

# Asymptotic Theory for Common Principal Component Analysis

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# Introduction

**Common principle component analysis (CPCA):** the  $p \times p$  covariance matrices of  $k$  populations can be diagonalized by the same orthogonal transformation.

**The hypothesis of common principal components (CPC's).**

$$\mathbf{H}_C : \beta' \Sigma_i \beta = \Lambda_i, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, k$$

We can further arrange  $\beta$  according to the first group, i.e.

$$\beta'_1 \Sigma_1 \beta_1 > \beta'_2 \Sigma_1 \beta_2 > \dots > \beta'_p \Sigma_1 \beta_p$$

**Notations & Assumptions:**

- $\Sigma_i$  are p.d.s.
- $\Lambda_i = \text{diag}(\lambda_{i1}, \dots, \lambda_{ip})$
- $n_i \mathbf{S}_i \sim W_p(n_i, \Sigma_i)$
- The ML estimates are  $\hat{\beta} = (\hat{\beta}_1, \dots, \hat{\beta}_p)$  and  $\hat{\Lambda}_i = \text{diag}(\hat{\lambda}_{i1}, \dots, \hat{\lambda}_{ip})$

# Asymptotic distribution of MLE

The log-likelihood function of the  $k$  samples, up to an additive constant:

$$g(\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k, \beta | \mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_k) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \left[ \sum_{j=1}^p (\log \lambda_{ij} + \beta_j' \mathbf{S}_i \beta_j / \lambda_{ij}) \right]$$

Let  $\lambda'_{(i)} = (\lambda_{i1}, \dots, \lambda_{ip})$ ,  $n = n_1 + \dots + n_k$  and  $r_i = n_i/n$ . Then the information matrix is:

	$\lambda'_{(1)}$	$\lambda'_{(2)}$	$\dots$	$\lambda'_{(k)}$	$\beta^{*'}_j$
$\lambda_{(1)}$	$\frac{1}{2} n r_1 \Lambda_1^{-2}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\dots$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{G}'$
$\lambda_{(2)}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\frac{1}{2} n r_2 \Lambda_2^{-2}$	$\dots$	$\mathbf{0}$	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$		$\vdots$	
$\lambda_{(k)}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\dots$	$\frac{1}{2} n r_k \Lambda_k^{-2}$	
$\beta^*$	$\mathbf{G}$				$\mathbf{A}$

, where  $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  are not yet determined.

# Asymptotic distribution of MLE (eigenvalues)

Use the asymptotic normality of  $n_i \mathbf{S}_i$  to get the asymptotic univariate distribution of  $\hat{\lambda}_{ij}$  as

$$\sqrt{n_i}(\hat{\lambda}_{ij} - \lambda_{ij}) \sim N(0, 2\lambda_{ij}^2)$$

From the Fisher information, the joint asymptotic distribution of  $(\hat{\lambda}'_{(1)}, \dots, \hat{\lambda}'_{(k)})'$  has covariance matrix

$$\frac{1}{n} \mathbf{V}_\lambda = \left[ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} n r_1 \mathbf{\Lambda}_1^{-2} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \frac{1}{2} n r_k \mathbf{\Lambda}_k^{-2} \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{G}' \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{G} \right]^{-1}$$

By comparison, we can see that  $\mathbf{G} = 0$ . Therefore,

**THEOREM 1.** *The statistics  $\sqrt{n_i}(\hat{\lambda}_{ij} - \lambda_{ij})$  are asymptotically ( $\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} n_i \rightarrow \infty$ ) distributed as  $N(0, 2\lambda_{ij}^2)$ , independent of each other and independent of the  $\hat{\beta}_j$ .*

# Asymptotic distribution of MLE (eigenvectors)

Let  $\mathbf{V}_i$  be the asymptotic covariance matrix of  $\sqrt{n_i} \text{vec}(\hat{\beta}) = \sqrt{n}(\hat{\beta}'_1, \dots, \hat{\beta}'_k)'$ . Further, define:

$$g_{jh}^{(i)} = \frac{1}{r_i} \frac{\lambda_{ij} \lambda_{ih}}{(\lambda_{ij} - \lambda_{ih})^2} \quad (h \neq j)$$

Then, we get

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
 & \hat{\beta}'_1 & \hat{\beta}'_2 & & \hat{\beta}'_p \\
\hline
\hat{\beta}_1 & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq 1}}^p g_{1h}^{(1)} \beta_h \beta'_h & -g_{12}^{(1)} \beta_2 \beta'_1 & \cdots & -g_{1p}^{(1)} \beta_p \beta'_1 \\
\hat{\beta}_2 & -g_{21}^{(1)} \beta_1 \beta'_2 & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq 2}}^p g_{2h}^{(1)} \beta_h \beta'_h & \cdots & -g_{2p}^{(1)} \beta_p \beta'_2 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\
\hat{\beta}_p & -g_{p1}^{(1)} \beta_1 \beta'_p & -g_{p2}^{(1)} \beta_2 \beta'_p & \cdots & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq p}}^p g_{ph}^{(1)} \beta_h \beta'_h
\end{array} = \mathbf{V}_i$$

# Asymptotic distribution of MLE (eigenvectors)

Since  $\mathbf{V}_i$  are simultaneously diagonalizable, there exists an orthogonal matrix  $\mathbf{H} = (\mathbf{H}_1, \mathbf{H}_2)$ , where  $\mathbf{H}_1 = (\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_s)$ ,  $s = p(p-1)/2$  s.t.

$$\mathbf{H}'\mathbf{V}_i\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E}_i & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \quad (i = 1, \dots, k),$$

Then we can get the information matrix for the transformed variable  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{H}_1' \text{vec} \hat{\beta}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}^* &= \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbf{A}_i^* = n \text{diag} \left( \sum_{i=1}^k e_{i1}^{-1}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^k e_{is}^{-1} \right) \\ &= n \text{diag}(e_1^{-1}, \dots, e_s^{-1}), \end{aligned}$$

# Asymptotic distribution of MLE (eigenvectors)

Then transform back and write out  $\mathbf{H}_1$  explicitly, we can get

**THEOREM 2.** *The asymptotic distribution of  $\sqrt{n} \text{vec}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{\beta})$  is normal with mean  $\mathbf{0}$  and covariance matrix  $\mathbf{V}$  given by*

$$(2.13) \quad \begin{array}{c|cccc} & \boldsymbol{\beta}'_1 & \boldsymbol{\beta}'_2 & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\beta}'_p \\ \hline \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_1 & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq 1}}^p g_{1h} \boldsymbol{\beta}_h \boldsymbol{\beta}'_h & -g_{12} \boldsymbol{\beta}_2 \boldsymbol{\beta}'_1 & \cdots & -g_{1p} \boldsymbol{\beta}_p \boldsymbol{\beta}'_1 \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_2 & -g_{21} \boldsymbol{\beta}_1 \boldsymbol{\beta}'_2 & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq 2}}^p g_{2h} \boldsymbol{\beta}_h \boldsymbol{\beta}'_h & \cdots & -g_{2p} \boldsymbol{\beta}_p \boldsymbol{\beta}'_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_p & -g_{p1} \boldsymbol{\beta}_1 \boldsymbol{\beta}'_p & -g_{p2} \boldsymbol{\beta}_2 \boldsymbol{\beta}'_p & \cdots & \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ h \neq p}}^p g_{ph} \boldsymbol{\beta}_h \boldsymbol{\beta}'_h \end{array} = \mathbf{V},$$

where the  $g_{jl}$  are defined in (2.5), and the  $\boldsymbol{\beta}_j$  are the (common) eigenvectors of the  $k$  matrices  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i$ .



# An asymptotic test for $q$ hypothetical eigenvectors

The null hypothesis is  $H_q : (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_q) = (\beta_1^0, \dots, \beta_q^0)$ , which is based on the submatrix of asymptotic covariance  $\mathbf{V}$ . Denote the submatrix as  $\mathbf{V}(q)$ .  $\mathbf{V}(q)$  has following eigenstructure:

**THEOREM 3.** *The upper left  $pq \times pq$  submatrix of  $\mathbf{V}$  has the following eigenvectors and eigenvalues:*

1.  $\binom{q}{2}$  eigenvectors (one for each pair  $j, l$  with  $1 \leq j < l \leq q$ ) have  $\beta_l / \sqrt{2}$  in position  $j$  and  $-\beta_j / \sqrt{2}$  in position  $l$ . All other positions are zero, and the associated roots are  $2g_{il}$ .
2.  $(p - q)q$  eigenvectors (one for each combination of indices  $j, l$  such that  $1 \leq j \leq q < l \leq p$ ) have  $\beta_l$  in position  $j$  and 0 in all other positions; the associated roots are  $g_{il}$ .
3.  $\binom{q}{2}$  eigenvectors (one for each pair of indices  $j, l$  such that  $1 \leq j \leq l \leq q$ ) can be chosen to have  $\beta_l / \sqrt{2}$  in position  $j$ ,  $\beta_j / \sqrt{2}$  in position  $l$ , and zeros in all other positions. The associated roots are zero.
4.  $q$  eigenvectors (one for each  $j$  with  $1 \leq j \leq q$ ) can be chosen to have  $\beta_j$  in position  $j$  and zeros elsewhere. The associated roots are zero.

# An asymptotic test for $q$ hypothetical eigenvectors

Let  $\Phi$  be a diagonal matrix with diagonal elements equal to the nonzero roots of  $\mathbf{V}(q)$ , i.e.  $\Phi = \text{diag}(2g_{12}, \dots, 2g_{q-1,1}, g_{1,q+1}, \dots, g_{qp})$ . Also let the columns of matrix  $\Gamma$  be given by the characteristic vectors associated with the nonzero roots. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{z}'\mathbf{z} &= \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\beta}_q - \beta_q \end{pmatrix}' \Gamma \Phi^{-1} \Gamma' \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\beta}_q - \beta_q \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{l=j+1}^q g_{jl}^{-1} (\beta_l' \hat{\beta}_j - \beta_j' \hat{\beta}_l)^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^q \sum_{l=q+1}^p g_{jl}^{-1} (\beta_l' \hat{\beta}_j)^2.\end{aligned}$$

follows  $\chi^2(t)$  distribution.

# An asymptotic test for $q$ hypothetical eigenvectors

This leads to the distribution of the test statistics for  $H_q : (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_q) = (\beta_1^0, \dots, \beta_q^0)$ :

**THEOREM 4.** *Under  $H_q$  as defined in (3.1), the statistic*

$$(3.3) \quad X^2(H_q) = n \left[ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{l=j+1}^q \hat{g}_{jl}^{-1} (\hat{\beta}_l' \beta_j^0 - \hat{\beta}_j' \beta_l^0)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^q \sum_{l=q+1}^p \hat{g}_{jl}^{-1} (\hat{\beta}_l' \beta_j^0)^2 \right]$$

*is asymptotically distributed as chi square with  $q(p - (q + 1)/2)$  degrees of freedom.*

The paper also illustrated 2 special cases: (1)  $q = 1$  and (2)  $q = p$ .

# Asymptotic inference for eigenvalues

Similar to regular PCA, we may need to discard CPC's with relatively small variances.

Let  $c_i = \sum_{j=1}^q \lambda_{ij}$ ,  $d_i = \text{tr} \Sigma_i - c_i$ ,  $f_i = d_i / \text{tr} \Sigma_i$  (relative contribution to trace for the last  $p - q$  CPC's) and  $f_0$  be the pre-specified fraction. Then,

$$z_i = \frac{\sqrt{n_i} [(1 - f_0) \hat{d}_i - f_0 \hat{c}_i]}{\left( 2 \left[ f_0^2 \sum_{j=1}^q \hat{\lambda}_{ij}^2 + (1 - f_0)^2 \sum_{j=q+1}^p \hat{\lambda}_{ij}^2 \right] \right)^{1/2}} \sim N(0, 1)$$

when  $f_i = f_0$  (null hypothesis).

So for testing the  $H_1$ : all  $f_i$  are less than or equal to  $f_0$ , we can just reject the hypothesis if

$$\max_{1 \leq i \leq k} z_i > z_\beta \quad \text{with } \beta = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1/k},$$

# LRT for sphericity of p-q CPC's

In PCA, the motivation for testing equality of p-q characteristic roots stems from the model  $\Sigma = \Psi + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_p$ , where  $\Psi$  is p.s.d. of rank q.

In CPCA, we can consider similar model for each group, i.e.

$\Sigma_i = \Psi_i + \sigma_i^2 \mathbf{I}_p$ , with  $\Psi_i$  be simultaneously diagonalizable and of rank q.

This is equivalent as the following test (**hypothesis of partial sphericity**):

$$H_S : \lambda_{i,q+1} = \dots = \lambda_{ip}$$

Putting  $H_S : \lambda_{i,q+1} = \dots = \lambda_{ip} = \lambda_i^*$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & -2g(\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_k, \beta | \mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_k) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \left[ \sum_{j=1}^q (\log \lambda_{ij} + \beta_j' \mathbf{S}_i \beta_j / \lambda_{ij}) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (p - q) \log \lambda_i^* + \left( \sum_{j=q+1}^p \beta_j' \mathbf{S}_i \beta_j \right) / \lambda_i^* \right] \end{aligned}$$

# LRT for sphericity of p-q CPC's

After some algebra, we can get the LRT test statistic:

$$X_S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \log \frac{(\tilde{\lambda}_i^*)^{p-q} \prod_{j=1}^q \tilde{\lambda}_{ij}}{\prod_{j=1}^p \hat{\lambda}_{ij}}$$

The null distribution of  $X_S^2$  is asymptotically  $\chi^2((p-q-1)(p-q+2k)/2)$ . The paper also provided the approximated statistic:

$$X_S^2(\text{approx}) = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \log \frac{(\hat{\lambda}_i^*)^{p-q}}{\prod_{j=q+1}^p \hat{\lambda}_{ij}}$$

But we need to be careful: since  $X_S^2(\text{approx}) \geq X_S^2$ , the approximate statistic can be used to accept  $H_S$ , but not necessarily to reject it.

# Applications

Data: 2 groups (24 males and 24 females), with 3 features.  
We do log-transformation of data because of their relationship to allometry. The data and MLE's are shown in the table:

TABLE 1  
*Common principal component analysis of turtle carapace dimensions,  
transformed logarithmically.*

(a) Sample covariance matrices<sup>a</sup>

$$\mathbf{S}_1 = \begin{matrix} & \text{males } (n_1 = 23) \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1.1072 & 0.8019 & 0.8160 \\ 0.8019 & 0.6417 & 0.6005 \\ 0.8160 & 0.6005 & 0.6773 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \quad \mathbf{S}_2 = \begin{matrix} & \text{females } (n_2 = 23) \\ \begin{pmatrix} 2.6391 & 2.0124 & 2.5443 \\ 2.0124 & 1.6190 & 1.9782 \\ 2.5443 & 1.9782 & 2.5899 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

(b) Variances of CPC's and eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{S}_i$

males	$\hat{\lambda}_{1j}$	2.3148	0.0729	0.0385
	eigenvalues	2.3303	0.0599	0.0360
females	$\hat{\lambda}_{2j}$	6.7135	0.0807	0.0538
	eigenvalues	6.7200	0.0751	0.0530

(c) Coefficients of CPC's<sup>b</sup>

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.6406 \\ 0.4905 \\ 0.5907 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} (0.013) \\ (0.015) \\ (0.016) \end{pmatrix} \quad \hat{\beta}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -0.3839 \\ -0.4617 \\ -0.7997 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} (0.182) \\ (0.201) \\ (0.032) \end{pmatrix} \quad \hat{\beta}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -0.6650 \\ 0.7391 \\ 0.1075 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} (0.105) \\ (0.126) \\ (0.218) \end{pmatrix}$$

# Applications

**Test 1:** if allometric growth is true, then the first PC of log-data should be  $\beta'_1 = (1, \dots, 1)/\sqrt{p}$ . Therefore, the test is

$H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_1^0 = (1, \dots, 1)'/\sqrt{3}$  The test statistic  $X^2(H_1) = 46.17$ , which follows  $\chi^2(2)$  under null.  $\Rightarrow$  reject the null.

**Test 2:** test  $H_S : \lambda_{i2} = \lambda_{i3}$  for  $i = 1, 2$  (simultaneous sphericity of the second and third CPC's). The resulting statistic is  $X_S^2(\text{approx}) = 3.24$ , which (approximately) follows  $\chi^2(3)$  under the null.  $\Rightarrow$  fail to reject. Taking into consideration the relative smallness of these 2 roots in both groups  $\Rightarrow$

- the 3 shell dimensions are distributed about a single principal axis ("size") and 2 minor axes.
- the main axis having the same orientation in space for both groups.