Abstract
We present \texttt{qrpca}, a fast and scalable QR-decomposition principal component analysis package. The software, written in both \texttt{R} and \texttt{python} languages, makes use of \texttt{torch} for internal matrix computations, and enables \texttt{GPU} acceleration, when available. \texttt{qrpca} provides similar functionalities to \texttt{prcomp (R)} and \texttt{sklearn (python)} packages respectively. A benchmark test shows that \texttt{qrpca} can achieve computational speeds 10-20 $\times$ faster for large dimensional matrices than default implementations, and is at least twice as fast for a standard decomposition of spectral data cubes. The \texttt{qrpca} source code is made freely available to the community.

Keywords: Principal component analysis; Astroinformatics; GPU computing

1. Introduction

Principal component analysis (PCA; Pearson, 1901) stands out as a prime method for dimensionality reduction and data exploration (see Jolliffe and Cadima, 2016, for a review). It compresses a dataset while preserving as much variability as possible. Given the original matrix input, PCA performs either eigendecomposition or singular value decomposition (SVD) and outputs a matrix comprising orthogonal variables, which are linear combinations of the original variables, termed principal components (PCs).

The technique is among the most popular tools in Astronomy and has been applied to a broad range of studies. Notable examples include the analysis of exoplanets imaging data (Amara and Quanz, 2012; Kiefer et al., 2021), Type Ia supernova photometric classification (Ishida and de Souza, 2013), analysis of cosmological simulations (de Souza et al., 2014), foreground separation of 21 cm intensity maps (Yohana et al., 2021), and point spread function reconstruction (Nie et al., 2021).

Despite its broad applicability, SVD PCA implementations are computationally costly for high dimensional matrices\(^1\). This limitation triggered the development of PCA extensions, including sparsity assumptions (e.g. Fan et al., 2018; Adnan et al., 2021), and massive parallelism (Lazcano et al., 2017). Battulga et al. (2020) suggested a hash-tree PCA to accelerate conventional PCA by sampling similar objects while preserving the original data distribution. Vogt and Tacke (2001) suggested a two-step procedure for analyzing hyperspectral images, where the algorithm first compresses the spectra via wavelets transform before applying a conventional SVD.

This paper contributes to the literature in two main aspects. To the best of our knowledge, we present the first public package for QR-decomposition PCA, and the package allows seamless GPU acceleration. QR factorization is a decomposition of a matrix $A$ into a product $A = QR$ of an orthogonal matrix $Q$ and an upper triangular matrix $R$.

The user-friendly implementation named \texttt{qrpca} uses \texttt{torch} (Paszke et al., 2019; Falbel and Luraschi, 2022) under the hood for matrix computations. The package is particularly suited for large dimensional matrices and provides similar functionalities to other major distributions such as \texttt{prcomp in R}, and \texttt{sklearn in python}.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we provide an overview of the SVD PCA and QR-decomposition PCA. Section 3 shows a speed performance test alongside a practical application example to integral field unit (IFU) spectroscopy. Finally, in Section 4 we present our concluding remarks.

\(^1\)Throughout the paper, we will refer to data size as the number of rows, and dimension as the number of columns.
2. Methodology

Let $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ be a rectangular matrix composed by $n$ rows by $m$ columns. The SVD decomposition of $X$ is given by:

$$X = USV^T. \quad (1)$$

Here, $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ is a diagonal matrix, and $\Phi = US$ gives the PCA projection. We show at Algorithm 1 a pseudo-code for a SVD PCA. If the dimensionality of $X$ is large, then the computation of the eigenvalues will be time consuming, and may cause memory overflow (e.g. Adnan et al., 2021).

A faster alternative is to use an intermediate step as suggested by Sharma et al. (2013). The procedure consists in first factorize $X$ into an orthogonal matrix $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$, and an upper triangular matrix $R \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$. The SVD decomposition of $R^T = U_1 S_1 V_1^T$, then yields the same diagonal matrix $S_1 \equiv S$ of $X$, and an equivalent PCA transform $QVS \equiv US$. The computational advantage comes from the intermediate QR decomposition, which enables running SVD factorization on the upper triangular matrix $R$ to compute eigenvectors instead of running SVD directly on $X$. See Algorithm 2 for a pseudo-code for the case of QR-decomposition PCA.

**Algorithm 1 SVD PCA**

**Require:** Input matrix $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

1. Compute SVD on $X$
2. $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ Orthogonal matrix
3. $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ Rectangular diagonal matrix
4. $V \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ Orthogonal matrix
5. Compute PCA transform $\Phi = US$

**Algorithm 2 QR-decomposition PCA**

**Require:** Input matrix $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

1. Compute QR decomposition on $X$
2. $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ Orthogonal matrix
3. $R \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ Upper triangular matrix
4. Compute SVD on $R^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$
5. $S \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$
6. $V \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$
7. Compute PCA transform $\Phi = QVS$

3. Performance evaluation

In this section, we provide a simple test of the qrpca computational performance on simulated data and an example application to the analysis of Astronomical IFU spectra.

3.1. Simulated data

To evaluate the performance of qrpca, we create a collection of random matrices varying the rows and column sizes. For a fixed dimension of $m = 1000$, we vary the data size from $n = 10^2 - 10^6$, and for a fixed data size of $n = 1,000$, we varied the dimensions from $m = 10^2 - 10^5$. The mock data is sampled from a normal zero mean and unity variance distribution. Fig. 1 shows the speedup gain for a range of dataset sizes and dimensions. Left panels show the comparison between the python version of qrpca and default PCA implementation of sklearn, while the right panels show the comparison between the R implementation of qrpca and prcomp. Visual inspection on Fig. 1 shows that qrpca consistently performs faster than their related counterparts for datasets with more than 1,000 dimensions, with a top performance at least 15× faster for matrices with 10,000 dimensions and GPU enabled. sklearn shows competitive performance against the python qrpca for high-dimensional data, while prcomp performs well on moderately large datasets, and the main advantage of using qrpca comes from the GPU on these cases. Overall, qrpca can be particularly beneficial for analyzing spectral data-cubes and hyperspectral images, and the next section shows one practical application in analyzing Astronomical spectra.

3.2. MaNGA data

Here we show one astronomical application using the IFU spectral data from the Mapping Nearby Galaxies at Apache Point Observatory (MaNGA; Bundy et al., 2015) survey. MaNGA is a program of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV (SDSS-IV; Blanton et al., 2017), and also is the largest IFU survey of nearby galaxies to date. MaNGA obtains integrated field spectroscopy of galaxies using custom-designed fiber bundles, where the buffered fibers have a core diameter of 2 arcsec. Depending on galaxies’ size, MaNGA uses different IFUs, where the IFU size range is from 19 to 127 fibers, and the corresponding field of view is from 12 to 32 arcsec in diameter. The wavelength coverage of MaNGA spectra is 3622–10354 Å, and the resolution is about R ~ 2000. For each galaxy target, MaNGA takes three dithered exposures. By stacking the spectra from dithered exposures, MaNGA builds a data cube ($N_x \times N_y \times N_{wave}$) for each target galaxy, where the spatial pixel scale is designed as 0.5 arcsec per pixel (Law et al., 2016). For the largest MaNGA IFU, the data cube...
has $N_X \times N_Y = 74 \times 74$ spaxels. For the wavelength channel, the MaNGA data cube has $N_{\text{wave}} = 4573$ for logarithmically sampled data and $N_{\text{wave}} = 6732$ for the linear sampling (Law et al., 2016).

We now show a simple task of computing the first eigenmaps of the MaNGA IFU data. PCA decomposition of data-cubes is particularly interesting to disentangle uncorrelated physical phenomena in the galaxy. For example, it has been used to identify a broad line region of a previously unknown active galactic nucleus in the galaxy NGC 4736 (Steiner et al., 2009). We showcase our approach by decomposing the IFU data of the galaxy merger Mrk 848 (MaNGA ID:12-193481). Mrk 848 is a major merger with strong interaction between the two galaxies with estimated stellar masses $\log(M_*/M_\odot) = 10.44$ and 10.30 (Yang et al., 2007) at $z = 0.041$. The MaNGA cube consists of an array of $74 \times 74 \times 4563$ array.

To decompose the data cube, we follow three basic steps. The first step involves transforming the tensor into a $5476 \times 4563$ matrix where each row represents one spectrum and a wavelength for each column. Then we apply a PCA transform to this matrix, which yields a matrix of a similar dimension, where each column now represents a PC. The final step is to transform back to the original format, and each PC will now represent an eigenmap. We show code snippets to read, process, and visualize the first eigenmaps with R and python versions of qrpca at Appendix A. The computation time with qrpca is at least 2-3 times faster than standard implementations.

Figure 2 shows the first four PCs, where we can see different aspects of the merger structure. The first PC correlates with the overall merger structure, including the
core and tail regions. The second PC isolates the core region of the central galaxy, while the third and fourth PCs discriminate the star-forming regions triggered by the merging process (Yuan et al., 2018). The galactic structures illuminated by this simple decomposition are broadly consistent with the different aged stellar populations revealed by detailed spectral energy distribution fitting (Yuan et al., 2018), but further scrutiny of this object is beyond the scope of this work.

4. Conclusions

PCA is an essential tool for multivariate data analysis. However, its standard implementation does not scale well for high-dimensional datasets. In this paper, we present qrpca, a package for fast PCA computation based on QR decomposition. The code enables GPU acceleration when available. We showcase experiments on both simulated and real datasets of varying dimensions. Experimental results show that our package can perform more than $10 \times$ faster than conventional approaches, depending on the matrix dimensions.

qrpca is written in both R and Python and is freely available at GitHub\textsuperscript{2}, Zenodo\textsuperscript{3} and listed in the Python Package Index\textsuperscript{4}.

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Appendix A. Code Snippets

Here, we show how to perform a PCA on MaNGA decomposition using the qrpca package. The IFU data used in our example is available at \url{https://data.sdss.org/sas/dr17/manga/spectro/redux/v3_1_1/7443/stack/manga-7443-12703-LOGCUBE.fits.gz}

\begin{verbatim}
R code for qrpca computation on MaNGA

1 require(qrpca);require(reticulate)
2 require(FITSio);require(ggplot2);
3 require(dplyr);require(reshape2)
4 cube <- "manga-7443-12703-LOGCUBE.fits"
5 df <- readFITS(cube)
6 n_row <- dim(df$imDat)[1]
7 n_col <- dim(df$imDat)[2]
8 n_wave <- dim(df$imDat)[3]
\end{verbatim}
plt.show()
22
plt.ylabel("DEC [deg]")
21
plt.xlabel("RA [deg]")
20
plt.imshow(map1.reshape(74,74))
19
lat = ax.coords['dec']
18
lon = ax.coords['ra']
17
ax = plt.gca()
16
ax = plt.subplot(projection=wcs[0,:,0])
15
map1 = pca.fit_transform(da)
14
pca = qrpca(n_component_ratio=1,device=device)
13
device = torch.device("cuda:0" if torch.cuda.
12
is_available() else "cpu")
11
da = data[1].data.transpose(1,2,0)
10
wcs = WCS(data[1].header)
9
data = fits.open("manga-7443-12703-LOGCUBE.fits")
8
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
7
import numpy as np
6
from astropy.io import fits
5
from astropy.wcs import WCS
4
from qrpca.decomposition import qrpca
3
import torch
2
import matplotlib as plt
1

Python code for qrpca computation on MaNGA
from astropy.io import fits
from astropy.wcs import WCS
import torch
import numpy as np
from qrpca.decomposition import qrpca
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

data = fits.open("manga-7443-12703-LOGCUBE.fits")
da = data[1].data.transpose(1,2,0)
wcs = WCS(data[1].header)
data.2D <- array_reshape(df$imDat, c(n_row=n_col,n_wave),order = c("F"))
pca <- qrpca(data.2D)
# Function to extract the k-th eigenmap
eigenmap <- function(pcbobj, k = 1){
x <- as.matrix(pcbobj$x)
out <- matrix(x[,k],nrow=n_row,ncol=n_col)
out}
}
map1 <- eigenmap(pca) %>% melt()
out <- matrix(x[,k],nrow=n_row,ncol=n_col)
x <- as.matrix(pcobj$x)
eigenmap <- function(pcobj, k = 1){
# Function to extract the k-th eigenmap

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