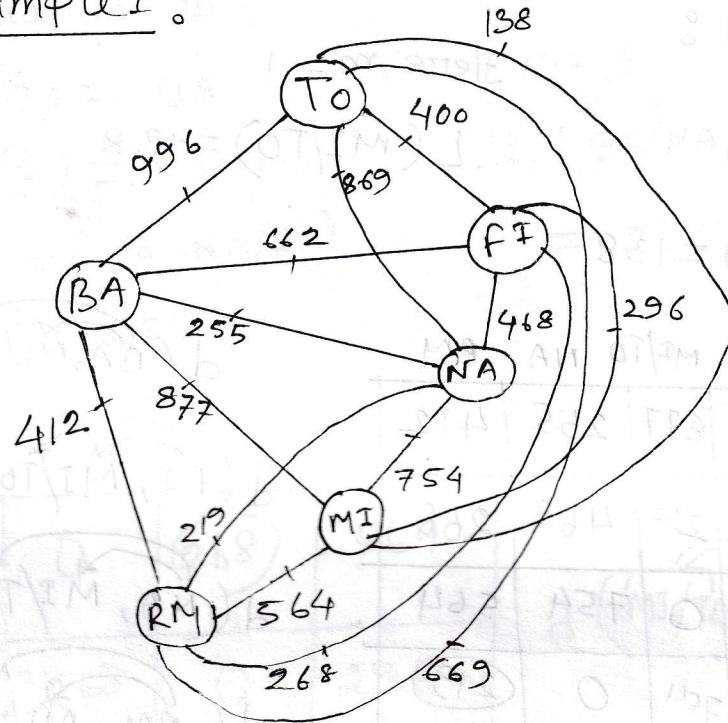


Hierarchical clustering

Example I:



Show a hierarchical clustering of distances in km between some Italian cities.

Ans:

Input distance matrix

| | BA | FI | MI | NA | RM | TO |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| BA | 0 | 662 | 877 | 255 | 412 | 996 |
| FI | 662 | 0 | 296 | 468 | 268 | 400 |
| MI | 877 | 296 | 0 | 754 | 564 | 138 |
| NA | 255 | 468 | 754 | 0 | 219 | 869 |
| RM | 412 | 268 | 564 | 219 | 0 | 669 |
| TO | 996 | 400 | 138 | 869 | 669 | 0 |

Hence, Sequence Number, $m = 0$

$$\therefore L(BA) = 0 \quad | \quad L(MI) = 0 \quad | \quad L(RM) = 0 \\ L(FI) = 0 \quad | \quad L(NA) = 0 \quad | \quad L(TO) = 0$$

Iteration-I :

$$(r) = MI$$

$$(s) = TO$$

$$\therefore d(MI, TO) = 138$$

$$\text{Hence } m = 1$$

$$\therefore L(MI/TO) = 138$$

| | BA | FI | MI/TO | NA | RM |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| BA | 0 | 662 | 877 | 255 | 412 |
| FI | 662 | 0 | 296 | 468 | 268 |
| MI/TO | 877 | 296 | 0 | 754 | 564 |
| NA | 255 | 468 | 754 | 0 | (219) |
| RM | 412 | 268 | 564 | 219 | 0 |

$$d(BA, \overset{\curvearrowright}{MI/TO}) = \min(877, 996) \\ = 877$$

$$d(FI, \overset{\curvearrowright}{MI/TO}) = \min(296, 400) \\ = 296$$

$$d(NA, \overset{\curvearrowright}{MI/TO}) = \min(754, 865) \\ = 754$$

$$d(RM, \overset{\curvearrowright}{MI/TO}) = \min(564, 665) \\ = 564$$

Iteration-II :

$$\text{Here, } (r) = NA$$

$$(s) = RM$$

$$d(NA, RM) = 219$$

$$m = 2$$

$$L(NA/RM) = 219$$

| | BA | FI | MI/TO | NA/RM |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| BA | 0 | 662 | 877 | (255) |
| FI | 662 | 0 | 296 | 268 |
| MI/TO | 877 | 296 | 0 | 564 |
| NA/RM | 255 | 268 | 564 | 0 |

$$d(BA, \overset{\curvearrowright}{NA/RM}) = \min(255, 412) \\ = 255$$

$$d(FI, \overset{\curvearrowright}{NA/RM}) = \min(468, 268) \\ = 268$$

$$d(MI/TO, \overset{\curvearrowright}{NA/RM}) = \min(754, 564) \\ = 564$$

Iteration - III °

$$(r) = BA$$

$$(s) = NA/RM$$

$$d = (BA, NA/RM) = 255$$

$m = 3$

| BA/NA/RM | FI | MI/TO |
|----------|-----|-------|
| BA/NA/RM | 0 | 268 |
| FI | 268 | 0 |
| MI/TO | 564 | 296 |

$$d(FI, BA/NA/RM) = \min(662, 268)$$

$$d(MI/TO, BA/NA/RM) = \min(877, 564) = 564$$

Iteration - IV °

$$\text{Hence, } (r) = BA/NA/RM$$

$$(s) = FI$$

$$d(BA/NA/RM, FI) = 268$$

| BA/NA/RM/FI | MI/TO |
|-------------|-------|
| BA/NA/RM/FI | 0 |
| MI/TO | 296 |

$$d(BA/NA/RM/FI) = 268$$

$$d(MI/TO, BA/NA/RM/FI) = \min(564, 296) = 296$$

Iteration - V :

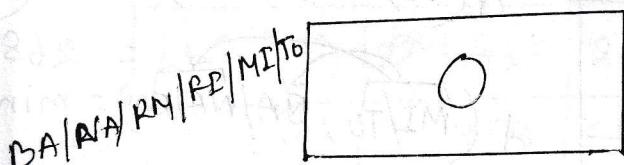
$$\text{Here } (r) = BA/NA/RM/FI$$

$$(s) = MI/TO$$

$$d(BA/NA/RM/FI, MI/TO)$$

$$= 296$$

$$BA/NA/RM/FI/MI/TO$$



$$m = 5$$

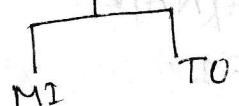
$$L(BA/NA/RM/FI/MI/TO) = 296$$

Summary :

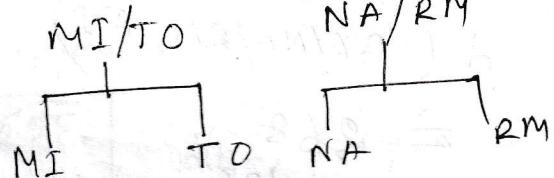
Hierarchical Tree :

Initial : BA FI MI NA RM TO

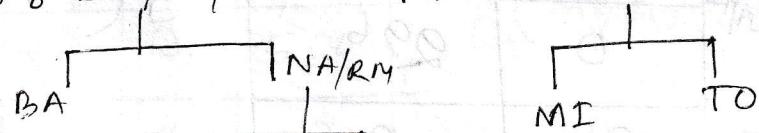
Iteration - I : BA FI MI/TO NA RM



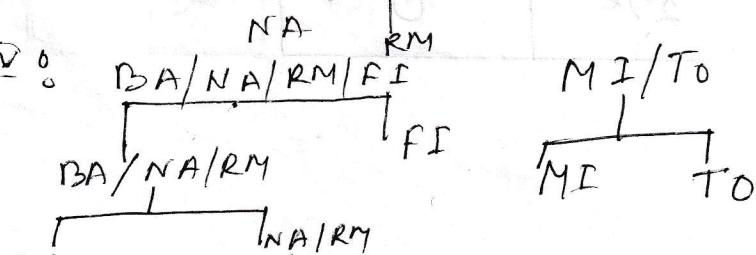
Iteration - II : BA FI



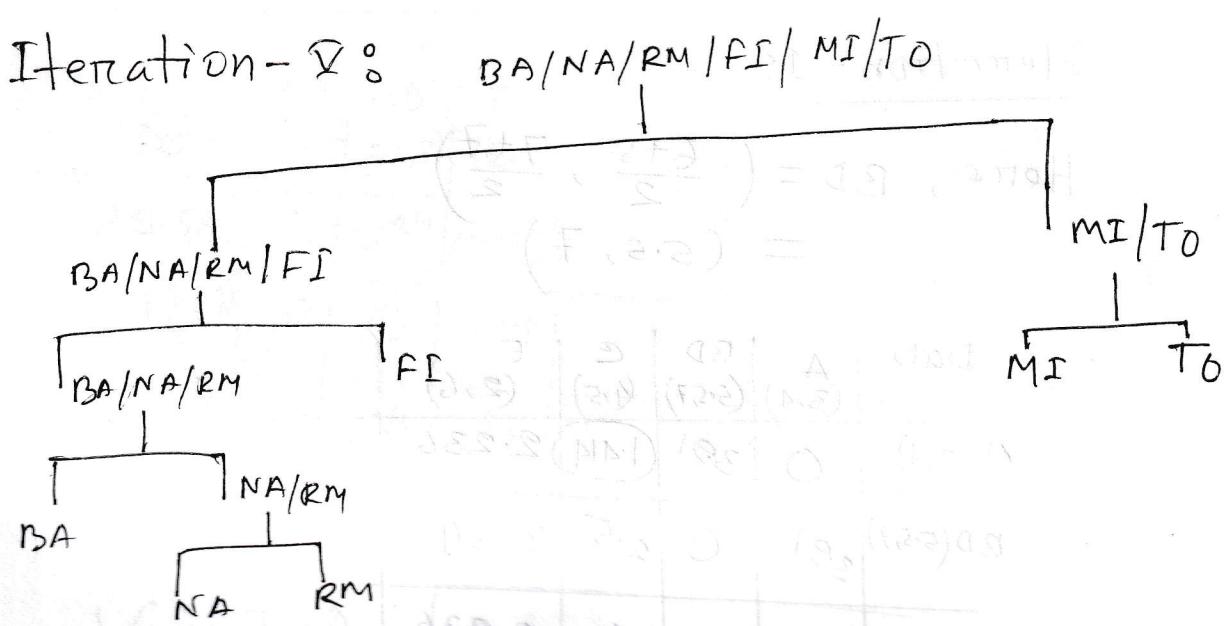
Iteration - III : BA/NA/RM FI MI/TO



Iteration - IV : BA/NA/RM/FI MI/TO



Iteration - 2^o



Example 2^o: Show the mechanism of hierarchical clustering using the following data.

(3,4) (6,7) (4,5) (5,7) (2,6)

Solⁿ:

Let,

$$A \equiv (3,4)$$

$$B \equiv (6,7)$$

$$C \equiv (4,5)$$

$$D \equiv (5,7)$$

$$E \equiv (2,6)$$

Input Distance matrix

| Data | A (3,4) | B (6,7) | C (4,5) | D (5,7) | E (2,6) |
|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| A (3,4) | 0 | 4.242 | 1.414 | 3.605 | 2.236 |
| B (6,7) | 4.242 | 0 | 2.828 | 1.0 | 4.123 |
| C (4,5) | 1.414 | 2.828 | 0 | 2.236 | 2.236 |
| D (5,7) | 3.605 | 1.0 | 2.236 | 0 | 3.162 |
| E (2,6) | 2.236 | 4.123 | 2.236 | 3.162 | 0 |

Iteration - I:

$$\text{Hence, } BD = \left(\frac{6+5}{2}, \frac{7+7}{2} \right) \\ = (5.5, 7)$$

| Data | A (3,4) | BD (5.5,7) | C (4,5) | E (2,6) |
|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| A (3A) | 0 | 3.91 | 1.414 | 2.236 |
| BD (5.5,7) | 3.91 | 0 | 2.5 | 3.64 |
| C (4,5) | 1.414 | 2.5 | 0 | 2.236 |
| E (2,6) | 2.236 | 3.64 | 2.236 | 0 |

$$d(A, BD) = \sqrt{(3-5.5)^2 + (4-7)^2} \\ = \sqrt{(-2.5)^2 + 3^2} \\ = \sqrt{6.25 + 9} \\ = \sqrt{15.25}$$

$$d(BD, C) = \sqrt{(5.5-4)^2 + (7-5)^2} \\ = \sqrt{(1.5)^2 + 2^2} \\ = \sqrt{2.25 + 4} \\ = \sqrt{6.25} \\ = 2.5$$

$$d(BD, E) = \sqrt{(5.5-2)^2 + (7-6)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{3.5^2 + 1^2} \\ = \sqrt{12.25 + 1} \\ = \sqrt{13.25} = 3.64$$

Iteration - II:

$$\text{Hence, } AE = \left(\frac{3+4}{2}, \frac{4+5}{2} \right) \\ = (3.5, 4.5)$$

| DATA | AC | BD | E |
|--------------|------------|----------|--------|
| AC(3.5, 4.5) | (3.5, 4.5) | (5.5, 7) | (2, 6) |
| BD(5.5, 7) | 3.20 | 0 | 3.64 |
| E(2, 6) | 2.12 | 3.64 | 0 |

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(AC, BD) &= \sqrt{(3.5 - 5.5)^2 + (4.5 - 7)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 2.5^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{4 + 6.25} \quad d(AC, E) = \sqrt{(3.5 - 2)^2 + (4.5 - 6)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{10.25} \quad = \sqrt{1.5^2 + (-1.5)^2} \\
 &= 3.20 \quad = \sqrt{2.25 + 2.25} \\
 &= \sqrt{4.5} \\
 &= 2.12
 \end{aligned}$$

Iteration - II

Hence, $(AC, E) = \left(\frac{3.5+2}{2}, \frac{4.5+6}{2} \right)$

$$= (2.75, 5.25)$$

| DATA | AC | E |
|------|--------------|----------|
| ACE | (2.75, 5.25) | (5.5, 7) |
| ACE | 0 | 3.26 |
| BD | 3.26 | 0 |

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(ACE, BD) &= \sqrt{(2.75 - 5.5)^2 + (5.25 - 7)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{(-2.75)^2 + (-1.75)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{7.5625 + 3.0625} \\
 &= \sqrt{10.625} \\
 &= 3.26
 \end{aligned}$$

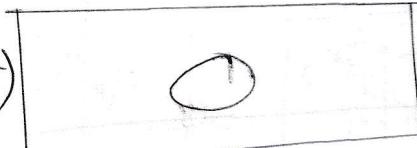
Iteration - IV :

$$\text{Hence, } (ACE, BD) = \left(\frac{2.75 + 5.5}{2}, \frac{5.25 + 7}{2} \right)$$
$$= (4.125, 6.125)$$

ACEBD (4.125, 6.125)

ACEBD

(4.125, 6.125)

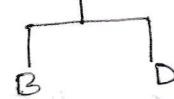


Summary :

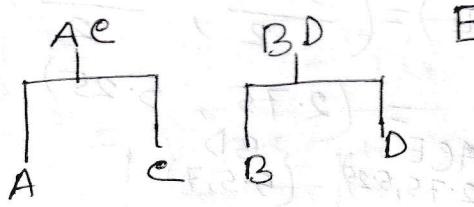
Hierarchical Tree :

Initial : A B C D E

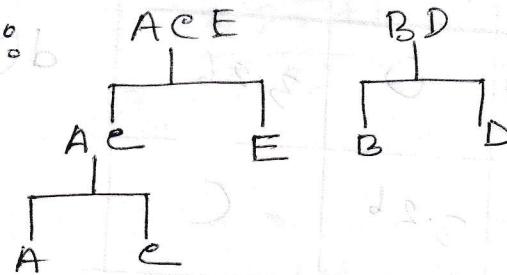
Iteration - I : A BD e E



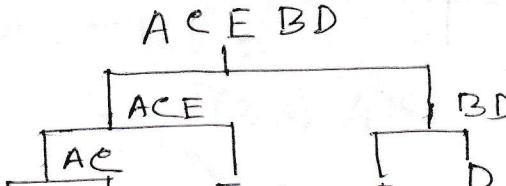
Iteration - II :



Iteration - III :



Iteration - IV :



Hierarchical Algorithm:

Step 1: Begin with the disjoint clustering having level $L(0) = 0$ and sequence number $m=0$.

Step 2: Find the least dissimilar pair of clusters in the current clustering, say pair $(r), (s)$, according to

$$d[(r), (s)] = \min d[(i), (j)].$$

Where the minimum is over all pairs of clusters in the current clustering.

Step 3: Increment the sequence number: $m=m+1$.

Merge clusters (r) and (s) into a single cluster to form the clustering m .

Set the level of this clustering to

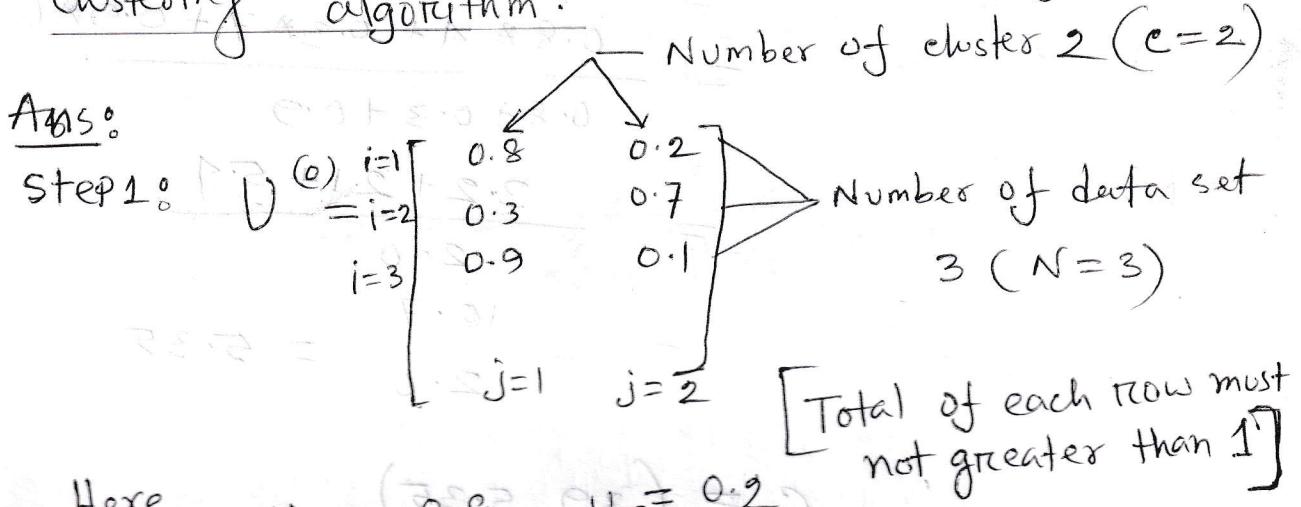
$$L(m) = d[(r), (s)].$$

Step 4: Update the proximity matrix, D , by deleting the rows and columns corresponding to clusters (r) and (s) and adding a row and column corresponding to the newly formed cluster. The proximity between the new cluster, denoted (r,s) and old cluster (k) is defined in this way

$$d[(k), (r,s)] = \min [d[(k), (r)], d[(k), (s)]]$$

Step 5: If all objects are in one cluster, STOP.
Else, go to Step 2.

Example: Cluster the data $(3,4)$, $(6,7)$ and $(4,6)$ into two clusters using the Fuzzy c-means clustering algorithm.



$$\text{Here, } v_{11} = 0.8, v_{12} = 0.2$$

$$v_{21} = 0.3, v_{22} = 0.7$$

$$v_{31} = 0.9, v_{32} = 0.1$$

Iteration - I: c_1 and c_2 must be calculated because

Step 2:

$$c = 2$$

$$c_1 = \frac{v_{11}*3 + v_{21}*6 + v_{31}*4}{v_{11} + v_{21} + v_{31}}$$

$$= \frac{0.8*3 + 0.3*6 + 0.9*4}{0.8 + 0.3 + 0.9}$$

$$= \frac{2.4 + 1.8 + 3.6}{2.0}$$

$$= \frac{7.8}{2.0}$$

$$= 3.9$$

$$(2nd \text{ dim}) C_1 = \frac{U_{11} * 4 + U_{21} * 7 + U_{31} * 6}{U_{11} + U_{21} + U_{31}}$$

$$= \frac{0.8 * 4 + 0.3 * 7 + 0.9 * 6}{0.8 + 0.3 + 0.9}$$

$$= \frac{3.2 + 2.1 + 5.4}{0.2 + 0.7} = 5.35$$

$$\therefore C_1 = (3.9, 5.35)$$

$$\underline{C_2 \text{ Calculation}}$$

$$(1st \text{ dim}) C_2 = \frac{U_{12} * 3 + U_{22} * 6 + U_{32} * 4}{U_{12} + U_{22} + U_{32}}$$

$$= \frac{0.2 * 3 + 0.7 * 6 + 0.1 * 4}{0.2 + 0.7 + 0.1}$$

$$= \frac{0.6 + 4.2 + 0.4}{1.0} = 5.2$$

$$(2nd \text{ dim}) C_2 = \frac{U_{12} * 4 + U_{22} * 7 + U_{32} * 6}{U_{12} + U_{22} + U_{32}}$$

$$= \frac{0.2 * 4 + 0.7 * 7 + 0.1 * 6}{0.2 + 0.7 + 0.1}$$

$$= \frac{0.8 + 4.9 + 0.6}{1.0} = 6.3$$

$$= \frac{6.3}{1.0} = 6.3$$

Step 3:

$$\text{When } i=1, j=1; u_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow u_{11} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^2 \left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_1\|}{\|x_1 - c_k\|} \right)^2} \quad [\text{if } m=2 \\ e=2]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_1\|^2}{\|x_1 - c_1\|} + \frac{\|x_1 - c_2\|^2}{\|x_1 - c_2\|} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_1\|}{\|x_1 - c_2\|} \right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{\|(3,4) - (3.9, 5.35)\|^2}{\|(3,4) - (5.2, 6.3)\|^2} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(3-3.9)^2 + (4-5.35)^2}{(3-5.2)^2 + (4-6.3)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(-0.9)^2 + (-1.35)^2}{(-2.2)^2 + (2.3)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1+0.26}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{ij} = v_{ii} = \frac{1}{1+0.26}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1.26}$$

$$\therefore v_{ii} = 0.794$$

When $i=1, j=2$; $v_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^m \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^2}$

$$\Rightarrow v_{12} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^2 \left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_2\|}{\|x_1 - c_k\|} \right)^2} ; [if m=2, c=2]$$

$$\frac{\|x_2 - x_1\|}{\|x_2 - x_1\|} = \frac{\left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_2\|}{\|x_1 - c_1\|} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_2\|}{\|x_1 - c_2\|} \right)^2}{1}$$

$$\frac{\|(3.4) - (5.2, 6.3)\|}{\|(3.4) - (3.9, 5.35)\|} = \frac{\left(\frac{\|x_1 - c_2\|}{\|x_1 - c_1\|} \right)^2 + 1}{1}$$

$$\frac{\|(3.4) - (5.2, 6.3)\|}{\|(3.4) - (3.9, 5.35)\|} \geq 1$$

$$U_{12} = \frac{1}{\left\{ \frac{\| (3,4) - (5 \cdot 2, 6 \cdot 3) \|}{\| (3,4) - (3 \cdot 9, 5 \cdot 35) \|} \right\}^2 + 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\frac{(3-5 \cdot 2)^2 + (4-6 \cdot 3)^2}{(3-3 \cdot 9)^2 + (4-5 \cdot 35)^2} + 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\frac{(-2 \cdot 2)^2 + (-2 \cdot 3)^2}{(-0 \cdot 9)^2 + (-1 \cdot 35)^2} + 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\frac{10 \cdot 13}{2 \cdot 6325} + 1} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 85 + 1} = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 85} = 0.206$$

When $i=2, j=1$; $U_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^c \left(\frac{\| x_i - e_j \|}{\| x_i - e_k \|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$

$$F: 1 \cdot 0 \Rightarrow U_{21} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^c \left(\frac{\| x_2 - e_1 \|}{\| x_2 - e_k \|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}} \quad [if m=2, c=2]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\| x_2 - e_1 \|}{\| x_2 - e_1 \|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}} + \left(\frac{\| x_2 - e_2 \|}{\| x_2 - e_2 \|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Rightarrow U_{21} &= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\|x_2 - c_1\|}{\|x_2 - c_1\|} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\|x_2 - c_2\|}{\|x_2 - c_2\|} \right)^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\|(6, 7) - (3.9, 5.35)\|^2}{\|(6, 7) - (5.2, 6.3)\|^2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(6-3.9)^2 + (7-5.35)^2}{(6-5.2)^2 + (7-6.3)^2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2.1^2 + 1.65^2}{0.8^2 + 0.7^2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{7.1325}{1.13}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1 + 6.312} = \frac{1}{7.312} = 0.137
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{When } i=2, j=2; V_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_k\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^{m-1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow V_{22} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^2 \left(\frac{\|x_2 - c_k\|}{\|x_2 - c_k\|} \right)^2} \quad \begin{cases} \text{if } m=2 \\ e=2 \end{cases}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\|x_2 - c_2\|}{\|x_2 - c_1\|} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\|x_2 - c_2\|}{\|x_2 - c_2\|} \right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\left\{ \frac{\|(6,7) - (5.2, 6.3)\|^2}{\|(6,7) - (3.9, 5.35)\|^2} \right\} + 1}{1}$$

$$= \frac{(6-5.2)^2 + (7-6.3)^2}{(6-3.9)^2 + (7-5.35)^2} + 1$$

$$= \frac{0.8^2 + 0.7^2}{2.1^2 + 1.65^2} + 1 = \frac{1.13}{7.1325} + 1$$

$$= \frac{1}{7.1325} = \frac{1}{1.158}$$

$$\text{When } i=3, j=1; v_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^m \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{31} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^2 \left(\frac{\|x_3 - c_1\|}{\|x_3 - c_k\|} \right)^2} = \begin{cases} i \\ if m=2 \\ c=2 \end{cases}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\|x_3 - c_1\|}{\|x_3 - c_1\|} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\|x_3 - c_2\|}{\|x_3 - c_2\|} \right)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \left\{ \frac{\|(4,6) - (3.9, 5.35)\|^2}{\|(4,6) - (5.2, 6.3)\|^2} \right\}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{(4-3.9)^2 + (6-5.35)^2}{(4-5.2)^2 + (6-6.3)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1 + \frac{0.1^2 + 0.65^2}{(-1.2)^2 + (-0.3)^2}}{1} = \frac{1}{1} = \frac{1}{1} = 0.780$$

$$\text{When } i=3, j=2; U_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^m \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow U_{32} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^2 \left(\frac{\|x_3 - c_2\|}{\|x_3 - c_k\|} \right)^2}{\sum_{k=1}^3 \left(\frac{\|x_3 - c_2\|}{\|x_3 - c_k\|} \right)^2} \quad [\text{if } m=2, c=2]$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2} + \sqrt{(2.0 - 2.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2} + \sqrt{(2.0 - 2.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}{\sqrt{(2.0 - 1.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2} + \sqrt{(2.0 - 2.0)^2 + (0.0 - 0.0)^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{\|(4, 6) - (5, 2)\|^2} + 1}{\sqrt{\|(4, 6) - (3, 9)\|^2} + 1}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{(4-5)^2 + (6-2)^2} + 1}{\sqrt{(4-3)^2 + (6-9)^2} + 1}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{(4-5)^2 + (6-2)^2} + 1}{\sqrt{(4-3)^2 + (6-9)^2} + 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{53} + 1} = \frac{1}{2.537 + 1}$$

$$U^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.794 & 0.206 \\ 0.137 & 0.863 \\ 0.780 & 0.220 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 4:

$$|U_{11}^{(1)} - U_{11}^{(0)}| = |0.794 - 0.8| = 0.006$$

$$|U_{12}^{(1)} - U_{12}^{(0)}| = |0.206 - 0.2| = 0.006$$

$$|U_{21}^{(1)} - U_{21}^{(0)}| = |0.137 - 0.3| = 0.163$$

$$|U_{22}^{(1)} - U_{22}^{(0)}| = |0.863 - 0.7| = 0.163$$

$$|U_{31}^{(1)} - U_{31}^{(0)}| = |0.780 - 0.9| = 0.12$$

$$|U_{32}^{(1)} - U_{32}^{(0)}| = |0.220 - 0.1| = 0.12$$

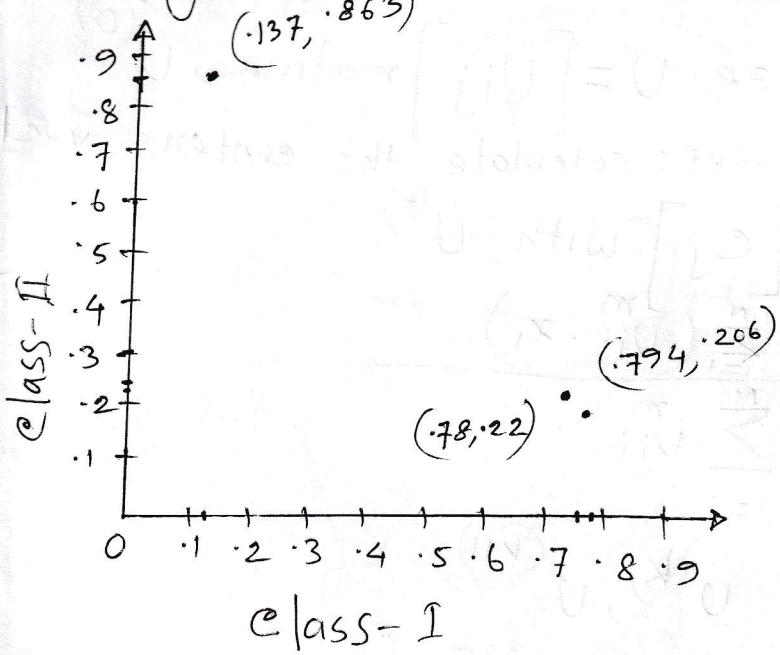
$$\max(0.006, 0.163, 0.12) = 0.163 \in [it \epsilon = 0.3]$$

Algorithm stop.

Output:

| <u>Data</u> | <u>Class-I</u> | <u>Class-II</u> |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| (3,4) | 79.4% | 20.6% |
| (6,7) | 13.7% | 86.3% |
| (4,6) | 78% | 22% |

Diagram 8



Fuzzy C-means clustering algorithm

Step 1: Initialize $V = [V_{ij}]$ matrix, $V^{(0)}$

Step 2: At K-step: calculate the centers vectors

$$c^{(k)} = [c_j] \text{ with } V^{(k)}$$

$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (V_{ij} \cdot x_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^N V_{ij}}$$

Step 3: Update $V^{(k)}, V^{(k+1)}$

$$V_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^c \left(\frac{\|x_i - c_j\|}{\|x_i - c_k\|} \right)^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$

Step 4: If $\|V^{(k+1)} - V^{(k)}\| < \epsilon$ then stop; otherwise return to step 2.

Parameters: Fuzziness co-efficient $m=2$ (any real number greater than 1.)

Termination condition, $\max_{ij} \left\{ |V_{ij}^{(k+1)} - V_{ij}^{(k)}| \right\} < \epsilon$

where ϵ is the termination criterion between 0 and 1, whereas k are the iterations steps.

V_{ij} = degree of membership of x_i in the cluster j .

x_i = i-th of d-dimensional measured data.

c_j = d-dimension center of the cluster.

the value of m controls tracking the similarity between