

# IntroML Tutorial

Clustering and Dimensionality Reduction II



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<https://las.inf.ethz.ch/teaching/introml-s19>

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1. Spectral Clustering
2. Kernel PCA
3. Autoencoders

# Clustering



## Clustering strategies

- Model-based clustering (*an underlying distribution that is a mixture of two or more clusters*),
- hierarchical clustering (*a tree based representation of objects*),
- density-based clustering (*identify the clusters with different shape and size*),
- **partitioning methods** (*subdivide the data sets into  $k$  groups*),

Global optimal: exhaustive enumeration of all partitions

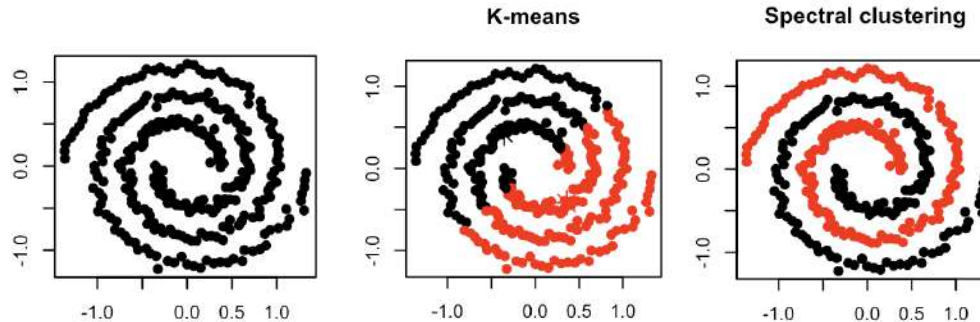
Heuristic methods: *K-means*, K-medoids, K-medians, etc.

**Today's focus.** Partitioning via Spectral Clustering

# Spectral Clustering

**K-means** fails in clustering the manifolds with arbitrary shape but only **compact** ones!

**Spectral clustering** identifies communities of data points that are **connected**



- The data points are treated as nodes of a graph
- The partitioning of data points are based on the edges connecting them
- More specifically, spectrum (eigenvalues) of a graph-based dissimilarity matrix is exploited to learn partitioning
- Suitable for clustering arbitrary manifolds, e.g., intertwined spirals!

# Spectral Clustering



## Basic Stages.

### 1. Matrix Representation of a Graph

**1.1** Construct an undirected similarity graph based on the **similarity** between nodes (data points). We represent the similarity between the nodes by a symmetric adjacency matrix  $A$

**1.2** Form Laplacian matrix  $L$  based on  $A$

### 2. Embedding

Perform **eigenvalue decomposition** of the graph in order to **embed** data onto a low-dimensional space (*spectral embedding*) such that cluster are more obvious

### 3. Clustering

Apply a clustering algorithm to partition the embeddings, e.g., k-means

# Spectral Clustering



## Matrix representations of a graph

Given set of data points  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and  $w_{ij} \geq 0$  between  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ , form an **undirected** graph

$$G = (V, E, A)$$

with  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  where  $v_i = x_i$  and the edge between two vertices  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  carries a non-negative weight  $w_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $A$  is the affinity matrix that is built based on edge weights.

# Spectral Clustering

## Matrix representations of a graph.

Adjacency Matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  symmetric matrix built upon the similarities between vertices

## How to form adjacency graph?

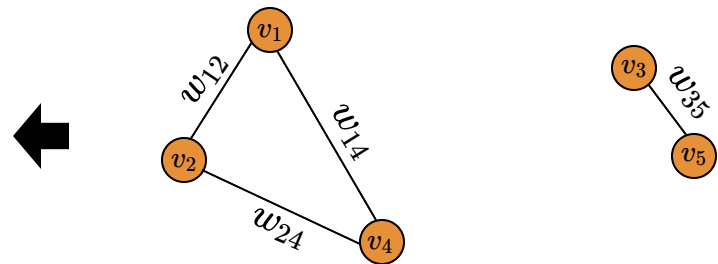
**The  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood graph.** Connect all vertices whose pairwise distances are smaller than  $\varepsilon$ .

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij} & \text{:if } w_{ij} \leq \varepsilon \\ 0 & \text{:else} \end{cases}$$

$n = 5$

$A =$

	1	2	3	4	5
1	0	$w_{12}$	0	$w_{14}$	0
2	$w_{12}$	0	0	$w_{24}$	0
3	0	0	0	0	$w_{35}$
4	$w_{14}$	$w_{24}$	0	0	0
5	0	0	$w_{35}$	0	0



# Spectral Clustering



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**Disadvantage.** Loss of similarity information



# Spectral Clustering



## Matrix representations of a graph.

Adjacency Matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  symmetric matrix built upon the similarities between vertices

## How to form adjacency graph?

**$k$ -nearest neighbor graph.** Connect the vertex  $v_i$  with  $v_j$  such that

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij} & \text{:if } v_i \text{ is among } k\text{-neighbors of } v_j \\ 0 & \text{:else} \end{cases}$$

**Disadvantage.** The graph is no more undirected

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**Disadvantage.** The graph is no more undirected

**Solution.** 1. Ignore the the directions of edges ☺ and take all neighbors into account

2. Connect them only if both are neighbors of each other (mutual  $k$ -nn )

weight the edges by the similarity of end points

# Spectral Clustering

## Matrix representations of a graph.

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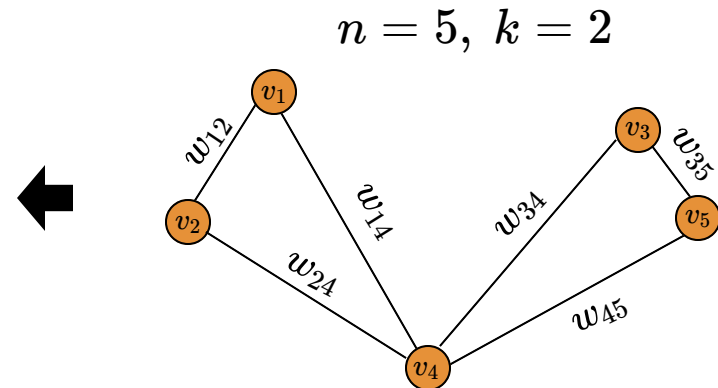
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$A =$

	1	2	3	4	5
1	0	$w_{12}$	$w_{13}$	0	0
2	$w_{12}$	0	$w_{23}$	0	0
3	0	0	0	$w_{34}$	$w_{35}$
4	$w_{14}$	$w_{24}$	$w_{34}$	0	$w_{35}$
5	0	0	$w_{35}$	$w_{45}$	0



# Spectral Clustering

## Matrix representations of a graph.

Adjacency Matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  symmetric matrix built upon the similarities between vertices

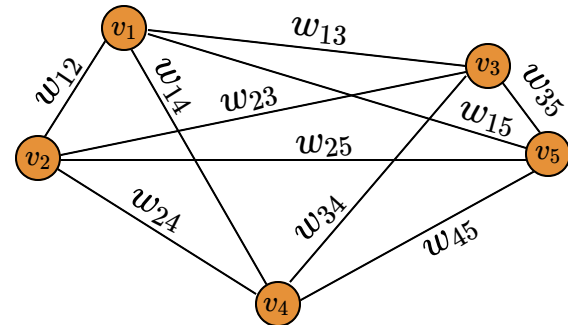
## How to form adjacency graph?

**The fully connected graph.** Weight all edges such that

$$A_{ij} = w_{ij}$$

$A =$

	1	2	3	4	5
1	0	$w_{12}$	$w_{13}$	$w_{14}$	$w_{15}$
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3	$w_{13}$	$w_{23}$	0	$w_{34}$	$w_{35}$
4	$w_{14}$	$w_{24}$	$w_{34}$	0	$w_{45}$
5	$w_{15}$	$w_{25}$	$w_{35}$	$w_{45}$	0



# Spectral Clustering



## Matrix representations of a graph.

Adjacency Matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  symmetric matrix built upon the similarities between vertices

## How to form adjacency graph?

**The fully connected graph.** Weight all edges such that

$$A_{ij} = w_{ij}$$

Gaussian kernel similarity function as an example:

$$w_{ij} = \exp \left( - \|x_i - x_j\|^2 / (2\sigma^2) \right)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the width of neighborhoods.

See [\[Luxburg 2007\]](#) for further reading.

# Spectral Clustering

## Graph Laplacian

### Definition

Let degree of a vertex  $v_i \in V$  be given by  $d_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}$ .

The **degree** matrix is a diagonal matrix with degrees  $d_1, \dots, d_n$  on the diagonal:  $D$

**Note:** There is no unique description on "graph Laplacian". There are different variants with their own properties. We will first focus on the unnormalized graph Laplacian

### The unnormalized graph Laplacian

$$L = D - A$$

$$L_{ij} = \begin{cases} A_{ij} - d_i & \text{:if } i = j \\ A_{ij} & \text{:else} \end{cases}$$

# Spectral Clustering

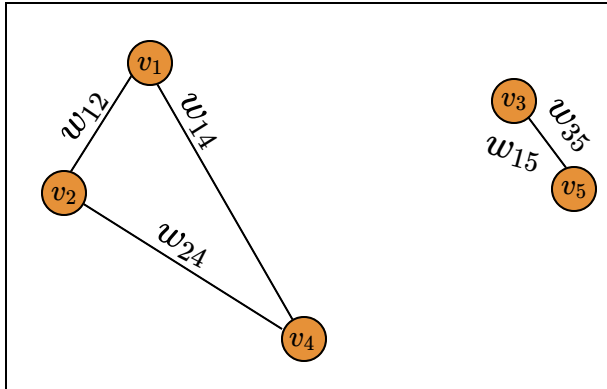
Spectrum of the Laplacian  
 $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$

## What spectral embedding tells us?

1. If 0 is the eigenvalue of  $L$  with  $k$  different eigenvectors, i.e.,  $0 = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_k$  then has  $k$  connected components
2. If the graph is connected,  $\lambda_2 > 0$ , the so-called *algebraic connectivity* of  $G$ .

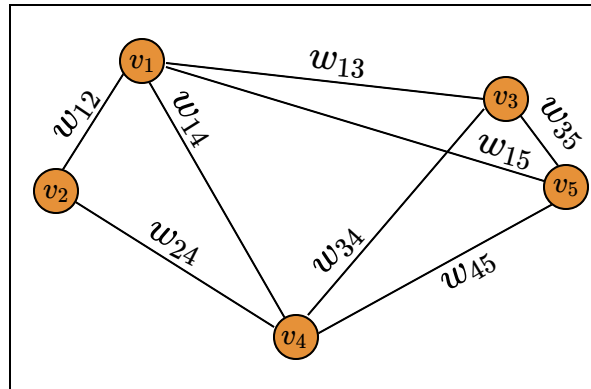
The corresponding eigenvector is called *Fiedler vector*.

$$0 = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 < \lambda_3 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$$



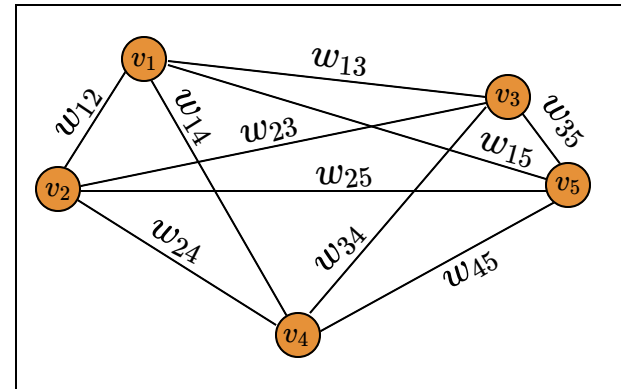
$G_1$

$$0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$$



$G_2$

$$0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$$



$G_3$

The greater  $\lambda_2$  the more connected  $G$  is.

$$\lambda_2(G_2) < \lambda_2(G_3)$$

# Spectral Clustering

## Resources

[Fiedler, 1973]

[de Abreu, 2006]

Spectrum of the Laplacian  
 $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$

## Bipartitioning via Spectral Decomposition

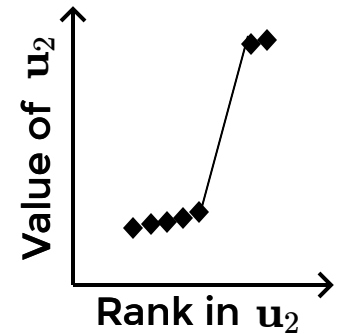
Take the second eigenvector  $\mathbf{u}_2$  of graph Laplacian  $\mathbf{L}$ , the algebraic connectivity of  $G$

➔ The smaller  $\lambda_2$ , the better quality of partitioning

For each node  $i$  in  $G$  assign  $\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$  to the respective node

Bipartition the graph into two clusters by choosing a splitting point.

➔ Naïve approaches: Split at 0 or median value



### Split at 0

i	$\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$
1	0.3
2	0.1
3	-0.2
4	0.15
5	-0.15
6	0.2

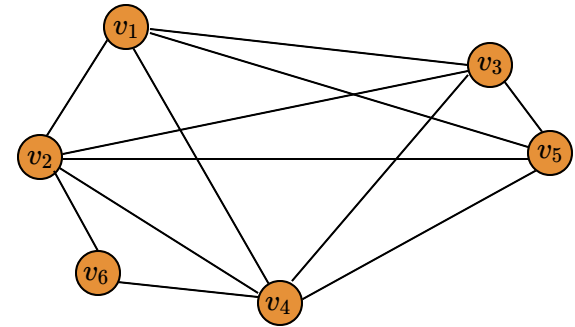


### Cluster A

i	$\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$
1	0.3
2	0.1
4	0.15
6	0.2

### Cluster B

i	$\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$
3	-0.2
5	-0.15





# Spectral Clustering

Spectrum of the Laplacian  
 $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$

## Bipartitioning via Spectral Decomposition

Take the second eigenvector  $\mathbf{u}_2$  of graph Laplacian  $\mathbf{L}$ , the algebraic connectivity of  $G$

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Cluster A

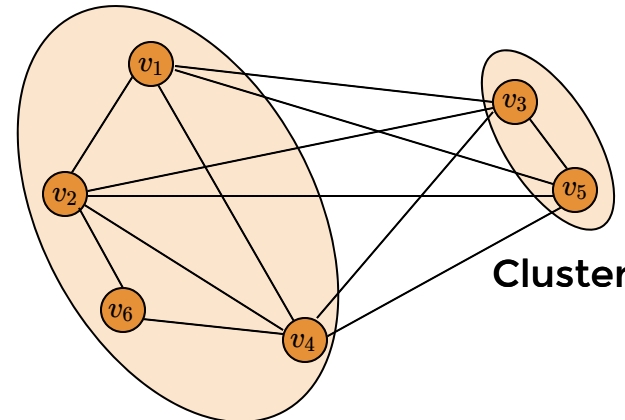
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Cluster B

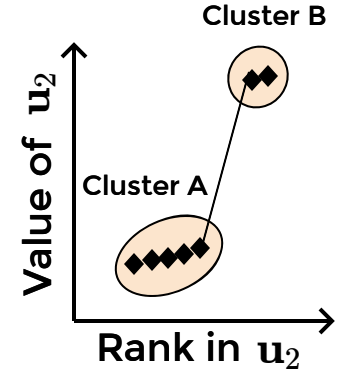
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Cluster A



Cluster B



# Spectral Clustering

Spectrum of the Laplacian  
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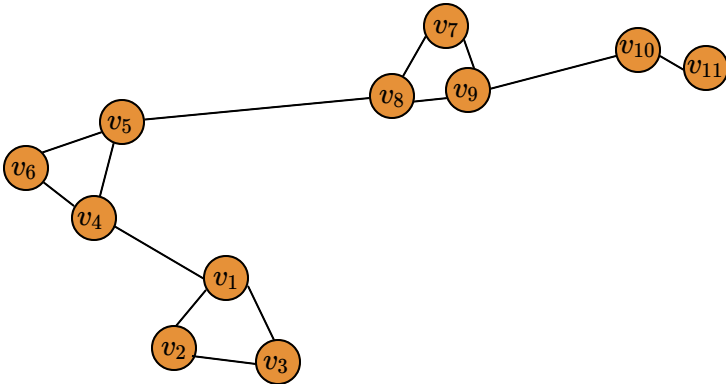
## Partitioning via Spectral Decomposition

How to partition a graph into  $k$  clusters?

Two approaches:

1. Recursive bi-partitioning [[Hagen et al. 1992](#)]

How does  $\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$  look when there are more than two clusters?



2. Cluster multiple eigenvectors [[Shi-Malik, 2000](#); [Ng-Jordan-Weiss, 2002](#)]

Next topic 

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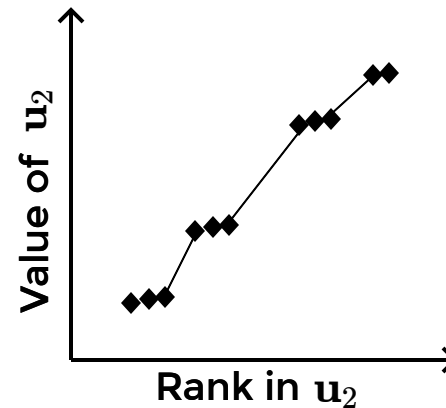
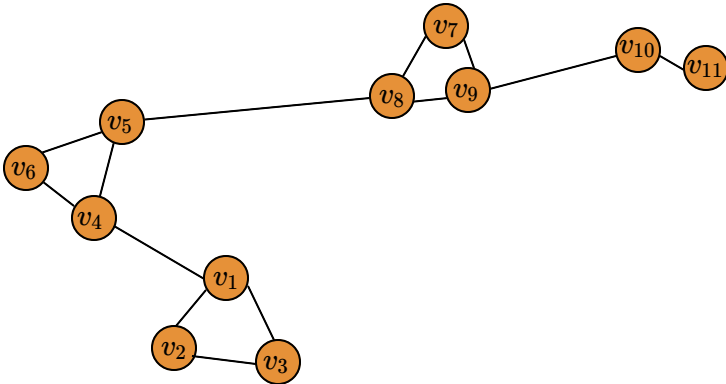
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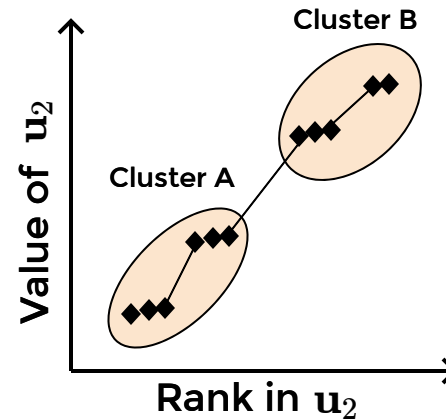
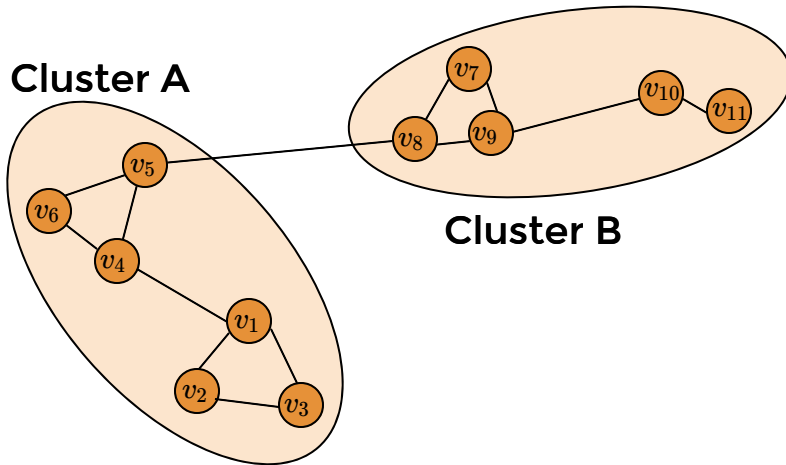
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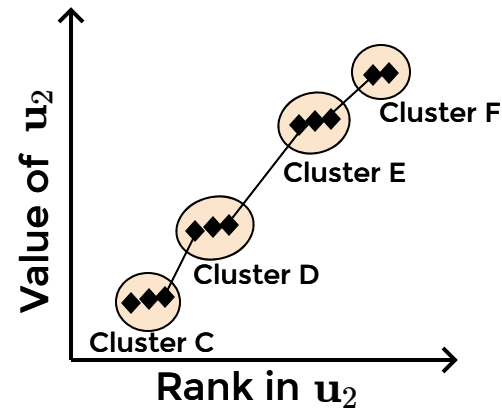
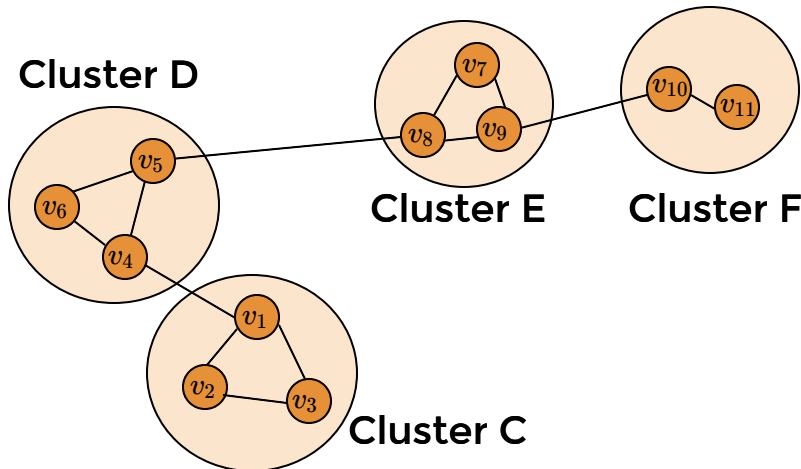
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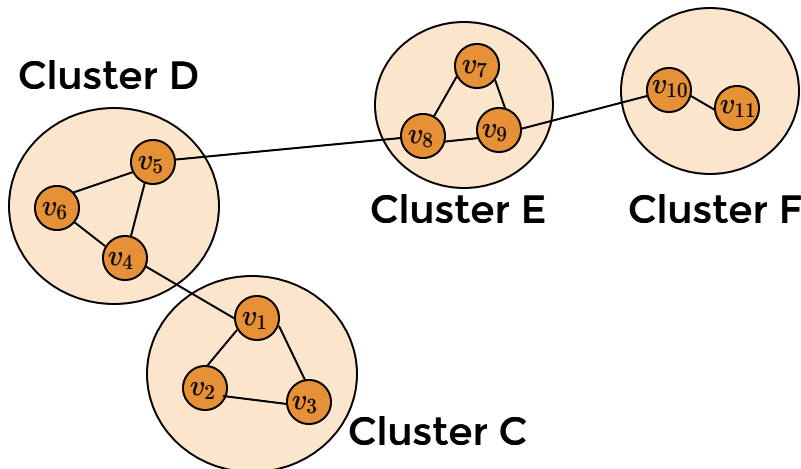
## Partitioning via Spectral Decomposition

How to partition a graph into  $k$  clusters?

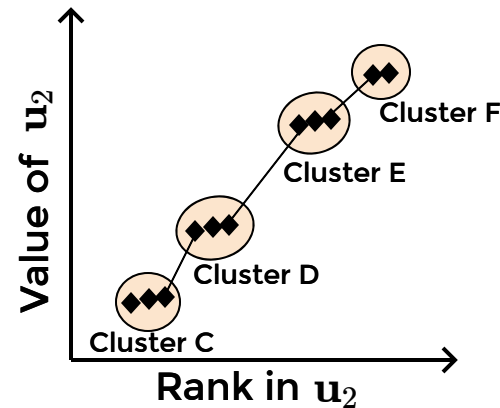
Two approaches:

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How does  $\mathbf{u}_2(v_i)$  look when there are more than two clusters?



**Disadvantages: unstable & inefficient**



2. Cluster multiple eigenvectors [[Shi-Malik, 2000](#); [Ng-Jordan-Weiss, 2002](#)]

Next topic 

# Spectral Clustering

Dimensionality reduction

## Cluster using multiple eigenvectors

- ➔ Embed the data into a low dimensional space using eigenvectors
- ➔ Apply a clustering method, i.e., k-means

## Spectral Embedding via graph Laplacian (unnormalized)

1. Compute the eigendecomposition  $L = D - A$
2. Select the  $k$  smallest eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k$
3. Form  $n \times k$  matrix  $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1 \dots \mathbf{u}_k]$  such that

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1(v_1) & \dots & \mathbf{u}_k(v_1) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1(v_n) & \dots & \mathbf{u}_k(v_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

4. Cluster the normalized rows of  $\mathbf{U}$  into  $k$  clusters using  $k$ -means

# Spectral Clustering

## Cluster using multiple eigenvectors

- ➡ Embed the data into a low dimensional space using eigenvectors
- ➡ Apply a clustering method, i.e., k-means

## Spectral Embedding via graph Laplacian (normalized & symmetric)

1. Compute the eigendecomposition  $L_{norm} = D^{-1/2} L D^{-1/2}$
2. Select the  $k$  smallest eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_k$
3. Form  $n \times k$  matrix  $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1 \dots \mathbf{u}_k]$  such that

$$\mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1(v_1) & \dots & \mathbf{u}_k(v_1) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}_1(v_n) & \dots & \mathbf{u}_k(v_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

4. Normalize each row of  $\mathbf{U}$  to norm 1
5. Cluster the normalized rows of  $\mathbf{U}$  into  $k$  clusters using  $k$ -means

**Preferable & commonly used in recent papers**



# Spectral Clustering

## Graph cut point of view [\[Luxburg 2007\]](#)

How to cut a graph to partition data points into clusters?

Let  $W(A, B) := \sum_{i \in A, j \in B} w_{ij}$  and  $\bar{A}$  is the complement of  $A$

Also let  $k$  be the number of clusters we want to partition our data into

**Mincut** minimizes  $cut(A_1, \dots, A_k) := \sum_{i=1}^k W(A_i, \bar{A}_i) \longrightarrow \text{problems?}$

**RatioCut** minimizes  $RatioCut(A_1, \dots, A_k) := \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{W(A_i, \bar{A}_i)}{|A_i|} = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{cut(A_i, \bar{A}_i)}{|A_i|}, |A_i|$  is #vertices in  $A_i$

**Ncut** minimizes  $Ncut(A_1, \dots, A_k) := \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{W(A_i, \bar{A}_i)}{vol(A_i)} = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{cut(A_i, \bar{A}_i)}{vol(A_i)} vol(A_i)$  is weights of edges in  $A_i$

Unnormalized Laplacian  $\approx$  RatioCut

Normalized Laplacian  $\approx$  Ncut

# Spectral Clustering



## Advantages

1. No strong assumption on shape and statistics of clusters, hence resulting better clustering performance for connected clusters than k-means.
2. Easy to implement
3. Reasonably fast for sparse data sets of several thousand elements.

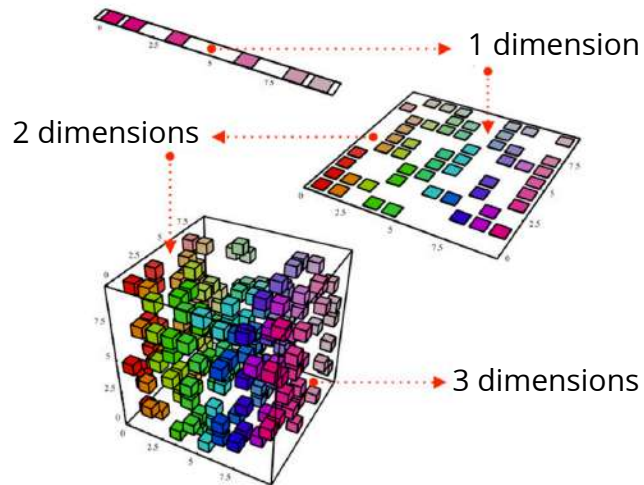
## Disadvantages

1. Computationally expensive for large data set due to eigendecomposition
2. Use of k-means in the last step may lead instability due to the sensitivity of k-means to the initial centroids (*Homework 5, Problem 2*)

# Recap (Dimensionality Reduction)

Suppose  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and we want to learn a mapping  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  with  $k \ll d$  where we can reconstruct the data with **little** loss of information

**Motivation:** Visualization, compression, unsupervised feature discovery



**Key question:** How to choose the mapping  $f$ ?

**linear?** nonlinear?

**Linear dimensionality reduction?**

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

# Recap (Principal Component Analysis)

Recall from the lecture that PCA is a **linear** dimensionality reduction technique

$$\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{x}_i, \quad \mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$$

which minimizes the **reconstruction error**  $\sum_i \|\mathbf{W} \mathbf{z}_i - \mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2$

**Solution to PCA.** For centered data:  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$

$$\mathbf{W}^* = (\mathbf{v}_1 | \dots | \mathbf{v}_k) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{W}^* \mathbf{x}_i \quad \text{where} \quad \Sigma = \sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i^T, \quad \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_d \geq 0$$

**(4 points)** (iii) *Short questions on dimensionality reduction.* Assume we apply PCA with  $k$  principal components to a data set  $D = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}$  where  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

1. If  $k < d$  we can *exactly* reconstruct  $x_i$  from  $k$  principal components.

☐ True      ☒ False

2. If  $k = d$  we can *exactly* reconstruct  $x_i$  from  $k$  principal components.

☒ True      ☐ False

3. If  $k > n$  we can *exactly* reconstruct  $x_i$  from  $k$  principal components.

☒ True      ☐ False

4. Suppose  $\mathbf{X}$  is the  $n \times d$  data matrix. Then, the eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T$  and  $\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X}$  are the same.

☐ True      ☒ False

**Final Exam 2018**

# Non-linear Dimensionality Reduction - Kernel PCA

**Motivation.** How to capture **non-linear** manifold structures?

**Kernel PCA.** Apply Kernel method to PCA!

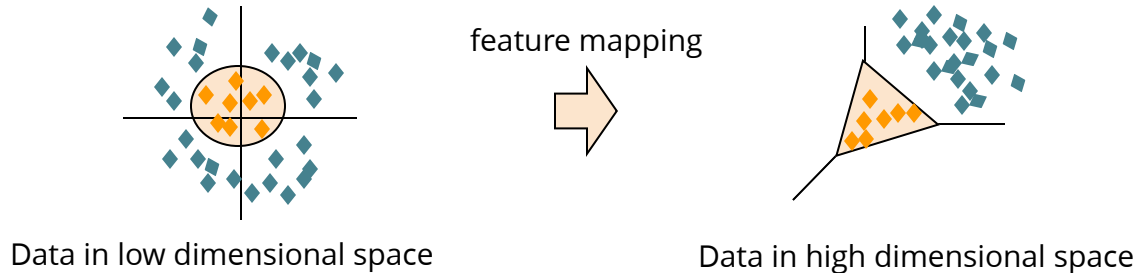
$$\begin{aligned} k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) &= (x_1^2, \sqrt{2}x_1x_2, x_2^2)^T (z_1^2, \sqrt{2}z_1z_2, z_2^2) \\ &= (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^2 \end{aligned}$$

Map data to higher dimensions where contain linear patterns

Data becomes linearly separable in the new feature space



*Example.* Feature mapping function  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \quad (x_1, x_2) \rightarrow (z_1, z_2, z_3) = (x_1^2, \sqrt{2}x_1x_2, x_2^2)$



The feature mapping  $\phi$  is not necessary to know! We deal with kernel functions instead 😊

Recall from the class that kernel principal components  $\alpha^{(1)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are given by

$\alpha^{(i)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_i}} \mathbf{v}_i$  where  $\lambda_i, \mathbf{v}_i, i = \{1, \dots, n\}$  are obtained by eigendecomposition of  $\mathbf{K} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i^T$

A new point  $x$  is projected as

$$z_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j^{(i)} k(x, x_j)$$

# Kernel PCA vs. Spectral Clustering



Consider the Kernel matrix  $\mathbf{K}_{ij} = k(x_i, x_j)$

In Kernel-PCA, we compute the eigenvector  $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$

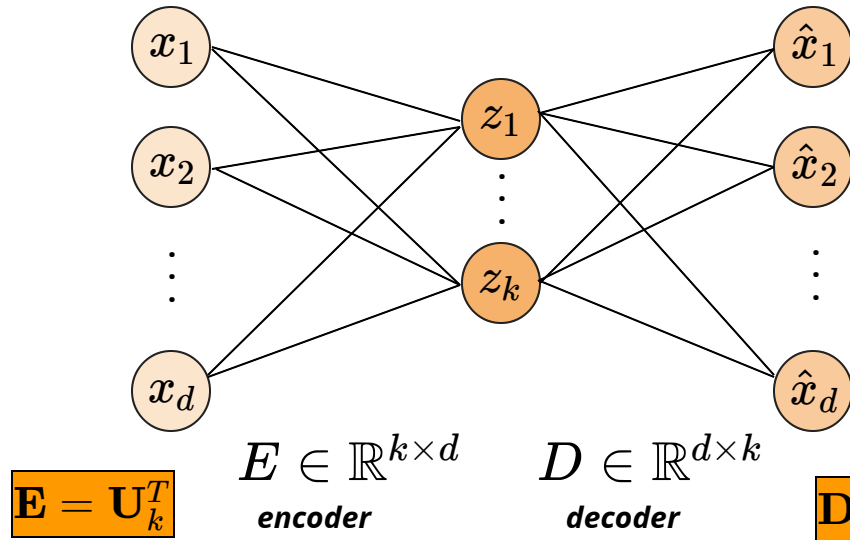
Generalized eigenvector  $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{z} = \lambda\mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}$ ,  $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\sum_j k(x_1, x_j), \dots, \sum_j k(x_n, x_j))$  *spectral clustering*

"There is a clear equivalence between the spectral embedding methods used in spectral clustering and Laplacian eigenmaps with the projection computed by the kernel PCA method." [\[Bengio et al. 2004\]](#)

# Linear Autoencoder

Given data points  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, i = 1, \dots, n$  compress data into  $k$ -dimensional representation  $k \leq d$ .

Linear auto-encoding with a single hidden layer



How to choose  $E$  and  $D$ ?

Optimal solution satisfies:

$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2$$

PCA

$$\mathbf{D}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}_k \Lambda_k \mathbf{V}_k^T$$

Eckart-Young theorem: Let  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1 \cdots \mathbf{x}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$  and SVD of  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda\mathbf{V}$ . For  $k \leq \min(n, d)$

$$\arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}: \text{rank}(\hat{\mathbf{X}})=k} \|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|_F^2 = \mathbf{U}_k \Lambda_k \mathbf{V}_k^T$$

# Non-linear Autoencoder



Use neural network autoencoders to learn the nonlinear mapping for dimensionality reduction through an **identity function**

$$x \approx f(x; \theta)$$

Properties of  $f(\cdot)$  : approximates the identity function & performs compression

How to pick  $f(\cdot)$  : Composition of two nonlinear functions  $f_1(\cdot)$  and  $f_2(\cdot)$  such that

$$f(x; \theta) = f_2(f_1(x; \theta_1); \theta_2)$$

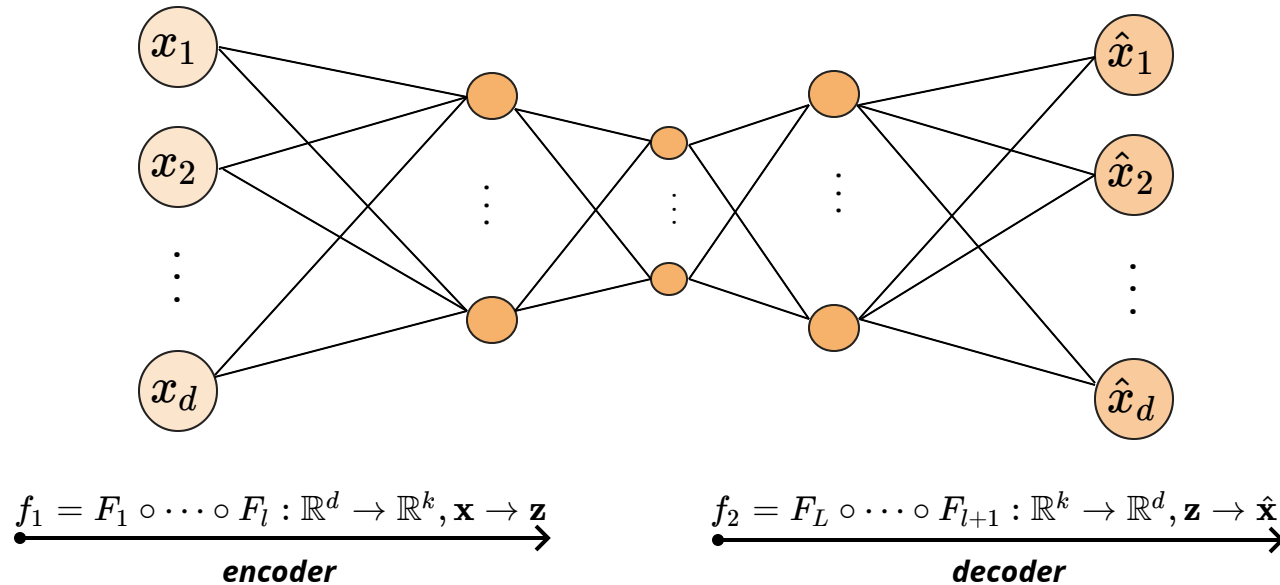
where  $f_1(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  and  $f_2(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$   
*encoder* *decoder*

How to learn  $f_1(\cdot)$  and  $f_2(\cdot)$  ? Use Neural Networks!

Non-linear generalization of PCA.



# Non-linear Autoencoder



How to **train** autoencoders?

Optimize the weights such that  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}^{(1)}, \mathbf{w}^{(2)}) = f_2(f_1(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}^{(1)}); \mathbf{w}^{(2)}) \approx \mathbf{x}$

e.g.,  $\min_{\mathbf{W}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_i - f(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{W})\|_2^2$  via backpropagation.

Autoencoders vs. PCA



original    autoencoder    PCA

image credit: <http://nghiaho.com>

See js demo for digit images:

<https://cs.stanford.edu/people/karpathy/convnetjs/demo/autoenc>

**Questions?**

# References



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