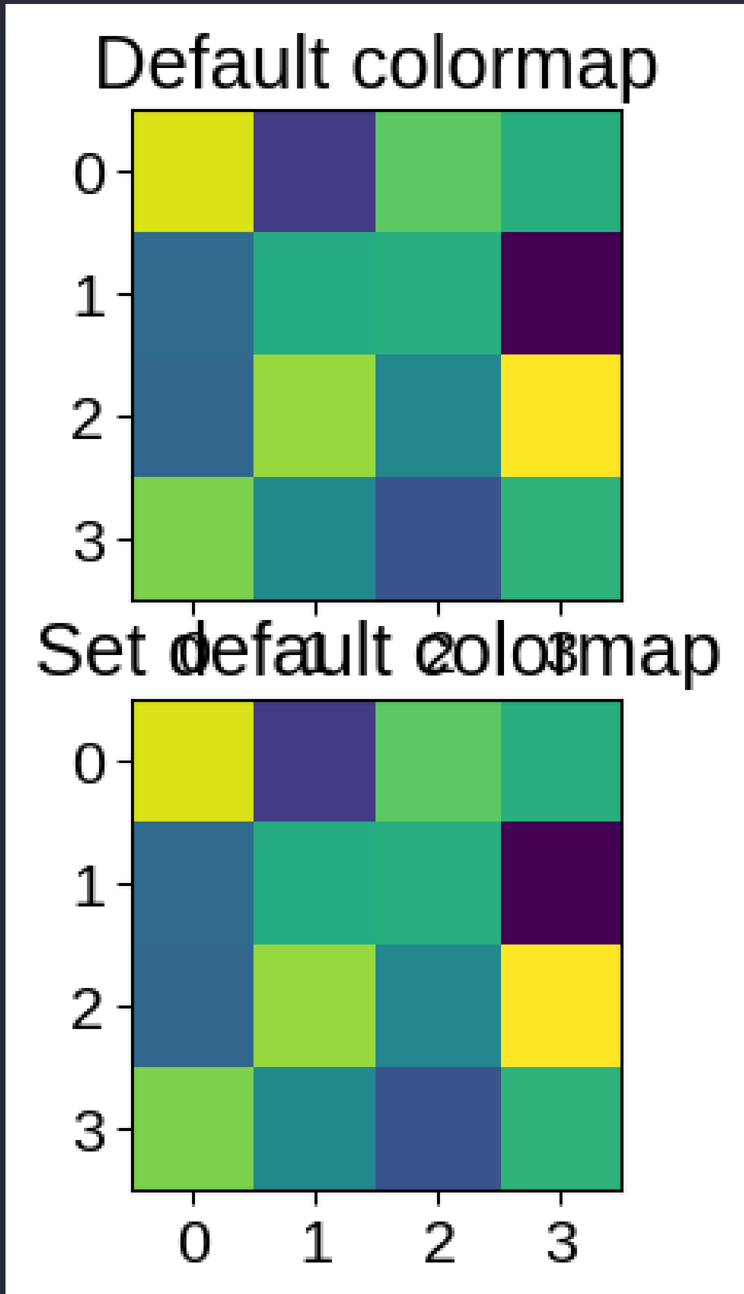
CPSC 330 Lecture 15: DBSCAN, Hierarchical Clustering


Default colormap
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iClicker Exercise 15.1

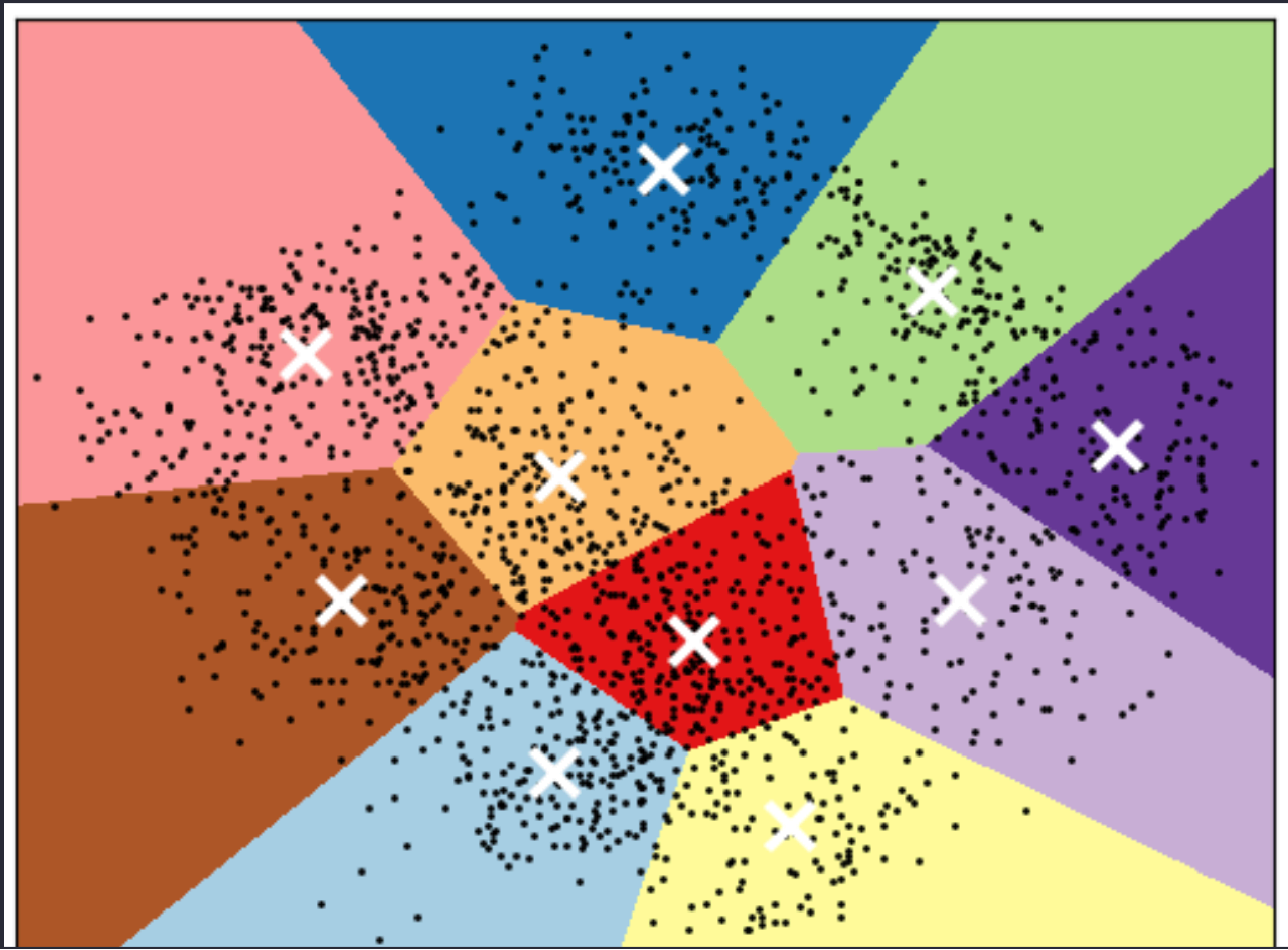
Select all of the following statements which are TRUE.

- a. Similar to K-nearest neighbours, K-Means is a non parametric model.
- b. The meaning of K in K-nearest neighbours and K-Means clustering is very similar.
- c. Scaling of input features is crucial in clustering.
- d. In clustering, it's almost always a good idea to find equal-sized clusters.

Limitations of K-means

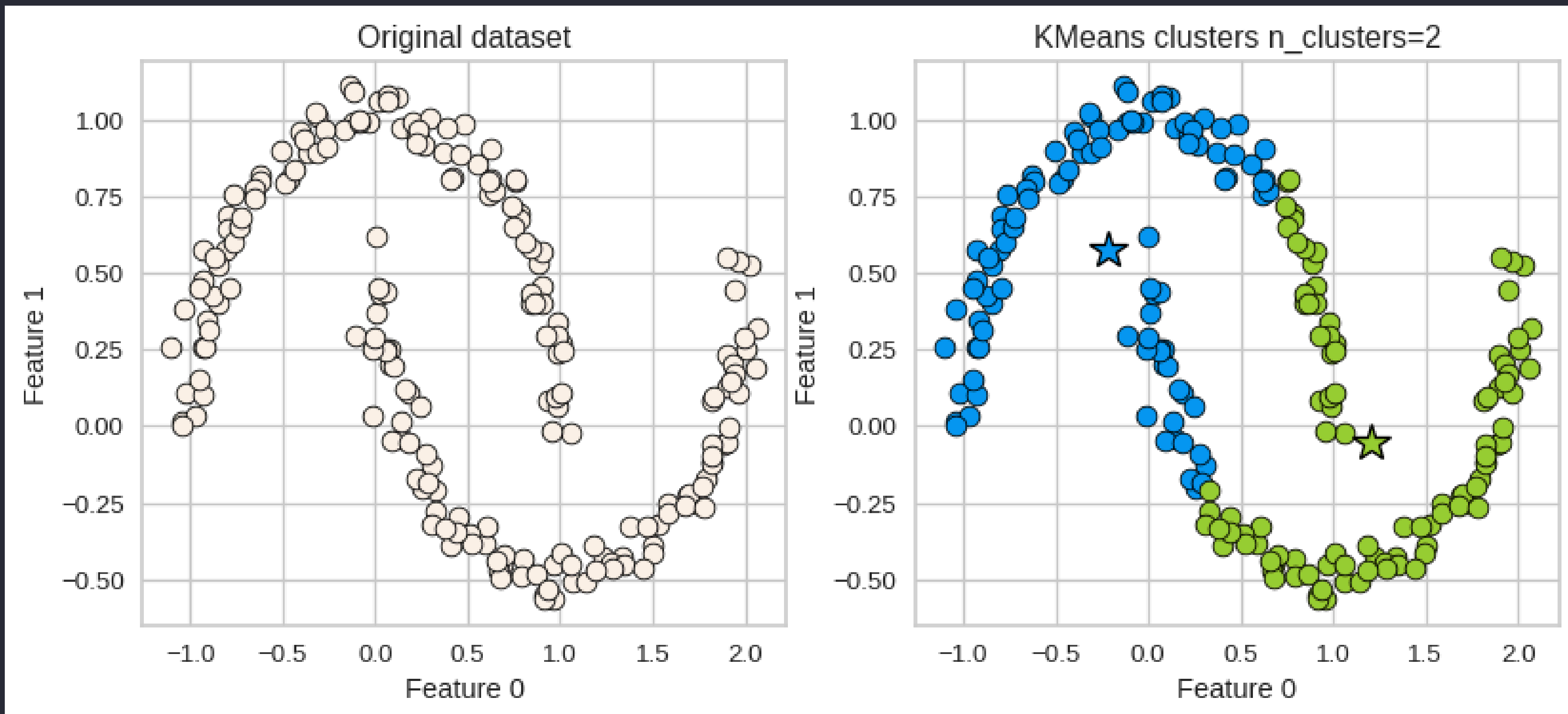
Shape of clusters

- Good for spherical clusters of more or less equal sizes



K-Means: failure case 1

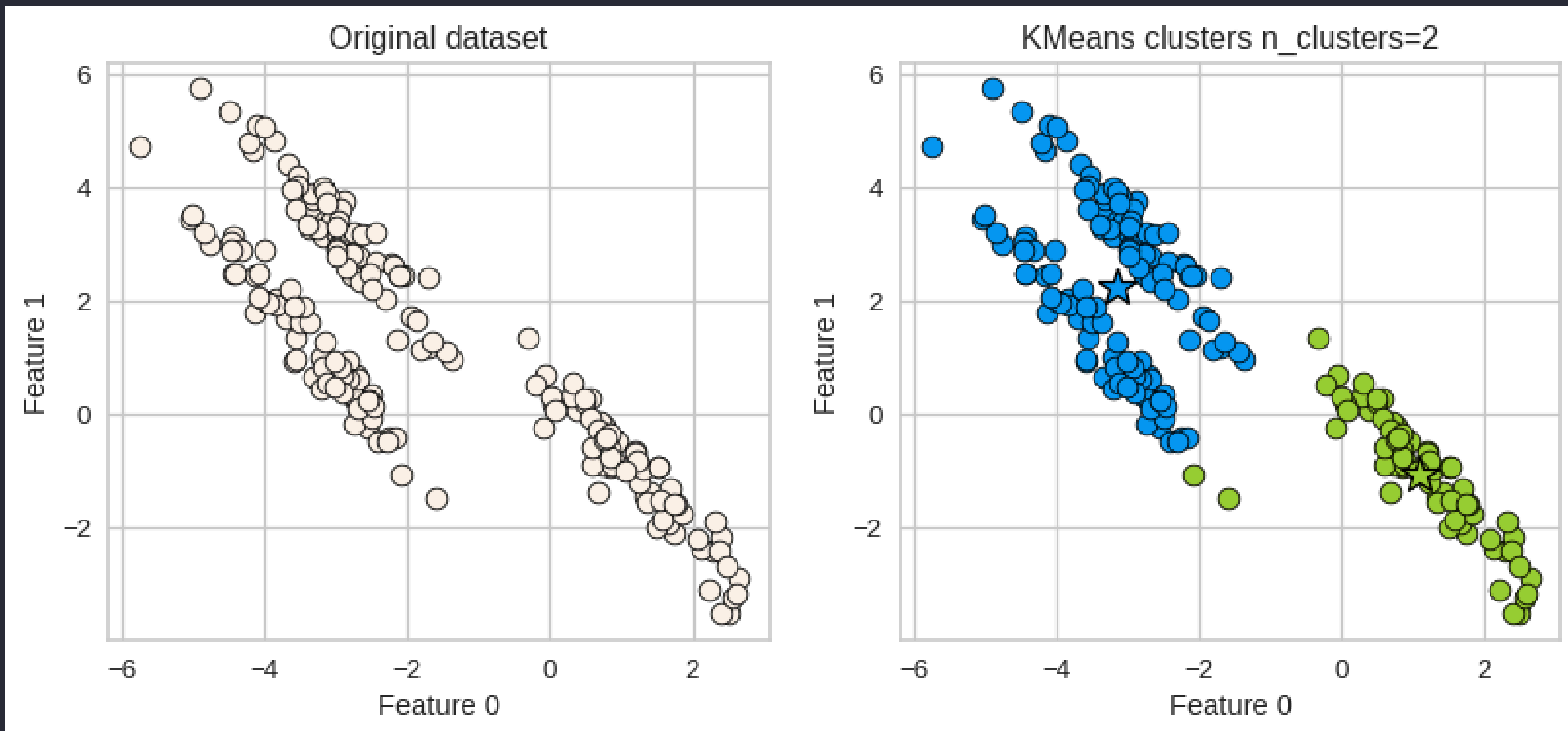
- K-Means performs poorly if the clusters have more complex shapes (e.g., two moons data below).



K-Means: failure case 2

K-Means: failure case 3

- It assumes that all directions are equally important for each cluster and fails to identify non-spherical clusters.



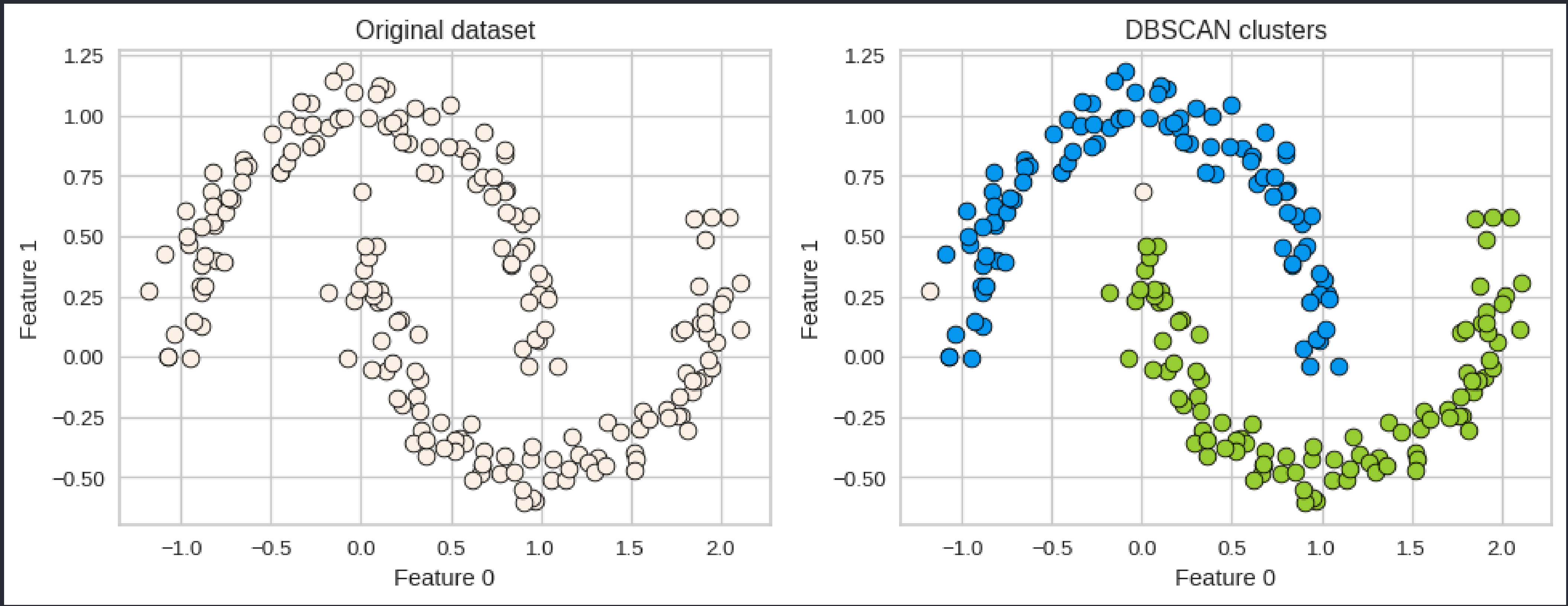
Can we do better?

DBSCAN

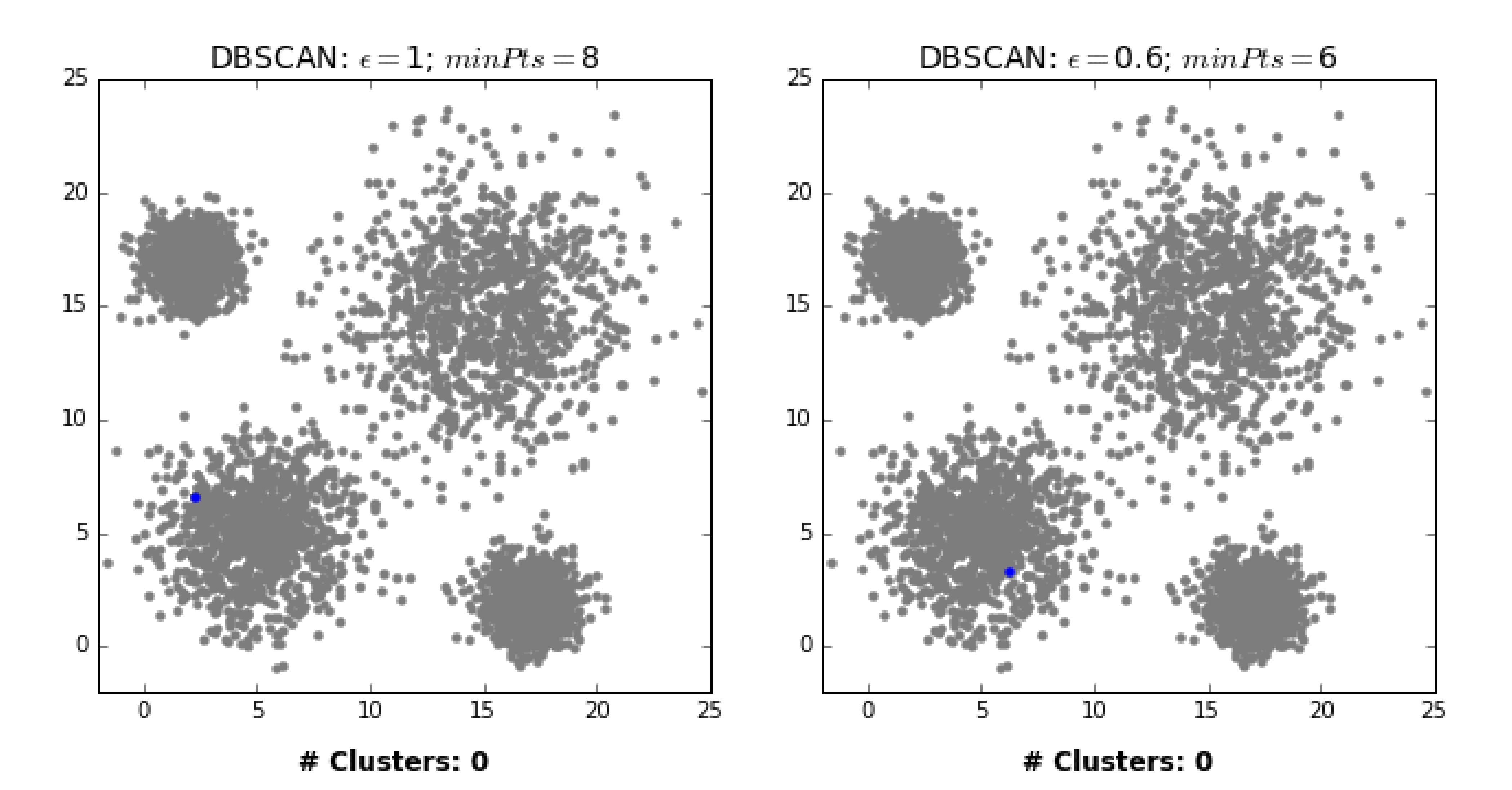
- **D**ensity-**B**ased **S**patial **C**lustering of **A**pplications with **N**oise
- A density-based clustering algorithm

DBSCAN

```
X, y = make_moons(n_samples=200, noise=0.08, random_state=42)
dbscan = DBSCAN(eps=0.2)
dbscan.fit(X)
plot_original_clustered(X, dbscan, dbscan.labels_)
```



How does it work?



DBSCAN Analogy

Consider DBSCAN in a social context:

- Social butterflies (🦋): Core points
- Friends of social butterflies who are not social butterflies: Border points
- Lone wolves (🐺): Noise points

Two main hyperparameters

- `eps`: determines what it means for points to be "close"
- `min_samples`: determines the number of **neighboring points** we require to consider in order for a point to be part of a cluster

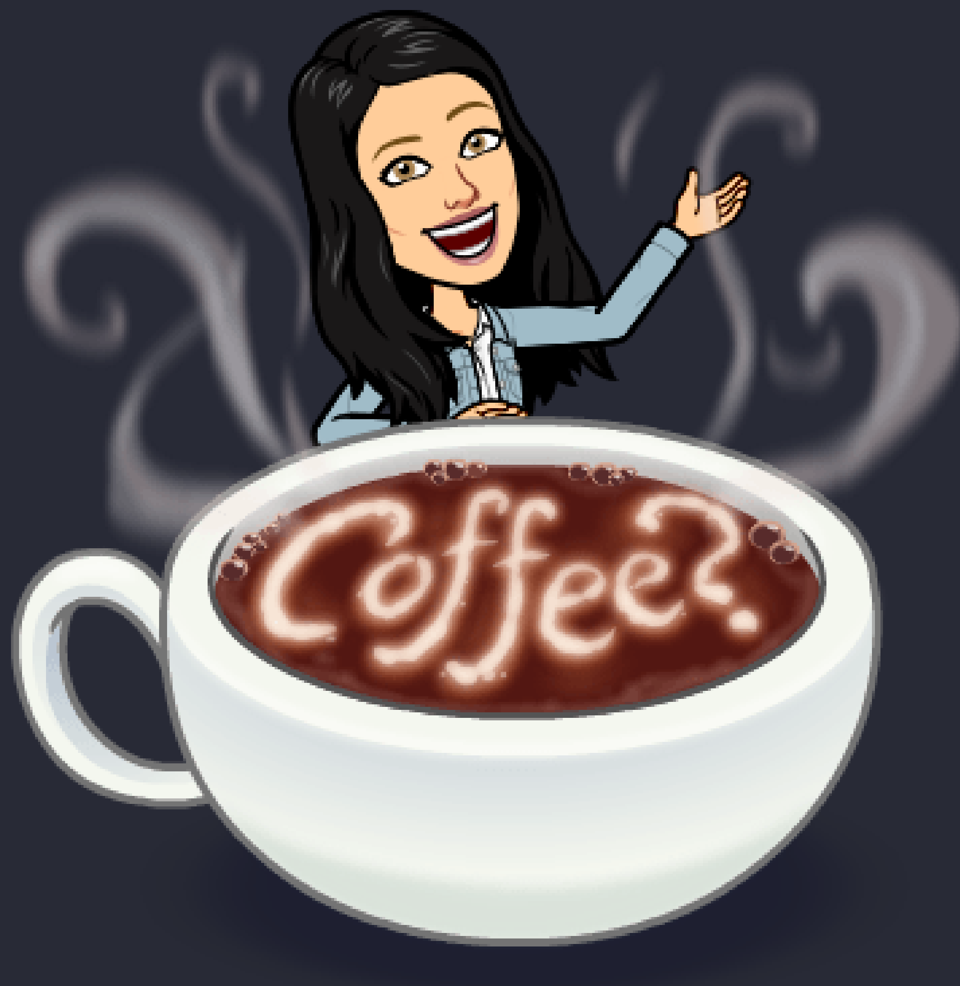
DBSCAN: failure cases

- Let's consider this dataset with three clusters of varying densities.
- K-Means performs better compared to DBSCAN. But it has the benefit of knowing the value of *K* in advance.

```
[ 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 10 11 12 13 14 15]
```

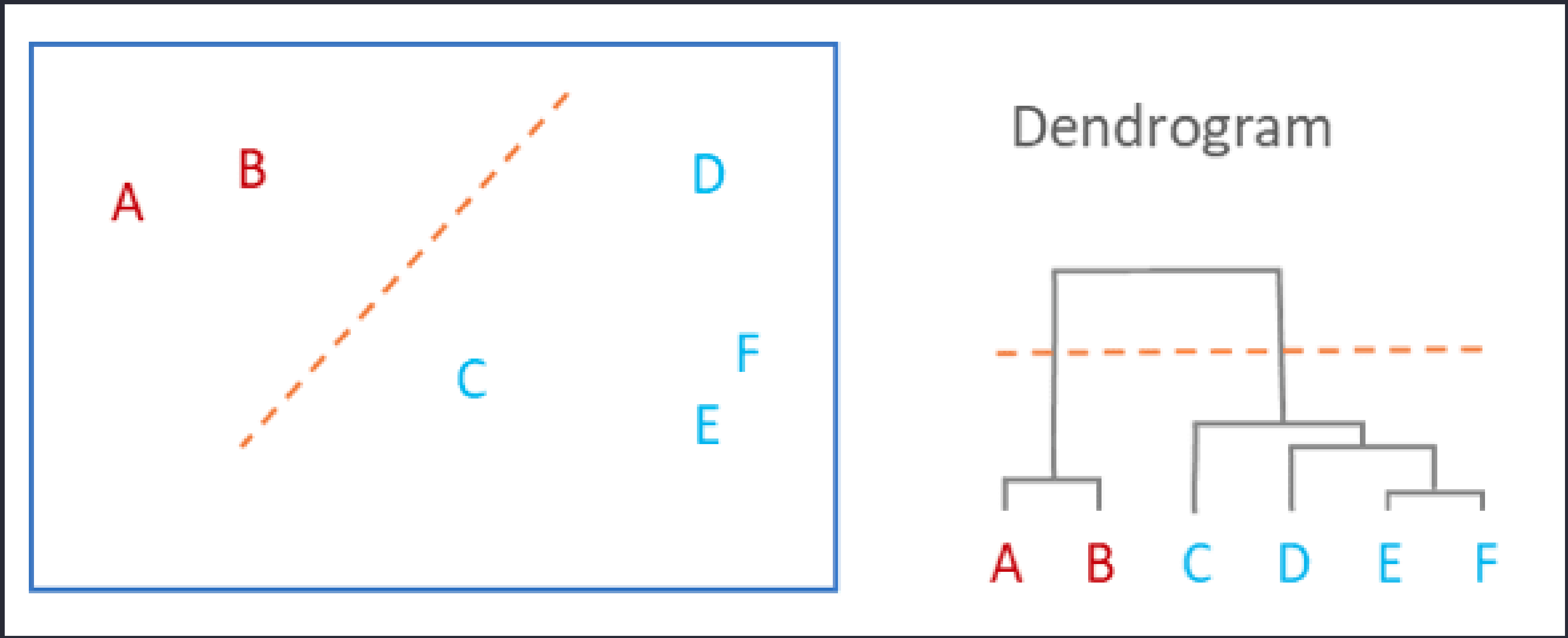
Break

Let's take a break!



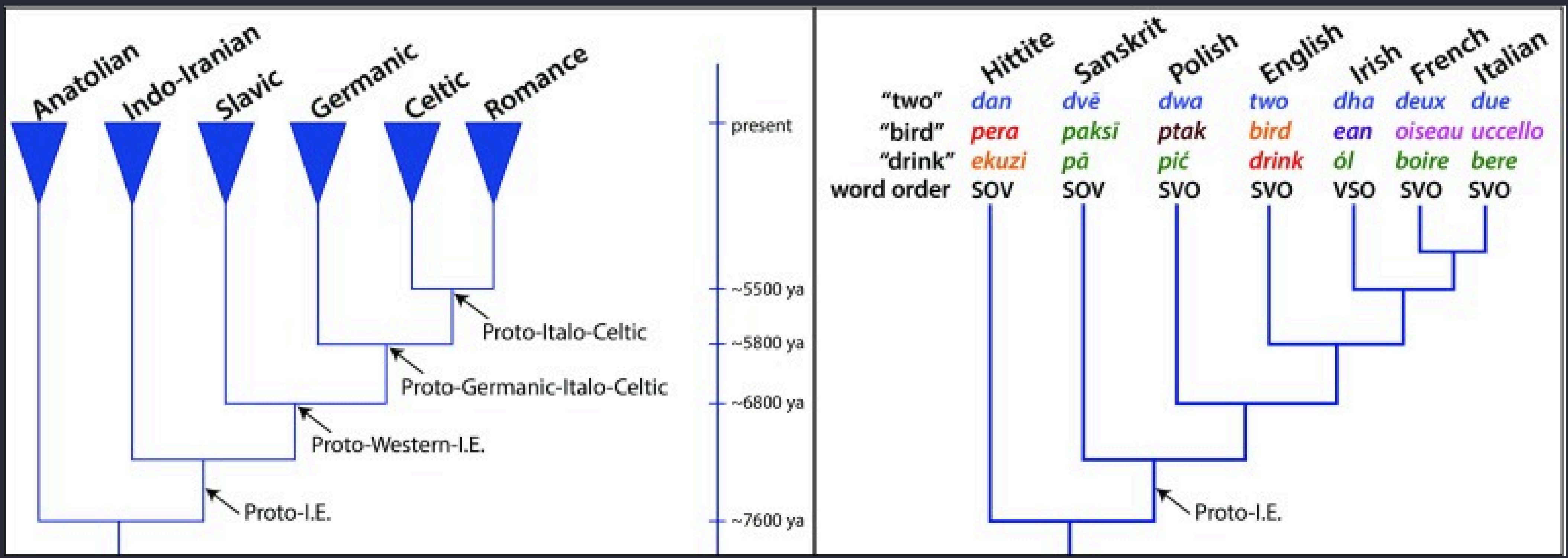
Dendrogram

Definition: visual representation of a tree, in particular, the hierarchical representation of data...



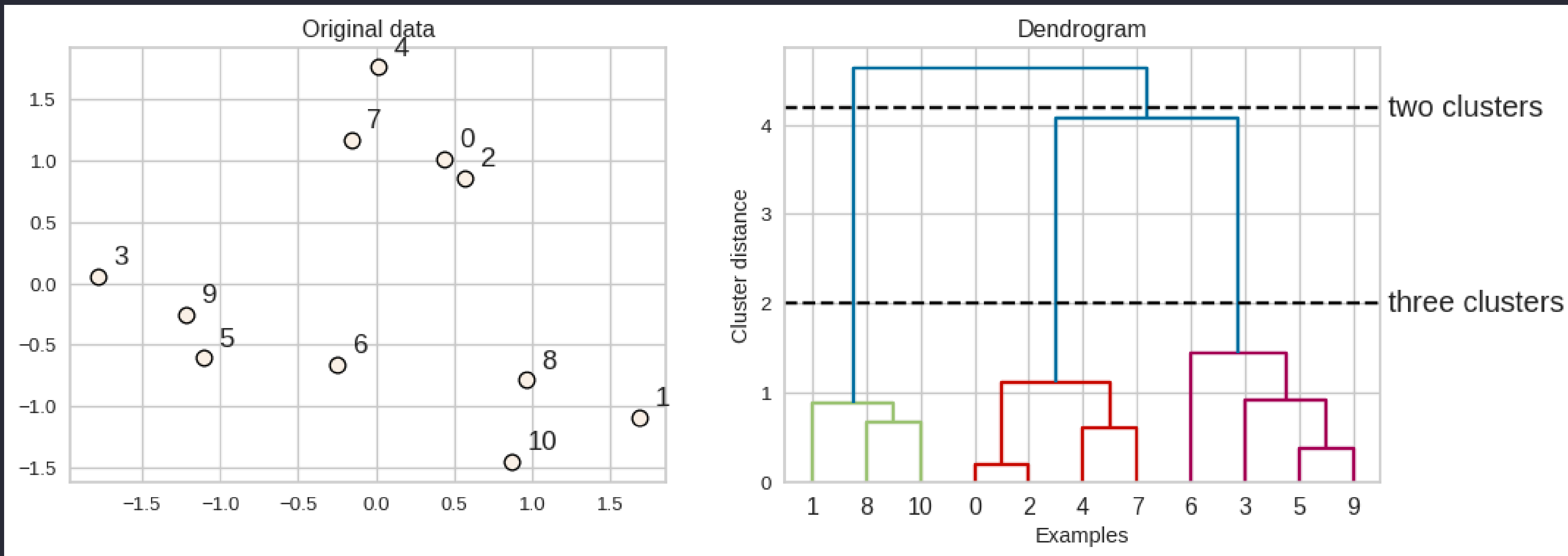
Source

Example: Languages



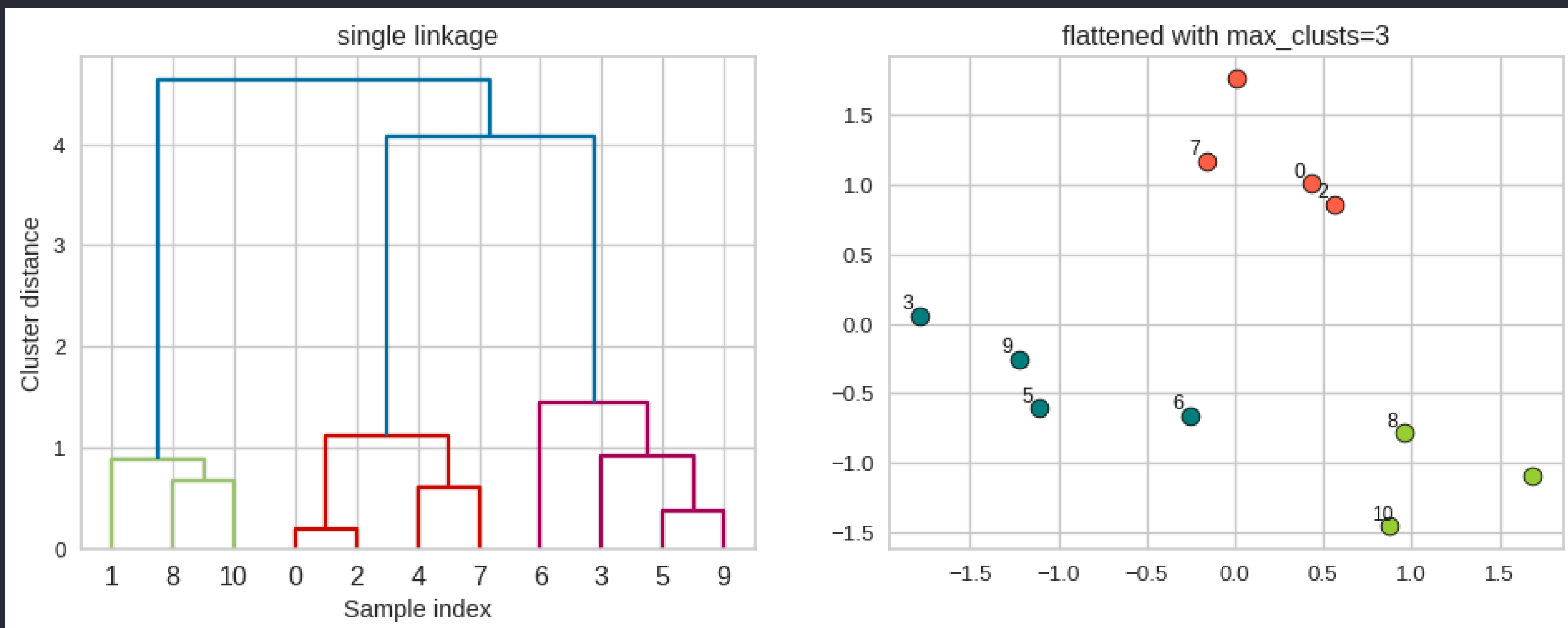
Source

Hierarchical clustering



Flat clusters

- This is good but how can we get cluster labels from a dendrogram?
- We can bring the clustering to a “flat” format use `fcluster`



Linkage criteria

- When we create a dendrogram, we need to calculate distance between clusters. How do we measure distances between clusters?
- The **linkage criteria** determines how to find similarity between clusters:
- Some example linkage criteria are:
  - Single linkage → smallest minimal distance, leads to loose clusters
  - Complete linkage → smallest maximum distance, leads to tight clusters
  - Average linkage → smallest average distance between all pairs of points in the clusters
  - Ward linkage → smallest increase in within-cluster variance, leads to equally sized clusters

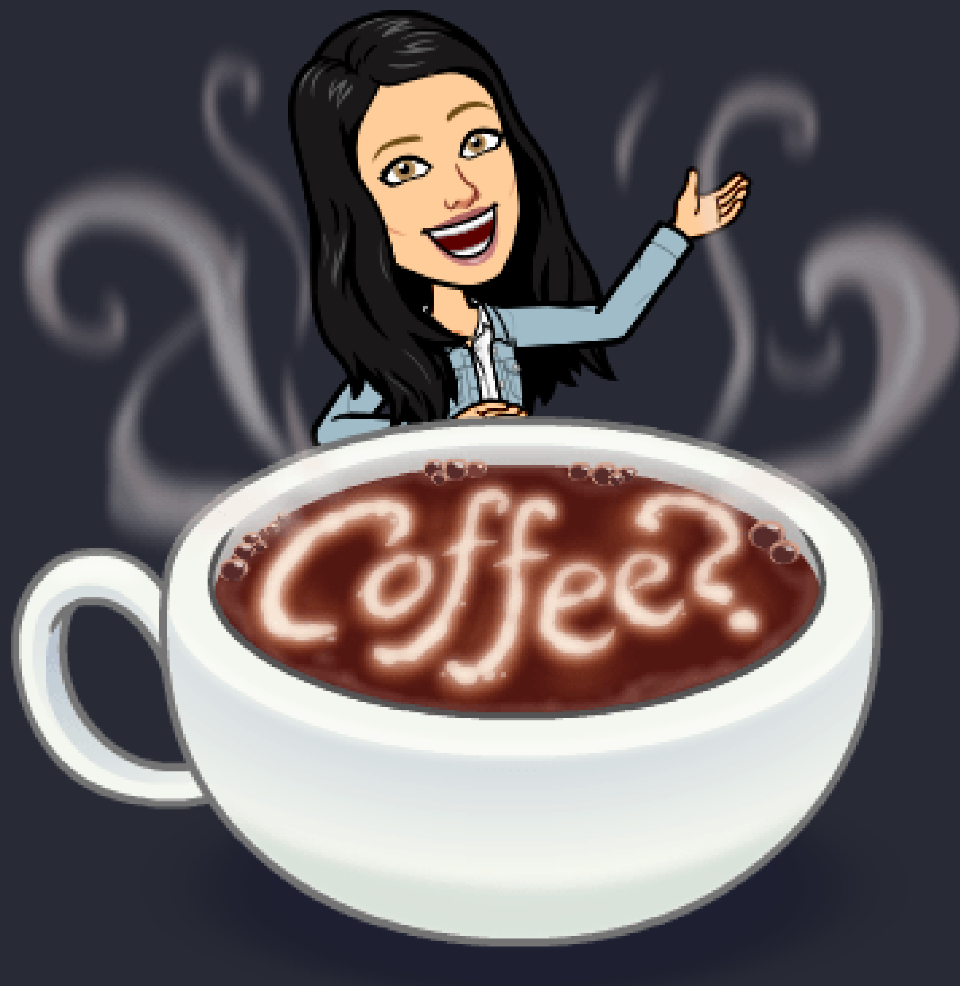
Activity

- Fill in the table below

Clustering Method	KMeans	DBSCAN	Hierarchical Clustering
Approach			
Hyperparameters			
Shape of clusters			
Handling noise			
Examples			

Break

Let’s take a break!



Group Work: Class Demo & Live Coding

For this demo, each student should click this link to create a new repo in their accounts, then clone that repo locally to follow along with the demo from today.

All credit to Dr. Varada Kolhatkar for putting this together!