

A2 In-Class Discussion

Chris Kauffman

Last Updated:
Tue Feb 24 01:44:35 PM EST 2026

Two MPI Problems

1. Heat Simulation
2. K-means clustering

Previously discussed strategies to parallelize heat problem for distributed memory machine in lecture, will discuss K-Means now

K-Means Clustering

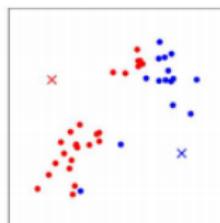
- ▶ A standard ML / Data Mining / Stats problem
- ▶ Input: data + #of clusters desired
- ▶ Output: assignment of each data to a cluster + cluster centers
- ▶ Algorithm: Iterates between
 1. Calculate cluster centers
 2. Calculate cluster assignments



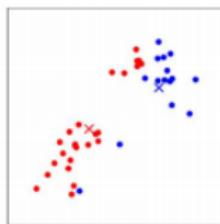
(a)



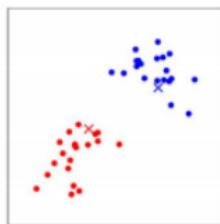
(b)



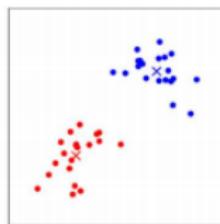
(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Source: K-Means by Chris Piech. Based on a handout by Andrew Ng.

Overall

<MINTED>

Initial Assignment to Random Clusters

<MINDED>

Calculate Cluster Centers

<MINDED>

Assign Data to Clusters

<MINDED>

Distributed Memory Parallel Versions

- ▶ Algorithm deals with Data and Clusters, each a matrixy thing
- ▶ How would you divide up this data in a distributed parallel version?
- ▶ Would data redistribution be required in your scheme?
- ▶ What information needs to be exchanged at each iteration?
- ▶ Do processors need to communicate for the initial cluster assignment? Or can data be assigned to initial clusters without communication?