



10-708 Probabilistic Graphical Models

Machine Learning Department
School of Computer Science
Carnegie Mellon University



Variational EM

Matt Gormley
Lecture 18
Apr. 2, 2021

Reminders

- **Homework 4: MCMC**
 - Out: Wed, Mar. 24
 - Due: Wed, Apr. 7 at 11:59pm
- **Project Midway Milestones:**
 - Midway Poster Session:
Wed, Apr. 14 at 6:30pm – 8:30pm
 - Midway Executive Summary
Due: Wed, Apr. 14 at 11:59pm
- **Homework 5: Variational Inference**
 - Out: Thu, Apr. 8
 - Due: Wed, Apr. 21 at 11:59pm

HIDDEN STATE CRFS

Case Study: Object Recognition

Data consists of images x and labels y .



pigeon



rhinoceros



leopard



llama

Case Study: Object Recognition

Data consists of images x and labels y .

- Preprocess data into “patches”
- Posit a latent labeling z describing the object’s parts (e.g. head, leg, tail, torso, grass)
- Define graphical model with these latent variables in mind
- z is not observed at train or test time

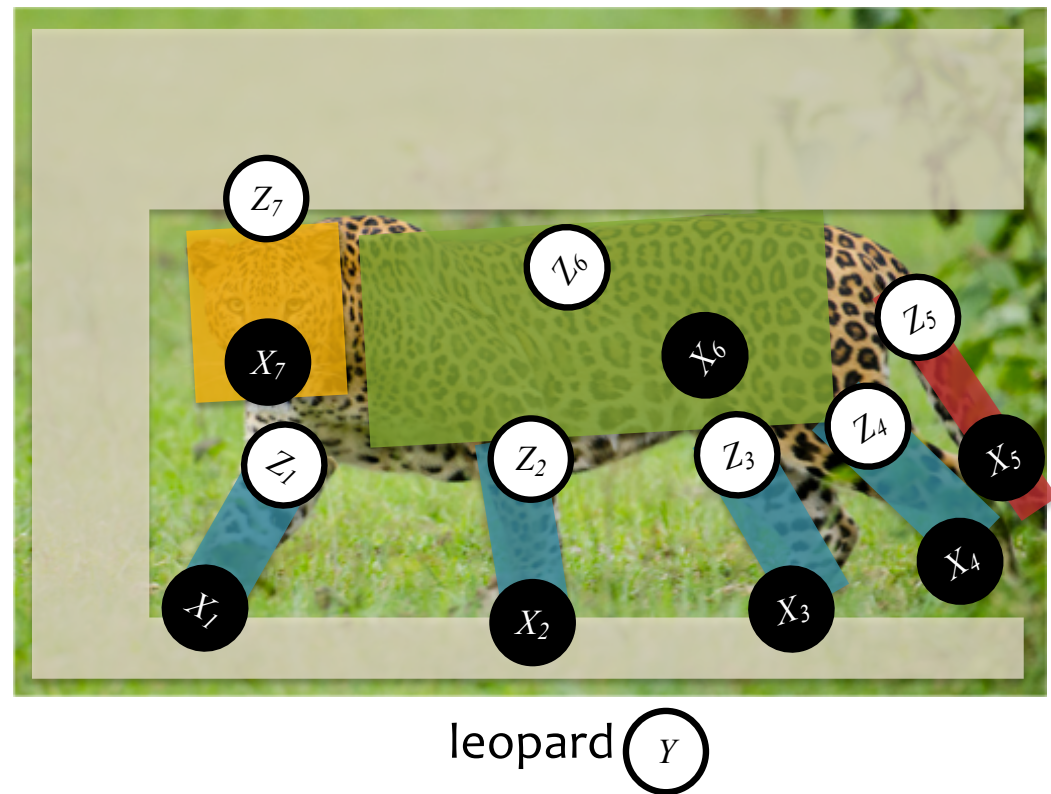


leopard

Case Study: Object Recognition

Data consists of images x and labels y .

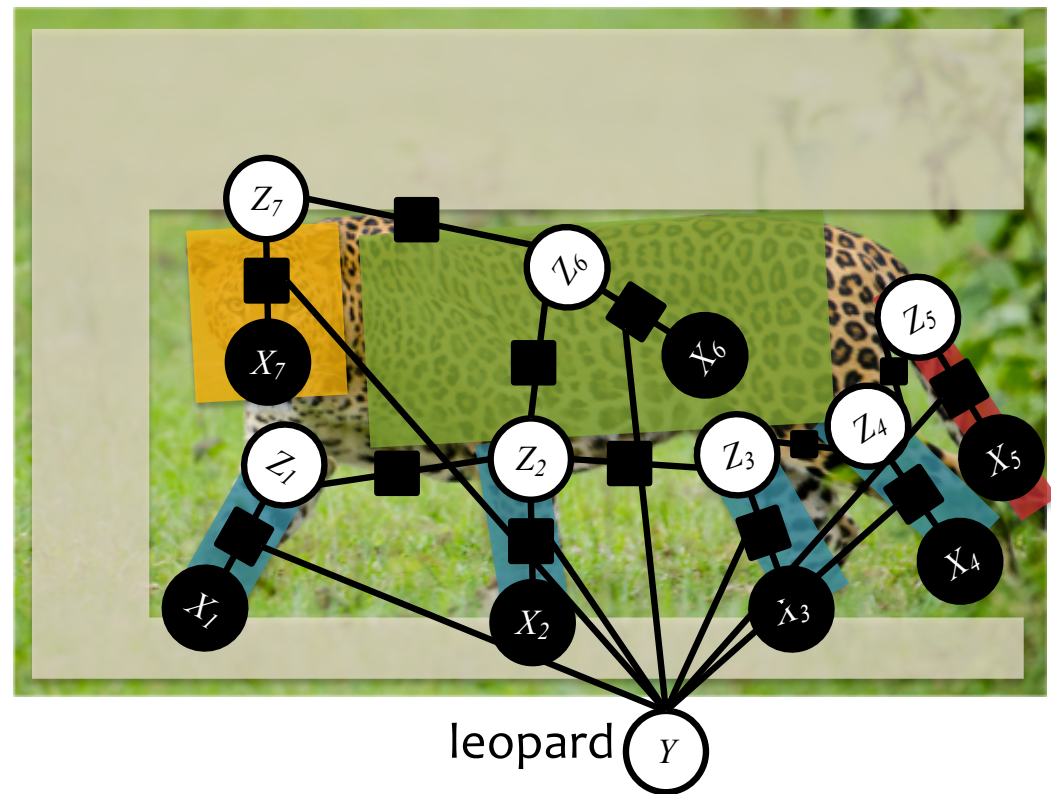
- Preprocess data into “patches”
- Posit a latent labeling z describing the object’s parts (e.g. head, leg, tail, torso, grass)
- Define graphical model with these latent variables in mind
- z is not observed at train or test time



Case Study: Object Recognition

Data consists of images x and labels y .

- Preprocess data into “patches”
- Posit a latent labeling z describing the object’s parts (e.g. head, leg, tail, torso, grass)
- Define graphical model with these latent variables in mind
- z is not observed at train or test time

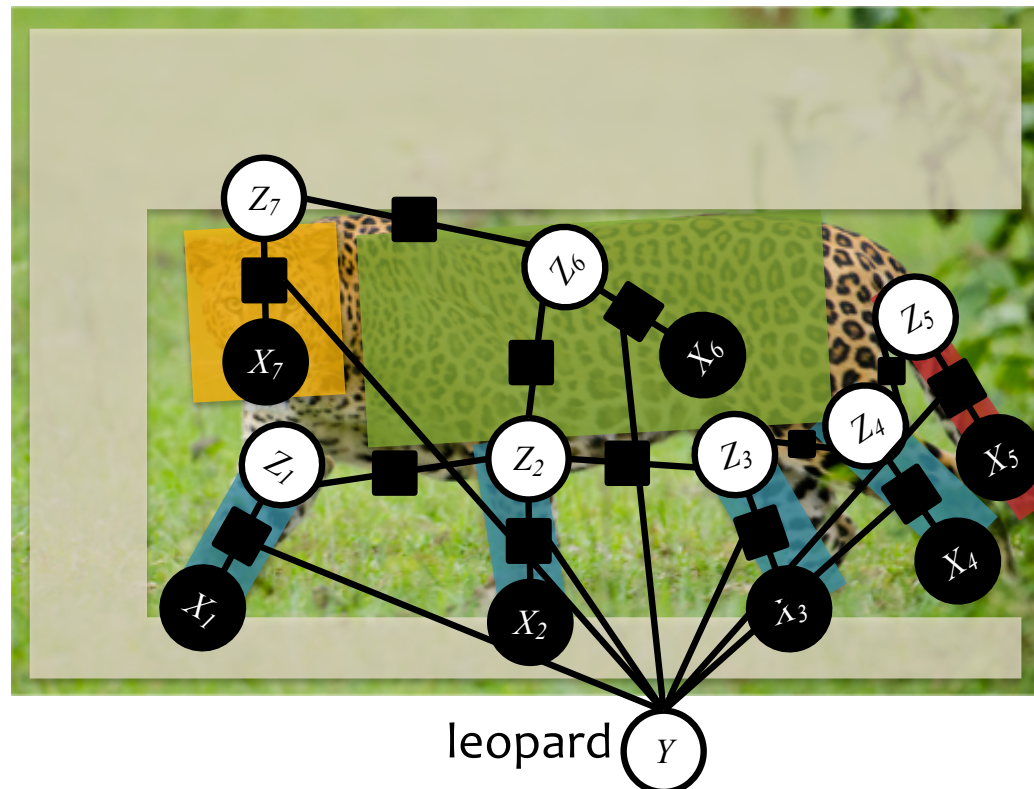


Hidden-state CRFs

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, \mathbf{y}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$

Joint model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z(\mathbf{x}, \theta)} \prod_{\alpha} \psi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{x})$

Marginalized model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{z}} p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})$



Hidden-state CRFs

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, \mathbf{y}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$

Joint model: $p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})} \prod_{\alpha} \psi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{x})$

Marginalized model: $p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{z}} p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})$

We can train using gradient based methods:
(the values $\mathbf{x}$ are omitted below for clarity)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathcal{D})}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}} &= \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\cdot \mid \mathbf{y}^{(n)})} [f_j(\mathbf{y}^{(n)}, \mathbf{z})] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \sim p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\cdot, \cdot)} [f_j(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})] \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{\alpha} \left(\underbrace{\sum_{\mathbf{z}_{\alpha}} p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_{\alpha} \mid \mathbf{y}^{(n)}) f_{\alpha,j}(\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}^{(n)}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha})}_{\text{Inference on clamped factor graph}} - \sum_{\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha}} \underbrace{p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha}) f_{\alpha,j}(\mathbf{y}_{\alpha}, \mathbf{z}_{\alpha})}_{\text{Inference on full factor graph}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

GAUSSIAN MIXTURE MODEL (GMM)

Gaussian Mixture-Model

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ where $\mathbf{x}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^M$

Generative Story: $z \sim \text{Categorical}(\phi)$
 $\mathbf{x} \sim \text{Gaussian}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_z, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_z)$

Model: Joint: $p(\mathbf{x}, z; \phi, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = p(\mathbf{x}|z; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})p(z; \phi)$
Marginal: $p(\mathbf{x}; \phi, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{z=1}^K p(\mathbf{x}|z; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})p(z; \phi)$

(Marginal) Log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\phi, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) &= \log \prod_{i=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \phi, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{z=1}^K p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}|z; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})p(z; \phi)\end{aligned}$$

Mixture-Model

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ where $\mathbf{x}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^M$

Generative Story: $z \sim \text{Categorical}(\phi)$
 $\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\theta}(\cdot|z)$

Model: Joint: $p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}, z) = p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|z)p_{\phi}(z)$
Marginal: $p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|z)p_{\phi}(z)$

(Marginal) Log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\theta) &= \log \prod_{i=1}^N p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}|z)p_{\phi}(z)\end{aligned}$$

Mixture-Model

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ where $\mathbf{x}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^M$

Generative Story: $z \sim \text{Categorical}(\phi)$

$\mathbf{x} \sim p_{\theta}(\cdot|z)$



This could be any arbitrary distribution parameterized by θ .

Model:

Joint: $p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}, z) = p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|z)p_{\phi}(z)$

Marginal: $p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}|z)p_{\phi}(z)$

Today we're thinking about the case where it is a Multivariate Gaussian.

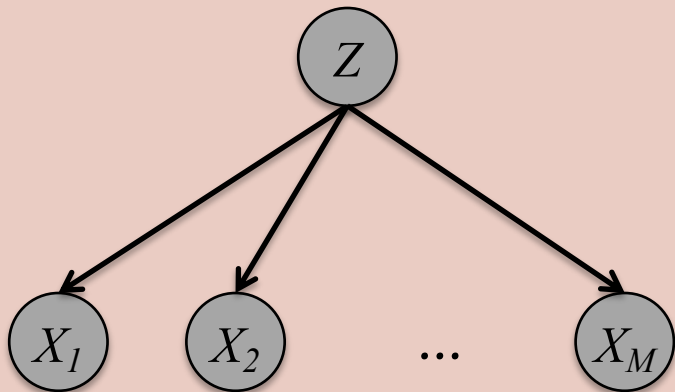
(Marginal) Log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\theta) &= \log \prod_{i=1}^N p_{\theta, \phi}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}|z)p_{\phi}(z)\end{aligned}$$

Learning a Mixture Model

Supervised Learning: The parameters decouple!

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \mathbf{z}^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$$



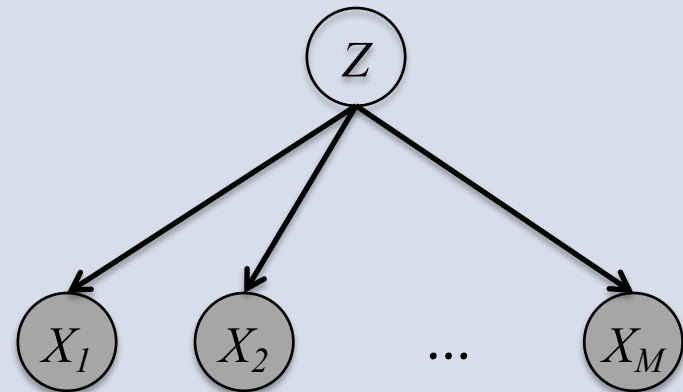
$$\theta^*, \phi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta, \phi} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z^{(i)}) p_{\phi}(z^{(i)})$$

$$\theta^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z^{(i)})$$

$$\phi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\phi} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p_{\phi}(z^{(i)})$$

Unsupervised Learning: Parameters are coupled by marginalization.

$$\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$$



$$\theta^*, \phi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta, \phi} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z) p_{\phi}(z)$$

Learning a Mixture Model

Supervised Learning: The parameters decouple!

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \mathbf{z}^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$$

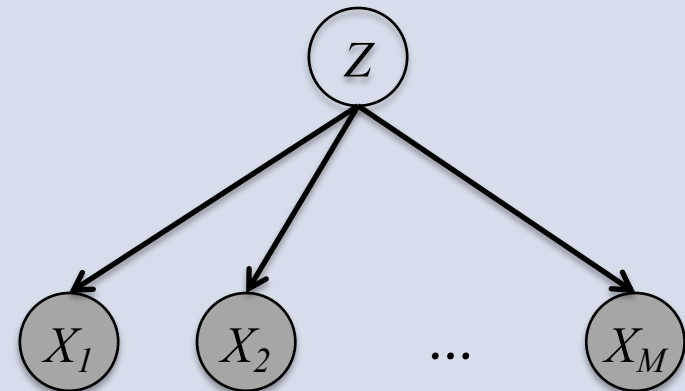
Training certainly isn't as simple as the supervised case.

In many cases, we could still use some black-box optimization method (e.g. Newton-Raphson) to solve this *coupled* optimization problem.

This lecture is about a more problem-specific method: EM.

Unsupervised Learning: Parameters are coupled by marginalization.

$$\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$$



$$\theta^*, \phi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta, \phi} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{z=1}^K p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z) p_{\phi}(z)$$



EXPECTATION MAXIMIZATION

Hard Expectation-Maximization

- Initialize **parameters** randomly
- **while** not converged
 1. **E-Step:**
Set the **latent variables** to the the values that maximizes likelihood, treating parameters as observed
 2. **M-Step:**
Set the **parameters** to the values that maximizes likelihood, treating latent variables as observed



Estimate
unobserved
variables



MLE given the
estimated values
of unobserved
variables

(Soft) Expectation-Maximization

- Initialize **parameters** randomly
- **while** not converged
 1. **E-Step:**

Create one training example for each possible value of the **latent variables**

Weight each example according to model's confidence

Treat parameters as observed
 2. **M-Step:**

Set the **parameters** to the values that maximizes likelihood

Treat pseudo-counts from above as observed



Estimate
unobserved
variables



MLE given the
estimated values
of unobserved
variables

Hard EM vs. Soft EM

Algorithm 1 Hard EM for GMMs

```

1: procedure HARDEM( $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ )
2:   Randomly initialize parameters,  $\phi, \mu, \Sigma$ 
3:   while not converged do
4:     E-Step:

       
$$z^{(i)} \leftarrow \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmax}} \log p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}|z; \mu, \Sigma) + \log p(z; \phi)$$


5:     M-Step:

       
$$\phi_k \leftarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(z^{(i)} = k), \forall k$$

       
$$\mu_k \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(z^{(i)} = k) \mathbf{x}^{(i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(z^{(i)} = k)}, \forall k$$

       
$$\Sigma_k \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(z^{(i)} = k) (\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mu_k)(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mu_k)^T}{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}(z^{(i)} = k)}, \forall k$$


6:   return  $(\phi, \mu, \Sigma)$ 

```

Algorithm 1 Soft EM for GMMs

```

1: procedure SOFTEM( $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ )
2:   Randomly initialize parameters,  $\phi, \mu, \Sigma$ 
3:   while not converged do
4:     E-Step:

       
$$c_k^{(i)} \leftarrow p(z^{(i)} = k | \mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \phi, \mu, \Sigma)$$


5:     M-Step:

       
$$\phi_k \leftarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N c_k^{(i)}, \forall k$$

       
$$\mu_k \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N c_k^{(i)} \mathbf{x}^{(i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^N c_k^{(i)}}, \forall k$$

       
$$\Sigma_k \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N c_k^{(i)} (\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mu_k)(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} - \mu_k)^T}{\sum_{i=1}^N c_k^{(i)}}, \forall k$$


6:   return  $(\phi, \mu, \Sigma)$ 

```

Posterior Inference for Mixture Model

We obtain the posterior $p(z^{(i)} = k | \mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \phi, \mu, \Sigma)$ as follows:

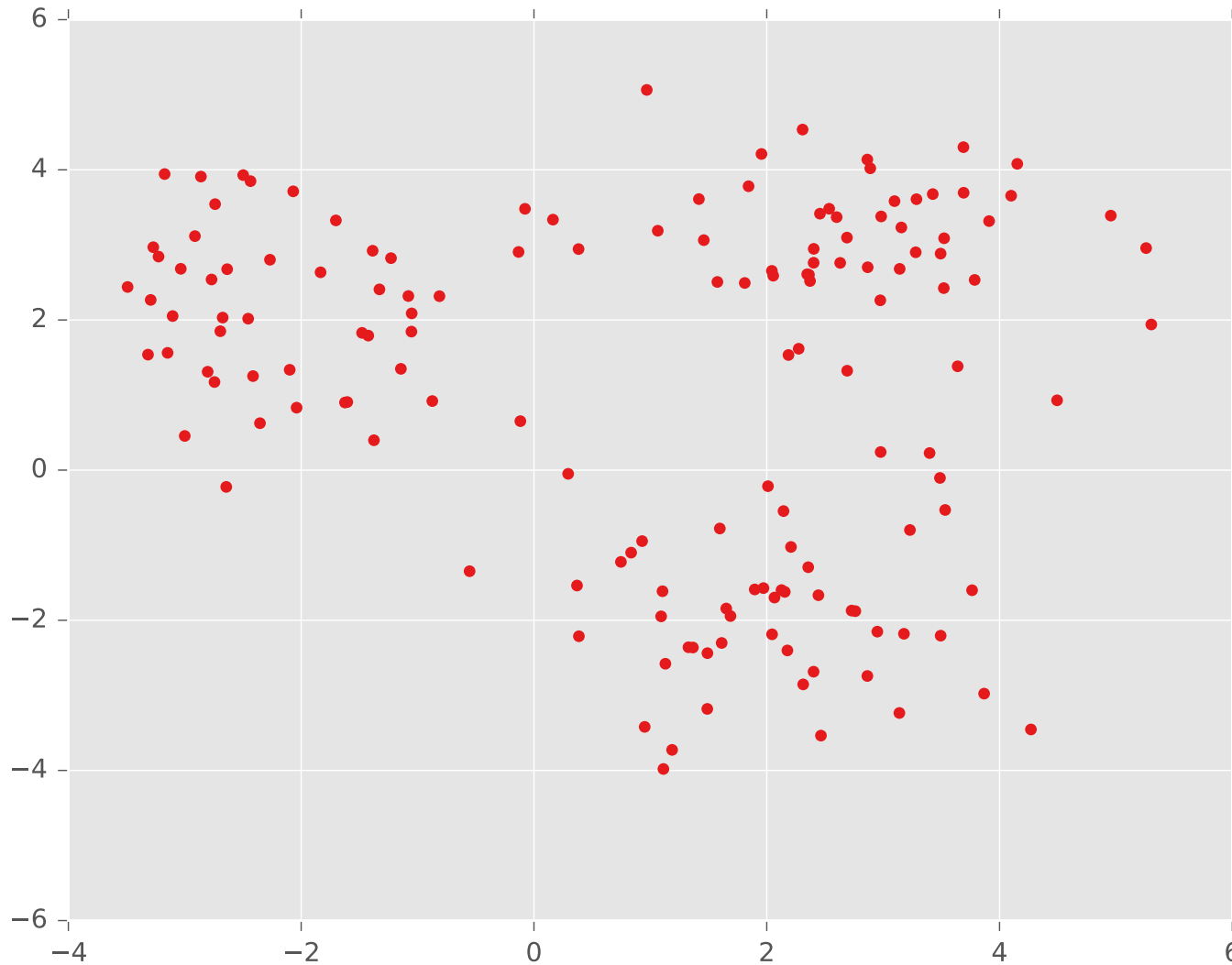
$$p(z^{(i)} = k | \mathbf{x}^{(i)}; \phi, \mu, \Sigma) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z^{(i)} = k; \mu, \Sigma) p(z^{(i)} = k; \phi)}{\sum_{j=1}^K p(\mathbf{x}^{(i)} | z^{(i)} = j; \mu, \Sigma) p(z^{(i)} = j; \phi)} \quad (1)$$

EXAMPLE: K-MEANS VS GMM

Example: K-Means

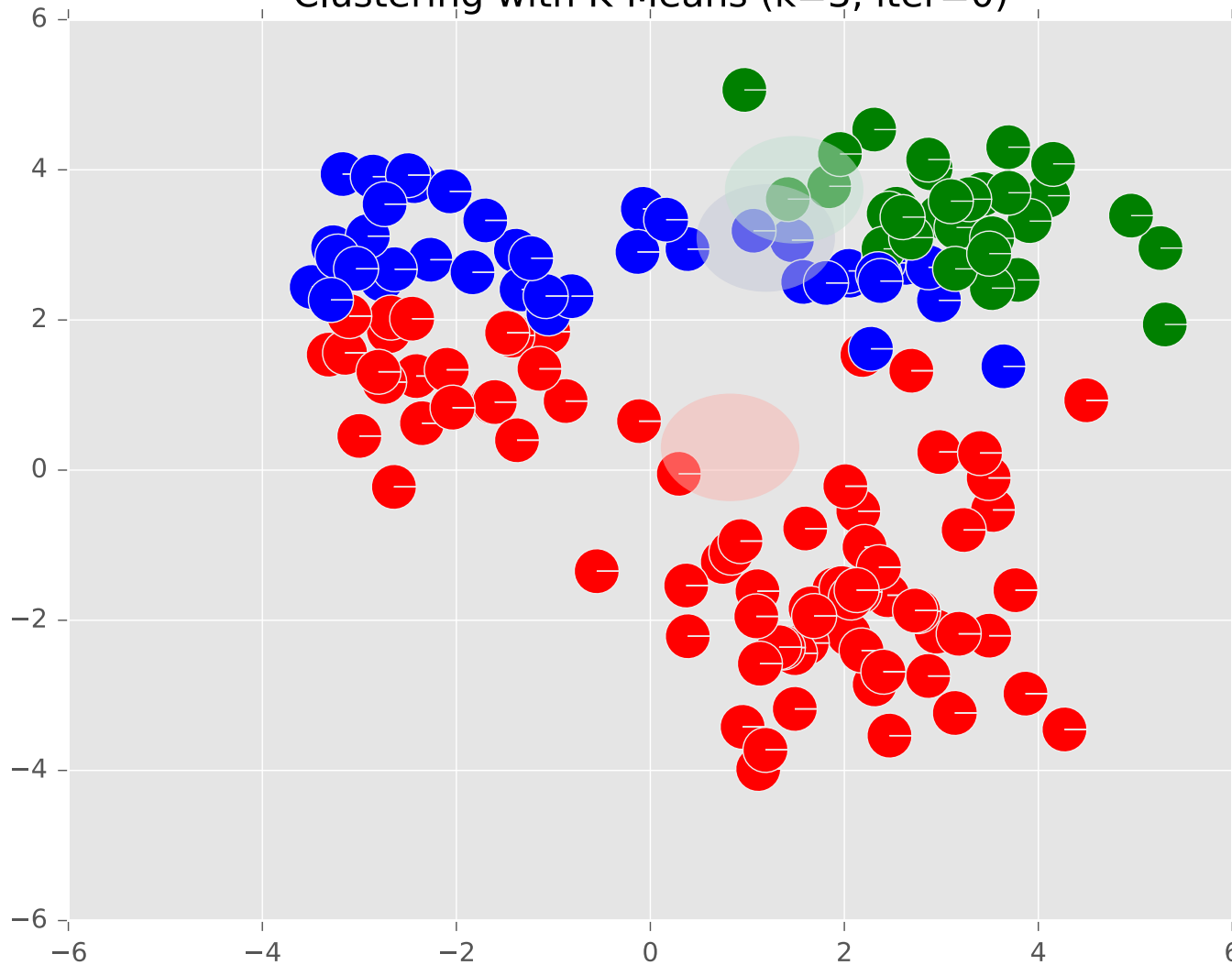


Example: K-Means



Example: K-Means

Clustering with K-Means ($k=3$, iter=0)

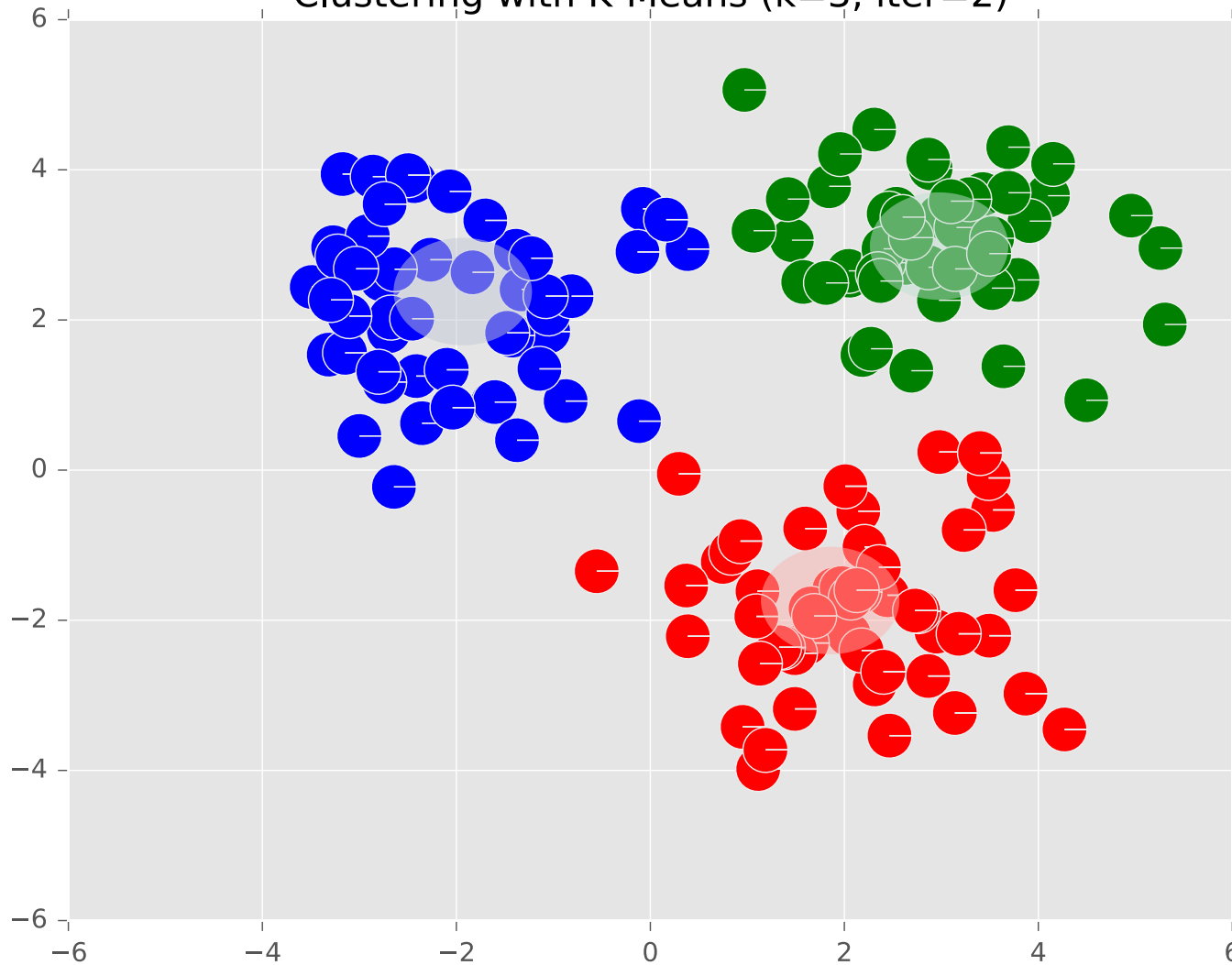


Example: K-Means



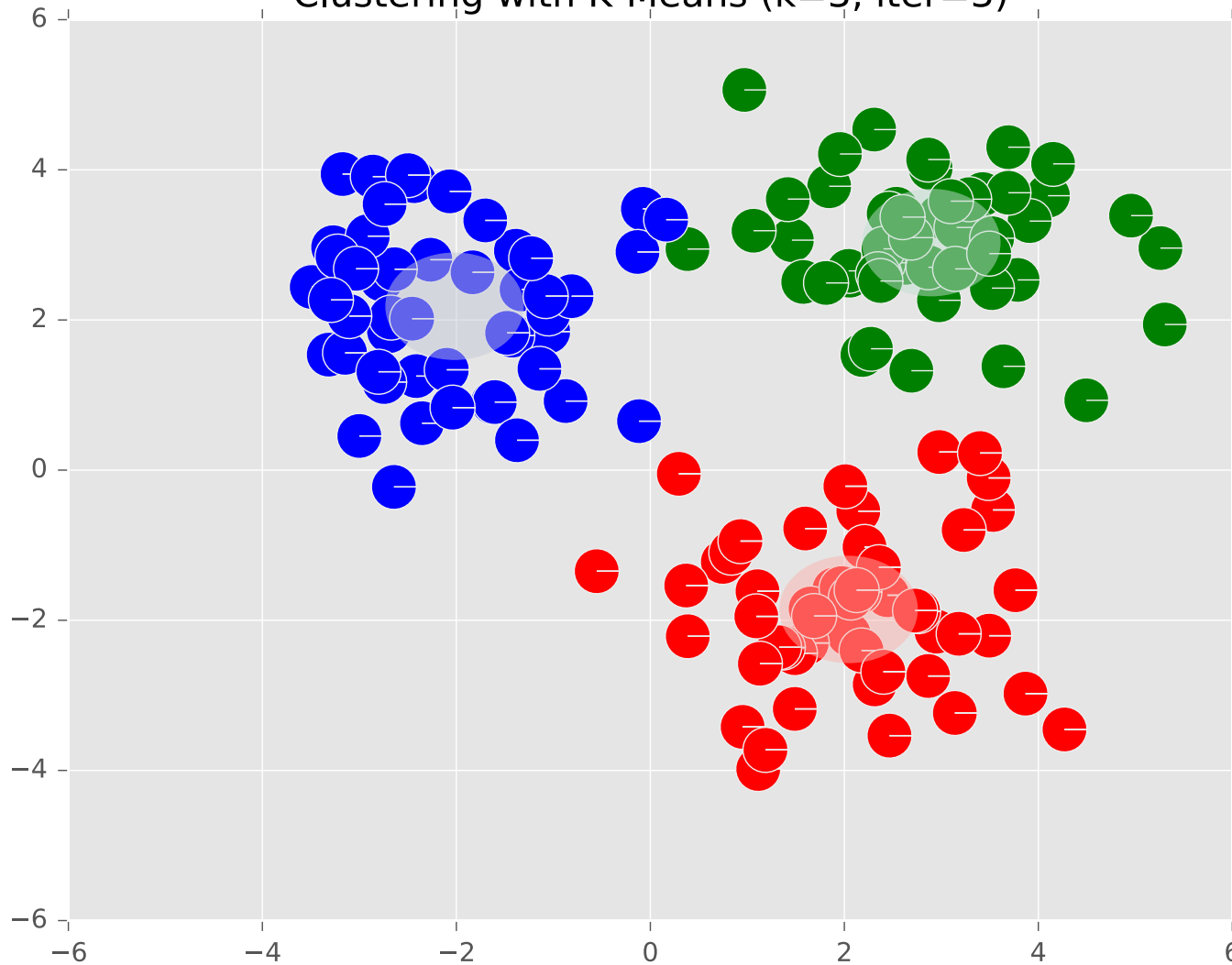
Example: K-Means

Clustering with K-Means (k=3, iter=2)



Example: K-Means

Clustering with K-Means (k=3, iter=3)

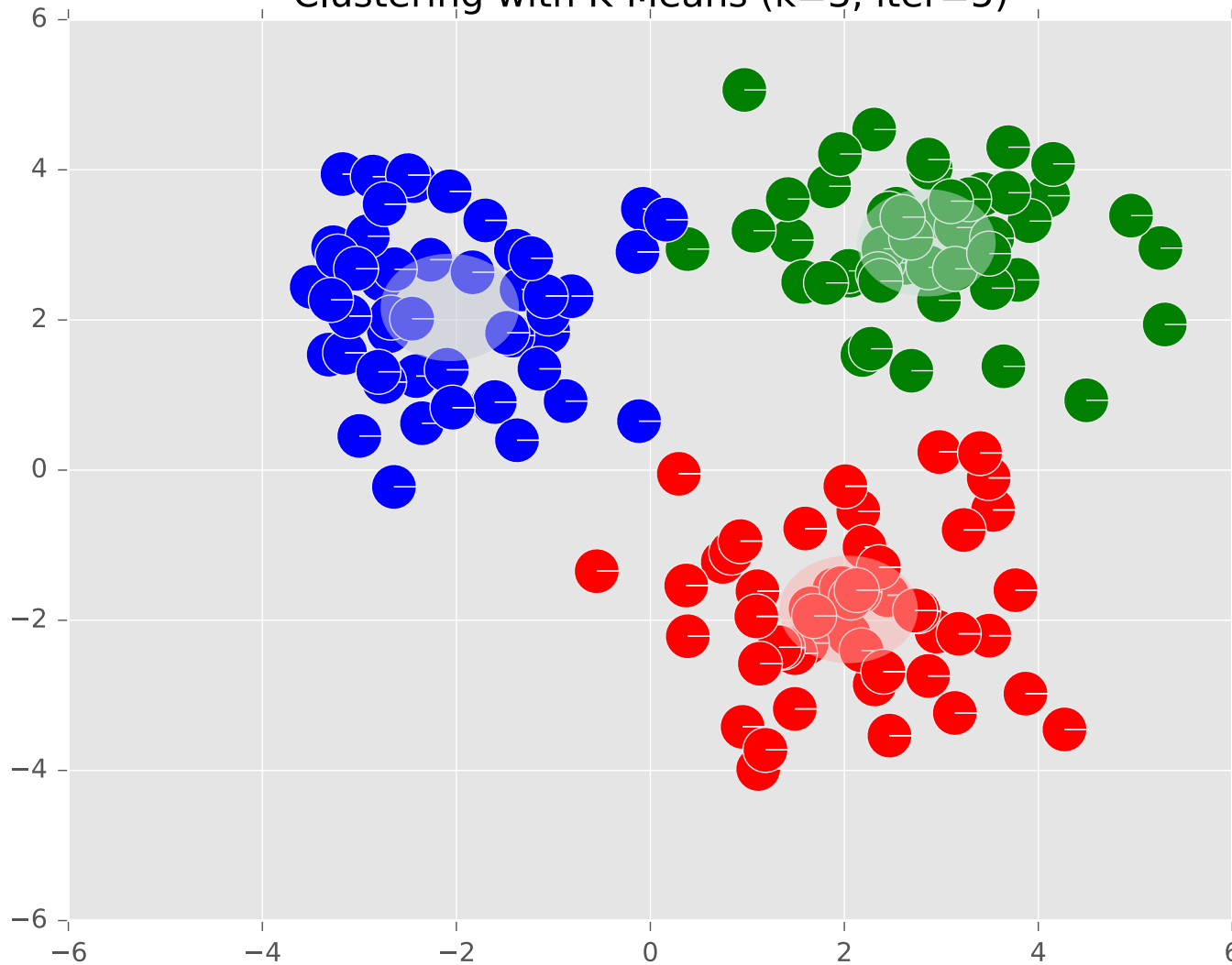


Example: K-Means



Example: K-Means

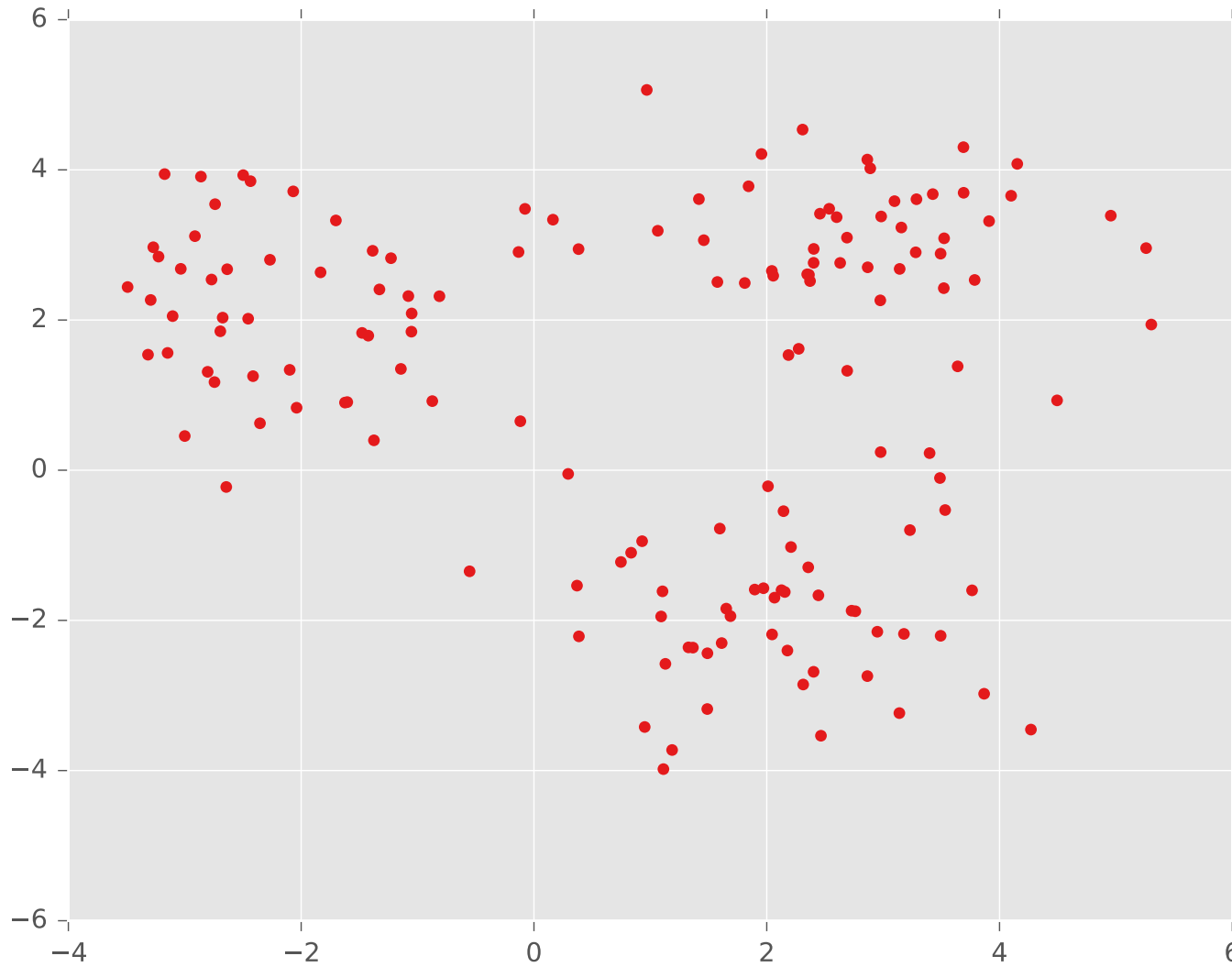
Clustering with K-Means (k=3, iter=5)



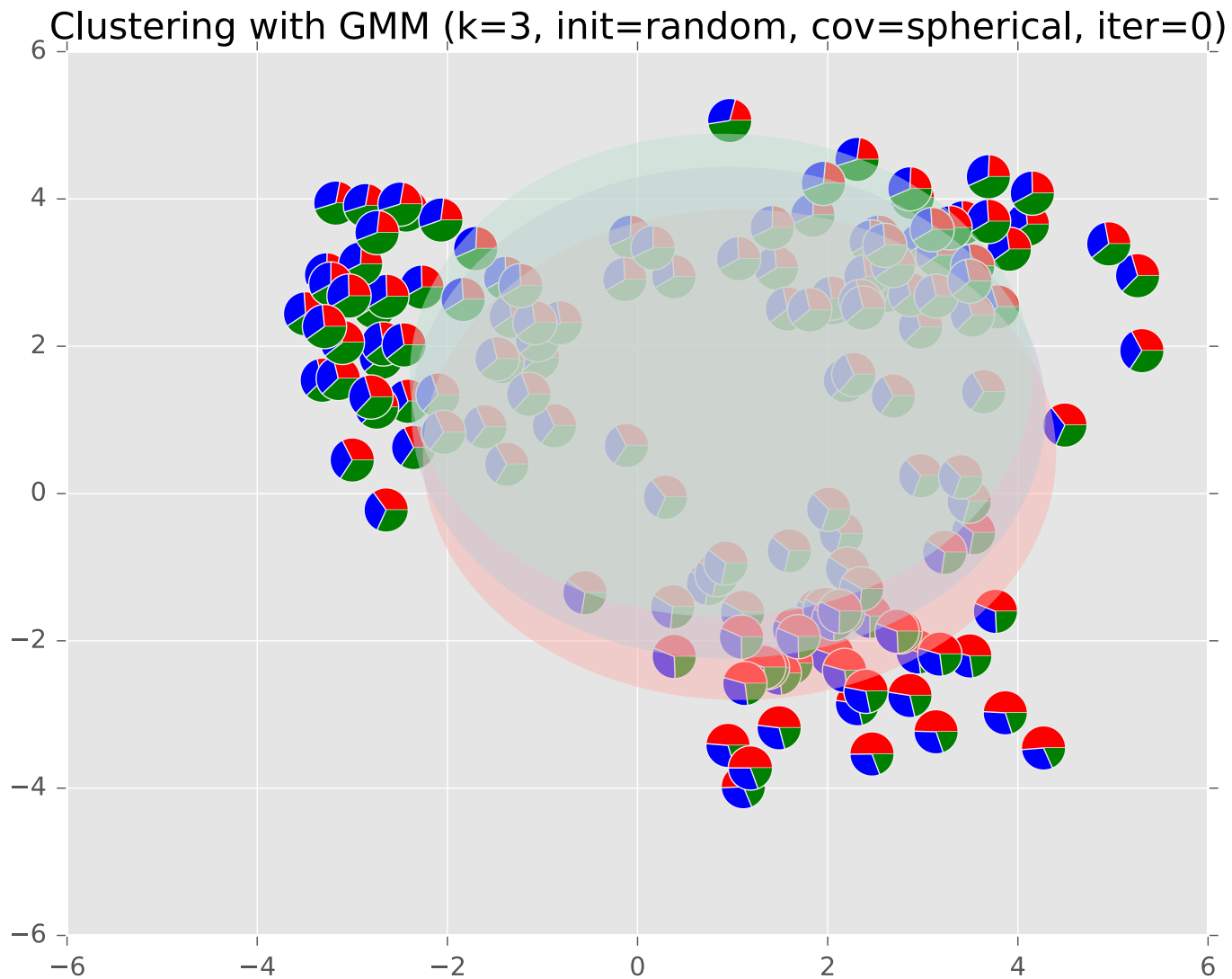
Example: GMM



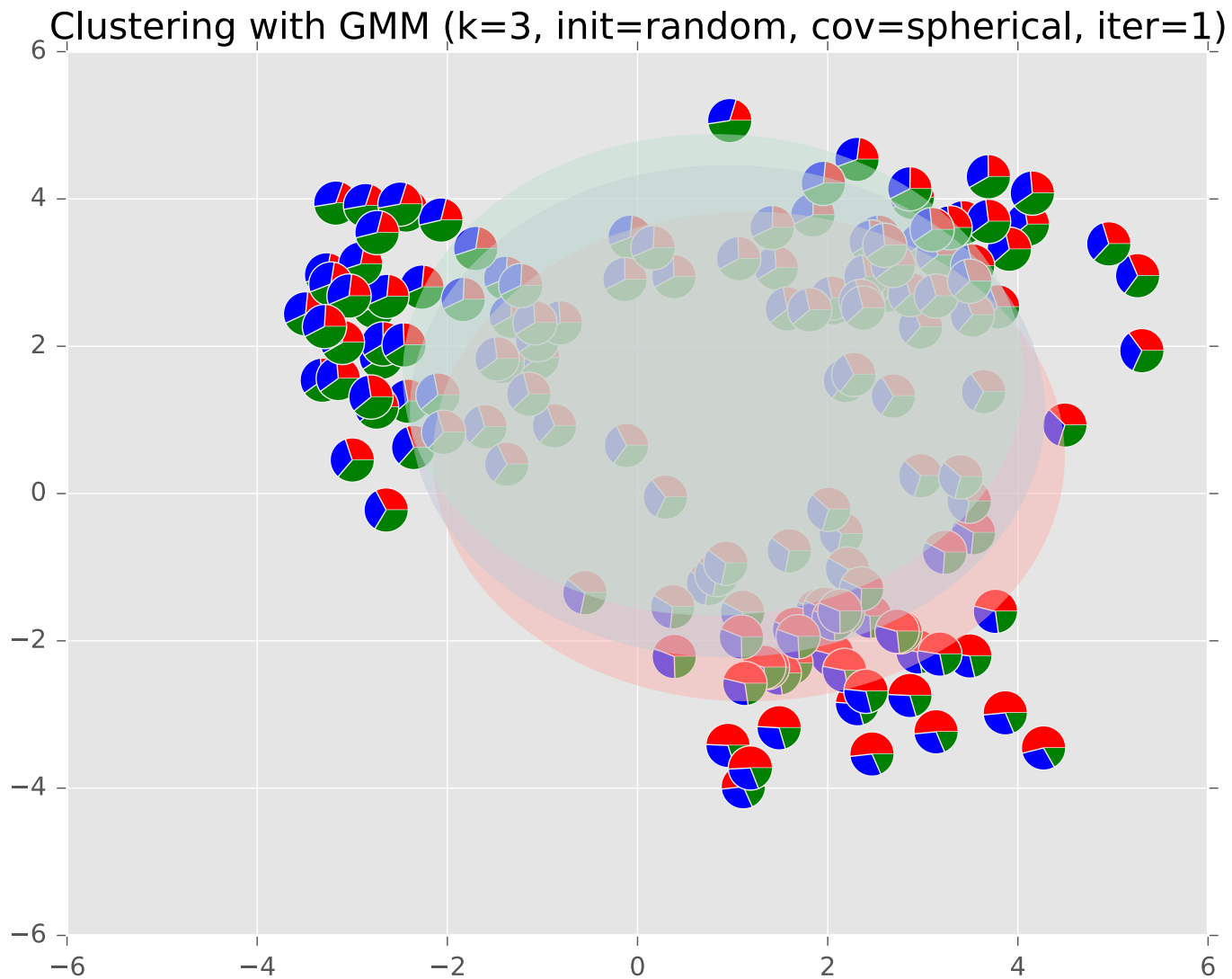
Example: GMM



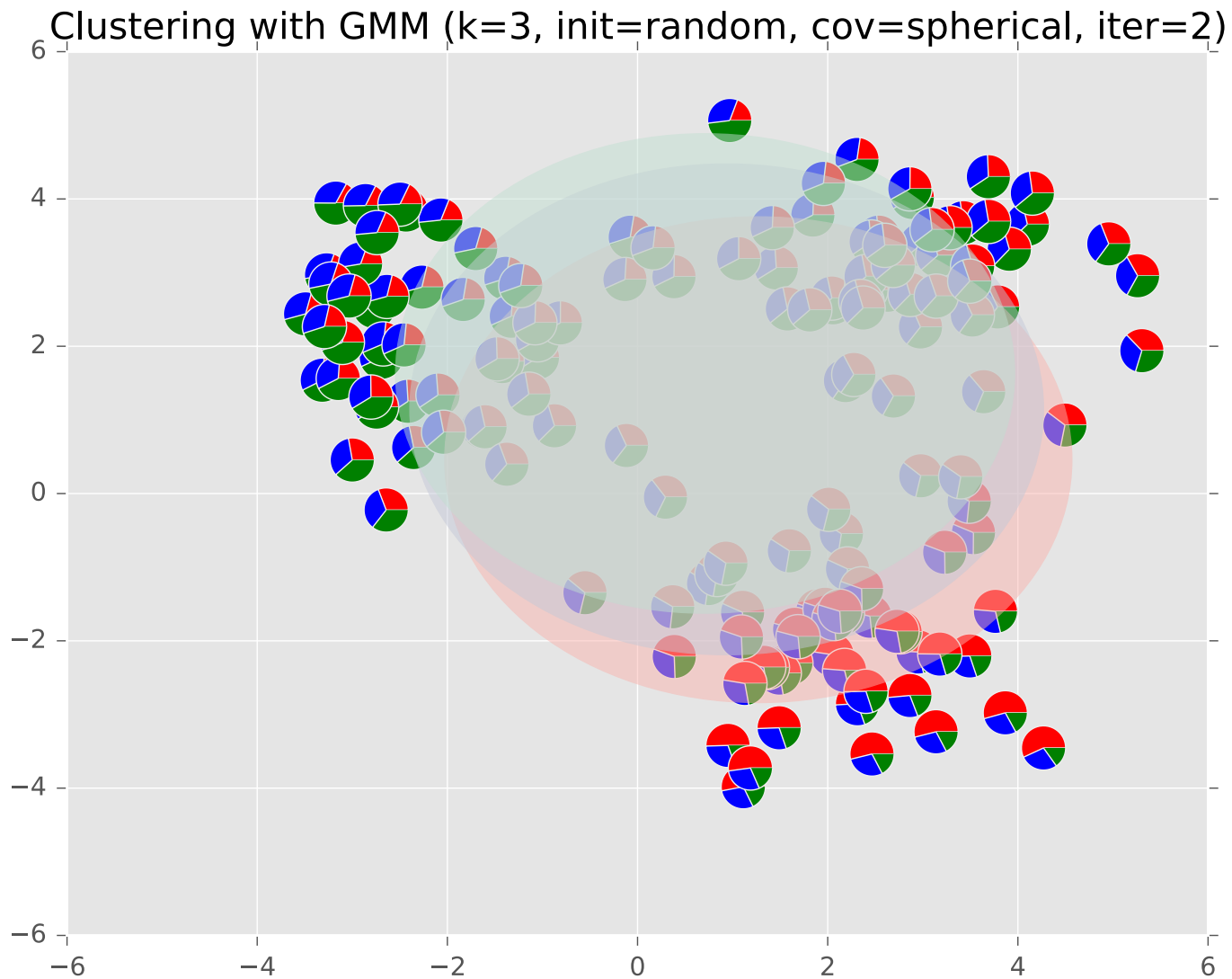
Example: GMM



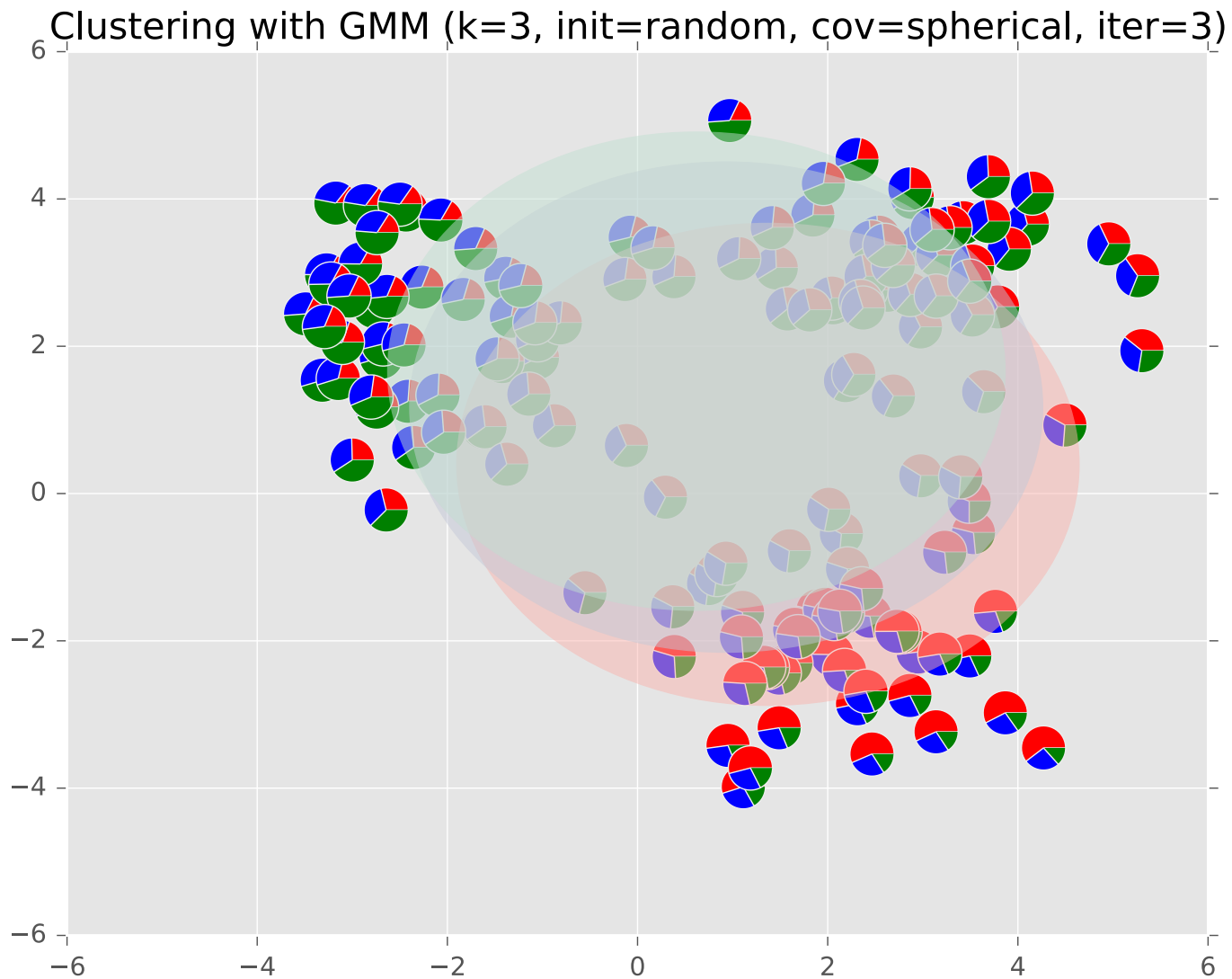
Example: GMM



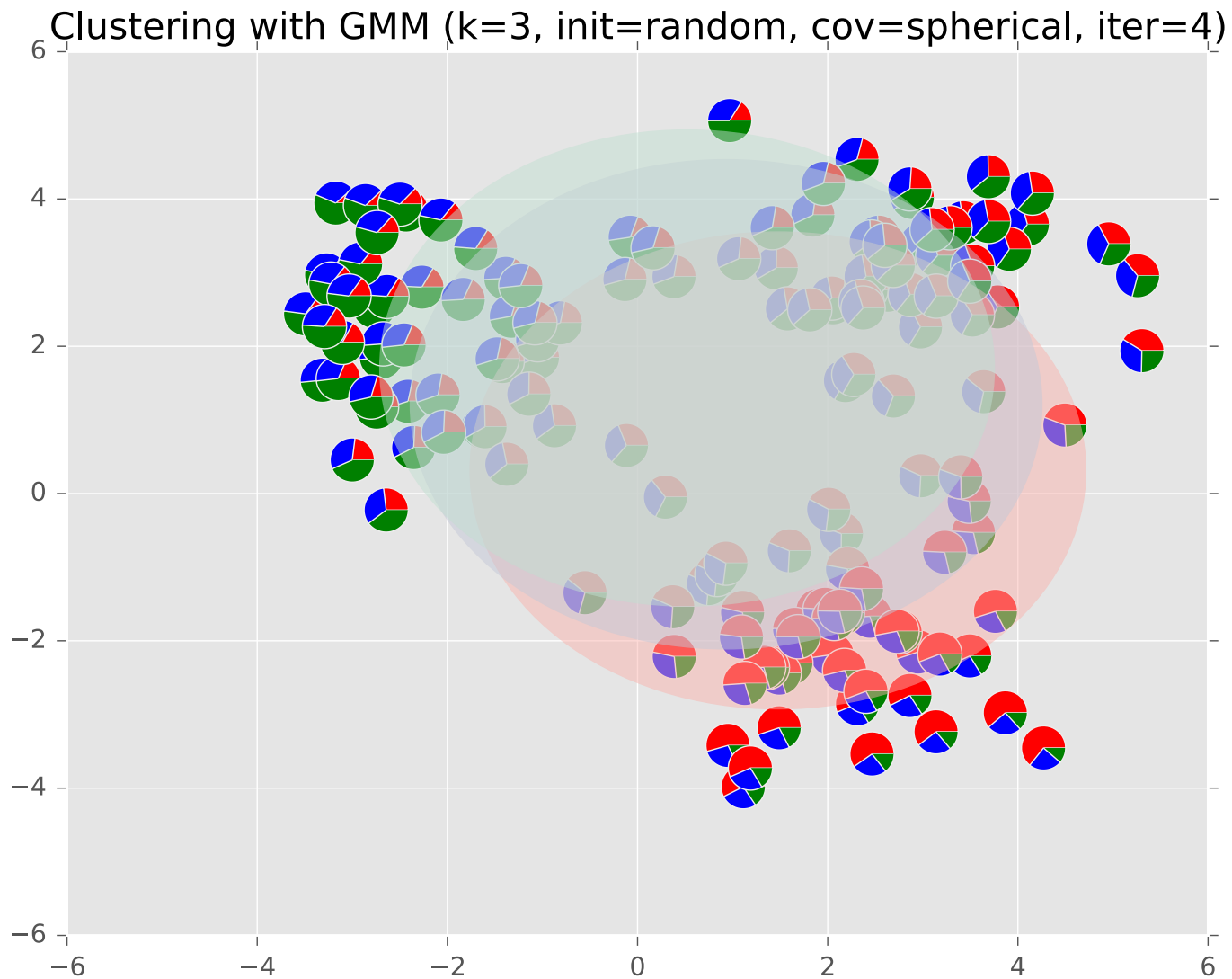
Example: GMM



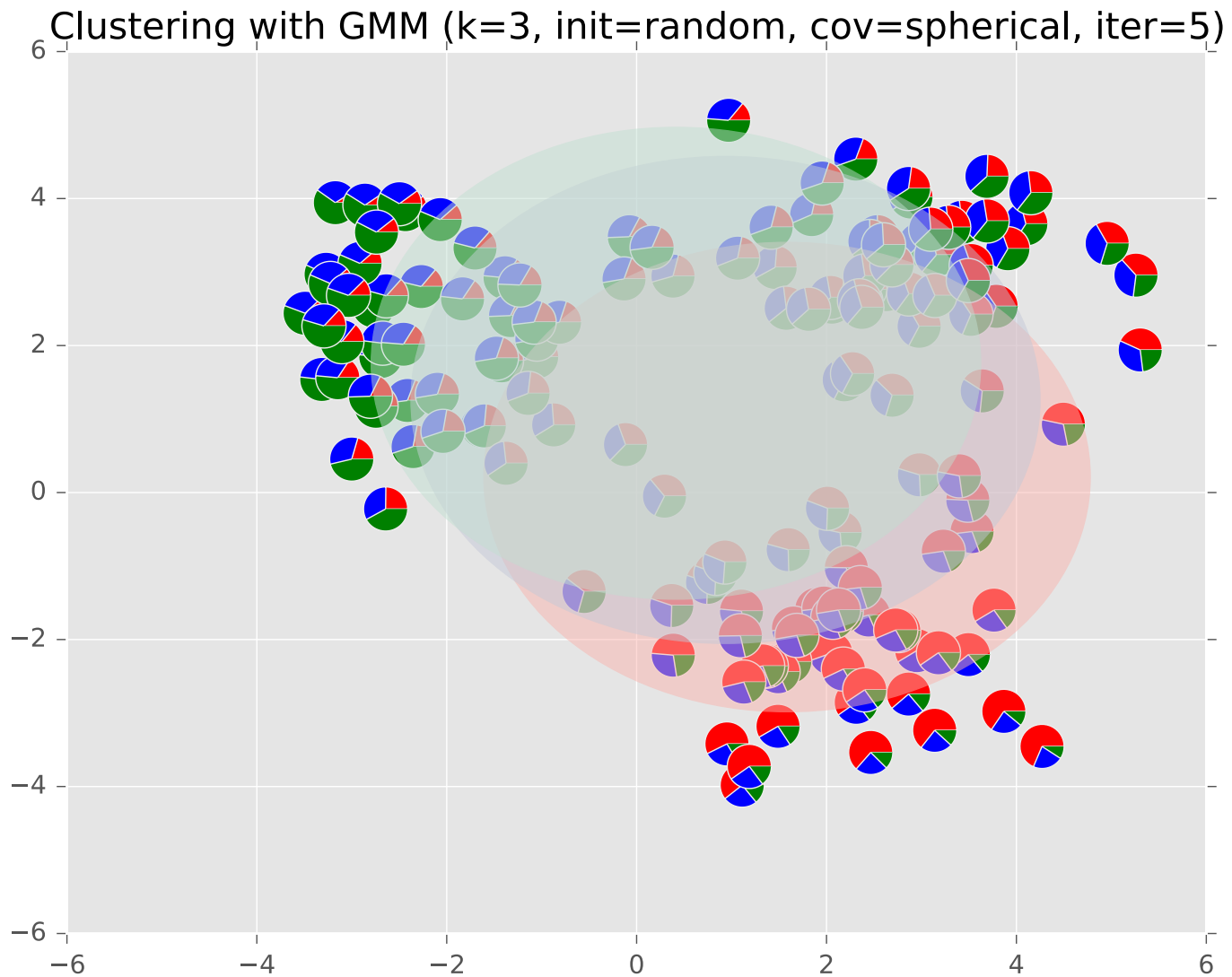
Example: GMM



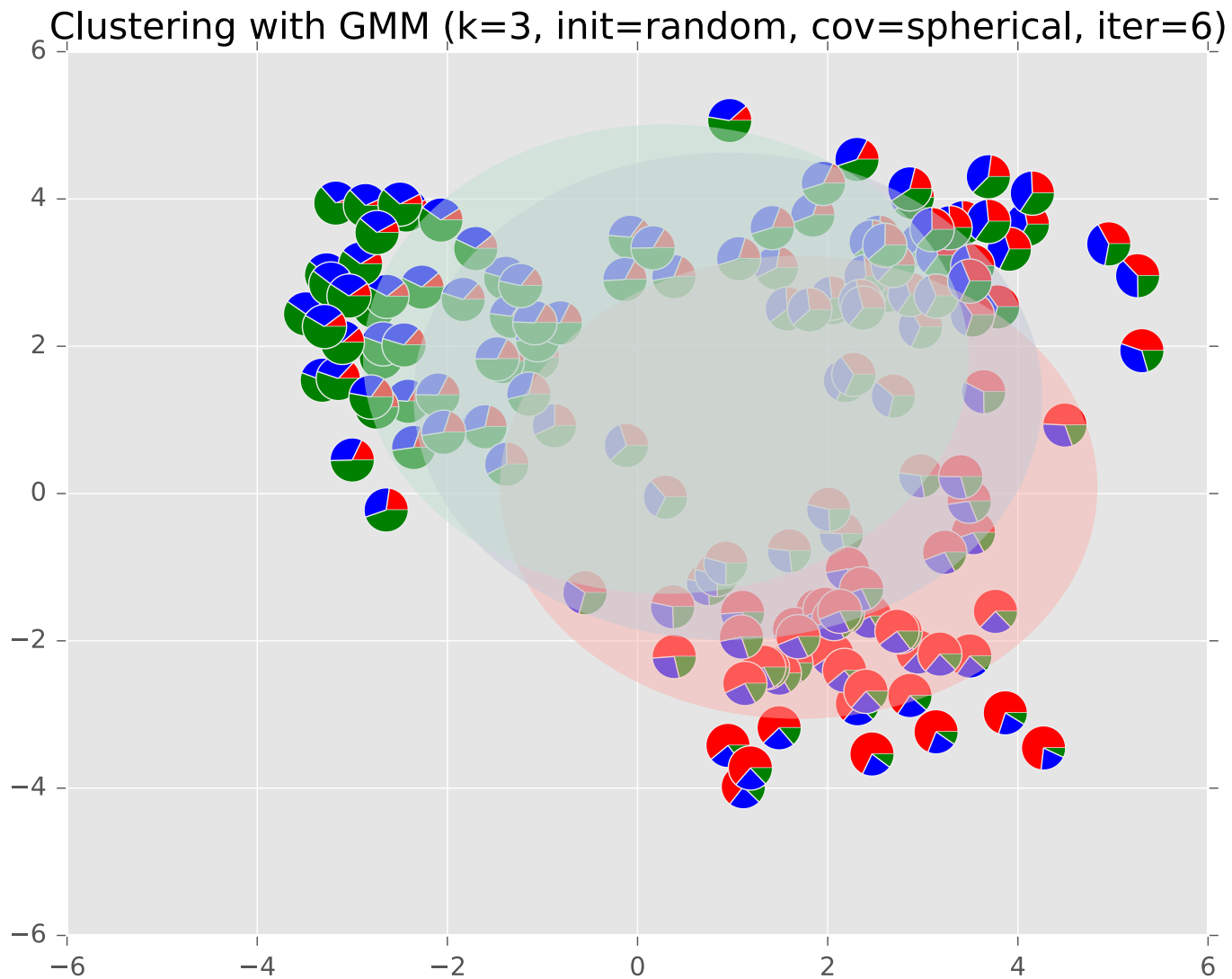
Example: GMM



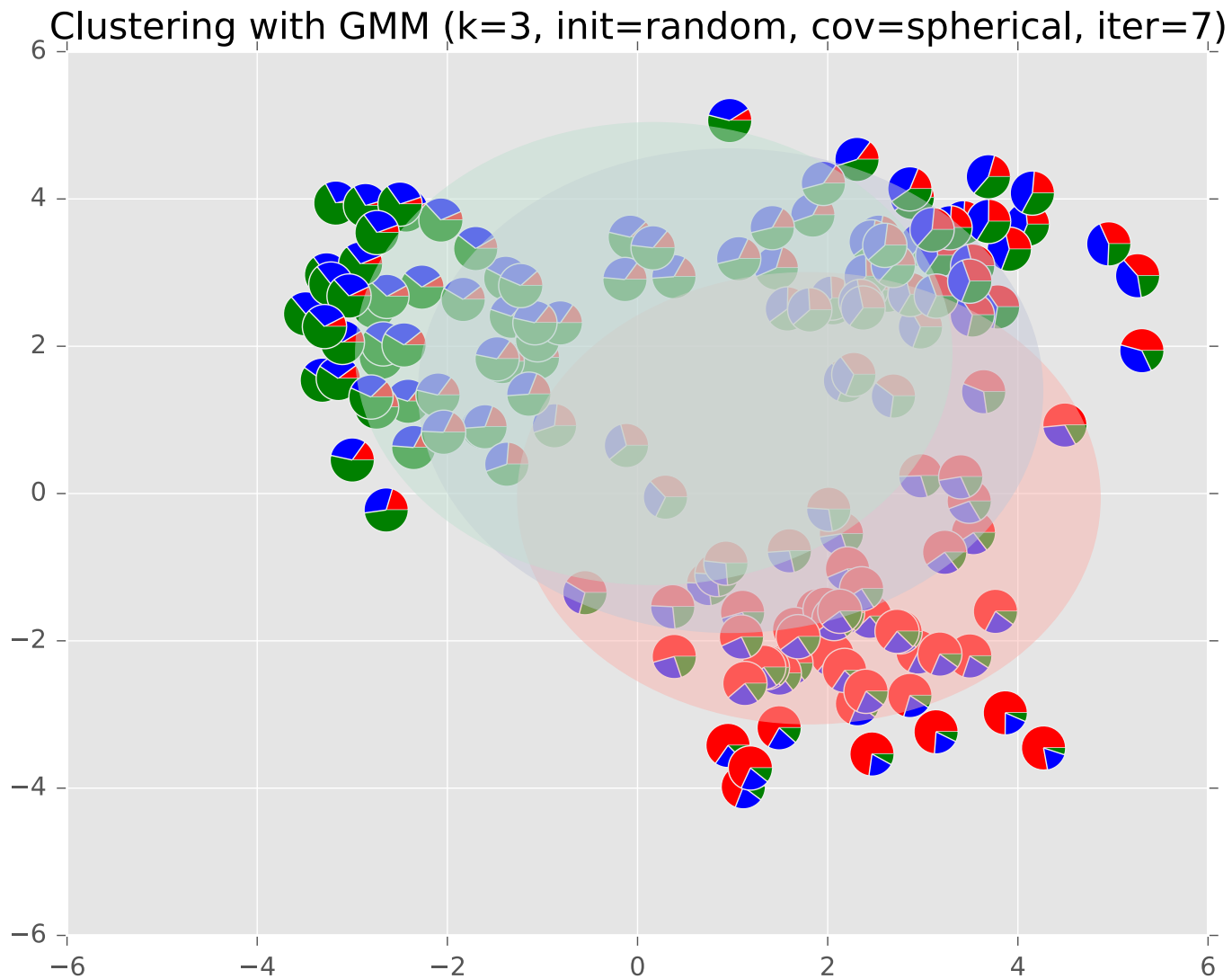
Example: GMM



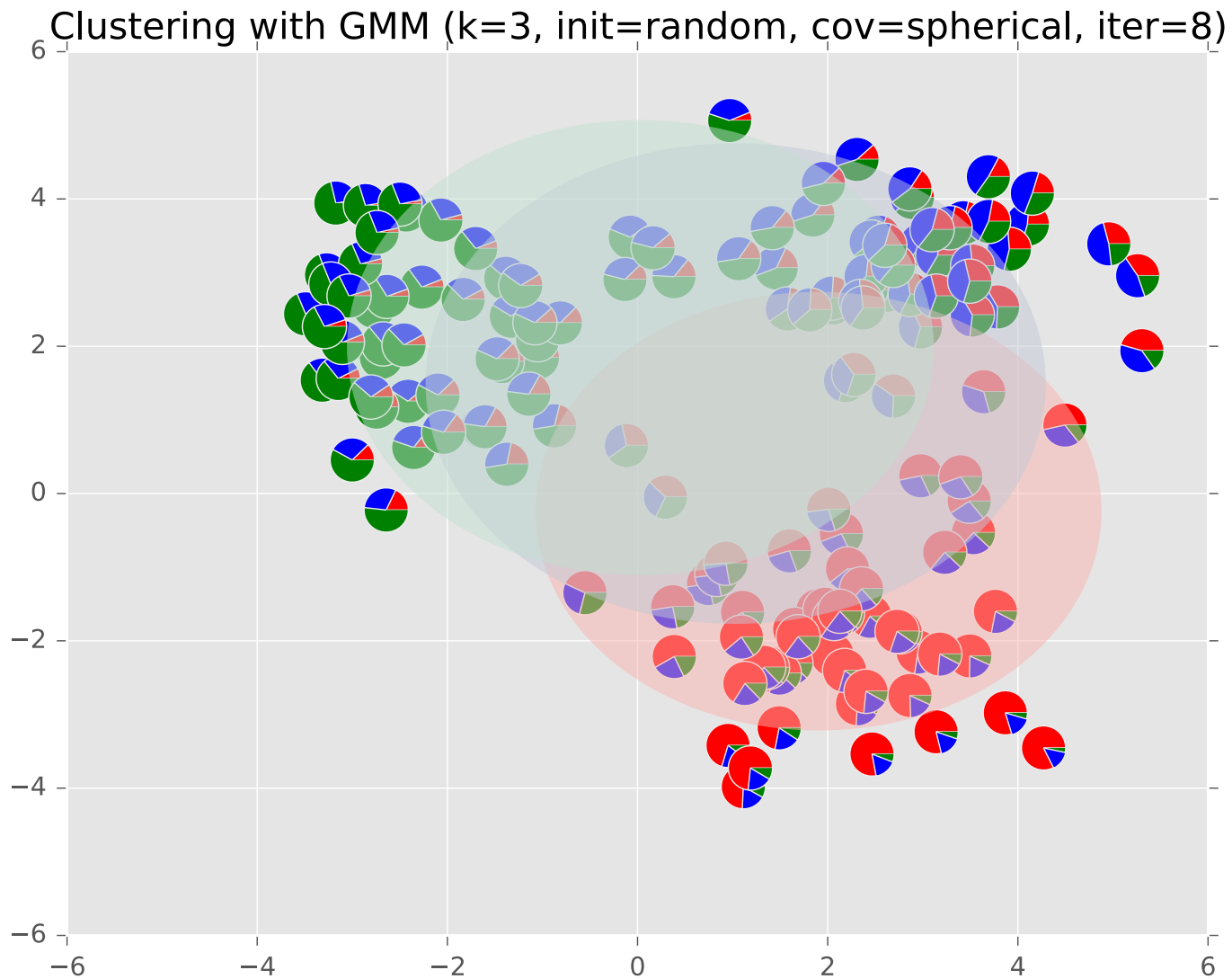
Example: GMM



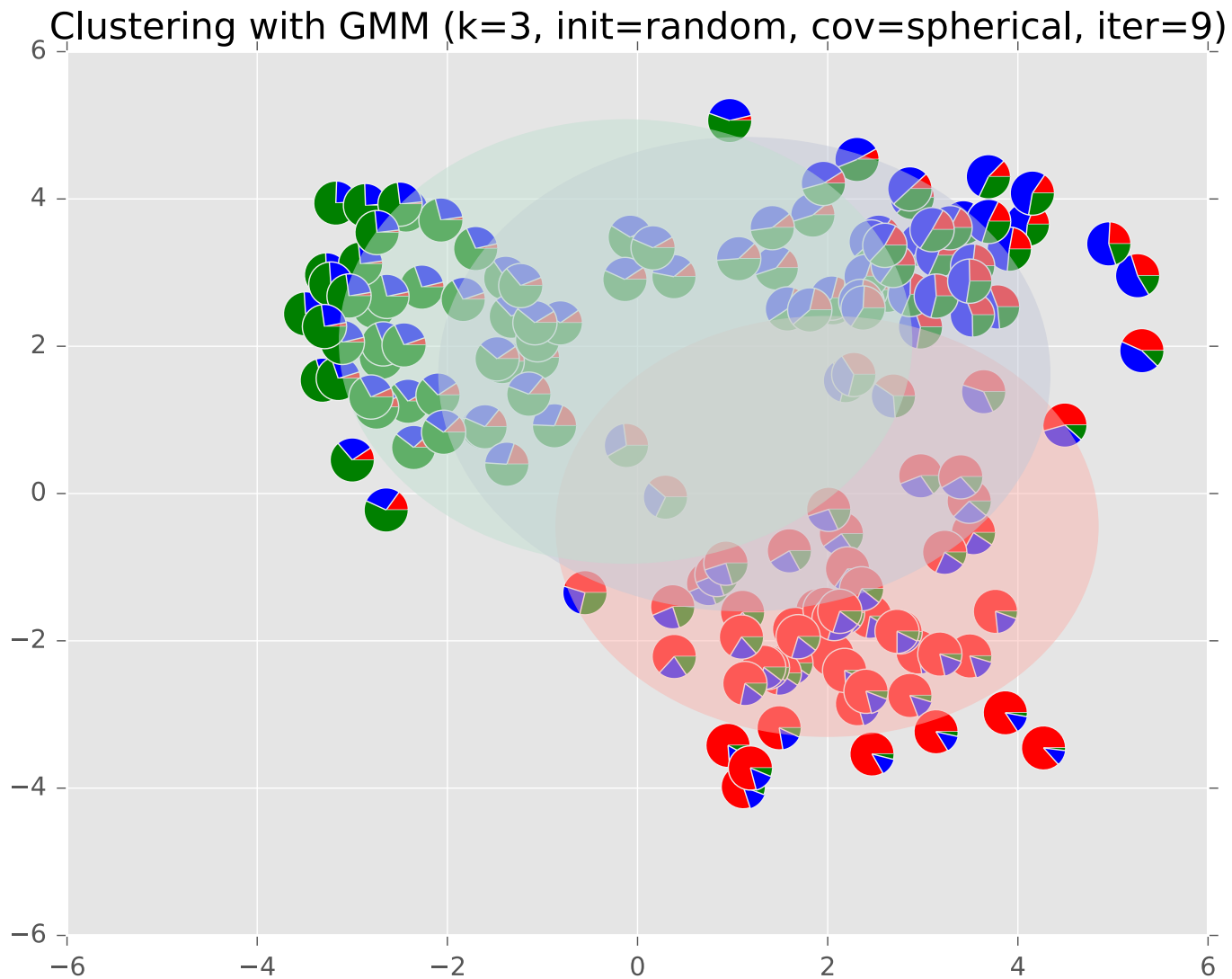
Example: GMM



Example: GMM

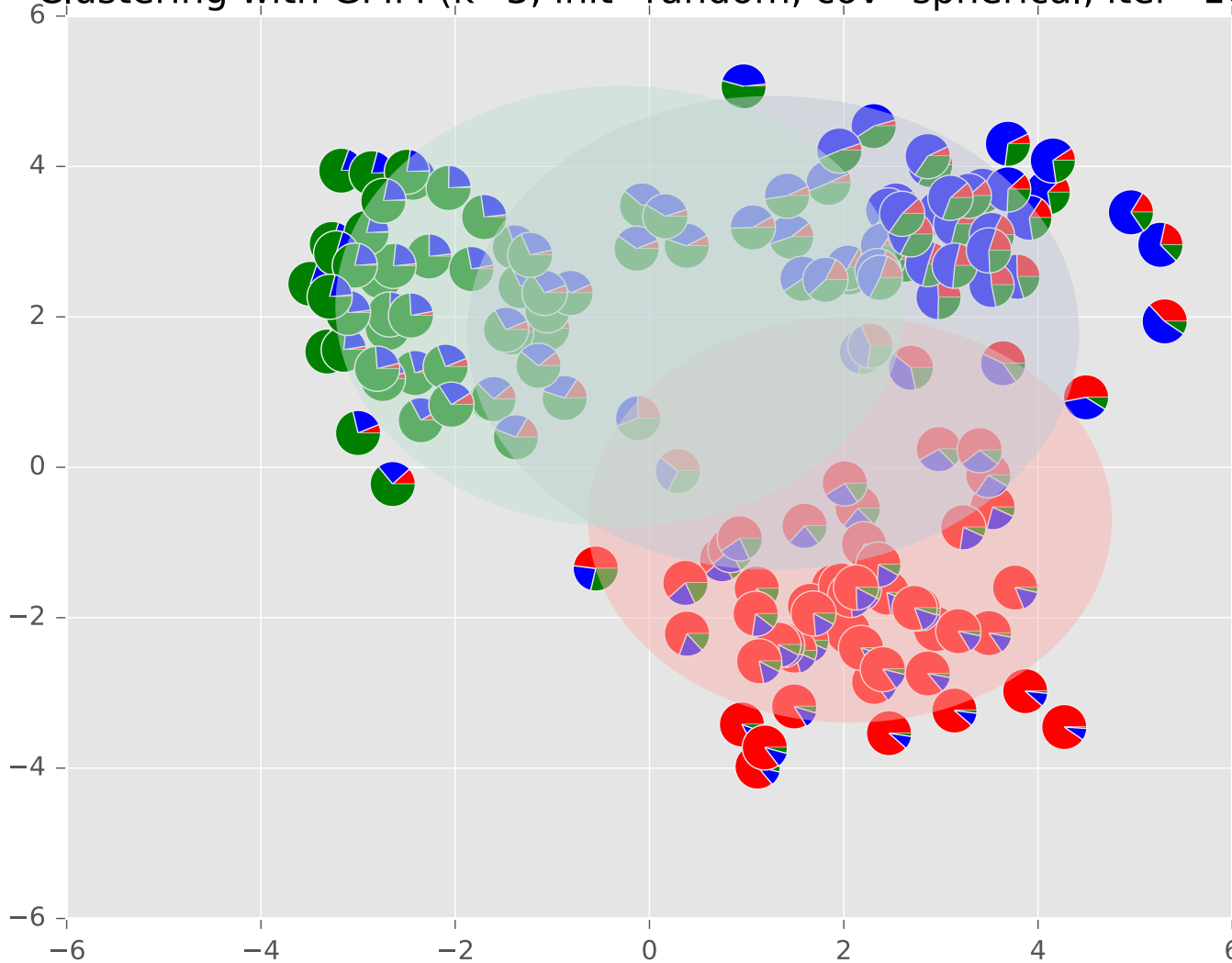


Example: GMM



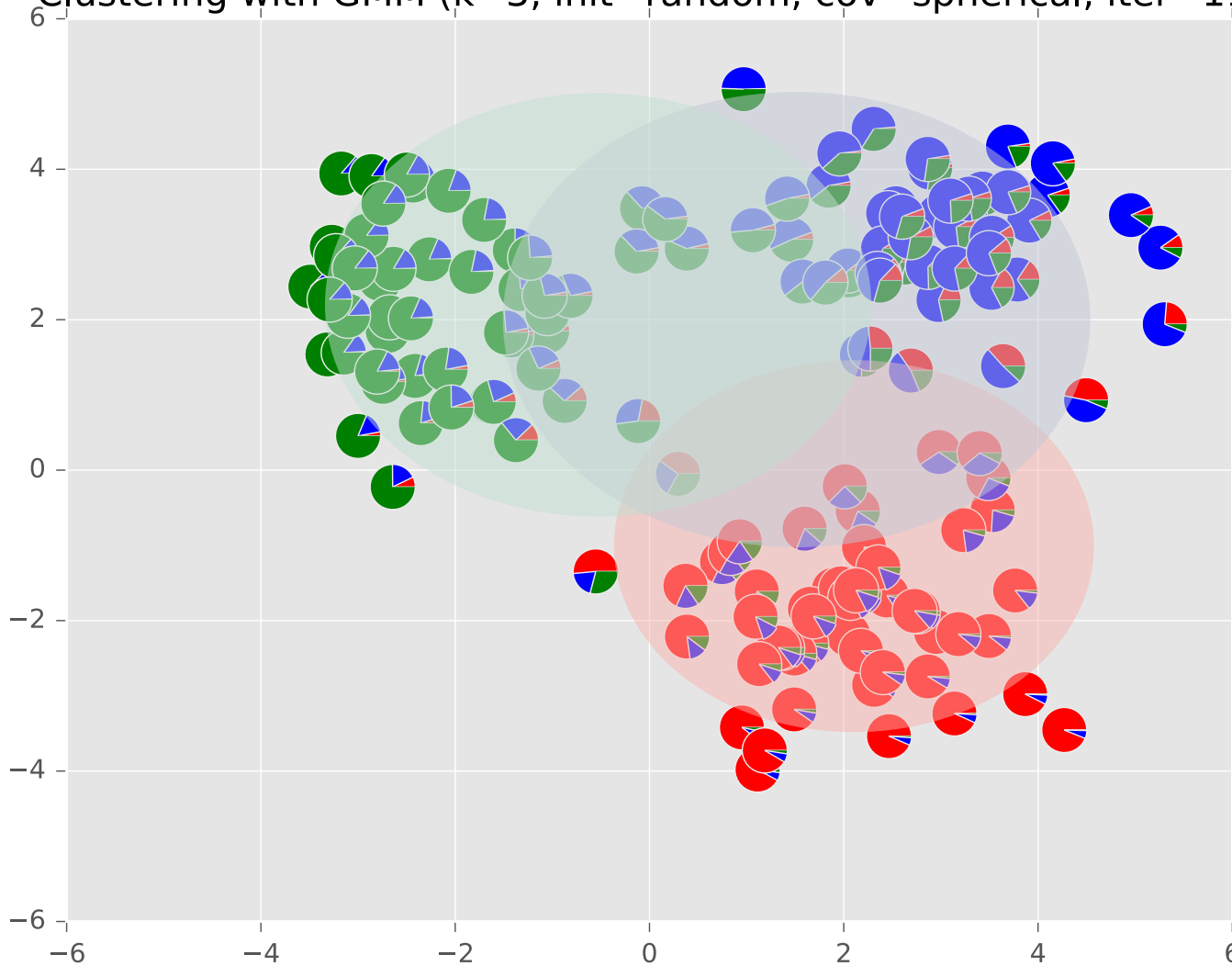
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=10)



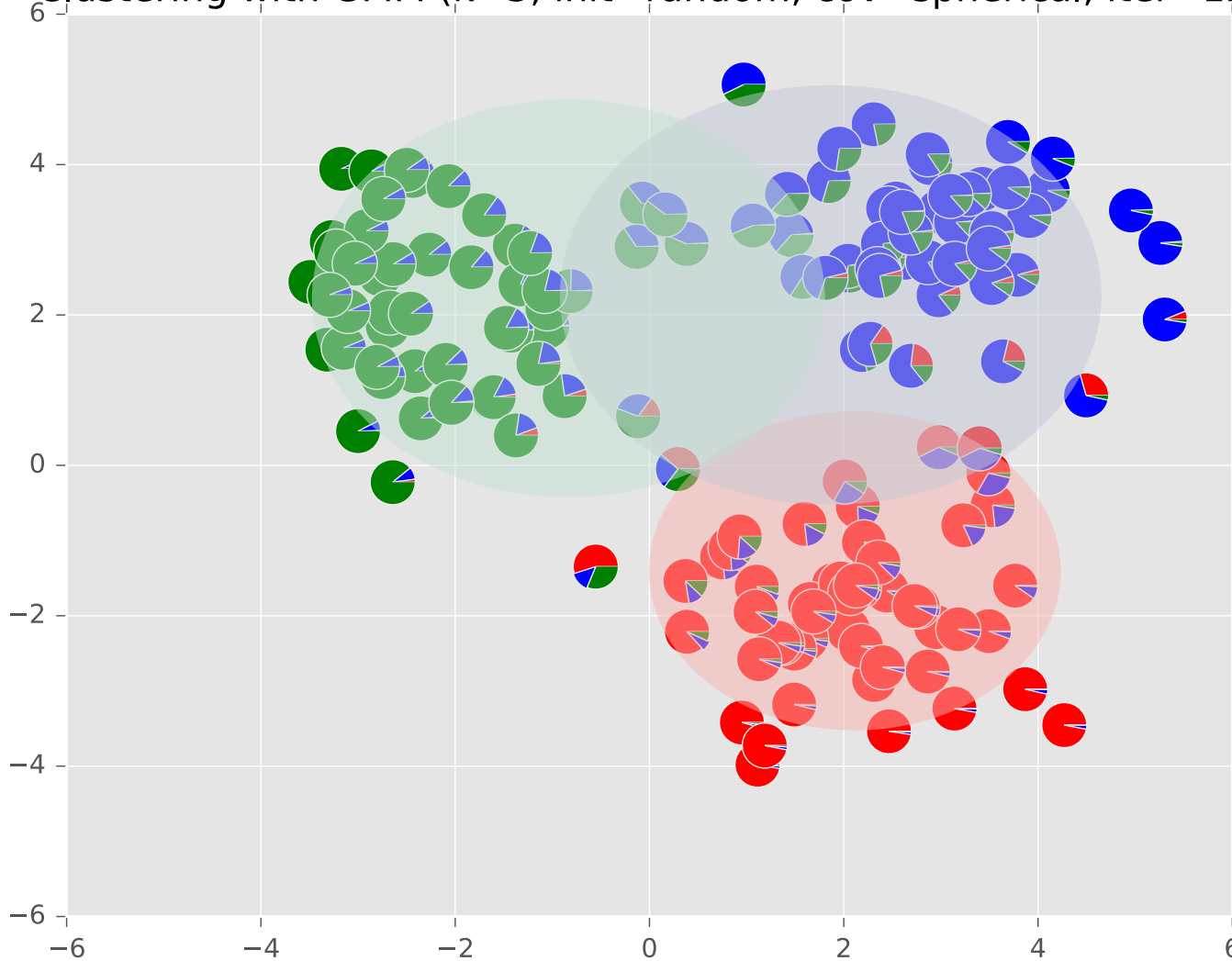
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=11)



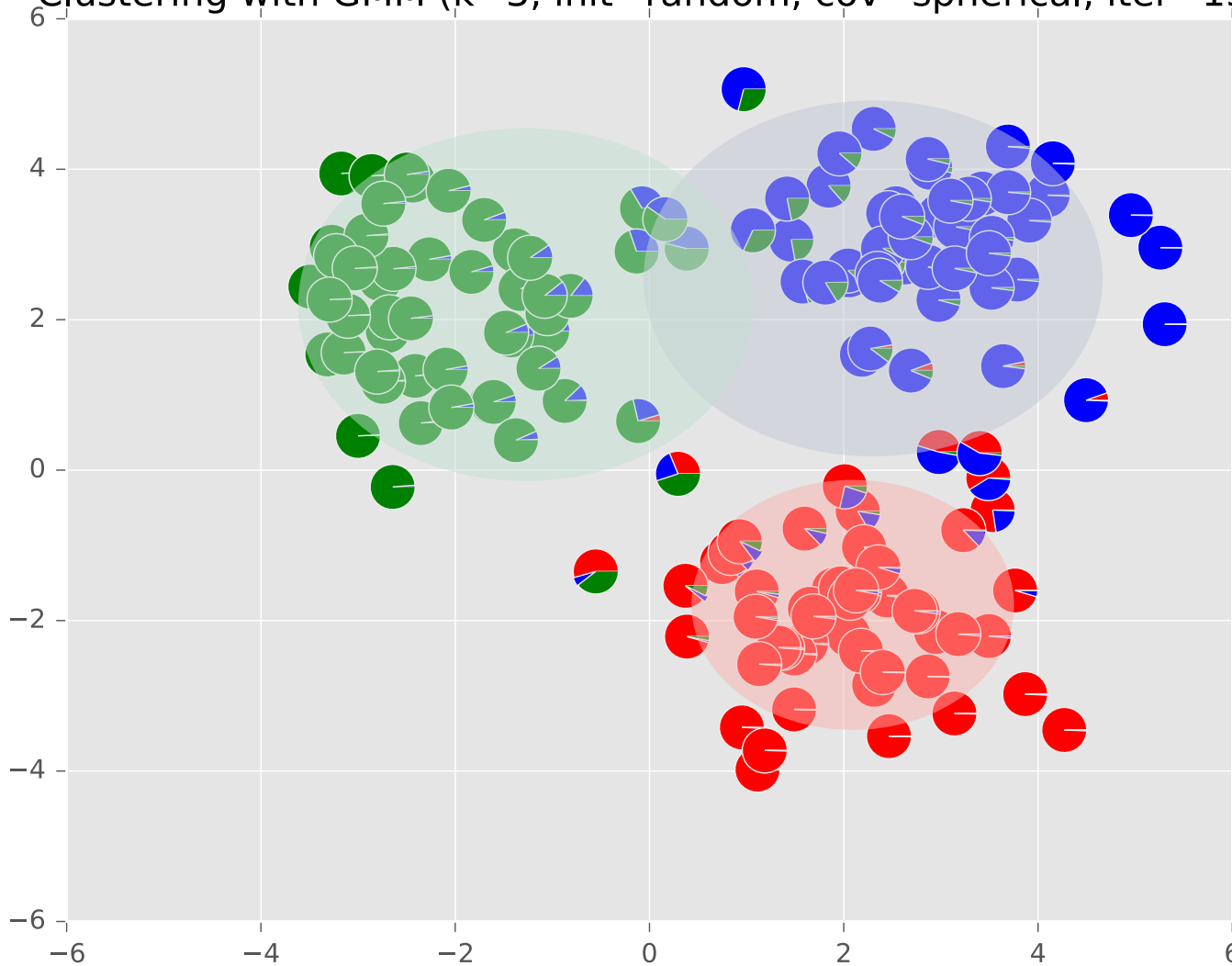
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=12)



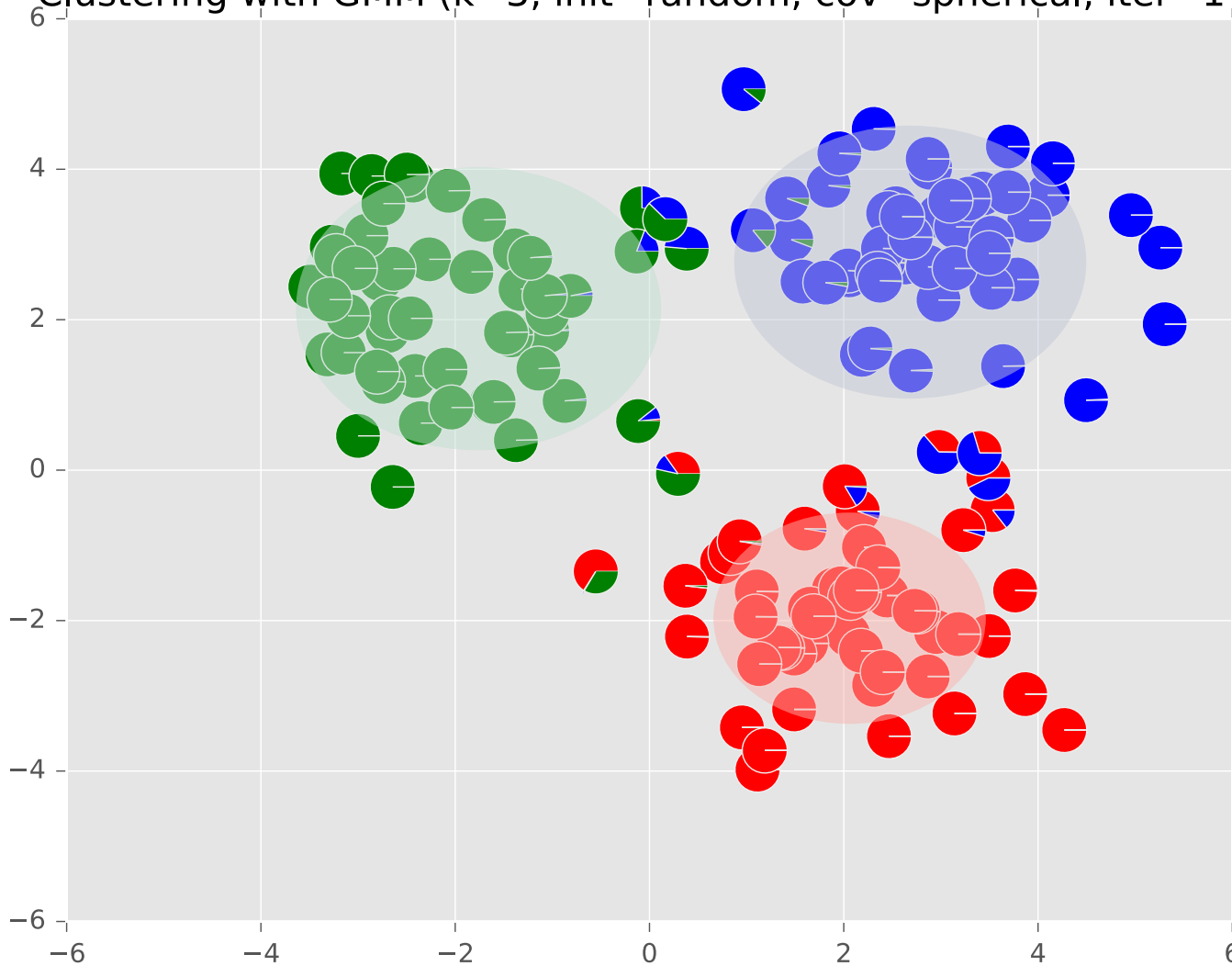
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=13)



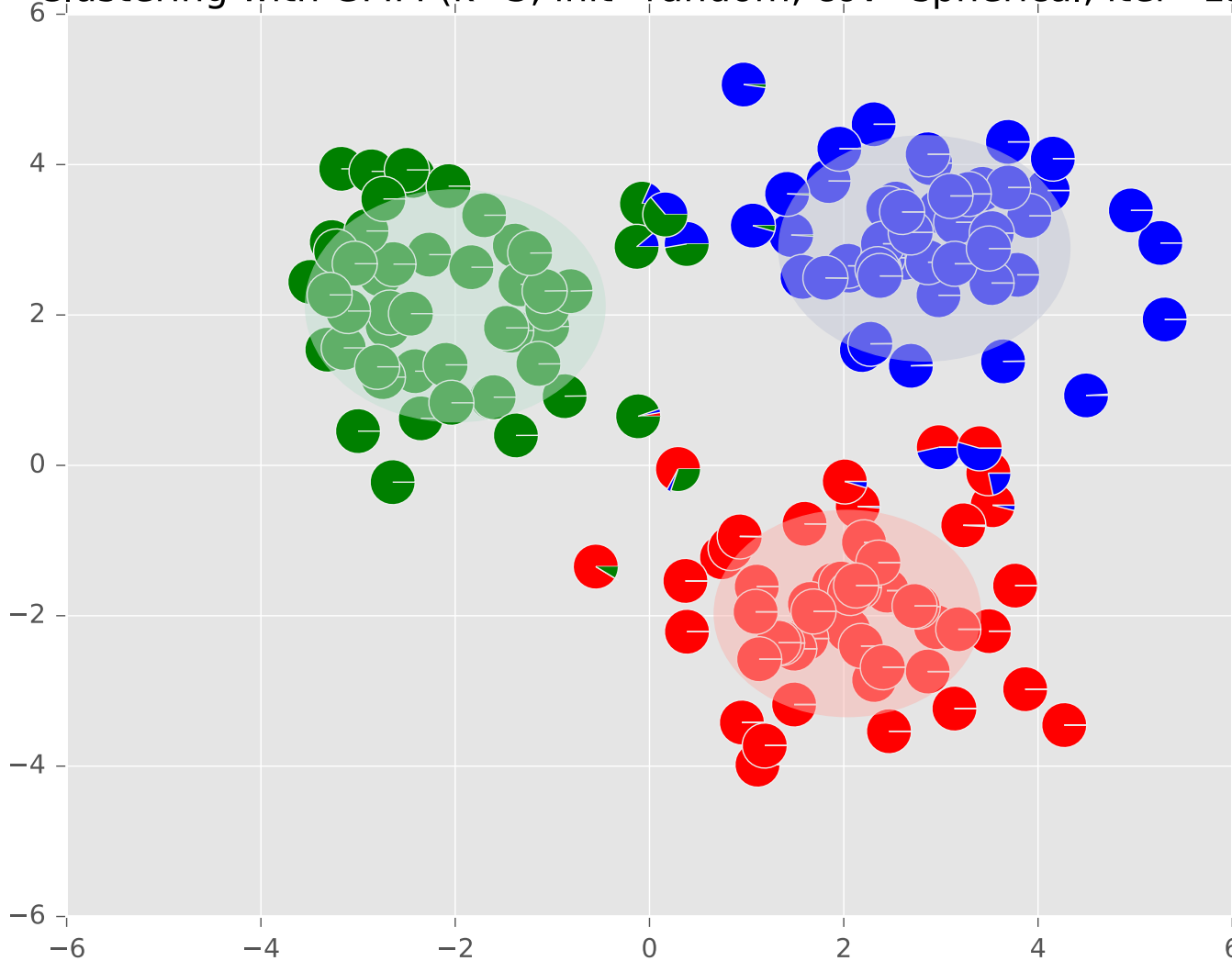
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=14)



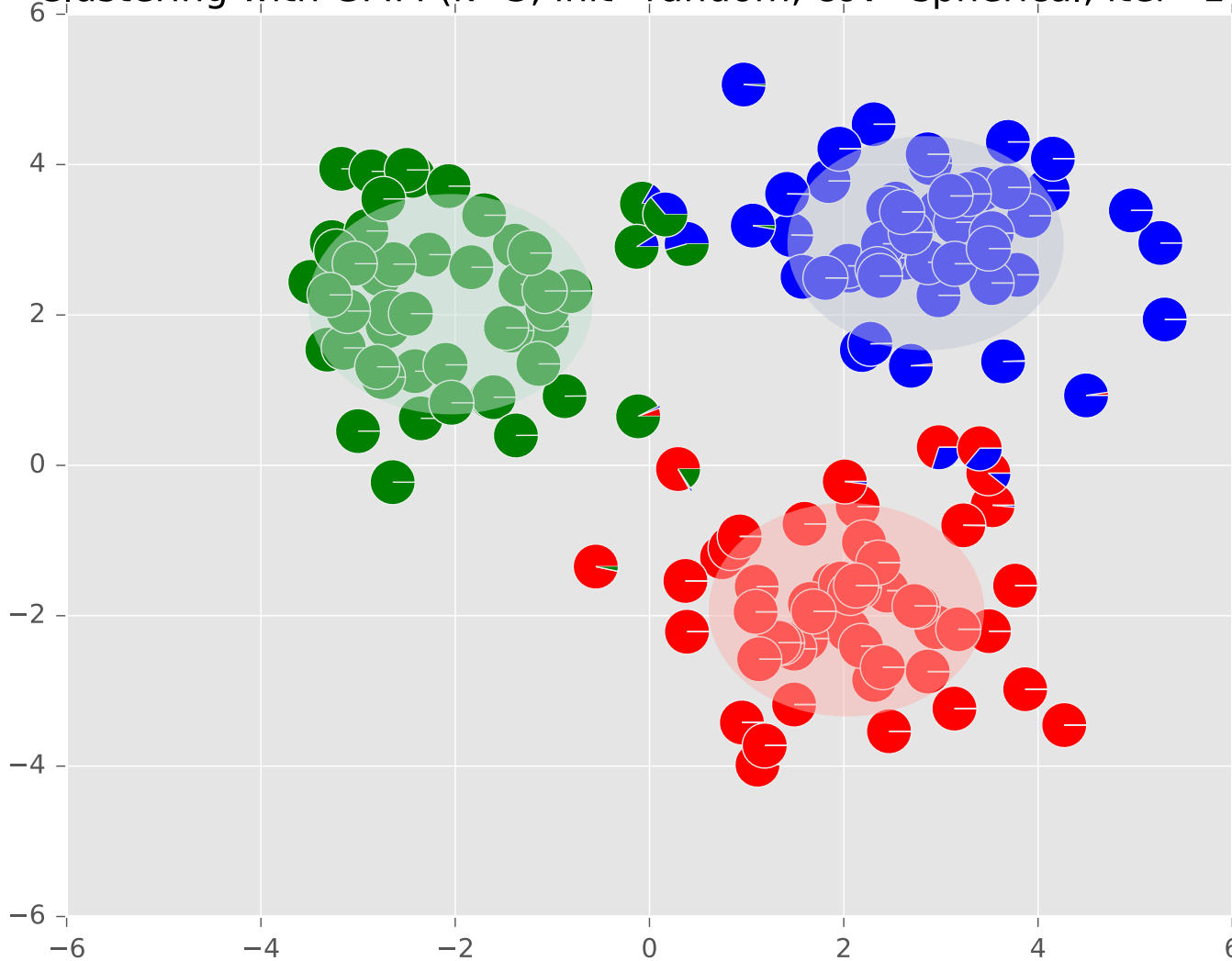
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=15)



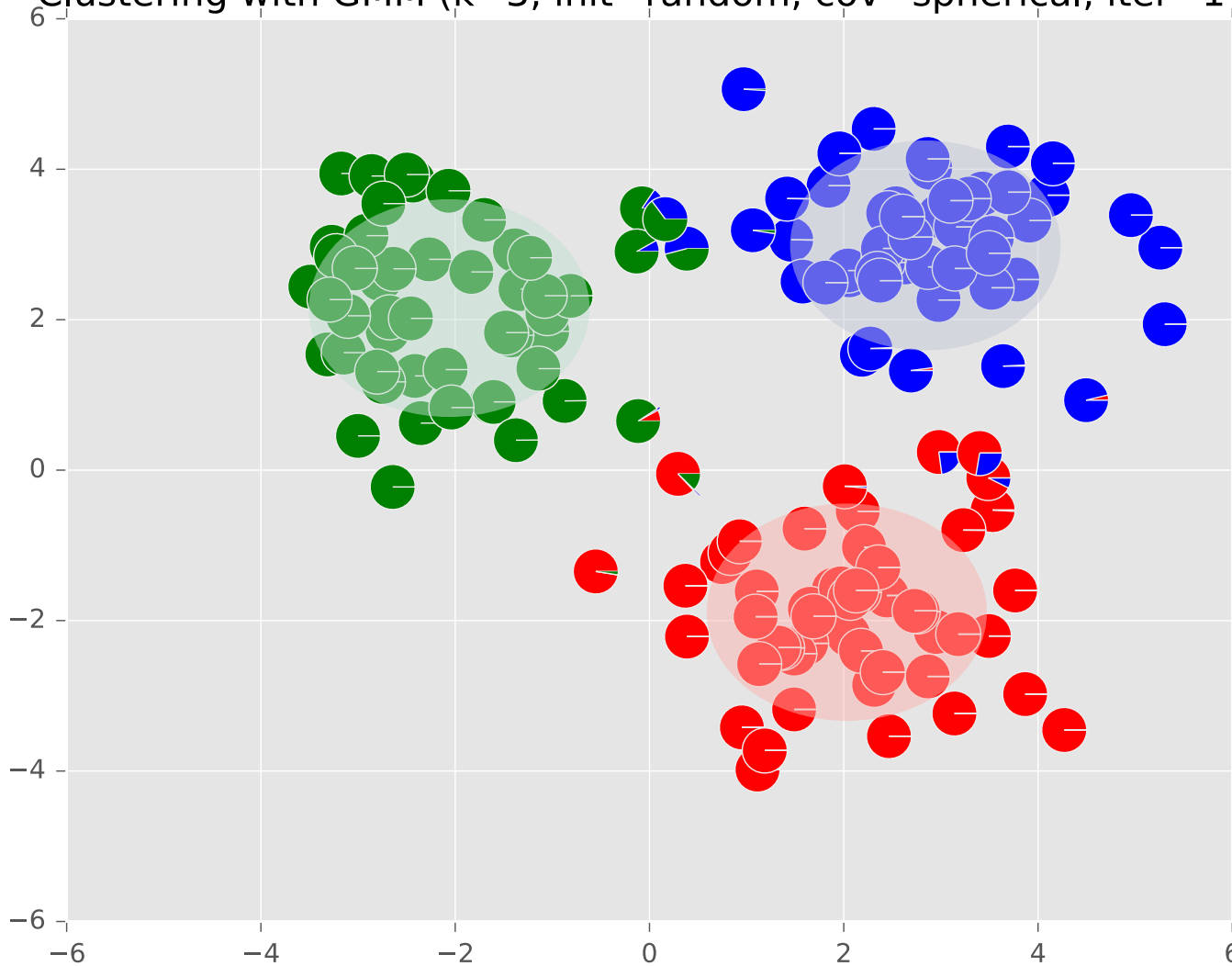
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=16)



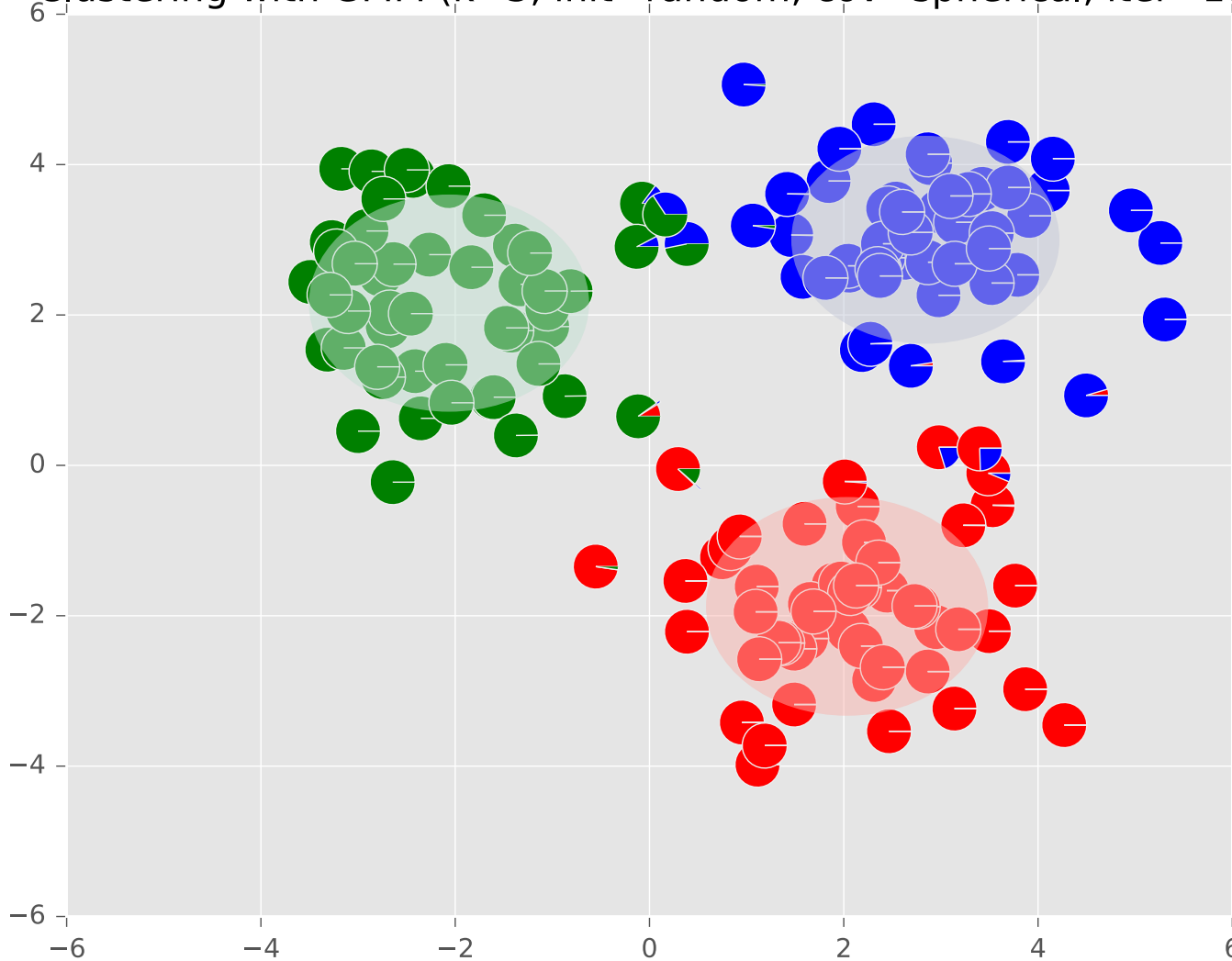
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=17)



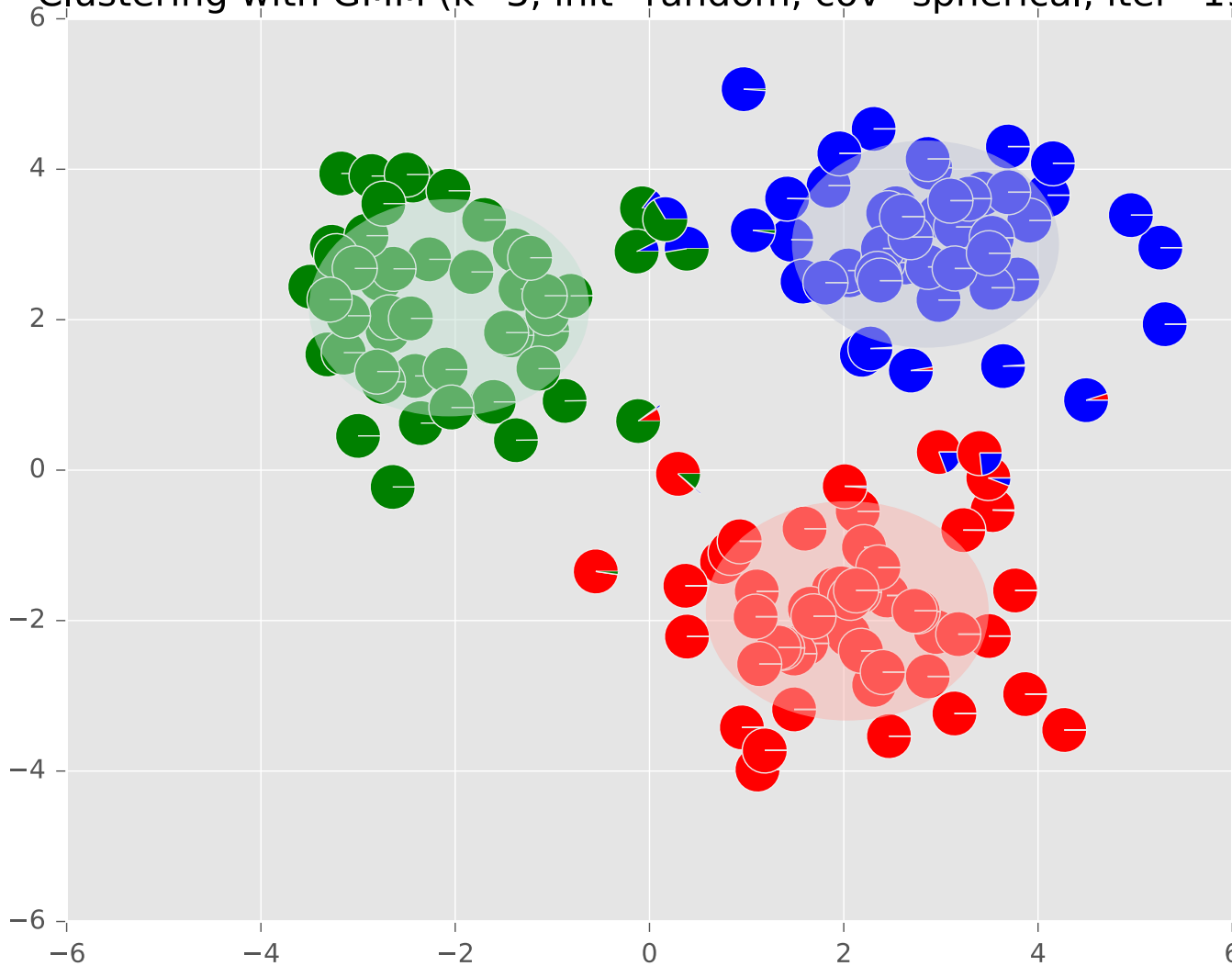
Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=18)



Example: GMM

Clustering with GMM (k=3, init=random, cov=spherical, iter=19)



K-Means vs. GMM

Convergence:

K-Means tends to **converge** much faster than a **GMM**

Speed:

Each iteration of **K-Means** is **computationally less intensive** than each iteration of a **GMM**

Initialization:

To **initialize** a **GMM**, we typically first run **K-Means** and use the resulting cluster centers as the means of the Gaussian components

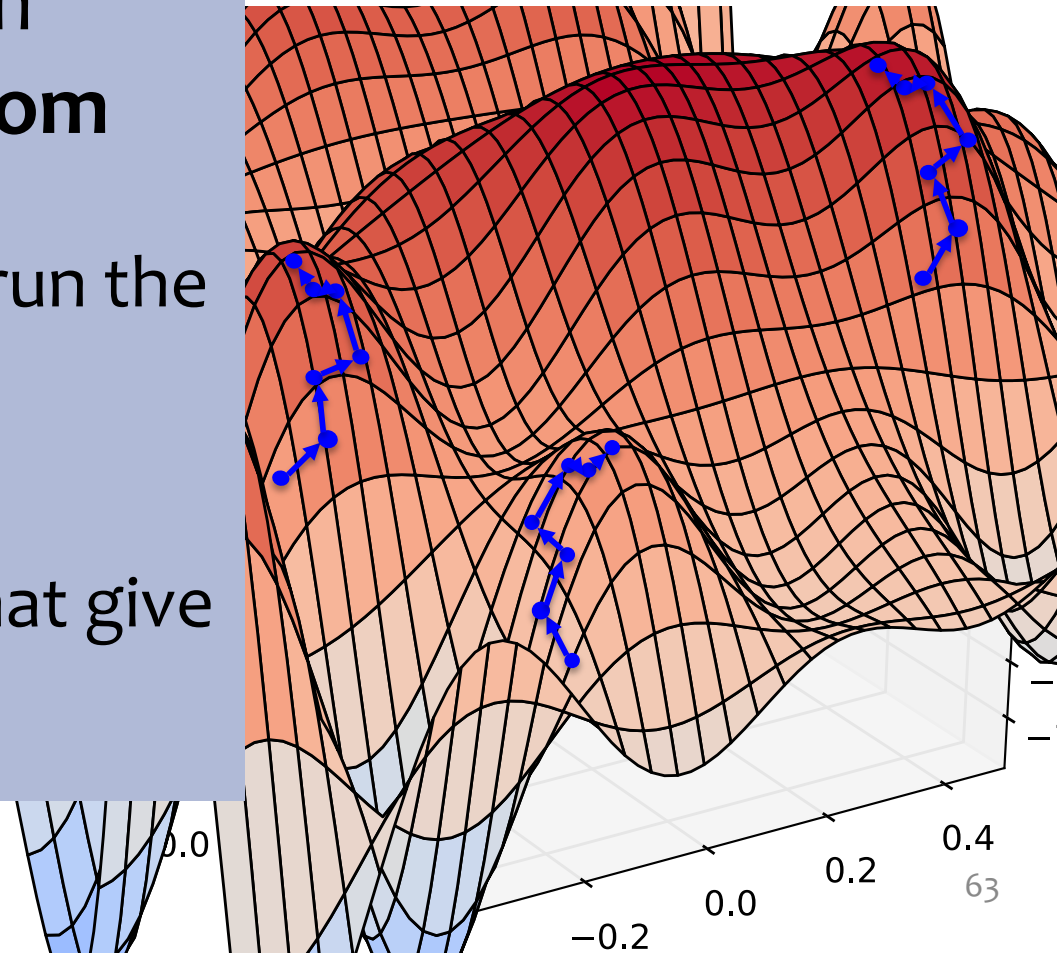
Output:

A **GMM** yields a **probability distribution** over the cluster assignment for each point; whereas **K-Means** gives a single **hard assignment**

PROPERTIES OF EM

Properties of (Variational) EM

- EM is *trying* to optimize a **nonconvex** function
- But EM is a **local** optimization algorithm
- Typical solution: **Random Restarts**
 - Just like K-Means, we run the algorithm many times
 - Each time initialize parameters randomly
 - Pick the parameters that give highest likelihood



Variants of EM

- **Generalized EM:** Replace the M-Step by a single gradient-step that improves the likelihood
- **Monte Carlo EM:** Approximate the E-Step by sampling
- **Sparse EM:** Keep an “active list” of points (updated occasionally) from which we estimate the expected counts in the E-Step
- **Incremental EM / Stepwise EM:** If standard EM is described as a *batch* algorithm, these are the *online* equivalent
- **etc.**

A Report Card for EM

- Some good things about EM:
 - no learning rate (step-size) parameter
 - automatically enforces parameter constraints
 - very fast for low dimensions
 - each iteration guaranteed to improve likelihood
- Some bad things about EM:
 - can get stuck in local minima
 - can be slower than conjugate gradient (especially near convergence)
 - requires expensive inference step
 - is a maximum likelihood/MAP method

VARIATIONAL EM

Variational EM

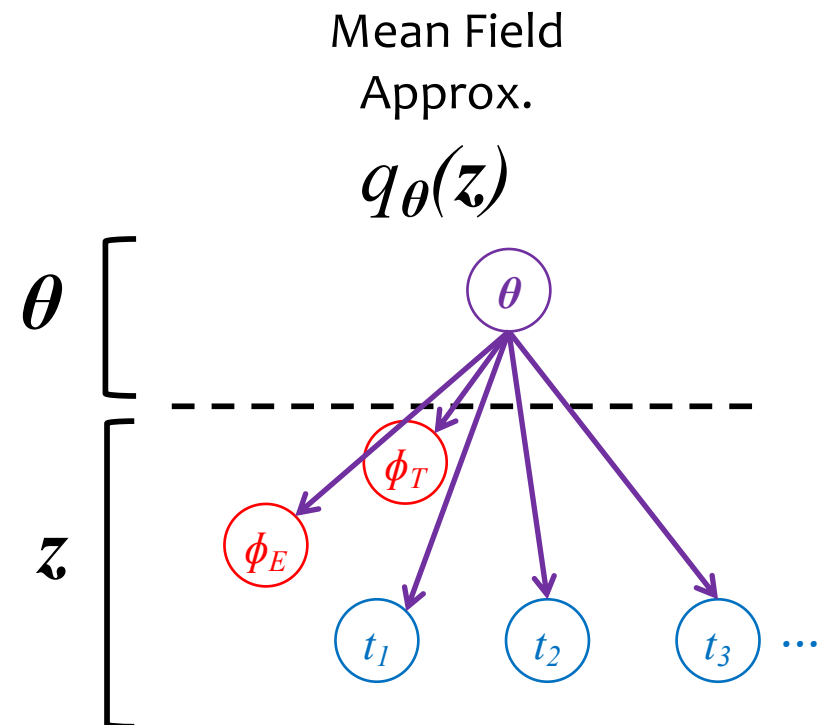
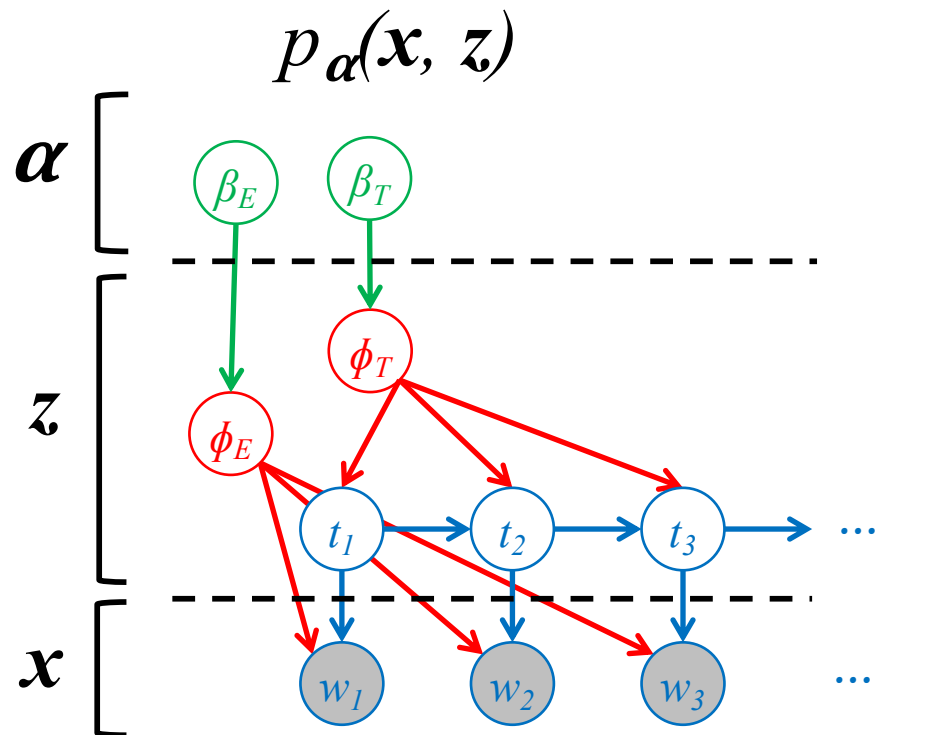
Whiteboard

- Example: Unsupervised POS Tagging
- Variational Bayes
- Variational EM

UNDERSTANDING THE VARIATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Bayesian Unsupervised POS Tagging

- Given: sentences only (concatenated together into one long string)
- Goal: infer the POS tags for unlabeled sentences
- Model: Bayesian HMM



Variational Inference Framework

	β	ϕ_E, ϕ_T	$t_{1:T}$	optimization problem
1)	given	given	max	
2)	given	given	sum	
3)	given	max	sum	
4)	given	sum	sum	
5)	max	max	sum	

Question:

What is the corresponding optimization problem?

- A. Bayesian inference
- B. empirical Bayes
- C. MAP inference
- D. marginal inference
- E. MAP estimation

VARIATIONAL EM RESULTS

Unsupervised POS Tagging

Bayesian Inference for HMMs

- **Task:** unsupervised POS tagging
- **Data:** 1 million words (i.e. unlabeled sentences) of WSJ text
- **Dictionary:** defines legal part-of-speech (POS) tags for each word type
- **Models:**
 - EM: standard HMM
 - VB: uncollapsed variational Bayesian HMM
 - Algo 1 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (strong indep. assumption)
 - Algo 2 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (weaker indep. assumption)
 - CGS: collapsed Gibbs Sampler for Bayesian HMM

Algo 1 mean field update:
$$q(z_t = k) \propto \frac{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{k,w}^{-t}] + \beta}{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{k,\cdot}^{-t}] + W\beta} \cdot \frac{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{z_{t-1},k}^{-t}] + \alpha}{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{z_{t-1},\cdot}^{-t}] + K\alpha} \cdot \frac{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{k,z_{t+1}}^{-t}] + \alpha + \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[\delta(z_{t-1} = k = z_{t+1})]}{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[C_{k,\cdot}^{-t}] + K\alpha + \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}^{-t})}[\delta(z_{t-1} = k)]}$$

CGS full conditional:
$$p(z_t = k | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}^{-t}, \alpha, \beta) \propto \frac{C_{k,w}^{-t} + \beta}{C_{k,\cdot}^{-t} + W\beta} \cdot \frac{C_{z_{t-1},k}^{-t} + \alpha}{C_{z_{t-1},\cdot}^{-t} + K\alpha} \cdot \frac{C_{k,z_{t+1}}^{-t} + \alpha + \delta(z_{t-1} = k = z_{t+1})}{C_{k,\cdot}^{-t} + K\alpha + \delta(z_{t-1} = k)}$$

Unsupervised POS Tagging

Bayesian Inference for HMMs

- **Task:** unsupervised POS tagging
- **Data:** 1 million words (i.e. unlabeled sentences) of WSJ text
- **Dictionary:** defines legal part-of-speech (POS) tags for each word type
- **Models:**
 - EM: standard HMM
 - VB: uncollapsed variational Bayesian HMM
 - Algo 1 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (strong indep. assumption)
 - Algo 2 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (weaker indep. assumption)
 - CGS: collapsed Gibbs Sampler for Bayesian HMM

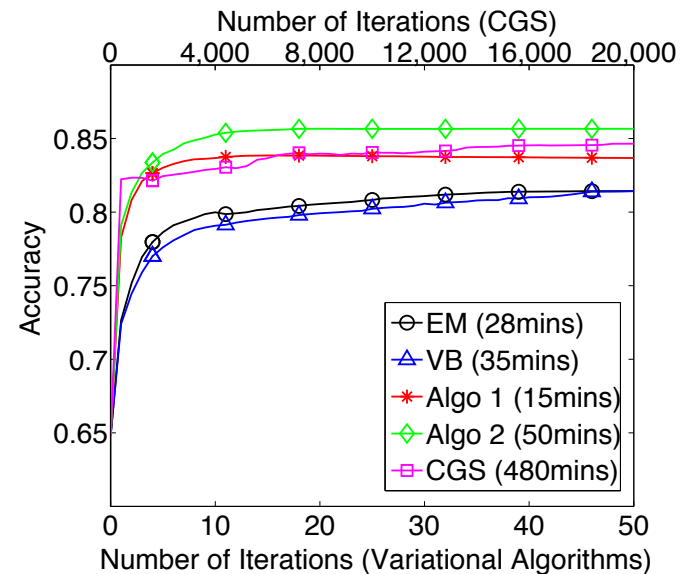
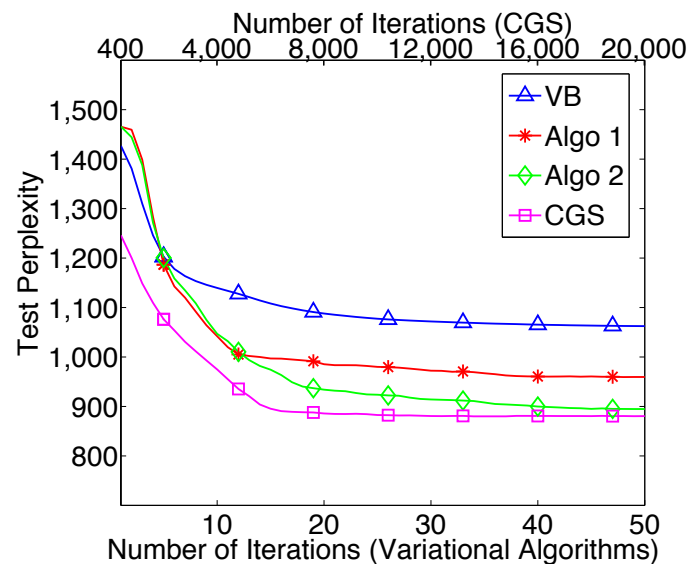


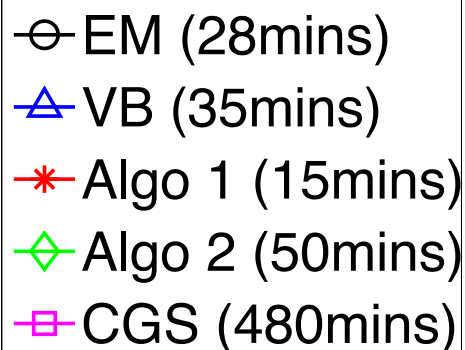
Figure from Wang & Blunsom (2013)

Unsupervised POS Tagging

Bayesian Inference for HMMs

- **Task:** unsupervised POS tagging
- **Data:** 1 million words (i.e. unlabeled sentences) of WSJ text
- **Dictionary:** defines legal part-of-speech (POS) tags for each word type
- **Models:**
 - EM: standard HMM
 - VB: uncollapsed variational Bayesian HMM
 - Algo 1 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (strong indep. assumption)
 - Algo 2 (CVB): collapsed variational Bayesian HMM (weaker indep. assumption)
 - CGS: collapsed Gibbs Sampler for Bayesian HMM

Speed:

- 
- A legend box with a black border containing five entries, each with a colored symbol and text: a black circle with a horizontal line through it for EM (28mins), a blue triangle for VB (35mins), a red asterisk for Algo 1 (15mins), a green diamond for Algo 2 (50mins), and a purple square for CGS (480mins).
- ⊖ EM (28mins)
 - △ VB (35mins)
 - * Algo 1 (15mins)
 - ◇ Algo 2 (50mins)
 - ▣ CGS (480mins)

- EM is slow b/c of log-space computations
- VB is slow b/c of digamma computations
- Algo 1 (CVB) is the fastest!
- Algo 2 (CVB) is slow b/c it computes dynamic parameters
- CGS: an order of magnitude slower than any deterministic algorithm

Stochastic Variational Bayesian HMM

- **Task:** Human Chromatin Segmentation
- **Goal:** unsupervised segmentation of the genome
- **Data:** from ENCODE, “250 million observations consisting of twelve assays carried out in the chronic myeloid leukemia cell line K562”
- **Metric:** “the false discovery rate (FDR) of predicting active promoter elements in the sequence”
- **Models:**
 - DBN HMM: dynamic Bayesian HMM trained with standard EM
 - SVIHMM: stochastic variational inference for a Bayesian HMM
- **Main Takeaway:**
 - the two models perform at similar levels of FDR
 - SVIHMM takes **one hour**
 - DBNHMM takes **days**

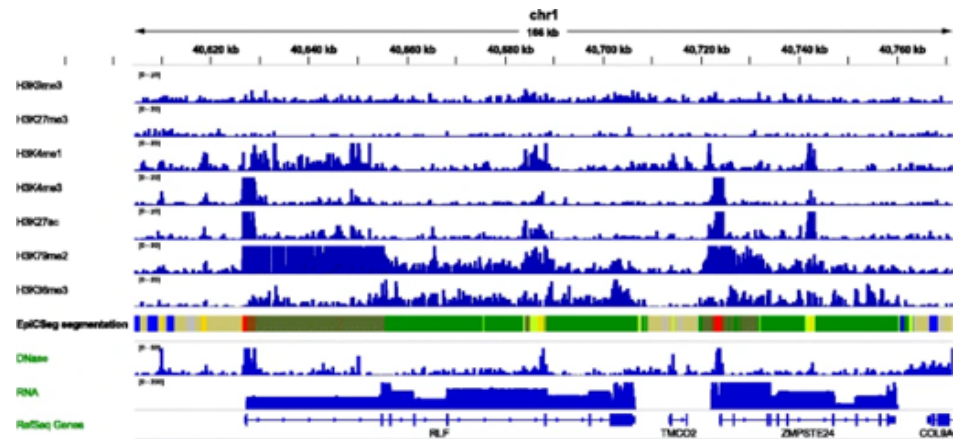


Figure from Foti et al. (2014)

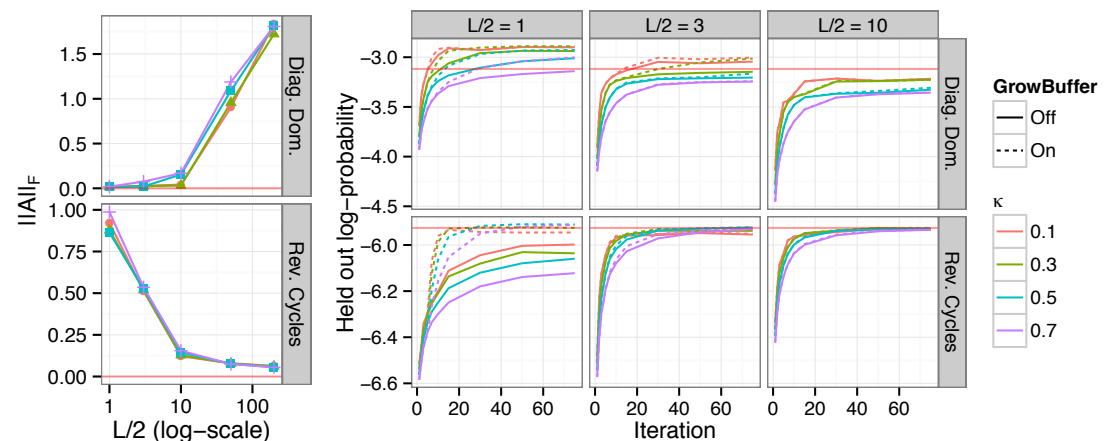


Figure from Mammana & Chung (2015)

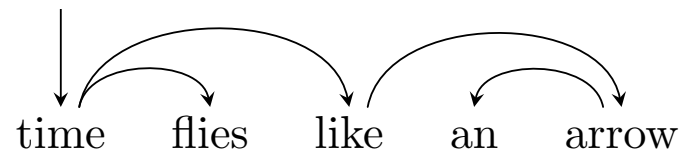
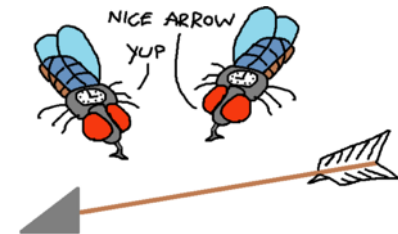
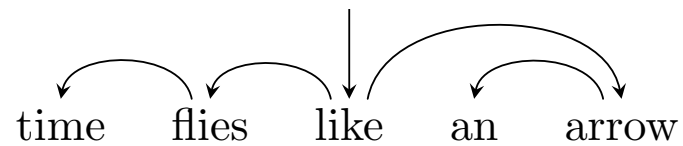
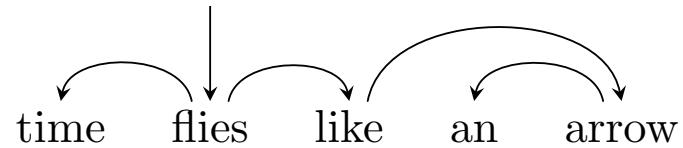
Grammar Induction

Question: Can maximizing (unsupervised) marginal likelihood produce useful results?

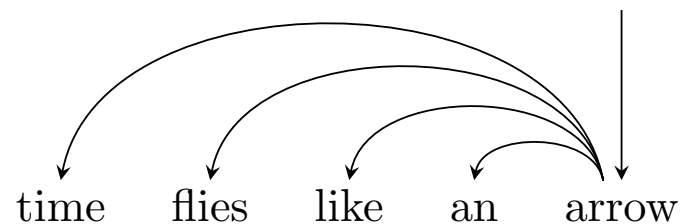
Answer: Let's look at an example...

- **Babies** learn the syntax of their **native language** (e.g. English) just by **hearing** many sentences
- Can a **computer** similarly learn syntax of a **human language** just by looking at lots of example sentences?
 - This is the problem of Grammar Induction!
 - It's an unsupervised learning problem
 - We try to recover the **syntactic structure** for each sentence without any supervision

Grammar Induction



...



No semantic interpretation

Grammar Induction

Training Data: Sentences only, without parses

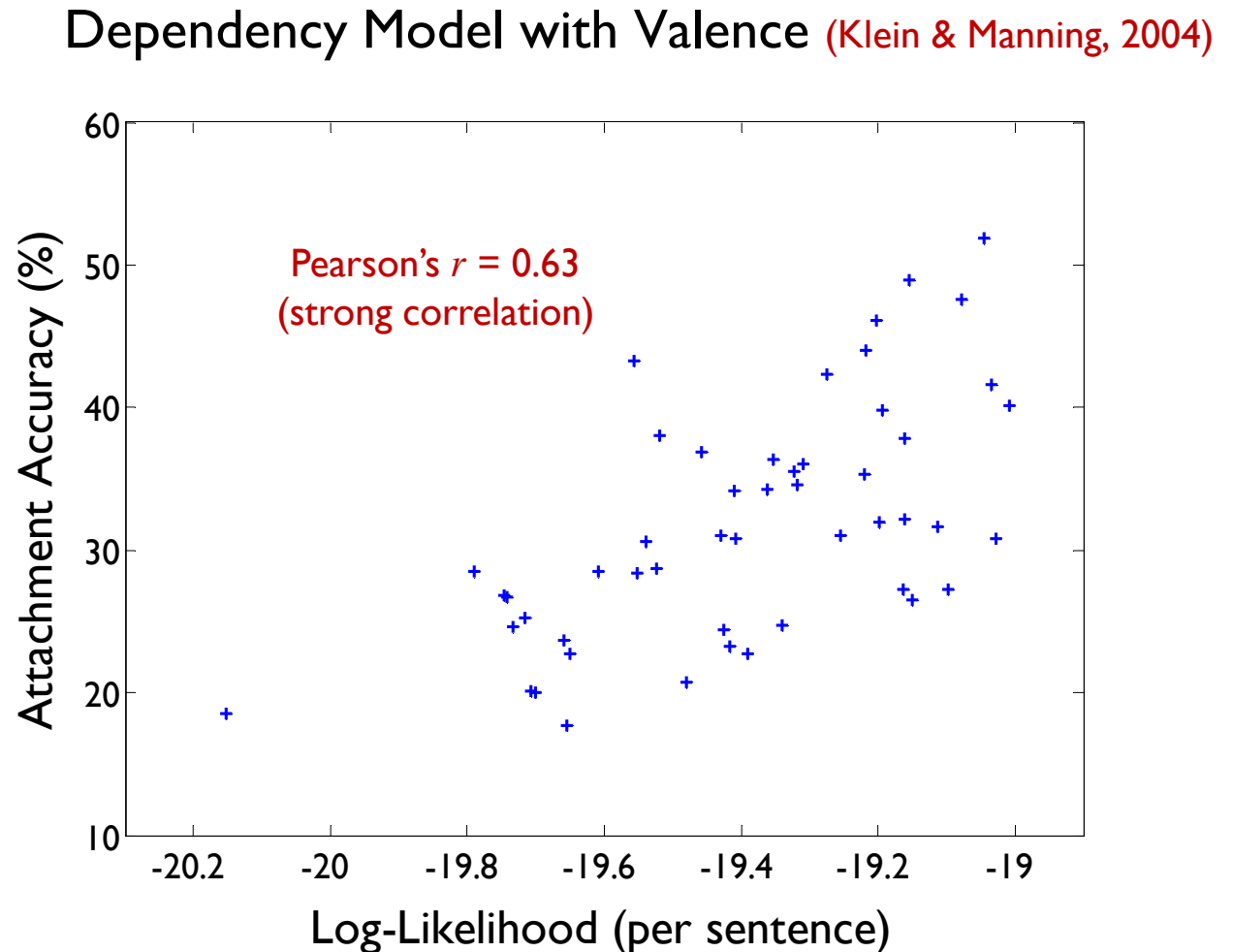
Sample 1:	time	flies	like	an	arrow	} $x^{(1)}$
Sample 2:	real	flies	like	soup		} $x^{(2)}$
Sample 3:	flies	fly	with	their	wings	} $x^{(3)}$
Sample 4:	with	time	you	will	see	} $x^{(4)}$

Test Data: Sentences **with** parses, so we can evaluate accuracy

Grammar Induction

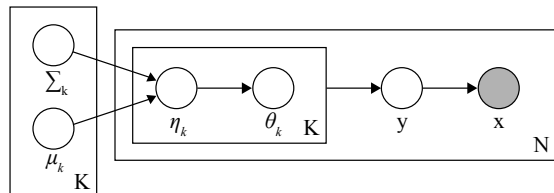
Q: Does likelihood correlate with accuracy on a task we care about?

A: Yes, but there is still a wide range of accuracies for a particular likelihood value



Grammar Induction

Graphical Model for Logistic Normal Probabilistic Grammar



y = syntactic parse

x = observed sentence

Settings:

EM Maximum likelihood estimate of θ using the EM algorithm to optimize $p(\mathbf{x} | \theta)$ [14].

EM-MAP Maximum *a posteriori* estimate of θ using the EM algorithm and a fixed symmetric Dirichlet prior with $\alpha > 1$ to optimize $p(\mathbf{x}, \theta | \alpha)$. Tune α to maximize the likelihood of an unannotated development dataset, using grid search over $[1.1, 30]$.

VB-Dirichlet Use variational Bayes inference to estimate the posterior distribution $p(\theta | \mathbf{x}, \alpha)$, which is a Dirichlet. Tune the symmetric Dirichlet prior's parameter α to maximize the likelihood of an unannotated development dataset, using grid search over $[0.0001, 30]$. Use the mean of the posterior Dirichlet as a point estimate for θ .

VB-EM-Dirichlet Use variational Bayes EM to optimize $p(\mathbf{x} | \alpha)$ with respect to α . Use the mean of the learned Dirichlet as a point estimate for θ (similar to [5]).

VB-EM-Log-Normal Use variational Bayes EM to optimize $p(\mathbf{x} | \mu, \Sigma)$ with respect to μ and Σ . Use the (exponentiated) mean of this Gaussian as a point estimate for θ .

Results:

	attachment accuracy (%)					
	Viterbi decoding			MBR decoding		
	$ \mathbf{x} \leq 10$	$ \mathbf{x} \leq 20$	all	$ \mathbf{x} \leq 10$	$ \mathbf{x} \leq 20$	all
Attach-Right	38.4	33.4	31.7	38.4	33.4	31.7
EM	45.8	39.1	34.2	46.1	39.9	35.9
EM-MAP, $\alpha = 1.1$	45.9	39.5	34.9	46.2	40.6	36.7
VB-Dirichlet, $\alpha = 0.25$	46.9	40.0	35.7	47.1	41.1	37.6
VB-EM-Dirichlet	45.9	39.4	34.9	46.1	40.6	36.9
VB-EM-Log-Normal, $\Sigma_k^{(0)} = \mathbf{I}$	56.6	43.3	37.4	59.1	45.9	39.9
VB-EM-Log-Normal, families	59.3	45.1	39.0	59.4	45.9	40.5

Table 1: Attachment accuracy of different learning methods on unseen test data from the Penn Treebank of varying levels of difficulty imposed through a length filter. Attach-Right attaches each word to the word on its right and the last word to \$. EM and EM-MAP with a Dirichlet prior ($\alpha > 1$) are reproductions of earlier results [14, 18].