CS 540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Unsupervised Learning II

University of Wisconsin-Madison

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fall 2025 Sections 1 & 2

Announcements

- **HW 3** online:
  - Due on **Friday Oct 3rd at 11:59PM**

- Class roadmap:

ML Unsupervised II
ML Linear Regression
Machine Learning: K - Nearest Neighbors & Naive Bayes
Machine Learning: Neural Networks I (Perceptron)

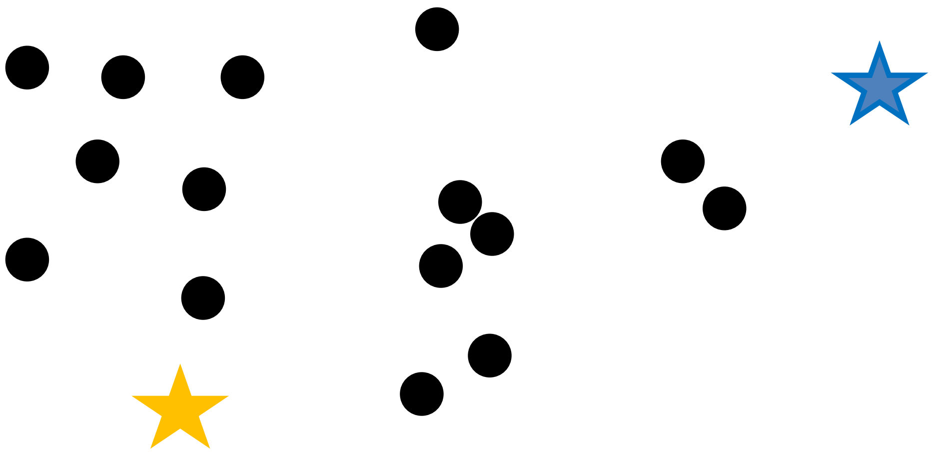
$\left.\right\}$ Machine Learning

Outline

- Finish up Other Clustering Types
  - Graph-based, cuts, spectral clustering
- Unsupervised Learning: Visualization
  - t-SNE, algorithm, example, vs. PCA
- Unsupervised Learning: Density Estimation
  - Kernel density estimation: high-level intro

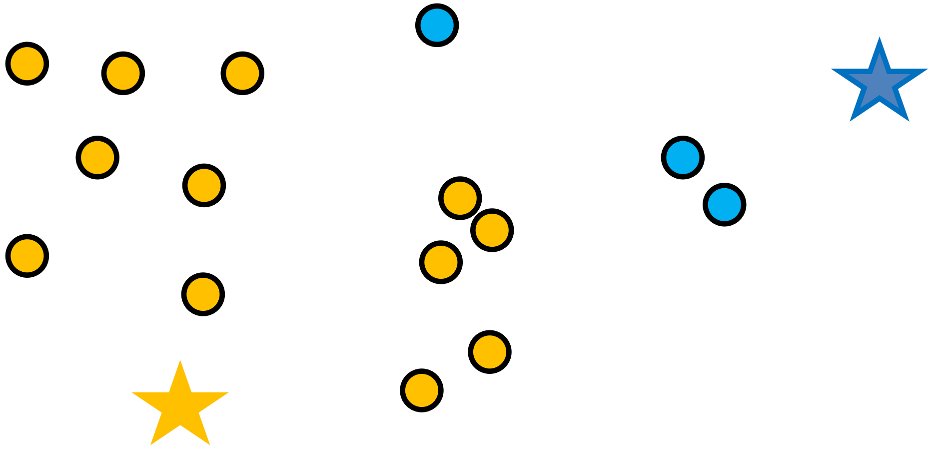
K-Means Clustering

- Steps: **1**. Randomly pick k cluster centers



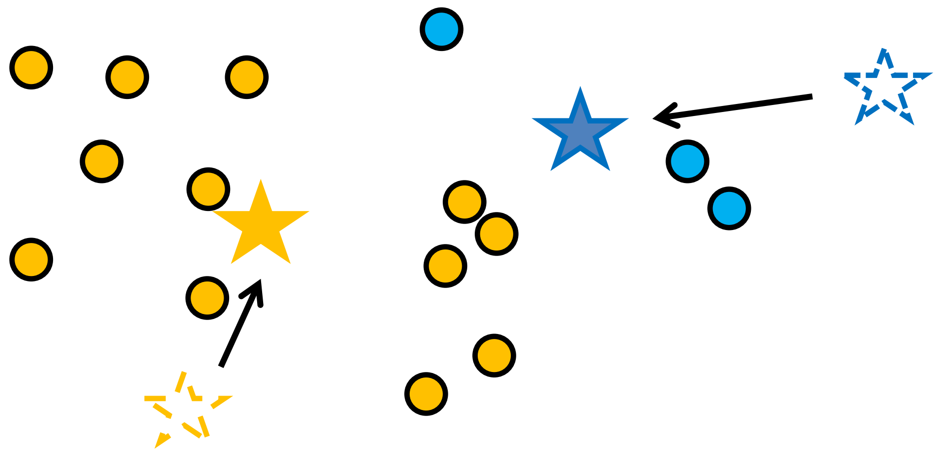
K-Means Clustering

- **2.** Find closest center for each point



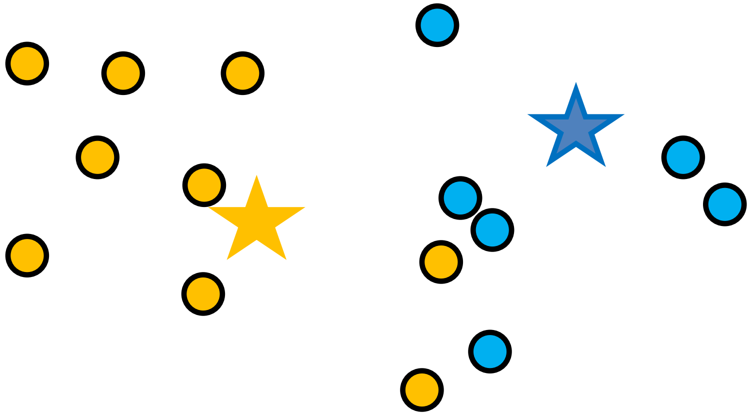
K-Means Clustering

- **3.** Update cluster centers by computing centroids



K-Means Clustering

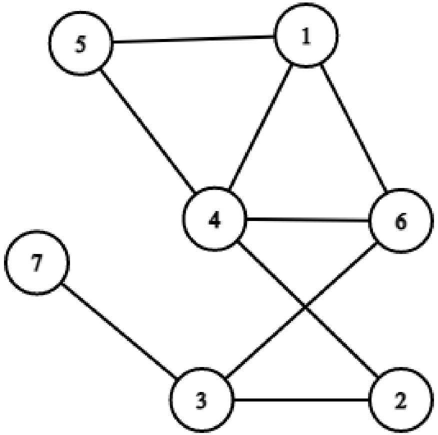
- Repeat Steps 2 & 3 until convergence



Other Types of Clustering

Graph-based/proximity-based

- Recall: Graph G = (V,E) has vertex set V, edge set E.
  - Edges can be weighted or unweighted
  - Encode **similarity:** $w_{ij} = \mathrm{sim}(v_i, v_j)$

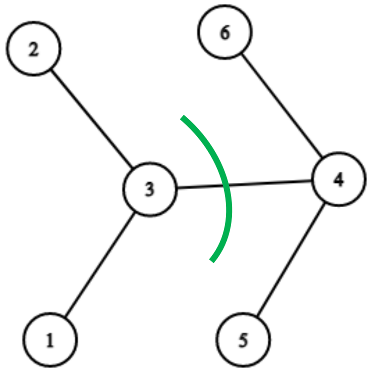


- Don't need to KEEP vectors v
  - Only keep the edges (possibly weighted)

Graph-Based Clustering

Want: partition V into V_1 and V_2

- Implies a graph "cut"
- One idea: minimize the **weight** of the cut



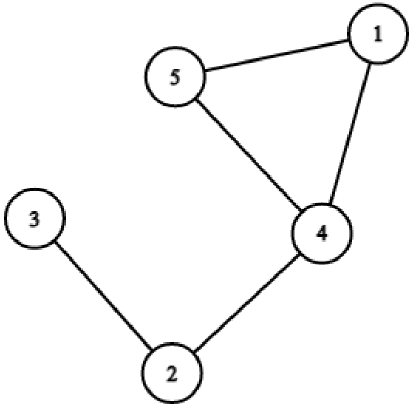
$$W(A,B) = \sum_{i \in A, j \in B} w_{ij}$$

$$\mathrm{cut}(A_1, \ldots, A_k) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{k} W(A_i, \overline{A}_i).$$

Partition-Based Clustering

How do we compute these?

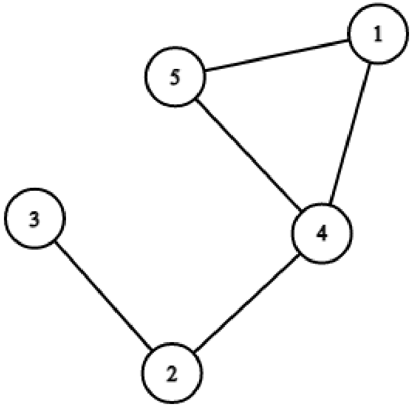
- Hard problem → heuristics
  - Greedy algorithm
  - "Spectral" approaches
- Spectral clustering approach:
  - **Adjacency** matrix



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

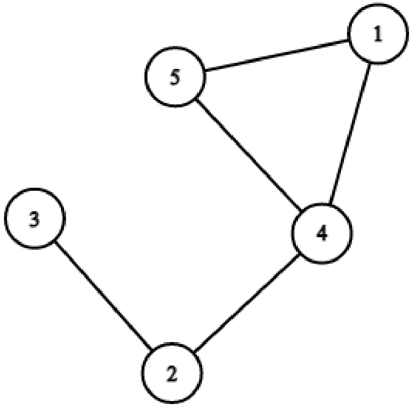
Partition-Based Clustering

- Spectral clustering approach:
  - **Adjacency** matrix
  - **Degree** matrix



$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Spectral Clustering

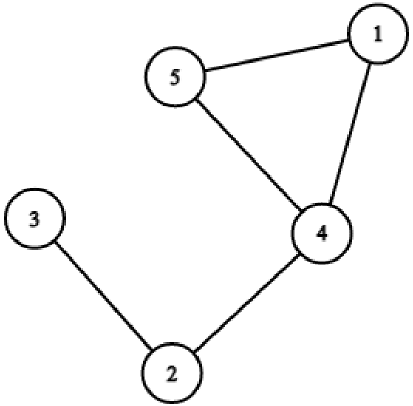


- Spectral clustering approach:
  - 1. Compute **Laplacian** **L** = **D** – **A**

(Important tool in graph theory)

$$L = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Degree Matrix}} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Adjacency Matrix}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Laplacian}}$$

Spectral Clustering

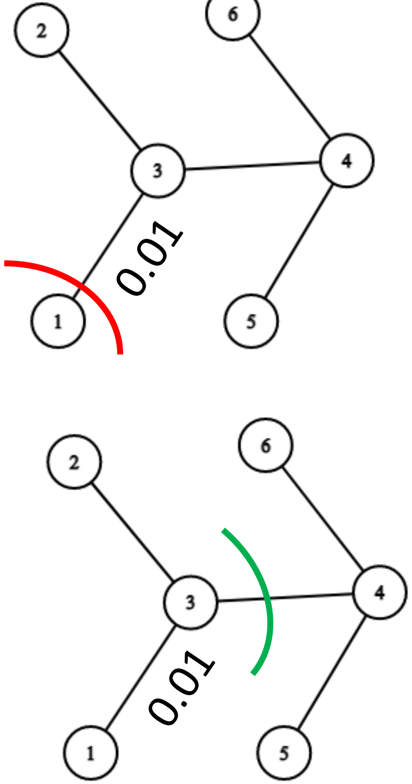


- Spectral clustering approach:
  - 1. Compute **Laplacian** $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{A}$
  - 1a (optional): compute normalized Laplacian:
    $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}^{-1/2}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}^{-1/2}$, **or** $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{A}$
  - 2. Compute k **smallest** eigenvectors of $\mathbf{L}$
  - 3. Set U to be the n x k matrix with $u_1, \ldots, u_k$ as columns. Take the n rows formed as points
  - 4. Run k-means on the representations

Why normalized Laplacian?

Want: partition V into V_1 and V_2

- Implies a graph “cut”
- One idea: minimize the **weight** of the cut
  - Downside: might just cut of one node
  - Need: “**balanced**” cut



Why Normalized Laplacian?

Want: partition V into V_1 and V_2

- Just minimizing weight is not always a good idea.
- We want **balance!**

$$\mathrm{Ncut}(A_1, \ldots, A_k) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{W(A_i, \overline{A}_i)}{\mathrm{vol}(A_i)}$$

$$\mathrm{vol}(A) = \sum_{i \in A} \mathrm{degree}(i)$$

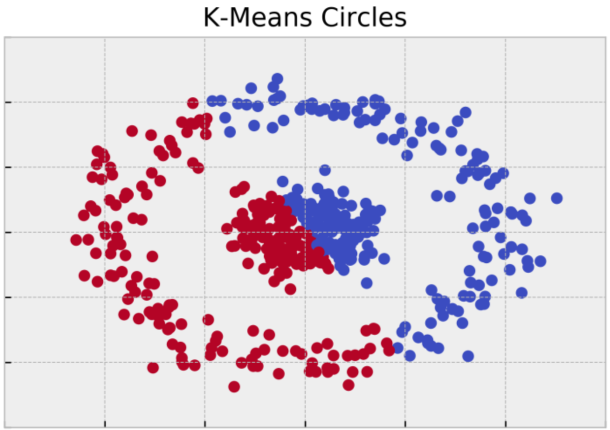
Spectral Clustering

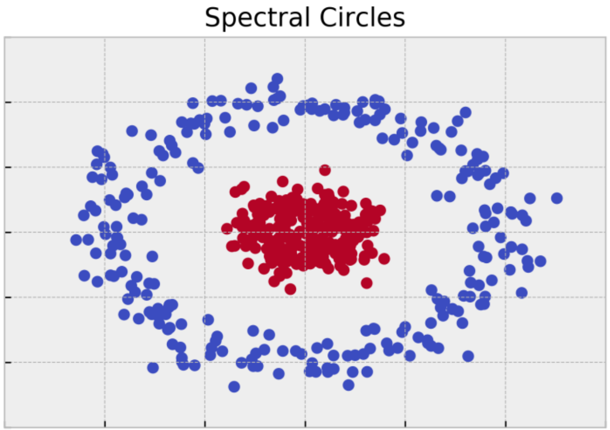
- Compare/contrast to **PCA**:
  - Use an **eigendecomposition /** dimensionality reduction
    - But, run on Laplacian (not covariance); use smallest eigenvectors, not largest
- Intuition: Laplacian encodes structure information
  - "Lower" eigenvectors give partitioning information

Spectral Clustering

Q: Why do this?

- 1. No need for points or distances as input
- 2. Can handle intuitive separation (k-means can't!)





Credit: William Fleshman

Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: We have two datasets: a social network dataset S_1 which shows which individuals are friends with each other along with image dataset $S_{2.}$
What kind of clustering can we do? Assume we do not make additional data transformations.

- A. k-means on both S_1 and S_2
- B. graph-based on S_1 and k-means on S_2
- C. k-means on S_1 and graph-based on S_2
- D. hierarchical on S_1 and graph-based on S_2

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- **B. graph-based on S_1 and k-means on S_2**
- C. k-means on S_1 and graph-based on S_2
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Break & Quiz

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What kind of clustering can we do? Assume we do not make additional data transformations.

- A. k-means on both S_1 and S_2 **(No: can't do k-means on graph)**
- **B. graph-based on S_1 and k-means on S_2**
- C. k-means on S_1 and graph-based on S_2 **(Same as A)**
- D. hierarchical on S_1 and graph-based on S_2 **(No: S_2 is not a graph)**

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: The CIFAR-10 dataset contains 32x32 images labeled with one of 10 classes. What could we use it for?

(i) Supervised learning (ii) PCA (iii) k-means clustering

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii) and (iii)
- C. Only (i) and (ii)
- D. All of them

Break & Quiz

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- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii) and (iii)
- C. Only (i) and (ii)
- **D. All of them**

Break & Quiz

Q 1.2: The CIFAR-10 dataset contains 32x32 images labeled with one of 10 classes. What could we use it for?

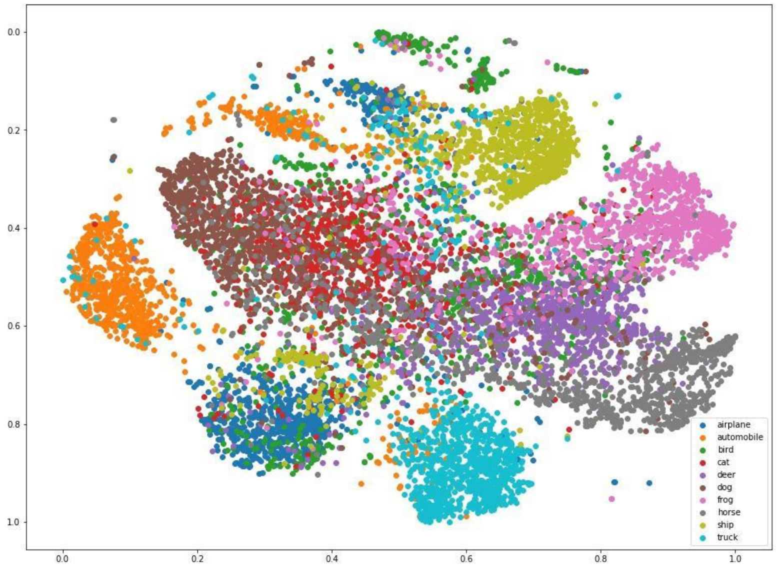
(i) Supervised learning (ii) PCA (iii) k-means clustering

- (i) **Yes: train an image classifier; have labels**
- (ii) **Yes: run PCA on image vectors to reduce dimensionality**
- (iii) **Yes: can cluster image vectors with k-means**
- **D. All of them**

Unsupervised Learning Beyond Clustering

Data analysis, dimensionality reduction, etc

- Already talked about PCA
- Note: PCA can be used for visualization, but not specifically designed for it
- Some algorithms **specifically** for visualization



Philip Slingerland

Dimensionality Reduction & Visualization

Typical dataset: MNIST

- Handwritten digits 0-9
  - 60,000 images (small by ML standards)
  - 28×28 pixel (784 dimensions)
  - Standard for image experiments

- Dimensionality reduction?

Dimensionality Reduction & Visualization

Run PCA on MNIST

- PCA is a linear mapping, (can be restrictive)

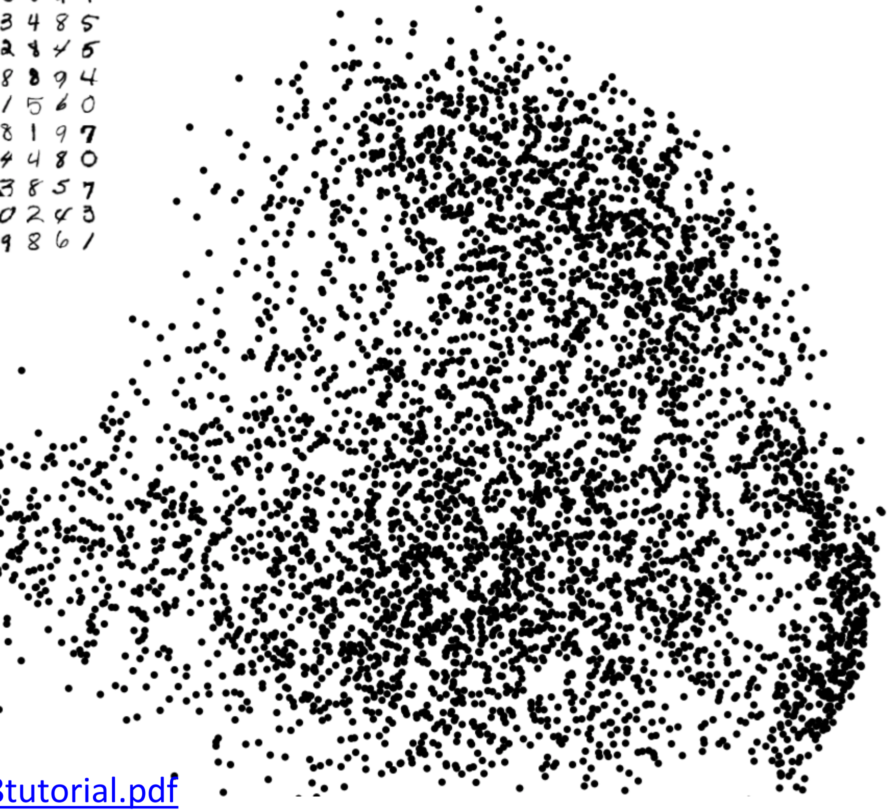


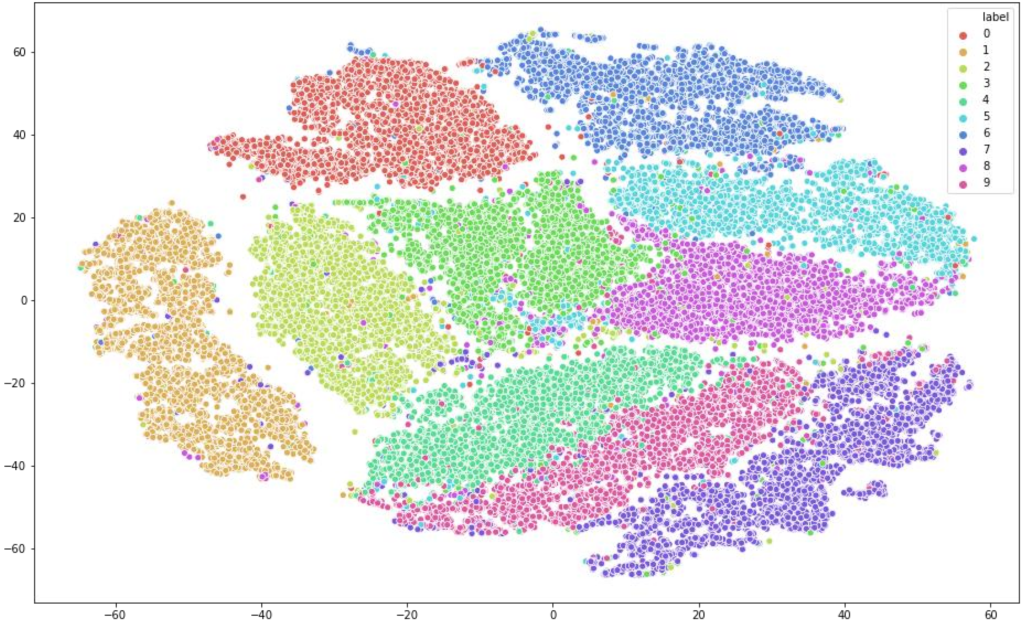
Image source:
http://deeplearning.csail.mit.edu/slide_cvpr2018/laurens_cvpr18tutorial.pdf

Visualization: **T-SNE**

Typical dataset: MNIST

- **T-SNE**: project data into just 2 dimensions
- Try to maintain structure

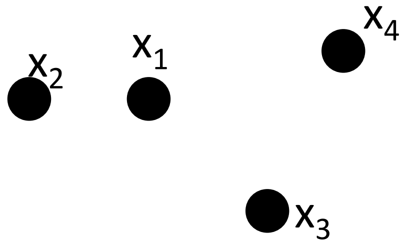
- MNIST Example
- **Input**: $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$
- **Output**: 2D/3D $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$



T-SNE Algorithm: Step 1

How does it work? Two steps

- **1.** Turn vectors into probability pairs
- **2**. Turn pairs back into **(lower-dim)** vectors



Step 1:

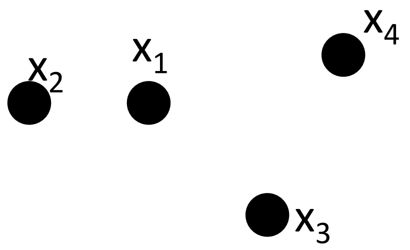
$$p_{j|i} = \frac{\exp(-\|x_i - x_j\|^2 / 2\sigma_i^2)}{\sum_{k \neq i} \exp(-\|x_i - x_k\|^2 / 2\sigma_i^2)} \qquad p_{ij} = \frac{1}{2n}(p_{j|i} + p_{i|j})$$

Intuition: probability that x_i would pick x_j as its neighbor under a Gaussian probability

T-SNE Algorithm: Step 2

How does it work? Two steps

- **1.** Turn vectors into probability pairs
- **2**. Turn pairs back into **(lower-dim)** vectors



Step 2: set

$$q_{ij} = \frac{(1 + \|y_i - y_j\|^2)^{-1}}{\sum_{k \neq \ell}(1 + \|y_k - y_\ell\|^2)^{-1}}$$

and minimize

$$\sum_{i,j} p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$

KL Divergence
between p and q

T-SNE Algorithm: Step 2

$$\sum_{i,j} p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$

KL Divergence between p and q

More on step 2:

- We have two distributions *p*, *q*. *p* is fixed
- *q* is a function of the y_i which we move around
- Move y_i around until the KL divergence is small
  - So we have a good representation!

- **Optimizing a loss function**---we'll see more in supervised learning.

T-SNE Examples

- Examples: (from Laurens van der Maaten)
- **Movies**: https://lvdmaaten.github.io/tsne/examples/netflix_tsne.jpg

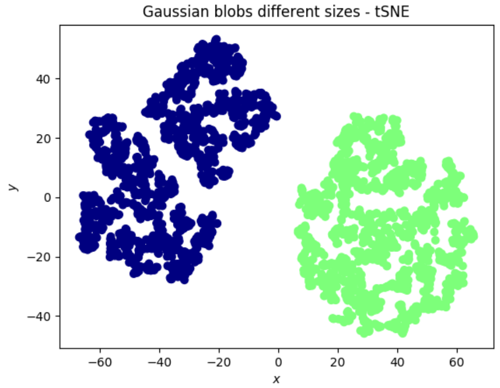
T-SNE Examples

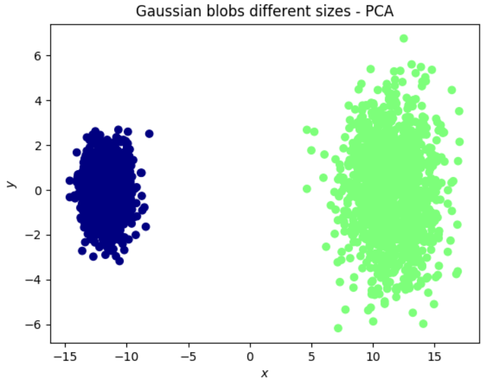
- Examples: (from Laurens van der Maaten)
- **NORB**: https://lvdmaaten.github.io/tsne/examples/norb_tsne.jpg

Visualization: **T-SNE**

t-SNE vs PCA?

- "Local" vs "Global"
- Lose information in t-SNE
  - not a bad thing necessarily
- Downstream use





Good resource/credit:
https://www.thekerneltrip.com/statistics/tsne-vs-pca/

Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Can we do t-SNE on NLP (words) or graph datasets?

- A. Never
- B. Yes, after running PCA on them
- C. Yes, after mapping them into R^d (ie, embedding)
- D. Yes, after running hierarchical clustering on them

Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Can we do t-SNE on NLP (words) or graph datasets?

- A. Never
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Break & Quiz

Q 2.1: Can we do t-SNE on NLP (words) or graph datasets?

- A. Never **(No: too strong)**
- B. Yes, after running PCA on them **(No: can't run PCA on words or graphs directly. Need vectors)**
- **C. Yes, after mapping them into R^d (ie, embedding)**
- D. Yes, after running hierarchical clustering on them **(No: hierarchical clustering gives us a graph)**

Short Intro to Density Estimation

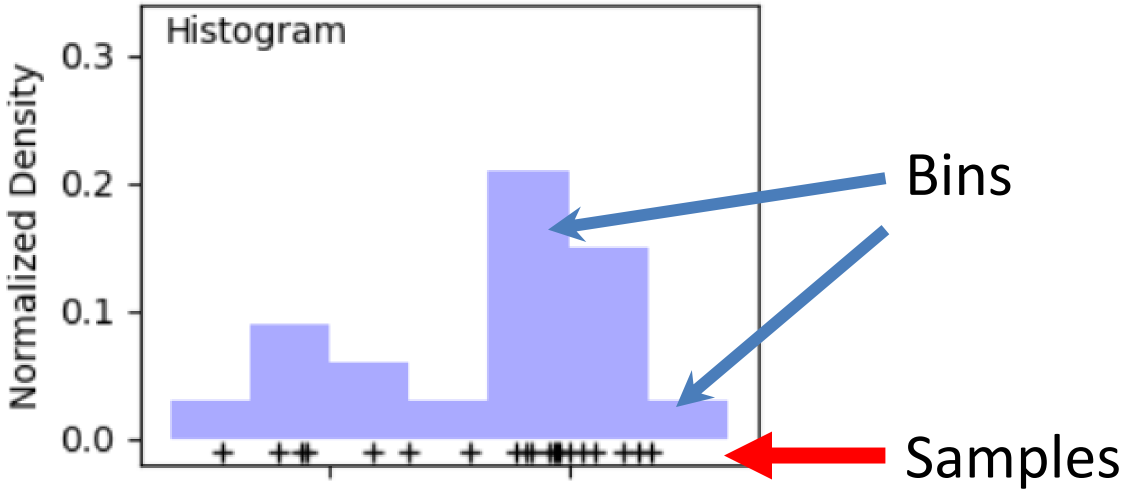
Goal: given samples $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ from some distribution P, estimate P.

- Compute statistics (mean, variance)
- Generate samples from P
- Run inference

Zach Monge

Simplest Idea: Histograms

Goal: given samples x_1, …, x_n from some distribution P, estimate P.



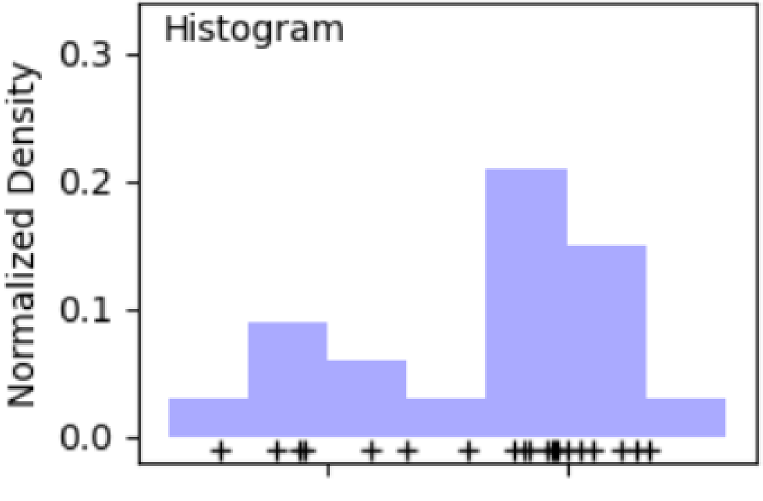
Define bins; count # of samples in each bin, normalize

Simplest Idea: Histograms

Goal: given samples $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ from some distribution P, estimate P.

Downsides:

i) High-dimensions: most bins empty
ii) Not continuous
iii) How to choose bins?



Kernel Density Estimation

Goal: given samples $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ from some distribution P, estimate P.

Idea: represent density as combination of "kernels"

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^{n} K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$

Center at each point

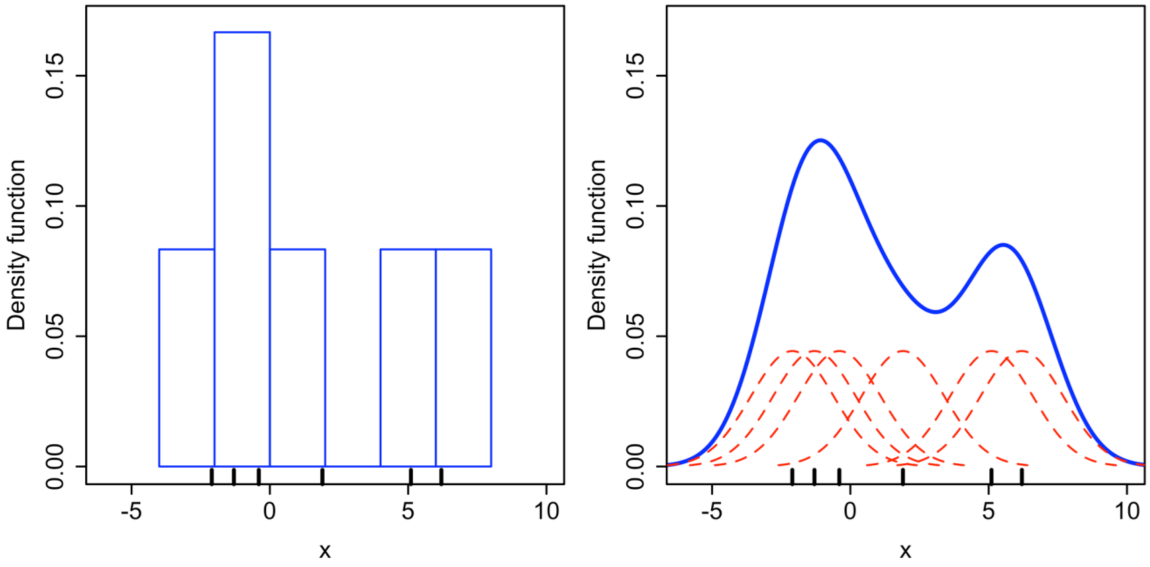
Kernel function: often Gaussian

Width parameter

Kernel Density Estimation

Idea: represent density as combination of kernels

- "Smooth" out the histogram



Suggested reading

- A Tutorial on Spectral Clustering, Ulrike von Luxburg

https://people.csail.mit.edu/dsontag/courses/ml14/notes/Luxburg07_tutorial_spectral_clustering.pdf

- Textbook: Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach (4th edition). Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig. Pearson, 2020.
  - Section 19.9 Exploratory data analysis and visualization
  - Section 21.2 Introduction