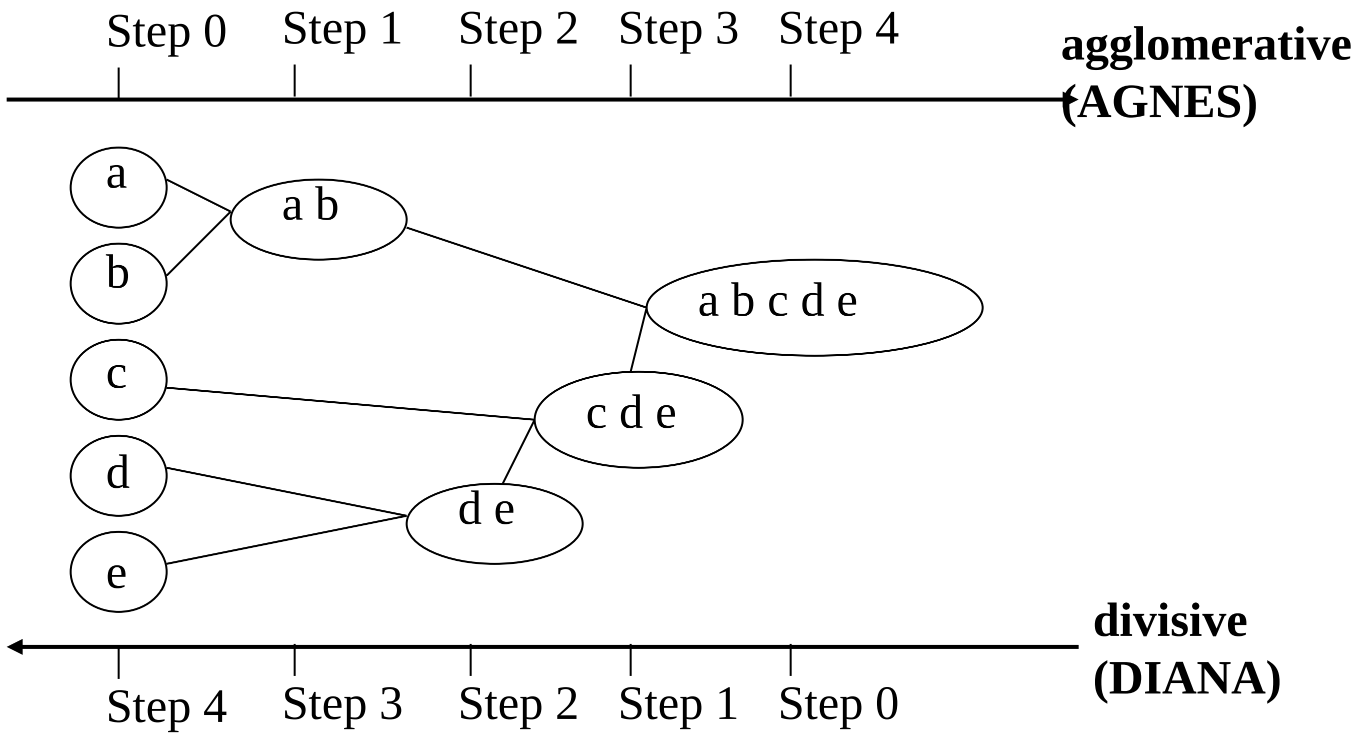
Basic Concepts of Hierarchical Algorithms

Hierarchical Clustering: Basic Concepts

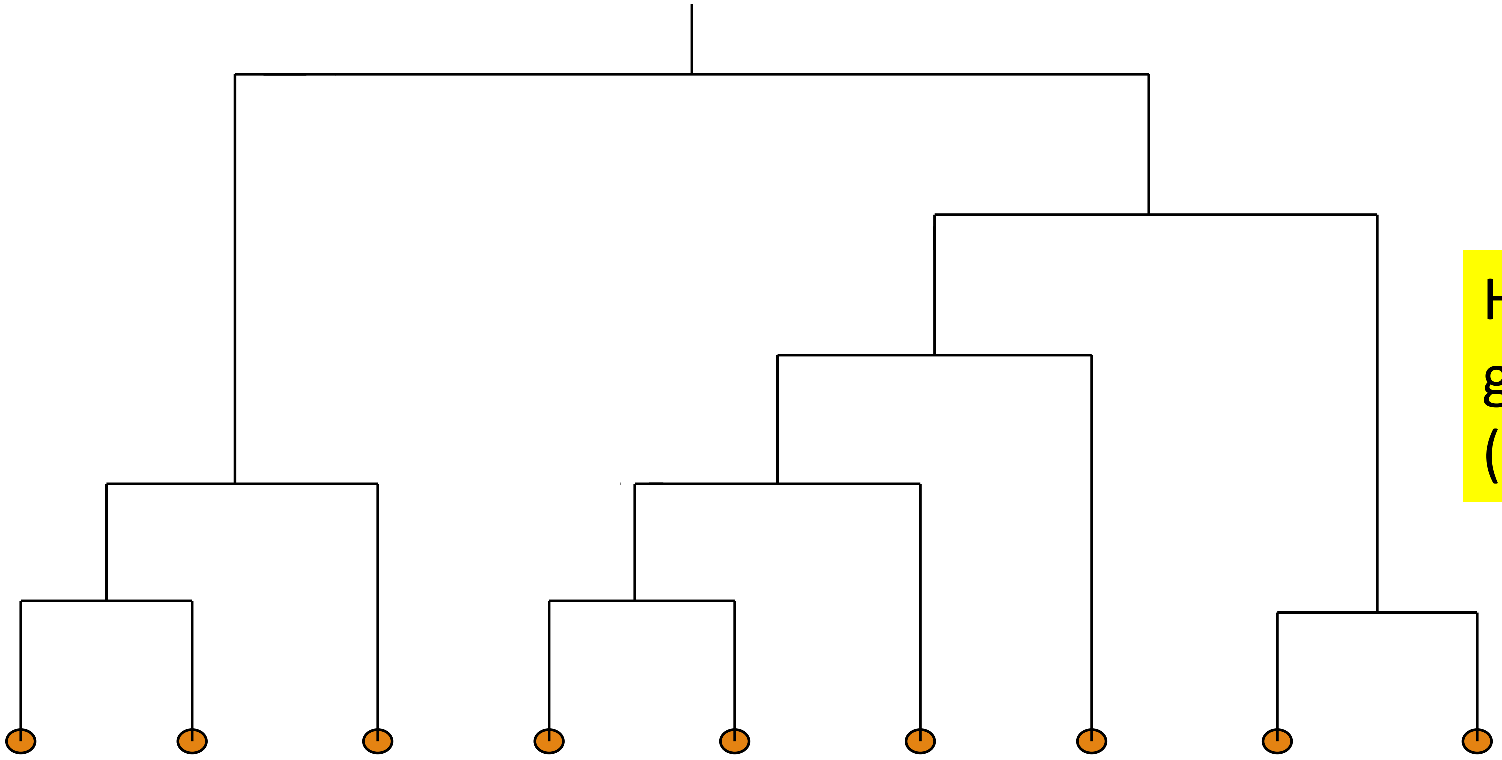
- Hierarchical clustering
  - Generate a clustering hierarchy (drawn as a **dendrogram**)
  - Not required to specify ***K*,** the number of clusters
  - More deterministic
  - No iterative refinement



- Two categories of algorithms:
  - **Agglomerative**: Start with singleton clusters, continuously merge two clusters at a time to build a **bottom-up** hierarchy of clusters
  - **Divisive:** Start with a huge macro-cluster, split it continuously into two groups, generating a **top-down** hierarchy of clusters

Dendrogram: Shows How Clusters are Merged

- Dendrogram: Decompose a set of data objects into a tree of clusters by multi-level nested partitioning
- A clustering of the data objects is obtained by cutting the dendrogram at the desired level, then each connected component forms a cluster

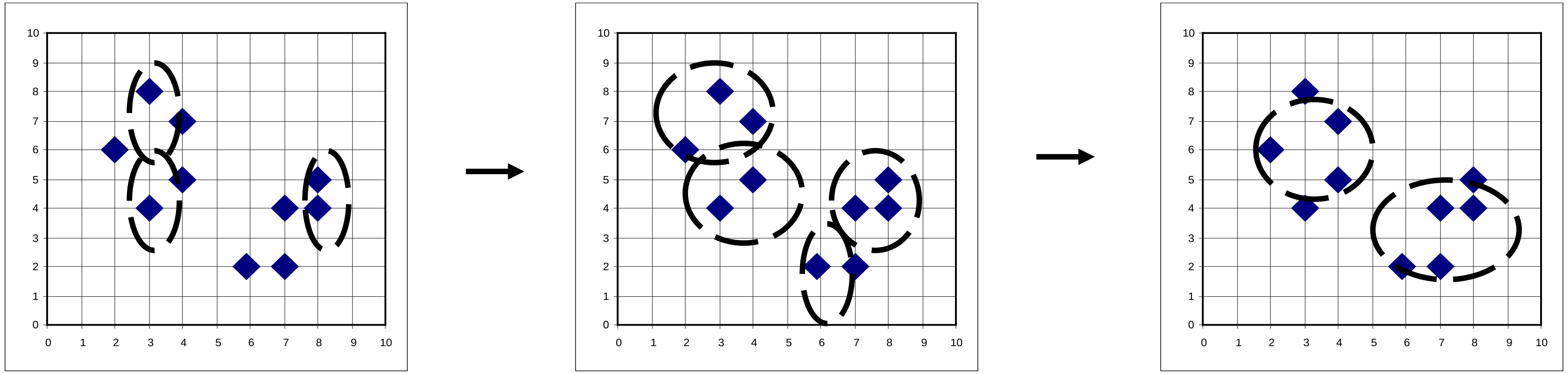


Hierarchical clustering generates a dendrogram (a hierarchy of clusters)

Agglomerative Clustering Algorithms

Agglomerative Clustering Algorithm

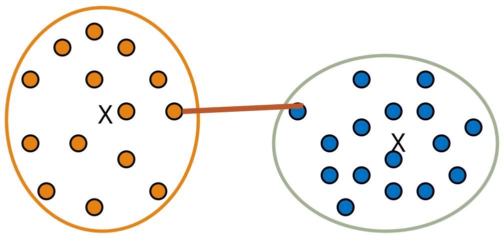
- AGNES (AGglomerative NESting) (Kaufmann and Rousseeuw, 1990)
  - Use the **single-link** method and the dissimilarity matrix
  - Continuously merge nodes that have the least dissimilarity
  - Eventually all nodes belong to the same cluster



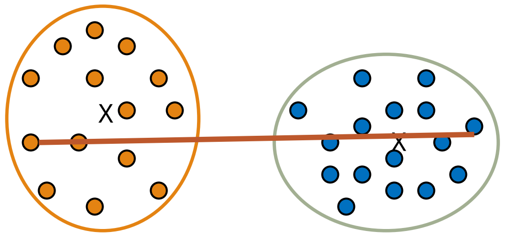
- Agglomerative clustering varies on different similarity measures among clusters
  - Single link (nearest neighbor)
  - Complete link (diameter)
  - Average link (group average)
  - Centroid link (centroid similarity)

Single Link vs. Complete Link in Hierarchical Clustering

- Single link (nearest neighbor)
  - The similarity between two clusters is the similarity between their most similar (nearest neighbor) members
  - Local similarity-based: Emphasizing more on close regions, ignoring the overall structure of the cluster
  - Capable of clustering non-elliptical shaped group of objects
  - Sensitive to noise and outliers

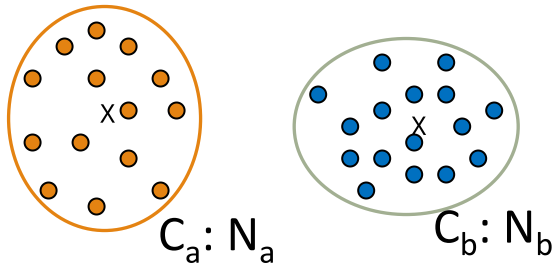


- Complete link (diameter)
  - The similarity between two clusters is the similarity between their most dissimilar members
  - Merge two clusters to form one with the smallest diameter
  - Nonlocal in behavior, obtaining compact shaped clusters
  - Sensitive to outliers

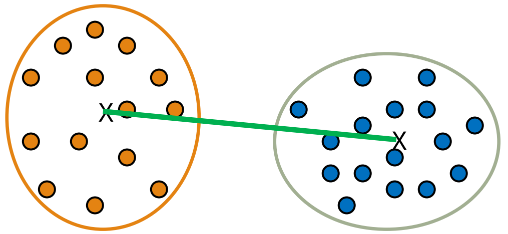


Agglomerative Clustering: Average vs. Centroid Links

- Agglomerative clustering with **average link**
  - **Average link**: The average distance between an element in one cluster and an element in the other (i.e., all pairs in two clusters)
    - Expensive to compute



- Agglomerative clustering with **centroid link**
  - **Centroid link**: The distance between the centroids of two clusters



- **Group Averaged Agglomerative Clustering (GAAC)**
  - Let two clusters C_a and C_b be merged into $C_{a\cup b}$. The new centroid is:
    - N_a is the cardinality of cluster C_a, and c_a is the centroid of C_a

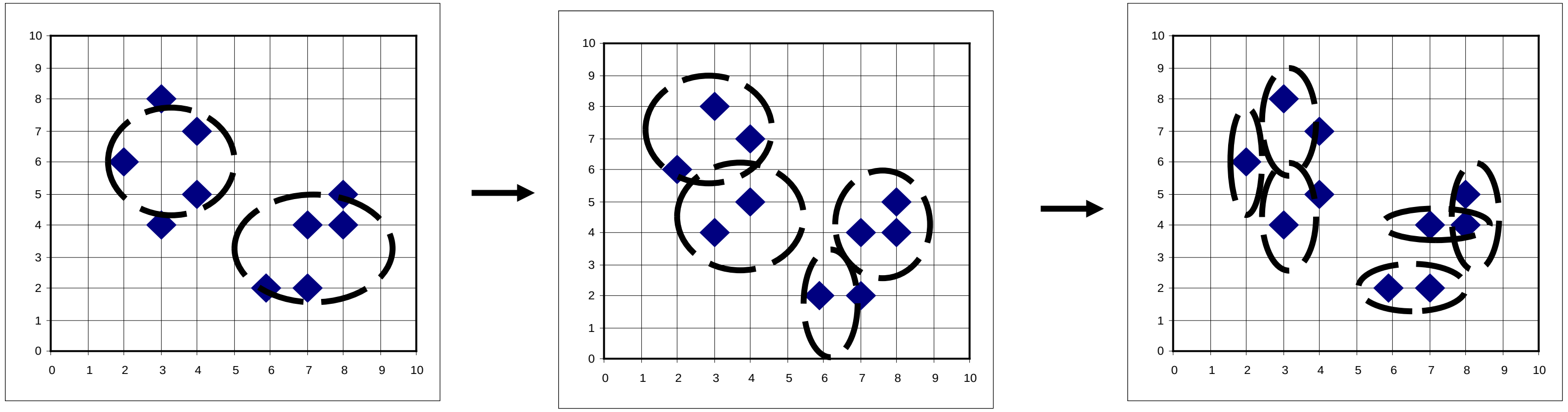
$$c_{a\cup b} = \frac{N_a c_a + N_b c_b}{N_a + N_b}$$

  - The similarity measure for GAAC is the average of their distances
- Agglomerative clustering with **Ward's criterion**
  - **Ward's criterion:** The increase in the value of the SSE criterion for the clustering obtained by merging them into $C_a \cup C_b$: $W(C_{a\cup b}, c_{a\cup b}) - W(C, c) = \frac{N_a N_b}{N_a + N_b} d(c_a, c_b)$

Divisive Clustering Algorithms

Divisive Clustering

- DIANA (Divisive Analysis) (Kaufmann and Rousseeuw,1990)
  - Implemented in some statistical analysis packages, e.g., Splus
- Inverse order of AGNES: Eventually each node forms a cluster on its own



- Divisive clustering is a top-down approach
  - The process starts at the root with all the points as one cluster
  - It recursively splits the higher level clusters to build the dendrogram
  - Can be considered as a global approach
  - More efficient when compared with agglomerative clustering

More on Algorithm Design for Divisive Clustering

- Choosing which cluster to split
  - Check the sums of squared errors of the clusters and choose the one with the largest value
- Splitting criterion: Determining how to split
  - One may use Ward's criterion to chase for greater reduction in the difference in the SSE criterion as a result of a split
  - For categorical data, Gini-index can be used
- Handling the noise
  - Use a threshold to determine the termination criterion (do not generate clusters that are too small because they contain mainly noises)

Extensions to Hierarchical Clustering

Extensions to Hierarchical Clustering

- Major weaknesses of hierarchical clustering methods
  - Can never undo what was done previously
  - Do not scale well
    - Time complexity of at least $O(n^2)$, where n is the number of total objects
- Other hierarchical clustering algorithms
  - BIRCH (1996): Use CF-tree and incrementally adjust the quality of sub-clusters
  - CURE (1998): Represent a cluster using a set of well-scattered representative points
  - CHAMELEON (1999): Use graph partitioning methods on the K-nearest neighbor graph of the data

BIRCH: A Micro-Clustering-Based Approach

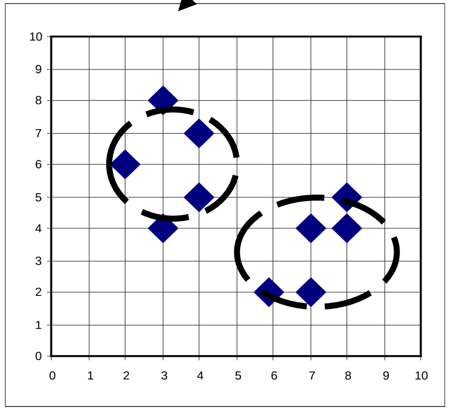
BIRCH (Balanced Iterative Reducing and Clustering Using Hierarchies)

- A multiphase clustering algorithm (Zhang, Ramakrishnan & Livny, SIGMOD'96)
- Incrementally construct a CF (Clustering Feature) tree, a hierarchical data structure for multiphase clustering
  - Phase 1: Scan DB to build an initial in-memory CF tree (a multi-level compression of the data that tries to preserve the inherent clustering structure of the data)
  - Phase 2: Use an arbitrary clustering algorithm to cluster the leaf nodes of the CF-tree
- Key idea: Multi-level clustering
  - Low-level micro-clustering: Reduce complexity and increase scalability
  - High-level macro-clustering: Leave enough flexibility for high-level clustering
- *Scales linearly*: Find a good clustering with a single scan and improve the quality with a few additional scans

Clustering Feature Vector in BIRCH

- Clustering Feature (CF): *CF = (N, LS, SS)*
  - *N*: Number of data points
  - *LS: linear sum of N points:* $\sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i$
  - *SS: square sum of N points:* $\sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i^{2}$

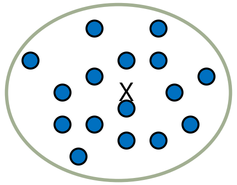
CF = (5, (16,30),(54,190))



(3,4)
(2,6)
(4,5)
(4,7)
(3,8)

- Clustering feature:
  - Summary of the statistics for a given sub-cluster: the 0-th, 1st, and 2nd moments of the sub-cluster from the statistical point of view
  - Registers crucial measurements for computing cluster and utilizes storage efficiently

Measures of Cluster: Centroid, Radius and Diameter



- Centroid: $\vec{x}_0$
  - the "middle" of a cluster
  - n: number of points in a cluster
  - $\vec{x}_i$ is the *i*-th point in the cluster

$$\vec{x}_0 = \frac{\sum_i^n \vec{x}_i}{n}$$

- Radius: R
  - Average distance from member objects to the centroid
  - The square root of average distance from any point of the cluster to its centroid

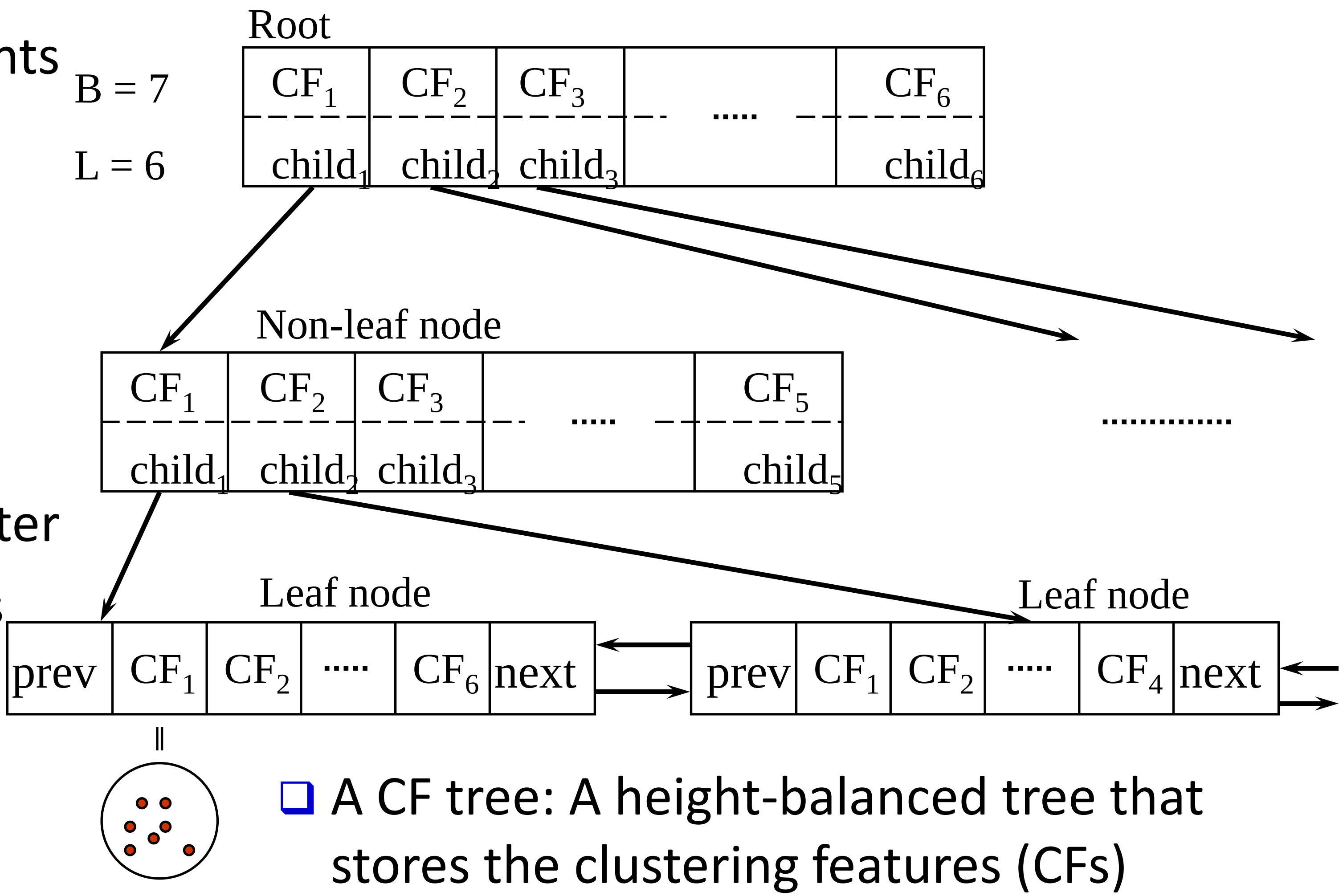
$$R = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i^n (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_0)^2}{n}}$$

- Diameter: D
  - Average pairwise distance within a cluster
  - The square root of average mean squared distance between all pairs of points in the cluster

$$D = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i^n \sum_j^n (\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)^2}{n(n-1)}}$$

The CF Tree Structure in BIRCH

- Incremental insertion of new points (similar to B+-tree)
- For each point in the input
  - Find closest leaf entry
  - Add point to leaf entry and update CF
  - If entry diameter > max_diameter
    - split leaf, and possibly parents
- A CF tree has two parameters
  - Branching factor: Maximum number of children
  - Maximum diameter of sub-clusters stored at the leaf nodes



- A CF tree: A height-balanced tree that stores the clustering features (CFs)
- The non-leaf nodes store sums of the CFs of their children

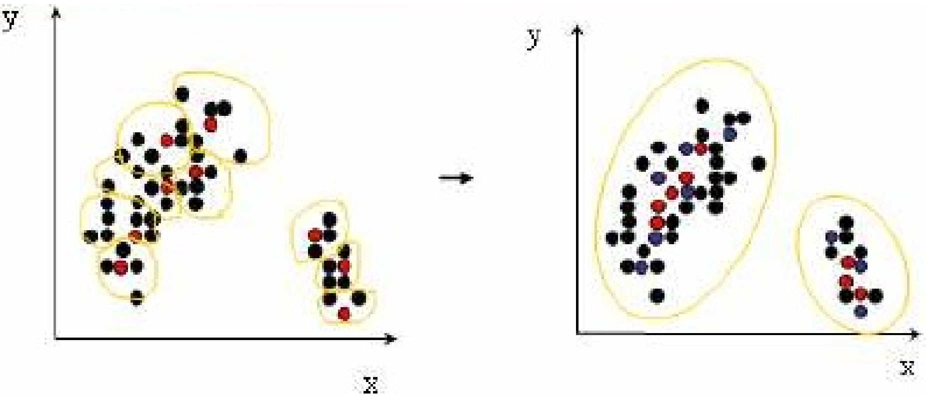
BIRCH: A Scalable and Flexible Clustering Method

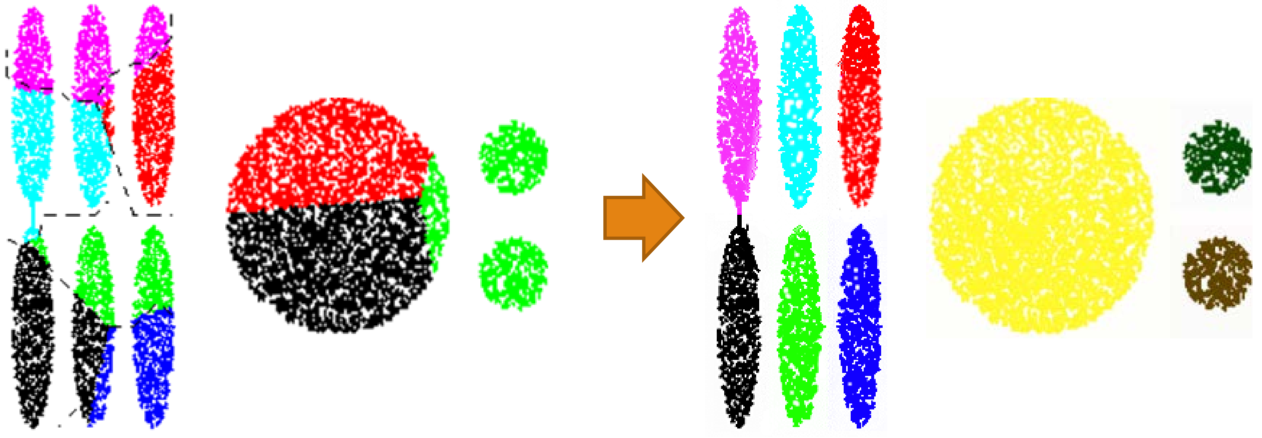
- An integration of agglomerative clustering with other (flexible) clustering methods
  - Low-level micro-clustering
    - Exploring CP-feature and BIRCH tree structure
    - Preserving the inherent clustering structure of the data
  - Higher-level macro-clustering
    - Provide sufficient flexibility for integration with other clustering methods
- Impact to many other clustering methods and applications
- Concerns
  - Sensitive to insertion order of data points
  - Due to the fixed size of leaf nodes, clusters may not be so natural
  - Clusters tend to be spherical given the radius and diameter measures

CURE: Clustering Using Well-Scattered Representatives

CURE: Clustering Using Representatives

- **CURE** (Clustering Using REpresentatives) (S. Guha, R. Rastogi, and K. Shim, 1998)
  - Represent a cluster using a set of well-scattered representative points
- Cluster distance: Minimum distance between the representative points chosen
  - This incorporates features of both single link and average link
- Shrinking factor α: The points are shrunk towards the centroid by a factor α
  - Far away points are shrunk more towards the center: More robust to outliers
- Choosing scattered points helps CURE capture clusters of arbitrary shapes





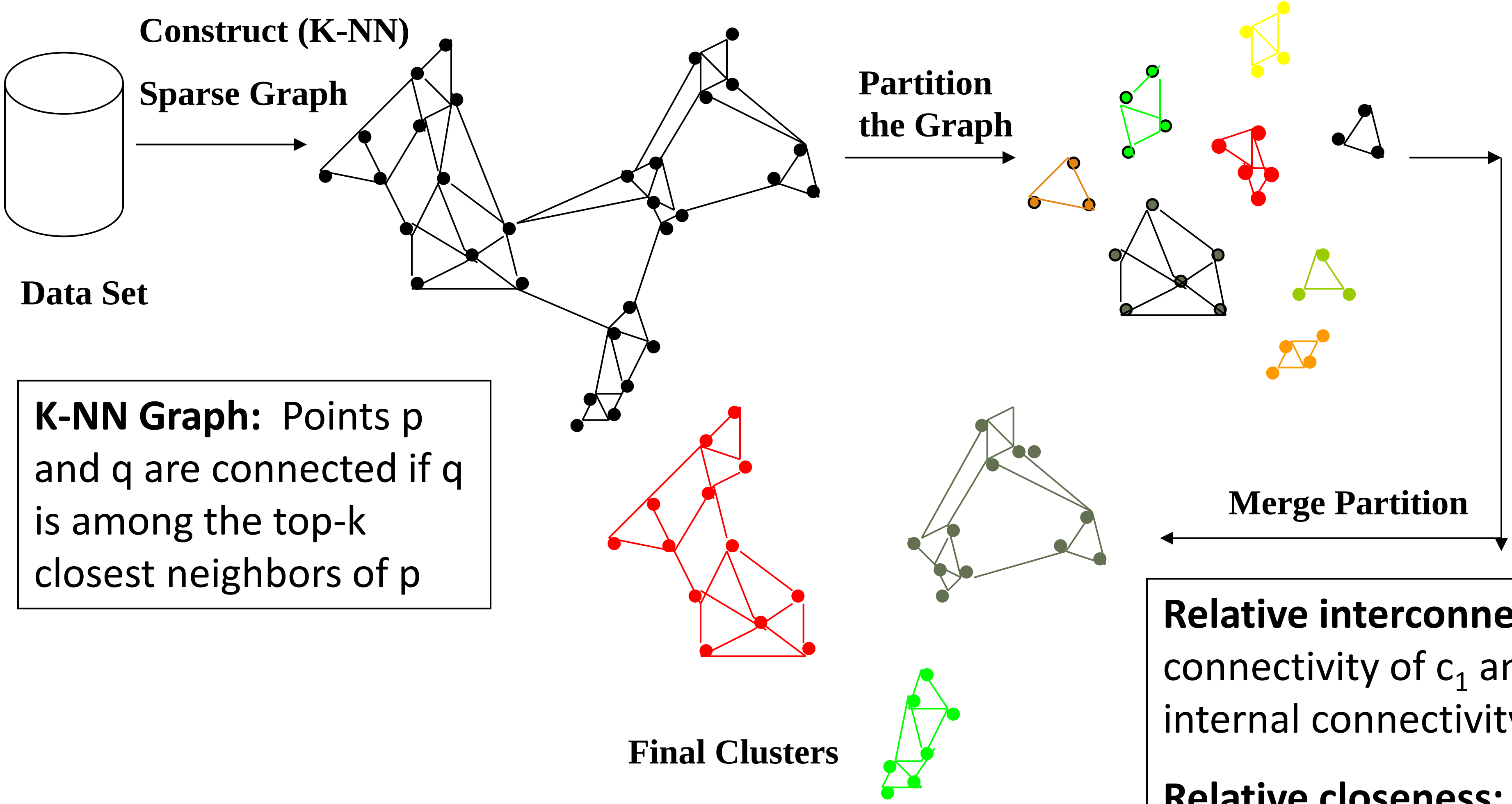
Courtesy: Kyuseok Shim@SNU.KR

CHAMELEON: Graph Partitioning on the KNN Graph of the Data

CHAMELEON: Hierarchical Clustering Using Dynamic Modeling

- CHAMELEON: A graph partitioning approach (G. Karypis, E. H. Han, and V. Kumar, 1999)
- Measures the similarity based on a dynamic model
  - Two clusters are merged only if the *interconnectivity* and *closeness (proximity)* between two clusters are high *relative to* the internal interconnectivity of the clusters and closeness of items within the clusters
- A graph-based, two-phase algorithm
  1. Use a graph-partitioning algorithm: Cluster objects into a large number of relatively small sub-clusters
  2. Use an agglomerative hierarchical clustering algorithm: Find the genuine clusters by repeatedly combining these sub-clusters

Overall Framework of CHAMELEON



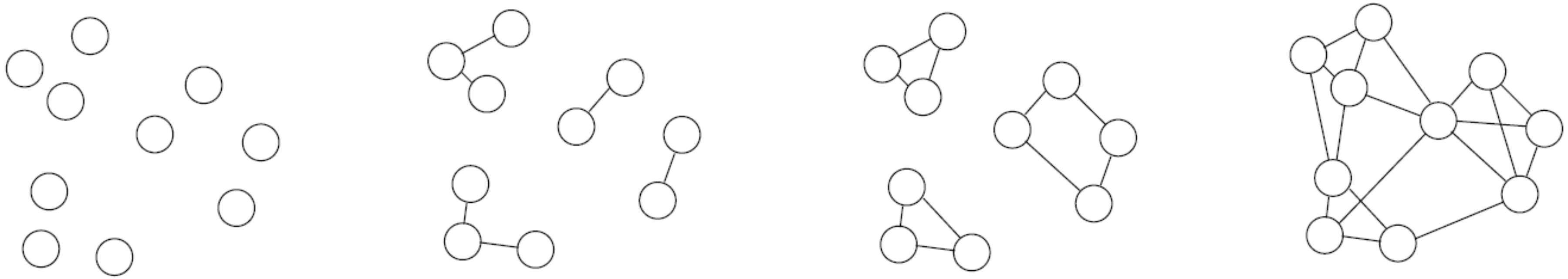
K-NN Graph: Points p and q are connected if q is among the top-k closest neighbors of p

Relative interconnectivity: connectivity of c_1 and c_2 over internal connectivity

Relative closeness: closeness of c_1 and c_2 over internal closeness

KNN Graphs and Interconnectivity

- K-nearest neighbor (KNN) graphs from an original data in 2D:



(a) Original Data in 2D (b) 1-nearest neighbor graph (c) 2-nearest neighbor graph (d) 3-nearest neighbor graph

- $EC_{\{C_i, C_j\}}$: The absolute interconnectivity between C_i *and* C_j:
  - *The sum* of the weight of the edges that connect vertices in C_i *to vertices in* C_j
- Internal interconnectivity of a cluster C_i : *The size of its min-cut bisector* EC_{C_i} *(i.e., the weighted sum* of edges that partition the graph into two roughly equal parts)
- Relative Interconnectivity (RI):

$$RI(C_i, C_j) = \frac{|EC_{\{C_i, C_j\}}|}{\frac{|EC_{C_i}| + |EC_{C_j}|}{2}}$$

Relative Closeness & Merge of Sub-Clusters

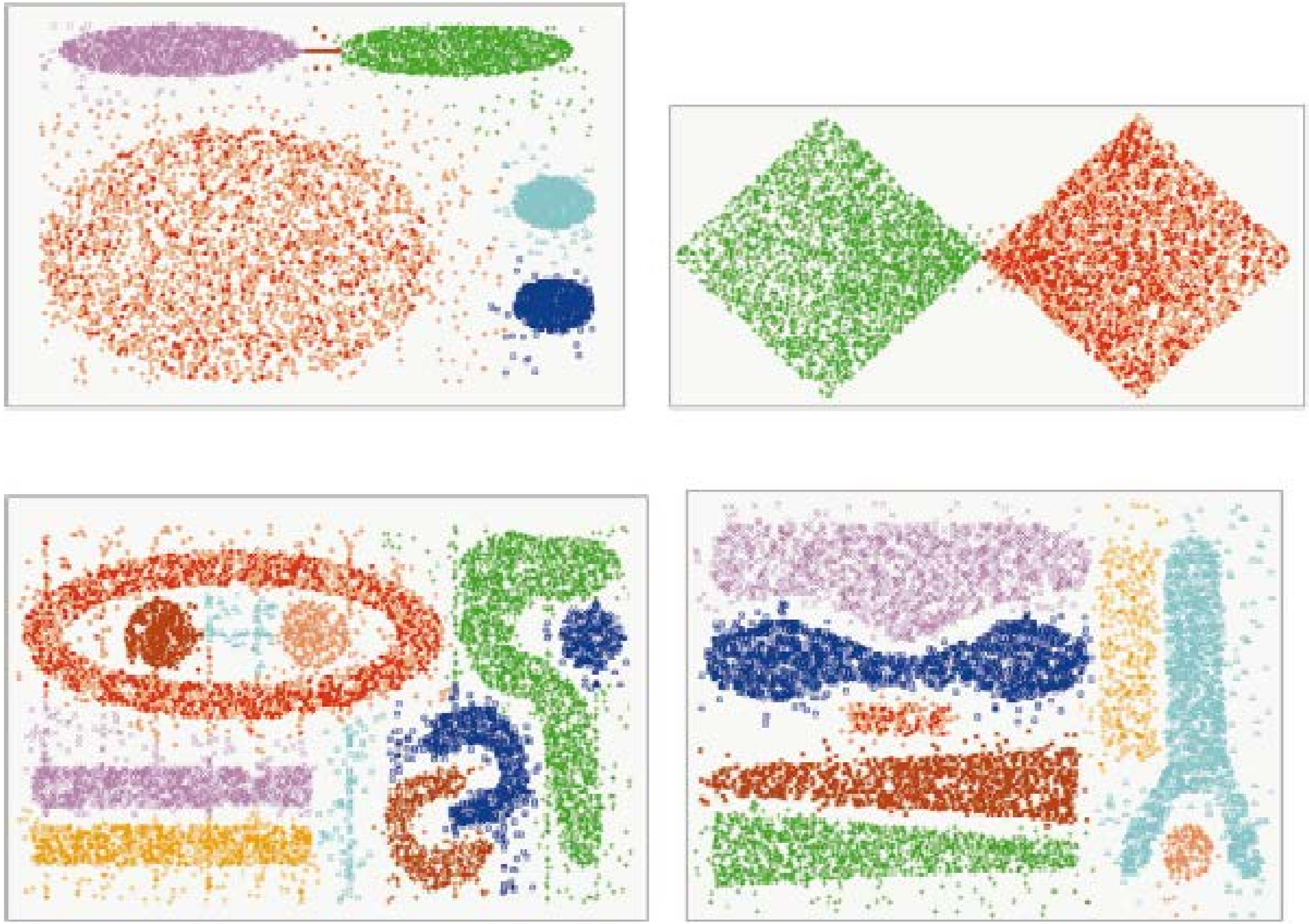
- **Relative closeness** between a pair of clusters C_i *and* C_j *: The absolute closeness* between C_i *and* C_j *normalized w.r.t. the internal closeness of the two clusters* C_i *and* C_j

$$RC(C_i, C_j) = \frac{\overline{S}_{EC_{\{C_i, C_j\}}}}{\frac{|C_i|}{|C_i|+|C_j|}\overline{S}_{EC_{C_i}} + \frac{|C_j|}{|C_i|+|C_j|}\overline{S}_{EC_{C_j}}}$$

  - where $\overline{S}_{EC_{C_i}}$ and $\overline{S}_{EC_{C_j}}$ are the average weights of the edges that belong to the min-cut bisector of clusters C_i *and* C_j, respectively, and $\overline{S}_{EC_{\{C_i, C_j\}}}$ is the average weight of the edges that connect vertices in C_i *to vertices in* C_j

- **Merge Sub-Clusters:**
  - Merges only those pairs of clusters whose RI and RC are both above some user-specified thresholds
  - Merge those maximizing the function that combines RI and RC

CHAMELEON: Clustering Complex Objects



CHAMELEON is capable to generate quality clusters at clustering complex objects

Probabilistic Hierarchical Clustering

Probabilistic Hierarchical Clustering

- Algorithmic hierarchical clustering
  - Nontrivial to choose a good distance measure
  - Hard to handle missing attribute values
  - Optimization goal not clear: heuristic, local search
- Probabilistic hierarchical clustering
  - Use probabilistic models to measure distances between clusters
  - Generative model: Regard the set of data objects to be clustered as a sample of the underlying data generation mechanism to be analyzed
  - Easy to understand, same efficiency as algorithmic agglomerative clustering method, can handle partially observed data
- In practice, assume the generative models adopt common distribution functions, e.g., Gaussian distribution or Bernoulli distribution, governed by parameters

Generative Model

- Given a set of 1-D points $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ for clustering analysis & assuming they are generated by a Gaussian distribution:

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- The probability that a point $x_i \in X$ is generated by the model:

$$P(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_i-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- The likelihood that X is generated by the model:

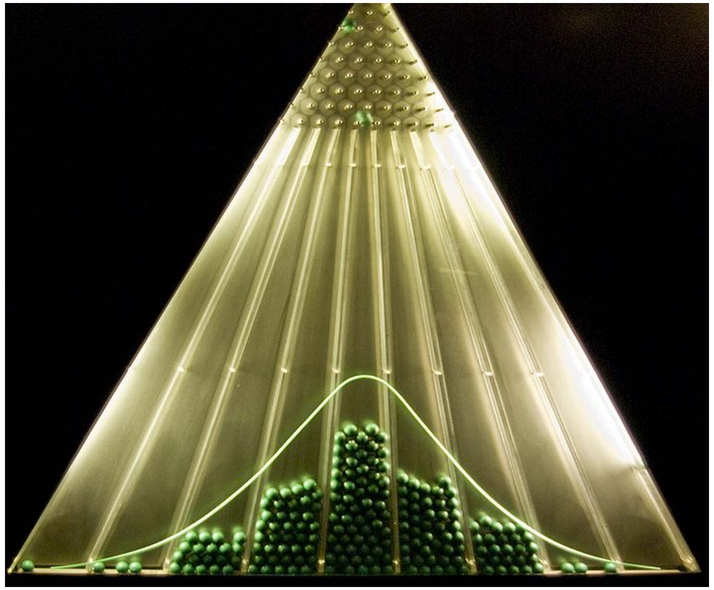
$$L(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) : X) = P(X|\mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_i-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- The task of learning the generative model: find the parameters μ and σ^2 such that

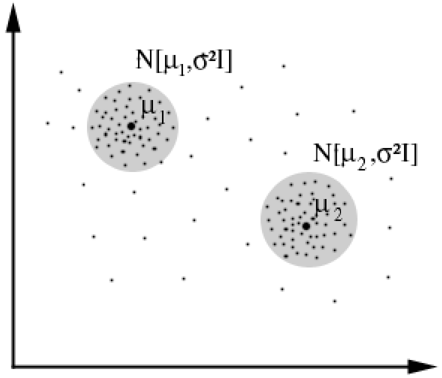
the maximum likelihood

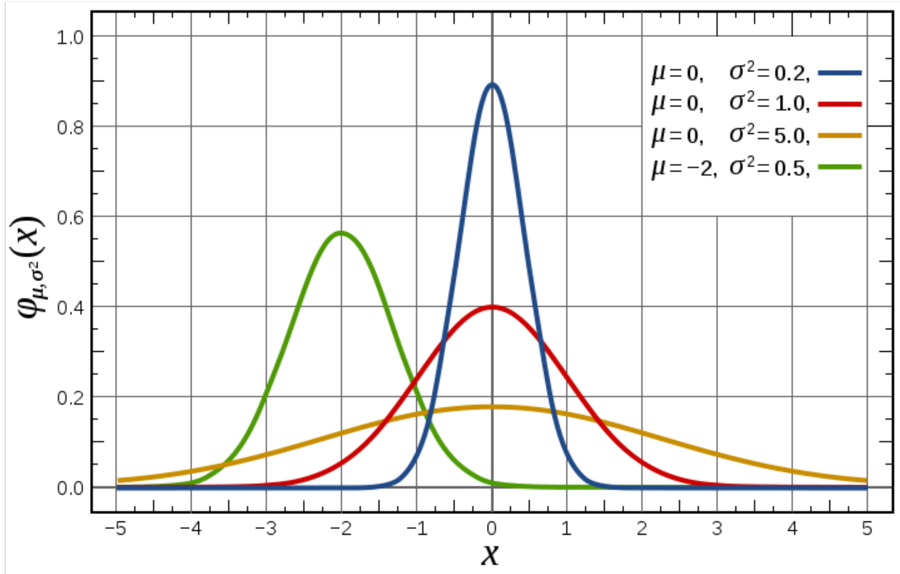
$$\mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2) = \arg\max\{L(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) : X)\}$$

Gaussian Distribution

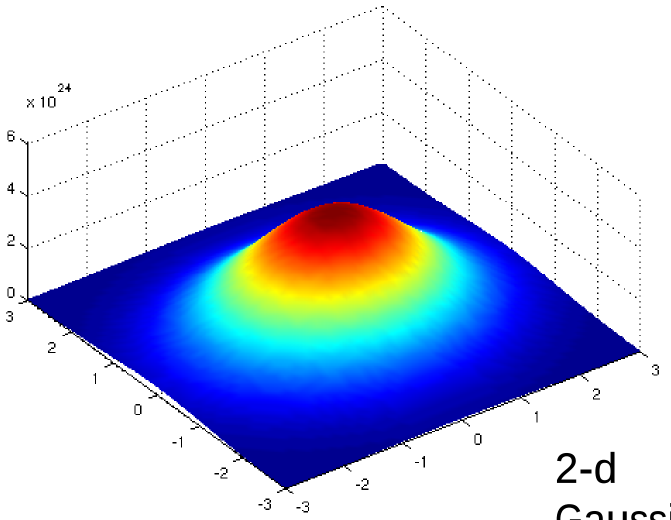


Bean machine: drop ball with pins





1-d Gaussian



2-d Gaussian

From wikipedia and http://home.dei.polimi.it

A Probabilistic Hierarchical Clustering Algorithm

- For a set of objects partitioned into *m* clusters $C_1, \ldots, C_m$, the quality can be measured by,

$$Q(\{C_1, \ldots, C_m\}) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} P(C_i)$$

  where *P*() is the maximum likelihood

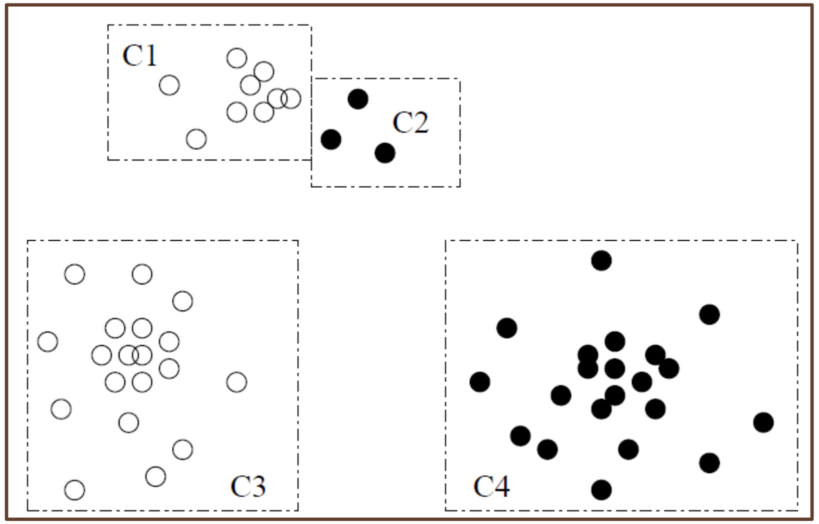
- If we merge two clusters C_{j1} and C_{j2} into a cluster $C_{j1} \cup C_{j2}$, the change in quality of the overall clustering is

$$\begin{aligned} & Q((\{C_1, \ldots, C_m\} - \{C_{j_1}, C_{j_2}\}) \cup \{C_{j_1} \cup C_{j_2}\}) - Q(\{C_1, \ldots, C_m\}) \\ = & \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{m} P(C_i) \cdot P(C_{j_1} \cup C_{j_2})}{P(C_{j_1}) P(C_{j_2})} - \prod_{i=1}^{m} P(C_i) \\ = & \prod_{i=1}^{m} P(C_i) \left(\frac{P(C_{j_1} \cup C_{j_2})}{P(C_{j_1}) P(C_{j_2})} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Distance between clusters C_1 and C_2:

$$dist(C_i, C_j) = -\log \frac{P(C_1 \cup C_2)}{P(C_1) P(C_2)}$$

- If $dist(C_i, C_j) < 0$, merge C_i and C_j



Recommended Readings

- A. K. Jain and R. C. Dubes. Algorithms for Clustering Data. Prentice Hall, 1988
- L. Kaufman and P. J. Rousseeuw. Finding Groups in Data: An Introduction to Cluster Analysis. John Wiley & Sons, 1990
- T. Zhang, R. Ramakrishnan, and M. Livny. BIRCH: An Efficient Data Clustering Method for Very Large Databases. SIGMOD'96
- S. Guha, R. Rastogi, and K. Shim. Cure: An Efficient Clustering Algorithm for Large Databases. SIGMOD'98
- G. Karypis, E.-H. Han, and V. Kumar. CHAMELEON: A Hierarchical Clustering Algorithm Using Dynamic Modeling. *COMPUTER*, 32(8): 68-75, 1999.
- Jiawei Han, Micheline Kamber, and Jian Pei. Data Mining: Concepts and Techniques. Morgan Kaufmann, 3rd ed. , 2011 (Chap. 10)
- C. K. Reddy and B. Vinzamuri. A Survey of Partitional and Hierarchical Clustering Algorithms, in (Chap. 4) Aggarwal and Reddy (eds.), Data Clustering: Algorithms and Applications. CRC Press, 2014
- M. J. Zaki and W. Meira, Jr.. Data Mining and Analysis: Fundamental Concepts and Algorithms. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014