

Given. set of  $n$  points  $p_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$

$k \rightarrow$  no. of clusters

K-Means clustering:-

find centers of  $k$  clusters  $c_j$ ,  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$

Loss function to be minimized:-

$$L(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j\|_2^2$$

New variable introduced for approximation:-

$$z_i \in \arg\min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j\|_2^2 \quad \text{for each data point } p_i.$$

K-Means Clustering:-

① assignment := updating  $z_i$

② Updating centers / Refitting:-

$$c_j = \frac{1}{|\{i: z_i = j\}|} \sum_{i: z_i = j} p_i$$

To prove:- k-means is guaranteed to converge (to a local optimum)  
prove separately for assignment step & refitting step

Proof:

For Assignment Step:-

let at iteration  $t$ ,

loss function is given by  $L_t(c)$  and  
assignment variable be  $z_t$ .

The minimization of loss function is given by:

$$z_i^{(t+1)} = \arg\min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_{j_t}\|_2^2$$

Let  $L_t$  be the contribution of  $i$ -th point to the loss at iteration  $t$ .

Then,

$$L_t = \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j^{(t)}\|_2^2$$

Total loss at iteration  $t$ :-

$$L_t(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n L_t^{(i)}$$

Then, loss at iteration  $t+1$ :-

$$L_{t+1}(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2$$

By def<sup>n</sup> of assignment step:  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$

$$\|p_i - c_{z_i^{(t+1)}}^{(t+1)}\|_2^2 \leq \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2$$

Thus,

$$L_{t+1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j^t\|_2^2 = L_t$$

Loss for step  $t+1 \leq$  loss for step  $t$ .

$\Rightarrow$  loss function is decreasing monotonically in each step

For Refitting Step:-

For the step  $t+1$ , the new center in the refitting step is given as:

$$c_j^{(t+1)} = \frac{1}{|\{i: z_i^{(t+1)} = j\}|} \sum_{i: z_i^{(t+1)} = j} p_i$$

Loss function at iteration  $t+1$  is given by

$$L_{t+1}(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2$$

After updating the clusters, we get

$$\|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2 \leq \|p_i - c_j^t\|_2^2 \quad \left[ \because \text{new cluster center is chosen to minimize the dist.} \right]$$

Now, Summing over  $i=1$  to  $n$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \|p_i - c_j^t\|_2^2$$

$$n_j \cdot \frac{1}{|\{i: z_i^{(t+1)} = j\}|} \sum_{i=1}^n \|p_i - c_j^{(t+1)}\|_2^2 \leq \frac{1}{|\{i: z_i = j\}|} \sum_{i=1}^n \|p_i - c_j^t\|_2^2$$

which is equivalent to saying  $L_{t+1}(c) \leq L_t(c) \Rightarrow$  loss function is decreasing monotonically.

$\therefore$  We prove that k-means is guaranteed to converge.

proved