
Subject: Re: Matrix rank

Posted by [Steve Eddins](#) on Fri, 14 Dec 2007 18:06:28 GMT

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Vince Hradil wrote:

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> On Dec 14, 9:42 am, Wox <nom...@hotmail.com> wrote:
>> On Fri, 14 Dec 2007 06:35:11 -0800 (PST), Vince Hradil
>>
>> <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>> IDL can do SVD, can you get the rank from that? Look up SVDC in the
>>> docs.
>> I could do this, but maybe there's a better way?
>>
>> ; A: integers
>> ; B: floats
>> A = [[ 0,0,1], $
>>      [ 0,1,0], $
>>      [ 0,0,0]]
>> B = [0.25,0.5,1]
>>
>> ; Decompose A
>> SVDC, A, W, U, V
>> ; Solve A.X=B
>> X=SVSOL(U, W, V, B)
>>
>> ; Check
>> B2=A##X
>> ind=where(total(abs(A),1,/pres) ne 0)
>>
>> if array_equal(B[ind],B2[ind]) then print,X
>
> Well, w contains the singular values, the number of these that are non-
> zero will be the rank:
> idx = where(w ne 0, rank)
> print, rank
> 2
```

Since this is all in floating-point, it's appropriate to use a tolerance instead of comparing exactly with 0. See, for example, the algorithm used in the MATLAB rank function, which uses a tolerance based on the size of the matrix and the maximum singular value. It's described here:

<http://www.mathworks.com/access/helpdesk/help/techdoc/ref/rank.html>

I assume this is straightforward to express in IDL.

Steve Eddins

