

**Quiz 9: Clustering – 2 (10 points), 15 minutes**  
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1. [7 points] Suppose  $k^* = 5$ , i.e., the best value of  $k$ , for running  $k$ -means on a data set. Describe the steps that the  $k^*$  algorithm takes to discover this value. Be sure to indicate the value of  $k$  for each  $k$ -means clustering that the algorithm performs.

First, it finds the elbow of the curve:

Runs  $k$ -means for  $k = 1, 2, 4, 8$

Stop at  $k = 8$  as there must be little change in cohesion from  $k = 4$  to 8

Then it uses binary search in range  $[4, 8]$

$$z = (4+8)/2$$

$$z = 6$$

As there must be little change in cohesion between  $[6, 8]$  we search for  $z^*$  in  $[4, 6]$

$$Z = (4+6)/2$$

$$Z = 5$$

$$k^* = 5$$

2. [3 points] Explain the commonality and key differences between the BFR and CURE algorithms.

Common: [1 point]

Both BFR and CURE assume data to be in euclidean space.

Differences [2 point]

BFR	CURE
Data has to be normally distributed.	Do not assume particular distribution.
Cluster is in form of centroid.	Cluster is in form of set of representatives.