

Assignment Project Exam Help  
**18-646 - How to Write Fast Code II**  
<https://powcoder.com>

Carnegie Mellon University

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# How to Write Fast Code?

Fast Platforms



Good Techniques

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- Multicore platforms
- Manycore platforms
- Cloud platforms

- Data structures
- Algorithms
- Software Architecture

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- Course Goals

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- To write fast code for your research/application, you should:
  1. Feel comfortable hacking up a solution
  2. Leverage existing software building blocks
  3. Indicate which platform is the best one to use
  4. Reason about why a piece of existing code is slow
  5. Take care of potential performance bottlenecks

# Course Staff

- **Instructor: Ian Lane**

- Preferred contact method: [Piazza](#)
- Office Hours: Wed 4:30-5:30pm ET
- Email: [ianlane@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ianlane@andrew.cmu.edu)

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- **Teaching Assistants**

- Deepak Arumugam Sankara Subramanianh
- Yunfan Jiang (Silicon Valley)

## Experience



**SOWG Associate Professor in AI Systems**  
Carnegie Mellon University  
2006 – Present · 15 yrs  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States



**Board Member**  
Ichibbel (Acq. by Sense Of Wonder Group)  
2007 – 2017 · 10 yrs  
Tokyo, Japan



**Principle Research Scientist**  
Mobile Technologies (Acq. by Facebook)  
2006 – 2011 · 5 yrs

## Education



**Kyoto University**  
PhD, Informatics  
2002 – 2005



**Kyoto University**  
Masters, Artificial Intelligence  
2001 – 2002



**Massey University**  
Bachelor of Informatics  
1996 – 2000

# Course Information

- **Lectures:**
  - Tuesday and Thursday 6:00pm-7:20pm ET
- **Office Hours:**
  - Instructor Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm ET
  - TA Office Hours: TBD
- **Grading:** <https://powcoder.com>
  - 10% - Homeworks
  - 30% - Mini-Projects
  - 30% - Term Project
  - 30% - Final Exam
- **Course Links:**
  - **Canvas:** <https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/21510/pages/course-schedule>
  - **Piazza:** <https://piazza.com/class/kkmp02yc92h598>
  - **GradeScope:** <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/241050>

<https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/21510/pages/course-schedule>

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<u>Introduction and Multicore Programming</u>		
Tue, Feb 2	Introduction to How to Write Fast Code II	
Thurs, Feb 4	Advanced Parallel Hardware Architectures	
Tue, Feb 9	Concurrency Opportunity Recognition	Homework 1 Released
Thur, Feb 11	Application Design for Multicore Programming	
Tue, Feb 16	Application Design for Many-core	Mini-Project 1 Released
Thur, Feb 18	Overview of Mini-Project 1	
Tue, Feb 23	Performance Analysis: Roofline Model	
Thur, Feb 25	No Class	Homework 1 Due
<u>Manycore Programming</u>		
Tue, Mar 2	Introduction to CUDA	Homework 2 Released
Thurs, Mar 4	Application Design for Manycore Programming	
Mon, Mar 8		Mini-Project 1 Due
Tue, Mar 9	Manycore Advanced Optimizations	Project Proposals Due
Thur, Mar 11	Mini-Project 1 Review	
Tue, Mar 16	No Class	Mini-Project 2 Released
Thur, Mar 18	Overview of Mini-Project 2	Homework 2 Due

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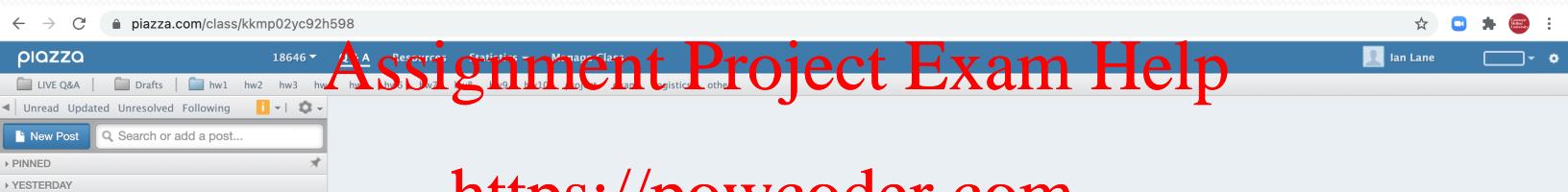
History

Commons

Help

<https://piazza.com/class/kkmp02yc92h598>

Sign Up Link: <https://piazza.com/cmu/spring2021/18646>



<https://powcoder.com>

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<https://www.gradescope.com/courses/241050>

gradescope

18646 | Spring 2021

NAME	STATUS	DUE (EST)
Assignment Project Exam Help	RELEASED	

Your instructor hasn't released any assignments yet.

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# Outline

- Why Fast Code Now?
- What does 100x speedup mean?  
Assignment Project Exam? Help
- Course structure and organization  
<https://powcoder.com>
- Problem solving when writing fast code  
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# Why Fast Code?

Need is driven by the applications...

...NOT by the availability of the platforms

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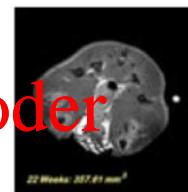
Recognition



Mining



Synthesis

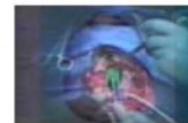


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What is a tumor?

Is there a tumor here?

What if the tumor progresses?

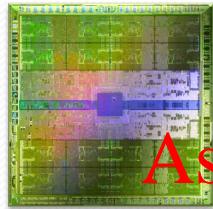


# RMS Appears Everywhere

- **Recognition:** Interpretations of the world (with models)
- **Mining:** Understanding of the world (discover hidden patterns with model)
- **Synthesis:** Anticipate outcomes in the world (using the models to predict)



# What is being valued today?



Hardware → Commoditized  
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```
int main(void) {  
    mykernel<<<1,1>>>();  
    printf("Hello World!\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

Software → Open Sourced

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Data



King!

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# What does 100x Speedup Mean?

**12 hours:**      10x speedup →      1.2      hours

**100x speedup →      7.2      minutes**

**1000x speedup →      43.2      seconds**

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- Game changing technology advances
  - Overnight jobs becomes interactive



Speech Analytics



Medical Imaging

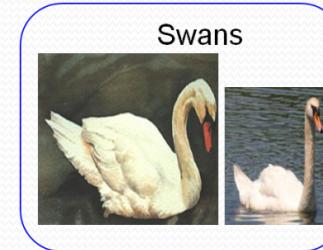


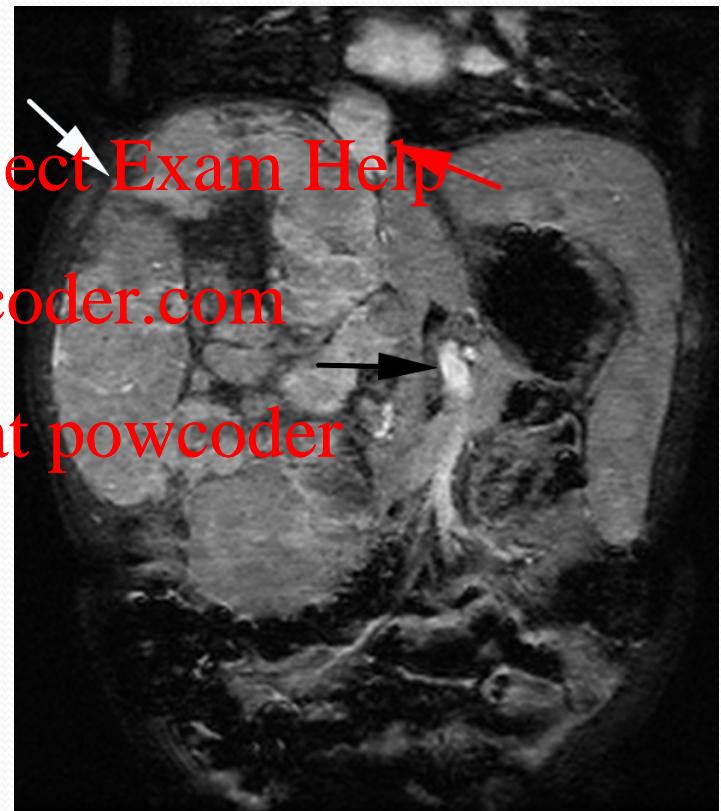
Image Recognition



Computational Finance

# Fast, Robust Pediatric MRI

- **100X** faster reconstruction
- Higher-quality, faster MRI
- This image: 8 month-old patient with cancerous mass in liver
  - $256 \times 84 \times 154 \times 8$  data size
  - Serial Recon: 1 hour
  - Parallel Recon: less than 1 minute
- Fast enough for clinical use
  - Software currently deployed at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for clinical study of the reconstruction technique



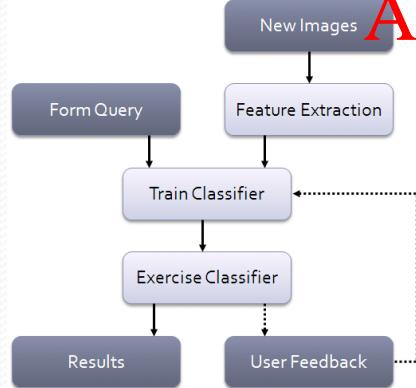
# Support-Vector Machines

- Algorithmic changes and parallel implementation lead to performance

Speed-up: Core 2 Duo vs G80

Computation	LIBSVM	Our algorithm 2-core Parallel CPU	Our algorithm, 16-core Parallel GPU
SVM Training	771.8 s (geo-mean)	---	38.5 s
SVM Classification	41.42 s	4.21 s	0.38 s

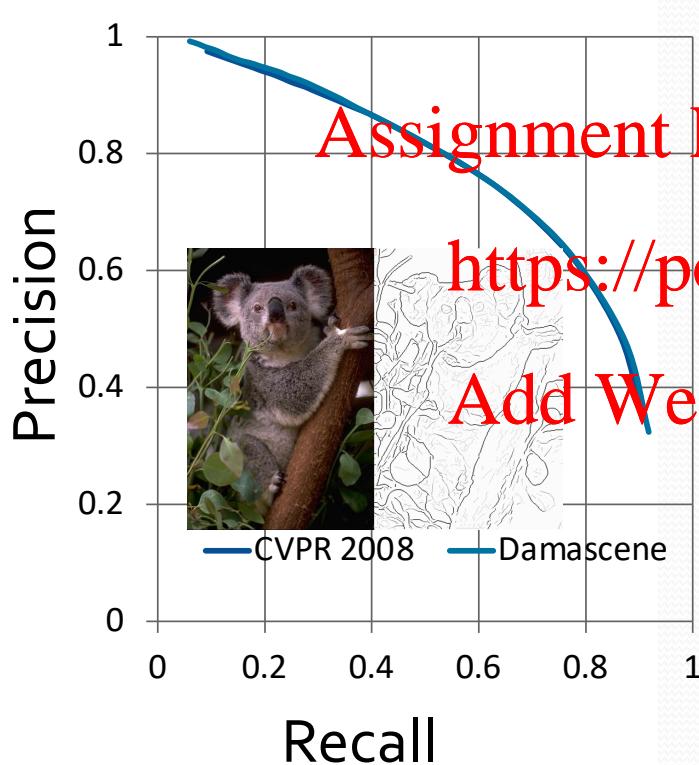
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**100X speed-up**

896 downloads since release in 10/2008

# Image Contours Detection



- We achieve equivalent accuracy on the Berkeley Segmentation Dataset
- Comparing to human segmented "ground truth"
- F-measure 0.70 for both
- Human agreement = 0.79
- 3.8 Minutes to 1.8 seconds:  
126x speedup
- 616 downloads since release in October 2009

# Computational Finance

- Value-at-Risk Computation with Monte Carlo Method
- Summarizes a portfolio's vulnerabilities to market movements
- Important to algorithmic trading, derivative usage
- Improved implementation to run 60x faster on a parallel microprocessor

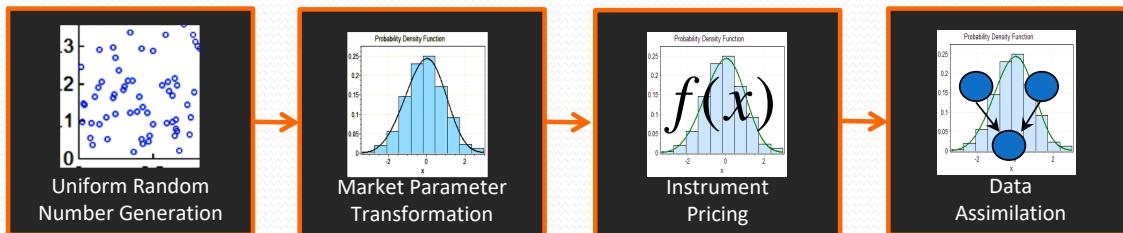
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Four Steps of Monte Carlo Method in Finance



# NY Times TIFF to PDF

- In 2007, the New York Times decided to make all the public domain articles from 1851-1922 available free of charge
  - Needed to convert from TIFF to PDF

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**Data set:** 4TB of raw image TIFF to 11 million PDF  
<https://powcoder.com>

**Compute Instances:** 100 Amazon EC2 instances  
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**Time taken:** 24 hours

**Cost:** \$240



<http://open.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/11/01/self-service-prorated-super-computing-fun/>

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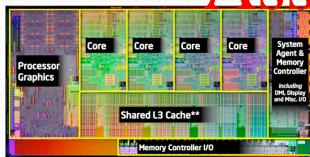
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# Philosophy on Platforms

Provide theoretical background and hands-on practices...

...to innovate with multicore/manycore/cloud-based platforms.

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Intel Sandy Bridge Multicore  
Processor (Core i7-2600K)



NVIDIA Fermi Manycore  
Processor - GTX580



Yahoo! Hadoop Cluster  
~2000 nodes in one cluster

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- ***Significant scientific advances*** will be empowered by multicore/manycore/cloud-based platforms over the next decade
- Knowledge of these new computing capabilities will give you an ***advantage*** over your peers in developing innovative techniques to solve challenging problems

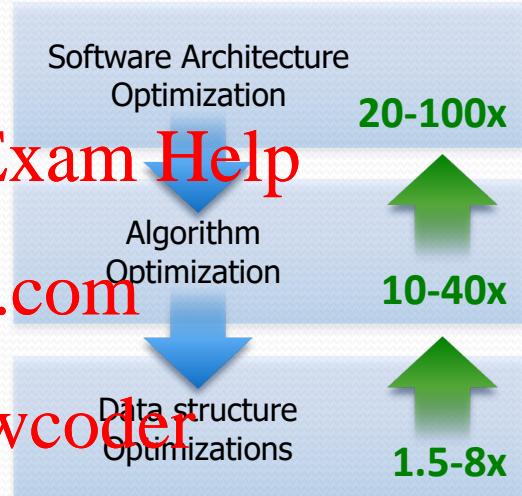
# Philosophy on Techniques

- Efficient ***software architecture*** is the most important to designing fast code
  - Software design patterns
- Understanding the implementation platform will help reason about application performance bottlenecks
- ***Hands-on experience*** provide confidence for you to effectively use these technologies for your research and development needs

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# Outline

- Why Fast Code Now?
- What does 100% Project Exam? Help
- Course structure and organization  
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- Problem solving when writing fast code  
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<https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/21510/quizzes/55032>

Question 1 0 pts

Have you taken 18-645 "How to Write Fast Code II" in a prior semester?

Yes  
I am taking that course this semester

Have never heard of that course

Question 2 0 pts

Which degree program are you in (i.e. MS-ECE, MS-INI)?

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Question 3 0 pts

Where are you located this semester?

Pittsburgh

Silicon Valley

Somewhere else in the US

Overseas

# Outline

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# Organization of This Course

- Lectures
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - All **mini-project introductions** held on Tuesdays, **mini-project reviews** on Thursdays
  - Keep an eye on the course schedule for changes
- Canvas - <https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/21510/pages/course-schedule>
  - Course content (slides and videos)
  - Homework and Mini-Project Descriptions with links to Gradescope
- Piazza - <https://piazza.com/class/kkmp02yc92h598>
  - Course Announcements
  - Course Questions and Discussions
- Gradescope - <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/241050>
  - Assignment Submissions
  - Final Exam

# Organization of This Course

- During class:
  - Lectures and Q&A sessions

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- Outside class:
  - 3 homework assignments
  - 3 mini homework projects
  - 1 term project (focused on your own research or interests)
  - Lots of coding ;)

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# Grading and Expectations

- GRADING

- 10% Homework assignments
- 30% Homework projects
- 30% Term Project
- 30% Final examination

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- EXPECTATIONS

- Attend majority of lectures
- Hand in all assignments and mini-projects
- Complete a term project
- Complete the final exam

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# Software Reuse and Plagiarism

- **Question:** Can I learn to use code from the web?
- **Answer:** Yes! But only under certain circumstances...

Plagiarism	Acceptable SW Reuse
<b>Collusion</b> Unacknowledged code from a third-party	<b>File-level Reuse</b> Third-party code factored out to a separate file
<b>Reverse Engineering</b> Unacknowledged re-use of some code abstraction	<b>Acknowledgement in Documentation</b> Third-party code clearly distinguished in documentation
<b>Translation</b> Unacknowledged re-use by translating functions from one language to another	<b>Adequate Testing</b> Third-party code must be tested to one's own requirements
<b>Code Generation</b> Unacknowledged assistance by using some code generators	
<b>Reuse Without Testing</b> Reuse third-party code without testing against one's own requirements	

Gibson, "Software Reuse and Plagiarism: A Code of Practice", In Proceedings of ITiCSE'2009. pp.55-59

# Structure of Lectures

- **Module 1: Background and Multicore Programming**

- Hardware architectures, applications
- Application design with OpenMP

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- **Module 23: Manycore Programming**

- Manycore architectures
- Application design with CUDA

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- **Module 3: Cluster Programming**

- Distributed architectures
- Application design with Hadoop

# Homework & Mini-Projects (40%)

- Three mini projects throughout the semester
  1. Multicore project with OpenMP
  2. Manycore project with CUDA
  3. Cloud project with Hadoop

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- Projects are done in teams of two or three students

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- Programming assignments will start with template code
- Accelerate them with techniques discussed in class
- Will submit code, a project write-up and selected teams will present during class

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- Homeworks are done in preparation for the Mini-Projects
  - Internalize concepts discussed in class
  - Set up the project environment
  - Discussion among peers is allowed and encouraged. However, tasks and write-ups must be completed individually

# Homework & Mini-Project Schedule

- **Homeworks (Project Setup)** 10%
  - Module 1 – Multicore Thursday, Feburary 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Module 2 – Manycore Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Module 3 – Cluster Computing Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
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- **Mini-Projects (Coding and Evaluation)** 30%
  - Module 1 – Multicore Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Module 2 – Manycore Monday, April 5th
  - Module 3 – Cluster Computing Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

# Term Project (30%)

- **Term project**

- An application area of your choice
- Term project introduction on Tuesday next week (1/9)
- Projects are done in teams
- Does not need to be the same team as for the Mini-Project

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# Term Project Schedule

- **Term (Team) Project** **30%**
  - Project Proposal (10%) **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - Poster Presentations (40%) **Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - Final Report (50%) **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

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# Exam (30%)

- Final Exam – TBD ( Week of May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> )

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# Outline

- Why Fast Code Now?
- What does 100% Project Exam? Help
- Course structure and organization  
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- Problem solving when writing fast code  
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# Problem Solving for Fast Code

- Writing fast code is a process coherent with

“general problem solving behavior”

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Newell and Simon, Human Problem Solving (1972), pp. 72-73

- The process of problem solving involves:

1. Understand the **current state**

2. Observe the **internal representation**

3. **Search** among alternatives

4. Select from a set of **choices**

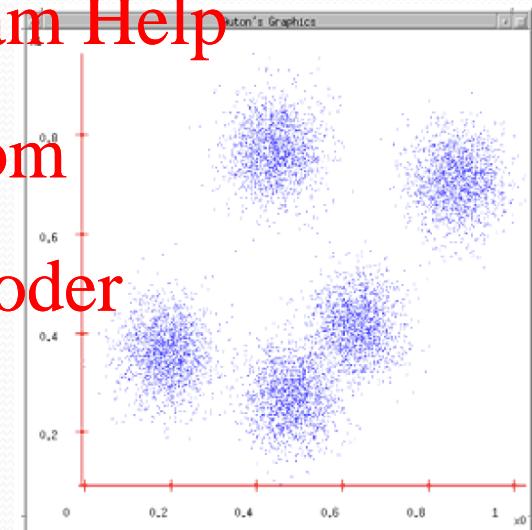
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# The $k$ -means Problem

- Find  $k$  cluster centers that minimize the distance from each data point to a cluster center
- Important algorithm in machine learning:
  - Statistical data analysis
  - Vector quantization (Speech Recognition)
- NP-hard for arbitrary input
- **$k$ -means algorithm** frequently finds a reasonable solutions quickly
- Issues:
  - Worst case running time is super-polynomial
  - Approximation can be arbitrarily bad

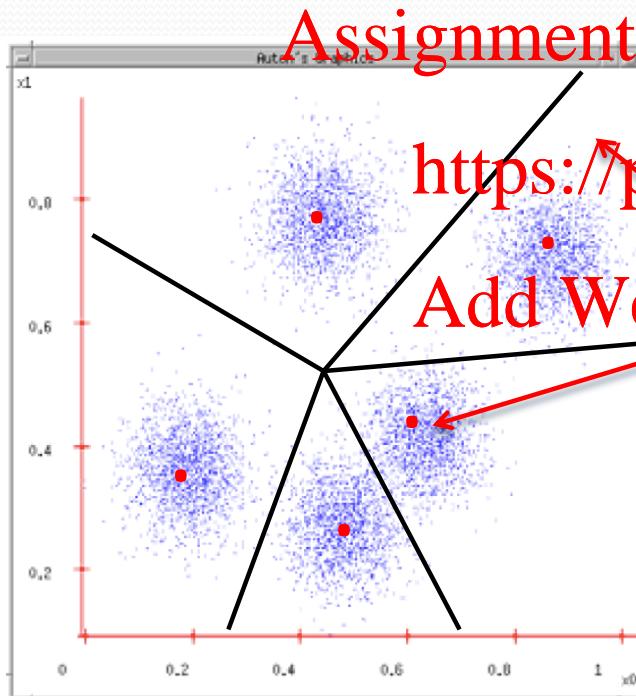
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# The $k$ -means Problem

- Find  $k$  cluster centers that minimize the distance from each data point to a cluster center



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Cluster  
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Cluster center (centroid)

$k$ : Number of clusters (defined a-priori)  
Cluster: Assignment of data points to a class  
Cluster Center:  $\mu$  of data points in a cluster

# k-means Algorithm ("Lloyd's algorithm")

- Given an initial set of  $k$  means  $\mathbf{m}_1^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{m}_k^{(1)}$
- Expectation Step:** Assign each observation to the cluster with the closest mean

$$S_i^{(t)} = \left\{ \mathbf{x}_j : \|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{m}_i^{(t)}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{m}_{i^*}^{(t)}\| \text{ for all } i^* = 1, \dots, k \right\}$$

- Maximization Step:** Calculate the new means to be the centroid of the observations in the cluster.

$$\mathbf{m}_i^{(t+1)} = \frac{1}{|S_i^{(t)}|} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_j \in S_i^{(t)}} \mathbf{x}_j$$

- Iterate until convergence or stopping criteria met

# The Algorithm

Example:

k=5

Distance metric=euclidean

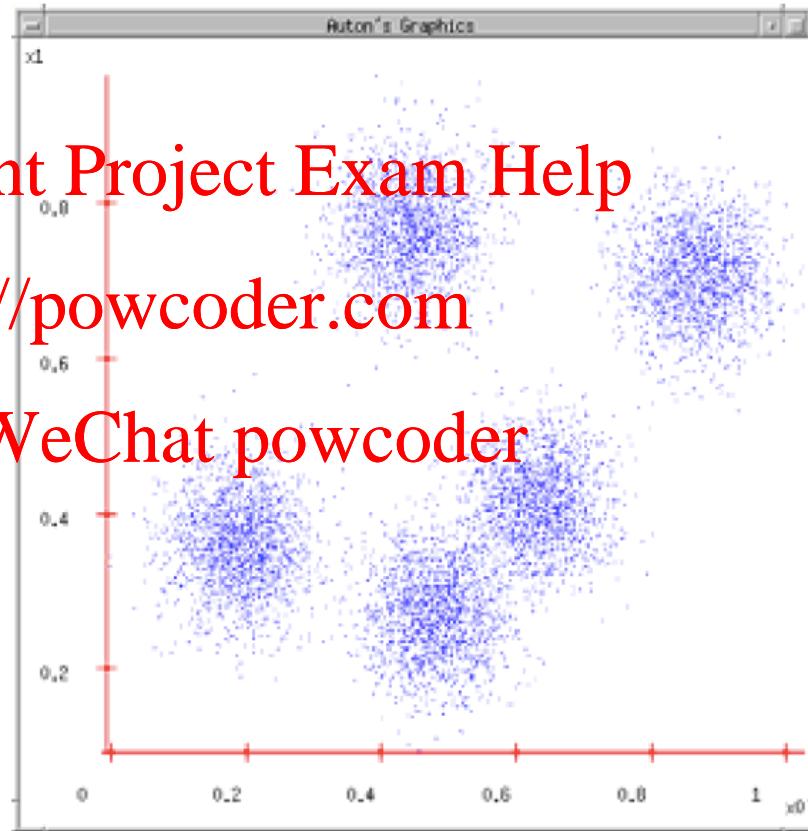
Dimensions=2

1. Randomly select k cluster Centers
2. Assign closest Center to each data point
3. Update Centers based on assignments from (2)
4. Re-iterate steps 2-3 until convergence or stopping criteria met

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# The Algorithm

Example:

k=5

Distance metric=euclidean

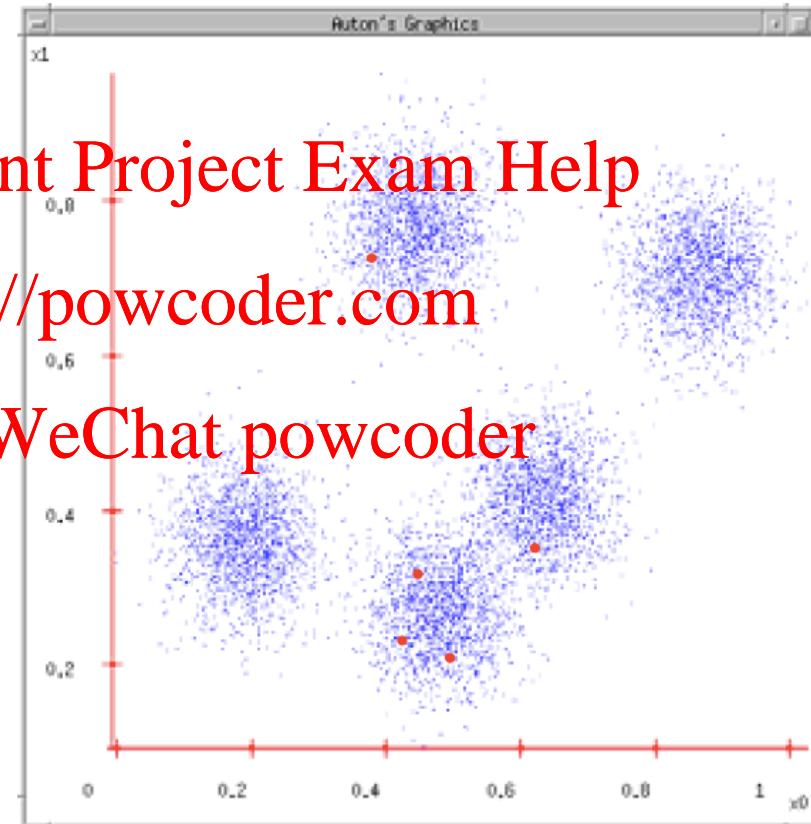
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# The Algorithm

Example:

$k=5$

Distance metric=euclidean

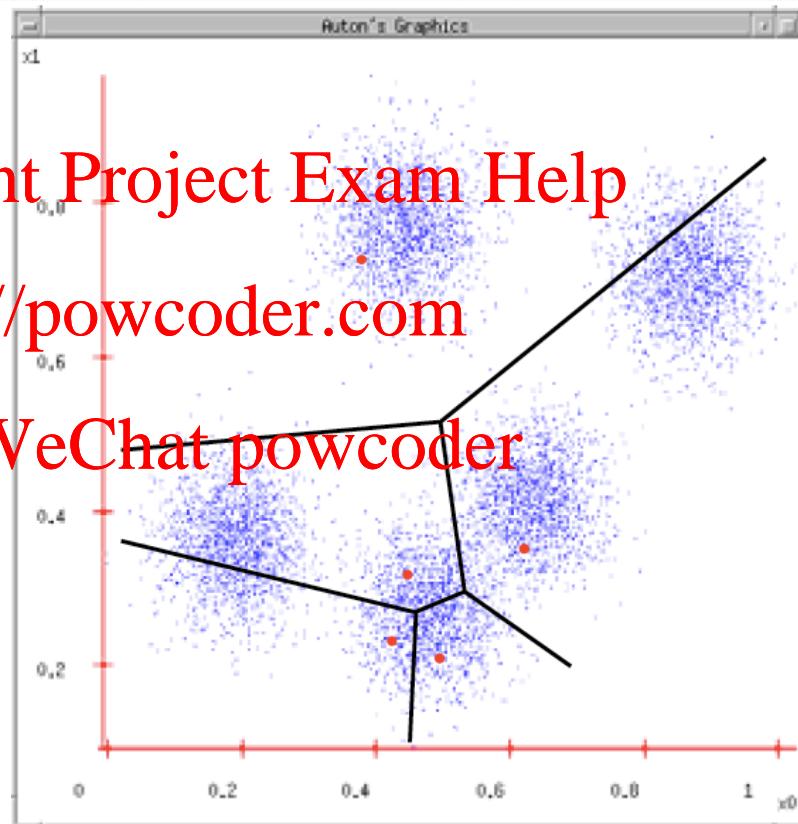
Dimensions=2

1. Randomly select  $k$  cluster Centers
2. Assign each data point to closest Center
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# The Algorithm

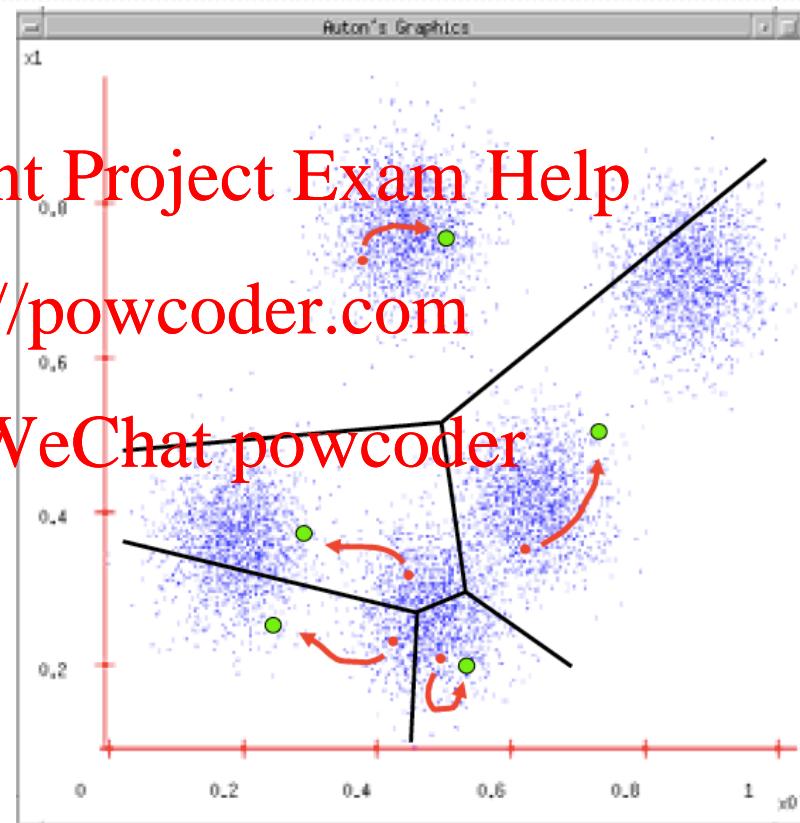
Example:

$k=5$

Distance metric=euclidean

Dimensions=2

1. Randomly select  $k$  cluster Centers
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# The Algorithm

Example:

$k=5$

Distance metric=euclidean

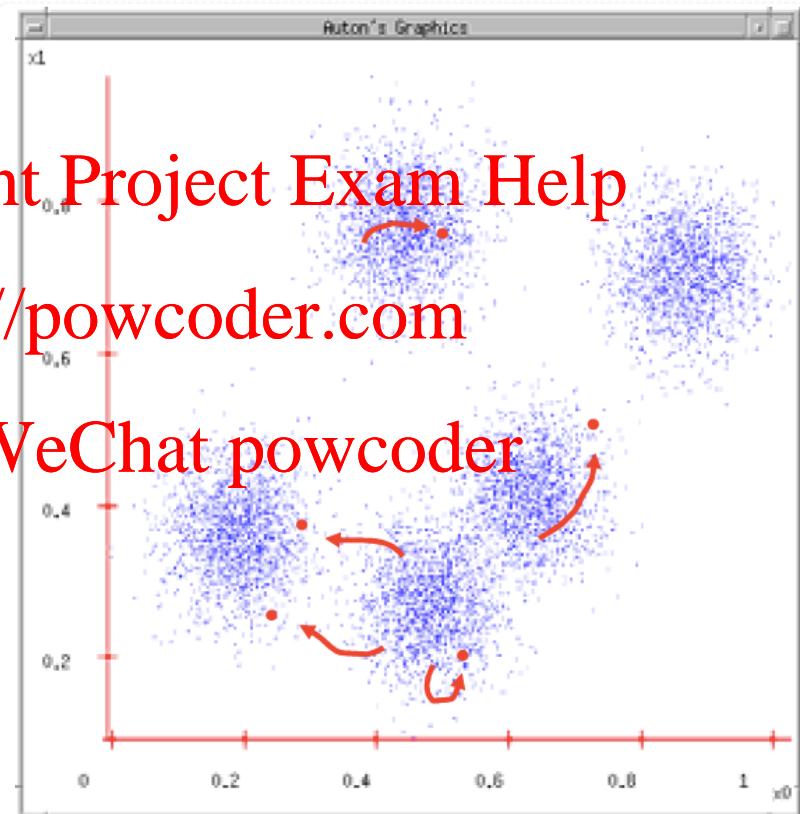
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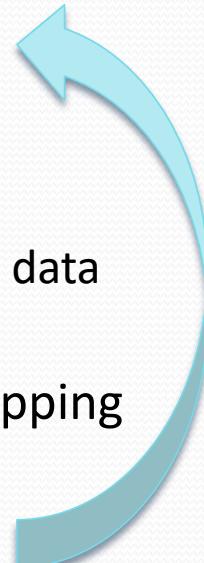
# The Phases

1. **Initialization:** Randomly select  $k$  cluster centers
  - Select  $k$  samples from data as initial centers [Forgy Partition]
2. **Expectation:** Assign each data point go closest center
  - Compare each data point ( $N$ ) to each cluster center ( $k$ )
  - Distance Metric: Euclidean distance ( $D$  dimensions)
3. **Maximization:** Update centers based on assignments
  - For each cluster ( $k$ ) compute mean ( $D$  dimensions) from data points assigned to that cluster
4. **Evaluate:** Re-iterate steps 2-3 until convergence or stopping criteria met
  - Percentage of data points re-assigned
  - Number of iterations (2-3)

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# A Fast Implementation of $k$ -means

- Writing fast code is a process coherent with

“general problem solving behavior”

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Newell and Simon, Human Problem Solving (1972), pp. 72-73

- The process of problem solving involves:

1. Understand the **current state**
2. Observe the **internal representation**
3. **Search** among alternatives
4. Select from a set of **choices**

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# A Fast Implementation of $k$ -means

- Following the process of problem solving with  $k$ -means:

1. Understand the **current state**

- Running on a platform
- Using a specific set of resources
- Achieving a specific performance
- Meeting a specific criteria/requirement

2. Observe the **internal representation**

3. **Search** among alternatives
4. Select from a set of **choices**

**Assumption:**

Starting from a functionally correct reference implementation

**Implication:**

Must observe the *current state* and *implementation requirements* before starting to solve a problem

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# A Fast Implementation of $k$ -means

- Following the process of problem solving with  $k$ -means:

1. Understand the **current state**

2. Observe the **internal representation**

- Application structure

- Identified four phases of execution

- Implementation concerns

- Task considerations

- Data representations

- Concurrency opportunities

3. **Search** among alternatives

4. Select from a set of **choices**

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# A Fast Implementation of $k$ -means

- Following the process of problem solving with  $k$ -means:

1. Understand the **current state**
2. Observe the **internal representation**

- Application structure
  - Identified four phases of execution
- Implementation concerns
  - Task considerations
  - Data representations
  - Concurrency opportunities

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# A Fast Implementation of $k$ -means

- Following the process of problem solving with  $k$ -means:

1. Understand the **current state**

2. Observe the ~~internal representation~~

- Application structure

- Identified four phases of execution

- Implementation concerns

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