K-Modes: Clustering Categorical Data

- *K-Means* cannot handle non-numerical (categorical) data
  - Mapping categorical value to 1/0 cannot generate quality clusters for high-dimensional data
- ***K-Modes***: An extension to *K-Means* by replacing means of clusters with ***modes***
- Dissimilarity measure between object X and the center of a cluster Z
  - $\Phi(x_j, z_j) = 1 – n_j^r/n_l$ when $x_j = z_j$; 1 when x_j ǂ z_j
    - where z_j is the categorical value of attribute j in Z_l, n_l is the number of objects in cluster *l*, and n_j^r is the number of objects whose attribute value is r
- This dissimilarity measure (distance function) is **frequency-based**
- Algorithm is still based on iterative *object cluster assignment* and *centroid update*
- A ***fuzzy K-Modes*** method is proposed to calculate a ***fuzzy cluster membership value*** for each object to each cluster
- A mixture of categorical and numerical data: Using a ***K-Prototype*** method