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FACULTY OF COMPUTING  
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**Multivariate Data Analysis - CM 3052**

**PROJECT REPORT**

**Multivariate Analysis of Well Water Quality in Maine and New Hampshire,  
USA**

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# **Introduction**

## **Background and Context**

In the regions of Maine and New Hampshire, USA, considerations about the quality and safety of well water have been increasing as the main domestic water supply for many households and communities. To protect the public's health, it is important to ensure that well water is clean. This research project “Data to Action: A Secondary School-Based Citizen Science Project to Address Arsenic Contamination of Well Water”, initiated in collaboration with the NIGMS Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA), aims to comprehensively assess arsenic analysis of well water samples collected by teachers and students from local schools. They have concerns about 11 metal components in the collected well water samples: Beryllium (Be), Chromium (Cr), Iron (Fe), Nickel (Ni), Copper (Cu), Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Barium (Ba), Thallium (Tl), Lead (Pb), and Uranium (U). This study advances importance of the quality of well water and may inform important regulatory practises and public health policies through careful data collecting and analysis.

## **Purpose of the Research**

This study's main goal is to thoroughly examine the chemical composition of the well water samples taken from the regions of Maine and New Hampshire, considering eleven important chemical elements. Three key goals of this research are as follows: (i) To identify potential subgroups within these chemical components, (ii) To cluster well water samples based on the mixture of these components, and (iii) To evaluate the compliance of chemical mixtures in well water samples with established standards within the USA. The findings of this study have a big impact on public health programs and political decisions.

## **Data Collection and Preprocessing**

The data was sourced from 92 well water samples collected in Maine and New Hampshire, USA. Students and teachers from rural schools participated in the sample collection. Standardized

protocols have been used to collect the data like, running the cold water tap for five minutes, collecting 50 mL of water, and sealing tubes with parafilm and the samples either frozen at the student's home or in the classroom for 24hrs. Data collection happened from spring 2019 to winter 2020. Key metadata include the name of the collector, the student, the well's location, its type, whether or not the water was filtered, and whether the filter was for the entire house or just at the tap. Additionally, information regarding earlier tests is gathered.

In this study, data preprocessing is an important part in getting ready the raw data for analysis, by handling the missing values and converting the dataset to a suitable format. One important thing to note is that our dataset doesn't contain any missing information. It's especially helpful in analysis like Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and cluster analysis, where having all the data reduces the chance of errors. By taking care of missing data and making sure our data is complete, we've built a strong foundation for our analysis, making our results accurate.

```
> missing_values <- colSums(is.na(data))
> print(missing_values)
```

well	water	sample_No	Be	Cr	Fe
		0	0	0	0
		Ni	Cu	As	Cd
		0	0	0	0
		Ba	Tl	Pb	U
		0	0	0	0

## Data Exploration

Data exploration is the phase where we take a closer look at the dataset to understand its ins and outs. This phase explores the characteristics of each chemical component, descriptive statistics like mean, deviation etc and summarize and visualize the information it holds. By using different visualizations, we can identify interesting patterns, relationships of these chemical components.

```
> print(summary_stats)
```

	Be	Cr	Fe	Ni	Cu	As	Cd
Mean	0.025520916	0.1995385	88.80907	1.139543	141.4560	11.07865	0.028783458
Deviation	0.079784574	0.6544983	248.23075	1.757192	371.2405	74.88070	0.065267520
Variance	0.006365578	0.4283680	61618.50772	3.087725	137819.5447	5607.11901	0.004259849

	Ba	Tl	Pb	U
Mean	13.47740	0.004850471	1.620664	56.60154
Deviation	29.12239	0.032042646	3.185443	348.44580
Variance	848.11331	0.001026731	10.147049	121414.47384

```

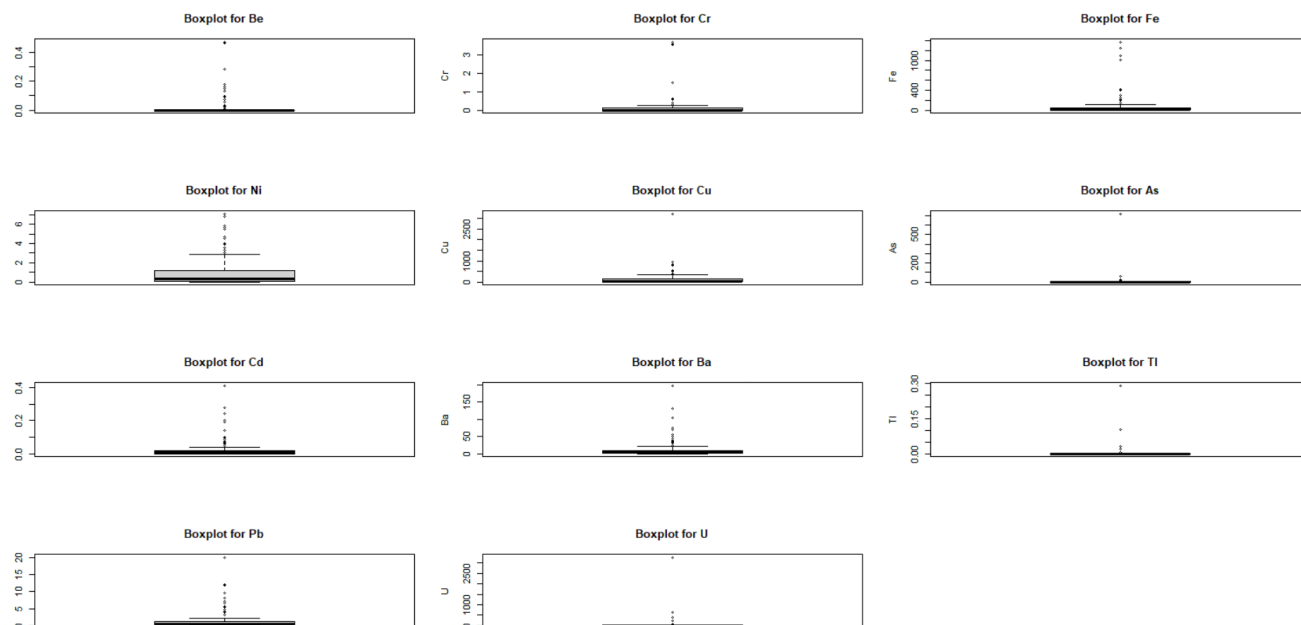
> summary(data)
well water sample_No      Be          Cr          Fe          Ni
Min.   : 1.00      Min.   :0.00000   Min.   :0.0000   Min.   : 0.000   Min.   :0.00000
1st Qu.:23.75      1st Qu.:0.00000   1st Qu.:0.0000   1st Qu.:  2.587   1st Qu.:0.08704
Median :46.50      Median :0.00000   Median :0.0000   Median : 11.171   Median :0.33013
Mean   :46.50      Mean   :0.02552   Mean   :0.1995   Mean   : 88.809   Mean   :1.13954
3rd Qu.:69.25      3rd Qu.:0.00000   3rd Qu.:0.1100   3rd Qu.: 43.038   3rd Qu.:1.21730
Max.   :92.00      Max.   :0.47000   Max.   :3.6792   Max.   :1370.356   Max.   :7.11000

      Cu          As          Cd          Ba          Tl
Min.   : 0.120   Min.   : 0.0000   Min.   :0.000000   Min.   : 0.0000   Min.   :0.00000
1st Qu.: 5.842   1st Qu.: 0.1033   1st Qu.:0.000000   1st Qu.: 0.6428   1st Qu.:0.00000
Median :32.280   Median : 0.5207   Median :0.006647   Median : 3.8087   Median :0.00000
Mean   :141.456   Mean   :11.0786   Mean   :0.028784   Mean   :13.4774   Mean   :0.00485
3rd Qu.:139.486   3rd Qu.: 3.8104   3rd Qu.:0.020000   3rd Qu.: 9.1386   3rd Qu.:0.00000
Max.   :3228.015   Max.   :717.9056   Max.   :0.411806   Max.   :197.6416   Max.   :0.29000

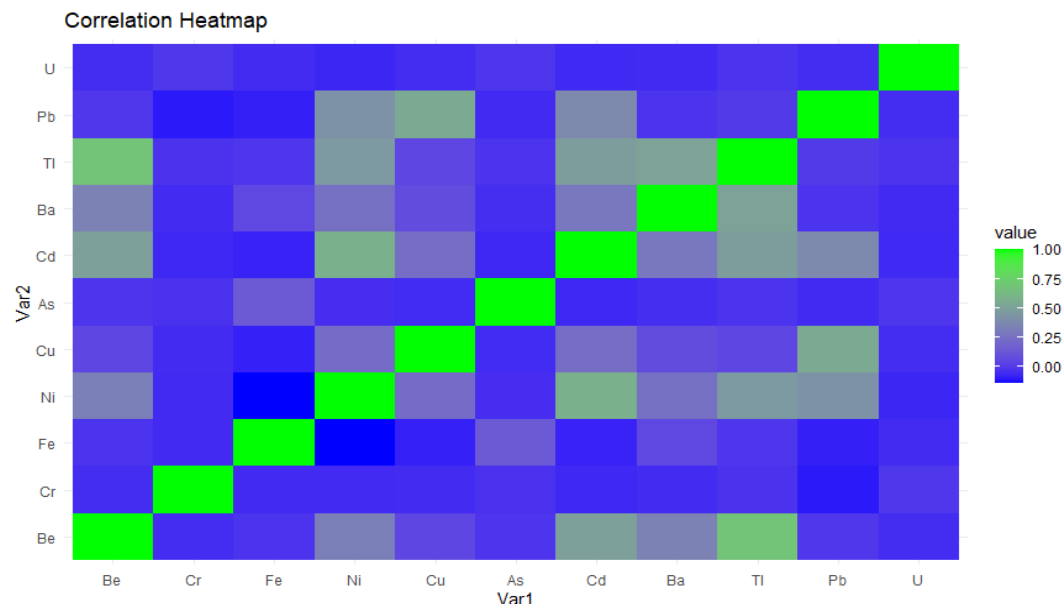
      Pb          U
Min.   : 0.01000   Min.   : 0.000
1st Qu.: 0.09975   1st Qu.: 0.116
Median : 0.35904   Median : 1.002
Mean   : 1.62066   Mean   :56.602
3rd Qu.: 1.15189   3rd Qu.: 8.181
Max.   :20.09000   Max.   :3274.370

```

Below is a set of boxplots for each of the 11 chemical components (Be, Cr, Fe, Ni, Cu, As, Cd, Ba, Tl, Pb, U) in the dataset. Boxplots are a useful way to visualize the distribution of data, including characteristics like the median, quartiles, and any potential outliers for each component.



Correlation analysis is used to identify the relationships between variables, in this study, the 11 chemical components in the dataset. It helps to understand the relationships between the chemical components and whether there are any patterns or dependencies among them.



## Methodology

In this section, we figure out the methods, models, and techniques that are used to extract valuable insights from the dataset. As the most suitable methods for the analysis, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and cluster analysis have been chosen to deliberate these objectives of this study.

PCA helps to simplify complex data by reducing its dimensionality while keeping important information. In PCA, we have used scree plot and PCA results to identify the principal components that explain the total variability. It helps to summarize the chemical components into a small number of subgroups.

Cluster analysis helps to identify natural groupings within the dataset. This method is well-suited to achieve the second objective of clustering the well water samples into homogeneous groups according to the structure of the mixture components. In cluster analysis, K-Means Clustering, Hierarchical Clustering and Dendrogram Analysis methods have been used to cluster well water samples into homogeneous groups.

Lastly to check whether the standard of the well water samples, we have used multivariate statistical test referred as Hotelling's  $T^2$ .

Results of these methods will be discussed in the discussion phase.

## Analysis

This phase focuses on further analysis of the dataset to address the objectives of the study.

**Objective 1:** The eleven chemical components can be summarized into small number of subgroups.

As the first objective, to summarize the eleven chemical components into a smaller number of subgroups, Principal Component Analysis techniques have been used to identify the patterns and reduce the dimensionality of data. By using PCA results we can identify the chemical components that explains the high variability in the dataset.

```
R 4.3.1 - D:/KDU/Third Year/Second Semester/Multivariate Data Analysis/Assignment/dataset/
> pca_result
Standard deviations (1, ..., p=11):
[1] 1.7281203 1.2968032 1.0775815 1.0045132 0.9716089 0.9329388 0.8567597 0.7879596 0.6381542 0.5754902 0.5039119

Rotation (n x k) = (11 x 11):
      PC1      PC2      PC3      PC4      PC5      PC6      PC7      PC8      PC9
Be  0.40715651 -0.32457439  0.043925522  0.024729664  0.02818003 -0.08397604  0.08357586 -0.5876608783  0.018175472
Cr -0.06322000 -0.06559069  0.400558366 -0.582319131  0.59542130  0.36442814  0.02847531  0.0220228071  0.028397218
Fe -0.06514942 -0.19822056 -0.632414630 -0.051947044 -0.04060906  0.61192611  0.40844225 -0.0165865829 -0.085538372
Ni  0.43677200  0.15315909  0.028291761 -0.014113935  0.12083120 -0.14939792  0.28051925  0.4775870067 -0.514212215
Cu  0.21910838  0.50114675 -0.125714602 -0.034863025  0.02726241  0.29389718 -0.46668846 -0.4186865707 -0.188071848
As -0.05356205 -0.10046116 -0.563995418  0.052455019  0.66503303 -0.39705484 -0.24977065  0.0319707226  0.053325422
Cd  0.46758533  0.07305314  0.005324258  0.005273314  0.08580518 -0.05896592  0.32420485  0.0001917638  0.683068403
Ba  0.31776213 -0.30359436 -0.067458229 -0.012742769 -0.16459469  0.29585823 -0.59047931  0.4773333773  0.254450400
Tl  0.44592230 -0.34436455  0.047497664  0.029550641  0.04082053  0.01286330 -0.05447327 -0.1093594359 -0.381247532
Pb  0.24982560  0.59153780 -0.138872461  0.009228606  0.06715492  0.09913107  0.09250327  0.0932078477  0.110468966
U   -0.05888009 -0.01869519  0.277235124  0.807638299  0.38051001  0.34400181  0.03472487  0.0314686178  0.006090362

      PC10      PC11
Be -0.265408246  0.543494087
Cr -0.046588067  0.023482408
Fe  0.050500538  0.027339270
Ni  0.243460589  0.342615407
Cu  0.409840910  0.016368006
As -0.003728861 -0.003132092
Cd  0.390273196 -0.202798166
Ba -0.097282044  0.191831758
Tl -0.132638173 -0.706920030
Pb -0.719813109 -0.079899047
U   0.008967510  0.040074610
```

## Obtaining the principal components

In PCA, the original variables, represented by matrix X (data matrix), are transformed into a new set of variables, represented by matrix Z (the principal components.)

$$Z = X * V$$

V = Matrix of loadings, representing the coefficients for the linear combinations of the original variables.

$$Z_1 = \text{Be}$$

$$Z_2 = \text{Cr}$$

$$Z_3 = \text{Fe}$$

$$Z_4 = \text{Ni}$$

$$Z_5 = \text{Cu}$$

$$Z_6 = \text{As}$$

$$Z_7 = \text{Cd}$$

$$Z_8 = \text{Ba}$$

$$Z_9 = \text{Tl}$$

$$Z_{10} = \text{Pb}$$

$$Z_{11} = \text{U}$$

$$PC = y = \underline{e_i}^T(\underline{X})$$

$$PC_1 = y_1 = 0.41z_1 - 0.06z_2 - 0.07z_3 + 0.44z_4 + 0.22z_5 - 0.05z_6 + 0.47z_7 + 0.32z_8 + 0.45z_9 + 0.25z_{10} - 0.06z_{11}$$

$$PC_2 = y_2 = -0.32z_1 - 0.07z_2 - 0.2z_3 + 0.15z_4 + 0.5z_5 - 0.1z_6 + 0.07z_7 - 0.3z_8 - 0.34z_9 + 0.59z_{10} - 0.02z_{11}$$



$$PC_3 = y_3 = 0.04z_1 + 0.4z_2 - 0.63z_3 + 0.03z_4 - 0.13z_5 - 0.56z_6 + 0.01z_7 - 0.07z_8 + 0.05z_9 - 0.14z_{10} + 0.28z_{11}$$

$$PC_4 = y_4 = 0.02z_1 - 0.58z_2 - 0.05z_3 - 0.01z_4 - 0.03z_5 + 0.05z_6 + 0.01z_7 - 0.01z_8 + 0.03z_9 + 0.01z_{10} + 0.81z_{11}$$

$$PC_5 = y_5 = 0.03z_1 + 0.6z_2 - 0.04z_3 + 0.12z_4 + 0.03z_5 + 0.67z_6 + 0.09z_7 - 0.16z_8 + 0.04z_9 + 0.07z_{10} + 0.38z_{11}$$

$$PC_6 = y_6 = -0.08z_1 + 0.36z_2 + 0.61z_3 - 0.15z_4 + 0.29z_5 - 0.4z_6 - 0.06z_7 + 0.3z_8 + 0.01z_9 + 0.1z_{10} + 0.34z_{11}$$

$$PC_7 = y_7 = 0.08z_1 + 0.03z_2 + 0.41z_3 + 0.28z_4 - 0.47z_5 - 0.25z_6 + 0.32z_7 - 0.59z_8 - 0.05z_9 + 0.09z_{10} + 0.03z_{11}$$

$$PC_8 = y_8 = -0.59z_1 + 0.02z_2 - 0.02z_3 + 0.48z_4 - 0.42z_5 + 0.03z_6 + 0z_7 + 0.48z_8 - 0.11z_9 + 0.09z_{10} + 0.03z_{11}$$

$$PC_9 = y_9 = 0.02z_1 + 0.03z_2 - 0.09z_3 - 0.51z_4 - 0.19z_5 + 0.05z_6 + 0.68z_7 + 0.25z_8 - 0.38z_9 + 0.11z_{10} + 0.01z_{11}$$

$$PC_{10} = y_{10} = -0.27z_1 - 0.05z_2 + 0.05z_3 + 0.24z_4 + 0.41z_5 - 0z_6 + 0.39z_7 - 0.1z_8 - 0.13z_9 - 0.72z_{10} + 0.01z_{11}$$

$$PC_{11} = y_{11} = 0.54z_1 + 0.02z_2 + 0.03z_3 + 0.34z_4 + 0.02z_5 - 0z_6 - 0.2z_7 + 0.19z_8 - 0.71z_9 - 0.08z_{10} + 0.04z_{11}$$

Find the variances of PC's.

$$\text{Var}(y_1) = 1.728^2 = 2.99$$

$$\text{Var}(y_2) = 1.297^2 = 1.68$$

$$\text{Var}(y_3) = 1.078^2 = 1.16$$

$$\text{Var}(y_4) = 1.005^2 = 1.01$$

$$\text{Var}(y_5) = 0.972^2 = 0.94$$

$$\text{Var}(y_6) = 0.933^2 = 0.87$$

$$\text{Var}(y_7) = 0.857^2 = 0.73$$

$$\text{Var}(y_8) = 0.788^2 = 0.62$$

$$\text{Var}(y_9) = 0.638^2 = 0.41$$

$$\text{Var}(y_{10}) = 0.575^2 = 0.33$$

$$\text{Var}(y_{11}) = 0.504^2 = 0.25$$

Total variances of PC's = 10.99 ~ 11

Finding the proportions explained by each PC.

$$\text{PC1} = \frac{2.99}{11} \times 100 = 27.18\% \quad \text{First PC explains 27.18\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC2} = \frac{1.68}{11} \times 100 = 15.27\% \quad \text{Second PC explains 15.27\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC3} = \frac{1.16}{11} \times 100 = 10.55\% \quad \text{Third PC explains 10.55\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC4} = \frac{1.01}{11} \times 100 = 9.18\% \quad \text{Fourth PC explains 9.18\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC5} = \frac{0.94}{11} \times 100 = 8.55\% \quad \text{Fifth PC explains 8.55\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC6} = \frac{0.87}{11} \times 100 = 7.91\% \quad \text{Sixth PC explains 7.91\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

$$\text{PC7} = \frac{0.73}{11} \times 100 = 6.64\% \quad \text{Seventh PC explains 6.64\% of the total variability in this dataset}$$

According to above findings, 7 PC's together explains around 85.28% of the total variability in this dataset. So, 7 PCs are sufficient.

**Objective 2:** Well water samples can be cluster into homogeneous groups according to the structure of the mixture components.

To fulfil this objective, firstly we need to measure Euclidean distance of the well water samples to measure the similarity and grouping similar once into clusters.

```
> print(euclidean_dist_matrix)
```

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	0.00000	1114.753178	1061.779632	1058.50599	995.2181	1001.84971	1096.750596	1092.97209	1096.830568	
2	1114.75318	0.000000	256.960915	257.25368	861.1971	187.04603	233.407032	251.00959	242.055054	
3	1061.77963	256.960915	0.000000	12.69547	808.5901	112.94826	43.040839	61.10339	37.769202	
4	1058.50599	257.253680	12.695468	0.00000	800.0539	110.12106	45.360986	62.92296	42.563205	
5	995.21809	861.197051	808.590066	800.05387	0.0000	787.56603	816.250239	822.95456	825.527909	
6	1001.84971	187.046027	112.948255	110.12106	787.5660	0.00000	121.879999	135.69842	126.869577	
7	1096.75060	233.407032	43.040839	45.36099	816.2502	121.88000	0.000000	54.02622	14.117688	
8	1092.97209	251.009587	61.103394	62.92296	822.9546	135.69842	54.026217	0.00000	50.601010	
9	1096.83057	242.055054	37.769202	42.56321	825.5279	126.86958	14.117688	50.60101	0.000000	
10	95.59042	1031.938154	969.999127	966.73628	933.0925	913.08120	1005.553553	1001.41880	1005.397885	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	95.59042	1094.193663	164.3293	845.13608	1093.897520	1143.4676	1133.48714	1265.0893	1267.18031	1135.68877
2	1031.93815	217.385482	1276.0301	338.89892	209.591370	224.9638	129.31888	654.4223	524.99333	86.64444
3	969.99913	50.350491	1219.3214	217.63470	56.692077	394.6421	378.90583	634.5475	773.38825	342.73009
4	966.73628	53.671572	1215.7262	214.50076	59.236282	394.1308	378.51450	633.7553	771.64677	342.79835
5	933.09255	825.232785	1101.2877	734.78204	823.316063	906.8231	897.99109	1036.8932	1103.87435	889.31798
6	913.08120	110.854799	1161.3475	170.64286	107.001557	330.1690	296.78537	636.9371	678.64459	265.43135
7	1005.55355	20.014478	1254.7882	251.93245	26.489411	375.6680	357.12002	630.6827	754.04654	319.44605
8	1001.41880	54.920045	1250.5801	250.86635	57.043545	360.3147	366.84412	580.7332	766.51337	334.25010
9	1005.39788	25.024908	1254.7524	251.88714	33.370635	382.1997	365.68227	630.1291	762.78712	328.16729
10	0.00000	1003.431602	251.2011	754.01602	1003.354696	1065.1965	1056.39142	1186.6670	1211.78978	1056.73384
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
1	1093.797762	1023.86231	1104.49793	1424.1388	1086.67898	1073.89464	1097.018727	1339.44445	1099.65873	
2	217.009011	270.90442	58.64187	687.6770	254.62881	216.94232	250.391833	552.29553	244.79237	
3	50.075058	142.75031	199.36919	943.1898	35.21461	76.73548	35.706940	807.20456	91.27683	
4	53.470670	133.26946	199.65004	942.7211	34.19773	71.75775	40.800525	806.40873	92.45396	
5	825.040072	799.27220	843.54601	1249.8516	798.71823	763.31047	825.084584	1149.70452	829.07620	
6	110.251268	131.81797	139.61043	854.3601	129.22310	105.44566	132.286029	718.56953	144.76402	
7	19.851303	155.29452	175.20595	920.6515	26.95219	59.99700	20.189465	784.70575	80.65467	
8	59.676036	162.30354	193.23385	933.6301	54.21244	87.45061	53.104581	798.43225	32.61454	
9	25.285875	155.85822	183.90921	929.4802	29.28704	72.78886	8.721280	793.54330	79.37815	
10	1003.058448	933.86783	1019.24091	1374.2130	994.94493	983.52877	1005.375051	1283.42837	1008.56809	
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	
1	1095.06757	1154.3883	1094.579205	1124.05429	1086.639650	1080.71340	1096.718452	1096.67896	1093.344324	
2	184.25278	441.8893	248.440014	27.43780	233.172629	64.35942	231.294033	220.92060	246.034589	

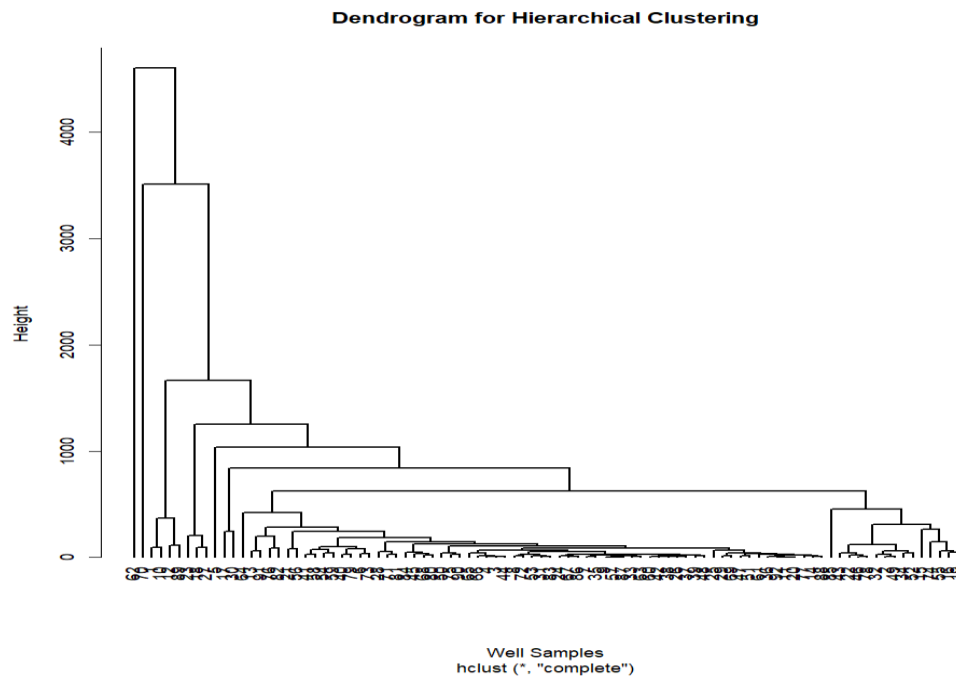
## Elbow method

The elbow method has been used to determine the optimal number of clusters in the dataset.

When we increase the number of clusters (K), the variance within each cluster tends to decrease.

The elbow point, which resembles the bend in the shape of an elbow, is the value of K when this reduction in variance starts to slow down.





**Objective 3:** Chemical mixtures in well water samples are in line with the standard accepted values in well water samples.

To fulfill this objective, Hotelling's T-squared test, which is a multivariate statistical test used to Compare the mean values of multiple variables in a dataset with specified standard mean values. By using this test we can identify whether the well water samples in line with accepted standards.

Standard mean values of chemical components are:

Be = 4, Cr = 100, Fe = 300, Ni = 20, Cu = 1300, As = 10, Cd =5, Ba = 2000, Tl = 0.5, Pb = 15, U = 30

By calculating the Hotelling's T-squared test using observed mean values, the standard mean values, and the covariance matrix. This statistic quantifies the difference between the observed and standard mean values.

```
> #Test statistics
> T2_cal <- n*t(x_bar-mu_note)%%solve(cov_matrix)%% (x_bar-mu_note)
> T2_cal
      [,1]
[1,] 3608806
```

Calculate the table value (critical value) based on the F distribution and it depends on the degrees of freedom and a specified significance level (0.05 in this case). This critical value is used to check whether the test statistic is significant.

```
> Table_value =(n-1)*p/(n-p)*qf(0.95,p,n-p)
> Table_value
[1] 23.59049
```

Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant multivariate difference between the sample means and the standard means.

Alternative Hypothesis (H1): There is a significant multivariate difference between the sample means and the standard means.

According to the above results, the test statistic value is greater than table value, So it rejects the null hypothesis. Which determines that there is a significant difference between the sample mean values and the standard values. Therefore, well water samples deviate from the standards, which means collected well water samples not in line with accepted standards.

## Discussion and Conclusion

In this study, we performed a comprehensive analysis of well water samples, focusing on their chemical composition to achieve three main objectives.

As part of the data preprocessing phase for our initial data exploration, we handled outliers, checked for missing values, and scaled the data to verify that all variables were on a similar scale. For the ensuing analyses to be reliable and valid, the preprocessing stage is essential.

we performed Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce the dimensionality of the eleven chemical components into a smaller set of principal components. Using the PCA results, the coefficients of the PC's are rounded up to two decimal places. Deviation rounded up to three decimal places and the variance get from that rounded up to two decimal places. Then finding the proportion of total variance explained by each component until it gives over 80% of the total variability in the dataset from the total proportions of each component. In this study we got 85.28% for 7PC's. So in this study 07 PCs are sufficient.

We then moved on to cluster analysis, to group the well water samples into homogeneous clusters based on their chemical compositions. We have used two methods to identify the optimal number of clusters. As the first method we used elbow method, and it shows the elbow point at 4. By using NbClust method, it showed 3 clusters. According to these results, we have identified that the number of clusters as 3. Next a dendrogram plot visually illustrated the hierarchical clustering of samples, and we successfully segmented the samples into three distinct clusters. 90 well water samples were allocated to one cluster while the other two samples allocated to two clusters.

In the final stage of our analysis, we assessed the well water samples in comparison to predefined standard mean values to determine their conformity with accepted standards. We have used Hotelling's T-squared test, a multivariate statistical method, to evaluate the multivariate differences between the means of our dataset and the established standard means. Hypotheses were formulated and tested to identify the results. According to the results, the well water samples are not in line with accepted standards.

In conclusion, our thorough analysis of the well water samples provided important information regarding the chemical composition and quality of the water. We were successful in achieving our goals and provided a comprehensive idea of the dataset through data preparation, PCA, cluster analysis, and hypothesis testing. The findings of this study can help stakeholders and decision-makers make correct decisions on the management and quality evaluation of well water sources.

## References

- [1] "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations," EPA, [Online]. Available:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>.

## Appendix

R code : [code](#)