# Flat vs Hierarchical Clustering

- Flat clustering produces a single partitioning

- Hierarchical Clustering can give different partitionings depending on the level-of-resolution we are looking at

- Flat clustering needs the number of clusters to be specified

- Hierarchical clustering doesn't need the number of clusters to be specified

- Flat clustering is usually more efficient run-time wise

- Hierarchical clustering can be slow (has to make several merge/split decisions)

- No clear consensus on which of the two produces better clustering