

The K-means Clustering Algorithm

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K-means is a method of clustering observations into a specific number of disjoint clusters. The "K" refers to the number of clusters specified. Various distance measures exist to determine which observation is to be appended to which cluster. The algorithm aims at minimizing the measure between the centroid of the cluster and the given observation by iteratively appending an observation to any cluster and terminate when the lowest distance measure is achieved.

1.1 Overview Of Algorithm

1. The sample space is initially partitioned into K clusters and the observations are randomly assigned to the clusters.
2. For each sample:
 - Calculate the distance from the observation to the centroid of the cluster.
 - IF the sample is closest to its own cluster THEN leave it ELSE select another cluster.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until no observations are moved from one cluster to another

When step 3 terminates the clusters are stable and each sample is assigned a cluster which results in the lowest possible distance to the centroid of the cluster.

1.2 Distance measures

Common distance measures include the Euclidean distance, the Euclidean squared distance and the Manhattan or City distance.

The Euclidean measure corresponds to the shortest geometric distance between two points.

$$d = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - y_i)^2} \quad (1.1)$$

A faster way of determining the distance is by use of the squared Euclidean distance which calculates the above distance squared, i.e.

$$d_{sq} = \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - y_i)^2 \quad (1.2)$$

The Manhattan measure calculates a distance between points based on a grid and is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

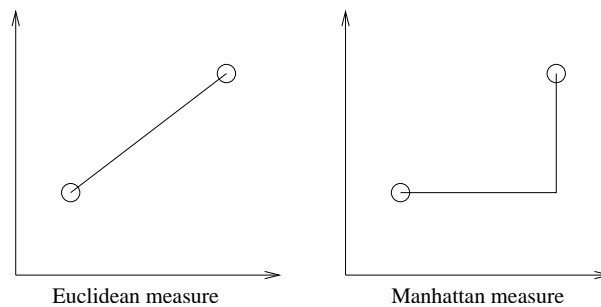


Figure 1.1: Comparison between the Euclidean and the Manhattan measure.

For applications in speech processing the squared Euclidean distance is widely used.

1.3 Application of K-means

K-means can be used to cluster the extracted features from speech signals. The extracted features from the signal include for instance mel frequency cepstral coefficients or line spectrum pairs. This allows speech signals with similar spectral characteristics to be positioned into the same position in the codebook. In this way similar narrow band signals will be predicted likewise thereby limiting the size of the codebook.

1.4 Example of K-means Clustering

The following figures illustrate the K-means algorithm on a 2-dimensional data set.