

# Computing the Singular Value Decomposition to High Relative Accuracy

---

**James Demmel**

Department of Mathematics  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
University of California - Berkeley  
demmel@cs.berkeley.edu

**Plamen Koev**

Department of Mathematics  
University of California - Berkeley  
plamen@math.berkeley.edu

Structured Matrices In Operator Theory, Numerical  
Analysis, Control, Signal and Image Processing  
Boulder, Colorado

June 27-July 1, 1999

Supported by NSF and DOE

# INTRODUCTION

---

- **High Relative Accuracy** means computing the correct **SIGN** and **LEADING DIGITS**
- **Singular Value Decomposition (SVD):**

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

where  $U, V$  are orthogonal,

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & \\ & \sigma_2 & & \\ & & \dots & \\ & & & \sigma_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n \geq 0$$

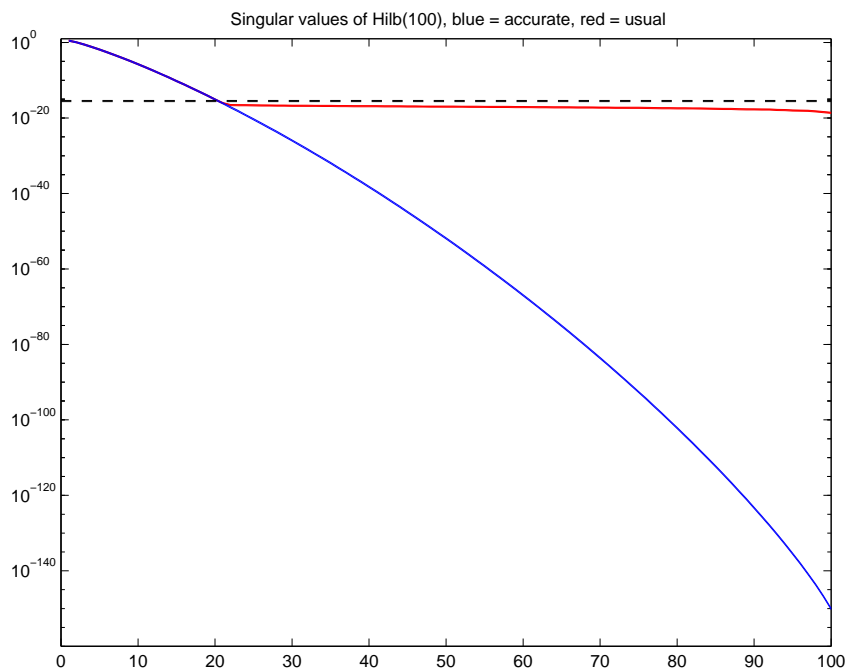
- **GOAL:** Compute all  $\sigma_i$  with high relative accuracy, even when  $\sigma_i \ll \sigma_1$
- It all comes down to being able to compute determinants to high relative accuracy.

## Example: 100 by 100 Hilbert Matrix

$$H(i, j) = 1/(i + j - 1)$$

---

- Singular values range from 1 down to  $10^{-150}$
- **Old algorithm**, **New Algorithm**, both in 16 digits



- $D = \log(\text{cond}(A)) = \log(\sigma_1/\sigma_n)$  (here  $D = 150$ )
- Cost of Old algorithm  $\equiv O(n^3 D^2)$

- Run in double, not bignums as in Mathematica
- New hundreds of times faster than Old
- When does it work? Not for all matrices ...
- Why bother?

# Why do we want tiny singular values accurately?

---

1. When they are determined accurately by the data

- Hilbert:  $H(i, j) = 1/(i + j - 1)$
- Cauchy:  $C(i, j) = 1/(x_i + y_j)$

2. In some applications, tiny singular values matter most

- Quantum mechanics: want lowest energy levels only
- Elasticity: want lowest frequencies of vibration only
- Getting the sign of the determinant right
- Always a good idea to get accurate results if we can do it at a similar cost

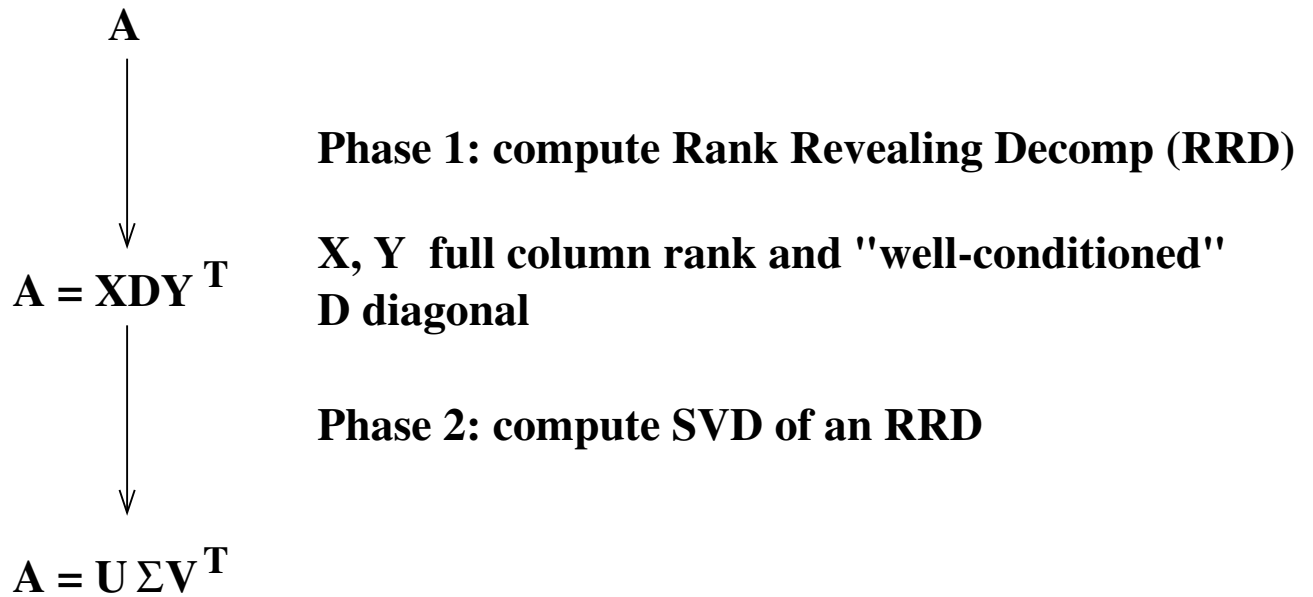
## Overview of Results

---

- Being able to compute  $|\det(A)| = \prod_{i=1}^n \sigma_i$  to high relative accuracy is a necessary condition for accurate SVD.
- Well known similar sufficient condition for accurate  $A^{-1}$ : Enough to compute  $n^2 + 1$  minors (Cramer's Rule)
- New: Similar sufficient condition for accurate SVD: Enough to compute  $O(n^3)$  minors
- We have identified many matrix classes whose structure permits efficient ( $O(n^3)$ ) accurate computation of these minors.
  - Sparse Matrices, depending on sparsity pattern
  - Cauchy, Vandermonde, Unit Displacement Rank Matrices
  - “Graded” matrices (diagonal · ”nice” · diagonal)
  - Appropriately discretized ODEs, PDEs

# SVD Algorithm

---



- **Examples of RRDs:**
  - $A = U\Sigma V^T$ , SVD itself
  - $A = QDR$ , QR decomposition with pivoting
  - $A = LDU$ , Gaussian Elimination with “complete” pivoting (GECP)
- **Fact:** Each entry of  $L$ ,  $D$ ,  $U$  is a quotient of minors
- **Phase 1:** GECP via (implicitly) computing accurate minors of  $A$ 
  - Depends on structure of  $A$
- **Phase 2:** Works for any RRD in  $O(n^3)$ 
  - Independent of structure of  $A$
  - Uses 1 or 2 one-sided Jacobis, matmuls
- **Relative error in singular values bounded by**  
 $O(\text{macheps} \cdot \max(\text{cond}(X), \text{cond}(Y)))$

## How do we compute $A = L \cdot D \cdot U$ for a Hilbert (or Cauchy) Matrix?

---

- How can we lose accuracy in computing in floating point?
  - OK to multiply, divide, add positive numbers
  - OK to subtract exact numbers (initial data)
  - Cancellation when subtracting approximate results dangerous:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 .12345\mathbf{xxx} \\
 - .12345\mathbf{yyy} \\
 \hline
 .00000\mathbf{zzz}
 \end{array}$$

- Cauchy:

$$C(i, j) = \frac{1}{x_i + y_j}$$

●

$$\det(C) = \frac{\prod_{i < j} (x_j - x_i)(y_j - y_i)}{\prod_{i, j} (x_i + y_j)}$$

- No bad cancellation  $\Rightarrow$  good to most digits

- Change inner loop of Gaussian Elimination from

$$C(i, j) = C(i, j) - \frac{C(i, k)C(k, j)}{C(i, i)}$$

to

$$C(i, j) = C(i, j) \frac{(x_i - x_k)(y_j - y_k)}{(x_k + y_j)(x_i + y_k)}$$

- Each entry of  $L$ ,  $D$ ,  $U$  accurate to most digits!



# Vandermonde Matrices

---

- $V_{ij} = x_i^{j-1}$
- $\det(V) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i - x_j)$ 
  - Computable to high relative accuracy
- For SVD use fact that  $V \cdot DFT = Cauchy$ 
  - Extends to unit-displacement rank, but not higher
- Generalized Vandermonde Matrix  $G_{ij}^\mu = x_i^{\mu_j}, x_i > 0$ 
  - Ex:  $\mu_j = j - 1$  is usual Vandermonde
  - $G^\mu$  is a submatrix of a larger Vandermonde
  - Totally positive if  $0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$
  - SVD determined to high relative accuracy; can we compute it?
- Let  $\lambda_j = \mu_j - j + 1, \lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n), |\lambda| = \sum_i \lambda_i$
- $\det(G^\mu) = \det(V) \cdot s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ 
  - Polynomial  $s_\lambda$  called *Schur Function*
  - Widely studied in representation theory, combinatorics, ...
  - For usual Vandermonde,  $|\lambda| = 0$  and  $s_\lambda = 1$
- Theorem (Plamen Koev): Cost of computing  $\det(G^\mu)$  to high relative accuracy is  $n^{|\lambda|} + n^2$
- Corollary: Cost of high relative accuracy for some minors of  $V$  can be exponential in  $n$ , alas

# When is High Accuracy Possible *Efficiently*?

---

- When are all minors computable accurately?

- Depends on model of arithmetic

Model 1:  $fl(a \odot b) = (a \odot b)(1 + \text{tiny})$

Model 2: IEEE floating point

- Model 1

- Ok to multiply, divide, add positives, add or subtract initial data
- Theorem 1. Can evaluate a polynomial accurately [in  $\text{poly}(n)$  time] if it factors into a product of [poly( $n$ )] factors each of which is
  - \* initial data
  - \* sum or difference of initial data
  - \* sum of [poly( $n$ )] positives
- Covers many examples
  - \* Cauchy, real Vandermonde, graded, sparse, appropriately discretized ODEs and PDEs (so far)
  - \* Totally positive (eg generalized Vandermonde), but not in  $\text{poly}(n)$  time
- Proposition (D,Kahan) Can't add three numbers accurately
  - \* Model 1 much weaker than Model 2

## Model 2 vs Model 1

---

- How much stronger is Model 2 than Model 1?

| Cost (Big-Oh sense) of Accurate Evaluation of $\det(A)$<br>(Dekker, Kahan, Priest, Shewchuk) |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Form of $\det(A)$  | Model 1        | Model 2        |
| $\prod_{i=1}^d a_i$  | $d$            | $d$            |
| $\prod_{i=1}^d (a_i - b_i)$  | $d$            | $d$            |
| $\sum_{i=1}^t a_i, a_i > 0$  | $t$            | $t$            |
| $\sum_{i=1}^t a_i$   | <b>imposs.</b> | $t \log t$     |
| <b>poly</b> ( $a_i$ )<br>( $t$ terms, degree $\leq d$ )                                      | <b>imposs.</b> | $d^2 t \log t$ |

- **Idea:** represent numbers *sparingly*, not *densely*
- **Theorem 2.** Can evaluate a polynomial accurately in  $\text{poly}(n)$  time if it factors into a product of  $\text{poly}(n)$  factors each of which has  $\text{poly}(n)$  terms of  $\text{poly}(n)$  degree
- **Examples**
  - All examples from Model 1
  - Complex Vandermonde
  - Substitute polynomials for input data in previous example  
Ex: Cauchy with  $x_i, y_j$  replaced by  $p(x_i), q(y_j)$
  - Inverse of a tridiagonal
- **Open Problem:** what is complexity of accurate determinant of a general floating point matrix?

## Conclusions and Future Work

- We can compute the SVD much more accurately than via bidiagonalization for many matrix classes
- Some algorithms will appear in LAPACK
- We only solve accurately the problem as stored in the computer, i.e. the last link of the chain:

### Real World

—> Continuous Problem

—> Discrete Problem

—> Rounded Discrete Problem

—> Solution

- Many open problems remain to extend these algorithms to new problem classes, especially
  - finite element matrices, other PDE discretizations
  - totally positive matrices
  - higher displacement rank
  - sparse problems from these classes

- Slides for this talk  
<http://math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/src99.ps>
- Report on overall algorithm  
<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~demmel/DGESVD.ps.gz> (to appear in Linear Algebra and its Applications).
- Report on Cauchy, Vandermonde  
<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~demmel/cauchy.ps.gz> (to appear in SIAM J. Matrix Analysis and Applications)
- Report on Generalized Vandermonde Matrices and Schur Functions  
<http://math.berkeley.edu/~plamen/schur.ps>