SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.

An Autonomous Institution

COURSE NAME : 19CST203 - DATA ANALYTICS

II YEAR /IV SEMESTER

DBSCAN CLUSTERING

Clustering analysis or simply Clustering is basically an Unsupervised learning method that divides the data points into a number of specific batches or groups, such that the data points in the same groups have similar properties and data points in different groups have different properties in some sense. It comprises many different methods based on differential evolution.

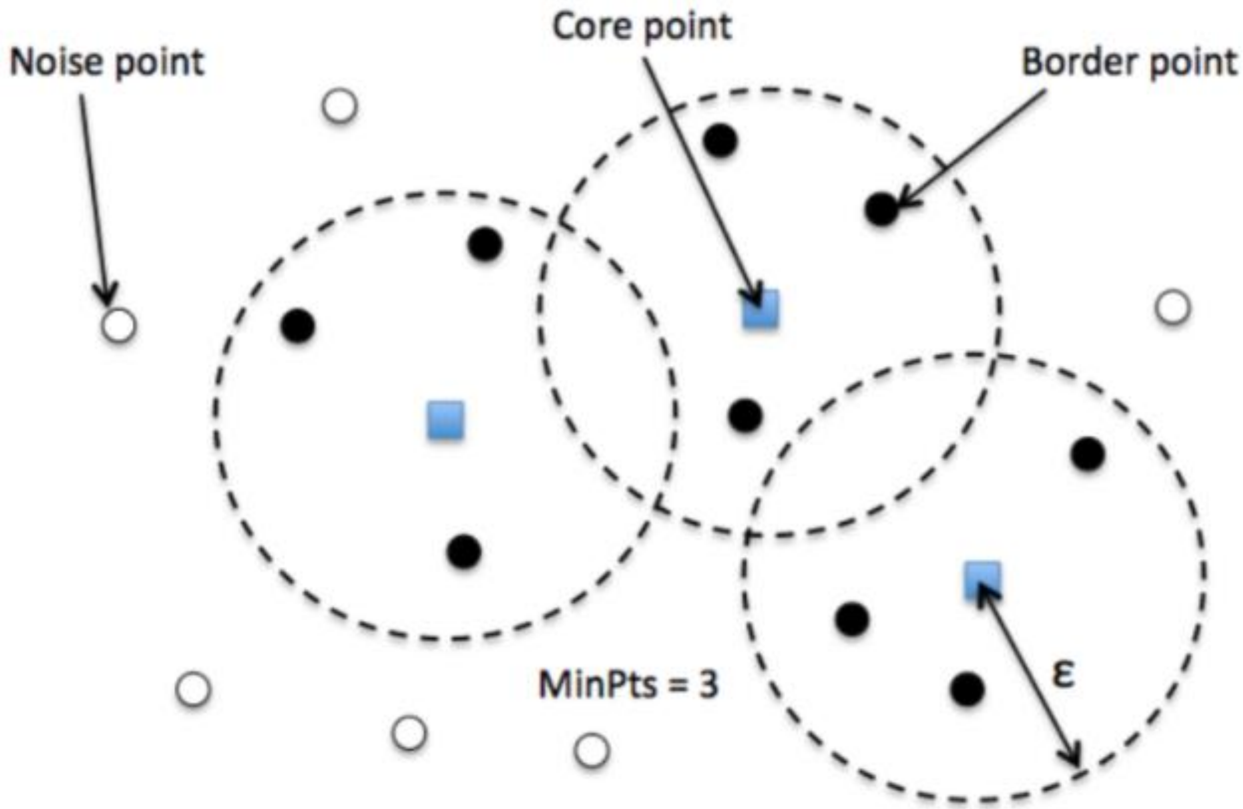
Fundamentally, all clustering methods use the same approach i.e. first we calculate similarities and then we use it to cluster the data points into groups or batches. Here we will focus on **Density-based spatial clustering of applications with noise** (DBSCAN) clustering method.

Clusters are dense regions in the data space, separated by regions of the lower density of points. The ***DBSCAN algorithm*** is based on this intuitive notion of "clusters" and "noise". The key idea is that for each point of a cluster, the neighborhood of a given radius has to contain at least a minimum number of points.

Partitioning methods (K-means, PAM clustering) and hierarchical clustering work for finding spherical-shaped clusters or convex clusters. In other words, they are suitable only for compact and well-separated clusters. Moreover, they are also severely affected by the presence of noise and outliers in the data.

Real life data may contain irregularities, like:

1. Clusters can be of arbitrary shape such as those shown in the figure below.
2. Data may contain noise.



DBSCAN algorithm requires two parameters:

1. **eps** : It defines the neighborhood around a data point i.e. if the distance between two points is lower or equal to 'eps' then they are considered neighbors. If the eps value is chosen too small then large part of the data will be considered as outliers. If it is chosen very large then the clusters will merge and the majority of the data points will be in the same clusters. One way to find the eps value is based on the ***k-distance graph***.
2. **MinPts**: Minimum number of neighbors (data points) within eps radius. Larger the dataset, the larger value of MinPts must be chosen. As a general rule, the minimum MinPts can be derived from the number of dimensions D in the dataset as, MinPts >= D+1. The minimum value of MinPts must be chosen at least 3.

DBSCAN algorithm can be abstracted in the following steps:

1. Find all the neighbor points within eps and identify the core points or visited with more than MinPts neighbors.
2. For each core point if it is not already assigned to a cluster, create a new cluster.

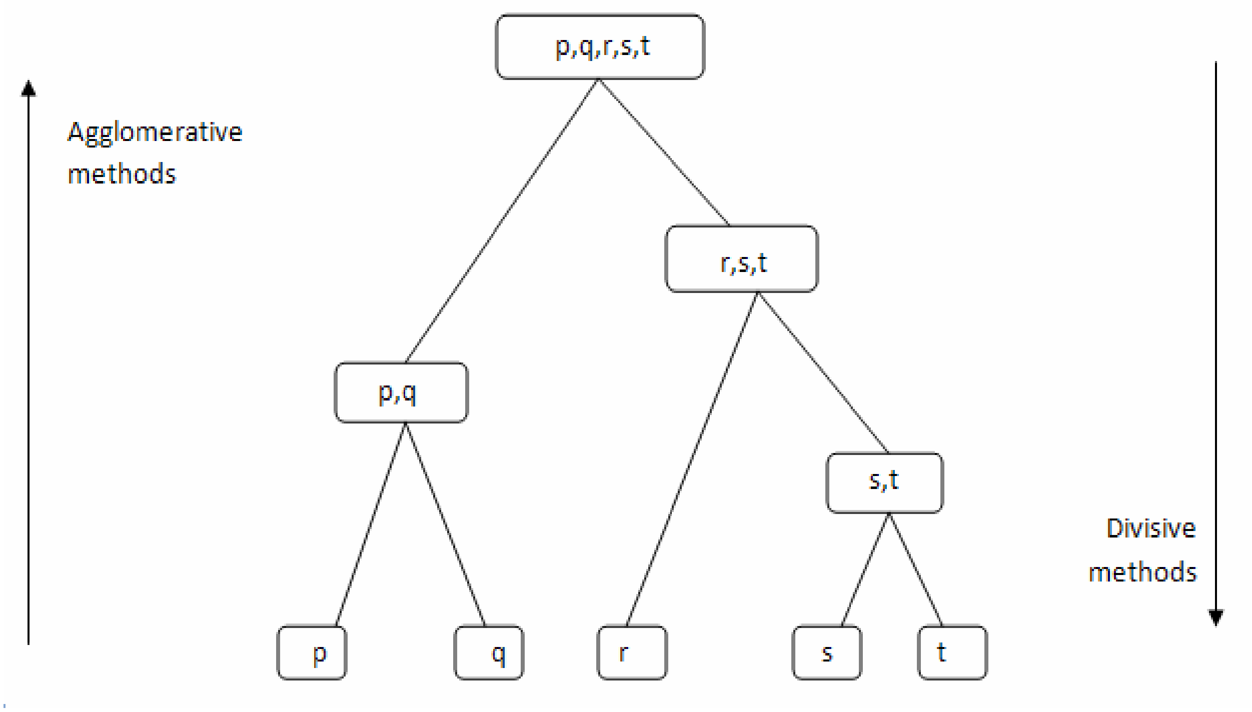
3. Find recursively all its density connected points and assign them to the same cluster as the core point.

   A point *a* and *b* are said to be density connected if there exist a point *c* which has a sufficient number of points in its neighbors and both the points *a* and *b* are within the *eps distance*. This is a chaining process. So, if *b* is neighbor of *c*, *c* is neighbor of *d*, *d* is neighbor of *e*, which in turn is neighbor of *a* implies that *b* is neighbor of *a*.
4. Iterate through the remaining unvisited points in the dataset. Those points that do not belong to any cluster are noise.

HIERARCHICAL AGGLOMERATIVE CLUSTERING ALGORITHM

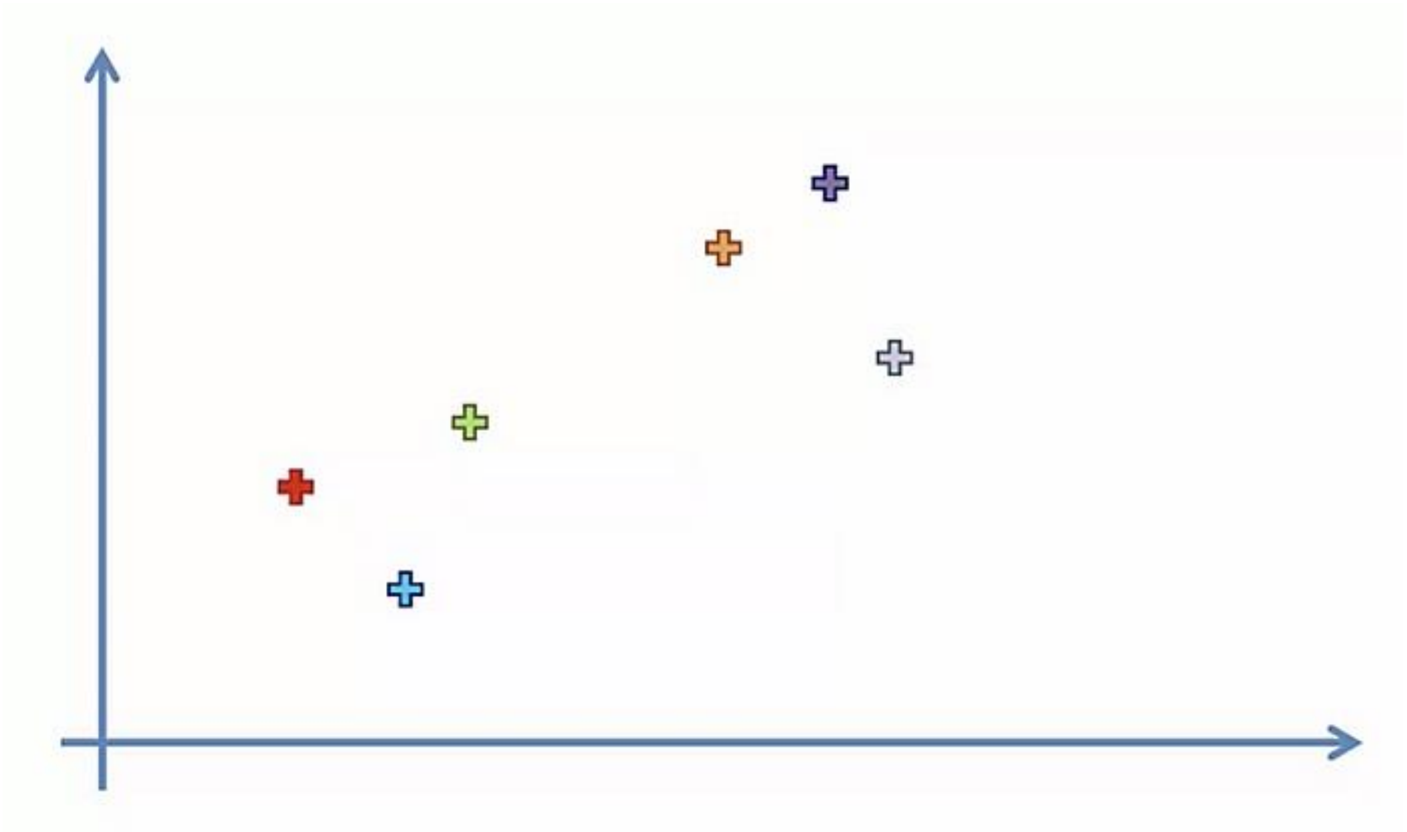
Hierarchical clustering algorithms group similar objects into groups called **clusters**. There are two types of hierarchical clustering algorithms:

- Agglomerative — Bottom up approach. Start with many small clusters and merge them together to create bigger clusters.
- Divisive — Top down approach. Start with a single cluster than break it up into smaller clusters.

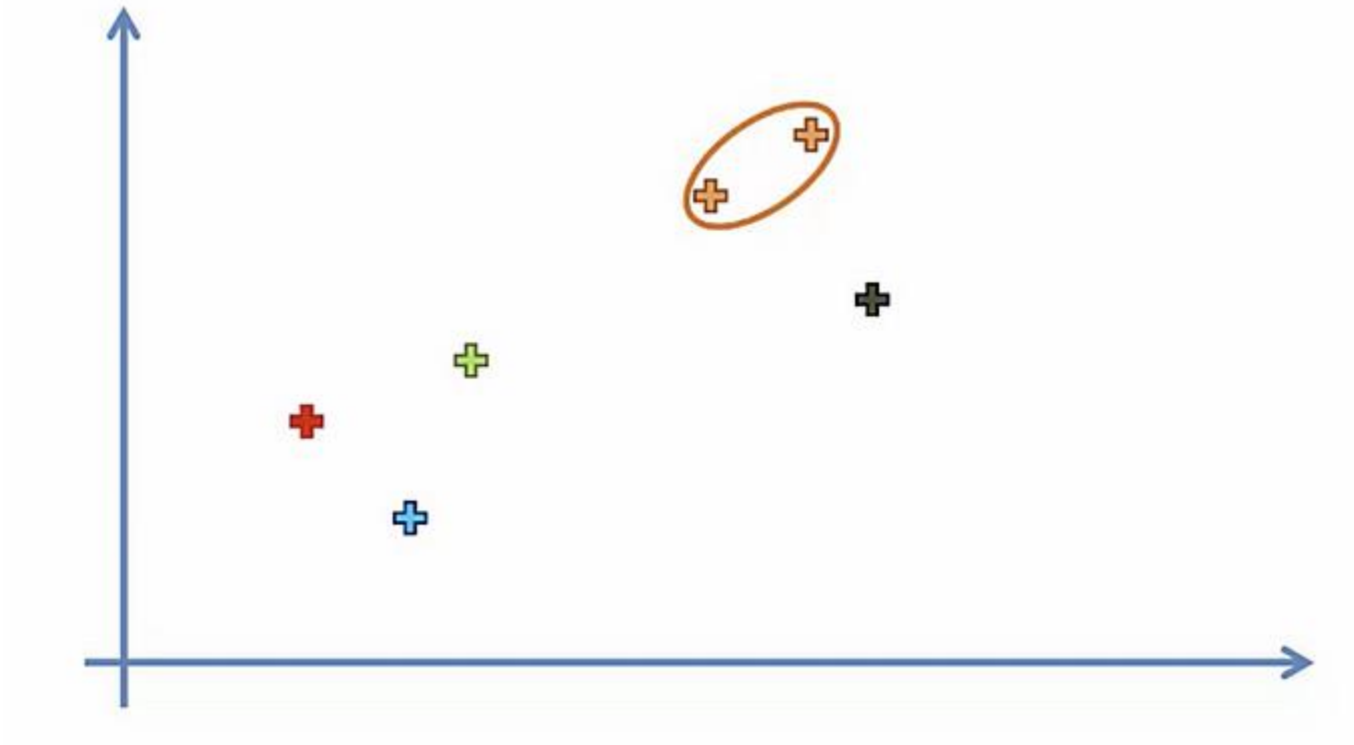


WORKING METHOD:

1. Make each data point a cluster



2. Take the two closest clusters and make them one cluster



3. Repeat step 2 until there is only one cluster