

CEE 616: Probabilistic Machine Learning

M5 Unsupervised Learning:

L5A: Principal Components Analysis

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UMass**Amherst**

College of Engineering

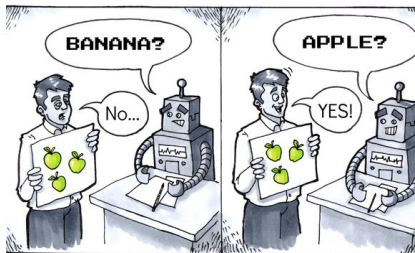
Thu, Nov 20, 2025

Outline

- ① Introduction
- ② Background
- ③ Max variance approach
- ④ SVD approach
- ⑤ PCR and PLS
- ⑥ Summary
- ⑦ Appendix: PCs and ridge regression

Unsupervised vs. supervised learning

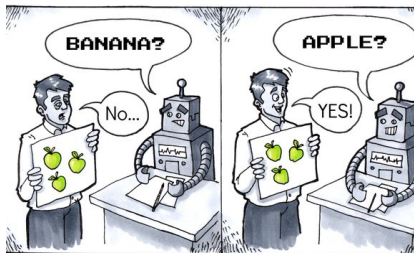
Unsupervised vs. supervised learning



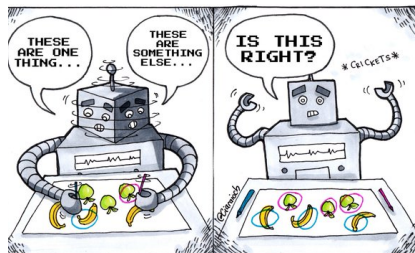
Supervised Learning

- Supervised learning: given response y and p features measured on the same observations, predict y on the x_j

Unsupervised vs. supervised learning



Supervised Learning



Unsupervised Learning

- Supervised learning: given response y and p features measured on the same observations, predict y on the x_j
- Unsupervised learning: only p features; no given response; what then can we learn about the data?

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Goal: predict or infer a response (regression or classification)

- multiple linear regression

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- The direction that maximizes the variance is that which also minimizes the mean squared error

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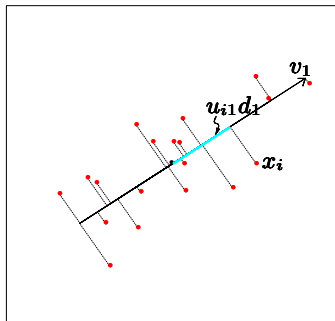


Figure: First principal component (PC) of a dataset. The PC minimizes the total squared distance from each point to its orthogonal projection onto the line

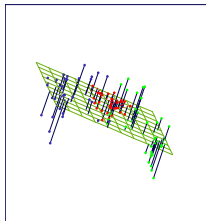
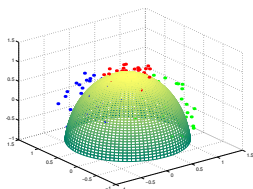
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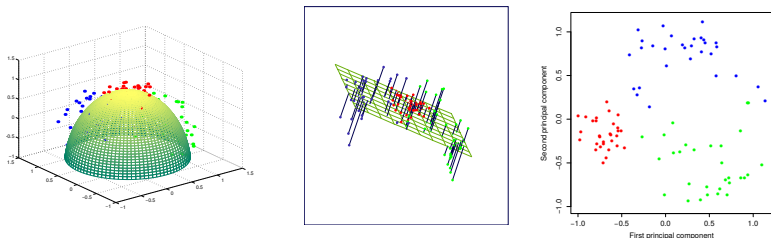


Figure: (L) Simulated dataset near surface of half-sphere. (C) Best 2-dimensional representation of data. (R) Projected points on the plane ($\mathbf{U}_2\mathbf{\Gamma}_2$)

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The sample covariance matrix is given as the pairwise inner/dot products of the centered attribute/feature vectors, normalized by the sample size N .

Projection of X onto first L basis vectors

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Thus λ is an eigenvalue of Σ and \mathbf{v} the eigenvector.

Recall that the projected variance is given by $\sigma_{\mathbf{v}}^2 = \mathbf{v}^T \Sigma \mathbf{v}$. Thus:

$$\sigma_{\mathbf{v}}^2 = \mathbf{v}^T \lambda \mathbf{v} = \lambda \quad (7)$$

To maximize $\sigma_{\mathbf{v}}^2$ we set λ to the largest eigenvalue λ_1 of Σ ; \mathbf{v}_1 indicates the direction of max variance (first principal component).

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Iris dataset: first principal component

Figure: (Left) Iris dataset showing original basis: sepal length (X_1), sepal width (X_2) and petal length (X_3). (Right) First principal component \mathbf{u}_1 superimposed

Iris dataset: first principal component

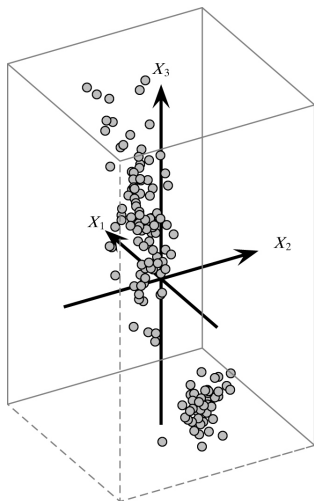


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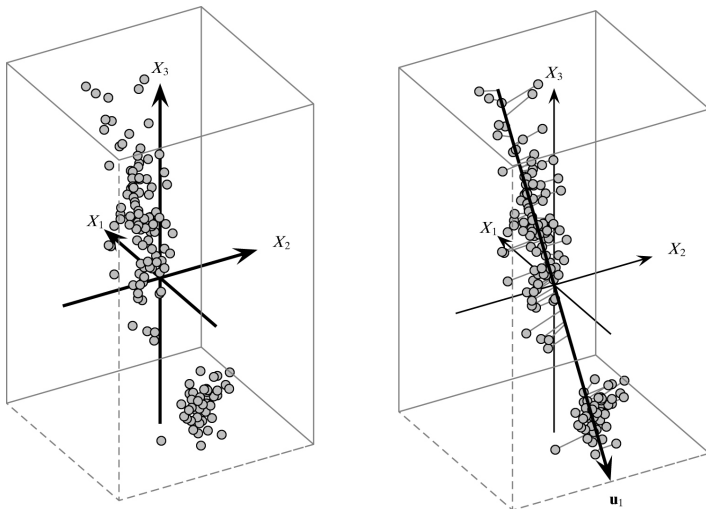


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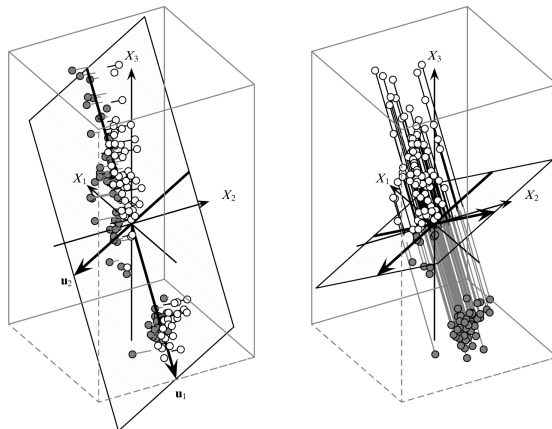


Figure: (Left) Optimal two-dimensional basis for Iris data. (Right) Non-optimal basis

Singular value decomposition (SVD)

Recall the singular value decomposition of \mathbf{X} :

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{V}^T \quad (8)$$

¹i.e. $\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{U}^T = \mathbf{U}^{-1}$

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PCA via SVD

³Note that $s_k = \sqrt{\lambda_k}$ in our notation.

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- In the SVD framework, this means we find the best number L of principal components $\mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{s}_k$, where $k = 1, \dots, L, L+1, \dots, D$.³

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where $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times L}$ is the **score matrix** and \mathbf{U}_L , \mathbf{S}_L and \mathbf{V}_L are the L -truncated matrix components of the SVD of \mathbf{X}

- \mathbf{V}_L is also referred to as the **weight matrix** \mathbf{W}
- The data matrix \mathbf{X} can be approximately recovered from the transformation by:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{V}_L^T \quad (11)$$

where $\mathbf{V}_L^T \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times D}$ (**loadings matrix**) is the transpose of the first L columns of \mathbf{V}

- Thus, PCA is considered the L -truncated SVD approximation of \mathbf{X} :

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{U}_L \mathbf{S}_L \mathbf{V}_L^T \quad (12)$$

³Note that $s_k = \sqrt{\lambda_k}$ in our notation.

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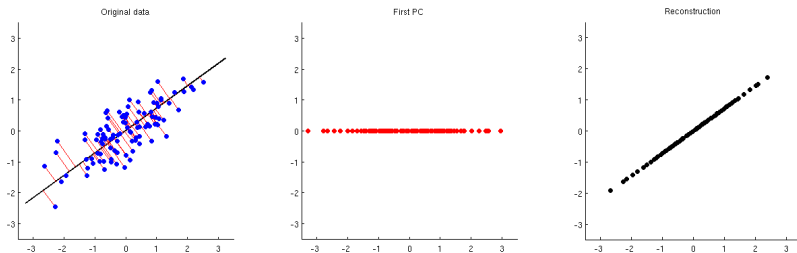


Figure: 1D projection of dataset onto first PC and reconstruction

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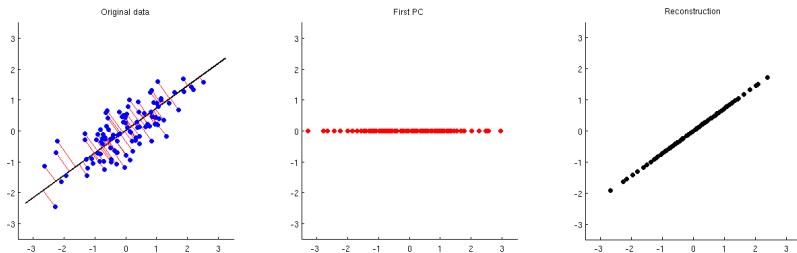


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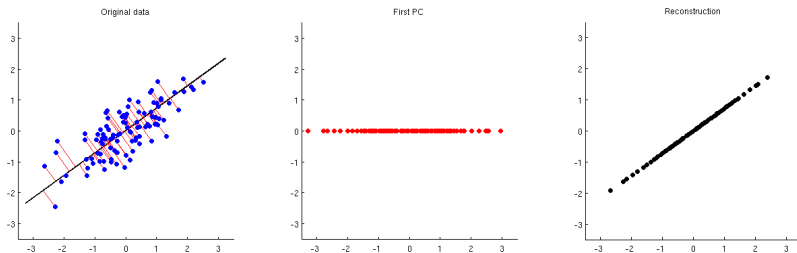


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- When $L = D$, then $\mathbf{V}_L\mathbf{V}_L^T = \mathbf{I}_D$ ($D \times D$ identity matrix) and \mathbf{X} is recovered exactly
- A great illustration can be found [here](#).

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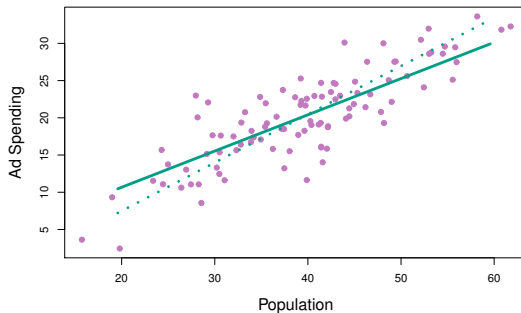


Figure: An example showing the first PLS direction (solid line) and first PCR direction (dotted line)

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Summary of PCA steps

- Perform singular value decomposition of $N \times D$ data matrix \mathbf{X} :

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Reading

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Ridge estimates

Recall the ridge regression estimate:

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$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}^R = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \quad (29)$$

The **singular value decomposition** of \mathbf{X} can yield important insights into the nature of the solution:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^T \quad (30)$$

where $\mathbf{U}_{N \times D}$ and $\mathbf{V}_{D \times D}$ are orthogonal matrices. Recall that an orthogonal matrix is one whose columns/rows are orthogonal unit vectors (i.e. all rows and columns have only one non-zero element: ± 1); $\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$

\mathbf{D} is a $D \times D$ diagonal matrix; $d_j \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \mathbf{X} \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{OLS} = \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^T (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{V}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{S}^2)^{-1} \mathbf{S}^2 \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} \end{aligned}$$

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Ridge estimate decomposition

We can then write the ridge solutions as:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{X}\hat{\mathbf{w}}^R &= \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X} + \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}^2 + \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{y} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^p \mathbf{u}_j \frac{d_j^2}{d_j^2 + \lambda} \mathbf{u}_j^T \mathbf{y}\end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{u}_j are the columns of \mathbf{U} .

Thus, we see that ridge regression shrinks the coordinates of \mathbf{y} in the basis \mathbf{U} by $\frac{d_j^2}{d_j^2 + \lambda}$.

- As d_j decreases, the term $\frac{d_j^2}{d_j^2 + \lambda}$ increases.
- Thus, more shrinkage is applied to the coordinates whose basis vectors correspond to smaller d_j .

Principal components

Keeping in mind that \mathbf{X} is a centered matrix, then the sample covariance matrix is given by:

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}}{N} \quad (31)$$

Substituting \mathbf{X} with its SVD we obtain:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^T)^T \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{D}^2 \mathbf{V}^T \quad (32)$$

- The columns \mathbf{v}_j of \mathbf{V} are the **eigenvectors** of \mathbf{X} (or **principal components**).
- The expression $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{D}^2 \mathbf{V}^T$ is called the **eigendecomposition** of \mathbf{S} .

First principal component

Given the eigen decomposition:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{S}^2 \mathbf{V}^T \quad (33)$$

The first principal component⁴ of \mathbf{X} satisfies the property:

$$\mathbb{V}(\mathbf{z}_1) = \mathbb{V}(\mathbf{X} \mathbf{v}_1) = \frac{s_1^2}{N} = \frac{\lambda_1}{N} \quad (34)$$

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- The last principal component has minimum variance.
- Since this corresponds to the lowest s_k , this corresponds to the direction shrunk the most by the ridge regression

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Principal components — 2 dimensions

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Ridge regression projects \mathbf{y} onto the principal components, shrinking the coefficient of the low-variance component more than the high-variance component.

Figure: Principal components of a two-dimensional input dataset. The largest principal component (PC) maximizes the variance of the projected data. The smallest PC minimizes that variance.

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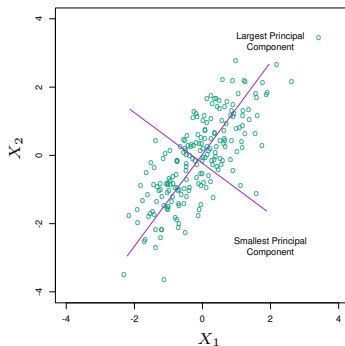


Figure: Principal components of a two-dimensional input dataset. The largest principal component (PC) maximizes the variance of the projected data. The smallest PC minimizes that variance.