

# Review

Last time: we did the outer product form SVD

$A: m \times n$  of rank  $r$

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$$

- $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r \geq 0$  are the singular values
- $\{v_1, \dots, v_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ 
  - called the right singular vectors
  - forms a basis for  $\text{Row}(A)$
  - orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A^T A$ :

$$A^T A v_i = \sigma_i^2 v_i$$

- $\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ 
  - called the left singular vectors
  - forms a basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$
  - orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A A^T$ :

$$A A^T u_i = \sigma_i^2 u_i$$

The singular vectors are related by

$$A v_i = \sigma_i u_i$$

$$A^T u_i = \sigma_i v_i$$

SVD of  $A^T$  is

$$A^T = \sigma_1 v_1 u_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r v_r u_r^T$$

NB: If  $A$  is a wide matrix ( $m < n$ ) then

$$A^T A : n \times n \quad A A^T : m \times m \leftarrow \text{smaller}$$

So it's easier to compute eigenvalues & eigenvectors of  $A A^T$ !

If  $A$  is wide, compute the SVD of  $A^T$ .

Eg:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

$$A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 200 & -50 & 200 & -50 \\ -50 & 125 & -50 & 125 \\ 200 & -50 & 200 & -50 \\ -50 & 125 & -50 & 125 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{yikes!}$$

Let's compute the SVD of  $A^T$  instead.

$$A A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 400 & -100 \\ -100 & 200 \end{pmatrix} \quad \rho(\lambda) = (\lambda - 450)(\lambda - 200)$$

$$\lambda_1 = 450 \Rightarrow \sigma_1 = \sqrt{450} = 15\sqrt{2} \quad u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A^T u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 200 \Rightarrow \sigma_2 = \sqrt{200} = 10\sqrt{2} \quad u_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A^T u_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow A^T = 15\sqrt{2} v_1 u_1^T + 10\sqrt{2} v_2 u_2^T$$

$$\Rightarrow A = 15\sqrt{2} u_1 v_1^T + 10\sqrt{2} u_2 v_2^T$$

$\rightarrow$   $u_i$  are right-singular vectors of  $A^T \rightarrow$  left-singular vectors of  $A$

# SVD: Matrix Form

Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix of rank  $r$ .

Then  $A = U \Sigma V^T$  where: (square with orthonormal columns)

•  $U = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_m \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$  is an  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix

•  $V = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$  is an  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix

•  $\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & \dots & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & \sigma_r & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  is an  $m \times n$  diagonal matrix.

$\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$  are the singular values

Where did  $u_1, \dots, u_m$  and  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  come from??

They're orthonormal bases for the other two fundamental subspaces!

$\text{Col}(A): \{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$

$\text{Nul}(A^T): \{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_m\}$

$\text{Row}(A): \{v_1, \dots, v_r\}$

$\text{Nul}(A): \{v_{r+1}, \dots, v_n\}$

## Procedure to Compute $A = U\Sigma V^T$ :

(1) Compute the singular values and singular vectors

$$\{u_1, \dots, u_r\} \quad \{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_m\} \quad \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$$

as before

(2) Find orthonormal bases

$$\{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_m\} \text{ for } \text{Nul}(A^T)$$

$$\{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_m\} \text{ for } \text{Nul}(A)$$

using Gram-Schmidt.

$$(3) \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | & & | & & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_r & u_{r+1} & \dots & u_m \\ | & & | & & | & & | \end{pmatrix} \quad V = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | & & | & & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_r & v_{r+1} & \dots & v_n \\ | & & | & & | & & | \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & \dots & \sigma_r & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sigma_r & & 0 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{same size as } A)$$

**Proof:** Use the outer product version of matrix mult:

$$U\Sigma V^T = \begin{pmatrix} | & \dots & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_m \\ | & \dots & | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & \dots & \sigma_r & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sigma_r & & 0 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -v_1- \\ \vdots \\ -v_n- \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} | & \dots & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_m \\ | & \dots & | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\sigma_1 u_1- \\ \vdots \\ -\sigma_r u_r- \\ \vdots \\ -0- \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T + 0 + \dots + 0 \quad \checkmark$$



Eg:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

(1)  $A = 15\sqrt{2} u_1 v_1^T + 10\sqrt{2} u_2 v_2^T$  for

$$u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

(2)  $\text{Nul}(A^T) = \{0\}$  because  $r=m$

$$\text{Nul}(A): \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{ref}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{PVE}} \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

[already  
orthogonal -  
usually need  
Gram-Schmidt]

$$\xrightarrow{\text{normalize}} v_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(3) So  $A = U \Sigma V^T$  for

$$U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 15\sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10\sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} -2/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{10} & -1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{10} & 2/\sqrt{10} & 0 & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ -2/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{10} & 2/\sqrt{10} & 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

**NB:**  $A = U \Sigma^T V^T$  contains full orthogonal diagonalizations of  $A^T A$  and of  $A A^T$ :

$$A^T A = V \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_r^2 & \\ 0 & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} V^T \quad A A^T = U \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \sigma_r^2 & \\ 0 & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^T$$

It also contains orthonormal bases for all four subspaces:

$$U = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \text{o.n. basis for Col}(A) & \text{o.n. basis for Nul}(A^T) \\ \hline u_1 & u_{r+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ u_r & u_m \end{array} \right)$$

$$i \leq r \quad A v_i = \sigma_i u_i \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow \quad A^T u_i = \sigma_i v_i \quad \quad A v_i = 0 \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow \quad A^T u_i = 0 \quad i > r$$

$$V = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \text{o.n. basis for Row}(A) & \text{o.n. basis for Nul}(A) \\ \hline v_1 & v_{r+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ v_r & v_n \end{array} \right)$$

# The Pseudo-Inverse

This is a matrix  $A^+$  that is the "best possible" substitute for  $A^{-1}$  when  $A$  is not invertible.

- Works for non-square matrices:  
if  $A$  is  $m \times n$  then  $A^+$  is  $n \times m$
- $A^+b$  is the shortest least-squares solution of  $Ax=b$ .

First let's do diagonal matrices.

**Def:** If  $\Sigma$  is an  $m \times n$  diagonal matrix with nonzero diagonal entries  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$ , its pseudo-inverse  $\Sigma^+$  is the  $n \times m$  diagonal matrix with nonzero diagonal entries  $\sigma_1^{-1}, \dots, \sigma_r^{-1}$ .

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \Sigma^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$4 \times 5$   $5 \times 4$

**NB:** If  $\Sigma$  is invertible (hence square) then  $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^{-1}$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now let's do general matrices.

Def: Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix with SVD

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T \quad A = U \Sigma^T V^T$$

The **pseudo-inverse** of  $A$  is the  $n \times m$  matrix

$$A^+ = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} v_1 u_1^T + \dots + \frac{1}{\sigma_r} v_r u_r^T \quad A^+ = V \Sigma^+ U^T$$

This has the **same singular vectors** (switch right & left) and **reciprocal singular values**.

Eg:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = 15\sqrt{2} u_1 v_1^T + 10\sqrt{2} u_2 v_2^T$

for  $u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$u_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hookrightarrow A^+ = \frac{1}{15\sqrt{2}} v_1 u_1^T + \frac{1}{10\sqrt{2}} v_2 u_2^T$$

$$= \frac{1}{15\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (2 \ -1) + \frac{1}{10\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (1 \ 2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{150} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \\ -4 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{100} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{300} \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \\ -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

NB:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Col}(A) & \text{Nul}(A^T) \\ | & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_r & u_{r+1} & \dots & u_m \\ | & | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & \dots & \sigma_r & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \text{Row}(A) & \text{Nul}(A) \\ | & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_r & v_{r+1} & \dots & v_n \\ | & | \end{pmatrix}^T$$

$$A^T = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Col}(A^T) & \text{Nul}(A^{TT}) \\ | & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_r & v_{r+1} & \dots & v_n \\ | & | \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^{-1} & \dots & \sigma_r^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \text{Row}(A^T) & \text{Nul}(A^T) \\ | & | \\ u_1 & \dots & u_r & u_{r+1} & \dots & u_m \\ | & | \end{pmatrix}^T$$

This is almost the SVD of  $A^T$  (the singular values are just ordered backward). So we see:

$$\text{Col}(A) = \text{Row}(A^T) = \text{Row}(A^T)$$

$$\text{Nul}(A^T) = \text{Nul}(A^T) = \text{Nul}(A^T)$$

$$\text{Row}(A) = \text{Col}(A^T) = \text{Col}(A^T)$$

$$\text{Nul}(A) = \text{Nul}(A^{TT}) = \text{Nul}(A^{TT})$$

NB: If  $A$  is invertible then  $r=m=n$  and  $\Sigma$  is invertible, so  $\Sigma^+ = \Sigma^{-1}$  and

$$AA^+ = (U\Sigma V^T)(V\Sigma^+ U^T)$$

$$= U\Sigma(V^TV)\overset{=I_r}{\Sigma^+}U^T = U\Sigma\Sigma^{-1}U^T \overset{=I_n}{=} UU^T \overset{=I_n}{=} I_n$$

$A \text{ is invertible} \iff A^{-1} = A^+$


So what are  $A^+A$  and  $AA^+$  if  $A$  is not invertible?

Prop:

$$\begin{aligned} A^+A &= \text{projection onto Row}(A) \\ AA^+ &= \text{projection onto Col}(A) \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} AA^+ &= (U\Sigma V^T)(V\Sigma^+U^T) = U\Sigma \overset{=I_r}{(V^TV)}\Sigma^+U^T \\ &= U\Sigma\Sigma^+U^T = U \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sigma_r & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^{-1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sigma_r^{-1} & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} U^T \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 & \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -u_1^T - \\ \vdots \\ -u_m^T - \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & \dots & u_m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -u_1^T - \\ \vdots \\ -u_r^T - \\ -0- \\ \vdots \\ -0- \end{pmatrix} \\ &= u_1u_1^T + \dots + u_ru_r^T \end{aligned}$$

This is the **outer product formula** for  $P_V$   $V = \text{Col}(A)$   
because  $\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$   
 $A^+A$ : similar. 

Vector form: for  $i \leq r$  we have  
same singular vectors  
reciprocal singular values

$$A^+A v_i = A^+(\sigma_i u_i) = \sigma_i A^+ u_i \stackrel{\downarrow}{=} \sigma_i \cdot \frac{1}{\sigma_i} v_i = v_i$$

$$AA^+ u_i = A\left(\frac{1}{\sigma_i} v_i\right) = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} A v_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} \cdot \sigma_i u_i = u_i$$

But for  $i > r$  we have

$$A^+A v_i = A^+ \cdot 0 = 0 \quad (v_i \in \text{Nul}(A))$$

$$AA^+ u_i = A \cdot 0 = 0 \quad (u_i \in \text{Nul}(A^+) = \text{Nul}(A^T))$$

NB  
 $v_i \in \text{Row}(A)$   
 $\Rightarrow P_{\text{Row}(A)} v_i = v_i$   
 $u_i \in \text{Col}(A)$   
 $\Rightarrow P_{\text{Col}(A)} u_i = u_i$

$i \leq r$

$$A^T A v_i = v_i$$

$$A A^T u_i = u_i$$

$i > r$

$$A^T A v_i = 0$$

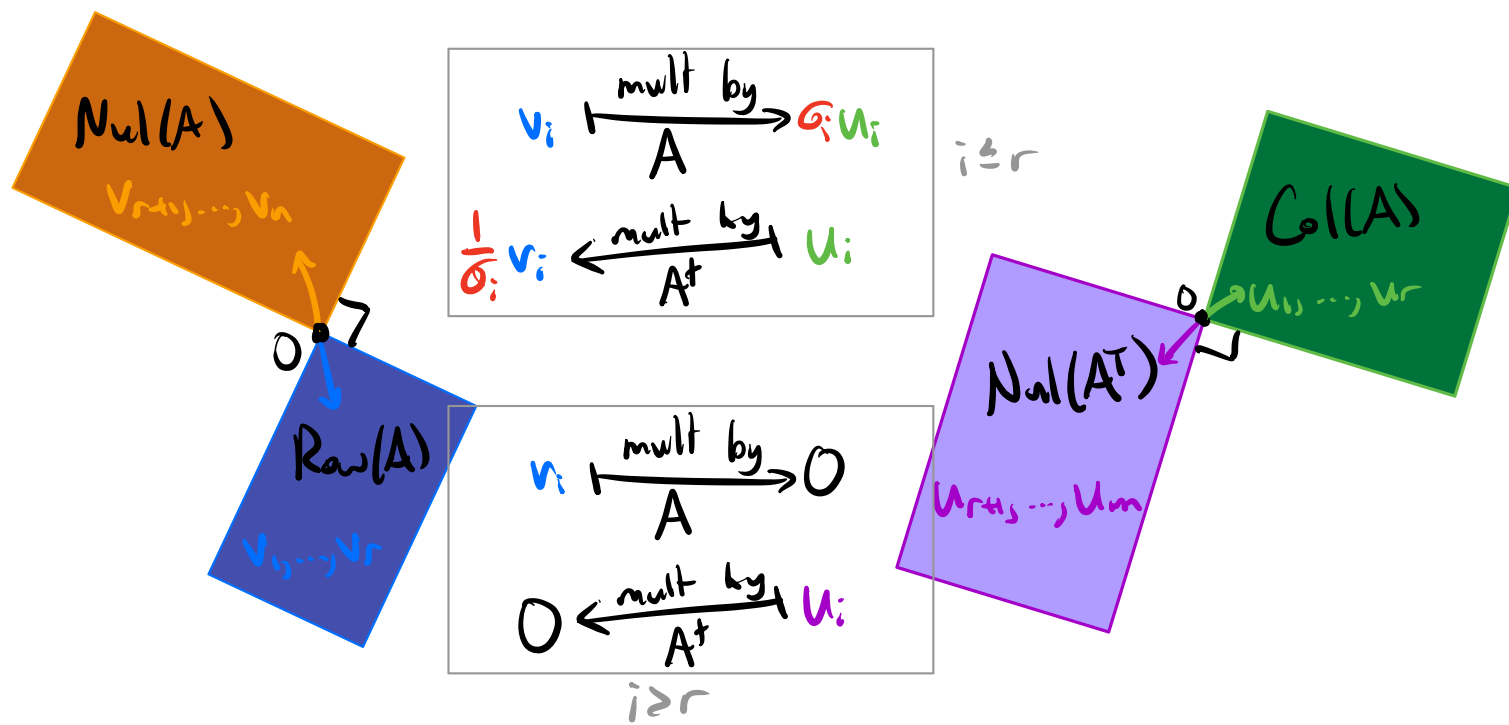
$$A A^T u_i = 0$$

NR  
 $v_i \in \text{Nul}(A) = \text{Row}(A)^\perp$   
 $\Rightarrow P_{\text{Row}(A)} v_i = 0$   
 $u_i \in \text{Nul}(A^T) = \text{Col}(A)^\perp$   
 $\Rightarrow P_{\text{Col}(A)} u_i = 0$

The Big Picture Revisited  
 for an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  of rank  $r$

Row Picture:  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Column Picture:  $\mathbb{R}^m$



Recall: A projection matrix  $P_V$  is the identity matrix  
 $\iff V$  is all of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

## Consequence:

- $A^T A = I_n \iff A$  has full column rank  
( $\text{Row}(A) = \text{Nul}(A)^\perp = \{0\}^\perp = \mathbb{R}^n$ )

- $A A^T = I_m \iff A$  has full row rank  
( $\text{Col}(A) = \mathbb{R}^m$ )

NB: This shows that:

- $A$  has full column rank  $\iff A$  admits a left inverse
- $A$  has full row rank  $\iff A$  admits a right inverse

(See HW6#11 for the " $\Leftarrow$ " implications.)

Eg:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^T = \frac{1}{300} \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \\ -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^T A = \frac{1}{300} \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \\ -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A A^T = \frac{1}{300} \begin{pmatrix} -10 & 10 & -10 & 10 \\ 10 & 5 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \\ -5 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(\text{Col}(A) = \mathbb{R}^2 \Rightarrow \text{projection is } I_2)$$



Now we can compute exactly what  $A^+b$  is:

**Prop:** For any  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $\hat{x} = A^+b$  is the **shortest** least-squares solution of  $Ax=b$ .

**Proof:** First note  $A\hat{x} = AA^+b = \text{projection of } b \text{ onto } \text{Col}(A)$   
 $\Rightarrow \hat{x} = A^+b$  solves  $A\hat{x} = b_{\text{Col}(A)}$   
 $\Rightarrow \hat{x}$  is a least-squares solution of  $Ax=b$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Note } \hat{x} &= \frac{1}{\sigma_1} v_1 u_1^T b + \dots + \frac{1}{\sigma_r} v_r u_r^T b \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma_1} (u_1 \cdot b) v_1 + \dots + \frac{1}{\sigma_r} (u_r \cdot b) v_r \end{aligned}$$

$$\in \text{Span} \{v_1, \dots, v_r\} = \text{Row}(A).$$

$$\hat{x} \in \text{Row}(A)$$

Any other solution  $\hat{x}'$  has the form  $\hat{x}' = \hat{x} + y$  for  $y \in \text{Nul}(A)$ .

(The least-squares solutions are the solutions of  $A\hat{x} = b_{\text{Col}(A)}$ .)

Note  $y \in \text{Row}(A)^\perp \Rightarrow \hat{x} \cdot y = 0$ .

$$\|x'\|^2 = \|\hat{x} + y\|^2 = (\hat{x} + y) \cdot (\hat{x} + y) = \hat{x} \cdot \hat{x} + 2\hat{x} \cdot y + y \cdot y$$

$$\Rightarrow \|x'\|^2 = \|\hat{x} + y\|^2 = \|\hat{x}\|^2 + \|y\|^2 \geq \|\hat{x}\|^2$$

$\Rightarrow \hat{x}$  is the **shortest**.



Eg:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$A^T = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The shortest least-squares  
solution of  $Ax = b = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{is } \hat{x} = A^T b = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

All other least-squares solutions  
differ by  $\text{Nul}(A) = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$

