

# **Data Mining Cluster Analysis: Basic Concepts and Algorithms**

---

Lecture Notes for Chapter 7

Introduction to Data Mining, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

by

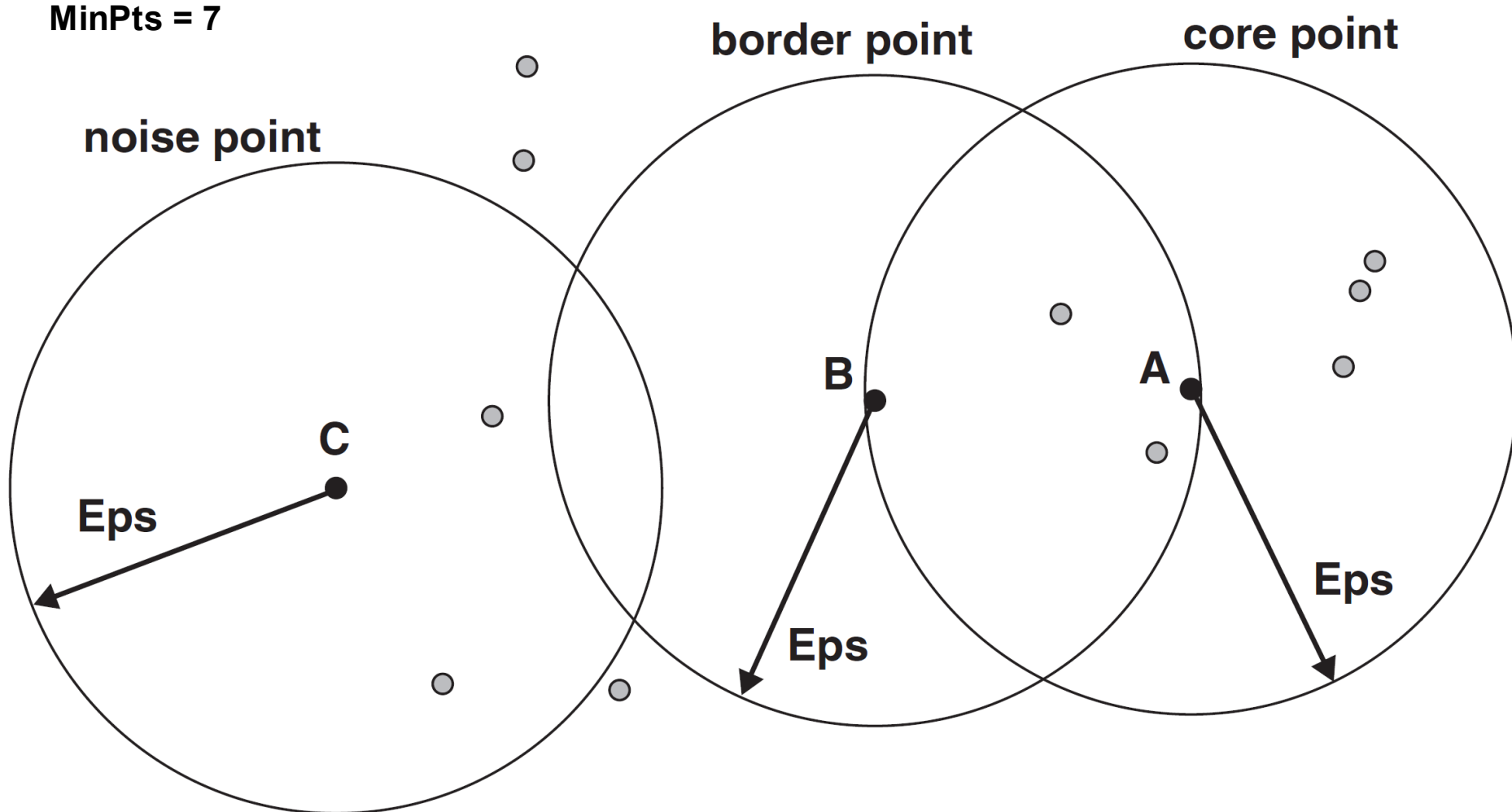
Tan, Steinbach, Karpatne, Kumar

# DBSCAN

---

- DBSCAN is a density-based algorithm.
  - Density = number of points within a specified radius (Eps)
  - A point is a **core point** if it has at least a specified number of points (MinPts) within Eps
    - ◆ These are points that are at the interior of a cluster
    - ◆ Counts the point itself
  - A **border point** is not a core point, but is in the neighborhood of a core point
  - A **noise point** is any point that is not a core point or a border point

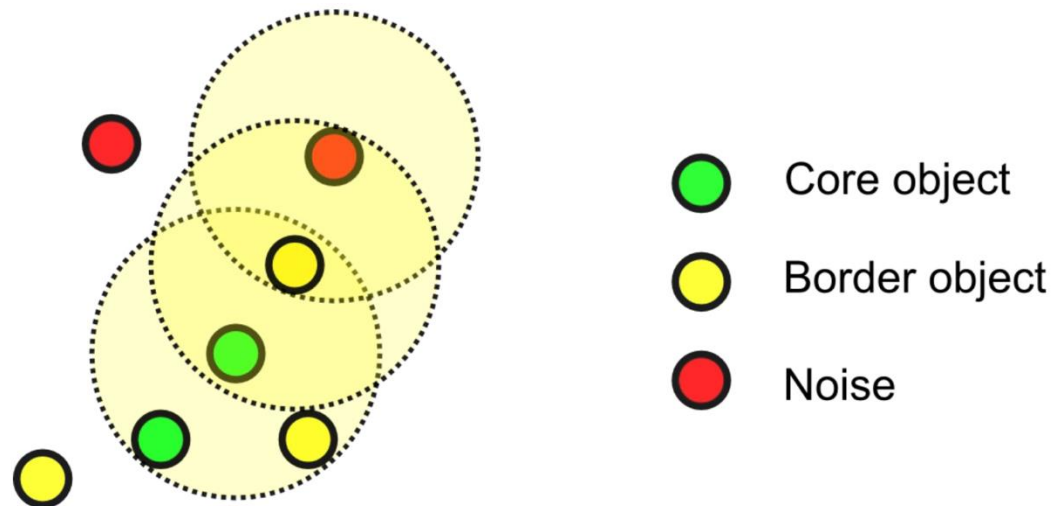
# DBSCAN: Core, Border, and Noise Points



# DBSCAN: Step 1

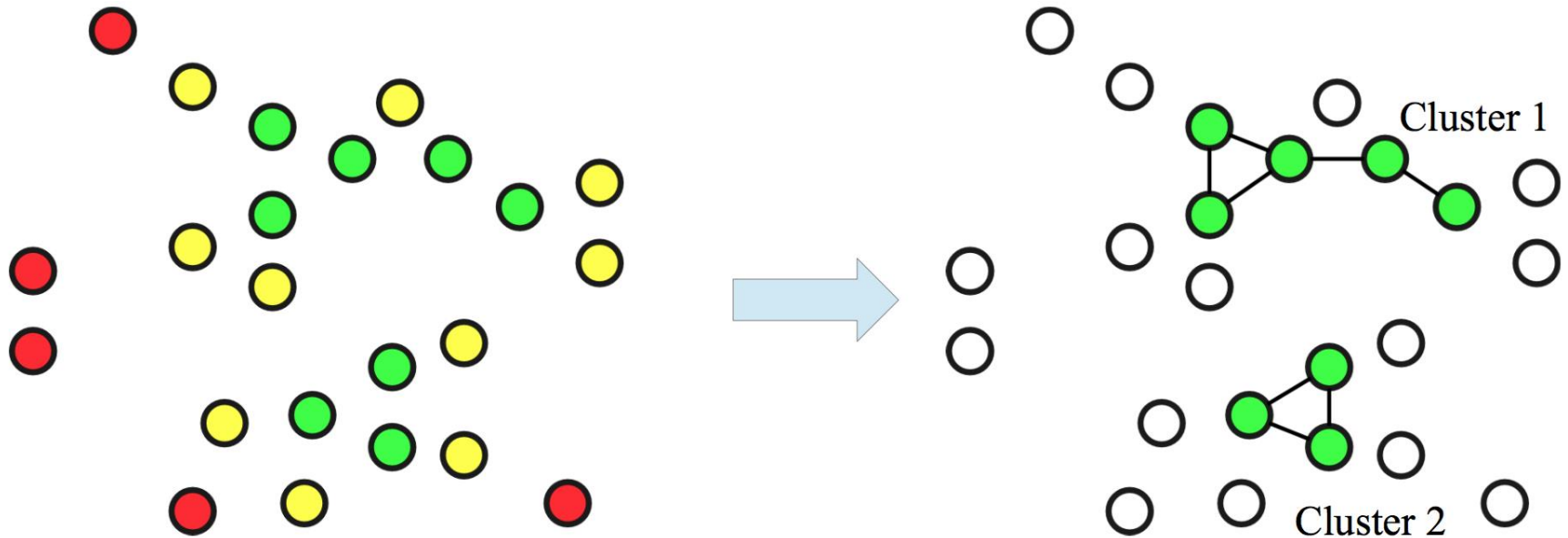
---

- Label points as **core** (dense), **border** and **noise**
  - Based on thresholds  $R$  (radius of neighborhood) and  $\text{min\_pts}$  (min number of neighbors)



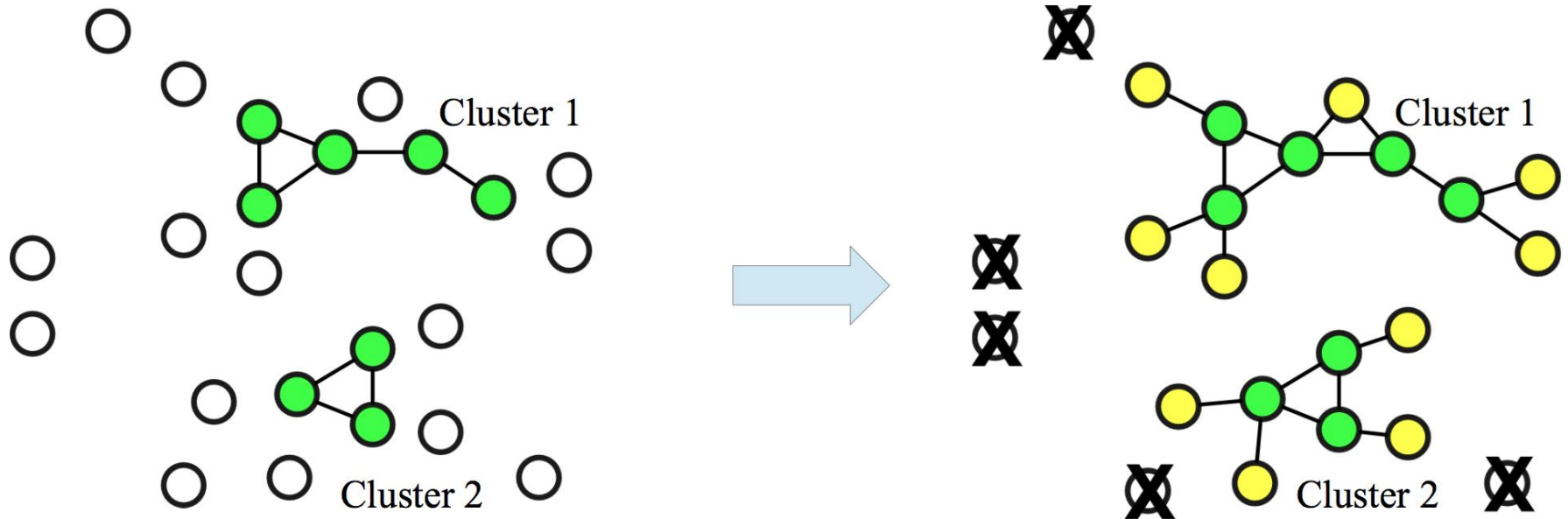
# DBSCAN: Step 2

- Connect core objects that are neighbors, and put them in the same cluster



# DBSCAN: Step 3

- Associate border objects to (one of) their core(s), and remove noise



# DBSCAN Algorithm

---

- Eliminate noise points
- Perform clustering on the remaining points

$current\_cluster\_label \leftarrow 0$

**for** all core points **do**

**if** the core point has no cluster label **then**

$current\_cluster\_label \leftarrow current\_cluster\_label + 1$

        Label the current core point with cluster label  $current\_cluster\_label$

**end if**

**for** all points in the  $Eps$ -neighborhood, except  $i^{th}$  the point itself **do**

**if** the point does not have a cluster label **then**

            Label the point with cluster label  $current\_cluster\_label$

**end if**

**end for**

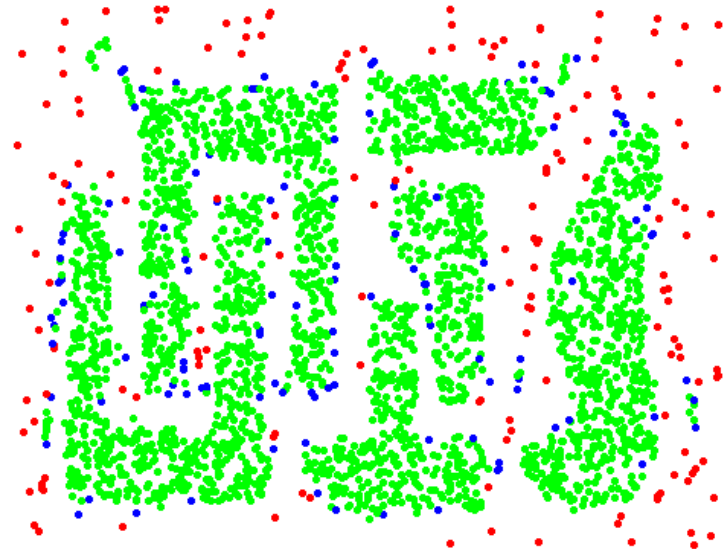
**end for**

# DBSCAN: Core, Border and Noise Points

---



Original Points



Point types: **core**,  
**border** and **noise**

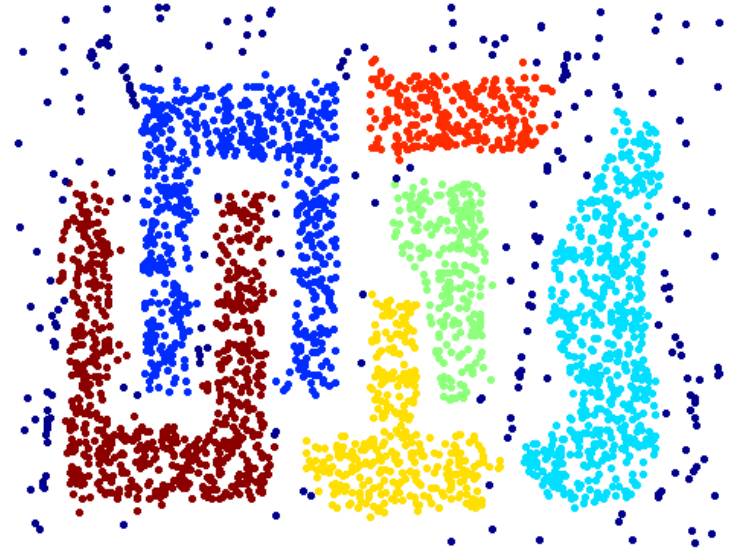
Eps = 10, MinPts = 4

# When DBSCAN Works Well

---



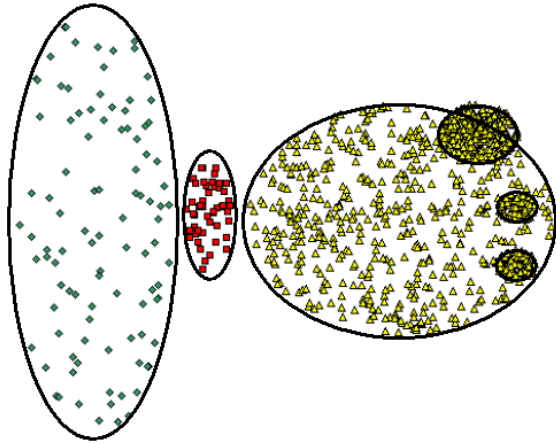
Original Points



Clusters

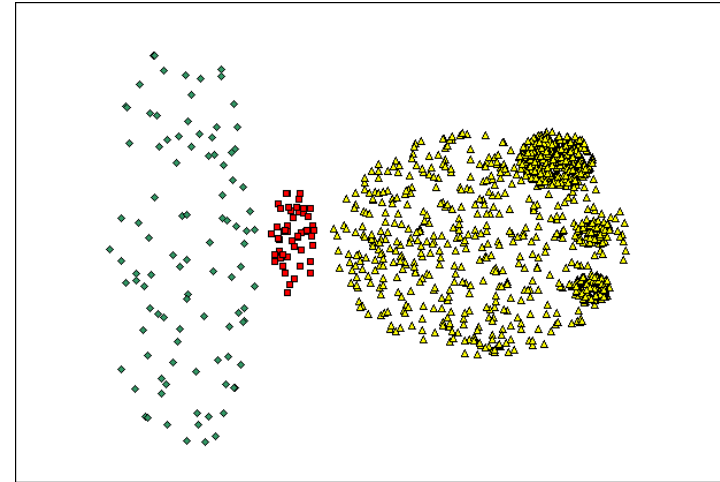
- Resistant to Noise
- Can handle clusters of different shapes and sizes

# When DBSCAN Does NOT Work Well

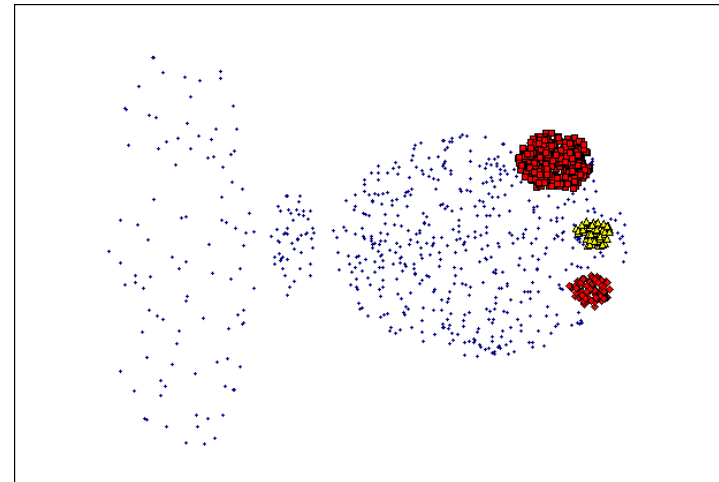


**Original Points**

- Varying densities
- High-dimensional data where density it is harder to define



(MinPts=4, Eps=9.92).



(MinPts=4, Eps=9.75)

# DBSCAN: Determining EPS and MinPts

- Idea is that for points in a cluster, their  $k^{\text{th}}$  nearest neighbors are at roughly the same distance
- **Noise points have the  $k^{\text{th}}$  nearest neighbor at farther distance**
- So, plot sorted distance of every point to its  $k^{\text{th}}$  nearest neighbor

