

KNN classifier

K-NEarest neighbor



Overview:

K Nearest Neighbor (KNN) is intuitive to understand and easy to implement the algorithm. Beginners can master this algorithm even in the early phases of their Machine Learning studies.

This KNN article is to:

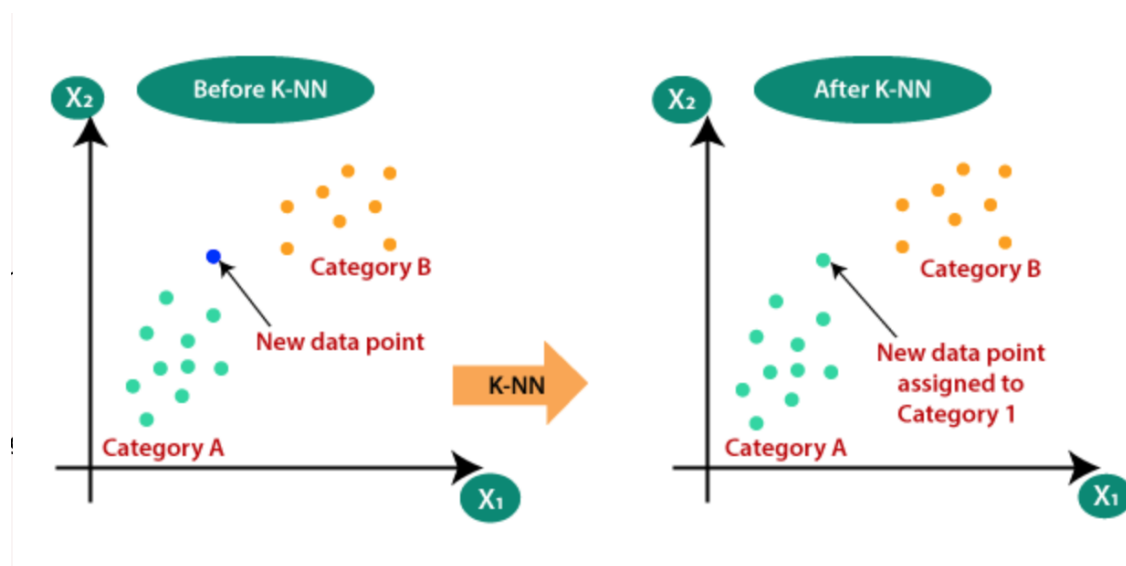
- Understand K Nearest Neighbor (KNN) algorithm representation and prediction.
- Understand how to choose the K value and distance metric.
- Required data preparation methods and Pros and cons of the KNN algorithm.
- Pseudocode and Python implementation.

Introduction:

The K Nearest Neighbor algorithm falls under the Supervised Learning category and is used for classification (most commonly) and regression. It is a versatile algorithm also used for imputing missing values and resampling datasets. As the name (K Nearest Neighbor) suggests it considers K Nearest Neighbors (Data points) to predict the class or continuous value for the new Datapoint.

The algorithm's learning is:

1. Instance-based learning: Here we do not learn weights from training data to predict output (as in model-based algorithms) but use entire training instances to predict output for unseen data.
2. Lazy Learning: Model is not learned using training data prior and the learning process is postponed to a time when prediction is requested on the new instance.
3. Non -Parametric: In KNN, there is no predefined form of the mapping function.

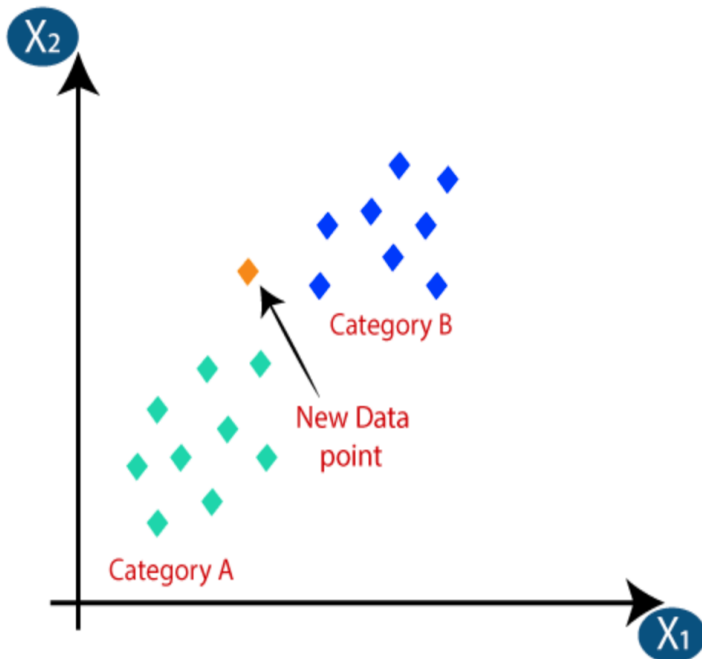


How does K-NN work?

The K-NN working can be explained on the basis of the below algorithm:

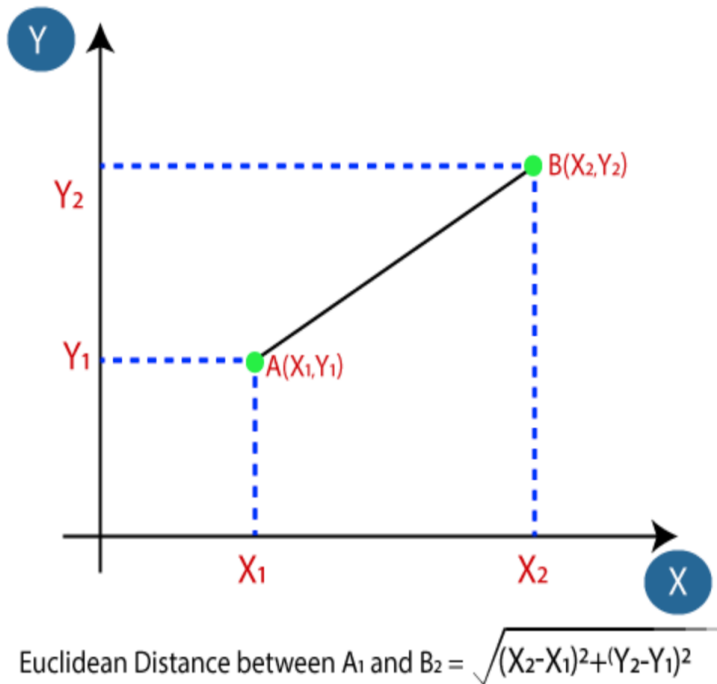
- **Step-1:** Select the number K of the neighbors
- **Step-2:** Calculate the Euclidean distance of K number of neighbors
- **Step-3:** Take the K nearest neighbors as per the calculated Euclidean distance.
- **Step-4:** Among these k neighbors, count the number of the data points in each category.
- **Step-5:** Assign the new data points to that category for which the number of the neighbor is maximum.
- **Step-6:** Our model is ready.

Suppose we have a new data point and we need to put it in the required category. Consider the below image:

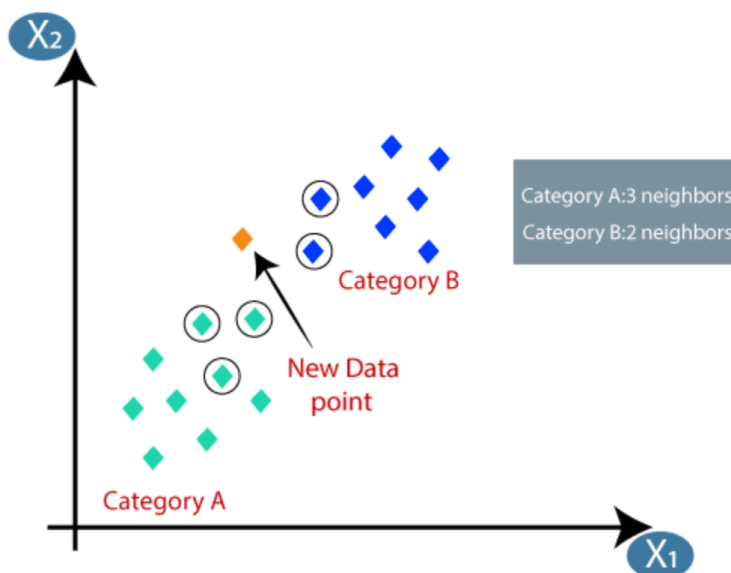


- Firstly, we will choose the number of neighbors, so we will choose the $k=5$.

- Next, we will calculate the **Euclidean distance** between the data points. The Euclidean distance is the distance between two points, which we have already studied in geometry. It can be calculated as:



- By calculating the Euclidean distance we got the nearest neighbors, as three nearest neighbors in category A and two nearest neighbors in category B. Consider the below image:



- As we can see the 3 nearest neighbors are from category A, hence this new data point must belong to category A.

How to select the value of K in the K-NN Algorithm?

Below are some points to remember while selecting the value of K in the K-NN algorithm:

- There is no particular way to determine the best value for "K", so we need to try some values to find the best out of them. The most preferred value for K is 5.
- A very low value for K such as $K=1$ or $K=2$, can be noisy and lead to the effects of outliers in the model.
- Large values for K are good, but it may find some difficulties.

Advantages of KNN Algorithm:

- It is simple to implement.
- It is robust to the noisy training data
- It can be more effective if the training data is large.

Disadvantages of KNN Algorithm:

- Always needs to determine the value of K which may be complex some time.
- The computation cost is high because of calculating the distance between the data points for all the training samples.