

Partitioning Algorithms: Basic Concepts

- Partitioning method: Discovering the groupings in the data by optimizing a specific objective function and iteratively improving the quality of partitions
- - 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.

Tocal maximum.