

# Principal Component Analysis

February 12, 2020

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# Introduction

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- ▶ It is based on statistical and geometrical considerations.
- ▶ It was invented by Pearson at the beginning of XXth century but is still used today.

# Introduction

- ▶ Principal Component Analysis is a method used for some unsupervised learning problems.
- ▶ It is based on statistical and geometrical considerations.
- ▶ Applications include :
  - ▶ dimensionality reduction
  - ▶ noise filtering
  - ▶ prediction
  - ▶ general data visualiation and analysis

## Example

In this paper, astrophysicists use PCA in order to test a new star temperature prediction method [Bermejo et al., 2013]

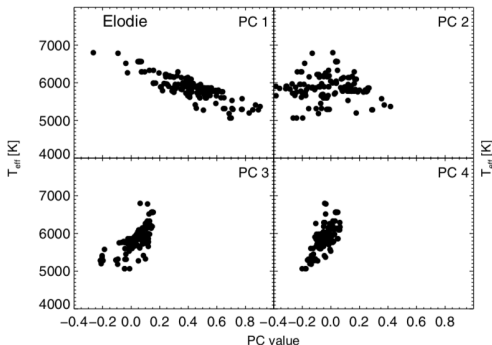
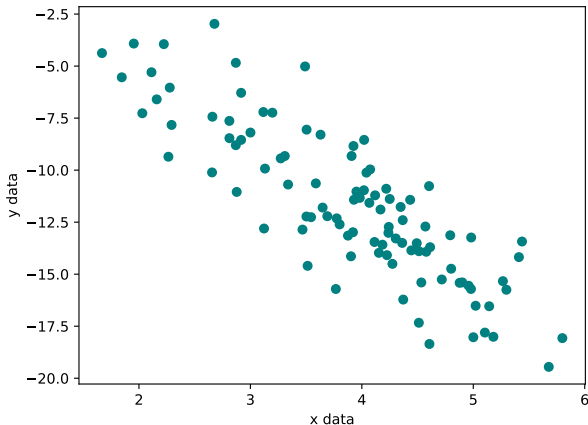


Figure: PCA used in order to predict temperature.

## Problem statement

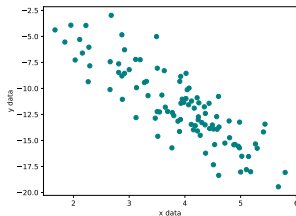
- We have multidimensional data.





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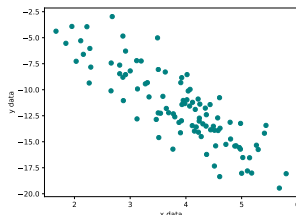
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We look for the axis that explain or carry the most variations in the data.

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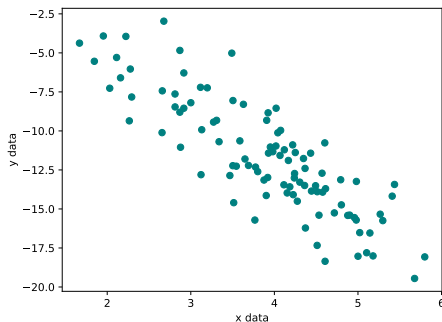
- We have multidimensional data.



We look for the axis that explain or carry the most variations in the data.

Thoses axes will be called the **principal components**.

## Visual intuition



When looking at this image, what axis would you suggest in order to explain the biggest variation among the data ?

# Formalization

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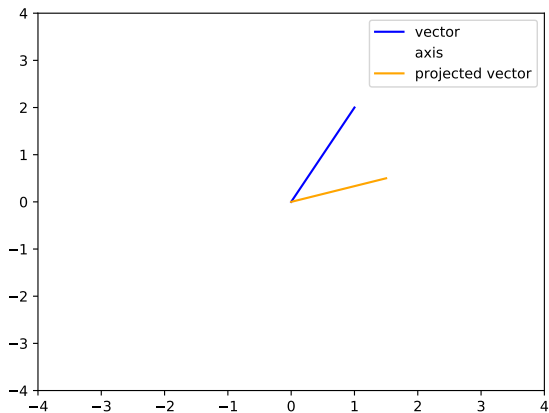
In the case of a larger problem with more dimensions, it will not be possible to use visual feedback in order to choose the principal components (the axis).

Furthermore, even in 2D, using only visualization, we can only do a **approximation** of the most relevant axis.

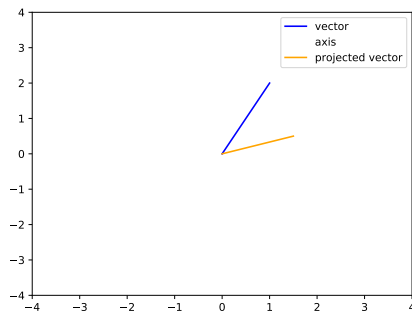
# Orthogonal projections

We will restate the problem in a mathematical way, using tools coming from **linear algebra**.  
In particular, the concept of **orthogonal projection** is essential.

# Orthogonal projection



# Orthogonal projection



**Exercice 1 : Mathematical problem** Can you link orthogonal projections to the problem of finding the most relevant axis ?



# Inertia

- ▶ The **inertia** related to an axis will be a measure of the quality of an axis.
- ▶ If  $x_i$  is a sample from  $n$  samples, and  $\Delta$  an axis, we call  $p_{x_i \rightarrow \Delta}$  the orthogonal projection of  $x_i$  on the axis  $\Delta$ .

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- ▶ The inertia related to  $\Delta$  is:

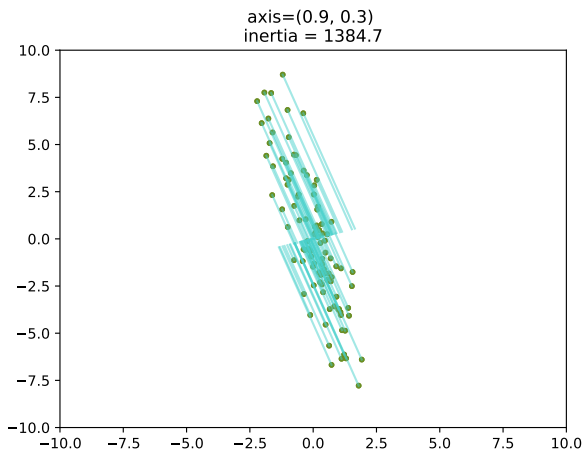
$$I_{\Delta} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n d^2(x_i, p_{x_i \rightarrow \Delta}) \quad (1)$$

# Inertia

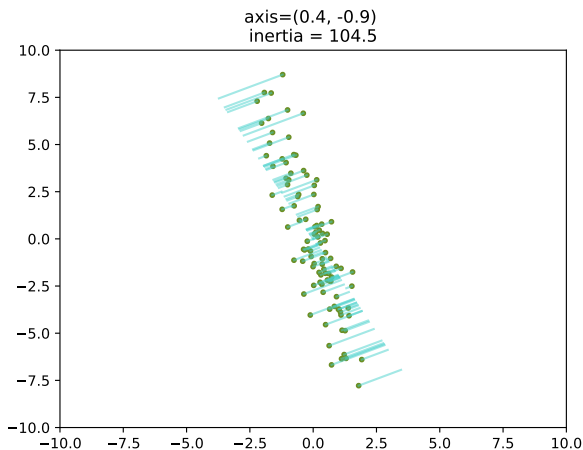
## Exercise 2 : No inertia

In what situations could we have  $I_{\Delta} = 0$  ?

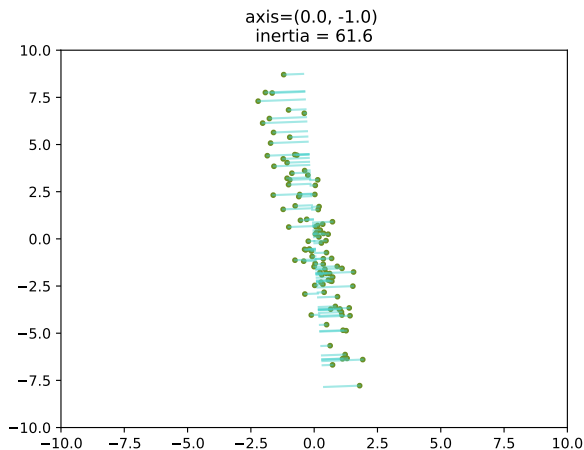
# Inertia



# Inertia



# Inertia



# Inertia

## Exercise 3 : Computing an inertia

Please **cd** **pca/** and use the file **inertia.py** in order to represent the projections of the data onto a chosen axis and to compute the inertia.

What is your optimal axis ?

## Remark

Minimizing  $I_{\Delta}$  is the same as maximizing  $I_{\Delta^*}$  where  $\Delta^*$  is the supplementary orthogonal space.



## Several principal components

- ▶ In  $2D$  (like in the former example), we can only have 1 principal component.

## Several principal components

- ▶ In  $2D$  (like in the former example), we can only have 1 principal component.
- ▶ However, when the data have more dimensions, it is possible to have **several principal components**.
- ▶ the data are then projected on these components.

# Variance and Inertia

## Exercise 4 : **Linking variance and inertia**

What is the relationship between variance and inertia ?

# Optimization

- ▶ In real applications, algorithms or analytic solutions are used in order to find the optimal axes.

## Optimization with analytic solution

- ▶ Methods include the famous **Lagrange multiplier method**.
- ▶ This involves computing the **covariance matrix**.

## Optimization with algorithms

- ▶ One can use an approximation method to find the first principal component, called the **power iteration** algorithm.
- ▶ It is useful when the dimensionality is high, when the Lagrangian multiplier method becomes too slow, since it involves computation of the covariance matrix.

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# Optimization with algorithms

**Exercice 5 : Complexity of computing the covariance matrix.**

If  $n$  is the number of datapoints, and  $p$  the number of variables, what is the complexity of this calculation ?



## Optimization with algorithms

### Exercise 5 : Complexity of computing the covariance matrix.

If  $n$  is the number of datapoints, and  $p$  the number of variables, what is the complexity of this calculation ?

The power iteration algorithm only involves  $cnp$  operations, where  $c$  is a constant way smaller than  $p$ , so it is way faster.

## PCA with sklearn

- ▶ We will use sklearn in order to perform PCA on our dataset.
- ▶ `https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/decomposition.html`
- ▶ `https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.decomposition.PCA.html`

## PCA with sklearn

### Exercise 6 : Sklearn

Please use the file **pca\_sklearn.py** in order to find the principal components on the dataset of the previous exercise.

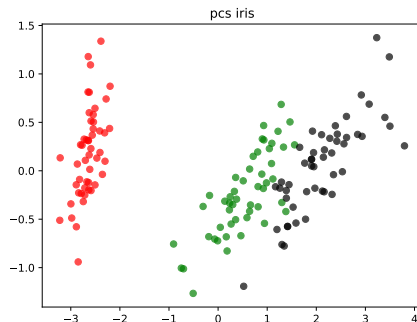
# Applications

- ▶ Let us review some applications of the method.

## Iris dataset

- ▶ We can perform PCA on the iris dataset as in the file **iris/pca-iris.py**.

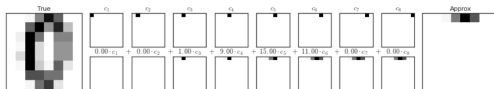
## Iris dataset



**Figure:** PCA performed on the iris dataset. We see that the principal components are able to separate the data.

## PCA on digits

- ▶ We will also perform the PCA on a dataset consisting in  $8 \times 8$  pixels images of digits.
- ▶ The idea is to see if the PCA can help us visualize structure in the data.



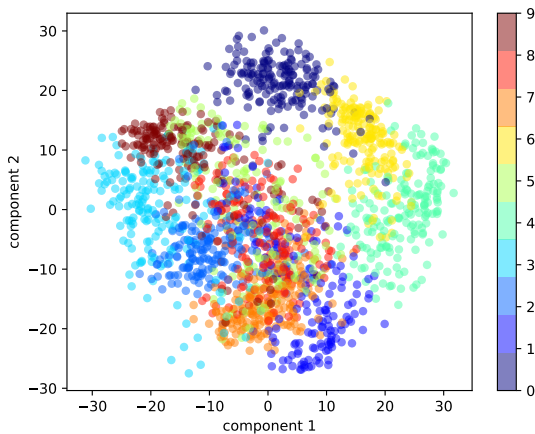
# PCA on digits

## Exercise 7 : Performing PCA

Please use the file **pca\_digits.py** in order to apply PCA to this dataset.



## PCA on digits



## Number of components

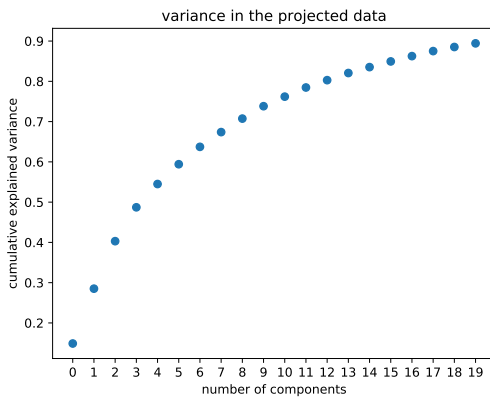
What is a relevant number of components for PCA ?

# Number of components

## Exercise 8: Choosing the number of components

Use the file **pca\_digits\_variance.py** in order to determine how many components are necessary in order to keep 75% of the variance in the digits dataset.

# Number of components

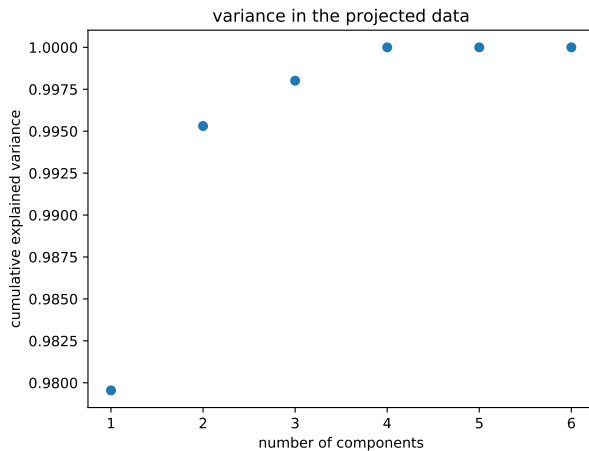


# Number of components

## Exercise 9 : Redundancy

What happens with the data contained in **redundancy/redundant\_data.npy** ? You can analyze them with the file **redundancy/pca\_variance.py**.

## Number of components



## Number of components

**Conclusion:** PCA can help determine whether some components carry no information in the data.

# Shortcomings of PCA

PCA is sensitive to :

- ▶ outliers
- ▶ initial data scaling



## Shortcomings of PCA

PCA is sensitive to :

- ▶ outliers
- ▶ initial data scaling
- ▶ Many variants and heuristics exist on this topic.

## Asset of PCA

Reducing the dimensionality of the data might be very helpful in a situation where you need to train a classification algorithm on the projected data. The algorithm might be way faster on data that are in a smaller space. However, enough information should be kept during the reduction, hence the necessity of heuristics.

# References



Bermejo, J. M., Ramos, A. A., and Prieto, C. A. (2013).  
Astrophysics A PCA approach to stellar effective temperatures.

95:1–9.