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Calculating Euclidean Distances for N Points Using Combinations

In order to calculate euclidean distances for N number of points, regardless of what dimensional space the points come from, it is very important to understand how to get the distances between all the points. This means that for each distance, two points are required so this is a great use case for using combinations where n represents the number of points and r represents the length of each set. For our situation, we want unique pairs of all the points so we need to do the following computation:

$${}_{n}C_{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

Let us try this for 3 points

$$_{3}C_{2} = \frac{3!}{2!(3-2)!} = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

Now we know there are 3 possible combinations for arranging 3 points as unique pairs of points.

We can use this knowledge to expand to calculating all euclidean distances for a greater amount of points. For n = 10,

$$_{1}0C_{2} = \frac{10!}{8!(10-8)!} = \frac{90}{2} = 45$$

This means we will have a total of 45 euclidean distances for 10 points.

Works Cited