Lesson 30: Principal orthogonal modes in cell motility

The following 3 lessons present realistic applications of linear algebra

- $1.\ {\rm Extracting}$ information about cellular processes during movement using SVD
- 2. Web search algorithms (Page & Brin PageRank) using eigendecomposition
- 3. The search for exoplanets using least squares

Cellular structure



Cells move by reconfiguration of an internal structure of microtubules, actin filaments under the action of molecular motors

- Genetic modifications can induce the fluourescence of individual proteins within a cell:
 - actin (red)
 - tubulin (green)
 - bead markers (blue)

RGB composite Visual grayscale



• The overall behavior of the cell can be modeled as the time (τ) variation of concentration of actin (a), tubulin (t), and other components of interest, e.g.,

$$D\dot{a} + Ka = f$$

with $a \in \mathbb{R}^m$, m = hw = 124,609, h = 353, w = 353 = image height, width in pixels

- We seek a simpler description that highlights how changes in actin concentration occur in a correlated fashion in the entire cell
- Form a matrix of observed deviation of actin concentrations from the mean \bar{a} at p times

• The correlation between actin concentration deviations from mean is

$$C = AA^T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

• The eigenvectors of C are orthogonal (symmetric matrix) and equal to left singular vectors of A

$$C = U\Lambda U^T, A = U\Sigma V^T$$

• The principal modes of actin concentration are rendered below



octave> cd /home/student/courses/MATH547/lessons/CellMotility;

octave> load data;

```
octave> [m,p]=size(data); disp([m p]);
```

124609 20

```
octave> abar=mean(data,2); A = data - abar*ones(1,p);
```

```
octave> [U,S,V]=svd(A,'econ');
```

```
octave> disp(log10(diag(S(1:4,1:4)))');
```

```
-0.40778 -16.94721 -17.60992 -32.97520
```

```
octave> h=353; w=353; mode1=resize(U(:,2),h,w); mode2=resize(U(:,3),h,w);
```

```
octave> im1=0.5*(mode1+ones(h,w)); im2=0.5*(mode2+ones(h,w));
```

octave> imwrite(im1, 'mode1.png'); imwrite(im2, 'mode2.png');