



# Nonparametric Bayesian Methods: Models, Algorithms, and Applications

Tamara Broderick

ITT Career Development Assistant Professor  
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science  
MIT

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WIKIPEDIA



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“Wikipedia phenomenon”

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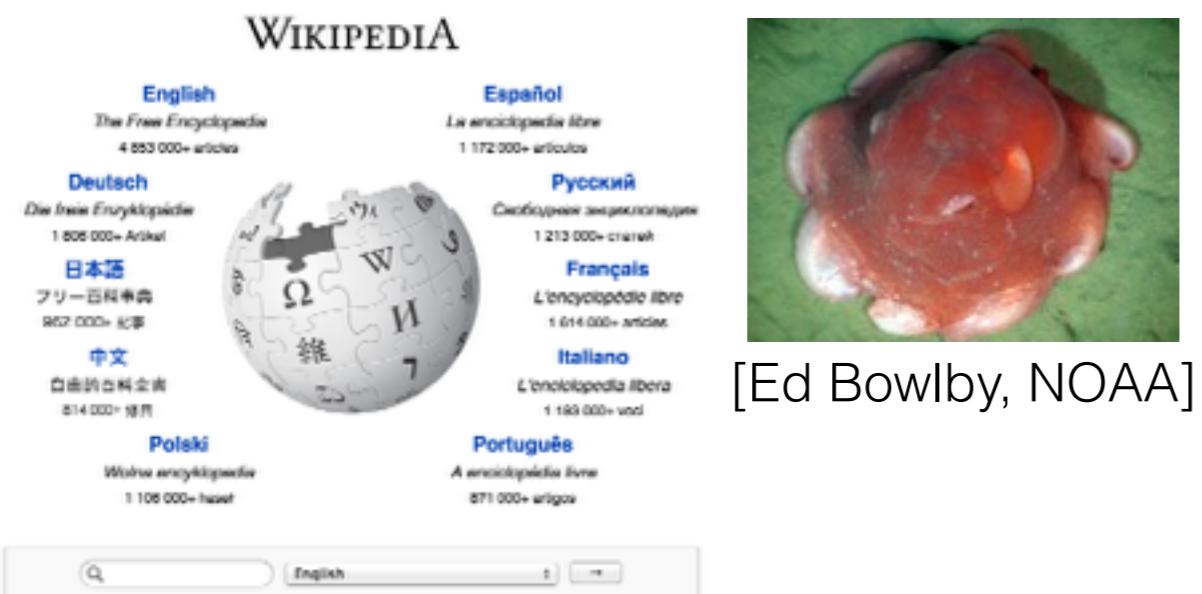
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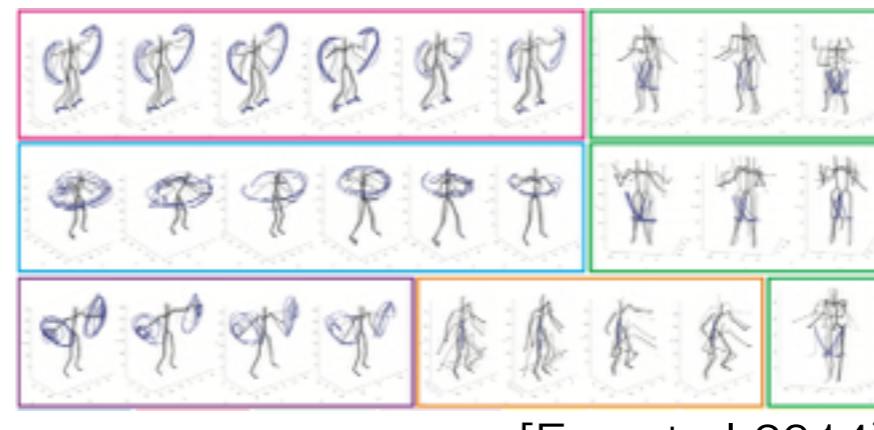
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[Ed Bowlby, NOAA]



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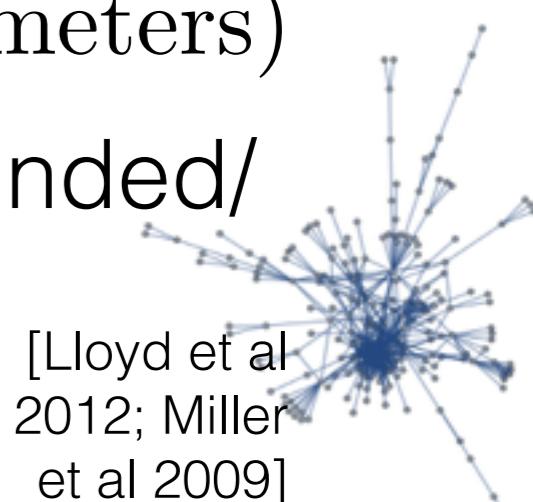
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[Fox et al 2014]



[Lloyd et al  
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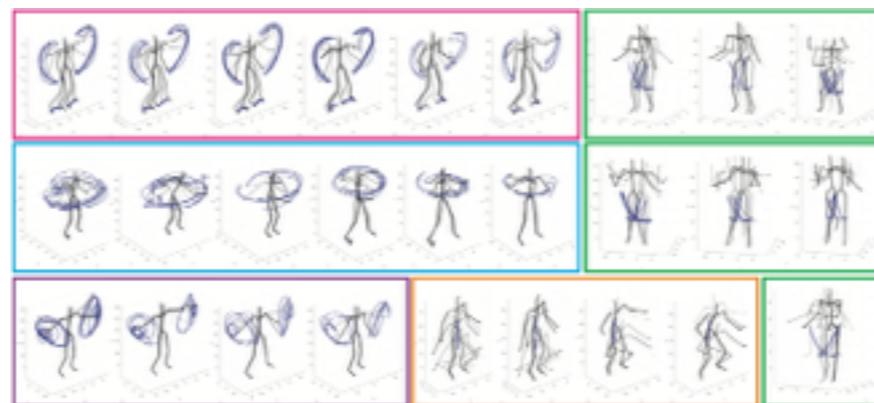
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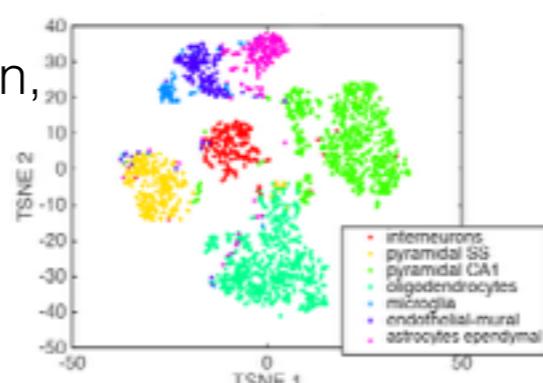


[Ed Bowlby, NOAA]

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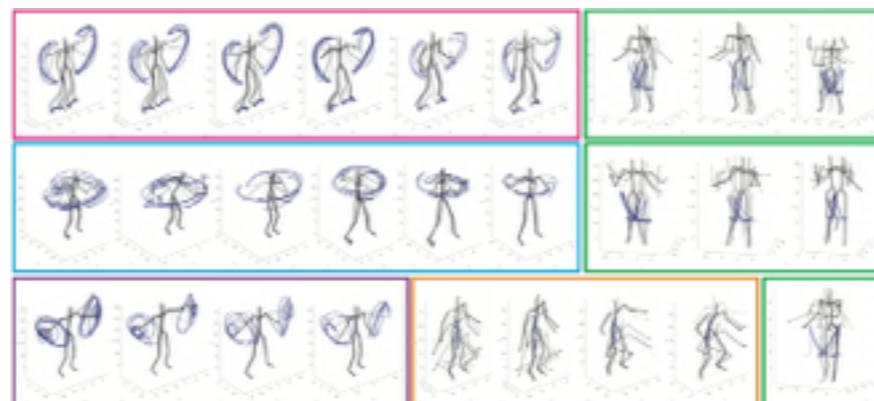
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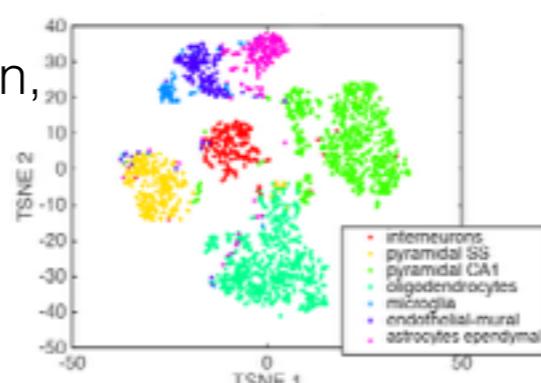


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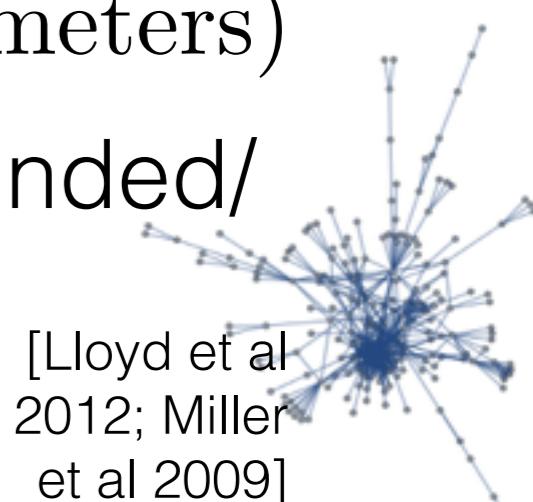
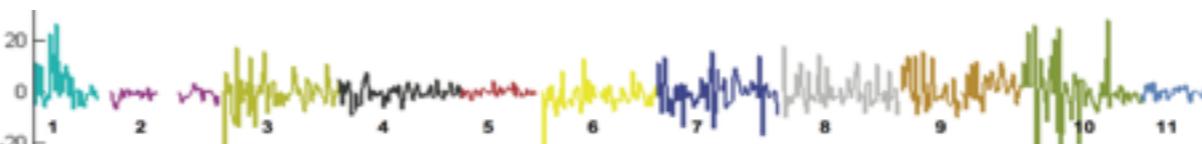
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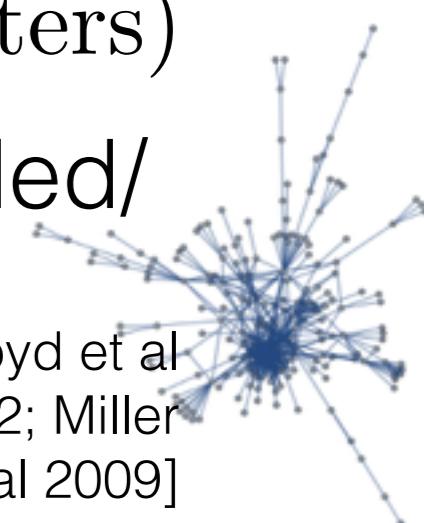
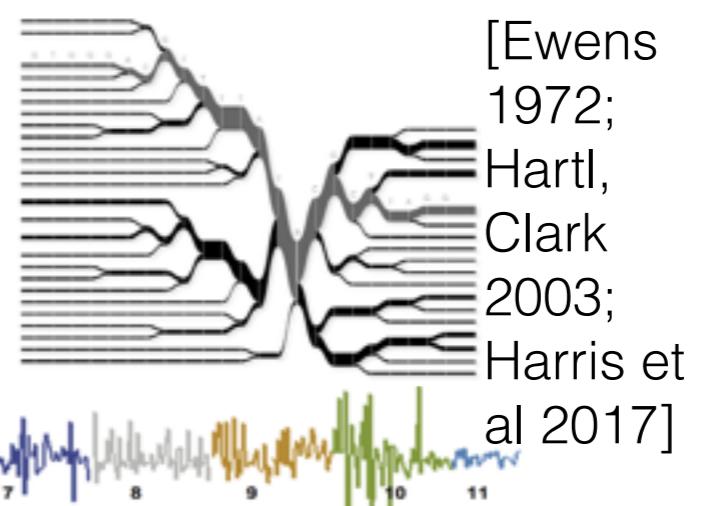
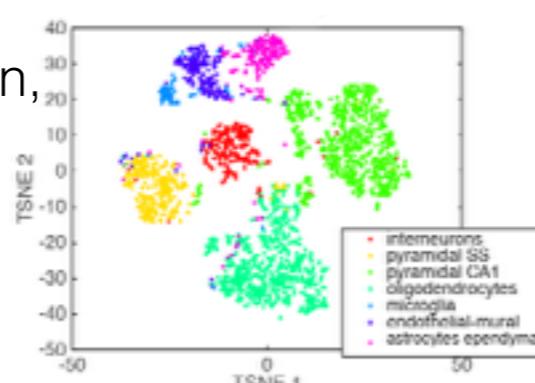
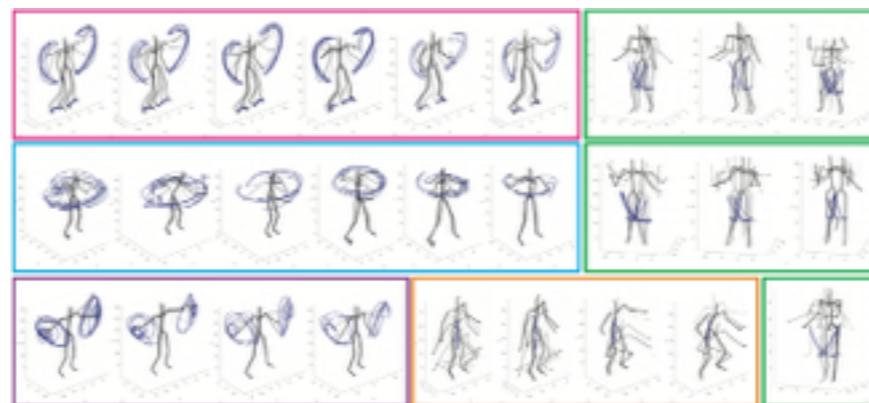
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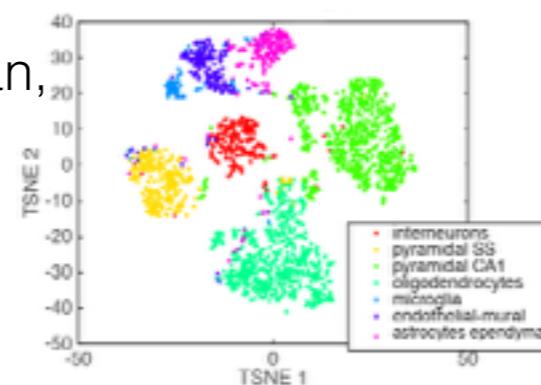


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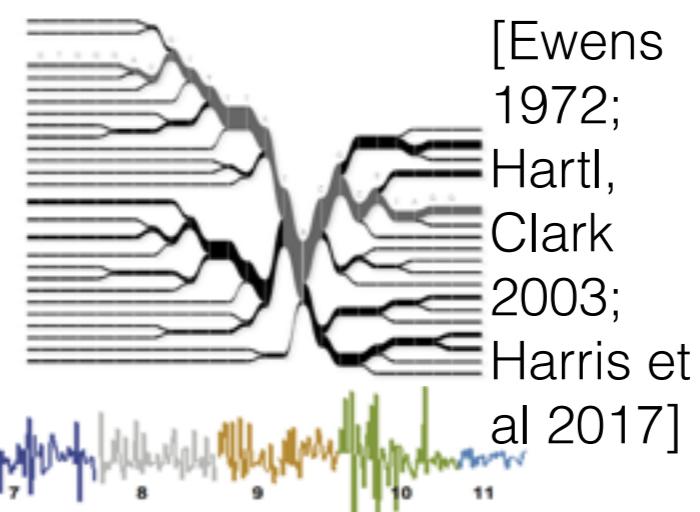
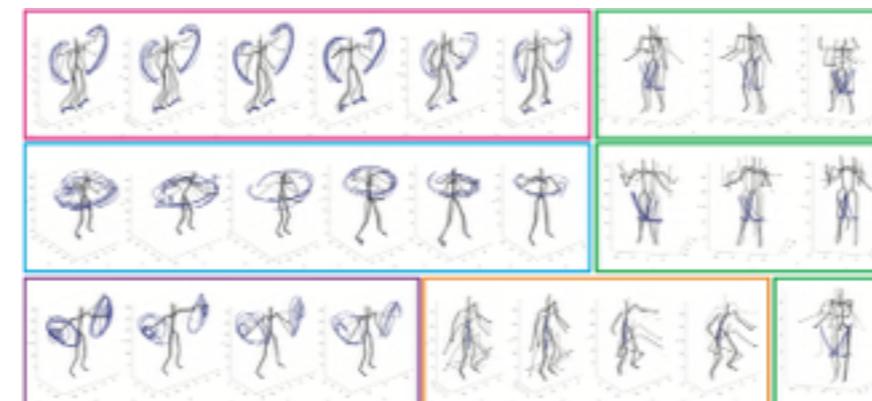
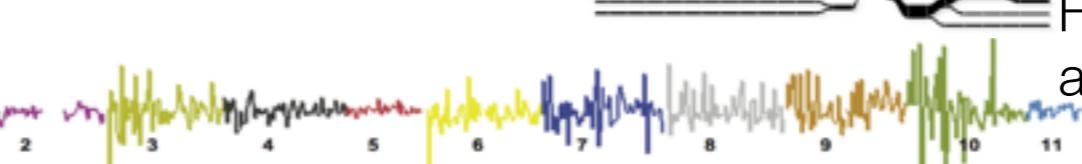


[Del Pozzo  
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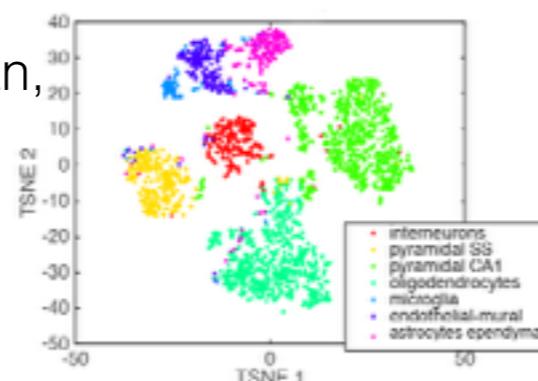
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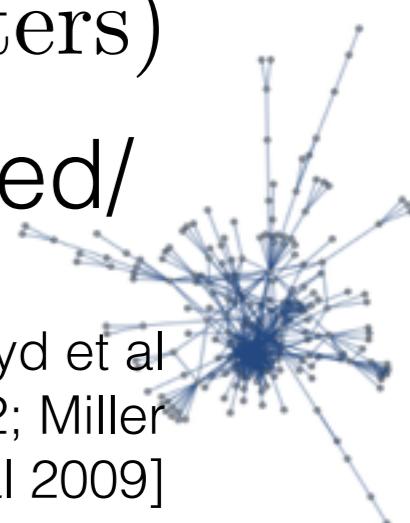
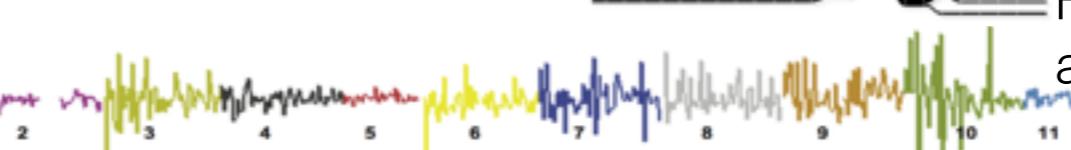
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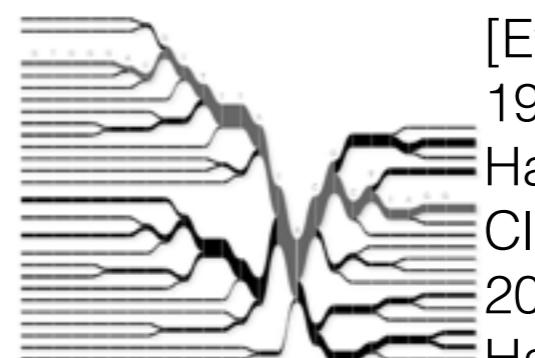
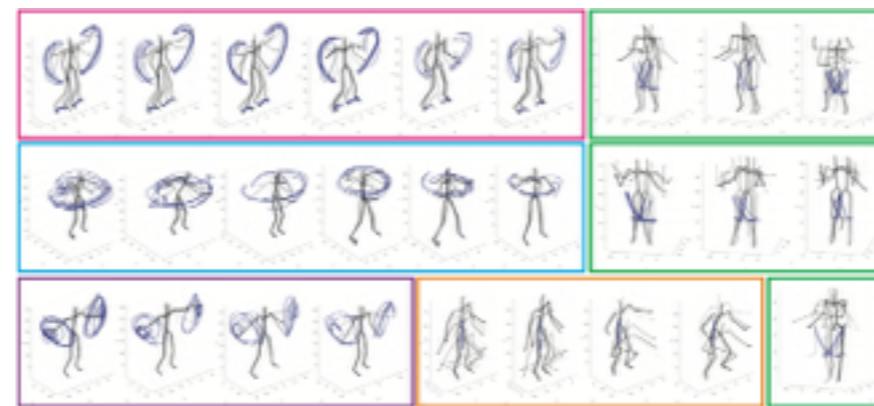


[MIT xPRO]



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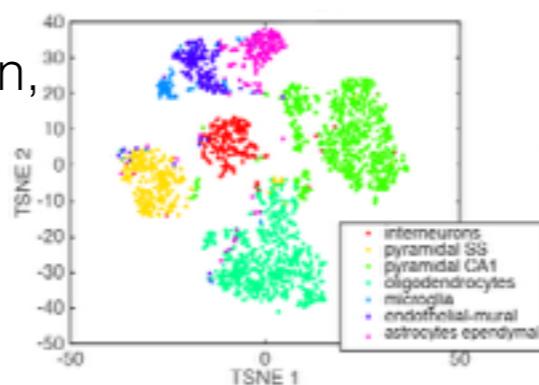
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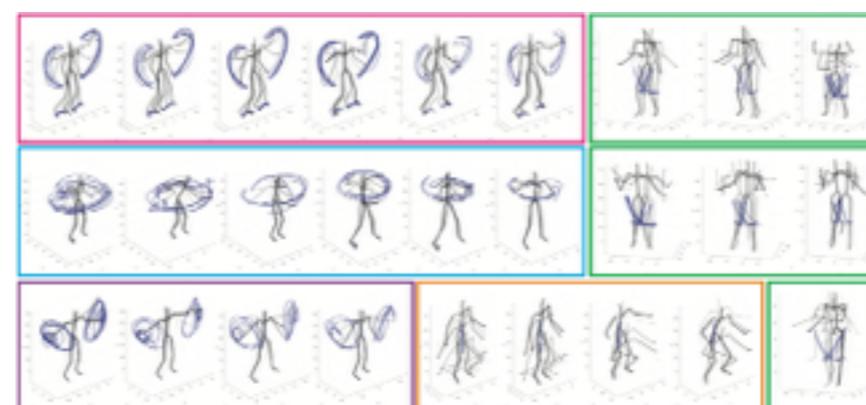
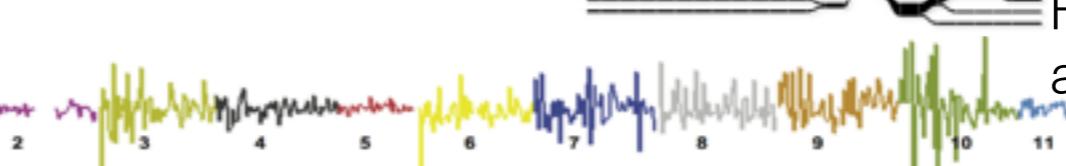
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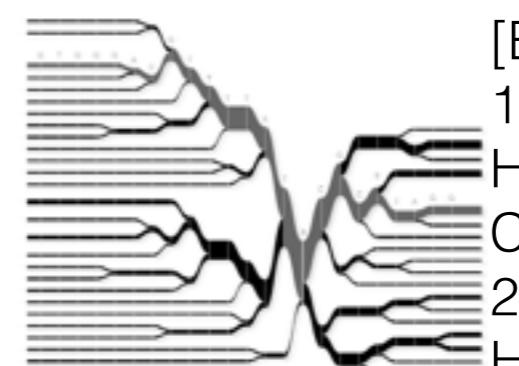


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  - “Nonparametric Bayesian” priors

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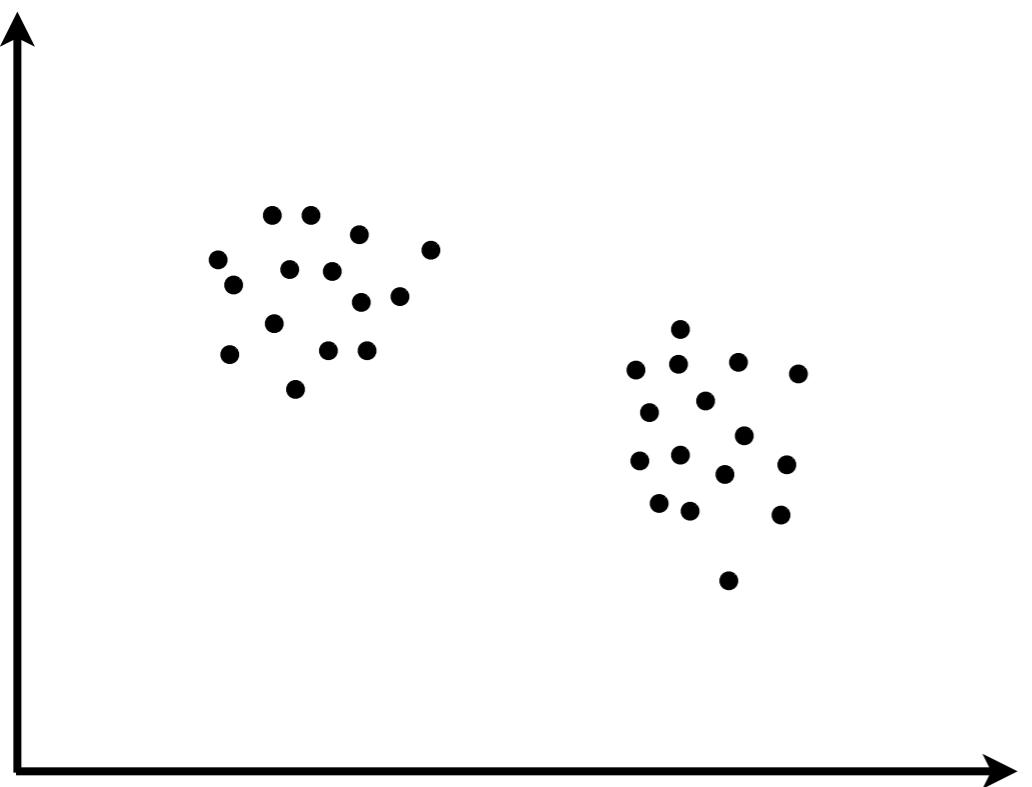
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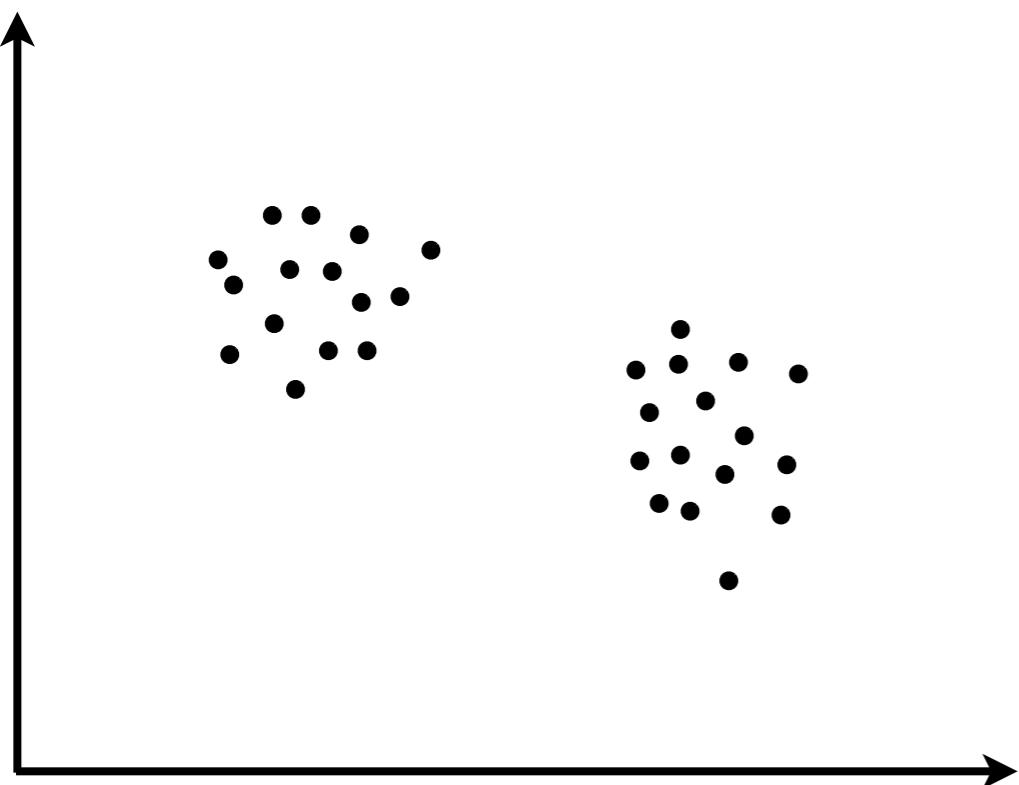
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  - Why is NPBayes challenging but practical?

# Generative model



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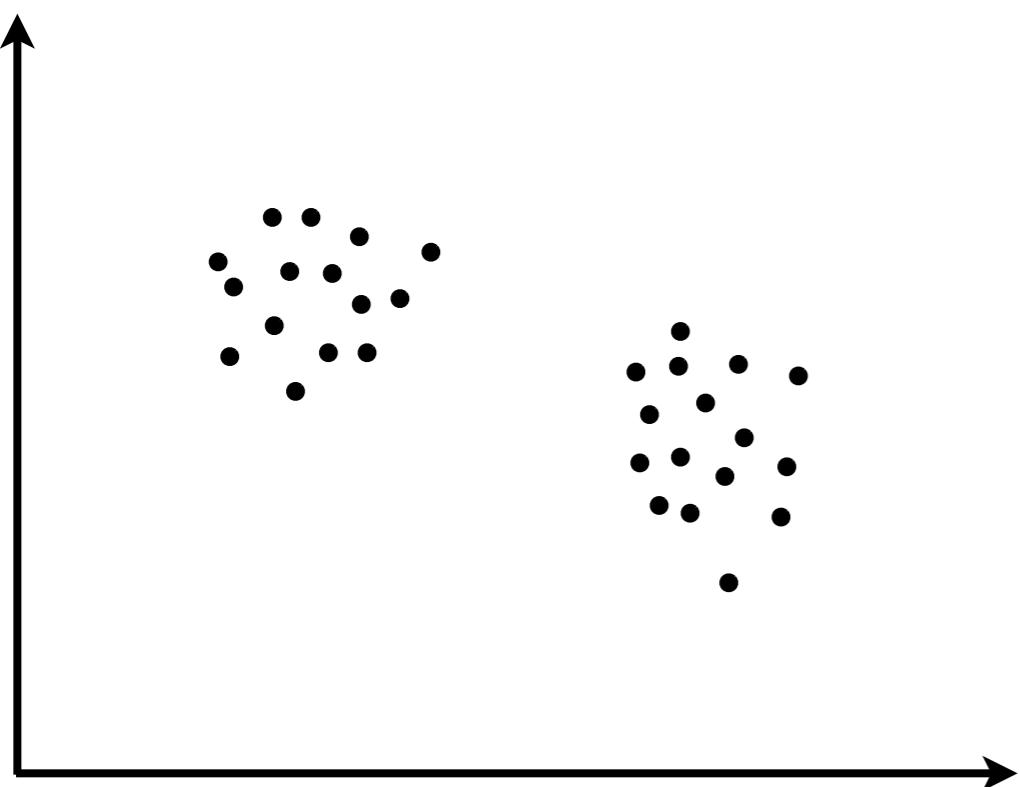
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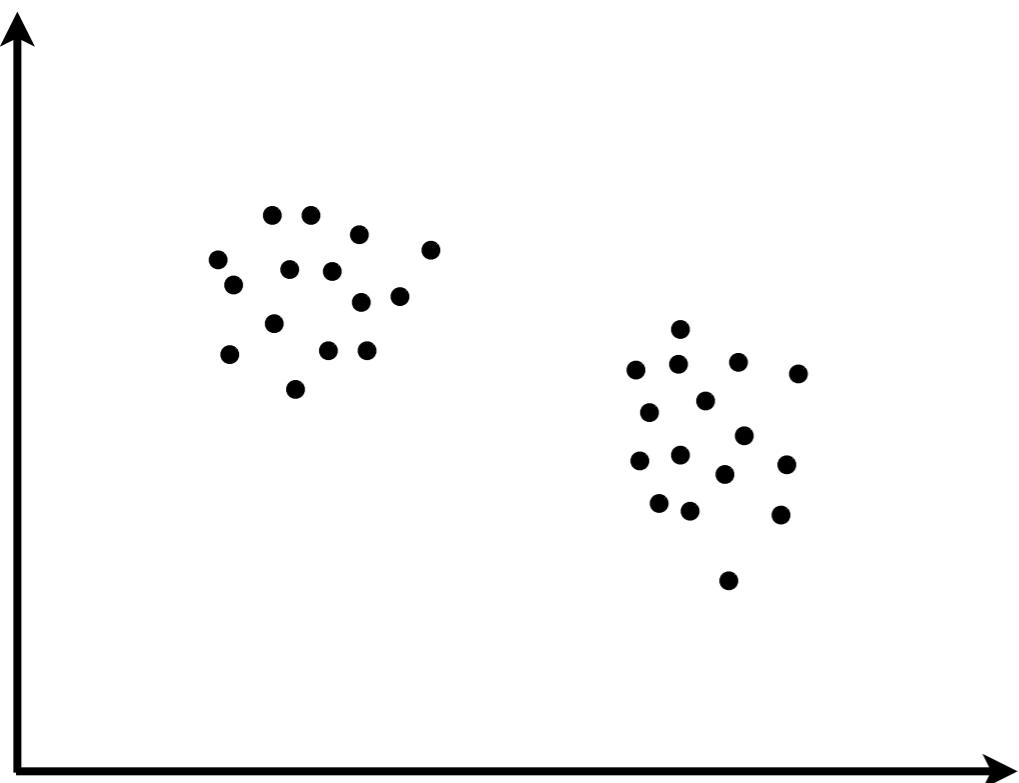
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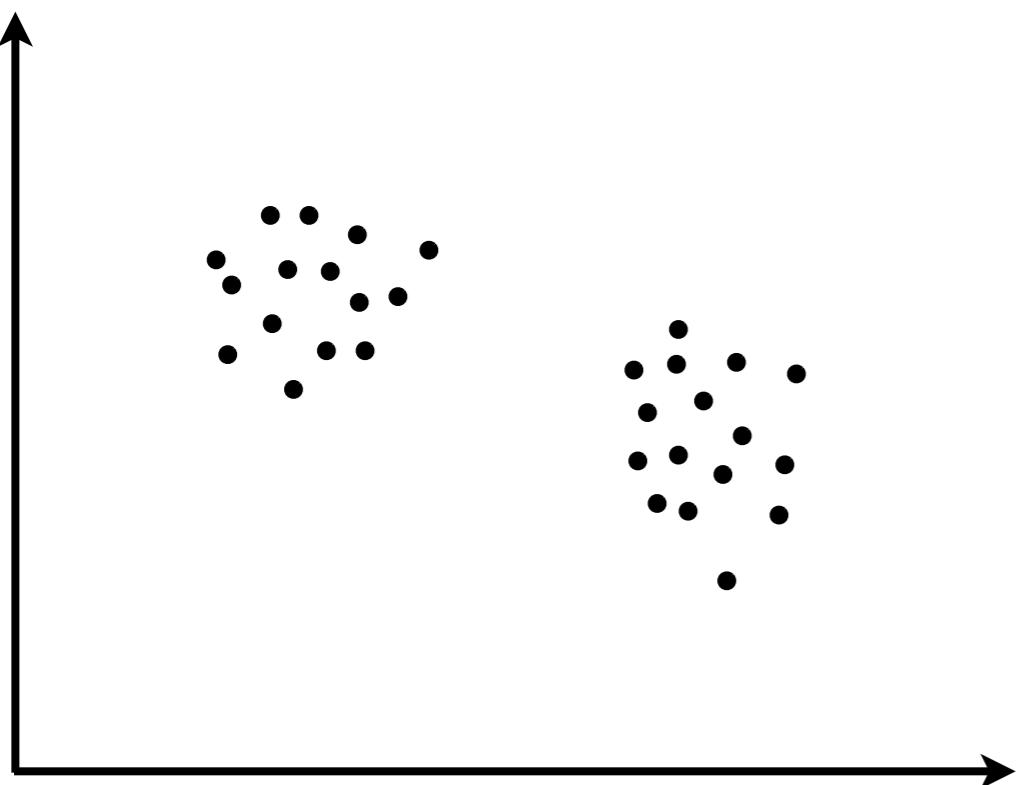


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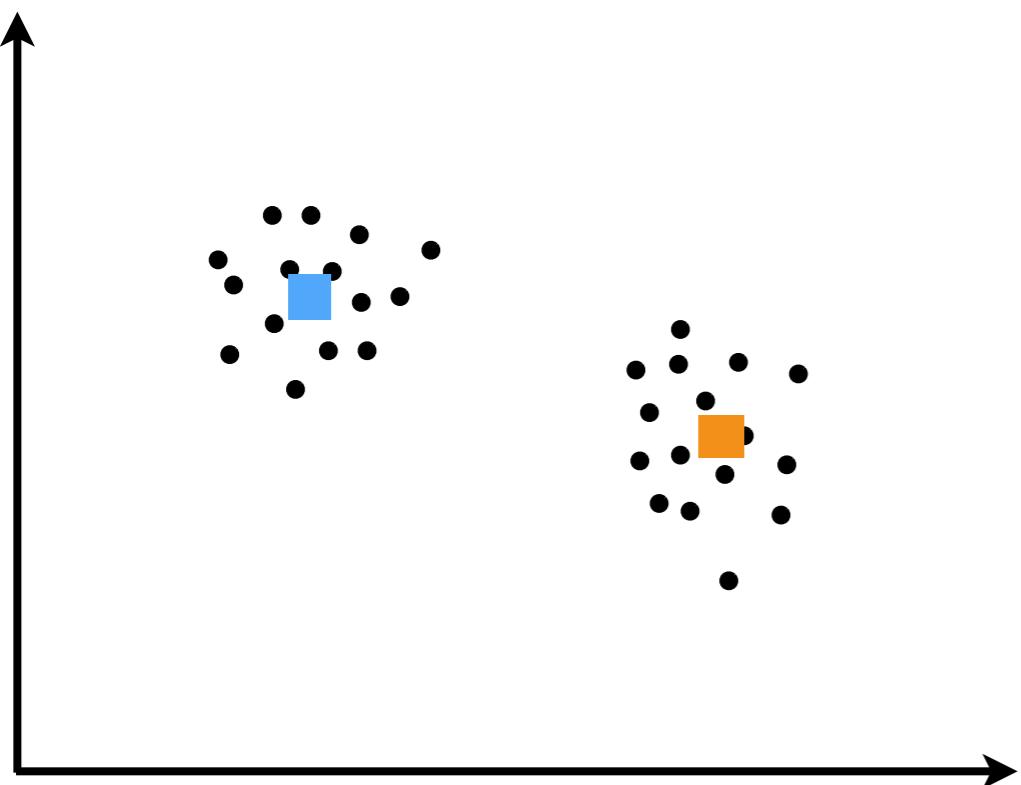
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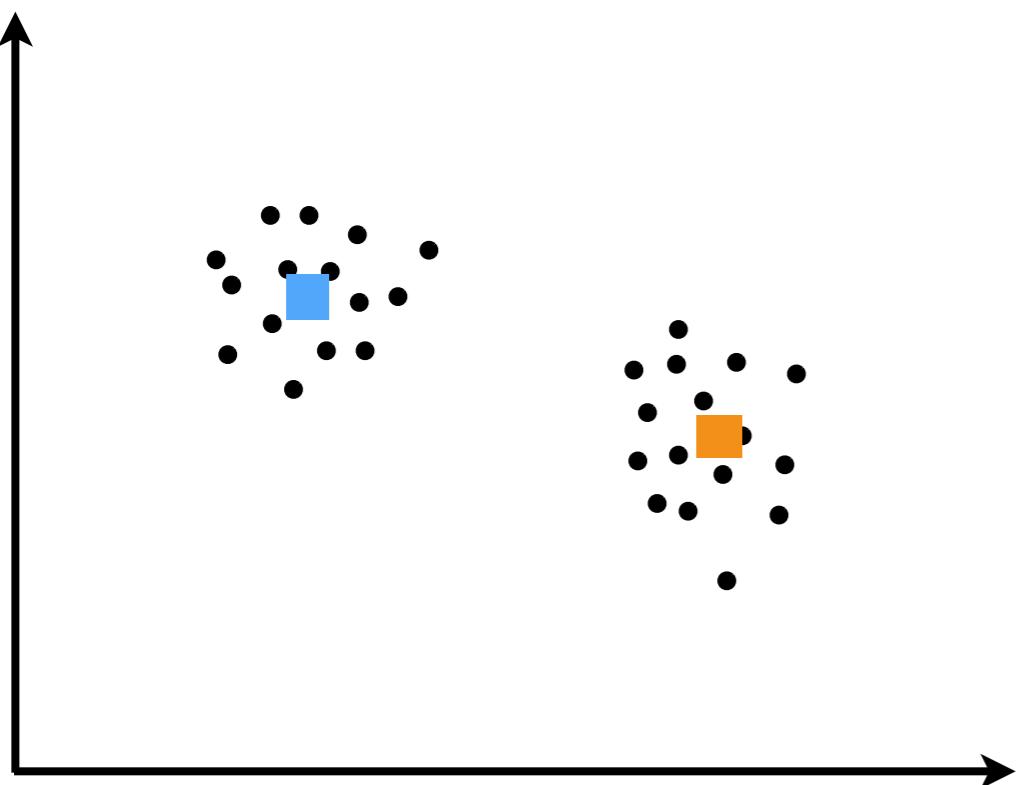
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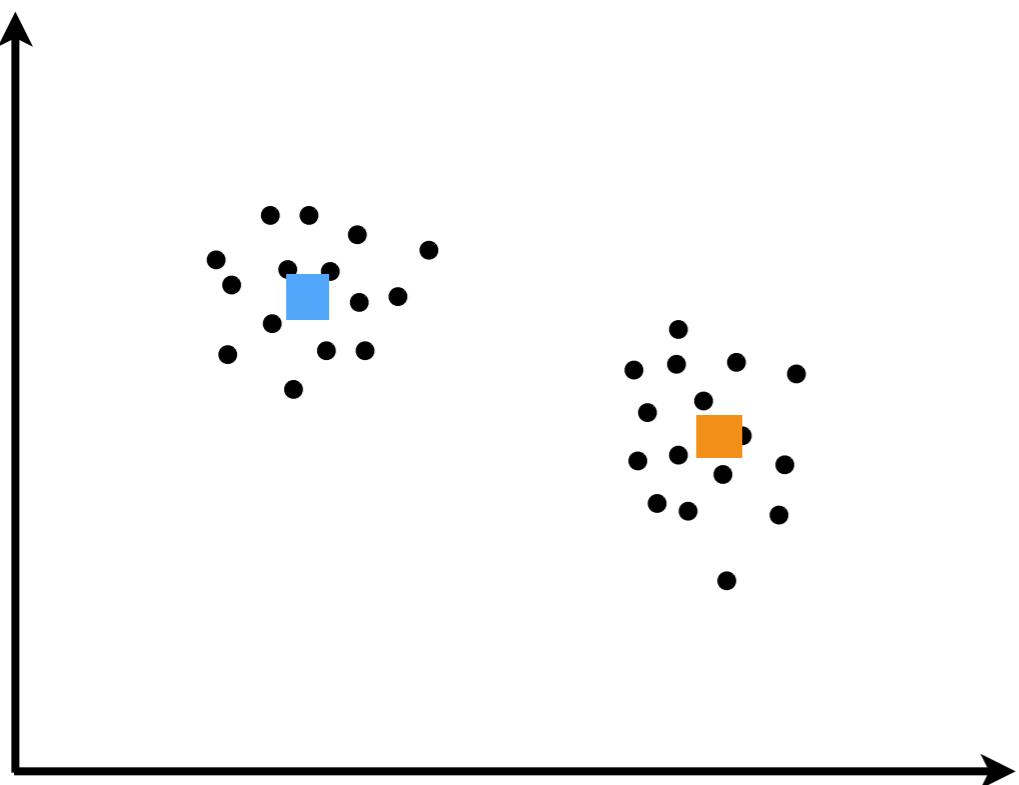
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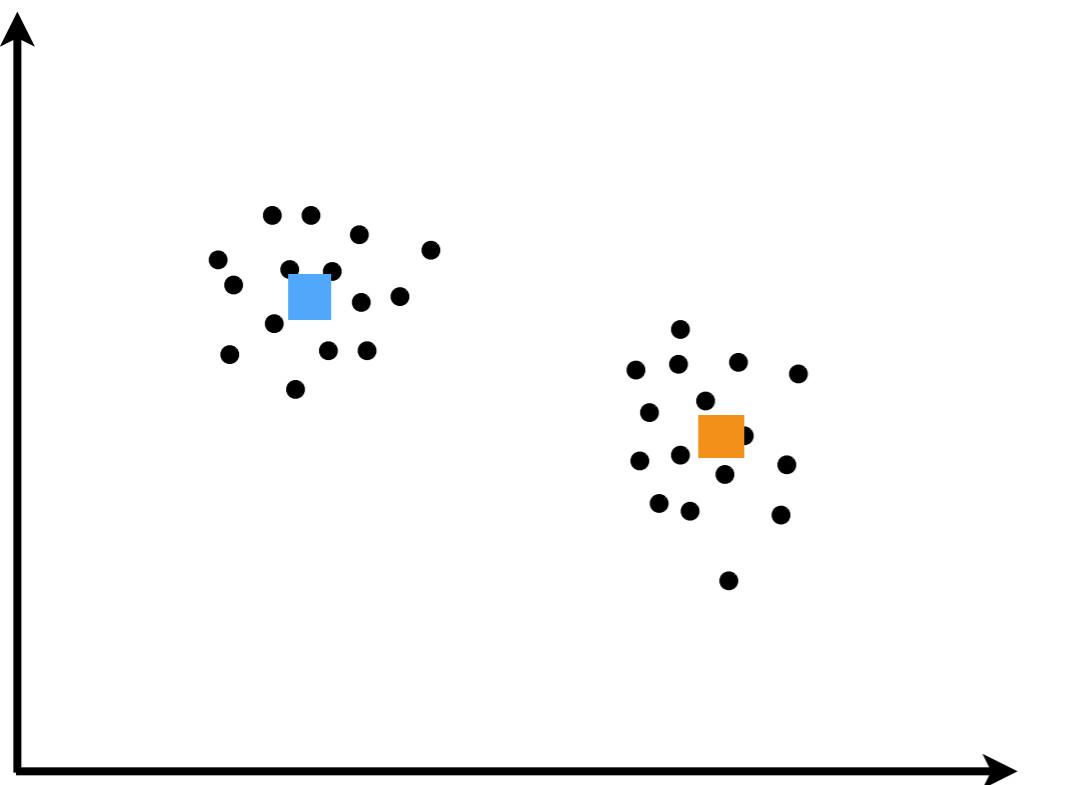
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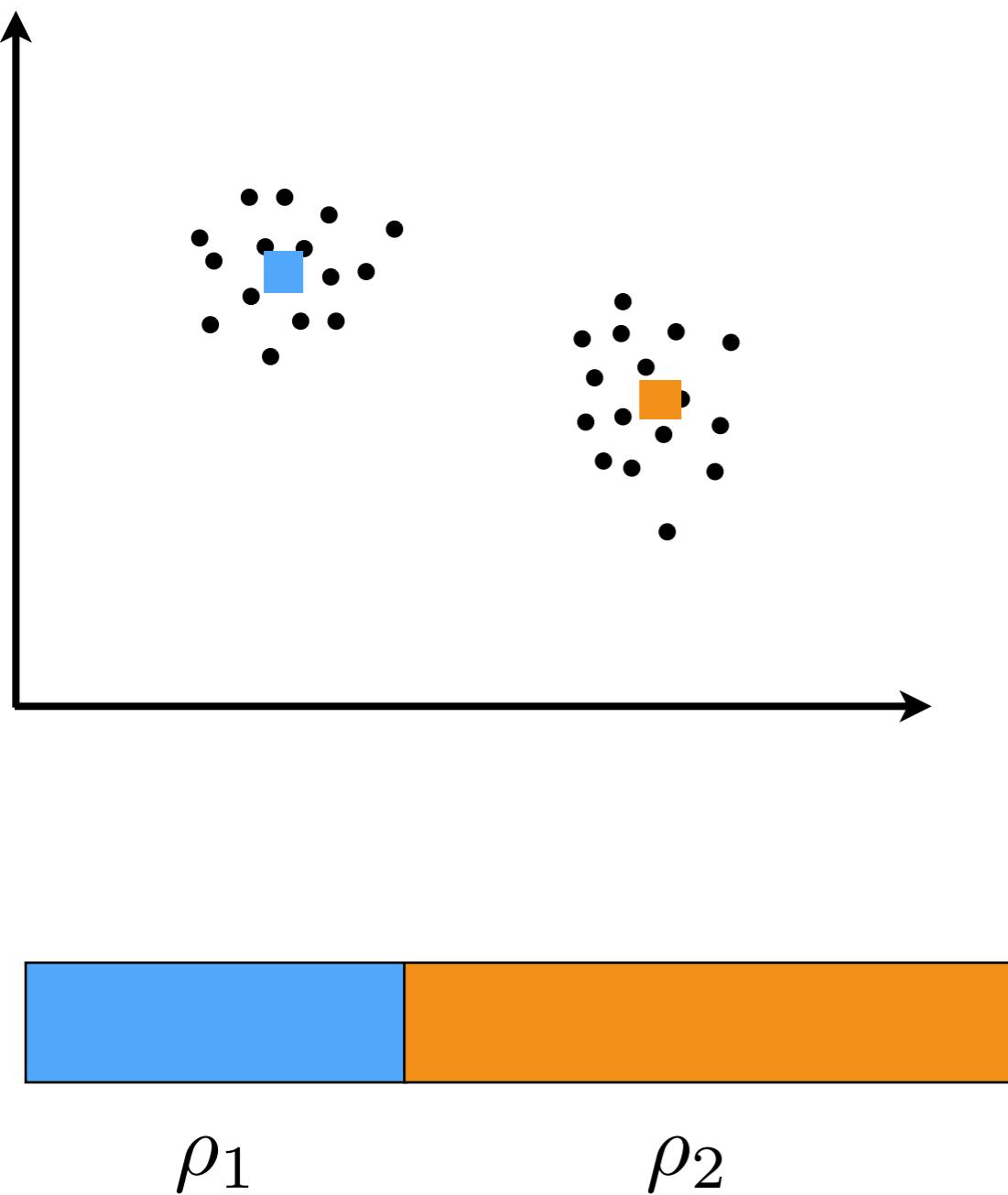
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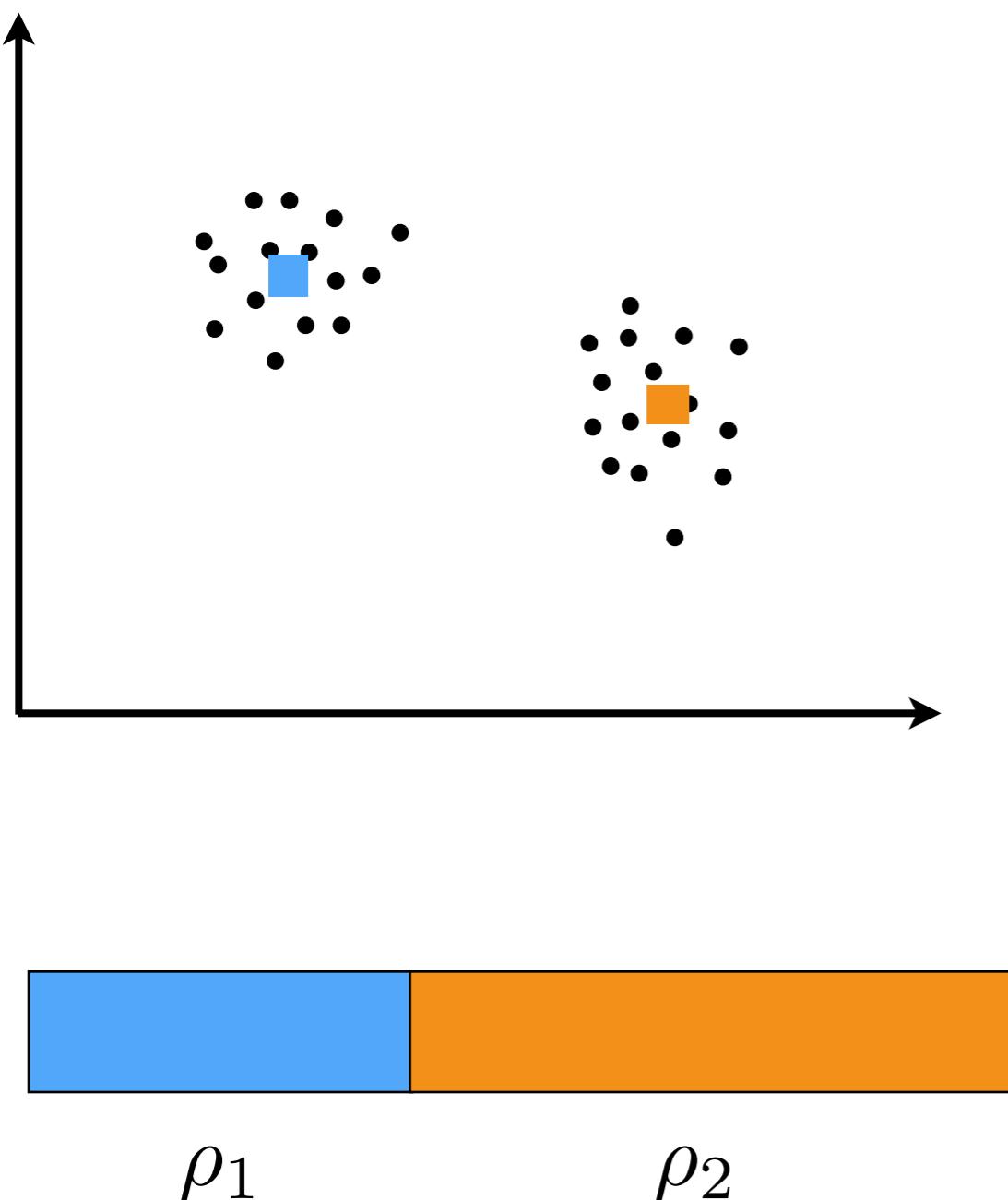
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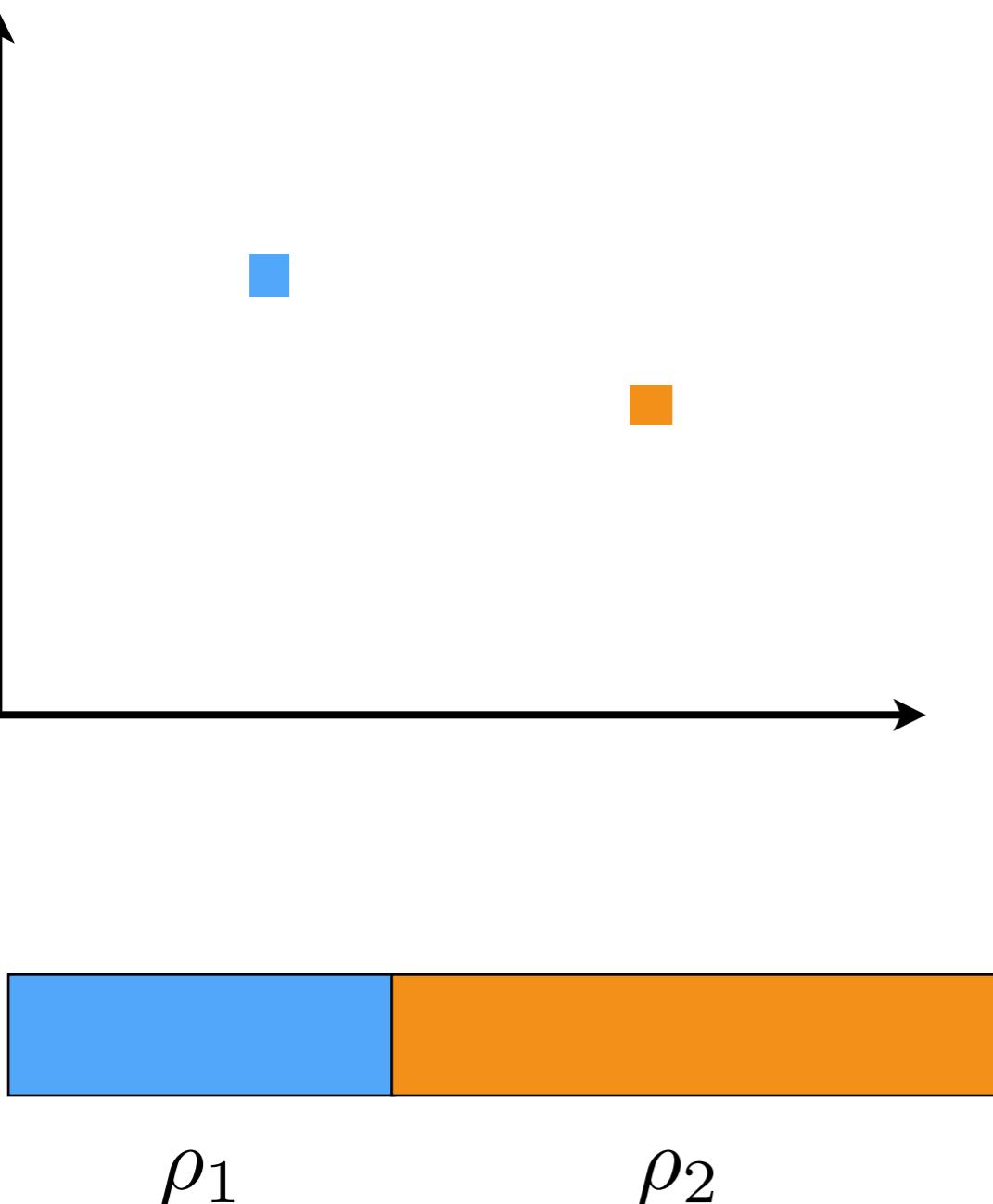
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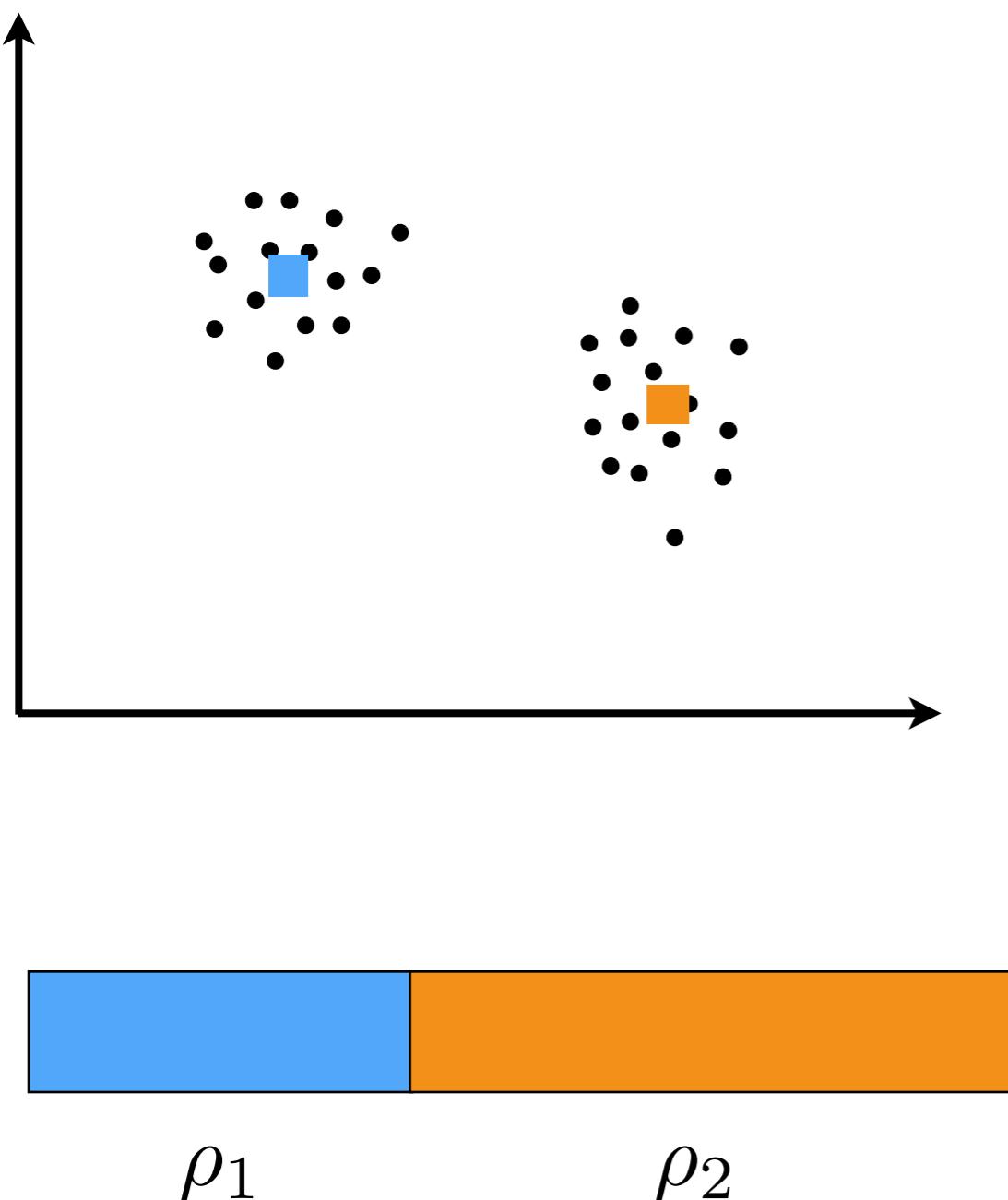
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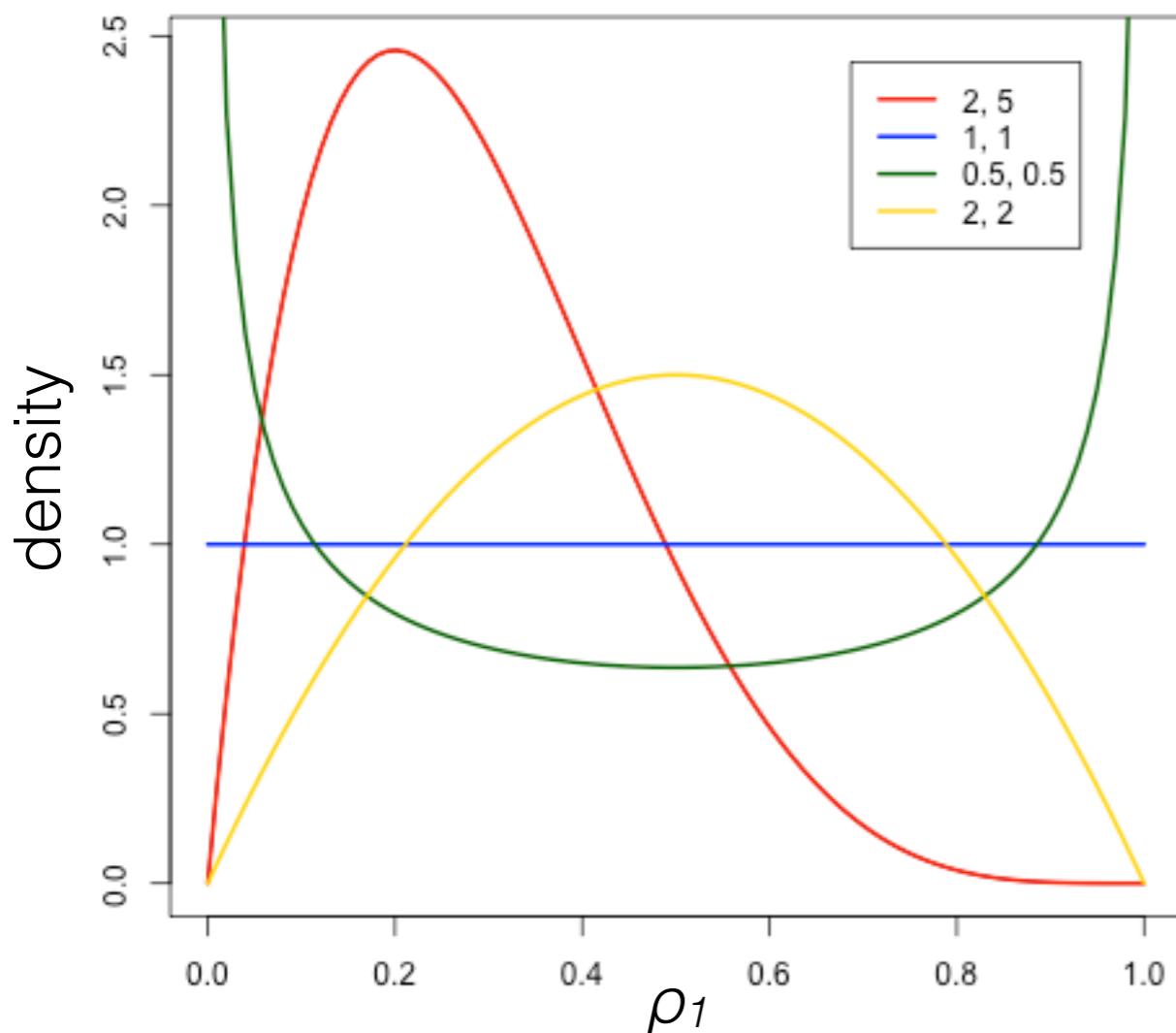
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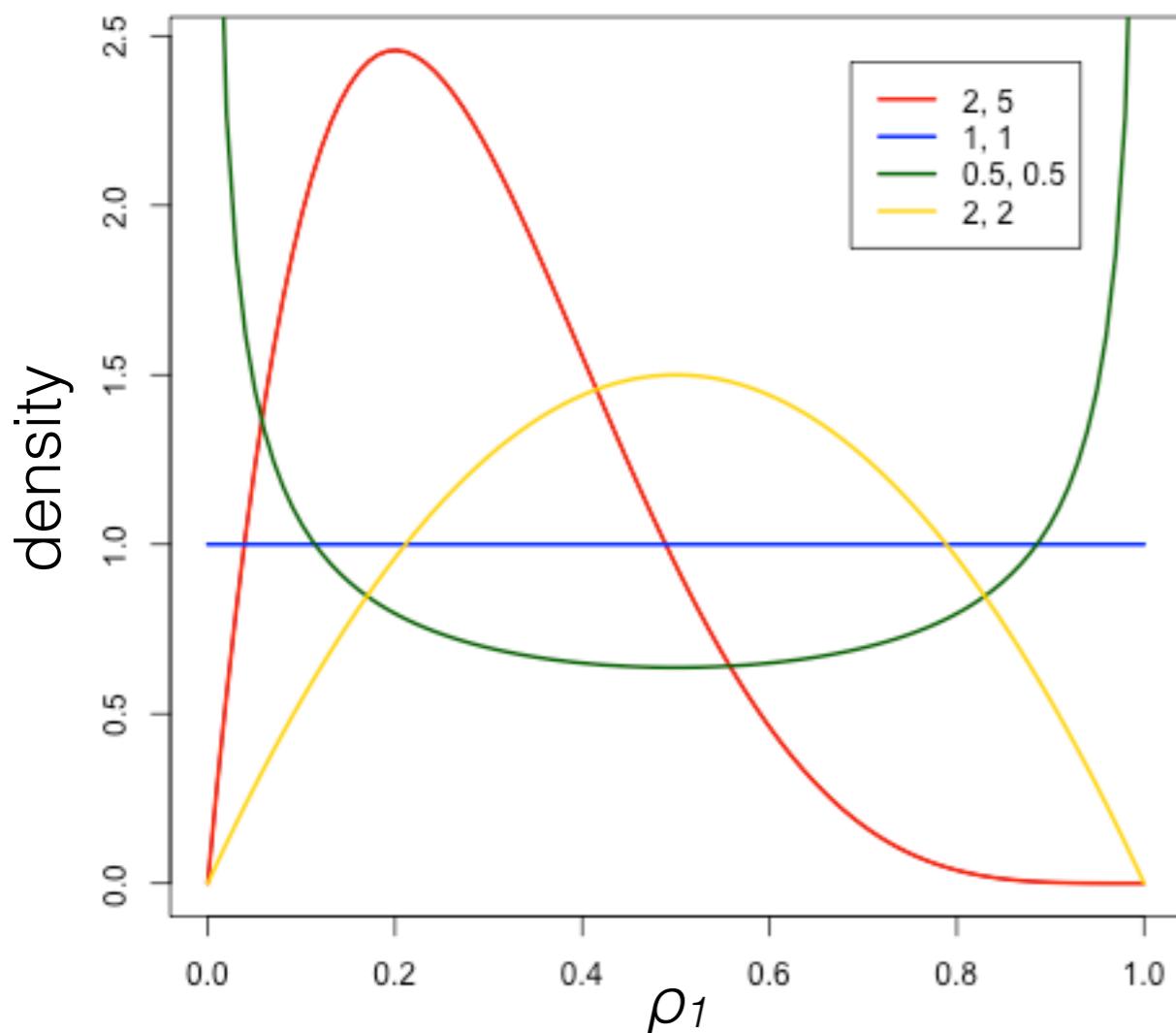


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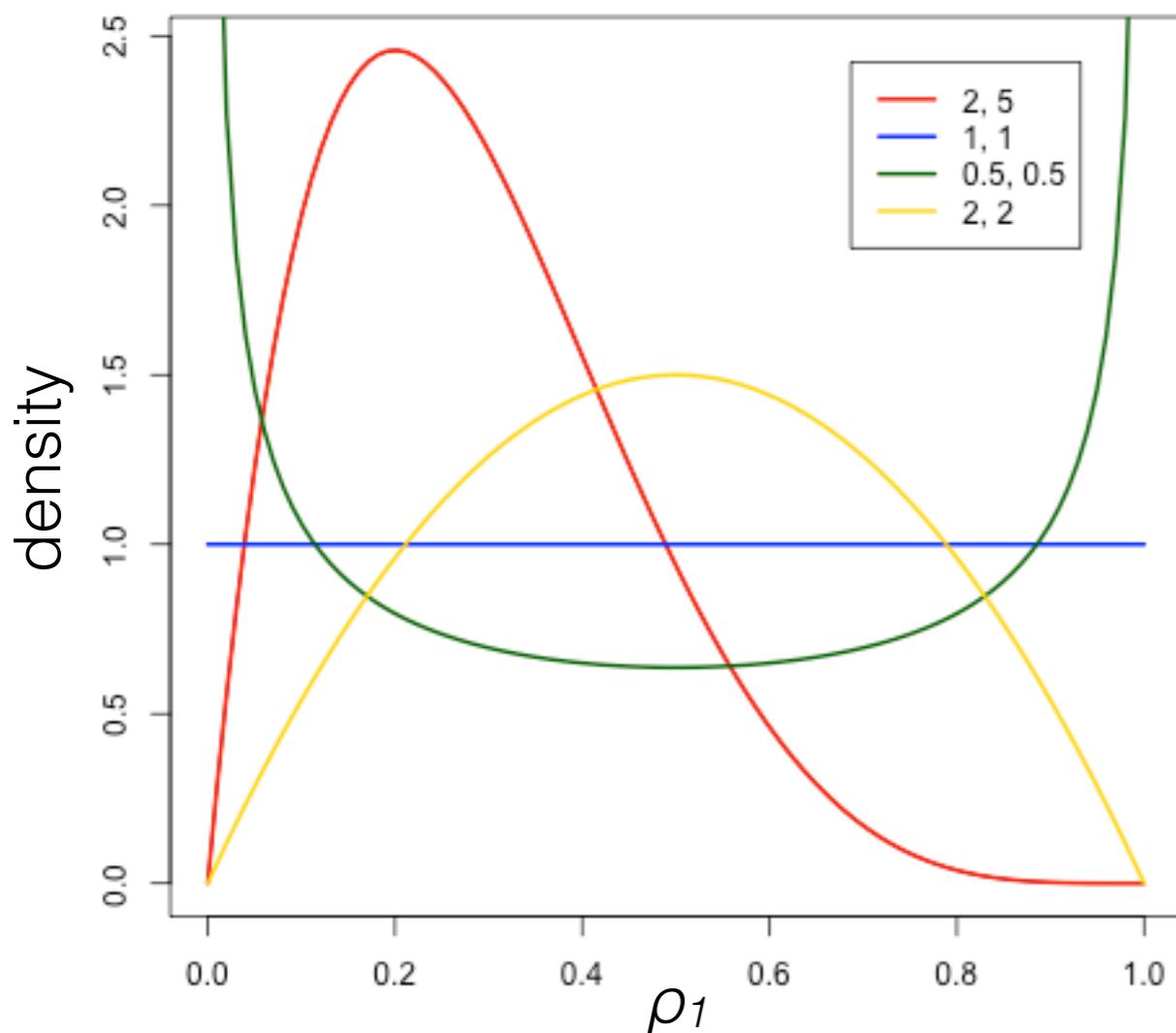


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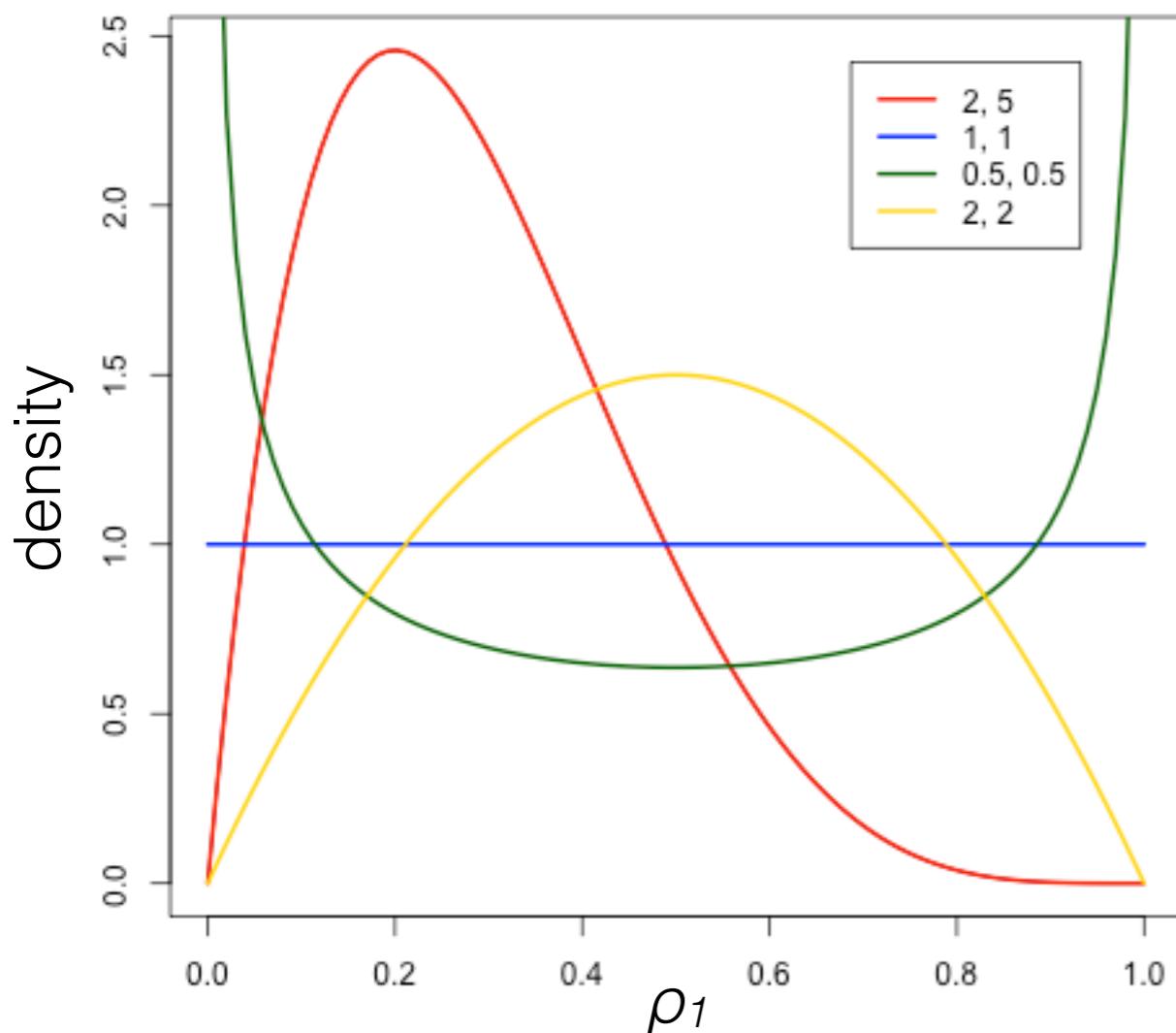
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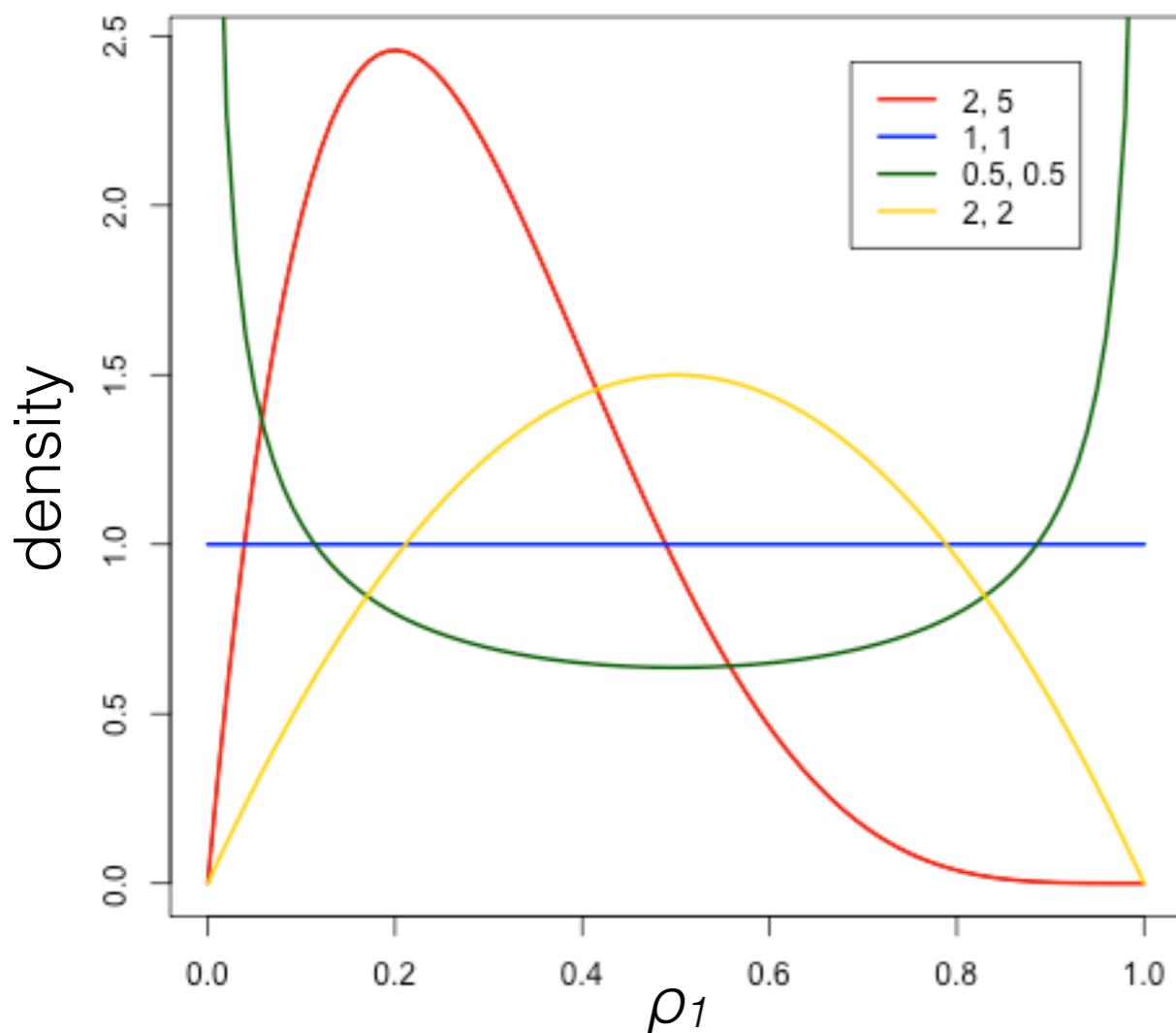
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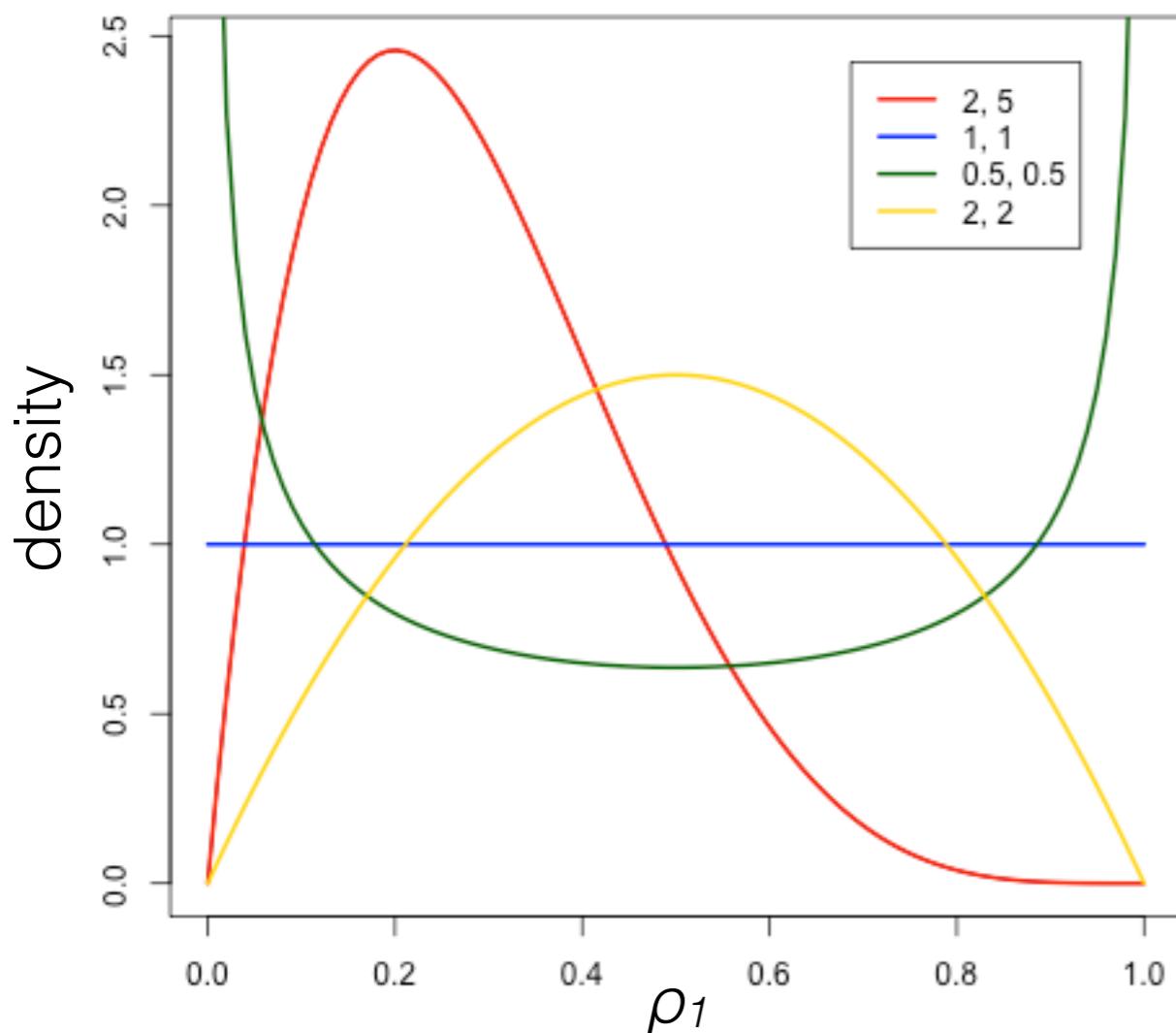


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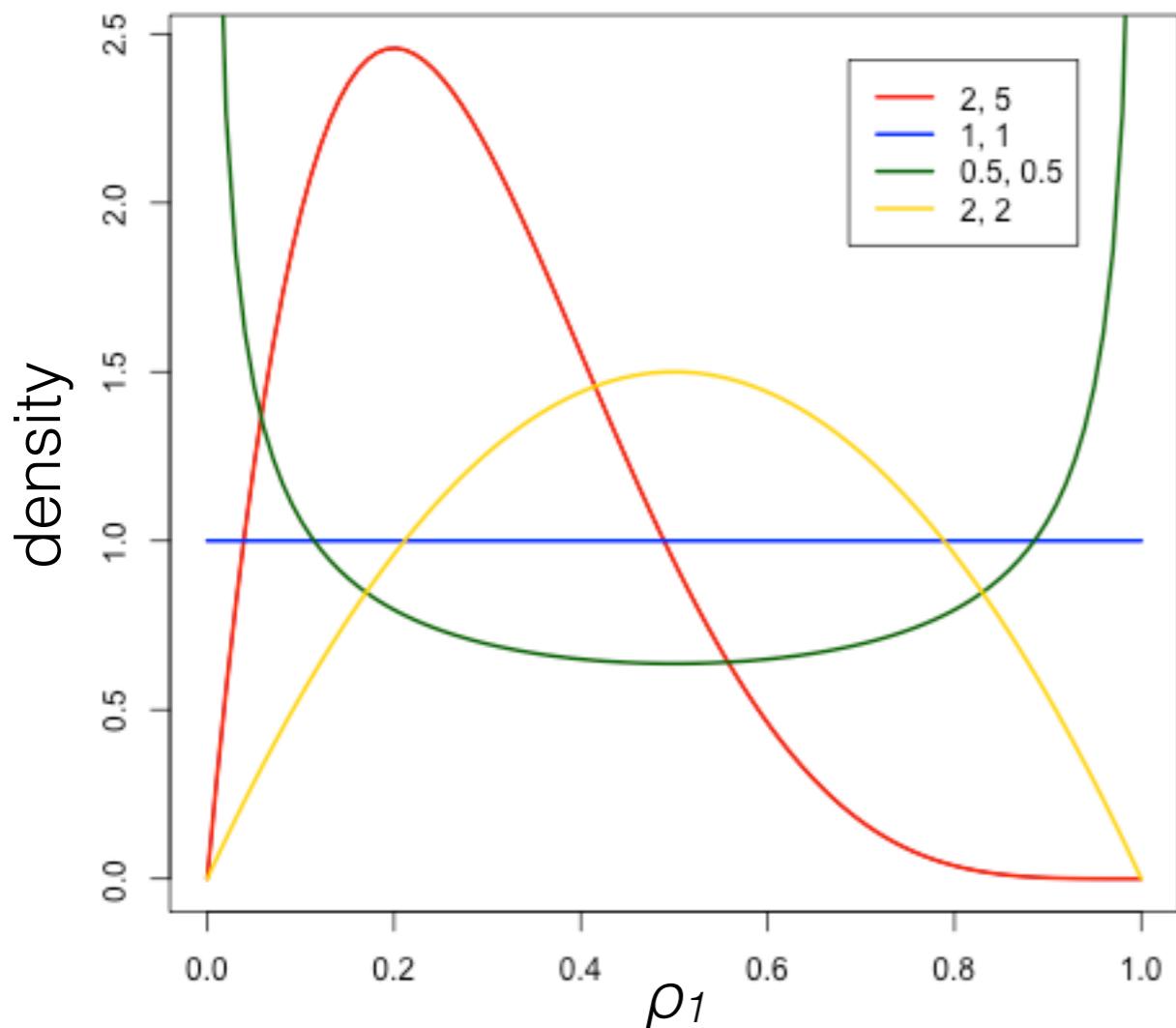
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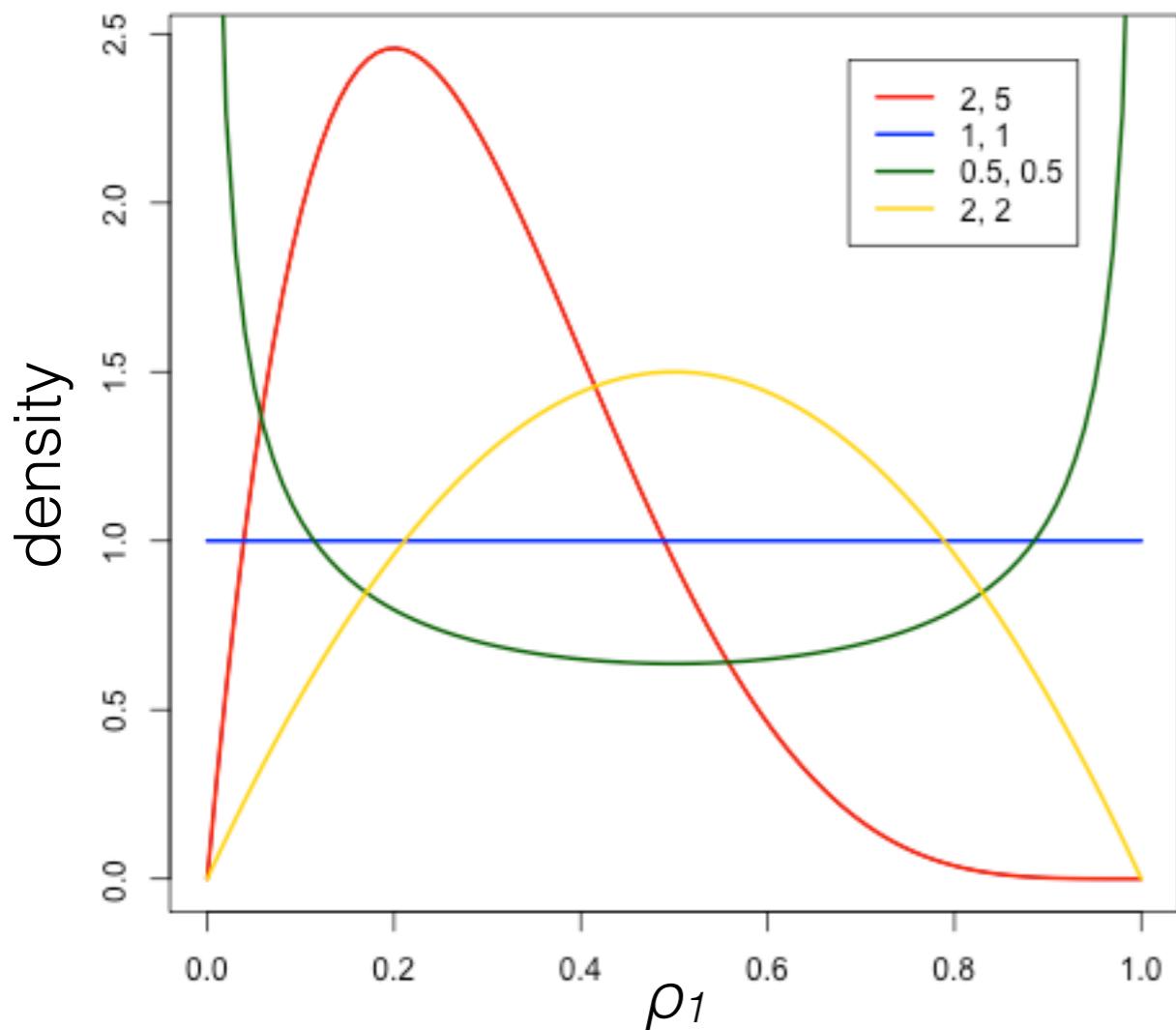


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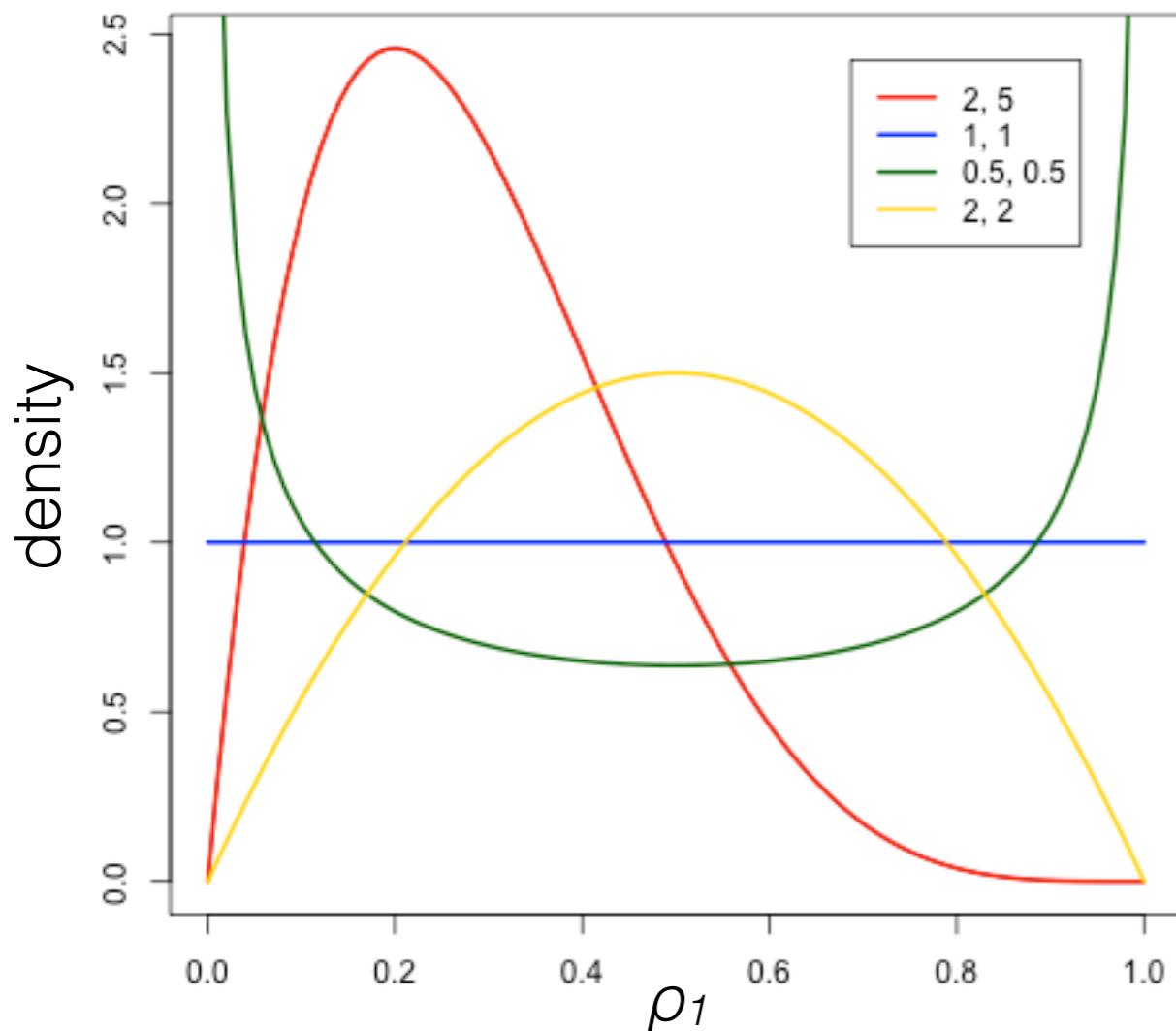
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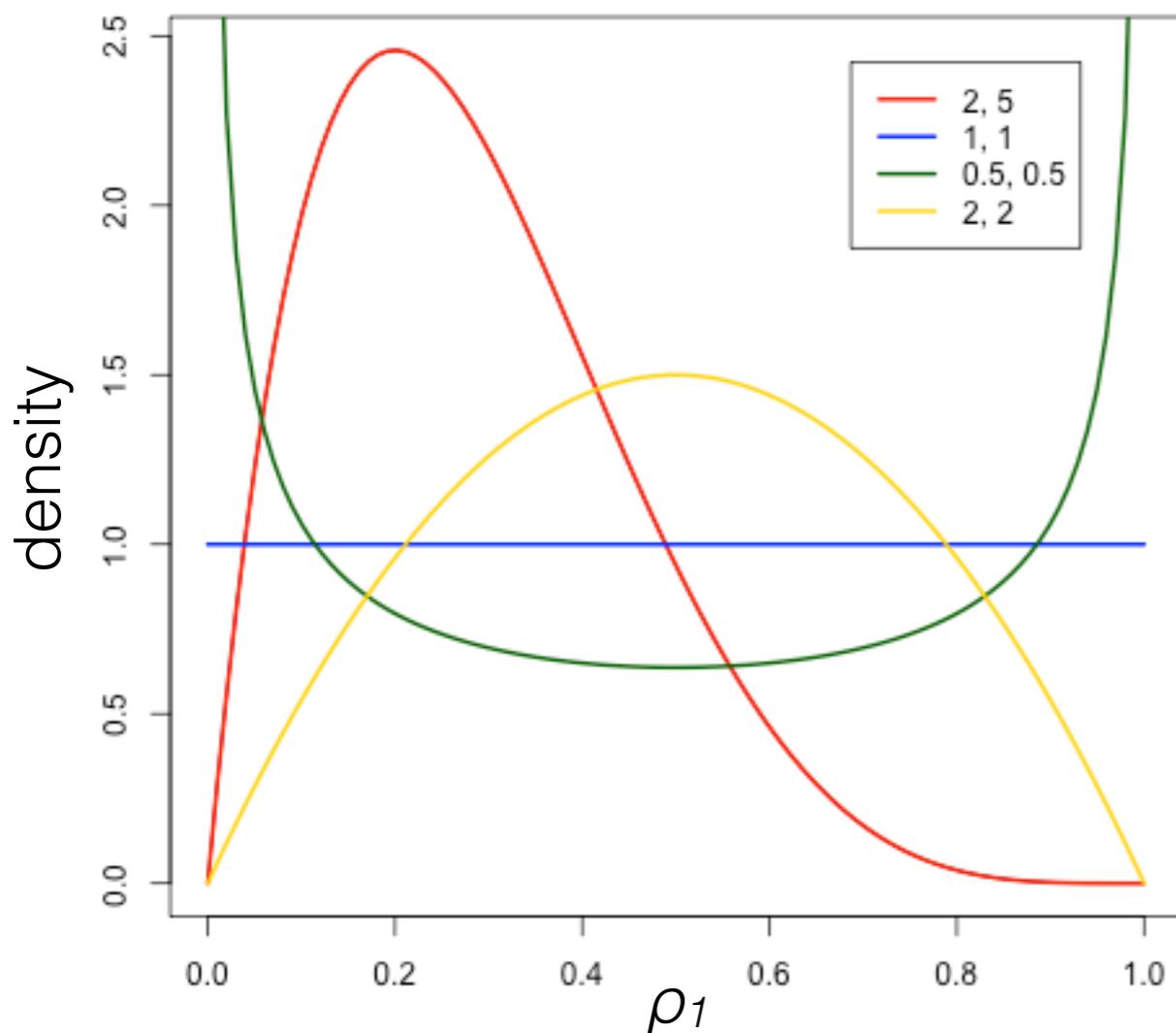
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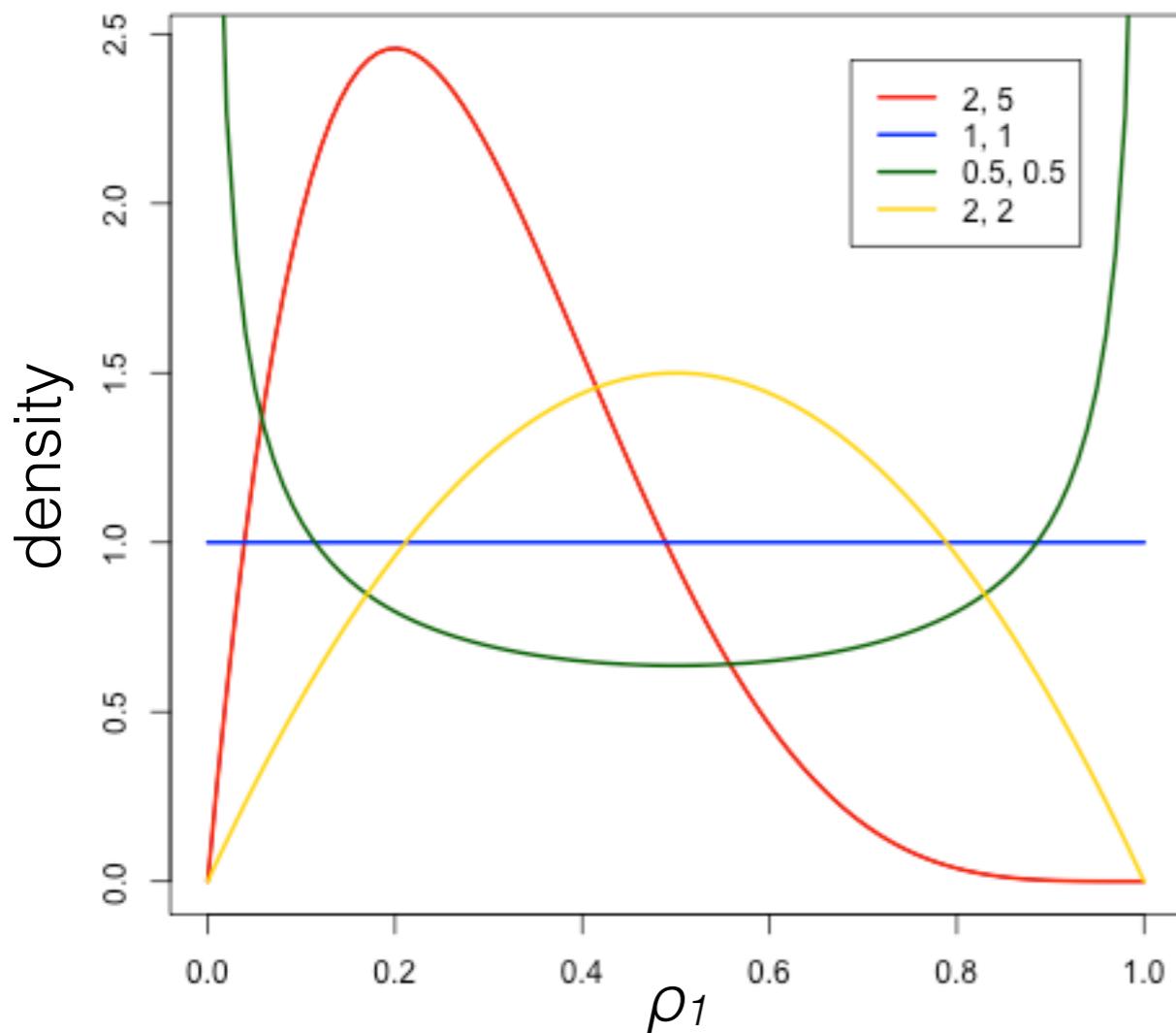
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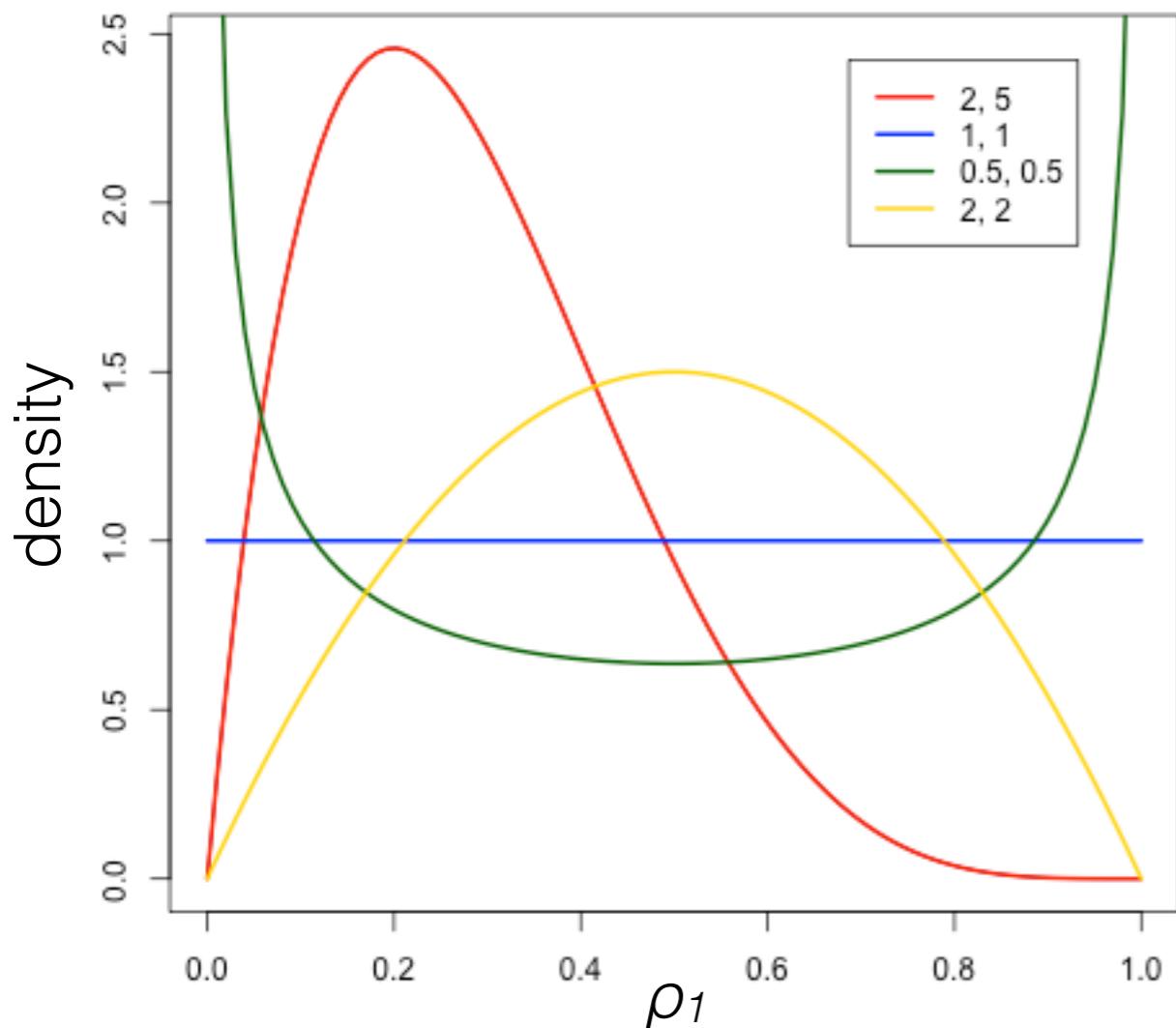
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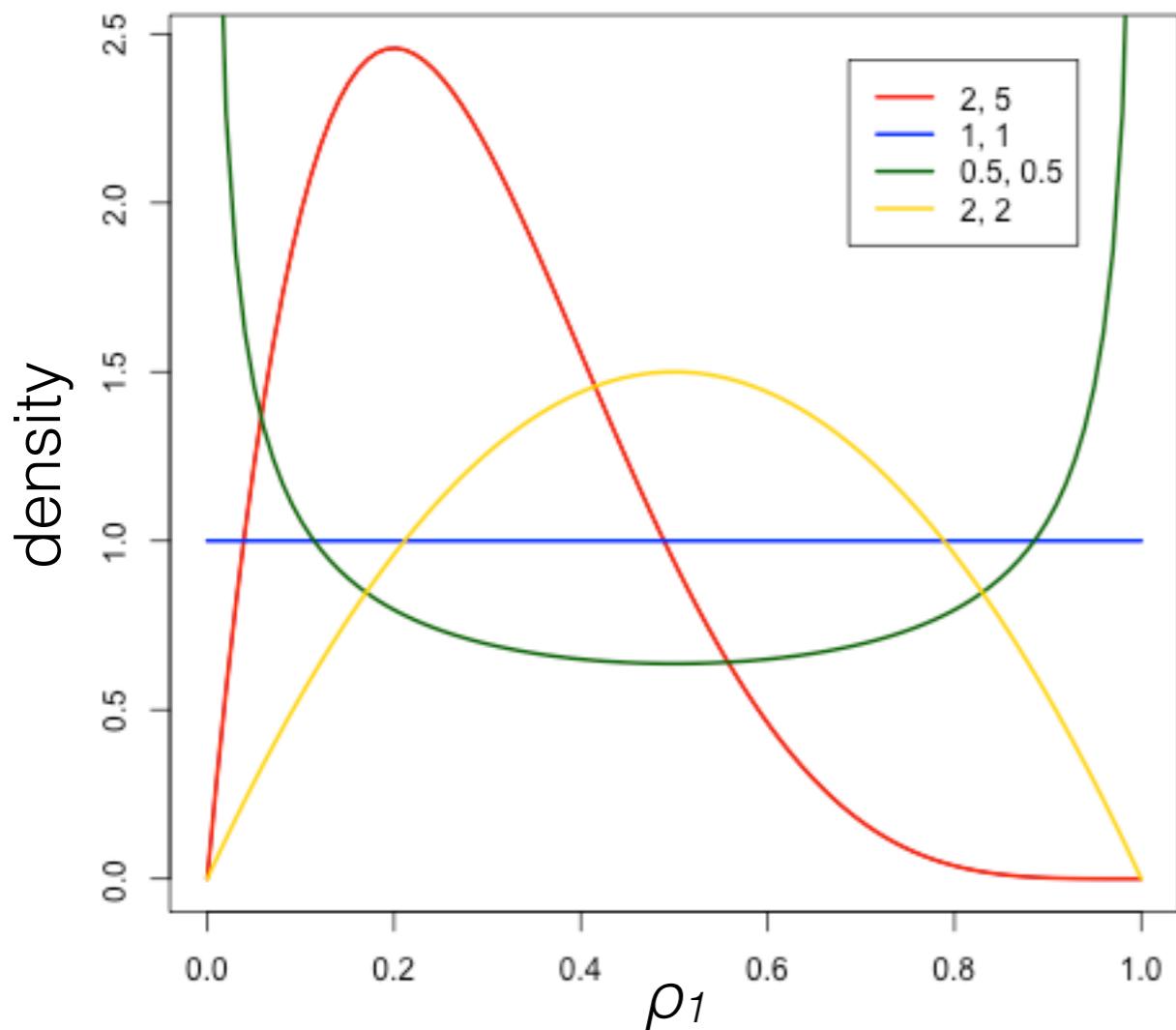
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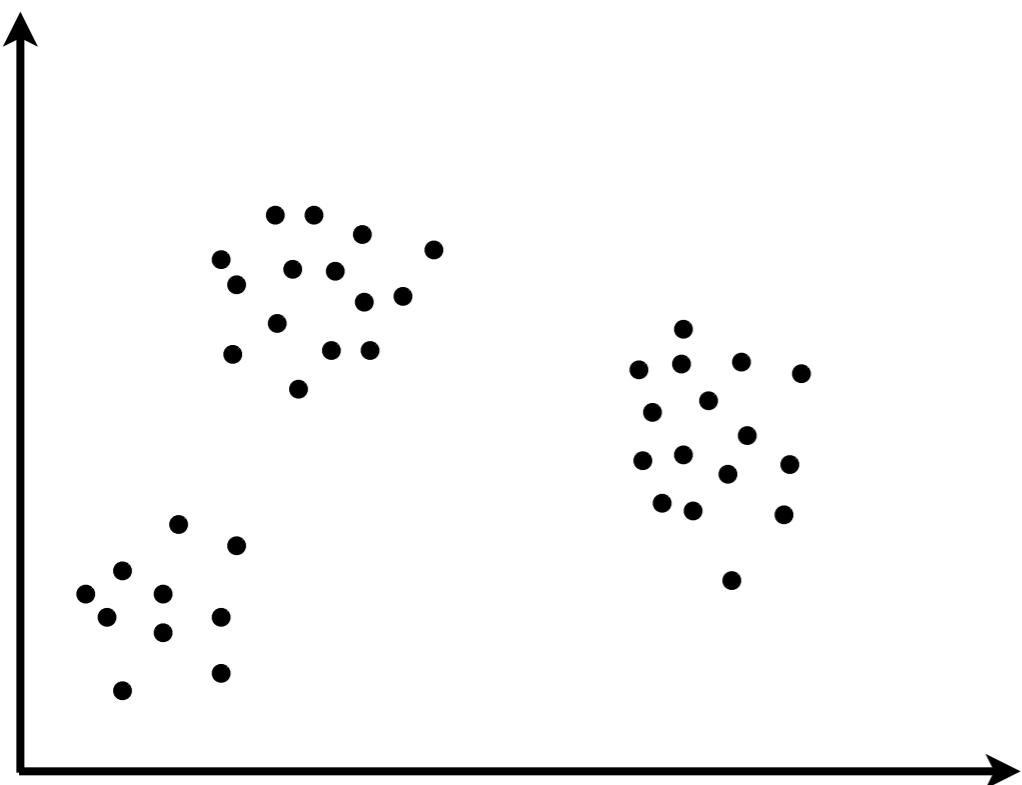
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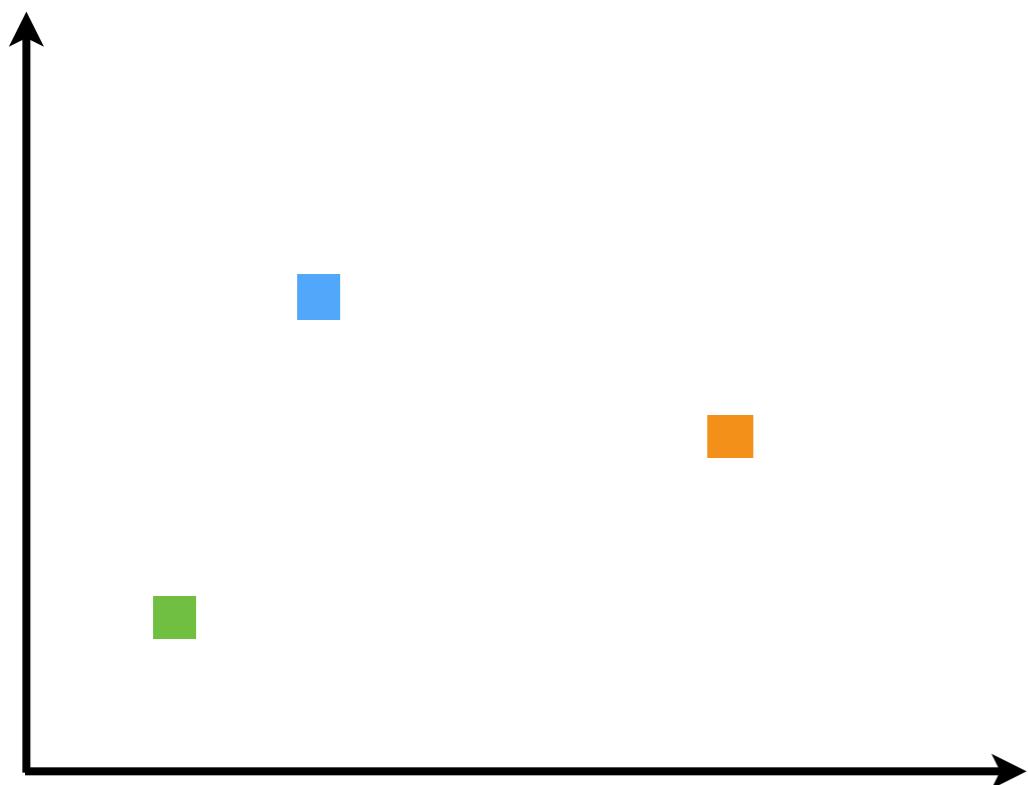
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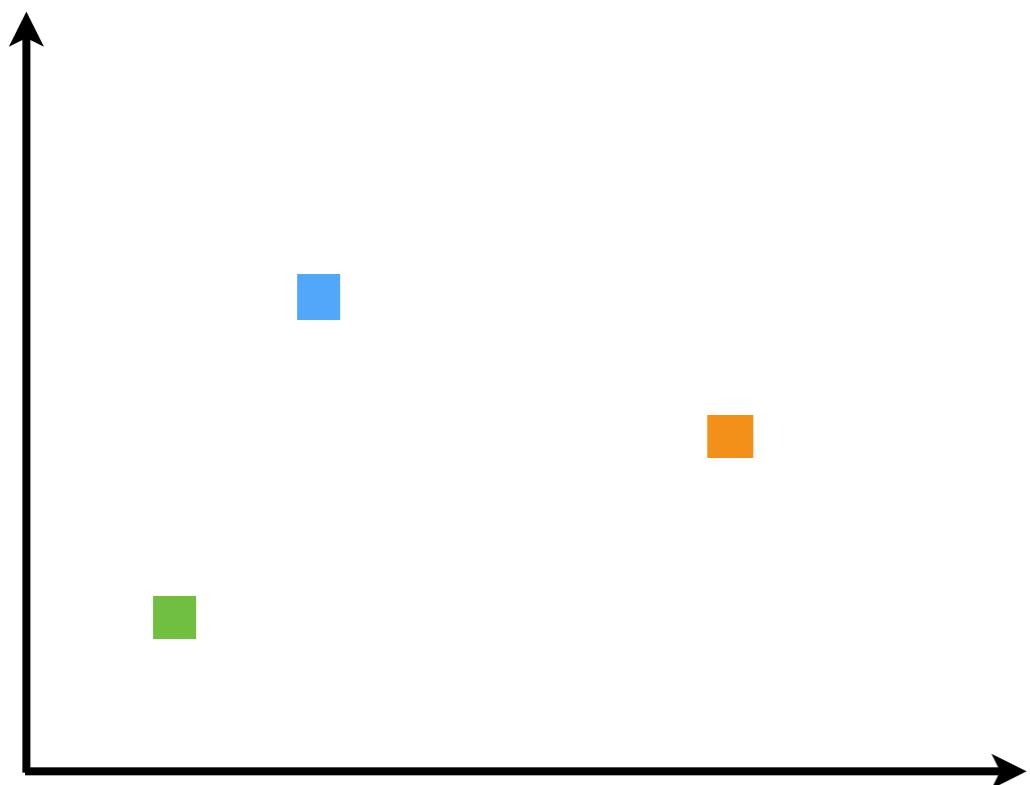
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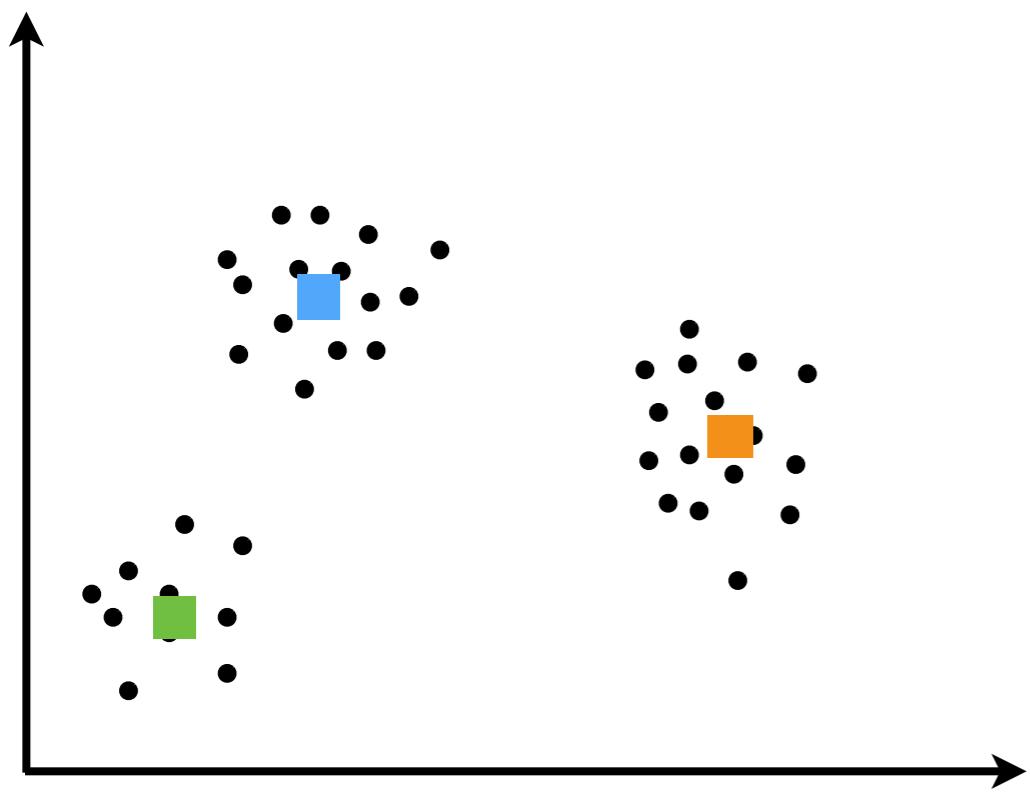
$\rho_1$

$\rho_2$

$\rho_3$

# Generative model

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{parameters}|\text{data}) \propto \mathbb{P}(\text{data}|\text{parameters})\mathbb{P}(\text{parameters})$$



- Finite Gaussian mixture model ( $K$  clusters)

$$\rho_{1:K} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(a_{1:K})$$

$$\mu_k \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0)$$

$$z_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Categorical}(\rho_{1:K})$$

$$x_n \stackrel{indep}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_{z_n}, \Sigma)$$



$\rho_1$

$\rho_2$

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# Dirichlet distribution review

$$\text{Dirichlet}(\rho_{1:K} | a_{1:K}) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K a_k)}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(a_k)} \prod_{k=1}^K \rho_k^{a_k - 1} \quad a_k > 0$$

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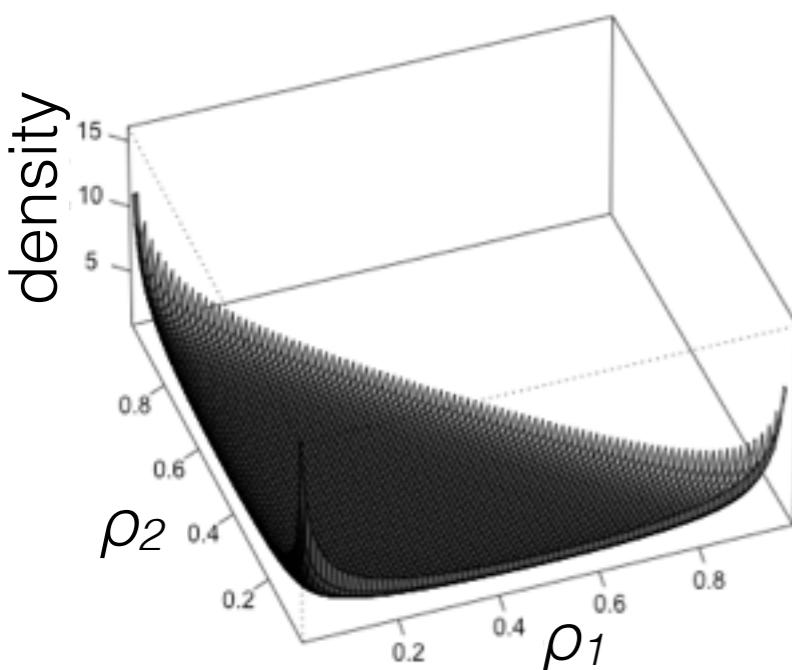
- What happens?

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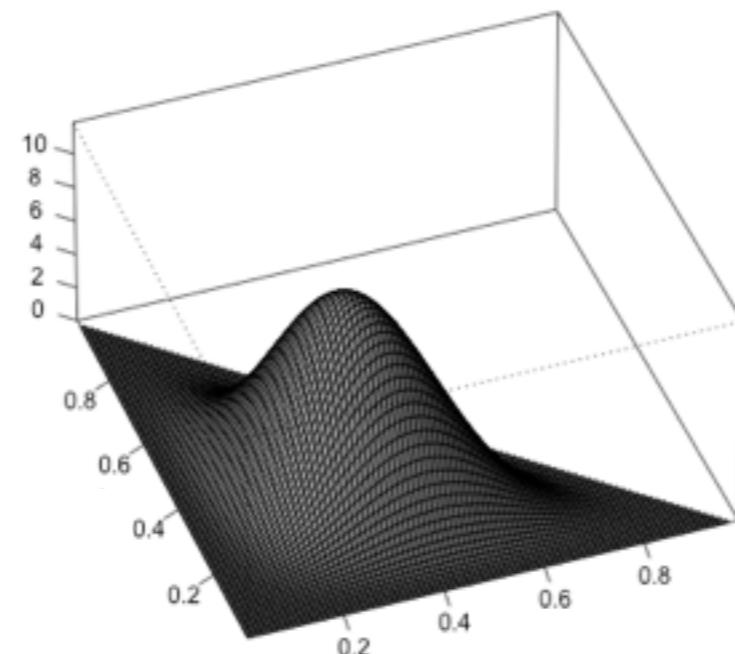
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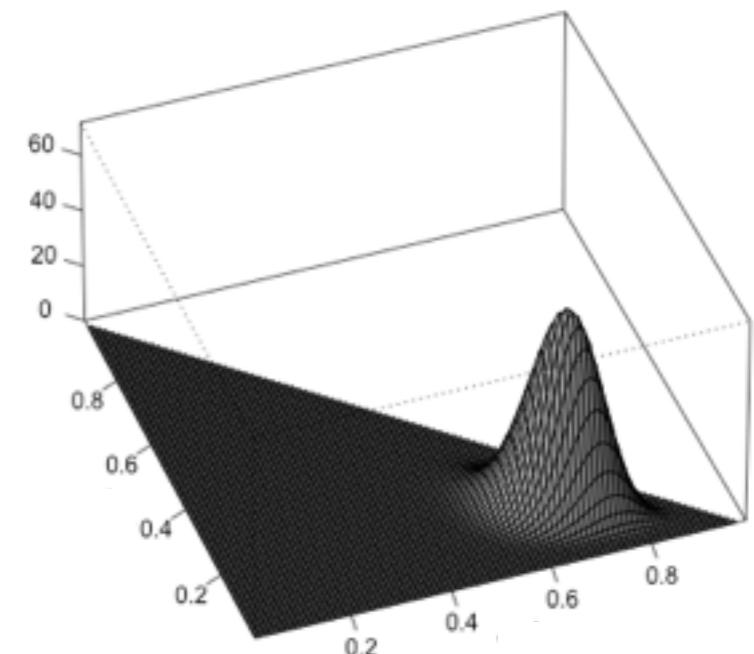
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$a = (40, 10, 10)$



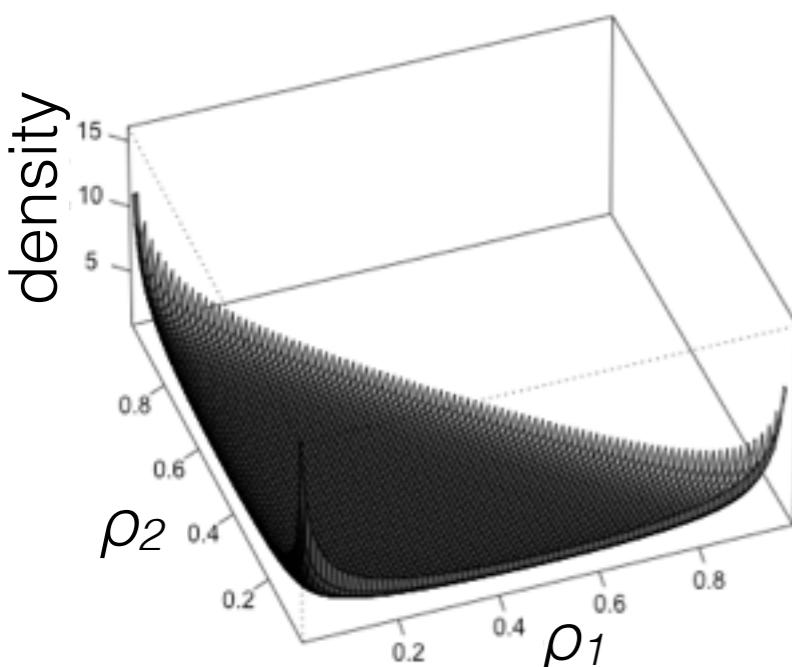
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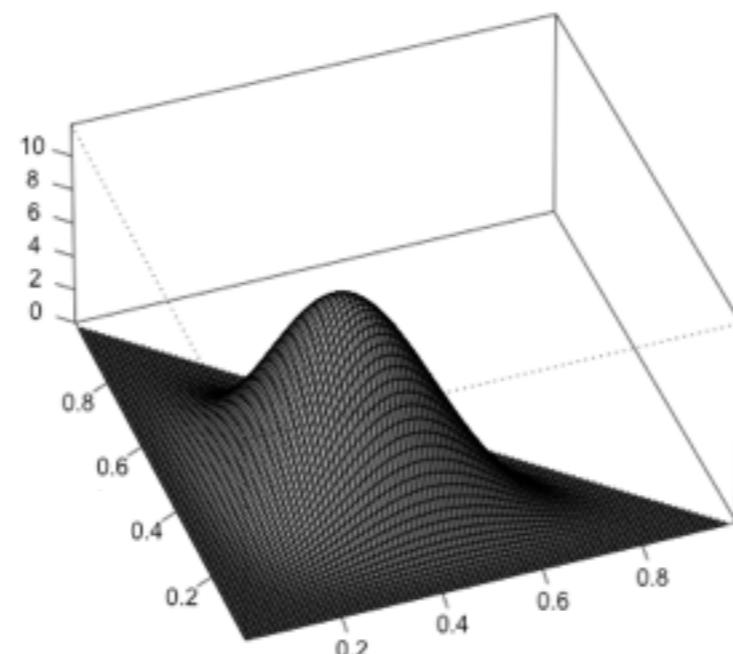
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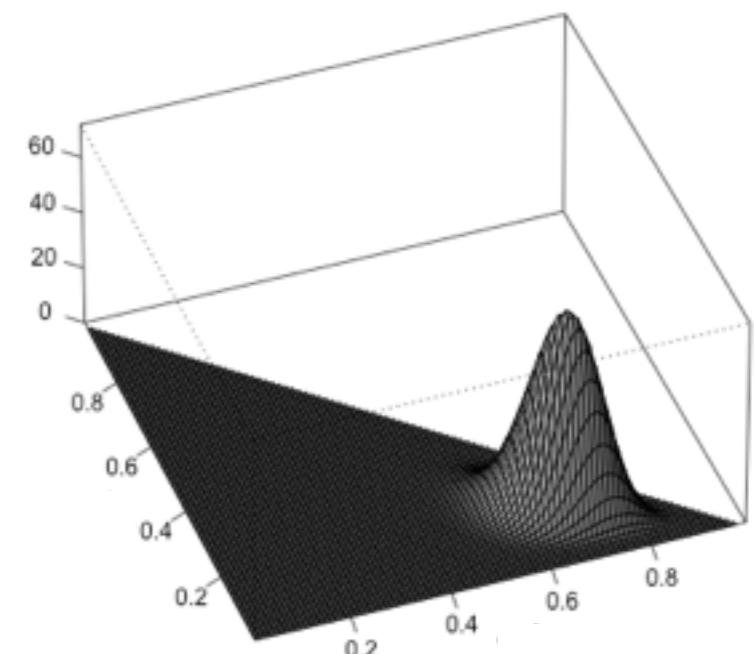
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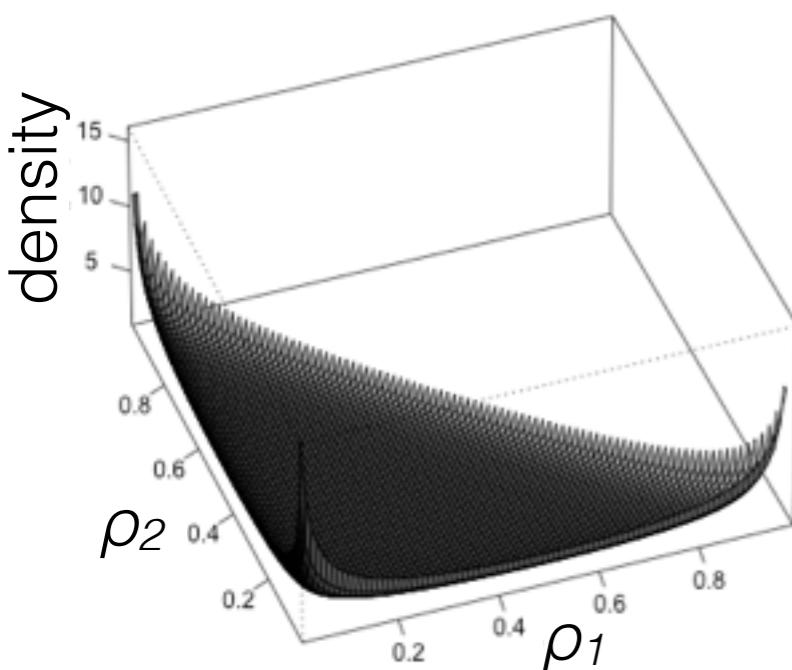
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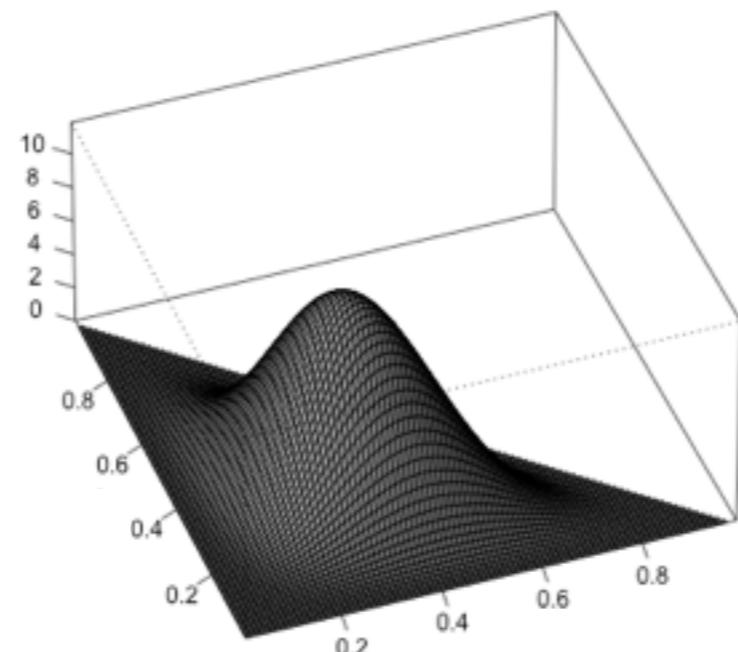
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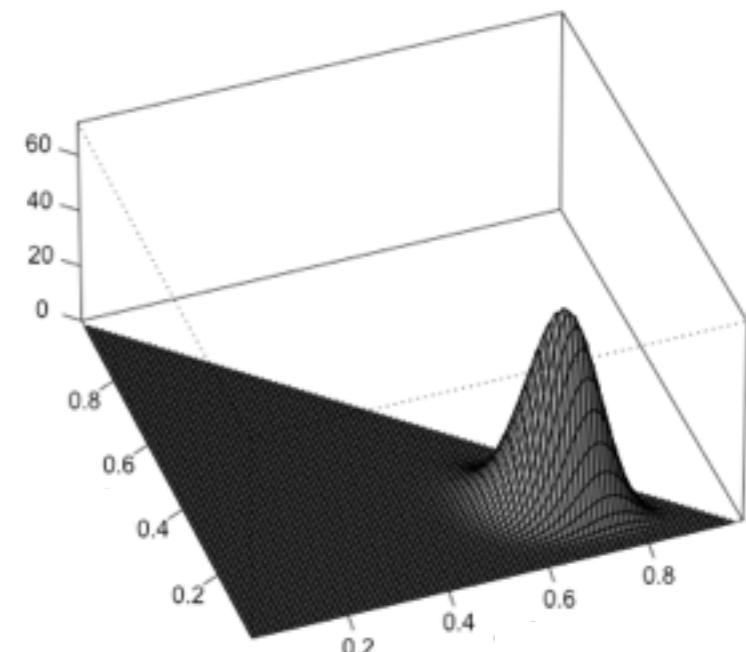
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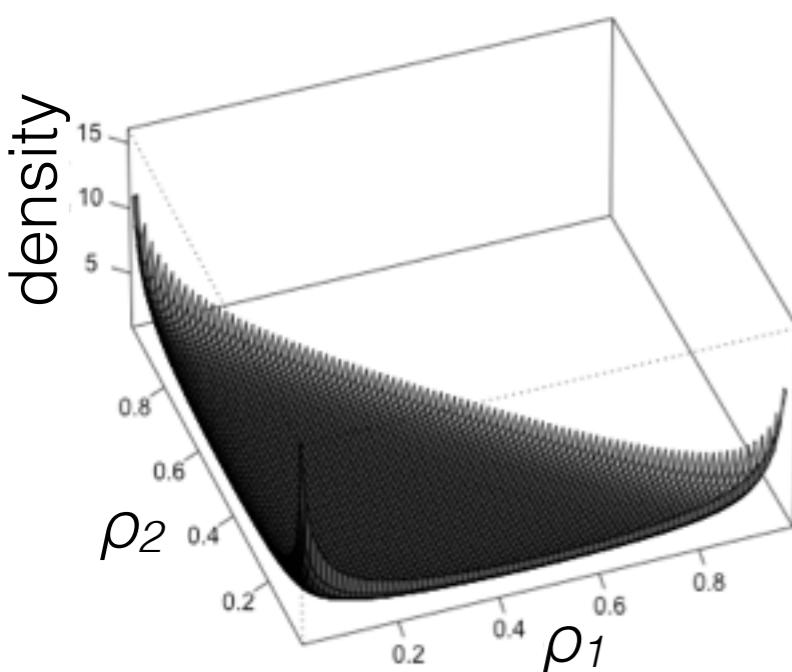
[demo]

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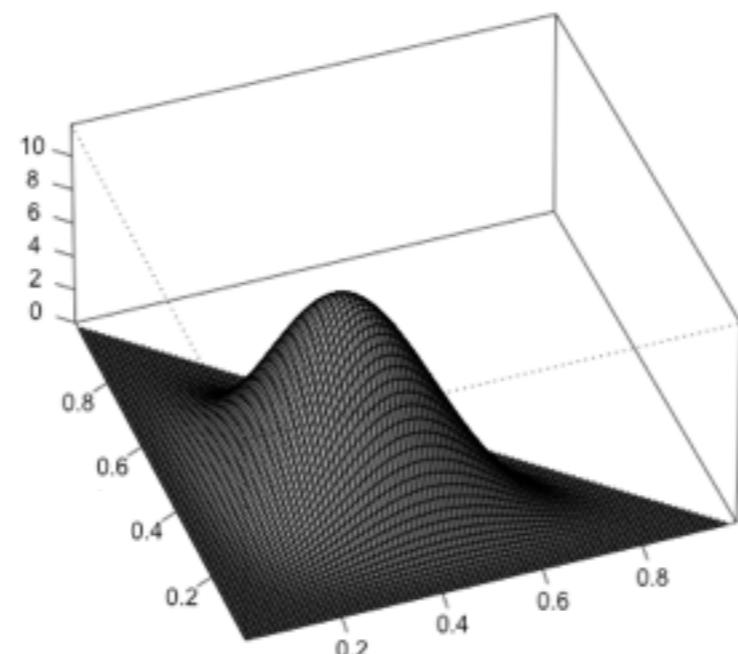
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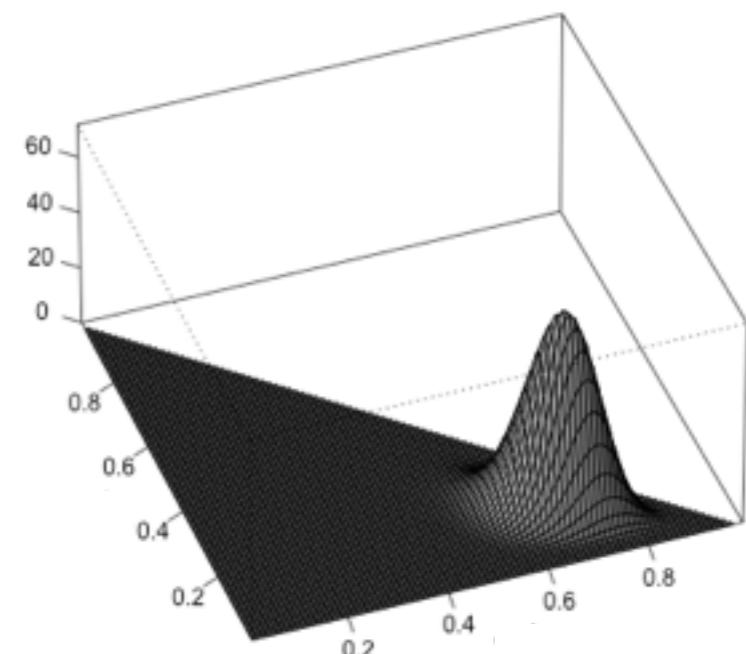
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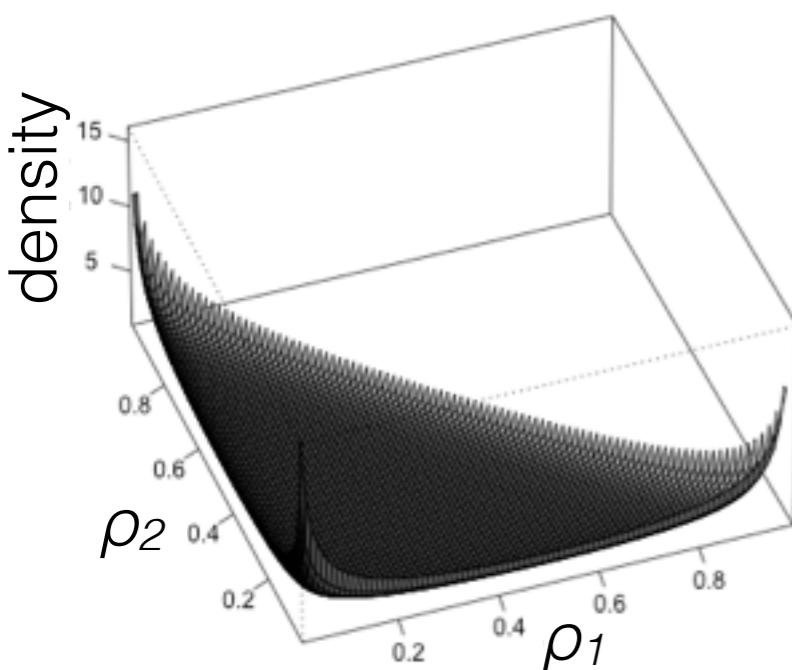
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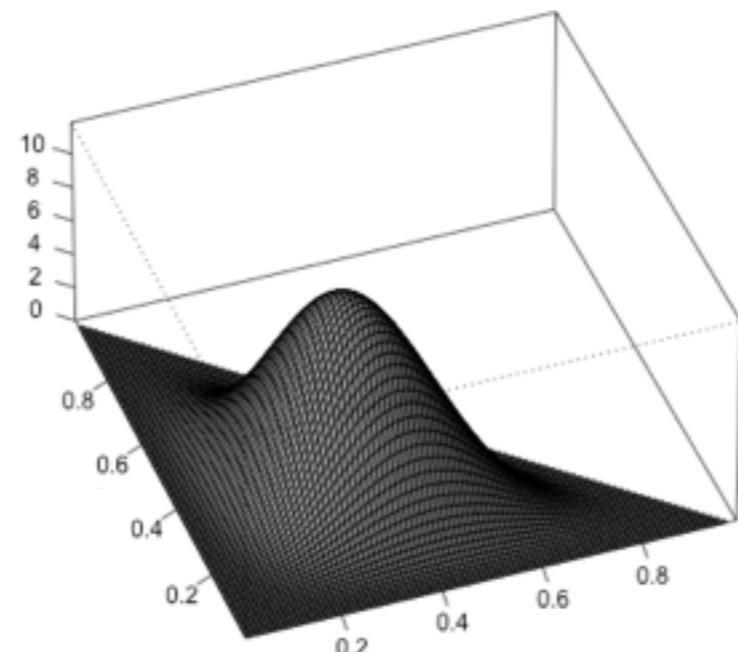
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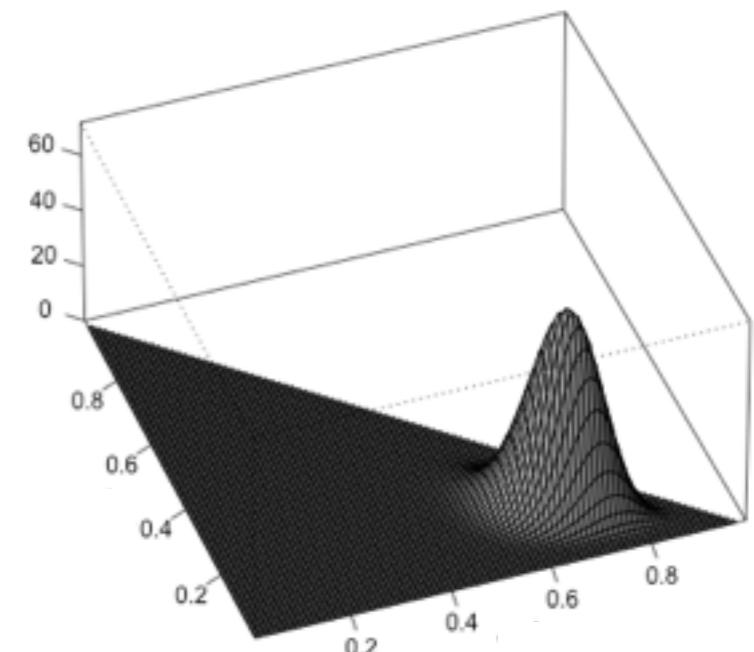
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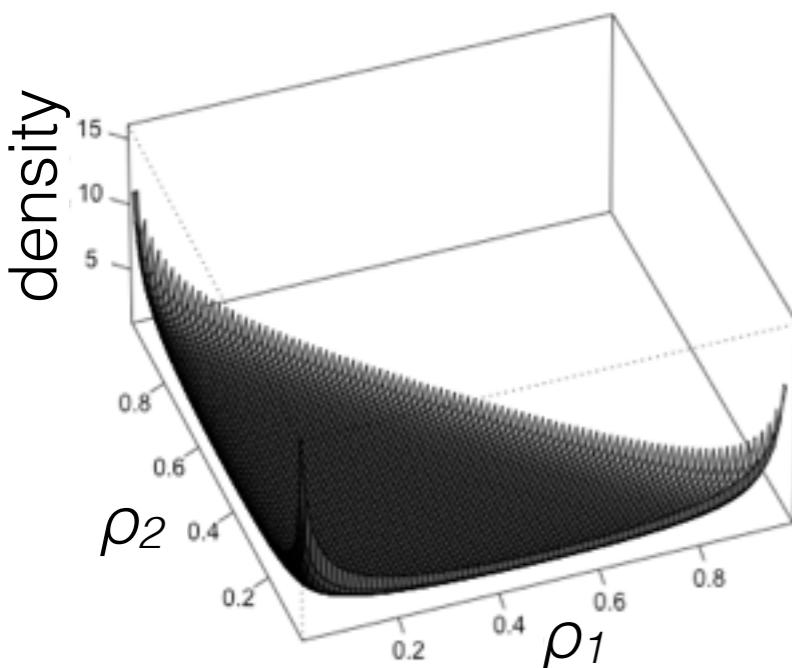
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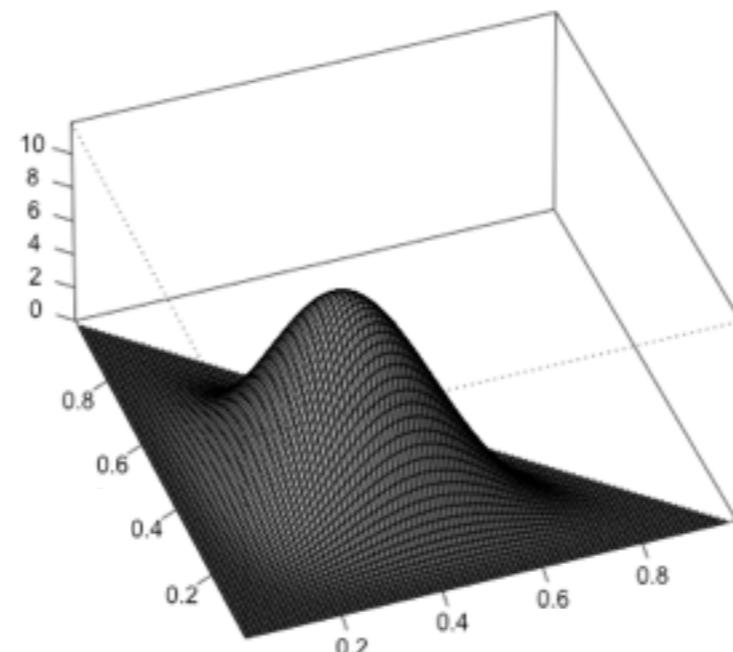
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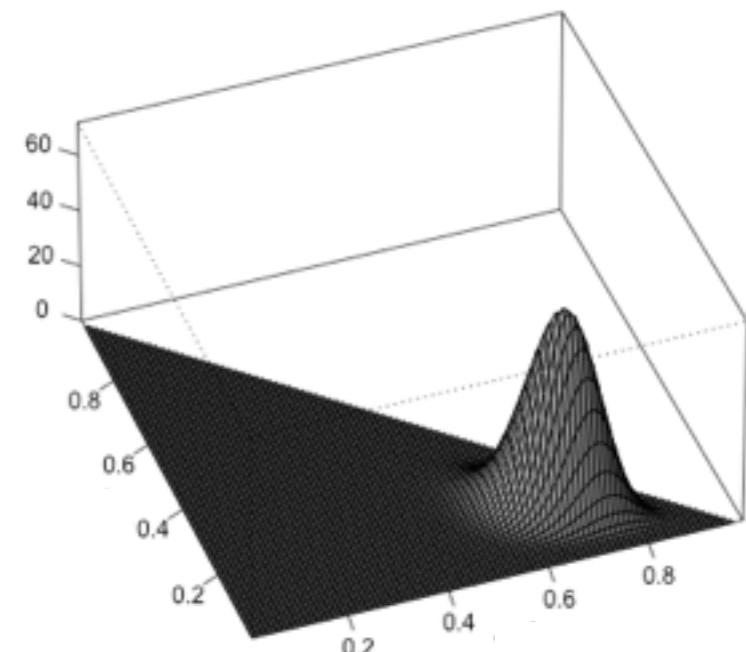
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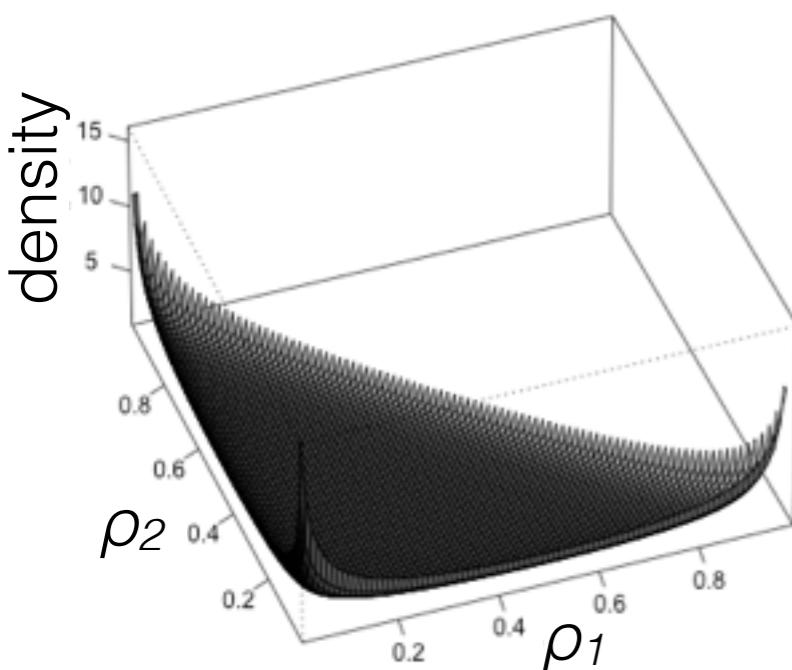
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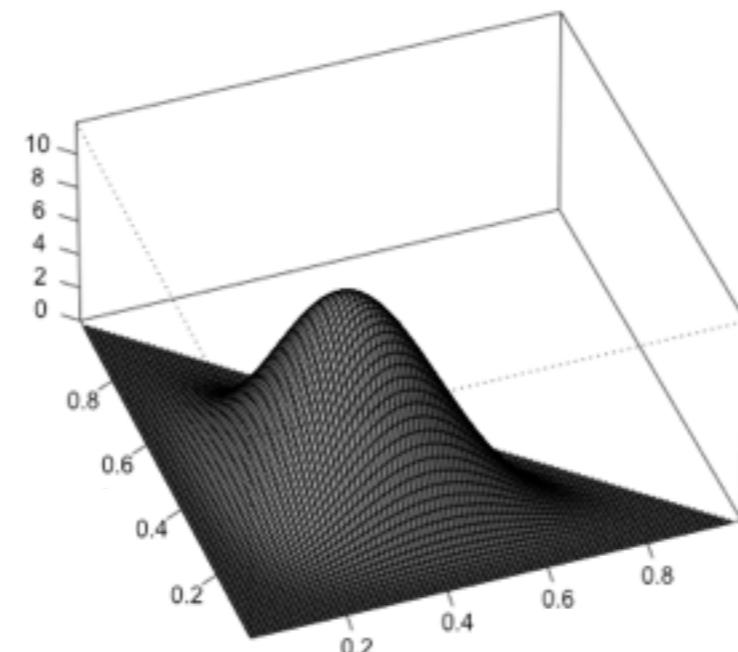
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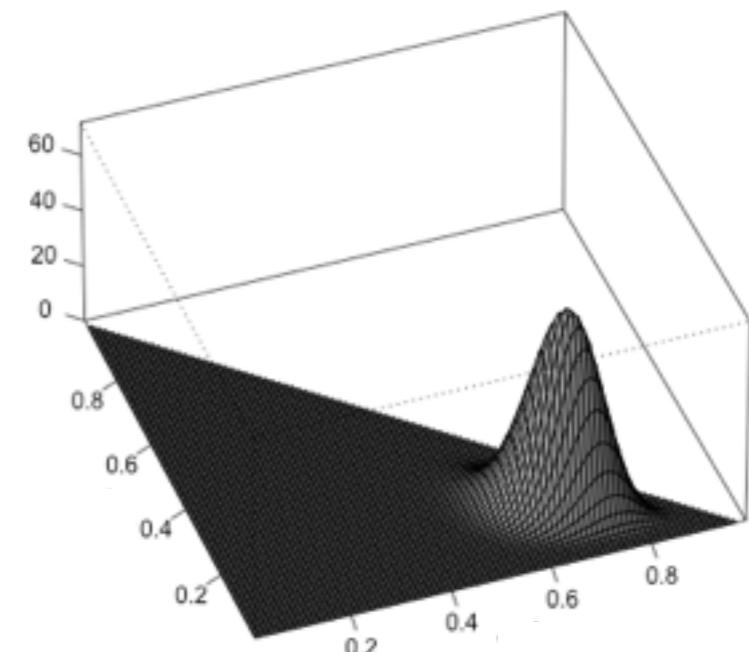
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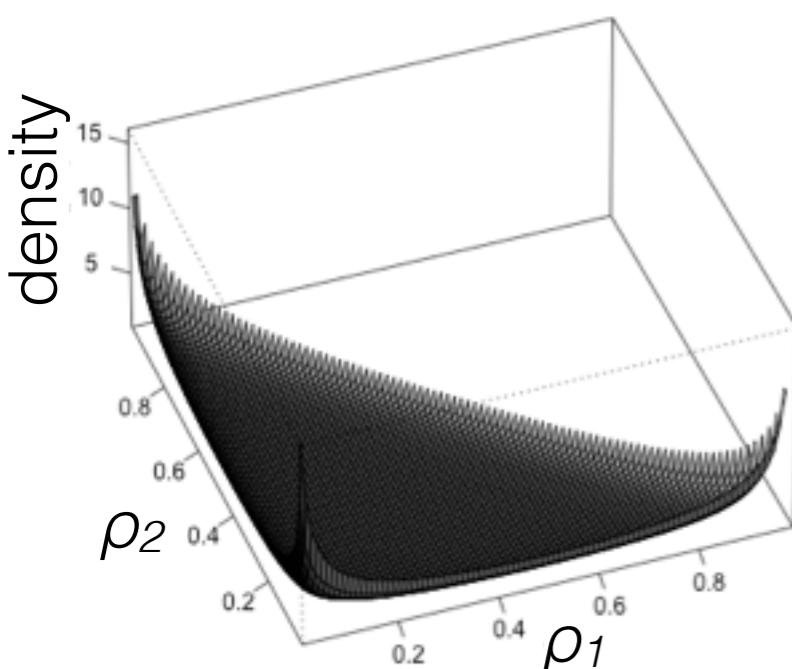
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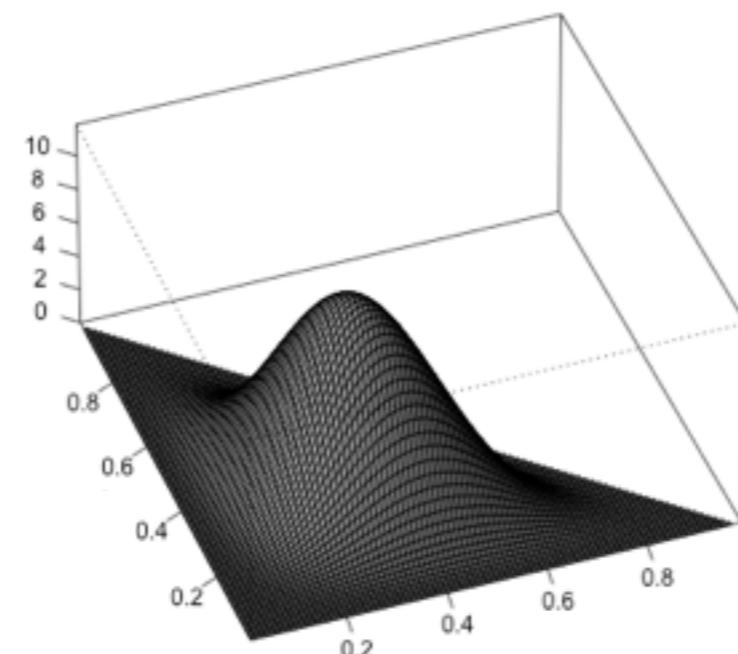
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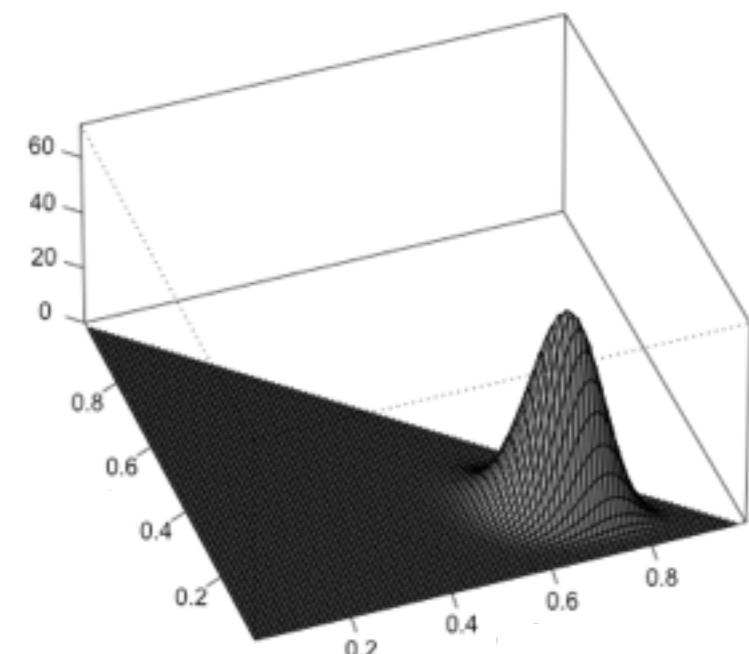
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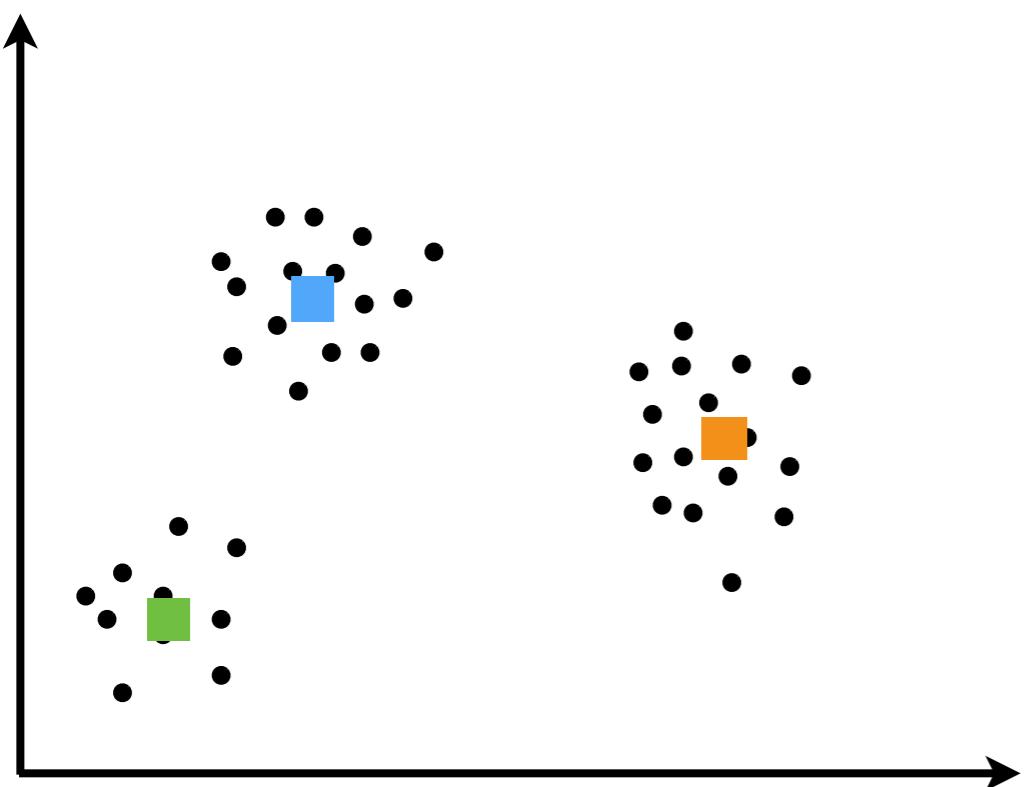
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- $$\rho_{1:K} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(a_{1:K}), z \sim \text{Cat}(\rho_{1:K})$$
- $$\rho_{1:K} | z \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Dirichlet}(a'_{1:K}), a'_k = a_k + \mathbf{1}\{z = k\}$$

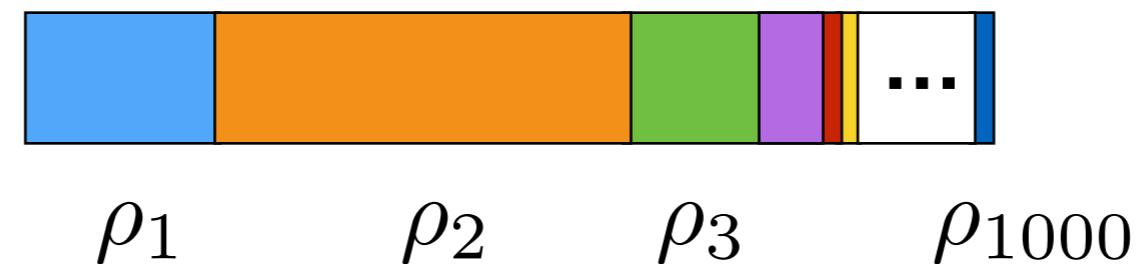
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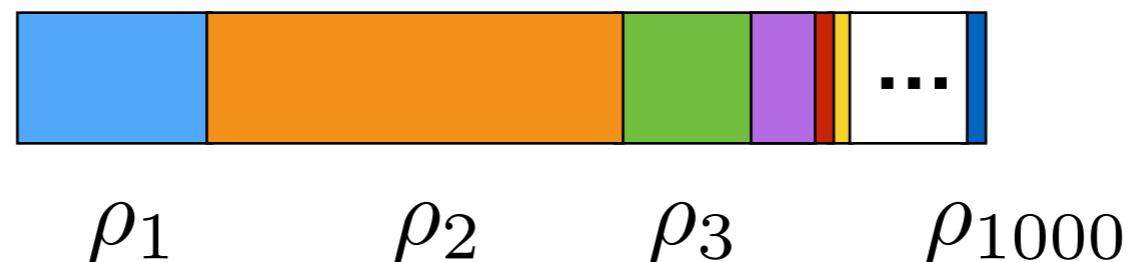
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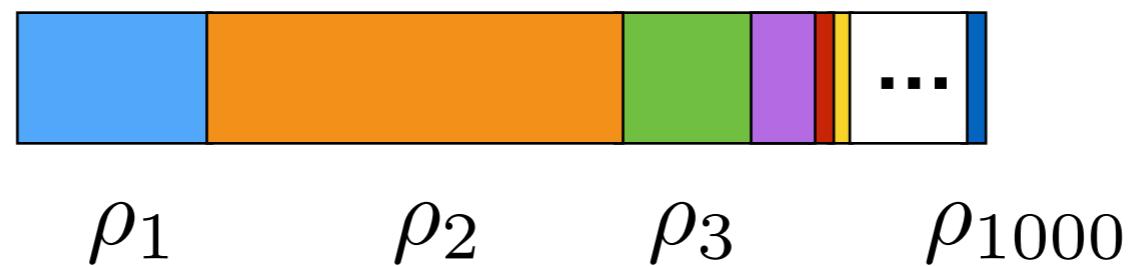
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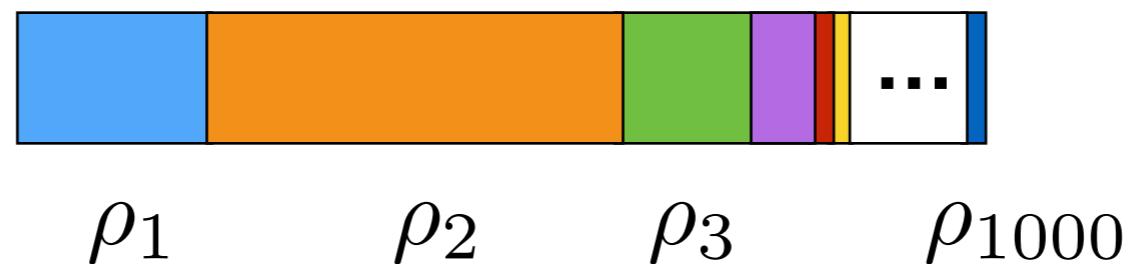
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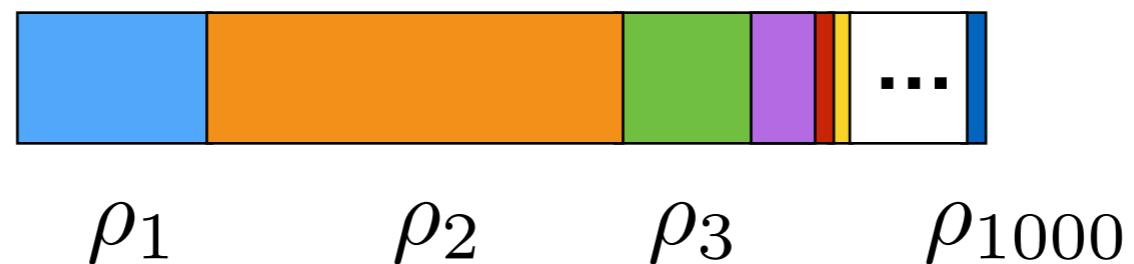
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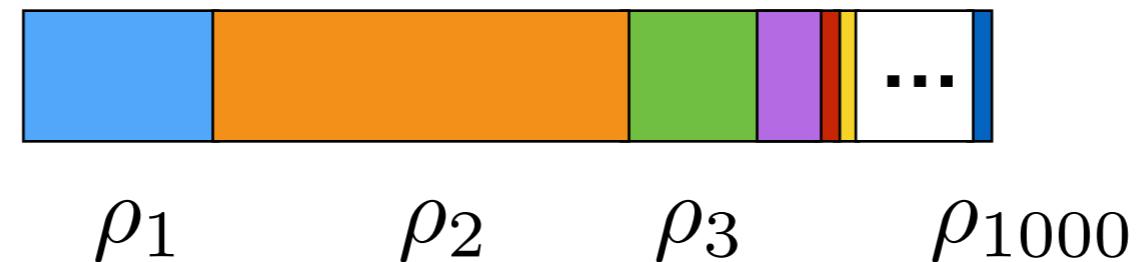
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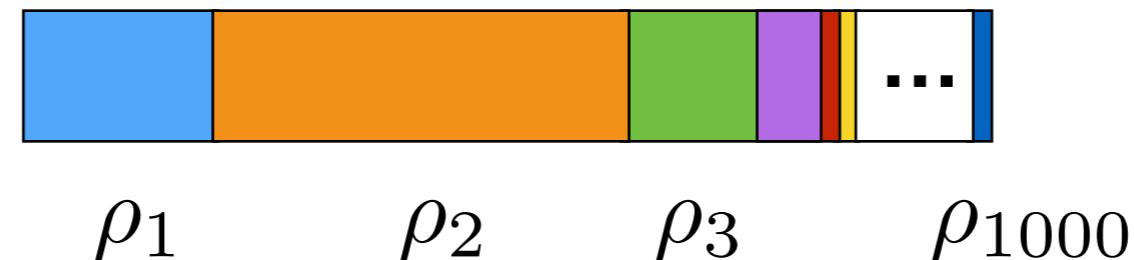
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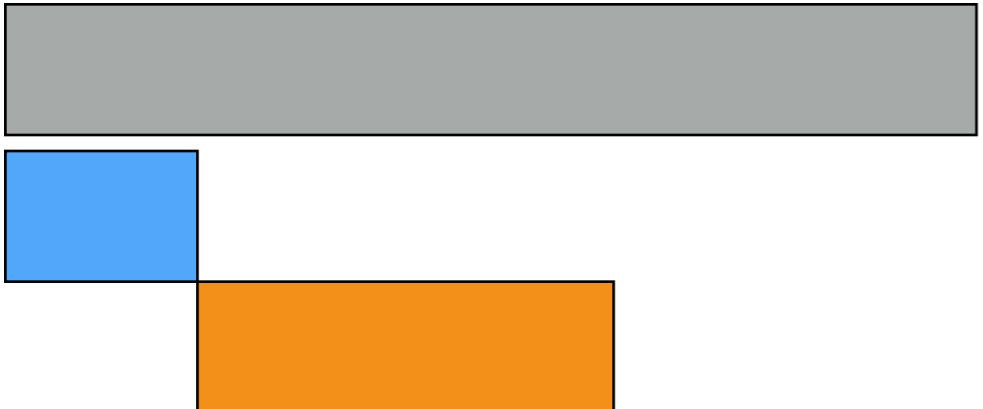
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$$\Leftrightarrow \rho_1 \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Beta}(a_1, \sum_{k=1}^K a_k - a_1) \perp\!\!\!\perp \frac{(\rho_2, \dots, \rho_K)}{1-\rho_1} \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Dirichlet}(a_2, \dots, a_K)$$

- “Stick breaking”

$$V_1 \sim \text{Beta}(a_1, a_2 + a_3 + a_4) \quad \rho_1 = V_1$$
$$V_2 \sim \text{Beta}(a_2, a_3 + a_4) \quad \rho_2 = (1 - V_1)V_2$$
$$V_3 \sim \text{Beta}(a_3, a_4)$$

# Choosing $K = \infty$

- Here, difficult to choose finite  $K$  in advance (contrast with small  $K$ ): don't know  $K$ , difficult to infer, streaming data
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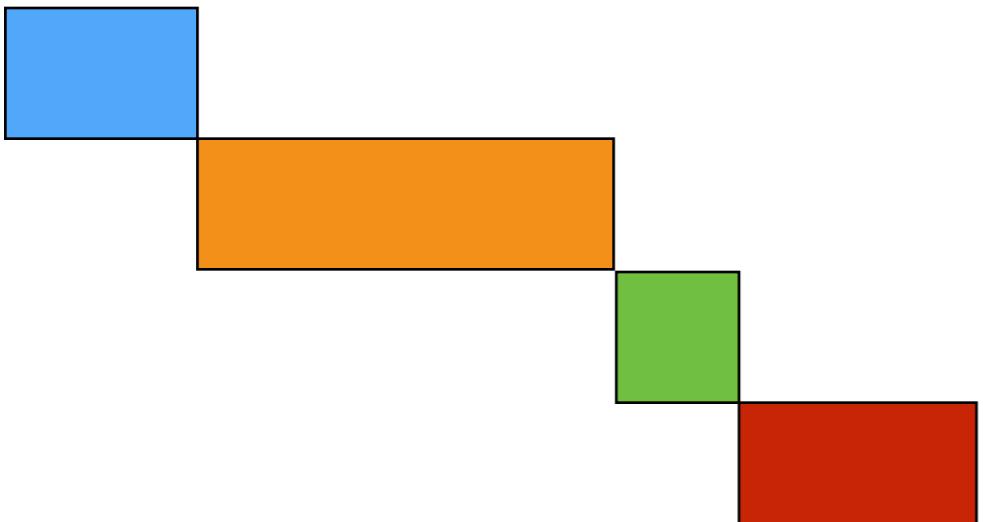
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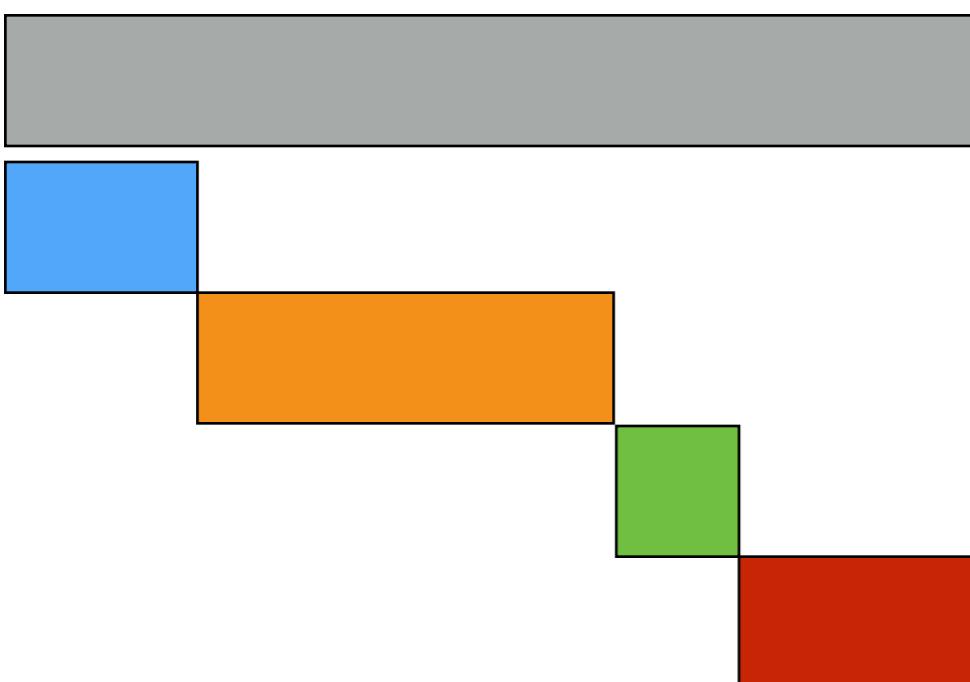
$$V_2 \sim \text{Beta}(a_2, a_3 + a_4) \quad \rho_2 = (1 - V_1)V_2$$

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$$\rho_4 = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^3 \rho_k$$

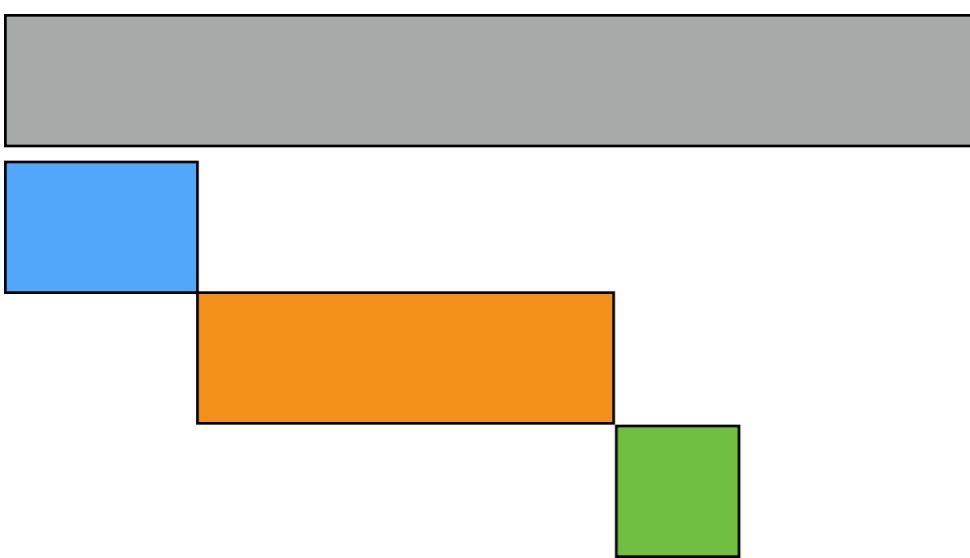
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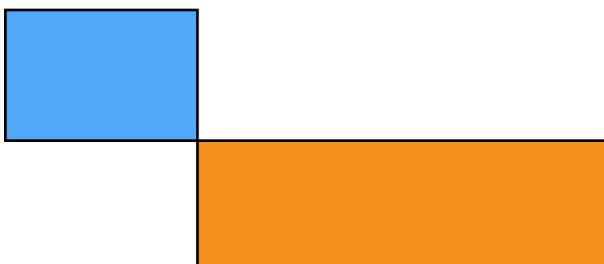


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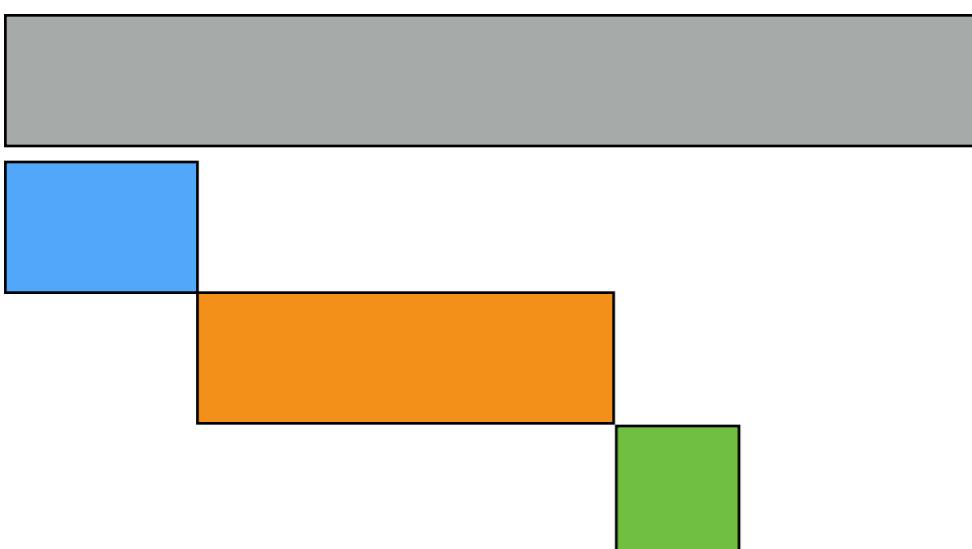
$$\rho_1 = V_1$$

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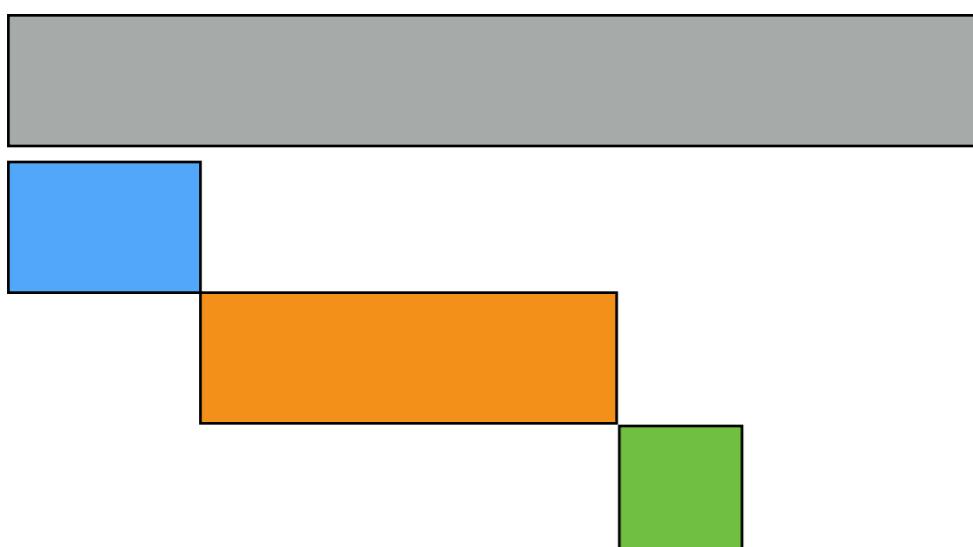
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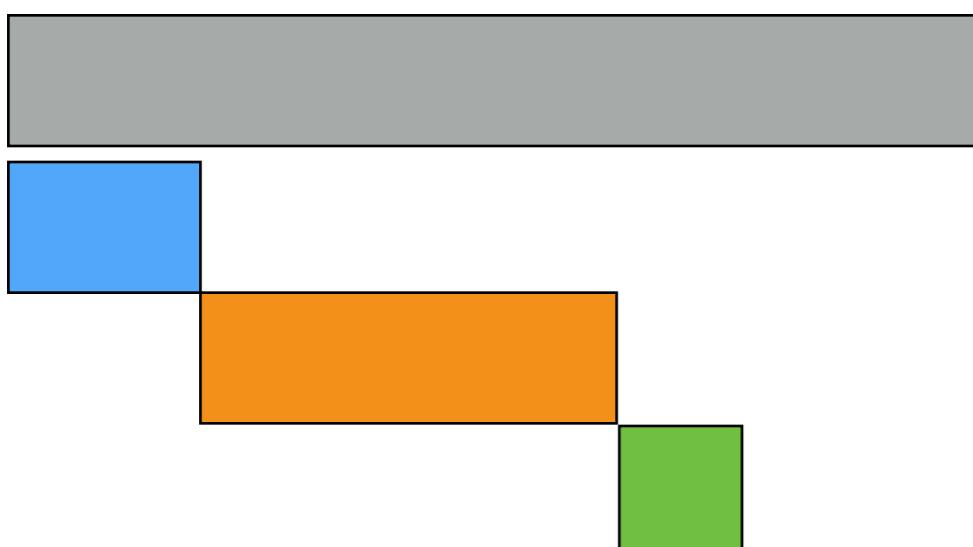
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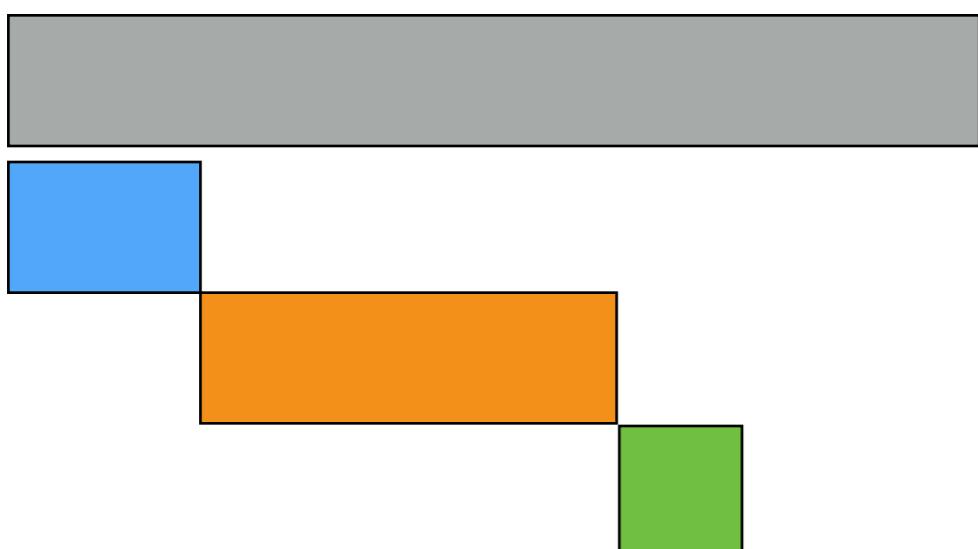
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...

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# Choosing $K = \infty$

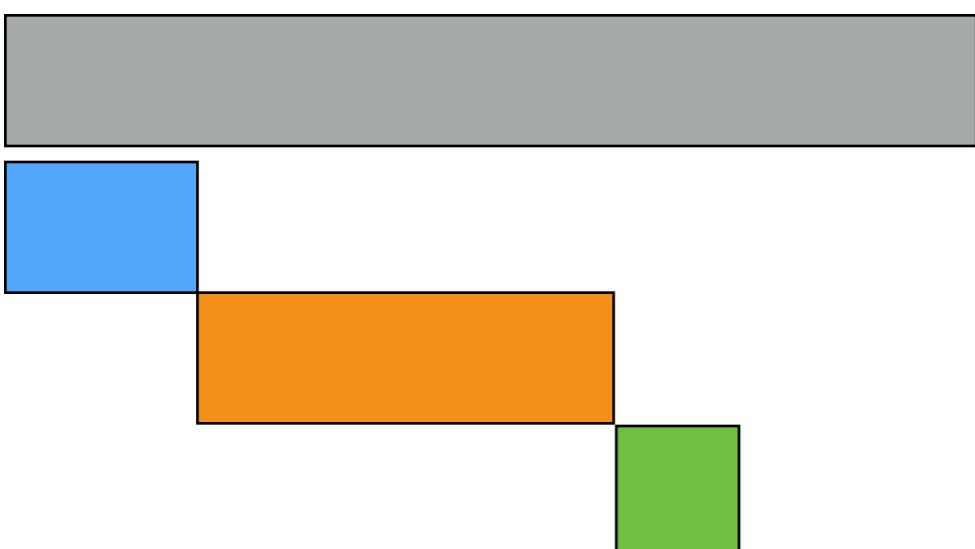
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⋮

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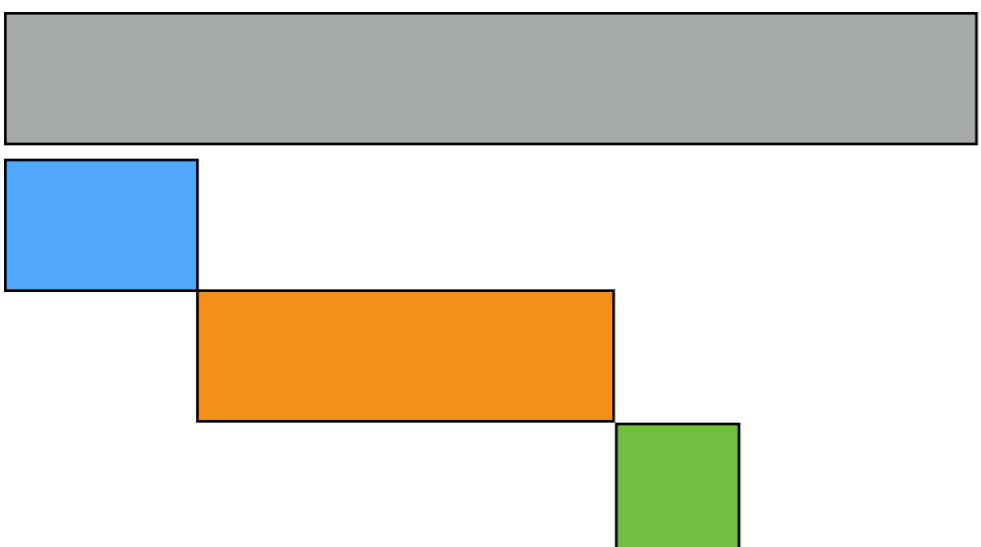
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[van der Vaart, Ghosal 2017]

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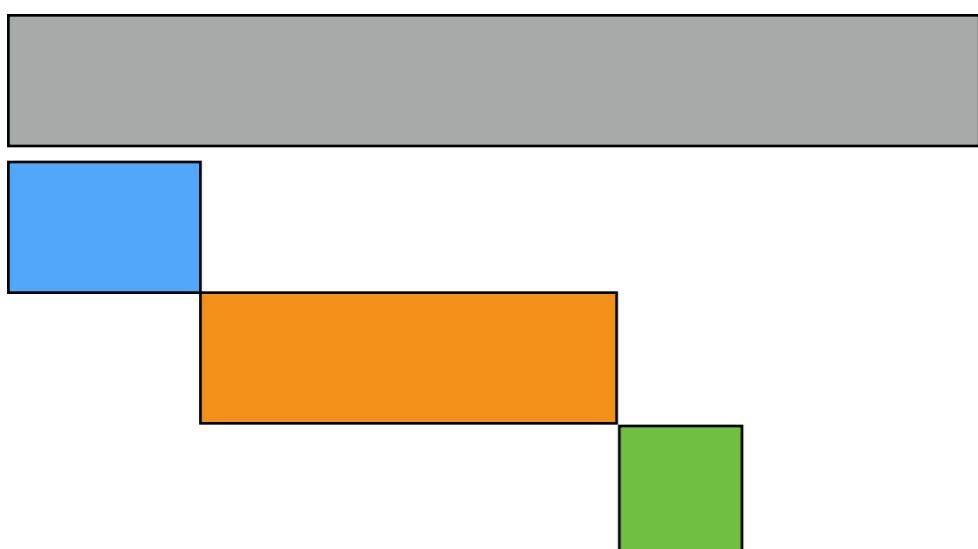
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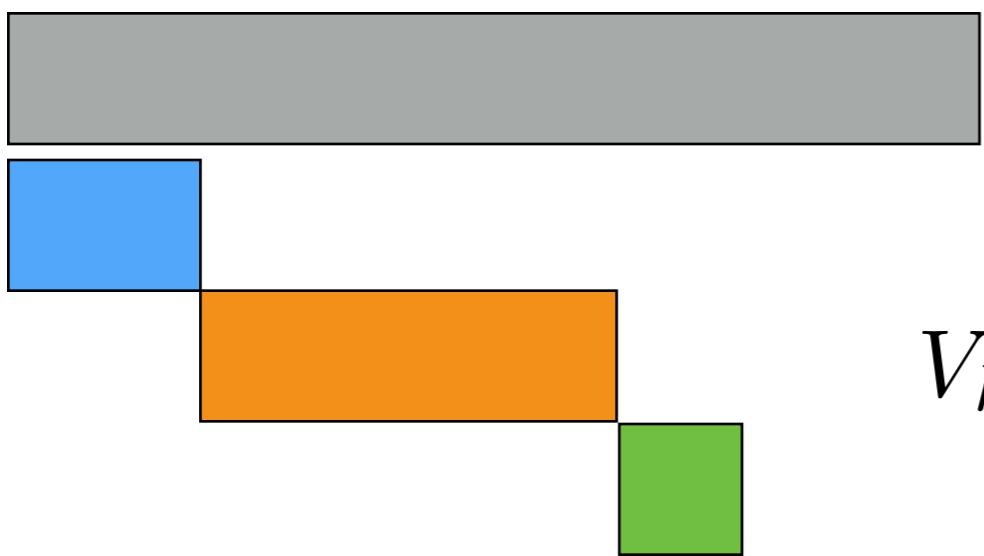


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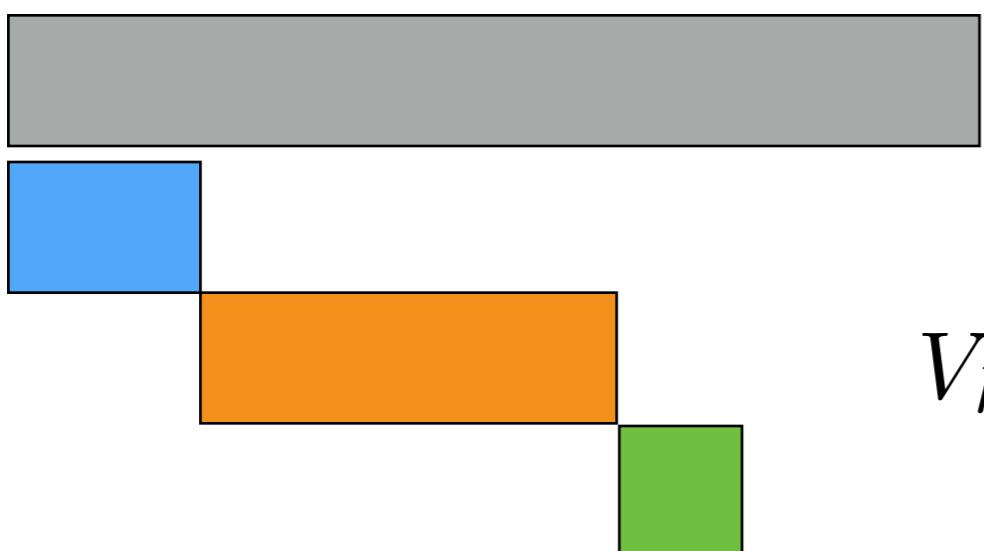
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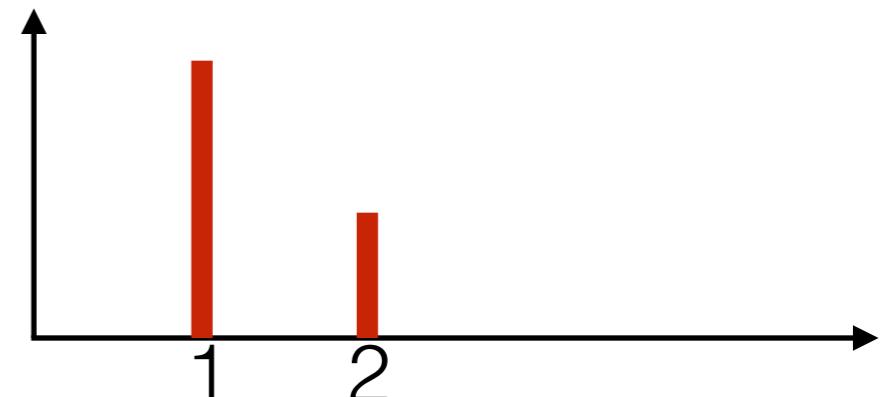
...

[demo]

# Distributions

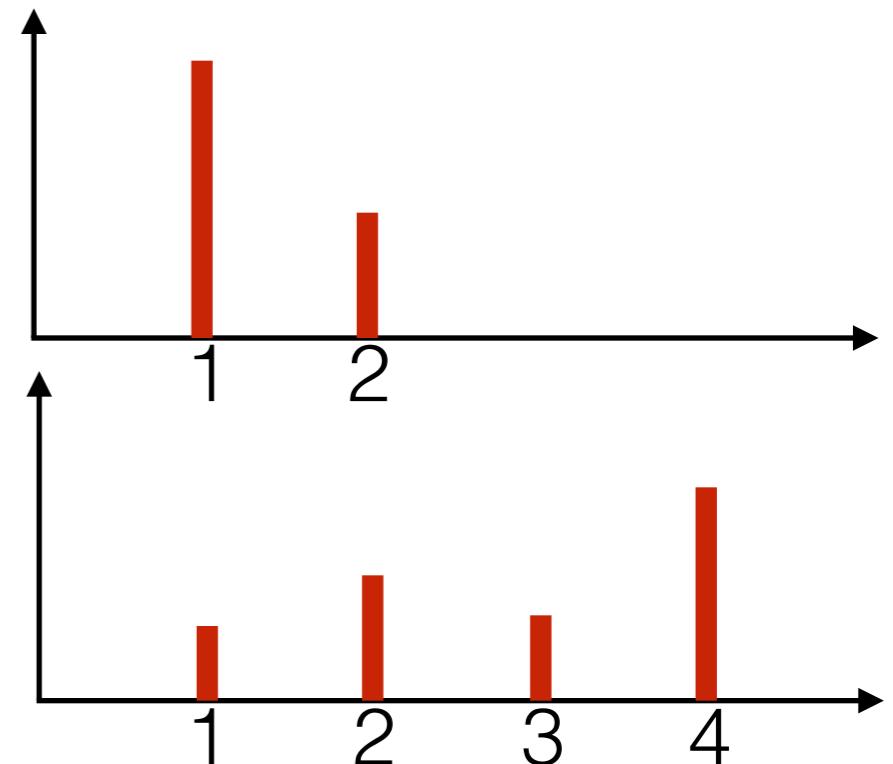
# Distributions

- Beta → random distribution over 1, 2



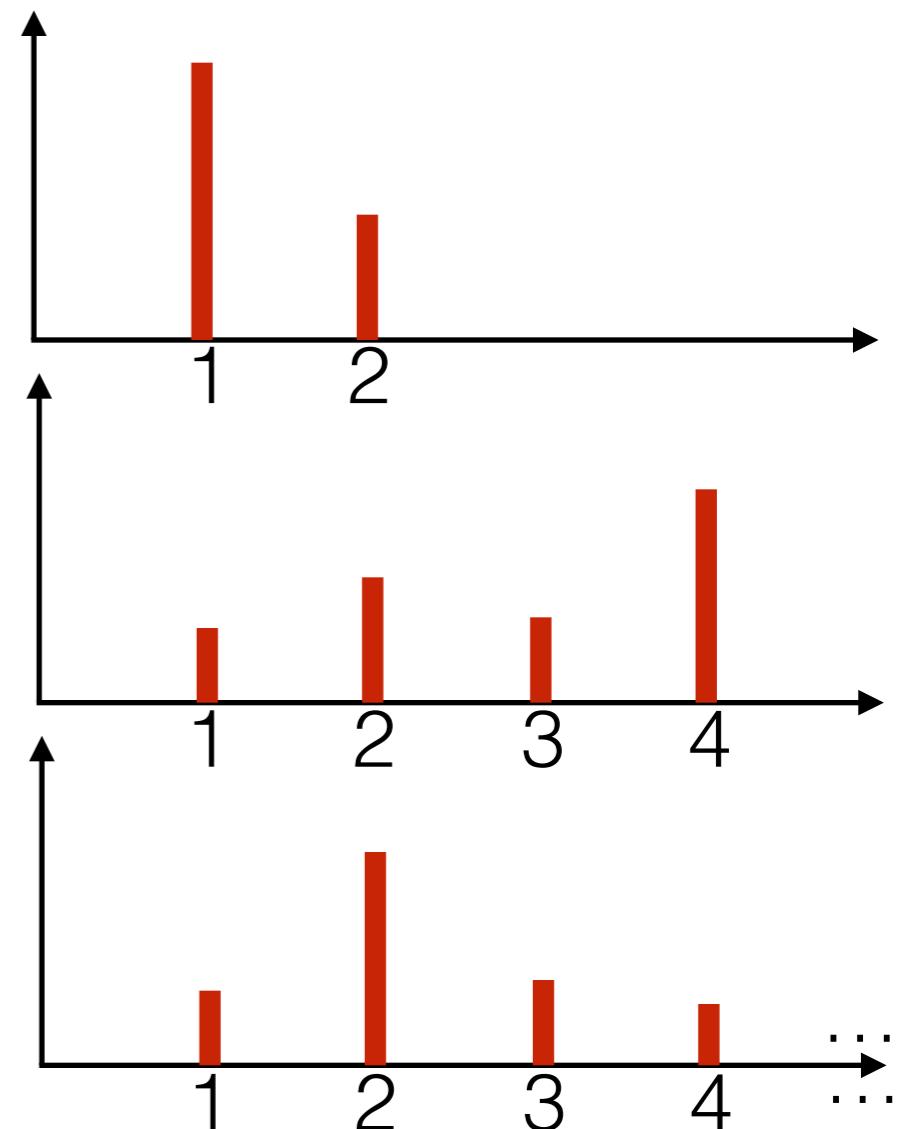
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- Beta → random distribution over 1, 2
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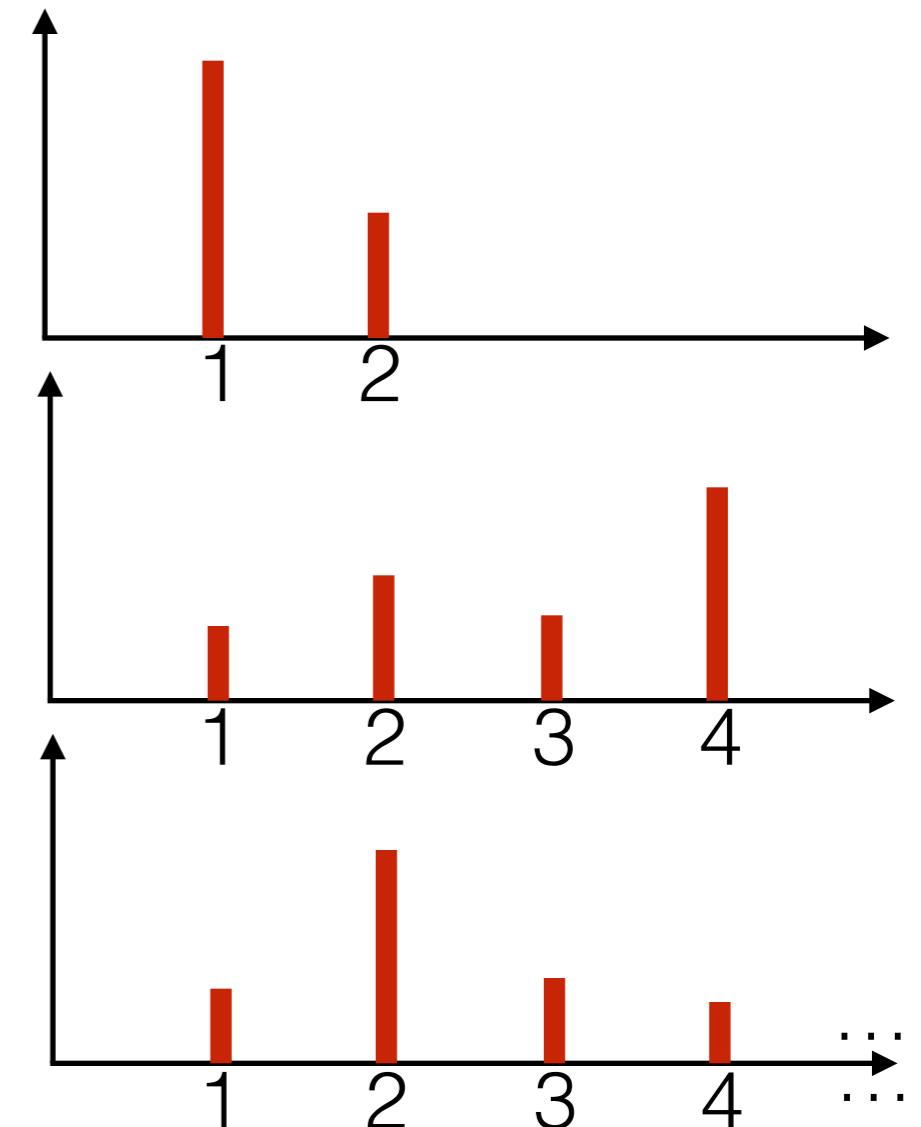
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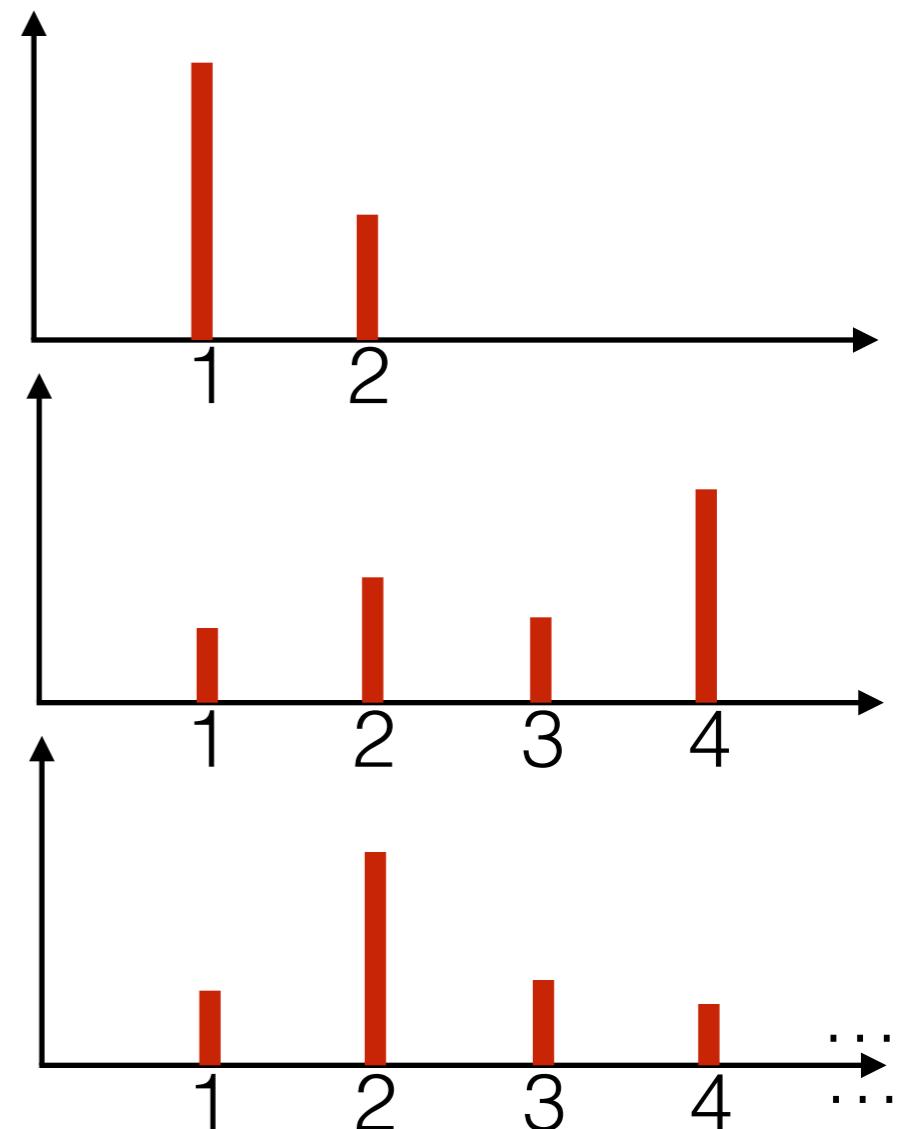
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- Infinity of parameters: components
- Growing number of parameters: clusters

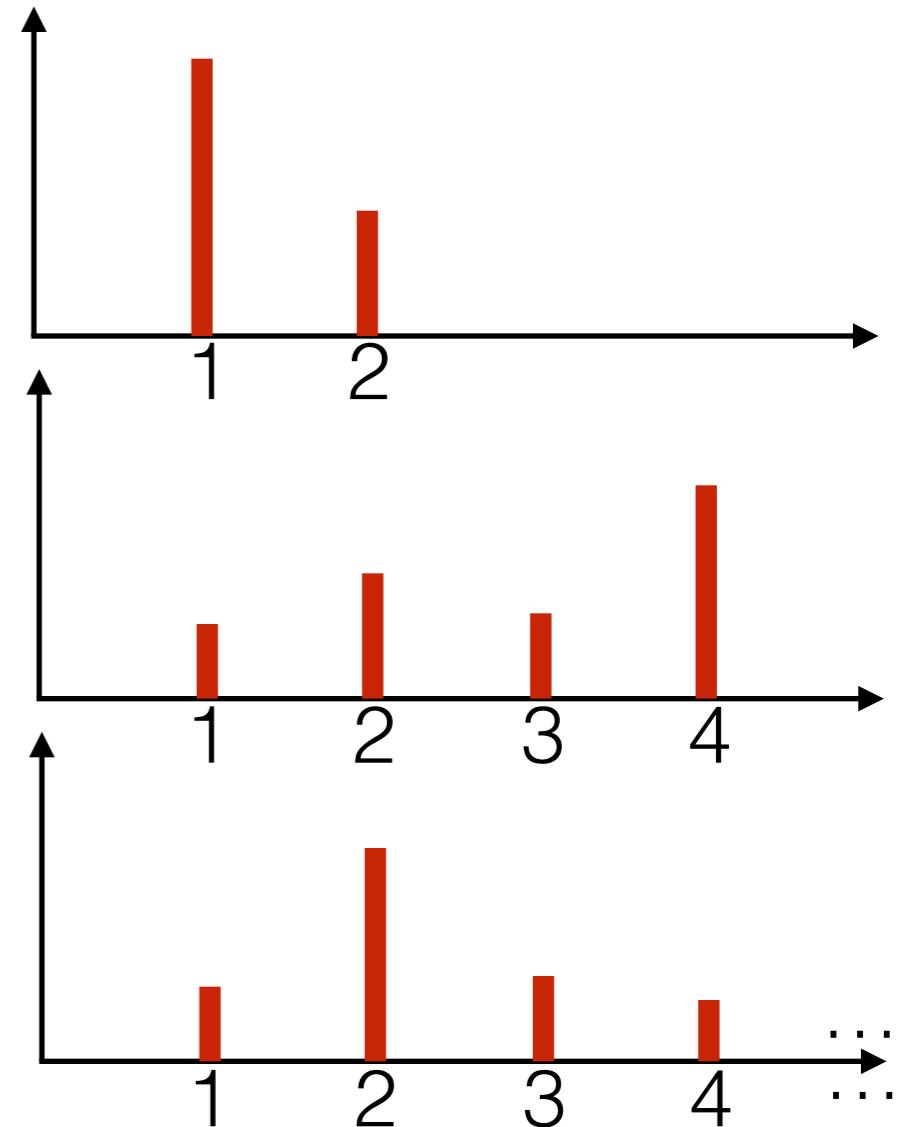
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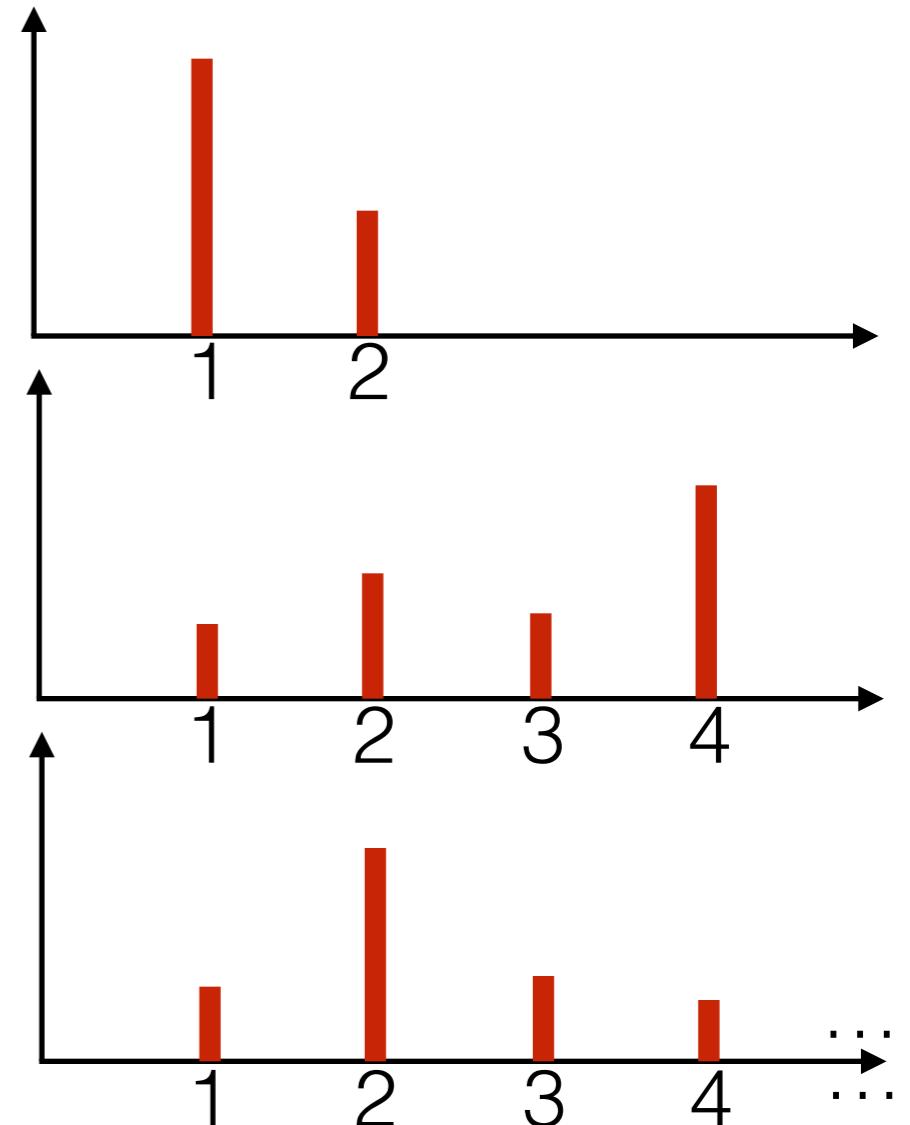
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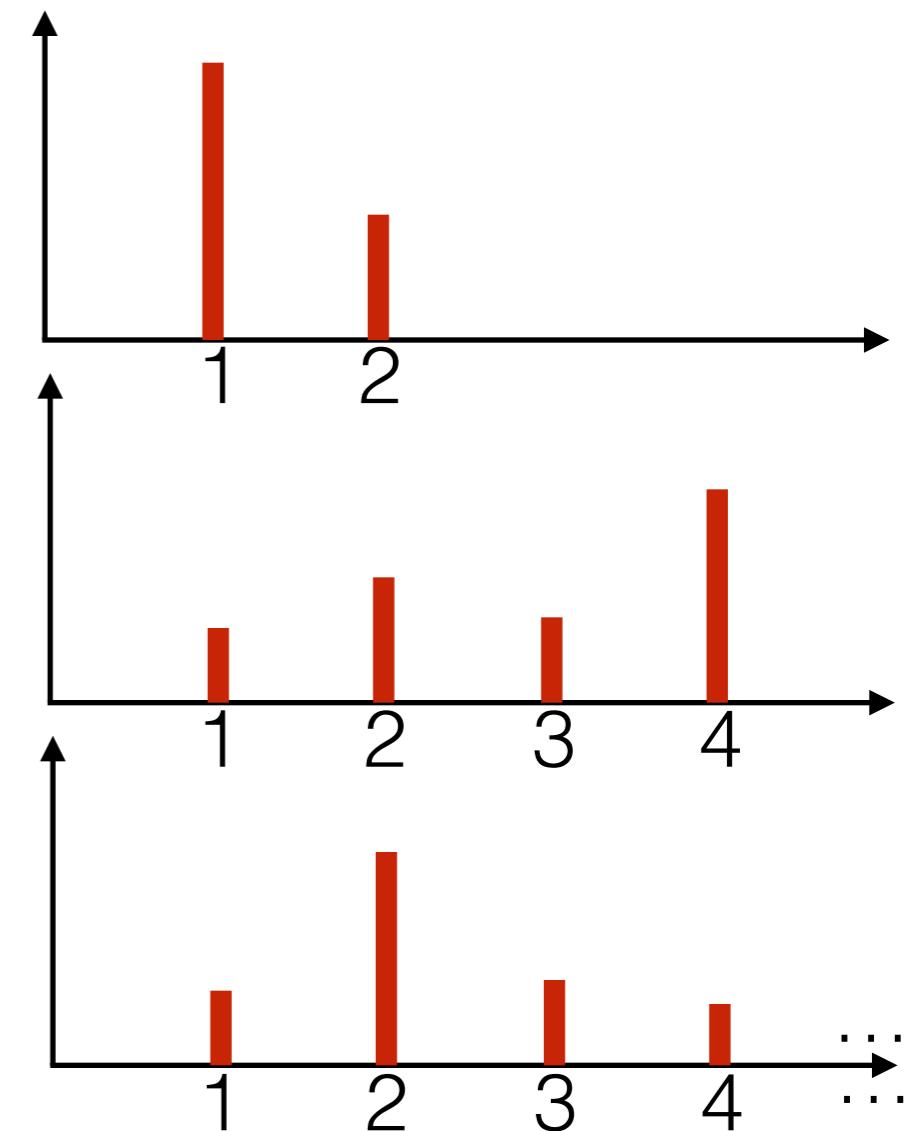


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$$\phi_k \stackrel{iid}{\sim} G_0$$

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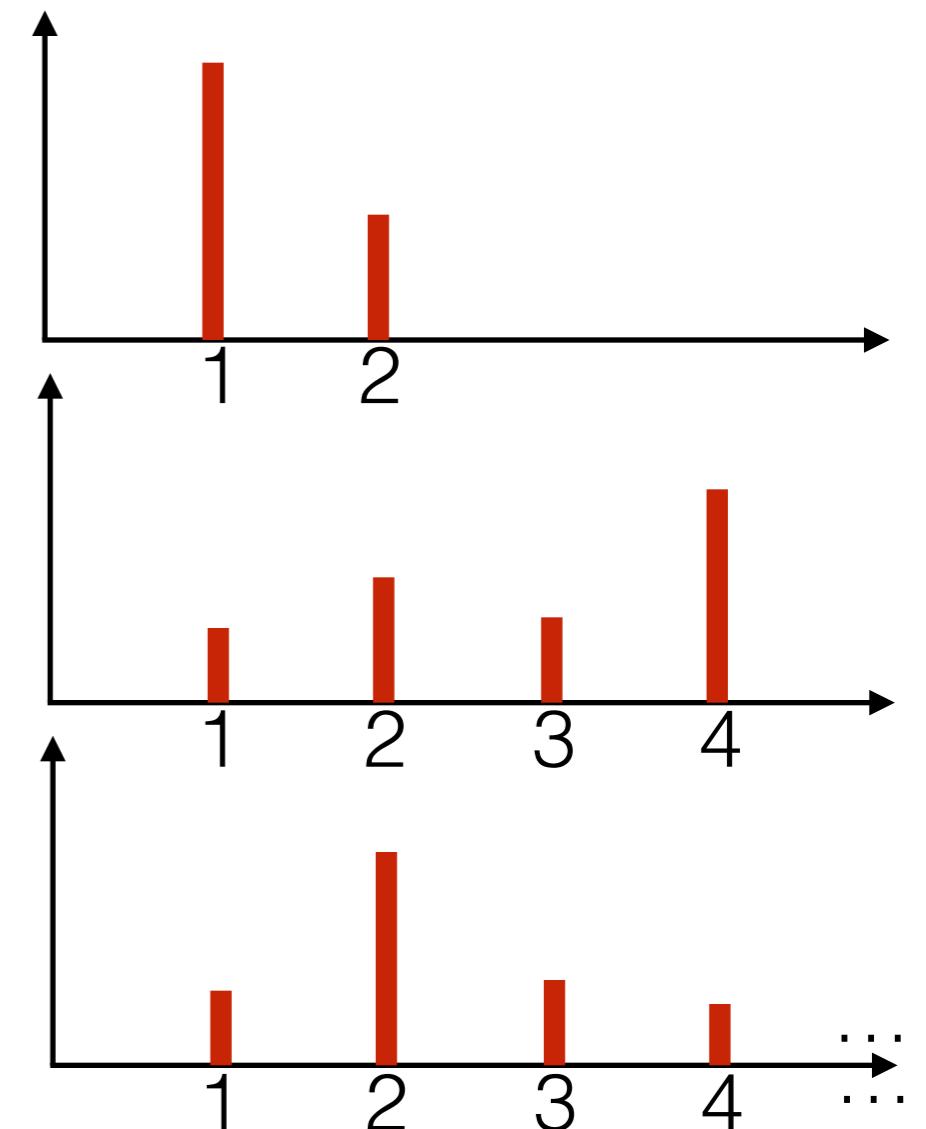
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# Distributions

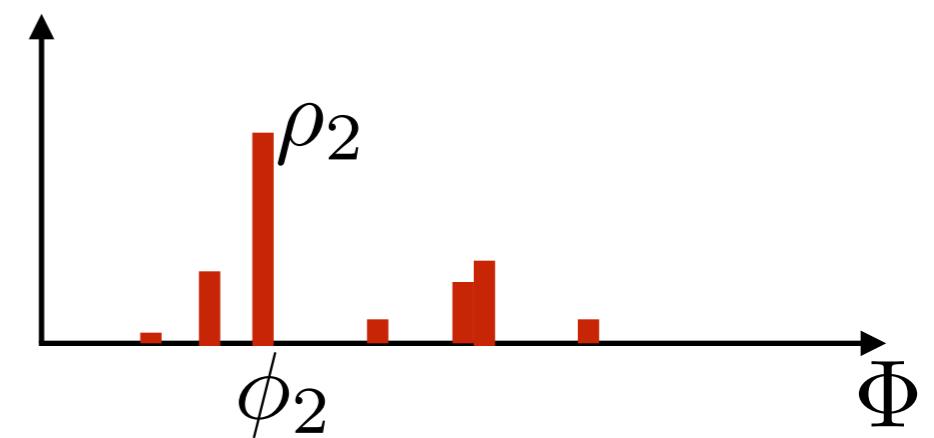
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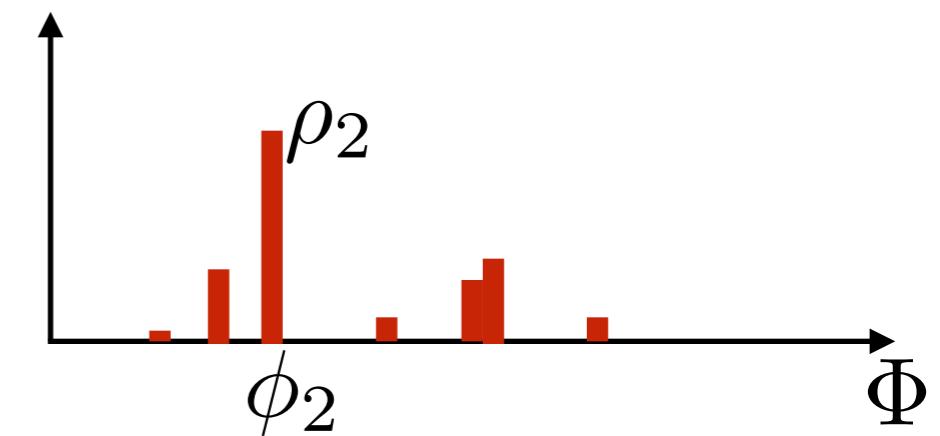
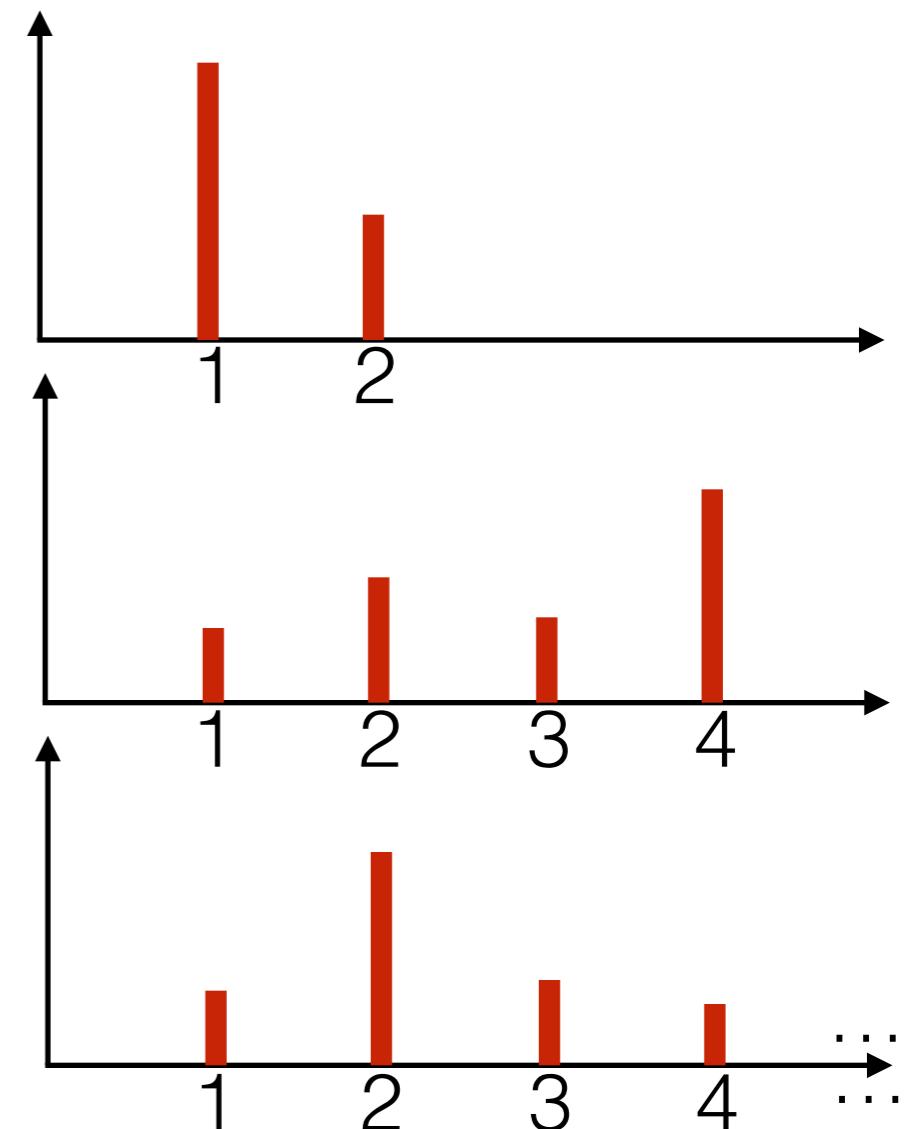


# Distributions

- Beta → random distribution over 1, 2
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- GEM / Dirichlet process stick-breaking → random distribution over  $1, 2, \dots$
- **Dirichlet process** → random distribution over  $\Phi$ :  
 $\rho = (\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots) \sim \text{GEM}(\alpha)$

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[Ferguson 1973]

# Dirichlet process mixture model

# Dirichlet process mixture model

- Gaussian mixture model

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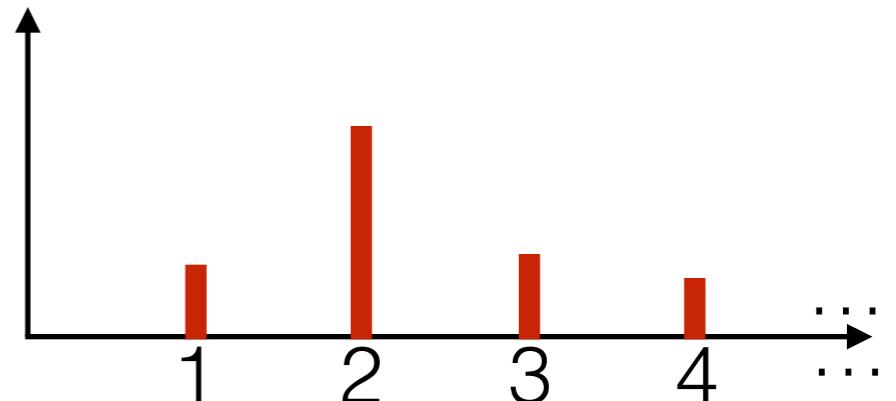
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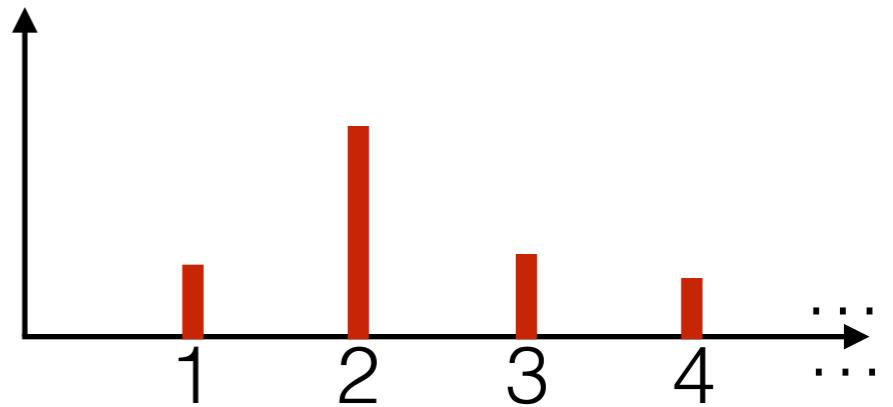


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- Gaussian mixture model

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$$\mu_k \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0), k = 1, 2, \dots$$

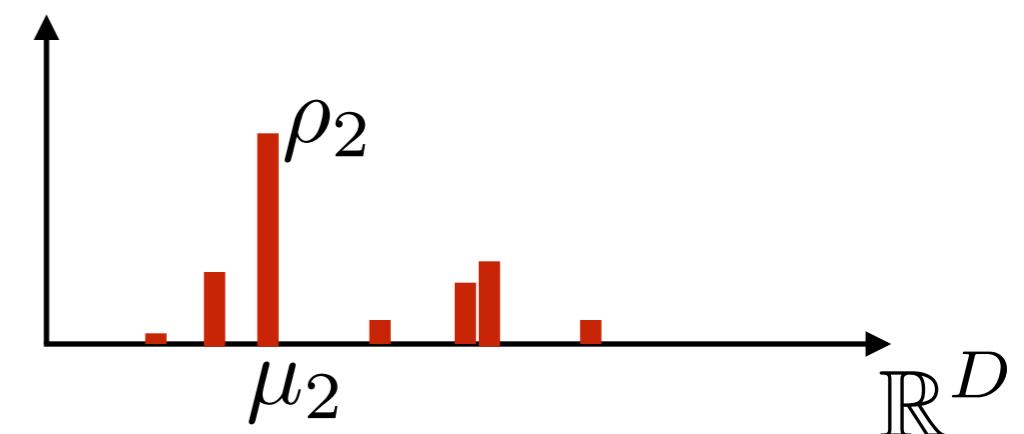
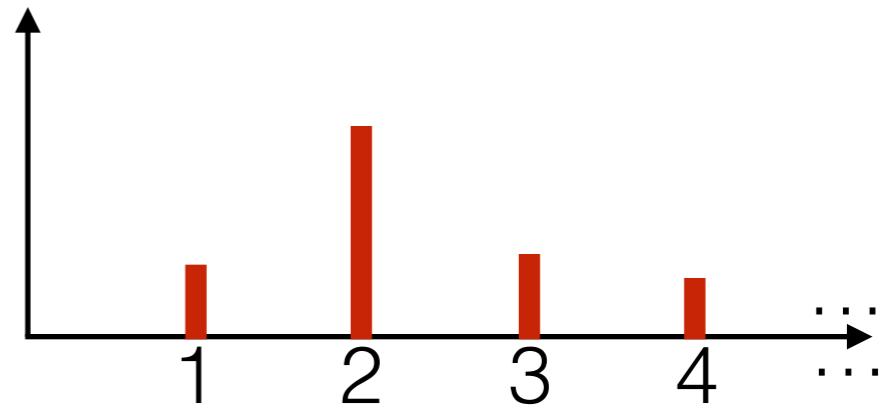


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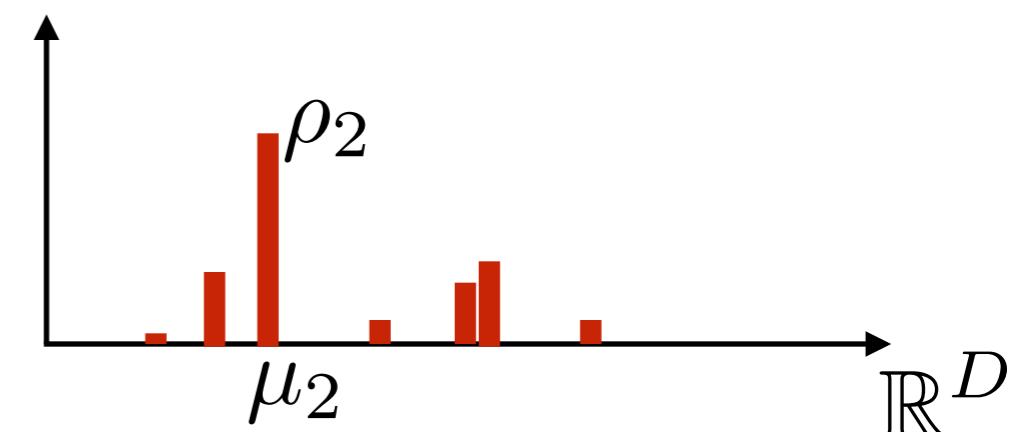
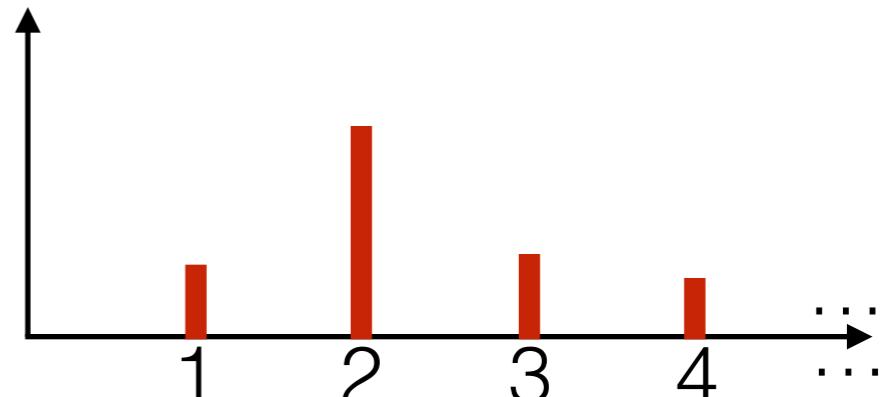
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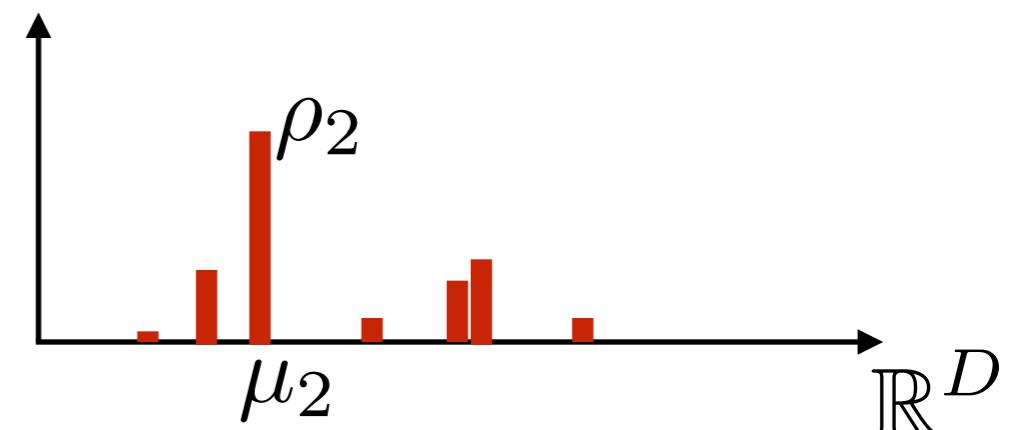
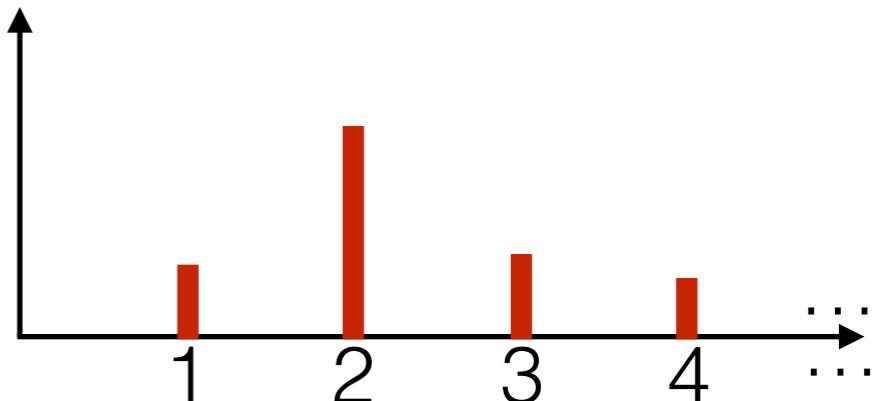
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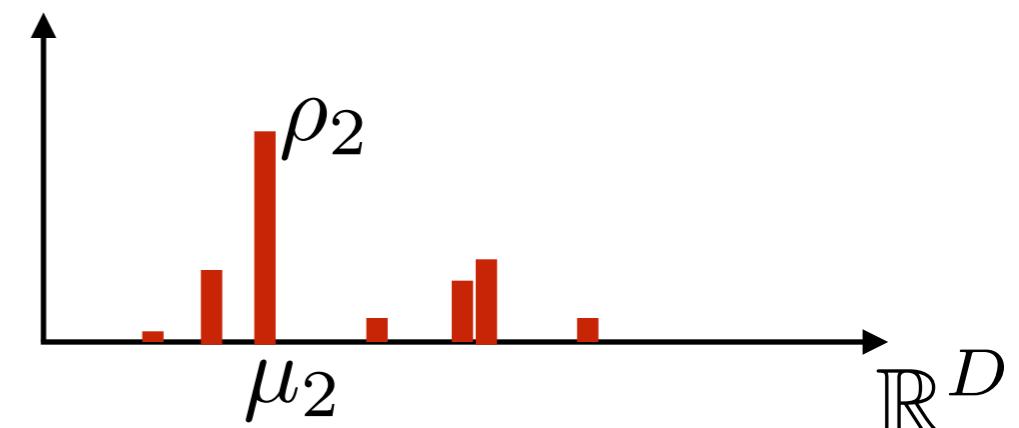
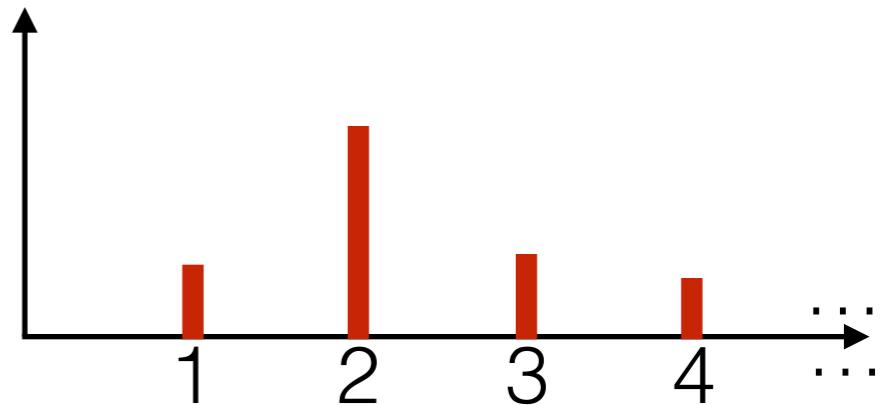
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$$z_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Categorical}(\rho)$$



# Dirichlet process mixture model

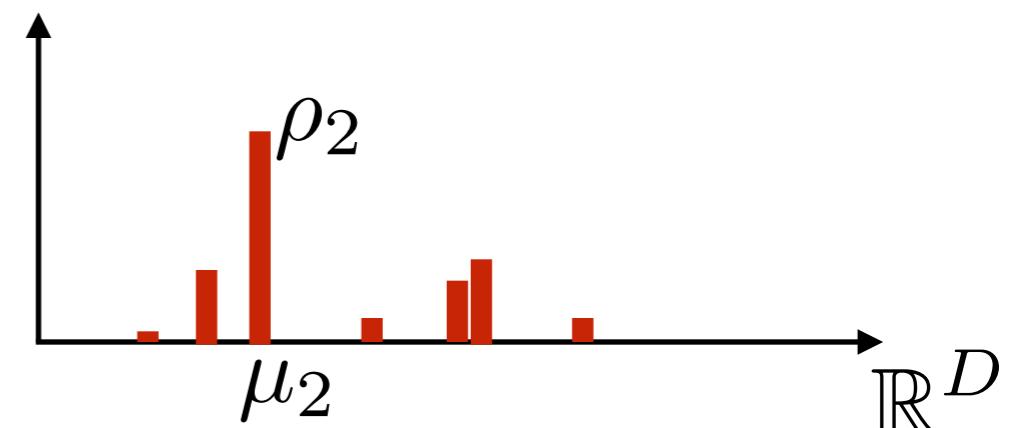
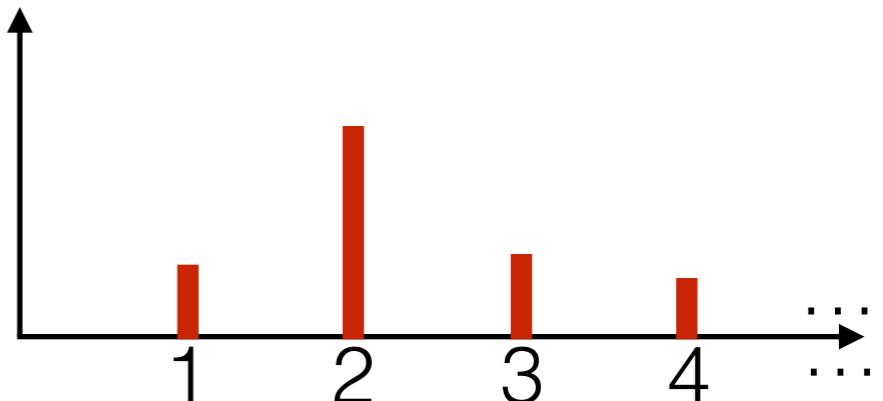
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- i.e.  $G = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \rho_k \delta_{\mu_k} \stackrel{d}{=} \text{DP}(\alpha, \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0))$

$$z_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Categorical}(\rho)$$
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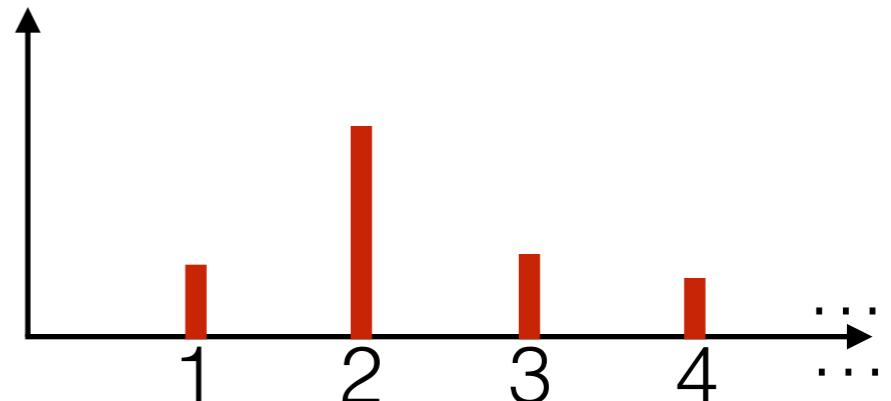
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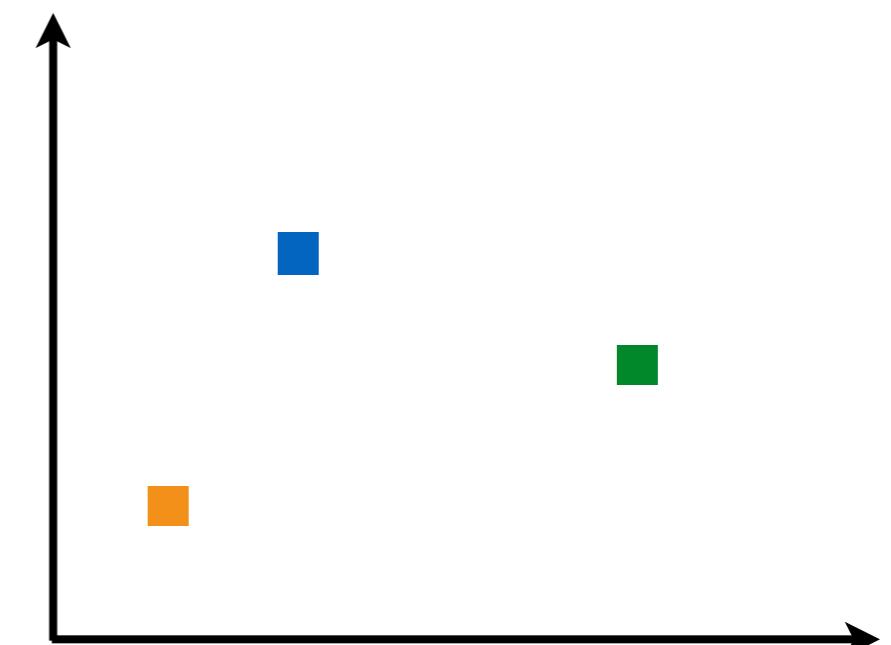
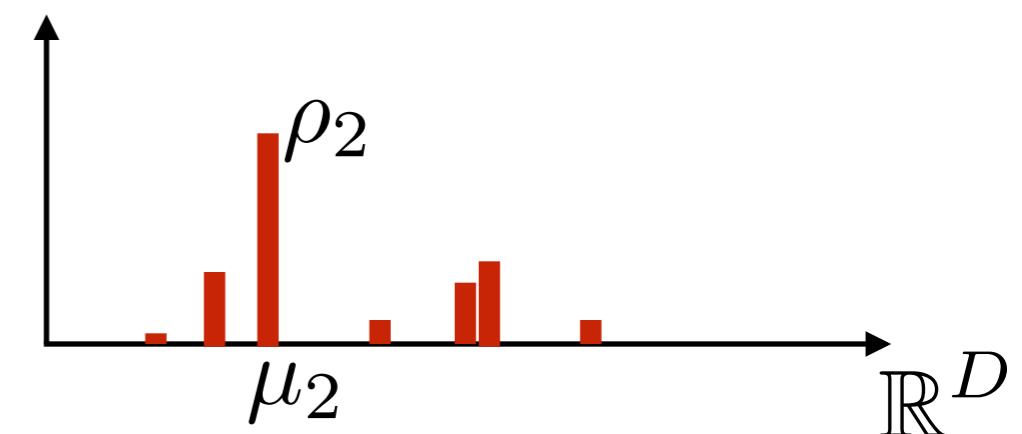
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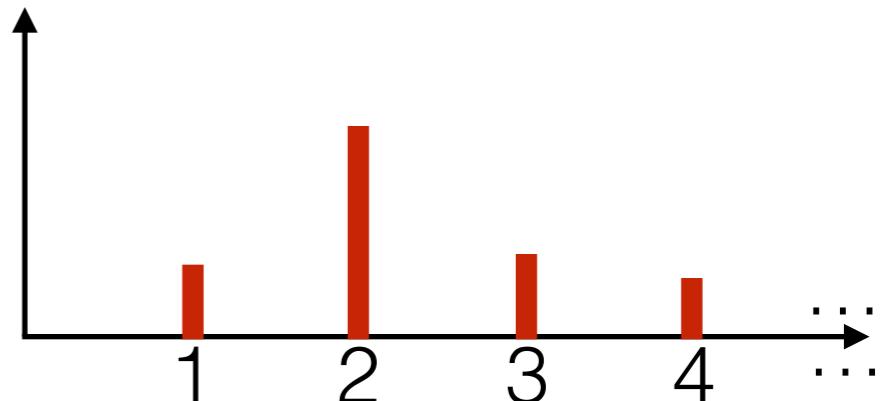
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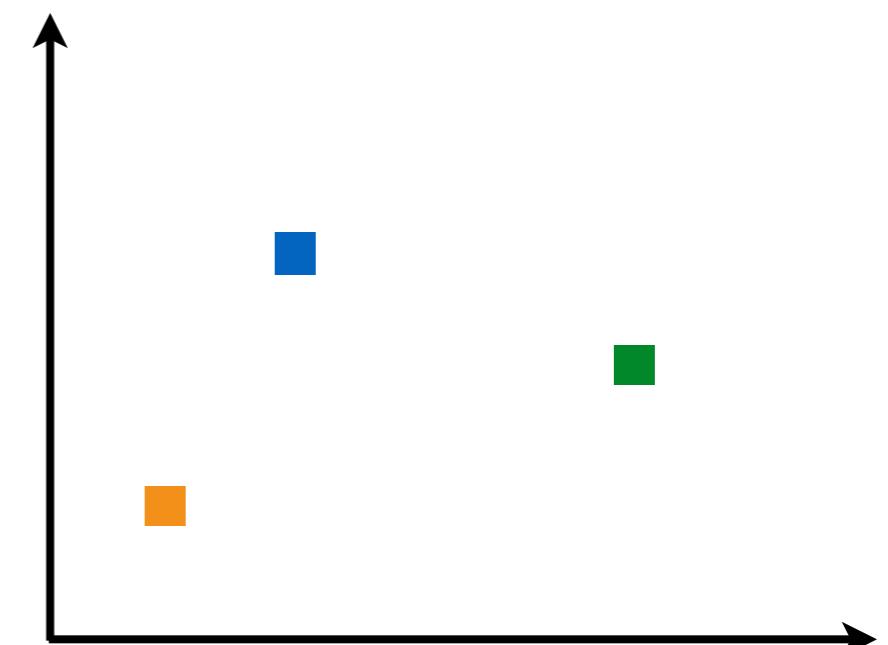
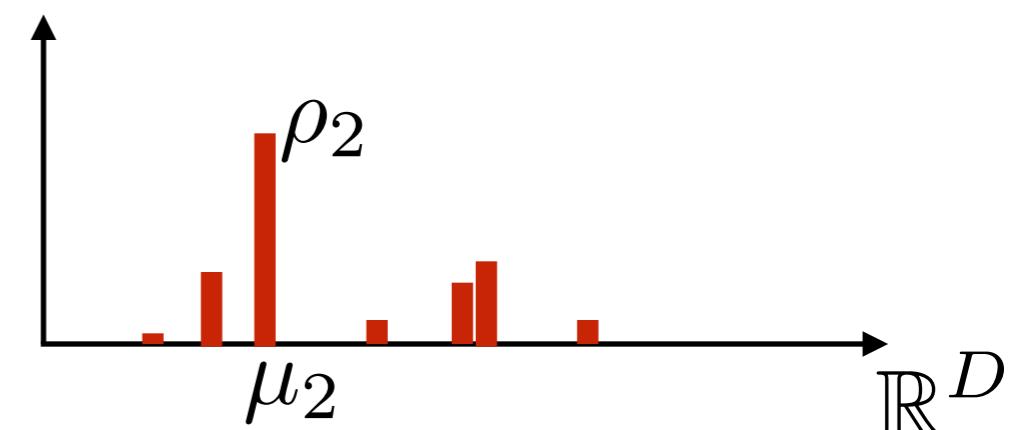
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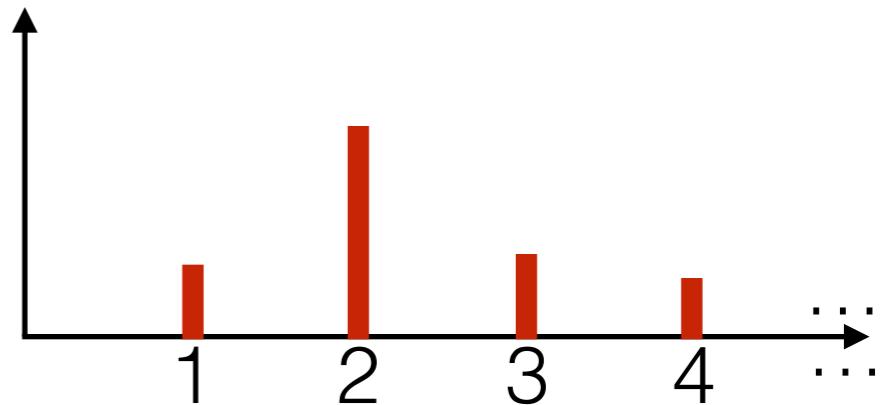
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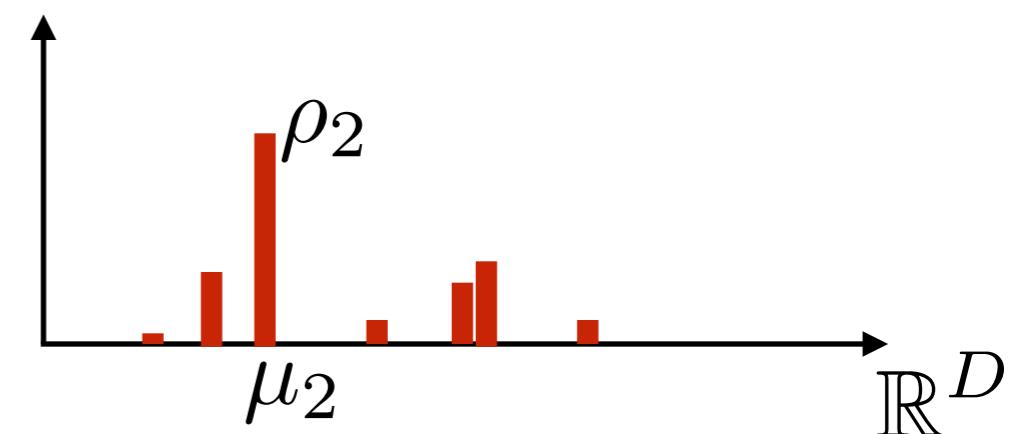
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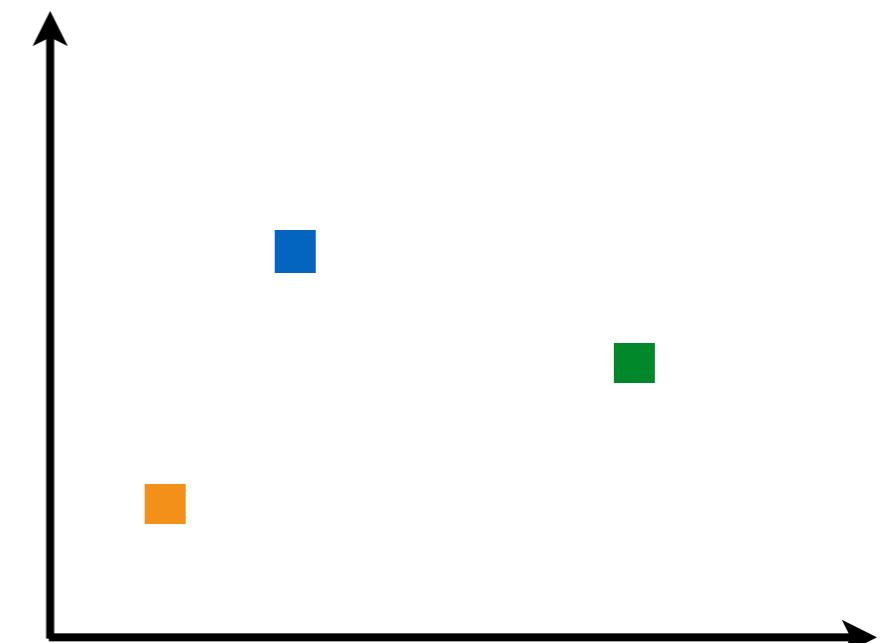
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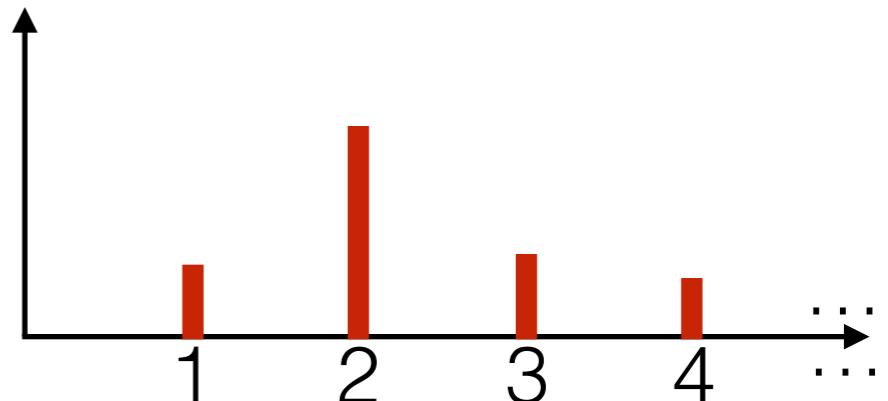
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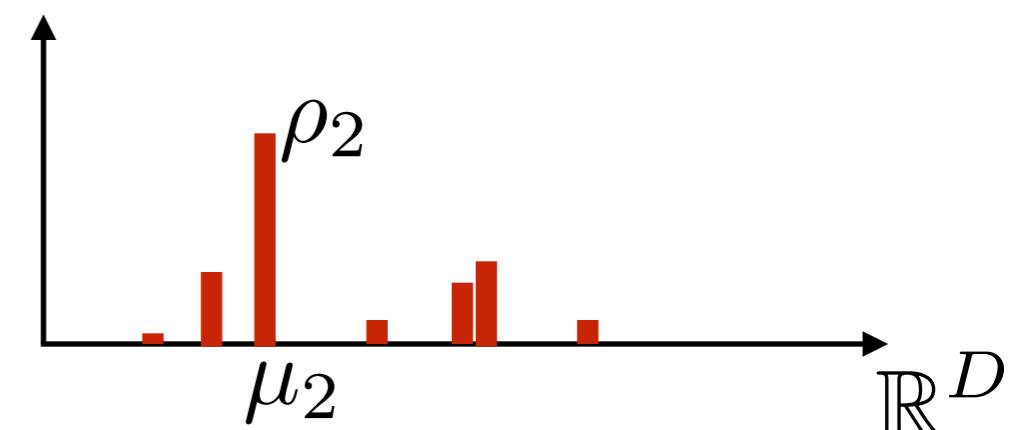
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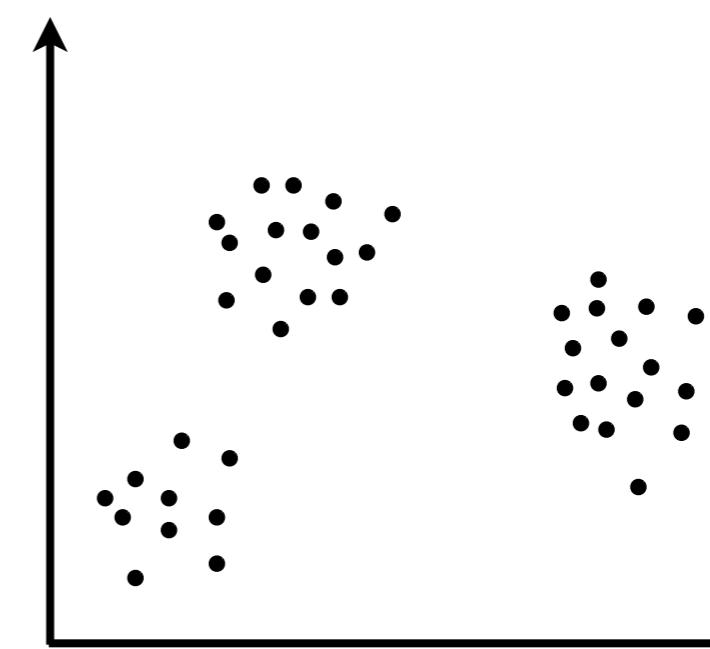
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- Example problem: clustering
- Example NPBayes model: Dirichlet process
- Chinese restaurant process
- Inference
- Venture further into the wild world of Nonparametric Bayes
- Big questions
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  - What does an infinite/growing number of parameters really mean (in NPBayes)?
  - Why is NPBayes challenging but practical?

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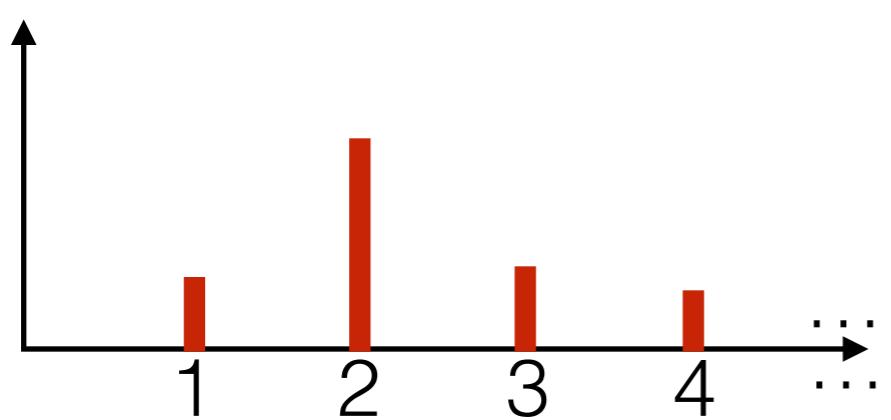
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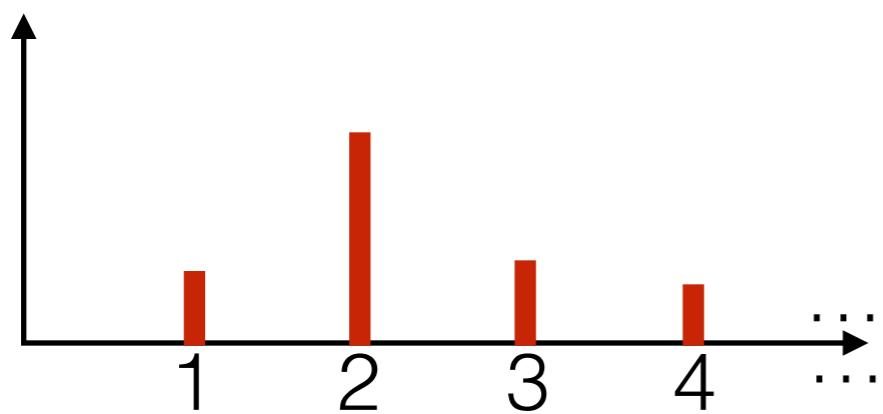
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# Exercises



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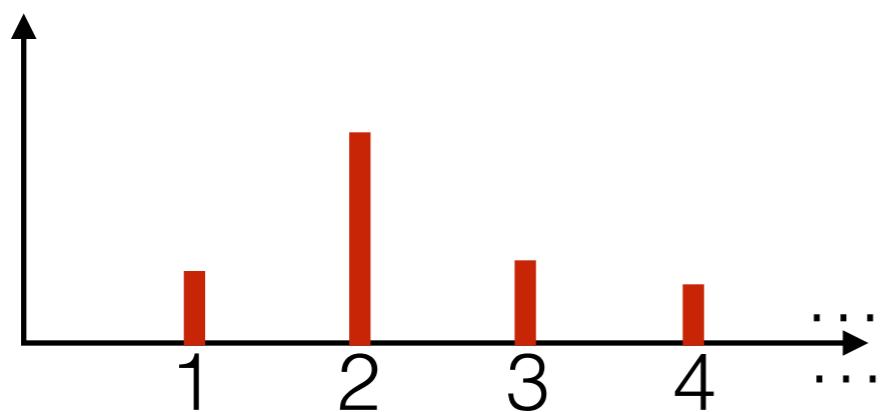
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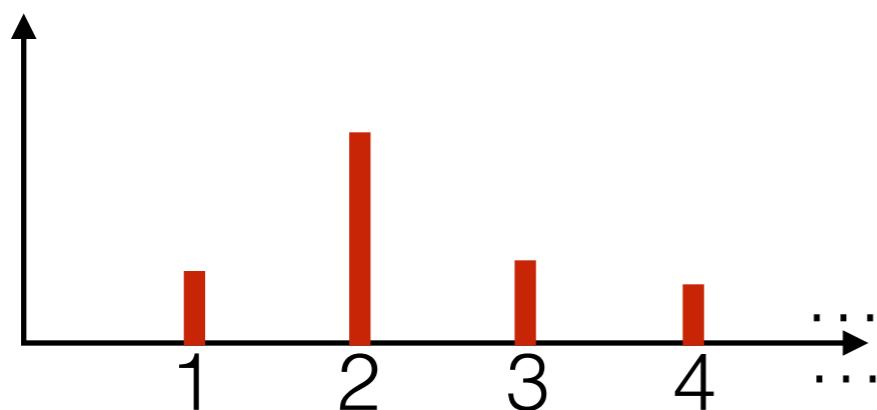
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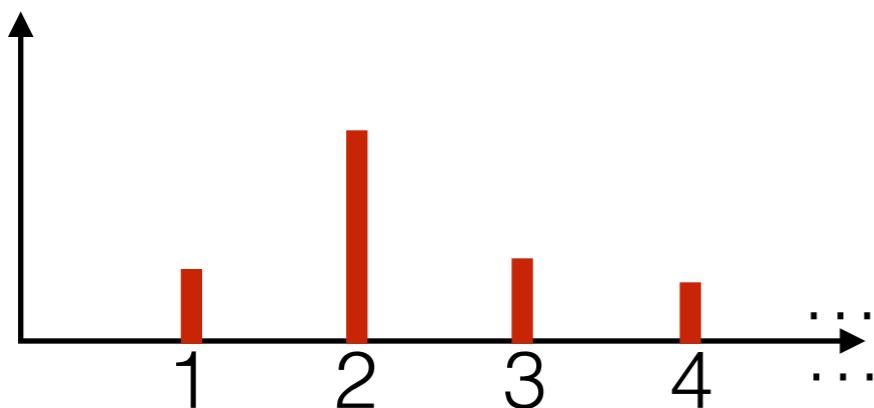


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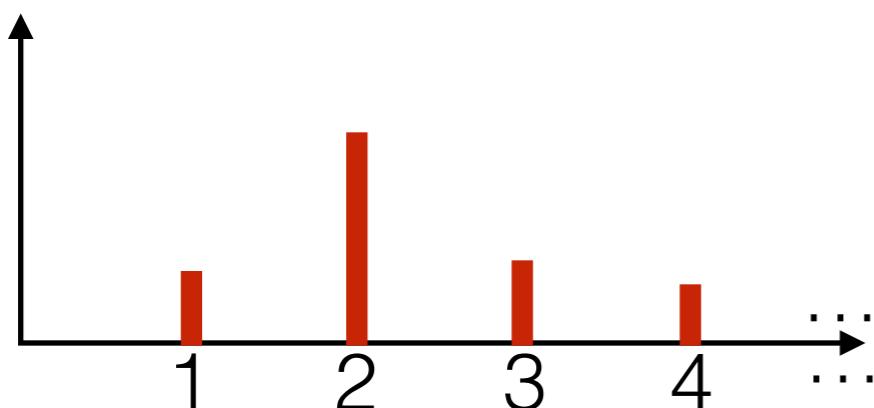
$$\rho_1 \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Beta}\left(a_1, \sum_{k=1}^K a_k - a_1\right) \perp\!\!\!\perp \frac{(\rho_2, \dots, \rho_K)}{1-\rho_1} \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Dirichlet}(a_2, \dots, a_K)$$



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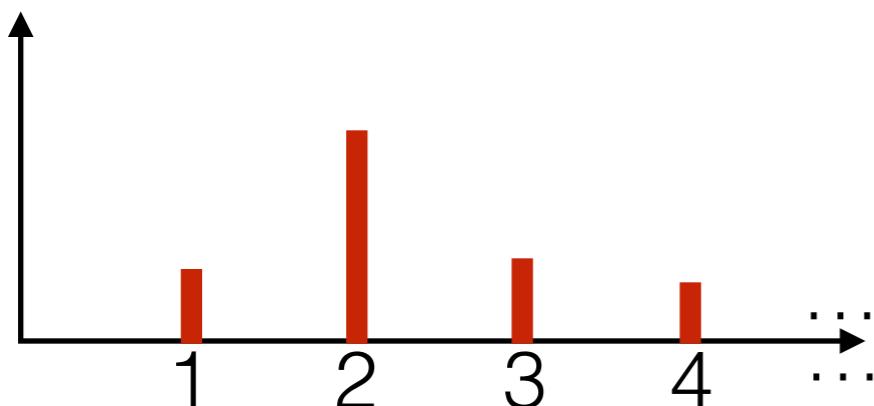
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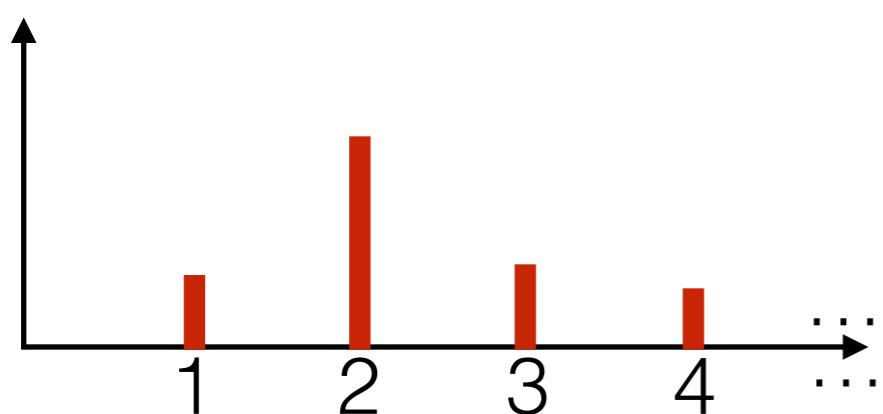
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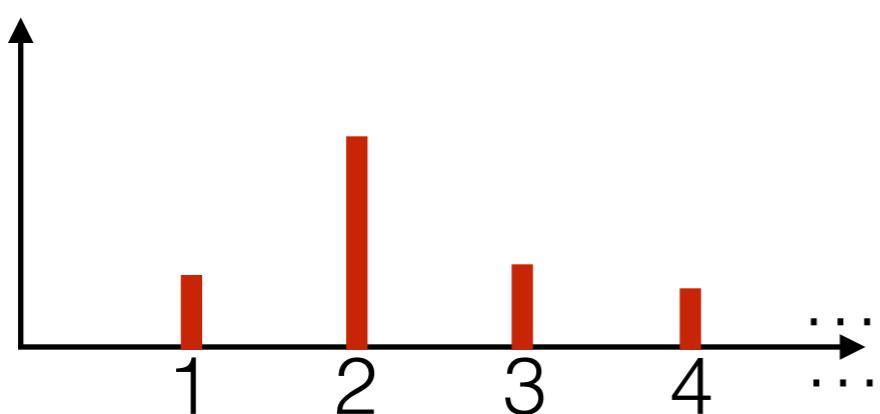


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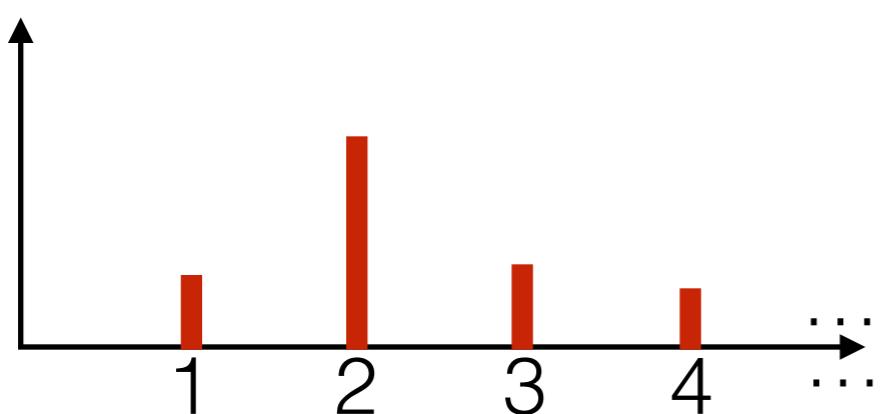
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- How does the growth in  $N$  change when you change  $\alpha$ ?
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# References

A full reference list is provided at the end of the “Part II” slides.