

# Hierarchical Mode Analysis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for

CSC 471/578

in the Department of Computer Science

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April 18, 2013

# Overview

## Density Estimation And Mode Analysis

### Introduction

## Hierarchical Mode Analysis

### Introduction

## Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis

## Application: Smart Flood Fill

# Data driven clustering

**Clustering problem:** given  $N$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , assign each point a label. “Group data into statistically meaningful categories”.

..Implementation<sup>12</sup> invited for inclusion in E.S.A. open source distro:

- ▶ **Data driven clustering:** find arbitrary shaped clusters, instead of generalized “spherical cows”  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ .
- ▶ **Point-cloud representation** of clusters (instead of, e.g.,  $(\mu, \Sigma)$  where  $\Sigma = \text{Cov}(x_i, x_j)$ ).

Two steps:

- ▶ **Density Estimation**
- ▶ **Hill Climbing**

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<sup>1</sup>A. Richardson *et al.*, “Unsupervised nonparametric classification of polarimetric sar data using the k-nearest neighbor graph,” *proc. IEEE IGARSS*, 2010

<sup>2</sup>D. Goodenough *et al.*, “Mapping fire scars using radarsat-2 polarimetric sar data,” *Can. J. Remote Sensing*, 2011

# Data driven clustering: Step 1/2

**Density Estimation** e.g., by K-nearest Neighbor Density Estimate:

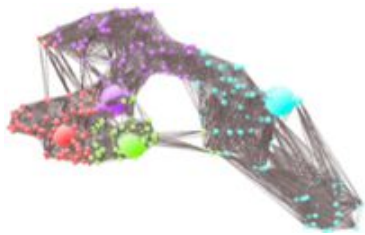
$$\rho(x) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{K} \sum_{y \in N_x} d(x, y)}$$

- ▶ Evaluate this at each data point..
- ▶  $K$  is the number of “nearest neighbors” to consider about a point
- ▶  $N_x$  is the set of “K-nearest neighbours” about a point  $x$

## Data driven clustering: Step 2/2

**Hill Climbing.** Simple heuristic (avoids explicit gradient-estimation).

```
label[x] = hillclimb(x):    //label the point x
    if( $\rho(x) \geq \rho(N_x)$ ):    //x highest- $\rho$  in nbhd (x is a “top”)
        return newLabel();
    else
        //“go up” (find the centre)
        return hillclimb( $\underset{x \in N_x}{\operatorname{argmax}}(\rho(N_x))$ );
```



Itty-bitty example..small number of points. **Peaks/tops** shown as large circles. Other points colored by label.

Results: Point-clouds good for compression. "Nearest Neighbor" ( $\mu$ 's) bad..



Results: Point-clouds good for compression. “Nearest Neighbor” ( $\mu$ 's) bad.. Also, Data-driven method more stable (w.r.t. parameters)..



**Figure 2a)**  
Red=Entropy,  
Blue=Alpha,  
Green=Shannon  
Entropy.



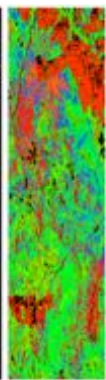
**Figure 2b)**  
Lee algorithm – 200  
initial segments – 35  
final clusters.



**Figure 2c)**  
Lee algorithm – 200  
initial segments – 40  
final clusters.



**Figure 3a)**  
Wishart  
H/A/alpha  
classifier - 5x5  
analysis  
window (fire  
scar class).



**Figure 3b)**  
Wishart  
H/A/alpha  
classifier – 1x1  
analysis  
window (16  
classes).



**Figure 3c)**  
KNN classifier  
using 10000  
points, K=55,  
22 clusters.



**Figure 3d)**  
KNN classifier  
using 10000  
points, K=35,  
51 clusters.

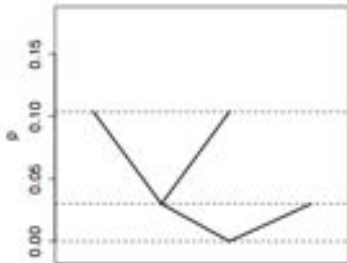
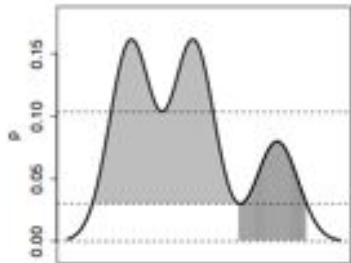
# Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Data Driven Clustering in more general, Dendrographic (tree) Context

**Review:** categories (cf., labels) were representative of connected components of level sets  $L$ :

$$L(\lambda; \rho) = \{x | \rho(x) > \lambda\}$$

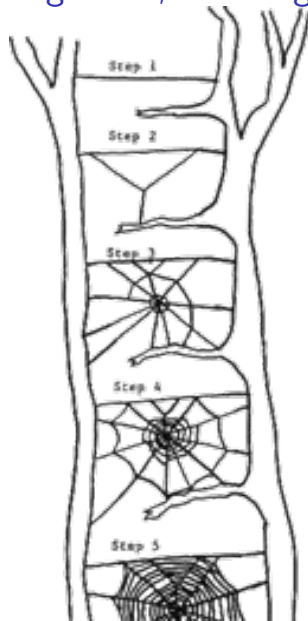
for some threshold  $\lambda$  (“one-level analysis”).

**Next: Hierarchical version!** Cluster tree: (recall who’s-your-daddy operator from last time)..Want russian-dolled (nesting) buckets.. **Coming up: Segmentation**





# Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Data Driven Clustering in more general, Dendrographic (tree) Context

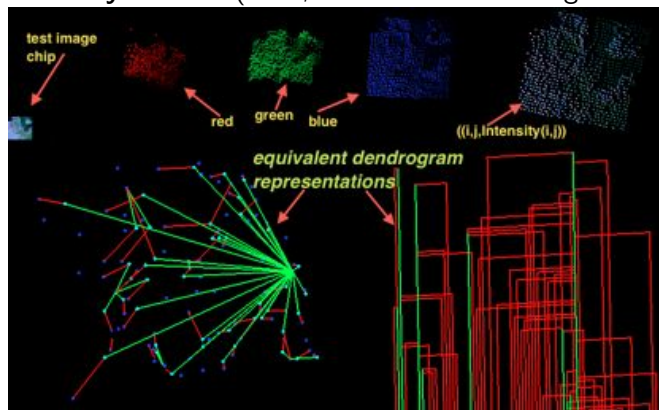


# Segmentation Motivating Example: “Intensity Climbing”

In clustering procedure,

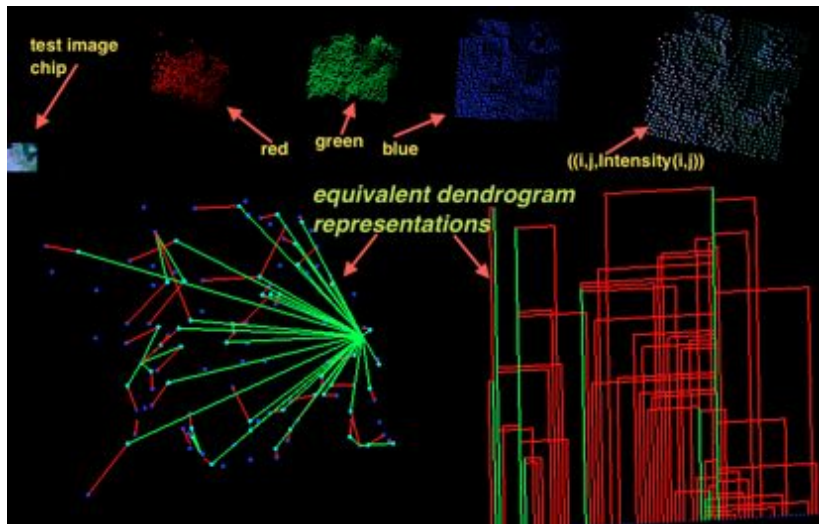
- 1 Use **Intensity**  $I(x(i,j)) = \sum_k x(i,j)_k$  instead of  $\rho(x)$ !
- 2) Use a spatial neighbourhood. E.g., a square one:  $N^{\text{Moore}}(x_{i,j}) = \{x_{i-1,j}, x_{i+1,j}, x_{j+1,i-1}, x_{j+1,i}, x_{j+1,i+1}, x_{j-1,i-1}, x_{j-1,i}, x_{j-1,i+1}\}$  instead of (spectral) K-Nearest Neighbourhood.

**Result: map out hierarchical structure of peaks in image intensity surface (N.B., color information neglected..)**



# Segmentation Motivating Example: “Intensity Climbing”

Sample of “hyperspectral” segmentation result for image chip. The result is 5-dimensional (only three dimensions are visualized). Data is ALOS-PALSAR (spaceborne) polarimetric imaging (Japan Space Agency) over Keg river area, BC. The five channels are the following “decomposition parameters”: cloude-pottier entropy, alpha, and anisotropy; shannon entropy; radar vegetation index.



# Segmentation Motivating Example: “Intensity Climbing”

Q: how to generalize?

- ▶ How to incorporate color information?
- ▶ How to incorporate geometric (neighborhood information) simultaneously?

# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis

Q: how to generalize?

- ▶ Use simultaneous color/geometry information
- ▶ Use hierarchical formulation for scalar field segmentation (with underlying geometry: neighborhood structure).

Choice of neighbourhoods as K-Nearest-Neighbourhoods (KNN).. And choice of scalar field as KNN density estimate.. This algorithm reduces to the previous case! **Benefits of new version..**

- ▶ Arbitrary geometries (e.g., non-rectangular/higher-dimensional data, e.g., 6-d-toroidally sampled hyperspectral data..). N.b., issue of geometry estimation from sensor-point-clouds not addressed here..
- ▶ Being a little bit more vague (referring to  $\rho$  as a scalar field, rather than a density estimate).. more scope of applications! E.g., temperature measurements..

# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

**Algorithm input:** a set  $X$  of  $N < \infty$  points  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 1$

$$x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

, a scalar field  $\rho(x) : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

and, a neighbourhood structure:  $N_x(x \in X) : X \rightarrow 2^X$ .

**Output:** labels with tree structure (associating tree-splits with scalar-field levels  $\rho(x)$ )

Note: treat color/geometry together via sensible choice of  $\rho(x)$ ..

# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

## Modes of scalar field

**A regional maximum** of the scalar field  $\rho(x)$

( $\rho_{i,j} = \rho_{\pi(x)} = \rho(x)$  for conventional 2-d image) we shall refer to as a **Mode**, which we will **symbolize** by  $M$ , using this:

1. to refer to the **basin of attraction** associated with  $M$
2. to refer to the associated **maximum**  $\sup_{x \in M} C(x) = \sup C(M)$
3. as a label/name.

*meta!*



# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

## Interfaces between modes

Suppose modes  $M_i, M_j$  share an interface:

$$\begin{aligned} I_{i,j} &= I_{M_i, M_j} = I_{M_j, M_i} \\ &= (N(M_i) \cap M_j) \cup (N(M_j) \cap M_i) \\ &= (\cup N(M_i) \cap M_j) \cup (N(M_j) \cap M_i) \\ &= \left\{ N(x \in M_i \cup M_j) \mid N \cap M_j \cap M_i \neq \emptyset \right\} \end{aligned}$$

that is, the set of neighborhoods of points in modes  $M_i$  or  $M_j$  whose neighborhoods intersect with the other mode.





# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

**Interfaces define the upper Level set inclusion structure**  
(dendrogram)

For  $\lambda > \sup(\rho(I_{M_i, M_j}))$ , Modes  $M_i, M_j$  are no longer associated with the same connected component of the upper-level sets:

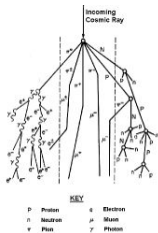
$$\{L(\lambda; \rho(x)) = \{x | \rho(x) \geq \lambda\}.$$

That is, the connected components of the upper-level sets associated with  $M_i, M_j$  are “joined” at level:

$$\lambda = \sup \rho(I_{i,j})$$

but are disjoint for

$$\lambda > \sup(\rho(I_{M_i, M_j})).$$



# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

## Inclusion structure between neighboring modes

For a mode  $M$  we denote the neighboring modes (those modes that share interfaces with  $M$ ) by

$$\mathbb{N}(M) = \{M_i \mid \cup N(M_i) \cap M \neq \emptyset\}.$$

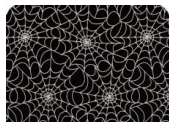
Then, for a node  $M$ ,

$$S(M) = \arg \max_{M_j \in \mathbb{N}(M)} \left\{ \sup_{x \in I_{i,j}(M, M_j)} \rho(x) \right\}$$

refers to the (neighboring) component  $M_j$  which which  $M$  “joins” at level

$$\lambda_{S(M)} = \max_{M_j} \left\{ \sup_{x \in I_{i,j}(M, M_j)} \rho(x) \right\}.$$

Will refer to  $S(M)$  as the “high density neighbor mode” of  $M_i$ .



# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

## Equivalence classes of connected components of level sets

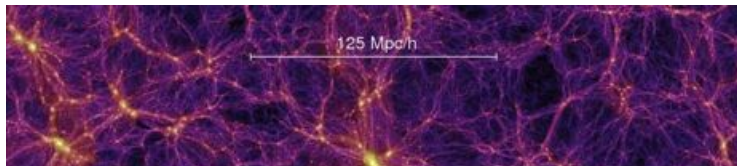
By  $[M]_\lambda$  we denote the **equivalence class of connected components of upper-level sets** of  $\rho(x)$  associated with  $M$ .

To illustrate.. In terms of decreasing heights  $\lambda$ , a node  $M$  “first” joins the same connected component as  $S(M)$ . Then, supposing  $M$  and  $S(M)$  “join” the same connected component at

$$\lambda_{S(M)}$$

then

$$[M]_{\lambda_{S(M)}} \simeq_{[\cdot]_\lambda} [S(M)]_{\lambda_{S(M)}}.$$



# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

**Inclusion trajectory diagram for a Mode (Segmentation Hierarchy)** For  $M$  there is a sequence:

$$[M]_{\lambda_1}, [M]_{\lambda_2}, \dots, [M]_{\lambda_n}$$

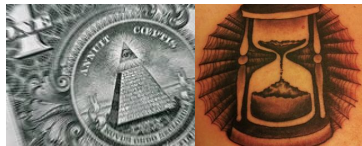
where from left to right the  $\lambda_i$ 's are decreasing ( $\lambda_i > \lambda_j$ ) for  $(i < j)$ , and

$$[M]_{\lambda_1} \subset [M]_{\lambda_2} \subset \dots \subset [M]_{\lambda_n}$$

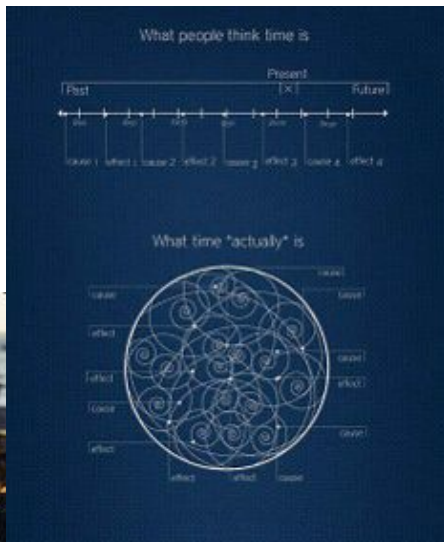
where the inclusion is proper (at each  $\lambda_i$  the connected component has addition(s)). Use notation

$$[M]_{\lambda_1} \rightarrow [M]_{\lambda_2} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow [M]_{\lambda_n}$$

to emphasize connection with (discrete time) dynamical systems (bounded (spatio-temporal) (time)moment-(space)regions "included" into something greater (future accomodates past)?

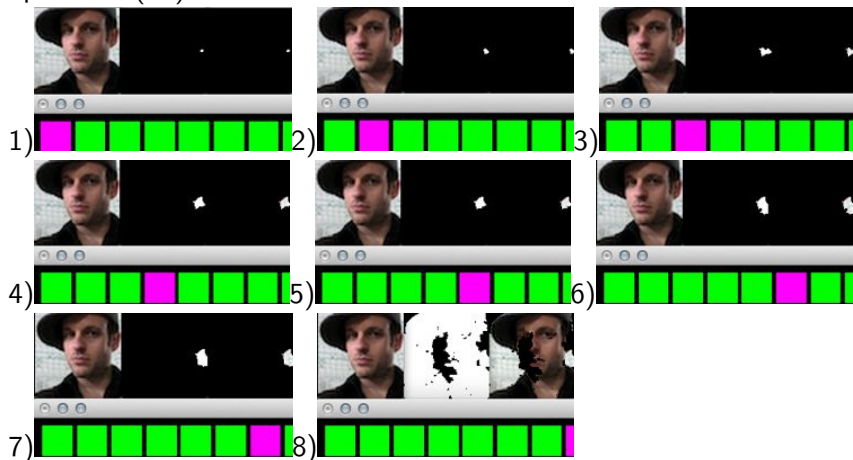


# Segmentation via Hierarchical Mode Analysis: Formulation

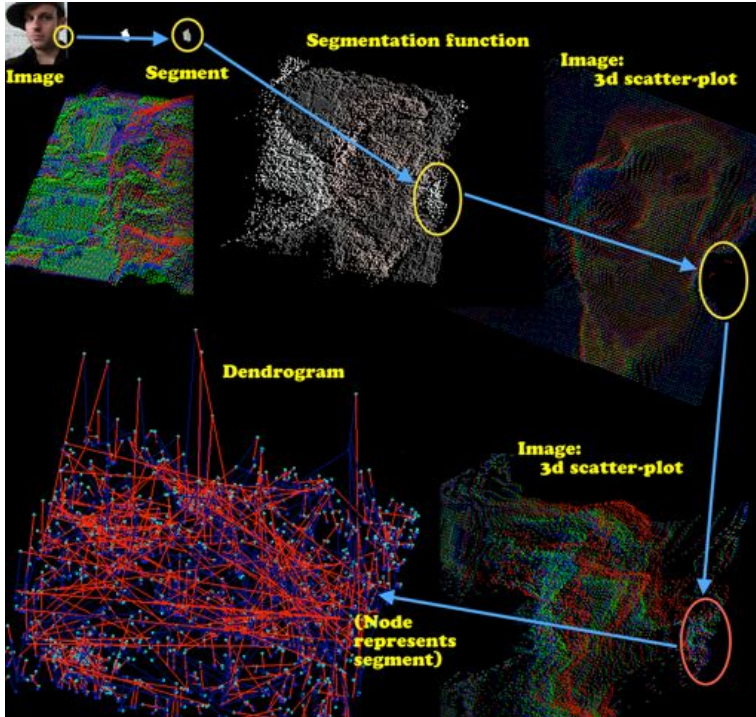


# Application: Smart Flood Fill

Select seed node ( $M$ ) and successively apply “who’s your daddy operator” ( $\rightarrow$ )..



Note..Before taking color information into account, white background patch got added onto ear prematurely..



# Acknowledgments

- ▶ Thanks to Prof. Bruce Gooch and the University of Victoria for financial support