



CSC380: Principles of Data Science

Clustering

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Task 1 : Group These Set of Document into 3 Groups based on meaning

Doc1 : Health , Medicine, Doctor

Doc 2 : Machine Learning, Computer

Doc 3 : Environment, Planet

Doc 4 : Pollution, Climate Crisis

Doc 5 : Covid, Health , Doctor



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Task 1 : Group These Set of Document into 3 Groups based on meaning

Doc1 : Health , Medicine, Doctor

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Doc 3 : Environment,
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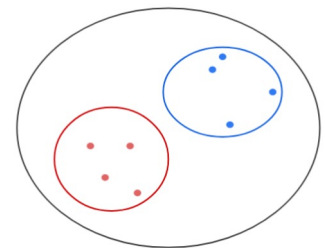
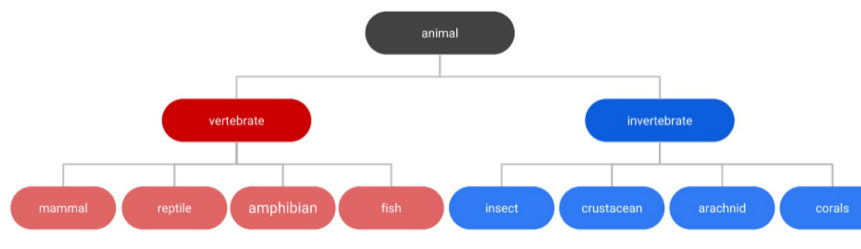
Doc 4 : Pollution, Climate
Crisis

Doc 2 : Machine
Learning, Computer



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Hierarchical Clustering



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What is unsupervised learning?

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- Learning with unlabeled data
- What can we expect to learn?
 - **Clustering**: obtain partition of the data that are well-separated.
 - a preliminary classification without predefined class labels. (unsupervised)
 - **Components**: extract common components
 - e.g., topic modeling given a set of articles: each article talks about a few topics => extract the topics that appear frequently.
- How can we use?
 - As a summary of the data
 - **Exploratory data analysis**: what are the patterns even without labels?
 - As a 'preprocessing techniques'
 - e.g., extract useful **features** using soft clustering assignments
 - Soft clustering – a topic might be 30% in cluster 1, and 70% in cluster 2.

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Clustering

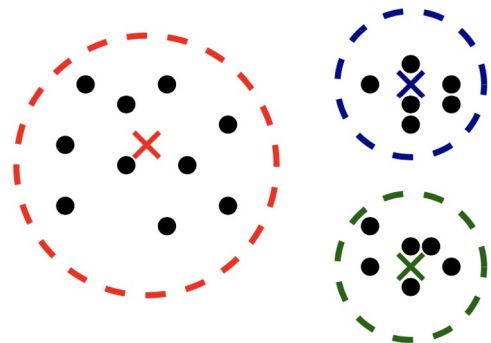
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- Input: k : the number of clusters (hyperparameter)

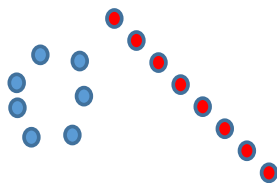
$$S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

- Output

- partition $\{G_i\}_{i=1}^k$ s.t. $S = \cup_i G_i$ (disjoint union).
- often, we also obtain 'centroids'



Sometimes it is trickier to define centroid



Sometimes addressed by
Spectral methods,
or dimensionality reductions

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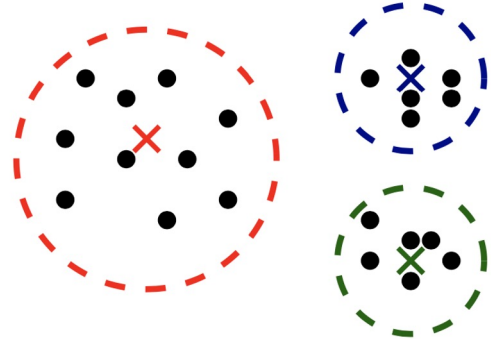
Warmup

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- For a set of points $S = \{p_1 \dots p_n\}$, find a point c minimizing

$$\sum_i \text{dist}^2(p_i, c) = \sum_i (p_i - c)^2$$

Solution $c = \frac{1}{n} (\sum x(p_i), \sum y(p_i))$
Center of mass, centroid



Other common distance functions:

- 1) minimize radius of enclosing ball. (that is, minimize distance from center of cluster to furthest point)
- 2) Minimize distances $\sum \text{distance}(p_i, c)$

Total quality of clustering: Max, sum or sum of squares of distances of all clusters

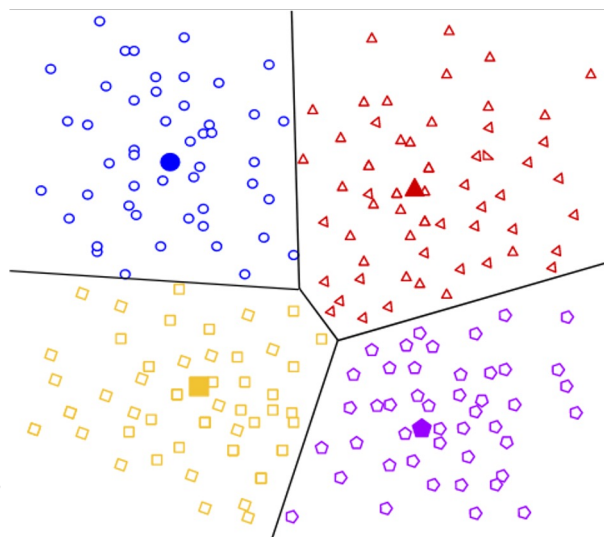
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Centroid-based Clustering

If the locations of the centroids is fixed,
Then clusters are created in an obvious
way: Each data point is assigned to the
nearest centroid.

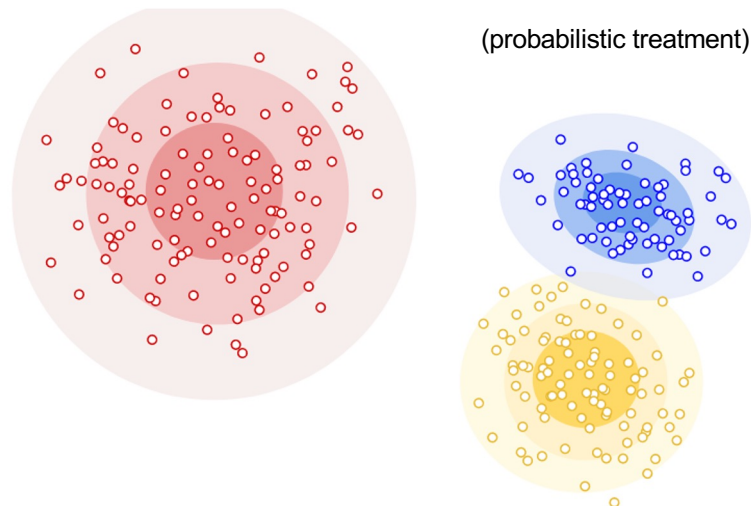
So the cluster of the red triangles are all
data points whose distance to red triangle
< distance to other centroids.

Question: How to pick centroid's location?



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Distribution-based Clustering



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Clustering

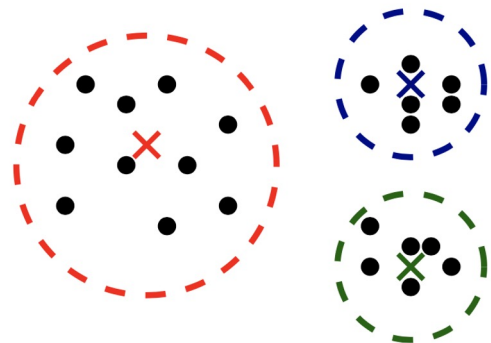
13

- Input: k : the number of clusters (hyperparameter)

$$S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

- Output

- partition $\{G_i\}_{i=1}^k$ s.t. $S = \cup_i G_i$ (disjoint union).
- often, we also obtain 'centroids'



- Q: if we are given the groups, what would be a reasonable definition of centroids?

- The point that has the minimum average distance to the datapoints?
- The datapoint that has the minimum average distance to the datapoints?
- The point that has the minimum average squared distance to the datapoints?

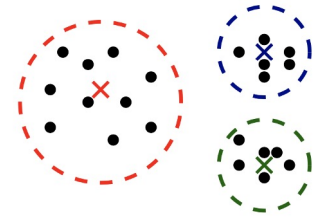
=> Turns out, the last one corresponds to the average point!

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k-means Clustering

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Lloyd's algorithm: solve it approximately (heuristic)



Observation: The chicken-and-egg problem.

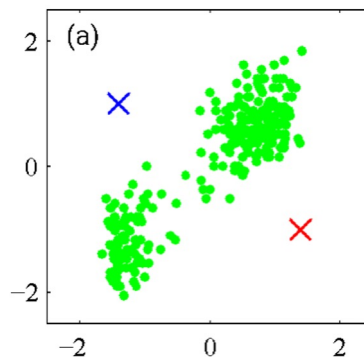
- If you knew the **cluster assignments**... just find the **centroids** as the average
- If you knew the **centroids**... make **cluster assignments** by the closest centroid.

Why not: start from some centroids and then alternate between the two?

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Initialization

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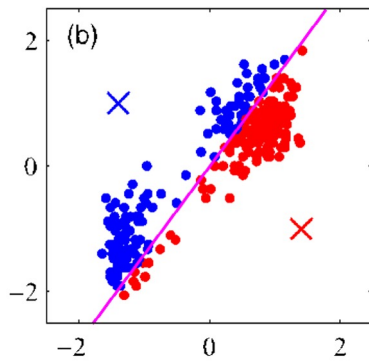


Arbitrary/random initialization of c_1 and c_2

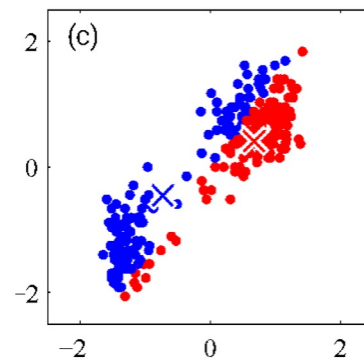
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Iteration 1

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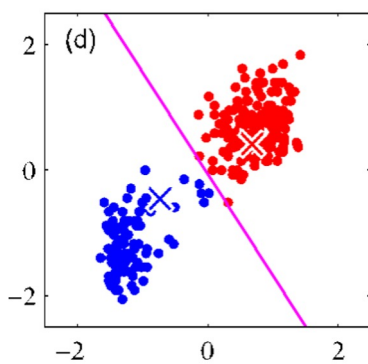
(A) update the cluster assignments.

(B) Update the centroids $\{c_j\}$

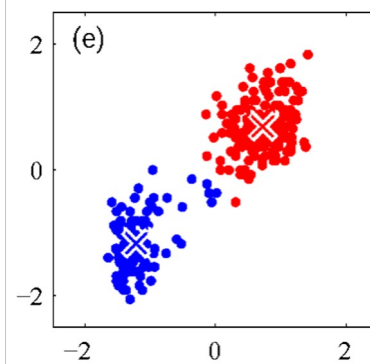
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Iteration 2

17



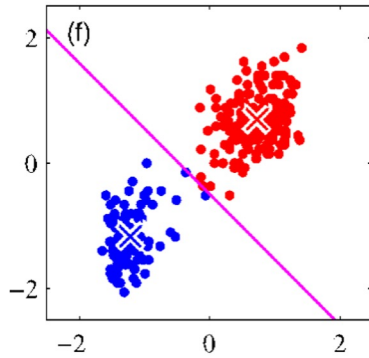
(A) update the cluster assignments.

(B) Update the centroids $\{c_j\}$

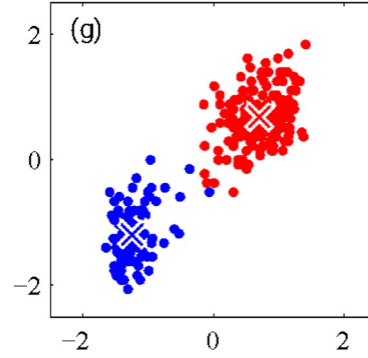
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Iteration 3

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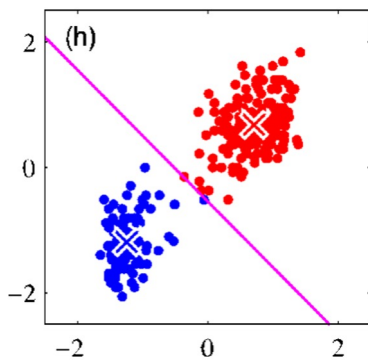
(A) update the cluster assignments.

(B) Update the centroids $\{c_j\}$

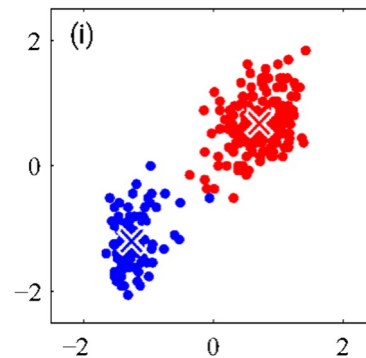
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Iteration 4

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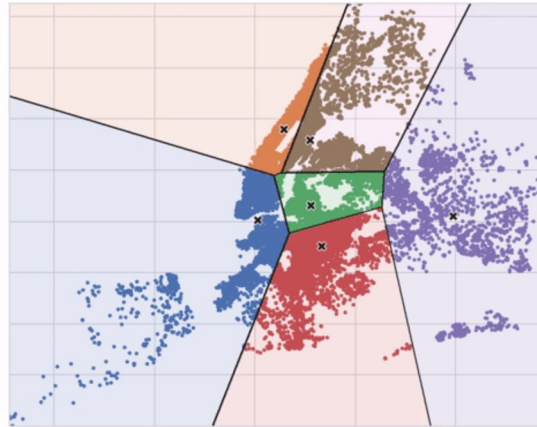


(A) update the cluster assignments.

(B) Update the centroids $\{c_j\}$

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Iterating until Convergence



Animation from [Kaggle](#)



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k-means clustering

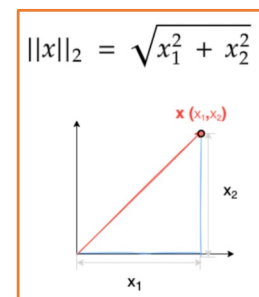
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Input: k : num. of clusters, $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

[Initialize] Pick c_1, \dots, c_k as randomly selected points from S (see next slides for alternatives)

For $t=1, 2, \dots, \text{max_iter}$

- **[Assignments]** $\forall x \in S, a_t(x) = \arg \min_{j \in [k]} \|x - c_j\|_2^2$
- If $t \neq 1$ AND $a_t(x) = a_{t-1}(x), \forall x \in S$
 - break



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k-means clustering

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Input: k : num. of clusters, $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

[Initialize] Pick c_1, \dots, c_k as randomly selected points from S (see next slides for alternatives)

For $t=1, 2, \dots, \text{max_iter}$

Calculate for each data point the nearest cluster head

• **[Assignments]** $\forall x \in S, \quad a_t(x) = \arg \min_{j \in [k]} \|x - c_j\|_2^2$

• If $t \neq 1$ AND $a_t(x) = a_{t-1}(x), \forall x \in S$
 • break

Cluster j are all data points with $a_t(x) = j$

• **[Centroids]** $\forall j \in [k], \quad c_j \leftarrow \text{average}(\{x \in S: a_t(x) = j\})$

Could be replaced by
 center of smallest disk containing
 points points in this cluster

Output: c_1, \dots, c_k and $\{a_t(x_i)\}_{i \in [n]}$

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But,

It may converge to a local rather than global minimum.

$$\text{objective function} \leftarrow J = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i^{(j)} - c_j\|^2$$

number of clusters $\rightarrow k$

number of cases $\rightarrow n$

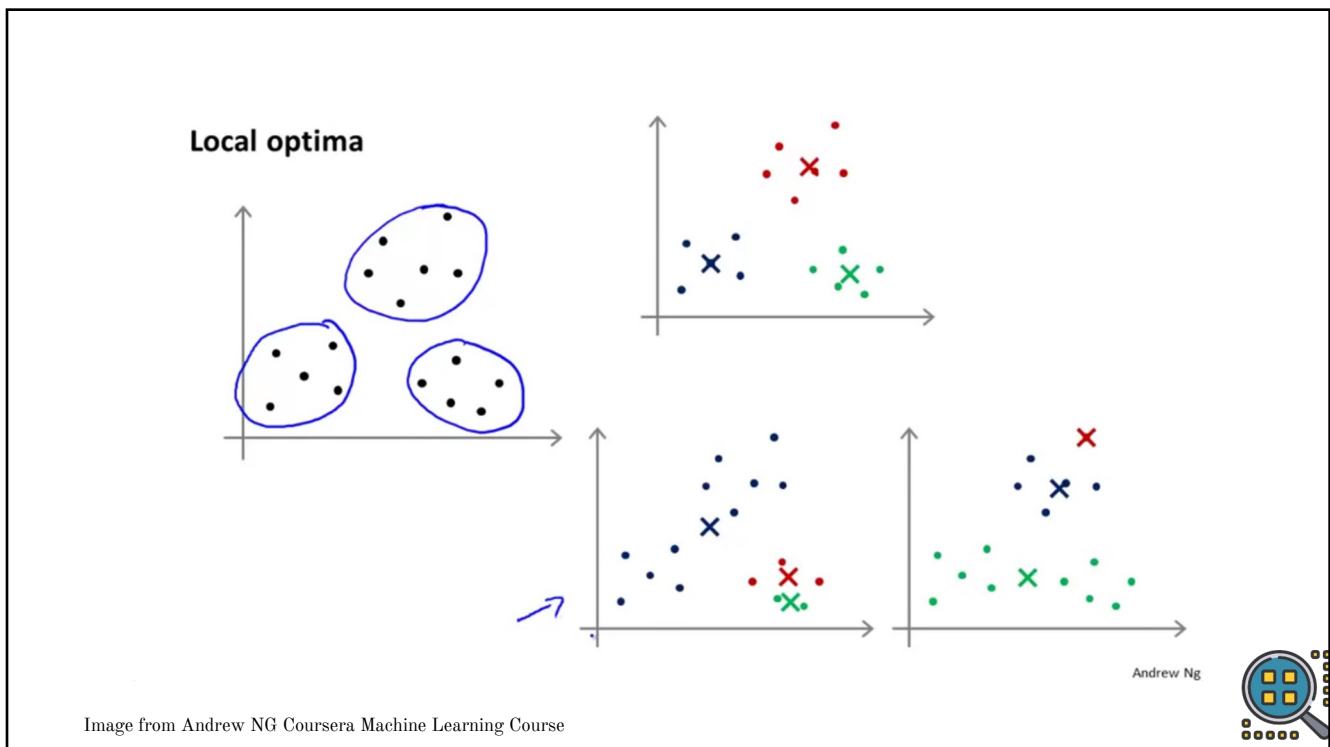
case $i \rightarrow x_i^{(j)}$

centroid for cluster $j \rightarrow c_j$

Distance function $\rightarrow \|x_i^{(j)} - c_j\|^2$



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Issue 1: Unreliable solution

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- You usually get suboptimal solutions
- You usually get different solutions every time you run.
- **Standard practice:** Run it 50 times and take the one that achieves the smallest objective function
 - Recall: $\min_{c_1, \dots, c_k} \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in [k]} \|x_i - c_j\|_2^2$ Each run of algorithm outputs c_1, \dots, c_k . Compute this to evaluate the quality!
- And/or, change the initialization (next slide)
 - Idea: ensure that we pick a widespread c_1, \dots, c_k

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Alternative initialization

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• **k-means++**

- Pick $c_1 \in \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ uniformly at random
- For $j = 2, \dots, k$
 - Define a distribution $\forall i \in [n], \mathbb{P}(c_j = x_i) \propto \min_{j'=1, \dots, j-1} \|x_i - c_{j'}\|_2^2$
 - Draw c_j from the distribution above.

More likely to choose x_i
that is farthest from
already-chosen centroids.

=> has a mathematical guarantee that it will be better than an arbitrary starting point!

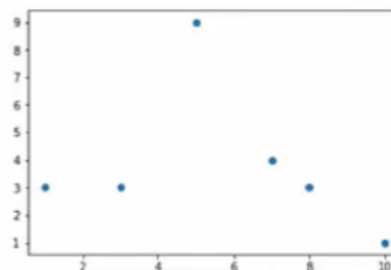
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Suppose we have the small dataset

☞ [(7,4),(8,3),(5,9),(3,3),(1,3),(10,1)] to which we wish to assign 3 clusters.

We begin by randomly selecting (7,4) to be a cluster center.

x	$\min(d(x, z_i)^2)$
(7,4)	
(8,3)	
(5,9)	
(3,3)	
(1,3)	
(10,1)	



[From Sara Jensen's Youtube Channel](#)



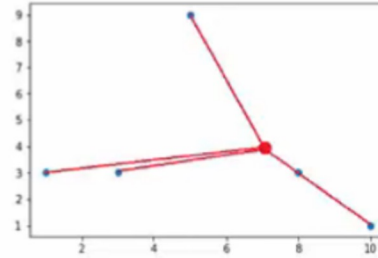
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Suppose we have the small dataset

$[(7,4),(8,3),(5,9),(3,3),(1,3),(10,1)]$ to which we wish to assign 3 clusters.

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x	$\min(d(x, z_i)^2)$
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	2
$(5,9)$	29
$(3,3)$	17
$(1,3)$	37
$(10,1)$	18



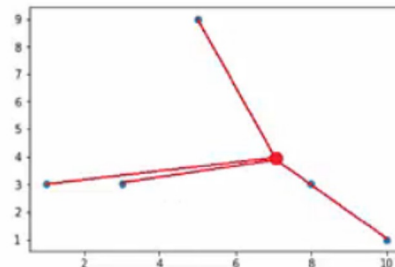
28

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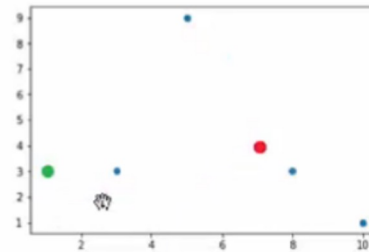
x	prob
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	$2/103$
$(5,9)$	$29/103$
$(3,3)$	$17/103$
$(1,3)$	$37/103$
$(10,1)$	$18/103$



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Suppose we have the small dataset
 $[(7,4), (8,3), (5,9), (3,3), (1,3), (10,1)]$ to which we wish to assign 3 clusters.
 We add $(1,3)$ to the list of cluster centers.

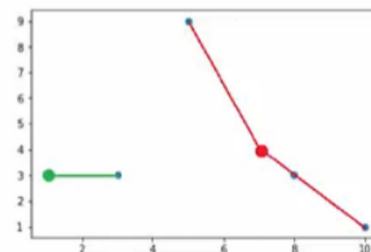
x	$\min(d(x, z_i)^2)$
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	
$(5,9)$	
$(3,3)$	
$(1,3)$	-
$(10,1)$	



30

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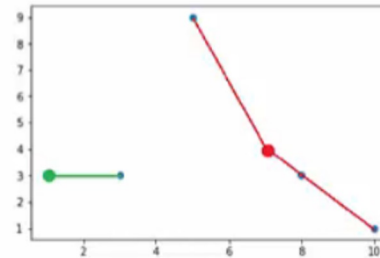
x	$\min(d(x, z_i)^2)$
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	2
$(5,9)$	29
$(3,3)$	4
$(1,3)$	-
$(10,1)$	18



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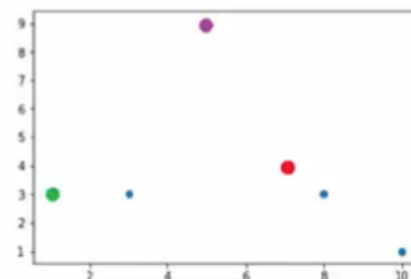
x	prob
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	$2/53$
$(5,9)$	$29/53$
$(3,3)$	$4/53$
$(1,3)$	-
$(10,1)$	$18/53$



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Suppose we have the small dataset
 $[(7,4), (8,3), (5,9), (3,3), (1,3), (10,1)]$ to which we wish to assign 3 clusters.
 We add $(5,9)$ to the list of cluster centers.

x	prob
$(7,4)$	-
$(8,3)$	
$(5,9)$	-
$(3,3)$	
$(1,3)$	-
$(10,1)$	



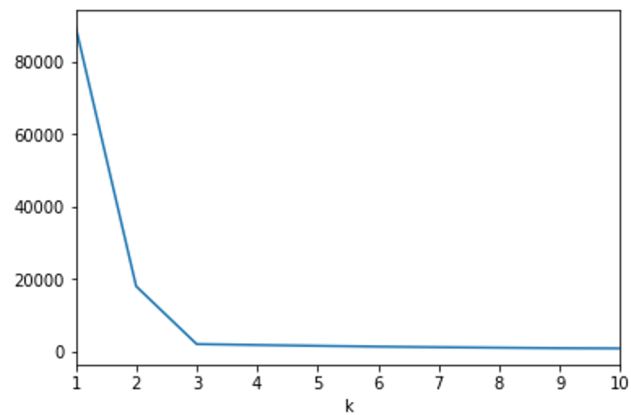
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Issue 2: Choose k

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- No principled way.
- Elbow method: see where you get saturation.

Objective function



<https://medium.com/analytics-vidhya/how-to-determine-the-optimal-k-for-k-means-708505d204eb>