

# matrix approximation

given:  $A$   $m \times n$   $\text{rank}(A) = r$

wanted:  $B$   $m \times n$ ,  $\text{rank}(B) = s < r$   
best approximation of  $A$

How to find  $B$ ?

$A = U \Sigma V^T$  SVD  
diagonal entries  $\sigma_1 > \sigma_2 > \dots \geq 0$

$\Rightarrow B = U_s \Sigma_s V_s^T$   
first  $s$  cols of  $U, V$   
= diag  $s \times s$  with entries  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_s$

EG Best rank 1 approx. of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

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

$$= \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} & 0 & -1/\sqrt{3} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{3} \\ -1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -2/\sqrt{6} \\ 1/\sqrt{6} \\ -1/\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{4}} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{6} \cdot \sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

best rank 1 approx. of  $A$