

Package ‘RANN’

August 24, 2026

Title Fast Nearest Neighbour Search (Wraps ANN Library) Using L2 Metric

Version 2.6.3

Description Finds the k nearest neighbours for every point in a given dataset in $O(N \log N)$ time using Arya and Mount's ANN library (v1.1.3). There is support for approximate as well as exact searches, fixed radius searches and 'bd' as well as 'kd' trees. The distance is computed using the L2 (Euclidean) metric. Please see package 'RANN.L1' for the same functionality using the L1 (Manhattan, taxicab) metric.

License GPL (≥ 3)

URL <https://github.com/jefferislab/RANN>,
<https://jefferislab.github.io/RANN/>

BugReports <https://github.com/jefferislab/RANN/issues>

Suggests testthat

Encoding UTF-8

Config/roxygen2/version 8.1.0

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Gregory Jefferis [aut, cre] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0587-9355>),
Samuel E. Kemp [aut],
Kirill Müller [ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1416-3412>),
Sunil Arya [aut, cph] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0939-4192>),
David Mount [aut, cph] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3290-8932>),
University of Maryland [cph] (ANN library is copyright University of Maryland and Sunil Arya and David Mount. See file COPYRIGHT for details)

Maintainer Gregory Jefferis <jefferis@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-08-24 05:20:48 UTC

Contents

RANN-package	2
nn2	3
Index	5

RANN-package	<i>Wrapper for Arya and Mount's Approximate Nearest Neighbours (ANN) C++ library</i>
--------------	--

Description

Finds the k nearest neighbours for every point in a given dataset in $O(N \log N)$ time using Arya and Mount's ANN library (v1.1.3). There is support for approximate as well as exact searches, fixed radius searches and 'bd' as well as 'kd' trees. The distance is computed using the L2 (Euclidean) metric. Please see package 'RANN.L1' for the same functionality using the L1 (Manhattan, taxicab) metric.

Author(s)

Maintainer: Gregory Jefferis <jefferis@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))

Authors:

- Gregory Jefferis <jefferis@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))
- Samuel E. Kemp
- Sunil Arya ([ORCID](#)) [copyright holder]
- David Mount ([ORCID](#)) [copyright holder]

Other contributors:

- Kirill Müller ([ORCID](#)) [contributor]
- University of Maryland (ANN library is copyright University of Maryland and Sunil Arya and David Mount. See file COPYRIGHT for details) [copyright holder]

See Also

[nn2](#)

Description

Uses a kd-tree to find the p number of near neighbours for each point in an input/output dataset. The advantage of the kd-tree is that it runs in $O(M \log M)$ time.

Usage

```
nn2(
  data,
  query = data,
  k = min(10, nrow(data)),
  treetype = c("kd", "bd"),
  searchtype = c("standard", "priority", "radius"),
  radius = 0,
  eps = 0
)
```

Arguments

data	An $M \times d$ data.frame or matrix, where each of the M rows is a point or a (column) vector (where $d=1$).
query	A set of $N \times d$ points that will be queried against data. d , the number of columns, must be the same as data. If missing, defaults to data.
k	The maximum number of nearest neighbours to compute. The default value is set to the smaller of the number of data points (rows) and 10. Note that when data and query are the same then the nearest neighbour will be the query point itself.
treetype	Character vector specifying the standard 'kd' tree or a 'bd' (box-decomposition, AMNSW98) tree which may perform better for larger point sets
searchtype	See details
radius	Radius of search for searchtype='radius'
eps	Error bound: default of 0.0 implies exact nearest neighbour search

Details

The RANN package utilizes the Approximate Near Neighbor (ANN) C++ library, which can give the exact near neighbours or (as the name suggests) approximate near neighbours to within a specified error bound. For more information on the ANN library please visit <https://www.cs.umd.edu/~mount/ANN/>.

Search types: priority visits cells in increasing order of distance from the query point, and hence, should converge more rapidly on the true nearest neighbour, but standard is usually faster for exact searches. radius only searches for neighbours within a specified radius of the point. If there are no neighbours then nn.idx will contain 0 and nn.dists will contain 1.340781e+154 for that point.

Value

A list of length 2 with elements:

nn.idx	A $N \times k$ integer matrix returning the near neighbour indices.
nn.dists	A $N \times k$ matrix returning the near neighbour Euclidean distances.

Author(s)

Gregory Jefferis based on earlier code by Samuel E. Kemp (knnFinder package)

References

Bentley J. L. (1975), Multidimensional binary search trees used for associative search. *Communication ACM*, 18:309-517.

Arya S. and Mount D. M. (1993), Approximate nearest neighbor searching, *Proc. 4th Ann. ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA'93)*, 271-280.

Arya S., Mount D. M., Netanyahu N. S., Silverman R. and Wu A. Y (1998), An optimal algorithm for approximate nearest neighbor searching, *Journal of the ACM*, 45, 891-923.

Examples

```
x1 <- runif(100, 0, 2*pi)
x2 <- runif(100, 0,3)
DATA <- data.frame(x1, x2)
nearest <- nn2(DATA,DATA)
```

Index

* **nonparametric**

nn2, [3](#)

* **package**

RANN-package, [2](#)

nn2, [2](#), [3](#)

RANN (RANN-package), [2](#)

RANN-package, [2](#)