

$$y = \underline{w} \cdot \underline{x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y^2 \rangle &= \underline{w}^T \langle \underline{x} \underline{x}^T \rangle \underline{w} \\ &= \underline{w}^T \underline{\Sigma} \underline{w} \end{aligned}$$

Maximize subject to $\underline{w}^T \underline{w} = 1$

$$\therefore J = \underline{w}^T \underline{\Sigma} \underline{w} - \lambda (\underline{w}^T \underline{w} - 1)$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \underline{w}} = 2 \underline{\Sigma} \underline{w} - 2 \lambda \underline{w} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial \underline{w}} \Rightarrow \underline{\Sigma} \underline{w} = \lambda \underline{w} \quad [\text{eigenvector equation}]$$

$$\therefore \langle y^2 \rangle = \underline{w}^T \underline{\Sigma} \underline{w} = \lambda \underline{w}^T \underline{w} = \lambda$$

To maximize $\langle y^2 \rangle$ choose \underline{w} corresponding to largest eigenvalue