

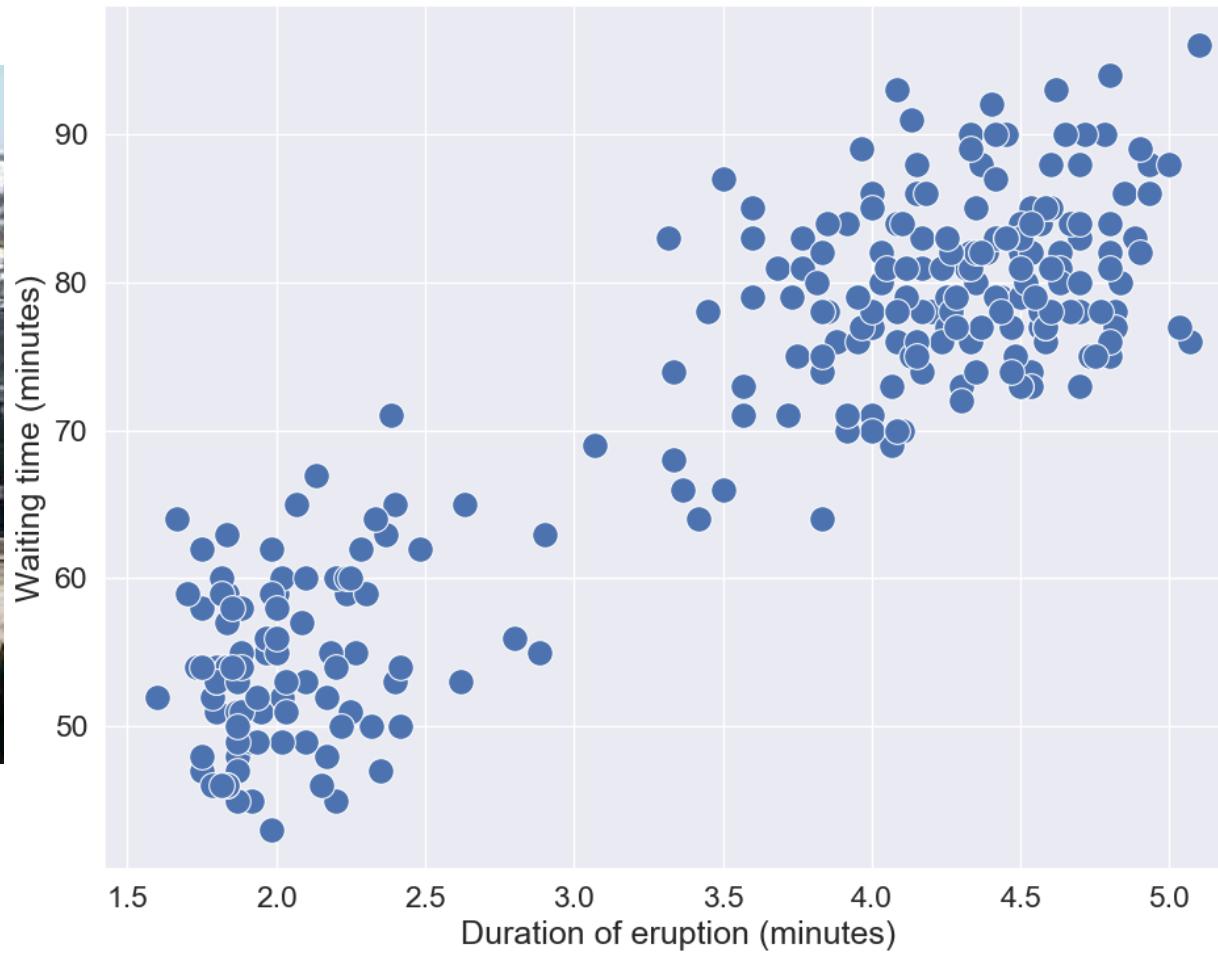
Machine Learning

Clustering

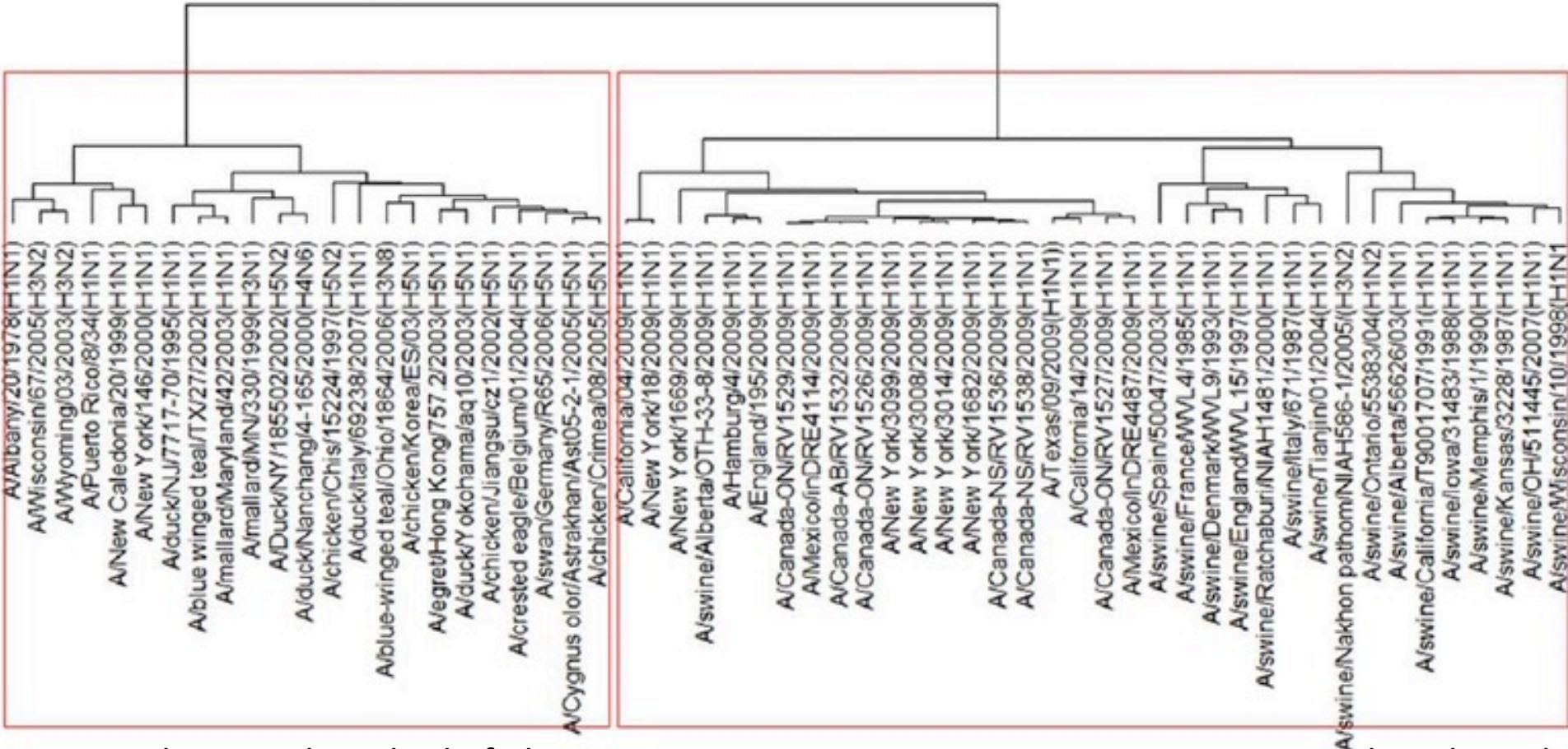
Zach Wood-Doughty and Bryan Pardo
Machine Learning: CS 349 Fall 2021

Some slides borrowed from [Mark Dredze](#) and Prem Seetharaman, with inspiration from:
<http://www.mit.edu/~9.54/fall14/slides/Class13.pdf> and
<https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~jordan/courses/294-fall09/lectures/clustering/slides.pdf>

Example: Eruptions at Old Faithful Geyser



Example: Clustering H1N1 Genomes

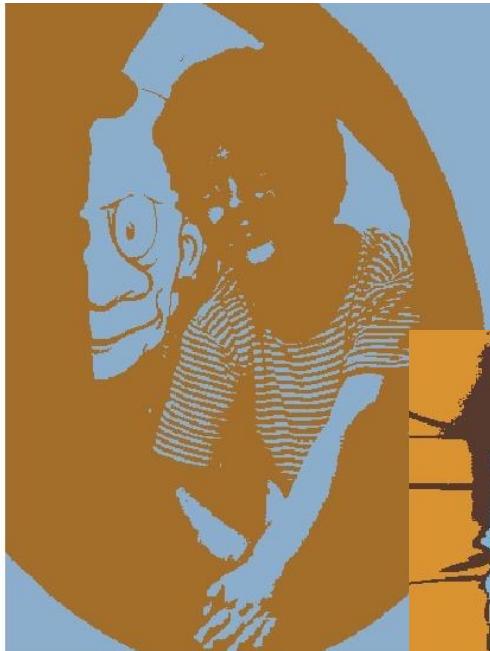


Deng et al. A Novel Method of Characterizing Genetic Sequences: Genome Space with Biological Distance and Applications.

Example: Color Segmentation



Original Image
16M colors



2 Colors



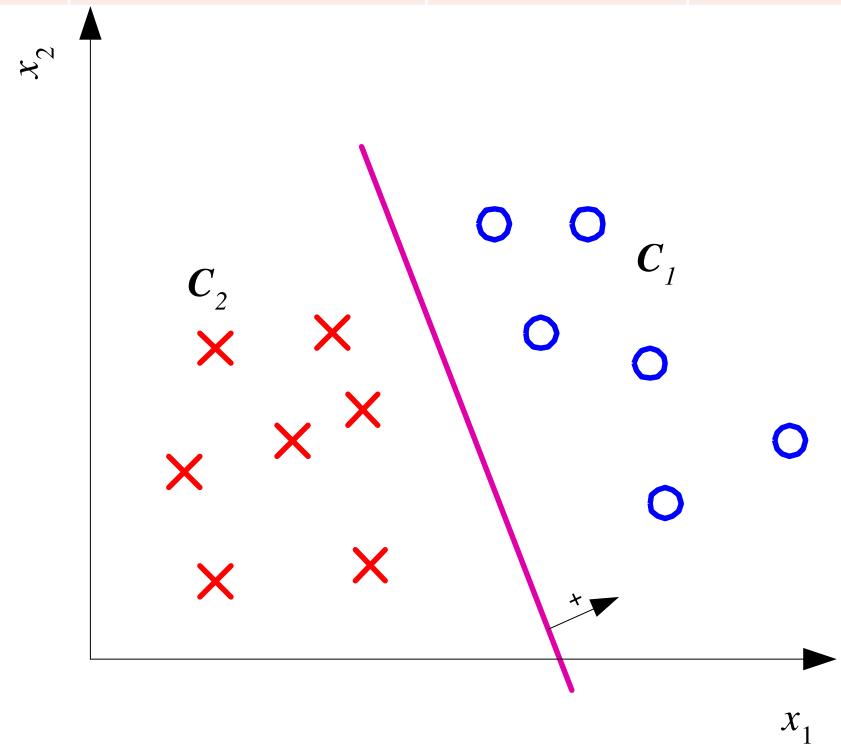
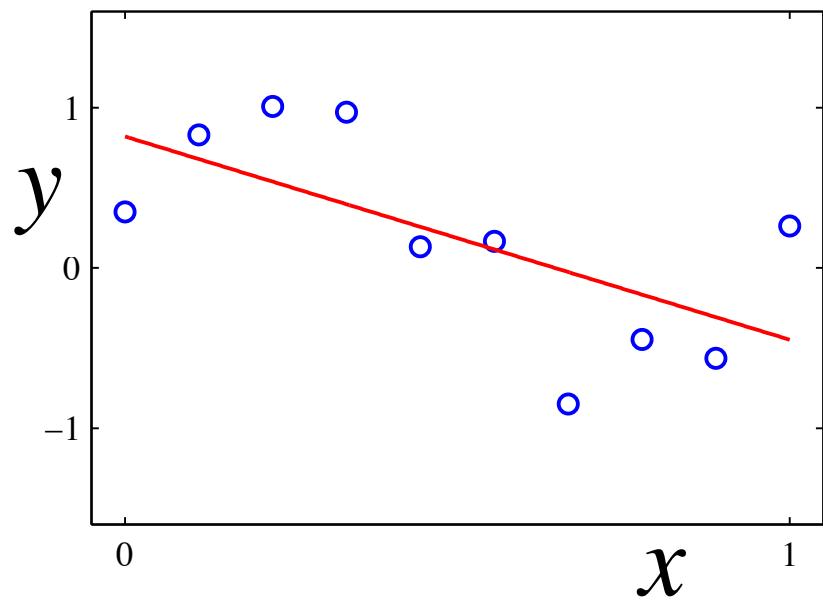
3 Colors



10 Colors

Recap: Supervised Learning

Number of Feet	Fur	Size	Has wings	Warm Blood	$f(x)$
2	No	S	Yes	Yes	0
4	Yes	S	No	Yes	1



Recall: Supervised Learning Tasks

There is a set of possible examples

$$X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$$

Each example is a **vector** of d **real valued attributes**

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \langle x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d} \rangle$$

A target function maps X onto some **real or categorical value** Y

$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

The DATA is a set of tuples <example, response value>

$$\{<\mathbf{x}_1, y_1>, \dots, <\mathbf{x}_n, y_n>\}$$

Find a **hypothesis** h such that...

$$\forall \mathbf{x}, h(\mathbf{x}) \approx f(\mathbf{x})$$

Unsupervised Learning

- We no longer have labels!
- What can we do?
- We still can have a notion of **groups**
- Task: divide things into piles of similar things
- Classification found patterns that explained a label
 - We can find patterns that separate the data

Clustering

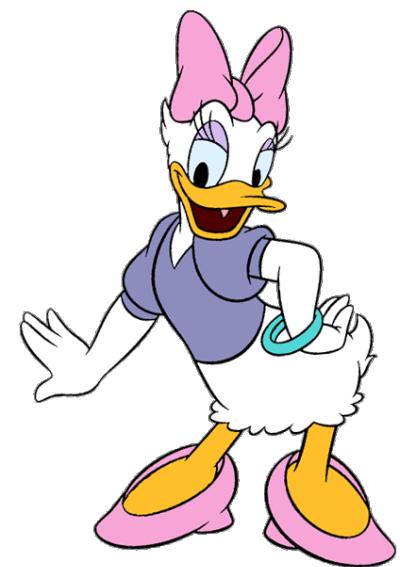
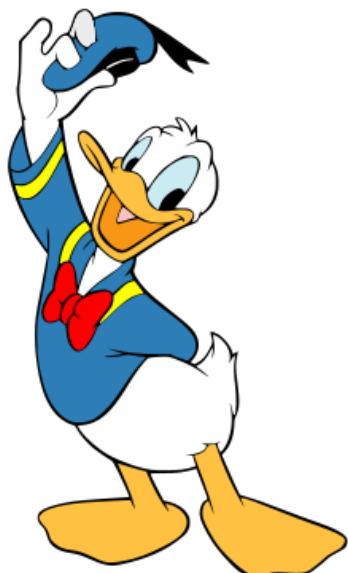
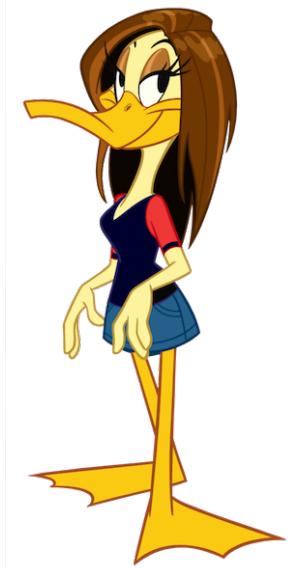
- Sort the data into clusters (groups)
- Examples that are in the same group are similar
 - Items in cluster are more similar to one another than to items not in the cluster
 - Ideally clusters correspond to (unknown) labels
- We don't know what we will get!
 - What does it mean for two examples to be similar?
 - How do we measure the quality of our clusters?

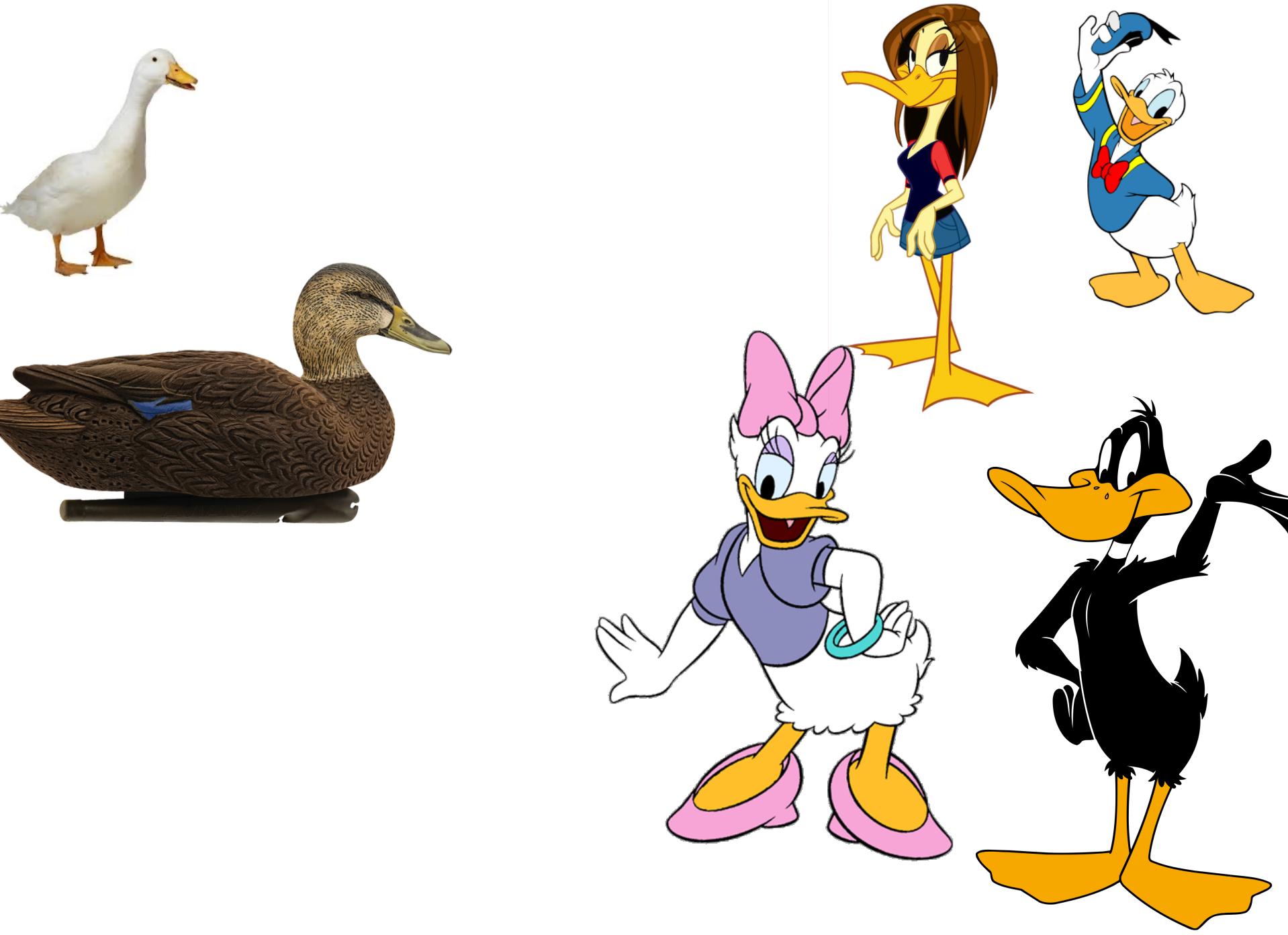
Unsupervised Learning Tasks

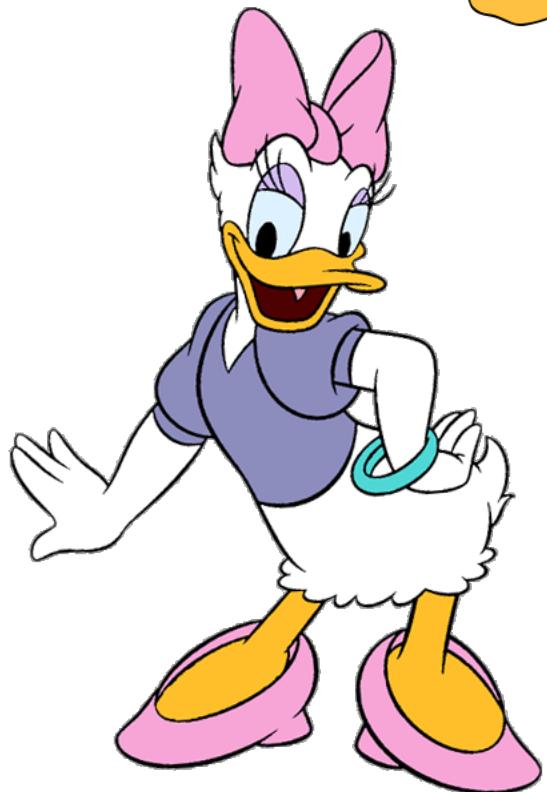
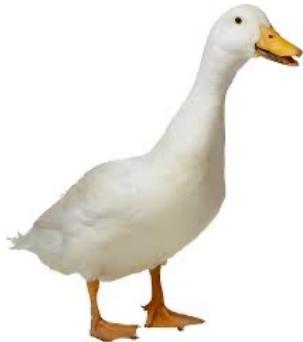
There is a set of possible examples $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$

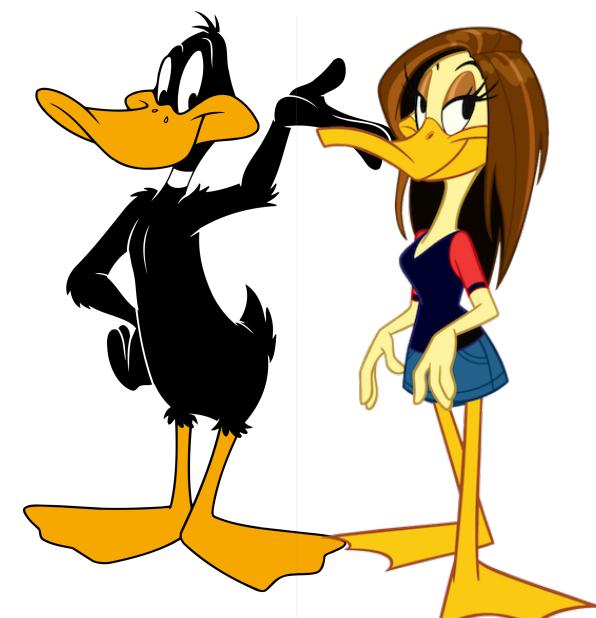
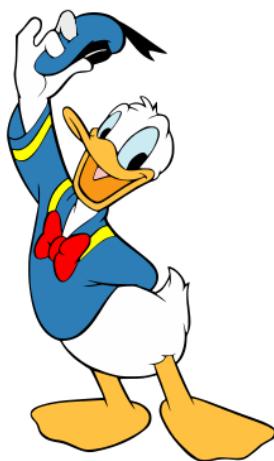
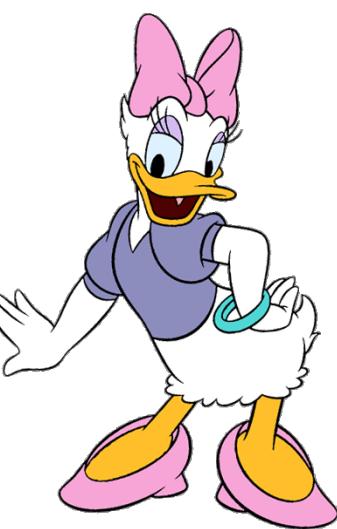
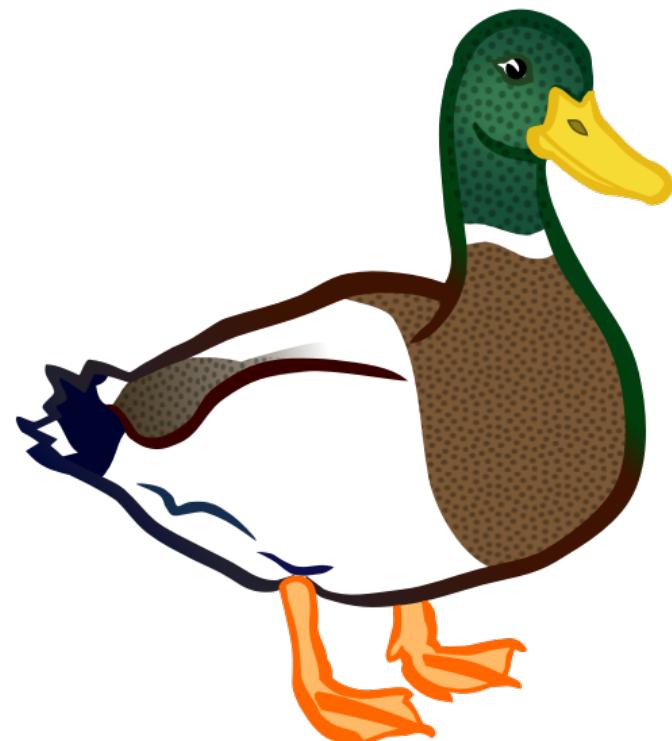
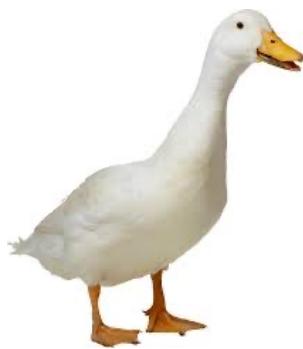
Each example is a **vector** of d **real valued attributes**

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \langle x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d} \rangle$$









Unsupervised Learning Tasks

There is a set of possible examples $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$

Each example is a **vector** of d **real valued attributes**

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \langle x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d} \rangle$$

Assume some latent variable(s) z that correspond to the observed data

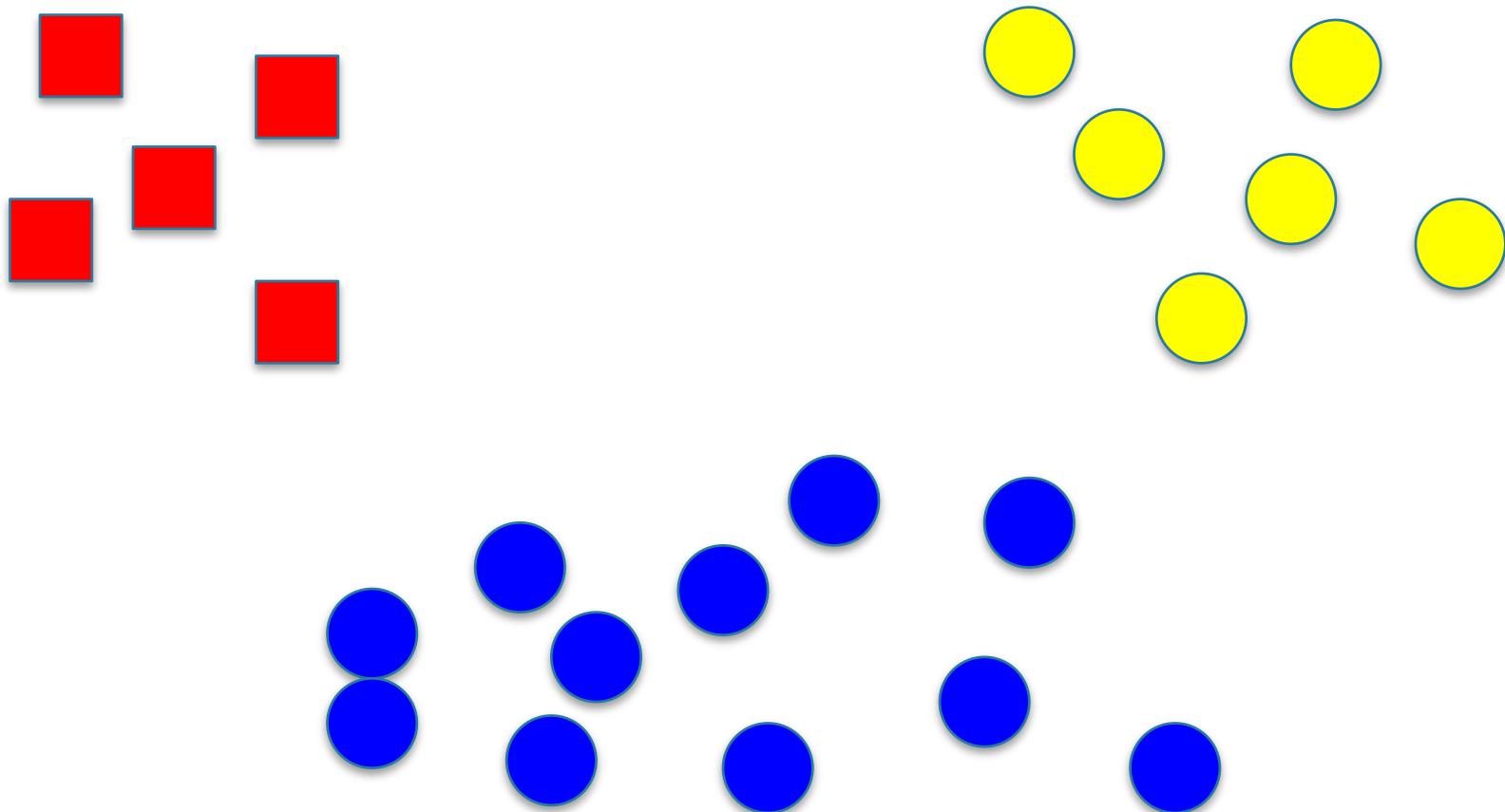
$$\{\langle \mathbf{x}_1, z_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{x}_n, z_n \rangle\}$$

Learn a way to assign examples to clusters such that both:

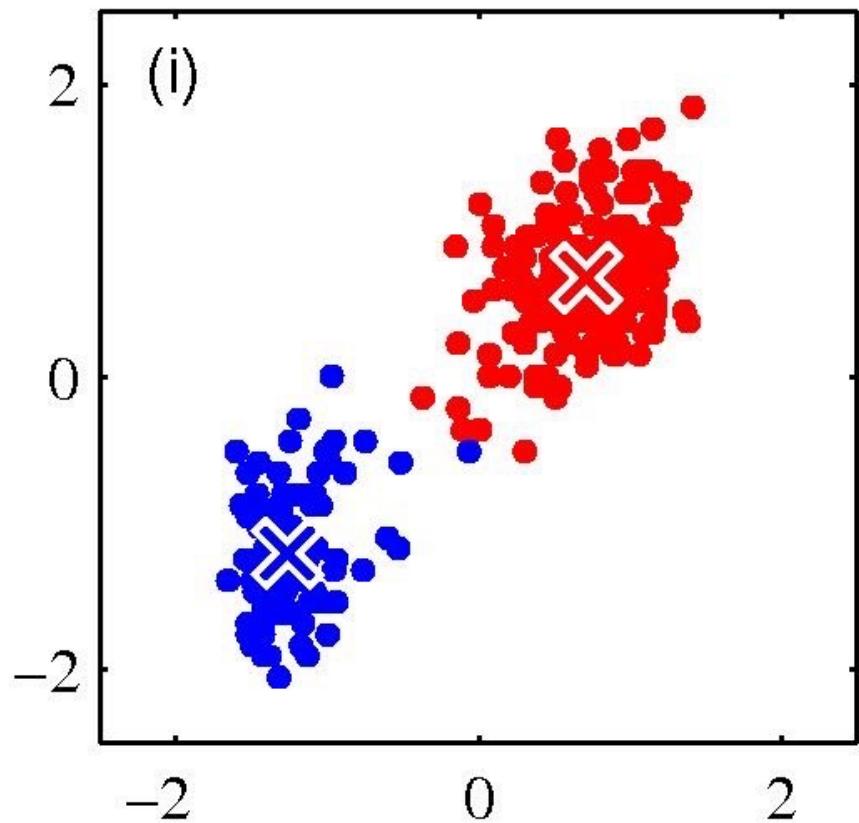
$$d(x_i, x_j) < \epsilon \Rightarrow z_i = z_j$$

$$d(x_i, x_j) > \epsilon \Rightarrow z_i \neq z_j$$

Geometric Model



Visualization: 2 Clusters



Defining Clusters

- A cluster is a group of similar examples
- Define z as an indicator:
$$z_{n,k} \in \{0, 1\}$$
- Value of 1 means that example n is in cluster k
- Define cluster k by a prototype:

$$\mu_k = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k}}$$

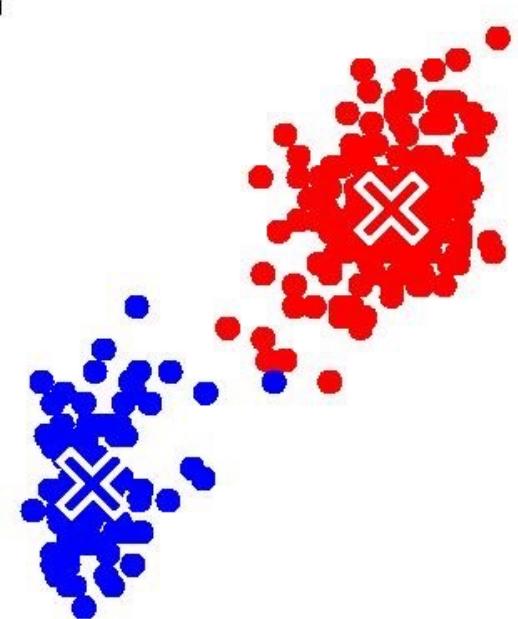
Clustering objective function

- Objective: maximize the similarity of every cluster
 - Each example in a cluster should be close to its prototypical example

$$J = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{n,k} \cdot d(\mathbf{x}_n, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$$

Learning

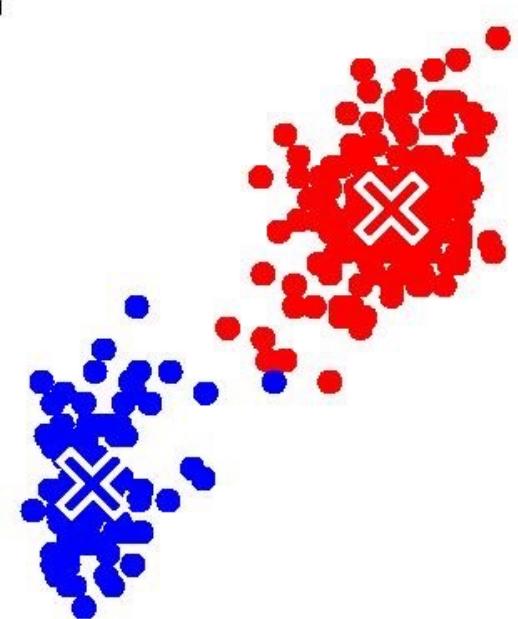
$$J = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{n,k} \cdot d(\mathbf{x}_n, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$$



- We'll typically assume d is Euclidean distance
 - But it doesn't have to be!
- We have two parameters: z and $\boldsymbol{\mu}$
- Want to pick those parameters to minimize J

Learning

$$J = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{n,k} \cdot d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_k)$$



- Our two parameters depend on each other
- If we knew z we could set μ
 - Compute a cluster's mean from its assigned examples
- If we knew μ we could set z
 - Assign each point to closest cluster

Update Rules

$$z_{n,k} = \begin{cases} 1 & k = \arg \min_j d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k}}$$

Optimization and convergence

- Each update reduces the value of J
 - Therefore, algorithm will converge
 - (How would you prove this?)
- Note: J is non-convex
 - Not guaranteed to find an optimal clustering
 - Initial values matter, so random restarts may help

Algorithm: K-Means

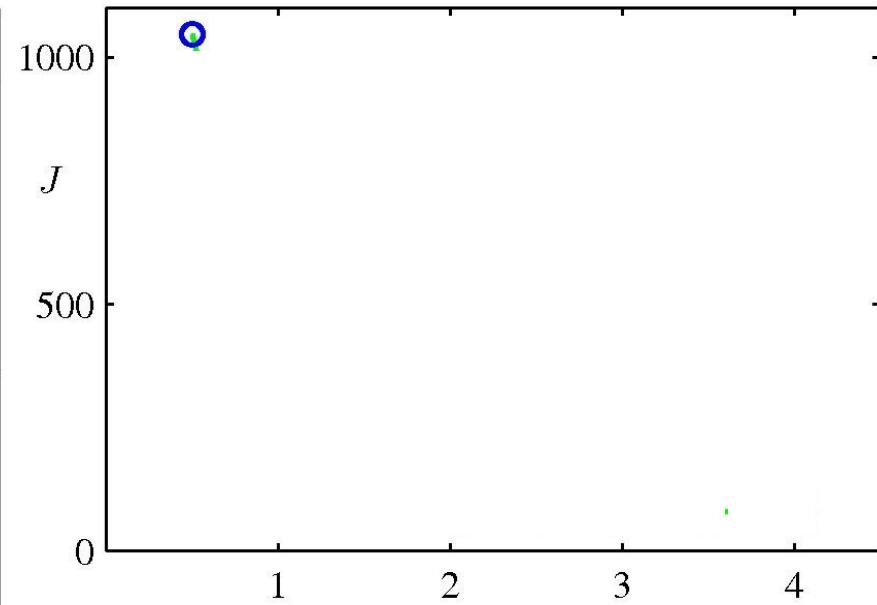
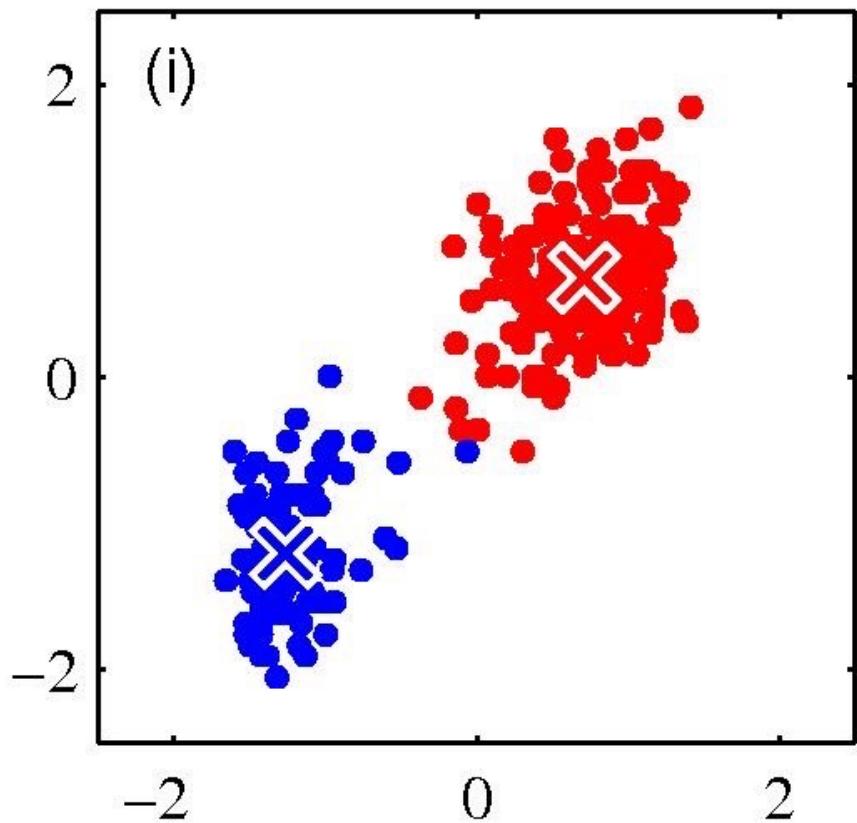
- Input data X and initialize μ
- Iteratively update until convergence:

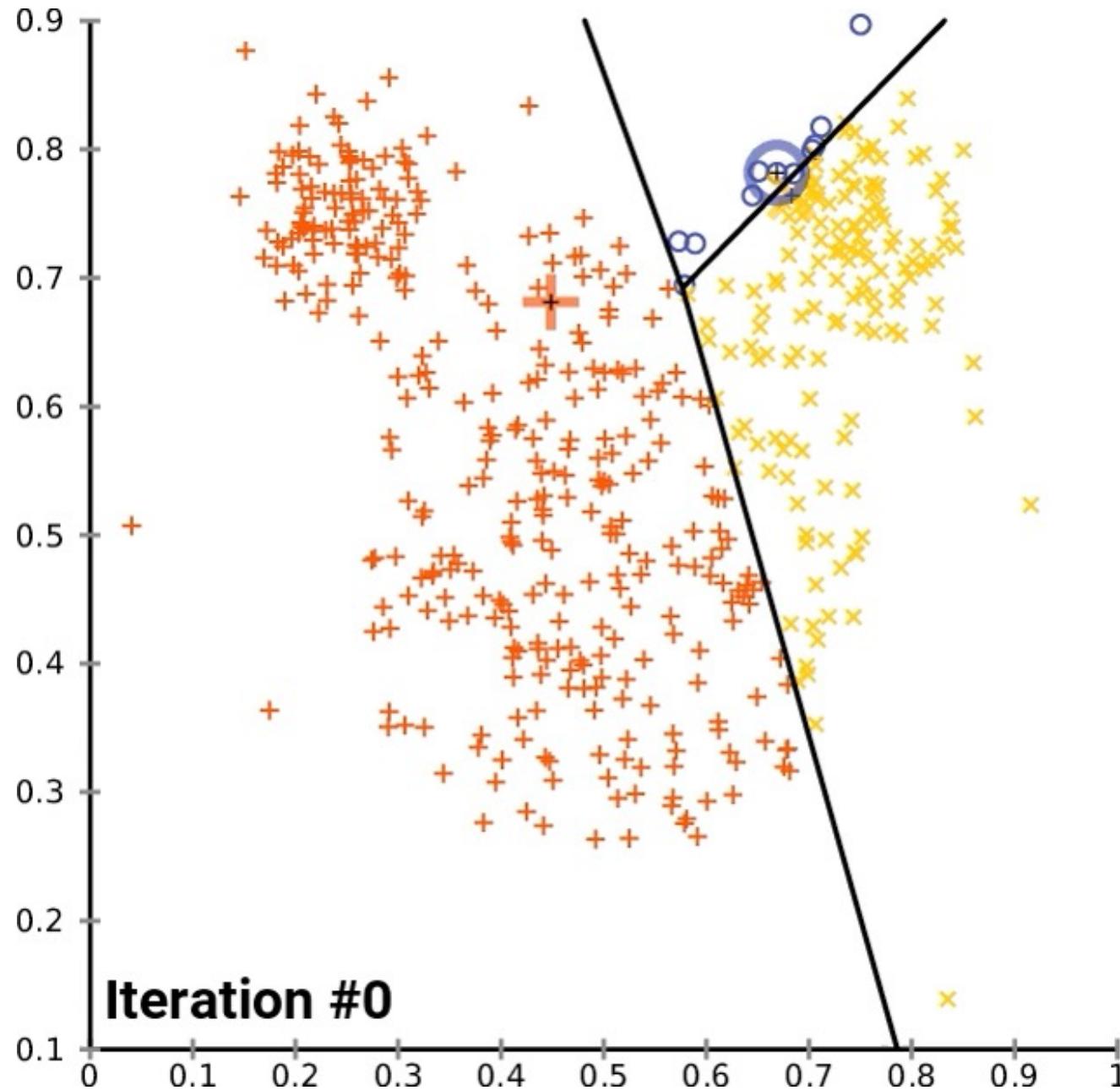
$$X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$$
$$\mathbf{x}_i = \langle x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d} \rangle$$

$$z_{n,k} = \begin{cases} 1 & k = \arg \min_j d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k}}$$

Visualization: 2 Clusters



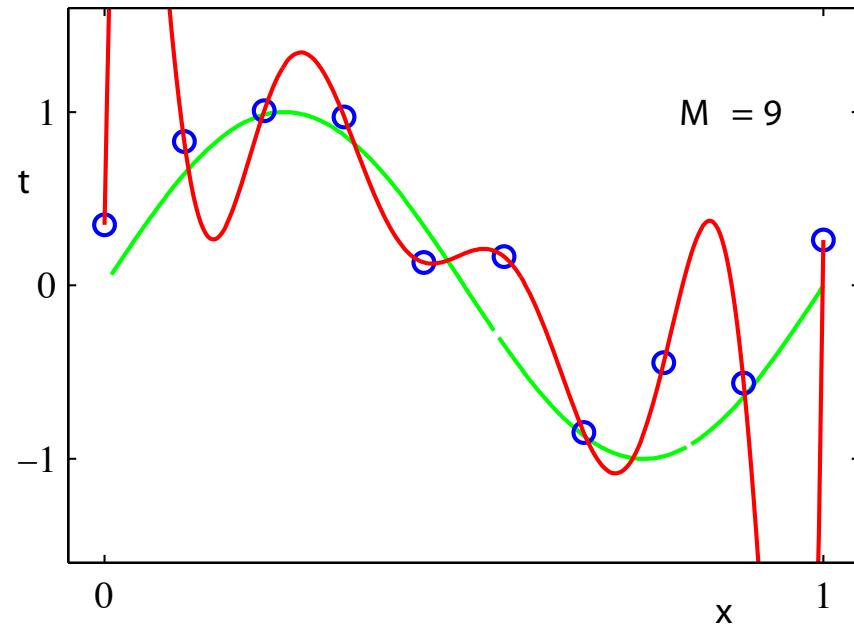


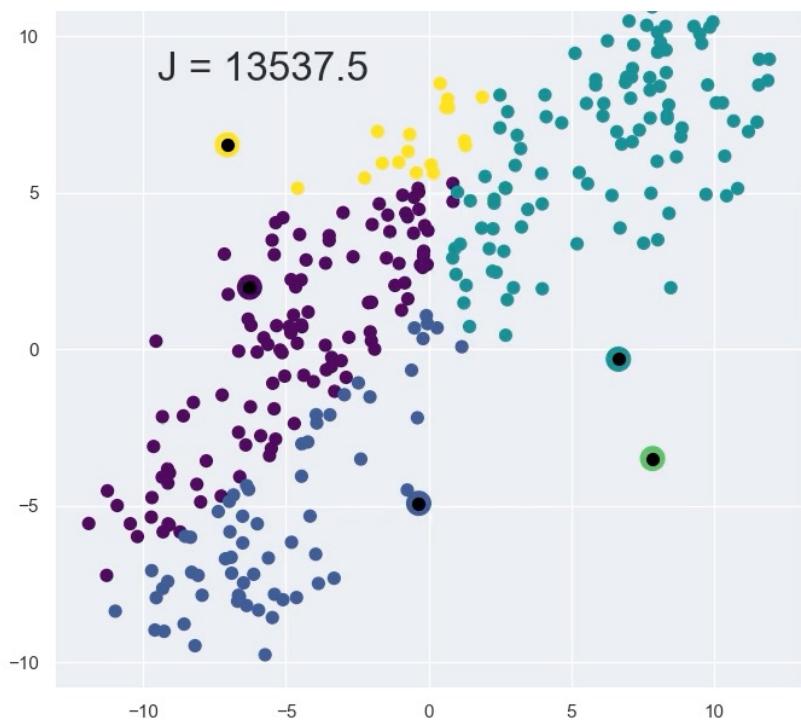
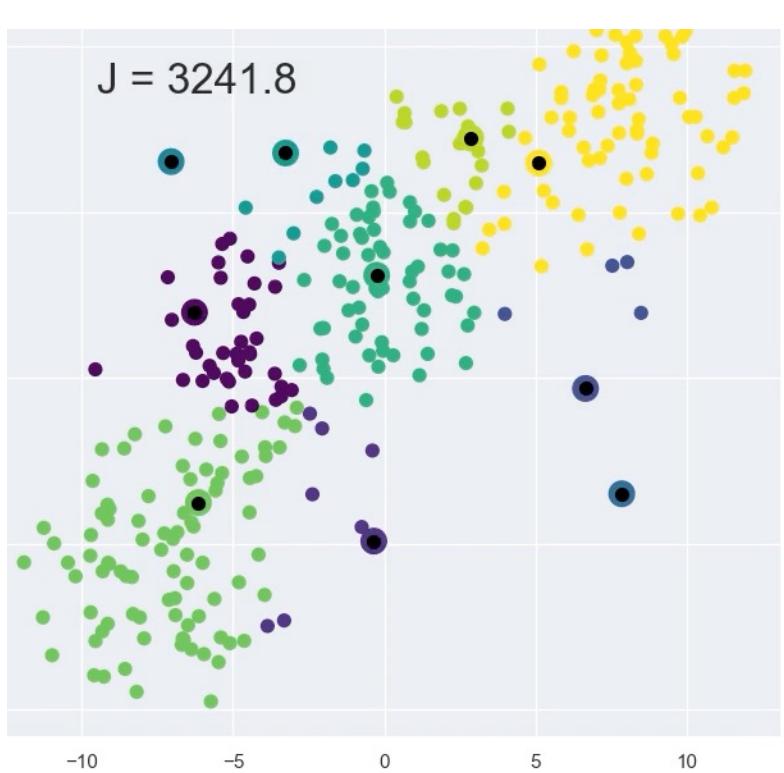
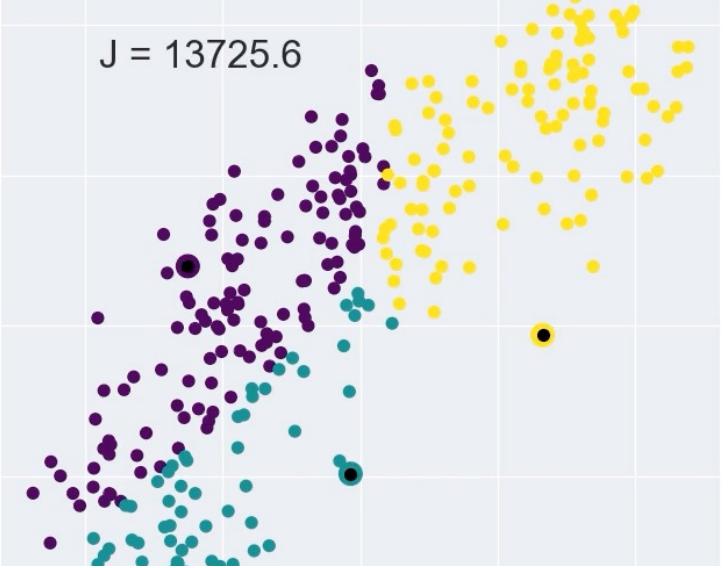
K-Means is just one algorithm

- Many approaches to defining clustering algorithms
- Let's start by understanding limitations of K-means
 - Optimal clustering is NP hard; random restarts needed
 - Choice of K may be important
 - Cluster centers are sensitive to outliers
 - Works poorly on non-convex clusters
 - Assumes spherical, equally likely clusters
 - Hard assignment of example to clusters

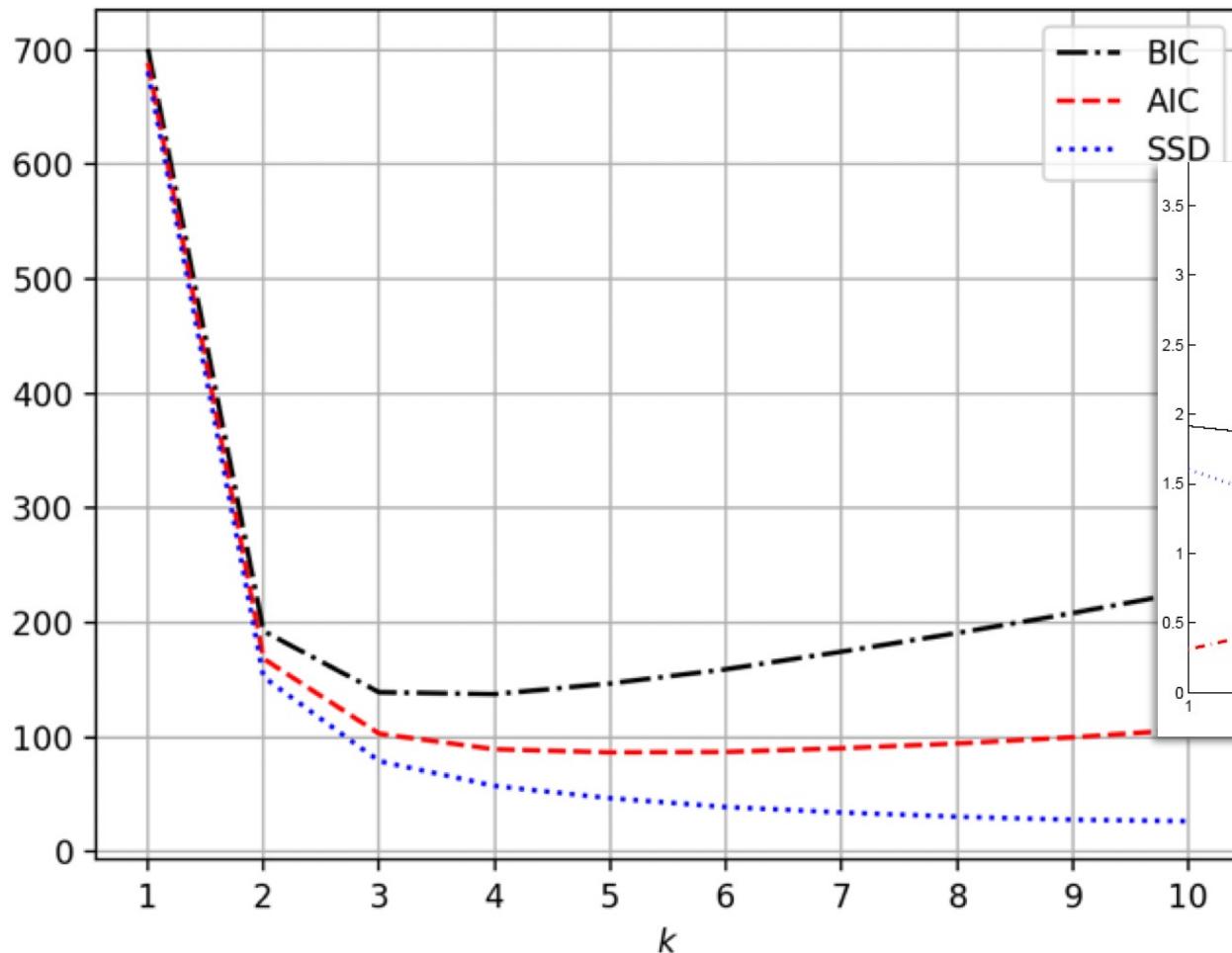
How many clusters?

- What's going to happen if we keep increasing the number of clusters?
- What happened when we kept increasing the degree of a polynomial regression?
- Will this happen with K-Means?

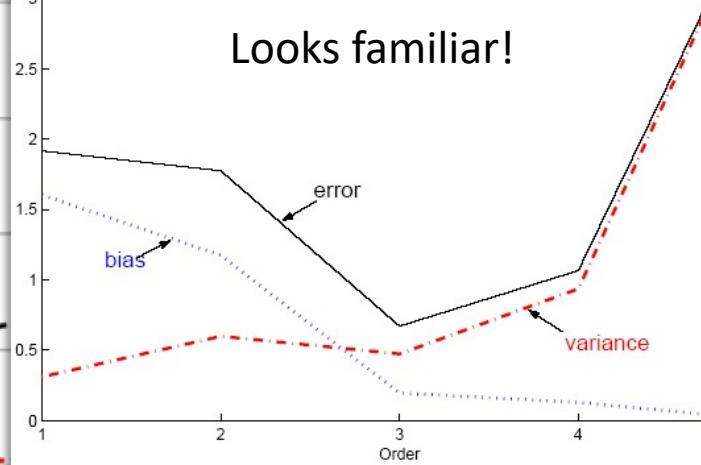




How many clusters?



Looks familiar!



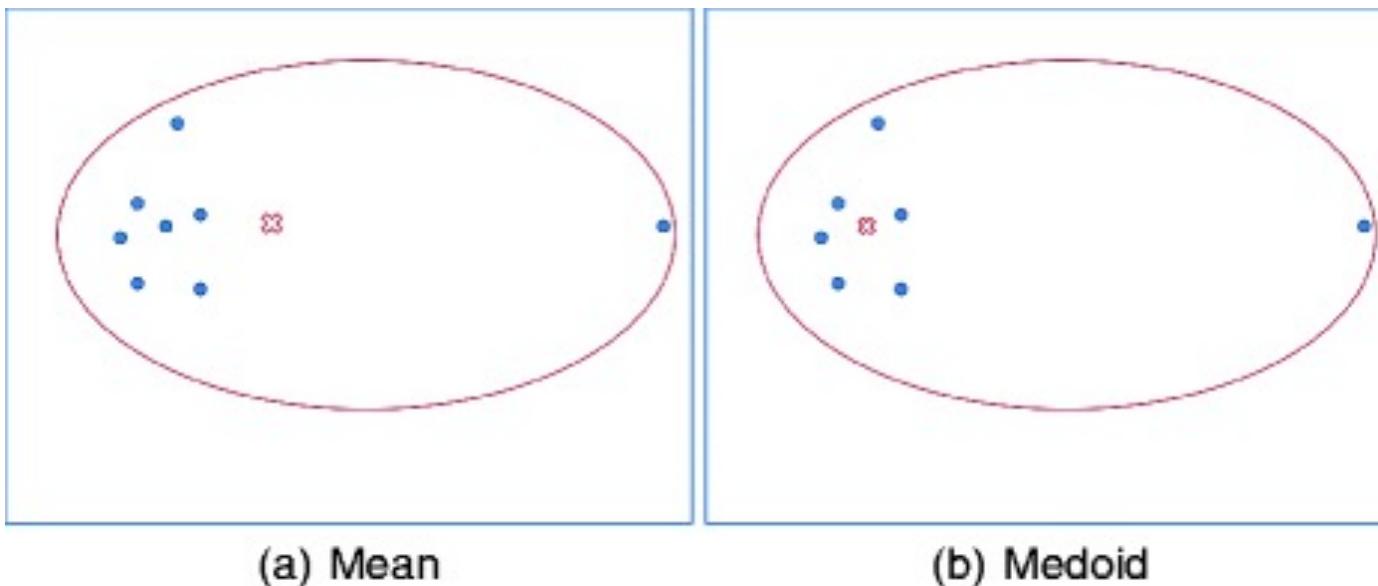
SSD: Sum of squared distances (our standard clustering loss)

AIC: Akaike information criterion

BIC: Bayesian information criterion

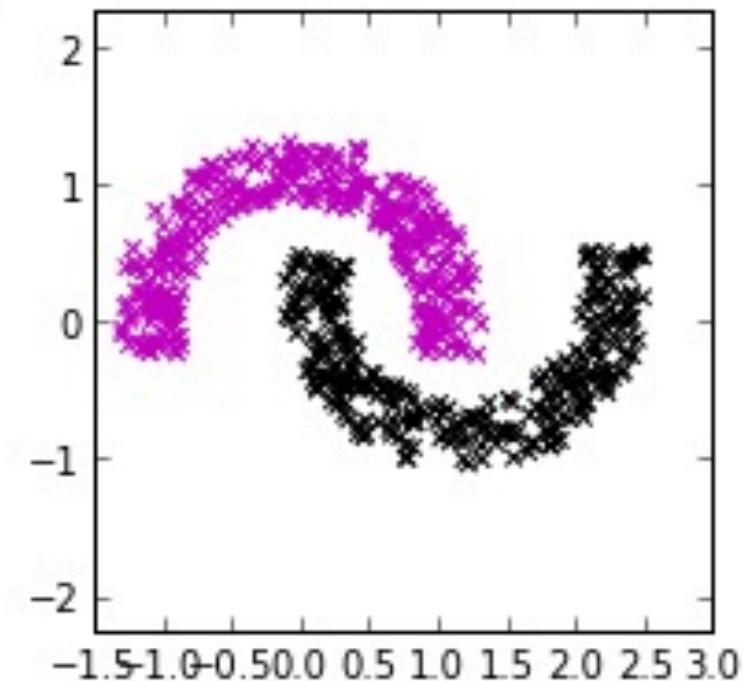
K-Means is sensitive to outliers

- Means are sensitive to outliers, which can give bad cluster centers
- Solution: switch to medians



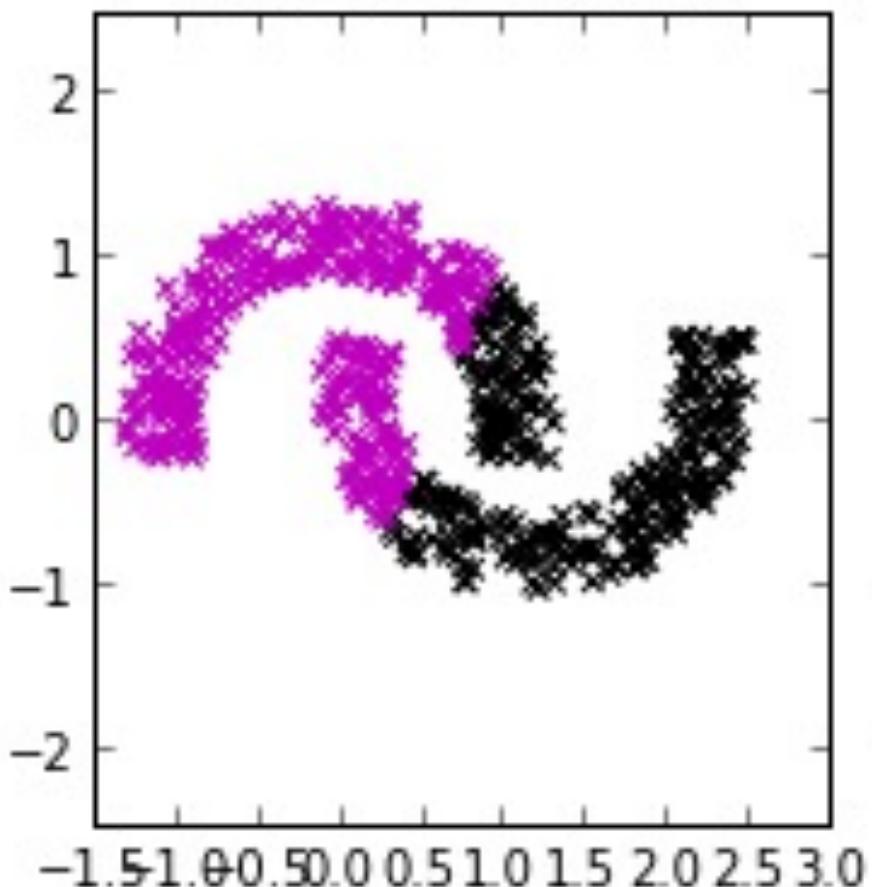
K-Means and non-convex clusters

- Not all clusters are spherical
- How will k-means do on this data?

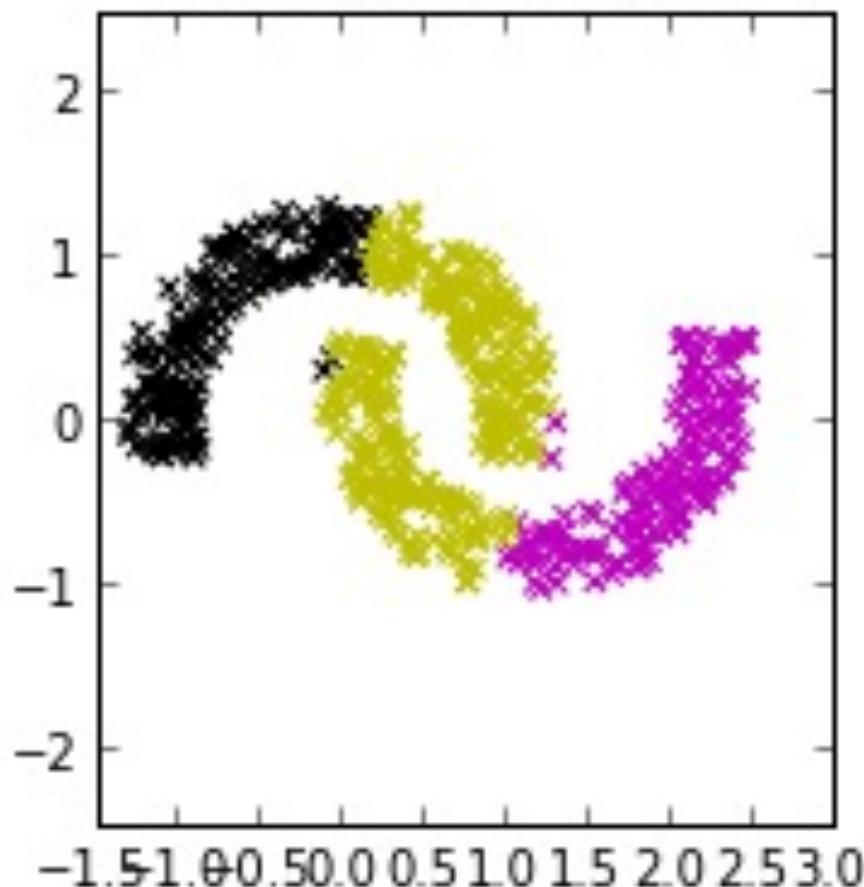


K-Means and non-convex clusters

kmeans with k=2

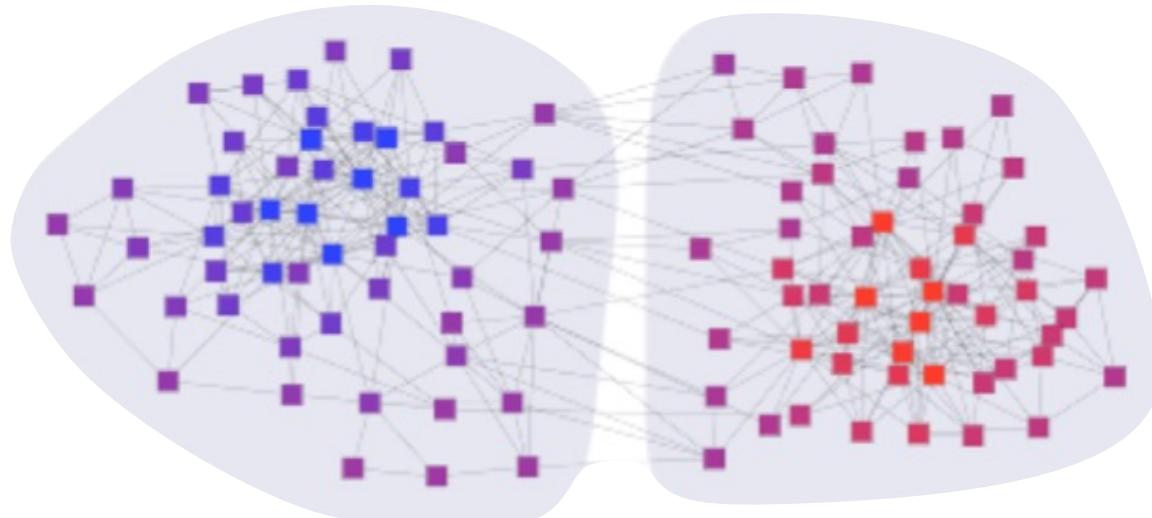


kmeans with k=3



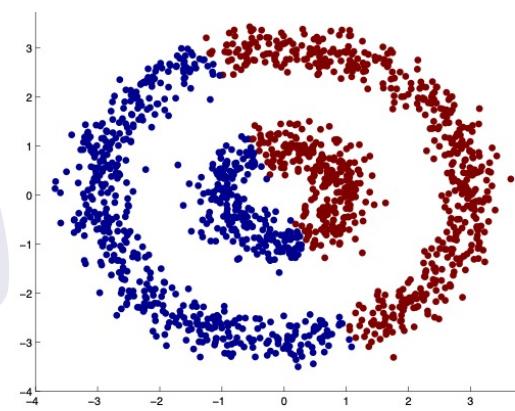
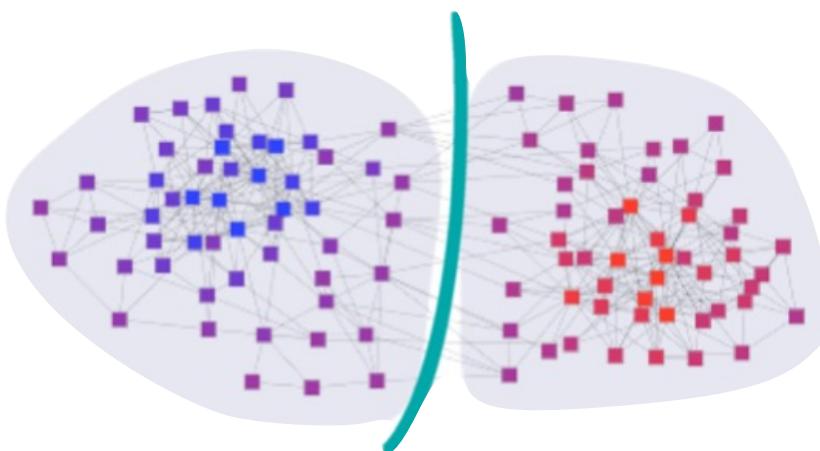
Spectral Clustering

- Partitional but non-spherical clustering
- Construct a graph G from the data
 - Vertices are still examples
 - Edges are weighted similarity between examples
 - Weights may depend on the application

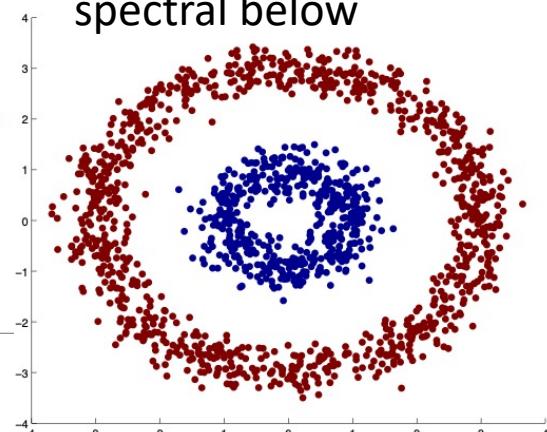


Spectral Clustering

- Goal of clustering: Partition the vertices of the graph
- Loss function: measured by a cut of the graph
 - Minimize Cut (min-cut): the weight of the edges “cut” by partitioning vertices into different clusters
 - Requires normalization to force meaningful cuts
 - Minimizing normalized cut is still NP-hard

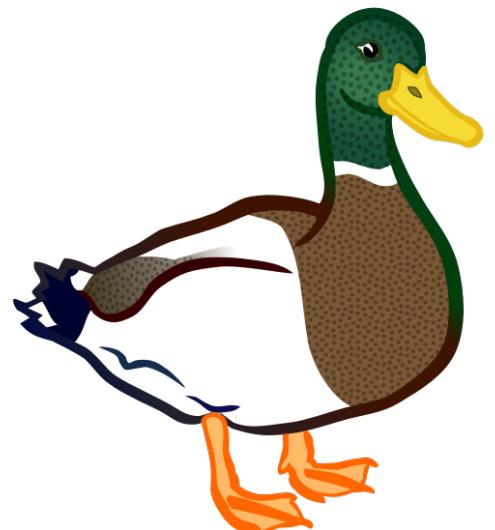


K-means on left;
spectral below

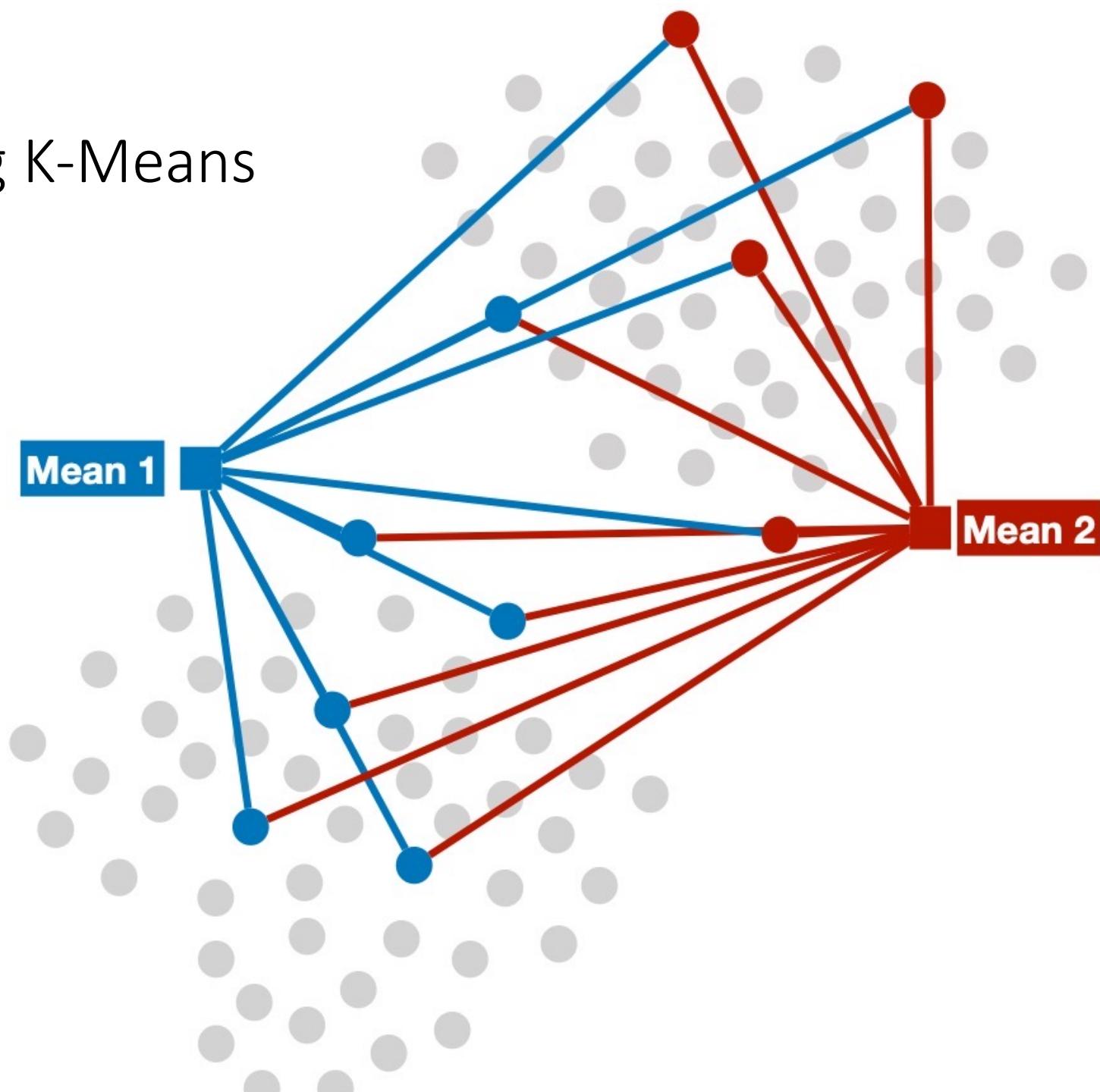


Relaxing K-Means

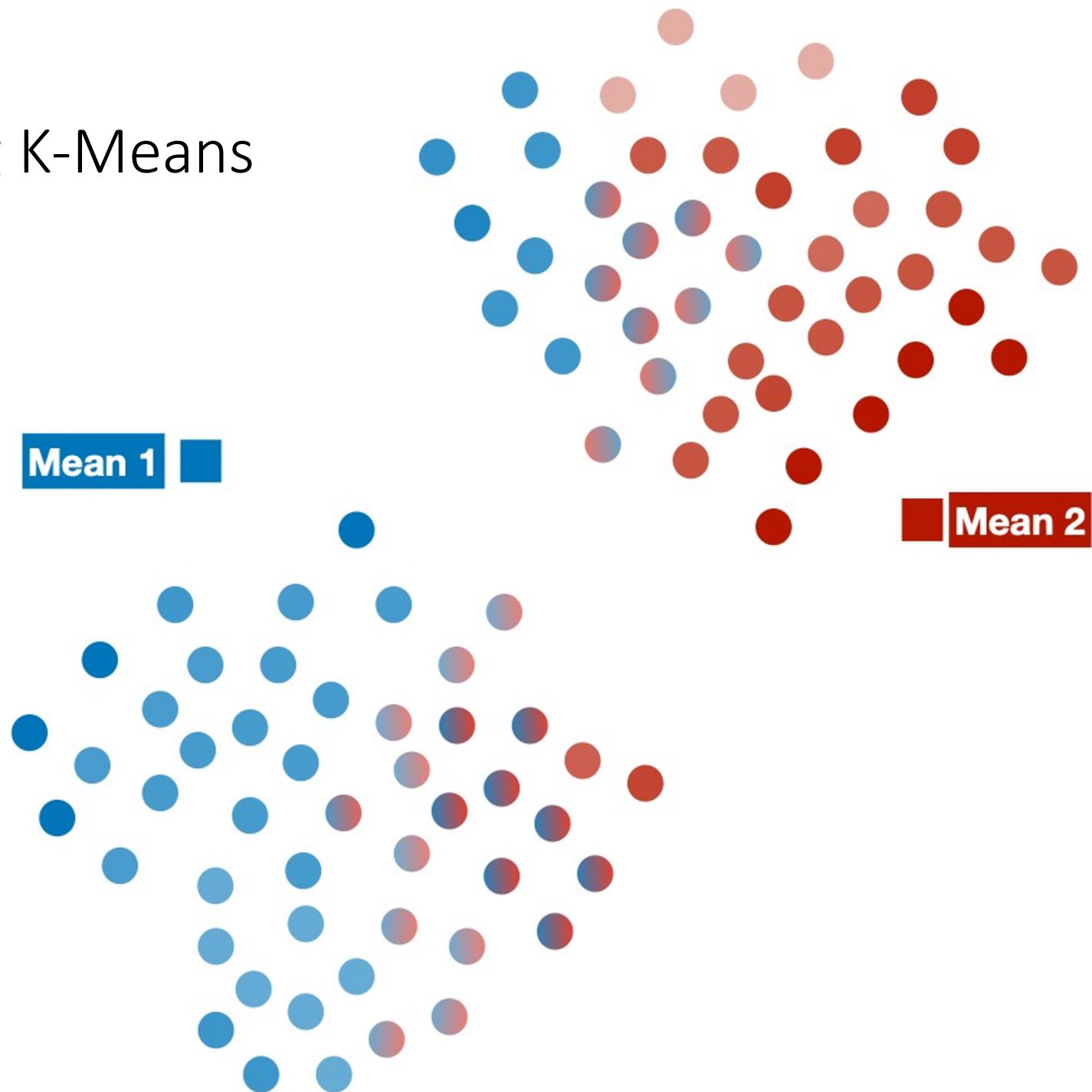
- K-means assumes spherical, equally likely clusters
- An example **must** belong to a single cluster
 - Introduces instability between training iterations as examples “jump” between clusters
- Solution: Relax this constraint to allow a more flexible notion of cluster membership



Relaxing K-Means



Relaxing K-Means



Recall: K-Means Updates

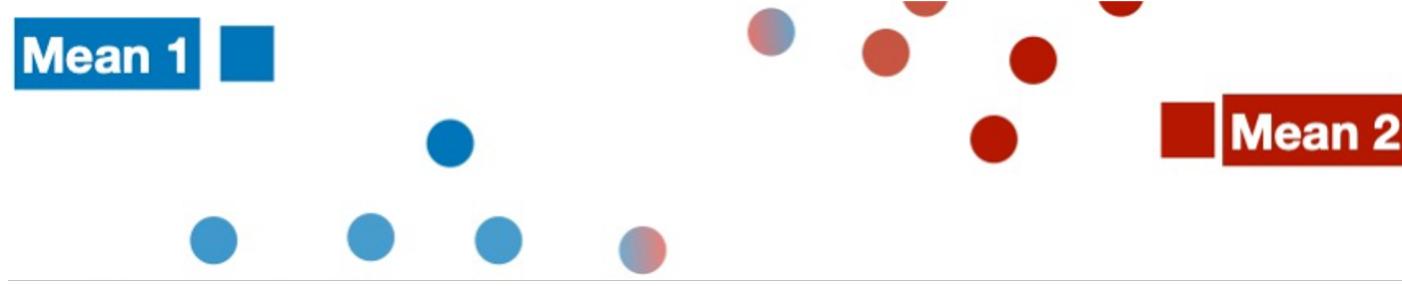
$$z_{n,k} = \begin{cases} 1 & k = \arg \min_j d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N z_{n,k}}$$



$$z_{n,k} = \begin{cases} 1 & k = \arg \min_j d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Picking a new update rule

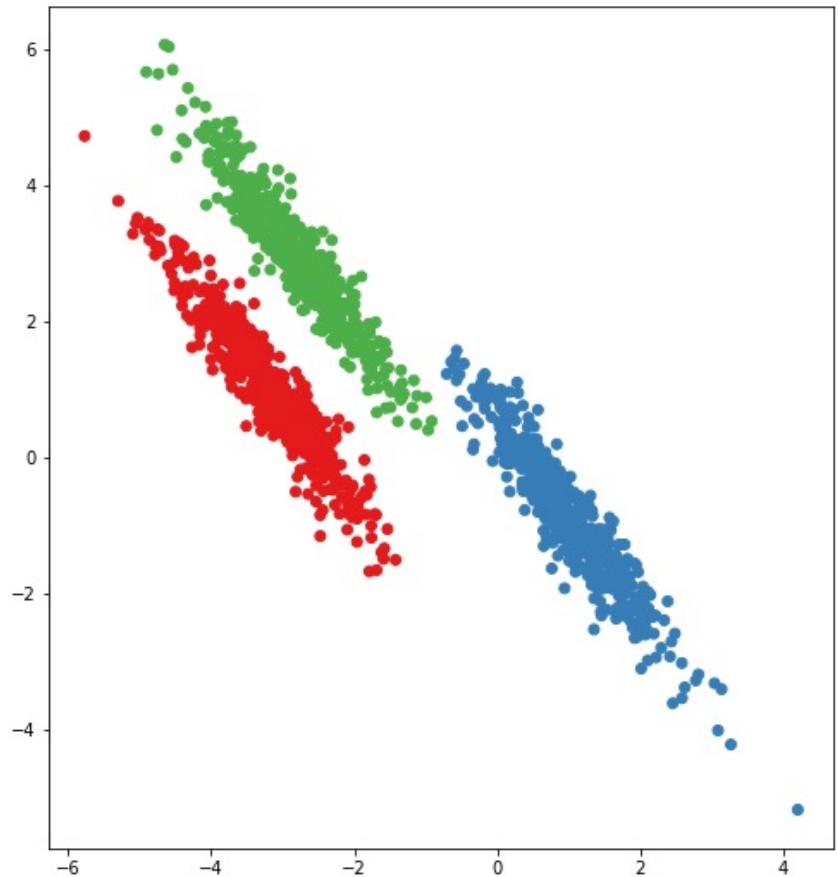
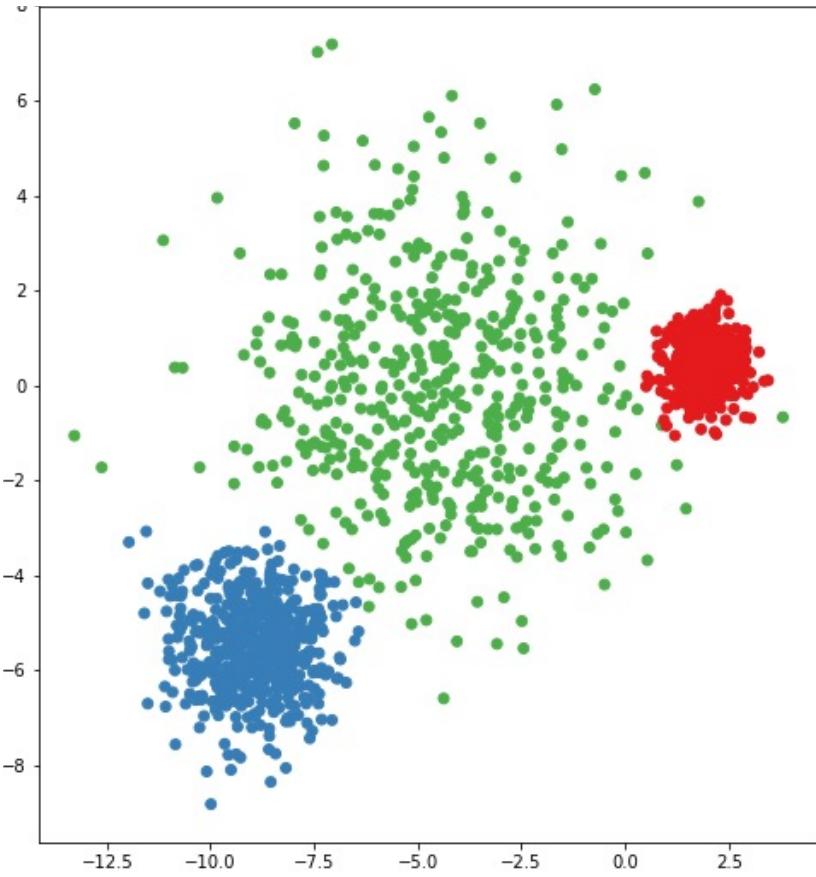


$$z_{n,1} = \frac{-d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_1)}{-d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_1) - d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_2)}$$

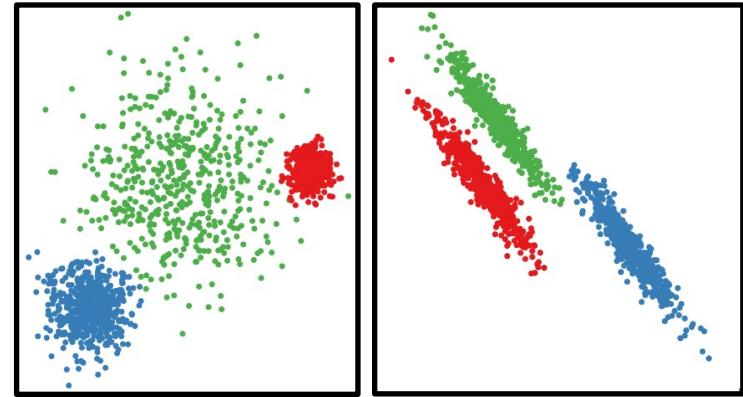
$$z_{n,k} = \frac{-d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_k)}{-\sum_{j=1}^K d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j)}$$

Picking a new update rule

$$z_{n,k} = \frac{d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_k)}{\sum_j d(\mathbf{x}_n, \mu_j)}$$



Picking a new update rule



$$z_{n,k} = \frac{-\|\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k\|^2}{-\sum_{j=1}^K \|\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j\|^2}$$

$$z_{n,k} = \frac{-(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)^\top \mathbf{I}_K (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K -(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j)^\top \mathbf{I}_K (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j)}$$

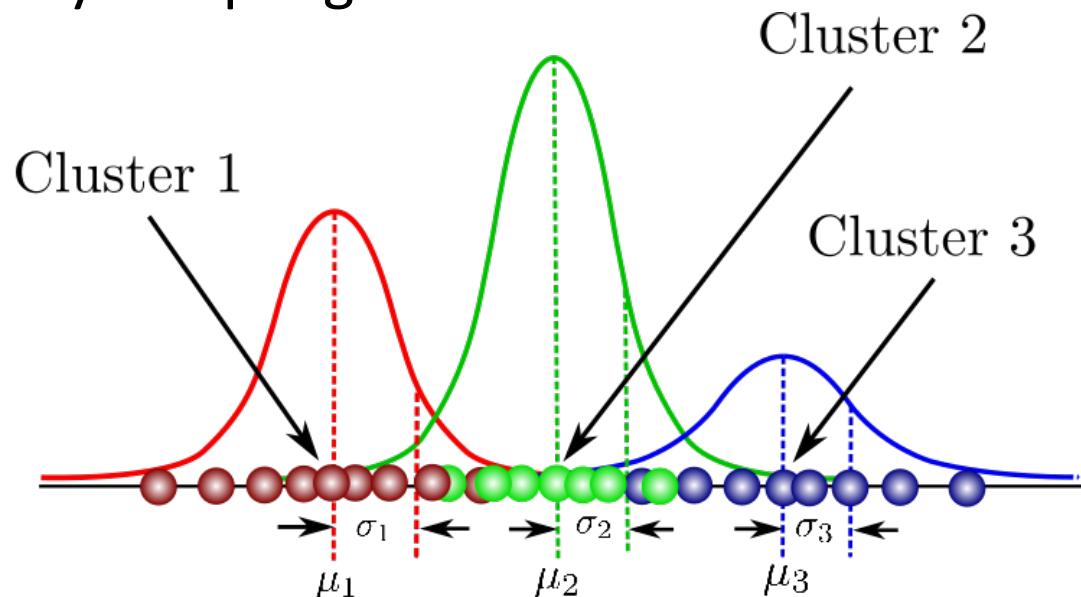
$$z_{n,k} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{n,k}}{\sum_{j=1}^K \mathcal{Z}_{n,k}} = \frac{\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \mu_j, \Sigma_j)}$$

$$z_{n,k} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^K \exp(-(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j)^\top \Sigma_j (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j))}$$

$$z_{n,k} = \frac{(2\pi)^{-K/2} \sqrt{\det(\Sigma_k)} \exp(-(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)^\top \Sigma_k (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_k)/2)}{\sum_{j=1}^K (2\pi)^{-K/2} \sqrt{\det(\Sigma_j)} \exp(-(\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j)^\top \Sigma_j (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_j)/2)}$$

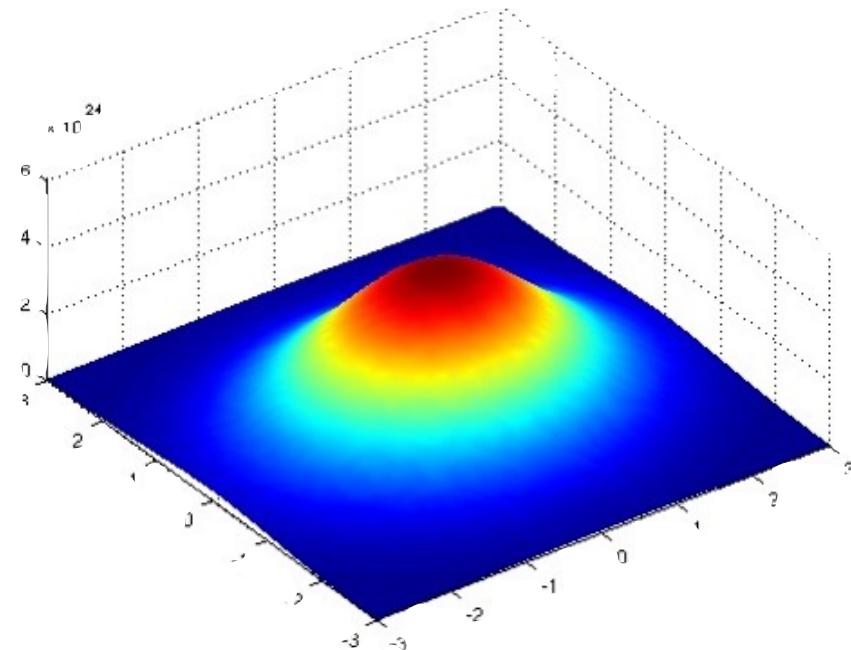
Generative Clustering Model

- Assume we have K clusters
- Each cluster represented by a multivariate Gaussian
- Generative process
 - Select a cluster (a Gaussian distribution)
 - Generate an example by sampling from the Gaussian



Gaussian Mixtures

- Since we have multiple Gaussians generating points, we call the model Gaussian Mixture Model
- Why Gaussians?
 - Captures intuition about clusters
 - Examples are more likely to be near center of cluster



Gaussian Mixture Model

- Cluster Responsibilities
 - Cluster means, variances, and weight coefficients

$$\gamma(z_{nk}) = \frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_j, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j)} \quad N_k = \sum_n \gamma(z_{nk})$$

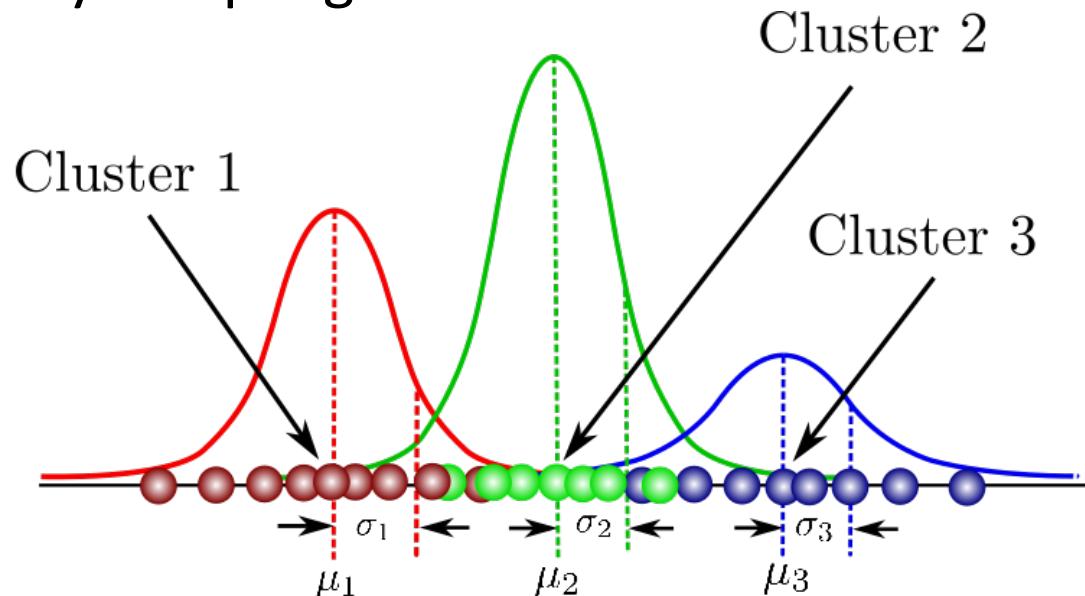
$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k}{N} = \frac{N_k}{\sum_k N_k}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^T$$

Generative Clustering Model

- Assume we have K clusters
- Each cluster represented by a multivariate Gaussian
- Generative process
 - Select a cluster (a Gaussian distribution)
 - Generate an example by sampling from the Gaussian



Problems with GMMs

- Mode collapse: cluster with a single example
 - Undefined variance: catch this and reset that cluster
- Non-convex likelihood: $K!$ equivalent solutions
 - Random restarts may still be helpful
- Slower: requires more iterations than K-Means
 - And each iteration is more computationally expensive

Next time: Expectation Maximization

- K-Means and GMMs share a general algorithm:
- Initialize parameters that describe the data
- Repeat until converged:
 1. Compute assignment for every data point
 2. Update parameters based on those assignments
- What else can this algorithm do?

[Maximum Likelihood from Incomplete Data Via the **EM Algorithm**](#)

[AP Dempster, NM Laird... - Journal of the Royal ... , 1977 - Wiley Online Library](#)

A broadly applicable **algorithm** for computing maximum likelihood estimates from incomplete data is presented at various levels of generality. Theory showing the monotone behaviour of the likelihood and convergence of the **algorithm** is derived. Many examples are sketched ...

★ 77 Cited by 64721 Related articles All 70 versions