Subject: Re: compute quartiles of a distribution
Posted by Thibault Garel on Tue, 18 Oct 2011 16:36:48 GMT
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:) On this one, I am my own reviewer !
I know what I ask sounds weird but that is really what I'd like to compute. As I want to work with the means, not medians, "statistically justifiable real" quartiles do not really help. In my case, means and median may be quite different so that normal 75% quartiles may be out of the sample...
I am gonna try to find a way to code that.
Thanks again,

Cheers
bing

> bing999 writes:
>> The procedures in summary.pro and cgBoxPlot.pro compute "real"
>> quartiles. Actually, I should not have used this word in my case i
>> guess.
>
>> What I want is the interval [M-Q;M+Q] which encompass 75% of the
>> values of the sample around the mean (not the median) value M, where Q
>> is unique (i.e the same at lower and higher values around M). I do not
>> want the 37.5% above M and the 37.5% below. It makes a little
>> difference with what is calculated with your routines.
>> The idea would be to span the sample starting from the mean, and
>> counting the points at lower and higher values around the mean in an
>> iterative manner, until I have counted 75% of sample. This would give
>> the value of Q at which the 75% is reached. I have a crude idea to do
>> that with for loops but it will take forever...
>
> I'm guessing you are going to have a hard time
> explaining to your reviewers why your "fake"
> quartiles are better than the statistically
> justifiable real quartiles. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.idlcoyote.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")