

A photograph of a group of international political leaders, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, President Joe Biden, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, standing together outdoors. They are all smiling and looking upwards towards the sky. The background shows a modern building with large windows.

# KNN - for Classification

**Supervised**

Hisham Ihshaish  
Bristol, UK  
June, 2021

# Agenda

→ K Nearest Neighbour/**Neighbor** - **KNN**

- ▶ Properties
- ▶ Notes/thoughts
- ▶ Limitations

→ Exercise - application of KNN for classification

# Nearest Neighbour Classifiers



# E. Fix and J.L. Hodges (1951): An Important Contribution to Nonparametric Discriminant Analysis and Density Estimation

## Commentary on Fix and Hodges (1951)

B.W. Silverman and M.C. Jones

*School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, U.K.*

### Summary

In 1951, Evelyn Fix and J.L. Hodges, Jr. wrote a technical report which contained prophetic work on nonparametric discriminant analysis and probability density estimation, and which was never published by the authors. The report introduced several important concepts for the first time. It is of interest not only for historical reasons but also because it contains much material that is still



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Pattern Recognition Letters

Volume 38, 1 March 2014, Pages 34-37



### Alhazen and the nearest neighbor rule

Marcello Pelillo

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patrec.2013.10.022>

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Hasan Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen)



**Born** c. 965 (c. 354 AH)<sup>[1]</sup>

Basra, Iraq

**Died** c. 1040 (c. 430 AH)<sup>[2]</sup>

Cairo, Egypt

**Residence** Basra · Cairo

**Known for** *Book of Optics*, *Doubts Concerning Ptolemy*, Alhazen's problem, Analysis,<sup>[3]</sup> Catoptrics,<sup>[4]</sup> Horopter, Moon illusion, experimental science, scientific methodology,<sup>[5]</sup> visual perception, empirical theory of perception, Animal psychology<sup>[6]</sup>

**Scientific career**

**Fields** Optics · Astronomy · Mathematics



Read more about Evelyn [here](#).

“Who invented the nearest neighbor rule?”, [Pattern Recognition Tools](#)

[Marcello Pelillo, "Alhazen and the nearest neighbor rule"](#)

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## Nearest neighbor pattern classification

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Author(s)

T. Cover ; P. Hart

Published in: **IEEE Transactions on Information Theory** ( Volume: 13, Issue: 1, January 1967 )

**Page(s):** 21 - 27

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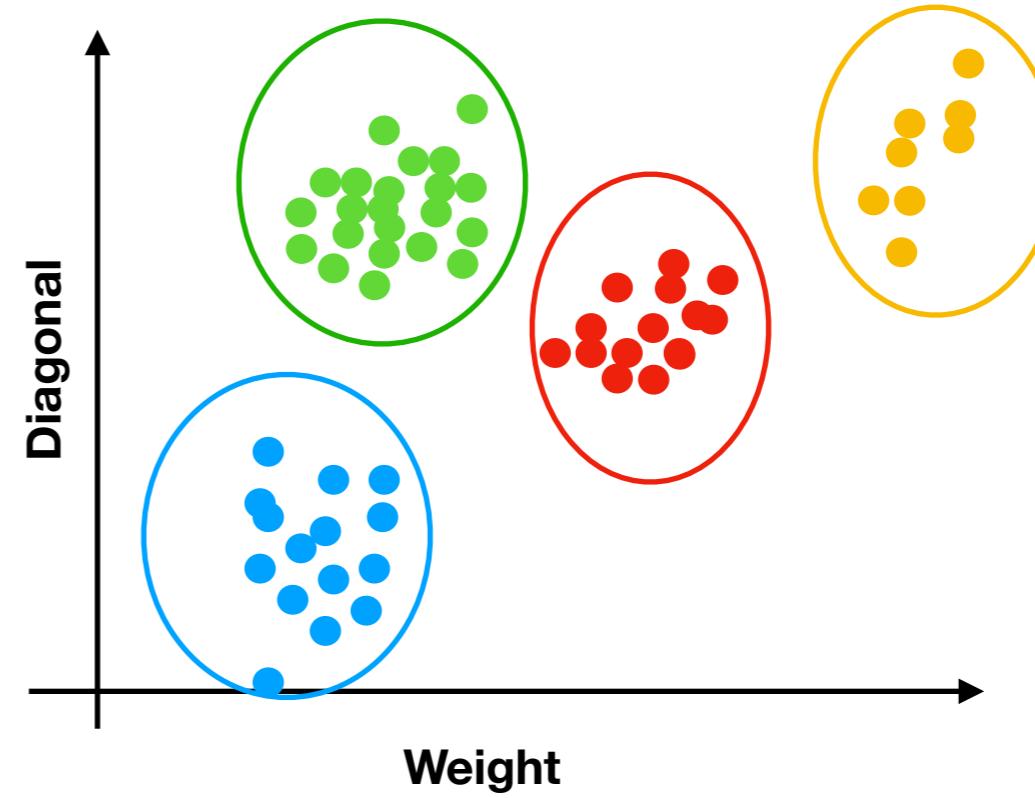
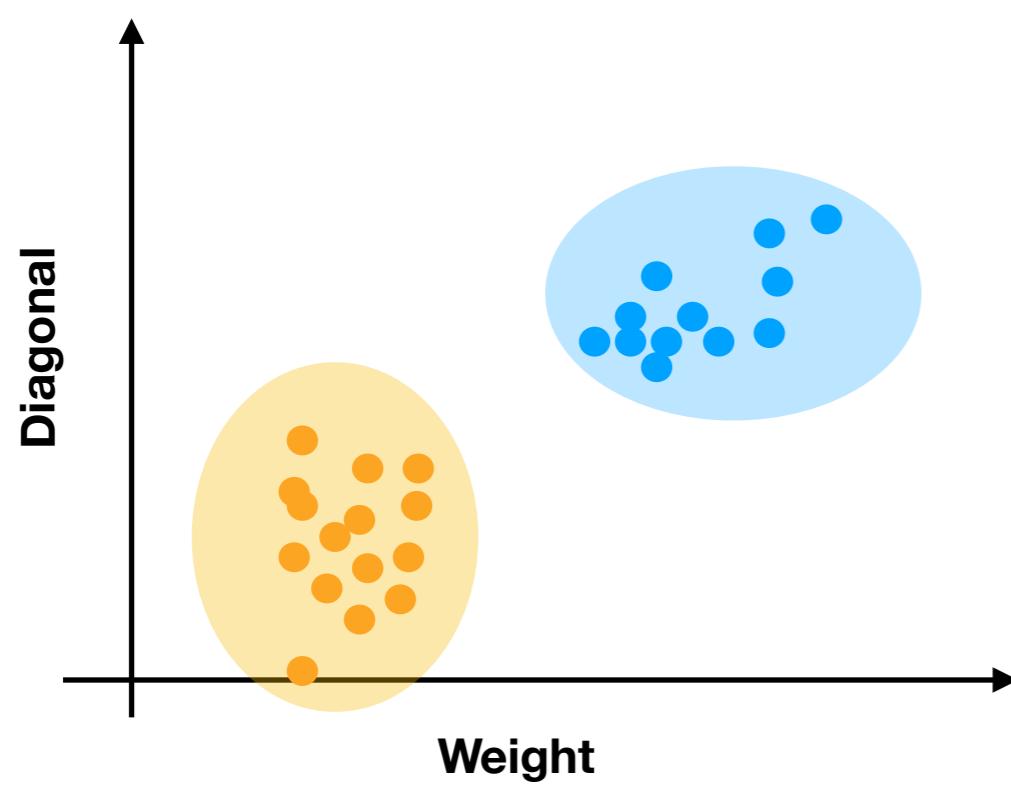
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**Print ISSN:** 0018-9448

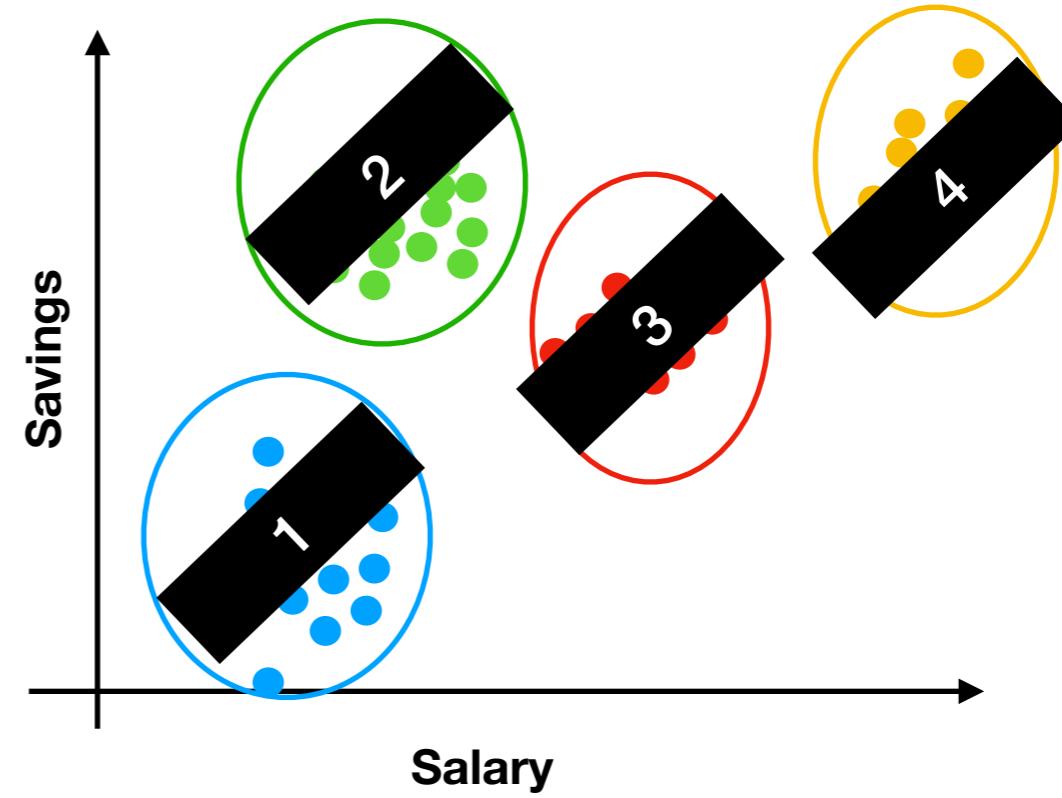
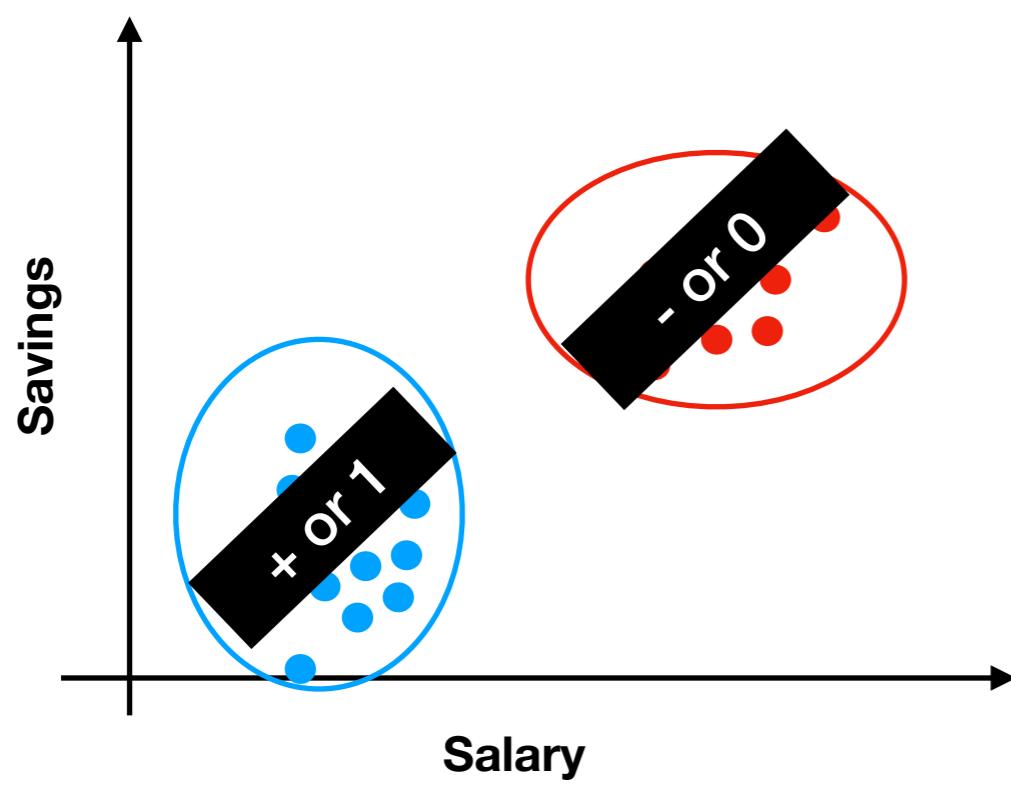
**Electronic ISSN:** 1557-9654

T. Cover and P. Hart, "Nearest neighbor pattern classification," in *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 21-27, January 1967.  
doi: [10.1109/TIT.1967.1053964](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIT.1967.1053964)  
keywords: {Pattern classification},  
URL: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=1053964&isnumber=22633>

# Binary vs Multi-class



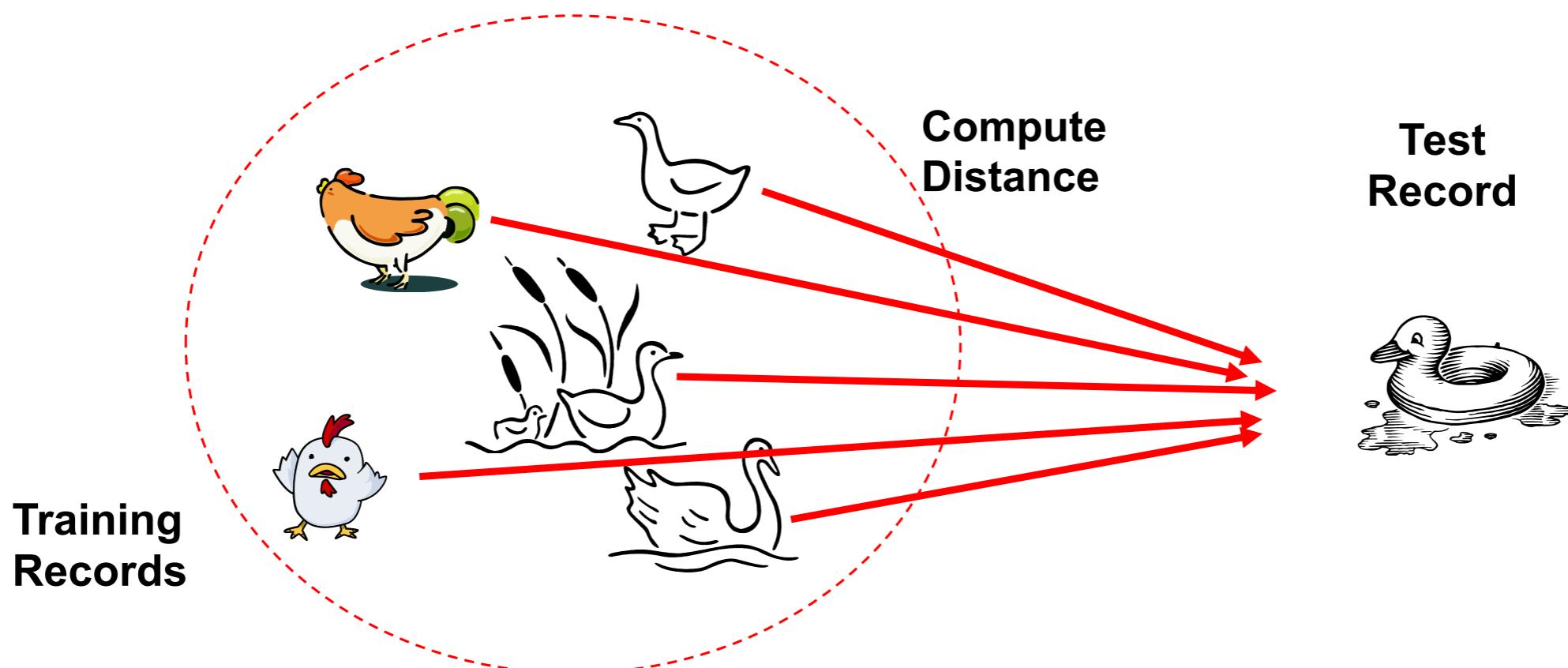
# Binary vs Multi-class



# Nearest Neighbour Classifiers

## Basic Idea

**It walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, then it's probably a duck!**



# Agenda

→ K Nearest Neighbour/**Neighbor** - **KNN**

- ▶ **Properties**

- ▶ Notes/thoughts
- ▶ Limitations

→ Exercise - application of KNN for classification

# ‘Lazy’ Learning

- It does not build a model explicitly - *instance-based*.
- No model → no explicit hypothesis: *non parametric!*
  - many local (*implicit*) hypotheses - richer compared to the one hypothesis as in parametric learning.
- Classifying new instances is relatively expensive!
- Training is cheap, well, because there isn’t training!

# $k$ NN altogether

$$y(x') = y(x) \text{ where } x = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in X} dist(x, x')$$

# KNN altogether

$$y(x') = y(x) \text{ where } x = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in X} dist(x, x')$$

class for new instance  $x'$

=

class for known instance  $x$

where  $x$  is the closest instance to  $x'$

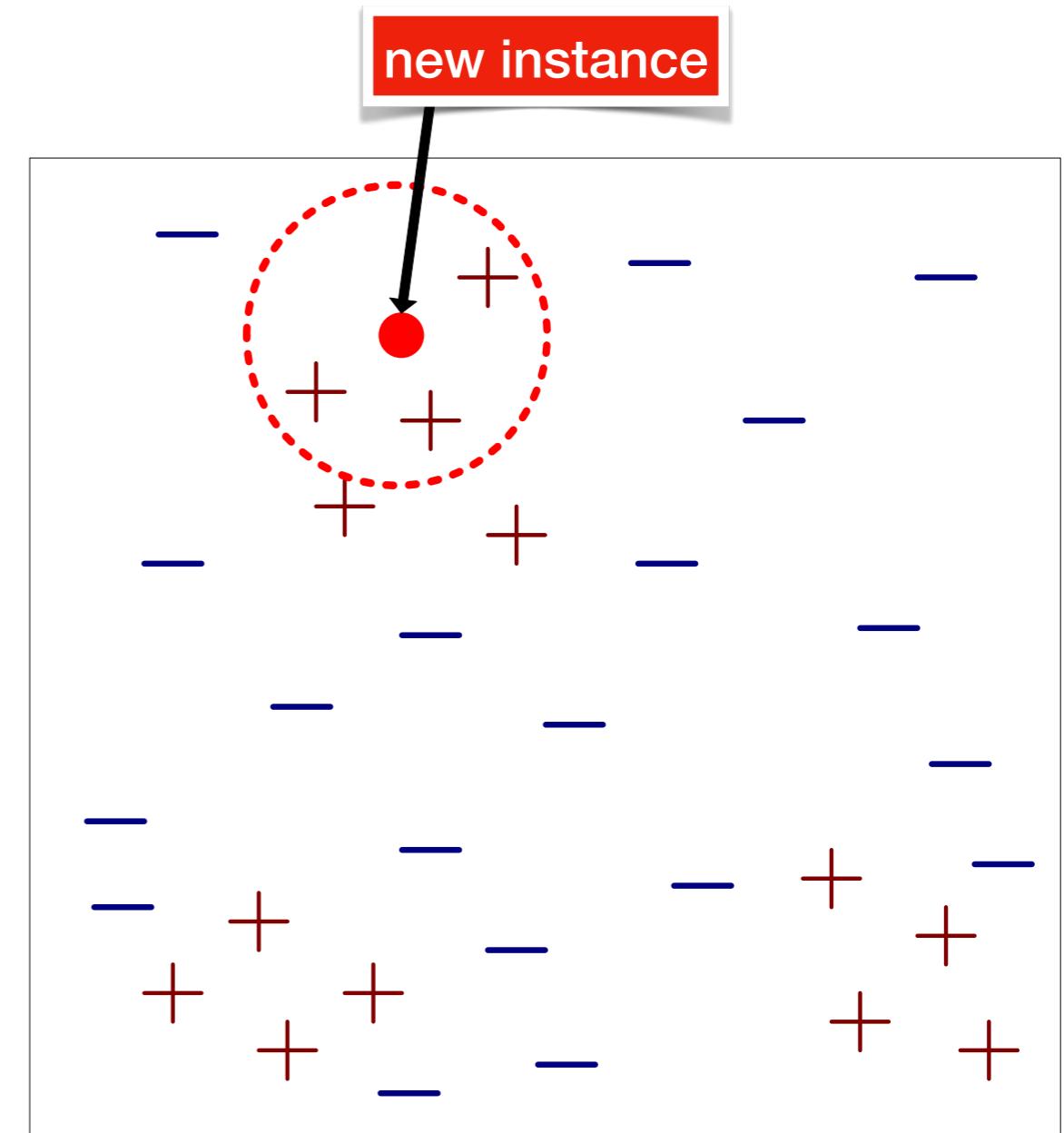
ie, the instance  $x$  with minimum distance to  $x'$

find closest example in training set, and return corresponding label

# KNN altogether

## Requirements

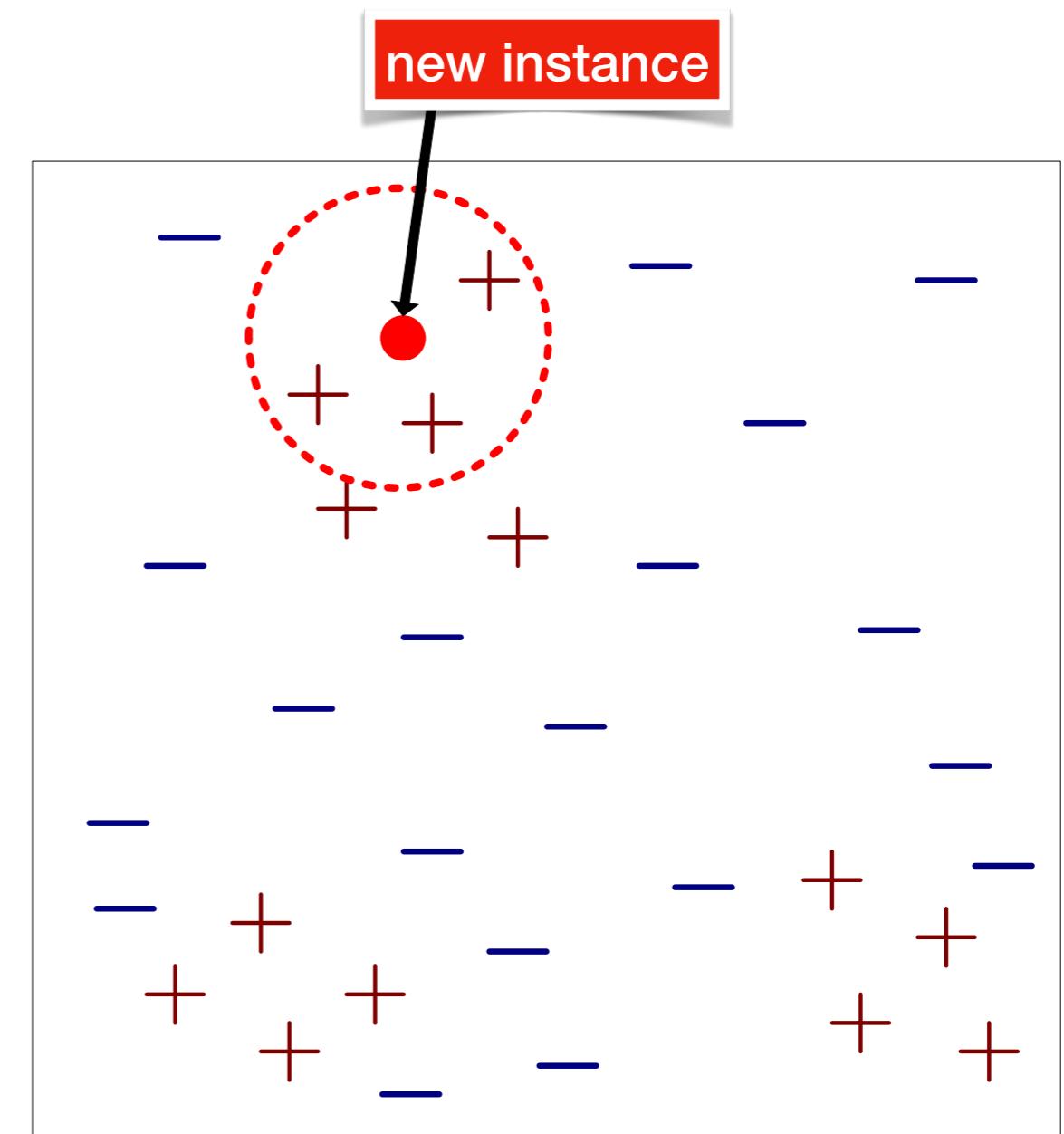
- ▶ Set of observations (stored samples and their labels).
- ▶ Distance Metric
- ▶ Value for  $k$ ; the number of nearest neighbours to consider!



# KNN altogether

## Process

- ▶ Compute ***distance*** of new instance to all other instances.
- ▶ Identify  $K$  nearest neighbours.
- ▶ Use class labels of nearest neighbours to determine class label of the new (unknown) instance.



# Detailed...

$$P(y = j | X = x) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} I(y^{(i)} = j)$$

1

- It runs through the whole dataset computing  $d$  between  $x$  and each “training” instance. We’ll call the  $K$  points in the training data that are closest to  $x$  the set  $A$ .

2

- It then estimates the conditional probability for each class, that is, the fraction of points in  $A$  with that given class label ( $j$  is checked here). (Note  $I(x)$  is the indicator function which evaluates to 1 when the argument  $x$  is true and 0 otherwise)

# Detailed ...

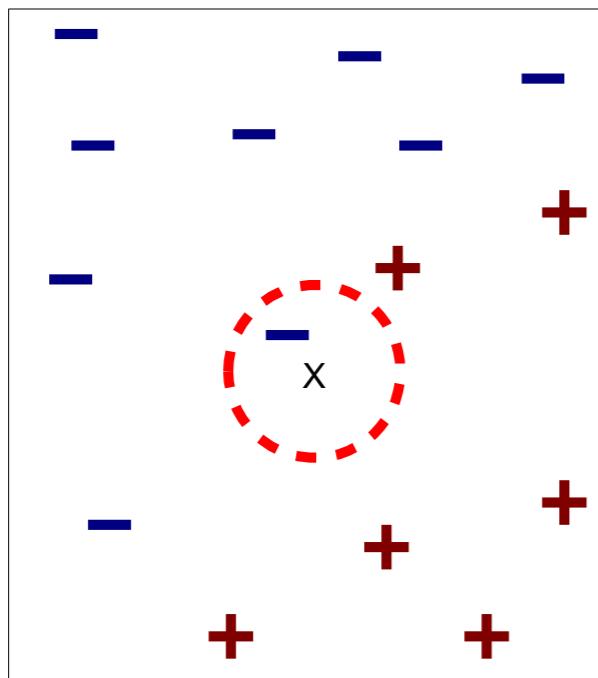
$$P(y = j | X = x) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} I(y^{(i)} = j)$$

find closest examples ( $K$ ) in training set, and return the label corresponding to  $K$  neighbours' majority vote!

# The Unknowns ...

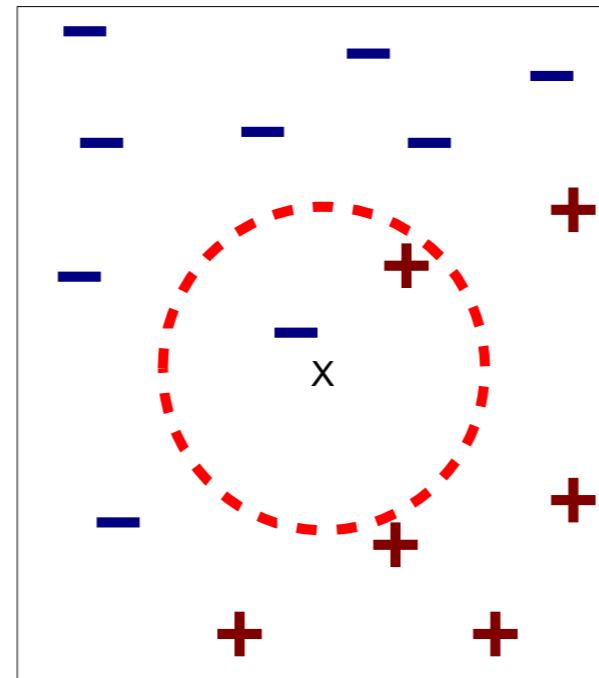
- ▶  $K$  (hyperparameter)
- ▶ Distance (similarity metric)

# the $K$



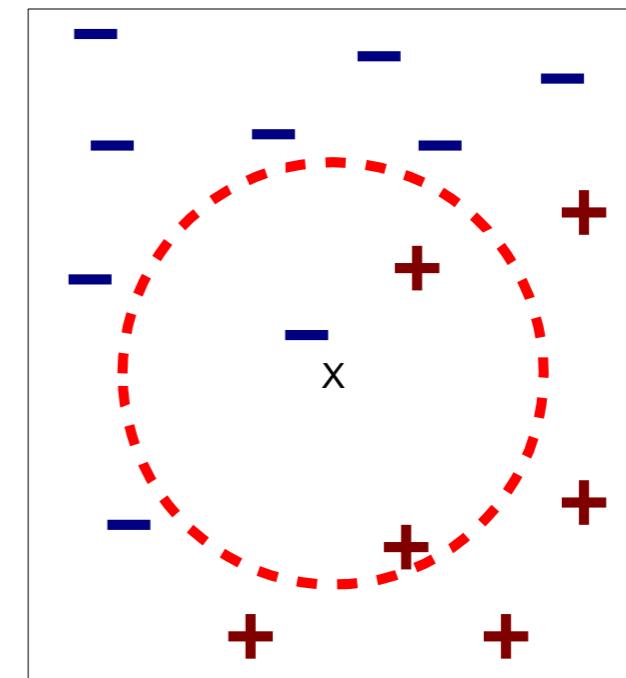
(a) 1-nearest neighbor

$K = 1$



(b) 2-nearest neighbor

$K = 2$

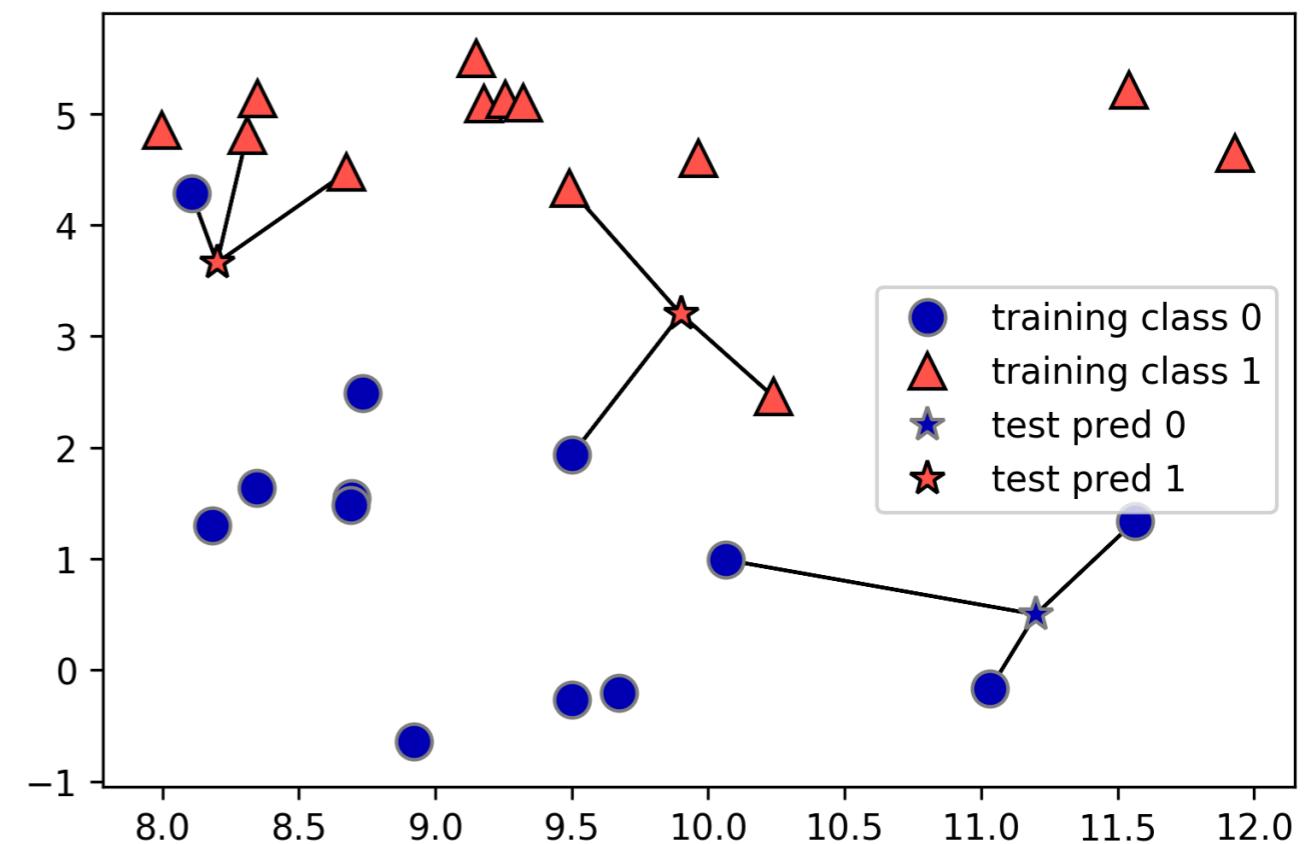
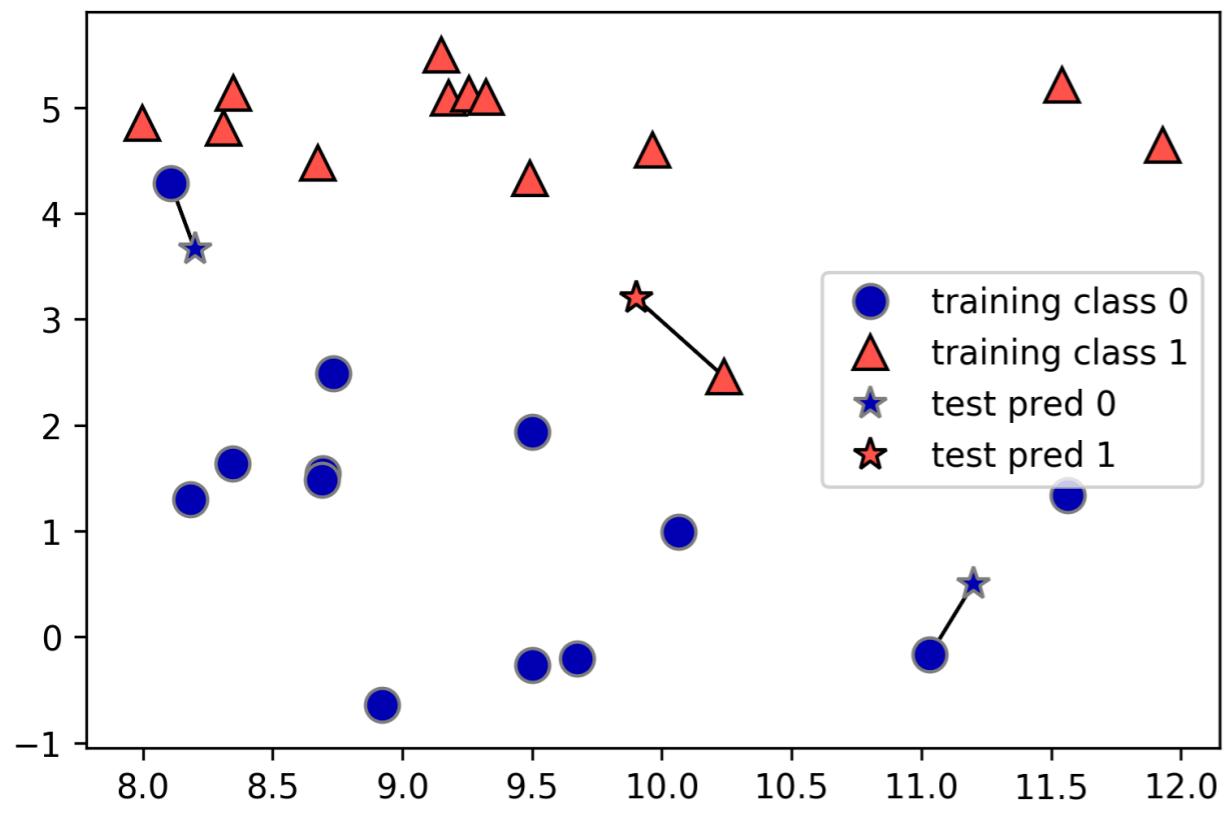


(c) 3-nearest neighbor

$K = 3$

$k$ -nearest neighbours of an instance  $x$  are the  $k$  points (instances) closest to  $x$ .

# the $K$



# Puzzle of today!

Value of  $K$ ?

# the $K$

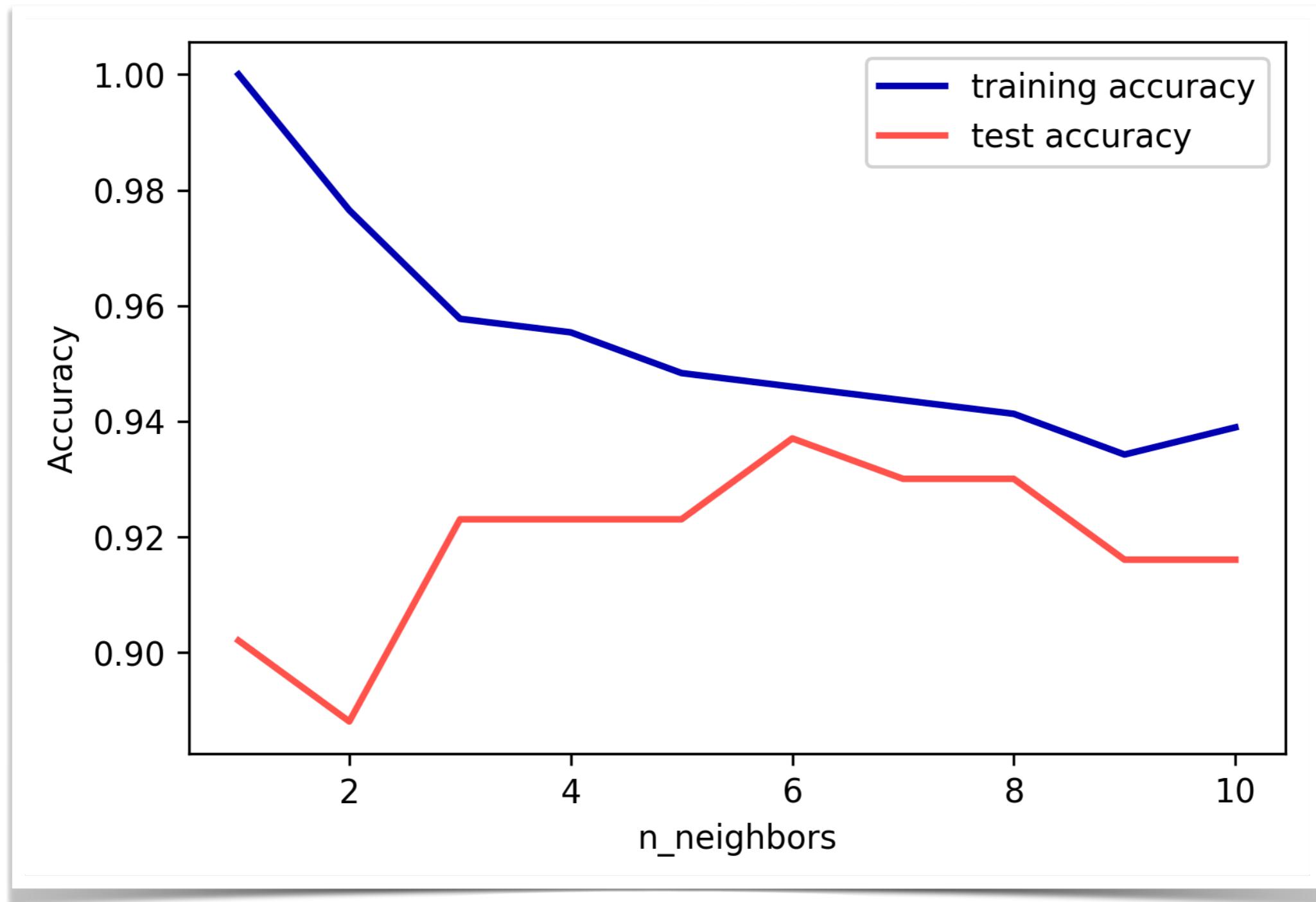
- Guessing

- Heuristics

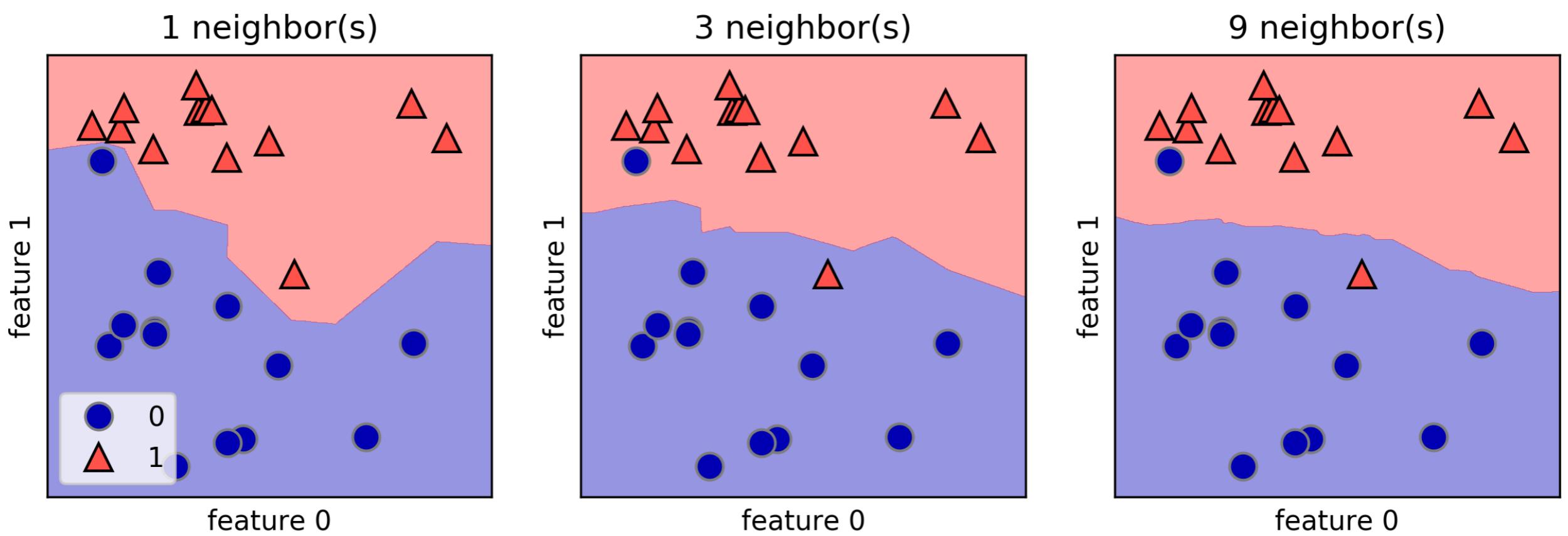
- ▶ use coprime class and  $K$  combination,
- ▶  $K$  is greater or equal to number of classes plus 1,
- ▶  $K$  that “avoids” noise (or outliers) —>>  **$\sqrt{n}$**

- Usually a tuned hyper-parameter.

# Effect of $K$



# Effect of K



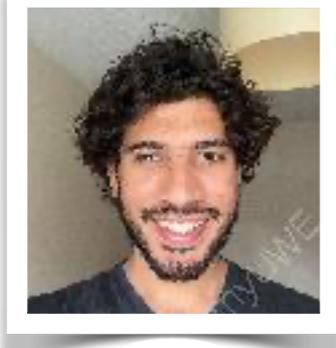
# Example

observation	label
(3,3)	cool
(-1,-4)	not cool
(2,3)	cool
(0,-5)	not cool
...	...
...	...

# Example

observation	label
(3,3)	cool
(-1,-4)	not cool
(2,3)	cool
(0,-5)	not cool

now given **Ali**, a new instance **(3,4)**, is he  



- 1st step:  choose **K = 3**
- 2nd step:  compute **distance**

data	<i>distance to (3,4)</i>
(3,3)	1
(-1,-4)	8.9
(2,3)	1.4
(0,-5)	9.4

# Example

1st step:  choose  $K = 3$

2nd step:  compute *distance*

data	<i>distance to (3,4)</i>
(3,3)	1
(-1,-4)	8.9
(2,3)	1.4
(0,-5)	9.4

3d step:  rank based on  $d$

data	<i>rank (closeness)</i>
(3,3)	1
(2,3)	2
(-1,-4)	3
(0,-5)	4

# Example

1st step:  choose  $K = 3$

2nd step:  compute *distance*

data	distance to (3,4)
(3,3)	1
(-1,-4)	8.9
(2,3)	1.4
(0,-5)	9.4

3d step:  rank based on  $d$

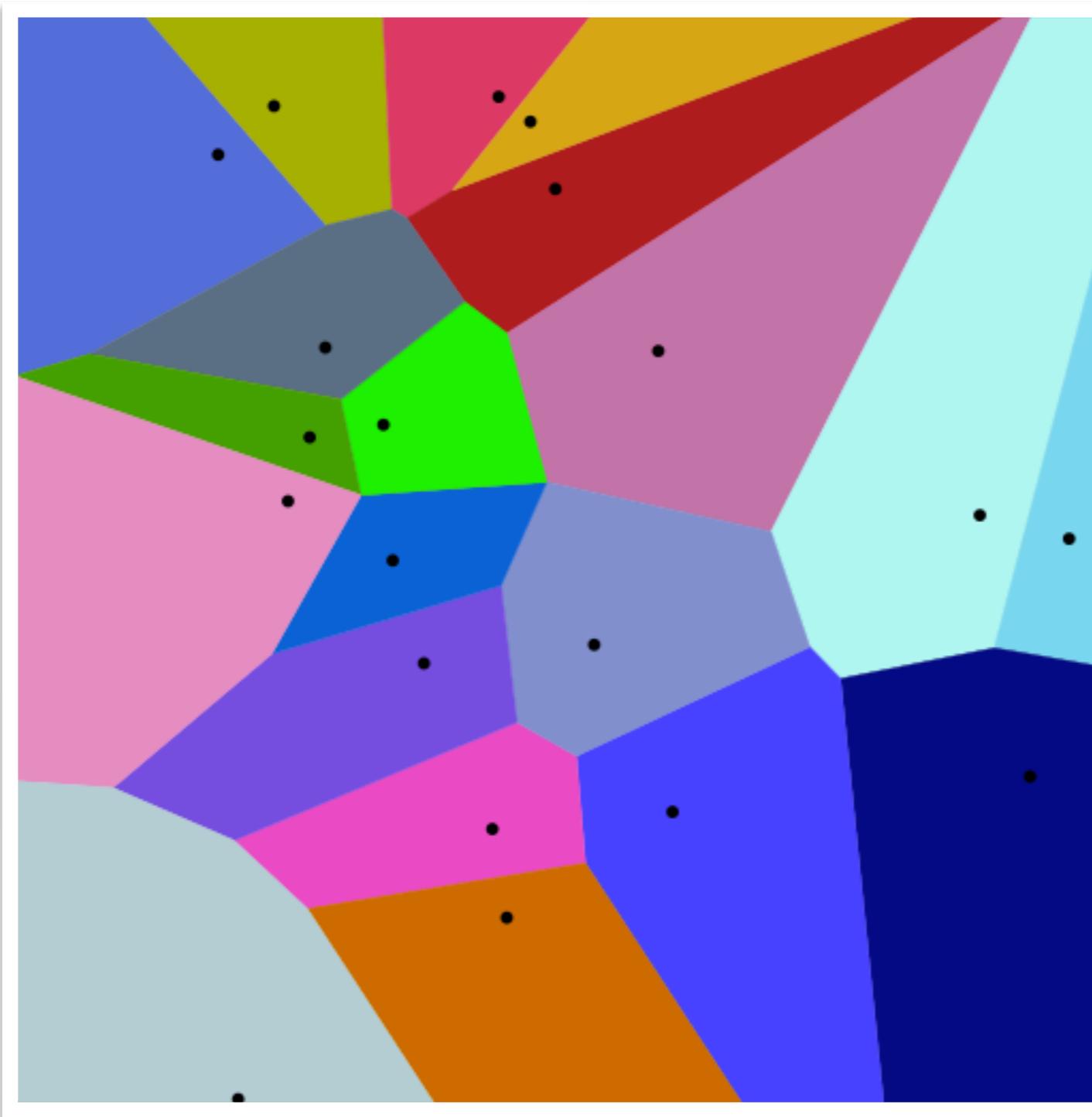
data	rank (closeness)	
(3,3)	1	cool
(2,3)	2	cool
(-1,-4)	3	not cool
(0,-5)	4	X

$$P(\text{'cool' } | \text{Ali}) = 2/3$$

$$P(\text{'not cool' } | \text{Ali}) = 1/3$$

KNN, with K=3, suggests that Ali is most likely 'cool'

# Visualisation



Voronoi Diagram

28

**Georgy Voronoy**



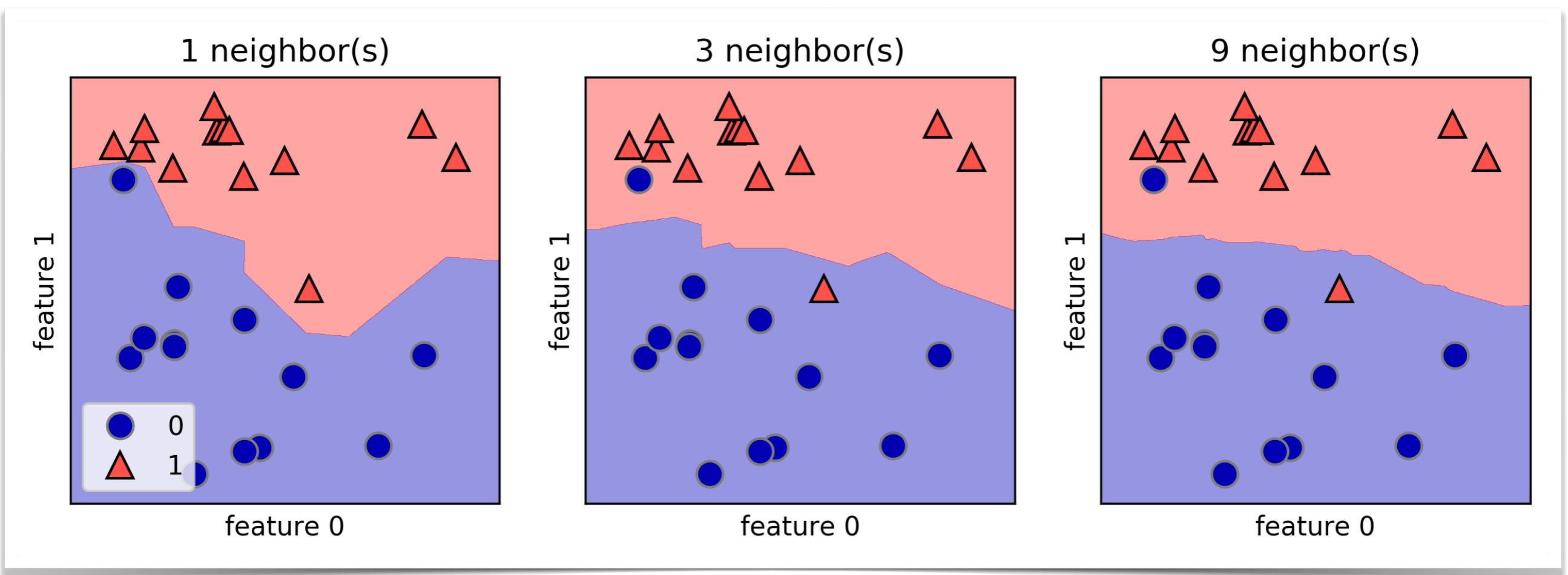
Born 28 April 1868  
Zhuravki, Poltava Governorate,  
Russian Empire

Died 20 November 1908 (aged 40)  
Warsaw, Congress Poland

Citizenship Russian Empire

Alma mater Saint Petersburg University

# Visualisation



# Agenda

→ K Nearest Neighbour/**Neighbor** - **KNN**

- ▶ Properties
- ▶ **Notes/thoughts**
- ▶ Limitations

→ Exercise - application of KNN for classification

# Further notes/thoughts...

- Weighted voting: the inverse of  $d$ .
- Distance metric choice; manhattan, euclidean, hamming, etc.
  - ➡ rescaling data: Scikit-learn's `normalize()`
- Dimensionality Reduction (PCA, Manifold, etc)
- Approximation of NN (k-d trees)

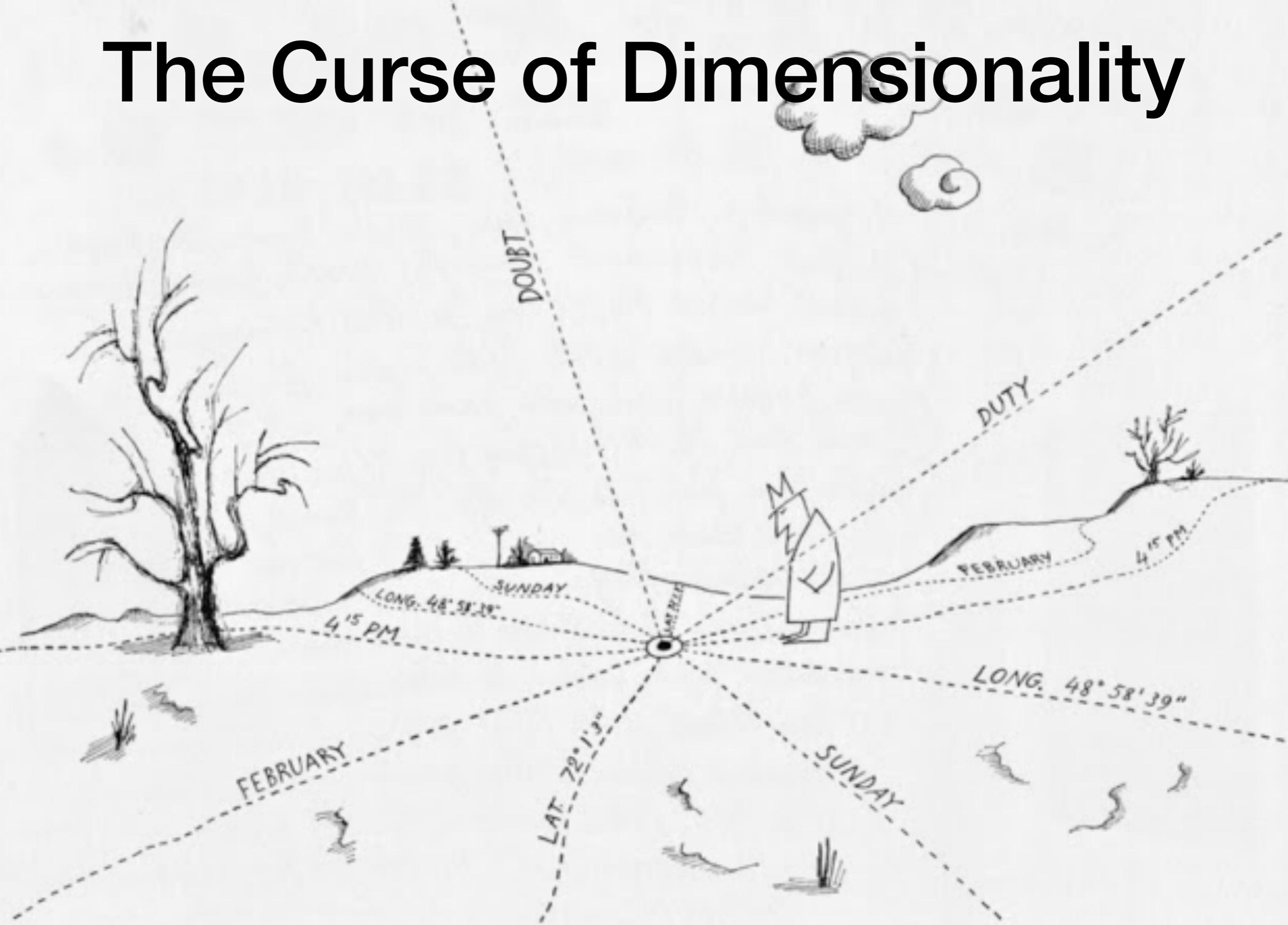
# Agenda

## → K Nearest Neighbour/**Neighbor** - **KNN**

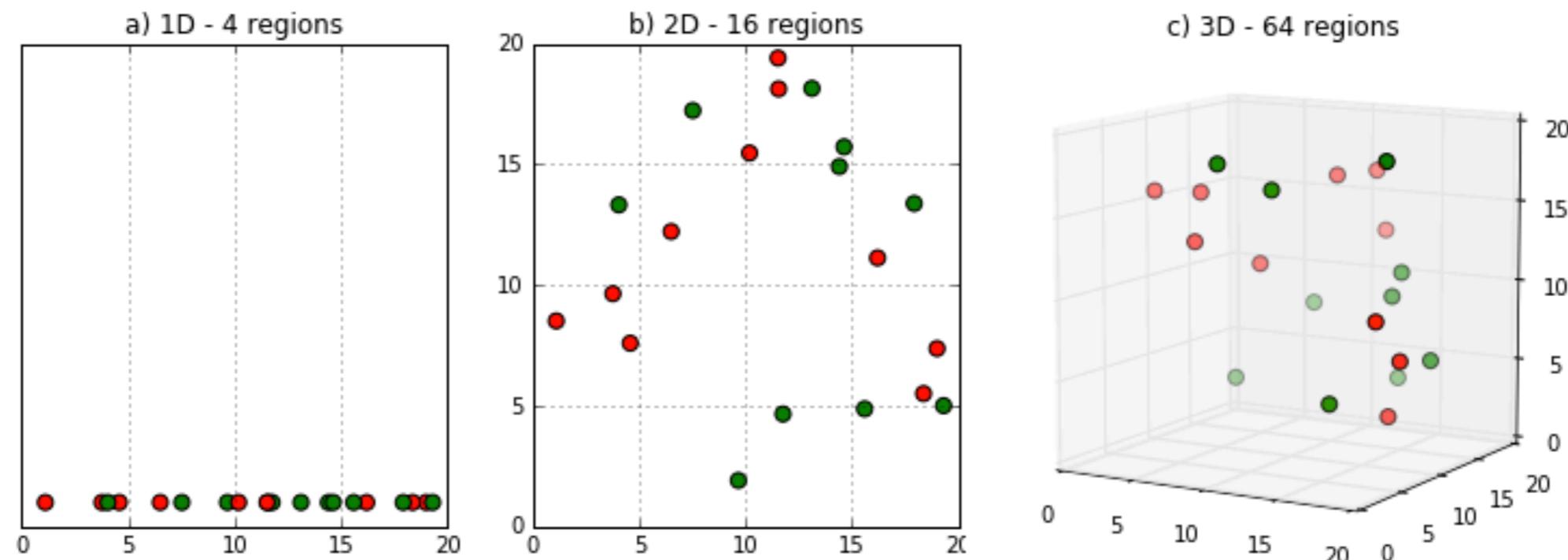
- ▶ Properties
- ▶ Notes/thoughts
- ▶ **Limitations**

## → Exercise - application of KNN for classification

# The Curse of Dimensionality



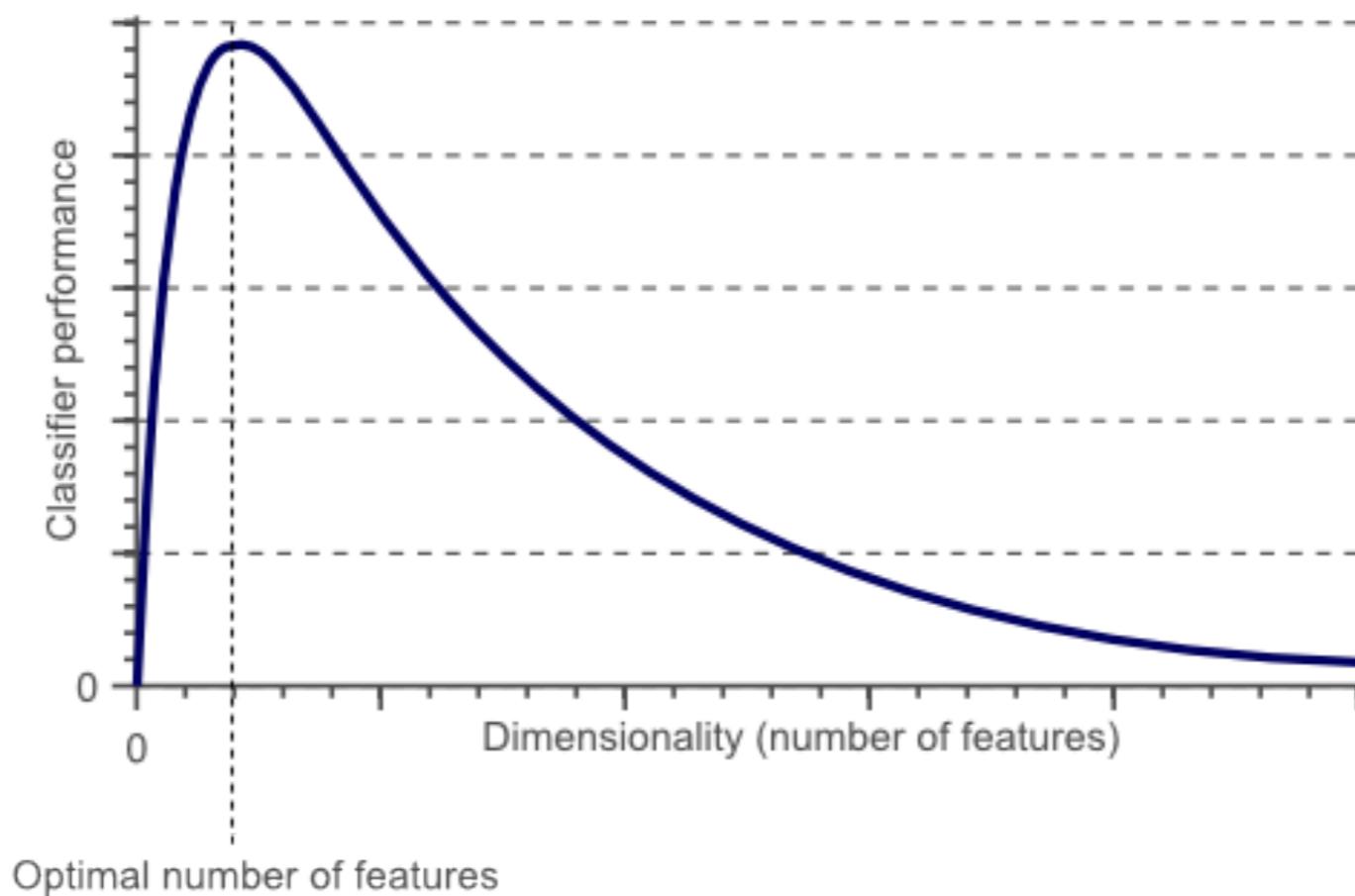
# The Curse of Dimensionality



Recommended read: “The Curse of Dimensionality in classification” from Computer Vision for Dummies - [available here](#).

# Dimensions...

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} E \left( \frac{\text{dist}_{\max}(d) - \text{dist}_{\min}(d)}{\text{dist}_{\min}(d)} \right) \rightarrow 0$$



# Applications

Proc AMIA Symp. 2000 : 759–763.

PMCID: PMC2243774

## Application of K-nearest neighbors algorithm on breast cancer diagnosis problem.

M. Sarkar and T. Y. Leong

[Author information ▶](#) [Copyright and License information ▶](#)

This article has been [cited by](#) other articles in PMC.

### Abstract

This paper addresses the Breast Cancer diagnosis problem as a pattern classification problem. Specifically, this problem is studied using the Wisconsin-Madison Breast Cancer data set. The K-nearest neighbors algorithm is employed as the classifier. Conceptually and implementation-wise, the K-nearest neighbors algorithm is simpler than the other techniques that have been known for this problem. Knearest neighbors algorithm produces the overall classification known for this problem.

Applied Mathematics in Electrical and Computer Engineering

### Article link

## Comparing Image Classification Methods: K-Nearest-Neighbor and Support-Vector-Machines

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<sup>2</sup>bsookim@umich.edu, <sup>3</sup>silvio@eecs.umich.edu

*Abstract:* - In order for a robot or a computer to perform tasks, it must recognize what it is looking at. Given an image a computer must be able to classify what the image represents. While this is a fairly simple task for

### Article link

# Applications

## Introduction to Information Retrieval

CS276: Information Retrieval and Web  
Search

Text Classification 1

Chris Manning and Pandu Nayak

[Slides available here](#)

## The bag of words representation

$Y( \quad ) = C$

I love this movie! It's sweet, but with satirical humor. The dialogue is great and the adventure scenes are fun... It manages to be whimsical and romantic while laughing at the conventions of the fairy tale genre. I would recommend it to just about anyone. I've seen it several times, and I'm always happy to see it again whenever I have a friend who hasn't seen it yet.

## The bag of words representation

$Y( \quad ) = C$

great	2
love	2
recommend	1
laugh	1
happy	1
...	...

# Applications

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 Hussein Moghnieh, Ph.D. [Follow](#)  
S. Platform Eng. / Data Scientist at FastPay (Los Angeles), Founder of citation.io.  
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## Scanned Digits Recognition using k-Nearest Neighbor (k-NN)



**MACHINE  
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 python™

 scikit-image  
image processing in python

 scikitlearn

[Page Link](#)

# Recap

- Simple, can be powerful, but lazy (and non-parametric).
- Commonly used in classification problems — it also is used for regression (which I didn't cover — reading provided on the latter).
- Works well on locally apparent patterns, on problems with low **intrinsic** feature space.
- Sensitive to feature scales.
- Though very commonly used, operationally isn't ideal.

# Reading

- J Grus (**ML from Scratch**): Ch 12 (pp. 151–163)
- E. Alpaydin (**Intro ML 3d Ed**): Ch 8, Sec 8.2.3 (pp. 190–192)
- T. Cover and P. Hart, "Nearest neighbor pattern classification," in **IEEE Transactions on Information Theory**, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 21-27, January 1967.
- **Read KNN Summary Sheet on BB/Week4 - do exercises if you have time.**