E-CONTENT PREPARED BY

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E-Content prepared for students of

M.Sc.(Semester-IV) in Conservation Biology

Name of Course: Biostatistics and Bioinstrumentation

Topic of the E-Content: Multivariate Analysis

MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS

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Distribution of ungulate evidences along Principal Habitat components in the study area



Ordination Technique

The aim of ordination is twofold

First, it tries to reduce a large number of variables into a smaller number of easier to interpret variables.

And, secondly, it can be used to reveal patterns in multivariate data that would not be identified in univariate analyses

Ordination methods give easy-to-read graphical outputs from relatively easy-to-use software, and this may partly explain their popularity. Instead of trying to understand variation in a response variable in terms of explanatory variables, in multivariate statistics we look for **structure in the data.**

The problem is that structure is rather easy to find, and all too often it is a feature of that particular data set alone. The real challenge is to find *general structure* that will apply to other data sets as well.

Unfortunately, there is no guaranteed means of detecting pattern, and a great deal of ingenuity has been shown by statisticians in devising means of pattern recognition in multivariate data sets.

The main division is between methods that **assume a given structure** and seek to divide the cases into groups, and methods that seek to **discover structure from inspection of the data frame.**

Different Multivariate techniques: Principal Component Analysis (PCA) **Factor Analysis Cluster Analysis Discriminant Analysis Neural Networks** Non-metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) **Redundancy Analysis (RDA) Correspondence** Analysis (CA) **Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA)**

These techniques are not recommended unless you know exactly what you are doing, and exactly why you are doing it.

Beginners are sometimes attracted to multivariate techniques because of the complexity of the output they produce, making the classic mistake of confusing the opaque for the profound.

Principal Component Analysis

The idea of principal component analysis (PCA) is to find a small number of **linear combinations** of the variables so as to capture most of the variation in the data-frame as a whole.

Principal components analysis finds a set of orthogonal standardized linear combinations which together explain all of the variation in the original data.

There are as many principal components as there are variables, but typically it is only the first few that explain important amounts of the total variation.

Calculating principal components is easy. Interpreting what the components mean in scientific terms is hard, and potentially equivocal.

The underlying principle of PCA

Let Y_{ij} be the value of variable j (j = 1, ...N) for observation i (i = 1, ...M). *Most* ordination techniques create linear combinations of the variables:

$$Z_{i1} = c_{11}Y_{i1} + c_{12}Y_{i2} + \dots + c_{1N}Y_{iN}$$

The linear combination, $Z_1 = (Z_{11}, ..., Z_{M1})$ is a vector of length M, and is called a **principal component**, gradient or axis.

The underlying idea is that the most important features in the N variables are caught by the new variable Z₁

Most ordination techniques are designed in such a way that the first axis is more important than the second, the second more important than the third, etc., and the axes represent different information. The eigenvalue equation for all axes is given by

(S - IA)C = 0

where C contains the eigenvectors for all axes, I is the identity matrix and A the corresponding eigenvalue

"This may seem like magic to readers not used to matrix algebra, but this expression is fundamental in mathematics and is called the eigenvalue equation for S"---Zuur et al 2007(Analysing Ecological Data) Eigenvalues in PCA represent the amount of variance explained by each axis.

They can be expressed as numbers, percentage of the total variance, or as cumulative percentage of the total variance

Table 12.2. Eigenvalues and eigenvalues expressed as cumulative percentage. Some software packages rescale the eigenvalues so that the sum of all eigenvalues is equal to 1. These are given in the second column. Unscaled eigenvalues are in the third column. The sum of all eigenvalues is 7.

Axis	Eigenvalue (scaled)	Eigenvalue (unscaled)	Cumulative Eigenvalue as %
1	0.647	4.529	64.703
2	0.163	1.144	81.045
3	0.063	0.440	87.326
4	0.049	0.342	92.206