

## طريقه تحليلية بعنقدة تنقيب البيانات لتقويم الاداء

### Analytical Method by Clustering Data Mining for Performance Evaluation

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## الخلاصة

تنقيب البيانات يتعامل مع إكتشاف المعرفة المخفية، أنماط غير متوقعة وقوانين (قواعد) جديدة من قاعدة البيانات الكبيرة، أساساً هو مُهتَم بتحليل البيانات وإستعمال تقنيات البرامج لإيجاد الأنماط في مجموعات البيانات، إحدى تقنياته الرئيسية (العنقدة)، والذي يعني عملية تقسيم قاعدة بيانات إلى مجموعات خاصه مشتركة (بخواص) تتقارب بالتشابه وتتباعد بالاختلاف بقدر الإمكان من أحدهما الآخر، حيث أن المسافة تقاس حسب المتغيرات المتوفرة.

تعتبر العنقدة الأكثر استخداماً في خوارزميات التنقيب عن البيانات ومفيدة كتقنية استطلاعية وكروتين ثانوي للبحث عن أكثر البيانات تعقيداً وفي كثير من المجالات كإكتشاف القواعد، الفهارس، التصنيف، الاختصار وإكتشاف بعض الشاذ من البيانات، في العقد الأخير بدأت المؤسسات التربوية بتطبيق معايير الجوده والاعتماد، إحدى أهم المعايير هو التخطيط والتقويم، لذا كُتِل نشاطات المؤسسات التربوية يجب أن تقوم طبقاً لطرق علميه و منطقيه، طرق العنقدة طبقت في هذا البحث على حالات حقيقيه تتعلق بهيئه التعليم التقني لإيجاد تقويم اداء منصف بين فروعها للعامين (٢٠٠٦-٢٠٠٩) للدورات التعليميه المقدمه للمجتمع. طريقه الارتباط الكامل اعطت تركيبه مثاليه و ذات معنى لطريقه تحليليه لتقويم اداء منصف يطابق معايير الجوده والاعتماد، بينما يعتمد التقويم التقليدي فقط على عدد الدورات.

## Abstract

Data mining deals with the discovery of hidden knowledge, unexpected patterns and new rules from large database, Basically it is concerned with the analysis of data and the use of software techniques for finding patterns in sets of data, one of its main terms is the clustering, which is mean, the process of dividing a database into mutually exclusive groups such that the members of each group are as close as possible to one another, and different groups are as far as possible from one another, where distance is measured with respect to all available variables.

Clustering is perhaps the most frequently used data mining algorithm, being useful in its own right as an exploratory technique, and also as a subroutine in more complex data mining algorithms such as rule discovery, indexing, summarization, anomaly detection, and classification, In the last decade the educational institutions began to apply the standards of quality and accreditation, one of the most important standards is the (Planning and Evaluation) therefore; all the educational institutions activities must be evaluate according to logical and scientific methods, clustering methods have been applied in this research for a real cases concerned with Foundation Technical Institutes (FTE) to have fairly evaluation of performance among FTE branches in giving educational courses to the society (year 2006-2009), Complete Linkage

method gives perfect and meaningful structure to have analytical method for fairly evaluation of performance to be identical with the standards of quality and accreditation, while the traditional evaluation depends only on the number of courses.

### 1. Introduction:

The term cluster analysis (first used by Tryon, 1939) encompasses a number of different algorithms and methods for grouping objects of similar kind into respective categories. A general question facing researchers in many areas of inquiry is how to organize observed data into meaningful structures, that is, to develop taxonomies. In other words cluster analysis is an exploratory data analysis tool which aims at sorting different objects into groups in a way that the degree of association between two objects is maximal if they belong to the same group and minimal otherwise. Given the above, cluster analysis can be used to discover structures in data without providing an explanation/interpretation. In other words, cluster analysis simply discovers structures in data without explaining why they exist [1, 2].

**2. Hierarchical Tree:** Consider a Horizontal Hierarchical Tree Plot (figure 1), on the left of the plot, we begin with each object in a class by itself. Now imagine that, in very small steps, we "relax" our criterion as to what is and is not unique. Put another way, we lower our threshold regarding the decision when to declare two or more objects to be members of the same cluster.

As a result we link more and more objects together and aggregate (amalgamate) larger and larger clusters of increasingly dissimilar elements. Finally, in the last step, all objects are joined together. In these plots, the horizontal axis denotes the linkage distance (in Vertical Icicle Plots, the vertical axis denotes the linkage distance). Thus, for each node in the graph (where a new cluster is formed) we can read off the criterion distance at which the respective elements were linked together into a new single cluster. When the data contain a clear "structure" in terms of clusters of objects that are similar to each other, then this structure will often be reflected in the hierarchical tree as distinct branches. As a result of a successful analysis with the joining method, one is able to detect clusters (branches) and interpret those branches [3].

### 3. Distance Measures:

The joining or tree clustering method uses the dissimilarities (similarities) or distances between objects when forming the clusters. Similarities are a set of rules that serve as criteria for grouping or separating items. These distances (similarities) can be based on a single dimension or multiple dimensions, with each dimension representing a rule or condition for grouping objects. For example, if we were to cluster fast foods, we could take into account the number of calories they contain, their price, subjective ratings of taste, etc. The most straightforward way of computing distances between objects in a multi-dimensional space is to compute Euclidean distances. If we had a two- or three-dimensional space this measure is the actual geometric distance between objects in the space (i.e., as if measured with a ruler). However, the joining algorithm does not "care" whether the distances that are "fed" to it are actual real distances, or some other derived measure of distance that is more meaningful to

the researcher; and it is up to the researcher to select the right method for his/her specific application.

**Euclidean distance.** This is probably the most commonly chosen type of distance. It is simply the geometric distance in the multidimensional space. Which is computed as:

$$\text{Distance}(x,y) = \{ \sum_i (x_i - y_i)^2 \}^{1/2}$$

Note that Euclidean distances are usually computed from raw data, and not from standardized data. This method has certain advantages (e.g., the distance between any two objects is not affected by the addition of new objects to the analysis, which may be outliers). However, the distances can be greatly affected by differences in scale among the dimensions from which the distances are computed. For example, if one of the dimensions denotes a measured length in centimeters, and you then convert it to millimeters (by multiplying the values by 10), the resulting Euclidean distances (computed from multiple dimensions) can be greatly affected (i.e., biased by those dimensions which have a larger scale), and consequently, the results of cluster analyses may be very different. Generally, it is good practice to transform the dimensions so they have similar scales [3,4].

#### 4. Clustering Methods.

The clustering methods as follows [4]:

- 1- Single linkage (nearest neighbor).
- 2- Complete linkage (furthest neighbor).
- 3- Unweighted pair-group average.
- 4- Weighted pair-group average.
- 5- Unweighted pair-group centroid.
- 6- Weighted pair-group centroid (median).
- 7- Ward's method.

#### 5. How They Work (The General Algorithm):

Given a set of N items to be clustered, and an N\*N distance (or similarity) matrix, the basic process of hierarchical clustering (defined by S.C. Johnson in 1967) is this:

1. Start by assigning each item to a cluster, so that if you have N items, you now have N clusters, each containing just one item. Let the distances (similarities) between the clusters the same as the distances (similarities) between the items they contain.
2. Find the closest (most similar) pair of clusters and merge them into a single cluster, so that now you have one cluster less.
3. Compute distances (similarities) between the new cluster and each of the old clusters.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until all items are clustered into a single cluster of size N. Of course there is no point in having all the N items grouped in a single

cluster but, once you have got the complete hierarchical tree, if you want k clusters you just have to cut the k-1 longest links.

Step 3 can be done in different ways, which is what distinguishes single-linkage from complete-linkage.

This kind of hierarchical clustering is called agglomerative because it merges clusters iteratively. There is also a divisive hierarchical clustering which does the reverse by starting with all objects in one cluster and subdividing them into smaller pieces. Divisive methods are not generally available, and rarely have been applied (figure 2)[5].

#### 6. Single-Linkage Clustering: (The Algorithm):

Let's now take a deeper look at how Johnson's algorithm works in the case of single-linkage clustering.

The algorithm is an agglomerative scheme that erases rows and columns in the proximity matrix as old clusters are merged into new ones.

The  $N \times N$  proximity matrix is  $D = [d(i,j)]$ . The clustering's are assigned sequence numbers  $0, 1, \dots, (n-1)$  and  $L(k)$  is the level of the kth clustering. A cluster with sequence number m is denoted (m) and the proximity between clusters (r) and (s) is denoted  $d[(r),(s)]$ .

The algorithm is composed of the following steps:

1. Begin with the disjoint clustering having level  $L(0) = 0$  and sequence number  $m = 0$ .
2. Find the least dissimilar pair of clusters in the current clustering, say pair (r), (s), according to  
 $d[(r),(s)] = \min d[(i),(j)]$   
 where the minimum is over all pairs of clusters in the current clustering.
3. Increment the sequence number :  $m = m + 1$ . Merge clusters (r) and (s) into a single cluster to form the next clustering m. Set the level of this clustering to  $L(m) = d[(r),(s)]$
4. Update the proximity matrix, D, by deleting the rows and columns corresponding to clusters (r) and (s) and adding a row and column corresponding to the newly formed cluster. The proximity between the new cluster, denoted (r,s) and old cluster (k) is defined in this way:  
 $d[(k), (r,s)] = \min d[(k),(r)], d[(k),(s)]$
5. If all objects are in one cluster, stop. Else, go to step 2.

In single-linkage clustering (also called the connectedness or minimum method), we consider the distance between one cluster and another cluster to be equal to the shortest distance from any member of one cluster to any member of the other cluster. If the data consist of similarities, we consider the similarity between one cluster and another cluster to be equal to the greatest similarity from any member of one cluster to any member of the other cluster. In complete-linkage clustering (also called the diameter or maximum method), we consider the distance between one cluster and another cluster to be equal to

the greatest distance from any member of one cluster to any member of the other cluster [6].

## 7. Standards for Accreditation.

There are eleven Standards as follows:

1. Mission and Purposes.
2. Planning and Evaluation.
3. Organization and Governance.
4. The Academic Program.
5. Faculty.
6. Students.
7. Library and Other Information Resources.
8. Physical and Technological Resources.
9. Financial Resources.
10. Public Disclosure.
11. Integrity.

The institution undertakes planning and evaluation appropriate to its needs to accomplish and improve the achievement of its mission and purposes. It identifies its planning and evaluation priorities and pursues them effectively.

2.1 Planning and evaluation are systematic, comprehensive, broad-based, integrated, and appropriate to the institution. They involve the participation of individuals and groups responsible for the achievement of institutional purposes. Results of planning and evaluation are regularly communicated to appropriate institutional constituencies. The institution allocates sufficient resources for its planning and evaluation efforts.

### Planning.

2.2 The institution undertakes short- and long-term planning, including realistic analyses of internal and external opportunities and constraints. The institution systematically collects and uses data necessary to support its planning efforts and to enhance institutional effectiveness. It plans for and responds to financial and other contingencies, establishes feasible priorities, and develops a realistic course of action to achieve identified objectives. Institutional decision-making, particularly the allocation of resources, is consistent with planning priorities.

2.3 The institution has a demonstrable record of success in implementing the results of its planning.

### Evaluation .

2.4 The institution regularly and systematically evaluates the achievement of its mission and purposes, giving primary focus to the realization of its educational objectives. Its system of evaluation is designed to provide relevant and trustworthy information to support institutional improvement, with an emphasis on the academic program. The institution's evaluation efforts are effective for addressing its unique circumstances. These efforts use both quantitative and qualitative methods.

2.5 The institution has a system of periodic review of academic and other programs that includes the use of external perspectives.

2.6 Evaluation enables the institution to demonstrate through verifiable means its attainment of purposes and objectives both inside and outside the classroom. The results of evaluation are used systematically for improvement and to inform

institutional planning, especially as it relates to student achievement and resource allocation.

### **Institutional Effectiveness.**

2.7 The institution determines the effectiveness of its planning and evaluation activities on an ongoing basis. Results of these activities are used to further enhance the institution's implementation of its purposes and objectives [7].

### **8. The Implementation:**

Foundation of Technical Education (FTE) runs (27) technical institutes and (13) technical colleges.

The main specializations offered by FTE are Engineering, Administration, Health and Medicine, Agriculture, and Applied Arts , in addition (FTE) has the FTE center and Staff Developing Center(SDC) .

All its branches give educational courses and updated information and skills in every aspect and specialization.

The aim of the research is to classify the FTE branches into closest groups by using (cluster analysis) implementing clustering methods, through which we can be able to evaluate the performance of the branches fairly.

The FTE branches have been coded as follows:

X1: Institute of Medical Technology/Baghdad X2: Institute of Technology /Baghdad

X3: Institute for Administration/Rassafa

X4: Applied Arts Institute

X5: Technical Institute/Basrah

X6: Technical Institute/Mosual

X7: Technical Institute/Kirkuk

X8: Technical Institute/Babil

X9: Technical Institute for Administration

X10: Technical Institute/Anbar

X11: Technical Institute/Najaf

X12: Technical Institute/Aumara

X13: Technical Institute/Mussyab

X14: Technical Institute/Shatra

X15: Technical Institute/Nasiria

X16: Technical Institute/Kut

X17: Technical Institute/Hawija

X18: Technical Institute/Kufa

X19: Technical Institute/Alsuwra

X20: Technical Institute/Baquba

X21: Technical Institute/Semawa

X22: Technical Institute/Karbala

X23: Technical Institute/Door

X24: Institute of Medical T/mansor

X25: Technical Institute/Dewanya

X26: Technical Institute/Nainawa

X27: Technical Instructors Training Institute

X28: Technical College/Baghdad

X29: Technical College/ Mosual

X30: Technical College/ Basrah

X31: Health and Medical Technical College

X32: Technical College/ Mussyab

X33: Technical College/ Kirkuk

X34: Technical College/ Najaf

X35: Electrical and Electronic Tech College Administration/Bghdad

X36: Technical College for

X37: FTE Center

X38: Staff Developing Center (SDC)

Four colleges have been added recently

X39: Technical College for Administration/kufa

X40: Technical College for Administration/Mosual

X41: Technical College for Administration/Basrah

X42: College for Applied Arts

The variables using to measure the similarities have been covered all the effective sides of Educational Operations in offering Educational courses for all FTE branches

Where the variables as follows:

|                                       |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Y1: Establish year                    | Y2: Number of Departments                                |
| Y3: Number of Planned Programs        | Y4: Number of executed Programs                          |
| Y5: Number of Added Programs          | Y6: Number of Participants from FTE                      |
| Y7: Number of Participants out of FTE | Y8: Number of Instructors                                |
| Y9: Number of Technical Staff         | Y10: Courses (in/out of) summer holiday (values (1, 0)). |

The size of matrix is (38 \* 10) contains real data which has been collected from the annual report of the year( 2006) Table(1)[8], matrix (42\*10) from the annual report of the year( 2009) Table(2)[9],the difference between the two years was so meaningful in showing the useful of the proposed analytical method.

Two methods have been applied (Single Linkage and Complete Linkage) to the proposed case, the results shown in figures (3, 4, 5), the meaningful structure is shown in figures (4,5) which means that Complete Linkage gives best results for the proposed case by dividing the FTE branches into five clusters .

#### 9. Conclusions and Recommendations:

The following conclusions can be staffed:

1. Traditional evaluation depends on the number of courses given to the society where the proposed method gives fairly evaluation according to their performance, facilities and capabilities.

2. Complete linkage method shows five clusters, branches ordered within the clusters according to their priority depending on the scale of y-axis (linkage distance).

3. Year (2006) clusters with scale of y-axis (linkage distance 0-2000) (figure 4) as follows:

Cluster A:

X38: Staff Developing Center (SDC).

Cluster B:

X6: Technical Institute/Mosual  
X11: Technical Institute/Najaf  
X12: Technical Institute/ Aumara  
X22: Technical Institute/ Karbala.

Cluster C:

X5: Technical Institute/Basrah  
X7: Technical Institute/Kirkuk  
X2: Institute of Technology/Baghdad.

Cluster D:

X37: FTE Center  
X16: Technical Institute/Kut  
X26: Technical Institute/ Nainawa  
X36: Technical College for Administration/Bghdad  
X28: Technical College/ Baghdad  
X33: Technical College/ Kirkuk  
X35: Electrical and Electronic Tech College

X34: Technical College/ Najaf  
 X17: Technical Institute/Hawija  
 X30: Technical College/ Basrah  
 X23: Technical Institute/Door  
 X32: Technical Institute/Mussyab  
 X18: Technical Institute/Kufa  
 X10: Technical Institute/Anbar  
 X4: Applied Arts Institute.

**Cluster E:**

X3: Institute for Administration/Rassafa  
 X29: Technical College/ Mosual  
 X20: Technical Institute/Baquba  
 X1: Institute of Medical Technology/Baghdad  
 X31: Health and Medical Technical College  
 X19: Technical Institute/Alsuwra  
 X21: Technical Institute/Semawa  
 X9: Technical Institute for Administration  
 X25: Technical Institute/Dewanya  
 X8: Technical Institute/Babil  
 X24 Institute of Medical T/mansor  
 X13 Technical Institute/Mussyab  
 X27: Technical Instructors Training Institute  
 X15: Technical Instructors Training Institute  
 X14 Technical Institute/Shatra.

4. As mentioned before and illustrated by the results, the evaluation of performance must take the facilities and capabilities of each branch into consideration and each branch must be evaluated within its cluster.

5. X38, X6, X5, X37, X3, have the high priority in the annual performance of the year (2006).

6. Year (2009) clusters with scale of y-axis (linkage distance 0-1200) (figure 5) as follows:

Cluster A: X38 , X6.

Cluster B: X26.

Cluster C: X36 ,X42 ,X29 ,X34 ,X33 ,X41 ,X21 ,X19 ,X28 ,X23 ,X4 ,X35 ,X30 ,X37  
 X10 , X17, X9, X40, X39.

Cluster D: X25 ,X22 ,X13 ,X18 ,X3 ,X12 ,X31 ,X24 ,X32 ,X27 ,X16 ,X15.

Cluster E: X11, X7, X2, X1, X8, X5, X20, X14.

7. X38, X6 (have the same distance), X26, X36, X25, X11, have the high priority in the annual performance of the year (2009).

8. FTE supplied its branches with facilities and capabilities; it is clearly, when we notice the difference between the performance of the year (2006) and the year (2009).



9. X: 38 Staff Developing Center (SDC) still have the first rank in clusters because it is specialist in offering educational courses to the society (2006 and 2009), where X6: Technical Institute/Mosul have the first rank in second cluster (B) (year 2006) and jumps to the first cluster (A) competes with X: 38 in the same distance (year 2009) which mean that it precedes all the branches.

10. We can easily follow up the performance of all the branches by analyzing the clustering diagrams.

11. The institution determines the effectiveness of its planning and evaluation activities on an ongoing basis. Results of these activities are used to further enhance the institution's implementation of its purposes and objectives therefore; we recommended that this method should be taken into consideration, since it gives wide analyzing and fairly evaluation according to the standards for accreditation.

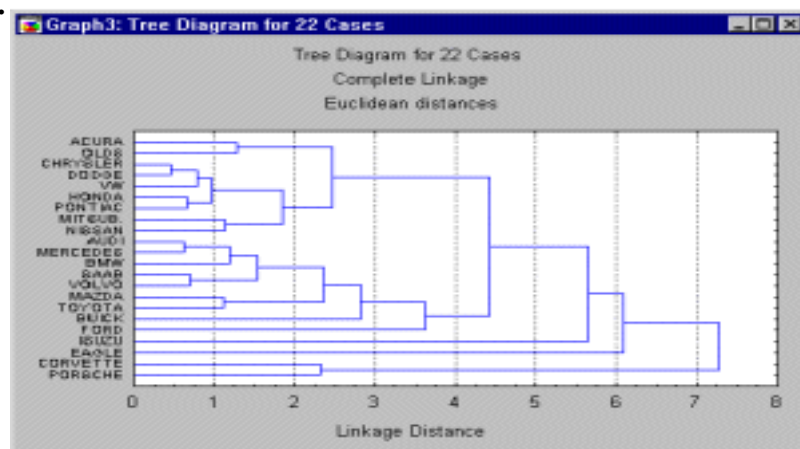


Figure (1) shows the tree diagram

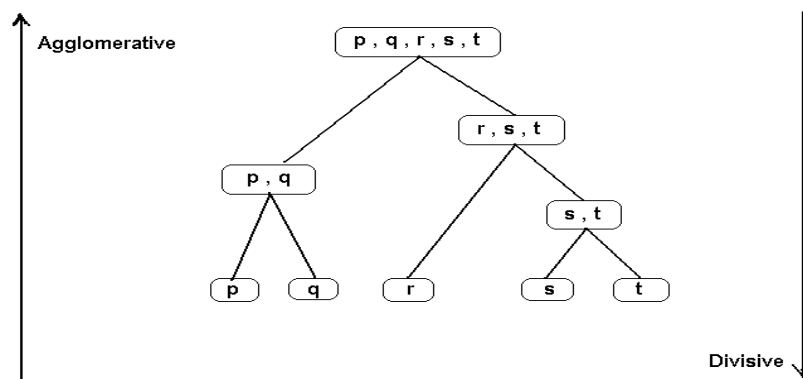


Figure (2) shows the Agglomerative and Divisive

Table (1) shows data extracted from annual report (2006).

Table (2) shows data extracted from annual report (2009).



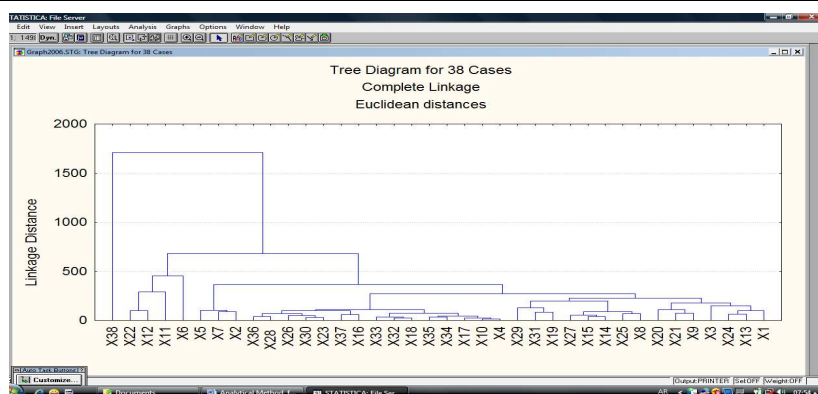


Figure (4) shows complete linkage distance of 2006.

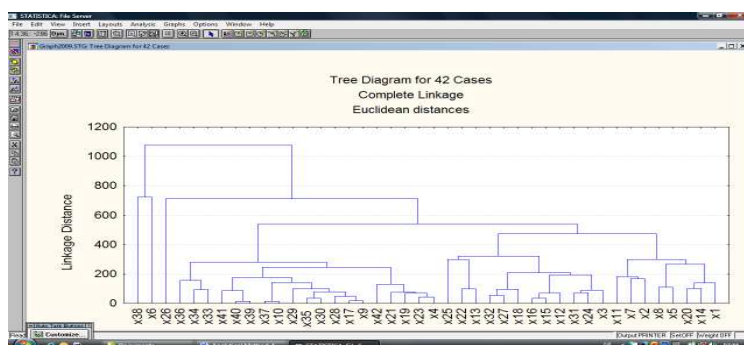


Figure (5) shows complete linkage distance of 2009.

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