Hierarchical Clustering

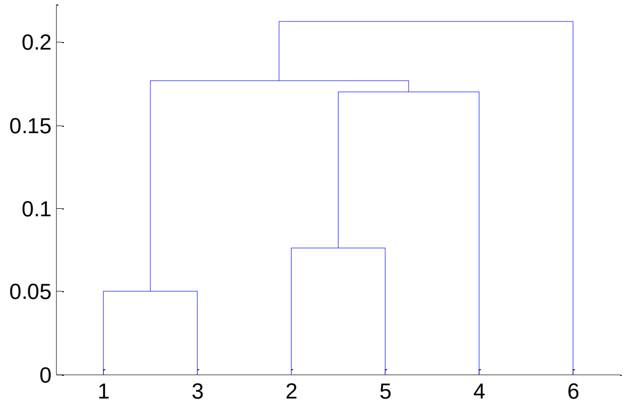
CPS 563 – Data Visualization

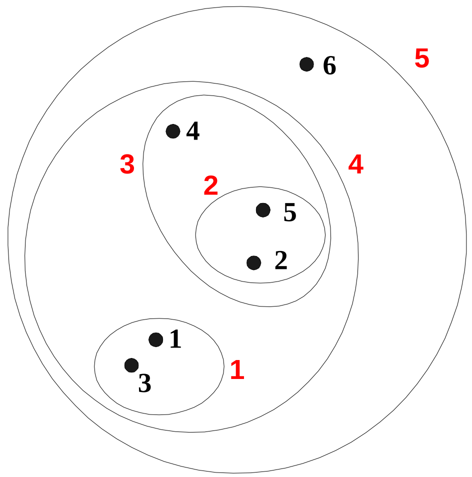
Dr. Tam Nguyen
tamnguyen@udayton.edu

University of Dayton

Hierarchical Clustering

- Produces a set of nested clusters organized as a hierarchical tree
- Can be visualized as a **dendrogram**
  - A tree like diagram that records the sequence of merges or splits





Strengths of Hierarchical Clustering

- Do not have to **assume** any particular number of clusters
  - Any desired number of clusters can be obtained by 'cutting' the dendrogram at the proper level

Hierarchical Clustering

- Two main types of hierarchical clustering
  - **Agglomerative:**
    - Start with the points as individual clusters
    - At each step, merge the closest pair of clusters until only one cluster (or k clusters) left
  - **Divisive:**
    - Start with one, all-inclusive cluster
    - At each step, split a cluster until each cluster contains a point (or there are k clusters)

- Traditional hierarchical algorithms use a **similarity** or **distance matrix**
  - Merge or split one cluster at a time

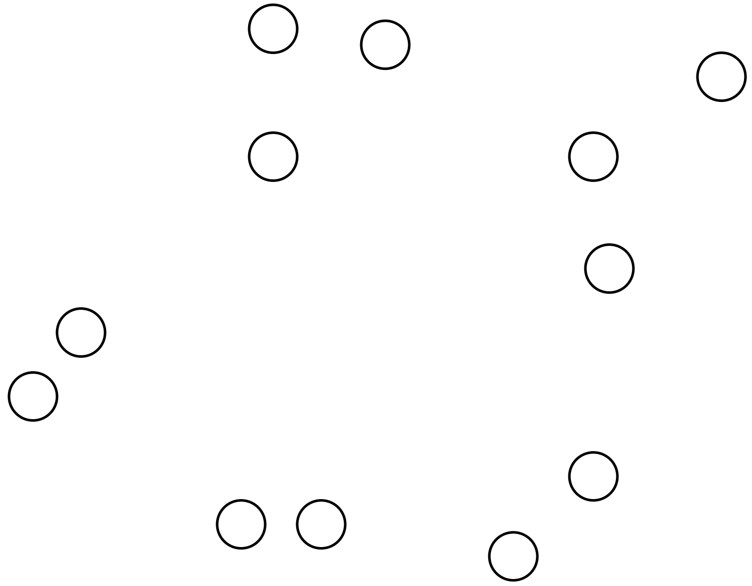
Agglomerative Clustering Algorithm

- Basic algorithm is straightforward
  1. Compute the proximity/distance matrix
  2. Let each data point be a cluster
  3. **Repeat**
  4. Merge the two closest clusters
  5. Update the proximity/distance matrix
  6. **Until** only a single cluster remains

- Key operation is the computation of the proximity of two clusters
  - Different approaches to defining the distance between clusters distinguish the different algorithms

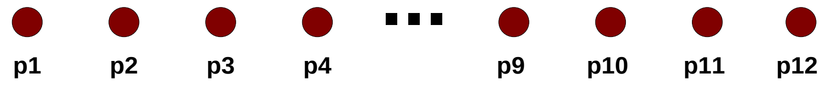
Starting Situation

- Start with clusters of individual points and a proximity matrix



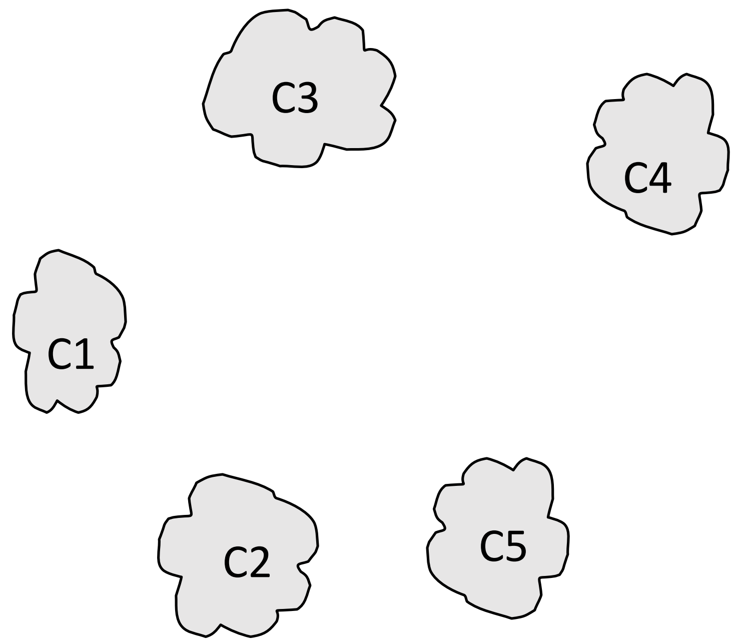
	p1	p2	p3	p4	p5	. . .
p1						
p2						
p3						
p4						
p5						
.						
.						
.						

Proximity Matrix



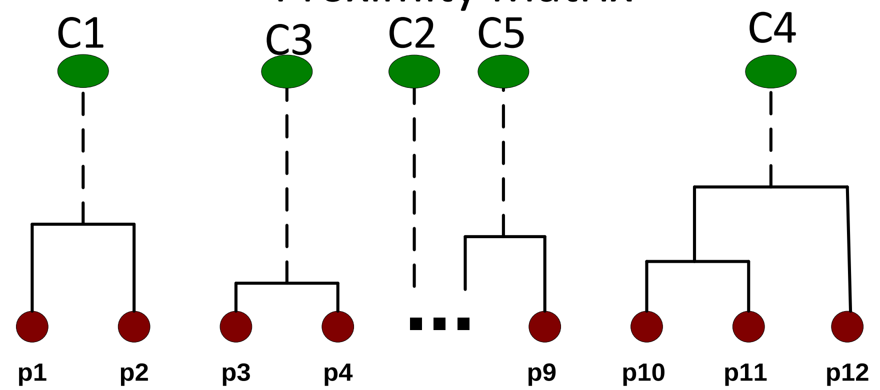
Intermediate Situation

- After some merging steps, we have some clusters



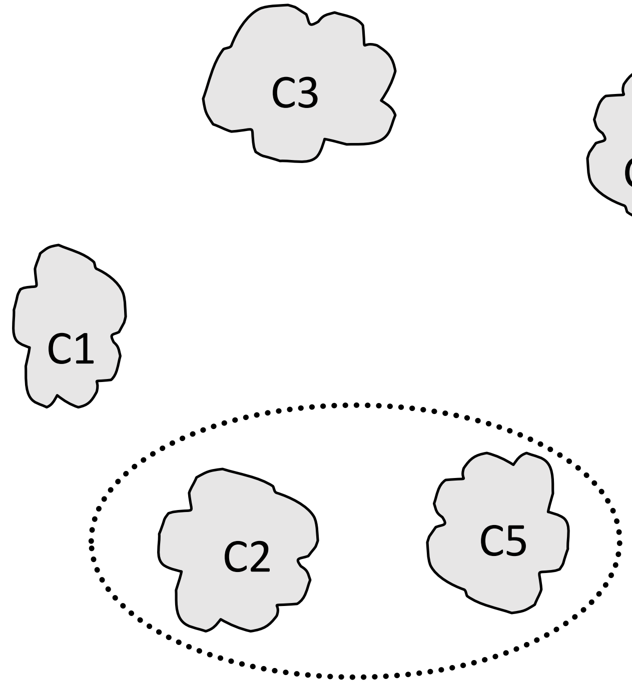
	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
C1					
C2					
C3					
C4					
C5					

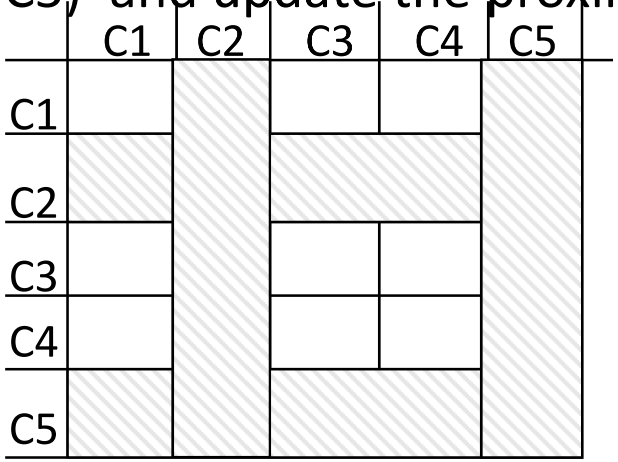
Proximity Matrix



Intermediate Situation

- We want to merge the two closest clusters (C2 and C5) and update the proximity matrix.

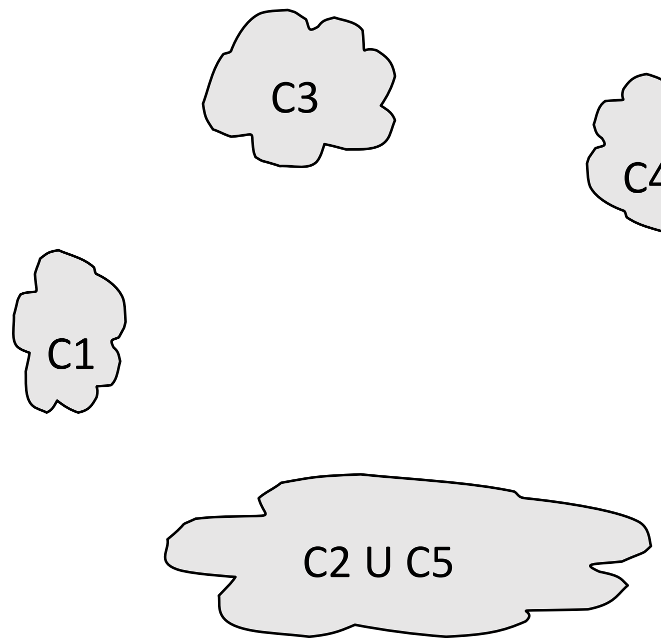




Proximity Matrix

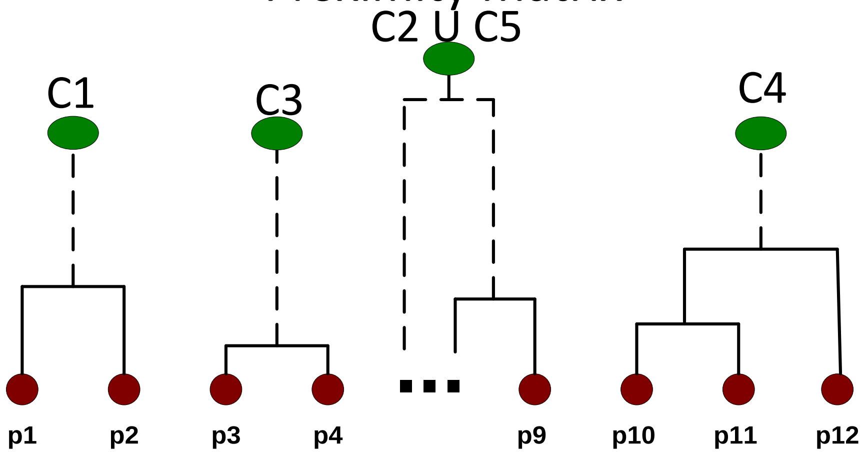
After Merging

- The question is "How do we update the proximity matrix?"

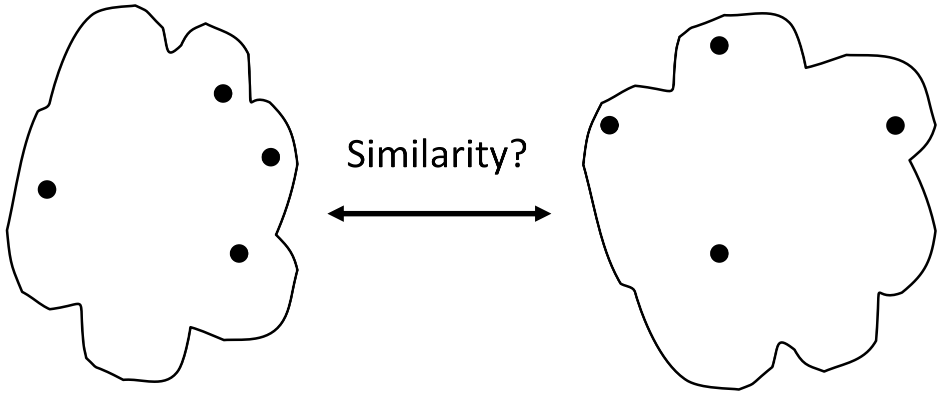


	C1	C2 U C5	C3	C4
C1		?		
C2 U C5	?	?	?	?
C3		?		
C4		?		

Proximity Matrix



How to Define Inter-Cluster Similarity

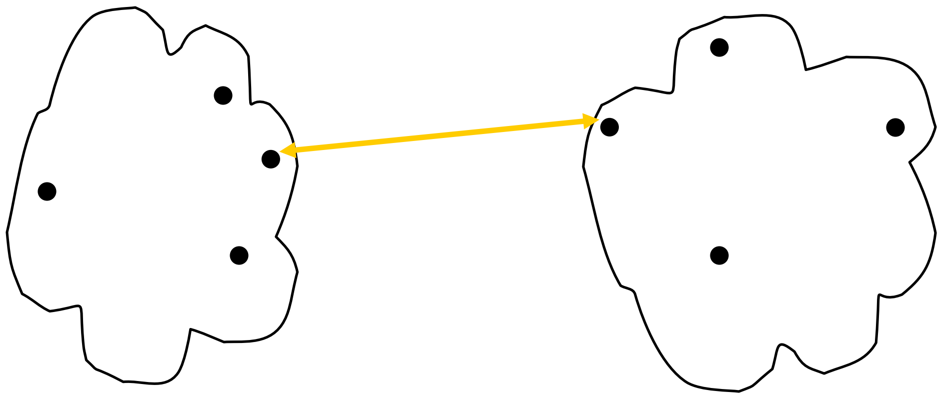


	p1	p2	p3	p4	p5	. . .
p1						
p2						
p3						
p4						
p5						
.						
.						
.						

Proximity Matrix

- MIN
- MAX
- Group Average
- Distance Between Centroids

How to Define Inter-Cluster Similarity



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p5						
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.						
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Proximity Matrix

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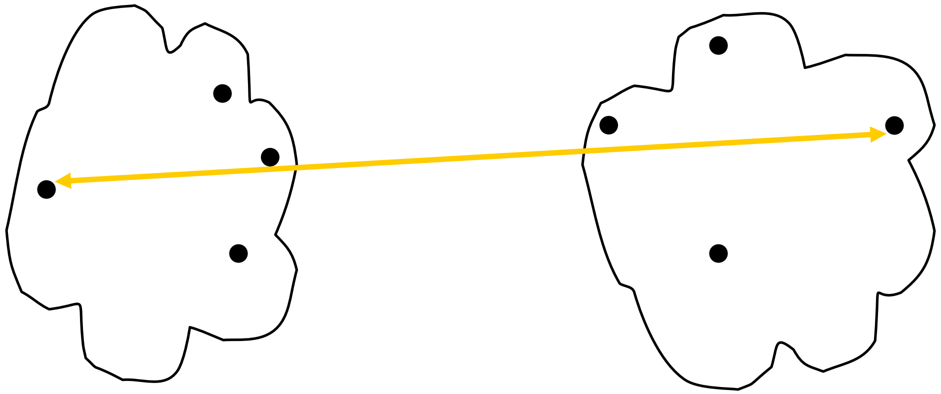

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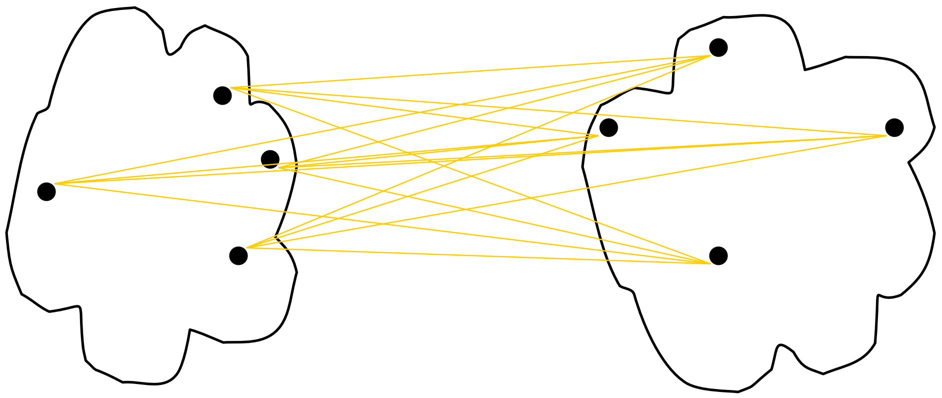
Proximity Matrix

How to Define Inter-Cluster Similarity



- MIN
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	p1	p2	p3	p4	p5	. . .
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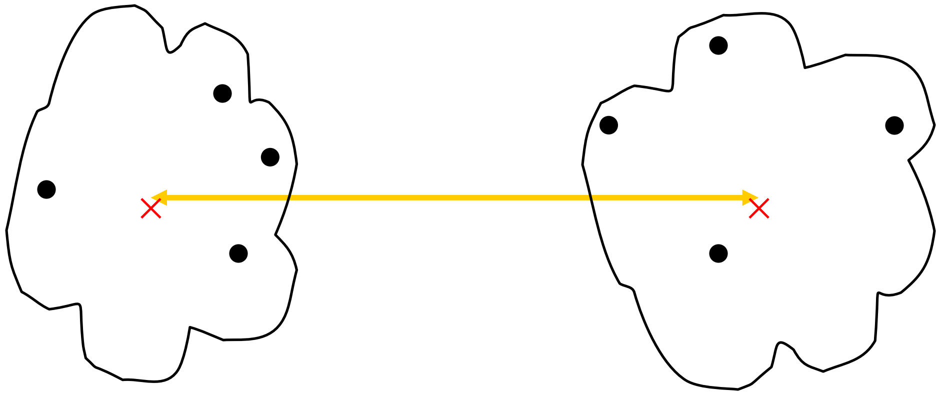
Proximity Matrix

How to Define Inter-Cluster Similarity



- MIN
- MAX
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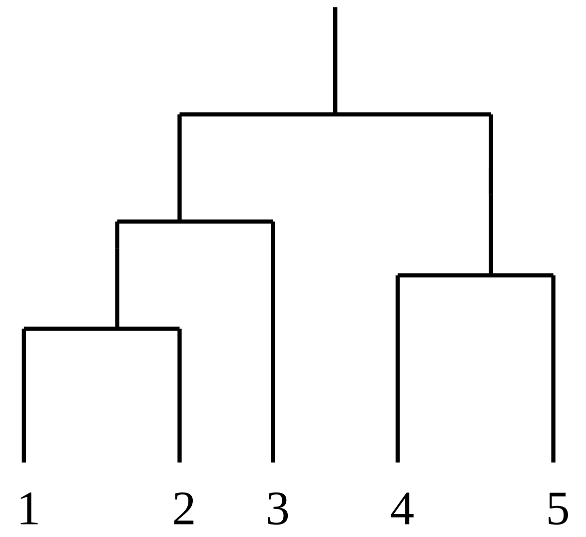
	p1	p2	p3	p4	p5	. . .
p1						
p2						
p3						
p4						
p5						
.						
.						
.						

Proximity Matrix

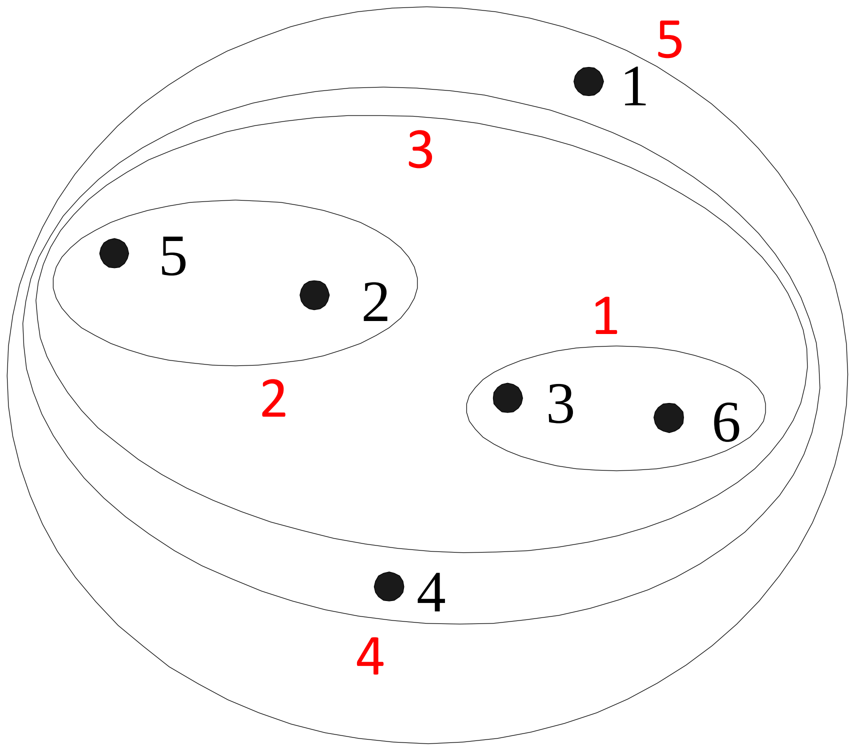
Cluster Similarity: MIN or Single Link

- Similarity of two clusters is based on the two most similar (closest) points in the different clusters
  - Determined by one pair of points, i.e., by one link in the proximity graph.

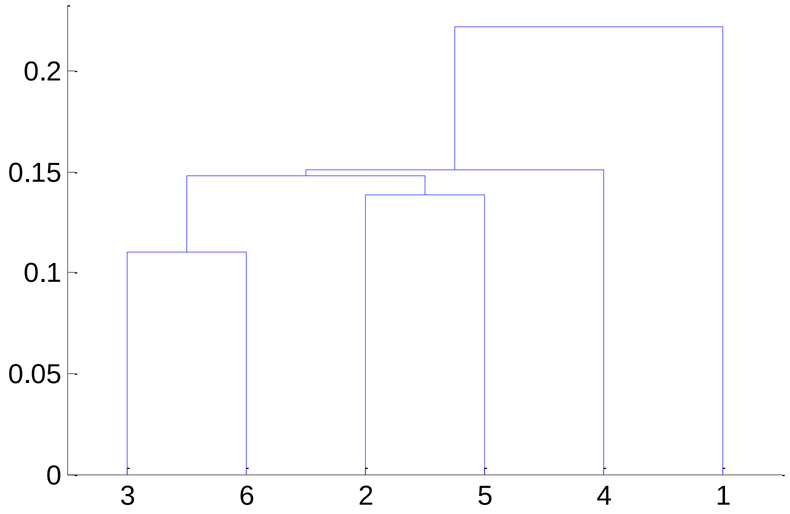
	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5
I1	1.00	0.90	0.10	0.65	0.20
I2	0.90	1.00	0.70	0.60	0.50
I3	0.10	0.70	1.00	0.40	0.30
I4	0.65	0.60	0.40	1.00	0.80
I5	0.20	0.50	0.30	0.80	1.00



Hierarchical Clustering: MIN

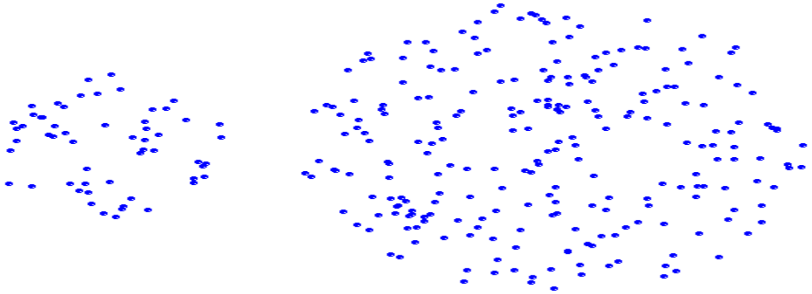


Nested Clusters

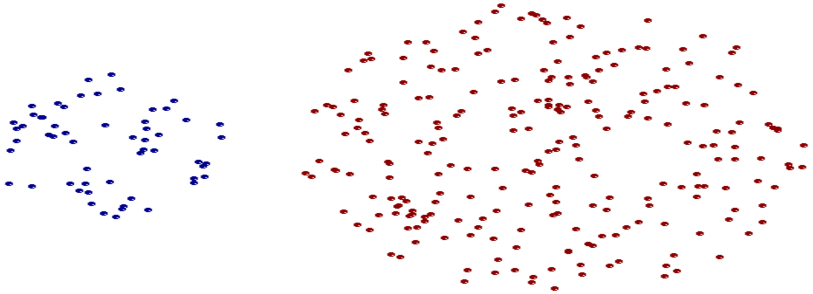


Dendrogram

Strength of MIN



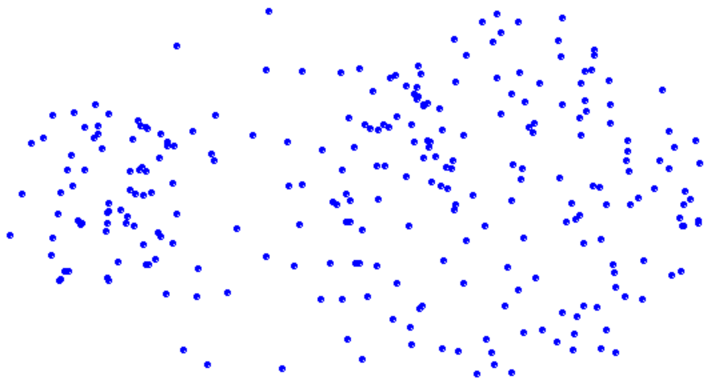
Original Points



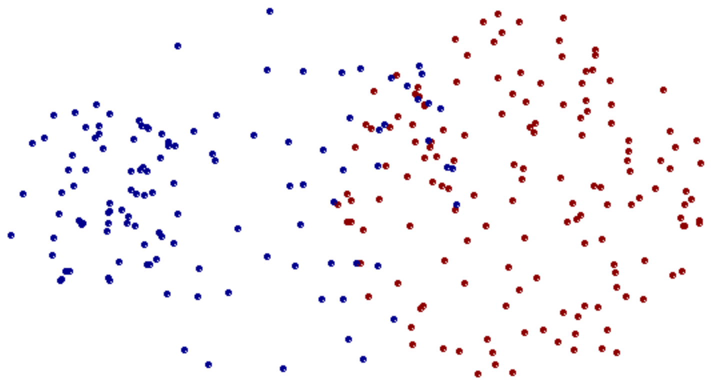
Two Clusters

- Can handle non-elliptical shapes

Limitations of MIN



Original Points



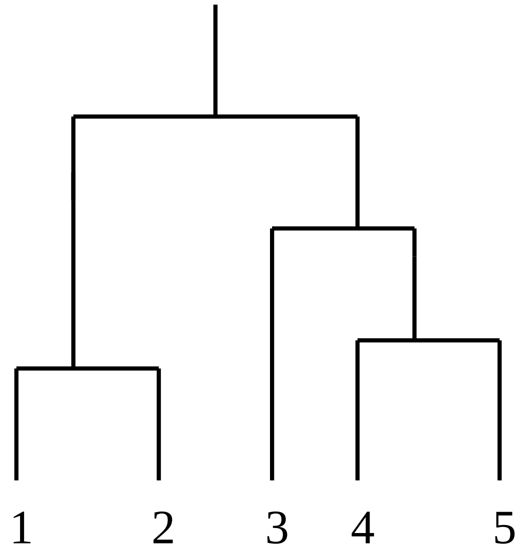
Two Clusters

- Sensitive to noise and outliers

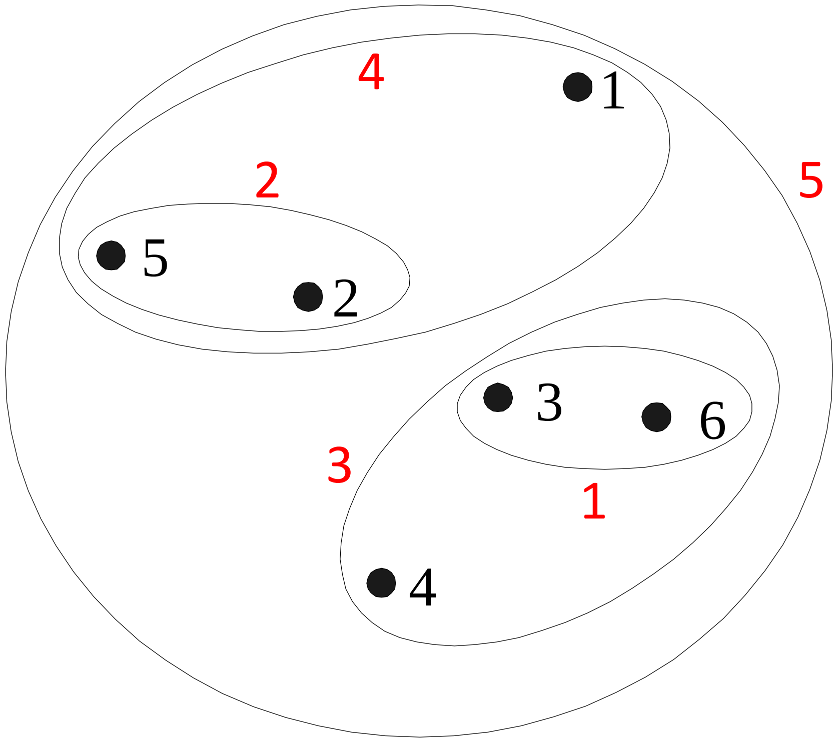
Cluster Similarity: MAX or Complete Linkage

- Similarity of two clusters is based on the two least similar (most distant) points in the different clusters
  - Determined by all pairs of points in the two clusters

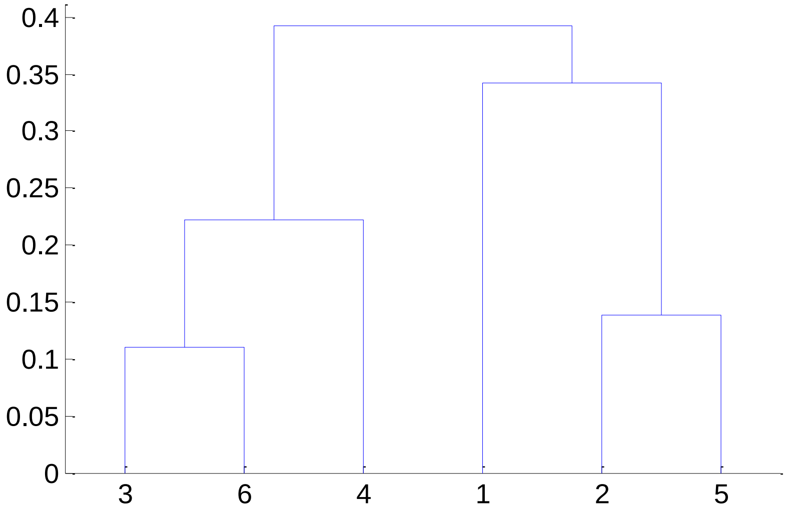
	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5
I1	1.00	0.90	0.10	0.65	0.20
I2	0.90	1.00	0.70	0.60	0.50
I3	0.10	0.70	1.00	0.40	0.30
I4	0.65	0.60	0.40	1.00	0.80
I5	0.20	0.50	0.30	0.80	1.00



Hierarchical Clustering: MAX

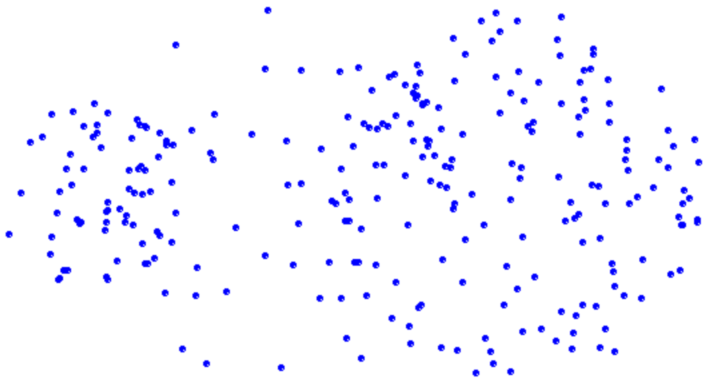


Nested Clusters

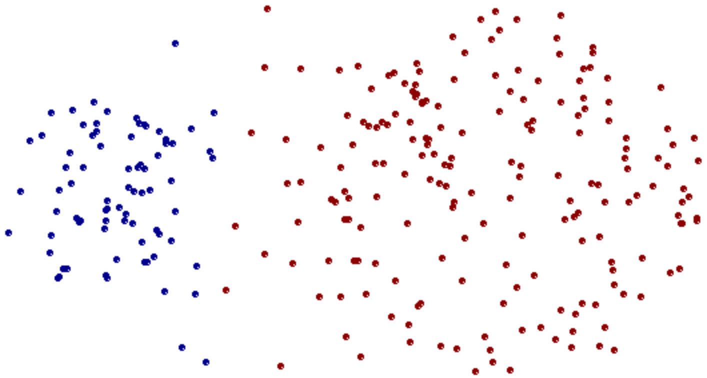


Dendrogram

Strength of MAX



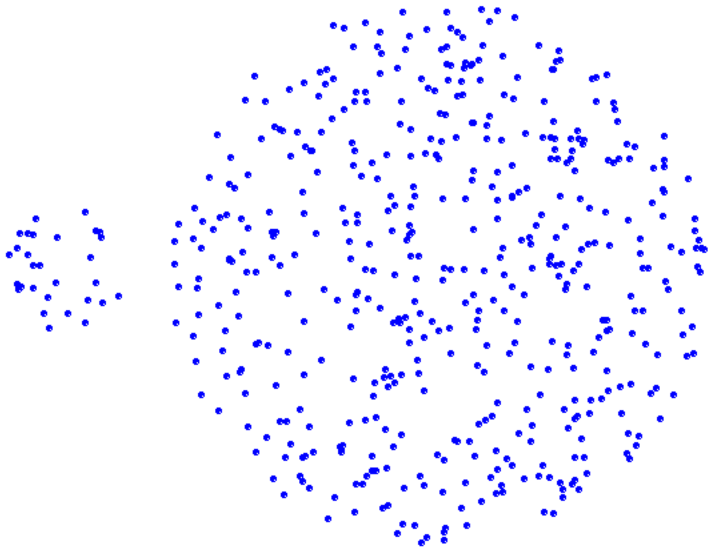
Original Points



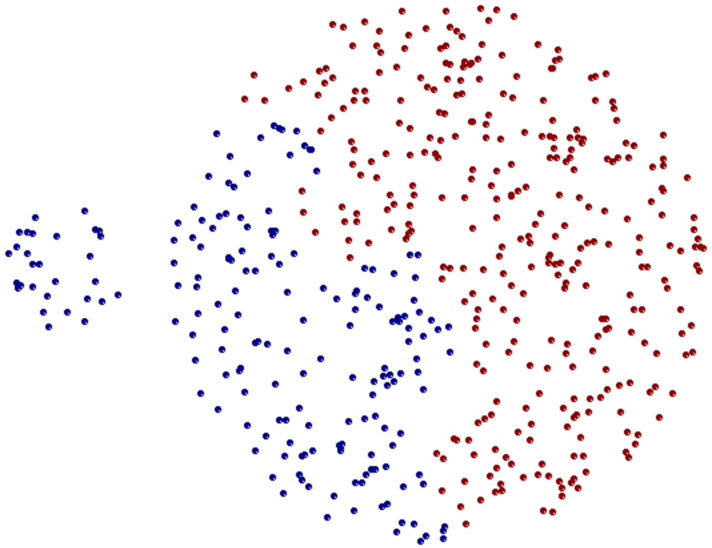
Two Clusters

- Less sensitive to noise and outliers

Limitations of MAX



Original Points



Two Clusters

- Tends to break large clusters
- Biased towards **equal** globular clusters

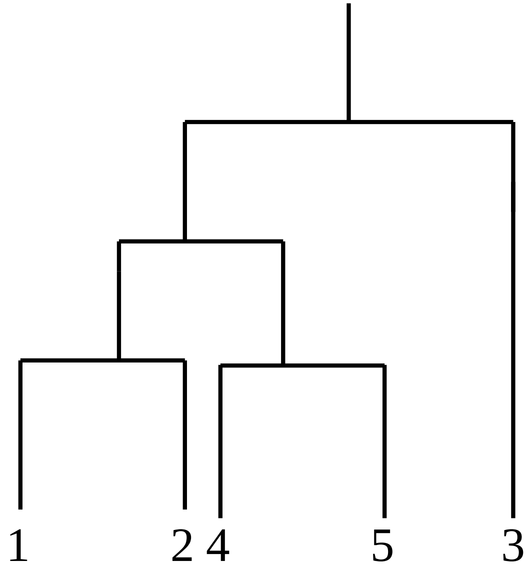
Cluster Similarity: Group Average

- Proximity of two clusters is the average of pairwise proximity between points in the two clusters.

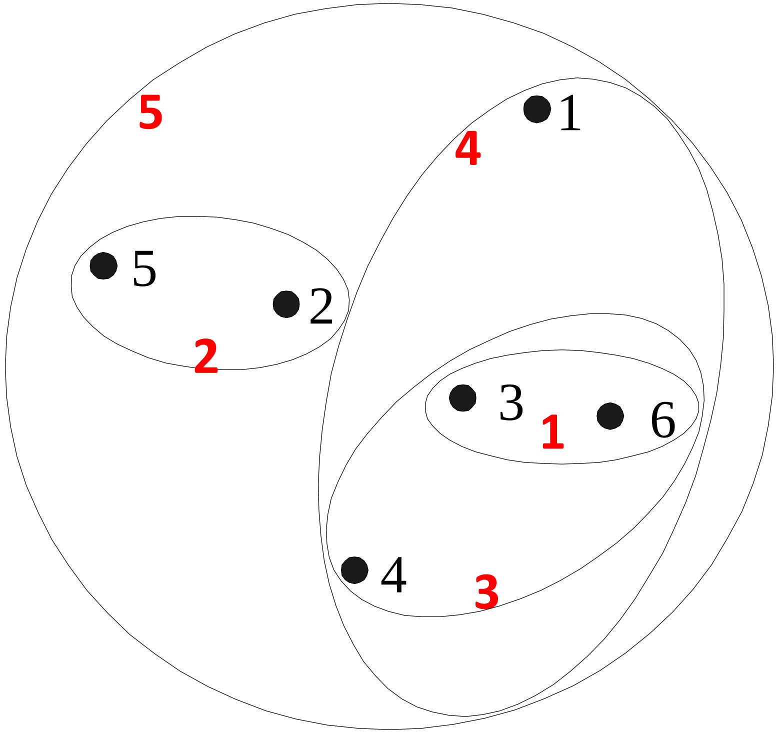
$$\text{proximity}(\text{Cluster}_i, \text{Cluster}_j) = \frac{\sum\limits_{\substack{p_i \in \text{Cluster}_i \\ p_j \in \text{Cluster}_j}} \text{proximity}(p_i, p_j)}{|\text{Cluster}_i| * |\text{Cluster}_j|}$$

- Need to use average connectivity for scalability since total proximity favors large clusters

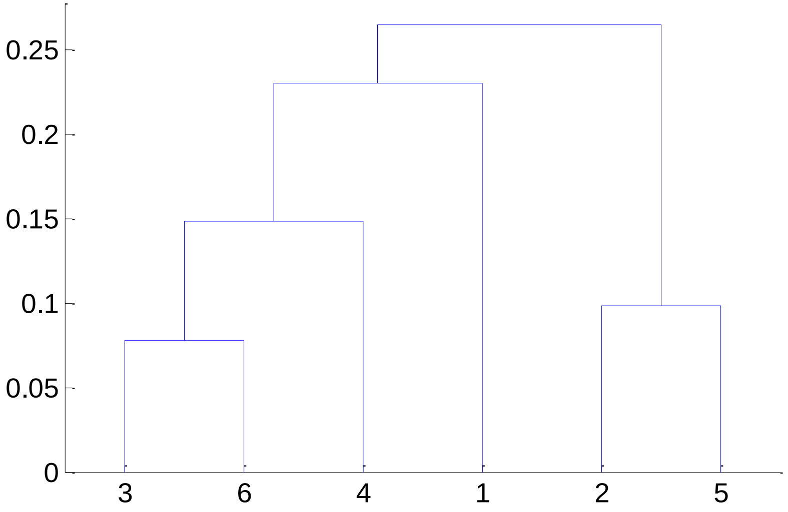
	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5
I1	1.00	0.90	0.10	0.65	0.20
I2	0.90	1.00	0.70	0.60	0.50
I3	0.10	0.70	1.00	0.40	0.30
I4	0.65	0.60	0.40	1.00	0.80
I5	0.20	0.50	0.30	0.80	1.00



Hierarchical Clustering: Group Average



Nested Clusters



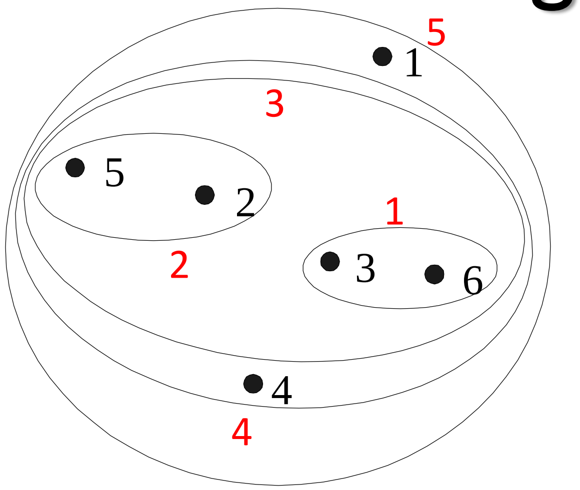
Dendrogram

Hierarchical Clustering: Group Average

- Strengths
  - Less sensitive to noise and outliers

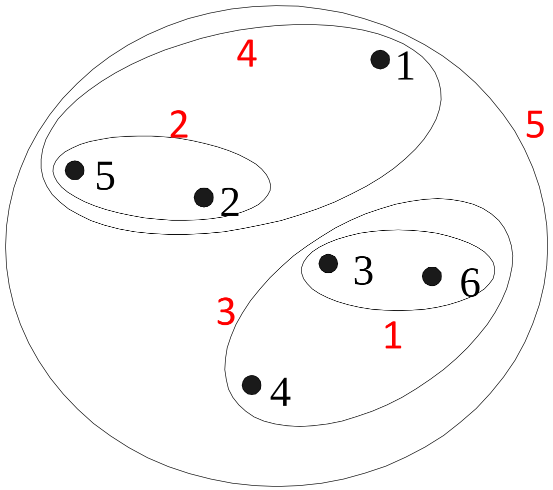
- Limitations
  - Biased towards globular clusters

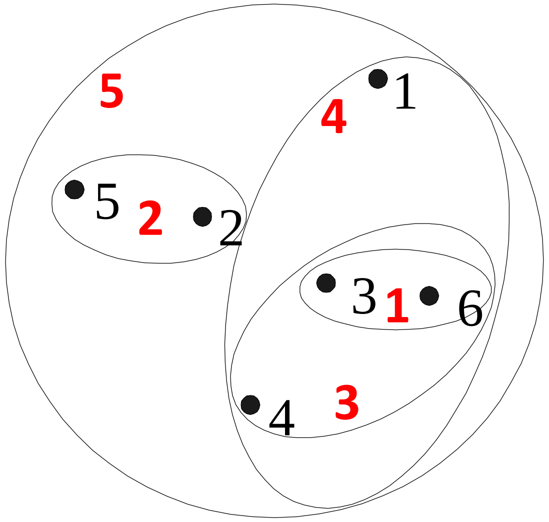
Hierarchical Clustering: Comparison



MIN

MAX





Group Average

Hierarchical Clustering: Problems and Limitations

- No objective function is directly minimized

- What is the objective function of K-means clustering?

- Different schemes have problems with one or more of the following:
  - Sensitivity to noise and outliers
  - Difficulty handling different sized clusters
  - Breaking large clusters

Q&A