



# Personalized Meal Type Prediction

**Hello Fresh**  
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**June 2025**

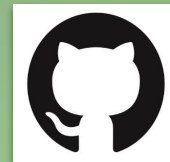
# Project Overview

HelloFresh is a global meal kit company that helps people cook fresh, healthy meals at home.

Their goal is to make home cooking easier and more enjoyable with ready-to-use ingredients and step-by-step recipes.

This project aims to develop a classification model that predicts a user's preferred meal type (Breakfast, Dessert, Dinner, Lunch, or Snack) and increase personalization accuracy using user reviews and recipes data.

# Data & Methodology



**Data Source:** Data from Food.com ([via Kaggle](#))

Contains 2 dataset;

1. Recipes dataset - Over 500,000 records, 28 columns
2. Reviews dataset - Over 250,00 records, 8 columns

Key data: Nutritional info, cook time, review text, ratings.

## Data Preprocessing

- Preserved Raw Data
  - Handled Missing Values
  - Standardized Time Format
  - Formatted Dates
  - Identified & Removed Outliers
  - Merged Datasets
  - Saved Final Dataset
  - Created "Meal Type" labels based on recipe categories
- Final meal types: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snack, Dessert

# Key Focus Areas

## Meal Type Trends

Insights on breakfast,  
lunch, dinner, snacks,  
desserts

## Label Cleaning

Consolidated 40+ meal  
types into 5 main  
categories

breakfast, lunch,  
dinner, snacks,  
desserts

## Model Evaluation

Tested Logistic  
Regression and  
Decision Tree  
classifiers

# Modelling Approach

## First Model – Logistic Regression

### Initial Model Results

- Accuracy: 46%
- Good at predicting Dinner
- Struggled with smaller categories like Snack and Breakfast
- Conclusion: Not enough complexity or balance

Logistic Regression Accuracy Score: 0.4641902328897338

Confusion Matrix:

```
[[ 1863  1970  5645     3   260]
 [   650  3348  2933     0   487]
 [  1301  1322 23012   885   269]
 [  1095   899 16343   773   206]
 [     67   300  1440     0 2257]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.37	0.19	0.25	9741
1	0.43	0.45	0.44	7418
2	0.47	0.86	0.60	26789
3	0.47	0.04	0.07	19316
4	0.65	0.56	0.60	4064
accuracy			0.46	67328
macro avg	0.48	0.42	0.39	67328
weighted avg	0.46	0.46	0.38	67328

# Fixing the Imbalance

## Handling Uneven Meal Type Distribution

- Used techniques to balance classes:
  - Class weights
  - SMOTE (synthetic sample creation)
- Results: Fairer model but accuracy dropped to 38%

Balanced Logistic Regression Accuracy: 0.38414923954372626  
Confusion Matrix:

```
[[3793 3022 712 624 1590]
 [ 894 4404 197 37 1886]
 [3805 4458 5524 9806 3196]
 [2860 2504 2851 8987 2114]
 [ 352 338 156 62 3156]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.32	0.39	0.35	9741
1	0.30	0.59	0.40	7418
2	0.59	0.21	0.30	26789
3	0.46	0.47	0.46	19316
4	0.26	0.78	0.39	4064
accuracy			0.38	67328
macro avg	0.39	0.49	0.38	67328
weighted avg	0.46	0.38	0.37	67328

Logistic Regression with SMOTE Accuracy: 0.38496613593155893  
Confusion Matrix:

```
[[3812 3004 716 626 1583]
 [ 886 4425 197 37 1873]
 [3803 4452 5542 9811 3181]
 [2882 2508 2860 8984 2082]
 [ 350 336 160 62 3156]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.32	0.39	0.36	9741
1	0.30	0.60	0.40	7418
2	0.58	0.21	0.31	26789
3	0.46	0.47	0.46	19316
4	0.27	0.78	0.40	4064
accuracy			0.38	67328
macro avg	0.39	0.49	0.38	67328
weighted avg	0.46	0.38	0.37	67328



# Switching to Decision Trees

## A Better Model: Decision Tree

- Accuracy improved to 61%
- Better at identifying underrepresented meal types
- Still room for improvement

Decision Tree Accuracy Score: 0.6091819153992395

Confusion Matrix:

```
[[ 4843   898  3237   667    96]
 [   636  3988  2190   343   261]
 [   912  1042 21867  2843   125]
 [  1368   754  9472  7590   132]
 [   168   317   616   236 2727]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.61	0.50	0.55	9741
1	0.57	0.54	0.55	7418
2	0.58	0.82	0.68	26789
3	0.65	0.39	0.49	19316
4	0.82	0.67	0.74	4064
accuracy			0.61	67328
macro avg	0.65	0.58	0.60	67328
weighted avg	0.62	0.61	0.60	67328

# Tuning the Tree

## Optimized Model: Tuned Decision Tree

- Accuracy jumped to **94%**
- Great precision and recall across all mealtypes
- Very few misclassifications
- Reliable predictions for all users

Accuracy: 0.9396833412547528

Confusion Matrix:

```
[[ 9160   96  254  181   50]
 [  135 6822  230  166   65]
 [   242  231 25346  864  106]
 [   197  132  858 18044   85]
 [    20   40   62   47 3895]]
```

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.94	0.94	0.94	9741
1	0.93	0.92	0.93	7418
2	0.95	0.95	0.95	26789
3	0.93	0.93	0.93	19316
4	0.93	0.96	0.94	4064
accuracy			0.94	67328
macro avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	67328
weighted avg	0.94	0.94	0.94	67328



# Key Takeaways & Recommendations

## Key Takeaways

- Cook time and nutritional values like (Calories, Fat Content, Protein Content) helped predict meal type
- Advanced models (Decision Tree) outperformed the simple one (Logistic Regression)
- Decision Tree Model works well even with uneven data

## Recommendations

- Include more Snacks and Desserts in weekly menus to meet diverse customer preferences.
- Continue focusing on Lunch and Dinner, as they remain top choices among users.
- Shift from older models like Logistic Regression to tree-based models for better handling of complex, imbalanced data.
- Use predictive models to recommend meal types customers are most likely to enjoy.
- Leverage user history for tailored recommendations to boost satisfaction and retention.

# Conclusion & Next Steps

## Next Steps

- Explore user-level preferences for even deeper personalization.
- Test model in a pilot feature on the HelloFresh platform.
- Gather feedback and continuously improve recommendations.

## Thank You

- **Questions?**
- **Contact: Abishang Mueni**

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