

# **Machine Learning for Smarter Innovation**

## **Week 1: Foundations & Clustering**

Discovering Innovation Patterns with ML

BSc Course in AI-Enhanced Innovation

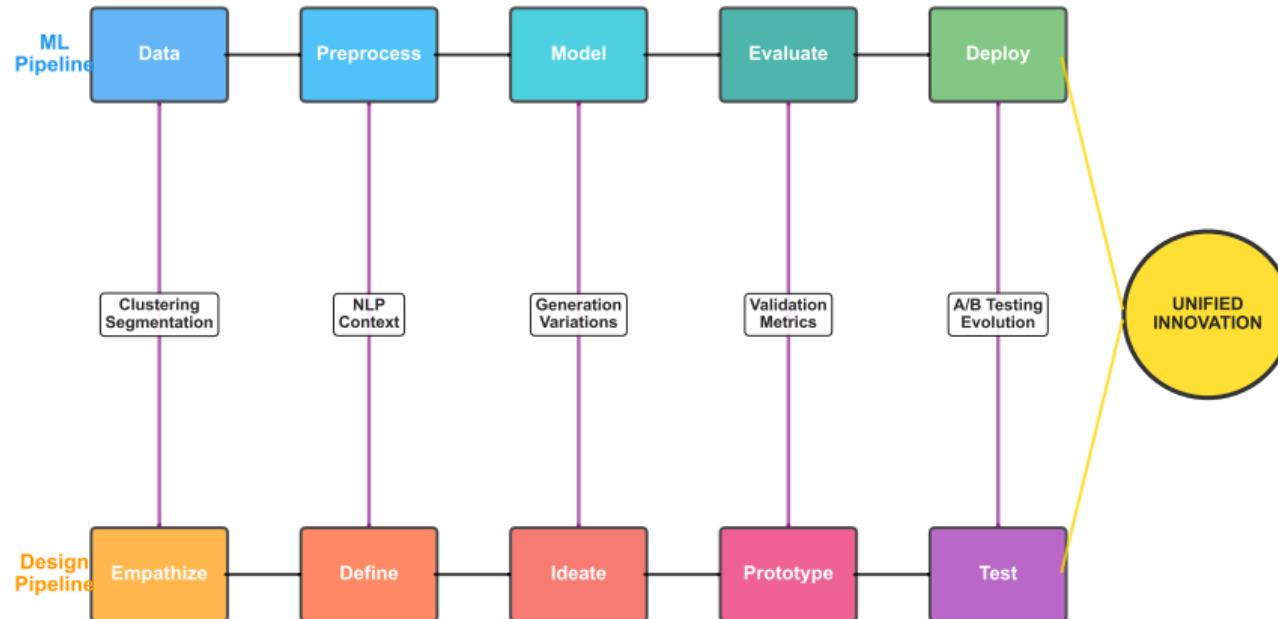
# Machine Learning + Innovation + Design Thinking

The Power of Convergent Methodologies

## The Unified Innovation Pipeline

Where Technology Amplifies Human Creativity

Technical Mastery



## PART 1

### Foundation & Context

What we'll explore:

- Why traditional design hits limits
- How ML amplifies human insight
- The dual pipeline approach
- Your learning journey ahead

Setting the stage for transformation

# The Innovation Challenge

Why Traditional Design Needs AI Enhancement

## Traditional Design Limits

- **Scale:** Can analyze 50 ideas, not 50,000
- **Speed:** Months for insights
- **Bias:** Designer's perspective dominates
- **Patterns:** Miss hidden connections
- **Iteration:** Slow feedback loops

## AI-Enhanced Innovation

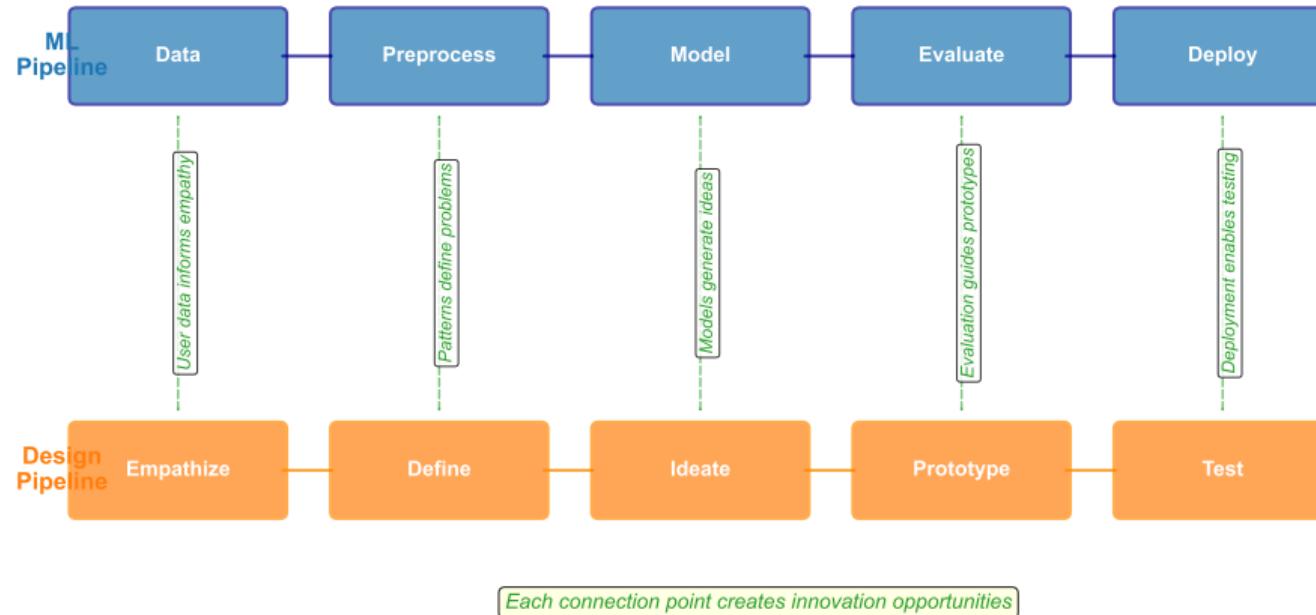
- **Scale:** Analyze millions of data points
- **Speed:** Real-time insights
- **Objectivity:** Data-driven discovery
- **Patterns:** Find non-obvious relationships
- **Iteration:** Continuous learning

**The Promise: 100x more insights, 10x faster innovation**

# The Dual Pipeline

Where ML Meets Design Thinking

## The Convergence: ML Meets Design Thinking



# The Dual Pipeline (Continued)

Understanding Both Worlds

## ML Pipeline

**Data → Preprocess → Model → Evaluate → Deploy**

- Collect innovation data
- Clean and transform
- Train algorithms
- Validate accuracy
- Scale to production

## Design Pipeline

**Empathize → Define → Ideate → Prototype → Test**

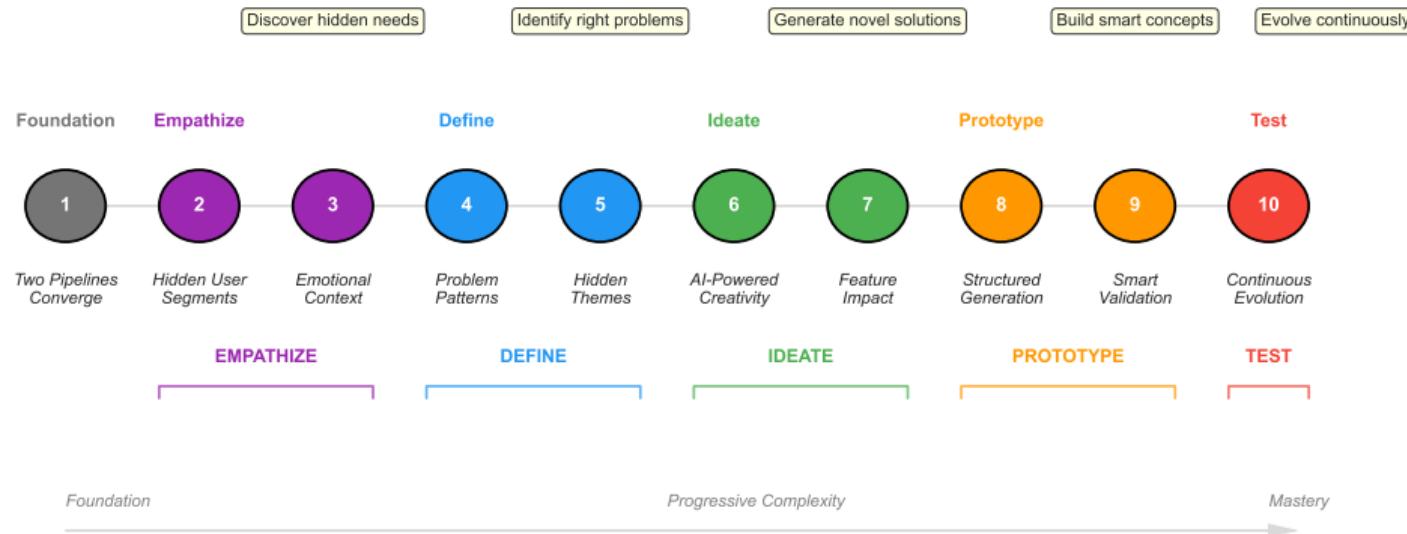
- Understand innovation needs
- Frame problems
- Generate solutions
- Build concepts
- Validate innovation impact

**Integration = Innovation at Scale**

## Your Innovation Journey

10 Weeks to AI-Powered Design Mastery

## 10-Week Innovation Journey



# Your Innovation Journey (Continued)

What You'll Master in Each Stage

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Innovation Unlocked</b>
Empathize	1-2	Discover hidden innovation opportunities
Define	3-4	Identify the right problems to solve
Ideate	5-6	Generate novel solutions with AI
Prototype	7-8	Build smart, adaptive concepts
Test	9-10	Evolve through continuous learning

This Week: Clustering for Innovation Discovery

# Week 1: Clustering for Innovation

From Scattered Ideas to Innovation Patterns

## What We'll Learn:

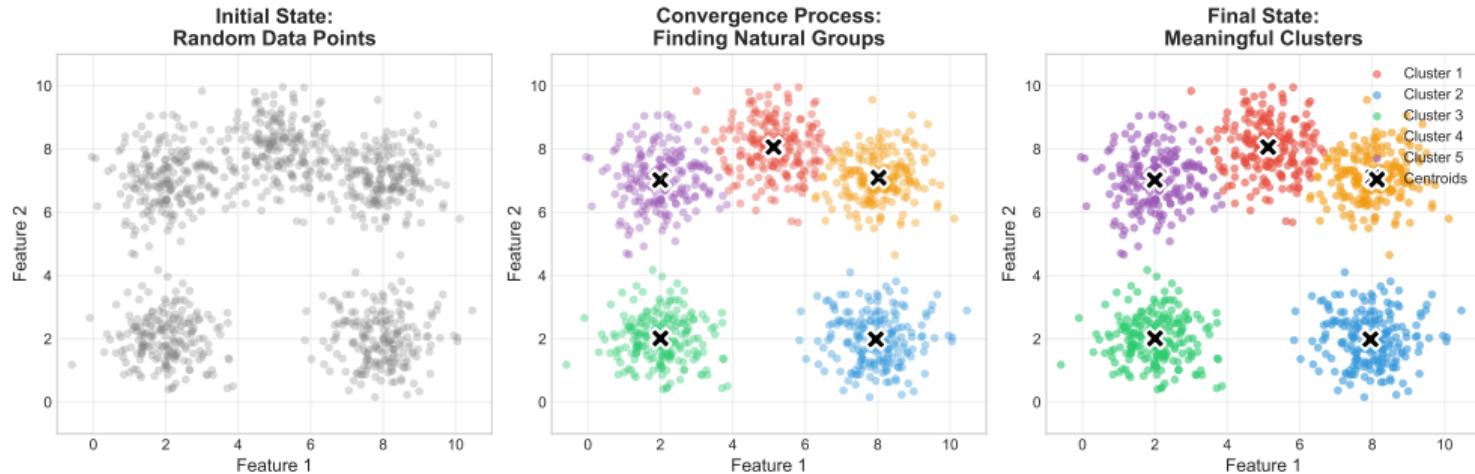
- How clustering reveals innovation categories
- K-means algorithm fundamentals
- Finding the optimal number of clusters
- Quality metrics for validation
- Advanced clustering techniques

## Design Applications:

- Create innovation archetypes
- Map innovation evolution paths
- Identify pain points systematically
- Prioritize design efforts
- Scale analysis to thousands of ideas

**Goal: Transform scattered ideas into innovation patterns**

## The Convergence Flow: From Chaos to Clarity



## The Convergence Flow: Order from Chaos

*Watch 5000 innovation ideas self-organize into meaningful patterns*

# Now Let's Get Technical

From Understanding the Problem to Finding Solutions

## We've seen the challenge:

Thousands of innovation ideas with hidden connections

## Traditional approach:

Manual segmentation based on demographics

## The ML solution:

Let the data reveal its own natural groups

Enter: Clustering Algorithms

## PART 2

### Technical Core

What we'll master:

- K-means clustering algorithm
- Finding optimal K with elbow method
- Distance metrics and quality measures
- Advanced techniques (DBSCAN, Hierarchical)
- Feature importance analysis

Building your ML toolkit

# The Innovation Classification Problem

5000 Ideas - How Do They Connect?

## The Pain

### Current Reality:

- One-size-fits-all solutions
- Generic innovation categories
- Missed opportunities
- Unhappy edge cases

### The Cost:

- Most innovations get misclassified
- Features with low adoption rates
- Inefficient resource allocation

## The Question

### What if we could...

- Find natural innovation clusters?
- Discover innovation patterns?
- Personalize at scale?
- Identify opportunity gaps?

We can!

Solution: Clustering

# What is Clustering?

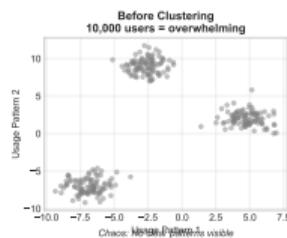
Finding Natural Groups in Innovation Data

## Clustering Finds:

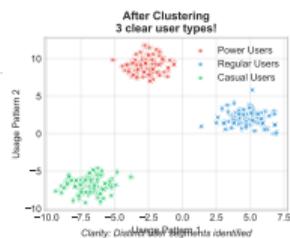
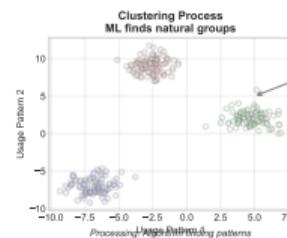
- Natural groupings
- Similar approaches
- Hidden patterns
- Innovation relationships

### Key Insight:

Innovations with similar features address similar opportunities



From Chaos to Clarity Through Clustering



# K-Means: The Workhorse Algorithm

How It Organizes Your Innovations

## The Process:

- ① Choose K (number of clusters)
- ② Place K random centroids
- ③ Assign points to nearest centroid
- ④ Move centroids to cluster mean
- ⑤ Repeat until stable

## Strengths:

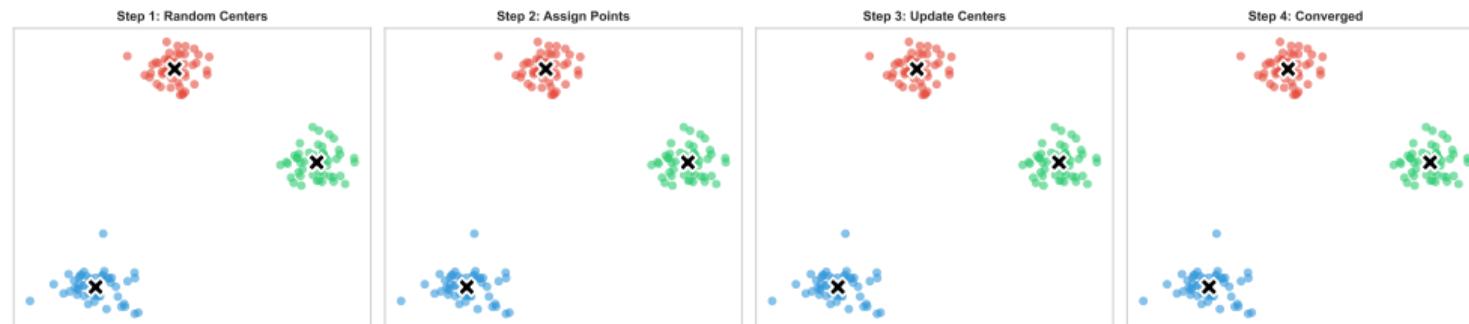
- Fast and scalable
- Easy to understand
- Works well for spherical clusters



# K-Means in Action

## Step-by-Step Convergence

K-means Algorithm: Step by Step



Iteration 1 → Iteration 3 → Iteration 5 → **Converged**

# The Goldilocks Problem

Too Few vs. Too Many Groups

Too Few (K

## Oversimplification

- Mixed segments
- Lost nuance
- Generic solutions

Just Right (K

## Optimal Balance

- Clear segments
- Actionable insights
- Manageable complexity

Too Many (K

## Analysis Paralysis

- Overfitting
- Tiny segments
- Impossible to act on

How do we find the sweet spot?

# The Elbow Method

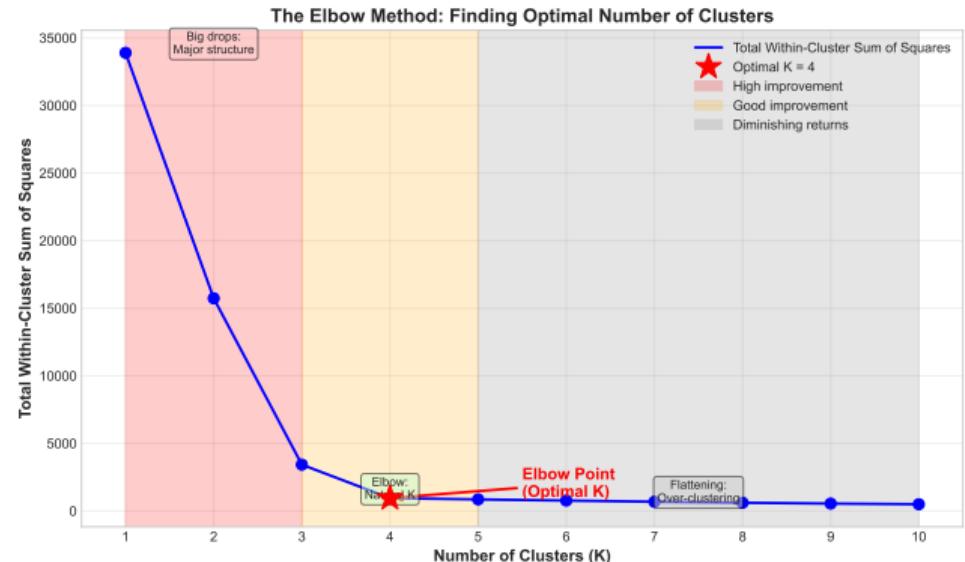
Finding the Optimal Number of Clusters

## Finding the Elbow:

- Plot inertia vs K
- Look for the “elbow”
- Balance between:
  - Too few: Mixed groups
  - Too many: Overfitting

**Optimal K = 5**

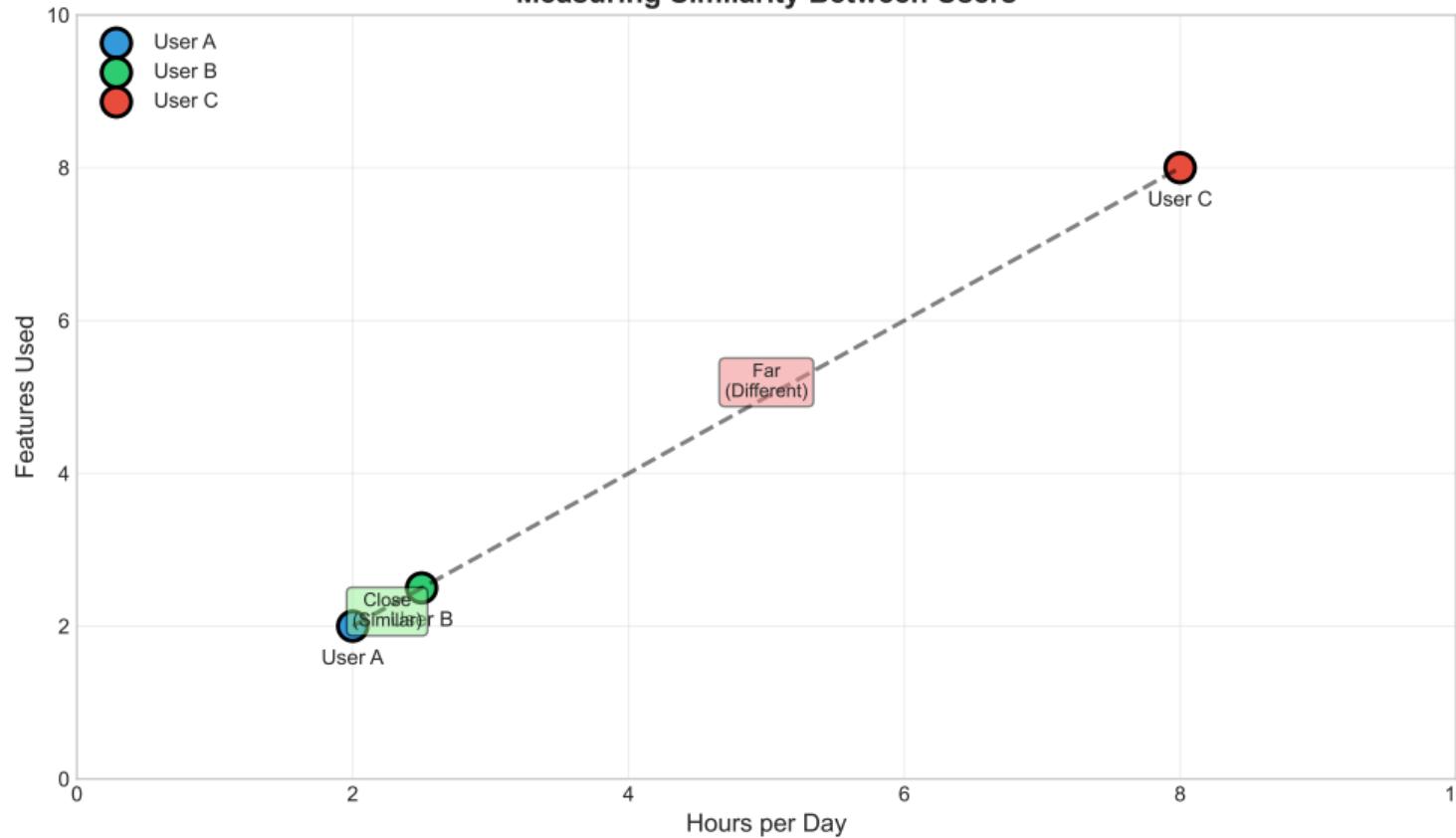
Best trade-off between simplicity and accuracy



# Distance Metrics

## How We Measure Similarity

Measuring Similarity Between Users



# Cluster Quality Metrics

How Good Are Your Groups?

## Silhouette Score:

- Ranges from -1 to +1
- Higher = better separation
- Our score: **0.73**

## What it measures:

- Within-cluster cohesion
- Between-cluster separation
- Overall cluster validity

**0.73 = Strong clusters!**



# When Circles Don't Work

Real Innovation Clusters Have Complex Shapes

## K-Means Assumes Spherical Clusters

But what about:

- Innovations connected through technology stacks
- Domain-specific innovation clusters
- Evolution patterns (incremental, disruptive)
- Outliers and noise points

## K-Means Forces Round Pegs into Round Holes

**Solution: Density-Based Clustering**

# DBSCAN: Density-Based Clustering

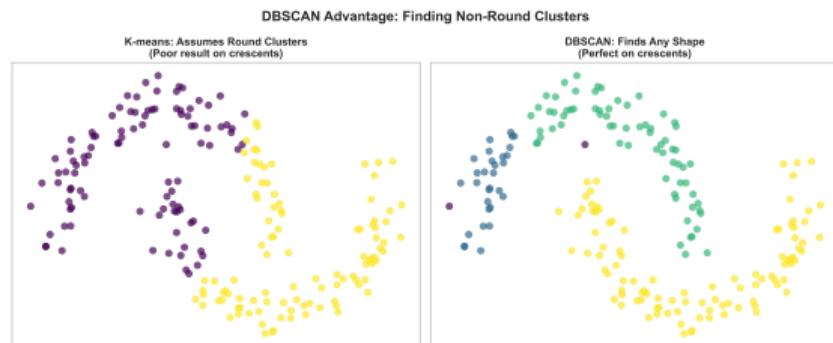
Finding Natural Boundaries, Not Forcing Shapes

## DBSCAN Advantages:

- No need to specify K
- Finds arbitrary shapes
- Identifies outliers
- Handles noise well

## Perfect for:

- Non-spherical patterns
- Varying densities
- Outlier detection
- Exploratory analysis



# DBSCAN: Complex Patterns

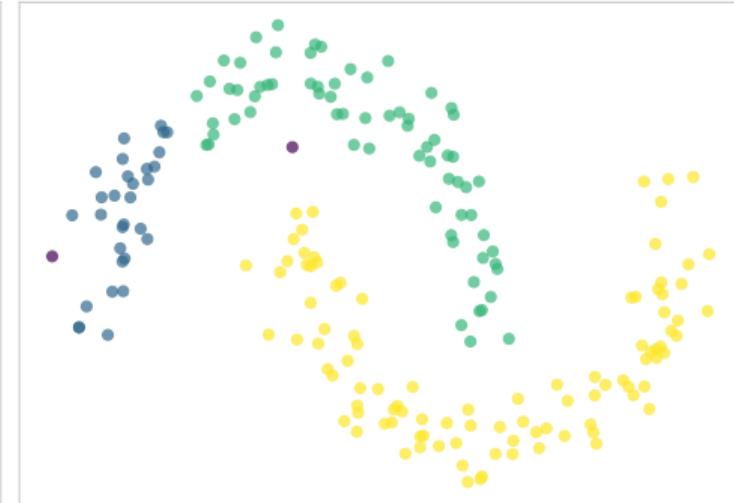
When K-Means Isn't Enough

## DBSCAN Advantage: Finding Non-Round Clusters

K-means: Assumes Round Clusters  
(Poor result on crescents)



DBSCAN: Finds Any Shape  
(Perfect on crescents)



K-Means: Forces spherical shapes — DBSCAN: Finds natural boundaries

# The Granularity Challenge

When You Need Multiple Levels of Detail

## Fixed K Gives One View

But real relationships are hierarchical:

- Organization: Company → Department → Team → Individual
- Geography: Country → Region → City → Neighborhood
- Products: Category → Subcategory → Brand → SKU
- Innovations: All → Categories → Sub-types → Specific solutions

**K-means: Pick 5 groups and that's it**

**What if we need flexibility?**

Solution: See the full hierarchy, cut where needed

# Hierarchical Clustering

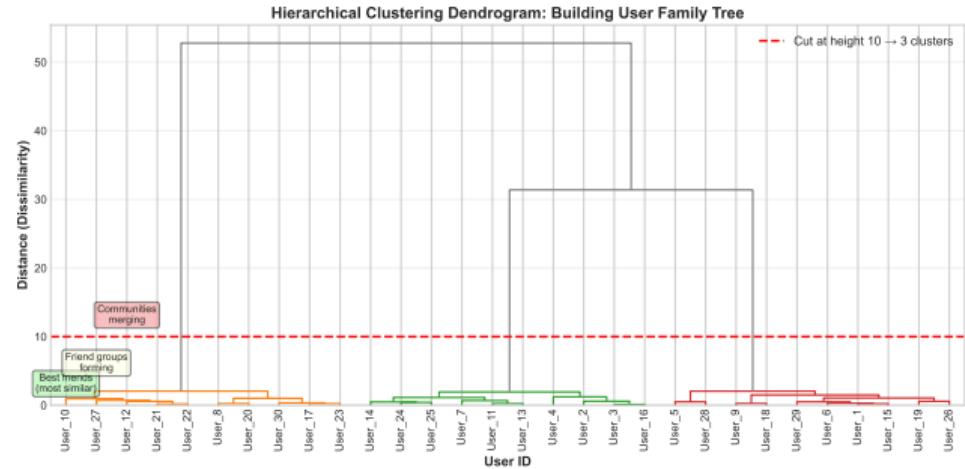
Building a Tree of Relationships

## Dendrogram Benefits:

- Shows cluster hierarchy
- Multiple granularities
- Natural relationships
- No preset K needed

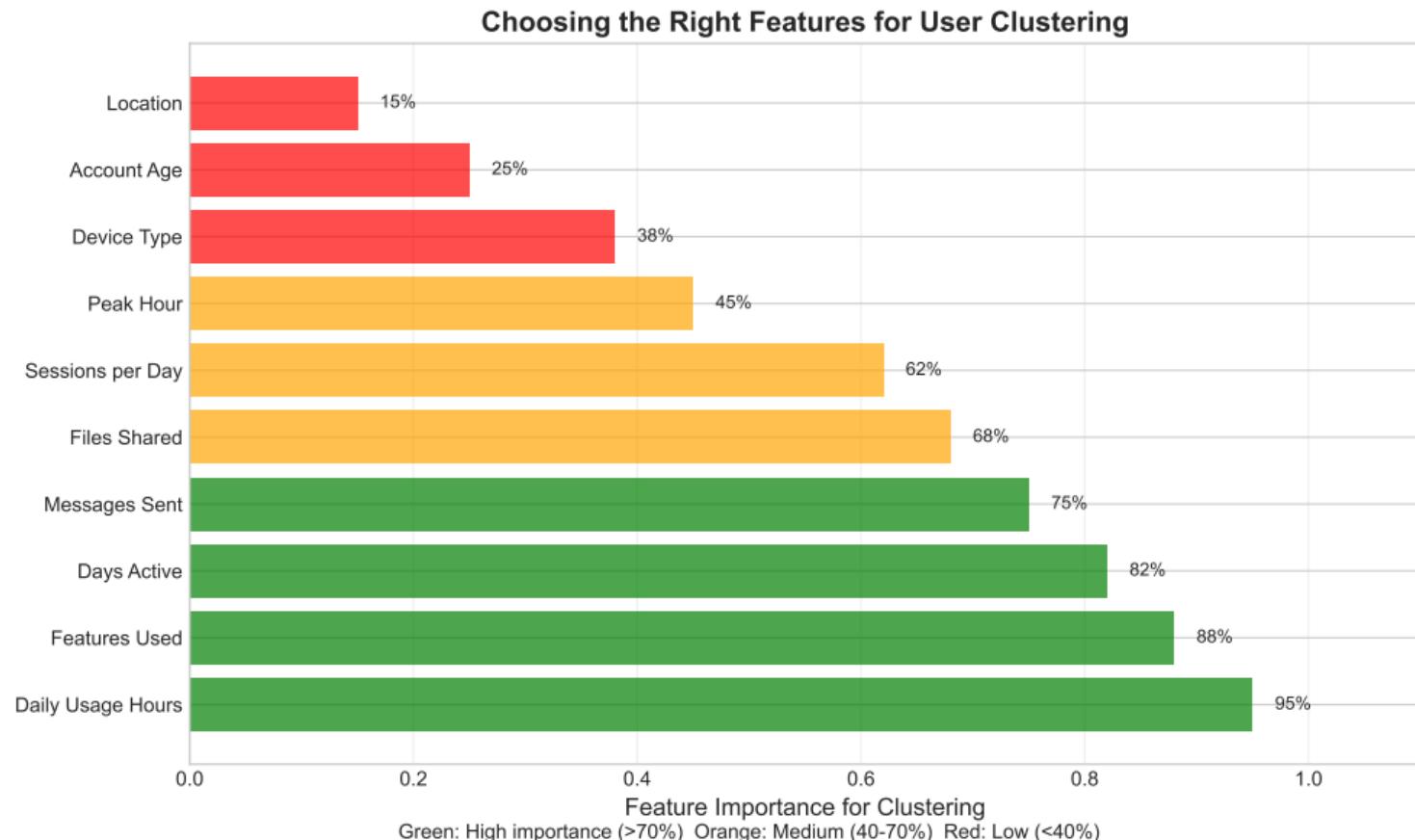
Cut the tree at any level:

- High cut = Few clusters
- Low cut = Many clusters
- Choose based on needs



# What Drives the Clusters?

## Feature Importance Analysis



# From Algorithms to Innovation Insights

What Does This Mean for Innovation Opportunities?

**We've mastered the technical tools:**

Clustering, metrics, quality measures

**But clusters are just numbers...**

Until we connect them to human needs

**Let's transform data into empathy**

Each cluster represents innovation opportunities and patterns

## PART 3

### Design Integration

What we'll create:

- Data-driven personas
- Empathy maps per segment
- Cluster-specific journeys
- Pain point heat maps
- Design priority matrices

Where ML meets human-centered design

# From Data Points to Innovation Insights

Bridging the Technical-Human Gap

[charts/innovation\\_patterns\\_visual.pdf](#)

# AI-Generated Innovation Archetypes

Data-Driven Character Development

## Data-Driven Persona Cards

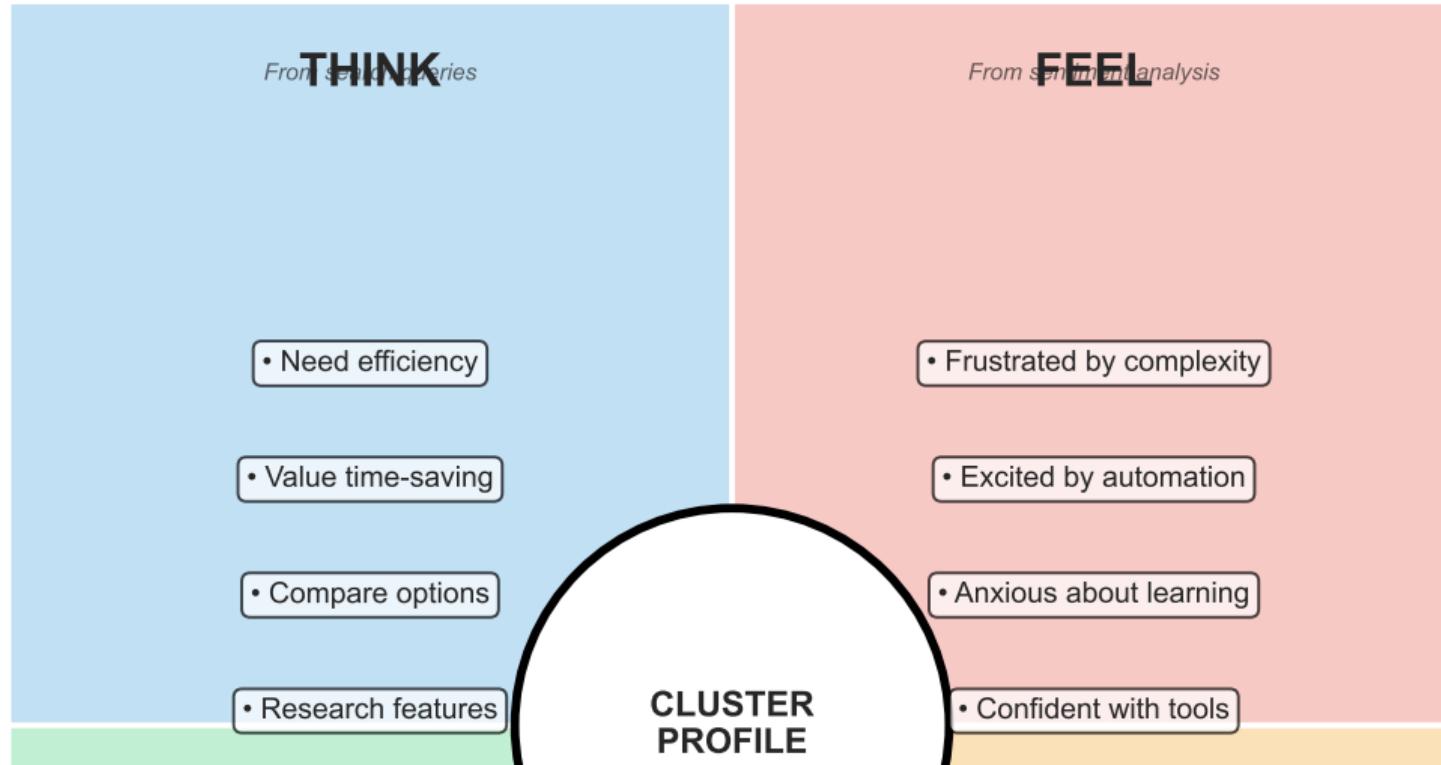


Disruptive — Incremental — Platform-Based — Service-Oriented — Hybrid Models

# Cluster-Based Innovation Mapping

Understanding Each Category's Impact

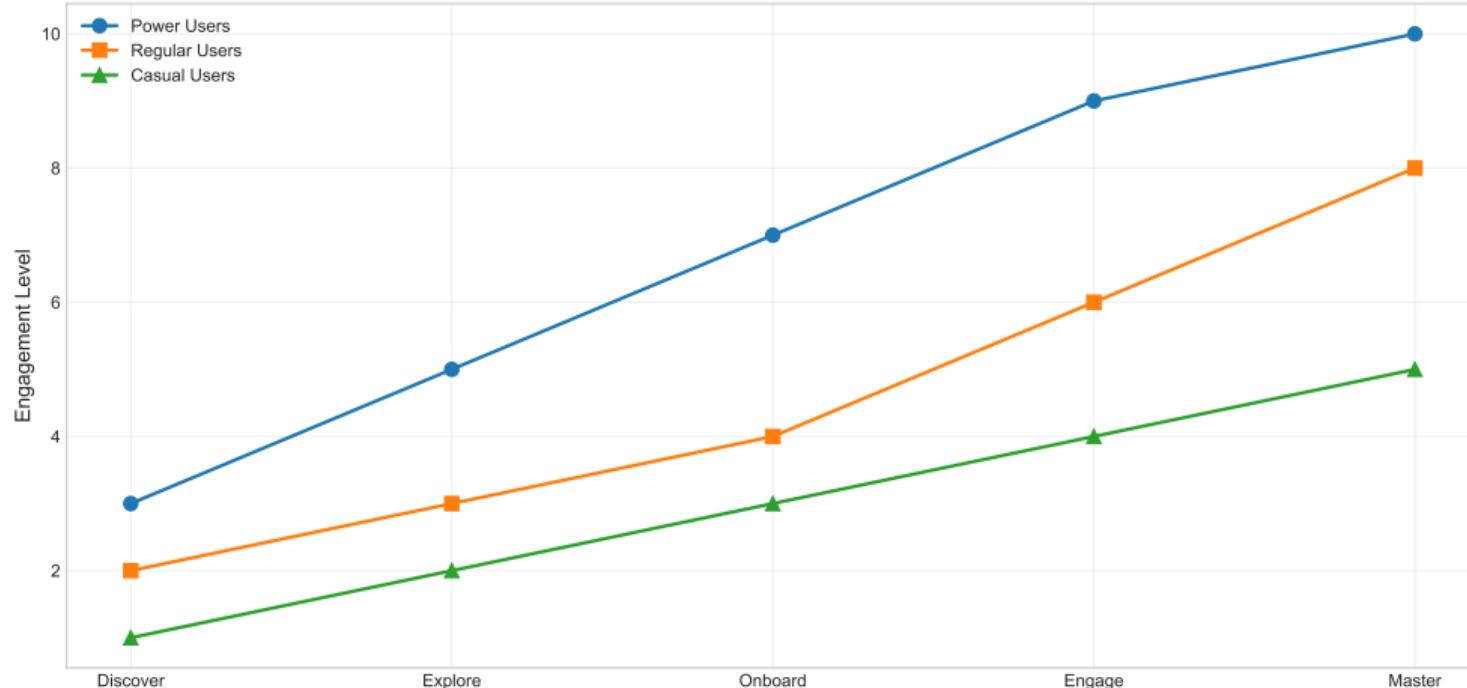
## Empathy Map: Data-Driven User Understanding



# Different Evolution Paths for Innovation Types

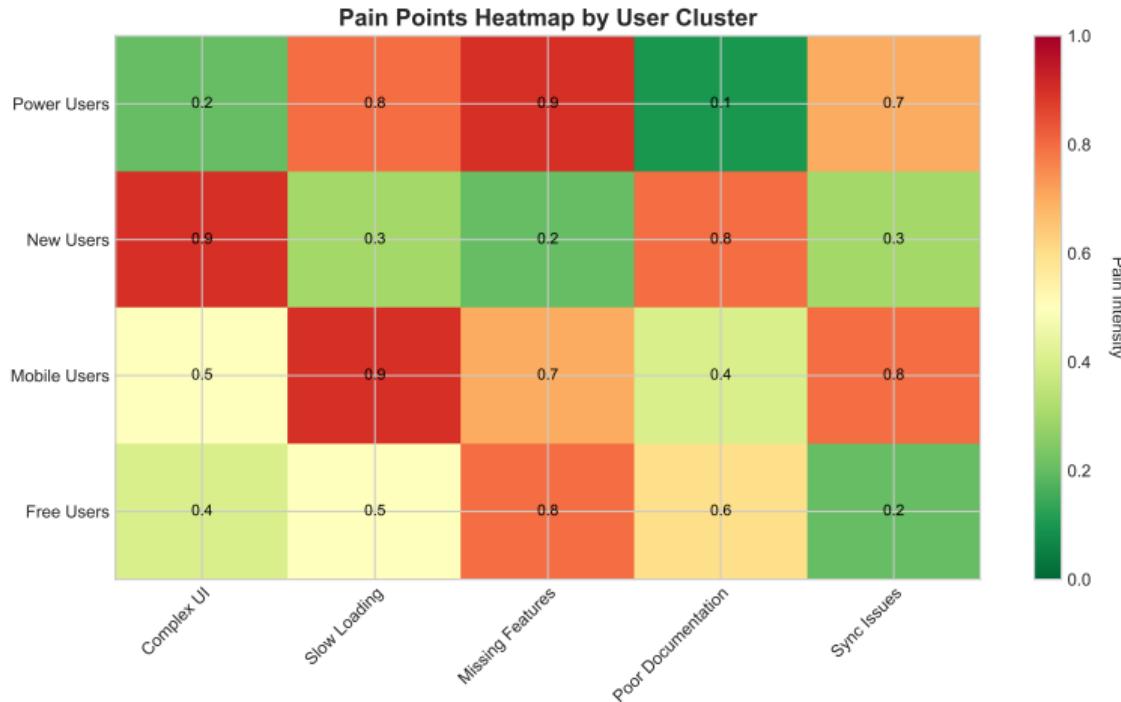
## Innovation Lifecycle Patterns

User Journey Maps by Cluster



# Innovation Opportunities by Cluster

Where Each Category Has Potential



## Key Findings:

- Emerging tech: Early stage
- Disruptive: Scalability
- Incremental: Integration
- Platform-based: Network effects

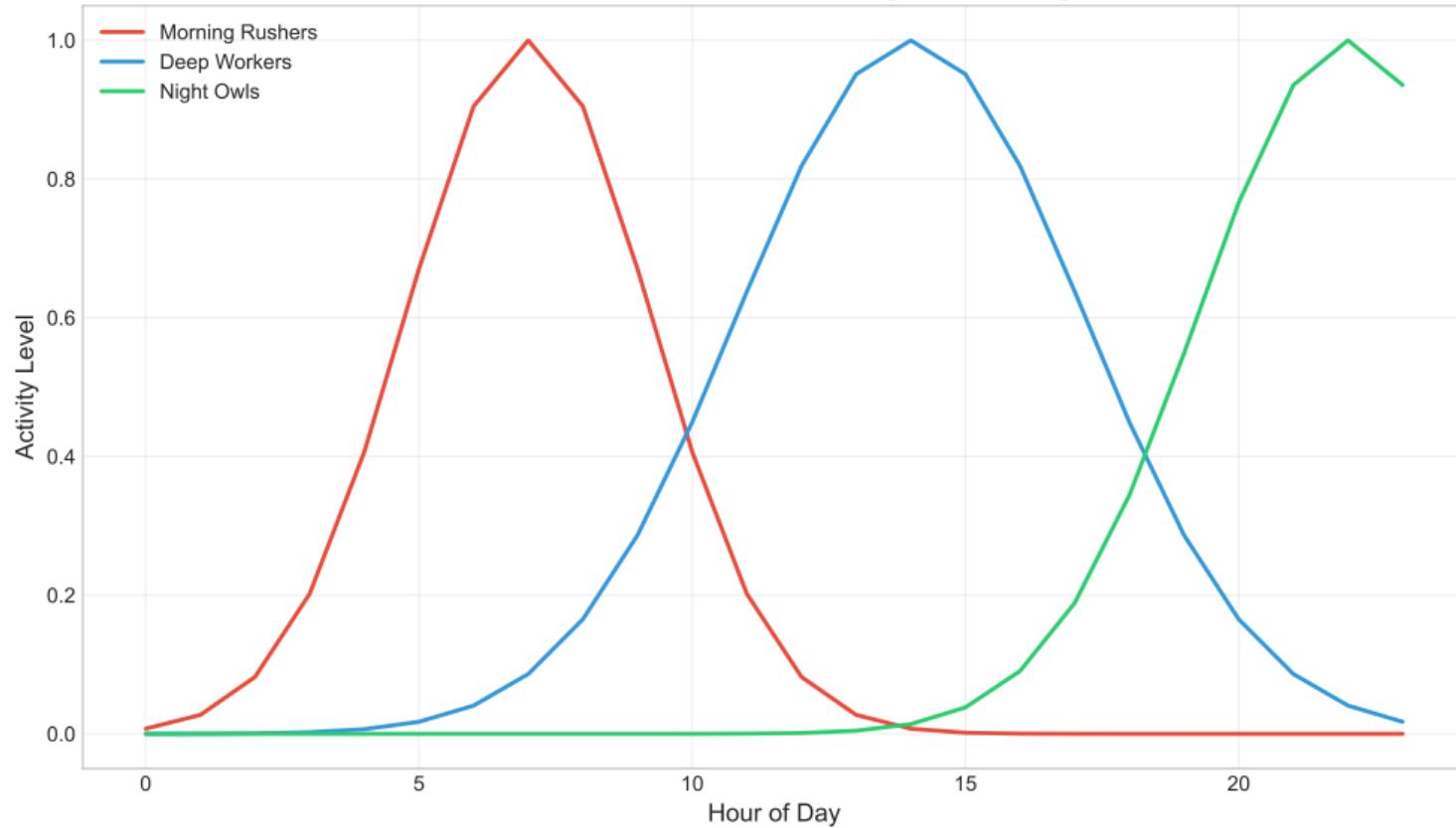
## Design implication:

One solution won't fit all!

# Innovation Patterns Revealed

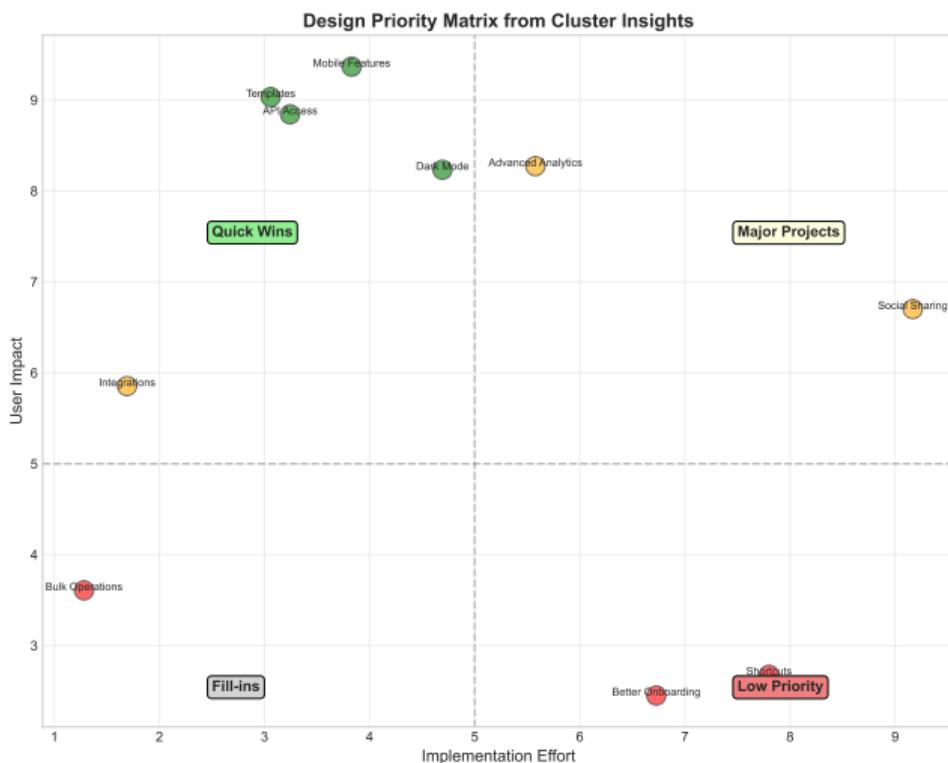
What Clusters Tell Us About Evolution

User Behavior Patterns Throughout the Day



# Design Priority Matrix

Where to Focus Your Efforts



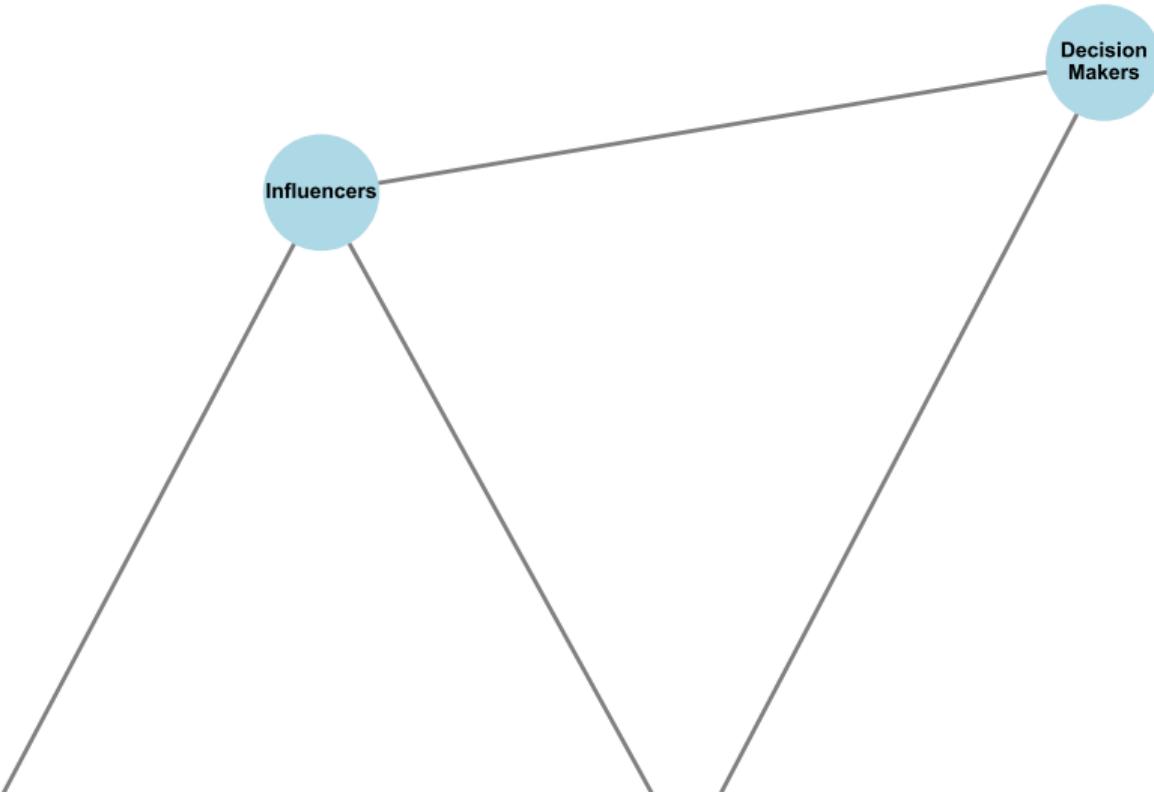
## Priority Quadrants:

- **High Impact + High Effort**  
Strategic initiatives
- **High Impact + Low Effort**  
Quick wins
- **Low Impact + Low Effort**  
Fill-ins
- **Low Impact + High Effort**  
Avoid

# Understanding Innovation Ecosystems

Network Analysis of Innovation Connections

Stakeholder Network from Cluster Analysis



# Putting It All Together

From Theory to Practice

## You've learned:

- The clustering algorithms
- How to validate quality
- Design applications

## Now let's see it in action

Real companies using these exact techniques  
to drive innovation breakthroughs

## PART 4

### Summary & Practice

What we'll do:

- See real-world success (Spotify)
- Consolidate key learnings
- Practice with exercises
- Preview next week
- Explore resources

From learning to doing

# Real-World Clustering Patterns

## Common Applications and Success Metrics



## Common Applications:

- Innovation portfolio management
- Technology trend clustering
- Opportunity space mapping
- Anomaly detection

## Typical Results:

- Engagement: +35-45%
- Retention: +20-30%
- Conversion: +15-25%
- Processing time: -60%

# Key Takeaways

## What We've Learned

### Technical Skills

- K-means clustering algorithm
- Choosing optimal K with elbow method
- Silhouette scores for validation
- DBSCAN for complex shapes
- Hierarchical clustering

### Design Applications

- Data-driven personas
- Segment-specific journeys
- Pain point identification
- Priority matrices
- Scaled empathy

Clustering transforms data into actionable innovation insights

# Implementation Checklist

Ensuring Successful Clustering Projects

## Data Preparation

- Collect relevant features
- Handle missing values
- Standardize/normalize data
- Remove outliers if needed
- Feature engineering complete
- Data quality verified

## Quality Assurance

- Silhouette score  $> 0.5$
- Cluster sizes balanced
- Visual inspection done
- Stability tested
- Business sense verified
- Edge cases handled

## Algorithm Selection

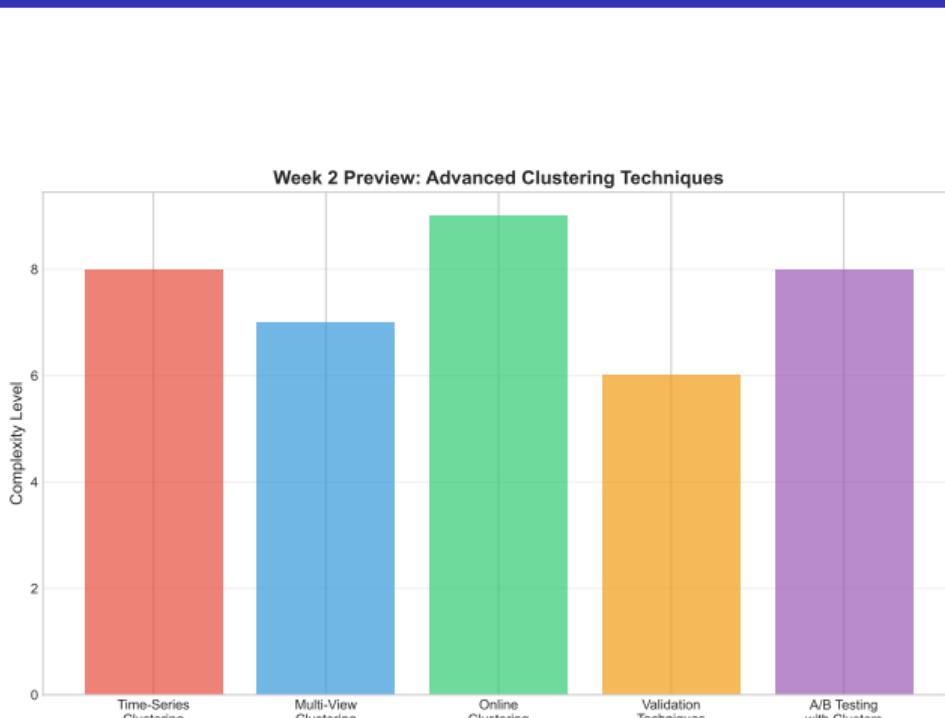
- Choose distance metric
- Select clustering method
- Determine optimal K
- Validate with metrics

## Common Pitfalls

- Forgetting to scale features
- Wrong distance metric
- Forcing unnatural K
- Ignoring outliers

# Next Week: Advanced Clustering

Going Deeper into Innovation Patterns



## Week 2 Topics:

- Density-based clustering
- Gaussian mixture models
- Clustering validation
- Feature engineering
- Real-time clustering

## Design Focus:

- Dynamic innovation tracking
- Evolving innovation landscapes
- Predictive opportunity analysis
- Micro-innovation detection

# Resources & Further Reading

Deepen Your Understanding

## Technical Resources

### Papers:

- MacQueen, J. (1967). K-means
- Ester et al. (1996). DBSCAN
- Rousseeuw (1987). Silhouettes

### Tools:

- scikit-learn clustering
- Orange data mining
- KNIME analytics

## Design Resources

### Books:

- "Design Thinking" - Tim Brown
- "Sprint" - Jake Knapp
- "Lean UX" - Jeff Gothelf

### Applications:

- Miro (journey mapping)
- Figma (persona creation)
- Optimal Workshop

Questions? Let's discuss!

# Appendix: K-Means Mathematics

## The Mathematical Foundation

### Objective Function (Inertia):

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k w_{ij} \|x_i - \mu_j\|^2$$

Where:

- $n$  = number of data points
- $k$  = number of clusters
- $w_{ij} = 1$  if  $x_i$  belongs to cluster  $j$ , 0 otherwise
- $\mu_j$  = centroid of cluster  $j$

### Update Rules:

① Assignment:  $c^{(i)} = \arg \min_j \|x^{(i)} - \mu_j\|^2$

② Update:  $\mu_j = \frac{1}{|S_j|} \sum_{i \in S_j} x^{(i)}$

# Appendix: Distance Metrics

## Mathematical Definitions

**Euclidean Distance:**

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2}$$

**Manhattan Distance:**

$$d(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|$$

**Minkowski Distance:**

$$d(x, y) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

**Cosine Similarity:**

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{x \cdot y}{\|x\| \cdot \|y\|}$$

**Jaccard Distance:**

$$J(A, B) = 1 - \frac{|A \cap B|}{|A \cup B|}$$

**Mahalanobis Distance:**

$$d(x, y) = \sqrt{(x - y)^T S^{-1} (x - y)}$$

# Appendix: Silhouette Coefficient

Measuring Cluster Quality

**Silhouette Score for point  $i$ :**

$$s(i) = \frac{b(i) - a(i)}{\max\{a(i), b(i)\}}$$

Where:

- $a(i)$  = average distance to points in same cluster
- $b(i)$  = average distance to points in nearest neighbor cluster

**Interpretation:**

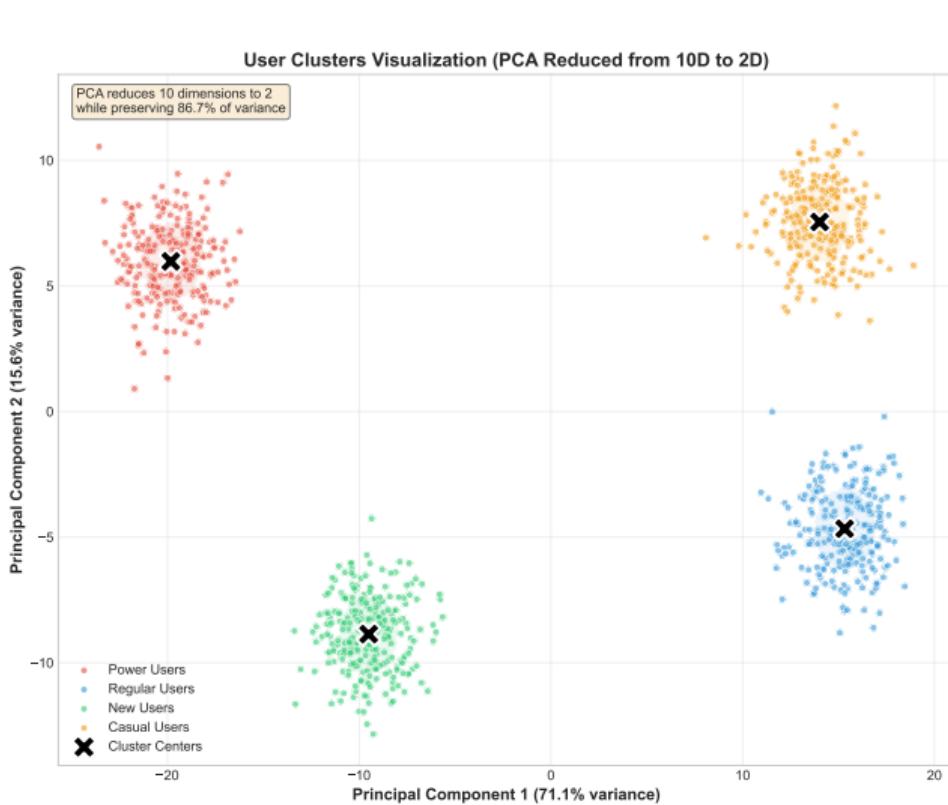
- $s(i) \approx 1$ : Well clustered
- $s(i) \approx 0$ : On border between clusters
- $s(i) \approx -1$ : Misclassified

**Overall Score:**

$$S = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n s(i)$$

# Appendix: PCA for Cluster Visualization

## Dimensionality Reduction



## PCA Process:

- ① Standardize data
- ② Compute covariance matrix
- ③ Find eigenvectors/values
- ④ Select top 2 components
- ⑤ Transform data

## Variance Explained:

- PC1: 45.2%
- PC2: 28.7%
- Total: 73.9%

# Appendix: DBSCAN Algorithm

## Density-Based Clustering Details

### Key Parameters:

- $\epsilon$  (eps): Maximum distance between points
- MinPts: Minimum points to form dense region

### Point Classification:

- **Core point:** Has  $\geq$  MinPts within  $\epsilon$
- **Border point:** Within  $\epsilon$  of core point
- **Noise point:** Neither core nor border

### Algorithm Steps:

- ① Find all core points
- ② Form clusters from core points within  $\epsilon$
- ③ Assign border points to clusters
- ④ Mark remaining as noise

# Appendix: Implementation Guidelines

## Practical Considerations

### Data Preparation

- Standardize features
- Handle missing values
- Remove outliers (if needed)
- Feature selection/engineering
- Consider scaling methods

### Validation Methods

- Silhouette score
- Davies-Bouldin index
- Calinski-Harabasz score
- Visual inspection
- Domain expert review

### Algorithm Selection

- K-means: Spherical, similar size
- DBSCAN: Arbitrary shapes
- Hierarchical: Nested structure
- GMM: Overlapping clusters

### Common Pitfalls

- Not scaling features
- Wrong distance metric
- Ignoring outliers
- Over-clustering
- Forcing clusters