

Analisi di raggruppamento / Cluster Analysis

<http://www.statmethods.net/advstats/cluster.html>

<http://statisticaconr.blogspot.it/2010/06/cluster-analysis-in-r-1-hierarchical.html>

Cluster Analysis

Motivation: why cluster analysis

Dissimilarity matrices

Introduction to clustering algorithms

The data

Microsoft Excel - dati acquario pesati per scheletro es.b.xls

File Modifica Visualizza Inserisci Formato Strumenti Dati Finestra ? Adobe PDF

Digitare una domanda.

Statistics Graphics Data Help

Arial 10 G C S

Rispondi con modifiche... Termina revisione...

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1					R.Prova	R.Prova	R.Prova	R.Prova	R.Prova	R.
2					72001	72002	72003	72004	72005	7
3			dlgs 152/2006	DM 471/99	Prelievo	Prelievo	Prelievo	Prelievo	Prelievo	Pr
4	N	Parametri (mg/kg)	colonna A	tabella 1	28/07/03	28/07/03	28/07/03	28/07/03	28/07/03	28
5				colonna B	S1C1	S1C2	S1C3	S1C4	S1C5	S
6					0,0-1,0 mt	1,0-2,0 mt	2,0-3,0 mt	3,0-4,0 mt	4,0-5,0 mt	0,0
7					Valore riscontrato	Valore riscontrato	Valore riscontrato	Valore riscontrato	Valore riscontrato	Valore
8		Frazione granulometrica >2 mm%			54,5	42,9	51,2	66,1	49	4
9		Frazione granulometrica <2 mm			0,455	0,571	0,488	0,339	0,51	0
10		ANALISI SULLA FRAZIONE <2 mm								
11		COMPOSTI INORGANICI								
12	2	Arsenico	20	50	18	62	20	26	14	
13	4	Cadmio	2	15	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	
14	6	Cromo totale	150	800	38	32	31	40	27	
15	7	Cromo esavalente	2	15	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	
16	8	Mercurio	1	5	2	6	4	3	1	
17	9	Nichel	120	500	92	67	57	88	58	
18	10	Piombo	100	1000	54	188	91	98	212	
19	11	Rame	120	600	58	112	58	70	28	
20	16	Zinco	150	1500	216	476	220	250	190	
21		AROMATICI POLICICLICI								
22	25	Benzo(a)antracene	0,5	10	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,6	0,2	
23	26	Benzo(a)pirene	0,1	10	0,2	0,5	0,2	0,7	0,1	
24	27	Benzo(b)fluorantene	0,5	10	0,2	0,7	0,2	1	0,1	
25	28	Benzo(k)fluorantene	0,5	10	<0,1	0,2	<0,1	0,2	<0,1	
26	29	Benzo(g,h,i)perilene	0,1	10	0,1	0,4	0,1	0,6	0,1	
27	30	Crisene	5	50	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,6	0,2	
28	31	Dibenzo(a,h)pirene	0,1	10	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	
29	32	Dibenzo(a,h)antracene	0,1	10	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	
30	33	Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pirene	0,1	5	0,1	0,3	<0,1	0,4	<0,1	
31	34	Pirene	5	50	0,2	0,8	0,4	1,3	0,2	

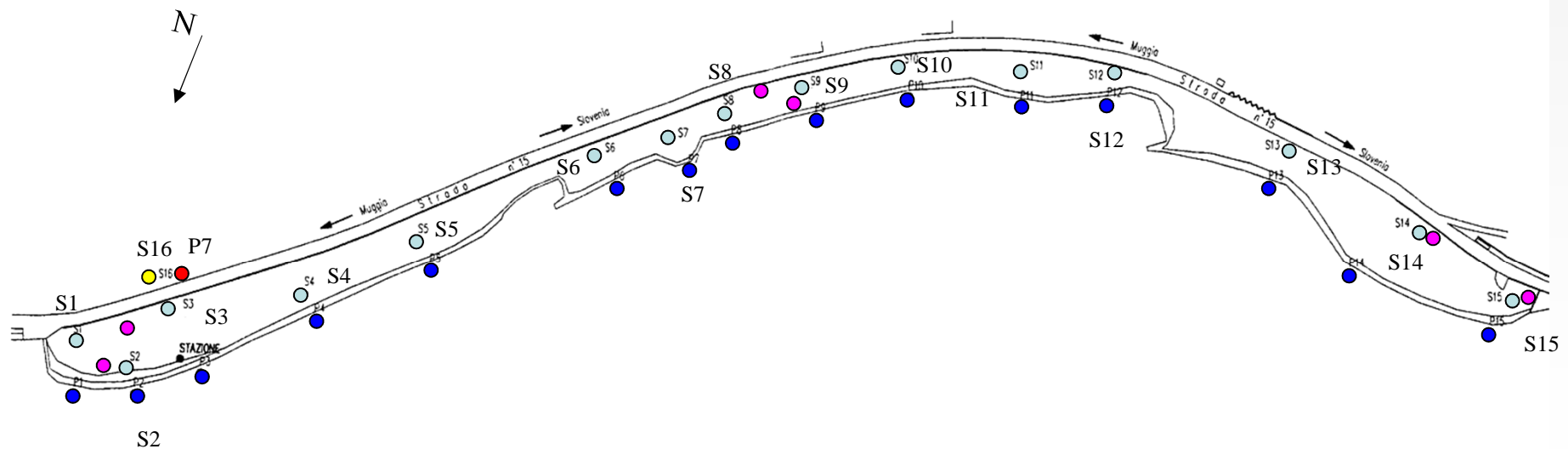
matrice z / Foglio4 / matrice / dati pesati scheletro / foglio1 terreni

Pronto

Start 2 Es... 5 Mi... 2 Mi... 2 In... mang... Micros... Skype... 6.25

INDAGINI DEL PIANO DI CARATTERIZZAZIONE SGM 2004

- ricostruzione litostratigrafica dei terreni: S1÷S16
- prove di permeabilità
- installazione di un piezometro per individuare il fondo naturale e identificarlo come bianco: P7
- analisi di campioni di terreno
- analisi acqua di falda freatica, piezometri: P1 ÷ P7
- analisi di sedimento di fondale marino P1 ÷ P15



Scala 1:2500

Cluster analysis

Cluster analysis aims at **grouping** observations in *clusters*

Clusters should possibly be characterized by:

- **High within homogeneity**: observations in the same cluster should be *similar* (*not dissimilar*)
- **High between heterogeneity**: observations placed in different clusters should be *quite distinct* (*dissimilar*)

This means that we are interested in determining groups internally characterized by an high level of cohesion. Also, different clusters should describe different characteristics of the observations

Cluster analysis

A basic concept in cluster analysis is *dissimilarity* between observations and, also, between groups.

Let us first of all focus on observations.

In the context of cluster analysis, a measure of the dissimilarity between two cases, say the i -th and the k -th, satisfies the following:

$$d_{i,k} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } i, k$$

$$d_{i,i} = 0$$

$$d_{i,k} = d_{k,i}$$

WHAT IF $d_{ik} = 0$?

$d_{ik} = 0$ does not mean that two cases are identical. This only means that they are not dissimilar *with respect to the particular context under analysis*

Cluster analysis

Dissimilarities between observations are arranged in the so called **dissimilarity matrix**, a square ($n \times n$) matrix, where n is the number of observations.

Cases

	Cases			
Cases	d_{11}	d_{12}	....	d_{1n}
	d_{21}	d_{22}	....	d_{2n}

	d_{n1}	d_{n2}	....	d_{nn}

The (i,k) -th element of the matrix is the dissimilarity between the i -th and the k -th case. The matrix is symmetric, since we assumed that $d_{i,k} = d_{k,i}$

In some applications the dissimilarity matrix is obtained by taking into account **measurements on a set of variables**. Different measures of dissimilarities have been introduced in literature depending on the characteristics of the involved variables. Hence, **different dissimilarity matrices** can be obtained.

In other situations, the dissimilarity matrix may contain other kind of information, for example *judgements* about the dissimilarity between cases. In this case, the **dissimilarity matrix is given**.

Cluster Analysis for numerical variables

Dissimilarity measures for numerical variables

In the case when clusters have to be obtained on the basis of a vector of measurements on p variables (data matrix), the dissimilarity between two cases may be calculated by referring to the standard Euclidean distance or to the statistical distance

Euclidean distance

$$\Rightarrow d_{i,k}^E = \sqrt{(x_{i1} - x_{k1})^2 + (x_{i2} - x_{k2})^2 + \dots + (x_{ip} - x_{kp})^2}$$

Statistical distance

$$\Rightarrow d_{i,k}^S = \sqrt{(z_{i1} - z_{k1})^2 + (z_{i2} - z_{k2})^2 + \dots + (z_{ip} - z_{kp})^2}$$

Where z_{ij} is the standardized value corresponding to x_{ij}

Notice that the squared deviations are considered. As a consequence, extreme values on a given variable will have a great influence on the resulting dissimilarity. Moreover, extreme observations will be very dissimilar from the others, and hence regular observations will possibly be clustered together independently on their differences (clusters of regular vs clusters of extreme obs)

Cluster Analysis for numerical variables

Dissimilarity measures for numerical variables

An alternative criterion based on absolute rather than squared deviations is the

Manhattan (or City block) distance

$$d_{i,k}^{CB} = |x_{i1} - x_{k1}| + |x_{i2} - x_{k2}| + \dots + |x_{ip} - x_{kp}|$$

Also in this case a transformation may be applied similar to standardization.

The absolute deviation relative to the j -th variable may be divided by:

The **range**, $R_j = (\text{highest value} - \text{lowest value})$ for the j -th variable

The **MAD**, the median of the absolute deviations from the median.

The second criterion is less sensible to outliers (outliers may strongly influence the range) and it is similar to the standardization (dividing by a 'standard' deviation, in this situation a synthesis (median) of the deviance from the median)

In [statistics](#), **Mahalanobis distance** is a [distance](#) measure introduced by [P. C. Mahalanobis](#) in 1936.^[1] It is based on [correlations](#) between variables by which different patterns can be identified and analyzed. It is a useful way of determining *similarity* of an unknown [sample set](#) to a known one. It differs from [Euclidean distance](#) in that it takes into account the correlations of the [data set](#) and is [scale-invariant](#), i.e. not dependent on the scale of measurements.

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- 1 Definition
- 2 Intuitive explanation
- 3 Relationship to leverage
- 4 Applications
- 5 See also
- 6 References

Definition

[\[edit\]](#)

Formally, the Mahalanobis distance from a group of values with mean $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3, \dots, \mu_N)^T$ and [covariance matrix](#) S for a multivariate vector $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_N)^T$ is defined as:

$$D_M(x) = \sqrt{(x - \mu)^T S^{-1} (x - \mu)}.^{[2]}$$

Mahalanobis distance (or "generalized squared interpoint distance" for its squared value^[3]) can also be defined as dissimilarity measure between two [random vectors](#) \vec{x} and \vec{y} of the same [distribution](#) with the [covariance matrix](#) S :

$$d(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \sqrt{(\vec{x} - \vec{y})^T S^{-1} (\vec{x} - \vec{y})}.$$

If the covariance matrix is the identity matrix, the Mahalanobis distance reduces to the [Euclidean distance](#). If the covariance matrix is diagonal, then the resulting distance measure is called the *normalized Euclidean distance*:

$$d(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(x_i - y_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}},$$

where σ_i is the [standard deviation](#) of the x_i over the sample set.

Cluster analysis

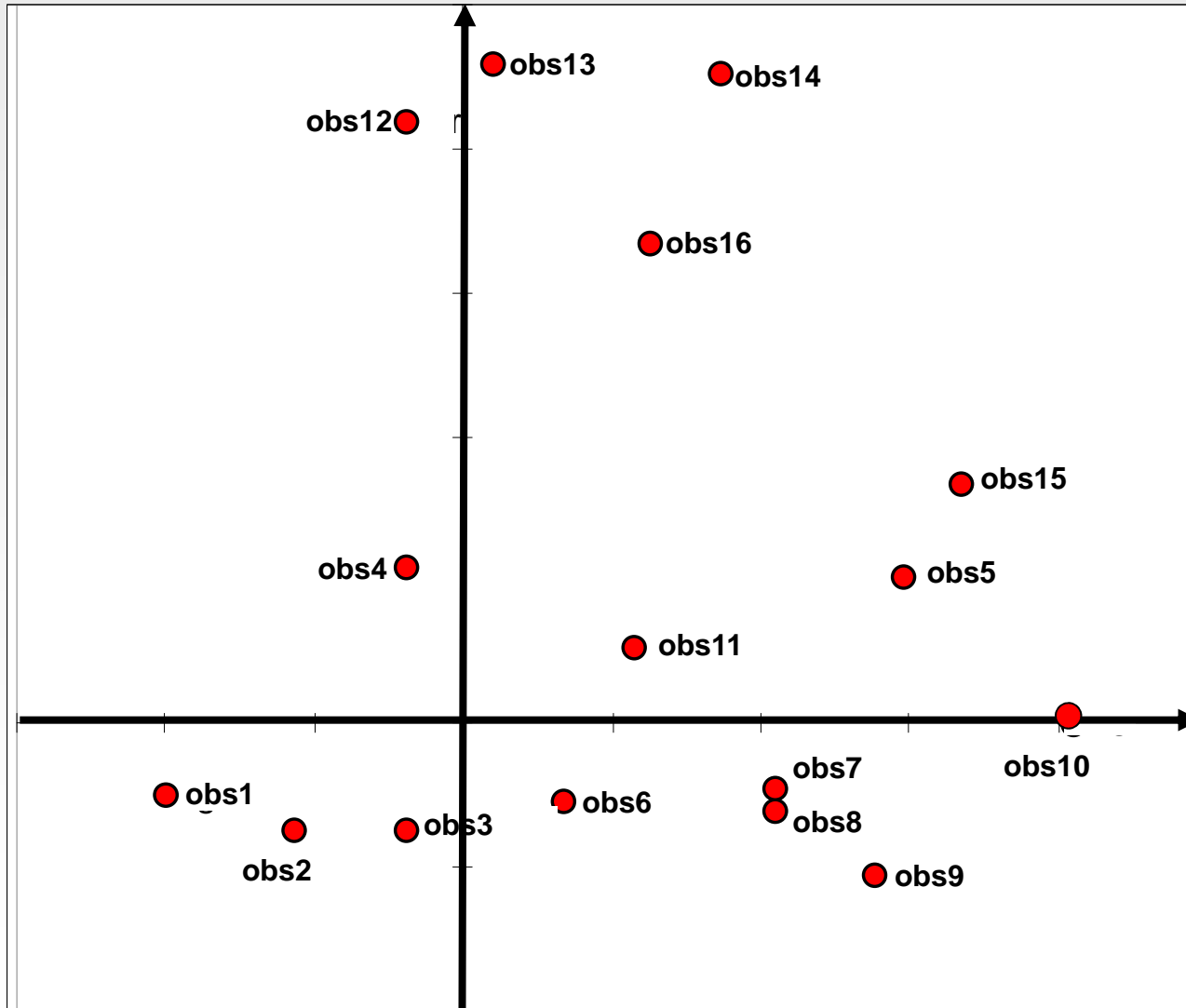
Example (synthetic data). Dissimilarity matrix

label	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4	Dist 5	Dist 6	Dist 7	Dist 8	Dist 9	Dist 10	Dist 11	Dist 12	Dist 13	Dist 14	Dist 15	Dist 16
obs1	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs2	0.85	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs3	1.53	0.70	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs4	2.12	1.93	1.80	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs5	5.22	4.57	3.94	3.50	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs6	2.60	1.81	1.12	1.94	2.88	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs7	4.10	3.31	2.61	3.03	1.79	1.50	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs8	4.10	3.30	2.60	3.08	1.88	1.50	0.10	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs9	4.84	4.01	3.31	3.91	2.11	2.26	0.89	0.83	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs10	6.07	5.31	4.62	4.66	1.45	3.50	2.03	2.06	1.67	0.00	.	.	.	.	.	.
obs11	3.23	2.59	2.00	1.71	1.99	1.12	1.38	1.45	2.27	2.98	0.00	.	.	.	.	.
obs12	4.93	5.05	5.00	3.20	4.74	4.92	5.42	5.50	6.24	6.19	4.12	0.00	.	.	.	.
obs13	5.42	5.46	5.33	3.55	4.55	5.12	5.43	5.52	6.22	5.99	4.22	0.67	0.00	.	.	.
obs14	6.14	5.95	5.65	4.05	3.64	5.12	4.97	5.07	5.61	4.99	4.04	2.21	1.60	0.00	.	.
obs15	5.79	5.19	4.58	3.95	0.72	3.56	2.51	2.60	2.77	1.73	2.59	4.69	4.39	3.28	0.00	.
obs16	4.96	4.72	4.39	2.84	2.78	3.86	3.83	3.93	4.55	4.22	2.81	2.06	1.77	1.26	2.64	0

How should we choose groups? We can individuate some close pairs (for example, obs 7 and obs 8 are closest). But how many groups should we consider? How can we properly assign each observation to a given group?

Cluster analysis

Example (synthetic data). Simple example, 2 dimensions – graphical analysis



2 groups are clearly identifiable

But maybe also 3 groups may be considered. Which cluster should obs11 and obs6 be assigned to?

Types of clustering

Data clustering algorithms can be [hierarchical](#). Hierarchical algorithms find successive clusters using previously established clusters. Hierarchical algorithms can be agglomerative ("bottom-up") or divisive ("top-down"). Agglomerative algorithms begin with each element as a separate cluster and merge them into successively larger clusters. Divisive algorithms begin with the whole set and proceed to divide it into successively smaller clusters.

[Partitional](#) algorithms typically determine all clusters at once, but can also be used as divisive algorithms in the [hierarchical](#) clustering.

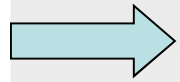
Density-based clustering algorithms are devised to discover arbitrary-shaped clusters. In this approach, a cluster is regarded as a region in which the density of data objects exceeds a threshold. [DBSCAN](#) and [OPTICS](#) are two typical algorithms of this kind.

Two-way clustering, co-clustering or [biclustering](#) are clustering methods where not only the objects are clustered but also the features of the objects, i.e., if the data is represented in a [data matrix](#), the rows and columns are clustered simultaneously.

Another important distinction is whether the clustering uses symmetric or asymmetric distances. A property of [Euclidean space](#) is that distances are symmetric (the distance from object *A* to *B* is the same as the distance from *B* to *A*). In other applications (e.g., sequence-alignment methods, see Prinzie & Van den Poel (2006)), this is not the case.

Many clustering algorithms require [specification of the number of clusters](#) to produce in the input data set, prior to execution of the algorithm. Barring knowledge of the proper value beforehand, the appropriate value must be determined, a problem for₁₃ which a number of techniques have been developed.

Cluster analysis: methods



Hierarchical (agglomerative) algorithms

Sequential procedures.

At the first step, each observation constitutes a cluster. At each step, the two closest clusters are joined to form a new cluster. Thus, the groups at each step are nested with respect to the groups obtained at the previous step.

Once an object has been assigned to a group it is never *removed* from the group later on in the clustering process.

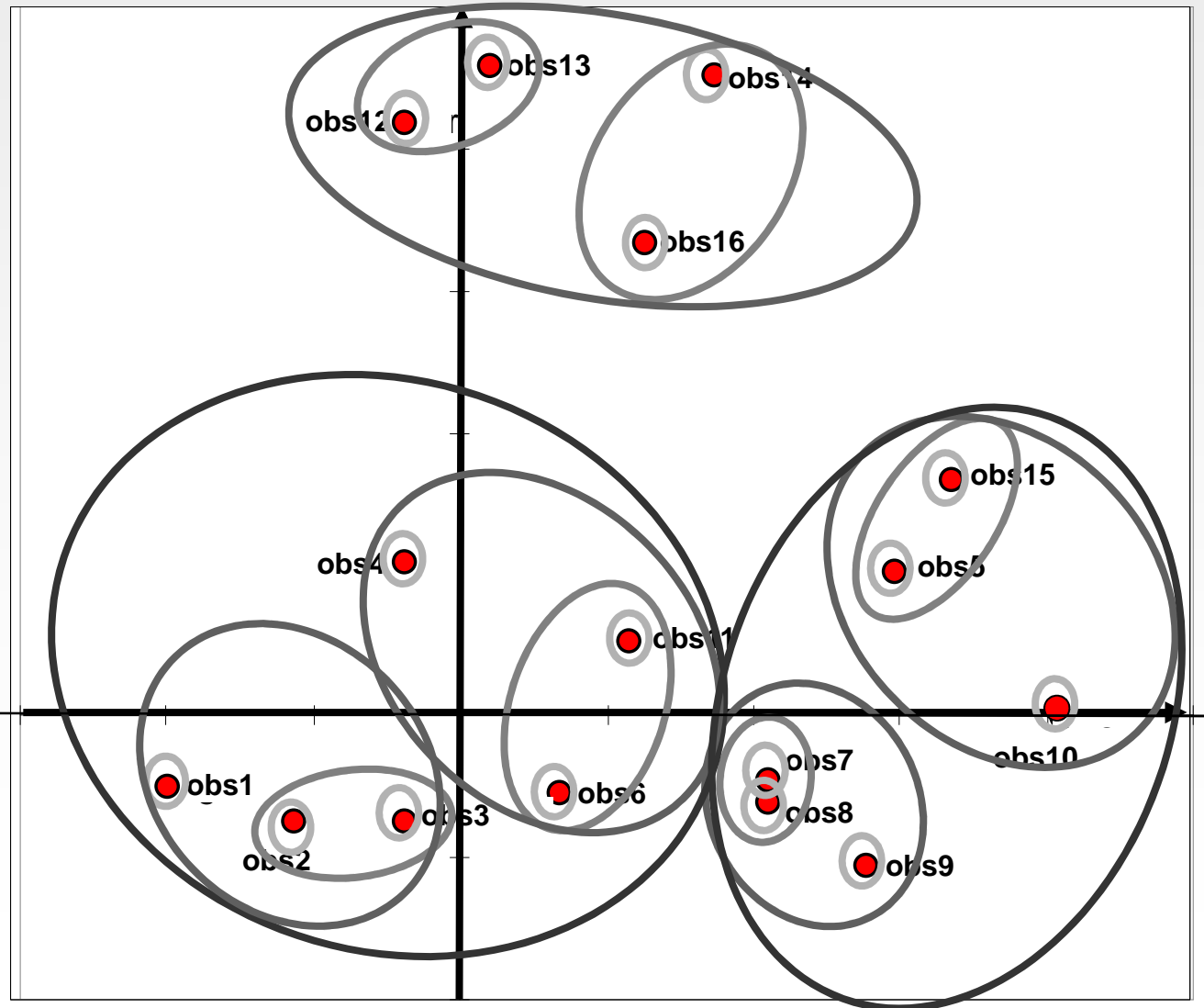
The hierarchical method produce a complete sequence of cluster solutions beginning with n clusters and ending with one clusters containing all the n observations.

In some application the set of nested clusters is the required solution whereas in other applications only one of the cluster solutions is selected as the solution, i.e., the proper number of clusters has to be selected.

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

Initial solution: n clusters (one for each observation)

At each step: the two closest (lowest dissimilarity) clusters are joined to form a new cluster



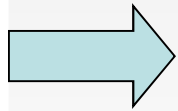
Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

Hierarchical agglomerative algorithms

At each step, we should join the two closest clusters.

Our starting point is the dissimilarity matrix. It is almost easy to determine which are the two closest observations.

Nevertheless, now a problem arises: how do we calculate the dissimilarity between one observation and one cluster or between two clusters?

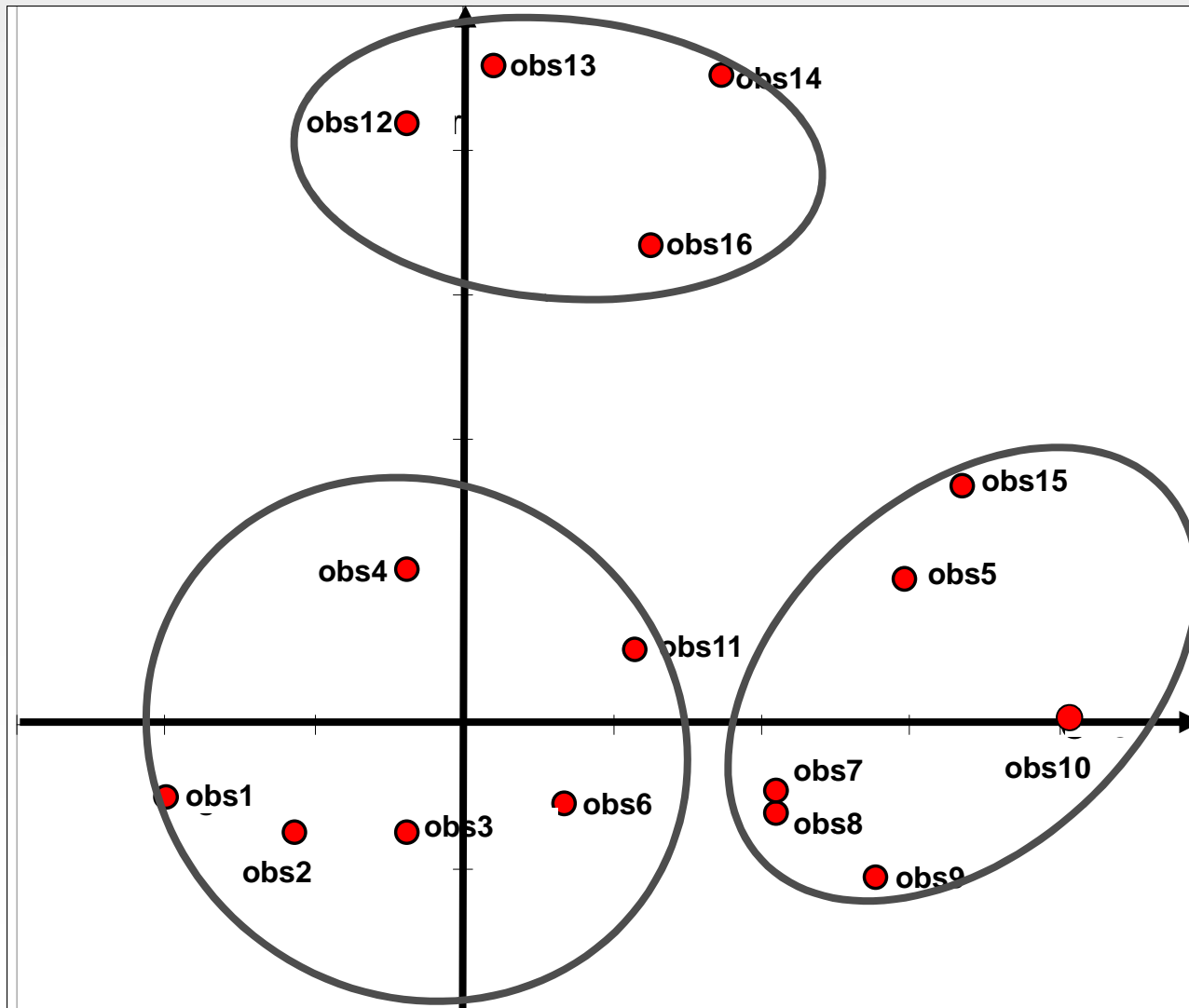


**Definition of criteria to measure the
Dissimilarity between groups of observations (clusters)**

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

We limit attention to two approaches to measure dissimilarity between clusters

1. Criteria based on the dissimilarity between two properly chosen observations
2. Criteria based on syntheses of the dissimilarities or on dissimilarities between syntheses.



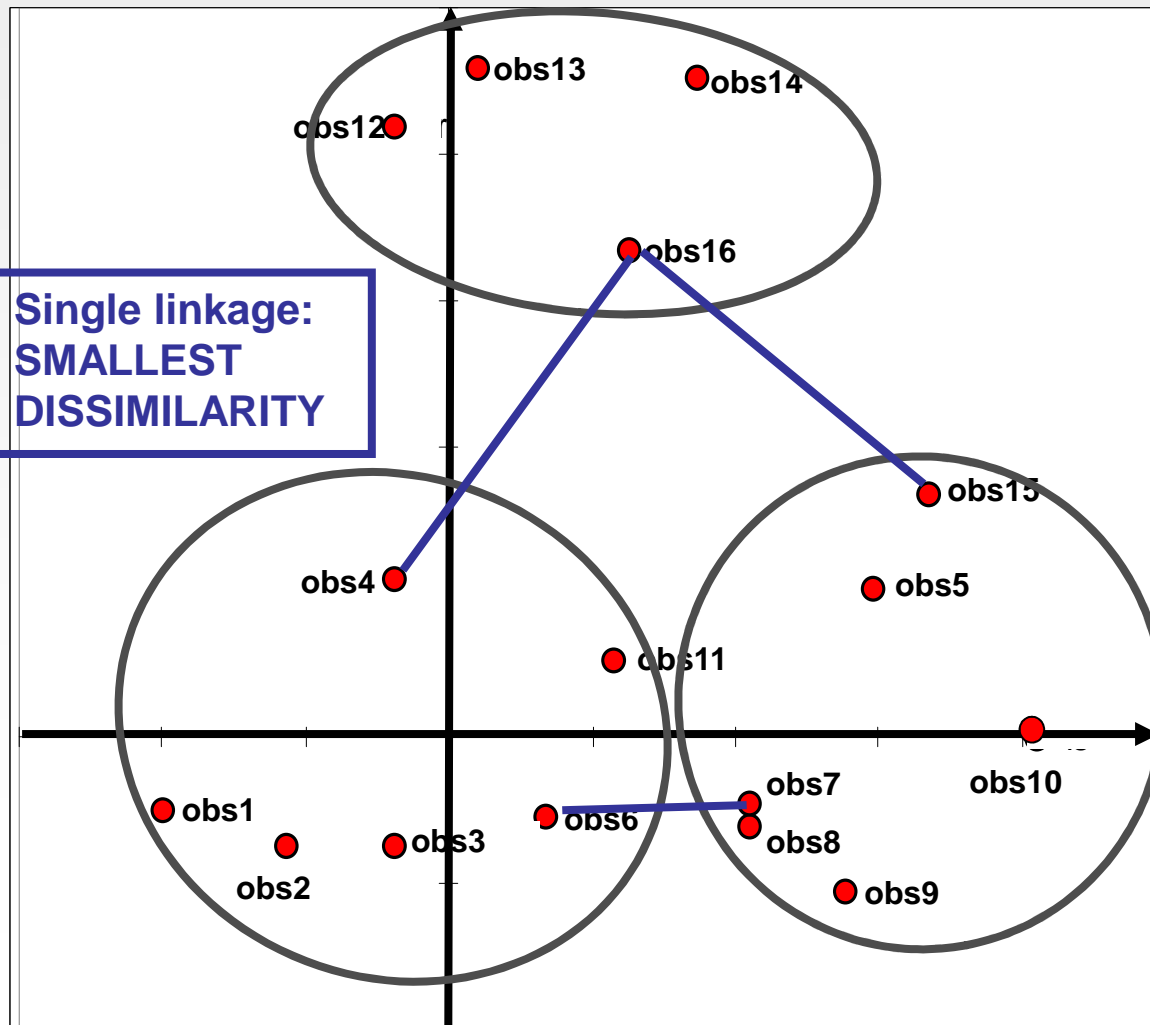
For the sake of clarity, we illustrate the proposals by referring to a simplified 2-dimensional plot (synthetic data) may be applied also when a dissimilarity matrix is available (regardless of how it was obtained).

We consider a 3-clusters partition and show how to measure the dissimilarity between 2 clusters.

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters

Single linkage: the dissimilarity between two clusters is measured by the smallest possible dissimilarity between cases in the two clusters (dissimilarity between the two closest cases)

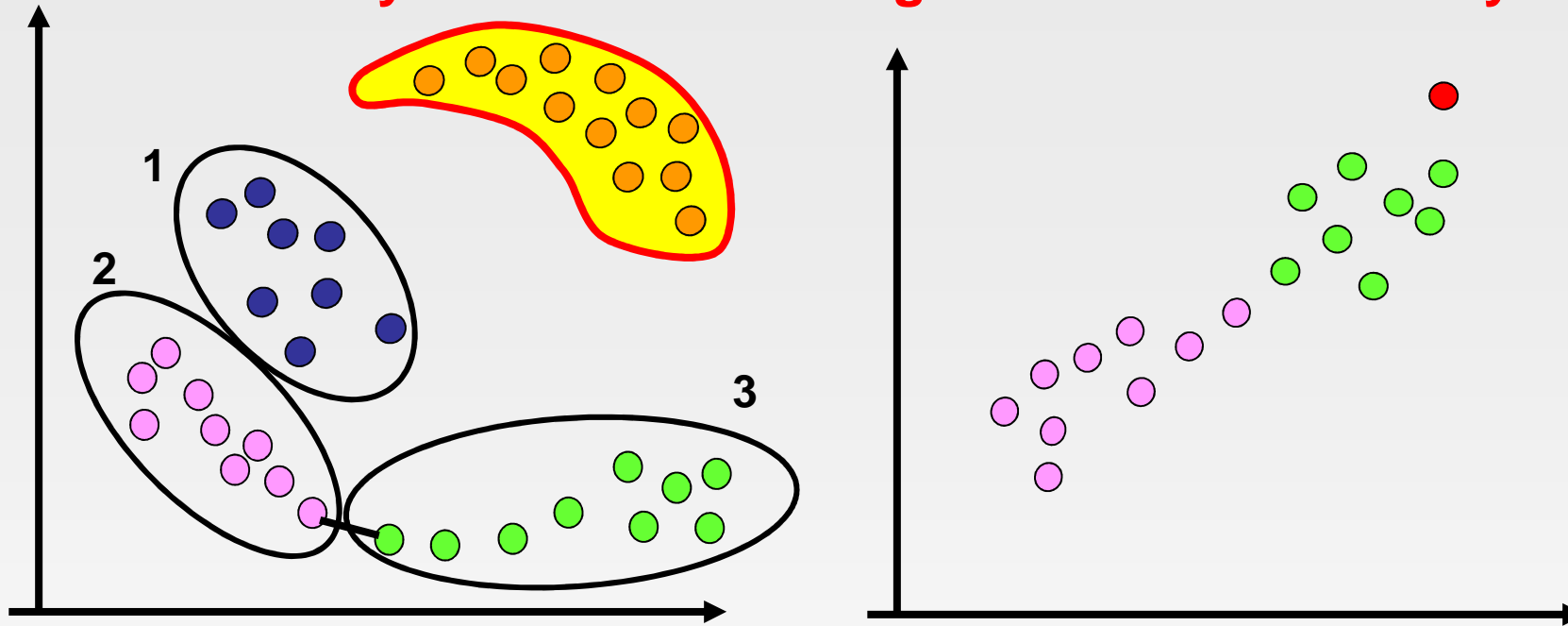
The two clusters with minimum single linkage are joined



Single linkage: which clusters should be joined?

The dissimilarity between two clusters is based on **one of the possible pairs of observations**

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters



Single linkage: It is a flexible method and it can individuate also clusters with particular shapes (elongated, elliptical)

However, in cases when clusters are not well separated this method may lead to unsatisfactory solutions due to the so called **chaining effect**.

Consider the three clusters 1-3 in the left panel. Clusters 1 and 2 are (“globally”) closer.

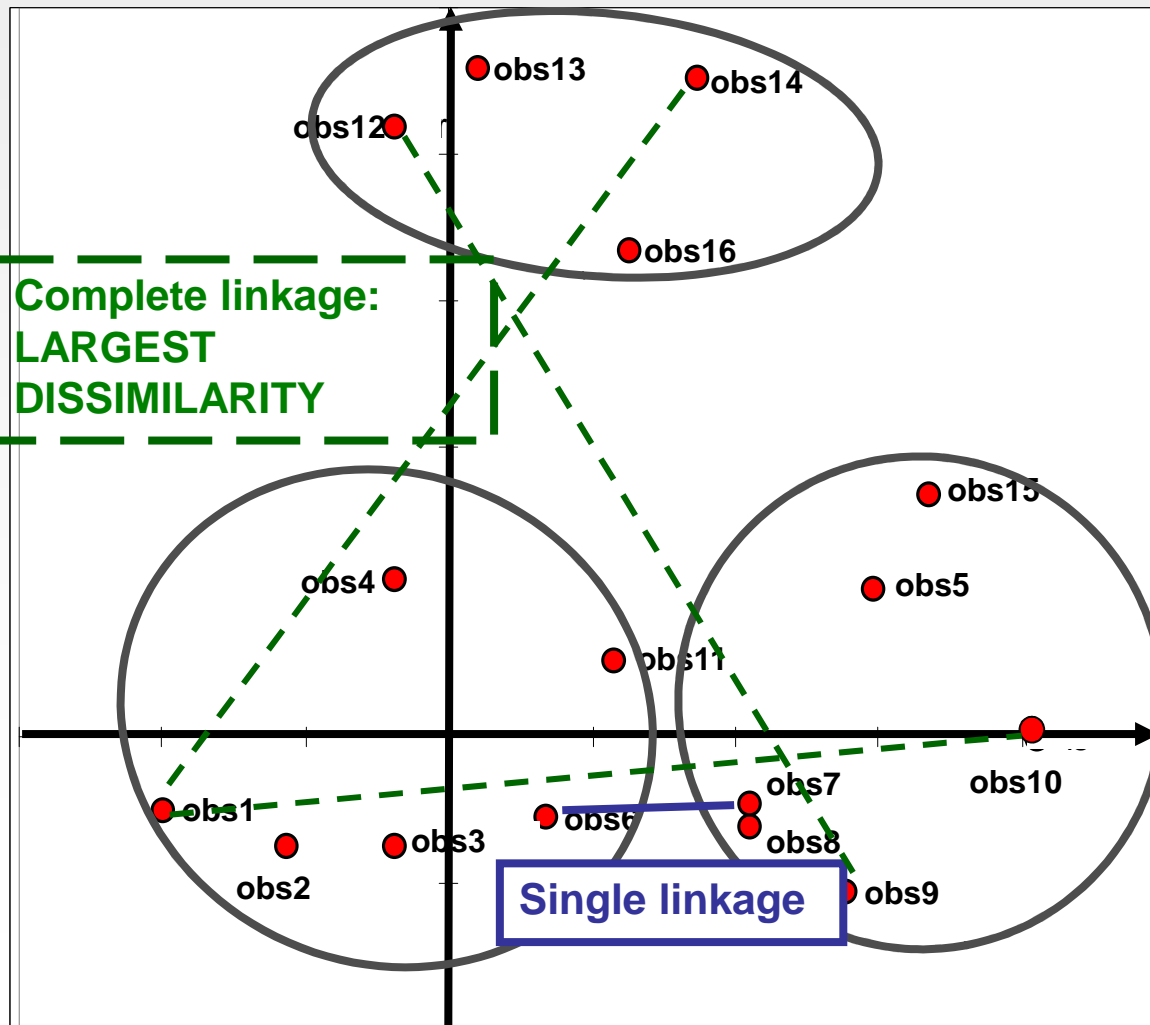
Nevertheless, due to the presence of two very close cases in clusters 2 and 3, they will be joined instead.

Another example is in the right panel. This last example evidences that this method may be useful in outliers detection.

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters

Complete linkage: the dissimilarity between two clusters is measured by the smallest possible dissimilarity between cases in the two clusters (dissimilarity between the two furthest cases)

The two clusters with minimum complete linkage are joined



Complete linkage: which clusters should be joined?

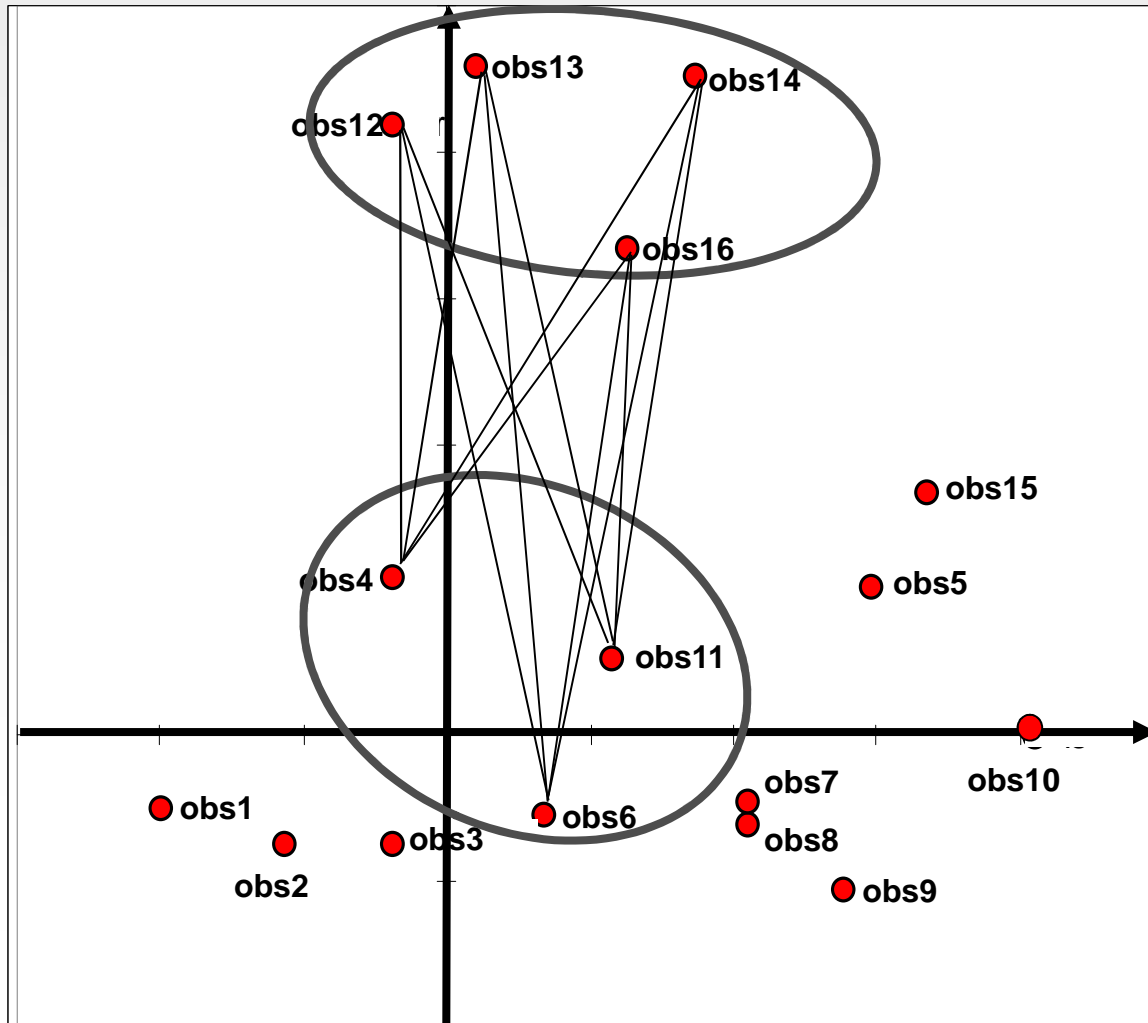
The dissimilarity between two clusters is based on **one of the possible pairs of observations**

Usually clusters with similar diameters are obtained

Depending on the criterion chosen to measure dissimilarity between clusters, different clusters are joined

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters

Average linkage: The dissimilarity between two clusters is given by the average the dissimilarities between all the possible pairs of cases

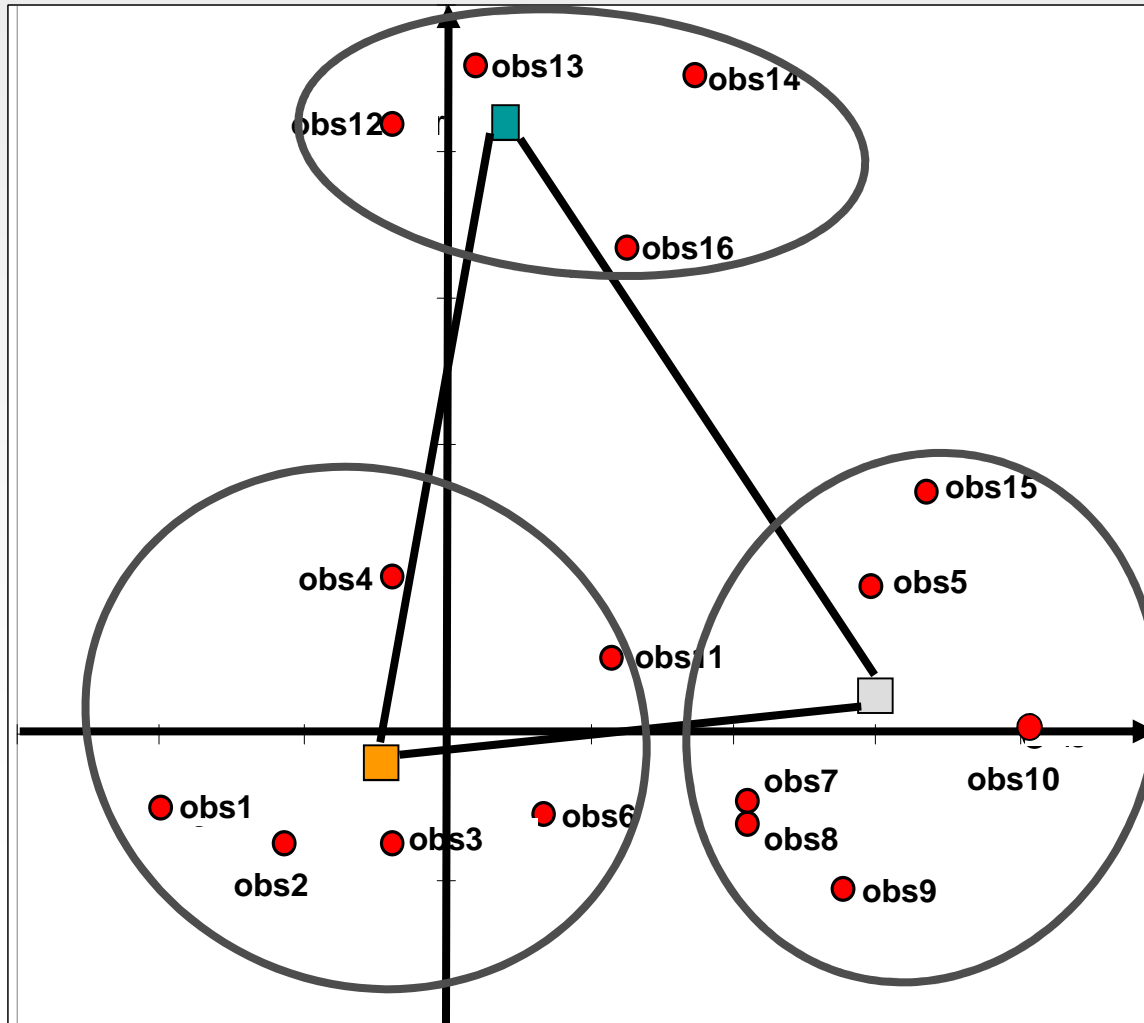


The dissimilarity is based upon a synthesis of all the dissimilarities

Usually clusters with similar variances are obtained

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters

Dissimilarity between centroids: The dissimilarity between two clusters is given by the dissimilarities between the centroids (**Important:** this quantity may also be evaluated when only the dissimilarity matrix is available)



The dissimilarity is based upon a synthesis of all the dissimilarities

Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms – dissimilarity/clusters

Ward's method: Let us focus only on two of the three clusters considered before, and let us consider the case when a data matrix is available (even if the procedure can be extended to the case when we only have a dissimilarity matrix). This method is based upon the concept of **within sum of squares**.

Within sum of squares for a cluster c

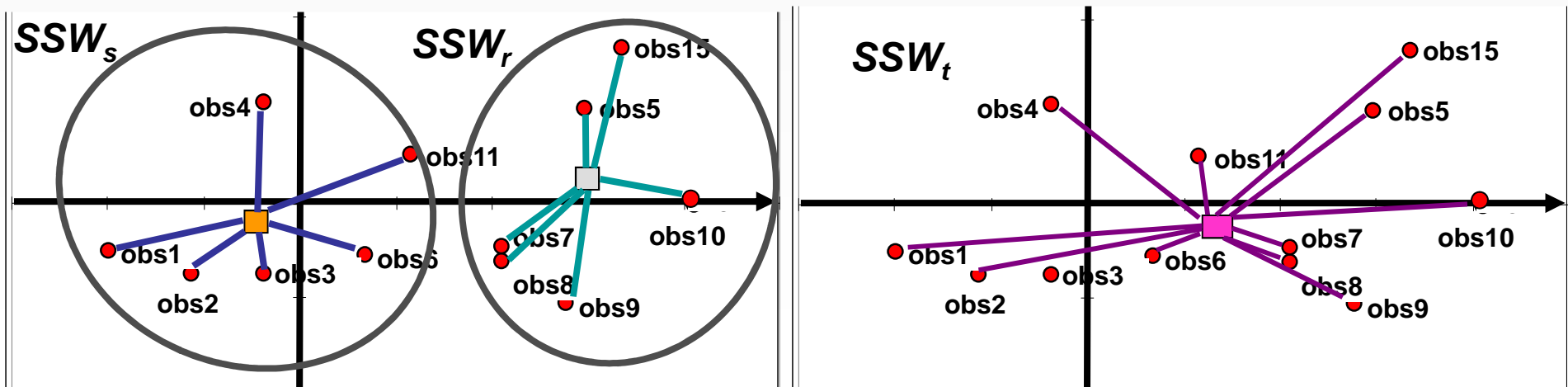
$$SSW_c = \sum_{i=1}^{n_c} \sum_{j=1}^p (x_{ijc} - \bar{x}_{jc})^2$$

Suppose now that the two clusters r and s are joined to form cluster t .

It will be $SSW_t > SSW_r + SSW_s$ (the two original centroids will explain better cases within clusters). The increase consequent to the joining of r and s will be quite small if the two clusters are very close, and high if they are very different.

The quantity $SSW_t - (SSW_r + SSW_s)$ is called **between sum of squares (SS)**.

Ward's method: the two clusters with the smallest **Between SS** are joined.



Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

Given a dissimilarity matrix, based on a certain measure of the dissimilarity between cases, there are different methods to measure the dissimilarity between *clusters*. These criteria often lead to different partitions.

Single Linkage Cluster Analysis

NCL	Clusters Joined		FREQ	Min Dist
15	obs7	obs8	2	0.1
14	obs12	obs13	2	0.6708
13	obs2	obs3	2	0.7
12	obs5	obs15	2	0.7211
11	CL15	obs9	3	0.8322
10	obs1	CL13	3	0.8544
9	CL10	obs6	4	1.118
8	CL9	obs11	5	1.118
7	obs14	obs16	2	1.2649
6	CL8	CL11	8	1.3793
5	CL12	obs10	3	1.45
4	CL14	CL7	4	1.6031
3	CL6	CL5	11	1.6651
2	CL3	obs4	12	1.7088
1	CL2	CL4	16	2.6401

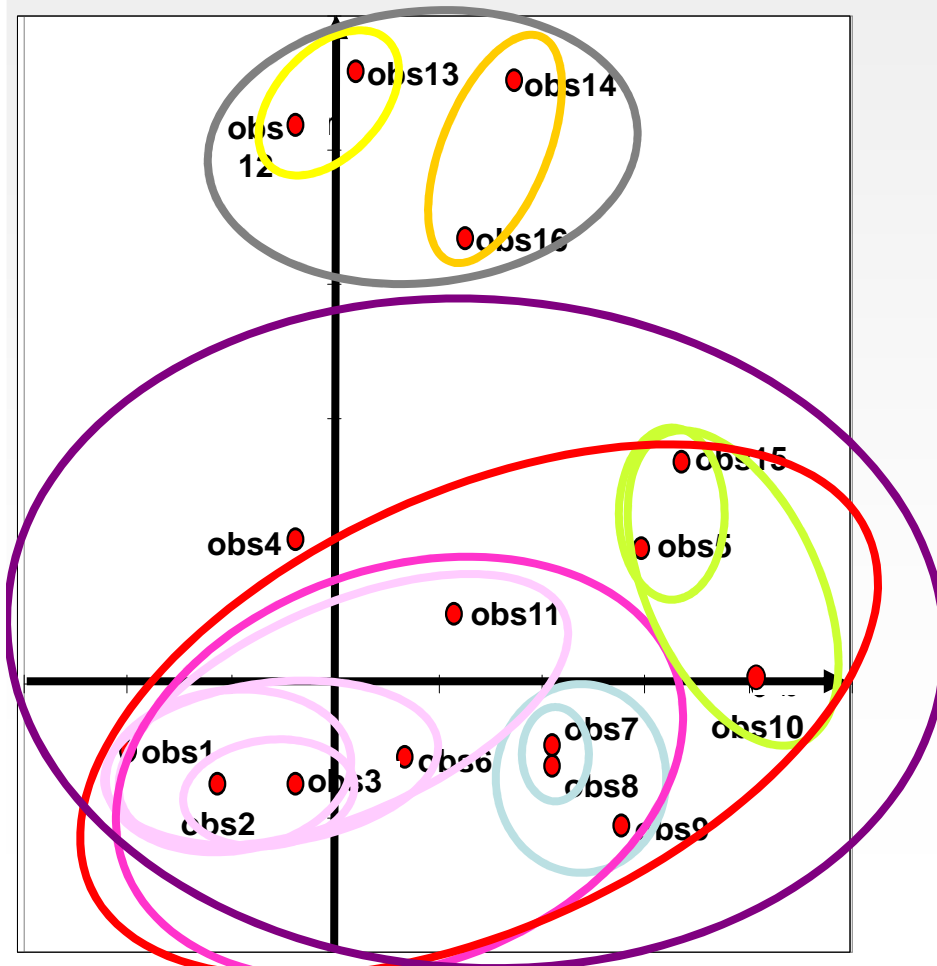
Complete Linkage Cluster Analysis

NCL	Clusters Joined		FREQ	Max Dist
15	obs7	obs8	2	0.1
14	obs12	obs13	2	0.6708
13	obs2	obs3	2	0.7
12	obs5	obs15	2	0.7211
11	CL15	obs9	3	0.8902
10	obs6	obs11	2	1.118
9	obs14	obs16	2	1.2649
8	obs1	CL13	3	1.5297
7	CL12	obs10	3	1.727
6	obs4	CL10	3	1.9416
5	CL14	CL9	4	2.2091
4	CL7	CL11	6	2.7659
3	CL8	CL6	6	3.228
2	CL3	CL4	12	6.0706
1	CL2	CL5	16	6.2434

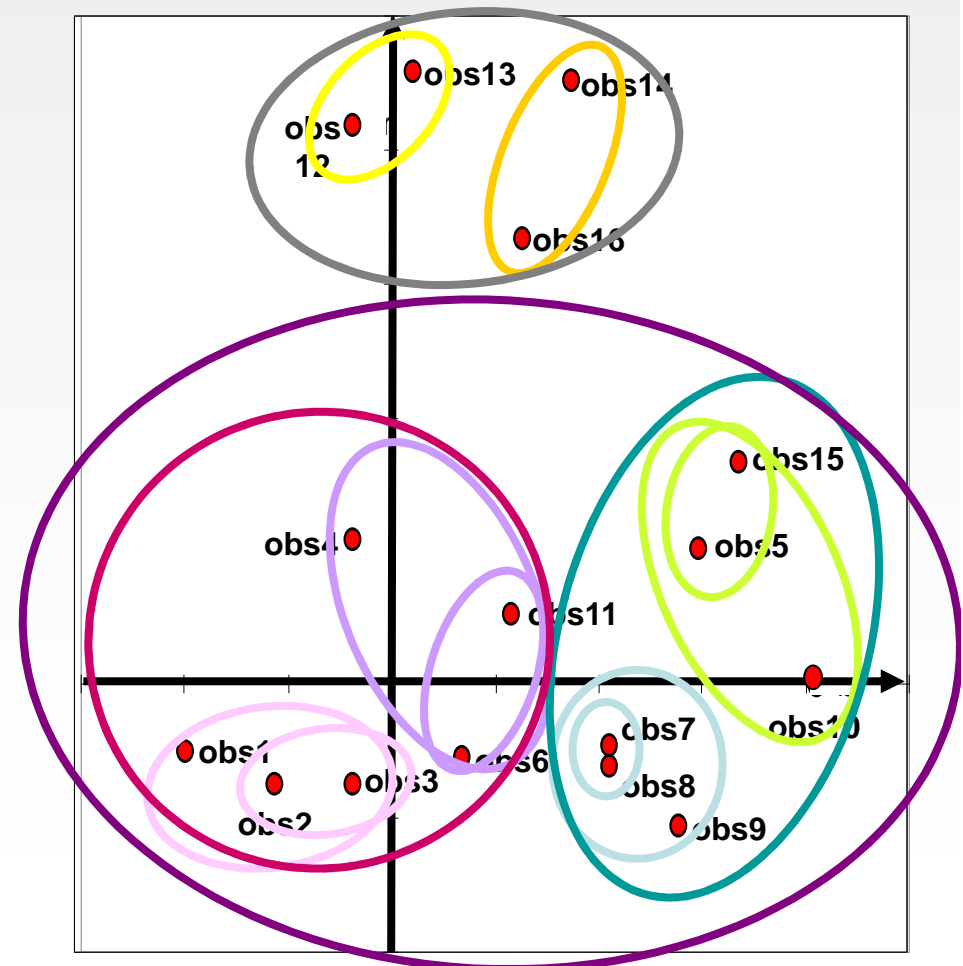
Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

Given a dissimilarity matrix, based on a certain measure of the dissimilarity between cases, there are different methods to measure the dissimilarity between *clusters*. These criteria often lead to different partitions.

Single Linkage Cluster Analysis



Complete Linkage Cluster Analysis



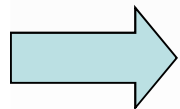
Cluster analysis: hierarchical algorithms

To apply a hierarchical agglomerative algorithm we have to:

1. **Obtain the dissimilarity matrix** containing the dissimilarities between all the possible pairs of observations (as we will see later, different criteria may be referred to)
2. **Choose a method to measure the dissimilarity between clusters**

These choices have an impact on the *sequence of nested partitions* obtained as an output. So we usually have **different sequences of nested partitions**.

But, also, for a given sequence of nested partitions the following problem arises:



How should we select a suitable number of clusters?

Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

We consider first the problem of **choosing one out of the clusters solutions** obtained with one hierarchical clustering process.

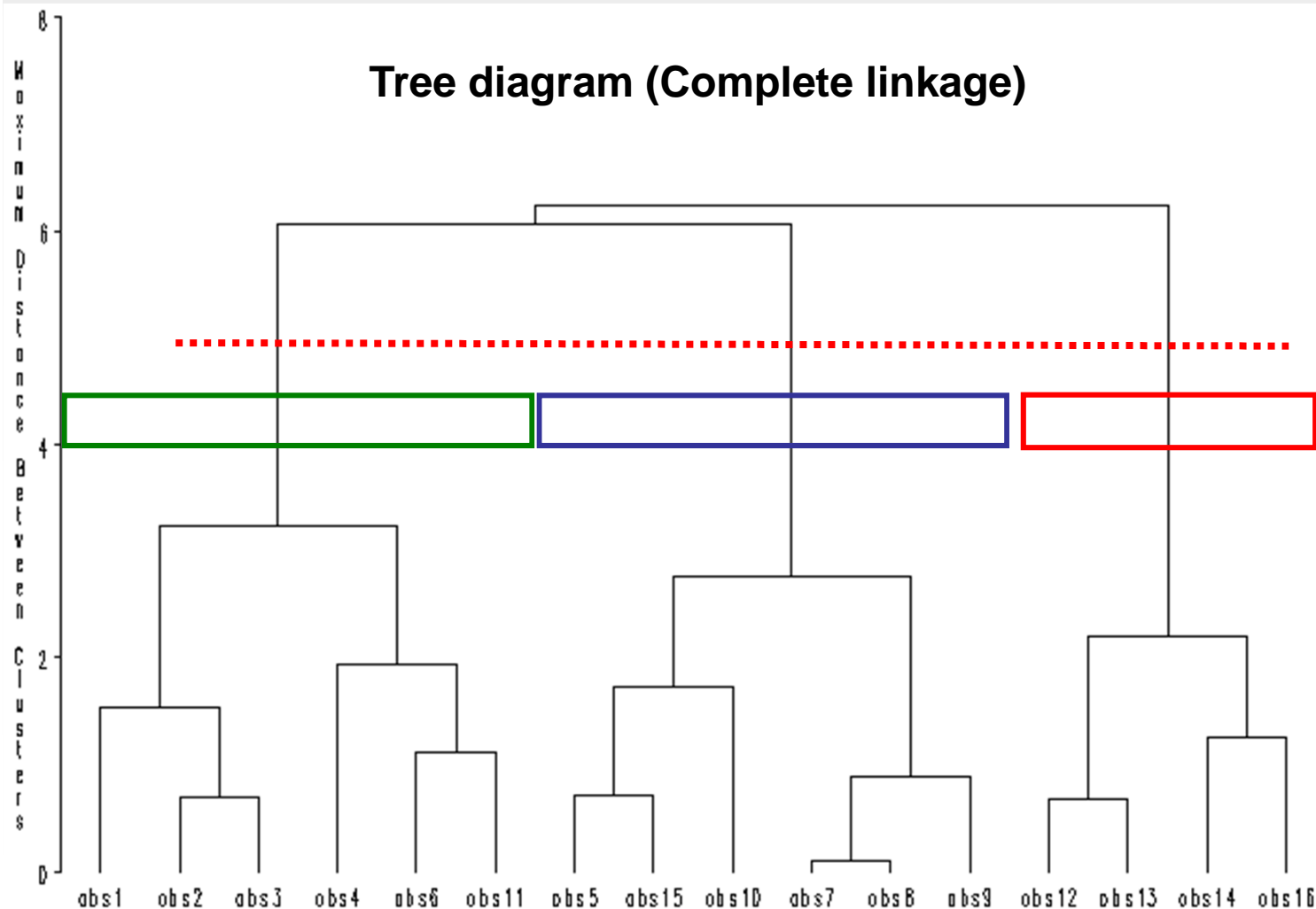
At this aim, the agglomeration process is monitored as the number of clusters declines from n to 1, and some quality of clustering criteria are evaluated.

- 1. Internal criteria.** The simplest approach to cluster choice consists in the evaluation of the ***dissimilarity between the two clusters joined at each step***. In the first steps of the procedure, similar cases/groups will be joined to form new clusters. At subsequent steps, we can expect an increasing of this dissimilarity, and this increase will tend to grow exponentially in the last aggregation phases, i.e. when very dissimilar clusters are joined.
- 2. External criteria.** Another possibility consists in the evaluation of some statistics – not related to the criterion used to measure the dissimilarity between clusters – which are solely based upon the R^2 , the within and the between sum of squares characterizing partition of different degree (different number of clusters)

Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

Internal criteria: Tree diagram (dendrogram) and its height

Where would you 'cut' the dendrogram? I.e., which aggregation would you avoid?



Remember that the height of the dendrogram is normalized. Observe that the dissimilarity between observations is different from one tree to another. (consider for example the distance between obs 5 and 15)

Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

External criteria: R^2 , Pseudo F , Pseudo t^2 .

Criteria based upon the within and between sum of squares. Consider for simplicity the situation when cluster analysis is based upon a vector of measurements (the concepts can be extended to the case when only a dissimilarity matrix is available)

$$\mathbf{T} = \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{i=1}^{n_c} \sum_{j=1}^p (x_{ijc} - \bar{x}_j)^2 \quad \text{Total sum of squares (SS)}$$

Consider a partition of the dataset into C clusters

$$\mathbf{W}_C = \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{i=1}^{n_c} \sum_{j=1}^p (x_{ijc} - \bar{x}_{jc})^2 \quad \text{Within SS}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_c = \mathbf{T} - \mathbf{W}_C = \sum_{c=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^p n_c (\bar{x}_{jc} - \bar{x}_j)^2 \quad \text{Between SS}$$

The Within SS sum of squares is a synthesis of the squared errors incurred when using the clusters to “make predictions”/explain the variables at the basis of the clustering procedure. Instead, the Total SS is the synthesis of the squared errors when the general means are used (no external information – clusters)

Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

External criteria: R^2 , Pseudo F , Pseudo t^2 .

$$\rightarrow R_C^2 = 1 - \frac{W_C}{T} = \frac{B_C}{T}$$

R square: quality of a partition. It is related to the proportion of total variation among cases explained by clusters

$R^2 = 1$ when $C = n$ (each case constitute a cluster – no within SS)

$R^2 = 0$ when $C = 1$ (all cases placed in a single cluster –Within SS=Total SS) As the number of clusters decreases the R^2 also decreases. A sudden decrease of the R^2 would indicate the joining of clusters which are really dissimilar

$$\rightarrow \Delta R^2 = R_C^2 - R_{C-1}^2$$

Semi-partial R square: decrease of the R^2 when moving from C clusters to $(C - 1)$ clusters.

Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

External criteria: R^2 , Pseudo F , Pseudo t^2 .

Pseudo F statistic
$$F_C = \frac{\mathbf{B}_C / (C - 1)}{\mathbf{W}_C / (n - C)}$$

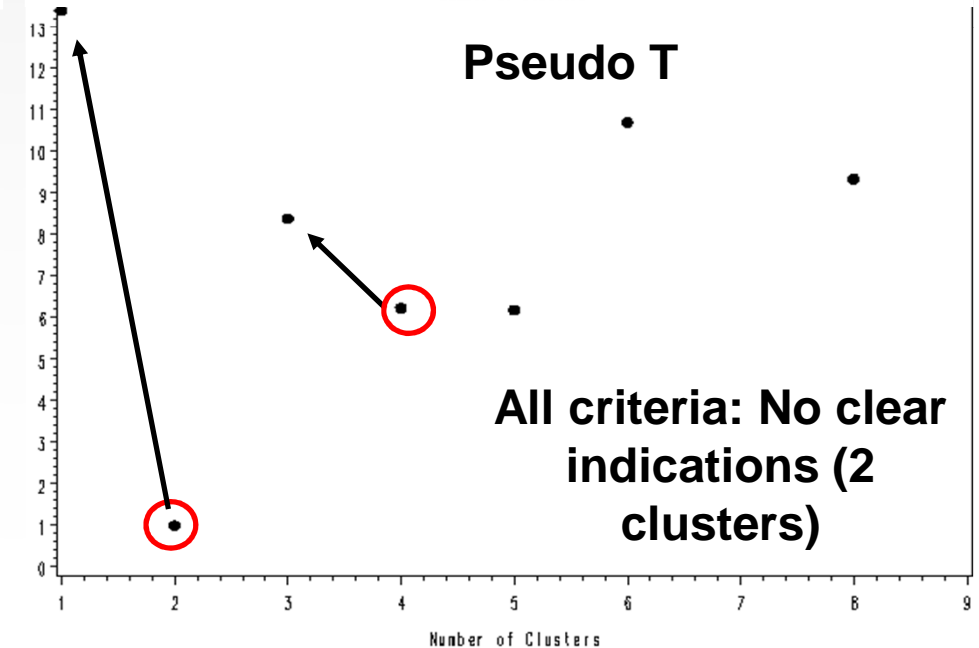
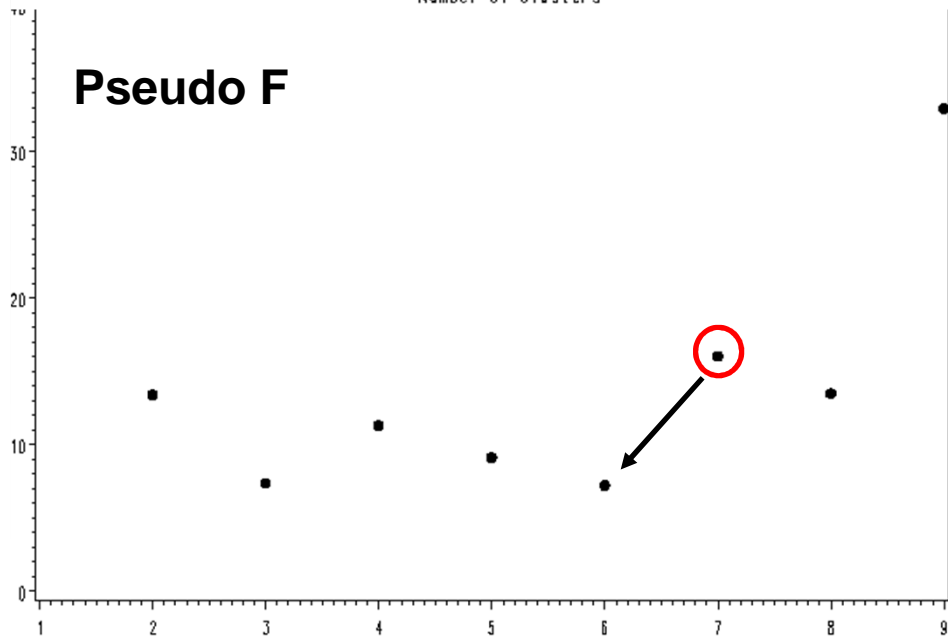
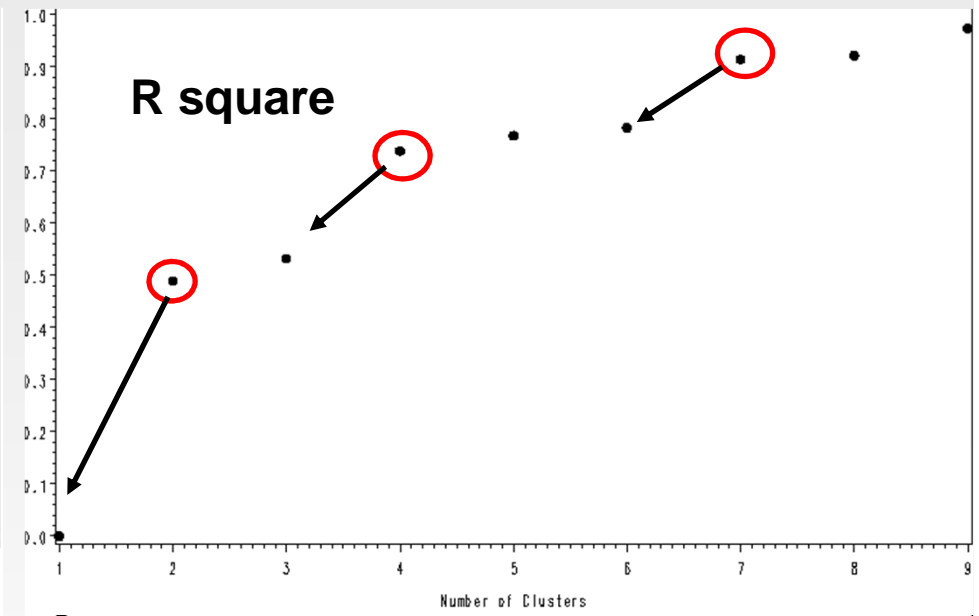
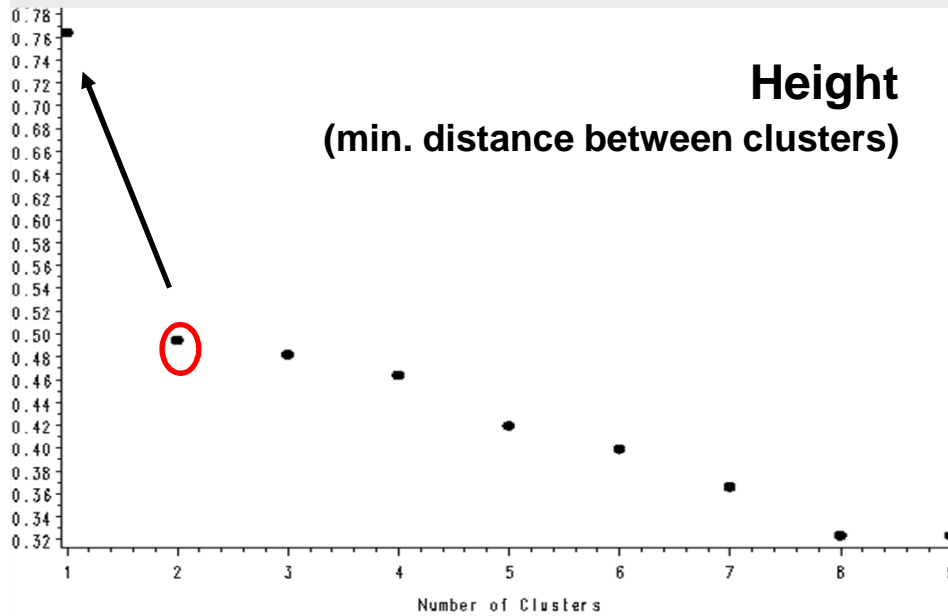
In the initial steps of agglomeration, as n decreases, \mathbf{B} decreases and \mathbf{W} increases, so F_C gradually decreases. A sudden relatively high decrease of F_C consequent to an aggregation indicates the joining of two quite distinct clusters. The $(C + 1)$ cluster solution immediately prior to this decrease should be selected.

Pseudo t statistic
$$t_C = \frac{(SSW_t - SSW_r - SSW_s)(n_r + n_s - 2)}{SSW_r + SSW_s}$$

Numerator = increase in the Within SS resulting from joining r and s to form a new cluster. Denominator = sum of the within SS of the two joined clusters. A sudden **increase** of the statistics indicates the joining of two distinct clusters (high relative increase of the within consequent to aggregation).

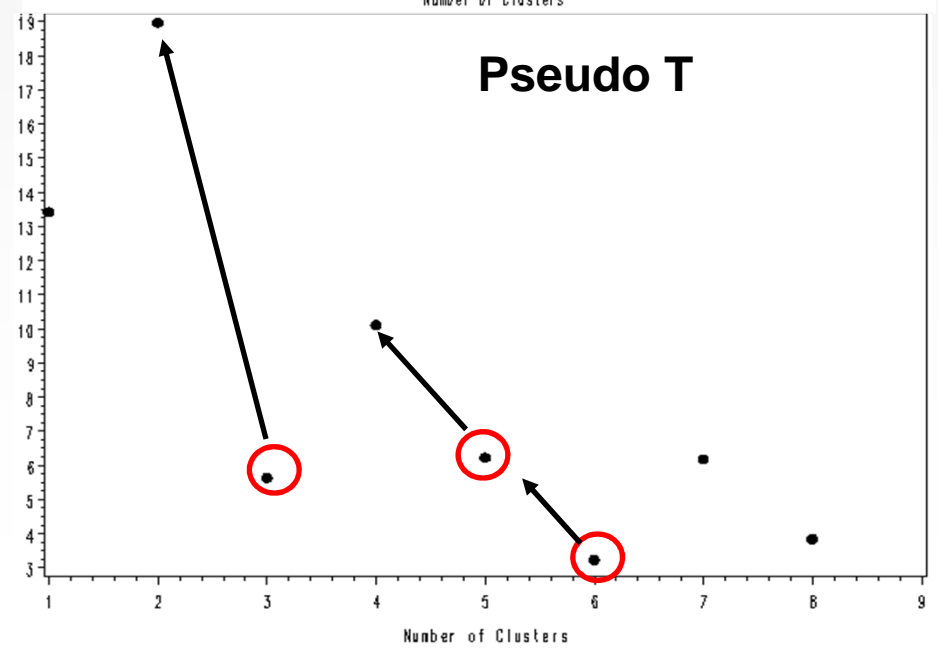
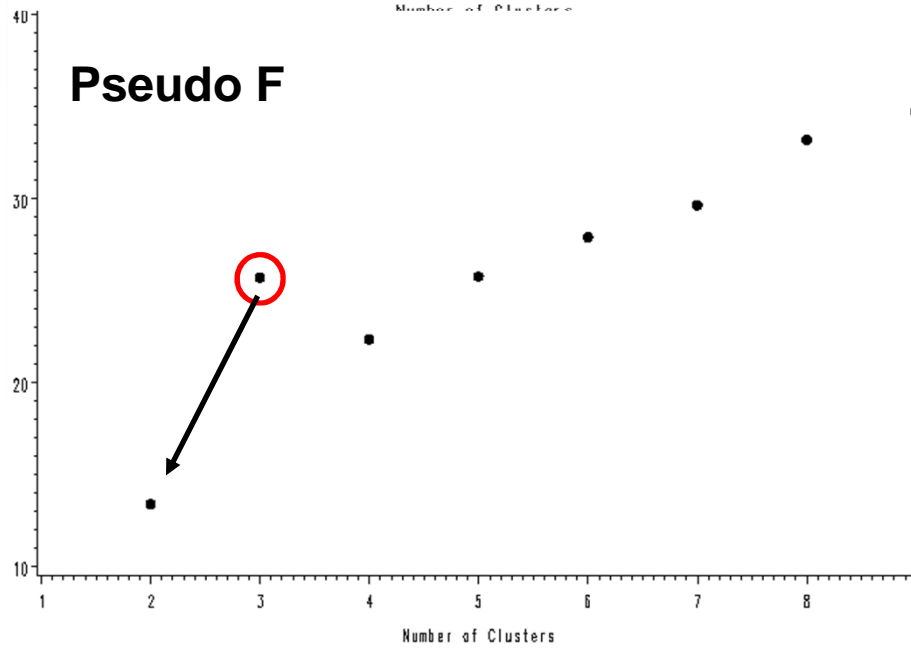
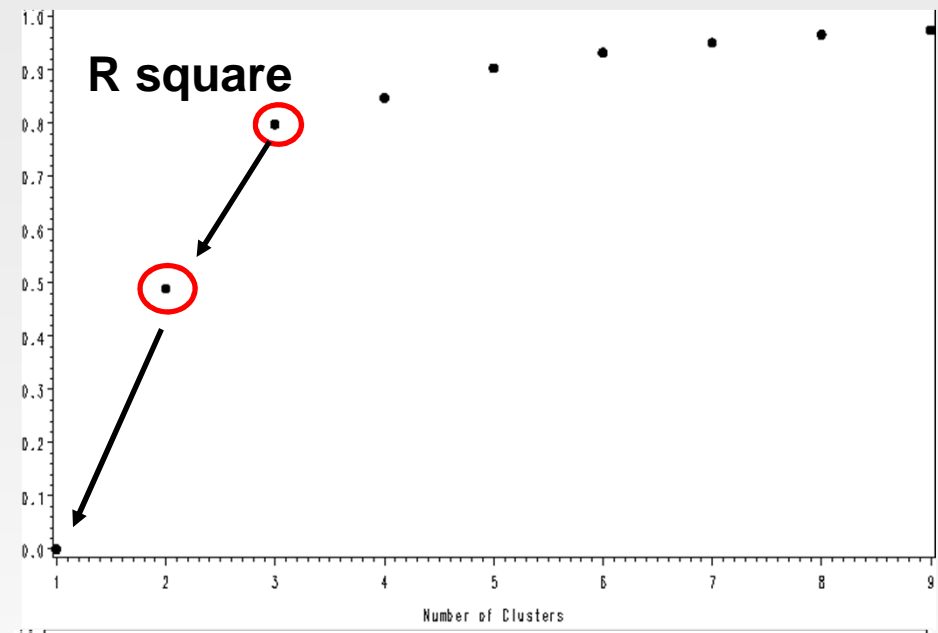
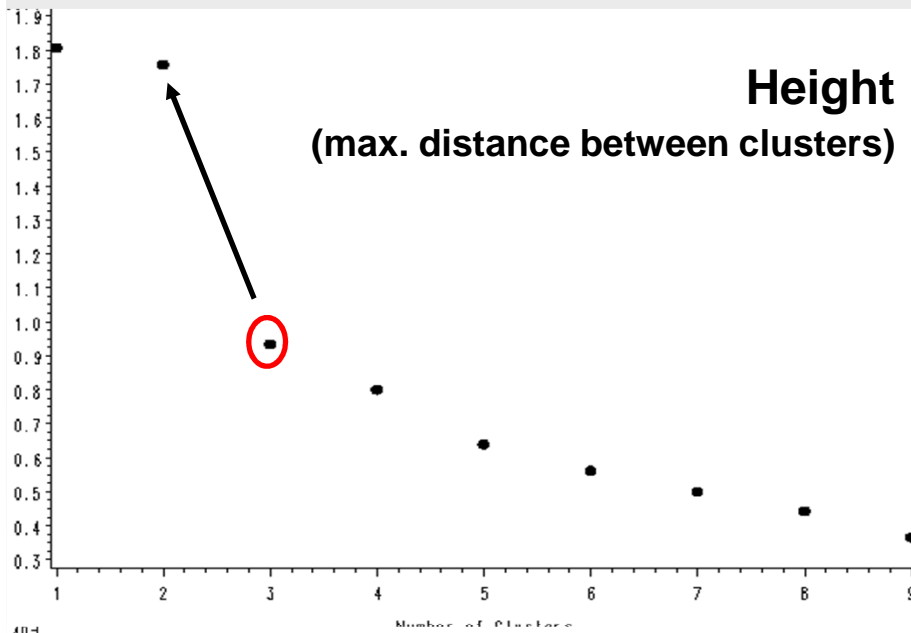
Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

Monitoring internal and external criteria: Single linkage



Cluster analysis: hierarchical methods/choosing the nr of clusters

Monitoring internal and external criteria: Complete linkage



Cluster analysis – partitioning algorithms

In partitioning algorithms, the number of clusters has to be specified. The algorithm usually starts with an initial allocation of the objects into G groups. Then observations are placed in the cluster they are closest to. Alternatively, observations are assigned to one cluster so as to maximize an objective function. The procedure iterates until all objects belong to the closest group (the objective function is maximized) or until a convergence criterion is satisfied .

Usually (SAS) partitioning methods are based upon measurements on a set of variables rather than on a dissimilarity, and on Euclidean distances.

One of the most important partitioning algorithms is the ***k-means* algorithm**. In this algorithm, **the distance from one observation to a cluster is measured as the distance between the observation and the centroid of the cluster**.

It can be easily shown that in this case the algorithm attempts to find the partition characterized by the minimum **Within SS**, i.e., by the maximum R^2 .

In this sense, Ward's and the *k-means* algorithms are two R^2 -maximizing algorithms. The former is based upon a hierarchical solution to the optimization problem. The latter is instead based on an iterative search of the optimum.

Cluster analysis – partitioning algorithms

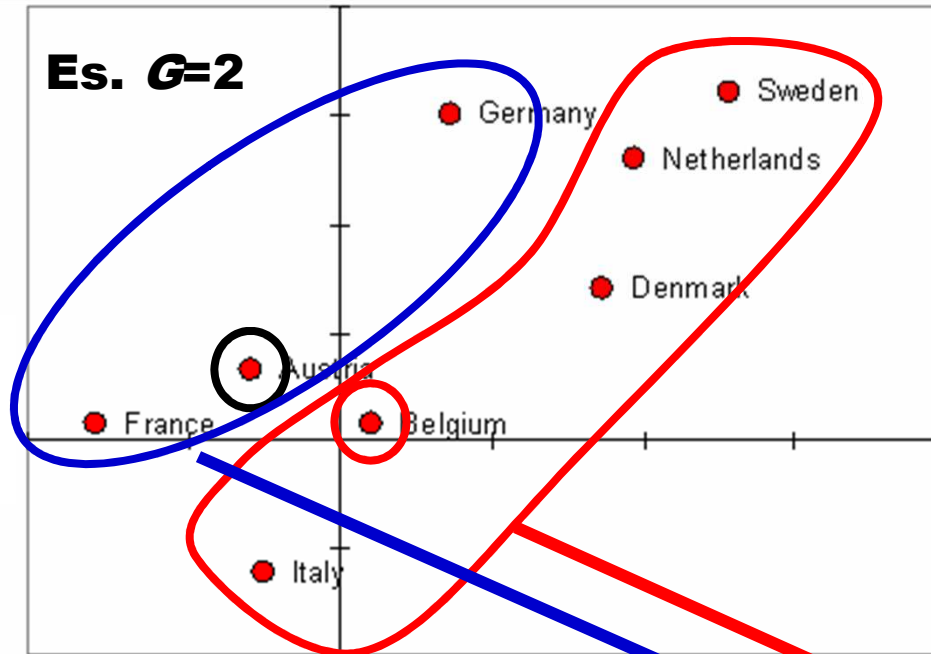
Step 1: Select the initial partition

(this partition may also be defined on the basis of a preliminary cluster analysis / hierarchical procedure)

Usually, G seeds are selected

Step 2: Allocation

Each case is allocated to the closest cluster (closest centroid)



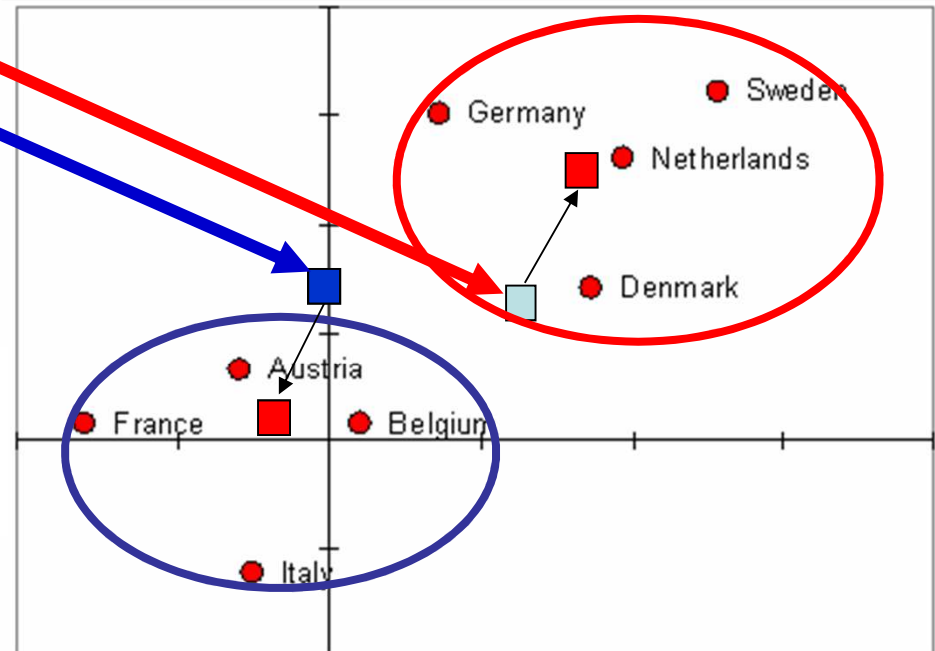
Step 3: Seeds update

Seeds are updated: centroid of the obtained clusters

Step 2 and 3 are iterated until convergence:

2. Re-allocation

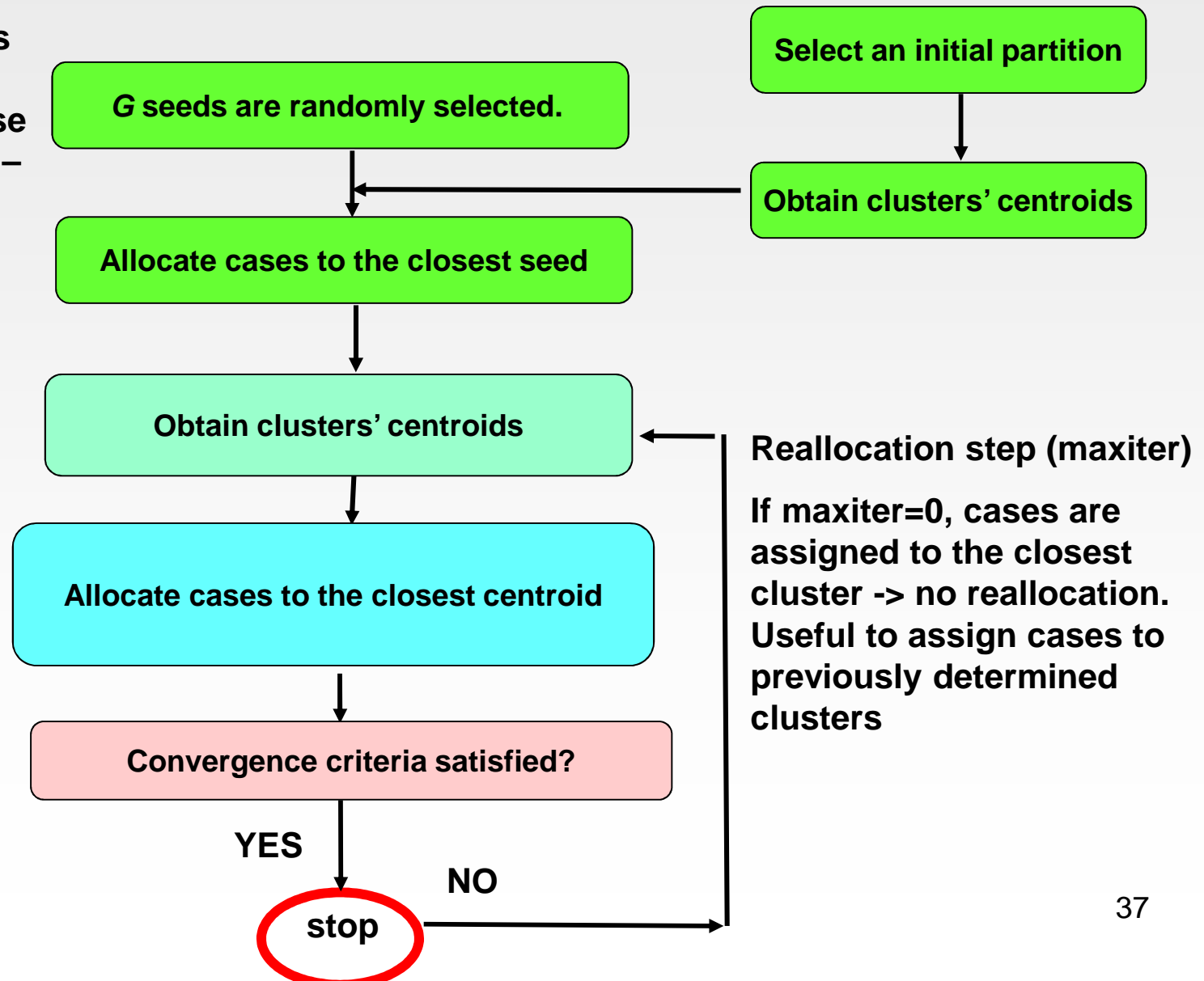
3. Seeds update



Cluster analysis – partitioning algorithms

k-means algorithm

SAS – subroutines defined to select seeds not too close one to each other – higher group separation



Cluster analysis

Agglomerative algorithms:

- OK** Many solutions – monitoring of the process
- OK** Flexibility in choosing the measure of dissimilarity (both for obs – see later – and for clusters). The case when only the dissimilarity matrix is available can be handled.
- KO** Problems with large datasets (difficulty in handling very large dissimilarity matrices)
- KO** Hierarchy is not flexible: once obs are joined they are no longer split. Possible distortions in the case when there are outliers

Partitioning algorithms

- OK** Large dataset
- OK** Flexible with respect to the aggregation of cases. Groups may change.
- KO** Choice of the number of clusters: difficult
- KO** Partitions with a different number of clusters are not nested and consequently it may be difficult to analyze the relationship between them.

In some applications combinations of the algorithms are considered

Large databases: a sample of cases is selected. A hierarchical algorithm is applied to select the number of clusters. Then a partitioning algorithm is applied (optionally, the initial seeds are the centroids of the clusters obtained with the hierarchical algorithm)

Flexibility: A hierarchical algorithm is applied. A partition is selected. The centroids of the obtained clusters are used as seeds in a partitioning algorithm. The aim is to evaluate if and to which extent the initial solution changes and, also, to evaluate the possible influence of outliers on results.

Cluster analysis

Whatever the algorithm used to obtain clusters:

1. Number of clusters

- Choice – agglomerative methods
- Guess – partitioning methods

2. Evaluation of the quality of the obtained partition

3. Interpretation of clusters

Internal evaluation:

- Analysis of cases grouped together.** Sensible only if obs are identifiable (meaningful labels).
- Analysis of cluster syntheses** (means in the case when cluster analysis is based upon numerical variables, other measures – medians, modes – in other cases). This is possible only when measurements on variables are available
- Visualization** of clusters in **factorial maps**

External evaluation

- Evaluation of the characteristics of the clusters (same as before) by referring to variables which were not used to obtain clusters

CLUSTER ANALYSIS

Cautions

- 1. Cluster analysis (as we described it) is a descriptive technique.** The solution is not unique and it strongly depends upon the analyst's choices. We will describe how it is possible to combine different results in order to obtain stable clusters, not depending too much on the criteria selected to analyze data.
- 2. Cluster analysis always provide groups, even if there is no group structure.** When applying a cluster analysis we are *hypothesizing* that groups exist. But this assumption may be false or weak.
- 3. Cluster analysis results' should not be generalized.** Cases in the same cluster are (hopefully) *similar* only with respect to the information cluster analysis was based on (i.e., dimensions/variables inducing the considered dissimilarities).