

Clustering

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BMI 206

In this unit we will learn ...

- Differences between supervised and unsupervised learning
- How commonly used distance measurements encode different notions of “close”
- Hierarchical versus partitioning algorithms for clustering bioinformatics data
- Strategies for statistical inference and assessing variability with clustering results

Clustering vs. Classification

Clustering = unsupervised learning

- Classes: unknown a priori
- Goal: discover groups from the data

Classification = supervised learning

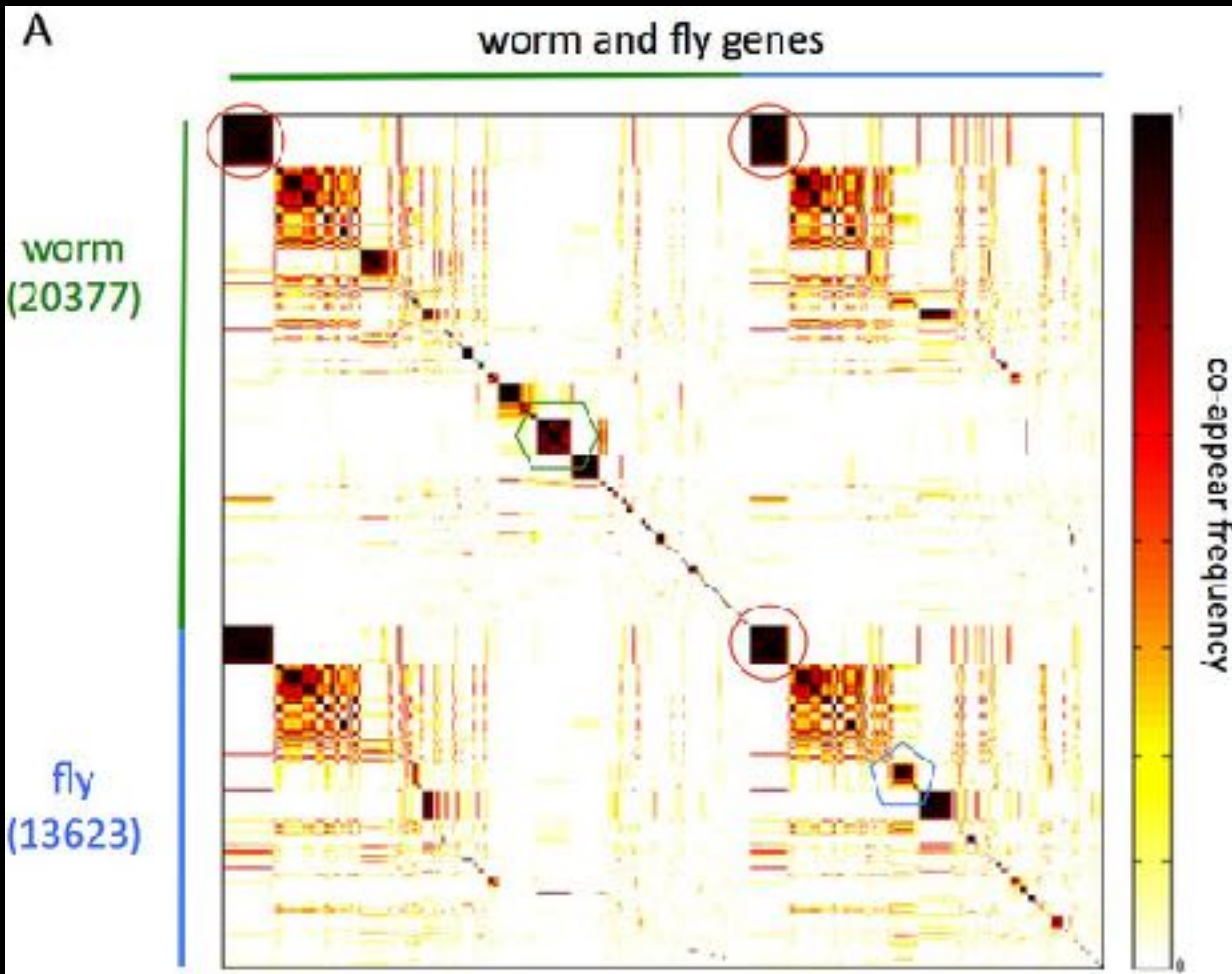
- Classes: known/predefined
- Goals: understand the basis for the classes and build a predictor (classify new data)
- Prediction with a categorical outcome variable

Cluster Analysis

Exploratory data analysis methods for:

- Discovering patterns
- Grouping
 - Variables
 - Samples
 - Both simultaneously
- Ordering and organizing
- Dimension reduction
 - How many distinct patterns?

Clustering in Bioinformatics



Worm orthologs of co-expressed genes in fly are some times also co-expressed.

Clustering Methods

Two main components:

1. Distance measure
2. Algorithm

These produce a mapping from data to parameters of interest:

- Cluster labels, sizes, profiles
- Hierarchical tree structure, ordering
- Number of groups

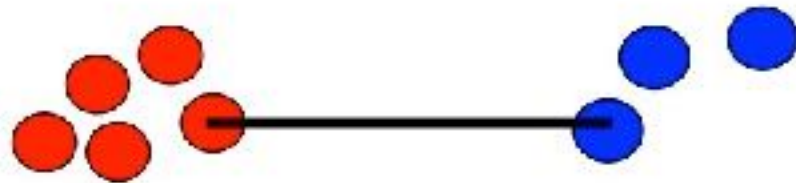
Distances

Clustering algorithms require a notion of **pairwise distance** between objects.

- Minkowski metrics: **magnitude**
- Correlation distances: **pattern** (or both)
- The **absolute value** of any distance can also be used, e.g.

$$d(x,y) = 1 - |r(x,y)| \in (0,1)$$

Distance Between Clusters



Complete (minimum)

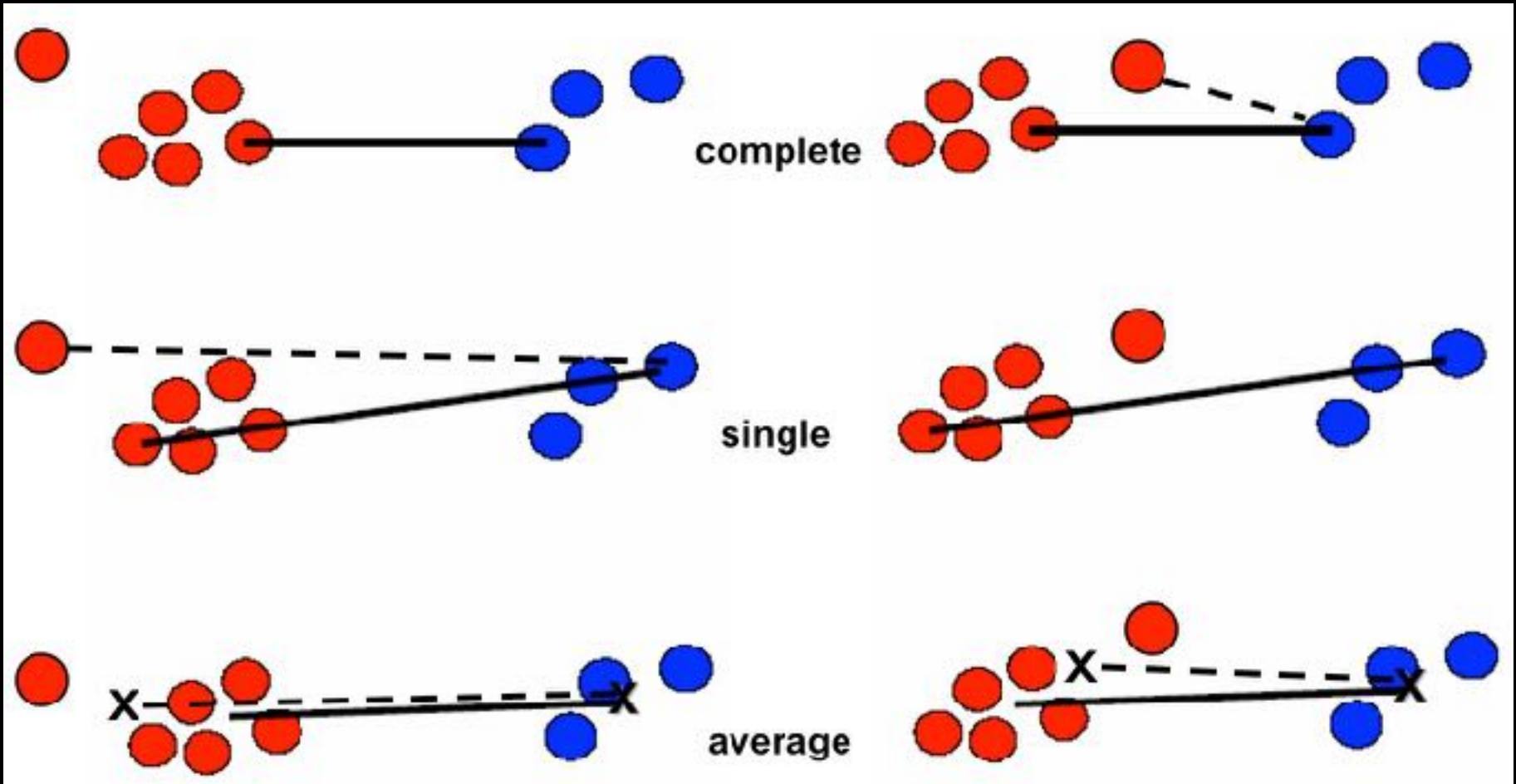


Single (maximum)



Average

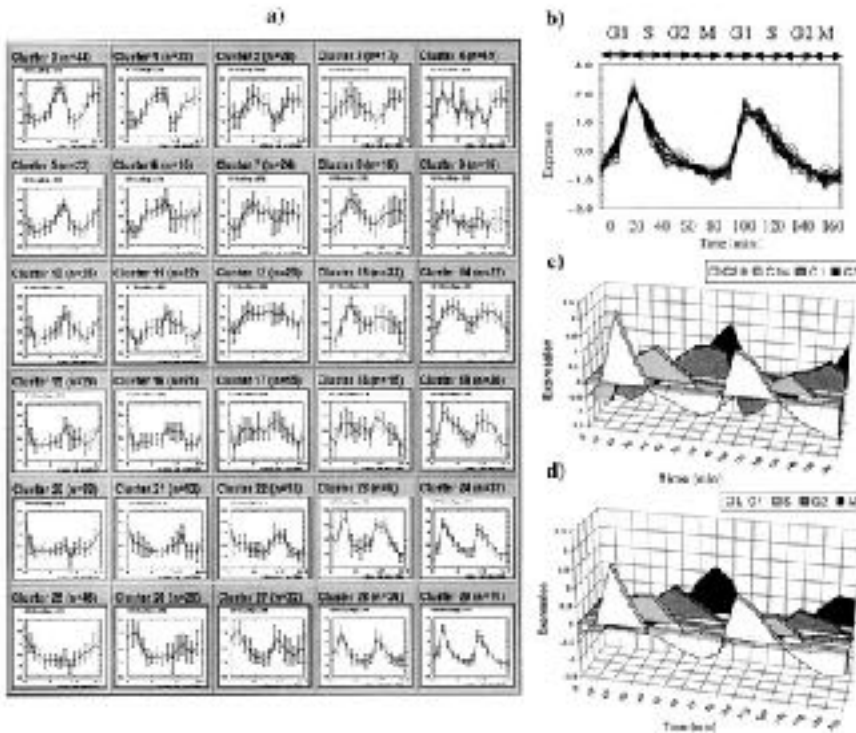
Effects of Outliers



Clustering Algorithms

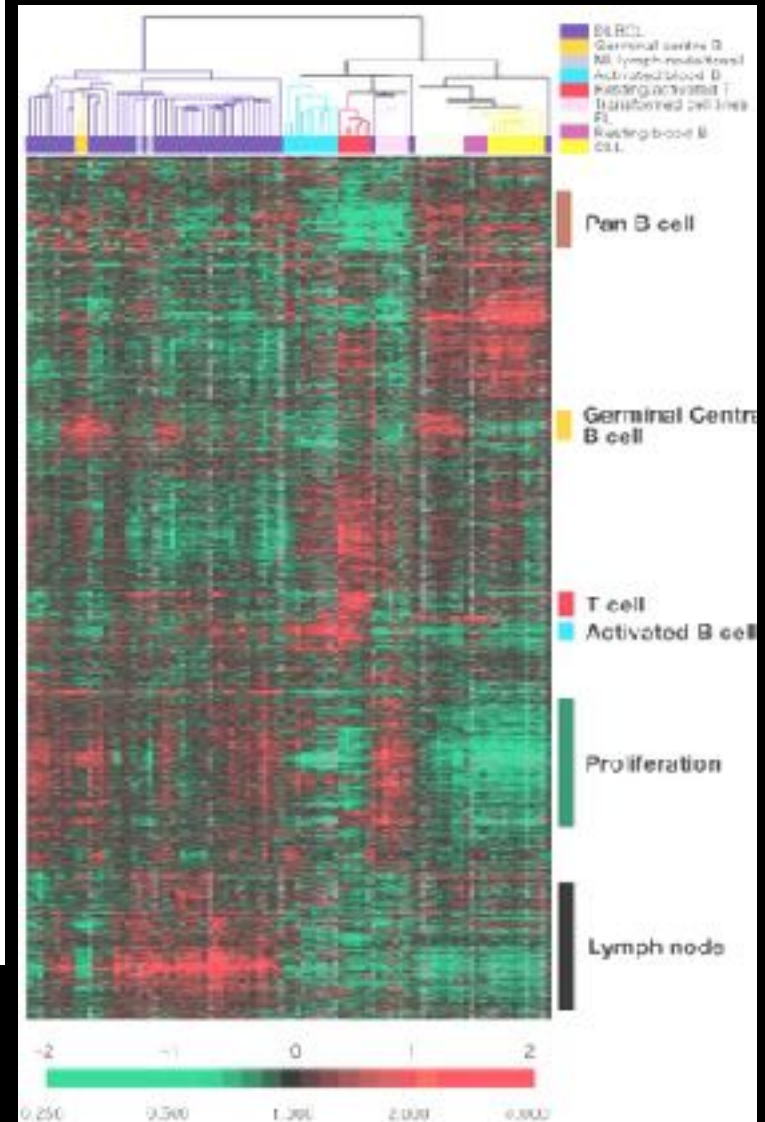
- Model-based (AUTOCLASS, SNOB)
vs. Non-parametric
- Partitioning (SOMs, PAM, KMEANS)
vs. Hierarchical
 - Agglomerative (CLUSTER, AGNES)
 - Linkage: single, complete, average
 - Divisive (SOTA, DIANA, TSVQ)
 - Hybrid (HOPACH, MUTUAL CLUSTERS)

Partitioning vs. Hierarchical



Cho *et al.* (1998) *Molecular Cell*, 2: 65-73

Tamayo *et al.* (1999) *PNAS*, 96: 2907-2912



Alizadeh *et al.* (2000) *Nature*, 403: 503-511

How Many Clusters?

- Relevant for both partitioning and hierarchical algorithms (with pruning)
- Level of structure: **global** vs. **detailed**
- Two main approaches:
 - **Direct Methods** (criteria)
e.g. sums of squares, silhouettes
 - **Resampling Methods** (testing)
e.g. Clest, gap statistic, bootstrap

Silhouette-based Criteria

- The **silhouette** for j 'th object (e.g., gene):

$$S_j = \frac{a_j - b_j}{\max(a_j, b_j)}$$

avg distance own cluster \rightarrow a_j \leftarrow avg distance next closest cluster b_j

- Cluster average silhouette: mean S_j per cluster
- Average silhouette: overall mean S_j
- Median split silhouette (**MSS**): split each cluster and see if silhouettes get smaller

Inference for Clustering

- How **reliable** and **repeatable** are cluster results from a single data set?
- Can view output (e.g. gene cluster labels) as a **parameter estimate**.
- Use resampling methods to estimate the **variability** of this estimator (since no closed form typically).

Example: Bootstrap cluster memberships

Issues in Cluster Analysis

- Results can be very **sensitive** to input (i.e., pre-processing and filtering).
- What method fits your **application**?
 - Distance: capture what “close” means
 - Algorithm: the kind of clusters you seek
- Clustering methods will always return some output, but is it **meaningful**?
 - Evaluate variability
 - Assess biological relevance
 - Confirm hypotheses with experiments

Clustering Algorithms in R

Package	Functions	Type
stats	kmeans hclust	partitioning divisive
class	SOM	partitioning
cluster	pam agnes diana	partitioning agglomerative divisive
hopach	hopach	hybrid

Other packages: **cclust**, **e1071**, **flexmix**, **fpc**, **mclust**

Comparing Clustering

- Any **distance** measure?
- Reaction to **noise**: robust vs. efficient
- Results **reproducible**?
- Biological **relevance**

Partitioning

Variety of cluster sizes

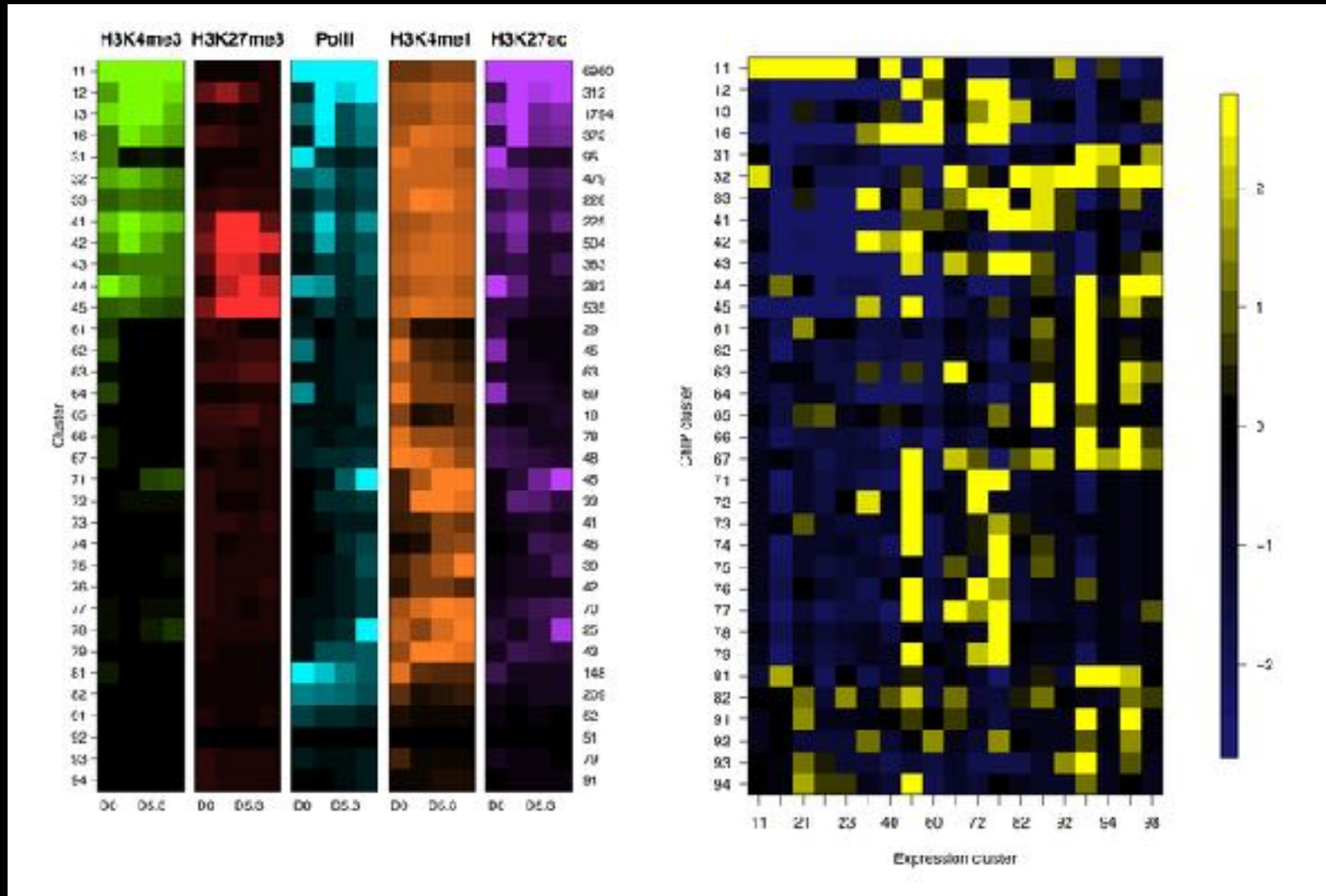
Overlapping clusters

Hierarchical

Sensible ordering

Hybrid tree of partitions

HOPACH: Pruned hierarchical tree produces nested clusters



Bootstrap Fuzzy Clustering

boothopach function

