## Phys 5053 -- Assignment 6

1. The file *cars-fixed04.csv* on the Datasets web page contains the data on 388 cars from the 2004 model year, with 18 features (from

http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/datasets/04cars.txt, with incomplete records removed). The data is comma-separated; you may want to import it to Excel before working with it in Matlab. Eight features are binary indicators (yes/no); the other 11 features are numerical. PCA only works with numerical features. Use the Principal Components Analysis to analyze this dataset.

- a) What factors generate most variance in the data? What may the first two principal components stand for? How many principal components are essential for describing the variability in the data?
- b) What factors affect the price most (either Dealer price or Retail price)?
- c) PCA may help you see the correlations within the data. Which attributes are highly correlated? Are those correlations reflected in the  $r^2$  values?
- d) Explore the dataset further. What other information can be inferred?