

Dimensionality reduction: PCA

Predictive Analytics

Acknowledgment

Materials were adapted from lectures by **Fragkiskos D. Malliaros** (CentraleSupélec, Université Paris-Saclay).

High-Dimensional Data: Why Reduce?

- ▶ Real datasets often have **thousands to millions** of features.
 - ▶ *Text*: one dimension per vocabulary term (e.g., bag-of-words/TF-IDF).
 - ▶ *Social networks*: one dimension per user/connection.
- ▶ High dimensionality brings the **curse of dimensionality**:
 - ▶ Data are extremely **sparse**; density notions become unreliable
⇒ density-based clustering degrades.
 - ▶ Algorithmic **complexity grows with** dimensionality d ⇒ time/memory blow up.

Can we compress?

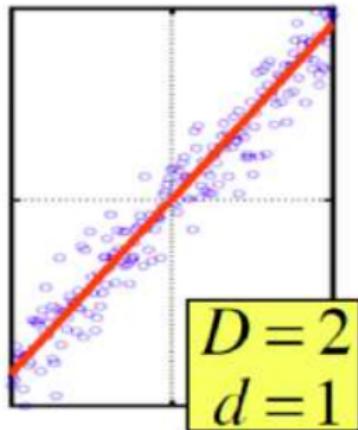
Customers

Customer	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
George	1	1	1	0	0
Maria	2	2	2	0	0
Ian	5	5	5	0	0
Zoe	0	0	0	2	2
Helen	0	0	0	3	3
Marc	0	0	0	1	1

Week days

change axis

- Goal of dimensionality reduction is to discover the axis of data



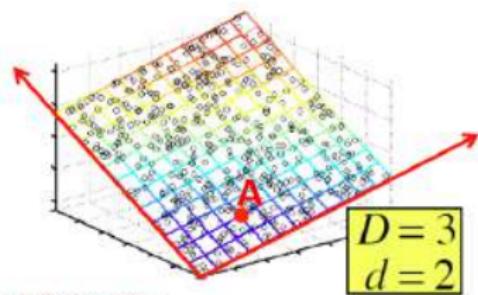
- Rather than representing every point with 2 coordinates we represent each point with 1 coordinate (corresponding to the position of the point on the red line)
- By doing this we incur a bit of error as the points do not exactly lie on the line

From 3D to 2D

- Cloud of points 3D space
 - Think of point positions as a matrix:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

1 row per point:



- We can rewrite coordinates more efficiently
 - Old basis vectors: [1 0 0] [0 1 0] [0 0 1]
 - New basis vectors: [1 2 1] [-2 -3 1]
 - Then A has new coordinates: [1 0], B: [0 1], C: [1 1]
 - Notice: We reduced the number of coordinates

Why reduce dimensions

- ▶ Aim: uncover the **true dimension** of the data.
- ▶ Real datasets are messy, but **useful reduction is still possible**.
- ▶ Working assumption: data = **signal + noise**; the signal is well-approximated in a **lower-dimensional** subspace/manifold.
- ▶ Dimensionality reduction not only **shrinks** data size, it often **reveals structure**—making the informative part more salient.

Why reduce dimensions

- ▶ **Find hidden patterns:** discover words or features that often go together (e.g., in texts).
- ▶ **Remove useless noise:** throw away features that don't help (not every word is important).
- ▶ **Easier to understand:** results are simpler to explain.
- ▶ **Better visuals:** easier to draw and see patterns on plots.
- ▶ **Less storage:** fewer numbers to save.
- ▶ **Faster computing:** algorithms run quicker and use less memory.

Matrix setup for dimensionality reduction

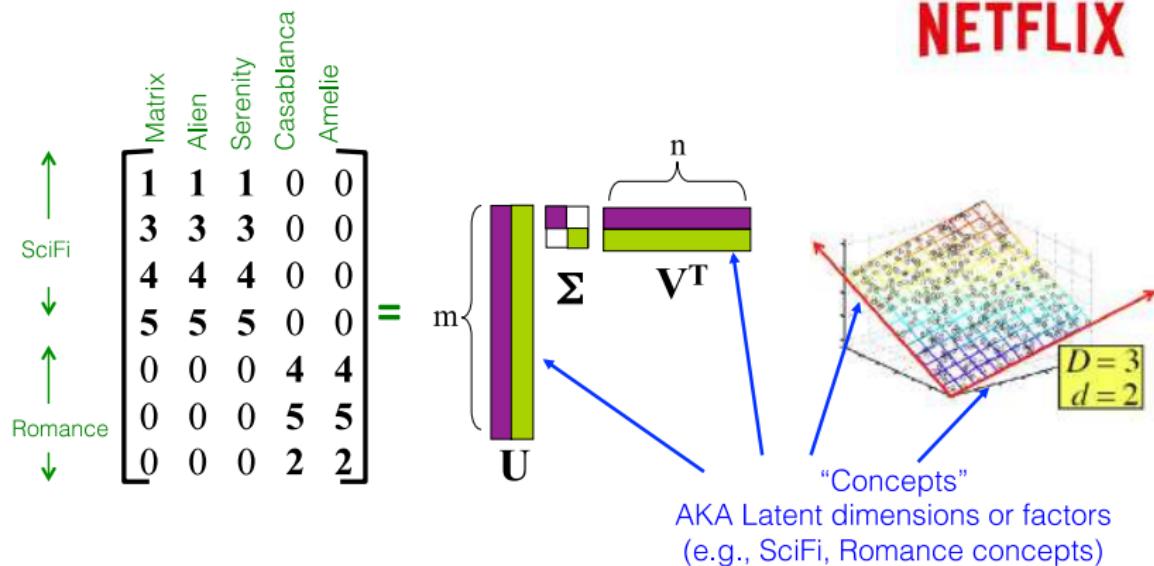
- ▶ **Data:** m objects described by n numeric attributes.
- ▶ Represent as a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ (rows = objects, columns = attributes).
- ▶ Use **linear algebra** on A to analyze/transform the data.
- ▶ **Goal:** build a new matrix $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$ with $k \ll n$ such that:
 - ▶ it preserves as much information from A as possible;
 - ▶ it **reveals structure** (latent patterns, groups, topics) present in A .

From n columns to $k \ll n$ columns

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} a^{(1)} & a^{(2)} & \dots & a^{(n)} \\ \hline | & | & & | \end{array} \right]_{m \times n} \longrightarrow \left[\begin{array}{c|c|c} b^{(1)} & \dots & b^{(k)} \\ \hline | & & | \end{array} \right]_{m \times k}$$

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating



SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

$$\begin{matrix} & \text{Matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \uparrow \text{SciFi} \\ \downarrow \\ \uparrow \text{Romance} \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} \text{SciFi-concept} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{Romance-concept} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{matrix } \Sigma \\ \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.14 & 0.00 \\ 0.42 & 0.00 \\ 0.56 & 0.00 \\ 0.70 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.60 \\ 0.00 & 0.75 \\ 0.00 & 0.30 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{matrix } U \\ \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.71 & 0.71 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{matrix } V^T \end{matrix}$$

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

Matrix

	SciFi	Alien	Serenity	Casablanca	Amelie
1	1	1	0	0	0
3	3	3	0	0	0
4	4	4	0	0	0
5	5	5	0	0	0
0	0	0	4	4	4
0	0	0	5	5	5
0	0	0	2	2	2

SciFi-concept

Romance-concept

Σ

U is “user-to-concept” similarity matrix

$=$

matrix U

\times $\begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 \end{bmatrix}$ \times

matrix V^T

0.14	0.00
0.42	0.00
0.56	0.00
0.70	0.00
0.00	0.60
0.00	0.75
0.00	0.30

0.58	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.71

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

SciFi-concept
Romance-concept

V is "movie-to-concept" similarity matrix

$$\begin{matrix} & \text{Matrix} & \text{Alien} & \text{Serenity} & \text{Casablanca} & \text{Amelie} \\ \text{SciFi} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} 0.14 & 0.00 \\ 0.42 & 0.00 \\ 0.56 & 0.00 \\ 0.70 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.60 \\ 0.00 & 0.75 \\ 0.00 & 0.30 \end{bmatrix} & \times & \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 \end{bmatrix} & \times & \begin{bmatrix} 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.71 & 0.71 \end{bmatrix} \\ \downarrow & \text{SciFi} & \downarrow & \text{Romance} & \downarrow & \text{SciFi-concept} & \downarrow & \text{Romance-concept} & \downarrow & \text{matrix } V^T \end{matrix}$$

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

SciFi-concept
Romance-concept

Σ is the "concept strength" matrix

"strength" of the SciFi-concept

Matrix Alien Serenity Casablanca Amelie

SciFi

Romance

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.14 & 0.00 \\ 0.42 & 0.00 \\ 0.56 & 0.00 \\ 0.70 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.60 \\ 0.00 & 0.75 \\ 0.00 & 0.30 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.58 & 0.00 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.00 & 0.71 & 0.71 \end{bmatrix}$$

SciFi-concept
Romance-concept

matrix V^T

A More Realistic Example

- User-Movie matrix

$$A = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{Blue Box} & \text{White Box} \\ \hline \text{White Box} & \text{Red Box} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The matrix A is a 2x2 grid. The top-left cell is blue, the top-right cell is white, the bottom-left cell is white, and the bottom-right cell is red. Each cell contains a small red dot representing a rating.

- There are two prototype users and movies but they are **noisy**

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

$$\begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{Matrix} & \text{Alien} & \text{Serenity} & \text{Casablanca} & \text{Amelie} \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \uparrow & & & & \\ \text{SciFi} & & & & \\ \downarrow & & & & \\ \uparrow & & & & \\ \text{Romance} & & & & \\ \downarrow & & & & \end{matrix} & \left[\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{matrix} \right] = \left[\begin{matrix} 0.13 & -0.02 & -0.01 \\ 0.41 & -0.07 & -0.03 \\ 0.55 & -0.09 & -0.04 \\ 0.68 & -0.11 & -0.05 \\ 0.15 & \mathbf{0.59} & \mathbf{0.65} \\ 0.07 & \mathbf{0.73} & \mathbf{-0.67} \\ 0.07 & \mathbf{0.29} & \mathbf{0.32} \end{matrix} \right] \times \left[\begin{matrix} 12.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.3 \end{matrix} \right] \times \left[\begin{matrix} 0.56 & 0.59 & 0.56 & 0.09 & 0.09 \\ -0.12 & 0.02 & -0.12 & \mathbf{0.69} & \mathbf{0.69} \\ 0.40 & \mathbf{-0.80} & 0.40 & 0.09 & 0.09 \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix}$$

SVD – Example: Users-to-Movies

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example: Users to Movies rating

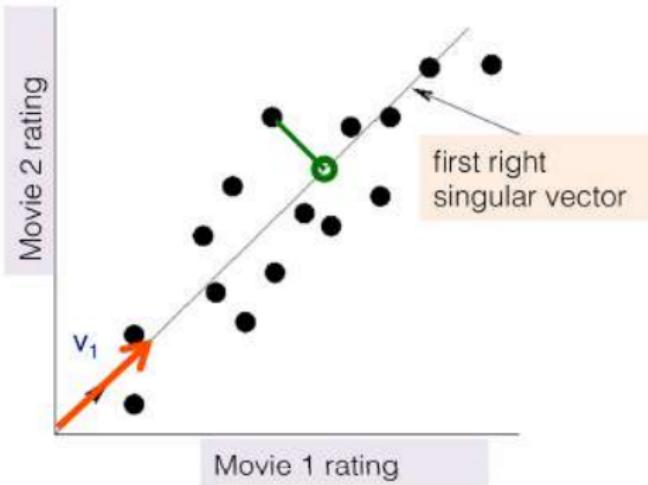
$$\begin{matrix} \begin{array}{c} \text{Matrix} \\ \text{Alien} \\ \text{Serenity} \\ \text{Casablanca} \\ \text{Amelie} \end{array} & \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{array} \right] & \left[\begin{array}{ccc} 0.13 & -0.02 & -0.01 \\ 0.41 & -0.07 & -0.03 \\ 0.55 & -0.09 & -0.04 \\ 0.68 & -0.11 & -0.05 \\ 0.15 & 0.59 & 0.65 \\ 0.07 & 0.73 & -0.67 \\ 0.07 & 0.29 & 0.32 \end{array} \right] & \begin{array}{l} \text{SciFi-concept} \\ \text{Romance-concept} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{SciFi} \\ \downarrow \\ \uparrow \\ \text{Romance} \\ \downarrow \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{c} \text{The first two vectors are more or less unchanged} \\ \times \quad \times \\ \left[\begin{array}{ccc} 12.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.3 \end{array} \right] \\ \xleftarrow{\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad} \\ \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 0.56 & 0.59 & 0.56 & 0.09 & 0.09 \\ -0.12 & 0.02 & -0.12 & 0.69 & 0.69 \\ 0.40 & \mathbf{-0.80} & 0.40 & 0.09 & 0.09 \end{array} \right] \end{array} \\ & & & \begin{array}{c} \text{3rd concept, but of low strength} \end{array} \end{array} \right]$$

SVD – Interpretation #1

‘movies’, ‘users’ and ‘concepts’:

- \mathbf{U} : user-to-concept similarity matrix
- \mathbf{V} : movie-to-concept similarity matrix
- Σ : its diagonal elements: ‘strength’ of each concept

How to do Dimensionality Reduction with SVD?



Example of different users based on the rating on movies 1 and 2

How to chose v_1 ?

Minimize reconstruction error

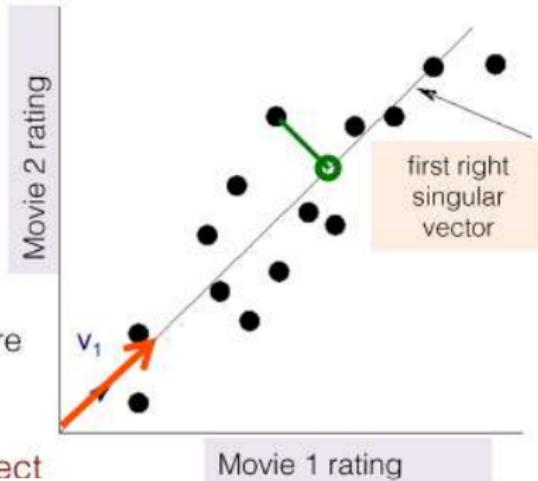
- Instead of using two coordinates (x, y) to describe point locations, let's use only one coordinate (z)
- Point's position is its location along vector v_1

SVD and Dimensionality Reduction

- Goal: minimize the sum of reconstruction errors

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^D \|x_{ij} - z_{ij}\|^2$$

- where x_{ij} are the 'old' and z_{ij} are the 'new' coordinates



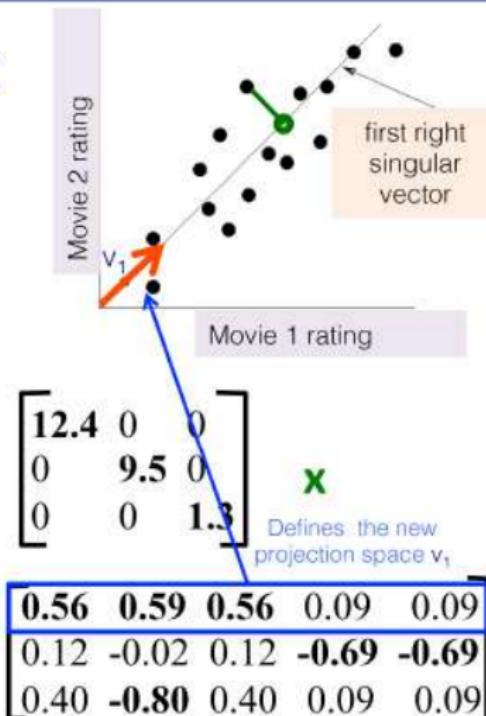
- SVD gives the best axis to project on
 - 'best' = minimum sum of squares of projection errors

SVD - Interpretation #2

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example:

- V : "movie-to-concept" matrix
- U : "user-to-concept" matrix

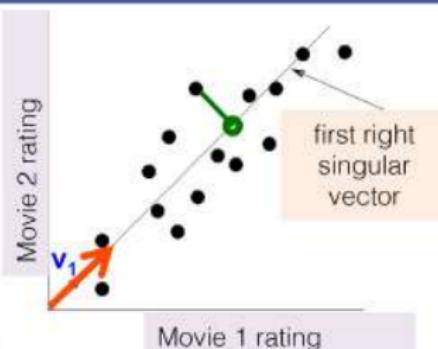
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SVD - Interpretation #2

- $A = U \Sigma V^T$ - example:

variance ('spread')
on the v_1 axis



Movie 2 rating

Movie 1 rating

first right singular vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.13 & 0.02 & -0.01 \\ 0.41 & 0.07 & -0.03 \\ 0.55 & 0.09 & -0.04 \\ 0.68 & 0.11 & -0.05 \\ 0.15 & -0.59 & 0.65 \\ 0.07 & -0.73 & -0.67 \\ 0.07 & -0.29 & 0.32 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.3 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.56 & 0.59 & 0.56 & 0.09 & 0.09 \\ 0.12 & -0.02 & 0.12 & -0.69 & -0.69 \\ 0.40 & -0.80 & 0.40 & 0.09 & 0.09 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

More details

- **Q:** How exactly is dimensionality reduction done?
- **A:** Compute SVD

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.13 & -0.02 & -0.01 \\ 0.41 & -0.07 & -0.03 \\ 0.55 & -0.09 & -0.04 \\ 0.68 & -0.11 & -0.05 \\ 0.15 & 0.59 & 0.65 \\ 0.07 & 0.73 & -0.67 \\ 0.07 & 0.29 & 0.32 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1.3 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.56 & 0.59 & 0.56 & 0.09 & 0.09 \\ -0.12 & 0.02 & -0.12 & 0.69 & 0.69 \\ 0.40 & -0.80 & 0.40 & 0.09 & 0.09 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

More details

- Q: How exactly is dimensionality reduction done?
- A: Set smallest singular values to zero

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.13 & -0.02 & -0.01 \\ 0.41 & -0.07 & -0.03 \\ 0.55 & -0.09 & -0.04 \\ 0.68 & -0.11 & -0.05 \\ 0.15 & 0.59 & 0.65 \\ 0.07 & 0.73 & -0.67 \\ 0.07 & 0.29 & 0.32 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 12.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 9.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cancel{1.3} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 0.56 & 0.59 & 0.56 & 0.09 & 0.09 \\ -0.12 & 0.02 & -0.12 & 0.69 & 0.69 \\ 0.40 & \textbf{-0.80} & 0.40 & 0.09 & 0.09 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example

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Example

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$$\| \mathbf{A} \|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |A_{ij}|^2}$$

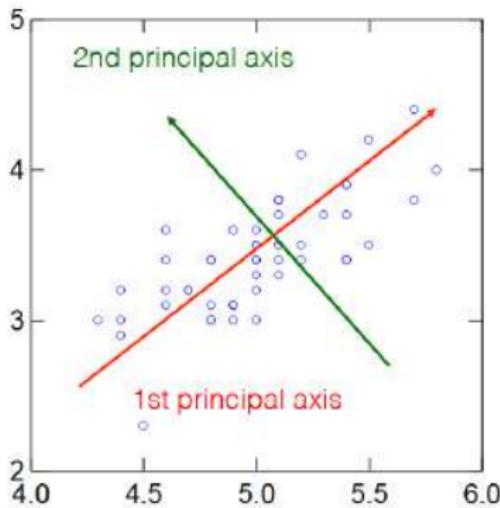
Frobenius norm:

$$\| \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} \|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{ij} (\mathbf{A}_{ij} - \mathbf{B}_{ij})^2}$$

PCA: Introduction

- ▶ **(Almost) like SVD:** PCA is closely related to the singular value decomposition.
- ▶ **Goal:** find a low-dimensional subspace so that projecting the data loses as little information as possible.
- ▶ **Principle:** choose directions (principal components) that **maximize variance**.
- ▶ **Standardize features** (zero-mean, unit-variance) when scales differ.

PCA



Input: 2-d dimensional points

Output:

1st (right) principal axis (vector):
direction of maximal variance

2nd (right) principal axis (vector):
direction of maximal variance,
after removing the projection of
the data along the first principal
axis