

Defining the concentrations of toxic metals taken from the participants on the autism spectrum and the neurotypical participants by the sets $\mathcal{X}_1 = \{x_1(1), x_1(2), \dots, x_1(n_1)\}$ and $\mathcal{X}_2 = \{x_2(1), x_2(2), \dots, x_2(n_2)\}$, the mean vectors for both groups are $\bar{x}_1 = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} x_1(i)$ and $\bar{x}_2 = \frac{1}{n_2} \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} x_2(i)$, respectively. The sets \mathcal{X}_1 and \mathcal{X}_2 have $n_1 = 67$ and $n_2 = 50$ samples and each sample contains the corresponding measurements of the toxic metals for a particular participant. This allows defining the between cluster variation to be defined by the matrix $S_B = (\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2)(\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2)^T$, which has the rank one. Next, the matrices $S_{x_1} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (x_1(i) - \bar{x}_1)(x_1(i) - \bar{x}_1)^T$ and $S_{x_2} = \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (x_2(i) - \bar{x}_2)(x_2(i) - \bar{x}_2)^T$ describe the variation of the samples of the participants on the autism spectrum and the neurotypical participants, respectively. The within variation of both sets, \mathcal{X}_1 and \mathcal{X}_2 , is, consequently, $S_W = S_{x_1} + S_{x_2}$. The objective function for linear FDA seeks to maximize the ratio of the between over the within variation of both clusters, i.e. $J(w) = w^T S_B w / w^T S_W w$. The solution is the eigenvector of the matrix $S_W^{-1} S_B$. Note that the rank of this matrix is one.