

Supplemental Information

Element-centric clustering comparison unifies overlaps and hierarchy

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421 S1 Clusterings

422 Throughout this work, we focus on the grouping of elements (i.e. data points or vertices) into clusters (the groups). The
 423 set of clusters is called a *clustering*. Specifically, given a set of N distinct elements $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_N\}$, a clustering is
 424 a set $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, \dots, C_{K_{\mathcal{C}}}\}$ of $K_{\mathcal{C}}$ non-empty subsets of V such that every element v_i in V is in at least one cluster C_{β} :
 425 $\forall v_i \in V \exists C_{\beta}$ s.t. $v_i \in C_{\beta}$.

426 We consider three classes of clusterings. A *partition*, or disjoint clustering, is a clustering in which all elements are
 427 members of one, and only one, cluster. An *overlapping* clustering allows elements to be members of multiple clusters.
 428 *Hierarchical* clusterings capture the nested organization of clusters at different scales and are accompanied by a directed
 429 acyclic graph (or dendrogram) showing the hierarchical relationships between clusters.

430 S2 Existing measures of clustering similarity

431 Here, we focus on ten of the most prominent measures from the clustering literature: the Rand index, the adjusted Rand
 432 index, the Omega index, the Jaccard index, the F measure, the Fowlkes Mallows index, percentage matching (PM),
 433 normalized mutual information (NMI), overlapping normalized mutual information (ONMI), variation of information
 434 (VI). All of these measures are implemented in the CluSim python package¹.

435 S2.1 Rand Index

436 The Rand index² counts the number of element pairs which are either members of the same cluster, or members of
 437 different clusters in both clusterings. The most common formulation of the Rand index focuses on the following four
 438 sets of the $\binom{N}{2}$ element pairs: N_{11} the number of element pairs which are grouped in the same cluster in both clusterings,
 439 N_{10} the number of element pairs which are grouped in the same cluster by \mathcal{A} but in different clusters by \mathcal{B} , N_{01} the
 440 number of element pairs which are grouped in the same cluster by \mathcal{B} but in different clusters by \mathcal{A} , and N_{00} the number
 441 of element pairs which are grouped in different clusters by both \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} . Intuitively, N_{11} and N_{00} are indicators of the
 442 agreement between the two clusterings, while N_{10} and N_{01} reflect the disagreement between the clusterings.

443 The aforementioned pair counts are identified from the contingency table \mathcal{T} between two clusterings, shown in
 444 Table S1, by the following set of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 445 \quad N_{11} &= \sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} \binom{n_{km}}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} n_{km}^2 - N \right) & (S1) \\
 446 \quad N_{10} &= \sum_{k=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}} \binom{a_k}{2} - N_{11} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}} a_k^2 - \sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} n_{km}^2 \right) \\
 447 \quad N_{01} &= \sum_{m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{B}}} \binom{b_m}{2} - N_{11} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{B}}} b_m^2 - \sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} n_{km}^2 \right) \\
 448 \quad N_{00} &= \binom{N}{2} - N_{11} - N_{10} - N_{01}. \\
 449
 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{A} / \mathcal{B}$	B_1	B_2	...	$B_{K_{\mathcal{B}}}$	Sums
A_1	n_{11}	n_{12}	...	$n_{1K_{\mathcal{B}}}$	a_1
A_2	n_{21}	n_{22}	...	$n_{2K_{\mathcal{B}}}$	a_2
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\ddots	\vdots	\vdots
$A_{K_{\mathcal{A}}}$	$n_{K_{\mathcal{A}}1}$	$n_{K_{\mathcal{A}}2}$...	$n_{K_{\mathcal{A}}K_{\mathcal{B}}}$	$a_{K_{\mathcal{A}}}$
Sums	b_1	b_2	...	$b_{K_{\mathcal{B}}}$	$\sum_{ij} n_{ij} = N$

Table S1. The contingency table \mathcal{T} for two clusterings $\mathcal{A} = \{A_1, \dots, A_{K_{\mathcal{A}}}\}$ and $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_{K_{\mathcal{B}}}\}$ of N elements, where $n_{ij} = |A_i \cap B_j|$ are the number of elements in both cluster $A_i \in \mathcal{A}$ and cluster $B_j \in \mathcal{B}$.

450 The Rand index between clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} , $RI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ is then given by the function:

$$451 \quad RI(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) = \frac{N_{11} + N_{00}}{\binom{N}{2}}. \quad (S2)$$

452

453 It lies between 0 and 1, where 1 indicates the clusterings are identical and 0 occurs for clusters which do not share a
 454 single pair of elements (this only happens when one clustering is the full set of elements and the other clustering groups
 455 each element into its own singleton cluster). As the number of elements being clustered becomes large, the measure
 456 becomes dominated by the number of pairs which were classified into different clusters (N_{00}), resulting in decreased
 457 sensitivity to co-occurring element pairs³.

458 S2.2 Adjusted Rand index (ARI)

459 A popular extension of the Rand index, called the adjusted Rand index (ARI), considers the average of the measure
 460 in the context of the permutation model for random clusterings⁴⁻⁶. In the permutation model the number and size
 461 of clusters within a clustering are fixed; all random clusterings are generated by shuffling the elements between the
 462 fixed clusters. The expectation of the Rand index with respect to the permutation model follows from the fact that the
 463 entries in Table S1 follow a generalized hypergeometric distribution. Taking $Q^{\mathcal{A}} = \sum_{k=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}} \binom{a_k}{2}$ and $Q^{\mathcal{B}} = \sum_{m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{B}}} \binom{b_m}{2}$, the
 464 expectation $\mathbb{E}_{perm}[RI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})]$ of the Rand index with respect to the permutation model for the cluster size sequences of
 465 clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} is given by:

$$466 \quad \mathbb{E}_{perm}[RI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})] = \frac{Q^{\mathcal{A}} Q^{\mathcal{B}} - \binom{N}{2} (Q^{\mathcal{A}} + Q^{\mathcal{B}}) + \binom{N}{2}^2}{\binom{N}{2}^2} \quad (S3)$$

467

468 (see Fowlkes and Mallows³, Hubert and Arabie⁴, or Albatineh and Niewiadomska-Bugaj⁵ for the full derivation).
 469 Finally, the ARI between clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} is given by:

$$470 \quad ARI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{R(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) - \mathbb{E}_{perm}[RI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})]}{1 - \mathbb{E}_{perm}[RI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})]} \quad (S4)$$

471

472 S2.3 Omega index

473 The Omega index extends the adjusted Rand index to compare overlapping clusterings⁷. To formulate the extension,
 474 notice that in the presence of overlaps, element pairs can repeatedly occur within the same cluster. We consider $t_j(\mathcal{A})$
 475 the set of node pairs which co-occur exactly j times in clustering \mathcal{A} . The unadjusted Omega index between two
 476 overlapping clusterings is then:

$$477 \quad \omega_u(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{1}{\binom{N}{2}} \sum_j |t_j(\mathcal{A}) \cap t_j(\mathcal{B})|, \quad (S5)$$

478 while the expectation of this measure with respect to the permutation model on the number of element pair overlaps is:

$$479 \quad \mathbb{E}_{perm}[\omega_u(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})] = \frac{1}{\binom{N}{2}^2} \sum_j |t_j(\mathcal{A})| \cdot |t_j(\mathcal{B})| \quad (S6)$$

480 Finally, the Omega index between two overlapping partitions is given by:

$$481 \quad \Omega(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{\omega_u(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) - \mathbb{E}_{perm}[\omega_u(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})]}{1 - \mathbb{E}_{perm}[\omega_u(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})]}. \quad (S7)$$

482 Note that for partitions the Omega index is equivalent to the adjusted Rand index.

483 S2.4 Jaccard index

484 Another popular clustering similarity measure which utilizes pair-wise co-occurrence between the elements is the
485 Jaccard index or Jaccard similarity coefficient⁸. Originally proposed to compare regional floras⁹, the Jaccard index
486 is a similarity measure for finite sets. It is defined as the number of element pairs which are grouped in the same
487 cluster in both clusterings divided by the number of element pairs which are grouped in the cluster in at least one of the
488 clusterings. Thus, it ignores the number of element pairs that are grouped into different clusters by both clusterings.
489 One minus the Jaccard index is a metric on the collection of finite sets¹⁰. Using the above notation from the contingency
490 table Table S1, the Jaccard index between clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} takes the form:

$$491 \quad J(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{N_{11}}{N_{11} + N_{10} + N_{01}} \quad (S8)$$

492

493 S2.5 F measure

494 The F measure has a long history of use in clustering validation, natural language processing, information retrieval, and
495 machine learning. It is based off of two asymmetric measures (sometimes called Dice's asymmetric coefficients), that
496 count the proportion of element pairs which are correctly co-assigned to the same cluster in one of the clusterings using
497 the other clustering as a baseline. When one of these clusterings is considered to be a ground-truth clustering, these
498 asymmetric measures are known as *precision* and *recall*. The F measure is the harmonic mean of the precision and
499 recall. Specifically, the F measure between clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} is given by:

$$500 \quad F(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{2N_{11}}{2N_{11} + N_{10} + N_{01}} \quad (S9)$$

501

502 The F measure F and Jaccard index J are related by $J = F/(2 - F)$.

503 S2.6 Fowlkes-Mallows index

504 The Fowlkes-Mallows index was first introduced to facilitate the comparison of hierarchical dendrograms³. The idea is
505 to cut the dendrogram at each merger and compare the induced flat clusterings. Like the previous five measures, the
506 Fowlkes-Mallows index is based on counting the pair-wise co-occurrence between the elements in the two clusterings:

$$507 \quad FM(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \frac{N_{11}}{\sqrt{(N_{11} + N_{10})(N_{11} + N_{01})}}. \quad (S10)$$

508 Applying this index to each cut k of two dendrograms produces a curve of comparisons between two clusterings each
509 with k clusters.

510 S2.7 Percentage Matching

511 The Percentage Matching is based on the idea that each cluster should be compared to only one other cluster, its "best
512 match"¹¹. Specifically, let $K_{\min} = \min(K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}})$, then the percentage matching index is defined using the contingency
513 table:

$$514 \quad PM(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = 1 - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K_{\min}} \max_{\pi} n_{k,\pi}. \quad (S11)$$

515 where the notation \max_{π} denotes finding the cluster π with the largest overlap to cluster k . The percentage matching is
516 equal to one minus the Purity Index, another common measure of the distance between clusterings.

517 S2.8 Normalized mutual information (NMI)

518 Another family of approaches for finding the similarity of two cluster coverings is based on the amount of information
519 in each covering and the amount of information one covering contains about the other. These quantities can also be
520 calculated from the contingency Table S1. The entropy H of a clustering \mathcal{A} is given by

$$521 \quad H(\mathcal{A}) = - \sum_{k=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}} \frac{a_k}{N} \log \frac{a_k}{N} \quad (S12)$$

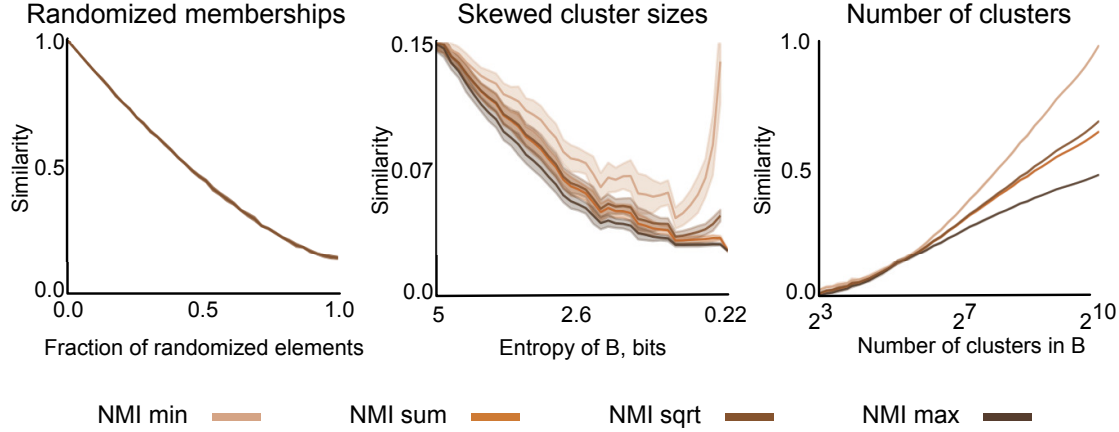


Figure S1. NMI's bias towards the number of clusters is independent of normalization term. The three scenarios from the main text, for different normalization terms of NMI: the minimum of cluster entropies (min), the average of the cluster entropies (sum), the geometric mean of the cluster entropies (sqrt), and the maximum of the cluster entropies (max). See Section S2.8 for the measure details.

522 and, using the entries n_{km} from the contingency table S1, the joint entropy between two clusterings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} is

$$523 \quad H(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = - \sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} \frac{n_{km}}{N} \log \frac{n_{km}}{N} \quad (S13)$$

524 Thus, the mutual information between two clusterings is given by:

$$525 \quad \begin{aligned} MI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) &= H(\mathcal{A}) + H(\mathcal{B}) - H(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \\ 526 \quad &= \sum_{k,m=1}^{K_{\mathcal{A}}, K_{\mathcal{B}}} \frac{n_{km}}{N} \log \frac{n_{km}N}{a_k b_m}. \end{aligned} \quad (S14)$$

528 The mutual information can be interpreted as an inverse measure of independence between the clusterings, or a measure
529 of the amount of information each clustering has about the other. As it can vary in the range $[0, \min\{H(\mathcal{A}), H(\mathcal{B})\}]$, to
530 facilitate comparisons, it is desirable to normalize it to the range $[0, 1]$. There are at least six proposals in the literature
531 for this upper bound, each with different advantages and drawbacks;

$$532 \quad \begin{aligned} \min\{H(\mathcal{A}), H(\mathcal{B})\} &\leq \sqrt{H(\mathcal{A})H(\mathcal{B})} \leq \frac{H(\mathcal{A}) + H(\mathcal{B})}{2} \\ 533 \quad &\leq \max\{H(\mathcal{A}), H(\mathcal{B})\} \leq \max\{\log K_{\mathcal{A}}, \log K_{\mathcal{B}}\} \leq \log N. \end{aligned} \quad (S15)$$

535 The resulting measures are all known as normalized mutual information (NMI). Here, we always use the average of the
536 two clustering entropies $\frac{1}{2}(H(\mathcal{A}) + H(\mathcal{B}))$. Although some results have been shown to depend on the normalization
537 term used for NMI, Figure S1 demonstrates that NMI behaves un-intuitively regardless of the normalization term.

538 Due to the known bias of NMI towards clusterings with more clusters, several modifications have been proposed.
539 The NMI can be adjusted for chance according to an appropriate random model^{6,12}, but this induces the problem
540 of selecting a random model for the clusterings, and does not remove the issue of selecting a normalization term.
541 Alternatively, the NMI can be re-scaled by an exponential factor reflecting the difference in number of clusters between
542 the two clusterings, but this scaling factor forces the researcher to prioritize one clustering as the 'ground-truth' and
543 breaks the symmetry of the original measure¹³.

544 **S2.9 Overlapping NMI (ONMI)**

545 The NMI has been modified to account for clusterings with overlapping clusters¹⁴. Consider a clustering \mathcal{A} with $K_{\mathcal{A}}$
 546 possibly overlapping clusters $A_1, \dots, A_{K_{\mathcal{A}}}$. For each cluster A_k , we can consider a binary random variable X_k which
 547 represents the probability that a randomly selected node is a member of that cluster with distribution

$$548 \quad P(X_k = 1) = \frac{a_k}{N}, \quad P(X_k = 0) = 1 - \frac{a_k}{N} \quad (\text{S16})$$

549 The same holds for a second clustering \mathcal{B} with $K_{\mathcal{B}}$ possibly overlapping clusters $B_1, \dots, B_{K_{\mathcal{B}}}$ and random variables Y_m .
 550 We can then define the joint probability distribution $P(X_k, Y_m)$:

$$551 \quad P(X_k = 1, Y_m = 1) = \frac{n_{km}}{N}$$

$$552 \quad P(X_k = 0, Y_m = 0) = 1 - \frac{n_{km}}{N} \quad (\text{S17})$$

$$553 \quad P(X_k = 1, Y_m = 0) = \frac{a_k - n_{km}}{N}$$

$$554 \quad P(X_k = 0, Y_m = 1) = \frac{b_m - n_{km}}{N}$$

556 Given a particular cluster $A_k \in \mathcal{A}$, the amount of information it has about another cluster $B_m \in \mathcal{B}$ is found by the
 557 conditional entropy

$$558 \quad H(X_k|Y_m) = H(X_k, Y_m) - H(Y_m). \quad (\text{S18})$$

559 In the case of overlapping clusters, there are many possible candidates for the best match between two clusters. The
 560 best match is the one with the minimal conditional entropy. Thus, the conditional entropy of X_k with respect to all of
 561 the clusters in \mathcal{B} is

$$562 \quad H(X_k|\mathbf{Y}) = \min_{m \in \{1, \dots, M\}} H(X_k|Y_m). \quad (\text{S19})$$

563 However, in minimizing the entropy it may be the case that the optimal B_m^* is the complement of A_k , thus we have to
 564 add the following constraint to insure the above minimization identities the best matching cluster:

$$565 \quad h[P(1, 1)] + h[P(0, 0)] > h[P(0, 1)] + h[P(1, 0)]. \quad (\text{S20})$$

566 This entropy is normalized by the entropy of X_k and averaged over all X_k to give the normalized conditional entropy of
 567 \mathbf{X} with respect to \mathbf{Y}

$$568 \quad H(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y})_{\text{norm}} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{H(X_k|\mathbf{Y})}{H(X_k)}. \quad (\text{S21})$$

569 Finally, the overlapping normalized mutual information ONMI is given by

$$570 \quad ONMI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} [H(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y})_{\text{norm}} + H(\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{X})_{\text{norm}}]. \quad (\text{S22})$$

571 It is interesting to note that when \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are partitions, the $NMI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ and $ONMI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ do not necessarily
 572 agree. Although there have been several attempts to reformulate ONMI so that it agrees with NMI, the above formulation
 573 is pervasive in the literature¹⁵⁻¹⁷.

574 **S2.10 Variation of Information VI**

575 Another popular clustering comparison measure based on information theory is the Variation of Information (VI). Unlike
 576 the similarity measures discussed above, the VI is a metric on the lattice of partitions¹⁸. Thus, it is a measure of distance
 577 between clusterings instead of a similarity between the clusterings; it attains its minimum at 0 when the clusterings are

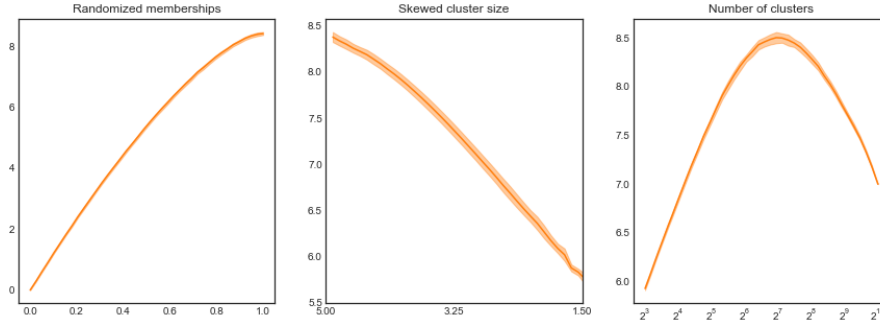


Figure S2. VI unintuitive behavior as the cluster sizes become more skewed and as the number of clusters is increased. Note that because the VI is a distance measure, the intuitive behavior is opposite that presented for similarity measures.

578 identical, and attains positive values for clusterings which differ. Using the entropy and mutual information between
 579 clusterings defined in Section S2.8, the VI is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 580 \quad VI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) &= H(\mathcal{A}) + H(\mathcal{B}) - 2MI(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \\
 581 \quad &= 2H(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) - H(\mathcal{A}) - H(\mathcal{B}). \tag{S23}
 \end{aligned}$$

582
 583 Since the VI is a distance measure, the intuitive behavior is opposite that presented for the similarity measures
 584 discussed in this paper, and presented in the main text, Figure 2. None-the-less, we can demonstrate that the VI suffers
 585 from unintuitive behavior in two scenarios: the skewed cluster sizes and the number of clusters (Figure S2).

586 S2.11 Information Theoretic Intuition

587 A second intuition that could be used to evaluate clustering similarity measures is based on concepts drawn from
 588 information theory. Under this intuition, the appropriate question to ask is: “Given a random element, how much
 589 uncertainty remains about its membership in Clustering \mathcal{B} if I know its membership in Clustering \mathcal{A} ?” The clusters
 590 are now considered as an alphabet and the contingency table is considered as a discrete probability distribution over
 591 this alphabet. For example, the variation of information considers the difference in conditional entropies reflecting the
 592 amount of information we loose about the original cluster assignment, and the amount of information we have to gain to
 593 recover the new cluster assignment when going from one clustering to the other¹⁸. The resulting intuition suggests that
 594 two clusterings are similar if one doesn’t loose much information (presence of equally sized clusters) or one doesn’t
 595 have to gain much information (presence of very small clusters). Consequently, in Figure S2, we notice that the VI
 596 decreases (more similar) as the cluster entropy decreases, and displays a parabolic shape (more similar, to less similar,
 597 to more similar) as the number of clusters approaches the number of elements.

598 Our main objection to the information theoretic intuition is that it tends to suggest measures cannot differentiate the
 599 influence of alphabet size (here, number of clusters) from the distribution of alphabet usage (here, sizes of the clusters).
 600 Furthermore, the primary justification for these measures is typically stated with respect to the alignment to the lattice
 601 of partitions¹⁹, yet, it is not immediately clear if the lattice of partitions is the appropriate space to compare clustering
 602 similarity measures since many applications do not align to the lattice (i.e. evaluation of k-means clustering fixes the
 603 number of clusters).

604 S3 Datasets

605 S3.1 Point clusters

606 5,000 points were random formed into clusters in an algorithm akin to the process for constructing benchmark graphs²⁰.
 607 Cluster sizes were randomly drawn from a powerlaw distribution with a minimum cluster size of 10, a maximum cluster
 608 size of 1000, and an exponent of 1.0. The center of those clusters was uniformly selected from points in a 40×40
 609 box. The standard deviation (or spread) of each cluster was also drawn from a powerlaw distribution with a minimum

610 of 0.2, a maximum of 2.0, and an exponent of 1.0. Next, the type of each cluster was uniformly selected from four
611 options. The first option is the 2-D Gaussian blob with mean given by the cluster center and standard deviation given by
612 the cluster standard deviation. The second option is the 2-D Anisotropic blob with a mean given by the cluster center,
613 standard deviation given by the cluster standard deviation, and transformation given by the rotational matrix:

$$614 \quad \begin{bmatrix} a \cos(\theta) & -a \sin(\theta) \\ b \sin(\theta) & b \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (\text{S24})$$

615 where a, b randomly drawn from the unit interval and θ was randomly drawn from the range $[0, \pi]$. The third option is
616 the circle centered at the cluster center with radius given by the cluster standard deviation; the points were uniformly
617 spread along the circle and Gaussian noise with mean 0 and standard deviation 0.2 was added to all points. The
618 fourth option is the spiral with points uniformly spread in the range $[0, 10]$, converted to circular coordinates by
619 $(x, y) \rightarrow (\sigma \sqrt{x} \cos(x), \sigma \sqrt{y} \cos(y))$, where σ is the cluster standard deviation, randomly rotated by the rotation matrix
620 of equation (S24) with $a = b = 1$ and θ randomly drawn from the range $[0, \pi]$, and Gaussian noise with mean 0 and
621 standard deviation 0.2 was added to all points.

622 The sci-kit learn²¹ implementation of K -means clustering was initialized with $K = 19$ clusters and random initial
623 centroids. The identification method was then run from 100 random centroid initializations. Clustering agreement was
624 calculated by comparing all 100 uncovered clusterings with the ground-truth clustering using the element-wise similarity
625 vector was found for each comparison and then averaged over the uncovered clusterings. Clustering frustration was
626 calculated from all pair-wise comparisons between the 100 uncovered clusterings using the element-wise similarity
627 vector was found for each comparison and then averaged over each comparison.

628 **S3.2 Handwriting digits**

629 The digits data set, originally assembled by Alimoglu and Alpaydin²², is bundled with the²¹ source code. It consists of
630 1797 images of 8×8 gray level pixels for handwritten digits distributed across 10 clusters corresponding to the true
631 digit. To provide a visualization, the data was projected to 2-d using the t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding
632 (t-SNE) dimensionality reduction method²³ initialized from the pca decomposition.

633 The sci-kit learn²¹ implementation of K -means clustering was initialized with $K = 10$ clusters and random initial
634 centroids. The identification method was then run from 100 random centroid initializations. Clustering agreement was
635 calculated by comparing all 100 uncovered clusterings with the ground-truth clustering using the element-wise similarity
636 vector was found for each comparison and then averaged over the uncovered clusterings. Clustering frustration was
637 calculated from all pair-wise comparisons between the 100 uncovered clusterings using the element-wise similarity
638 vector was found for each comparison and then averaged over each comparison.

639 **S3.3 Brain networks**

640 The dataset used here was originally analyzed in Cheng et al.²⁴; please refer to that work for specific details of the data
641 acquisition and pre-processing, here we only provide a brief overview.

642 Data was acquired from 19 individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia (6 female, mean age 33.1 ± 10.9 years) and
643 29 healthy controls (15 female, mean age 28.1 ± 8.4 years). Diagnosis of schizophrenia was based on the Structured
644 Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV Axis I Disorders (SCID-I)²⁵ and medical chart review. All subjects were scanned
645 on a Siemens TIM Trio 3 T MRI scanner using a 32-channel head coil. The high anatomical scan had a resolution
646 of 1 mm^3 . A total of 200 volumes of resting state fMRI data were acquired with EPI sequences for 8 min and 20s.
647 During the resting state fMRI scan, the subjects were at rest with eyes closed and instructed not to think of anything in
648 particular. All functional data were motion corrected in FSL.

649 In conjunction with the anatomical image, the functional images were parcellated using a parcellation scheme
650 proposed by Shen et al.²⁶. This parcellation divides the cerebral cortex into 278 regions of interest (ROIs), and was
651 derived from resting state functional data of the healthy subjects by maximizing functional homogeneity within each
652 ROI. After regressing out head motion, the time signal was band-pass filtered between 0.01 – 0.10 Hz and the time
653 courses were extracted from the 278 brain ROIs as the average over voxels.

654 The functional network was computed from the wavelet coherence between all pair-wise combinations of ROIs,
655 giving rise to a square symmetric matrix (278×278). The resulting functional connectivity matrix has only positive
656 edges. In order to identify a backbone network structure, the multiscale network backbone²⁷ was extracted using an

657 alpha of $\alpha = 0.2$. Technically, the multiscale backbone is a directed network, however, since our original graph was
658 undirected, we convert the multiscale backbone back into an undirected network. The network was not corrected to
659 insure a single connected component.

660 Overlapping and hierarchically structured clusterings were derived using Order Statistics Local Optimization
661 Method (OSLOM) network community detection²⁸ with the following parameters: weighted, undirected edges, $p = 0.1$,
662 100 runs for the detection at the bottom of the hierarchy and 1000 runs for the detection at the top of the hierarchy. All
663 singlet communities were kept in the clusterings. Due to the variability in clustering structure between runs of the
664 algorithm, 10 clusterings were extracted for each patient.

665 The subject similarity matrix was then constructed as follows. The similarity of each diagonal entry is 1.0. Each
666 off-diagonal entry in the (48×48) subject similarity matrix is the average element-centric similarity similarity of all
667 comparisons $10 \times 10 = 100$ between the 10 OSLOM communities uncovered for each subject. For all comparisons, we
668 set $\alpha = 0.9$ and $r = 8.0$. Our choice of the scaling parameter, $r = 8.0$, was grounded in the explorations of synthetic
669 binary hierarchies of equivalent height. The dis-similarity matrix is one minus the similarity matrix. Six additional
670 matrices were found by using the community structure found by slicing each OSLOM community dendrogram and
671 retaining only the bottom or top communities and performing all pair-wise comparisons with either our element-centric
672 similarity measure, ONMI or the Omega index. Note that we use only these three measure of similarity because the
673 communities contain many overlapping structures.

674 Given a dis-similarity matrix, a distance weighted k-Nearest Neighbors (kNN) classifier was trained using nested
675 and stratified 10-fold validation²⁹. Specifically, the data was randomly split into 10 groups such that the proportions of
676 each class were kept relatively equal in each group. Each group in turn was then used as the testing set, while the other
677 9 groups formed the training set. For each training set, we first find the best k for the kNN classifier using a grid search
678 for k between 1 and 15 and another stratified 10-fold validation. The classifier was then retrained on the entire training
679 set for the specified k . Finally, the accuracy of the trained classifier was found on the testing set. In the paper, we report
680 the average accuracy identified in 100 random initializations of the nested 10-fold validation technique^{30,31}.

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