Data analysis and Geostatistics

Short Course on the use of statistical techniques in the geosciences

Geotop Short Course in Data Analysis and Geostatistics Vector methods, PCA, FA and PLS

A few words of caution….

Eigenvector and clustering methods are extremely powerful aids in understanding your data, and the underlying processes that control the variability in your study

However;

"Principal component analysis belongs to that category of techniques, including cluster analysis, in which appropriateness is judged more by performance and utility than by theoretical considerations" *Davis, 3rd ed., 2002*

And;

Eigenvector methods require there to be multidimensional correlations in the data set with meaningful causation \rightarrow if these are absent, they are not going to magically appear, and eigenvector methods are useless.

Also, if they are present in 2-D, there is no added value in multi-D \rightarrow you look for hidden directions in your data in eigenvector methods

Eigenvector methods

Two main techniques: principle component and factor analysis

both techniques perform a transformation of the data to allow for easier interpretation through:

> - reduction of variables - suggestion of underlying processes

Eigenvector methods

System can be transformed to its principle components

the principal processes operating on your data + noise The data have been re-cast into a new coordinate system where the axes are

majority of the variance in this system resides in PC-1 and PC-2 can be interpreted as just the scatter/noise in the data:

dimensionality of the system reduced from 2-D to 1-D without losing any information !

Eigenvector methods - PCA and FA

General notes on Principle Component Analysis and Factor Analysis

- Principle components are the principle non-correlated directions in your data set (maximized variation along, minimized variation perpendicular to PC)
- Nowadays datasets with 50 to 100 variables are not uncommon. A reduction to a much smaller number of unrelated variables (the Factors) makes it much easier to mine such a dataset
- In PCA all variance is redistributed to new PCs, resulting in the same number of PCs as original variables.
- In FA, only those PCs that are informative are retained and the remainder is discarded as noise. The PCs can also be rotated to simplify interpretation.
- Strictly speaking PCA is a mathematical transformation of your data that retains all information, whereas FA is an interpretive model of your data.
- In reality, most software package call both PCA

Principle component analysis - PCA

Especially useful in multi-D space

have already seen an example of this approach when looking at DFA:

5-D replaced by 2 vectors that allow you to recognize clustering in the data:

this was not obvious in original data

However;

in this case the data are correlated in this 2-D vector space, whereas PCs are not allowed to be correlated

Principle components are the principle non-correlated directions in your data set

Principle component analysis - PCA

So what do we do in principle component analysis ?

look in the data for vectors that have maximum variance along them (i.e. a strong correlation/covariance)

as all variables that display the same correlation/covariance are grouped together, the trend they describe cannot be shared with any other PC

- $PC-1$ = vector that explains most of the variance the strongest direction in your data
- PC-2 = vector that next explains most of the residual variance
- PC-3 = vector that next explains most of the residual variance
- etc

so PC-1 explains more variance than any single original variable and therefore, PC-n explains less variance than a single variable (noise)

Principle component analysis - PCA

Another way to explain PCA: psychological questionnaires

 X_1 $X₂$ X_3 X_4 X_5

A psychologist want to know your intelligence, whether you are extroverted, a pessimist, etc.

Have to work this out from indirect questions that correlate with the variable that you are interested in (e.g. intelligence, optimism, etc)

Many questions lead to a small number of ultimate variables

matrix A tells you how to score the answers

Principle component analysis - PCA

The transformation matrix A is what you want to obtain

the matrix that translates the original variables to line up with the principle directions in the data: the PCs

so, it redistributes the variance of the original variables over the PCs, maximizing it for PC_1 : $Var(PC_1) = max$ it ensures that the PCs are uncorrelated: $Cov(PC_i-PC_{i+1}) = 0$

Note that we are only translating the data to a new coordination system: no info loss !

The matrix A is obtained from the covariance or the correlation matrix

when all variables are equivalent (e.g. all wt%, all ppm, etc)

when mixing variables $(e.g. ppm + wt\% + pH)$

Principle component analysis - PCA

Link with correlation makes sense (I hope):

all variables that are correlated define one trend in the data so they should be combined in one PC, and this PC and its component variables should have an insignificant correlation with all remaining variables and PCs

e.g. 5 variables with the following correlation matrix:

so, this dat set has two PCs, with low correlation between them

Principle component analysis - PCA

Strong reduction in dimensionality: 5D to 2D

this allows for much easier data visualization and (hopefully) interpretation +

it may point to two underlying processes, affecting a different set of vars

a good way to represent this is to plot it in variable space

Now you get two clusters of variables and these are your PCs

So in a way, PCA is cluster

Principle component analysis - PCA

So how do we obtain the transformation matrix from cor/cov ?

have to determine the eigenvectors in the correlation or covariance matrix

these are the weights that relate the original variables to the PC vectors and scale these so that the variance of a PC equals 1

Principle component analysis - PCA

An example for thermal spring data from the Rockies:

the coefficients are the factor loading:

the correlation between the original variables and the PCs

they display a clear grouping of variables

PC-1: Si and T - as T increases the solubility increases

PC-2: Al and pH - unclear, clay effect? speciation?

PC-3: Ca, Zn, -pH and $\pm T$ - low pH + high conc. base metals: sulfides

PC-4: no clear associations - residual noise ?

You get as many PCs as there are original variables, but not all will be meaningful.

Principle component analysis - PCA

The variance in the original variables is redistributed;

PC-1 will have a variance greater than a single original variable (it explains more variance in the data set than a single original variable)

so, subsequent PCs will eventually explain less variance than a single original var

such PCs can generally be ignored thereby reducing the dimensionality

but where should we put the boundary?

the eigenvalues show you how much variance a PC explains compared to the original variables and this value can therefore be used to define a cut-off:

- all eigenvalues less than 1 are insignificant (generally too restrictive)
- use a scree plot (PC-number versus eigenvalue) where there is a kink in this plot: boundary - use all PCs up to this point and one beyond
- maximum likelihood method the goodness-of-fit of the factor model is iteratively tested using the *X*2 test and additional factors are calculated from the residual covariance/correlation matrix only if it fails the *X*2 test

Principle component analysis - PCA Restricting the number of PCs: FA The variance in the original variables is redistributed; To facilitate interpretation the resulting PCs are commonly rotated in multi-dimensional space PC-1 will have a variance greater than a single original variable (it explains more variance in the data set than a single original variable) so, subsequent PCs will eventually explain less variance than a single original var The most popular technique is Varimax rotation: "rotation to maximize the variance of the squared loadings within each column of the loadings matrix" such PCs can generally be ignored thereby reducing the dimensionality this rotation results in the correlations with the original variables to be either large or small, so it enhances the contrast, producing PCs that are highly correlated with a few original variables and very weakly with the rest: The cut-off can be determined in a scree-plot much easier to interpret, because it is immediately clear which variables are eigenvalue eigenvalue important and that in turn can directly point to the underlying process 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 $1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$ PC number

Varimax rotation

A Factor Analysis example using PAST

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

6 km2 55 samples

After cleaning 15 elements

All elements log-transformed

A Factor Analysis example

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

A Factor Analysis example - PAST

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

A Factor Analysis example - PAST

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

PC eigenvalues: how much of the original variance is captured by each PC

 \bullet \bullet \bullet Princina Summary Scatter plot Scores Loadings plot Loadings Scatter plot | Scores | Loadings plot | Loadings | Scree plot Eigenvalue % variance Matrix 7.24719 45.295 Correlation 2.60592 16.287 Groups 1.56877 9.8048 Disregard 1.28902 8.0563 Missing values 0.960919 6.0057 0.64666 4.0416 Mean value imputation 35 0.477462 2.9841 30 0.293343 1.8334 $25 -$ Bootstrap N: 0.279331 1.7458 $20 -$ 0.172708 1.0794 Recompute 15 0.15083 0.94269 11 $10 12$ 0.117418 0.73386 13 0.0919825 0.57489 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 0.0480764 0.30048 Component 0.0286725 0.1792 \Rightarrow Detach tab 0.0217038 0.13565 Close **Copy** \mathbf{R} Print **3** Close **Copy 曲** Print

A Factor Analysis example - PAST

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

A variable's communality tells you how much of its variance is explained by your factors. In this case, for 4 factors:

A Factor Analysis example - PAST

The Sn-W mineralized granite of Regoufe (Portugal)

The scores for each sample on the different factors

A Factor Analysis example - PAST

A Factor Analysis example

Factor Analysis vs. Cluster Analysis

the data set: the eating habits of Europe

variables: the original variables as input

rotation: you can tell NCSS to perform a PC rotation such as Varimax or none

missing values: if you have these you have to tell NCSS how to deal with them: row-wise exclusion, replace by mean or estimate from correlations

matrix type: correlation or covariance

factor selection: start by selecting % eigenvalues and setting this to 100%: gives you all PCs. Can then decide that only first 4 are meaningful and change this

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe - coefficients

Bar Chart of Absolute Eigenvectors after Varimax Rotation

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe - correlations

Bar Chart of Absolute Factor Loadings after Varimax Rotation

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe

Factor Structure Summary after Varimax Rotation

Principle component analysis - PCA

output: the eating habits of Europe - new row transformation

PLS-R and PLS-DA

An extension to eigenvector methods with a dependent variable

PCA and FA re-cast the independent variable matrix into a new coordinate system aligned with the directions of maximum variance with the aim of separating noise from information, reducing the dimensionality of your data, and identify processes

PLS-R and PLS-DA re-cast the independent variable matrix into a new coordinate system aligned with a **dependent variable** ($Y = f(X)$) with the aim of classification (-DA) or quantification of a regression model (-R), for example for calibration.

You can of course do a DA or R based on the original variables, but you here make the assumption that there are directions in your data that better line up with Y than the original variables —> you obtain those from a PCA-style transformation of your data

PLS-DA example with the Unscrambler

Geotop Short Course in Data Analysis and Geostatistics Spatial analysis of data

FA - processes in Massif Central dataset

Loadings show the importance of that factor at each location

Clustering - groups in Massif Central dataset

Plotting data on maps: bubble plots

Data are plotted at their spatial coordinates with a symbol whose size represents the value of the data point

Can apply exactly the same tools as used on the element map:

adjust contrast, isolate features and perform data transformations

can also overlay these bubbles on another layer, such as a topo map, geol map, stream map etc

Plotting data on maps: bubble plots

Stream sediments as a reflection of the local geology: Beryllium

Plotting data on maps: bubble plots

Silver concentrations: working with a non-normal distribution

Plotting data on maps: bubble plots

Don't have to plot all the data in the dataset: applying a cut-off at low values will highlight interesting samples, whereas a high cut-off removes outliers

Zn, only data with > 50 ppm

Plotting data on maps: bubble plots

Looking for element associations by combining bubble plots

Plotting data on maps

Combining elements by using multi-coloured bubble plots is useful, but fast becomes confusing: can lead you to miss interesting samples

Can also calculate such associations beforehand and plot them directly:

- \cdot Sb + Zn
- Sb / Zn

Or you can apply logical rules to the data before plotting:

- \bullet plot Sb if S $>$ 200 ppm
- if $SiO₂ > 60$ wt% then plot K / Zr

Note that such properties are calculated much easier and faster in programs designed for such calculations: e.g. Excel or Quattro Pro

Plotting data on maps: QGIS and BC dataset

The BC survey makes a digital version of its geological map available onto which you can plot their geochemical data: need a GIS package (qgis.org)

Download the geol map as a shape file here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/ content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/british-columbia-geologicalsurvey/publications/digital-geoscience-data

make a new file in QGIS, go to project > properties > CRS and set the coordinate system of the file to 3005

Drag the .shp file into the layers panel. To get the correct colours, go to layer properties > symbology > categorized > style > load style > open file: open the .qml file.

To get your data in, export the excel file as a .csv. Then in QGIS > add layer > add delimited text layer > open your .csv file. Make sure longitude and latitude are selected as x and y fields and set the CRS to 4326 (WGS 1984)

To do fun stuff: click on symbology > graduated > method:size > value:Co > mode:equal interval > classify > apply. You now have a bubble plot for Co

Plotting data on maps: QGIS and BC dataset

The BC survey makes a digital version of its geological map available onto which you can plot your geochemical data: need a GIS package (qgis.org)

Not limited to plotting data, but can also plot derived properties such as the mean, median, standard deviation, etc

> and not just values, but also other observations: geol code / vegetation / mode in multi-modal distribution

Plotting data on maps **Plotting data on maps**: bubble plots

Plotting processed data - standard deviation: the variability at a sample site

Spatial data visualization

Spatial data visualization

Results of different interpolation techniques:

Spatial data visualization

To be able to calculate contours and surfaces: interpolation

interpolation on As content grid;

- x nearest neighbour
- o radius technique: 1/r
- o radius technique: 1/r2

main issue: what samples should be included in the interpolation: what should the maximum radius be?

Interpolation radius

Spatial data have a very useful property:

adjacent samples should be most similar, whereas samples that are far apart can be distinctly different, or:

- the variance for a small interpolation radius is small, as the variance between adjacent samples is small
- the variance increases as the interpolation radius increases (i.e. as samples further away from the point of interest are included)
- at some radius the variance will no longer increase as we have reached the overall variance, which is called the "regional variance"

including values beyond the regional variance radius is pointless as such samples do not contain any information on the value at the point of interest

Interpolation radius Interpolation radius

Semivariance and semivariograms

This concept is semivariance and is shown in a semivariogram

semivariance: the variance between samples a specified interval or distance apart

as the interval increases, the semivariance will approach the total variance of the data set, so it is a spatially controlled partial variance of the data

$$
\gamma_h = \frac{\sum (z_i - z_{i+h})^2}{2(n-h)}
$$

with: $γ = semivariate for interval h$ $n =$ total number of samples z_i = value at position i

as h increases, the relatedness of the samples decreases and the variance will therefore increase:

Semivariance and semivariograms

properties of a semivariogram :

the range is the interval within which there is similarity between the samples

Semivariance and semivariograms

Semivariograms provide our maximum radius criterion: only samples that fall within the range are included in interpolation

before we continue, a few notes:

‣ semivariograms have to be determined for each variable as each has its own range: interpolation has to be performed separately as well

‣ semivariograms are generally different for different spatial directions (N, SW, etc). Such anisotropy can point to an underlying geological phenomenon such as layering or a fault control on conc. This can be corrected for either manually by stretching the coordinate system perpendicular to the main axis, or automatically by kriging software

‣ most semivariagrams have an apparent cut-off at zero distance that has a semivariance \neq 0. This is called the nugget effect and is caused by sample heterogeneity (= field duplicate variance)

Nugget effect in semi-variograms

There is always some uncertainty at a given sample site, which you could quantify by taking field duplicates.

This sample site variance is the "nugget" in a semivariogram (in essence the variance at zero distance)

Every element will have such a nugget, but the effect is strongest for elements that are heterogeneously distributed, such as gold present as nuggets in a sediment because we use mean + var

Using semivariogram information: kriging

The interpolation technique that employs the range information as obtained from semivariograms is called kriging

in kriging, only samples that are within the range are used to determine the value at a given intermediate position and the weighing for each sample is derived from its associated semivariance

A $(x_i,y_i) = wt_1 * A (x_1,y_1) + wt_2 * A (x_2,y_2) + wt_3 * A (x_3,y_3) + ...$

as an added bonus this also gives us the variance associated with each interpolated value (the uncertainty), so we can immediately see where our interpolations are reliable and where they are not

because weights are based on the semivariance, obvious trends in the data should be removed as this leads to a continuous rise in the semivariance: can be done by first subtracting a trend surface

Estimate of uncertainty for each interpolated value

Uncertainty in block kriging of grades

Kriging is commonly applied to estimate the grade of blocks in open pit mining using a sample grid or the grade of adjacent blocks (or both).

In such cases it is invaluable to know the uncertainty on the grade estimate

Back to our example

Results of different interpolation techniques:

And now using kriging as the interpolation method

Some data are not suited to interpolation/kriging

There is a strong tendency to directly start with the most complex or fancy technique, such as kriging. However, kriging is not always appropriate !

raw concentrations plotted optimized kriging map

Kriging and sample coverage

Kriging works best when you have a high sample density and a more or less uniform distribution of data over the sample are. If not \rightarrow get artefacts

Areas without samples need to be blanketed out, not just removed afterwards

Geotop Short Course in Data Analysis and Geostatistics Short course summary

Eigenvector techniques - highlights

Techniques to locate the principle directions in your dataset

- ‣ useful to reduce the dimensionality of a dataset to its principle directions greatly facilitates the interpretation
- ‣ the principle directions generally represent the underlying processes that control the data distribution - process identification

some practicalities:

- two main techniques: principle component analysis and factor analysis very similar, but PCA is a true data transformation (no loss of info) whereas FA retains only a subset of the variance
- eigenvector techniques are basically a clustering of the variables based on their correlation/covariance similarity - high cor/cov: same trend, low cor/cov: different trend
- have to carefully decide the number of significant factors use the scree plot. If a more appropriate interpretation can be made using more or less factors than the number suggested by the scree plot - no problem

Spatial analysis - highlights

Spatial analysis of data is a great technique to:

- ‣ interact with your data, spot trends, correlations, outliers, clustering, and thereby suggests ways to analyze and interpret your data
- ‣ link your data to all kinds of other spatial information, such as position of roads, towns, rivers, ice cover, topography, geology, soil type, vegetation, etc
- ‣ disseminate your results to others: easy to understand

some practicalities:

- advanced methods need a dedicated sampling design, otherwise stick to the more basic techniques such as bubble plots
- when a dense uniform sampling grid is available, best results for Earth Science datasets are generally obtained by using kriging and semivariance
- trend surfaces are a further powerful technique to interpret spatial data and detrending should be performed before kriging

Clustering techniques - highlights

Clustering of data is used to:

- ‣ split up multi-modal datasets so they can be analyzed with other statistical techniques, such as t-tests and ANOVA
- ‣ look for homogeneous groups in the data, which can tell you something about the main separating processes acting upon the data
- ‣ classify samples: assign samples to pre-determined groups

some practicalities:

- many varieties of separation techniques: DFA, hierarchical clustering, fixed or sought cluster means, partitioning clustering using hard and fuzzy rules, etc
- fuzzy clustering is the most powerful for geochemical datasets as it gives the partial membership to each cluster, thereby being able to cope with intermediate samples
- as in eigenvector techniques, the main difficulty is in deciding the number of clusters. A variety of parameters can help you make that decision, but feel free to deviate (e.g. outliers commonly get their own cluster)

Regression analysis - highlights

Regression analysis is a technique:

- \rightarrow that allows you to fit a quantitative model to data that can subsequently be used in mathematical models. Also allows for inter- and extrapolation
- ‣ that allows you to determine whether a variable explains a significant part of the variance in the dataset: in other words, whether it belongs in the model
- ‣ test what the best model is to describe your data (linear, quadratic, logarithmic, exponential, multiple linear, etc)

some practicalities:

- the best regression fit has maximum variance along the regression line and minimal on either side. The ratio of explained over total variance is R2.
- important assumptions in regression analysis that have to be met: always check normality of residuals, multi-collinearity, significance of coefficients, etc

Testing - highlights

Statistical testing:

- ‣ test the validity of a hypothesis at a specified confidence interval α
- ‣ rejection of the null-hypothesis is the stronger results: choose your hypotheses carefully

‣ all techniques work in exactly the same way: each test has a probability distribution: exceed the critical probability (α) and the hypothesis is rejected, otherwise: no reason to reject the null hypothesis

‣ crucial to keep the errors in mind when testing: type I - known, specified as the confidence interval in testing results; type II - unknown

- ‣ many statistical tests, optimized for specific hypotheses, data distributions, etc (e.g. t-test, Z-test, F-test, ANOVA, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, χ2-test)
- ‣ most commonly used: t-test/ANOVA determine whether a number of groups/clusters are significantly

 different from each other χ2-test - determine whether two data distributions or curves are significantly different

Basic techniques - highlights

data description:

central value: mean, median, mode

measures of spread: range, stdev, IQR, percentile, accuracy vs. precision

normal versus robust techniques

type of distribution: normal, lognormal, multi-modal, outliers

data visualization: histograms, boxplots, scatter diagrams, violin plots, etc

correlation:

correlation between variables expressed by a Pearson or Spearman correlation coefficient. To quickly assess correlations for a complex data matrix: cor matrix

error propagation:

technique to propagate the uncertainty on the measured values to the property you are deriving. Easiest way to do this: split up the equation to its most basic operators: add - subtract - multiply - divide

The end....

If you take nothing else away from this course, remember these:

garbage in = garbage out

most scientists use statistics as the drunkard uses a lamppost; for support rather than illumination