

Statistical Techniques for Astronomy

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Changing perspective

If your experiment needs statistics, you ought to have done a better experiment.

- Ernest Rutherford

God does not play dice with the Universe.

- Albert Einstein

Lies, damned lies and statistics.

- Benjamin Disraeli

We have come to the realisation that in the present Era of rich datasets it is essential to have sophisticated Statistical techniques and methodologies to analyse and interpret data.

Statistics has changed meaning over centuries:

- Originally it referred to collection & compilation of data.
- In 19th century it accrued the goal of mathematical interpretation of data.
- Contemprary statistics is an amaglam of science, technology and art.
 - C.R. Rao (Statistics & Truth)

Astronomy too has changed over the years:

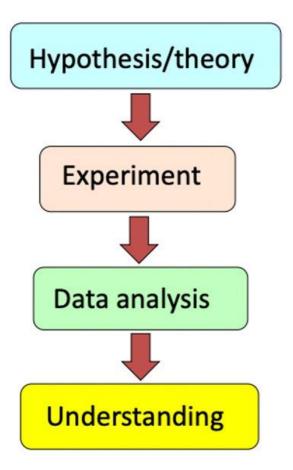
From data poor to data rich science.

We live in era of big astronomical survey:

- 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (2dfGRS) redshift survey conducted by the Anglo-Australian Observatory between 1997 - 2002
- Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) an optical and spectroscopic survey, 2000– 2006
- DEEP2 Redshift Survey (DEEP2) Keck Telescopes to measure redshift of 50,000 galaxies
- SAGES Legacy Unifying Globulars and GalaxieS (SAGES Legacy Unifying Globulars and GalaxieS Survey (SLUGGS) survey[8] – a near-infrared spectrophotometric survey of 25 nearby early-type galaxies (2014)
- Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) an extra-galactic and stellar spectroscopic survey
- Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment (OGLE) large-scale variability sky survey (in I and V bands), 1992-present
- > 2MASS
- GAIA (designed for astrometry: positions, distances and motions of stars with unprecedented precision – 1 billion stars)

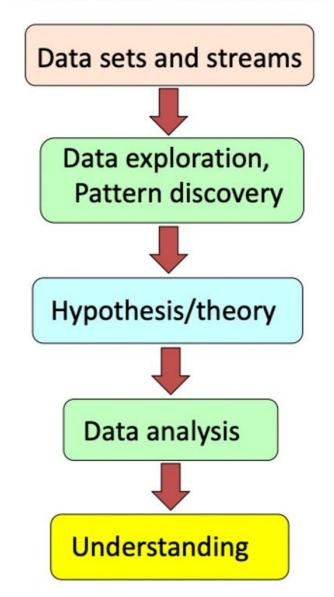
It has become essential for astronomers to handle the big datasets and interpret the complex astrophysical problems by using sophisticated statistical techniques and technology.

Hypothesis-driven science



The two approaches are complementary

Data-driven science



Virtual Observatory

- A virtual observatory (VO) is a collection of interoperating data archives and software tools which utilize the internet to form a scientific research environment in which astronomical research programs can be conducted.
- The main goal is to allow transparent and distributed access to data available worldwide. This allows scientists to discover, access, analyze, and combine nature and lab data from heterogeneous data collections in a user-friendly manner.
- The IVOA (International Virtual Observatory Alliance) is a standards body created by the VO projects to develop and agree the vital interoperability standards upon which the VO implementations are constructed.

Statistics in Astronomy

- Probability theory
- Time Series analysis
- ANOVA
- Correlation & Regression
- Principal Component analysis
- Clustering
- Hypothesis tests
- Point estimation for use in the analysis of modern astronomical data.
- Least squares
- Maximum likelihood, and Bayesian approaches to statistical inference
- Resampling methods bootstrap
- Goodness of fit

Probability:



Question 1:

We flip an unbaised coin 3 times

All 3 times we get heads

What would you expect in the next flip?

Question 2:

These rocks have balanced for about 2,500 million years.

Is it safe to stand under them?

Is it safe to stand under them?



Statistics is divided into two main branches:

Descriptive statistics

analysis of data that helps to describe, show and summarize data in a meaningful way.

Inferential statistics

is used to make predictions by taking any group of data in which you are interested.

Statistics – Bayesian vs. Non-Bayesian

Similarities:

- Both forms of statistics use the likelihood function.
- Both forms of statistics are used for statistical inference.
- Both forms of statistics can be used for data analysis and visualization.

Bayesian refers to a statistical approach named after Reverend Thomas Bayes,

He formulated a theorem that describes how to update probabilities based on new data.

In a Bayesian framework:

- Prior beliefs are represented as a probability distribution (the prior).
- New data is observed.
- 3. Bayes' theorem is applied to update the prior beliefs, yielding a posterior distribution.

This approach is used in various fields, including machine learning, data science, and statistics,

Aim:

- Update beliefs based on new data
- Make predictions
- Estimate model parameters
- Perform model selection

Probability in Astronomy:

Before 1987, four naked-eye supernovae had been recorded in ten centuries. What, before 1987, was the probability of supernova happening in the twentieth century?

Answers:

- i. Supernovae are physical events, in principle, can be accurately determined. They are not Random events. Probability is meaningless!
- ii. From frequentist point of view: 4/10

(assumption: supernovae were equally likely to be reported in the past 10 centuries)

iii. Apriori argument: In principle we might know the stellar mass function, life-time of a star as a function of mass and star formation rate in the galaxy and the detection efficiency – further take into account metallicity, obscuration due to dust cloud etc.

Now if we sight supernova in 1987

Approach i: One supernova does not affect another (Can't predict)

Approach ii: Revise the probability to 5/10

Approach iii: Will improve models with fresh data.

Revisiting the Supernova problem:

Data: 4 Supernovae in 10 centuries

Our prior on ϱ is uniform between 0 to 1

Suitable Model: Binomial distribution (occurs or doesn't occur)

Prosterior probability is

$$\operatorname{prob}(\rho \mid \operatorname{data}) \propto {10 \choose 4} \rho^4 (1-\rho)^6 \times \operatorname{prior} \text{ on } \rho.$$

Normalise

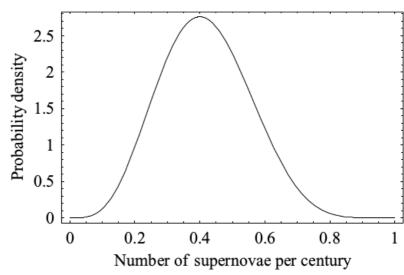
$$\int_0^1 \operatorname{prob}(\rho \mid \operatorname{data}) \, \mathrm{d}\rho = 1$$

$$\int_0^1 \left(\frac{10}{4}\right) \rho^4 (1 - \rho)^6 \, \mathrm{d}\rho$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(10)\Gamma(4)}{\Gamma(14)} = B[5, 7]$$

In general
$$\operatorname{prob}(\rho \mid \operatorname{data}) = \frac{\rho^n (1-\rho)^{m-n}}{B[n+1,m-n+1]}$$

Probability



(for
$$n = 4$$
, $m = 5$)

Problem: Before 1987, four naked-eye supernovae had been recorded in ten centuries. In 1987 one more supernova was observed. Compare by non-Bayesian and Bayesian methods calculate the probability of supernova happening in the twentieth century?

Results Comparison

Method	Before 1987	After 1987	
Frequentist	32.97%	36.5%	
Bayesian	37.91%	40.7%	

Key Observations

- The Bayesian approach gives higher probabilities as it accounts for uncertainty in λ
- Both methods show increased probability after the 1987 observation
- The frequentist method relies solely on observed frequencies

Principal component analysis (PCA)

When many variables are present – PCA the best correlation searcher

In a sample of 'N' objects with 'n' parameters measured for them

PCA is used to find

- what is correlated with what
- which variables produce primary correlation, which secondary....

The task for PCA:

Given a sample of N objects with n measured variables x_n for each, find a new set of ξ_n variables that are orthogonal.

Each one a linear combination of the original variables:

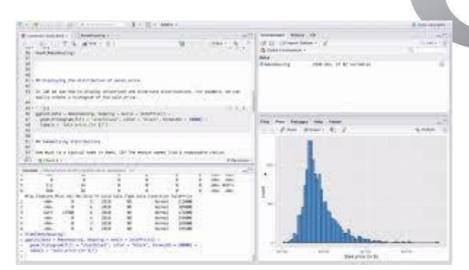
$$\xi_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$$

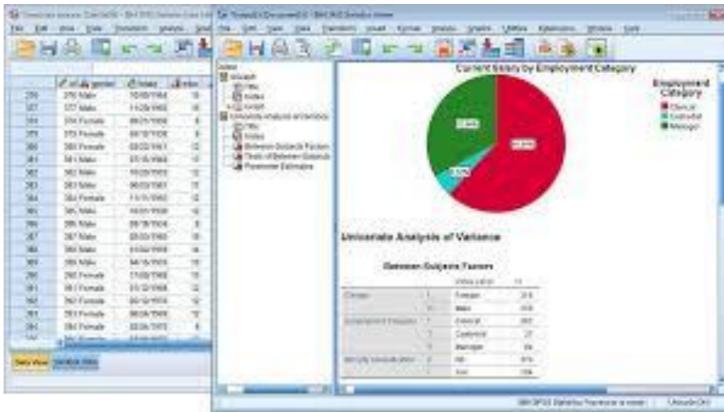
with values of a_{ij} such that the smallest number of new variables accounts for as much of the variance as possible.

The ξ_i are the principal components.

Statistical Data Analysis – Tools:

- SPSS
- R
- VO tools
- Python





VO Tools

VOTable display and analysis

VOPlot, Topcat

Image display and analysis Aladin, ESASky

Other standard display tools for downloaded data Spectrum display and analysis VOSpec, SpecView

Aladin is an interactive software sky atlas allowing the user to visualize digitized astronomical images, superimpose entries from astronomical catalogues or databases.



New: Aladin release 6 - April 2009

Measurement browser by interactive histogram, Outreach mode, Full screen,

SAMP compatible, RICE compression support, etc.,

New: The Aladin manual - April 2009 - The full user manual in English and French...

Description Aladin is an interactive software sky atlas allowing the user to visualize digitized astronomical images, superimpose entries from astronomical catalogues or databases, and interactively access related data and information from the Simbad database, the VizieR service and other archives for all known sources in the field (see available data).

Created in 1999, Aladin has become a widely-used VO portal capable of addressing challenges such as locating data of interest, accessing and exploring distributed datasets, visualizing multi-wavelength data. Compliance with existing or emerging VO standards, interconnection with other visualisation or analysis tools, ability to easily compare haterogeneous data are key topics allowing Aladin to be a powerful data exploration and integration tool as well as a science enabler.

The Aladin sky atlas is available in three modes: a Java Standalone application, a Java applet interface and a simple previewer.

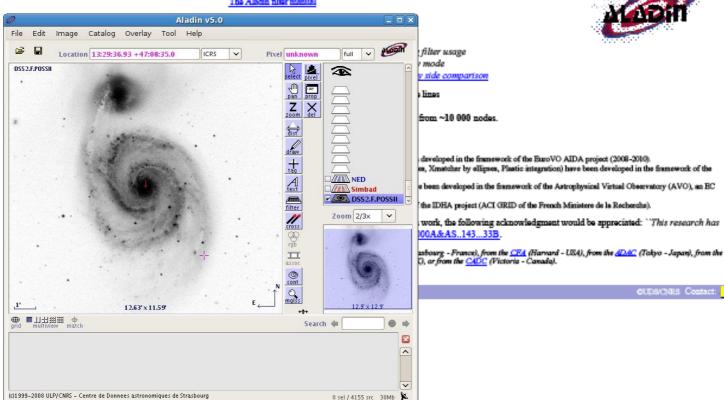
Documentation

The Aladin FAQ

The Aladin user manual (2Mb) Provide my data in Aladin (belo form)

The Aladin science case tutorial

The Aladin filter manua



Access to data CDS







Catalogues

The **Strasbourg astronomical Data Center (CDS)**

collects and distributes astronomical data catalogues, related to observations of stars and galaxies, other galactic and extragalactic objects, solar system bodies and atomic data.



Simbad contains on 2025.05.28

20,255,998 objects

68,571,124 identifiers

448,536 bibliographic references

46,118,463 citations of objects in papers

15,697 acronyms described for Simbad



SIMBAD on the Web in the WWW interface to the SIMBAD deaders. It offers the following functionalities:

- . Query by identifien and around identifien
- . Query by coordinates, specifying the radius and the equines.
- . Quary by bibcode and partial bibcode
- . Sampling with a set of physical criteria
- . Quary by lists of objects, coordinates or bihoodes
- . Display that's for fut of objects mailting from coordinates query

Morama, the interfera prevides links with energ other date services

- a Links to the other CDS services Tables in Visually, giving screen to the whole cotalogued date, links to Aletin integer, sorreys and observatory legs.
- . Through the coordinates in basic date, you can query around an object, using a provided endor.
- Matther on lished to be consentence distinctor; providing full description of original lot, and, when couldn't, offering direct access to the corresponding contingue in the CDS contingue across (Visial), and Season)
- Every bitcode is a lisk to the underlying bibliographic information, either or CDS, at ADS, or at the journal sits when smalleble. Links to the full text of paper are available in most cases.
- For articles containing tables stored at CDS, the reference provides also a link to the table or catalogue.
- A link to the Sensor derivace (NASA GSPC) is proposed when an object has identifiers to high energy catalogues.
- . TUE measurements contain an applice which points to the spectra stored in the INCS details as.
- The cope produced by combinate species are dispuble and ration the object information from SD/IDAD.

SDESAD on the Web has all the functionalisins provided by Minchell, after the addition of list opening in March 2001. Minchell collects in this not maintained any more.

Vizier Services

Query service for catalogues, bibliography, cross-matching across catalogues, NED objects, Simbad objects.











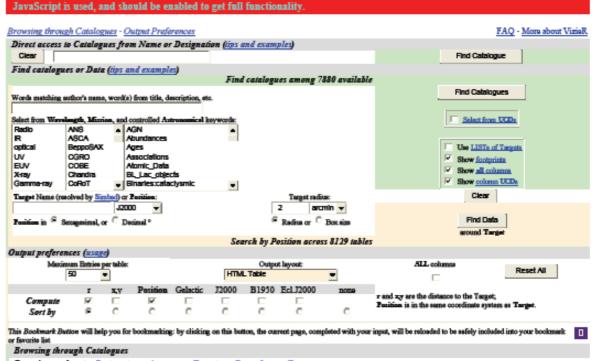








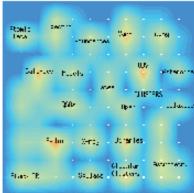
VizieR Service



Browsing modes via: Designations · Acronyms · Favorites · Date · Images/Spectra

This Kohonen Self-Organizing Map is based on a neural network analysis of the keywords associated to the catalogues (see Poincot et al., 1998A&AS_130...183P; and Lesteven et al., 1996VA.....40...395L)

Each dot marks a map area; colour denotes the density or the clustering tendency of the documents; deep blue areas have the lowest density. Just click any area on the map to get the corresponding list of catalogues found in that area.



Other Installations of VizieR

Some other installation of VizieR could be closer to you, and answer faster:

Tokyo, Japan · IUCAA, India · CADC, Canada · Cambridge, UK · C£A/Harvard, USA · UKIRT-Hawaii, USA · INASAN, Russia · Baijing Obs.

China

OUDS/CNRS Contact:

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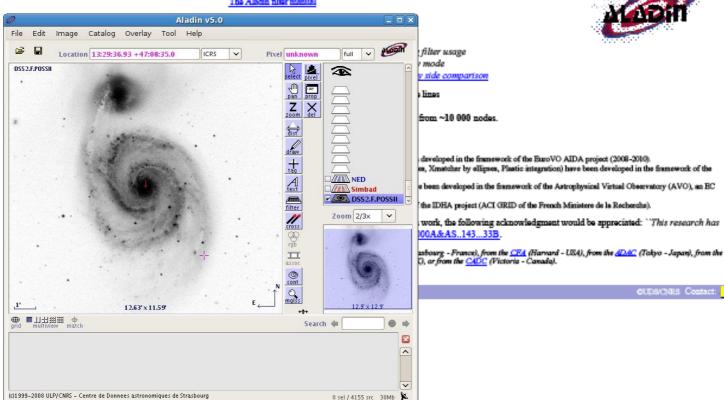
Documentation

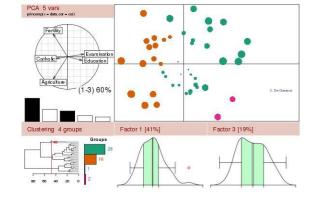
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R

R is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics.

It compiles and runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms, Windows and MacOS.

It is a GNU project which is similar to the S language and environment which was developed at Bell Laboratories (formerly AT&T, now Lucent Technologies) by John Chambers and colleagues.

R can be considered as a different implementation of S. There are some important differences, but much code written for S runs unaltered under R.

Plotting Tools

- Topcat: An interactive graphical viewer and editor for tabular data.
- Python: Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly......
- VOPlot A tool for visualizing astronomical data.
- VOMegaPlot or handling large number of points (in the range of millions), similar to VOPlot and both these tools have certain common functionality.
- STILTS:processing of tabular data; the package has been designed for, but is not restricted to, astronomical tables such as object catalogues.
- VOConvert A tool for converting files from one format to another. It supports following file format conversions: (1) ASCII to VOTable (2) FITS to VOTable and (3) VOTable to ASCII.

Using Python

```
matplotlib inline
In [31:
         import pandas as pd
         from ydata profiling import ProfileReport
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         import seaborn as sns
In [4]: plt.style.use('ggplot')
         data=pd.read csv('dias2018.csv')
In [5]:
         data
In [61:
Out[6]:
                                                           LOG AGE PM RA PM DEC
                                                                                       NUM CLUSTER STARS
                                                                                                               RAD VEL
               LII
                                  LD
                                             RGC
                                                                                                                           RAD VEL ERROR METAL
                         BII
               306.5592 -21.4418 4.012222
                                             8262.035772
                                                          9.300
                                                                     -6.30
                                                                              -5.41
                                                                                       67
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               313.5830 -30.7574 5.752015
                                             6566,127096
                                                          9.700
                                                                     0.96
                                                                              -4.82
                                                                                        37
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               292.4817 -21.6535 1.128074
                                                          6.900
                                                                              27.80
                                                                                        18
                                                                                                                16.10
                                                                                                                           0.50
                                             8592.322145
                                                                     -30.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               307.2214 -16.3409 3.197567
                                             7567.324146
                                                          9.350
                                                                     -2.81
                                                                              -3.68
                                                                                        122
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              -0.050
               300.2173 -15.6085 0.596600
                                             8478.627331
                                                          6.602
                                                                              -1.00
                                                                                        10
                                                                                                                13.00
                                                                                                                           5.00
                                                                      -39.50
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               291.1373 -35.7047 1.622333
                                             8923.234812
                                                          9.300
                                                                     4.39
                                                                              3.83
                                                                                        22
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               317.7172 -19.3386 6.498056
                                             9881.110039
                                                          9.315
                                                                      -1.93
                                                                              -7.56
                                                                                        238
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               305.9925 -8.6218
                                  4.459963
                                             10344.985938 9.100
                                                                     -2.49
                                                                              -0.93
                                                                                        77
                                                                                                                0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               283.7728 -38.2608 7.975018
                                             8007.584768
                                                          9.480
                                                                     2.86
                                                                              5.71
                                                                                        120
                                                                                                                4.96
                                                                                                                           3.60
                                                                                                                                              0.000
               308 6803 -8 2906 11 629630 7001 344056 8 300
                                                                     -3.48
                                                                              -3.06
                                                                                       670
                                                                                                               0.00
                                                                                                                           0.00
                                                                                                                                              0.000
```

In [7]: data.describe()

Out[7]:

	LII	BII	LD	RGC	LOG_AGE	PM_RA	PM_DEC	NUM_CLUSTER
count	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000	2166.000000
mean	190.859480	-0.797745	4.799574	8778.562255	7.737534	-1.872461	-1.226519	288.974146
std	98.873882	8.289514	5.558965	1938.267074	2.281574	4.260588	4.251714	802.063735
min	0.009400	-79.261200	0.000000	1369.671399	0.000000	-69.590000	-45.000000	0.000000
25%	107.977725	-2.596550	1.604889	7711.184526	7.506250	-3.417500	-3.380000	23.000000
50%	204.348550	-0.403800	3.198148	8540.524642	8.450000	-1.570000	-1.340000	76.000000
75%	276.256400	1.630850	5.882848	9704.337318	8.900000	0.000000	0.677500	203.000000
max	359.994200	84.591400	75.705981	23360.246914	10.100000	36.390000	27.800000	14341.000000

In [8]: pp.ProfileReport(data)

Overview

Dataset info		Variables types	
Number of variables	11	Numeric	11
Number of observations	2166	Categorical	0
Total Missing (%)	0.0%	Boolean	0
Total size in memory	186.2 KiB	Date	0
Average record size in memory	88.0 B	Text (Unique)	0
		Rejected	0
		Unsupported	0

Warnings

Warnings

LD has 132 / 6.1% zeros zeros

LOG AGE has 154 / 7.1% zeros Zeros

METALLICITY has 1868 / 86.2% zeros
 Zeros

NUM CLUSTER STARS has 65 / 3.0% zeros

PM DEC has 64 / 3.0% zeros Zeros

PM RA has 65 / 3.0% zeros zeros

RAD VEL has 1464 / 67.6% zeros zeros

• RAD VEL ERROR has 1493 / 68.9% zeros Zeros

mejected Unsupported

Variables

BII Numeric

 Distinct count
 2151

 Unique (%)
 99.3%

 Missing (%)
 0.0%

 Missing (n)
 0

 Infinite (%)
 0.0%

Mean -0.79774 Minimum -79.261 Maximum 84.591 Zeros (%) 0.0%



Toggle details

LOG_AGE

Numeric

 Distinct count
 587

 Unique (%)
 27.1%

 Missing (%)
 0.0%

 Missing (n)
 0

 Infinite (%)
 0.0%

 Infinite (n)
 0

 Mean
 7.7375

 Minimum
 0

 Maximum
 10.1

 Zeros (%)
 7.1%



Toggle details

METALLICITY

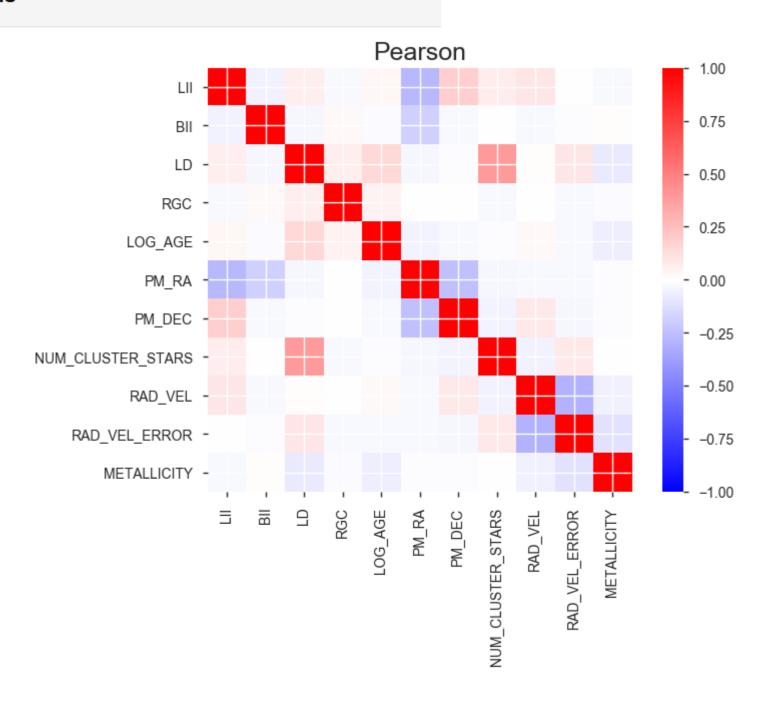
Numeric

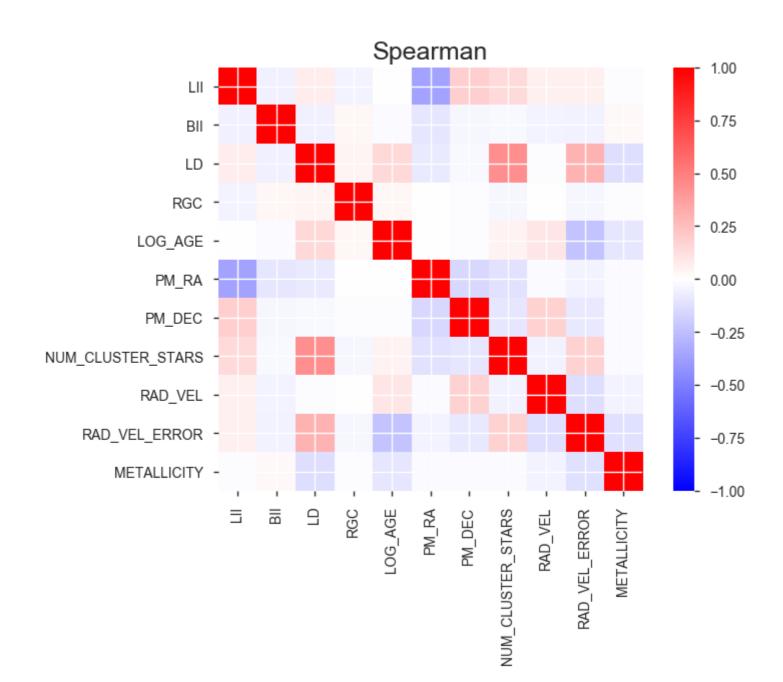
Distinct count	128
Unique (%)	5.9%
Missing (%)	0.0%
Missing (n)	0

Mean	-0.01663
Minimum	-1.544
Maximum	0.46
Zeros (%)	86.2%



Correlations





Session with python

Thank You