

# Subspace clustering for pattern discovery

DASH: Data Science e Análise Não Supervisionada

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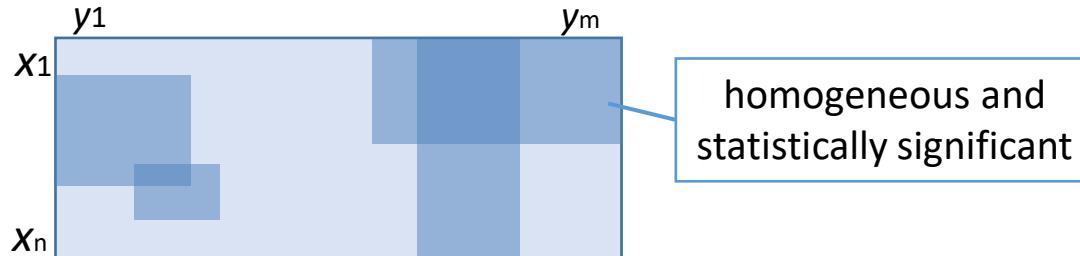
# Outline

- Subspace clustering
- Biclustering
  - coherence
  - quality
  - structure
  - evaluation
  - searches
- Triclustering
- Deep learning
- Appendix

# Why subspace clustering?

- Find **patterns on real-valued data**
  - classic pattern mining (e.g. FIM, ARM) suffer from discretization drawbacks
- Find **less-trivial patterns** with non-constant homogeneity
  - classic pattern mining is only able to find constant patterns (i.e. simple repetitions)
- Other applications
  - well-established role in **predictive tasks** using discriminative patterns
  - **dimensionality reduction** by reducing data into a set of informative or/and discriminative subspaces
  - **imputation** of missings taking into consideration a subspace's homogeneity
  - ...

# Motivation



2	2	2
2	2	3
2	?	2

Constant overall with noise and missing

1	3	2
1	3	2
1	3	2

Constant across rows

+0	+2	+1
1	3	2
4	6	5

Additive on columns

2x	2	-6	4
-1x	-1	3	-2
1x	1	-3	2

Multiplicative with symmetries on rows

1	1	3
1	3	2
1	2	2

Additive plaid with constant overall

2	3	1
1	3	0
3	4	2

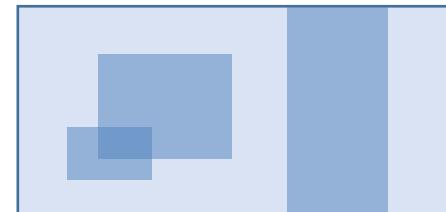
Order preserving across rows

# Motivation

- **GLOBAL stance: clustering**
  - Group observations correlated according to values of all variables
  - **Problem?**
    - High-dimensional data: hundreds to thousands of variables  
Similarity on all variables can be misleading if strong correlation occurs only on a subset
    - x1 = 0.2 0.1 0.2 0.1 **0.4 0.7 0.4** 0.3
    - x2 = 0.1 0.3 0.1 0.2 **0.4 0.7 0.4** 0.2
    - x3 = 0.3 0.1 0.2 0.3 **0.4 0.7 0.4** 0.1
    - Dissimilar? What about this coherent pattern
- **Solution? LOCAL stance: subspace clustering**
  - Group observations correlated on a subset of all variables (subspace)
  - Non-exhaustive and overlapping groups of observations

# Definition

- Subspace clustering can be applied to different data structures, including:
  - [**biclustering**] simple multivariate data
  - [*n-way subspace clustering*] tensor data (e.g. **triclustering** for three-way data)
- Given a dataset,  $D$ , with a set of observations  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$ , a set of variables  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_M\}$ , and elements  $a_{ij} \in R$  relating observation  $x_i$  and variable  $y_j$ :
  - A **bicluster**  $B = (I, J)$  defines a pattern in  $D$ , where  $I = (\mathbf{x}_{i1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{in}) \subset X$  is a subset of observations (*pattern support*) and  $J = (y_{j1}, \dots, y_{jm}) \subset Y$  is a subset of variables (*subspace*)
  - The **biclustering task** aims to identify a set of biclusters  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_s\}$  such that each bicluster  $B_k = (I_k, J_k)$  satisfies specific criteria of *homogeneity* and *statistical significance*



# Applications: social domains

- **Social networks**
  - communities of individuals with shared interests or correlated activity (X=Y=individuals)
  - aggregation of contents (X) based on correlated accessors' profile, comments and tags (Y)
- **Text data:** group content-related documents to support searches, suggestions and tagging (X=documents, Y=features)
- **(e-)commerce:** browsing patterns (X=users, Y=webpage accesses)
- **Education:** performance analysis (X=students/professors, Y=topics/features)
- **Financial/trading:** subsets of indicators producing similar profitability for subsets of trading points (X=buy and sell signals, Y=stock market ratios)
- **Collaborative filtering data:** groups of users with similar rating patterns and behavior on a subset of available actions (X=users, Y=items/actions)

# Applications: biomedicine

- **Omic data:** functional processes and pathways (X=genes/proteins/metabolites, Y=conditions)
- **Physiological data:** coherent sliding features on a subset of stimuli-elicited responses; groups of patients with shared local patterns (X=signals, Y=features)
- **Clinical data:** health trends and risk profiles from health records; individuals with similar treatments, diagnoses and tests (X=individuals, Y=clinical features)
- **Genomic mutations:** correlated mutations (Y) for specific populations (X)
- **Biological networks:** modules of genes, proteins or metabolites (X=Y=biological entities) with cohesive local interaction using adjacency matrices

# Motivation

Consider **gene expression** data analysis (where X=samples/individuals and Y=genes)

- ***clustering*** groups samples or genes ⇒ limited relevance! **Why?**
  - only a small set of the genes participates in a cellular process of interest
  - an interesting cellular process is active only in a subset of the conditions
  - a single gene may participate in multiple pathways that may or not be coactive under all conditions
- ***biclustering*** groups genes that show similar activity patterns under a subset of samples => **current way of extracting new knowledge**
  - SARS-CoV-2 knowledge advances on regulatory responses and vaccines
  - breakthroughs on cancer mechanisms and therapies

# Outline

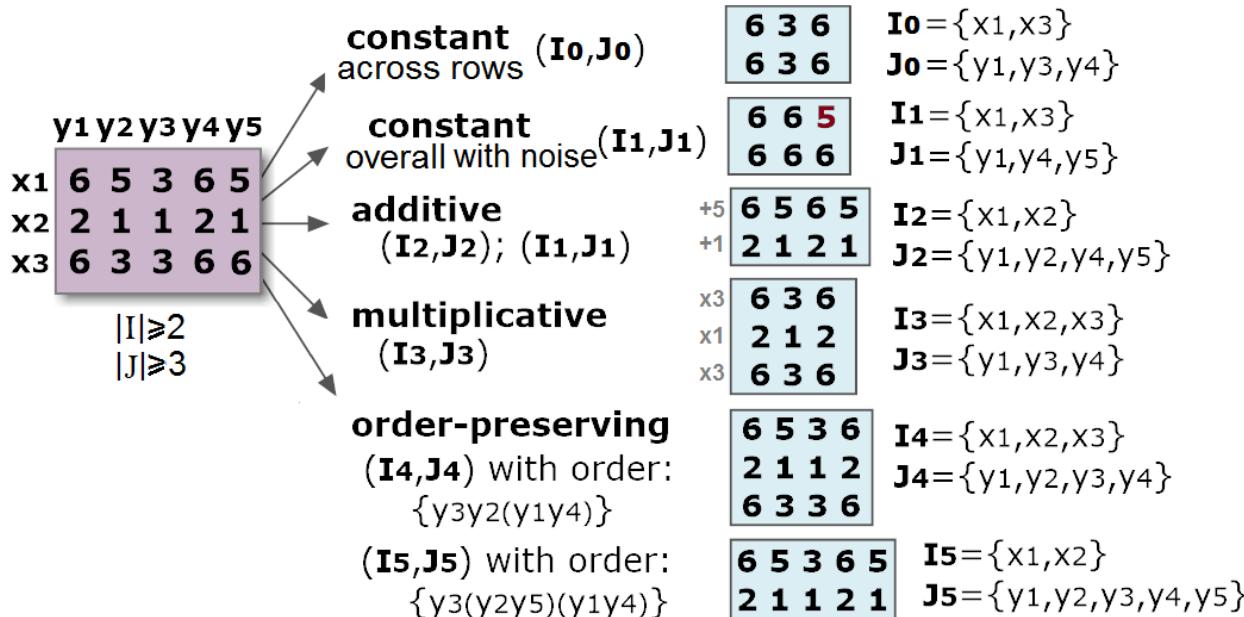
- Subspace clustering
- **Biclustering**
  - **coherence**
  - **quality**
  - **structure**
  - **evaluation**
  - **searches**
- Triclustering
- Deep learning
- Appendix

# Homogeneity

- Let us recall: the **biclustering task** aims to identify a set of biclusters such that each bicluster satisfies specific criteria of...
  - **homogeneity:** patterns of interest
    - the placed homogeneity determines the **structure** (positioning), **coherence** (correlation) and **quality** (noise tolerance) of biclusters
  - **statistical significance:** non-spurious patterns,  
i.e. biclusters should not occur by chance (unexpectedly frequent)
    - non-significant bicluster discovered: *false positive*
    - significant bicluster not discovered: *false negative*

# Coherence

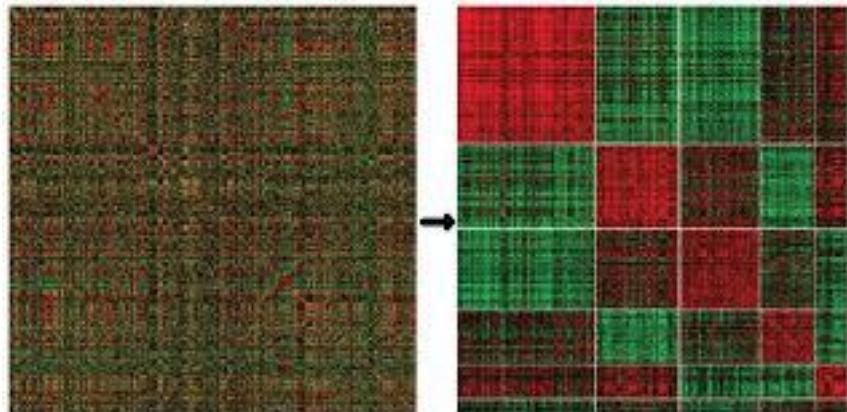
- The allowed form of correlation is termed **coherence assumption**



# Coherence

- Homogeneity commonly guaranteed through a **merit function**
  - e.g. the variance of the values in a subspace

*Low variance* can be used to find biclusters with constant values



# Constant model

- **Constant** values

- **overall** (low-variance)

$$a_{ij} = c + \eta_{ij}$$

- **on variables**

$$a_{ij} = c_j + \eta_{ij}$$

where...

- $c_j$  is a constant
- $\eta_{ij}$  the noise factor
- $a_{IJ}$  average ( $I, J$ )
- $a_{Ij}$  average ( $I, \{y\}$ )

<b>1.2</b>	0.5	0.3	<b>1.3</b>
<b>1.3</b>	0.5	0.1	<b>1.2</b>
<b>1.2</b>	0.6	0.6	<b>1.1</b>
<b>1.1</b>	1.3	0.8	<b>1.2</b>

$$\begin{aligned}a_{IJ} &= 1.2 \\ \eta_{11} &= .0 & \eta_{14} &= .1 \\ \eta_{21} &= .2 & \eta_{24} &= .0 \\ \eta_{31} &= .0 & \eta_{34} &= -.1 \\ \eta_{41} &= -.1 & \eta_{44} &= .0\end{aligned}$$

<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0.3	<b>1.3</b>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0.1	<b>1.2</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	0.6	<b>1.1</b>
1.1	1.3	0.8	1.2

$$\begin{aligned}a_{I2} &= .53 \\ \eta_{12} &= .03 \\ \eta_{22} &= .03 \\ \eta_{32} &= .07\end{aligned}$$

# Additive model

$$a_{ij} = c_j + \gamma_i + \eta_{ij}$$

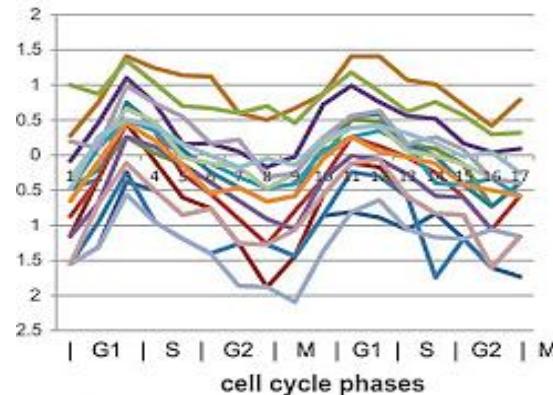
	$c_1=1$	$c_2=3$	$c_3=2$	
$\gamma_1=+0$	1	3	2	5
$\gamma_2=+3$	4	6	5	1
$\gamma_3=+2$	3	5	4	2
	4	1	2	3

- $c_j$  is the value of variable  $y_j$
- $\gamma_i$  is the adjustment for observation  $x_i$
- bicluster **pattern**  $\phi_B$  is the expected values in the absence of adjustments  $\gamma_i$  and noise factors  $\eta_{ij}$ 
  - e.g.  $\phi_B = \{c_1 = 1, c_2 = 3, c_3 = 2\}$

# Additive model

## Why?

- medical field: handle individual differences, different stages of disease progression
- biological field: responsiveness of genes, experimental differences
- social field: individual differences regarding activity



# Multiplicative model

- Similar to the additive model:

- on observations

$$a_{ij} = c_j \gamma_i + \eta_{ij}$$

- on variables

$$a_{ij} = c_i \gamma_j + \eta_{ij}$$

$$c_1=1 \ c_2=-3 \ c_3=2$$

$\gamma_1=2$	<b>2</b>	-6	4	5
$\gamma_2=-1$	<b>-1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	1
$\gamma_3=1$	<b>1</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>2</b>	2
	4	1	2	-3

- $c_j$  (or  $c_i$ ) is the value of variable  $y_j$  (or observation  $x_i$ )

- $\gamma_i$  (or  $\gamma_j$ ) is the adjustment for observation  $x_i$  (or variable  $y_j$ )

# Order-preserving model

- A bicluster following an **order-preserving** model is  $(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J})$  where the values on each observation in  $\mathbf{I}$  across the  $\mathbf{J}$  variables are ordered according the same permutation  $\pi$

	$y_1$	$y_2$	$y_3$	$y_4$
$x_1$	19	12	6	14
$x_2$	10	7	13	9
$x_3$	11	6	17	8
$x_4$	13	4	1	11

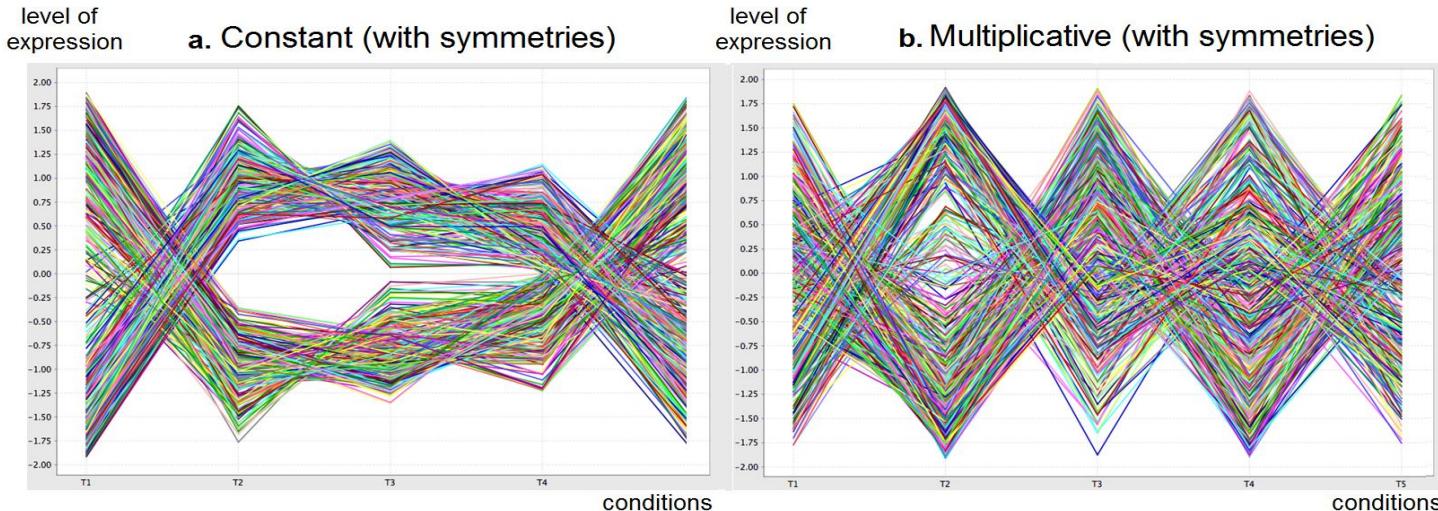
$\pi = y_1 \geq y_4 \geq y_2$   
 $B = (\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}, \{y_1, y_2, y_4\})$

## Why?

- More flexible and noise robust
- Focus on orderings instead of absolute values (preferences, difficulties)

# Symmetries

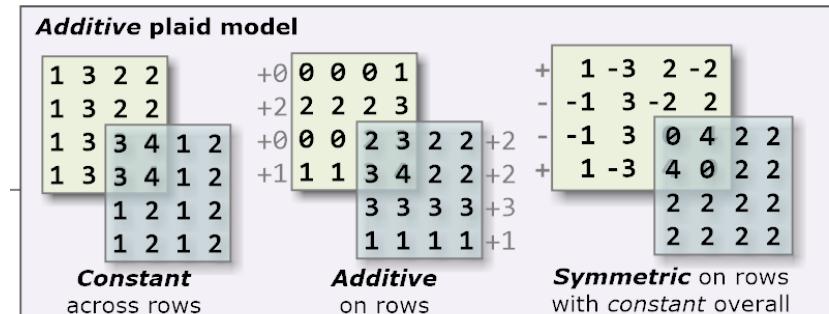
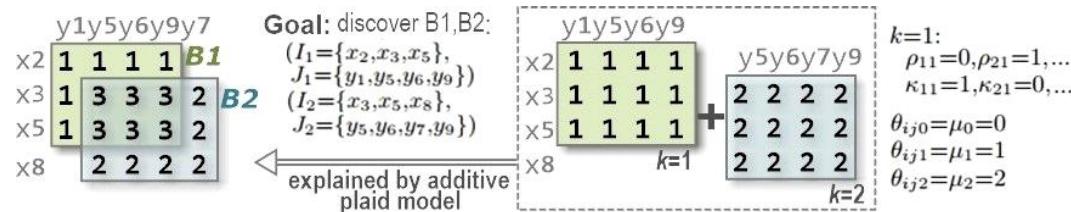
- Symmetries can be accommodated on observations:  $a_{ij} \times k_i$  where  $k_i \in \{1, -1\}$ 
  - e.g. activation and repression regulatory patterns



# Plaid model

The **plaid assumption** considers the **cumulative effect** of the contributions from multiple biclusters on areas where their observations and variables **overlap**

**Why?** Synergistic behaviors  
(e.g. social networking,  
comorbidity effects,  
multi-purpose genes)



# Merit functions

- *Variance* of values  $\Rightarrow$  constant overall
- *Mean square residue*,  $H \Rightarrow$  additive

$$r(a_{ij}) = a_{ij} - aiJ - a_{Ij} + aIJ \text{ (residue of an element in an additive subspace)}$$

$$H(I, J) = \frac{1}{|I||J|} \sum_{i \in I, j \in J} r(a_{ij})^2 \text{ (measure of additive coherence)}$$

- *Pearson* correlation  $\Rightarrow$  additive/multiplicative
- *Cosine* measure  $\Rightarrow$  order-preserving

Many others...

# Coherence strength

- Let  $\bar{A}$  be the amplitude of the range of values in a matrix A
- Given A, the **coherence strength** is a range  $\delta \in [0, \bar{A}]$ , such that  $a_{ij} = c_j + \gamma_i + \eta_{ij}$  (or other) and  $\eta_{ij} \in [-\delta/2, \delta/2]$ 
  - e.g.  $a_{13} = 1.4$ ,  $a_{23} = 1.8$  and  $a_{33} = 1.6$  can be seen as constant column if  $\delta = 0.4$
- Increasing coherence strength
  - more tolerance to noise
  - larger biclusters
- Decreasing coherence strength?
- How to fix coherence strength?

# Quality

The **quality** of a set of biclusters is defined by the **type** and **amount** of accommodated noise

- **amount** of noisy elements: e.g. 30% of noisy elements
- **type** of noise: e.g. consider only small deviations from  $[\eta_{ij} - \delta/2, \eta_{ij} + \delta/2]$

2.	2.	2.	2.
2.	<b>4.</b>	2.	2.
2.	2.	2.	2.
2.	2.	<b>0.</b>	2.

12.5% of noisy elements

2.	2.	2.	2.
2.	<b>1.8</b>	2.	<b>1.7</b>
<b>2.4</b>	2.	2.	2.
2.	2.	<b>2.3</b>	2.

25% of slight deviations  
from  $[\eta_{ij} - \delta/2, \eta_{ij} + \delta/2]$

# Structure

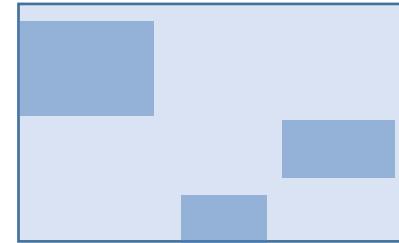
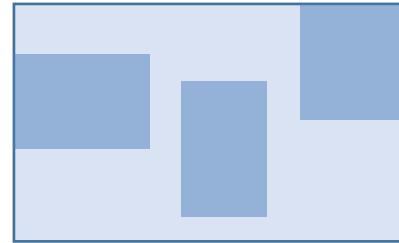
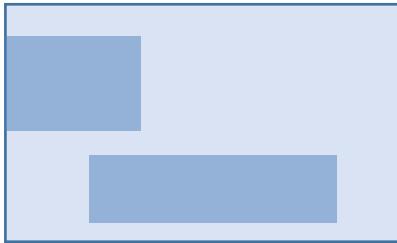
- **Number** of biclusters
- **Size and shape**
- **Positioning** constraints:
  - Exhaustive: rows and/or columns
  - Exclusive: rows and/or columns
  - Non-overlapping
  - Others: tree, hierarchical structures

*Flexible structure:*

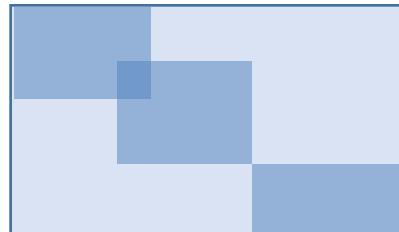
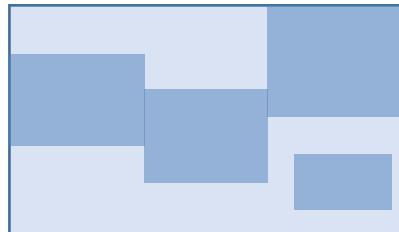
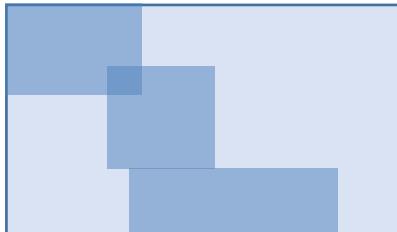
- non-fixed number of biclusters
- no constraints on size, shape and positioning

# Structures

- **Exclusive** on rows (*left*), columns (*middle*), or both (*right*)

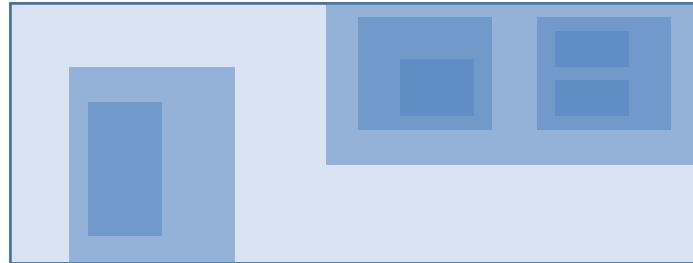


- **Exhaustive** on rows (*left*), columns (*middle*), or both (*right*)



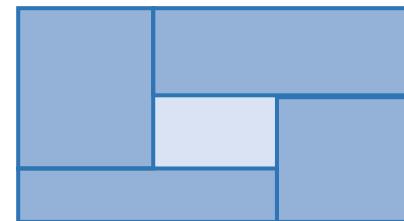
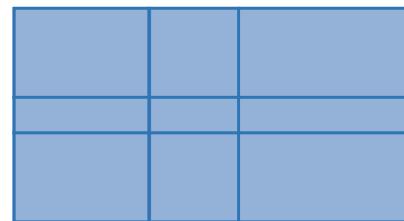
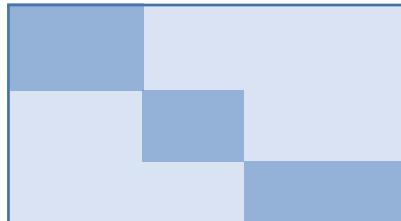
# Structures

- **Hierarchical**



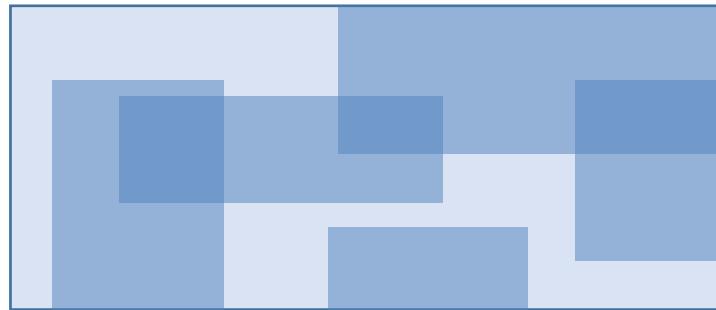
- **Others**

- coclustering structure/checkboard
- diagonal, L, square shape



# Flexible structures

- Arbitrarily positioned (possibly overlapping) biclusters



- Biclustering solutions with flexible positioning can be associated with redundant patterns
  - searches should further include *dissimilarity* criteria  
(e.g. merging biclusters with high overlapping at mining or postprocessing time)

# Statistical significance

Is a bicluster **unexpected**?

- e.g. Is a bicluster defined by 2 observations and 2 variables in large dataset interesting?  
Or does it occur by chance?
- Solution: assess statistical significance
  - **randomize data** several times and compute the ratio of datasets where we are able to find a similar bicluster
  - **approximate data distributions** and perform a statistical test
    - the null hypothesis is that the bicluster does not occur by chance
    - we can statistically test its support using **binomial test** similarly as we did for itemsets
- Assessment can be considered during the biclustering search
- Refresh memory: *False positive* bicluster? *False negative* bicluster?

# Evaluation metrics

## Challenges

- no ground truth to evaluate biclusters observed in real data
- metrics only able to assess a single homogeneity criteria
- evaluation metrics used within the biclustering searches – problem?

## Options

- **synthetic data** (knowledge of true/hidden biclusters)
  - **objective** metrics: accuracy, precision, completeness
- **real data** (no knowledge of true biclusters)
  - **subjective** metrics: domain-driven relevance scores

# Evaluation metrics

**Synthetic data** (objective metrics)

**H** is the set of true biclusters and **B** is the set of found biclusters

- **Clustering** metrics on one dimension ( $X$  and  $Y$  separately)
  - silhouette, recall and precision – problems?
- **Jaccard**-based match scores (MS) to assess the similarity of  $B$  and  $H$ 
  - $MS(B,H)$  extent to which found biclusters match hidden biclusters
  - $MS(H,B)$  reflects how well hidden biclusters are recovered

$$MS(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{H}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{B}|} \sum_{(I_1, J_1) \in \mathcal{B}} \max_{(I_2, J_2) \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{|I_1 \cap I_2|}{|I_1 \cup I_2|}$$

- **Fabia consensus** is sensitive to the number of biclusters in both sets

$$FC(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{H}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_1|} \sum_{((I_1, J_1) \in \mathcal{S}_1, (I_2, J_2) \in \mathcal{S}_2) \in MP} \frac{|I_1 \cap I_2| \times |J_1 \cap J_2|}{|I_1| \times |J_1| + |I_2| \times |J_2| - |I_1 \cap I_2| \times |J_1 \cap J_2|}$$

# Evaluation metrics

## Real data (subjective metrics)

- statistical significance: unexpected occurrence probability
- domain relevance: unexpected probability of participating in studied process
- domain and statistical significance correlated but not always in agreement!
- HOW to assess domain relevance of bicluster  $(I, J)$ ?
  - *source of annotations*: knowledge bases (e.g. GO) and literature data (e.g. PubMED)
  - statistically test I and J against well-established annotations
    - hypergeometric tests to compute **enrichment p-values** against an annotation database
    - *intuition*: most of entries in  $I$  (or  $J$ ) sharing annotations in a database suggests relevance

# Approaches

- **Number of biclusters at a time**
  - discover one bicluster at a time and then mask it
  - discover a set of biclusters at a time
- **Optimality**
  - **exhaustive** and (quasi-)exhaustive searches
    - e.g. find heavy subgraphs in bipartite graphs mapped from data
    - *heavy!* Place restrictions on structure, coherence and quality
  - **approximate** searches (next slide)

# Approaches

- **Greedy iterative searches**
  - iteratively add/remove rows and columns to maximize a merit function
    - e.g. CC minimize mean square residue (MSR) until reaching  $\text{MSR} < \delta$
- **Row and column clustering combination** (e.g. CTWC, ITWC)
  - apply clustering on rows and columns separately
  - use an iterative procedure to combine the two clustering results
- **Divide and conquer searches**
  - break the matrix into submatrices (e.g. find best row or column split)
  - continue the biclustering process on the new submatrices
- **Distribution parameter identification** (e.g. plaid)
  - use mixture to describe biclustering solution and learn its parameters (maximize likelihood)

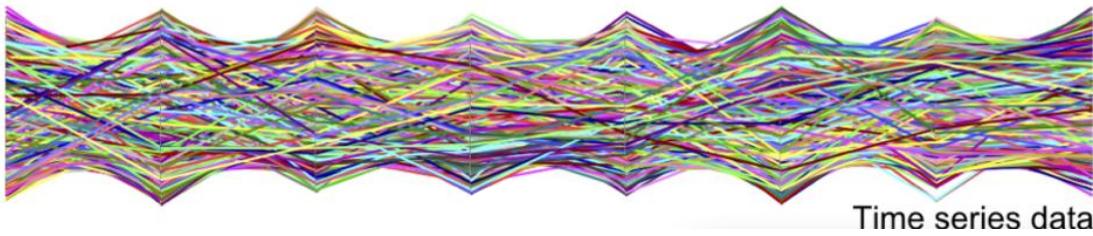
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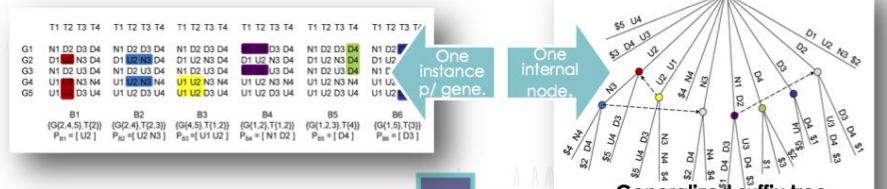
# Time series biclustering

- Until here: biclustering as relevant pattern discovery task for multivariate data, yet...
  - applicability to (univariate) time series data is equally pervasive
    - a *bicluster* is defined by a subset of **observations** and **time points**
    - **contiguity** is generally assumed across time points (convex temporal pattern)
    - **temporal misalignments** between observations can be further accommodated
      - e.g. individuals at different stages of a disease
- Illustrative method: CCC identifies patterns in linear complexity time using suffix trees
  - eCCC extension can further allow temporal misalignments and noise

# Time series biclustering: CCC algorithm

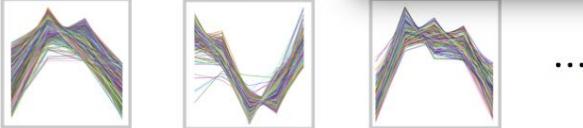


## Time series data

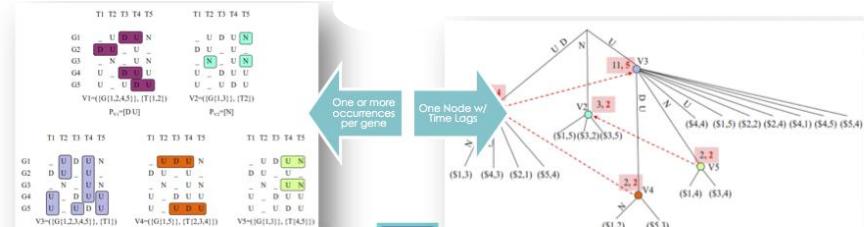


## Generalized suffix tree

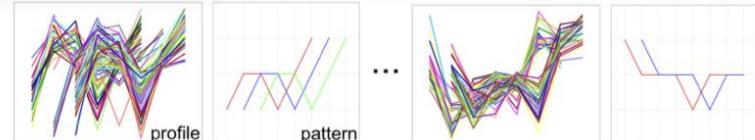
**CCC**  
Biclusters  
same pattern



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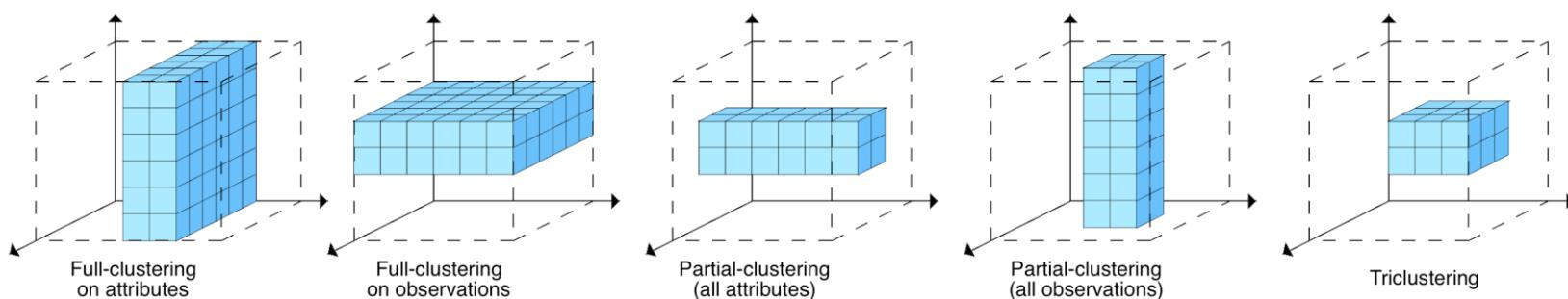


"Late"  
Biclusters  
same pattern  
potential delay

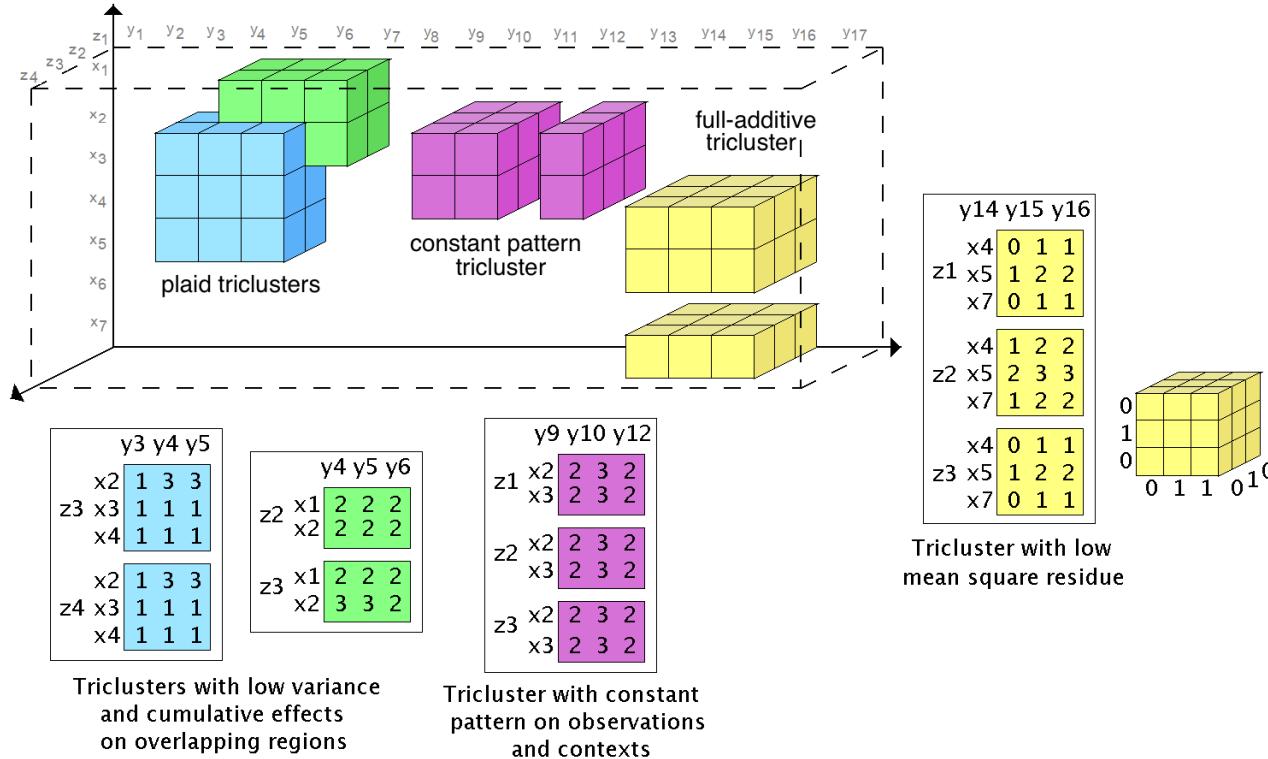


# Triclustering

- How to move from univariate to multivariate time series (MTS) data?
  - multivariate data is defined by a set of observations, variables and time points
- Solution: **triclustering**
  - a **tricluster** is a subset of *observations*, *variables* and *time points* with good:
    - homogeneity, e.g. well established temporal pattern on a subset of variables
    - statistical significance, e.g. unexpected high #observations supporting the pattern



# Triclustering



# Triclustering

- Applications
  - computational **biology**: regulation (genes × conditions × time), protein–protein interaction (proteins × interaction × conditions), drug response profiling (cell lines × drugs × dosages)
  - **recommender systems**: dynamic preference modeling (users × items × time/location/device)
  - **NLP**: topic discovery (documents × terms × time/language), sentiment analysis with context
  - **social networks**: community detection with context, role discovery in dynamic networks
  - **time series**: segmentation (sensors × signals × time windows), EEG analysis, climate monitoring
  - **vision**: video analysis (objects × features × frames), activity recognition, multimodal systems
  - **business**: sales patterns (products × stores × time), fraud detection, basket analysis with season
  - **healthcare**: patient stratification (patients × variables × time), treatment outcome, epidemiology
- *Challenge:* extend previous concepts on biclustering after reading the survey by Henriques et al. (2017)

# Outline

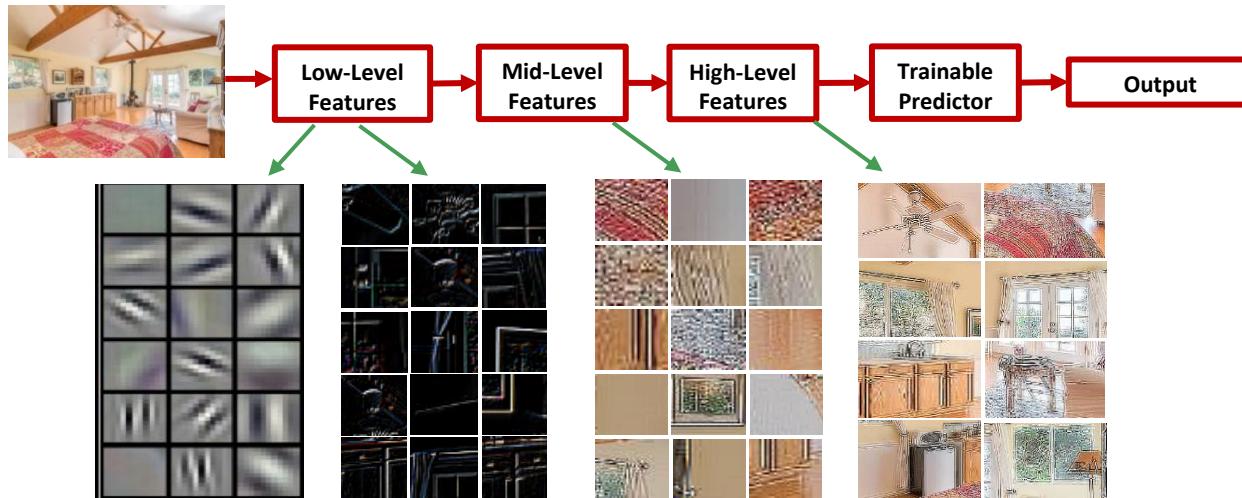
- Subspace clustering
- Biclustering
  - coherence
  - quality
  - structure
  - evaluation
  - searches
- Triclustering
- **Deep learning**
- Appendix

# Patterns and deep learning?

Until now: focus placed on *explicit* pattern discovery (classic and subspace clustering)

What about deep learning? Multi-layer learning process to extract rich *implicit patterns*

- **image:** pixels → edges → textures → motifs → parts → objects
- **text:** character → word → word group → clause → sentence → story



# Patterns and deep learning?

- **Hidden unit  $\approx$  latent pattern**

- high-weight connections  $\approx$  frequent features
- activations per observation  $\approx$  pattern support

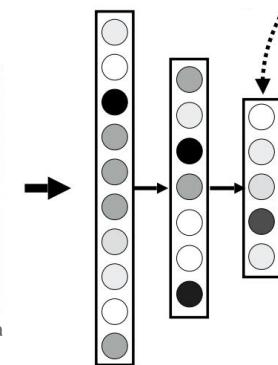
- Recall the following properties of a good representations

- disentangled explanatory factors
  - each unit should capture a separate, meaningful aspect of the data
- loose factor dependencies
- sparsity: for any observation  $x$ , only some factors are relevant



by Isola, Freeman, Torralba

compressed image code



# Patterns and deep learning?

- Handling complex neural networks?
  - multimodal architectures
    - extension to shared spaces: latent patterns embody relationships across data modalities
  - transformer-based architectures
    - attention weights  $\approx$  pattern importance
    - attention heads  $\approx$  distinct patterns
- **Core problem:** neural networks only able to generate *implicit patterns*
  - limited pattern deidentification
  - limited post-hoc explainability on the deidentified patterns

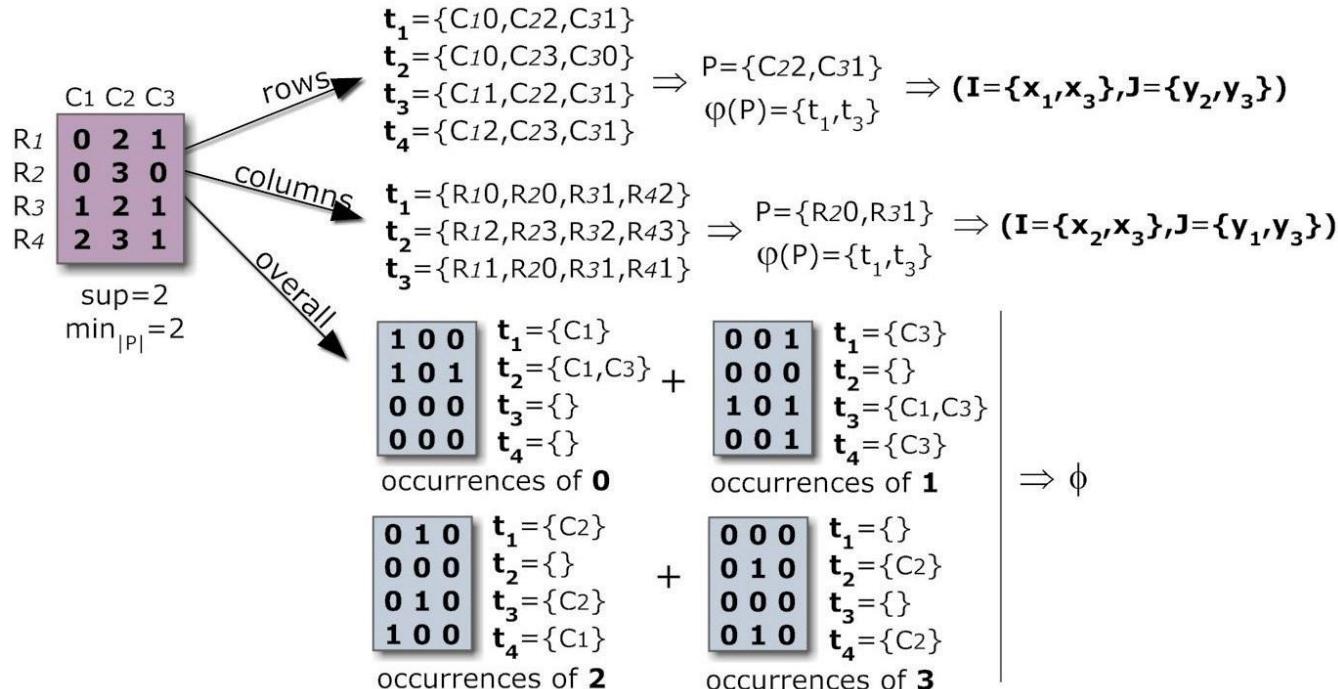
# Thank you!

Rui Henriques

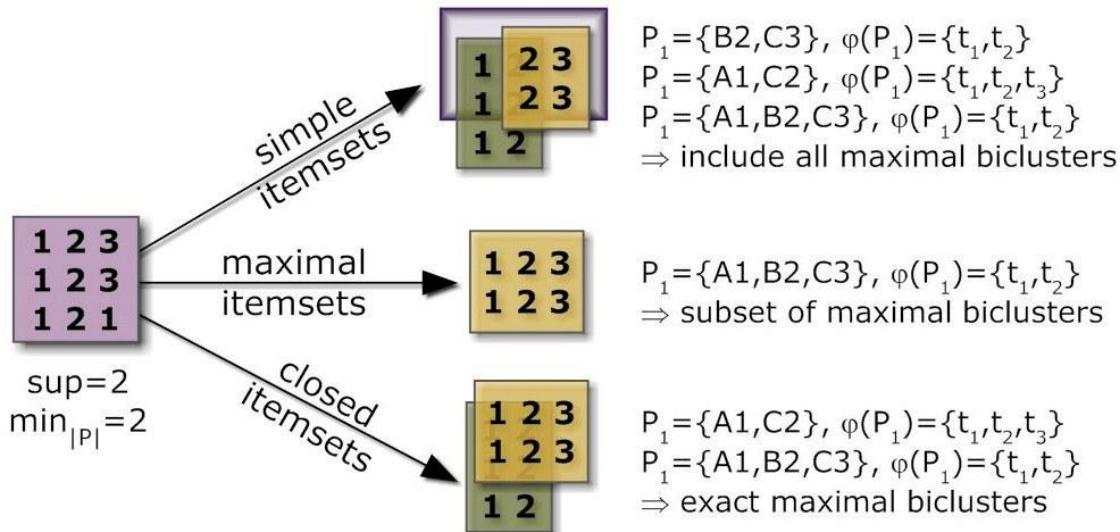
[rmch@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:rmch@tecnico.ulisboa.pt)

# Appendix

# BicPAMS: constant biclusters (using frequent itemset mining)



# Maximal biclusters ( $\equiv$ closed frequent itemsets)



# BicPAMS: noise-tolerant biclusters (using association rules)

	C1	C2	C3
R1	0	2	1
R2	0	3	0
R3	1	2	1
R4	2	3	1

sup=2  
min|P|=2

Frequent Itemset:

$$P = \{C_{22}, C_{31}\} \quad \varphi(P) = \{t_1, t_3\}$$

$$\Rightarrow (I = \{x_1, x_3\}, J = \{y_2, y_3\})$$

Frequent Assoc. Rules

$$R = P_1 \Rightarrow P_2 \quad [\text{sup}=2, \text{conf}=66.6\%]$$

$$P_1 = \{C_{31}\} \quad \varphi(P_1) = \{t_1, t_3, t_4\}$$

$$P_2 = \{C_{22}\} \quad \varphi(P_2) = \{t_1, t_3\}$$

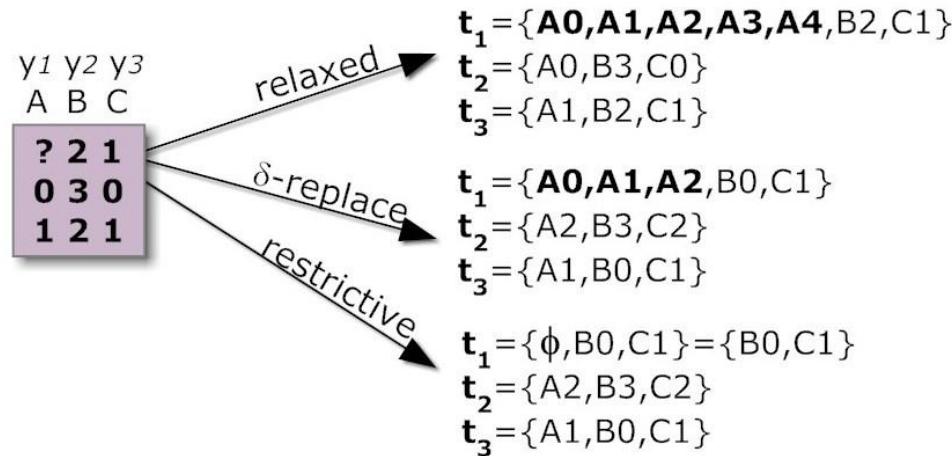
$$\Rightarrow (I = \{x_1, x_3\} \cup \{x_1, x_3, x_4\}, J = \{y_3\} \cup \{y_2\})$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

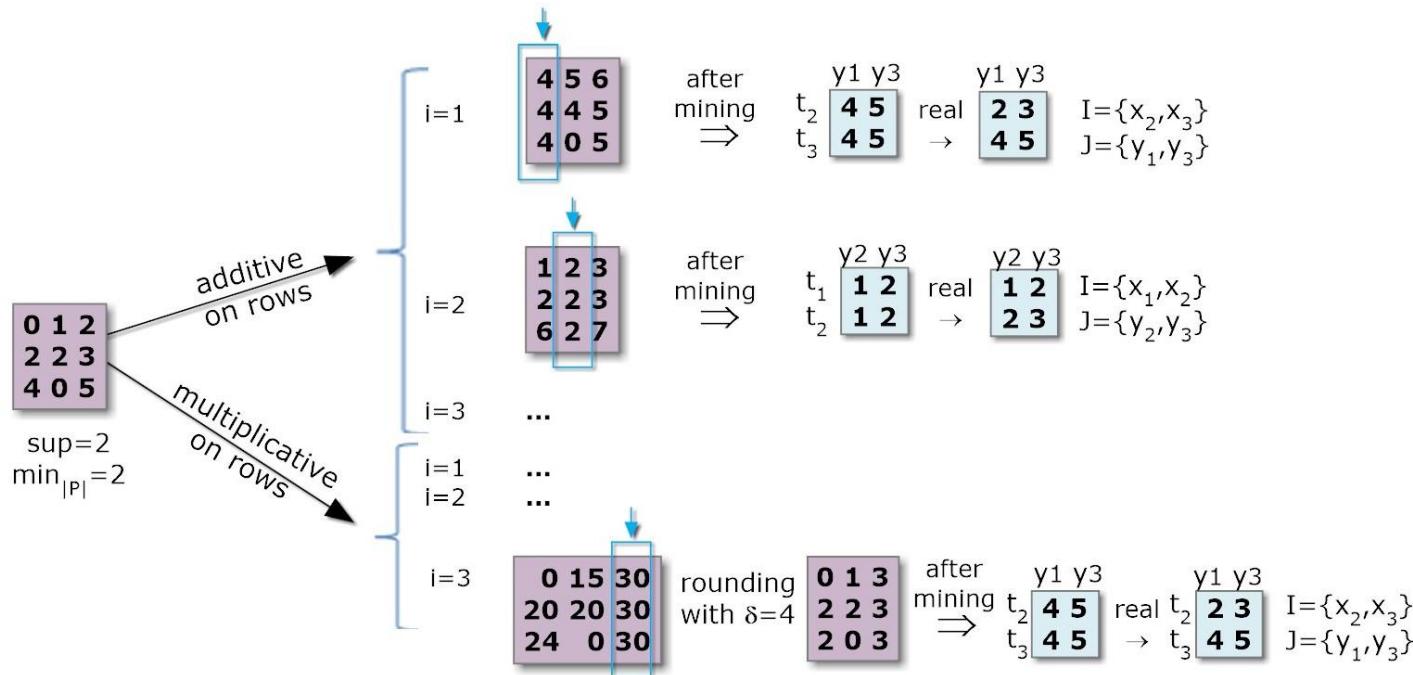
$$(I = \{x_1, x_3, x_4\}, J = \{y_2, y_3\})$$

	C2	C3
R1	0	1
R3	0	1
R4	2	1

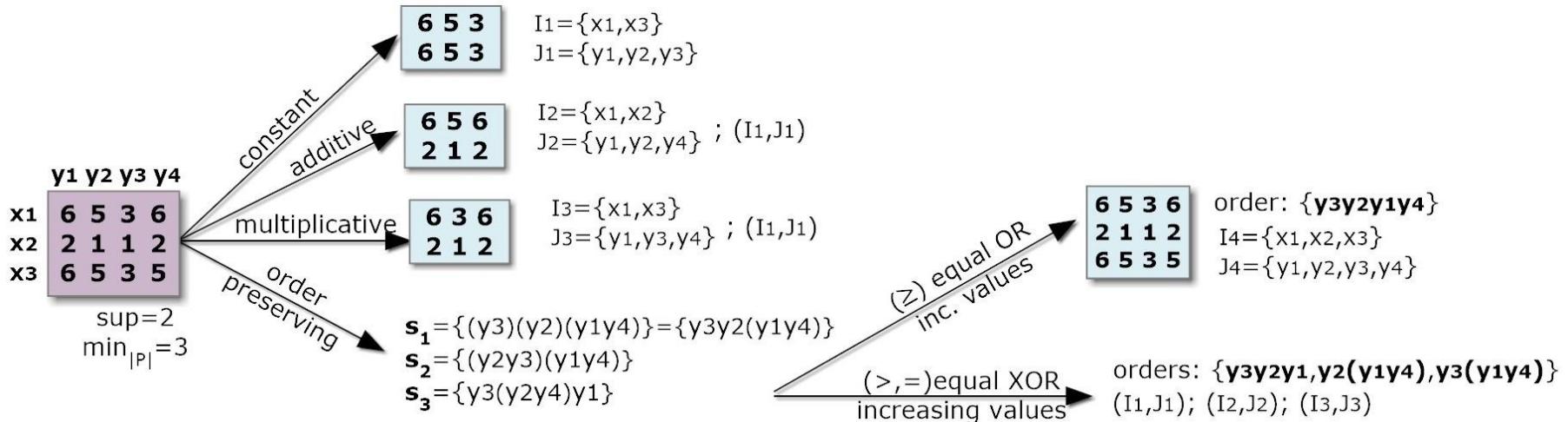
# Handling missings



# BicPAMS: additive models (based on shifting factors)



# BicPAMS: order-preserving models (with sequential pattern mining)



# Summary

- Subspace clustering is key to find **non-trivial patterns** on **real-valued data**
  - unsupervised exploration of **high-dimensional data** (focus on subspaces)
- Subspace clusters satisfy specific criteria of homogeneity and statistical significance
- **Merit functions** determine the homogeneity (patterns of interest)
  - condition the structure, coherence and quality (noise tolerance) of patterns
- **Statistically significant** patterns are unexpected (low  $p$ -value)
- **Coherence** defines the underlying assumption (constant, additive, order-preserving...) and strength
- The **structure** is determined by the number, shape and positioning of patterns
- Subspace clustering **searches** can be classified in exhaustive, greedy, and parametric