

# Multi-Criteria Dimensionality Reduction with Applications to Fairness

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Georgia Institute of Technology

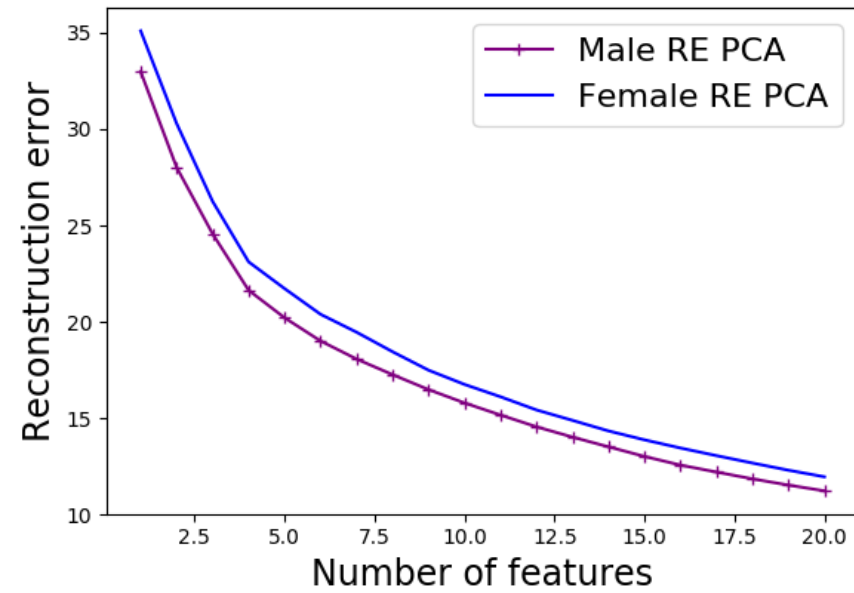
Joint work with

Samira Samadi, Mohit Singh, Jamie Morgenstern, and Santosh Vempala

# PCA can be unfair!

Standard PCA on face data LFW of male and female.

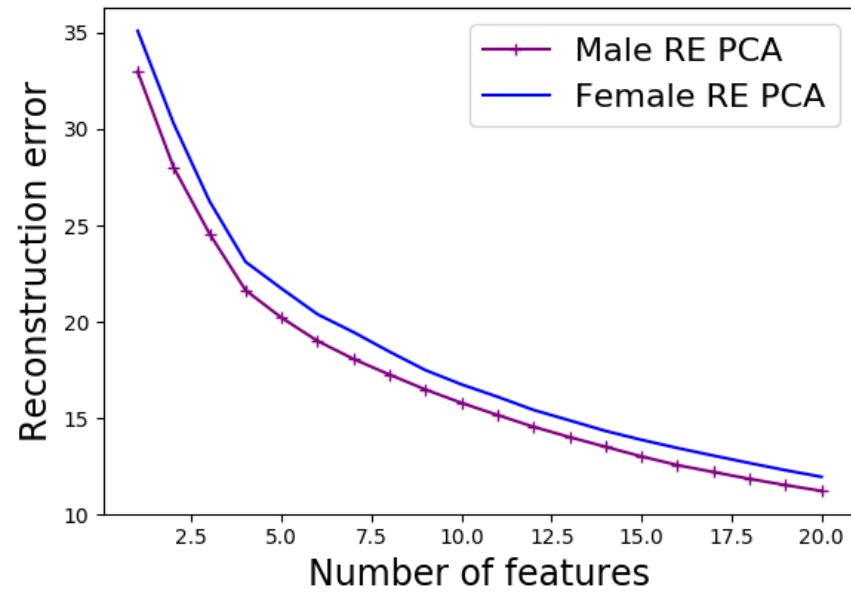
Average reconstruction error (RE) of PCA on LFW



# Unfair PCA

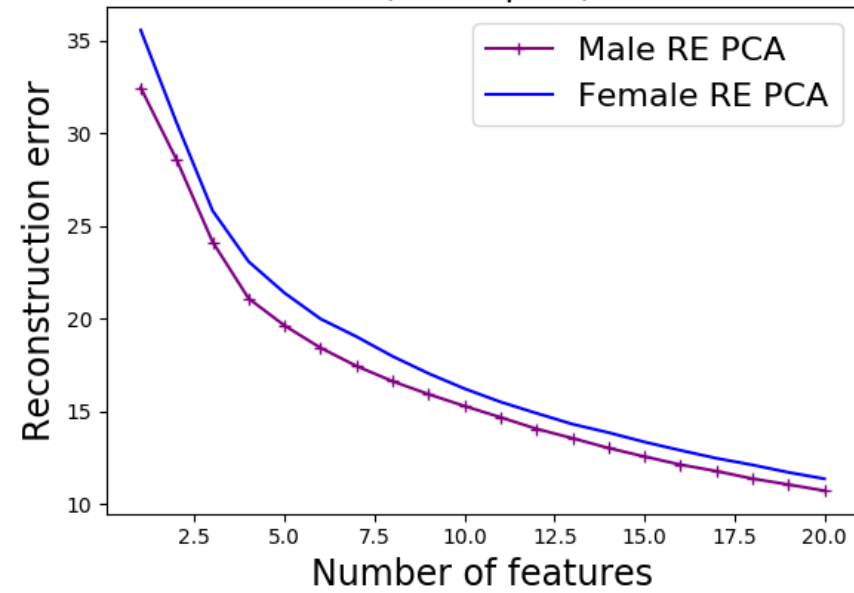
Standard PCA on face data LFW of male and female.

Average reconstruction error (RE) of PCA on LFW



Equalizing male and female weight before PCA

Average reconstruction error (RE) of PCA on LFW (resampled)





Main  
Contributions

Problem Formulation

*Multi-criteria dimensionality reduction (MCDR):*

$$\max_{\text{projection } P} g(f_1(P), f_2(P), \dots, f_k(P))$$

Utility criterion  $f_i$ 's and social welfare  $g$

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Contributions

$$\text{Mar-Loss: } \min_P \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \left( \max_Q \|A_i Q\|_F^2 - \|A_i P\|_F^2 \right)$$

$$\text{NSW: } \max_P \prod_{i=1}^k \|A_i P\|_F^2$$

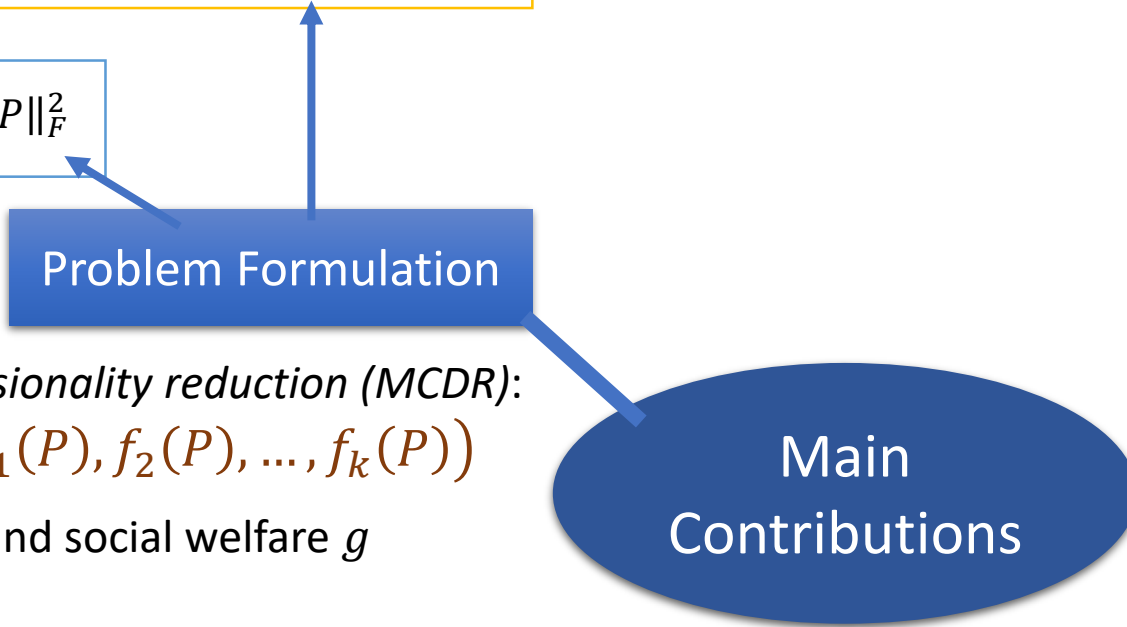
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On linear  $f_i$  in  $PP^T$  and concave  $g$ :

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- Polynomial-time algorithm for MCDR with optimal utility and small rank violation  $s = \sqrt{2k + 1/4} - 3/2$
- Approximation ratio  $1 - s/d$  on utility when no rank violation



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*Multiplicative Weight (MW)*  
method for scalable up to  
 $\approx 1000$  dimensions

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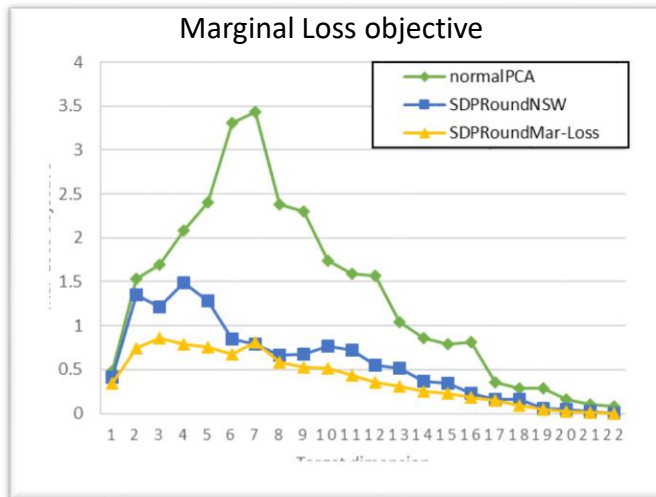
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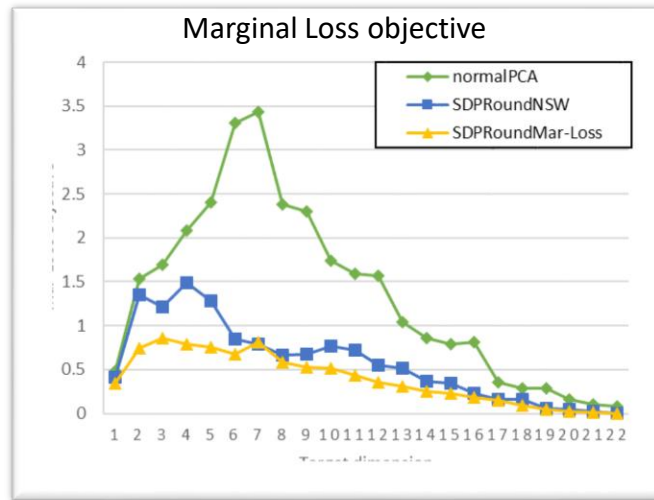
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Theory: low-rank property in  
semi-definite program (SDP)

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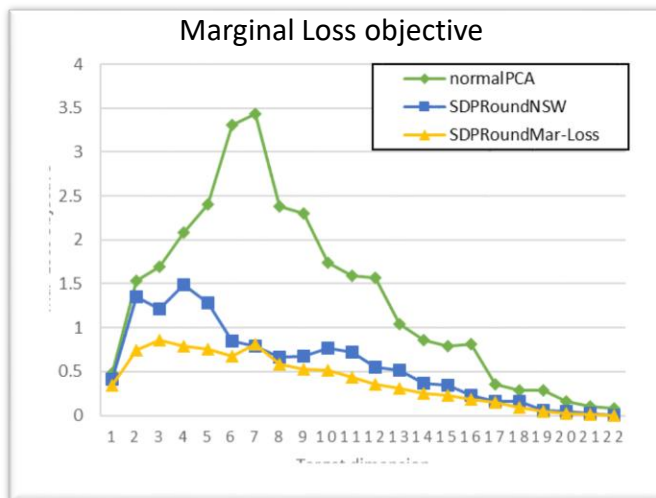
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- Optimization result + ML application

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Complexity of MCDR

NP-hard for general  $k$

- Reduction to MAX-CUT

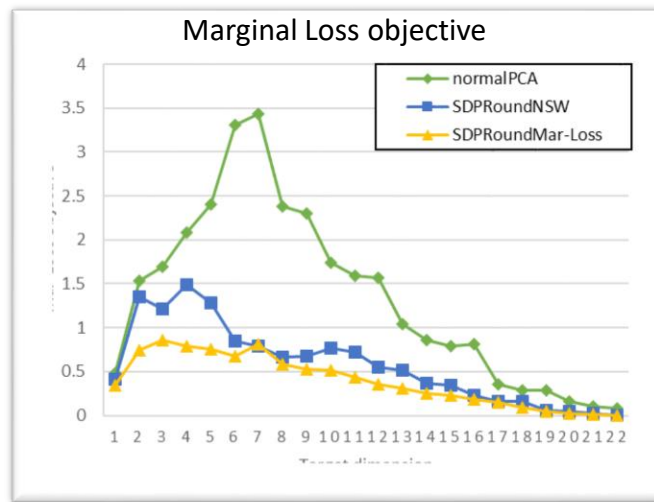
Polynomial-time  
for fixed  $k$

- Algorithmic theory of quadratic maps.

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Code: [github.com/SDPforAll/multiCriteriaDimReduction](https://github.com/SDPforAll/multiCriteriaDimReduction)  
Web: [sites.google.com/site/ssamadi/fair-pca-homepage](https://sites.google.com/site/ssamadi/fair-pca-homepage)