



Clustering for Data Mining: A Data Recovery Approach (Chapman & Hall/CRC Computer Science & Data Analysis)

By Boris Mirkin

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Often considered more as an art than a science, the field of clustering has been dominated by learning through examples and by techniques chosen almost through trial-and-error. Even the most popular clustering methods--K-Means for partitioning the data set and Ward's method for hierarchical clustering--have lacked the theoretical attention that would establish a firm relationship between the two methods and relevant interpretation aids.

Rather than the traditional set of ad hoc techniques, *Clustering for Data Mining: A Data Recovery Approach* presents a theory that not only closes gaps in K-Means and Ward methods, but also extends them into areas of current interest, such as clustering mixed scale data and incomplete clustering. The author suggests original methods for both cluster finding and cluster description, addresses related topics such as principal component analysis, contingency measures, and data visualization, and includes nearly 60 computational examples covering all stages of clustering, from data pre-processing to cluster validation and results interpretation.

This author's unique attention to data recovery methods, theory-based advice, pre- and post-processing issues that are beyond the scope of most texts, and clear, practical instructions for real-world data mining make this book ideally suited for virtually all purposes: for teaching, for self-study, and for professional reference.

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Editorial Review

Review

The particular decomposition studied in this book is the decomposition of the total sum of squares matrix into between and within cluster components, and the book develops this decomposition, and its associated diagnostics, further than I have seen them developed for cluster analysis before. Overall, the book presents an unusual, perhaps even rather idiosyncratic approach to cluster analysis, from the perspective of someone who is clearly an enthusiast for the insights these tools can bring to understanding data.

-D.J. Hand, Short Book Reviews of the ISI

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