

1. Using PCA to Detect Fraudulent Transactions (Spring 2023 Final)

PCA has many different uses when applied to real-world data. One potential application is making classification of data much easier.

Suppose we are given some data, where each datapoint represents a transaction. Each one is labeled either normal or fraudulent. We will utilize PCA to develop a useful classifier.

We plot the data in two dimensions, where each dimension is some unspecified feature that will aid us in classifying the points:

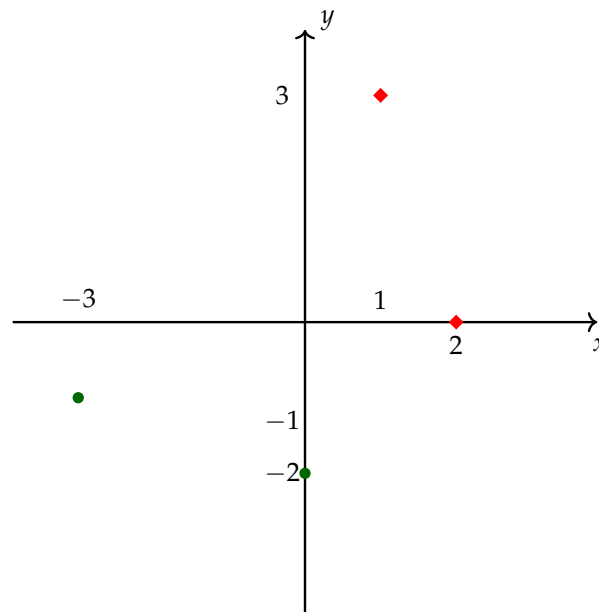


Figure 1: Plot of Transactions in 2-D

Thus, we have a total of 4 transactions, $\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$ are normal, while $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ are fraudulent.

(a) Suppose we now construct a data matrix, where the *data points are columns*.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \tag{1}$$

Using this data matrix, **calculate its first principal component \vec{u}_1** .

(HINT:

i. You may also make use of the fact that XX^T is given by:

$$XX^T = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^T \tag{2}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 14 & 6 \\ 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

ii. You may also make use of the characteristic polynomial of XX^T :

$$\lambda^2 - 28\lambda + 160 = (\lambda - 20)(\lambda - 8) = 0 \quad (4)$$

)

(HINT: Remember that your principal component should be of unit norm.)

(b) It's difficult to come up with a useful classifier in two dimensions. Let's use PCA dimensionality reduction to help.

Using your answer in part (a), **project your two-dimensional data points onto one dimension.** Express your answer as the vector $\vec{z} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 4}$.

(c) **Now, plot each of these points, on the line below. Indicate the value and label (normal as circle and fraudulent as diamond) for each point.**

Note: your plot doesn't have to be to scale.

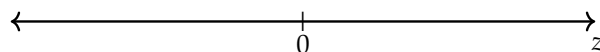


Figure 2: Plot of Transactions in 1-D

- (d) Suppose you are given some transaction datapoint, \vec{x}_i and you project it to be one-dimensional, i.e. z_i . **Based on your plot from part (c), come up with an inequality in terms of z_i to identify if that transaction is fraudulent.**

Note: There can be more than one answer, but please only give one.

- (e) It can often be informative to compare our original data with its PCA reconstructions. **Using PCA, reconstruct \vec{z} back into 2-D as the matrix $\tilde{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 4}$.**

- (f) Finally, we visualize our PCA reconstruction. **On the graph below, draw your first principal component direction (extend it as a solid line in both directions). Draw your reconstructed points from \tilde{X} , with dotted lines connecting them with the corresponding point in X .** You may draw on the plot on the next page.

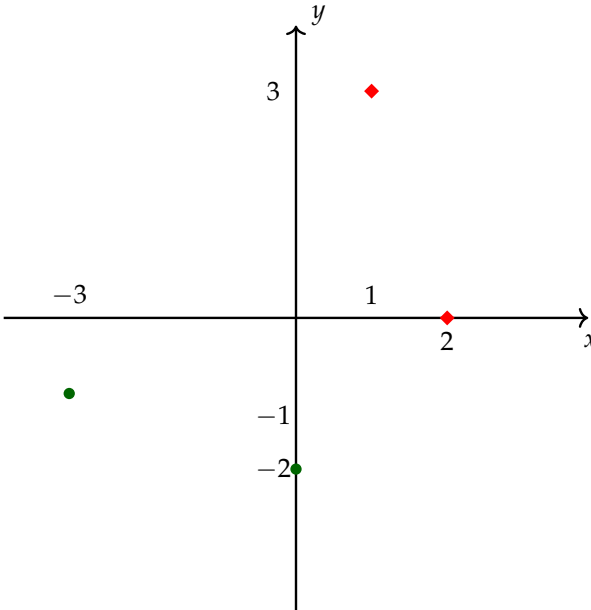


Figure 3: Plot of Transactions in 2-D