Covariance Explained: Change of Origin vs. Scale Made Simple! Data Science and A.I. Lecture Series

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• Let
$$u_i = \frac{x_i - a}{h} \implies x_i = a + hu_i$$
 and $v_i = \frac{y_i - b}{k} \implies y_i = b + kv_i$

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• Where a, b, h, k are constants.

• Substituting $x_i = a + hu_i$:

$$x_i = a + hu_i - - - (1) \quad \Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i = a + h \frac{1}{n} \sum u_i \quad \Rightarrow \overline{X} = a + h \overline{U} - - - (2)$$

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• Substituting $y_i = b + kv_i$:

$$y_i = b + kv_i - - - (3) \quad \Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \sum y_i = b + h \frac{1}{n} \sum v_i \quad \Rightarrow \overline{Y} = b + k \overline{V} - - - (4)$$

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• From the substitutions: We get

From (1) – (2)
$$x_i - \overline{X} = h(u_i - \overline{U})$$

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Effect of Change of Scale

• Change of origin shifts data without affecting covariance.

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$$x_i - \overline{X} = h(u_i - \overline{U}), \quad y_i - \overline{Y} = k(v_i - \overline{V})$$

• Covariance formula becomes:

$$\operatorname{Cov}(X,Y) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} h(u_i - \overline{U}) \cdot k(v_i - \overline{V})$$

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• Extracting *h* and *k*:

$$\operatorname{Cov}(X,Y) = hk \cdot \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (u_i - \overline{U})(v_i - \overline{V})$$

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• Final expression:

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• Conclusion: Covariance is independent of origin (a, b) but depends on scale (h, k).

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- Proof complete.

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Thank You!