CSC 412/2506:
Probabilistic Learning and Reasoning

Week 10: EM Algorithm & Probabilistic PCA

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Overview of the first hour

- Gaussian mixture models
- EM-algorithm
- Clustering

Mixture of Gaussians

We combine simple models into a complex model by taking a mixture of K multivariate Gaussian densities of the form:

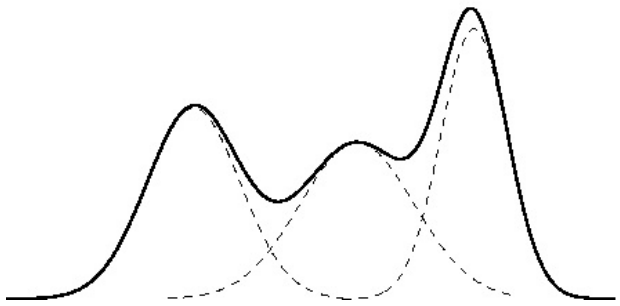
$$p(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k),$$

where $\pi_k \geq 0$, $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k = 1$, and m is dimension.

- Each Gaussian component has its own mean vector μ_k and covariance matrix Σ_k.
- The parameters π_k are called the mixing coefficients.

Example:

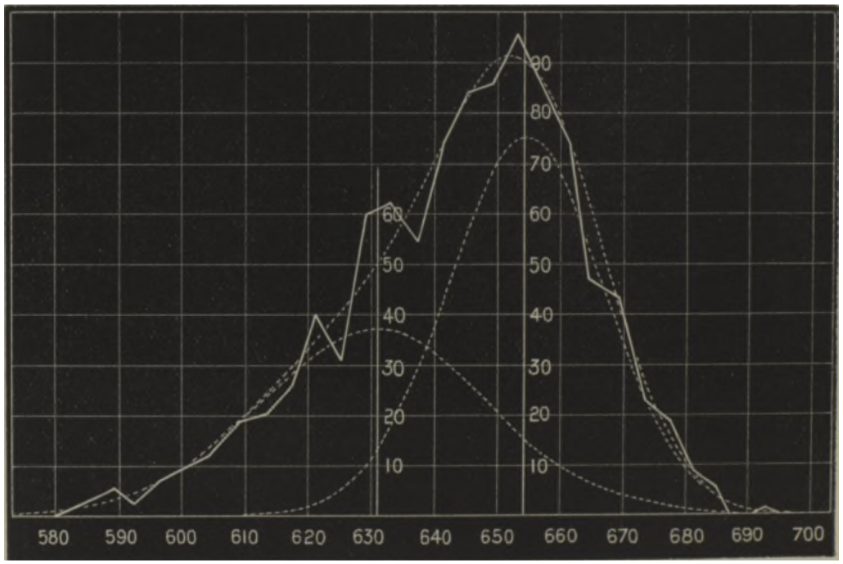
- $K = 3$ (three Gaussian components)
- $m = 1$ (univariate Gaussians)



The crabs from Naples bay

In 1892, scientists collected data on populations of the crab, Carcinus Moenas, and observed that the ratio of forehead width to the body length actually showed a highly skewed distribution.

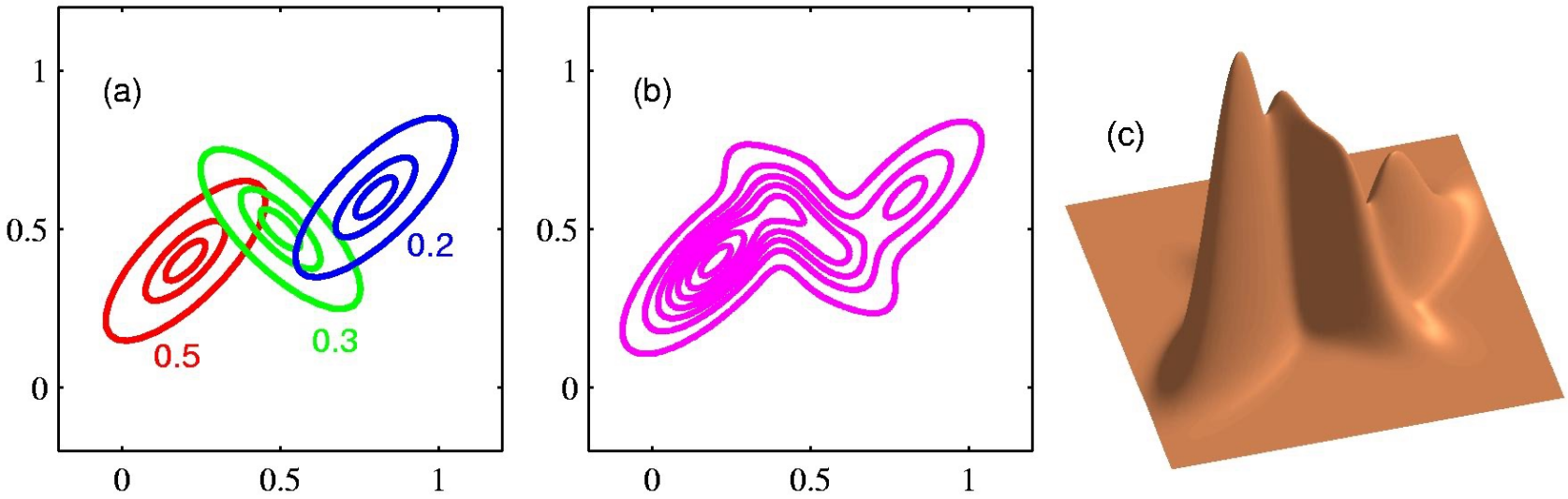
On Certain Correlated Variations in Carcinus maenas (1893) W. F. Weldon



They wondered whether this distribution could be the result of the population being a mix of two different normal distributions (two sub-species).

In **1894**, Karl Pearson proposed a method to fit this model (read here), whose modern version is the "method of moments".

• Illustration of a mixture of 3 Gaussians in a 2-dimensional space:



(a) Contours of constant density of each of the mixture components, along with the mixing coefficients

(b) Contours of marginal probability density $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)$

(c) A surface plot of the distribution p(x).

Mixture of Gaussians as a latent variable model

Recall: $p(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$.

- Consider a latent variable z with K states $z \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$.
- The distribution of z given by the mixing coefficients:

$$p(z = k) = \pi_k.$$

- Specify the conditional as $p(x|z = k) = N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$ with joint:

$$p(x, z = k) = p(z = k)p(x|z = k) = \pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k).$$

- Then the marginal $p(x)$ satisfies

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(x, z = k) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k).$$

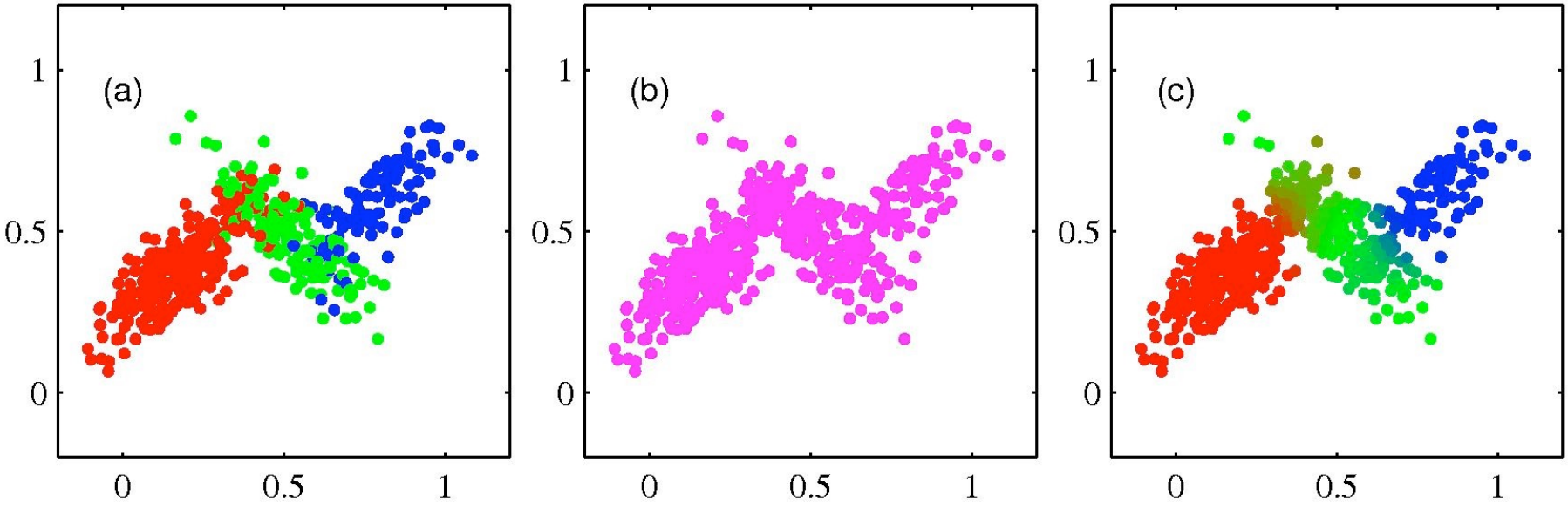
Mixture of Gaussians: inference

- If we have several observations $x_1, \ldots, x_N$, for every observed data point x_n there is a corresponding latent z_n.
- Consider the conditional $p(z|x)$

$$p(z = k|x) = \frac{p(z = k, x)}{p(x)} = \frac{p(z = k)p(x|z = k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} p(z = j)p(x|z = j)}$$
$$= \frac{\pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j N_m(x|\mu_j, \Sigma_j)}$$

- We view π_k as prior probability that $z = k$, and $p(z = k|x)$ is the corresponding posterior once we have observed the data.

• 500 points drawn from a mixture of 3 Gaussians.



Samples from the joint distribution p(x,z).

Samples from the marginal distribution p(x).

Same samples where colors represent the value of responsibilities.

The Likelihood function

Parameters: $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_1, \ldots, \pi_K)$, $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_K)$, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = (\Sigma_1, \ldots, \Sigma_K)$.

Recall: $p(x|\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$

- Represent the dataset $\{x_1, \ldots, x_N\}$ as $\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$.
- The latent variable is represented by a vector $\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathbb{R}^N$.
- The log-likelihood takes the form

$$\log p(\boldsymbol{X}|\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) \right)$$

Maximum Likelihood ($\boldsymbol{\mu}$)

Recall: $\log p(\boldsymbol{X}|\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \Big(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) \Big)$.

- Differentiating wrt μ_k and setting to zero gives:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\pi_k N(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_j \pi_j N(x_n|\mu_j, \Sigma_j)} \Sigma_k^{-1}(x_n - \mu_k) \\ &= \Sigma_k^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{N} p(z_n = k|x_n)(x_n - \mu_k). \end{aligned}$$

- Equivalently (as Σ_k is positive definite)

$$\mu_k = \sum_n \frac{p(z_n = k|x_n)}{N_k} x_n, \qquad N_k = \sum_n p(z_n = k|x_n).$$

- Simple interpretation: the MLE given by the weighted mean of the data (weighted by the posterior $p(z = k|x_n)$).

Maximum Likelihood $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\pi})$

Recall: $\log p(\boldsymbol{X}|\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \Big(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) \Big)$.

- Differentiating wrt Σ_k and setting to zero gives:

$$\Sigma_k = \sum_n \frac{p(z_n = k|x_n)}{N_k} (x_n - \mu_k)(x_n - \mu_k)^\top.$$

- Again data points weighted by posterior probabilities.
- Finally, for the weights π_k the MLE is

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} N_j} = \frac{N_k}{N}, \qquad N_k = \sum_n p(z_n = k|x_n).$$

Motivating the EM algorithm

- The MLE does not have a closed form solution.
- The estimates depend on the posterior probabilities $p(z_n = k|x_n)$, which themselves depend on those parameters.
- Indeed, recall that

$$p(z_n = k|x_n) = \frac{\pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j N_m(x_n|\mu_j, \Sigma_j)}.$$

- Iterative solution (EM algorithm):
  - Initialize the parameters to some values.

E-step Update the posteriors $p(z_n = k|x_n)$.

M-step Update model parameters $\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.

  - Repeat.

EM algorithm for Gaussian mixtures

- Initialize $\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.
- E-step: for each k, n compute the posterior probabilities

$$p(z_n = k|x_n) = \frac{\pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j N_m(x_n|\mu_j, \Sigma_j)}.$$

- M-step: Re-estimate model parameters

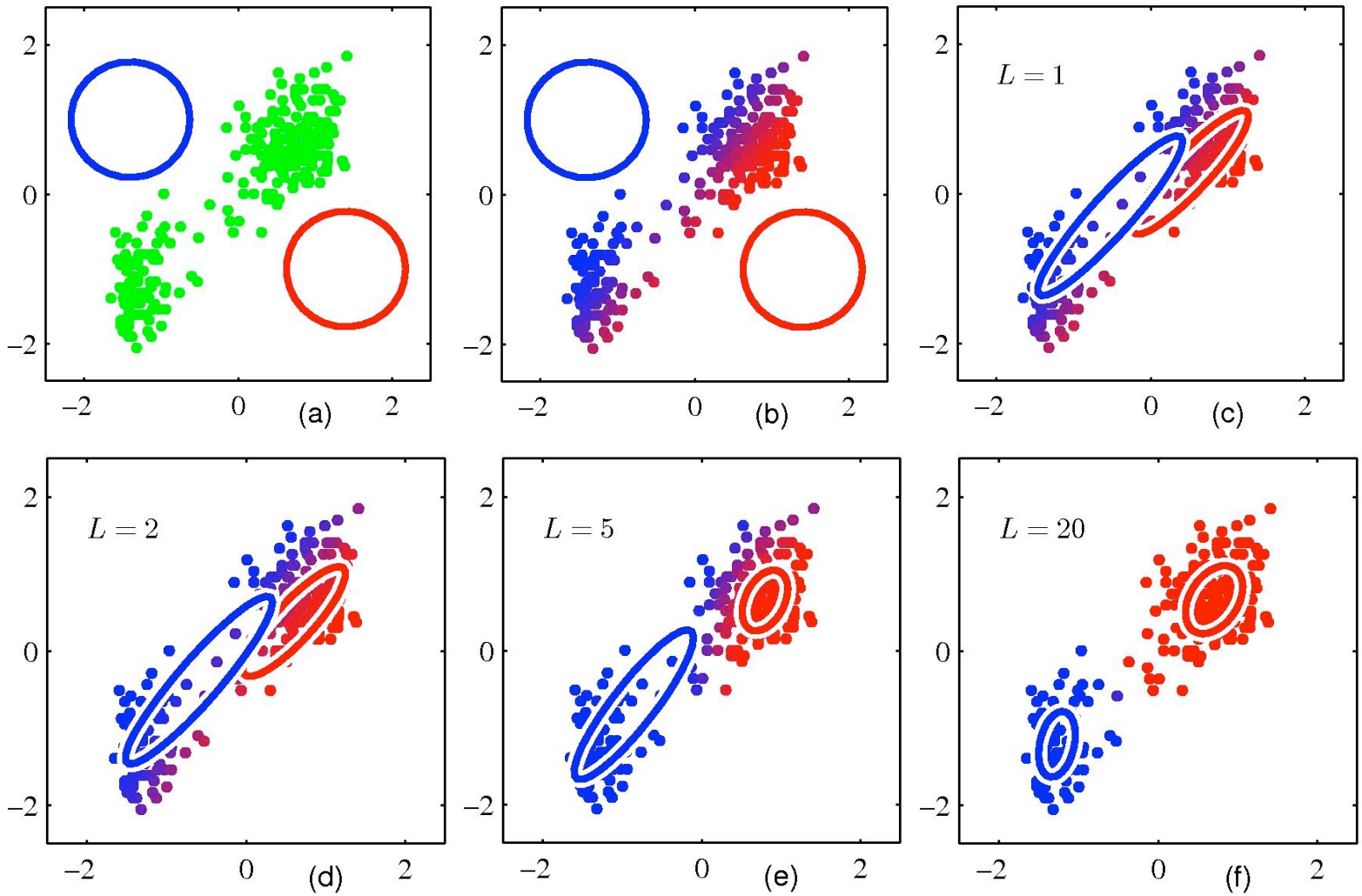
$$\mu_k^{\text{new}} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{p(z_n = k|x_n)}{N_k} x_n, \qquad N_k = \sum_{n=1}^{N} p(z = k|x_n),$$

$$\Sigma_k^{\text{new}} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{p(z_n = k|x_n)}{N_k} (x_n - \mu_k^{\text{new}})(x_n - \mu_k^{\text{new}})^\top,$$

$$\pi_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{N_k}{N}.$$

- Evaluate the log-likelihood and check for convergence.

Illustration of the EM algorithm:



The General EM algorithm

Consider a general setting with latent variables.

- Observed dataset $\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$, latent variables $\boldsymbol{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$.

Maximize the log-likelihood $\log p(\boldsymbol{X}|\theta) = \log \left(\sum_{\boldsymbol{Z}} p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) \right)$.

- Initialize parameters θ^{old}.
- **E-step**: use θ^{old} to compute the posterior $p(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}})$.
- **M-step**: $\theta^{\text{new}} = \arg\max_{\theta} Q(\theta, \theta^{\text{old}})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\theta, \theta^{\text{old}}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{Z}}\left(\log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) \middle| \boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{\boldsymbol{Z}} p(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}}) \log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) \end{aligned}$$

  which is tractable in many applications.
- Replace $\theta^{\text{old}} \leftarrow \theta^{\text{new}}$. Repeat until convergence.

Example: Gaussian mixture

- If z was observed, the MLE would be trivial

$$\log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log p(x_n, z_n|\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{N}\sum_{k=1}^{K} \mathbb{1}(z_n = k) \log\left(\pi_k N(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)\right).$$

For the E-step: $p(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} p(z_n|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta)$ we have

$$p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta) = p(z_n = k|x_n, \theta) = \frac{\pi_k N_m(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j N_m(x_n|\mu_j, \Sigma_j)}.$$

For the M-step: $\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{1}(z_n = k)|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}}) = p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}})$ and so

$$\mathbb{E}\Big(\log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta)\Big|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}}\Big) = \sum_{n=1}^{N}\sum_{k=1}^{K} p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}}) \log\left(\pi_k N(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)\right).$$

Maximizing gives the formulas on Slide 13.

Relationship to K-Means (CSC 311)

- Consider a Gaussian mixture, s.t. $\Sigma_k = \epsilon I$ for all $k = 1, \ldots, K$.
- We have

$$p(x|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\epsilon)^{m/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\epsilon}\|x - \mu_k\|^2\right).$$

- Consider the EM algorithm in this special case, $\theta = (\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$.
- The posterior probabilities take the soft-max form

$$p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta) = \frac{\pi_k \exp(-\|x_n - \mu_k\|^2/2\epsilon)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j \exp(-\|x_n - \mu_j\|^2/2\epsilon)}.$$

- If $\epsilon \to 0$, the term with smallest $\|x_n - \mu_j\|$ tends to zero most slowly.
- Thus $p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta) \to r_{nk} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = \arg\min_j \|x_n - \mu_j\| \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Relationship to K-Means

Recall: $\mathbb{E}\Big(\log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) \Big| \boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}} \Big) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}}) \log \left(\pi_k N(x_n|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) \right).$

As $\epsilon \to 0$, we have

$$p(z_n = k|\boldsymbol{X}, \theta) \to r_{nk} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = \arg\min_j \|x_n - \mu_j\| \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

which gives

$$\mathbb{E}\Big(\log p(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}|\theta) \Big| \boldsymbol{X}, \theta^{\text{old}} \Big) \to -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} r_{nk} \|x_n - \mu_k\|^2 + \text{const.}$$

- In the limit, maximizing the expected log-likelihood is equivalent to minimizing the distortion measure in the K-means algorithm.
- The EM-algorithm is slower but more flexible and accurate.

VI vs EM

- The ELBO is given as

$$\mathcal{L}(x;\theta,\phi) = E_{z_\phi \sim q_\phi}\Big[\log p_\theta(x,z)\Big] + H(q_\phi)$$

  - This maximizes expected complete data log-likelihood while penalizing low entropy distributions.
  - We perform alternating gradient descent (ascent).
- Expectation in EM algorithm maximizes

$$\mathcal{Q}(\phi,\phi^{\text{old}}) = E_{z\sim q_\phi^{\text{old}}}\Big[\log p_\phi(x,z)\Big]$$

  - This maximizes expected complete data log-likelihood while the expectation is over the posterior.
  - We perform maximization at each iteration.

Summary

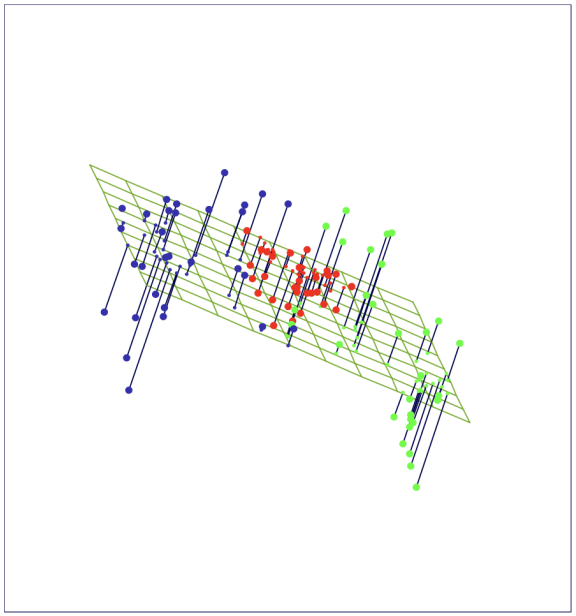
- EM algorithm is a classical method in statistics.
- It can be used in the presence of latent variables.
- When applied to Gaussian mixtures, compared to k-means, it captures the covariance structure of the data.

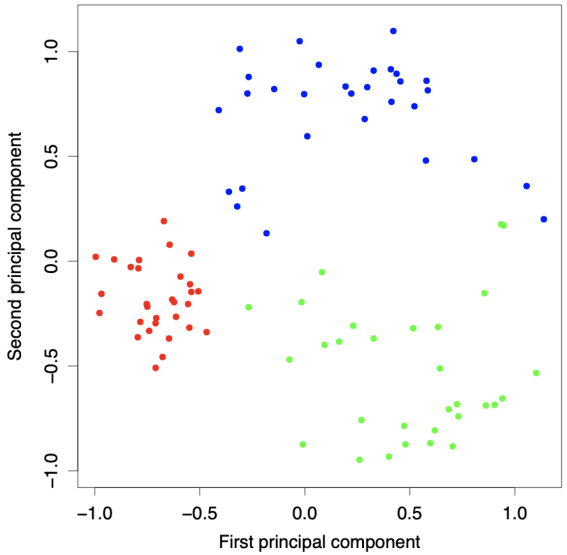
Overview

- A probabilistic model for continuous latent variables.
  - Probabilistic interpretation of the PCA
- Earlier formulation of PCA was motivated geometrically.
- We will show that it can be expressed as the maximum likelihood estimate of a certain probabilistic model.

Low dimensional representation

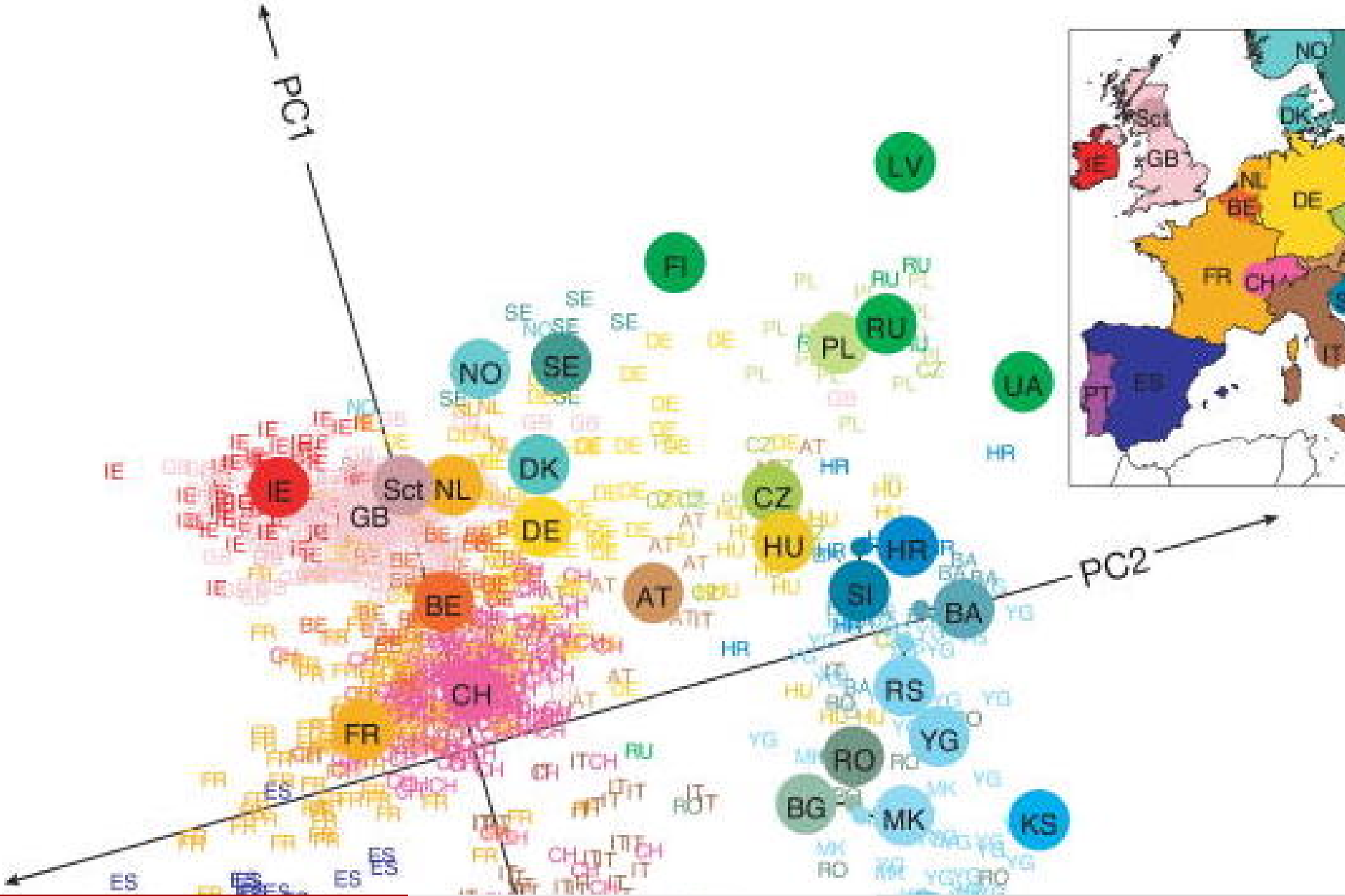
- In practice, even though data is very high dimensional, its important features can be accurately captured in a low dimensional subspace.





- Find a low dimensional representation of your data.
  - Computational benefits
  - Interpretability, visualization
  - Generalization

Nice example



Recall: Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Data set $\{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^{N}$
- Each input vector $\mathbf{x}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^D$ is approximated as $\overline{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{U}\mathbf{z}^{(i)}$,

$$\mathbf{x}^{(i)} \approx \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(i)} = \overline{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{U}\mathbf{z}^{(i)}$$

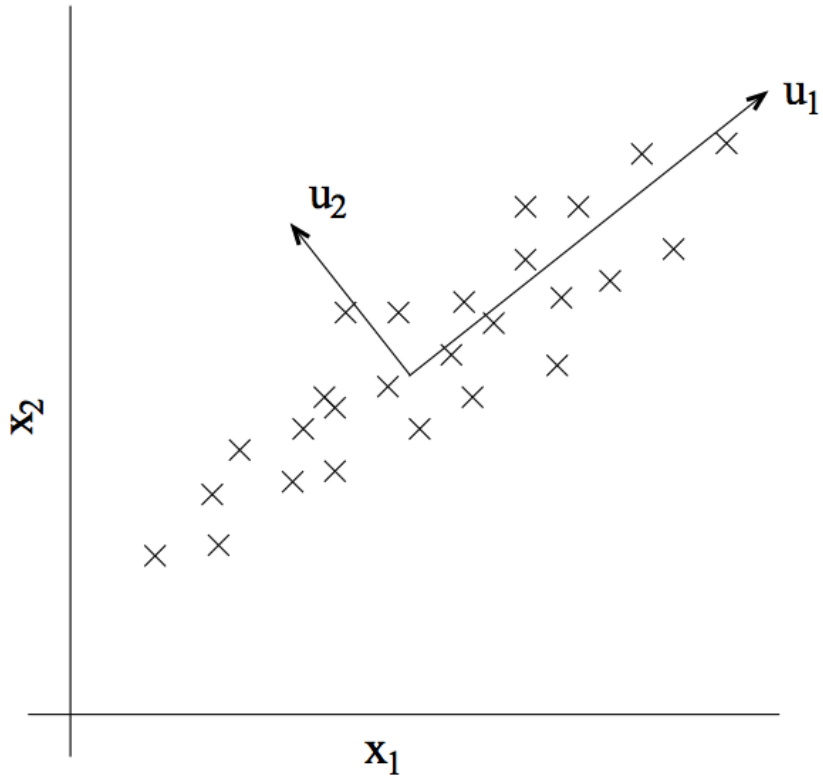
where $\overline{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_i \mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ is the data mean, $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{D\times K}$ $(K \ll D)$ is the orthogonal basis for the principal subspace, and $\mathbf{z}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^K$ is the code vector

$$\mathbf{z}^{(i)} = \mathbf{U}^\top(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \overline{\mathbf{x}})$$

- $\mathbf{U}$ is chosen to minimize the reconstruction error

$$\mathbf{U}^* = \arg\min_{\mathbf{U}} \sum_i \|\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \overline{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^\top(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \overline{\mathbf{x}})\|^2$$

We are looking for directions



- For example, in a 2-dimensional problem, we are looking for the direction $\boldsymbol{u}_1$ along which the data is well represented: (?)
  - e.g. direction of higher variance
  - e.g. direction of minimum reconstruction error
  - Recall: they are the same!

Probabilistic PCA

Consider the following latent variable model.

- Similar to the Gaussian mixture model but with Gaussian latents:

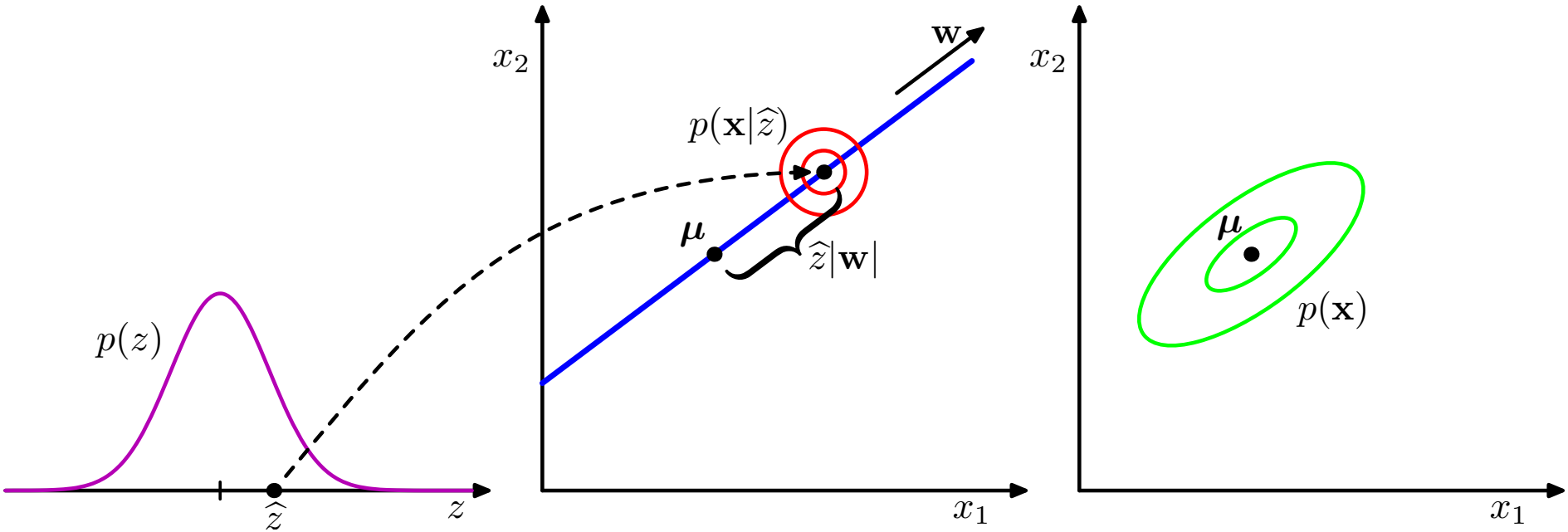
$$\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}_K(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_K)$$
$$\mathbf{x} \,|\, \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}_D(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_D)$$

- What sort of data does this model produce?

Matrix-vector multiplication: $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z}$ is a linear combination of the columns of $\mathbf{W}$ with coefficients $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, \ldots, z_K)$.

Probabilistic PCA

- **Wz** is a random linear combination of the columns of **W**
- To get the random variable **x**, we sample a standard normal **z** and then add a small amount of isotropic noise to **Wz** + $\boldsymbol{\mu}$.



The column span of **W** refers to the principal subspace in PCA.

Probabilistic PCA : The Likelihood function

- To perform maximum likelihood in this model, we need to maximize the following:

$$\max_{\mathbf{W},\boldsymbol{\mu},\sigma^2} \log p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{W}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) = \max_{\mathbf{W},\boldsymbol{\mu},\sigma^2} \log \int p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{W}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) p(\mathbf{z}) \, d\mathbf{z}$$

- This is actually easier than the Gaussian mixture model:
  - $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\mu} + \epsilon$ ($\mathbf{x}$ is an affine transformations of Gaussian vars)
  - $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{W}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2)$ is Gaussian
    - So only need to compute $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]$ and $\mathrm{Cov}[\mathbf{x}]$.

Probabilistic PCA : Maximum Likelihood

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\mu} + \epsilon] = \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Cov}[\mathbf{x}] &= \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \epsilon)(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \epsilon)^\top] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z}\mathbf{z}^\top\mathbf{W}^\top] + \mathrm{Cov}[\epsilon] \\ &= \mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^\top + \sigma^2\mathbf{I}_D\end{aligned}$$

Recall: $\mathbf{R}$ orthogonal if $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{R}^\top = \mathbf{I}$.

This model is not identifiable (W not uniquely determined) because $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^\top = (\mathbf{W}\mathbf{R})(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{R})^\top$.

Probabilistic PCA : Maximum Likelihood

Using this, the log-likelihood of the data under this model can be shown to equal

$$-\frac{ND}{2}\log(2\pi) - \frac{N}{2}\log|\mathbf{C}| - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \mathbf{C}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

where $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^\top + \sigma^2\mathbf{I}_D$.

Here the MLE $(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \widehat{\mathbf{W}}, \widehat{\sigma}^2)$ is given in a closed-form!

Check Tipping and Bishop (Probabilistic PCA, 1999) for details.

The maximum likelihood estimates

The maximum likelihood estimator can be shown to equal:

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{W}} = \widehat{\mathbf{U}}(\widehat{\mathbf{L}} - \widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I}_K)^{\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{R}$$

$$\widehat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{D-K}\sum_{i=K+1}^{D}\lambda_i$$

- The columns of $\widehat{\mathbf{U}} \in \mathbb{R}^{D\times K}$ are the K unit eigenvectors of the empirical covariance matrix $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ that have the largest eigenvalues,
- $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_D$ are the eigenvalues of $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$.
- $\widehat{\mathbf{L}} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_K)$ is the diagonal matrix whose elements are the corresponding eigenvalues, and $\mathbf{R}$ is any orthogonal matrix.

Probabilistic PCA : Maximum Likelihood

- That seems complex, to get an intuition about how this model behaves when it is fit to data, lets consider the MLE density.
- Recall that the marginal distribution on $\mathbf{x}$ in our fitted model is a Gaussian with mean

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \overline{\mathbf{x}}$$

and covariance

$$\widehat{C} = \widehat{\mathbf{W}}\widehat{\mathbf{W}}^{\top} + \widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I} = \widehat{\mathbf{U}}(\widehat{\mathbf{L}} - \widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I})\widehat{\mathbf{U}}^{\top} + \widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I}$$

- The covariance gives us a nice intuition about the model.

Probabilistic PCA : Maximum Likelihood

- Center the data and check the variance along one of the unit eigenvectors $\mathbf{u}_i$, which are the vectors forming the columns of $\widehat{\mathbf{U}}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(\mathbf{u}_i^\top(\mathbf{x}-\overline{\mathbf{x}})) &= \mathbf{u}_i^\top \text{Cov}[\mathbf{x}]\mathbf{u}_i \\ &= \mathbf{u}_i^\top \widehat{\mathbf{U}}(\widehat{\mathbf{L}}-\widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I})\widehat{\mathbf{U}}^\top\mathbf{u}_i + \widehat{\sigma}^2 \\ &= \lambda_i - \widehat{\sigma}^2 + \widehat{\sigma}^2 = \lambda_i\end{aligned}$$

- Now, center the data and check the variance along any unit vector orthogonal to the subspace spanned by $\widehat{\mathbf{U}}$ ($i > K$):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(\mathbf{u}_i^\top(\mathbf{x}-\overline{\mathbf{x}})) &= \mathbf{u}_i^\top \widehat{\mathbf{U}}(\widehat{\mathbf{L}}-\widehat{\sigma}^2\mathbf{I})\widehat{\mathbf{U}}^\top\mathbf{u}_i + \widehat{\sigma}^2 \\ &= \widehat{\sigma}^2\end{aligned}$$

- The model captures the variance along the principle axes and approximates it in all remaining directions with a single variance.

How does it relate to PCA?

- The posterior mean is given by

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}] = \left(\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{W}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

- Posterior variance:

$$\text{Cov}[\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}] = \sigma^{-2}(\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$$

- In the limit $\sigma^2 \to 0$, we get

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}] \overset{\sigma^2 \to 0}{\to} \left(\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{W}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

- Plugging in the MLEs, this limit recovers the standard PCA.

Why Probabilistic PCA (PPCA)?

- Fitting a full-covariance Gaussian model of data requires $\mathcal{O}(D^2)$ parameters. With PPCA we model only the K most significant correlations and this only requires $\mathcal{O}(KD)$ parameters as long as K is small.
- Provides a basis for more sophisticated Bayesian methods (e.g., automatically determining the number of components K).
- The existence of a likelihood function enables comparison with other probabilistic models for the data.
- Instead of solving directly (requires eigenvalues/vectors of $D \times D$ matrix), we can also use EM. The EM can be scaled to very large high- dimensional datasets.

Summary: Some Gaussian models

- Gaussian mixture model.
  - Gaussian latent variable model $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_z p(\mathbf{x}, z)$ used for clustering.
- Probabilistic PCA.
  - Gaussian latent variable model $p(\mathbf{x}) = \int_z p(\mathbf{x}, z)$ used for dimensionality reduction.
- Bayesian linear regression (next lecture).
  - Gaussian discriminative model $p(y \mid \mathbf{x})$ used for regression with a Bayesian analysis for the weights.