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Week 8 Project: Implementation FAQs

Q1: I get divide-by-zero (or matrix singular) errors. At least one of the clusters has zero members.

Try a different set of random initialization points, as your program may have converged to a poor local solution. You may consider catching these errors with a try/except statement in Python, to automatically try another initialization.

Q2: I get the error "Your output file does not follow the correct naming format. Missing centroids-1.csv" even though I named the files correctly in my program.

Your program may have encountered an error and did not get to the end to output these files. Try determine at which earlier line your program may have crashed at.

Q3: How to initialize centers and sigma?

Use the identity matrix for each cluster's covariance matrix for the initialization. You may try initializing data points without replacement: for example, use np.random.choice and set replace = False.

Q4: My program correctly outputs the answers to the output files but I am not getting full grades

Make sure the output is formatted correctly according to the specifications. It is not necessary to include '\n' or '\r' in print statements, which the autograder will not accept.