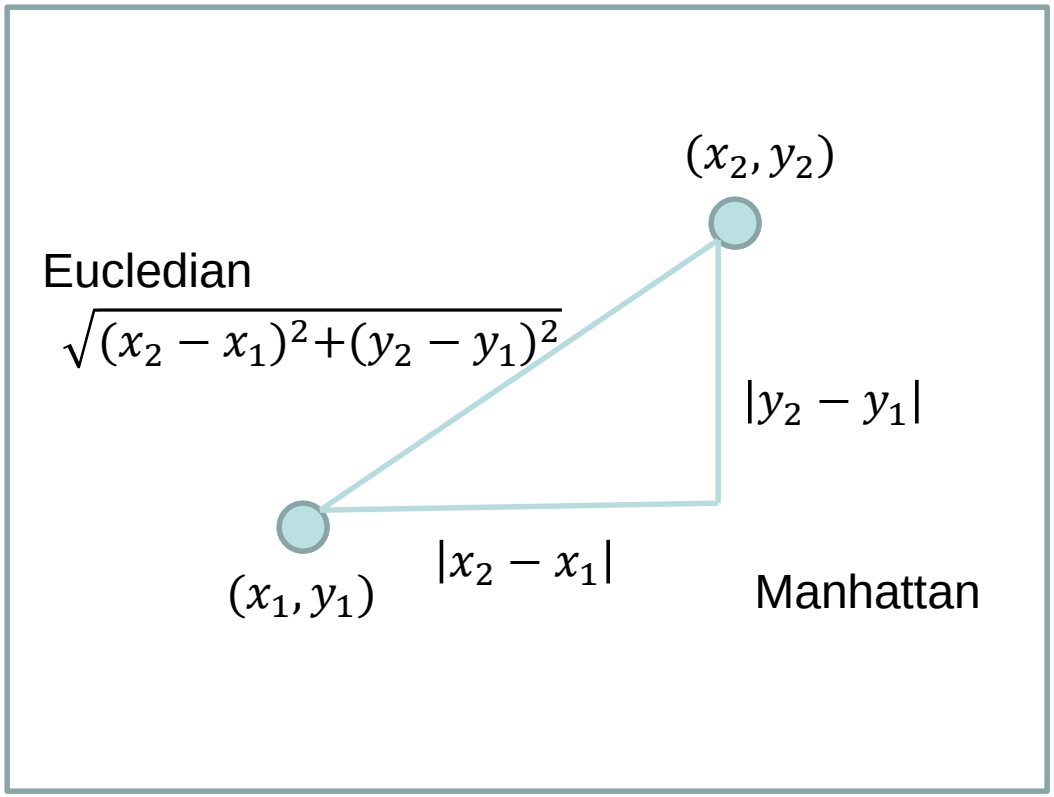
Inspire…Educate…Transform.

Unsupervised models

Clustering- Understanding Distances

UNDERSTANDING DISTANCE

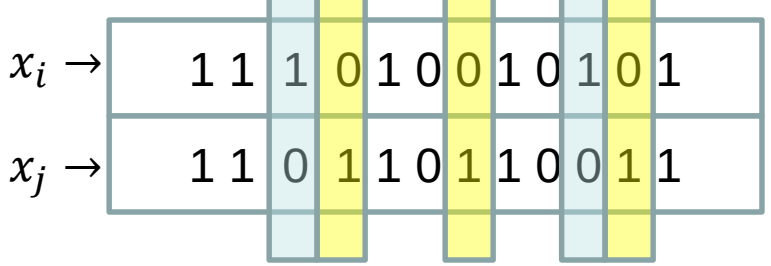
Numeric



Distance between categorical attributes

- For each categorical variable
  - Distance is zero if two records have same value
  - 1 if different
  - Sum the total distance across all attributes

Categorical attributes



For example, in above two feature vectors:

a=5
b=2
c=3
d=2

(10)

Data point i \ Data point j	1	0	
1	a	b	$a+b$
0	c	d	$c+d$
	$a+c$	$b+d$	$a+b+c+d$

a: the number of attributes with the value of 1 for both data points.

b: the number of attributes for which $x_{if} = 1$ and $x_{jf} = 0$, where x_{if} (x_{jf}) is the value of the fth attribute of the data point $\mathbf{x}_i$ ($\mathbf{x}_j$).

c: the number of attributes for which $x_{if} = 0$ and $x_{jf} = 1$.

d: the number of attributes with the value of 0 for both data points.

Symmetric binary attributes

- Hamming distance function: Simple Matching Coefficient, proportion of mismatches of their values

$$dist(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \frac{b + c}{a + b + c + d}$$

$$Dist = \frac{number\ of\ dissimiar\ attributes\ between\ the\ records}{number\ of\ dissimilar\ attributes + number\ of\ similar\ attributes}$$

Asymmetric binary attributes

- Asymmetric: if one of the states is more important or more valuable than the other.
  - By convention, state 1 represents the more important state, which is typically the rare or infrequent state.
  - Jaccard coefficient is a popular measure

$$Dist = \frac{number\ of\ dissimiar\ attributes\ between\ the\ records}{number\ of\ dissimilar\ attributes + number\ of\ similar\ attributes\ (excluding\ records\ with\ 0,0)}$$

$$dist(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \frac{b + c}{a + b + c}$$

  - We can have some variations, adding weights

Dissimilarity between Binary Variables

- Example

Name	Gender	Fever	Cough	Test-1	Test-2	Test-3	Test-4
Jack	M	Y	N	P	N	N	N
Mary	F	Y	N	P	N	P	N
Jim	M	Y	P	N	N	N	N

  - gender is a symmetric attribute
  - the remaining attributes are asymmetric binary
  - let the values Y and P be set to 1, and the value N be set to 0

$$d(jack, mary) = \frac{0+1}{2+0+1} = 0.33$$

$$d(jack, jim) = \frac{1+1}{1+1+1} = 0.67$$

$$d(jim, mary) = \frac{1+2}{1+1+2} = 0.75$$

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