

# Package ‘prinsurf’

May 9, 2026

**Title** Constructs Principal Surfaces

**Version** 1.0

**Description** Construct a principal surface that are two-dimensional surfaces that pass through the middle of a p-dimensional data set. They minimise the distance from the data points, and provide a nonlinear summary of data. The surfaces are nonparametric and their shape is suggested by the data. The formation of a surface is found using an iterative procedure which starts with a linear summary, typically with a principal component plane. Each successive iteration is a local average of the p-dimensional points, where an average is based on a projection of a point onto the nonlinear surface of the previous iteration. For more information on principal surfaces, see Ganey, R. (2019, ``<https://open.uct.ac.za/items/4e655d7d-d10c-481b-9ccc-801903aebfc8>"").

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**Imports** rgl

**Suggests** stats, Matrix, akima, knitr, rmarkdown

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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principal.surface      *Principal Surface*

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### Description

A function to compute principal surfaces based on input data containing continuous variables.

### Usage

```
principal.surface(  
  X,  
  max.iter = 10,  
  alpha = 0.6,  
  N = 50,  
  print_iterations = FALSE  
)
```

### Arguments

X	A data frame or matrix containing continuous variables.
max.iter	Integer. Maximum number of iterations for the principal surface algorithm.
alpha	Numeric. The span argument passed to the loess() function.
N	Integer. The resolution for the interpolated grid surface, creating an $N^2 \times p$ matrix.
print_iterations	Logical. Should the iterations in the principal surface algorithm be printed? Defaults to FALSE.

### Value

A list with the following components:

fj.mat A numeric  $n \times p$  matrix of the final principal surface fitted values.

lambda.j A numeric representation of the samples in two dimensions.

### Examples

```
surface <- principal.surface(iris[,1:3],max.iter = 3)  
surface <- principal.surface(iris[1:50,1:3],max.iter = 3)
```

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