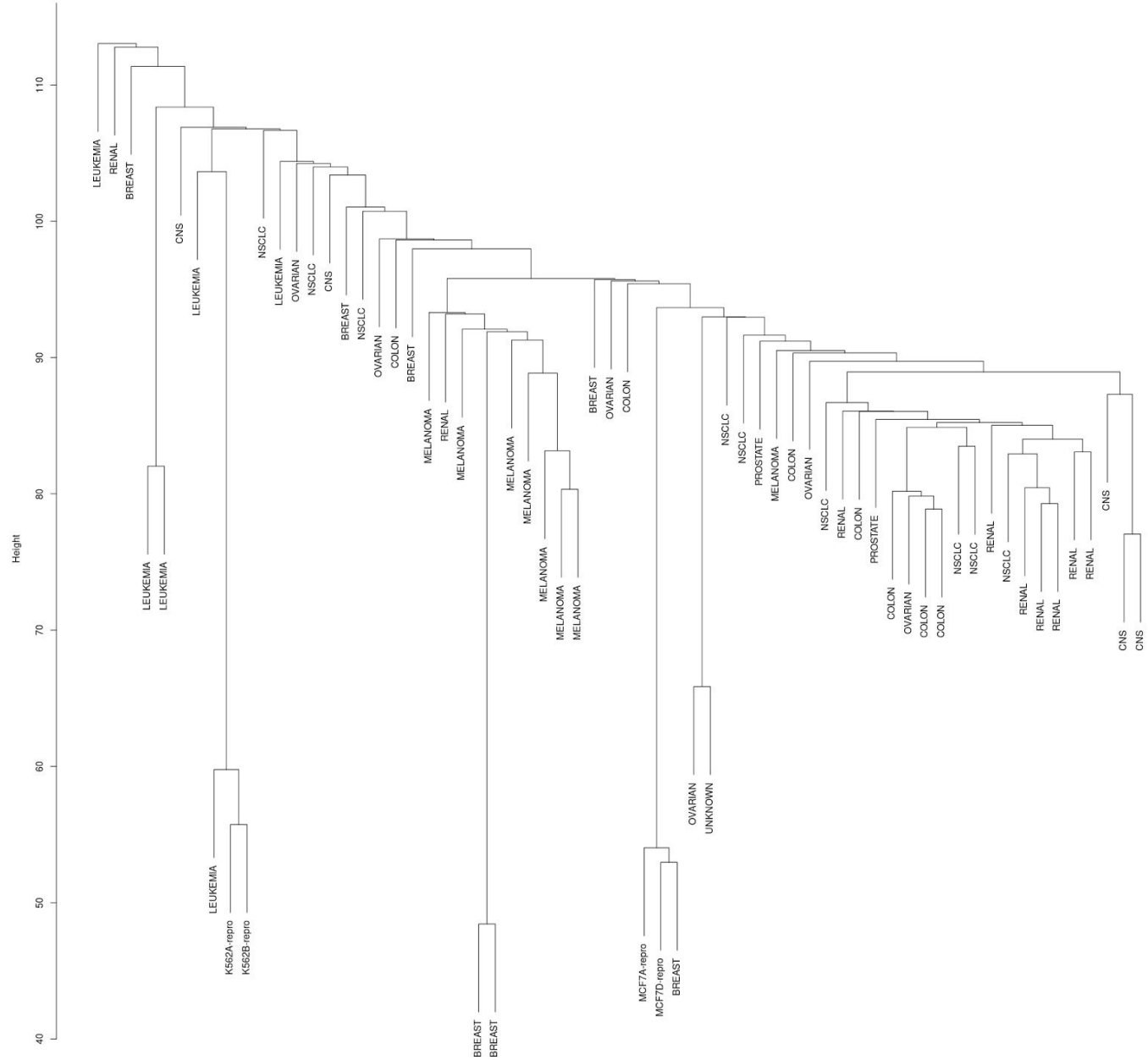


HAC IMPLEMENTATION

- We implemented HAC functions for 'average', 'single', 'complete' and 'centroid' linkage.
- Applied the function to the dataset and made a dendrogram for each linkage.
- Before applying HAC we have used feature scaling on the dataset as the algorithm involves use of euclidean distance thus scaling ensures more uniform effect of each feature in result.
- The obtained dendrograms are:
- Single Linkage

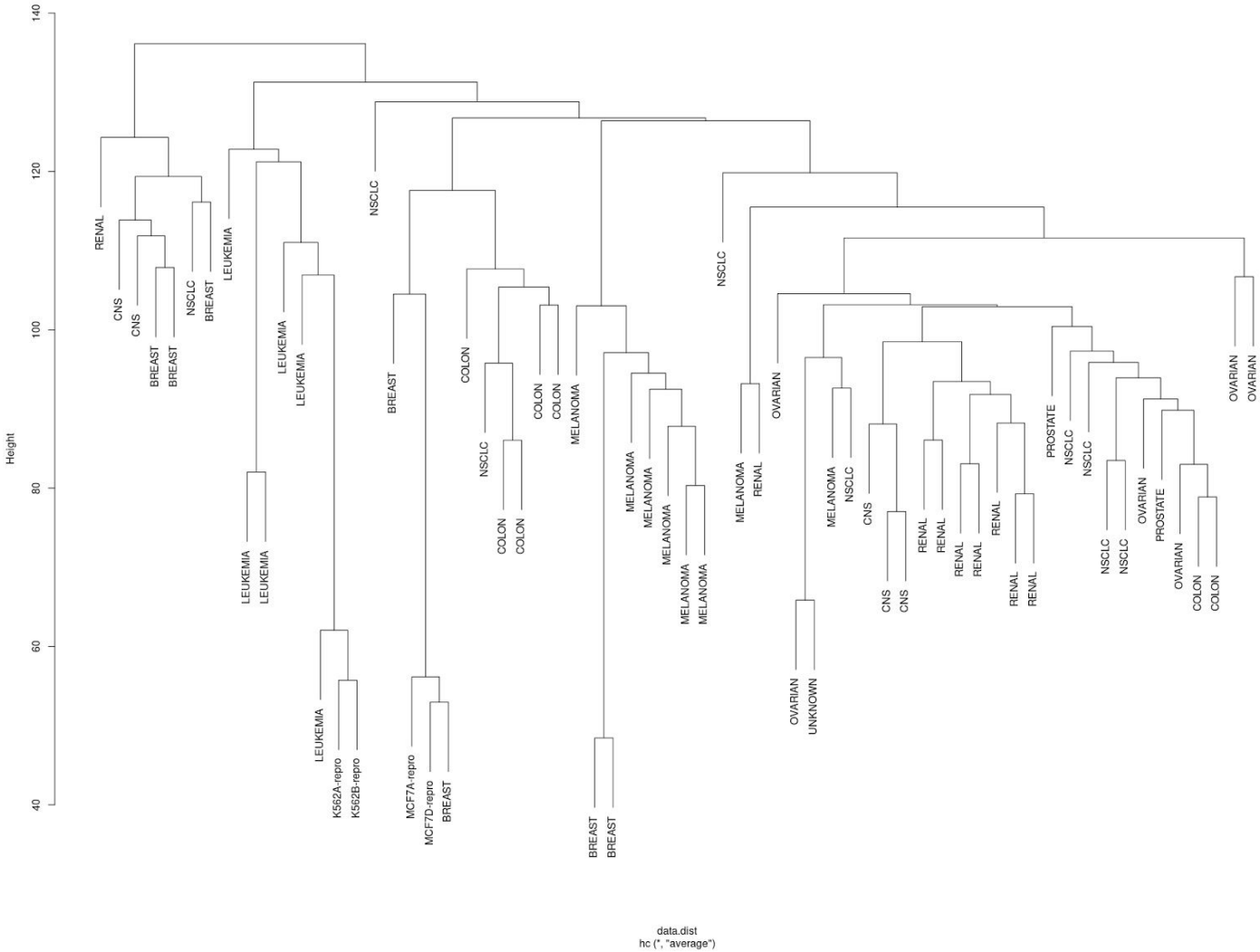
Cluster Dendrogram



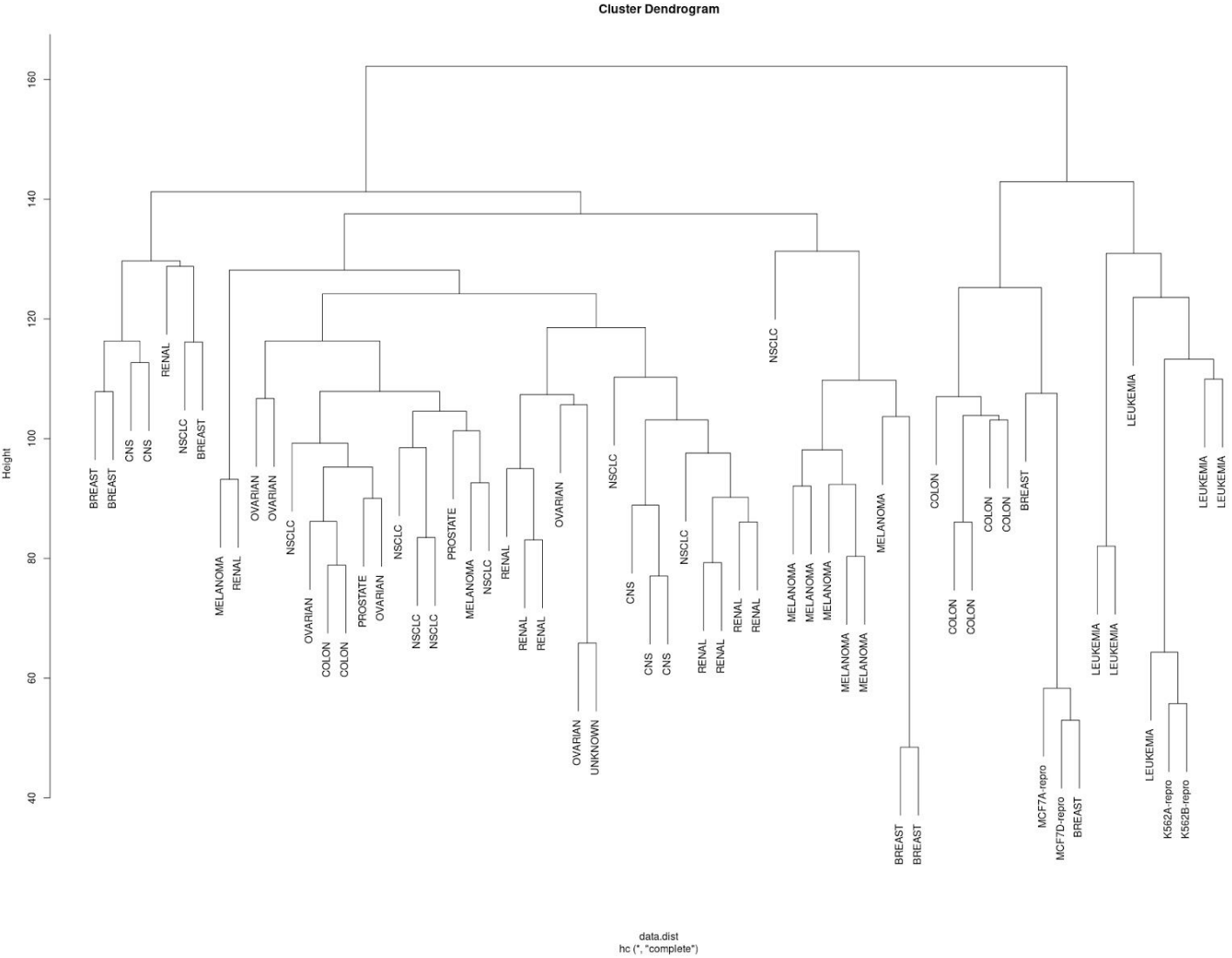
data.dist
hc ("single")

Average Linkage

Cluster Dendrogram

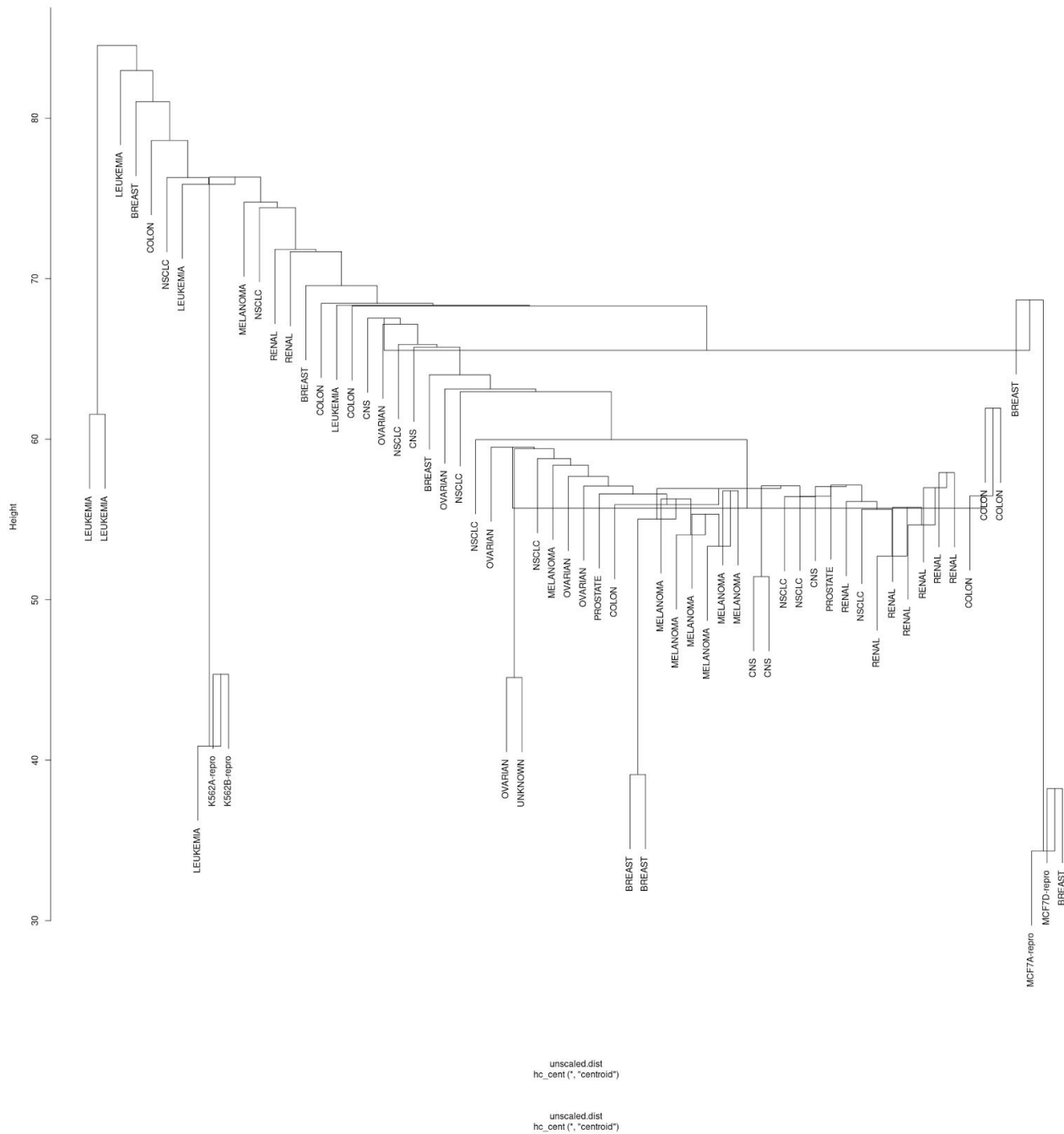


Complete Linkage



Centroid linkage

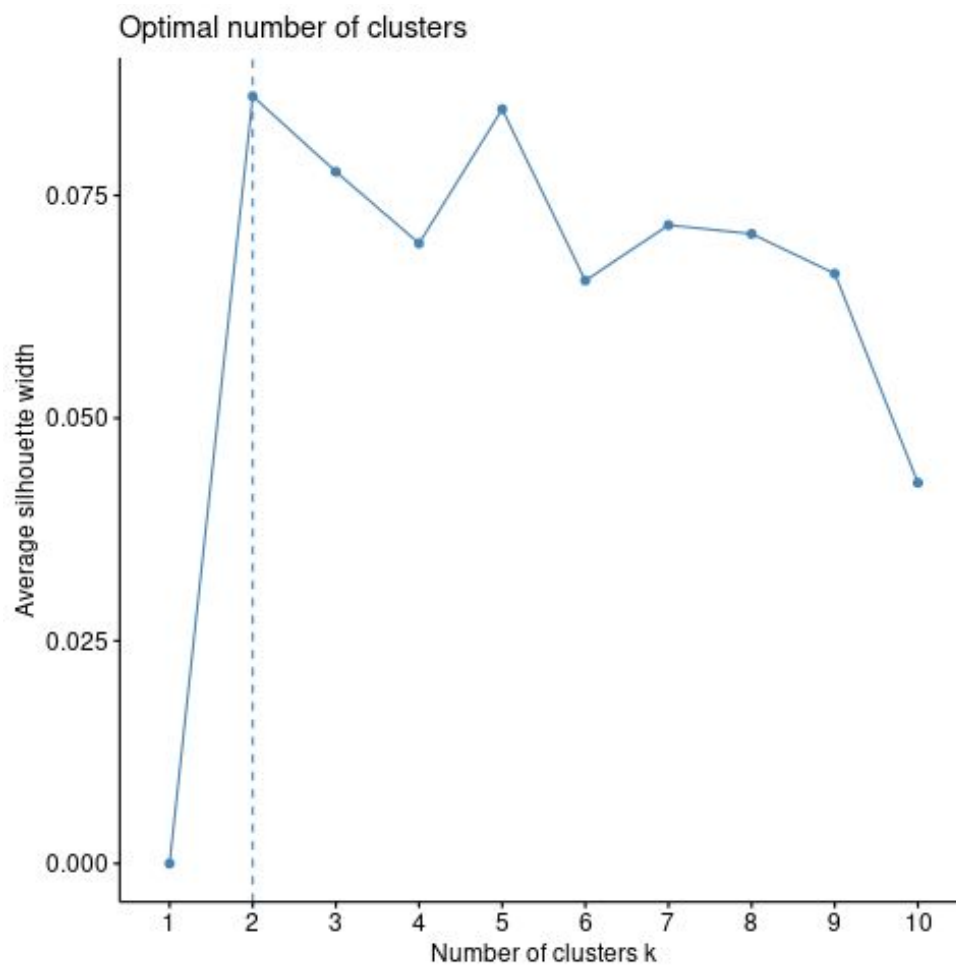
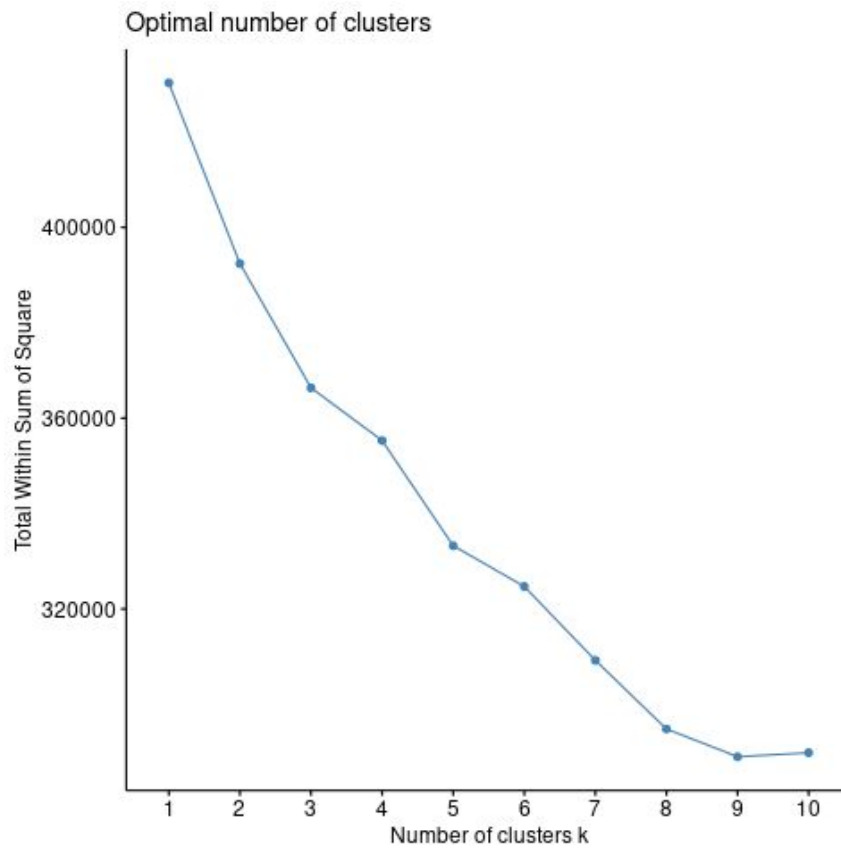
Cluster Dendrogram



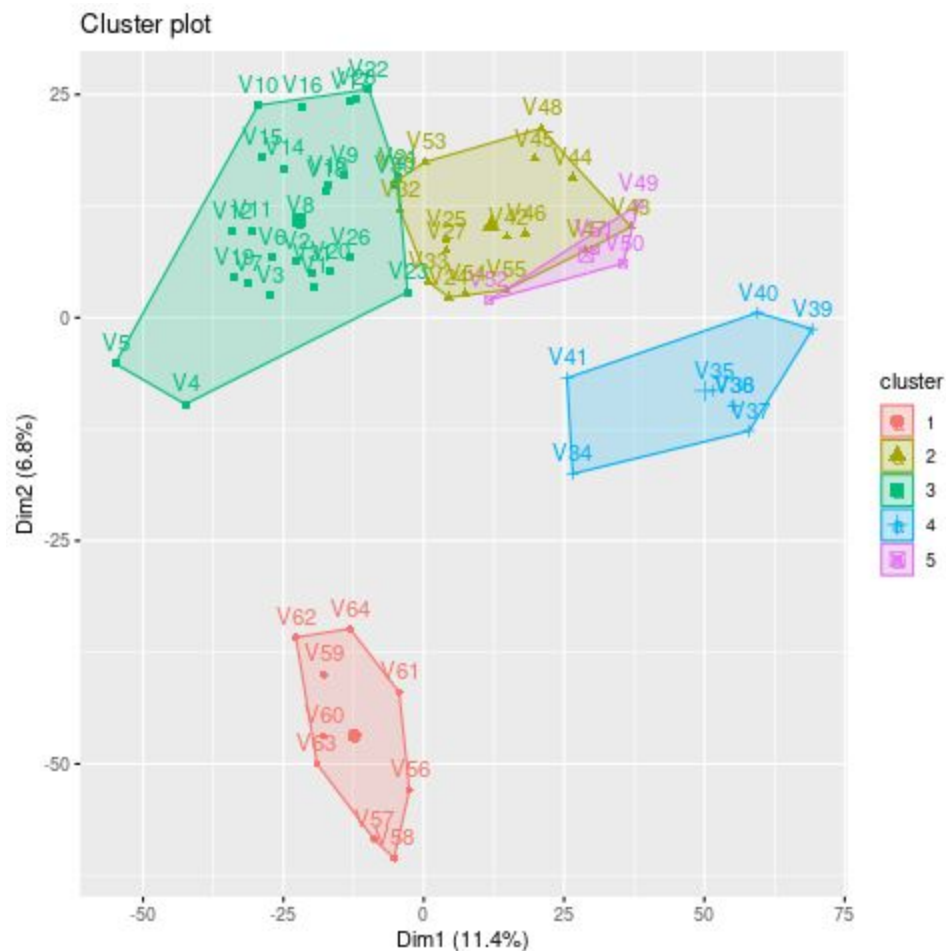
- Seeing the dendrograms formed by each linkage we find that using complete linkage gives best clusters followed by average linkage. The clusters are well defined and clusters formed are accurate.
- Single and centroid linkage dendrograms are more single branched and the clusters formed are not very clear.

Implementing K-Means

- We have used elbow method and silhouette width to identify the k (the number of clusters). We find that 5 is the best number of clusters.



- After this we have applied kmeans to the dataset, Obtained and visualised the results



COMPARING K-MEANS AND HIERARCHICAL AGGLOMERATIVE CLUSTERING

- Distance used: Hierarchical clustering can virtually handle any distance metric while k-means rely on euclidean distances.

- Stability of results: k-means requires a random step at its initialization that may yield different results if the process is re-run. That wouldn't be the case in hierarchical clustering.
- Number of Clusters: While you can use elbow plots, Silhouette plot etc. to figure the right number of clusters in k-means, hierarchical too can use all of those but with the added benefit of leveraging the dendrogram for the same.