

# The Singular Value Decomposition: Introduction

L24

We finally come to the capstone of the class.

The SVD is a fundamental application of linear algebra to:

- Data Science
- Statistics (via PCA)
- Engineering
- etc.

Today we'll discuss the **outer product form** and the mechanics (plumbing?) of the SVD.

Theorem (SVD; outer product form):

(back to rectangular matrices)

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

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$$

where:

- $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$
- $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

What does this mean?

**Idea:** Think of the columns of  $A$  as **data points**.

Here's an informal description of what the SVD says. Let's not worry about the  $\sigma_i$ 's or unit vectors yet.

$r=1$ :

If  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are nonzero vectors, then

$$uv^T = u \underbrace{(v_1 \dots v_n)}_{\text{weights}} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 u & \dots & v_n u \end{pmatrix}$$

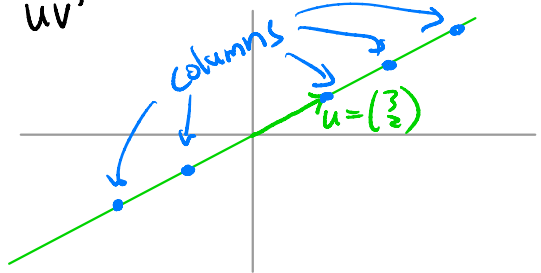
multiples of  $u$

This is an  $n \times n$  matrix of rank 1,  $\text{Col}(uv^T) = \text{Span}\{u\}$ .

Let's plot the columns of  $uv^T$  (the data points).

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 1 & 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\uparrow u$                        $\uparrow v^T$



The columns are  $-1 \cdot u$ ,  $2u$ ,  $1 \cdot u$ ,  $3u$ ,  $-2u$ .

**Upshot:** A matrix  $A$  of rank 1 encodes data points (columns) that lie on a line  $\text{Col}(A)$ . The outer product decomposition  $A = uv^T$  tells you

which line:  $\text{Span}\{u\}$

and which multiples of  $u$ : the entries of  $v^T$ .

$r=2$ :

In this case,  $A = u_1 v_1^T + u_2 v_2^T$ .

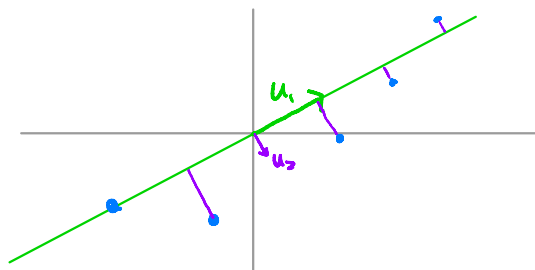
$$\begin{aligned} u_1 v_1^T + u_2 v_2^T &= u_1 (v_{11} \cdots v_{1n}) + u_2 (v_{21} \cdots v_{2n}) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ v_{11}u_1 + v_{21}u_2 & \cdots & v_{1n}u_1 + v_{2n}u_2 \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

↑                      ↑  
linear combinations of  $u_1, u_2$

This is an  $m \times n$  matrix of rank 2: the columns are linear combinations of  $u_1, u_2$ , so

$\text{Col}(A) = \text{Span}\{u_1, u_2\}$  is a plane.

Let's plot the columns of  $A$  (the data points).



$$A = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 1 & 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

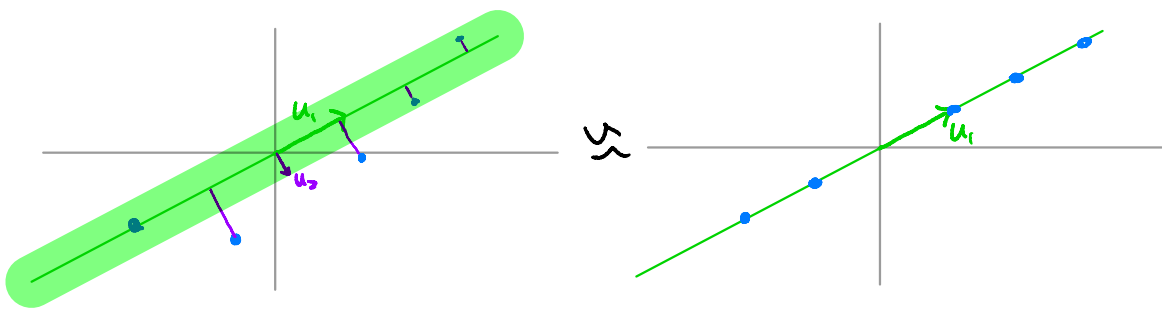
↑                      ↑  
orthogonal

↑                      ↑  
 $v_1^T = \text{weights of } u_1$        $v_2^T = \text{weights of } u_2$

**Upshot:** A matrix  $A$  of rank 2 encodes data points (columns) that lie on a **plane** ( $\text{Col}(A)$ ). The outer product decomposition  $A = u_1 v_1^T + u_2 v_2^T$  tells you  
 which **plane**:  $\text{Span}\{u_1, u_2\}$   
 and the **weights** of  $u_1, u_2$ : the entries of  $v_1^T, v_2^T$ .

**BUT:**  $\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\| \gg \left\| \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} \right\|$ , so the  $\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$ -direction is **less important!**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} (-1 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3 \ -2) + \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} (3 \ 1 \ 2 \ -1 \ 0) \\ \approx \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} (-1 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3 \ -2) \quad (\text{to one decimal place})$$



We've extracted important information:  
 our data points **almost lie on a line!**



In general, the SVD will find:

- the best-fit **line**
- the best-fit **plane**
- the best-fit **3-space**

etc., for our data, all at once, and tell you **how well they fit your data** in the sense of orthogonal least squares. (L26, L27)

Why might you care?

- **Data compression:** if  $A$  is a  $2 \times 5$  matrix and it almost has rank 1, then  $A \approx u_1 v_1^T$ .

$A = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \end{pmatrix}$  has 10 numbers, but

$u_1 v_1^T = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet \\ \bullet \end{pmatrix} (\bullet \ \bullet \ \bullet \ \bullet \ \bullet)$  only has 7.

- **Data analysis:** The SVD will reveal all approximate linear relations among your data points.
- **Dimension Reduction:** If our data points are in  $\mathbb{R}^{1,000,000}$  but almost lie on a 100-dimensional subspace, then computers only need to use 100 numbers, not 1,000,000 (**curse of dimensionality**).
- **Statistics:** SVD finds important correlations. etc...

# Mechanics of the SVD

Recall the statement of the

Theorem (SVD; outer product form):

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

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$$

where:

- $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$
- $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  is an orthonormal set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

The quantities in the theorem all have names.

Def:

- $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_r$  are the singular values
  - $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r$  are the left singular vectors
  - $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r$  are the right singular vectors
- } of  $A$

Here are some formal consequences of the statement of the theorem.

Formal Consequence ①: For any vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= (\sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T) x \\ &= \sigma_1 u_1 (v_1^T x) + \sigma_2 u_2 (v_2^T x) + \dots + \sigma_r u_r (v_r^T x) \\ &= \sigma_1 u_1 (v_1 \cdot x) + \sigma_2 u_2 (v_2 \cdot x) + \dots + \sigma_r u_r (v_r \cdot x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow Ax = \sigma_1 (v_1 \cdot x) u_1 + \sigma_2 (v_2 \cdot x) u_2 + \dots + \sigma_r (v_r \cdot x) u_r$$

Formal Consequence ②: Taking  $x = v_i$  above,

$$Av_i \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{=} \sigma_1 \underbrace{(v_1 \cdot v_i)}_{\substack{\text{0} \\ \nwarrow \\ \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\} \text{ is orthonormal}}} u_1 + \dots + \sigma_i \underbrace{(v_i \cdot v_i)}_{\substack{\text{1} \\ \nearrow \\ \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\} \text{ is orthonormal}}} u_i + \dots + \sigma_r \underbrace{(v_r \cdot v_i)}_{\substack{\text{0} \\ \nearrow \\ \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\} \text{ is orthonormal}}} u_r$$

Hence the singular vectors are related by:

$$\boxed{Av_i = \sigma_i u_i} \quad \xRightarrow{\|u_i\|=1} \quad \boxed{\|Av_i\| = \sigma_i}$$

Formal Consequence ③:

$\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

Indeed, ① shows that any  $Ax \in \text{Span}\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$ ,  
and ② shows  $u_i = A(\frac{1}{\sigma_i} v_i) \in \text{Col}(A)$ .

Formal Consequence (4): Take transposes:

$$\begin{aligned} A^T &= (\sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T)^T \\ &= (\sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T)^T + (\sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T)^T + \dots + (\sigma_r u_r v_r^T)^T \\ &= \sigma_1 v_1 u_1^T + \sigma_2 v_2 u_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r v_r u_r^T \end{aligned}$$

This is also an SVD—the only difference is we switched the  $u$ 's and  $v$ 's.

The SVD of  $A^T$  is

$$A^T = \sigma_1 v_1 u_1^T + \sigma_2 v_2 u_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r v_r u_r^T$$

In particular,  $A$  and  $A^T$  have the same:

- singular values  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_r$  and
- singular vectors (switch right and left).

Since  $\text{Col}(A^T) = \text{Row}(A)$ , (3) + (4) imply:

Formal Consequence (5):

$\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\text{Row}(A)$ .

Formal Consequence (6):

Applying (2) and (4) gives

$A^T u_i = \sigma_i v_i$

and

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

Therefore,

$$A^T A v_i \stackrel{②}{=} A^T (\sigma_i u_i) = \sigma_i \overset{\text{(above)}}{(A^T u_i)} = \sigma_i (\sigma_i v_i) = \sigma_i^2 v_i$$

$$A A^T u_i \overset{\text{(above)}}{=} A (\sigma_i v_i) = \sigma_i (A v_i) \stackrel{②}{=} \sigma_i (\sigma_i u_i) = \sigma_i^2 u_i$$

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

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

This says:

$v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r$  are orthonormal eigenvectors  
of  $A^T A$ , with eigenvalues  $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_r^2$   
 $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r$  are orthonormal eigenvectors  
of  $A A^T$ , with eigenvalues  $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_r^2$

This tells us how to prove the SVD exists /  
how to compute the SVD:

orthogonally diagonalize  $S = A^T A$  or  $A A^T$

Let's prove that the SVD exists.

Pay attention to steps 1-2: they illustrate the  
mechanics of the SVD.

# Proof That the SVD Exists

Let  $S = A^T A$ . Recall that  $S$  is positive-semidefinite, so its eigenvalues are  $\geq 0$ .

By the Spectral Theorem,  $AM(\lambda) = GM(\lambda)$  for each eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , so I'll refer to both as the "multiplicity of  $\lambda$ ".

Let  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0$  be the eigenvalues of  $S$ , in decreasing order. If an eigenvalue has multiplicity  $d$ , it appears  $d$  times in this list.

**Step 1:** I claim that  $0$  is an eigenvalue of multiplicity  $n-r$  ( $r = \text{rank}(A)$ ).

(This just means  $0$  isn't an eigenvalue if  $r=n$ .)

**Proof:** The multiplicity of  $0$  is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} GM(0) &= \dim \text{Nul}(S - 0I_n) = \dim \text{Nul}(S) \\ &= \dim \text{Nul}(A^T A). \end{aligned}$$

But  $\text{Nul}(A^T A) \stackrel{(L10)}{=} \text{Nul}(A)$  and  $\dim \text{Nul}(A) \stackrel{(L8)}{=} n-r$ ,  
so the multiplicity of  $0$  is  $n-r$ . //

Step 1 implies  $\lambda_{r+1} = \lambda_{r+2} = \dots = \lambda_n = 0$   
(zero is the smallest eigenvalue, so it comes last).

Therefore the nonzero eigenvalues of  $S = A^T A$  are  
 $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r > 0$ .

Now we can define the singular values and the singular vectors.

$$\sigma_1 = \sqrt{\lambda_1} \quad \sigma_2 = \sqrt{\lambda_2} \quad \dots \quad \sigma_r = \sqrt{\lambda_r}$$

Let  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  be orthonormal eigenvectors of  $S$  with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r$  respectively.

(This uses  $AM = GM$  again: if  $\lambda_1$  has multiplicity 2 then  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  and there are two LI  $\lambda_1$ -eigenvectors.)

We know what the  $u_i$ 's have to be:

$$u_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A v_1 \quad u_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A v_2 \quad \dots \quad u_r = \frac{1}{\sigma_r} A v_r$$

Step 2: I claim  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  is orthonormal.

Proof:  $u_i \cdot u_j = \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_i} A v_i\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_j} A v_j\right) = \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_i} A v_i\right)^T \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_j} A v_j\right)$   
 $= \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} (A v_i)^T (A v_j) = \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} (v_i^T A^T) (A v_j)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} v_i^T (A^T A) v_j = \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} v_i^T S v_j \\
 &\stackrel{S v_j = \sigma_j^2 v_j}{=} \frac{1}{\sigma_i \sigma_j} v_i^T (\sigma_j^2 v_j) = \frac{\sigma_j}{\sigma_i} v_i^T v_j \\
 &= \frac{\sigma_j}{\sigma_i} v_i \cdot v_j
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we use the fact that  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  is orthonormal:

$$i=j: \text{ this } = \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_i} v_i \cdot v_i = 1$$

$$i \neq j: \text{ this } = \frac{\sigma_j}{\sigma_i} v_i \cdot v_j = 0$$

//

Now we know what all of the singular values and vectors are supposed to be, so the only thing left to do is:

**Step 3:** Verification that

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T.$$

**Proof:** Let  $B = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$ . We want to show that  $A = B$ . Recall (L11) that it's enough to show that  $Ax = Bx$  for all vectors  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $\{v_{r+1}, v_{r+2}, \dots, v_n\}$  be an orthonormal basis for the  $(0$ -eigenspace of  $S) = \text{Nul}(S) = \text{Nul}(A)$ .



Then  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r, v_{r+1}, \dots, v_n\}$  is an orthonormal eigenbasis of  $S$ . (We just didn't do the 0 eigenvalue yet.)

(i)  $Av_i = \sigma_i u_i = Bv_i$  ( $i \leq r$ ):

$Av_i = \sigma_i u_i$  by definition of  $u_i$ .

$$\begin{aligned} Bv_i &= (\sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T) v_i \\ &= \sigma_1 (v_1 \cdot v_i) u_1 + \dots + \sigma_i (v_i \cdot v_i) u_i + \dots + \sigma_r (v_r \cdot v_i) u_r \\ &= \sigma_i u_i, \text{ as in Formal Consequence } \textcircled{2} \end{aligned}$$

(ii)  $Av_i = 0 = Bv_i$  ( $i > r$ ):

$Av_i = 0$  because  $v_i \in \text{Nul}(S) = \text{Nul}(A)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} Bv_i &= (\sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T) v_i \\ &= \sigma_1 (v_1 \cdot v_i) u_1 + \sigma_2 (v_2 \cdot v_i) u_2 + \dots + \sigma_r (v_r \cdot v_i) u_r \\ &= 0 \text{ because } v_i \perp v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r \text{ (} r < i \text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

(iii)  $Ax = Bx$  for any vector  $x$ :

Since  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  is a basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we can expand in the eigenbasis:

$$x = x_1 v_1 + x_2 v_2 + \dots + x_n v_n$$

$$\Rightarrow Ax = A(x_1 v_1 + x_2 v_2 + \dots + x_n v_n)$$

$$= x_1 Av_1 + x_2 Av_2 + \dots + x_n Av_n$$

$$\stackrel{(i,ii)}{=} x_1 Bv_1 + x_2 Bv_2 + \dots + x_n Bv_n$$

$$= B(x_1 v_1 + x_2 v_2 + \dots + x_n v_n) = Bx //$$

# Summary: Mechanics of the SVD

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

SVD:  $A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$

$$Ax = \sigma_1 (v_1 \cdot x) u_1 + \sigma_2 (v_2 \cdot x) u_2 + \dots + \sigma_r (v_r \cdot x) u_r$$

Singular Values:  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$

$\sigma_i^2 \geq \sigma_2^2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r^2$  are the nonzero eigenvalues of  $A^T A$  and  $A A^T$

Left singular Vectors:  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$

→ Orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A A^T$ :

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

→ Orthonormal basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$

Right singular Vectors:  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$

→ Orthonormal eigenvectors of  $A^T A$ :

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

→ Orthonormal basis for  $\text{Row}(A)$

The singular vectors are related by:

$$A v_i = \sigma_i u_i$$

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

$$\|A v_i\| = \sigma_i = \|A u_i\|$$

SVD of  $A^T$ :  $A^T = \sigma_1 v_1 u_1^T + \sigma_2 v_2 u_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r v_r u_r^T$

NB:  $A^T A$  and  $A A^T$  have the

same nonzero eigenvalues  $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_r^2$ .

(We showed in Formal Consequence ⑥ that these are eigenvalues of  $A^T A$  and  $A A^T$ , and we showed in the proof that the other eigenvalues = 0.)

Q: What about the 0 eigenvalue?

Hint: What if  $A$  is a tall matrix with FCR?

The proof also gives a procedure to compute the SVD (see below).

NB: This is **not** the algorithm used in practice! Efficiently computing the SVD is a **hard problem**. See the course website for some links to real-world algorithms.

NB: If  $A$  is **wide** ( $m < n$ ) then it's probably easier to compute the SVD of  $A^T$ :

$A^T A$  is  $n \times n$  but  $A A^T$  is  $m \times m$ , so it's easier to find eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A A^T$  in this case.

# Naïve Schoolbook Procedure to Compute the SVD:

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

(1) Compute the nonzero eigenvalues of  $S = A^T A$ :

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_r > 0$$

(The  $\lambda_i$ 's appear multiple times if their multiplicities are  $\geq 2$ .)

→ There are automatically  $r$  of them (counted with multiplicity), and they are positive.

(2) Find an orthonormal basis for the  $\lambda_i$ -eigenspace ( $i=1, 2, \dots, r$ ) → get an orthonormal set  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_r\}$  with  $Sv_i = \lambda_i v_i$

→ Since  $AM(\lambda_i) = 0M(\lambda_i)$ , you automatically get  $r$  vectors.

(3) Set  $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$  and  $u_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} A v_i$  ( $i=1, 2, \dots, r$ ).

Then  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}$  is orthonormal, and

$$A = \sigma_1 u_1 v_1^T + \sigma_2 u_2 v_2^T + \dots + \sigma_r u_r v_r^T$$

is the SVD of  $A$ .

Eg:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$   $r=2$  (2 pivots / invertible)

(1)  $S = A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 25 & 20 \\ 20 & 25 \end{pmatrix}$

$$p(\lambda) = \det(S - \lambda I_2) = \lambda^2 - 50\lambda + 225$$

$$= (\lambda - 45)(\lambda - 5)$$

so  $\lambda_1 = 45 \geq \lambda_2 = 5$

(2) Compute eigenspaces:

$$\lambda = 45 \quad \begin{pmatrix} -b \\ a-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ -20 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 5 \quad \begin{pmatrix} -b \\ a-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -20 \\ 20 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(3)  $\sigma_1 = \sqrt{\lambda_1} = 3\sqrt{5}$   $\sigma_2 = \sqrt{\lambda_2} = \sqrt{5}$

$$u_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_1} A v_1 = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 9 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} A v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Check:  $\|u_1\| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \sqrt{1^2 + 3^2} = 1$   $u_1 \cdot u_2 = 0$

$$\|u_2\| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \sqrt{(-3)^2 + 1^2} = 1$$

SVD:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix} = 3\sqrt{5} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1 \ 1) + \sqrt{5} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-1 \ 1)$$

NB: You don't want to cancel the  $\sqrt{5}$ 's and  $\sqrt{10}$ 's here!  
You want to remember that  $\sigma_1 = 3\sqrt{5}$  &  $\sigma_2 = \sqrt{5}$ .