

DS4B 101-R: R FOR BUSINESS ANALYSIS —

K-Means Clustering & Dimensionality Reduction

K-Means Clustering Concept

- Step1: Select the number of clusters you want to identify in your data. This is the “K” in “K-means clustering”
 - Elbow point: select the optimal number of “K” group
- Step2: Randomly select 3 distinct data points
 - The initial clusters
- Step3: Measure the distance between the 1st point and the three initial clusters
- Step4: Assign the first point to the nearest cluster
- Step5: Calculate the mean of each cluster
- Step6: Repeat (measure distances between new data to continuously adjusting new means of initial clusters)

We can assess the quality of the clustering by adding up the **variation within each cluster**.

Since k-means clustering can’t “see” the best clustering, its only option is to keep track of these clusters, and their variance, and do the whole thing over again with **different starting points**.

- How? - reclusters based on the new means. It repeats until the clusters no longer change.

At this point, K-means clustering knows that the 2nd clustering is the best clustering so far. But it does not know if it is the best overall, so it will do a few more clusters (it does as many times as you tell it to do) and then come back and return that one if it is still the best.

K optimal: elbow point

- Plot the reduction in variance per value for K
 - $x = \text{Number of clusters}(K)$, $y = \text{Reduction in Variation / or Variation}$
- if the ideal $K = 3$. Huge reduction in variation with $K = 3$ will be seen, but after that, the variation does not go down as quickly.
- This is called an “elbow plot” and you can pick optimal “K”, by finding the “elbow” in the plot

Hierarchical Clustering

- Hierarchical clustering often associated with heatmaps!! very important
 - why? it organises heat map based on their similarities, hence the correlation visualise much more effectively.
 - heat maps: the columns represent different samples, the rows represent measurements from different genes.
 - Hierarchical clustering orders the row and/or the columns based on similarity.
 - This makes it easy to see correlations in the data
 - Hierarchical clustering is usually accompanied by a “dendrogram”
 - It indicates both the similarity and the order that the clusters were formed.

Similarity - How do we define...

- the method for determining similarity is arbitrarily chosen. However, the Euclidean distance between genes is used a lot. Most cases, Euclidean distance is default.
- Choice of distance matrix is arbitrary... There is no scientific reason to choose one and not the other.
- Pick the one that gives you more insight your data.

Ways to compare clusters

- The average of each cluster (called **centroid**)
- The closest point in each cluster (called **single-linkage**)
- The furthest point in each cluster (called **complete-linkage**)
- If use R, default setting complete-linkage is the default setting for the `hclust()` function