

# Partitioning Algorithms: Basic Concepts

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- ❑ Partitioning method: Discovering the groupings in the data by optimizing a specific objective function and iteratively improving the quality of partitions
- ❑ *K*-partitioning method: Partitioning a dataset ***D*** of ***n*** objects into a set of ***K*** clusters so that an objective function is optimized (e.g., the sum of squared distances is minimized, where  $c_k$  is the centroid or medoid of cluster  $C_k$ )

❑ A typical objective function: **Sum of Squared Errors (SSE)**

$$SSE(C) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{x_i \in C_k} \|x_i - c_k\|^2$$

- ❑ Problem definition: Given *K*, find a partition of *K clusters* that optimizes the chosen partitioning criterion
  - ❑ Global optimal: Needs to exhaustively enumerate all partitions
  - ❑ Heuristic methods (i.e., greedy algorithms): *K-Means*, *K-Medians*, *K-Medoids*, etc.