# Clustering & the K-means algorithm

#### **Announcements:**

1. HW1 is out, due Sep 12

2. P1 will be out this afternoon

3. CIS partner finding social: this Friday 4-6, Gates 01

#### Recap

The K-NN algorithm



Example: 3-NN with Euclidean distance on a binary classification data

#### Recap

#### T/F: We can use train-validation trick to determine the parameter K

T/F: in worst case, number of training example should scale in exp(d) for K-NN to succeed

T/F: K-NN will fail when feature dimension is high

## **Objective**

Understand the K-means algorithm and why it works

#### **Outline for Today**

1. Unsupervised Learning: Clustering

2 the K-means algorithm

3. Convergence of K-means

## What is clustering?

It is an unsupervised learning procedure (i.e., applies to data without ground truth labels)



Example: Learning to detect cars without ground truth label



A point cloud from a Lidar sweep (4-d data)

Example: Learning to detect cars without ground truth label



A point cloud from a Lidar sweep (4-d data)

Different color represents different clusters

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#### 3. Fit Bounding Boxes

These boxes are the pseudo-labels we use to train detector

Different color represents different clusters

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Input 
$$\mathcal{D} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$$
, parameters  $K$ 





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Expected output: K centroids  $\{\mu_1, \mu_2, ..., \mu_k\}, \mu_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , and K clusters  $C_1 ..., C_K$ 

2-means



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If we had K centroids, we could split the dataset into K clusters,  $C_1, \ldots, C_K$ , by assigning each data point to its nearest centroid



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 $C_i = \{x \in \mathcal{D} \text{ s.t.}, \mu_i \text{ is the closest centroid to } x\}$ 



#### The data assignment procedure

*K* centroids  $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_k$  splits the space into a voronoi diagram



#### The centroid computation procedure



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If we magically had the clusters  $C_1, \ldots, C_K$ , we could compute centroids as follows:

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 $\mu_i$ : the mean of the data in  $C_i$ 



Iterate between Centroid computation and Data Assignment!

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Initialize K clusters  $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_K$ , where  $\bigcup_{i=1}^K C_i = \mathcal{D}$ , and  $C_i \cap C_j = \emptyset$ , for  $i \neq j$ 

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> 1. centroids computation using  $C_1, \ldots, C_K$ , i.e., for all i,  $\mu_i = \sum_{x \in C_i} x/|C_i|$  (i.e., the mean of the data in  $C_i$ )

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1. centroids computation using  $C_1, ..., C_K$ , i.e., for all i,  $\mu_i = \sum_{x \in C_i} x/|C_i|$  (i.e., the mean of the data in  $C_i$ ) 2. the data assignment procedure, i.e., re-split data into  $C_1, ..., C_K$ , using  $\mu_1, ..., \mu_k$ 









## Let's try out K-means!

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## **Does K-means algorithm converge?**

Yes, though it does not guarantee to return the globally optimal solution

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Given any K disjoint groups  $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_K$ , and any K centroids, define a loss function:

$$\ell(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{\substack{x \in C_i \\ \swarrow}} \|x - \mu_i\|_2^2 \right]$$

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Total distance of points in  $C_i$  to  $\mu_i$ 

$$\ell(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{x \in C_i} \|x - \mu_i\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$\mathscr{E}(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{x \in C_i} \|x - \mu_i\|_2^2 \right]$$

K-means minimizes  $\ell$  in an alternating fashion:

$$\mathscr{C}(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{x \in C_i} \|x - \mu_i\|_2^2 \right]$$

K-means minimizes  $\ell$  in an alternating fashion: Q1: w/  $C_1, ..., C_K$  fix, what is arg min  $\ell(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\})$ ?  $\mu_1, ..., \mu_k$   $\ell(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\})$ ?  $\mu_1 = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{R}_k} x/C_1$ 

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K-means minimizes  $\ell$  in an alternating fashion:

Q1: w/  $C_1, ..., C_K$  fix, what is arg  $\min_{\mu_1,...,\mu_k} \ell(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\})$ ?

Q2: w/ 
$$\mu_1, ..., \mu_K$$
 fix, what is arg min  $\mathcal{C}_{1,...,C_k}$   $\mathcal{C}(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\})$ ?

#### K means is doing Coordinate Descent here

$$\mathscr{C}(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{x \in C_i} \|x - \mu_i\|_2^2 \right]$$

K-means Algorithm: (re-stated from a different perspective)

Initialize  $\mu_1, ..., \mu_K$ Repeat until convergence:

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Given *K*, we can look at the minimum loss

$$\mathcal{C}_{K} := \min_{C_{1}, \dots, C_{K}, \mu_{1}, \dots, \mu_{K}} \mathcal{C}(\{C_{i}\}, \{\mu_{i}\}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \left[ \sum_{x \in C_{i}} \|x - \mu_{i}\|_{2}^{2} \right]$$

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Q: Should we just naively pick a K that the  $\mathcal{C}_K$  is zero?

No! When K = n, loss is zero (every data point is a cluster!)

In practice, we can gradually increase K, and keep track the loss  $\ell_K$ , and stop when  $\ell_K$  does not drop too much

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## Summary

1. The first Unsupervised Learning Algorithm — K means

iteratively computes centroids and clusters

2. Relationship between K-means algorithm and the Coordinate descent procedure on loss  $\mathscr{C}(\{C_i\}, \{\mu_i\})$