

# Introduction to Information Retrieval

<http://informationretrieval.org>

## IIR 18: Latent Semantic Indexing

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# Overview

- 1 Latent semantic indexing
- 2 Dimensionality reduction
- 3 LSI in information retrieval

# Outline

- 1 Latent semantic indexing
- 2 Dimensionality reduction
- 3 LSI in information retrieval

# Recall: Term-document matrix

|           | Anthony<br>and<br>Cleopatra | Julius<br>Caesar | The<br>Tempest | Hamlet | Othello | Macbeth |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|
| anthony   | 5.25                        | 3.18             | 0.0            | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.35    |
| brutus    | 1.21                        | 6.10             | 0.0            | 1.0    | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| caesar    | 8.59                        | 2.54             | 0.0            | 1.51   | 0.25    | 0.0     |
| calpurnia | 0.0                         | 1.54             | 0.0            | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| cleopatra | 2.85                        | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| mercy     | 1.51                        | 0.0              | 1.90           | 0.12   | 5.25    | 0.88    |
| worser    | 1.37                        | 0.0              | 0.11           | 4.15   | 0.25    | 1.95    |
| ...       |                             |                  |                |        |         |         |

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| calpurnia | 0.0                         | 1.54             | 0.0            | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| cleopatra | 2.85                        | 0.0              | 0.0            | 0.0    | 0.0     | 0.0     |
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This matrix is the basis for computing [the similarity between documents and queries](#).

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| ...       |                             |                  |                |        |         |         |

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Today: Can we transform this matrix, so that we get a [better measure of similarity](#) between documents and queries?

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- SVD:  $C = U\Sigma V^T$  (where  $C$  = term-document matrix)
- We will then use the SVD to compute a **new, improved term-document matrix**  $C'$ .
- We'll get **better similarity** values out of  $C'$  (compared to  $C$ ).
- Using SVD for this purpose is called **latent semantic indexing** or LSI.

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

| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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     |

This is a standard term-document matrix.

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| 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     |

This is a standard term-document matrix.

Actually, we use a non-weighted matrix here to simplify the 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  |
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(ii) Any two distinct row vectors are orthogonal to each other.

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

| $\Sigma$ | 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 |

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This is a **square, diagonal matrix** of dimensionality  $\min(M, N) \times \min(M, N)$ .

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| 2        | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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The diagonal consists of the **singular values** of  $C$ .

The magnitude of the singular value measures the **importance of the corresponding semantic dimension**.

We'll make use of this by **omitting unimportant dimensions**.

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  |
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These are again the semantic dimensions from the term matrix  $U$  that capture distinct topics like politics, sports, economics.

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# Example of $C = U\Sigma V^T$ : All four matrices

| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$    |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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        |      |      |      |      |      |
| $U$   | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | $\Sigma$ | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |
| ship  | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  | 1        | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| boat  | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0.00  | 0.73  | 2        | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ocean | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0.00  | -0.61 | 3        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| wood  | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  | 4        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| tree  | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 | 5        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 |
| $V^T$ | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$    |      |      |      |      |      |
| 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    |      |      |      |      |      |
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- The singular value matrix  $\Sigma$  – diagonal matrix with singular values, reflecting importance of each dimension
- Next: Why are we doing this?

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- These details may
  - be **noise** – in that case, reduced LSI is a better representation because it is less noisy
  - **make things dissimilar that should be similar** – again reduced LSI is a better representation because it represents similarity better.

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- By setting less important dimensions to zero, we keep the important information, but get rid of the “details”.
- These details may
  - be **noise** – in that case, reduced LSI is a better representation because it is less noisy
  - **make things dissimilar that should be similar** – again reduced LSI is a better representation because it represents similarity better.
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  - Image of a bright red flower
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  - Omitting color makes it easier to see similarity



# Reducing the dimensionality to 2

| $U$        | 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  |       |
| $\Sigma_2$ | 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  |

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| $\Sigma_2$ | 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  |       |       |       |       |
| 4          | 0.00  | 0.00  |       |       |       |       |
| 5          | 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          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 4          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 5          |       |       |       |       |       |       |

Actually, we only zero out singular values in  $\Sigma$ . This has the effect of setting the corresponding dimensions in  $U$  and  $V^T$  to zero when computing the product  $C = U\Sigma V^T$ .

# Reducing the dimensionality to 2

| $C_2$ | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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       |      |      |      |      |      |
| $U$   | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | $\Sigma_2$ | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |
| ship  | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  | 1          | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| boat  | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0.00  | 0.73  | 2          | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ocean | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0.00  | -0.61 | 3          | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| wood  | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  | 4          | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| tree  | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 | 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     | 0.28  | -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      |      |      |      |      |      |

Recall unreduced decomposition  $C = U\Sigma V^T$ 

| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$    |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 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        |      |      |      |      |      |
| $U$   | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | $\Sigma$ | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |
| ship  | -0.44 | -0.30 | 0.57  | 0.58  | 0.25  | 1        | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| boat  | -0.13 | -0.33 | -0.59 | 0.00  | 0.73  | 2        | 0.00 | 1.59 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ocean | -0.48 | -0.51 | -0.37 | 0.00  | -0.61 | 3        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| wood  | -0.70 | 0.35  | 0.15  | -0.58 | 0.16  | 4        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| tree  | -0.26 | 0.65  | -0.41 | 0.58  | -0.09 | 5        | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 |
| $V^T$ | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$    |      |      |      |      |      |
| 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    |      |      |      |      |      |

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 |
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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  |

We can view  $C_2$  as a **two-dimensional** representation of the matrix. We have performed a **dimensionality reduction** to two dimensions.

# Why the reduced matrix is “better”

| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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  |
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| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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     |

Similarity of  $d_2$  and  $d_3$  in the original space: 0.

| $C_2$ | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ship  | 0.85  | 0.52  | 0.28  | 0.13  | 0.21  | -0.08 |
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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ship  | 1     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
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| ocean | 1     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
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| tree  | 0.12  | -0.39 | -0.08 | 0.90  | 0.41  | 0.49  |

Similarity of  $d_2$  and  $d_3$  in the original space: 0.

Similarity of  $d_2$  and  $d_3$  in the reduced space:  $0.52 * 0.28 + 0.36 * 0.16 + 0.72 * 0.36 + 0.12 * 0.20 + -0.39 * -0.08 \approx 0.52$

# Why the reduced matrix is “better”

| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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     |

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“boat” and “ship” are semantically similar. The “reduced” similarity measure reflects this.

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| $C$   | $d_1$ | $d_2$ | $d_3$ | $d_4$ | $d_5$ | $d_6$ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 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     |

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“boat” and “ship” are semantically similar. The “reduced” similarity measure reflects this.

What property of the SVD reduction is responsible for improved similarity?

**LSA Demo in Matlab**

# Outline

- 1 Latent semantic indexing
- 2 Dimensionality reduction
- 3 LSI in information retrieval

# Why we use LSI in information retrieval

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- ... and re-represents them in a reduced vector space ...
- ... in which they have higher similarity.
- Thus, LSI addresses the problems of **synonymy** and **semantic relatedness**.
- Standard vector space: Synonyms contribute nothing to document similarity.
- Desired effect of LSI: Synonyms contribute strongly to document similarity.

# How LSI addresses synonymy and semantic relatedness

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- The dimensionality reduction forces us to omit a lot of “detail”.
- We have to map different words (= different dimensions of the full space) to the same dimension in the reduced space.
- The “cost” of mapping synonyms to the same dimension is much less than the cost of collapsing unrelated words.
- SVD selects the “least costly” mapping (see below).
- Thus, it will map synonyms to the same dimension.
- But it will avoid doing that for unrelated words.