

COMP20008 2021 SM1 Workshop Week 8: Clustering

Clustering

1. Consider the 1-dimensional data set with 10 data points $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\}$. Show the iterations of the k-means algorithm using Euclidean distance when $k = 2$, and the random seeds are initialized to $\{1, 2\}$.
2. Repeat Exercise 1 using agglomerative hierarchical clustering and Euclidean distance, with single linkage (min) criterion.
3. After completion of the k-means algorithm, we may compute a quality measure for the resulting clustering, known as SSE (sum of squared errors). SSE is the sum of distances of objects from their cluster centroids
Do you think it is more desirable for a clustering to have high SSE or more desirable for it to have low SSE? Why?
As the number of clusters increases, would you expect SSE to increase or decrease? Why?
Suggest at least one other method you could use in place of SSE to evaluate the quality of clustering.