# Clustering Example 9: College Scorecard and k-means Clustering

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#### Load necessary libraries.

```
library(mosaic)
library(cluster)
```

This requires you to have access to the college.rda file. It is available in the book's GitHub repository at the following URL.

https://github.com/ds4m/ds4m.github.io/tree/master/chapter-5-resources/college.rda

If you run this R code, place the data file in the same folder as the code file.

```
load("college.rda")
```

The data was originally retrieved from https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/ and a corresponding data dictionary can be found at https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/documentation/. We summarize a portion of the data dictionary here for convenience.

| Code | Control level      |
|------|--------------------|
| 1    | Public             |
| 2    | Private nonprofit  |
| 3    | Private for-profit |

| Code | Region   |
|------|--|
| 0    | U.S. Service Schools - none in this subset                 |
| 1    | New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)                       |
| 2    | Mid East (DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA)                          |
| 3    | Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)                           |
| 4    | Plains (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)                        |
| 5    | Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) |
| 6    | Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX)                                 |
| 7    | Rocky Mountains (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY)                       |
| 8    | Far West (AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA)                          |
| 9    | Outlying Areas (AS, FM, GU, MH, MP, PR, PW, VI)            |

| Code | Locale        |
|------|---------------|
| 11   | City: Large   |
| 12   | City: Midsize |
| 13   | City: Small   |
| 21   | Suburb: Large |

| Code | Locale          |
|------|-----------------|
| 22   | Suburb: Midsize |
| 23   | Suburb: Small   |
| 31   | Town: Fringe    |
| 32   | Town: Distant   |
| 33   | Town: Remote    |
| 41   | Rural: Fringe   |
| 42   | Rural: Distant  |
| 43   | Rural: Remote   |

#### Select relevant variables and convert their data types.

```
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
```

#### Remove observations with missing values (NAs).

Also print summary information for the dataset; this includes showing how many values in each column are missing (NA's).

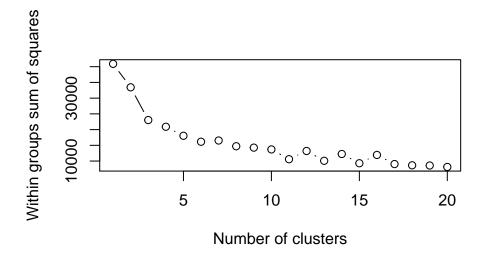
```
complete <- select(data, -INSTNM, -STABBR, -CONTROL, -REGION, -LOCALE,
-MEDIAN_HH_INC, -ACTCMMID, -ADM_RATE, -SAT_AVG, -PFTFAC,
-AVGFACSAL)
summary(complete)
```

```
## UGDS TUITFTE PCTPELL COMP_ORIG_YR4_RT ## Min. : 0 Min. : 0 Min. :0.0000 Min. :0.0062
```

```
1st Qu.: 106
                    1st Qu.: 4918
                                      1st Qu.:0.3117
                                                        1st Qu.:0.2652
                                      Median :0.4630
##
   Median :
             401
                    Median:
                              9156
                                                        Median :0.5000
           : 2427
                                              :0.4821
    Mean
                    Mean
                           : 10767
                                      Mean
                                                        Mean
                                                               :0.4710
##
    3rd Qu.: 2019
                    3rd Qu.: 13906
                                      3rd Qu.:0.6522
                                                        3rd Qu.:0.6552
##
    Max.
           :77269
                    Max.
                            :712078
                                      Max.
                                              :1.0000
                                                        Max.
                                                                :0.9515
   NA's
           :748
                    NA's
                                                        NA's
##
                            :468
                                      NA's
                                              :770
                                                                :1373
   COMP ORIG YR6 RT PAR ED PCT 1STGEN GRAD DEBT MDN
                                                           AGE ENTRY
##
  \mathtt{Min}.
           :0.0029
                     Min.
                             :0.0887
                                        Min.
                                                : 1510
                                                         Min.
                                                                :17.43
##
    1st Qu.:0.2187
                     1st Qu.:0.3762
                                        1st Qu.: 9500
                                                         1st Qu.:23.17
##
  Median :0.4672
                     Median :0.4762
                                        Median :13826
                                                         Median :25.78
  Mean
           :0.4378
                             :0.4555
                                        Mean
                                                :16317
                                                         Mean
                                                                :26.01
                     Mean
##
    3rd Qu.:0.6210
                      3rd Qu.:0.5435
                                        3rd Qu.:23584
                                                         3rd Qu.:28.50
##
           :0.9294
                             :0.9573
                                                :47000
                                                                :58.90
   Max.
                      Max.
                                        Max.
                                                         Max.
   NA's
           :1437
                                                :1453
                                                         NA's
##
                      NA's
                             :1247
                                        NA's
                                                                 :500
##
      MD_FAMINC
##
    Min.
##
   1st Qu.: 16094
  Median : 21994
## Mean
           : 28133
    3rd Qu.: 33989
## Max.
           :179864
  NA's
           :500
complete <- complete[complete.cases(complete),]</pre>
glimpse(complete)
## Observations: 4,546
## Variables: 9
## $ UGDS
                        <dbl> 4824, 12866, 322, 6917, 4189, 32387, 1404, 2801, 42...
## $ TUITFTE
                        <dbl> 9227, 11612, 14738, 8727, 9003, 13574, 1580, 6713, ...
                        <dbl> 0.7100, 0.3532, 0.7415, 0.2765, 0.7377, 0.1800, 0.4...
## $ PCTPELL
## $ COMP_ORIG_YR4_RT
                        <dbl> 0.19082126, 0.45396707, 0.11707317, 0.44937833, 0.2...
                        <dbl> 0.29772727, 0.50694981, 0.22222222, 0.47475642, 0.2...
## $ COMP_ORIG_YR6_RT
## $ PAR_ED_PCT_1STGEN <dbl> 0.3658281, 0.3412237, 0.5125000, 0.3101322, 0.34343...
## $ GRAD_DEBT_MDN
                        <dbl> 34500, 22500, 25002, 22021, 32637, 23250, 12447, 18...
## $ AGE_ENTRY
                        <dbl> 20.28374, 23.60797, 33.67230, 22.72792, 20.13099, 2...
## $ MD_FAMINC
                        <dbl> 23553.0, 34489.0, 15033.5, 44787.0, 22080.5, 66733....
```

### Run k-means clustering for k = 1 to k = 20.

We plot the within-groups sum of squares for each run, so that we can assess which k value may be best. Note the choice of a random number seed, for reproducibility.



#### Run k-means with the chosen value of k = 4.

And print the results, which include cluster centroids, the clustering partition as a vector, and the within-groups sum of squares.

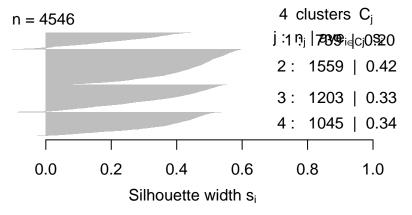
```
set.seed(304)
Ksol1 <- kmeans(scale(complete), centers = 4) #centers is the # of clusters</pre>
list(Ksol1)
## [[1]]
## K-means clustering with 4 clusters of sizes 739, 1559, 1203, 1045
##
## Cluster means:
##
           UGDS
                    TUITFTE
                               PCTPELL COMP_ORIG_YR4_RT COMP_ORIG_YR6_RT
                                             -0.8723507
                                                              -0.7602608
## 1 -0.3112588 0.34844677
                             0.6337379
  2 -0.4580810 -0.02966638
                             0.6934096
                                              0.8190212
                                                               0.7344870
                0.32718985 -0.8473379
                                                               0.5142920
##
     0.3055813
                                              0.4428018
##
     0.5517265 -0.57881499 -0.5071869
                                             -1.1147152
                                                              -1.1501682
##
     PAR_ED_PCT_1STGEN GRAD_DEBT_MDN
                                     AGE_ENTRY MD_FAMINC
## 1
            0.4115626
                           1.1205933
                                     0.9423235 -0.4708501
## 2
            0.6950675
                          -0.7846063
                                     0.5024887 -0.6269660
## 3
            -1.2440464
                           0.8437308 -1.0114104
                                                1.3529469
## 4
            0.1041463
                          -0.5932300 -0.2517036 -0.2891837
##
##
  Clustering vector:
       \begin{smallmatrix} 11 \end{smallmatrix} 1 \ 3 \ 1 \ 3 \ 1 \ 3 \ 4 \ 2 \ 4 \ 3 \ 3 \ 4 \ 1 \ 1 \ 4 \ 4 \ 1 \ 4 \ 1 \ 3 \ 3 \ 4 \ 4 \ 1 \ 1 \ 4 \ 1 \ 1 \ 3 \ 4 \ 3 \ 4 \ 3 \ 3 \ 4 \ 3 \ 1 
##
     [38] 1 4 3 4 4 4 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 2 3 4 3 1 4 1 2 4 2 2 2 2 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 2 3 1
##
     [75] 4 2 4 2 2 1 2 4 4 4 4 2 1 2 4 4 2 1 2 3 2 3 1 4 4 4 4 2 2 4 4 4 4 4 2 2 4
##
    [112] 4 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 4 3 4 4 3 4 1 4 4 2 2 3 4 4 4 4 1 2 4 3 2 4 4 3 2 2 3 4
##
    ##
##
    [186] 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 4 3 2 3 1 4 4 2 4 3 1 3 4 4 4 4 2 4 3 4 4 2 2 4 3 3 3 3 4
    [223] 2 4 4 1 4 2 1 4 4 3 4 1 2 2 4 2 1 4 3 1 1 3 2 4 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 2 4 4
##
    ##
##
    [297] 3 2 1 3 3 4 4 3 3 2 3 4 3 4 2 2 4 4 1 4 4 3 4 1 4 4 3 3 4 3 4 2 3 4 4
   [334] 2 4 3 4 4 4 4 2 4 2 4 3 4 3 1 3 2 4 3 2 2 2 4 4 4 1 4 4 2 3 3 3 2 4 4 4 3
##
    [371] 2 3 3 2 3 1 3 2 1 4 4 3 2 3 1 4 1 2 4 2 3 3 4 2 2 4 4 4 4 3 1 1 4 3 4 2 4
##
##
    [408] 4 4 3 1 4 2 2 4 2 3 1 4 2 1 1 3 1 2 3 2 3 1 2 3 3 2 4 2 3 4 4 4 4 3 4 2 2
    [445] 3 4 4 2 1 3 3 3 4 3 2 3 4 3 3 3 2 4 3 3 3 2 1 1 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 1 2 1 1 1
##
    [482] 1 3 4 4 2 4 3 3 4 1 3 4 4 3 3 4 4 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 4 4 1 2 2 3 3 2 3 4 1 4 4
```

```
##
## Within cluster sum of squares by cluster:
## [1] 5989.212 4208.402 5635.969 4105.863
##
   (between_SS / total_SS = 51.3 %)
##
## Available components:
##
## [1] "cluster"
                  "centers"
                              "totss"
                                          "withinss"
                                                      "tot.withinss"
## [6] "betweenss"
                 "size"
                              "iter"
                                          "ifault"
```

### Create corresponding silhouette plot.

```
kmeansSil <- silhouette(Ksol1$cluster, dist(scale(complete)))</pre>
silsum <- summary(kmeansSil)</pre>
silsum
## Silhouette of 4546 units in 4 clusters from silhouette.default(x = Ksol1$cluster, dist = dist(scale(
    Cluster sizes and average silhouette widths:
         739
                  1559
                             1203
##
## 0.2040882 0.4200223 0.3269803 0.3438813
## Individual silhouette widths:
##
      Min. 1st Qu. Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
                                               Max.
## -0.1032 0.2319 0.3824 0.3428 0.4745
                                            0.5978
plot(kmeansSil)
```

# Silhouette plot of (x = Ksol1\$cluster, dist = dis



#### Average silhouette width: 0.34

Individual lines in the silhouette plot are not readable with that many observations, but we can still benefit from the output shown on the right.

#### Report average silhouette width more precisely.

```
silsum$avg.width
## [1] 0.3427957
```

### Compute average silhouette width for all possible values of k.

Thus k ranges from 2 to n-1 (where n is the number of observations, here 101) and we report summary statistics for the collection of silhouette widths.

```
set.seed(304)
n <- 101
mydist <- dist(scale(complete))
avgwidths <- rep(0, 99)

for (i in 2:(n-1)) {
   set.seed(304)
   Ksol <- kmeans(scale(complete), centers = i) #centers is the # of clusters
   kmeansSil <- silhouette(Ksol$cluster, mydist)
   avgwidths[i-1] <- summary(kmeansSil)$avg.width
}</pre>
```

```
## Warning: did not converge in 10 iterations
summary(avgwidths)
```

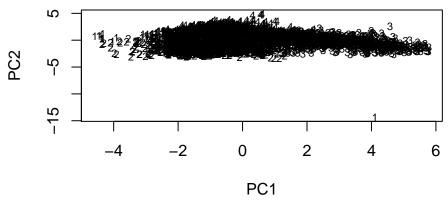
```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 0.1482 0.1522 0.1567 0.1705 0.1688 0.3428
```

### Plot the k = 4 solution in principal component space.

However, because there are so many observations, we can gain very little benefit from such a plot.

There is, however, one outlier clearly shown at about (4, -15).

#### K-means Four Cluster Solution



```
summary(csPCAs)
```

```
## Importance of components:

## Comp.1 Comp.2 Comp.3 Comp.4 Comp.5

## Standard deviation 1.8277294 1.4513753 1.0950314 0.90480782 0.77922210

## Proportion of Variance 0.3711772 0.2340545 0.1332326 0.09096413 0.06746523

## Cumulative Proportion 0.3711772 0.6052317 0.7384643 0.82942844 0.89689367
```

```
## Comp.6 Comp.7 Comp.8 Comp.9

## Standard deviation 0.71988714 0.45321184 0.37141307 0.257625315

## Proportion of Variance 0.05758194 0.02282233 0.01532752 0.007374534

## Cumulative Proportion 0.95447562 0.97729795 0.99262547 1.000000000
```

#### Examine statistics for some key variables by cluster.

```
favstats(GRAD_DEBT_MDN ~ Ksol1$cluster, data = complete)
##
     Ksol1$cluster min
                              Q1 median
                                             QЗ
                                                  max
                                                           mean
                                                                      sd
## 1
                 1 4500 21643.5
                                 25084 30344.5 47000 25503.92 6463.374
                                                                          739
## 2
                         8028.0
                                   9500 11978.0 26250 10172.27 3426.845 1559
                 2 1974
## 3
                 3 5500 21120.5
                                 24500 26000.0 36314 23275.93 4076.457 1203
## 4
                 4 2069 8750.0 10500 14000.0 32813 11712.32 4765.294 1045
##
     missing
## 1
           0
## 2
           0
           0
## 3
## 4
favstats(TUITFTE ~ Ksol1$cluster, data = complete)
##
     Ksol1$cluster min
                           Q1 median
                                          QЗ
                                                max
                                                          mean
                              13191 16885.5 712078 15409.465 26919.063
## 1
                                                                          739
                 1 643 10159
## 2
                 2 415
                        7828
                                9710 12587.0
                                              55500 10573.824
                                                                4940.852 1559
## 3
                 3 594
                        9636
                               13659 18961.5
                                              49006 15137.613
                                                               7656.973 1203
## 4
                 4 228
                        1949
                                2982 4402.0 27488 3550.831
                                                               2560.968 1045
##
     missing
## 1
           0
           0
## 2
## 3
           0
## 4
           0
```

#### Compare clustering solution to some key variables.

3 108 236 216 130

##

We need a copy of the data with just the columns that make it possible to compare with our clustering solution. Create that data and do the comparison.

```
for_comparison <- select(data, -STABBR, -MEDIAN_HH_INC, -ACTCMMID, -ADM_RATE, -SAT_AVG,
                      -PFTFAC, -AVGFACSAL)
for_comparison <- for_comparison[complete.cases(for_comparison),]</pre>
tally(for_comparison$CONTROL ~ Ksol1$cluster)
##
                          Ksol1$cluster
                                    2
                                              4
## for_comparison$CONTROL
                              1
                                         3
##
                             44
                                   98
                                       399
                                            963
##
                         2
                            255
                                 131
                                       773
                                             71
                            440 1330
##
                         3
tally(for_comparison$REGION ~ Ksol1$cluster)
##
                         Ksol1$cluster
## for_comparison$REGION
                                 2
                                     3
                                         4
##
                               72 123
                           25
                           89 287 265 105
##
```

```
##
                         69 71 156 107
##
                       5 262 330 244 256
##
                         87 202 59 144
##
                             57 29 54
                       7
##
                         65 279 110 165
##
                       9
                            25
                                  1 38
tally(for_comparison$LOCALE ~ Ksol1$cluster)
##
                        Ksol1$cluster
## for_comparison$LOCALE
                          1
                              2
##
                      11 233 434 258 149
##
                      12 119 187 145
                         80 208 165 156
##
                      13
##
                      21 201 539 242 162
##
                      22
                         11
                             47 43
                                      36
##
                      23
                          4
                             33 32 25
##
                      31
                          7
                             13 53
                                     21
##
                      32
                         34
                             33 135 96
                      33 14
                             20 73 133
##
##
                         22
                             40 34 127
                      41
##
                      42
                          9
                              4 15 31
##
                              1
                                  8 14
```

To try hierarchical clustering, we need a distance matrix.

```
cs.dist.scale <- dist(scale(complete))</pre>
```

### Perform hierarchical clustering with single linkage.

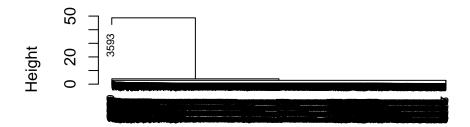
```
hcsingle <- hclust(cs.dist.scale, method = "single")
list(hcsingle) # reminds you of properties of the solution, if desired

## [[1]]
##
## Call:
## hclust(d = cs.dist.scale, method = "single")
##
## Cluster method : single
## Distance : euclidean
## Number of objects: 4546</pre>
```

# Plot the corresponding dendrogram.

```
plot(hcsingle, cex = 0.7)
```

# **Cluster Dendrogram**



# cs.dist.scale hclust (\*, "single")

Observation 3593 is a major outlier. Not much else beneficial to be gained here.

for\_comparison[3593,1:4]

#### Perform hierarchical clustering with complete linkage.

```
hccomp <- hclust(cs.dist.scale, method = "complete")
plot(hccomp, cex = 0.7)</pre>
```

# **Cluster Dendrogram**



cs.dist.scale hclust (\*, "complete")

Observation 3593 is still a major outlier.

#### Perform hierarchical clustering with Ward's method.

```
hcward <- hclust(cs.dist.scale, method = "ward.D")
plot(hcward, cex = 0.3, labels = FALSE)</pre>
```

# **Cluster Dendrogram**



### cs.dist.scale hclust (\*, "ward.D")

```
wardSol <- (cutree(hcward, k= 5))
summary(as.factor(wardSol)) #as factor to get table
## 1 2 3 4 5
## 939 543 713 715 1636</pre>
```

#### Compute and report average silhouette width more precisely.

```
WardSil <- silhouette(wardSol, dist(scale(complete)))</pre>
silsum2 <- summary(WardSil)</pre>
silsum2
## Silhouette of 4546 units in 5 clusters from silhouette.default(x = wardSol, dist = dist(scale(comple
   Cluster sizes and average silhouette widths:
         939
                   543
                             713
                                        715
##
## 0.1721134 0.2105865 0.2185532 0.3728725 0.2989987
## Individual silhouette widths:
      Min. 1st Qu. Median
                              Mean 3rd Qu.
## -0.4333 0.1617 0.3130 0.2612 0.4023 0.5234
silsum2$avg.width
```

#### Compare clustering solution to some key variables.

```
(The for_comparison data frame was defined earlier.)
```

## [1] 0.2612312

```
tally(for_comparison$CONTROL ~ wardSol)
##
                          wardSol
## for_comparison$CONTROL
                                   2
                                                   5
                              1
                                         3
##
                            438
                                   9
                                       241
                                            702
                                                 114
##
                            427
                                 141
                                       468
                                              7
                                                 187
##
                         3
                                 393
                                              6 1335
tally(for_comparison$REGION ~ wardSol)
##
                         wardSol
## for_comparison$REGION
                          1
                                2
                                     3
                                             5
```

```
##
                       1 50
                              18 88 36 74
##
                       2 132
                                      79 299
                              59 177
##
                       3 135
                              86 125
                                      99 245
##
                       4 140
                              62
                                  77
                                      49
                                          75
##
                         275 156 121 182 358
                          93
##
                              57
                                  33 103 206
##
                       7
                          44
                              29
                                  15
                                      27
##
                          67
                              75
                                  77 140 260
##
                       9
                           3
                               1
                                   0
                                       0 63
tally(for_comparison$LOCALE ~ wardSol)
```

```
##
                        wardSol
## for_comparison$LOCALE
                               2
                           1
                                   3
##
                      11 179 186 151 104 454
##
                      12 95
                              79 91
                                      67 214
##
                      13 128
                              56 108 100 217
##
                      21 150 168 146 124 556
##
                          22
                               9
                                  29
                                      31
                                          46
                          17
                               3
##
                      23
                                 24
                                      16
                                          34
##
                      31
                          36
                               5 25
                                      13 15
##
                      32 108
                                      65
                                          31
                              10 84
##
                      33 117
                               7
                                  28
                                      64
                                          24
##
                      41 51
                              15 16 100
                                          41
##
                      42
                          22
                               3
                                   8
                                      23
                                           3
##
                      43
                          14
                               2
                                       8
                                           1
                                   3
```

Compare clustering solutions built using k-means and Ward's method.

```
tally(wardSol ~ Ksol1$cluster)
```

```
##
          Ksol1$cluster
                                4
## wardSol
               1
                    2
##
             206
                   34
                        425
                             274
         1
##
         2
             464
                   63
                         12
                               4
                        694
##
         3
               0
                              18
                     1
##
         4
               6
                     0
                          0
                             709
##
         5
                              40
              63 1461
                         72
```