

# 9.27 hierarchical clustering

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- Two main type of hierarchical clustering

- Agglomerative

- Alg:

- Let each point in the dataset be in its own cluster
      - Compute the distance between clusters
      - Merge two closet
      - Repeat

- > how to calculate the distance between cluster?

- Single-link distance

- The minimum of all pairwise distances between a point from one cluster and a point from the other cluster

$$D_{SL}(C_1, C_2) = \min \{d(p_1, p_2) \mid p_1 \in C_1, p_2 \in C_2\}$$

- ◆ Pro
          - ◇ Can handle clusters of different sizes
        - ◆ Cons
          - ◇ Sensitive to noise points
          - ◇ Tends to create elongated cluster

- Average-link distance

- The average of all pairwise distances between a point from one cluster and a point from the other cluster

- ◆ 
$$D_{AL}(C_1, C_2) = \frac{1}{|C_1| \cdot |C_2|} \sum_{p_1 \in C_1, p_2 \in C_2} d(p_1, p_2)$$

- ◆ Pros
          - ◇ Less susceptible to noise and outliers
        - ◆ Cons
          - ◇ Tends to be biased towards globular clusters

- Centroid distance

- ◆ The distance between the centroid of clusters

- ◆ 
$$D_C(C_1, C_2) = d(\mu_1, \mu_2)$$

- Wards’s distance

- ◆ The difference between the spread/variance of points in the merged cluster and the unmerited clusters

- ◆ 
$$D_{WD}(C_1, C_2) = \sum_{p \in C_{12}} d(p, \mu_{12}) - \sum_{p_1 \in C_1} d(p_1, \mu_1) - \sum_{p_2 \in C_2} d(p_2, \mu_2)$$

- Divisive

- How?

- Start with every point in the same cluster
      - At each step, split until every point is in its own cluster

- Density based clustering

- Cluster together points that are densely packed together

- How to define density?

- Given a fixed radius s around a point, if there’s at least min\_pts number of points in that area, then the section is dense.

- Core point:

- Have so much dense

- Border point

- Don’t have so many dense point

- Noise point

- Neither a core nor a border

- Algorithm:

## DBScan Algorithm

ε and min\_pts given:

- 1. Find the ε-neighborhood of each point
    - 2. Label the point as **core** if it contains at least min\_pts
    - 3. Label points in its neighborhood that are not **core** as **border**
    - 4. Label points as **noise** if they are neither **core** nor **border**
    - 5. For each **core** point, assign to the same cluster all **core** points in its neighborhood
    - 6. Assign border points to nearby clusters

- Pro:

- Can identify clusters of different shapes and sizes
    - Resistant to noise

- Cons:

- Fail to identify clusters of varying densities
    - Tends to create clusters of the same density
    - Notion of density is problematic in high dementia spaces