

# DDA3020 Machine Learning: Lecture 14 K-means Clustering

Baoyuan Wu  
School of Data Science, CUHK-SZ

April 15/17, 2024

# Outline

- 1 Basic K-means Clustering
  - Definition
  - Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
  - Optimization perspective of K-means clustering
- 2 Soft K-means Clustering
- 3 Variants of K-means Clustering
  - Constrained K-means Clustering
  - Accelerated K-means Clustering
- 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering
- 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition

- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Definition of K-means Clustering

- **K-means clustering** is a method of vector quantization, originally from signal processing, that aims to partition  $n$  observations/samples into  $k$  clusters in which each observation belongs to the cluster with the nearest mean (cluster centers or cluster centroid), serving as a prototype of the cluster.
- K-means clustering **minimizes within-cluster variances** (squared Euclidean distances).

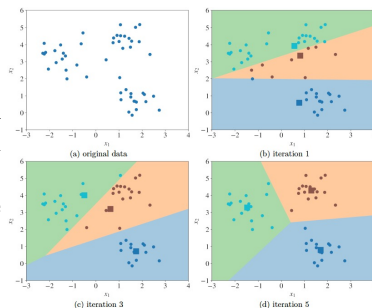


Figure 2: The progress of the k-means algorithm for  $k = 3$ .

References:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-means\\_clustering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-means_clustering)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vector\\_quantization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vector_quantization)

## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

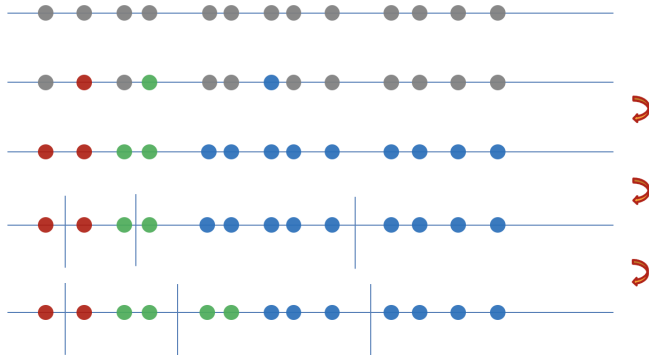
## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

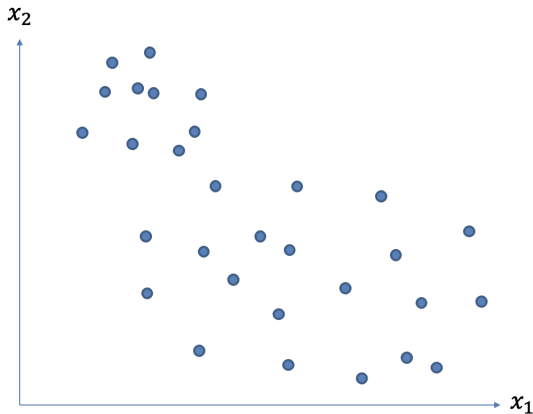
## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# K-means Clustering (1 D)

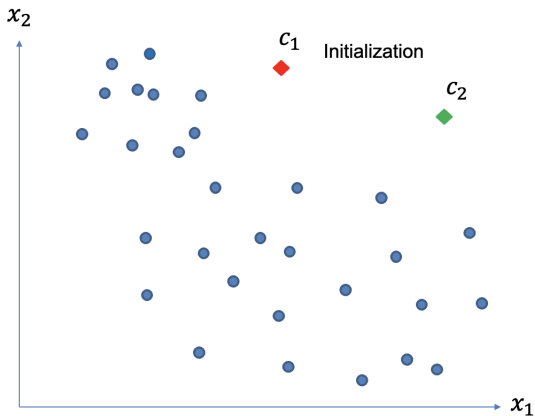


# K-means Clustering (2 D)

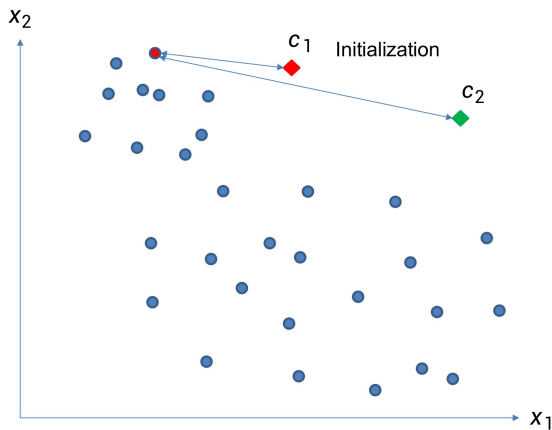




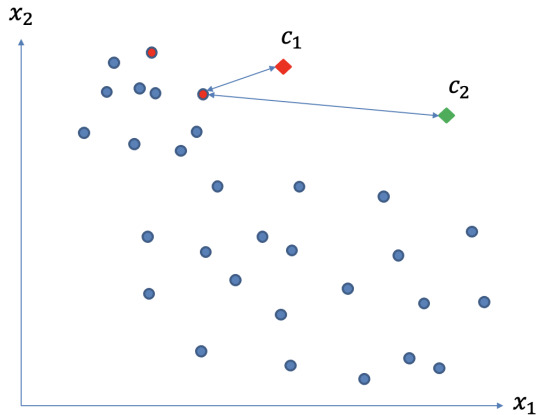
# K-means Clustering



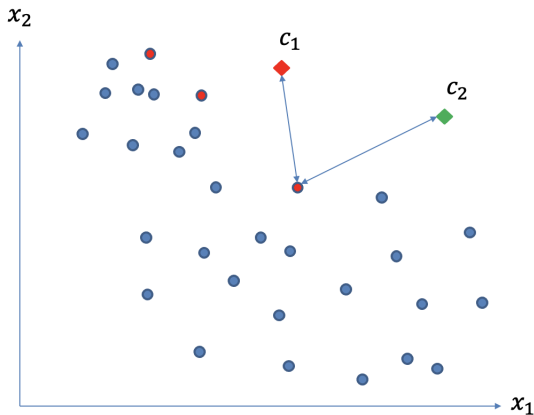
# K-means Clustering



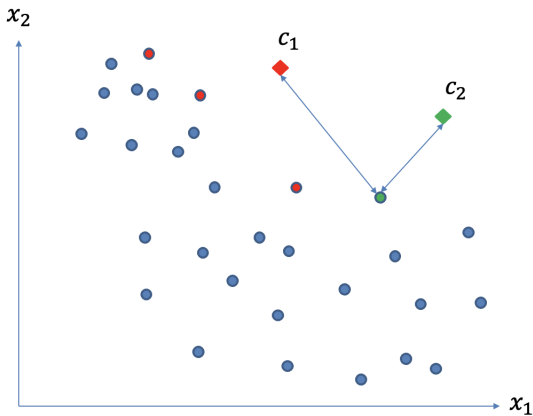
# K-means Clustering



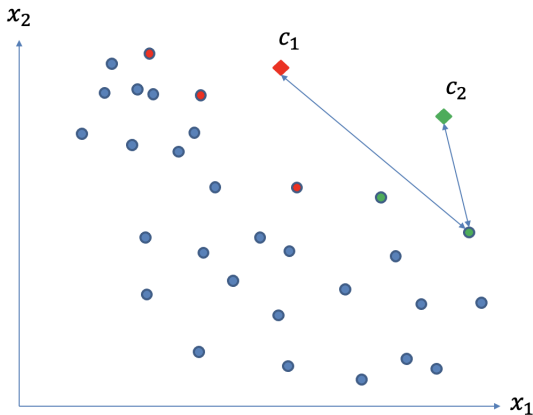
# K-means Clustering



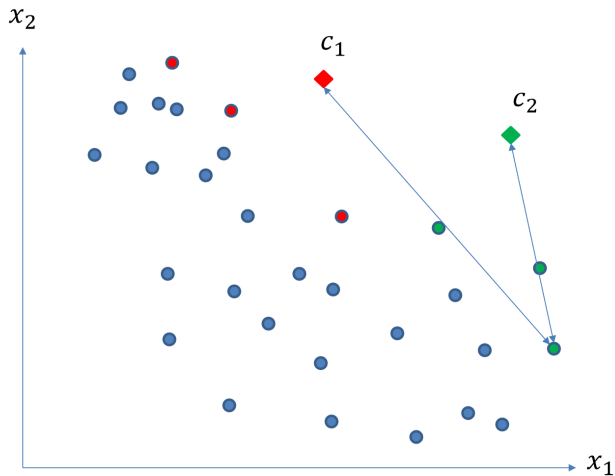
# K-means Clustering



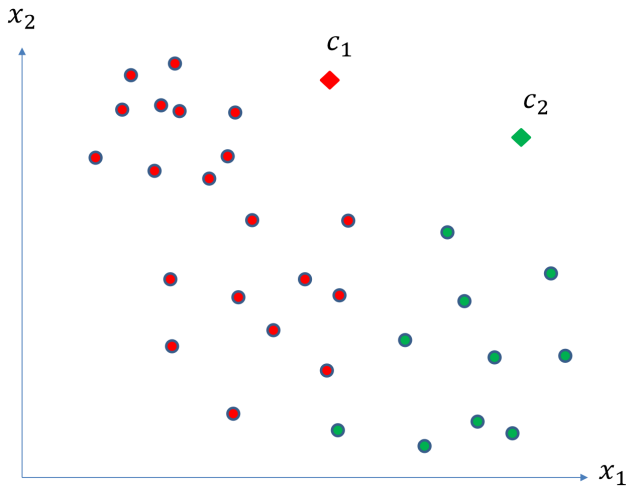
# K-means Clustering



# K-means Clustering

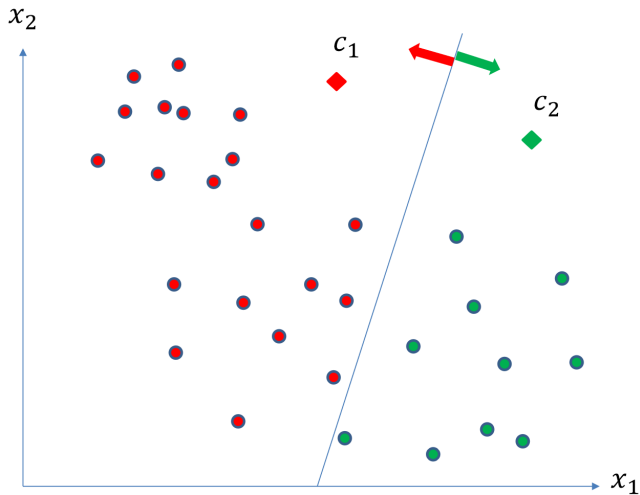


# K-means Clustering

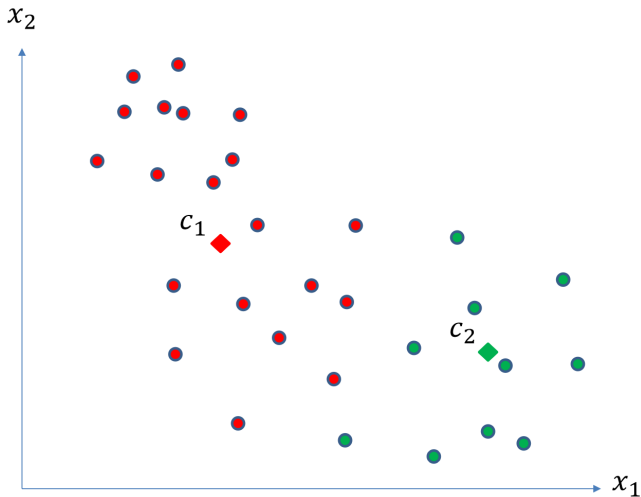




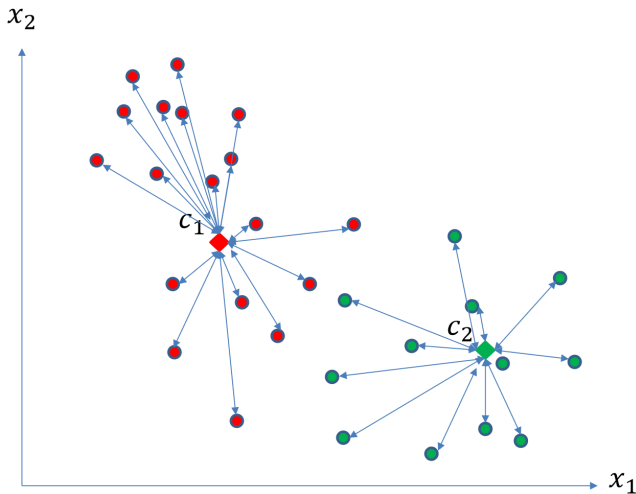
# K-means Clustering



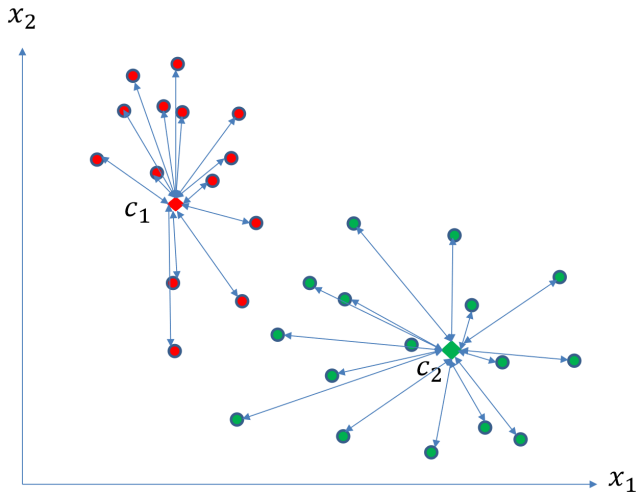
# K-means Clustering



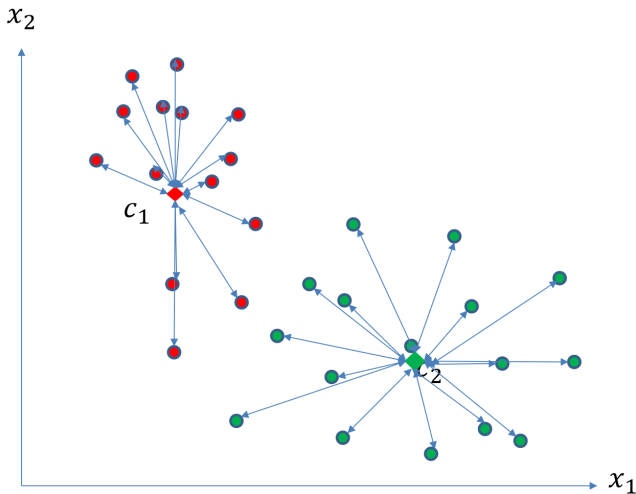
# K-means Clustering



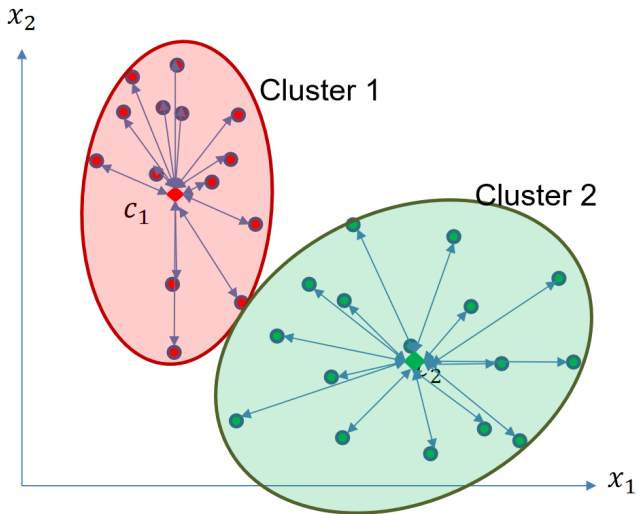
# K-means Clustering



# K-means Clustering



# K-means Clustering



# K-means Clustering

Let's see an online demo:

<https://user.ceng.metu.edu.tr/~akifakkus/courses/ceng574/k-means/>

## Basic K-means Clustering

- 1 First, you **choose  $K$**  — the number of clusters. Then you randomly put  $K$  feature vectors, called **centroids**, to the feature space.
- 2 Next, **compute the distance from each example  $\mathbf{x}$  to each centroid  $\mathbf{c}$**  using some metric, like the Euclidean distance. Then we **assign the closest centroid to each example** (like if we labeled each example with a centroid id as the label).
- 3 For each centroid, we **calculate the average feature vector** of the examples labeled with it. These average feature vectors become the **new** locations of the **centroids**.
- 4 We **recompute** the distance from each example to each centroid, modify the assignment and repeat the procedure until the assignments don't change after the centroid locations are recomputed.
- 5 Finally we **conclude** the clustering with a list of assignments of centroids IDs to the examples.



- 1 Basic K-means Clustering
  - Definition
  - Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
  - Optimization perspective of K-means clustering
- 2 Soft K-means Clustering
- 3 Variants of K-means Clustering
  - Constrained K-means Clustering
  - Accelerated K-means Clustering
- 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering
- 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

- What is actually being optimized by the basic K-means clustering algorithm?
- Given the data set  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , K-means aims to find cluster centers  $\mathbf{c} = \{\mathbf{c}_j\}_{j=1}^K$  and assignments  $\mathbf{r}$ , by minimizing the sum of squared distances of data points to their assigned cluster centers. In short, K-means will **minimize the within-cluster variance**, as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} J(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2,$$
$$\text{Subject to } \mathbf{r} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1,$$

where  $r_{ik} = 1$  denotes  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is assigned to cluster  $k$ .

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} J(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2,$$

$$\text{Subject to } \mathbf{r} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1,$$

The above problem can be solved by coordinate descent algorithm, *i.e.*, update  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{r}$  alternatively:

- Given the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$ , update the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$
- Given the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$ , update the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

Optimization of K-means clustering:

- **Initialization**: set  $K$  cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$  to random values
- Repeat until convergence (the assignments don't change):
  - **Assignment**: Given the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$ , update the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$  by solving the following sub-problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2, \quad \text{subject to } \mathbf{r} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1.$$

Note that the assignment for each data  $\mathbf{x}_i$  can be solved independently. It is easy to know that assign  $\mathbf{x}_i$  to the closest cluster is the optimal solution.

- **Refitting**: Given the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$ , update the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$ :

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2.$$

Note that  $\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2, \dots, \mathbf{c}_K$  can be optimized independently. By setting the derivative *w.r.t.*  $\mathbf{c}_k$  as 0, it is easy to obtain the optimal solution:

$$\mathbf{c}_k = \frac{\sum_i^n r_{ik} \mathbf{x}_i}{\sum_i^n r_{ik}}.$$

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

## Assignment:

- Given the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$ , update the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$  by solving the following sub-problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2, \quad \text{subject to } \mathbf{r} \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1.$$

- Note that the assignment for each data  $\mathbf{x}_i$  can be solved independently, *i.e.*,

$$\min_{\mathbf{r}_i} \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2, \quad \text{subject to } \mathbf{r}_i \in \{0, 1\}^{1 \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1.$$

- It is easy to obtain the solution as follows

$$k^* = \arg \min \{(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2\}_{k=1}^K, \quad \text{and } r_{ik^*} = 1.$$

- Thus, we assign  $\mathbf{x}_i$  to the closest cluster, exactly same with the assignment step in basic K-means algorithm.

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

## Refitting:

- Given the assignments  $\mathbf{r}$ , update the cluster centers  $\mathbf{c}$ :

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2.$$

- Note that  $\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2, \dots, \mathbf{c}_K$  can be optimized independently, as follows

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}_k} \sum_i^n r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2.$$

- By setting the derivative *w.r.t.*  $\mathbf{c}_k$  as 0, *i.e.*,

$$\sum_i^n 2r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{c}_k = \frac{\sum_i^n r_{ik} \mathbf{x}_i}{\sum_i^n r_{ik}},$$

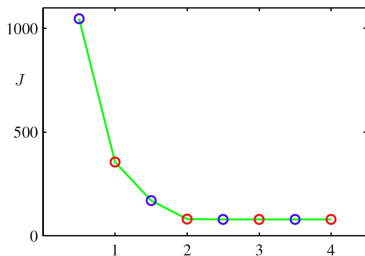
where  $\sum_i^n r_{ik}$  denotes the number of samples assigned to the  $k$ th cluster, and  $\sum_i^n r_{ik} \mathbf{x}_i$  is the summation of all samples of the  $k$ th cluster.

- Thus,  $\mathbf{c}_k$  is the center of the  $k$ th cluster, which is exactly same with the step of calculating the cluster center in basic K-means clustering.

# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

Why K-means converges?

- **Convergence guarantee:**
  - Whenever an assignment is changed, the sum squared distances  $J$  of data points from their assigned cluster centers is reduced.
  - Whenever a cluster center is moved,  $J$  is reduced.
- **Test for convergence:** If the assignments do not change in the assignment step, we have converged (to at least a local minimum).
- **Example:** As shown below, the objective function of K-means is reduced after each assignment step (blue) and refitting step (red). The algorithm has converged after the third refitting step.

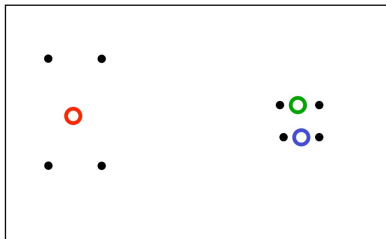


# Optimization perspective of K-means Clustering

## Local minimum of K-means

- Since the objective function  $J$  is **non-convex**, the coordinate descent on  $J$  is not guaranteed to converge to the global minimum
- There is nothing to prevent k-means getting stuck at local minimum, and sometimes it may stuck at poor local minimum (shown below)
- What we could do is running K-means with multiple random initializations, and picking the one with the lowest objective value as the final clustering result

### A bad local optimum

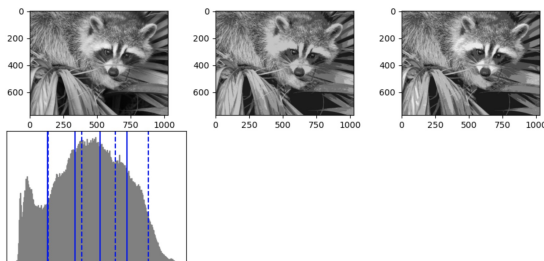




# Example of K-means Clustering

## Example: K-means for vector quantization

- **Vector quantization** is a classical quantization technique from signal processing
- It works by dividing a large set of points (vectors) into groups having approximately the same number of points closest to them. Each group is represented by its centroid point, as in k-means
- As shown below, vector quantization is used for compressing image



Demo with code:

[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto\\_examples/cluster/plot\\_face\\_compress.html#sphx-glr-auto-examples-cluster-plot-face-compress-py](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/cluster/plot_face_compress.html#sphx-glr-auto-examples-cluster-plot-face-compress-py)

## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Soft Clustering

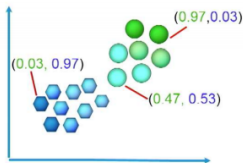
## Hard vs Soft Clustering

- **Hard clustering:**
  - Each data point can belong to only one cluster
  - For example, an apple can be red OR green (hard clustering)
- **Soft clustering** (also known as **Fuzzy clustering**):
  - Each data point can belong to more than one cluster
  - For example, an apple can be red AND green (fuzzy clustering). Here, the apple can be red to a certain degree as well as green to a certain degree. Instead of the apple belonging to green [green = 1] and not red [red = 0], the apple can belong to green [green = 0.5] and red [red = 0.5].

Hard Clustering



Soft Clustering



# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

- Soft K-means clustering is also called as **fuzzy c-means clustering**. Its objective function is formulated as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} J(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K (r_{ik})^m (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2,$$

$$\text{Subject to } \mathbf{r} \in [0, 1]^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1,$$

where  $r_{ik}$  is the degree to which a sample  $\mathbf{x}_i$  belongs to a cluster  $\mathbf{c}_k$ .

- The hyper-parameter  $m > 1$  is called **fuzzifier**, and it defines the level of cluster fuzziness. Note that, a value of  $m$  close to 1 gives a cluster solution which becomes increasingly similar to the solution of hard clustering such as k-means; whereas a value of  $m$  close to infinite leads to complete fuzziness (explain later).
- The above problem can also be solved by coordinate descent algorithm:
  - Given  $\mathbf{r}$ , update  $\mathbf{c}$ ;
  - Given  $\mathbf{c}$ , update  $\mathbf{r}$ .

# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

## Sub-problem of $\mathbf{r}$

- Given  $\mathbf{c}$ , we update  $\mathbf{r}$  by solving the following sub-problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{r}} J(\mathbf{r}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{r}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K (r_{ik})^m (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2,$$

$$\text{Subject to } \mathbf{r} \in [0, 1]^{n \times K}, \quad \sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1.$$

- Note that above constraints are equivalent to  $\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}$ ,  $\sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1$ .
- The optimal solution of the above problem can be obtained according to the **KKT conditions**. Firstly, we write the **Lagrangian function**, as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{r}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = J(\mathbf{r}) + \sum_i^n \alpha_i \left(1 - \sum_k^K r_{ik}\right) + \sum_i^n \sum_k^K \beta_{ik} (-r_{ik}).$$

# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

## Sub-problem of $\mathbf{r}$

- Lagrangian function

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{r}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = J(\mathbf{r}) + \sum_i^n \alpha_i (1 - \sum_k^K r_{ik}) + \sum_i^n \sum_k^K \beta_{ik} (-r_{ik}).$$

- The KKT conditions are:

Stationary:  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_{ik}} = 0 \Rightarrow r_{ik} = \left( \frac{\alpha_i + \beta_{ik}}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{d_{ik}^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}$  (1)

Primal feasibility:  $\sum_k^K r_{ik} = 1, r_{ik} \geq 0$  (2)

Dual feasibility:  $\beta_{ik} \geq 0, \forall i, k$  (3)

Complementary:  $\beta_{ik} \cdot r_{ik} = 0, \forall i, k,$  (4)

where  $d_{ik}^2 = (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2$ .

# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

## Sub-problem of $\mathbf{r}$

- From (1), we know that if  $\alpha_i + \beta_{ik} \neq 0$ , then  $r_{ik} > 0$ . Thus, according to (4), we have  $\beta_{ik} = 0$ , then

$$r_{ik} = \left(\frac{\alpha_i}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{d_{ik}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}. \quad (5)$$

- What will happen if  $\alpha_i + \beta_{ik} = 0, \forall i, k$ ? If that case,  $r_{ik} = 0, \forall k$ , which violates the primal feasibility constraint  $\sum_k r_{ik} = 1$ . Thus, this case will not happen.
- Replace (5) into (2), we have

$$\left(\frac{\alpha_i}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} = \frac{1}{\sum_k^K \left(\frac{1}{d_{ik}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}}. \quad (6)$$

- Replace it back into (5), we obtain

$$r_{ik} = \frac{1}{\sum_j^K \left(\frac{1}{d_{ij}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{d_{ik}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} = \frac{1}{\sum_j^K \left(\frac{d_{ik}^2}{d_{ij}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}}. \quad (7)$$

- What is the effect of  $m > 1$  for  $r_{ik}$ ? If  $m \rightarrow 1$ , then  $\mathbf{r}_i$  is close to one-hot vector, *i.e.*, hard assignment; if  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $\mathbf{r}_i$  is close to uniform vector,

# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

## Sub-problem for $\mathbf{c}$

- Given  $\mathbf{r}$ , the centroid  $\mathbf{c}$  is updated by optimizing the following sub-problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{c}} J(\mathbf{c}) = \min_{\mathbf{c}} \sum_i^n \sum_k^K (r_{ik})^m (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{c}_k)^2.$$

- By setting the derivative to 0, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{c})}{\partial \mathbf{c}_k} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{c}_k = \frac{\sum_i^n [(r_{ik})^m \mathbf{x}_i]}{\sum_i^n (r_{ik})^m}.$$



# Fuzzy C-means Clustering

## Basic K-means vs. Fuzzy C-means:

- Basic K-means: hard assignment, *i.e.*,  $r_{ik} \in \{0, 1\}$
- Fuzzy C-means: soft assignment,  $r_{ik} \in [0, 1]$



Further readings for fuzzy c-means clustering:

Convex optimization: [https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/cvxbook/bv\\_cvxbook.pdf](https://web.stanford.edu/~boyd/cvxbook/bv_cvxbook.pdf)

Demo with code: [https://pythonhosted.org/scikit-fuzzy/auto\\_examples/plot\\_cmeans.html](https://pythonhosted.org/scikit-fuzzy/auto_examples/plot_cmeans.html)

## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

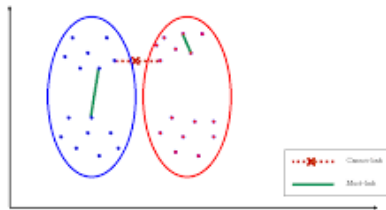
- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Constrained K-means Clustering

- In practice, we may know some additional evidences or preferences about some data points we want to do clustering, such as:
  - **Must-link constraints**: two points must be partitioned to the same cluster (as shown in green line)
  - **Cannot-link constraints**: two points cannot be partitioned to the same cluster (as shown in red line)
- K-means with must-link/cannot-link constraints is called **constrained K-means** or **semi-supervised K-means**.
- How to modify the basic K-means clustering algorithm to satisfy such constraints?



# Constrained K-means Clustering

- The only change is adding a violate-constraints check to the assignment stage, to ensure all constraints are satisfied.
- For each point, it is firstly assigned to the closest cluster, and check all constraints it involves: if all constraints are satisfied, then this assignment is accepted; if any constraint is violated, then assign it to the next closest cluster and repeat the violate-constraints check; if no legal cluster can be found, then the whole clustering fails.

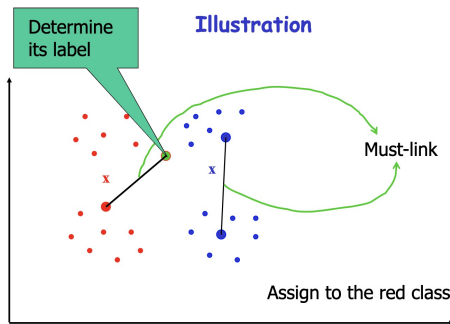
COP-KMEANS(data set  $D$ , must-link constraints  $Con_= \subseteq D \times D$ , cannot-link constraints  $Con_{\neq} \subseteq D \times D$ )

1. Let  $C_1 \dots C_k$  be the initial cluster centers.
2. For each point  $d_i$  in  $D$ , assign it to the closest cluster  $C_j$  **such that** VIOLATE-CONSTRAINTS( $d_i, C_j, Con_=, Con_{\neq}$ ) **is false**. **If no such cluster exists, fail (return {}).**
3. For each cluster  $C_i$ , update its center by averaging all of the points  $d_j$  that have been assigned to it.
4. Iterate between (2) and (3) until convergence.
5. Return  $\{C_1 \dots C_k\}$ .

VIOLATE-CONSTRAINTS(data point  $d$ , cluster  $C$ , must-link constraints  $Con_= \subseteq D \times D$ , cannot-link constraints  $Con_{\neq} \subseteq D \times D$ )

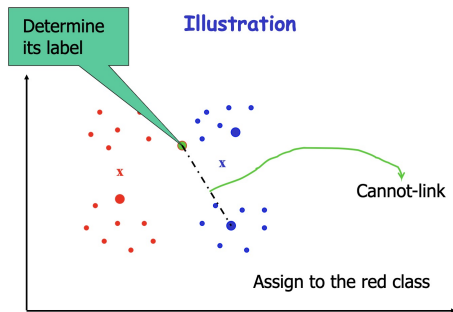
1. For each  $(d, d_{=}) \in Con_=$ : If  $d_{=} \notin C$ , return true.
2. For each  $(d, d_{\neq}) \in Con_{\neq}$ : If  $d_{\neq} \in C$ , return true.
3. Otherwise, return false.

# Constrained K-means Clustering



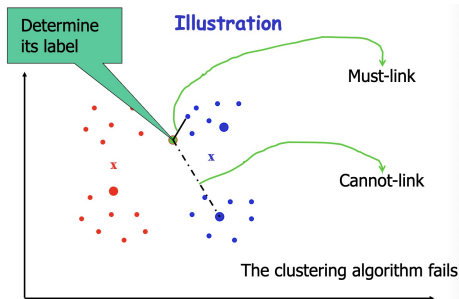
- While all other points have been assigned, we want to determine the cluster of the **green** point. It involves a **must-link**.
- Firstly, we compute its distances to two cluster centers, *i.e.*, **x** and **x**.
- It is shown that it is closer to **x** (*i.e.*, the blue cluster). Thus, we assign it to the blue cluster firstly.
- Then, we check the constraint, and find the must-link constraint is violated. Thus, we assign it to the 2nd closest cluster (*i.e.*, the red cluster), and find that the constraint is satisfied. Thus, this assignment is accepted.

# Constrained K-means Clustering



- While all other points have been assigned, we want to determine the cluster of the **green** point. It involves a **cannot-link**.
- Firstly, we compute its distances to two cluster centers, *i.e.*, **x** and **x**.
- It is shown that it is more close to **x** (*i.e.*, the blue cluster). Thus, we assign it to the blue cluster firstly.
- Then, we check the constraint, and find the cannot-link constraint is violated. Thus, we assign it to the 2nd closest cluster (*i.e.*, the red cluster), and find that the constraint is satisfied. Thus, this assignment is accepted.

# Constrained K-means Clustering



- While all other points have been assigned, we want to determine the cluster of the green point. It involves a must-link and a cannot-link.
- Firstly, we compute its distances to two cluster centers, *i.e.*, **x** and **x**.
- It is shown that it is more close to **x** (*i.e.*, the blue cluster). Thus, we assign it to the blue cluster firstly.
- Then, we check the constraint, and find the cannot-link constraint is violated. Thus, we assign it to the 2nd closest cluster (*i.e.*, the red cluster), but find that the must-link constraint is violated. Thus, you cannot find a legal assignment to the green point. The clustering fails.

# Constrained K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering with Background Knowledge (ICML 2001):  
<https://web.cse.msu.edu/~cse802/notes/ConstrainedKmeans.pdf>
- Code:  
<https://github.com/Behrouz-Babaki/COP-Kmeans>



## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Cost of Basic K-means Clustering

Computational cost of basic K-means algorithm:

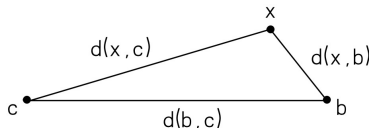
- For the assignment stage, you have to compute the distance between every pair of data and cluster center, *i.e.*,  $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{c}_k)$ . Thus, the cost is  $O(n \times K \times d)$ , with  $n$  being the number of points,  $K$  being the number of clusters, and  $d$  being the feature dimension
- For the center calculation stage, you have to calculate the center of every cluster, then the cost is  $O(\sum_{i=1}^K n_i \times d) = O(n \times d)$
- The total cost is  $O(T \times (n \times (K + 1) \times d))$ , with  $T$  being the number of iterations.
- For large scale and high dimensional data, the cost is high.
- Is it possible to accelerate the algorithm, while the performance is not affected?

# Accelerated K-means Clustering

## Triangle inequality theorem:

Let  $x$  be a data point, and  $b$  and  $c$  be two centers.  $d(x, b)$  denotes the distance between  $x$  and  $b$ . We have

- $d(x, b) + d(x, c) > d(b, c)$
- $d(x, b) + d(b, c) > d(x, c)$
- $d(b, c) + d(x, c) > d(x, b)$



Further, we can derive the following lemmas:

- **Lemma 1:** if  $d(b, c) \geq 2d(x, b)$ , then  $d(x, c) > d(x, b)$
- **Lemma 2:**  $d(x, c) > \max\{0, d(x, b) - d(b, c)\}$

# Accelerated K-means Clustering

**Lemma 1:** if  $d(b, c) \geq 2d(x, b)$ , then  $d(x, c) > d(x, b)$

Usage of Lemma 1 in K-means:

- Let  $x$  be any data point, and  $c$  be the center to which  $x$  is currently assigned, and let  $c'$  be any other center
- If  $d(c, c') \geq 2d(x, c)$ , then  $d(x, c') \geq d(x, c)$ .
- In this case, it is unnecessary to compute  $d(x, c')$ , leading to the cost reduction

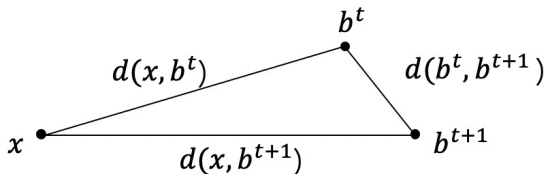
# Accelerated K-means Clustering

**Lemma 2:**  $d(x, c) > \max\{0, d(x, b) - d(b, c)\}$

Usage of Lemma 2 in K-means:

- Let  $x$  be any data point,  $b^{t+1}$  be any center at the  $t+1$  iteration, and  $b^t$  be the previous version of the same center. For example, suppose the centers are numbered 1 through  $k$ , and  $b^{t+1}$  is the center number  $j$ , then  $b^t$  is the center number  $j$  in the previous iteration.
- **Lower bound:** Suppose that in the previous iteration  $t$ , we knew a **lower bound**  $l(x, b^t)$  such that  $d(x, b^t) \geq l(x, b^t)$ , then we can **update** a new lower bound  $l(x, b^{t+1})$  for the current iteration  $t+1$

$$d(x, b^{t+1}) \geq \max\{0, d(x, b^t) - d(b^{t+1}, b^t)\} \geq \max\{0, l(x, b^t) - d(b^{t+1}, b^t)\} = l(x, b^{t+1})$$

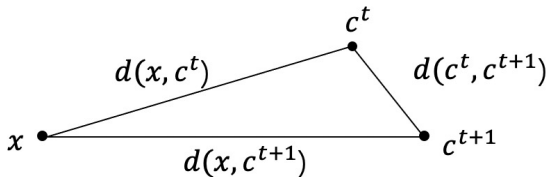


# Accelerated K-means Clustering

**Lemma 2:**  $d(x, c) > \max\{0, d(x, b) - d(b, c)\}$

Usage of Lemma 2 in K-means:

- **Upper bound:** Suppose  $u(x) \geq d(x, c^t)$  is an **upper bound** on the distance between  $x$  and its currently assigned centroid  $c^t$  (the centroid at iteration  $t$ ).
  - And, suppose  $l(x, (c')^t) \leq d(x, (c')^t)$  is a lower bound on the distance between  $x$  and some other center  $(c')^t$ .
  - If  $u(x) \leq l(x, (c')^t)$ , then  $d(x, c^t) \leq u(x) \leq l(x, (c')^t) \leq d(x, (c')^t)$ .
  - Thus, it is necessary to calculate neither  $d(x, c^t)$  nor  $d(x, (c')^t)$ , **leading to cost reduction**. Note that it will never be necessary to calculate  $d(x, (c')^t)$  in the current iteration, but it may be necessary to calculate  $d(x, c^t)$ , as  $u(x) \leq l(x, (c'')^t)$  may not true for some other center  $c''$ .
- **Update the upper bound  $u(x)$ :**  $u(x) = u(x) + d(c^t, c^{t+1}) > d(x, c^{t+1})$



# Accelerated K-means Clustering

## The complete algorithm of accelerated K-means clustering algorithm:

Putting the observations above together, the accelerated k-means algorithm is as follows.

First, pick initial centers. Set the lower bound  $l(x, c) = 0$  for each point  $x$  and center  $c$ . Assign each  $x$  to its closest initial center  $c(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_c d(x, c)$ , using Lemma 1 to avoid redundant distance calculations. Each time  $d(x, c)$  is computed, set  $l(x, c) = d(x, c)$ . Assign upper bounds  $u(x) = \min_c d(x, c)$ .

Next, repeat until convergence:

1. For all centers  $c$  and  $c'$ , compute  $d(c, c')$ . For all centers  $c$ , compute  $s(c) = \frac{1}{2} \min_{c' \neq c} d(c, c')$ .
2. Identify all points  $x$  such that  $u(x) \leq s(c(x))$ .
3. For all remaining points  $x$  and centers  $c$  such that
  - (i)  $c \neq c(x)$  and
  - (ii)  $u(x) > l(x, c)$  and
  - (iii)  $u(x) > \frac{1}{2}d(c(x), c)$ :

3a. If  $r(x)$  then compute  $d(x, c(x))$  and assign  $r(x) = \text{false}$ . Otherwise,  $d(x, c(x)) = u(x)$ .

3b. If  $d(x, c(x)) > l(x, c)$   
or  $d(x, c(x)) > \frac{1}{2}d(c(x), c)$  then  
    Compute  $d(x, c)$   
    If  $d(x, c) < d(x, c(x))$  then assign  $c(x) = c$ .

4. For each center  $c$ , let  $m(c)$  be the mean of the points assigned to  $c$ .
5. For each point  $x$  and center  $c$ , assign
$$l(x, c) = \max\{l(x, c) - d(c, m(c)), 0\}.$$
6. For each point  $x$ , assign
$$u(x) = u(x) + d(m(c(x)), c(x))$$
$$r(x) = \text{true}.$$
7. Replace each center  $c$  by  $m(c)$ .

# Accelerated K-means Clustering

Further readings:

- Using the Triangle Inequality to Accelerate K-means (ICML 2003):  
<https://www.aaai.org/Papers/ICML/2003/ICML03-022.pdf>
- Code:  
<https://github.com/siddheshk/Faster-Kmeans>



## 1 Basic K-means Clustering

- Definition
- Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
- Optimization perspective of K-means clustering

## 2 Soft K-means Clustering

## 3 Variants of K-means Clustering

- Constrained K-means Clustering
- Accelerated K-means Clustering

## 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering

## 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Performance evaluation of clustering

There are two types of evaluation metrics for clustering:

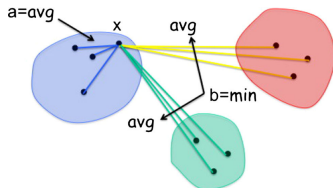
- **Internal evaluation metrics:** Silhouette coefficient
- **External evaluation metrics:** These metrics require the knowledge of the ground truth classes while almost never available in practice or requires manual assignment by human annotators (as in the supervised learning setting).

# Silhouette coefficient

- Given a clustering, we define
  - $a$ : The mean distance between a point and all other points in the **same** cluster.
  - $b$ : The smallest mean distance of a point to all points in any **other** cluster.
- Silhouette coefficient  $s$  for a single sample is formulated as:

$$s = \frac{b - a}{\max(a, b)} \Rightarrow s = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{a}{b} & \text{if } a < b \\ 0 & \text{if } a = b \\ \frac{b}{a} - 1 & \text{if } a > b \end{cases}$$

- It is easy to know that  $s \in (-1, 1)$ , and larger  $s$  value indicates better clustering performance.
- Silhouette coefficient  $s$  for a set of samples is defined as the mean of the Silhouette Coefficient for each sample.



# Rand index

- Given a set of  $n$  samples  $S = \{o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n\}$ , there are two clusterings/partitions of  $S$  to compare, including:
  - $X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r\}$  with  $r$  clusters
  - $Y = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_s\}$  with  $s$  clusters
- We can calculate the following values:
  - $a$ : The number of pairs of elements in  $S$  that are in the **same** subset in  $X$  and in the **same** subset in  $Y$
  - $b$ : The number of pairs of elements in  $S$  that are in the **different** subset in  $X$  and in the **different** subset in  $Y$
  - $c$ : The number of pairs of elements in  $S$  that are in the **same** subset in  $X$  and in the **different** subset in  $Y$
  - $d$ : The number of pairs of elements in  $S$  that are in the **different** subset in  $X$  and in the **same** subset in  $Y$
- The **rand index** (RI) can be computed as follows:

$$\text{RI} = \frac{a + b}{a + b + c + d} = \frac{a + b}{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}}$$

Note that  $\text{RI} \in [0, 1]$ , and higher score corresponds higher similarity.

# Performance evaluation of Clustering

More evaluation metrics for clustering, as well as the demos with code, can be found in the following links:

- Wiki: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster\\_analysis#Internal\\_evaluation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluster_analysis#Internal_evaluation)
- Demo with code: <https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/clustering.html#clustering-evaluation>

- 1 Basic K-means Clustering
  - Definition
  - Basic K-means Clustering algorithm
  - Optimization perspective of K-means clustering
- 2 Soft K-means Clustering
- 3 Variants of K-means Clustering
  - Constrained K-means Clustering
  - Accelerated K-means Clustering
- 4 Performance Evaluation of Clustering
- 5 References of Other Clustering Algorithms

# Other clusterings

Clustering is always an active area in machine learning. Despite of the introduced K-means algorithm, there are lots of other clustering algorithms, such as

- Hierarchical clustering
- Graph based clustering
- Density based clustering
- Probabilistic clustering

Further reading “Survey of Clustering Algorithms”:

- <https://axon.cs.byu.edu/Dan/678/papers/Cluster/Xu.pdf>