



INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS (PCA)

INT301 Bio-computation, Week 10, 2025



Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- If v is a nonzero vector and λ is a number such that

$$Av = \lambda v$$

then v is said to be an *eigenvector* of A with *eigenvalue* λ .

Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

λ (eigenvalues)

↑
 A

↑
 V (eigenvectors)

Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

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

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

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?

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

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

with at most m distinct λ values

Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

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

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

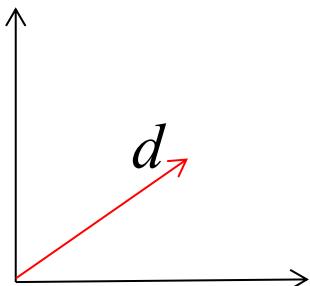
All eigenvalues of a real symmetric matrix are **real**.

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

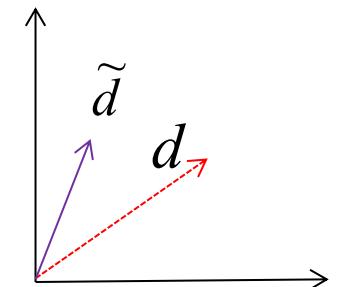
$$\overbrace{\forall w \in \Re^n, w^T S w \geq 0}^{\text{then if } Sv = \lambda v \Rightarrow \lambda \geq 0}$$

Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors



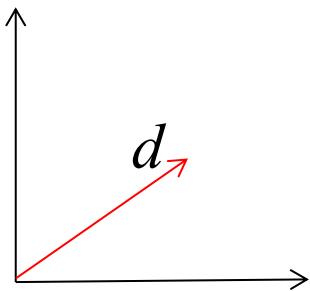
$$S = S^T, \quad S\mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i, (\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 0.5)$$
$$S\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} S(1,1), S(1,2) \\ S(2,1), S(2,2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d(1) \\ d(2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S(1,1)d(1) + S(1,2)d(2) \\ S(2,1)d(1) + S(2,2)d(2) \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{\mathbf{d}}$$



v_1

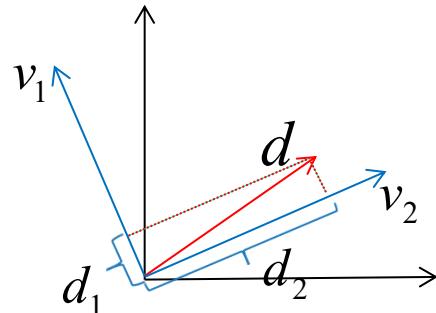
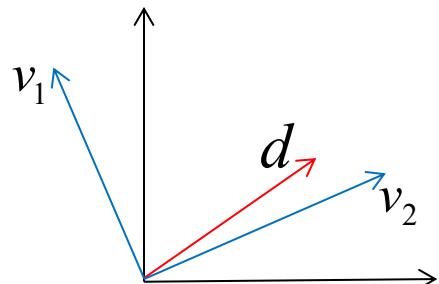
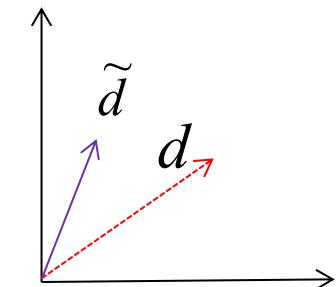
Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

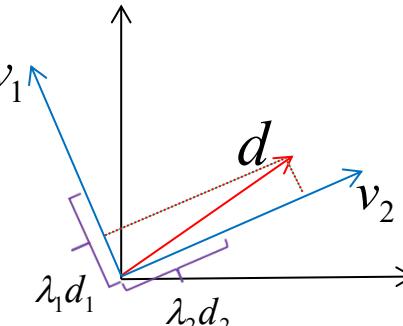


$$S = S^T, \quad S\mathbf{v}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i, (\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 0.5)$$

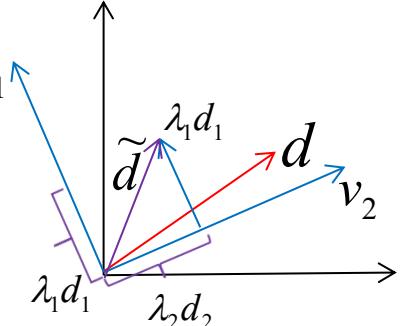
$$Sd = \begin{bmatrix} S(1,1), S(1,2) \\ S(2,1), S(2,2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d(1) \\ d(2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S(1,1)d(1) + S(1,2)d(2) \\ S(2,1)d(1) + S(2,2)d(2) \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{d}$$



Projection on the eigenvectors



Scaling with eigenvalues



Vector addition

Preliminary Knowledge

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Let

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

← Real, symmetric.

- Then $S - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow (2 - \lambda)^2 - 1 = 0.$
- The eigenvalues are 1 and 3 (nonnegative, real).
- The eigenvectors are orthogonal (and real):

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

Substitute these values
and solve for
eigenvectors.

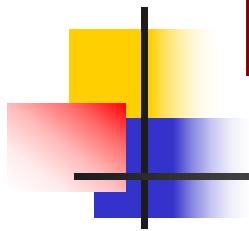
Diagonal Decomposition

- Let $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ be a **square** matrix with **m linearly independent eigenvectors**
- Theorem:** Exists an **eigen decomposition**

$$S = U \overset{\text{diagonal}}{\Lambda} U^{-1}$$

- (matrix diagonalization theorem)
- Columns of \mathbf{U} are **eigenvectors** of S
- Diagonal elements of Λ are **eigenvalues** of S
 $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m), \quad \lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$

Unique
for
distinct
eigen-
values



Diagonal Decomposition

Write \mathbf{U} with the eigenvectors as columns: $U = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_m \end{bmatrix}$

Then, $\mathbf{S}\mathbf{U}$ can be written

$$SU = S \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 v_1 & \dots & \lambda_m v_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & \dots & v_m \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_m \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

Diagonal Decomposition

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

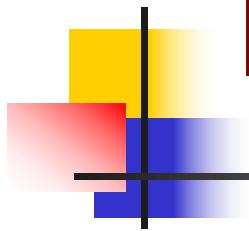
The eigenvectors $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ form $U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Inverting U, we have

$$U^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Recall
 $UU^{-1} = I$.

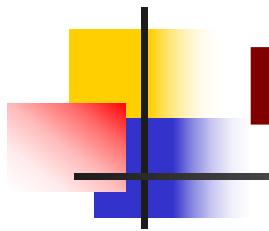
Then, $S = U\Lambda U^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & -1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$



Diagonal Decomposition

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

$$\text{Then, } \mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{Q} \qquad \Lambda \qquad (\mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \mathbf{Q}^T)$$



Symmetric Diagonal Decomposition

- **Theorem:** If $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ is a **symmetric** matrix, there exists an **eigen decomposition**, where Q is **orthogonal**:

$$S = Q\Lambda Q^T$$

- $Q^{-1} = Q^T$
- Columns of Q are normalized eigenvectors
- Columns are orthogonal.
- (everything is real)

Singular Value Decomposition

For an $m \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} of rank r , there exists a factorization (Singular Value Decomposition = **SVD**) as follows:

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

The diagram illustrates the SVD factorization $A = U\Sigma V^T$. It shows three boxes below the equation: the first box contains $m \times m$, the second box contains $m \times n$, nonnegative real, and the third box contains $n \times n$. Arrows point from each dimension to its respective matrix in the factorization: an arrow from $m \times m$ points to U , an arrow from $m \times n$ points to Σ , and an arrow from $n \times n$ points to V^T .

The columns of U are orthogonal eigenvectors of \mathbf{AA}^T .

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

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

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

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

Singular values.

Singular Value Decomposition

- Illustration of SVD dimensions and

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

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

Singular Value Decomposition

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

Thus $m=3, n=2$. Its SVD is

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

Dimensionality Reduction

- One approach to deal with high dimensional data is by reducing their dimensionality.
- Project high dimensional data onto a lower dimensional **subspace** using linear or non-linear transformations.

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \dots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Reduce dimensionality}} y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \dots \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} \quad (K \ll N)$$

- Linear transformations are simple to compute

$$Y = U X \quad (b_i = u_i^t a_i)$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$
 $k \times 1 \quad k \times d \quad d \times 1 \quad (k \ll d)$

Dimensionality Reduction

- **Find a basis in a low dimensional sub-space:**

- Approximate vectors by projecting them in a low dimensional sub-space:

(1) Original space representation:

$$x = a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2 + \dots + a_N v_N$$

where v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n is a base in the original N-dimensional space

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \dots \\ a_N \end{bmatrix}$$

(2) Lower-dimensional sub-space representation:

$$\hat{x} = b_1 u_1 + b_2 u_2 + \dots + b_K u_K$$

where u_1, u_2, \dots, u_K is a base in the K -dimensional sub-space ($K < N$)

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \dots \\ b_k \end{bmatrix}$$

Dimensionality Reduction

- If $K=N$, then $\hat{x} = x$
- Example ($K=N$):

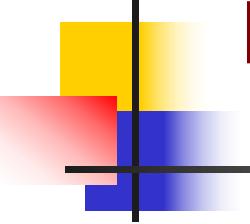
$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, v_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (standard basis)}$$

$$x_v = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3v_1 + 3v_2 + 3v_3$$

$$u_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, u_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, u_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (some other basis)}$$

$$x_u = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 0u_1 + 0u_2 + 3u_3$$

thus, $x_v = x_u$



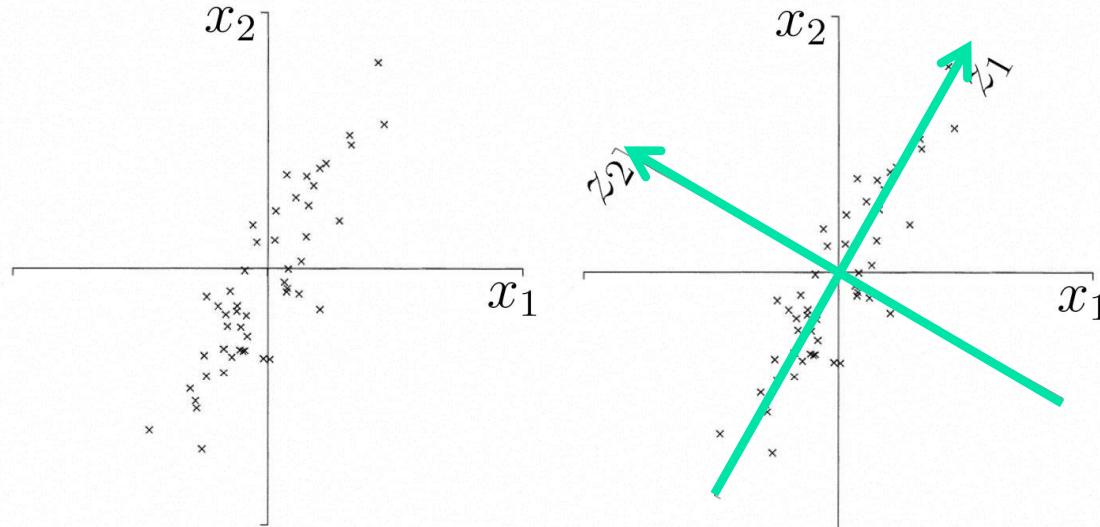
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Each dimensionality reduction technique finds an *appropriate transformation* by satisfying certain criteria (e.g., *information loss*, *data discrimination*, etc.)
- The goal of PCA is to reduce the dimensionality of the data while *retaining as much as possible of the variation present in the dataset.*

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Motivation

- Find bases which has high variance in data
- Encode data with small number of bases with low MSE



- First PC is direction of maximum variance
- Subsequent PCs are orthogonal to 1st PC and describe maximum residual variance

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Assume that $E[\mathbf{x}] = \mathbf{0}$ $a = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x}$ $\|\mathbf{q}\| = (\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q})^{1/2} = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \sigma^2 &= E[a^2] - E[a]^2 = E[a^2] \\ &= E[(\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{q})] = \mathbf{q}^T E[\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T] \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{q} \end{aligned}$$

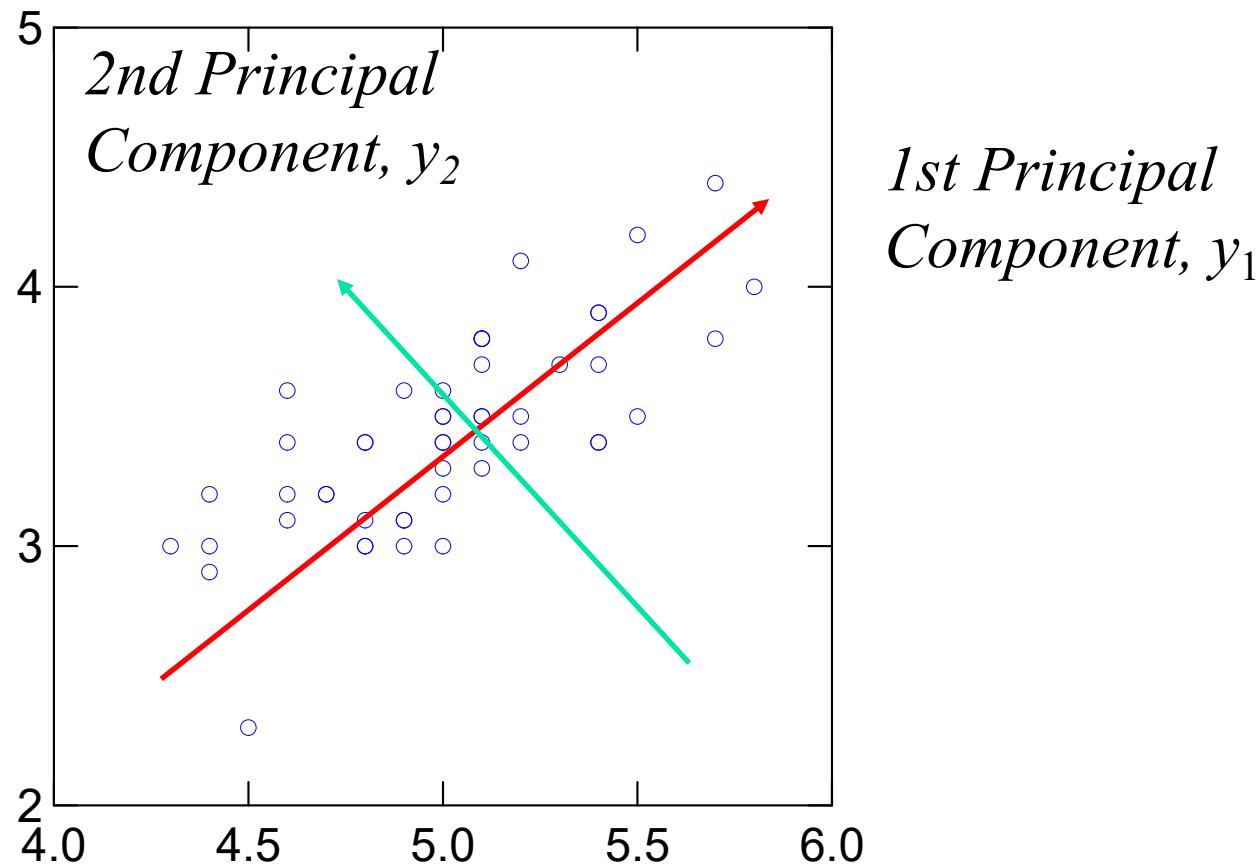
Find q's maximizing variance!!

It can be shown that variance is maximized when q is the principal component of R.

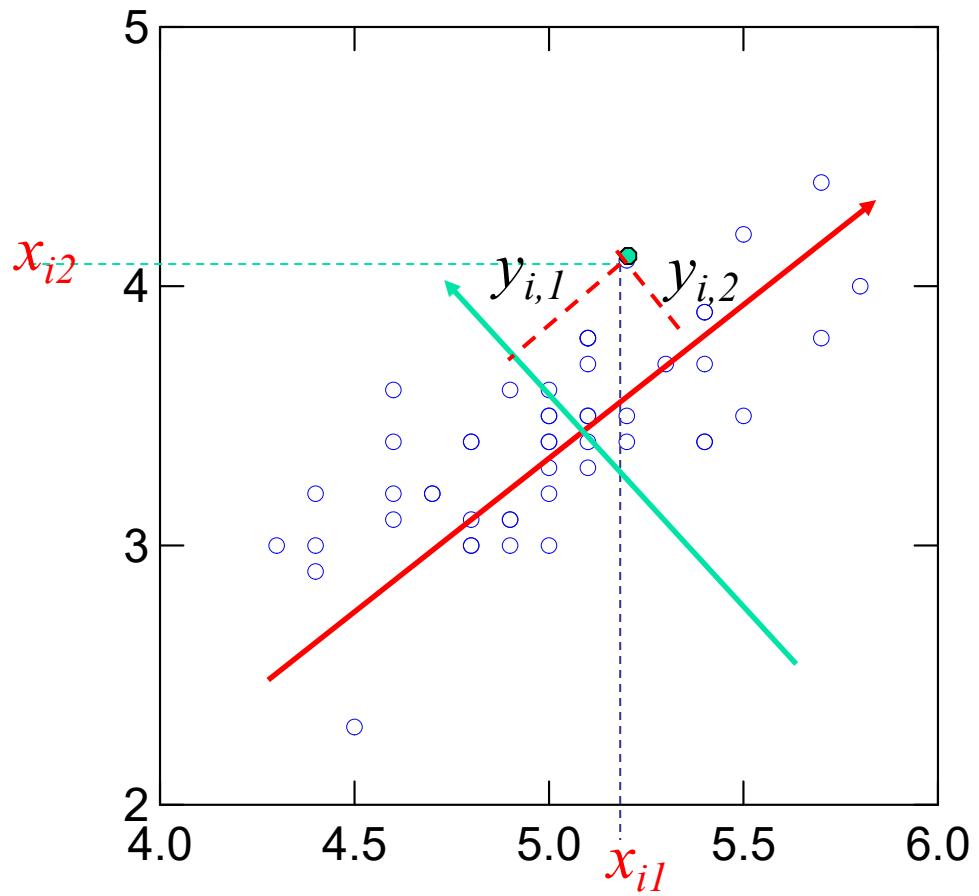
Principal component q can be obtained by **eigenvector decomposition**:

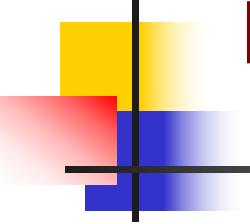
$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Q} \Lambda \mathbf{Q}^T, \quad \mathbf{Q} = [\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2, \dots, \mathbf{q}_j, \dots, \mathbf{q}_m], \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}[\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_j, \dots, \lambda_m]$$
$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{R} \mathbf{q}_j = \lambda_j \mathbf{q}_j \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{R} \mathbf{q} = \lambda \mathbf{q}$$

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)



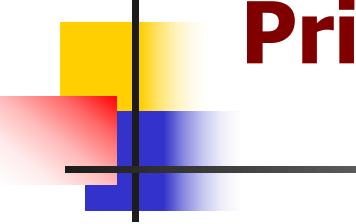
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)





Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Advantage
 - Reduce the dimension of the original data
 - reduce time consumption in the training process, and improve efficiency
 - Discard some information of the original data
 - if this information is noise



Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

■ Limitation

- Discard some information of the original data
 - if the discarded information is important, it is not appropriate to apply PCA
- The meaning of the principal component
 - PC or basis may not be interpretable
- Linear model of PCA
 - not suitable for nonlinear problem
- Assume first PC has higher importance

Case study: Eigenface

Face image: high-dimensional vector

face image = linear combination of eigenvectors

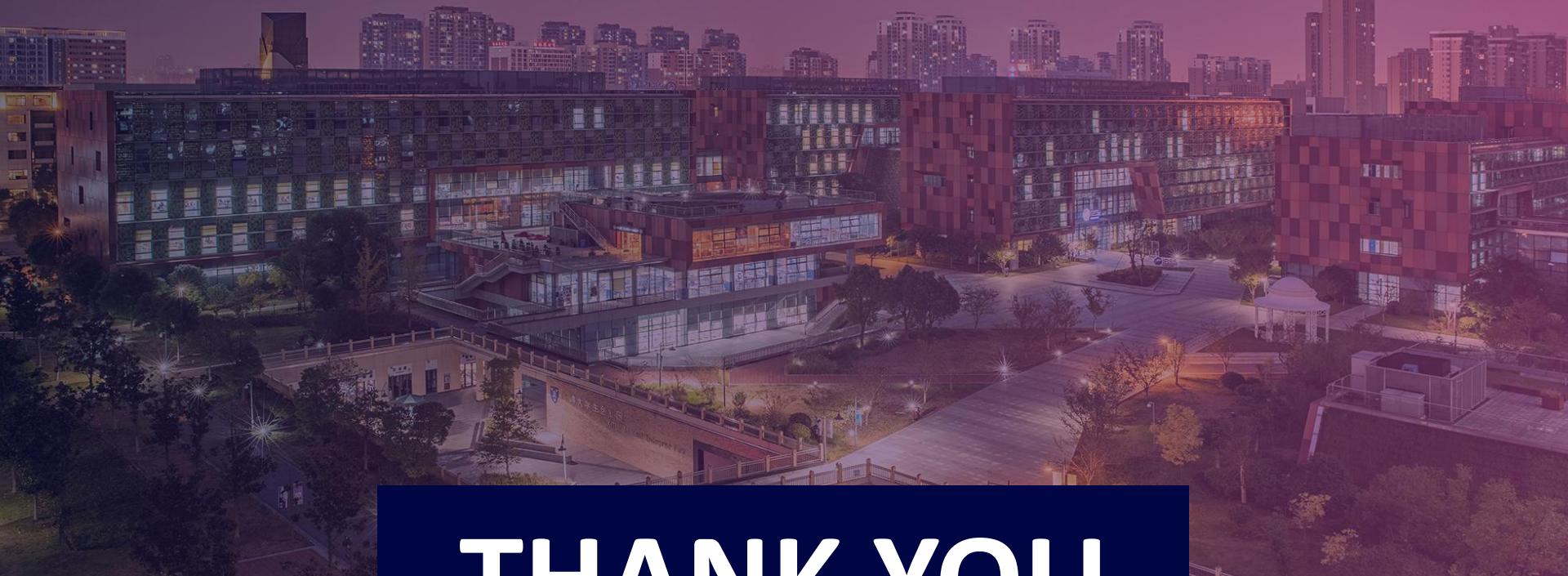
The eigenvectors can be viewed as images.

Eigenfaces:



$$\text{Original face image} = 0.9571 * b_1 - 0.1945 * b_2 + 0.0461 * b_3 + 0.0586 * b_4$$

Original
face image



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