Team 2

Chicago Car Accidents Assessment Utilizing Clustering Analysis

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Abstract—Practice as a team to analyse unsupervised data by exploring various clustering methods (k-means, k-modes, kprototype, Gaussian and DBSCAN) on Chicago Accident database.

I. INTRODUCTION

Utilizing two datasets from Chicago Department website (Crashes and People related to Crashes), we like to find areas/neighborhoods within the city that have different characteristics in terms of the attributes available. Dataset is large (750K rows) so we decided to look at only 2 years,i.e. 2021 and 2022 which reduces the row count to about 250K. There is a good amount of prep to get data suitable for cluster analysis (ETL, Hot Encoding, data cleanup) We tried 5 different cluster methods with varying results. e'll give some brief description of each method and its pros and cons for this particular data set. We will illustrate some of the main differences these assigned clusters present. Provide a summary of each cluster characteristics to illustrate the main differences between them.

II. RELATED WORK

There are many examples on how clustering solves problems in various business use cases. Segmentation analysis, anomoly detection and a form of classification are some of the use cases. There are also Deep Learning techniques that we could have explored but we ran out of time. The analysis here could be useful to identify hot areas of accidents due to poor signage, road conditions, and other conditions that could be improved to reduce accidents or injuries in the Chicago area. Practicing how to get meaningful insights is essential in the business world. Also, knowledge of mapping techniques or illustrating the clusters using coordinates or zip codes would be useful. We are deficient in this area and had spent endless hours trying to learn shapely files and GEO methods to show how the car accidents distributed across the Chicago area. It seems you can have a semester class on mapping techniques alone.

III. OUR SOLUTION

Since the data is large and has many attributes (both numerical and categorical), reducing the number of attributes will be critical. Also, minimizing the number of clusters needed is beneficial to ensure each cluster has meaningful differences and similar volume. Created Heatmaps showing percent differences will be provided to help show major allocation of attributes to each cluster. k-modes was explored first since it handles categorical data and kmeans covers numerical. K-Prototypes covers both at the same time. We tried to use Gaussian Mixture but that seems to not be appropriate and gave us unusual results. Another method is DBSCAN which can handle hot encoding but so far find it difficult to gain the necessary clusters needed, very sensitive to (EPS) and size of data. kprototype so far has the best results with the mixed data. We will show Heatmaps to illustrate our results and provide summary description of the final clustering results. Significant code related to grouping data uing pspark to assess the cluster allocation was neccessary in evaluating key differences for each cluster. We also utilized Knime an ETL software to ensure the joining of data looked good, it sometimes harder to evaluate a join in python mode.

A. Description of Dataset

The dataset can be found here: Chicago Crashe Data, Two datasets; one for crashes in Chicago and the other are the people characteristics involved in those crashes. The 'Crash ID' is the key attribute to join the 2 datasets. We reduced the size to only years 2021 and 2022 which still leaves about 250K rows and 68 columns. We used Knime (ETL software) to help do this join and ensure it was properly achieved. The output of the Knime workflow is our starting point for the python code section. Here is the workflow using KNIME ETL software:

Knime workflow takes in both car crashes file and people related to those crashes and join them using the crash id common attribute. We then filter redundant columns due to the join and evaluate which columns not relevant and impute mean data for missing values for those remaining.



Fig. 1. Chicago Dataset Prep

Data had very few problems with missing data but we removed as necessary or added average values as needed. We separated the dataset into two parts, categorical and numerical. Performed Hot Encoding on the categorical and scaling on the numberical (0,1), then combined them back together as one file. New Shape of the file is now 248K by 111 columns with hot encoding. We created another dataset for k-prototypes which has 31 columns based on what attributes we deemed valuable. Pie charts were useful in this particular dataset since most attributes are categorical. Many Attributes had too many categories that added more complexity so therefore we re-classify those less than 1 percent into one group called remainder to help reduce the number of hot columns needed.

Below is the list of columns we are working with in the dataset. Some have been removed since they will not contribute to the model performance.

Fig. 2. Chicago Dataset

EDA

Here we show a sampling of some of the attributes classes for the categorical data and numerical. There are many columns so we will just show a sample of some. You can see more in the code readout. More than half of the Top Driver clasifications are not known which hinders our evaluation

Majority of crashes where in clear Weather



Fig. 3. Categorical Pie Charts (TOP Driver Reasons)

Top WEATHER_CONDITION

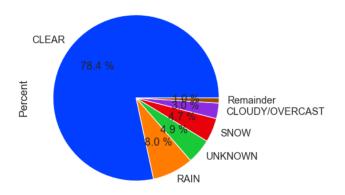
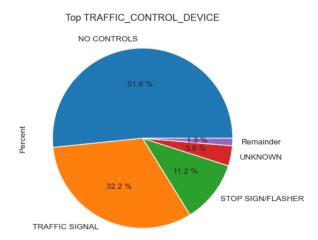


Fig. 4. Categorical Pie Charts (Sampling View)



Almost 50 percent of crashes had some control place like a stop sign or traffic light

Here are some of the numeric attributes we examined

Couple of callouts for the numerical data is that crashes overindex in the winter months and there is some difference among which of the week seems to matter as well. Age shows

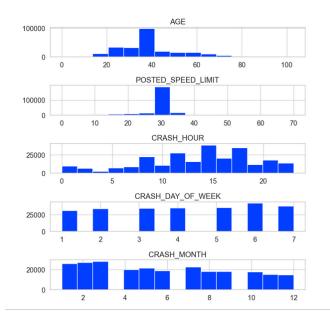


Fig. 6. Numeric Histograms (Sampling View)

a signficant amount around 39 years old, this seems like a possible data issue but in general the lower the age more likely to have car crash. Also, the Crash hour chart shows a peak around dinner time which seems like an expected result.

B. Machine Learning Algorithms

Our data is raw and has no classification or specific purpose so it lends itself to utilize unsupervised data techniques. We explored K-modes, kmeans, GMM, kprototype and DBSCAN and will investigate other possible methods to find insights. kprototype is our best hope so far to get good results since it handles both categorical and numeric attributes. Kmodes can only handle category and kmeans does numerical. We noticed Kprototype takes a very long time to process the model. Elbow curve took over 24 hours. Since we have a large dataset, training and other tasks take a good length of time for all model types. We created elbow curves for most of these technique. We'll discuss more in our solution section for each algorithm mentioned

We did some Chi Testing on the attributes to find any that were not relevate but all picked were significant. We utilized pspark to use groupby by clusters by percent of occurence to see what patterns emerge. We then exported this view to an excel so we can do further analysis to create a heatmap. We'll look at both the numberical and categorical and for our best solution we describe what each cluster overindexes on compared to the others

C. Implementation Details and Comparison

In this section we'll discuss the results of each method and show more in detail the best solution results. The table below shows a summary of the different clustering algorithms.

Table above illustrates how each cluster method can be applied. DBSCAN didn't seem suited for this dataset and it

	variable	chi2_test_stat	p_value	dof
34	INJURIES_UNKNOWN	0.000000e+00	1.000000e+00	0
41	PERSON_ID	1.243115e+06	4.985663e-01	1243110
67	BAC_RESULT VALUE	5.929951e+02	2.216402e-39	205
45	VEHICLE_ID	1.219355e+06	1.280826e-45	1197360
36	CRASH_DAY_OF_WEEK	8.620735e+02	5.757343e-162	30
30	INJURIES_INCAPACITATING	1.071638e+04	0.000000e+00	30
31	INJURIES_NON_INCAPACITATING	5.991988e+04	0.000000e+00	55
32	INJURIES_REPORTED_NOT_EVIDENT	2.847958e+04	0.000000e+00	40
33	INJURIES_NO_INDICATION	4.908476e+04	0.000000e+00	135
68	Cluster	1.243115e+06	0.000000e+00	25

Fig. 7. Chi Square Testing View

Team 2 Model Summary					
Method	Application	Model Training Speed	Cluster Volumes	Error	Results/Notes
kmodes	Categorical	7.5 minutes	1) 32.1% 2) 30.4% 3) 23.4% 4) 14%	1375000	kmodesand kPrototypes were similar in categorization but kmode had higher error
kmeans	Numerical	1.8 seconds	1) 25% 2) 25% 3) 25% 4) 25%	1 x10^15	equal distribution but can only be used for numerical
GMM	Both	5 seconds	1) 58% 2) 28.2% 3) 11.8% 4) 1.7%	AIC=-1.33x10^7	One cluster dominated in the distribution, results were not as good as KP
DBSCAN	Numerical	5.5 seconds	1) 70.3% 2) 17.5% 3) 6.3% 4) 6%		One cluster dominated in the distrubution and results didn't look reasonable
Kprototype	Both	51 minutes	1) 28.4% 2) 27.4% 3) 23.5% 4) 20.6%	128000	Best of All, Reasonable results but took much longer to train

Fig. 8. Model Summary

was very difficult to work with in terms of tuning parameters like EPS and Min samples. Doesn't seem to scale well with all this data. Kmodes and KPrototype we fairly close but KP had less error with both numberical and categorical combined to the only categorical of the kmodes.

Kmodes

Kmodes is designed for categorical data only and it a can take the data without hot encoding. K-modes was successful and did a good job of clustering but you have to take out the numerical data and run that on kmeans. Therefore it becomes a 2 step process. The cluster allocation is similar to K-prototype and its error was also one of the lowest in term of SSE.

The elbow chart indicates that 3-4 clusters should be adequate

Dark Green represent more allocation vs darkred. Percent volume of each cluster is reasonable between 20-30 percent.

Kmeans

Kmeans above in the chart reflects the numerical data only, you can try to run the categorical data with hot encoding but it accuracy or ability to cluster diminishes.

Here is the numerical cluster view, We used mean and count to assess the numerical data

The numerical results were disapointing in that the shared volume across the clusters is similar for larger allocations but there are some minor differences between for the smaller insignificant occurences. Below we show an example for

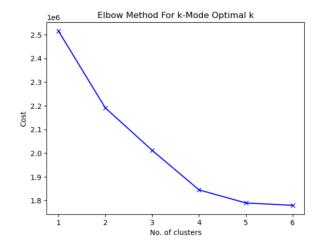


Fig. 9. k-mode

Sum of perc_of_count_total	Column La 🕆			
Row Labels		1	2	3
ALIGNMENT	31.9268	13.95	30.3	23.27
Remainder	0.258	0.118	0.2292	0.4012
STRAIGHT AND LEVEL	31.2832	13.5764	29.6732	22.4868
STRAIGHT ON GRADE	0.3856	0.2544	0.4008	0.3824
CRASH_TYPE	31.9268	13.95	30.3	23.27
INJURY AND FOR TOVIDUE TO CRASH	7.984	11.6444	2.982	9.1376
NO INJURY / DRIVE AWAY	23.9428	2.3044	27.3212	14.1328
DAMAGE	31.9268	13.95	30.3	23.27
\$500 OR LESS	2.732	1.0352	3.1548	2.1832
\$501 - \$1,500	5.214	1.3432	14.7724	2.4812
OVER \$1,500	23,9808	11.5704	12.376	18.606
DEVICE_CONDITION	31.9268	13.95	30.3	23.27
FUNCTIONING PROPERLY	24.2948	11.1012	3.0936	0.5492
NO CONTROLS	4.3516	1.6516	24.9776	21.536
Remainder	0.5676	0.3644	0.3508	0.206
UNKNOVN	2.7128	0.8316	1.8812	0.9792
FIRST_CRASH_TYPE	31.9268	13.95	30.3	23.27
ANGLE	3.24	6.1028	2.932	1.14
FIXED OBJECT	0.4016	0.4124	0.454	1.8216
HEAD ON	0.314	0.1876	0.2484	0.3488
PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE	0.5156	0.2144	2.8892	10.8832
PEDALCYCLIST	0.3612	0.4272	0.2928	0.34
PEDESTRIAN	0.4384	1.016	0.2604	0.6916
REAR END	9.3888	2.0904	11.1424	2.0952
REAR TO FRONT	0.5044	0.0536	0.8868	0.254
Remainder	0.338	0.1616	1.0448	0.6572
SIDESVIPE OPPOSITE DIRECTION	0.4224	0.096	0.7184	0.4076
SIDESVIPE SAME DIRECTION	5.7504	0.7216	6.9592	2.9696
TURNING	10.252	2.4652	2.4748	1,6616

Fig. 10. Kmode Cluster Allocation (Partial View)

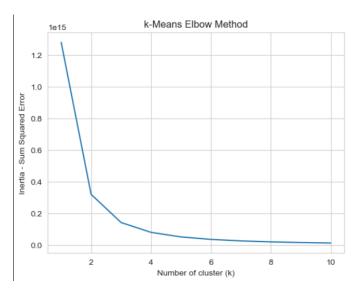


Fig. 11. kmeans

Posted Speed limit allocation for kmeans, you see very little distinction among the clusters.

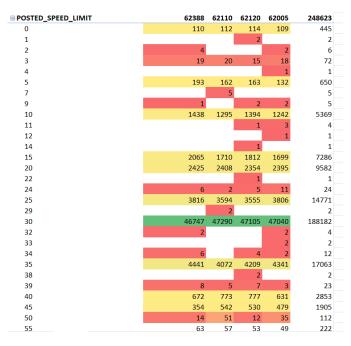


Fig. 12. kmeanexample for Posted Speed Limit

GMM

We used both numeric scaling and hot encoding here but we think that GMM is suited better with only numerical data. Here the cluster allocation was skewed towards one cluster that has the majority of volume. This was not our ideal solution. Here below is partial view of the cluster allocation. The first cluster is dominate in size with over 69 percent of the population.

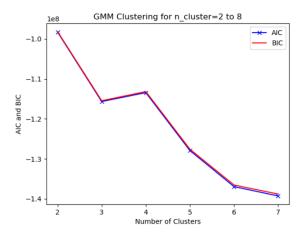


Fig. 13. GMM Elbow

The AIC and BIC are similar for all cluster values checked

DBSCAN

DBSCAN was very sensitive to the amount of data and columns. Only numerical data was used here and finding the EPS and min sample values was a challenge, Had to iterate through 50 different EPS values to find a sweet spot. By

Sum of perc_of_count_total		Column 💌			
Row Labels	¥	0	1	2	
■ ALIGNMENT		69.9264	6.234	5.924	17.364
Remainder		0.706	0.0756	0.0628	0.16
STRAIGHT AND LEVEL		68.2392	6.086	5.7756	16.918
STRAIGHT ON GRADE		0.9812	0.0724	0.0856	0.28
☐ CRASH_TYPE		69.9264	6.234	5.924	17.36
INJURY AND / OR TOW DUE TO CRASH		22.4772	2.044	1.9196	5.30
NO INJURY / DRIVE AWAY		47.4492	4.19	4.0044	12.05
■ DAMAGE		69.9264	6.234	5.924	17.36
\$500 OR LESS		6.5468	0.5324	0.5108	1.51
\$501 - \$1,500		16.9176	1.4428	1.398	4.05
OVER \$1,500		46.462	4.2588	4.0152	11.79
DEVICE_CONDITION		69.9264	6.234	5.924	17.36
FUNCTIONING PROPERLY		27.3164	2.5424	2.4064	6.77
NO CONTROLS		37.2568	3.1744	3.0032	9.08
Remainder		1.0532	0.0904	0.0928	0.25
UNKNOWN		4.3	0.4268	0.4216	1.25
∃ FIRST_CRASH_TYPE		69.9264	6.234	5.924	17.36
ANGLE		9.3232	0.922	0.8264	2.34
FIXED OBJECT		2.1652	0.2068	0.196	0.52
HEAD ON		0.778	0.0688	0.0624	0.18
PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE		10.5436	0.8124	0.7348	2.41
PEDALCYCLIST		1.128	0.0748	0.0528	0.16
PEDESTRIAN		1.6504	0.1652	0.1904	0.40
REAR END		17.298	1.5396	1.4956	4.38
REAR TO FRONT		1.182	0.108	0.104	0.30
Remainder		1.5448	0.146	0.12	0.39
SIDESWIPE OPPOSITE DIRECTION		1.1624	0.108	0.0856	0.28
SIDESWIPE SAME DIRECTION		11.4648	1.0072	1.0308	2.8
TURNING		11.686	1.0752	1.0252	3.06

Fig. 14. GMM Cluster Results

changing EPS by only 0.01 increments at that sweet spot changed clusters size and number of cluster significantly.

The best EPS value was 28

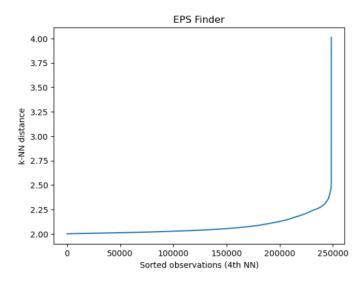


Fig. 15. DBSCAN EPS Finder

We ran category data as well and found it very sensitive to the size of data and number of columns, could not run with the required column size. Had to reduce the size of the file to get the results below (Show partial view):

The results were not optimal and we saw again high allocation to one cluster. The -1 or noise cluster had most of the volume, I spent a consider amount of time to get this result, very sensitive to parameter settings. We don't think DBSCAN was useful in this application.

K-prototype

K-Prototype was our best solution in that we can use all the data and train at the same time. This took significantly longer to train as you can see compared to others in the Comparison table. The volume allocation was similar to

Sum of perc_of_count_total		Column Labels 🔻			
Row Labels	-	-1	0	1	2
■ ALIGNMENT		21.3076	18.4684	0.142	0.082
Remainder		0.3608	0.0396		
STRAIGHT AND LEVEL		20.4712	18.3384	0.142	0.082
STRAIGHT ON GRADE		0.4756	0.0904		
∃ CRASH_TYPE		21.3076	18.4684	0.142	0.082
INJURY AND / OR TOW DUE TO CRASH		7.092	5.6008	0.002	8E-04
NO INJURY / DRIVE AWAY		14.2156	12.8676	0.141	0.081
DAMAGE		21.3076	18.4684	0.142	0.082
\$500 OR LESS		2.7968	0.9624	0.002	
\$501 - \$1,500		5.6228	4.114	0.024	0.004
OVER \$1,500		12.888	13.392	0.116	0.077
DEVICE_CONDITION		21.3076	18.4684	0.142	0.08
FUNCTIONING PROPERLY		9.1664	6.3196	4E-04	
NO CONTROLS		9.4284	12.0088	0.141	
Remainder		0.5308	0.0696		
UNKNOWN		2.182	0.0704	8E-04	0.08
FIRST_CRASH_TYPE		21.3076	18.4684	0.142	0.08
ANGLE		2.972	2.266		0.00
FIXED OBJECT		0.9584	0.3368		4E-0
HEAD ON		0.34	0.1392		
PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE		2.618	3.5136	0.138	0.00
PEDALCYCLIST		0.4468	0.1092		
PEDESTRIAN		0.7644	0.1216		
REAR END		4.5964	5.2964		0.043
REAR TO FRONT		0.5656	0.1424	8E-04	0.00
Remainder		0.6656	0.2484		4E-0
SIDESWIPE OPPOSITE DIRECTION		0.4608	0.2452	0.001	8E-0
SIDESWIPE SAME DIRECTION		3.1868	3.2452	0.003	0.02

Fig. 16. DBSCAN Cluster Result

kmodes. So we can use kmeans for numerical and kmodes for categorical and combine them but KP does it together. We'll use KP to explain the main difference we see in the 4 clusters we trained on. We did not here of this type of clustering method and we'll use in the future.

linebreak

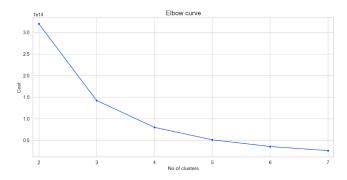


Fig. 17. k-prototype

Cluster-Characteristics

Below is a partial view of the KP Heatmap for the 4 clusters

Key Cluster Finding

Cluster 1 -In general 1 has the lowest occurance of crash attributes -lowest occurance of any crash damage level -Volume is lowest -unlikely for Hit and run cases -first 1-3 day of week occurance

Cluster 2 -In general 2 has the second lowest occurance of crash attributes -Likely to see Parked Vehicle Crash -likely Hit and Run -overindex on Sex X -overindex on Sex F -first 1-3 day of week occurance

Cluster 3 -Overindex on Crash Injury -Overindex turning related crash type -Overindex on Interection related crash

Sum of perc_of_count_total		ın Labels 💌							
Row Labels	w	0	1	2		Grand Total			
BALIGNMENT		17.1056	26.1112	25.3148	30.9176	99.4492	min	max	major change
Remainder		0.212	0.1844	0.2132	0.3968	1.0064			0.388354
STRAIGHT AND LEVEL		16.6004	25.6088	24.6852	30.1252	97.0196		4	0.232093
STRAIGHT ON GRADE		0.2932	0.318	0.4164	0.3956	1.4232		3	0.167097
□ CRASH_TYPE		17.1056	26.1112	25.3148	30.9176	99.4492		4	0.230585
INJURY AND / OR TOW DUE TO CRASH		5.0084	4.3912	16.3424	6.006	31.748			0.710969 xx
NO INJURY / DRIVE AWAY		12.0972	21.72	8.9724	24.9116	67.7012		4	0.449096
□ DAMAGE		17.1056	26.1112	25.3148	30.9176	99.4492	1	4	0.230585
\$500 OR LESS		1.86	2.4584	1.8864	2.9004	9.1052	1	4	0.21936
\$501 - \$1,500		4.25	7.0856	3.7328	8.7424	23.8108	3	4	0.398638
OVER \$1,500		10.9956	16.5672	19.6956	19.2748	66.5332	1	3	0.24084
■ DEVICE_CONDITION		17.1056	26.1112	25.3148	30.9176	99.4492	1	4	0.230585
FUNCTIONING PROPERLY		5.496	5.0384	21.6872	6.8172	39.0388	2	3	0.818401 xx
NO CONTROLS		10.3228	18.8628	1.8648	21.4664	52.5168	3	4	0.677187 xx
Remainder		0.2916	0.3168	0.4916	0.3888	1.4888	1	3	0.240796
UNKNOWN		0.9952	1.8932	1.2712	2.2452	6.4048	1	4	0.356245
⊟FIRST CRASH TYPE		17.1056	26.1112	25.3148	30.9176	99.4492	1	4	0.230585
ANGLE		2.054	2.2632	6.3104	2.7872	13.4148	1	3	0.594899 xx
FIXED OBJECT		0.6588	0.666	0.5636	1.2012	3.0896	3	4	0.375001
HEAD ON		0.1988	0.266	0.316	0.318	1.0988	1	4	0.203957
PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE		1.5084	10.1572	0.3744	2.4624	14.5024	3	2	1.223868 xx
PEDALCYCLIST		0.2192	0.1828	0.6348	0.3844	1.4212	2	3	0.579652
PEDESTRIAN		0.4892	0.4324	1.1116	0.3732	2,4064	4	3	0.570616
REAR END		5.0976	3.3412	4.2936	11.9844	24.7168	2	4	0.637001
REAR TO FRONT		0.3344	0.4976	0.1596	0.7072	1.6988	3	4	0.549776
Remainder		0.538	0.5256	0.244	0.894	2.2016	3	4	0.483789
SIDESWIPE OPPOSITE DIRECTION		0.344	0.5164	0.2248	0.5592	1.6444	3	4	0.377447
SIDESWIPE SAME DIRECTION		3,1616	4.9012	2,3192	6.0188	16,4008	3	4	0.407513
TURNING		2,5016	2,3616	8,7628	3,2276	16,8536	2	3	0.725445 xx
⊟HIT AND RUN I		17.1056	26.1112	25,3148	30,9176	99,4492	1	4	0.230585
N		0.1872	0.4448	0.3756	0.3824	1.39	1	2	0.320322
none		14.7576	6.5256	19.2136	26.7872	67.284			0.503631
Y		2.1608	19.1408	5.7256	3.748	30.7752			1.009827 xx
BINTERSECTION RELATED I		17,1056	26.1112	25,3148	30,9176	99,4492			0.230585
N		0,2192	0.2308	0.4376	0,3072	1.1948			0.336432
none		13,5644	23.7784	6.3476	28.1152	71.8056			0.548782
Y		3.322	2.102	18.5296	2.4952	26,4488			1.204015 xx

Fig. 18. Example of Cluster Heatmap for Categorical Attributes

-Overindex incapaciting injury -Overindex disregarding traffic signals -Overindex device condition functioning properly -Overindex disregarding stop sign -Overindex likely to report on scene -likely to occur in the first 6 months of years

Cluster 4 -Volume is highest -Overindex Parked Motor Vehicle -Overindex on no injury -Overindex no control for device condition (non traffic light) -Overindex to be rear ended -Overindex for follow to closely crash type -Overindex for months 7-12

IV. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

There are Deep Learning techniques that we noticed when we researching other methods but we needed more time to actually purue it. One deep learning application was Unsupervised Deep Embedding for Clustering (DEC). There a need to better evaluate cluster information in terms of what is the cluster characteristics. A automated evaluation would be useful, we ued percent allocation as a meausure but what other methods could be standardized. There another method for mixed data called Squeezer which can be used with mixed data but has little documentaion. Deep learning techniques utilaing autoencoders can be examined.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We'll add our conclusions at the final report

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