**Clustering a Nearby Galaxy**

**Interactive Exhibit Submission**

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Space-based astronomical observatories generate vast quantities of data, and efficient means of analyzing those data are needed. The purpose of this research is to apply machine-learning methods to classification of point sources of light emission in nearby galaxies. An object’s light emission over different wavelengths is the key data for classification as it indicates the composition of the object, along with its other physical attributes. Two clustering methods have been applied to observations of point sources in the M83 galaxy based on data taken with the Wide Field Camera 3 on the Hubble Space Telescope. A program was designed using the Python language to implement the mean-shift and k-means clustering methods to identify objects that emit similar combinations of light over multiple wavelength bands. To identify which combination of band-passes was the best at separating different classes of objects, the strength of the clustering was tested using the silhouette score. This metric measures an objects distance from a cluster outside the computer originally assigned it to. The clustering results were also compared with the results of independent classification. The results of this work will allow astronomers to plan observations that can be used to automatically classify objects in nearby galaxies, leading to a stronger understanding of how stars and star clusters form and evolve.