

L12: Assignment-based Clustering

k -means, k -centers, k -medians, k -medioid

Feb 19, 2025



Jeff M. Phillips

Input : 1. $X \subset \mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$
data point $x: \in \mathbb{R}^d$

2. Distance $D: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
metric

Lloyd's requires $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$, $D = \|\cdot - \cdot\|_2$

Goal : $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k\} \leftarrow$ clusters

$s_j \subset X$ subsets

$s_i \cap s_j = \emptyset$ (hard clustering)

$\bigcup_j s_j = X$

Assignment-based Clustering

k is part of input

Clusters S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k

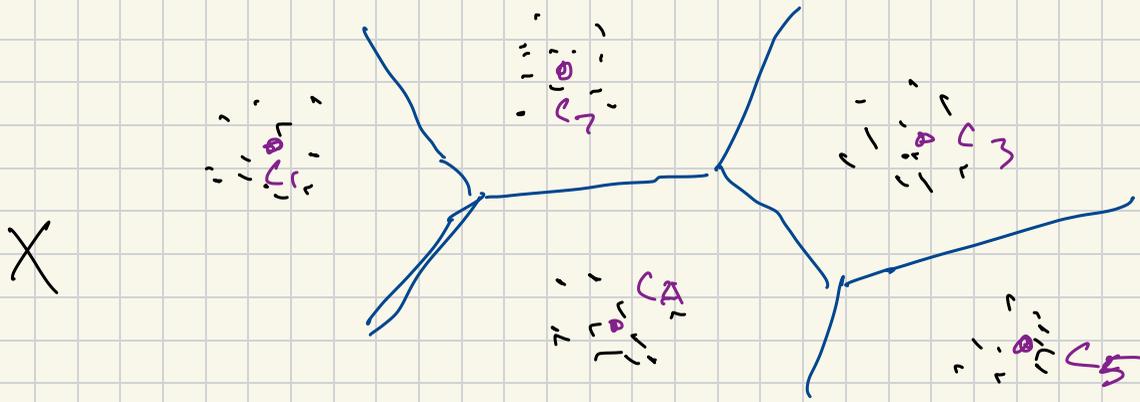
Centers $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

\uparrow representative of S_j

Nearest Neighbors:

$$\Phi_C : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow C$$

$$\Phi_C(x) = \underset{c_j \in C}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} D(x, c_j)$$



Goal Find $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k\}$

Formulations

k-means

Lloyd's

: minimize $\sum_{x \in X} D(x, \phi_{c_i}(x))$

D = Euclidean

k-center

: minimize $\max_{x \in X} D(x, \phi_{c_i}(x))$

Gonzalez

k-median

: minimize $\sum_{x \in X} D(x, \phi_{c_i}(x))$

k-medoid

: minimize $\sum_{x \in X} D(x, \phi_{c_i}(x))$

Gonzalez Algo for k-center

Build centers C_j incrementally $C_1 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow C_k$

find outliers!

$$|C_j| = j$$

$$= \{c_1\}$$

0. Choose c_1 arbitrarily $\rightarrow C_1 = \{c_1\}$

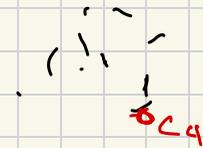
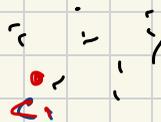
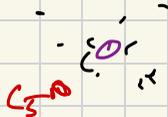
1. for $j = 2 \rightarrow k$

$$\text{Set } c_j = \text{argmax}_{x \in X} D(x, \Phi_{C_{j-1}}(x))$$

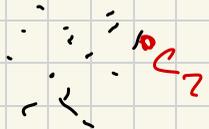
Gives
2-approx.
of optimal.

NP-hard
to do
better
than
2-approx

"Centers" on boundary



$k=5$



Lloyd's Algorithm

for

\mathbb{R}^d -means

$D = \text{Euclidean}$

0. Choose $k \geq 2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$

Do something/
Random

1. repeat

1a. For all $x \in X$, find

implicit
 $\phi_{\mathcal{G}}(x) \rightarrow c_j \Rightarrow x \rightarrow S_j$

1b. For all $j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, let

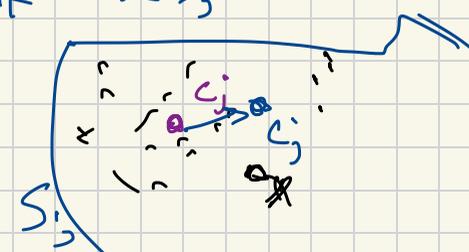
$$c_j = \text{average}(S_j) \\ = \frac{1}{|S_j|} \sum_{x \in S_j} x$$

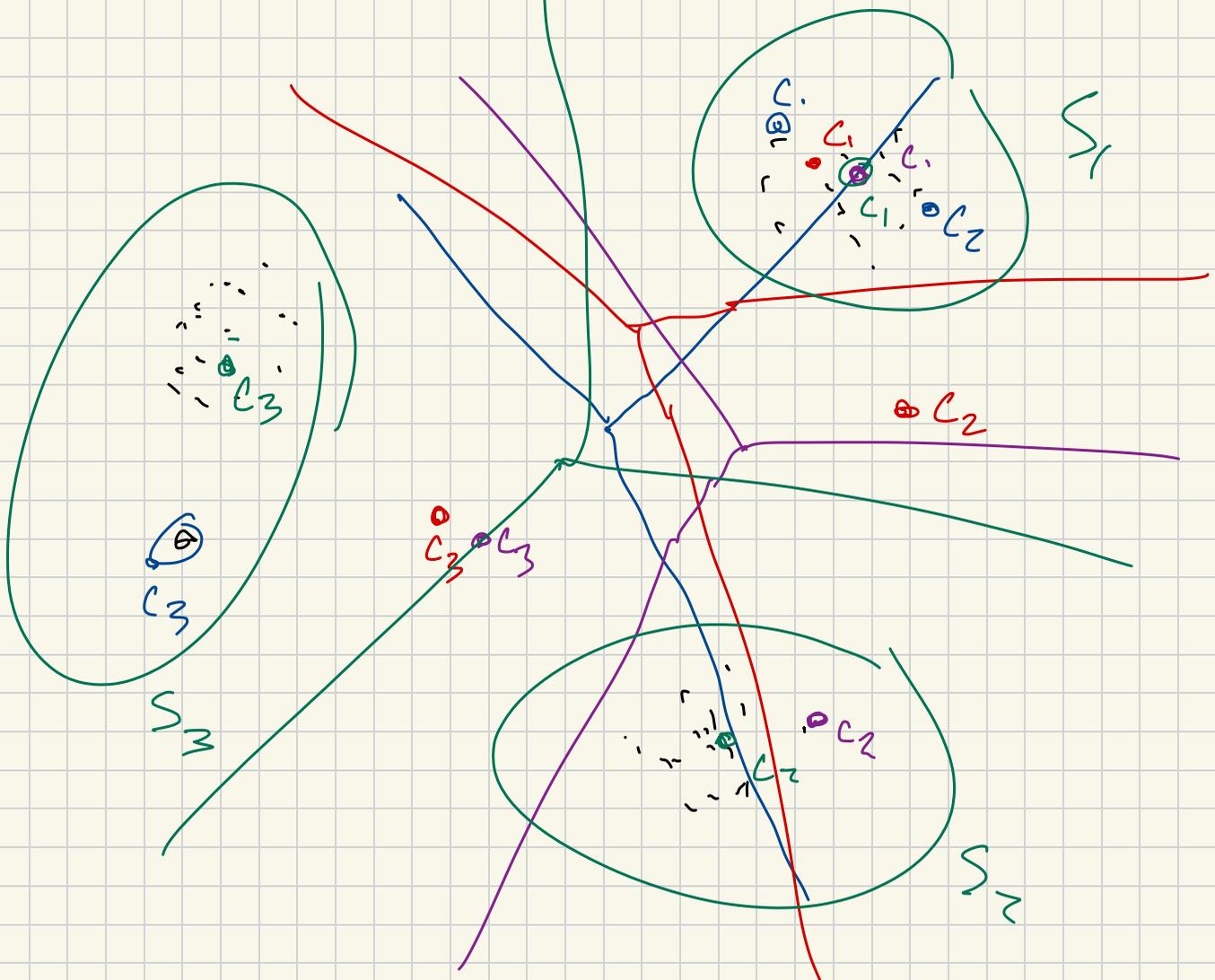
2. until (S unchanged
or change is small)

$$\uparrow \underset{z \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\text{argmin}} \sum_{x \in S_j} \|z - x\|^2$$

in practice

≈ 20 iterations

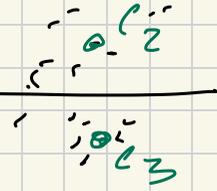




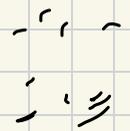
Not Global opt
for k -means



θ
 C_1



2 local's Also
5 f.o.p.s!

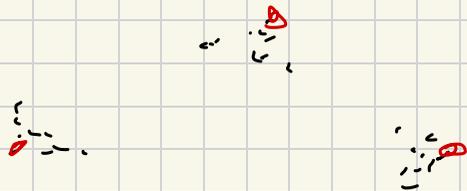


Initialize Lloyd's Algo for k-Means

1. Init Choose \mathcal{C} at random.



2. Init $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \text{Gonzalez}(X)$



always
works

3. k-means ++

K-means++



0. Choose c_1 arbitrarily $c_1 \in X$

1. for $j=1$ to k

Choose c_j from X
 $x_i \in X$

w/ probability
prop. to $\|x_i - c_j\|^2$

$$v_i = D(x_i, c_j)^2$$

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i$$

select $x_i \sim X$

w.p.

$$\text{Prob}(x_i) = \frac{v_i}{V}$$

Implement $U \sim \text{Unif}(0,1)$

$$u = 0.43$$

$$V_i = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i$$

