

Probabilistic PCA

Let X be a standard Gaussian random variable in \mathbb{R}^d and assume that conditionally on X , Z has a Gaussian distribution with mean $WX + \mu$ and variance $\sigma^2 I_d$.

1. Prove that Z has a Gaussian distribution with mean μ and variance $C = WW^\top + \sigma^2 I_d$.

It is enough to write

$$Z = WX + \mu + \sigma\varepsilon,$$

where X and ε are independent Gaussian random variables. Therefore, $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, C)$.

2. Prove that conditionally on Z , X has a Gaussian distribution with mean $m = C^{-1}W^\top(Z - \mu)$ and variance $\Sigma = \sigma^2 C^{-1}$.

The joint distribution of Z and X can be written, for all $(x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$p(z, x) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x^\top x\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(z - Wx - \mu)^\top (z - Wx - \mu)\right).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} p(x|z) &\propto p(z, x) \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x^\top x\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(z - Wx - \mu)^\top (z - Wx - \mu)\right), \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(z - Wx - \mu)^\top (z - Wx - \mu)\right), \\ &\propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x - m)^\top \Sigma^{-1}(x - m)\right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\Sigma = \sigma^2 C^{-1}$ and $m = C^{-1}W^\top(Z - \mu)$ which concludes the proof.

3. Assume that $\{Z_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ are n i.i.d. observations with the same distribution as Z . Write the loglikelihood of (Z_1, \dots, Z_n) .

By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} \log p_C(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log p_C(Z_i), \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(-\frac{1}{2} \log \det(2\pi C) - \frac{1}{2} (Z_i - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (Z_i - \mu) \right), \\ &= -\frac{n}{2} \log \det(2\pi C) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (Z_i - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (Z_i - \mu), \\ &= -\frac{n}{2} \log \det(2\pi C) - \frac{n}{2} \text{Trace}(C^{-1} S_n), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Z_i - \mu)^\top (Z_i - \mu).$$

4. Assuming that $C = WW^\top + \sigma^2 I_d$, show that $\widehat{C} = \widehat{W}\widehat{W}^\top + \sigma^2 I_d$ with $\widehat{W} = U_q(\Lambda_q - \sigma^2 I_q)^{1/2} R$ is a stationary point of the loglikelihood (and therefore maximizes the loglikelihood).
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