

# Comparing the Performance of Biomedical Clustering Methods

**CLUSTEVAL | Integrative Clustering Evaluation Framework**

CLUSTEVAL: Integrative Clustering Evaluation Framework

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**Integrative Clustering Evaluation Framework | Welcome!**

CLUSTEVAL is a free and extensible open-source platform for objective performance comparison of arbitrary clustering methods on different datasets. It is designed to support the standard accuracy criteria for cluster evaluation.

You can find a list of all available clustering methods under [Clustering Methods](#) in the menu. There are 18 different clustering methods available. Similarly, the available datasets can be found under [Datasets](#). There are 24 datasets available.

**Citation**

Milas, G., Gállego, A., & Eisenbach, J. J. Comparing the performance of biomedical clustering methods. *Nature Methods* (2015).

**Workflow**

You can also refer yourself to the other pages that which functionality on the CLUSTEVAL website.

**Download & Installation**

You are interested in downloading and installing CLUSTEVAL on your own server? Please refer to the help section [Help Us](#).

```
graph TD
    A[1. Input  
Provide the data to be clustered  
- CSV, TSV  
- Clustering Methods & Parameters] --> B[2. Clustering Process  
Perform a stability comparison for the selected dataset]
    B --> C[3. Clusters  
Generate the Clusters per Clustering Method]
    B --> D[4. Clusters  
Generate the Clusters per Clustering Method]
    C --> E[5. Clusters Performance Index  
Analyze and calculate the Clusters Performance Index for each Clustering Method  
- Accuracy  
- Silhouette  
- Adjusted Rand Index]
    D --> E
    E --> F[6. Clusters Performance Index  
There is an additional step of Clustering Method]
    F --> G[7. Clusters Performance Index  
The Clusters Performance Index is calculated for each Clustering Method]
    G --> H[8. Clusters Performance Index  
The Clusters Performance Index is calculated for each Clustering Method  
- Accuracy  
- Silhouette  
- Adjusted Rand Index]
```

Website Version: 1.0.0 - Git Repository: [9652577/9652577](#) (2014-08-14)

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9 January 2018

# ClustEval - Integrative Clustering Evaluation Framework

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C. Wiwie, R. Röttger, J. Baumbach, Comparing the performance of biomedical clustering methods, *Nat. Methods* **12** (2015), 1033–1038.

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- a clustering analysis platform *ClustEval*, available at <https://clusteval.sdu.dk/1/mains>

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- a clustering analysis platform *ClustEval*, available at <https://clusteval.sdu.dk/1/mains>
- 18 different clustering methods, 24 datasets, 18 common cluster validity indices

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- 18 different clustering methods, 24 datasets, 18 common cluster validity indices
- robustness analysis (density reduction, noise addition)

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- a clustering analysis platform *ClustEval*, available at <https://clusteval.sdu.dk/1/mains>
- 18 different clustering methods, 24 datasets, 18 common cluster validity indices
- robustness analysis (density reduction, noise addition)
- parameter optimisation (Naïve Grid Optimisation, Adaptive Grid Optimisation)

## ClustEval

### Motivation

Key Problems

## Clustering Methods

Partitioning, hierarchical

Density-based, graph-based

## Datasets

## Clustering Validity Indices

Internal, External

Correlation

## Guidelines

# Clustering in Biomedicine

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Applicable to:

- cancer subtyping on the basis of gene expression levels,

# Clustering in Biomedicine

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# Clustering in Biomedicine

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- the identification of protein complexes using protein-protein interactions

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## 1. Tool picking

# Key Problems

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1. **Tool picking** (partitioning ( $k$ -means), hierarchical, density-based and graph-based approaches)

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3. **Quality measures/Cluster validity indices**

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3. **Quality measures/Cluster validity indices** (internal, external)



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2. **Parameter optimisation** (parameters influence the number and size of resulting clusters)
3. **Quality measures/Cluster validity indices** (internal, external)
4. **Standardised evaluation**

# Key Problems

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1. **Tool picking** (partitioning ( $k$ -means), hierarchical, density-based and graph-based approaches)
2. **Parameter optimisation** (parameters influence the number and size of resulting clusters)
3. **Quality measures/Cluster validity indices** (internal, external)
4. **Standardised evaluation** (poor comparability of clustering results)

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# Clustering Methods

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# Clustering Methods

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## Partitioning

The objects are assigned to clusters and iteratively change clusters based on their dissimilarity in order to optimise a given target function.

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The dataset is transformed into a tree-like structure where the leaves represent the objects and the inner nodes the hierarchical relationship between them.

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*Hierarchical Clustering, Spectral Clustering*

# Clustering Methods

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## Density-based

Identifying regions with a locally similar object density.



# Clustering Methods

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# Clustering Methods

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## Graph-based

The input is considered as a graph with the objects being the nodes connected by weighted or unweighted edges. The clustering problem is solved by solving an analogous graph theoretical problem (e.g. clique finding, simulating random walks).

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Identifying regions with a locally similar object density.

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*Affinity Propagation, clusterONE, Markov Clustering, MCODE, Transitivity Clustering*

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- Gene expression levels,

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- Gene expression levels,
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- Gene expression levels,
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- Gene expression levels,
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- Protein-sequence similarity,
- Social network,
- Synthetic (easy/medium/hard),
- Language-processing datasets used for word-sense disambiguation

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# Clustering Validity Indices

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## Internal Indices

The clustering is judged on the basis of certain intrinsic statistical properties of the clustering itself.

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The clustering is compared to a user-given gold-standard clustering (using a pairwise/mapping approach).

# Clustering Validity Indices

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The clustering is compared to a user-given gold-standard clustering (using a pairwise/mapping approach).

*$F_\beta$  score, False Discovery rate, False Positive Rate, Fowles-Mallows Index, Jaccard Index, Rand Index, Sensitivity (Recall), Specificity, V-measure*

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# Clustering Validity Indices

## Davies-Bouldin Index

$$DB = \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{c_i \in C} \max_{c_j \in C, c_j \neq c_i} \left( \frac{\sigma_i + \sigma_j}{\|\bar{c}_i - \bar{c}_j\|} \right),$$

$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{|c_i|} \sum_{x_i \in c_i} \|x_i - \bar{c}_i\|^2}$$

# Clustering Validity Indices

## Davies-Bouldin Index

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## Dunn Index

$$D = \frac{\min_{c_i \neq c_j \in C} \left( \min_{x_i \in c_i, x_j \in c_j} d(x_i, x_j) \right)}{\max_{c_k \in C} \left( \max_{x_i, x_j \in c_k} d(x_i, x_j) \right)}$$



# Clustering Validity Indices

## Silhouette Value

$c(x_i)$  – the cluster of object  $x_i$

$o(x_i)$  – the closest cluster to  $x_i$

$$S = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i sv_i$$

$$sv_i = \frac{1}{n} \frac{b(x_i) - a(x_i)}{\max\{a(x_i), b(x_i)\}}$$

$$a(x_i) = \frac{1}{|c(x_i)|} \sum_{x_j \in c(x_i)} d(x_i, x_j)$$

$$b(x_i) = \frac{1}{|o(x_i)|} \sum_{x_j \in o(x_i)} d(x_i, x_j)$$

# Clustering Validity Indices

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## Silhouette Value

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## Correlation among internal and external indices

The silhouette value correlated best (0.71) with the F1 score, F2 score, FM index, Jaccard index and V-measure.

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# Guidelines (working with a new *biomedical* set without a gold standard)

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# Guidelines (working with a new *biomedical* set without a gold standard)

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1. Use *Transitivity Clustering, Hierarchical Clustering or Partitioning Around Medoids.*

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# Guidelines (working with a new *biomedical* set without a gold standard)

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1. Use *Transitivity Clustering, Hierarchical Clustering or Partitioning Around Medoids*.
2. Compute the silhouette values for clustering results using a broad range of parameter-set variations.

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1. Use *Transitivity Clustering, Hierarchical Clustering or Partitioning Around Medoids*.
2. Compute the silhouette values for clustering results using a broad range of parameter-set variations.
3. Pick the result for the parameter set yielding the highest silhouette value.

## Guidelines (working with a new *biomedical* set without a gold standard)

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1. Use *Transitivity Clustering*, *Hierarchical Clustering* or *Partitioning Around Medoids*.
2. Compute the silhouette values for clustering results using a broad range of parameter-set variations.
3. Pick the result for the parameter set yielding the highest silhouette value.

**Remark.** The silhouette value is a particularly poor measure for entangled and highly overlapping datasets.