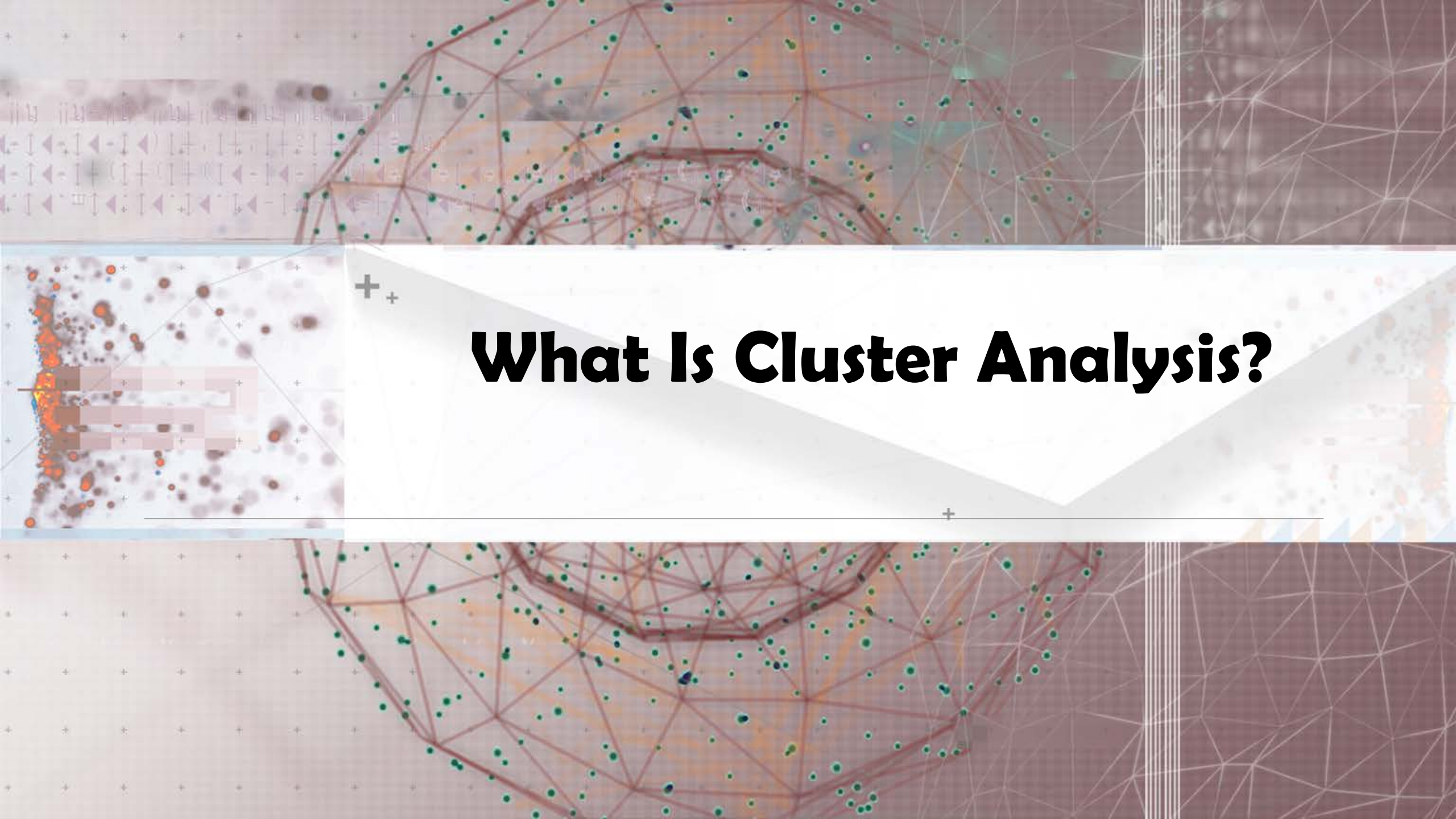

What Is Cluster Analysis?

What Is Cluster Analysis?

- **What is a cluster?**
  - A cluster is a collection of data objects which are
    - Similar (or related) to one another within the same group (i.e., cluster)
    - Dissimilar (or unrelated) to the objects in other groups (i.e., clusters)
- **Cluster analysis** (or ***clustering, data segmentation,*** …)
  - Given a set of data points, partition them into a set of groups (i.e., clusters) which are as similar as possible
- Cluster analysis is **unsupervised learning** (i.e., no predefined classes)
  - This contrasts with *classification* (i.e., *supervised learning*)
- Typical ways to use/apply cluster analysis
  - As a stand-alone tool to get insight into data distribution, or
  - As a preprocessing (or intermediate) step for other algorithms