LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Introduction to Machine Learning

Clustering

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Hierarchical Clustering

MOTIVATION FOR CLUSTERING

Consider multivariate data with N observations (e.g. customers) and P features (e.g. characteristics of customers).
Task: divide data into groups (clusters), such that

- the observations in each cluster are as "similar" as possible (homogeneity within each cluster), and
- the clusters are as "far away" as possible from other clusters (heterogeneity between different clusters).

CLUSTERING VS. CLASSIFICATION

- In classification, the groups are known and we try to learn what differentiates these groups (i.e., learn a classification function) to properly classify future data.
- In clustering, we look at data, where groups are unknown and try to find similar groups.

Why do we need clustering?

- Discovery: looking for new insights in the data (e.g. finding groups of customers that buy a similar product).
- Derive a reduced representation of the full data set.

HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING

Hierarchical clustering is a recursive process that builds a hierarchy of clusters. We distinguish between:

1. Agglomerative (or bottom-up) clustering:
   - Start: Each observations is an *individual cluster*.
   - Repeat: Merge the two closest clusters.
   - Stop when there is only one cluster left.
2. Divisive (or top-down) clustering:
   - Start: All observations are within *one* cluster.
   - Repeat: Divide the cluster that results in two clusters with biggest distance.
   - Stop when each observation is an individual cluster.

HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING

—FIX THE TABLE—

Let $X_1, \ldots, X_N$ be observations with P features (dimensions), where $X_i = (x_{i1}, \ldots, x_{iP})^\top$. A data set is a (N $\times$ P)-matrix of the form:

| | feature 1 | . . . | . . . | feature P|

|:——:|:————:|:————-:|:————:|:————-:| |X_1 | x_{11}| . . .| . . .| x_{1P}| |⋮|

⋮| ⋮| ⋮| ⋮| |X_N | x_{N1}| . . .| . . .| x_{NP}|

HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING

For hierarchical clustering, we need a definition for

- distances $d(X_i, X_j)$ between two observations X_i and X_j:
  - manhattan distance:

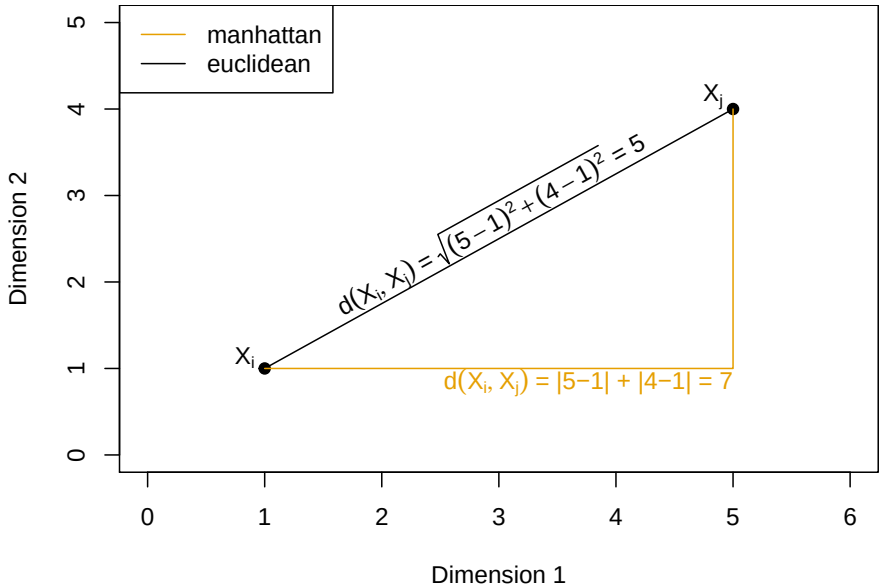
$$d(X_i, X_j) = ||X_i - X_j||_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{P} |x_{ik} - x_{jk}|$$

  - euclidean distance:

$$d(X_i, X_j) = ||X_i - X_j||_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{P} (x_{ik} - x_{jk})^2}$$

- distances between two clusters (called linkage).

DISTANCES BETWEEN OBSERVATIONS



- manhattan: sum up the absolute distances in each dimension. In R: “dist(data, method = "manhattan")”
- euclidean: remember Pythagoras theorem from school? In R: “dist(data, method = "euclidean")”
- gower: can be used for mixed variables (categorical and numeric). In R: “gower_dist()” from the “gower” package
- see “?dist” for other distances.

GOWER DISTANCE I

- The Gower's metric calculates the distance between observations X_i and X_j for each feature separately and based on its data type (i.e., categorical or numeric).
- For a categorical feature X_k, the distance between the i-th and the j-th observation X_{ik} and X_{jk} is defined by

$$s_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 0 \text{ if } X_{ik} = X_{jk} \\ 1 \text{ if } X_{ik} \neq X_{jk}. \end{cases}$$

- For a numerical feature X_k, the distance between the i-th and the j-th observation X_{ik} and X_{jk} is defined by

$$s_{ijk} = \frac{|X_{ik} - X_{jk}|}{\max(X_k) - \min(X_k)}, \quad \text{so that } 0 \leq s_{ijk} \leq 1.$$

GOWER DISTANCE II

The Gower's metric S combines all individual distances of each feature by

$$S_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{P} w_k s_{ijk}}{\sum_{k=1}^{P} w_k},$$

where

- P: number of features.
- w_k: weight for feature k (typically $w_k = 1$).
- s_{ijk}: the difference (distance) between X_{ik} and X_{jk}, i.e. the i-th and j-th observation of feature k.

GOWER DISTANCE III - EXAMPLE

Observation	X_1	X_2
1	4	a
2	3	b
3	6	a

$w_k = 1$ for $k \in \{1, 2\}$

$$s_{121} = \frac{|4-3|}{6-3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$s_{122} = 1$, since a≠b

$$S_{12} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} + 1}{2} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$s_{131} = \frac{|4-6|}{6-3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$s_{132} = 0$, since a=a

$$S_{13} = \frac{\frac{2}{3} + 0}{2} = \frac{1}{3}$$

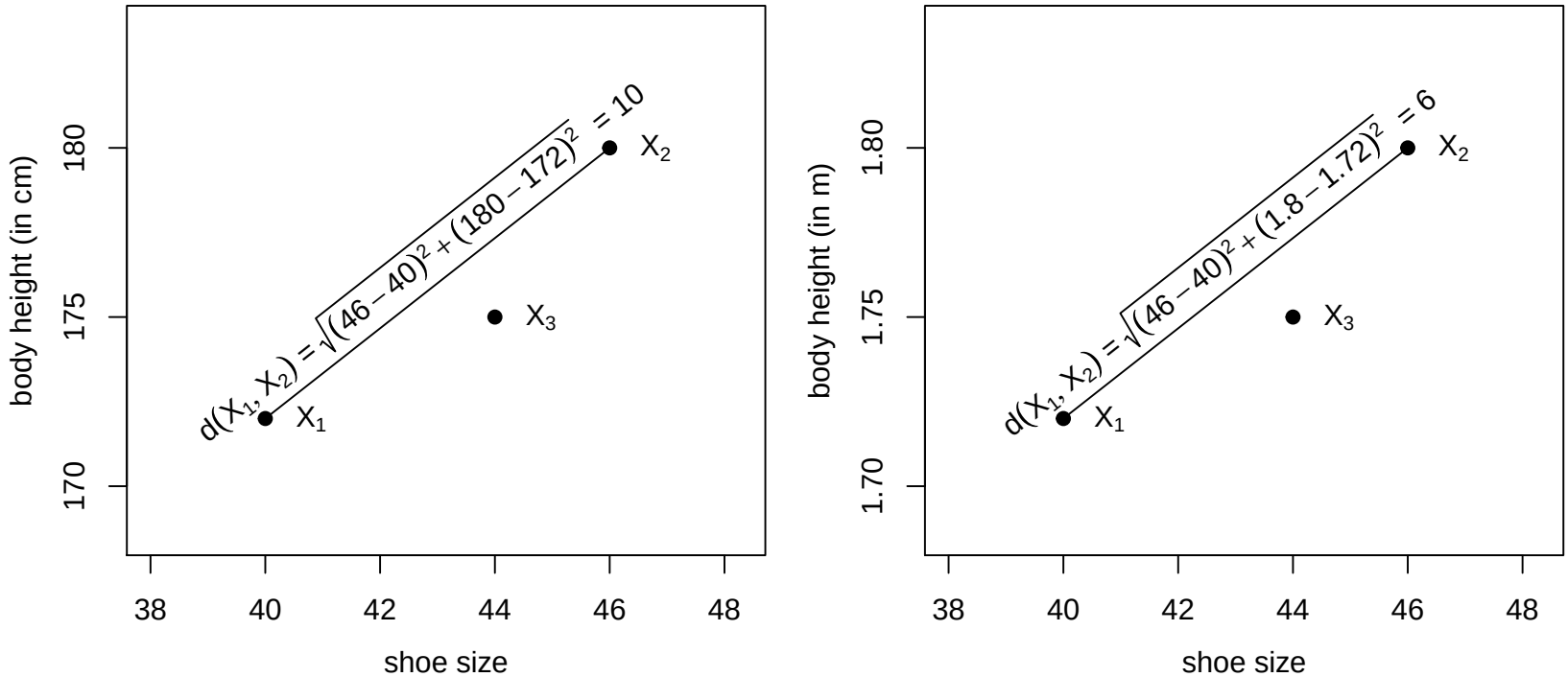
$$s_{231} = \frac{|3-6|}{6-3} = 1$$

$s_{232} = 1$, since b≠a

$$S_{23} = \frac{1+1}{2} = 1$$

DISTANCES BETWEEN OBSERVATIONS

It is often a good idea to *normalize* the data before computing distances, especially when the scale of features is different, e.g.:



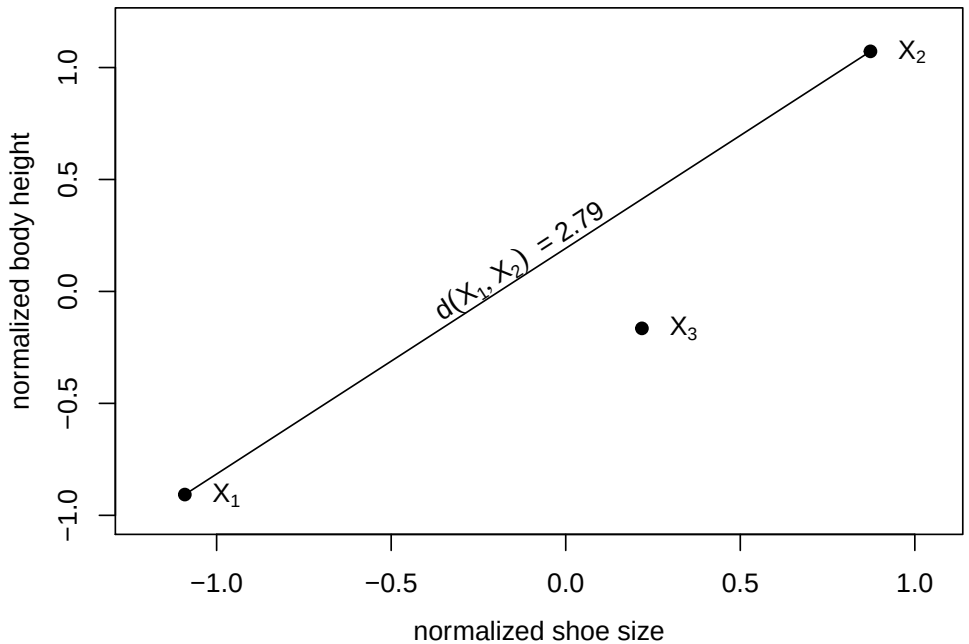
On the right plot, the distance is dominated by ‘shoe size‘.

DISTANCES BETWEEN OBSERVATIONS

The normalized feature $\tilde{X}_{\texttt{height}}$ is computed using $X_{\texttt{height}}$ by <!–
Normalization of the `height` feature means: –>

$$\tilde{X}_{\texttt{height}} = \frac{X_{\texttt{height}} - \texttt{mean}(X_{\texttt{height}})}{\texttt{sd}(X_{\texttt{height}})}.$$

Distances based on normalized data are better comparable and robust in terms of linear transformations (e.g. unit conversion).



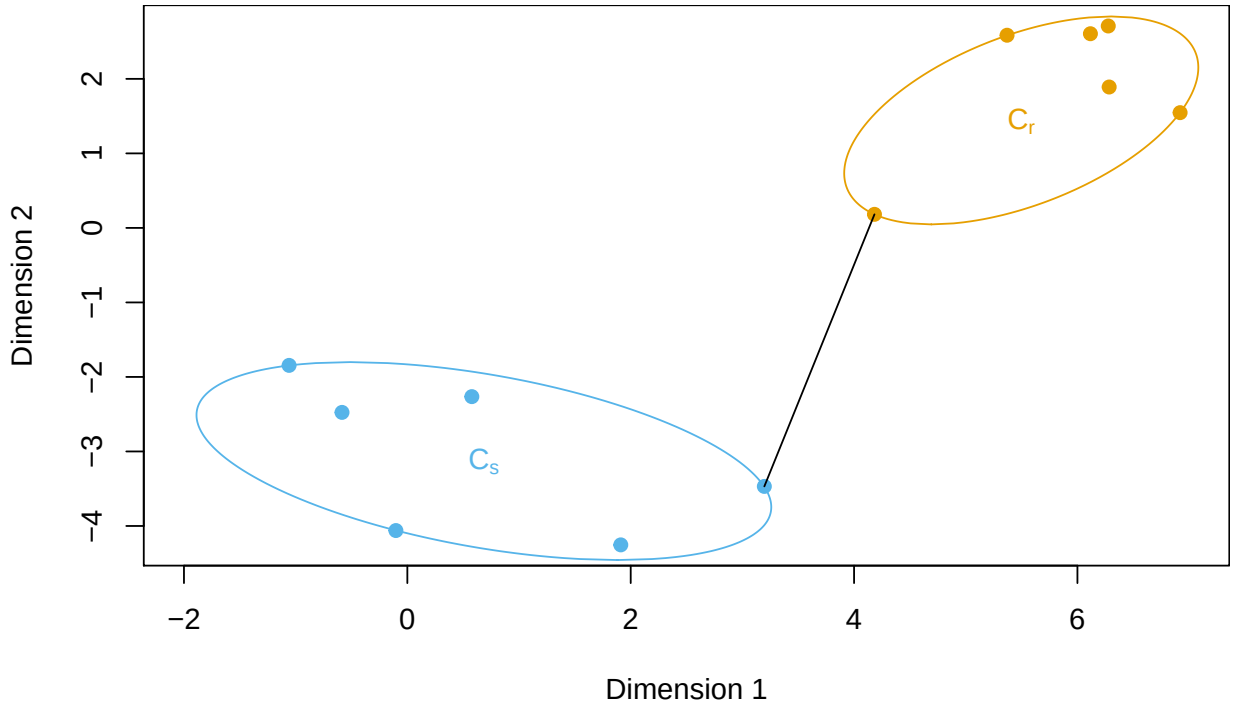
DISTANCES BETWEEN CLUSTERS (LINKAGE)

- Assume that all observations $X_1, \ldots, X_N$ belong to $K < N$ different clusters.
- The linkage of two clusters C_r and C_s is a "score" describing their distance.

The most popular and simplest linkages are

- *Single Linkage*
- *Complete Linkage*
- *Average Linkage*
- *Centroid Linkage*

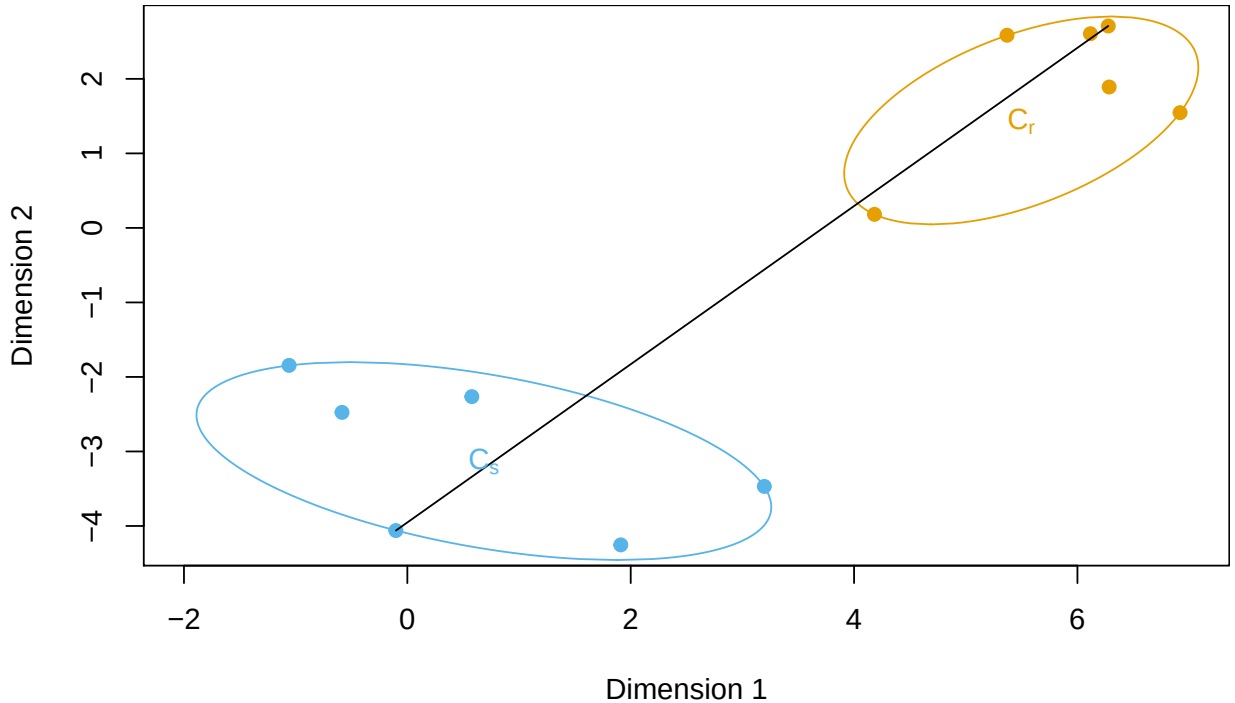
SINGLE LINKAGE



Single linkage defines the distance of the *closest point pairs* from different clusters as the distance between two clusters:

$$d_{\text{single}}(C_r, C_s) = \min_{i \in C_r, j \in C_s} d(X_i, X_j)$$

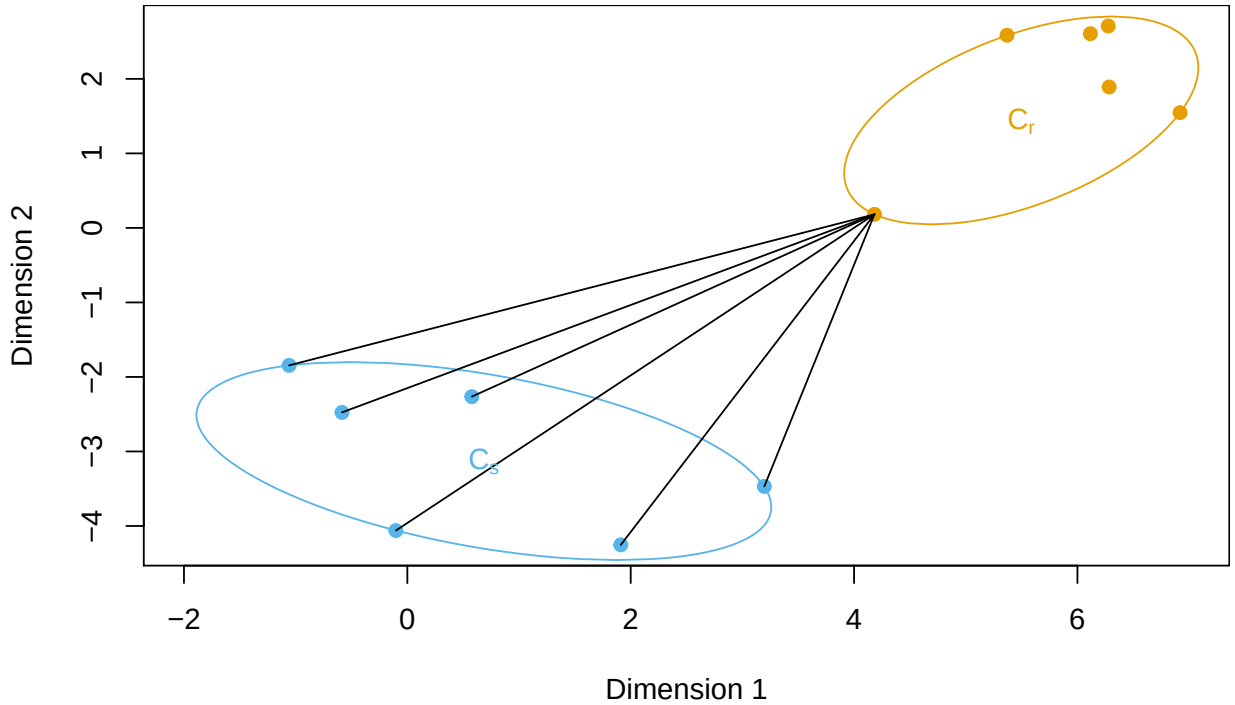
COMPLETE LINKAGE



Complete linkage defines the distance of the *furthest point pairs* of different clusters as the distance between two clusters:

$$d_{\text{complete}}(C_r, C_s) = \max_{i \in C_r, j \in C_s} d(X_i, X_j)$$

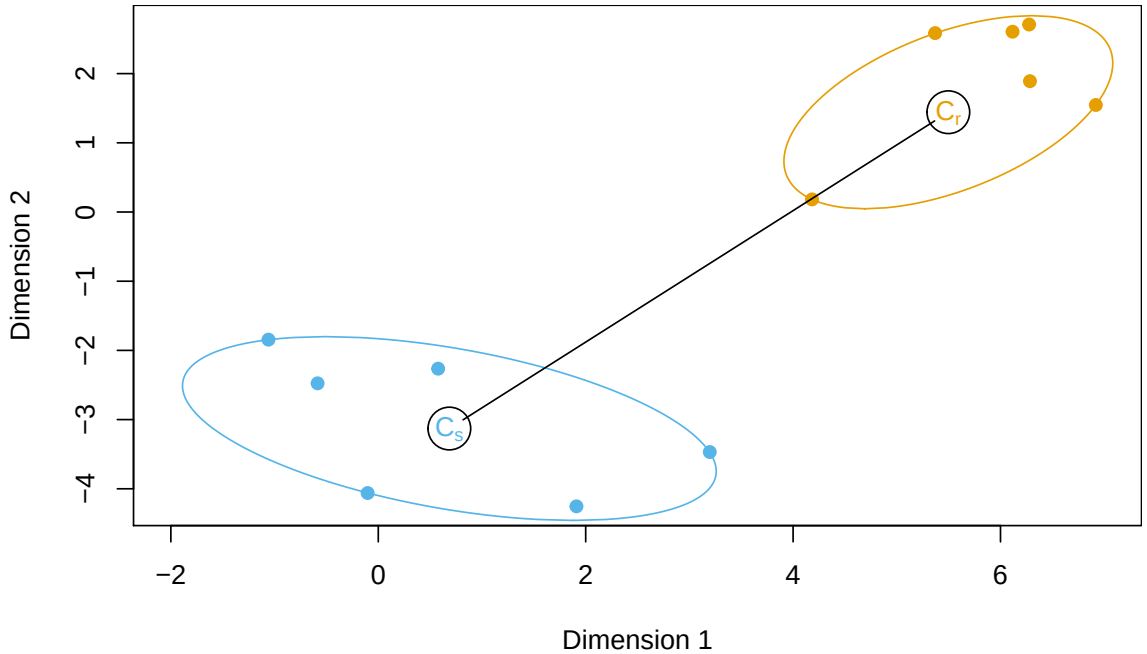
AVERAGE LINKAGE



(Note: Plot only shows distances between all green points and *one* red point)

In average linkage, the distance between two clusters is defined as the average distance across *all* pairs of two different clusters.

CENTROID LINKAGE



Centroid linkage defines the distance between two clusters as the distance between the two cluster centroids. The centroid of a cluster C_s with N_s points is the mean value of each dimension:

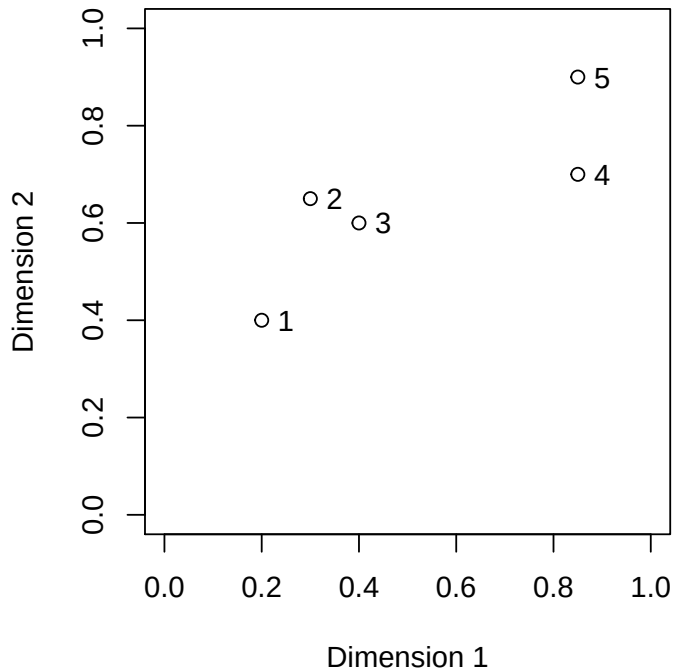
$$\bar{x}_s = \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{i \in C_s} x_i$$

EXAMPLE: HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING

Agglomerative hierarchical clustering starts with all points forming their own cluster and iteratively merges them until all points form a single cluster containing all points.

Example:

Step 1: $\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$



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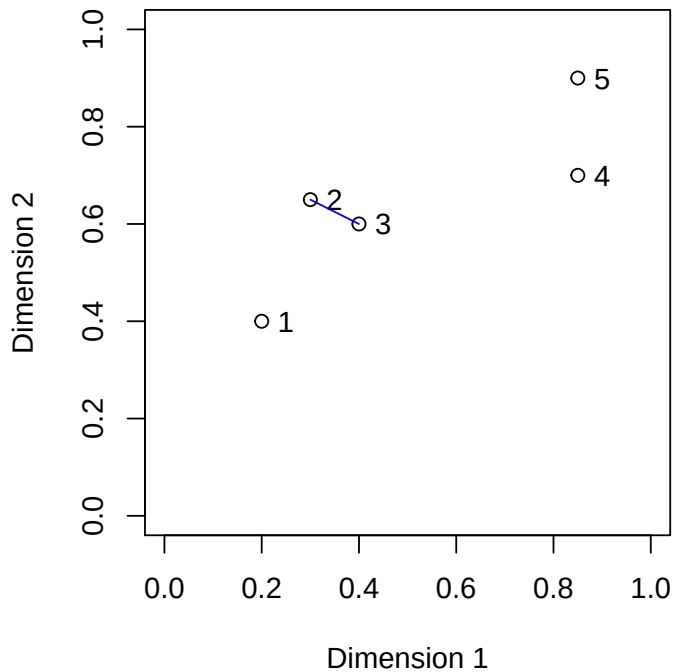
Example:

Step 1: $\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$

Step 2: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$



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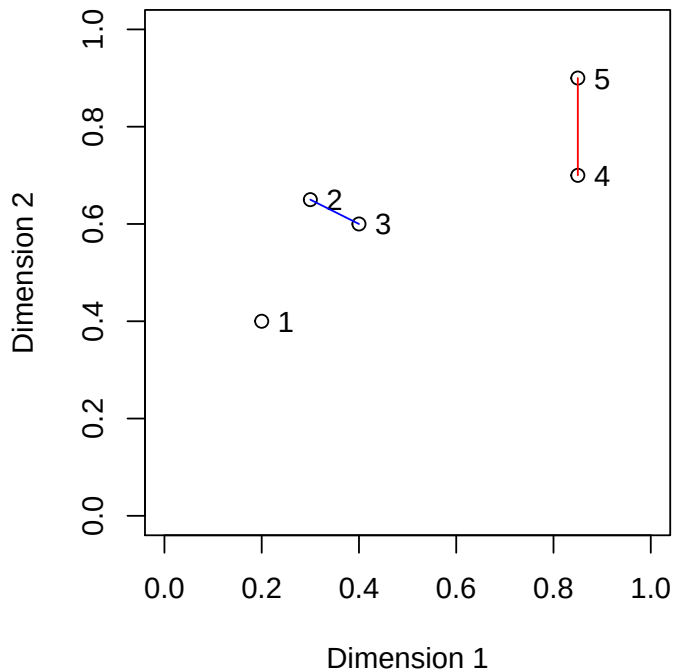
Step 2: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$

Step 3: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}$



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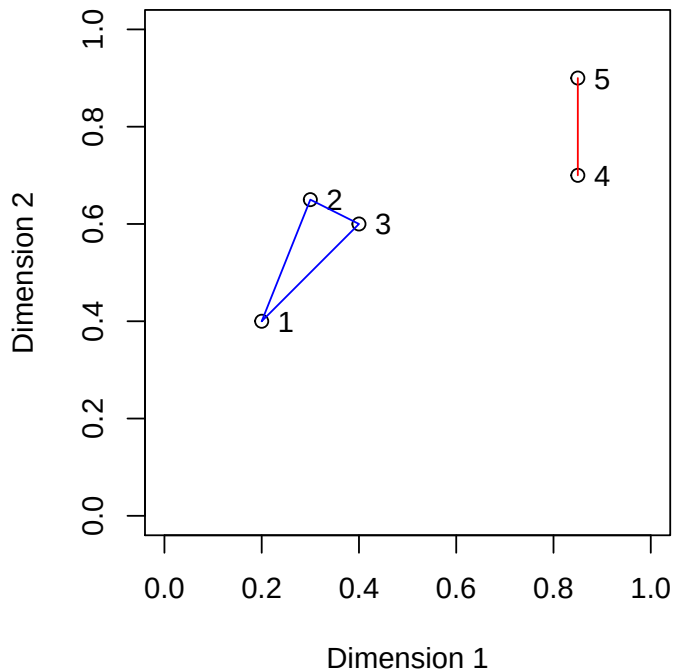
Step 2: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$

Step 3: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}$

Step 4: $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}$



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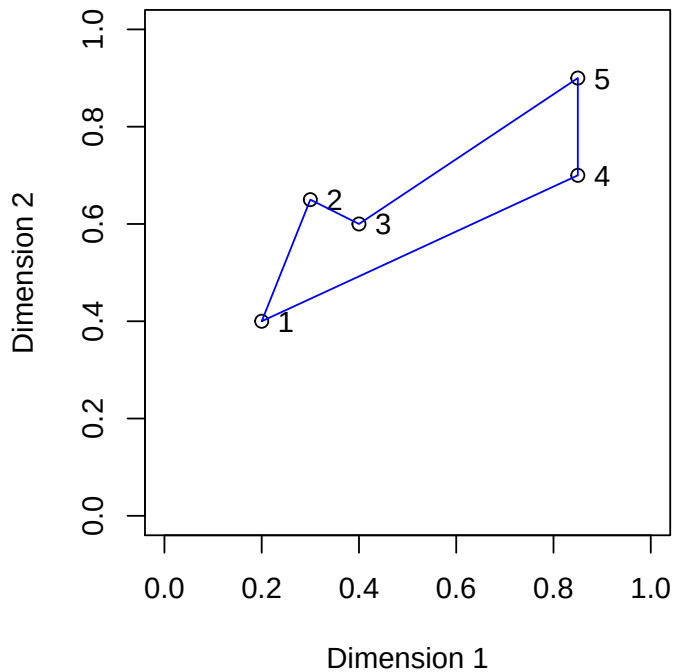
Step 2: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4\}, \{5\}$

Step 3: $\{1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}$

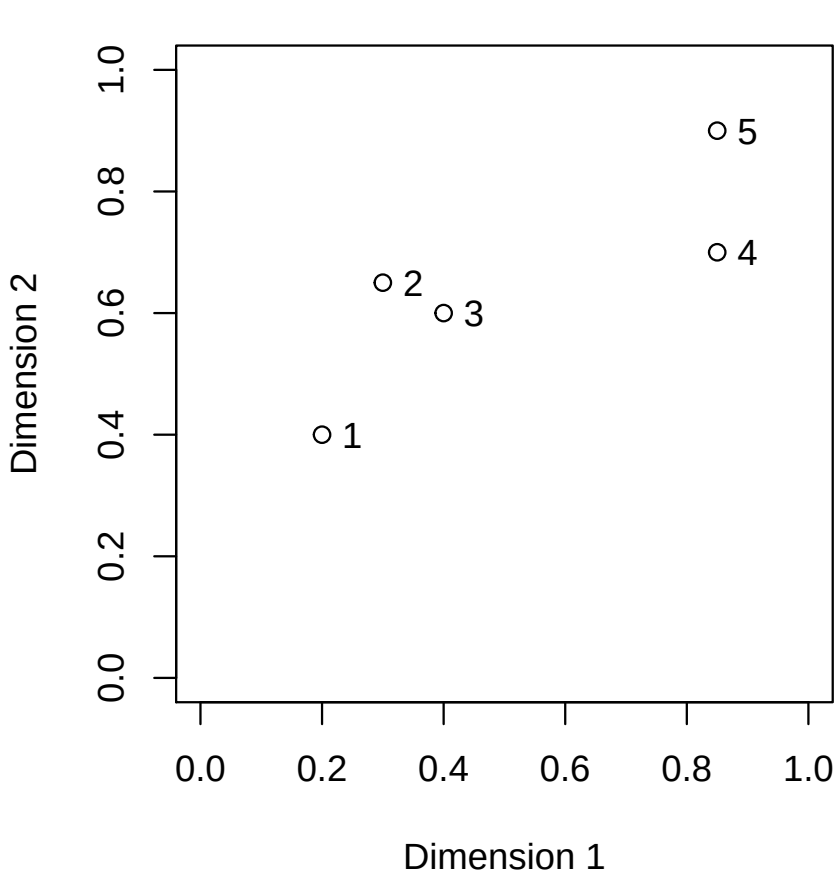
Step 4: $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}$

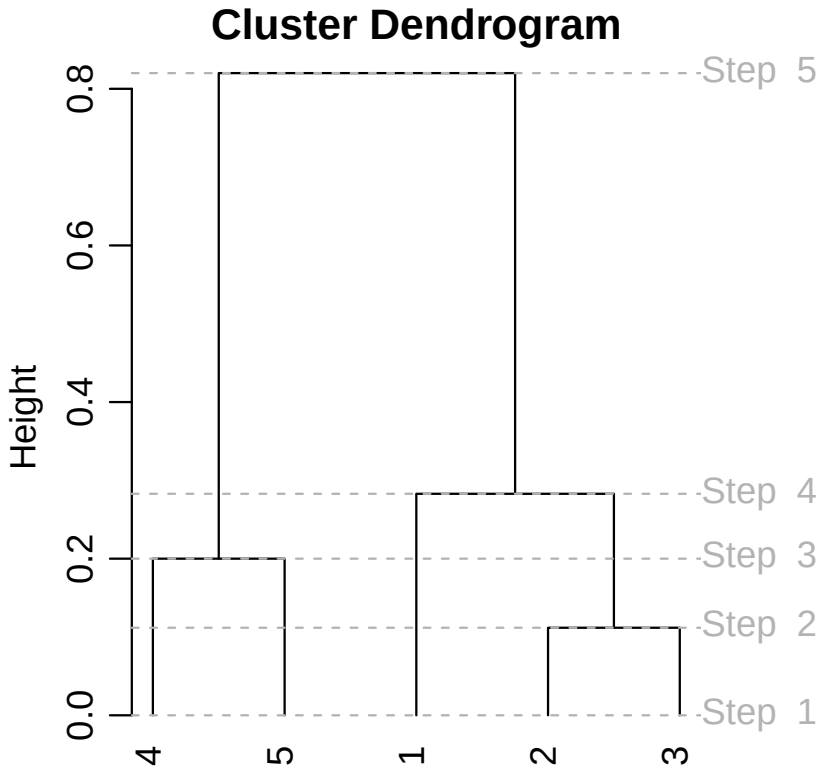
Step 5: $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$



DENDROGRAM

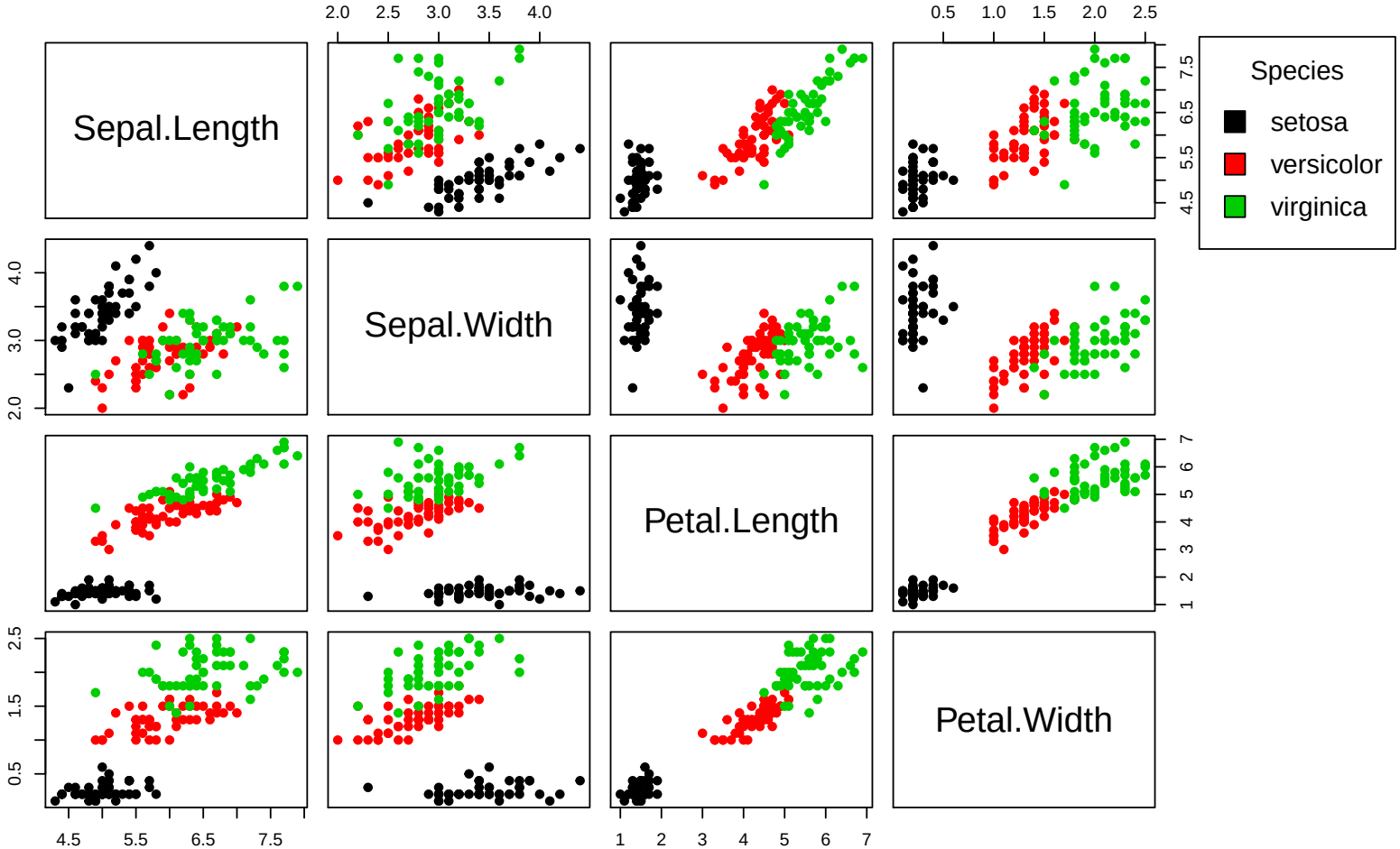
A Dendrogram is a tree showing which clusters / observations are merged after each step. The ‘height’ is proportional to the distance between the two merged clusters:





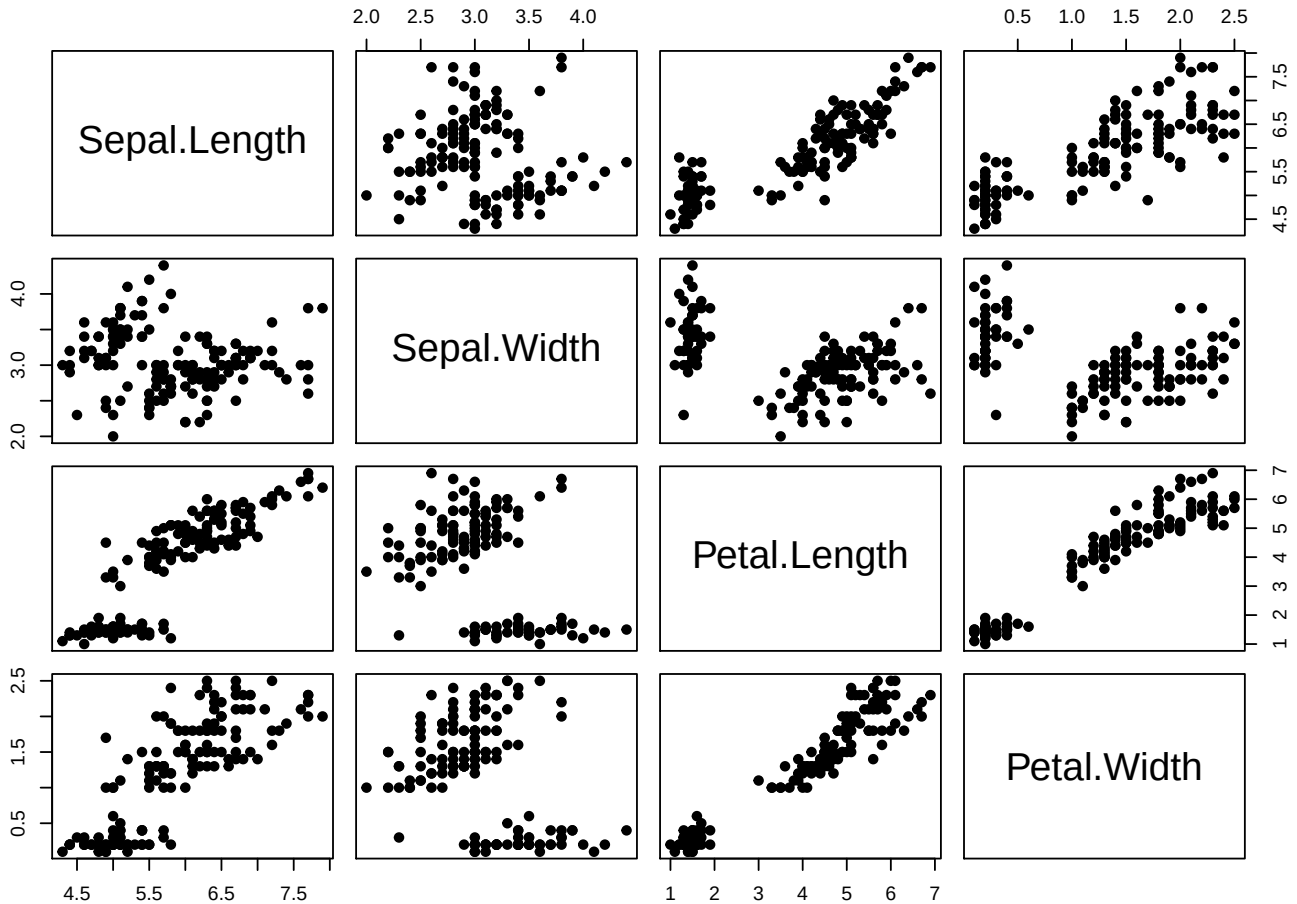
R EXAMPLE WITH IRIS DATA

The data contains 150 leaf measurements for 3 flower species:

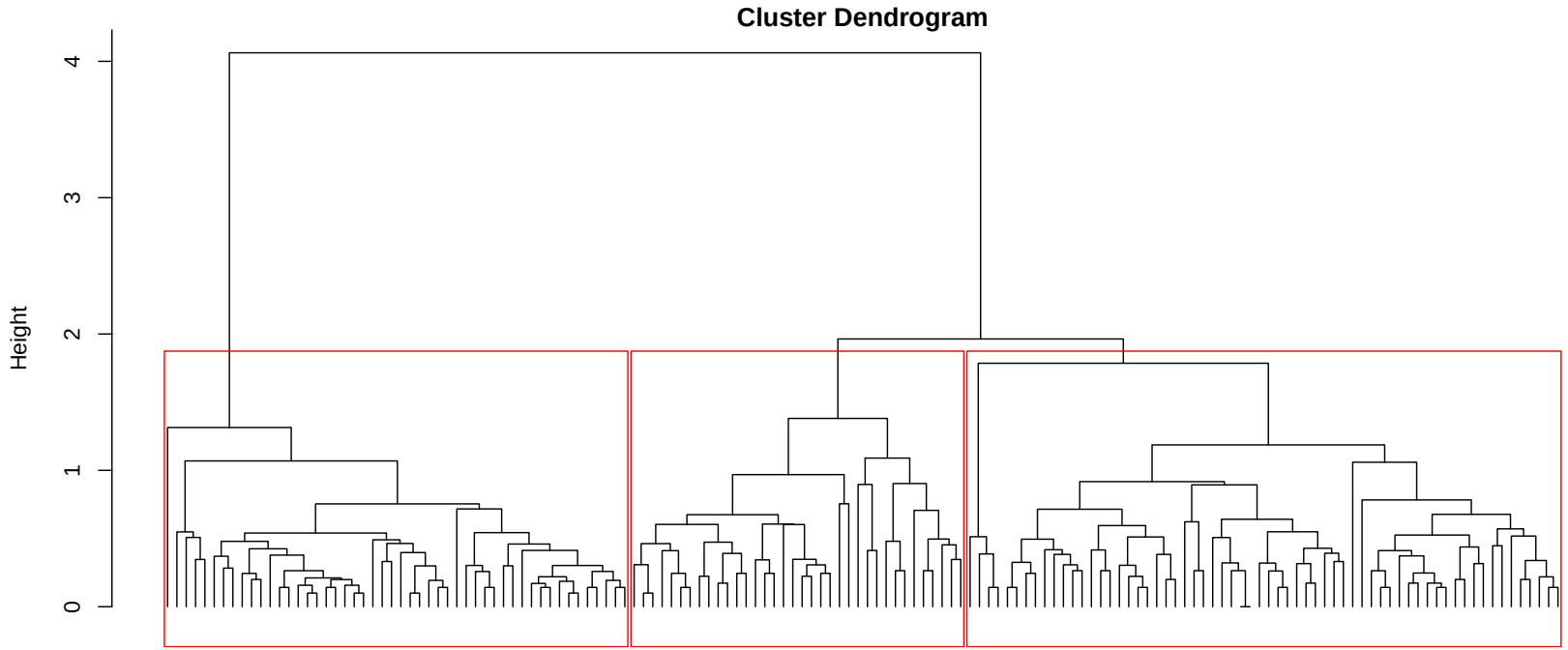


R EXAMPLE WITH IRIS DATA

We now "forget" the real groups specified by the ‘Species‘ variable and try to find clusters based on the leaf measurements.

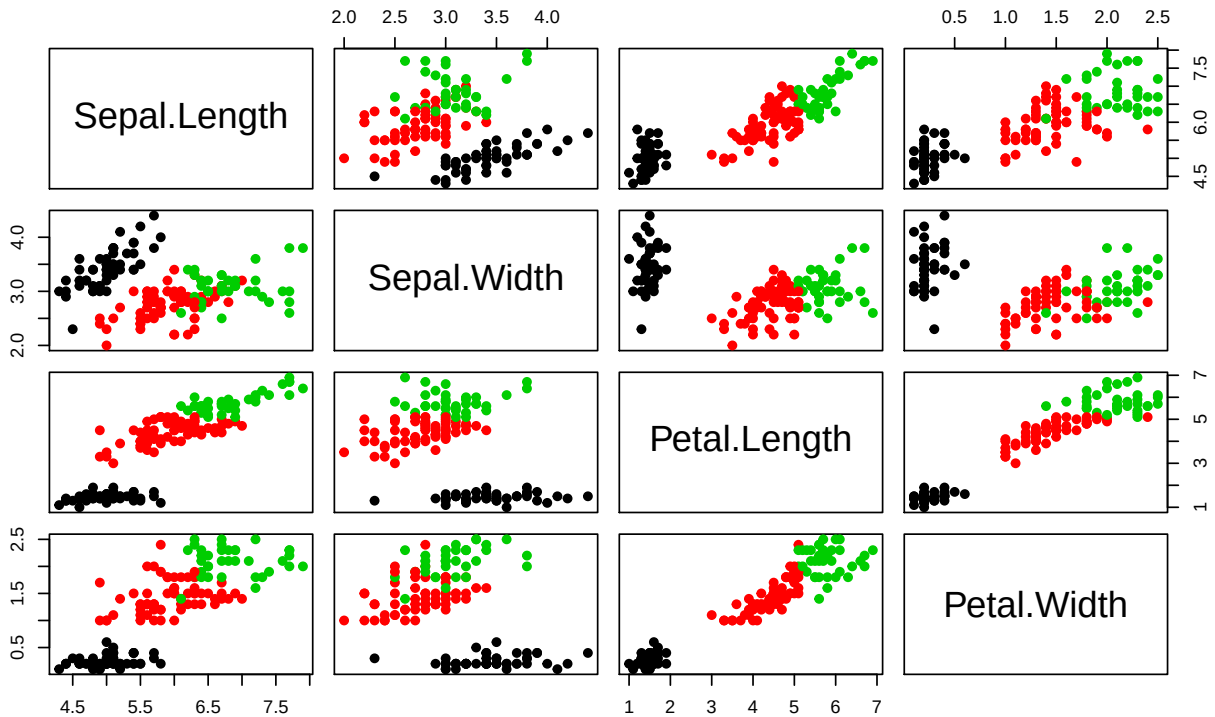


R EXAMPLE WITH IRIS DATA



R EXAMPLE WITH IRIS DATA

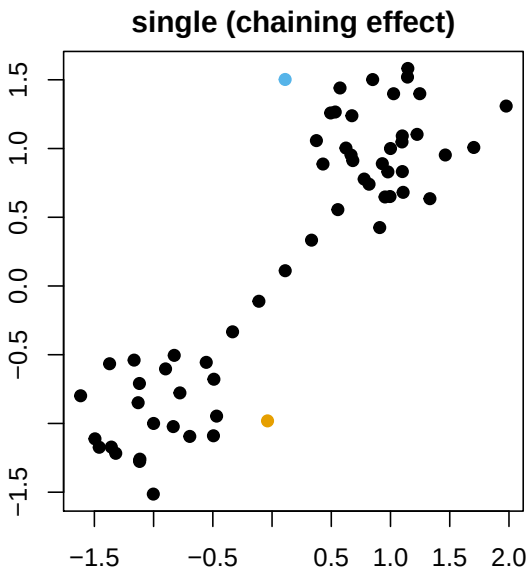
We can extract the clustering assignments by cutting the dendrogram, e.g. using $k = 3$ clusters:

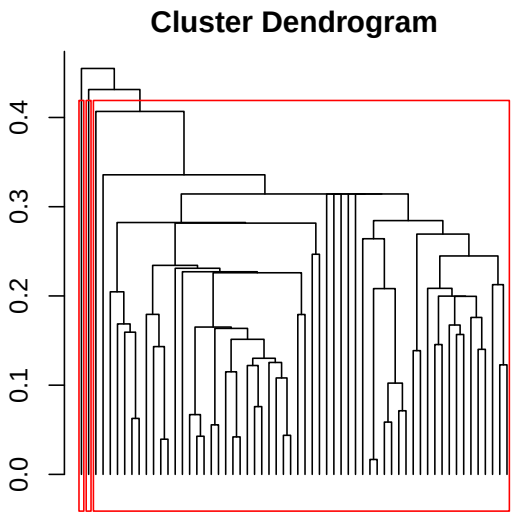


PROPERTIES: SINGLE LINKAGE

Single linkage introduces the *chaining problem*:

- Only one pair of points needs to be close to merge clusters.
- A chain of points can expand a cluster over long distances.
- Points within a cluster can be too widely spread and not dense enough.

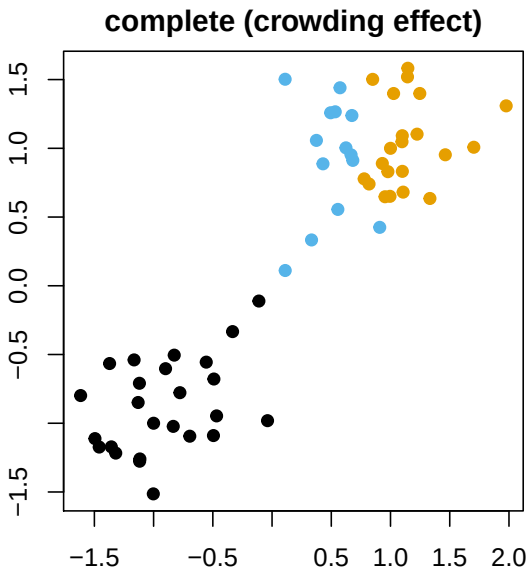


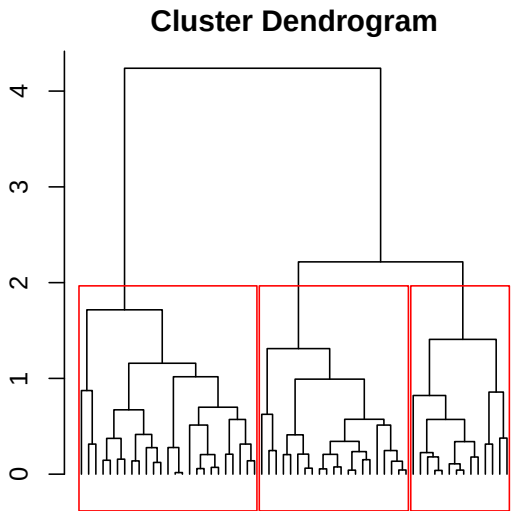


PROPERTIES: COMPLETE LINKAGE

Complete linkage avoids chaining, but suffers from *crowding*:

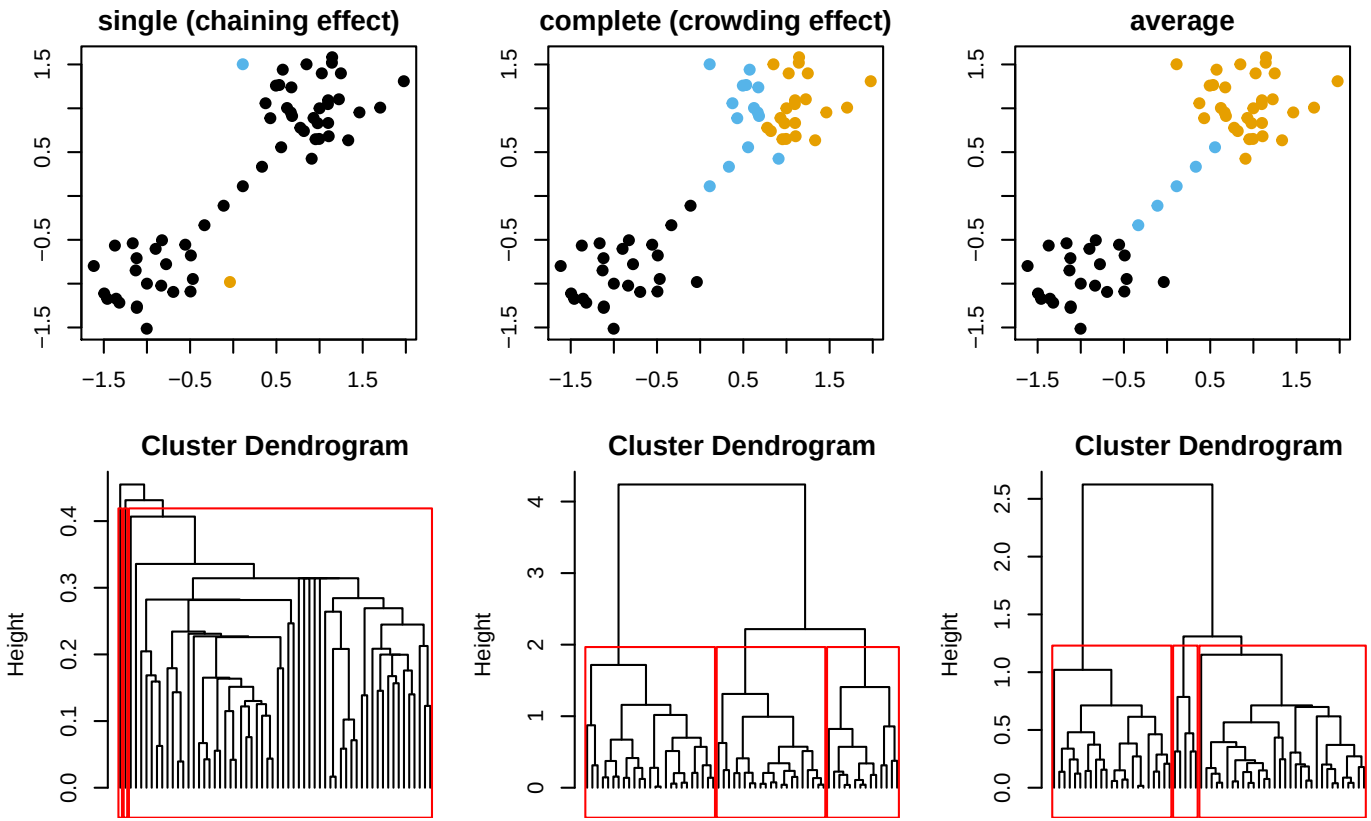
- Merging is based on the furthest distance of point pairs from different clusters.
- Points of two different clusters can thus be closer than points within a cluster.
- Clusters are dense, but too close to each other. <!– and sensitive to outliers. –>





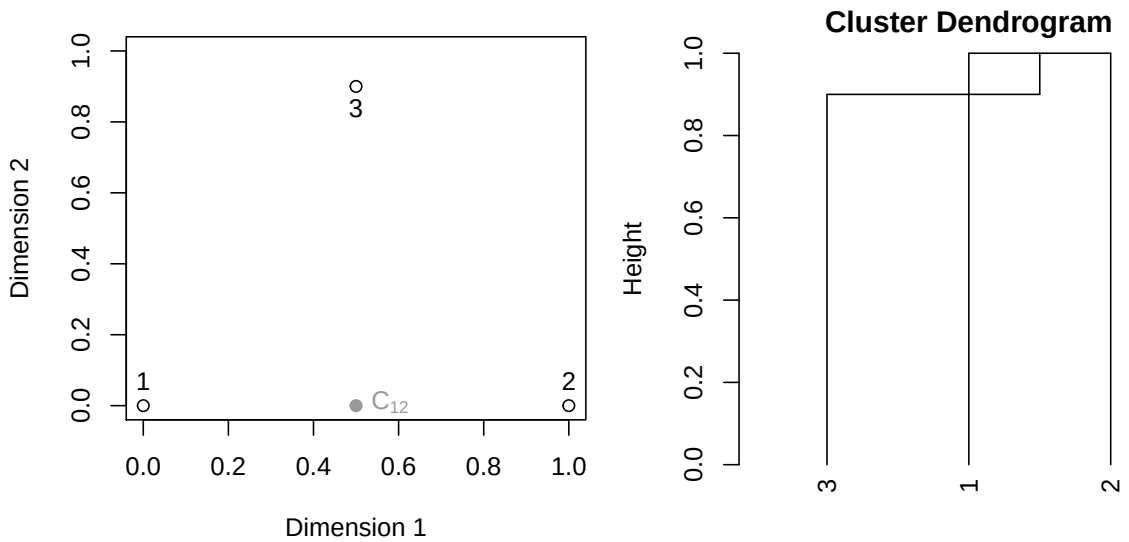
PROPERTIES: AVERAGE LINKAGE

- Average linkage is based on the average distance between clusters and tries to avoid crowding and chaining.
- Produces clusters that are quite dense and rather far apart.



PROPERTIES: CENTROID LINKAGE

- Centroid linkage defines the distance based on **artificial data points** (the cluster centers), which produces dendrograms **with inversions**, i.e., the distance between the clusters to be merged can be smaller in the next step.
- In single, complete and average linkage, the distance between the clusters to be merged increases in each step. $\Rightarrow$ always produces dendrograms **without inversions**.



SUMMARY

- *Hierarchical agglomerative clustering methods* iteratively merge observations/clusters until all observations are in one single cluster.
- Results in a hierarchy of clustering assignments which can be visualized in a *dendrogram*. Each node of the dendrogram represents a cluster and its 'height' is proportional to the distance of its child nodes.
- The most common linkage functions are *single, complete, average* and *centroid* linkage. There is no perfect linkage and each linkage has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Partitioning Clustering Methods

OPTIMAL PARTITIONING CLUSTERING

Hierarchical clustering:
Stepwise merging (agglomerative methods) or dividing (divisive methods) of clusters based on distances and linkages. The number of clusters are selected by splitting the dendrogram at a specific threshold for the "height" after visual inspection.

Partitioning clustering:
Partitions the N observations into a predefined number of K clusters by optimizing a numerical criterion. The most common partitioning methods are:

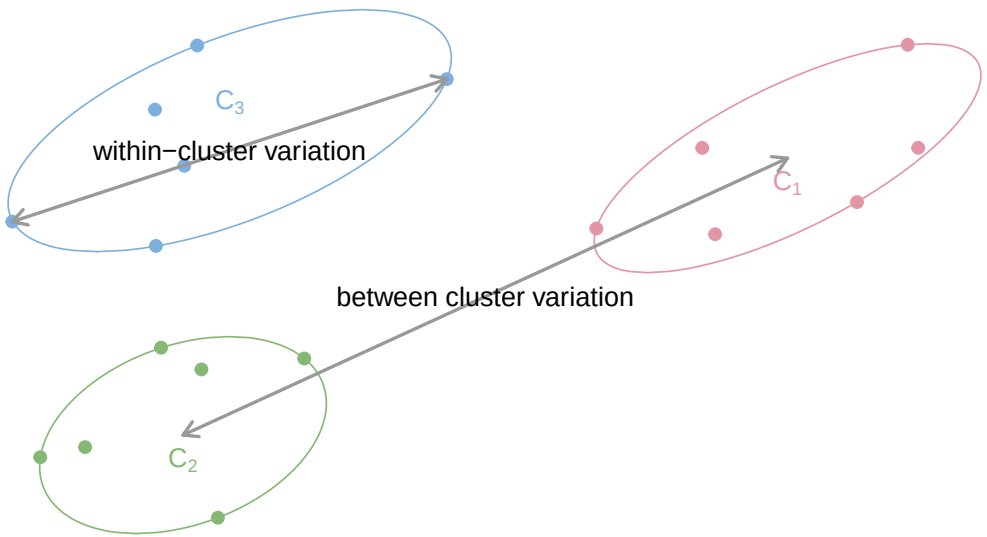
- K-means
- K-medians
- K-medoids (Partitioning Around Medoids (PAM))

K-MEANS

K-means partitions the N observations into K predefined clusters $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_K$ by minimizing the **compactness**, i.e. the **within-cluster variation** of all clusters using

$$\sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i \in C_k} \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|_2^2 \to \min,$$

where $\bar{x}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{i \in C_k} x_i$ is the centroid of cluster k and N_k is the number of observations in cluster k.



K-MEANS

FIX THE TABLE

Idea: Consider every possible partition of N observations into K clusters and select the one with the lowest **within-cluster variation**.

Problem: Requires trying all possible assignments of N observations into K clusters, which in practice is nearly impossible (Hothorn et al., 2009, p.322):

|N |K | Number of possible partitions|
|———-:|:——:|:————————————| |15 | 3 | 2.375.101 | |20 | 4 | 45.232.115.901 | |100 | 5 | 10^{68} |

Hothorn, T., Everitt, B. S. (2009). A handbook of statistical analyses using R. Chapman and Hall/CRC.

K-MEANS

Use an approximation:

1. **Initialization:** Choose K arbitrary observations to be the initial cluster centers.
2. **Assignment:** Assign every observation to the cluster with the closest center.
3. **Update:** Compute the new center of each cluster as the mean of its members.
4. Repeat (2) and (3) until the centers do not move.

K-MEANS EXAMPLE

FIX THIS SLIDE!