

# Package ‘ASW’

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**Title** Clustering Algorithms for Optimising the Average Silhouette Width

**Version** 1.0.4

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## Description

This package implements clustering algorithms for optimising the Average Silhouette Width.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

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cluster,  
stats

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effOSil	<i>The Efficient Optimum Silhouette algorithm</i>
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## Description

This function implements the Efficient Optimum Silhouette (effOSil) algorithm.

## Usage

```
effOSil(dx, K, initMethod, variant)
```

## Arguments

<code>dx</code>	A dist object, which can be computed using the <code>stats::dist()</code> function.
<code>K</code>	An integer vector specifying the number of clusters. By default, <code>K = 2:12</code> .
<code>initMethod</code>	A character vector specifying initialisation methods. By default, <code>initMethod = "average"</code> ; however, to achieve the best initialisation in terms of the ASW, various initialisation methods should be used (e.g., <code>initMethod = c("single", "average", "complete", "pam")</code> ). See <code>?Init</code> for more details.
<code>variant</code>	An algorithmic variant. Options include "efficient" and "original". By default, <code>variant = "efficient"</code> , indicating that effOSil is used. If <code>variant = "original"</code> , the original, computationally expensive OSil algorithm is used.

## Details

This function implements the Efficient Optimum Silhouette (effOSil) algorithm, an  $O(N)$  runtime improvement of the original, computationally expensive Fast OSil (FOSil) algorithm proposed by Batool & Hennig (2021) where  $N$  is the number of observations. This function also implements the OSil algorithm for comparison purposes.

## Value

**best\_clustering** The clustering achieving the highest ASW value.

**best\_asw** The highest ASW value.

**k** The estimated number of clusters.

**clusterings** The effOSil clusterings for all  $k$  in  $K$ .

**asw** The ASW values associated with the clusterings.

**nIter** The numbers of iterations needed for convergence.

## Author(s)

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## References

Batool, F. and Hennig, C., 2021. Clustering with the average silhouette width. Computational Statistics & Data Analysis, 158, p.107190.

## Examples

```
x = scale(faithful)
dx = dist(x)
effOSil_clustering = effOSil(dx = dx, K = 2:12)
par(mfrow = c(1,2))
plot(faithful, col = effOSil_clustering$best_clustering, pch = effOSil_clustering$best_clustering)
plot(2:12, effOSil_clustering$asw, type = "l", xlab = "k", ylab = "ASW")
par(mfrow = c(1,1))
```

Init

*Initialisation methods for the Optimum Silhouette algorithm.***Description**

This function computes an initialisation for the Optimum Silhouette algorithm.

**Usage**

```
Init(dx, k, initMethod)
```

**Arguments**

<code>dx</code>	A dist object, which can be computed using the <code>stats::dist()</code> function.
<code>k</code>	An integer specifying the number of clusters.
<code>initMethod</code>	A character vector (or string) specifying initialisation methods. Options include any combination of "pam", "average", "single", "complete", "ward.D", "ward.D2", "mcquitty", "median", and "centroid". By default, <code>initMethod = "average"</code> .

**Details**

This function computes an initialisation for the Optimum Silhouette algorithm, but it can be used as a stand-alone clustering method (i.e., run different clustering algorithms and select the clustering solution maximising the ASW).

**Value**

**clustering** An initialised clustering.  
**asw** The ASW associated with the initialised clustering.  
**method** The "best" initialisation method.

**Author(s)**

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**References**

Batool, F. and Hennig, C., 2021. Clustering with the average silhouette width. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, 158, p.107190. Batool, F., 2019. Initialization methods for optimum average silhouette width clustering. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1910.08644*.

**Examples**

```
library("cluster")
x = scale(faithful)
dx = dist(x)
InitClustering = Init(dx, 2, c("pam", "average", "complete", "single"))
plot(faithful, col = InitClustering$clustering, pch = InitClustering$clustering)
print(paste(InitClustering$method, "achieves the highest ASW value"))
```

**Description**

This function implements the PAMSil algorithm.

**Usage**

```
PAMSil(dx, K)
```

**Arguments**

**dx** A dist object, which can be computed using the `stats::dist()` function.  
**K** An integer vector specifying the number of clusters. By default, `K = 2:12`.

**Details**

This function implements the PAMSil algorithm proposed by Van der Laan & Pollard (2003), a k-medoid clustering algorithm whose objective function is the ASW.

**Value**

**best\_clustering** The clustering achieving the highest ASW value.  
**best\_asw** The highest ASW value.  
**best\_medoids** The medoids associated with the clustering maximizing the ASW.  
**k** The estimated number of clusters.  
**clusterings** The PAMSil clusterings for all `k` in `K`.  
**asw** The ASW values associated with the clusterings.  
**medoids** The medoids associated with the clustering solutions.  
**nIter** The numbers of iterations needed for convergence.

**Author(s)**

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**References**

Van der Laan, M., Pollard, K. and Bryan, J., 2003. A new partitioning around medoids algorithm. *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*, 73(8), pp.575-584.

**Examples**

```
library("cluster")
x = scale(faithful)
dx = dist(x)
PAMSil_clustering = PAMSil(dx = dx, K = 2:12)
par(mfrow = c(1,2))
plot(faithful, col = PAMSil_clustering$best_clustering, pch = PAMSil_clustering$best_clustering)
plot(2:12, PAMSil_clustering$asw, type = "l", xlab = "k", ylab = "ASW")
par(mfrow = c(1,1))
```

**Description**

This function implements the Scalable Optimum Silhouette (scalOSil) algorithm.

**Usage**

```
scalOSil(dx, K, n, ns, rep, initMethod, variant)
```

**Arguments**

dx	A dist object, which can be computed using the stats::dist() function.
K	An integer vector specifying the number of clusters. By default, K = 2:12.
n	An integer specifying the sample size. If not specified, $n = 0.1 * N$ where N is the number of observations.
ns	An integer specifying the number of random samples in each instance. By default, ns = 10.
rep	An integer specifying the number of scalOSil instances. By default, rep = 1.
initMethod	A character vector specifying initialisation methods. By default, initMethod = "average"; however, to achieve the best initialisation in terms of the ASW, various initialisation methods should be used (e.g., initMethod = c("single", "average", "complete", "pam")). See ?Init for more details.
variant	An algorithmic variant. Options include "scalable" and "original". By default, variant = "scalable", indicating that scalOSil is used. If variant = "original", the original, computationally expensive FOSil algorithm is used.

**Details**

This function implements the Scalable Optimum Silhouette (scalOSil) algorithm, an  $O(n)$  runtime improvement of the original, computationally expensive Fast OSil (FOSil) algorithm proposed by Batool & Hennig (2021) where n is the sub-sample size. This function also implements the FOSil algorithm for comparison purposes.

**Value**

**best\_clustering** The clustering achieving the highest ASW value.  
**best\_asw** The highest ASW value.  
**k** The estimated number of clusters.  
**clusterings** The scalOSil clusterings for all k in K.  
**asw** The ASW values associated with the clusterings.

**Author(s)**

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## References

Batool, F. and Hennig, C., 2021. Clustering with the average silhouette width. Computational Statistics & Data Analysis, 158, p.107190.

## Examples

```
x = scale(faithful)
dx = dist(x)
scal0Sil_clustering = scal0Sil(dx = dx, K = 2:12, n = ceiling(0.25*nrow(x)), ns = 10, rep = 1)
set.seed(59)
par(mfrow = c(1,2))
plot(faithful, col = scal0Sil_clustering$best_clustering, pch = scal0Sil_clustering$best_clustering)
plot(2:12, scal0Sil_clustering$asw, type = "l", xlab = "k", ylab = "ASW")
par(mfrow = c(1,1))
```

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Silhouette	<i>Silhouette Width</i>
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## Description

This function computes the Silhouette Widths given a distance matrix and a clustering solution.

## Usage

```
Silhouette(C, dx)
```

## Arguments

C	An integer vector specifying a clustering solution. $\min(C)$ must be 1 and $\max(C)$ must be k.
dx	A dist object, which can be computed using the <code>stats::dist()</code> function.

## Value

A numeric matrix of class "silhouette" containing three columns

**cluster** A clustering of the dataset.

**neighbor** The clustering labels of the nearest clusters for all data points.

**sil\_width** The silhouette widths of data points.

## Author(s)

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## References

Rousseeuw, P.J., 1987. Silhouettes: a graphical aid to the interpretation and validation of cluster analysis. Journal of computational and applied mathematics, 20, pp.53-65.

**Examples**

```
library("cluster")
x = scale(faithful)
dx = dist(x)
pam_clustering = pam(dx, 2)$clustering
plot(Silhouette(pam_clustering, dx))
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