

## 14. Clustering, Kmeans, GMM

- clustering
- kmeans
- gaussian mixture models

## K-means and Clustering

# Supervised, semi-supervised, unsupervised

**Supervised** = there exists a training set

- Teacher gives students some stuff to learn, test is on stuff learned
- MNIST classifier is trained on 60,000 labels, tested on 10,000 labels



# Supervised, semi-supervised, unsupervised

**Semi-supervised** = there is a training set, but it's pretty small and unrepresentative

- Teacher gives some lessons, but test could branch into new subjects
- Doctor is medically trained, but may diagnose a disease never seen before
- Self-driving car sees most scenarios, but may face something new on road



# Supervised, semi-supervised, unsupervised

**Unsupervised** = there is no training set

- Student finds patterns in observations, starts to form theories and models
- Amy Adams talks to aliens by identifying structure in language
- I clean my room by putting things in piles, and decide my own labels



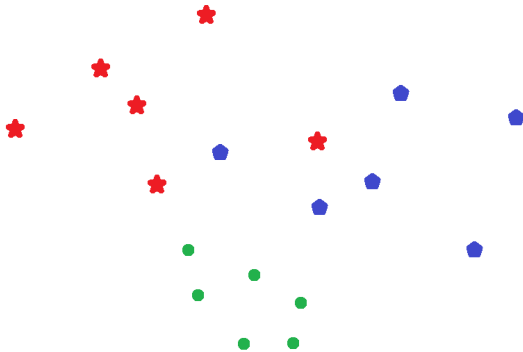
# Clustering

*I've got gadgets and gizmos aplenty  
I've got whosits and whatsits galore  
You want thingamabobs? I got twenty!*



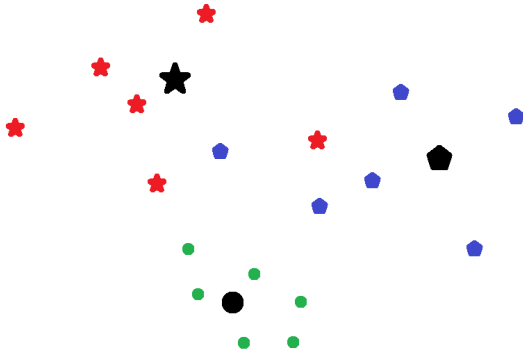
I don't know what they're called, so I'll just categorize them and label them later

# Clustering



Distance = dissimilarity

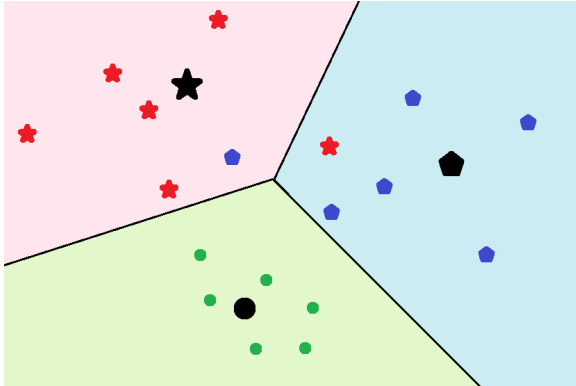
## Cluster centers



- No labels!
- Ideally: representative center



## Clustering into Voronoi cells



Cluster based on closest representative (centers)

## K-means algorithm

$$\underset{\mathcal{S}_k, \mu_k}{\text{minimize}} \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^K \|x_i - \mu_k\|_2$$

Data:  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $K$  clusters

- **Init:** Pick some centers  $\mu_1^{(0)}, \dots, \mu_K^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- **Iterate:**  $t = 1, \dots$

- Classify each point based on closest center (e.g. KNN)

$$i \in \mathcal{S}_k^{(t)} \text{ if } k = \underset{k=1, \dots, K}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|x_i - \mu_k^{(t-1)}\|_2, \quad k = 1, \dots, K$$

- Recompute centers  $\mu_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_k^{(t)}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_k^{(t)}} x_i$
- **Until** Convergence  $\mathcal{S}_k^{(t)} = \mathcal{S}_k^{(t-1)}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, K$

# Optimality

$$\underset{\mathcal{S}_k, \mu_k}{\text{minimize}} \quad \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_k} \|x_i - \mu_k\|_2 \quad (\star)$$

- Does it converge?
- Does it always converge to the same point?

## Optimality

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- Does it converge?

Ans: Yes, objective value decreases each step, bounded below by 0.

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- Does it always converge to the same point?

Ans: No. What happens if we initialize

$$\mu_1^{(0)} = \mu_2^{(0)} = \cdots = \mu_K^{(0)} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i x_i?$$

Usually start with random initialization.

## Optimality

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- $(\star)$  is nonconvex, may have multiple (not that great) local optima

## Extensions

$$\underset{\mathcal{S}_k, \mu_k}{\text{minimize}} \quad \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_k} d(x_i - \mu_k)$$

- If  $d(x) = \|x\|_2$ , we are solving K-means.
- If  $d(x) = \|x\|_1$ , we are solving K-median. Specifically,

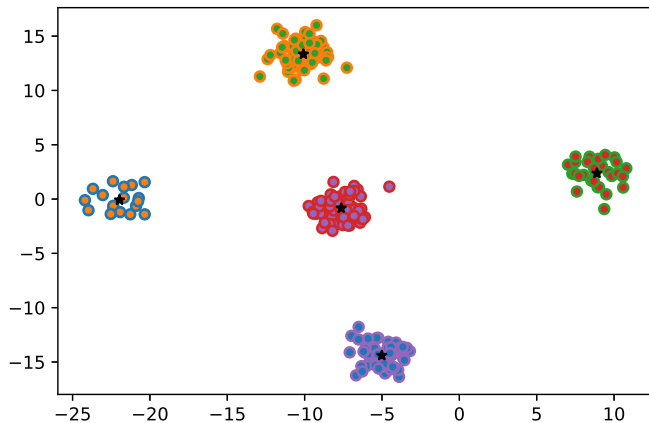
$$\mu = \underset{\mu}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \|x_i - \mu\|_1$$

recovers  $\mu$  = the median of  $x_i, i \in \mathcal{S}$ .

This formulation is more robust to outliers.

- We can choose  $d$  as we want, but optimization may be harder.

Go to demo

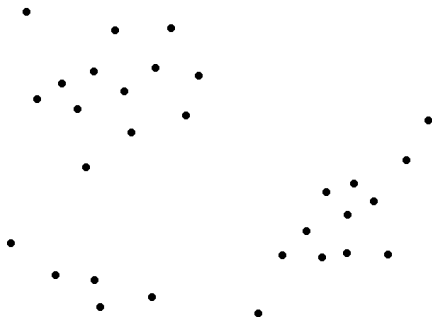




## Gaussian mixture models and data modeling

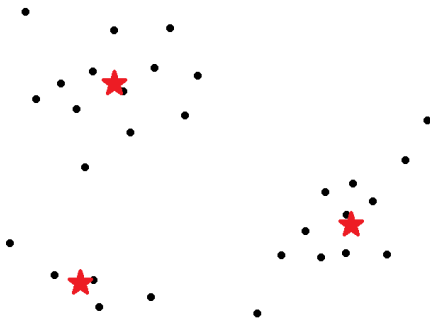
## Soft cluster assignments

- How to quantify uncertainty of an assignment  $i \in \mathcal{S}_k$ ?
- Clusters may have different shapes, eccentricities
- I want a generative data model  $\Pr(x_i)$ , not just a cluster assignment



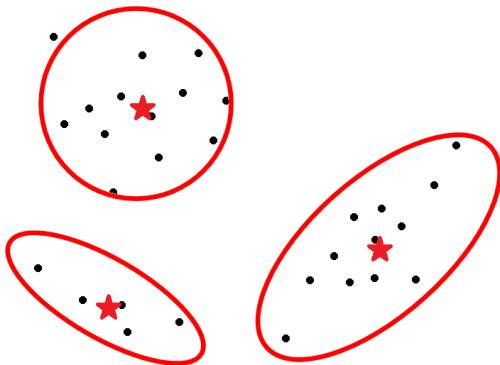
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## K-means with indicator variables

Data:  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $K$  clusters

- **Init:** Pick some centers  $\mu_1^{(0)}, \dots, \mu_K^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- **Iterate:**  $t = 1, \dots$ 
  - Classify each point based on closest center (assume unique)

$$z_{i,k}^{(t)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = \underset{k=1, \dots, K}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|x_i - \mu_k^{(t-1)}\|_2, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

- Recompute centers  $\mu_k^{(t)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m z_{i,k} x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^m z_{i,k}}$
- **Until** Convergence  $z_i^{(t)} = z_i^{(t-1)}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$

# Gaussian mixture models (GMM)

## Gaussian mixture model

$$\Pr(x_i | z_{i,k} = 1, \theta_k) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi|C_k|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x_i - \mu_k)^T C_k^{-1}(x_i - \mu_k)\right)}_{=: f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_k, C_k)}$$

## Mixture coefficient

$$\Pr(x_i, z_{i,k} = 1 | \theta) = \Pr(x_i | z_{i,k} = 1, \theta) \underbrace{\Pr(z_{i,k} = 1 | \theta)}_{=: \alpha_k}$$

**Distribution parameters:**  $\theta = (\alpha, \mu, C)$

$$\underbrace{\alpha \in \Delta_{K-1}}_{\text{mixture coeffs}}, \quad \underbrace{\mu_k \in \mathbb{R}^n}_{\text{mean}}, \quad \underbrace{C_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \text{ PSD}}_{\text{covariance}}, \quad k = 1, \dots, K$$

where  $\Delta_{K-1} := \{0 \leq \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^K : \sum_k \alpha_k = 1\}$  is the unit simplex

## Gaussian mixture models (GMM)

The assumption

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(z_{i,k} = 1|x_i, \theta) &\stackrel{\text{Bayes' formula}}{=} \frac{\Pr(z_{i,k} = 1)\Pr(x_i|z_{i,k} = 1)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \Pr(z_{i,l} = 1)\Pr(x_i|z_{i,l} = 1)} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_k f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_k, C_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \alpha_l f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_l, C_l)}\end{aligned}$$

Reminder

$$f_{\mathcal{N}}(x; \mu, C) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} \sqrt{|C|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T C^{-1}(x - \mu)\right)$$

Here,

- $\theta = (\mu, C)$  (model parameters)
- $\alpha_k = \Pr(z_{i,k} = 1) \in \Delta_{K-1}$
- $|C|$  = determinant of  $C$

## Log likelihood objective function

$$\begin{aligned}\log(\Pr(z|x, \theta)) &= \log\left(\prod_i \prod_k \Pr(z_{i,k}|x_i, \theta)^{z_{i,k}}\right) \\&= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} \log(\Pr(z_{i,k} = 1|x_i, \theta)) \\&= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} \log(\alpha_k f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_k, C_k)) - \overbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} B}^{\text{constant}} \\&\quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{=1}\end{aligned}$$

where  $B = \log\left(\sum_{l=1}^K \alpha_l f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_l, C_l)\right)$



## Log likelihood objective function

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\theta, z_{i,k}} \log(\Pr(z|x, \theta)) \\ \iff & \max_{\alpha_k \in \Delta_{K-1}, \mu_k, C_k, z_{i,k}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} \log(\alpha_k f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_k, C_k)) \\ \iff & \max_{\alpha_k \in \Delta_{K-1}, \mu_k, C_k, z_{i,k}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} \log(\alpha_k) \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \left( \log(|C|) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} ((x_i - \mu_k)^T C_k^{-1} (x_i - \mu_k)) \right) \end{aligned}$$

### 3 maximization problems: Mixing coefficients $\alpha_k$

$$\max_{\alpha \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k} \log(\alpha_k), \quad z_{i,k} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \sum_k z_{i,k} = 1, \quad \forall i$$

- Denote  $s_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k}$ . Note that

$$\sum_{k=1}^K s_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K z_{i,k}}_{=1} = 1$$

- Therefore we can reduce the problem to

$$\max_{\alpha \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{k=1}^K s_k \log(\alpha_k), \quad 0 \leq s_k \leq 1, \quad \sum_k s_k = 1$$

- I would like to say  $\alpha_k = s_k$ , but how to prove?

### 3 maximization problems: Mixing coefficients $\alpha_k$

$$\max_{\alpha \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{k=1}^K s_k \log(\alpha_k), \quad 0 \leq s_k \leq 1, \quad \sum_k s_k = 1 \quad (\star)$$

- Consider  $K = 2$ . Then  $s_1 + s_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 1$  and

$$\max_{\alpha_1} s_1 \log(\alpha_1) + (1 - s_1) \log(1 - \alpha_1)$$

has optimum  $\alpha_1 = s_1$ ,  $\alpha_2 = 1 - \alpha_1 = s_2$ .

### 3 maximization problems: Mixing coefficients $\alpha_k$

$$\max_{\alpha \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{k=1}^K s_k \log(\alpha_k), \quad 0 \leq s_k \leq 1, \quad \sum_k s_k = 1 \quad (\star)$$

- Recursively, suppose  $\alpha_i = s_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, K-1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\star) &= \max_{0 \leq \alpha_K \leq 1} \left( \max_{\alpha \in (1-\alpha_K)\Delta_{K-2}} \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} s_k \log(\alpha_k) \right) + s_K \log(\alpha_K) \\ &= \max_{0 \leq \alpha_K \leq 1} \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} s_k \log(s_k \cdot (1 - \alpha_K)) + s_K \log(\alpha_K) \\ &\iff \max_{0 \leq \alpha_K \leq 1} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} s_k \right) \log((1 - \alpha_K)) + s_K \log(\alpha_K) \end{aligned}$$

which reduces to the  $K = 2$  case with optimum  $\alpha_K = s_K$

### 3 maximization problems: Mixing coefficients $\alpha_k$

- Overall,

$$\alpha_k^* = s_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k}, \quad k = 1, \dots, K$$

### 3 maximization problems: Mean $\mu$

$$\min_{\mu_k} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{z_{i,k}}{2} (x_i - \mu_k)^T C_k^{-1} (x_i - \mu_k)$$

- Given  $C$ ,  $x$ ,  $z$ , the minimization is convex in  $\mu$
- Set  $\nabla = 0$  to find stationary point:

$$C_k^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k} (x_i - \mu_k) = 0 \iff \mu_k^* = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k}} \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k} x_i$$

### 3 maximization problems: Inverse covariance $S_k = C_k^{-1}$

$$\min_{S_k := C_k^{-1}} \left( \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n -z_{i,k} \log(|S_k|)}_{\text{convex in } S} + \underbrace{z_{i,k} (x_i - \mu_k)^T S_k (x_i - \mu_k)}_{\text{linear in } S} \right)$$

- Setting  $\nabla = 0$  gives

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -z_{i,k} S^{-1} = \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k} (x_i - \mu_k^*) (x_i - \mu_k^*)^T$$

- Simplify, plug back in  $C_k = S_k^{-1}$

$$C_k^* = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k}} \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,k} (x_i - \mu_k^*) (x_i - \mu_k^*)^T$$

- This is a weighted covariance matrix

## What about the hidden variables?

- I don't actually know  $z_{i,k} \in \{0, 1\}$ !
- Training GMMs: use soft weights

$$\pi_{i,k} := \Pr(z_{i,k} = 1 | x_i, \theta) = \frac{\alpha_k f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_k, C_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \alpha_l f_{\mathcal{N}}(x_i; \mu_l, C_l)}$$

- Training for  $z_{i,k}$  rather than  $\pi_{i,k}$  causes

$$\max_{\theta} \log(\Pr(x, z | \theta)) \rightarrow \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{z|x, \bar{\theta}}[\log(\Pr(x, z | \theta))]$$

hence the name “Expectation maximization”



## Training a Gaussian Mixture Model

Data:  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $K$  clusters

- **Init:**  $\mu_k^{(0)}$  somewhere,  $\Sigma_k^{(0)} = I$ ,  $\alpha_k^{(0)} = 1/K$
- **Iterate:**  $t = 1, \dots$

- **(E)** Update soft indicator  $\pi$  given  $\alpha, \mu, C$

$$\pi_{i,k}^{(t)} = \frac{\alpha_k p_{\mu_k^{(t-1)}, C_k^{(t-1)}}(x_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j p_{\mu_j^{(t-1)}, C_j^{(t-1)}}(x_i)}$$

- **(M)** Update  $\alpha, \mu, C$  given  $z$

$$\alpha_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{i,k}^{(t)}, \quad \mu_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \pi_{i,k}^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{i,k}^{(t)} x_i,$$

$$C_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \pi_{i,k}^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^m \pi_{i,k}^{(t)} (x_i - \mu_k^{(t)})(x_i - \mu_k^{(t)})^T$$

- **Until** convergence

## Summary

- Clustering: our first unsupervised learning task
- K-means: hacky-but-still-principled way of finding clusters
- Gaussian mixture models: a generative model that allows for “soft weights”  $\pi$  on cluster identities  $z$