



# Neural Data Science with **Python**

## L10 : Dimensionality Reduction

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# Free tutorial suggestions (next week)

1) Program a game in python : “Rock, Paper, Scissors”

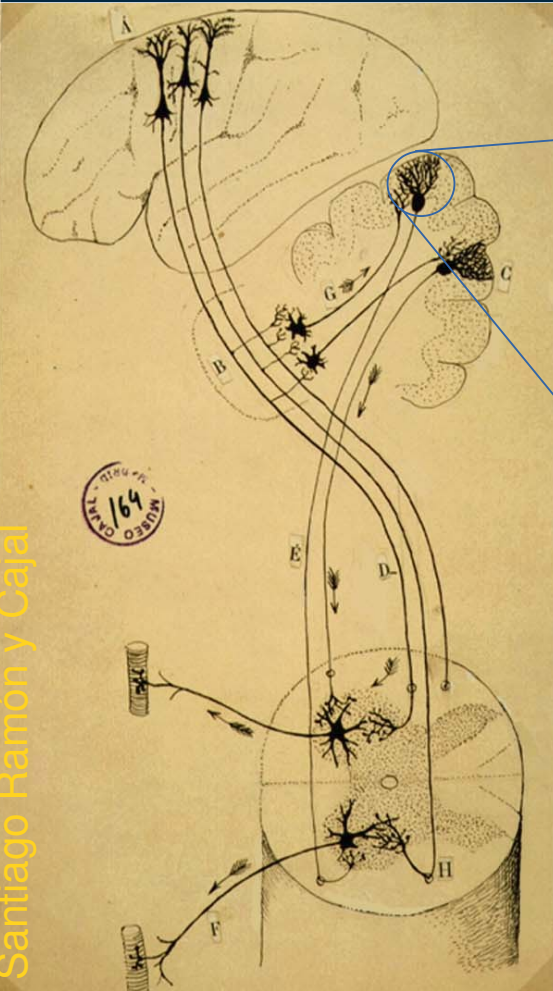


2) Resolve typical programming errors (bugs) in form of a quiz

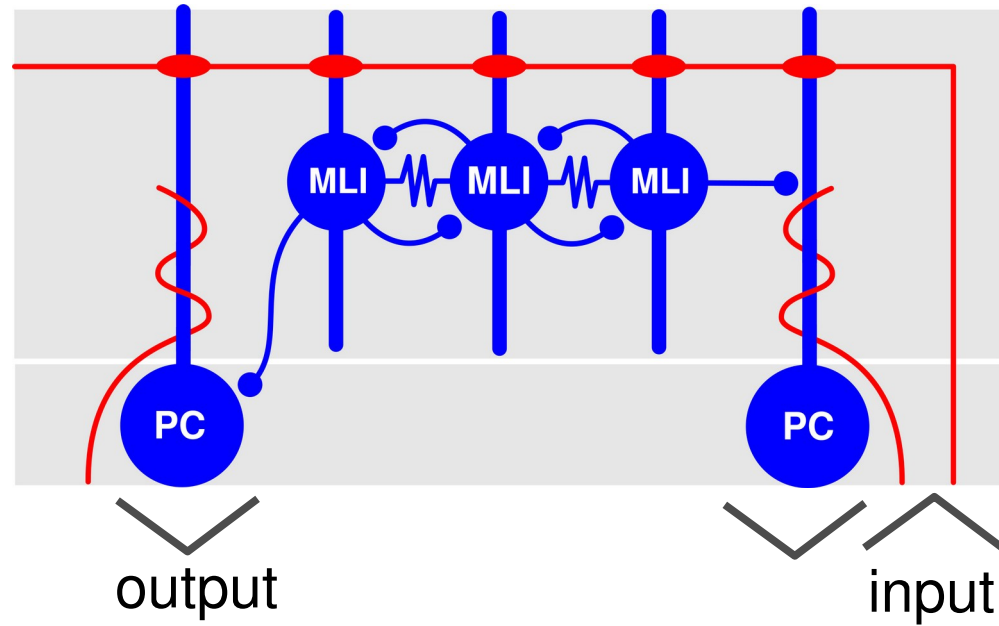
3) Re-work on programming concept/analysis concept suggested by YOU.

4) Start to work on a “fictive” end-of-course project : discuss approach, tips, tricks, typical problems

# Cerebellum and motor control

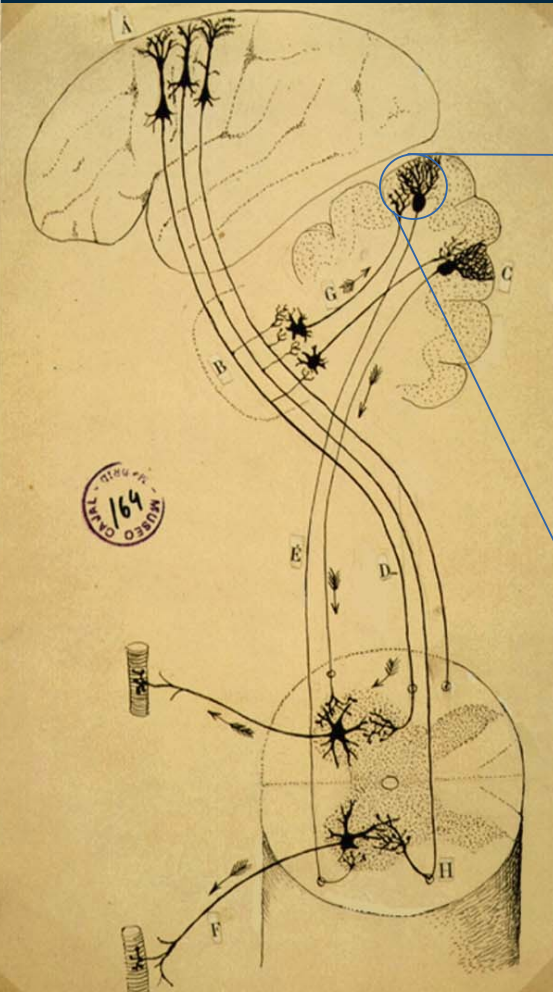


circuit of neurons in the cerebellum

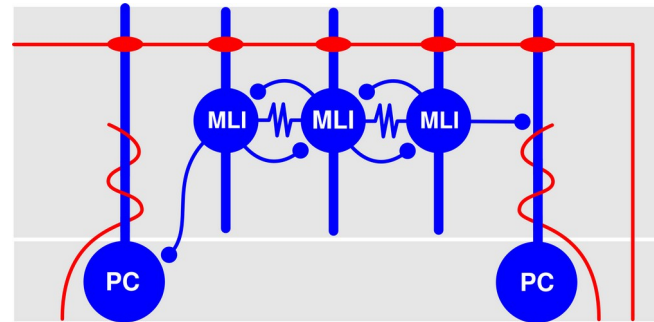


PC ... Purkinje cells  
MLI ... molecular layer interneurons

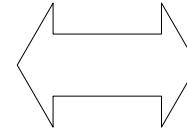
# Cerebellum and motor control



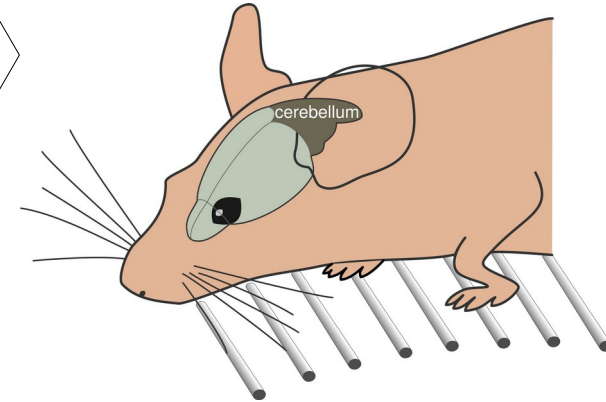
circuit of neurons in  
the cerebellum



PC ... Purkinje cells  
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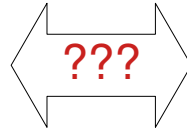
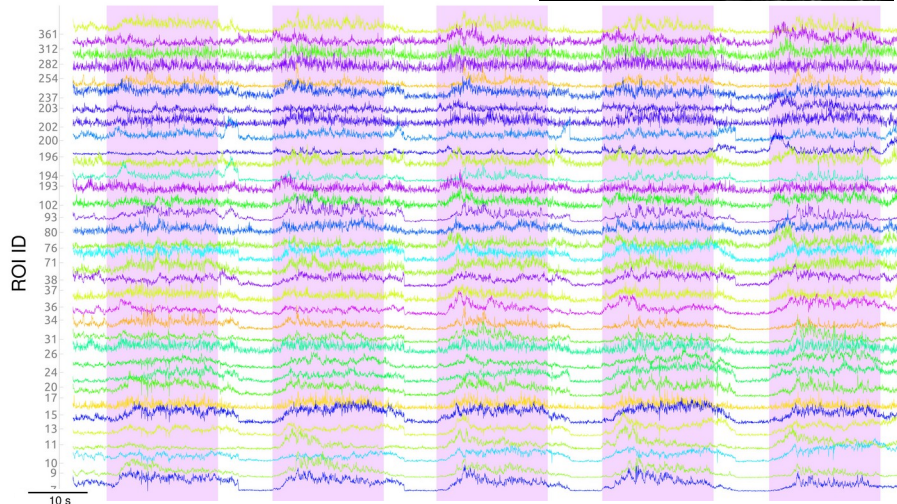
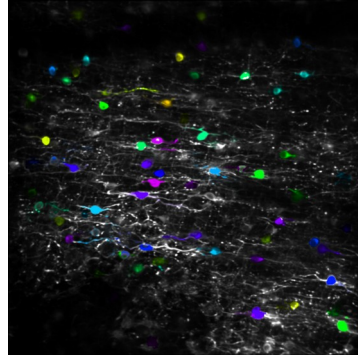
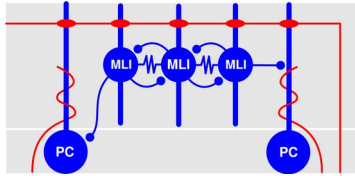
animal walking on  
treadmill with rungs



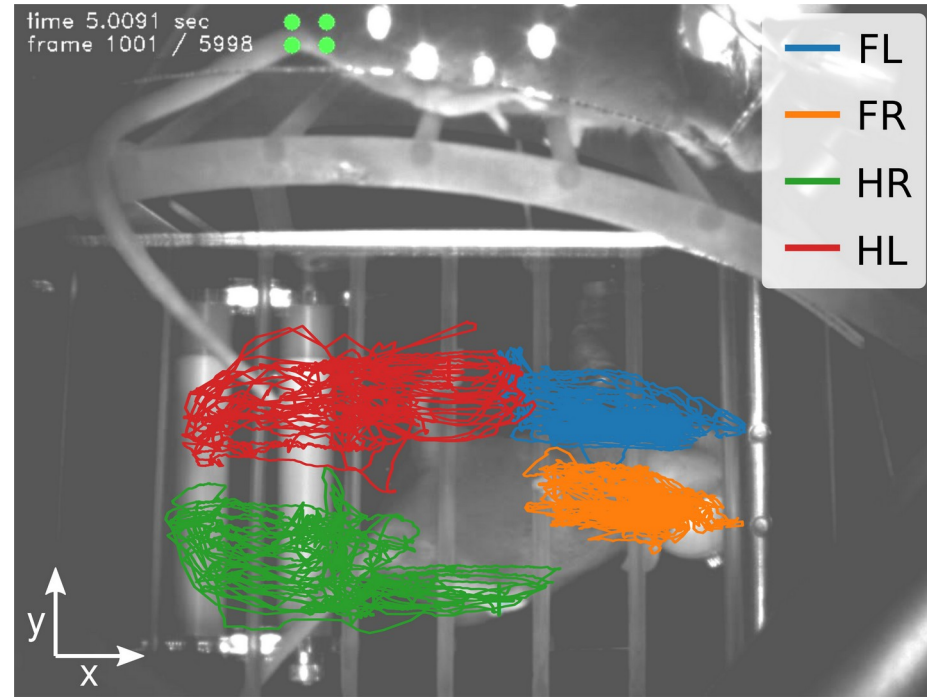
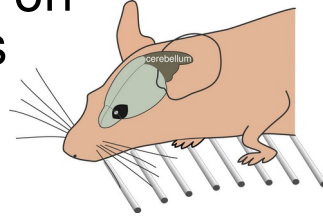


# Investigating link between activities and walking

Ca imaging : activity of neurons in the cerebellum



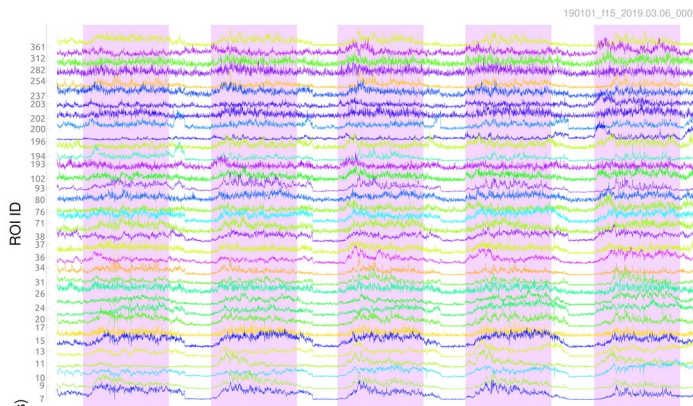
Video : animal walking on treadmill with rungs



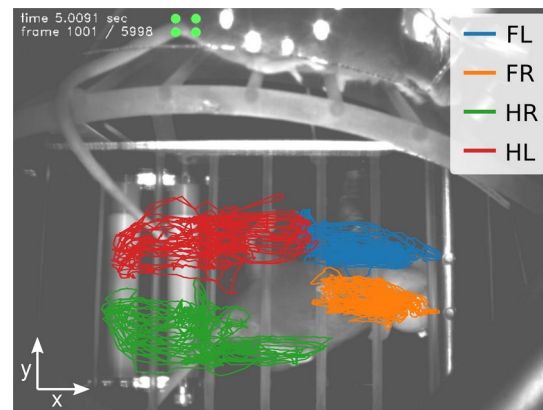
# Intuition behind dimensionality reduction

Dimensionality reduction is applied in settings in which there are  $D$  *measured variables*, but one suspects that these variables *covary* according to a smaller number of *explanatory variables*  $K$ , where  $K < D$ .

$D$  measured variables  
(e.g. neural activities)



$K$  explanatory variables  
(e.g. paw movement)

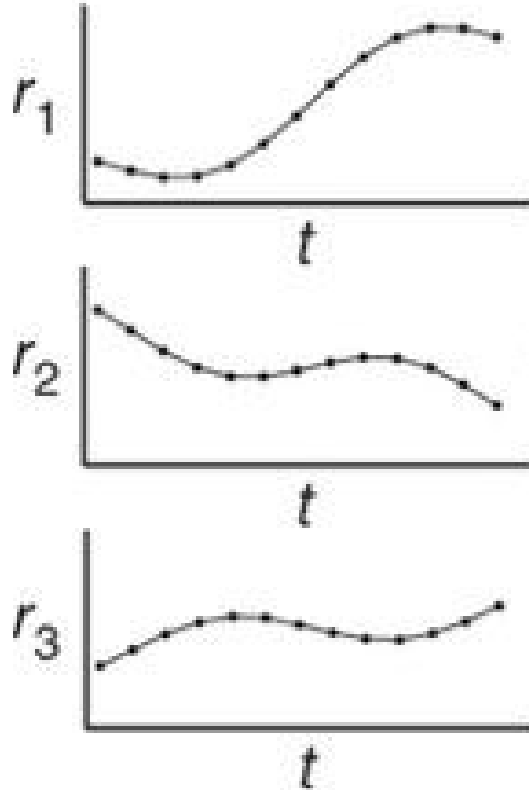


# Dimensionality reduction

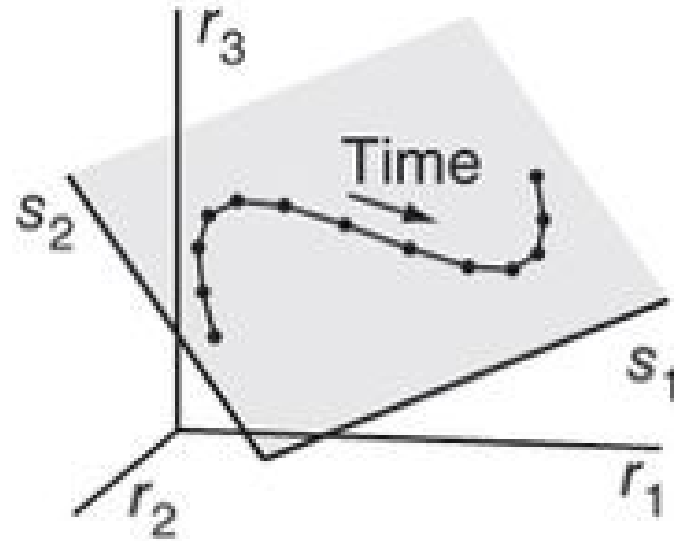
- Dimensionality reduction methods discover and extract these  $K$  explanatory variables
- explanatory variables are called *latent variables* because they are not directly observed
- any data variance not captured by the latent variables is considered to be noise
- *example* : neural population activity – recorded neurons belong to common network and are likely not independent of each other  
→ fewer latent variables might be needed to explain population activity

# Conceptual illustration of linear dim. reduction

3 neurons ( $D=3$ )



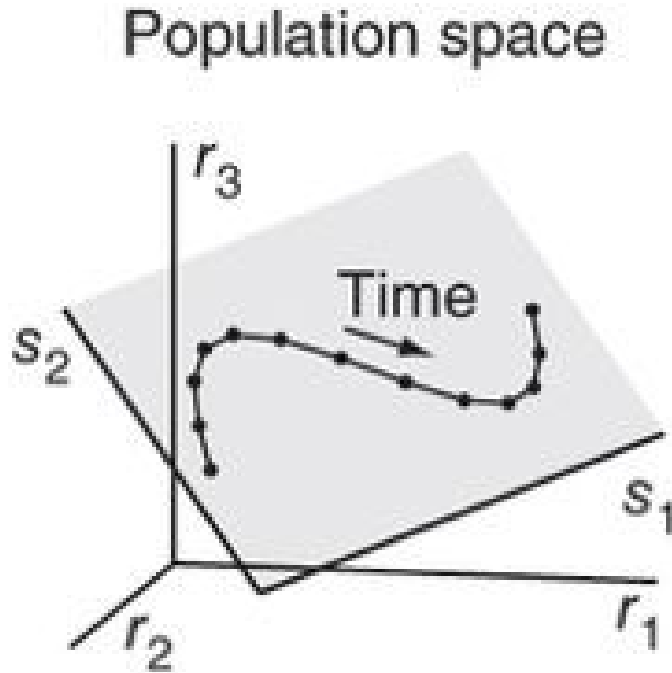
Population space



population activity as trajectory in  $D$ -dim space



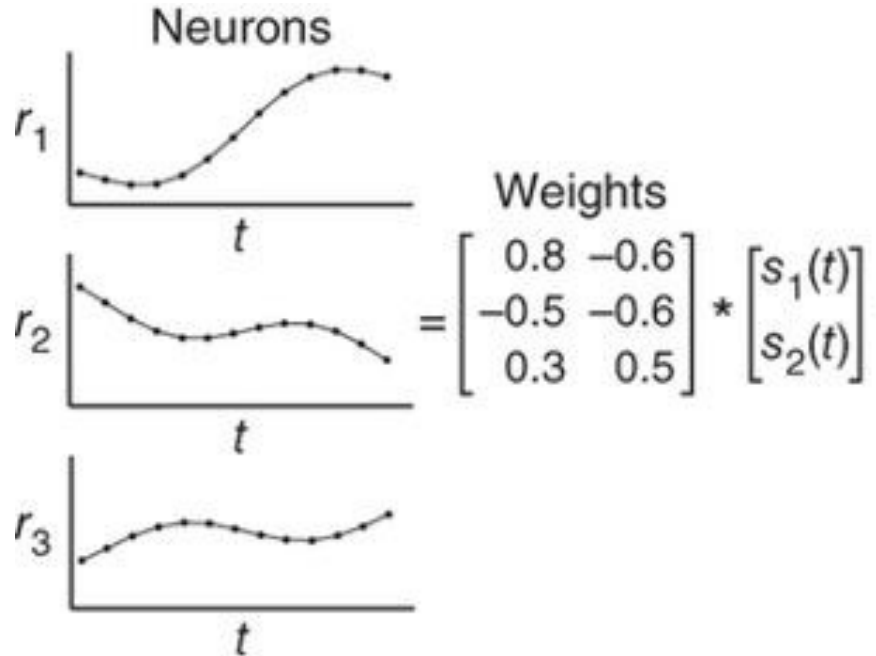
# Conceptual illustration of linear dim. reduction



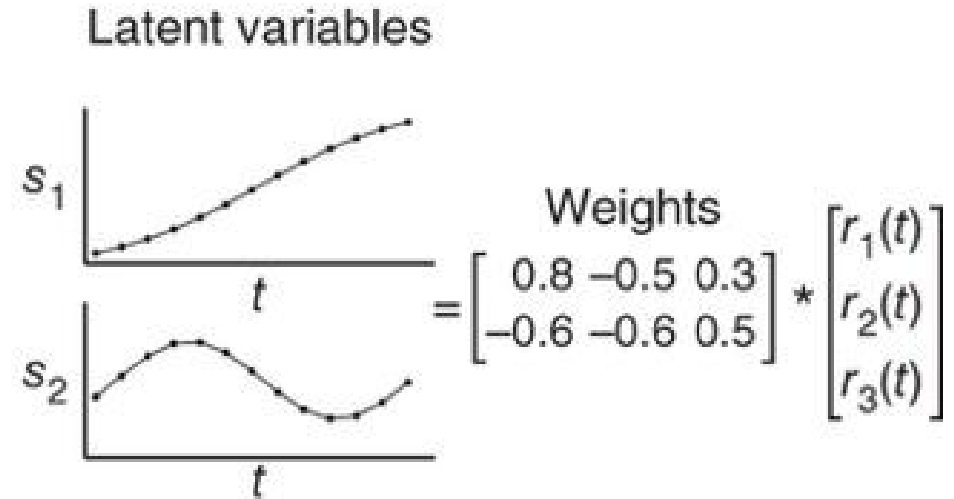
- each point represents the population activity at a particular time
- the points trace out a trajectory over time, time is not plotted, time evolves implicitly along axis
- **population activity lies in a plane**
- each point can be equivalently referred to using the high-dimensional coordinates  $[r_1, r_2, r_3]$  or the low-dimensional coordinates  $[s_1, s_2]$
- the points trace out a trajectory over time, time is not plotted, time evolves implicitly along axis

# Conceptual illustration of linear dim. reduction

neural activities can be  
reconstructed from weighted  
combination of the latent variables

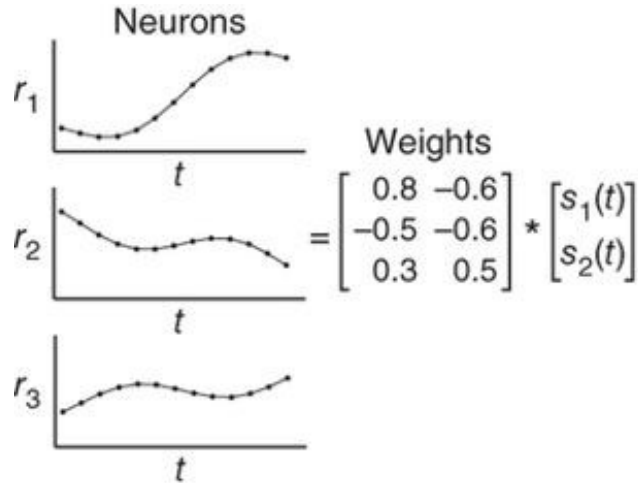


latent variables can be obtained by  
taking weighted combination of  
population activity

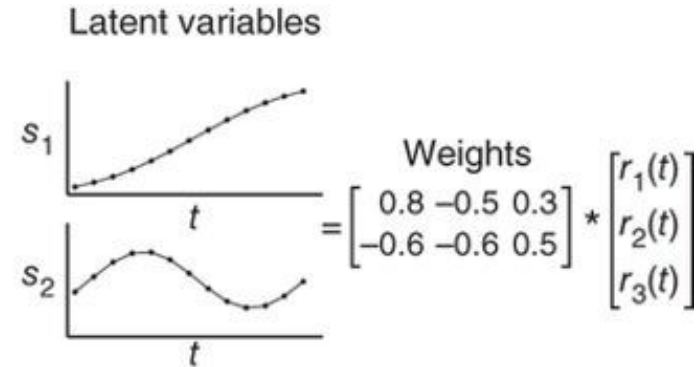


# Conceptual illustration of linear dim. reduction

neural activities can be reconstructed from weighted combination of the latent variables

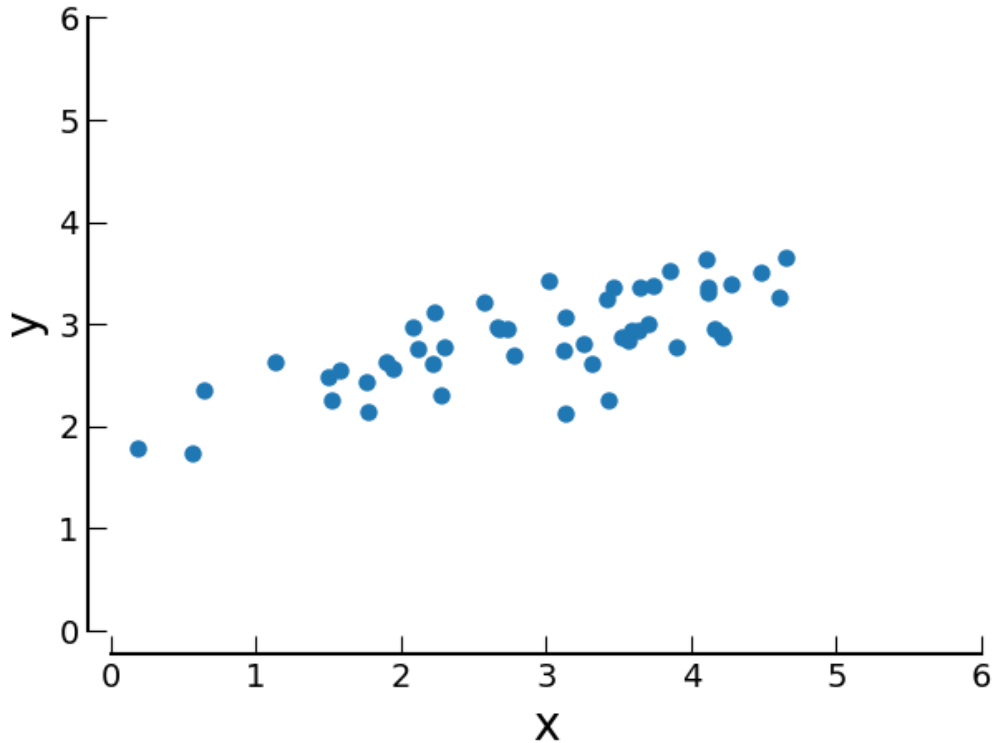


latent variables can be obtained by taking weighted combination of population activity



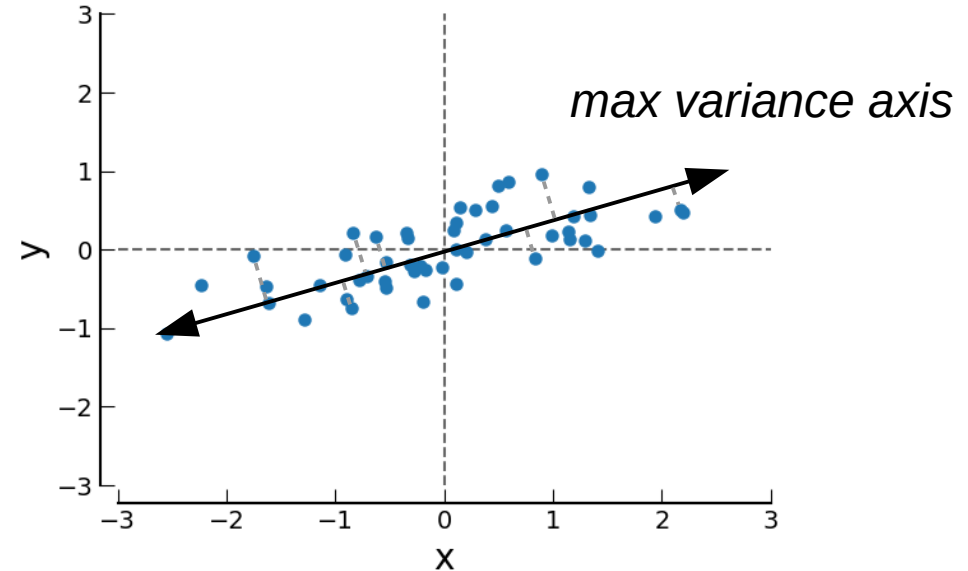
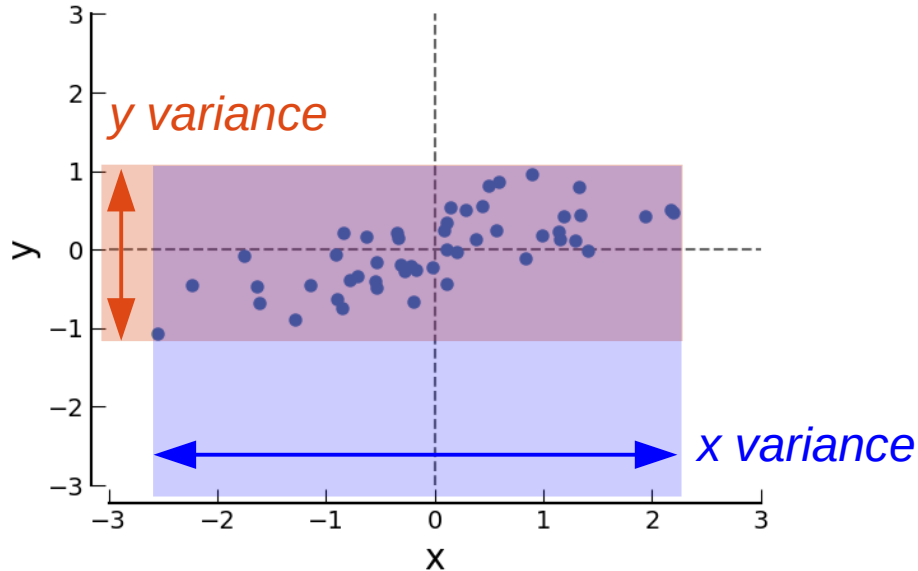
→ Weights and latent variables are determined by the dimensionality reduction method

# How does Principal Component Analysis work?



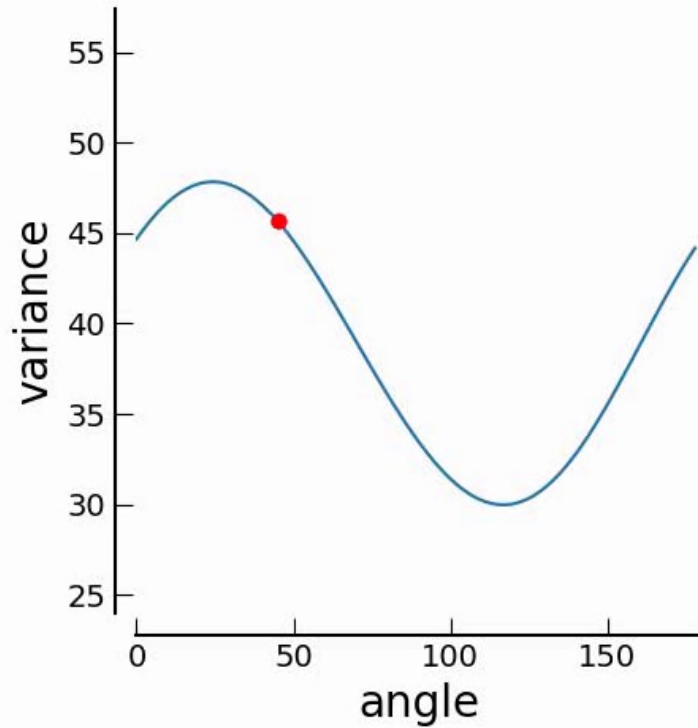
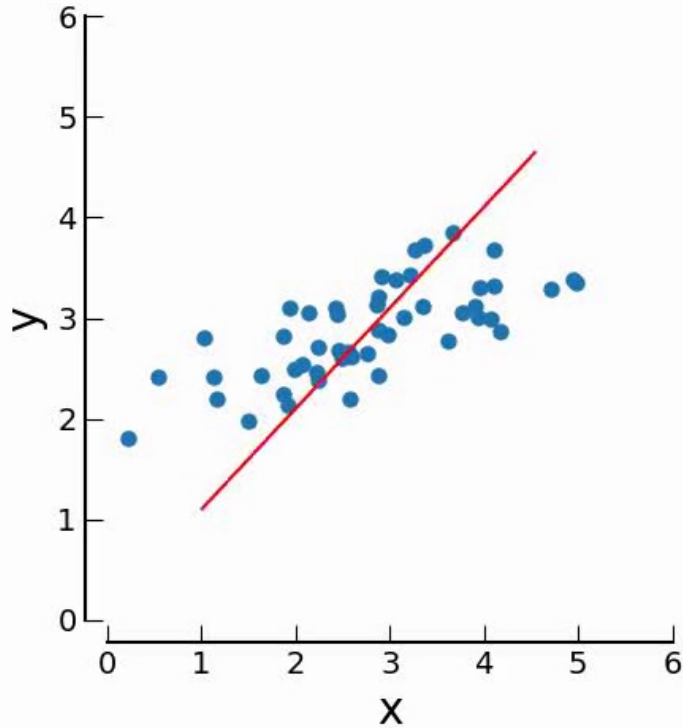
- **Principal Component Analysis (PCA)** is transformation method creating combinations of the original variables. PCA comes from the field of linear algebra.
- **Aim** : the new combination of variables will capture as much variance in the data as possible while eliminating correlations
- **Procedure** : PCA creates new variables by transforming the original observations to new dimensions using eigenvector and eigenvalues calculated from the covariance matrix of the original variables

# How does Principal Component Analysis work?



- **PCA** tries to find successively axes which account for the maximal variance in the data.
  - data is projected onto an axis and orientation varied to maximize variance

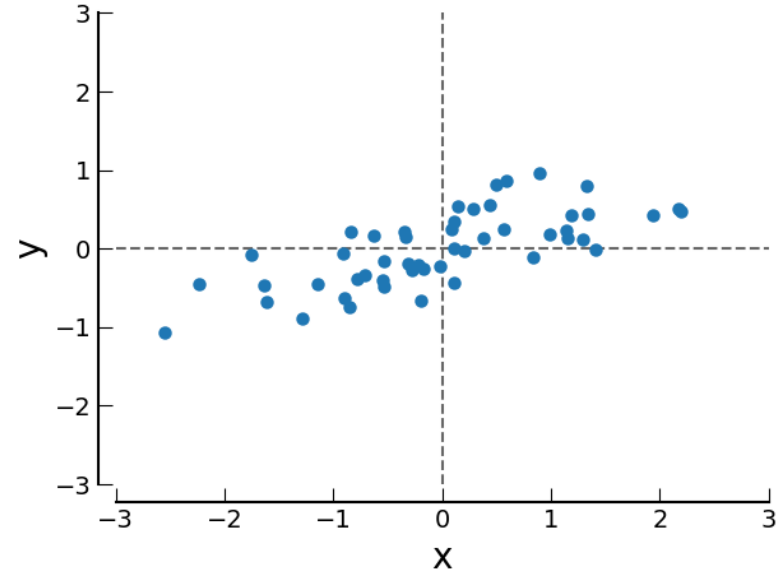
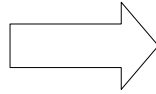
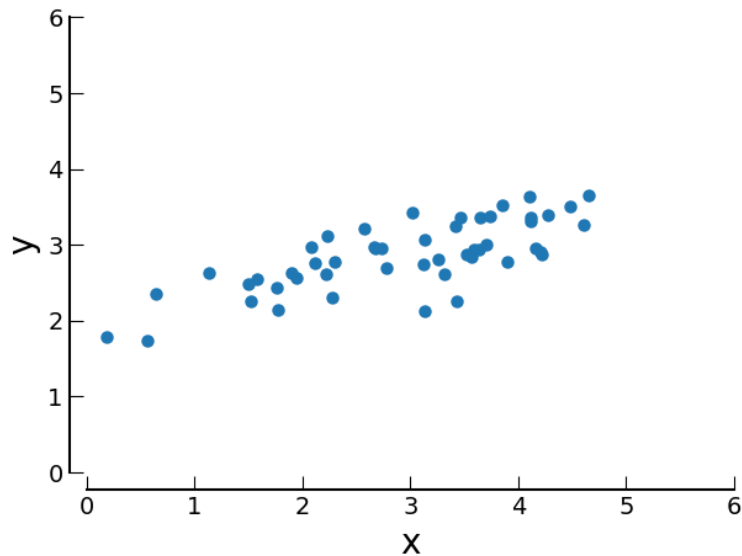
# How does Principal Component Analysis work?



- **PCA** tries to find successively axes which account for the maximal variance in the data.

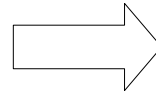
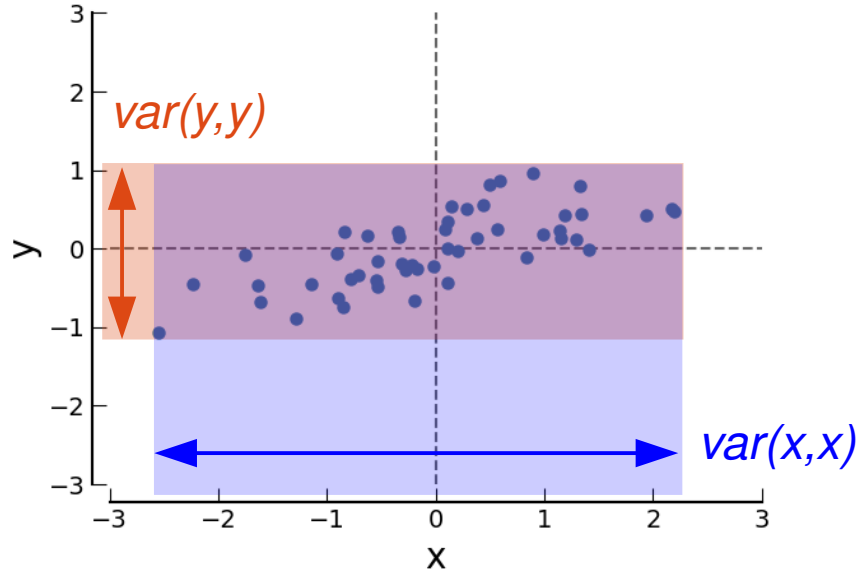


# Steps to perform PCA



- 1) Centering** the values of the input variables, i.e. subtracting the mean (sometimes the data has to be **normalized** too if one considers variables of different units or scale)

# Steps to perform PCA



**covariance matrix**

	x	y
x	[1.16958234	0.36437495]
y	[0.36437495	0.22369298]

## 2) Calculating the covariance matrix

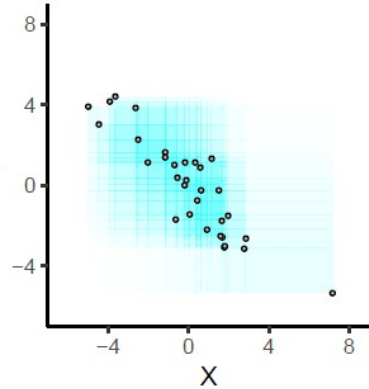
- symmetric matrix as covariance has no direction

# Steps to perform PCA

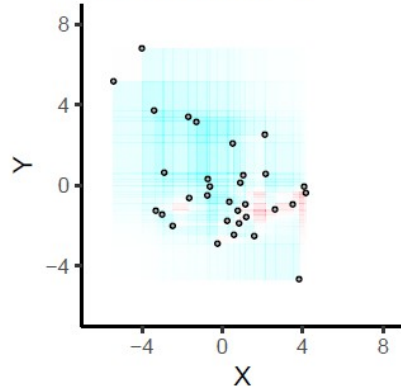
**Covariance** : measures *joint* variability of variables

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})$$

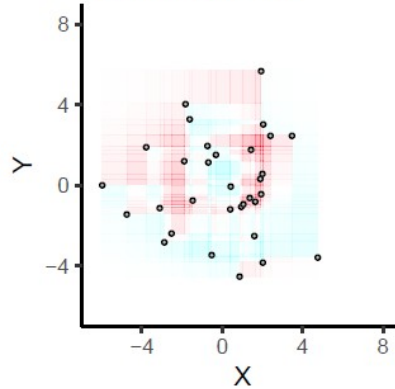
Covariance is -5.4



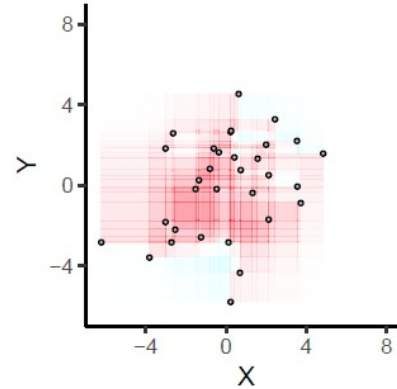
Covariance is -3



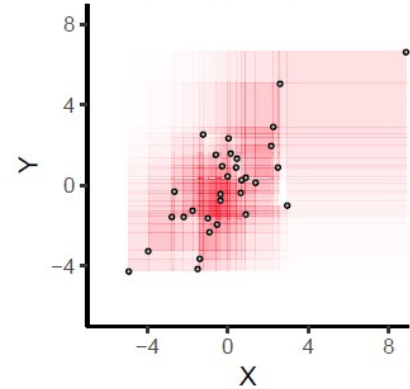
Covariance is 0



Covariance is 2

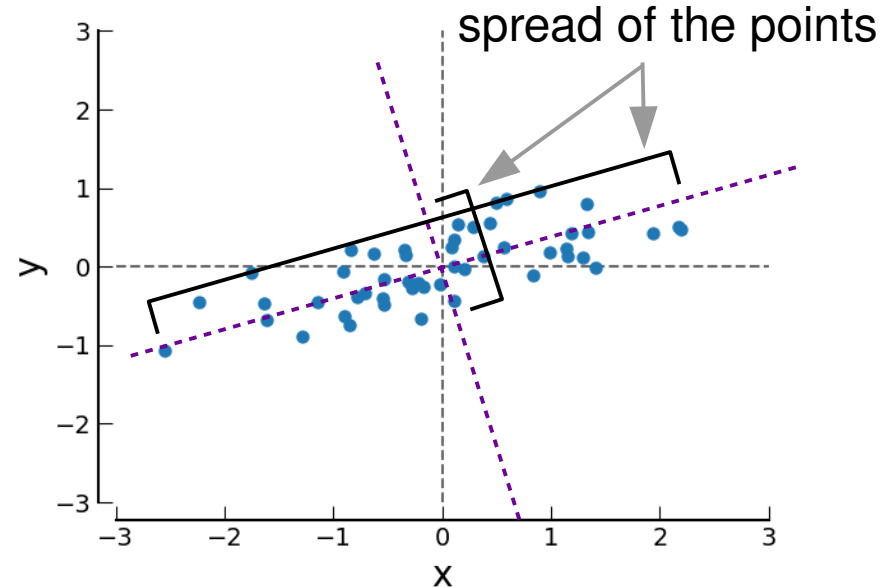
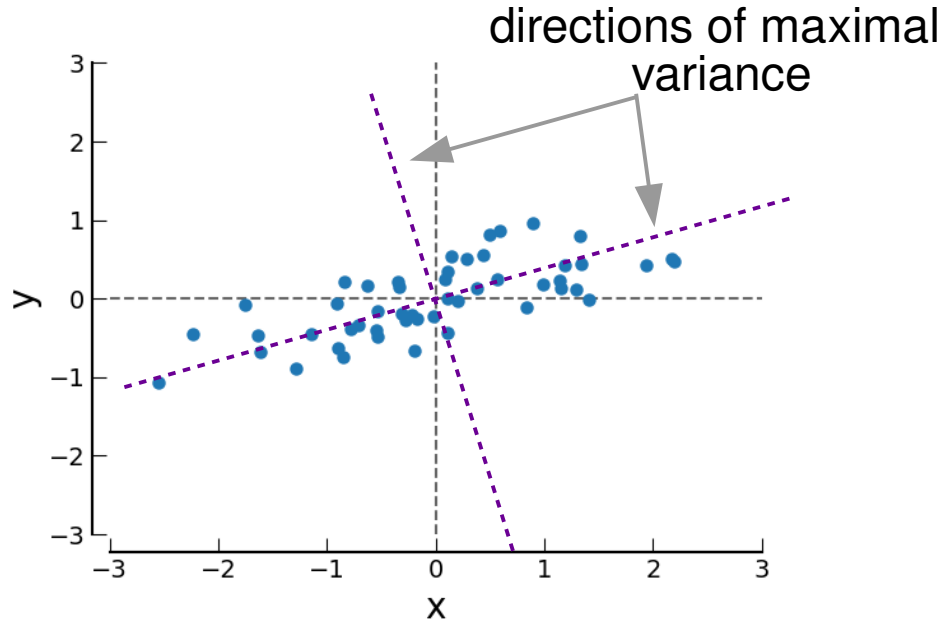


Covariance is 4.5



- a large covariance (positive or negative) indicates a strong linear relationship btw. the variables
- covariance ~0 indicate weak or non-existing linear relationship

# Steps to perform PCA

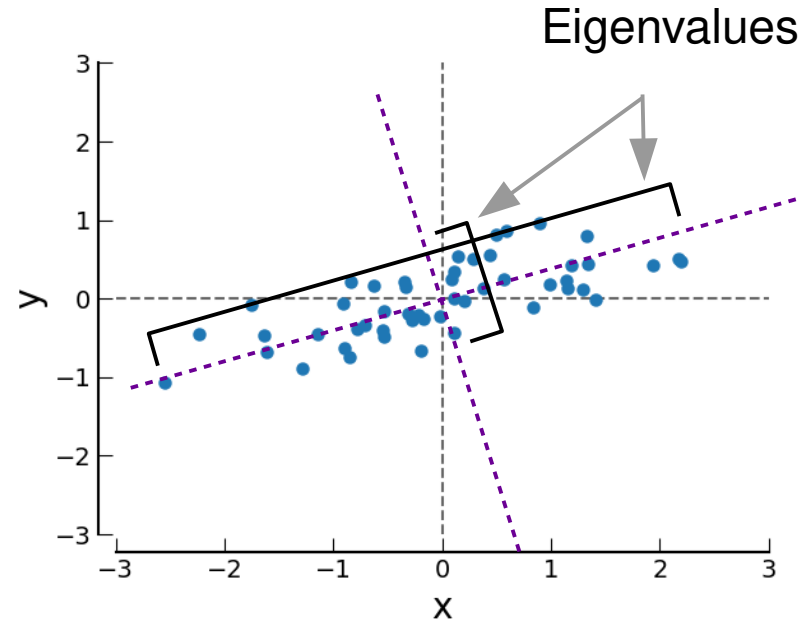
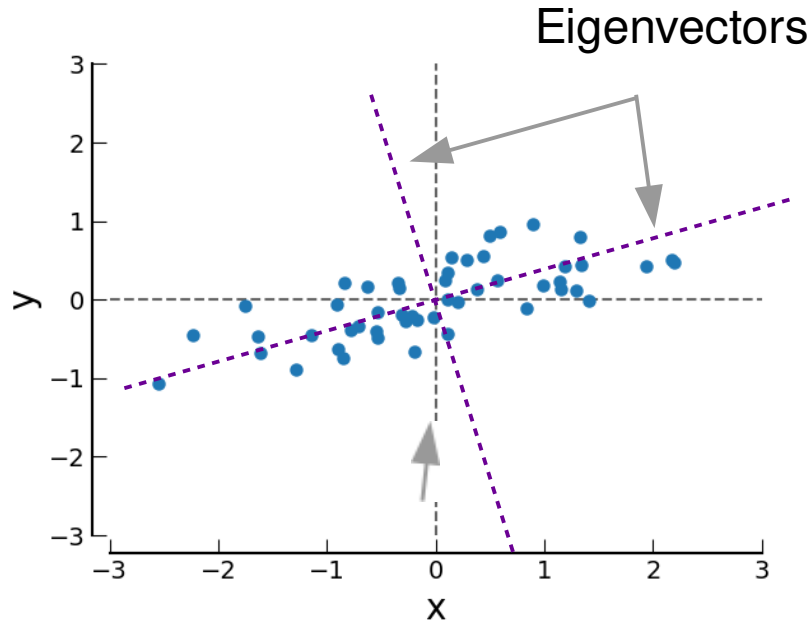


### 3) Perform Eigendecomposition of the covariance matrix

this is where PCA find Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues of the data-set

- Eigenvectors of the covariance matrix are the axes of the principal components
- Eigenvalues describe the magnitude of the eigenvector (spread of the points)

# Steps to perform PCA



## 3) Perform Eigendecomposition of the covariance matrix

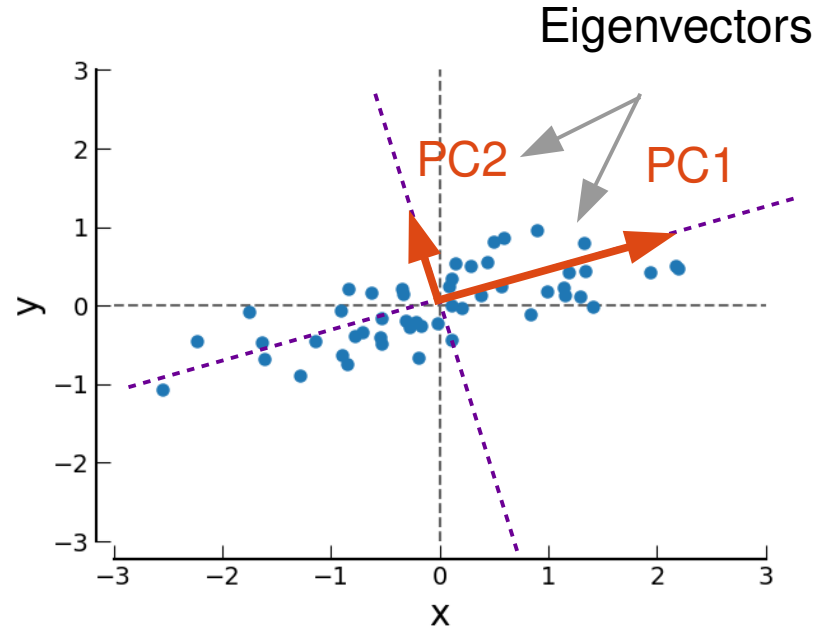
$$A x = \lambda x$$

covariance matrix (symmetric)

Eigenvector

Eigenvalue (scalar)

# Steps to perform PCA

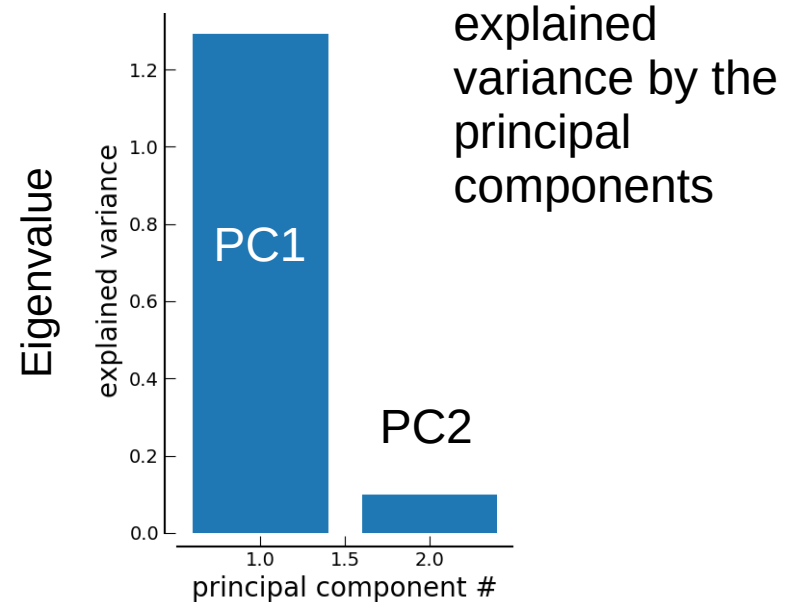
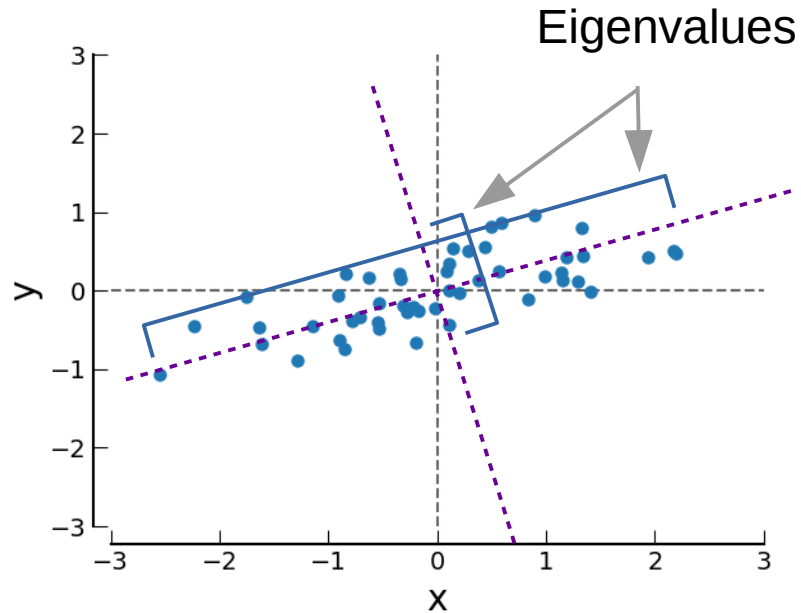


### 3) Eigendecomposition of the covariance matrix → Eigenvectors

- the first eigenvector will span the greatest variance found in the dataset
- all subsequent eigenvectors will be perpendicular (orthogonal), *i.e.*, each of the principal components will be uncorrelated with each other



# Steps to perform PCA



### 3) Eigendecomposition of the covariance matrix → Eigenvalues

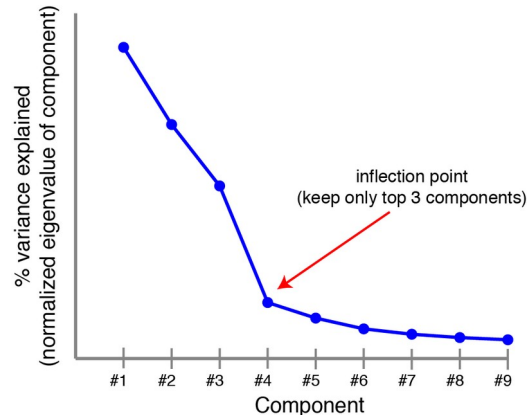
- the first eigenvector spans the greatest variance
- principal components are sorted by descending eigenvalues
- principal components with the highest eigenvalues account for most variance in the data

# Steps to perform PCA

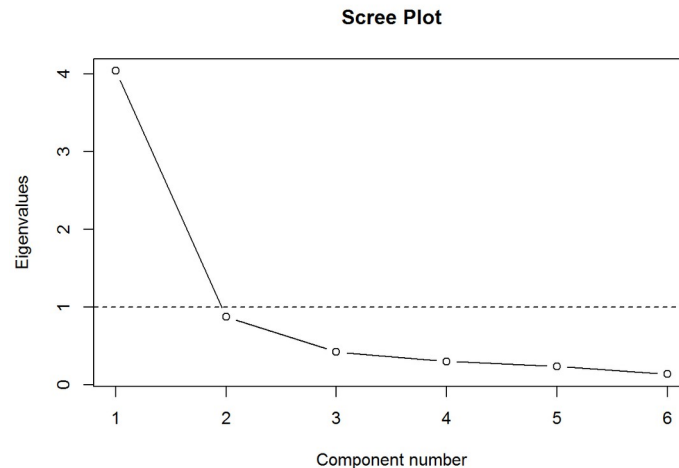
## 4) Select number of principal components to keep

- PCA returns as many principal components as there are variables  
→ How do we know how many of these factors are essential ?
- most of the variance will be accounted for by the first principal components
- various ways to select principal components to keep

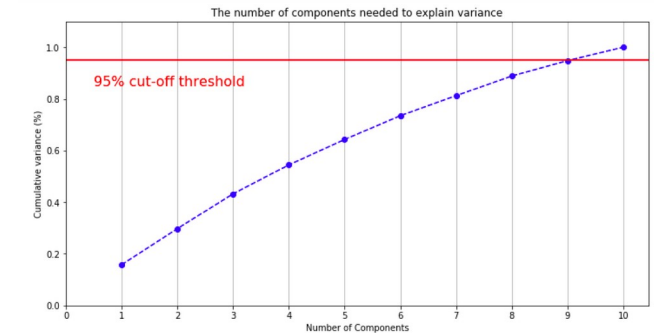
### A) look for inflection point



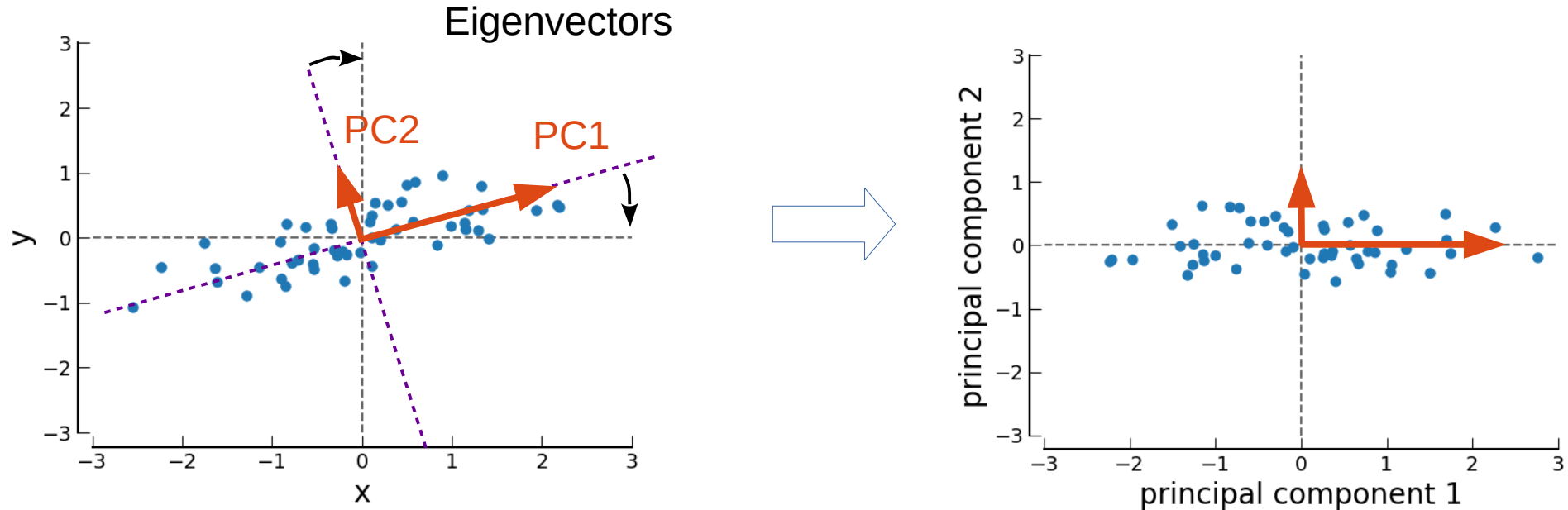
### B) Kaiser criterion $EV > 1$



### C) threshold on variance explained



# Steps to perform PCA



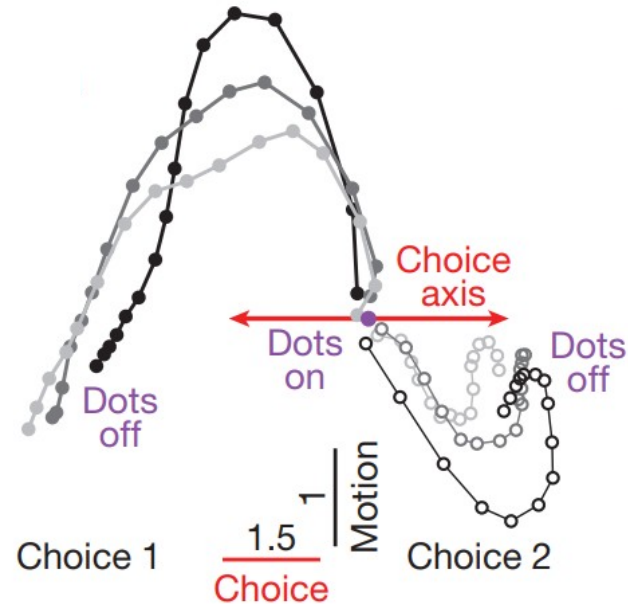
## 5) Original data is converted to the selected principal components

- projection matrix are simply selected eigenvectors concatenated to a matrix
- matrix is multiplied with original observations
- transformed dataset projected onto new space spanned by the principal components

# Steps to perform PCA

## 6) Interpreting the meaning of the factors

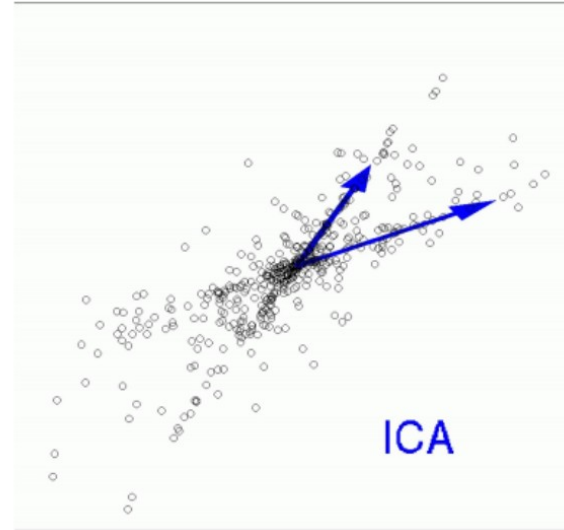
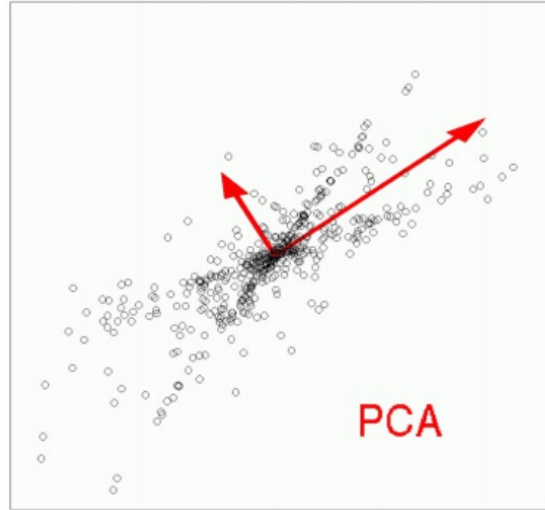
- visualizing temporal evolution of the first principal components
- using principal components to correlate with experimental observables
- classification and cluster analysis



population activity recorded in PFC

[Mante et al. Nature 2013]

# Other dimensionality reduction method : *e.g.* ICA



## **ICA – Independent Component Analysis**

- tries to find independent components of data
- all components are equally important
- eigenvectors are not orthogonal