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# 1 The Quantile Method for Symbolic Principal Component 2 Analysis

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## 6 **Abstract**

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8 **Index terms—**

## 9 **1 I. INTRODUCTION**

10 The generalization of the principal component analysis (PCA) is an important research theme in the symbolic  
11 data analysis [1][2][3][4]. The main purpose of the traditional PCA is to transform a number of possibly correlated  
12 variables into a small number of uncorrelated variables called principal components. Chouakria [5] proposed the  
13 extension of the PCA to interval data as vertices principal component analysis (V-PCA). Chouakria et al. [6]  
14 proposed also the centers method of PCA (C-PCA) for interval data, and they presented a comparative example  
15 for the V-PCA and the C-PCA. Lauro and Palumbo [7] proposed symbolic object principal component analysis  
16 (SO-PCA) as an extended PCA to any numerical data structure. Lauro et al. [8] summarize various methods  
17 of SO-PCA for interval data. The author also proposed a general "Symbolic PCA" (S-PCA) based on the  
18 quantification method by using the generalized Minkowski metrics [9,10]. In this approach, we first transform  
19 the given symbolic data table to a usual numerical data table, and then we execute the traditional PCA on the  
20 transformed data table.

21 In this article, another quantification method for symbolic data tables based on the monotone structures of  
22 objects is presented. In Section 2, first we describe the case of point sequences in a d-dimensional Euclidean  
23 space. The monotone structures are characterized by the nesting of the Cartesian join regions associated with  
24 pairs of objects. If the given point sequence is monotone in the Euclidean d space, the property is also satisfied in  
25 any feature axis. In other words, a nesting structure of the given point sequence in the d space confines the orders  
26 of points in each feature axis to be similar. Therefore, we can evaluate the degree of similarity between features  
27 based on the Kendall or the Spearman's rank correlation coefficients. Then, we can execute a traditional PCA  
28 based on the correlation matrix by the selected rank correlation coefficient. Secondly, we describe the "object  
29 splitting method" for SO-PCA for interval-valued data [11]. This method splits each of N symbolic objects  
30 described by d interval-valued features into the two d-dimensional vertices called the "minimum sub-object"  
31 and the "maximum sub object". We should point out the fact that any interval object can be reproduced from  
32 the minimum and the maximum sub-objects. Moreover, the nesting structure of interval objects in the d space  
33 confines the orders of the minimum and the maximum sub-objects in each feature axis to be similar. Therefore,  
34 we can evaluate again the degree of similarity between features based on the Kendall or the Spearman's rank  
35 correlation coefficients on the  $(2 \times N) \times d$  standard numerical data table. We can execute a traditional PCA  
36 based on the correlation matrix by the selected rank correlation coefficient. As a further extension to manipulate  
37 histogram data, nominal multi-valued data, and others, we describe the "quantile method" for S-PCA [12] in  
38 Section 4.

39 The problem is how to obtain a common numerical representation of objects described by mixed types of  
40 features. For example, in histogram data, the numbers of subintervals (bins) of the given histograms are mutually  
41 different in general. Therefore, we first define the cumulative distribution function for each histogram. Then,  
42 we select a common integer number m to generate the "quantiles" for all histograms. As the result, for each  
43 histogram, we have an  $(m + 1)$ -tuple composed of  $(m - 1)$  quantiles and the minimum and the maximum values  
44 of the whole interval of the histogram. Then, we split each object into  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects: the minimum  
45 sub-object,  $(m - 1)$  quantile sub objects and the maximum sub-object. By virtue of the monotonic property of the  
46 distribution function,  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects of an object satisfy automatically a nesting structure. Therefore, the

### 3 MONOTONE STRUCTURES FOR POINT SEQUENCE

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47 nesting of  $N$  objects described by the minimum and the maximum sub-objects in the  $d$  space confines the orders  
48 of  $N \times (m + 1)$  sub-objects in each feature axis to be similar. Again, we can evaluate the degree of similarity  
49 between features by the Kendall or the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, and then execute a traditional  
50 PCA.

51 Interval-valued data may be regarded as a special histogram-valued data, where only one bin organizes the  
52 histogram. Furthermore, we can also split nominal multi-valued data into  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects based on the  
53 distribution function associated with rank values attached to categorical values of an object. Therefore, by the  
54 quantile method we can transform a given general  $N \times d$  symbolic data table to an  $\{N \times (m + 1)\} \times d$  standard  
55 numerical data table, and then we can execute a traditional PCA on the transformed data table. In Section 5,  
56 we describe several experimental results in order to show the effectiveness of the quantile method. Section 6 is a  
57 summary.

## 58 2 II. MONOTONE STRUCTURES AND OBJECT SPLIT- 59 TING METHOD

60 In this section, we describe some properties of monotone structures for point sequence and for interval objects.  
61 Then, we describe the object splitting method for S-PCA.

### 62 3 Monotone Structures for Point Sequence

63 Let a set of  $N$  objects  $U$  be represented by  $U = \{\cdot 1, \cdot 2, \dots, \cdot N\}$ . Let each object  $\cdot i$  be described by  $d$   
64 numerical features, i.e. a vector  $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{id})$  in a  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $R^d$ .

65 DEFINITION 1: Rectangular region spanned by  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ .

66 Let  $J(\cdot i, \cdot j)$  be a rectangular region in  $R^d$  spanned by the vectors  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ , and be defined by the  
67 following Cartesian product of  $d$  closed intervals.  $J(\cdot i, \cdot j) = [\min(x_{i1}, x_{j1}), \max(x_{i1}, x_{j1})] \times [\min(x_{i2}, x_{j2}), \max(x_{i2}, x_{j2})] \times \dots \times [\min(x_{id}, x_{jd}), \max(x_{id}, x_{jd})]$ , (1)

68 where  $\min(a, b)$  and  $\max(a, b)$  are the operators to take the minimum value and the maximum value from a  
69 and  $b$ , respectively. London Journal of Research in Science: Natural and Formal

70 In the following, we call  $J(\cdot i, \cdot j)$  as the Cartesian join (region) of objects  $\cdot i$  and  $\cdot j$  [9,10, ??3].

71 DEFINITION 2: Nesting structure If a series of objects  $\cdot 1, \cdot 2, \dots, \cdot N$  satisfies the nesting property  $J(\cdot 1, \cdot k) \supseteq J(\cdot 1, \cdot k+1)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ , (2)

72 the series is called a "nesting structure with the starting point  $\cdot 1$  and the ending point  $\cdot N$ ".

73 In Fig. ??, (a) is a monotone increasing series, and (b) is a monotone decreasing series of objects. It should be  
74 noted that the two series of objects show the same nesting structures with starting point  $\cdot 1$  and ending point  $\cdot$   
75 5.

76 PROPOSITION 1: If a series of objects  $\cdot 1, \cdot 2, \dots, \cdot N$  is a nesting structure with the starting point  $\cdot 1$   
77 and the ending point  $\cdot N$  in the space  $R^d$ , the series satisfies the same structure in each feature (axis) of the  
78 space  $R^d$ .

79 Proof: From the definition of rectangular region as in Eq. (1), we have  $J(\cdot 1, \cdot k) = [\min(x_{11}, x_{k1}),$   
80  $\max(x_{11}, x_{k1})] \times [\min(x_{12}, x_{k2}), \max(x_{12}, x_{k2})] \times \dots \times [\min(x_{1d}, x_{kd}), \max(x_{1d}, x_{kd})]$ , (3)

81 Therefore, the relations of the Cartesian join regions  $J(\cdot 1, \cdot k) \supseteq J(\cdot 1, \cdot k+1)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ , in  
82 Definition 2, require the following relations for each feature, i.e. for each  $j$  ( $= 1, 2, \dots, d$ ),

83  $[\min(x_{1j}, x_{kj}), \max(x_{1j}, x_{kj})] \supseteq [\min(x_{1j}, x_{k+1,j}), \max(x_{1j}, x_{k+1,j})]$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ .

84 (5)

85 Although, there exist several ways to define the mono tone sequences of objects, i.e. monotone structures, we  
86 use the following definition.

87 DEFINITION 3: Monotone structure of a series of points.

88 A series of objects  $\cdot 1, \cdot 2, \dots, \cdot N$  is called a monotone structure, if the series satisfies the nesting structure  
89 of Definition 2.

90 Since, for a pair of features, we can evaluate the degree of similarity between two sets of orders of objects for  
91 the same object set  $U$  by using the Kendall or the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, we have Proposition  
92 2.

93 PROPOSITION 2: Correlation matrix  $S$ .

94 If a series of objects  $\cdot 1, \cdot 2, \dots, \cdot N$  is a monotone structure in the space  $R^d$ , the absolute value of each  
95 off diagonal element of the  $d \times d$  correlation matrix  $S$  takes the maximum value one in the sense of the Kendall  
96 or the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

97 Proof: From Definition 3, any monotone structure must satisfy the nesting property of Definition 2. Then,  
98 from Proposition 1, the given series of objects has the identical nesting structure for each feature. This property  
99 exactly restricts the order of objects for each feature to be the same way or the reverse way according to the  
100 series of objects is monotone increasing or monotone decreasing. Therefore, if a series of objects is a monotone  
101 structure in  $R^d$ , the absolute value of the correlation coefficient for each pair of features takes the maximum  
102 value one in the sense of the Kendall or the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

103 From Proposition 2, if many off-diagonal elements of  $S$  take highly correlated values, we can expect the

106 existence of a large eigenvalue of  $S$ , and that the corresponding eigenvector reproduces well the original nesting  
107 property of the set of objects in the space  $R^d$ .

108 EXAMPLE 1: As an intuitive example, suppose that the given set of objects in  $R^d$  organizes an approximate  
109 monotone structure which is monotone increasing along each of  $d$  features, and the degrees of similarity between  
110 two features are the same for all possible pairs. Therefore, all off-diagonal elements of  $S$  take an identical value  
111  $?_1, 0 < ?_1 < 1$ . Then, it is known [14] that  $d$  eigenvalues of  $S$  become  $?_1 = 1 + (d - 1)?_1$  and  $?_2 = ?_3 = \dots = ?_d = 0$ , (6)

112 and the eigenvector for  $?_1$  is  $a_1 = (1/\sqrt{d}, 1/\sqrt{d}, \dots, 1/\sqrt{d})$ . (7)

113 Therefore, the given monotone structure of objects in  $R^d$  is approximately reproduced around the eigenvector  
114  $a_1$ . As a particular case, when  $?_1 = 1$ , the given set of objects organizes a complete monotone structure in the  
115 space  $R^d$ . Then, the eigenvalue  $?_1$  becomes  $d$ , i.e. its contribution ratio is 100%, and the order of the given  
116 object sequence in the space  $R^d$  is exactly reproduced on the eigenvector  $a_1$ .

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119 In the above, we characterized monotone structures by the nesting property, and obtain the correlation matrix  
120  $S$ . The monotone structures include any linear structure as a special case. On the other hand, a monotone  
121 structure may be approximated well by an appropriately selected linear structure. This suggests that we can use  
122 also the Pearson correlation coefficient to evaluate the degree of similarity between two features instead of the  
123 Kendall and the Spearman's rank correlation coefficients.

## 124 5 Monotone Structures for Interval Objects

125 Let each object be described by  $d$  interval-valued features. Then, an object  $?_k$  in  $U$  becomes a hyper rectangle  
126 in  $R^d$ , i.e. the Cartesian product of  $d$  closed intervals:  $I_k = I_{k1} \times I_{k2} \times \dots \times I_{kd}$ , (8)

127 where each interval  $I_{kp}$  is given by  $I_{kp} = [x_{kp(\min)}, x_{kp(\max)}]$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . (9)

128 Then, we can define the minimum vertex  $x_{k(\min)}$  and the maximum vertex  $x_{k(\max)}$  by

129  $x_{k(\min)} = (x_{k1(\min)}, x_{k2(\min)}, \dots, x_{kd(\min)})$  and  $x_{k(\max)} = (x_{k1(\max)}, x_{k2(\max)}, \dots, x_{kd(\max)})$ .  
130 (10)

131 DEFINITION 4: The minimum sub-object and the maximum sub-object Let the minimum vertex  $x_{k(\min)}$   
132 and the maximum vertex  $x_{k(\max)}$  for each object  $?_k$  in  $U$  be called the minimum sub-object and the maximum  
133 sub-object, and be denoted by  $?_k(\min)$  and  $?_k(\max)$ , respectively.

## 134 6 EXAMPLE 2:

135 In Table ??, the minimum and the maximum sub-objects of Linseed oil under the first four interval features  
136 are represented by the vertices  $x_{\text{Linseed}(\min)} = (0.930, -27, 170, 118)$  and  $x_{\text{Linseed}(\max)} = (0.935, -18, 204,  
137 196)$ , respectively.

138 PROPOSITION 3: From Definition 1, any interval object  $?_k$  in  $U$  is represented in the space  $R^d$  by the  
139 Cartesian join region  $J(?_k(\min), ?_k(\max))$ .

140 Proof: From Eq. (1) in Definition 1 and (8-10), we see that  $J(?_k(\min), ?_k(\max)) = [x_{k1(\min)}, x_{k1(\max)}]$   
141  $\times [x_{k2(\min)}, x_{k2(\max)}] \times \dots \times [x_{kd(\min)}, x_{kd(\max)}] = I_{k1} \times I_{k2} \times \dots \times I_{kd} = I_k$ .

142 From Eq. (8),  $d$  respective intervals for  $?_i$  and  $?_j$  are  $I_{ip} = [x_{ip(\min)}, x_{ip(\max)}]$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots$

## 143 7 ,d, and

144  $I_{jp} = [x_{jp(\min)}, x_{jp(\max)}]$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . (11)

145 Thus the closed interval  $I_{ijp}$  generated from two intervals  $I_{ip}$  and  $I_{jp}$  becomes  $I_{ijp} = [\min(x_{ip(\min)}, x_{jp(\min)}), \max(x_{ip(\max)}, x_{jp(\max)})]$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . (12)

146 DEFINITION 5: We define the Cartesian join region  $J(?_i, ?_j)$  based on Eq. (12) by  $J(?_i, ?_j) = I_{ij1} \times I_{ij2} \times \dots \times I_{ijd} = [\min(x_{i1(\min)}, x_{j1(\min)}), \max(x_{i1(\max)}, x_{j1(\max)})] \times [\min(x_{i2(\min)}, x_{j2(\min)}), \max(x_{i2(\max)}, x_{j2(\max)})] \times \dots \times [\min(x_{id(\min)}, x_{jd(\min)}), \max(x_{id(\max)}, x_{jd(\max)})]$ . (13)

147 In this definition, we should note that, for each  $k$ ,  $J(?_k, ?_k)$  is equivalent to  $J(?_k(\min), ?_k(\max))$ .  
148 Furthermore,

149 Table ??: Fats' and oils' data [10].

## 153 8 J (? k(min))

154  $J(?_k(\min))$  and  $J(?_k(\max))$  are reduced to the minimum vertex  $x_{k(\min)}$  and the maximum vertex  
155  $x_{k(\max)}$  in Eq. (10), respectively.

156 DEFINITION 6: Nesting structure for interval objects If a series of interval objects  $?_1, ?_2, \dots, ?_N$   
157 satisfies the nesting property  $J(?_1, ?_k) \subset J(?_1, ?_{k+1})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ , (14)

158 the series is called a "nesting structure with the starting object  $?_1$  and the ending object  $?_N$ ".

159 Fig. ?? shows a series of five interval objects. It should be noted that the nesting order of objects in each  
160 feature axis is the same as that in the two-dimensional space.

161 Object Specific gravity (g/cm<sup>3</sup>), F 1 Freezing point (  $\times$ ???  $\times$  [min(x<sub>1d(min)</sub> , x<sub>k+1,d(min)</sub> ), max(x<sub>1d(max)</sub> , x<sub>k+1,d(max)</sub> )]).(16)

163 Therefore, the relations of the Cartesian join regions  $J(1, k)$  ?  $J(1, k+1)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ , in  
164 Definition 5

165 , require the following relations for each feature, i.e. for each  $j$  ( $= 1, 2, \dots, d$ ), [min(x<sub>1j(min)</sub> , x<sub>kj(min)</sub> ),  
166 max(x<sub>1j(max)</sub> , x<sub>kj(max)</sub> )] ? [min(x<sub>1j(min)</sub> , x<sub>k+1,j(min)</sub> ), max(x<sub>1j(max)</sub> , x<sub>k+1,j(max)</sub> )],  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ . (17)

168 We define the monotone structure of interval objects by the same way in Definition 3. A series of interval  
169 objects  $?1, ?2, \dots, ?N$  is called a monotone structure, if the series satisfies a nesting structure in Definition  
170 6.

171 According to Definition 7, we assume a series of interval objects  $?1, ?2, \dots, ?N$  is a monotone structure  
172 in the space  $R^d$ . Then, from Proposition 4, the series of objects satisfies the same nesting in each feature  
173 axis. However, the nesting in (17) is based on the closed intervals generated from two objects. Therefore, we  
174 cannot evaluate the degree of similarity between two features by direct use of the Kendall or the Spearman's  
175 rank correlation coefficient. To remove this difficulty, we split each interval object into the minimum sub-object  
176 and the maximum sub-object.

177 PROPOSITION 5: Monotone conditions by sub-objects. Let a series of interval objects  $?1, ?2, \dots, ?N$   
178 be monotone in the space  $R^d$ . Then, at least one condition of the following must be satisfied.

179 (1) The series of the minimum sub-objects,  $?1(min), ?2(min), \dots, ?N(min)$ , is monotone in  $R^d$ .

180 (2) The series of the maximum sub-objects,  $?1(max), ?2(max), \dots, ?N(max)$ , is monotone in  $R^d$ .

181 Proof: Assume that the conditions (1) and (2) are negated simultaneously. Then, there exists a nesting  
182 order  $k$  in which the object  $?k$  satisfies the nesting property in  $R^d$  but the corresponding minimum sub-object  
183  $?k(min)$  and the maximum sub-object  $?k(max)$  breaks the nesting property in  $R^d$ , simultaneously. This  
184 contradicts the fact given in Proposition 3. On the other hand, if the series of objects satisfies only one  
185 condition, we call the series of objects as weakly monotone in  $R^d$ . Fig. ?? shows a case of a strongly monotone  
186 structure, whereas Fig. 3 illustrates a case of a weakly monotone structure.

187 If a series of interval objects  $?1, ?2, \dots, ?N$  in the space  $R^d$  is given, we can obtain the  $d \times d$  correlation  
188 matrix  $S$  by splitting each object into the minimum and the maximum sub-objects and by using the Kendall or  
189 the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. PROPOSITION 6: Property of correlation matrix  $S$  by the object  
190 splitting.

191 (1) If the given series of objects is strongly monotone in a pair of features, the corresponding correlation  
192 coefficient shows a strictly high score for  $2N$  sub objects by the object splitting.

193 (2) If the given series of interval objects is weakly monotone, the correlation coefficient shows a degraded score  
194 compared to the case (1).

## 195 9 $R^d$

196 and/or the series of the maximum sub-objects in  $R^d$  also become monotone. Therefore, we have the properties  
197 (1) and (2) whether the given series of objects is strongly monotone or weakly monotone.

198 In the above, we characterized monotone structures of  $N$  interval objects in the space  $R^d$  by the nesting  
199 property of  $2N$  sub-objects in  $R^d$ , i.e. the minimum sub-object and the maximum sub-object, and obtained  
200 the correlation matrix  $S$  based on the Kendall or Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. As noted in the  
201 preceding, the monotone structures include any linear structure as a special case. On the other hand, a monotone  
202 structure may be approximated well by an appropriately selected linear structure. Therefore, we can use also the  
203 Pearson correlation coefficient to evaluate the degree of similarity between two features instead of the Kendall  
204 and Spearman's rank correlation coefficients.

## 205 10 The Object Splitting Method for SO-PCA

206 PROCEDURE 1: Object splitting method for SO-PCA. For a set of  $N$  objects  $?1, ?2, \dots, ?N$  under  $d$   
207 interval valued features, the object splitting method is executed by the following steps.

208 1. We split each object  $?k$  into the minimum sub-object  $?k(min)$  and the maximum sub-object  $?k(max)$ .

209 As the result, we have a  $(2N) \times d$  numerical data table. 2. We calculate the  $d \times d$  correlation matrix  $S$   
210 for the  $(2N) \times d$  data table obtained in (1) based on the selected correlation coefficient, where we can use the  
211 Kendall or Spearman's rank correlation coefficient or the Pearson correlation coefficient. 3. We find the principal  
212 components based on the correlation matrix in (2). 4. We represent each symbolic object  $?k$  in the factor planes  
213 as the arrow line connecting from  $?k(min)$  to  $?k(max)$ , or as the Cartesian join of  $?k(min)$  and  $?k(max)$ ,  
214 i.e. a rectangular region spanned by  $?k(min)$  and  $?k(max)$ .

215 EXAMPLE 3: Fats' and oils' data (interval-valued data).

216 We applied the object splitting method to the Fats' and oils' data of Table ???. We used only four interval  
217 features. The contribution ratios of the first two principal components understanding for the descriptions of  
218 symbolic objects in the factor planes compared to the rectangular representation. London Journal of Research in  
219 Science: Natural and Formal Chouakria et al. [6] presented a comparative study of the vertices method (V-PCA)  
220 and the centers method (C-PCA). The V-PCA is implemented on the numerical data table of the size  $(N \times ??$

221  $d \times d$  ), while the C-PCA is implemented on the size  $N \times d$ . Therefore, the C-PCA is stronger than the V-PCA  
 222 in the computational complexity, when the number of descriptive features is large. The contribution ratios of  
 223 the first two principal components for the fats' and oils' data of Table ?? are 68.29% and 20.23% by the V-PCA,  
 224 and 75.23% and 15.09% by the C-PCA, respectively. The rectangular representations of objects for these two  
 225 methods are similar, although their contribution ratios are different. Moreover, their results are also close to the  
 226 arrow line representations in Figs ?? and ??.

227 Lauro et al. [8] presented a comparative study of the V-PCA, the method called spaghetti PCA, and the  
 228 method based on interval algebra and optimization theory. For the Fats' and oils' data of Table ??, their  
 229 results of rectangular representations in the first factor planes are mutually similar. Among them, the spaghetti  
 230 PCA is especially close to the result in Figs ?? and ?? . The spaghetti PCA uses the main diagonals of the  
 231 hyper-rectangles to represent multidimensional interval data. The contribution ratios of the first two principal  
 232 components are 71.33% and 18.09%. In the representation of interval objects in the first factor plane, the lengths  
 233 and the directions of the main diagonals of the rectangular regions are very similar to those of the arrow lines in  
 234 Figs ?? and ?? . The spaghetti PCA is a very different method from the object splitting method. However, we  
 235 should point out the fact that the main diagonal of an object may be described by two end points: the minimum  
 236 vertex and the maximum vertex.

237 In this section, we presented the object splitting method of PCA for interval objects. This method transforms  
 238 the given  $N \times d$  interval-valued data table into a  $2N \times d$  standard numerical data table, then executes the PCA  
 239 on the transformed data table. We should note that 1. The object splitting method is simple and works as well  
 240 as other methods for interval objects.

241 Especially, this method is easily applicable to large data tables. 2. The arrow line representation of objects in  
 242 the factor planes is useful to provide insights about the mutual relationships of the given interval objects.

243 In the next section, we present the quantile method, which is an extension of the object splitting method and  
 244 can manipulate not only interval-valued features but also other type features including histogram features and  
 245 nominal multi-valued features.

## 246 11 III. COMMON REPRESENTATION BY QUANTILES

247 In the aggregation process of large data sets, the use of histograms is very natural and common to describe the  
 248 reduced data sets. Billard and Diday [2,4] summarize empirical distribution functions and descriptive statistics  
 249 for various feature types. Based on knowledge of distribution functions, the quantile method [12] provides a  
 250 common framework to represent symbolic data described by features of different types. The basic idea is to  
 251 express the observed feature values by some predefined quantiles of the underlying distribution. In the interval  
 252 feature case, a distribution is assumed within each interval, e.g., uniform distribution (Bertrand and Goupil  
 253 [15]). For a histogram feature, quantiles of any histogram may be obtained simply by interpolation, assuming  
 254 the uniformity in each bin of the histogram [2,4,15]. Although the numbers of bins of the given histograms  
 255 are mutually different in general, we can obtain the same number of quantiles for each histogram. For nominal  
 256 multi-valued features, quantiles are determined from ranking defined on the categorical values based on their  
 257 frequencies. Therefore, when we choose quartiles, for example, we can represent each feature value for different  
 258 feature types in the same form of a 5-tuple (min, Q 1 , Q 2 , Q 3 , max)

259 . This common representation then allows for a unified approach to S-PCA. In the following subsections, we  
 260 describe detail procedures to have quantile values for various feature types.

## 261 12 Quantiles for Interval-valued Feature

262 Let a feature  $F_j$  be an interval-valued feature and let each object  $k \in U$  be represented by an interval:  $I_{kj} =$   
 263  $[x_{kj}(\min), x_{kj}(\max)]$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . (18)

264 We assume that each interval has a uniform distribution [2,4,15]. Then, in the case of  $m$  quantiles, the  
 265 resultant  $(m-1)$  quantile values become  $Q_{kji} = x_{kj}(\min) + (x_{kj}(\max) - x_{kj}(\min)) \times i/m$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$ . (19)

266 Therefore, each object  $k \in U$  for the feature  $F_j$  is described by an  $(m+1)$ -tuple:  $(x_{kj}(\min), Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)}, x_{kj}(\max))$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . (20)

267 Fig. 6: A histogram-valued data.

## 269 13 Quantiles for Histogram-valued Feature

270 Let a feature  $F$  be a histogram feature and let an object  $\in U$  be represented by a histogram in Fig. 6. Let the  
 271 histogram be composed of  $n$  bins, and let  $p_i$  be the probability of the  $i$ th bin, where it is assumed that  $p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n = 1$ .

272 Then, under the assumption that  $n$  bins (subintervals) have uniform distributions, we define the cumulative  
 273 distribution function  $F(x)$  of the histogram [2,4] as: The Quantile Method for Symbolic Principal Component  
 274 Analysis Then, in the case of  $m$  quantiles, we can find  $(m+1)$  values including  $(m-1)$  quantile values from the  
 275 equations:  $F(x) = 0$  for  $x \leq x_1$   $F(x) = p_1(x - x_1)/(x_2 - x_1)$  for  $x_1 < x \leq x_2$   $F(x) = F(x_2) + p_2(x - x_2)$   
 276  $/(x_3 - x_2)$  for  $x_2 < x \leq x_3$   $\dots$   $F(x) = F(x_n) + p_n(x - x_n)/(x_{n+1} - x_n)$  for  $x_n < x \leq x_{n+1}$   $F(x) =$   
 277 1 for  $x \geq x_{n+1}$ . London Journal of  $F(\min) = 0$ , (i.e.  $\min = x_1$ )  $F(Q_2) = 1/m$ ,  $F(Q_3) = 2/m \dots, F(Q_m)$

## 15 PROPOSITION 8: PROPERTY OF CORRELATION MATRIX S BY THE QUANTILE METHOD

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280  $= (m - 1)/m$ , and  $F(\max) = 1$ , (i.e.  $\max = x_{n+1}$  ).

281 Therefore, the object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  is described by an  $(m + 1)$ -tuple  $(x_{\min}, Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_{m-1}, x_{\max})$ . (21)

282 In general, we can describe each object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  under a histogram-valued feature  $F_j$  by an  $(m + 1)$ -tuple:  $(x_{kj(\min)}, Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)}, x_{kj(\max)})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . (22)

283 It should be noted that the numbers of bins of the given histograms are mutually different in general. However,  
284 we can select an integer number  $m$ , and obtain  $(m + 1)$ -tuples as the common representation for all histograms.

### 286 14 Quantiles for Nominal (categorical) Multi-valued Feature

287 Let  $F_j$  be a multi-valued feature which takes  $n$  possible categorical values  $c_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . For each  $i$ ,  
288 let  $p_i$  be the relative frequency of categorical value  $c_i$  in terms of  $N$  objects [2,4,15]. Then, we sort the relative  
289 frequency values. For simplicity, we assume that:  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_n$ . (23)

290 According to this order, we suppose rank values  $1, 2, \dots, n$  for the categorical values  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$ ,  
291 respectively. We define the cumulative distribution function for each object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  based on the rank values.

292 Let  $n_k$  be the number of possible categorical values taken by object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  under  $F_j$ . Let  $q_{ki}$  be the  
293 frequency value associated with the category  $c_i$  and given by  $q_{ki} = 1/n_k$  if  $c_i$  is a possible value for  $\{k\} \subseteq U$   
294 under  $F_j$ ,  $= 0$  otherwise.

295 Therefore, we define a piecewise linear cumulative distribution function for each object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  based on  
296 uniform densities attached to rank values (see Example 4). Then we find  $(m + 1)$  values including quantile values  
297 for the selected integer number  $m$ . Therefore, we can obtain again the common  $(m + 1)$ -tuple representation:  $(x_{kj(\min)}, Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)}, x_{kj(\max)})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . (24)

298 EXAMPLE 4: The fifth feature (Major acids) of Table ?? is an example of nominal multi-valued feature.  
299 We suppose the quartile case, i.e.  $m = 4$ . For this purpose, we use basically the procedure given in the above.  
300 However, in order to prevent ties of rank values, we use the sums of frequency values attached to the category  
301 values of each object. where we should note that the interval [9,10] is attached to the maximum rank value nine.  
302 The corresponding cumulative distribution function is a piecewise linear function  $F(x)$  characterized by:  $F(x) =$   
303  $0, 1 \leq x < 4; F(x) = 0.2 \times (x - 4), 4 \leq x < 5; F(x) = 0.2 + 0.2 \times (x - 5), 5 \leq x < 6; F(x) = 0.4, 6 \leq x < 7; F(x) = 0.4 + 0.2 \times (x - 7), 7 \leq x < 8; F(x) = 0.6 + 0.2 \times (x - 8), 8 \leq x < 9; F(x) = 0.8 + 0.2 \times (x - 9), 9 \leq x \leq 10$ . (26)

304 By solving the equations  $F(x) = 0.25$ ,  $F(x) = 0.5$ , and  $F(x) = 0.75$ , we obtain the quartile values Let each  
305 object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  be described with the given  $d$  features by  $(m + 1)$ -tuples: London Journal of Research in Science:  
306 Natural and FormalQ 1 = 5.25,30 Volume 23 | Issue 12 | Compilation 1.0 © 2023 Great Britain Journal Press

307 The Quantile Method for Symbolic Principal Component Analysis  $(x_{kj(\min)}, Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)}, x_{kj(\max)})$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, d$ ;  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ .

308 (

309 Then, we define the quantile sub-object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  as:  $x_{kj(\min)} = (Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)})$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$ ;  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ . (29)

310 PROPOSITION 7: For each object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$ , the minimum sub-object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$ ,  $(m - 1)$  quantile sub-objects  
311  $(\{k\} \subseteq U, \{k\} \subseteq U, \dots, \{k\} \subseteq U)$ , and the maximum sub-object  $\{k\} \subseteq U$  organize a monotone structure in the  
312 space  $R^d$ .

313 Proof: From the definition of  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects, we can obtain the following nesting relations of the Cartesian  
314 join regions:  $J(\{k\} \subseteq U, \{k\} \subseteq U) \subseteq J(\{k\} \subseteq U, \{k\} \subseteq U) \subseteq \dots \subseteq J(\{k\} \subseteq U, \{k\} \subseteq U)$ . (30)

315 Thus, Definition 7 leads the conclusion.

## 322 15 PROPOSITION 8: Property of correlation matrix S by the 323 quantile method

324 Let a series of objects  $\{k\} \subseteq U$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , is monotone in the space  $R^d$  and let the  $d \times d$  correlation  
325 matrix  $S$  be obtained by applying the Kendall or Spearman's rank correlation coefficients to the  $N \times (m + 1)$   
326 sub-objects of Definition 9. Then, the absolute value of each off-diagonal element of  $S$  is large.

327 Proof: From Proposition 7,  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects for each of  $N$  objects organize always a monotone structure  
328 in any subspace of  $R^d$ . Therefore, if the given series of objects is monotone, their nesting property restrict the  
329 order of  $N \times (m + 1)$  sub-objects to be similar in any subspace of  $R^d$ . This leads to the conclusion. Now, the  
330 quantile method for general S-PCA is summarized as follows.

331 PROCEDURE 2: The quantile method for S-PCA Let the set of  $N$  objects  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  be described  
332 by  $d$  features, which are a mixture of interval features, histogram features, nominal multi-valued features, and  
333 other types. Then, we execute the quantile method by the following steps.

334 1. We select an integer value  $m$  ( $1 \leq m < N$ ). 2. For each feature  $F_j$ , we find the common representation of  
335  $N$  objects by the  $(m + 1)$ -tuples:  $(x_{kj(\min)}, Q_{kj1}, Q_{kj2}, \dots, Q_{kj(m-1)}, x_{kj(\max)})$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ .

---

## 337 16 3.

338 For each object  $\in k$ , we find  $(m + 1)$  d-dimensional sub-objects: the minimum sub-object  $\in k(\min)$ ,  $(m - 1)$   
339 quantile sub-objects,  $\in kQ1, \in kQ2, \dots, \in kQ(m-1)$ , and the maximum sub-object  $\in k(\max)$ . Then we split  
340 each object into  $(m + 1)$  sub-objects. As the result, we have an  $\{N \times (m + 1)\} \times d$  numerical data table. 4.  
341 We calculate the  $d \times d$  correlation matrix  $S$  for the  $\{N \times (m + 1)\} \times d$  data table obtained in 3) based on the  
342 selected correlation coefficient, where we can use the Kendall or Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, or the  
343 Pearson correlation coefficient. 5. We find the principal components based on the correlation matrix in 4).

344 In the factor planes, we can reproduce each object  $\in k, k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , as a series of  $m$  arrow lines:  $\in k(\min)$   
345  $\in kQ1, \in kQ2, \dots, \in kQ(m-1), \in k(\max)$ .

346 (31)

347 As a different representation, we can use also a series of  $m$  rectangles.

348 In this procedure, if we select as  $m = 1$ , the quantile method is reduced to the original "object splitting  
349 method".

### 350 V. EXAMPLES OF THE QUANTILE METHOD FOR S-PCA EXAMPLE 5: Fats' and oils' data

351 We illustrate the quartile case, i.e.  $m = 4$ . In this case, the common representation of each object under a  
352 feature is 5-tuple, i.e.  $(\min, Q1, Q2, Q3, \max)$ . For the fifth feature Major acids, we used the quantification in  
353 Example 4. For the data in Table ??, we obtain the necessary 5-tuples for each of the eight objects with respect  
354 to five features. Then, we split each object into five sub-objects, i.e. the minimum sub-object, three quartile  
355 sub-objects, and the maximum sub-object. Therefore, we have 40 sub-objects for the given eight objects. Table  
356 3 shows a part of our data, where five sub-objects are presented only for Linseed and Perilla. C, and so on. We  
357 selected the following eight features to describe objects (hardwoods). The data formats for other features F 2 -F 8  
358 are the same with Table 5, viz., In this example, deciles and quartiles describe each object, where the preselected  
359 number  $m$  is 6, and the 7-tuple is used as a common representation for the given Ichino: The Quantile Method  
360 for Symbolic PCA 195 6 shows a part of the transformed data table.

361 Table 7 shows the  $8 \times 8$  correlation matrices, where the upper triangular matrix shows the elements of the Pearson  
362 son correlation matrix, and the lower triangular matrix shows the elements of the Spearman's rank correlation  
363 matrix. The Pearson and the Spearman correlation matrices are similar in many elements. However, some  
364 differences should be pointed out. Features F 1 (ANNT), F 2 (JANT), F 3 (JULT), and F 7 (GDC5) are highly  
365 correlated mutually for the Spearman coefficient. Feature F 4 (ANNP) is strongly correlated with features F 5  
366 (JANP) and F 8 (MITH) for the Spearman coefficient, while F 4 (ANNP) is largely correlated with features F 5  
367 (JANP) and F 6 (JULP) for the Pearson coefficient. We see also a difference between the Pearson and Spearman  
368 correlation coefficients concerning feature F 7 (GDC5).

369 The contribution ratios of the first two principal components are 77.01% and 11.64% for the Pearson correlation  
370 matrix, and are 87.41% and 8.38% for the Spearman correlation matrix. 15 line representations of sixteen  
371 hardwoods in the factor planes by the Pearson and Spearman correlation matrices, respectively. In the two  
372 factor planes, the first principal component plays the role of the size factor, and the given eight features take  
373 similar positive weights. In the second principal component, four features concerning precipitation and moisture,  
374 i.e. ANNP, JANP, JULP, and MITH, take positive weights, while other features for temperature and growing  
375 degree, i.e. ANNT, JANT, JULT, and GDC5, took negative weights. For the Spearman correlation matrix,  
376 moisture (MITH) takes an especially large positive weight for the second principal component. However, for the  
377 Pearson correlation matrix, the corresponding weight is very small.

378 In Fig. 9, many series of arrow lines tend to be slightly right down. Almost all kinds of hardwood in the  
379 eastern area of the US organize a large stream of arrow lines. This tendency of the main stream depends on  
380 temperature and precipitation. On the other hand, largely fluctuating and mutually separate streams are mainly  
381 composed of the hardwoods in the western area. For example, Acer West, Alnus West, Betula, and Fraxinus  
382 West most drastically change toward the upper right with the last decile. This change is heavily dependent on  
383 precipitation and moisture. In Fig. 10, the main stream of arrow lines has two branches. Each branch initially  
384 grows toward the upper right, and then changes direction toward right down. This property is not clear in Fig.  
385 9. Generally, mutual arrow lines are clearly represented in Fig. 10. Therefore, in this example, the Spearman  
386 correlation matrix may be better than the Pearson correlation matrix. Since the quantile method is based on the  
387 monotonic property of the given set of objects, the use of the Spearman correlation matrix may be natural.

## 388 17 VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

389 We presented the quantile method for the S-PCA. The quantile method can treat not only histogram-valued  
390 data, but also nominal and ordinal multi-valued type data, and is simply based on the property of monotone  
391 structure of the given objects. By selecting a common integer number  $m$ , the quantile method transforms a given  
392  $N \times d$  complex symbolic data table to a simple  $(N \times (m + 1)) \times d$  numerical data table. An important aspect  
393 is that we can select the integer  $m$  as a sufficiently small number compared to the number  $N$  of objects, and we  
394 can apply the traditional PCA simply to the  $(N \times (m + 1)) \times d$  data table. We presented several experimental

11



Figure 1: and J (? 1 Fig. 1 :

42



Figure 3: PROPOSITION 4 :Fig. 2 :



Figure 4:

395 results in order to show the effectiveness of the quantile method. An arrow line representation of objects in the  
396 factor plane may be a useful tool to analyze complex symbolic data tables.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

---

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<sup>9</sup> Scientific Research (C) 19500130). The author wishes to thank referees and editors for suggestions leading improvements in this article. The author also acknowledges to Professor Paula Brito for her collaborations.

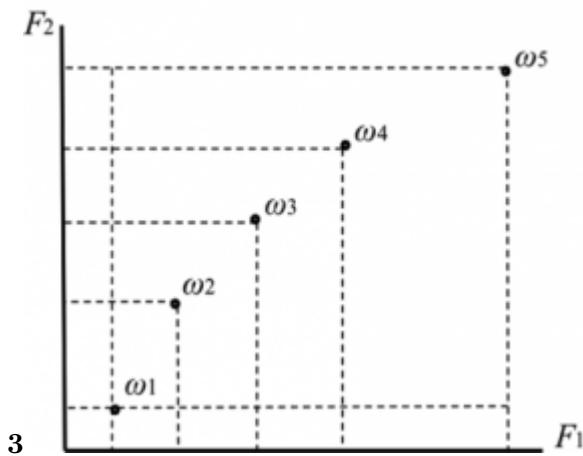
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Figure 6:

(a) Monotone increasing.



(b) Monotone decreasing.

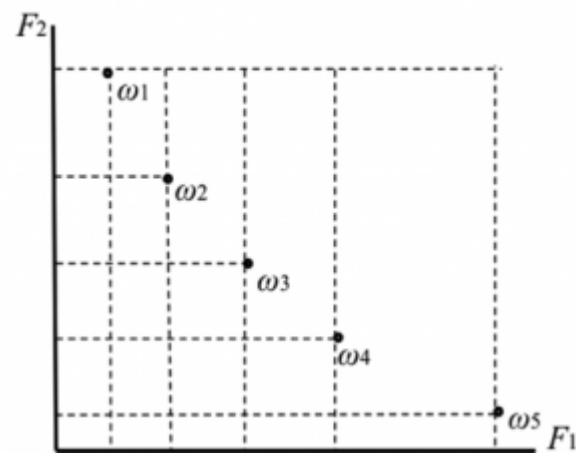


Figure 7: Fig. 3 :

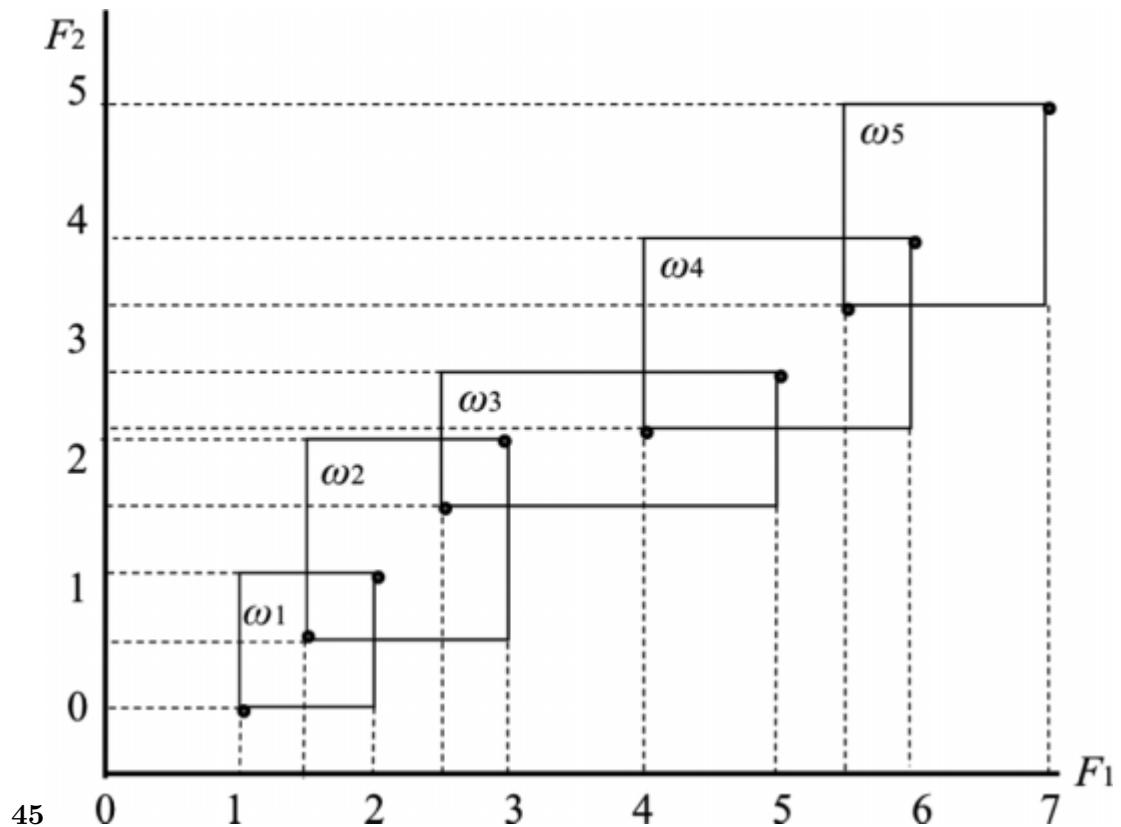


Figure 8: Fig. 4 :Fig. 5 :

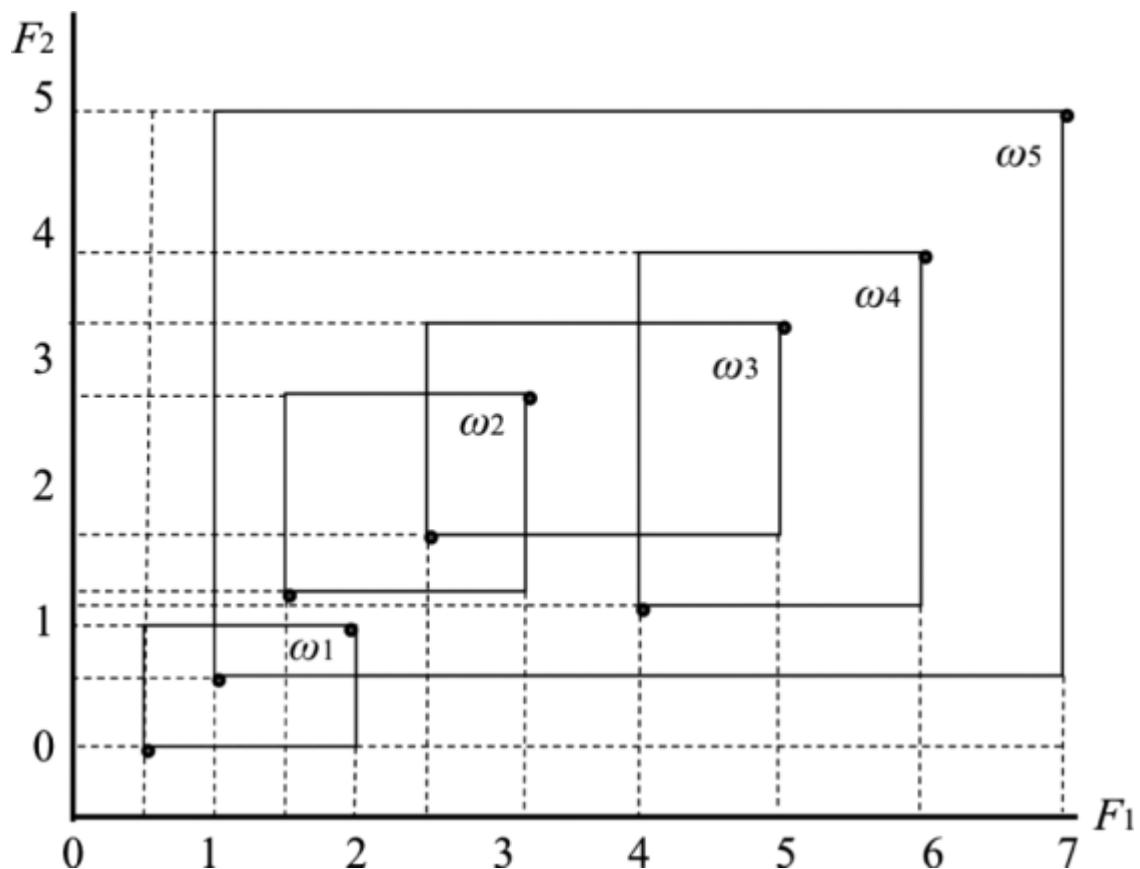


Figure 9:

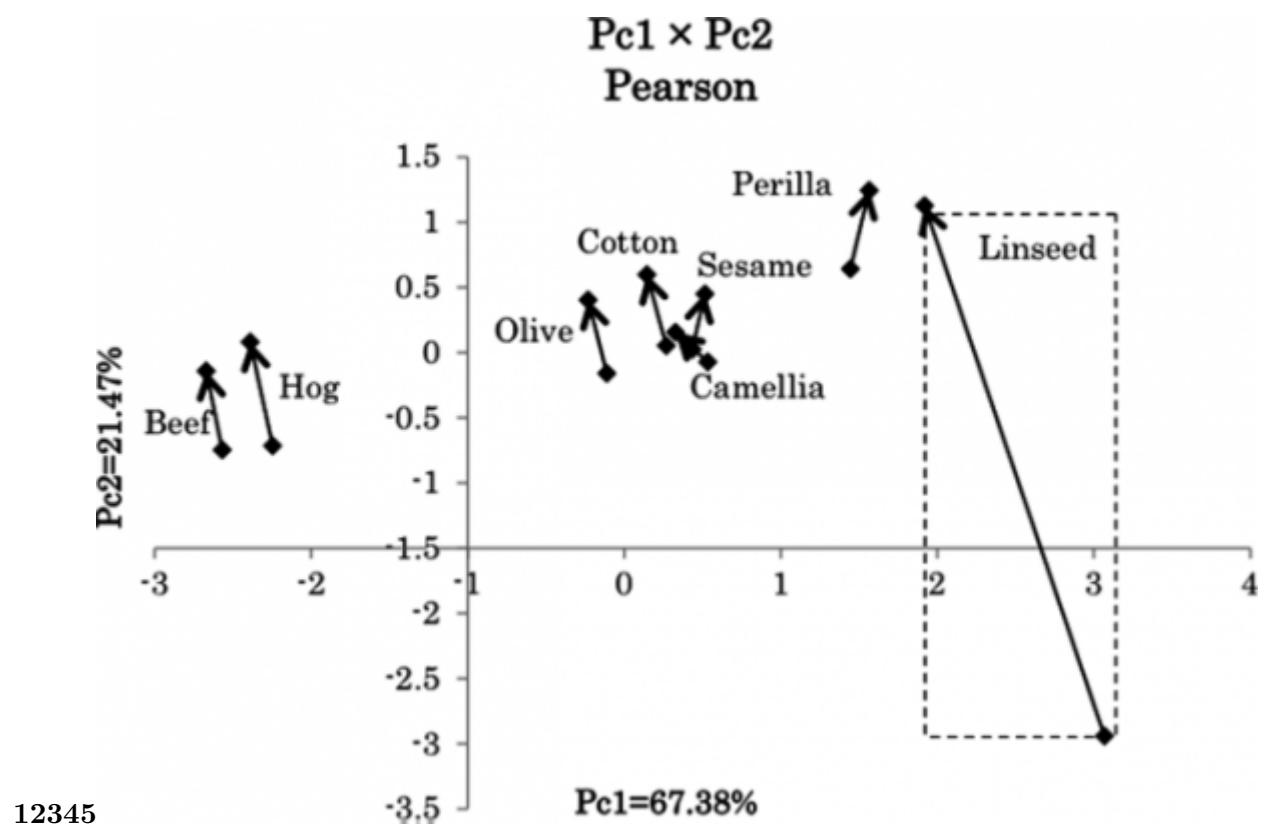


Figure 10: F 1 :F 2 :F 3 :F 4 :F 5 :

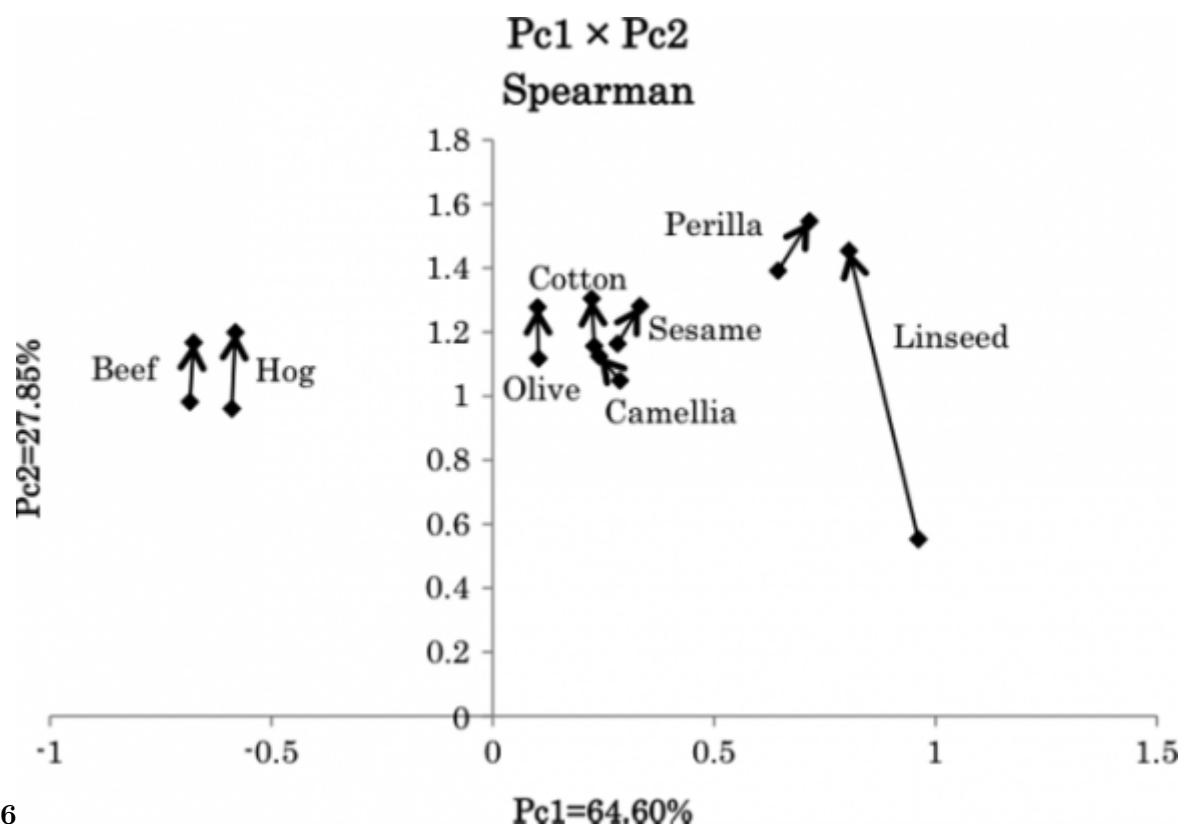


Figure 11: F 6 :

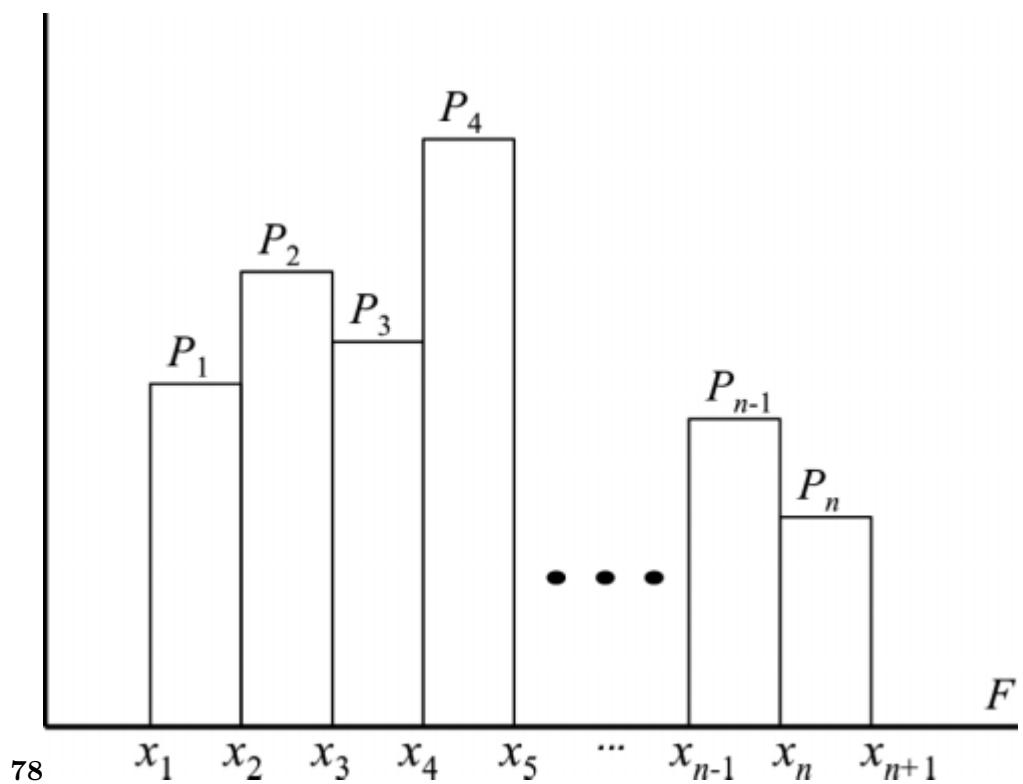


Figure 12: F 7 :F 8 :

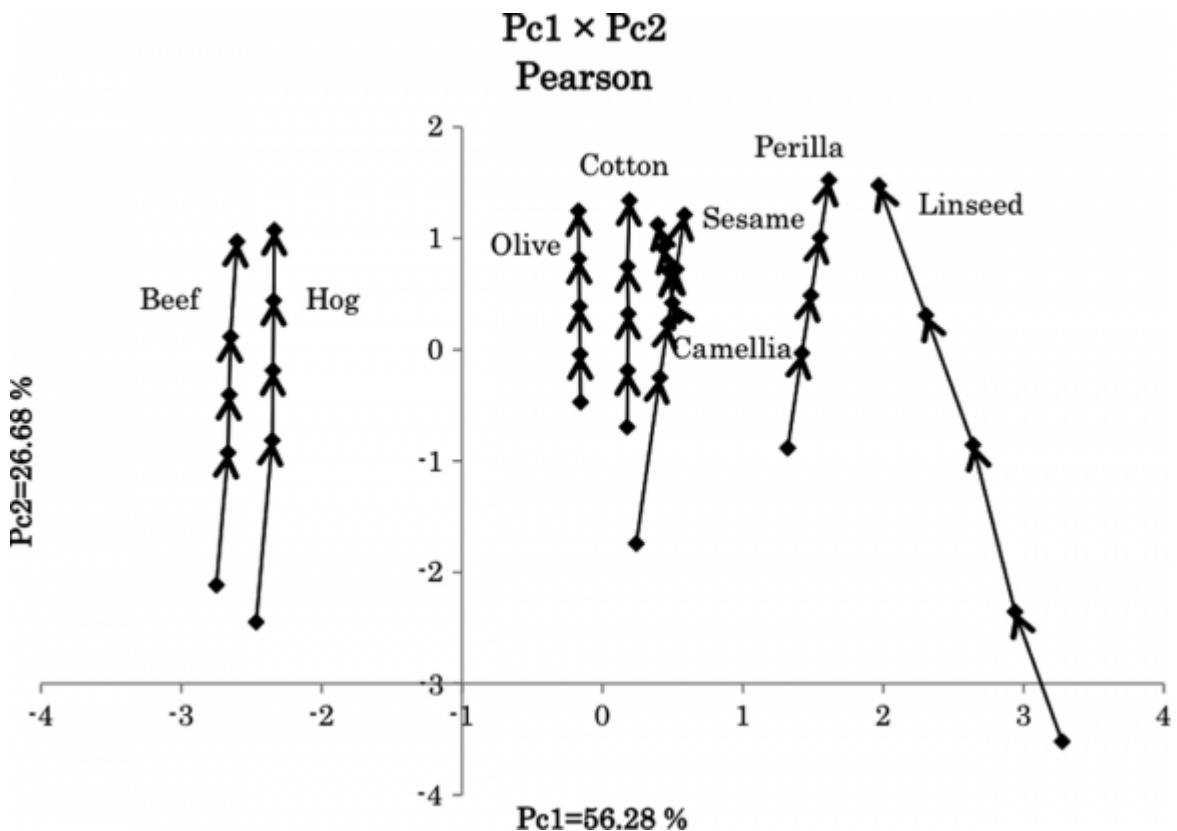


Figure 13:

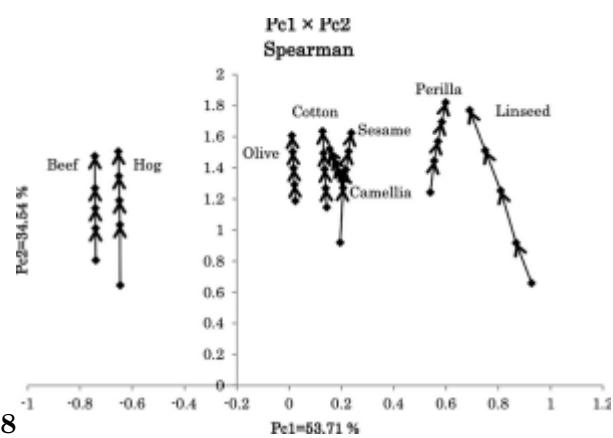


Figure 14: Fig. 8 :



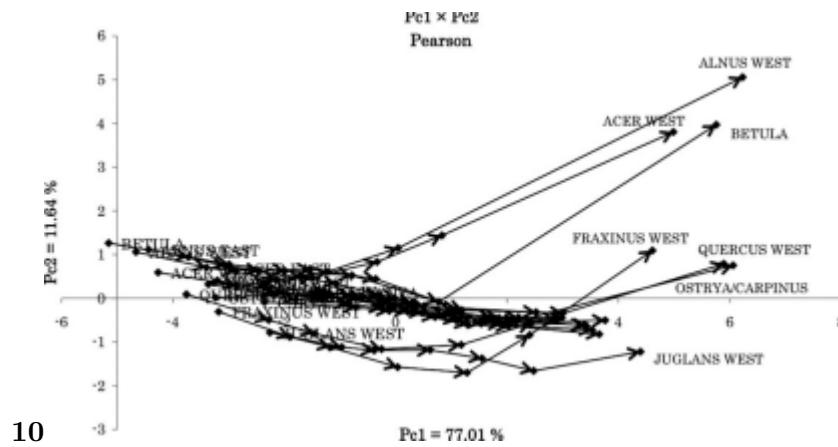


Figure 16: Fig. 10 :

$$[1,4[:0;4,5[:0.2;[5,6[:0.2;[6,7[:0.2;[7,8[:0.2; [8,9[:0.2;[9,10]:0.2, \quad (25)$$

Figure 17:

2

| Object   | Lu    | A   | C   | Ln   | M     | S     | P     | L     | O     |
|----------|-------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Linseed  | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0.2  | 0 .2  | 0     | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  |
| Perilla  | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0.2  | 0     | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  |
| Cotton   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0.2   | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  |
| Sesame   | 0     | 0.2 | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  |
| Camellia | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0.5   | 0 .5  |
| Olive    | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.25  |
| Beef     | 0     | 0   | 0.2 | 0    | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0 .2  | 0     | 0 .2  |
| Hog      | 0.167 | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.167 |
| q ij     | 0.167 | 0.2 | 0   | 0 .4 | 0     | 1.217 | 1.417 | 1.717 | 1.917 |
| R a n k  | 1     | 2   | 2   | 4    | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     |

$Q_2 = 7.5$ , and  $Q_3 = 8.75$ , respectively. Finally, we have the desired 5-tuple:

$$(4, 5.25, 7.5, 8.75, 10). \quad (27)$$

#### IV. THE QUANTILE METHOD FOR S-PCA

DEFINITION 9: Quantile sub-objects.

Figure 18: Table 2 :

## 3

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|         | F 1     | F 2    | F 3   | F 4    | F 5   |
|---------|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Linseed |         |        |       |        |       |
| 1       | 0.93000 | -27    | 170   | 118    | 4     |
| 2       | 0.93125 | -24.75 | 178.5 | 137.5  | 5 .25 |
| 3       | 0.93250 | -22.5  | 187   | 157    | 7.5   |
| 4       | 0.93375 | -20.25 | 195.5 | 176.5  | 8 .75 |
| 5       | 0.93500 | -18    | 204   | 196    | 10    |
| Perilla |         |        |       |        |       |
| 1       | 0.93000 | -5     | 192   | 188    | 4     |
| 2       | 0.93175 | -4.75  | 196   | 190.25 | 6.25  |
| 3       | 0.93350 | -4.5   | 200   | 192.5  | 7 .5  |
| 4       | 0.93525 | -4.25  | 204   | 194.75 | 8.75  |
| 5       | 0.93700 | -4     | 208   | 197    | 10    |

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Figure 19: Table 3 :

## 4

| S        | Spec.          | Freez.         | Iodine         | Sapon.         | M. acids |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Spec.    | 1.0000 -0.8923 |                | 0.7682 -0.3187 |                | 0.2432   |
| Freez.   | -0.6309        | 1.0000 -0.6368 |                | 0.4968 -0.1138 |          |
| Iodine   | 0.9582 -0.6142 |                | 1.0000 -0.3834 |                | 0.1107   |
| Saponi.  | -0.2044        | 0.6437 -0.1980 |                | 1.0000         | 0.3634   |
| M. acids | 0.2558         | 0.0398         | 0.1805         | 0.6428         | 1.0000   |

Fig. 7: The result of the S-PCA for Fats' and oils' data (Pearson). 16 hardwoods. According to the Procedure 2 for S-PCA in Section 4, we transform the given (16 objects)  $\times$  (8 features) symbolic data table to a (16  $\times$  7 sub-objects)  $\times$  (8 features) standard numerical data table.

Figure 20: Table 4 :

Figure 21: Table

---

5

|        |       |     |     |         |      |      |           |       |       |      |          |   |    |      |    |     |    |    |      |    |    |   |   |
|--------|-------|-----|-----|---------|------|------|-----------|-------|-------|------|----------|---|----|------|----|-----|----|----|------|----|----|---|---|
| Taxon  | name  | N   | 6   | 865     | 0%   | -2.3 | -3.9      | -10.2 | -12.2 | -    | 50%      | 9 | .2 | 75%  | 1  | 90% | 1  | 7  | 100% | 2  |    |   |   |
| Acer   | East  | 1   | 954 | 10      | 13.4 | 3.6  | Histogram | 10%   | 0     | 4    | .2       | 0 | .6 | 4    | .4 | 7   | .9 | 1  | 0    | .3 |    |   |   |
| Acer   | West  | 144 |     | 4       | .6   | 0    | .2        | -4.4  | -4.6  | -8.4 | data     | 0 | .3 | -1.0 | .5 | 6   | .1 | 1  | 5    | .0 | .9 |   |   |
| Alnus  | East  | 761 | 16  | (annual | 25%  | 3    | .8        | 1     | .9    | -2.3 | tempera- | 3 | .2 | 3    | .6 | 1   | 2  | .6 | 1    | 8  | .7 | 2 | 0 |
| Alnus  | West  | 815 |     | 4       | -3.0 | -5.1 |           |       |       |      | ture).   |   |    | .9   |    |     |    |    |      |    | .3 |   |   |
| Betula | Carya |     | 638 |         |      |      |           |       |       |      |          |   |    |      |    |     |    |    |      |    |    |   |   |

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Figure 22: Table 5 :

6

Figure 23: Table 6 :

7

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Figure 24: Table 7 :



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