

Fuzzy clustering with additional information

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Abstract The paper deals with fuzzy clustering algorithms based on minimization of an objective function performance index in a presence of additional information conveyed by some labelled patterns.

1. Introduction

nowadays fuzzy clustering methods (unsupervised pattern recognition) - a fundamental tool for pattern recognition, are in rapid growth [1] - [8]. They provide a data analyst an information on a structure in a data set under consideration, pointing out a grade of belongingness to a concrete class. By comparison, nonfuzzy clustering methods generate a $\{0,1\}$ partition of the data set. We would like to underline here that this way of clustering may radically mask imprecision (uncertainty) existing in a data set. Remembering that clustering is an initial stage of various data analysis, which usually are concerned with complex or imprecise objects (e.g. handwritten characters, biological signals) we prefer to characterize the object by a value from the $[0,1]$ -interval rather than providing the information about a total belongingness or nonbelongingness.

The problem we are interested in, is tied with clustering in a precise way: a group of labelled patterns (elements of the data set) to which we can assign a grade of belongingness to the classes. Such a situation may occur while discussing a set of a few categories of handwritten characters with several elements carefully investigated by the data analyst and labelled by him. Of course, the process of labelling is time-consuming, so we can speak about a situation where only few elements are investigated. The classification performed by a human being is subjective and therefore we can expect grades of belongingness in a fuzzy stage between 0 and 1.

In the paper we shall illustrate above stated problem by the use of fuzzy c-means algorithm provided by Bezdek (cf. e.g. [2]). We shall introduce some new objective functions and present iterative procedures for their minimization (Section 3). A numerical example in Section 4. Finally, with illustration of the algorithms proposed by means of a data set known as Gustafson's cross [3]. Let us start our discussion remembering some definitions and notations, which will be useful in further considerations.

1. Preliminaries

Consider a finite data set $X = \{\underline{x}_i\}_{i=1,2,\dots,n}$ with elements being the points in p -dimensional Euclidean space, $\underline{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$. The problem of fuzzy clustering of the data set into "c" clusters (classes) deals with a generation of a fuzzy partition matrix U , viz. the matrix with the entries from the $[0, 1]$ -interval,

$$U = [u_{ik}] \quad \begin{matrix} i=1,2,\dots,c \\ k=1,2,\dots,n \end{matrix} \quad (1)$$

of each row a fixed column, say k_0 , their elements reflect a strength of relationships of the k_0 -th pattern to respective classes. Moreover the following conditions are usually imposed (e.g. [2]),
 - every row is nonempty,

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq c \quad \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik} > 0 \quad (2)$$

- sum of every column is equal to 1,

$$\forall 1 \leq k \leq n \quad \sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} = 1 \quad (3)$$

Let \mathcal{U} be a family of fuzzy partition matrices U ,

$$\mathcal{U} = \{ U \mid U \text{ satisfies (2) and (3)} \} \quad (4)$$

The elements of X are clustered in order to minimize a performance index J defined. It may take a form (cf. [8])

$$J = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^c \sum_{l=1}^n g(w_k, u_{ik}) d(x_k, x_l) \quad (5)$$

subject to $U \in \mathcal{U}$

where d being a dissimilarity measure of the elements of X , x_k, x_l , w_k being the a priori weights assigned to all objects of X .

If $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is any inner-product induced on \mathbb{R}^p , $g(w_k, u_{ik})$ is defined by $g(w_k, u_{ik}) = \langle w_k, u_{ik} \rangle$ then (5) is read as

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^c \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik}^m d_{ik}^2 \quad (6)$$

where d_{ik} is equal to

$$d_{ik}^2 = \|x_k - v_i\|^2 \quad (7)$$

where v_i is the fuzzy mean of the i -th cluster,

$$v_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n x_k u_{ik}}{\sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik}} \quad (8)$$

$\|\cdot\|$ is defined as any inner product induced on $\mathbb{R}^p, m \in (1, \infty)$. Very often one

$$\|x_k - v_i\|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^p (x_{kj} - v_{ij})^2 \quad (9)$$

is chosen for the optimization task,

$$\min_{U \in \mathcal{U}, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_c} J \quad (10)$$

This problem is well-known as Fuzzy c-means algorithm given by Bezdek. The optimization procedure which converges to a local minimum of (10), gives us the partition matrix and fuzzy means of respective classes. Starting with any initial U^0 we follow a sequence of steps, $l=0, 1, 2, \dots$

1. calculate fuzzy means $v_i, i=1, 2, \dots, c$ according to (8),
2. update U^l as

$$u_{ik}^l = 1 / \sum_{j=1}^c \left(\frac{d_{ik}}{d_{jk}} \right)^{2/(m-1)} \quad (11)$$

$i=1, 2, \dots, c, k=1, 2, \dots, n$.

3. compare U^l to U^{l+1} , if $\|U^l - U^{l+1}\| < \delta$ then stop, otherwise return to step 1 making use of the partition matrix calculated in the step 2.

We present possible modifications of the performance index (6) in order to use information contained in the labelled points.

Minimization of the objective functions with the aid of labelled
patterns

Now we reconsider several modifications of the objective function (1) in order to handle labelled patterns.

Let us denote by F a partition matrix representing labelled patterns,

$$F = [f_{ik}] \quad \begin{matrix} i=1,2,\dots,c \\ k=1,2,\dots,n \end{matrix} \quad (12)$$

where f_{ik} are assigned:

if $x \in A_i$ (set of labelled elements of X) then f_{ik} are given by the data matrix u , with the condition $\sum_{i=1}^c f_{ik}$ satisfied,

if $x \notin A_i$ then f_{ik} takes any value, $i=1,2,\dots,c$.

Let us define an n -dimensional vector with the entries,

$$d_k = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x_k \in A_1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Several modifications of φ are listed below.

1.

$$\varphi = \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik}^2 d_{ik}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^c (u_{ik} - f_{ik} \delta_k)^2 d_{ik}^2 \quad (14)$$

This modification of the performance index takes into account a sum of squared distances between u_{ik} and f_{ik} with weights being d_{ik}^2 . Then we

$$\begin{aligned} \min \varphi \\ U \in U, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_c \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

to find a local minimum of Q with regards to the constraint $\sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} = 1$, we apply a technique of Lagrange multipliers. It leads to the reduced minimization of an index,

$$L = Q - \lambda \left(\sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} - 1 \right) \quad (16)$$

$$\partial L / \partial u_{st} = f_{st} g_t + 2(u_{st} - f_{st} g_t) d_{st}^{-2} - \lambda = 0, \quad (17)$$

$$d_{st} = (f_{st} g_t d_{st}^2 + \lambda) / 4 d_{st}^2, \quad (18)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^c u_{jt} = \sum_{j=1}^c (f_{jt} g_t d_{jt}^2 + \lambda) / 4 d_{jt}^2 = 1 \quad (19)$$

The Lagrange multiplier is equal to

$$\lambda = (4 - \sum_{j=1}^c f_{jt} g_t) / \sum_{j=1}^c (1/d_{jt}^2) \quad (20)$$

Equation (20) leads to,

$$u_{st} = (4 - \sum_{j=1}^c f_{jt} g_t) / 4 \sum_{j=1}^c \left(\frac{d_{st}^2}{d_{jt}^2} \right) + f_{st} g_t / 4 \quad (21)$$

The iterative scheme given in the previous section is modified in the step 4, where a calculation of the partition matrix is processed according to (21). Note that if $g_t = 0$ for all $t = 1, 2, \dots, n$ then (21) reduces to the formula derived before,

$$u_{st} = 1 / \sum_{j=1}^c \left(\frac{d_{st}^2}{d_{jt}^2} \right) \quad (22)$$

Labelled elements are an important source of information about an internal structure of the data set. It will be applied by specification of the inner product induced on \mathbb{R}^D . Introduce fuzzy covariance matrices generated by labelled data,

$$C_{f_i} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n f_{ik}^2 g_k (x_k - w_i)(x_k - w_i)^T}{\sum_{k=1}^n f_{ik}^2 g_k} \quad (23)$$

where w_i are fuzzy means,

$$w_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n f_{ik} g_k x_k}{\sum_{k=1}^n f_{ik} g_k} \quad (24)$$

$i=1,2,\dots,c$. Next distances between pattern and the fuzzy means are computed with the help of C_{f_i} introduced above,

$$d_{ik}^f = (x_k - v_i)^T C_{f_i}^{-1} (x_k - v_i) \quad (25)$$

The performance index we take into account is given by,

$$Q = \sum_{i,k} u_{ik}^2 d_{ik}^f \quad (26)$$

In this performance index the labelled data generate a structure of the inner product on \mathbb{R}^D .

This criterion makes use of the labelled data in two ways: firstly they are applied in order to generate the underlying structure C_{f_i} secondly, to measure a distance between partition matrices U and F ,

$$= \sum_{i,k} u_{ik}^2 d_{ik}^2 + \sum_{i,k} (u_{ik} - f_{ik} g_k)^2 d_{ik}^2 \quad (27)$$

The criteria B. and C. are constructed in such a manner that the algorithms presented before can be used without significant modifications.

4. Numerical illustration

As an illustration of the clustering methods discussed above, we consider the data set known as Gustafson's cross (see Fig.1), which consists of two classes of points with a certain overlap. Six points indicated in Fig.1 are labelled.

For comparison we test four algorithms: Fuzzy c-means without the use of the labelled objects, and next the method A, B, and C. In order to evaluate a character of convergence of the methods established we take into account an index, which is a norm defined in the space \mathbb{U}

$$e^{(l)} = \max_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq c \\ 1 \leq k \leq n}} |u_{ik}^{(l)} - u_{ik}^{(l-1)}| \quad (28)$$

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. The results are displayed in Fig.2. Fuzzy c-means algorithm is characterized by a slow rate of convergence; it is not surprising remembering the fact that Euclidean distance prefers hyperellipsoidal shapes of clusters, while A, B, and C indicate the same speed of convergence.

Moreover, we evaluate the methods tested calculating a sum of squared deviations between values of the membership functions of the labelled

elements and values of the computed membership functions,

$$q = \sum_{i=1}^c \sum_{x_k \in X_1} |u_{ik} - f_{ik}| \quad (29)$$

The results are summarized in the Tab.1. It is clear that introduction of the fuzzy covariance matrices which control shapes of the generated clusters, makes it possible to diminish the values of q , while the introduction of the constraints in terms of membership functions only, has minor influence on q .

The results of the last method (C) are shown in Fig.1.

Table 1. Calculated values of the membership functions for the labelled patterns

pattern	label	Fuzzy c-means	A	B	C
x_1	1.0,0.0	0.71,0.29	0.64,0.36	0.99,0.01	0.99,0.01
x_2	0.5,0.5	0.78,0.22	0.91,0.09	0.92,0.08	0.81,0.19
x_{10}	1.0,0.0	0.16,0.84	0.66,0.34	0.99,0.01	0.99,0.01
x_{11}	0.0,1.0	0.74,0.26	0.20,0.80	0.00,1.00	0.00,1.00
x_{12}	0.5,0.5	0.89,0.11	0.01,0.99	0.00,1.00	0.13,0.87
x_{20}	0.0,1.0	0.35,0.65	0.50,0.50	0.00,1.00	0.00,1.00
q		5.78	4.60	1.88	1.40

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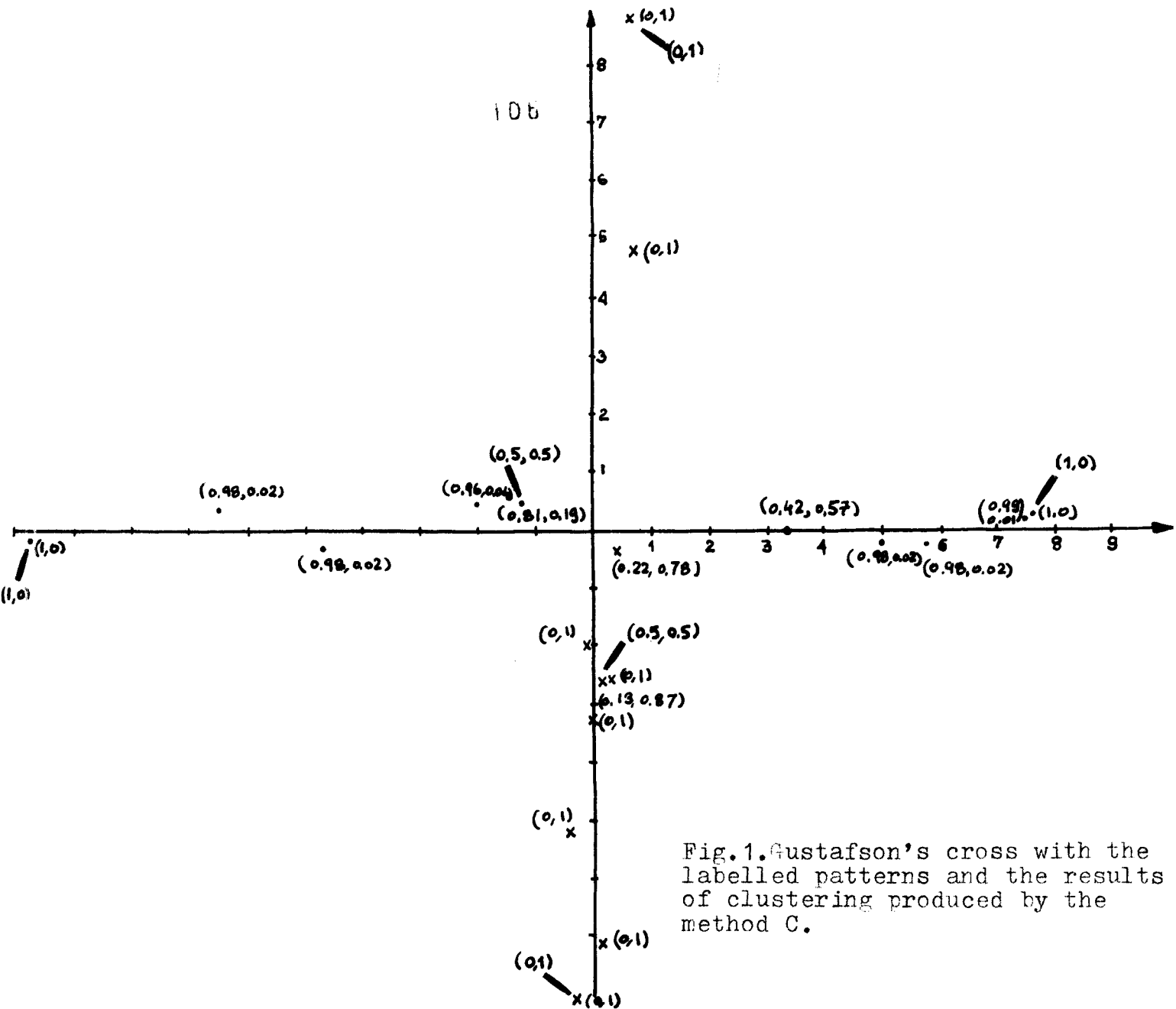


Fig.1. Gustafson's cross with the labelled patterns and the results of clustering produced by the method C.

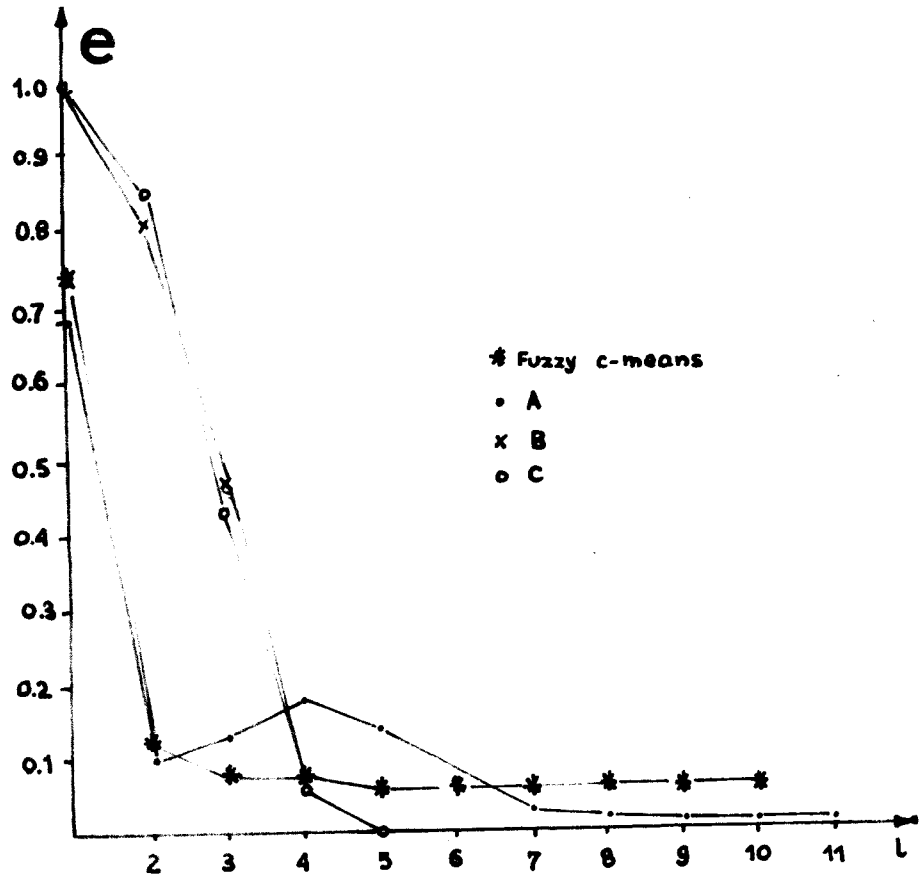


Fig.2. The index of convergence $e(l)$ vs. number of iterations for various clustering methods.