

Analysis of singular subspaces under random perturbations

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Matrix denoising model

Example: In image processing, we only observe \tilde{S} . What can be said about the true data matrix S ?



Other applications: principal component analysis, matrix completion, community detection, etc.

Matrix denoising model

Signal: a real deterministic $N \times n$ matrix A with **rank** $r \ll \min\{N, n\}$.

Singular values: $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$.

SVD: $A = UDV^T = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i u_i v_i^T$.

Model:

$$\tilde{A} = \underbrace{A}_{\text{low-rank signal}} + \underbrace{E}_{\text{random noise}}$$

The (ordered) s.v.'s and s. vectors of \tilde{A} are $\tilde{\sigma}_i$, \tilde{v}_i and \tilde{u}_i .

▷ **Question:** How does the noise E affect the key parameters of A ?

Key parameters: $\|A\|_{op} = \sigma_1$, top s.v.'s, top singular vectors, singular subspaces.

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Compare singular subspaces

For $1 \leq k \leq r$, denote

$$U_k := (u_1, \dots, u_k) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{U}_k := (\tilde{u}_1, \dots, \tilde{u}_k).$$

Goal: Non-asymptotic bounds on

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{k \times k}} \|U_k O - \tilde{U}_k\|$$

for some kind of matrix norm $\|\cdot\|$ of interest.

▷ Unitarily invariant norms.

▷ $\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty}$: maximum row length.

▷ Linear and bilinear forms: $\|x^T(U_k O - \tilde{U}_k)\|$ and $|x^T(U_k O - \tilde{U}_k)y|$.

Extension:

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{k \times k}} \|U_k O D_k - \tilde{U}_k \tilde{D}_k\|,$$

where $D_k = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k)$.

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Deformation models: random matrix theory

Deformation models, **asymptotical analysis**, BBP phase transition.

▷ Extreme eigenvalues

- **Convergent limit**: Bai-Yao '12, Baik-Silverstein '06, Benaych-Georges- Nadakuditi '11 & '12, Capitaine-Donati-Martin '16, Ding '17, Knowles-Yin '13, Paul '07, etc.
- **Fluctuation**: Bai-Yao '08, Bao-Pan-Zhou '15, Benaych-Georges-Guionnet-Maida '11, Bloemendal-Knowles-Yau-Yin '16, Bloemendal-Virág '13 & '16, Capitaine-Donati-Martin-Féral '09, Cai-Han-Pan '20, Knowles-Yin '13, Renfrew-Soshnikov '12, etc.

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- **Fluctuation**: Paul '07, Bao-Ding-W. '20, Bao-Wang '21, Bao-Ding-Wang-W. '22, Bloemendal-Knowles-Yau-Yin '16, Capitaine-Donati-Martin '18, Fan-Fan-Han-Lv '20, Benigni '20, etc.

Unitarily invariant norms

Def: A norm $\|\cdot\|$ on $\mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$ is **unitarily invariant** if $\|A\| = \|UAV\|$ for all orthogonal matrices U, V .

Fact: $\|\cdot\|$ is unitarily invariant if and only if $\|A\| = f(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{\min\{N, n\}})$ for all $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$ for a symmetric gauge function f .

Examples

- Operator norm $\|A\|_{op}$ and Frobenius norm $\|A\|_F$.
- Schatten q -norm ($q \in [1, \infty]$): $\|A\|_q = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\min\{N, n\}} \sigma_i^q \right)^{1/q}$.
- Ky Fan k -norm ($1 \leq k \leq \min\{N, n\}$): $\|A\|_{(k)} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sigma_i$.

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Principle angles between subspaces

Singular subspaces

$$U_k = \text{Span}\{u_1, \dots, u_k\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{U}_k = \text{Span}\{\tilde{u}_1, \dots, \tilde{u}_k\}.$$

The **principal angles** between U_k and \tilde{U}_k are $0 \leq \theta_1 \leq \dots \leq \theta_k \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, where the angles are defined recursively by

$$\cos(\theta_i) = \max_{u \in U_k, v \in \tilde{U}_k} u^T v = u_i^T v_i, \quad \|u\| = \|v\| = 1$$

subject to $u^T u_j = 0, v^T v_j = 0, j = 1, \dots, i-1$.

Denote

$$\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k) = \text{diag}(\sin \theta_1, \dots, \sin \theta_k),$$

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Fact: The SVD $U_k^T \tilde{U}_k = O_1 \cos \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k) O_2^T$.

For unitarily invariant $\|\cdot\|$, take $O := O_1 O_2^T$,

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{k \times k}} \|U_k O - \tilde{U}_k\| \leq \sqrt{2} \|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|.$$

Classical bounds:

P_W : the orthogonal projection onto a subspace W .

▷ **Wedin sine theorem (1972):** for any unitarily invariant $\|\cdot\|$,

$$\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\| \leq \frac{\max\{\|P_{U_k^\perp} E P_{\tilde{V}_k}\|, \|P_{V_k^\perp} E^T P_{\tilde{U}_k}\|\}}{\sigma_k - \tilde{\sigma}_{k+1}}.$$

Hermitian case: **Davis-Kahan sine theorem (1970).**

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Low-rank signal + random noise

Classical bounds wasteful when A is **low-rank** and E is **random**.

E.g. E of size $n \times n$, entries i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. **Spectral gap** $\delta_1 := \sigma_1 - \sigma_2$.

- Wedin: $\sin \angle(u_1, \tilde{u}_1) \leq 2 \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\delta_1} \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\delta_1}$ w.h.p.

▷ **Vu (2010)**: E i.i.d. Rademacher matrix

$$\sin^2 \angle(u_1, \tilde{u}_1) \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\delta_1} + \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_1} + \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\delta_1} \cdot \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_1} \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

Key observation: When A is low rank, the true dimension is r , the **rank of A** , rather than its size N or n .

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Previous results

▷ O'Rourke-Vu-W. (2013): If E has good concentration properties,

$$\sin \angle(u_1, \tilde{u}_1) \lesssim \underbrace{\frac{C(r)}{\delta_1}}_{\text{Wedin}} + \underbrace{\frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_1}}_{\text{SNR}} + \underbrace{\frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\delta_1} \cdot \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_1}}_{?} \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

Similar results for $\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_{op}$.

▷ O'Rourke-Vu-W. (2023): E i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ entries. For any $k \in [r]$, if

$$\sigma_k \geq 2\|E\|_{op}, \quad \delta_k = \sigma_k - \sigma_{k+1} \geq c_1 r^2 \sqrt{\log(N+n)},$$

$$\min_{\sigma_l \neq \sigma_s, 1 \leq l, s \leq k} |\sigma_l - \sigma_s| \geq c_1 r^2 \sqrt{\log(N+n)},$$

then

$$\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_{op} \leq c \frac{\sqrt{kr} \sqrt{\log(N+n)}}{\delta_k} + 2 \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_k} \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

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New results

▷ **W. (2024)**: E i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ entries. Assume

$$\sigma_k \geq 2\|E\|_{op}, \quad \delta_k \geq c_1 r \sqrt{r + \log(N + n)}.$$

$k_0 = \min\{k, r - k\}$. For any unitarily invariant $\|\cdot\|$, w.h.p.

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\| \\ & \leq c_3 \sqrt{k \cdot k_0} \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N + n)}}{\delta_k} + 2 \frac{\|P_{U^\perp} E P_{\tilde{V}_k}\| + \|P_{V^\perp} E^T P_{\tilde{U}_k}\|}{\sigma_k}. \end{aligned}$$

Compare with Wedin's bound: from $\|P_{U_k^\perp} E P_{\tilde{V}_k}\| = \|(P_{U_{k+1,r}} + P_{U^\perp}) E P_{\tilde{V}_k}\|$,

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Specially, assume $\sigma_k \geq 2\|E\|_{op}$, $\delta_k \geq c_1 r \sqrt{r + \log(N + n)}$.

- (Operator norm)

$$\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_{op} \lesssim \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N + n)}}{\delta_k} \mathbf{1}_{\{k \neq r\}} + \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_k}.$$

- (Frobenius norm)

$$\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_F \lesssim \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N + n)}}{\delta_k} \mathbf{1}_{\{k \neq r\}} + \sqrt{k} \frac{\|E\|_{op}}{\sigma_k}.$$

▷ ℓ_2 analysis: $\min_{s \in \{\pm 1\}} \|\tilde{u}_k - s u_k\|_2$ or $\|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_*$ with $* \in \{op, F\}$.

Deterministic setting

- Yu-Wang-Samworth '15, Wu-Lei '13, Fan-Wang-Zhong '17, Cai-Zhang '18, Zhang-Cai-Wu '22, Luo-Han-Zhang '21.

“Random noise” setting

- Wang '12: non-asymptotic dist. of s. vectors when entries of E i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.
- Allez-Bouchaud '13: eigenvector dynamics (symmetric case).
- Benaych-Georges-Enriquez-Michail '18: perturbative expansion of the coordinates of the e.vectors.
- Zhong '17: bound on $\sin \angle(u_1, \tilde{u}_1)$ for E sub-gaussian (symmetric case).

Recent literatures

- ▷ **Entrywise or $\ell_\infty/\ell_{2,\infty}$ analysis:** $\|\tilde{u}_k - su_k\|_\infty$ or $\|\tilde{U}_k - U_k O\|_{2,\infty}$
- Eldridge-Belkin-Wang '13: general bounds, symmetric case, use Neumann trick to expand the perturbed e.vectors.
 - Abbe-Fan-Wang-Zhong '20: symmetric case, A finite rank and incoherent. Large eigengaps. General assumption on random noise E .
 - Zhong-Boumal '18: phase synchronization model, Gaussian noise.
 - Cape-Tang-Priebe '19: general bounds under $2 \rightarrow \infty$ norm.
 - Chen-Fan-Ma-Wang '19: ℓ_∞ norm errors of the leading e.vector of asymmetric probability transition matrix.
 - Lei '19: $\ell_{2,\infty}$ eigenspace perturbation bounds for symmetric random matrices, general noise E .
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 - Agterberg, Lubbers, and Priebe 22': the noise matrix allowed to have dependence within rows and heteroskedasticity.

Recent literatures

- ▷ **Entrywise or $\ell_\infty/\ell_{2,\infty}$ analysis:** $\|\tilde{u}_k - su_k\|_\infty$ or $\|\tilde{U}_k - U_k O\|_{2,\infty}$.
- Yan-Chen-Fan '21: $\ell_{2,\infty}$ bound for the full singular vector matrices, distributional characterization, general noise E .
 - Bhardwaj-Vu '23: a stochastic version of Wedin for general noise E .
 - Yan-Wainwright '24: improve Yan-Chen-Fan '21 for E sub-Gaussian entries.
- ▷ **Linear or bilinear forms:** $\|x^T(\tilde{u}_k - su_k)\|$ or $|x^T(\tilde{U}_k - U_k O)y|$.
- Koltchinskii-Xia '16: concentration bounds for bilinear forms of singular subspaces under Gaussian noise.
 - Koltchinskii- Lounici '16: concentration and asymptotic distributions of bilinear forms of the spectral projectors for principle components under Gaussian noise in a general Hilbert space.
 - Li-Cai-Poor-Chen '21: improve Koltchinskii-Xia 16', small eigen-gap assumption.
 - Cheng-Wei-Chen '21: heteroscedastic noise, small eigen-gap.
 - Agterberg '23: distributional characterization and statistical inference for $a^T \tilde{u}_k$, small eigen-gap.

New results: ℓ_∞ and $\ell_{2,\infty}$ bounds

Observe: from the SVD $U_k^T \tilde{U}_k = O_1 \cos \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k) O_2^T$, take $O = O_1 O_2^T$,

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{k \times k}} \|\tilde{U}_k - U_k O\|_{2,\infty} \leq \|\tilde{U}_k - P_{U_k} \tilde{U}_k\|_{2,\infty} + \|U_k\|_{2,\infty} \|\sin \angle(U_k, \tilde{U}_k)\|_{op}^2.$$

▷ **W. (2024):** Assume $\sigma_k \geq 2\|E\|_{op}$ and $\delta_k \gtrsim r\sqrt{r + \log(N+n)}$. w.h.p.

$$\|\tilde{U}_k - P_{U_k} \tilde{U}_k\|_{2,\infty} \lesssim \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N+n)}}{\delta_k} \|U\|_{2,\infty} + \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r \log(N+n)}}{\sigma_k} (1 + \|U\|_{2,\infty}).$$

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New results: linear and bilinear forms

▷ **W. (2024)**: Let x, y be unit vectors.

- Linear forms: w.h.p.

$$\|x^T(\tilde{U}_k - P_{U_k}\tilde{U}_k)\| \lesssim \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N+n)}}{\delta_k} \|x^T U\| + \sqrt{k} \frac{\sqrt{r \log(N+n)}}{\sigma_k} (1 + \|x^T U\|).$$

- Bilinear forms: w.h.p.

$$\begin{aligned} |x^T(\tilde{U}_k - P_{U_k}\tilde{U}_k)y| &\lesssim \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N+n)}}{\delta_k} \|x^T U\| \sqrt{\|y\|_0} \\ &\quad + \sqrt{r \log(N+n)} (1 + \|x^T U\|) \left| \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{y_i}{\sigma_i} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, together with the ℓ_2 bound,

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{k \times k}} \|\tilde{U}_k - U_k O\|_{\max} &\lesssim \frac{\sqrt{r + \log(N+n)}}{\delta_k} \|U\|_{2,\infty} + \frac{\sqrt{r \log(N+n)}}{\sigma_k} (1 + \|U\|_{2,\infty}) \\ &\quad + \frac{\|E\|_{op}^2}{\sigma_k^2} \|U_k\|_{2,\infty} \end{aligned}$$

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New results: weighted singular subspace perturbation

Proposition:

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{r \times r}} \|\tilde{U}_r \tilde{D}_r - UO\tilde{D}_r\|_{2,\infty} \leq \|\tilde{U}_r \tilde{D}_r - P_U \tilde{U}_r \tilde{D}_r\|_{2,\infty} + \|U\|_{2,\infty} \|\sin \angle(U, \tilde{U}_r)\|_{op} \|E\|_{op}.$$

▷ W. (2024): Assume $\sigma_r \geq 2\|E\|_{op}$. w.h.p.

$$\min_{O \in \mathbb{O}^{r \times r}} \|\tilde{U}_r \tilde{D}_r - UO\tilde{D}_r\|_{2,\infty} \lesssim r \sqrt{\log(N+n)} (1 + \|U\|_{2,\infty}) + \|U\|_{2,\infty} \frac{\|E\|_{op}^2}{\sigma_r}.$$

Applications in analyzing the spectral algorithm for the Gaussian Mixture Model and submatrix localization problem.

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Applications in analyzing the spectral algorithm for the Gaussian Mixture Model and submatrix localization problem.

Sketch of proof

Linearization: $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{E}$, where

$$\mathcal{A} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{E} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & E \\ E^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Assume

$$\mathcal{A} = UDU^T \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{A}} = \tilde{U}\tilde{D}\tilde{U}^T.$$

Non-zero e.v.'s of \mathcal{A} : $\lambda_j = \sigma_j$ and $\lambda_{j+r} = -\sigma_j$ for $1 \leq j \leq r$.

Corresponding e.vectors: $\mathbf{u}_j := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} u_j \\ v_j \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{u}_{j+r} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} u_j \\ -v_j \end{pmatrix}$.

Similar notations $\tilde{\lambda}_j, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_j$ for $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$.

Sketch of proof

Consider the Green function $G(z) := (zI - \mathcal{E})^{-1}$.

Key ingredient: [Isotropic local law]

For $z \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|z| \geq 2(\sqrt{N} + \sqrt{n})$,

$$|\langle x, (G(z) - \Phi(z)) y \rangle| \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{\log(N+n)}}{|z|^2} \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

Here

$$\Phi(z) := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\phi_1(z)} I_N & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\phi_2(z)} I_n \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\phi_1(z) := z - \sum_{t \in [N+1, N+n]} G_{tt}(z), \quad \phi_2(z) := z - \sum_{s \in [1, N]} G_{ss}(z).$$

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Sketch of proof

By the isotropic local law:

- Denote $D = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : 2(\sqrt{N} + \sqrt{n}) \leq |z| \leq 2n^3\}$.

$$\max_{z \in D} |z|^2 \left\| \mathcal{U}^T (G(z) - \Phi(z)) \mathcal{U} \right\|_{op} \lesssim \sqrt{r + \log(N + n)} \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

- Singular value location:

$$|\phi_1(\tilde{\sigma}_j) \phi_2(\tilde{\sigma}_j) - \sigma_j^2| \lesssim r \sqrt{r + \log(N + n)} \sigma_j \quad \text{w.h.p.}$$

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Sketch of proof

Start with the decomposition

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = (\mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_1^T) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \mathcal{P}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 + \mathcal{Q} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1,$$

where $\mathcal{P}_1 = \mathcal{U}_1 \mathcal{U}_1^T$ and \mathcal{U}_1 is the matrix of eigenvectors of \mathcal{A} excluding \mathbf{u}_1 . \mathcal{Q} is the orthogonal projection matrix onto the null space of \mathcal{A} .

ℓ_2 bounds:

Take the ℓ_2 norm on both sides $1 = \cos^2 \angle(\mathbf{u}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1) + \|\mathcal{P}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2 + \|\mathcal{Q} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2$. Hence,

$$\sin^2 \angle(\mathbf{u}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1) = \|\mathcal{P}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2 + \|\mathcal{Q} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2 \leq \|\mathcal{U}_1^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2 + \|\mathcal{Q} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2.$$

Note $\|\mathcal{U}_1^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1\|^2 = \sum_{j=2}^{2r} |\mathbf{u}_j^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1|^2$.

- Bound $|\mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1|^2$: from $(\mathcal{E} + \mathcal{A}) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = \tilde{\sigma}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1$,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = (\tilde{\sigma}_1 I - \mathcal{E})^{-1} \mathcal{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = \Phi(\tilde{\sigma}_1) \mathcal{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 + (G(\tilde{\sigma}_1) - \Phi(\tilde{\sigma}_1)) \mathcal{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1.$$

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Sketch of proof

$$\text{Next, } \mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = \mathbf{u}_2^T \Phi(\tilde{\sigma}_1) \underbrace{\mathcal{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1}_{\sigma_2 \mathbf{u}_2 (\mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1) + \sum_{i \neq 2} \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i (\mathbf{u}_i^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1)} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_2^T (G(\tilde{\sigma}_1) - \Phi(\tilde{\sigma}_1)) \mathcal{U}}_{\text{controlled by local law}} \cdot \mathcal{D} \mathcal{U}^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1.$$

Gather $\mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1$ terms:

$$\left(1 - \sigma_2 \frac{1}{2} \left(\phi_1(\tilde{\sigma}_1)^{-1} + \phi_2(\tilde{\sigma}_1)^{-1}\right)\right) \mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 \approx \left(1 - \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}\right) \mathbf{u}_2^T \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1.$$

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$$\mathcal{Q} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1 = \mathcal{Q} (G(\tilde{\sigma}_1) - \Phi(\tilde{\sigma}_1)) \mathcal{A} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1$$

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THANK YOU!

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