Data-Intensive Distributed Computing

CS 431/631 451/651 (Fall 2021)

Part 6: Data Mining (4/4)

Ali Abedi

Thanks to Jure Leskovec, Anand Rajaraman, Jeff Ullman (Stanford University)

These slides are available at https://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca/~cs451

High Dimensional Data

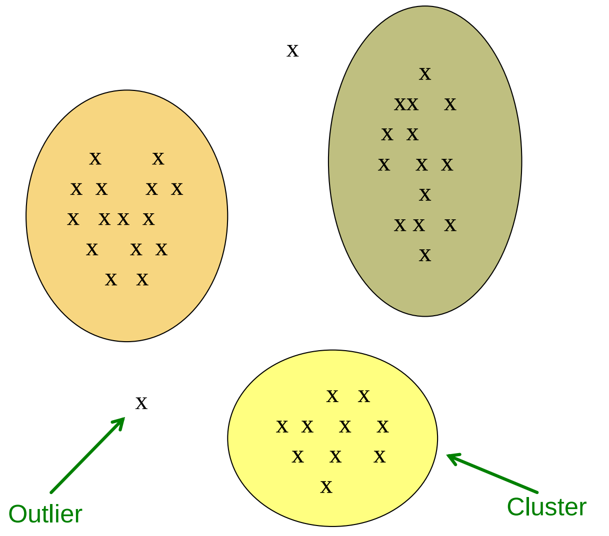
- **Given a cloud of data points we want to understand its structure**

2

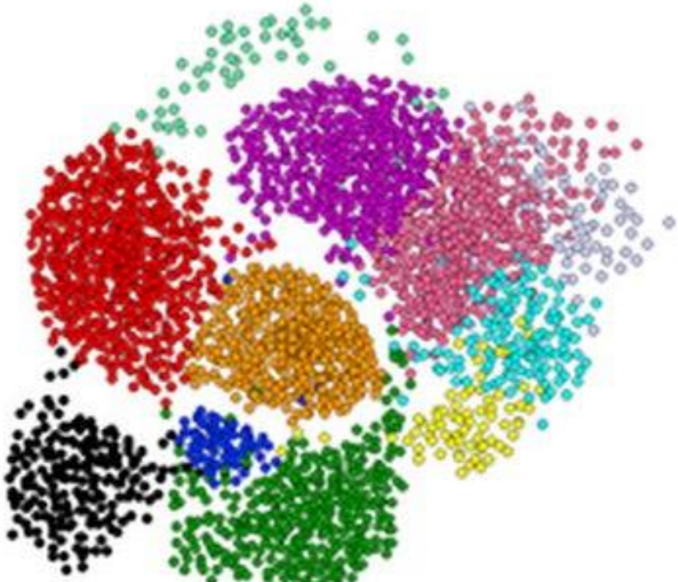
The Problem of Clustering

- Given a **set of points**, with a notion of **distance** between points, **group the points** into some number of ***clusters***, so that
  - Members of a cluster are close/similar to each other
  - Members of different clusters are dissimilar
- **Usually:**
  - Points are in a high-dimensional space
  - Similarity is defined using a distance measure
    - Euclidean, Cosine, Jaccard, edit distance, …

Example: Clusters & Outliers



Clustering is a hard problem!



Why is it hard?

- Clustering in two dimensions looks easy
- Clustering small amounts of data looks easy
- And in most cases, looks are not deceiving

- Many applications involve not 2, but 10 or 10,000 dimensions
- **High-dimensional spaces look different:** Almost all pairs of points are at about the same distance

Clustering Problem: Galaxies

- A catalog of 2 billion "sky objects" represents objects by their radiation in 7 dimensions (frequency bands)
- **Problem:** Cluster into similar objects, e.g., galaxies, nearby stars, quasars, etc.
- Sloan Digital Sky Survey

Clustering Problem: Music CDs

- **Intuitively: Music divides into categories, and customers prefer a few categories**
  - But what are categories really?
- Represent a CD by a set of customers who bought it:
- Similar CDs have similar sets of customers, and vice-versa

Clustering Problem: Music CDs

Space of all CDs:

- Think of a space with one dim. for each customer
  - Values in a dimension may be 0 or 1 only
  - A CD is a point in this space $(x_1, x_2,\ldots, x_k)$, where $x_i = 1$ iff the i^{th} customer bought the CD
- For Amazon, the dimension is tens of millions
- **Task:** Find clusters of similar CDs

Clustering Problem: Documents

Finding topics:

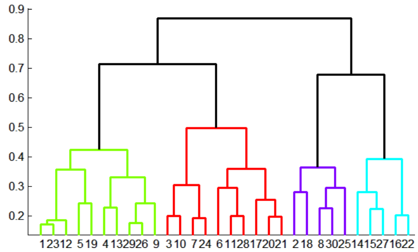
- Represent a document by a vector $(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_k)$, where $x_i = 1$ iff the i^{th} word (in some order) appears in the document
  - It actually doesn't matter if k is infinite; i.e., we don't limit the set of words
- **Documents with similar sets of words may be about the same topic**

Cosine, Jaccard, and Euclidean

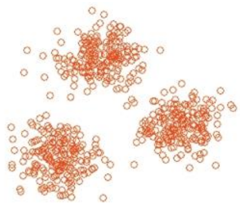
- **As with CDs we have a choice when we think of documents as sets of words or shingles:**
  - **Sets as vectors:** Measure similarity by the **cosine distance**
  - **Sets as sets:** Measure similarity by the **Jaccard distance**
  - **Sets as points:** Measure similarity by **Euclidean distance**

Overview: Methods of Clustering

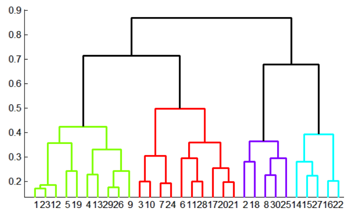
- **Hierarchical:**
  - **Agglomerative** (bottom up):
    - Initially, each point is a cluster
    - Repeatedly combine the two "nearest" clusters into one
  - **Divisive** (top down):
    - Start with one cluster and recursively split it



- **Point assignment:**
  - Maintain a set of clusters
  - Points belong to "nearest" cluster



Hierarchical Clustering



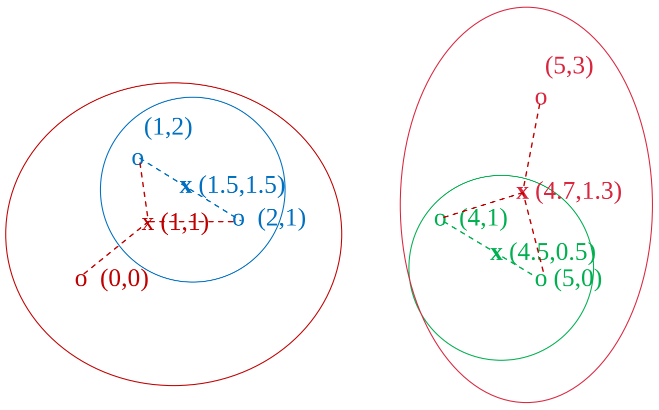
- **Key operation:**
  Repeatedly combine two nearest clusters

- **Three important questions:**
  - **1)** How do you represent a cluster of more than one point?
  - **2)** How do you determine the "nearness" of clusters?
  - **3)** When to stop combining clusters?

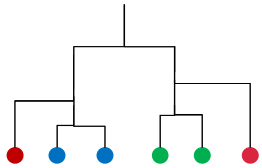
Hierarchical Clustering

- **Key operation:** **Repeatedly combine two nearest clusters**
- **(1) How to represent a cluster of many points?**
  - **Key problem:** As you merge clusters, how do you represent the "location" of each cluster, to tell which pair of clusters is closest?
- **Euclidean case:** each cluster has a ***centroid*** = average of its (data)points
- **(2) How to determine "nearness" of clusters?**
  - Measure cluster distances by distances of centroids

Example: Hierarchical clustering



Data:
o … data point
x … centroid



Dendrogram

And in the Non-Euclidean Case?

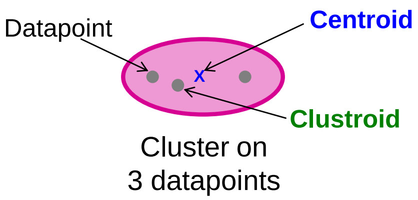
What about the Non-Euclidean case?

- The only "locations" we can talk about are the points themselves
  - i.e., there is no "average" of two points

- **Approach 1:**
  - **(1) How to represent a cluster of many points?** ***clustroid*** = (data)point "***closest***" to other points
  - **(2) How do you determine the "nearness" of clusters?** Treat clustroid as if it were centroid, when computing inter-cluster distances

"Closest" Point?

- **(1) How to represent a cluster of many points?**
  clustroid = point "***closest***" to other points
- **Possible meanings of "closest":**
  - Smallest maximum distance to other points
  - Smallest average distance to other points
  - Smallest sum of squares of distances to other points
    - For distance metric ***d*** clustroid ***c*** of cluster ***C*** is: $\min_{c} \sum_{x \in C} d(x,c)^2$



Centroid is the avg. of all (data)points in the cluster. This means centroid is an "artificial" point.
Clustroid is an **existing** (data)point that is "closest" to all other points in the cluster.

Defining "Nearness" of Clusters

- **(2) How do you determine the "nearness" of clusters?**
  - **Approach 2:**
    Intercluster distance = minimum of the distances between any two points, one from each cluster
  - **Approach 3:**
    Pick a notion of "**cohesion**" of clusters, *e.g.*, maximum distance from the clustroid
    - Merge clusters whose *union* is most cohesive

Cohesion

- **Approach 3.1:** Use the **diameter** of the merged cluster = maximum distance between points in the cluster
- **Approach 3.2:** Use the **average distance** between points in the cluster
- **Approach 3.3:** Use a **density-based approach**
  - Take the diameter or avg. distance, e.g., and divide by the number of points in the cluster

Implementation

- **Naïve implementation of hierarchical clustering:**
  - At each step, compute pairwise distances between all pairs of clusters, then merge
  - $O(N^3)$
- Careful implementation using priority queue can reduce time to $O(N^2 \log N)$
  - **Still too expensive for really big datasets that do not fit in memory**

k-means clustering

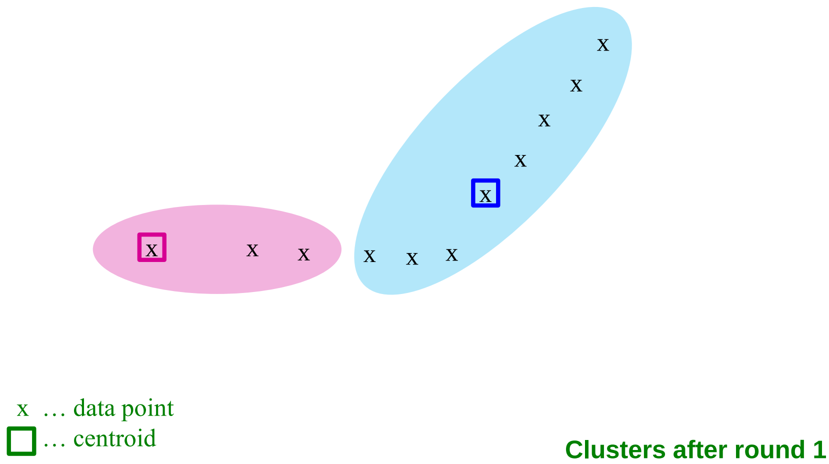
k–means Algorithm(s)

- Assumes Euclidean space/distance
- Start by picking ***k***, the number of clusters
- Initialize clusters by picking one point per cluster
  - **Example:** Pick one point at random, then ***k*-1** other points, each as far away as possible from the previous points

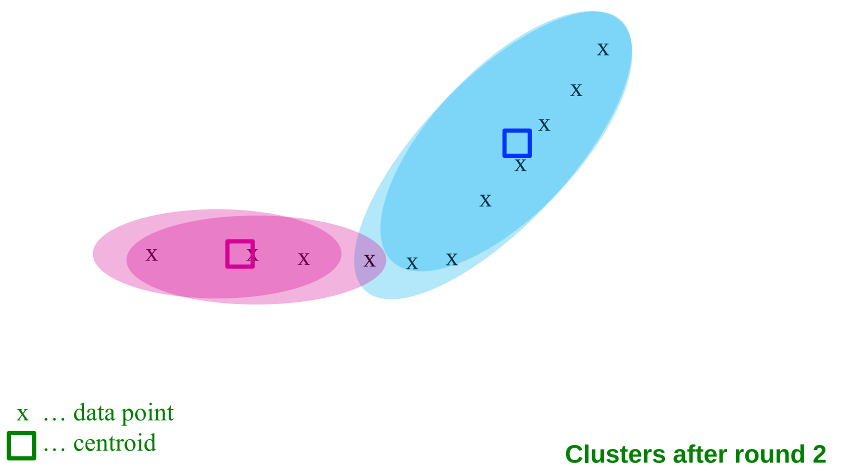
Populating Clusters

- **1)** For each point, place it in the cluster whose current centroid it is nearest
- **2)** After all points are assigned, update the locations of centroids of the ***k*** clusters
- **3)** Reassign all points to their closest centroid
  - Sometimes moves points between clusters
- **Repeat 2 and 3 until convergence**
  - **Convergence:** Points don't move between clusters and centroids stabilize

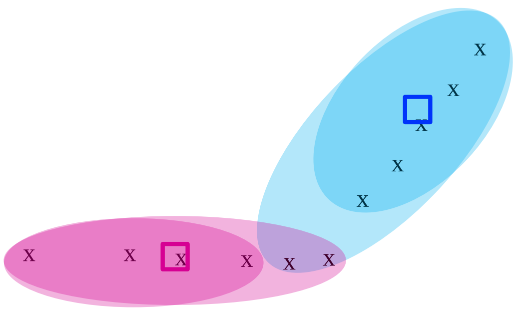
Example: Assigning Clusters



Example: Assigning Clusters



Example: Assigning Clusters



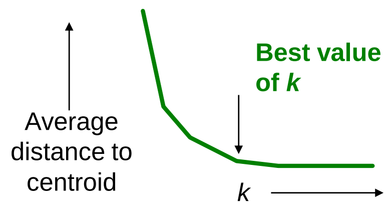
x … data point
□ … centroid

Clusters at the end

Getting the *k* right

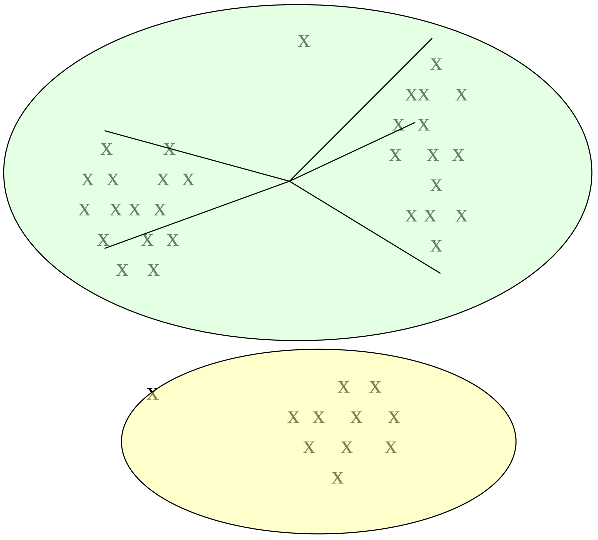
How to select *k*?

- Try different **k**, looking at the change in the average distance to centroid as **k** increases
- Average falls rapidly until right **k**, then changes little



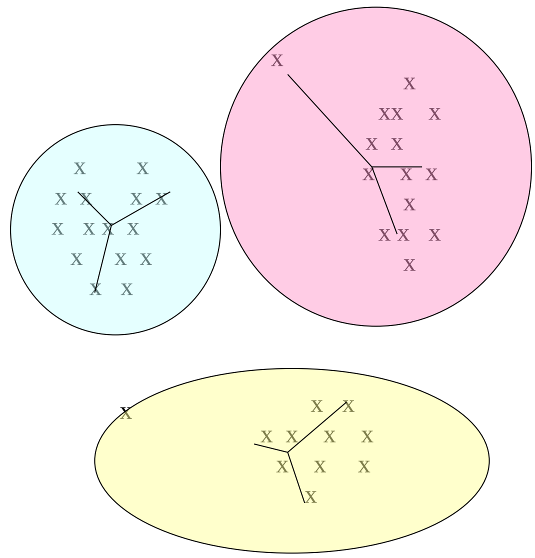
Example: Picking *k*

Too few;
many long distances to centroid.



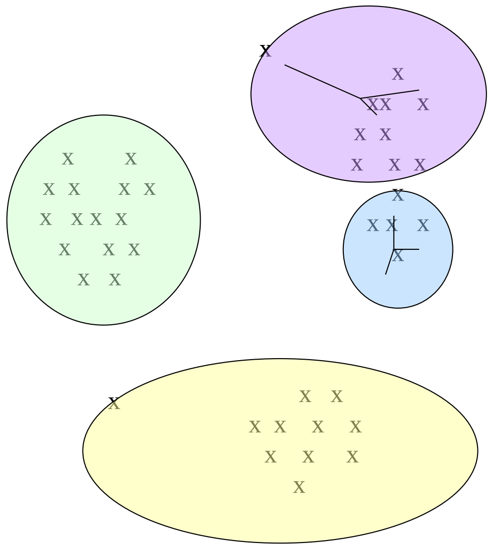
Example: Picking *k*

Just right;
distances
rather short.



Example: Picking *k*

Too many;
little improvement in average distance.



Basic MapReduce Implementation

```
class Mapper  {
  def setup() = {
    clusters = loadClusters()
  }

  def map(id: Int, vector: Vector) = {
    emit(clusters.findNearest(vector), vector)
  }
}

class Reducer {
  def reduce(clusterId: Int, values: Iterable[Vector]) = {
    for (vector <- values) {
      sum += vector
      cnt += 1
    }
    emit(clusterId, sum/cnt)
  }
}
```