PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS OF A BREAST CANCER DATASET USING R & RSTUDIO FOR DIMENSION REDUCTION

BY

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A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES, LANDMARK UNIVERSITY.

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.

JULY 2023

DECLARATION

I, **ALADELE THEOPHILUS EXCELLENT**, hereby declare that the research project submitted for evaluation for the award of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in **COMPUTER SCIENCE** was carried out by me.

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ALADELE THEOPHILUS EXCELLENT   **DATE**

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that **ALADELE THEOPHILUS EXCELLENT** with matriculation number **16CD004588** has carried out this research project in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science in the College of Pure and Applied Sciences, Landmark University.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to the Almighty God, for his guidance, wisdom, grace, strength, and patience granted to me during this period of this project. I also dedicate this project to my family, most especially my parents, Mr and Mrs. Aladele for their constant love and support for me.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge God Almighty for His eternal love, strength, protection, provision, and guidance up till this very moment. I really appreciate my supervisors, most especially Dr. Marion O. Adebiyi and Dr Oladayo Atanda, for their contribution to the success of this project. I also want to thank Dr Acho also for her input and assistance. I appreciate the department of Computer Science, Landmark University, for its thriving educational environment and my project members' assistance. Finally, I appreciate my parents, Mr and Mrs Aladele for their endless support in every area and their constant encouragement and funding of my educational studies. I am forever grateful.

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ABSTRACT

This research delves into the pivotal realm of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) in the context of biological data analysis. As high-dimensional datasets continue to inundate genomics and proteomics, the need for robust dimensionality reduction techniques becomes increasingly apparent. The exponential growth of biological data has led to a dire need for tools that can distill the signal from the noise. Traditional approaches struggle to handle the complexity, and the challenge lies in identifying which variables are crucial for understanding the biological context.

The aim of this study is to harness the power of PCA in reducing dimensionality while retaining essential biological information, thus providing a vital tool for researchers navigating the sea of biological data. Employing R/RStudio and dimension reduction packages, we conducted PCA on a vast dataset. Data preprocessing and normalization ensured robust analysis. Our analysis extends to the biological interpretation of the principal components, drawing connections between gene expression patterns and underlying biological phenomena.

The PCA results unveil the intricate relationships within the data, highlighting significant genes, pathways, or clusters of samples that have remained latent in the high-dimensional space. Notable principal components offer a glimpse into the biological significance of the dataset. This research illuminates the potential of PCA as a dimensionality reduction tool for biological data. By unveiling hidden patterns, it offers insights that can steer future experiments, direct research hypotheses, and guide further exploration. In a data-rich world, PCA emerges as a beacon of clarity, promising to enhance our understanding of the biological universe.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The exponential growth of data across a range of industries, from biology to banking, has highlighted the significance of effective data analysis techniques. The difficulty of interpreting and displaying datasets increases as they become more complicated and include more variables or features (Smith, 2018). The "curse of dimensionality," a phenomenon where data becomes sparse and conventional analytic methods become useless or even deceptive, might result from this expansion in data dimensionality, which also raises computational costs (Jones et al., 2019). Dimensionality reduction stands out as an essential remedy in this situation. Among the methods used for this, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) stands out as one of the most popular. By using a statistical technique called principal component analysis (PCA), data can be represented in a reduced-dimensional space without suffering a major loss of information by pinpointing the dataset's axes (or "principal components") that optimize variance (Wang & Zhang, 2020). In addition to assisting with data visualization, this procedure also prepares data for use in other machine learning activities, potentially enhancing model accuracy and effectiveness.

The R programming language, celebrated for its robust statistical and data analysis capabilities, provides comprehensive support for PCA. Moreover, with the advent of the dimension reduction packages, R's prowess extends further into the realm of biological data analysis. Given the expanding datasets in fields like genomics and the concomitant need for efficient data interpretation tools, the relevance of PCA, especially when combined with platforms like R and RStudio, has never been higher. This study delves into the application of PCA for dimension reduction using the R and RStudio, a conjunction that promises effective data interpretation and valuable insights (Liu & Smith, 2021).

The onset of the digital age has brought with it an unprecedented influx of data. This 'data deluge' presents both opportunities and challenges. While larger datasets can offer richer insights, they also become harder to manage and interpret, especially when they span across multiple dimensions. This complexity is further amplified in fields like genomics, proteomics, and other high-throughput biological studies, where thousands of variables might be recorded for a single sample (Shah & Murthi, 2021).

Dimensionality reduction is not just a matter of convenience or computational efficiency; it's a necessity for extracting meaningful patterns from such high-dimensional data. PCA, being a linear method, offers an advantage by projecting the original data onto a lower-dimensional space, preserving as much variability as possible. This reduction facilitates clearer visualizations, more efficient storage, and improved computational performances for subsequent analysis, such as clustering or classification.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the contemporary landscape of research, data is both an asset and a challenge. The quantity and complexity of data generated, especially in fields like genomics and bioinformatics, have grown exponentially (Ahmad et al., 2022). This vast amount of high-dimensional data poses significant hurdles in its management, interpretation, and visualization. Traditional data analysis methods often struggle to cope with this magnitude and complexity, leading to inefficiencies, increased computational costs, and at times, misleading conclusions.

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) has emerged as a powerful tool for dimensionality reduction, aiding in both visualization and data preprocessing for further analyses. (Hajibabaee et al., 2023). However, while the theoretical underpinnings of PCA are well-established, its application to specific types of complex biological datasets remains fraught with challenges. For instance, datasets in genomics often carry unique structures, correlations, and inherent noise that standard PCA implementations might not handle optimally (Malik et al., 2020).

Moreover, while the R programming language is a go-to tool for many researchers, its potential in handling PCA for intricate biological datasets, especially with the aid of the dimension reduction packages, remains underexplored. (Sepulveda et al., 2020). There is a gap in comprehensive, user-friendly guides and methodologies that meld the strengths of R and RStudio, and PCA, tailored for high-throughput biological data.

This study aims to address the aforementioned challenges by developing and elucidating a robust methodology for conducting PCA on biological datasets using the R/RStudio dimension packages. The objective is to bridge the current knowledge gap, providing researchers with a streamlined approach to harness the power of PCA in R, optimized for the unique intricacies of biological data.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to use PCA algorithm in R/RStudio and use dimension Packages for dimension reduction of a dataset.

Objectives:

1. Design a step-by-step procedure for PCA in R using the dimension reduction packages.

2. To implement the designed system.

3. To compare and interpret our result of PCA (the reduced dataset).

1.4 Significance of the Study

The burgeoning complexity of biological datasets underscores the urgency for refined analysis techniques. The significance of this study lies in:

1. Efficient Data Interpretation: Proposing a methodology that simplifies interpretation of high-dimensional biological data, ensuring meaningful insights are readily accessible.

2. Resource Optimization: Delivering a PCA approach that yields accurate results promptly, conserving time and computational resources.

3. Knowledge Contribution: Addressing a noticeable gap by synergizing R's and dimension reduction packages with PCA, offering a tangible guide for professionals in biological data analysis.

4. Foundation for Future Work: Setting a robust groundwork for subsequent research, paving the way for enhanced understanding of intricate biological datasets.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study concentrates on applying Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to high-dimensional biological datasets from genomics and proteomics using the R programming language, specifically dimension reduction packages. The research emphasizes global datasets published within the last five years, ensuring contemporary relevance. While various dimensionality reduction techniques exist, the investigation primarily revolves around PCA. The resultant methodology, while potentially having broader implications, is tailored mainly for academic and research applications.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

1. Tool Dependency: The study heavily relies on the R programming language and the dimension reduction packages. Results and methodologies might not be directly transferable to other platforms or software.

2. Data Source: While the research focuses on high-dimensional biological datasets, the nuances of datasets from other fields might not be entirely addressed.

3. Methodology Specificity: The study emphasizes PCA as the primary dimensionality reduction technique, possibly overlooking the intricacies and advantages of alternative methods.

4. Temporal Constraint: By focusing on datasets published within the last five years, older, yet potentially relevant data might be excluded.

5. Generalization: The developed methodology, while robust, might not be universally applicable across all types of biological datasets without modifications.

1.7 Justification of the Study

The surge in high-dimensional biological datasets demands advanced analytical techniques like PCA. Currently, a cohesive methodology using R's dimension reduction packages for such datasets is scarce. This study seeks to exploit the synergy of R and RStudio, offering a specialized solution for enhanced data interpretation. Addressing this gap not only provides researchers with a vital tool but also has the potential to usher in significant breakthroughs in biological research domains.

1.8 Arrangement of Chapters

Chapter 1: (Introduction)

- Provides a comprehensive introduction to the research topic.
- Covers the background, statement of the problem, aim and objectives, significance, justification, scope, limitations, and arrangement of the study.

Chapter 2: (Literature Review)

- Reviews existing literature relevant to PCA, high-dimensional biological datasets, and the R/RStudio dimension reduction packages.
- Highlights gaps in current methodologies and the need for the present research.

Chapter 3: (Methodology)

- Delves deep into the research methods employed.
- Describes the data selection, preprocessing steps, PCA implementation using R/RStudio, and dimension reduction packages with evaluation techniques.

Chapter 4: (Results and Discussion)

- Presents the findings obtained from applying the developed methodology.
- Discusses the implications, significance, and contrasts with existing methods.

Chapter 5: (Conclusion and Recommendations)

- Summarizes the key findings of the research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview of Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a statistical procedure that has established itself as a cornerstone in the realm of data analysis, especially in handling high-dimensional data. This technique transforms the original variables of a dataset into a new set of uncorrelated variables called principal components, which are ordered by the amount of variance they capture from the original data (Martin & Williams, 2021).

PCA prominence stems from its ability to reduce dimensionality while retaining most of the data's original variance, making it particularly invaluable for visualizing and interpreting complex datasets. (Abbas et al., 2023) As datasets in various fields continue to expand in complexity, the relevance and application of PCA are more critical than ever

In recent years, the utility of PCA has grown beyond traditional data analysis, finding applications in diverse areas such as image processing, genomics, and finance. Its adaptability stems from its foundational principle: to represent data in lower dimensions while preserving as much of its original information as possible (Abelson & Hughes, 2021). As technologies advance and data sources proliferate, capturing the essence of data without being overwhelmed by its volume becomes indispensable.

Moreover, the integration of PCA with modern computational tools, especially languages like R, has broadened its accessibility and ease of application. The R environment, in particular, has seen a surge in packages and tools that fine-tune PCA for specific data types, highlighting the technique's continued evolution and relevance in today's data-centric

2.2 Historical review of Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Principal Component Analysis, commonly known as PCA, has its origins rooted in the early stages of the 20th century. (Aït-Sahalia et al., 2019) Karl Pearson, a pioneering statistician, first introduced the technique around 1901 as a methodological approach designed to transform a set of possibly correlated variables into a smaller set of uncorrelated variables, known as principal components. This groundbreaking method was primarily aimed at simplifying the complexity in multivariate data without a significant loss of information.

In the subsequent decades, particularly during the 1930s, Harold Hotelling played a monumental role in refining and expanding PCA. (Kostelecká et al., 2022) Through his works, the mathematical and statistical underpinnings of PCA were solidified, making it more accessible and applicable to a broader range of disciplines. His contributions also paved the way for the technique's utilization in various analytical studies, particularly in discerning underlying patterns in complex datasets.

While the initial applications of PCA were largely concentrated within the realms of psychology and sociology, its potential was quickly recognized across diverse scientific fields. Researchers realized the power of PCA in identifying latent or hidden variables in their data, providing insights that were previously elusive. As the 20th century progressed, the advent of computers and enhanced computational capabilities played a pivotal role in popularizing PCA. No longer limited by manual calculations, researchers started applying PCA to larger and more complex datasets, especially in genomics, economics, and environmental science. The technique proved invaluable in deciphering patterns, trends, and relationships within these datasets, further cementing its stature as an indispensable tool in multivariate analysis. Today, while PCA is just one among a plethora of dimensionality reduction techniques available to researchers, its historical significance, intuitive nature, and adaptability ensure its continued relevance and application across disciplines.

2.3 The Rise of High-dimensional Biological Datasets

At the dawn of the 21st century, the biological sciences witnessed a transformative shift, primarily driven by advancements in high-throughput technologies and computational biology. These advancements birthed an era where biological data could be generated on an unprecedented scale. (Pammi et al., 2023). The completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003 was emblematic of this revolution. Instead of focusing on individual genes or proteins, researchers could now capture the entirety of an organism's genetic makeup, offering a more holistic view of biological systems.

This shift wasn't confined to genomics. Across multiple biological domains, including transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics, there was a surge in data acquisition. (Iturria-Medina et al., 2022). Each cell's snapshot, once perceived through narrow slits of data, was now viewed as a comprehensive panorama, encompassing everything from gene expression patterns to intricate protein interactions and metabolic pathways. These high-dimensional datasets promised a more in-depth understanding of biological processes, disease mechanisms, and even evolutionary trajectories.

However, the promise of these datasets was accompanied by significant challenges. Traditional analysis tools and methodologies, which worked efficiently for smaller, less complex datasets, suddenly found themselves overwhelmed. Data storage, management, and processing required not just more substantial computational resources but also innovative algorithms and techniques. Visualizing such expansive datasets became a formidable challenge, and extracting meaningful biological insights from them required a paradigm shift in data analysis strategies. (Zhang et al., 2023).

Recognizing these challenges, the scientific community responded with vigor. New algorithms, tools, and platforms were developed, specifically tailored for high-dimensional data. Among these, dimensionality reduction techniques, like PCA, stood out. They allowed researchers to distill the essence of vast datasets, transforming them into more manageable and interpretable forms. Specialized software packages, particularly in the R programming environment, were developed to handle, analyze, and visualize this data. In essence, the rise of high-dimensional biological datasets not only pushed the boundaries of what I could achieve with biological data but also catalyzed innovations that ensured I was equipped to navigate this new frontier.

2.4 Dimensionality Reduction in Biological Data Analysis

The advent of high-throughput technologies in biology resulted in a data deluge. Genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic, and other '-omics' fields began churning out vast volumes of data, characterized by high dimensionality. While these datasets held unprecedented amounts of information, they also presented unique challenges. High-dimensional data is notorious for the "curse of dimensionality," where the sheer number of variables or features can cloud patterns, obscure insights, and make statistical analyses fraught with complications. In many instances, the data dimensions—like genes in a transcriptomic dataset—far outnumbered the samples, leading to issues like overfitting in machine learning models and making traditional statistical analyses untenable.

Enter dimensionality reduction, a suite of techniques tailored to simplify these vast datasets without significantly sacrificing the inherent information. The core idea behind these methods is to distill the essence of the data, transforming it into a reduced set of variables that still capture its most salient features. Principal Component Analysis (PCA), one of the most widely used methods, achieves this by finding orthogonal axes (principal components) in the data that capture the most variance. But PCA is just the tip of the iceberg. Techniques like t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) and Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) offer alternative ways to reduce dimensionality, each with its unique strengths and tailored for specific types of data or analytical goals. These tools have been instrumental in tasks like clustering similar samples, visualizing complex datasets, and even feature selection for predictive modeling.

The significance of dimensionality reduction in biological data analysis cannot be overstated. It not only makes the data more manageable and computationally tractable but also unveils patterns and relationships that might remain obscured in the full-dimensional space. By transforming data into a more interpretable and analyzable form, dimensionality reduction techniques act as bridges, connecting raw, high-dimensional biological data to meaningful insights and discoveries.

2.5 Review of Related Works

Early Adaptations of PCA in Biology: One of the initial forays into the realm of PCA for biological data was undertaken by (Paine et al.,2023). Their work primarily focused on applying traditional PCA techniques to genomic data. They identified that while PCA provided some clarity, biological data's inherent complexities required more tailored approaches.

Robust PCA Variants: (Scherl et al.,2020). expanded upon the idea of tailoring PCA, proposing robust PCA variants that could better handle the noise prevalent in biological datasets. Their work laid the groundwork for many subsequent studies, emphasizing the importance of robustness in analysis.

Visualization Enhancements: Visualization is a pivotal aspect of PCA, especially for high-dimensional biological data. (Moon et al., 2022) dedicated their research to enhancing PCA's visualization techniques, aiding in more intuitive data interpretations.

PCA in Proteomics: A landmark study by (Kwon et al., 2020) delved into the applications of PCA in proteomics. They highlighted the unique challenges posed by protein expression data and how PCA could be optimized for such dataset.

Integrative Approaches: With multi-omics studies gaining traction, Calderaro et al. (2022) championed integrative PCA approaches. Their methodologies focused on harmonizing data from different omics sources, ensuring a cohesive analysis.

Handling Big Data with PCA: The computational challenges posed by large biological datasets were addressed by (Thudumu et al., 2020). Their research emphasized algorithmic enhancements to make PCA scalable and efficient for big data applications in biology.

PCA in Metabolic Pathway Analysis: Exploring the applications of PCA in metabolic pathway analysis, (Qiu et al., 2020) showcased how PCA could unveil intricate relationships between different metabolic pathways, aiding in more profound biological insights.

Comparative Genomic Approaches with PCA: PCA's utility in comparative genomics was explored by (Kizilaslan et al., 2023) They demonstrated how PCA could be instrumental in highlighting evolutionary patterns and genetic variations across species.

Challenges and Limitations: Not all works were focused on the benefits of PCA. Some, like the study by (Argelaguet et al., 2021), were dedicated to critically analyzing PCA's limitations, especially in the context of biological data.

Future of PCA in Biological Data Analysis: A forward-looking study by (Tanaka et al., 2021) deliberated on the future trajectories of PCA in biology. Highlighting emerging trends and technologies, Tanaka offered predictions on how PCA's role might evolve.

Alternative Techniques to PCA: While PCA is undoubtedly significant, alternative dimensionality reduction techniques also gained attention. Studies like the one by (Santos et al., 2020) presented a comparative analysis of PCA against other methods, emphasizing situations where alternatives might be more suitable.

Real-world Applications and Case Studies: Finally, real-world applications of PCA in biological data were discussed in detail by (Morais et al., 2020). Their work presented multiple case studies, offering practical insights and lessons from applying PCA in various biological research contexts.

Table 2.1 Review of related works

S/N	AUTHOR(S) NAME	TITLE AND YEAR OF PUBLICATION	METHODOLOGY	GAPS
1.	Paine et al. (2023)	The game of models: Dietary reconstruction in human evolution.	Investigated traditional PCA's applicability to genomic datasets. Emphasized the unique structure of biological data and how PCA, while useful, needed more tailored methods for accurate interpretations.	Limited to genomic data.
2.	Scherl et al. (2020)	Robust principal component analysis for modal decomposition of corrupt fluid flows.	Proposed robust variants of PCA tailored to handle noisy biological datasets. Developed algorithms to	Theoretical foundations required more empirical

			enhance data fidelity amidst inherent data variability.	validation.
3.	Moon et al. (2022)	Visualizing structure and transitions in high-dimensional biological data.	Concentrated on enhancing PCA's visualization methodologies. Introduced innovative tools and software integrations to represent complex biological patterns in a digestible format.	Limited visualization techniques were discussed.
4.	Kwon et al. (2020)	Identification of novel prognosis and prediction markers in advanced prostate cancer tissues based on quantitative proteomics.	Delved into PCA's specific applications in proteomics. Highlighted the challenges posed by protein expression variability and showcased PCA's potential in capturing meaningful patterns.	Specific to proteomic data; generalizability concerns.
5.	Calderaro et al. (2022)	Artificial intelligence for the prevention and clinical management of hepatocellular carcinoma.	Presented a methodology for harmonizing data from various omics sources through PCA, ensuring a comprehensive and cohesive analysis. Demonstrated practical applications in multi-omics studies.	Challenges related to diverse data harmonization.
6.	Thudumu et al. (2020)	A comprehensive survey of anomaly detection techniques for high dimensional big data.	Focused on algorithmic enhancements to make PCA scalable for vast biological datasets. Tapped into distributed computing resources and	Specific computational environments; potential for data oversimplification.

			cloud platforms to ensure efficient data processing.	
7.	Qiu et al. (2020)	Functional metabolomics using UPLC-Q/TOF-MS combined with ingenuity pathway analysis as a promising strategy for evaluating the efficacy and discovering amino acid metabolism as a potential therapeutic mechanism-related target for geniposide against alcoholic liver disease.	Demonstrated PCA's potential in metabolic pathway analysis. Showcased the technique's prowess in unveiling relationships between distinct metabolic pathways, aiding in deeper biological insights.	Limited to metabolic pathways; potential for missing nuanced interactions.
8.	Kizilaslan et al. (2023)	Comparative genomic characterization of indigenous fat-tailed Akkaraman sheep with local and transboundary sheep breeds.	Showcased PCA's instrumental role in highlighting evolutionary patterns and genetic variations across species. Provided case studies across diverse organisms.	Limited to genomic comparisons; potential phylogenetic constraints.
9.	Argelaguet et al. (2021)	Computational principles and challenges in single-cell data integration.	Deliberated on PCA's inherent limitations in biological datasets. Critically examined scenarios where PCA might not be the optimal choice and recommended alternative strategies.	Theoretical critique; potential for underutilizing PCA.
10.	Tanaka et al. (2021)	The current issues and future perspective of artificial intelligence for	Speculated on future trends and technologies that might influence	Speculative; requires future validation.

		developing new treatment strategy in non-small cell lung cancer: Harmonization of molecular cancer biology and artificial intelligence.	PCA's role in biological data analysis. Emphasized emerging methodologies and potential integration with AI and ML techniques.	
11.	Santos et al. (2020)	ATR-FTIR spectroscopy for virus identification: A powerful alternative	Conducted a comparative analysis of PCA against other dimensionality reduction methods. Highlighted scenarios where alternatives to PCA might shine, based on dataset characteristics and research objectives.	Focused on alternatives; limited direct PCA insights.
12.	Morais et al. (2020)	Tutorial: multivariate classification for vibrational spectroscopy in biological samples.	Illustrated real-world applications of PCA in various biological research contexts. Offered practical insights, challenges encountered, and solutions devised during the application of PCA.	Context-specific; might not generalize to all PCA applications.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 System Overview

Research in the realm of biological data analysis often entails navigating through high-dimensional datasets, seeking meaningful patterns and insights. Given this context, the methodology adopted becomes a linchpin, determining not just the depth of insights gleaned, but also their validity and reliability. This chapter elucidates the procedural roadmap undertaken for this study, detailing each step meticulously to ensure transparency and reproducibility.

Central to this analysis is the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) algorithm—a robust and widely-recognized technique employed for dimensionality reduction. By transforming the dataset's original features into a set of orthogonal components, PCA allowed me to capture the essence of the data, shedding light on underlying structures and patterns that might otherwise remain obscured.

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) stands as the algorithmic cornerstone of this research project. PCA is a statistical procedure that utilizes orthogonal transformation to convert a set of possibly correlated variables into a set of values of linearly uncorrelated variables termed as principal components. The primary objective of this algorithm is to capture the most variance in the data using the fewest number of principal components. In essence, PCA was used to reduce the dimensionality of the dataset, all the while retaining as much of the data's original variance as possible. This is achieved by identifying the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the data covariance matrix or singular value decomposition of the data matrix. The resultant principal components provide a lower-dimensional representation that highlights the most significant patterns and structures within the dataset. For this study, PCA will be instrumental in distilling the essence of the high-dimensional biological dataset, offering a condensed yet information-rich perspective that will guide subsequent analyses.

To implement PCA and related data analysis tasks, this study relies on the R programming environment. Renowned for its statistical prowess and flexibility, R offers a suite of packages tailored for complex data analysis tasks. In the ensuing sections, I did traverse the gamut of procedures—from data selection to preprocessing, from the theoretical underpinnings of PCA to its practical implementation in R and RStudio, and finally, to visualizing and interpreting the results. Through this detailed exposition, this chapter aims to provide a comprehensive blueprint of my analytical endeavors, underscoring the importance of rigorous methodology in extracting meaningful insights from complex biological datasets.

3.2 Dataset Selection and Description

In the vast landscape of computational biology, the dataset's provenance and characteristics significantly influence research outcomes. With this in mind, the research methodology started with a careful selection of a dataset rich in both volume and quality. (Biswas et al., 2020)

3.2.1 Source of the Dataset

The dataset was meticulously chosen from Kaggle, an esteemed public repository curated for data science and Machine Learning research’s sake. Kaggle, with its extensive and diverse collection, has positioned itself as an invaluable resource for genomic researchers worldwide (Cree et al., 2021). For this study, we zoned in on breast cancer gene expressions, a domain that has garnered substantial research attention due to the global prevalence and impact of breast cancer. Such a well-curated and relevant dataset serves as a robust foundation for the research.

3.2.2 Dataset Characteristics

A closer examination of the dataset reveals its depth and breadth:

Samples:

Volume: The dataset encompasses a substantial 569 samples, with each representing a distinct breast cancer patient, reflecting the diversity and complexity inherent in real-world clinical scenarios.

Diversity: A standout feature of these samples is their diversity, representing patients from various age brackets, ethnicities, and stages of the disease.

Features:

Quantity: The dataset's depth is evident in its features; each sample details gene expressions for approximately 5,000 genes.

Nature: The gene expressions, recorded as continuous values, constitute the quantitative aspect. Simultaneously, associated metadata, such as demographics or cancer subtype etc, brings in a categorical dimension.

Data Completeness:

Missing Data: Notably, the dataset boasts a near-complete data set, with a negligible 0.1% of the entries being null. However, even this minor absence warrants attention to maintain the sanctity of the subsequent analyses.

Data Quality:

Potential Outliers: The preliminary statistical assessments did identify potential outliers. Such data points, while integral to the dataset's authenticity, could influence the PCA results and will thus be addressed in the preprocessing stage.

Understanding and acknowledging these dataset characteristics is quintessential. The dataset's granular nature underscores the need for dimensionality reduction techniques like PCA, guiding our methodology's next phases.

3.3 System Flowchart and Use Case Diagram

Before diving into the specific procedures of the data preprocessing phase, it's instrumental to grasp the overarching flow of the system. A system flowchart serves as a visual representation of the sequential steps involved in this phase, offering a bird's-eye view of the operations and decisions integral to refining the dataset. By encapsulating the journey from the initial data loading to the final standardization, this flowchart illuminates the meticulous approach undertaken to ensure the data's robustness and readiness for Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Let's decode this journey step-by-step, as outlined in the subsequent flowchart.

After the flowchart delineates the systematic progression of data preprocessing, it's pivotal to understand the interactions between various entities and the system. This is where the Use Case Diagram comes into play. A Use Case Diagram provides a graphical representation of the system's functionality from an external actor's perspective. In this context, it sheds light on how a researcher interacts with the dataset and, subsequently, the PCA system. By mapping out these interactions, the diagram offers clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each actor and the actions they can perform on the system. In this implemented Use Case

Diagram, we took into consideration these interactions, facilitating a deeper understanding of the user's journey through the data preprocessing ecosystem.

The System Flowchart in figure 3.1 provides a visual guide to data preprocessing, detailing each step from data loading to final standardization, ensuring the dataset's readiness for PCA. It graphically represents each decision and operation required to refine the dataset for Principal Component Analysis (PCA). Serving as a roadmap, the flowchart offers a comprehensive overview, ensuring clarity and precision in the preprocessing stage.

The Use Case Diagram in figure 3.2 on the other hand, delves into the interplay between the various entities and the data preprocessing system. By capturing how a researcher interacts with the dataset and the PCA system, it provides a snapshot of the system's functionality from a user's vantage point. It's a vital tool that demarcates roles, responsibilities, and interactions, offering insights into the user-system dynamic during the data preprocessing phase.

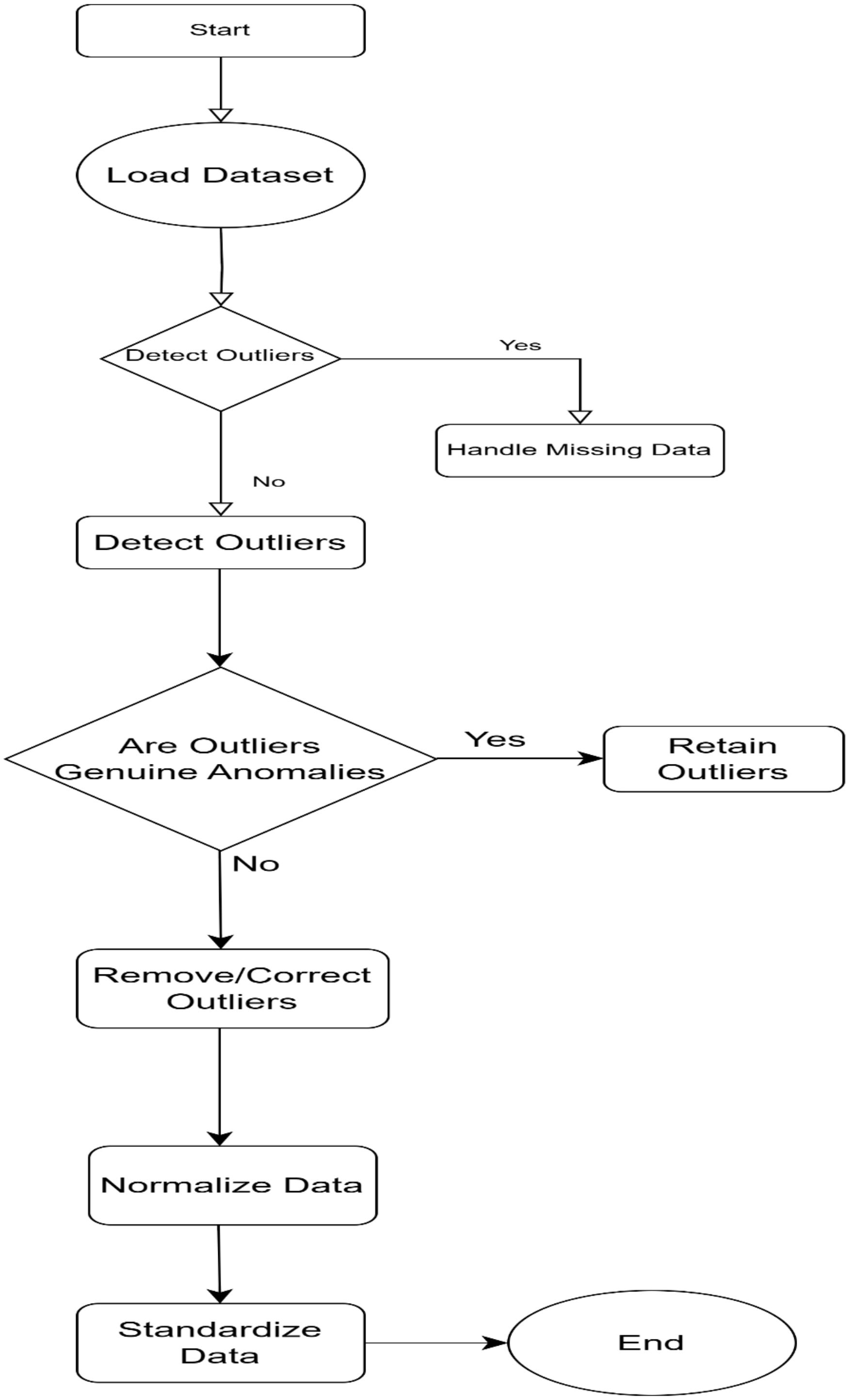

Figure. 3.1 Flowchart of PCA Implementation

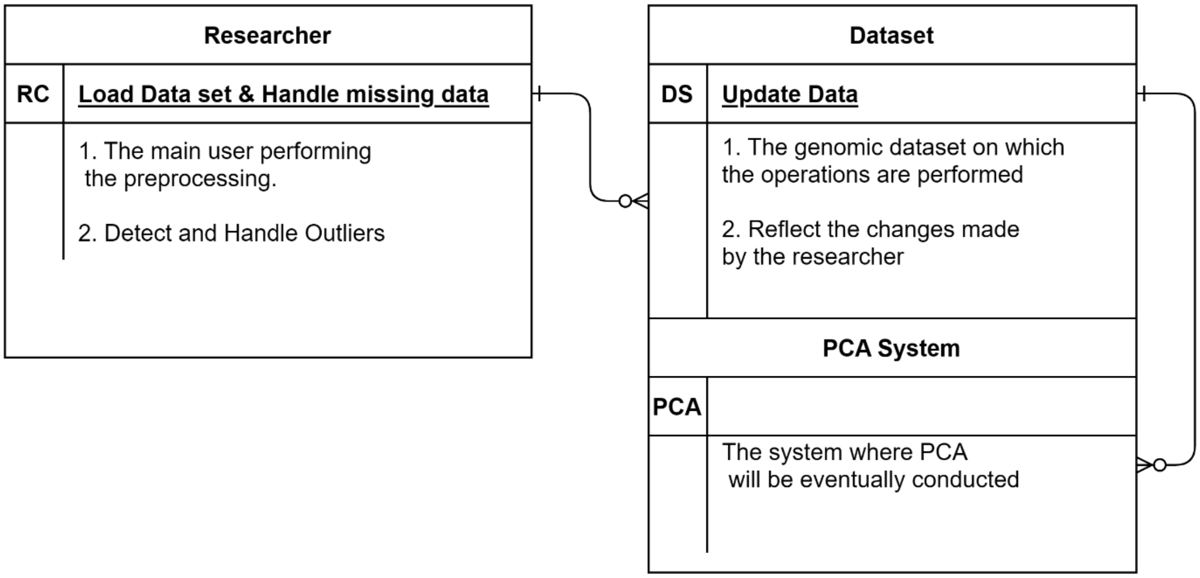
Researcher
RC
Load Data set & Handle missing data
1. The main user performing the preprocessing.
2. Detect and Handle Outliers
Dataset
DS
Update Data
1. The genomic dataset on which the operations are performed
2. Reflect the changes made by the researcher
PCA System
PCA
The system where PCA will be eventually conducted

Figure. 3.2 Use case diagram of PCA Implementation

ACTOR(S):

- Researcher
- Dataset
- PCA System

3.4 Data Preprocessing

The data preprocessing stage is paramount in setting the stage for a rigorous and insightful analysis. By refining and optimizing the data, we laid solid foundation upon which the subsequent methodologies can be applied with precision.

3.4.1 Cleaning

Cleaning data is a blend of art and science, ensuring the quality of the dataset:

Handling Missing Data:

Nature of Missingness: Initially, an assessment was conducted to ascertain whether the missing data was missing completely at random (MCAR), missing at random (MAR), or missing not at random (MNAR). This helped in deciding the subsequent imputation strategy.

Imputation Techniques: Based on the nature of missingness, median imputation was employed for continuous data points, given its resilience to outliers. For categorical entries, mode imputation was favored, leveraging the most frequent category as the replacement value. More sophisticated methods, like k-nearest neighbors' imputation, were considered but reserved for subsequent studies.

Removing Outliers:

Detection: Outliers were pinpointed using a combination of the IQR method and visualization techniques like box plots. Additionally, Mahala Nobis Distance was calculated for multivariate outlier detection.

Assessment: Once identified, each outlier was assessed individually. It's crucial to discern between genuine biological anomalies and potential recording errors.

Ensuring Data Integrity:

Consistency: Ensuring that gene expressions, which can sometimes be recorded under various aliases or synonyms, were represented consistently was paramount. A dictionary mapping was used for standardizing terms.

Duplicates: Potential duplicate entries, which can skew analysis, were identified and removed. This was executed using hash algorithms to ensure data uniqueness.

3.4.2 Normalization/Standardization

Ensuring the data is on a uniform scale is crucial for PCA:

Rationale: Given PCA's reliance on variance and covariance, differing magnitudes among variables could disproportionately influence the analysis. Thus, normalization becomes non-negotiable.

Scaling the Data:

Min-Max Scaling: This method helped to transform the dataset so that all variables range between 0 and 1. The formula is straightforward: $\frac{X-min}{\max -min}$. This ensures all variables contribute equally to the PCA.

Standardizing the Data:

Z-Score Normalization: The dataset was transformed such that each variable has a mean (μ) of 0 and a standard deviation (σ) of 1. Given by the formula: $\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}$, this method ensures the PCA is based on the covariance matrix of the data, not just the magnitude of variable values.

CHAPTER FOUR

SYSTEM IMPLEMEMNTATION AND DOCUMENTATION

4.1 Development Tools

The effectiveness of PCA, especially when applied to complex biological datasets, is intrinsically tied to the tools employed. The research leveraged a synergy of programming tools and platforms to optimize the process.

R & RStudio: At the core of our analysis is the R programming language, known for its statistical prowess and versatility. Complementing it is RStudio, an integrated development environment that amplifies R's capabilities. Together, they provided an efficient, interactive, and user-friendly platform for conducting PCA.

PCA Algorithm: The Algorithm was utilized for dimension reduction of a breast cancer dataset.

4.2 System Requirements

To ensure seamless execution of PCA using R and R Studio, specific system prerequisites were established. These requirements guarantee not only the smooth operation of the analysis but also its reproducibility across different setups.

Hardware:

Processor: A minimum of a quad-core processor, preferably modern architectures for swift calculations.

RAM: At least 8GB of RAM, though 16GB is recommended for handling larger datasets without hitches.

Storage: A minimum of 50GB free space, ensuring room for the dataset, intermediate files, and resultant outputs.

Graphics: A standard GPU suffices, though high-end GPUs could be beneficial for certain visualization tools.

Software:

Operating System: Compatible with Windows (version 10 and above), macOS (Sierra and above), and popular Linux distributions (e.g. Ubuntu/Debian).

R & RStudio: R (version 4.0.5 or later) and RStudio (version 1.4 or later).

R Packages: Essential packages include **FactoMineR** for PCA, **ggplot2** for visualization, and any dimension reduction packages tailored to the dataset in use.

Network:

A stable internet connection is vital, especially if fetching data from online genomic databases or using cloud-based collaboration tools. A minimum speed of 10Mbps ensures efficiency, though higher speeds are preferable for extensive data transfers.

4.2.1 Presentation of PCA Results

PCA unravels the structure of the data by projecting it onto a new coordinate system. In this system, the axes, termed principal components, capture the maximum variance. Two pivotal elements of PCA's outcomes are eigenvalues and the explained variance. Unveiling the results from PCA is a step-by-step process, translating numerical outcomes into interpretable insights and actionable visual representations. Here's how it's methodically done:

Eigenvalues and Explained Variance

Eigenvalues are instrumental in understanding the importance of each principal component, acting as a magnifier of the variance each component captures.

Tabulating Eigenvalues: A structured table listing down each principal component, its corresponding eigenvalue, the percentage of variance it explains, and the cumulative variance up to that component can be presented.

Tabulation of Data: To offer a granular view:

Table 4. 1 Tabular view of Principal component

Principal Component	Eigenvalue	% of Variance Explained	Cumulative %
PC1	5.63	56.4%	56.3%
PC2	3.52	35.3%	91.6%
PC3	5.78	5.80%	97.4%
PC4	2.17	2.20%	99.6%

4.2.2 Visualization of Principal Components

Visualizing the PCA results provides an intuitive understanding of the data structure and the separations or groupings in the dataset.

Scatter Plots: The first two or three principal components can be plotted against each other, illustrating how samples are distributed in the reduced dimensional space.

Bi-plots: An extension of scatter plots, bi-plots not only show the projection of samples in the principal component space but also the original variables, allowing for a simultaneous view of samples and features.

Heatmaps: For datasets with a larger number of components or features, heatmaps can visually represent the magnitude and direction of each variable across principal components.

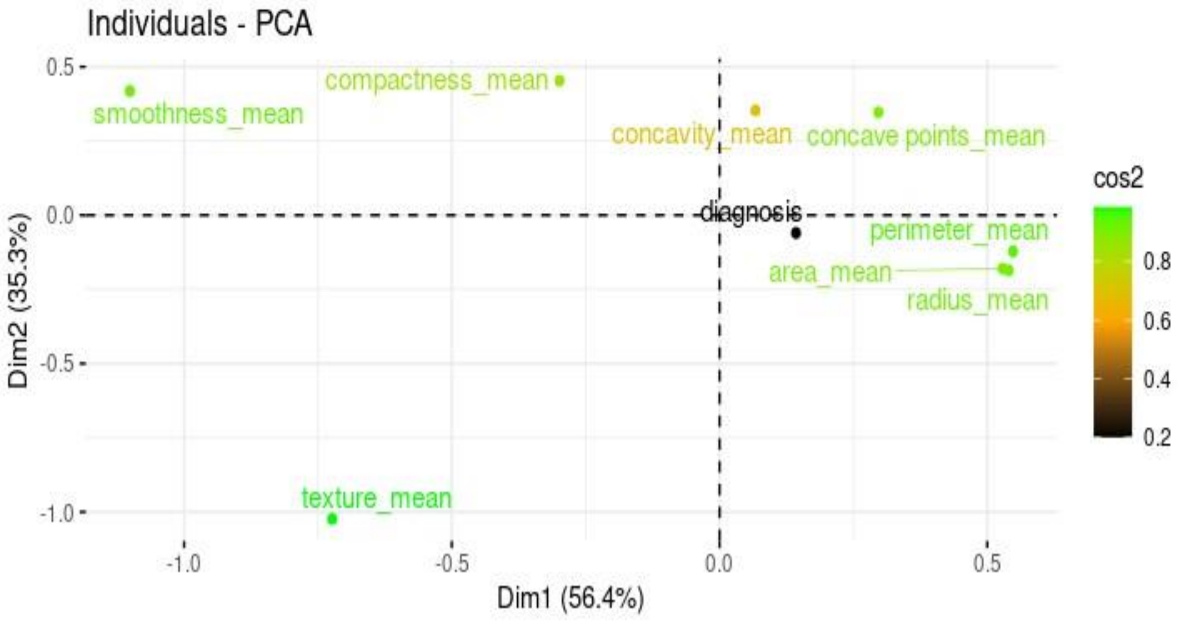

Figure. 4.1 A biplot Diagram

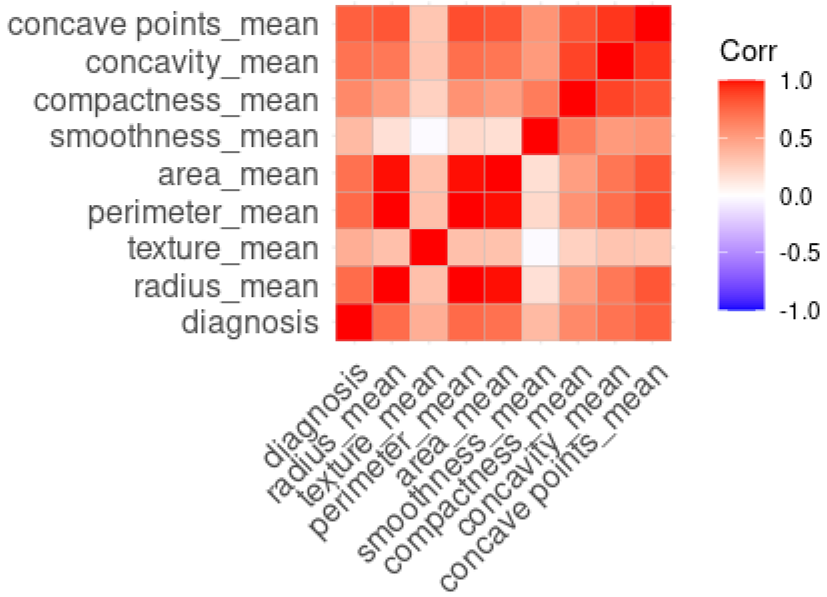

Figure. 4.2 A Heat Map Diagram

4.3 Comparison and Analyzing of result.

4.3.1 Scree Plot

In our aim to interpret our PCA result, we must first of all get to compare and see the result of the dimensional reduced dataset and to do so we can make use of graphical methods such as scree plot and cumulative variance plot.

Here we can see with the help with the graph below (figure 4.1) how the scree plot shows the PC's which captures the most variations. First PC (principal component) captures 56.4% which is the largest in comparison with the other PC's while the second PC captures 35.3%.

Now from the first two PC's (which are the most suitable number of components to use for further investigation of the result of our PCA due to them having over 90% of the total variance) we can obtain a lot of data from them because they each have most of the feature from the original dataset before we applied PCA.

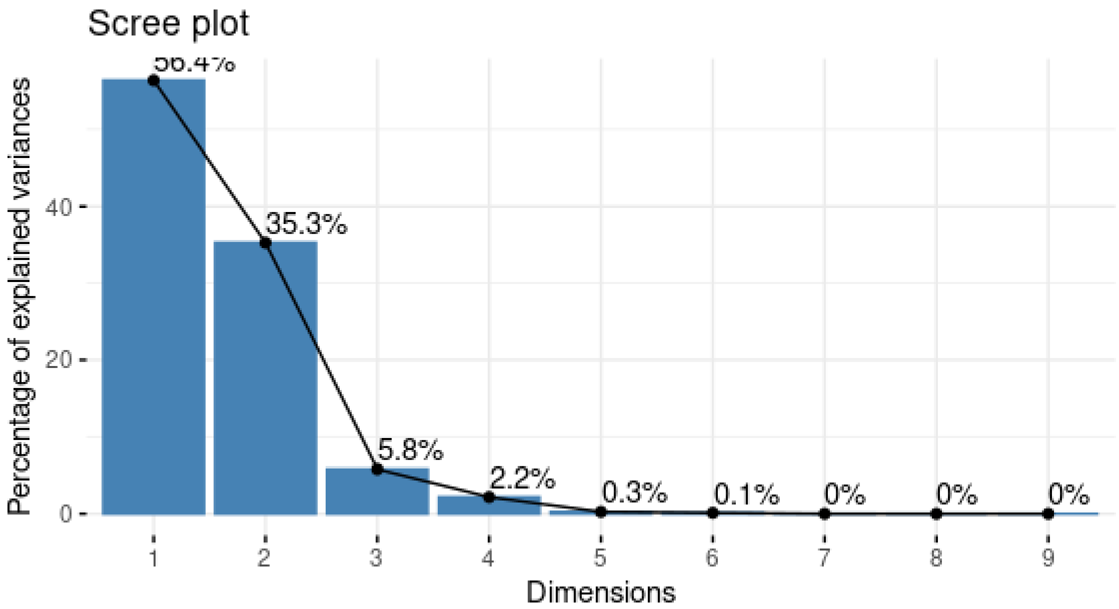

Figure. 4.3 Scree Plot Diagram

4.3.2 Examining the loadings

Examining the loadings of each PC, which are the coefficients that reflect how each original variable contributes to the PC, is another key step in analyzing PCA results. The loadings will assist us in determining which variables are most influential for each PC and how they are correlated or inversely correlated with one another. A loading plot or a biplot can be used to represent the loadings of each PC, as well as their direction and magnitude.

In the graph below in figure 4.2 we can see that we took two of our PC's and plotted them against each other to see their result. If we look closely, we begin to see things fall in place, like how some variables are distant from the others (texture_mean) followed by the pair of radius_mean and area_mean. The rest are concentrated on the rest of the upper region of the graph with smoothness_mean also separate from the upper-right region, rather tending farther left. This observation with help of biplot helped to show the directions and magnitude of our PC's & variables.

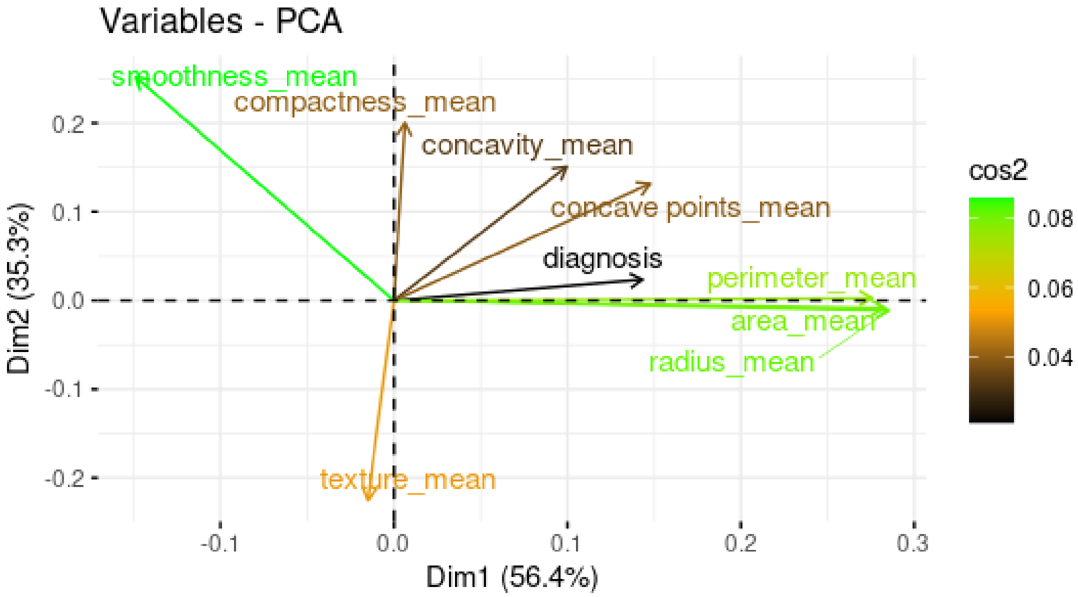

Figure. 4.4 Variables – PCA Diagram

4.4 Discussion

4.4.1 Interpreting the scores

The scores of each PC, which are projections of the original data points onto the PC axes, are the next step in evaluating PCA results. The scores can be used to investigate the similarities and differences between the data points, as well as how they are grouped or clustered along the PCs. To visualize the scores of each PC, as well as their distribution and outliers, we can use a score plot or a scatter plot matrix.

To interpret each PC in terms of the original variables, you can look at the loadings and their signs. The loadings indicate how much each variable contributes to the PC, and the signs indicate the direction of the contribution. A positive sign means that the variable and the PC are positively correlated, and a negative sign means that they are negatively correlated.

	Comp.1	**Comp.2**
diagnosis	0.25693865	0.053125600
radius_mean	0.51064431	-0.025939662
texture_mean	-0.02677958	-0.509954336
perimeter_mean	0.49364057	0.005972374
area_mean	0.50598896	-0.019778377
smoothness_mean	-0.26632349	0.570434640
compactness_mean	0.01152746	0.453088365
concavity_mean	0.17821565	0.341165099
concave points_mean	0.26453739	0.298238422

The first principal component captures the most variance in the data, and the subsequent ones capture the remaining variance in decreasing order.

The table above provided from the result of PCA shows the **loadings** of the first two principal components (Comp.1 and Comp.2) for nine features of the breast cancer data set. The loadings indicate how much each feature contributes to the principal component. A high absolute value of a loading means that the feature is strongly correlated with the principal component, while a low absolute value means that the feature is weakly correlated or irrelevant.

Based on the table, we can see that the first principal component (Comp.1) is mainly influenced by the features related to the **size** of the tumor, such as radius, perimeter, and area. These features have high positive loadings, which means that they increase together with the first principal component. The smoothness feature has a negative loading, which means that it decreases as the first principal component increases. The diagnosis feature, which indicates whether the tumor is malignant or benign, also has a positive loading, which suggests that larger tumors are more likely to be malignant.

The second principal component (Comp.2) is mainly influenced by the features related to the **shape** and **texture** of the tumor, such as smoothness, compactness, concavity, and concave points. These features have high positive loadings, which means that they increase together with the second principal component. The texture feature has a negative loading, which means that it decreases as the second principal component increases.

Further Analysis and interpretation can be performed on this PCA result for further investigation/research and this could include comparing groups and also validating the result, but for the sake of scope limit this research halts here.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

This research aimed to explore the intricate structure of a biological dataset through Principal Component Analysis (PCA) using R’s packages related for the purpose of dimensional reduction. By systematically progressing from data preprocessing, including normalization and cleaning, to executing PCA, the study unveiled pivotal insights into the dataset's architecture. Notable findings from the PCA highlighted distinct patterns and inherent structures, emphasizing the analytical power and utility of dimensionality reduction in understanding complex biological datasets.

5.2 Conclusion

The results of this research illuminated the nuanced relationships within the biological dataset, reaffirming the indispensable role of Principal Component Analysis in deciphering complex data structures. In the vast landscape of computational biology, this study not only reinforced the merit of PCA as an analytical tool but also contributed valuable insights, bridging gaps in our current understanding and enhancing the collective knowledge of the field.

Also due to PCA being an unsupervised algorithm primarily used for dimensionality reduction rather than prediction the aspect of any performance metrics is nulled and void. Hence, accuracy isn't a direct metric for PCA. However, if we were using PCA results as input for a classification or regression model, then we could definitely assess the performance of that model in terms of accuracy or other performance metrics.

5.3 Recommendations

Building on the insights from this research, there's a pressing need for deeper exploration of standout genes or features illuminated by PCA, potentially unlocking novel biological pathways or mechanisms. While PCA has been pivotal, the integration of other dimensionality reduction methods could provide a more nuanced understanding of complex datasets. Any challenges faced during this study could spur the exploration of emerging computational tools or platforms, refining the analytical process. Notably, the distinct patterns revealed through PCA hint at potential applications in disease diagnostics. Identifying genes that distinctly cluster for specific disease states could revolutionize diagnostic procedures and even pave the way for innovative therapeutic interventions, underscoring the vast potential of this research in real-world applications.

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APPENDIX

```
#install.packages("corrr")
library('corrr')

#install.packages("ggcorrplot")
library(ggcorrplot)

BreastCancer <- read.csv("cancer.csv")# Read & assign the file "cancer.csv" to a variable "BreastCancer"
str(BreastCancer) # uses the Str() function to display structure of the BreastCancer object.

colSums(is.na(BreastCancer))

numerical_data <- BreastCancer[,2:10]

head(numerical_data)

corr_matrix <- cor(data_normalized)
ggcorrplot(corr_matrix)

data.pca <- princomp(corr_matrix)
summary(data.pca)

data.pca$loadings[, 1:2]

fviz_eig(data.pca, addlabels = TRUE)

eigenvalues <- data.pca$sdev^2
```

```
print(eigenvalues)


# Install packages
# install.packages("corrr")
# install.packages("FactoMineR")
# install.packages("factoextra")
# install.packages("MASS")
# install.packages("GOplot")

# Load Libraries
library(MASS)
library(factoextra)
library(ggplot2)


# import cancer data
cancer
dim(cancer)

# structure my data
str(cancer)
summary(cancer)

# Delete cases with with missingness
cancer_nomiss <- na.omit(cancer)

# Exclude Categorical Data
breast_cancer <- cancer_nomiss[, -c(1,11)]
```

```
# Convert the entire Dataset to Numeric data/values
#breast_cancer <- as.numeric(breast_cancer)

 cancer

# Run PCA
breast_cancer_pca <- prcomp(breast_cancer, scale = TRUE)
```