

# An introduction to PCA

## Weekly AI pills

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ISTITUTO  
DI TECNOLOGIE DELLA  
COMUNICAZIONE,  
DELL'INFORMAZIONE  
E DELLA  
PERCEZIONE



Scuola Superiore  
Sant'Anna



- The aim of Principal Component Analysis
- Derivation
  1. A Geometrical idea
  2. A statistical Derivation
  3. Singular Value Decomposition
- PCA from Encoder Decoder NN
- Dummy examples



# Geometrical Introduction

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# Geometrical Introduction

Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$  be a dataset of  $N$  **observation** within  $n$  **variables**.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^T \\ \vdots \\ x_N^T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^{(1)} & | & \dots & | & x^{(n)} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

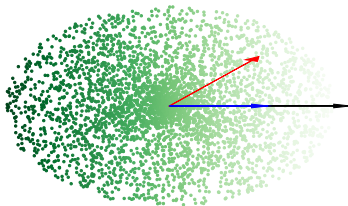
## Notations:

- $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  represents a single **observation**, i.e a **sample** in the feature space.
- $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  represents the single **variable**, i.e a **column** of the dataset.
- The object  $\mathbb{1}_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the unitary columnar vector of length  $n$   
 $\mathbb{1}_n = [1, \dots, 1]$ .

# Geometrical Introduction: Finding a principal direction.

1. Scalar product measures the projection of  $x_j$  along the direction  $w$ .
2. We are only interested on module.
3. Summation over samples to get the global projection's contribute.
4. Searching for  $w$  which maximizes projection.
5. Adding constraint to avoid  $w \rightarrow \infty$  solution.

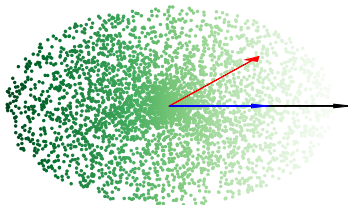
$$w_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\|w\|_2=1} \sum_{j=1}^N (w \cdot x_j)^2$$



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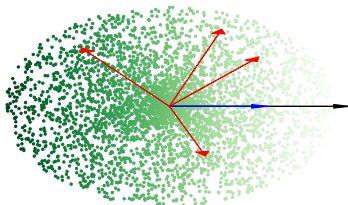
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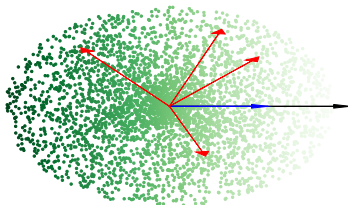
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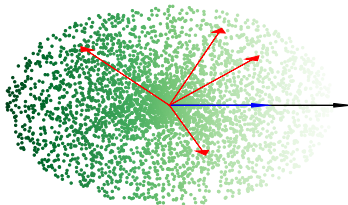




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# Geometrical Introduction: Finding other directions

We search for other orthogonal directions which maximize projections.

$$w_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\|w\|_2=1} \sum_{j=1}^N (w \cdot x)^2$$

$$w_2 \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\|w\|_2=1} \sum_{j=1}^N (w \cdot x)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad w_2 \perp w_1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$w_n \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\|w\|_2=1} \sum_{j=1}^N (w \cdot x)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad w_n \perp \{w_1, \dots, w_{n-1}\}$$

Example

# Geometrical Introduction: Direction Selection

$$V(w) = \sum_j (w \cdot x_j)^2 \quad \text{momentum along } w$$

If  $w_1, w_2, w_3$  orthogonal that maximizes  $V$  in the 3D example, then

1.  $V(w_1) = 3181.20$   $\approx 82.5\%$
2.  $V(w_2) = 646.25$   $\approx 17.0\%$
3.  $V(w_3) = 19.23$   $\approx 0.5\%$

What if we forget the last direction?

## Observation

- $x_j = \alpha_{1j}w_1 + \alpha_{2j}w_2 + \alpha_{3j}w_3$  (where  $\alpha_{ij} = w_i \cdot x_j$ ).
- $\tilde{x}_j = \alpha_{1j}w_1 + \alpha_{2j}w_2$ .

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_j \|x_j - \tilde{x}_j\|^2 = \frac{V(w_3)}{N} \approx 4.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \quad (\text{MSE})$$



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# Geometrical Introduction: Conclusion

- Given a set of data  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times n}$
- We can find  $w_1, \dots, w_n$  principal (orthonormal) directions that maximize their momentum.
- $V(w_1) > V(w_2) > \dots > V(w_n)$
- Approximating  $X$  with  $\tilde{X}$  by taking only the first  $k$  directions we are getting an error that is  $V(w_{k+1})/N$

What's the catch?

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{w \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^N (w \cdot x_j)^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & w_i \cdot w = 0, \forall i < k \\ & w \cdot w = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{MP}$$





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## Statistical Derivation

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