Clustering

(COSC 488)

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Document Clustering….

Cluster Hypothesis :
By clustering, documents relevant to the same topics tend to be grouped together.
C. J. van Rijsbergen, Information Retrieval, 2nd ed. London: Butterworths, 1979.

What can be Clustered?

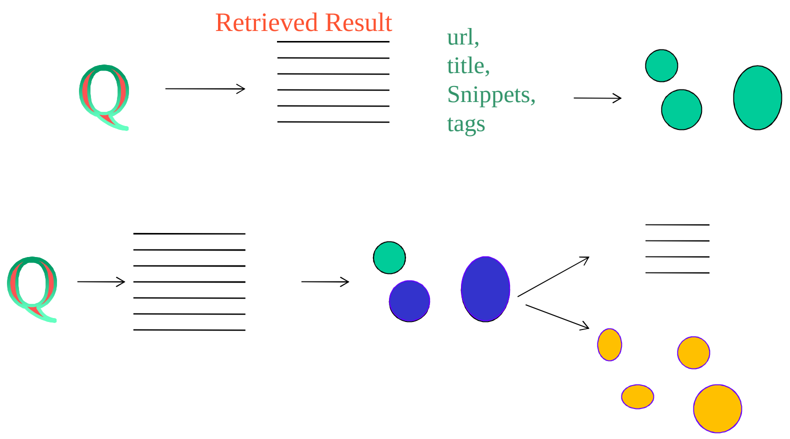
- *Collection* (Pre-retrieval)
  - Reducing the search space to smaller subset -- *not generally used due to expense in generating clusters.*
  - Improving UI with displaying groups of topics -- *have to label the clusters*
    - Scatter-gather – the user selected clusters are merged and re-clustered
- *Result Set* (Post-retrieval)
  - Improving the ranking (re-ranking)
  - Utilizing in query refinement -- *Relevance feedback*
  - Improving UI to display clustered search results
- *Query*
  - Understanding the intent of a user query
  - Suggesting query to users

Document/Web Clustering

- *Input: set of documents, [k clusters]*
- *Output: document assignments to clusters*
- *Features*
  - *Text – from document/snippet (words: single; phrase)*
  - *Link and anchor text*
  - *URL*
  - *Tag (social bookmarking websites allow users to tag documents)*
  - *……..*
- *Term weight (tf, tf-idf,…)*
- *Distance measure: Euclidian, Cosine,..*
- *Evaluation*
  - *Manual -- difficult*
  - *Web directories*

Result Set Clustering

- Clusters are generated online (during query processing)



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Result Set Clustering

- To improve efficiency, clusters may be generated from document snippets.
- Clusters for popular queries may be cached
- Clusters maybe labeled into categories, providing the advantage of both query & category information for the search
- Clustering result set as a whole or per site
- Stemming can help due to limited result set

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Cluster Labeling

- The goal is to create "meaningful" labels
- Approaches:
  - Manually (not a good idea)
  - Using already tagged documents (not always available)
  - Using external knowledge such as Wikipedia, etc.
  - Using each cluster's data to determine label
    - Cluster's Centroid terms/phrases -- frequency & importance
    - *Title* of document centroid or closest document to centroid can be used
  - Using also other clusters' data to determine label
    - Cluster's Hierarchical information *(sibling/parent)* of terms/phrases

Result Clustering Systems

- Northern Light (end of 90's) -- used pre-defined categories
- Grouper (STC)
- Carrot
- CREDO
- WhatsOnWeb
- Vivisimo's Clusty (acquired by Yippy): generated clusters and labels dynamically
- ………..etc.

Query Clustering Approach to Query Suggestion

- Exploit information on past users' queries
- Propose to a user a list of queries related to the one (or the ones, considering past queries in the same session/log) submitted
- Various approaches to consider both query terms and documents

Query Clustering Approach to Query Suggestion

Baeza-Yates et al. use a clustering approach

- A two tier approach
  - An offline component clusters past queries using query text along with the text of clicked URLs.
  - An online component that recommends queries based on an incoming query and using clusters generated in the offline mode

R. Baeza-Yates, C. Hurtado, and M. Mendoza, "Query Recommendation Using Query Logs in Search Engines' LNCS, Springer, 2004.

Tutorial by: Salvatore Orlando, University of Venice, Italy & Fabrizio Silvestri, ISTI - CNR, Pisa, Italy, 2009

Query Clustering Approach to Query Suggestion

- Offline component:
  - Clustering algorithm operates over queries enriched by a selection of terms extracted from the documents pointed by the user clicked URLs.
  - Clusters computed by using an implementation of k-means
    - different values of *k*
    - *SSE* becomes even smaller by increasing *k*
  - Similarity between queries computed according to a vector-space approach
    - Vectors $\bar{q}$ of *n* dimensions, one for each term

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Query Clustering Approach to Query Suggestion

Baeza-Yates et al. use a clustering approach *(cont'd)*

- Online component:

  (I) given an input query the most representative (i.e. similar) cluster is found

  - each cluster has a natural representative, i.e. its centroid

  (II) ranking of the queries of the cluster, according to:

  - attractiveness of query answer, i.e. the fraction of the documents returned by the query that captured the attention of users (clicked documents)
  - similarity wrt the input query (the same distance used for clustering)
  - popularity of query, i.e. the frequency of the occurrences of queries

R. Baeza-Yates, C. Hurtado, and M. Mendoza, "Query Recommendation Using Query Logs in Search Engines' LNCS, Springer, 2004.

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Clustering

- Automatically group related data into *clusters.*
- An *unsupervised* approach -- no training data is needed.
- A data object may belong to
  - only one cluster (*Hard clustering*)
  - overlapped clusters (*Soft Clustering*)
- Set of clusters may
  - relate to each other (*Hierarchical clustering*)
  - have no explicit structure between clusters (*Flat clustering*)

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Considerations…

- Number of clusters
  - Cardinality of a clustering (# of clusters)
- Objective functions
  - Evaluates the quality (*structural properties*) of clusters; often defined using distance/similarity measures
  - External quality measures such as: F measure; classification accuracy of clusters *(using: annotated document set; existing directories; manual evaluation of documents)*

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Distance/Similarity Measures

Euclidean Distance

$$dist(d_i, d_j) = \sqrt{(|d_{i_1} - d_{j_1}|^2 + |d_{i_2} - d_{j_2}|^2 + \ldots + |d_{i_p} - d_{j_p}|^2)}$$

Cosine

$$Sim\left(d_i, d_j\right) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{t} d_{ik} \, x \; d_{jk}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{t} (d_{ik})^2 \sum_{k=1}^{t} (d_{jk})^2}}$$

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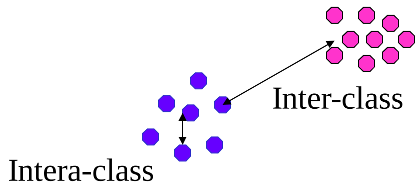
Structural Properties of Clusters

- Good clusters have:
  - high <u>intra-class</u> similarity
  - low <u>inter-class</u> similarity



- Calculate the sum of squared error (Commonly done in K-means)
  - Goal is to minimize SSE (intra-cluster variance):

$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{p \in c_i} \left| p - m_i \right|^2$$

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External Quality Measures

- Macro average precision -- measure the precision of each cluster (ratio of members that belong to that *class label*), and average over all clusters.
- Micro average precision -- precision over all elements in all clusters
- Accuracy: (tp + tn) / (tp + tn + fp + fn)
- F1 measure

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Clustering Algorithms

- Hierarchical – A set of nested clusters are generated, represented as *dendrogram*.
  - Agglomerative (bottom-up) - *a more common approach*
  - Divisive (top-down)
- Partitioning (Flat Clustering)– no link (no overlapping) among the generated clusters

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The *K-Means* Clustering Method

- A *Flat* clustering algorithm
- A *Hard* clustering
- A Partitioning (Iterative) Clustering
- Start with *k* random cluster centroids and iteratively adjust (redistribute) until some termination condition is set.
- Number of cluster *k* is an input in the algorithm. The outcome is *k* clusters.

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The *K-Means* Clustering Method

Pick *k* documents as your initial *k* clusters

Partition documents into *k* closets cluster centroids (centroid: mean of document vectors;

consider most significant terms to reduce the distance computations)

Re-calculate the centroid of each cluster

Re-distribute documents to clusters till a termination condition is met

- *Relatively efficient*: $O(tkn)$,
- *n:* number of documents
- *k:* number of clusters
- *t:* number of iterations Normally, $k, t << n$

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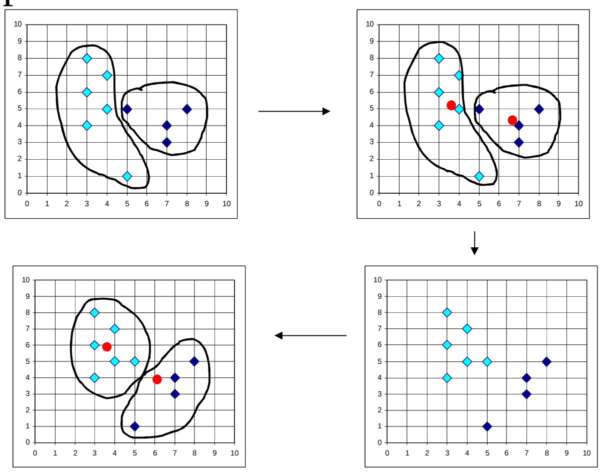
The *K-Means* Clustering Method

- Example



Limiting Random Initialization in *K-Means*

Various methods, such as:

- *Various K* may be good candidates
- Take *sample* number of documents and perform *hierarchical clustering*, take them as *initial centroids*
- Select *more than k initial centroids* (choose the ones that are further away from each other)
- Perform clustering and *merge closer clusters*
- Try *various starting seeds* and pick the better choices

The *K-Means* Clustering Method

Re-calculating Centroid:

- Updating centroids after each iteration (all documents are assigned to clusters)
- Updating after each document is assigned.
  - More calculations
  - More order dependency

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The *K-Means* Clustering Method

Termination Condition:

- A fixed number of iterations
- Reduction in re-distribution (no changes to centroids)
- Reduction in SSE

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Effect of Outliers

- Outliers are documents that are far from other documents.
- Outlier documents create a singleton (cluster with only one member)
- Outliers should be removed and not picked as the initialization seed (centroid)

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Evaluate Quality in *K-Means*

- Calculate the sum of squared error (Commonly done in K-means)
  - Goal is to minimize SSE (intra-cluster variance):

$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{p \in c_i} \left| p - m_i \right|^2$$

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Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering (HAC)

- Treats documents as singleton clusters, then merge pairs of clusters till reaching one big cluster of all documents.
- Any *k* number of clusters may be picked at any level of the tree (using thresholds, e.g. SSE)
- Each element belongs to one cluster or to the superset cluster; but does not belong to more than one cluster.

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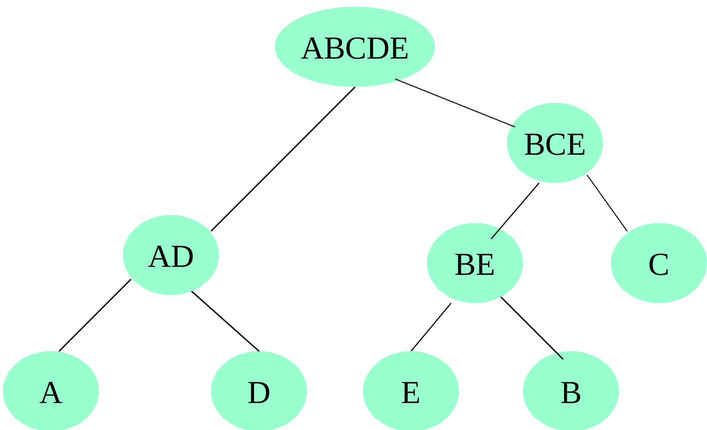
Example

- Singletons A, D, E, and B are clustered.



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Hierarchical Agglomerative

- Create NxN doc-doc similarity matrix
- Each document starts as a cluster of size one
- Do Until there is only one cluster
  - Combine the best two clusters based on cluster similarities using one of these criteria: *single linkage, complete linkage, average linkage, centroid, Ward's method.*
  - Update the doc-doc matrix

- Note: *Similarity* is defined as vector space similarity (eg. Cosine) or Euclidian distance

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Merging Criteria

- Various functions in computing the *cluster similarity* result in clusters with different characteristics.
- The goal is to minimize any of the following functions:
  - Single Link/MIN (**minimum distance** between documents of two clusters)
  - Complete Linkage/MAX (**maximum distance** between documents of two clusters)
  - Average Linkage (**average** of pair-wise distances)
  - Centroid (centroid distances)
  - Ward's Method (intra-cluster variance)

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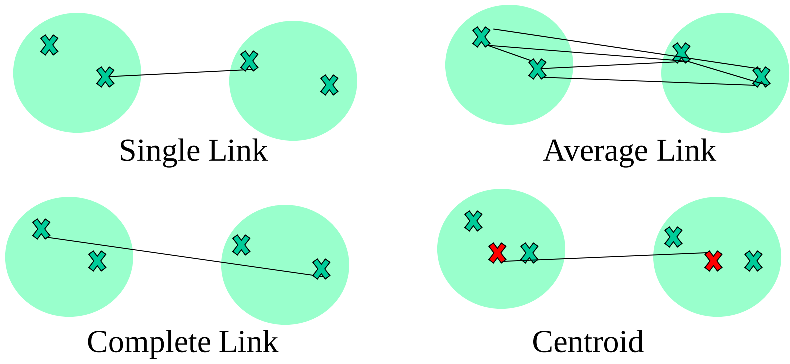
HAC's Cluster Similarities



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How to do Query Processing

- Calculate the centroid of each cluster.
- Calculate the SC between the query vector and each cluster centroid.
- Pick the cluster with higher SC.
- Continue the process toward the leafs of the subtree of the cluster with higher SC.

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Analysis

- Hierarchical clustering requires:
  - $O(n^2)$ to compute the doc-doc similarity matrix
  - One node is added during each round of clustering, thus n steps
  - For each clustering step we must re-compute the DOC-DOC matrix. That is finding the "closest" is $O(n^2)$ plus re-computing the similarity in $O(n)$ steps. Thus:
    $O(n^2+ n)$
  - Thus, we have:
    $O(n^2)+ O(n)(n^2+n) = O(n^3)$

  (with an efficient implementation in some cases may accomplish finding the "closet" in $O(nlogn)$ steps; Thus:
  $O(n^2) + (n)(nlogn+n) = O(n^2\log n)$ Thus, very expensive!

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Buckshot Clustering

- A hybrid approach (HAC & K-Means)
- To avoid building the DOC-DOC matrix:
  - Buckshot (building similarity matrix for a subset)
- Goal is to reduce run time to $O(kn)$ instead of $O(n^3)$ or $O(n^2\log n)$ of HAC.

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Buckshot Algorithm

- Randomly select d documents where d is $\sqrt{n}$ or $\sqrt{kn}$
- Cluster these using *hierarchical* clustering algorithm into k clusters: $\sim O(\sqrt{n})^2$
- Compute the centroid of each of the k *clusters:* $O\sqrt{n}$
- Scan remaining documents and assign them to the closest of the k clusters (*k-means*): $O(n-\sqrt{n})$
- Thus: $O(\sqrt{n})^2 + O\sqrt{n} + O(n-\sqrt{n}) \sim O(n)$

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Summary

- Clustering provides users an overview of the contents of a document collection
- Commonly used in organizing search results
- Cluster labeling aims to make the clusters meaningful for users
- Can reduce the search space and improve efficiency, and potentially accuracy
- HAC is computationally expensive
- K-Means suits for clustering large data sets
- Difficulty in evaluating the quality of clusters

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