Hierarchical clustering

Prof. G. Panda

IIT Bhubaneswar

Outline

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Introduction

Hierarchical Clustering Approach

- A typical clustering analysis approach via partitioning data set sequentially
- Construct nested partitions layer by layer via grouping objects into a tree of clusters (without the need to know the number of clusters in advance)
- Use (generalised) distance matrix as clustering criteria

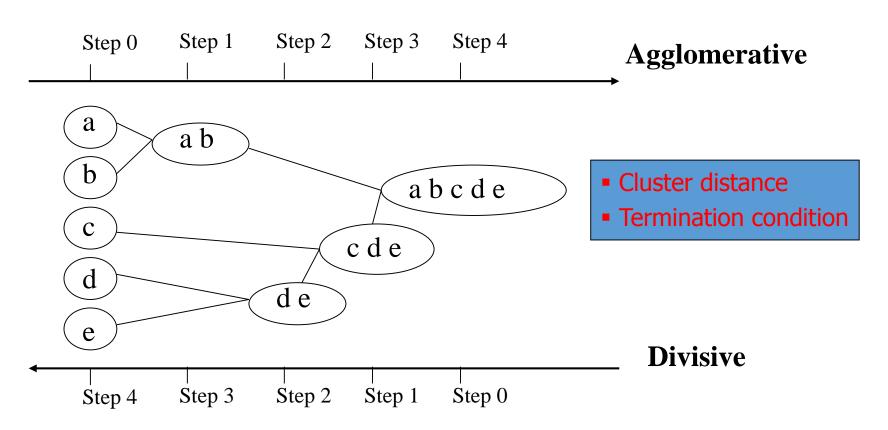
Agglomerative vs. Divisive

- Two sequential clustering strategies for constructing a tree of clusters
- Agglomerative: a bottom-up strategy
 - Initially each data object is in its own (atomic) cluster
 - Then merge these atomic clusters into larger and larger clusters
- Divisive: a top-down strategy
 - Initially all objects are in one single cluster
 - Then the cluster is subdivided into smaller and smaller clusters

Introduction

Illustrative Example

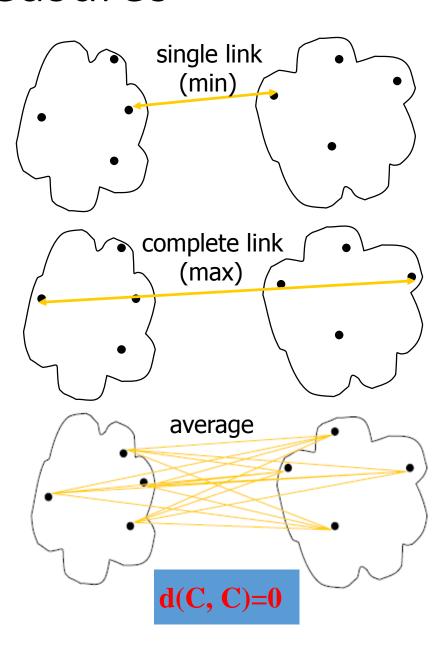
Agglomerative and divisive clustering on the data set {a, b, c, d, e }



Cluster Distance Measures

- Single link: smallest distance between an element in one cluster and an element in the other, i.e., d(C_i, C_i) = min{d(x_{ip}, x_{iq})}
- Complete link: largest distance between an element in one cluster and an element in the other, i.e., d(C_i, C_i) = max{d(x_{ip}, x_{iq})}
- Average: avg distance between elements in one cluster and elements in the other, i.e.,

$$d(C_i, C_j) = avg\{d(x_{ip}, x_{jq})\}$$



Cluster Distance Measures

Example: Given a data set of five objects characterised by a single continuous feature, assume that there are two clusters: C1: {a, b} and C2: {c, d, e}.

	a	b	С	d	е
Feature	1	2	4	5	6

- 1. Calculate the distance matrix.
- 4 b 0 2 0 1 C d 3 4 2 1 e
- 2. Calculate three cluster distances between C₁ and C₂.

Single link

$$dist(C_1, C_2) = min\{d(a,c), d(a,d), d(a,e), d(b,c), d(b,d), d(b,e)\}$$
$$= min\{3, 4, 5, 2, 3, 4\} = 2$$

Complete link

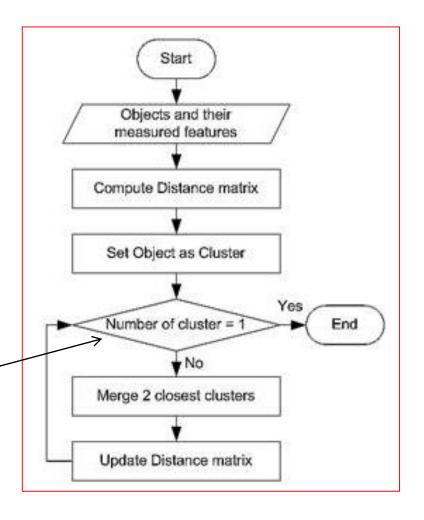
$$dist(C_1, C_2) = max\{d(a,c), d(a,d), d(a,e), d(b,c), d(b,d), d(b,e)\}$$
$$= max\{3, 4, 5, 2, 3, 4\} = 5$$

Average

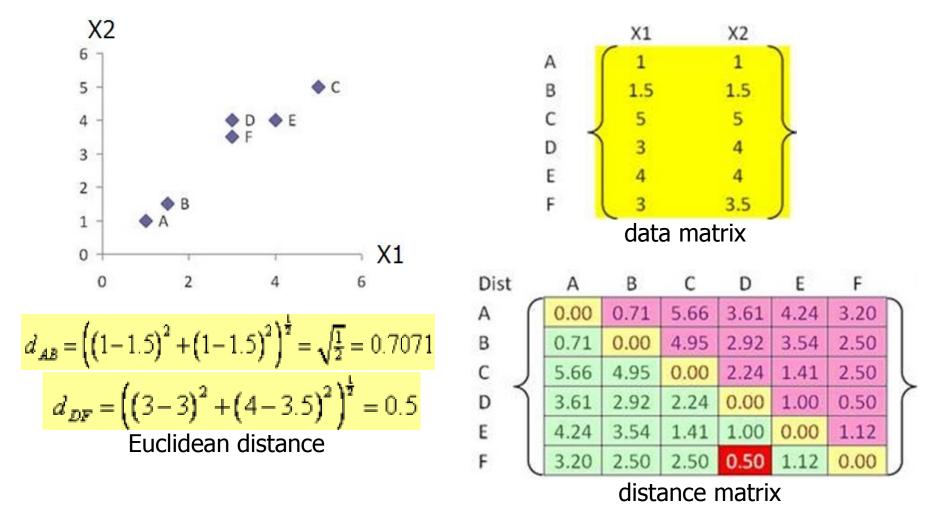
$$dist(C_1, C_2) = \frac{d(a,c) + d(a,d) + d(a,e) + d(b,c) + d(b,d) + d(b,e)}{6}$$
$$= \frac{3 + 4 + 5 + 2 + 3 + 4}{6} = \frac{21}{6} = 3.5$$

Agglomerative Algorithm

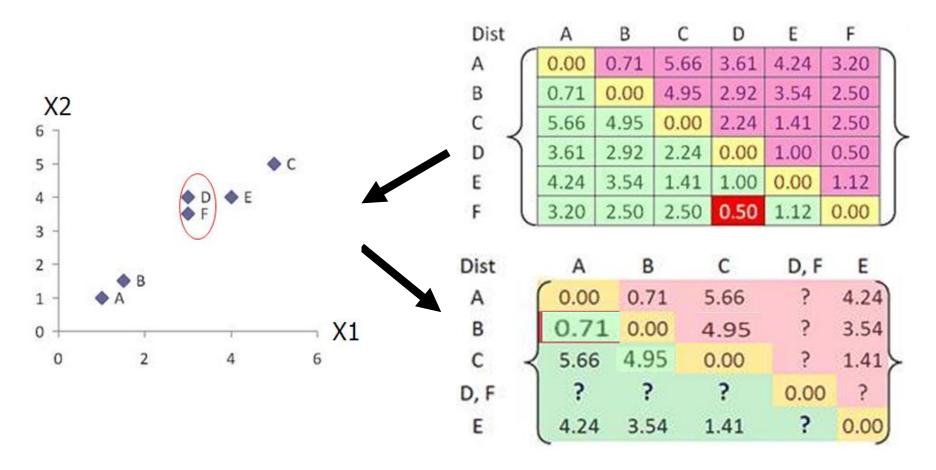
- The Agglomerative algorithm is carried out in three steps:
 - 1) Convert all object features into a distance matrix
 - 2) Set each object as a cluster (thus if we have Nobjects, we will have N clusters at the beginning)
 - 3) Repeat until number of cluster is one (or known # of clusters)
 - Merge two closest clusters
 - Update "distance matrix"



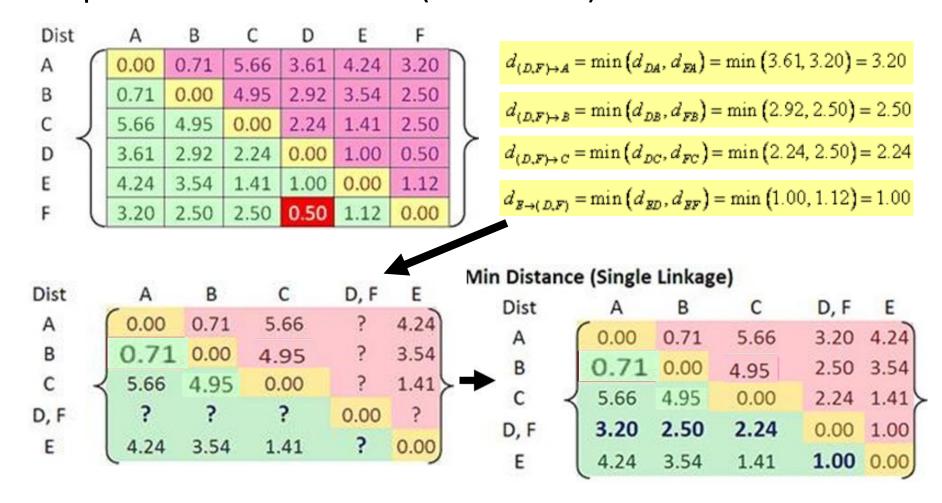
Problem: clustering analysis with agglomerative algorithm



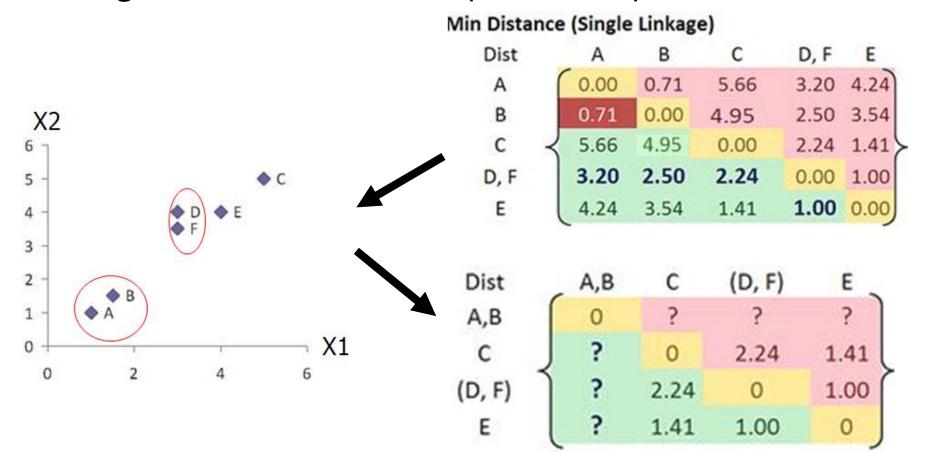
Merge two closest clusters (iteration 1)



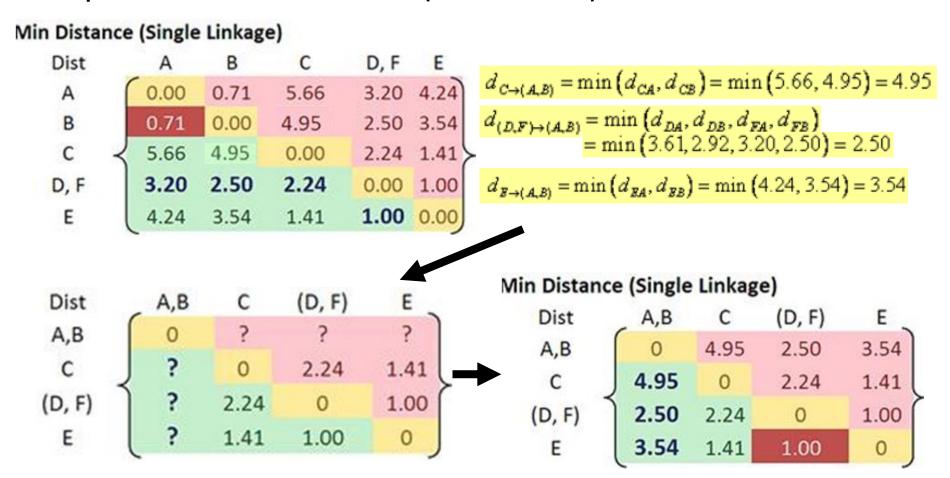
Update distance matrix (iteration 1)



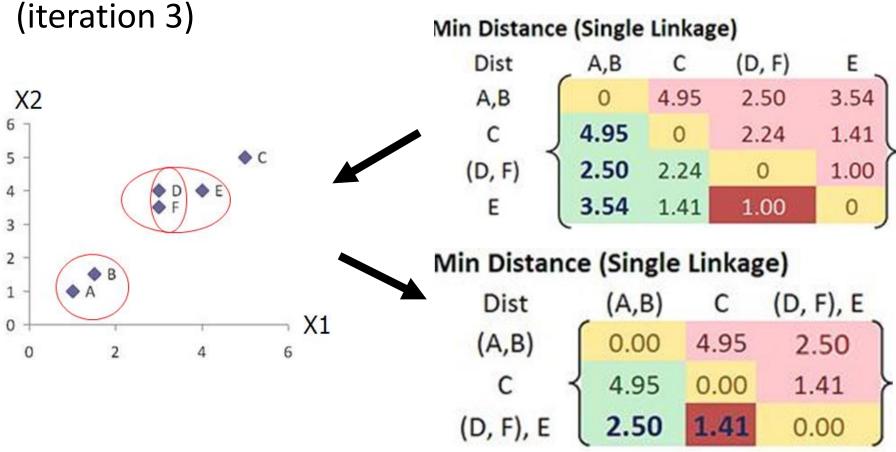
Merge two closest clusters (iteration 2)



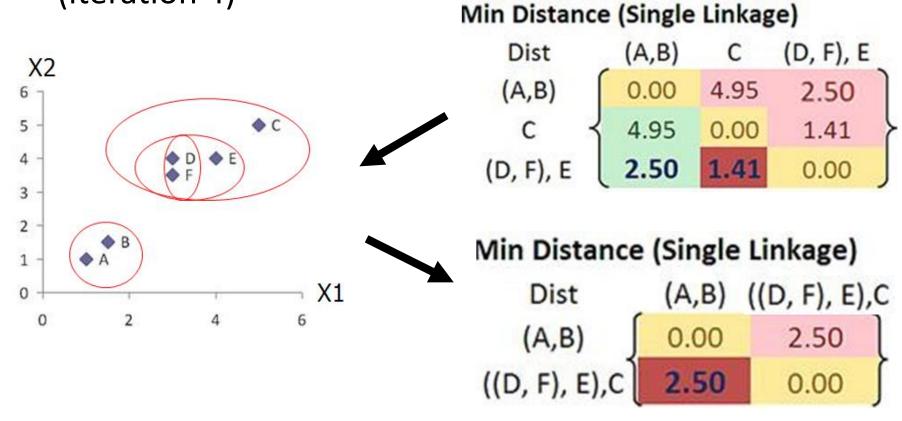
Update distance matrix (iteration 2)



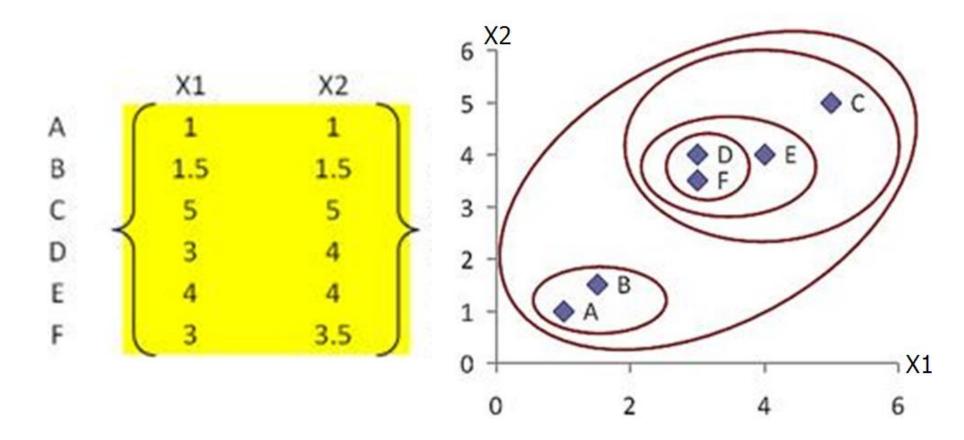
Merge two closest clusters/update distance matrix



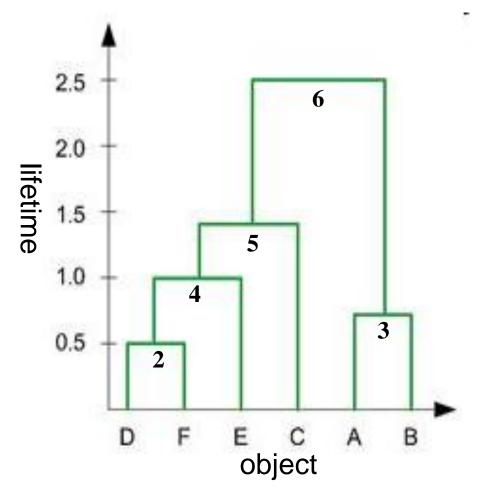
 Merge two closest clusters/update distance matrix (iteration 4)



Final result (meeting termination condition)



Dendrogram tree representation



- 1. In the beginning we have 6 clusters: A, B, C, D, E and F
- 2. We merge clusters D and F into cluster (D, F) at distance 0.50
- 3. We merge cluster A and cluster B into (A, B) at distance 0.71
- 4. We merge clusters E and (D, F) into ((D, F), E) at distance 1.00
- 5. We merge clusters ((D, F), E) and C into (((D, F), E), C) at distance 1.41
- 6. We merge clusters (((D, F), E), C) and (A, B) into ((((D, F), E), C), (A, B)) at distance 2.50
- 7. The last cluster contain all the objects, thus conclude the computation

Thank you