

Subject: Re: Q: Quantil calculation in IDL?  
Posted by [m218003](#) on Mon, 25 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <7uensq\$8vu\$1@usenet.bham.ac.uk>,  
James Tappin <sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk> writes:  
> Joerg Mosthaf wrote:  
>> Hi,  
>> I have been searching the help files and David Fannings great book,  
>> but I can't  
>> find a way to calculate 25%- and 75%-quantils.  
>> ...

Please find attached my PERCENTILES function which uses the SORT method and allows for calculating arbitrary percentiles.

Cheers,  
Martin.

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```
; $Id: percentiles.pro,v 1.11 1999/05/20 16:20:42 mgs Exp $  
-----  
;+  
; NAME:  
;      PERCENTILES  
;  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;      compute percentiles of a data array  
;  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;      statistical function  
;  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;      Y = PERCENTILES(DATA [,VALUE=value-array])  
;  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;      DATA --> the vector containing the data  
;  
;  
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
```

```

; VALUE --> compute specified percentiles
; default is a standard set of min, 25%, median (=50%), 75%, and max
; which can be used for box- and whisker plots.
; The values in the VALUE array must lie between 0. and 1. !
;

; OUTPUTS:
; The function returns an array with the percentile values or
; -1 if no data was passed or value contains invalid numbers.

; SUBROUTINES:

; REQUIREMENTS:

; NOTES:

; EXAMPLE:
;   x = findgen(31)-15. ; create sample data
;   y = exp(-x^2)/3.14159 ; compute some Gauss distribution
;   p = percentiles(y,value=[0.05,0.1,0.9,0.95])
;   print,p
;
;   IDL prints : 3.92826e-05 0.000125309 0.305829 0.318310

;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   mgs, 03 Aug 1997: VERSION 1.00
;   mgs, 20 Feb 1998: - improved speed and memory usage
;                     (after tip from Stein Vidar on newsgroup)
;
;
;-
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; kept with any copy of this software. If this software shall
; be used commercially or sold as part of a larger package,
; please contact the author to arrange payment.
; Bugs and comments should be directed to mgs@io.harvard.edu
; with subject "IDL routine percentiles"
;----- --
;
```

```

function percentiles,data,value=value

result = -1
n = n_elements(data)
if (n le 0) then return,result ; error : data not defined
;
```

```

; check if specific percentiles requested - if not: set standard
if(not keyword_set(value)) then value = [ 0., 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0 ]

; create a temporary copy of the data and sort
; tmp = data
; tmp = tmp(sort(tmp))
; NO: simply save the sorted index array
ix = sort(data)

; loop through percentile values, get indices and add to result
; This is all we need since computing percentiles is nothing more
; than counting in a sorted array.
for i=0L,n_elements(value)-1 do begin

  if(value(i) lt 0. OR value(i) gt 1.) then return,-1

  if(value(i) le 0.5) then ind = long(value(i)*n)  $
  else ind = long(value(i)*(n+1))
  if (ind ge n) then ind = n-1L ; small fix for small n
                     ; (or value eq 1.)

  ; if(i eq 0) then result = tmp(ind)  $
  ; else result = [result, tmp(ind) ]
  ; ## change number 2
  if(i eq 0) then result = data(ix(ind))  $
  else result = [result, data(ix(ind)) ]
endfor

return,result
end

```

#### File Attachments

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- 1) [percentiles.pro](#), downloaded 111 times
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