



STATISTICS AND BIG DATA '25-'26

Hierarchical Clustering

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— Hierarchical clustering concepts —

1 clusters with heatmap

2 hierarchical clust

— pseudocode in R —

3

— live coding session! —

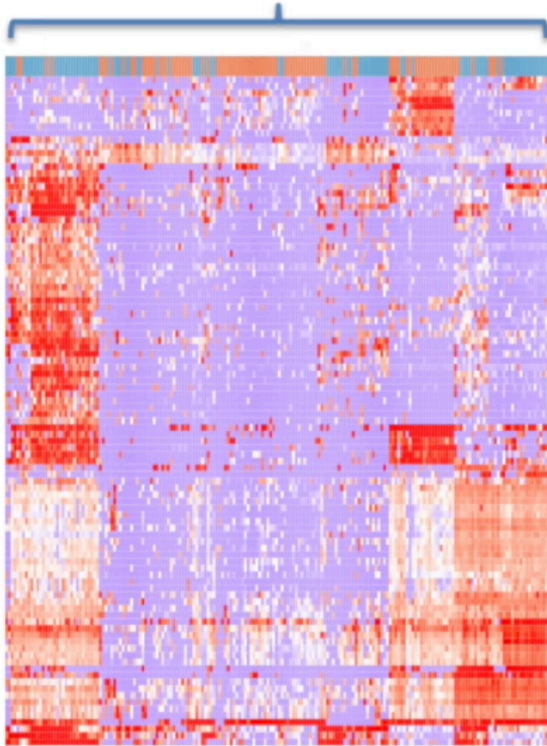


Section 1

Principles

cluster with **heatmaps**

The columns represent
different samples.

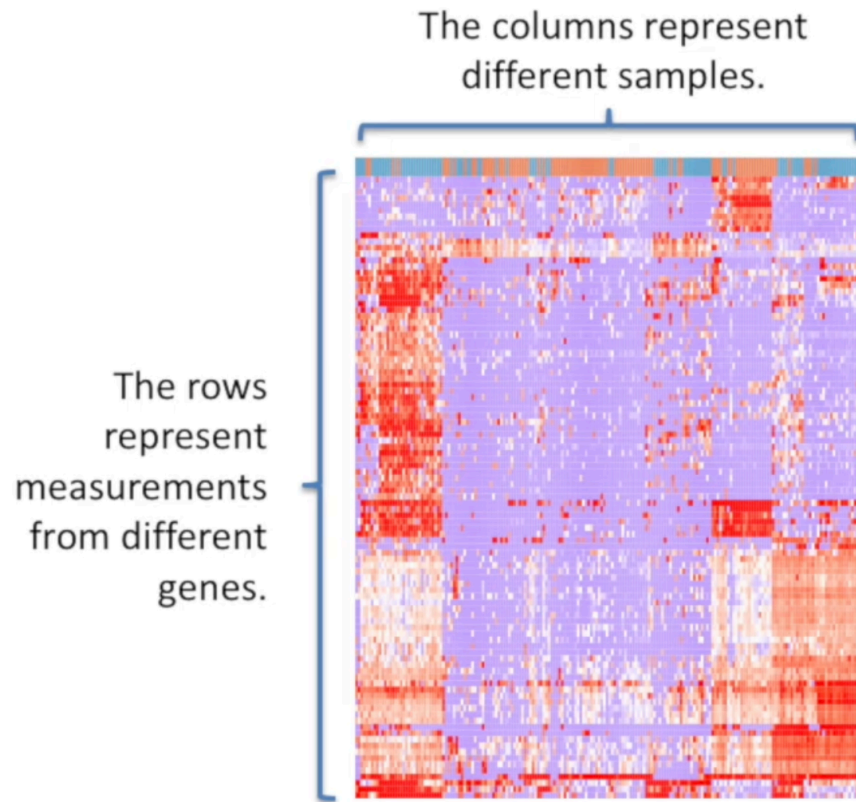


heatmaps

Have you ever seen an heatmap?

“A heatmap is a graphical representation of data that uses color-coded cells to represent different values. Heatmaps are typically used to visualize the distribution of data across two or more variables, with the color of each cell representing the value of a particular variable. Heatmaps can also be used to show correlations”

cluster with **heatmaps**



how to read this?

columns are different samples (data points). columns are measurements for different genes (the categorical variable)

cluster with **heatmaps**

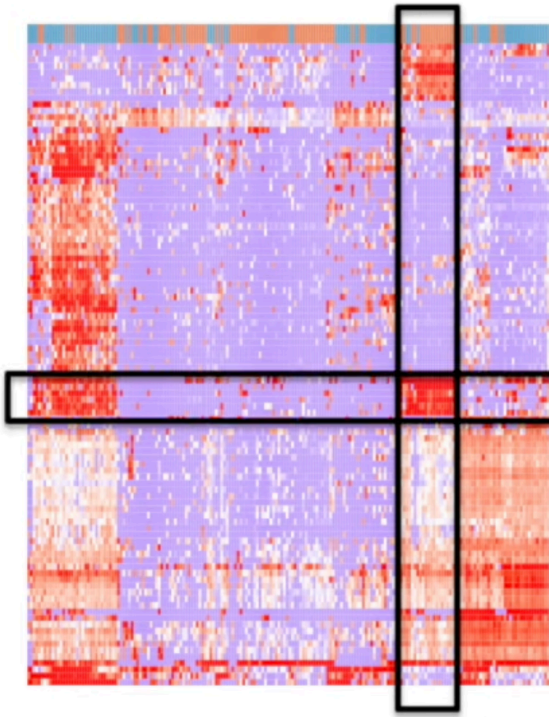
These samples express the
same genes

Hierarchical clustering of
the rows and/or the columns
based on similarity.

This makes it easy to see
correlations in the data.

the cluster?

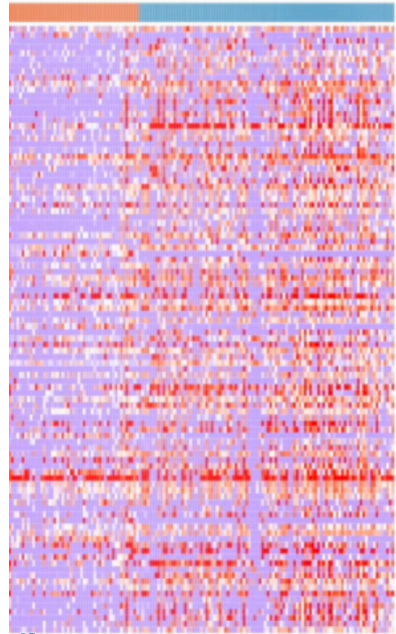
clusters are aggregation of data points.
These aggregations may be random or
based on some characteristics.



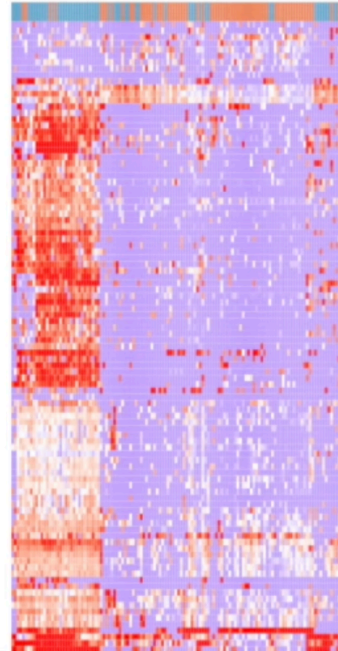
cluster with **heatmaps**

Hierarchical clustering is often associated with heatmaps.

it hierarchical clustering...

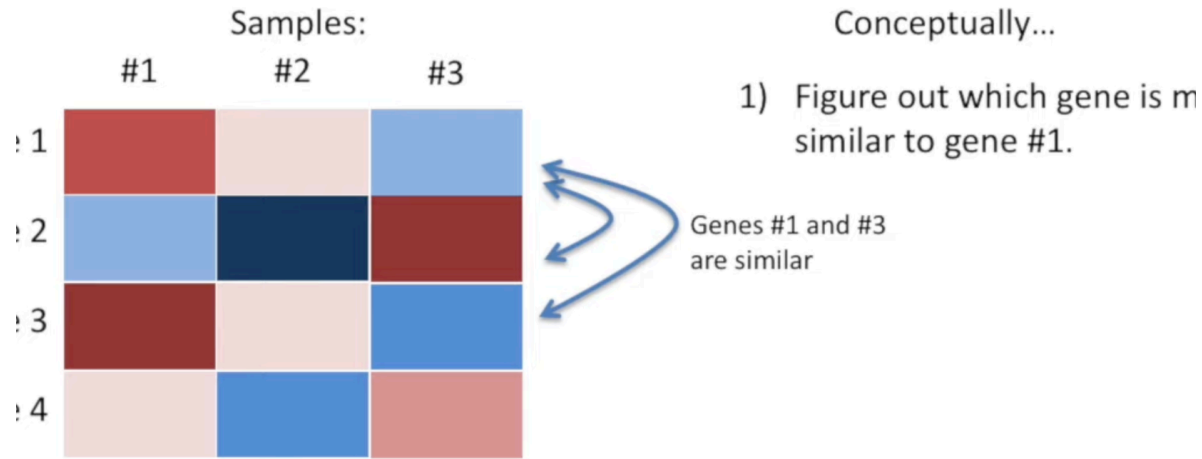


...with hierarchical c



let's draw hier clust

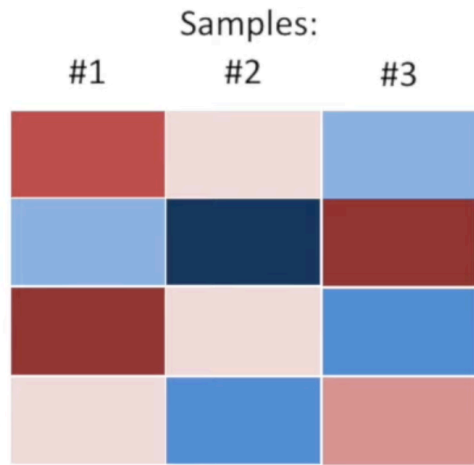
hierarchical clustering



give me data

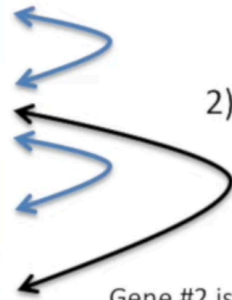
these are 3 samples per 4 genes specifies.

hierarchical clustering



Conceptually...

- 1) Figure out which gene is most similar to gene #1.
- 2) Figure out which genes are most similar to gene #2...

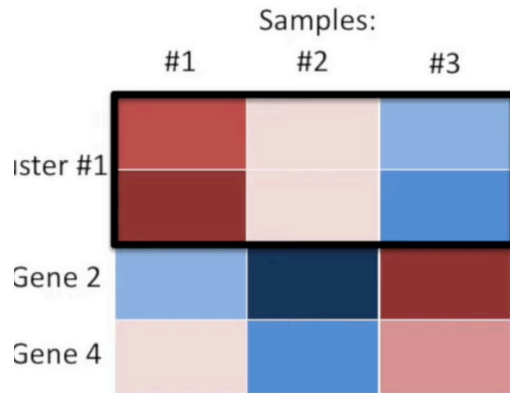


Gene #2 is most similar to gene #4

HWY group it?

you do that pairwise and you select the pair of observations that are closest to each other.

hierarchical clustering

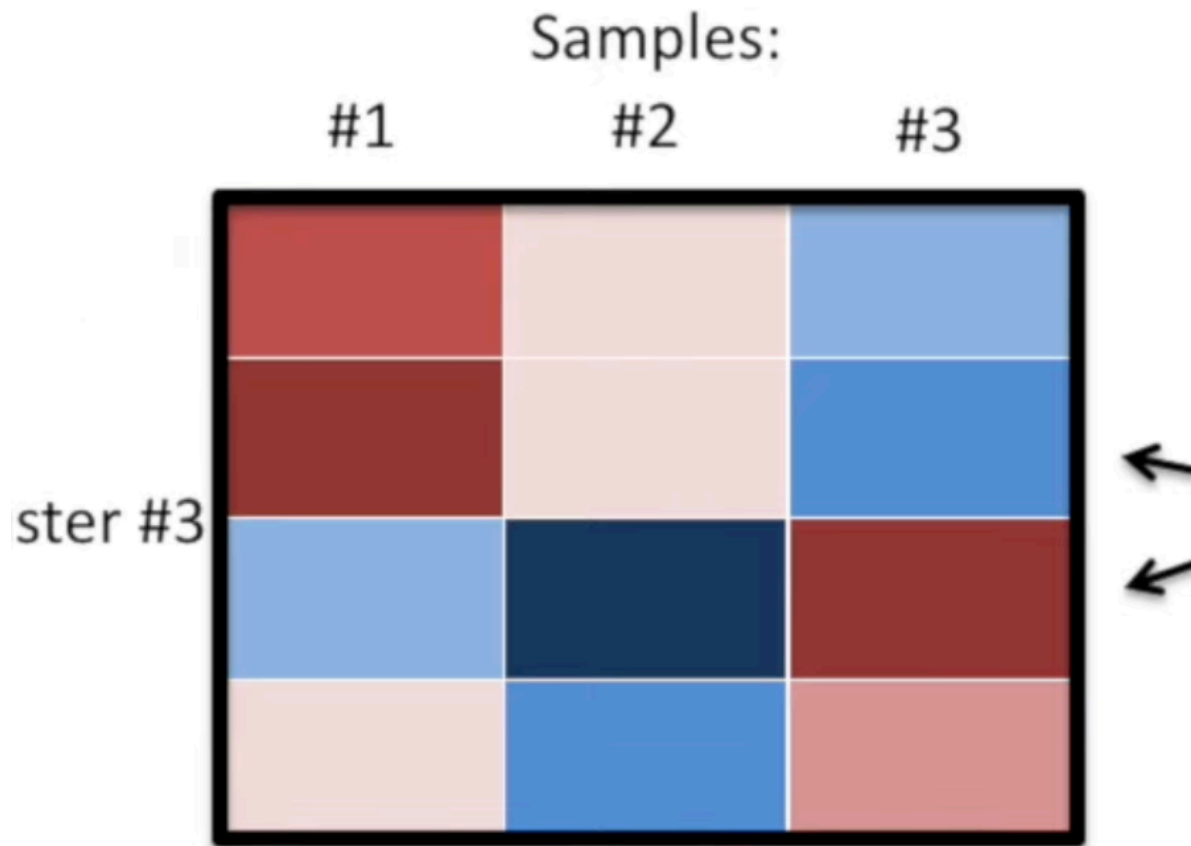


Conceptually...

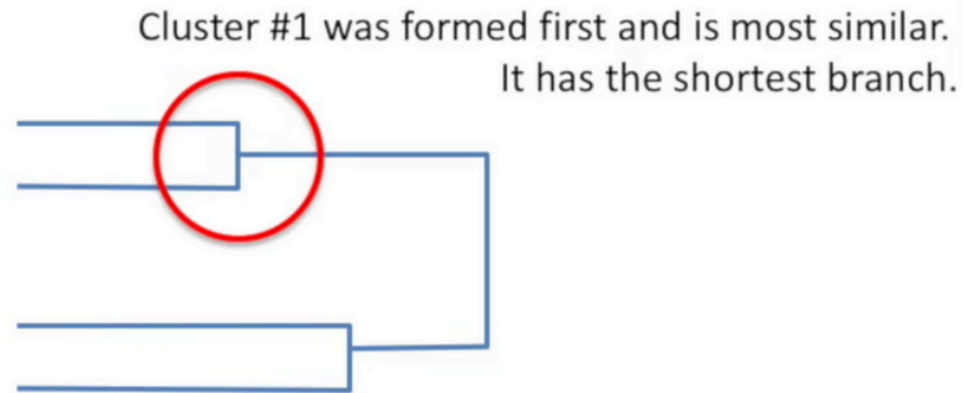
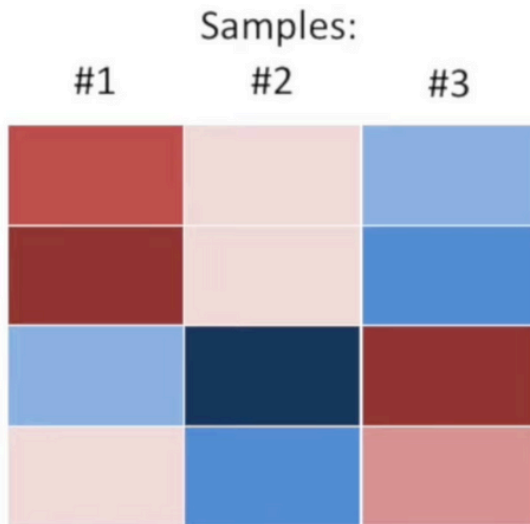
- 1) Figure out which gene is most similar to gene #1.
- 2) Figure out which genes is most similar to gene #2... (and then #3 and then #4).
- 3) Of the different combinations, figure out which two genes are the most similar. Merge them into a cluster.
- 4) Go back to step 1, but now treat the new cluster like it's a single gene.

gene #1 and #3 are the closest

hierarchical clustering



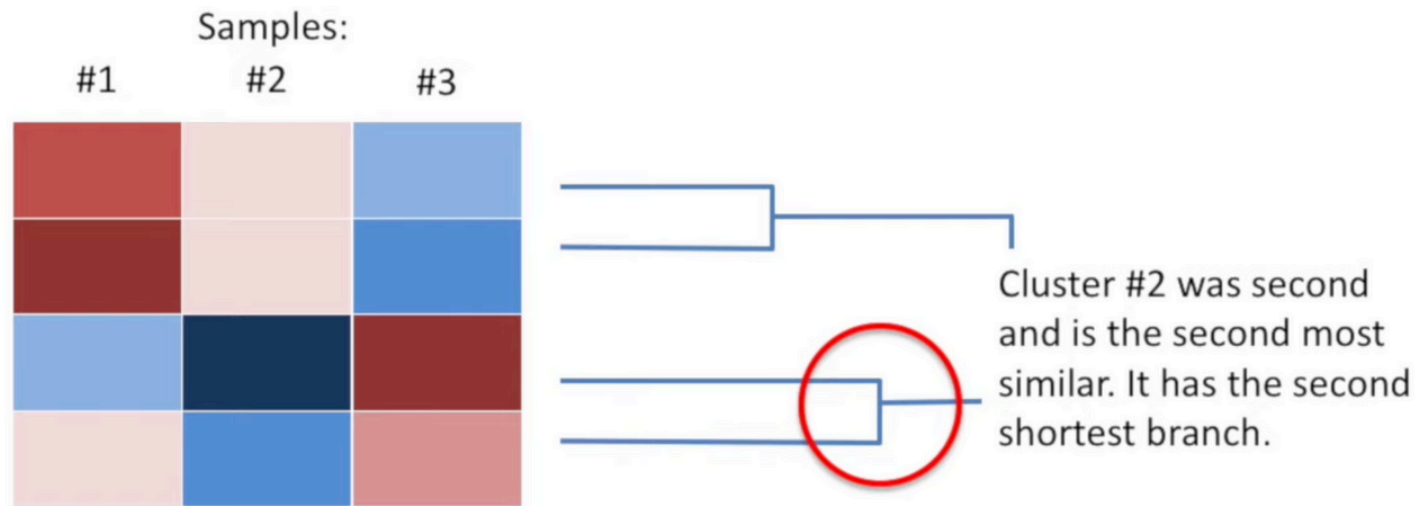
hierarchical clustering



Hierarchical clustering is usually accompanied by a “dendrogram”.

It indicates both the similarity and the order that the clusters were formed.

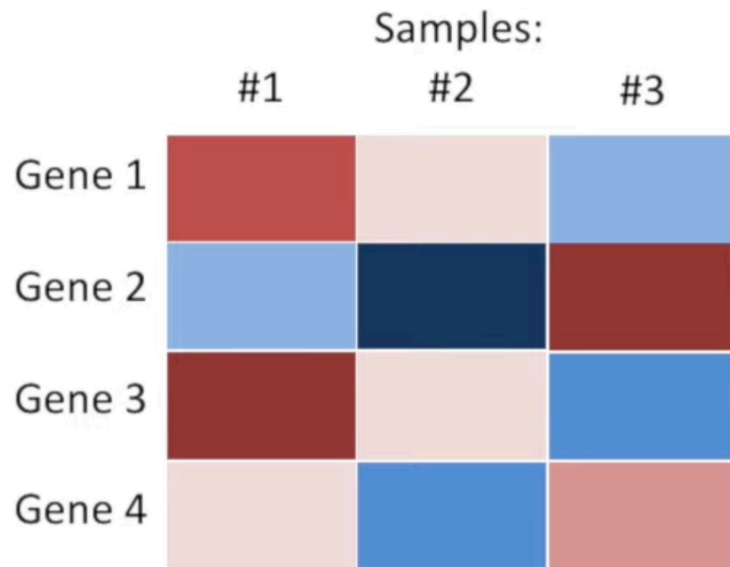
hierarchical clustering



Hierarchical clustering is usually accompanied by a “dendrogram”.

It indicates both the similarity and the order that the clusters were formed.

hierarchical clustering




- 1) Figure out which gene is **most similar** to gene #1.

The method for determining similarity is arbitrarily chosen. However, the Euclidian distance between genes is used a lot.

hierarchical clustering

	#1	#2
Gene 1	1.6	0.5
Gene 2	-0.5	-1.9


The Euclidean distance
between Genes 1 and 2.


$$\sqrt{(\text{difference in sample \#1})^2 + (\text{difference in sample \#2})^2}$$

hierarchical clustering

Samples:


	#1	#2
Gene 1	1.6	0.5
Gene 2	-0.5	-1.9


$$\sqrt{(1.6 - (-0.5))^2 + (\text{difference in sample \#2})^2}$$

hierarchical clustering

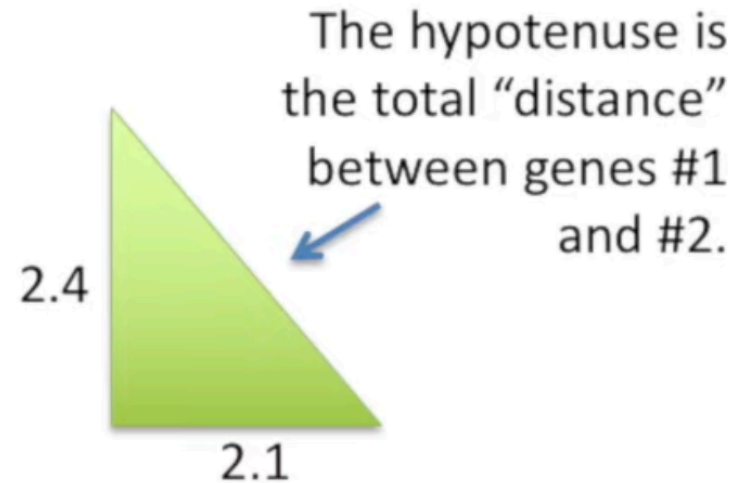
Samples:

	#1	#2
Gene 1	1.6	0.5
Gene 2	-0.5	-1.9


$$\sqrt{(1.6 - (-0.5))^2 + (0.5 - (-1.9))^2}$$

hierarchical clustering

		Samples:	
		#1	#2
Gene 1		1.6	0.5
Gene 2		-0.5	-1.9



$$\sqrt{(2.1)^2 + (2.4)^2}$$

Section 2

Pseudocode in R



```
# Finding distance matrix
distance_mat ← dist(mtcars, method = 'euclidean')

set.seed(28) # Setting seed
mtcats_hiercluster ← hclust(distance_mat, method = "complete")

# Plotting dendrogram
plot(mtcats_hiercluster)

# prune tree (to the best 3 clusters)
sub_grps ← cutree(mtcats_hiercluster, k = 3)
rect.hclust(mtcats_hiercluster, k = 3, border = 2:5)
```


Section 4

Live coding session!

JUMP TO RSTUDIO!

