

# Online PCA in Converging Self-consistent Field Equations

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## Problem Setting

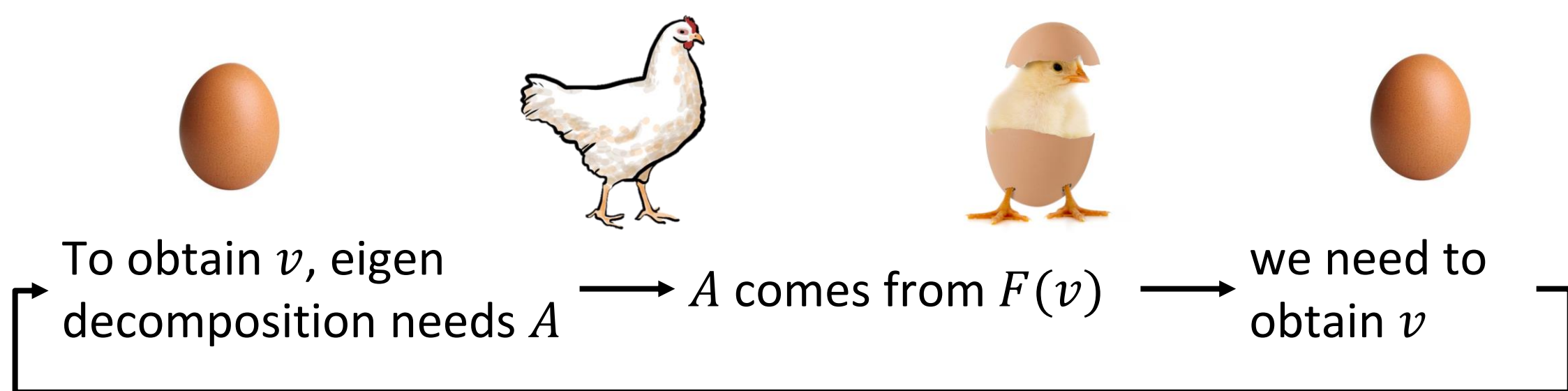
This is called eigen decomposition:

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  and a scalar (eigenvalue)  $\lambda$  satisfy  $Av = \lambda v$ .

What will happen if matrix  $A$  is not directly given, but a given function of  $v$ ?

$F$  is given, An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A \doteq F(v)$  and a scalar (eigenvalue)  $\lambda$  satisfy  $F(v)v = \lambda v$ .

Eigen decomposition cannot be directly applied anymore!



Equations in such form are called Self-consistent Field Equations. They are important in Quantum Physics!

$$H|\Psi\rangle = E|\Psi\rangle$$

## Traditional Methods

Assign an initial  $v_0 \xrightarrow{F_0 = F(v_0)} F_0 \xrightarrow{\text{Eigen decomposition } F_0 v_1 = \lambda v_1} v_1 \rightarrow F_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots$  (until convergence)

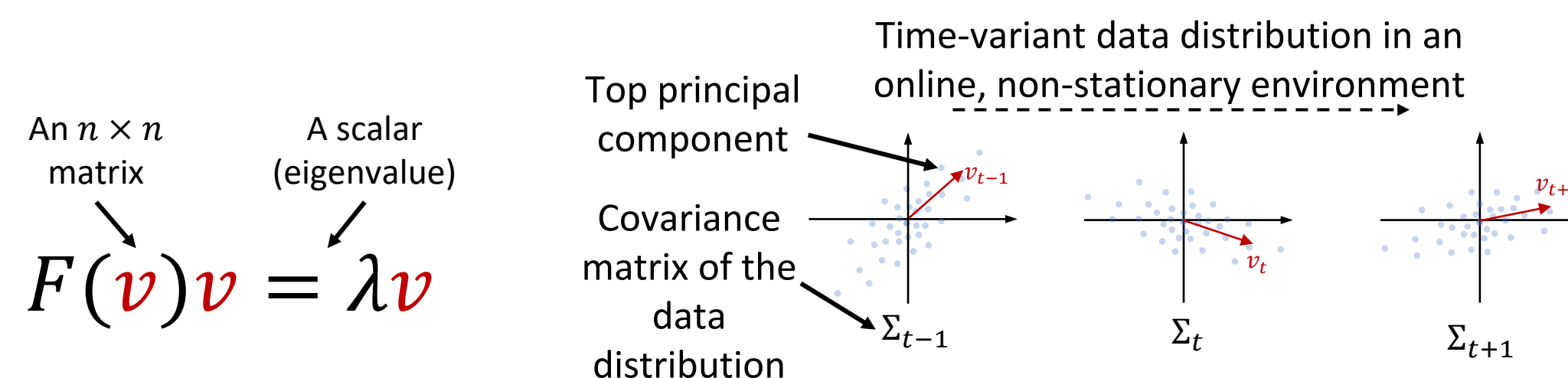
Easily fails to converge (**infinite oscillation** between two or more states)

Two current main research directions:

1. Generate a better initial solution  $v_0$
2. Mix  $F_t$  with those in previous iterations  $F_{t-1}, F_{t-2}, \dots$  to stabilize the iteration

## Motivation

We find a connection between two very different problems in different fields



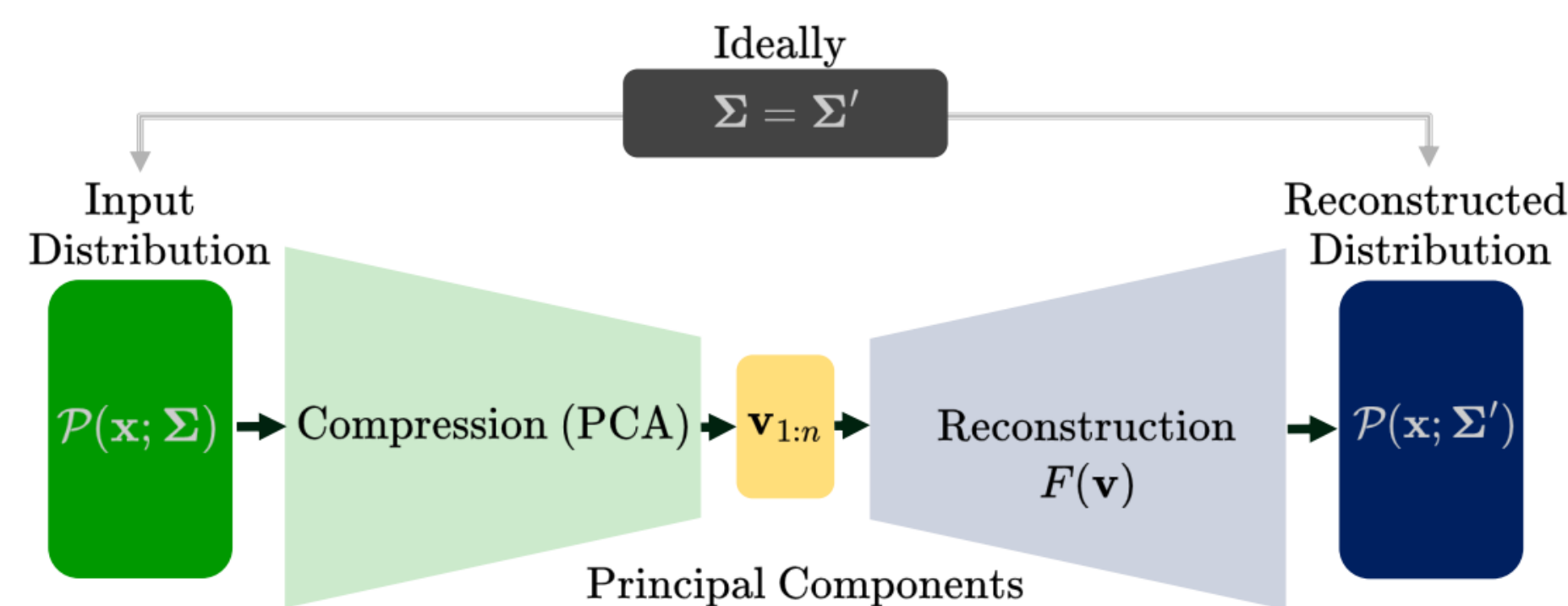
SCF Equation

Online PCA

- (1) They involve eigen decomposition
- (2) Their matrices to be decomposed are not determined

However, Online PCA is **incrementally updated**. Can this help avoid infinite oscillation between states?

## Our Method



$F(v)v = \lambda v$  is to say, if we have a matrix  $\Sigma$ , then

Step 1: Decompose  $\Sigma$  to get its top eigenvector  $v$

**New interpretation: "compress"  $\Sigma$  with PCA to have  $v$**

Step 2: Compute a new matrix  $\Sigma' = F(v)$

**New interpretation: "reconstruct"  $\Sigma$  from  $v$  with  $F(\cdot)$**

Then we will have  $\Sigma' = \Sigma$

**Equivalent Target: finding a distribution that is invariant before and after being processed by an auto-encoder structure involving PCA.**

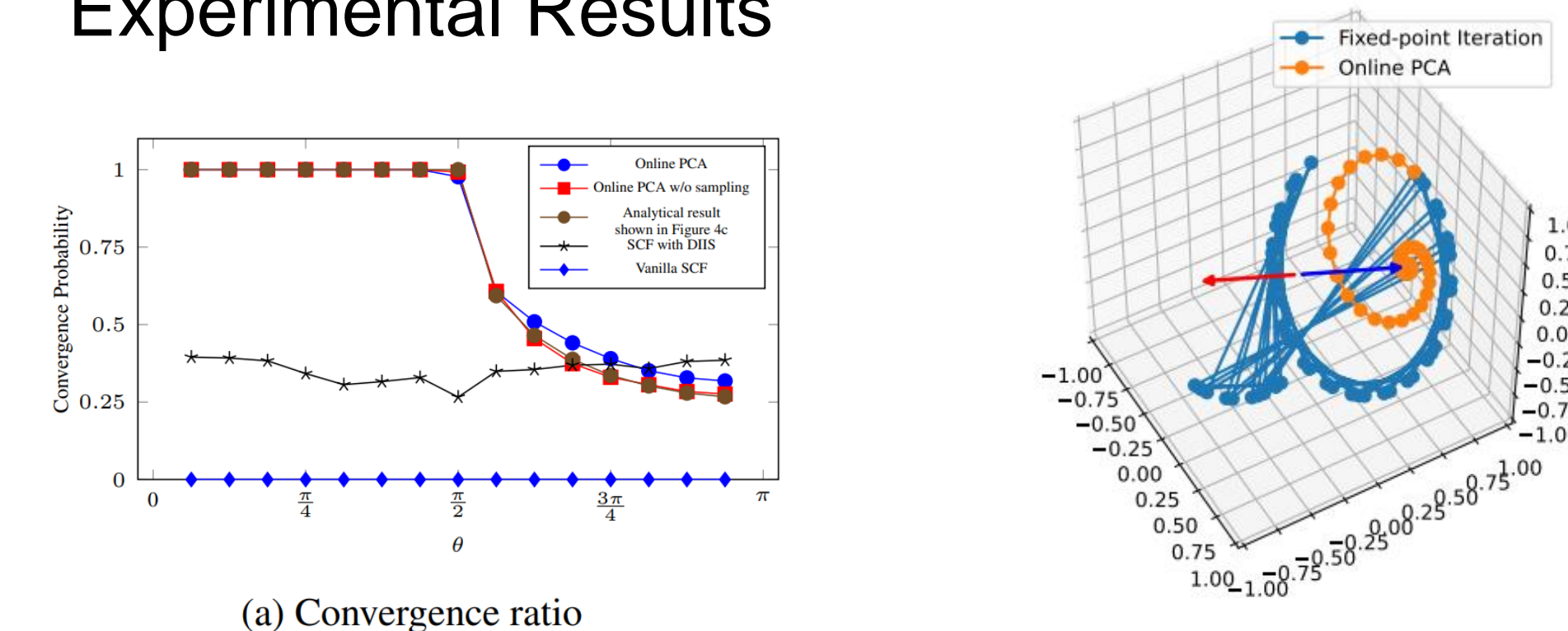
Then, the fixed-point iteration  $v_0 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow F_1 \rightarrow \dots$  can be regarded as

**Compress (PCA)  $\rightarrow$  reconstruct  $\rightarrow$  compress (PCA)  $\rightarrow$  reconstruct  $\rightarrow \dots$**

We are continuously running PCA in a non-stationary environment!

Now we can apply Online PCA to **update  $v$  incrementally** to avoid **infinite oscillation**

## Experimental Results

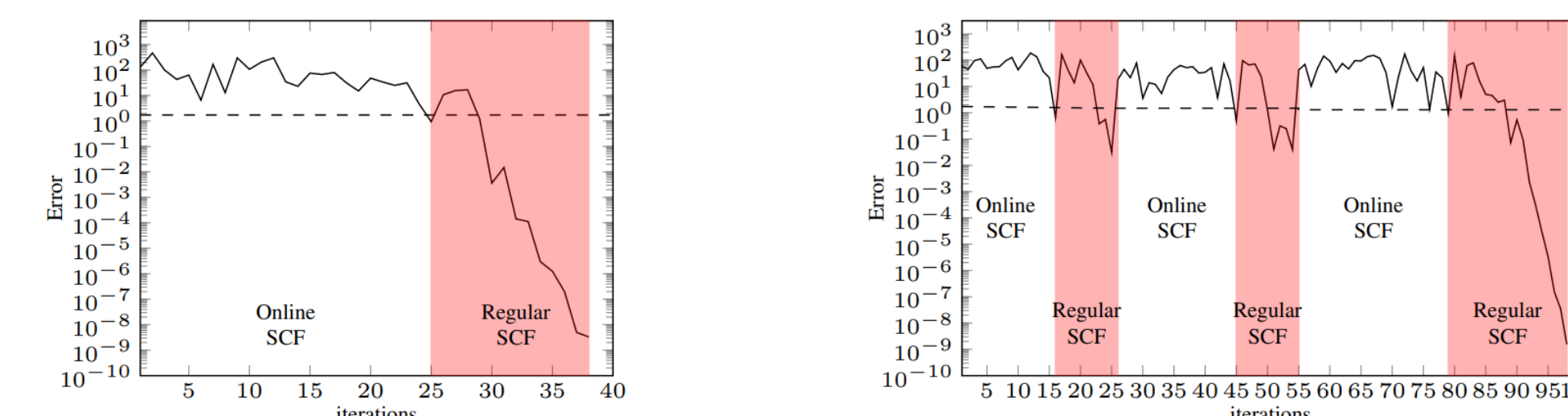


Case study: solve  $(Avv^T A^T)v = \lambda v$

- Vanilla fixed-point method: does not work at all (0% convergence)
- DIIS:  $\sim 40\%$  convergence ratio
- Online PCA: the top curves, half has 100% convergence ratio

Methods	Hartree-Fock			DFT with B3LYP	
	#(Nonconverged molecules)	Average #(iterations)		#(Nonconverged molecules)	Average #(iterations)
Regular SCF	124 (9.27%)	25.49		407 (30.42%)	21.09
Full Online SCF	13 (0.97%)	584.68		217 (16.22%)	1835.24
Adaptive Online SCF	0 (0%)	42.97		0 (0%)	60.58

Results on 1,338 randomly sampled molecules in QM9 dataset. All methods are initialized with core Hamiltonian and accelerated by DIIS



For real-world SCF equations such as Hartree-Fock and DFT, our proposed method with adaptations (Online SCF) can also achieve high convergence ratio with a moderate increase of iterations. We also proposed an adaptive switching mechanism between online and regular mode, to balance efficiency and convergence.