



# Distance-based Classification for Product Recommendation



Unit 6 Machine Learning



# Product Recommendation



When we search a product, retail websites suggest similar products



## Similar products

















Indian Virasat Printed Women's Flared Kurta

4 ★ (124)  Assured


₹1,320 ~~₹1,699~~ 22% off

Metro Fashion Printed Women Flared Kurta

4.6 ★ (5)  Assured


₹861 ~~₹2,000~~ 56% off

Indian Virasat Printed Women's Flared Kurta

4 ★ (124)  Assured

₹1,320 ~~₹1,699~~ 22% off

Metro Fashion Printed Women Flared Kurta

4 ★ (17)  Assured

₹861 ~~₹2,000~~ 56% off

Metro Fashion Printed Women A-line Kurta

3.9 ★ (29)

₹862 ~~₹1,999~~ 56% off

Kanchan collections Casual Printed Women's Kurti

4 ★ (620)

₹710 ~~₹1,599~~ 55% off

# Product Recommendation

When we search a product, retail websites suggest similar products

How does it know which products are “similar” to the original product?

What is even meant by “similarity of products”?

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What is even meant by “similarity of products”?

Similarity notion 1: Based on customer statistics

Similarity notion 2: Based on features of products

# Recommendation based on statistics

Two products which are often bought together may be considered “similar”

## Frequently Bought Together



The screenshot shows the product page for the Nikon D3100 SLR (Black) with ( AF-S 18-55mm VR Kit Lens). The main product image is on the left. To the right, the product name and specifications are listed, including 14.2 Megapixels, CMOS sensor, and a 2-year warranty. The price is Rs. 29950, with a discount of Rs. 1000. Below the price, there is a 'Buy This Now' button. To the right of the main product, there is a 'Frequently Bought Together With This Camera' section. This section lists four additional products: Nikon AF Zoom-Nikkor 70-300mm f/4-5.6G, Nikon AF-S DX Nikkor 55-300 mm f/4.5-5.6G, Nikon AF-S DX VR Zoom-Nikkor 55-200 mm, and Nikon AF Nikkor 50mm f/1.8D Lens. Each product has its original price and a discounted price. The 'Frequently Bought Together' section is highlighted with a red border. Below the main product, there is a 'Summary of Camera: Nikon D3100 SLR' section, which provides a detailed description of the camera's features, including its 14.2 megapixel sensor, CMOS image sensor, full HD recording, 3-inch low-temperature polysilicon TFT LCD screen, ISO 100 - ISO 3200 sensitivity, and focal length of 18 - 55. The 'Key Features' section lists these details. The 'Body' section describes the camera's compact and easy-to-carry design, its ergonomic features, and its 13 operating modes. The 'Also See' section lists other Nikon DSLR cameras. The 'Frequently Bought Together' section is also highlighted with a red border. The Flipkart logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

**Nikon D3100 SLR (Black) with ( AF-S 18-55mm VR Kit Lens)**

14.2 Megapixels  
CMOS

Interchangeable lens camera, SLR  
with 3.0 inch LCD

with 2 year Nikon India Warranty and Free Transit Insurance

Price: ~~Rs. 30950~~ **Rs. 29950**

Discount: Rs. 1000  
(Prices are inclusive of all taxes)

FREE Home Delivery

**Buy This Now**

**Frequently Bought Together With This Camera**

- Nikon AF Zoom-Nikkor 70-300mm f/4-5.6G  
Price: ~~Rs. 6185~~ **Rs. 5999**
- Nikon AF-S DX Nikkor 55-300 mm f/4.5-5.6G  
Price: ~~Rs. 20155~~ **Rs. 19550**
- Nikon AF-S DX VR Zoom-Nikkor 55-200 mm  
Price: ~~Rs. 14150~~ **Rs. 13725**
- Nikon AF Nikkor 50mm f/1.8D Lens  
Price: ~~Rs. 6290~~ **Rs. 6101**

**Summary of Camera: Nikon D3100 SLR**

Nikon D3100 is an entry-level DX-format camera, ideal for photographers preparing to refine their skills in DSLR cameras. This camera has a CMOS image sensor of dimensions 23.1 x 15.4 mm, which enables you to capture **fabulous images at 14.2 megapixels**. The swift EXPEED 2 processing engine of this digital SLR supports an aspect ratio of 3:2. You can record your memories and **shoot full HD movies on the Nikon D3100 at 1920 x 1080 resolution (24 fps)**.

**Body**

This Nikon DSLR is **compact and easy to carry** at 445 g (without battery). The rubber panel on the rear of the camera gives you a firm thumb grip, while the **ergonomically designed body** with rounded edges lets you hold the camera steady. This Nikon digital SLR has a secure **Mode dial which features 13 operating modes**. The base of this dial has a lever that lets you switch between Single, Continuous, Self-timer and Quiet modes with one simple flick of the finger.

The camera works on a rechargeable Li-Ion EN-EL14 battery capable of clicking **550 images when fully**

**Key Features**

- 14.2 megapixel Camera
- CMOS Image Sensor
- Full HD Recording
- 3 inch Low-temperature Polysilicon TFT LCD Screen
- ISO 100 - ISO 3200 Sensitivity
- Focal Length: 18 - 55

**Also See**

Nikon D3100 SLR with ( AF-S 18-55mm VR Kit Lens) (Red) Out of Stock

flipkart.com

# Recommendation based on features

- Shirt and tie often bought together, but are they similar?
- What if the user is looking for choices among shirts?
- Product Type Matching The recommender system should show other shirts!

Recommended shirts should be “similar” to the shirt being viewed

Similarity defined in terms of attributes

Colour, size, brand, perhaps design and texture .....



Query



Positive



In-class negative



Out-of-class negative

# Data Representation

- Represent each product by a vector of attributes or “features”
- Training data:  $(X_i, Y_i)$  where  $X$ : feature vector,  $Y$ : label
- Test data:  $(X_{\text{test}}, ?)$  [Label to be predicted]

# Data Representation

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- Test data:  $(X_{\text{test}}, ?)$  [Label to be predicted]
- Label: can be binary, discrete or continuous
- Binary label: **product recommendation** (similar or not?)
- Discrete label: **rating by one user** (1star, 2star, 3star, 4star or 5star)?
- Continuous label: **mean rating by many users** (1,5)



# A simple idea for classification

- Training data:  $(X_i, Y_i)$  where  $X$ : feature vector,  $Y$ : label
- Test data:  $(X_{\text{test}}, ?)$
- $X$ : representation of data-points (feature)
- Idea: things that “look” similar, are usually the same type!
- If  $X_{\text{test}} = X_i$ , then probably  $Y_{\text{test}} = Y_i$  !

# But is it a good idea?

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- If  $X_{\text{test}} = X_i$ , then probably  $Y_{\text{test}} = Y_i$  !
- Is  $X$  a good enough representation? - Let's assume it is
- In reality,  $X_{\text{test}} = X_i$  will rarely happen (especially if  $X$  is continuous!)

# Distance between feature vectors

- If  $X$  is continuous-valued,  $X_{\text{test}} = X_i$  will almost surely never happen!
- But,  $X_{\text{test}} \sim X_i$  is possible!
- $X_{\text{test}} \sim X_i$  : Euclidean Distance between the two points is very less
- $\|X_{\text{test}} - X_i\|_2$  is very low!
- $\|a - b\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum (a_i - b_i)^2}$  (also called the  $l_2$ -norm of  $a-b$ )

# Nearest-Neighbor Classification

- Training:  $N$  labelled examples  $(X_i, Y_i)$  where  $i: 1$  to  $N$
- Function learnt: the training set itself!
- Testing:  $X_{\text{test}}$
- $Y_{\text{pred}} = Y_n$ , where  $n = \arg \min_i ||X_{\text{test}} - X_i||_2$

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- Compute the Euclidean distance between the test datapoint and each of the  $N$  training datapoints
- Choose that training point for which this distance is minimum (Nearest-Neighbor)
- Use its label as the predicted label of the test point!

# Nearest-Neighbor Classification

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- $Y_{\text{pred}} = Y_n$ , where  $n = \arg \min_i ||X_{\text{test}} - X_i||_2$
- Not very robust due to outliers!
- Too much computation and storage required!

# K-nearest Neighbors Classification

- Problem 1: The nearest neighbour of the test point may be outlier!
- Outliers are rare
- K nearest neighbors: unlikely to contain many outliers
- Solution:
  - 1) Sort the training points according to distance from test point
  - 2) Choose the first K training points
  - 3) Predicted label = most frequent label among them!



# K-nearest Neighbors Regression

- Problem 1: The nearest neighbour of the test point may be outlier!
- Outliers are rare
- K nearest neighbors: unlikely to contain many outliers
- Solution:
  - 1) Sort the training points according to distance from test point
  - 2) Choose the first K training points
  - 3) Predicted label = mean of their labels!

# Nearest Mean Classification

- Problem 2: Too much computation ( $N$ ) and storage ( $N*(D+1)$ ) required!
- One solution: keep only one representative from each class
- How to choose the representative?
- Mean of feature vectors all data-points in that class!
- Mean for class  $k$ :  $\mu_k = \sum 1(Y_i=k) * X_i / \sum 1(Y_i=k)$
- Compare test point  $X_{\text{test}}$  with each  $\mu_k$  and choose label of the closest!
- $Y_{\text{pred}} = \operatorname{argmin}_k ||X_{\text{test}} - \mu_k||_2$

# Nearest Mean Classification

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- $Y_{\text{pred}} = \operatorname{argmin}_k ||X_{\text{test}} - \mu_k||_2$  [K comparisons instead of N]