



University of Cyprus – MSc Artificial Intelligence

MAI644 – COMPUTER VISION

Lecture 10: Visual Recognition – Segmentation

Melinos Averkiou

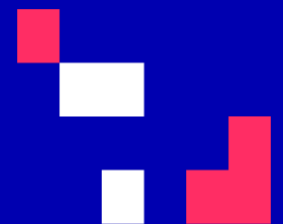
CYENS Centre of Excellence

University of Cyprus - Department of Computer Science

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Last time

- Linear least-squares
- RANSAC
- Panorama Stitching

Today's Agenda

- Visual Recognition Tasks
- Introduction to segmentation and clustering
- Agglomerative clustering
- K-means clustering
- Mean-shift clustering
- Efficient Graph-based image segmentation

Reading: Forsyth Chapter 9

D. Comaniciu and P. Meer, [Mean Shift: A Robust Approach toward Feature Space Analysis](#), TPAMI 2002

[material based on Niebles-Krishna]

Today's Agenda

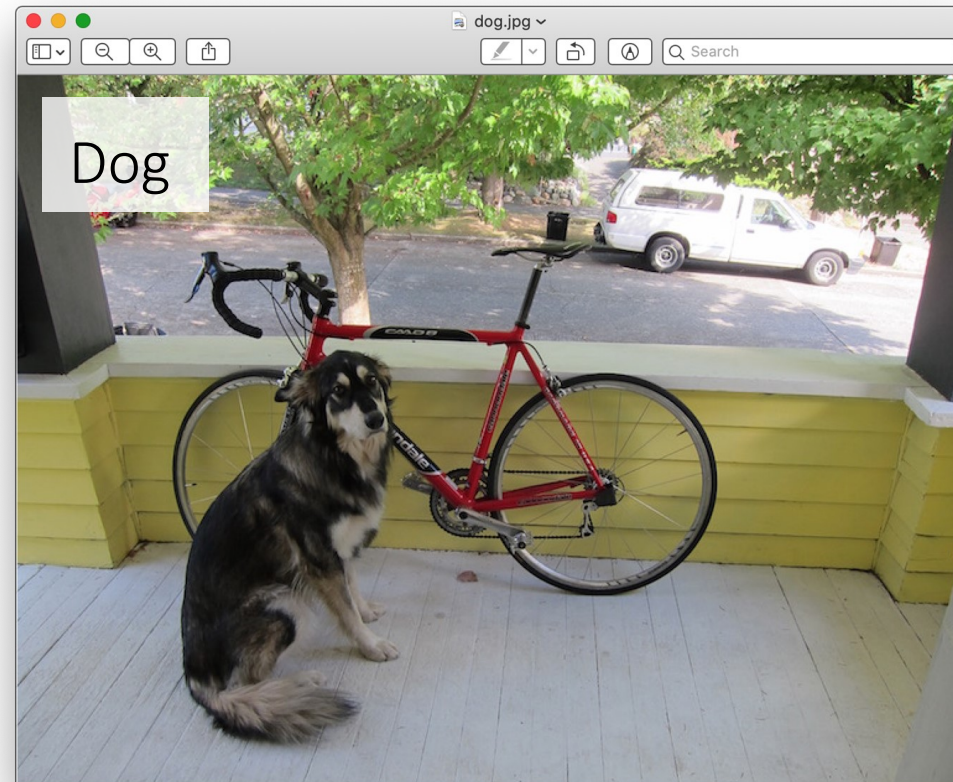
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Classification

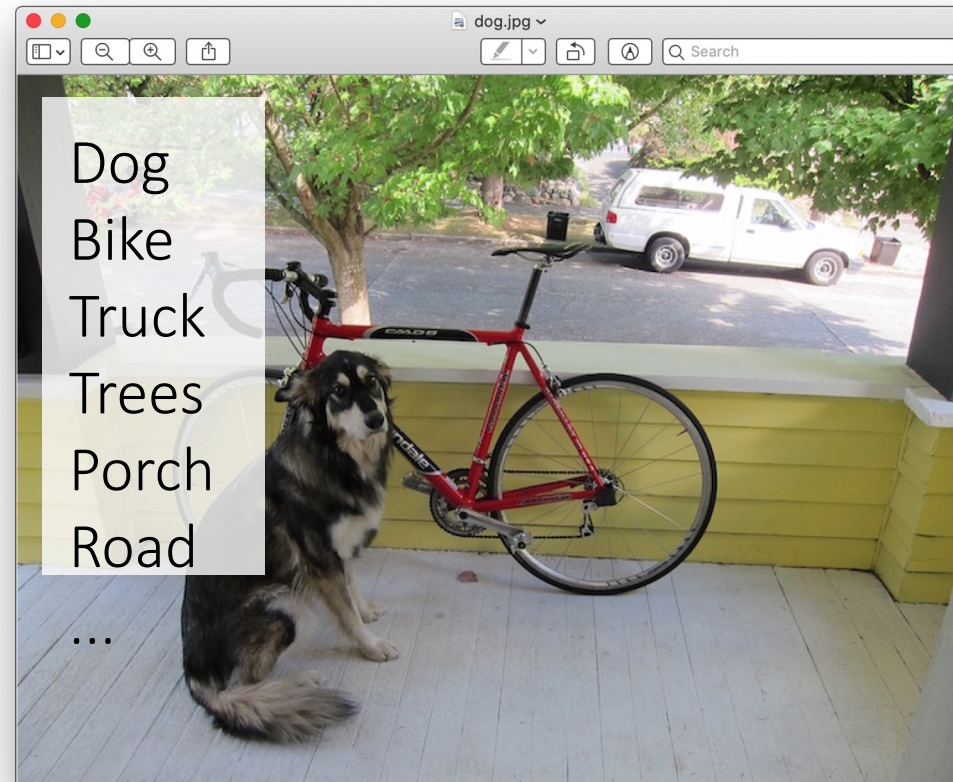
- What is in the image?



[Redmon]

Tagging

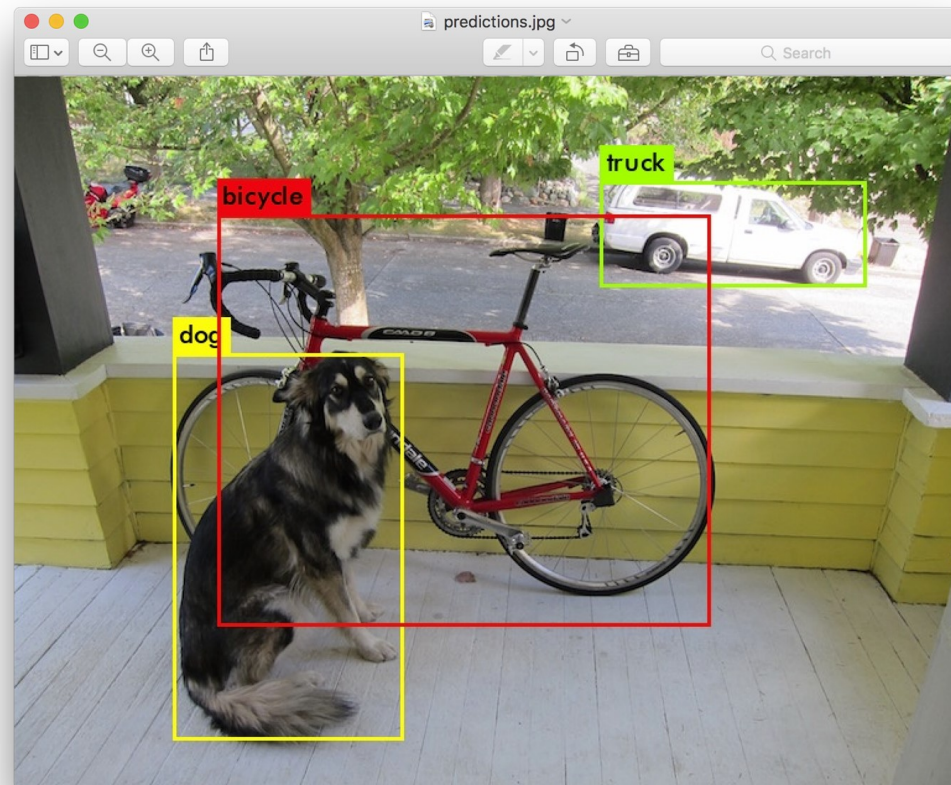
- What are ALL the things in the image?



[Redmon]

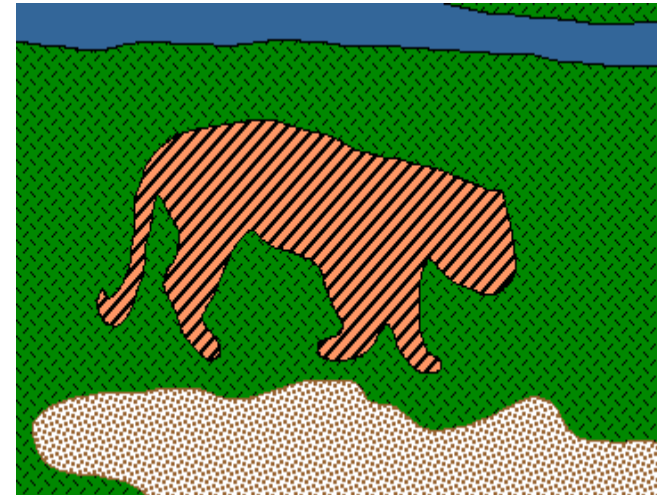
Detection

- What are ALL the things in the image?
- Where are they?



[Redmon]

Segmentation



Today's Agenda

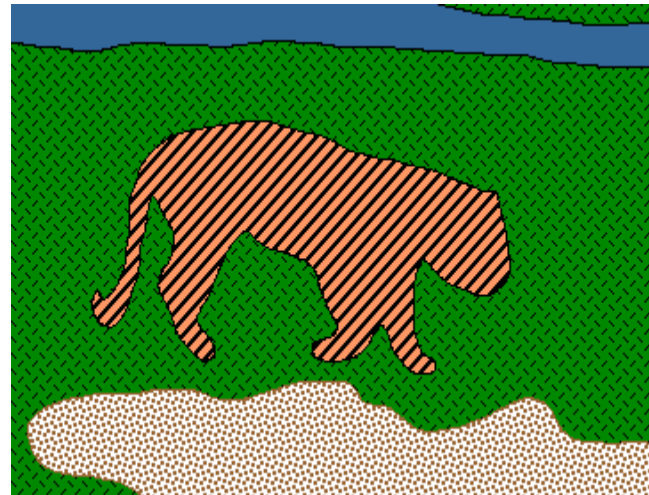
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Image Segmentation

Goal: identify groups of pixels that go together



Slide credit: Steve Seitz, Kristen Grauman

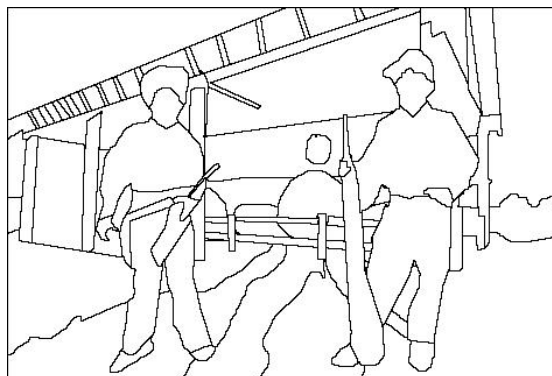
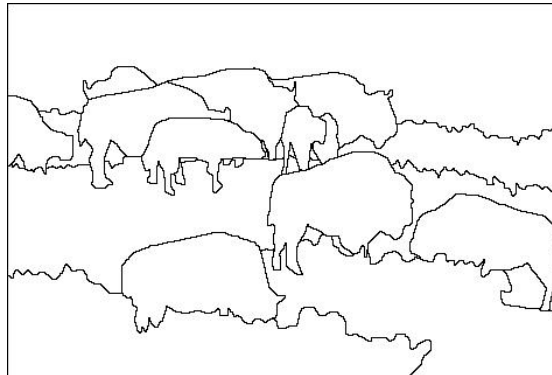
The Goals of Segmentation

- Separate image into coherent “objects”

Image



Human segmentation

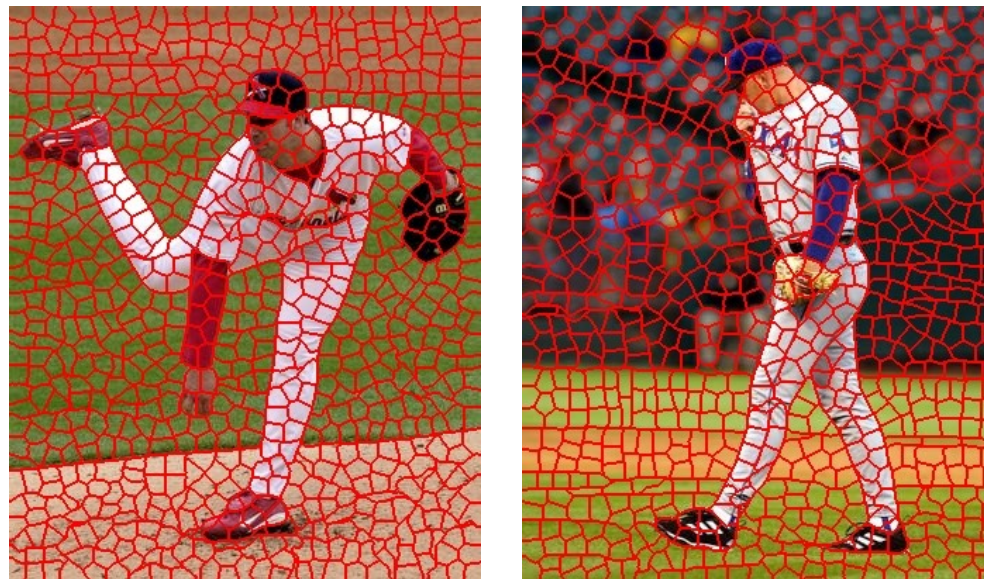


Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

The Goals of Segmentation

- Separate image into coherent “objects”
- Group together similar-looking pixels for efficiency of further processing

“superpixels”

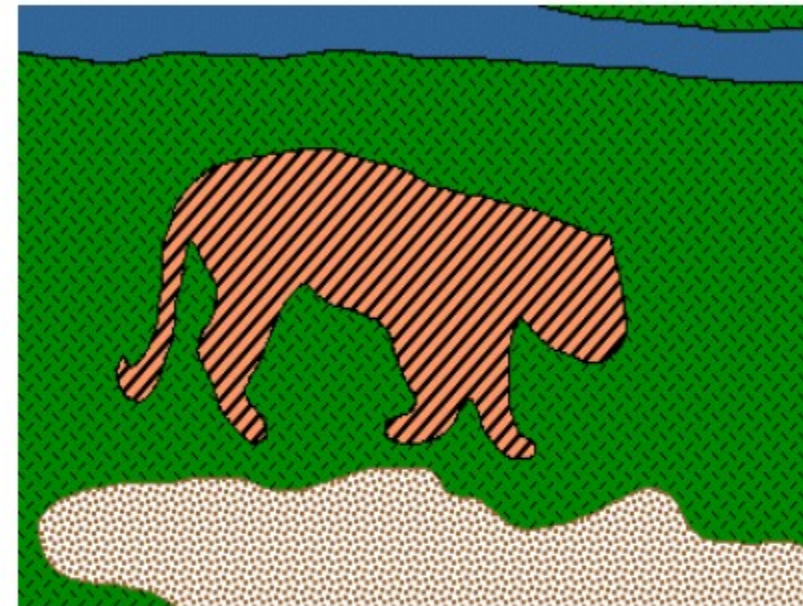


X. Ren and J. Malik. [Learning a classification model for segmentation](#). ICCV 2003.

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Types of Segmentation

- Semantic segmentation: Assign labels



Tiger
Water

Grass
Dirt

Types of Segmentation

- Semantic segmentation: Assign labels



Types of Segmentation

- Instance segmentation: Assign labels per object



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOT3UIXZztE>

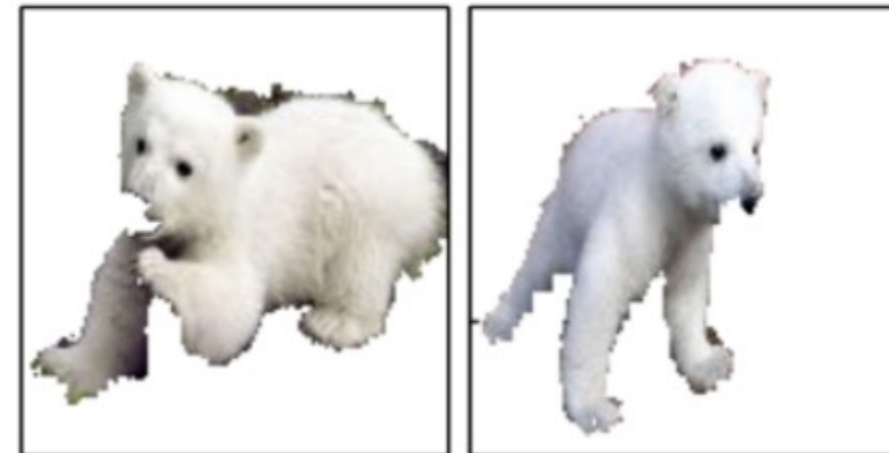
Types of Segmentation

- Foreground / background segmentation



Types of Segmentation

- Co-segmentation: Segment common object in multiple images

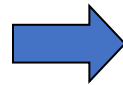


Application: as a result

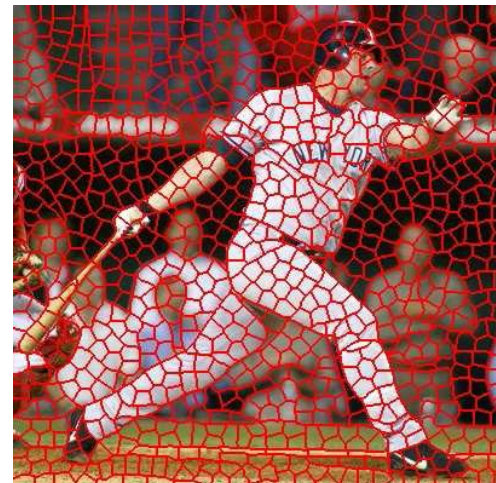
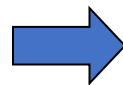


GrabCut: Rother et al. 2004

Application: for efficiency – e.g., speed up recognition



[Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher 2004]



[Hoiem et al. 2005, Mori 2005]

[Shi and Malik 2001]

Slide: Derek Hoiem

Application: better classification

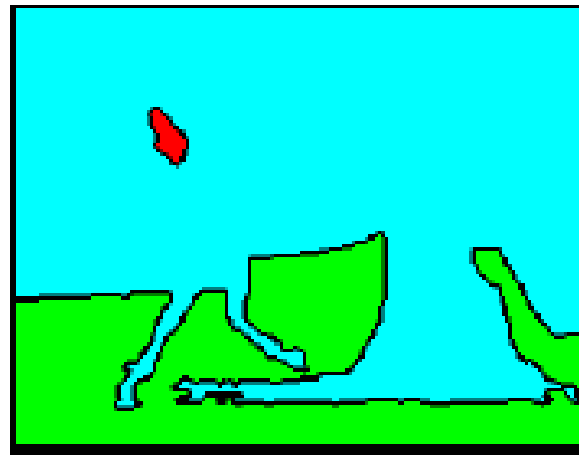


Angelova and Zhu, 2013

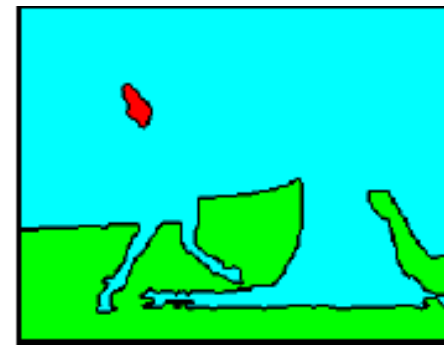
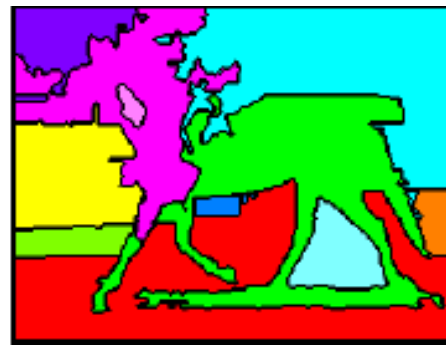
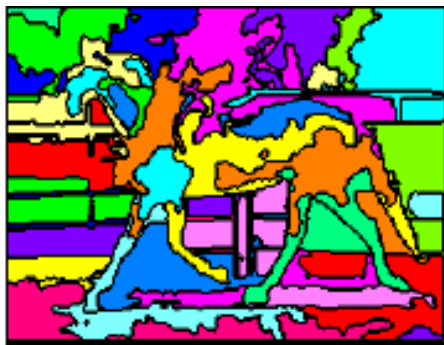
Over/under segmentation



Oversegmentation



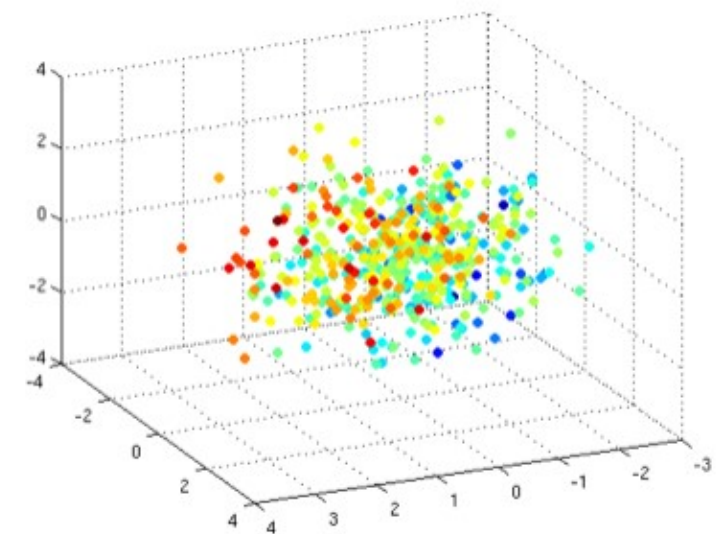
Undersegmentation



Multiple Segmentations

One way to think about segmentation is Clustering

- Pixels are points in a (high-dimensional) feature space, e.g.
 - color: 3D
 - color + location: 5D
- Cluster pixels into segments



One way to think about segmentation is Clustering

Clustering: group together similar data points and represent them as a single *entity*

Clustering is an unsupervised learning method

Key Challenges:

- 1) What makes two points/images/patches similar?
- 2) How do we compute an overall grouping from pairwise similarities?

Slide: Derek Hoiem

Distance vs Similarity Measures

Let x and x' be two objects from the dataset.

The distance or similarity between x and x' is a real number, $\text{dist}(x, x')$ or $\text{sim}(x, x')$

- The Euclidian distance is defined as

$$\text{dist}(x, x') = \sqrt{\sum (x_i - x'_i)^2}$$

- In contrast, cosine similarity measure would be

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sim}(x, x') &= \cos(\theta) \\ &= \frac{x^\top x'}{\|x\| \cdot \|x'\|} \\ &= \frac{x^\top x'}{\sqrt{x^\top x} \sqrt{x'^\top x'}} \end{aligned}$$

Desirable Properties of a Clustering Algorithm

1. Scalability in terms of both time and space
2. Ability to deal with different data types
3. Minimal requirements for domain knowledge to determine algorithm parameters
 - Don't need to know how many objects there are or what those object categories will be.
4. Interpretability and usability are optional
 - Incorporation of user-specified constraints

General ideas

- Bottom-up clustering
 - pixels belong together because they are locally coherent
- Top-down clustering
 - pixels belong together because they lie on the same visual entity (object)

Clustering algorithms

- Agglomerative clustering
- K-means
- Mean-shift clustering

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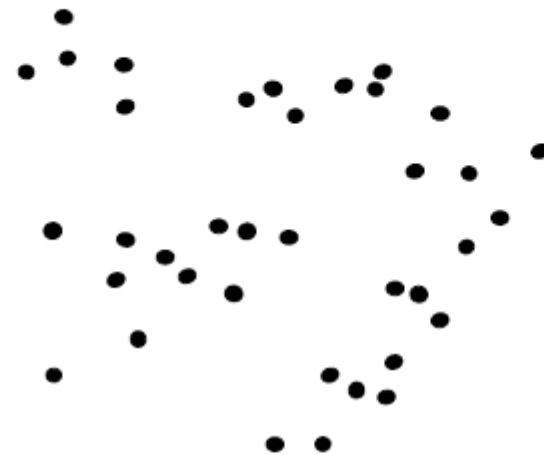
Reading: Forsyth Chapter 9

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Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm

1. Initially each item x_1, \dots, x_n is in its own cluster C_1, \dots, C_n .
2. Repeat until there is only one cluster left:
3. Merge the nearest clusters, say C_i and C_j .

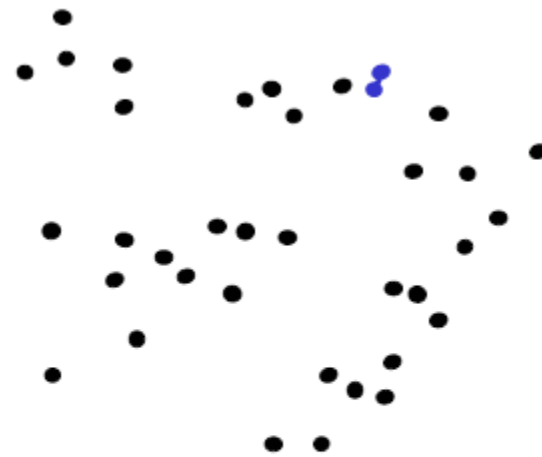
Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm



1. Say "Every point is its own cluster"

Slide credit: Andrew Moore

Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm



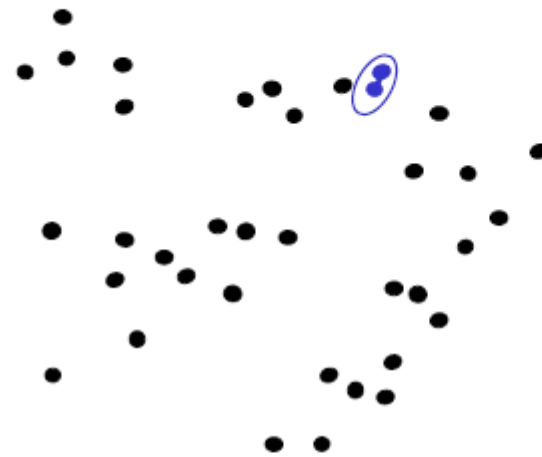
1. Say "Every point is its own cluster"
2. Find "most similar" pair of clusters



Slide credit: Andrew Moore



Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm



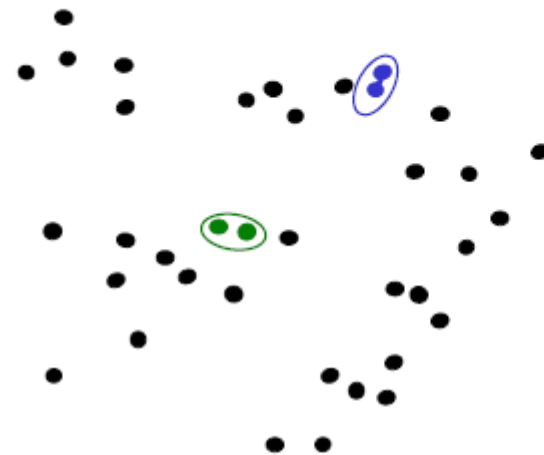
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3. Merge it into a parent cluster



Slide credit: Andrew Moore



Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm

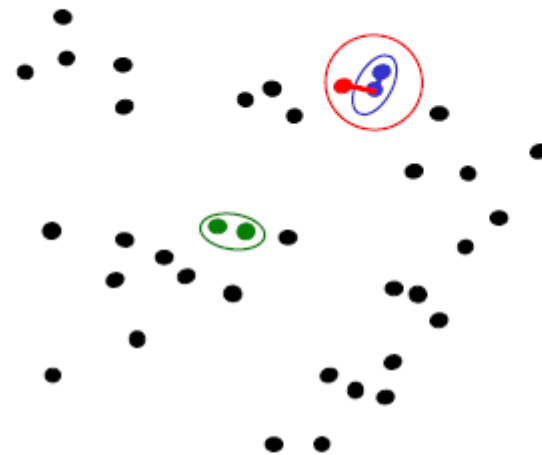


1. Say "Every point is its own cluster"
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4. Repeat



Slide credit: Andrew Moore

Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering - Algorithm

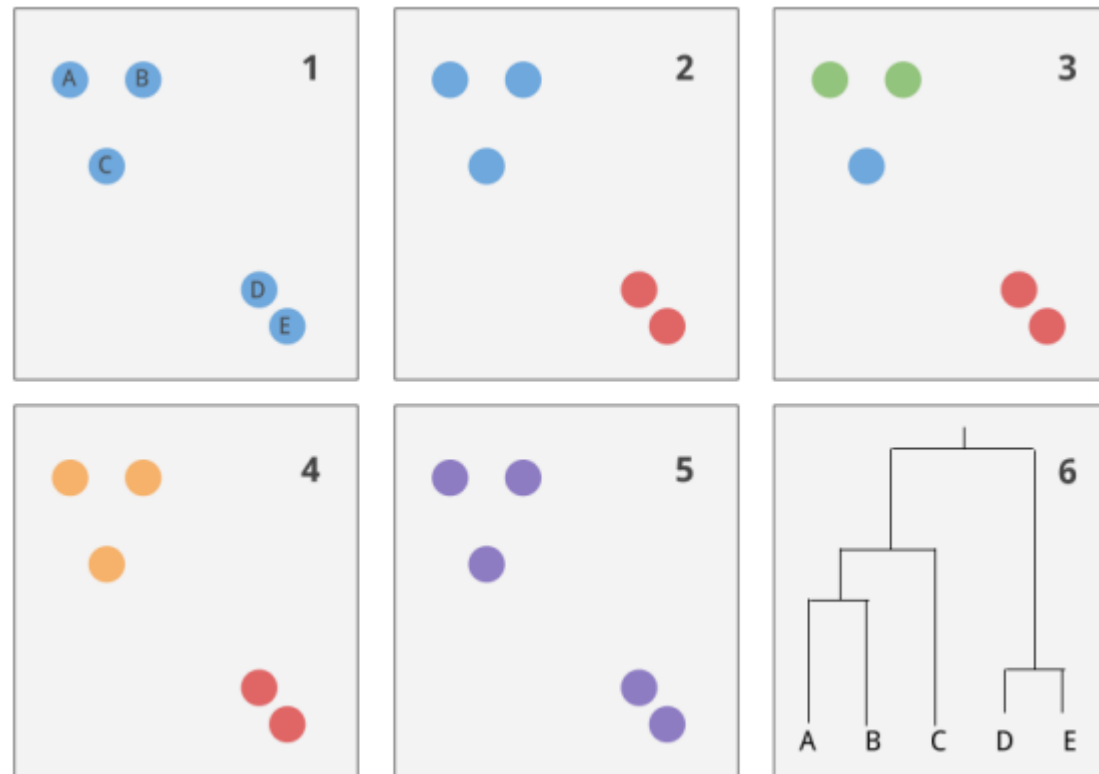


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Slide credit: Andrew Moore

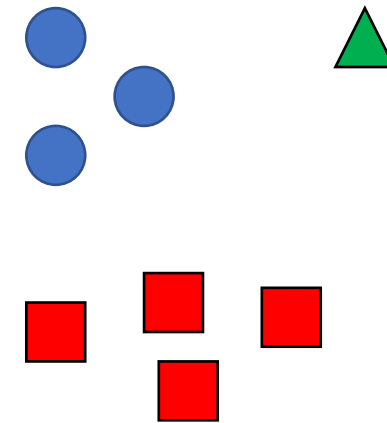
Agglomerative clustering example



Agglomerative clustering

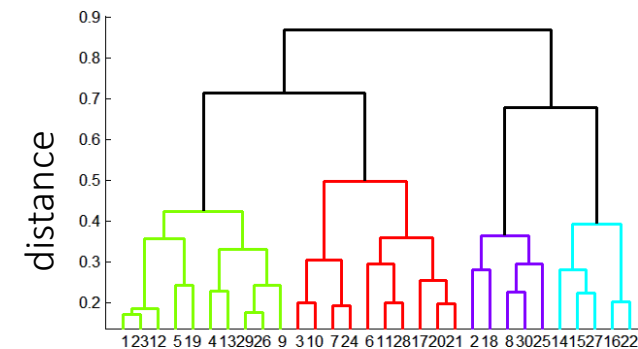
How to define cluster similarity?

- average distance between points
- maximum distance
- minimum distance
- distance between means or medoids



How many clusters?

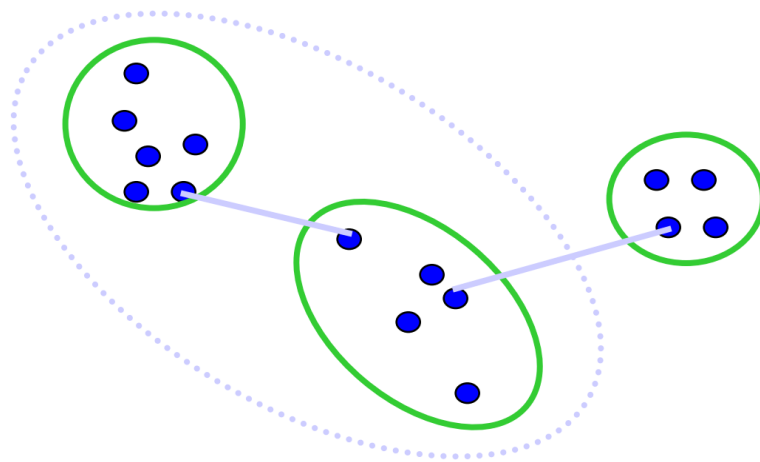
- Clustering creates a dendrogram (a tree)
- Threshold based on max number of clusters or based on distance between merges



Different measures of nearest clusters

Single Link

- Distance between clusters is the minimum distance between their points

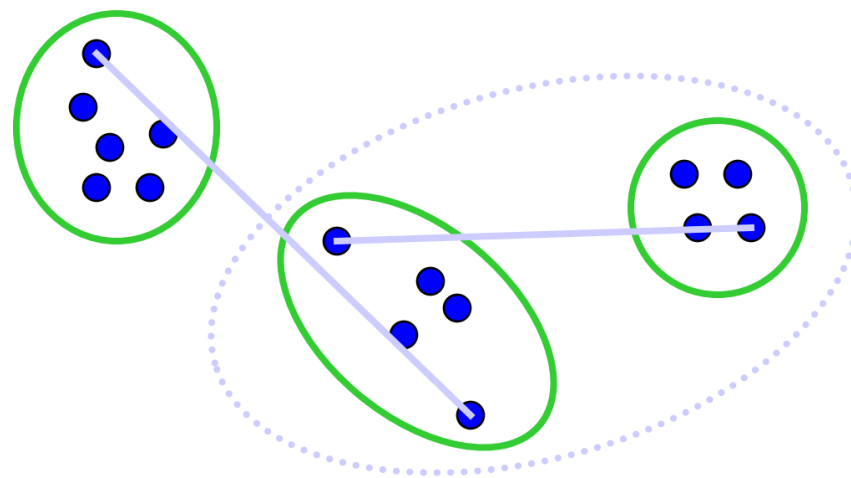


Long, skinny clusters

Different measures of nearest clusters

Complete Link

- Distance between clusters is the maximum distance between their points

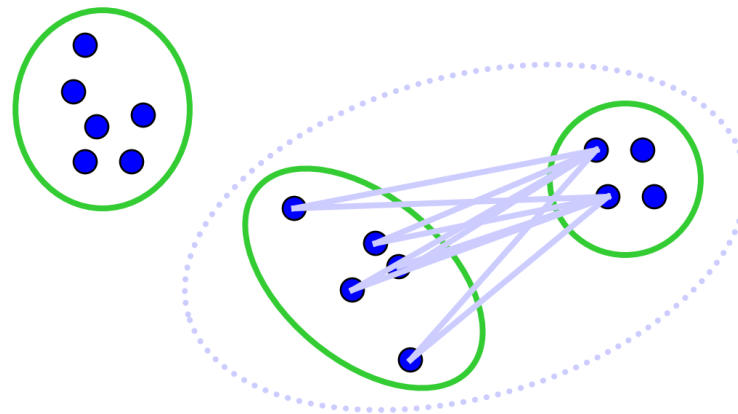


Tight clusters

Different measures of nearest clusters

Average Link

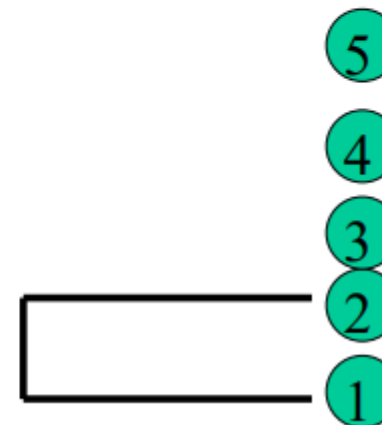
- Distance between clusters is the average distance between their points



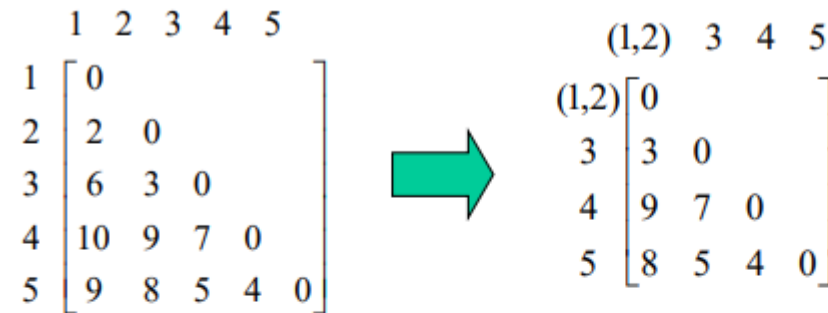
Robust against noise

Example – single link

	1	2	3	4	5
1	0				
2	2	0			
3	6	3	0		
4	10	9	7	0	
5	9	8	5	4	0



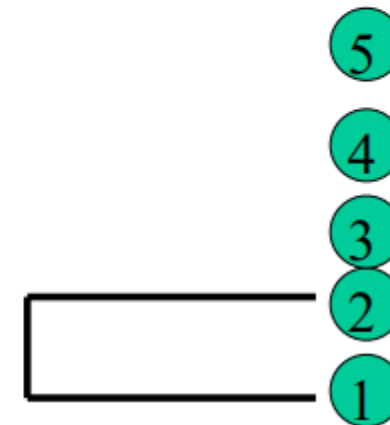
Example – single link



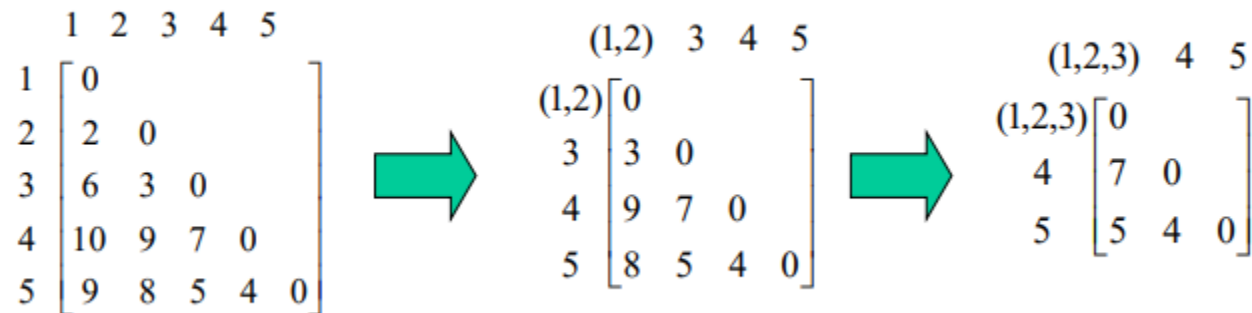
$$d_{(1,2),3} = \min\{d_{1,3}, d_{2,3}\} = \min\{6,3\} = 3$$

$$d_{(1,2),4} = \min\{d_{1,4}, d_{2,4}\} = \min\{10,9\} = 9$$

$$d_{(1,2),5} = \min\{d_{1,5}, d_{2,5}\} = \min\{9,8\} = 8$$

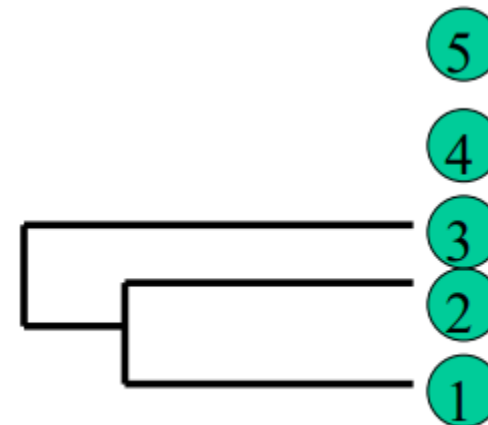


Example – single link

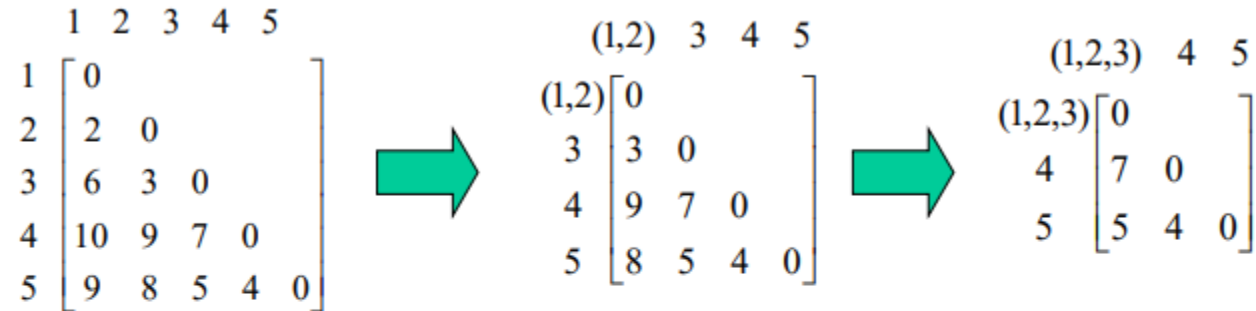


$$d_{(1,2,3),4} = \min\{d_{(1,2),4}, d_{3,4}\} = \min\{9, 7\} = 7$$

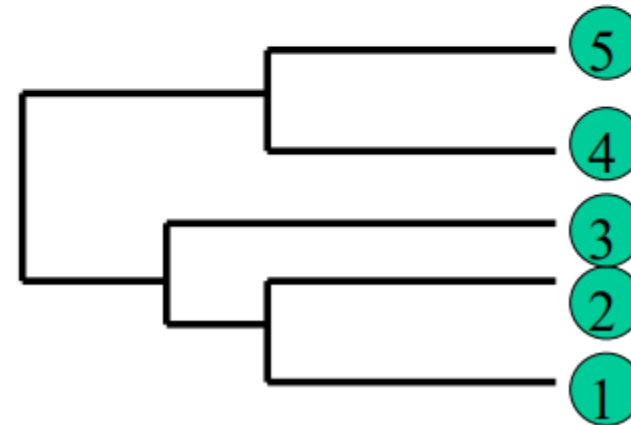
$$d_{(1,2,3),5} = \min\{d_{(1,2),5}, d_{3,5}\} = \min\{8, 5\} = 5$$



Example – single link

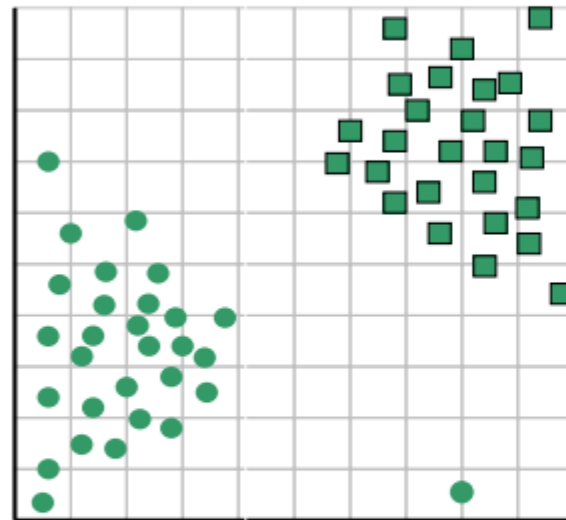


$$d_{(1,2,3),(4,5)} = \min\{d_{(1,2,3),4}, d_{(1,2,3),5}\} = 5$$

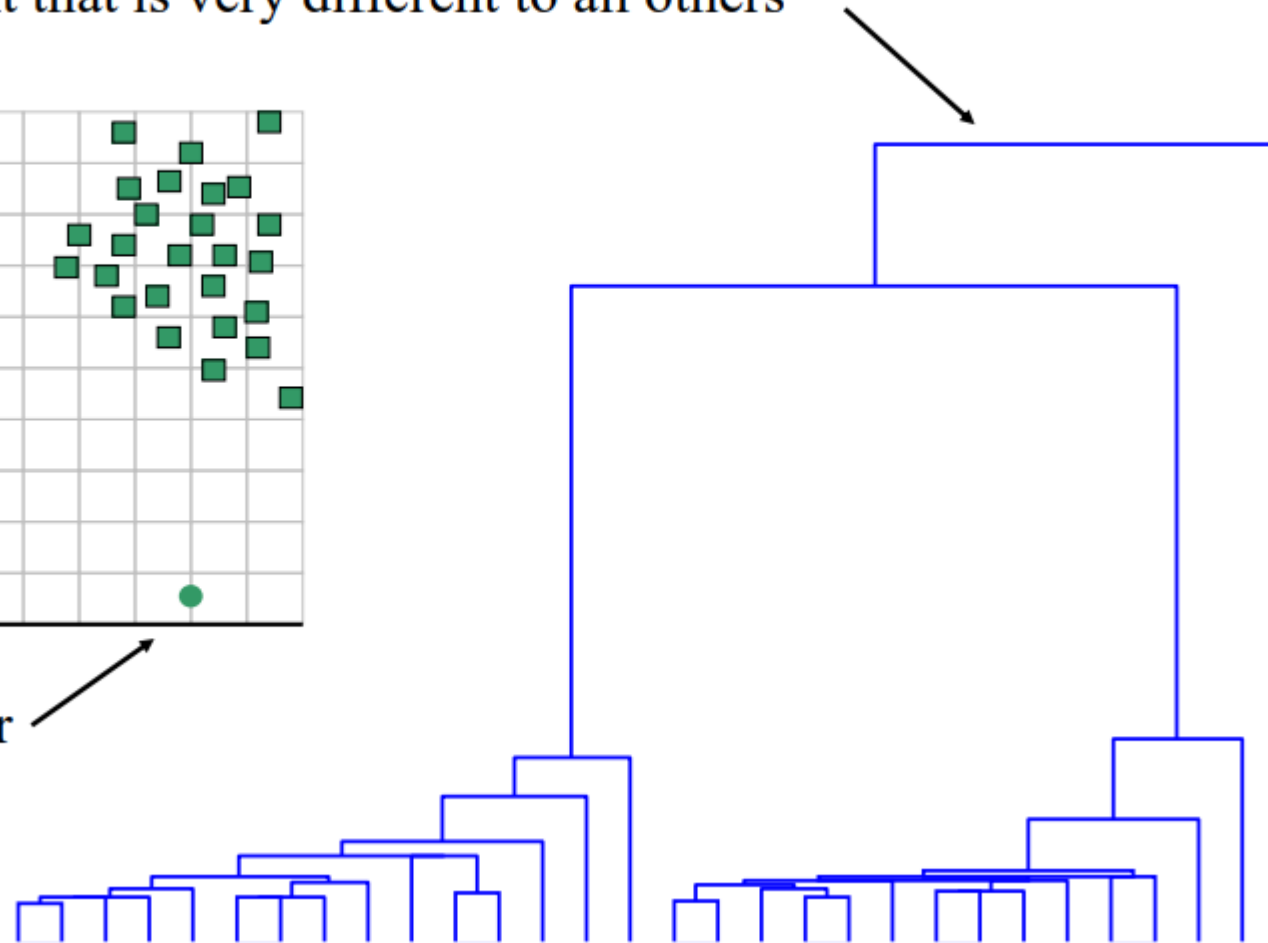


Outliers

The single isolated branch is suggestive of a data point that is very different to all others



Outlier



Conclusions: Agglomerative Clustering

Good

- Simple to implement, widespread application.
- Clusters have adaptive shapes.
- Provides a hierarchy of clusters.
- Can avoid specifying number of clusters in advance.

Bad

- May have imbalanced clusters.
- Still have to choose number of clusters or threshold to use them.
- Does not scale well. Runtime of $O(n^3)$.

Today's Agenda

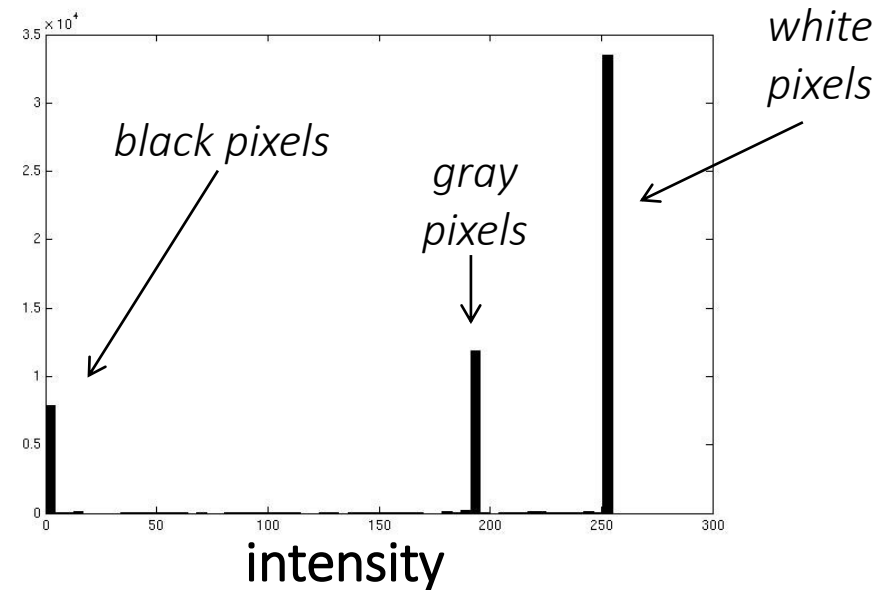
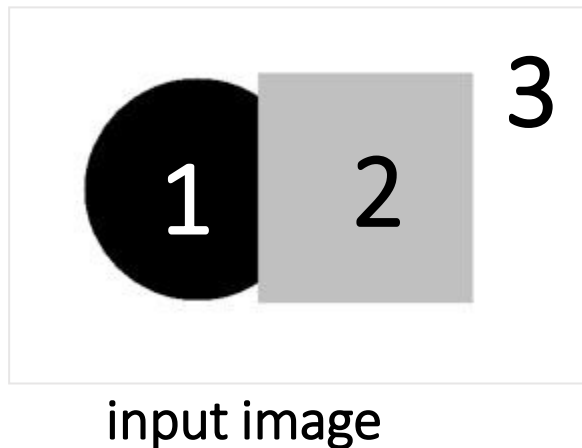
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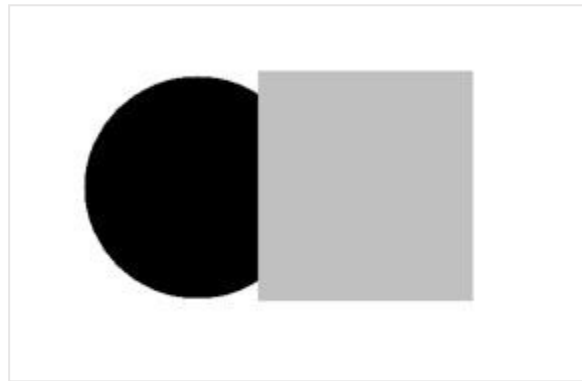


Image Segmentation: Toy Example

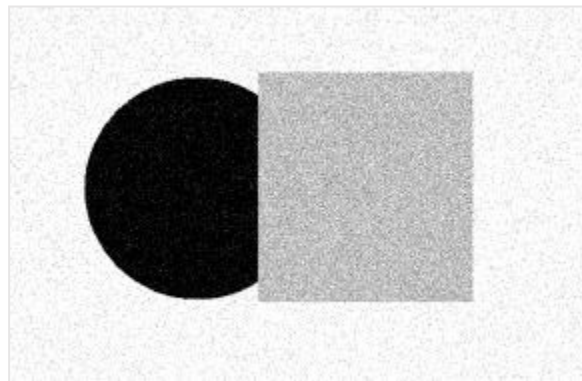
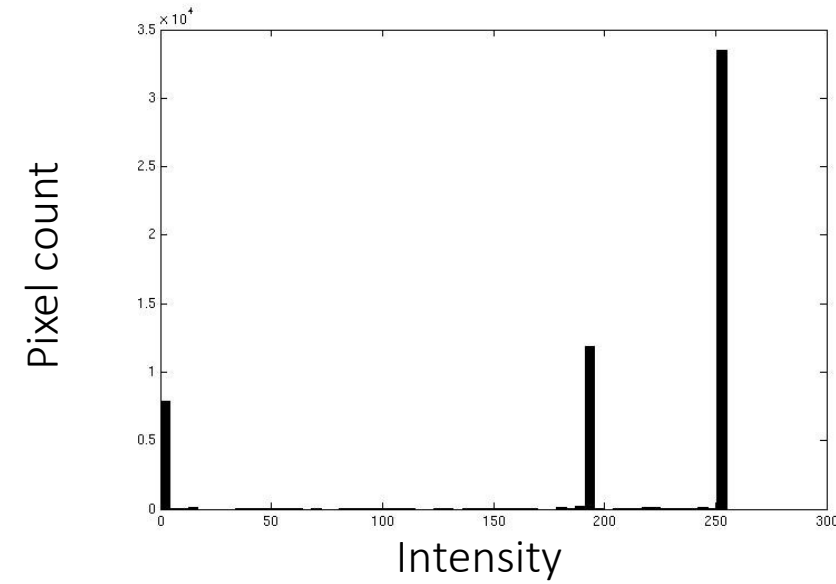


- These intensities define the three groups.
- We could label every pixel in the image according to which of these primary intensities it is.
 - i.e., segment the image based on the image intensity feature.
- What if the image isn't quite so simple?

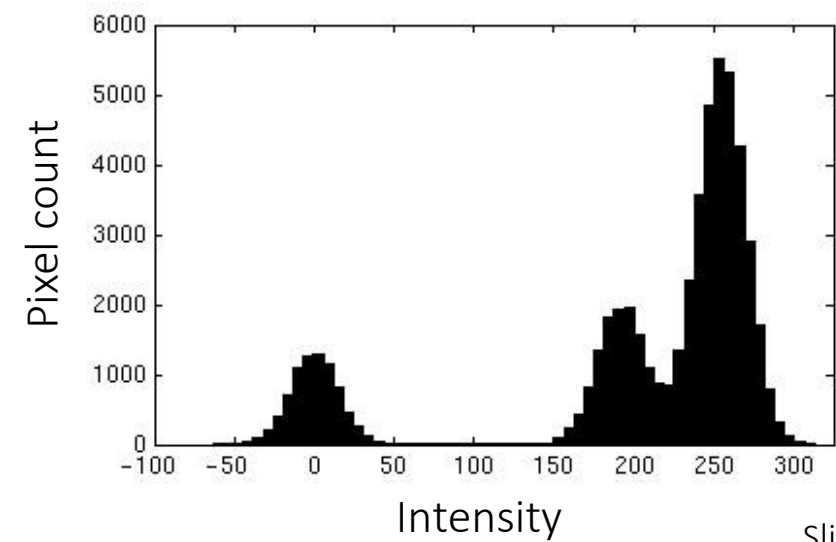
Slide credit: Kristen Grauman



Input image

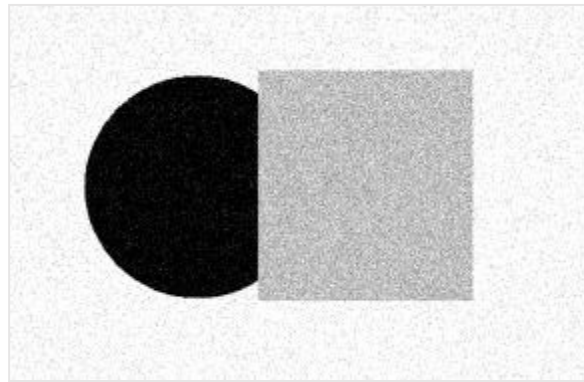


Input image

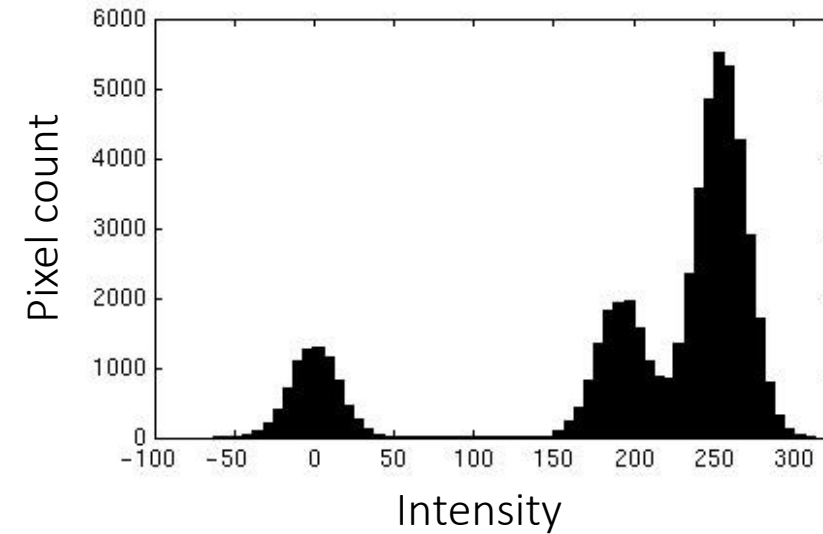


Slide credit: Kristen Grauman



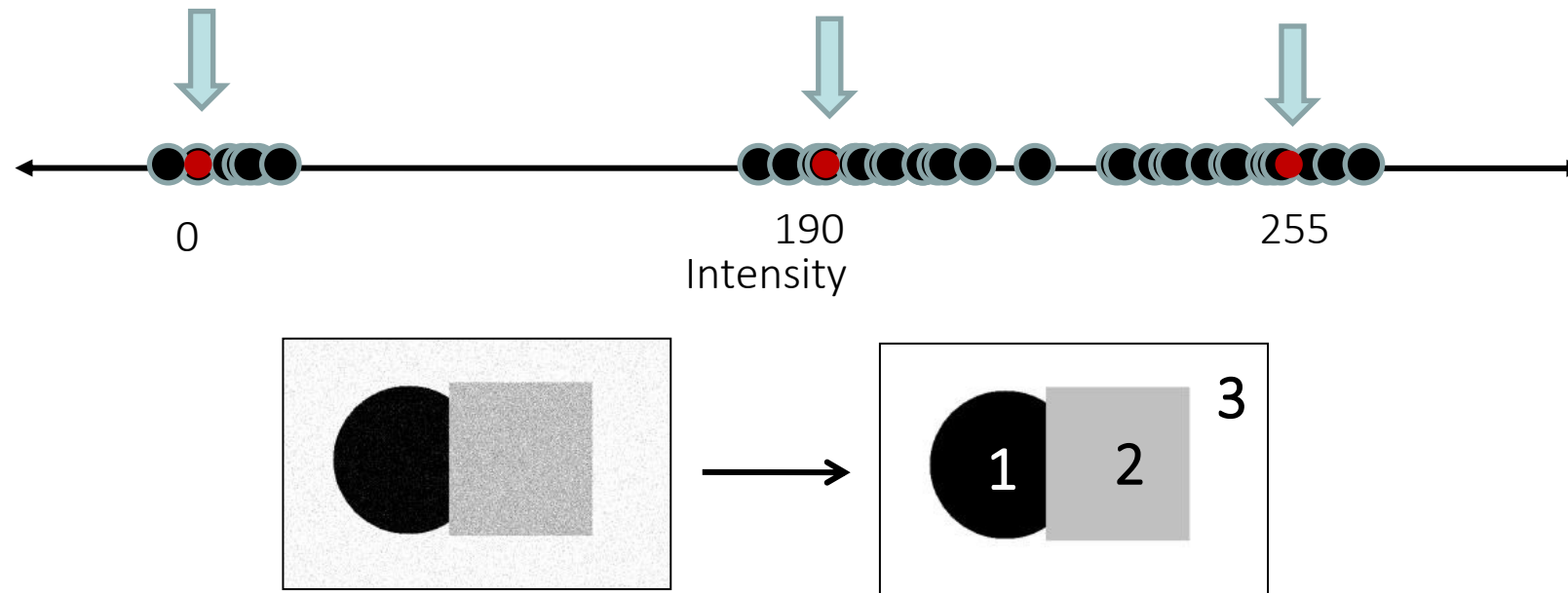


Input image



- Now how to determine the three main intensities that define our groups?
- We need to cluster

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman



- Goal: choose three “centers” as the representative intensities and label every pixel according to which of these centers it is nearest to.
- Best cluster centers are those that minimize Sum of Square Distance (SSD) between all points and their nearest cluster center c_i :

$$SSD = \sum_{cluster\ i} \sum_{x \in cluster\ i} (x - c_i)^2$$

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Clustering for Summarization

Goal: cluster to minimize variance in data, given clusters

$$c^*, \delta^* = \arg \min_{c, \delta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_j^N \sum_i^K \delta_{ij} (c_i - x_j)^2$$

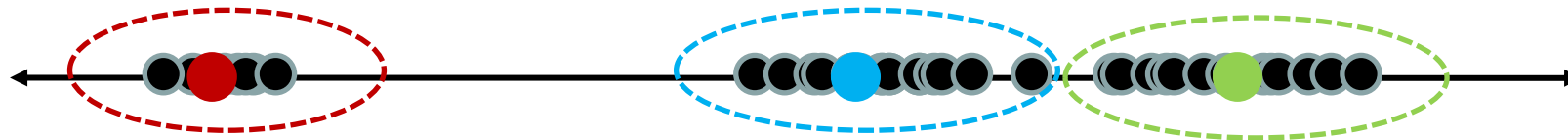
Cluster center
Data

Whether x_j is assigned to c_i

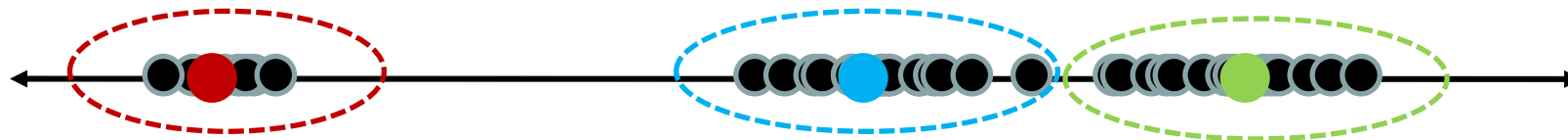
Slide credit: Derek Hoiem

Clustering

- With this objective, it is a “chicken and egg” problem:
 - If we knew the *cluster centers*, we could allocate points to groups by assigning each to its closest center.



- If we knew the *group memberships*, we could get the centers by computing the mean per group.



Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

K-means clustering

1. Initialize ($t = 0$): cluster centers c_1, \dots, c_K

2. Compute δ^t : assign each point to the closest center

- δ^t denotes the set of assignments for each x_j to cluster c_i at iteration t

$$\delta^t = \operatorname{argmin}_{\delta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_j \sum_i \delta_{ij}^{t-1} (c_i^{t-1} - x_j)^2$$

3. Compute c^t : update cluster centers as the mean of the points

$$c^t = \operatorname{argmin}_c \frac{1}{N} \sum_j \sum_i \delta_{ij}^t (c_i^{t-1} - x_j)^2$$

4. Update $t = t + 1$, Repeat Step 2-3 till stopped



Slide credit: Derek Hoiem

K-means clustering

1. Initialize ($t = 0$): cluster centers c_1, \dots, c_K

- Commonly used: random initialization
- Or greedily choose K to minimize residual

2. Compute δ^t : assign each point to the closest center

- δ^t denotes the set of assignments for each x_j to cluster c_i at iteration t
- Typical distance measure:
 - Euclidean
 - Cosine

$$\delta^t = \operatorname{argmin}_{\delta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_j \sum_i \delta_{ij}^t (c_i^{t-1} - x_j)^2$$

3. Compute c^t : update cluster centers as the mean of the points

$$c^t = \operatorname{argmin}_c \frac{1}{N} \sum_j \sum_i \delta_{ij}^t (c_i^{t-1} - x_j)^2$$

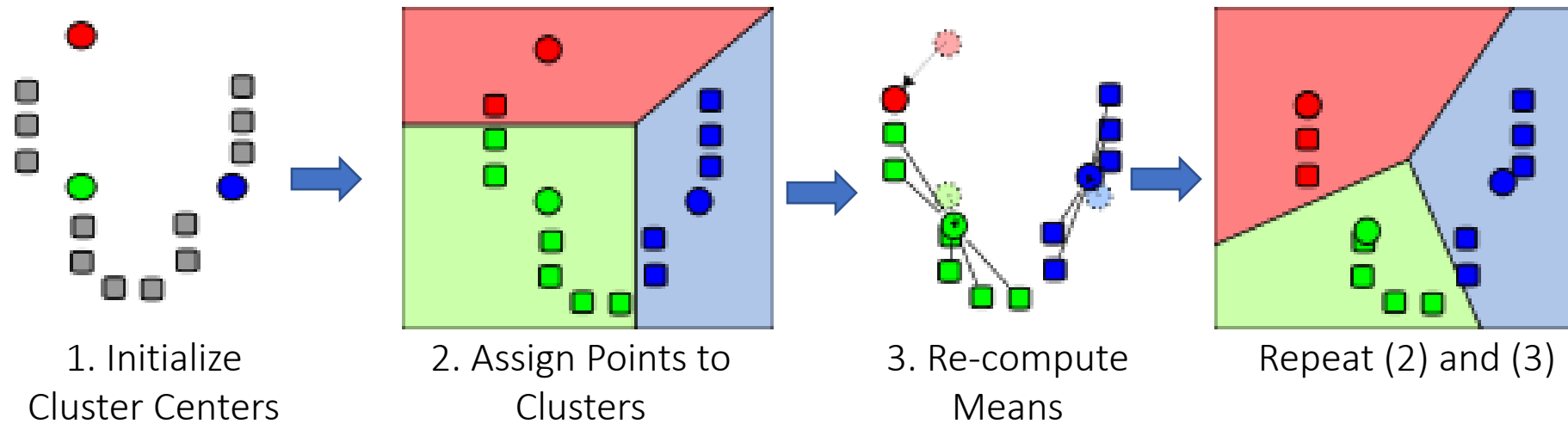
4. Update $t = t + 1$, Repeat Step 2-3 till stopped

- c^t doesn't change anymore.



Slide credit: Derek Hoiem

K-means clustering



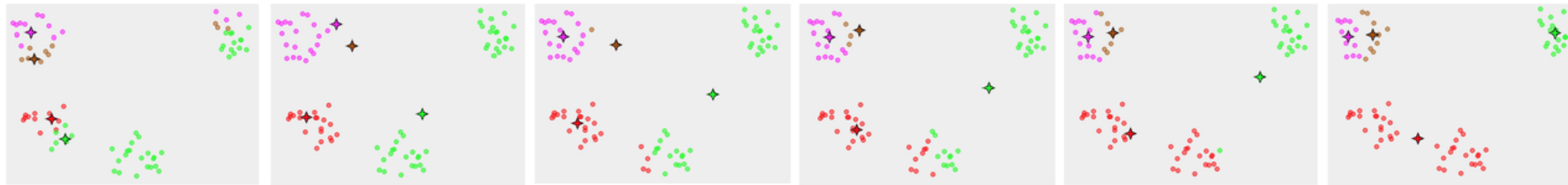
Demo

<https://stanford.edu/class/engr108/visualizations/kmeans/kmeans.html>

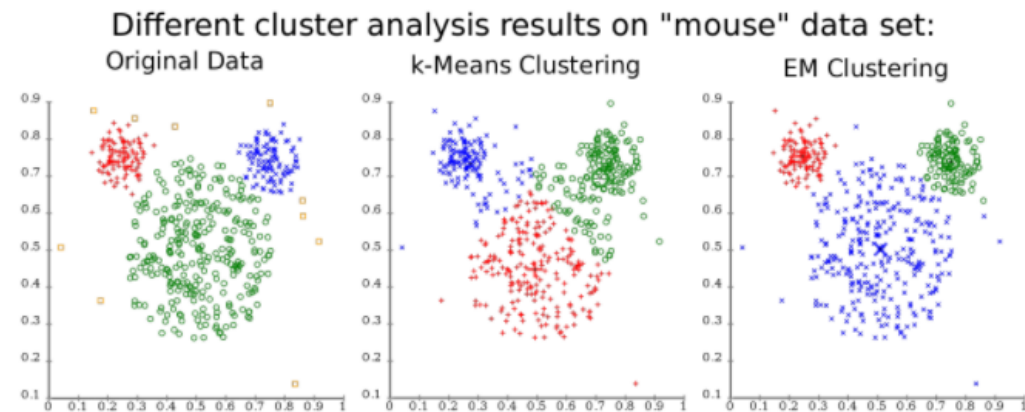
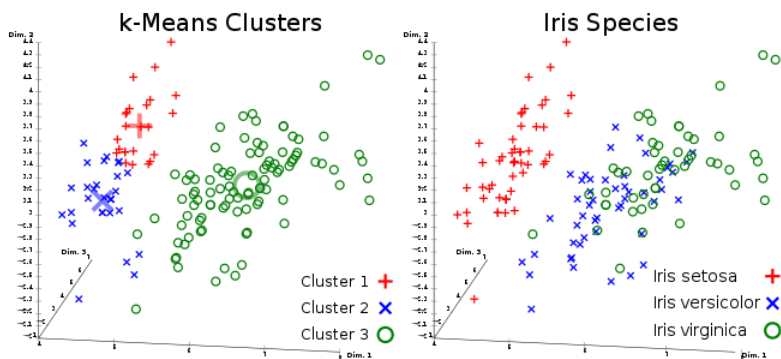
Illustration Source: wikipedia

K-means clustering

- Converges to a *local minimum* solution
 - Initialize multiple runs



- Better fit for spherical data



- Need to pick K (# of clusters)

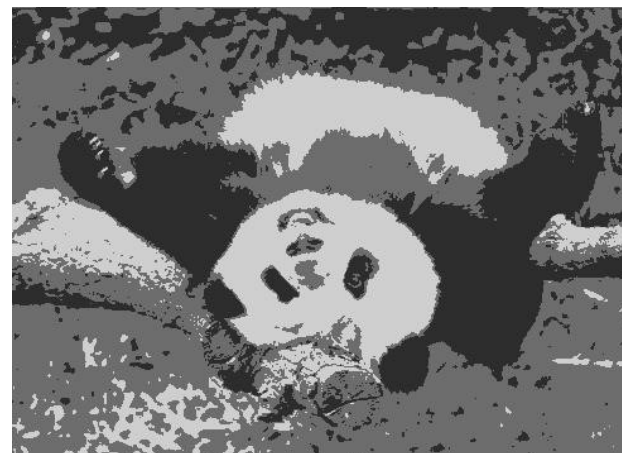
Segmentation as Clustering



Original image



2 clusters



3 clusters

Feature Space

- Depending on what we choose as the *feature space*, we can group pixels in different ways.
- Grouping pixels based on **intensity** similarity

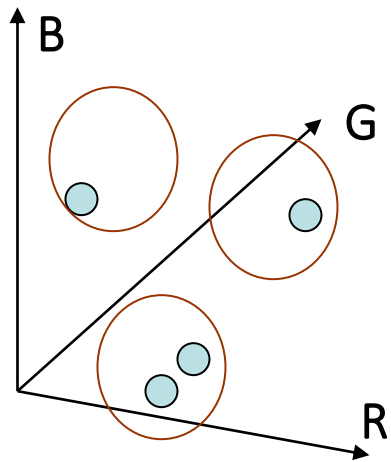


- Feature space: intensity value (1D)

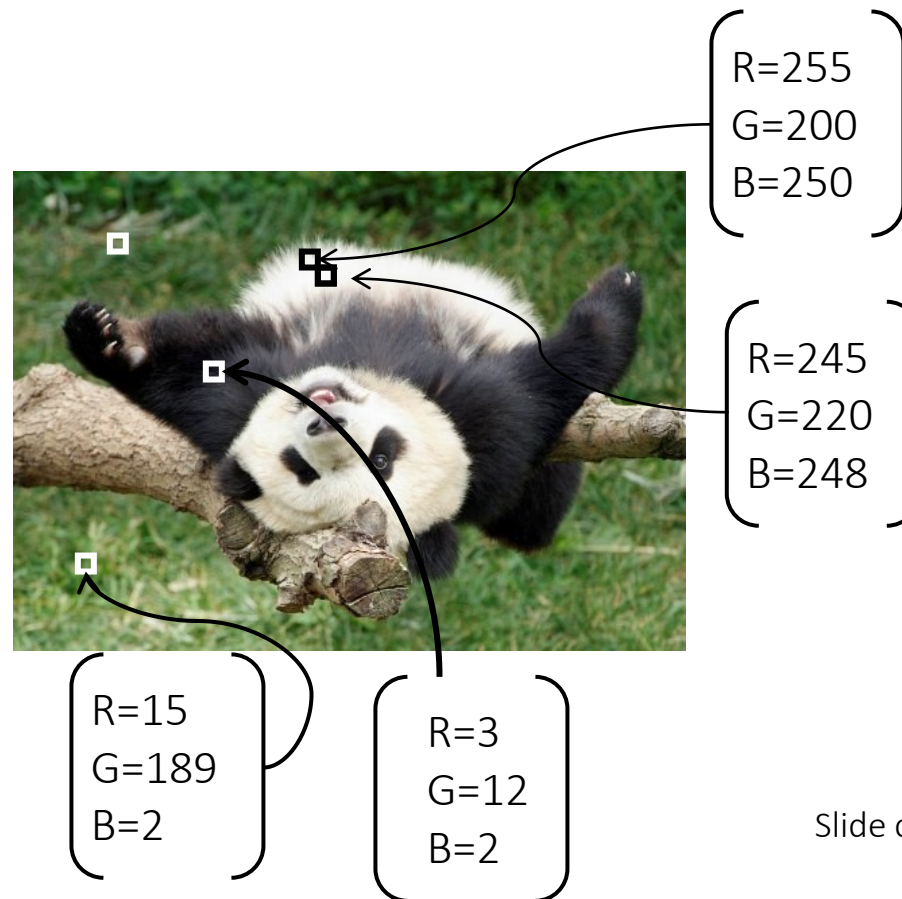
Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Feature Space

- Depending on what we choose as the *feature space*, we can group pixels in different ways.
- Grouping pixels based on **color** similarity



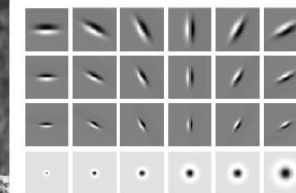
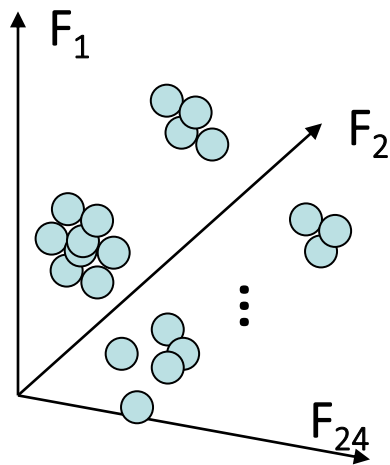
- Feature space: color value (3D)



Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Feature Space

- Depending on what we choose as the *feature space*, we can group pixels in different ways.
- Grouping pixels based on **texture** similarity



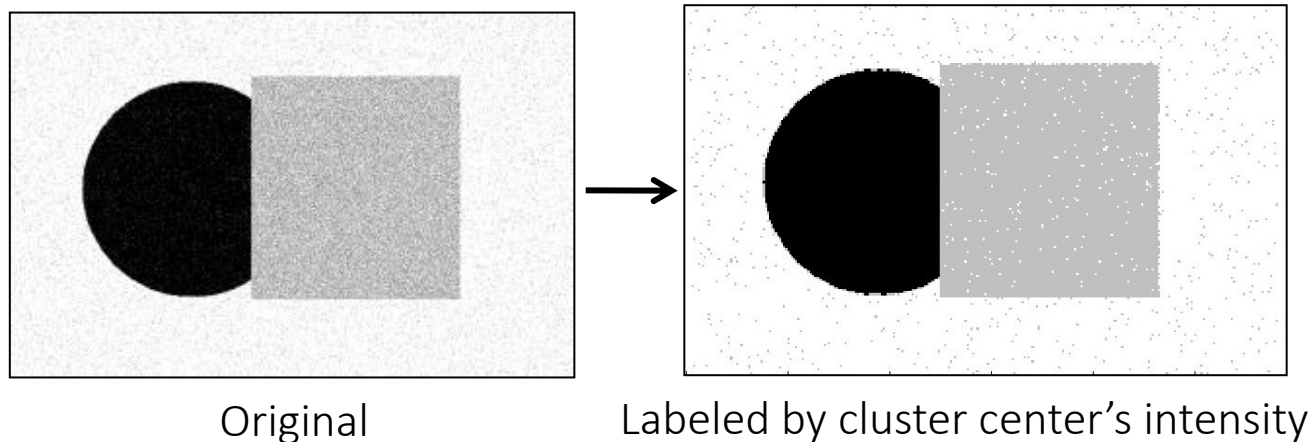
Filter bank of 24 filters

- Feature space: filter bank responses (e.g., 24D)

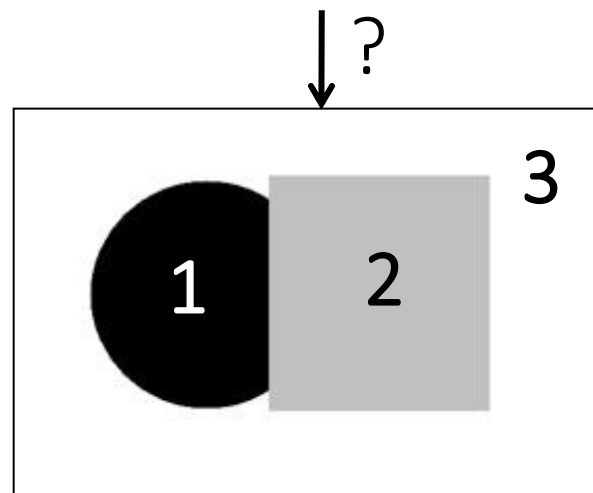
Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Smoothing Out Cluster Assignments

- Assigning a cluster label per pixel may yield outliers:



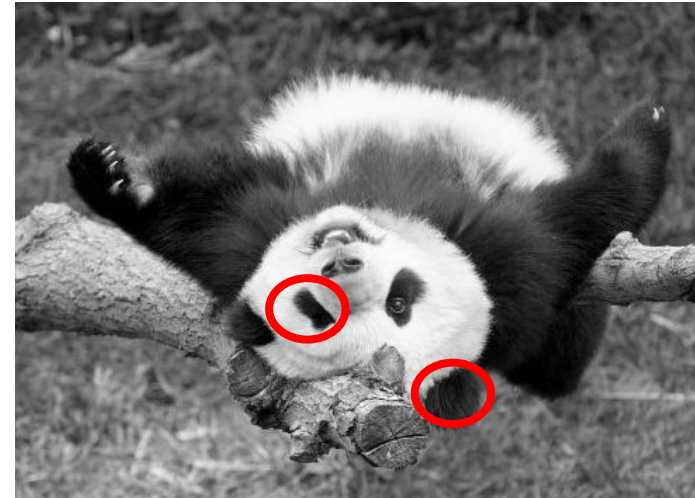
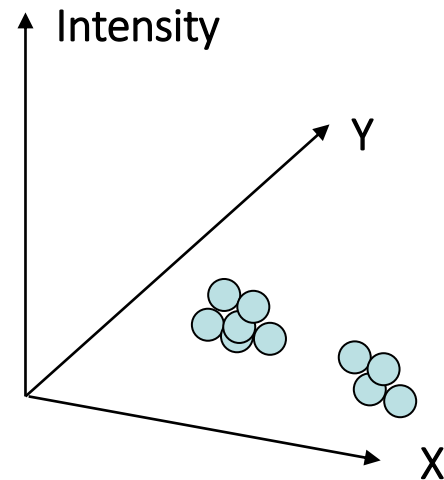
- How can we ensure they are spatially smooth?



Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Segmentation as Clustering

- Depending on what we choose as the *feature space*, we can group pixels in different ways.
- Grouping pixels based on *intensity+position* similarity



⇒ Way to encode both *similarity* and *proximity*.

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

K-Means Clustering Results

- K-means clustering based on intensity or color is essentially vector quantization of the image attributes
 - Clusters don't have to be spatially coherent



Image source: Forsyth & Ponce



K-Means Clustering Results

- K-means clustering based on intensity or color is essentially vector quantization of the image attributes
 - Clusters don't have to be spatially coherent
- Clustering based on (r,g,b,x,y) values enforces more spatial coherence

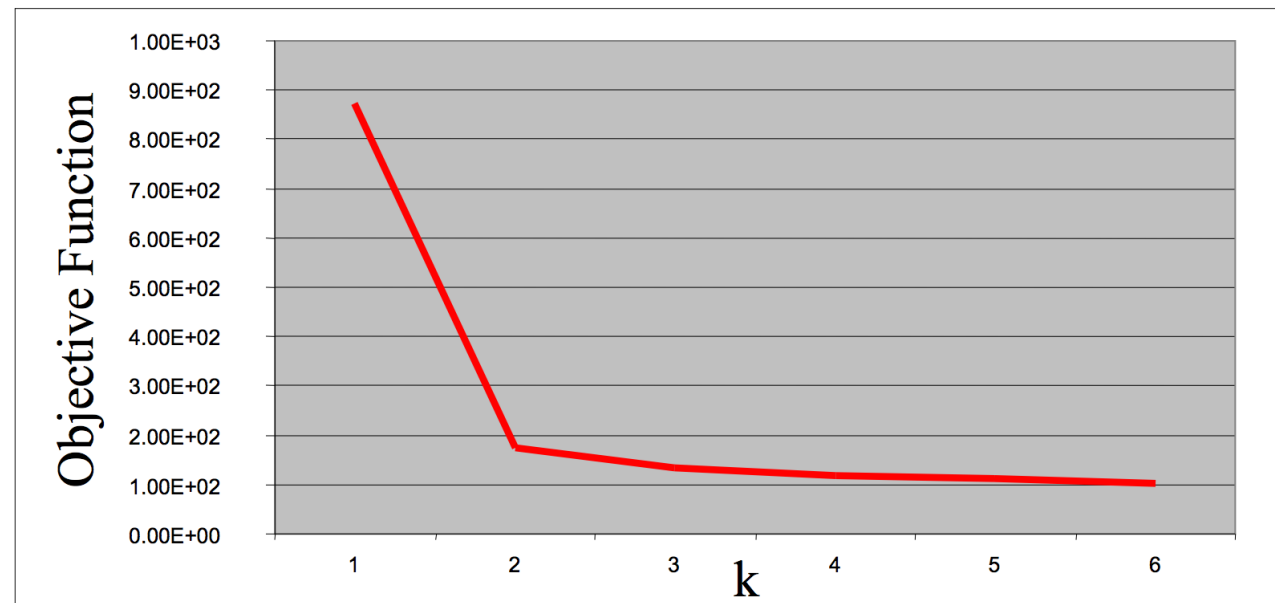


How to choose the number of clusters?

Try different numbers of clusters in a validation set and look at performance.

We can plot the objective function values for k equals 1 to 6...

The abrupt change at $k = 2$, is highly suggestive of two clusters in the data. This technique for determining the number of clusters is known as “knee finding” or “elbow finding”.



Slide credit: Derek Hoiem

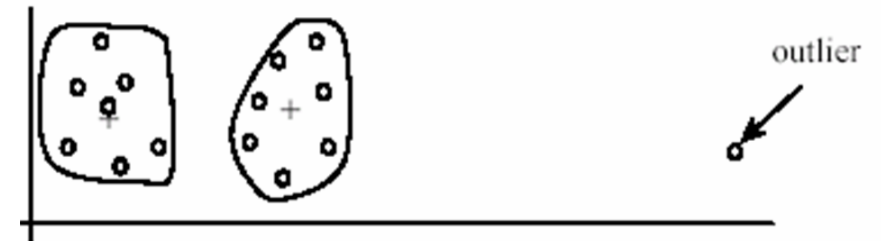
K-Means pros and cons

- Pros

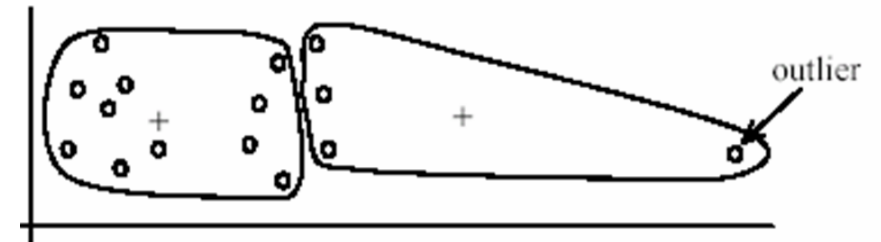
- Finds cluster centers that minimize conditional variance (good representation of data)
- Simple and fast, Easy to implement

- Cons

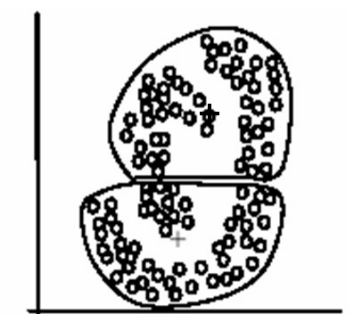
- Need to choose K
- Sensitive to outliers
- Prone to local minima
- All clusters have the same parameters (e.g., distance measure is non-adaptive)
- Distance computation in N-dimensional space could be slow



(B): Ideal clusters



(A): Two natural clusters



(B): *k*-means clusters

Today's Agenda

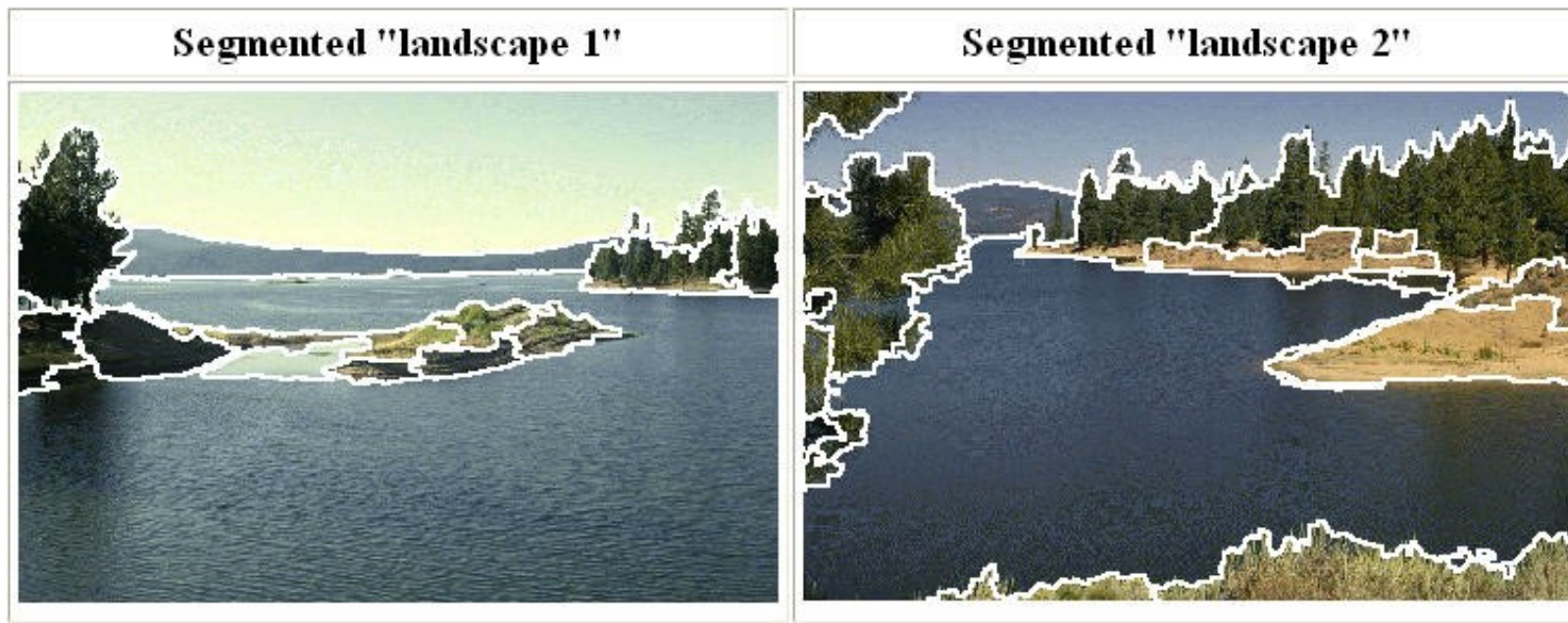
- Visual Recognition Tasks
- Introduction to segmentation and clustering
- Agglomerative clustering
- K-means clustering
- Mean-shift clustering
- Efficient Graph-based image segmentation

Reading: Forsyth Chapter 9

D. Comaniciu and P. Meer, [Mean Shift: A Robust Approach toward Feature Space Analysis](#), TPAMI 2002

Mean-Shift Segmentation

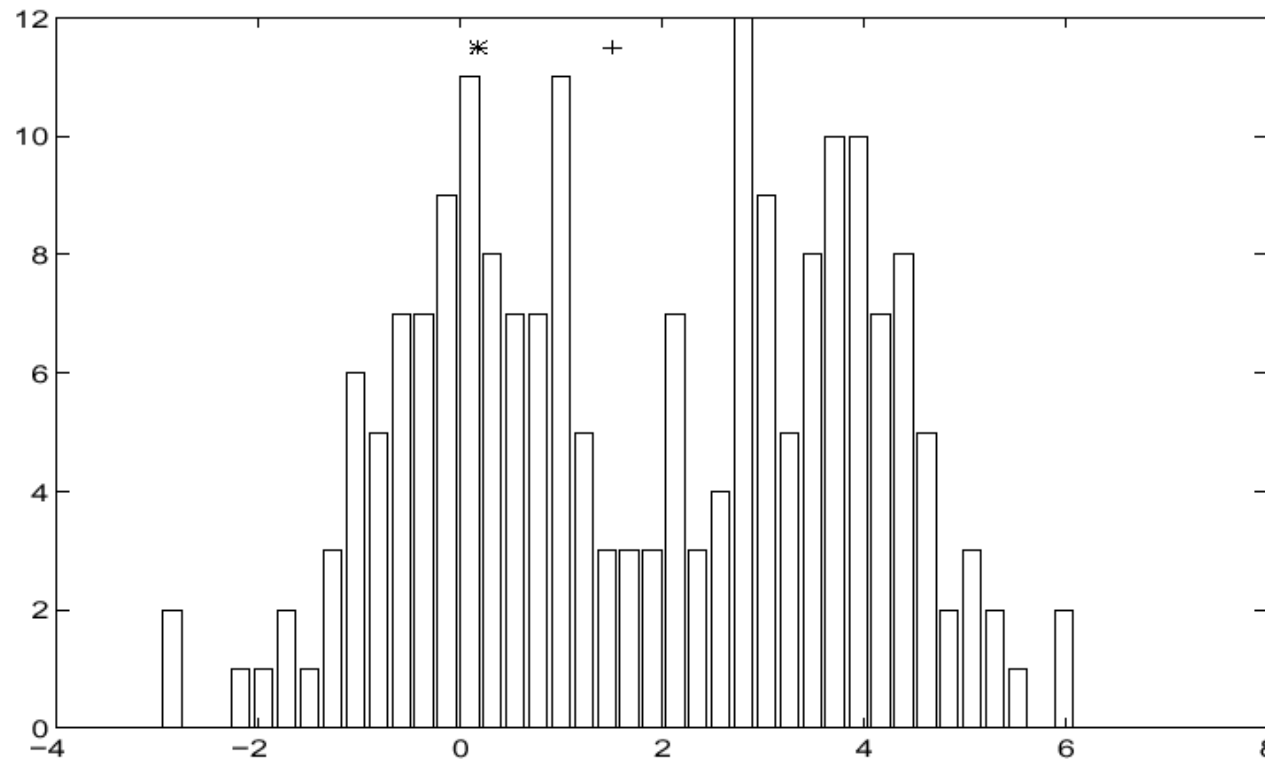
- An advanced and versatile technique for clustering-based segmentation



D. Comaniciu and P. Meer, [Mean Shift: A Robust Approach toward Feature Space Analysis](#), TPAMI 2002

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Mean-Shift Algorithm

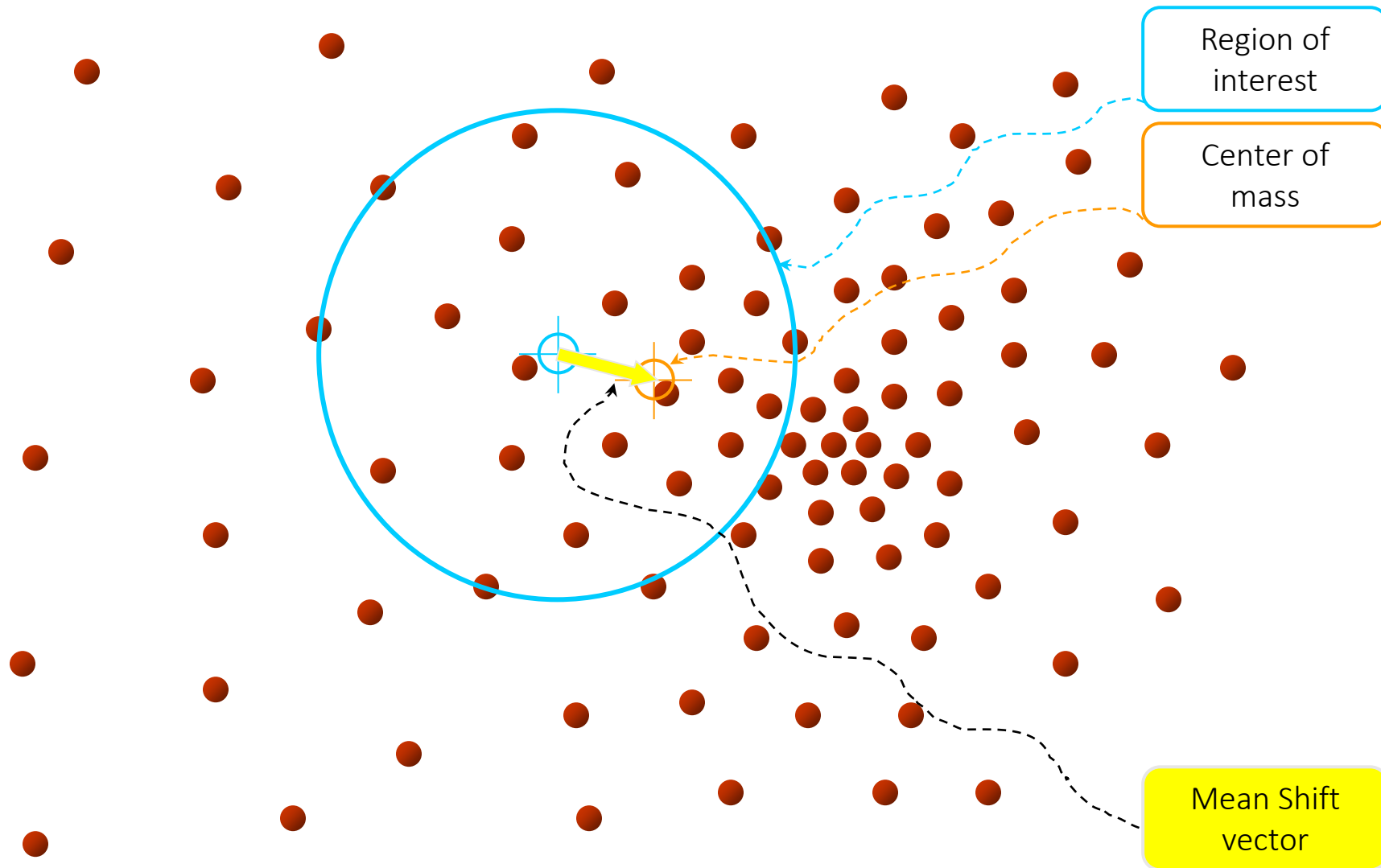


- Iterative Mode Search

1. Initialize random seed, and window W
2. Calculate center of gravity (the “mean”) of W : $\sum_{x \in W} xH(x)$
3. Shift the search window to the mean
4. Repeat Step 2 until convergence

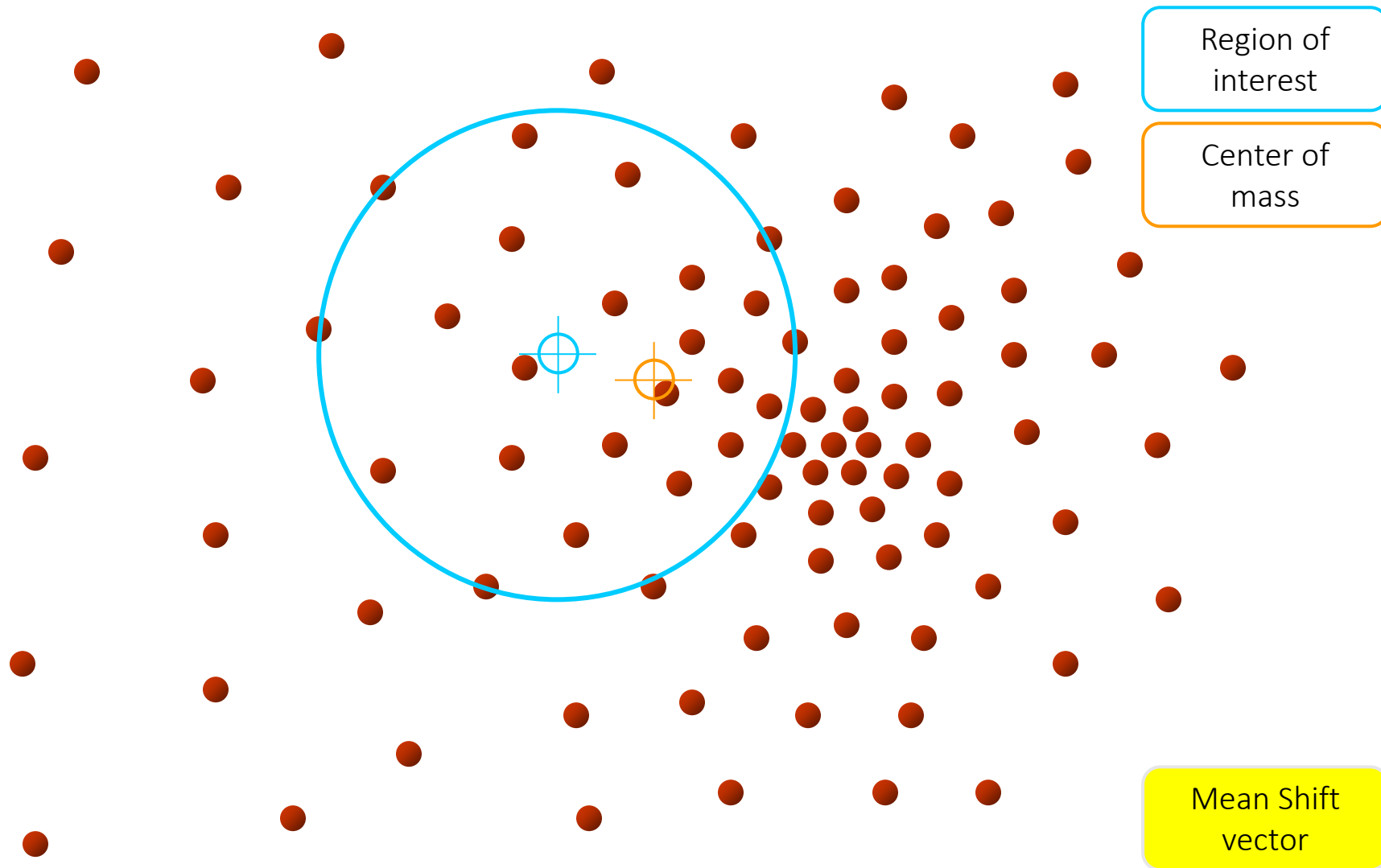
Slide credit: Steve Seitz

Mean-Shift



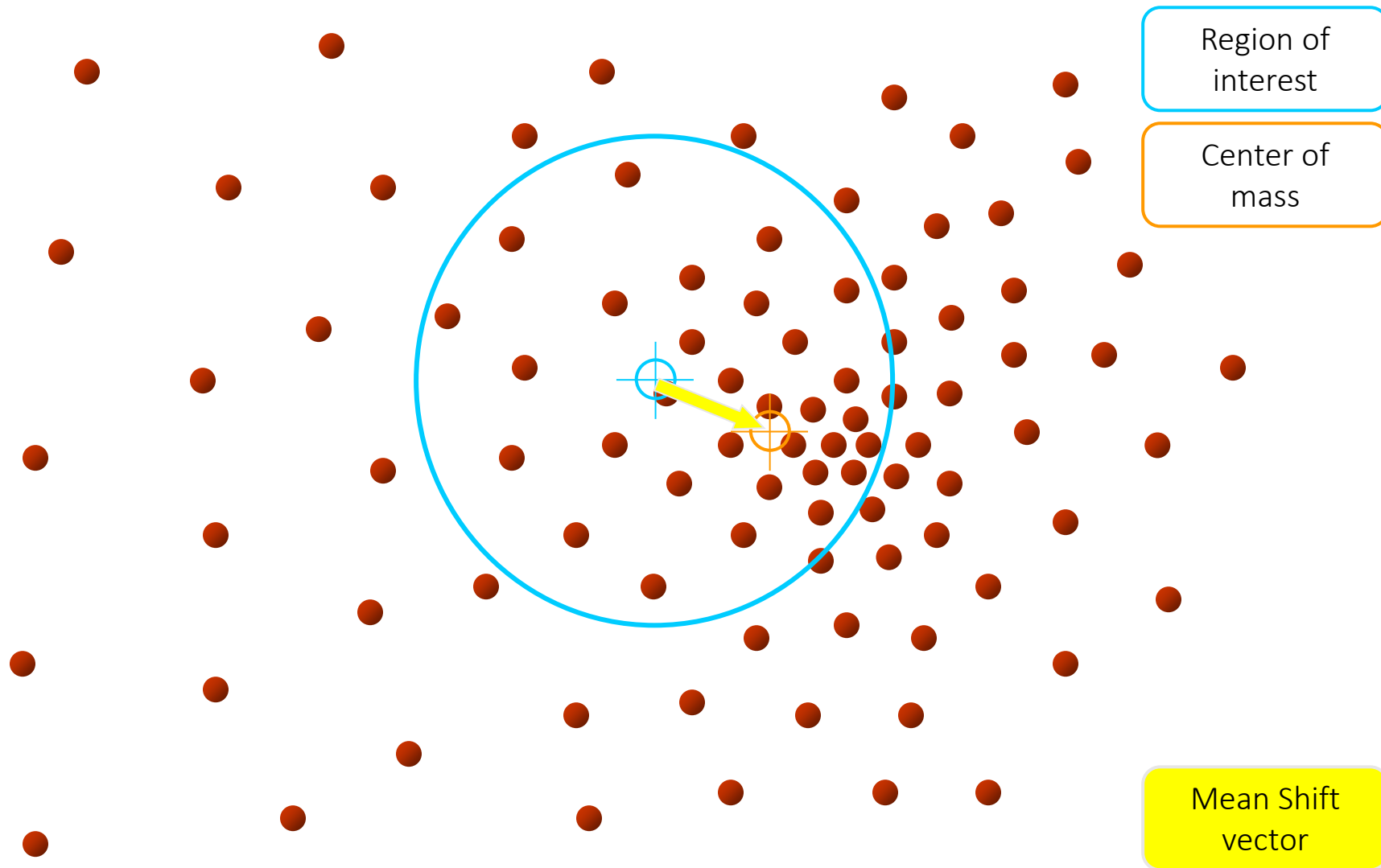
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



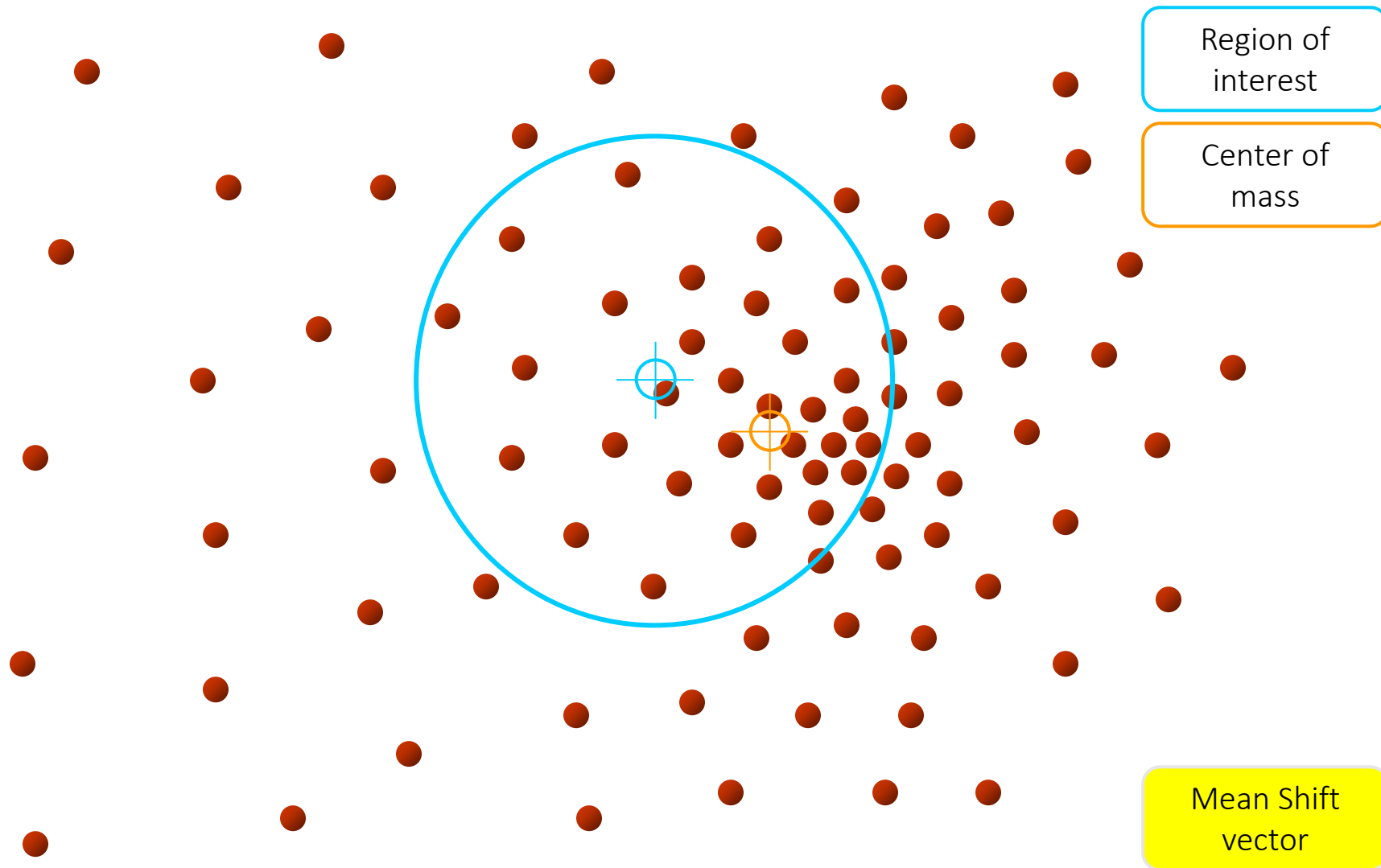
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



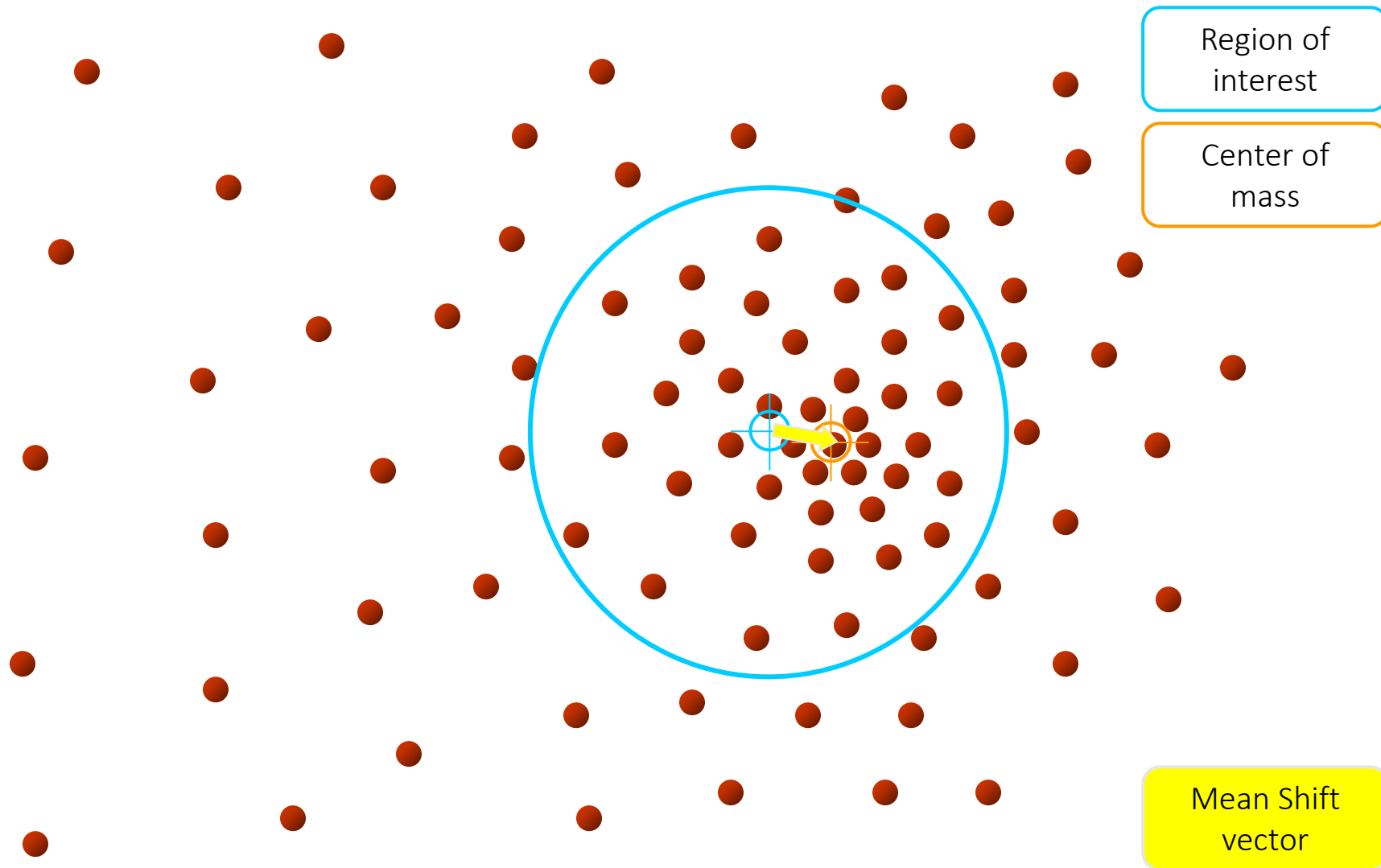
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



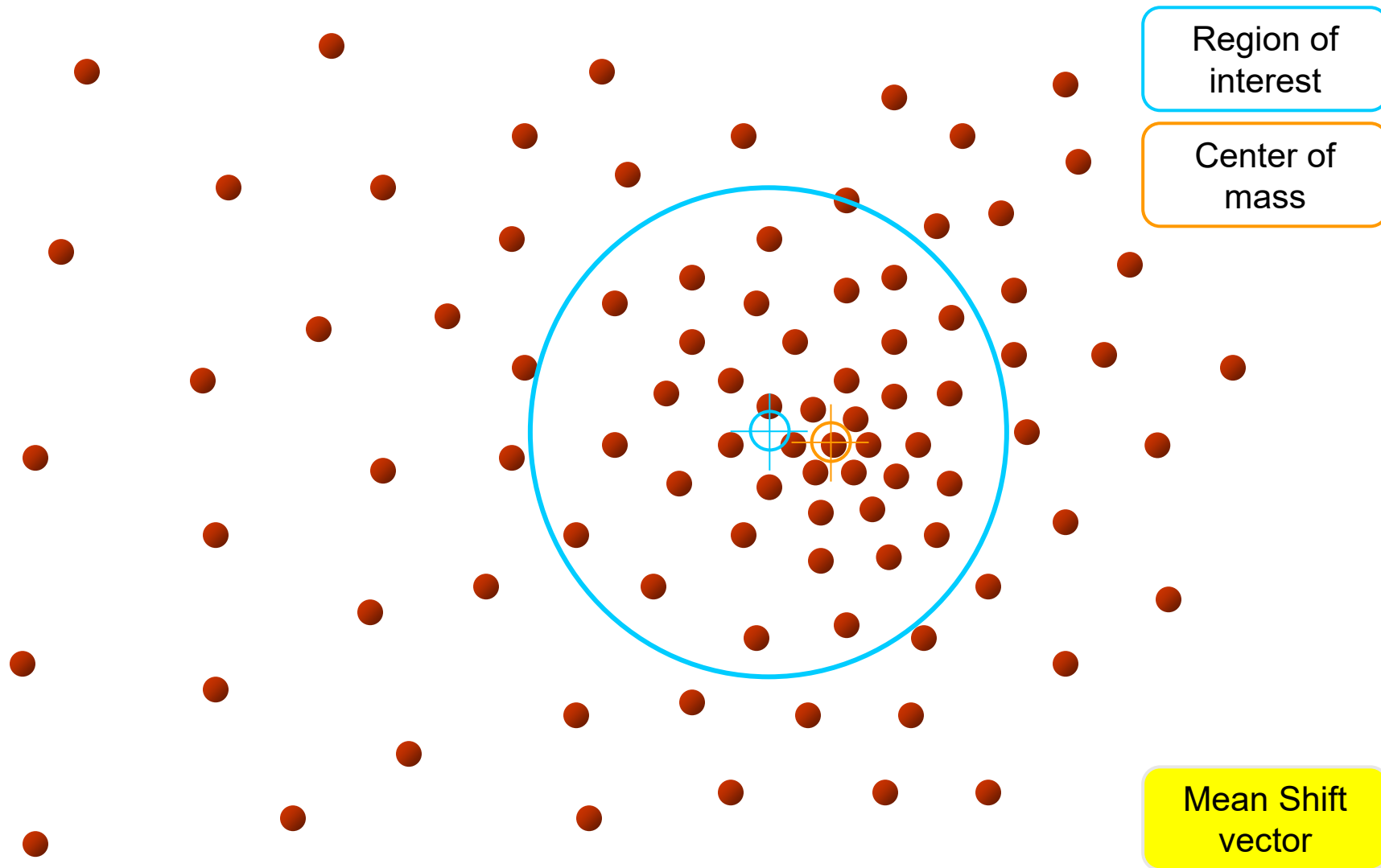
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



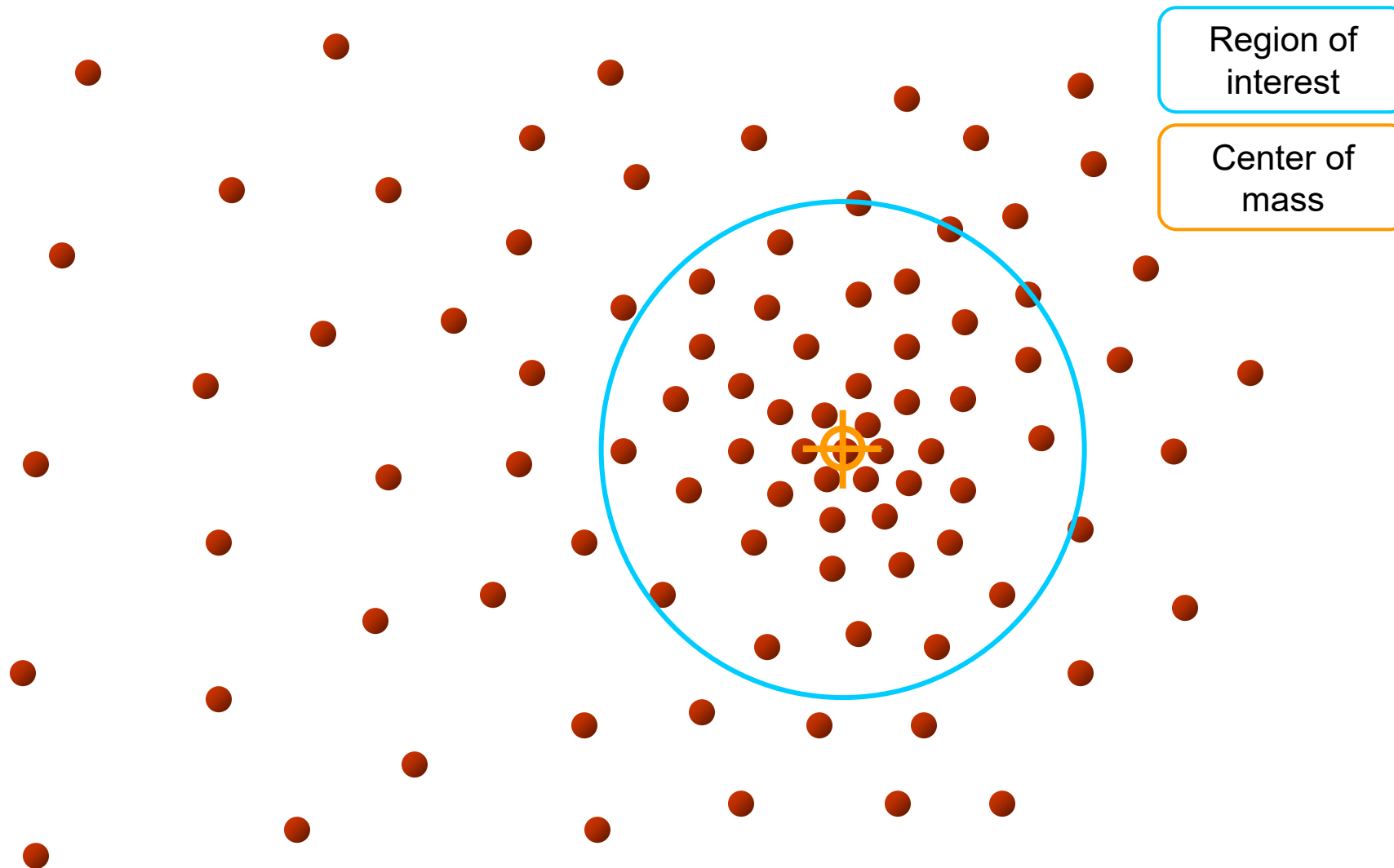
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



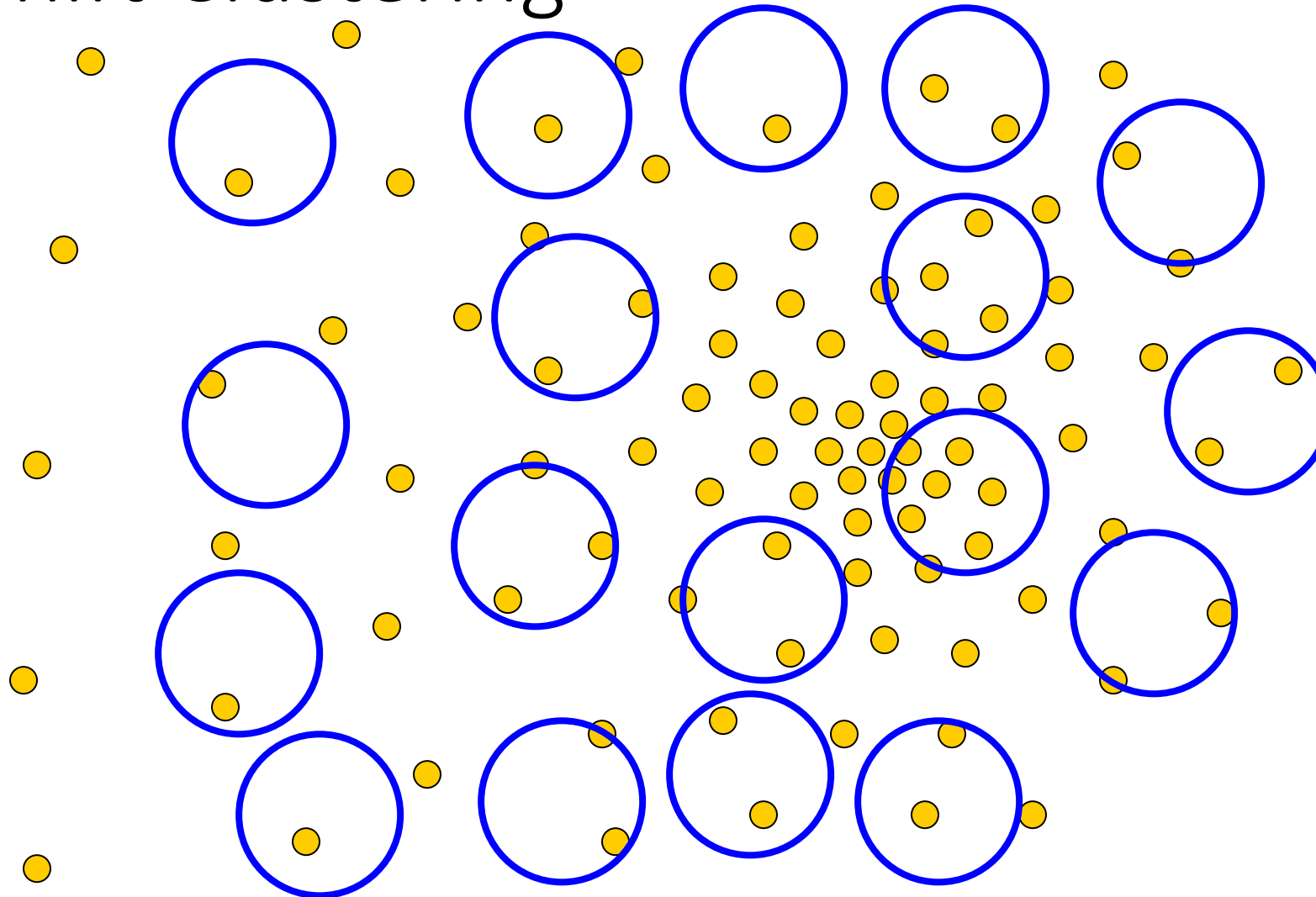
Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift



Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift Clustering

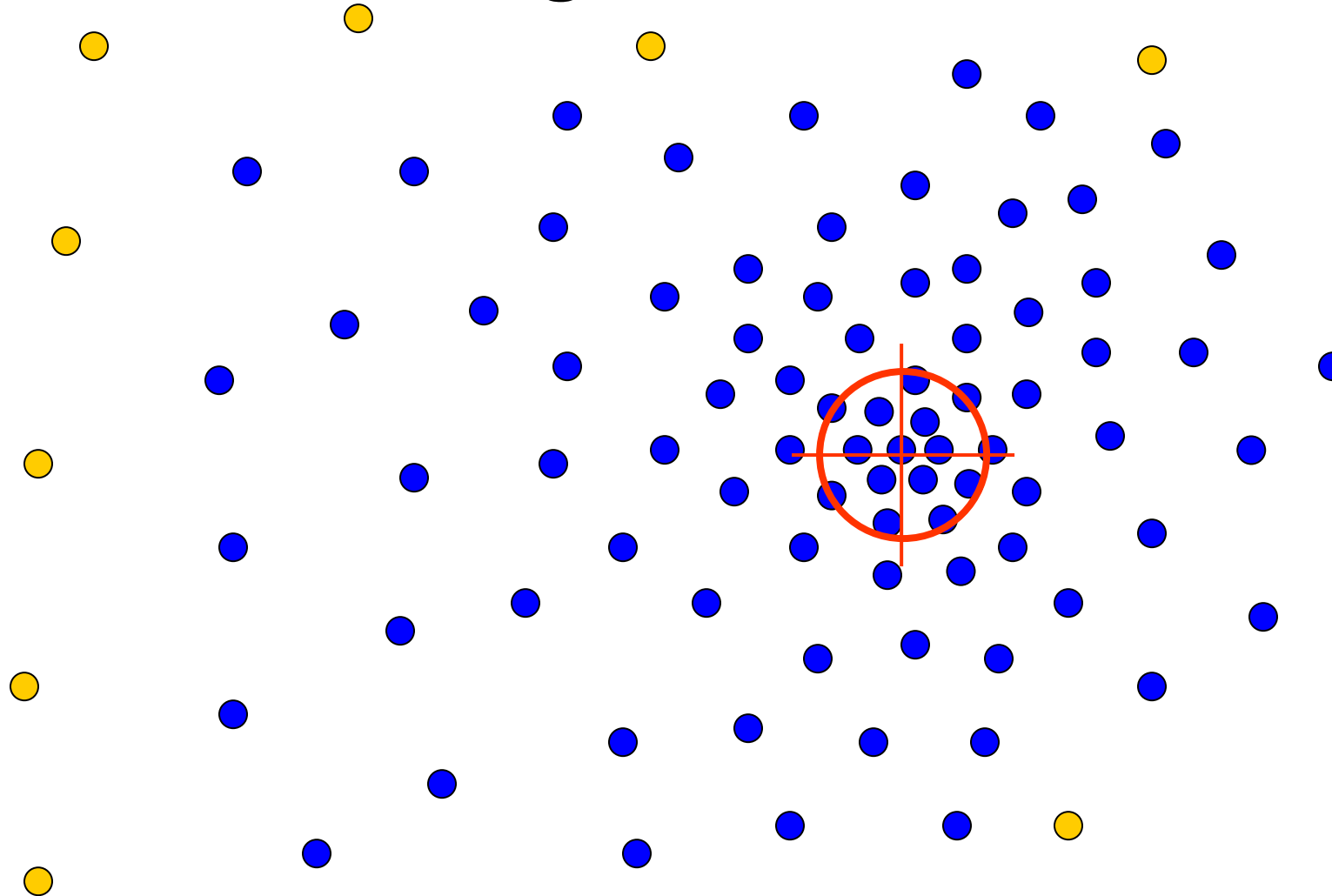


Initialize multiple windows in the space

Run the procedure in parallel

Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift Clustering

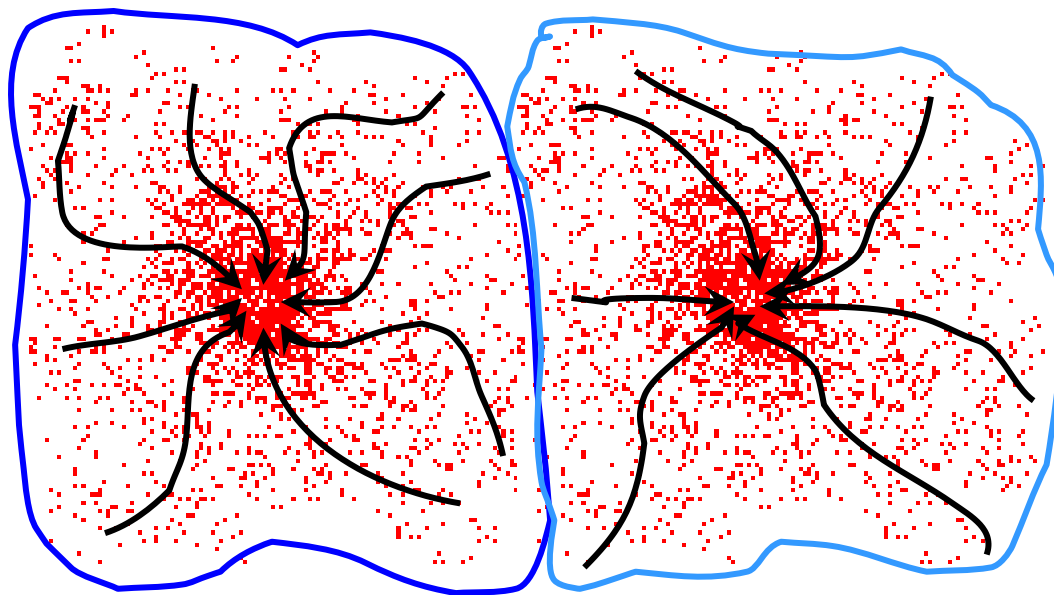


The blue data points were traversed by the windows towards the mode.

Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

Mean-Shift Clustering

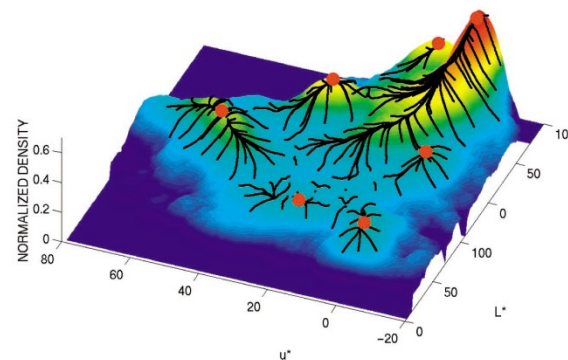
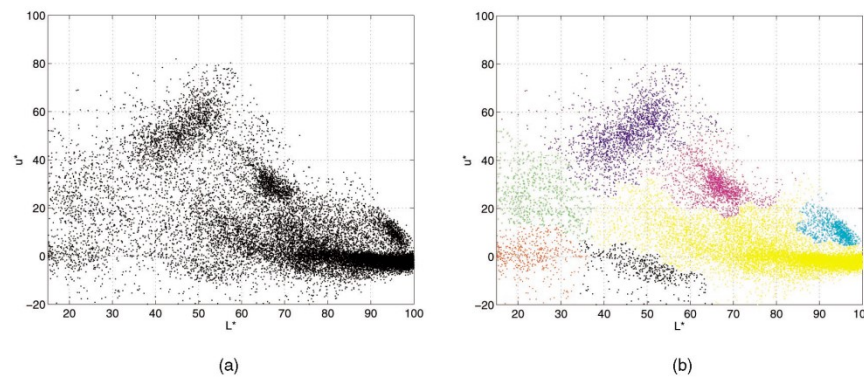
- Cluster: all data points in the attraction basin of a mode
- Attraction basin: the region for which all trajectories lead to the same mode



Slide credit: Y. Ukrainitz & B. Sarel

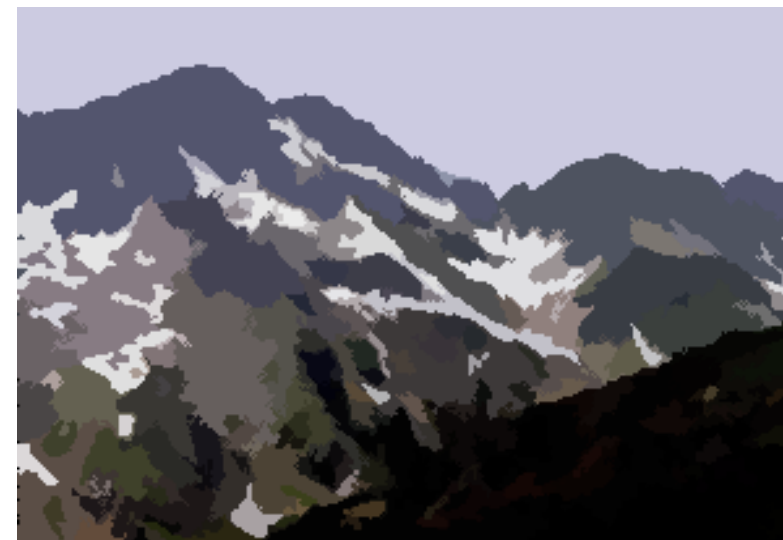
Mean-Shift Clustering/Segmentation

- Find features (color, gradients, texture, etc.)
- Initialize windows at individual pixel locations
- Perform mean shift for each window until convergence
- Merge windows that end up near the same “peak” or mode



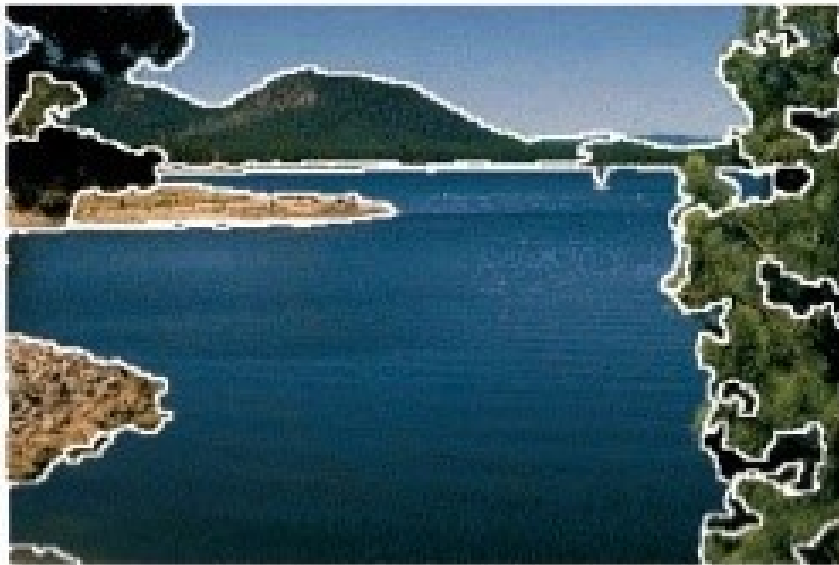
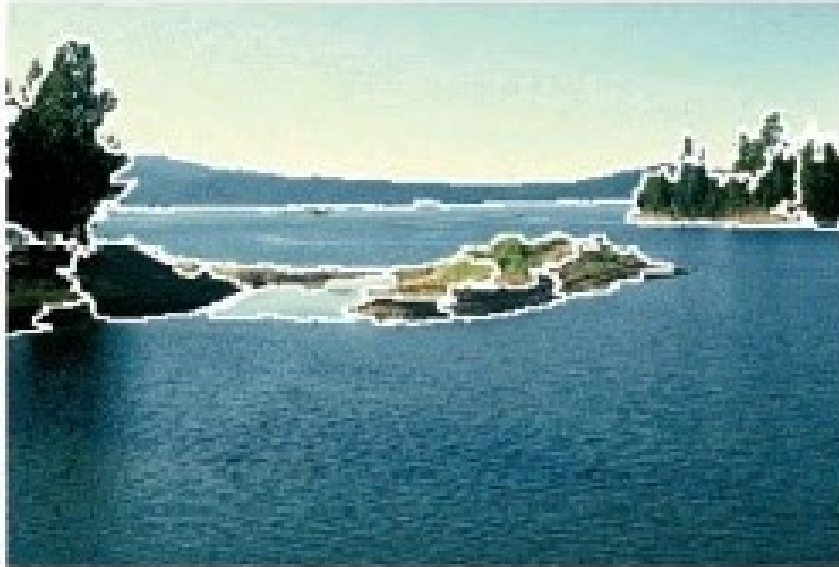
Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Mean-Shift Segmentation Results



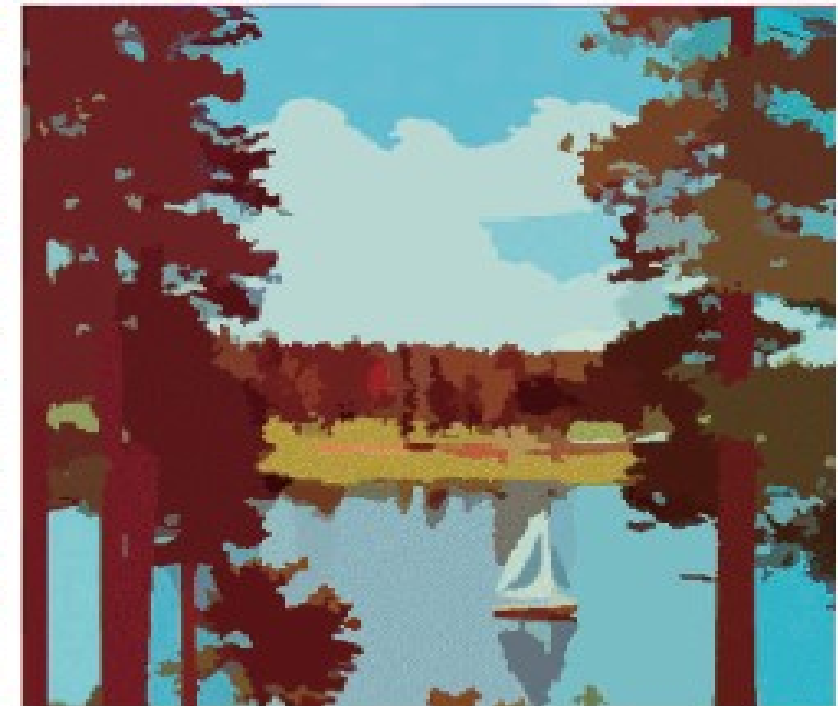
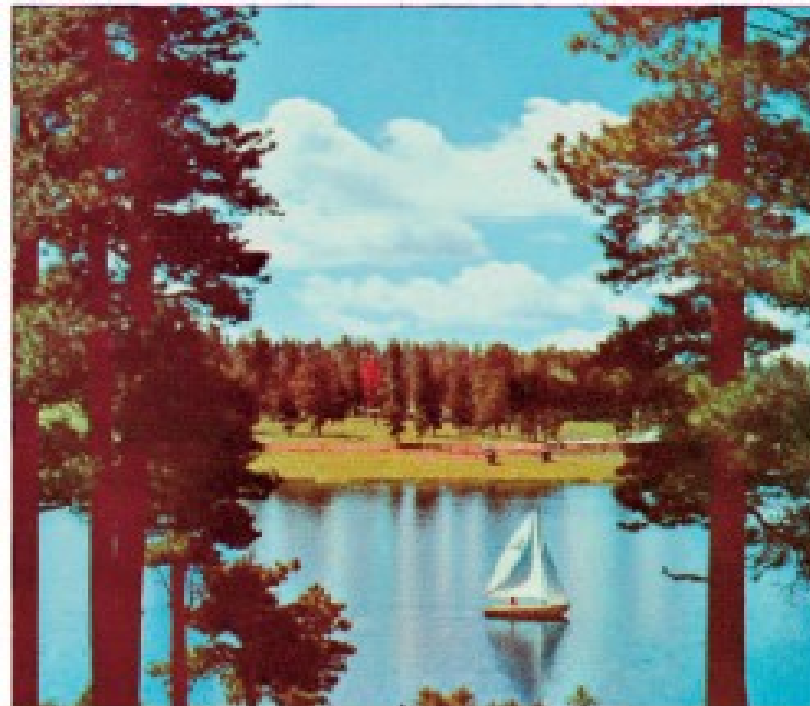
Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

More Results



Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

More Results



Mean-Shift pros and cons

- Pros

- General, application-independent tool
- Model-free, does not assume any prior shape (spherical, elliptical, etc.) on data clusters
- Just a single parameter (window size h)
 - h has a physical meaning (unlike k-means)
- Finds variable number of modes
- Robust to outliers

- Cons

- Output depends on window size
- Window size selection is not trivial
- Computationally (relatively) expensive ($\sim 2s/\text{image}$)
- Does not scale well with dimensionality of feature space

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Today's Agenda

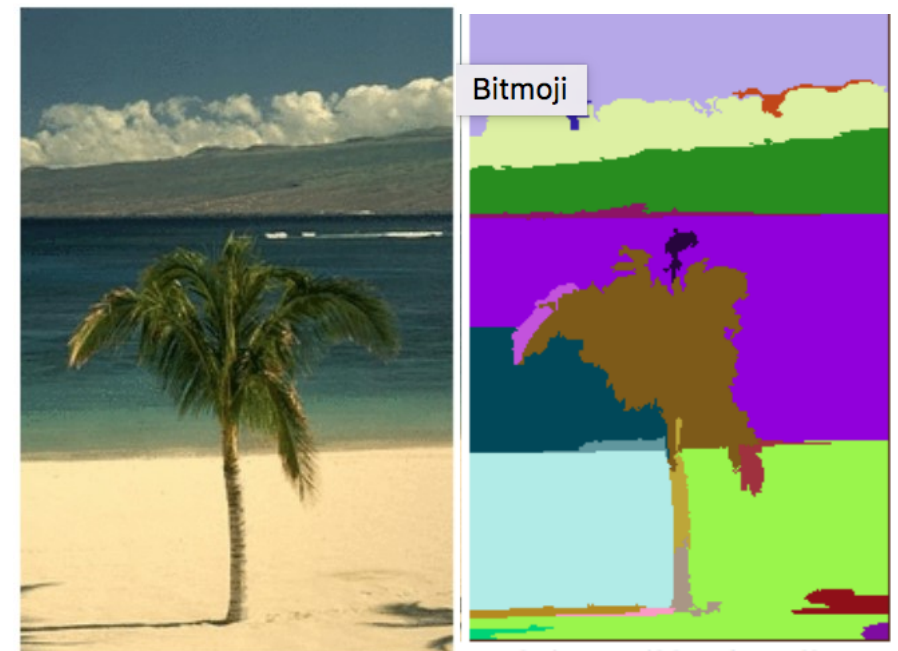
- Visual Recognition Tasks
- Introduction to segmentation and clustering
- Agglomerative clustering
- K-means clustering
- Mean-shift clustering
- Efficient Graph-based image segmentation

Reading: Forsyth Chapter 9

D. Comaniciu and P. Meer, [Mean Shift: A Robust Approach toward Feature Space Analysis](#), TPAMI 2002

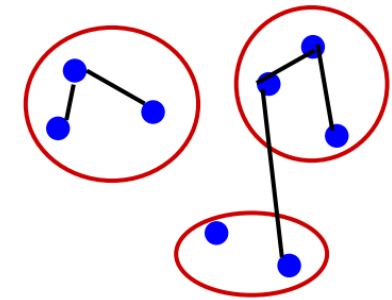
Efficient Graph-based Image Segmentation

Oversegmentation algorithm introduced by *Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher* in the paper titled [Efficient Graph-Based Image Segmentation](#)



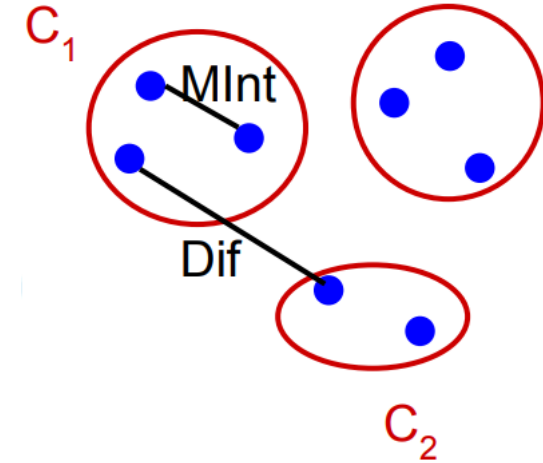
Problem Formulation

- Graph $G = (V, E)$
- V is set of nodes (i.e. pixels)
- E is a set of undirected edges between pairs of pixels
- $w(v_i, v_j)$ is the weight of the edge between nodes v_i and v_j .
- S is a segmentation of a graph G such that $G' = (V, E')$ where $E' \subset E$.
- S divides G into G' such that it contains distinct clusters C .



Predicate for segmentation

- Predicate D determines whether there is a boundary for segmentation.



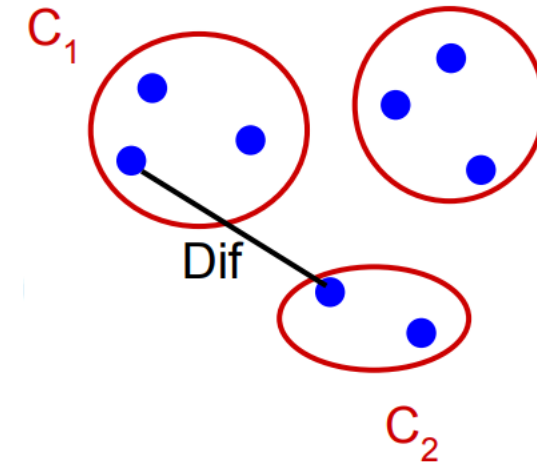
$$Merge(C_1, C_2) = \begin{cases} True & \text{if } dif(C_1, C_2) < in(C_1, C_2) \\ False & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Where

- $dif(C_1, C_2)$ is the difference between two clusters.
- $in(C_1, C_2)$ is the internal difference in the clusters C_1 and C_2

Predicate for Segmentation

- Predicate D determines whether there is a boundary for segmentation.



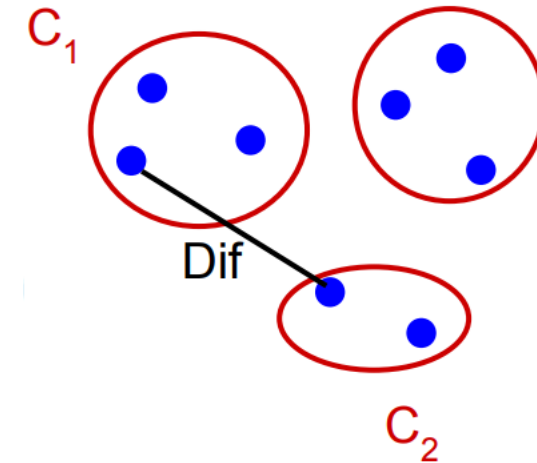
$$Merge(C_1, C_2) = \begin{cases} True & \text{if } dif(C_1, C_2) < in(C_1, C_2) \\ False & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$dif(C_1, C_2) = \min_{v_i \in C_1, v_j \in C_2, (C_1, C_2) \in E} w(v_i, v_j)$$

The difference between two components is the minimum weight edge that connects a node v_i in cluster C_1 to node v_j in C_2

Predicate for Segmentation

- Predicate D determines whether there is a boundary for segmentation.



$$Merge(C_1, C_2) = \begin{cases} True & \text{if } dif(C_1, C_2) < in(C_1, C_2) \\ False & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

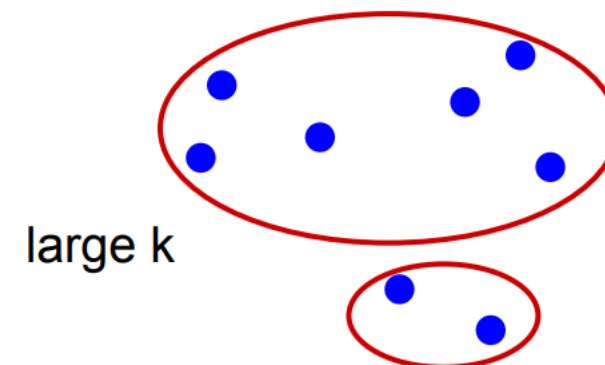
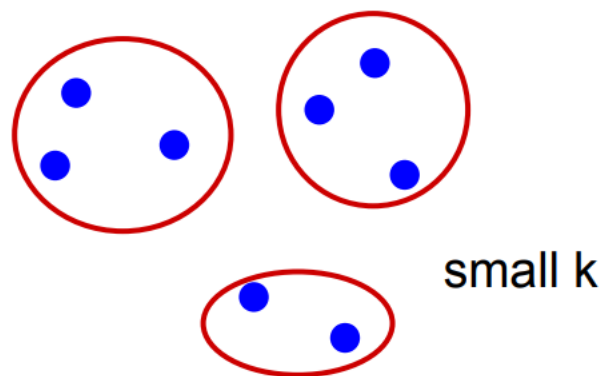
$$dif(C_1, C_2) = \min_{v_i \in C_1, v_j \in C_2, (C_1, C_2) \in E} w(v_i, v_j)$$

$$in(C_1, C_2) = \min_{C \in \{C_1, C_2\}} \left[\max_{v_i, v_j \in C} \left[w(v_i, v_j) + \frac{k}{|C|} \right] \right]$$

$in(C_1, C_2)$ is the maximum weight edge that connects two nodes in the same component.

Predicate for Segmentation

- $k/|C|$ sets the threshold by which the components need to be different from the internal nodes in a component.
- Properties of constant k :
 - If k is large, it causes a preference for larger components.
 - k does not set a minimum size for components.



Algorithm for Segmentation

The input is a graph $G = (V, E)$, with n vertices and m edges. The output is a segmentation of V into components $S = (C_1, \dots, C_r)$.

0. Sort E into $\pi = (o_1, \dots, o_m)$, by non-decreasing edge weight.
1. Start with a segmentation S^0 , where each vertex v_i is in its own component.
2. Repeat step 3 for $q = 1, \dots, m$.
3. Construct S^q given S^{q-1} as follows. Let v_i and v_j denote the vertices connected by the q -th edge in the ordering, i.e., $o_q = (v_i, v_j)$. If v_i and v_j are in disjoint components of S^{q-1} and $w(o_q)$ is small compared to the internal difference of both those components, then merge the two components otherwise do nothing. More formally, let C_i^{q-1} be the component of S^{q-1} containing v_i and C_j^{q-1} the component containing v_j . If $C_i^{q-1} \neq C_j^{q-1}$ and $w(o_q) \leq MInt(C_i^{q-1}, C_j^{q-1})$ then S^q is obtained from S^{q-1} by merging C_i^{q-1} and C_j^{q-1} . Otherwise $S^q = S^{q-1}$.
4. Return $S = S^m$.

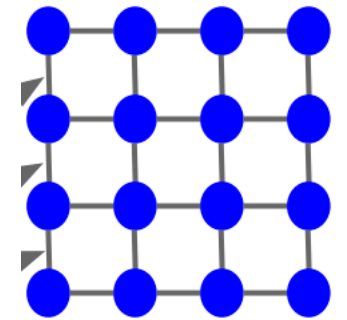
Features and weights

How to build the graph ? Two options:

1. Grid-graph: Every pixel is connected to its 8 neighboring pixels and the weights are determined by the difference in intensities.

2. NN-graph: Project every pixel into **feature space** defined by

- (x, y, r, g, b) .
- Weights between pixels are determined using L2 (Euclidian) distance in feature space.
- Edges are chosen for only top ten nearest neighbors in feature space to ensure run time of $O(n \log n)$ where n is number of pixels.



Results

With 8-neighbor grid graph
Edge weight: intensity difference

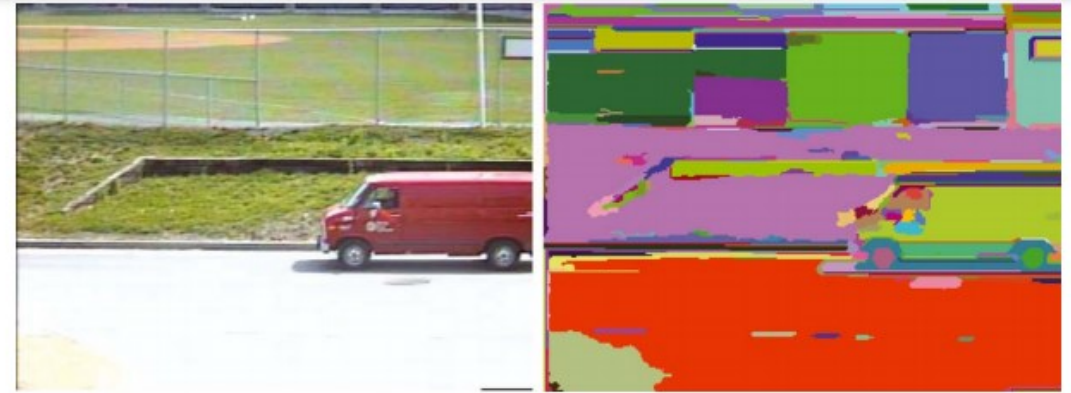


Figure 2. A street scene (320 × 240 color image), and the segmentation results produced by our algorithm ($\sigma = 0.8, k = 300$).



Figure 3. A baseball scene (432 × 294 grey image), and the segmentation results produced by our algorithm ($\sigma = 0.8, k = 300$).

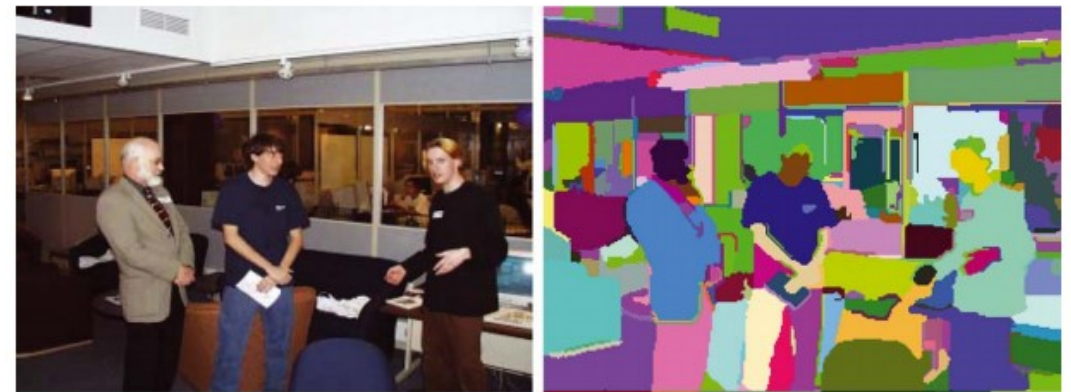


Figure 4. An indoor scene (image 320 × 240, color), and the segmentation results produced by our algorithm ($\sigma = 0.8, k = 300$).

Results

With nearest neighbor graph
 Edge weight: L2 distance in feature space

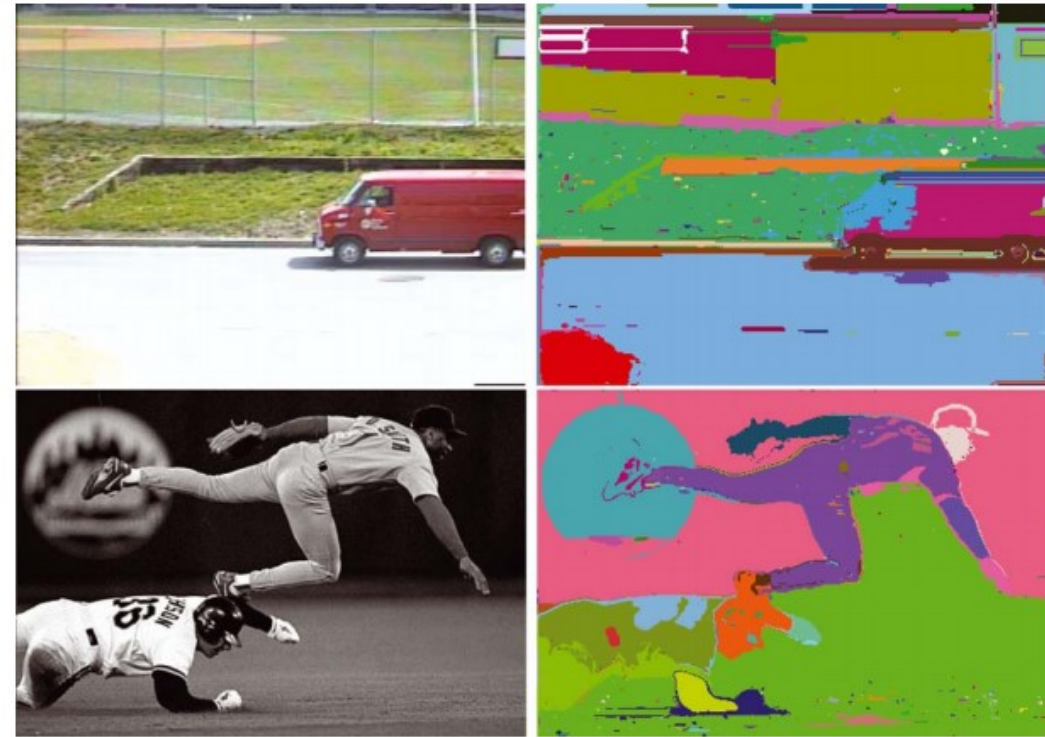
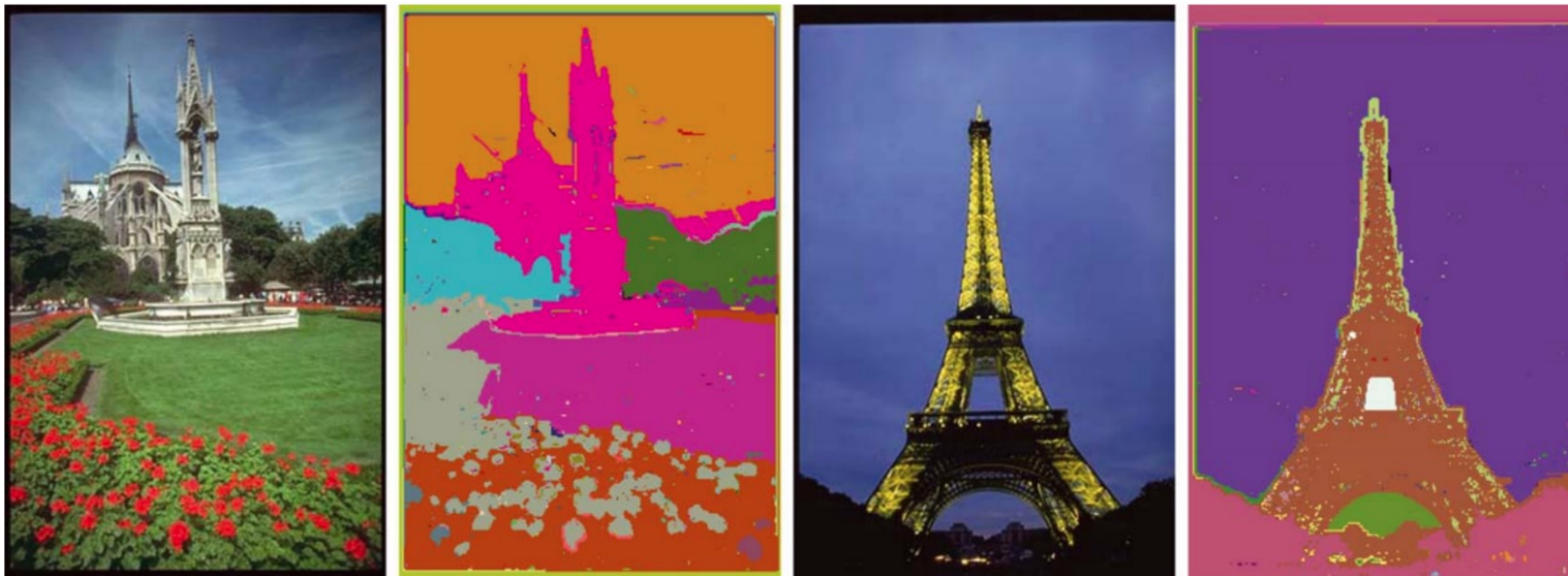


Figure 7. Segmentation of the street and baseball player scenes from the previous section, using the nearest neighbor graph rather than the grid graph ($\sigma = 0.8, k = 300$).



Figure 8. Segmentation using the nearest neighbor graph can capture spatially non-local regions ($\sigma = 0.8, k = 300$).

Results – close up



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Thank you.

