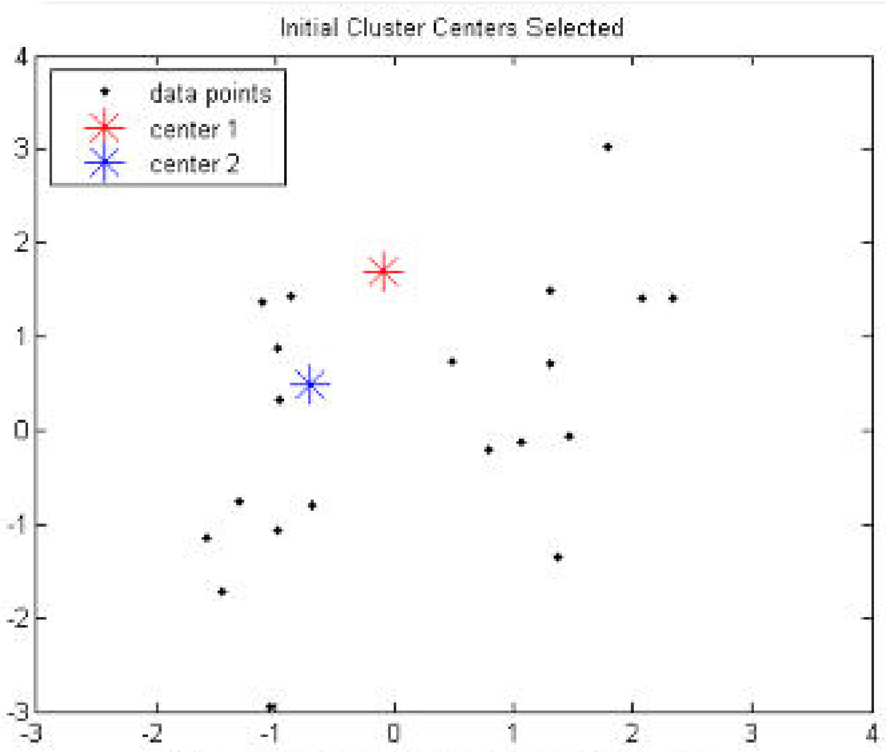
The *K-Means* Clustering Method

The *K-Means* Clustering Method

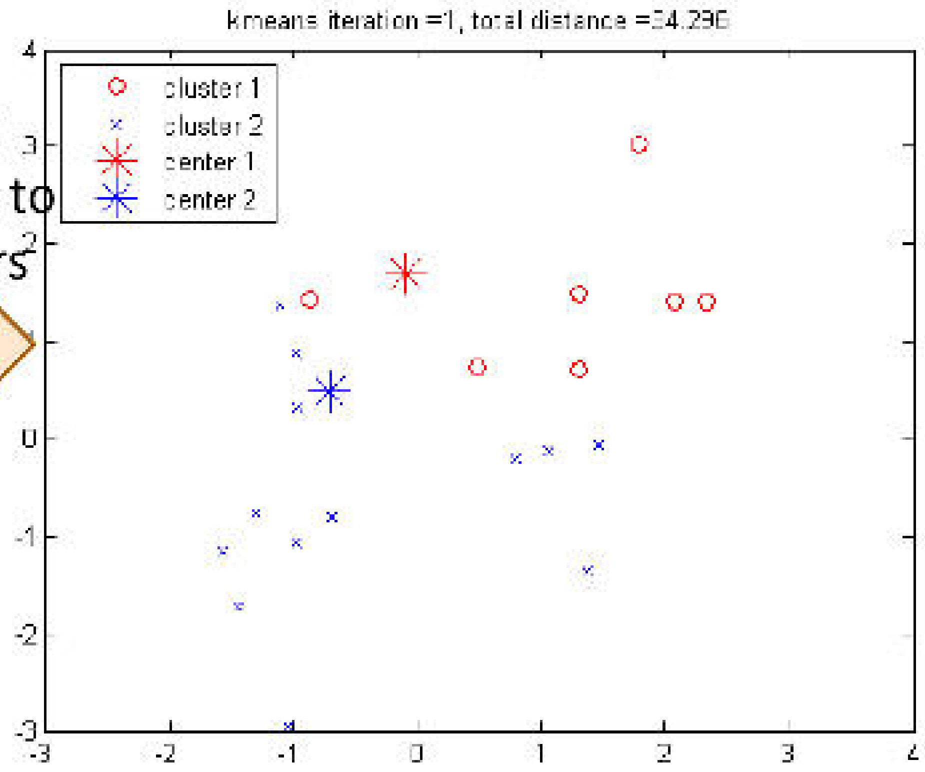
- *K-Means* (MacQueen'67, Lloyd'57/'82)
  - Each cluster is represented by the center of the cluster
- Given K, the number of clusters, the *K-Means* clustering algorithm is outlined as follows
  - Select *K* points as initial centroids
  - **Repeat**
    - Form *K* clusters by assigning each point to its closest centroid
    - Re-compute the centroids (i.e., *mean point*) of each cluster
  - **Until** convergence criterion is satisfied
- Different kinds of measures can be used
  - Manhattan distance (L_1 norm), Euclidean distance (L_2 norm), Cosine similarity

Example: *K-Means* Clustering

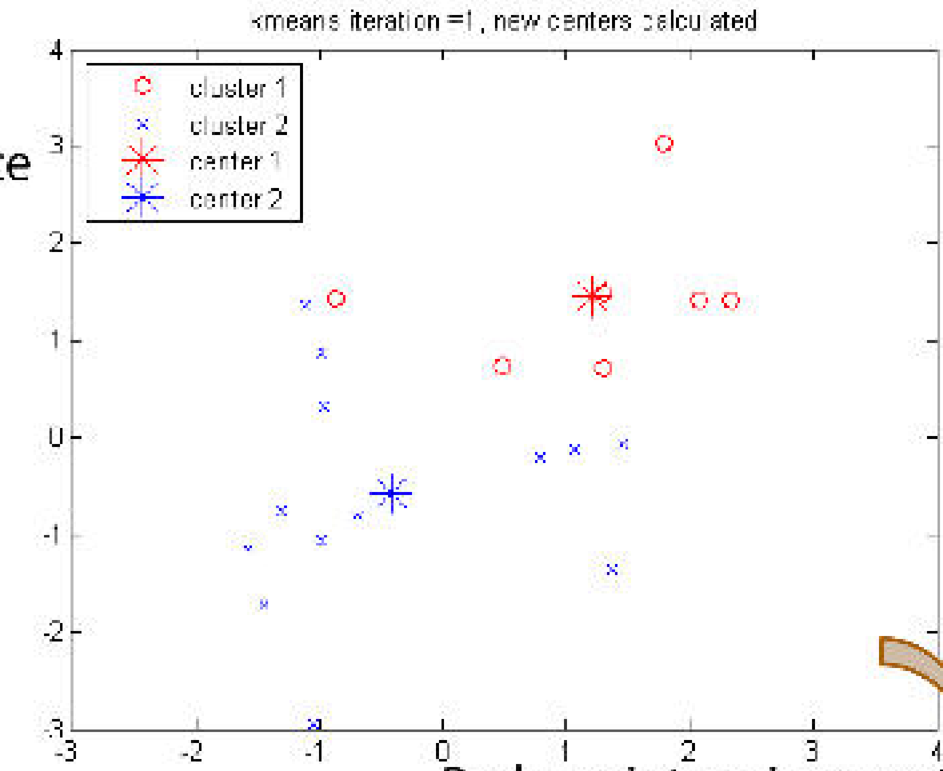


The original data points &
randomly select K = 2 centroids

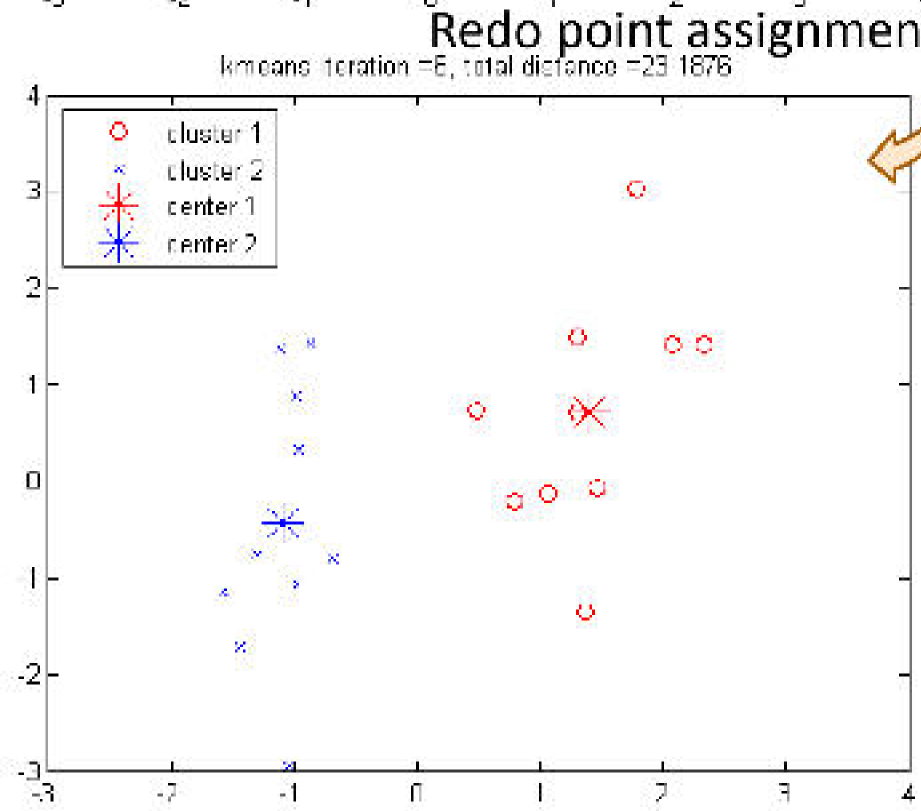
Assign points to clusters



Recompute cluster centers



Redo point assignment



Execution of the K-Means Clustering Algorithm

Select K points as initial centroids

Repeat

- Form K clusters by assigning each point to its closest centroid
- Re-compute the centroids (i.e., *mean point*) of each cluster

Until convergence criterion is satisfied

Discussion on the *K-Means* Method

- **Efficiency**: $O(tKn)$ where n: # of objects, K: # of clusters, and t: # of iterations
  - Normally, K, t << n; thus, an efficient method
- K-means clustering often ***terminates at a local optimal***
  - Initialization can be important to find high-quality clusters
- **Need to specify *K*,** the *number* of clusters, in advance
  - There are ways to automatically determine the "*best*" K
  - In practice, one often runs a range of values and selected the "*best*" K value
- **Sensitive to noisy data and *outliers***
  - Variations: Using K-medians, K-medoids, etc.
- K-means is applicable only to objects in a continuous n-dimensional space
  - Using the K-modes for ***categorical data***
- Not suitable to discover clusters with ***non-convex shapes***
  - Using density-based clustering, kernel K-means, etc.

Variations of *K-Means*

- There are many variants of the *K-Means* method, varying in different aspects
  - Choosing better initial centroid estimates
    - *K-means++, Intelligent K-Means, Genetic K-Means*

      To be discussed in this lecture
  - Choosing different representative prototypes for the clusters
    - *K-Medoids, K-Medians, K-Modes*

      To be discussed in this lecture
  - Applying feature transformation techniques
    - *Weighted K-Means, Kernel K-Means*

      To be discussed in this lecture