Experiment 5 – Clustering Algorithms

Aim: Implementation of Clustering Algorithm Using

- 1. k-means
- 2. Hierarchical (single/complete/average)

Theory: Clustering is a fundamental unsupervised learning technique used to group data points into clusters, where points within the same cluster are more similar to each other than to those in other clusters. Two commonly used clustering algorithms are K-Means and Hierarchical clustering.

K-Means is a partitioning clustering algorithm that aims to divide data points into K clusters. It works by iteratively assigning data points to the nearest cluster centre and then recomputing the cluster centres. The process continues until convergence, typically measured by the stability of cluster assignments. K-Means is sensitive to the initial choice of cluster centres, and the algorithm may converge to local optima. Multiple runs with different initializations are often performed to mitigate this issue.

Hierarchical clustering builds a tree-like structure (dendrogram) of clusters, allowing different levels of granularity. It can be divided into two main approaches: Agglomerative (bottom-up) and Divisive (top-down).

Agglomerative hierarchical clustering starts with individual data points as clusters and merges them into larger clusters, progressing until all data points belong to a single cluster.

Divisive hierarchical clustering begins with all data points in one cluster and recursively divides them into smaller clusters.

Hierarchical clustering is less sensitive to initializations and provides a visual representation of data structure through dendrograms.

The elbow method is a technique for selecting the optimal number of clusters (K) in K-Means clustering. It involves running K-Means for a range of K values and computing the sum of squared distances (inertia) between data points and their cluster centres. As K increases, the inertia typically decreases, because clusters become smaller. However, beyond a certain point, the reduction in inertia is marginal. The "elbow point" in the plot of K versus inertia represents the optimal K value, where adding more clusters provides diminishing returns in reducing inertia.

Dendrograms are hierarchical clustering visualizations that display the structure of clusters and their relationships. In a dendrogram, data points start as individual leaves at the bottom, and clusters are merged as we move upward. The height at which clusters merge on the vertical axis represents the dissimilarity between them. The longer the branch, the less similar the clusters are. Dendrograms provide insights into the hierarchical structure of data and help select the appropriate level of granularity when dividing data into clusters.

Implementation: For this experiment we were required to perform the following:

Part A:

Program using inbuilt functions.

Plot the clusters

Plot dendrogram (for hierarchical)

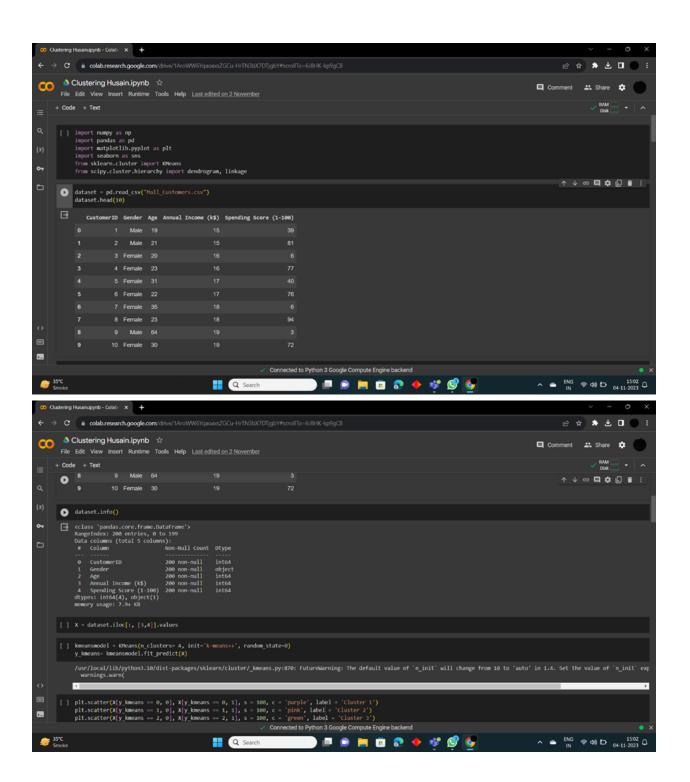
Part B:

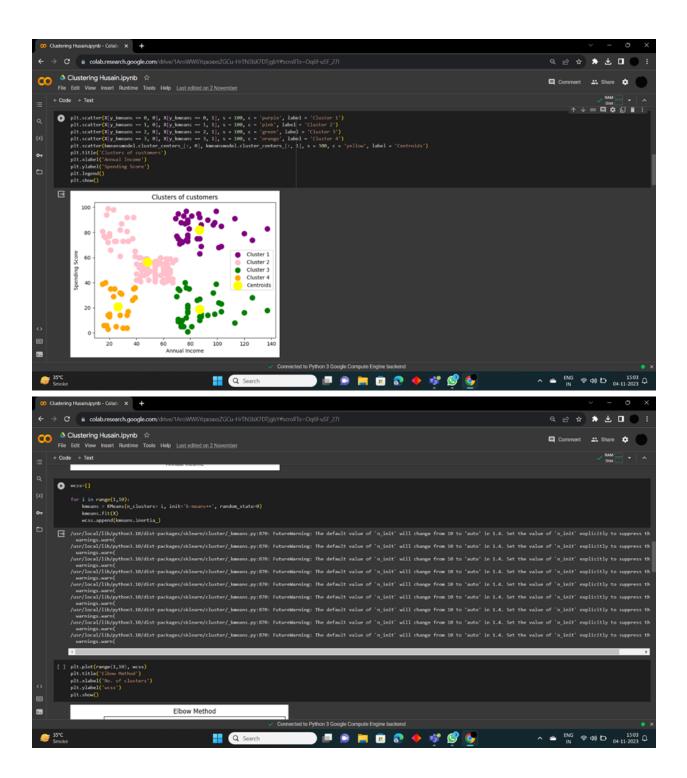
Find optimum no. of cluster using elbow method.

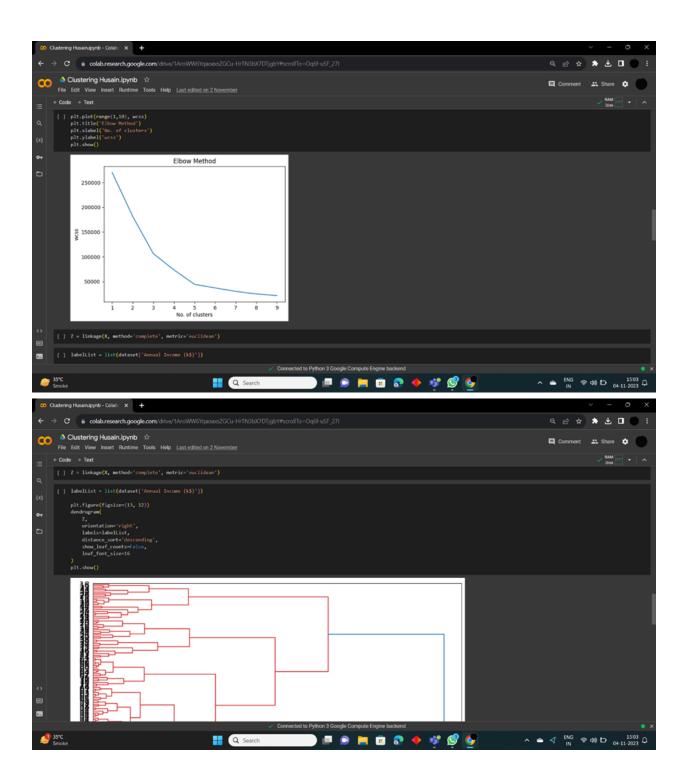
We have chosen the Mall_Customers.csv dataset for this experiment. It is a cleaned dataset having no NULL values. The attributes are

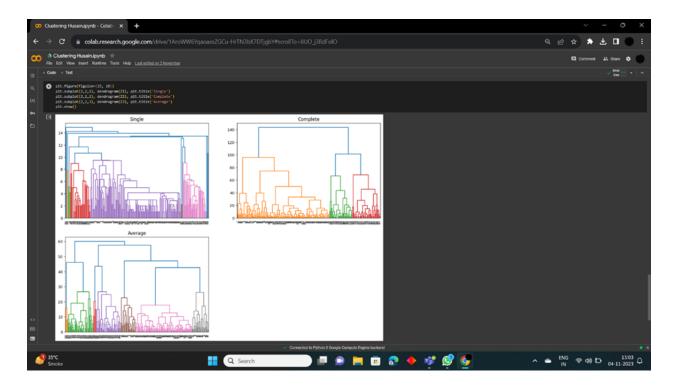
CustomerID, Gender, Age, Annual Income (k\$), Spending Score (1-100)

It consists of 200 records.









Conclusion: K-Means and Hierarchical clustering are fundamental methods for unsupervised data grouping. The elbow method aids in determining the optimal number of clusters in K-Means, while dendrograms offer a visual representation of hierarchical clustering, facilitating the interpretation of the cluster structure. These techniques play a crucial role in data exploration, pattern recognition, and decision-making in various applications.