

# Dynamic Visualization and Fast Computation for Convex Clustering via Algorithmic Regularization

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Michael Weylandt

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# Acknowledgements

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## Co-Authors:

- John Nagorski (Rice)
- Genevera Allen (Rice)



Methods available in the `clustRviz` R package

 [github.com/DataSlingers/clustRviz](https://github.com/DataSlingers/clustRviz)

Paper to appear in *J. Computational and Graphical Statistics* (2019+)

Clustering: identifying sub-populations in unlabelled data

# Clustering

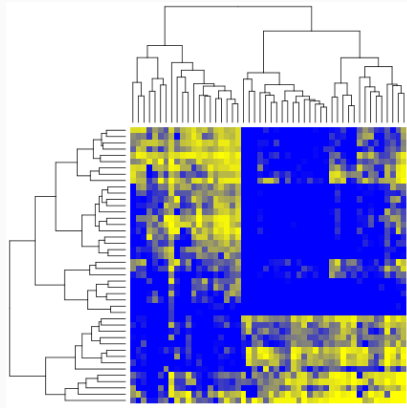
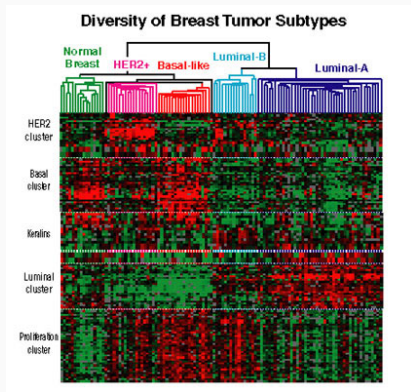
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Example: breast cancer sub-typing & precision medicine

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# Clustering: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

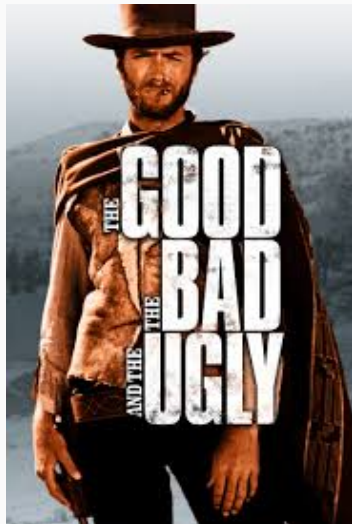
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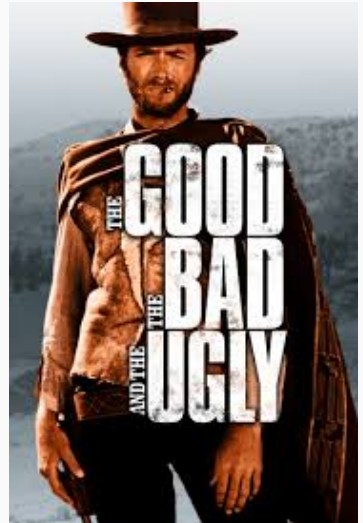
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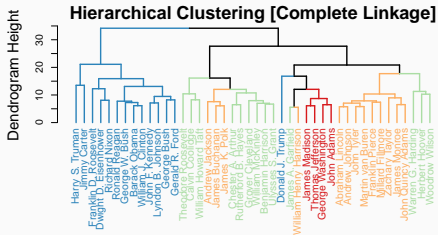
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  - Ugly: How many clusters?
- Others: spectral clustering, GMM+EM, DBSCAN, *etc.*



# Consider the Humble Dendrogram



Dendrograms:

- Easily-understood, ubiquitous
- Show multiple clusterings simultaneously
- Give a sense of separation (ordinate)

# Convex Clustering

Convex clustering (Hocking *et al.* 2011; Lindsten *et al.* 2011; Pelckmans *et al.* 2005):

$$\hat{\mathbf{U}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{U}\|_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n w_{ij} \|\mathbf{U}_{i\cdot} - \mathbf{U}_{j\cdot}\|_q$$

Observations are clustered together if  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}_{i\cdot} = \hat{\mathbf{U}}_{j\cdot}$ .

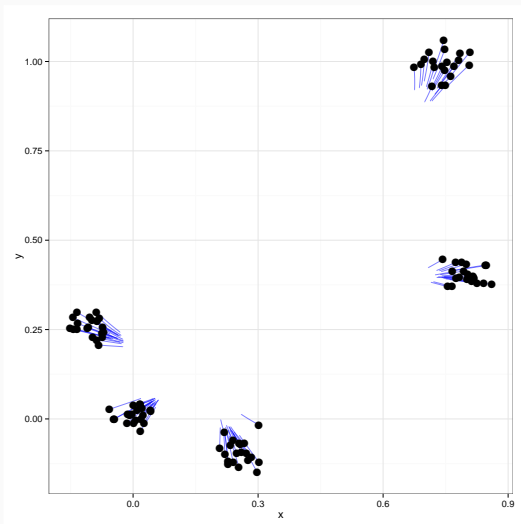
Estimated centroids  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  are close to original data and fused together

Convexity implies:

- Global optimality + efficient algorithms
- Good statistical properties

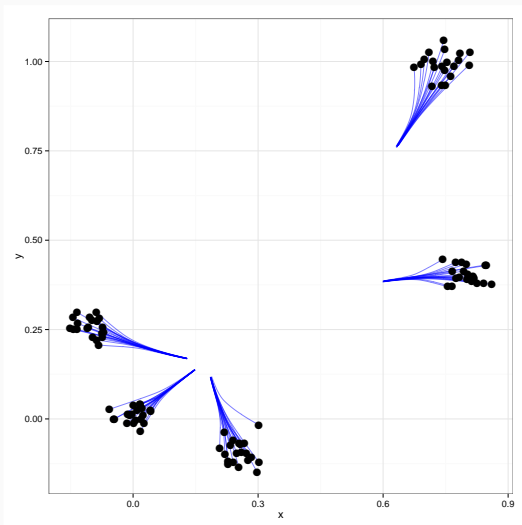
$\lambda$  controls number of clusters smoothly

# Convex Clustering: Solution Path



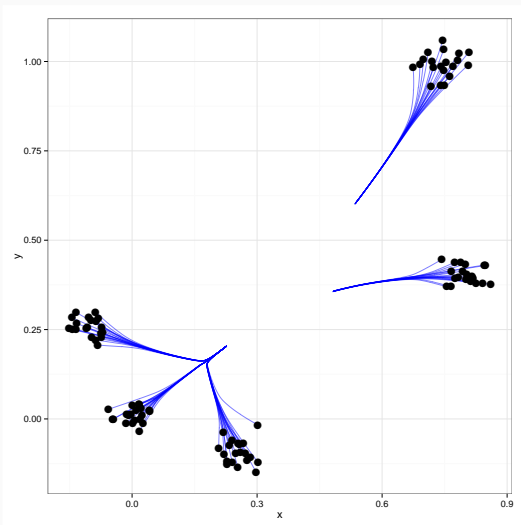
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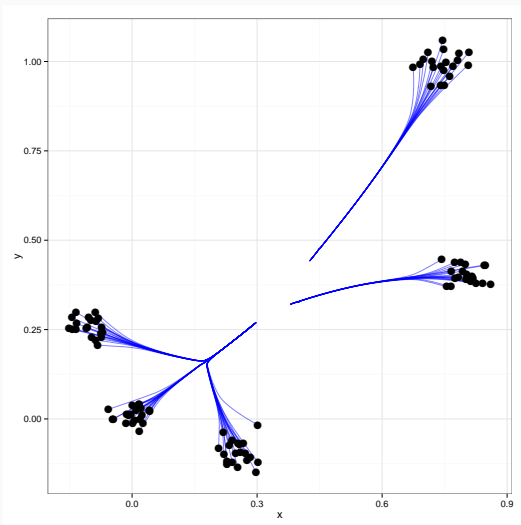
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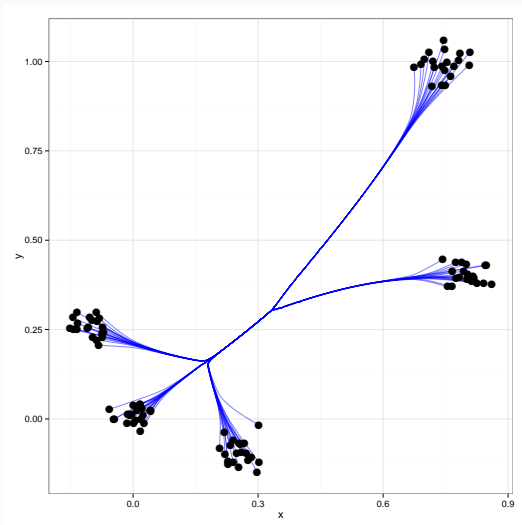
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# Convex Clustering: Related Work

## Related Work:

- Basic Framework: Hocking *et al.* (2011), Lindsten *et al.* (2011), and Pelckmans *et al.* (2005)
- Algorithms: Chen *et al.* (2015), Chi and Lange (2015), Ho *et al.* (2019), Panahi *et al.* (2017), and Sun *et al.* (2018)
- Two-Way Matrix / Bi-Clustering: Chi *et al.* (2017) and Weylandt (2019)
- Multi-Way Tensor / Co-Clustering: Chi *et al.* (2018)
- Consistency: Panahi *et al.* (2017), Radchenko and Mukherjee (2017), Tan and Witten (2015), and Zhu *et al.* (2014)
- Non-Convex Penalties: Marchetti and Zhou (2014), Pan *et al.* (2013), Shah and Koltun (2017), and Wu *et al.* (2016)
- Robustness: Wang *et al.* (2016)
- Feature Selection: Wang *et al.* (2018)
- Generalized Losses: Wang and Allen (2019+)

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Despite all this, relatively little adoption: speed, graphics, and software support

# Convex Clustering: Splitting Algorithms

Simplified form:

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{U}\|_F^2 + \lambda \underbrace{\|\mathbf{DU}\|_{\text{row},q}}_{P(\mathbf{DU})}$$

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- $\mathcal{O}(n^2 p)$  variables

# Difficulties of Convex Clustering Optimization

Dendrogram recovery:

- Need to solve at (at least)  $n - 1$  different  $\lambda$  values
- Don't know what those are *a priori*



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Dendrogram recovery:

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Grid search expensive

Not amenable to homotopy (path-following) algorithms

Two (contrary?) aims:

- *Local Accuracy*: optimization convergence at all  $\lambda$
- *Global Accuracy*: solution at dense  $\lambda$  grid

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Relatively little consideration of *global* accuracy

Global accuracy often more interesting: variable selection order, dendrograms, *etc.*

# It's Getting Hot In Here! Advantages of Warm Starting

Useful trick: *warm starts!*

If solving for grid of  $\lambda$ , use  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda_{k-1}}$  to start algorithm for  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda_k}$

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Second-order benefit: algorithms have improved *local* convergence rates near solutions

# Some Mild Heresy

Warm-Started ADMM:

- Initialize  $l = 0$ ,  $\lambda_l = \epsilon$ ,  $\mathbf{V}^{(0)} = \mathbf{Z}^{(0)} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{X}$
- Repeat until  $\|\mathbf{V}^{(k)}\| = 0$ :
  - Repeat until convergence:
    - (i)  $\mathbf{U}^{(k+1)} = (\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{D}^T\mathbf{D})^{-1} (\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{D}^T(\mathbf{V}^{(k)} - \mathbf{Z}^{(k)}))$
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    - (iv)  $k := k + 1$
  - Store  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda_l} = \mathbf{U}^{(k)}$
  - Update regularization:  $l := l + 1$ ;  $\lambda_l := \lambda_{l-1} * t$
- Return  $\{\hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda}\}$  as the regularization path



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CARP Algorithm:

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**CARP:** Convex Clustering via **A**lgorithmic **R**egularization **P**aths

# Algorithmic Regularization

*Algorithmic Regularization: Single Optimization Step then Update  $\lambda$*



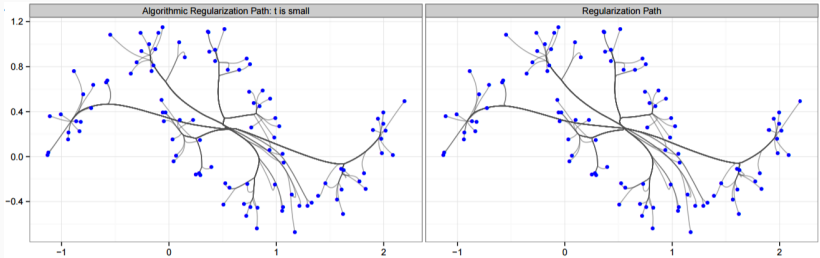
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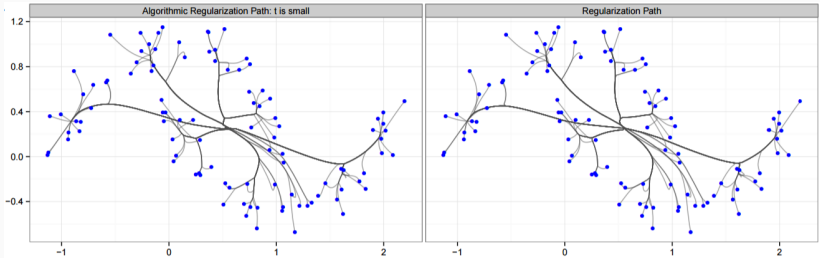


Faster, but can it work?

# Eppur si muove!



# Eppur si muove!



Yes - it seems to work!

*Intuition:* Warm-starting at previous iteration gets “good enough” answer in one-step

*Practical Advantages:* Same number of iterations spent at **many** more  $\lambda \implies$  finer grid!

# A Convergence Theorem

## Theorem (Informal): Global Recovery of Entire Path

As the step-size  $t$  goes to zero, CARP recovers the entire solution path (primal and dual):

$$\max \left\{ \sup_{\lambda} \inf_k \left\| \mathbf{U}^{(k)} - \hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda} \right\|, \sup_k \inf_{\lambda} \left\| \mathbf{U}^{(k)} - \hat{\mathbf{U}}_{\lambda} \right\| \right\} \xrightarrow{(t, \epsilon) \rightarrow (1, 0)} 0$$
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*The whole path and nothing but the path*

# Sketch of Proof

Key elements of proof:

- Problem is *strongly* convex (always) so ADMM converges linearly (Deng and Yin 2016)
- Solution path is *Lipschitz* so  $\|\partial\hat{\mathbf{U}}_\lambda/\partial\lambda\|$  is bounded above

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- Iterating:

$$\|\mathbf{U}^{(k)} - \hat{\mathbf{U}}_{t^k\epsilon}\| \leq c^k L\epsilon + L(t-1)\epsilon t^k \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left(\frac{c}{t}\right)^i$$

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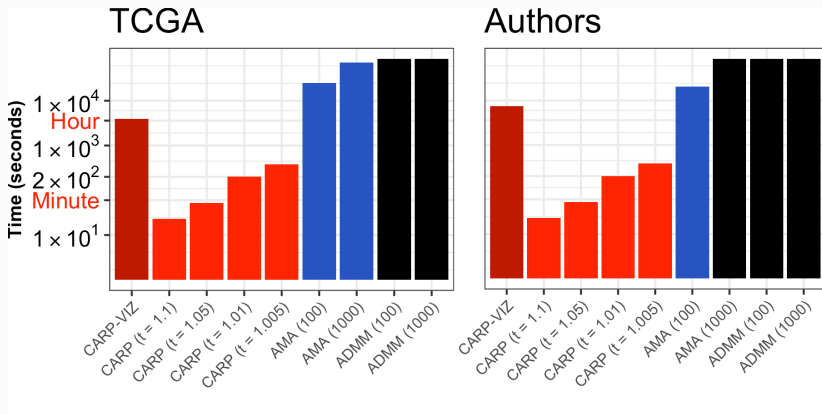
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- Show this goes to zero for all  $k$  simultaneously as  $t, \epsilon \rightarrow 0$

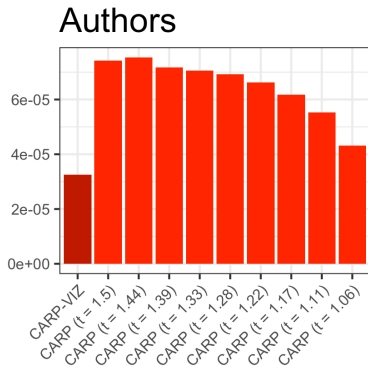
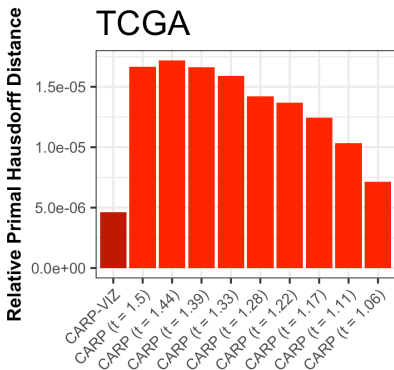
Two test data sets:

- Authors  $\in \mathbb{R}^{841 \times 69}$ : stop-word counts from 4 authors
- TCGA  $\in \mathbb{R}^{438 \times 353}$ : gene expression from 3 breast cancer subtypes

# Authors and Genes







# CBASS: Convex Bi-Clustering

Similar modification to Chi *et al.* (2017) or Weylandt (2019) yields

CBASS:

Convex BiClustering via Algorithmic Regularization with Small Steps



Also in `clustRviz`

Where else can we use Algorithmic Regularization:

- Signal Approximation
- “Big  $n$  Problems”
- $\ell_2$  (Tikhonov) Regularization

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Extensions of Algorithmic Regularization:

- Inexact Updates
- Multi-Block
- Non-Strongly Convex
- “Nice” Non-Convex
- Stochastic / Parallel Updates

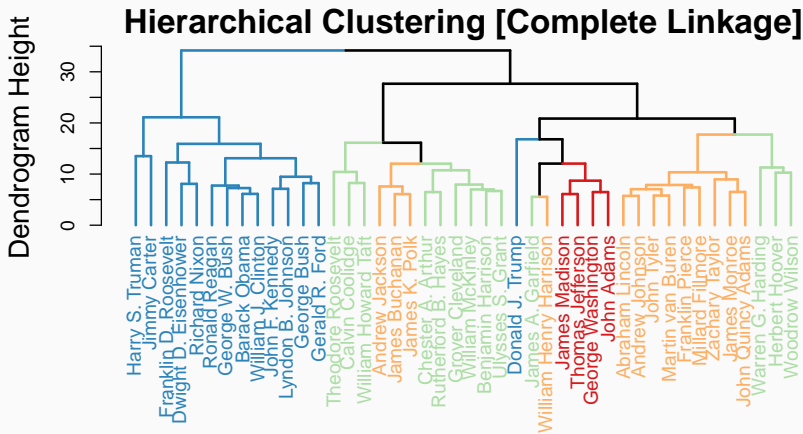
# One Fun Thing

Presidential speeches data set ( $n = 44, p = 75$ ):

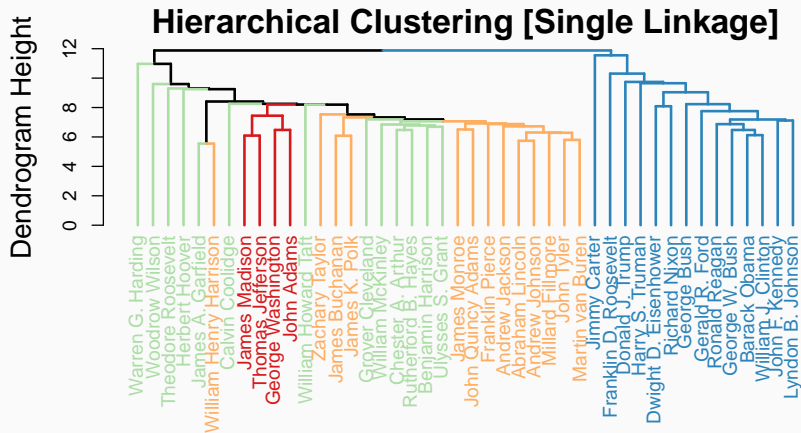
- Relative word frequency of top 75 words from inaugurations, State of the Union, and other famous speeches
- Words are stemmed and frequencies are log-transformed



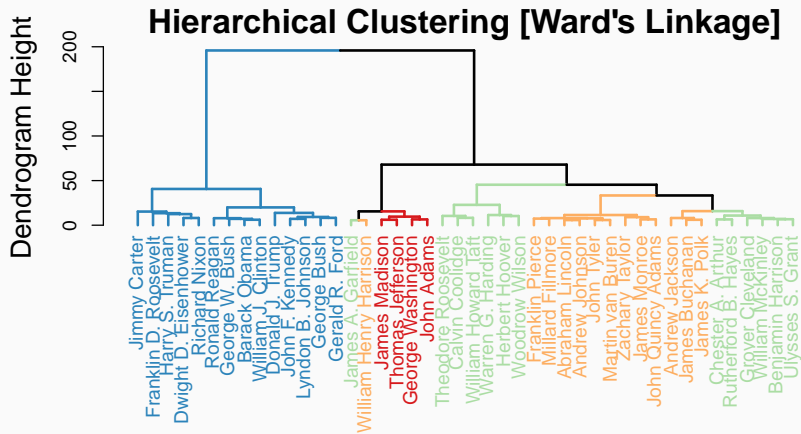
Dendrograms:



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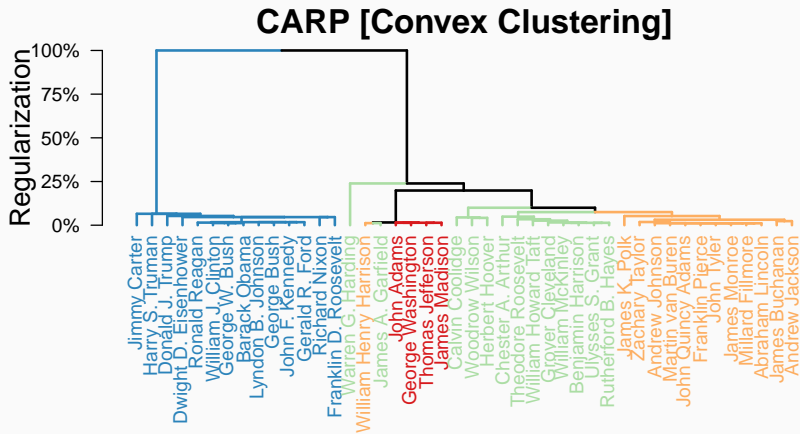


Dendrograms:



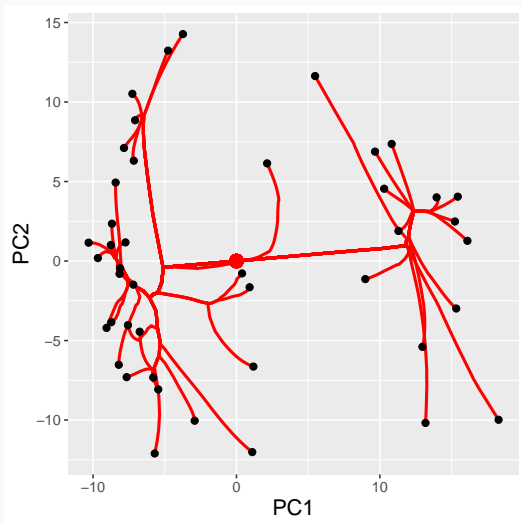


Dendrograms:



# One Fun Thing

Paths:

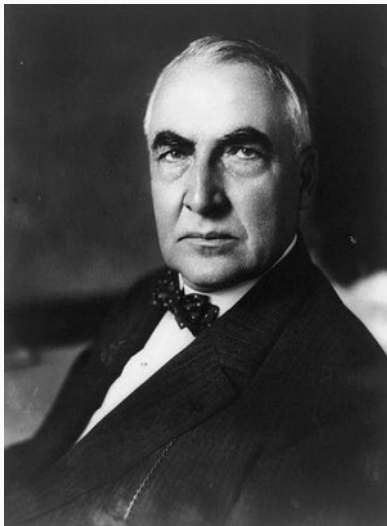


## Outlier:

- Republican
- Known for pro-business and anti-immigration policies
- Tried to upend traditional alliances
- First president elected from previous (non-traditional) background
- Campaigned on return to past glories

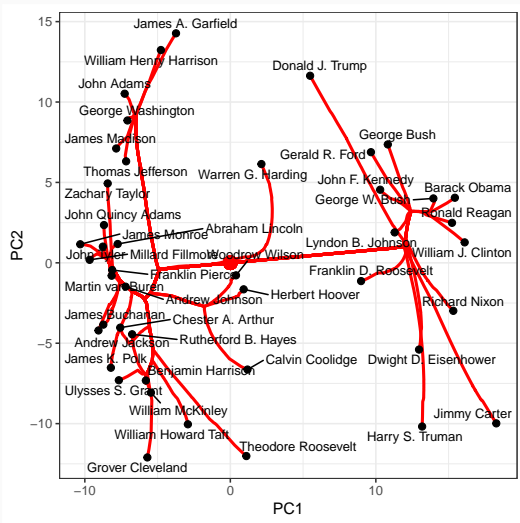
# One Fun Thing

Outlier:



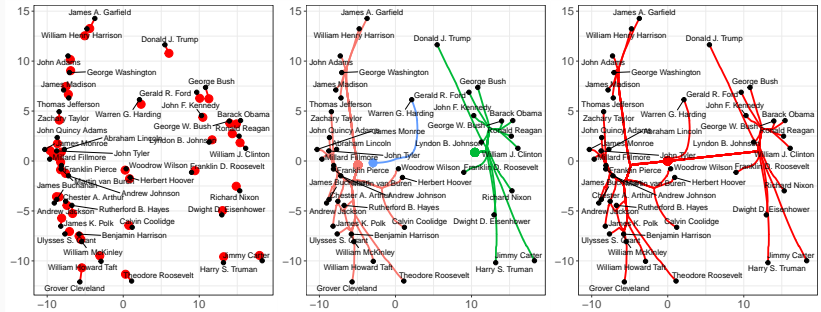
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## Paths:



## Conclusions

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Thank you!

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  - Strong Statistical Guarantees

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  - First *global* convergence result for one-step schemes
- Convex Clustering:
  - Strong Statistical Guarantees
  - Fast(er) Computation + Dynamic & Interactive Visualizations!

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Thank you!

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