

# Unsupervised Learning

5 questions

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1.

For which of the following tasks might K-means clustering be a suitable algorithm? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Given a set of news articles from many different news websites, find out what are the main topics covered.
  - ☐ Given many emails, you want to determine if they are Spam or Non-Spam emails.
  - ☐ From the user usage patterns on a website, figure out what different groups of users exist.
  - ☐ Given historical weather records, predict if tomorrow's weather will be sunny or rainy.
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2.

Suppose we have three cluster centroids  $\mu_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\mu_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mu_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Furthermore, we have a training example  $x^{(i)} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . After a cluster assignment step, what will  $c^{(i)}$  be?

- ☒  $c^{(i)} = 3$
- ☐  $c^{(i)} = 2$
- ☐  $c^{(i)} = 1$

☐  $c^{(i)}$  is not assigned

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3.

K-means is an iterative algorithm, and two of the following steps are repeatedly carried out in its inner-loop. Which two?

- ☐ Randomly initialize the cluster centroids.
  - ☐ Move the cluster centroids, where the centroids  $\mu_k$  are updated.
  - ☐ The cluster assignment step, where the parameters  $c^{(i)}$  are updated.
  - ☐ Test on the cross-validation set.
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4.

Suppose you have an unlabeled dataset  $\{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(m)}\}$ . You run K-means with 50 different random

initializations, and obtain 50 different clusterings of the

data. What is the recommended way for choosing which one of

these 50 clusterings to use?

- ☐ Plot the data and the cluster centroids, and pick the clustering that gives the most "coherent" cluster centroids.
  - ☐ Compute the distortion function  $J(c^{(1)}, \dots, c^{(m)}, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$ , and pick the one that minimizes this.
  - ☐ Manually examine the clusterings, and pick the best one.
  - ☐ Use the elbow method.
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5.

Which of the following statements are true? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Since K-Means is an unsupervised learning algorithm, it cannot overfit the data, and thus it is always better to have as large a number of clusters as is computationally feasible.
- ☐ For some datasets, the "right" or "correct" value of K (the number of clusters) can be ambiguous, and hard even for a human expert looking carefully at the data to decide.
- ☐ The standard way of initializing K-means is setting  $\mu_1 = \dots = \mu_k$  to be equal to a vector of zeros.
- ☐ If we are worried about K-means getting stuck in bad local optima, one way to ameliorate (reduce) this problem is if we try using multiple random initializations.

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