

# K-nearest neighbours

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K-nearest neighbors (K-NN) is a simple yet powerful machine learning algorithm that is commonly used for classification and regression tasks. The concept behind K-NN is easy to understand and remember, even for beginners.

Imagine you are new to a neighborhood and want to know which house belongs to which family. You ask your neighbor about the family living in a particular house, and they tell you about their occupation, age, number of kids, and other characteristics. Based on this information, you can infer which family lives in which house.

Similarly, K-NN works by comparing the characteristics of a new data point with the characteristics of other data points in a dataset, called the training set. The algorithm finds the K closest neighbors to the new data point based on some distance metric, such as Euclidean distance or Manhattan distance.

For example, suppose you have a dataset of cars with features such as horsepower, engine size, and acceleration. You want to predict the fuel efficiency of a new car based on these features. You can use K-NN to find the K most similar cars in the dataset and take the average fuel efficiency of those cars as the predicted fuel efficiency for the new car.

K-NN can also be used for classification tasks, such as predicting whether a person has a particular disease based on their age, gender, and other features. In this case, the algorithm finds the K closest neighbors to the new data point and assigns the majority class of those neighbors as the predicted class for the new data point.

One of the advantages of K-NN is that it is a non-parametric algorithm, meaning that it does not make any assumptions about the distribution of the data. It is also relatively easy to interpret and explain, making it a popular choice for many applications.

However, K-NN can be computationally expensive for large datasets, as it requires computing the distance between the new data point and every data point in the training set. It is also sensitive to the choice of K and the distance metric used.

Overall, K-NN is a versatile and powerful algorithm that can be used for a wide range of tasks in machine learning and data analysis.