

## **Optimal Scaling Categorical Principal Components Analysis: Road Traffic KSI Car Accidents in England (STATS19)**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Categorical principal component analysis (CATPCA) technique was applied in the road killed or seriously injured (KSI) car accidents in England based on STATS19 data so that the categorical variables of KSI car accidents can be transferred into few components with reduction of dimensionality. Finally selected 20 variables in KSI car accident database were divided to create four principal components by applying “optimal scaling CATPCA” procedure in SPSS. The statistically significant KSI car accident variables, particularly the most accountable categorical variables, were identified and quantified for developing models as well as leading to aims to reduce as well as to prevent the car accidents, particularly the KSI car accidents. It also leads to map out the possible safety improvement strategies as well as to inform the policymakers on how best to reduce the number and severity of car crashes.*

**KEYWORDS:** KSI, CATPCA, optimal scaling, dimensionality, principal components, quantification

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This research is to model road traffic KSI car accidents in England based on STATS19 database by applying ‘categorical principal component analysis (CATPCA)’ method, so that the variables in KSI car accidents can be transferred into few components with reduction of dimensionality. CATPCA performs principal components analysis on a set of variables that can be given mixed optimal scaling levels, and the relationships among observed variables are not assumed to be linear. This technique quantifies categorical variables alongside while reducing the dimensionality of the data. The goal of CATPCA is to reduce an original set of categorical variables into a smaller set of uncorrelated components representing most of the information observed in the original variables. The technique is most useful when many categorical variables forbid effective interpretation of the relationships between objects (i.e., subjects and units), and a few components rather than many variables are interpreted by reducing the dimensionality. The optimal-scaling approach allows categorical variables to be scaled at different levels so that categorical variables are optimally quantified in the specified dimensionality, and nonlinear relationships between categorical variables can be modelled.

The aims/ objectives of the research study are as follows:

- a) To reduce the dimensionality of categorical variables in killed or seriously injured (KSI) car accidents.
- b) To quantify the most accountable categorical variables involved in KSI car accidents.
- c) To develop models by applying categorical principal component analysis method.
- d) To inform policymakers on how best to reduce the number and severity of car crashes.

The key research questions area as follows:

- A) What are the most significant variables in road KSI car accidents?
- B) How can these KSI car accidents be reduced?

The structure of the study is detailed as **Section 2** is research methods including data source, CATPCA method, defining scale and weight of variables, discretisation, missing vale option, output/ loading plots etc. **Section 3** is a brief of KSI car accident database construction and data manipulation extracted from STATS19 database. **Section 4** is CATPCA application in KSI car accidents, including design, variable selection, iteration, quantification, variance accounted for (VAF), rotated variance accounted for (RVAF), correlation matrix of original variables as well as transformed variables, and component loadings as well as rotated component loadings. **Section 5** is study findings, discussions, and conclusion.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

### 2.0. Data Source

The study is to use the secondary data from DfT-STATS19 database developed by UK Police and Department of Transport, UK. The DfT has undertaken work to link data from STATS19. Data for KSI car accidents in England are to be extracted from the DfT-STATS19 database. This secondary data covers the period from 1979 through 2015.

### 2.1. CATPCA Method

The CATPCA simultaneously not only quantifies categorical variables, but also decreases the dimensionality of the data. It is to bring down an original set of variables into a smaller set of uncorrelated components, representing most of the information found in the original variables. The technique is most useful in STATS19 data as many variables exclude effective interpretation of the relationships between subjects and units. The optimal-scaling approach allows variables to be scaled at different levels so that categorical variables are optimally quantified in the specified dimensionality as well as nonlinear relationships between variables can be modelled.

In CATPCA data considerations, string variable values are always converted into positive integers by ascending alphanumeric order, where user-defined missing values or system-missing values or any values less than 1 are considered missing. The data contain at least three valid cases mandatorily and it must be positive integer. The discretization option is to automatically categorise a fractional-valued variable by grouping its values into categories with a close to "normal" distribution and it is to automatically convert values of string variables into positive integers.

## 2.2. Defining Scale and Weight of Variables in CATPCA

Optimal scaling level is set for analysis variables and supplementary variables, as well as the weight for analysis variables can be set specifying a positive integer. The scaling level to be used to quantify each variable can also be selected so that a) the order of the categories of the observed ordinal variable is preserved in the optimally scaled variable; b) the order of the categories of the observed nominal variable is not preserved; c) the order of the categories and the equal distances between category numbers of the observed discrete variable are preserved in the optimally scaled variable.

## 2.3. Discretisation in CATPCA

The variables are to be discretised by applying ‘grouping method’, where a specified number of categories is recoded for categorical variables as well as discrete variables are recoded into categories defined by equally sized intervals.

## 2.4. Missing Values in CATPCA

Missing values with the quantification of an extra category can be replaced so that objects with a missing value on the variable are considered to belong to the same (extra) category.

## 2.5. Options in CATPCA

The Options provide the controls to select the initial configuration, specify iteration and convergence criteria, as well as to select a normalisation method, to choose the method for labelling plots, and to specify supplementary objects. The case number of the object, or the first and last case numbers of a range of objects to make supplementary, is specified if it is needed. If an object is specified as supplementary, then case weights are ignored for that object. One of <sup>1</sup>five options (i.e., Variable Principal, Object Principal, Symmetrical, Independent and Custom) for normalising the object scores and the variables, is specified. It is noted that only one normalisation method can be used in each analysis.

The maximum number of iterations can be specified so that the procedure can go through in its computations. A convergence criterion value can also be selected. The algorithm stops iterating when the difference in total fit between the last two iterations is less than the convergence value or if the maximum number of iterations is reached. Variables and value labels or variable names

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### <sup>1</sup> Normalising Methods:

- a) **Variable Principal** option is applied to optimise the association between variables so that the coordinates of the variables in the object space are the component loadings (correlations with principal components, such as dimensions and object scores).
- b) **Object Principal** option is applied to optimise the distances between objects.
- c) **Symmetrical** option is used for the relationship between objects and variables.
- d) **Independent** option is used to examine distances between objects and correlations between variables separately.
- e) **Custom** option specifies any real value in the closed interval  $[-1, 1]$  where value of ‘1’ is for the Object Principal option; ‘0’ is for the Symmetrical option; ‘-1’ is for the Variable Principal option. Any value greater than ‘-1’ or less than ‘1’ is specified so that the eigenvalue over both objects and variables are spreaded.

and values can be specified to be used in the plots. All dimensions in the solution are displayed in a scatterplot matrix. One of <sup>2</sup>five options for rotation method (i.e., Varimax, Quartimax, Equamax, Oblimin and Promax) to obtain rotated results, can be selected.

### 2.6. Output and Loading Plots in CATPCA

- 1) Displays the component loadings for all variables that were not given multiple nominal scaling levels. The component loadings by size can be sorted. The component loadings can be displayed in Scatter Matrix.
- 2) Shows for each iteration, the variance accounted for, loss, and increase in variance accounted for (VAF).
- 3) Shows the correlation matrix of the original variables and the eigenvalues of that matrix.
- 4) Shows the correlation matrix of the transformed (optimally scaled) variables and the eigenvalues of that matrix.
- 5) Displays the amount of variance accounted for (VAF) by centroid coordinates, vector coordinates, and total (centroid and vector coordinates combined) per variable and per dimension. The VAF can be shown in Bar Charts.
- 6) Gives the category quantifications and coordinates for each dimension of the variables that are selected.

### 3. Road KSI Car Accident Data Manipulation and Database Construction

The reported/ recorded data of road traffic KSI car accidents extracted from the datasets of DfT-STATS19 under Department for Transport for the period of 1979-2015, had been used for database construction and then, the data in the databases were manipulated individually using 'data function' and 'transform function' of SPSS 26.0.1 version and onwards following research methodology as briefed in the previous section (i.e., Section 2).

Two accident databases based on DfT-STATS19 database, were constructed containing the existing variables and the new variables computed from existing variable(s) following the database design such as determining the purpose of the database, findings, and organising the information required, dividing the information items into tables, turning information items into

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#### <sup>2</sup> Rotated Methods:

- f) **Varimax** orthogonal rotation method is to minimise the number of variables to have high loadings on each component.
- g) **Quartimax** rotation method is to minimise the number of components that are needed to explain each variable.
- h) **Equamax** rotation method is a combination of the Varimax method, and the Quartimax method so that the number of variables loading highly on a component and the number of components needing to explain a variable, are minimised.
- i) **Oblimin** is a method for oblique (non-orthogonal) rotation. The value of Delta must be less than or equal to 0.8.
- j) **Promax** is an oblique (non-orthogonal) rotation, to allow the components to be correlated. The amount of correlation (obliqueness) that is allowed is controlled by the kappa parameter. The value of **Kappa** must be greater than or equal to 1 and less 10,000.

columns, specifying the primary keys, applying the normalisation rules, refining the design and setting up the table relationship.

Total 49 variables, containing 10 discrete variables as well as 13 dichotomous, 14 nominal and 12 ordinals, were included in road KSI car accident database shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Valid/ Missing KSI cases in Road Car Accident Data based in Accident Index in England

#	Variable/ Factor	Type	Valid Case	Valid Case %	Missing Case	Missing Case %	Other Case	Other Case %
1	Accident Year	Continuous	1089560	100.00	0	£0.00	0	0.00
2	First Road Number	Continuous	815907	74.90	273653	£25.10	0	0.00
3	Latitude	Continuous	332388	30.51	757172	£69.49	0	0.00
4	Longitude	Continuous	332388	30.51	757172	£69.49	0	0.00
5	Number of Casualty per KSI Accident	Continuous	1089560	0.00	0	£0.00	0	0.00
6	Number of Vehicle per KSI Accident	Continuous	1089560	0.00	0	£0.00	0	0.00
7	OSGR Easting	Continuous	1086224	99.69	3336	£0.31	0	0.00
8	OSGR Northing	Continuous	1087796	99.84	1764	£0.16	0	0.00
9	Second Road Number	Continuous	1069885	98.19	19675	£1.81	0	0.00
10	Speed Limit	Continuous	1089560	100.00	0	£0.00	74	0.00
11	Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	Dichotomous	1089557	100.00	3	£0.00	0	0.00
12	Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	Dichotomous	1082347	99.30	7213	£0.70	0	0.00
13	First Classified-non-Classified Road Class	Dichotomous	1089560	100.00	0	£0.00	0	0.00
14	First Classified Trunk-non-Trunk Road Class	Dichotomous	797819	73.20	291741	£26.80	0	0.00
15	First Numbered-non-Numbered Road	Dichotomous	1089505	100.00	55	£0.00	0	0.00
16	Junction Control-non-Control	Dichotomous	607766	55.80	481794	£44.20	0	0.00
17	Junction-non-Junction Details	Dichotomous	1089471	100.00	89	£0.00	0	0.00
18	Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control	Dichotomous	3450	0.30	100	£0.00	0	0.00
19	Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	Dichotomous	1089882	98.20	100	£0.00	0	0.00
20	Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	Dichotomous	1089890	98.20	19670	£1.80	0	0.00
21	Police Officer's Attendance-non-Attendance at Accident Sc	Dichotomous	321525	29.50	768035	£70.50	0	0.00
22	Road Environment Urban-non-Urban	Dichotomous	479862	44.00	609698	£56.00	0	0.00
23	Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	Dichotomous	1067904	98.00	21656	£2.00	0	0.00
24	Carriageway Hazards (5-Level)	Nominal	18983	1.70	7213	£0.70	1063364	97.60
25	First Classified Road Class (5-Level)	Nominal	797819	73.20	100	£0.00	291741	26.80
26	England Region (9-Level)	Nominal	1089560	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
27	Junction Control (4-Level)	Nominal	506831	54.80	481794	£44.20	10935	1.00
28	Junction Details (8-Level)	Nominal	597571	54.80	89	£0.00	491900	45.10
29	Lights Conditions (5-Level)	Nominal	1089413	100.00	147	£0.00	0	0.00
30	Pedestrian Crossing at Physical Facilities (5-Level)	Nominal	134016	12.30	19670	£1.80	935874	85.90
31	Police Officer's Attendance at Accident Scene (3-Level)	Nominal	321525	29.50	768035	£70.50	0	0.00
32	Road Environment (3-Level)	Nominal	479862	44.00	609698	£56.00	0	0.00
33	Road Surface Conditions (7-Level)	Nominal	1088290	99.90	1270	£0.10	0	0.00
34	Road Type (5-Level)	Nominal	1070965	98.30	18595	£1.70	0	0.00
35	Second Road Class (5-Level)	Nominal	578347	53.10	511213	£46.90	0	0.00
36	Special Conditions at Site (7-Level)	Nominal	19691	1.80	21656	£2.00	1048213	96.20
37	Weather Conditions (8-Level)	Nominal	1089460	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
38	Accident Day (7-Level)	Ordinal	1089560	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
39	Accident Month (12-Level)	Ordinal	1089560	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
40	Accident Time (12-Level)	Ordinal	1089472	100.00	88	£0.00	0	0.00
41	Car per KSI Accident (3-Level)	Ordinal	1089560	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
42	Casualty per KSI Car Accident (3-Level)	Ordinal	1089560	100.00	100	£0.00	0	0.00
43	First Numbered Road Digit (6-Level)	Ordinal	815907	74.90	55	£0.00	273598	25.10
44	First Numbered Road Zone (4-Level)	Ordinal	793467	72.80	22495	£2.10	273598	25.10
45	Latitude Band (5-Level)	Ordinal	332384	30.50	757178	£69.50	0	0.00
46	Longitude Band (5-Level)	Ordinal	332388	30.50	757172	£69.50	0	0.00
47	OSGR Easting Band (5-Level)	Ordinal	1086224	99.70	3336	£0.30	0	0.00
48	OSGR Northing Band (7-Level)	Ordinal	1087796	99.80	1764	£0.20	0	0.00
49	Speed Limit Zone (8-Level)	Ordinal	1089557	100.00	3	£0.00	0	0.00

#### 4. CATPCA in KSI Car Accidents

By following El-Basyouny and Sayed (2009), Harrel (2015), Kleinbaum and Klein (2010), Saukani and Ismail (2019), and Hung and Tai-Jin. (2018), categorical principal component analysis (CATPCA) method was applied in KSI car accidents.

##### 4.0. CATPCA Design

The CATPCA based on “optimal scaling level for one set of variables that some factor(s) are not nominal” was run on a 20-factor/ factor dataset that measured desired ‘road traffic KSI car



accident' characteristics on 1089560 cases/ observations. The suitability of CATPCA was assessed prior to analysis. Inspection of the correlation matrix showed that all variables had at least one correlation coefficient greater than 0.3. Grouping method and normal distribution were used for discretisation. The methods such as 'factor principal' and 'Varimax for rotation with Kaiser normalisation' were applied. Each factor was defined/ scaled as '1' for its weight that was analysed through optimal scaling level. Preliminary assumption checking revealed: variables were measured in ordinal/ nominal/ dichotomous formats; there were linear relationships between all variables, as assessed by scatterplots; the data had sampling adequacy (large sample size,  $n = 1089560$ ); the dataset were suitable for data reduction; there should be no significant outlier(s), as assessed by boxplot.

#### **4.1. Variables in CATPCA of Car Accidents**

1089560 cases of 20 variables were used in analysis, where the common cases that were valid were 579496.

- a) Only one discrete variable such as 'accident year' was used.
- b) Seven dichotomous variables such as 'built-non-built up speed area', 'carriageway hazards-non hazards', 'junction-non-junction details', 'junction control-non-control', 'pedestrian crossing at human control-non-control', 'pedestrian crossing at physical-non-physical facilities', and 'special conditions-non-conditions', were used.
- c) Four nominal variables such as 'England region', 'lighting conditions', 'road type', and 'weather conditions', were used.
- d) Eight ordinal variables such as 'OSGR easting band', 'OSGR northing band', 'speed limit zone', 'casualty per accident', 'car per accident', 'accident time', 'accident day', and 'accident month', are used.

#### **4.2. Iterations in CATPCA of Car Accidents**

The process stopped at the 34<sup>th</sup> iteration because the convergence test value was reached. The iteration history has been displayed in Table 4.2. The 0<sup>th</sup> iteration displays the solutions of the statistics with all variables. It displays the eigenvalues for each iteration of the analysis. These are used to determine the percentage of variance accounted for (a type of effect size) and therefore, larger eigenvalues are preferred over smaller ones to get a better solution (higher eigenvalue).

Table 4.2. Iteration History in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

Iteration Number	Variance Accounted For		Loss		
	Total	Increase	Total	Centroid Coordinates	Restriction of Centroid to Vector Coordinates
0	6.33255	0.00151	73.667	72.134	1.5329
1	7.09878	0.76623	72.901	72.134	0.7667
2	7.37783	0.27905	72.622	71.793	0.8291
3	7.47787	0.10004	72.522	71.718	0.8044
4	7.53631	0.05844	72.464	71.683	0.7810
5	7.57372	0.03741	72.426	71.662	0.7639
6	7.60111	0.02739	72.399	71.646	0.7524
7	7.62449	0.02338	72.376	71.629	0.7461
8	7.64729	0.02280	72.353	71.608	0.7446
9	7.67190	0.02460	72.328	71.581	0.7476
10	7.70020	0.02830	72.300	71.545	0.7546
11	7.73325	0.03306	72.267	71.502	0.7650
12	7.77106	0.03781	72.229	71.452	0.7774
13	7.81209	0.04103	72.188	71.398	0.7900
14	7.85318	0.04109	72.147	71.345	0.8013
15	7.89036	0.03718	72.110	71.299	0.8108
16	7.92060	0.03024	72.079	71.261	0.8185
17	7.94300	0.02240	72.057	71.232	0.8245
18	7.95850	0.01550	72.042	71.212	0.8293
19	7.96873	0.01023	72.031	71.198	0.8329
20	7.97518	0.00646	72.025	71.189	0.8358
21	7.97916	0.00398	72.021	71.183	0.8381
22	7.98161	0.00245	72.018	71.179	0.8399
23	7.98313	0.00152	72.017	71.176	0.8413
24	7.98408	0.00095	72.016	71.174	0.8424
25	7.98467	0.00060	72.015	71.172	0.8432
26	7.98506	0.00038	72.015	71.171	0.8439
27	7.98530	0.00024	72.015	71.170	0.8444
28	7.98546	0.00016	72.015	71.170	0.8449
29	7.98556	0.00010	72.014	71.169	0.8452
30	7.985624	0.000067	72.014	71.169	0.8455
31	7.98567	0.000044	72.014	71.169	0.8457
32	7.98570	0.000028	72.014	71.168	0.8458
33	7.98571	0.000014	72.014	71.168	0.8459
34	7.98572	0.000008	72.014	71.168	0.8459

Iteration 0 displays the statistics of the solution with all variables, except variables with optimal scaling level Multiple Nominal, treated as numerical.

The iteration process stopped at 34th because the convergence test value was reached.

### 4.3. Quantification of Variables in CATPCA of Car Accidents

The quantification for dichotomous variables followed by nominal and ordinal variables, is detailed and displayed in Table 4.3 that display the frequency, the quantification value assigned, the centroid coordinates, and the vector coordinates of each response category for each item.

Table 4.3. Quantification in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England





#### **4.3.1. Dichotomous quantification**

- a) Built-up speed area manifested positive stance/ attribute, but non-built-up speed area contained negative stance.
- b) Carriageway hazards manifested positive stance/ attribute, but non-hazards expressed negative stance.
- c) 'At junction' manifested positive stance, but 'out of junction' had negative stance.
- d) 'Junction control' had positive stance, but 'non-control' had negative stance.
- e) Pedestrian crossing at human control quantificated negative stance, but non-control quantificated positive stance.
- f) Pedestrian crossing at physical facilities quantificated positive stance, but non-physical quantificated negative stance.
- g) Both special conditions and non-conditions quantificated positive stance.

#### **4.3.2. Nominal quantification**

- h) Eastern region as well as London, South-West, and South-East of England region, manifests positive stance. On the other hand, North-East region as well as North-West, Yorkshire/ the Humber, East Midlands, and West Midlands, contains negativity.
- i) 'Day light' as well as 'darkness with light unlit', 'darkness without lighting', and 'darkness with lighting unknown' of lighting conditions quantificated positive stance. Only 'darkness with lights lit' quantificated negative stance.
- j) All the categories of 'road type', except 'unknown RT', had negative stance.
- k) 'Raining without high winds' as well as 'snowing without high winds', 'snowing with high winds', 'fog or mist', and 'other/ unknown' of weather conditions had positive quantification. On the other hand, 'fine without high winds', 'fine with high winds', and 'raining with high winds' had negative stance.

#### **4.3.3. Ordinal quantification**

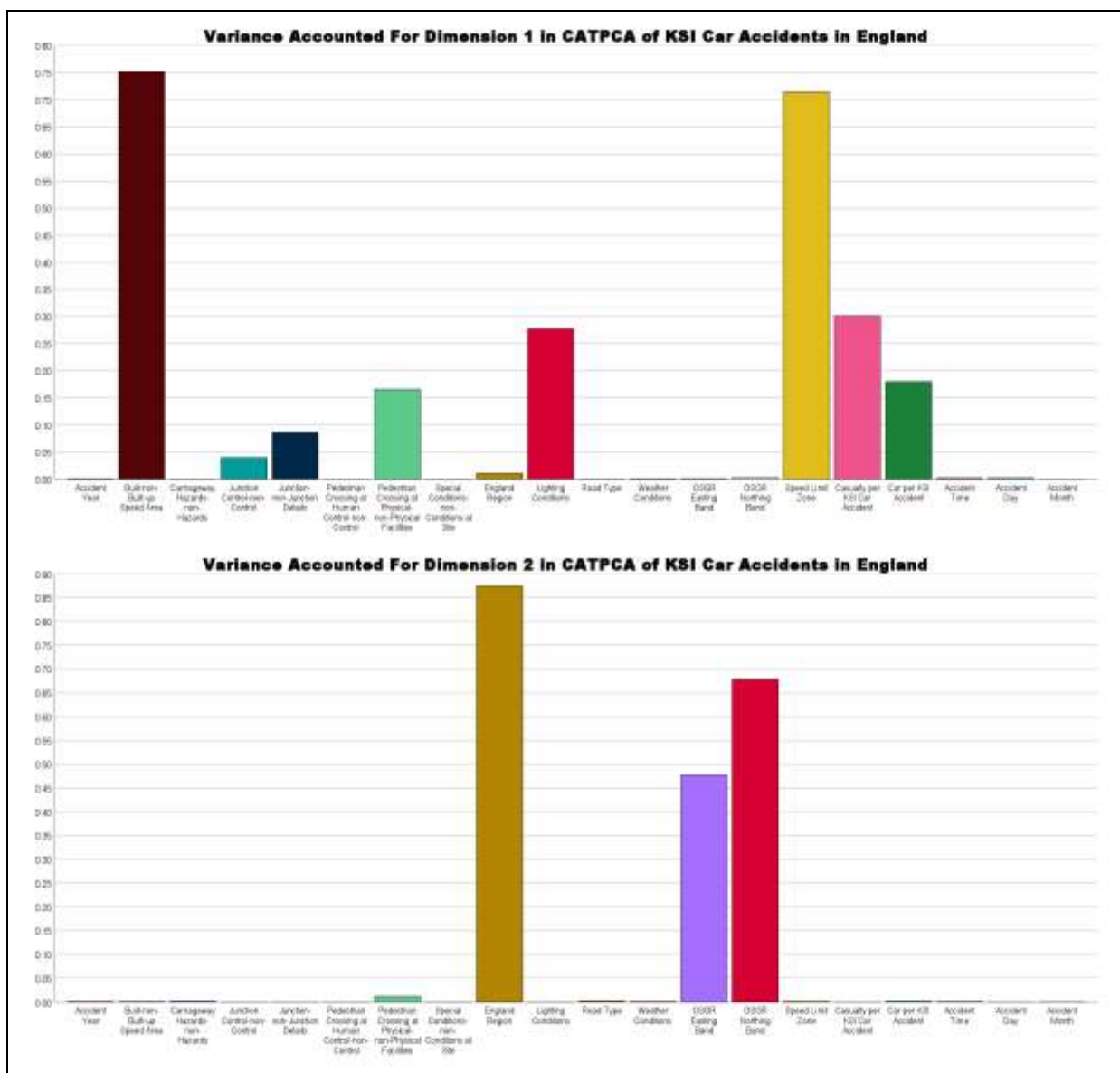
- l) All categories of OSGR easting band, except OSE 400-500km, quantificated negative stance.
- m) All categories of OSGR northing band, except OSN 100-200km, quantificated negative stance.
- n) All categories of speed limit zone, except 30 mph, quantificated negative stance.
- o) Single casualty per accident had negative stance, but double as well as multiple casualties per accident had positive stance.
- p) Single car per accident had negative stance, but double as well as multiple cars per accident had positive stance.

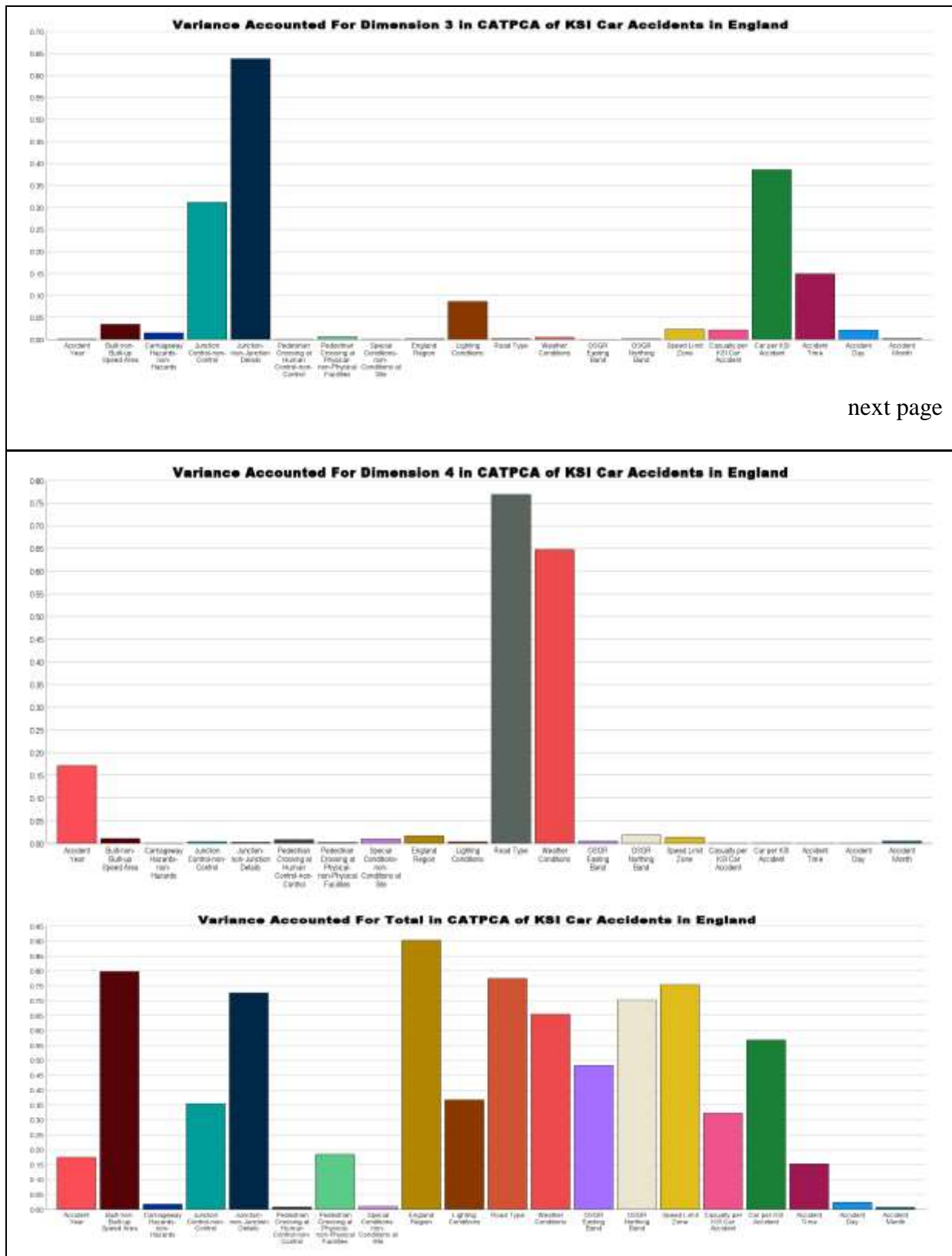
#### **4.4. Variance Accounted For (VAF) in Variables**

The highest VAF in vector coordinates of the first component was in 'built-non-built-up speed area (0.690)' followed by 'speed limi zone (0.652)', 'lighting conditions (0.314)', 'casualty per accident (0.168)', and 'pedestrian crossing at physical-non-physical facilities (0.161)'. England region (0.694) followed by OSGR northing band (0.502), and OSGR easting band (0.397) had the highest in the second component. On the other hand, 'road type (0.678)' had the highest in the third component followed by 'weather conditions (0.586)', 'accident year (0.152)', 'special-non-special conditions (0.007)', 'accident month (0.006)', and 'pedestrian crossing at

human control-non-control (0.006)’. Further, in the fourth component, ‘car per accident (0.526)’ had the highest followed by ‘junction-non-junction details (0.329)’, ‘junction control-non-control (0.169)’, ‘accident time (0.126)’, ‘accident day (0.011)’, and ‘carriageway hazards-non-hazards (0.009)’. These are detailed in Table 4.4 and displayed in Figure 4.4. It displays the coordinates for each item on each dimension in relation to the centroid (0, 0). It is noted that displayed a very small mean coordinate (very close to or below 0.100) indicates these items not contributing substantially to the principal components.

CATPCA Loading plots of eigenvalue (VAF) are as follows:





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Figure 4.4: Loading Plots of Eigenvalue (VAF) in CATPCA Components

Table 4.4. Variance Accounted For (VAF) in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

Variance Accounted For (VAF) in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England										
	Centroid Coordinates					Total (Vector Coordinates)				
	Dimension				Mean	Dimension				Total
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	<b>0.690</b>	0.070	0.002	0.037	0.200	<b>0.690</b>	0.070	0.001	0.037	0.798
Speed Limit Zone	<b>0.739</b>	0.071	0.005	0.046	0.215	<b>0.652</b>	0.055	0.003	0.043	0.753
Lighting Conditions	<b>0.315</b>	0.051	0.009	0.027	0.101	<b>0.314</b>	0.051	0.001	0.002	0.367
Casualty per KSI Car Accident	<b>0.168</b>	0.019	0.001	0.135	0.081	<b>0.168</b>	0.019	0.001	0.135	0.323
Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	<b>0.162</b>	0.003	0.013	0.015	0.048	<b>0.161</b>	0.003	0.007	0.014	0.185
England Region	0.273	<b>0.712</b>	0.030	0.005	0.255	0.200	<b>0.694</b>	0.008	<0.001	0.903
OSGR Northing Band	0.119	<b>0.557</b>	0.229	0.009	0.229	0.103	<b>0.502</b>	0.096	0.001	0.701
OSGR Easting Band	0.098	<b>0.463</b>	0.104	0.005	0.167	0.079	<b>0.397</b>	0.007	<0.001	0.483
Road Type	0.059	0.043	<b>0.678</b>	0.039	0.205	0.035	0.033	<b>0.678</b>	0.029	0.775
Weather Conditions	0.021	0.032	<b>0.586</b>	0.025	0.166	0.012	0.032	<b>0.586</b>	0.024	0.655
Accident Year	0.003	0.003	<b>0.220</b>	0.025	0.063	0.002	0.001	<b>0.152</b>	0.021	0.175
Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	0.003	<0.001	<b>0.007</b>	0.001	0.003	0.002	<0.001	<b>0.007</b>	0.001	0.010
Accident Month	0.001	<0.001	<b>0.007</b>	0.001	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<b>0.006</b>	0.001	0.007
Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	0.002	<0.001	<b>0.006</b>	0.001	0.003	0.001	<0.001	<b>0.006</b>	0.001	0.008
Car per KSI Accident	0.029	0.005	0.028	<b>0.526</b>	0.147	0.012	0.003	0.027	<b>0.526</b>	0.568
Junction-non-Junction Details	0.307	0.058	0.033	<b>0.329</b>	0.182	0.307	0.058	0.032	<b>0.329</b>	0.726
Junction Control-non-Control	0.146	0.032	0.011	<b>0.169</b>	0.090	0.146	0.031	0.009	<b>0.169</b>	0.355
Accident Time	0.010	0.012	0.013	<b>0.130</b>	0.041	0.008	0.010	0.009	<b>0.126</b>	0.153
Accident Day	0.009	0.003	0.003	<b>0.014</b>	0.007	0.008	0.003	0.002	<b>0.011</b>	0.024
Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	0.006	<0.001	0.002	<b>0.009</b>	0.004	0.006	<0.001	0.002	<b>0.009</b>	0.017
<b>Active Total</b>	<b>3.159</b>	<b>2.136</b>	<b>1.988</b>	<b>1.549</b>	<b>2.208</b>	<b>2.905</b>	<b>1.962</b>	<b>1.640</b>	<b>1.478</b>	<b>7.986</b>

#### 4.5. Rotated Variance Accounted For (RVAF) in Variables

The rotated VAF had a little change and there was also a little change of variable in component to component. These are detailed in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5. Rotated Variance Accounted For (RVAF) in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

Rotated Variance Accounted For (RVAF) in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England										
	Centroid Coordinates					Total (Vector Coordinates)				
	Dimension				Mean	Dimension				Total
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	<b>0.752</b>	0.001	0.035	0.010	0.200	<b>0.752</b>	0.001	0.035	0.010	0.798
Speed Limit Zone	<b>0.806</b>	0.004	0.037	0.014	0.215	<b>0.714</b>	0.003	0.023	0.013	0.753
Casualty per KSI Car Accident	<b>0.301</b>	<0.001	0.022	<0.001	0.081	<b>0.301</b>	<0.001	0.022	<0.001	0.323
Lighting Conditions	<b>0.285</b>	<0.001	0.111	0.006	0.101	<b>0.278</b>	<0.001	0.086	0.003	0.367
Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	<b>0.169</b>	0.012	0.007	0.010	0.049	<b>0.166</b>	0.012	0.006	0.002	0.185
England Region	0.096	<b>0.877</b>	0.005	0.042	0.255	0.011	<b>0.874</b>	0.001	0.016	0.903
OSGR Northing Band	0.014	<b>0.722</b>	0.003	0.178	0.229	0.003	<b>0.679</b>	0.001	0.018	0.701
OSGR Easting Band	0.008	<b>0.577</b>	0.002	0.086	0.168	0.001	<b>0.477</b>	<0.001	0.004	0.483
Junction-non-Junction Details	0.087	<0.001	<b>0.638</b>	0.002	0.182	0.087	<0.001	<b>0.638</b>	0.002	0.726
Car per KSI Accident	0.193	0.003	<b>0.392</b>	<0.001	0.147	0.180	0.003	<b>0.386</b>	<0.001	0.568
Junction Control-non-Control	0.072	0.004	<b>0.559</b>	0.008	0.161	0.040	<0.001	<b>0.312</b>	0.003	0.355
Accident Time	0.006	0.003	<b>0.154</b>	0.002	0.041	0.002	0.001	<b>0.149</b>	<0.001	0.153
Accident Day	0.002	<0.001	<b>0.026</b>	<0.001	0.007	0.002	<0.001	<b>0.021</b>	<0.001	0.024
Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	<0.001	0.002	<b>0.015</b>	<0.001	0.004	<0.001	0.002	<b>0.015</b>	<0.001	0.017
Road Type	0.025	0.005	0.021	<b>0.782</b>	0.208	0.001	0.003	0.002	<b>0.769</b>	0.775
Weather Conditions	0.007	0.003	0.007	<b>0.647</b>	0.166	0.001	0.002	0.005	<b>0.647</b>	0.655
Accident Year	0.003	0.005	0.004	<b>0.239</b>	0.063	0.001	0.002	0.001	<b>0.171</b>	0.175
Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<b>0.010</b>	0.003	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<b>0.009</b>	0.010
Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<b>0.008</b>	0.003	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<b>0.008</b>	0.008
Accident Month	0.001	<0.001	0.003	<b>0.005</b>	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	0.002	<b>0.005</b>	0.007
<b>Active Total</b>	<b>2.828</b>	<b>2.219</b>	<b>2.040</b>	<b>2.051</b>	<b>2.284</b>	<b>2.540</b>	<b>2.060</b>	<b>1.705</b>	<b>1.680</b>	<b>7.986</b>



#### 4.6. Correlation in Original Variables

Out of 190 unique pairs of twenty original variables (i.e.,  $20_{c_2} = 190$ ) in the analysis, only three pairs had greater ( $> 0.30$ ) or lesser ( $< -0.30$ ) correlation and such pair of variables are ‘junction-non-junction details vs Junction control-non-control ( $\rho = -0.966$ )’, ‘speed limit zone vs built-non-built-up speed area ( $\rho = 0.464$ )’, and ‘OSGR northing band vs England region ( $\rho = 0.399$ )’. The correlation matrix of original variables are displayed in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6. Correlation Matrix of Original Variables in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Accident Year	1.000																			
Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	-0.010	1.000																		
Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	-0.020	-0.044	1.000																	
Junction Control-non-Control	-0.031	-0.285	0.063	1.000																
Junction-non-Junction Details	-0.005	0.298	-0.060	<b>-0.966</b>	1.000															
Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	0.004	0.028	0.002	-0.015	0.015	1.000														
Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	0.074	0.234	-0.022	-0.170	0.181	0.000	1.000													
Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	-0.002	-0.035	0.020	0.017	-0.018	-0.001	0.001	1.000												
England Region	0.030	-0.054	0.015	0.008	-0.015	-0.009	-0.002	-0.007	1.000											
Lighting Conditions	0.038	-0.138	-0.010	0.020	-0.022	0.017	-0.067	0.012	0.031	1.000										
Road Type	-0.051	0.130	-0.002	0.027	-0.025	0.008	-0.076	-0.031	-0.012	0.027	1.000									
Weather Conditions	0.052	-0.022	-0.002	-0.017	0.017	-0.002	-0.001	-0.014	0.005	0.088	0.009	1.000								
OSGR Easting Band	0.025	-0.041	0.005	0.034	-0.022	-0.001	-0.017	0.003	-0.052	0.004	-0.014	0.021	1.000							
OSGR Northing Band	0.014	0.099	-0.012	-0.044	0.049	0.002	0.089	-0.005	<b>0.399</b>	-0.024	-0.018	0.011	-0.025	1.000						
Speed Limit Zone	-0.042	<b>0.464</b>	-0.021	-0.158	0.168	0.017	-0.122	-0.024	-0.040	-0.063	0.131	0.015	-0.057	0.073	1.000					
Casualty per KSI Car Accident	0.004	-0.280	0.003	0.095	-0.100	-0.015	-0.100	0.024	-0.012	-0.028	-0.028	-0.029	0.015	-0.048	-0.191	1.000				
Car per KSI Accident	0.018	-0.151	-0.033	-0.080	0.080	-0.023	-0.125	0.029	0.069	0.111	-0.023	-0.005	0.014	-0.007	-0.114	0.259	1.000			
Accident Time	-0.045	0.002	-0.011	-0.033	0.030	0.011	0.005	-0.015	-0.022	-0.090	0.043	-0.001	0.007	-0.013	0.030	-0.017	0.025	1.000		
Accident Day	-0.017	0.021	-0.033	-0.004	0.006	0.001	0.010	-0.005	-0.001	-0.021	0.007	-0.005	0.001	-0.002	0.014	-0.019	-0.010	0.039	1.000	
Accident Month	-0.017	-0.005	0.002	-0.004	0.004	0.002	-0.001	-0.002	0.007	-0.001	-0.027	0.003	-0.004	-0.007	0.005	0.013	0.009	0.002	0.000	1.000
Dimension	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Eigenvalue	2.461	1.588	1.415	1.196	1.164	1.042	1.013	1.004	0.996	0.988	0.974	0.959	0.94	0.889	0.825	0.798	0.659	0.571	0.484	0.033

#### 4.7. Correlation in Transformed Variables

Out of 190 unique pairs of twenty transformed variables (i.e.,  $20_{c_2} = 190$ ) in the analysis, only seven pairs had greater ( $> 0.30$ ) or lesser ( $< -0.30$ ) correlation and such pair of variables are ‘junction-non-junction details vs Junction control-non-control ( $\rho = 0.884$ )’, ‘lighting conditions vs built-non-built-up speed area ( $\rho = -0.434$ )’, ‘weather conditions vs road type ( $\rho = 0.354$ )’, ‘OSGR easting band vs England region ( $\rho = -0.535$ )’, ‘OSGR northing band vs England region ( $\rho = 0.700$ )’, ‘speed limit zone vs built-non-built-up speed area ( $\rho = 0.825$ )’, and ‘speed limit zone vs lighting conditions ( $\rho = -0.372$ )’. The correlation matrix of transformed variables are displayed in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7. Correlation Matrix of Transformed Variables in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

	Accident Year	Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	Junction Control-non-Control	Junction-non-Junction Details	Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	England Region	Lighting Conditions	Road Type	Weather Conditions	OSGR Easting Band	OSGR Northing Band	Speed Limit Zone	Casualty per KSI Car Accident	Car per KSI Accident	Accident Time	Accident Day	Accident Month
Accident Year	1.000																			
Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	-0.010	1.000																		
Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	-0.021	-0.026	1.000																	
Junction Control-non-Control	-0.072	0.272	-0.048	1.000																
Junction-non-Junction Details	-0.005	0.296	-0.050	<b>0.894</b>	1.000															
Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	-0.004	-0.028	0.001	-0.014	-0.015	1.000														
Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	0.074	0.234	-0.025	0.161	0.181	-0.060	1.000													
Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	-0.002	-0.035	0.075	-0.016	-0.018	-0.001	0.001	1.000												
England Region	-0.015	0.135	0.027	0.052	0.072	0.004	-0.101	-0.013	1.000											
Lighting Conditions	0.008	<b>-0.434</b>	0.029	-0.194	-0.212	0.010	-0.136	0.009	-0.067	1.000										
Road Type	-0.124	0.071	-0.009	0.010	0.009	0.004	-0.019	-0.014	0.132	-0.031	1.000									
Weather Conditions	-0.111	0.024	0.001	-0.003	-0.007	0.004	-0.017	-0.006	0.090	-0.007	<b>0.354</b>	1.000								
OSGR Easting Band	0.009	-0.009	0.021	-0.008	-0.034	0.001	-0.047	0.004	<b>-0.535</b>	0.007	-0.044	-0.029	1.000							
OSGR Northing Band	0.025	0.075	-0.021	0.033	0.041	0.001	0.006	-0.005	<b>0.700</b>	-0.030	-0.046	-0.036	-0.237	1.000						
Speed Limit Zone	-0.023	<b>0.825</b>	-0.018	0.250	0.271	-0.026	0.203	-0.035	0.145	<b>-0.372</b>	0.083	0.025	-0.079	0.075	1.000					
Casualty per KSI Car Accident	0.004	-0.283	0.004	-0.089	-0.099	0.016	-0.101	0.024	-0.098	0.128	-0.019	-0.005	0.024	-0.048	-0.278	1.000				
Car per KSI Accident	0.013	-0.124	-0.007	0.121	0.143	0.024	-0.124	0.023	0.014	-0.023	-0.013	-0.015	0.002	0.024	-0.130	0.223	1.000			
Accident Time	-0.013	0.027	-0.008	0.068	0.075	-0.008	0.006	-0.001	-0.010	-0.078	0.001	-0.021	0.011	-0.005	0.025	-0.064	0.147	1.000		
Accident Day	-0.001	0.044	-0.001	0.031	0.034	-0.011	0.020	-0.001	0.009	-0.017	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001	0.001	0.040	-0.075	0.018	0.138	1.000	
Accident Month	-0.015	0.004	0.001	0.001	-0.001	0.005	0.015	-0.001	0.008	0.015	-0.004	0.050	0.006	-0.007	-0.001	-0.004	-0.023	0.003	0.021	1.000
Dimension	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Eigenvalue	2.951	1.941	1.605	1.438	1.167	1.074	1.064	1.004	0.985	0.968	0.916	0.851	0.837	0.769	0.679	0.644	0.632	0.204	0.171	0.112

Missing values were imputed with the mode of the quantified variable

#### 4.8. Component Loadings and Rotated Component Loadings

The reporting CATPCA for KSI car accidents is shown in Table 4.8. Also, the CATPCA component loadings plots as well as rotated loadings are displayed in Figure 4.8. The table for Component Loadings shows the coordinates for each item on each dimension and these are plotted in the next element of the output, the scatter plot displayed above-right.

##### 4.8.1. First Categorical Principal Component (CATPC-1)

First categorical principal component was good with internal consistency (<sup>3</sup>Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.7$ ). Also its eigenvalue was  $\lambda_1 = 2.91$ . It comprised five out of 20 original variables, but also five out of 20 variables in rotated model (see the report in Table 4.8). The variables in CATPC-1 reformed with increasing for 'built-non-built up speed area' as well as 'speed limit zone', and 'pedestrian crossing at physical-non-physical facilities', having positive associations with first component; but with decreasing for 'lighting conditions' as well as 'casualty per accident', having negative associations with first component. These variables in CATPC-1 were in the 4-dimensional factor space to best approximate the data in the least square sense.

<sup>3</sup> Internal Consistency for Cronbach's Alpha: Excellent ( $\alpha \geq 0.9$ ); Good ( $0.7 \leq \alpha < 0.9$ ); Acceptable ( $0.6 \leq \alpha < 0.7$ ); Poor ( $0.5 \leq \alpha < 0.6$ ); Unacceptable ( $\alpha < 0.5$ ).

#### **4.8.2. Second Categorical Principal Component (CATPC-2)**

Second categorical principal component was poor with internal consistency (*Cronbach's*  $\alpha = 0.52$ ). Also its eigenvalue was  $\lambda_2 = 1.962$ . It comprised three out of 20 original variables, but as well as same number of original variables in rotated model (see the report). The variables in CATPC-2 reformed with increasing for 'England region' as well as 'OSGR northing band', having positive associations with second component; but with decreasing for 'OSGR easting band' having negative association with second component. These variables in CATPC-2 were in the 4-dimensional factor space for variance-maximising direction orthogonal to CATPC-1.

#### **4.8.3. Third Categorical Principal Component (CATPC-3)**

Third categorical principal component was under-poor/ unacceptable with internal consistency (*Cronbach's*  $\alpha = 0.41$ ). Also its eigenvalue was  $\lambda_2 = 1.640$ . It comprised six out of 20 original variables but as well as same number of original variables in rotated model (see the report). The variables in CATPC-3 reformed with increasing for 'road type' as well as 'weather conditions', and 'accident month', having positive associations with third component; but with decreasing for 'accident year' as well as 'special condition-non-condition at site', and 'pedestrian crossing at human control-non-control', having negative associations with third component. These variables in CATPC-3 were in the 3-dimensional factor space for variance-maximising direction orthogonal to CATPC-1 and CATPC-2.

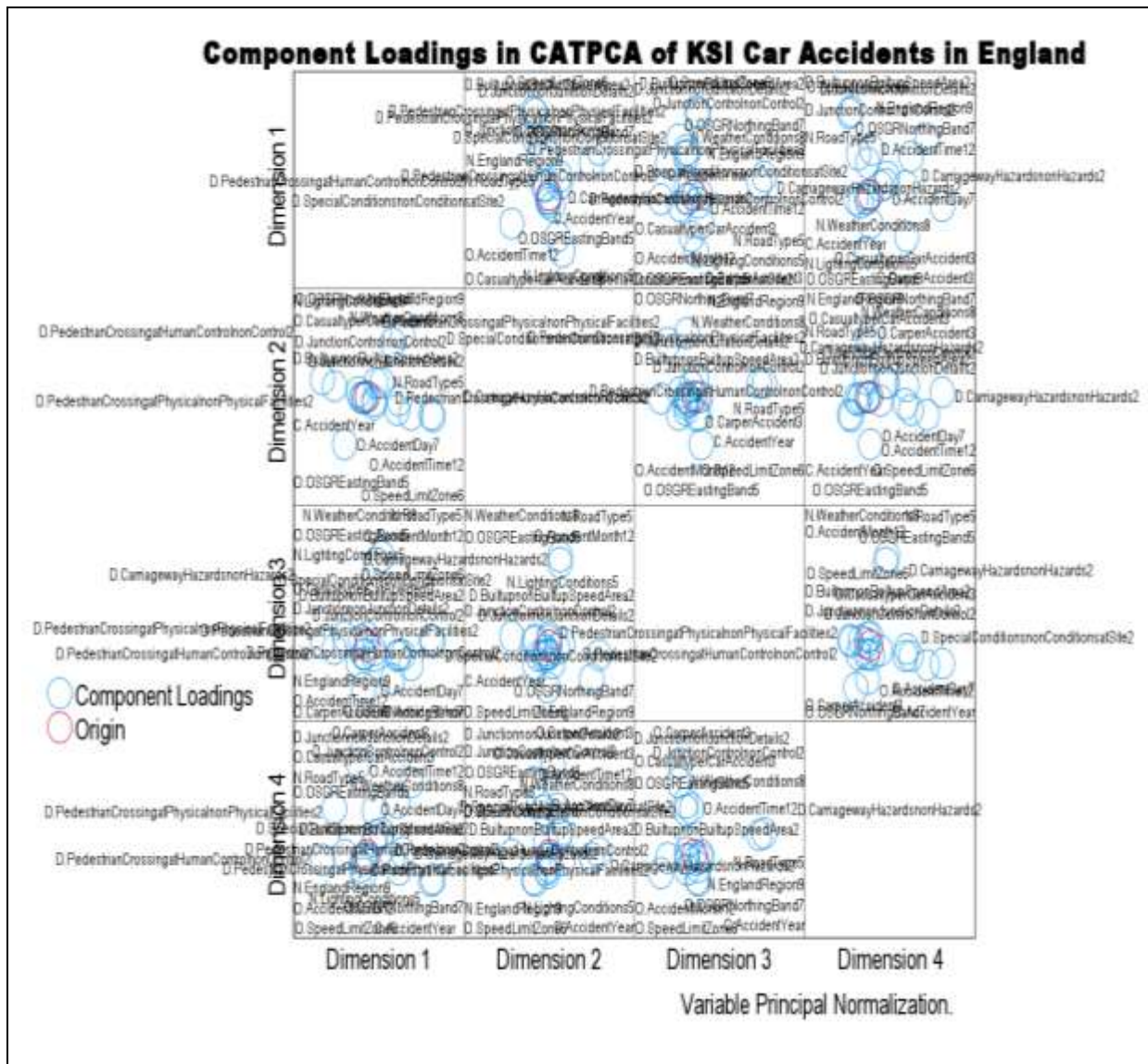
#### **4.8.4. Fourth Categorical Principal Component (CATPC-4)**

Fourth categorical principal component was under-poor/ unacceptable with internal consistency (*Cronbach's*  $\alpha = 0.34$ ). Also its eigenvalue was  $\lambda_2 = 1.48$ . It comprised six out of 20 original variables but as well as same number of original variables in rotated model (see the report). The variables in CATPC-4 reformed with increasing for 'car per accident' as well as 'junction-non-junction details', 'junction controll-non-controll', 'accident time', 'accident day', having positive associations with fourth component; but with decreasing for 'carriageway hazards-non-hazards', having negative association with fourth component. These variables in CATPC-4 were in the 4-dimensional factor space for variance-maximising direction orthogonal to CATPC-1, CATPC-2, and CATPC-3.

Table 4.8. Component Loadings in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

Reporting Component Loadings in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England									
Component Loadings				Rotated Component Loadings					
Variable	Dimension				Variable	Dimension			
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	<b>0.831</b>	-0.264	0.035	-0.191	Built-non-Built-up Speed Area	<b>0.867</b>	0.037	0.186	0.101
Speed Limit Zone	<b>0.808</b>	-0.236	0.053	-0.207	Speed Limit Zone	<b>0.845</b>	0.052	0.153	0.114
Lighting Conditions	<b>-0.561</b>	0.225	0.026	-0.039	Casualty per KSI Car Accident	<b>-0.549</b>	-0.098	0.147	0.006
Casualty per KSI Car Accident	<b>-0.410</b>	0.136	-0.031	0.368	Lighting Conditions	<b>-0.527</b>	0.007	-0.294	-0.057
Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	<b>0.401</b>	-0.052	-0.083	-0.119	Pedestrian Crossing at Physical-non-Physical Facilities	<b>0.407</b>	0.108	0.076	-0.041
England Region	0.448	<b>0.833</b>	-0.087	0.019	England Region	0.104	<b>0.936</b>	0.037	0.127
OSGR Northing Band	0.321	<b>0.709</b>	-0.309	-0.024	OSGR Northing Band	0.056	<b>0.824</b>	0.038	-0.134
OSGR Easting Band	-0.281	<b>-0.630</b>	0.085	0.002	OSGR Easting Band	-0.038	<b>-0.691</b>	0.003	-0.063
Road Type	0.186	0.181	<b>0.823</b>	0.172	Junction-non-Junction Details	0.294	0.009	<b>0.799</b>	0.042
Weather Conditions	0.112	0.179	<b>0.765</b>	0.156	Car per KSI Accident	-0.424	0.050	<b>0.621</b>	0.014
Accident Year	-0.042	-0.027	<b>-0.389</b>	-0.144	Junction Control-non-Control	0.199	-0.009	<b>0.558</b>	0.057
Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	-0.040	-0.015	<b>-0.084</b>	-0.032	Accident Time	-0.046	-0.039	<b>0.386</b>	0.001
Accident Month	-0.002	-0.003	<b>0.079</b>	-0.023	Accident Day	0.047	-0.011	<b>0.146</b>	-0.007
Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	-0.035	-0.013	<b>-0.077</b>	-0.032	Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	-0.018	-0.048	<b>-0.122</b>	0.005
Car per KSI Accident	-0.108	0.057	-0.166	<b>0.725</b>	Road Type	0.023	0.056	-0.043	<b>0.877</b>
Junction-non-Junction Details	0.554	-0.241	-0.180	<b>0.574</b>	Weather Conditions	-0.032	0.042	-0.068	<b>0.805</b>
Junction Control-non-Control	0.382	-0.176	-0.097	<b>0.411</b>	Accident Year	0.037	0.043	-0.029	<b>-0.413</b>
Accident Time	0.090	-0.099	-0.096	<b>0.354</b>	Special Conditions-non-Conditions at Site	-0.015	-0.010	-0.017	<b>-0.097</b>
Accident Day	0.089	-0.055	-0.044	<b>0.104</b>	Pedestrian Crossing at Human Control-non-Control	-0.011	-0.008	-0.017	<b>-0.088</b>
Carriageway Hazards-non-Hazards	-0.076	-0.012	0.048	<b>-0.096</b>	Accident Month	0.009	-0.020	-0.041	<b>0.067</b>
Variable Principal Normalization.				Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. Rotation converged in 5 iterations.					
<b>Model Summary</b>				<b>Model Summary</b>					
Cronbach's Alpha	0.690	0.516	0.411	0.340	Cronbach's Alpha	0.647	0.541	0.477	0.358
Variance Accounted For (Total (Eigenvalue))	2.905	1.962	1.640	1.478	Variance Accounted For (Total (Eigenvalue))	2.540	2.060	1.705	1.680
Total Cronbach's Alpha in 4-dimensions	0.921				Total Cronbach's Alpha in 4-dimensions	0.921			
Total Variance Accounted For (Total (Eigenvalue))	7.986				Total Variance Accounted For (Total (Eigenvalue))	7.986			
<b>Case Processing Summary</b>				<b>Case Processing Summary</b>					
Valid Active Cases				579496	Valid Active Cases	579496			
Active Cases with Missing Values				510064	Active Cases with Missing Values	510064			
Supplementary Cases				0	Supplementary Cases	0			
Total				1089560	Total	1089560			
Cases Used in Analysis				1089560	Cases Used in Analysis	1089560			
Credit: CATPCA Version 2.0 by Leiden SPSS Group, Leiden University, The Netherlands									





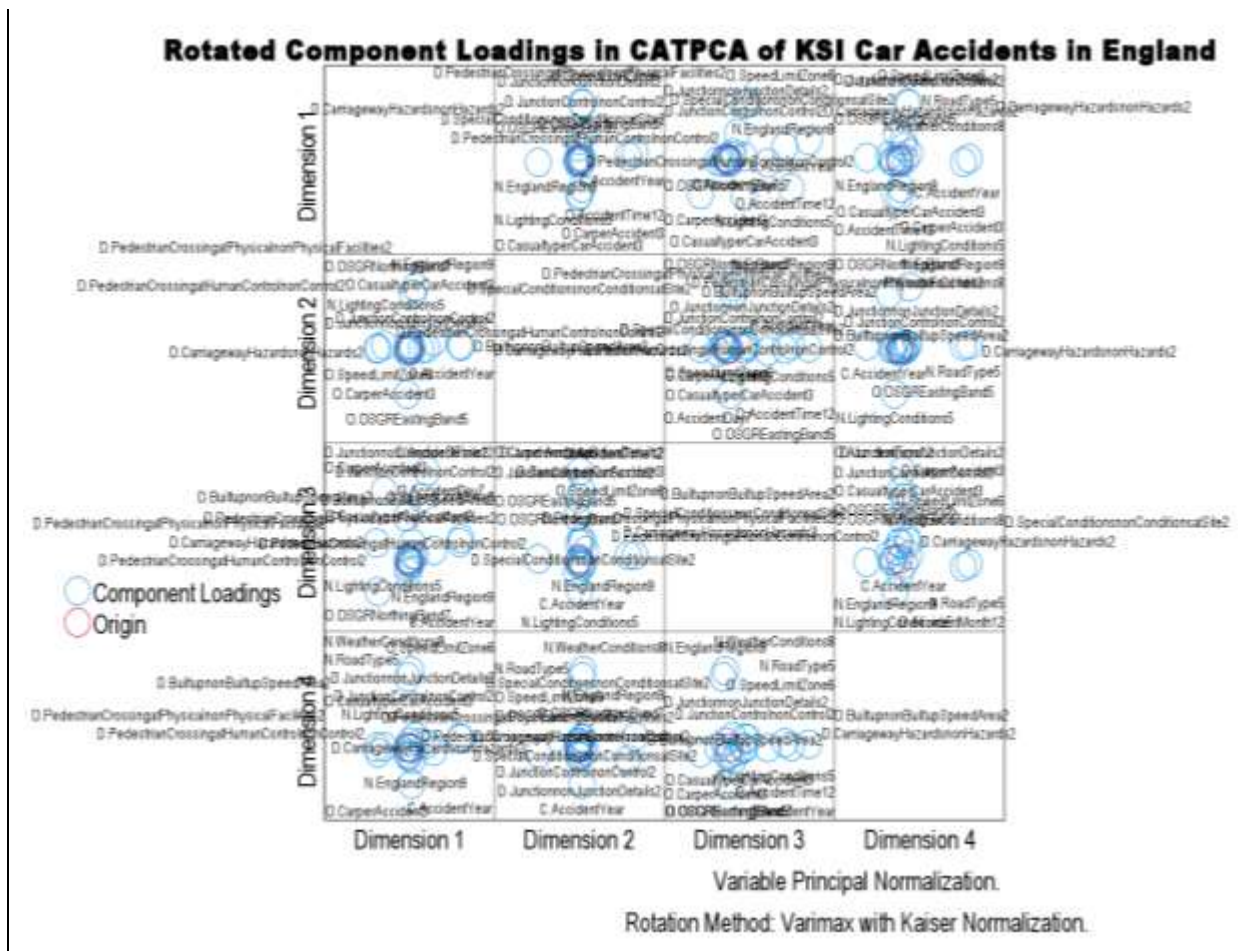


Figure 4.8: Scatter Matrix of Components Loadings and Rotated Component Loadings in CATPCA of KSI Car Accidents in England

#### 4.9. Overview in CATPCA for Road KSI Accidents

CATPCA revealed that four-component solution met the interpretability criterion. The 20 variables were reduced to four components that explained 92.1% (total Cronbach's  $\alpha$  based on grand total eigenvalue) of the total variance. A Varimax orthogonal rotation was applied to aid interpretability. The rotated solution exhibited 'simple structure' (Thurstone, 1947). The data was consistent with the accident attributes in the 20-variable dataset that was designed to measure with strong loadings of 5-variables on Component-1, 3-variables on Component-2, 6-variables on Component-3, and 6-variables on Component-4. Component loadings of the rotated solution had a little change.

### 5. Research Findings, Discussions, and Conclusion

The aim of this study was to identify the component structure of road KSI car accidents in England based on categorical variables in STATS19 database for the period of 1979-2015 by applying categorical principal component analysis. Based on 39 potential variables, this study used CATPCA as an alternative to reduce the large number of variables into the four dimensions of KSI car accidents that have been identified. This study proceeded with 33 fit variables after a series of analyses to determine the fit of variables to be selected. Then,

following the four steps of analysis in the CATPCA, this study reduced and grouped the 20 variables into four principal components. As the data consisted of mainly categorical types (i.e., dichotomous, nominal, and ordinal), the optimal scaling CATPCA allowed this study to jointly analyse and transform these categorical data into numerical values. The aggregated summation of the data of 1089560 cases (where only 579496 cases valid) on these 20 variables was later transformed into component/object scores. These scores are the manifestations of the surrogates of the four components of KSI car accidents identified in this study. These are the best composite scores to use.

- 1) First categorical principal component comprised five out of 20 original variables. It reformed with increasing for 'built-non-built up speed area' as well as 'speed limit zone', and 'pedestrian crossing at physical-non-physical facilities', having positive associations with first component; but with decreasing for 'lighting conditions' as well as 'casualty per accident', having negative associations with first component.
- 2) Second categorical principal component consisted of three variables that reformed with increasing for 'England region' as well as 'OSGR northing band', having positive associations with second component; but with decreasing for 'OSGR easting band' having negative association with second component.
- 3) Third categorical principal component comprised six variables that reformed with increasing for 'road type' as well as 'weather conditions', and 'accident month', having positive associations with third component; but with decreasing for 'accident year' as well as 'special condition-non-condition at site', and 'pedestrian crossing at human control-non-control', having negative associations with third component.
- 4) Fourth categorical principal component comprised six variables that reformed with increasing for 'car per accident' as well as 'junction-non-junction details', 'junction controll-non-controll', 'accident time', 'accident day', having positive associations with fourth component; but with decreasing for 'carriageway hazards-non-hazards', having negative association with fourth component.

This research leads a road car safety practice/ policy as a key policy priority that should therefore be to plan for the long-term prevention of road car accidents. The identified significant variables leading KSI car accidents, can be taken special attention so that KSI car accidents can be reduced. This research can be used to develop targeted interventions aimed at road safety practice/ policy. The findings of this study have several important implications for future practice. These findings are dynamic if policymakers are to be able to identify those individuals at greatest threat of KSI car accident involvement. Policies to reduce the KSI car accidents can then be effectively implemented. Until such policies are implemented, KSI car accidents and associated casualties will remain unnecessarily high for certain individuals in the society, and as a society people will all suffer. Where there is an alert today, there is an alive tomorrow. Stay Alive – Think and Drive.

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