

Introduction to **Information Retrieval**

CS276: Information Retrieval and Web
Search

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Lecture 13: Latent Semantic Indexing

Today's topic

Latent Semantic Indexing

- Term–document matrices are very large
- But the number of topics that people talk about is small (in some sense)
 - Clothes, movies, politics, ...
- Can we represent the term–document space by a lower

Linear Algebra

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

- **Eigenvectors** (for a square $m \times m$ matrix S)

$$S\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$$

(right) eigenvector eigenvalue

$\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m \neq \mathbf{0}$ $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} 6 & -2 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- **How many eigenvalues** are there at most?

$$S\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v} \iff (S - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$$

only has a non-zero solution if $|S - \lambda\mathbf{I}| = 0$

This is a m th order equation in λ which can have **at most m distinct solutions** (roots of the characteristic polynomial) - can be complex even though S is real.

Matrix–vector multiplication

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 30 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 20 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

has eigenvalues 30, 20, 1 with corresponding eigenvectors

$$v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad v_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

On each eigenvector, S acts as a multiple of the identity matrix: but as a different multiple on each.

Any vector (say $x = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$) can be viewed as a combination of the eigenvectors: $x = 2v_1 + 4v_2 + 6v_3$

Matrix–vector multiplication

- Thus a matrix–vector multiplication such as Sx (S , x as in the previous slide) can be rewritten in terms of the eigenvalues/
vectors:

$$Sx = S(2v_1 + 4v_2 + 6v_3)$$

$$Sx = 2Sv_1 + 4Sv_2 + 6Sv_3 = 2\lambda_1 v_1 + 4\lambda_2 v_2 + 6\lambda_3 v_3$$

$$Sx = 60v_1 + 80v_2 + 6v_3$$

- Even though x is an arbitrary vector, the action of S on x is determined by the eigenvalues/vectors.

Matrix–vector multiplication

- Suggestion: the effect of “small” eigenvalues is small.
- If we ignored the smallest eigenvalue (1), then instead of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 60 \\ 80 \\ \vdots \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{we would get} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 60 \\ 80 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- These vectors are similar (in cosine similarity, etc.)

Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors

For symmetric matrices, eigenvectors for distinct eigenvalues are **orthogonal**

$$Sv_{\{1,2\}} = \lambda_{\{1,2\}} v_{\{1,2\}}, \text{ and } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \Rightarrow v_1 \cdot v_2 = 0$$

All eigenvalues of a real symmetric matrix are **real**.
for complex λ , if $S - \lambda I$

All eigenvalues of a **positive semidefinite** matrix are **non-negative**

$$\forall w \in \mathbb{R}^n, w^T S w \geq 0, \text{ then if } S v = \lambda v \Rightarrow \lambda \geq 0$$

Example

- Let $S = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ← Real, symmetric.

- Then $S - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$

$$|S - \lambda I| = (2 - \lambda)^2 - 1 = 0.$$

- The eigenvalues are 1 and 3 (nonnegative, real).

- The eigenvectors are orthogonal (and real):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Plug in these values
and solve for
eigenvectors.

Eigen/diagonal Decomposition

- Let $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ be a **square** matrix with m **linearly independent eigenvectors** (a “non-defective” matrix)
- Theorem:** Exists an **eigen decomposition** $S = U\Lambda U^{-1}$
 - (cf. matrix diagonalization theorem)
 - Columns of U are the **eigenvectors** of S
 - Diagonal elements of $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m)$, $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$ are **eigenvalues** of S

Unique
for
distinct
eigen-
values

Diagonal decomposition: why/ how

Let \mathbf{U} have the eigenvectors as columns: $\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_n \end{bmatrix}$

Then, \mathbf{SU} can be written

$$\mathbf{SU} = \mathbf{S} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 v_1 & \dots & \lambda_n v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \dots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

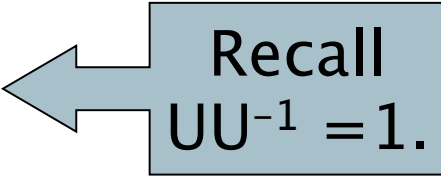
Thus $\mathbf{SU} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda$, or $\mathbf{U}^{-1}\mathbf{SU} = \Lambda$

And $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda\mathbf{U}^{-1}$.

Diagonal decomposition – example

Recall $S = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}; \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 3.$

The eigenvectors $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ form $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Inverting, we have $U^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Then, $S = U \Lambda U^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

Example continued

Let's divide \mathbf{U} (and multiply \mathbf{U}^{-1}) by $\sqrt{2}$

$$\text{Then, } \mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{Q} \qquad \Lambda \qquad (\mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \mathbf{Q}^T)$

Why? Stay tuned ...

Symmetric Eigen Decomposition

- If $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ is a **symmetric** matrix:
- **Theorem**: There exists a (unique) **eigen decomposition** $S = Q\Lambda Q^T$
- where **Q** is **orthogonal**:
 - $Q^{-1} = Q^T$
 - Columns of **Q** are normalized eigenvectors
 - Columns are orthogonal.
 - (everything is real)

Exercise

- Examine the symmetric eigen decomposition, if any, for each of the following matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Time out!

- I came to this class to learn about text retrieval and mining, not to have my linear algebra past dredged up again ...
 - But if you want to dredge, Strang's Applied Mathematics is a good place to start.
- What do these matrices have to do with text?
- Recall $M \times N$ term-document matrices ...
- But everything so far needs square matrices
 - so ...

Similarity \rightarrow Clustering

- We can compute the similarity between two document vector representations x_i and x_j by $x_i x_j^T$
- Let $X = [x_1 \dots x_N]$
- Then XX^T is a matrix of similarities
- X_{ij} is symmetric
- So $XX^T = Q\Lambda Q^T$
- So we can decompose this similarity space into a set of orthonormal basis vectors (given in Q) scaled by the eigenvalues in Λ

Singular Value Decomposition

For an $M \times N$ matrix A of rank r there exists a factorization (Singular Value Decomposition = **SVD**) as follows:

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

The diagram illustrates the dimensions of the matrices in the SVD equation $A = U \Sigma V^T$. Three boxes are positioned below the equation, each with an arrow pointing to a specific matrix:

- A box containing $M \times M$ has an arrow pointing to the matrix U .
- A box containing $M \times N$ has an arrow pointing to the matrix Σ .
- A box containing "V is $N \times N$ " has an arrow pointing to the matrix V^T .

(Not proven here.)

Singular Value Decomposition

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

M × M

M × N

V is N × N

- $AA^T = Q \Lambda Q^T$
- $AA^T = (U \Sigma V^T)(U \Sigma V^T)^T = (U \Sigma V^T)(V \Sigma U^T) = U \Sigma^2 U^T$

The columns of \mathbf{U} are orthogonal eigenvectors of

$\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^T$. The columns of \mathbf{V} are orthogonal eigenvectors of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$.

Eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_r$ of $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^T$ are the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$.

$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i}$$

$$\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_r)$$

Singular Value Decomposition

- Illustration of SVD dimensions and sparseness

The top diagram illustrates the SVD of a 5x3 matrix A . The matrix A is shown as a 5x3 grid of asterisks. It is equal to the product of a 5x5 matrix U , a 5x5 matrix Σ , and a 5x3 matrix V^T . The matrix U has a yellow shaded 2x2 block in its top-right corner. The matrix Σ has a yellow shaded 2x2 block in its bottom-left corner. The matrix V^T is a 5x3 grid of asterisks.

The bottom diagram illustrates the SVD of a 5x5 matrix A . The matrix A is shown as a 5x5 grid of asterisks. It is equal to the product of a 5x3 matrix U , a 5x5 matrix Σ , and a 5x5 matrix V^T . The matrix U is a 5x3 grid of asterisks. The matrix Σ has a yellow shaded 2x2 block in its bottom-right corner. The matrix V^T has a yellow shaded 2x5 block in its bottom-left corner.

SVD example

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus $M=3$, $N=2$. Its SVD is

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

Typically, the singular values are arranged in decreasing order.

Low-rank Approximation

- SVD can be used to compute optimal **low-rank approximations**.
- Approximation problem: Find A_k of rank k

such that $A_k = \min_{X: \text{rank}(X)=k} \|A - X\|_F$ ← Frobenius norm

$$\|A\|_F \equiv \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|^2}.$$

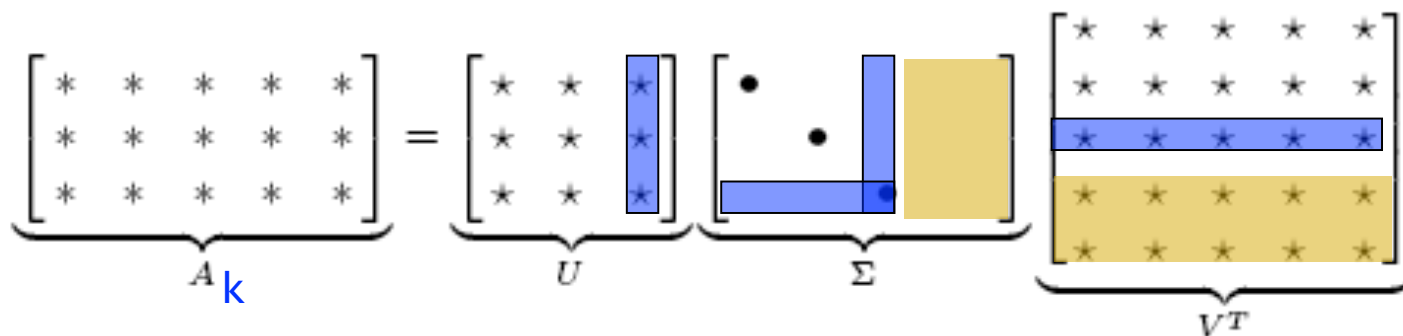
A_k and X are both $m \times n$ matrices.

Typically, want $k \ll r$.

Low-rank Approximation

- Solution via SVD

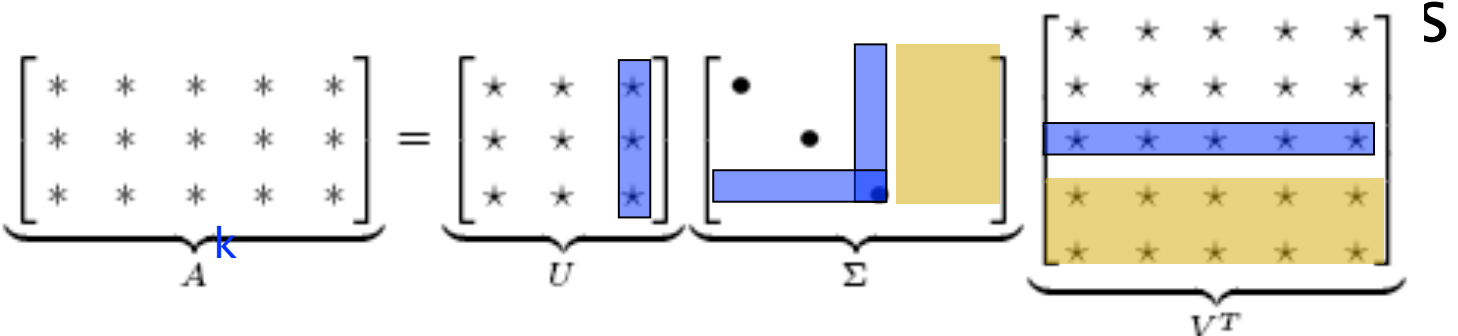
$$A_k = U \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{\substack{\text{set smallest } r-k \\ \text{singular values to zero}}}) V^T$$



$$A_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \sigma_i u_i v_i^T \leftarrow \text{column notation: sum of rank 1 matrices}$$

Reduced SVD

- If we retain only k singular values, and set the rest to 0, then we don't need the matrix parts in color
- Then Σ is $k \times k$, U is $M \times k$, V^T is $k \times N$, and A_k is $M \times N$
- This is referred to as the reduced SVD
- It is the convenient (space-saving) and

- 

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \end{bmatrix}}_A = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{bmatrix}}_U \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \bullet & & \\ & \bullet & \\ & & \bullet \end{bmatrix}}_\Sigma \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * \end{bmatrix}}_{V^T} S$$

Approximation error

- How good (bad) is this approximation?
- It's the best possible, measured by the Frobenius norm of the error:

$$\min_{X: \text{rank}(X)=k} \|A - X\|_F$$

where the σ_i are ordered such that $\sigma_i \geq \sigma_{i+1}$.

Suggests why Frobenius error drops as k increases.

SVD Low-rank approximation

- Whereas the term-doc matrix A may have $M=50000$, $N=10$ million (and rank close to 50000)
- We can construct an approximation A_{100} with rank 100.
 - Of all rank 100 matrices, it would have the lowest Frobenius error.
- Great ... but why would we??
- Answer: Latent Semantic Indexing

C. Eckart, G. Young, *The approximation of a matrix by another of lower rank.* Psychometrika, 1, 211-218, 1936.

Latent Semantic

What it is

- From term-doc matrix A , we compute the approximation A_k .
- There is a row for each term and a column for each doc in A_k
- Thus docs live in a space of $k \ll r$ dimensions
 - These dimensions are not the original axes
- But why?

Vector Space Model: Pros

- **Automatic** selection of index terms
- **Partial matching** of queries and documents (dealing with the case where no document contains all search terms)
- **Ranking** according to **similarity score** (dealing with large result sets)
- **Term weighting** schemes (improves retrieval performance)
- Various extensions
 - Document clustering
 - Relevance feedback (modifying query vector)
- Geometric foundation

Problems with Lexical Semantics

- Ambiguity and association in natural language
 - **Polysemy**: Words often have a **multitude of meanings** and different types of usage (more severe in very heterogeneous collections).
 - The vector space model is unable to discriminate between different meanings of the same word.

$$\text{sim}_{\text{true}}(d, q) < \cos(\angle(\vec{d}, \vec{q}))$$

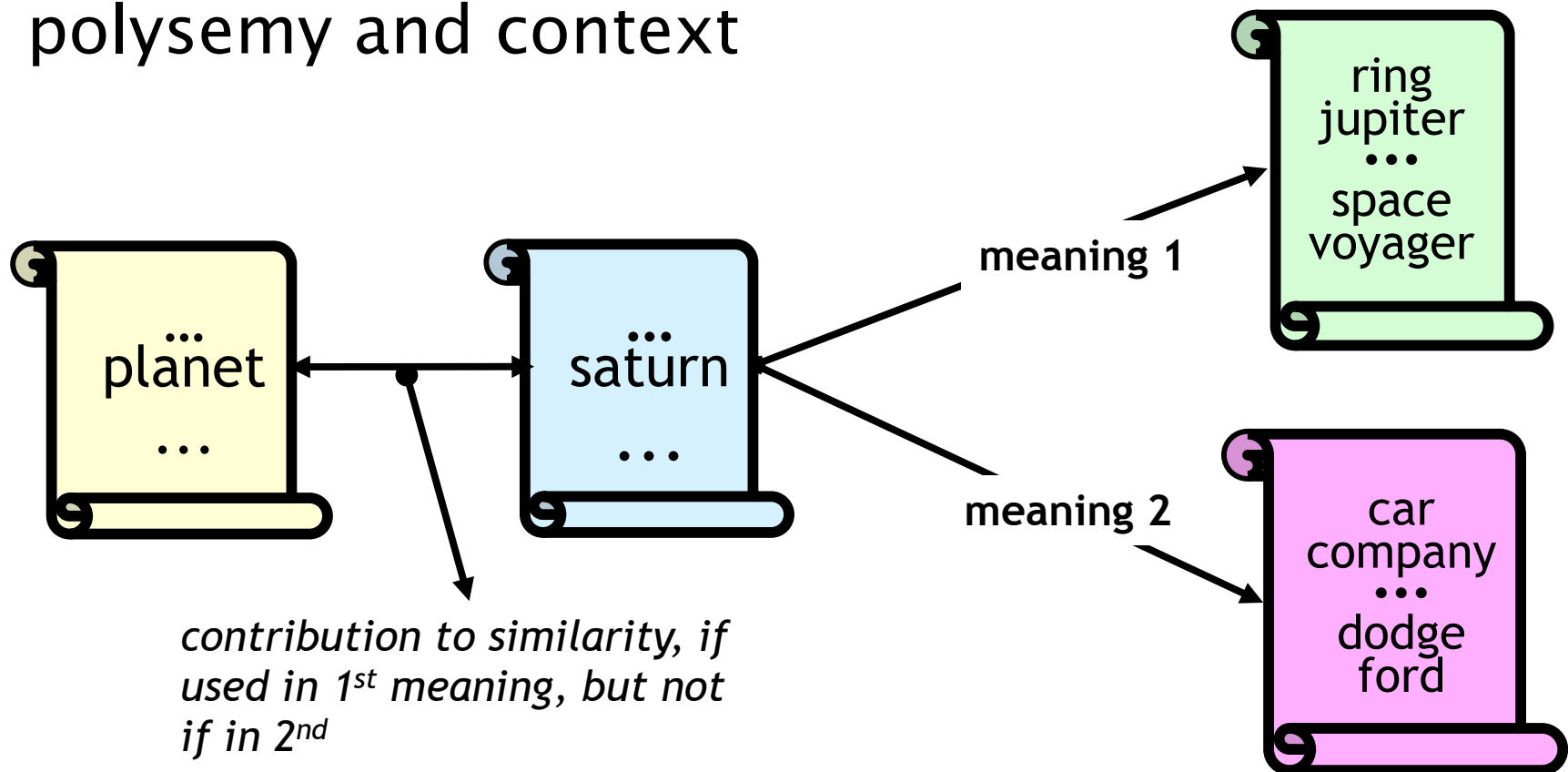
Problems with Lexical Semantics

- **Synonymy**: Different terms may have an **identical or a similar meaning** (weaker: words indicating the same topic).
- No associations between words are made in the vector space representation.

$$\text{sim}_{\text{true}}(d, q) > \cos(\angle(\vec{d}, \vec{q}))$$

Polysemy and Context

- Document similarity on single word level:
polysemy and context



Latent Semantic Indexing (LSI)

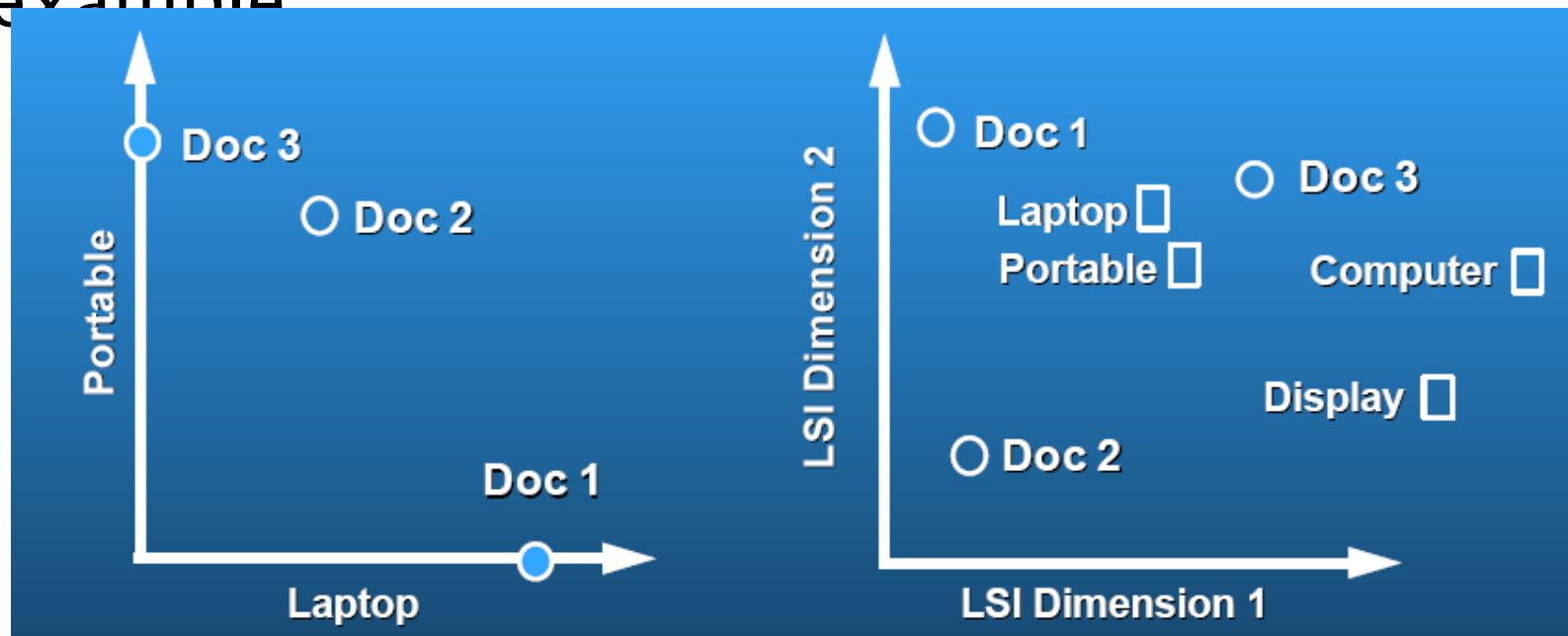
- Perform a **low-rank approximation** of **document-term matrix** (typical rank **100–300**)
- General idea
 - Map documents (and terms) to a **low-dimensional** representation.
 - Design a mapping such that the low-dimensional space reflects **semantic associations** (latent semantic space).
 - Compute document similarity based on the **inner product** in this **latent semantic space**

Goals of LSI

- LSI takes documents that are semantically similar (= talk about the same topics), but are not similar in the vector space (because they use different words) and re-represents them in a reduced vector space in which they have higher similarity.
- Similar terms map to similar location in low dimensional space
- Noise reduction by dimension reduction

Latent Semantic Analysis

- **Latent semantic space:** illustrating example



courtesy of Susan Dumais

Performing the maps

- Each row and column of A gets mapped into the k -dimensional LSI space, by the SVD.
- Claim – this is not only the mapping with the best (Frobenius error) approximation to A , but in fact improves retrieval.
- A query q is also mapped into this space, by

$$q_k = q^T U_k \Sigma_k^{-1}$$

- Query NOT a sparse vector.

LSA Example

- A simple example term–document matrix (binary)

| <i>C</i> | <i>d</i> ₁ | <i>d</i> ₂ | <i>d</i> ₃ | <i>d</i> ₄ | <i>d</i> ₅ | <i>d</i> ₆ |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ship | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| boat | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ocean | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| wood | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| tree | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

LSA Example

- Example of $C = U\Sigma V^T$: The matrix U

| U | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ship | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 0.25 |
| boat | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0.00 | 0.73 |
| ocean | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0.00 | -0.61 |
| wood | -0.70 | 0.35 | 0.15 | -0.58 | 0.16 |
| tree | -0.26 | 0.65 | -0.41 | 0.58 | -0.09 |

LSA Example

- Example of $C = U\Sigma V^T$: The matrix Σ

| Σ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 |

LSA Example

- Example of $C = U\Sigma V^T$: The matrix V^T

| V^T | d_1 | d_2 | d_3 | d_4 | d_5 | d_6 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | -0.75 | -0.28 | -0.20 | -0.45 | -0.33 | -0.12 |
| 2 | -0.29 | -0.53 | -0.19 | 0.63 | 0.22 | 0.41 |
| 3 | 0.28 | -0.75 | 0.45 | -0.20 | 0.12 | -0.33 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.58 | 0.00 | -0.58 | 0.58 |
| 5 | -0.53 | 0.29 | 0.63 | 0.19 | 0.41 | -0.22 |

LSA Example: Reducing the dimension

| U | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| ship | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| boat | -0.13 | -0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ocean | -0.48 | -0.51 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| wood | -0.70 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| tree | -0.26 | 0.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Σ_2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| V^T | d_1 | d_2 | d_3 | d_4 | d_5 | d_6 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | -0.75 | -0.28 | -0.20 | -0.45 | -0.33 | -0.12 |
| 2 | -0.29 | -0.53 | -0.19 | 0.63 | 0.22 | 0.41 |
| 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Original matrix C vs. reduced C_2

$$= U\Sigma_2V^T$$

| C | d_1 | d_2 | d_3 | d_4 | d_5 | d_6 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ship | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| boat | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ocean | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| wood | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| tree | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

| C_2 | d_1 | d_2 | d_3 | d_4 | d_5 | d_6 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ship | 0.85 | 0.52 | 0.28 | 0.13 | 0.21 | -0.08 |
| boat | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.16 | -0.20 | -0.02 | -0.18 |
| ocean | 1.01 | 0.72 | 0.36 | -0.04 | 0.16 | -0.21 |
| wood | 0.97 | 0.12 | 0.20 | 1.03 | 0.62 | 0.41 |
| tree | 0.12 | -0.39 | -0.08 | 0.90 | 0.41 | 0.49 |

Why the reduced dimension matrix is better

- Similarity of d2 and d3 in the original space: 0.
- Similarity of d2 and d3 in the reduced space: $0.52 * 0.28 + 0.36 * 0.16 + 0.72 * 0.36 + 0.12 * 0.20 + -0.39 * -0.08 \approx 0.52$
- Typically, LSA increases recall and hurts precision

Empirical evidence

- Experiments on TREC 1/2/3 – Dumais
- Lanczos SVD code (available on netlib) due to Berry used in these experiments
 - Running times of ~ one day on tens of thousands of docs [still an obstacle to use!]
- Dimensions – various values 250–350 reported. Reducing k improves recall.
 - (Under 200 reported unsatisfactory)
- Generally expect recall to improve – what about precision?

Empirical evidence

- Precision at or above median TREC precision
 - Top scorer on almost 20% of TREC topics
- Slightly better on average than straight vector spaces
- Effect of dimensionality:

| Dimensions | Precision |
|------------|-----------|
| 250 | 0.367 |
| 300 | 0.371 |
| 346 | 0.374 |

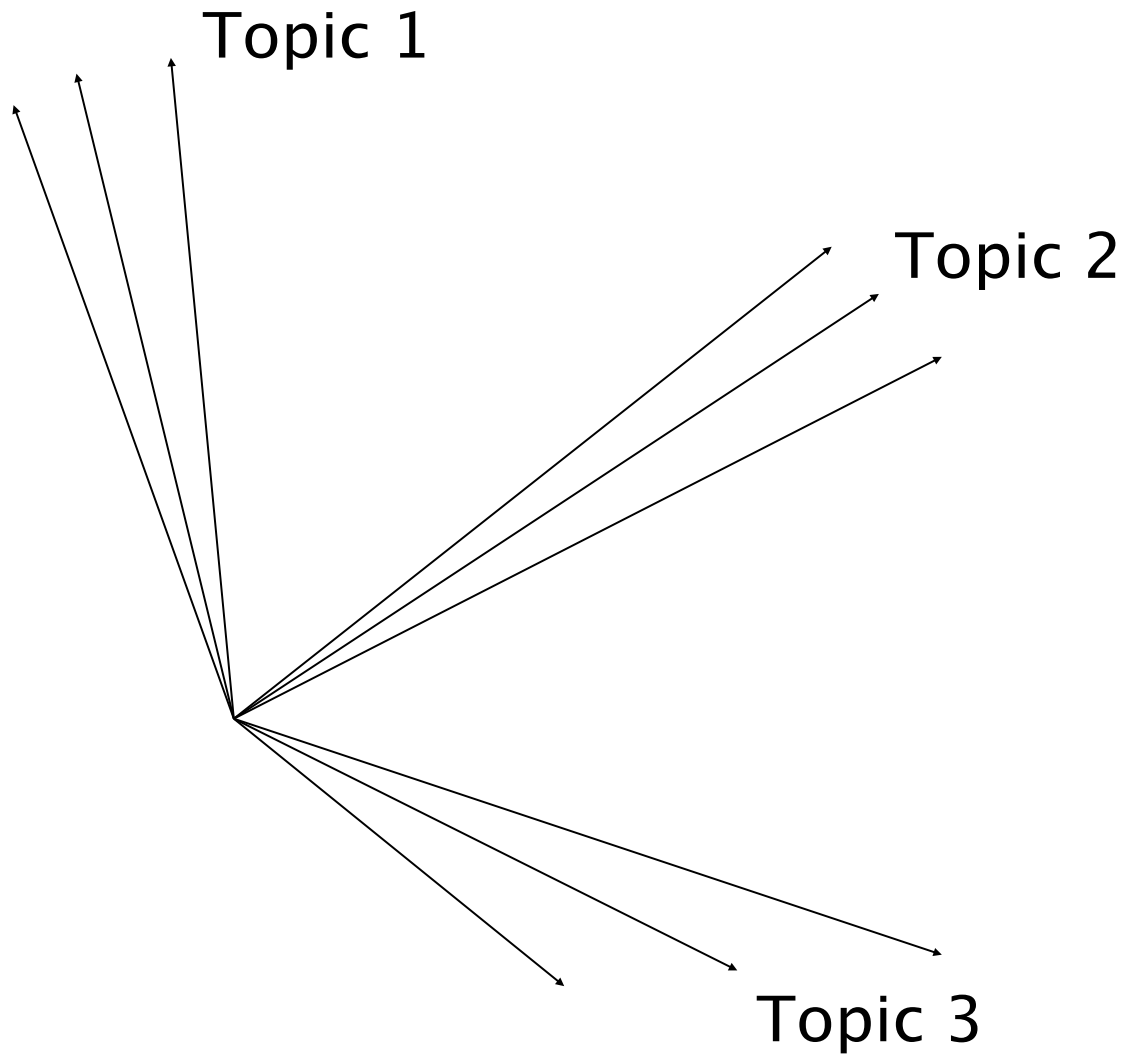
Failure modes

- Negated phrases
 - TREC topics sometimes negate certain query/terms phrases – precludes simple automatic conversion of topics to latent semantic space.
- Boolean queries
 - As usual, freetext/vector space syntax of LSI queries precludes (say) “Find any doc having to do with the following 5 companies”
- See Dumais for more.

But why is this clustering?

- We've talked about docs, queries, retrieval and precision here.
- What does this have to do with clustering?
- Intuition: Dimension reduction through LSI brings together "related" axes in the vector space.

Simplistic picture



Some wild extrapolation

- The “dimensionality” of a corpus is the number of distinct topics represented in it.
- More mathematical wild extrapolation:
 - if A has a rank k approximation of low Frobenius error, then there are no more than k distinct topics in the corpus.

LSI has many other applications

- In many settings in pattern recognition and retrieval, we have a feature–object matrix.
 - For text, the terms are features and the docs are objects.
 - Could be opinions and users ...
 - This matrix may be redundant in dimensionality.
 - Can work with low–rank approximation.
 - If entries are missing (e.g., users’ opinions), can recover if dimensionality is low.
- Powerful general analytical technique
 - Close, principled analog to clustering methods.

Resources

- IIR 18
- Scott Deerwester, Susan Dumais, George Furnas, Thomas Landauer, Richard Harshman. 1990. Indexing by latent semantic analysis. *JASIS* 41(6):391—407.