Distance on Numeric Data: Minkowski Distance

Data Matrix and Dissimilarity Matrix

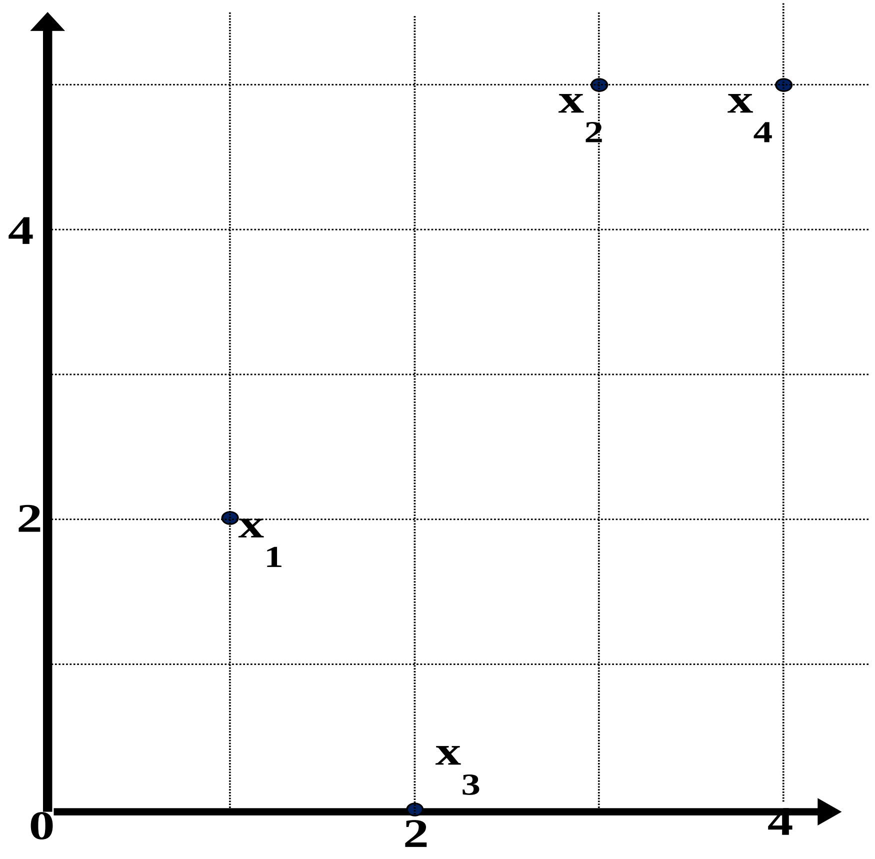
- Data matrix
  - A data matrix of n data points with *l* dimensions

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \ldots & x_{1l} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \ldots & x_{2l} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{n2} & \ldots & x_{nl} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Dissimilarity (distance) matrix
  - n data points, but registers only the distance *d*(*i, j*) (typically metric)
  - Usually symmetric, thus a triangular matrix
  - Distance functions are usually different for real, boolean, categorical, ordinal, ratio, and vector variables
  - Weights can be associated with different variables based on applications and data semantics

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ d(2,1) & 0 & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \\ d(n,1) & d(n,2) & \ldots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: Data Matrix and Dissimilarity Matrix



Data Matrix

point	attribute1	attribute2
x1	1	2
x2	3	5
x3	2	0
x4	4	5

Dissimilarity Matrix (by Euclidean Distance)

	x1	*x2*	*x3*	*x4*
x1	0			
x2	3.61	0		
x3	2.24	5.1	0	
x4	4.24	1	5.39	0

Distance on Numeric Data: Minkowski Distance

- Minkowski distance: A popular distance measure

$$d(i, j) = \sqrt[p]{|x_{i1} - x_{j1}|^p + |x_{i2} - x_{j2}|^p + \cdots + |x_{il} - x_{jl}|^p}$$

where $i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \ldots, x_{il})$ and $j = (x_{j1}, x_{j2}, \ldots, x_{jl})$ are two l-dimensional data objects, and p is the order (the distance so defined is also called L-p norm)

- Properties
  - d(i, j) > 0 if i ≠ j, and d(i, i) = 0 (Positivity)
  - d(i, j) = d(j, i) (Symmetry)
  - d(i, j) ≤ d(i, k) + d(k, j) (Triangle Inequality)
- A distance that satisfies these properties is a metric
- Note: There are nonmetric dissimilarities, e.g., set differences

Special Cases of Minkowski Distance

- p = 1: (L_1 norm) Manhattan (or city block) distance
  - E.g., the Hamming distance: the number of bits that are different between two binary vectors

$$d(i,j) = |x_{i1} - x_{j1}| + |x_{i2} - x_{j2}| + \cdots + |x_{il} - x_{jl}|$$

- p = 2: (L_2 norm) Euclidean distance

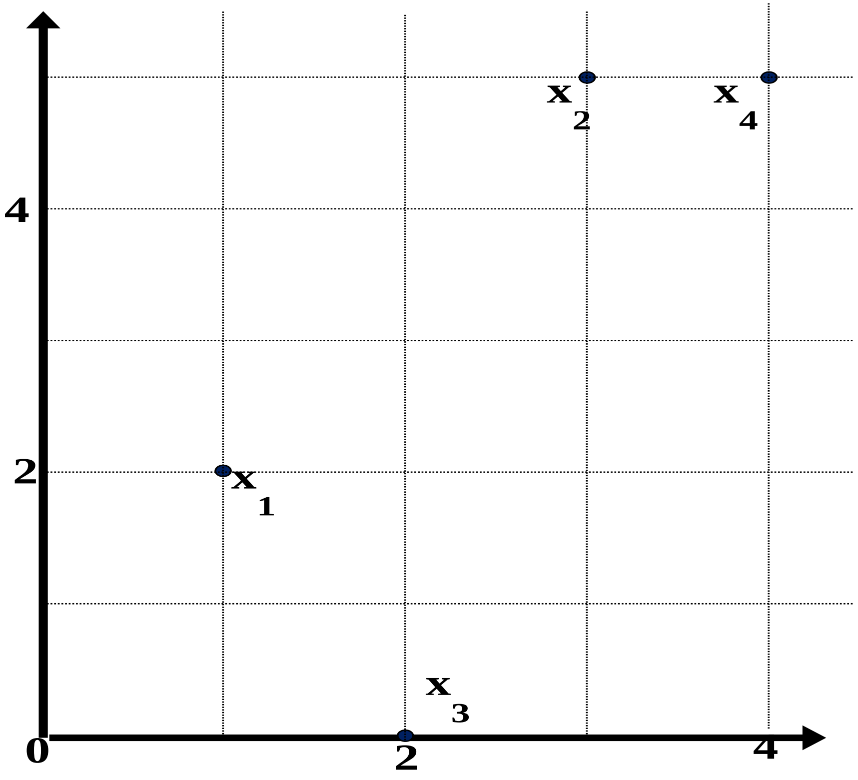
$$d(i,j) = \sqrt{|x_{i1} - x_{j1}|^2 + |x_{i2} - x_{j2}|^2 + \cdots + |x_{il} - x_{jl}|^2}$$

- $p \to \infty$: (L_{max} norm, L_∞ norm) "supremum" distance
  - The maximum difference between any component (attribute) of the vectors

$$d(i,j) = \lim_{p \to \infty} \sqrt[p]{|x_{i1} - x_{j1}|^p + |x_{i2} - x_{j2}|^p + \cdots + |x_{il} - x_{jl}|^p} = \max_{f=1}^{l} |x_{if} - x_{jf}|$$

Example: Minkowski Distance at Special Cases

point	attribute 1	attribute 2
x1	1	2
x2	3	5
x3	2	0
x4	4	5



Manhattan (L_1)

L	x1	x2	x3	x4
x1	0			
x2	5	0		
x3	3	6	0	
x4	6	1	7	0

Euclidean (L_2)

L2	x1	x2	x3	x4
x1	0			
x2	3.61	0		
x3	2.24	5.1	0	
x4	4.24	1	5.39	0

Supremum (L_∞)

L_∞	x1	x2	x3	x4
x1	0			
x2	3	0		
x3	2	5	0	
x4	3	1	5	0