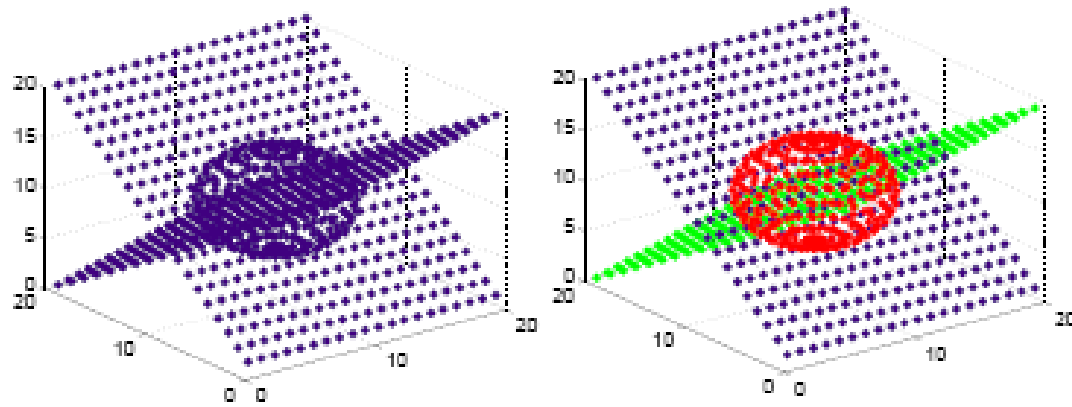


# Mean Shift: theory and applications



# Summary

- **Fundamentals**

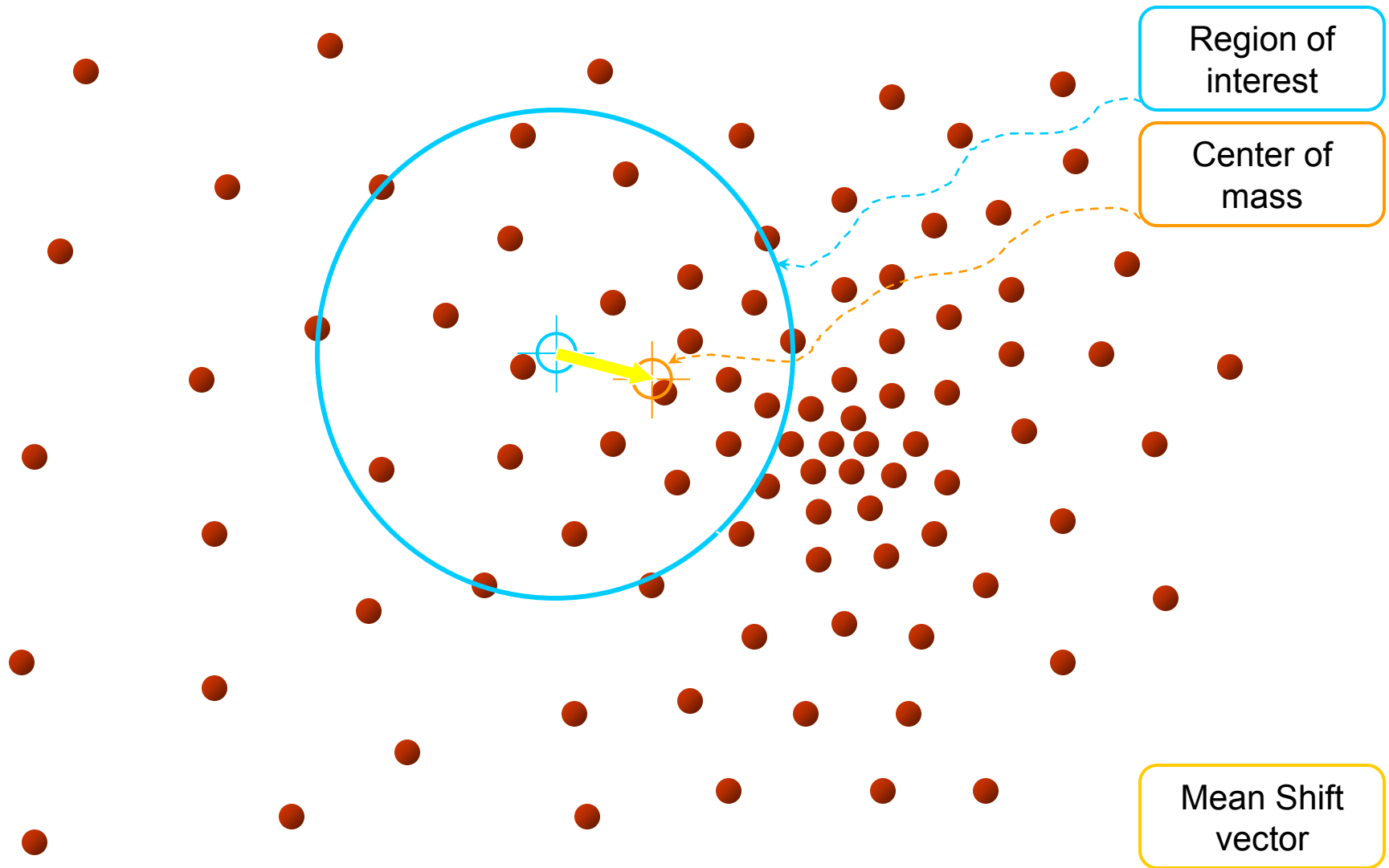
- Basic Idea
- Preliminaries: Parzen Windows
- Mean Shift
  - Introduction
  - Properties

- **Applications**

- Clustering
- Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing
- 2D Segmentation
- N-D Segmentation
  - Geometrical data, Biomedical data

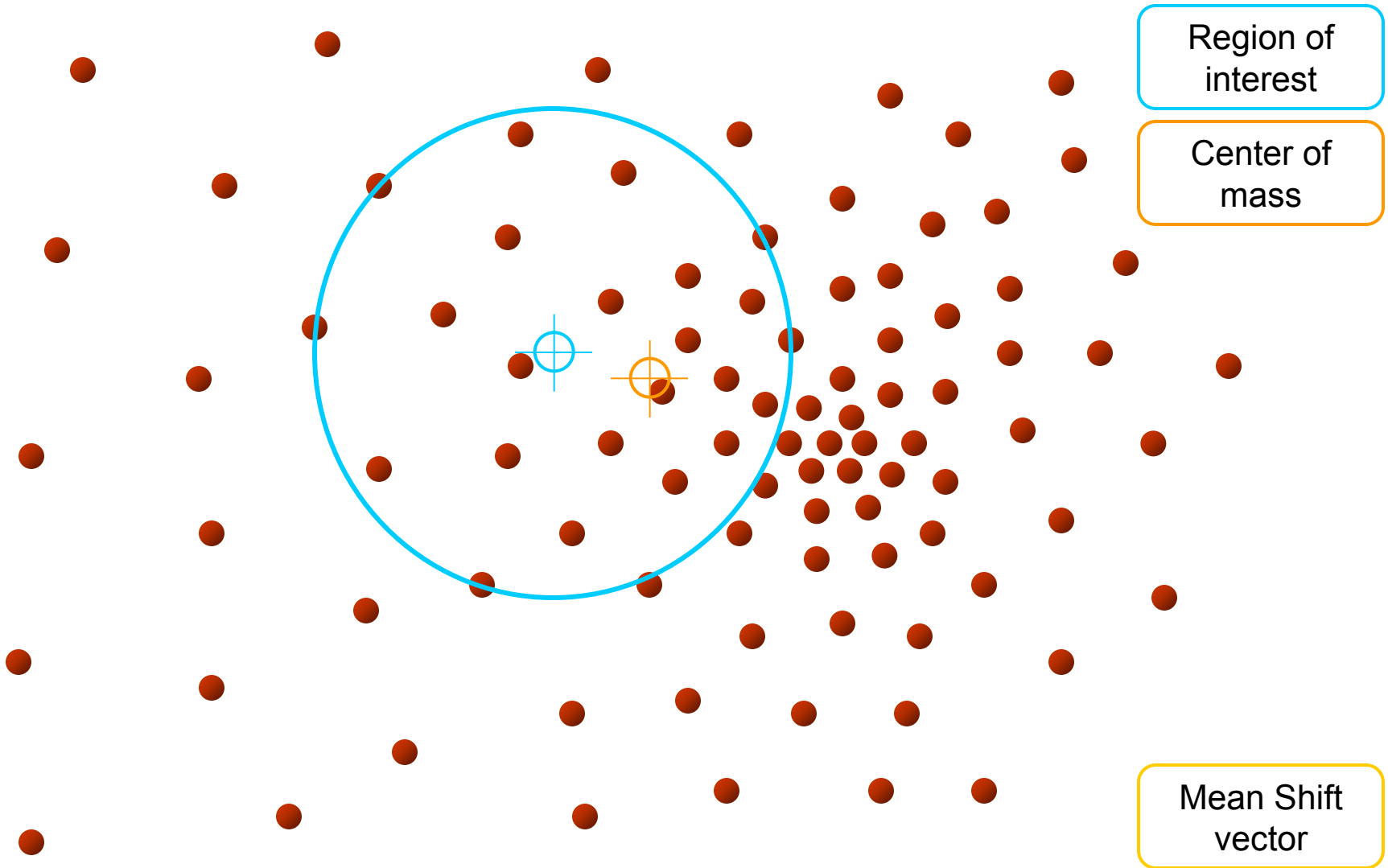
# Fundamentals

# Intuitive Description



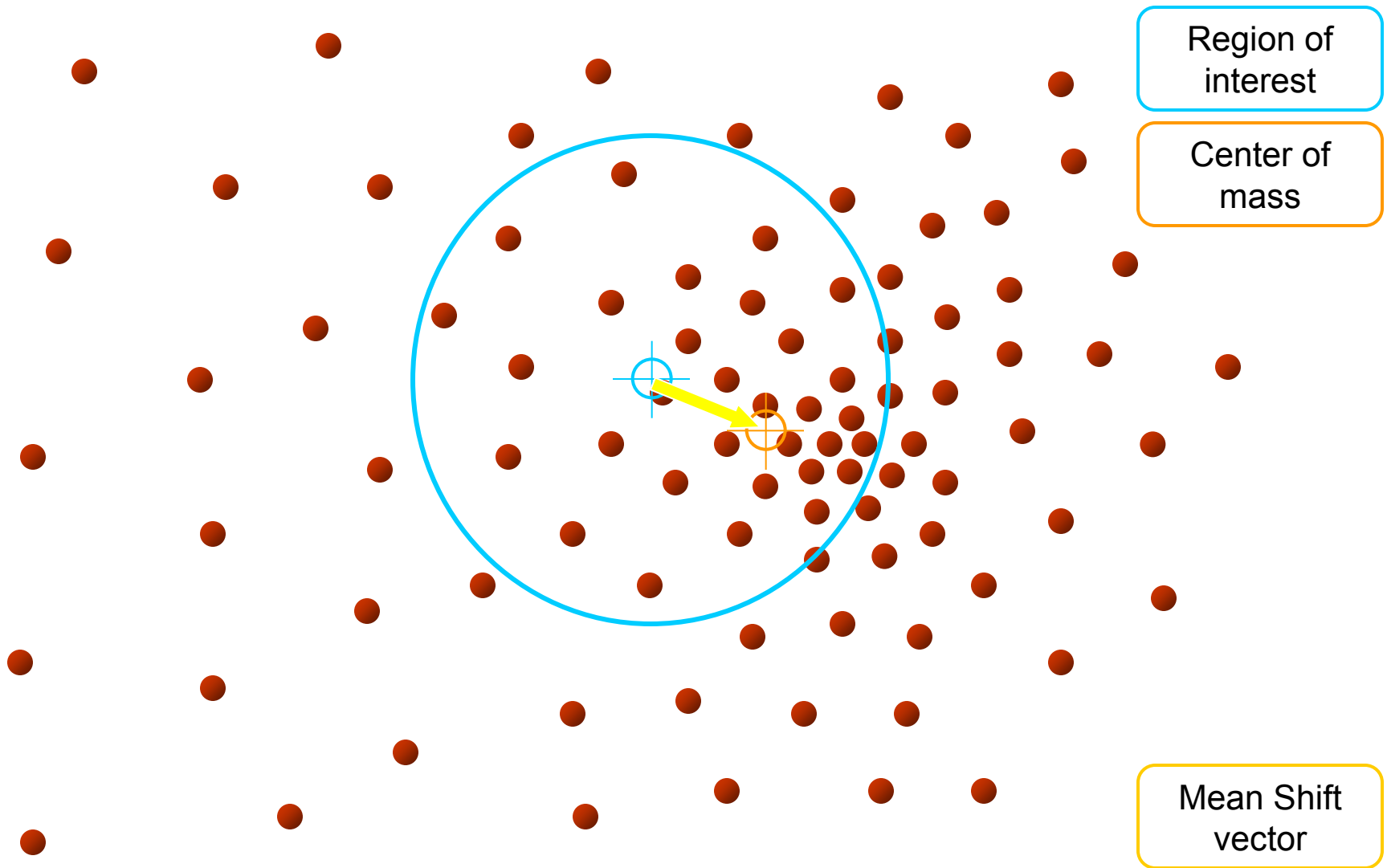
**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

# Intuitive Description



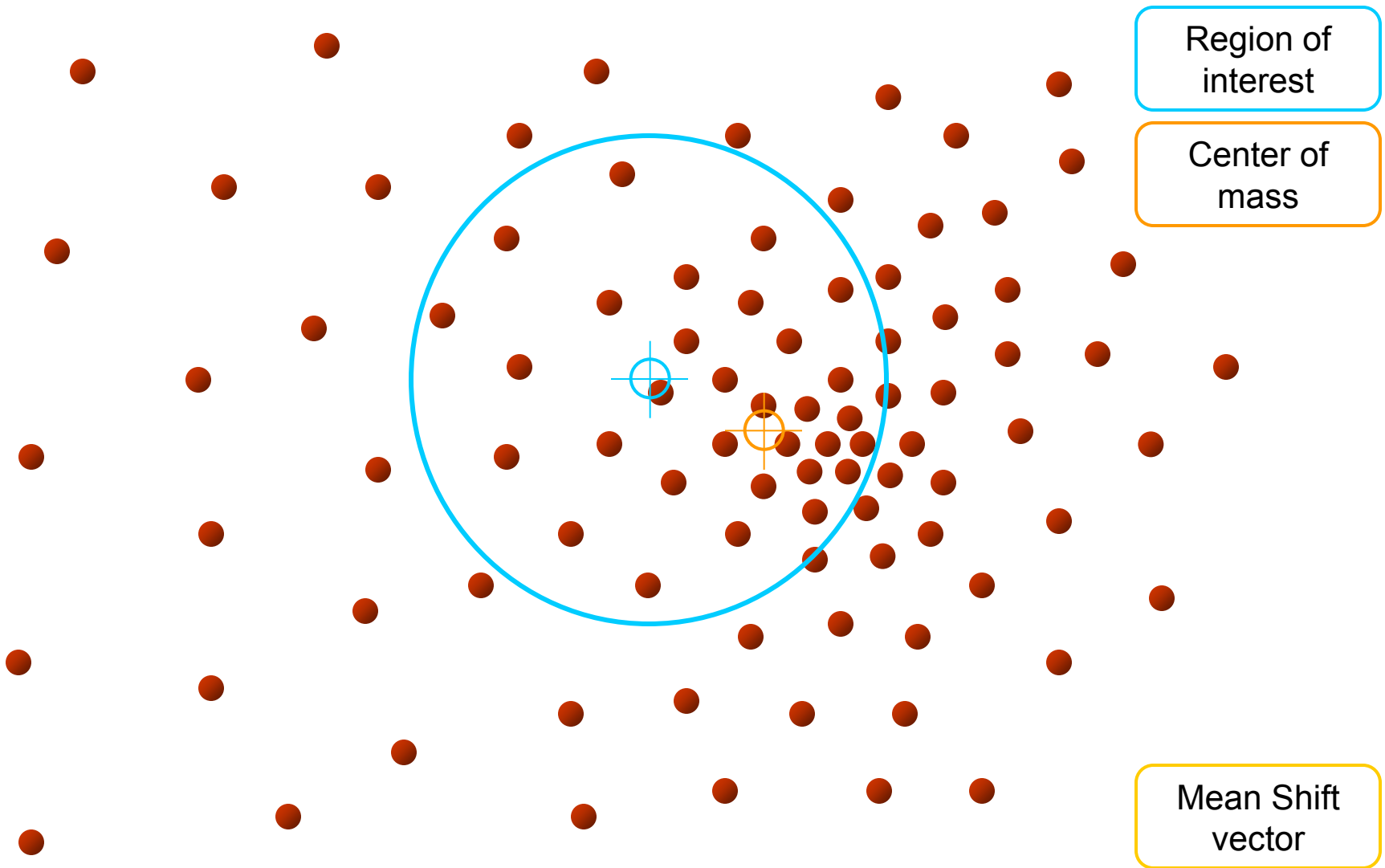
**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

# Intuitive Description



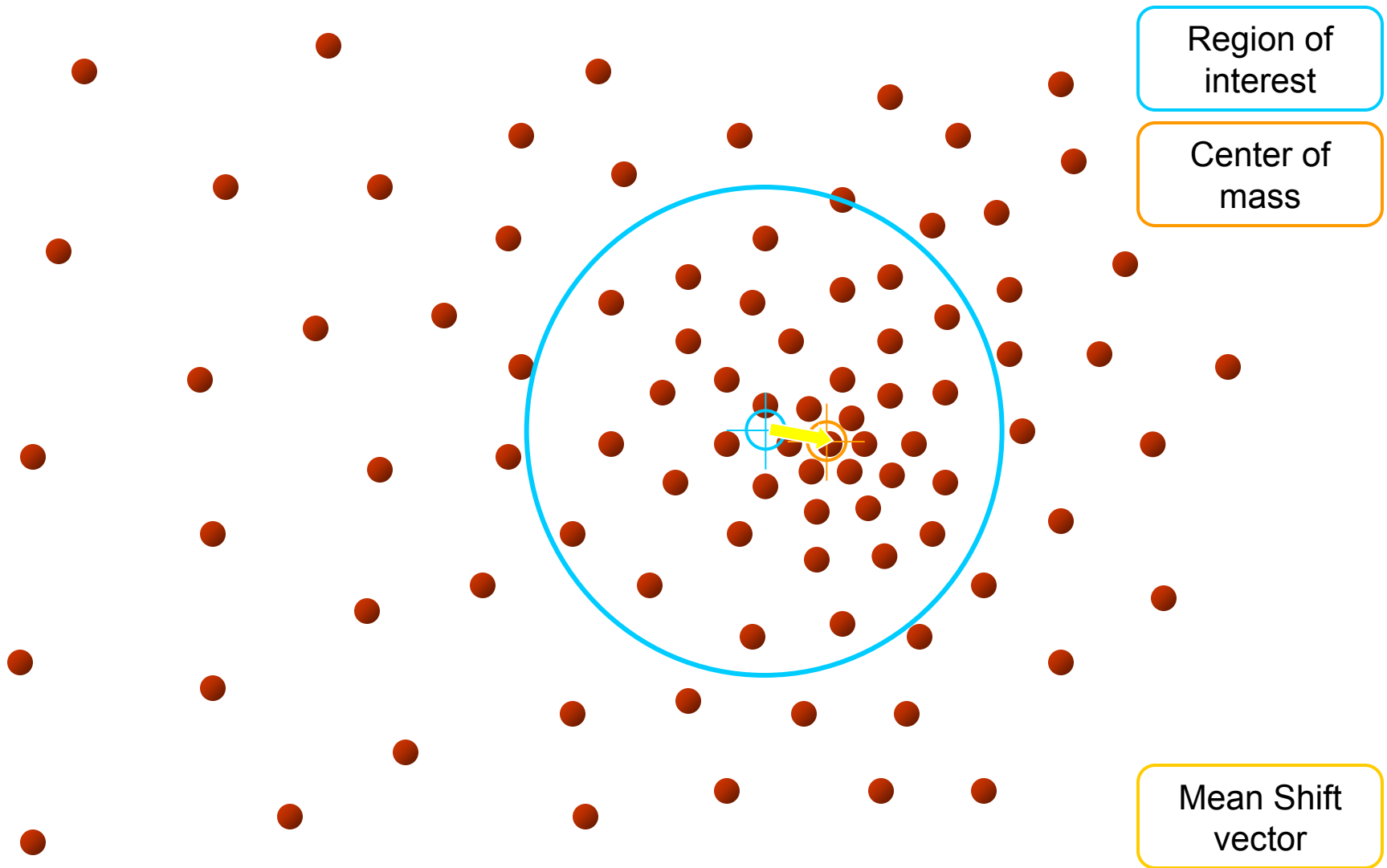
**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

# Intuitive Description



**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

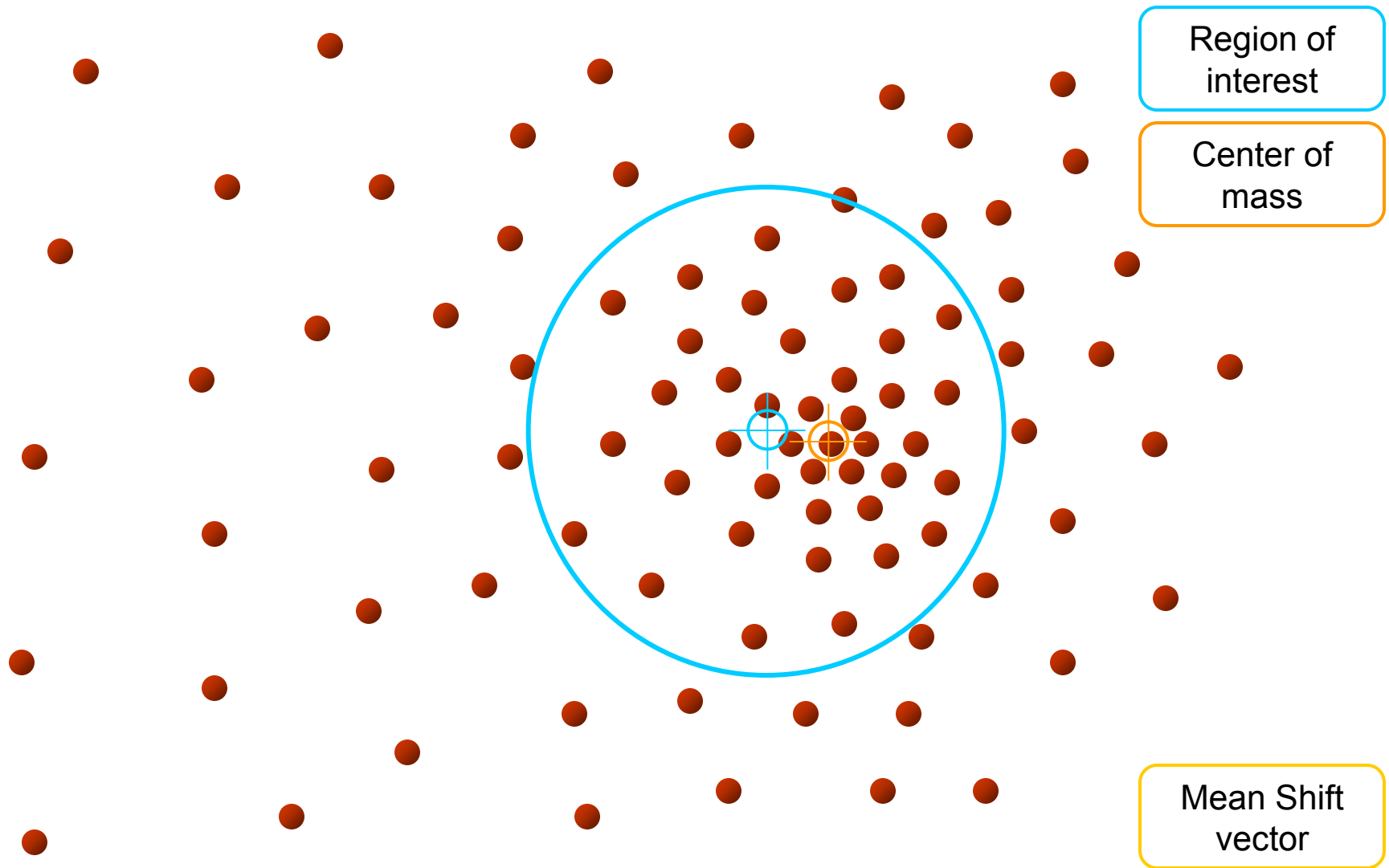
# Intuitive Description



**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

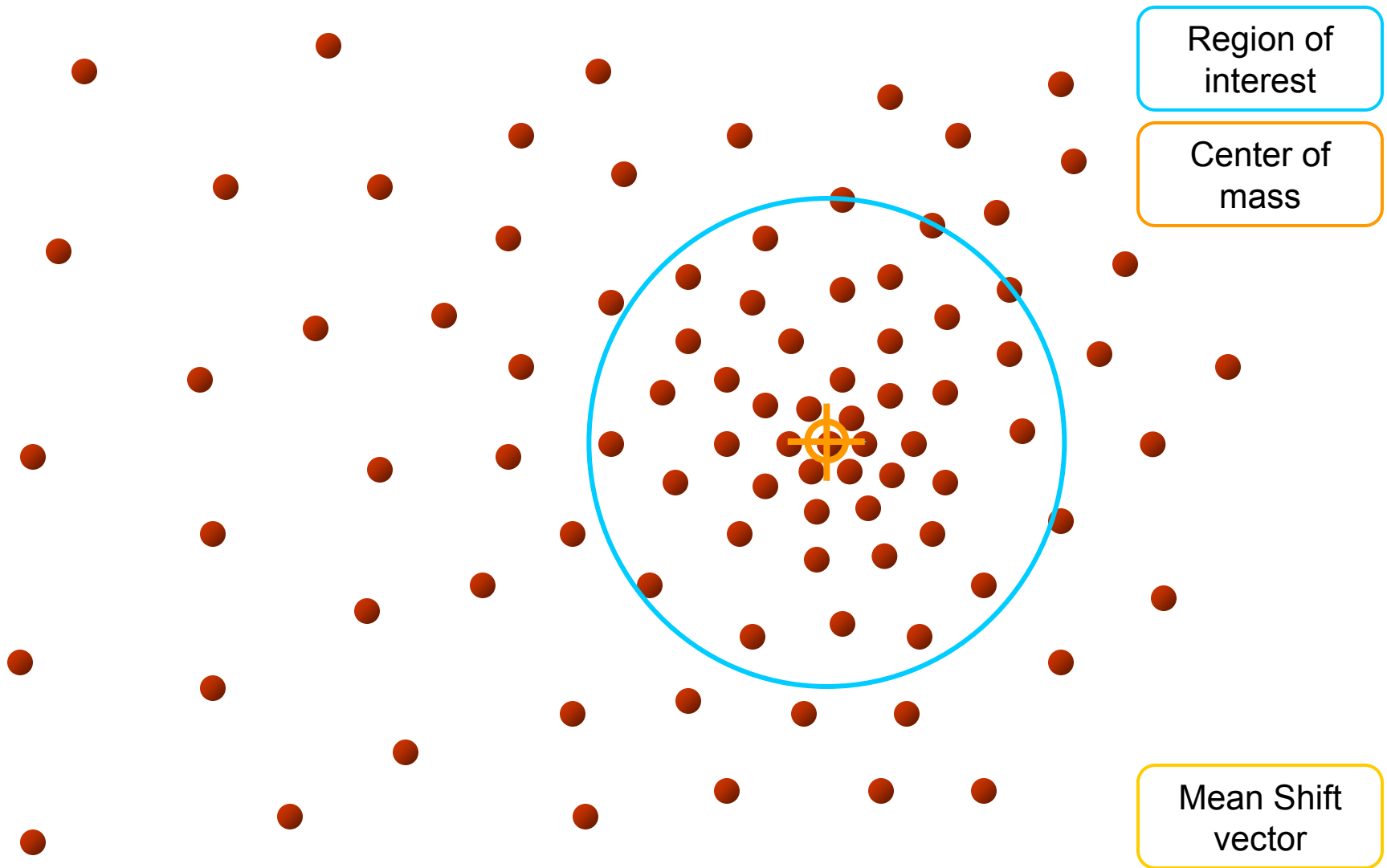


# Intuitive Description



**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

# Intuitive Description



**Objective : Given a set of points, find the densest region**

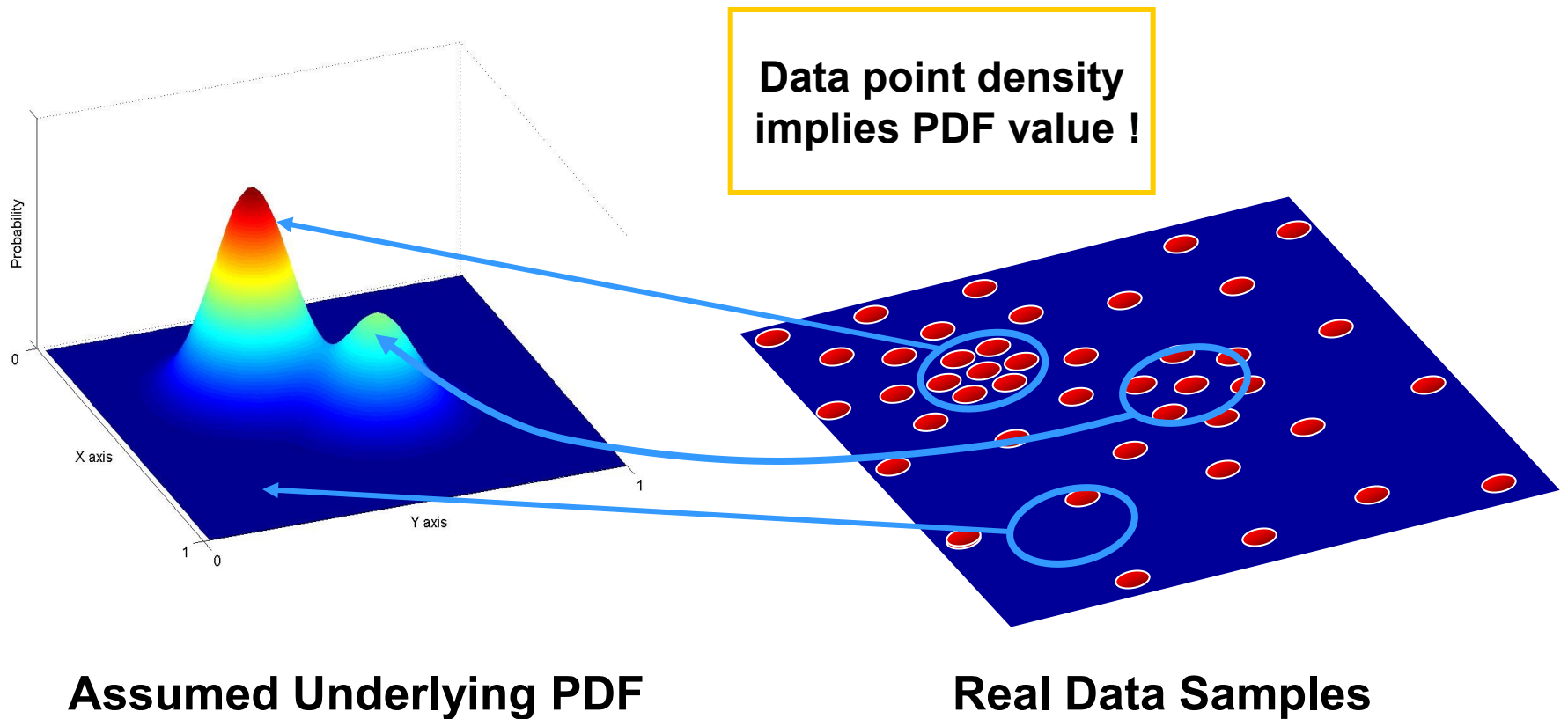
# What is Mean Shift ?

- A technique for *finding* modes in a set of data samples, manifesting an underlying probability density function (PDF) in  $\mathbb{R}^N$
- The samples (and the related PDF) can represent and characterize different objects features:
  - Position
  - Color
  - ...

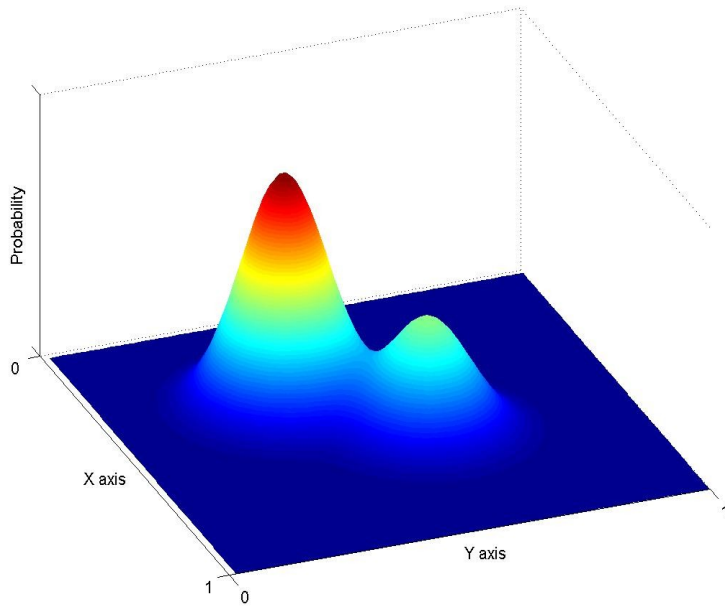
# Preliminaries: Parzen Windows

# Non-Parametric Density Estimation

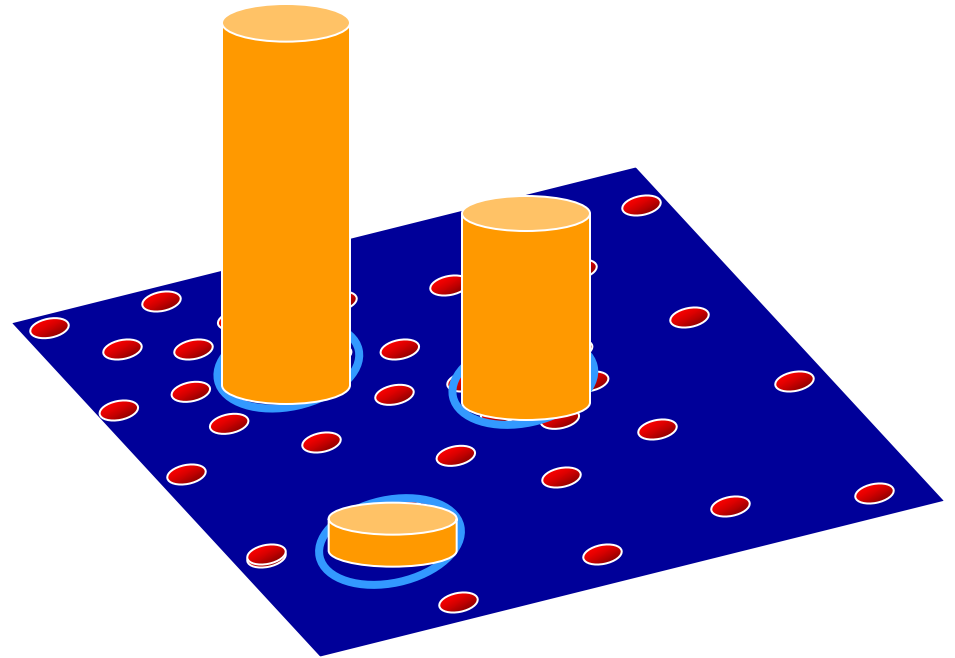
Assumption : The data points are sampled from an underlying PDF



# Non-Parametric Density Estimation

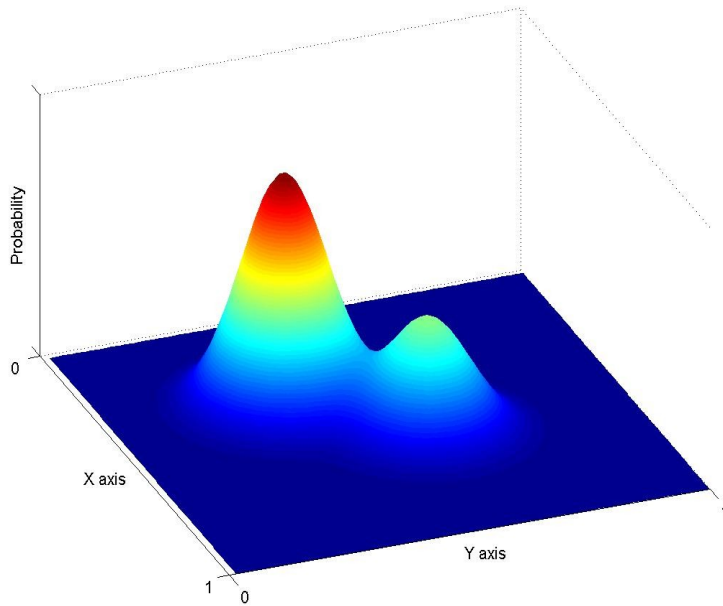


**Assumed Underlying PDF**

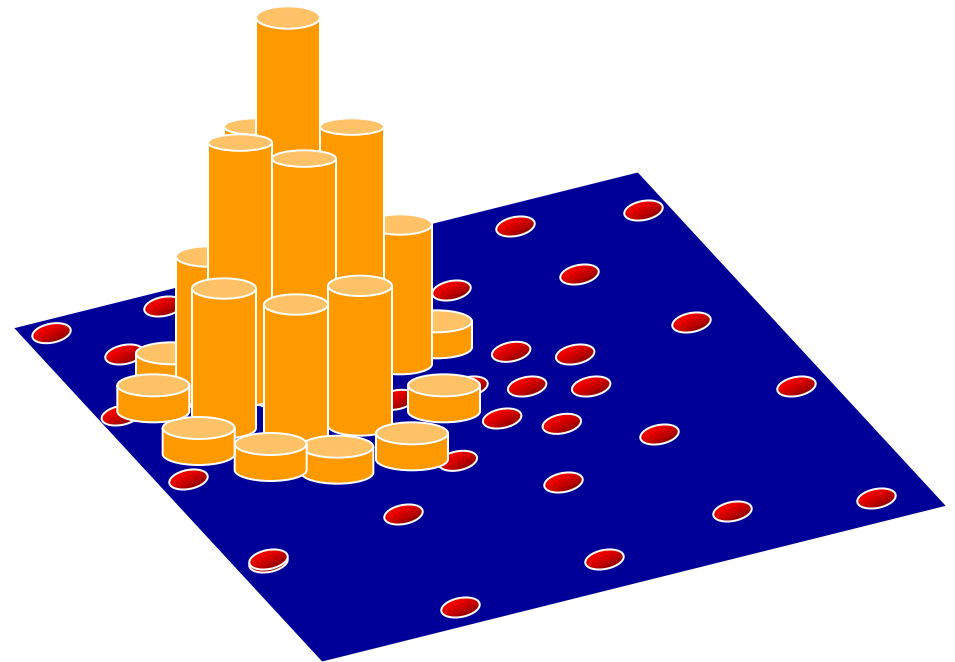


**Real Data Samples**

# Non-Parametric Density Estimation



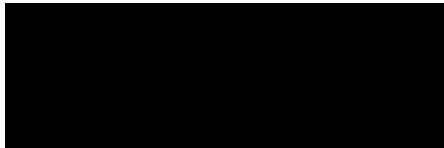
**Assumed Underlying PDF**



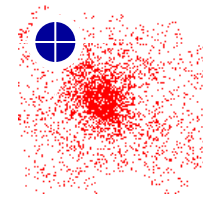
**Real Data Samples**

# Kernel Density Estimation

## Parzen Windows - General Framework

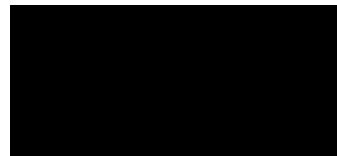


**Kernel  $K(\cdot)$ :** function of some finite number of data points  $x_1 \dots x_n$

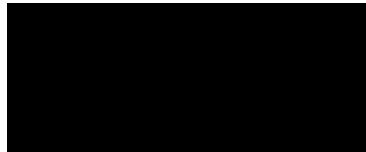


### Kernel Properties:

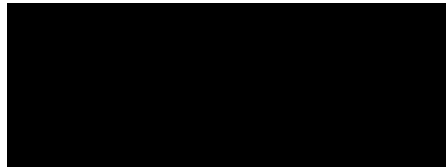
- Normalized



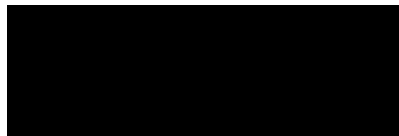
- Symmetric



- Exponential weight decay



- Other (see [Meer 02])





# Kernel Density Estimation

## Parzen Windows - Function Forms



**Kernel  $K(\cdot)$ :** function of some finite number of data points  $x_1 \dots x_n$

In practice one uses the forms:



or



Same function on each dimension

Function of vector length only

The 1D function  $k$  is called ***profile*** of the kernel

# Kernel Density Estimation

## Various Kernels

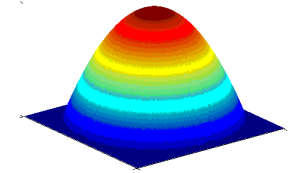


**Kernel  $K(\cdot)$ :** function of some finite number of data points  $x_1 \dots x_n$

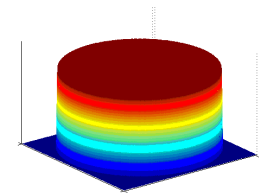
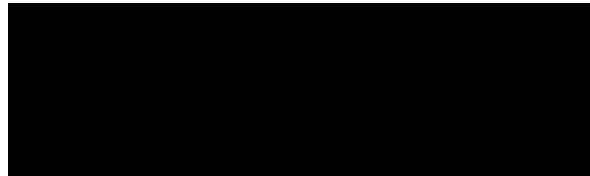
### Examples:

- *Epanechnikov Kernel*

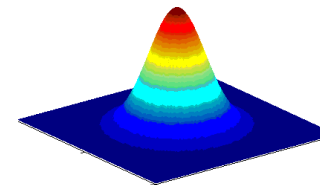
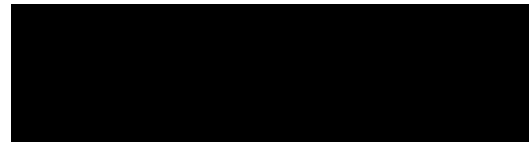
$$K_E(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} c(1 - \|\mathbf{x}\|^2) & \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



- *Uniform Kernel*



- *Normal Kernel*



# Mean Shift

# Kernel Density Estimation

## Gradient

Give up estimating the PDF !  
Estimate ONLY the gradient

Using the  
Kernel form:

We get :

$$\nabla P(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{c}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla k_i = \frac{c}{n} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n g_i \right] \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i g_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n g_i} - \mathbf{x} \right]$$

Size of window

# Computing the Gradient

## Gradient

$$\nabla P(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{c}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla k_i = \frac{c}{n} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{g}_i \right] \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{g}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{g}_i} - \mathbf{x} \right]$$

# Computing The Mean Shift

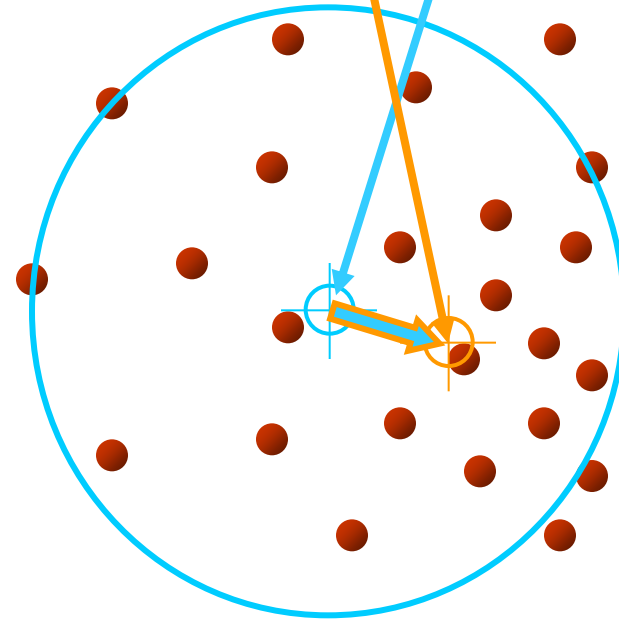
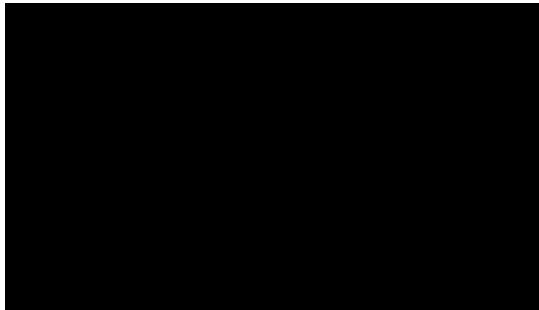
$$\frac{c}{n} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n g_i \right]$$

$$\left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i g_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n g_i} \right] \mathbf{x}$$

Yet another Kernel density estimation !

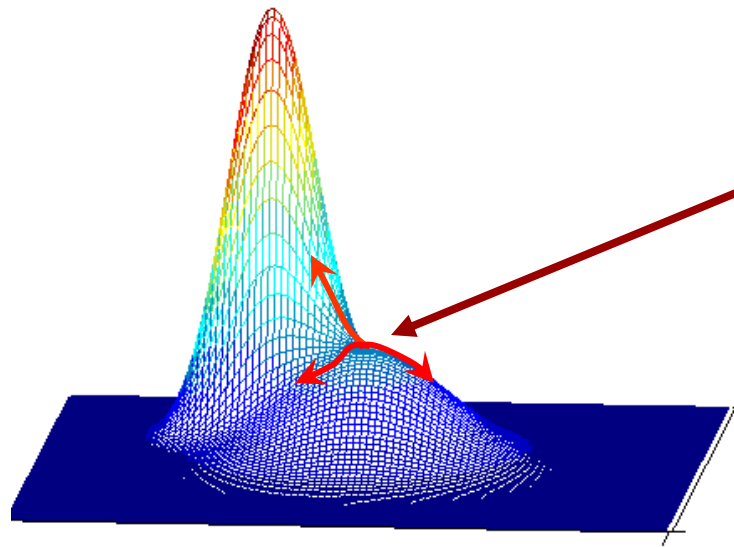
## Simple Mean Shift procedure:

- Compute Mean Shift vector



- Translate the Kernel window by  $\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x})$  until convergence ( $m(\mathbf{x}) < \text{thresh}$ )

# Mean Shift Mode Detection



What happens if we reach a saddle point ?

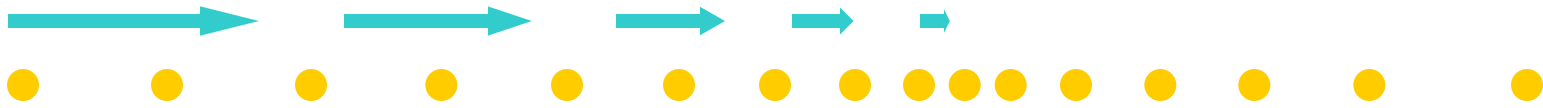


Perturb the mode position and check if we return back

## Updated Mean Shift Procedure:

- Find all modes using the Simple Mean Shift Procedure
- Prune modes by perturbing them (find saddle points and plateaus)
- Prune nearby – take highest mode in the window

# Mean Shift Properties




- **Automatic convergence speed** – the Mean Shift vector size depends on the gradient itself.

**Adaptive**  
Gradient  
Ascent

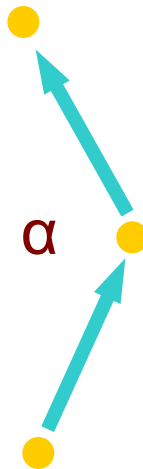
- Near maxima, the steps are small and refined

- Convergence is guaranteed for infinitesimal steps only → **infinitely convergent**  
(therefore set a lower bound on the minimal distance covered after a step) [Comaniciu 2002, Chong 1995].

- For *Uniform Kernel* (  ), **convergence is achieved in a finite number of steps** [Comaniciu 2002].

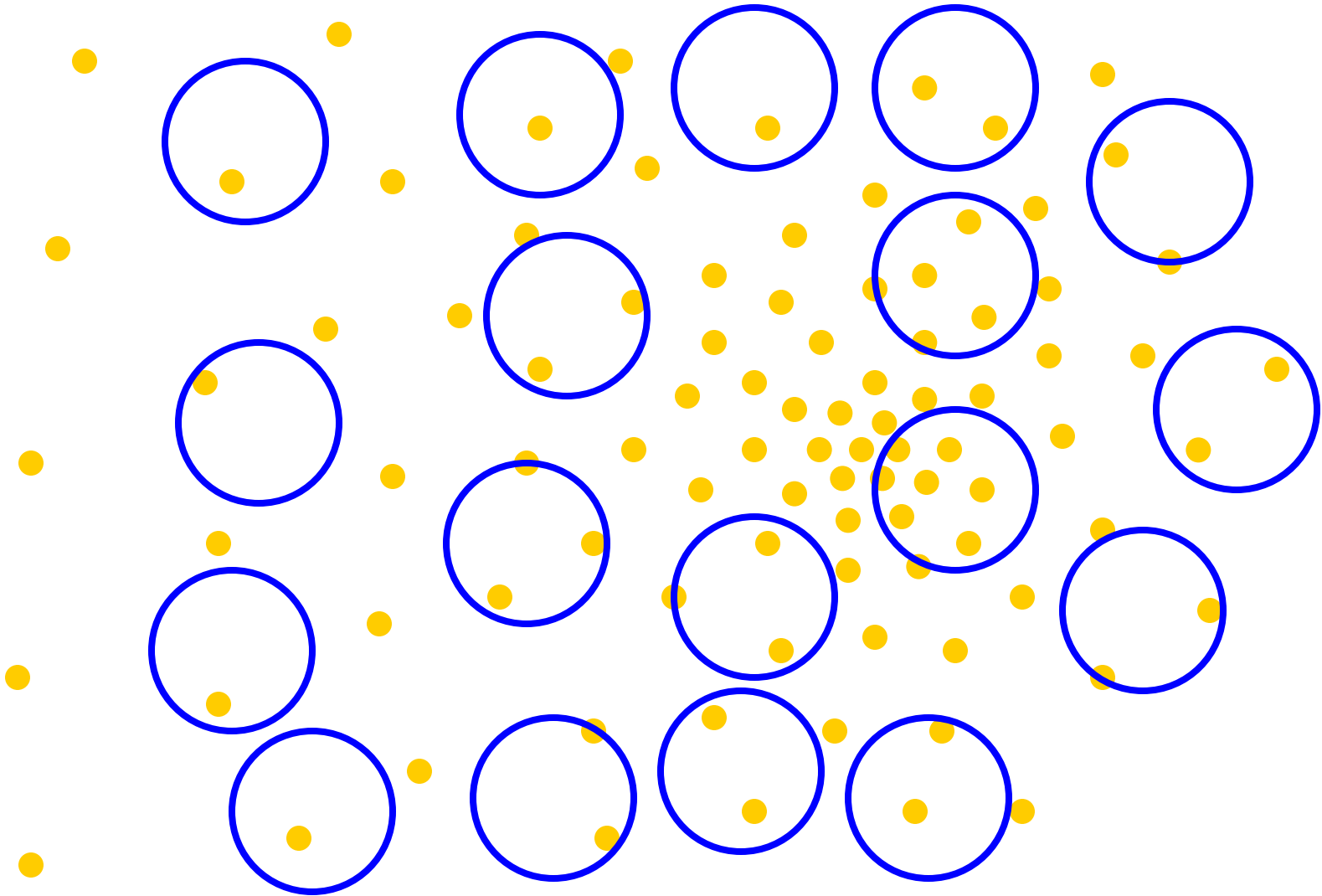
- *Normal Kernel* (  ) exhibits a **smooth trajectory, but is slower than Uniform Kernel** (  ) [Comaniciu 2002].

$$90^\circ < \alpha < 135^\circ$$





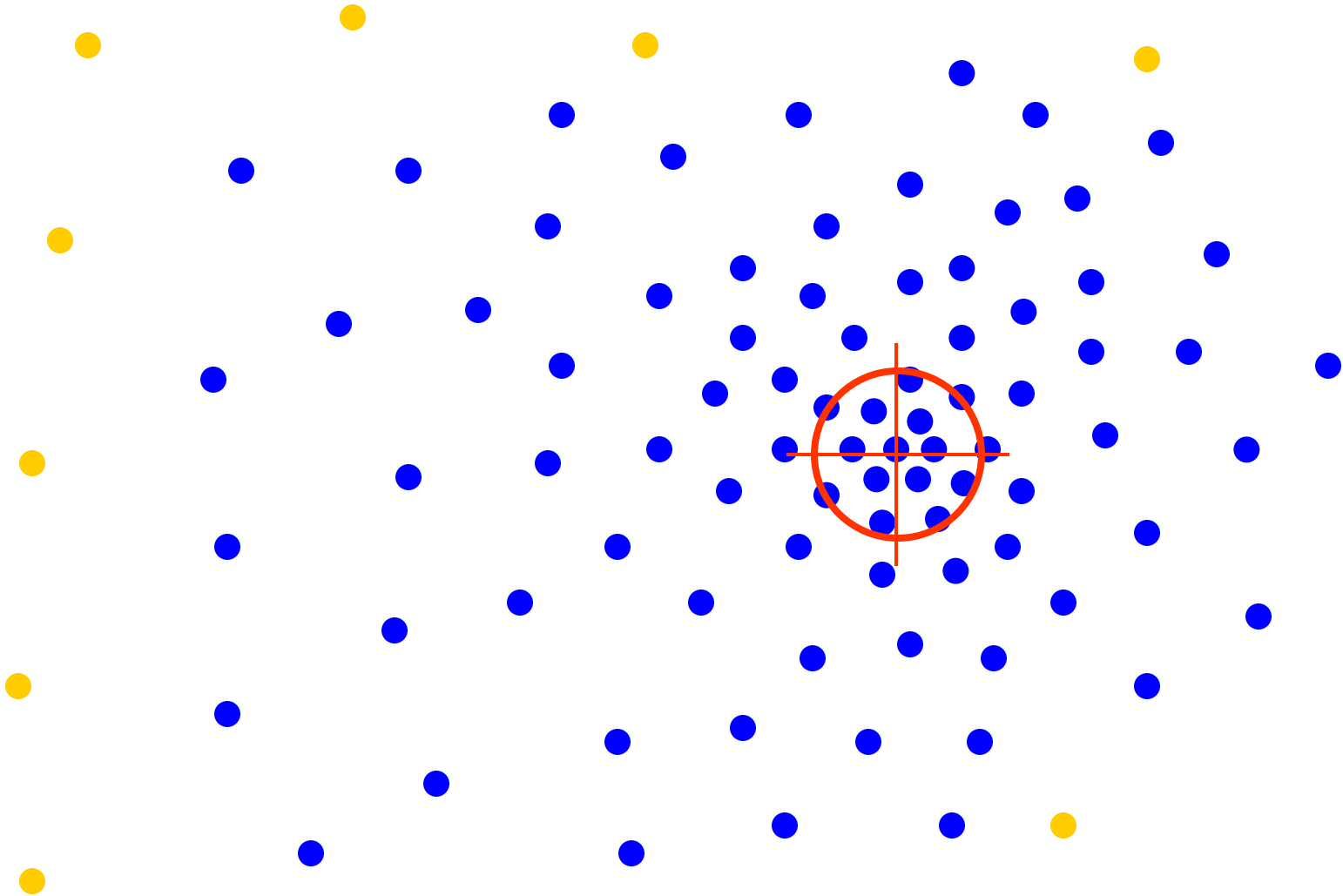
# Facts - Real Modality Analysis



**Tessellate the space  
with windows**

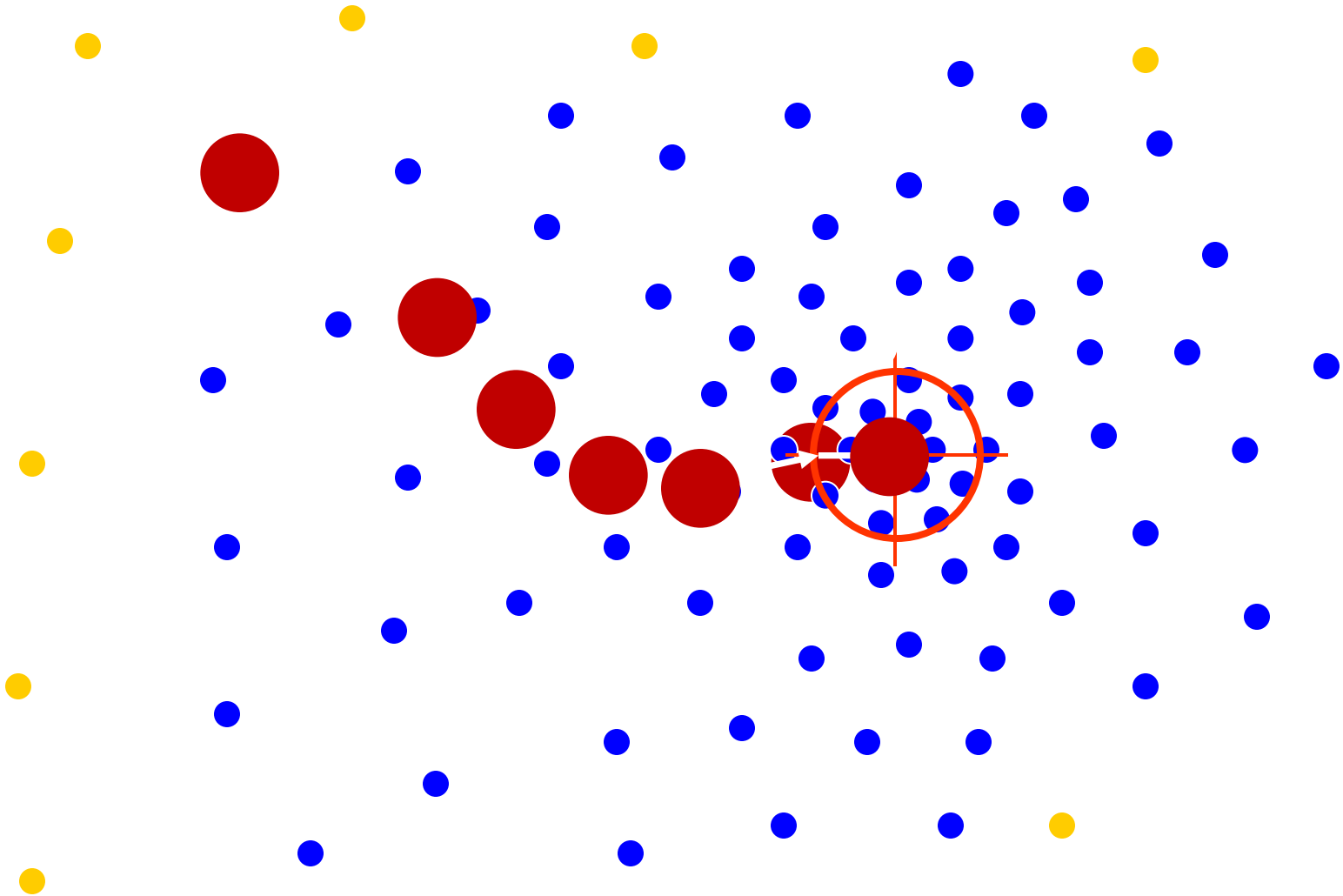
**Run the procedure in parallel**

# Facts - Real Modality Analysis



The blue data points were traversed by the windows towards the mode

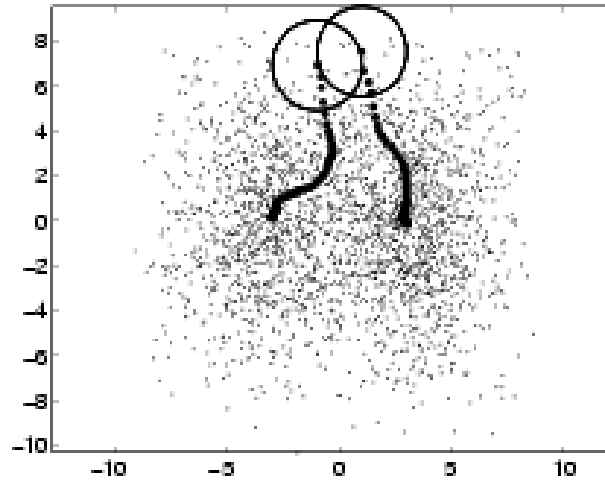
# Facts - Data Analysis



Each point  $x_i$  generates a trajectory formed by  $y_1 \dots y_c$

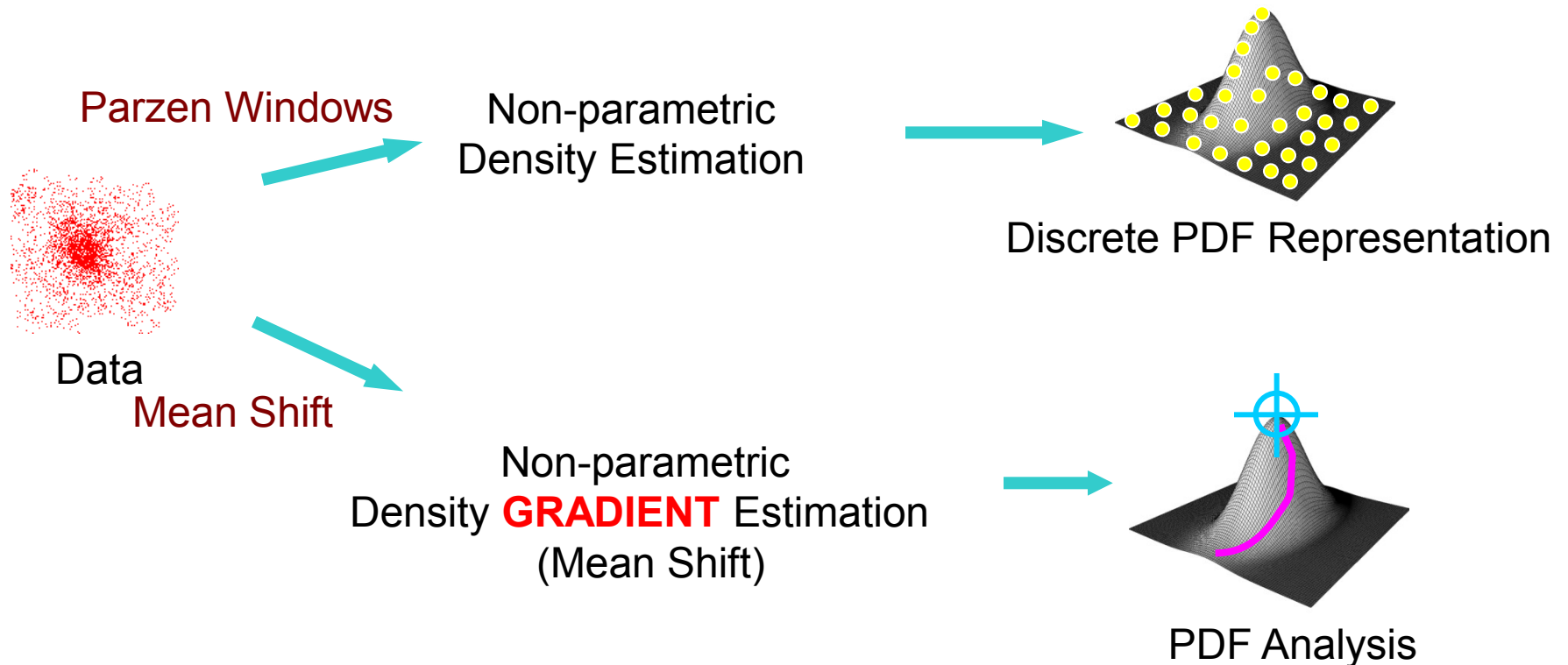
# Real Modality Analysis

An example



Window tracks signify the steepest ascent directions

# Remarks - Parzen Windows vs Mean Shift



# Mean Shift Strengths & Weaknesses



## Strengths :

- Application independent technique
- 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)**

## Weaknesses :

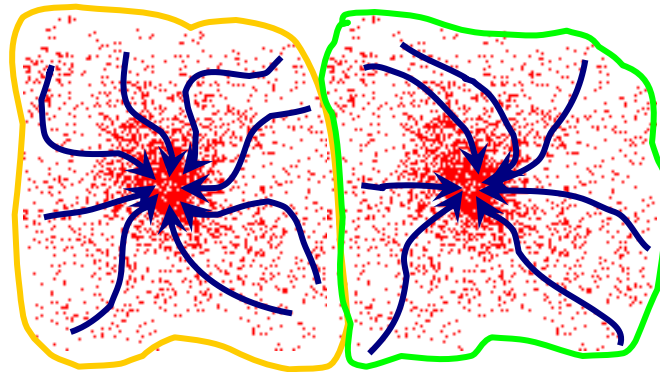
- The window size (bandwidth selection) is not trivial
  - Inappropriate window size can cause modes to be merged, or generate additional “shallow” modes → **Use adaptive window size**

# Mean Shift applications: Clustering

# Clustering

**Cluster** : All data points in the *attraction basin* of a mode

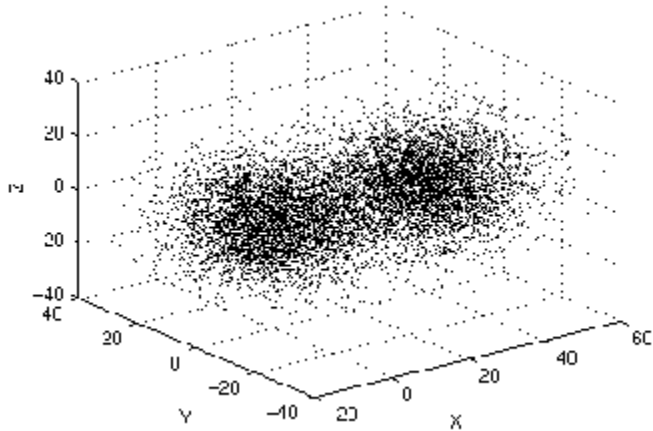
**Attraction basin** : the region for which all trajectories lead to the same mode





# Clustering

## Synthetic Examples



**Simple Modal Structures**

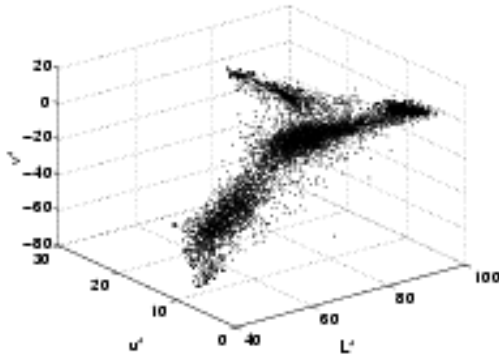
**Complex Modal Structures**

# Clustering

Real Example

Feature space:  
 $L^*u^*v$  representation

Initial window  
centers



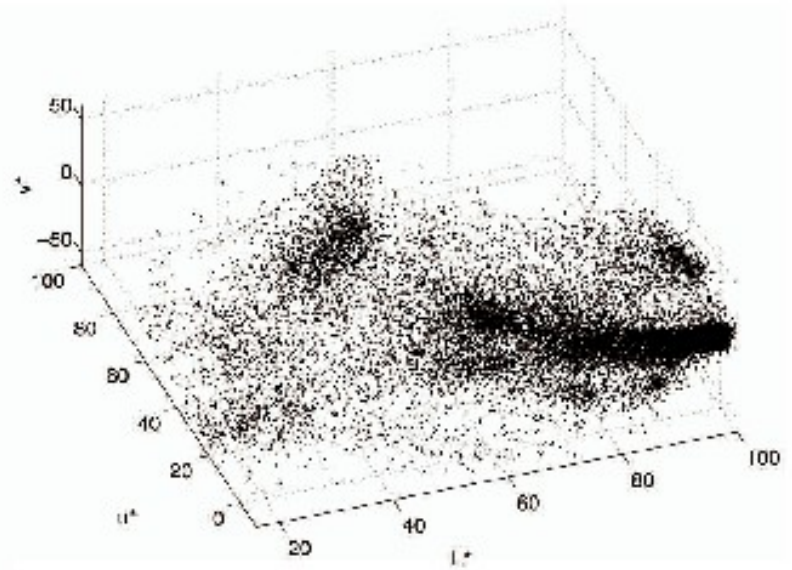
(a)

Modes found

Modes after  
pruning

# Clustering

## Real Example

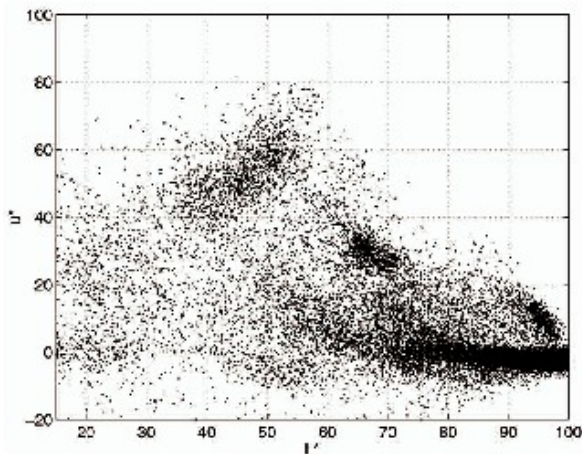


L\*u\*v space representation

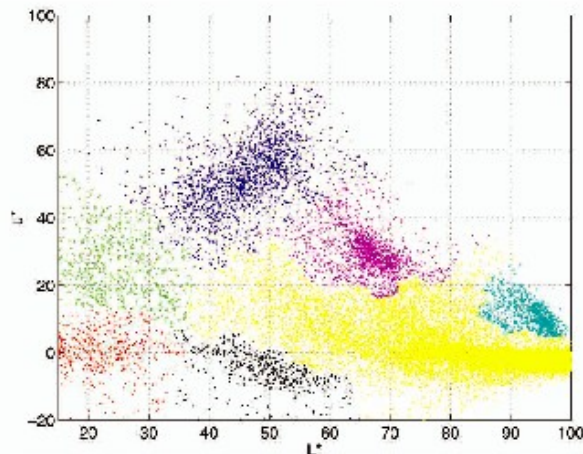
# Clustering

## Real Example

2D ( $L^*u$ )  
space  
representation



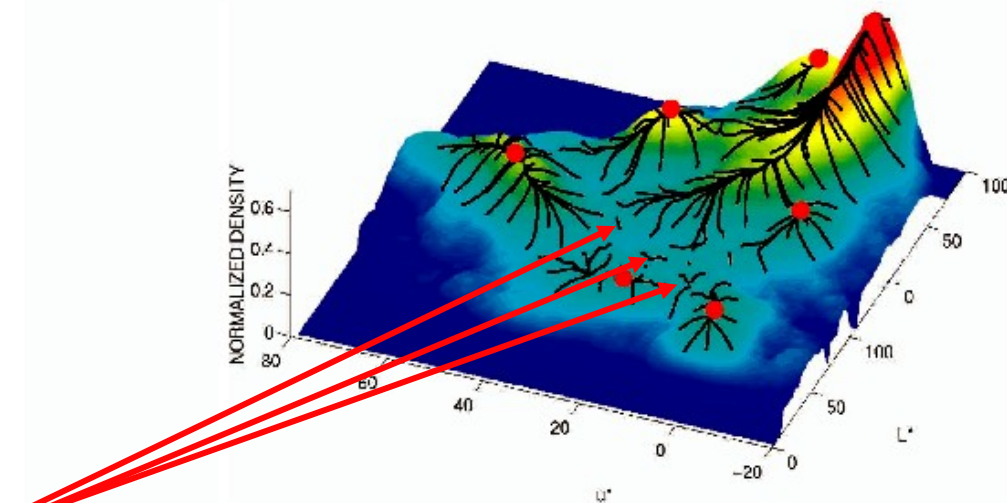
(a)



(b)

Final clusters

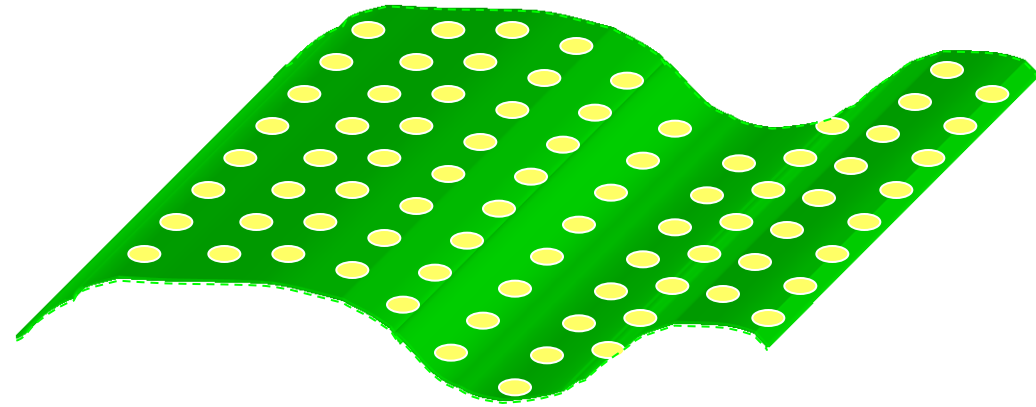
From the  
attraction basin  
points depart  
and reach  
different modes



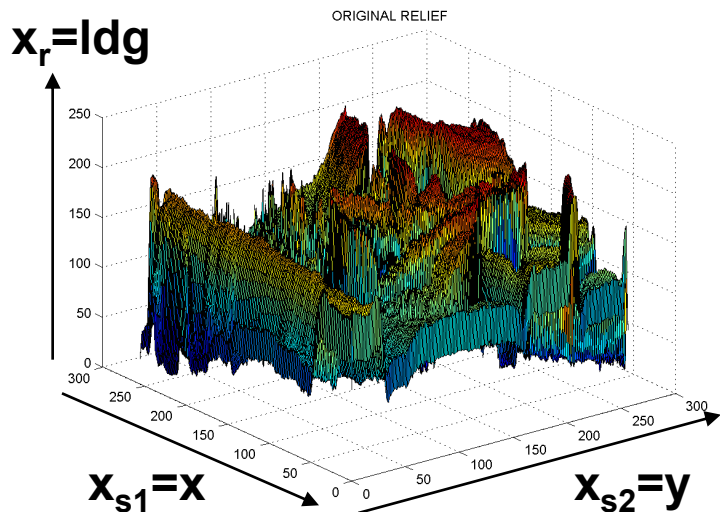
(c)

Mean Shift applications:  
Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing




The image gray levels...  
... can be viewed as data points  
in the  $x_s$ ,  $x_r$  space (joined *spatial*  
And *color* space)



# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

Feature space : Joint domain = spatial coordinates + color space

$$K(\mathbf{x}) = C \cdot k_s \left( \left\| \frac{\mathbf{x}^s}{h_s} \right\| \right) \cdot k_r \left( \left\| \frac{\mathbf{x}^r}{h_r} \right\| \right)$$


Meaning : treat the image as data points in the spatial and gray level domain

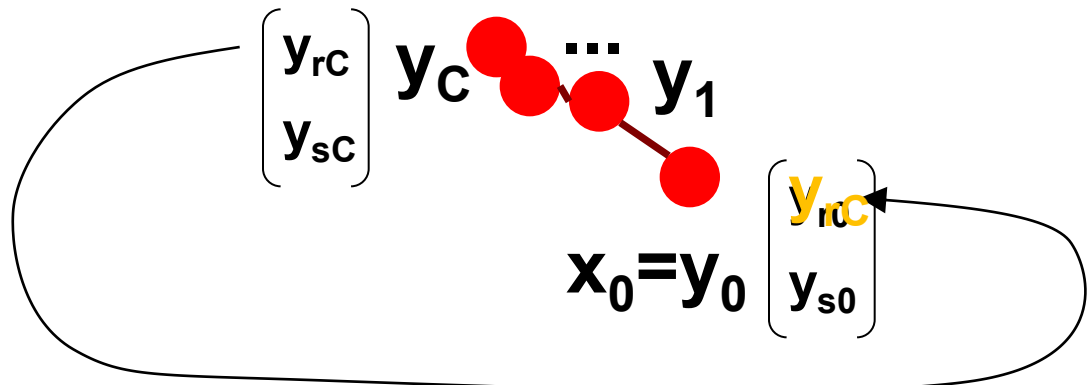
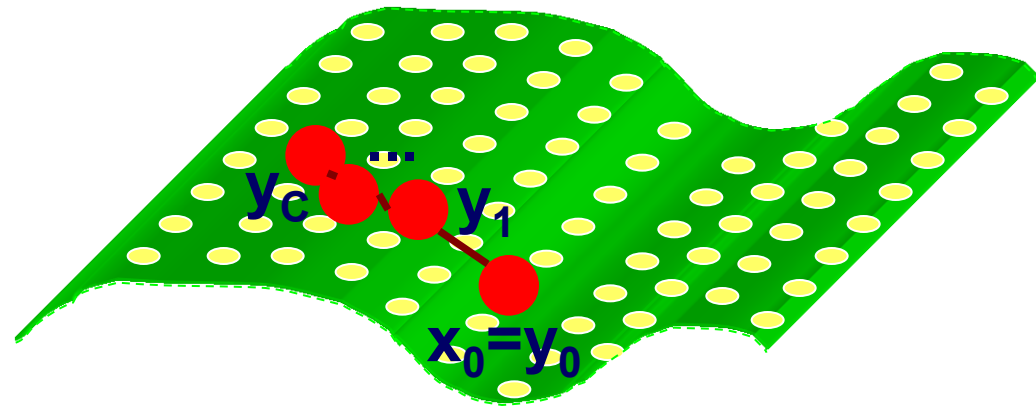
# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

Algorithm:

- 1) **For each pixel**, run the MS procedure generating in the joint *spatial-chromatic* domain a trajectory

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{y}_0, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_c$$

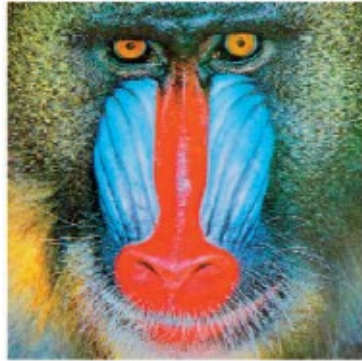
- 2) assign to **each pixel** the gray level of the mode reached





# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

The effect of window size in spatial and range spaces



Original



$(h_s, h_r) = (8, 8)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (8, 16)$



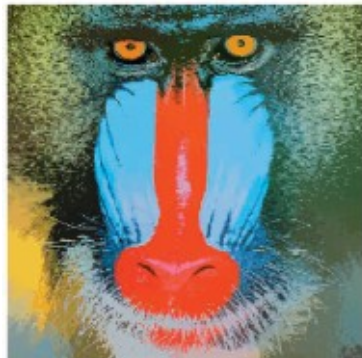
$(h_s, h_r) = (16, 4)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (16, 8)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (16, 16)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (32, 4)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (32, 8)$



$(h_s, h_r) = (32, 16)$

# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

## Example



Original



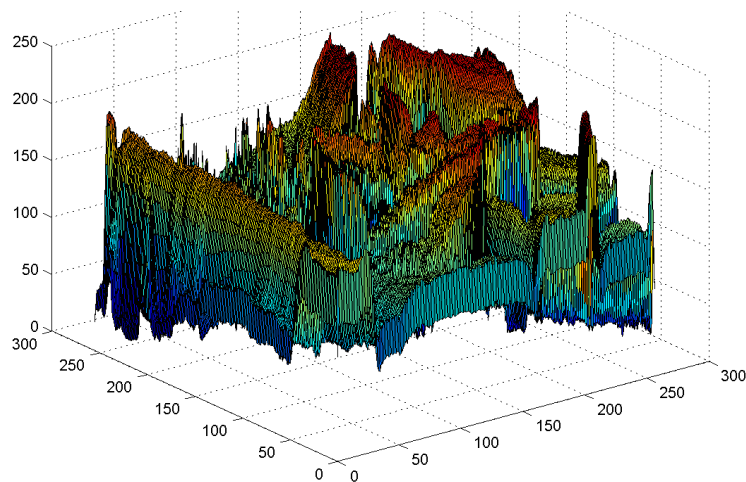
After smoothing

# Discontinuity Preserving Smoothing

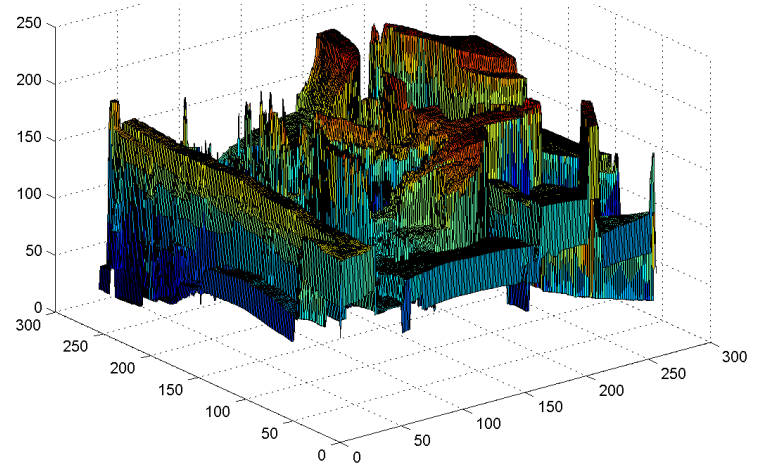
## Example



**Original**



**After smoothing**



# Mean Shift applications: 2D Segmentation

# Segmentation

## Algorithm:

- Run Filtering (*discontinuity preserving smoothing*)

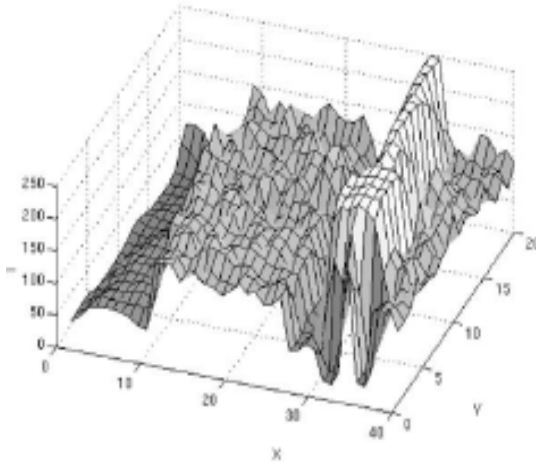
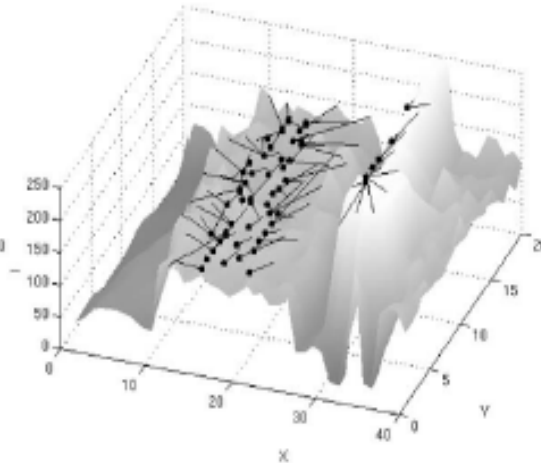
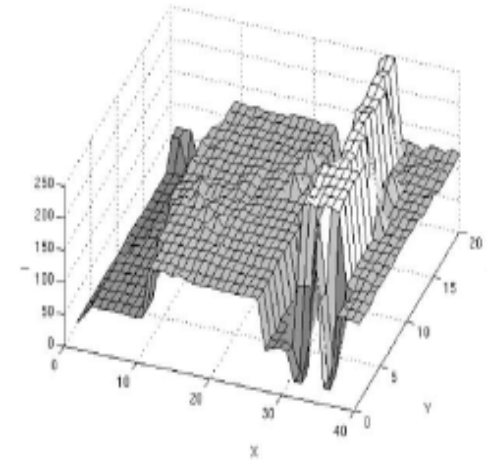


Image Data (slice)

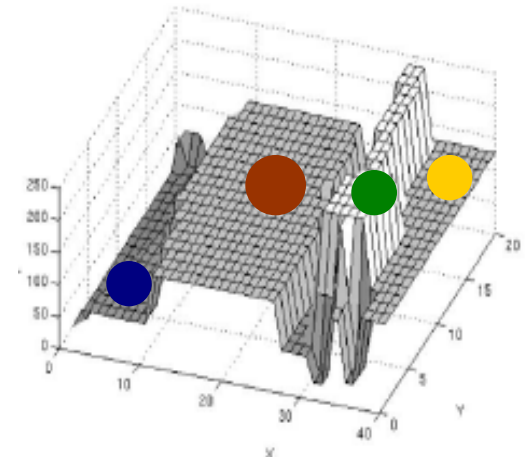


Mean Shift vectors



Smoothing result

- Cluster the clusters which are closer than window size



Segmentation result



# Segmentation

## Example



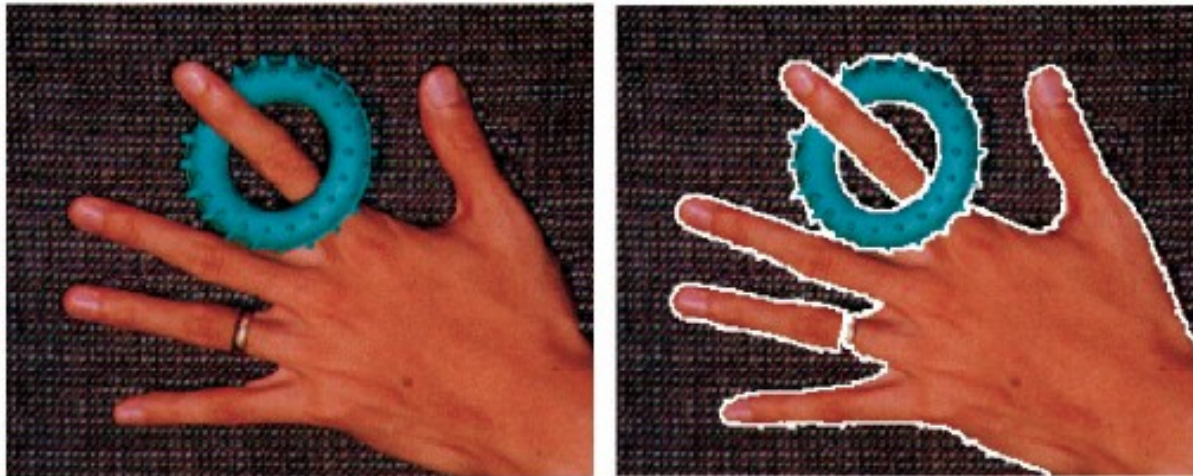
# Segmentation

## Example



# Segmentation

## Example





# Segmentation

## Example



# Segmentation

## Example



...when feature space is only gray levels...



# Segmentation

## Example



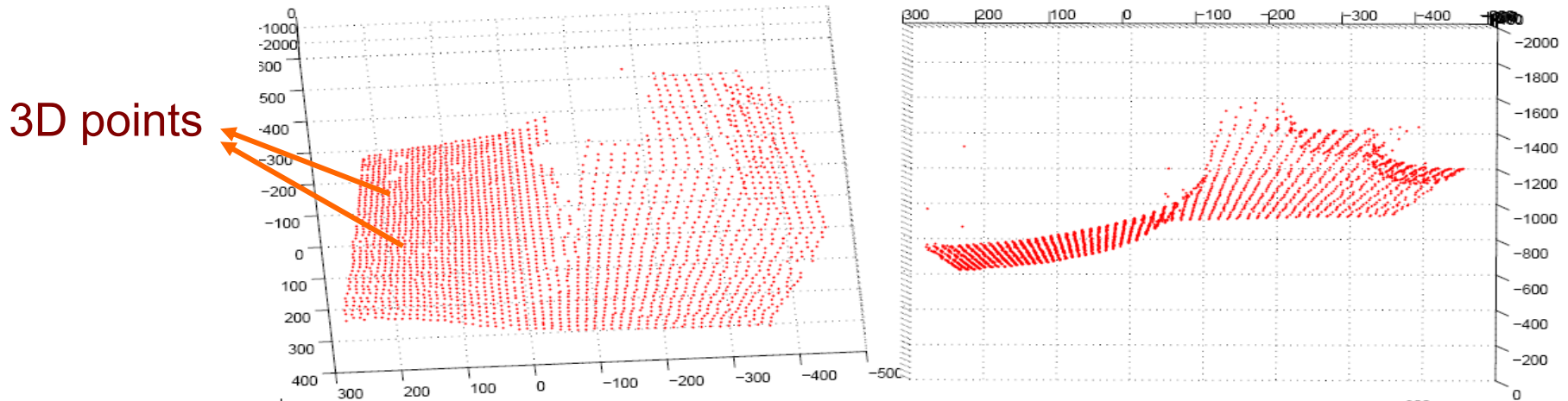
# Segmentation

## Example



# Mean Shift applications: N-D Segmentation

# N-D segmentation



Feature space : Joint domain = 3D spatial coordinates + curvature + ...

$$K(\mathbf{x}) = C \cdot k_s \left( \left\| \frac{\mathbf{x}^s}{\sigma_s} \right\| \right) \cdot k_r \left( \left\| \frac{\mathbf{x}^r}{\sigma_r} \right\| \right)$$

Diagram illustrating the kernel function  $K(\mathbf{x})$ . The equation shows the product of a constant  $C$ , a kernel  $k_s$  applied to the normalized spatial coordinates  $\frac{\mathbf{x}^s}{\sigma_s}$ , and a kernel  $k_r$  applied to the normalized curvature coordinates  $\frac{\mathbf{x}^r}{\sigma_r}$ . The green circles represent the kernel bandwidths  $\sigma_s$  and  $\sigma_r$ . Yellow arrows point from the text above to the  $\mathbf{x}^s$  and  $\mathbf{x}^r$  terms, and from the text below to the  $\sigma_s$  and  $\sigma_r$  terms.

Problem : How to choose the kernel bandwidths!

Proposed Solution : A data driven stability criteria [Fukunaga 1990]

# Stability criteria

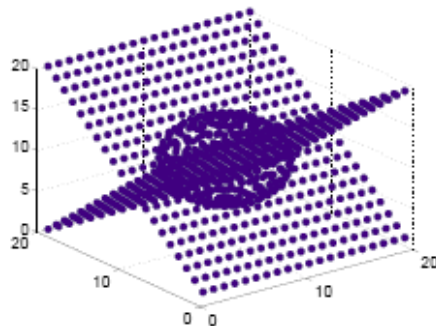
- 1. *Separate choice of the best bandwidth:*
  - for each sub-domain, perform MS clustering, using different increasing values of  $h$ .
  - After that, choose as best bandwidth value  $h_{(\text{best})}$  the center of the largest operating range over which the same number of partitions are obtained for the given data.
- 2. *Final clustering:*
  - perform the mean shift clustering in the joint domain (position + curvature + etc.) using the kernel formed by concatenating the optimal sub-domain bandwidth values obtained in step 2)

$$\mathbf{h}_{(\text{best})} = [h_{(p,\text{best})} \ h_{(c,\text{best})} \ \dots \ h_{(\text{etc}, \text{best})} ]$$

# Stability criteria - example

- Input: a set of data samples  $x_i = [x_{i,s}, x_{i,n}, x_{i,c}]$ 
  - $x_{i,s}$ : *spatial* coordinates
  - $x_{i,n}$ : *normal* coordinates
  - $x_{i,c}$ : *curvature* coordinates
- *Proposed algorithm:*

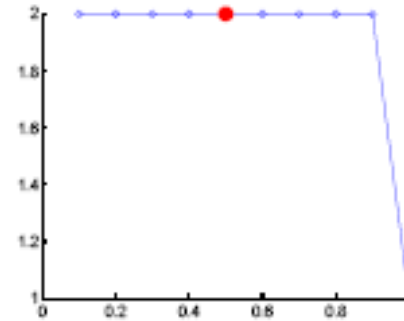
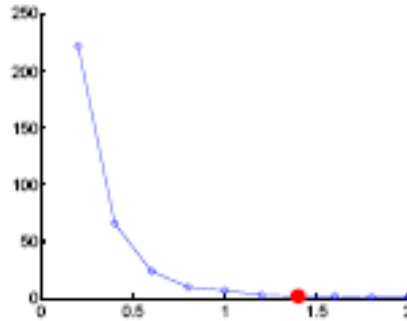
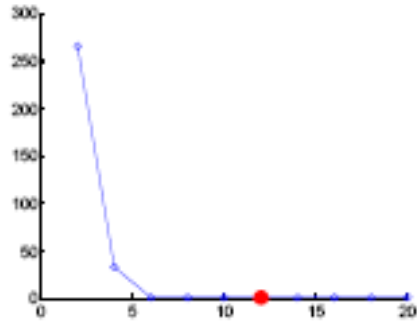
1)



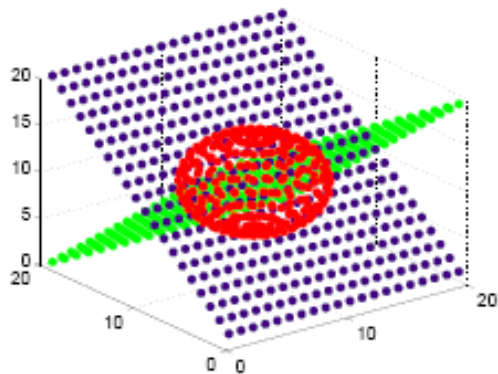
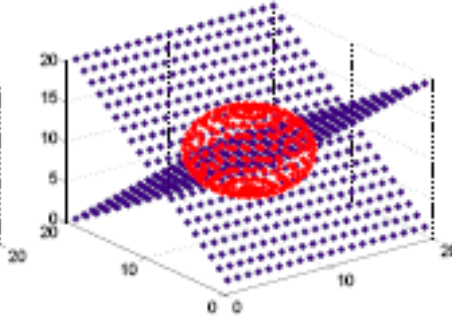
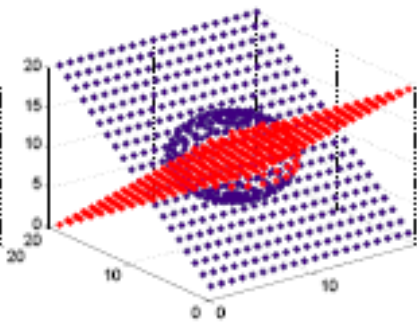
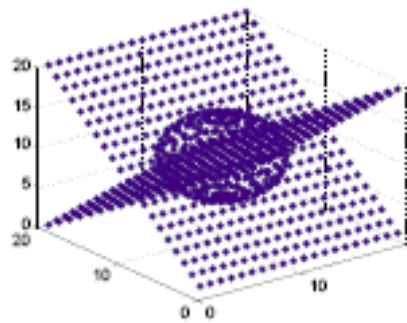
*Standardization*



# Stability criteria - example



*Separate  
choice  
of the best  
bandwidth*



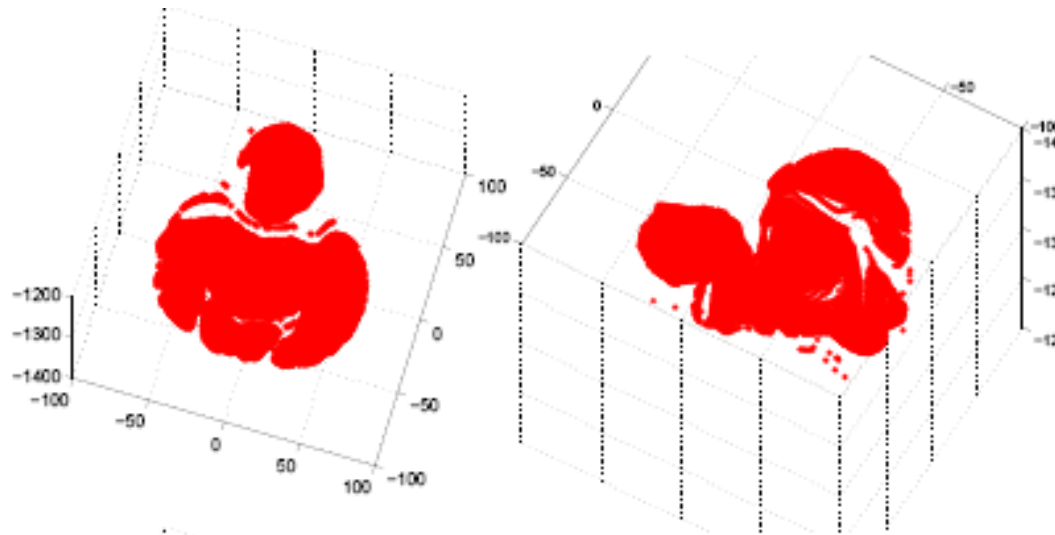
*Final clustering*

# Stability criteria - real data results

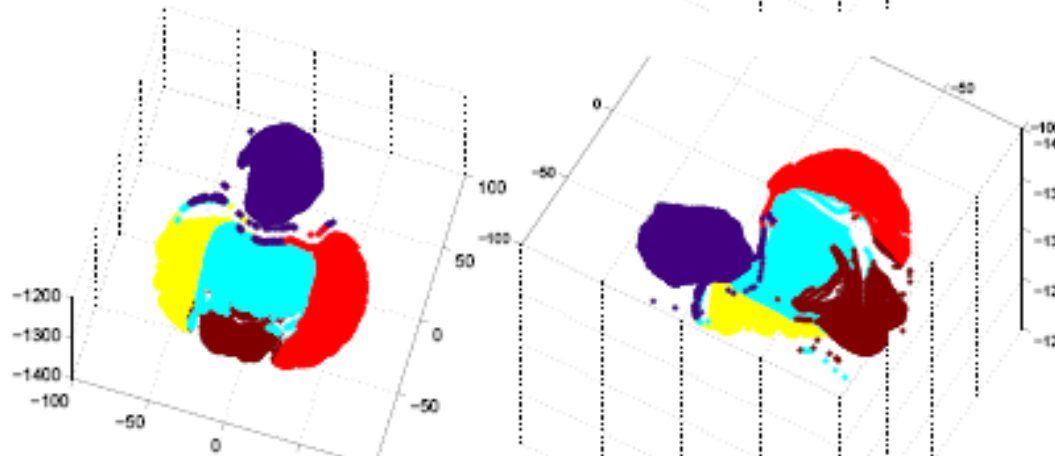
**Original**

*(Angel,*

*Minolta dataset)*

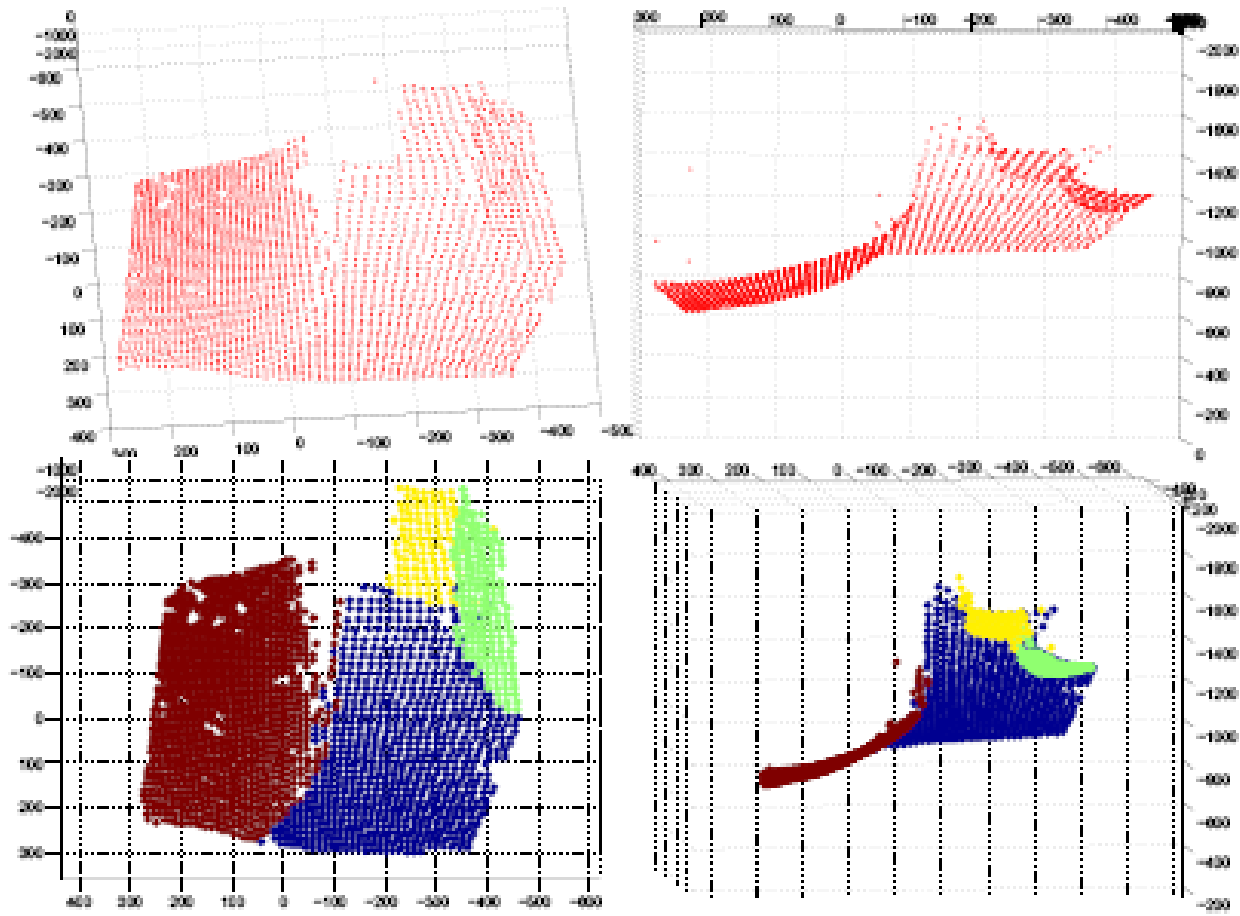


**Result**



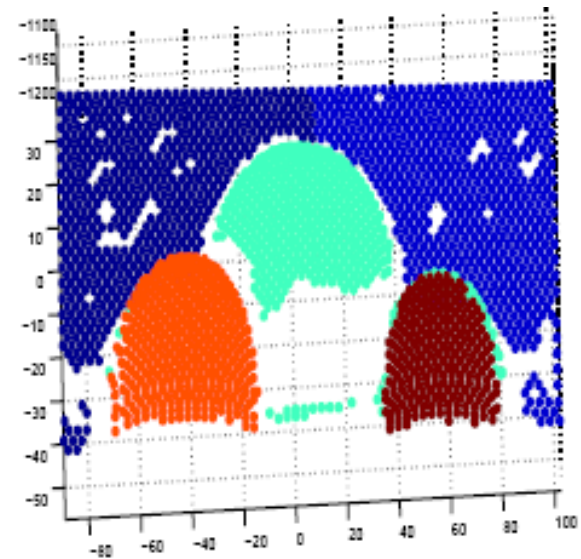
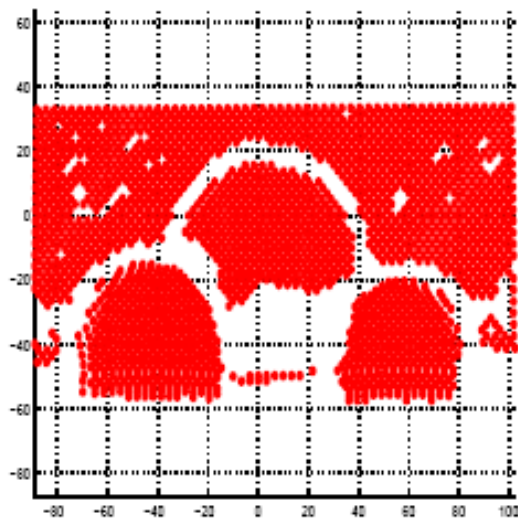
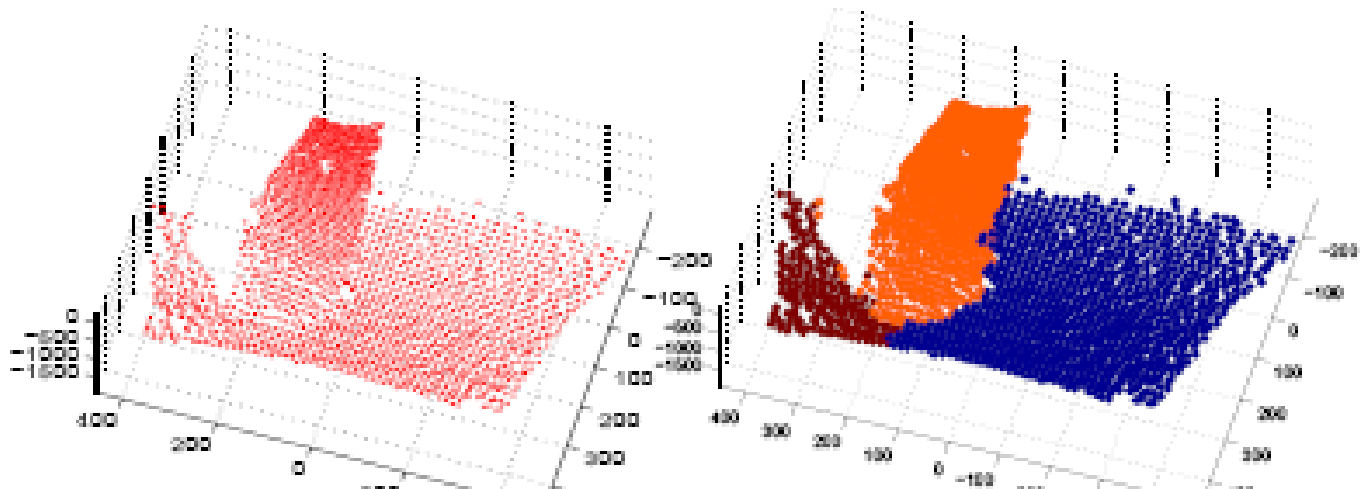
# Stability criteria - real data results

**Original**  
*(Acquired with  
echoscope  
sensor)*



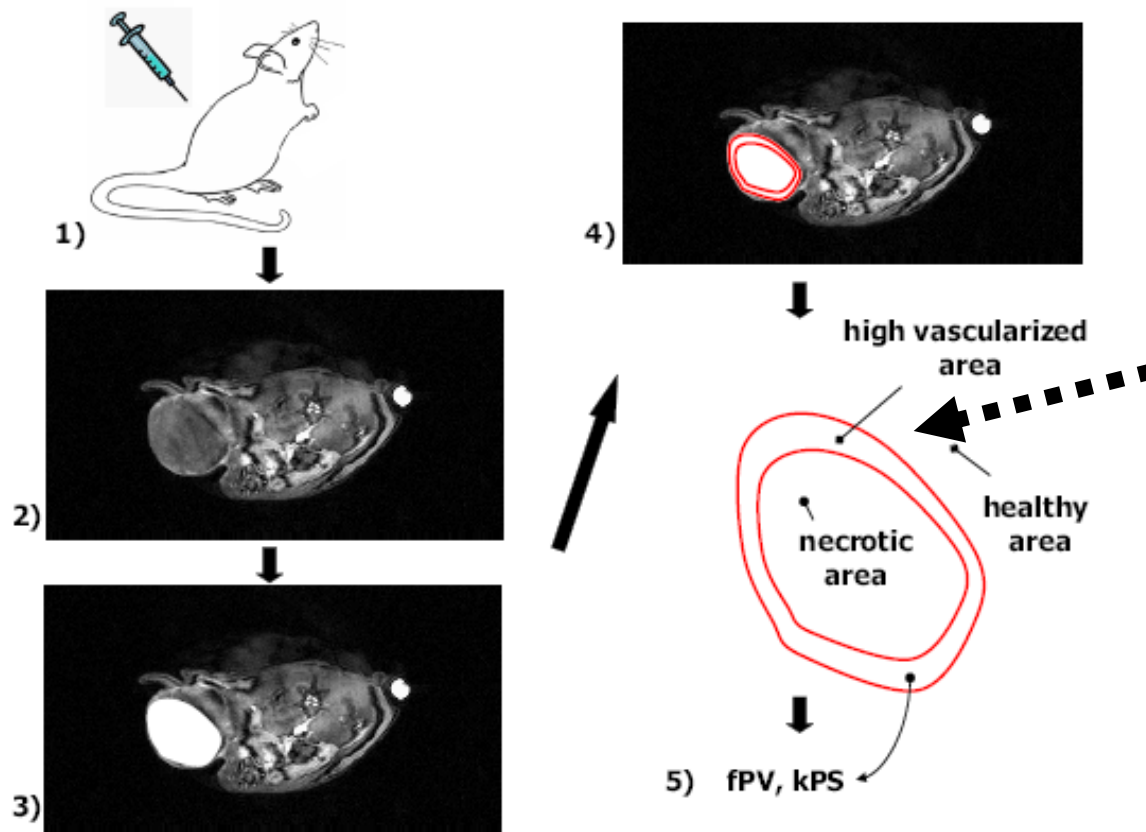
**Result**

# Stability criteria - real data results



# Another field of application: Medical-Imaging

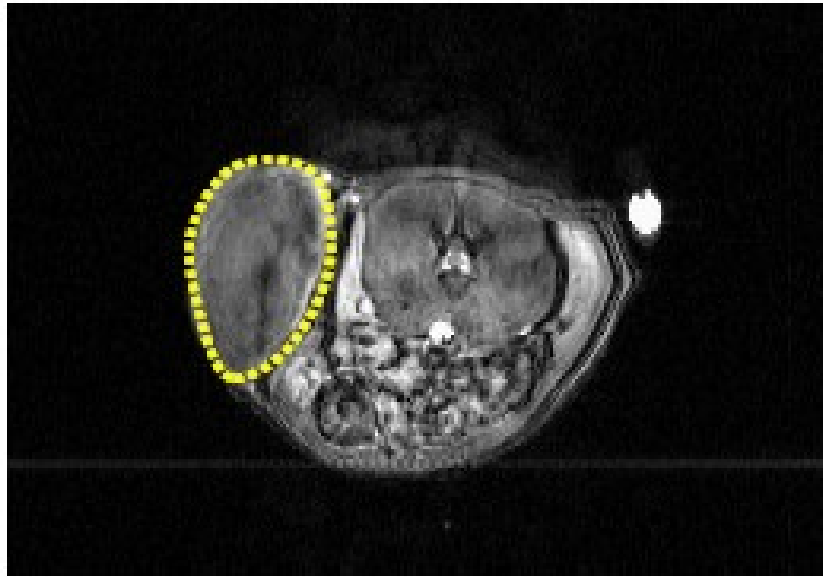
## The problem



**MANUALLY LABELED  
AREA!!**

**GOAL:**  
*Automatize  
this process  
with Automatic  
Mean Shift*

# Another field of application: Medical-Imaging



**Input**



**Result**

# Conclusions

- A robust modes estimation technique has been presented
- The technique is adaptive and non parametric
  - several applications
  - Only one *tuning parameter* to set is the kernel bandwidth
- We propose a data driven stability technique, that works well for N-D segmentations
- Application of our technique to other fields are currently under development (f.e. biomedical imaging)

# Publications

- U. Castellani, M. Cristani, V. Murino *3D Data Segmentation Using a Non-Parametric Density Estimation Approach*, Proceedings of Eurographics Italian Chapter Conference '06 , pp.99-103, 2006.
- M. Cristani, U. Castellani, V. Murino *Adaptive Feature Integration for Segmentation of 3D Data by Unsupervised Density Estimation*, Proceedings of Int'l Conf. on Pattern Recognition ICPR 2006, August 2006
- U. Castellani, M. Cristani, V. Murino *Acoustic Range Image Segmentation by Effective Mean Shift*, Proceedings of Int'l Conf. on Image Processing ICIP 2006, October 2006



**END! (and thanks to Denis Simakov)**