

Machine Learning
CSCI 567 Spring 2021

Discussion: PCA

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In this problem, we use proof by induction to show that the M -th principle component corresponds to the M -th eigenvector of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ sorted by the eigenvalue from largest to smallest. Here \mathbf{X} is the centered data matrix and we denote the sorted eigenvalues as $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_d$. In the lecture, the results was proven for $M = 1$. Now suppose the result holds for a value M , and you are going to show that it holds for $M + 1$. Note that the $M + 1$ principle component corresponds to the solution of the following optimization problem:

$$\max_{\mathbf{v}} \quad \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{v} \tag{1}$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{v}\|_2 = 1 \tag{2}$$

$$\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v}_i = 0, i = 1, \dots, M \tag{3}$$

where \mathbf{v}_i is the i -th principle component. Write down the Lagrangian of the optimization problem above, and show that the solution \mathbf{v}_{M+1} is an eigenvector of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$. Then show that the quantity in (1) is maximized when the \mathbf{v}_{M+1} is the eigenvector with eigenvalue λ_{M+1} .