CPSC 540: Machine Learning
Probabilistic PCA, Factor Analysis, Independent Component Analysis

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Outline

1. Probabilistic PCA
2. Factor Analysis
3. Independent Component Analysis
EM iterations take the form

\[ \Theta^{t+1} = \arg \max_{\Theta} \left\{ \sum_{H} \alpha_H \log p(O, H \mid \Theta) \right\}, \]

and with multiple MAR variables \( \{H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_m\} \) this means

\[ \Theta^{t+1} = \arg \max_{\Theta} \left\{ \sum_{H_1} \sum_{H_2} \cdots \sum_{H_m} \alpha_H \log p(O, H \mid \Theta) \right\}, \]

- In mixture models, EM sums over all \( k^n \) possible cluster assignments.
- In binary semi-supervised learning, EM sums over all \( 2^t \) assignments to \( \tilde{y} \).

But **conditional independence** allows efficient calculation in the above cases.
- The \( H \) are independent given \( \{O, \Theta\} \) which simplifies sums (see EM notes).
- We’ll cover general case when we discuss **probabilistic graphical models**.
Today: Continuous-Latent Variables

- If $H$ is continuous, the sums are replaced by integrals,

\[
\log p(O \mid \Theta) = \log \left( \int_H p(O, H \mid \Theta) dH \right)
\]

(log-likelihood)

\[
\Theta^{t+1} = \arg\max_{\Theta} \left\{ \int_H \alpha_H \log p(O, H \mid \Theta) dH \right\}
\]

(EM update),

where if have 5 hidden variables $\int_H$ means $\int_{H_1} \int_{H_2} \int_{H_3} \int_{H_4} \int_{H_5}$.

- Even with conditional independence these might be hard.

- **Gaussian** assumptions allow efficient calculation of these integrals.
  - We’ll cover general case when we get discuss Bayesian statistics.
Today: Continuous-Latent Variables

- In mixture models, we have a discrete latent variable $z^i$:
  - In mixture of Gaussians, if you know the cluster $z^i$ then $p(x^i | z^i)$ is a Gaussian.

- In latent-factor models, we have continuous latent variables $z^i$:
  - In probabilistic PCA, if you know the latent-factors $z^i$ then $p(x^i | z^i)$ is a Gaussian.

- But what would a continuous $z^i$ be useful for?
- Do we really need to start solving integrals?
Today: Continuous-Latent Variables

- Data may live in a low-dimensional manifold:

  ![Graph showing a low-dimensional manifold with hand images representing different finger and wrist rotations.](http://isomap.stanford.edu/handfig.html)

- Mixtures are inefficient at representing the 2D manifold.
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- PCA replaces $X$ with a lower-dimensional approximation $Z$.
  - Matrix $Z$ has $n$ rows, but typically far fewer columns.
- PCA is used for:
  - **Dimensionality reduction**: replace $X$ with a lower-dimensional $Z$.
  - **Outlier detection**: if PCA gives poor approximation of $x^i$, could be outlier.
  - **Basis for linear models**: use $Z$ as features in regression model.
  - **Data visualization**: display $z^i$ in a scatterplot.
  - **Factor discovering**: discover important hidden “factors” underlying data.

PCA Notation

- PCA approximates the original matrix by factor-loadings $Z$ and latent-factors $W$,
  \[ X \approx ZW. \]
  where $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$, $W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}$, and we assume columns of $X$ have mean 0.
- We’re trying to split redundancy in $X$ into its important “parts”.
- We typically take $k << d$ so this requires far fewer parameters:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
X & \approx & ZW
\end{bmatrix}
\]

- Also computationally convenient:
  - $Xv$ costs $O(nd)$ but $Z(Wv)$ only costs $O(nk + dk)$. 
PCA Notation

- Using $X \approx ZW$, PCA approximates each examples $x^i$ as
  \[ x^i \approx W^T z^i. \]

- Usually we only need to estimate $W$:
  - If using least squares, then given $W$ we can find $z^i$ from $x^i$ using
    \[ z^i = \arg\min_z \| x^i - W^T z \|^2 = (WW^T)^{-1} W x^i. \]

- We often assume that $W^T$ is orthogonal:
  - This means that $WW^T = I$.
  - In this case we have $z^i = W x^i$.

- In standard formulations, solution only unique up to rotation:
  - Usually, we fit the rows of $W$ sequentially for uniqueness.
Two Classic Views on PCA

- PCA approximates the original matrix by latent-variables $Z$ and latent-factors $W$,
  \[ X \approx ZW. \]
  where $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$, $W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}$.

- Two classical interpretations/derivations of PCA (equivalent for orthogonal $W^T$):
  1. Choose latent-factors $W$ to minimize error ("synthesis view"):
     \[
     \arg\min_{Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}} \| X - ZW \|_F^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{d} (x_{ij} - (w_j)^T z_i)^2.
     \]
  2. Choose latent-factors $W^T$ to maximize variance ("analysis view"):
     \[
     \arg\max_{W \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times d}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \| z^i - \mu_z \|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \| Wx^i \|^2 \quad (z^i = Wx^i \text{ and } \mu_z = 0)
     \]
     \[
     = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{Tr}((x^i)^T W^T W x^i) = \text{Tr}(W^T \sum_{i=1}^{n} x^i(x^i)^T) = \text{Tr}(W^T WX^T X),
     \]
     and we note that $X^T X$ is $n$ times sample covariance $S$ because data is centered.
Two Classic Views on PCA
Two Classic Views on PCA
Two Classic Views on PCA
Two Classic Views on PCA
Two Classic Views on PCA

"Analysis" view: PCA maximizes variance along line.

"Synthesis" view: PCA minimizes distance to line.

Line for first "principal component" $w^T x_i$

Centered features
Two Classic Views on PCA

Proof: “Synthesis” View = “Analysis” View (WWᵀ = I)

- The variance of the zᵢjl (maximised in “analysis” view):
  \[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} ||z_i - \mu_z||^2 = \frac{1}{nk} \sum_{i=1}^{n} ||Wx_i||^2 \quad (\mu_z = 0 \text{ and } z_i = Wx_i \text{ if } ||w_i|| = 1 \text{ and } w_i^Tw_i = 0) \]
  \[ = \frac{1}{nk} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^TW^TWx_i = \frac{1}{nk} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{Tr}(x_i^TW^TWx_i) = \frac{1}{nk} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{Tr}(W^TWx_ix_i^T) \]
  \[ = \frac{1}{nk} \text{Tr}(W^TW \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i{x_i}^T) = \frac{1}{nk} \text{Tr}(W^TWXX^TX) \]

- The distance to the hyper-plane (minimised in “synthesis” view):
  \[ ||W - X||^2_F = ||XW^TW - X||^2_F = \text{Tr}((XW^TW - X)^2) \]
  \[ = \text{Tr}(W^TWX^TXW^TW) - 2\text{Tr}(W^TWX^TX) + \text{Tr}(X^TX) \]
  \[ = \text{Tr}(W^TWX^TWWX^TX) - 2\text{Tr}(W^TWX^TX) + \text{Tr}(X^TX) \]
  \[ = -\text{Tr}(W^TWX^TX) + \text{constant} \]
Probabilistic PCA

- With zero-mean ("centered") data, in PCA we assume that
  \[ x^i \approx W^T z^i. \]

- In probabilistic PCA we assume that
  \[ x^i \sim \mathcal{N}(W^T z^i, \sigma^2 I), \quad z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I). \]

  (we can actually use any Gaussian density for \( z \))

- We can treat \( z^i \) as nuisance parameters integrate over them in likelihood,
  \[ p(x^i \mid W) = \int_{z^i} p(x^i, z^i \mid W) dz^i. \]

- Looks ugly, but this is marginal of Gaussian so it’s Gaussian.
  - Regular PCA is obtained as the limit of \( \sigma^2 \) going to 0.
From the assumptions of the previous slide we have (leaving out $i$ superscripts):

\[
p(x \mid z, W) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{(x - W^T z)^T(x - W^T z)}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad p(z) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2}\right).
\]

Multiplying and expanding we get

\[
p(x, z \mid W) = p(x \mid z, W)p(z \mid W) = p(x \mid z, W)p(z) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{(x - W^T z)^T(x - W^T z)}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{z^T z}{2}\right)
\]

\[
\propto \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x - x^T W^T z - z^T W x + z^T W W^T z + z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right)
\]

\[
= \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x - x^T W^T z - z^T W x + z^T W W^T z + z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right)
\]
Manipulating Gaussians

So the “complete” likelihood satisfies

\[
p(x, z \mid W) \propto \exp \left( - \frac{x^T x - x^T W^T z - z^T W x + z^T W W^T z}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{z^T z}{2} \right) \]
\[
= \exp \left( - \frac{1}{2} \left( x^T \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} I \right) x + x^T \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W^T \right) z + z^T \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W \right) x + z^T \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W W^T + I \right) z \right) \right),
\]

We can re-write the exponent as a quadratic form,

\[
p(x, z \mid W) \propto \exp \left( - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x^T & z^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} I & -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W^T \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W & \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W W^T + I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right),
\]

This has the form of a Gaussian distribution,

\[
p(v \mid W) \propto \exp \left( - \frac{1}{2} (v - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (v - \mu) \right),
\]

with \( v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ z \end{bmatrix} \), \( \mu = 0 \), and \( \Sigma^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} I & -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W^T \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W & \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W W^T + I \end{bmatrix} \).
Manipulating Gaussians

- Remember that if we write multivariate Gaussian in partitioned form,

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
x \\
z
\end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}
\left( 
\begin{bmatrix}
\mu_x \\
\mu_z
\end{bmatrix},
\begin{bmatrix}
\Sigma_{xx} & \Sigma_{xz} \\
\Sigma_{zx} & \Sigma_{zz}
\end{bmatrix}
\right),
\]

then the marginal distribution \( p(x) \) (integrating over \( z \)) is given by

\[ x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_x, \Sigma_{xx}). \]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multivariate_normal_distribution
Manipulating Gaussians

- Remember that if we write multivariate Gaussian in partitioned form,
  \[
  \begin{bmatrix}
  x \\
  z
  \end{bmatrix}
  \sim \mathcal{N}
  \left(\begin{bmatrix}
  \mu_x \\
  \mu_z
  \end{bmatrix},
  \begin{bmatrix}
  \Sigma_{xx} & \Sigma_{xz} \\
  \Sigma_{zx} & \Sigma_{zz}
  \end{bmatrix}\right),
  \]
  then the marginal distribution \(p(x)\) (integrating over \(z\)) is given by
  \[x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_x, \Sigma_{xx}).\]

- For probabilistic PCA we assume \(\mu_x = 0\), but we partitioned \(\Sigma^{-1}\) instead of \(\Sigma\).
- To get \(\Sigma\) we can use a partitioned matrix inversion formula,
  \[
  \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix}
  \frac{1}{\sigma^2} I & -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W^T \\
  -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} W & \frac{1}{\sigma^2} W W^T + I
  \end{bmatrix}^{-1}
  = \begin{bmatrix}
  W^T W + \sigma^2 I & W^T \\
  W & \sigma^2 I
  \end{bmatrix},
  \]
  which gives that solution to integrating over \(z\) is
  \[x \mid W \sim \mathcal{N}(0, W^T W + \sigma^2 I).\]
Notes on Probabilistic PCA

- NLL of observed data has the form
  $$-\log p(x \mid W) = \frac{n}{2} \text{Tr}(S\Theta) - \frac{n}{2} \log |\Theta| + \text{const.},$$
  where $$\Theta = (W^TW + \sigma^2 I)^{-1}$$ and $$S$$ is the sample covariance.
- Not convex, but non-global stationary points are saddle points.
- Equivalence with regular PCA:
  - Consider $$W^T$$ orthogonal so $$WW^T = I$$ (usual assumption).
  - Using matrix determinant lemma we have
    $$|W^TW + \sigma^2 I| = |I + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} WW^T| \cdot |\sigma^2 I| = \text{const.}$$
  - Using matrix inversion lemma we have
    $$(W^TW + \sigma^2 I)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} I - \frac{1}{\sigma^2(\sigma^2 + 1)} W^TW,$$
    so minimizing NLL maximizes $$\text{Tr}(W^TW S)$$ as in PCA.
Generalizations of Probabilistic PCA

- Why do we need a probabilistic interpretation of PCA?
  - Good excuse to play with Gaussian identities and matrix formulas?
- We now understand that **PCA fits a Gaussian with restricted covariance**:
  - Hope is that $W^T W + \sigma I$ is a good approximation of full covariance $X^T X$.
  - We can do fancy things like **mixtures of PCA models**.

We could consider different $x^i \mid z^i$ distribution (but integrals are ugly).
- E.g., Laplace of student if you want it to be robust.
- E.g., logistic or softmax if you have discrete $x^i_j$.

Let us understand the connection between PCA and factor analysis.

Outline

1 Probabilistic PCA
2 Factor Analysis
3 Independent Component Analysis
Factor Analysis

- **Factor analysis** (FA) is a method for discovering latent-factors.
  - A standard tool and widely-used across science and engineering.
- Historical applications are measures of intelligence and personality traits.
  - Some controversy, like trying to find factors of intelligence due to race.  
      (without normalizing for socioeconomic factors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>Being curious, original, intellectual, creative, and open to new ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conscientiousness</td>
<td>Being organized, systematic, punctual, achievement-oriented, and dependable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraversion</td>
<td>Being outgoing, talkative, sociable, and enjoying social situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreeableness</td>
<td>Being affable, tolerant, sensitive, trusting, kind, and warm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroticism</td>
<td>Being anxious, irritable, temperamental, and moody.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- “Big Five” aspects of personality (vs. non-evidence-based Myers-Briggs):
  - [https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/most-personality-quizzes-are-junk-science-i-found-one-that-isnt](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/most-personality-quizzes-are-junk-science-i-found-one-that-isnt)

[https://new.edu/resources/big-5-personality-traits](https://new.edu/resources/big-5-personality-traits)
Factor Analysis

- FA approximates the original matrix by latent-variables $Z$ and latent-factors $W$,

$$X \approx ZW.$$  

- Which should sound familiar...

- Are PCA and FA the same?
  - Both are more than 100 years old.
  - People are still fighting about whether they are the same:
    - Doesn’t help that some software packages run PCA when you call FA.
Probabilistic PCA

Factor Analysis

pc vs. factor analysis

About 358,000 results (0.17 seconds)

Principal Component Analysis versus Exploratory Factor Analysis

1. Paper 203-30: Principal Component Analysis vs. Exploratory Factor Analysis
   - Diana D. Sahu, PhD. University of Northern Colorado. Abstract: Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Common Factor Analysis (CFA) are two important techniques for exploring the underlying structure in data. The main difference between these two methods lies in their assumptions and how they interpret the relationships among variables. PCA is a linear transformation technique that reduces the dimensionality of the data while retaining as much of the variability as possible. On the other hand, CFA assumes that the observed variables are influenced by a smaller number of unobserved variables, known as factors. These factors are estimated to account for the correlations among the observed variables.

What are the differences between principal components analysis and factor analysis in ... stat.stackexchange.com/.../what-are-the-differences-between-factor-analysis-and-pca

Aug 12, 2013 - Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Common Factor Analysis (CFA) are two important techniques for exploring the underlying structure in data. The main difference between these two methods lies in their assumptions and how they interpret the relationships among variables. PCA is a linear transformation technique that reduces the dimensionality of the data while retaining as much of the variability as possible. On the other hand, CFA assumes that the observed variables are influenced by a smaller number of unobserved variables, known as factors. These factors are estimated to account for the correlations among the observed variables.

What are the differences between principal components analysis and factor analysis in ... support.mintab.com/.../factor-analysis-differences-between-pca-and-factors

Principal Components Analysis and Factor Analysis are similar, but both procedures are used to simplify the structure of a set of variables. However, the primary differences lie in their assumptions and how they interpret the relationships among variables.

Principal Components Analysis (PCA)

https://www.unt.edu/apps/class/.../PrincipalComponents%20Analysis.ppt

PCA vs. Factor Analysis: It's easy to make the mistake in assuming that these are the same techniques, though in some ways exploration factor analysis and PCA are different. However, the primary differences lie in their assumptions and how they interpret the relationships among variables.

Factor analysis versus Principal Components Analysis (PCA)

psych.wisc.edu/apa/topics/pca.html

Jun 19, 2010 - Factor analysis versus PCA. These techniques are typically used to analyze groups of correlated variables representing one or more common.

Principal Component Analysis and Factor Analysis

www.stat.ox.ac.uk/~washington/MultAnd_H2007/PCA.pdf

where D is diagonal with non-negative and decreasing values and U and Y are factor analysis and PCA are often confused, and indeed SPSS has PCA as.

How can I decide between using principal components

https://www.researchgate.net/.../How_can_I_decide_between_using_pca

Factor analysis (PA) is a group of statistical methods used to understand and simplify patterns. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Harry_Horsfield-1/publication/261669797_PCA_or_Factor_Analysis/links/53397732a6f7e5b02840d01e/Principal-component-analysis-PCA-is-a-method-of-factor-extraction-the-second-step...

Exploratory Factor Analysis and Principal Component Analysis

www.ischool.man.ac.uk/.../FactorAnalysis/EFA_PCA.pdf

2 very different schools of thought on exploratory factor analysis (EFA) vs. principal components analysis (PCA): > EFA and PCA are TWO ENTIRELY.

Factor analysis - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Factor_analysis

Jump to Exploratory factor analysis versus principal component analysis ... (pdf). See also: Principal component analysis and Exploratory factor analysis.

The Truth about PCA and Factor Analysis


Sep 28, 2019 - nents and factor analysis, we'll wrap up by looking at their uses and
PCA vs. Factor Analysis

- In probabilistic PCA we assume
  \[ x^i \mid z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(W^T z^i, \sigma^2 I), \quad z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I), \]
  and we obtain PCA as \( \sigma \to 0 \).

- In FA we assume
  \[ x^i \mid z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(W^T z^i, D), \quad z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I), \]
  where \( D \) is a diagonal matrix.

- The difference is that you can have a noise variance for each dimension.

- Repeating the previous exercise we get that
  \[ x^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, W^T W + D). \]

- So FA has extra degrees of freedom in variance of individual variables.
PCA vs. Factor Analysis

- We can write non-centered versions of both models:
  
  **Probabilistic PCA:**
  \[ x^i \mid z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(W^T z^i + \mu, \sigma^2 I), \quad z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I), \]

  **Factor analysis:**
  \[ x^i \mid z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(W^T z^i + \mu, D), \quad z^i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I), \]
  where \( D \) is a diagonal matrix.

- A different perspective is that these models assume

  \[ x^i = W^T z^i + \epsilon, \]

  where PPCA has \( \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2 I) \) and FA has \( \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, D) \).
PCA vs. Factor Analysis

In practice they usually give pretty similar results:


Remember in 340 that difference with PCA and ISOMAP/t-SNE was huge.
Factor Analysis Discussion

Similar to PCA, FA is invariant to rotation of $W$,

$$W^T W = W^T Q^T Q W = (WQ)^T(WQ),$$

for orthogonal $Q$.

- So as with PCA you can’t interpret multiple factors as being unique.

Differences with PCA:

- Not affected by scaling individual features.
  - FA doesn’t chase large-noise features that are uncorrelated with other features.
- But unlike PCA, it’s affected by rotation of the data.
- No nice “SVD” approach for FA, you can get different local optima.
Orthogonality and Sequential Fitting

- The PCA and FA solutions are not unique.

- Common heuristic:
  1. Enforce that rows of $W$ have a norm of 1.
  2. Enforce that rows of $W$ are orthogonal.
  3. Fit the rows of $W$ sequentially.

- This leads to a unique solution up to sign changes.

- But there are other ways to resolve non-uniqueness (Murphy’s Section 12.1.3):
  - Force $W$ to be lower-triangular.
  - Choose an informative rotation.
  - Use a non-Gaussian prior ("independent component analysis").
Outline

1. Probabilistic PCA
2. Factor Analysis
3. Independent Component Analysis
Motivation for Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

- Factor analysis has found an enormous number of applications.
  - People really want to find the “factors” that make up their data.

- But factor analysis can’t even identify factor directions.

http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/pmr/lectures/ica.pdf
Motivation for Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

- Factor analysis has found an enormous number of applications.
  - People really want to find the “factors” that make up their data.

- But factor analysis can’t even identify factor directions.
  - We can rotate $W$ and obtain the same model.

- Independent component analysis (ICA) is a more recent approach
  - Around 30 years old instead of $> 100$.
  - Under certain assumptions it can identify factors.

- The canonical application of ICA is blind source separation.
Blind Source Separation

- Input to **blind source separation**:
  - Multiple microphones recording multiple sources.

- Each microphone gets different mixture of the sources.
  - Goal is to reconstruct sources (factors) from the measurements.

http://music.eecs.northwestern.edu/research.php
Independent Component Analysis Applications

- ICA is replacing PCA/FA in many applications.

Some ICA applications are listed below:

- optical Imaging of neurons
- neuronal spike sorting
- face recognition
- modeling receptive fields of primary visual neurons
- predicting stock market prices
- mobile phone communications
- color based detection of the ripeness of tomatoes
- removing artifacts, such as eye blinks, from EEG data.

- It’s the only algorithm we didn’t cover in 340 from the list of “The 10 Algorithms Machine Learning Engineers Need to Know”.
- Recent work shows that ICA can often resolve direction of causality.
As in PCA/FA, ICA is a matrix factorization method,

\[ X \approx ZW. \]

Let’s assume that \( X = ZW \) for a “true” \( W \) with \( k = d \).
\- Different from PCA where we assume \( k << d \).

There are only 3 issues stopping us from finding “true” \( W \).
3 Sources of Matrix Factorization Non-Uniqueness

- **Label switching:** get same model if we permute rows of $W$.
  - We can exchange row 1 and 2 of $W$ (and same columns of $Z$).
  - Not a problem because we don’t care about order of factors.

- **Scaling:** get same model if you scale a row.
  - If we multiply row 1 of $W$ by $\alpha$, could multiply column 1 of $Z$ by $1/\alpha$.
  - Can’t identify scale/sign, but might hope to identify direction.

- **Rotation:** we the get same model if we rotate $W$. pre-multiply $W$ by orthogonal $Q$.
  - Rotation correspond to orthogonal matrices $Q$, such matrices have $Q^TQ = I$.
  - If we rotate $W$ with $Q$, then we have $(QW)^T(QW) = W^TQ^TQW = W^TW$.

- If we could address rotation, we could identify the directions.
Another Unique Gaussian Property

- Consider a prior that assumes the $z^i_c$ are independent,

$$ p(z^i) = \prod_{c=1}^{k} p_c(z^i_c). $$

- E.g., in PPCA and FA we use $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ for each $z^i_c$.

- If $p(z^i)$ is rotation-invariant, $p(Qz^i) = p(z^i)$, then it must be Gaussian.

- The (non-intuitive) magic behind ICA:
  - If the priors are all non-Gaussian, it isn’t rotationally symmetric.

- Implication: we can identify factors $W$ if at most 1 factor is Gaussian.
  - Up to permutation/sign/scaling (other rotations change distribution).
**Figure**: Latent data is sampled from the prior $p(x_i) \propto \exp(-5 \sqrt{|x_i|})$ with the mixing matrix $A$ shown in green to create the observed two dimensional vectors $y = Ax$. The red lines are the mixing matrix estimated by `ica.m` based on the observations. For comparison, PCA produces the blue (dashed) components. Note that the components have been scaled to improve visualisation. As expected, PCA finds the orthogonal directions of maximal variation. ICA however, correctly estimates the directions in which the components were independently generated.
Independent Component Analysis

- In ICA we use the approximation,
  \[ X \approx ZW \]
  where we want \( z_j^i \) to be non-Gaussian and independent across \( j \).
  - Usually, we “center” and “whiten” the data before applying ICA.

- A common strategy is maximum likelihood ICA assuming a heavy-tailed \( z_j^i \) like
  \[ p(z_j^i) = \frac{1}{\pi (\exp(z_j^i) + \exp(-z_j^i))}. \]

- Another common strategy fits data while maximizing measure of non-Gaussianity:
  - Maximize kurtosis, which is minimizes by Gaussians.
  - Minimize entropy, which is maximized with Gaussians.

- The fastICA method is a popular Newton-like method maximizing kurtosis.
ICA on Retail Purchase Data

- Cash flow from 5 different stores over 3 years:

ICA on Retail Purchase Data

- Factors found using ICA.
  - 1-2 reflect “holiday season”, 3-4 are year-to-year, and 5 is summer dip in sales.

Summary

- **PCA** is a classic method for dimensionality reduction.
- **Probabilistic PCA** is a continuous latent-variable probabilistic generalization.
- **Factor analysis** extends probabilistic PCA with different noise in each dimension.
- **Independent component analysis**: allows identifying non-Gaussian latent factors.