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#### Latent variables and generative models

It is often easier in practice to express down how images get formed *given* the causes, leading to the *synthesis*, or *decoder*, or *forward* equation:

$$\mathbf{x} = f(\mathbf{z})$$

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- It describes how images depend on the state of the world.
- *z* is called "latent variable" or "hidden variable", because unlike the image, *x*, we do not observe it.

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#### Latent variables and generative models

To deal with ambiguities and uncertainties, one can re-phrase this equation as a *conditional probability*:

$$m{x} \sim p(m{x}|m{z})$$

in which case analysis follows from Bayes' rule

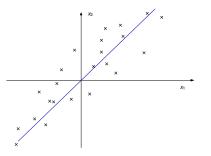
$$p(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) = rac{p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z})p(\boldsymbol{z})}{p(\boldsymbol{x})}$$

and requires a *prior*, p(z), over the latent variables.

In practice, both probabilistic and non-probabilistic formulations are common and work well.

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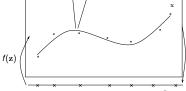
# Principal Components Analysis (PCA)



- If we assume the manifold to be *linear*, learning is easy and can done in closed form.
- It amounts to finding the latent subspace.
- Inference amounts to projecting data into that subspace.

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Manifold learning



When the dimensionality of the latent variables is smaller than the dimensionality of the data, then we can think of the data as being distributed along some

lower-dimensional *manifold* in the dataspace.

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- Learning the manifold is also known as *dimensionality reduction*.
  - Although this view is appealing, it has its limitations.

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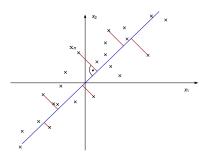
#### **Principal Components Analysis**

- Learning the linear manifold is known as Principal Components Analysis (PCA).
- There are many equivalent learning criteria leading to PCA.
- Two of the most well-known are
  - 1. find the subspace in which the projection of the training data has *maximal variance*

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2. maximize the *average distance* between the projections and the original points.

### Principal Components Analysis

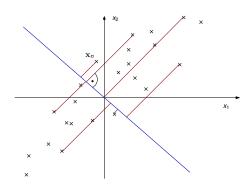


- The variance along the manifold is **large**.
- ► The average projection error is small.

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Principal Components Analysis

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- The variance along the manifold is **small**.
- The average projection error is **large**.

# Principal Components Analysis

To learn a *subspace* means we need to work under the assumption that the data is *mean-centered*:

$$\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^{N}\mathbf{x}_{n}=\mathbf{0}$$

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- To derive PCA, we define an *orthonormal basis* for the subspace, consisting of vectors
  - $\mathbf{u}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{u}_M$

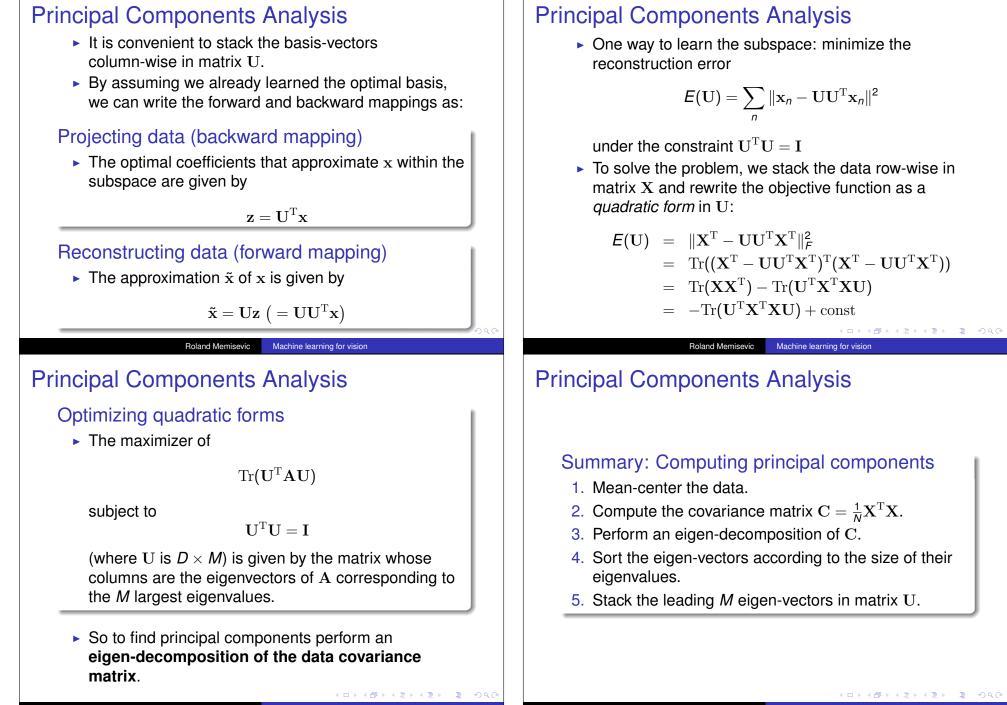
where M is smaller than the dimensionality of the data.

▶ PCA amounts to *learning* this basis.

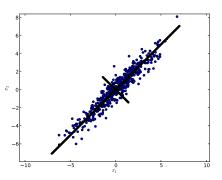
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#### Principal Components Analysis



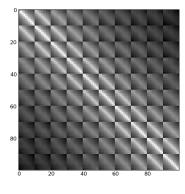
 A two-dimensional dataset and the two principal components.

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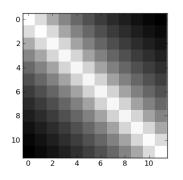
 Projections onto the leading eigenvectors preserve most of the variability in the data. So PCA performs lossy compression.

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#### Translation invariance 2d



#### Translation invariance 1d



The covariance between natural image pixels does not depend (much) on their absolute position.

### PCA and Fourier analysis 1d

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 A (covariance) matrix whose entries are translation invariant has phasors as eigenvectors:

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The dimension t of the projected phasor (ie., covariance matrix times phasor) takes the form:

$$\sum_{t'} \operatorname{cov}(t, t') e^{i\omega t'}$$

$$= \sum_{t'} c(t - t') e^{i\omega t'}$$

$$= \sum_{z} c(z) e^{i\omega t} e^{-i\omega z}$$

$$= \left[\sum_{z} c(z) e^{-i\omega z}\right] e^{i\omega t} =: \lambda_{\omega} e^{i\omega t}$$

In fact, this shows that multiplying by the covariance matrix is a convolution.

#### PCA and Fourier analysis 1d

- Covariance matrices are symmetric (c(z) = c(T z))
- ► So the eigen*values* are real:

$$\sum_{t'} \operatorname{cov}(t, t') e^{i\omega t'}$$

$$= \left[ \sum_{z} c(z) e^{-i\omega z} \right] e^{i\omega t}$$

$$= \left[ c(0) + \sum_{z=1}^{\frac{T-1}{2}} c(z) \left( e^{-i\omega z} + e^{i\omega z} \right) \right] e^{i\omega t}$$

$$= \left[ c(0) + 2 \sum_{z=1}^{\frac{T-1}{2}} c(z) \cos(\omega z) \right] e^{i\omega t}$$

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### PCA and Fourier analysis 2d

- The same is true in 2d:
- The eigenvectors of an image-covariance matrix that is (2d)-translation invariant are 2d waves:

$$\sum_{x',y'} \operatorname{cov}((x,y),(x',y')) e^{i(\omega_1 x' + \omega_2 y')}$$

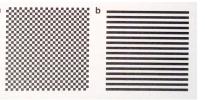
$$= \sum_{x',y'} c((x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2) e^{i(\omega_1 x' + \omega_2 y')}$$

$$= \sum_{\xi,\eta} c(\xi,\eta) e^{i(\omega_1 x - \omega_1 \xi + \omega_2 y - \omega_2 \eta)}$$

$$= \left[\sum_{\xi,\eta} c(\xi,\eta) e^{-i(\omega_1 \xi + \omega_2 \eta)}\right] e^{i(\omega_1 x + \omega_2 y)}$$

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# Dimensionality reduction and anti-aliasing



- Thus, PCA dimensionality reduction is low-pass filtering.
- Low-pass filtering can be a good idea because:
  - 1. In rectangular images, oblique frequencies are underrepresented as compared to vertical or horizontal frequencies.
  - 2. Phase becomes meaningless at the highest representable frequencies.

from: Natural Image Statistics (Hyvarinen, Hurri, Hoyer; 2009)

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#### PCA and Whitening

The components of the features, Z, are uncorrelated (that is, Z has a diagonal covariance matrix):

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n} \mathbf{z}_{n} \mathbf{z}_{n}^{\mathrm{T}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n} \mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{x}_{n} \mathbf{x}_{n}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{U}$$
$$= \mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n} \mathbf{x}_{n} \mathbf{x}_{n}^{\mathrm{T}}\right) \mathbf{U}$$
$$= \mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{U}$$
$$= \mathbf{L}$$

where the diagonal matrix  ${\bf L}$  contains the eigenvalues of  ${\bf C}$  on its diagonal.

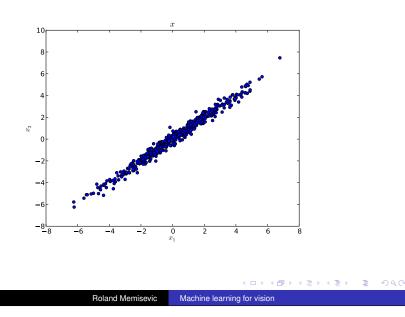
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 (The last step follows from the eigenvalue definition: Cu<sub>i</sub> = λ<sub>i</sub>u<sub>i</sub>)

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#### Whitening example



#### PCA and Whitening

We can obtain the *identity* as the covariance matrix for Z, if instead of U<sup>T</sup> we use the following backward mapping:

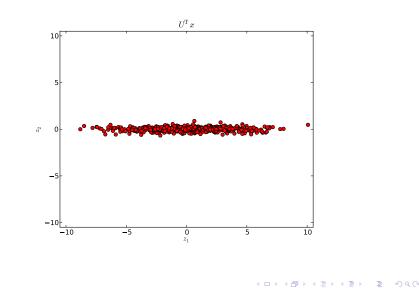
$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{L}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

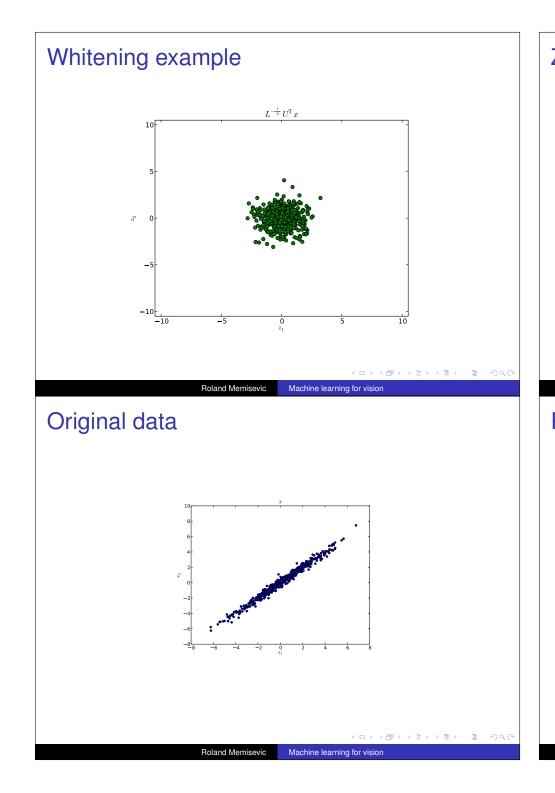
- Data with identity covariance matrix is known as white; multiplying data by V as whitening.
- Whitening may be performed without reducing the dimensionality.
- This amounts to just rotating the coordinate system of the data, followed by independently "stretching" or "squeezing" the dimensions to obtain unit variance in each.

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# Whitening example





# ZCA Whitening

- Multiplying whitened data by an orthonormal matrix leaves the data white (exercise).
- Thus, the whitening matrix V = L<sup>-1/2</sup>U<sup>T</sup> is not the only whitening matrix. Any matrix AV with orthonormal A will be one.
- One way to define a canonical whitening matrix is to choose the symmetric one. To get the symmetric whitening matrix W pre-multiply V with the orthonormal matrix U:

$$\mathbf{W} := \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{L}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{U}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

 Transforming data with this matrix is known as ZCA (zero-phase components analysis).

