### Assignment Hierarchical Clustering

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```
library(cluster)
library(ISLR)
library(caret)
## Loading required package: ggplot2
## Loading required package: lattice
library(dplyr)
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
      filter, lag
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
       intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
library(tidyverse)
## -- Attaching core tidyverse packages ----- tidyverse 2.0.0 --
## v forcats 1.0.0
                       v stringr 1.5.0
## v lubridate 1.9.2
                     v tibble
                                   3.2.1
## v purrr 1.0.2
                        v tidyr
                                   1.3.0
## v readr
              2.1.4
## -- Conflicts ------ tidyverse_conflicts() --
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()
                    masks stats::lag()
## x purrr::lift() masks caret::lift()
## i Use the conflicted package (<a href="http://conflicted.r-lib.org/">http://conflicted.r-lib.org/</a>) to force all conflicts to become error
library(factoextra)
```

## Welcome! Want to learn more? See two factoextra-related books at https://goo.gl/ve3WBa

```
library(ggplot2)
library(proxy)
##
## Attaching package: 'proxy'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
       as.dist, dist
##
## The following object is masked from 'package:base':
##
       as.matrix
library(NbClust)
library(ppclust)
## Warning: package 'ppclust' was built under R version 4.3.2
library(dendextend)
## Warning: package 'dendextend' was built under R version 4.3.2
##
## -----
## Welcome to dendextend version 1.17.1
## Type citation('dendextend') for how to cite the package.
## Type browseVignettes(package = 'dendextend') for the package vignette.
## The github page is: https://github.com/talgalili/dendextend/
##
## Suggestions and bug-reports can be submitted at: https://github.com/talgalili/dendextend/issues
## You may ask questions at stackoverflow, use the r and dendextend tags:
##
    https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/dendextend
##
## To suppress this message use: suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(dendextend))
##
##
##
## Attaching package: 'dendextend'
## The following object is masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
       cutree
library(tinytex)
## Warning: package 'tinytex' was built under R version 4.3.2
#The "cereal" data set will then be imported into the RStudio environment.
```

```
# Import data set from BlackBoard into the RStudio environment
cereal <- read.csv("C:/Users/lenovo/Desktop/FML/FML-5/Cereals.csv")</pre>
```

Review Data Structure #A summary of the data set will be displayed for inspection. Examine the first few rows of the data set

```
head(cereal)
```

```
##
                            name mfr type calories protein fat sodium fiber carbo
## 1
                      100%_Bran
                                   N
                                        C
                                                 70
                                                               1
                                                                     130
                                                                          10.0
                                                                                 5.0
## 2
              100%_Natural_Bran
                                        C
                                                120
                                                               5
                                                                           2.0
                                                                                 8.0
                                   Q
                                                           3
                                                                     15
## 3
                       All-Bran
                                   K
                                        C
                                                 70
                                                               1
                                                                    260
                                                                           9.0
                                                                                 7.0
                                        С
## 4 All-Bran_with_Extra_Fiber
                                                 50
                                                           4
                                                               0
                                                                    140
                                                                          14.0
                                                                                 8.0
                                   K
                                                           2
                                                               2
                                                                    200
## 5
                 Almond_Delight
                                   R
                                        С
                                                110
                                                                           1.0
                                                                                14.0
## 6
       Apple_Cinnamon_Cheerios
                                   G
                                        С
                                                110
                                                                    180
                                                                           1.5 10.5
     sugars potass vitamins shelf weight cups
##
                                                   rating
## 1
                280
                          25
                                  3
                                          1 0.33 68.40297
          6
## 2
          8
                135
                           0
                                  3
                                          1 1.00 33.98368
## 3
                320
                                  3
                                          1 0.33 59.42551
          5
                          25
## 4
                330
                          25
                                  3
                                          1 0.50 93.70491
          0
## 5
          8
                 NA
                          25
                                  3
                                          1 0.75 34.38484
## 6
         10
                 70
                          25
                                         1 0.75 29.50954
                                  1
```

```
# Look into the data set's structure.
str(cereal)
```

```
77 obs. of 16 variables:
  'data.frame':
                     "100%_Bran" "100%_Natural_Bran" "All-Bran" "All-Bran_with_Extra_Fiber" ...
              : chr
                     "N" "Q" "K" "K" ...
##
   $ mfr
              : chr
                     "C" "C" "C" "C" ...
##
              : chr
   $ type
##
   $ calories: int
                     70 120 70 50 110 110 110 130 90 90 ...
                     4 3 4 4 2 2 2 3 2 3 ...
   $ protein : int
##
                     1 5 1 0 2 2 0 2 1 0 ...
   $ fat
              : int
                     130 15 260 140 200 180 125 210 200 210 ...
##
   $ sodium
              : int
##
   $ fiber
                    10 2 9 14 1 1.5 1 2 4 5 ...
              : num
                    5 8 7 8 14 10.5 11 18 15 13 ...
   $ carbo
              : num
##
   $ sugars : int
                     6 8 5 0 8 10 14 8 6 5 ...
##
   $ potass : int
                     280 135 320 330 NA 70 30 100 125 190 ...
                     25 0 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 ...
##
  $ vitamins: int
##
   $ shelf
              : int
                     3 3 3 3 3 1 2 3 1 3 ...
                     1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1.33 1 1 ...
##
   $ weight
              : num
##
                     0.33 1 0.33 0.5 0.75 0.75 1 0.75 0.67 0.67 ...
   $ cups
              : num
   $ rating
             : num
                     68.4 34 59.4 93.7 34.4 ...
```

```
# Investigate the summary of the data set
summary(cereal)
```

```
## name mfr type calories
## Length:77 Length:77 Length:77 Min. : 50.0
## Class :character Class :character 1st Qu::100.0
```

```
Mode :character
                     Mode :character
                                          Mode :character
                                                              Median :110.0
##
                                                                     :106.9
                                                              Mean
##
                                                              3rd Qu.:110.0
##
                                                              Max.
                                                                     :160.0
##
                                                         fiber
##
       protein
                         fat.
                                        sodium
##
   Min.
          :1.000
                    Min.
                           :0.000
                                    Min. : 0.0
                                                    Min.
                                                           : 0.000
##
   1st Qu.:2.000
                    1st Qu.:0.000
                                    1st Qu.:130.0
                                                    1st Qu.: 1.000
##
   Median :3.000
                    Median :1.000
                                    Median :180.0
                                                    Median : 2.000
##
   Mean
         :2.545
                    Mean :1.013
                                    Mean
                                          :159.7
                                                    Mean
                                                           : 2.152
   3rd Qu.:3.000
                    3rd Qu.:2.000
                                    3rd Qu.:210.0
                                                    3rd Qu.: 3.000
##
          :6.000
                           :5.000
                                          :320.0
   Max.
                    Max.
                                    Max.
                                                    Max.
                                                           :14.000
##
                                        potass
##
        carbo
                       sugars
                                                         vitamins
##
         : 5.0
   Min.
                   Min. : 0.000
                                    Min. : 15.00
                                                      Min. : 0.00
##
   1st Qu.:12.0
                   1st Qu.: 3.000
                                    1st Qu.: 42.50
                                                      1st Qu.: 25.00
##
   Median:14.5
                   Median : 7.000
                                    Median : 90.00
                                                      Median : 25.00
                                                      Mean : 28.25
##
   Mean
          :14.8
                   Mean : 7.026
                                    Mean : 98.67
##
   3rd Qu.:17.0
                   3rd Qu.:11.000
                                    3rd Qu.:120.00
                                                      3rd Qu.: 25.00
##
   Max.
           :23.0
                   Max.
                          :15.000
                                    Max.
                                           :330.00
                                                      Max.
                                                            :100.00
           :1
                                    NA's
                                           :2
##
   NA's
                   NA's
                          :1
##
        shelf
                        weight
                                        cups
                                                        rating
##
                           :0.50
                                          :0.250
                                                           :18.04
   Min.
           :1.000
                    Min.
                                   Min.
                                                   Min.
##
   1st Qu.:1.000
                    1st Qu.:1.00
                                   1st Qu.:0.670
                                                    1st Qu.:33.17
##
   Median :2.000
                    Median:1.00
                                   Median :0.750
                                                   Median :40.40
  Mean
          :2.208
                    Mean :1.03
                                   Mean
                                         :0.821
                                                   Mean
                                                          :42.67
##
   3rd Qu.:3.000
                    3rd Qu.:1.00
                                                    3rd Qu.:50.83
                                   3rd Qu.:1.000
##
   Max.
          :3.000
                    Max.
                           :1.50
                                   Max.
                                          :1.500
                                                   Max.
                                                           :93.70
##
#Data Preprocessing
#The data will be scaled prior to removing the NA(Null) values from the data set.
# Create duplicate of data set for preprocessing
cereal_scaled <- cereal</pre>
# Scale the data set prior to placing it into a clustering algorithm
cereal_scaled[ , c(4:16)] <- scale(cereal[ , c(4:16)])</pre>
# Remove NA values from data set
cereal_preprocessed <- na.omit(cereal_scaled)</pre>
# Review the scaled data set with NA's removed
head(cereal_preprocessed)
##
                          name mfr type
                                          calories
                                                       protein
                                                                       fat
## 1
                     100%_Bran
                                      C -1.8929836
                                                    1.3286071 -0.01290349
## 2
             100%_Natural_Bran
                                 Q
                                      C 0.6732089
                                                    0.4151897 3.96137277
## 3
                      All-Bran
                                 K
                                      C -1.8929836
                                                    1.3286071 -0.01290349
                                      C -2.9194605
## 4 All-Bran_with_Extra_Fiber
                                 K
                                                    1.3286071 -1.00647256
                                      C 0.1599704 -0.4982277 0.98066557
       Apple_Cinnamon_Cheerios
                                 G
## 7
                   Apple_Jacks
                                 K
                                      C 0.1599704 -0.4982277 -1.00647256
##
                      fiber
         sodium
                                 carbo
                                            sugars
                                                       potass
                                                                vitamins
                                                                              shelf
## 1 -0.3539844 3.29284661 -2.5087829 -0.2343906 2.5753685 -0.1453172 0.9515734
## 2 -1.7257708 -0.06375361 -1.7409943 0.2223705 0.5160205 -1.2642598 0.9515734
## 3 1.1967306 2.87327158 -1.9969238 -0.4627711 3.1434645 -0.1453172 0.9515734
```

```
## 4 -0.2346986 4.97114672 -1.7409943 -1.6046739 3.2854885 -0.1453172 0.9515734
## 6 0.2424445 -0.27354112 -1.1011705 0.6791317 -0.4071355 -0.1453172 -1.4507595
## 7 -0.4136273 -0.48332864 -0.9732057 1.5926539 -0.9752315 -0.1453172 -0.2495930
## weight cups rating
## 1 -0.1967771 -2.1100340 1.8321876
## 2 -0.1967771 -2.1100340 1.1930986
## 4 -0.1967771 -1.3795303 3.6333849
## 6 -0.1967771 -0.3052601 -0.9365625
## 7 -0.1967771 0.7690100 -0.6756899
```

##There were 74 observations in total after the data was scaled and pre-processed. As a result, only three records had a "NA" value.

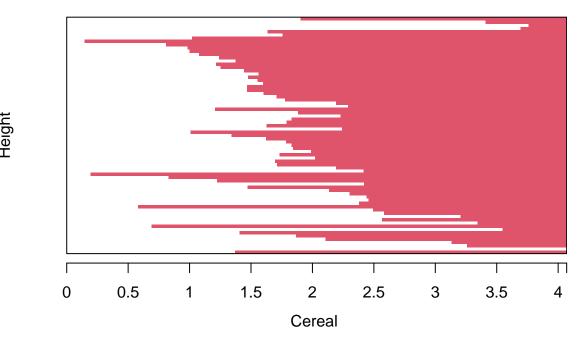
Assignment Task A #"Apply hierarchical clustering to the data using Euclidean distance to the normalized measurements. Use Agnes to compare the clustering from single linkage, complete linkage, average linkage, and Ward. Choose the best method."

#Single Linkage:

#### Create the dissimilarity matrix for the numeric values in the data set via Euclidean distance measurements

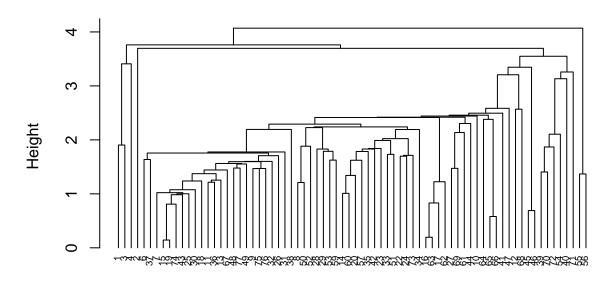
```
cereal_d_euclidean <- dist(cereal_preprocessed[ , c(4:16)], method ="euclidean")</pre>
# Perform hierarchical clustering via the single linkage method
ag_hc_single <-agnes(cereal_d_euclidean, method = "single")</pre>
# Plot the results of the different methods
plot(ag_hc_single,
     main = "Customer Cereal Ratings - AGNES - Single Linkage Method",
     xlab = "Cereal",
     ylab = "Height",
     cex.axis = 1,
    cex = 0.55.
hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Single Linkage Method



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.61

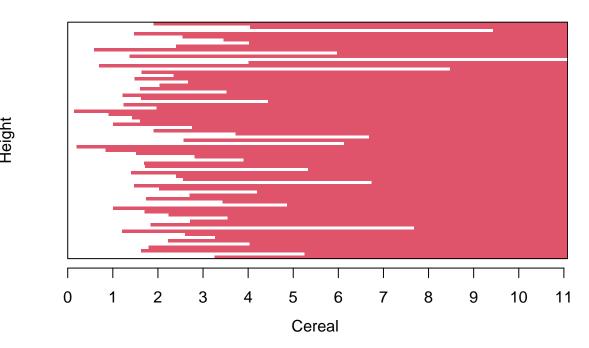
#### **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Single Linkage Method**



# Cereal Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.61

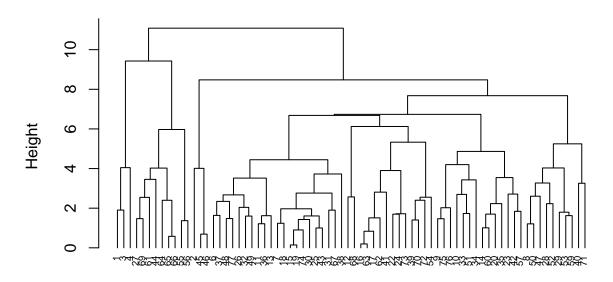
```
#Complete Linkage:
# Perform hierarchical clustering via the complete linkage method
ag_hc_complete <- agnes(cereal_d_euclidean, method = "complete")</pre>
# Plot the results of the different methods
plot(ag_hc_complete,
main = "Customer Cereal Ratings - AGNES - Complete Linkage Method",
xlab = "Cereal",
ylab = "Height",
cex.axis = 1,
cex = 0.55,
hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Complete Linkage Metho**



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.84

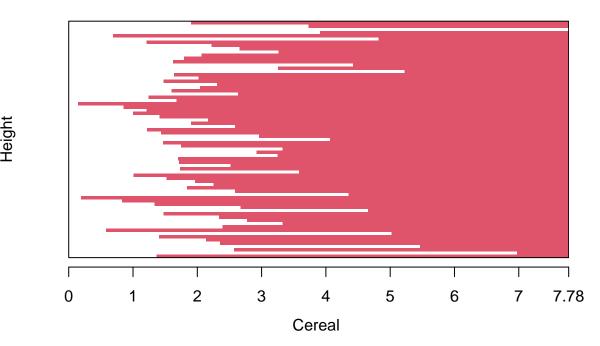
### **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Complete Linkage Method**



# Cereal Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.84

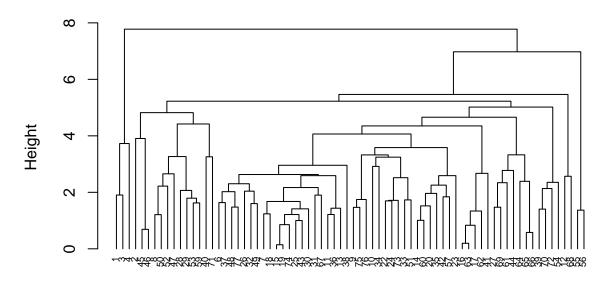
```
#Average Linkage:
# Perform hierarchical clustering via the average linkage method
ag_hc_average <- agnes(cereal_d_euclidean, method = "average")</pre>
# Plot the results of the different methods
plot(ag_hc_average,
main = "Customer Cereal Ratings - AGNES - Average Linkage Method",
xlab = "Cereal",
ylab = "Height",
 cex.axis = 1,
cex = 0.55,
hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Average Linkage Method**



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.78

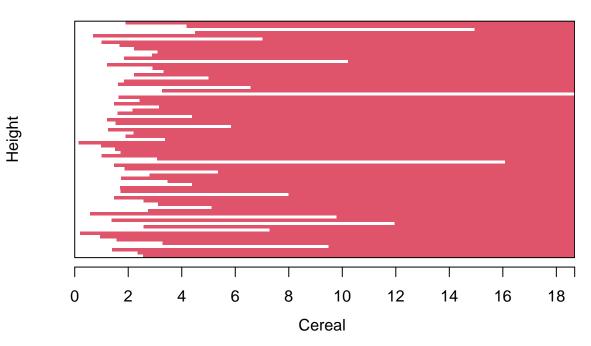
#### **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Average Linkage Method**



#### Cereal Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.78

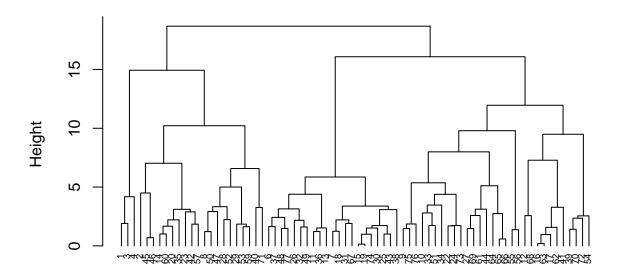
```
#Ward Method:
# Perform hierarchical clustering via the ward linkage method
ag_hc_ward <- agnes(cereal_d_euclidean, method = "ward")</pre>
# Plot the results of the different methods
plot(ag_hc_ward,
main = "Customer Cereal Ratings - AGNES - Ward Linkage Method",
xlab = "Cereal",
ylab = "Height",
cex.axis = 1,
cex = 0.55,
hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## **Customer Cereal Ratings – AGNES – Ward Linkage Method**



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.9

## Customer Cereal Ratings - AGNES - Ward Linkage Method

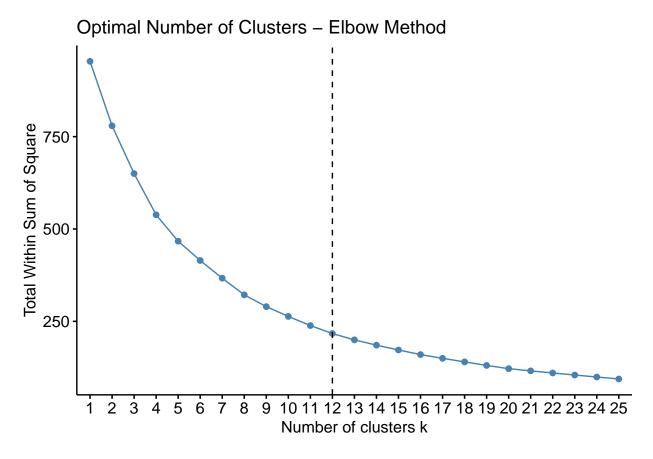


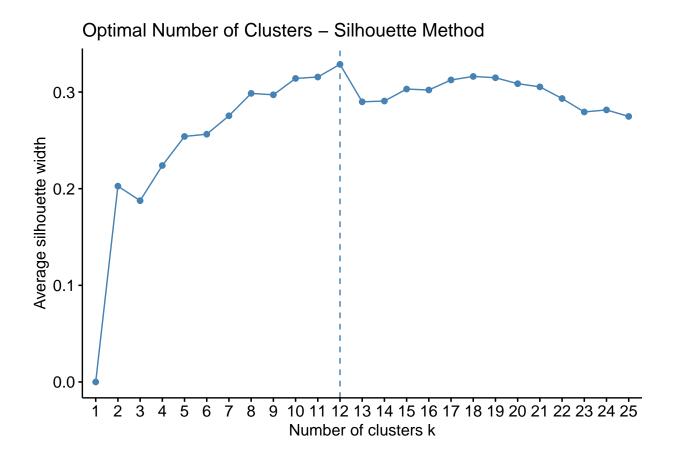
Cereal
Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.9

```
#The best clustering method would be based on the agglomerative coefficient that is returned from each
#Single Linkage: 0.61 #Complete Linkage: 0.84 #Average Linkage: 0.78 #Ward Method: 0.90
#As a result, the Ward method will be chosen as the best clustering model in this problem.

#Assignment Task B

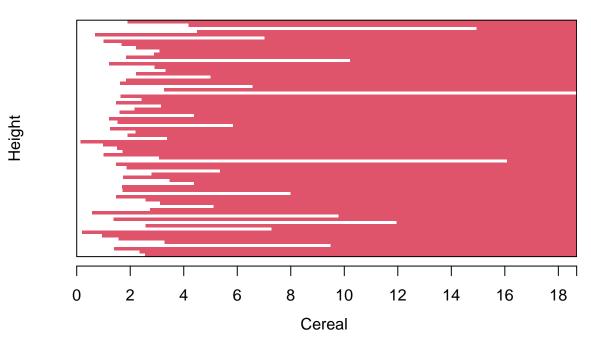
#"How many clusters would you choose?"
#To determine the appropriate number of clusters, we will use the elbow and silhouette methods.
#Elbow Method:
# Determine the optimal number of clusters for the dataset via the Elbow method
fviz_nbclust(cereal_preprocessed[ , c(4:16)], hcut, method = "wss", k.max =
25) +
labs(title = "Optimal Number of Clusters - Elbow Method") +
geom_vline(xintercept = 12, linetype = 2)
```





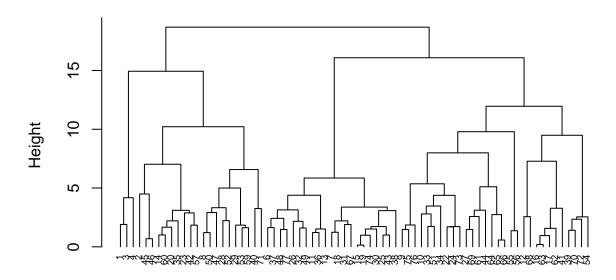
```
#Based on the agreement of the silhouette and elbow method, the appropriate number of clusters would be
#Below we will outline the 12 clusters on the hierarchical tree
# Plot of the Ward hierarchical tree with the 12 clusters outlined for reference
plot(ag_hc_ward,
main = "AGNES - Ward Linkage Method - 12 Clusters Outlined",
xlab = "Cereal",
ylab = "Height",
cex.axis = 1,
cex = 0.55,
hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## AGNES – Ward Linkage Method – 12 Clusters Outlined



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.9

#### AGNES - Ward Linkage Method - 12 Clusters Outlined



Cereal
Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.9

```
##Ssignment Task C

#"Comment on the structure of the clusters and on their stability. Hint: To check stability, partition

#1. Cluster partition A #2. Use the cluster centroids from A to assign each record in partition B (each

#3.Assess how consistent the cluster assignments are compared to the assignments based on all the data"

#All Data Assigned Clusters:

#The assigned clusters for all data sets will be in "cereal_preprocessed_1":

# Cut the tree into 12 clusters for analysis

ward_clusters_12 <- cutree(ag_hc_ward, k = 12)

# Add the assigned cluster to the preprocessed data set

cereal_preprocessed_1 <- cbind(cluster = ward_clusters_12,

cereal_preprocessed)

#Partition Data:

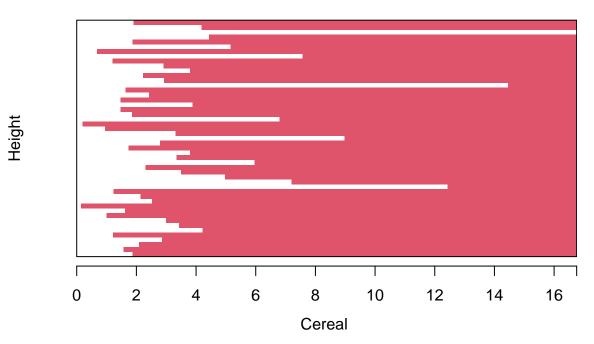
#To check stability of clusters, the data set will be split into a 70/30 partition. The 70% will be use

# Set the seed for randomized functions

set.seed(982579)
```

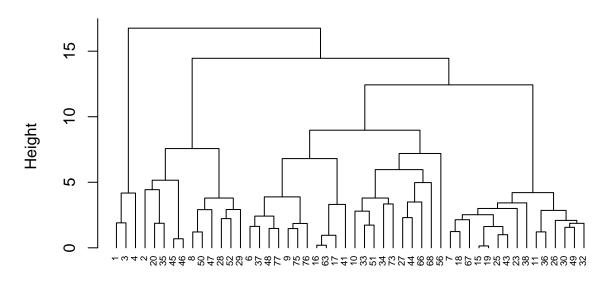
```
\# Split the data into 70% partition A and 30% partition B
cerealIndex <- createDataPartition(cereal_preprocessed$protein, p=0.3, list =F)</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB <- cereal_preprocessed[cerealIndex, ]</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionA <- cereal_preprocessed[-cerealIndex,]</pre>
#Re-Run Clustering with Partitioned Data:
#For the purposes of this task, we will assume the same K value (12) and ward clustering method to dete
# Create the dissimilarity matrix for the numeric values in the partitioned data set via Euclidean dist
cereal_d_euclidean_A <- dist(cereal_preprocessed_PartitionA[ , c(4:16)],</pre>
method = "euclidean")
# Perform hierarchical clustering via the ward linkage method on partitioned data
ag_hc_ward_A <- agnes(cereal_d_euclidean_A, method = "ward")</pre>
# Plot the results of the different methods
plot(ag_hc_ward_A,
     main = "Customer Cereal Ratings - Ward Linkage Method - Partition A",
     xlab = "Cereal",
    ylab = "Height",
     cex.axis = 1,
     cex = 0.55,
    hang = -1)
## Warning in plot.window(xlim, ylim, log = log, ...): "hang" is not a graphical
## parameter
## Warning in title(main = main, sub = sub, xlab = xlab, ylab = ylab, ...): "hang"
## is not a graphical parameter
## Warning in axis(1, at = at.vals, labels = lab.vals, ...): "hang" is not a
## graphical parameter
```

## Customer Cereal Ratings – Ward Linkage Method – Partition /



Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.88

#### Customer Cereal Ratings - Ward Linkage Method - Partition A

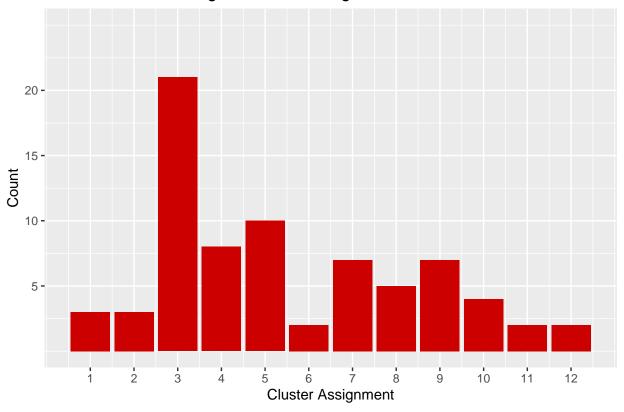


Cereal
Agglomerative Coefficient = 0.88

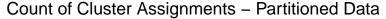
```
# Cut the tree into 12 clusters for analysis
ward_clusters_12_A <- cutree(ag_hc_ward_A, k = 12)</pre>
# Add the assigned cluster to the preprocessed data set
cereal_preprocessed_A <- cbind(cluster = ward_clusters_12_A,</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionA)
#The centroids for each of the clusters will need to be calculated, so we can find the closest centroid
# Find the centroids for the re-ran Ward hierarchical clustering
ward_Centroids_A <- aggregate(cereal_preprocessed_A[ , 5:17],</pre>
list(cereal_preprocessed_A$cluster), mean)
ward_Centroids_A <- data.frame(Cluster = ward_Centroids_A[ , 1], Centroid =</pre>
rowMeans(ward_Centroids_A[ , -c(1:4)]))
ward_Centroids_A <- ward_Centroids_A$Centroid</pre>
# Calculate Centers of Partition B data set
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB_centers <-</pre>
data.frame(cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB[, 1:3], Center =
rowMeans(cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB[ , 4:16]))
# Calculate the distance between the centers of partition A and the values of partition B
B_to_A_centers <- dist(ward_Centroids_A,</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB_centers$Center, method = "euclidean")
# Assign the clusters based on the minimum distance to cluster centers
```

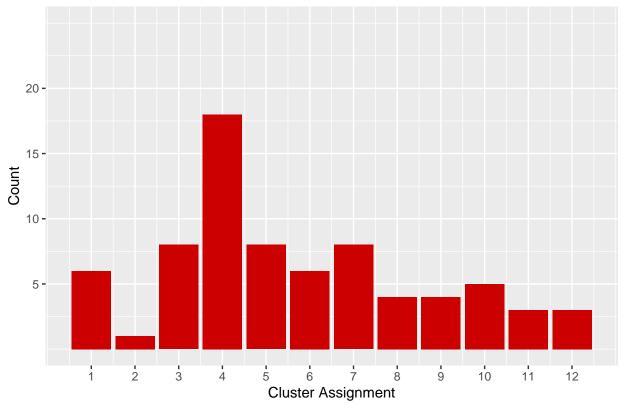
```
cereal_preprocessed_B <- cbind(cluster =</pre>
c(4,8,7,3,5,6,7,11,11,10,8,5,10,1,10,1,4,12,12,7,7,1,4,9),
cereal_preprocessed_PartitionB)
# Combine partitions A and B for comparision to original clusters
cereal_preprocessed_2 <- rbind(cereal_preprocessed_A, cereal_preprocessed_B)</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_1 <-</pre>
cereal_preprocessed_1[order(cereal_preprocessed_1$name), ]
cereal preprocessed 2 <-
cereal_preprocessed_2[order(cereal_preprocessed_2$name), ]
#Now that the data has been assigned by both methods (full data and partitioned data), we can compare t
sum(cereal preprocessed 1$cluster == cereal preprocessed 2$cluster)
## [1] 14
#From this result, it can be stated that the clusters are not very stable. With 70% of the data availab
# Visualize the cluster assignments to see any difference between the two
# Plot of original hierarchical clustering algorithm
ggplot(data = cereal_preprocessed_1, aes(cereal_preprocessed_1$cluster)) +
 geom_bar(fill = "Red3") +
labs(title="Count of Cluster Assignments - All Original Data") +
labs(x="Cluster Assignment", y="Count") +
guides(fill=FALSE) +
 scale_x_continuous(breaks=c(1:12)) +
scale_y_continuous(breaks=c(5,10,15,20), limits = c(0,25))
## Warning: The '<scale>' argument of 'guides()' cannot be 'FALSE'. Use "none" instead as
## of ggplot2 3.3.4.
## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
## Call 'lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()' to see where this warning was
## generated.
```

#### Count of Cluster Assignments - All Original Data



```
# Plot of algorithm that was partitioned prior to assigning the remaining data
ggplot(data = cereal_preprocessed_2, aes(cereal_preprocessed_2$cluster)) +
geom_bar(fill = "Red3") +
labs(title="Count of Cluster Assignments - Partitioned Data") +
labs(x="Cluster Assignment", y="Count") +
guides(fill=FALSE) +
scale_x_continuous(breaks=c(1:12)) +
scale_y_continuous(breaks=c(5,10,15,20), limits = c(0,25))
```





#Using partitioned data, we observe a sharp decline in Cluster 3. Consequently, the size of multiple other clusters increased. The graphic shows that when the data is partitioned, the clusters appear to be more evenly distributed over the 12 clusters.

#### Assignment Task D

#"The elementary public schools would like to choose a set of cereals to include in their daily cafeterias. Every day a different cereal is offered, but all cereals should support a healthy diet. For this goal, you are requested to find a cluster of "healthy cereals." Should the data be normalized? If not, how should they be used in the cluster analysis?"

#In this case, normalizing the data would not be appropriate. This is because the specific cereal sample under investigation determines how nutrition data from cereals should be scaled or normalized. Because of this, the data set that was collected might only contain cereals that are very high in sugar but low in iron, fiber, and other nutrients. It is impossible to estimate the nutritional value of cereal for a child once the data inside the sample set is scaled or normalized. An insensitive observer might conclude that a cereal with an iron score of 0.999 gives a child almost all of the iron they require, but it might actually be the best of the worst in the sample set, offering very little to no iron.

#Therefore, converting the data into a ratio to a child's daily recommended intake of calories, fiber, carbs, and other nutrients would be a better way to preprocess the data. By doing this, analysts would be able to evaluate clusters more intelligently and prevent a small number of significant variables from overriding distance calculations. When analyzing the clusters, an analyst may use the cluster averages to determine how much of a student's daily nutritional needs would come from XX cereal. This would allow the employees to choose "healthy" cereal clusters with greater knowledge.