

Principal Component Analysis

Question 1: PCA by hand

Consider a data matrix given by

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 24 & 22 & 24 \\ 24 & 21 & 25 \\ 24 & 22 & 20 \\ 24 & 23 & 21 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Derive the principal components via eigen decomposition of the sample covariance matrix.
- Let us assume that we want to reduce the data's dimension to $k = 2$. Calculate the new data points in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Question 2: Invariance of PCA w.r.t. transform

Given a PCA of a data matrix $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$, consider the matrix of scores

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_{11} & \dots & \dots & y_{n1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ y_{1m} & \dots & \dots & y_{nm} \end{pmatrix} = [\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n},$$

where each columns gives the coordinates \mathbf{y}_i of observation i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, in the m -dimensional space with the principal component (vectors) as axes.

- Show that the sample covariance of \mathbf{Y} is equal to $\mathbf{\Lambda}_{\text{ord}}$, i.e. the diagonal matrix of ordered eigenvalues of either the sample covariance matrix \mathbf{S} .
- In the lecture, we have learned that PCA is not scale-invariant when we solve the optimization problem $\mathbf{a}_p^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{a}_p \rightarrow \max$, only when we solve $\mathbf{a}_p^\top \mathbf{R} \mathbf{a}_p \rightarrow \max$.
Can you reason why this is the case, using a diagonal matrix $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ which transforms the variable scales by replacing each observation \mathbf{x}_i with $\mathbf{T} \mathbf{x}_i$?
- Next, consider shifting each data point by a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Is PCA invariant w.r.t. a shift of each data point by a constant?
- Lastly, consider an orthogonal matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$. How does PCA behave w.r.t. orthogonal transformation, i.e. w.r.t. replacement of each observation \mathbf{x}_i with $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_i$?

Question 3: Interpreting PCA output in R

There are two main ways to perform PCA in R:

- the `princomp()` function - based on eigen decomposition and
- the `prcomp()` function - based on singular value decomposition (SVD).

According to the R help, `prcomp()` via SVD has slightly better numerical accuracy. Here you can use the option `scale=TRUE` to perform standardized PCA, i.e. the version that iteratively solves $\mathbf{a}_p^\top \mathbf{R} \mathbf{a}_p \rightarrow \max$.

For visualization of PCA results, the `factoextra` package is very popular; except for biplots, for which the `ggfortify` package is standard.

- a) Perform PCA on the `iris` data set excluding the variable `Species` and interpret the output.
- b) Plot the scree plot and select the number of PCs that should be selected for dimension reduction according to each of the criteria on lecture-slide 67.
- c) Plot the Biplot and interpret it.