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# Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures

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Nov 10th, 2001

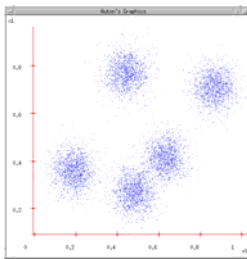
## Unsupervised Learning

- You walk into a bar.
- A stranger approaches and tells you:
  - "I've got data from k classes. Each class produces observations with a normal distribution and variance  $\sigma^2 I$ . Standard simple multivariate gaussian assumptions. I can tell you all the  $\mu$ 's."
- So far, looks straightforward.
  - "I need a maximum likelihood estimate of the  $\mu$ 's."
- No problem:
  - "There's just one thing. None of the data are labeled. I have datapoints, but I don't know what class they're from (any of them!)"
- Uh oh!!

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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 2

## Some data from a GMM

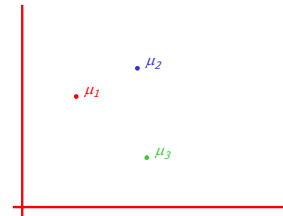


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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 3

## The GMM assumption

- There are k components. The i'th component is called  $\omega_i$
- Component  $\omega_i$  has an associated mean vector  $\mu_i$



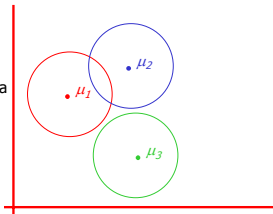
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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 4

## The GMM assumption

- There are k components. The i'th component is called  $\omega_i$
- Component  $\omega_i$  has an associated mean vector  $\mu_i$
- Each component generates data from a Gaussian with mean  $\mu_i$  and covariance matrix  $\sigma^2 I$

Assume that each datapoint is generated according to the following recipe:



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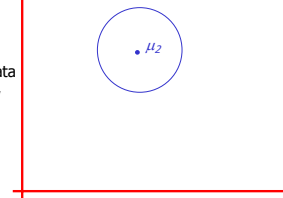
Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 5

## The GMM assumption

- There are k components. The i'th component is called  $\omega_i$
- Component  $\omega_i$  has an associated mean vector  $\mu_i$
- Each component generates data from a Gaussian with mean  $\mu_i$  and covariance matrix  $\sigma^2 I$

Assume that each datapoint is generated according to the following recipe:

- Pick a component at random. Choose component i with probability  $P(\omega_i)$ .



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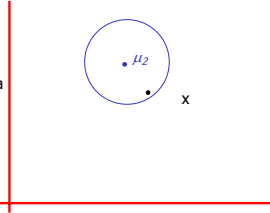
Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 6

### The GMM assumption

- There are  $k$  components. The  $i$ 'th component is called  $\omega_i$
- Component  $\omega_i$  has an associated mean vector  $\mu_i$
- Each component generates data from a Gaussian with mean  $\mu_i$  and covariance matrix  $\sigma^2 I$

Assume that each datapoint is generated according to the following recipe:

1. Pick a component at random. Choose component  $i$  with probability  $P(\omega_i)$ .
2. Datapoint  $\sim N(\mu_i, \sigma^2 I)$



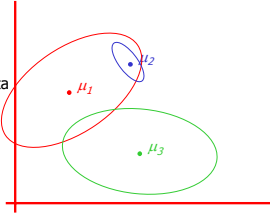
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### The General GMM assumption

- There are  $k$  components. The  $i$ 'th component is called  $\omega_i$
- Component  $\omega_i$  has an associated mean vector  $\mu_i$
- Each component generates data from a Gaussian with mean  $\mu_i$  and covariance matrix  $\Sigma_i$

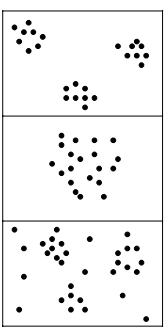
Assume that each datapoint is generated according to the following recipe:

1. Pick a component at random. Choose component  $i$  with probability  $P(\omega_i)$ .
2. Datapoint  $\sim N(\mu_i, \Sigma_i)$



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### Unsupervised Learning: not as hard as it looks



Sometimes easy

Sometimes impossible

and sometimes in between

*IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THESE DIAGRAMS ARE, THEY SHOW 2-d UNLABELED DATA (X VECTORS) DISTRIBUTED IN 2-d SPACE. THE TOP ONE HAS THREE VERY CLEAR GAUSSIAN CENTERS*

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### Computing likelihoods in unsupervised case

We have  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N$   
 We know  $P(w_1) P(w_2) \dots P(w_k)$   
 We know  $\sigma$

$P(x|w_i, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$  = Prob that an observation from class  $w_i$  would have value  $x$  given class means  $\mu_1, \dots, \mu_k$

Can we write an expression for that?

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### likelihoods in unsupervised case

We have  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$   
 We have  $P(w_1) \dots P(w_k)$ . We have  $\sigma$ .  
 We can define, for any  $x$ ,  $P(x|w_i, \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k)$

Can we define  $P(x | \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k)$  ?

Can we define  $P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n | \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k)$  ?

[YES, IF WE ASSUME THE  $x_i$ 'S WERE DRAWN INDEPENDENTLY]

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### Unsupervised Learning: Mediumly Good News

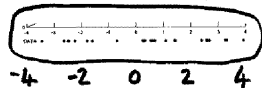
We now have a procedure s.t. if you give me a guess at  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k$  I can tell you the prob of the unlabeled data given those  $\mu$ 's.

Suppose  $x$ 's are 1-dimensional. (From Duda and Hart)

There are two classes;  $w_1$  and  $w_2$   
 $P(w_1) = 1/3$   $P(w_2) = 2/3$   $\sigma = 1$ .

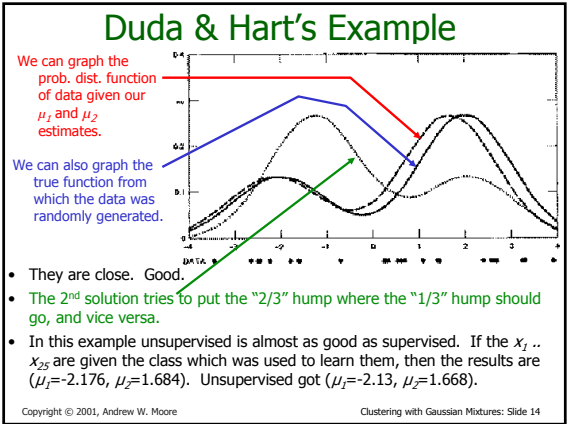
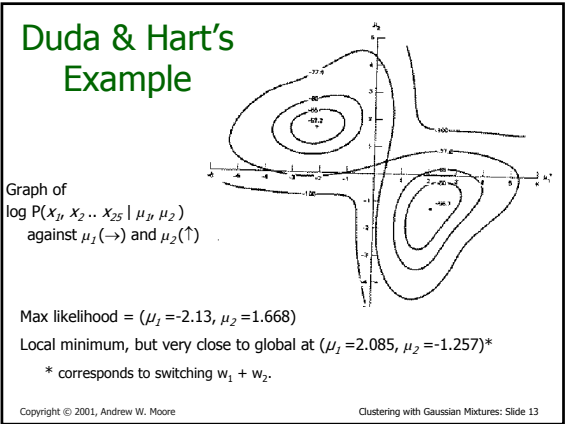
There are 25 unlabeled datapoints

**DATA SCATTERGRAM**



$x_1 = 0.608$   
 $x_2 = -1.590$   
 $x_3 = 0.235$   
 $x_4 = 3.949$   
 $\vdots$   
 $x_{25} = -0.712$

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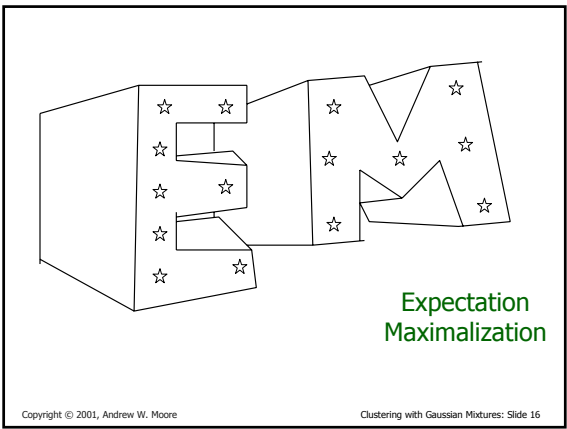


### Finding the max likelihood $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k$

We can compute  $P(\text{data} | \mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k)$   
 How do we find the  $\mu_j$ 's which give max. likelihood?

- The normal max likelihood trick:  
 Set  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_j} \log \text{Prob}(\dots) = 0$   
 and solve for  $\mu_j$ 's.  
 # Here you get non-linear non-analytically-solvable equations
- Use gradient descent  
 Slow but doable
- Use a much faster, cuter, and recently very popular method...

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**DETOUR** → **The E.M. Algorithm**

- We'll get back to unsupervised learning soon.
- But now we'll look at an even simpler case with hidden information.
- The EM algorithm
  - Can do trivial things, such as the contents of the next few slides.
  - An excellent way of doing our unsupervised learning problem, as we'll see.
  - Many, many other uses, including inference of Hidden Markov Models (future lecture).

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### Silly Example

Let events be "grades in a class"

$w_1 =$ Gets an A	$P(A) = 1/2$
$w_2 =$ Gets a B	$P(B) = \mu$
$w_3 =$ Gets a C	$P(C) = 2\mu$
$w_4 =$ Gets a D	$P(D) = 1/2 - 3\mu$

(Note  $0 \leq \mu \leq 1/6$ )

Assume we want to estimate  $\mu$  from data. In a given class there were

a	A's
b	B's
c	C's
d	D's

What's the maximum likelihood estimate of  $\mu$  given a,b,c,d ?

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## Computing

$P(A) = 1/2$   $P(B) = \mu$   $P(C) = 2\mu$   $P(D) = 1/2 - 3\mu$   
 $P(a, b, c, d | \mu) = K(1/2)^a (\mu)^b (2\mu)^c (1/2 - 3\mu)^d$   
 $\log P(a, b, c, d | \mu) = \log K + a \log 1/2 + b \log \mu + c \log 2\mu + d \log (1/2 - 3\mu)$

FOR MAX LIKE  $\mu$ , SET  $\frac{\partial \log P}{\partial \mu} = 0$

$$\frac{\partial \log P}{\partial \mu} = \frac{b}{\mu} + \frac{2c}{2\mu} - \frac{3d}{1/2 - 3\mu} = 0$$

Gives max like  $\mu = \frac{b+c}{6(b+c+d)}$

So if class got

A	B	C	D
14	6	9	10

Max like  $\mu = \frac{1}{10}$

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## Same Problem with Hidden Information

Someone tells us that  
 Number of High grades (A's + B's) =  $h$   
 Number of C's =  $c$   
 Number of D's =  $d$   
 What is the max. like estimate of  $\mu$  now?

REMEMBER  
 $P(A) = 1/2$   
 $P(B) = \mu$   
 $P(C) = 2\mu$   
 $P(D) = 1/2 - 3\mu$

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## Same Problem with Hidden Information

Someone tells us that  
 Number of High grades (A's + B's) =  $h$   
 Number of C's =  $c$   
 Number of D's =  $d$   
 What is the max. like estimate of  $\mu$  now?

REMEMBER  
 $P(A) = 1/2$   
 $P(B) = \mu$   
 $P(C) = 2\mu$   
 $P(D) = 1/2 - 3\mu$

We can answer this question circularly:

**EXPECTATION** If we know the value of  $\mu$  we could compute the expected value of  $a$  and  $b$   
 Since the ratio  $a:b$  should be the same as the ratio  $1/2 : \mu$   $a = \frac{1/2}{1/2 + \mu} h$   $b = \frac{\mu}{1/2 + \mu} h$

**MAXIMIZATION** If we know the expected values of  $a$  and  $b$  we could compute the maximum likelihood value of  $\mu$   

$$\mu = \frac{b+c}{6(b+c+d)}$$

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## E.M. for our Trivial Problem

We begin with a guess for  $\mu$   
 We iterate between EXPECTATION and MAXIMALIZATION to improve our estimates of  $\mu$  and  $a$  and  $b$ .

REMEMBER  
 $P(A) = 1/2$   
 $P(B) = \mu$   
 $P(C) = 2\mu$   
 $P(D) = 1/2 - 3\mu$

Define  $\mu(t)$  the estimate of  $\mu$  on the  $t$ 'th iteration  
 $b(t)$  the estimate of  $b$  on  $t$ 'th iteration

$\mu(0)$  = initial guess

$$b(t) = \frac{\mu(t)h}{1/2 + \mu(t)} = E[b | \mu(t)]$$

$$\mu(t+1) = \frac{b(t)+c}{6(b(t)+c+d)}$$

= max like est of  $\mu$  given  $b(t)$

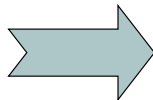
Continue iterating until converged.  
 Good news: Converging to local optimum is assured.  
 Bad news: I said "local" optimum.

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## E.M. Convergence

- Convergence proof based on fact that  $\text{Prob}(\text{data} | \mu)$  must increase or remain same between each iteration [NOT OBVIOUS]
  - But it can never exceed 1 [OBVIOUS]
- So it must therefore converge [OBVIOUS]

In our example, suppose we had  
 $h = 20$   
 $c = 10$   
 $d = 10$   
 $\mu(0) = 0$



t	$\mu(t)$	$b(t)$
0	0	0
1	0.0833	2.857
2	0.0937	3.158
3	0.0947	3.185
4	0.0948	3.187
5	0.0948	3.187
6	0.0948	3.187

Convergence is generally linear: error decreases by a constant factor each time step.

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## Back to Unsupervised Learning of GMMs

Remember:  
 We have unlabeled data  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_R$   
 We know there are  $k$  classes  
 We know  $P(w_1) P(w_2) \dots P(w_k)$   
 We don't know  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k$

We can write  $P(\text{data} | \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \prod_{i=1}^R p(x_i | \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k) \\
 &= \prod_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^k p(x_i | \mu_j) p(w_j) \\
 &= \prod_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^k p(x_i | w_j, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k) p(w_j) \\
 &= \prod_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^k K \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x_i - \mu_j)^2\right) p(w_j)
 \end{aligned}$$

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## E.M. for GMMs

For Max likelihood we know  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_i} \log \text{Pr ob}(\text{data} | \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k) = 0$

Some wild 'n' crazy algebra turns this into: "For Max likelihood, for each j,

$$\mu_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n P(w_j | x_i, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k) x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(w_j | x_i, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)}$$

This is n nonlinear equations in  $\mu_j$ 's."

If, for each  $x_i$  we knew that for each  $w_j$  the prob that  $\mu_j$  was in class  $w_j$  is  $P(w_j | x_i, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$ . Then... we would easily compute  $\mu_j$ .

If we knew each  $\mu_j$  then we could easily compute  $P(w_j | x_i, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_k)$  for each  $w_j$  and  $x_i$ .

...I feel an EM experience coming on!!

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## E.M. for GMMs

Iterate. On the  $t$ 'th iteration let our estimates be

$$\lambda_t = \{ \mu_1(t), \mu_2(t) \dots \mu_k(t) \}$$

E-step

Compute "expected" classes of all datapoints for each class

Just evaluate a Gaussian at  $x_k$

$$P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t) = \frac{p(x_k | w_i, \lambda_t) P(w_i | \lambda_t)}{p(x_k | \lambda_t)} = \frac{p(x_k | w_i, \mu_i(t), \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) p_i(t)}{\sum_{j=1}^k p(x_k | w_j, \mu_j(t), \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) p_j(t)}$$

M-step.

Compute Max. like  $\mu$  given our data's class membership distributions

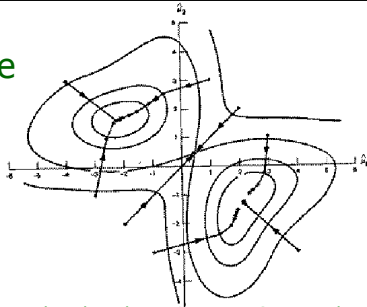
$$\mu_i(t+1) = \frac{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t) x_k}{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t)}$$

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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 26

## E.M. Convergence

- As with all EM procedures, convergence to a local optimum guaranteed.



- This algorithm is REALLY USED. And in high dimensional state spaces, too. E.G. Vector Quantization for Speech Data

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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 27

## E.M. for General GMMs

Iterate. On the  $t$ 'th iteration let our estimates be

$$\lambda_t = \{ \mu_1(t), \mu_2(t) \dots \mu_k(t), \Sigma_1(t), \Sigma_2(t) \dots \Sigma_c(t), p_1(t), p_2(t) \dots p_c(t) \}$$

$p_c(t)$  is shorthand for estimate of  $P(w_c)$  on  $t$ 'th iteration

E-step

Compute "expected" classes of all datapoints for each class

Just evaluate a Gaussian at  $x_k$

$$P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t) = \frac{p(x_k | w_i, \lambda_t) P(w_i | \lambda_t)}{p(x_k | \lambda_t)} = \frac{p(x_k | w_i, \mu_i(t), \Sigma_i(t)) p_i(t)}{\sum_{j=1}^c p(x_k | w_j, \mu_j(t), \Sigma_j(t)) p_j(t)}$$

M-step.

Compute Max. like  $\mu$  given our data's class membership distributions

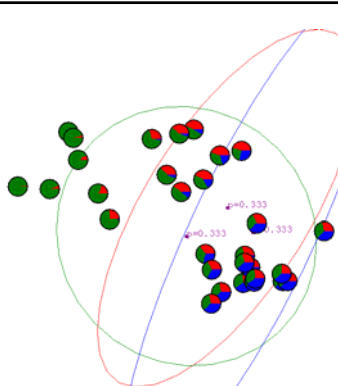
$$\mu_i(t+1) = \frac{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t) x_k}{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t)} \quad \Sigma_i(t+1) = \frac{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t) [x_k - \mu_i(t+1)] [x_k - \mu_i(t+1)]^T}{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t)}$$

$$p_i(t+1) = \frac{\sum_k P(w_i | x_k, \lambda_t)}{R} \quad R = \# \text{records}$$

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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 28

## Gaussian Mixture Example: Start

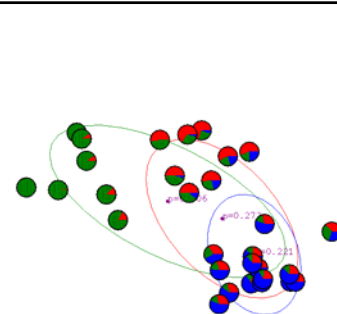


Advance apologies: in Black and White this example will be incomprehensible

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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 29

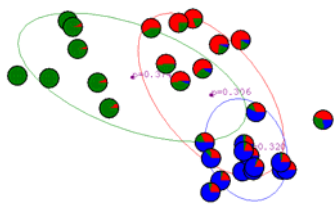
## After first iteration



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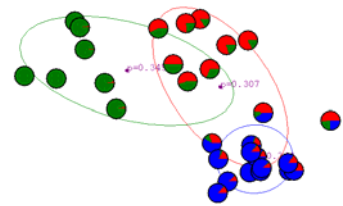
After 2nd iteration



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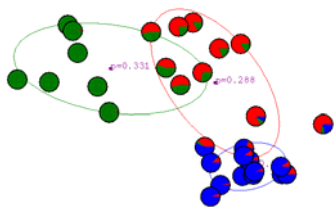
After 3rd iteration



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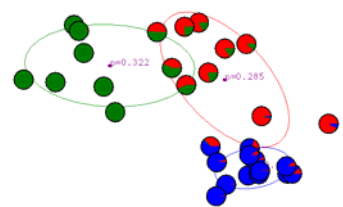
After 4th iteration



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Clustering with Gaussian Mixtures: Slide 33

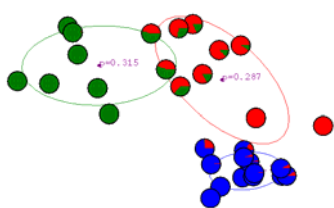
After 5th iteration



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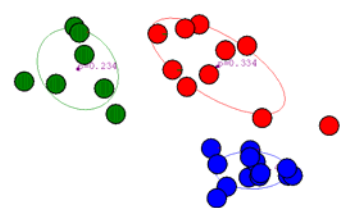
After 6th iteration



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After 20th iteration



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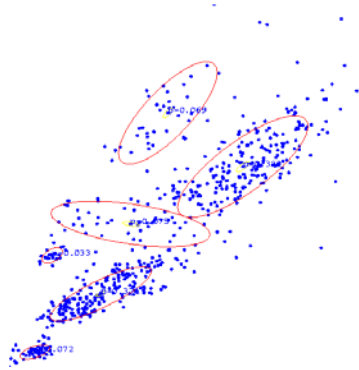
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## Some Bio Assay data



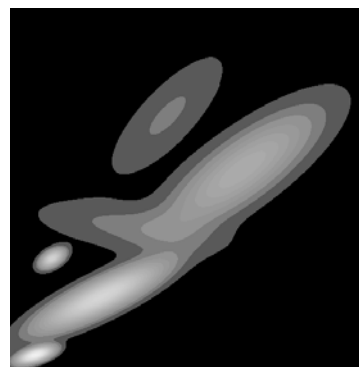
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## GMM clustering of the assay data



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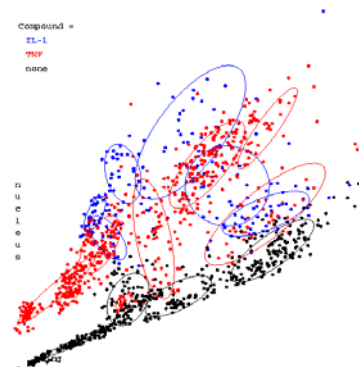
## Resulting Density Estimator



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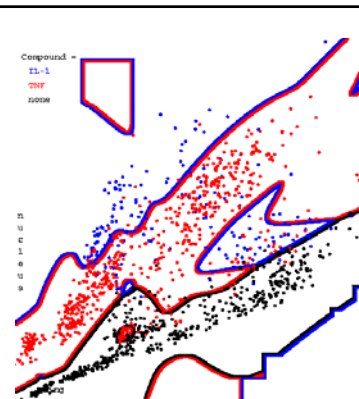
## Three classes of assay

(each learned with its own mixture model)  
(Sorry, this will again be semi-useless in black and white)



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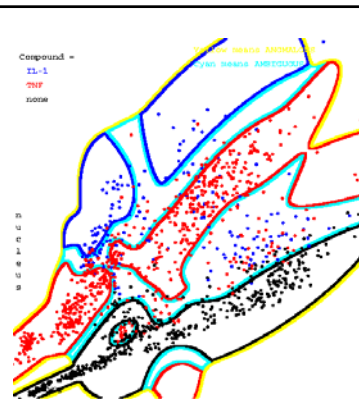
## Resulting Bayes Classifier



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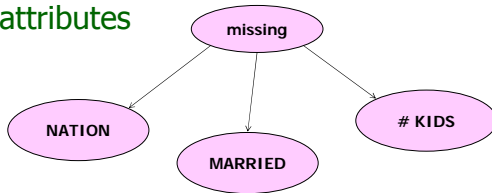
## Resulting Bayes Classifier, using posterior probabilities to alert about ambiguity and anomalousness

- Yellow means anomalous
- Cyan means ambiguous



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## Unsupervised learning with symbolic attributes



It's just a "learning Bayes net with known structure but hidden values" problem.

Can use Gradient Descent.

EASY, fun exercise to do an EM formulation for this case too.

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## Final Comments

- Remember, E.M. can get stuck in local minima, and empirically it DOES.
- Our unsupervised learning example assumed  $P(w_i)$ 's known, and variances fixed and known. Easy to relax this.
- It's possible to do Bayesian unsupervised learning instead of max. likelihood.
- There are other algorithms for unsupervised learning. We'll visit K-means soon. Hierarchical clustering is also interesting.
- Neural-net algorithms called "competitive learning" turn out to have interesting parallels with the EM method we saw.

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## What you should know

- How to "learn" maximum likelihood parameters (locally max. like.) in the case of unlabeled data.
- Be happy with this kind of probabilistic analysis.
- Understand the two examples of E.M. given in these notes.

For more info, see Duda + Hart. It's a great book. There's much more in the book than in your handout.

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## Other unsupervised learning methods

- K-means (see next lecture)
- Hierarchical clustering (e.g. Minimum spanning trees) (see next lecture)
- Principal Component Analysis  
simple, useful tool
- Non-linear PCA  
Neural Auto-Associators  
Locally weighted PCA  
Others...

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