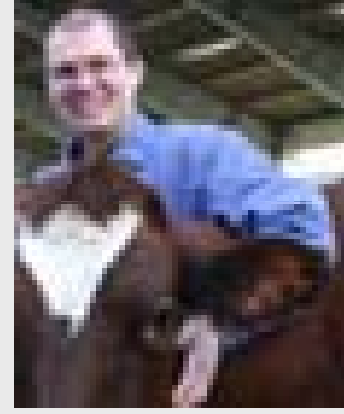


NEW?

# Correspondence analysis – an old method revisited

OLD!

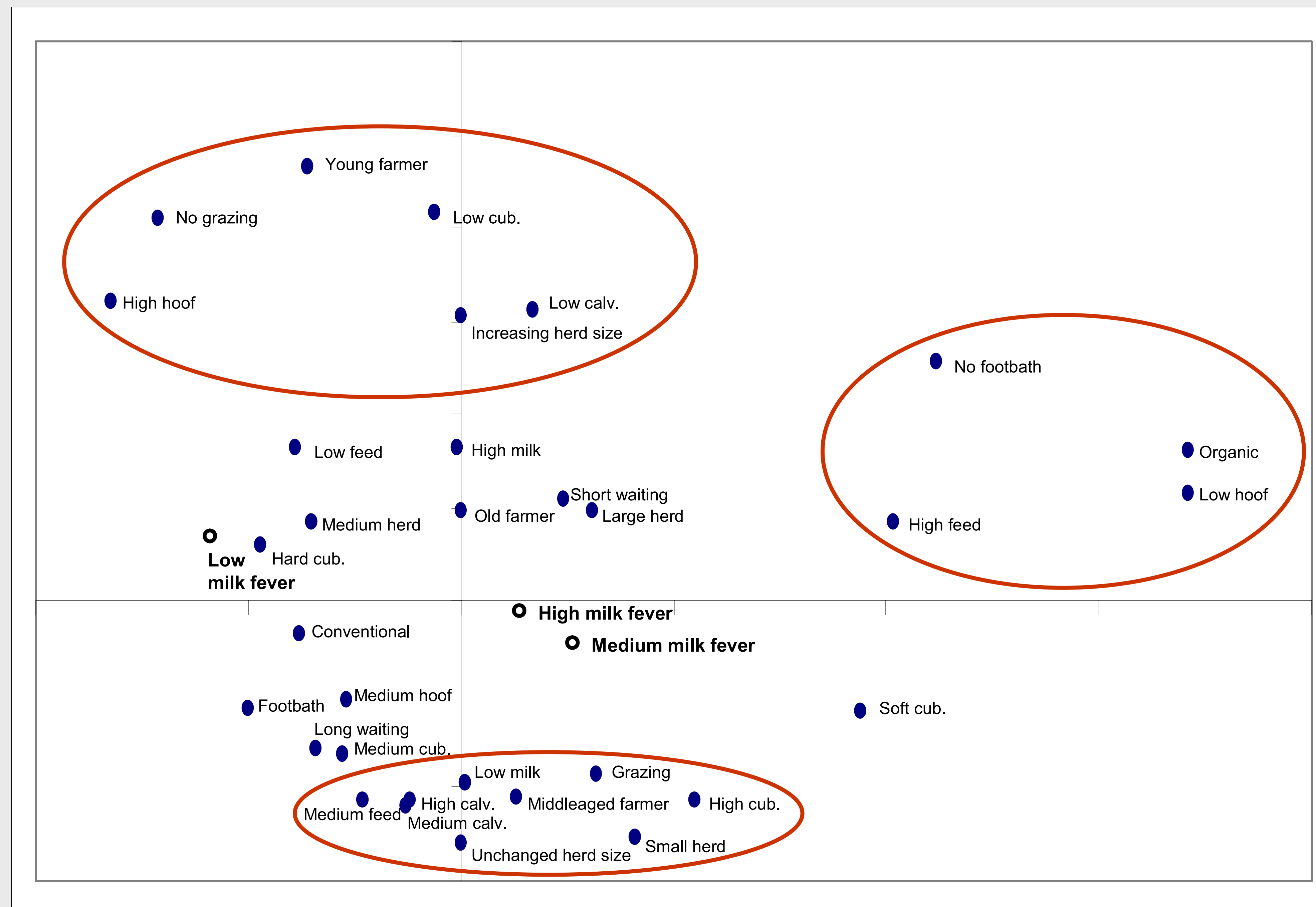


Peter T. Thomsen, Søren Østergaard & Jan Tind Sørensen



University of Aarhus

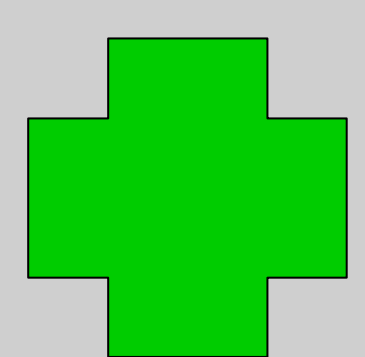
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Research Centre Foulum, P.O. Box 50, DK-8830 Tjele, Denmark



## Introduction

Until now, correspondence analysis has been used in only a few studies with relation to animal production, health and welfare. However, correspondence analysis is in fact an old technique (dating back to 1935) which has been used intensively in e.g. the social sciences, marketing research, geology and human medicine.

## Pros



- Illustrates how qualitative explanatory variables are related to each other
- Illustrates how a qualitative outcome variable is related to groups of explanatory variables
- Scatter plot gives good overview over the associations between variables

## Cons



- Does not quantify the effect of explanatory variables on the outcome
- Evaluation of confounding or interaction not possible

## Example

We used multiple correspondence analysis to illustrate the relationship between the incidence of a number of diseases in 39 Danish dairy herds and a number of explanatory variables describing the management and the physical facilities of the farms. The figure illustrates the relationship between the incidence of milk fever and the explanatory variables.

In our experience, correspondence analysis is well suited to illustrate data on the associations among herd management variables.