

**Essential Mathematics for Machine Learning**  
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**Lecture – 15**  
**Polar Decomposition**


Hello friends. So, welcome to the lecture number 15 of this course Essential Mathematics for Machine Learning. In this lecture we will talk about Polar Decomposition. In one of the previous lecture you have seen another decomposition algorithm for matrices that is singular value decomposition. And then we have seen some of the applications of singular value decomposition. Now, again polar decomposition is another decomposition technique for decomposing a square or rectangular matrix.

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**Introduction**

- ❶ The matrix representation of systems reveals many useful and fascinating properties of linear transformations.
- ❷ One such representation is the polar decomposition.
- ❸ The polar decomposition is analogous to the polar form of coordinates.
- ❹ It is having a beautiful relation with SVD.

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So, basically the polar decomposition is analogous to the polar form of coordinates. That is like, if you are having Cartesian coordinate like  $x$  and  $y$  then polar coordinates will be  $r$  and  $\theta$  and then this particular decomposition again having a very beautiful relationship with singular value decomposition.

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Handwritten notes on a slide:

$$z = x + iy$$

$$= r e^{i\theta}$$

↓  
 $r > 0$

$$(r \cos \theta + i r \sin \theta)$$

↓

$$A = P W$$

↓  
Positive semi-definite

→ isometry  
 $\|T u\| = \|u\|$

Formulas on the right:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

So, let us learn what is polar decomposition. So, in general we can write a complex number as  $x$  plus  $i$   $y$ . Now why suddenly I am talking about complex number, because the polar decomposition is somewhat related to the polar form of complex number; that is the polar coordinates.

So, this particular complex number in polar form I can write as  $r$  into  $e$  raised to power  $i\theta$ . Where  $r$  is nothing just the square root of  $x^2 + y^2$  and  $\theta$  is  $\tan^{-1} y/x$ .

Now, if you see here this is  $r$  is always positive and then this is  $e$  raised to power  $i\theta$  that is basically  $\cos \theta + i \sin \theta$  which is a complex number again. In the same manner I want some a factorization of a matrix somewhat similar to the what we have seen for the complex number. So, it is somewhat like  $P$  and  $W$ . So, where  $P$  is a positive thing. So, here  $P$  means positive semi definite matrix and then when we talk about  $W$ ;  $W$  is somewhat an isometry.

So, an isometry transformation means that; if  $T$  is an isometry then  $\|Tu\|$  equals to  $\|u\|$ . And then to restrict this  $W$  as an isometry what we are taking? We are taking this  $W$  as a matrix such that it is having the orthonormal columns; such kind of decomposition of a matrix is called polar decomposition. So, the main motivation is like that

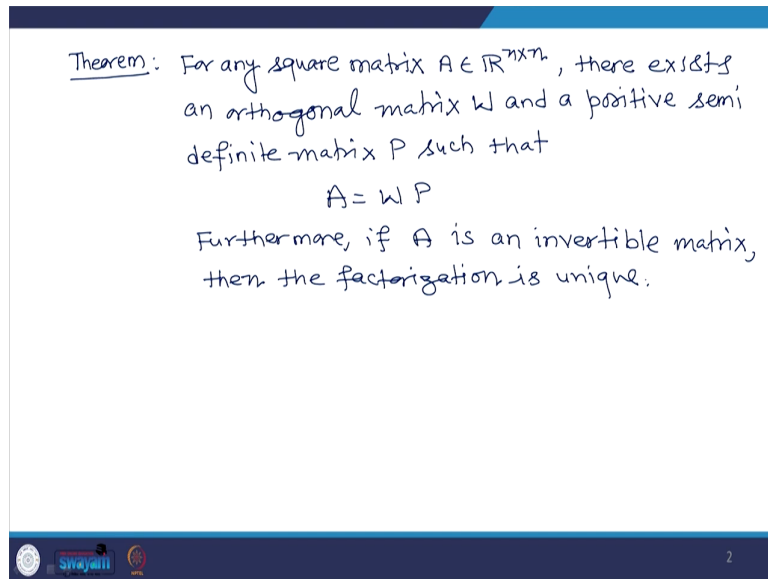
Now, let us come to formal definition. So, here first I will talk about the square matrices and then we will go for rectangular matrices.

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Theorem: For any square matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , there exists an orthogonal matrix  $W$  and a positive semi-definite matrix  $P$  such that

$$A = W P$$

Furthermore, if  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then the factorization is unique.



So, for any square matrix  $A$ , let us say  $A$  belongs to the vector space of  $n$  by  $n$  real matrices, there exists an orthogonal matrix  $W$  and a positive semi-definite matrix  $P$  such that  $A$  equals to  $W P$ . So, here  $W$  is an orthogonal matrix means; the columns of  $W$  are orthonormal and  $P$  is a positive semi-definite matrix.

Furthermore, if  $A$  is an invertible matrix, then the factorization is unique; means this kind of decomposition is unique. You can find out always unique  $W$  and  $P$  if  $A$  is an invertible matrix.

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Proof: From the SVD of  $A$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} A &= U S V^T \\ &= U V^T V S V^T \\ &= \underline{U V^T} \underline{V S V^T} \\ &= W P \end{aligned}$$

Here  $W = U V^T \rightarrow$  orthogonal  $\xrightarrow{A = P S P^T}$   
 $P = V S V^T \rightarrow$  PSD

Uniqueness: Let the factorization is not unique, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} A &= W P = Z Q \\ \Rightarrow W P &= Z Q \\ \Rightarrow Z^T W &= Q P^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow Q P^{-1} &\text{ is an orthogonal matrix} \end{aligned}$$

So, let us see a brief proof of this to understand the concept. So, here  $A$  is a square matrix of size  $n$  by  $n$ . So, if you remember the singular value decomposition from the singular value decomposition of  $A$ , we have. So, what was the singular value decomposition of  $A$ ?  $A$  equals to  $U S V^T$ ; where  $U$  and  $V$  are orthogonal matrices and  $S$  is a diagonal matrix having the singular values of  $A$  as diagonal elements.

So, now what you do? I can write  $U V^T V S V^T$ , why because,  $V^T V$  equals to  $I$ .  $V$  is an orthogonal matrix. So,  $V^T V$  equals to  $V^{-1}$ . So, hence  $V^T V$  equals to identity matrix of size  $n$  whatever be the size of  $A$ .

Now, what you do? I take  $W$  the product of  $U$  and  $V^T$  together and then the product of these three matrices. So, now, see I am having now these two  $U V^T$  which is again an orthogonal matrix, because  $U$  is an orthogonal  $V^T$  is an orthogonal. So,

product will be an orthogonal matrix. And then I am having  $V^T V$  transpose, which is a symmetric matrix as well as the eigenvalues of this matrix will be nonnegative. Why because you know if you are writing a matrix  $A$  as or some matrix let us say  $A^{-1}$  as  $P S P^T$  then what will happen? The eigenvalues of  $A^{-1}$  and  $S$  are similar, if  $P$  is a unitary matrix.

So, by the unitary diagonalization kind of thing. So, what I am doing? I am writing this  $U$  into  $V^T$  transpose as  $W$  and this as  $P$ . So, here  $W$  equals to  $U^T V^T$  transpose and  $P$  equals to  $V S V^T$  transpose. So, it is orthogonal and this one is positive semi definite. So, in that way using a concept of singular value decomposition we can find out the polar decomposition of a matrix  $A$ .

Now, what will happened? We will prove the other part; that is the uniqueness. That is if  $A$  is invertible then this decomposition is unique. So, let the factorization is not unique; that is we are having  $A$  equals to  $W P$  and another factorization is  $Z Q$  where  $Z$  is an orthogonal transformation and  $Q$  is a positive semi definite matrix.

So, this implies  $W P$  equals to  $Z Q$ . I can write  $Z^T$  into  $W$  equals to  $Q$  into  $P^{-1}$ , because  $Z$  is an orthogonal matrix. So, if I pre multiply by  $Z^T$  transpose. So, it will become  $Z^T$  transpose into  $W$  while it will  $Z^T$  transpose into  $W$  into  $P$  equals to  $Q$  and then I post multiply by  $P^{-1}$ . So,  $Z^T$  transpose into  $W$  equals to  $Q$  into  $P^{-1}$ .

Now, since  $W$  is an orthogonal matrix as well as  $Z$  is an orthogonal matrix. So,  $Z^T$  transpose. So, left hand side is having a orthogonal matrix. So, right hand side is also an orthogonal matrix. So, this implies  $Q P^{-1}$  is an orthogonal matrix.

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$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow (QP^{-1})^T(QP^{-1}) &= I \\ \Rightarrow P^{-1}Q^2P^{-1} &= I \\ \Rightarrow P^2 &= Q^2 \\ \Rightarrow \underline{P=Q} &\Rightarrow W=Z \\ \Rightarrow \text{Hence, factorization is unique.} \end{aligned}$$

So, if it is an orthogonal matrix then what we are having  $QP$  inverse transpose into  $QP$  inverse equals to identity matrix. So, this means  $P$  inverse into  $Q$  square into  $P$  inverse equals to identity. This implies  $P$  square equals to  $Q$  square. This implies  $P$  equals to  $Q$  and if  $P$  equals to  $q$  then  $W$  equals to  $Z$ . So, hence factorization is unique. So, this is the proof of the polar decomposition theorem.

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Ex 1: Find the polar decomposition of

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & -5 \\ -2 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

Soln:-  $\lambda(A^T A) = 200$  and  $50$   
 $\sigma_1(A) = 10\sqrt{2}$  and  $\sigma_2(A) = 5\sqrt{2}$   
Now  $v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, -1)^T$  and  $v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1)^T$   
 $u_1 = \frac{Av_1}{\sigma_1} = \frac{1}{5}(4, -3)^T$   
 $u_2 = \frac{Av_2}{\sigma_2} = \frac{1}{5}(3, 4)^T$

$$A = U \Sigma V^T = \frac{1}{5} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 \\ -3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 10\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 5\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

Now, let us take an example. So, find the polar decomposition of this matrix that is 11 minus 5 minus 2 10. So, as I told you, we will make use of singular value decomposition for calculating the polar decomposition in case of a square matrices. So, here the eigenvalues of the matrix  $A^T A$  will be 200 and 50. So, it gives me the singular values of  $A$  as  $10\sqrt{2}$  and  $\sigma_2$  is  $5\sqrt{2}$ .

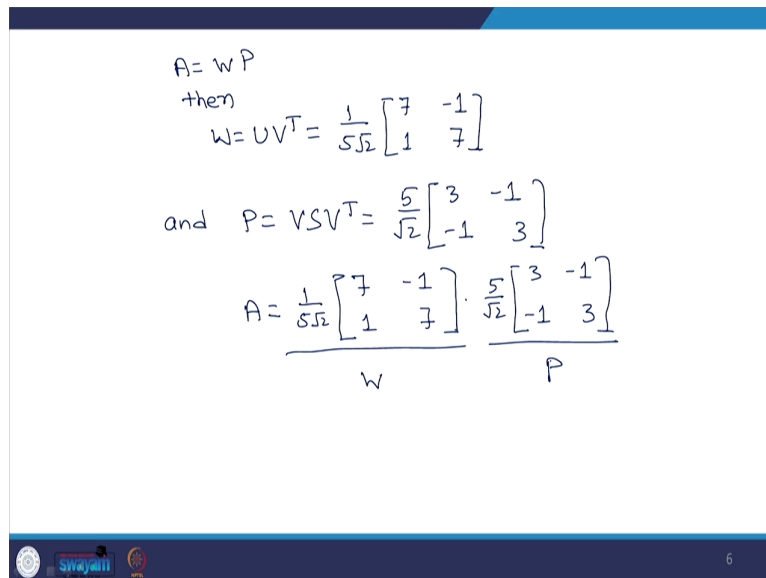
Now, the eigenvector of  $A^T A$  corresponding to eigenvalue 200 will be  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, -1)^T$  and then  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1)^T$ . Similarly another eigenvector corresponding to eigenvalue 50 will be. So, I am writing here orthonormal eigenvectors sorry. So,  $\frac{1}{5}(4, -3)^T$  and  $\frac{1}{5}(3, 4)^T$ .



Now, what I will be doing if I know  $v_1$   $v_2$  I can have  $u_1$  as  $A v_1$  upon  $\sigma_1$  and this comes out to be  $1$  by  $5$   $4$ , minus  $3$  transpose. Then  $u_2$  will be  $A v_2$  upon  $\sigma_2$  and this comes out to be  $1$  by  $5$   $3$ ,  $4$ . So, now, what I am having  $A$  equals to  $U S V^T$ .

So, now, what is matrix  $U$  here? That is  $1$  by  $5$   $4$  minus  $3$   $3$   $4$  and then  $S$  will be having the singular values. So,  $10$  root  $2$   $0$   $0$   $5$  root  $2$  and then  $V^T$ . So,  $V^T$  will become  $1$  by root  $2$  minus  $1$  by root  $2$   $1$  by root  $2$   $1$  by root  $2$  transpose. So, this is the singular value decomposition of the matrix  $A$ .

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Handwritten mathematical derivation on a slide:

$$A = W P$$

then

$$W = U V^T = \frac{1}{5\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -1 \\ 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$P = V S V^T = \frac{5}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \underbrace{\frac{1}{5\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -1 \\ 1 & 7 \end{bmatrix}}_W \cdot \underbrace{\frac{5}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}}_P$$

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Now, from here we will obtain the polar decomposition. So, in polar decomposition if  $A$  equals to  $W P$ , then what is  $W$ ?  $U$  into  $V^T$ . So, this comes out to be  $1$  upon  $5$  root  $2$   $7$  minus  $1$   $1$  and  $7$ . Similarly,  $P$  equals to  $V S V^T$ . So, this comes out to be  $5$  upon root  $2$   $3$  minus  $1$  minus  $1$  and  $3$ . And hence  $A$  equals to  $1$  upon  $5$  root  $2$   $7$  minus  $1$   $1$   $7$  into  $5$  by

root 2 3 minus 1 minus 1 3. So, you can observe this is your  $W$  and it is  $P$ . You can verify that  $W$  is an orthogonal matrix while  $P$  is a positive semi definite matrix. So, this is about the square matrices.

Now, consider the rectangular matrices. So, rectangular matrix is may be a tall matrix where you are having more number of rows then columns or a fatty matrix where you are having more number of columns than row. So, for that case we are in both the cases we are having different polar decomposition; one is called right polar decomposition and the second one is called left polar decomposition.

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Right Polar Decomposition (RPL):  
 Let  $A$  be a  $m \times n$  matrix, where  $m \geq n$ . Then, the right polar decomposition of  $A$  is  

$$A = UP$$
 where,  $U$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix with orthonormal columns and  $P$  is a  $n \times n$  positive semi definite matrix.

The diagram shows three matrices represented by boxes. The first box is labeled 'A' and is a tall rectangle. To its right is an equals sign. The second box is labeled 'U' and is also a tall rectangle. Below the 'U' box is the label 'm x n'. To the right of the 'U' box is a third box labeled 'P', which is a square. Below the 'P' box is the label 'n x n'. A checkmark is placed to the right of the 'P' box.

So, let us see what is right polar decomposition. So, let  $A$  be a  $m$  by  $n$  matrix, where  $m$  is greater than equals to  $n$ . Then, the right polar decomposition of  $A$  is  $A$  equals to  $UP$ . Where  $U$  is a  $m$  by  $n$  matrix with orthonormal columns and  $P$  is a  $n$  by  $n$  positive semi definite matrix.

Similarly, a so, what I want to say if  $A$  is a matrix which is having more number of rows. So, let us say this is your  $A$ . So, in right polar decomposition what I am having I am having a matrix  $U$  which is of the same size as  $A$  that is  $m$  by  $n$  and then I am having a square matrix  $n$  by  $n$  which is a positive semi definite matrix. So, such a decomposition is called right polar decomposition. And right means why right because here positive semi definite is in right in the decomposition.

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Left polar decomposition :-

Let  $A$  be a  $m \times n$  matrix, where  $m \leq n$ . Then, the left polar decomposition (LPD) of  $A$  is

$$A = H U$$

where,  $H$  is a  $m \times m$  PSD matrix and  $U$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix having orthonormal columns.

The diagram illustrates the equation  $A = H U$  using hand-drawn rectangles. The rectangle for  $A$  is on the left, followed by an equals sign, then the rectangle for  $H$  (which has a checkmark above it), and finally the rectangle for  $U$ .

The another decomposition is left polar decomposition. So, let  $A$  be a  $m$  by  $n$  matrix where  $m$  is less than  $n$  then the left polar decomposition. In short I will write LPD of  $A$  is  $A$  equals to  $HU$ ; where  $H$  is a  $m$  by  $m$  PSD means; positive semi definite matrix and  $U$  is a  $m$  by  $n$  matrix having orthonormal columns.

So, what I want to say here A is a fatty matrix; that is more number of columns, then this equals to a positive semi definite matrix H into a matrix U which is having orthonormal columns. So, why left? Because here h is coming in left which is the positive semi definite matrix.

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Ex. Find polar decomposition of  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 2}$

Sol. Here, we will be having right polar decomposition, i.e.

$$A = UP$$

where, P is a  $2 \times 2$  PSD matrix, and U is a  $3 \times 2$  matrix having orthonormal columns.

$$A^T A = \begin{pmatrix} 10 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = S B S^T$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{10} \\ 1/\sqrt{10} & -3/\sqrt{10} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3/\sqrt{10} & 1/\sqrt{10} \\ 1/\sqrt{10} & -3/\sqrt{10} \end{pmatrix}^T$$

$$P = \sqrt{A^T A} = S B^{1/2} S^T = \frac{1}{10} \begin{pmatrix} 9\sqrt{11}+1 & 3\sqrt{11}-3 \\ 3\sqrt{11}-3 & \sqrt{11}+9 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U = AP^{-1}$$

So, let us take some example of it. So, find polar decomposition of A equals to 3 1 0 1 1 0. So, it is a 3 by 2 matrix. So, let us come to the solution. So, here we are having more number of rows then column.

So, what we will be having? We will be having right polar decomposition. So, here we will be having right polar decomposition. That is A equals to U P where P is a 2 by 2 positive semi definite matrix and u is a 3 by 2 matrix having orthonormal columns. So, I will be having A

transpose  $A$ . So, this is the process first you find out the  $A$  transpose  $A$ . So, it comes out to be

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10 & 3 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, it is a symmetric matrix. So, I can always write the unitary decomposition of this matrix. So, it will be  $SBS^T$  where  $S$  is a unitary matrix and  $B$  is a diagonal matrix containing the eigenvalues of  $A$  and if I perform this decomposition this comes out to be  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \\ \sqrt{10} & 1 & \sqrt{10} \\ 1 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $B$  is here  $\begin{bmatrix} 11 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . So, this you can achieved by the diagonalization itself. And then the transpose of  $S$ ;  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \\ \sqrt{10} & 1 & \sqrt{10} \\ 1 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  transpose.

Now, what is  $P$ ? Actually, here  $P$  is a square root of  $A$  transpose  $A$  and then since  $A$  transpose  $A$  equals to  $SBS^T$ . So, what is the  $A$  square root of  $A$  transpose  $A$  by one of the application of diagonalization I can write  $S B^{1/2} S^T$ . Because if a matrix  $A$  transpose  $A$  is having eigenvalue  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and so on. Then the eigenvalues of a square root of  $A$  transpose  $A$  will be  $\sqrt{\lambda_1}, \sqrt{\lambda_2}$  and so on. And this comes out to be  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{10} & 9 \\ \sqrt{10} & 1 & 1 \\ 9 & 1 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$ . So, plus 1;  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \\ \sqrt{10} & 1 & \sqrt{10} \\ 1 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  minus  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \\ \sqrt{10} & 1 & \sqrt{10} \\ 1 & \sqrt{10} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  plus 9. So, this is your matrix  $P$ .

Now, you are having  $P$ . So, you have to calculate  $U$ . So,  $U$  will become  $A$  into  $P$  inverse.  $A$  is with  $U P$  inverse you can calculate from here. So, you will find out your matrix  $A$  also and in that way the polar decomposition will become  $A$  equals to  $U$  into  $P$ .

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Ex.  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$

$A = HU$

where,

$H = \sqrt{AA^T} = S B^{1/2} S^T$ , where  $AA^T = S B S^T$

$AA^T = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}^T$

Therefore

$H = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{3}+1 & \sqrt{3}-1 \\ \sqrt{3}-1 & \sqrt{3}+1 \end{bmatrix}$

$U = H^{-1}A$

So, this is the way for finding the right polar decomposition. Example, if you are having a matrix let us say A equals to 1 0 1 1 1 0. So, it is a 2 by 3 matrix and I need to find out the polar decomposition. So, polar decomposition will be here left polar decomposition H into U; where h is a positive semi definite matrix of size 2 by 2 and U will be a 2 by 3 matrix having orthonormal columns.

So, here H will be square root of A into A transpose which is SB raise to power half into s transpose where A into A transpose equals to SBS transpose. So, if I calculate A into A transpose here; it comes out to be 2 1 1 2 and then 1 by root 2 1 1 1 minus 1 3 0 0 1 and then 1 by root 2 1 1 1 minus 1 transpose. So, then therefore, what will be H? H will become this into the B raise to power half.

So,  $B$  raised to power half will be having this diagonalization matrix has root 3 0 0 root 1; that is the 1. So, and then this matrix. So, it comes out to be  $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{3} + 1, \sqrt{3} - 1, \sqrt{3} - 1)$  and then  $\sqrt{3} + 1$ . So, once you are having  $H$  then your  $U$  will become  $H$  inverse into  $A$  and by calculating this  $U$  you can write the polar decomposition of the matrix  $A$ .

So, in this lecture we have learned about polar decomposition; means how to do polar decomposition of a square matrix, how to do polar decomposition of a rectangular matrix and what is the relevance of polar decomposition with singular value decomposition.

So, we are having many applications of this polar decomposition like in machine learning in computer graphics and so on. Because it is a matrix factorization something like in terms of an orthogonal matrix and a positive semi-definite matrix. And that you can utilize in many of the learning algorithms. So, these are the references

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Thank you.