

Project “Newton’s method versus Gradient descent, SVD in
Principle Component Analysis”
IB3702 Mathematics for Machine Learning

Evert Jan Karman John Stegink

15 November, 2025

1 Introduction

The basis of a machine learning algorithm is, that it tries to predict the right output using a certain input. First the algorithm will have to be trained using correct data. During the training process, the difference between the predicted value and the actual value must be minimized. A cost function is used to quantize the difference, this difference must be minimized. To find the minimum value, the machine learning algorithm iterates until it has found the minimum value. The methods for this iteration are numerous, the most well known algorithm is gradient descent (sections 3.1 and 3.4). For the training to be as effective as possible it is necessary to find the minimum in little iterations. In this report we compare two methods, Gradient descent and Newton’s method. For Newton’s method the Hessian matrix with second partial derivatives is required. First a description of gradient descent and Newton’s method will be given for functions using one variable, this is to make the principle clear. Normally for machine learning, 1 variable is not sufficient, the loss function mostly contains multiple variables. Newton’s method can find the minimum in far less iterations than Gradient descent. The problem of Newton’s method, is that calculating a Hessian Matrix is much more expensive than using just the derivative, as is done with Gradient descent.

The second part of this report contains research into linear algebra theory. The report will cover the possibility of using Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) as part of Principal Component Analyses (PCA). The report contains a practical proof of the theory. The second discussion is about the link between Eigen Value Decomposition (EVD) and SVD.

2 Preliminaries

The notation is similar to the notation of the study guide of IB3702 Mathematics for Machine Learning.

$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$ denotes the second partial derivative of function $(f(x, y))$ with regard to y en then to x .

Notation of Hessian matrix with second partial derivatives:

$$\mathbf{H}_f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Abbreviations

1. EVD Eigenvalue decomposition
2. PCA Principle Component Analysis
3. SVD Singular Value Decomposition

Problems for the reader

Problem 1: Compute the Hessian Matrix for the function $f(x) = x^3 + y^3 + 2xy$ in the point $x = 1, y = 2$.

Answer 1: The Hessian matrix becomes $H = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6x & 2 \\ 2 & 6y \end{bmatrix}$ The values for $x = 1, y = 2$ are $H = \begin{bmatrix} 12 & 2 \\ 2 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$

Problem 2:

The *covariance matrix* is not only one of the ingredients of PCA, it is generally an important concept in data analysis in general, and statistics and Data Science in particular. For the following matrix please calculate the covariance matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2.7245 & 3.1032 & -13.9551 & 92.95328 \\ 1.4978 & 0.8653 & 1.2219 & -1.96032 \\ 6.1456 & 0.7784 & 0.3391 & 17.59555 \\ 7.5821 & 1.2493 & 8.4127 & -25.25591 \\ 6.9963 & 6.0318 & -7.4444 & 69.83275 \\ -3.6614 & -10.5902 & 15.1286 & -108.02222 \\ -11.2357 & -1.4490 & 3.7832 & -58.16585 \\ 7.8109 & 7.3721 & -2.6598 & 45.06708 \\ 4.0635 & 4.9214 & 11.2876 & -50.55501 \\ 11.3492 & 8.1348 & -8.9687 & 93.79221 \\ -6.5790 & 11.8026 & 6.0447 & -47.79681 \\ -2.2184 & -12.5477 & 4.6165 & -42.89778 \\ 8.8841 & -6.2996 & -2.7328 & 39.25451 \\ 10.4308 & 11.6823 & 13.2762 & -37.81649 \\ 0.0127 & 3.4535 & -0.8084 & 7.22638 \end{bmatrix}$$

What is the meaning of the diagonal entries of the covariance matrix?

And what is the meaning of the non-diagonal entries?

Answer 2:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 43.4188926 & 16.00264562 & -15.23151651 & 235.6663664 \\ 16.00264562 & 52.75539574 & -10.60690849 & 149.11773854 \\ -15.23151651 & -10.60690849 & 69.4511483 & -464.4043121 \\ 235.6663664 & 149.11773854 & -464.4043121 & 3574.93359423 \end{bmatrix}$$

The meaning of the diagonal entries is the variance of an individual feature of the dataset. The non-diagonal entries indicate, for the corresponding two features of the original matrix, how these features correlate, meaning to what extent one feature increases when another feature increases or decreases.

3 Methods

3.1 Gradient descent with one variable

The purpose of using gradient descent is to find a local or global minimum of a differentiable function by iteratively adjusting the parameters in the direction of the steepest descent. This a mouthful.

It can be clarified by the following metaphor: When you want to find the path from the top to the foot of the mountain in the mist. You walk a few meters down the path with the steepest descent. Then you determine the next path with the steepest descent¹.

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gradient_descent

Appendix A.1 contains a more detailed version of this metaphor.

Assume that we have a continuous function f defined on \mathbb{R} (fig 1). This function is differentiable with derivative $f'(x)$ and has a starting point x_0 . Then we get x_1 by subtracting $f'(x_0) \cdot \alpha$ from x_0 , where α is called the learning rate. This is equal to walking the path in the steepest descent by α meters in the metaphor. The value of α will be chosen before starting the procedure. Usual values for α are 0.01 or 0.05.

We iterate this, so that we get a **sequence** which is recursively defined as:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - f'(x_k) \cdot \alpha$$

This sequence will converge to the minimum of f (fig 1). The pitchfalls here are, that the procedure may end in a local minimum, while f has a stronger minimum elsewhere. Or with a less than optimal choice for the learning rate, the sequence could even diverge.

3.2 Newton's method with one variable

Newton's method finds the zeroes of a function f , in cases where it is more challenging or expensive, to find the minimum directly by solving an equation. It works by iterating through the following steps:

1. Start at a random point on the curve.
2. Determine the tangent line at that point (using the derivative).
3. Determine the point where the tangent line hits the X-axis
4. From the point found in previous step, continue with step, 2 until the value does not change significantly anymore.

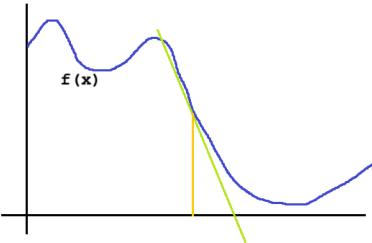


Figure 1: A continuous function f defined on \mathbb{R}

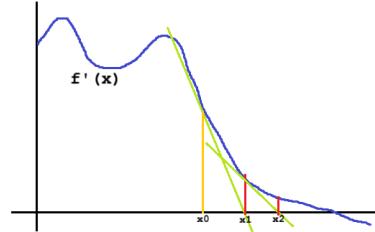


Figure 2: Newton's method

To state it more mathematically: starting from x_0 find the value x_1 where the tangent line intersects with the x-axis. By iterating this procedure we get an sequence $(x_k)_{k=0,1,\dots}$. From the geometrical aspect of the procedure, we can give a formula between x_{k+1} and x_k . The idea is that the sequence (x_k) converges to the value of x where $f(x) = 0$.

Below formula takes into account that we want to find the *minimum of a function* f , so we are finding a *zero of f'* . So after substituting f' for f and f'' for f' :

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - (f'(x_k)/f''(x_k))$$

An example is depicted in (fig 2).

In order to know if $f'(x)$ points to a minimum of f , we need to look at the second derivative $f''(x)$:

$f''(x) > 0 \Rightarrow f$ has a minimum at x

$f''(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f$ has a maximum at x

$f''(x) = 0 \Rightarrow$ inconclusive, perhaps an inflection point

3.3 Functions with two or more variables and their derivatives

A function with one variable describes the result of a calculation with respect to just 1 variable. In practice the result of a function is dependent on more than one variable. For example the price of a house is not only dependent on the floor area of the house, but for example the distance to the nearest shops count, the number of crimes in the area per year etc. This means the function has multiple variables. This is what we see in machine learning most of the time too. An example of a graph of the multi value function can be seen in figure 5. This depicts the function $f(x, y) = 85 - \frac{1}{90}x^2(x - 6)y^2(y - 6)$. As you can see the function is defined by two variables: $f(x, y)$.

Finding the slope in a point using a function with one variable is easily done by determining the derivative. For multi value functions this is done in only 1 direction at a time. This means the derivative has to be determined with regard to 1 variable the rest of the variables is considered as a constant.

Mathematically:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f_x(x, y) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = f_y(x, y) = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \Delta y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta y}$$

3.4 Gradient descent with two or more variables

Considering the metaphor in section 3.1 the x is the number of steps to walk to the west and y is the number of meters to walk to the north, instead of just walking straight ahead. With a function $f(x, y)$ of more variables, we can determine the gradient:

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

The method is the same, but where we took the derivative for one variable, we will now take the gradient, and the recursive definition of our sequence (x_k, y_k) becomes:

$$(x_{k+1}, y_{k+1}) = (x_k, y_k) - \nabla f(x, y) \cdot \alpha$$

3.5 Hessian matrix

The second derivative of a function tells something about the curvature of a function in a certain point. A function is convex at a point when the second derivative is positive, and concave if it is negative. When the value of the second derivative is zero, the point may be an inflection point, rather than a minimum or maximum of the function.

A Hessian matrix is a squared matrix containing all second derivatives of a multi valued function. Say we have function $f(x, y)$ of 2 variables. Then we get a square matrix having te following format:

$$H_f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Generally a Hessian Matrix has the form: } \mathbf{H}_f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

The Hessian matrix is a symmetric matrix most of the times. (Because there is Clairauts Theorem that states, that $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$ under specific conditions which are usually true when we have smooth functions.)

With Hessian matrix local minima, maxima and stationary points of a function can be found. It helps to identify saddle points, local minima and local maxima. A saddle point (figure 4) is a stationary point that is neither a local maximum nor a local minimum. From this point the function looks like a minimum in some directions and a maximum in other directions. The type of extreme can be found by calculating the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix (section 3.6).

Hessian matrices can be become quite large. The matrix for a function with n different variables the matrix will have the size of $n \times n$ (in modern machine learning models the value of n can become significantly large). The size of the matrix to be calculated and stored in memory will have a size of order n^2 . For such situations approximations of the Hessian Matrix are being used. An often used algorithm that uses an approximation is

BFGS.

3.6 Newton's method with two or more variables

The main principles of Newton's method with one variable apply to Newton's method with two or more variables. Say we have function $f(x, y)$ (containing 2 variables).

Then here we have it's Hessian matrix:

$$H_f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Now at a given point (x, y) we'll calculate it's eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$
(A 2 by 2 matrix would have at most two eigenvalues)

If the gradient has value $(0,0)$ at point (x, y) then:

- If all the eigenvalues of H_f at (x, y) are positive, it's a minimum
- If all the eigenvalues of H_f at (x, y) are negative, it's a maximum
- If one of the eigenvalues of H_f at (x, y) are zero, or we have mixed signs, it's inconclusive or we may have a saddle point

Why this relation between these eigenvalues and the surface of the function graph is there, is beyond the scope of this report.

In Newton's method generalized to more than one variables, the formula for the next point is:

$$(x_{k+1}, y_{k+1}) = (x_k, y_k) - (H_f^{-1}(x_k, y_k) \cdot \nabla f(x_k, y_k))$$

3.7 SVD in PCA

The aim of this section is not to provide an explanation about Principle Component Analysis in general. The aim is to zoom in to the possibility, at a certain point, to apply SVD in PCA, instead of the more widely used definition of PCA based on EVD. The explanation will be made clearer by a diagram of the process, that visualizes how the different steps and alternatives relate.

The explanation that follows now will align with the diagram in fig 3, that shows the same steps, and how they relate:

We start with an $m \times n$ matrix A , feature by observation, so there are m observations and n features. We will mean-center it and call it $A_{mean-centered}$ or Amc .

In the most common definition we will now create the covariance matrix, which is

$$A_{Cov} = \frac{Amc^T \cdot Amc}{m - 1}$$

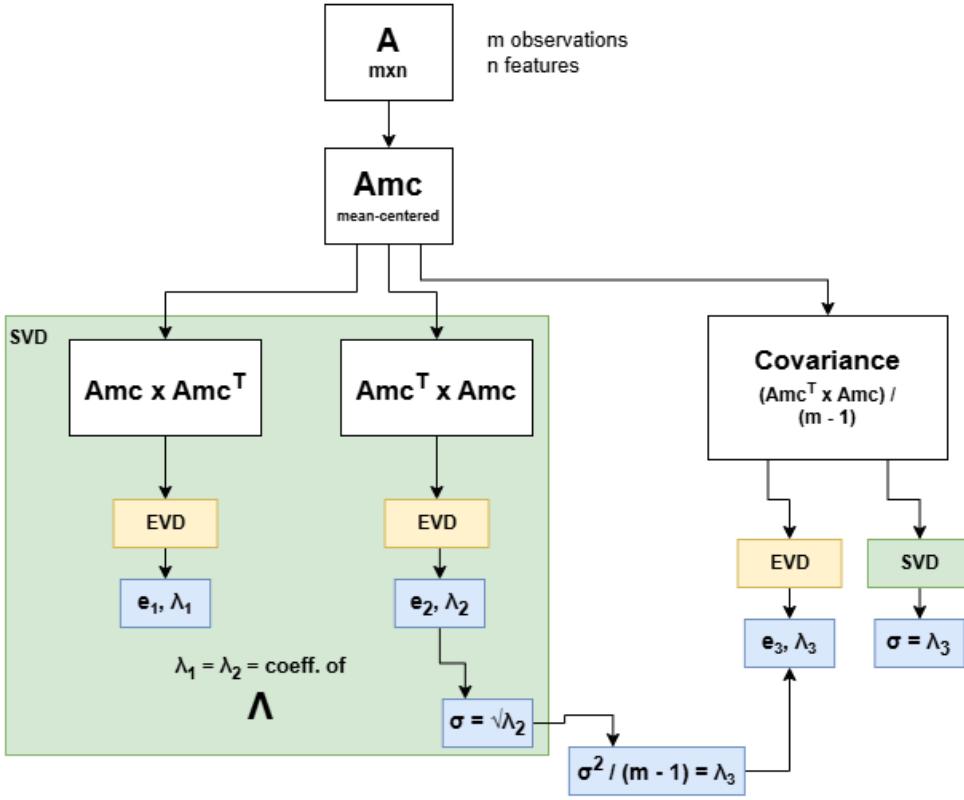


Figure 3: PCA overview and steps

Then we perform eigendecomposition (EVD) on this covariance matrix. The outcome is a set of eigenvalues which we shall call λ_3 .

On a side note, at this point we could perform SVD on the covariance matrix, instead of EVD. This would produce values σ . But because we are doing this on a covariance matrix, these values σ will take the same values as the values λ_3 found using EVD. (By the way in section 3.9 this fact is clarified.) That is because of the covariance matrix being positive semidefinite, and symmetrical. But this is not the SVD opportunity that will be discussed here mainly.

Alternatively, we could perform SVD on the original data instead of EVD on the covariance matrix. But in this case we take the mean-centered data, so matrix Amc .

Because of how SVD is done by definition, we would calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} Amc \cdot Amc^T \\ Amc^T \cdot Amc \end{aligned}$$

On each of these we would take EVD. (Please note that $Amc^T \cdot Amc$ is almost the covariance matrix but without scaling by $\frac{1}{m-1}$).

The EVD produces eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 respectively which are of the same value. We have already noticed the difference in scaling between this step, and EVD from the covariance matrix.

So we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \sqrt{\lambda_2} \\ \frac{\sigma^2}{m-1} &= \lambda_3\end{aligned}$$

This was the point where SVD can be used for PCA, from here PCA proceeds as usual.

We have also created a small python program that does the following:

- Define testmatrix A
- Calculate PCA values
- Show that EVD on the covariance matrix and SVD on the covariance matrix produces the same values
- Show that SVD on the mean-centered data produces the same values apart from scaling

Appendix B.4 shows the printed output of a testcase. Link to this python program:
https://github.com/evert823/ejk_work_ib3702/blob/main/pca_evd_svd.py

3.8 Notes on pros and cons of PCA with EVD versus SVD

When a dataset becomes very large, SVD will become more memory intensive. This could be reproduced with the python program (based on numpy): runtimes of the SVD step took more time and memory.

When a dataset is ill-conditioned, SVD is numerically more stable. In the lower singular values, the differences between these two methods become relatively larger. Also this could be reproduced in the same python program.

3.9 Connection between EVD and SVD

This section describes an important connection between the Eigenvalue Decomposition (EVD) and the Singular Value Decomposition (SVD). The theoretical foundations of these decompositions are part of the course and will not be introduced here.

To understand the relations below, recall the following facts:

1. For any matrices A and B :

$$A^T B^T = (BA)^T.$$

2. The matrices U and V obtained from the SVD are orthogonal.
3. A matrix A is orthogonal if $A^T A = AA^T = I$.

The eigenvalue decomposition expresses a matrix A as

$$A = Q\Lambda Q^{-1},$$

where Λ is a diagonal matrix containing the eigenvalues and Q contains the corresponding eigenvectors.

The singular value decomposition (SVD) factors a matrix into

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

where Σ contains the *singular values*, which are the square roots of the eigenvalues of both AA^T and $A^T A$.

To compute U , note that

$$AA^T = (U\Sigma V^T)(U\Sigma V^T)^T = U\Sigma^2 U^T.$$

Similarly,

$$A^T A = (U\Sigma V^T)^T (U\Sigma V^T) = V\Sigma^2 V^T.$$

Both AA^T and $A^T A$ are symmetric positive semi-definite, and their eigenvalue decompositions are therefore

$$AA^T = U\Lambda U^T, \quad A^T A = V\Lambda V^T,$$

with $\Lambda = \Sigma^2$. Thus, the eigenvalues of AA^T and $A^T A$ are exactly the squared singular values of A . The singular values themselves are obtained by taking the square roots of the diagonal entries of Λ .

For some matrices the EVD and SVD are the same. Considering a matrix S that is square, symmetric, and positive semi-definite ($S = S^T$). For this matrix its SVD and EVD coincide. In this case:

$$S = U\Sigma U^T$$

Consider the following in this formula:

- $U = V$,
- the singular values of S are equal to its eigenvalues ,
- U is orthogonal, so $U^{-1} = U^T$.

Thus, the eigenvalue decomposition of S can be written as

$$S = U\Lambda U^T$$

This means the EVD and SVD are equal in this case.

4 Numerical Examples

4.1 Gradient descent versus Newton's method

We will look at this function (fig 5):

$$f(x, y) = 85 - \frac{1}{90}x^2(x - 6)y^2(y - 6)$$

Visually we see a possible minimum near point $(x, y) = (4, 4)$. We'll take $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 1)$

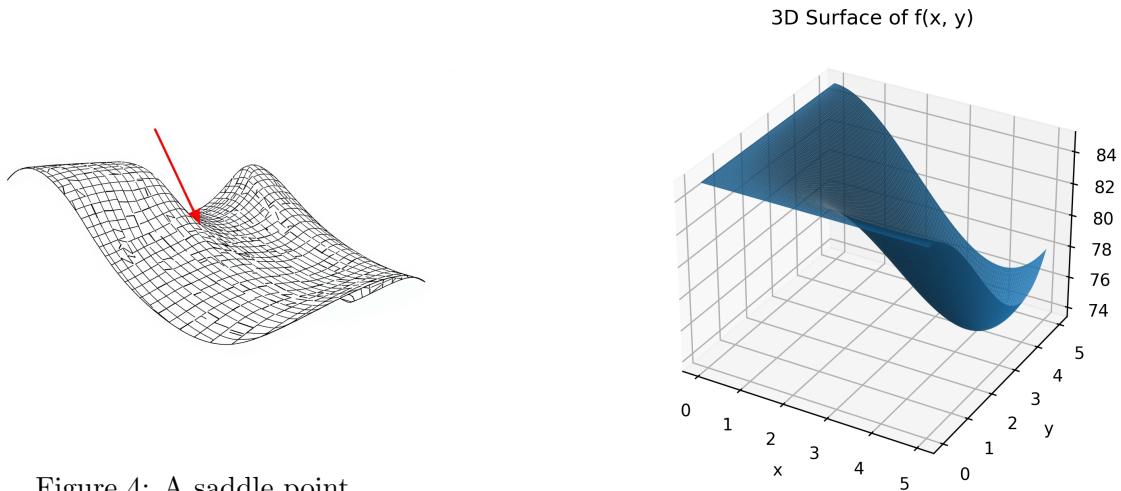


Figure 4: A saddle point

Figure 5: 3D surface of $f(x, y)$

and $\alpha = 0.01$ and from there, carry out gradient descent as actual example.
For gradient descent, we know that we need the formula for the gradient:

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \left(-\frac{1}{90}(3x^2 - 12x)y^2(y - 6), -\frac{1}{90}x^2(x - 6)(3y^2 - 12y) \right)$$

When we fill in $x=1$ and $y=1$ we calculate a gradient of $(-0.5, -0.5)$. We subtract this, multiplied by the learning rate, from $(0, 0)$ and go to the next iteration. Here we continued with a Python script that produced the output shown in appendix B.1. We see (x,y) approach $(4,4)$ and we see the gradient approach $(0,0)$. It takes 249 iterations. We also tried learning rate 0.05. Then we saw the same behaviour, but only 56 iterations (a tolerance of $1e-4$ was used for comparing floats).

Now we will try to find the minimum using Newton's method. For this we need the second order derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{1}{90}(6x - 12)y^2(y - 6)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = -\frac{1}{90}(3x^2 - 12x)(3y^2 - 12y)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = -\frac{1}{90}(3x^2 - 12x)(3y^2 - 12y)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = -\frac{1}{90}x^2(x - 6)(6y - 12)$$

We implemented the steps above in a python script and saw the output from appendix B.2. This converges to point (0,0). The eigenvalues of the Hessian are almost zero. So Newton's method brings us from (1,1) to a stationary point (0,0) which is not a minimum. This happened from many other points. When we choose a starting point real close to (4,4) only then it will converge to our expected minimum as can be seen in appendix B.3.

The point reached here is indeed (4,4). The eigenvalues of the Hessian are positive, and indeed this is in line with that we already know, that (4,4) is a minimum. From (3.2,3.2) it took 5 iterations. When we try Gradient Descent from this point (3.2,3.2) we will see the number of iterations for that:

```
Gradient Descent from (3.2,3.2) with learning rate 0.01 takes 109 iterations to reach (4,4).
Gradient Descent from (3.2,3.2) with learning rate 0.05 takes 27 iterations to reach (4,4).
```

The python code can be found on

https://github.com/evert823/ejk_work_ib3702/blob/main/dogradientdescent.py
https://github.com/evert823/ejk_work_ib3702/blob/main/donewton.py

4.2 SVD versus EVD in PCA

Appendix B.4 shows the printed output of a testcase which is also a numerical example of PCA, SVD, EVD.

5 Collaboration

5.1 Reflection on collaboration

During collaboration it was very good that we had regular meetings. After agreeing on a breakdown of the work and how to divide it, the work was sometimes individual. Because we didn't always focus on the project on the same moments. A small practical thing is collaborating on LaTeX documents in GitHub: make sure that both contributors use the same version of a LaTeX compiler!

5.2 Individual input

Evert Jan

1. Initial proposals for Calculus topics and initial versions of descriptions of methods
2. Numerical examples
3. Python programs to demonstrate the concepts (where manual calculations would have been too tedious)
4. Topic SVD in PCA and diagram

John

1. Topic "Connection between EVD and SVD", which explains why on a covariance matrix SVD and EVD produce results of the same value.
2. More explanatory texts and metaphors.
3. Overall setup of project document in LaTeX

6 Reflection

6.1 Evert Jan

I noticed that John was up to speed with LaTeX and for me that was new. It's a good thing that I'm now up to speed with LaTeX as well. One problem in general of this project is that the scope is open. Sometimes I was diving into advanced books in order to find something that I can use. Or I was trying something that turned out to be too advanced so that I had to start in a different way. This is more difficult than receiving a fixed problem, that has been prepared by an instructor for the student. But it's good to have such a challenge.

Still for me it was very hard to timebox and I probably spent much more time on it than the advised hours. Also the practical aspects of how to do the project added to this.

6.2 John

I found it difficult to get started, especially finding a subject and finding out what was necessary to research and describe. During the research I found that I didn't understand in detail what was taught during the course, creating this report helped me get a better understanding. It took a lot of time (much more than the 20 hours) to do the research and the writing. Luckily for me, Evert Jan has developed the Python scripts for validation. Writing a report I think is better as an end to a course than an exam. When you

have an exam you have learn the theory. While writing a report makes you think deeper about the theory. You also learn how to apply the theory and the practical applications. Working together with Evert Jan was very pleasant. We do things in a different way. this made the final result better.

I didn't learn much new mathematics (except for the Newton Method), but applying the mathematics gave me new insights. Studying mathematical topics in the future would be a combination of reading a book and then use the internet for articles and video's. For me it is important to get an intuition before diving into the theory.

7 References

For the explanation of Gradient descent and Newton's method we took inspiration from Coursera, Mathematics for Machine Learning specialization (DeepLearning.AI). Although the details and computations provided here deviate further from this course.

The book Numerical Optimization by Nocedal/Wright provides a deep explanation of why the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix have a relationship with the curve of the function that we aim to minimize.

For a description of PCA and the possibility of SVD, we used Practical Linear Algebra for Data Science by Mike X Cohen.

The metaphors on gradient descent come from Wikipedia.

We checked a few basics in Stewart's Calculus textbook "early transcendentals 9E", for example Clairaut's Theorem

A Metaphores

A.1 Gradient descent

The basic intuition behind gradient descent can be illustrated by a hypothetical scenario. People are stuck in the mountains and are trying to get down (i.e., trying to find the global minimum). There is heavy fog such that visibility is extremely low. Therefore, the path down the mountain is not visible, so they must use local information to find the minimum. They can use the method of gradient descent, which involves looking at the steepness of the hill at their current position, then proceeding in the direction with the steepest descent (i.e., downhill). If they were trying to find the top of the mountain (i.e., the maximum), then they would proceed in the direction of steepest ascent (i.e., uphill). Using this method, they would eventually find their way down the mountain or possibly get stuck in some hole (i.e., local minimum or saddle point), like a mountain lake. However, assume also that the steepness of the hill is not immediately obvious with simple

observation, but rather it requires a sophisticated instrument to measure, which the people happen to have at that moment. It takes quite some time to measure the steepness of the hill with the instrument. Thus, they should minimize their use of the instrument if they want to get down the mountain before sunset. The difficulty then is choosing the frequency at which they should measure the steepness of the hill so as not to go off track.

In this analogy, the people represent the algorithm, and the path taken down the mountain represents the sequence of parameter settings that the algorithm will explore. The steepness of the hill represents the slope of the function at that point. The instrument used to measure steepness is differentiation. The direction they choose to travel in aligns with the gradient of the function at that point. The amount of time they travel before taking another measurement is the step size.

B Output of Python scripts for Hessian Matrices

B.1 Gradient descent

```

0. x 1 y 1 --> (-0.5000000000000000,-0.5000000000000000)
1. x 1.005000000000000 y 1.005000000000000 --> (-0.506184974895937,-0.506184974895937)
2. x 1.01006184974896 y 1.01006184974896 --> (-0.512483652519824,-0.512483652519824)
3. x 1.01518668627416 y 1.01518668627416 --> (-0.518898669704649,-0.518898669704649)
...
246. x 3.98976321048153 y 3.98976321048153 --> (-0.0435643360994635,-0.0435643360994638)
247. x 3.99019885384252 y 3.99019885384252 --> (-0.0417150068300141,-0.0417150068300138)
248. x 3.99061600391082 y 3.99061600391082 --> (-0.0399437948089941,-0.0399437948089938)
249. x 3.99101544185891 y 3.99101544185891 --> (-0.0382474329314844,-0.0382474329314846)

```

B.2 Newton's method, first iteration

```

(1.0000,1.0000) - (0.4054,0.4054) = (0.5946,0.5946)
(0.5946,0.5946) - (0.2190,0.2190) = (0.3756,0.3756)
(0.3756,0.3756) - (0.1327,0.1327) = (0.2429,0.2429)
(0.2429,0.2429) - (0.0839,0.0839) = (0.1589,0.1589)
(0.1589,0.1589) - (0.0542,0.0542) = (0.1047,0.1047)
(0.1047,0.1047) - (0.0354,0.0354) = (0.0693,0.0693)
(0.0693,0.0693) - (0.0233,0.0233) = (0.0460,0.0460)
(0.0460,0.0460) - (0.0154,0.0154) = (0.0305,0.0305)
(0.0305,0.0305) - (0.0102,0.0102) = (0.0203,0.0203)
(0.0203,0.0203) - (0.0068,0.0068) = (0.0135,0.0135)
(0.0135,0.0135) - (0.0045,0.0045) = (0.0090,0.0090)
(0.0090,0.0090) - (0.0030,0.0030) = (0.0060,0.0060)
(0.0060,0.0060) - (0.0020,0.0020) = (0.0040,0.0040)
(0.0040,0.0040) - (0.0013,0.0013) = (0.0027,0.0027)
(0.0027,0.0027) - (0.0009,0.0009) = (0.0018,0.0018)
(0.0018,0.0018) - (0.0006,0.0006) = (0.0012,0.0012)

```

```

(0.0012,0.0012) - (0.0004,0.0004) = (0.0008,0.0008)
(0.0008,0.0008) - (0.0003,0.0003) = (0.0005,0.0005)
(0.0005,0.0005) - (0.0002,0.0002) = (0.0004,0.0004)
(0.0004,0.0004) - (0.0001,0.0001) = (0.0002,0.0002)
(0.0002,0.0002) - (0.0001,0.0001) = (0.0002,0.0002)

Hessian from last iteration: [[-4.37584933e-08 -8.75203986e-08]
 [-8.75203986e-08 -4.37584933e-08]]
Eigenvalues of Hessian: [-1.31278892e-07 4.37619053e-08]

```

B.3 Newton's method, second iteration

```

(3.2000,3.2000) - (-1.4933,-1.4933) = (4.6933,4.6933)
(4.6933,4.6933) - (0.7598,0.7598) = (3.9336,3.9336)
(3.9336,3.9336) - (-0.0677,-0.0677) = (4.0013,4.0013)
(4.0013,4.0013) - (0.0013,0.0013) = (4.0000,4.0000)
(4.0000,4.0000) - (0.0000,0.0000) = (4.0000,4.0000)

```

```

Hessian from last iteration: [[ 4.26666750e+00 -2.45347276e-13]
 [-2.45347276e-13 4.26666750e+00]]
Eigenvalues of Hessian: [4.2666675 4.2666675]

```

B.4 PCA python output of compare EVD and SVD

```

Our testmatrix
[[ 2.7245   3.1032  -13.9551   92.95328]
 [ 1.4978   0.8653   1.2219  -1.96032]
 [ 6.1456   0.7784   0.3391  17.59555]
 [ 7.5821   1.2493   8.4127 -25.25591]
 [ 6.9963   6.0318  -7.4444  69.83275]
 [-3.6614  -10.5902  15.1286 -108.02222]
 [-11.2357  -1.449    3.7832 -58.16585]
 [ 7.8109   7.3721  -2.6598  45.06708]
 [ 4.0635   4.9214  11.2876 -50.55501]
 [11.3492   8.1348  -8.9687  93.79221]
 [-6.579    11.8026   6.0447 -47.79681]
 [-2.2184  -12.5477  4.6165 -42.89778]
 [ 8.8841   -6.2996  -2.7328  39.25451]
 [10.4308   11.6823  13.2762 -37.81649]
 [ 0.0127   3.4535  -0.8084  7.22638]]

eigenvalues found with EVD on covariance matrix
[[3657.04922556   0.          0.          0.          ]
 [ 0.           52.69561292   0.          0.          ]
 [ 0.           0.           30.81419239   0.          ]
 [ 0.           0.           0.           -0.          ]]

Singular values found with SVD on covariance matrix
[[3657.04922556   0.          0.          0.          ]
 [ 0.           52.69561292   0.          0.          ]
 [ 0.           0.           30.81419239   0.          ]
 [ 0.           0.           0.           0.          ]]

```

```
Singular values found with SVD on mean-centered data
[[226.27127338  0.          0.          0.        ]
 [ 0.          27.1613435  0.          0.        ]
 [ 0.          0.          20.77013947 0.        ]
 [ 0.          0.          0.          0.        ]]

Now checking if both methods have produced the same values ...
Checking values match i 0 s1 3657.049225564554 s2 3657.0492255645527
Checking values match i 1 s1 52.69561291533943 s2 52.69561291533954
Checking values match i 2 s1 30.814192386824338 s2 30.81419238682428
Checking values match i 3 s1 2.3671877383930476e-30 s2 -2.1316282072803006e-14
OK!
```