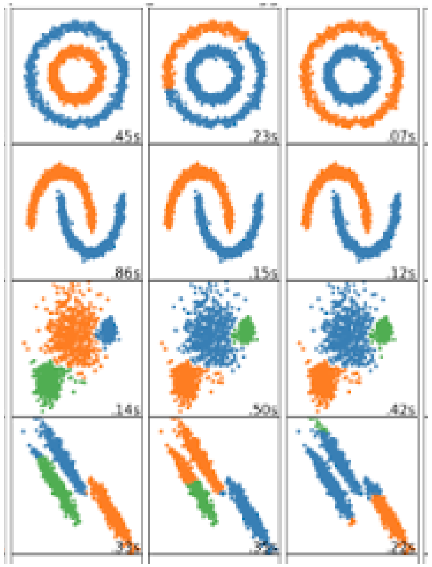
Density-Based Clustering Methods

- Partitioning methods (K-means, PAM clustering) work for finding spherical-shaped clusters or convex clusters.
- In other words, they are suitable only for compact and well-separated clusters.
- For data set containing nonconvex clusters k-means algorithm has difficulties for identifying these clusters with arbitrary shapes.



Density-Based Clustering Methods

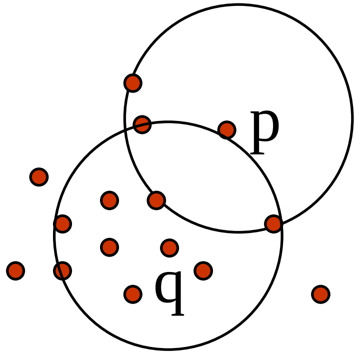
- Clustering based on density (local cluster criterion), such as density-connected points
- Major features:
  - Discover clusters of arbitrary shape
  - Handle noise
  - One scan
  - Need density parameters as termination condition

The key idea is that for each point of a cluster, the neighborhood of a given radius has to contain at least a minimum number of points.

Density-Based Clustering: Basic Concepts

- Two parameters*:*
  - *Eps*: Maximum radius of the neighbourhood
  - *MinPts*: Minimum number of points in an Eps-neighbourhood of that point
- $N_{Eps}(p)$: {q belongs to D | dist(p,q) ≤ Eps}
- Directly density-reachable: A point *p* is directly density-reachable from a point *q* w.r.t. *Eps*, *MinPts* if
  - *p* belongs to $N_{Eps}(q)$
  - core point condition:

$$|N_{Eps}(q)| \geq MinPts$$

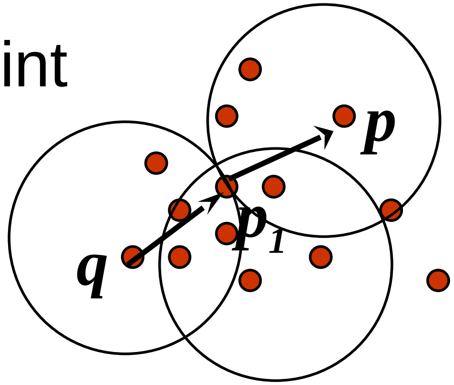


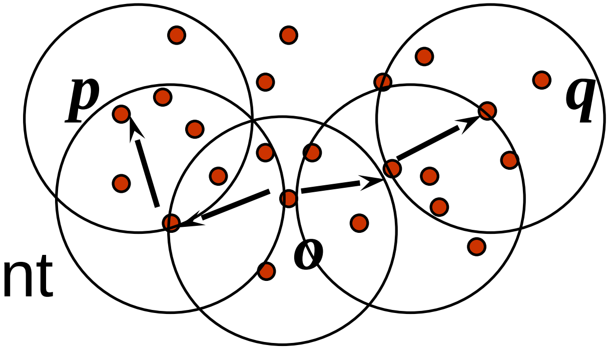
MinPts = 5

Eps = 1 cm

Density-Reachable and Density-Connected

- Density-reachable:
  - A point p is density-reachable from a point q w.r.t. *Eps*, *MinPts* if there is a chain of points $p_1, \ldots, p_n$, $p_1 = q$, $p_n = p$ such that p_{i+1} is directly density-reachable from p_i
  - *Except last all other must be a core point*





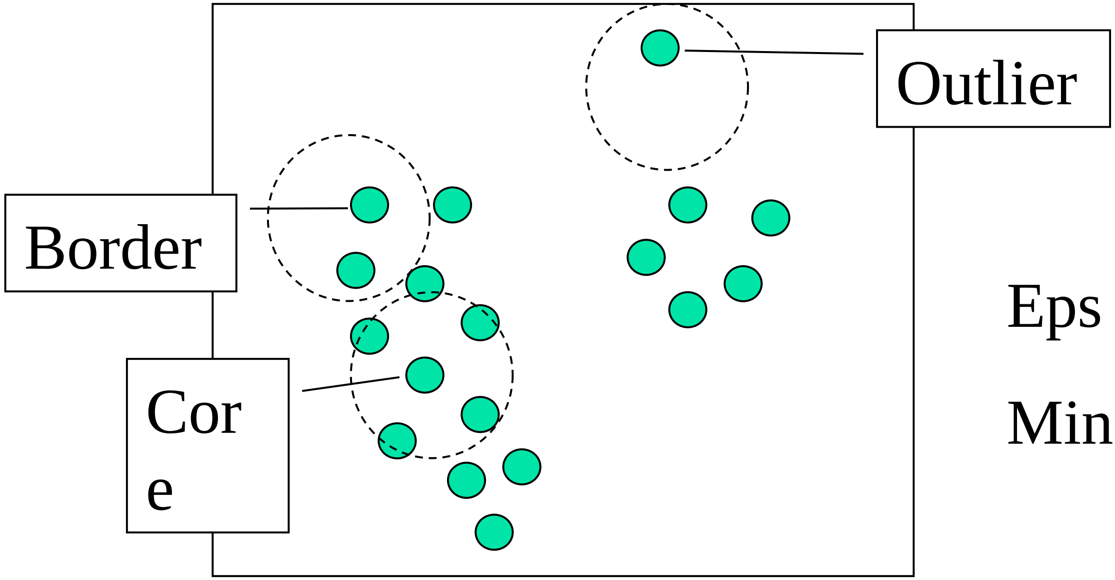
- Density-connected
  - A point p is density-connected to a point q w.r.t. *Eps*, *MinPts* if there is a point o such that both, p and q are density-reachable from o w.r.t. *Eps* and *MinPts*

DBSCAN: Density-Based Spatial Clustering of Applications with Noise

Core Point: A point is a core point if it has more or equal to MinPts points within eps.

Border Point: A point which has fewer than MinPts within eps but it is in the neighborhood of a core point.

Noise or outlier: A point which is not a core point or border point.

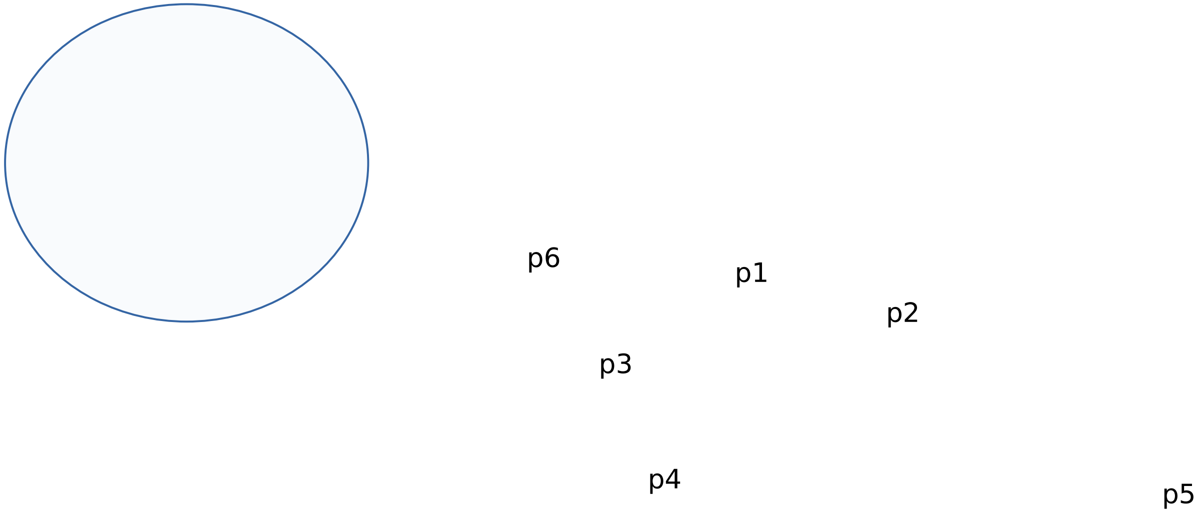


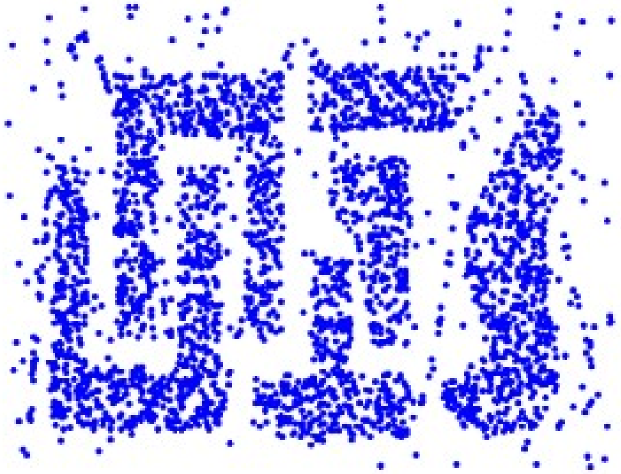
Eps = 1cm

MinPts = 5

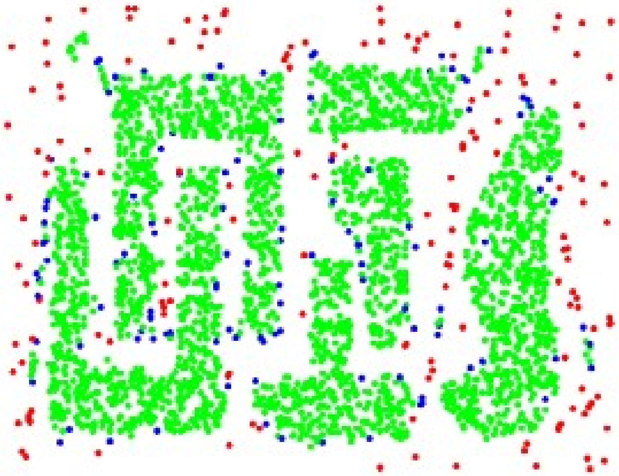
DBSCAN: The Algorithm

- Compute Neighbors of each points and identify core points
- Joint neighboring core points into clusters
- For each non-core points do:
  - Add to a neighboring core points if possible //border
  - Otherwise add it to noise //noise point


p6
p1
p2
p3
p4
p5



Original Points



Point types: core,
border and noise

Eps = 10, MinPts = 4

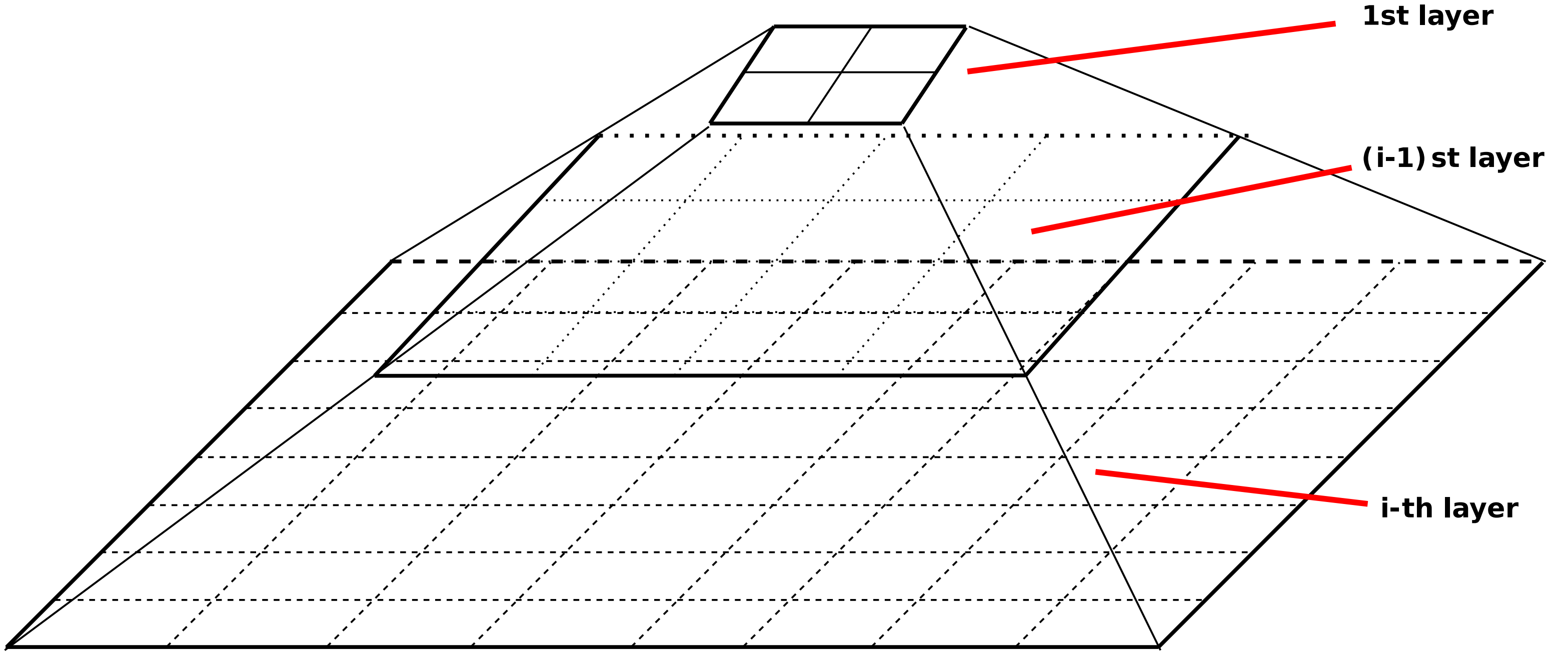
Grid-Based Methods

Grid-Based Clustering Method

- Using multi-resolution grid data structure
- Several interesting methods
  - STING (a STatistical INformation Grid approach) by Wang, Yang and Muntz (1997)
  - WaveCluster by Sheikholeslami, Chatterjee, and Zhang (VLDB'98)
    - A multi-resolution clustering approach using wavelet method
  - CLIQUE: Agrawal, et al. (SIGMOD'98)
    - Both grid-based and subspace clustering

STING: A Statistical Information Grid Approach

- Wang, Yang and Muntz (VLDB'97)
- The spatial area is divided into rectangular cells
- There are several levels of cells corresponding to different levels of resolution



The STING Clustering Method

- Each cell at a high level is partitioned into a number of smaller cells in the next lower level
- Statistical info of each cell is calculated and stored beforehand and is used to answer queries
- Parameters of higher level cells can be easily calculated from parameters of lower level cell
  - *count*, *mean*, *s*, *min*, *max*
  - type of distribution—*normal*, *uniform*, etc.
- Use a top-down approach to answer spatial data queries
- Start from a pre-selected layer—typically with a small number of cells
- For each cell in the current level compute the confidence interval

STING Algorithm and Its Analysis

- Remove the irrelevant cells from further consideration
- When finish examining the current layer, proceed to the next lower level
- Repeat this process until the bottom layer is reached
- Advantages:
  - Query-independent, easy to parallelize, incremental update
- Disadvantages:
  - All the cluster boundaries are either horizontal or vertical, and no diagonal boundary is detected