Much like the norm of a vector $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is $\|\vec{x}\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2}$, the Frobenius norm of a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ is defined as

$$\|A\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N |A_{ij}|^2}.$$

Note that matrices have other types of norms as well.

(a) With the above definitions, show that,

$$\|A\|_F = \sqrt{\text{Tr}\{A^T A\}}.$$

Note: The trace of a matrix is the sum of its diagonal entries. For example, let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, then,

$$\text{Tr}\{A\} = \sum_{i=1}^N A_{ii}$$

(b) Show that if U and V are orthonormal matrices, then

$$\|UA\|_F = \|AV\|_F = \|A\|_F.$$

(c) Show that $\|A\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^2}$, where $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N$ are the singular values of A .

3. SVD Short Questions

Assume we have the compact form of the SVD of

$$A = U_1 S V_1^T = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i \vec{u}_i \vec{v}_i^T.$$

(a) Compute $AV_1 V_1^T$.

(b) What is the subspace that spans the column space of A ?

4. (Optional) Symmetric Matrix Properties

Given the symmetric matrix

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of T .

Show that the eigenvalues are real and the eigenvectors are orthonormal.

Contributors:

- Aditya Arun.
- Siddharth Iyer.
- Jane Liang.
- Regina Eckert.