# Chapter 7: Unsupervised Learning: Clustering

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Introduction to Machine Learning

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- Andrew Ng: "[A] toddler can usually recognize a cat after just one encounter, but a computer still needs more than one example to learn... Effective "unsupervised learning" – learning without labelled data – remains a holy grail of AI."

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- Word embeddings: obtaining vector representations of natural language words in a way that words which usually occur together, have close vectors.

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Figure: Learning from labeled data alone (left) vs learning from labeled and unlabeled data (right). Credit: Xiaojin Zhu, Semi-supervised Learning

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- Zero-shot Learning: classifying unseen classes without any training examples!

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Introduction to Machine Learning

## K-Means Clustering

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- The goal of *k*-Means method is to find the clusters that minimize the *inertia* or *within-cluster sum of squares:*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in C_i} ||\mathbf{x} - \mu_i||^2$$
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• Exercise: show that this problem is equivalent to minimizing  $\sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{1}{|C_i|} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in C_i} ||\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}||^2$ . And this is in turn equivalent to maximizing the sum of squares of distances between points in different clusters.

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- However this problem is NP-hard! Therefore we use an iterative method to find a near-optimum.

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- At each iteration, the loss in equation (1) gets smaller.

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- It does not behave well when the would-be clusters are not spherically shaped or have different densities.



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- However unlike other clustering methods, the Scikit-Learn class for K-Means has a predict method.

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- The *Silhouette score* of the whole clusters is the mean of the silhouette coefficient of the instances.

#### Choosing the value of k

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Figure: Using the elbow method (middle) and silhouette coefficient (bottom) to choose the value of k.

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- We get better results if we generalize the labels only, say, the 20% of the elements in each cluster closest to the centroid.

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#### Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering cont.



Figure: Dendrogram for the digits dataset, with complete linkage

At distance threshold  $\epsilon$ , two clusters  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  are merged if:

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$$\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_1\cup C_2} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_1\cup C_2}||^2 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_1} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_1}||^2 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_2} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_2}||^2$$
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- the maximum distance between points of  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  is less than  $\epsilon$  (*Complete Linkage*)
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$$\sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_1\cup C_2} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_1\cup C_2}||^2 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_1} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_1}||^2 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}\in C_2} ||\mathbf{x}-\mu_{C_2}||^2$$
(2)

• The computational complexity of Agglomerative Clustering is  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ .

#### Comparison of different linkage methods



Reza Rezazadegan (Sharif University)

Introduction to Machine Learning

November 30, 2022

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• Starting from a core point p, a point q is *reachable* from p if there is a sequence  $p_0, p_1, \ldots, p_k$  such that  $p_0 = p$ ,  $p_k = q$ ,  $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_{k-1}$  are core points AND  $p_{i+1}$  is in the  $\epsilon$ -neighborhood of  $p_i$ .



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- If min\_samples equals 2, DBSCAN is equivalent to single-linkage hierarchical clustering with distance threshold  $\epsilon$ .
- The value of min\_samples should be larger for higher dimensional data.

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