

# A Galaxy of Cows, a Constellation of Chairs

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- Wherein lies the “cowness” of a cow?
- Is this ontology or epistemology?
- The traditional answer to the cow question: it's in the breeding.
- Problems with the traditional answer.
- How botany and zoology cope with such questions using morphology.
- Is this scientific method philosophically sound?
- Genome and phenome.
- Ongoing work of comparing genetic and morphological classifications.
- Cluster analysis – a powerful tool in the geneticist's tool-kit.
- Human visual perception and cluster analysis
- Fantastic space travel as a model bridging intuitive clustering and abstract cluster analysis.
- How many stars within reach via hops of a particular maximal length?
- Clustering and binding distance.
- Insensitivity of cluster analysis to cluster size and shape.
- An abstract definition of a distance as the key to cluster analysis.
- A simple definition of genetic distance.
- How cluster analysis cashes out in classifying biological organisms.
- Can we use the same general method to classify artefacts?
- Wherein lies the “chairness” of a chair?
- Is the notion of a chair stable across cultures and languages?
- Why cows are more like a galaxy, while chairs are more like a constellation.

Galaxy + A + B

A + B

Magellanic A

Magellanic B

Galaxy

