Feature Indexing

COMP 388-002/488-002 Biometrics

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Fall 2026

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Today we will…

Get to know
Methods of feature indexing for biometric identification.

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Today's Attendance

Please fill out the form

forms.gle/oCRwdrNjPLXQmEJh9

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What is Biometrics?

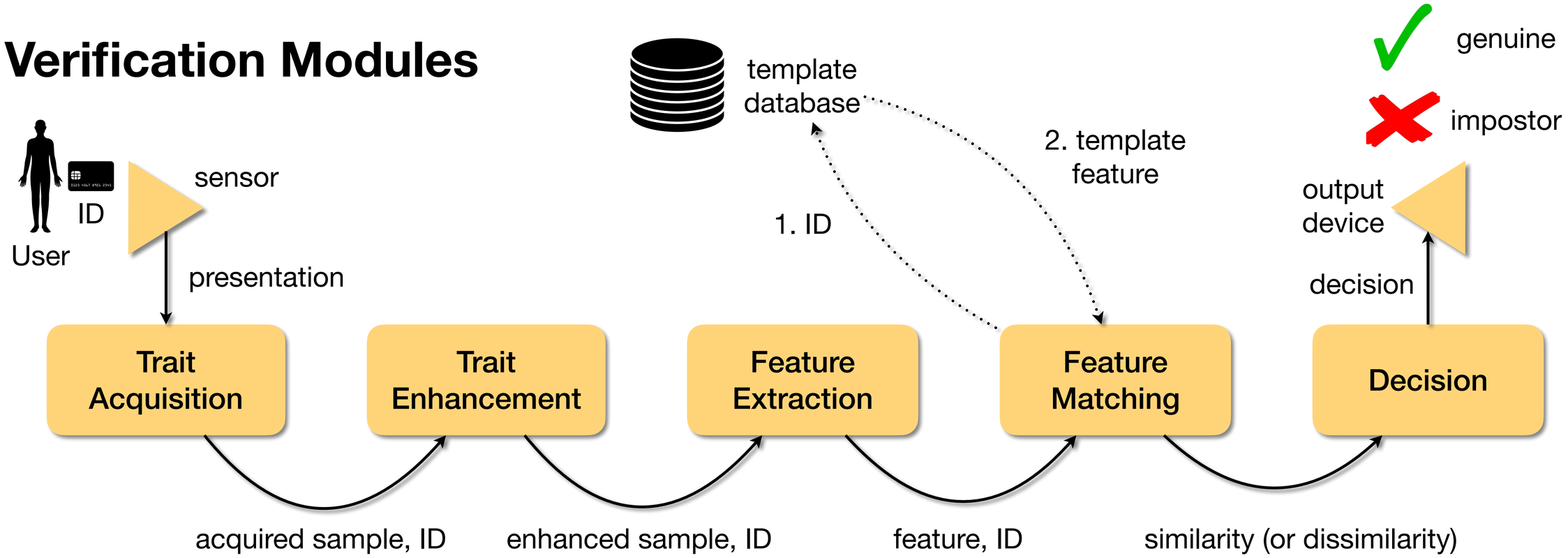


7 billion people
Who is this person? *(Identification)*
Is this person Jane Doe? *(Verification)*

Biometrics aims at ***identifying*** or ***verifying*** the claimed or denied identity of an individual based on their *physical*, *chemical* or *behavioral* traits.

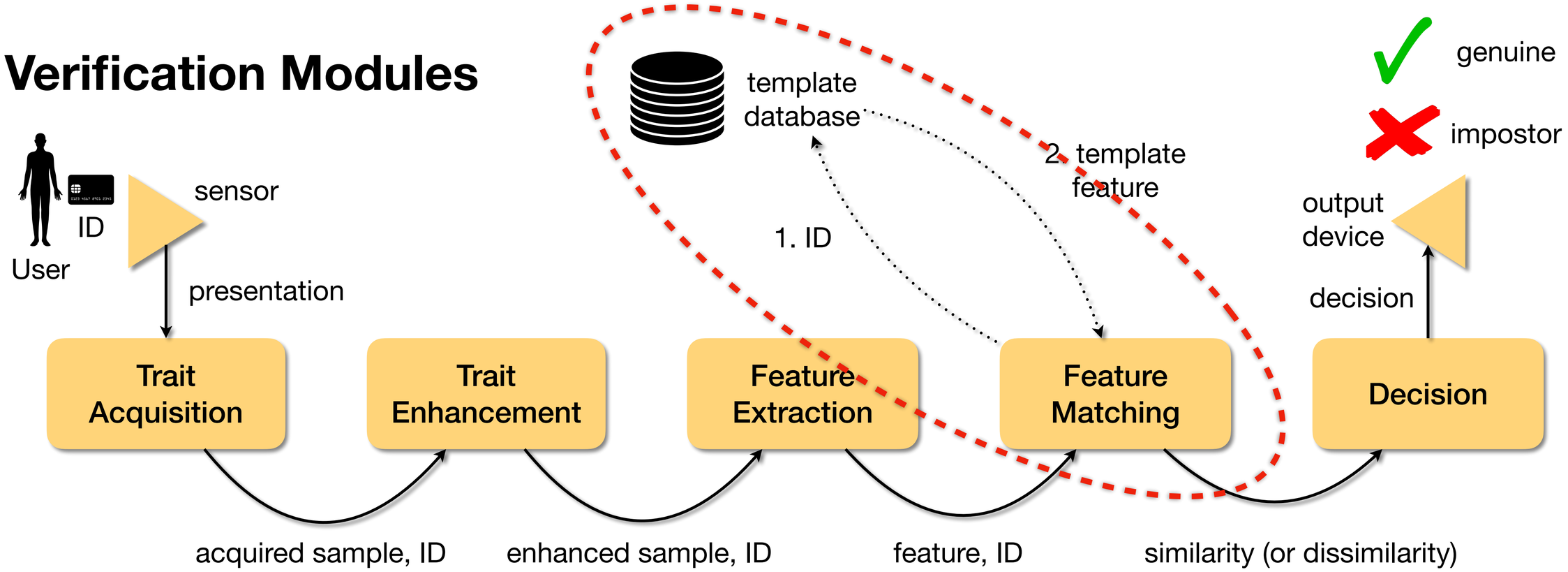
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Biometric Systems



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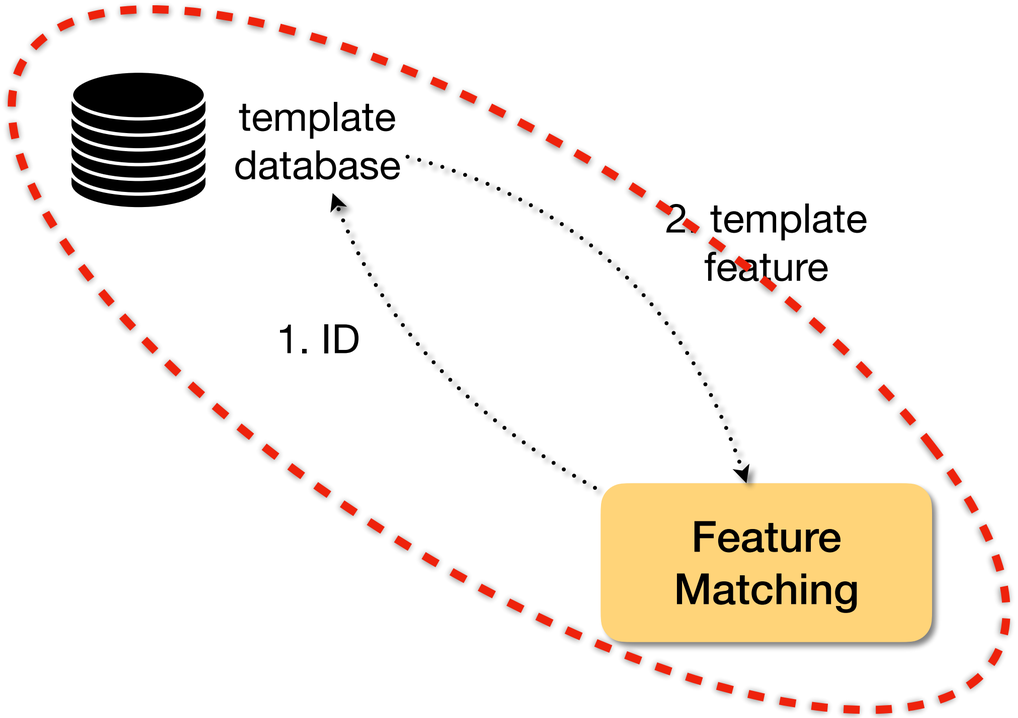
Biometric Systems



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Biometric Verification

No need for complex feature indexing.



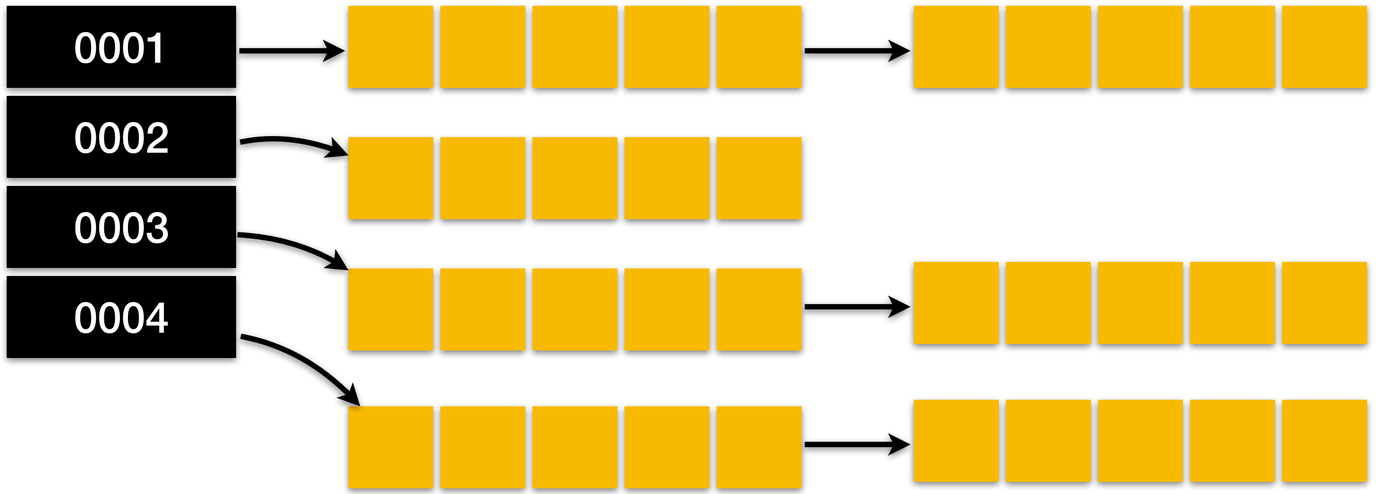
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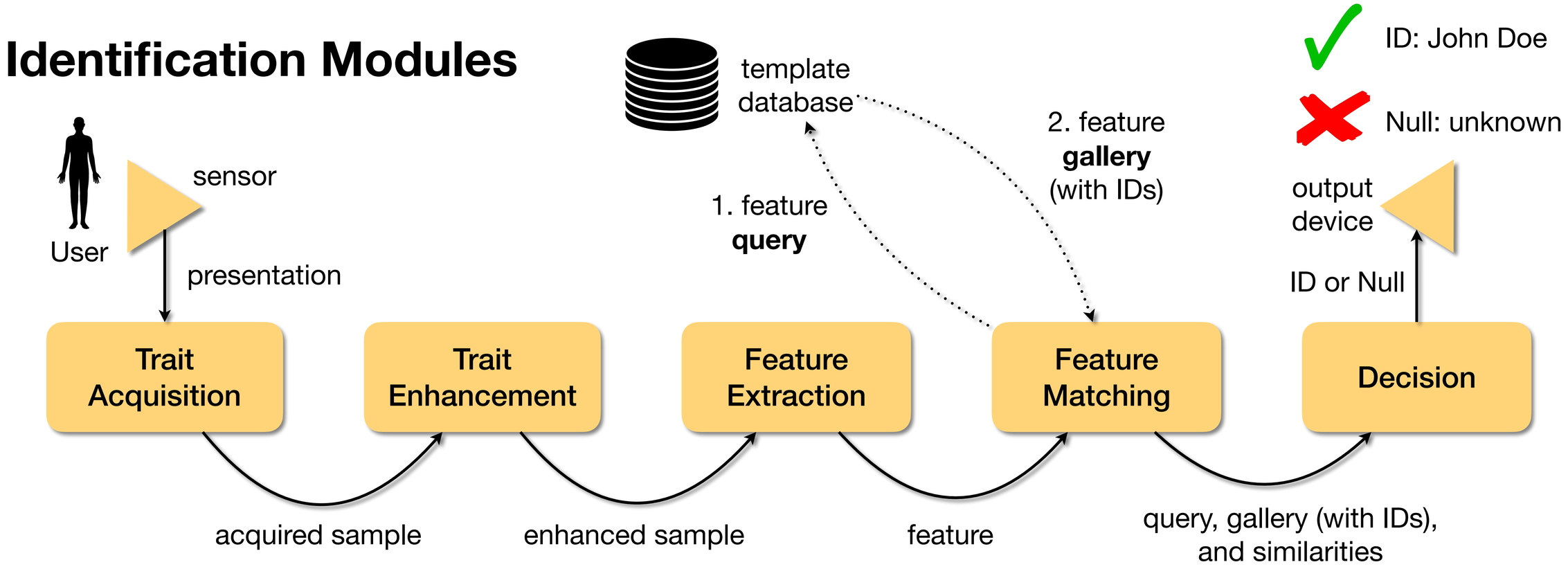
Use unique person's ID as index (or hash function input).

Retrieval of features in constant time.



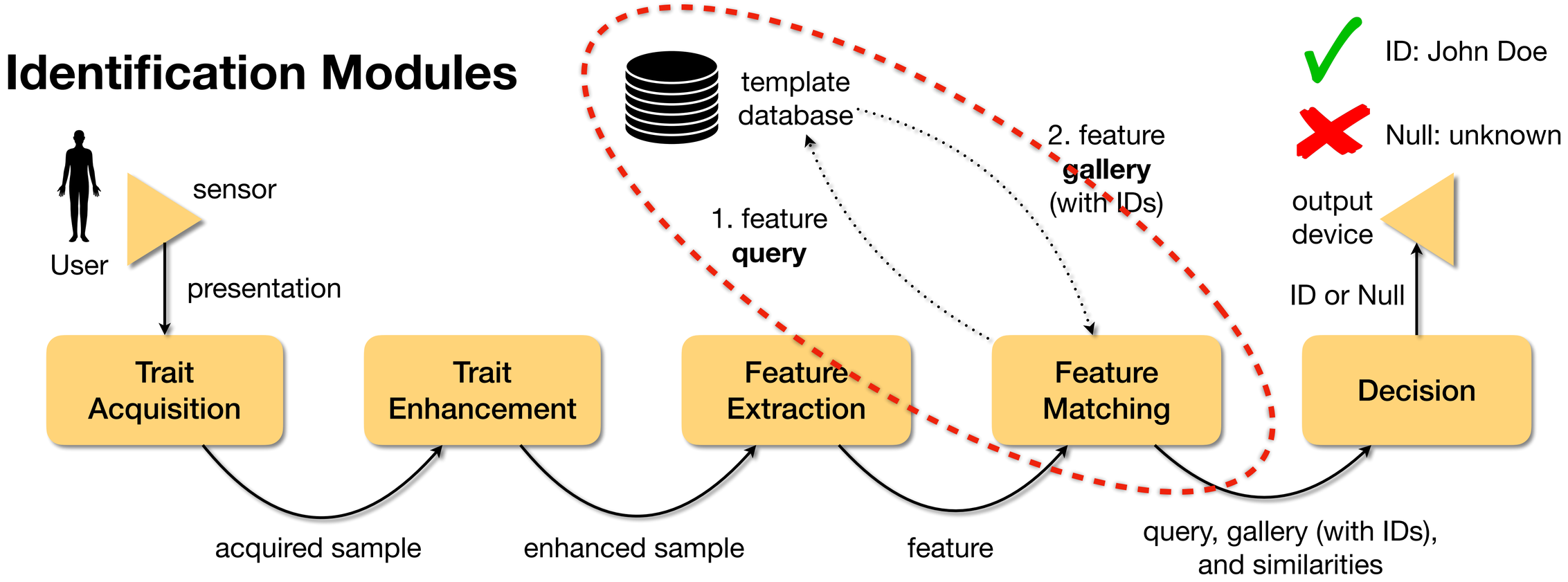
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Biometric Systems



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Biometric Systems



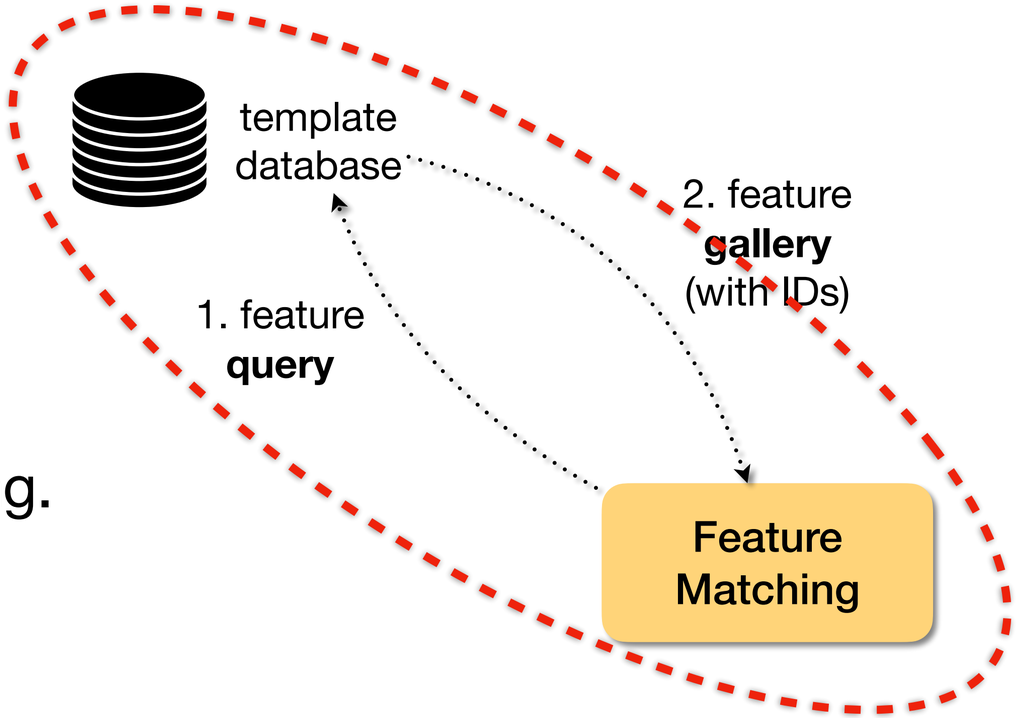
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Biometric Identification

How to retrieve *k*-nearest features to compose gallery?

Need for more complex indexing.

Retrieval of features as quick as possible.



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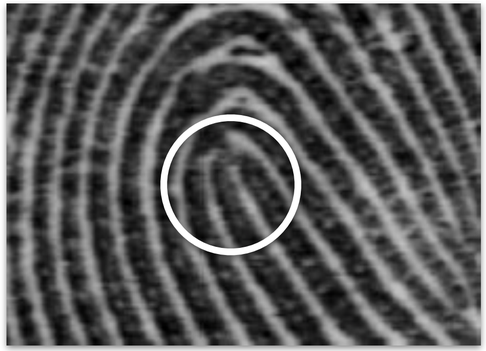


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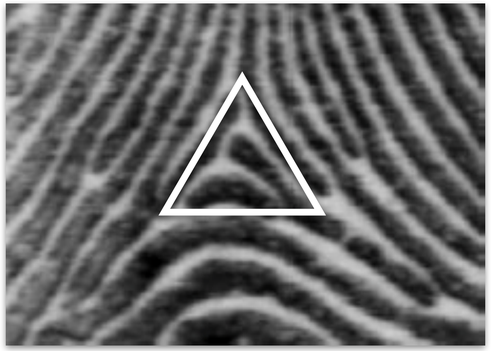
Fingerprint Indexing

Level-1 Features

Usage of Singular Points and Core



loop



delta

Jain, Ross, and Nadakumar
Introduction to Biometrics
Springer Books, 2011

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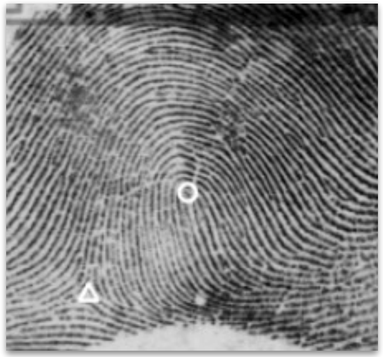
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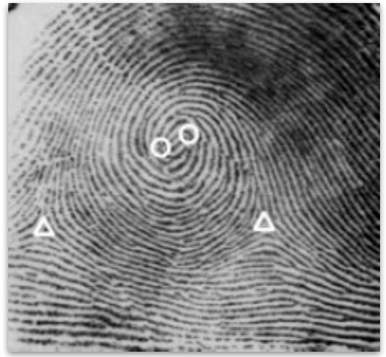
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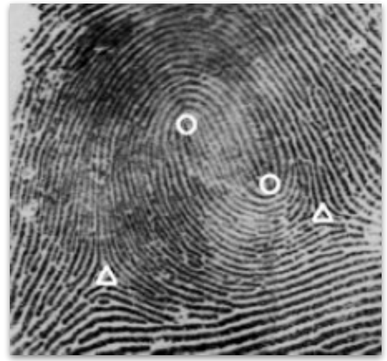
left loop



right loop



whorl



twin loop

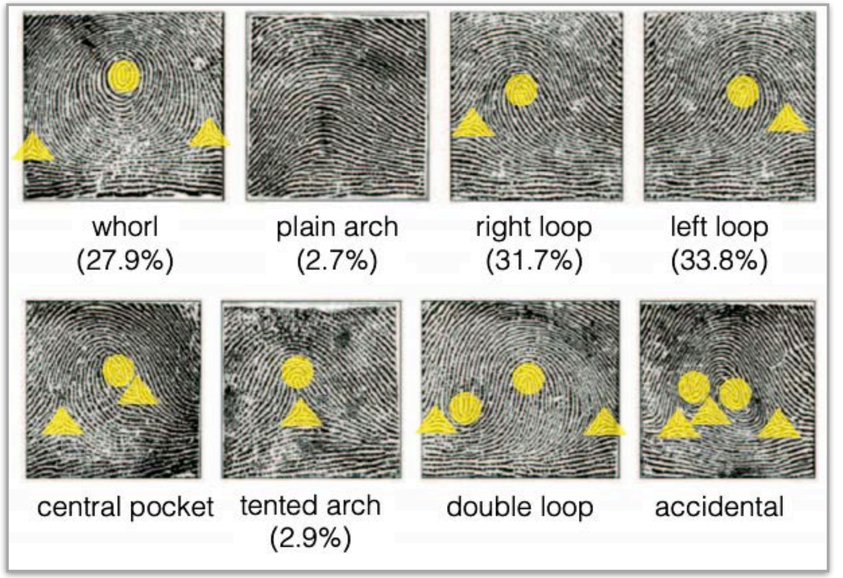
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Fingerprint Indexing

Level-1 Features

FBI Automated Fingerprint Identification system (AFIS)
More than 200 million dactyloscopy cards.
Varied quality of samples.

Thanks to fingerprint classification through level-1 features, this time is reduced to **20 min**.



Henry's features, an alternative classification of level-1 features with 8 classes.

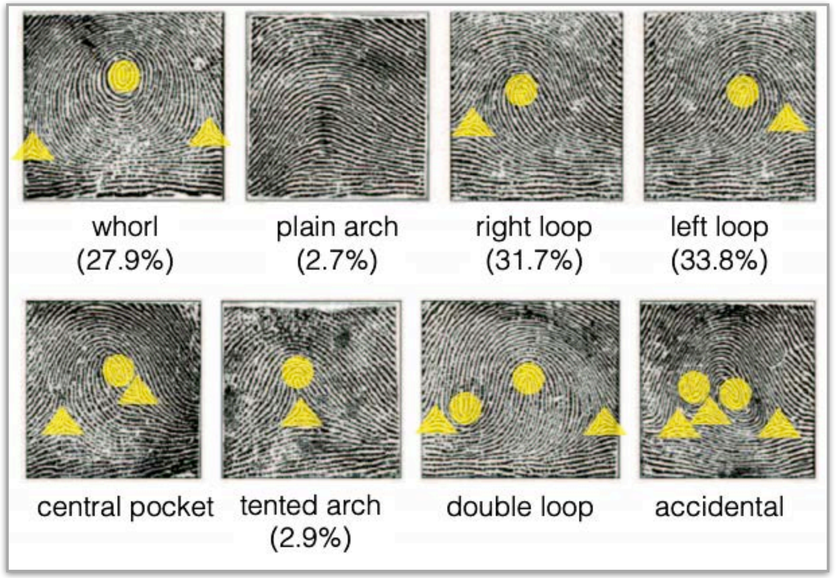
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Fingerprint Indexing

Level-1 Features

FBI Automated Fingerprint Identification system (AFIS)
More than 200 million dactyloscopy cards.
Varied quality of samples.

And a computer-based solution can do it in seconds, benefitting from the same features.

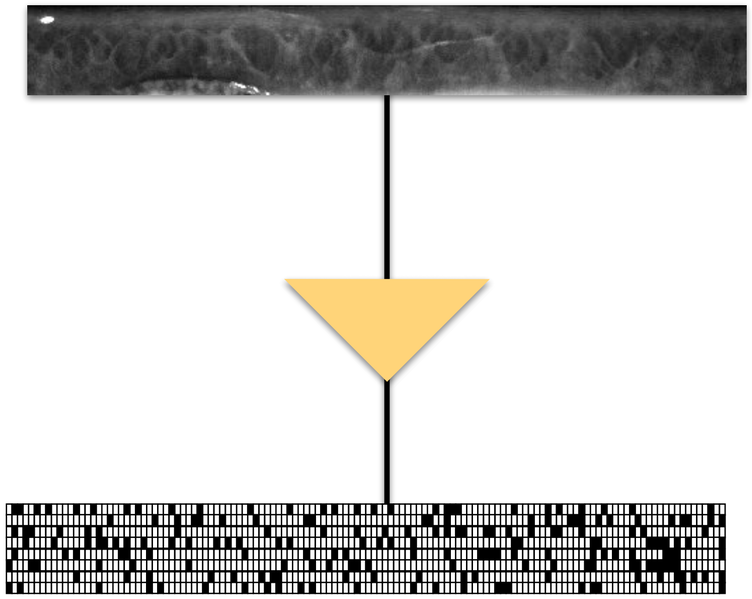


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Feature Indexing

Iris Identification

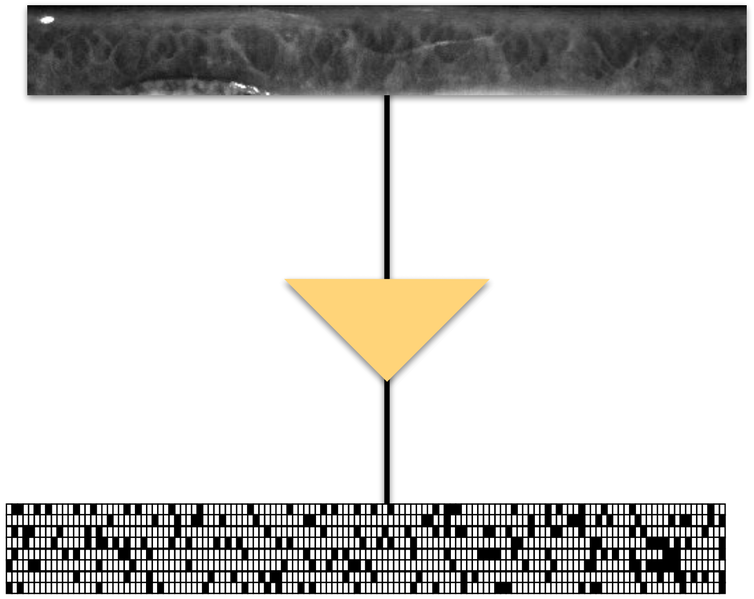


2048 bits IrisCode

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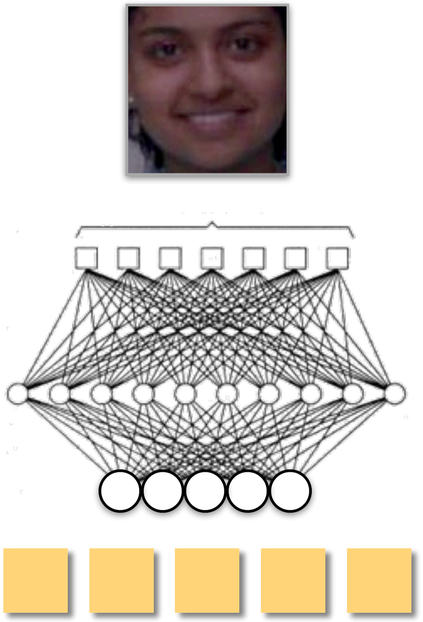
Feature Indexing

Iris Identification



2048 bits IrisCode

Face Identification

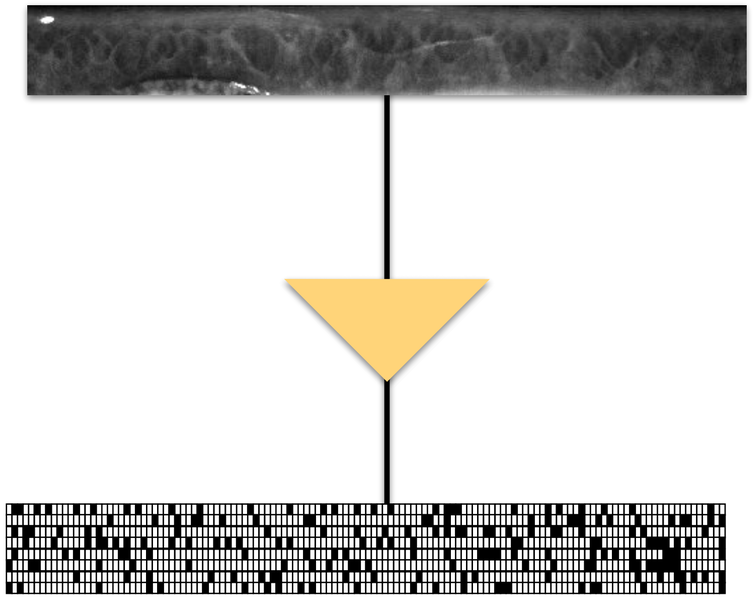


512D ArcFace embedding

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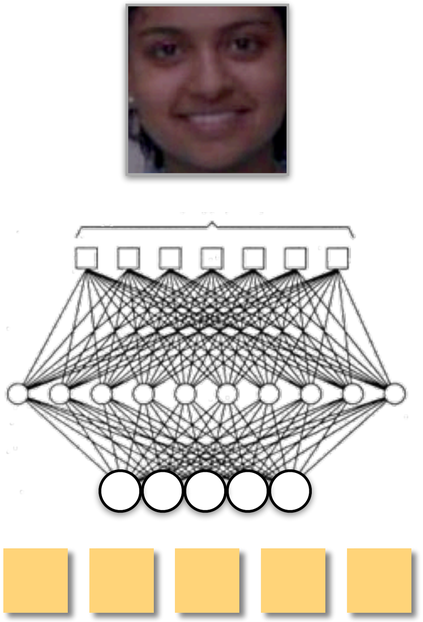
Feature Indexing

Iris Identification



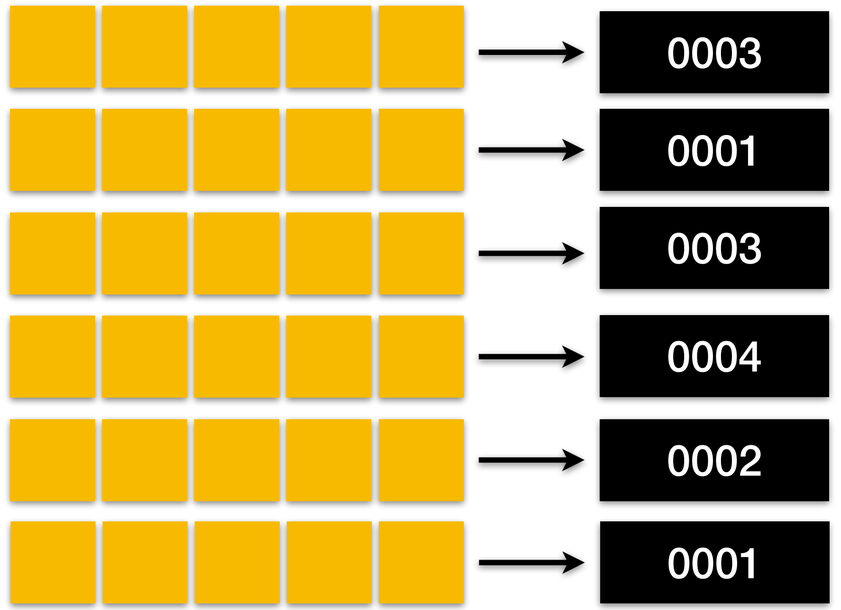
2048 bits IrisCode

Face Identification



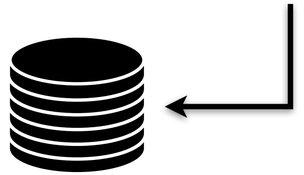
512D ArcFace embedding

Inverted Index



Feature space

Person's IDs



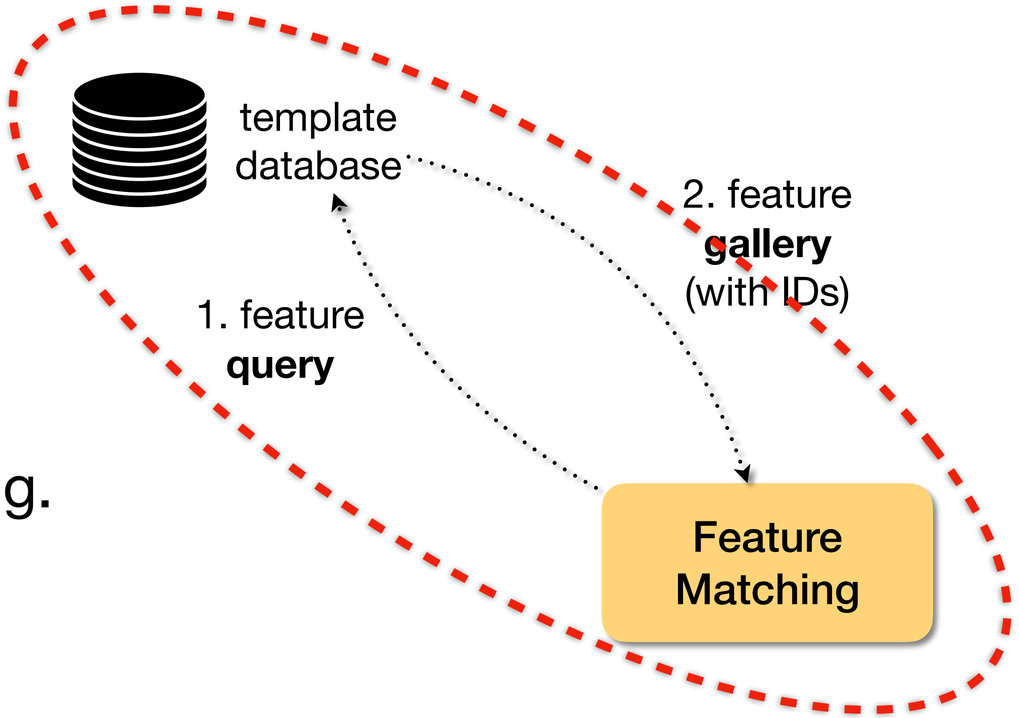
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Feature Indexing

How to retrieve *k*-nearest features to compose gallery?

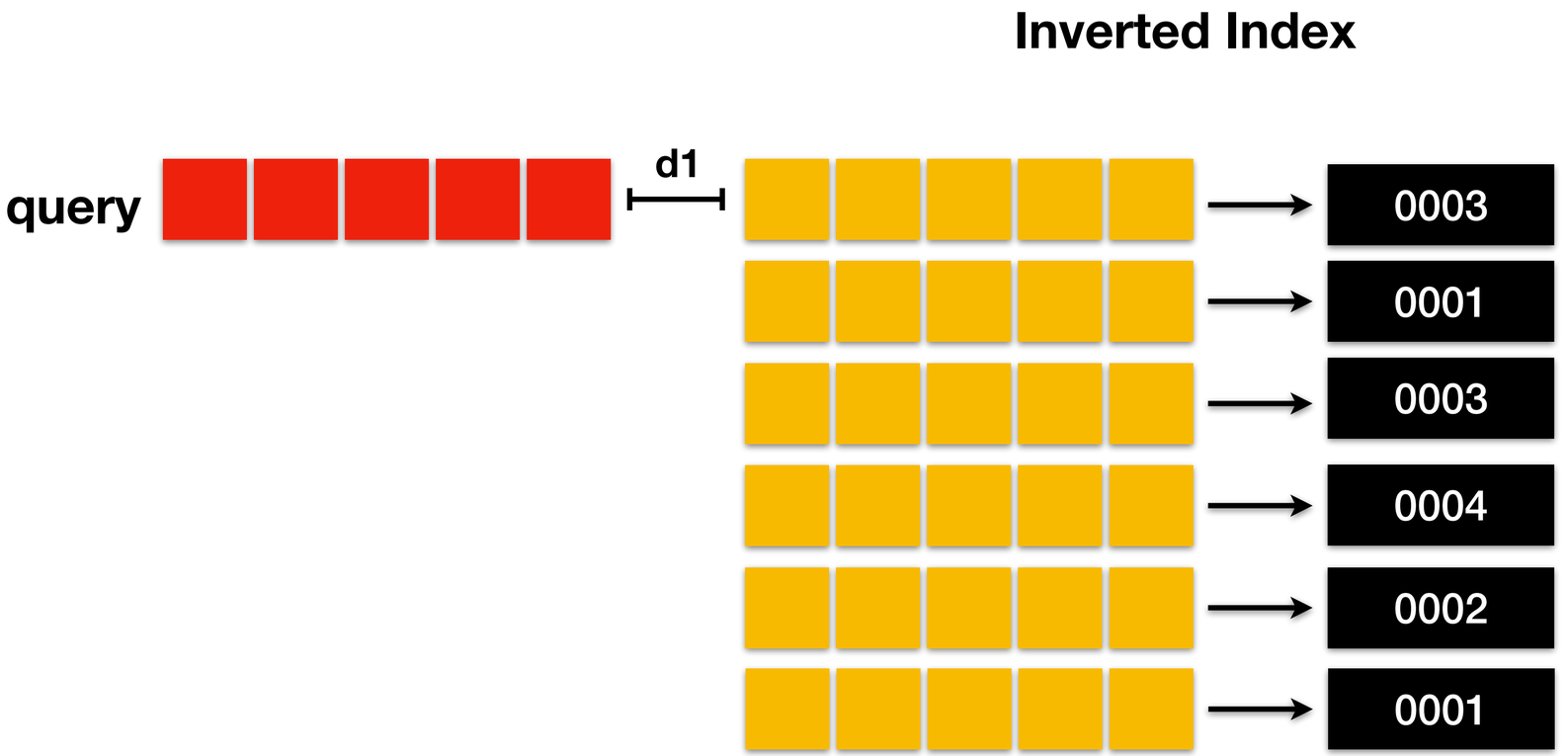
Need for more complex indexing.

Retrieval of features as quick as possible.



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Brute Force Search



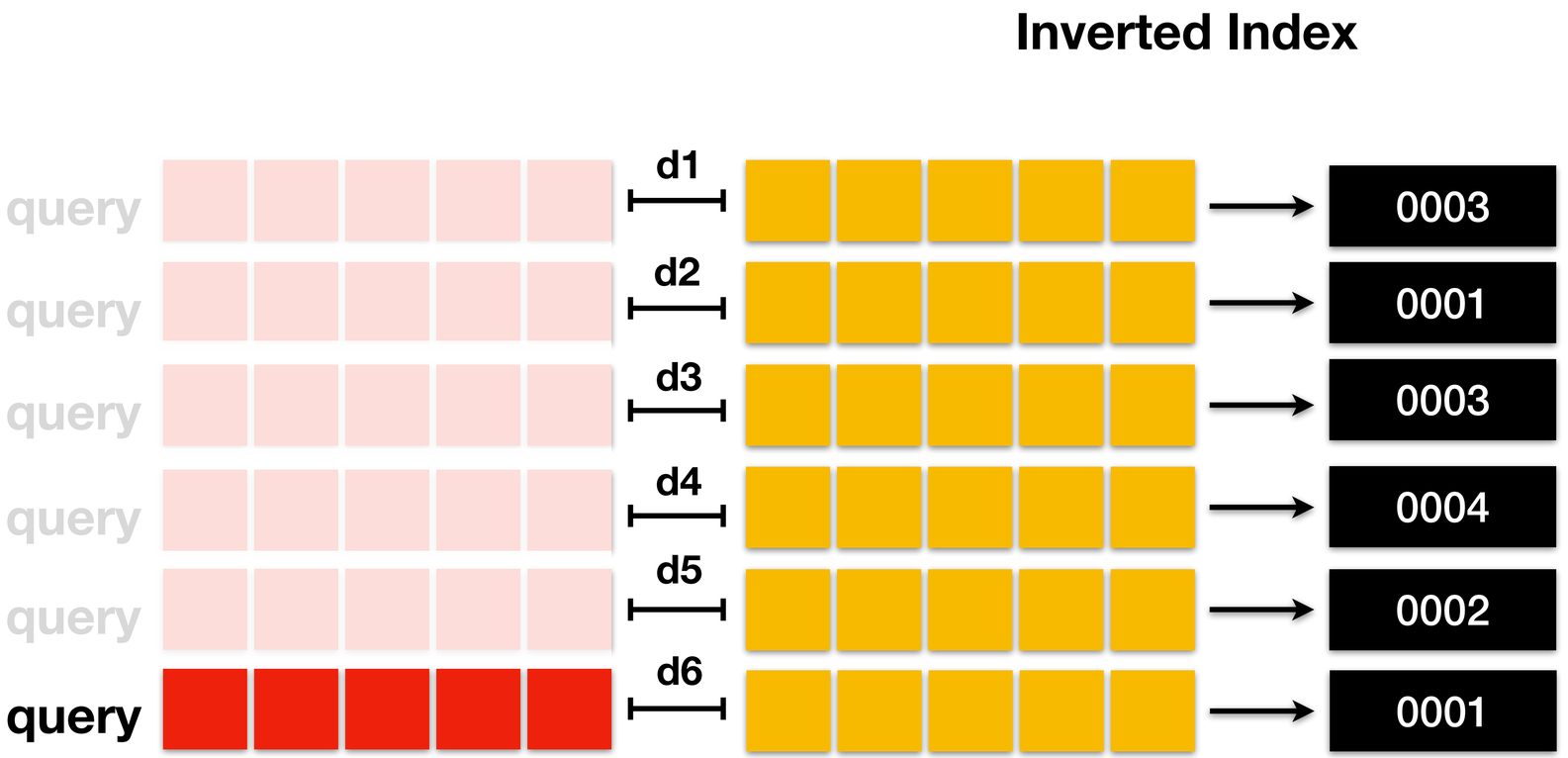
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Brute Force Search

What is the computational complexity?

Linear: *O(n)*, where *n* is the number of features.

How to reduce it?

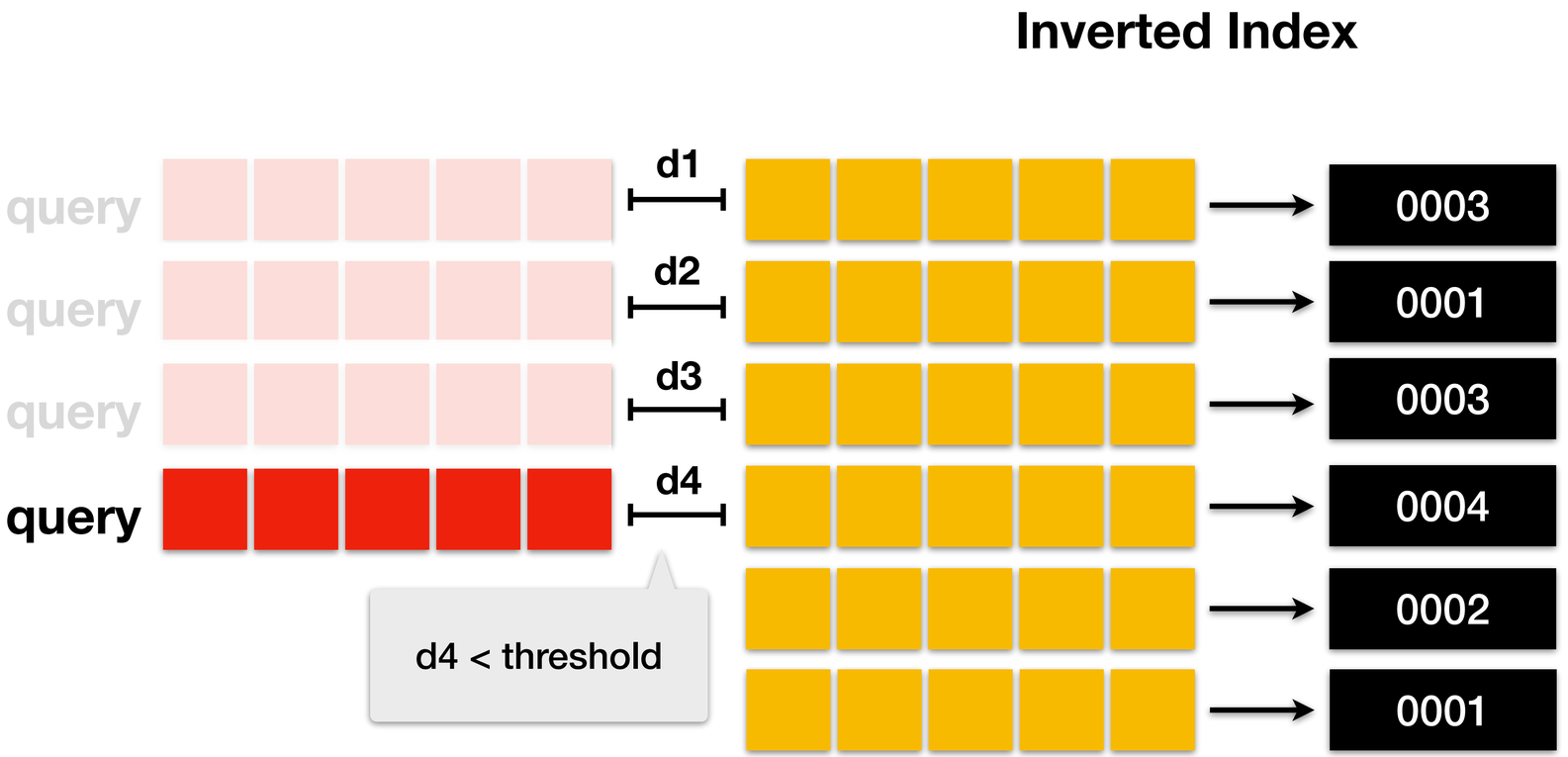


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Early Stop Search

How to reduce complexity?

Stop when you find a feature that is close enough.



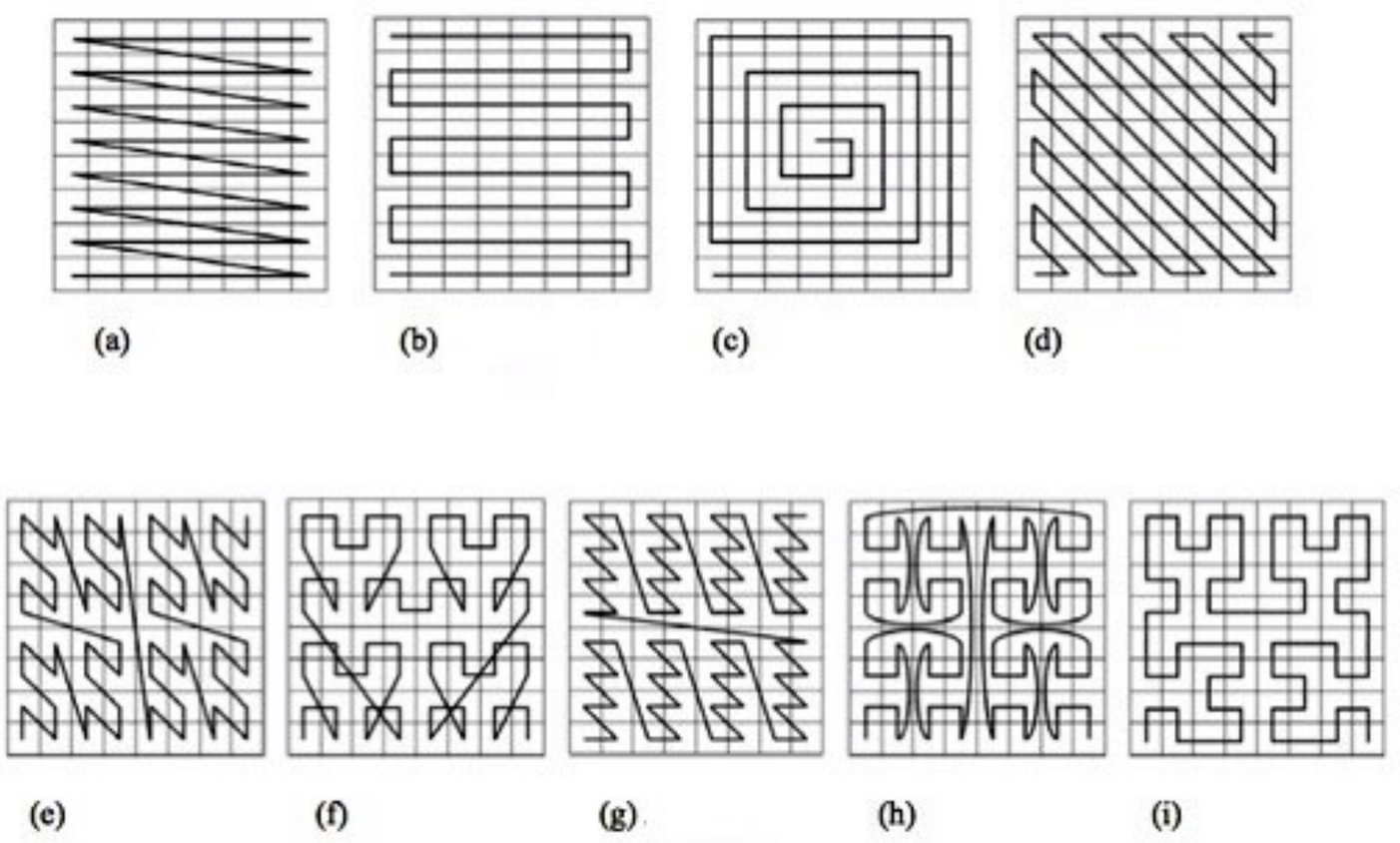
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Space Filling Curves

2D space examples

How to reduce complexity?

Curves determined by index mapping functions that pass once through every point of an *N*-dimensional space.



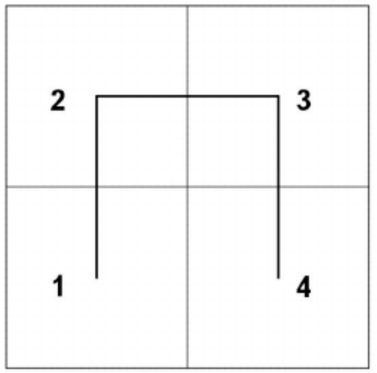
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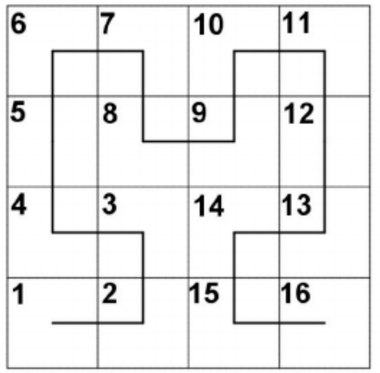
Space Filling Curves

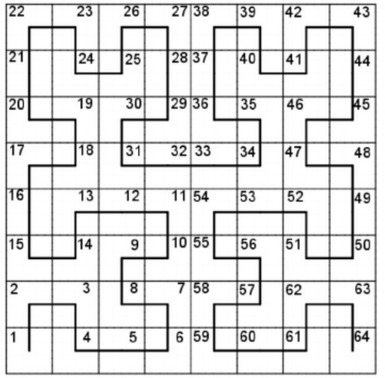
How to reduce complexity?

Curves determined by index mapping functions that pass once through every point of an *N*-dimensional space.

2D space examples







Hilbert curves

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Space Filling Curves

How to reduce complexity?

Curves determined by index mapping functions that pass once through every point of an *N*-dimensional space.

The mapping functions are executed in constant time, w.r.t. the number of features.

3D space examples



Hilbert curves

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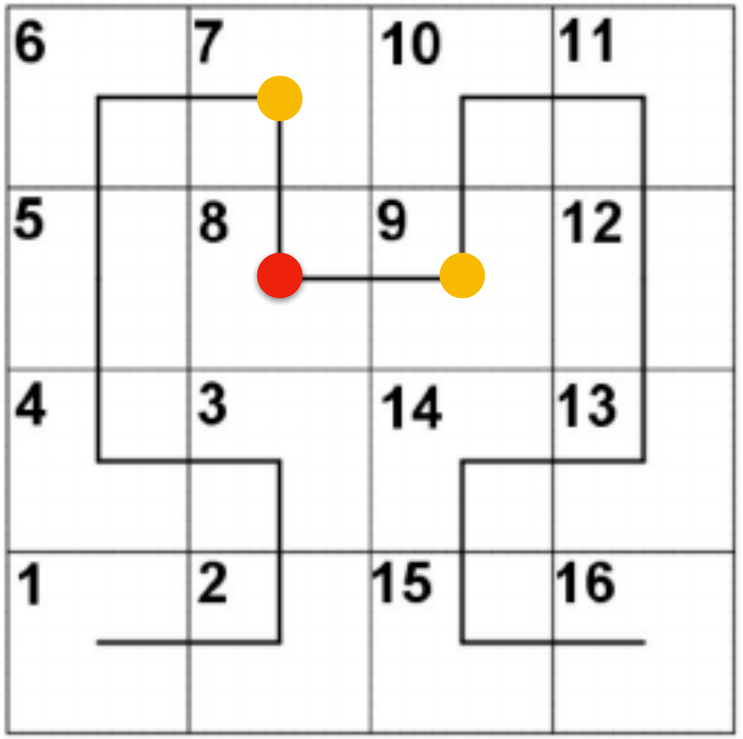
Space Filling Curves

How to reduce complexity?

The curves are 1D and the elements indexed by them are “sorted” in an *approximation* of their distances in the original space.

If the curve is used as a binary tree, an approximation of the k-nearest elements can be obtained in *O(log(n))*, where *n* is the number of features.

Example: 2-nearest elements



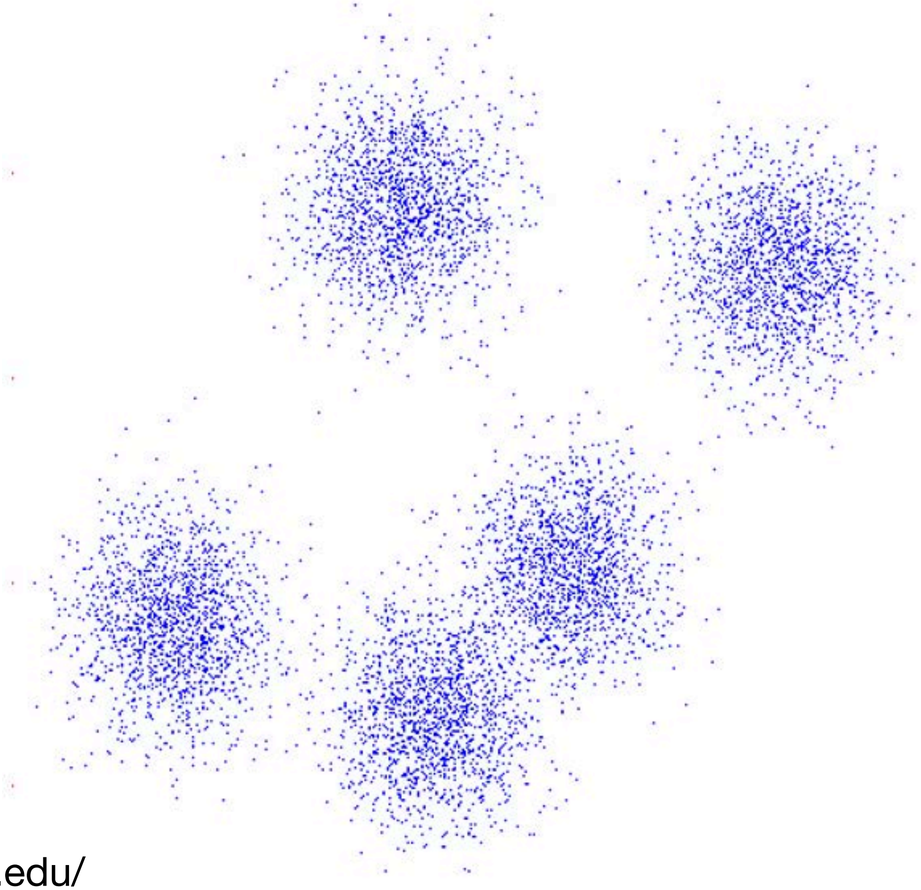
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Clustering

How to reduce complexity?

Cluster the features and limit the k-nearest search to one or a couple of clusters.

There will be less elements to consider



Source: https://people.csail.mit.edu/dsontag/courses/ml12/slides/lecture14.pdf

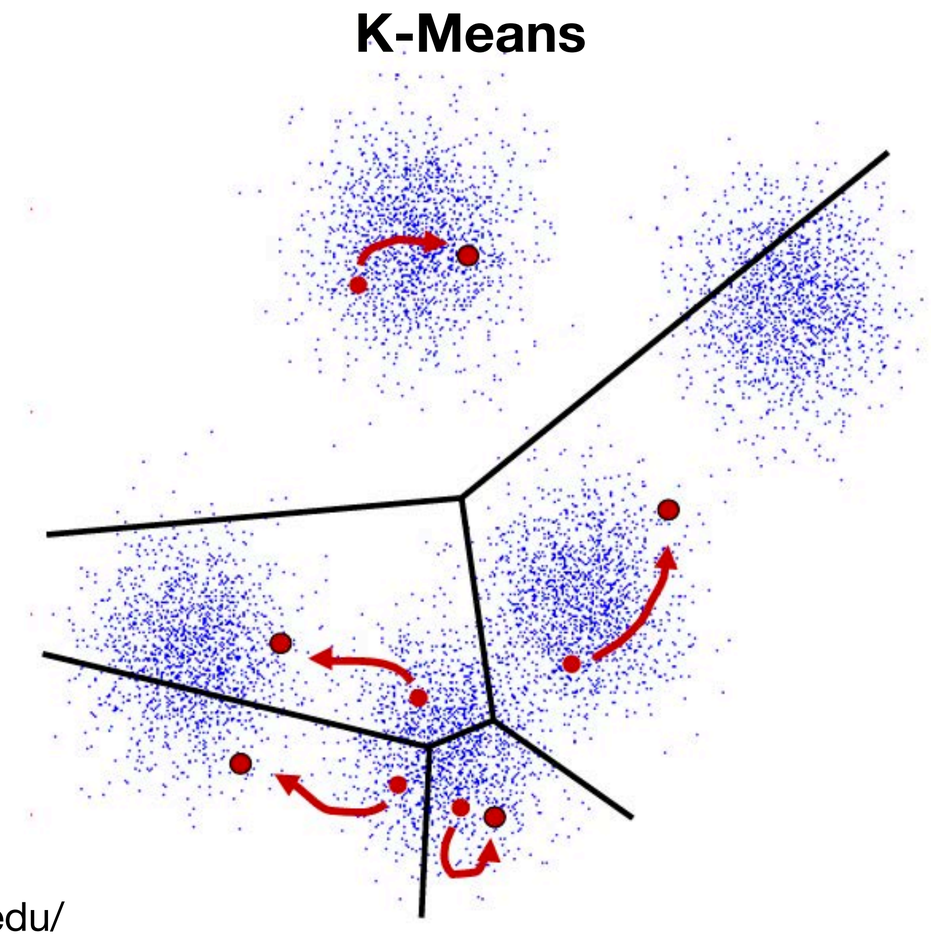
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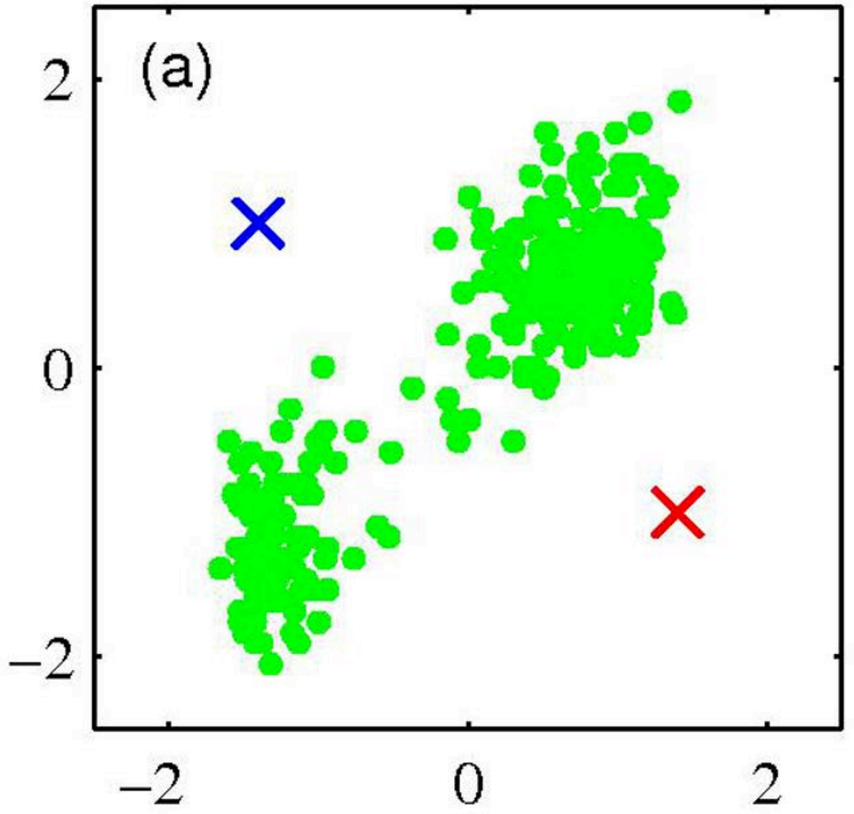
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Clustering

K-Means

Select K random features as cluster centers.



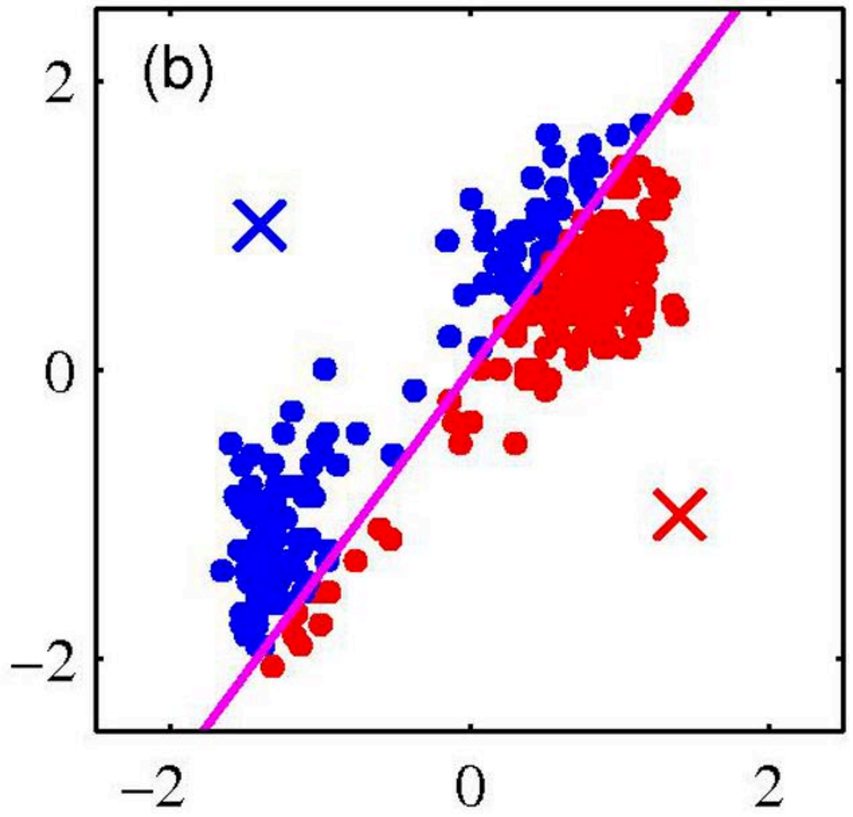
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Clustering

K-Means

Assign features to closes cluster centers.



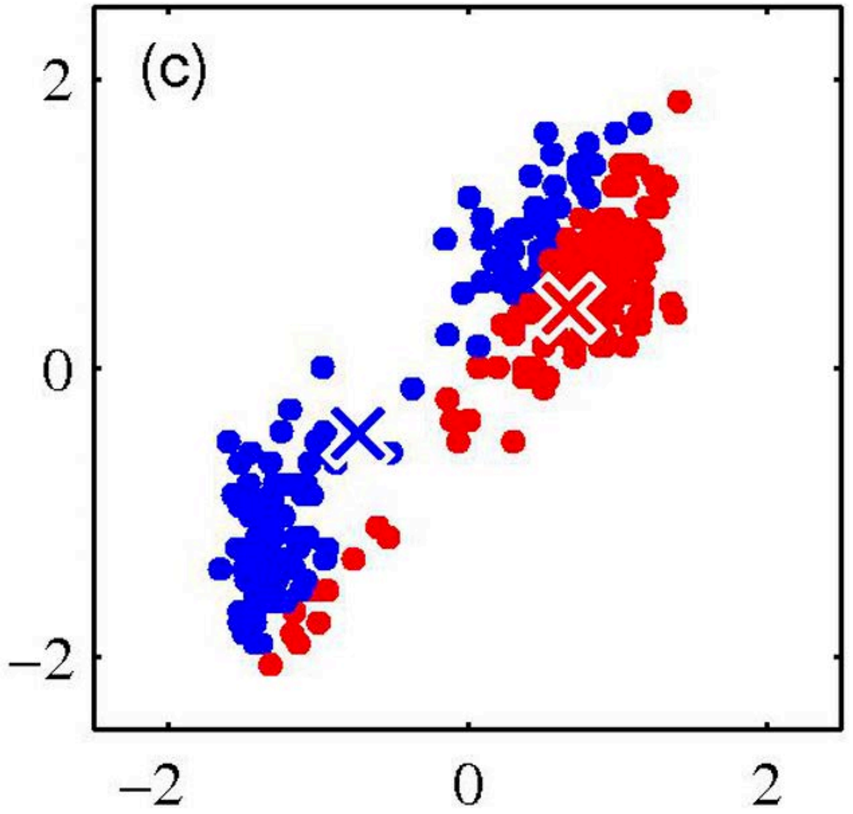
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Clustering

K-Means

Update the cluster centers by
taking the **means** of each cluster.



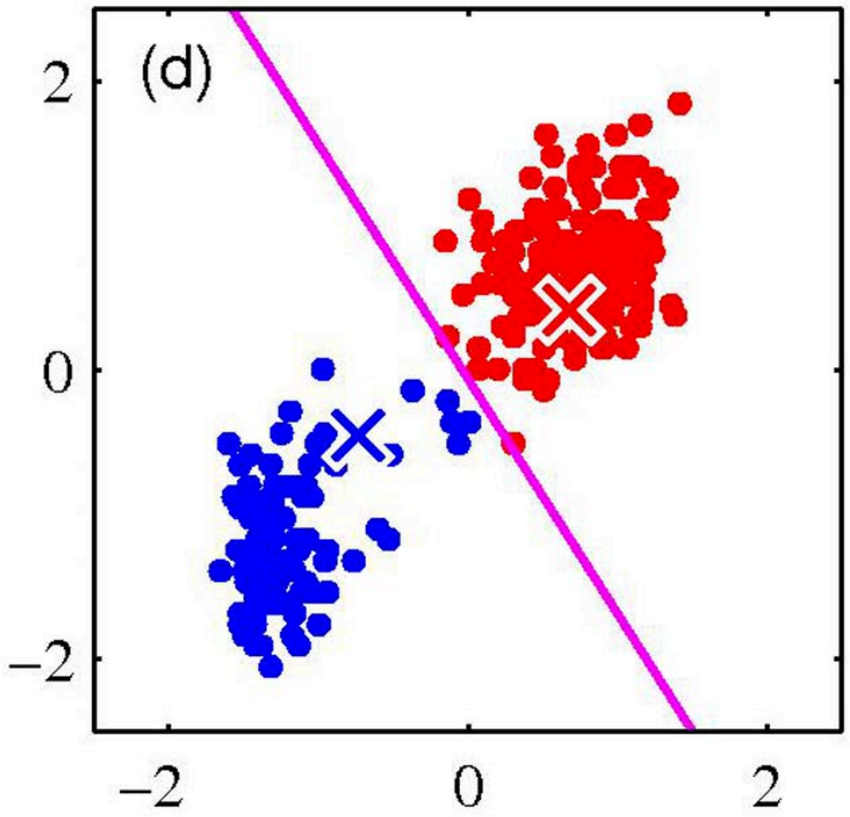
Source: https://people.csail.mit.edu/dsontag/courses/ml12/slides/lecture14.pdf

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Clustering

K-Means

Repeat until convergence.



Source: https://people.csail.mit.edu/dsontag/courses/ml12/slides/lecture14.pdf

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Clustering

K-Means

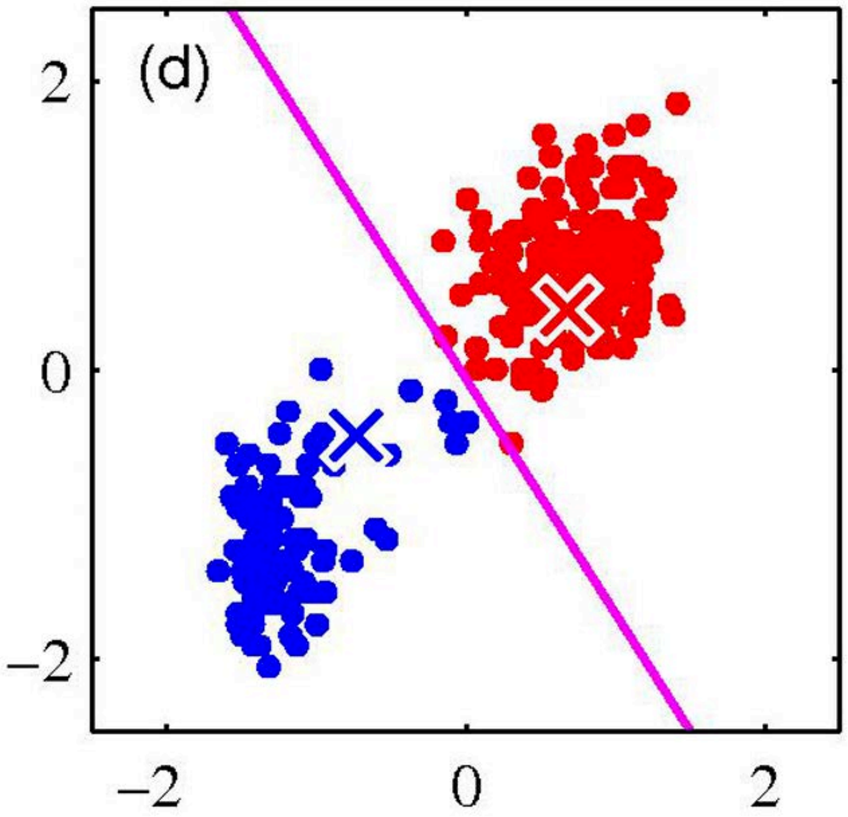
What are the limitations of this approach?

What is the ideal number of clusters?

Complexity of building clusters: *O(Kn)* in each step until convergence.

K: #clusters
n: #features

Clustering is *offline*: i.e., it does not happen at feature querying time.

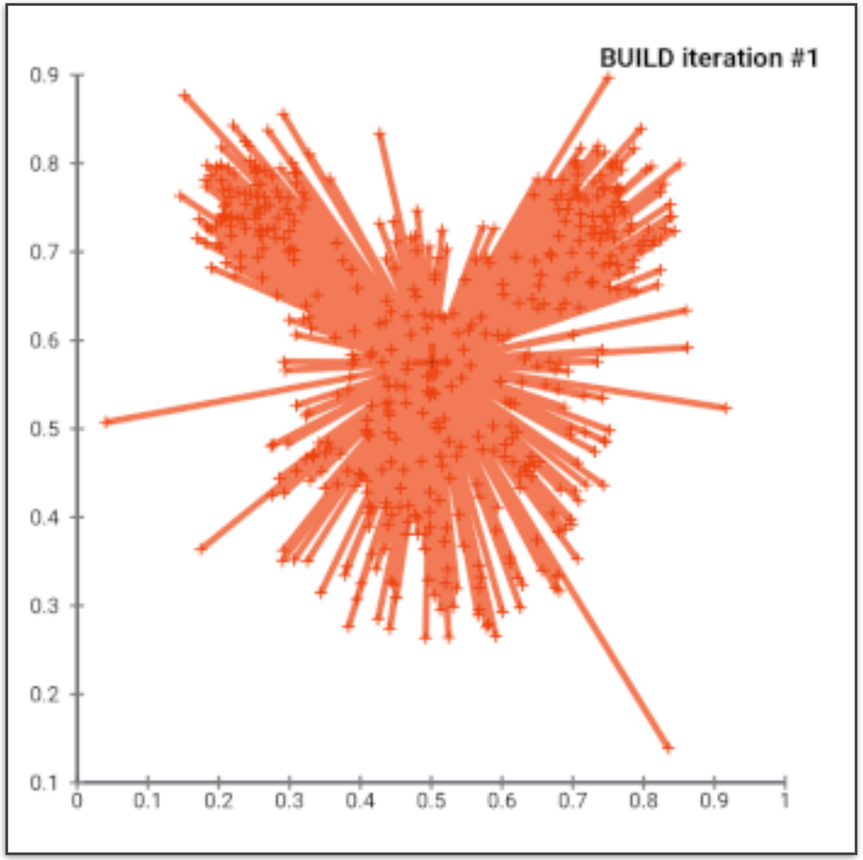


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Clustering

Variation: K-medoids

Instead of using *means* as the cluster centers, use *medians*, which are actual existing features.

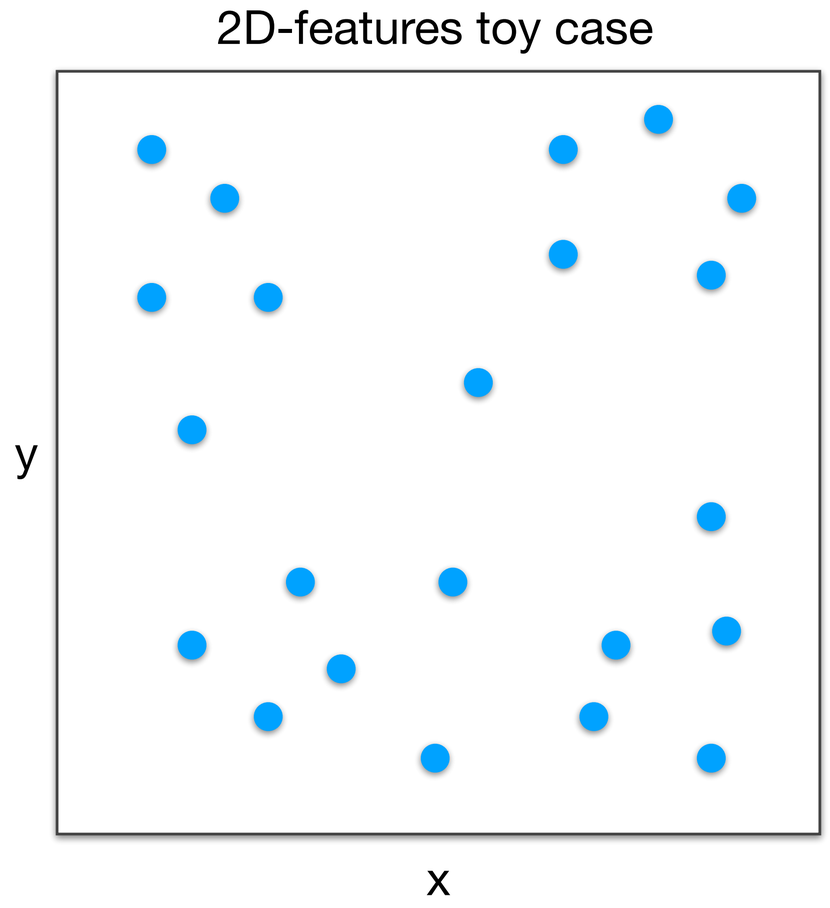


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KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

K-dimensional trees:
For K times
Split one feature dimension into two halves.



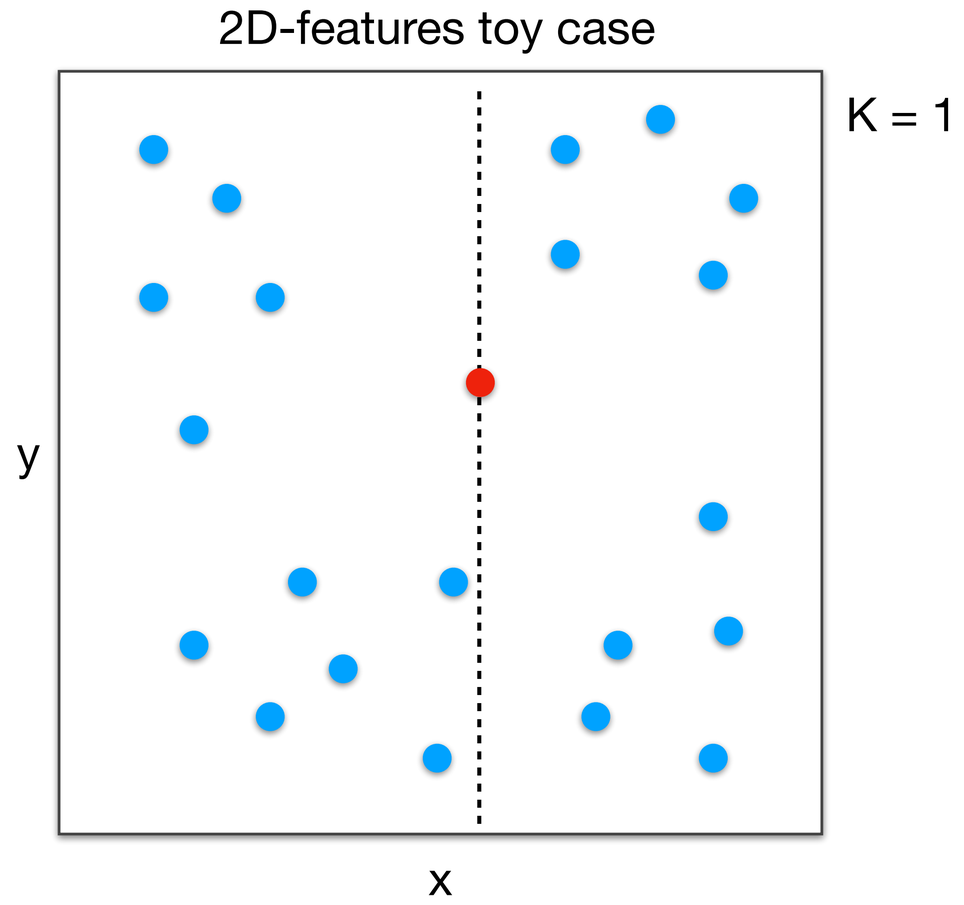
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KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

K-dimensional trees:
For K times
Split one feature dimension into two partitions using medians.

indices



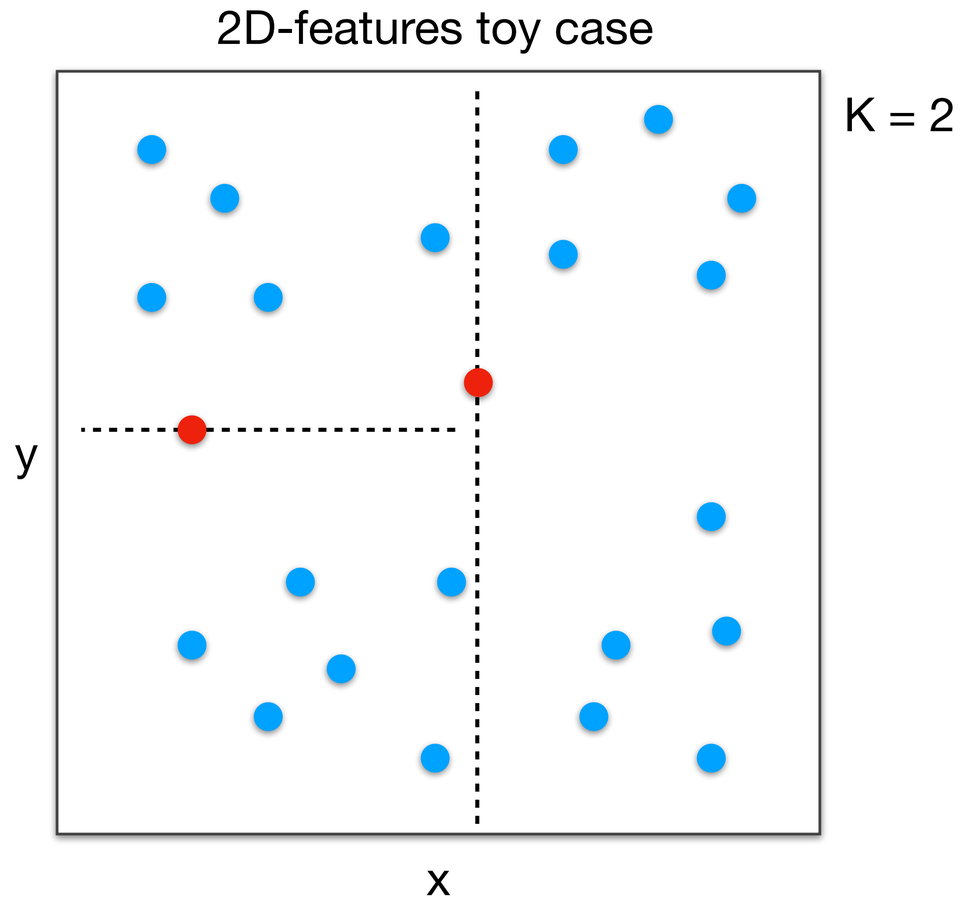
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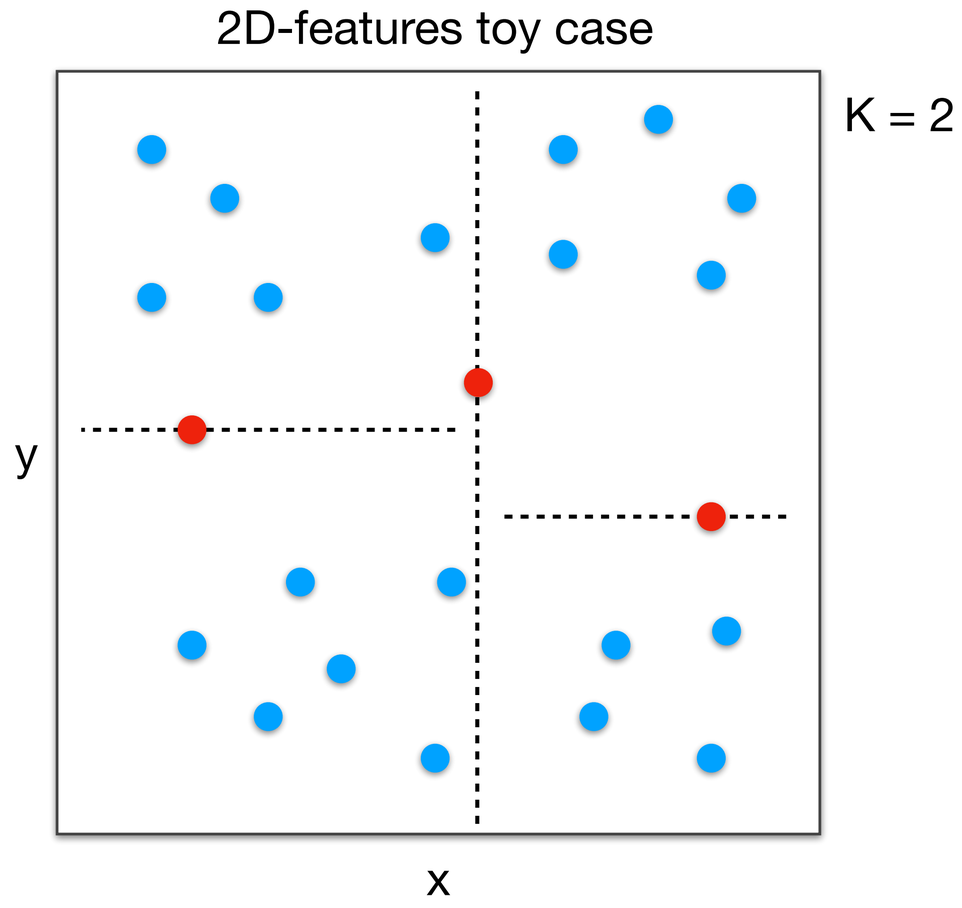
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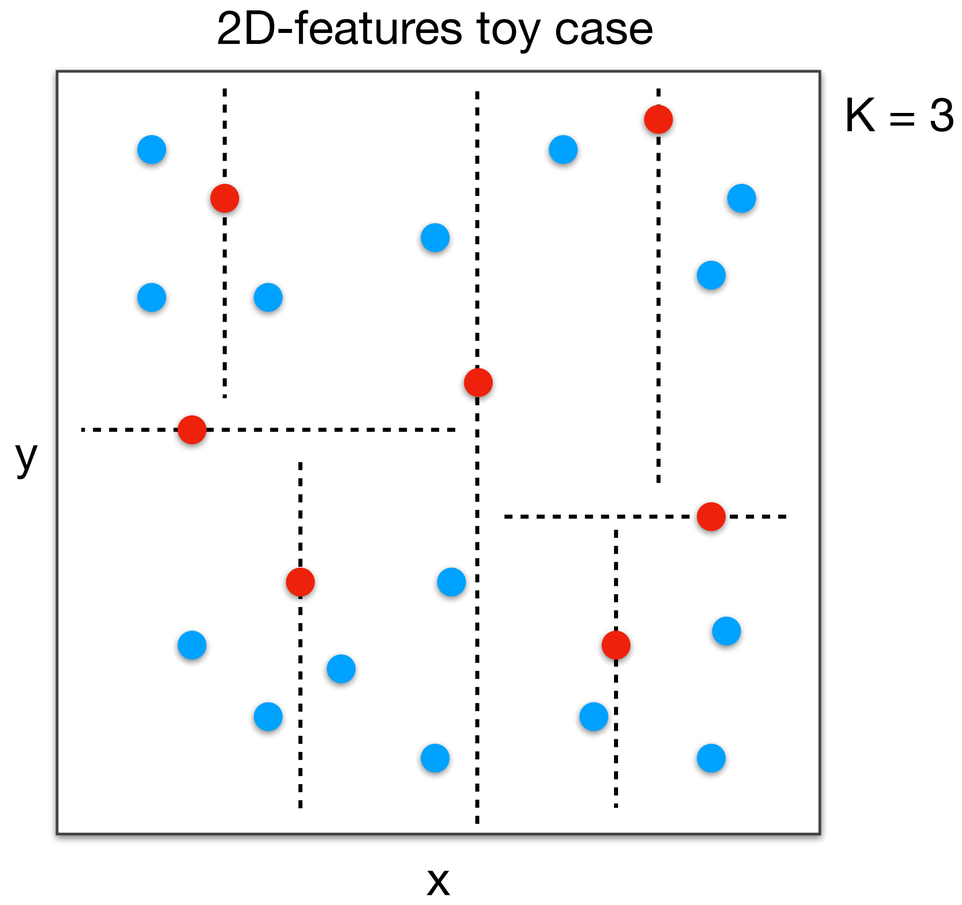
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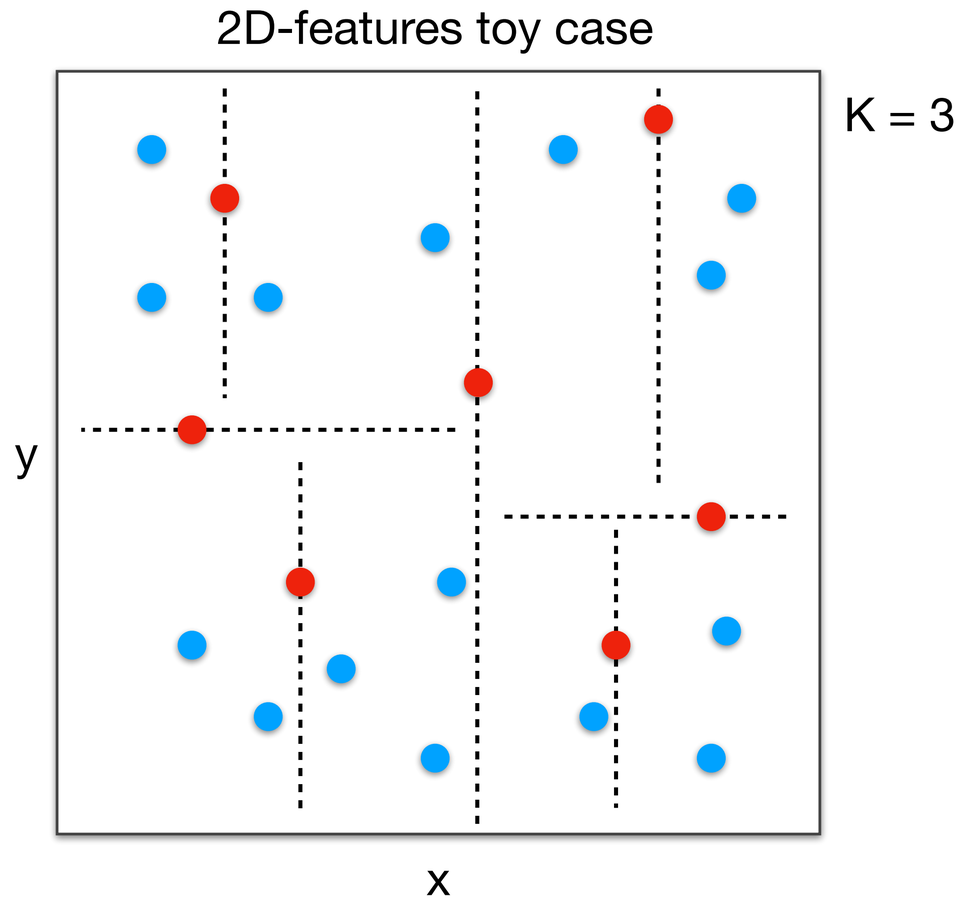
KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

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Split one feature dimension into two partitions using medians.

Complexity to build: *O(n log(n))*

Building is *offline*: i.e., it does not happen at feature querying time.



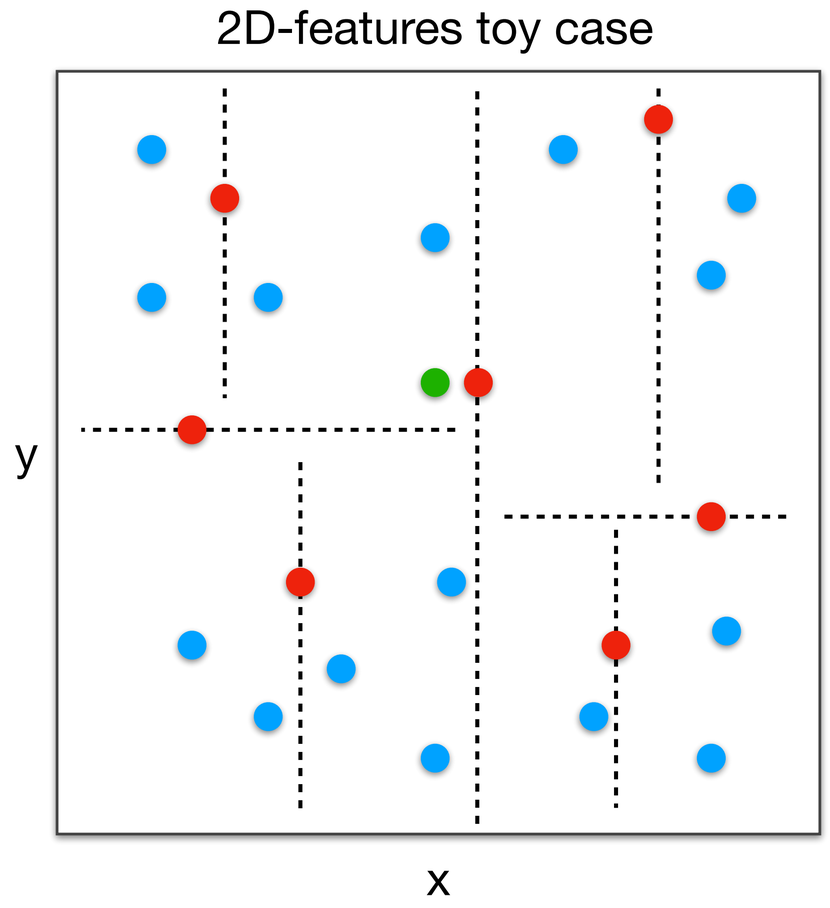
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

How to obtain 3-nearest neighbors?

query



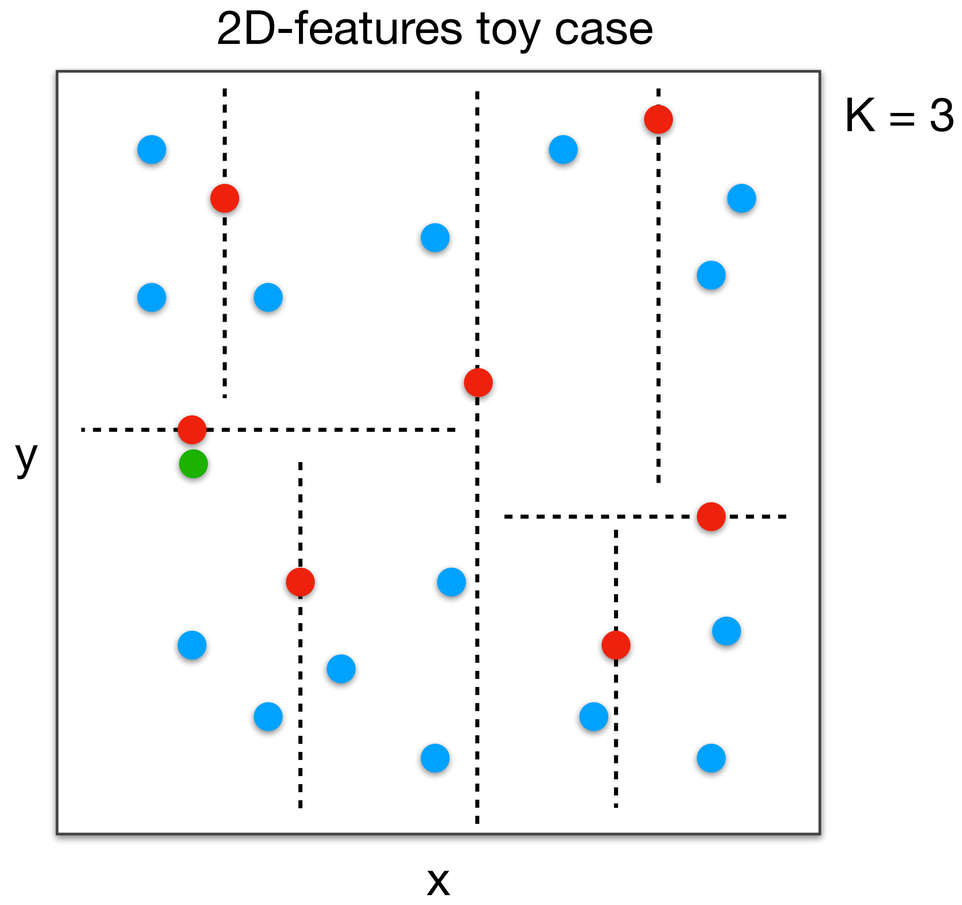
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

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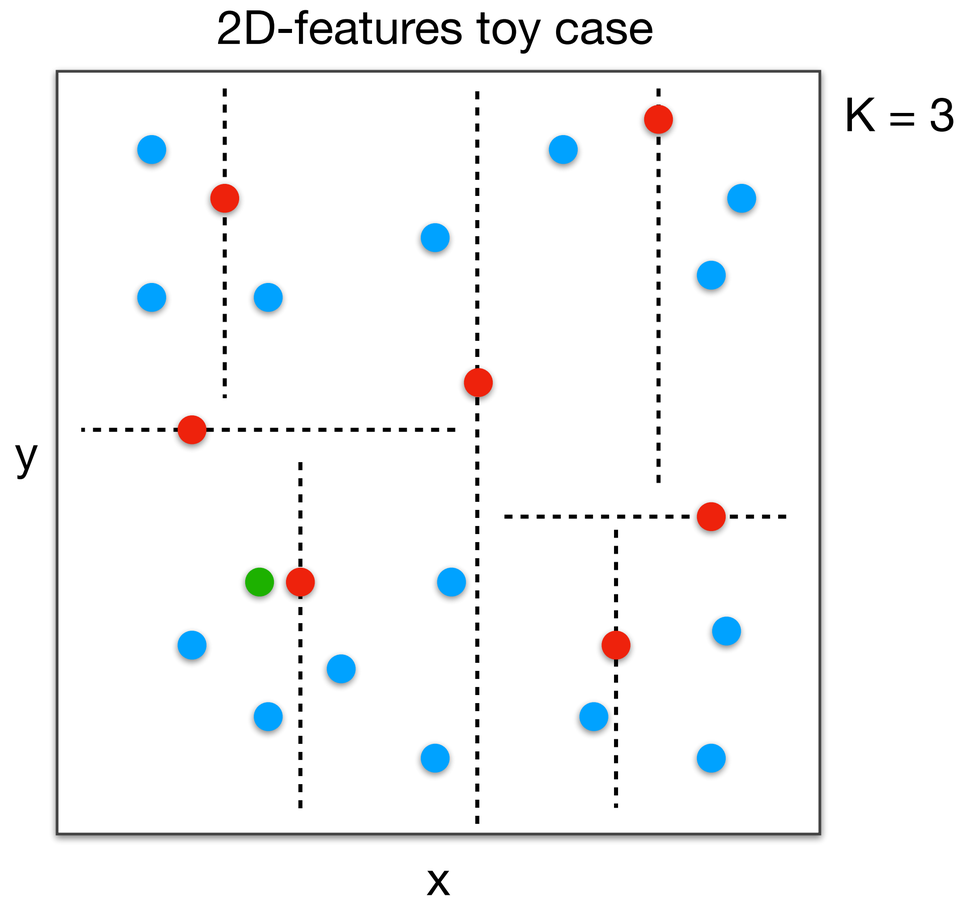
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

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query



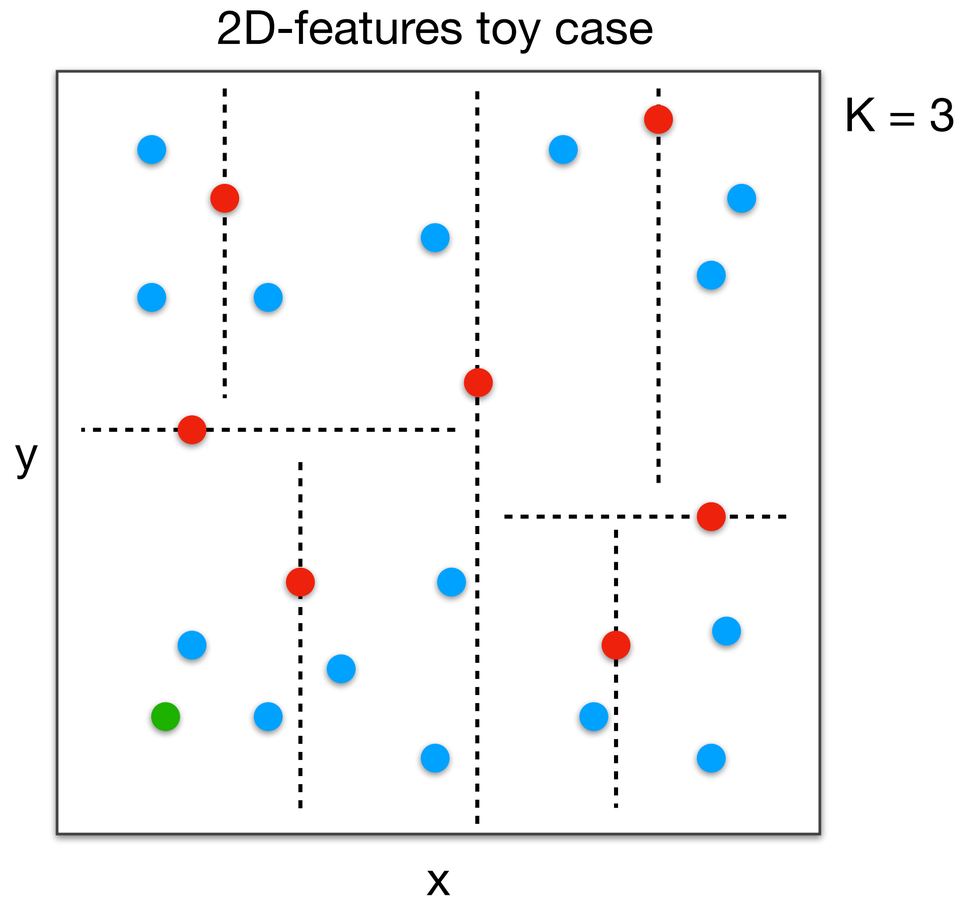
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

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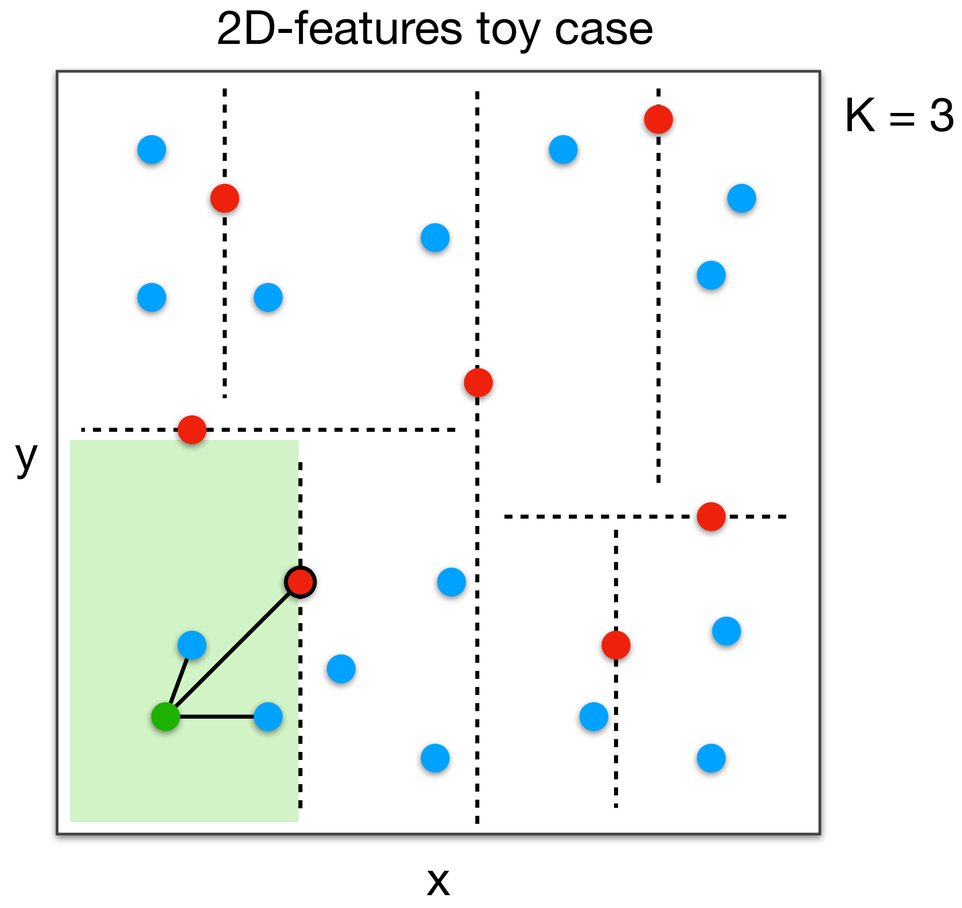
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

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query



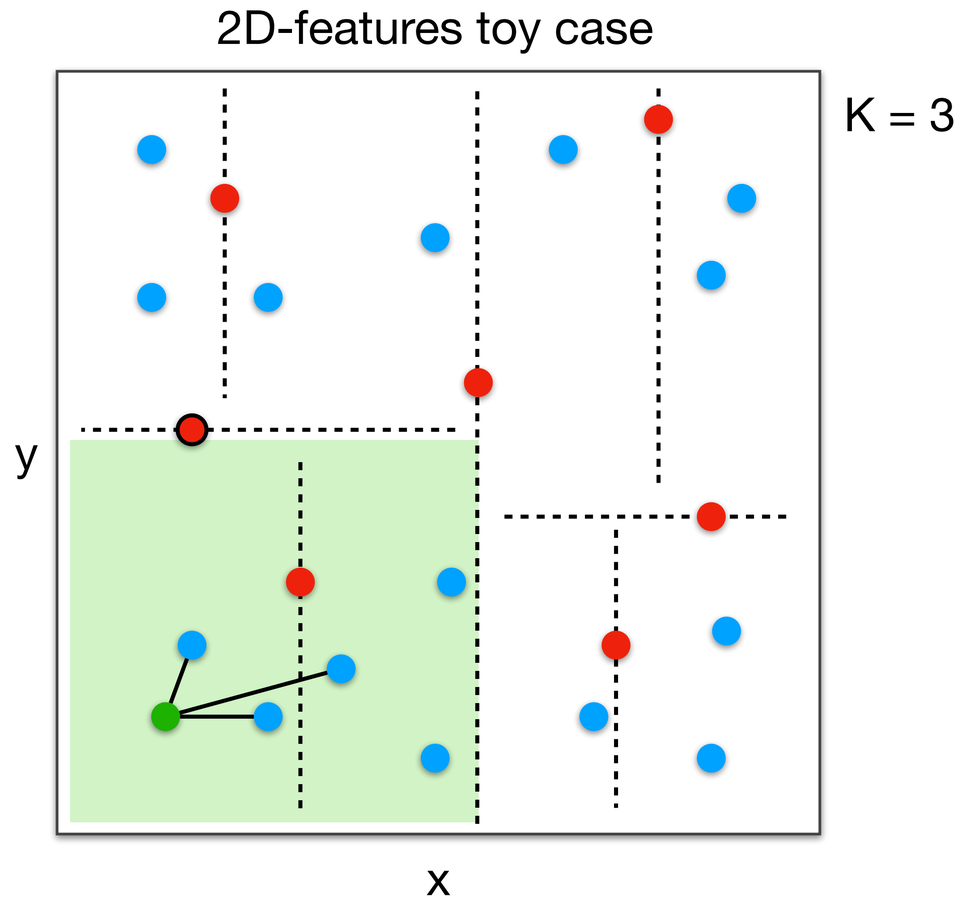
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

How to obtain 3-nearest neighbors?

query



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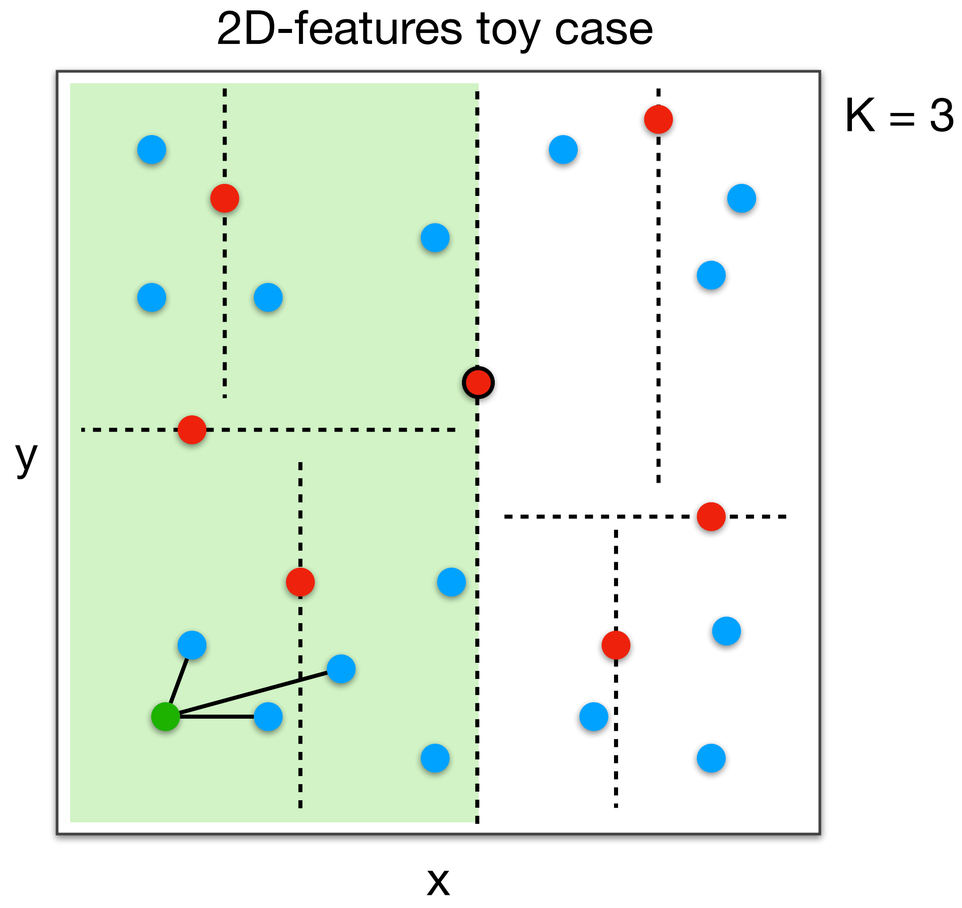
KD Trees

How to reduce complexity?

How to obtain 3-nearest neighbors?

query

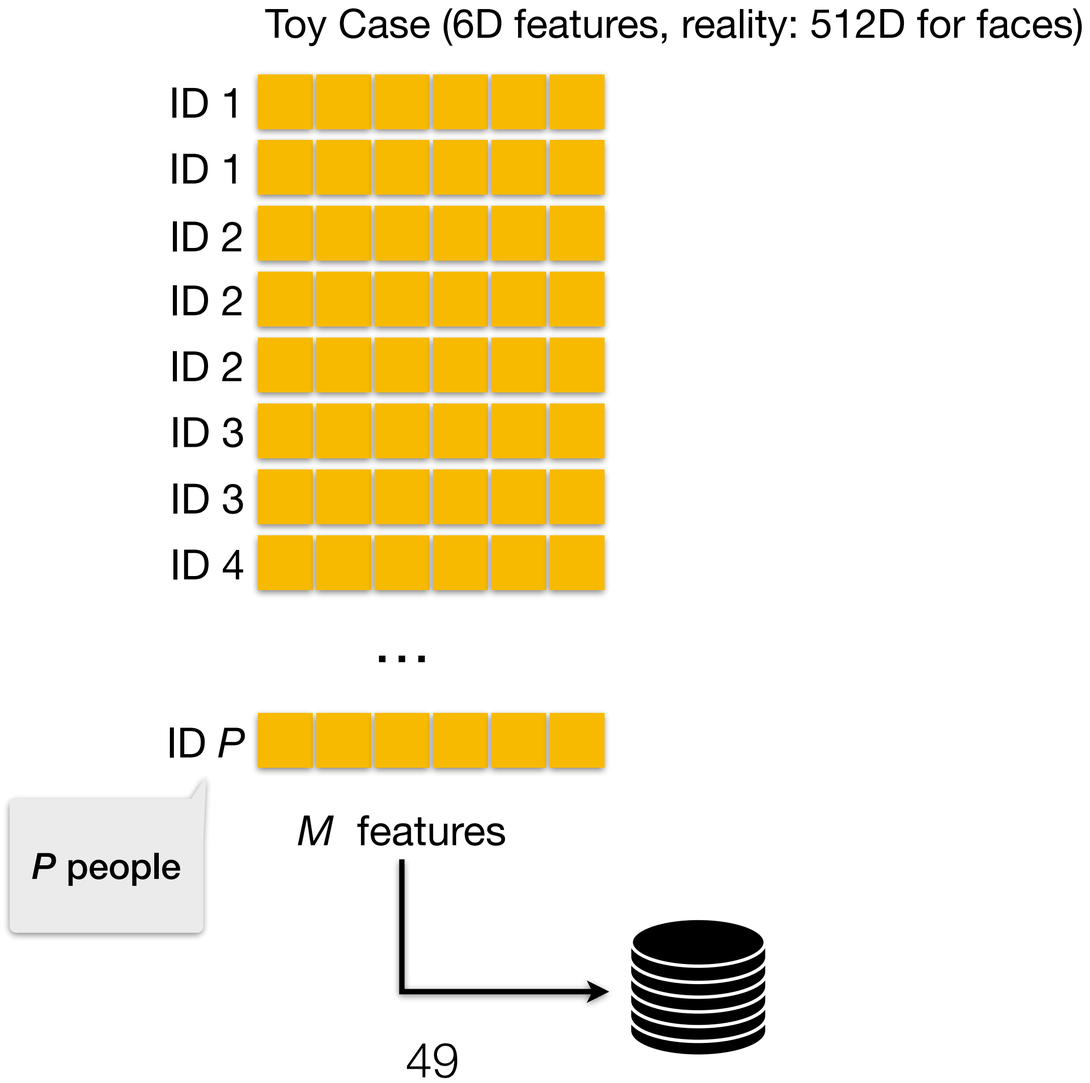
No changes in 3-nearest, so stop.



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Product Quantization

How to reduce size?



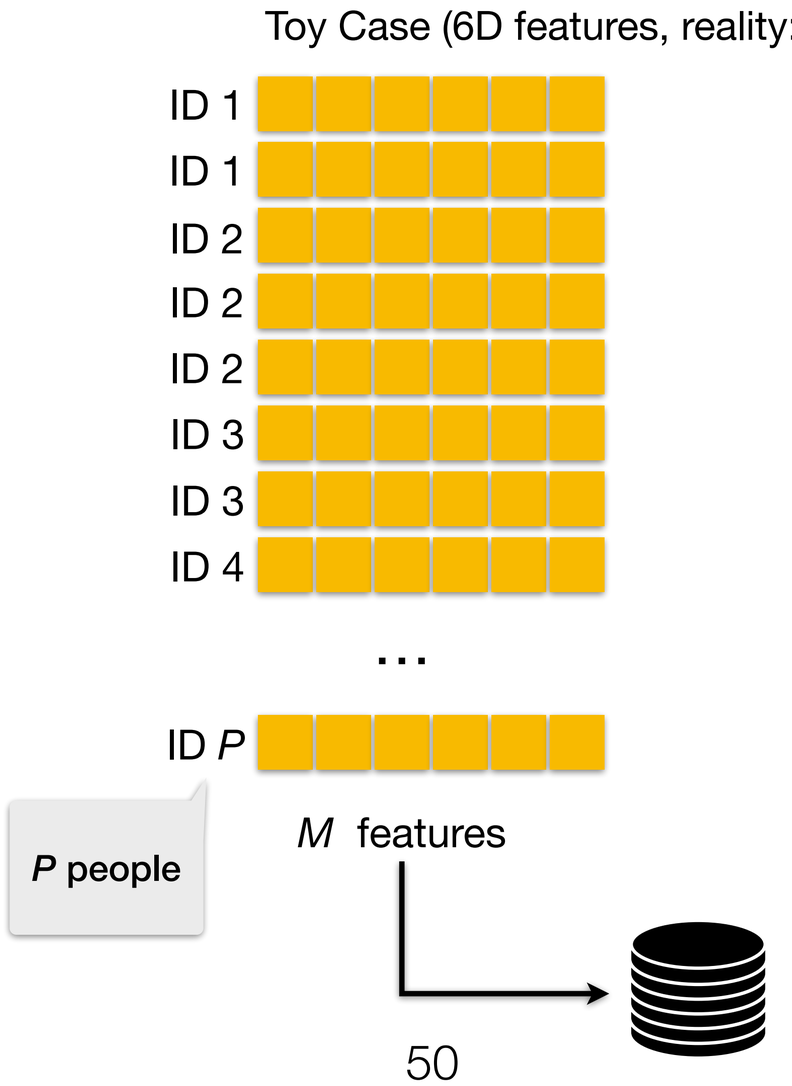
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

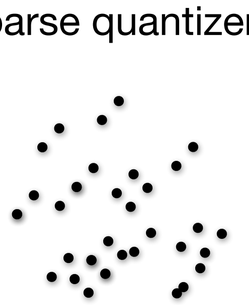
Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

1. Start with a **coarse quantizer**.





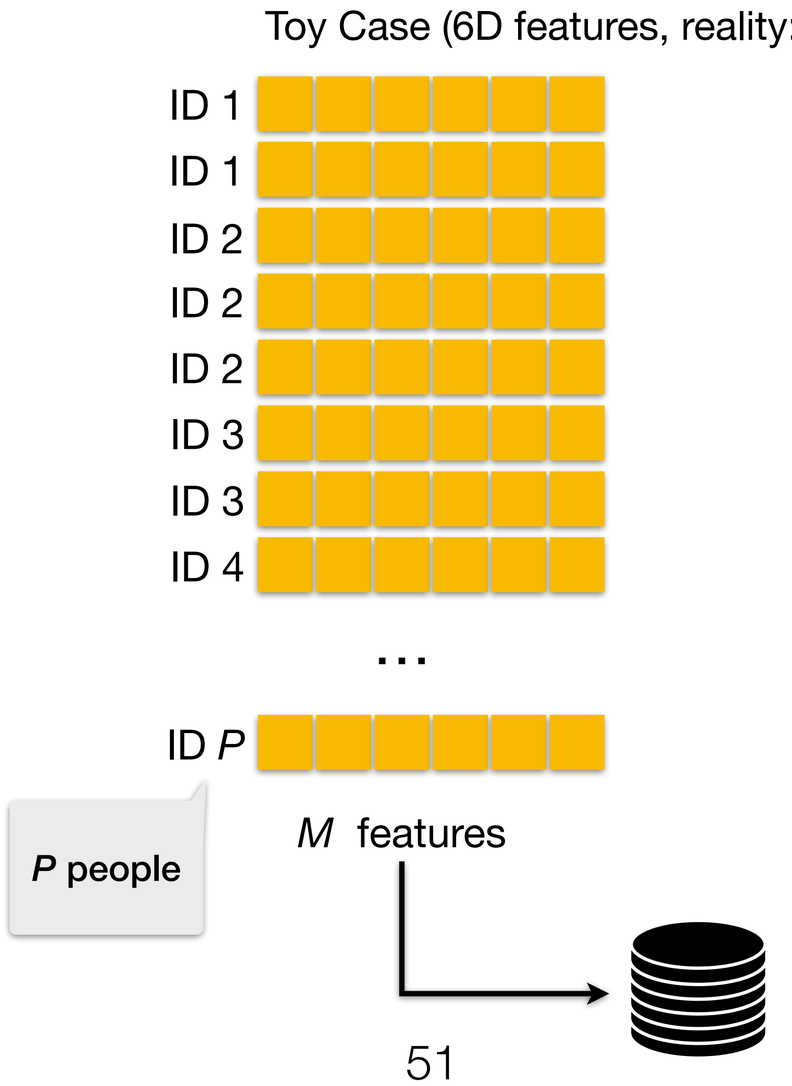
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

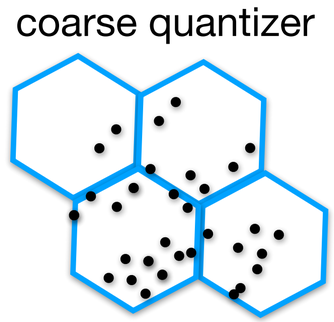
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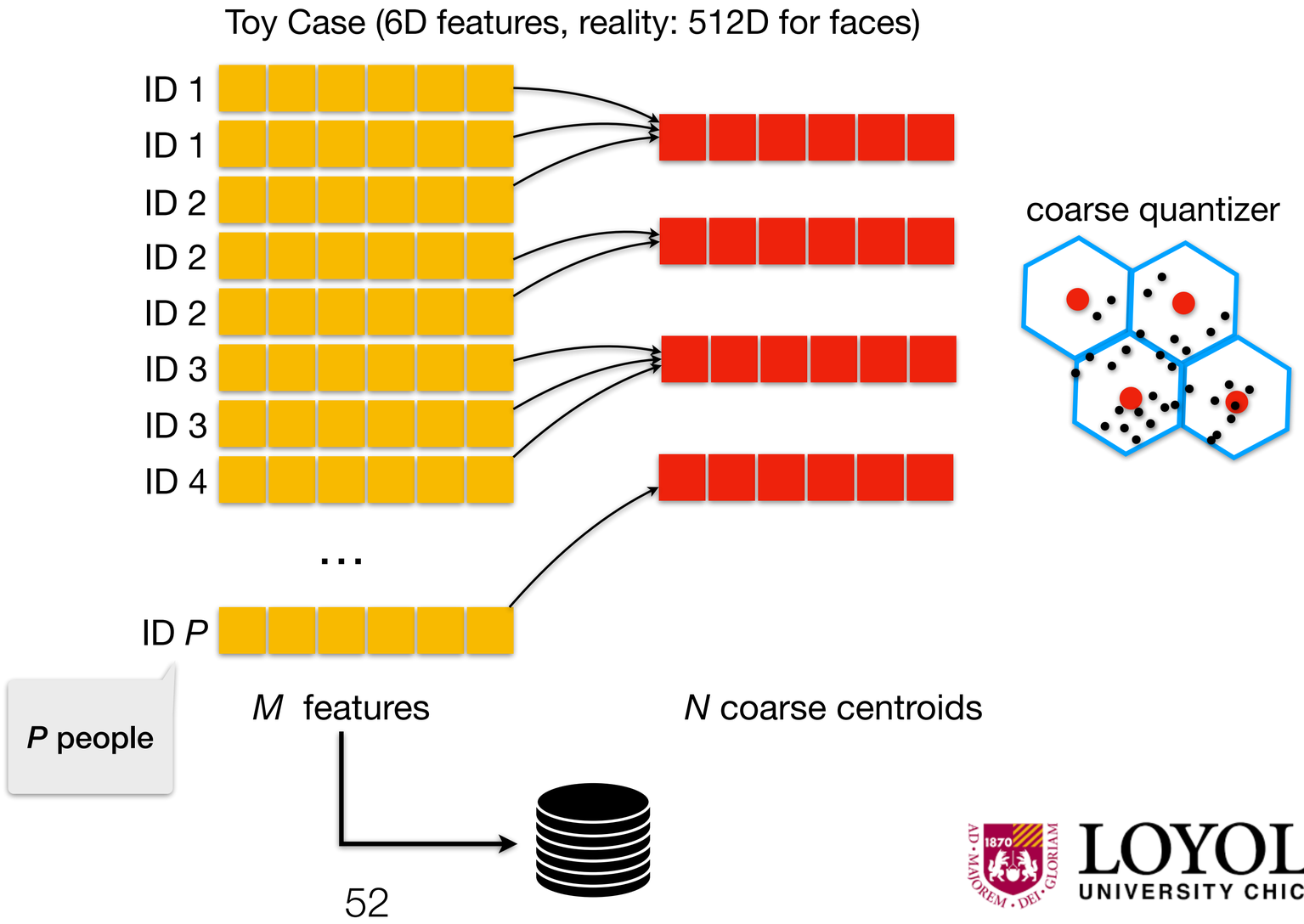
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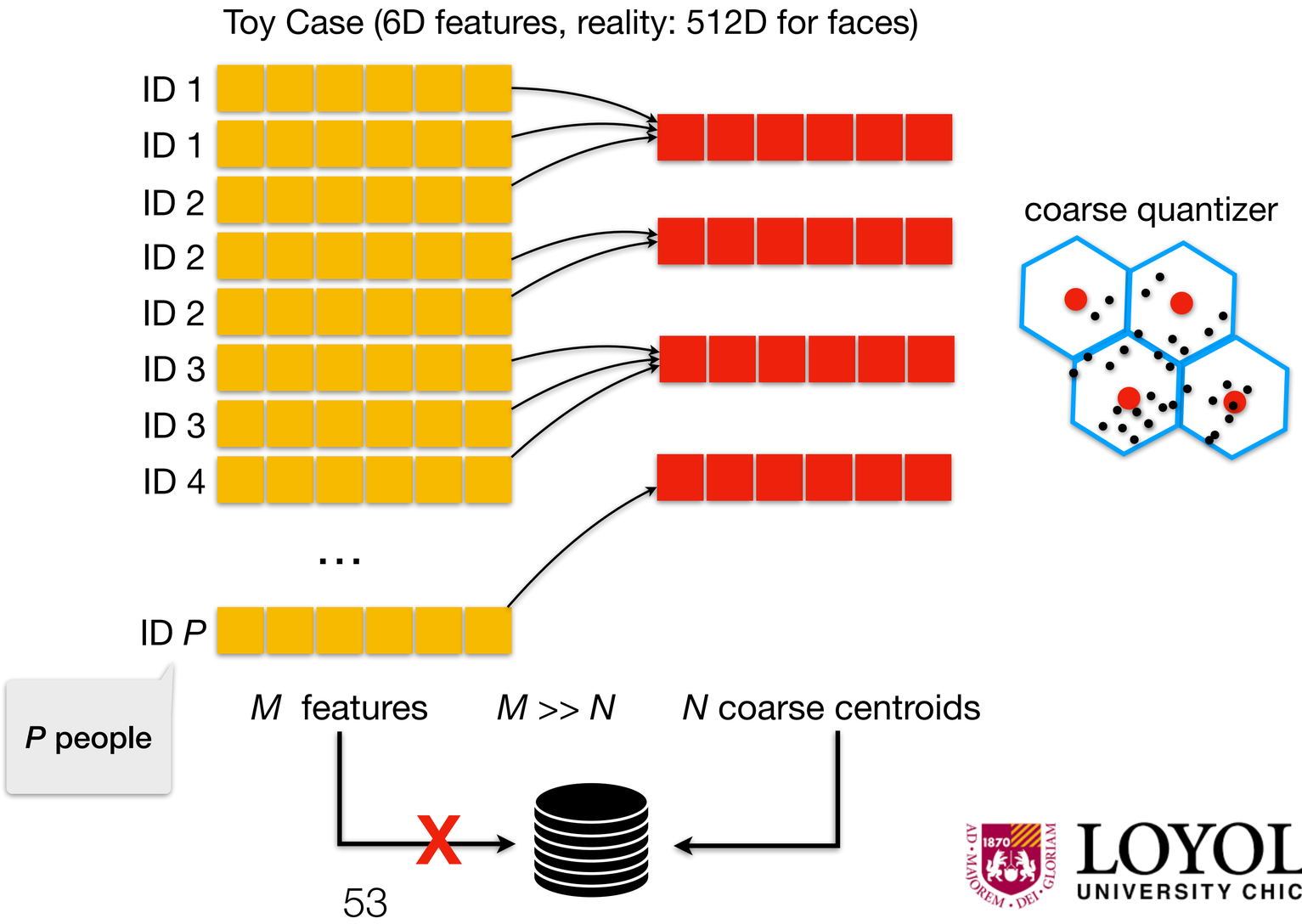
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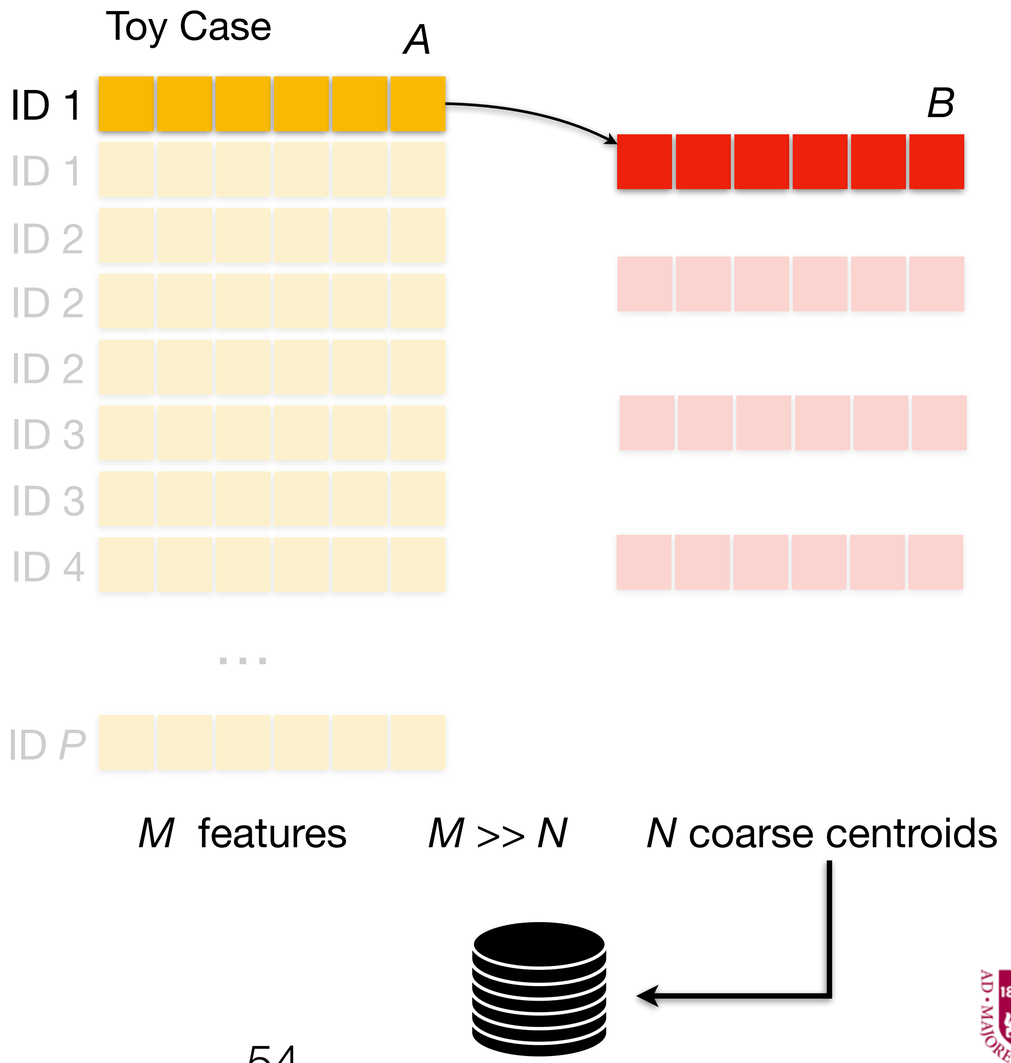
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Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

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2. Compute **residuals** (differences) between features and their respective coarse centroids.



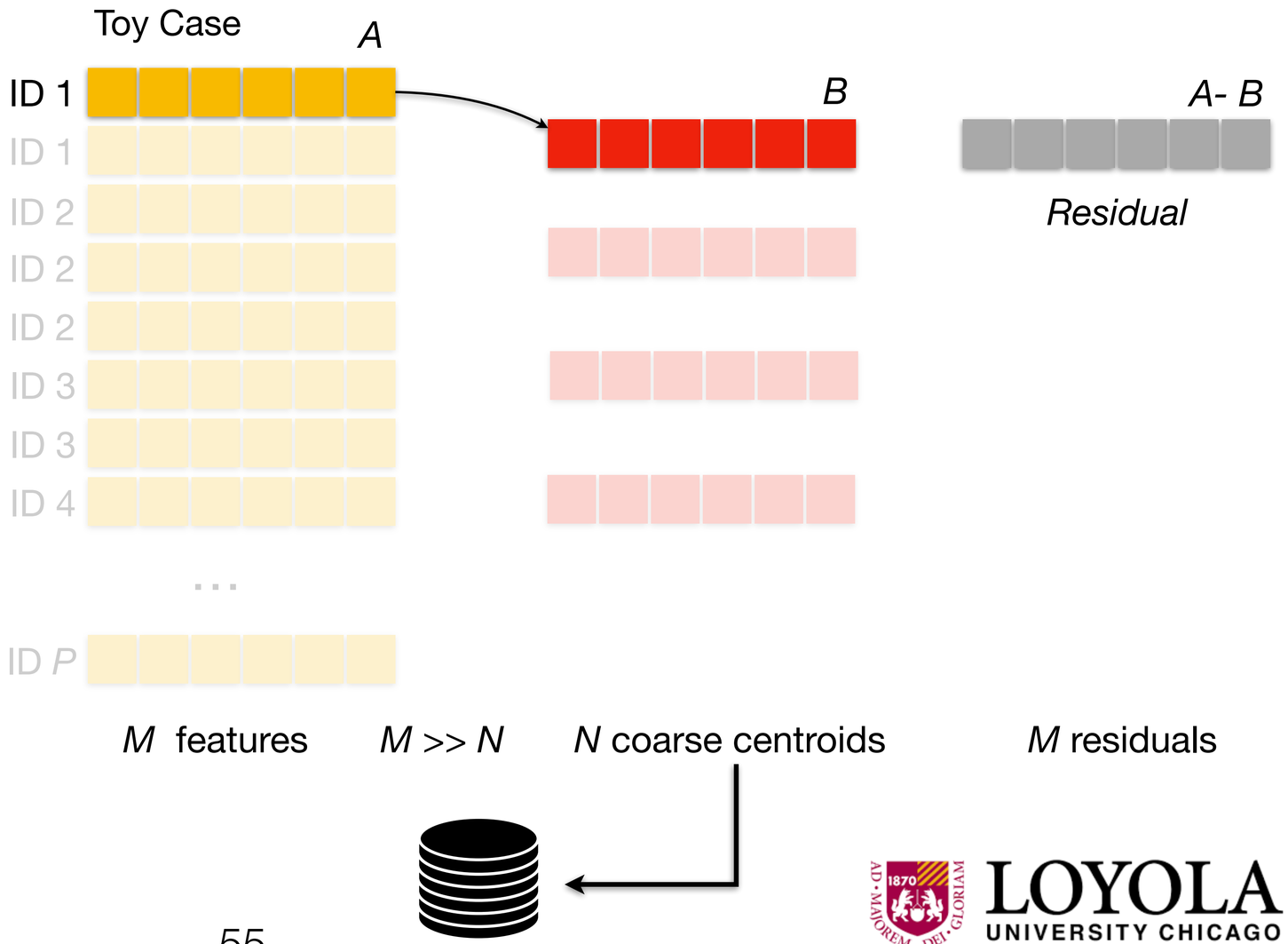
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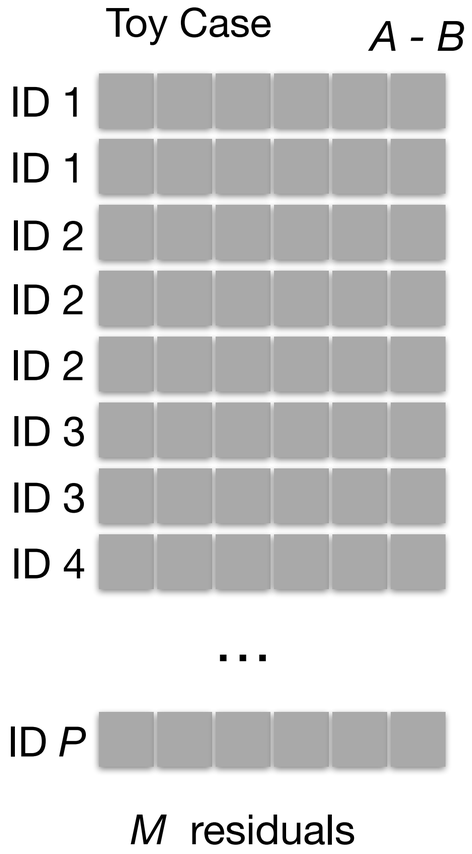
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

3. Reduce the dimensionality of residuals with **Product Quantization**.



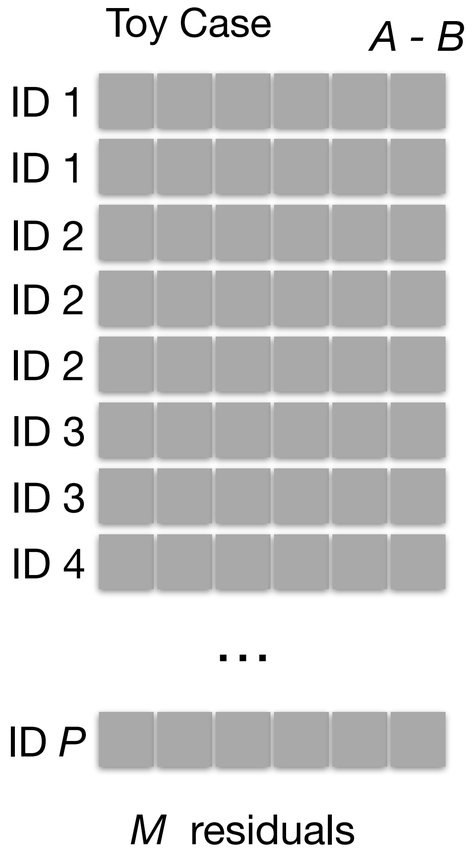
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

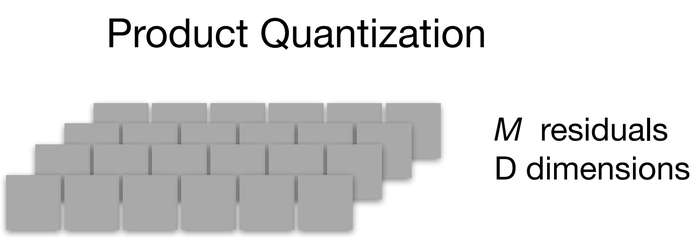
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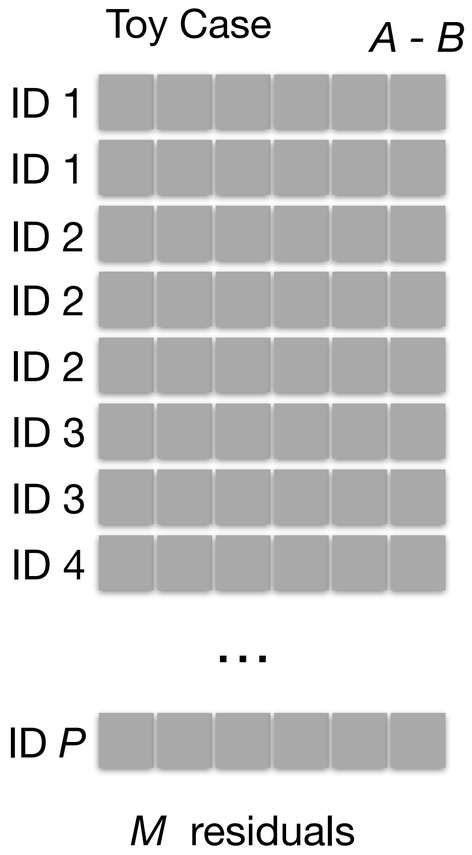
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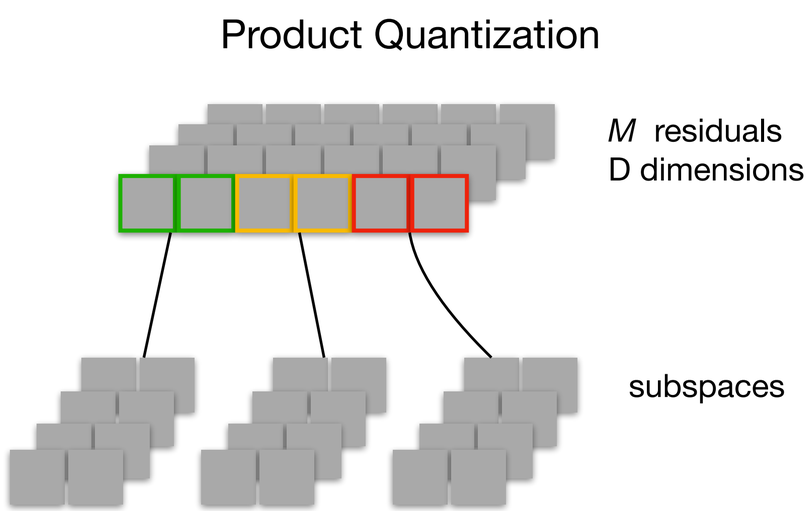
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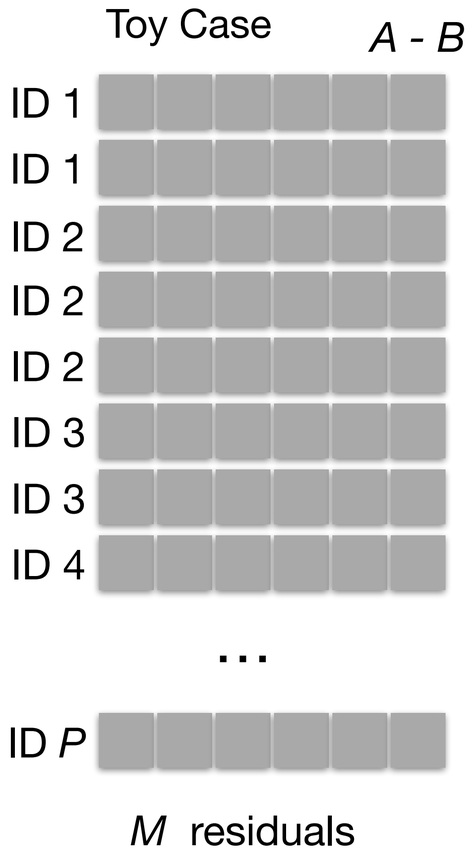
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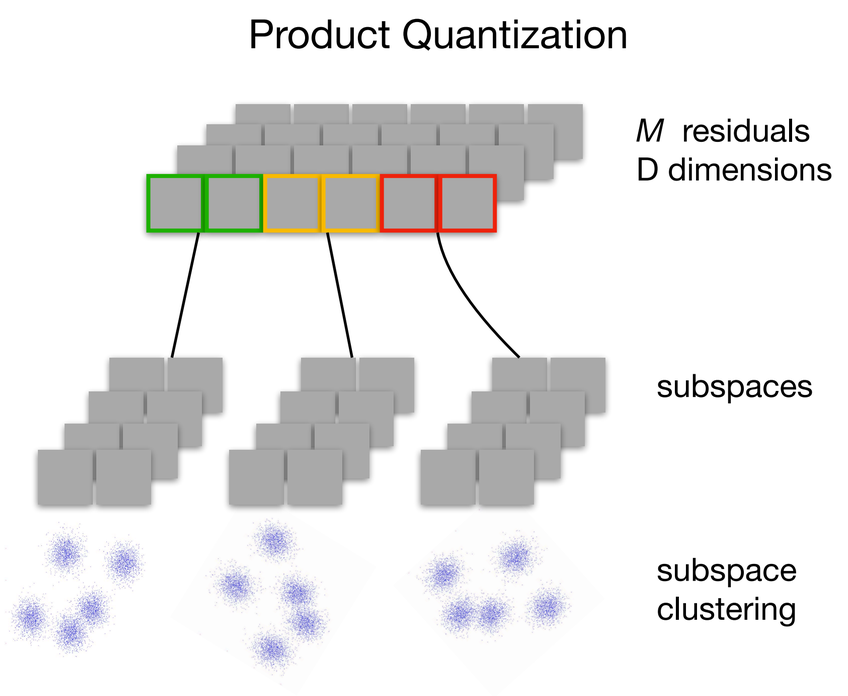
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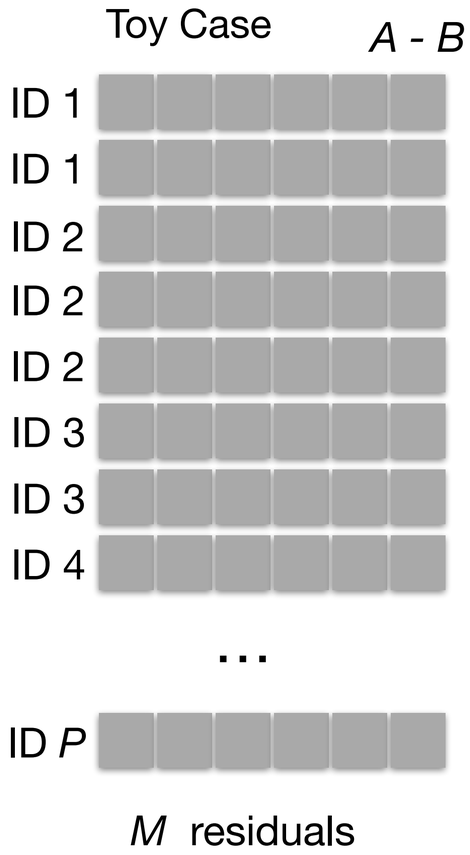
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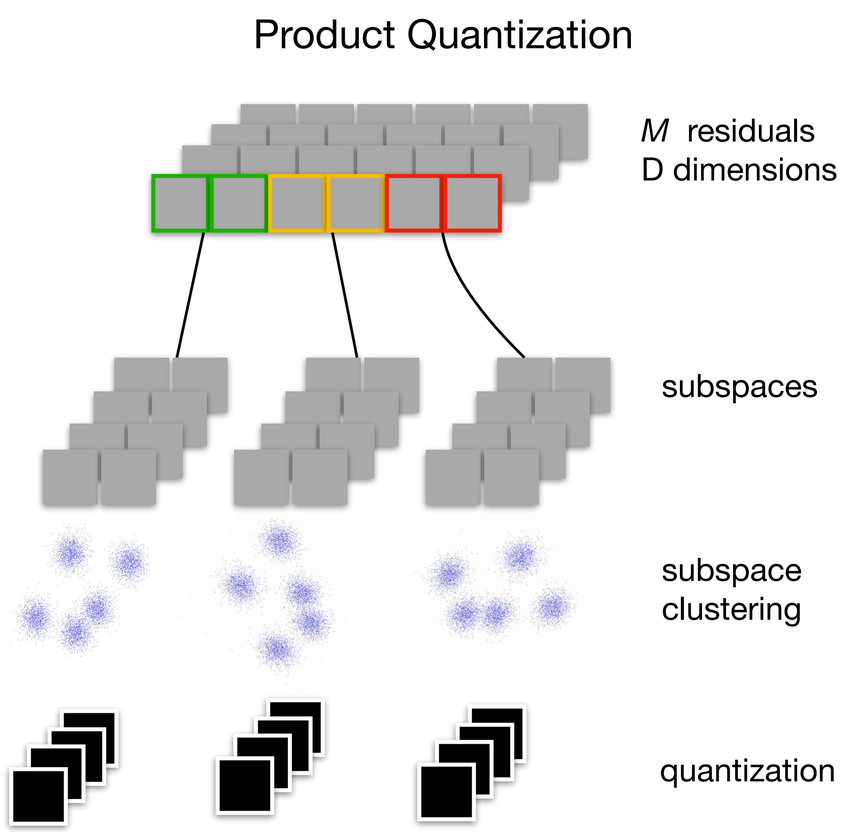
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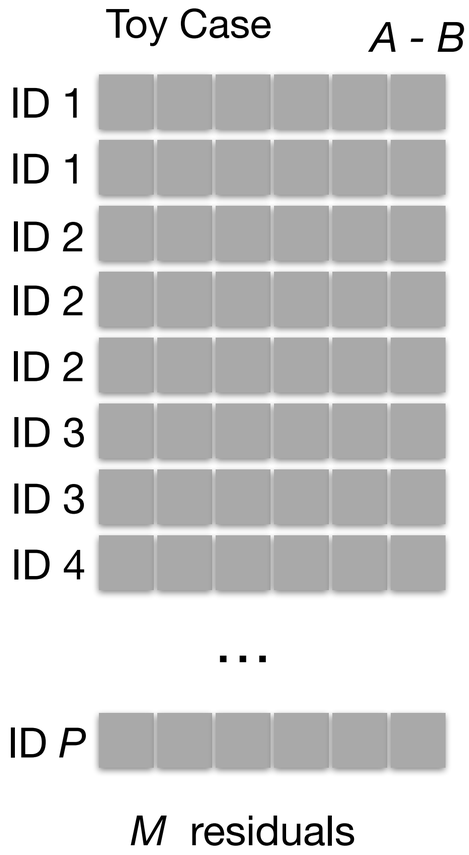
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

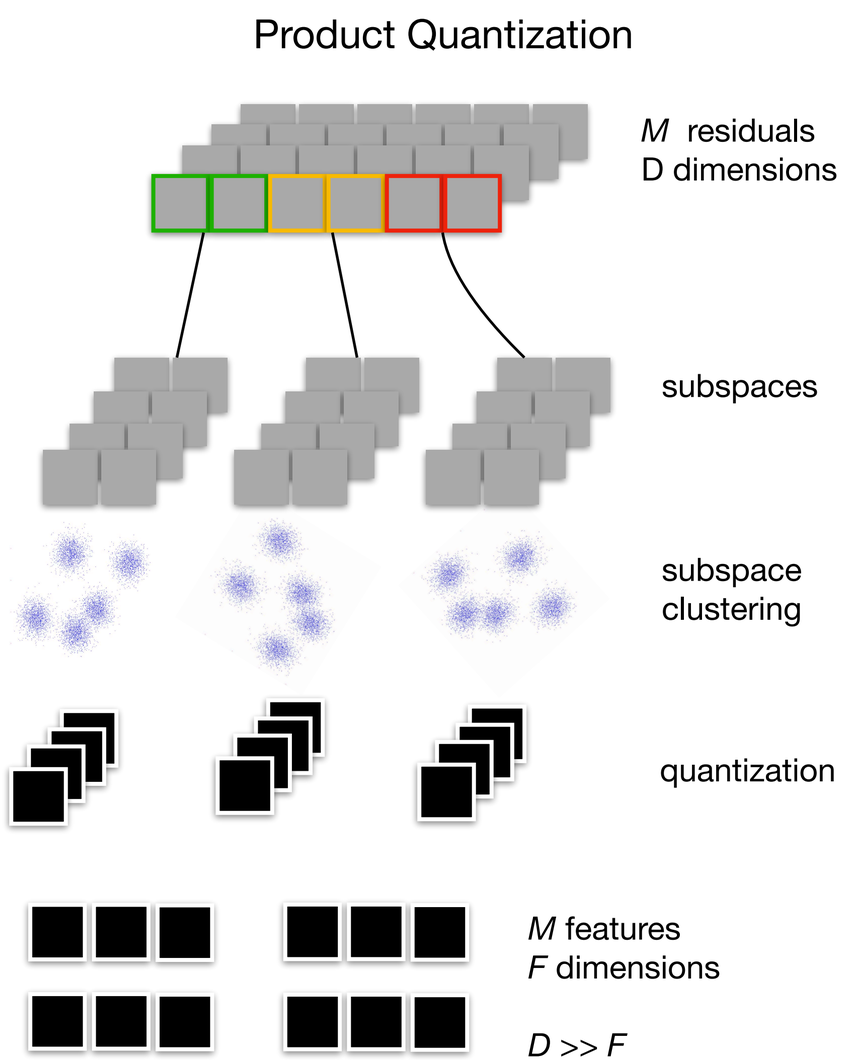
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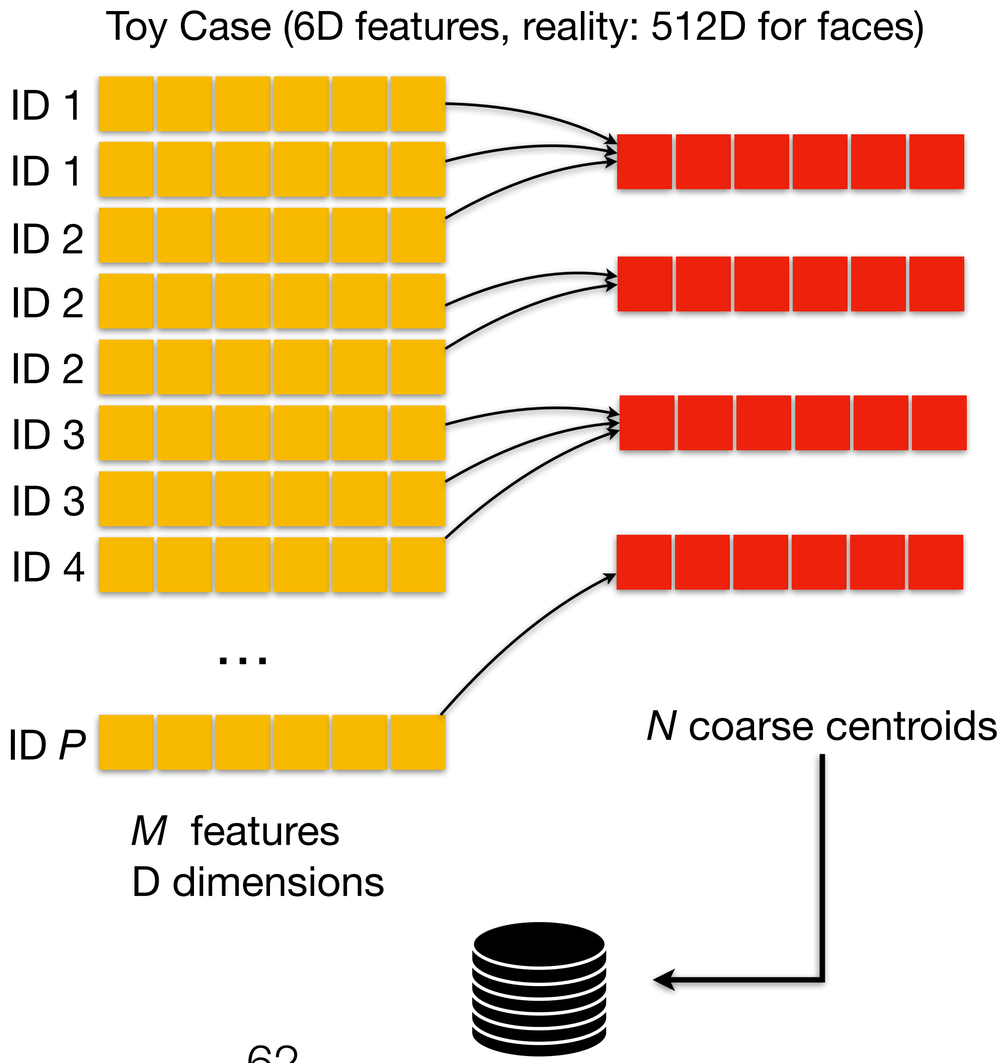


Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

4. Append the product quantized residuals to an **inverted file index**.

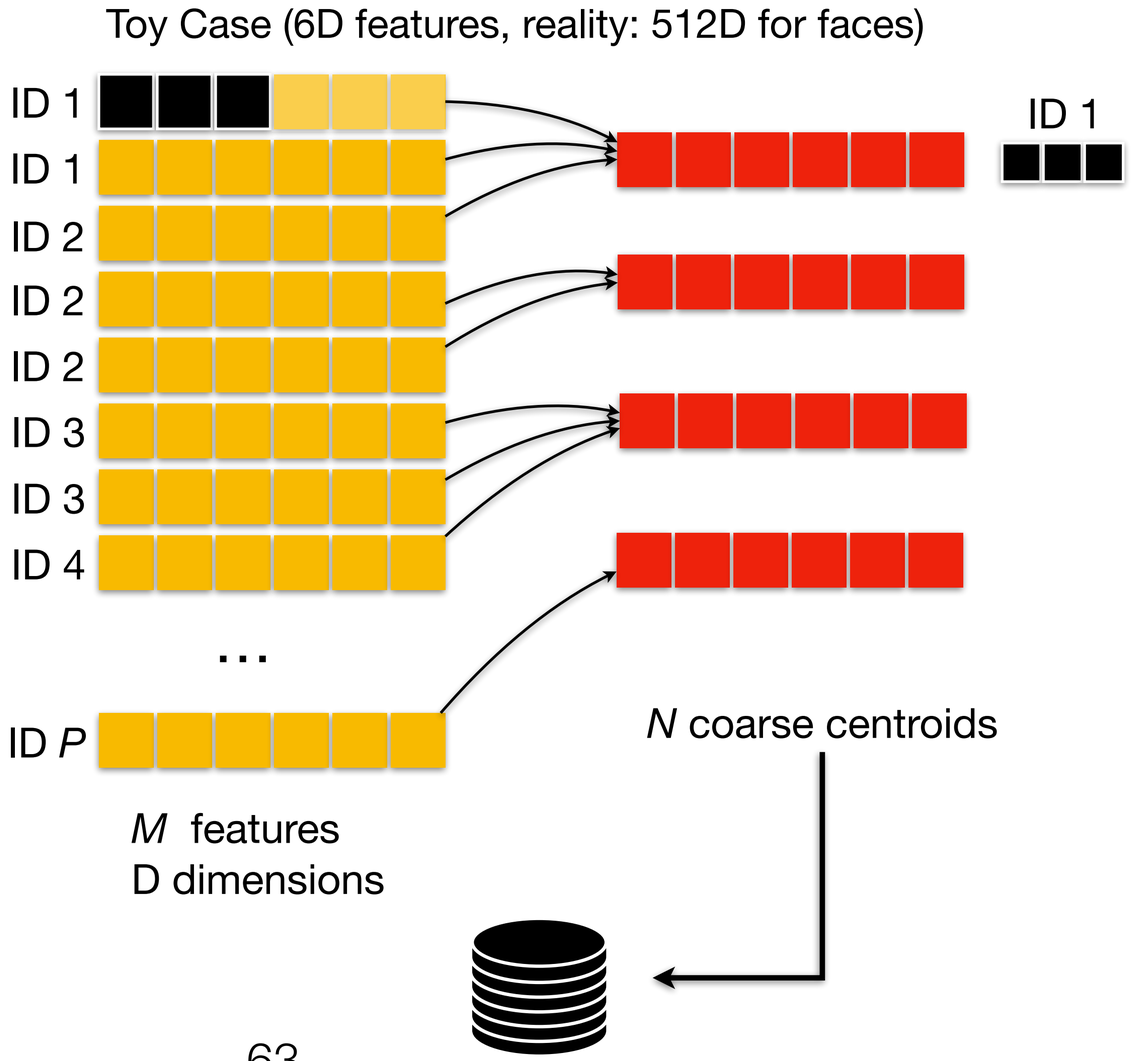


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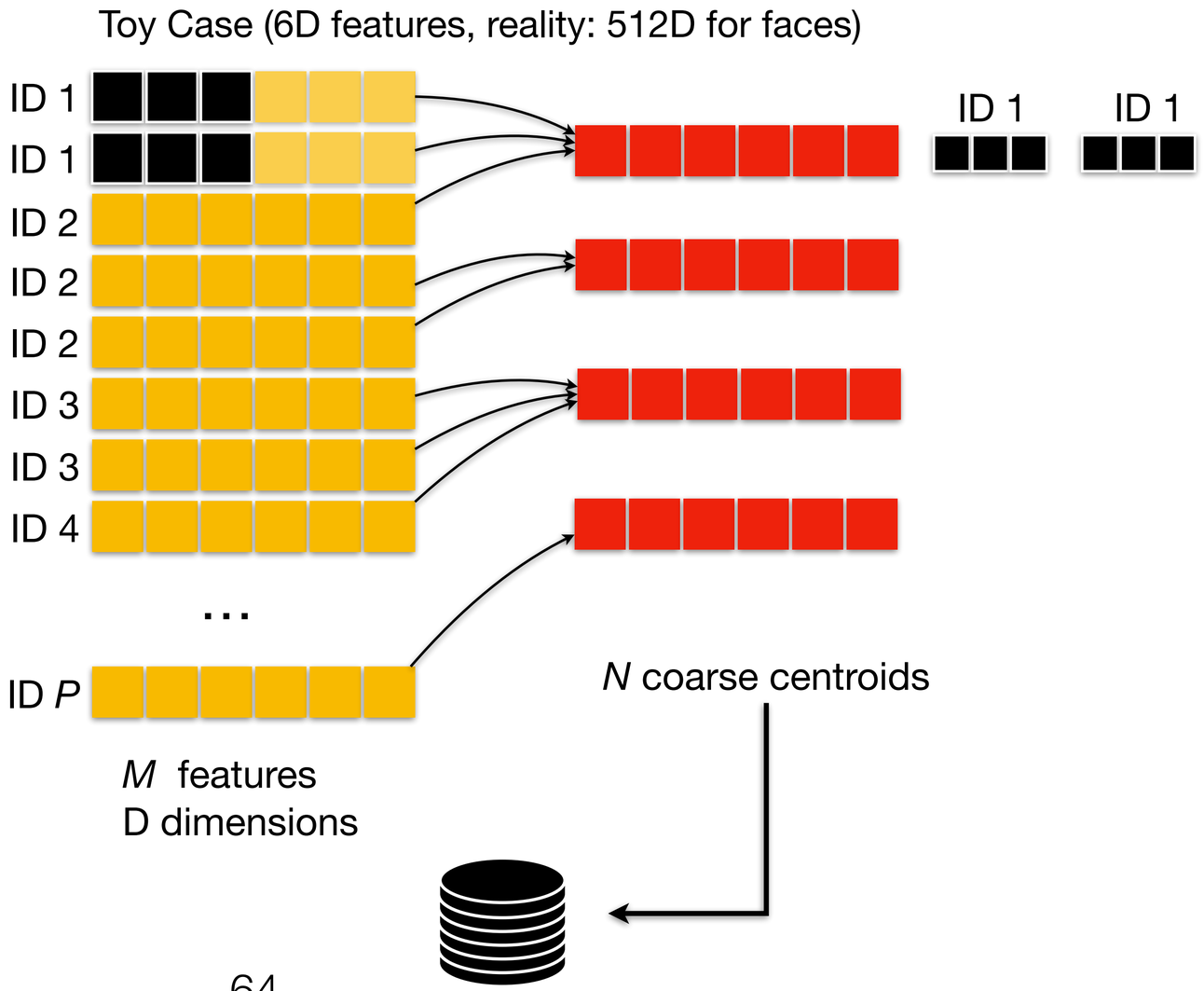


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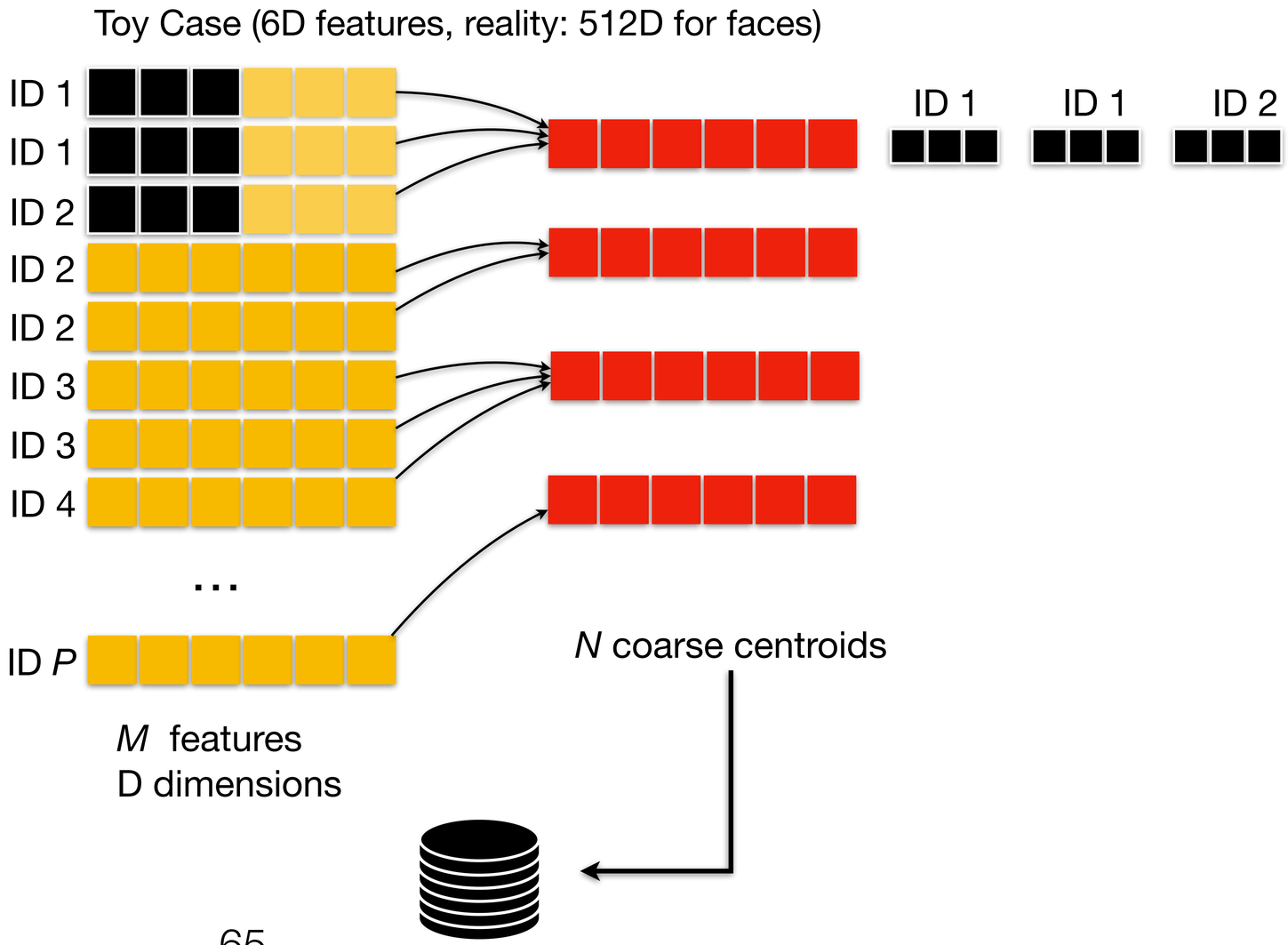


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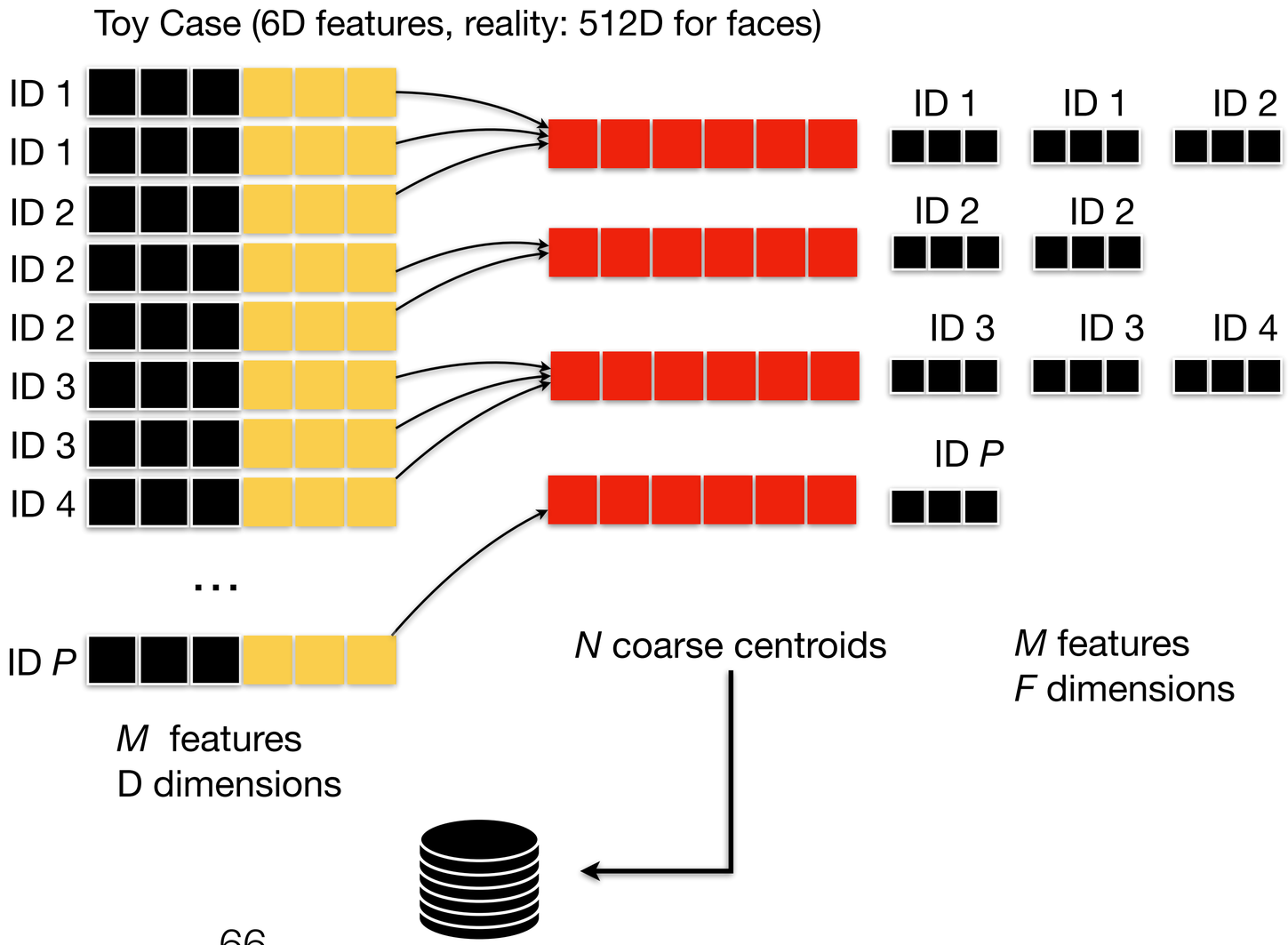


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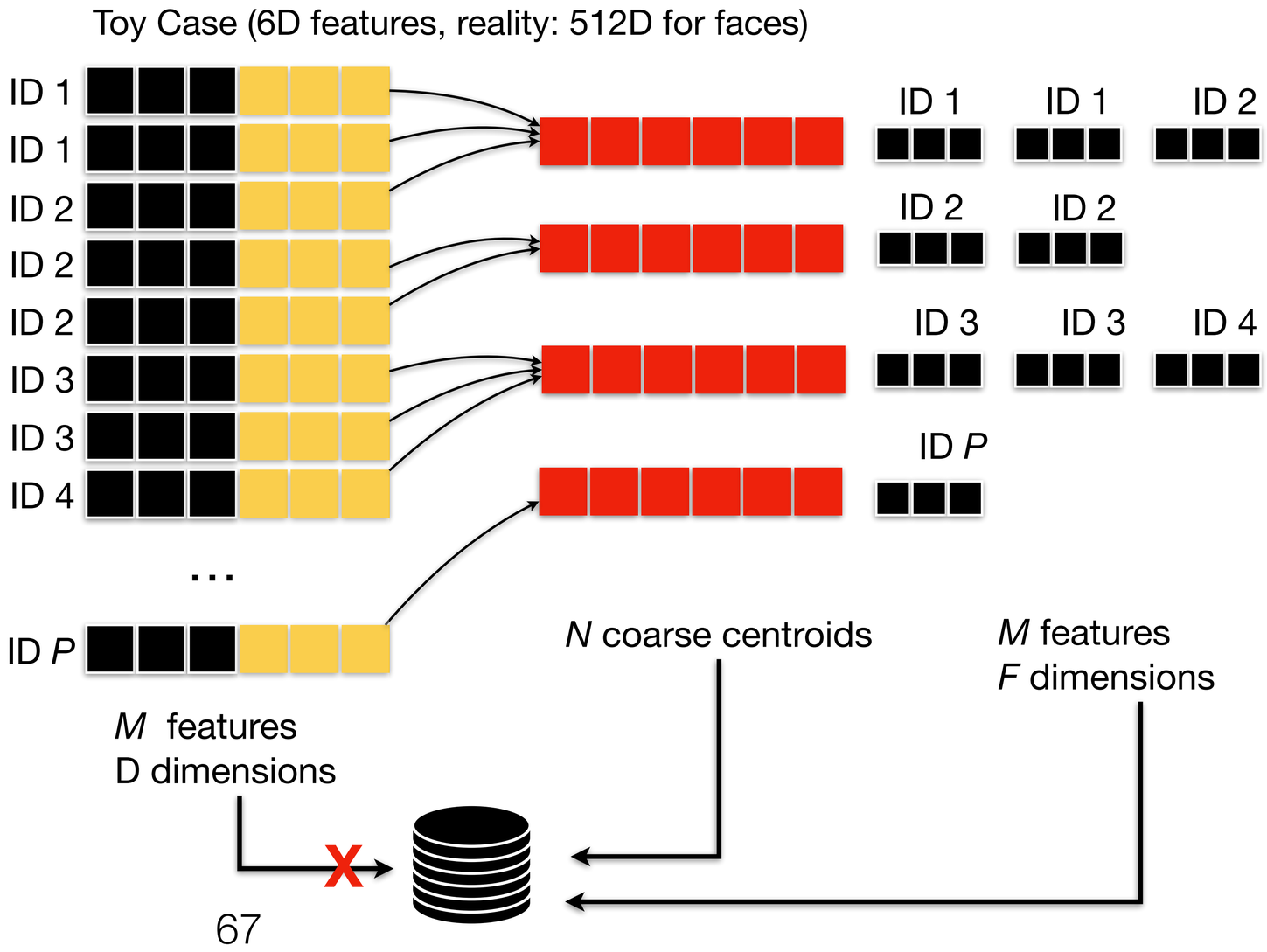


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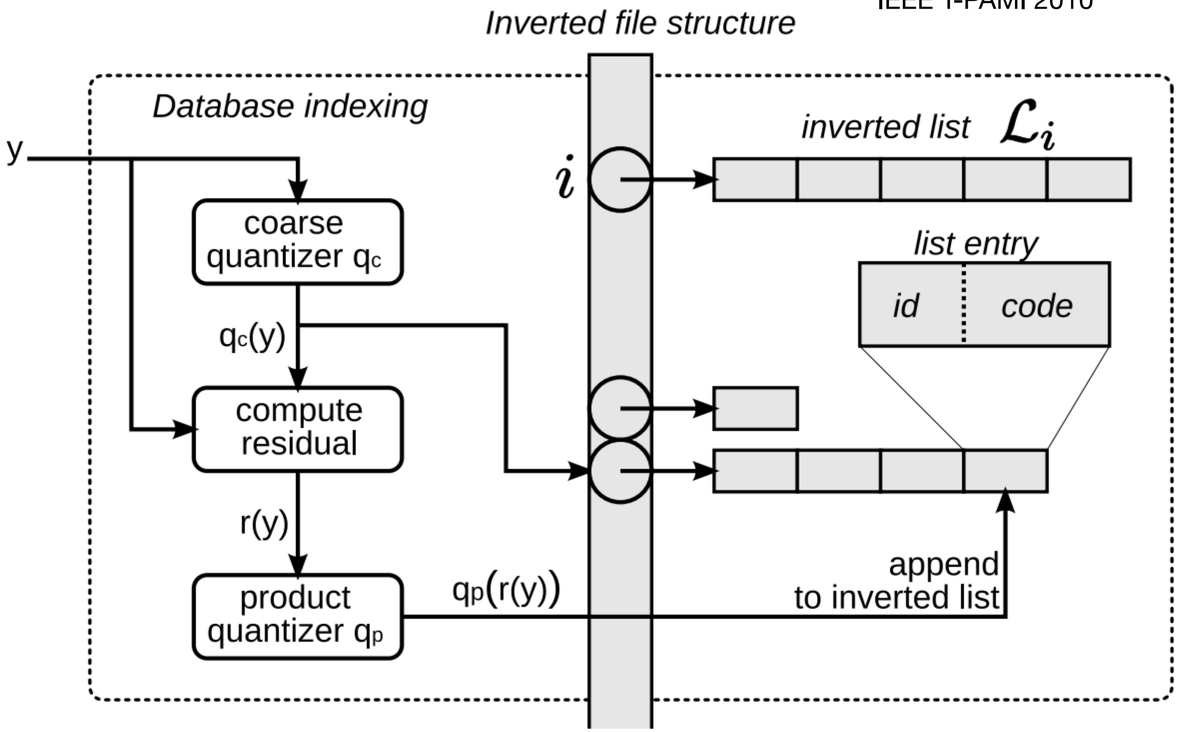
Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

Usage example:
Indexing.

Source: Jegou et al.
Product quantization for nearest neighbor search
IEEE T-PAMI 2010



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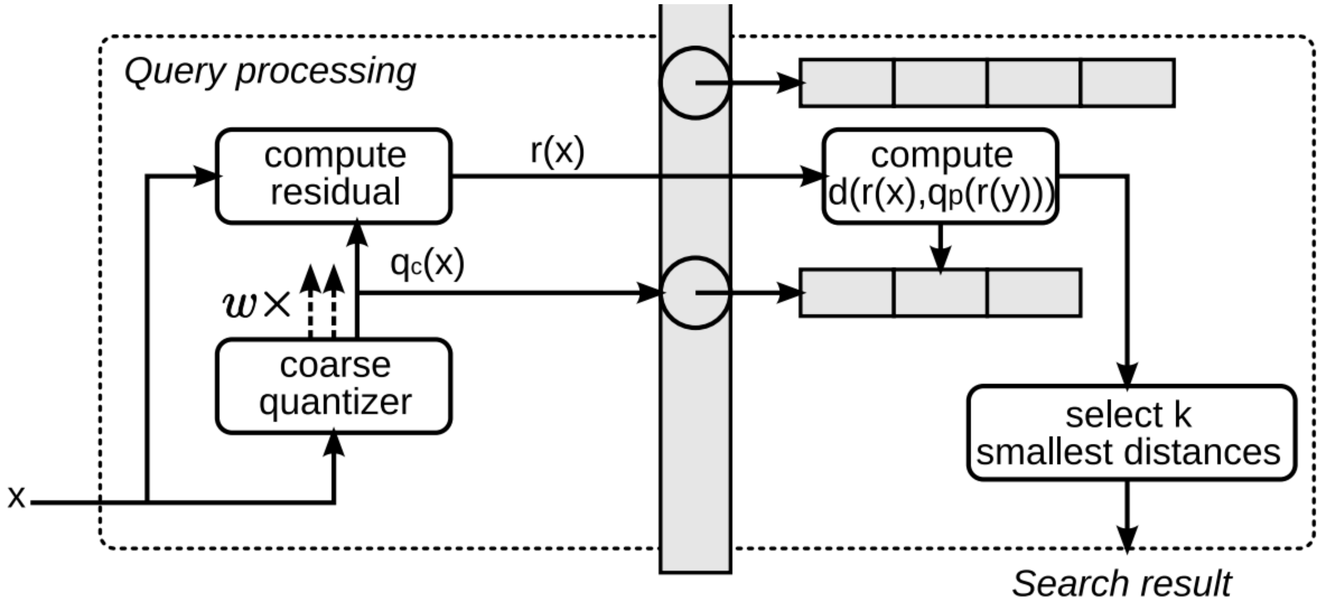
Product Quantization

How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

Usage example:
Retrieving k-nearest.

Source: Jegou et al.
Product quantization for nearest neighbor search
IEEE T-PAMI 2010



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Product Quantization

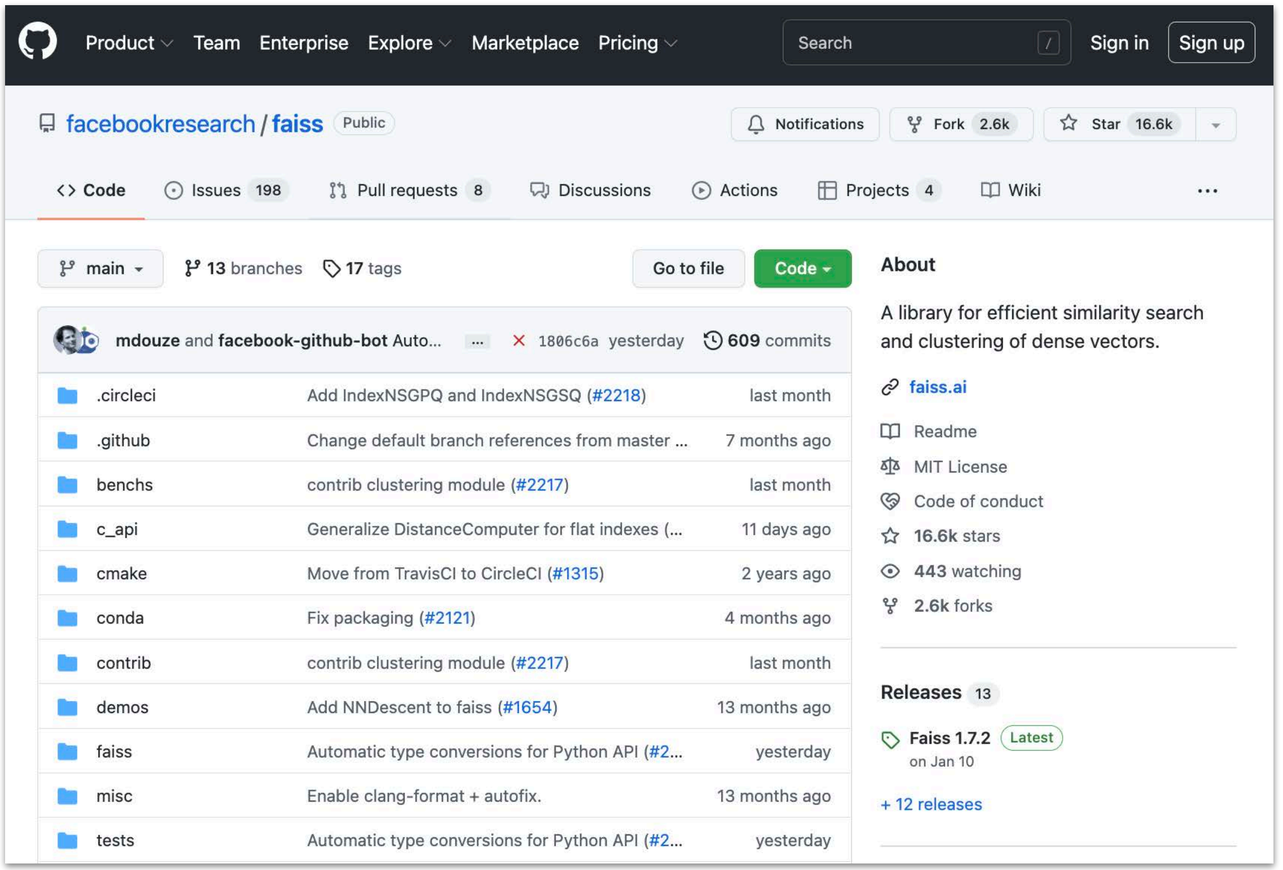
How to reduce size?

State-of-the-art feature indexing.

Available implementation.

Faiss

Faiss is a library for efficient similarity search and clustering of dense vectors. It contains algorithms that search in sets of vectors of any size, up to ones that possibly do not fit in RAM. It also contains supporting code for evaluation and parameter tuning. Faiss is written in C++ with complete wrappers for Python/numpy. Some of the most useful algorithms are implemented on the GPU. It is developed primarily at Facebook AI Research.

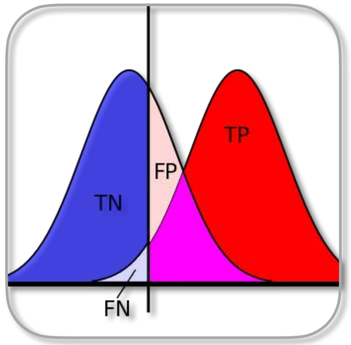


https://github.com/facebookresearch/faiss

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What's Next?

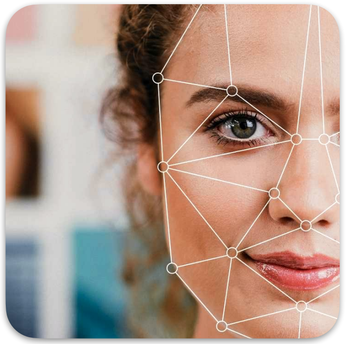
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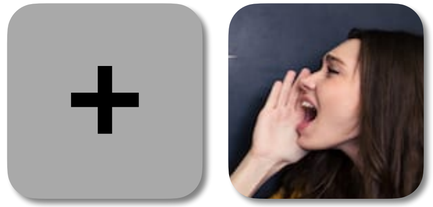
Basics
Concepts
Metrics
Metric implementation







Core Traits (3)
Concepts
Baseline implementation
Data collection
Evaluation
Attacks
Assignments



Alternative Traits and Fusion
Concepts

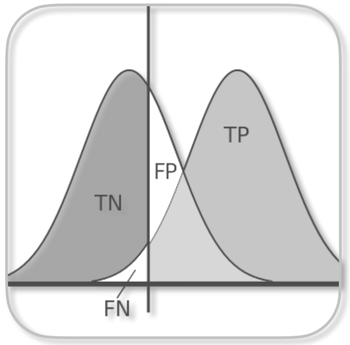


Invited Talks (2)
State of the art
Future work

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

What's Next?

Content



Basics
Concepts
Metrics
Metric implementation







Core Traits (3)
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Concepts



Invited Talks (2)
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What's Next?

Invited Talks



Prof. Dinko Bačić

Loyola
Quinlan School of Business



Mr. André Nóbrega

Griaule LTDA

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