



浙江大学爱丁堡大学联合学院

**ZJU-UoE Institute**

# Clustering and Machine Learning

ADS2, Lecture 2.13

Dr Rob Young – [robert.young@ed.ac.uk](mailto:robert.young@ed.ac.uk)

Semester 2, 2023/24

# This lecture is about...

- How to teach a computer to cluster data (“unsupervised machine learning”) **and**
- How to teach a computer to classify data (“supervised machine learning”)

# Learning objectives

After this lecture, you should be able to:

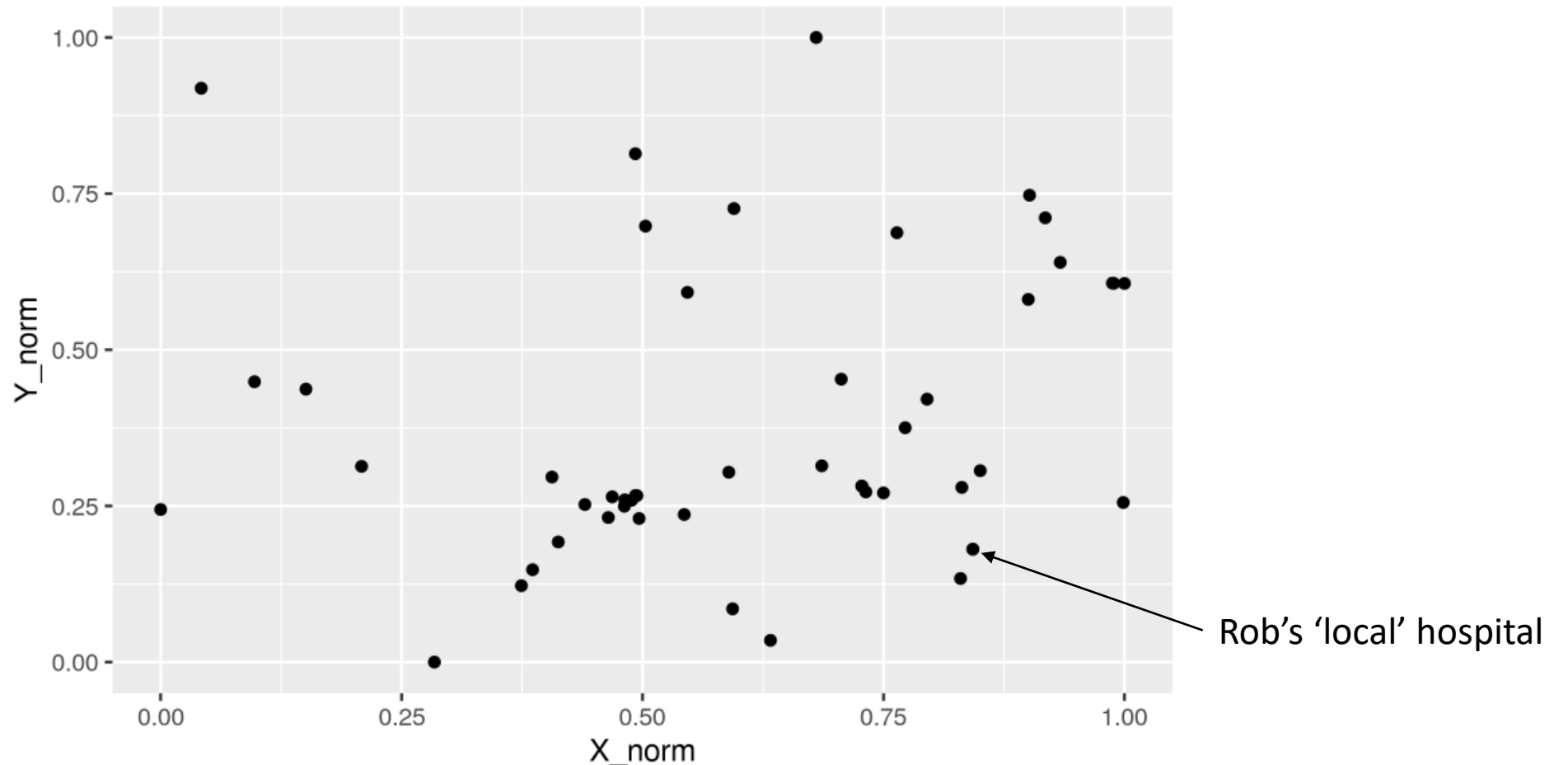
- Explain how clustering works (k-means, hierarchical clustering)
- Discuss the choices that need to be made when tackling a clustering problem
- Explain how supervised machine learning works (classification)
- How to simply evaluate a classification method

# Outline

1. What is clustering?
2. k-means clustering
3. Hierarchical clustering
4. Machine learning

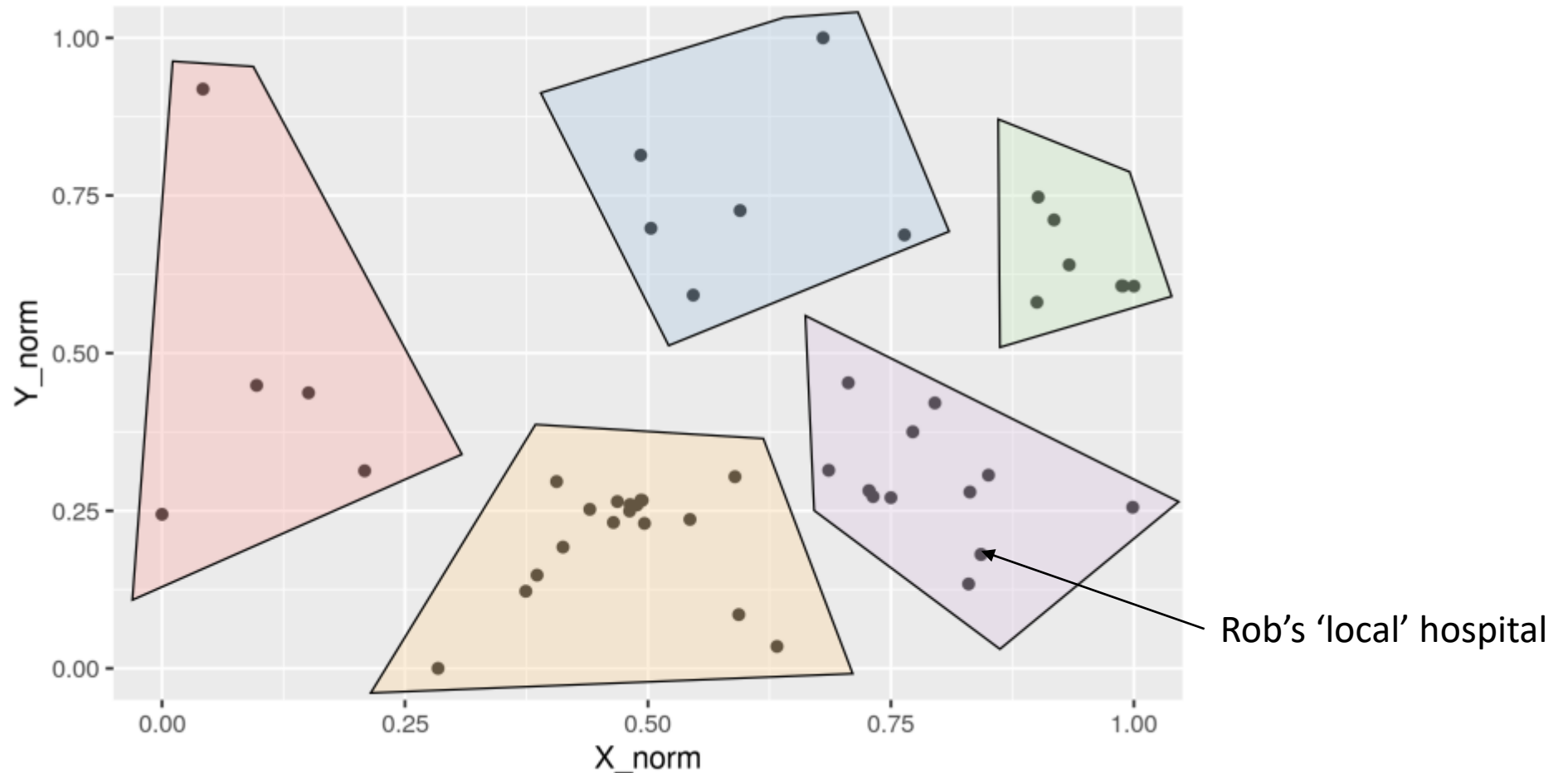
# Managing Scottish Hospitals

Each dot on this map is one of a group of 50 hospitals in Scotland. The National Health Service wants to divide these 50 hospitals into regional groups to facilitate management. How would you divide them?



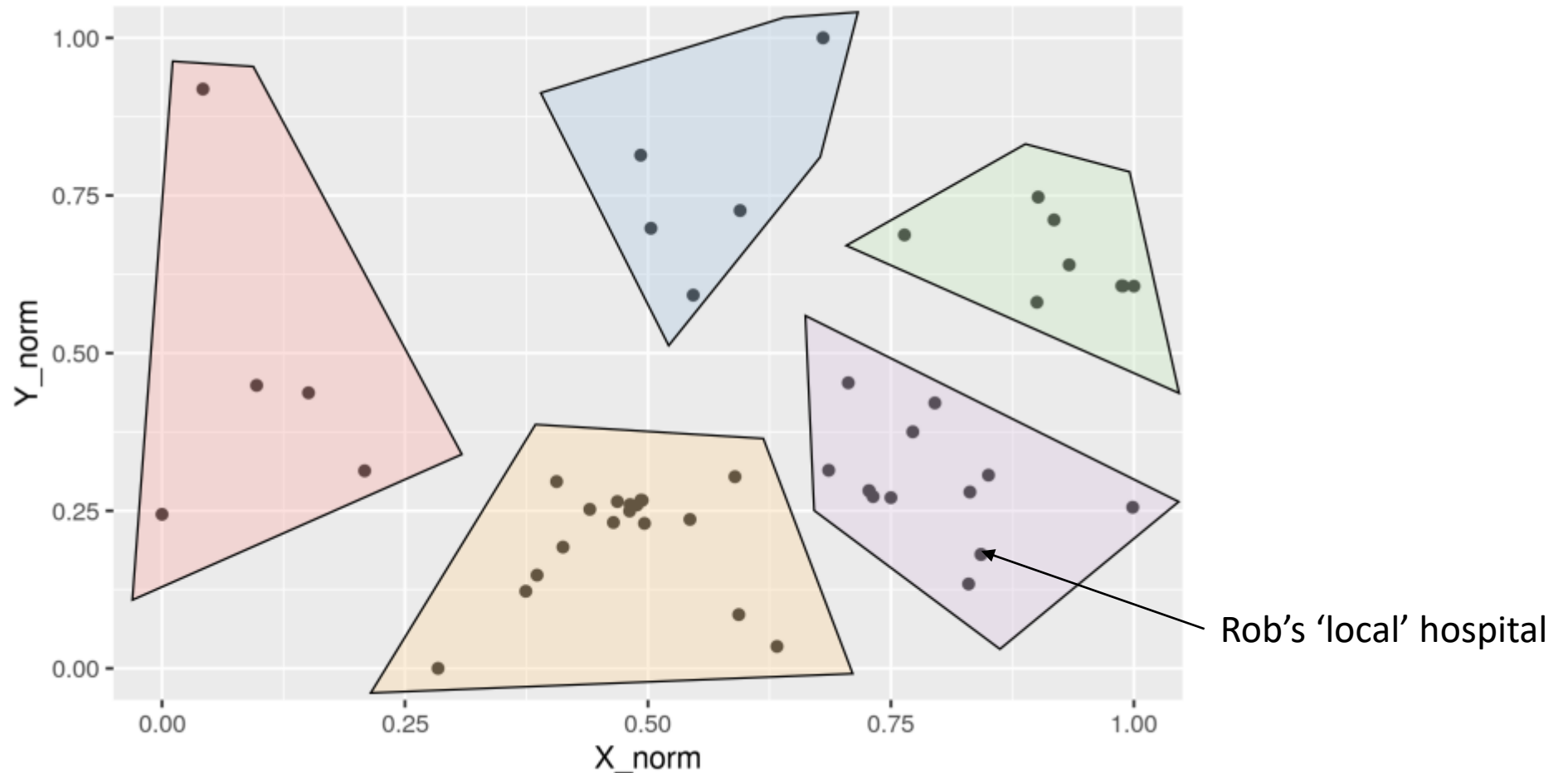
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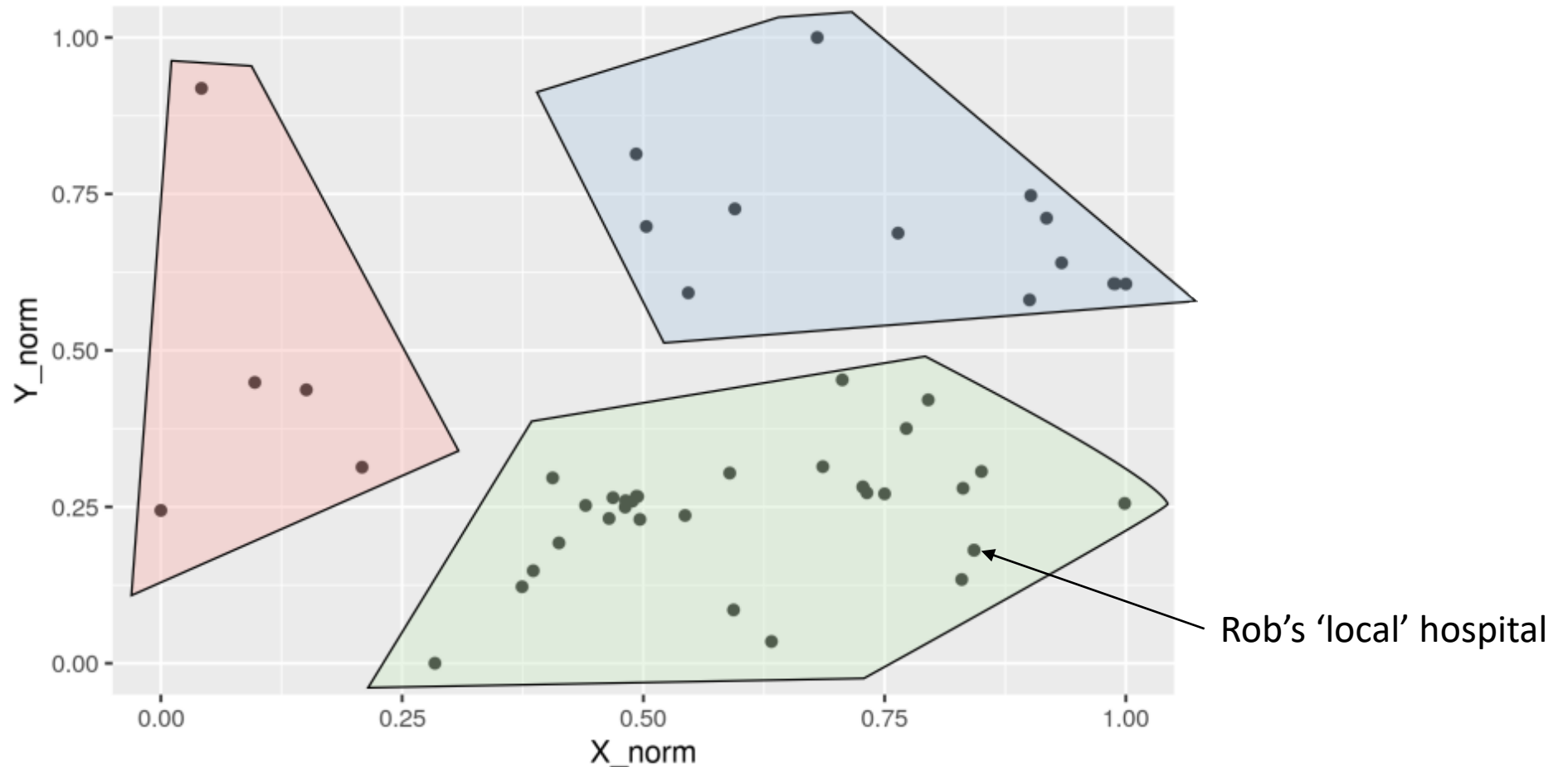
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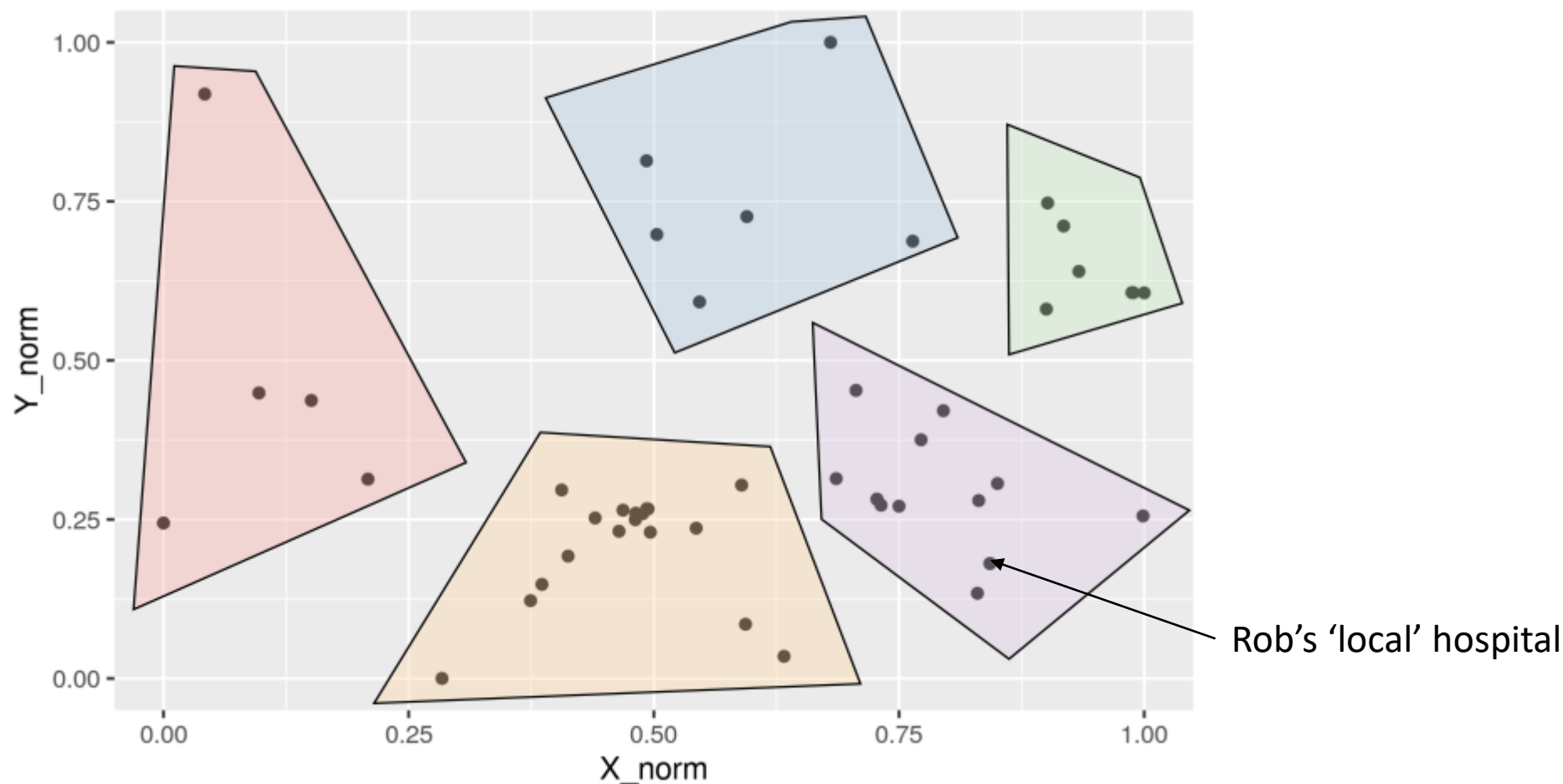
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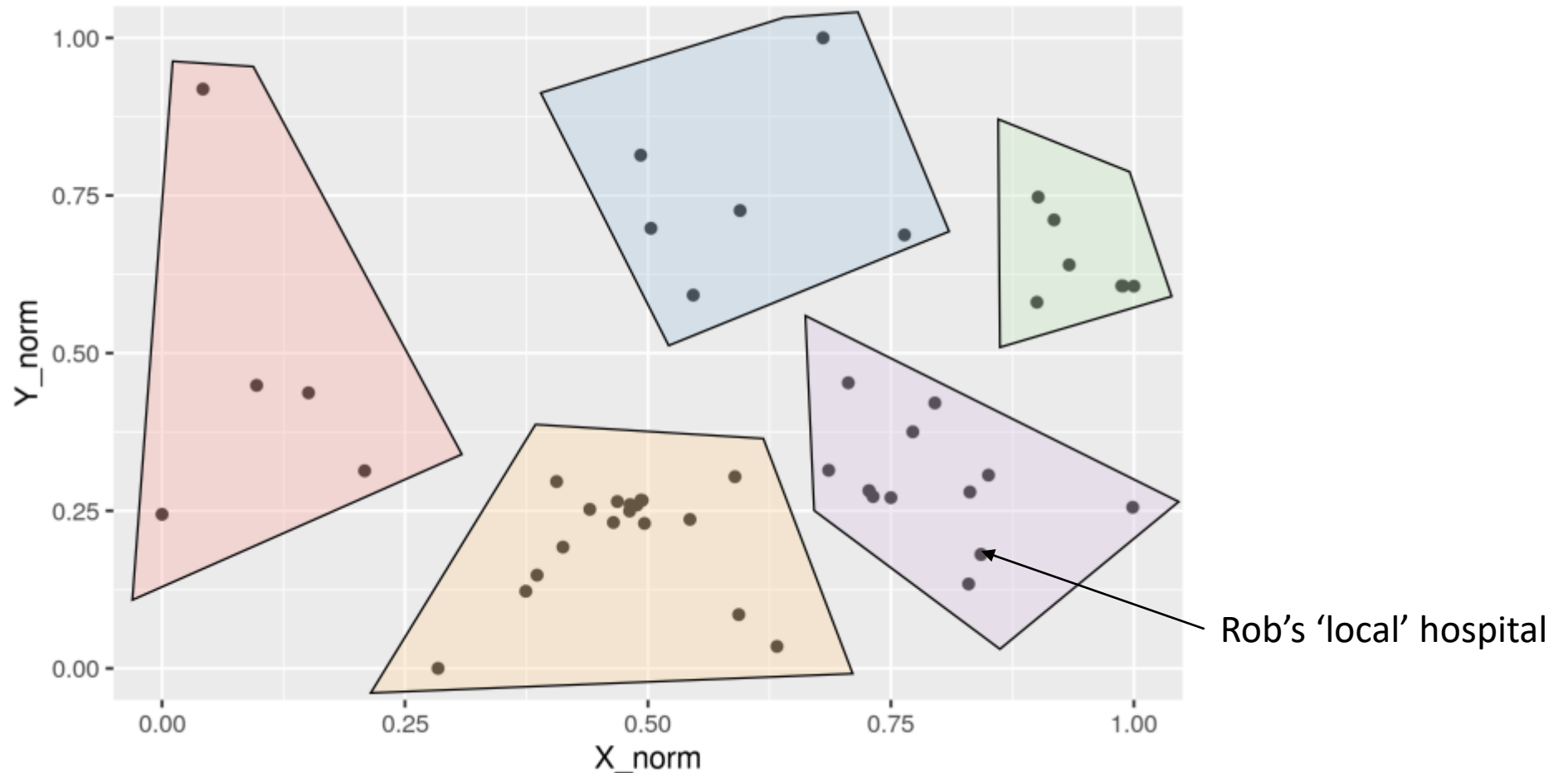
# What exactly did you do?

What exactly happens when we cluster data? How would you explain it to a computer?



# What happens when we cluster data?

We want data points within the same cluster to be 'close together', and we want them to be 'further away' and separate from other clusters.



# What happens when we cluster data?

This requires an idea of 'distance'.

Here we use geographical coordinates (normalised) and Euclidian distance in two dimensions. But we could use any number of dimensions, any measure and any (reasonable) metric of distance.

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- Distance along roads/driving time (hospitals)
- (Differences in) height, weight, blood pressure, temperature (patients)
- Number of base substitutions (DNA sequences)
- ...

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- ...
- *Pay attention to scaling!*

# Outline

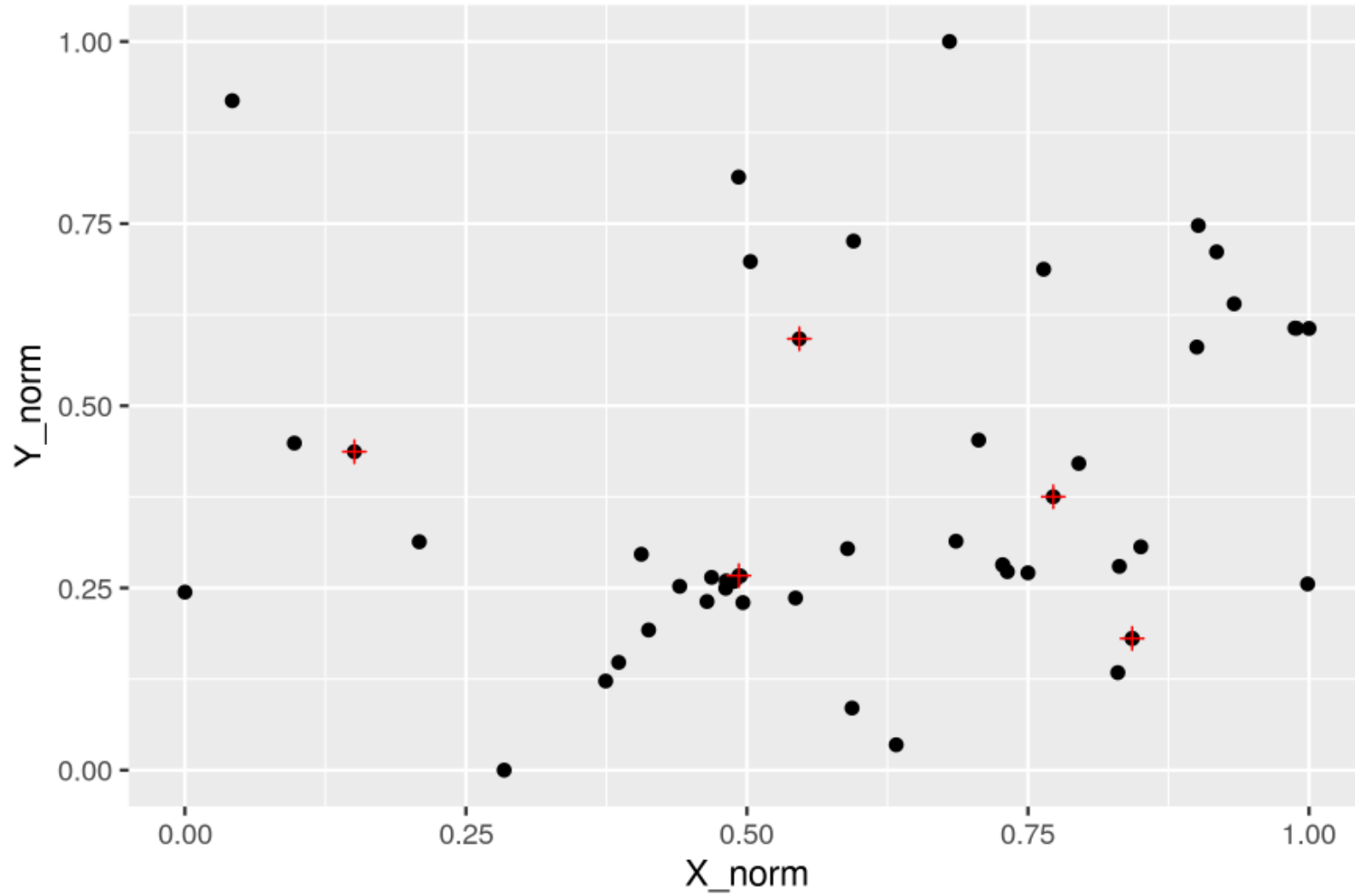
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# k-means clustering

This idea behind this is that you:

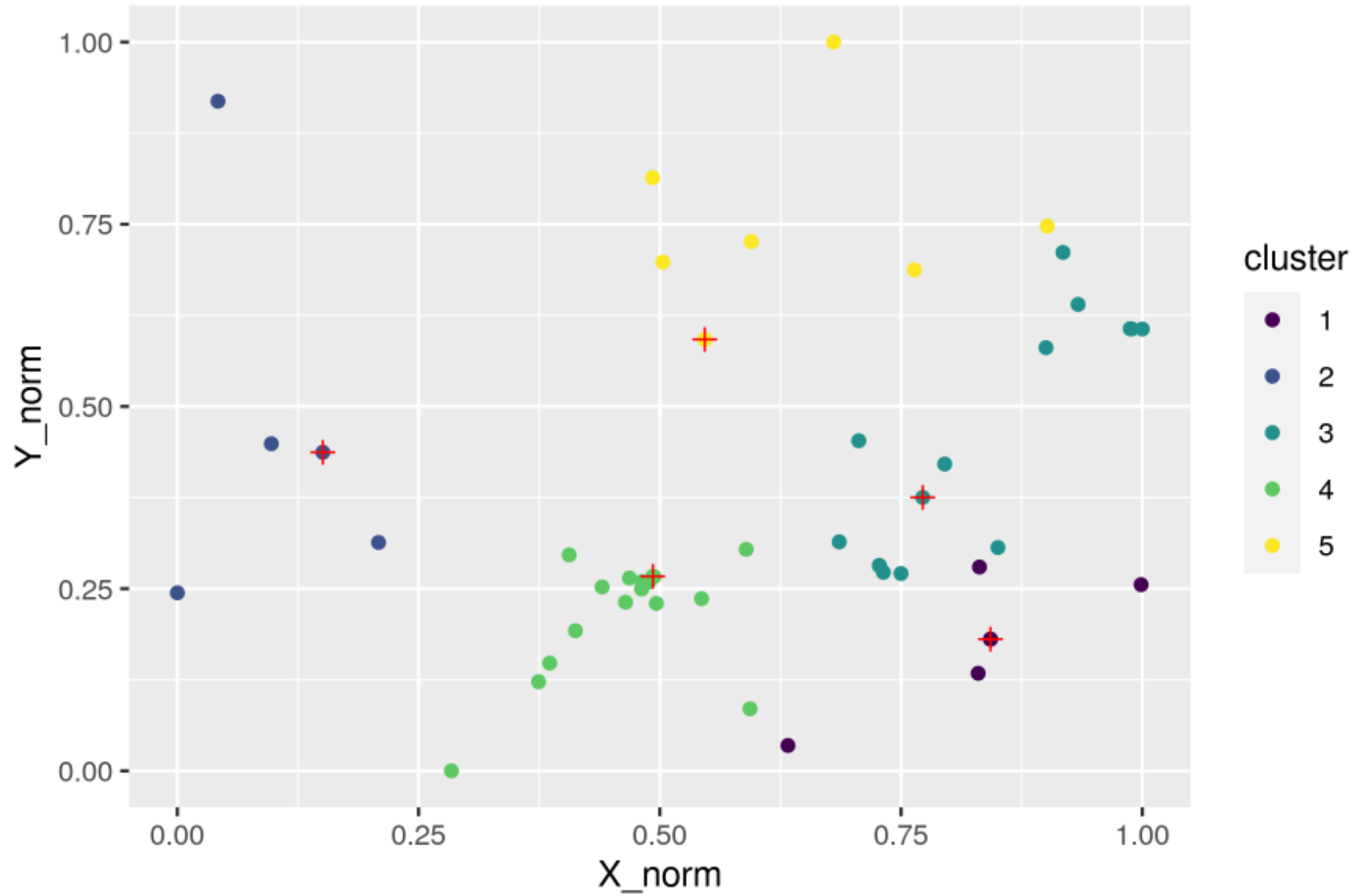
- Decide beforehand on the number of clusters you want ( $k$ )
- Select  $k$  data points at random, and make them the  $k$  cluster centres
- Assign each data point to the nearest cluster
- Re-compute the centre of each cluster
- Re-assign data points to the nearest cluster
- Repeat until this converges to stable clusters

# k-means clustering

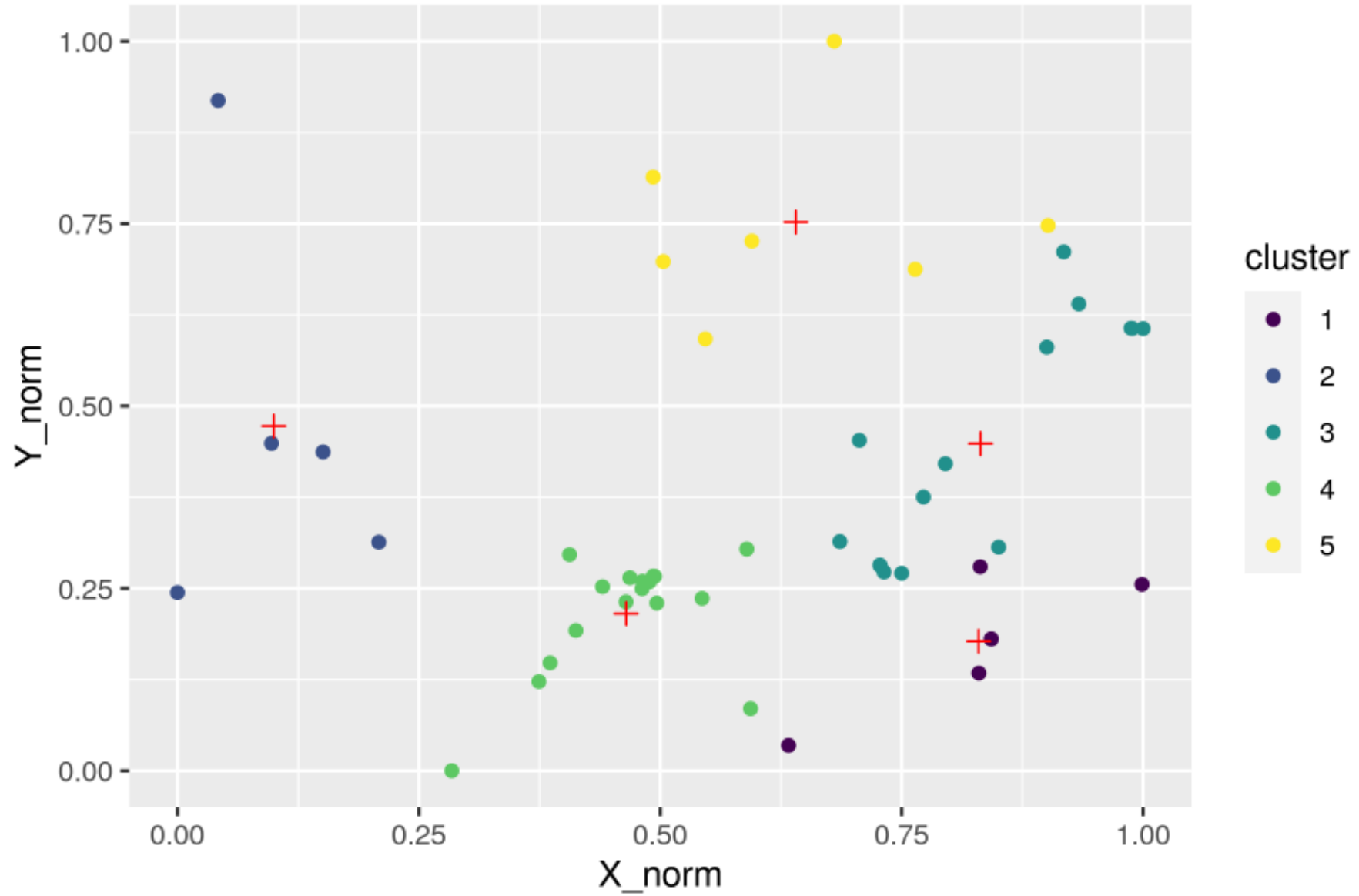




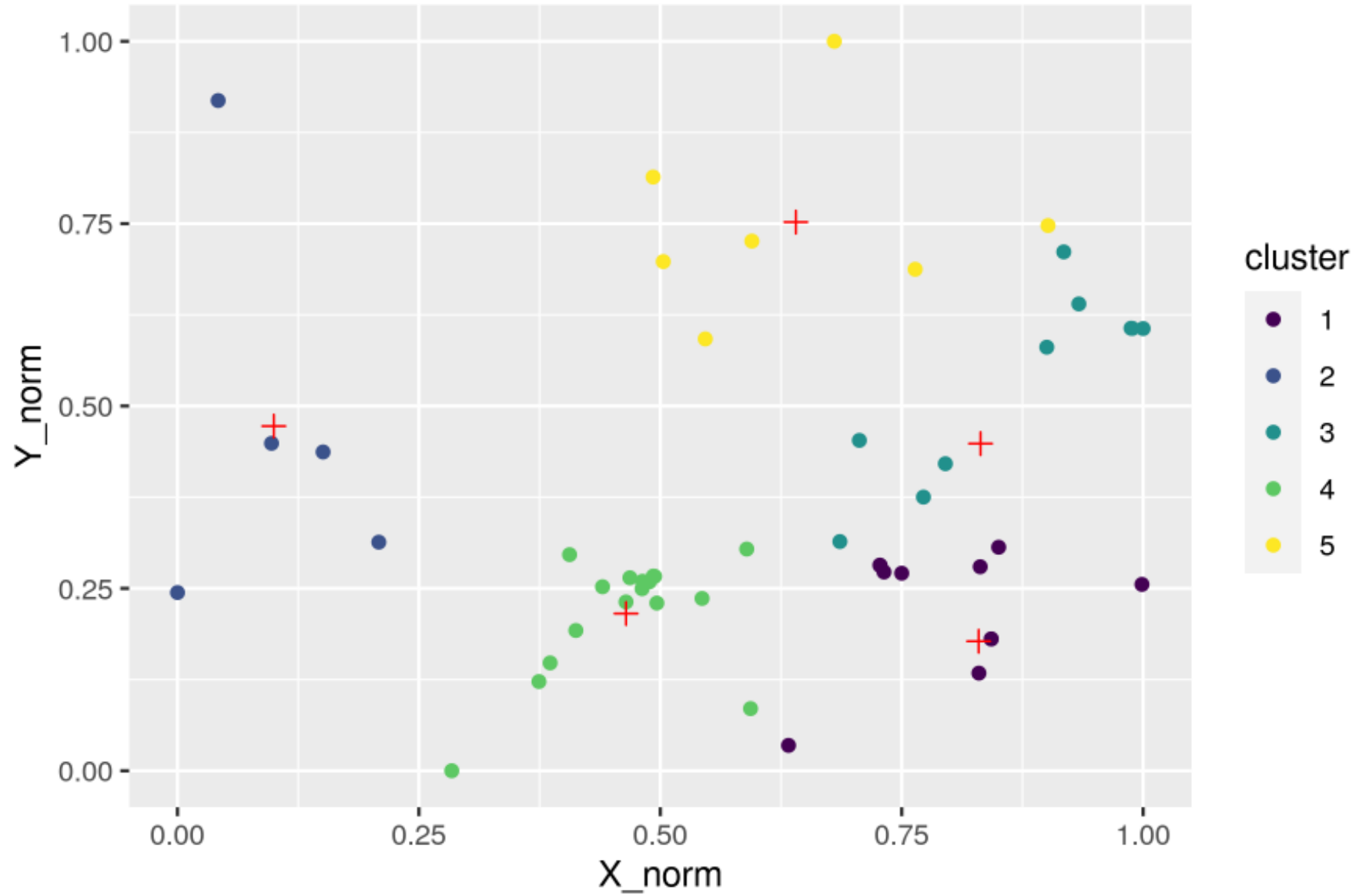
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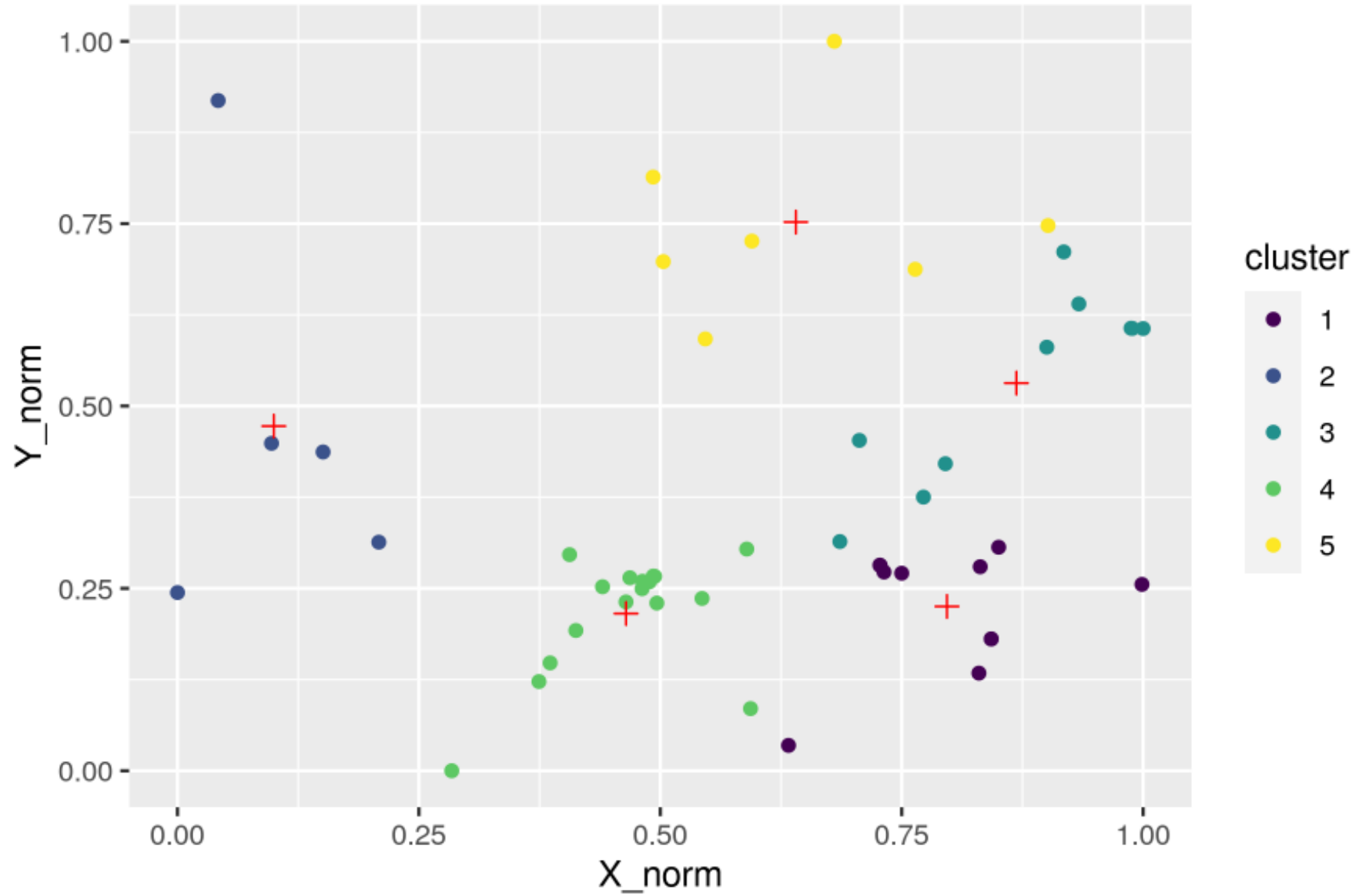
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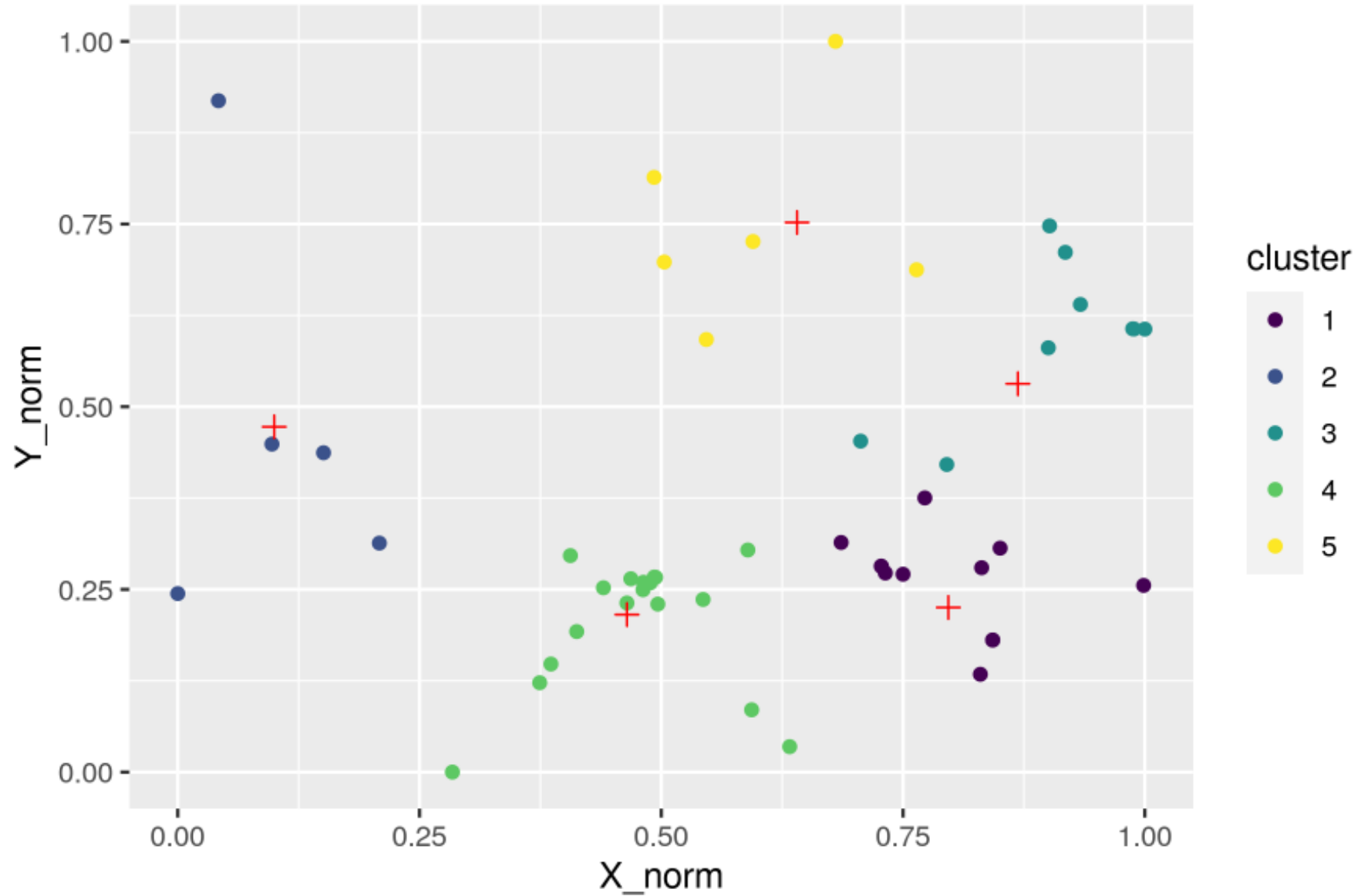
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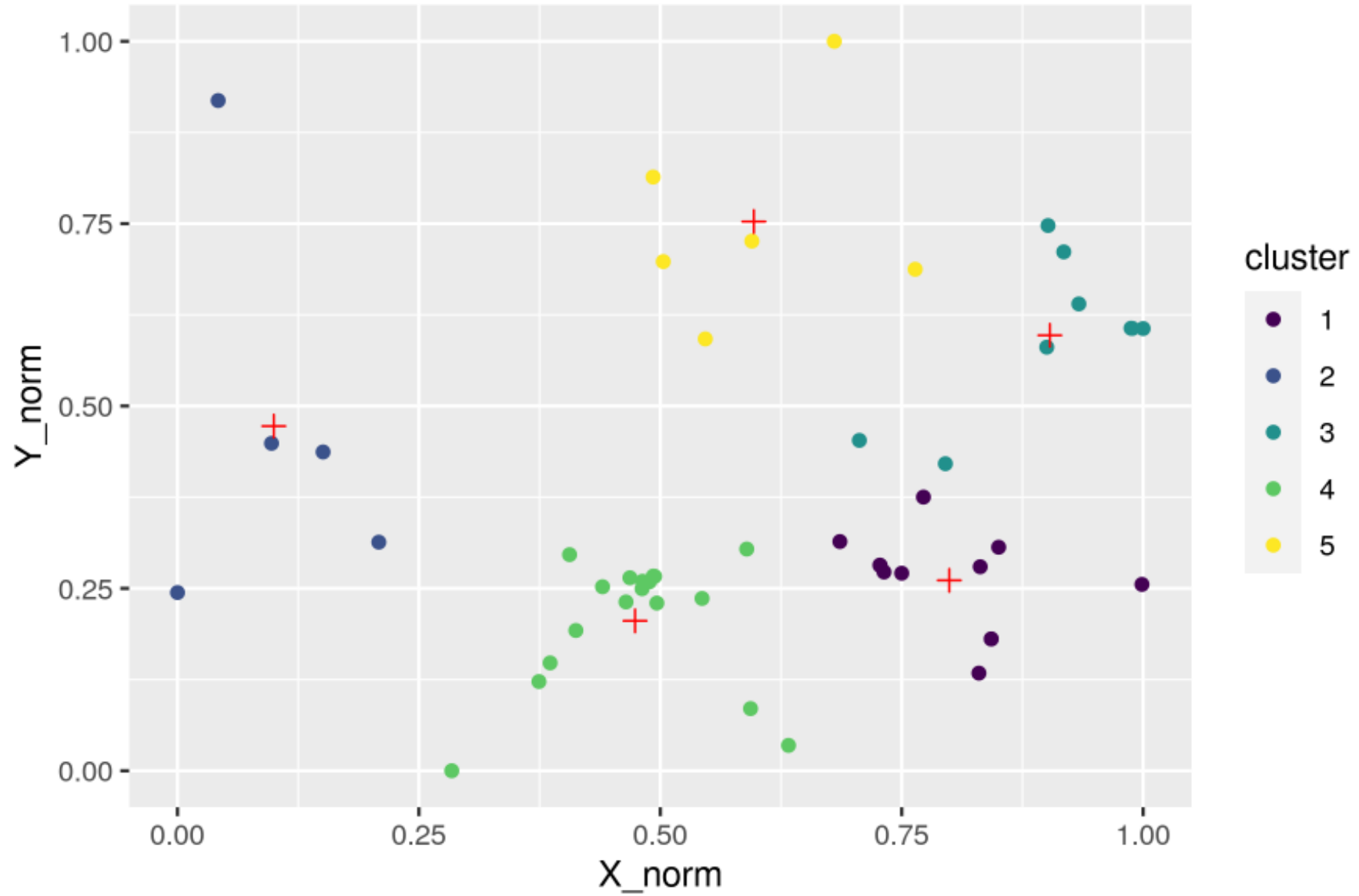
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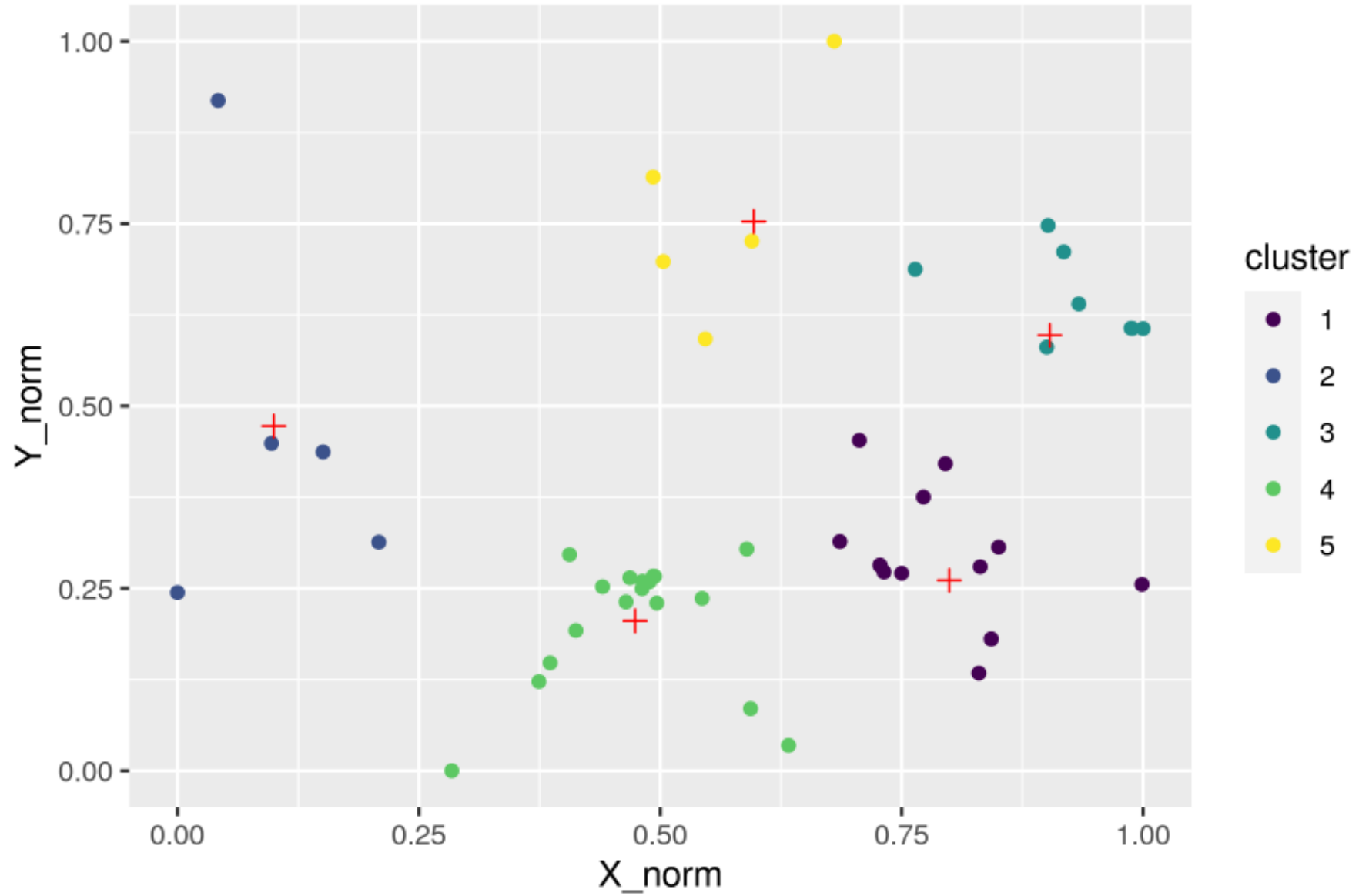
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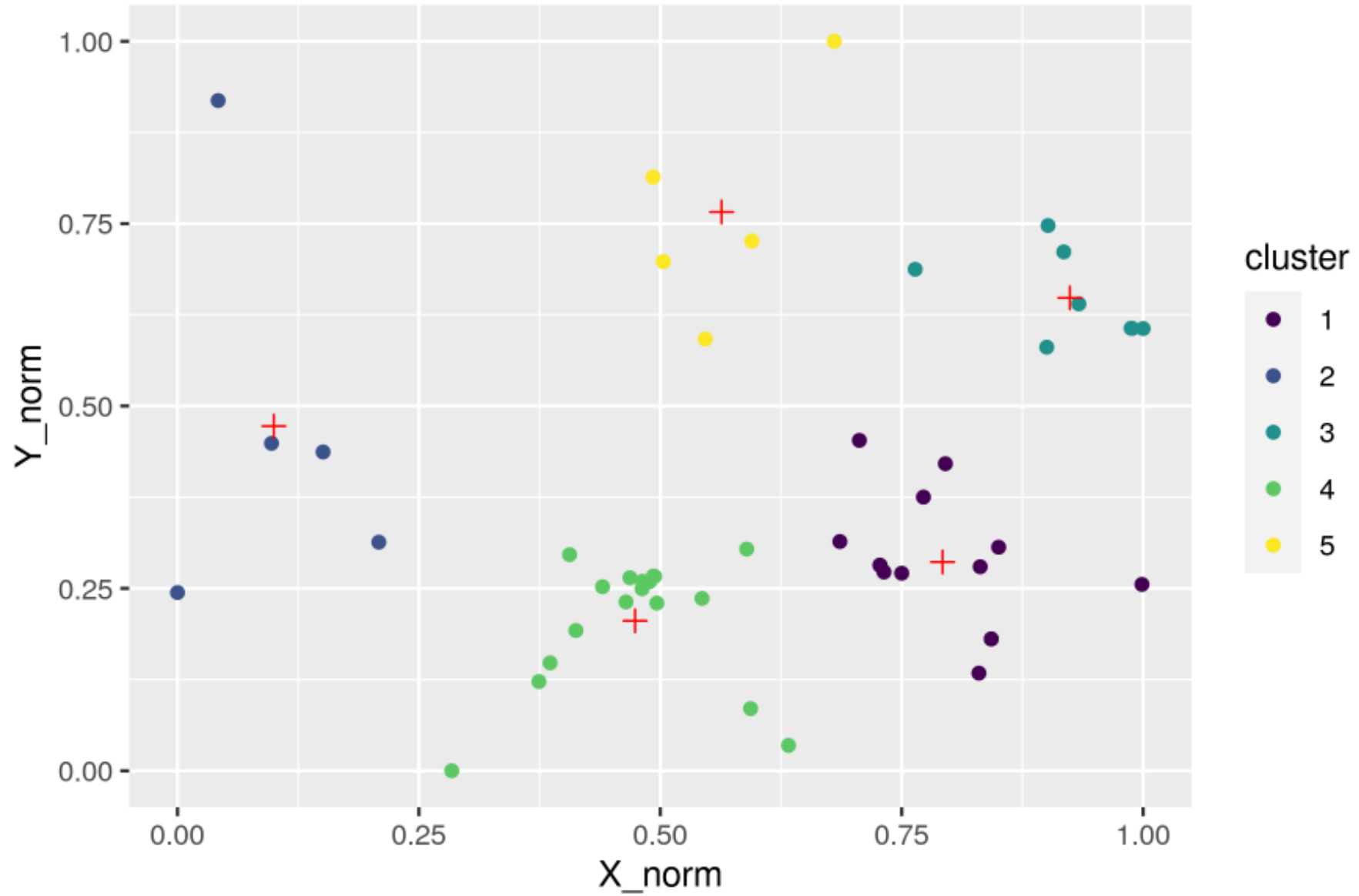
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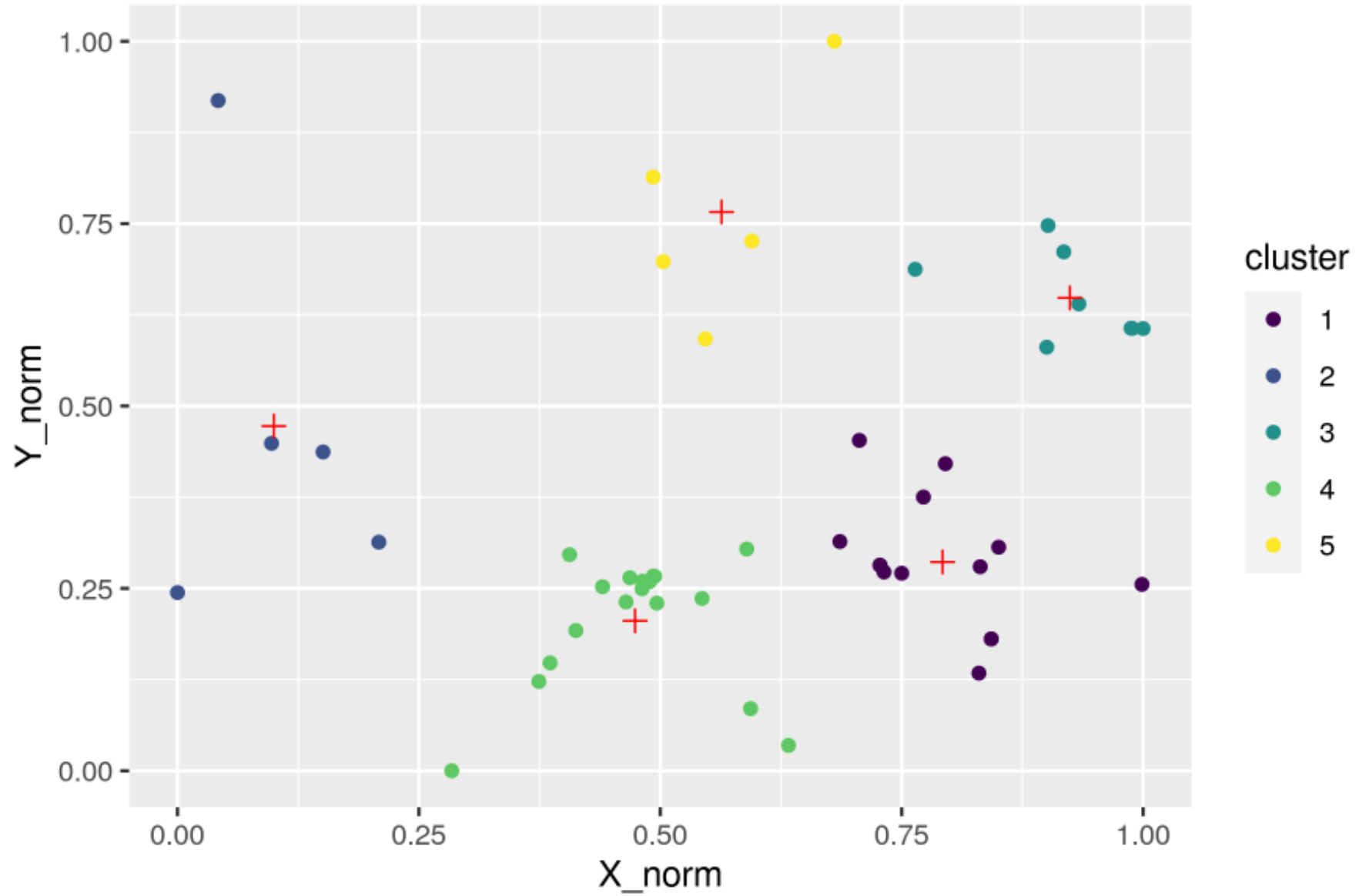


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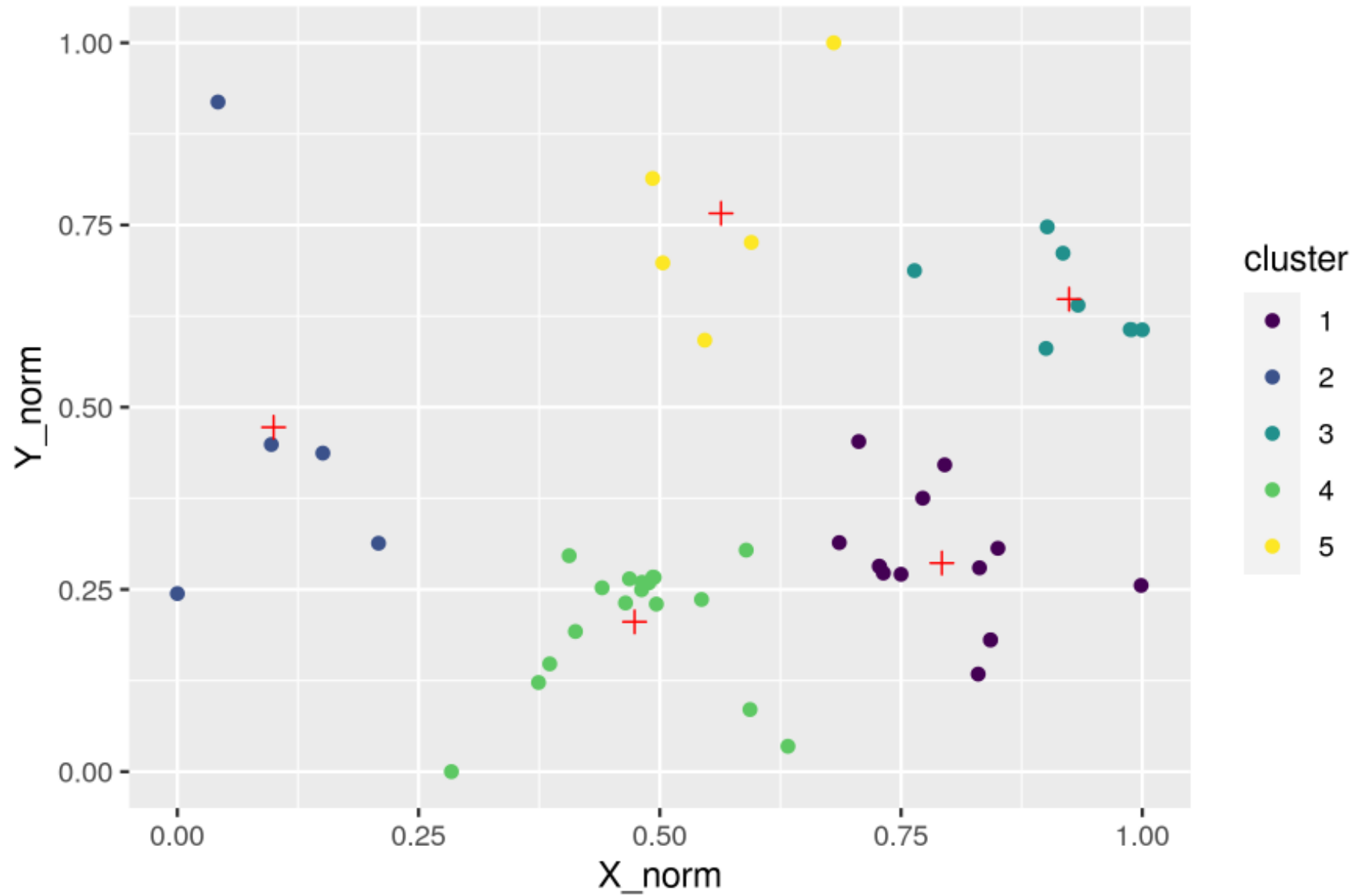




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What questions do you have? (Or what problems may there be?)

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- Will this always converge?
- Doesn't it depend on what points are initially chosen?
- How do I know what  $k$  I want?

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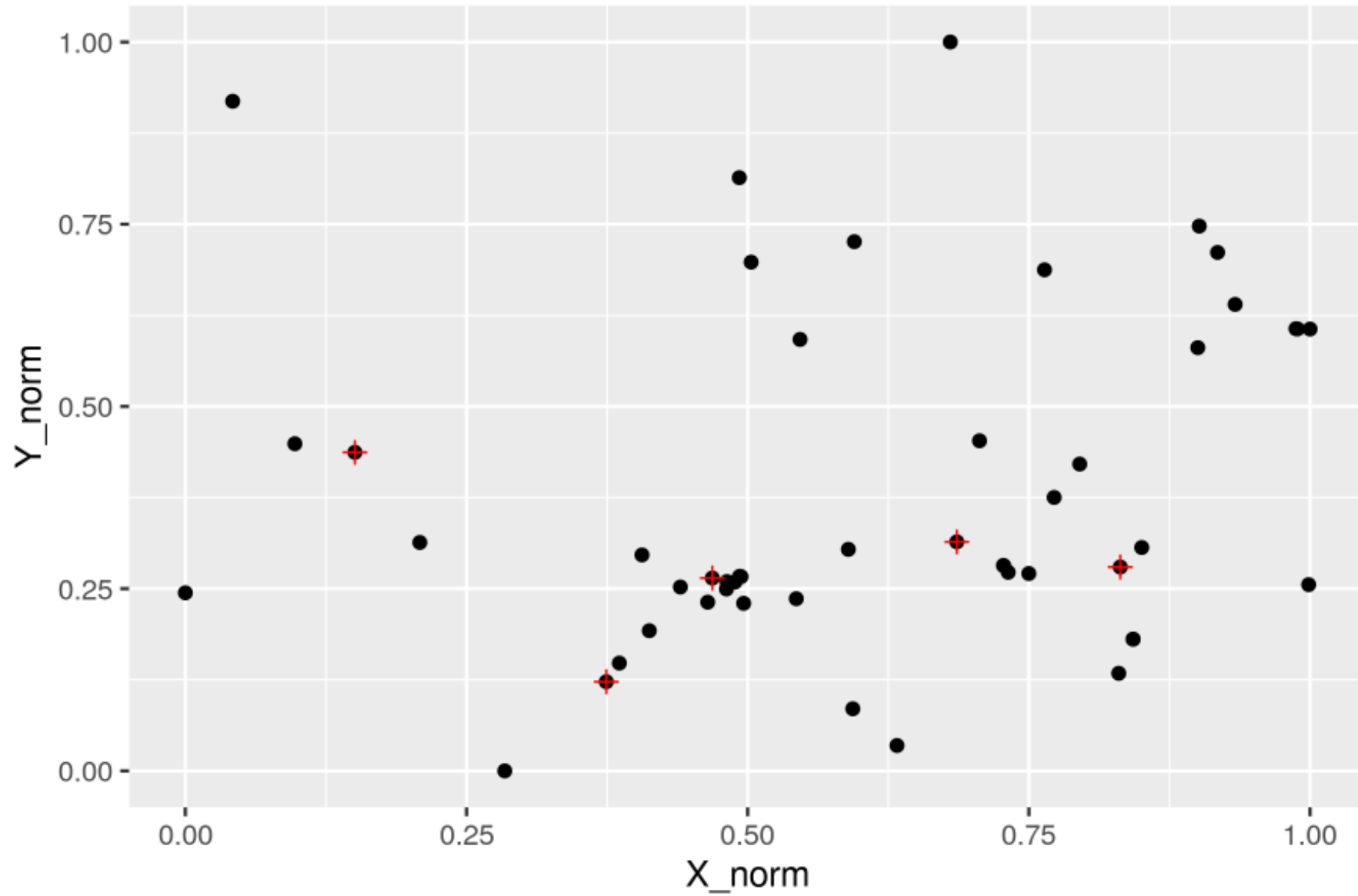
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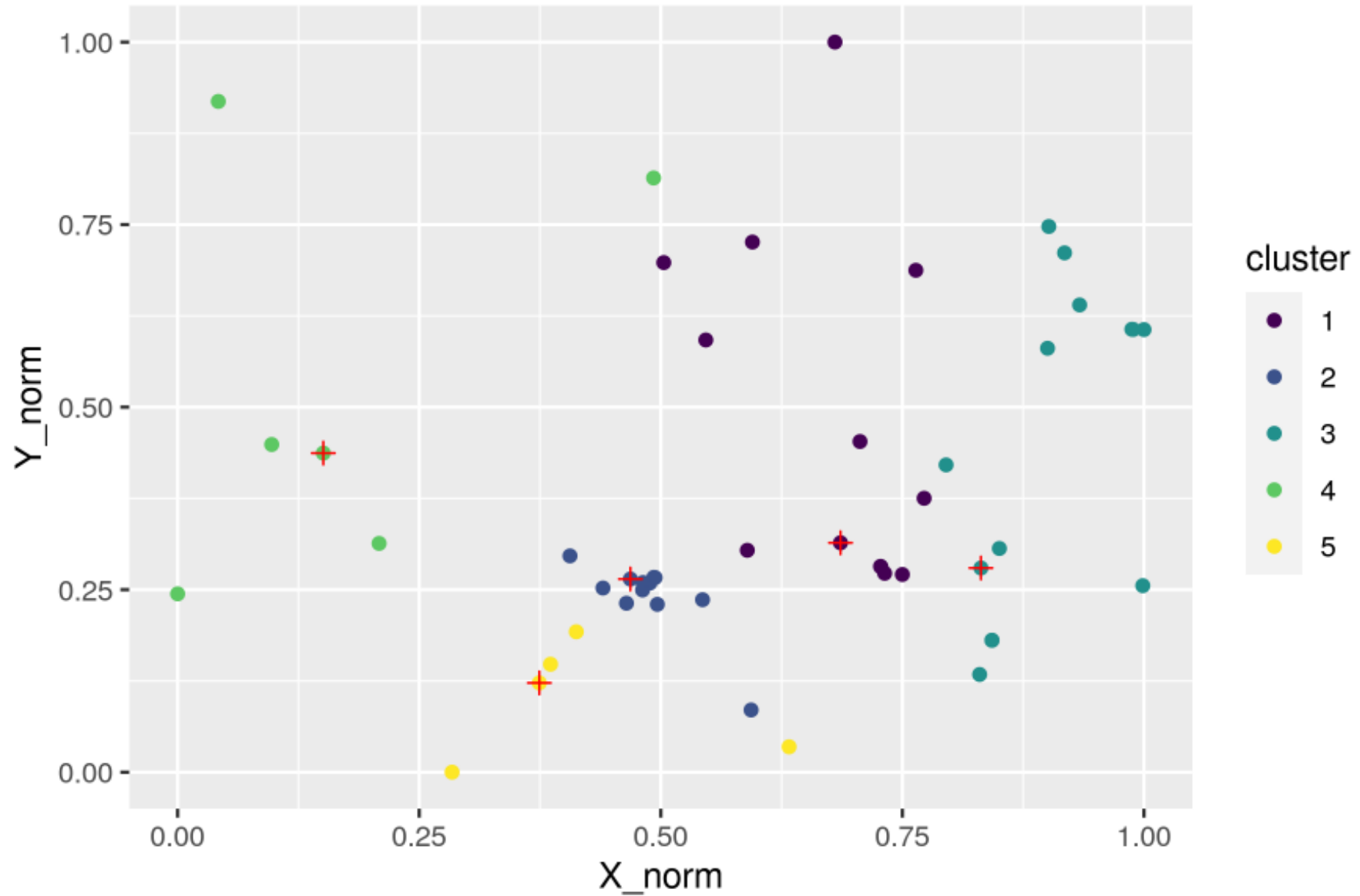
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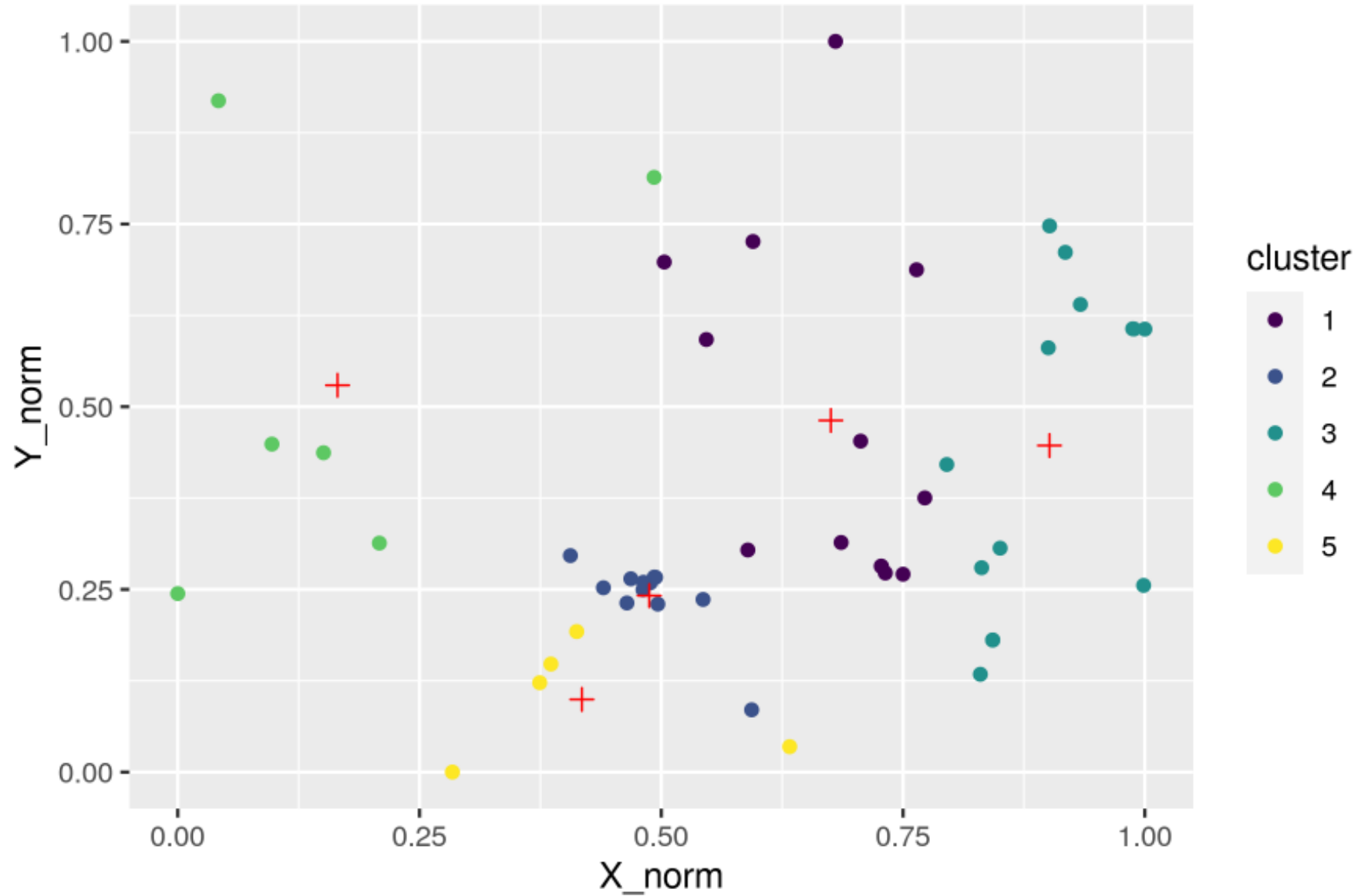




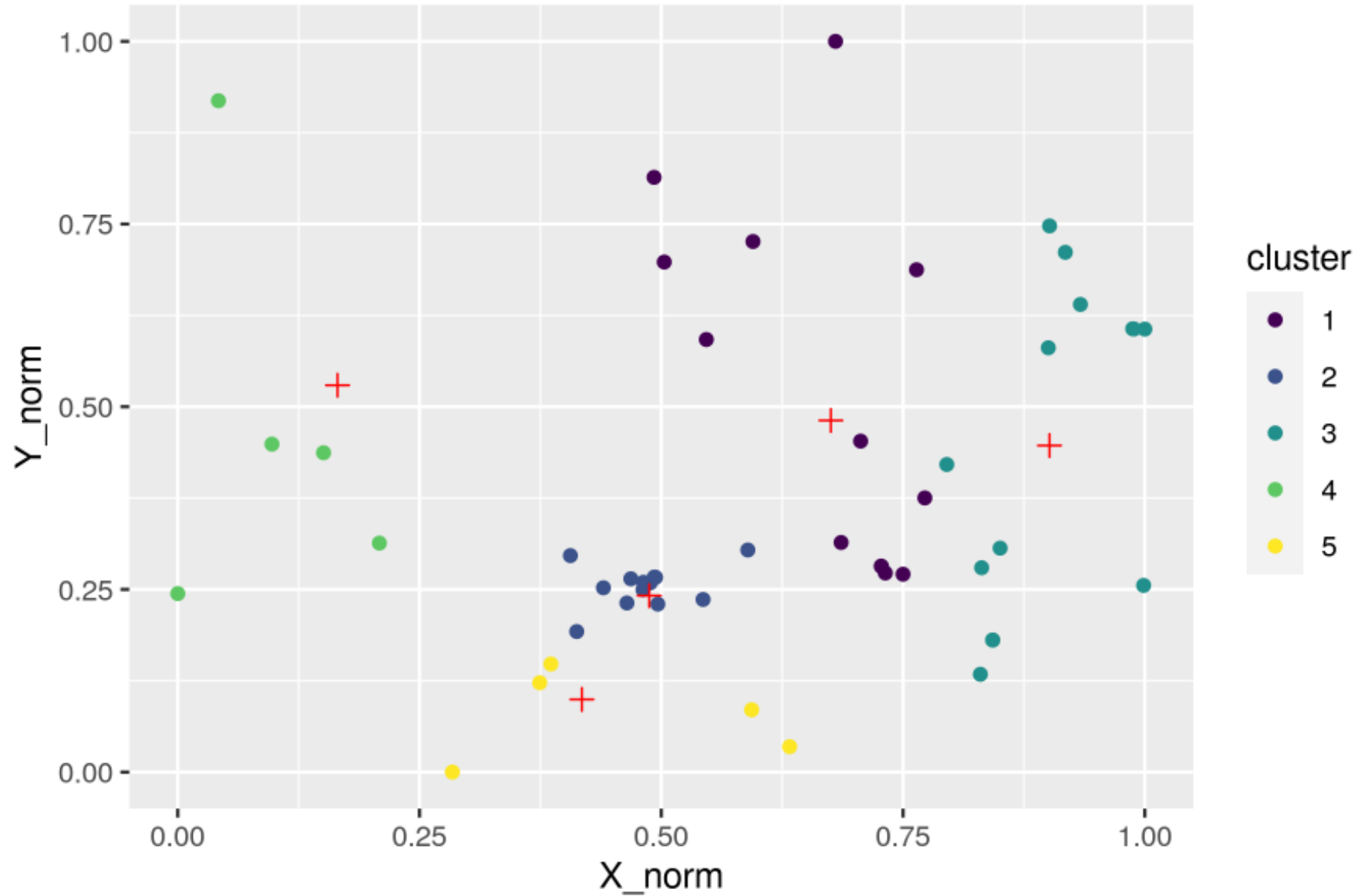
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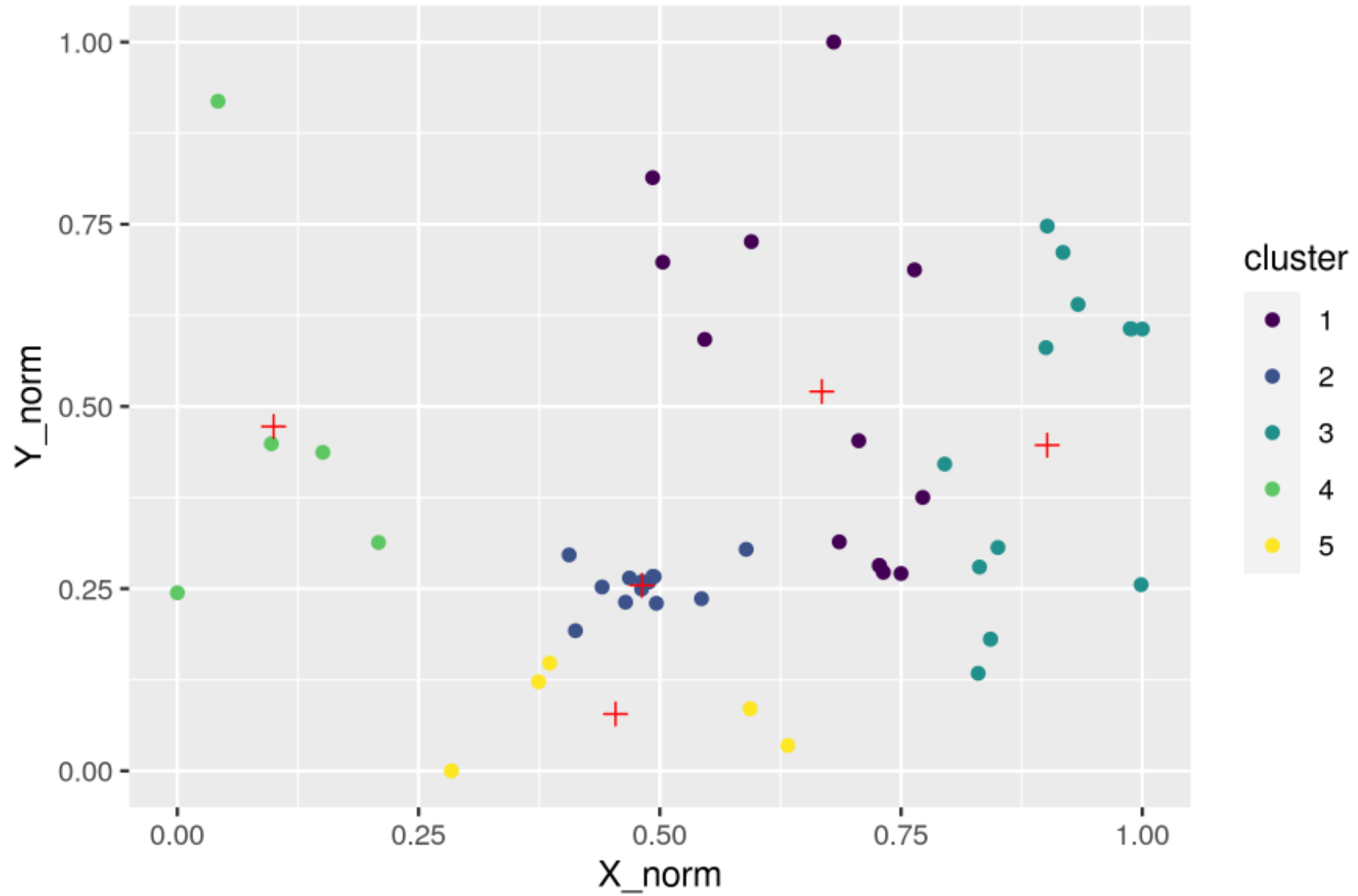
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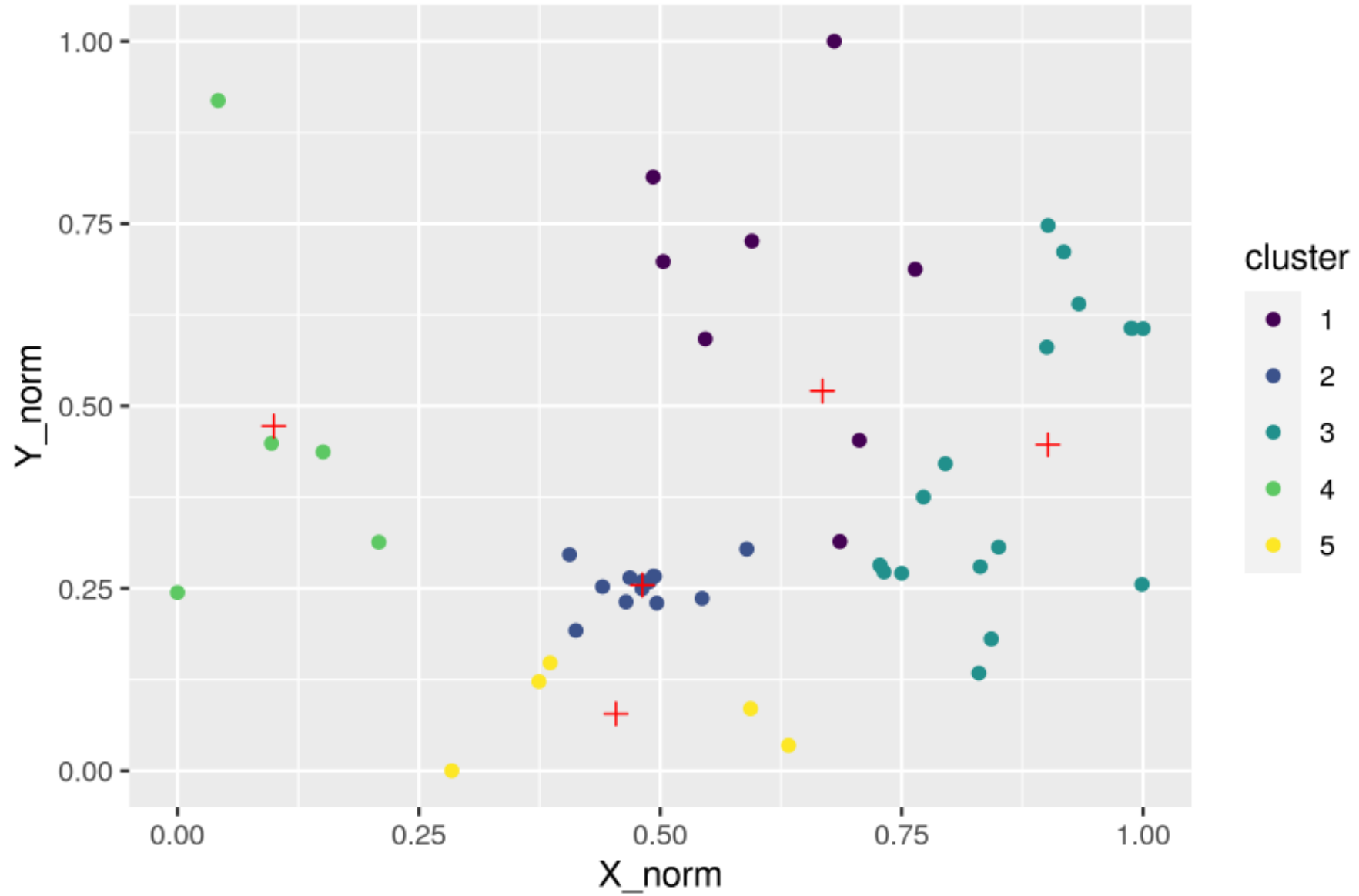
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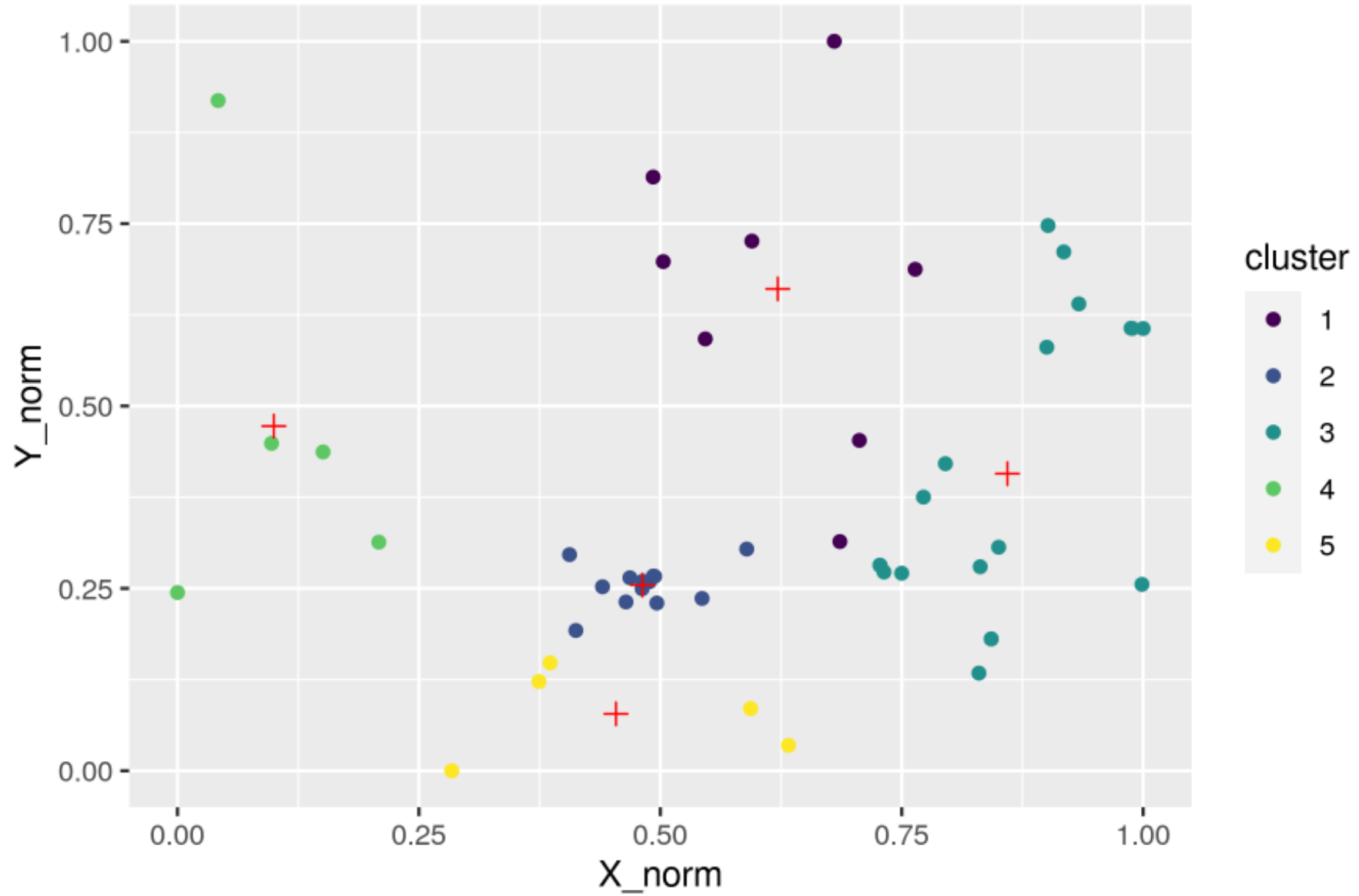
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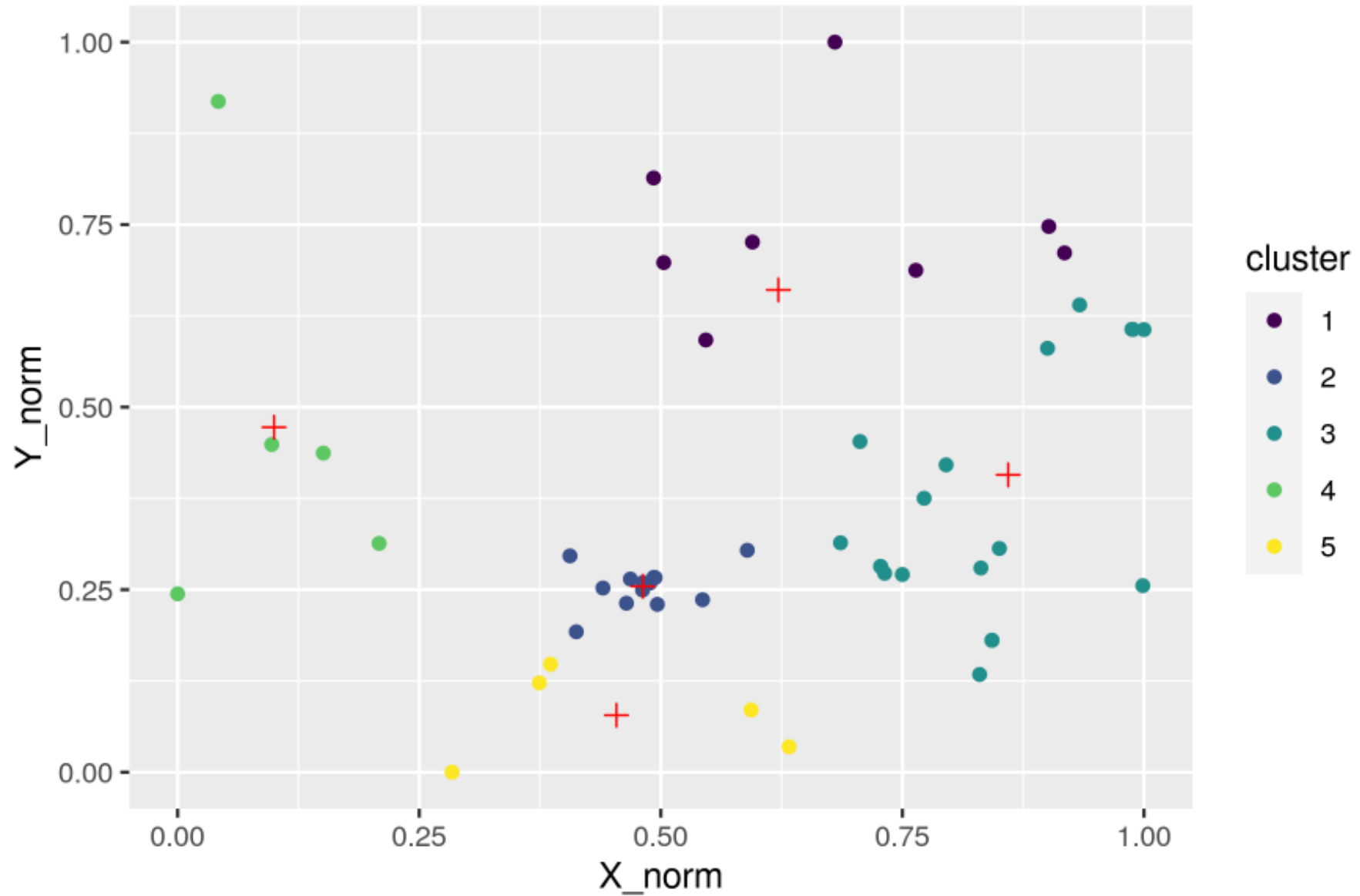
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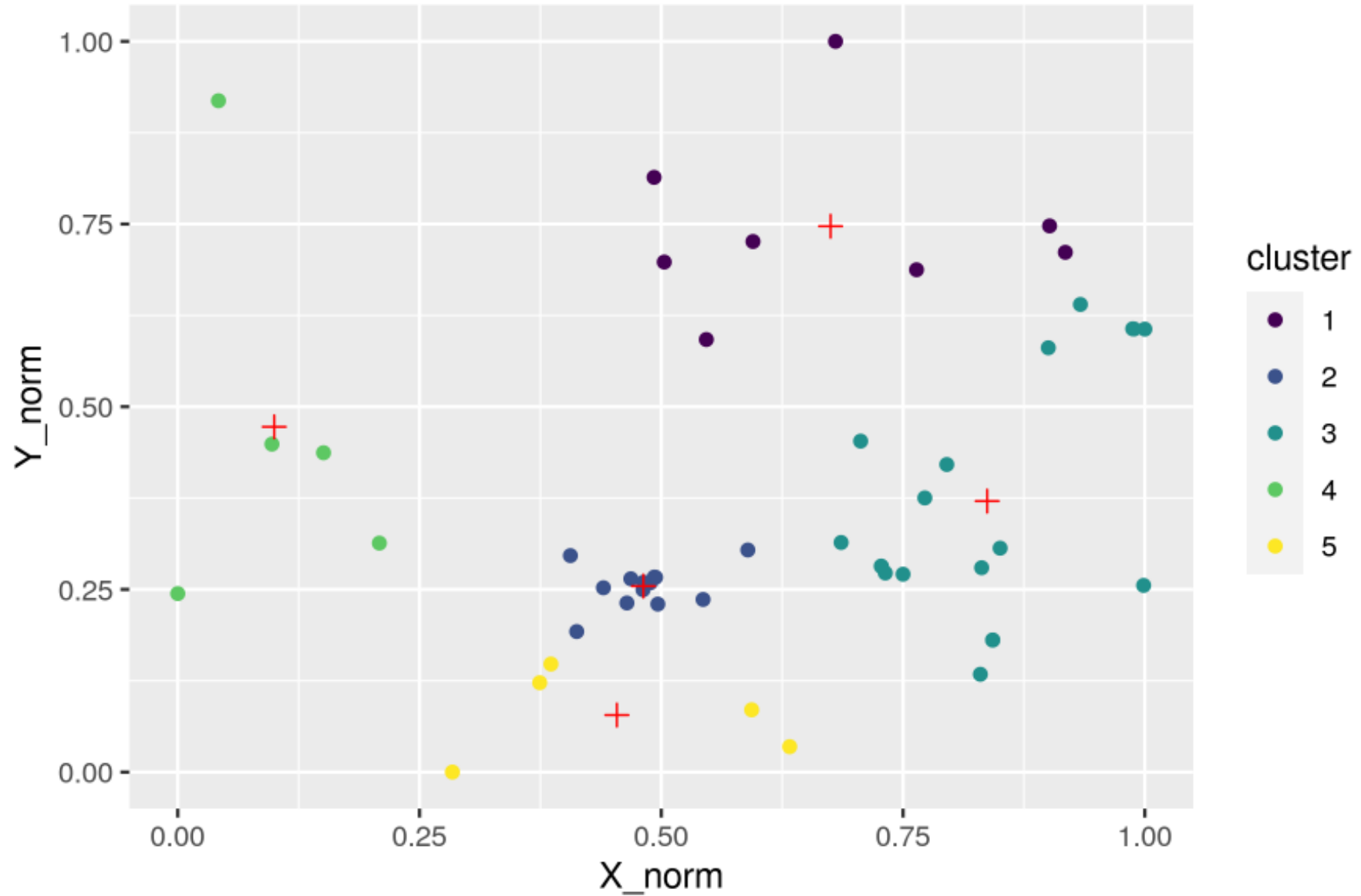
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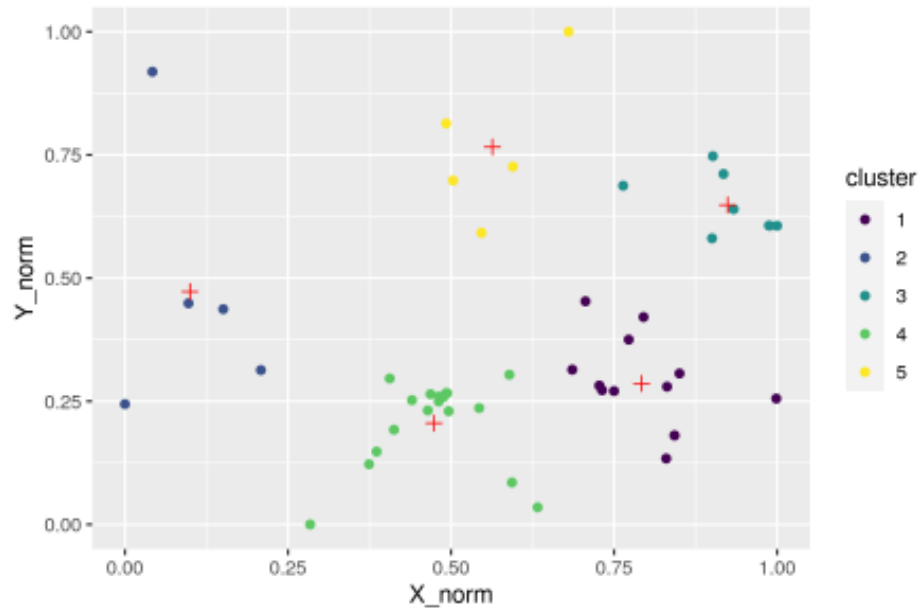
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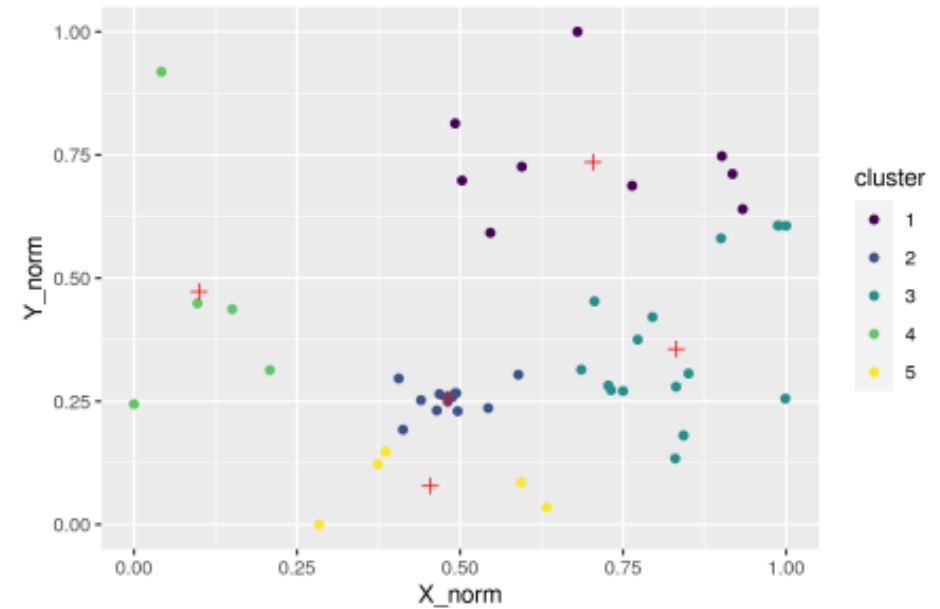


# k-means clustering

## Outcome depends on initial conditions



previous initial centers



new initial centers

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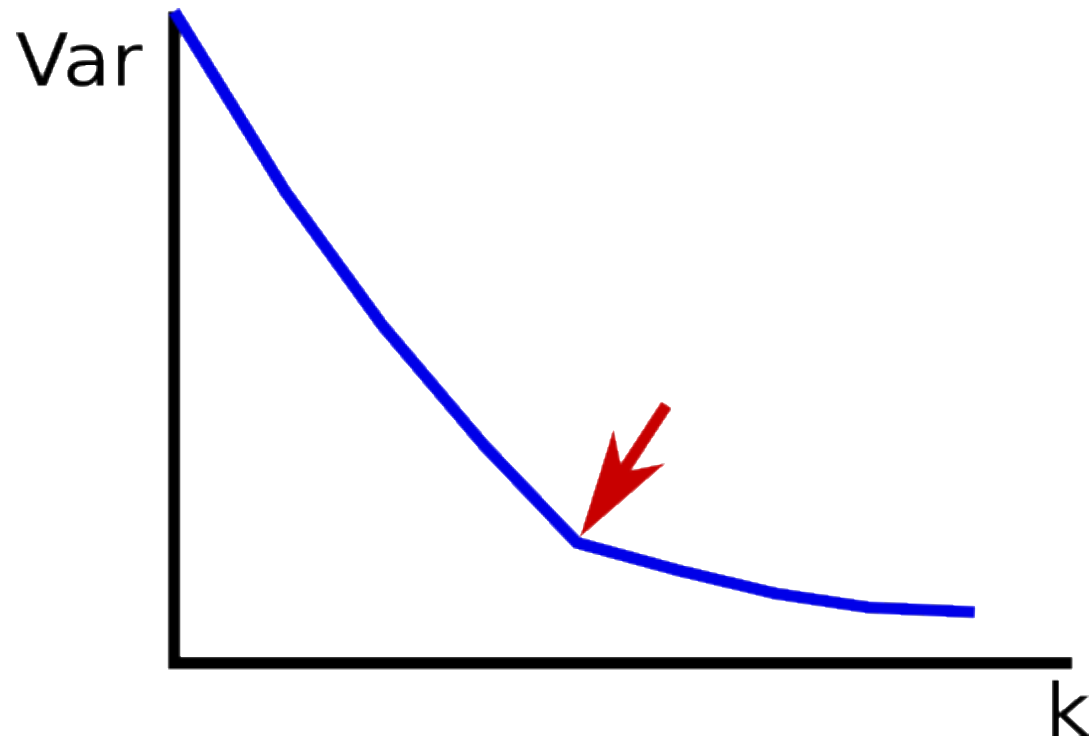
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Can we just minimise within-cluster variance to see what  $k$  is best?

No! Then you would always just end up with  $n$  clusters. But what you can do is look at the  $k$  that yield the biggest improvement ('elbow plot').



# k-means clustering

But what if I really, really don't want to choose a  $k$ ?



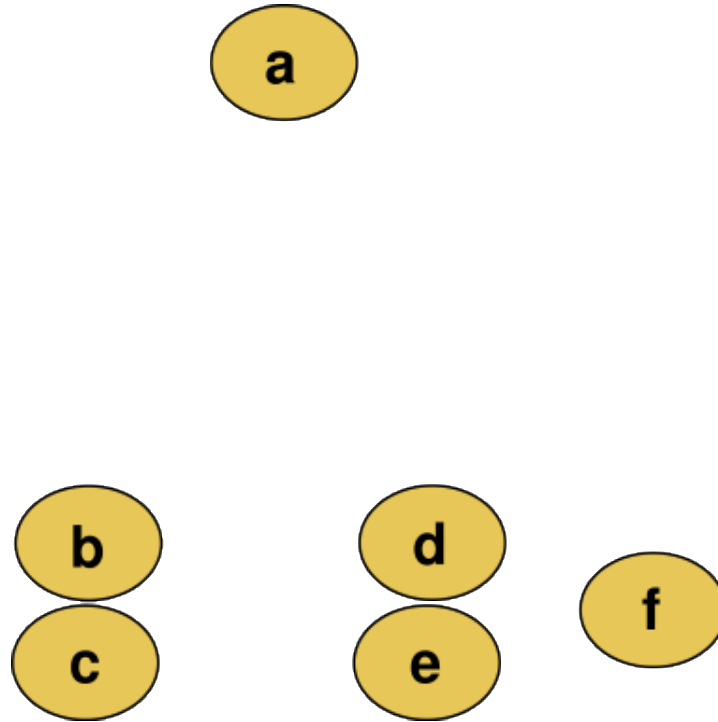
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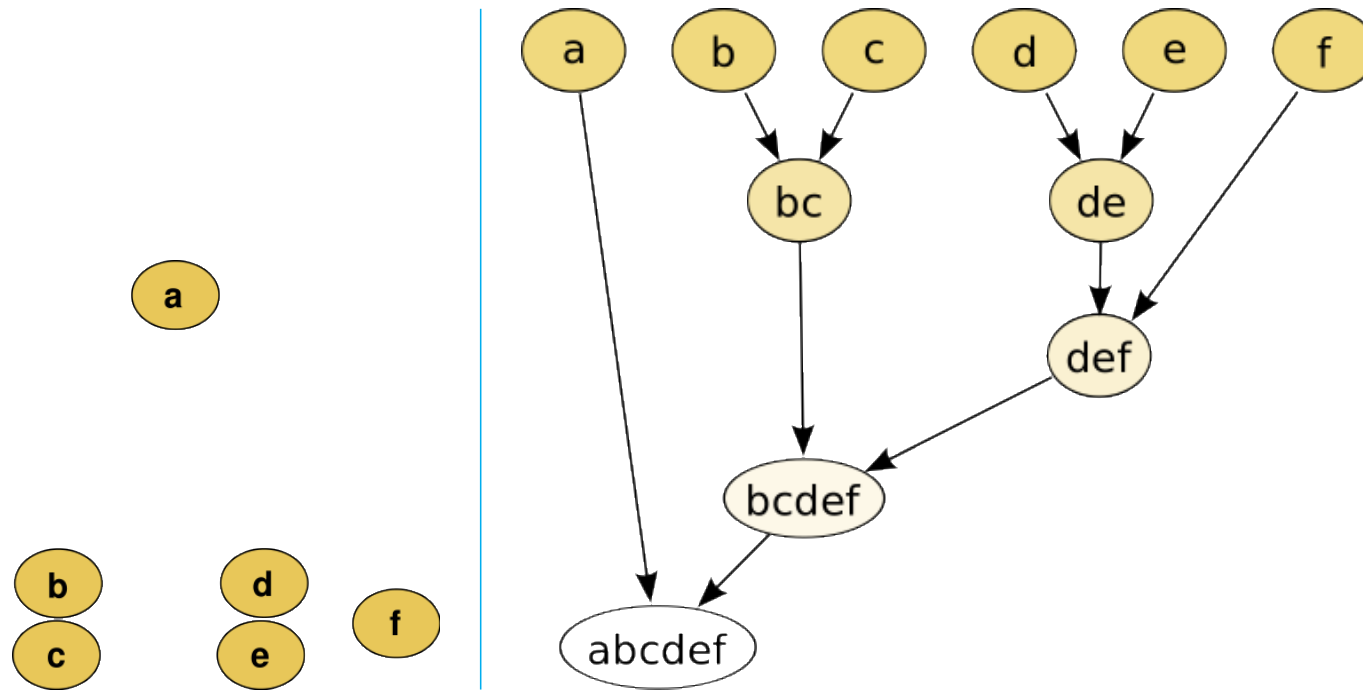
# Hierarchical clustering

- Basic idea:
- No prior ideas about cluster sizes – we will just to *every* cluster size!
- Start by putting every individual data point in its own cluster
- **Group the two closest clusters** together in a common cluster
- Repeat until you have only one big cluster

# Hierarchical clustering



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- How do we define 'closest together'?
- Does this outcome depend on initial choices, like for k-means?
- Why are we doing this?

# Hierarchical clustering

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# Hierarchical clustering

- How do we define 'closest together'?
- Several methods exist:
  - Shortest distance between points of two clusters (single-linkage clustering)
  - Longest distance between points of two clusters (complete-linkage clustering)
  - Mean distance between points of two clusters (average linkage cluster)
  - ...



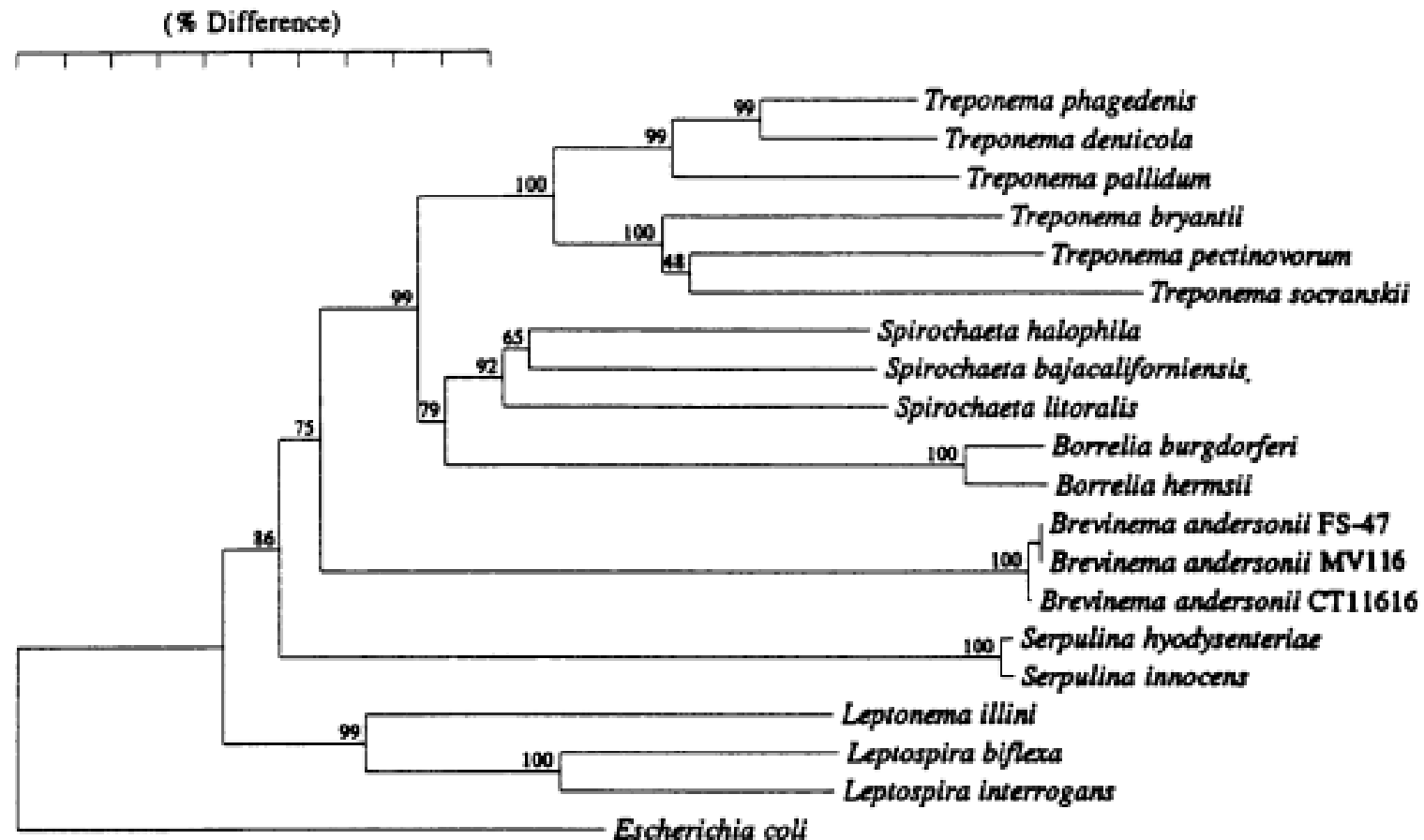
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No (apart from the distance measure chosen)
- Why are we doing this?  
It produces a phylogeny that is useful to choose possible cluster numbers, cluster sizes, etc. The phylogeny is also closely related to evolutionary analysis.

# Hierarchical clustering



# Hierarchical vs k-means clustering

Which one would you pick?



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  - Do need a *supervisor* (training data)
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  - e.g. 50 hospitals labelled with grades (‘Edinburgh’, ‘Glasgow’, ...), pictures labelled as dog or cat

**Remember Week 2.9**  
**‘Supervised and**  
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# Machine learning: what is it?

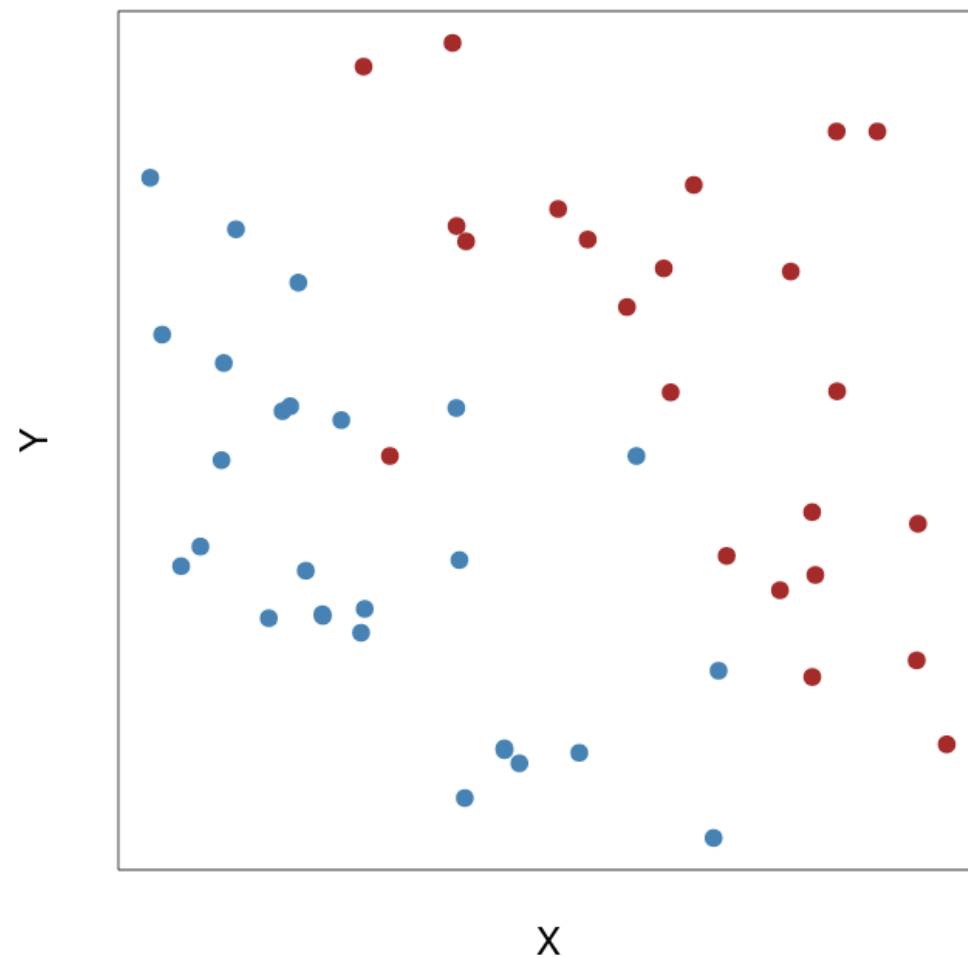
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- A third kind of machine learning – ‘reinforcement learning’
  - Also need some interactive *supervisor*
  - i.e. we get some feedback from the environment to adjust our actions
  - e.g. robot control in catching things, self-driving cars

# Two types of supervised learning

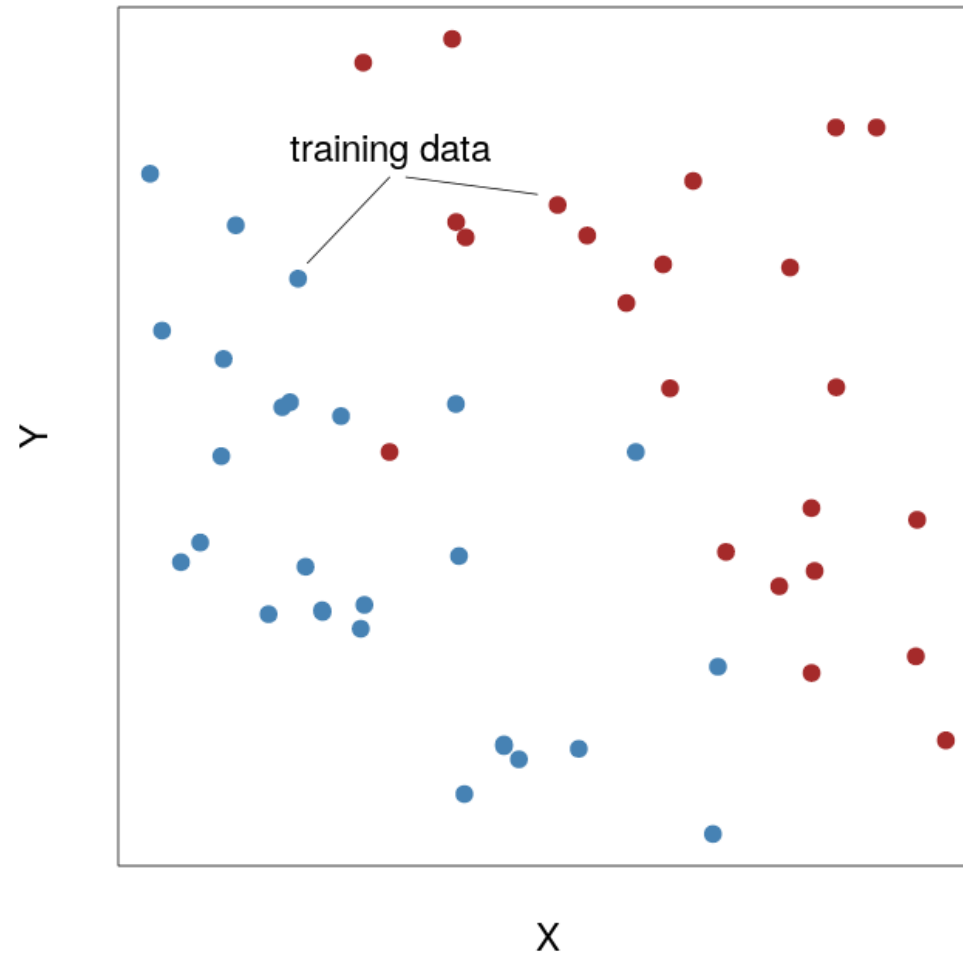
- Classification
  - The data are with discrete labels
  - e.g. 50 hospitals labelled with grades ('Edinburgh', 'Glasgow', ...), pictures labelled as dog or cat
- Regression
  - The data are with continuous labels
  - e.g. 50 hospitals labelled with some score range from 0 to 100, patients' blood pressure in some mmHg, patients' temperature in some degrees Celsius

**Remember Week 2.9  
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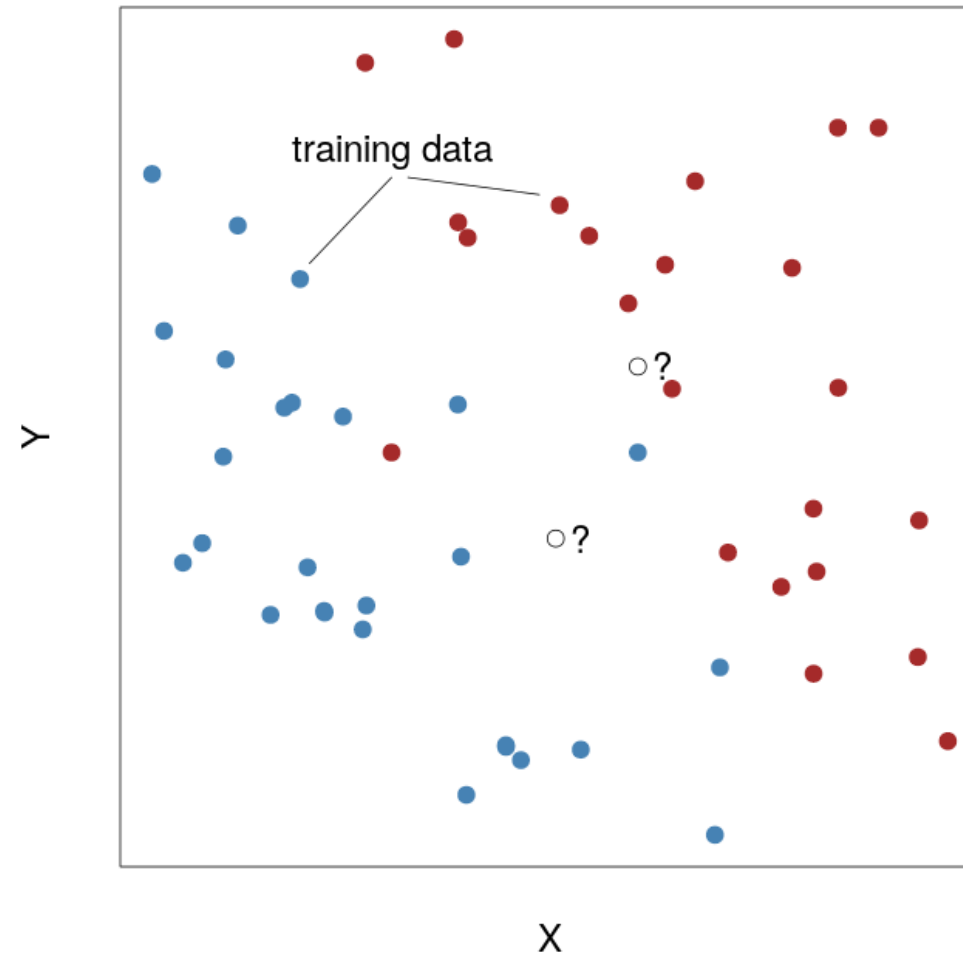
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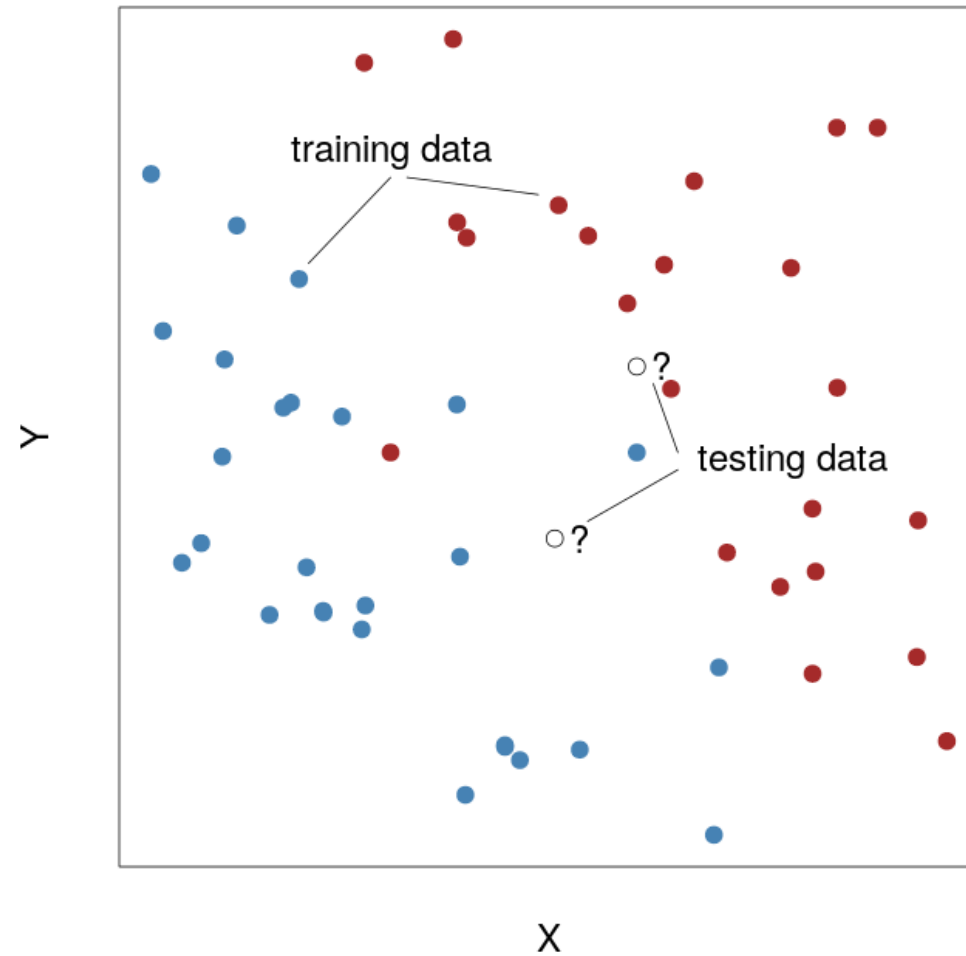
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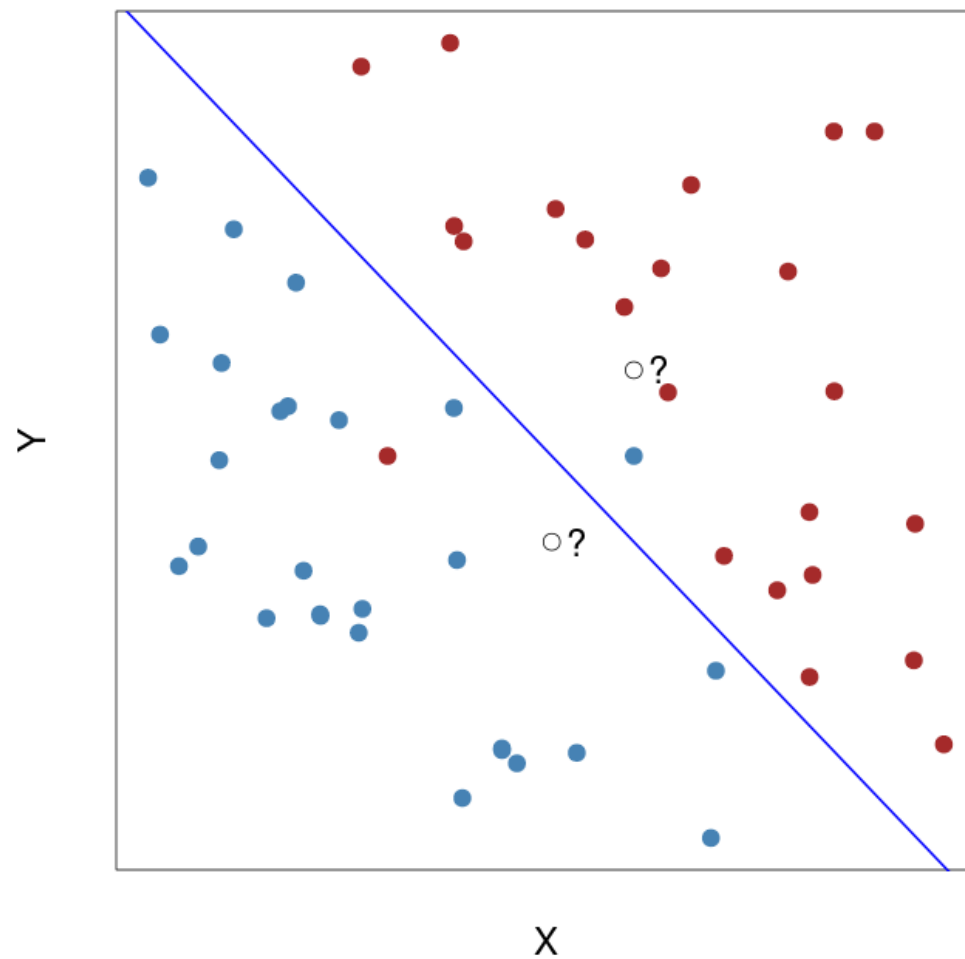
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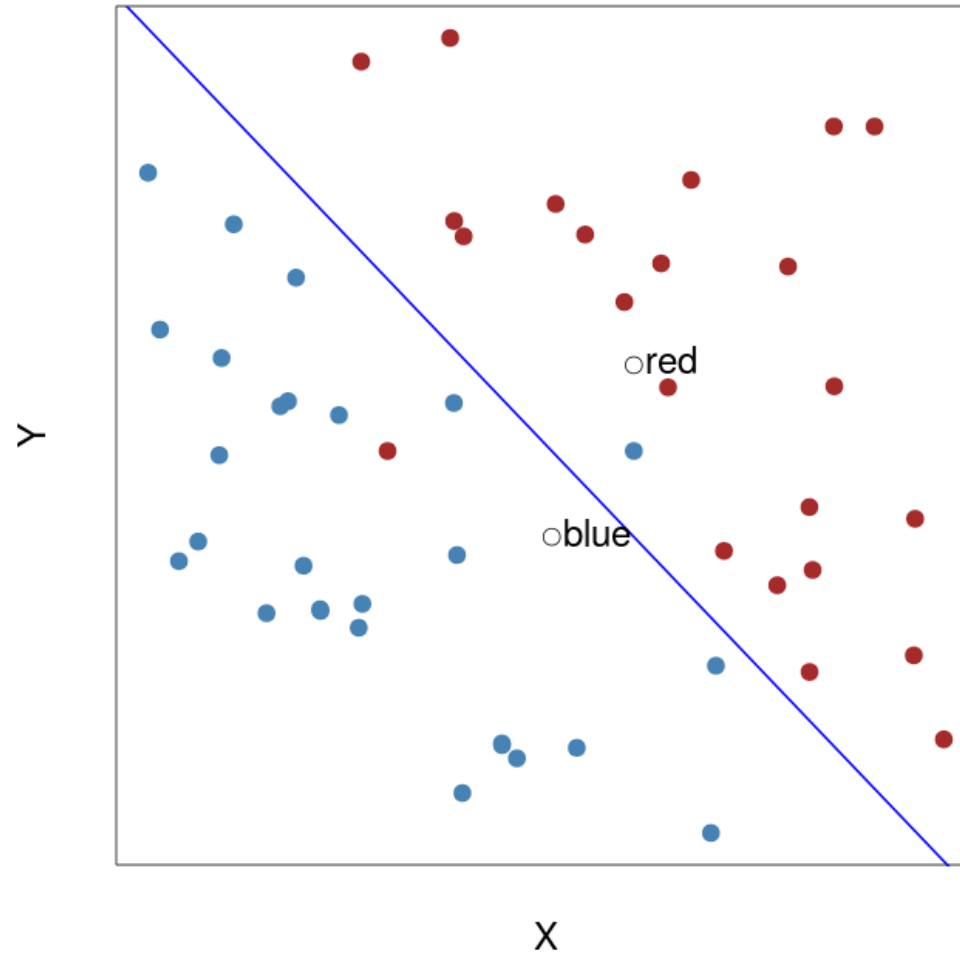
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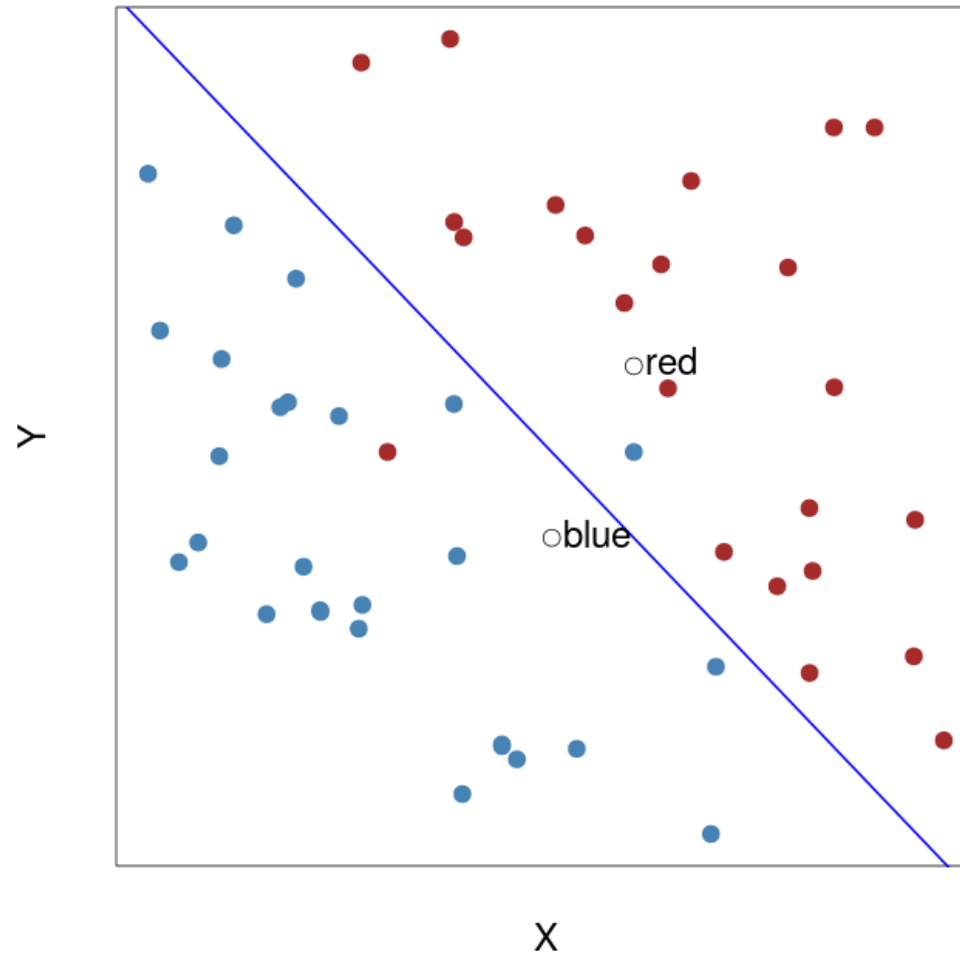


# Example: classification





# Example: classification



- Actually, this model is not perfect. One red point would be misclassified as blue and one blue point would be misclassified as red.

# Measuring the quality of a classification model

- In a classification problem with two labels, we often refer to one label as 'positive' and the other 'negative'.
- Suppose the red points are the 'positive' group, and the blue points the 'negative' group.

	Known red (positive)	Known blue (negative)
Classified as red (positive)	True positive (TP)	False positive (FP)
Classified as blue (negative)	False negative (FN)	True negative (TN)

- What are the TP, FP, FN, and TN in our classification example?

# Measuring the quality of a classification model

- Proportion of data correctly classified:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

- Proportion of positive data correctly classified

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

- Proportion of negative data correctly classified

$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{TN}{TN + FP}$$

- Proportion of true positive in the data classified as 'positive'

$$\text{Positive Predictive Value (PPV)} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

- What are these measures in our classification example?

# Learning objectives

Now, you should be able to:

- Explain how clustering works (k-means, hierarchical clustering)
- Discuss the choices that need to be made when tackling a clustering problem
- Explain how supervised machine learning works (classification)
- How to simply evaluate a classification method



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## Any questions?

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