#### Cluster analysis Cosmin Lazar COMO Lab VUB

#### Introduction

Cluster analysis foundations rely on one of the most fundamental, simple and very often unnoticed ways (or methods) of understanding and learning, which is grouping "objects" into "similar" groups.

#### Introduction

What is a cluster?

No general accepted definition!!!

A cluster is ...

D1: ... comprised of a number of similar objects collected and grouped together

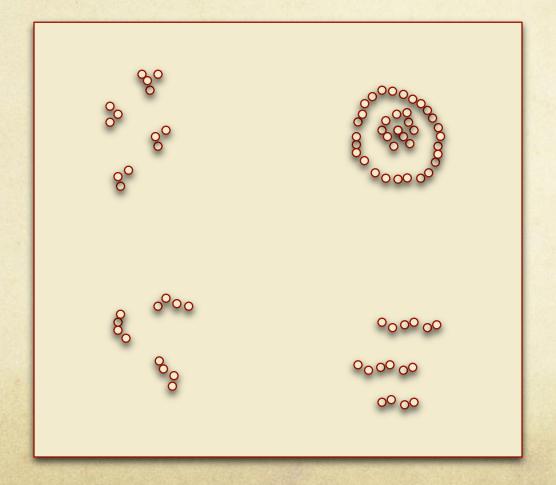
D2: ... a set of entities which are *alike*, and entities from different clusters are not *alike* 

D3: ... an aggregation of points in the test space such that the *distance* between any two points in the cluster is less that the *distance* between any point in the cluster and any point not in it.

D4: ... a connected region of a multidimensional space containing a relative *high density* of points, separated from other such regions by regions containing a relatively low density of points.

#### Introduction

It is hard to give a general accepted definition of a cluster because objects can be grouped with different purposes in mind.

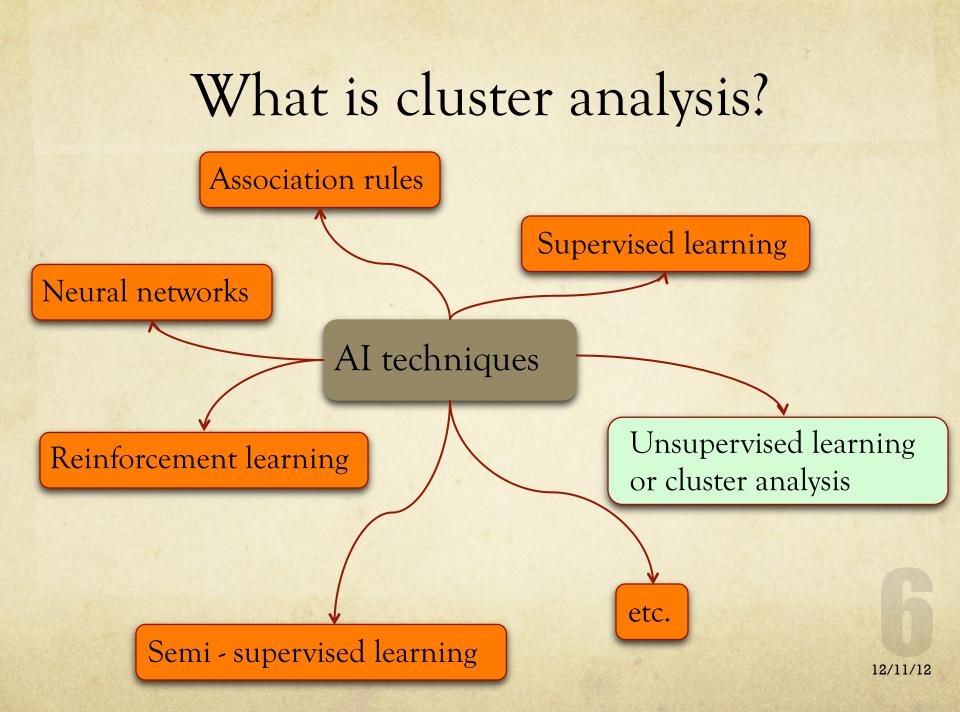


Humans are excellent cluster seekers

...only in two or three dimensions.

#### Overview

- What is cluster analysis?
- Some definitions and notations
- How it works?
- Cluster Analysis Diagram
  - Objectives of cluster analysis
  - Research design issues
  - Assumptions in cluster analysis
  - Clustering methods
  - Interpreting the clusters
  - Validation
- Applications



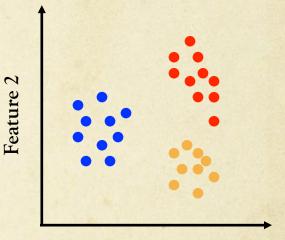
## What is cluster analysis?

Cluster analysis is a multivariate data mining technique whose goal is to groups objects based on a set of user selected characteristics

Clusters should exhibit high internal homogeneity and high external heterogeneity

What this means?

When plotted geometrically, objects within clusters should be very close together and clusters will be far apart.

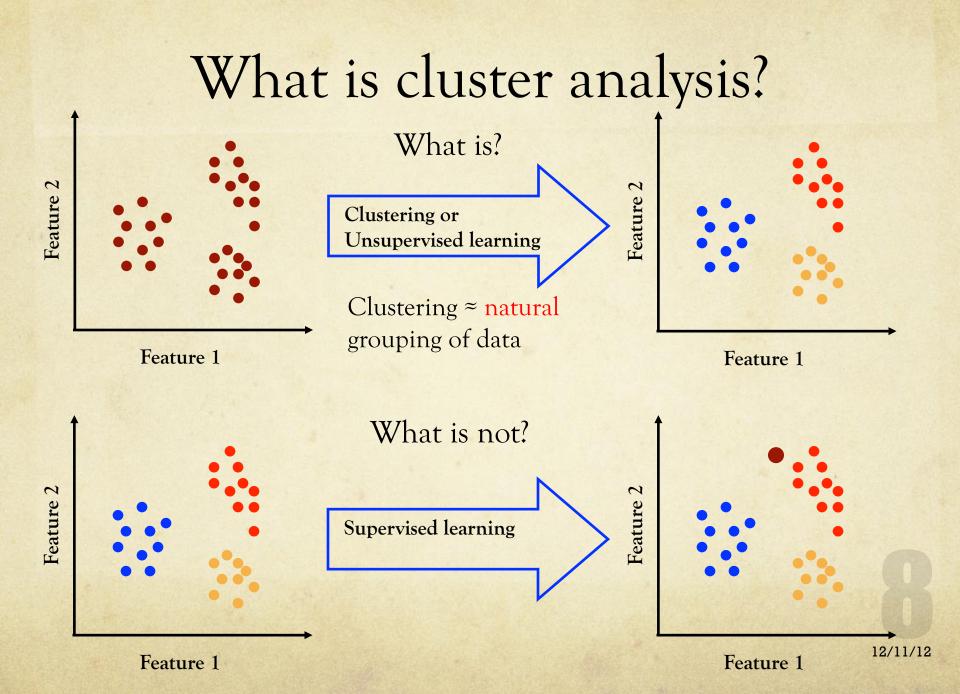


Exploratory data analysis F Q analysis Cluster analysis also referred to as Typology construction Classification analysis

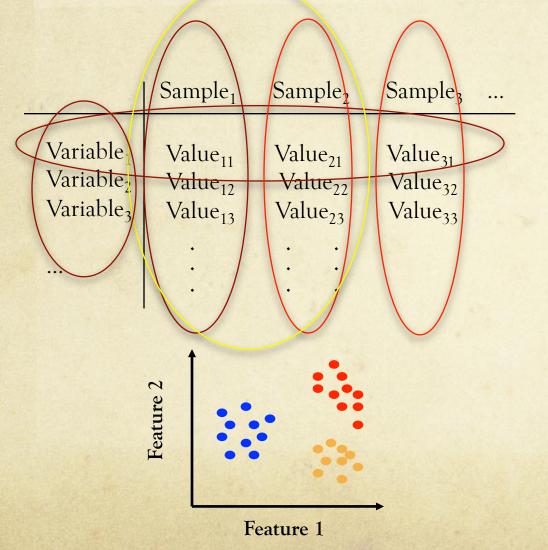
Feature 1

Numerical taxonomy

12/11/12



#### Definitions & notations



- Objects or elementary data
- Features or cluster variate
- Data dimension
- Similarity measure
- Cluster
- Cluster seed
- Cluster centroid
- Cluster solution
- Outlier

#### Definitions & notations

		Sample <sub>1</sub>	Sample <sub>2</sub>	Sample <sub>3</sub>	•••	Number of variables per sample
Differ	Variable <sub>1</sub> Variable <sub>2</sub> Variable <sub>3</sub>	Value <sub>11</sub> Value <sub>12</sub> Value <sub>13</sub>	Value <sub>21</sub> Value <sub>22</sub> Value <sub>23</sub>	Value $_{31}$ Value $_{32}$ Value $_{33}$		1 - Univariate data 2 - Bivariate data 3 - Trivariate data >3 Multi&HyperVariate data
Ğ		•	· · ·			

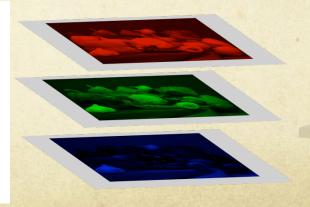
#### Remark: Quantitative variables (can do math on them)

#### An example

ns

#### RGB images are trivariate data

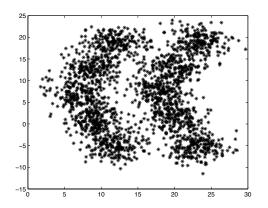


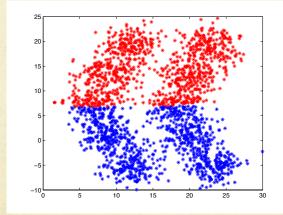


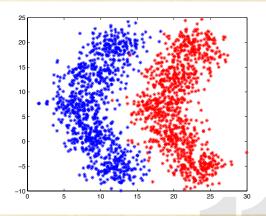
What does natural grouping means?

Example

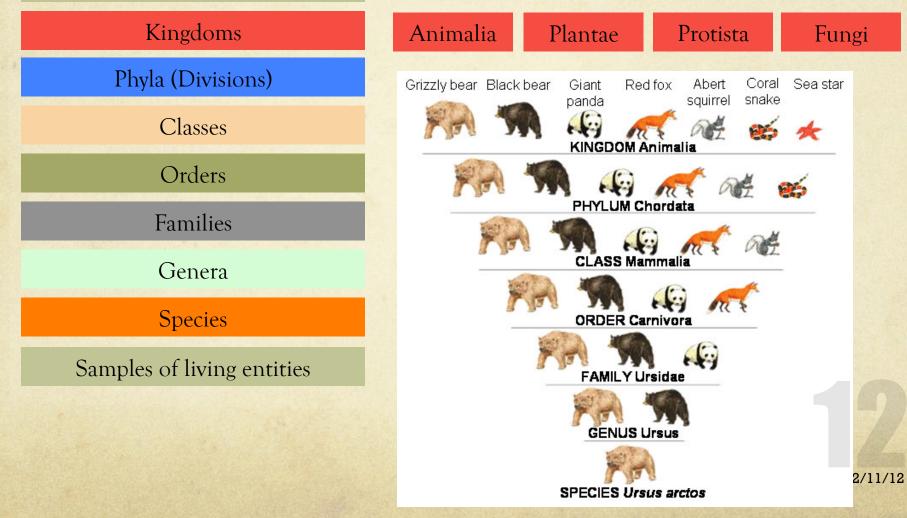
For some clustering algorithms, natural grouping means this... Actually, natural grouping means this...







#### Living things



#### A simple example:

Suppose that a biologist wants to determine the subspecies in a population of birds belonging the same specie

A small sample of 8 birds is selected as a pilot test

For each of the 8 birds, two characteristics of their beaks are measured: V1 - length and V2 - width.

Clustering	Objects								
variables	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	
V1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.65	3.7	3.75	3.78	
V2	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.6	1.62	

#### A simple example:

Clustering	Objects									
variables	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8		
V1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.65	3.7	3.75	3.78		
V2	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.6	1.62		

#### Objective

Identify structures (classes) in the data by grouping the most similar objects into groups

Three questions to be answered:

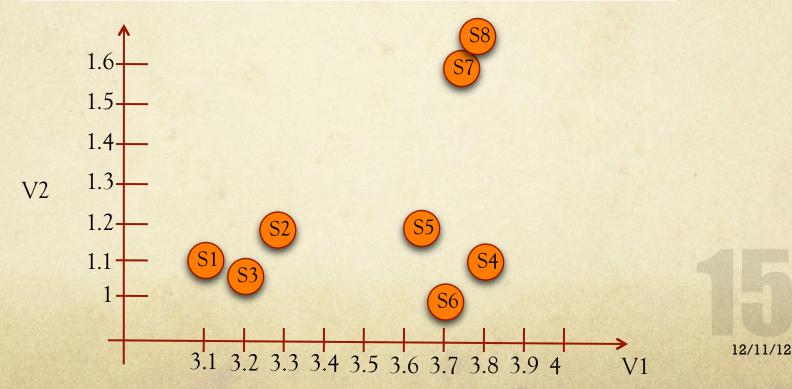
Q1: how does he measure the similarity between individuals?

Q2: how clusters should be formed?

Q3: how many clusters?

Q1: how does he measure the similarity between objects?

Clustering	Subjects								
variables	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	
V1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.65	3.7	3.75	3.78	
V2	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.1	1.2	1.05	1.6	1.62	



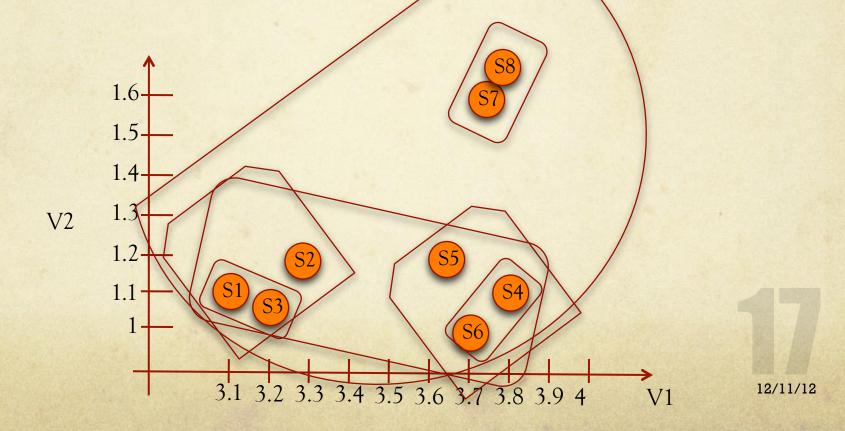
Q1: how does he measure the similarity between objects? A1: build similarity matrix between all pairs of observations

Observatio	Observations										
ns	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8			
S1											
S2	0.22										
S3											
S4											
S5											
S6											

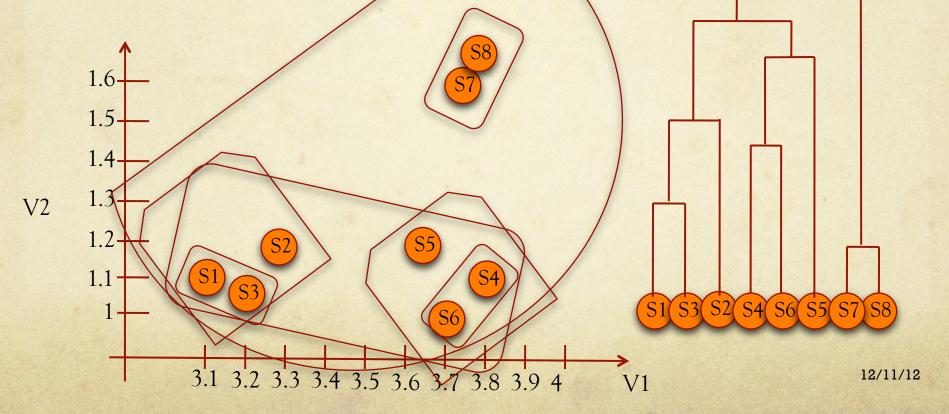
12/11/12

Q2: how does he form the clusters?

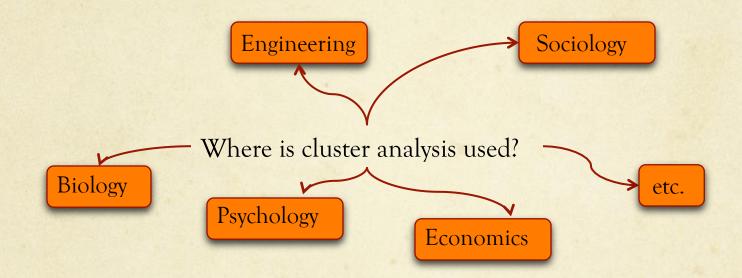
A21: group observations which are most similar into clusters A22: iteratively merge clusters which are more close one to another



Q3: how to determine the number of clusters in the final solution? A3: measuring homogeneity of a cluster solution by averaging all distances between observations within clusters



#### Area of applications



#### Most common criticisms

Cluster analysis

- is "descriptive, atheoretical and noninferential"

- will "always produce clusters regardless of the actual existence of any structure"

- "the cluster solution is not generalisable because it is totally dependent upon the variables used as a basis for the similarity measure"

### Review

- Key elements and notations in cluster analysis
- What is cluster analysis and what is not? difference between *supervised* and *unsupervised* classification
- How it works?
- Research questions addressed by cluster analysis

#### Cluster Analysis Diagram

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

> Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters

#### Cluster Analysis - Objectives

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Taxonomy description

- for exploratory purposes and the formation of a taxonomy (an empirically based classification of objects)

Data simplification Select objectives

Hypothesis generation or testing

Relationship identification

- a researcher could face a large number of observations that are meaningless unless classified into manageable groups

a researcher wishes to develop hypothesis
 concerning the nature of the data or to examine
 previously stated hypothesis

 a researcher wishes to reveal relationships among observations that are not possible with individual observations

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Five questions to be asked before starting:

- 1. What variables are relevant?
- 2. Is the sample size adequate?
- 3. Can outliers be detected and if so should they be removed?
- 4. How should object similarity be measured?
- 5. Should data be standardized?

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q1: What variables are relevant?

Select clustering variables

Theoretical, conceptual and practical considerations must be observed when selecting variables for clustering analysis

Feature selection methods enable users to select the most relevant variables to be used in cluster analysis

Feature extraction methods enable users to derive new features from the existing features which could be more relevant then the existing features for cluster analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q2: Is the sample size adequate?

A2: the sample size must be large enough to provide sufficient representation of small groups within the population and represent the underlying structure

Remark - the issue of sample size do not relates to any statistical inference issues

Optimal sample size the researcher should - ensure the sample size is sufficiently large to adequately represent all relevant groups

- specify the group sizes necessary for relevance for the questions being asked

Remark:

Interest is focus on the identification of small groups - large sample size
 Interest is focus on the identification of large groups - small sample size

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q3: Can outliers be detected and if so should they be removed? What outliers can be?

1. Truly aberrant observation not representative for the population

2. Representative observations of small or insignificant groups

3. An undersampling of the actual group in the population that causes poor representation of the group

- distort the actual structure and result in unrepresentative clusters – should be removed

- should be removed so that the resulting clusters represent more accurately relevant groups

- they represent valid and relevant groups - should be included in the clustering solution

12/11/12

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q4: How should object similarity be measured?

Three ways to measure inter-objects similarities

correlation measures

distance measures

association measures

require metric data

require non-metric data

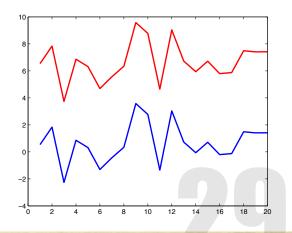
Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q4: How should object similarity be measured?

Correlation measures

Pears correl coeffi

Pearson's  
orrelation  
oefficient
$$CC(X_i, X_j) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{d} (X_i - \mu_{X_i})(X_j - \mu_{X_j})}{\frac{1}{d-1} \sum_{k=1}^{d} (X_i - \mu_{X_i}) \sum_{k=1}^{d} (X_j - \mu_{X_j})}$$
Spectral  
angle
$$SA(X_i, X_j) = a\cos(CC(X_i, X_j))$$



Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q4: How should object similarity be measured?

Distance measures

r - metrics

Let 
$$X = \{X_k^n, X_k \in \mathfrak{R}^d\}$$
  
then  $L_r(X_i, X_j) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^d (x_{ik} - x_{jk})^r\right)^{1/r}$   
Metric exponent

Minkowski metrics $r \ge 1$ Fractionary metricsr < 1

- r = 1 Manhattan distance
- r = 2 Euclidian distance
- $r \ge 3$  High order metrics

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q4: How should object similarity be measured?

 $MD(X_i, X_j) =$ 

Distance measures

 $L_1$  - metrics

 $(X_i - X_i)$ 

 $L_r(X_i, X_j) = \left[\sum_{ik}^{n} (x_{ik} - x_{jk})^r\right]^r$ 

 $\frac{1}{1-\sum_{i=1}^{d}(X_i-\mu_{X_i})}$ 

 $\sum (X_i - \mu_{X_i})(X_j - \mu_{X_j})$ 

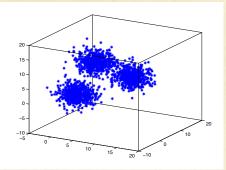
Mahalanobis distance

 $\frac{1}{d-1}\sum_{k=1}^{d} (X_i - \mu_{X_i})\sum_{k=1}^{k} (X_j - \mu_{X_j})$ Pearson's
correlation  $CC(X_i, X_j) = -$ 

coefficient

Some clues for metric choice

Should be used when data are dissimilar from the magnitude point of view



Low dimensional spaces – Euclidean distance

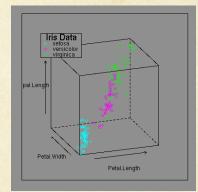
High dimensional spaces – Manhatan or fractionary metrics - r - metrics

Pearson's correlation coefficient

Spectral angle

Low dimensional spaces – Spectral angle

High dimensional spaces – spectral angle of correlation coefficient



Should be used when data are dissimilar from the correlation point of view

12/11/12

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q5: Should data be standardized?

Remark1: Distance measures used to estimate inter-object similarities are sensitive to different scales or magnitudes among the variables.

Remark2: In general, variable with a larger dispersion (standard deviation) will have a bigger impact on the clustering results.

A5: Clustering variables that are not all of the same scale should be standardized.

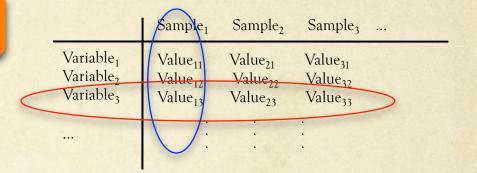
Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Q5: Should data be standardized?

Standardization techniques:

$$\sim$$
 Z - score

$$V_i = \frac{V_i - \mu_{V_i}}{\sigma_{V_i}}$$



Range scaling

$$V_i = \frac{V_i - \min(V_i)}{\max(V_i) - \min(V_i)}$$

• Variable standardization

• Sample standardization

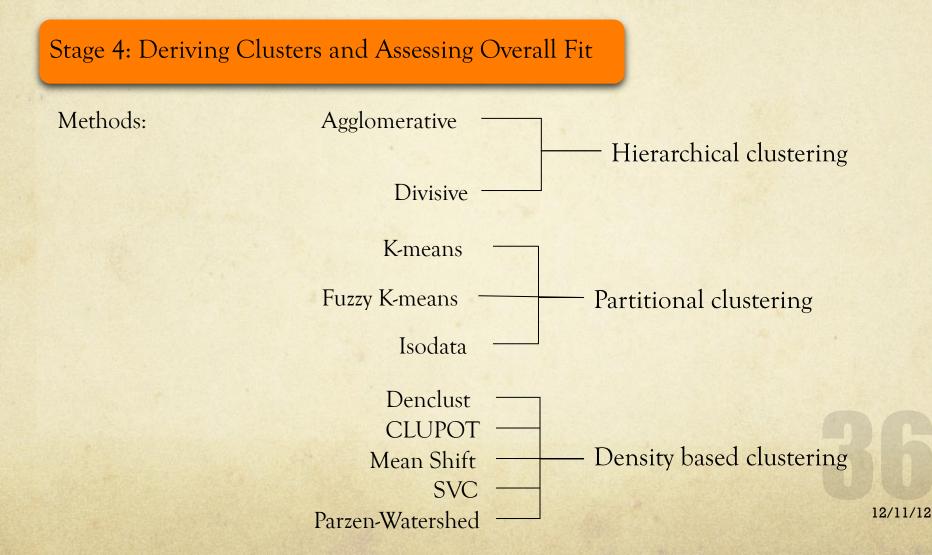
#### Cluster Analysis - Assumptions

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

1. It is always assumed that the sample is representative for the population

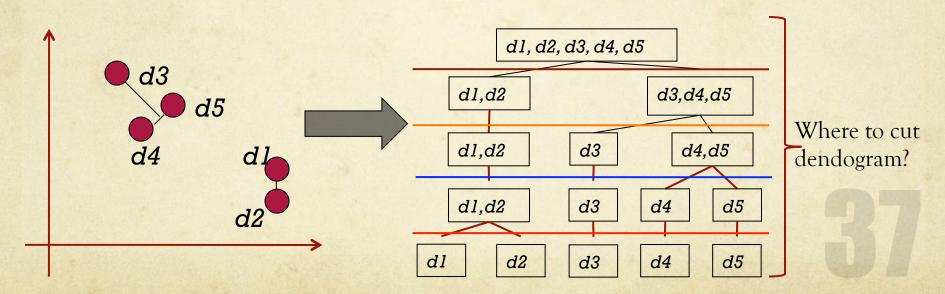
2. It is assumed that variables are not correlated; if variables are correlated, remove correlated variables or use distance measures that compensates for the correlation such as Mahanalobis distance

## Cluster Analysis - Methods



### Hierarchical clustering

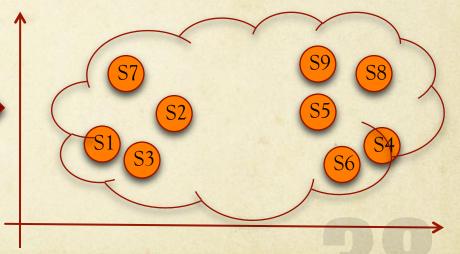
Agglomerative (bottom - up) Principle: compute the Distance-Matrix between all objects (initially one object = one cluster). Find the two clusters with the closest distance and put those two clusters into one. Compute the new Distance-Matrix.



Hierarchical clustering Agglomerative (bottom - up) Single-link (nearest neighbor method)

S7 S2 S1 S3 S6 S4 S4

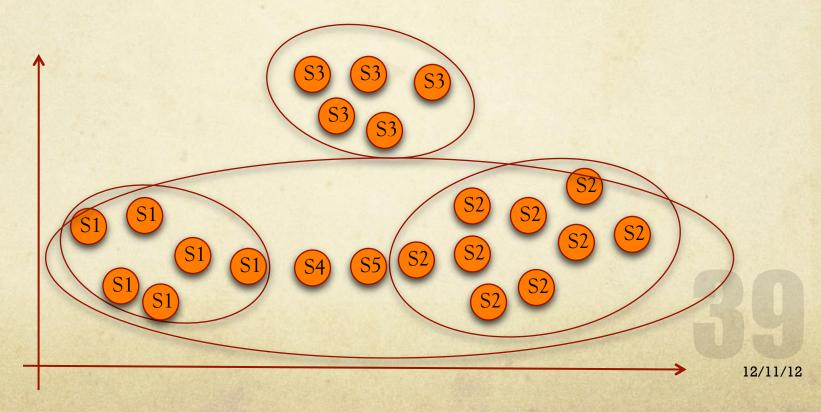
 $sim(c_i,c_j) = \min_{x \in c_i, y \in c_j} sim(x,y)$ 



Drawback: can result in long and thin clusters due to chaining effect

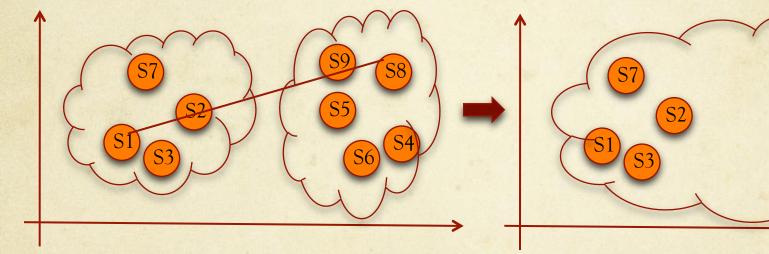
Single-link (nearest neighbor method)

Drawback: can result in long and thin clusters due to chaining effect



Complete-linkage (furthest-neighbor or diameter method)

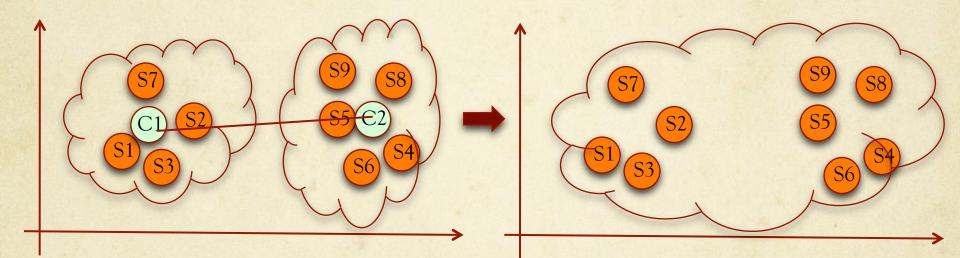
 $sim(c_i,c_j) = \max_{x \in c_i, y \in c_j} sim(x,y)$ 



Drawback: makes spherical clusters

S8

Average-linkageSimilarity between clusters is the average distance between all<br/>objects in one cluster and all objects in other cluster



Advantage: less affected by outliers

Drawback: generates clusters with approximately equal within cluster variation

Divisive (top-down)  divisive algorithms need much more computing power so in practical only agglomerative methods are used

Computational complexity

-  $O(n^2)$  - optimal

Drawbacks

- computation of similarity matrix between all pairs of points; for large datasets this is computational expensive

### Partitional clustering

• A typical clustering analysis approach via partitioning data set iteratively

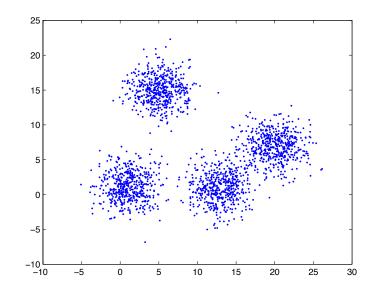
• Statement of the problem: given a *K*, find a partition of *K* clusters to optimize the chosen partitioning criterion

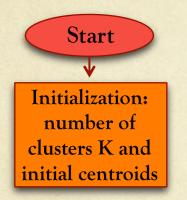
• In principle, partitions achieved via minimizing the sum of squared distances in each cluster

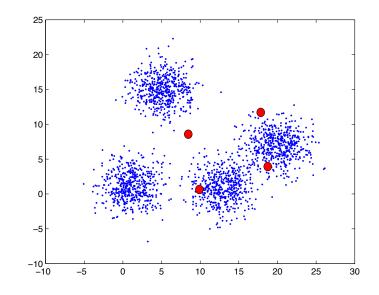
$$E = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in C_i} \| \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}_i \|^2$$

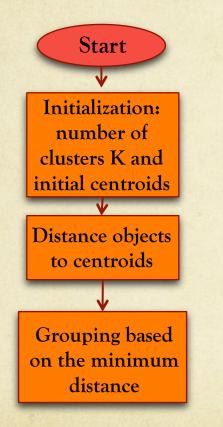
*K-means* - (MacQueen'67): each cluster is represented by the centre of the cluster and the algorithm converges to stable centers of clusters

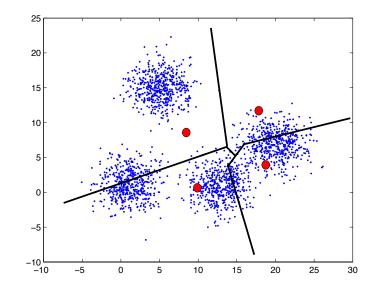




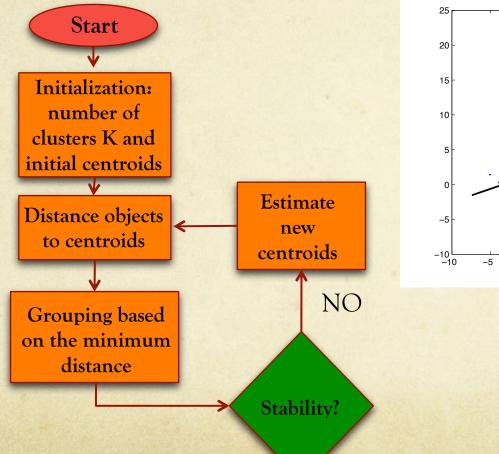


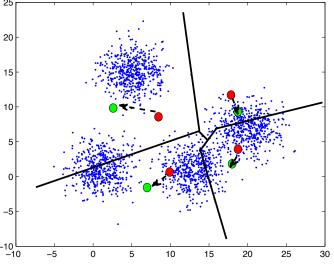


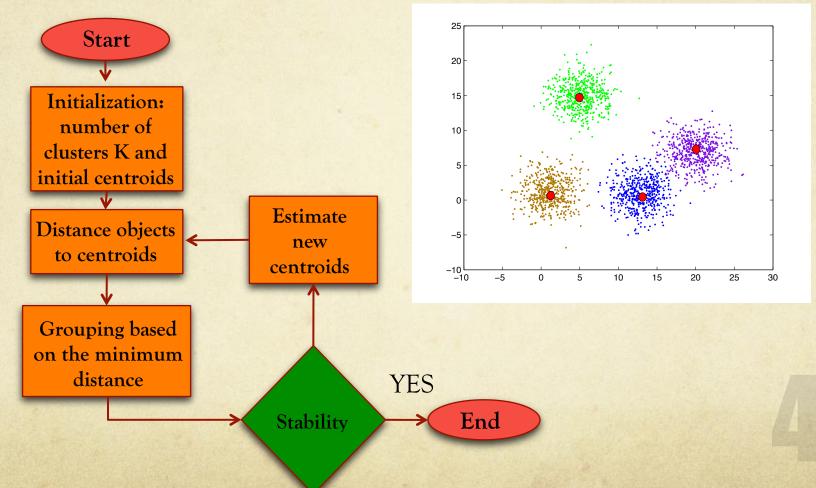




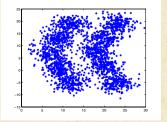
#### K-means algorithm







Drawbacks



Sensitive to initial seed points Converge to a local optimum that may be unwanted solution Need to specify *K*, the *number* of clusters, in advance Unable to handle noisy data and outliers Not suitable for discovering clusters with non-convex shapes Applicable only when mean is defined, then what about categorical data?

### Advantages

Efficient in computation

O(tKn), where *n* is number of objects, *K* is number of clusters, and *t* is number of iterations. Normally, *K*, *t* << *n* 

### Density based clustering

- Clustering based on density (local cluster criterion), such as density-connected points or based on an explicitly constructed density function
- Major features
  - Discover clusters of arbitrary shape
  - Handle noise (outliers)

DBSCAN - Ester, et al. 1996 - <u>http://www2.cs.uh.edu/~ceick/7363/Papers/dbscan.pdf</u> DENCLUE - Hinneburg & D. Keim 1998 -<u>http://www2.cs.uh.edu/~ceick/7363/Papers/dbscan.pdf</u>

Parzen Watershed - <u>http://www.ecmjournal.org/journal/smi/pdf/smi97-01.pdf</u>

MeanShift - http://courses.csail.mit.edu/6.869/handouts/PAMIMeanshift.pdf

Support Vector Clustering -

http://jmlr.csail.mit.edu/papers/volume2/horn01a/rev1/horn01ar1.pdf

### Density is the number of points within a specified space range Density estimation

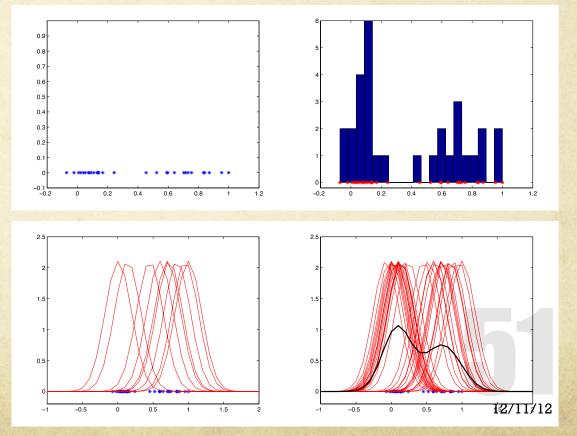
From histograms...

... to kernel density estimation (Parzen window technique)

$$f(x) = \sum_{i} K(x - x_{i}) = \sum_{i} k \left( \frac{\|x - x_{i}\|^{2}}{h^{2}} \right)$$

k(r) - kernel function or parzen window

An example on univariate data



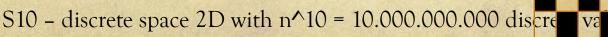
Why is density estimation computational expensive in high dimensional spaces?

$$f(x) = \sum_{i} K(x - x_{i}) = \sum_{i} k \left( \frac{\|x - x_{i}\|^{2}}{h^{2}} \right)$$

k(r) - kernel function or parzen window

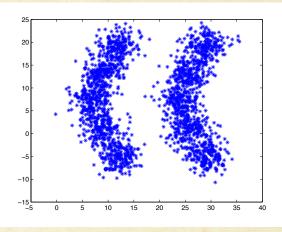
S – discrete space 1D with n = 10 discrete values

S2 – discrete space 2D with n^2 discrete values

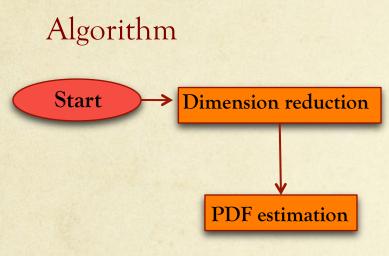


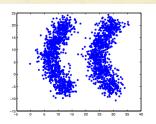
In based on the density estimation of the *pdf* in the feature space Algorithm

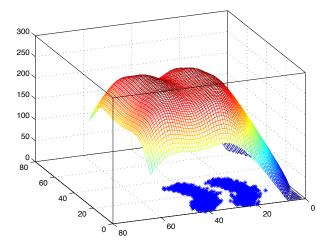




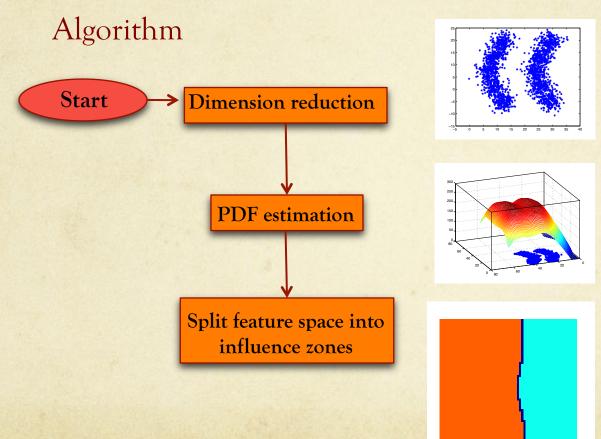
In based on the density estimation of the *pdf* in the feature space



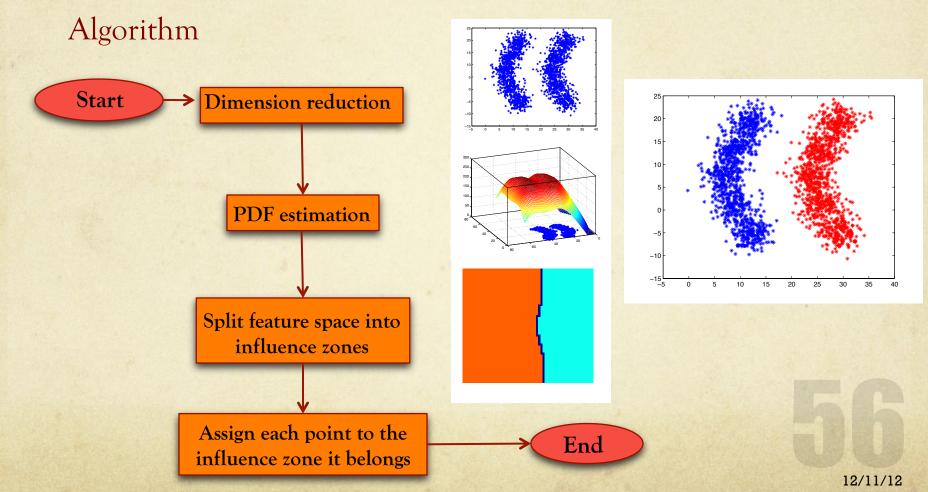




In based on the density estimation of the *pdf* in the feature space



In based on the density estimation of the *pdf* in the feature space



#### Strengths :

- Application independent tool
- Suitable for real data analysis
- Does not assume any prior shape (e.g. elliptical) on data clusters
- Can handle arbitrary feature spaces
- Only ONE parameter to choose
- H (window size) has a physical meaning, unlike K-Means

### Weaknesses :

- The window size (bandwidth selection) is not trivial
- Inappropriate window size can cause modes to be merged, or generate additional "shallow" modes -> Use adaptive window size
- Low dimension feature space
- Computational complexity high

# Cluster Analysis – Interpreting the clusters

Stage 5: Interpreting the clusters

The cluster centroid (a mean profile of the cluster on each cluster variable) is particularly useful in the interpretation stage

Interpretation involves:

Examining and distinguishing characteristics of each cluster's profile and identifying substantial differences between clusters

Cluster solution failing to reveal significant differences indicate that other solutions should be examined

The cluster centroid should also be assessed for correspondence to researcher's prior expectation based on theory or practical experience

# Cluster Analysis - Validation

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters

"The validation of clustering structures is the most difficult and frustrating part of cluster analysis.

Without a strong effort in this direction, cluster analysis will remain a black art accessible only to those true believers who have experience and great courage."

Algorithms for Clustering Data, Jain and Dubes

1. Determining the clustering tendency of a set of data, i.e., distinguishing whether nonrandom structure actually exists in the data.

2. Comparing the results of a cluster analysis to externally known results, e.g., to externally given class labels.

3. Evaluating how well the results of a cluster analysis fit the data without reference to external information.- Use only the data

4. Comparing the results of two different sets of cluster analyses to determine the stability of the solution.

5. Determining the 'correct' number of clusters.

# Cluster analysis - Validation

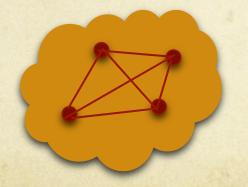
### Indices for cluster validation

- Cross validation
- External index used to measure the extent to which cluster labels match externally supplied class labels
  - Labels provided by experts or ground truth
- Internal index based on the intrinsic content of the data. Used to measure the goodness of a clustering structure without respect to external information
  - O Davies Bound index , Dunn index, C index, Silhouette coefficient etc.
- Relative index used to compare the results of different clustering algorithms
  - Internal or external indices

### Cluster analysis - Validation

Internal indices – example: silhouette coefficient

Cluster cohesion is the mean value of the distances of all pairs of points within a cluster



c – the smallest the better

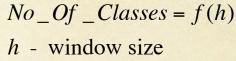
$$sc = 1 - \frac{c}{s}$$

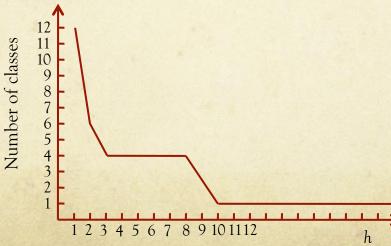
Cluster separation is the mean value of the distances between the points in the cluster and points outside the cluster

s - biggest the better

### Cluster validation

- K means, hierarchical
  - Davies Bound index , Dunn index, C index,
     Silhouette coefficient etc.
- Density based clustering
  - Stability of the number of classes





# Applications

A good way to test random hypothesis (hierarchical and density based clustering)

Image analysis

Medical imaging Remote sensing imaging Microscopy imaging

For border detection and object recognition

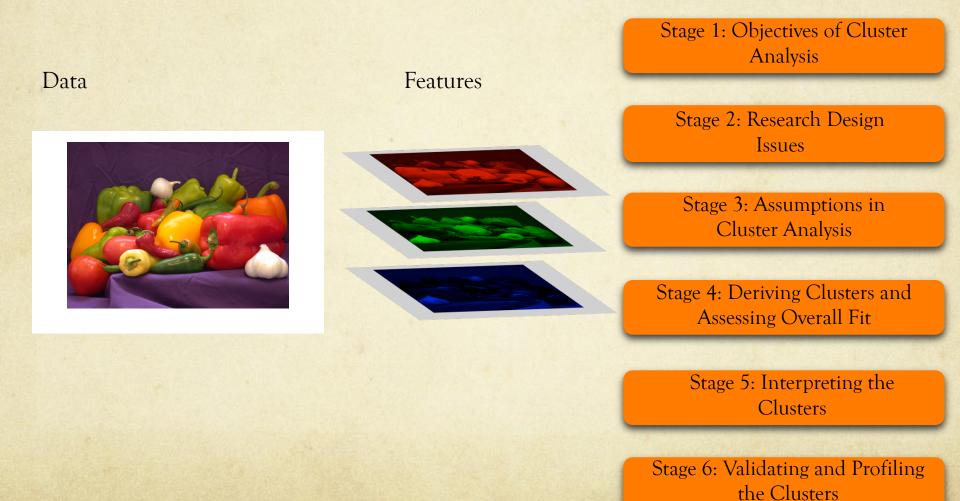
Character recognition

Computational biology and bioinformatics

Information retrieval

Database segmentation

Web search engines based on clustering - Clusty



Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

#### Select objectives

Taxonomy descriptionData simplificationRelationship identificationHypothesis generation or testing

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Five questions to be asked before starting:

- 1. What variables are relevant?
- 2. Is the sample size adequate?
- 3. Can outliers be detected and if so should they be removed?
- 4. How should object similarity be measured?
- 5. Should data be standardized?

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters 1. It is always assumed that the sample is representative for the population

2. It is assumed that variables are not correlated; if variables are correlated, remove correlated variables or use distance measures that compensates for the correlation such as Mahanalobis distance

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Hierarchical clustering

Partitional clustering

Density based clustering

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 5: Interpreting the clusters

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters The cluster centroid (a mean profile of the cluster on each cluster variable) is particularly useful in the interpretation stage

Stage 1: Objectives of Cluster Analysis

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters

Stage 2: Research Design Issues

Stage 3: Assumptions in Cluster Analysis

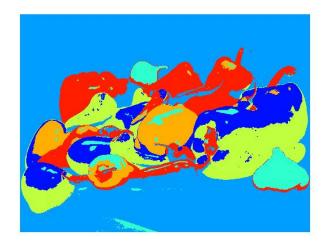
Stage 4: Deriving Clusters and Assessing Overall Fit

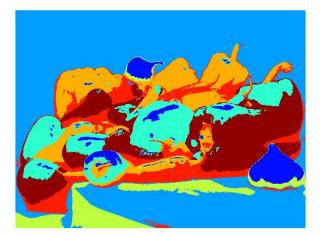
Stage 5: Interpreting the Clusters

Stage 6: Validating and Profiling the Clusters

- Cross validation
- External index labels provided by experts or ground truth
- Internal index
- Relative index

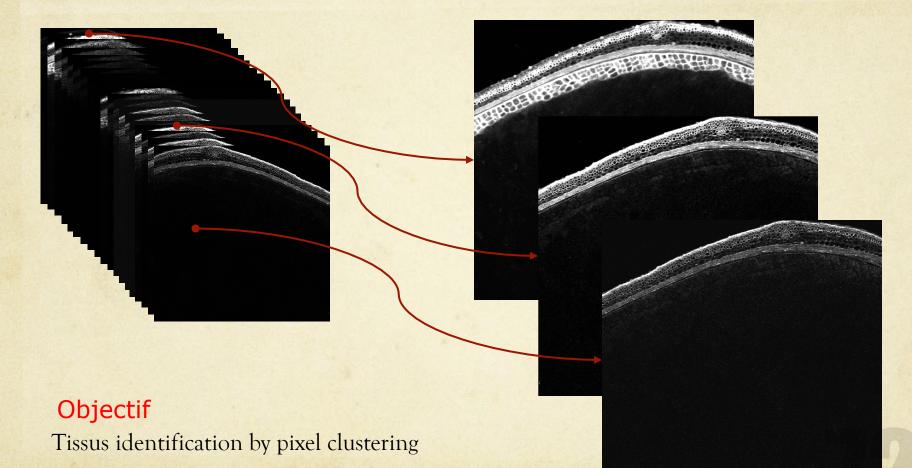




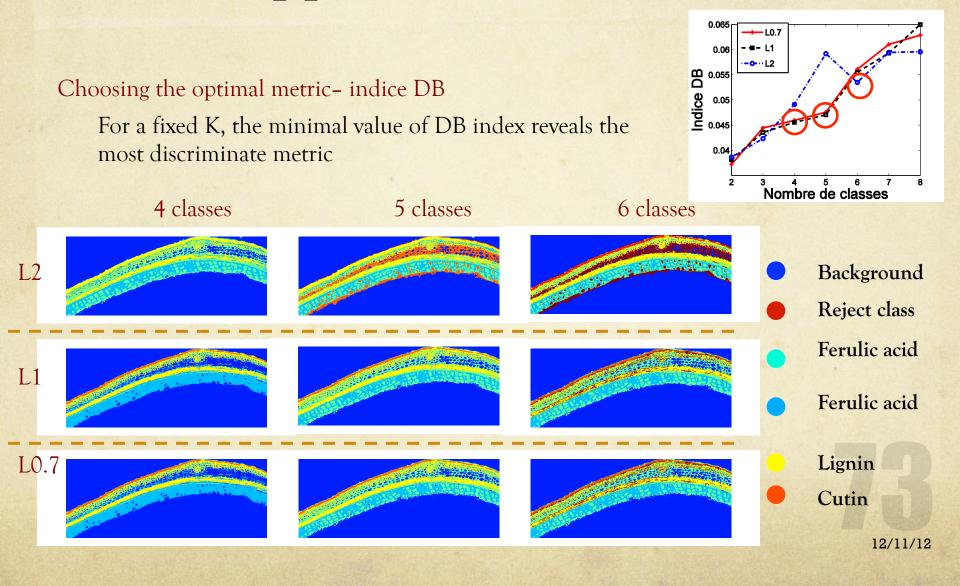




### Microscopy imaging



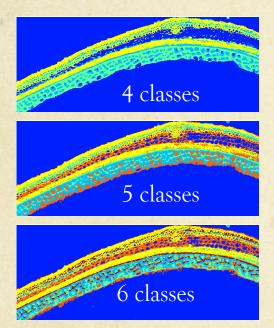
### Application - results

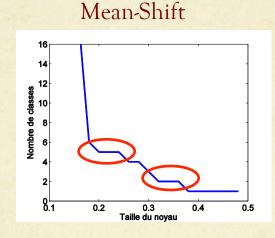


### Application - results

#### Dimension reduction has been performed by NMF

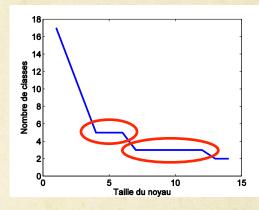
#### K-means





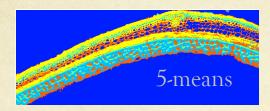
# 5 classes

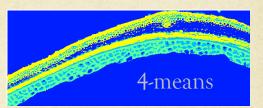
#### Parzen-Watershed

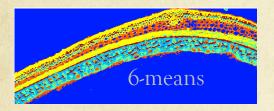


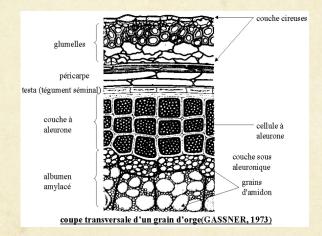


# Application – validation of results

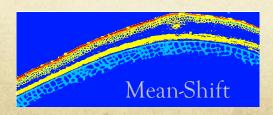












### Open questions

High dimensional data...

Which similarity measure???

Recent works have shown that Euclidean distance is meaningless as similarity measure in high dimensional space

Clustering validation???

Most internal indices are designed for convex shape clusters!!!

Bibliography

Joseph F. Hair Jr., Willim C. Black, Barry J. Babin, Rolph E. Anderson-Multivariate Data Analysis – a global perspective

### Mean shift algorithm

#### Strengths :

- Application independent tool
- Suitable for real data analysis
- Does not assume any prior shape (e.g. elliptical) on data clusters
- Can handle arbitrary feature spaces
- Only ONE parameter to choose
- H (window size) has a physical meaning, unlike K-Means

### Weaknesses :

- The window size (bandwidth selection) is not trivial
- Inappropriate window size can cause modes to be merged, or generate additional "shallow" modes -> Use adaptive window size
- For high dimensional data computational expensive

Example: *d* – 10, *n* – 102400 Time = 3837.488139 seconds <sup>12/11/12</sup>