## Clustering

Fabrice Rossi

CEREMADE Université Paris Dauphine

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## Outline

#### Introduction

Hierarchical clustering

K-means and related methods

DBSCAN

Fuzzy and probabilistic models

## Unsupervised learning

### Setting

- $\blacktriangleright \mathcal{D} = ((\mathbf{X}_i)_{1 \le i \le N})$
- no target value!
- goal: "understanding" the data
- in practice, many concrete goals such as
  - finding clusters
  - finding frequent patterns
  - finding outliers
  - modeling the data distribution
  - etc.

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#### Definition

In a data set, a *cluster* is a group of objects that are more similar to each other than to objects from the rest of the data set.

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### Difficulties

- group?
- similar?
- more than?









#### Simplification (pre-processing)

- large scale data analysis: replace a group of objects by a single typical object
- coarse grain analysis before a finer grain one (see e.g. Yippy)

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#### Knowledge discovery

- consumer analysis
- image analysis (zone extraction)
- evolutionary biology
- etc.

# Yippy example

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# Yippy example

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# Yippy example

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#### Image as data set

- a pixel: a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- image: set of pixels a.k.a. vectors
- clustering: comparable pixels



#### **Pixels**





#### 50 typical pixels





#### 50 typical pixels



## How to build a clustering method?

### Ingredients

- similarity or dissimilarity: how to compare objects?
- group structure: set, "fuzzy" set, probabilistic membership?
- clustering structure: disjoint sets, overlapping sets, complete partition?

#### Classical example: standard k-means

- ► dissimilarity: euclidean distance on numerical variables (i.e. X = ℝ<sup>P</sup>)
- groups: standard sets
- clustering structure: groups for a partition of the data set

## Clustering is ill posed

#### Problems

- vague definition with possible extensions (e.g. find groups that reflect the "underlying structure" of the data set)
- vastly different practical goals (from pre-processing to knowledge discovery)
- no universal quality criterion:
  - almost one criterion per method!
  - lack of task oriented criterion
- impossibility result in some situations

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#### Clustering as a process

- for knowledge discovery
- usefulness rather than quality

## Results and tools

### Using a clustering

- cluster analysis: what do they contain?
  - list of the members
  - representative element(s)
- cluster "positioning":
  - relative positioning in space
  - significant differences

### Tasks oriented analysis

- can the analyst understand the clusters?
- can the clustering summarize the data? In what sense?

### Four main families...

- hierarchical algorithms: hierarchical clustering
- centroid based algorithms: k-means
- density based algorithms: DBSCAN
- probabilistic algorithms: mixture models and EM

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#### but a complex landscape

- k-means as a limit case of some mixture models
- DBSCAN is somewhat related to single linkage hierarchical clustering
- numerous hybrid techniques
- ► etc.

#### Minimal assumption

- $\mathcal{X}$  is equipped with a dissimilarity d
- d is a dissimilarity on  $\mathcal{X}$  iff:
  - 1. *d* is a function from  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^+$
  - 2.  $\forall \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}', d(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}') = d(\mathbf{X}', \mathbf{X})$
  - **3.**  $\forall \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}', \ \mathbf{X} \neq \mathbf{X}' \Leftrightarrow d(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}') > 0$

### Links with clustering

- many algorithms can work with arbitrary dissimilarities
- density, separability, compactness, in general quality metrics are expressed in terms of the dissimilarity
- results strongly depend on the dissimilarity
- ▶ plain  $\mathbb{R}^{P}$ : euclidean dissimilarity!

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### Clustering and partition

 $\mathcal{D} = ((\mathbf{X}_i)_{1 \leq i \leq N})$ 

- ▶ group: a subset of {1,...,*N*}
- clustering structure: each observation (i.e. index in {1,..., N}) is in one unique group + no empty group
- ▶ building a clustering ⇔ choosing a partition!
- ▶ here a cluster is also a class

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### Remarks

- this is only one possible structure among others!
- one can have  $\mathbf{X}_i = \mathbf{X}_j$  for  $i \neq j$ 
  - we expect i and j to be in the same group!
  - groups are described at the index level

# Hierarchy

#### Partial order on partitions

► a partition P is finer than a partition Q (P ≤ Q) if any class of P is a subset of a class of Q

example

$$P = \big\{\{1,2\},\{3,4\},\{5,6\}\big\} \le \big\{\{1,2,3,4\},\{5,6\}\big\} = Q$$

#### Hierarchy

A hierarchy for  $\mathcal{D} = ((\mathbf{X}_i)_{1 \le i \le N})$  is a fully ordered set of partitions containing the trivial partitions

1.  $\{\{1, \dots, N\}\}\$ 2.  $\{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{N\}\}\$ 

### A B C D E F

most refined partition (trivial)



- most refined partition (trivial)
- B and C are in the same class at level 2: leaves of a common node



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#### Understanding dendrograms

- provides a summary of the hierarchy
- a level in the tree (a.k.a. a node) corresponds to merging two classes
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**Cluster Dendrogram** 





- look for "gaps" between levels: potential candidates for interesting partitions
- local partitions (i.e. branches) might also be interesting



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### Agglomerative methods

- start with  $P = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{N\}\}$
- merge two classes in such a way that the resulting class is a cluster
- keep doing that until reaching  $Q = \{\{1, \dots, N\}\}$

### **Divisive methods**

- start with  $Q = \{\{1, \ldots, N\}\}$
- split one class into two sub-classes that are *clusters*
- keep doing that until reaching  $P = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{N\}\}$

#### Common elements

- those methods produce a hierarchy with N partitions
- they need a way to assess suitability of the classes as clusters
- dissimilarity based algorithms

#### Differences

- numerous agglomerative methods
- relatively few divisive ones
- very different computational problems:
  - agglomerative:  $\Theta(N^2)$  potential merges at each step
  - divisive:  $\Theta(2^{N-1})$  possible splits at the first step

### Core principle

- merge classes when they contain similar objects
- ▶ for singleton classes  $\{X_i\}$  and  $\{X_j\}$  use  $d(X_i, X_j)$  to judge similarity
- key point: extend the dissimilarity to groups of objects

### General algorithm

- initial partition:  $P^1 = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{N\}\}$
- ▶ for k from 2 to N:
  - compute the dissimilarity between all current classes in P<sup>k-1</sup>
  - build  $\mathcal{P}^k$  from  $\mathcal{P}^{k-1}$  by merging the two least dissimilar classes

#### Aggregation functions

Let A and B be two classes (of indices)

single linkage (min)

$$d_{\mathcal{S}}(A,B) = \min_{i \in A, j \in B} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{X}_j)$$

complete linkage (max)

$$d_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B}) = \max_{i \in \mathcal{A}, j \in \mathcal{B}} d(\mathbf{X}_i,\mathbf{X}_j)$$

average linkage

$$d_{\mathcal{S}}(\boldsymbol{A},\boldsymbol{B}) = rac{1}{|\boldsymbol{A}||\boldsymbol{B}|} \sum_{i \in \boldsymbol{A}, j \in \boldsymbol{B}} d(\mathbf{X}_i,\mathbf{X}_j)$$

### Illustration



### Illustration



#### Naive approach

- ► N 1 steps
- $\blacktriangleright\,$  overall  $\Theta\,(\textit{N}^3)$  with adapted dissimilarity calculations
- standard implementation in many packages

### Optimized solution

- simple priority list based solutions in  $\Theta(N^2 \log N)$
- optimized algorithms in  $\Theta(N^2)$  (see <u>fastcluster</u> in R)
- ► notice that the dissimilarity must be calculated! For X = ℝ<sup>P</sup>, this adds in general a Θ (N<sup>2</sup>P) cost.

## In practice

### Outline

- 1. choose a dissimilarity
- 2. choose an aggregation function
- 3. build the hierarchy
- 4. study the dendrogram:
  - the heights are the dissimilarities between merged classes
  - gaps can be seen as abrupt changes in merge qualities
  - visualization methods can be used to display the classes (e.g. Principal Component Analysis)

## In practice

### Outline

- 1. choose a dissimilarity
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  - the heights are the dissimilarities between merged classes
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### Limitations

- results strongly depend on both the dissimilarity and the aggregation function
- somewhat slow
- exploratory tool rather than clustering tool















Single









Single









Single







Single





Single





Single





Single





Single





Single





Single


### Remarks

- initial behaviors are quite independent from the aggregation function
- single linkage:
  - tendency to produce "long" classes (chaining)
  - outlier isolation
- complete linkage:
  - balanced class sizes
  - classes can be close one to another (crowding)
- average linkage
  - average behavior...
  - resistant to noise but sensitive to dissimilarity transformation

#### Classes as clusters

A partition provides a good *clustering* if its classes are

- homogeneous
- well separated

### Criteria

homogeneity via the diameter

$$D(A) = \max_{i \in A, j \in A} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{X}_j)$$

- separation via dissimilarity
- a good clustering: small diameters and large dissimilarities!

### Single linkage

- no control over D(A) during the merge
- could end up with classes with very different diameters
- distances between classes can be very small relatively to their diameter

### Complete linkage

- the diameter is the quality measure of a merge!
- however, no control at all over separability

#### Two extreme cases

with the average linkage in between...

### General rules of thumb

- single linkage
  - gives frequently poor results
  - might be useful to spot outliers
- average linkage
  - gives generally good clusters
  - interesting compromise between diameter and separation

#### complete linkage

- maximally homogeneous classes
- useful when there are no real clusters (i.e., clusters that can be easily separated)

## Partition quality

### Quality versus distance

- aggregation functions express the quality of a merge in terms of distances (min, max or average)
- alternative solution: express the quality using the resulting cluster

#### Within "variance"

within variance of a class A (homogeneity measure)

$$W(A) = rac{1}{|A|} \sum_{i \in A, j \in A} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{X}_j)$$

▶ total within variance of a partition  $P = \{A_1, ..., A_K\}$ 

$$W(\mathcal{P}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} W(A_k)$$

### Optimizing the within variance

- same aggregative algorithm than with dissimilarities
- (non)quality of a merge:
  - the increase in within variance induced by merging A with B
  - Iocal computation

$$\Delta_{(A,B)\to A\cup B}=W(A\cup B)-W(A)-W(B)$$

► can be seen as a greedy optimization of W(P) at each stage of the hierarchy





Single







Single







Single







Single





Single





Single





Single





Single





Single





Single



#### Ward versus average

- somewhat related hierarchy
- Ward's method tend to favor more balanced class size
- Ward's method is closely related to other methods (e.g. K-means)
- outliers are more easily aggregated with other points in the Ward's method

#### Numerous other variants

- centroid and median linkage (distances between classes induced by prototype based representation)
- minimax linkage (enclosing ball diameter)
- etc.

### **Divisive methods**

### Generic algorithm

- initial partition:  $\mathcal{P}^1 = \{1, \dots, N\}$
- for k from 2 to N:
  - chose a class to split
  - build  $\mathcal{P}^k$  from  $\mathcal{P}^{k-1}$  by splitting the chosen class into two sub classes

### Difficulties

- choosing the class to split is relatively easy by using e.g. a diameter criterion
- but splitting is hard: too many possible splits  $(2^{N-1} 1)!$

### DIANA

- Divisive ANAlysis Clustering (available in R in cluster)
- reference algorithm by Kaufman & Roussew, 1990

### DIANA

 $\mathcal{P}^{1} \leftarrow \{1, \dots, N\}$ for k in 2, ..., N do find  $C_{j}$  in  $\mathcal{P}^{k-1}$  with the largest diameter find  $\mathbf{X}_{l}$  for  $l \in C_{j}$  that maximizes  $\sum_{l' \in C_{j}} d(\mathbf{X}_{l}, \mathbf{X}_{l'})$  $C_{j}^{a} \leftarrow \{l\}$  and  $C_{j}^{b} \leftarrow C_{j} \setminus \{l\}$ repeat

for all t in  $C_j$  compute

$$D(t) = \frac{1}{|C_j^b|} \sum_{u \in C_j^b} d(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{X}_u) - \frac{1}{|C_j^a|} \sum_{u \in C_j^a} d(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{X}_u)$$

if  $v = \arg \max_t D(t)$  is such that D(v) > 0 move v from  $C_k^b$  to  $C_k^a$ until  $\max_t D(t) < 0$ define  $\mathcal{P}^k$  as  $\mathcal{P}^{k-1}$  in which  $C_j$  is replaced by  $C_j^a$  and  $C_j^b$ end for





Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete







Complete





### Summary

### Hierarchical clustering

- © provide a hierarchy and a dendrogram
- applicable to any dissimilarity
- $\odot \Theta(N^2)$  running time for aggregative methods
- not much guarantees about the final result
- © inferior results for some methods (e.g. single linkage)

### Generic questions

- dissimilarity?
- hierarchical method?
- cluster number?

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### Optimization point of view

- define a quality criterion for a clustering structure
- optimize this quality over "all" clustering structures
- typical example:
  - within variance as quality measure
  - optimized over partitions

### Difficulties

- no obvious quality criterion for exploratory tasks
- very difficult discrete optimization problems (NP-hard in some cases)

### Quantization point of view

### Summarizing a data set

- key idea: represent a data set D = (X<sub>i</sub>)<sub>1≤i≤N</sub> by a smaller set of prototypes D = (γ<sub>k</sub>)<sub>1≤k≤K</sub>
- ► X<sub>i</sub> is presented by a prototype: z<sub>i</sub> is the index in {1,..., K} of this prototype
- natural risk associated to the problem

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{\Gamma},\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} d(\mathbf{X}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{z_{i}}),$$

where  $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_N)$  and  $\mathbf{\Gamma} = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_K)$ .

### Quantization point of view

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where  $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_N)$  and  $\mathbf{\Gamma} = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_K)$ .

natural clustering interpretation: z defines a partition of {1,..., N} into K classes!
### Optimization

#### Difficult!

- minimizing  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{\Gamma}, \mathbf{z})$  is a combinatorial problem
- ▶ for standard *d* (such as the squared Euclidean distance when  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^{P}$ ) this is NP-hard

#### Simple sub-problems

• minimizing  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{\Gamma}, \mathbf{z})$  with respect to  $\mathbf{z}$  is easy

$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{z}} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{\Gamma}, \mathbf{z}) = \left(\arg\min_{k \in \{1, \dots, K\}} d(\mathbf{X}_1, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k), \dots, \arg\min_{k \in \{1, \dots, K\}} d(\mathbf{X}_N, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k)\right)$$

► if prototypes are restricted to be elements of the data set D, optimizing with respect to **Γ** is also easy

$$\arg\min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \mathcal{E}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{z}) = \left(\arg\min_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}_k \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i, z_i = k} d(\boldsymbol{X}_i, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k)\right)_{1 \le k \le K}$$

#### A.k.a. alternating optimization

a simple minimization algorithm for a function F(u, v):

select *u*<sub>0</sub> randomly

*k* ← 1

#### repeat

 $v_k = \arg \min_v F(u_{k-1}, v)$   $u_k = \arg \min_u F(u, v_k)$   $k \leftarrow k + 1$ **until** convergence

### Properties

- converges to a local minimum
- but not to a global one
- improved by multiple restarts

### Algorithm

select  $\pmb{\Gamma}$  as a random subset of  $\mathcal D$  repeat

 $\begin{array}{l} z_i \leftarrow \arg\min_{k \in \{1,...,K\}} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \gamma_k) \\ \gamma_k \leftarrow \arg\min_{\gamma \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i, z_i = k} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \gamma) \\ \textbf{until convergence} \end{array}$ 

assignment phaserepresentation phase

#### Comments

- one of the most well known clustering algorithm for arbitrary dissimilarities
- complexity  $\Theta(NK) + \Theta(N^2)$  (assuming *d* is known)
- complex quantization effects when N is small ("data holes")

#### When $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^{P}$

- one uses in general  $d(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{X}_j) = \|\mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{X}_j\|^2$
- then we do need to restrict γ to elements of D

we have

$$\mathcal{E}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{z}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i, z_i = k} \|\boldsymbol{X}_i - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k\|^2$$

and thus

$$\arg\min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \mathcal{E}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}, \boldsymbol{z}) = \left(\frac{1}{s_k} \sum_{i, z_i = k} \boldsymbol{X}_i\right)_{1 \le k \le K}$$

where  $s_k = |\{i | z_i = k\}|$ 

• identical results when  $\mathcal{X}$  is a Hilbert space (a RHKS for instance)

### K-means algorithm

#### Algorithm

select  $\pmb{\Gamma}$  as a random subset of  $\mathcal D$  repeat

$$Z_i \leftarrow \arg\min_{k \in \{1,...,K\}} \|\mathbf{X}_i - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k\|^2 \qquad \triangleright \text{ assignment phase}$$
  
 $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_k \leftarrow \frac{1}{s_k} \sum_{i,z_i=k} \mathbf{X}_i \qquad \triangleright \text{ representation phase}$   
until convergence

#### Comments

- one of the most well known clustering algorithm
- complexity  $\Theta(NKP)$
- numerous variants and improvements (kmeans++ for instance)

#### Standard solution

- random prototypes chosen uniformly at random in the data set without replacement
- random clusters do not work properly

#### k-means++ (Arthur & Vassilvitskii, 2007 [1])

- 1.  $\gamma_1$  chosen uniformly at random in the data set
- 2. for k in 2 to K:
  - 2.1 for  $\mathbf{X}_i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{\boldsymbol{\gamma}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{k-1}\}$  compute  $p_i = \frac{\min_{k \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}} d(\mathbf{X}_i, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k)^2}{\sum_{j \neq i} \min_{k \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}} d(\mathbf{X}_j, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_k)^2}$ 2.2 chose  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_k$  in  $\mathcal{D} \setminus \{\boldsymbol{\gamma}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{k-1}\}$  according to the probabilities  $(p_i)_i$
- theoretical guarantees
- practical efficiency





Average







Average







Average







Average







Average





Variance decomposition

• for any  $C \subset \{1, \ldots, N\}$ 

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}} \|\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_j\|^2 = 2|\mathcal{C}| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \|\mathbf{X}_i - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathcal{C}}\|^2,$$

where

$$\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{C} = rac{1}{|C|} \sum_{i \in C} \mathbf{X}_{i}$$

• and therefore if  $C_k = \{i \in \{1, ..., N\} \mid z_i = k\}$ 

$$\begin{split} \min_{\Gamma} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \|\mathbf{X}_{i} - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{z_{i}}\|^{2} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{1}{|C_{k}|} \sum_{i \in C_{k}} \sum_{j \in C_{k}} \|\mathbf{X}_{i} - \mathbf{X}_{j}\|^{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} W(\{C_{1}, \dots, C_{k}\}) \end{split}$$

#### Quantization and within variance

- minimizing the quantization error is equivalent to maximizing the total within variance
- K-means is very close to Ward's method!

#### Total variance

• the total variance is  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \mathbf{X}_{i} - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathcal{D}} \right\|^{2}$ 

we have

$$\begin{split} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \mathbf{X}_{i} - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathcal{D}} \right\|^{2} &= \min_{\mathbf{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \mathbf{X}_{i} - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{C_{\mathbf{\gamma}_{\mathbf{Z}_{i}}}} \right\|^{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{K} |C_{k}| \left\| \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{k} - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{\mathcal{D}} \right\|^{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} W(\{C_{1}, \dots, C_{k}\}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{k'=1}^{K} |C_{k}| |C_{k'}| \left\| \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{k} - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{k'} \right\|^{2} \end{split}$$

#### Between variance

• 
$$B(C_1,...,C_k) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{k'=1}^{K} |C_k| |C_{k'}| \left\| \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{k'} \right\|^2$$

weighted pairwise distances between prototypes

measures how spread the clusters are

#### Within and between variance

- total variance = within variance + between variance
- the total variance does not depend on the clustering
- by minimizing the within variance, one maximizes the between variance!
- clusters are both compact and well separated (at least at the prototype level)

### K-means

- © clear quantification interpretation
- © compact clusters with separated prototypes
- $\bigcirc \Theta(NKP)$  running time
- © efficient initialization strategy (k-means++)
- 🙂 K?
- © spherical clusters which might be very close one to another

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#### Cluster = dense region

- clusters are areas of high density compared to other areas
- density based separation: clusters are separated by low density areas
- no direct assumption on cluster shape and on relative distances

### DBSCAN

- Ester, Kriegel, Sander & Xu, 1996 [2]
- most well known density based algorithm
- simple density model:
  - enough points in a tight region
  - two parameters:
    - minPts: minimal number of points in a region
    - $\varepsilon$ : radius of the region

#### Several types of points

- core point:  $X_i$  such that  $|\{X \in \mathcal{D} | d(X_i, X) \le \varepsilon\}| \ge minPts$
- *directly density reachable point* from a core point X<sub>i</sub>: X<sub>j</sub> such that d(X<sub>i</sub>, X<sub>j</sub>) ≤ ε
- density reachable point from a core point X<sub>i</sub>: X<sub>j</sub> such that there is a chain of core points X<sub>k1</sub>,..., X<sub>kj</sub> with d(X<sub>kt</sub>, X<sub>kt+1</sub>) ≤ ε, X<sub>k1</sub> = X<sub>j</sub> and X<sub>kj</sub> = X<sub>j</sub>
- border point: density reachable points that are not core points
- density connected points: two points are density connected is they are density reachable from the same (core) point
- noise point: points that are not density reachable from a core point



- A and red points: core points
- B and C: border points
- N: noise point

illustration from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DBSCAN-Illustration.svg

#### **DBSCAN** clusters

A cluster in DBSCAN is a maximal set of density connected points.

#### Noise

Points that do not belong to DBSCAN clusters form the noise.

### **Clustering model**

- DBSCAN produces a partition of D into C<sub>1</sub>,..., C<sub>K</sub>, N, where the C<sub>k</sub> are the clusters and N is the noise
- ► K is not specified directly but only a consequence of minPts and ε
- notice that K ≤ N/minPts as a cluster must contain a core point and has therefore a minimal size of minPts
- border points can belong to several clusters and a tie breaking criterion is used to assign them to a single one

#### Algorithm

```
for all X \in \mathcal{D} do
   if X is not labelled then
       N \leftarrow \varepsilon-neighborhood of X
       if |N| < minPts then
           label X as noise
       else
           label X with a new cluster label k
           label with k all density reachable points from X (including
noise ones)
       end if
   end if
end for
```

### Complexity

- core operation: ε-neighborhood calculation
- $\blacktriangleright$  done once for each point in  ${\cal D}$
- naive complexity in  $N \Rightarrow \Theta(N^2)$
- spatial indexing (R\* tree, for instance) might decrease the cost but not to ⊖ (() N log N)
- minimal cost:  $\Theta\left(N^{\frac{4}{3}}\right)$

#### minPts

- Iimited impact on the results above a minimal value
- original recommendation: minPts = 4
- current recommendation: *minPts* = 2 × P (larger values for noisy data)

#### ε

- very difficult to set
- plays a role similar to the one of k in the k-means
- one should explore the effects of using different values of  $\varepsilon$
- "elbow" approach on the k-nn distance graph



### Diagnostic plots



 $\epsilon = 0.65$  k = 1 noise = 1



 $\epsilon = 0.62125$  k = 1 noise = 1



 $\epsilon = 0.5925$  k = 1 noise = 2



 $\epsilon = 0.56375$  k = 1 noise = 3



 $\epsilon = 0.535$  k = 1 noise = 3



 $\epsilon = 0.50625$  k = 1 noise = 3



 $\epsilon = 0.4775$  k = 1 noise = 4



 $\epsilon = 0.44875$  k = 1 noise = 4



 $\epsilon = 0.42$  k = 1 noise = 4



 $\epsilon = 0.39125$  k = 1 noise = 5


$\epsilon = 0.3625$  k = 1 noise = 10



 $\epsilon = 0.33375$  k = 1 noise = 17



 $\epsilon = 0.305$  k = 2 noise = 23



 $\epsilon = 0.27625$  k = 3 noise = 24



 $\epsilon = 0.2475$  k = 6 noise = 30



 $\epsilon = 0.21875$  k = 7 noise = 36



 $\epsilon = 0.19$  k = 11 noise = 56



 $\epsilon = 0.16125$  k = 12 noise = 93



 $\epsilon = 0.1325$  k = 11 noise = 112



 $\epsilon = 0.10375$  k = 6 noise = 151



 $\epsilon = 0.075$  k = 2 noise = 170



## Summary

### DBSCAN

- noise detection
- © arbitrary shaped clusters
- mostly deterministic
- $\odot \Theta(N^2 P)$  running time in the worst case
- arbitrary shaped clusters
- ${\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\rule{\ensuremath{\rule{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\rule{\ensuremath{\textcircled{\ensuremath{\rule{\ensuremath{\n}\nlemath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\ensuremath{\n}\nlemath{\ensuremath{\n}\nle$

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## Non crisp clusters

#### Ambiguous points

- some points are difficult to associate to a given cluster
- numerous situations: very close clusters, "interpolation" points, etc.

### Soft clusters

- $X_i$  belongs to  $C_k$  with "intensity"
- clustering through an assignment matrix:  $(M_{ik})_{1 \le i \le N, 1 \le k \le K}$ , with
  - $M_{ik} \in [0, 1]$ : intensity between 0 and 1
  - $\sum_{k=1}^{K} M_{ik} = 1$ : total unitary grade
  - crisp limit:  $M_{ik} \in \{0, 1\}$
- interpretations:
  - *M<sub>ik</sub>* as a membership grade: fuzzy sets
  - *M<sub>ik</sub>* as a membership probability: mixture models

#### Vector quantization with membership

- prototypes:  $\mathbf{\Gamma} = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_K)$
- assignment matrix:  $(M_{ik})_{1 \le i \le N, 1 \le k \le K}$
- quality criterion

$$\mathcal{E}^{b}(\mathbf{\Gamma}, \mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} M_{ik}^{b} d(\mathbf{X}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{k}),$$

#### Fuzziness parameter

- b represents the non crispness of the assignment
- $\blacktriangleright$  *b* = 1 corresponds to the standard quantization problem
- b > 1 generates fuzzy assignments

### Principle

- *E<sup>b</sup>*(**Γ**, **z**) is easily optimized with alternate optimization
- constrained optimization with respect to M

### Algorithm

for  $d(\mathbf{X}_i, \gamma_k) = \|\mathbf{X}_i - \gamma_k\|^2$ select  $\Gamma$  as a random subset of  $\mathcal{D}$ repeat

compute 
$$d_{ik} = \|\mathbf{X}_i - \gamma_k\|^2$$
  
 $M_{ik} = \frac{(1/d_{ik})^{1/(b-1)}}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} (1/d_{ij})^{1/(b-1)}}$   
 $\gamma_k \leftarrow \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} M_{jk}^b} \sum_{i=1}^{N} M_{ik}^b \mathbf{X}_i$   
until convergence

> assignment phase

representation phase

Standard K-means

















b = 10



### Fuzziness evolution



Standard K-means

















b = 10



#### Fuzzy c-cmeans

- soft clustering
- © simple interpretation and implementation
- identify points that are complex to cluster
- Slightly more expansive than the k-means
- © quite sensitive to the additional parameter b

### Strategy

- test several values of b
- use diagnostic plots
- can be used to identify core points

#### *M<sub>ik</sub>* as a membership grade

- intrinsic fuzziness
- clusters are inherently ill defined
- no randomness

#### *M<sub>ik</sub>* as a probability

- missing information
- belief
- clusters are perfectly defined but unknown to the analyst

#### Generative models

- parametric model for the distribution of  $(\mathbf{X}_i)_{1 \le i \le N}$
- parameter estimation from a data set via maximum likelihood (or other techniques)

### Clustering oriented models

- mixture models
- *K* parametric models with prior probabilities  $\pi_k (\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k = 1)$
- generative process for X<sub>i</sub>
  - 1. chose  $z_i \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$  with probability  $\pi_k$  for k
  - 2. generate  $\mathbf{X}_i$  according to the parametric model  $z_i$

#### Hidden variable model

- each observation X<sub>i</sub> is associated to a hidden variable Z<sub>i</sub>
- each  $Z_i$  takes values in  $\{1, \ldots, K\}$ , with  $\mathbb{P}(Z_i = k) = \pi_k$
- ► the Z<sub>i</sub> are independent and given Z<sub>1</sub>,..., Z<sub>N</sub>, the X<sub>i</sub> are independent
- ▶ we are given *K* parametric distributions  $(p_k)_{1 \le k \le K}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$  with parameters  $\theta = (\theta_k)_{1 \le k \le K}$
- $X_i \mid Z_i = k$  is distributed according to  $p_k$

▶ then the log likelihood of the data set  $D = (\mathbf{x}_i)_{1 \le i \le N}$  is given by

$$\log p(\mathcal{D} \mid \pi, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k p_k(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_k) \right)$$

### Complete likelihood

#### Notations

- integer notation  $Z_i \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$
- binary notation  $Z_i \in \{0, 1\}^K$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^K Z_{ik} = 1$
- $\blacktriangleright Z_i = k \Leftrightarrow Z_{ik} = \delta_{ik}$
- then  $p(z_i \mid \pi) = \prod_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k^{z_{ik}}$

#### Complete likelihood

► the log likelihood of the full data set  $D_F = (\mathbf{x}_i, z_i)_{1 \le i \le N}$  is given by

$$\log p(\mathcal{D}_F \mid \pi, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{ik} \left( \log \pi_k + \log p_k(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_k) \right)$$

• easy to optimize compare to  $\log p(\mathcal{D} \mid \pi, \theta)$
#### Reversing the model

according to the Bayes rule

$$\mathbb{P}(Z_i = k \mid \mathbf{x}_i, \pi, \theta) = \frac{p_k(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_k)\pi_k}{\sum_{l=1}^{K} \pi_l p_l(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_l)}$$

- γ<sub>ik</sub> = ℙ(Z<sub>i</sub> = k | x<sub>i</sub>, π, θ) is the responsibility of component k for generating x<sub>i</sub>
- *z<sub>i</sub>* can be "guessed" in a probabilistic sense given the true parameters of the model

#### Key ideas

- averaging  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{ik} (\log \pi_k + \log p_k(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_k))$  over the probabilistic guesses of the  $z_i$
- using the best possible guess  $\gamma_{ik} = \mathbb{P}(Z_i = k \mid \pi, \theta)$
- alternating between improving the estimates of the parameters π and θ and improving the estimates of the hidden variables γ<sub>ik</sub>

initialize  $\pi^{(0)}$  and  $\theta^{(0)}$  $t \leftarrow 1$ repeat compute

⊳ E Phase

$$\gamma_{ik}^{(t)} = \frac{p_k(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_k^{(t-1)}) \pi_k^{(t-1)}}{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l^{(t-1)} p_l(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \theta_l^{(t-1)})}$$

compute

⊳ M Phase

 $\frac{N_k^{(t)}}{N}$ 

$$N_{k}^{(t)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{ik}^{(t)} \qquad \qquad \pi_{k}^{(t)} = \theta_{k}^{(t)} = \arg \max_{\theta_{k}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{ik}^{(t)} \log p_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{i} \mid \theta_{k})$$

 $t \leftarrow t + 1$ until convergence

### Gaussian mixture

#### Standard approach for $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^{P}$

• each  $p_k$  is a multivariate Gaussian distribution

• 
$$\theta_k = (\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$$
 and

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}_i|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{P/2} |\Sigma_k|^{1/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mu_k)^T \Sigma_k^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mu_k)}$$

then we have

$$\mu_{k}^{(t)} = \frac{1}{N_{k}^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{ik}^{(t)} \mathbf{x}_{i}$$
  
$$\Sigma_{k}^{(t)} = \frac{1}{N_{k}^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \gamma_{ik}^{(t)} (\mathbf{x}_{i} - \mu_{k}^{(t)})^{T} (\mathbf{x}_{i} - \mu_{k}^{(t)})$$



Number of components











#### Mixture models

- soft clustering
- rich outputs
- automatic model selection (via BIC)
- ☺ very flexible framework
- Somewhat complex implementation
- igh computational cost in some cases

### Conclusion

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#### ► April 2019:

- added k-means++
- added DBSCAN
- added fuzzy c-means
- added mixture models
- March 2018: initial version