

# Image Retrieval – COMP4423 Computer Vision

Xiaoyong Wei (魏驍勇)

x1wei@polyu.edu.hk

Department of Computing  
電子計算學系



THE HONG KONG  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
香港理工大學

Opening Minds • Shaping the Future  
啟迪思維 • 成就未來

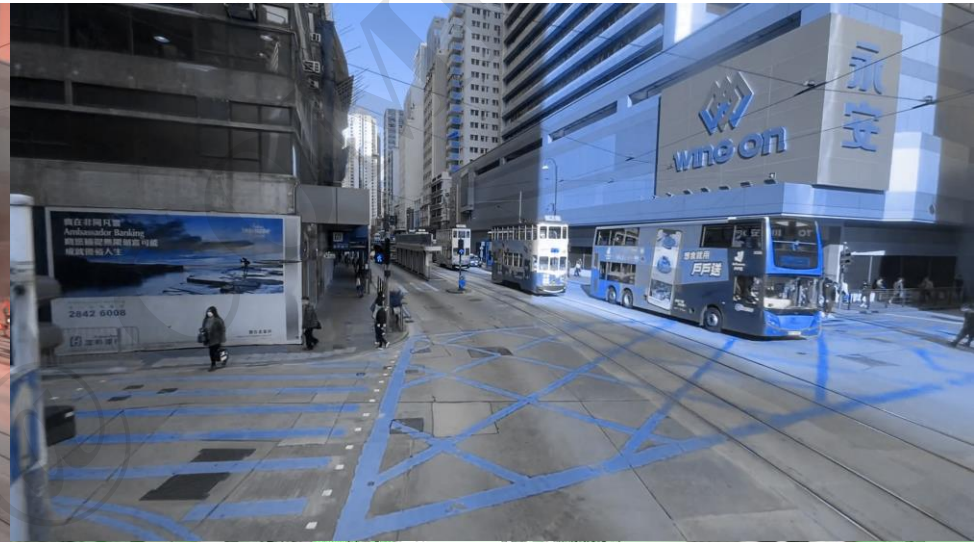
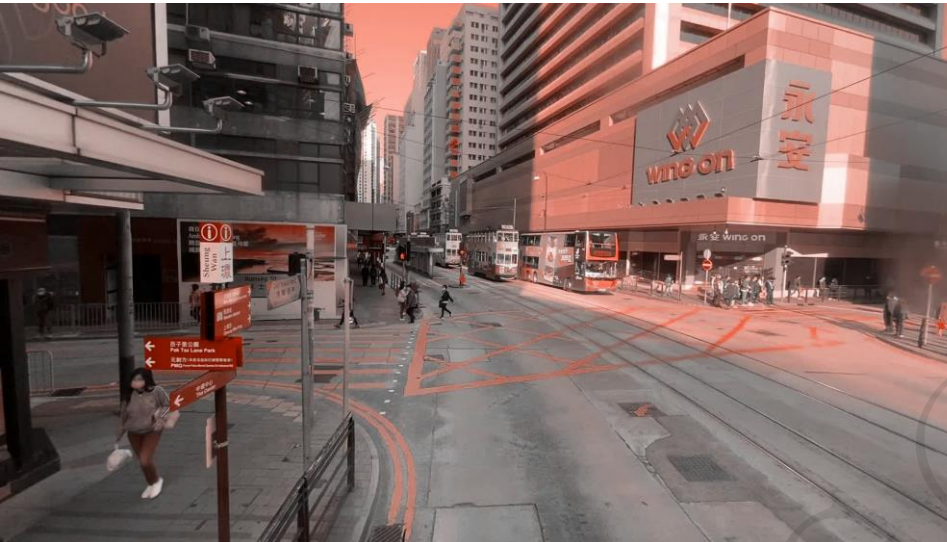


# New Toy





# New Toy



# Outline

- > Clustering
- > K-Means
- > Content-based image retrieval (CBIR)
- > Bag of Visual Words (BoVW)



In Feature Extraction, we teach the computers to represent the “content” of the images.

How can we use these “content”?



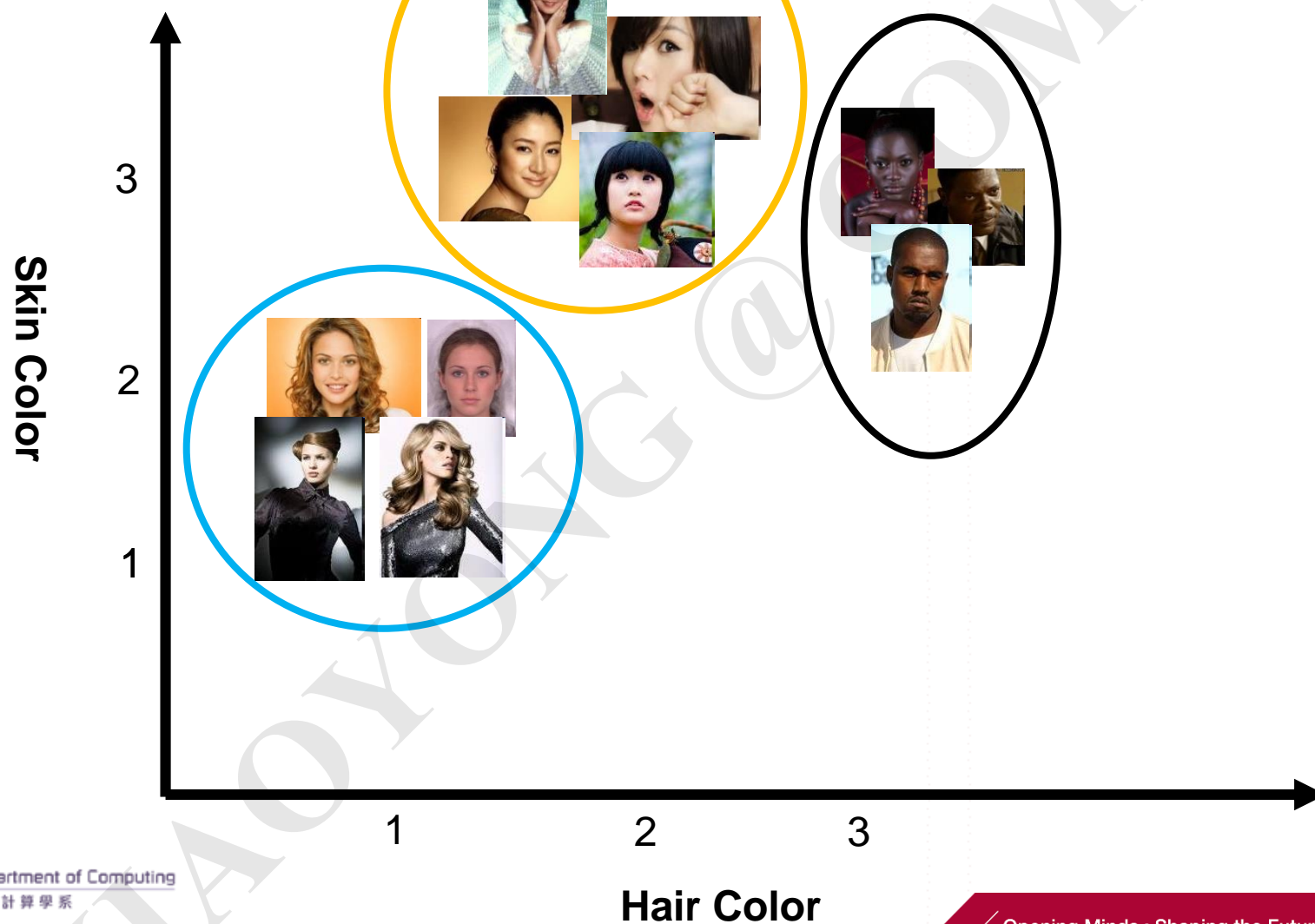


# Recall where we started

# How do you group them?



# Feature Space





Images become “numbers”  
(feature vectors) in the **feature  
space** after the feature extraction.

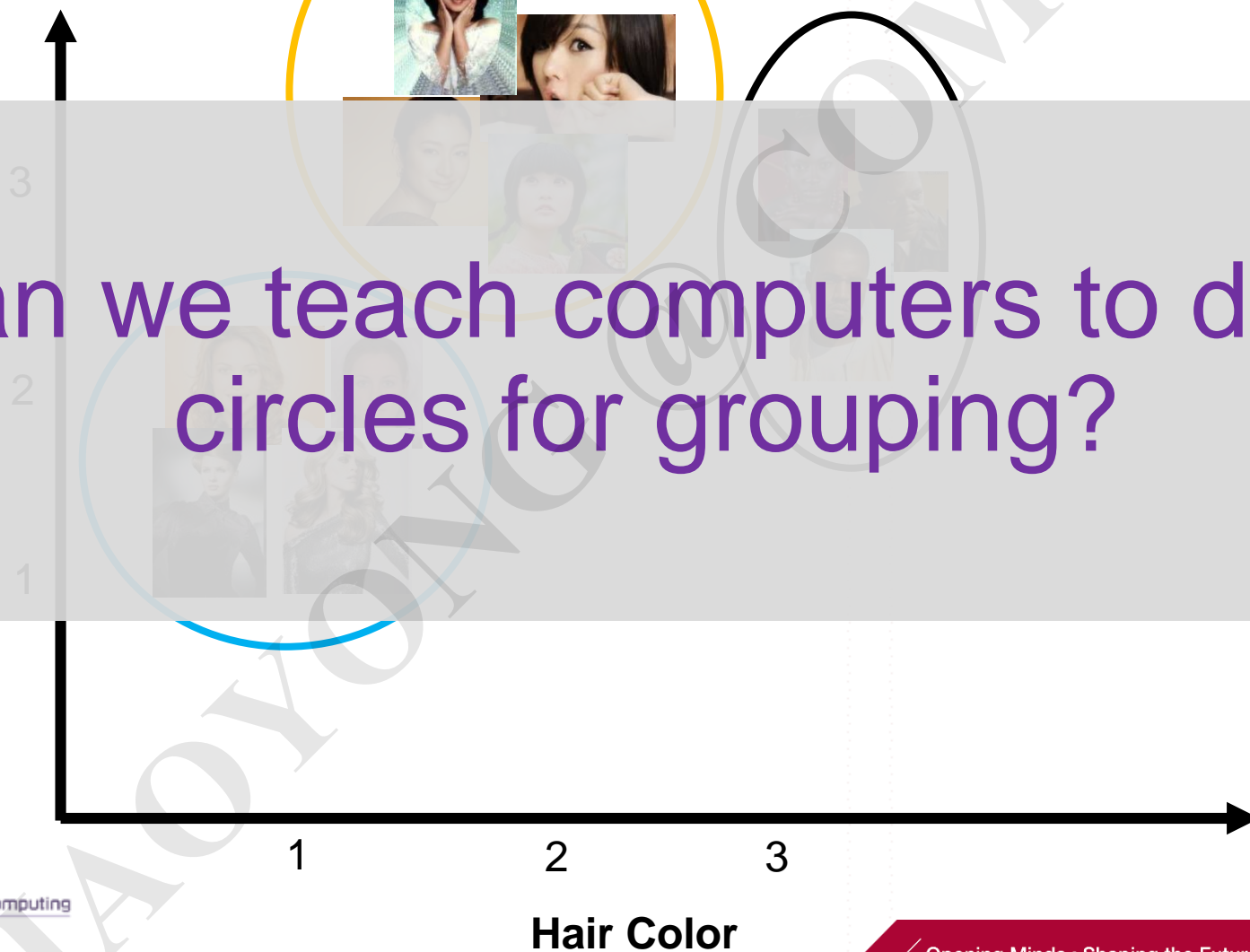
To use the “content” is to play  
those “numbers”. This holds to  
nearly everything we’re going to  
learn in the rest of this course.

In a more general sense, this applies to texts, audios, videos, and a wide range of other media/information.

We're all trying to represent things as “numbers” in the feature space, making them “readable” for computers.

# Feature Space

Can we teach computers to draw circles for grouping?





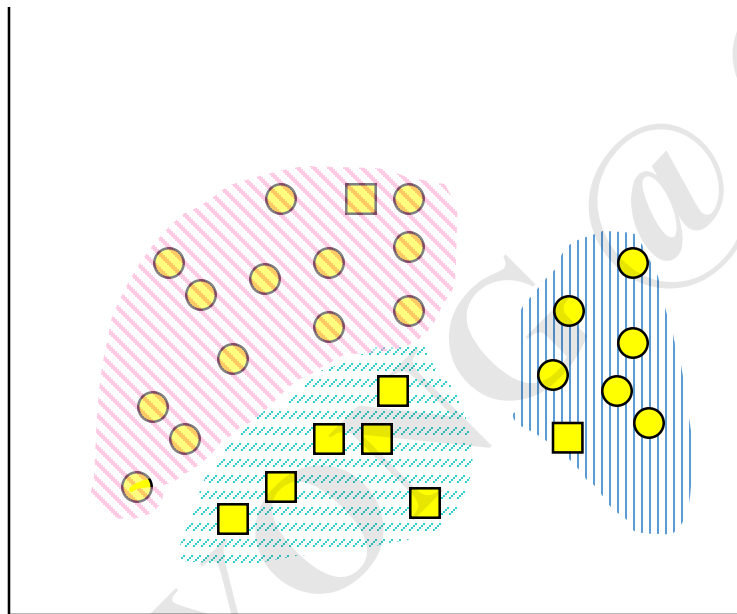
We can answer the question now.

To group the images is to make the circles as far as possible from each other, while the images inside the same circle as close as possible.

This is the idea of **clustering**: to maximize the **inter-cluster** distance while to minimize the **intra-cluster** distance.



# Think in the feature space



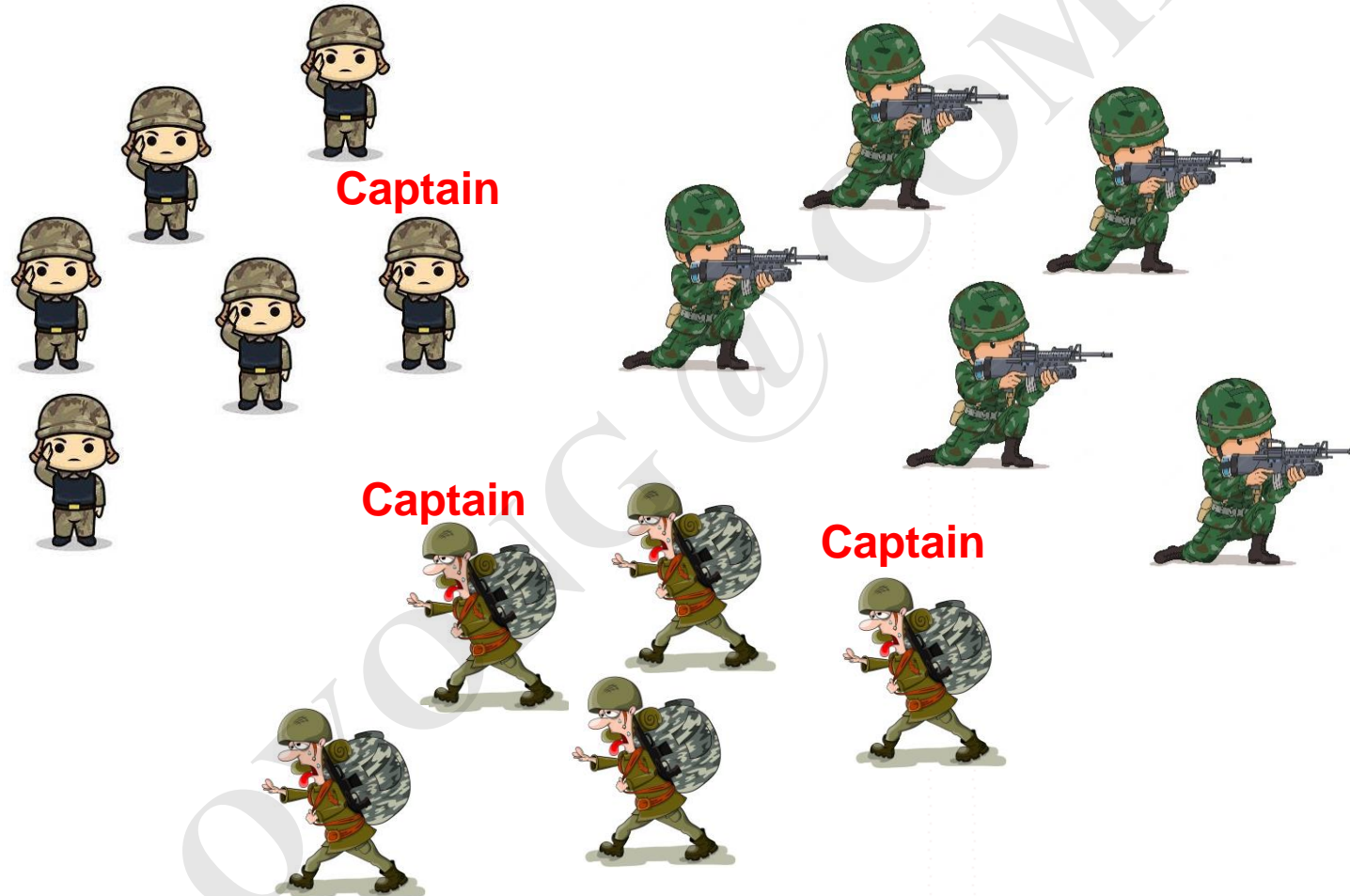


# Think in the feature space

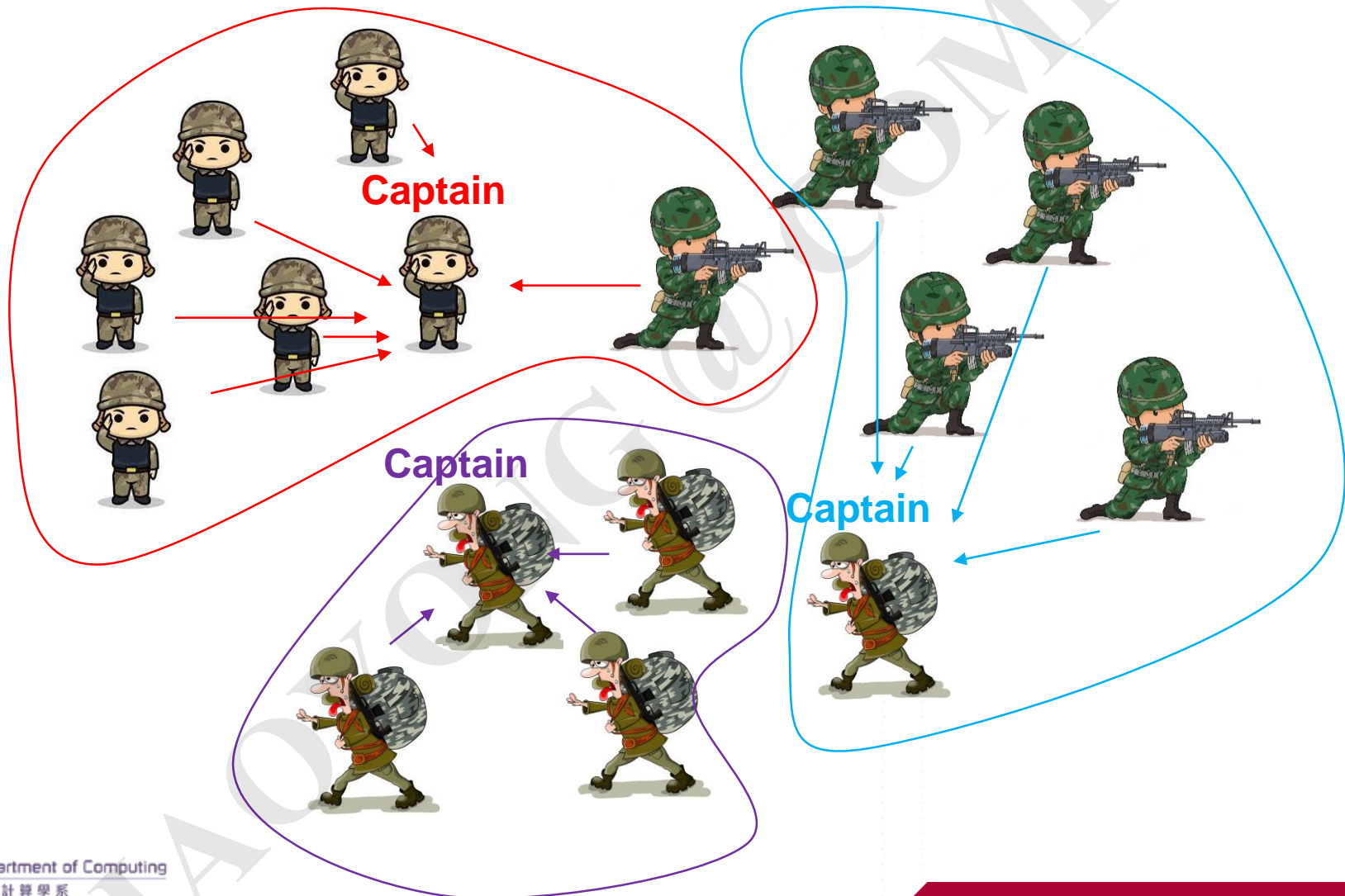
## > K-Means

- 1: Pick a number (K) of cluster centers (at random)
- 2: Assign every item to its nearest cluster center (e.g. using Euclidean distance)
- 3: Move each cluster center to the **mean** of its assigned items
- 4: Repeat steps 2,3 until convergence (change in cluster assignments less than a threshold)

# 1. Captains assigned randomly

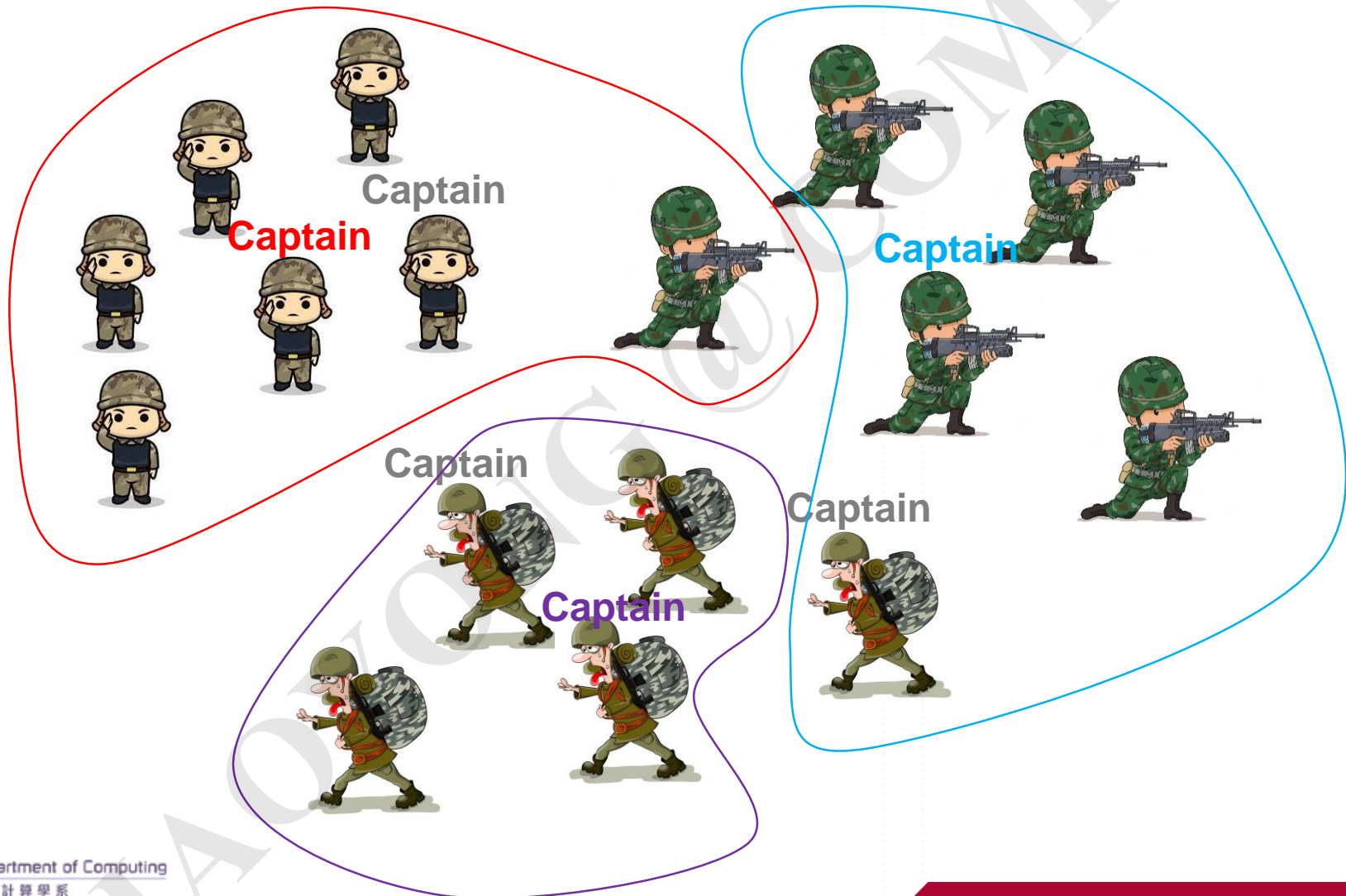


## 2. Soldiers report to the nearest captains

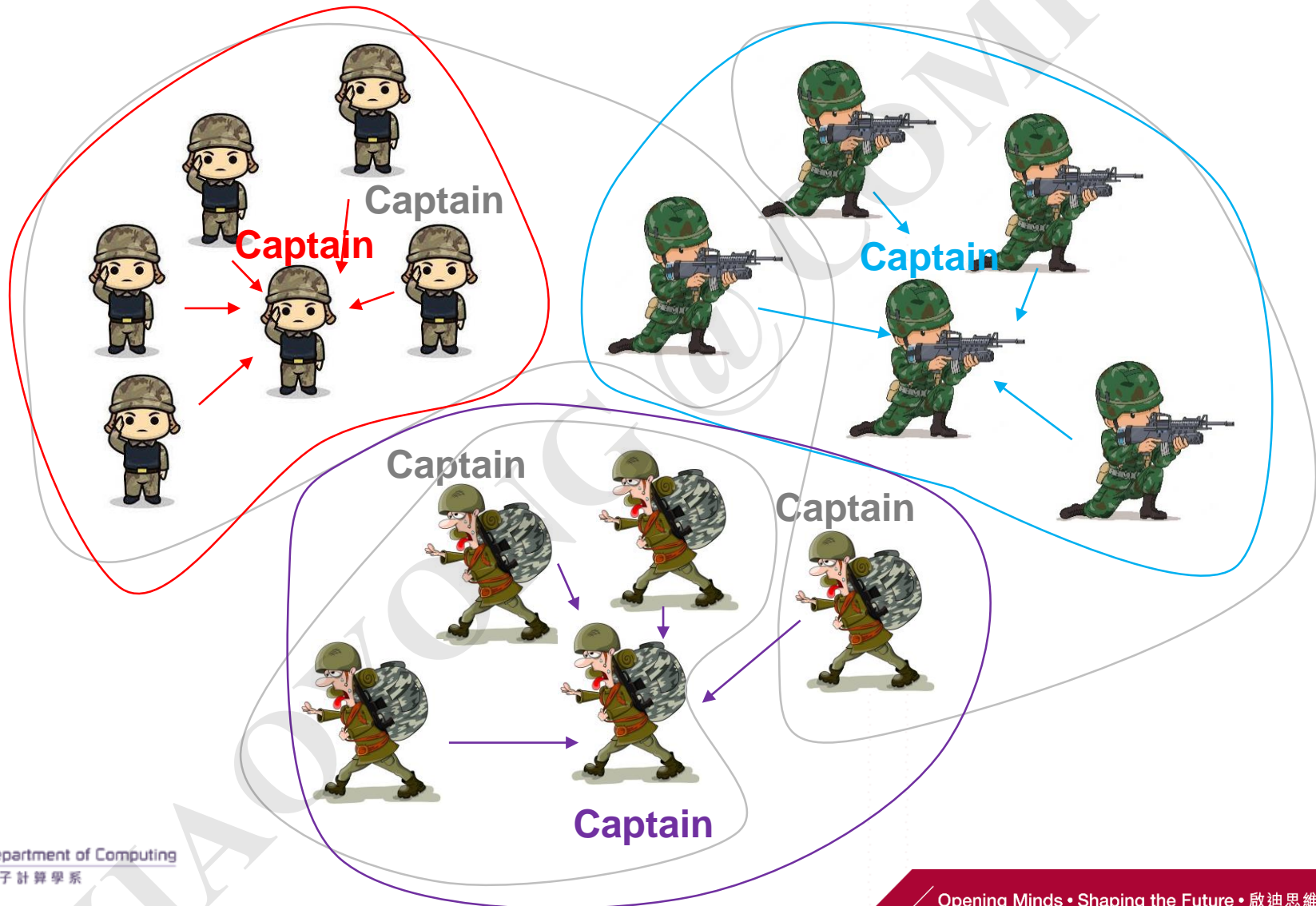




### 3. Re-election of captains

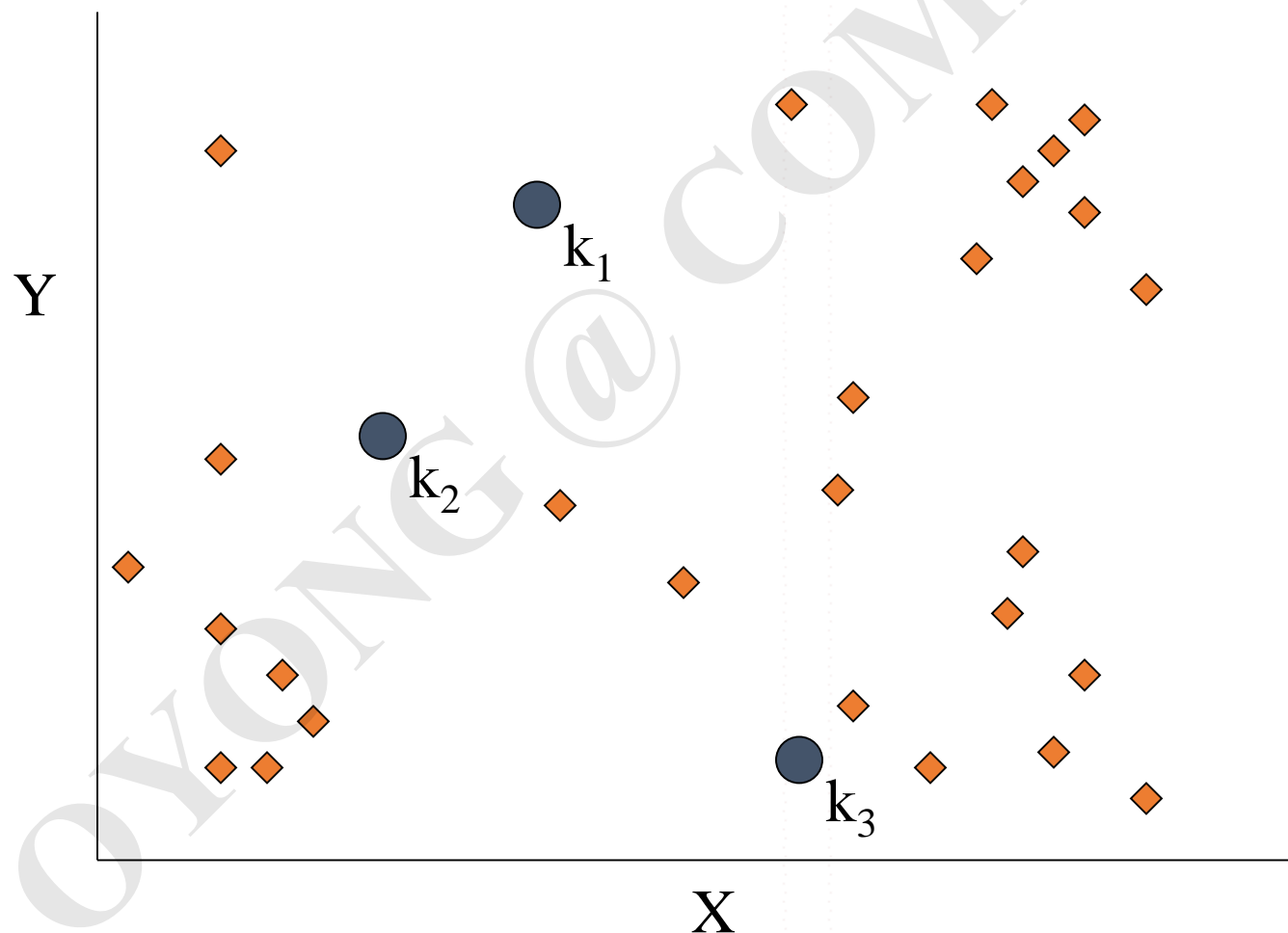


## 4. Report again



# K-Means Step 1

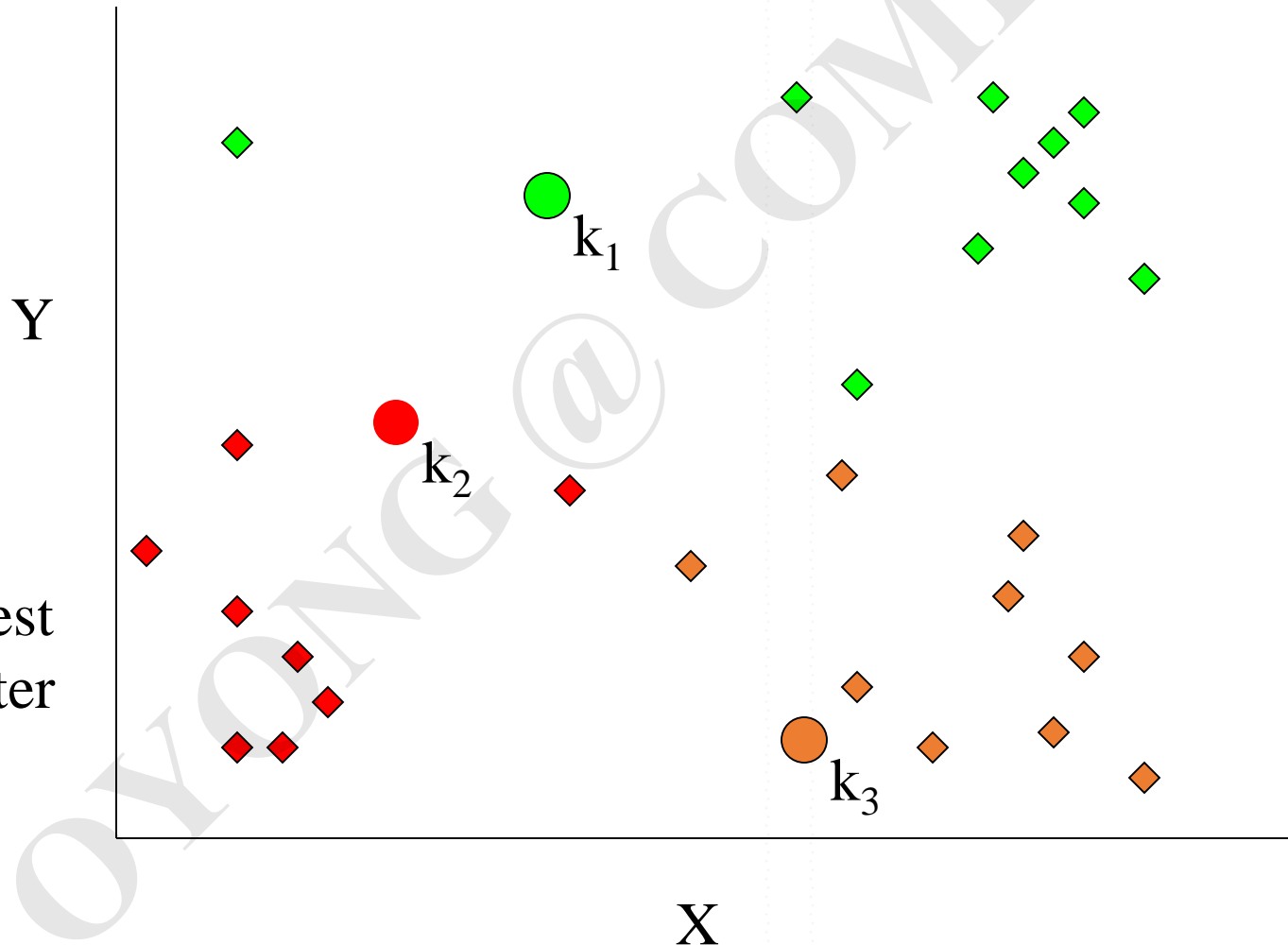
Pick 3  
initial  
cluster  
centers  
(randomly)





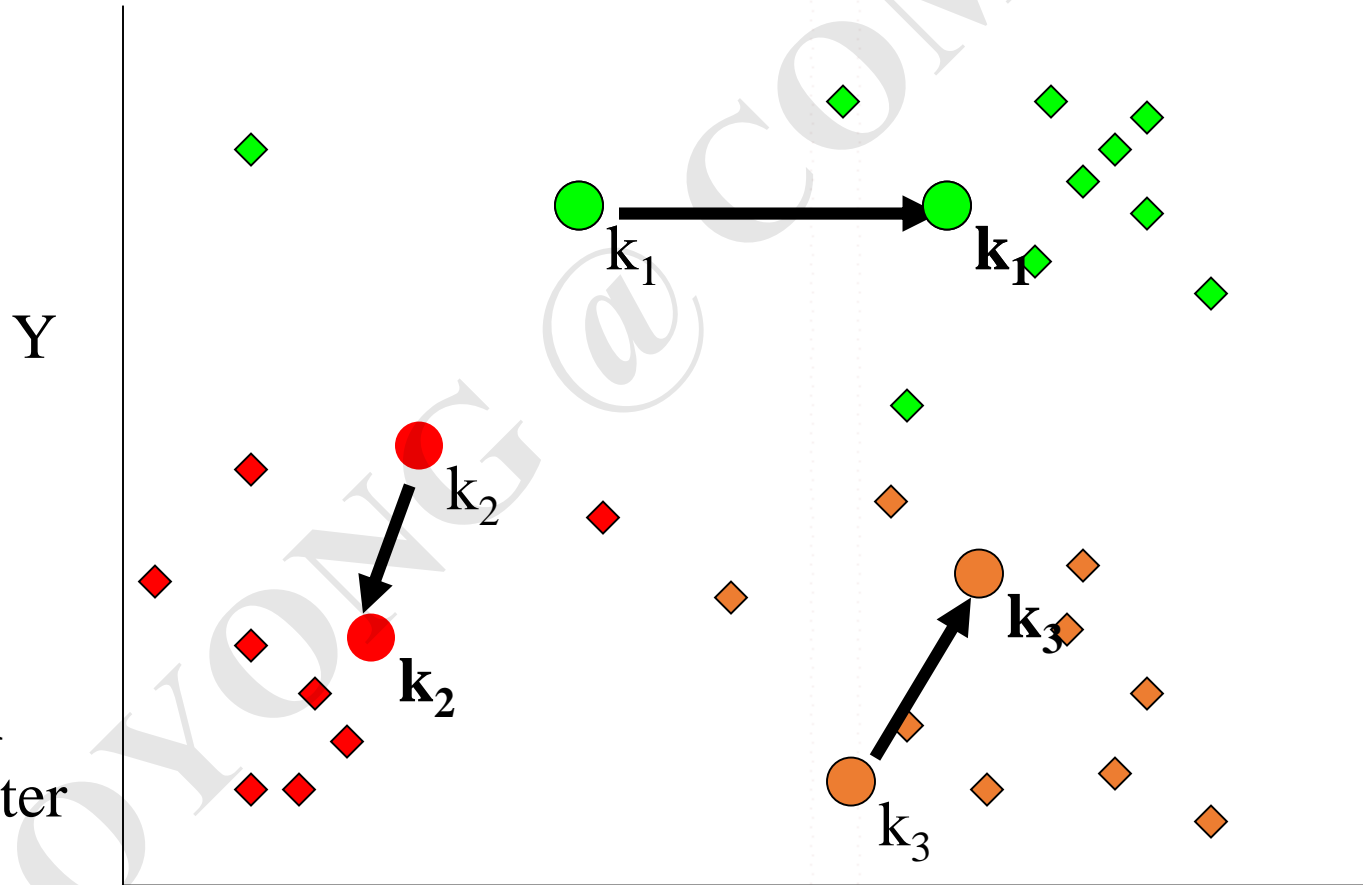
# K-Means Step 2

Assign  
each point  
to the nearest  
cluster center



# K-Means Step 3

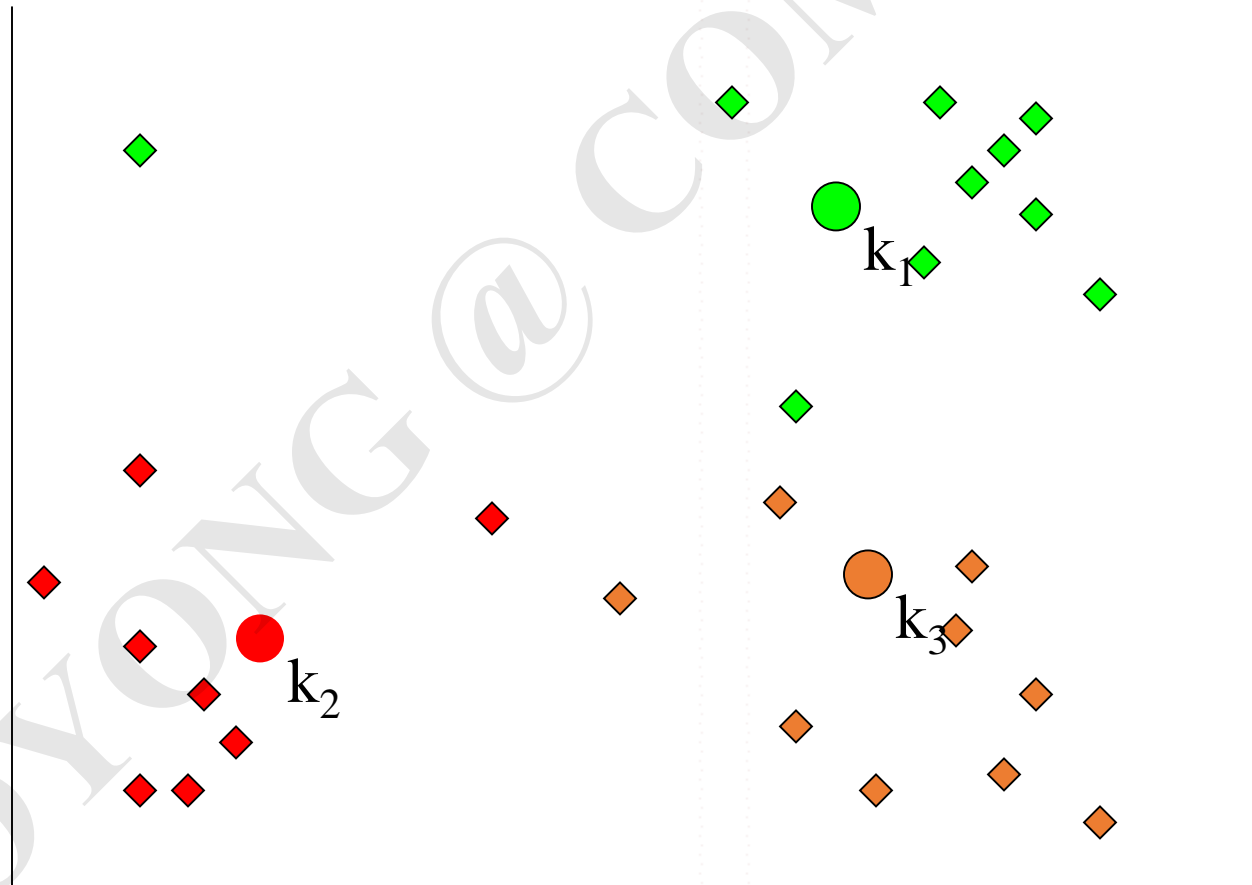
Move  
each cluster  
center  
to the **mean**  
of each cluster



# K-Means Step 4

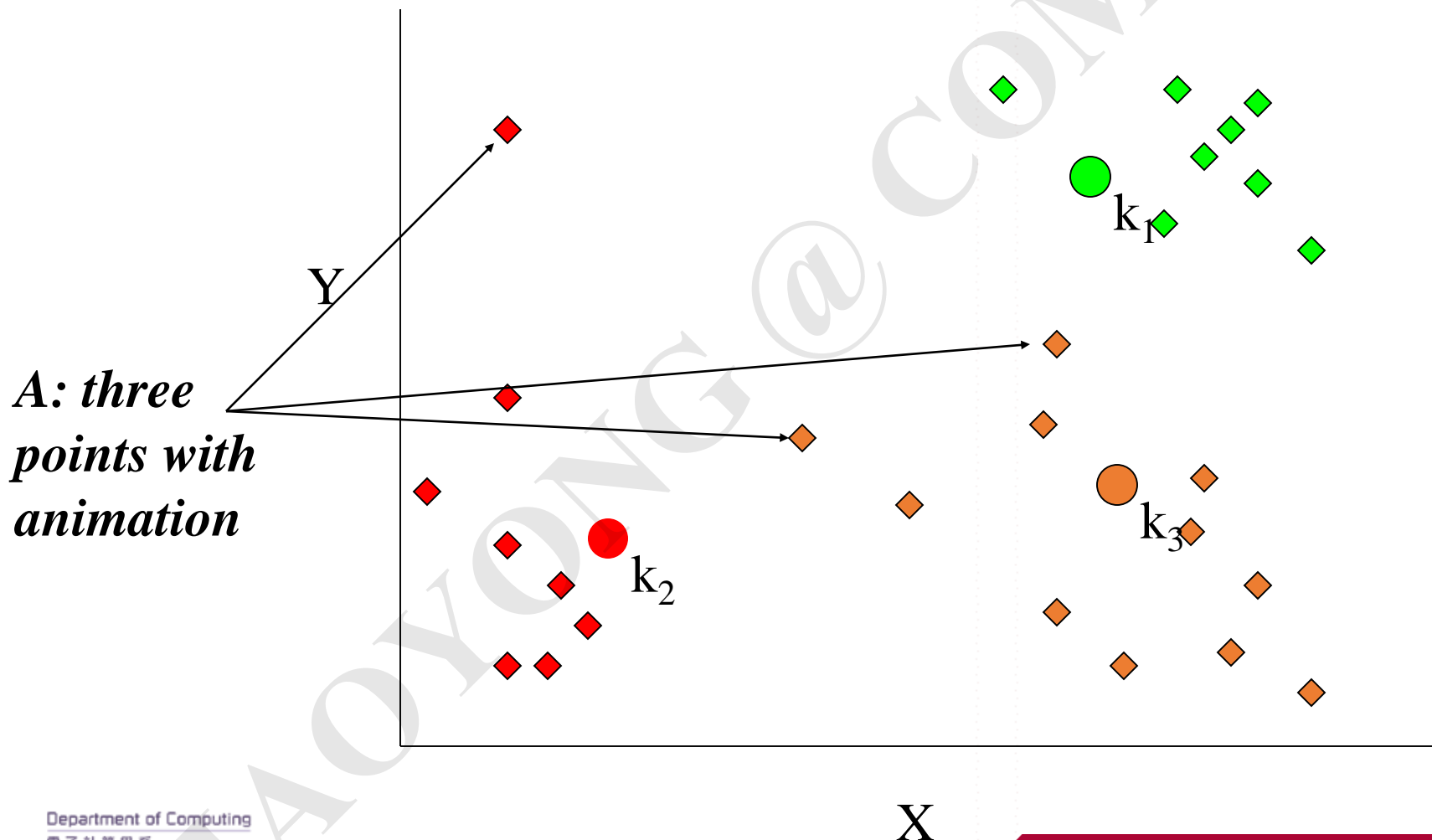
Reassign  
points  
to the new  
(nearest)  
cluster center

*Q: Which  
points are  
reassigned?*



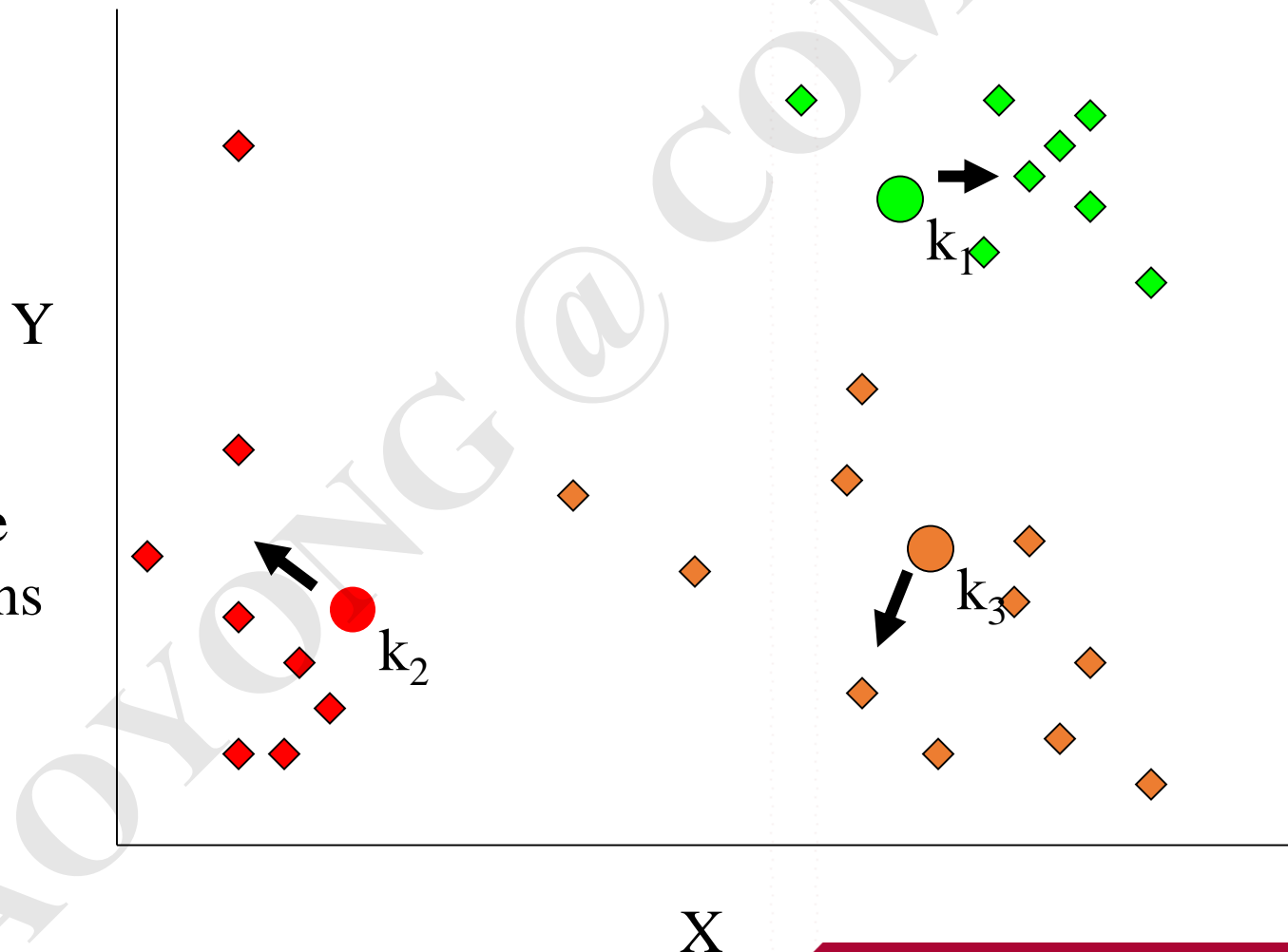


# K-Means Step 4 ...



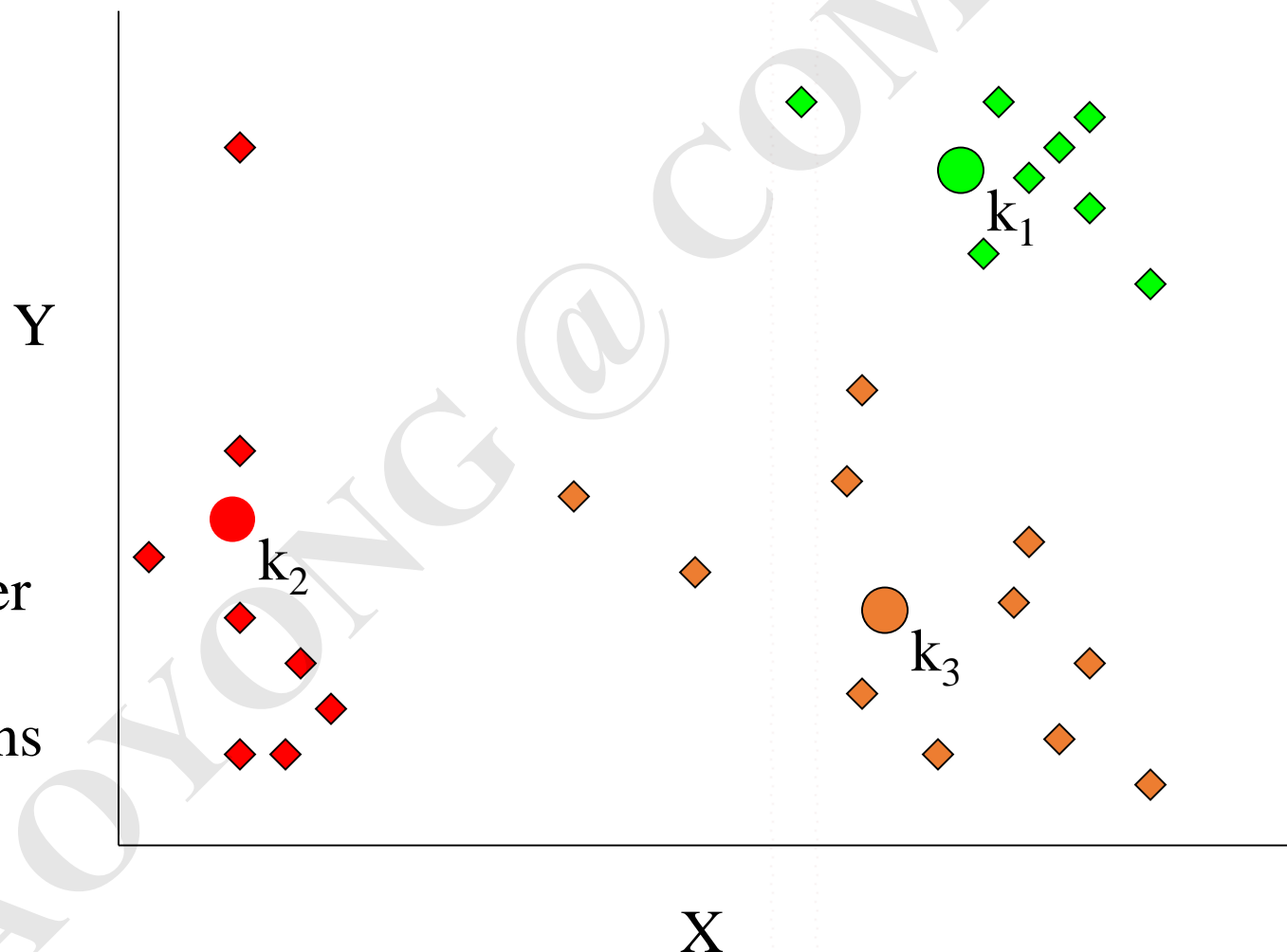
# K-Means Step 4 ...

Re-compute  
cluster means



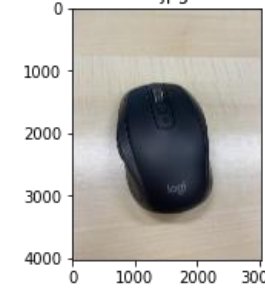
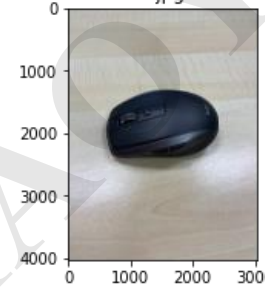
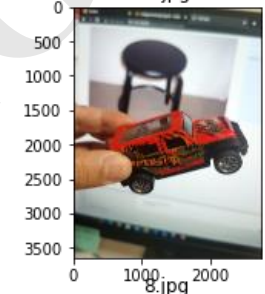
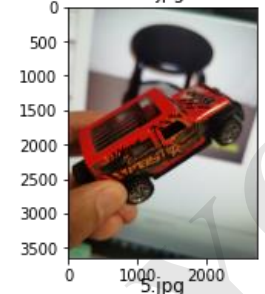
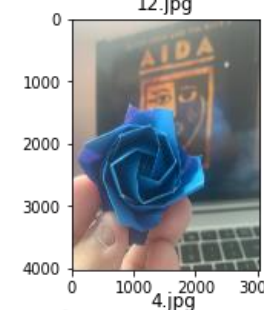
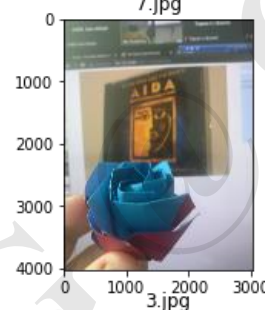
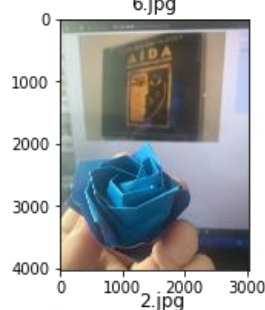
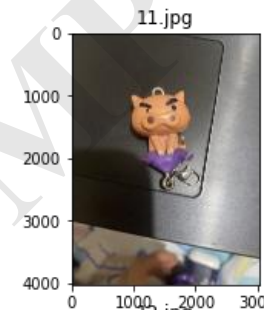
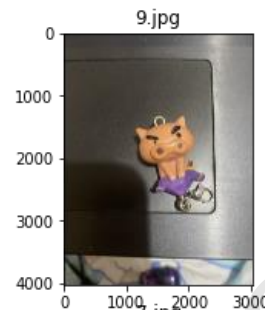
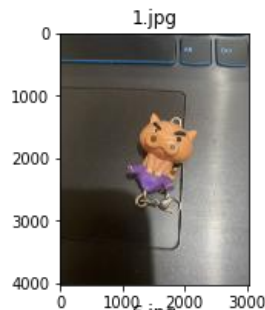
# K-Means Step 5

Move cluster  
centers to  
cluster means

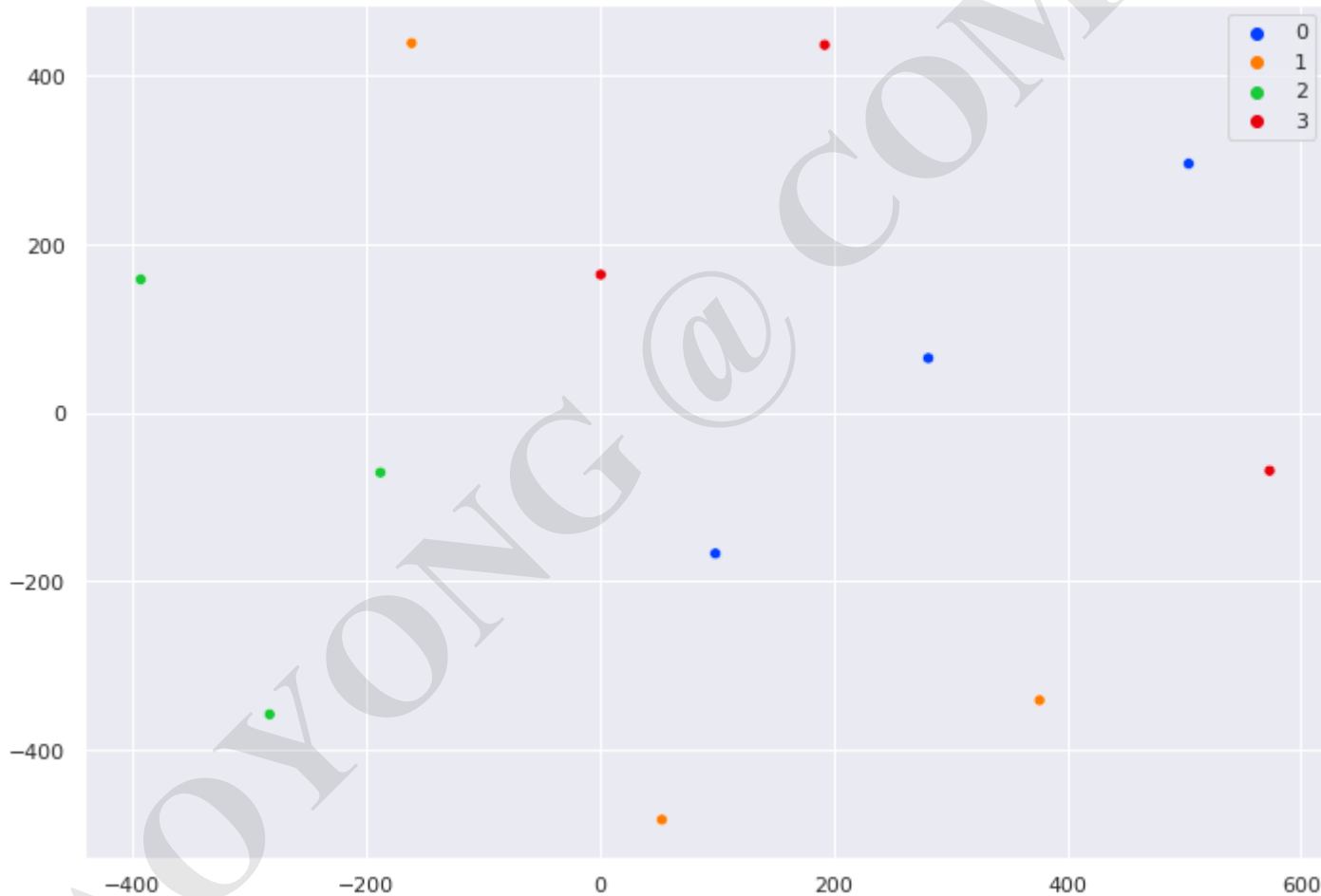




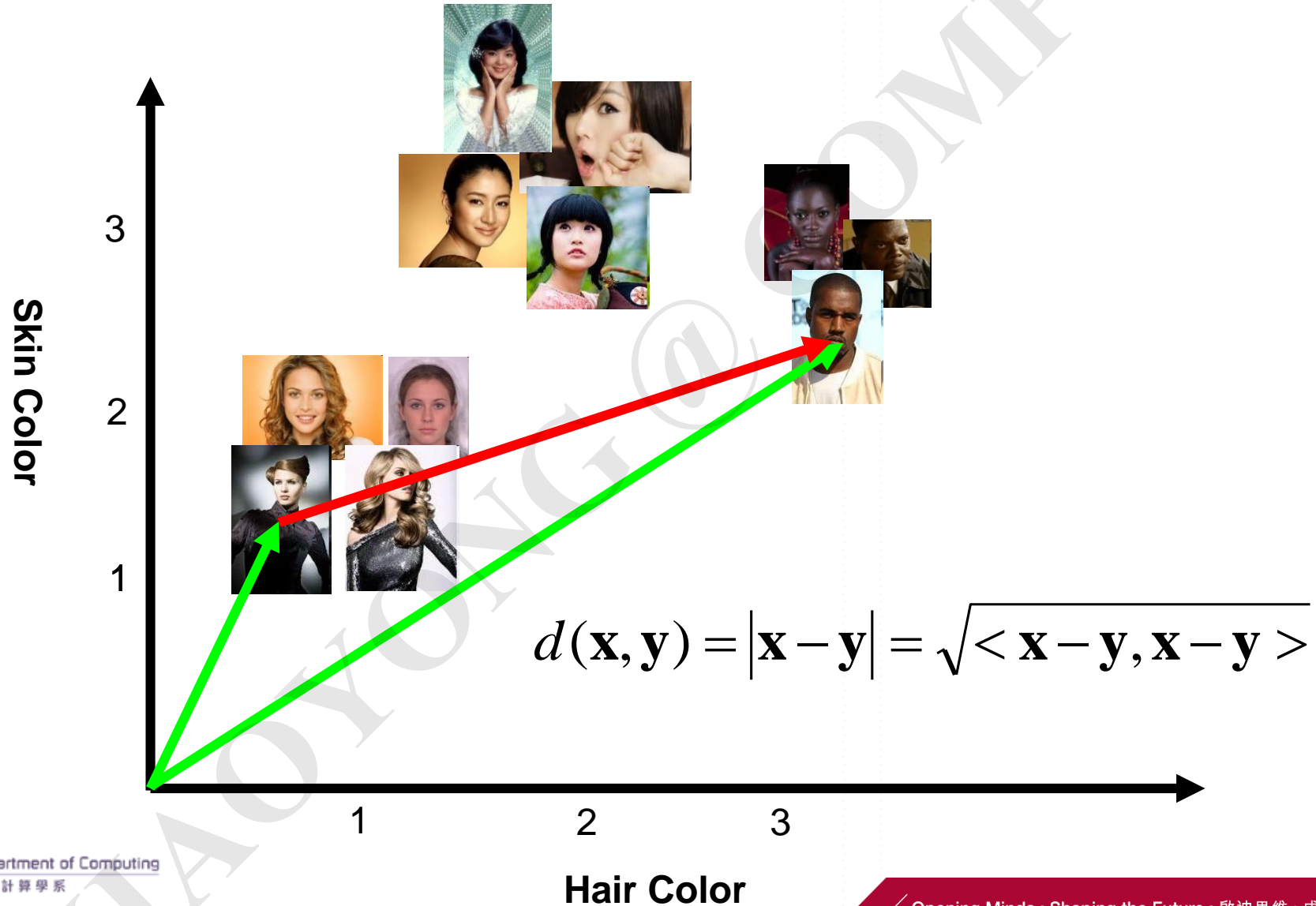
# Let's take images from IMHere as examples



# Let's take images from IMHere as examples



# Metrics – Euclidian Distance





**Clustering is one of the most  
representative examples of  
Unsupervised Learning.**

**We will get back later.**



Grouping images is fun.

However, that's not the way we  
employed in IMHere.

# IMHere – Token-based attendance checking



In IMHere, we are **looking for** images that are with **similar content** with the one you uploaded. You are checked-in if those are what you used for registrations.



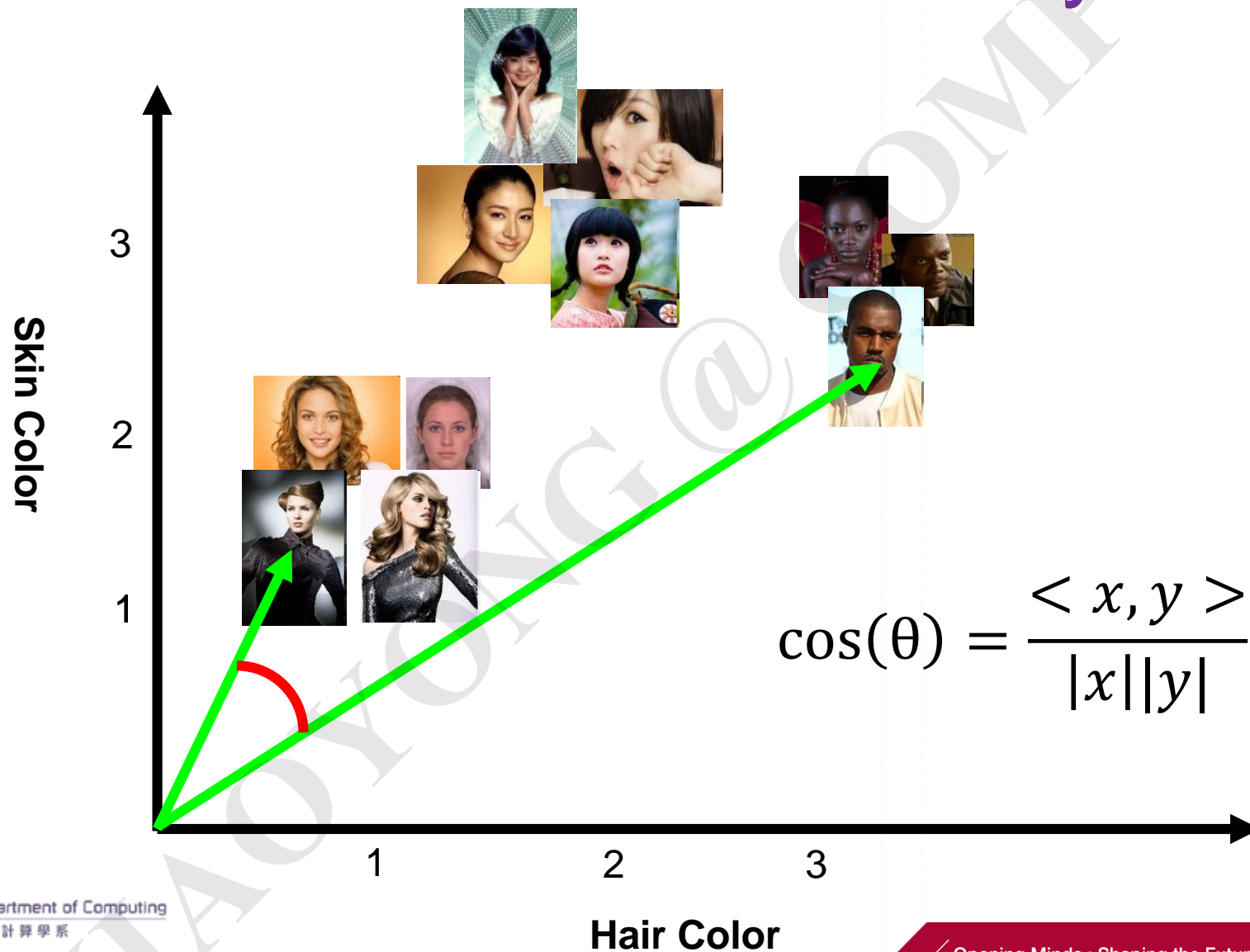


# This is called **Content-Based Image Retrieval (CBIR)**.

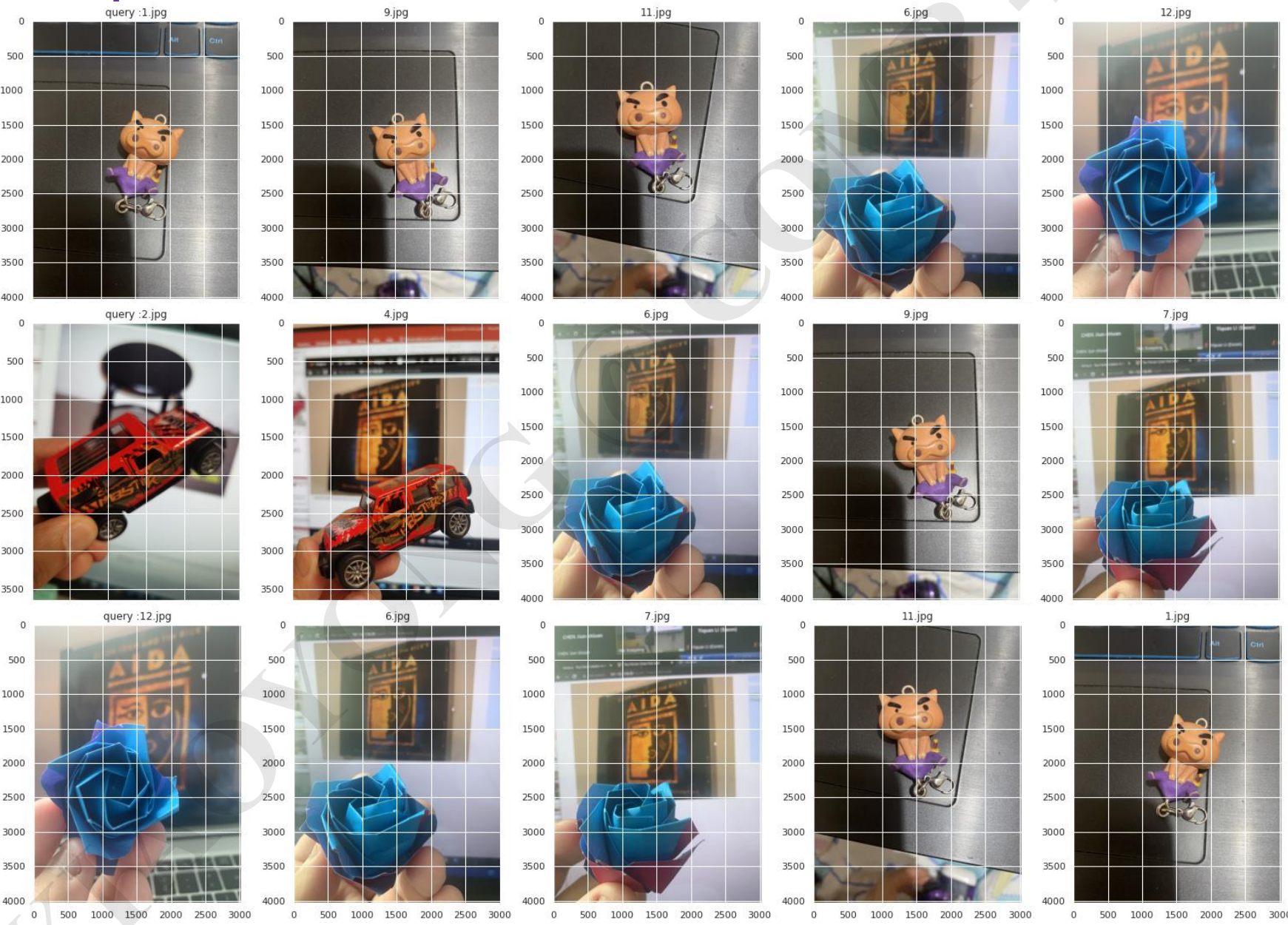
# General Steps of CBIR

- > 0. Extract features vectors of all images on file
- > 1. Extract the feature vector for the **query** image
- > 2. Compare it to all the (**target**) images on file by calculating the query-target similarities
- > 3. Sort the similarities in a descending order with which we generate a **ranked list** of the targets
- > 4. Present the ranked list to the searcher

# Metrics – Cosine Similarity



# Examples from IMHere





It's straightforward to compare the query to the targets in an sequential manner (one by one), but it's not efficient.

Let's assume we have 1 million targets in IMHere. It may take 27 hours per query (100 milliseconds for each target).



# Is there a better way?



# Clustering comes to play!



**Indexing:** group the images as clusters and pick one from each cluster as its representative

**Coarse:** compare to the representatives only and find top-k

**Fine:** compare to the member images of the top-k clusters



# Index the images as a tree

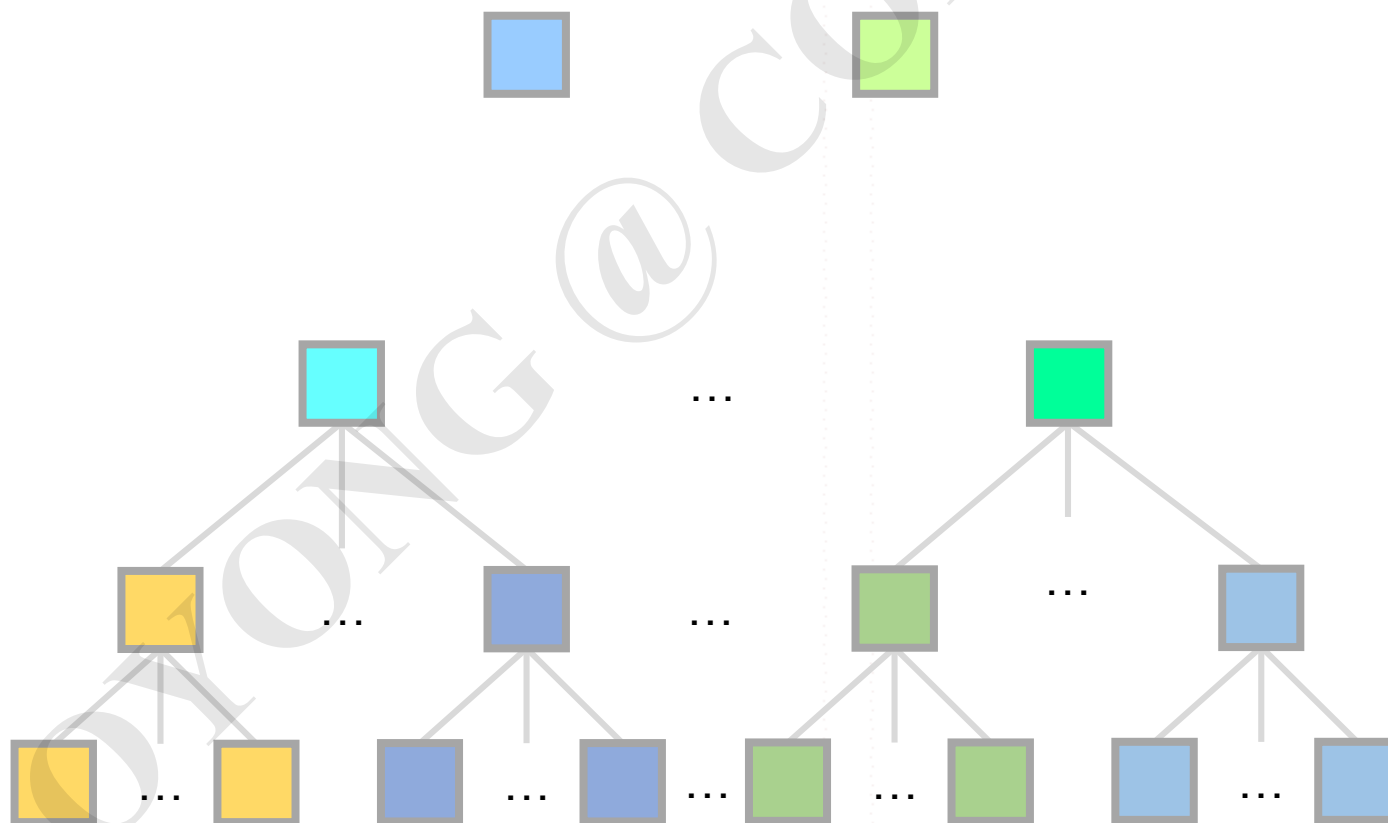
Round N



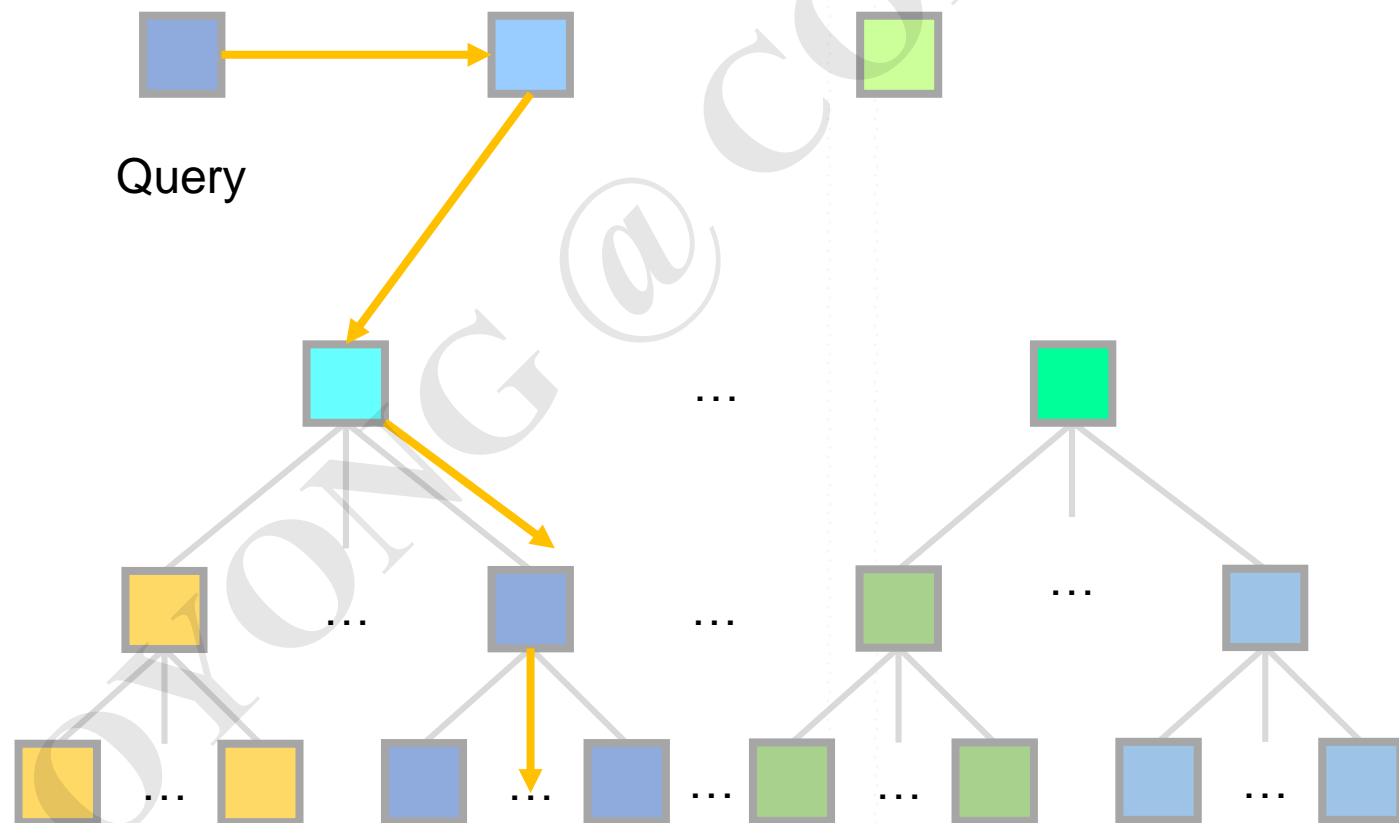
Round 2



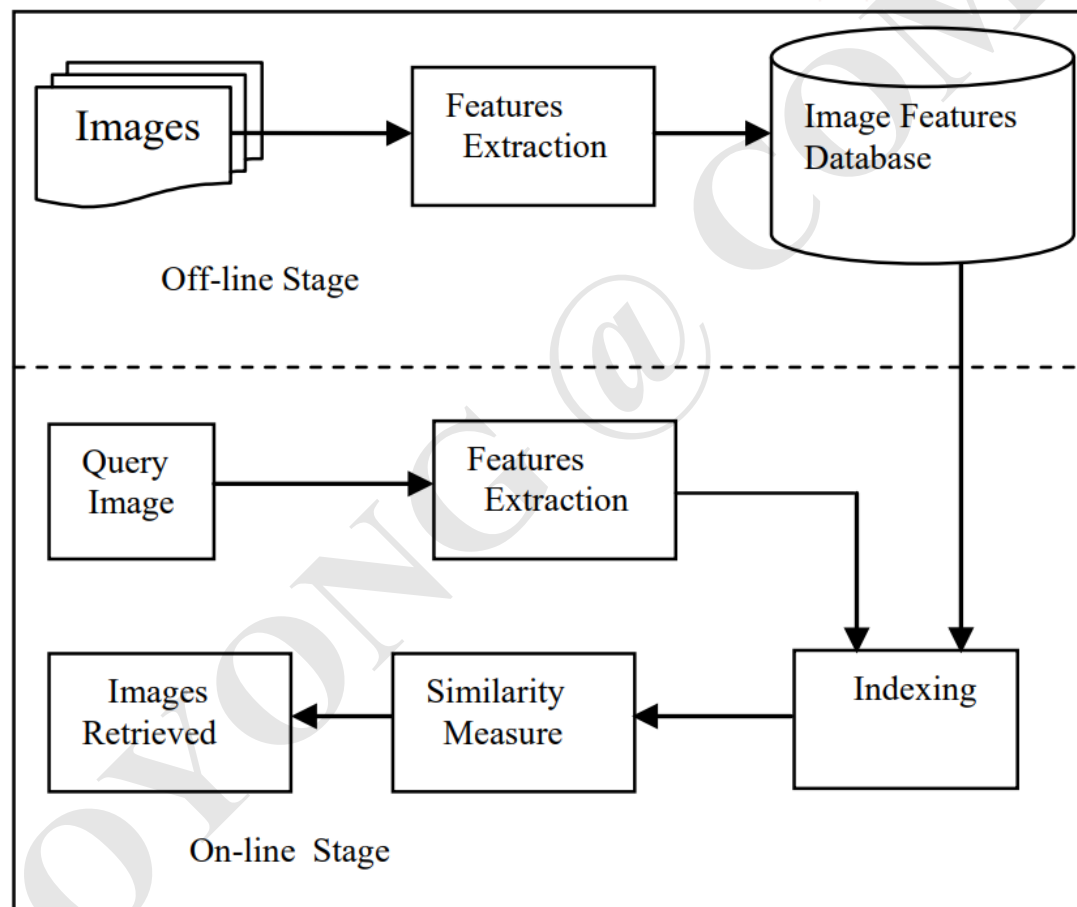
Round 1



# Search from Coarse to Fine



# A typical CBIR system



Alkhawlani M, Elmogy M, El Bakry H. Text-based, content-based, and semantic-based image retrievals: A survey[J]. Int. J. Comput. Inf. Technol, 2015, 4(01): 58-66.

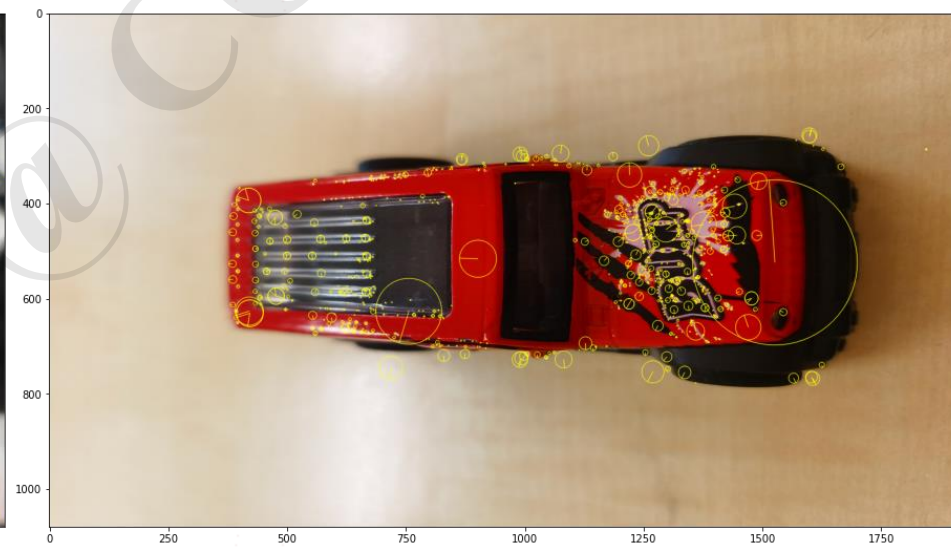
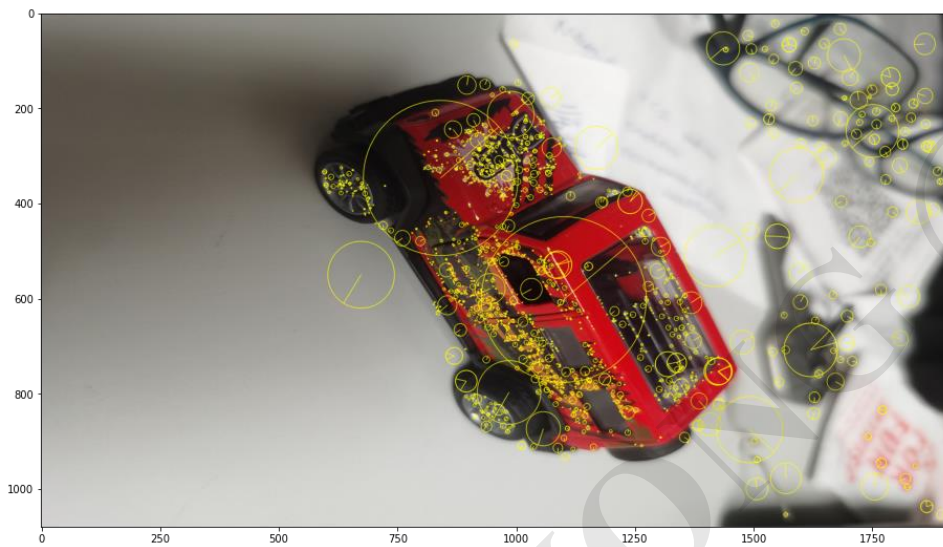
Do you notice?

What we introduced are based on an  
assumption of  
***one-feature-per-image.***

How can we deal with images with  
multiple feature vectors?



# Multiple (Local) Feature Vectors





# Bag of Visual Words (BoVW)

# BoW vs. BoVW

Of all the sensory impressions proceeding to the brain, the visual experiences are the dominant ones. Our perception of the world around us is based essentially on the messages that reach our eyes. For a long time, the visual centers in the brain were thought of as a movie screen on which a retinal image was projected. It was not until the 1950s that Hubel and Wiesel discovered that the visual cortex is not a simple screen but a complex system of nerve cells, each with its specific function and is responsible for a specific detail in the pattern of the retinal image.

**sensory, brain,  
visual, perception,  
retinal, cerebral cortex,  
eye, cell, optical  
nerve, image  
Hubel, Wiesel**

China is forecasting a trade surplus of \$90bn (£51bn) to \$100bn this year, a threefold increase on 2004's \$32bn. The Commerce Ministry said the surplus would be created by a predicted 30% increase in exports to \$750bn, compared with \$575bn in 2004, and a fall in imports to \$660bn. The ministry said the surplus would annoy the US, but China's government has agreed to keep the yuan against the dollar within a narrow band. China's government also needs to keep the yuan against the dollar within a narrow band and permitted it to trade within a narrow band, but the US wants the yuan to be allowed to trade freely. However, Beijing has made it clear that it will take its time and tread carefully before allowing the yuan to rise further in value.

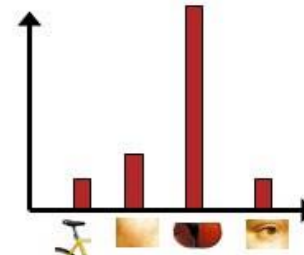
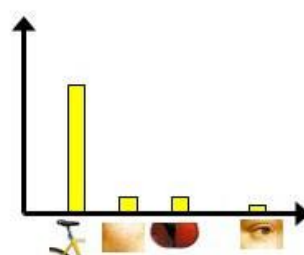
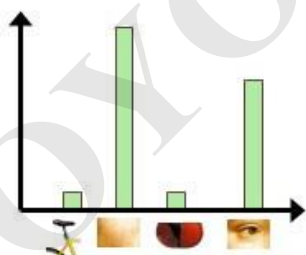
**China, trade,  
surplus, commerce,  
exports, imports, US,  
yuan, bank, domestic,  
foreign, increase,  
trade, value**



Bag of Visual Words in a Nutshell - The art of choosing important features - Bethea Davida

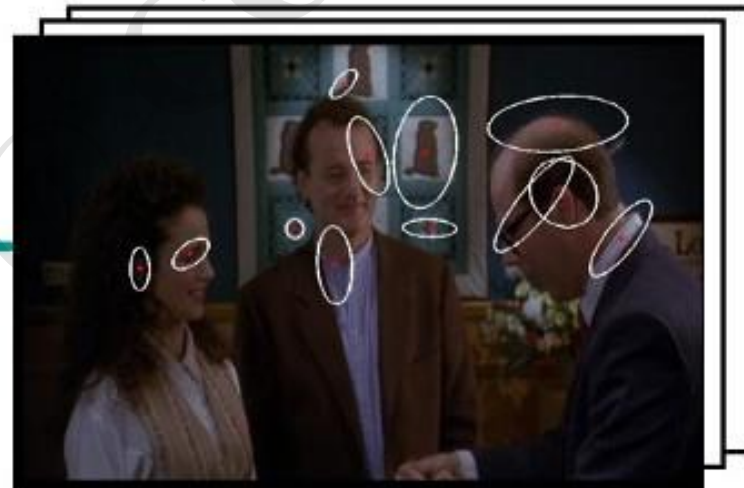
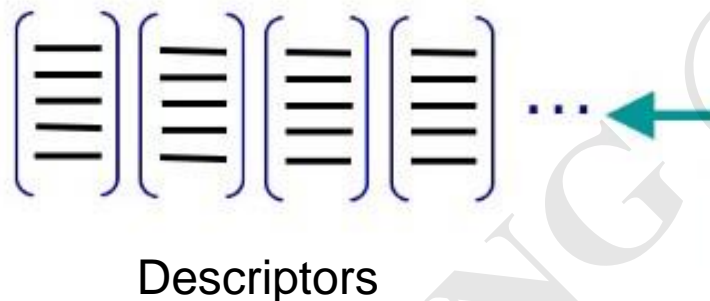


# Visual words and bags





# Step 1: Visual Descriptors Extraction

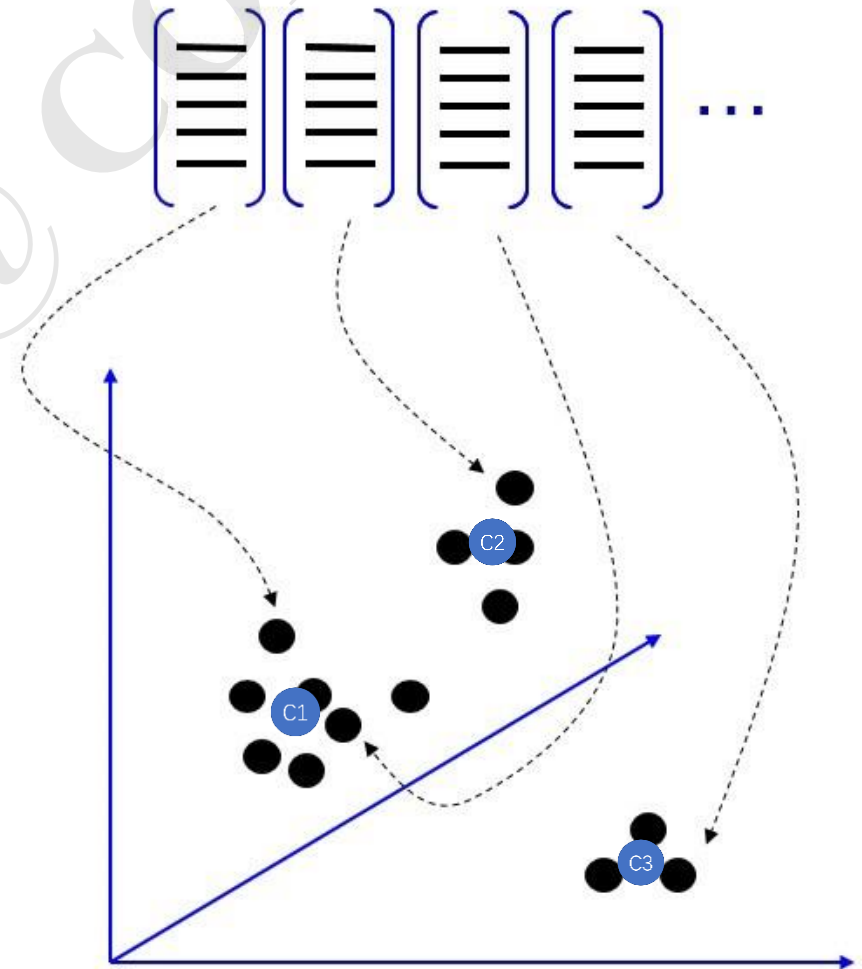


# Step 2: Dictionary (CodeBook)

Group the descriptors (from all images) using clustering

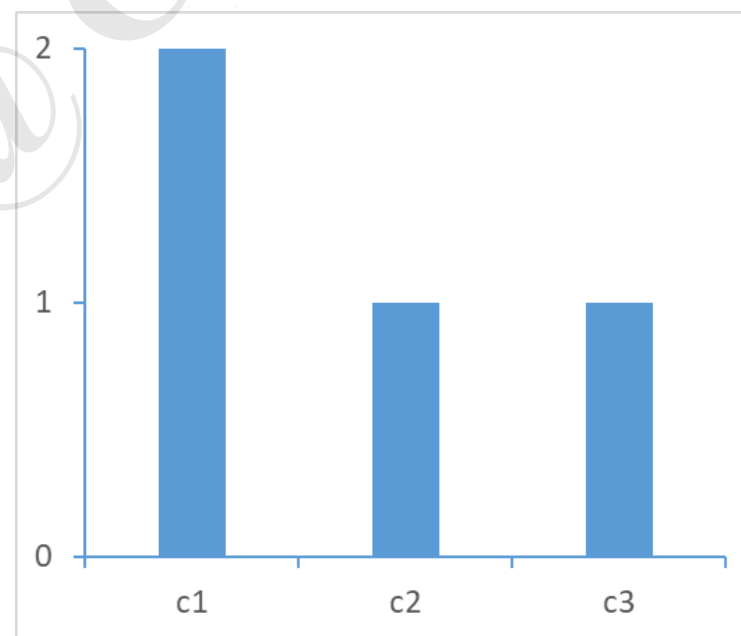
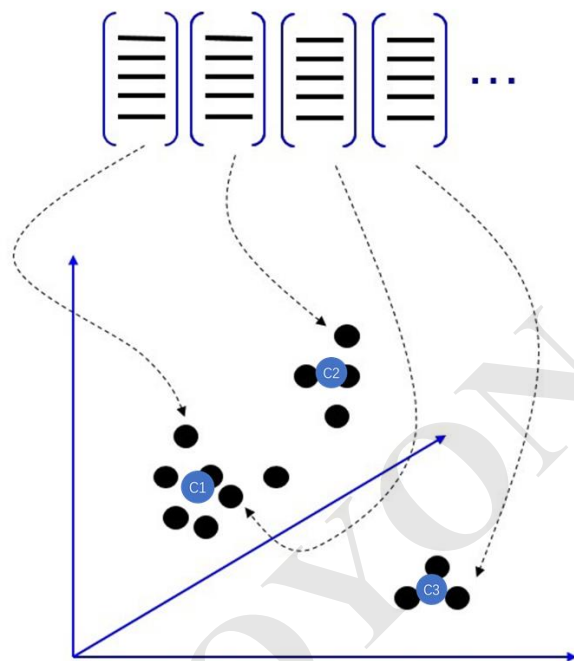
Pick one from each cluster as the representative and put them together to construct a dictionary (codebook)

Descriptors in a dictionary are then used as visual words

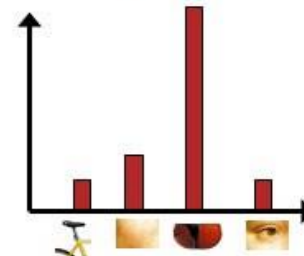
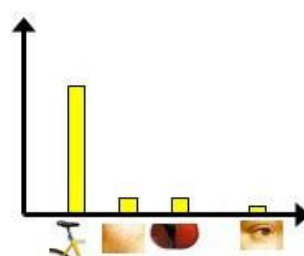
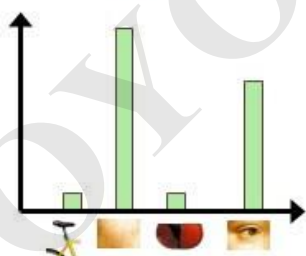


# Step 3: Count words in a bag

For each visual word in the dictionary, calculate its frequency in the bag and construct a histogram as the feature vector

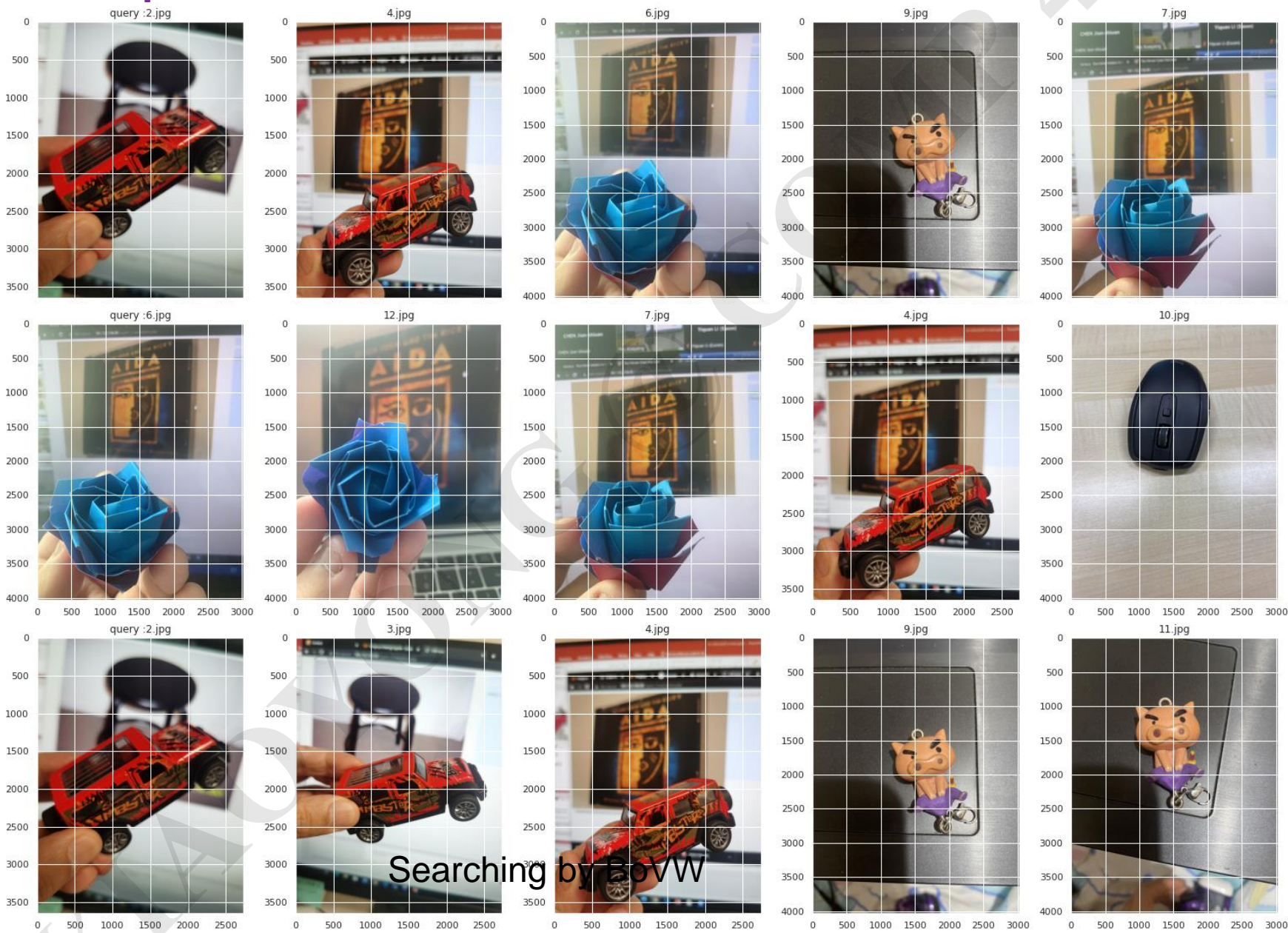


# Visual words and bags





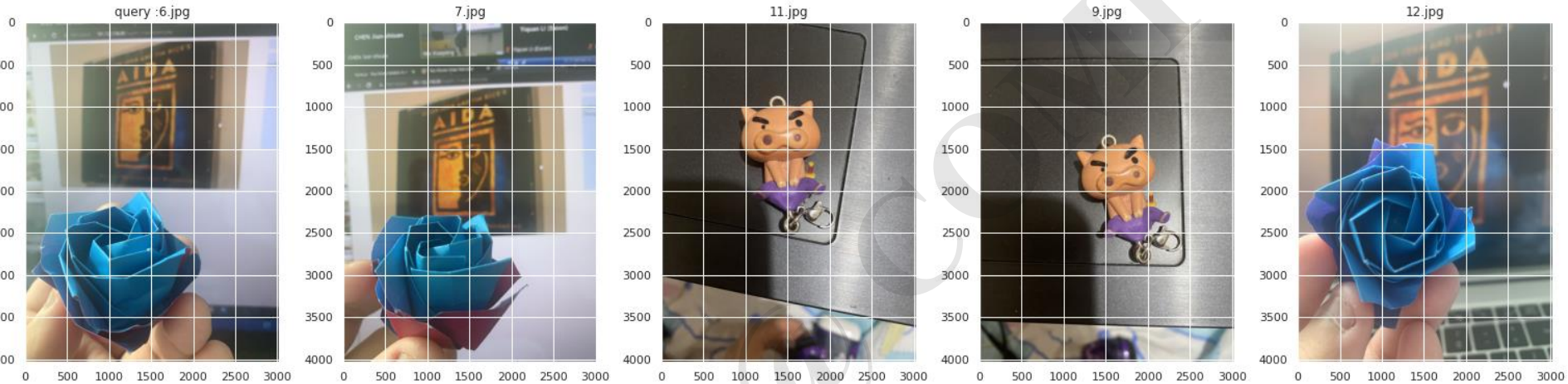
# Examples from IMHere



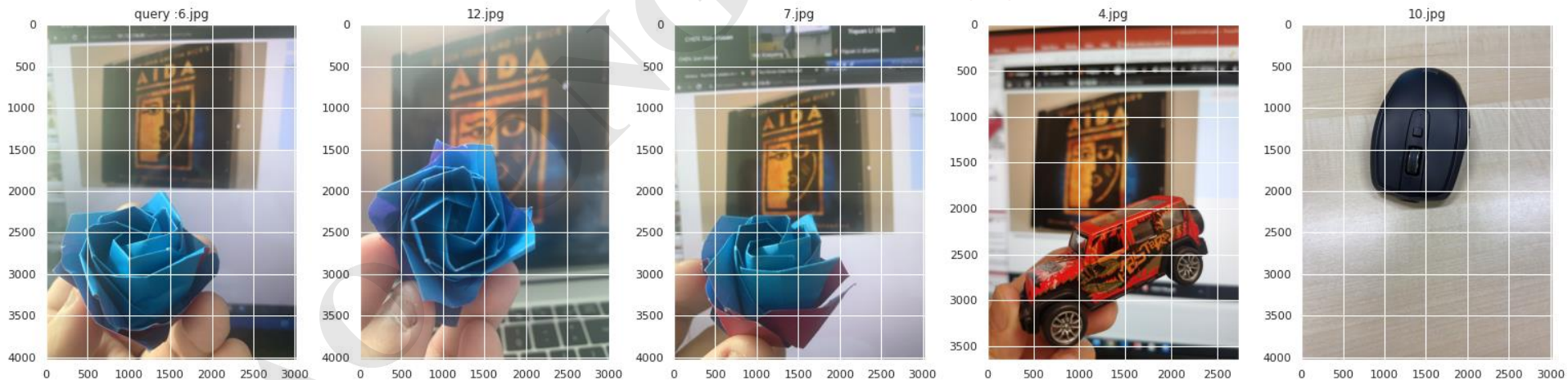
Searching by BoVW



# Examples from IMHere

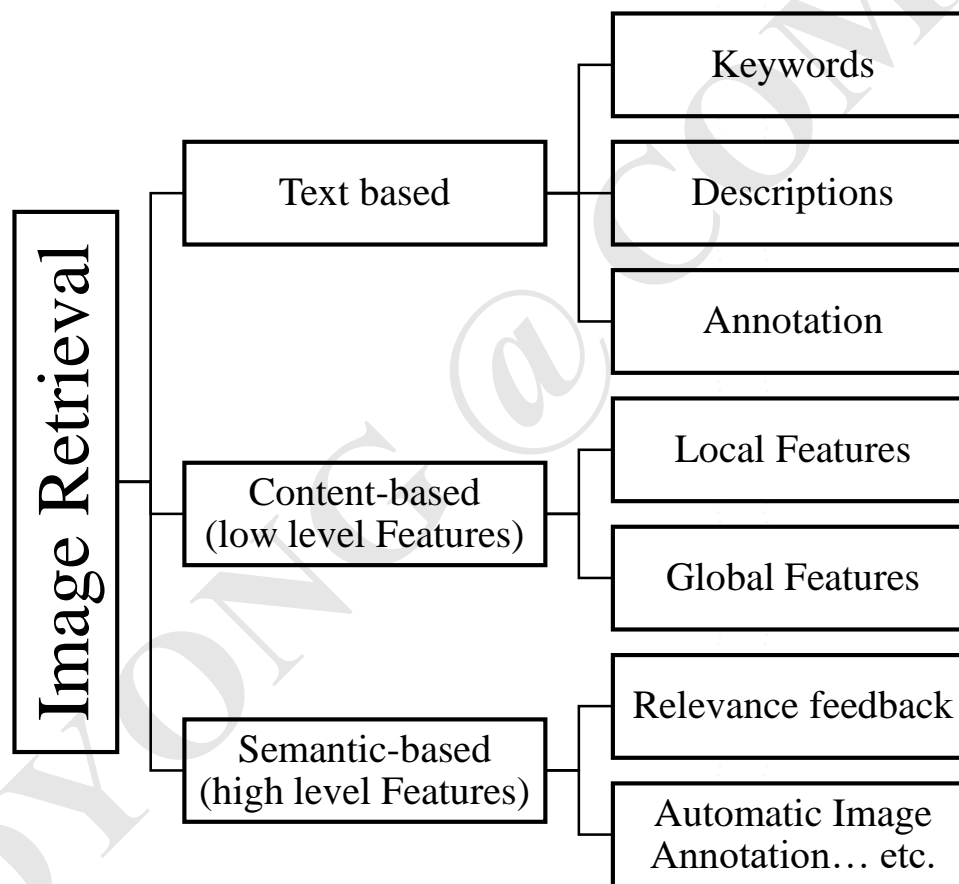


Searching by Histograms



Searching by BoVW

# CBIR is not the only solution



Alkhawlani M , Elmogy M , Bakry H E . Text-based, Content-based, and Semantic-based Image Retrievals: A Survey. 2015.

# The New Toy

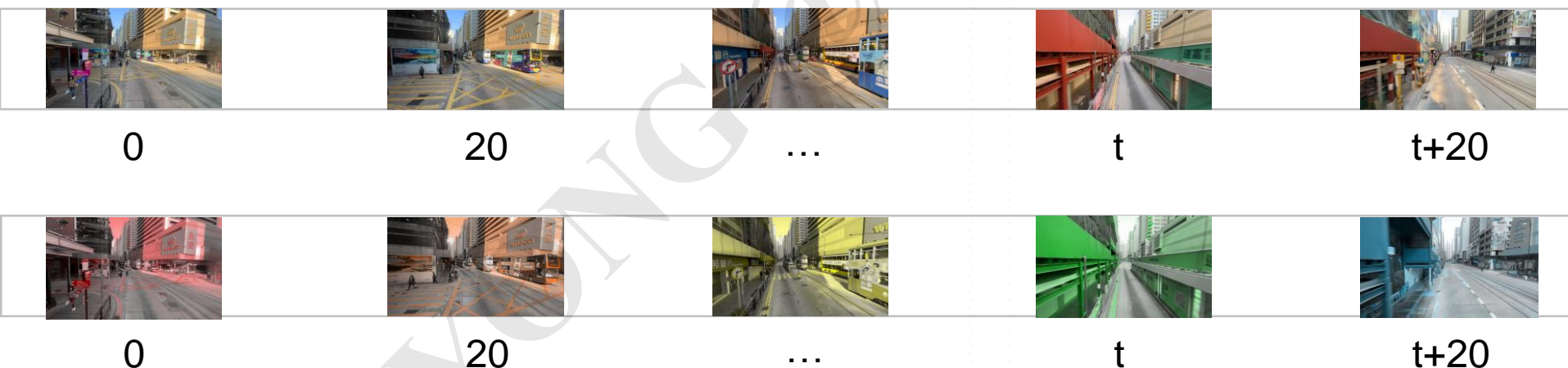
> The question to answer: is BoVW able to find the nearest keyframes?



Keyframes selected using a fixed interval of 20 frames

# The New Toy

> The question to answer: is BoVW able to find the nearest keyframes?

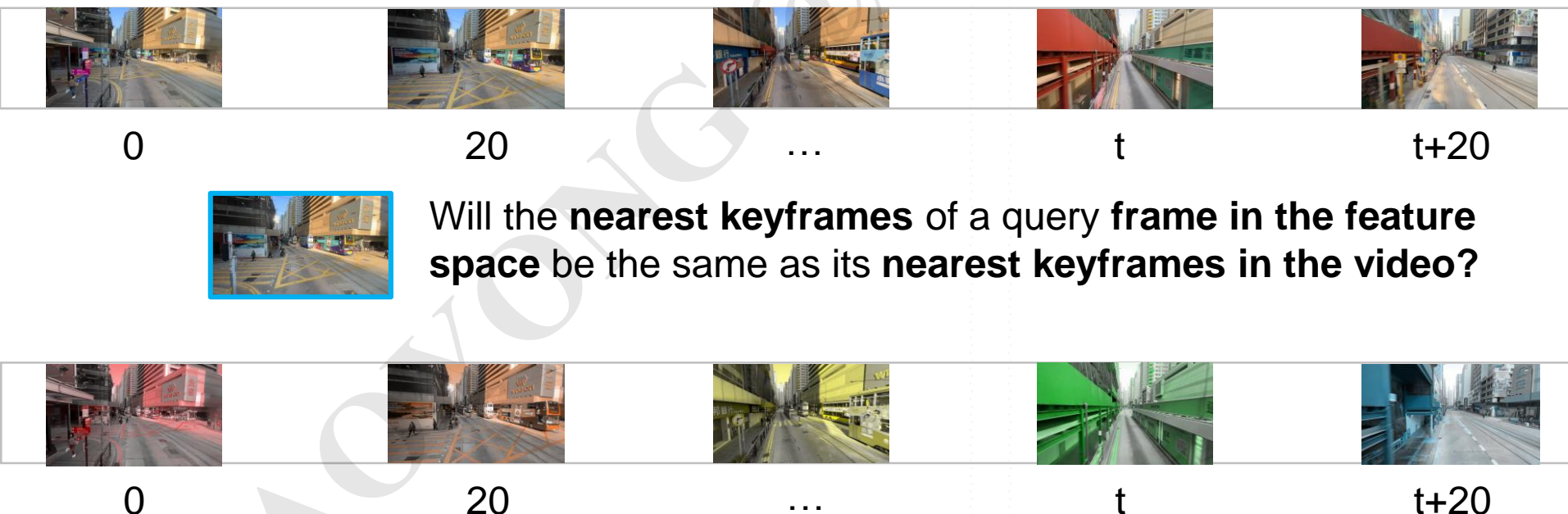


Keyframe tones modified



# The New Toy

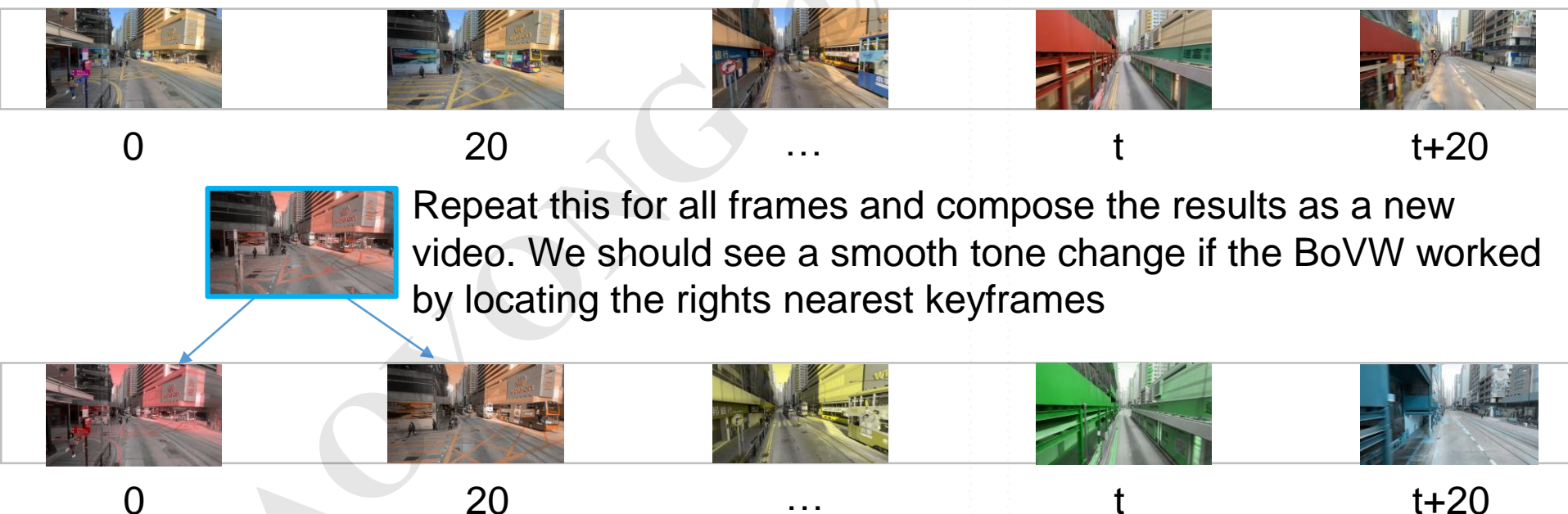
> The question to answer: is BoVW able to find the nearest keyframes?





# The New Toy

> The question to answer: is BoVW able to find the nearest keyframes?



# Code to modify the tone of an image (nparray in BRG)

```
def change_tone(frame, shift):  
    # convert the image data to HSV space  
    hsv = cv2.cvtColor(frame, cv2.COLOR_BGR2HSV)  
    h, s, v = cv2.split(hsv)  
    # modify hue channel by adding shift and modulo 180  
    h2 = np.mod(h*0.0 + shift, 180).astype(np.uint8)  
    # convert back to RGB space  
    frame_new = cv2.cvtColor(cv2.merge([h2, s, v]), cv2.COLOR_HSV2BGR)  
    return frame_new
```

Please take it as a challenge and we will release the sample code later. In fact, you will have all the necessary code by completing the tasks of our next tutorial.



THE HONG KONG  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
香港理工大學

Department of Computing  
電子計算學系

# Thank you!