Directions for Unsupervised Machine Learning K-Means and DBSCAN



Image from: [https://www.kaggle.com/nareshbhat/outlier-the-silent-killer (https://www.kaggle.com/nareshbhat/outlier-the-silent-killer) (Links to an external site.)]

Anomaly Detection Using Unsupervised Algorithms Overview

Anomalies or outliers

Anomalies and outliers are often used interchangeably. Outliers are extreme data values that are distant from other values in your dataset. Outliers can distort the conclusions you draw from descriptive statistics (like mean and standard deviation) and from data visuals (like histograms and scatter plots). Many machine learning algorithms and statistical models are also sensitive to the range and distribution of data values used in your training data. Some of the most common causes of outliers in a dataset include data entry errors (human errors), measurement errors (instrument errors), and data processing errors (data manipulation errors). Consequently, outliers can come from multiple sources and hide in a single feature or n-dimensional feature space. Aside from the specific task of investigating these extreme data values (for anomaly detection) or in the case of naturally occurring outliers (novelties), the goal is often to remove or ignore outliers in your analysis.

The following Anomaly Detection Techniques are good examples that can be used for Customer Segmentation.

We all know that human diversity, whether it be gender, age, education, gender expression, or even food preferences, is a quality to be celebrated. While this is easier to accomplish in our dayto- day activities, from a business perspective, treating everyone as an individual is unrealistic, if not impossible, even though the business community is working on it. This is what motivates market segmentation. While you may not be able to serve your clients on an individual basis right now, you can do the next best thing by identifying their commonalities and differences, grouping them into small subgroups, and catering to their requirements. Even if ten thousand of your other clients received the same discount code in their email, this could give them the impression that you are communicating to them as an individual.

Clustering

Clustering is an example of an unsupervised machine learning algorithm. When new data is presented, the fundamental idea behind employing a clustering algorithm for anomaly detection is to group data based on the structure and variables without any prior knowledge about the data. Another way to say this is that the purpose is to find "natural" groups in an unlabeled dataset. This information is then used to determine whether or not there are any anomalous points present. Customer segmentation, text clustering, and image segmentation are the most popular clustering techniques. There are many clustering algorithms. It is important to choose the best algorithm, and the best one to use depends on the database, client requirements, and client expectations.

How do you segment your market?

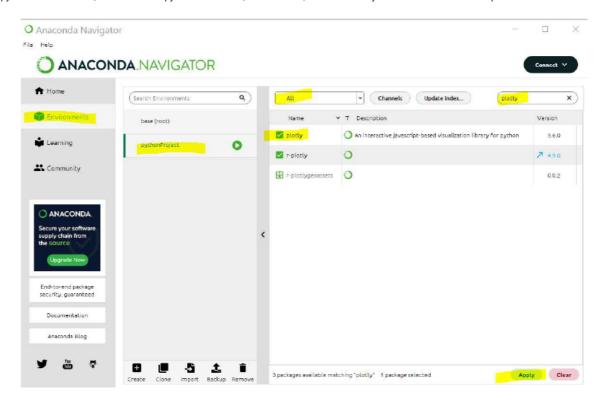
K-means clustering is usually one of the first methods used. Because k-means is one of, if not the only, data clustering techniques taught in statistics classrooms, it's only natural that business analysts would use it when a project requires market segmentation. As we learned in the lecture on k-means, k-means is simple to learn and effective with massive data sets. But, like all statistical approaches, k-means clustering relies on specific assumptions, and if those assumptions prove correct, the method is useless. Every data point is given to a cluster in the k-means clustering result, and the mean of the points is the centroid of each cluster. As a result, each point contributed to the cluster's formation. In reality, it's not uncommon for certain data points to stray from the "norm", resulting in anomalies or outliers. A single outlier in a dataset can cause the entire clustering result to be skewed. Furthermore, clusters formed using k-means are more spherical, yet, inaccuracies can develop if clusters are of other odd or elliptical shapes. Scree plots and silhouette plots can help you decide on parameter k; however, model sensitivity to anomalies significantly influences them. The goal of developing a new strategy is to overcome the drawbacks of existing methods. The majority of k-means drawbacks are dealt with or handled by DBSCAN. DBSCAN is a density-based non-parametric unsupervised learning algorithm. The DBSCAN has fewer assumptions, a more flexible model, and a larger range of applications than k-means. However, DBSCAN, like k-means, groups data according to their similarities using distance functions. DBSCAN also uses densities to form groups of data. The term "density" refers to the number of points in the region indicated by the model parameters.

Let's Get Started with Unsupervised Machine Learning

In the assignment, we will focus k-means and DBSCAN algorithms by using the Scikit-Learn Python library. From this dataset, we need to calculate some patterns; as it is an unsupervised method, we don't know what to calculate exactly. The column names will help you make sense of the data.

STEP 0: Install plotly by going to Anaconda Navigator and selecting the

Environments Tab. Select pythonProject, All packages, and search for plotly. Select plotly, and select Apply to start the installation. Once it has been installed go to Home and open Jupytner Notebook. Next, create a new Jupyter Notebook file, Name the file, and then Enter your name and date at the top of the file. SAVE file.



STEP 1: Import Libraries

```
In [163]:
            1 # Import Python Libraries
            2 import pandas as pd
            3 import seaborn as sns
            4 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
            5 import numpy as np
            6 from scipy import stats
            7 from sklearn.metrics import silhouette_score
            8 from sklearn.cluster import DBSCAN
           9 from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
           10 from itertools import product
           11 | from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
           12 import plotly as py
           13 | import plotly.graph_objs as go
           14 #filter warnings
           15 import warnings
           16 warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
           18 plt.rcParams.update({'font.size': 8})
```

STEP 2: Load Dataset & Get Dataset Shape

There are 200 rows and 5 columns in our dataset

Out[164]:

	CustomerID	Age	Annual Income (k\$)	Spending Score (1-100)	
count	200.000000	200.000000	200.000000	200.000000	
mean	100.500000	38.850000	60.560000	50.200000	
std	57.879185	13.969007	26.264721	25.823522	
min	1.000000	18.000000	15.000000	1.000000	
25%	50.750000	28.750000	41.500000	34.750000	
50%	100.500000	36.000000	61.500000	50.000000	
75%	150.250000	49.000000	78.000000	73.000000	
max	200.000000	70.000000	137.000000	99.000000	

STEP 3: Clean the data

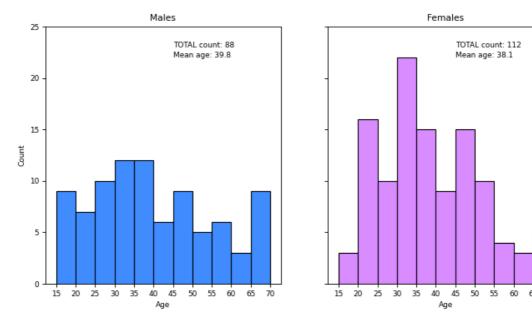
STEP 4: Performing the Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

Distribution - Age

dtype: int64

```
In [166]:
                 males_age = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Male']['Age'] # subset with males age
                 females_age = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Female']['Age'] # subset with females age
                 age_bins = range(15,75,5)
                 # males histogram
              5 fig2, (ax1, ax2) = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10,5), sharey=True)
             6 sns.histplot(males_age,bins=age_bins, color='#0066ff', ax=ax1)
7 ax1.set_xticks(age_bins)
             8 ax1.set_ylim(top=25)
             9 ax1.set_title('Males')
             10 ax1.set_ylabel('Count')
            ax1.text(45,23, "TOTAL count: {}".format(males_age.count()))
ax1.text(45,22, "Mean age: {:.1f}".format(males_age.mean()))
             13 # females histogram
             sns.histplot(females_age, bins=age_bins, color='#cc66ff', ax=ax2, )
             15 ax2.set_xticks(age_bins)
             16
                ax2.set_title('Females')
             17 ax2.set_ylabel('Count')
            18  ax2.text(45,23, "TOTAL count: {}".format(females_age.count()))
19  ax2.text(45,22, "Mean age: {:.1f}".format(females_age.mean()))
             20 plt.show()
             21
                 print('Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:{:..2f}'.format(stats.ks_2samp(males_age, females_age)[1]))
```

Figure 103



Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:0.49

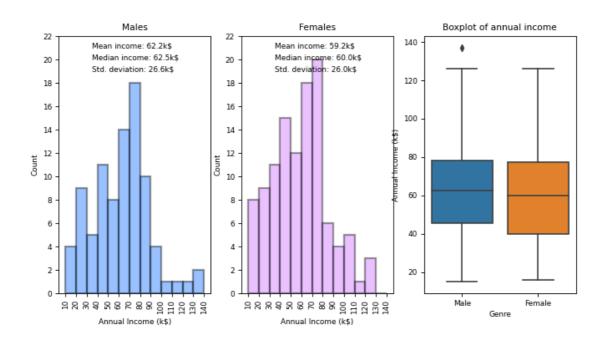
Male age is more evenly distributed than females. The biggest age group for women is between 30-35, and for men, it is between 30-40. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test shows the difference between the males and females age groups is statistically insignificant as it calculates the P-value. A P-value that is less than or equal to 0.05 is statistically significant.

1

Distribution - Annual Income (k\$)

```
In [167]:
                males_income = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Male']['Annual Income (k$)']
                # subset with males income
              females_income = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Female']['Annual Income (k$)']
             4 # subset with females income
             6 my_bins = range(10,150,10)
                # males histogram
             8 fig, (ax1, ax2, ax3) = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(10,5))
             9 sns.distplot(males_income, bins=my_bins, kde=False, color='#0066ff', ax=ax1,
            10 hist_kws=dict(edgecolor="k", linewidth=2))
            11
            12 ax1.set_xticks(my_bins)
            ax1.set_xticklabels(ax1.get_xticks(), rotation = 90)
            14
            15 ax1.set_yticks(range(0,24,2))
            16 ax1.set_ylim(0,22)
            17 ax1.set title('Males')
            18 ax1.set_ylabel('Count')
            19 ax1.text(35,21, "Mean income: {:.1f}k$".format(males_income.mean()))
            20 ax1.text(35,20, "Median income: {:.1f}k$".format(males_income.median()))
21 ax1.text(35,19, "Std. deviation: {:.1f}k$".format(males_income.std()))
            22 # females histogram
            23 sns.distplot(females_income, bins=my_bins, kde=False, color='#cc66ff',
            24 ax=ax2, hist_kws=dict(edgecolor="k", linewidth=2))
            25 ax2.set_xticks(my_bins)
            26 ax2.set_xticklabels(ax2.get_xticks(), rotation = 90)
            27
            ax2.set_yticks(range(0,24,2))
            29 ax2.set_ylim(0,22)
            30 ax2.set_title('Females')
            31 ax2.set_ylabel('Count')
            ax2.text(35,21, "Mean income: {:.1f}k$".format(females_income.mean()))
ax2.text(35,20, "Median income: {:.1f}k$".format(females_income.median()))
ax2.text(35,19, "Std. deviation: {:.1f}k$".format(females_income.std()))
            35 # boxplot
            36 sns.boxplot(x='Genre', y='Annual Income (k$)', data=mall_data, ax=ax3)
            37 ax3.set_title('Boxplot of annual income')
            38 plt.show()
            39 print('Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:{:.2f}'.format(stats.ks_2samp(males_income, females_income)[1]))
```

Figure 104



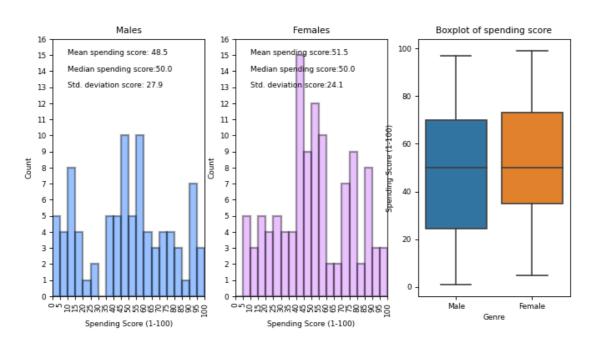
4

Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:0.78

Distribution - Spending Score (1-100)

```
In [168]:
                  males_spending = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Male']['Spending Score (1-100)']
                  # subset with males age
               3 females_spending = mall_data[mall_data['Genre']=='Female']['Spending Score (1-100)']
               4 # subset with females age
               5 spending_bins = range(0,105,5)
               6 # males histogram
               7 fig, (ax1, ax2, ax3) = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(10,5))
               8 sns.distplot(males_spending, bins=spending_bins, kde=False, color='#0066ff',
              9 ax=ax1, hist_kws=dict(edgecolor="k", linewidth=2))
              10 ax1.set_xticks(spending_bins)
              ax1.set_xticklabels(ax1.get_xticks(), rotation = 90)
              12
              13 ax1.set_xlim(0,100)
              14 ax1.set_yticks(range(0,17,1))
              15 ax1.set_ylim(0,16)
              16 ax1.set_title('Males')
              17 ax1.set ylabel('Count')
             ax1.text(10,15, "Mean spending score: {:.1f}".format(males_spending.mean()))
ax1.text(10,14, "Median spending score: {:.1f}".format(males_spending.median()))
ax1.text(10,13, "Std. deviation score: {:.1f}".format(males_spending.std()))
              21 # females histogram
              22 sns.distplot(females_spending, bins=spending_bins, kde=False,
23 color='#cc66ff', ax=ax2, hist_kws=dict(edgecolor="k", linewidth=2))
              24 ax2.set xticks(spending bins)
              25 ax2.set_xticklabels(ax2.get_xticks(), rotation = 90)
              26
              27 ax2.set_xlim(0,100)
              ax2.set_yticks(range(0,17,1))
              29 ax2.set_ylim(0,16)
              30 | ax2.set_title('Females')
              31 ax2.set_ylabel('Count')
              ax2.text(10,15, "Mean spending score:{:.1f}".format(females_spending.mean()))
ax2.text(10,14, "Median spending score:{:.1f}".format(females_spending.median()))
ax2.text(10,13, "Std. deviation score:{:.1f}".format(females_spending.std()))
              35 # boxplot
              36 sns.boxplot(x='Genre', y='Spending Score (1-100)', data=mall_data, ax=ax3)
              37 ax3.set_title('Boxplot of spending score')
              38 plt.show()
              39 print('Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:{:.2f}'.format(stats.ks_2samp(males_spending, females_spending)[1]))
```

Figure 105

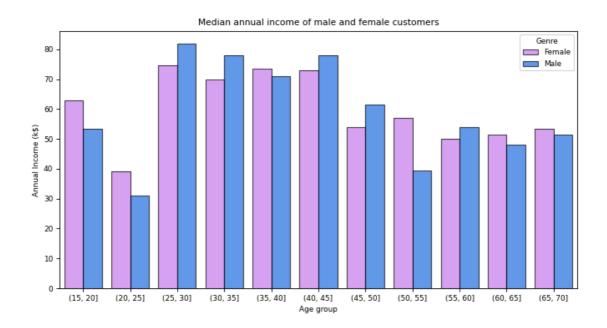


4

Kolgomorov-Smirnov test p-value:0.29

Distribution - Median Annual Income of Male and Female Customers

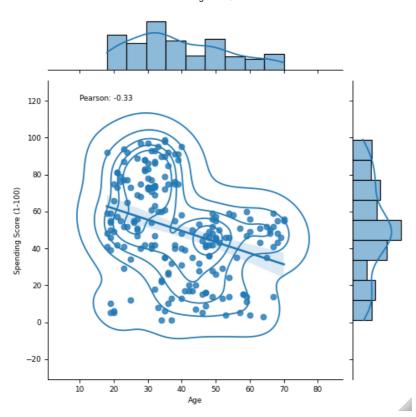
Figure 106



Correlations

Pearson's Correlation for Age & Spending Score (1-100) with jointplot

Figure 120



Pearson's Correlation for Age & Annual Income with lineplot (Implot)

20

30

140 120 100 -

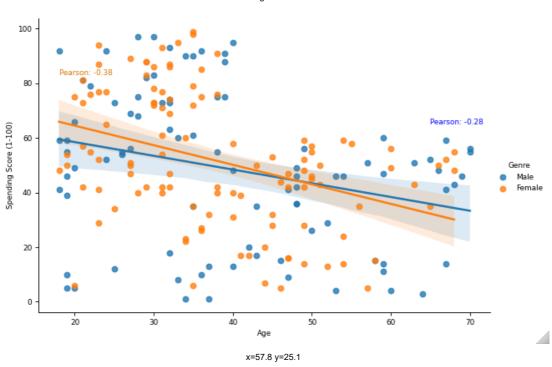
40

Age

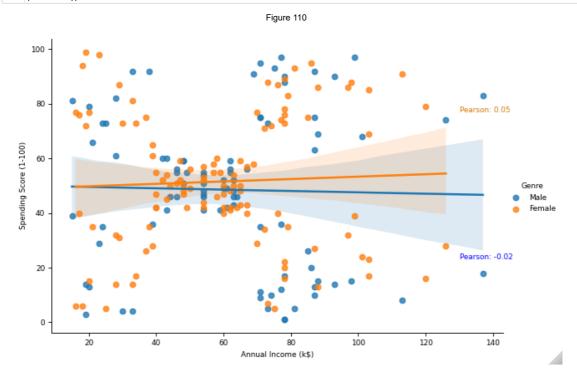
70

Figure 125





Pearson's Correlation for Annual Income & Spending Score (1-100) with line plot (Implot)



STEP 5: K-Means

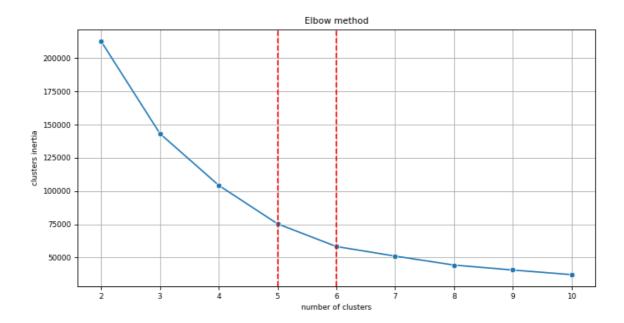
The k-means algorithm is the most used partitional clustering technique. It gained popularity since it is so easy and simple to implement, and it has had many successes in many diverse sectors. As we learned in our lecture for this module, k-means is a greedy algorithm. Remember with the greedy algorithm to be aware of global optimization. Also, remember that the Euclidean distance is implemented, and the number of clusters has to be predefined. In this assignment, you will use the Elbow Method and Silhouette Score to calculate the k-value. For clustering, you will only use numerical columns.

```
In [174]: 1 X_numerics = mall_data[['Age', 'Annual Income (k$)', 'Spending Score (1-100)']]
2 # subset with numeric variables only
```

Elbow Method

In order to find the optimal K number, look at the "elbow" in the graph.

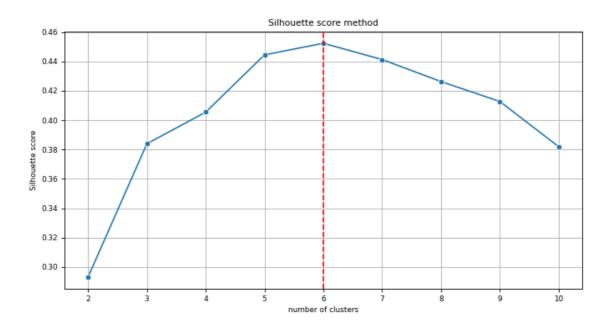
Figure 111



Silhouette Score Method

Since there is no clear "elbow", the Silhouette Score will also be utilized. The Silhouette Score illustrates the distance between clusters, ranging between -1 and 1, and the best score is the number closest to 1.

Figure 112

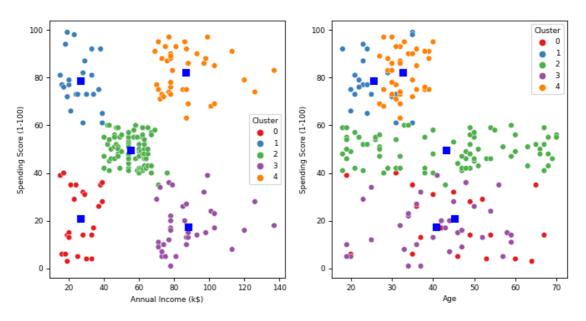


Let's try 5 Clusters

```
In [178]: 1  # initialize and fit K-Means model
2  KM_5_clusters = KMeans(n_clusters=5, init='k-means++').fit(X_numerics)
3  KM5_clustered = X_numerics.copy()
4  # append labels to points
5  KM5_clustered.loc[:,'Cluster'] = KM_5_clusters.labels_
6  figl, (axes) = plt.subplots(1,2,figsize=(10,5))
7  scat_1 = sns.scatterplot(x='Annual Income (k$)', y='Spending Score (1-100)',
8  data=KM5_clustered,hue='Cluster', ax=axes[0], palette='Set1', legend='full')
9  sns.scatterplot(x='Age', y='Spending Score (1-100)', data=KM5_clustered,
10  hue='Cluster', palette='Set1', ax=axes[1], legend='full')
11  axes[0].scatter(KM_5_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,1],KM_5_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,2], marker='s', s=40, c="blue")
12  axes[1].scatter(KM_5_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,0],KM_5_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,2], marker='s', s=40, c="blue")
13  plt.show()
```

Figure 113

K-Means



```
In [179]:
             1 # Size of clusters
              2 KM_clust_sizes = KM5_clustered.groupby('Cluster').size().to_frame()
             3 KM_clust_sizes.columns = ["KM_size"]
             4 KM_clust_sizes
Out[179]:
                     KM_size
             Cluster
                  0
                          23
                          23
                          79
                  3
                          36
                          39
In [180]: 1 # if not installed
              2 #!pip install ipympl
             4 #Enable Javascript in your browser
             #Create a 3D projection of 5 generated clusters
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
# for creating a responsive plot
             9 %matplotlib widget
             10
            # creating figure
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(7, 7))
ax=fig.add_subplot(111,projection='3d')
             14
```

Figure 114

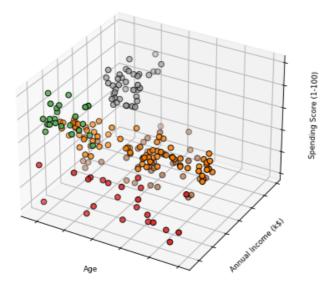
c=KM5_clustered['Cluster'],
s=35, edgecolor='k', cmap=plt.cm.Set1)

ax.w_xaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.w_yaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.w_zaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.w_zaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.set_xlabel('Age')
ax.set_ylabel('Annual Income (k\$)')
ax.set_zlabel('Spending Score (1-100)')
ax.set_title('3D view of K-Means 5 clusters')

18 19

27 ax.dist = 12 28 plt.show()

3D view of K-Means 5 clusters



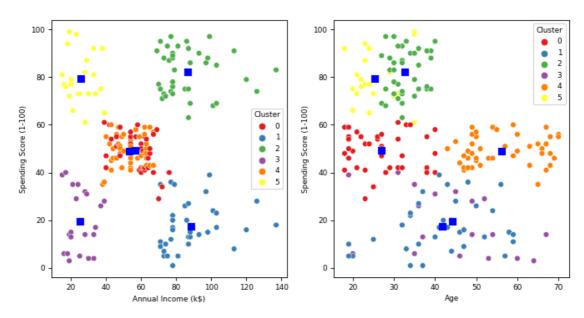
Let's try 6 Clusters

```
In [181]: 1
#initialize and fit K-Means model
KM_6_clusters = KMeans(n_clusters=6, init='k-means++').fit(X_numerics)
KM6_clustered = X_numerics.copy()
# append labels to points

KM6_clustered.loc[:,'Cluster'] = KM_6_clusters.labels_
fig11, (axes) = plt.subplots(1,2,figsize=(10,5))
sns.scatterplot(x='Annual Income (k$)', y='Spending Score (1-100)',
data=KM6_clustered,hue='Cluster', ax=axes[0], palette='Set1', legend='full')
sns.scatterplot(x='Age', y='Spending Score (1-100)', data=KM6_clustered, hue='Cluster', palette='Set1', ax=axes[1], legend='full')
# plotting centroids
axes[0].scatter(KM_6_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,1],
KM_6_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,2], marker='s', s=40, c="blue")
axes[1].scatter(KM_6_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,0],
KM_6_clusters.cluster_centers_[:,2], marker='s', s=40, c="blue")
plt.show()
```

Figure 115

K-Means



```
In [182]: 1 # Size of Clusters
2 KM6_clust_sizes = KM6_clustered.groupby('Cluster').size().to_frame()
3 KM6_clust_sizes.columns = ["KM_size"]
4 KM6_clust_sizes
```

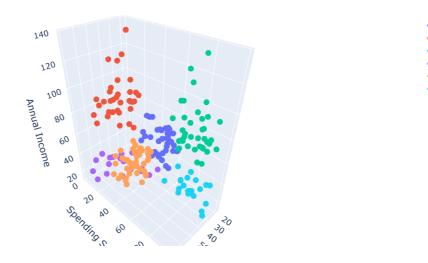
Out[182]:

KM_size

Cluster	
0	38
1	35
2	39
3	21
4	45
5	22

```
In [204]:
                  # Create an interactive 3D view of K-Means with 6 clusters with Plotly
                  def tracer(db, n, name):
               4
                       This function returns trace object for Plotly
               5
               6
                       return go.Scatter3d(
                            x = db[db['Cluster']==n]['Age'],
y = db[db['Cluster']==n]['Spending Score (1-100)'],
z = db[db['Cluster']==n]['Annual Income (k$)'],
               8
               9
              10
                            mode = 'markers',
              11
                            name = name,
              12
                            marker = dict(size = 5)
              13
                 trace0 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 0, 'Cluster 0')
              15 trace1 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 1, 'Cluster 1')
                 trace2 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 2, 'Cluster 2')
trace3 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 3, 'Cluster 3')
              16
              17
             18 trace4 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 4, 'Cluster 4')
19 trace5 = tracer(KM6_clustered, 5, 'Cluster 5')
                 data = [trace0, trace1, trace2, trace3, trace4, trace5]
layout = go.Layout(
              20
              21
              22
                       title = 'Clusters by K-Means',
                       scene = dict(
              23
                            xaxis = dict(title = 'Age'),
              24
                            yaxis = dict(title = 'Spending Score'),
              25
                            zaxis = dict(title = 'Annual Income')
              26
              27
              28 )
              29 fig = go.Figure(data=data, layout=layout)
              30 py.offline.iplot(fig)
```

Clusters by K-Means



Cluster 0

Cluster 1 Cluster 2 Cluster 3

Cluster 4 Cluster 5

STEP 6: DBSCAN (Density-Based Spatial Clustering of Applications with

 $DBS_clustering = DBSCAN(eps=p[\emptyset], \ min_samples=p[1]).fit(X_numerics)$

no_of_clusters.append(len(np.unique(DBS_clustering.labels_)))
sil_score.append(silhouette_score(X_numerics, DBS_clustering.labels_))

Noise) The basis of this algorithm is based on the concept of density. We will use the distance (eps) and the minimum number of points within the distance as parameters. Again, we will use the Euclidean distance for the DBSCAN. Create a matrix of investigated combinations and the number of generated clusters.

Create Heatmaps

for p in DBSCAN_params:

4

6

The heatplot illustrates how many clusters were generated by the algorithm with the respective parameters combinations created above. You can see there are clusters from 17 to 4.

Figure 116

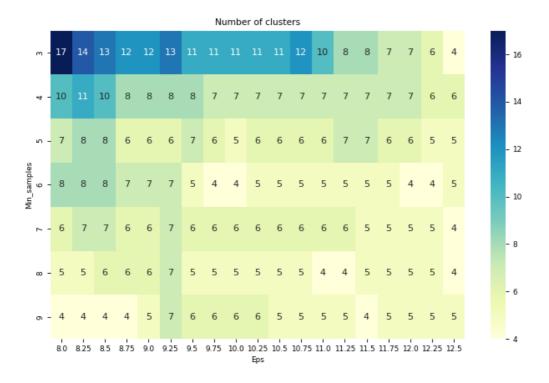
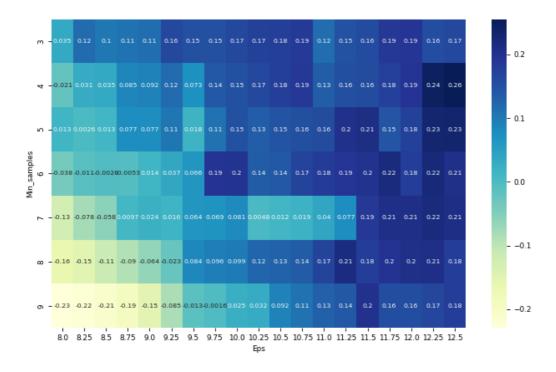


Figure 117



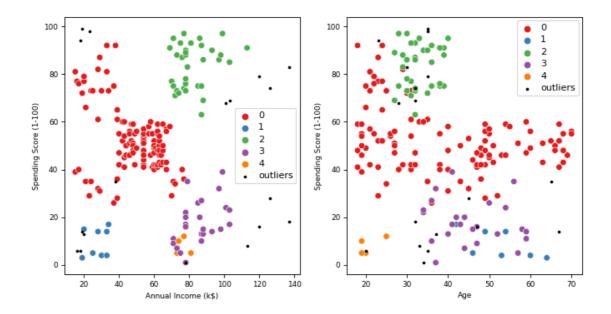
Out[189]:

DBSCAN_size

Cluster
-1
0
1
2
3
4
-1 0 1 2

```
In [205]: 1  # With this code, you will see that there are
2  # some outliers (small black dots).
3  #These points do not meet distance and minimum
4  # samples requirements to be recognized as a cluster.
5  outliers = DBSCAN_clustered[DBSCAN_clustered['Cluster']==-1]
6  fig2, (axes) = plt.subplots(1,2,figsize=(10,5))
7  sns.scatterplot(x='Annual Income (k$)', y='Spending Score (1-100)',
8  data=DBSCAN_clustered[DBSCAN_clustered['Cluster']!=-1],
9  hue='Cluster', ax=axes[0], palette='Set1', legend='ful1', s=45)
sns.scatterplot(x='Age', y='Spending Score (1-100)',
11  data=DBSCAN_clustered[DBSCAN_clustered['Cluster']!=-1],
12  hue='Cluster', palette='Set1', ax=axes[1], legend='ful1', s=45)
axes[0].scatter(outliers', c="k")
axes[0].scatter(outliers', 'c="k")
axes[1].scatter(outliers', c="k")
axes[1].legend()
19  plt.setp(axes[0].get_legend().get_texts(), fontsize='10')
plt.setp(axes[1].get_legend().get_texts(), fontsize='10')
plt.stow()
```

Figure 127

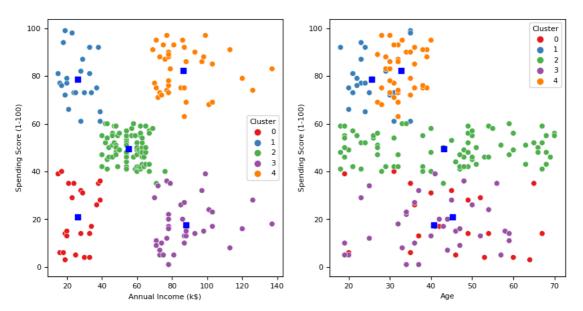


STEP 7: Evaluate

Compare Algorithms

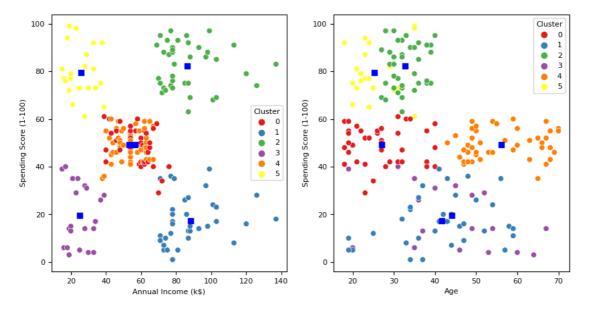
```
In [191]: 1 # K-Means with K=5
fig1.suptitle('K-Means', fontsize=16)
fig1
```

Out[191]: K-Means



In [192]: 1 # K-Means with K=6
2 fig11.suptitle('K-Means', fontsize=16)
3 fig11

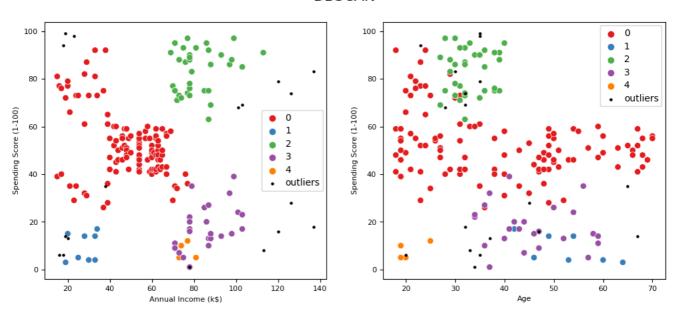
Out[192]: K-Means



In [193]: 1 # DBSCAN with 5 clusters AND outliers
fig2.suptitle('DBSCAN', fontsize=16)
fig2

Out[193]:

DBSCAN



Out[194]:

KM_size DBSCAN_size

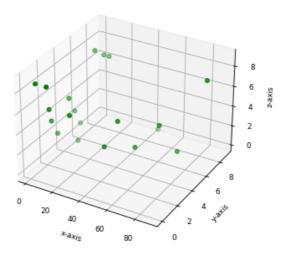
Cluster						
0	38.0	112.0				
1	35.0	8.0				
2	39.0	34.0				
3	21.0	24.0				
4	45.0	4.0				
5	22.0	NaN				
-1	NaN	18.0				

	۸۵۵	Annual Income (k\$)	Spending Score	(1 100)	Cluston
	Age	, ,			
2	20	16		6	-1
6	35	18		6	-1
7	23	18		94	-1
10	67	19		14	-1
11	35	19		99	-1
14	37	20		13	-1
19	35	23		98	-1
40	65	38		35	-1
158	34	78		1	-1
187	28	101		68	-1
191	32	103		69	-1
192	33	113		8	-1
194	47	120		16	-1
195	35	120		79	-1
196	45	126		28	-1
197	32	126		74	-1
198	32	137		18	-1
199	30	137		83	-1

```
In [196]:
               # creating 3d plot using matplotlib
               # in python
            4 # for creating a responsive plot
            5 %matplotlib widget
            6
              # importing required libraries
            8
              from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
            9
              import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
           10
           11
              # creating random dataset
              xs = [14, 24, 43, 47, 54, 66, 74, 89, 12, 44, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5]
           12
           13
           14
              ys = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 6, 3, 5, 2, 4, 1, 8, 7, 0, 5]
           15
           16
              zs = [9, 6, 3, 5, 2, 4, 1, 8, 7, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0]
           17
           18
              # creating figure
           19
              fig=plt.figure()
           20 ax=fig.add_subplot(111,projection='3d')
           21
           22 # creating the plot
           plot_geeks = ax.scatter(xs, ys, zs, color='green')
           24
           25 # setting title and labels
           26 ax.set_title("3D plot")
27 ax.set_xlabel('x-axis')
           28 ax.set_ylabel('y-axis')
           29 ax.set_zlabel('z-axis')
           30
           31 | # displaying the plot
           32 plt.show()
```

Figure 119

3D plot



Great Job! You are done.

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Real-world application questions to consider.

Now that we have identified the outliers, now what?

- · Why are they occurring?
- Where—and what—might the meaning be?

The answer could differ from organization to organization, but you can't simply ignore the data, regardless of the significance. In addition to the above questions, it is more important to know

- How outliers affect your testing efforts?
- How do I deal with the identified outliers?
- Should outliers be removed from the analysis?