

# PCA: Overview

## Introduction to Statistical Modelling

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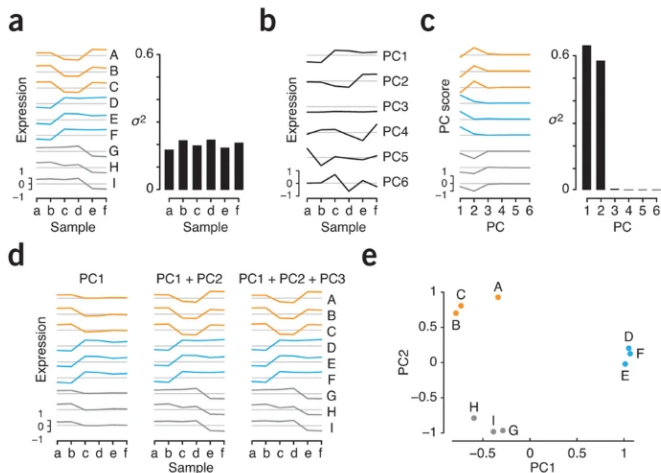
What is dimensionality reduction?

# What and why

- Reduce the number of variables (“dimensionality”) in a dataset **in a principled way**.
- Useful for
  - Visualization
  - Data preprocessing
  - Computational efficiency
- Many different approaches
  - Principal component analysis (this course)
  - Multidimensional scaling
  - t-SNE, UMAP, ...

# Visualization

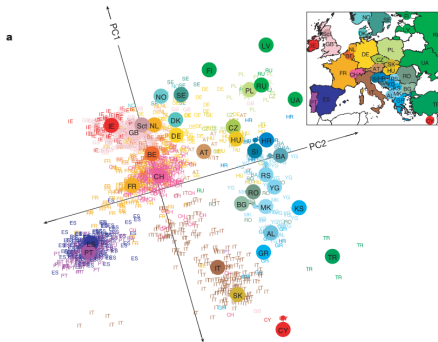
**Figure 2: PCA reduction of nine expression profiles from six to two dimensions.**



From: Lever et al., *Principal component analysis*, Nature Methods, Vol. 14, p. 641–642, 2017.

## Visualization

Genotype data 197,146 loci in 1387 Europeans, summarized in two principal components (left) and compared to geographical origin (right).

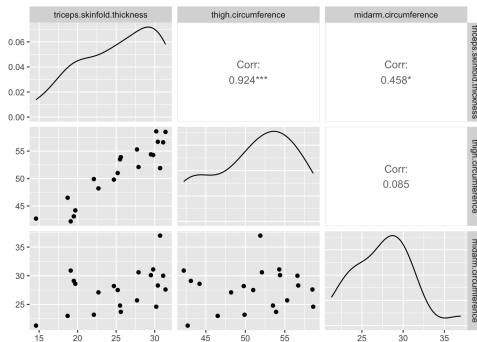


From: Novembre et al., *Genes mirror geography within Europe*,  
Nature, Vol. 456, 6 November 2008.

# Data preprocessing

Bodyfat dataset:

- Suffered from high multicollinearity.
- Conclusions from regression model are doubtful.



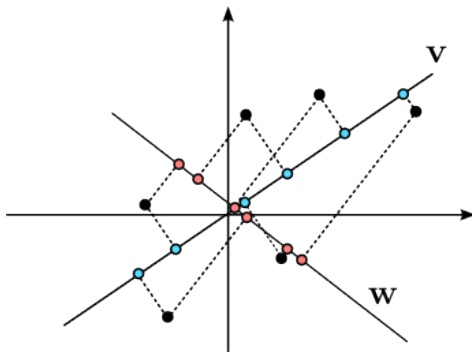
# Computational efficiency

- A  $250 \times 250$  image consists of  $250^2 = 62,500$  pixels.
- Not all pixels are equally informative.
- Extract signal that is maximally informative, discard rest.



# Principal component analysis

- Covered in this course.
- Works by finding directions in which **variance is maximized**.
- Good first choice, not so good if patterns are highly nonlinear.





# Other dimensionality reduction methods

t-SNE, UMAP:

- Useful for highly nonlinear relations between features.
- “Deforms” data so that local structure is maintained.
- Frequently used in single-cell RNA sequencing analysis.

