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# Soft Clustering

— Boston University CS 506 - Lance Galletti —

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# Problem Statement

Given a dataset of weights of animals.

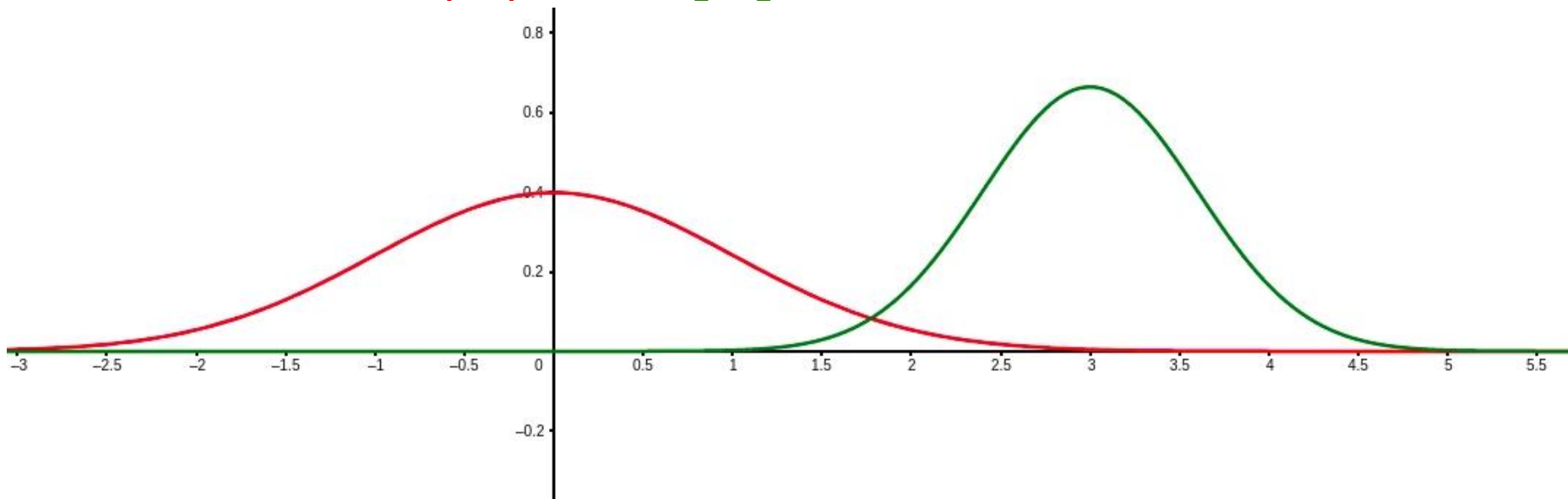
Unknown to us these are weights from  $N$  different species. Can we determine the species (group / assignment) from a given weight?

# Things To Consider

1. There is a prior probability of being one species (i.e. we could have an imbalanced dataset or there could just be more of one species than the other)
2. Weights within a particular group / species follow a particular distribution

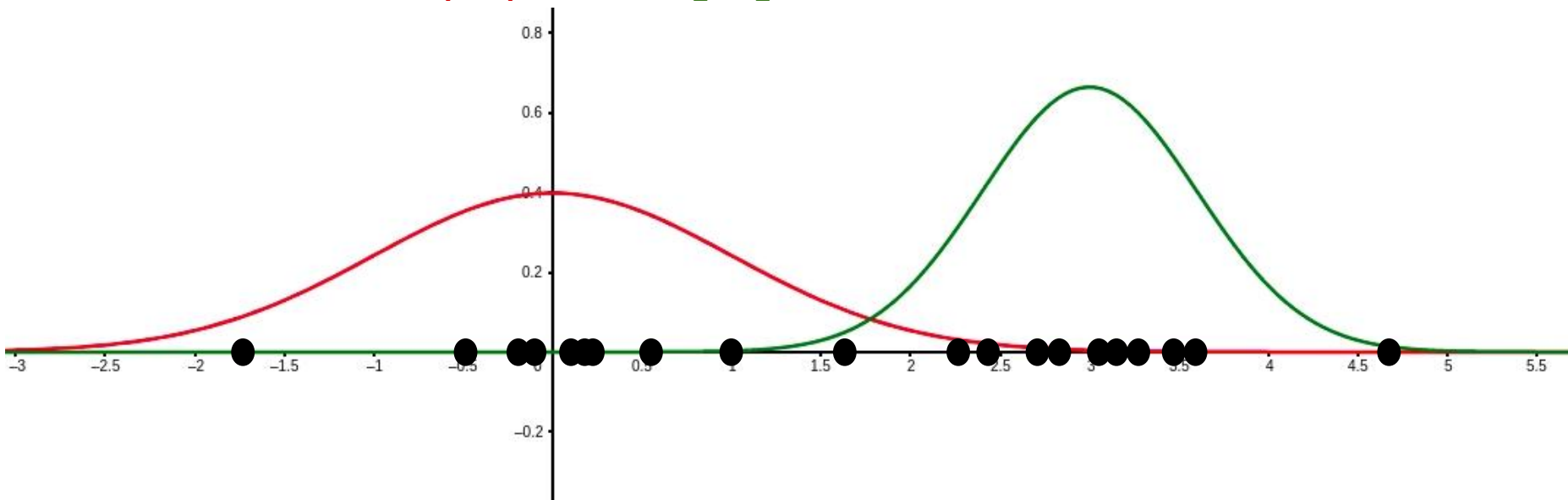
# Soft Clustering - Example

Generate data where  $P(C_1) = P(C_2) = \frac{1}{2}$  and within  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  the weight distributions are  $N(\mu_1, \sigma_1)$  and  $N(\mu_2, \sigma_2)$



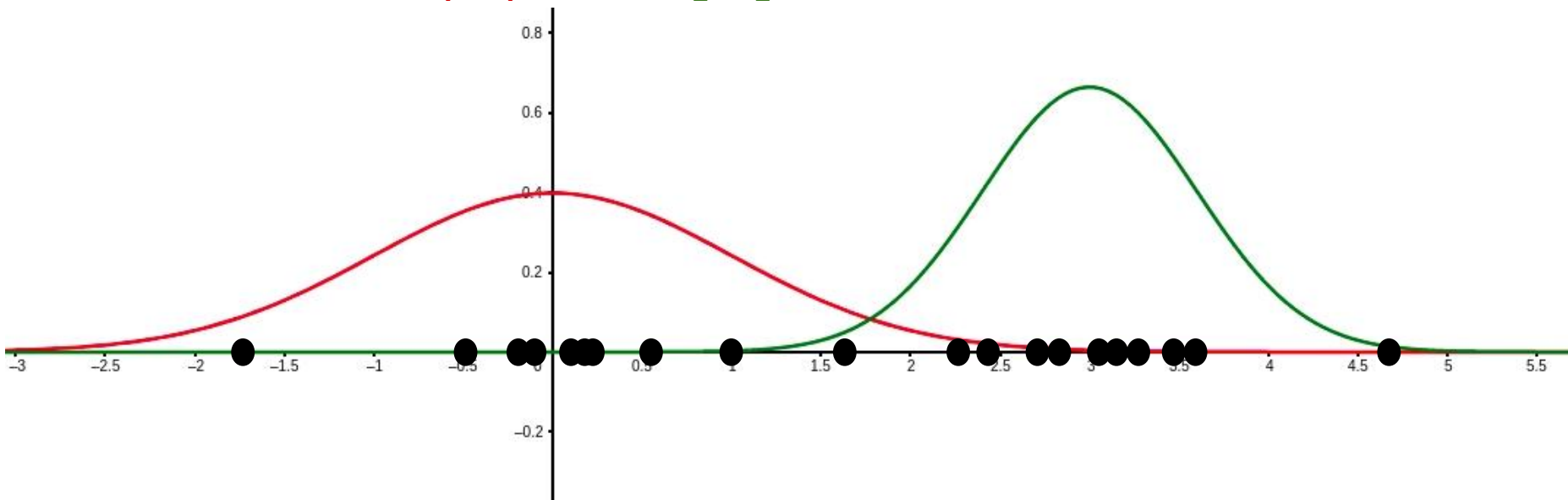
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# Soft Clustering - Example

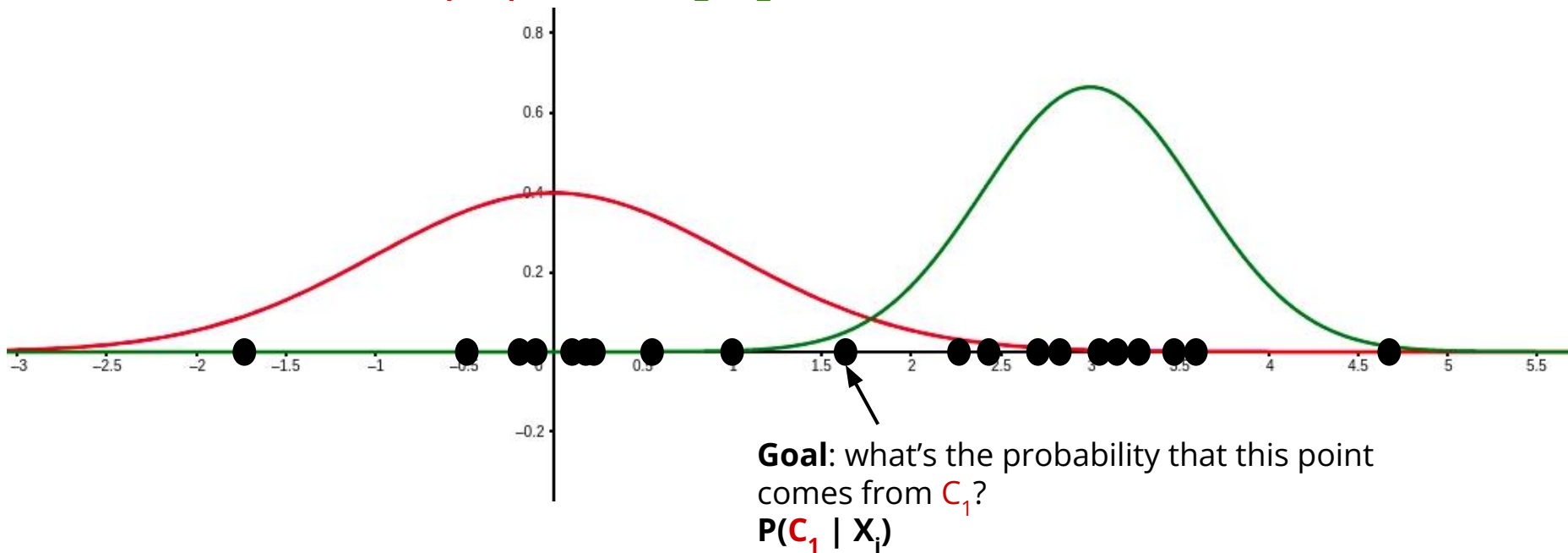
Generate data where  $P(C_1) = P(C_2) = \frac{1}{2}$  and within  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  the weight distributions are  $N(\mu_1, \sigma_1)$  and  $N(\mu_2, \sigma_2)$



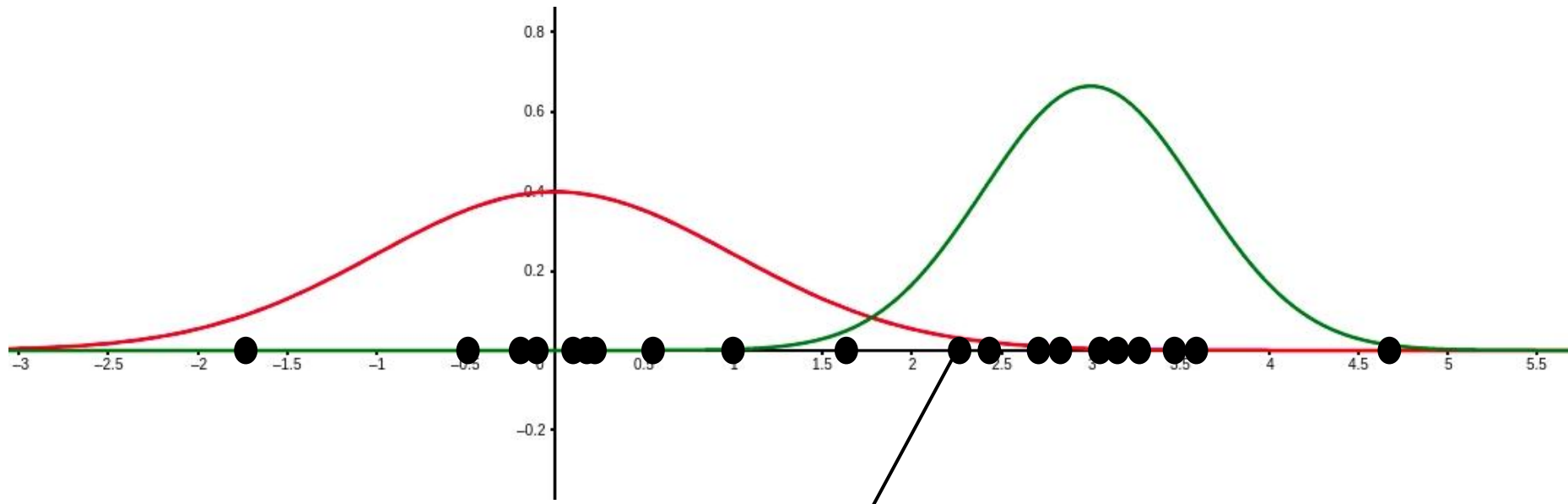
Any of these points could technically have been generated from either curve.

# Soft Clustering - Example

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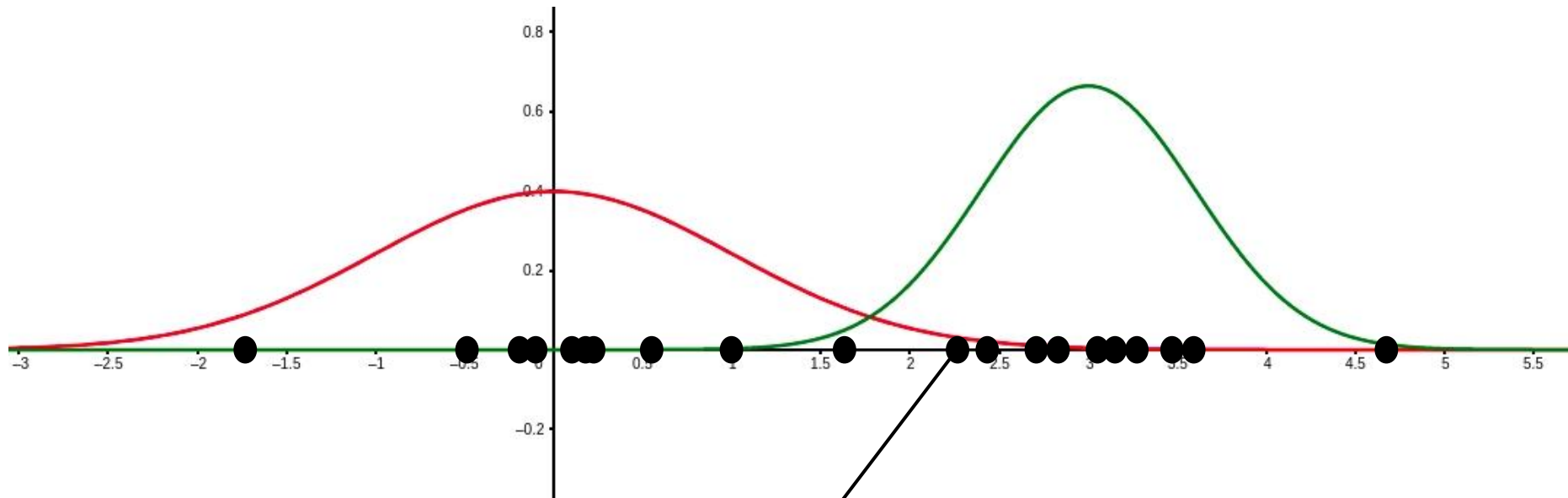
# Example



What is the probability density here?




# Example



$$P(X = x) = P(C_1)P(X = x|C_1) + P(C_2)P(X = x|C_2)$$

# Mixture Model

X comes from a mixture model with k mixture components if the probability distribution of X is:

$$P(X = x) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j) P(X = x | C_j)$$


Mixture proportion  
Represents the probability  
of belonging to  $C_j$

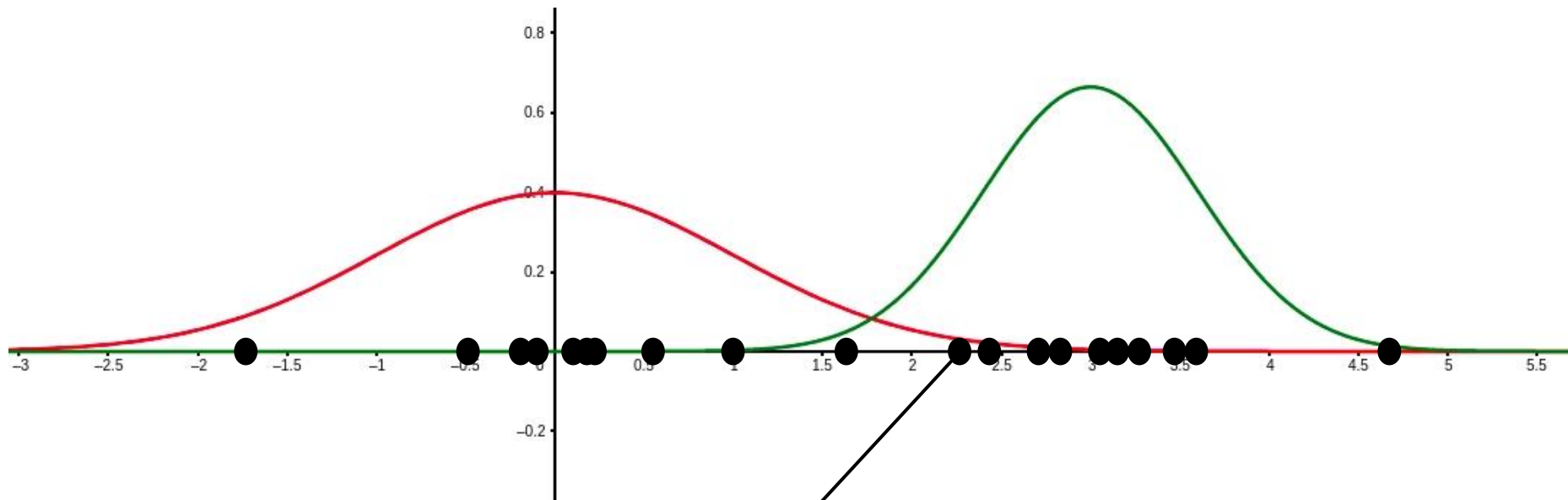
Probability of seeing x  
when sampling from  $C_j$

# Gaussian Mixture Model

A Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM) is a mixture model where

$$P(X = x|C_i) \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$$

# Example



$$P(X = x) = P(C_1) \frac{1}{\sigma_1 \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x - \mu_1}{\sigma_1} \right)^2} + P(C_2) \frac{1}{\sigma_2 \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x - \mu_2}{\sigma_2} \right)^2}$$

**Worksheet a) -> c)**

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (intuition)

Suppose you are given a dataset of coin tosses and are asked to estimate the parameters that characterize that distribution - how would you do that?

MLE: find the parameters that maximized the probability of having seen the data we got

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (intuition)

Example: Assume Bernoulli( $p$ ) iid coin tosses

Val
H
T
T
H
T

**Goal:** find  $p$  that maximized that probability

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (intuition)

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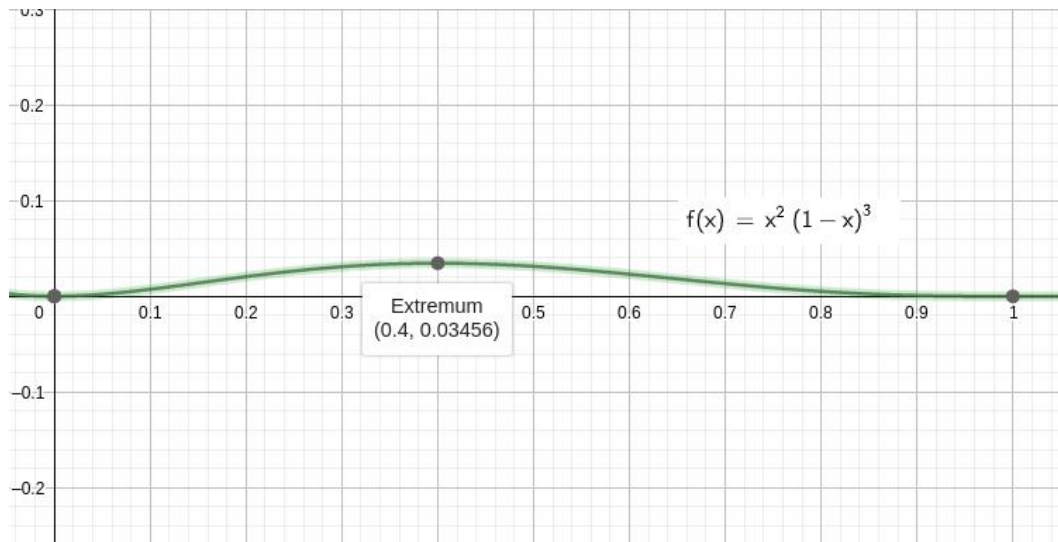
$$\begin{aligned}P(\text{having seen the data we saw}) &= P(H)P(T)P(T)P(H)P(T) \\ &= p^2(1-p)^3\end{aligned}$$

**Goal:** find  $p$  that maximized that probability



# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (intuition)

Val
H
T
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The sample proportion  $\frac{4}{10}$  is what maximizes this probability

# GMM Clustering

**Goal:** Find the GMM that maximizes the probability of seeing the data we have.

Recall:

$$P(X = x) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X = x|C_j)$$

# GMM Clustering

**Goal:** Find the GMM that maximizes the probability of seeing the data we have.

$$P(X = x) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X = x|C_j)$$

Finding the GMM means finding the parameters that uniquely characterize it. What are these parameters?

# GMM Clustering

**Goal:** Find the GMM that maximizes the probability of seeing the data we have.

$$P(X = x) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X = x|C_j)$$

Finding the GMM means finding the parameters that uniquely characterize it.  
What are these parameters?

**$P(C_i)$  &  $\mu_i$  &  $\sigma_i$**  for all  **$k$**  components.

Lets call  **$\theta = \{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k, P(C_1), \dots, P(C_k)\}$**

# GMM Clustering

**Goal:** Find the GMM that maximizes the probability of seeing the data we have.

$$P(X = x) = \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X = x|C_j)$$

The probability of seeing the data we saw is (**assuming each data point was sampled independently**) the product of the probabilities of observing each data point.

# GMM Clustering

Goal:

$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \prod_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j) P(X_i | C_j)$$

Where  $\theta = \{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k, P(C_1), \dots, P(C_k)\}$

Joint probability distribution of our data

Assuming our data are independent

# GMM Clustering

How do we find the critical points of this function?

Notice: taking the log-transform does not change the critical points

Define:

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta) &= \log(L(\theta)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log\left(\sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X_i \mid C_j)\right) \end{aligned}$$

# GMM Clustering

For  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = [\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k]^\top$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = [\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k]^\top$

We can solve

$$\frac{d}{d\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{d\boldsymbol{\mu}} l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$$



# GMM Clustering

To get

$$\hat{\mu}_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P(C_j|X_i)X_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(C_j|X_i)}$$

$$\hat{\Sigma}_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P(C_j|X_i)(X_i - \hat{\mu}_j)^T(X_i - \hat{\mu}_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(C_j|X_i)}$$

$$\hat{P}(C_j) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n P(C_j|X_i)$$

# GMM Clustering

Do we have everything we need to solve this?

Still need  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{C}_j \mid \mathbf{X}_i)$  (i.e. the probability that  $\mathbf{X}_i$  was drawn from  $\mathbf{C}_j$ )

# GMM Clustering

$$\begin{aligned} P(C_j|X_i) &= \frac{P(X_i|C_j)}{P(X_i)} P(C_j) \\ &= \frac{P(X_i|C_j)P(C_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^k P(C_j)P(X_i|C_j)} \end{aligned}$$

Looks like a loop! Seems we need  $P(C_j)$  to get  $P(C_j | X_i)$  and  $P(C_j | X_i)$  to get  $P(C_j)$

# Expectation Maximization Algorithm

1. Start with random  $\theta$
2. Compute  $P(C_j | X_i)$  for all  $X_i$  by using  $\theta$
3. Compute / Update  $\theta$  from  $P(C_j | X_i)$
4. Repeat 2 & 3 until convergence

**Worksheet d) -> h)**