Subject: Re: compute quartiles of a distribution
Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 18 Oct 2011 16:25:10 GMT
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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

--
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")