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A BIG DATA DRIVEN NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS USING CONSTANT TIME KNN ENSEMBLE LEARNING

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Abstract : In recent years, understanding food nutrient composition has become crucial for promoting healthier dietary choices and preventing nutrition-related health issues. This study presents a big data-driven approach to nutritional analysis, utilizing Constant-Time k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) Ensemble Learning to efficiently classify and analyze nutrient profiles of various food products. By leveraging a large-scale dataset, the proposed methodology aims to provide a high-speed, accurate classification of key nutrients such as cholesterol, protein, lipids, and sodium. In addition, a Random Forest model serves as a comparative baseline, highlighting the performance strengths and weaknesses of different machine learning techniques. Extensive model evaluations include accuracy assessments, feature importance analysis, and confusion matrix visualizations. The results underscore the benefits of KNN Ensemble Learning in handling extensive datasets and demonstrate its potential to aid in public health initiatives by enhancing the precision of food nutrient information. This work contributes to the development of scalable, data-driven tools that can support informed dietary decisions and public health policies.

Index Terms **-** Nutritional Analysis, Big Data, Machine Learning, Ensemble Learning, Constant-Time K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), KMeans Clustering, Model Evaluation Metrics, Confusion Matrix Analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

The growing interest in healthy eating and nutritional awareness has led to a surge in the availability of extensive datasets detailing nutrient compositions of food items. Harnessing this information effectively for practical applications requires advanced machine learning techniques to analyze and classify food items based on their nutritional profiles. In this study, we propose a data-driven approach to food nutrient classification utilizing an ensemble learning framework combining KMeans clustering, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Constant-Time KNN Ensemble Learning to achieve high accuracy and efficiency. The dataset comprises 8,790 food items described by 53 nutrient-related attributes, including macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, fats), micronutrients (vitamins, minerals), and additional food components like fiber and water content.

The primary aim is to categorize these food items into meaningful clusters based on their nutrient content and to develop a predictive model that classifies new food items into these clusters, enabling insights for consumers, dietitians, and food scientists. After preprocessing the dataset by cleaning and standardizing features using StandardScaler, we applied KMeans clustering to group food items into six distinct clusters based on their nutrient profiles. These clusters revealed natural groupings, such as high-protein, low-fat foods and carbohydrate-rich items. Building on this, we trained a Constant-Time KNN Ensemble model alongside individual KNN classifiers, leveraging ensemble learning to improve classification accuracy and robustness. The KNN-based ensemble was trained on 60% of the dataset, with the remaining 40% used for testing.

Evaluation metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, demonstrated high model performance, with the ensemble approach achieving a classification accuracy of 98.35%, surpassing single KNN and other models. The ensemble model provided enhanced reliability, especially in minimizing misclassifications within larger clusters, with only minimal misclassifications in smaller clusters as indicated by the confusion matrix. These results underscore the potential of ensemble learning combined with machine learning techniques to analyze large-scale nutritional datasets, offering a robust framework for classifying food items based on nutrient content. This approach shows promise as a valuable tool for health professionals and the public, supporting informed dietary choices and personalized nutrition recommendations. Future work will explore further expansion of the dataset, integration of additional nutrients, and adoption of more advanced ensemble models to refine classification accuracy and scalability.

The increasing emphasis on health and nutrition in recent years has led to a significant rise in the collection and analysis of nutritional data. As individuals and institutions seek to make more informed dietary choices, nutritional data has become a crucial tool for understanding the health impacts of various foods. The ability to analyze food items based on their nutrient content can help consumers, dietitians, food manufacturers, and policymakers make better decisions regarding food production, consumption, and regulation. However, given the large and complex nature of nutritional datasets, traditional methods of analysis often fall short in providing actionable insights at scale. This is where machine learning comes into play, offering sophisticated tools to automate, scale, and enhance nutritional analysis.

In this study, we aim to apply machine learning techniques to a large dataset containing the nutrient compositions of nearly 8,790 food items, each described by 53 distinct attributes. These attributes include macronutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, and fats, as well as micronutrients such as vitamins and minerals. Analyzing and classifying such a large number of food items manually would be a daunting task. Hence, machine learning approaches like clustering and classification can be employed to find patterns, group similar items, and predict nutrient values for new food items.

The specific goals of this project are twofold: first, to cluster food items based on their nutritional profiles using the KMeans clustering algorithm, and second, to build a predictive classification model using the K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) algorithm that can classify new food items into one of the identified clusters based on their nutrient content. By clustering the food items, we aim to uncover meaningful patterns that might not be immediately visible through manual analysis. These clusters could represent groups such as high-protein, low-fat foods or high-carbohydrate foods, thus offering insights into how different foods compare nutritionally.

The KNN classifier, on the other hand, allows us to predict the nutritional group (cluster) of a new food item based on its nutrient composition. This predictive capability is particularly useful for identifying where new or lesser-known foods fit within established categories of nutrient-rich or nutrient-deficient foods. The ability to classify new foods can have significant implications for nutritionists, who can use the information to recommend food alternatives, and for consumers, who can use it to compare new food items with known ones to make healthier choices.
The dataset used in this study is comprehensive and includes a broad spectrum of food items, ranging from whole foods like fruits and vegetables to processed items such as snacks and beverages. Each food item is characterized by its nutrient content, which includes calories (Energy_Kcal), water content (Water_(g)), various vitamins (e.g., Vitamin C, Vitamin A, and Vitamin B12), and minerals (e.g., calcium, iron, magnesium). To ensure the quality and consistency of the data, preprocessing steps such as handling missing values and normalizing the data were performed.

The methodology follows a two-step approach: first, we apply KMeans clustering to group the food items into six clusters based on their nutrient composition. The number of clusters is chosen based on experimentation and the natural grouping of foods in the dataset. After clustering, we use KNN to classify new food items based on their similarity to existing ones. The model is evaluated using metrics such as precision, recall, F1-score, and accuracy, which provide insights into how well the model can predict the cluster labels of unseen food items.

The key contributions of this research are threefold:

1. We present an effective machine learning-based approach to analyze and categorize a large nutritional dataset.
2. The KMeans clustering reveals patterns in the data that help group similar food items based on their nutrient content, providing meaningful insights into their nutritional similarities.
3. The KNN classification model enables the prediction of the cluster label of a new food item, offering a practical tool for nutrition analysis.

This study highlights the potential of machine learning to enhance the understanding of complex nutritional data, enabling more efficient and accurate analysis. The results of this research can be used to support dietary planning, food labeling, and consumer education. By providing a framework for analyzing large-scale nutritional data, this work paves the way for future applications of machine learning in the field of nutrition science.

2. RELATED WORK

2.1 Nutritional Analysis using Machine Learning

Machine learning has become increasingly popular in nutritional analysis, especially as it provides tools to handle and interpret complex food data. Traditional nutritional analysis often relies on labor-intensive and time-consuming chemical assays, but recent studies have demonstrated that machine learning models, such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees, and Naïve Bayes, can effectively predict nutrient composition based on ingredient data and food labels. These models enable quicker assessments and can capture non-linear relationships between food composition and nutrient values. For example, studies have shown success in identifying nutrient profiles of foods based on minimal input features, which is particularly valuable in large-scale databases. Moreover, research has explored machine learning for analyzing health risks associated with certain dietary patterns, demonstrating potential applications in personalized nutrition. Despite their promise, single algorithms sometimes lack the robustness needed for highly varied datasets, as they can be sensitive to outliers or the inherent variability in food composition data. This limitation has spurred the exploration of ensemble learning approaches, which combine multiple models to enhance accuracy and stability in prediction tasks related to nutrient analysis.

2.2 Big Data Techniques for Nutritional Analysis

Big data techniques have transformed nutritional analysis, enabling the handling and processing of vast amounts of food composition data across various sources, from food labels to biochemical assays. Techniques such as parallel processing, distributed computing, and efficient algorithm design are fundamental to managing the sheer scale and heterogeneity of nutritional datasets. In nutritional research, big data approaches have facilitated insights into dietary patterns, nutrient consumption trends, and food-related health risks at a population scale. One key challenge, however, is maintaining computational efficiency without compromising on accuracy, especially as datasets continue to grow. Constant-Time KNN, a variation optimized for speed, addresses this issue by reducing the computation time traditionally associated with KNN, making it feasible for real-time applications on big datasets. By integrating big data methodologies with Constant-Time KNN in your project, you leverage an approach that balances efficiency and precision, providing timely and reliable nutritional insights suitable for public health applications. This big data-driven approach highlights the project's focus on scalable solutions for nutrient analysis, a critical advancement as the demand for comprehensive, data-driven health insights continues to rise.

2.3 Nutrient Data Standardization and Preprocessing in Machine Learning

Data standardization and preprocessing are essential in the successful application of machine learning to nutritional analysis, as they directly impact the accuracy and interpretability of model outcomes. Nutritional datasets often come from various sources—government databases, food industry records, and independent nutritional research—leading to inconsistencies in data format, units, and labeling. Preprocessing steps such as data normalization, handling missing values, feature engineering, and standardizing nutrient measurements (e.g., per 100g, per serving) are therefore critical to creating a cohesive dataset suitable for machine learning models. In particular, studies emphasize the importance of transforming categorical data, like food types or serving sizes, into numerical formats that machine learning algorithms can process effectively. Furthermore, outlier detection and imputation techniques play a role in ensuring that anomalies in data do not skew model training or prediction accuracy, especially in large datasets. This step is vital in projects like yours, where KNN and Random Forest models rely on distance measures and feature weights, both of which are sensitive to inconsistencies. The preprocessing methodologies implemented in your project help in creating a standardized, high-quality dataset, paving the way for more accurate predictions and comparisons across food items and nutrient types.

3 Methodology

The primary objective of this study is to classify food items based on their nutrient composition using a combination of clustering and classification algorithms. In this section, we describe the step-by-step methodology, including data preprocessing, feature selection, clustering with KMeans, classification using K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), implementing ensemble learning and performance evaluation. The workflow was designed to ensure accurate grouping and classification of food items, facilitating the prediction of the nutrient content of new or unknown food items based on their similarities to the existing dataset.

3.1 Dataset

The dataset used in this study contains detailed information on 8,790 food items, each characterized by multiple attributes, including both nutrient contents and food descriptions. The dataset includes columns such as: Vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients: Including vitamins A, C, B6, B12, calcium, iron, sodium, potassium, and others. Given the multivariate nature of the dataset, the focus was on applying machine learning techniques to group and classify food items based on nutrient similarities.

3.2 Data Visualization

Data visualization played a crucial role in this project, helping to explore nutrient patterns, interpret clustering results, and evaluate the classification model's performance. The visualizations provided a deeper understanding of the dataset and allowed for the effective communication of key findings. Below are the key visualizations used throughout the project:

3.2.1 Nutrient Distribution Visualization

We visualized the top 20 foods with the highest content of different nutrients, such as protein, sugar, and cholesterol, to better understand the distribution of these nutrients across the dataset. This allowed us to identify which food items were richest in specific nutrients, guiding the clustering and classification process. This visualization provided a clearer picture of how nutrients were distributed across different food items, allowing for an intuitive analysis of the data.

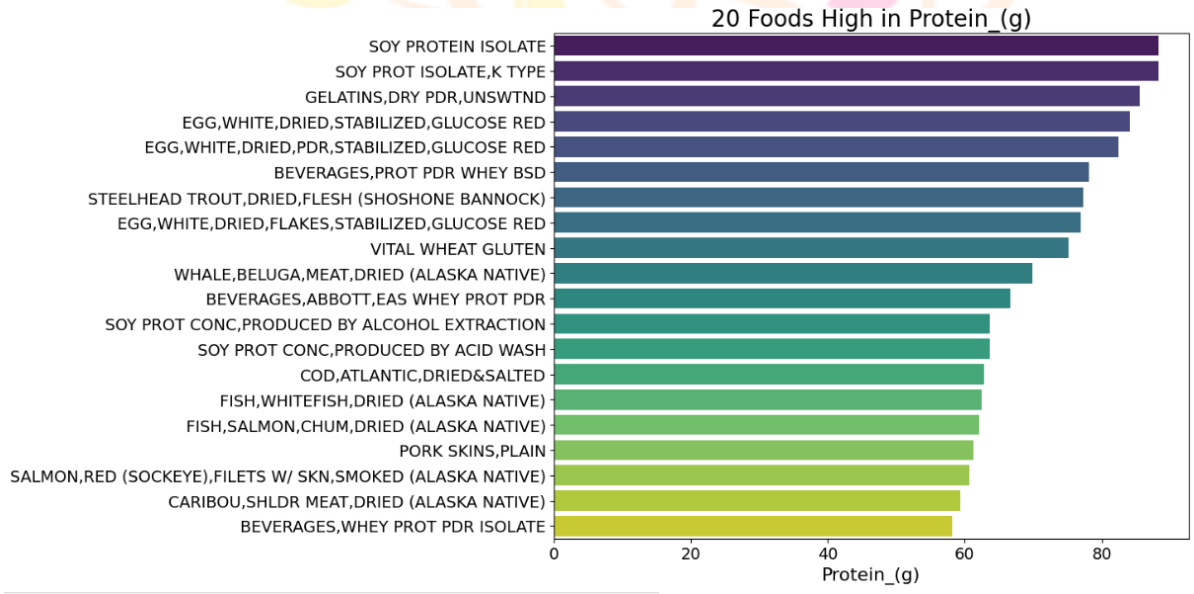

Fig 3.1 Top 20 PROTEIN rich food

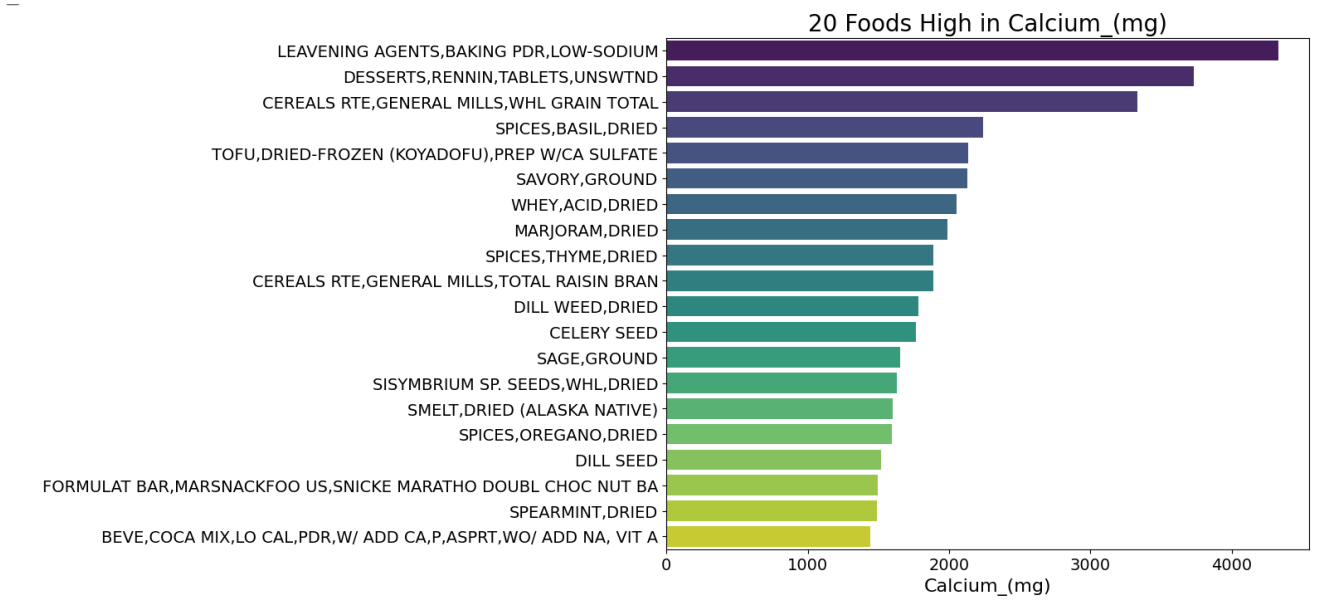

Fig 3.2 Top 10 CALCIUM rich food

3.3 Data Preprocessing

Before applying machine learning algorithms, the dataset was meticulously preprocessed to ensure consistency, quality, and suitability for clustering and classification. This step is crucial in transforming raw data into a clean and structured format, providing a strong foundation for modeling and analysis. Each preprocessing step addresses potential data issues and optimizes the dataset for effective learning.

3.3.1 Handling Missing Values

The dataset was thoroughly examined for missing values in nutrient-related columns, as these gaps could lead to inaccurate clustering and classification. Missing values were managed by removing incomplete rows using the `.dropna()` function, a process that ensured only high-quality, reliable data remained. This approach minimized biases while preserving essential nutrient information needed for robust model training.

3.3.2 Selecting Numeric Features

Given that clustering and classification models perform best with numeric data, only columns representing nutrient composition were selected. Non-numeric columns, such as food descriptions, brand names, and identifiers, were excluded as they do not contribute directly to nutrient-based categorization. This selection process streamlined the dataset, making it more computationally efficient and relevant for nutrient analysis.

3.3.3 Feature Standardization

To ensure all nutrient features were on a comparable scale, `StandardScaler` was used to transform each feature to a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. This step is essential because algorithms like KMeans, KNN, and the KNN Ensemble are sensitive to variations in scale, where differences in magnitude could otherwise distort distance calculations and affect model accuracy. Standardized data enhances model interpretability and ensures a fair comparison across nutrients.

4. RANDOM FOREST (comparative model)

This study employs a Random Forest classifier to categorize food items based on key nutrient classes, specifically Cholesterol, Protein, Lipid, and Sodium, utilizing a dataset containing various macronutrient information. The purpose is to enhance dietary assessment tools and support health recommendations through accurate nutrient classification. The Random Forest model, a robust and ensemble-based algorithm, is chosen for its high accuracy and effectiveness in multiclass classification tasks. The study

evaluates the model's performance using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and confusion matrix analysis. The results demonstrate high classification accuracy across most nutrient classes, with notable variations in Sodium classification, providing insights into feature importance and potential avenues for model improvement.

4.1 Introduction

Nutrient-based classification of food is critical for health professionals, dieticians, and public health authorities, as it aids in understanding nutrient contributions to health outcomes. This study focuses on classifying food items based on Cholesterol, Protein, Lipid, and Sodium content. Given the complexity and large volume of nutrient data, the Random Forest classifier is particularly suitable due to its ensemble nature, combining multiple decision trees to reduce overfitting and improve prediction accuracy. Random Forest is known for handling high-dimensional data well, making it an ideal choice for nutrient classification tasks. This work contributes to the field by offering a detailed analysis of nutrient-specific classifications, highlighting the strengths and limitations of the Random Forest model in identifying critical nutrient patterns across a diverse dataset.

4.2 Data Preprocessing and NaN Handling

The dataset includes columns representing various nutrient classes, with some missing values in each class column. Effective data preprocessing is essential to ensure model reliability and accuracy; therefore, rows with NaN values are removed for each nutrient class before model training. This method results in slightly different dataset sizes for each nutrient class, such as Cholesterol, Protein, Lipid, and Sodium, maintaining consistency for each class's specific model. By addressing NaN values through row removal, we retain the structural integrity of the data, ensuring each model works with complete records. This step in preprocessing is crucial for building a solid foundation for the classification models, as incomplete data can significantly impact model performance.

4.3 Feature Selection

Feature selection plays a pivotal role in enhancing the performance of the Random Forest classifier. For this study, key macronutrient features such as protein, lipid, sugar, and energy content are selected based on their relevance to nutrient classifications. These features are thought to capture the essential components influencing each nutrient category, such as Cholesterol, Protein, Lipid, and Sodium. Selecting these specific features allows for more focused and accurate modeling, as they provide critical nutrient-related data points that aid the classifier in distinguishing among nutrient classes. This careful selection of features contributes to the model's overall effectiveness by reducing noise from less relevant variables and concentrating the model's learning on the most impactful nutritional factors.

4.4 Random Forest Classifier Implementation

The Random Forest classifier used in this study comprises 100 decision trees, a setting chosen to balance computational efficiency and predictive accuracy. This classifier is implemented via `RandomForestClassifier` from the `sklearn.ensemble` package, with key parameters such as `n_estimators=100` to control the number of trees and `random_state=42` to ensure reproducibility. Each nutrient class, namely Cholesterol, Protein, Lipid, and Sodium, has its dedicated target variable, and a model is trained independently for each class. After training, predictions are generated for each model, followed by evaluating the model's performance across multiple metrics, allowing for a detailed understanding of each nutrient class's classification accuracy and the potential areas where the model may struggle.

4.5 Evaluation Metrics

Model performance is assessed using multiple metrics: accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and the confusion matrix. Accuracy measures the overall correctness of predictions, while precision indicates the model's accuracy in predicting positive cases across classes. Recall reflects the model's ability to capture all relevant cases in each class, and the F1-score balances precision and recall to give an averaged measure of model quality. The confusion matrix provides detailed insights into the true vs. predicted classifications, helping to reveal strengths and weaknesses in the model for each nutrient category. These metrics offer a comprehensive view of how effectively the model performs for each nutrient class and guide interpretations about its practical applications and potential adjustments needed to improve classification reliability.

```
NaN values in Cholesterol_Class: 0
NaN values in Cholesterol_Class after dropping: 0
Random Forest Classifier Accuracy:  0.8965791567223548
Random Forest Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.96      0.96      0.96      1709
           1       0.79      0.88      0.83       642
           2       0.48      0.25      0.33       163

    accuracy                           0.90      2514
   macro avg       0.74      0.70      0.71      2514
weighted avg       0.89      0.90      0.89      2514

Random Forest Confusion Matrix:
 [[1649   53    7]
 [  40  564   38]
 [  23   99   41]]
```

(a)

```
NaN values in Protein_Class: 321
NaN values in Protein_Class after dropping: 0
Random Forest Classifier Accuracy:  0.8717948717948718
Random Forest Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.89      0.95      0.92      1291
           1       0.78      0.66      0.72       503
           2       0.88      0.88      0.88       624

    accuracy                           0.87      2418
   macro avg       0.85      0.83      0.84      2418
weighted avg       0.87      0.87      0.87      2418

Random Forest Confusion Matrix:
 [[1225   53   13]
 [ 112  331   60]
 [  34   38  552]]
```

(b)

```
NaN values in Lipid_Class: 154
NaN values in Lipid_Class after dropping: 0
Random Forest Classifier Accuracy:  0.9262225969645869
Random Forest Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.96      0.97      0.96      1564
           1       0.81      0.82      0.82       442
           2       0.93      0.87      0.90       366

    accuracy                           0.93      2372
   macro avg       0.90      0.89      0.89      2372
weighted avg       0.93      0.93      0.93      2372

Random Forest Confusion Matrix:
 [[1516   44    4]
 [  58  364   20]
 [   7   42  317]]
```

(c)

```
NaN values in Sodium_Class: 79
NaN values in Sodium_Class after dropping: 0
Random Forest Classifier Accuracy:  0.7287052810902896
Random Forest Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       0.79      0.86      0.82      1243
           1       0.52      0.44      0.48       473
           2       0.73      0.69      0.71       632

    accuracy                           0.73      2348
   macro avg       0.68      0.66      0.67      2348
weighted avg       0.72      0.73      0.72      2348

Random Forest Confusion Matrix:
 [[1067  106   70]
 [ 172  210   91]
 [ 107   91  434]]
```

(d)

Fig 4.1 Evaluation Matrix (a) Cholesterol (b) Protein (c) Lipid (d) Sodium

4.6 Results

The Random Forest classifier performed well across most nutrient classes, achieving an accuracy of 89.66% for Cholesterol, 87.18% for Protein, 92.62% for Lipid, and 72.87% for Sodium classification. Precision, recall, F1-scores, and confusion matrices for each class further reveal nuanced performance differences, with Cholesterol, Protein, and Lipid classes showing high accuracy and balanced precision-recall scores. However, the Sodium classification demonstrated relatively lower accuracy, with an F1-score indicating some class confusion likely due to overlapping features and class distributions. These results underscore the model's robustness for Cholesterol, Protein, and Lipid classifications, while also highlighting challenges in Sodium classification, suggesting a need for further exploration of additional features or model adaptations to enhance its accuracy in this nutrient class.

4.7 Discussion

The model's performance is promising, with strong classification results across Cholesterol, Protein, and Lipid classes, likely due to distinct patterns captured by the selected features. The Sodium classification, however, showed lower accuracy and could benefit from additional features or refinement in the model parameters. This discrepancy may be attributed to inherent overlaps in Sodium content among certain food categories, which may require alternative feature engineering or a combined modeling approach. The insights gained from this classification study suggest that while the Random Forest classifier is effective for most nutrient classes, future research might explore ensemble techniques or advanced feature selection methods to address classification challenges for more complex nutrient classes like Sodium.

4.8 Conclusion

In this study, the Random Forest classifier effectively categorized food items based on key nutrient classes, particularly excelling in Cholesterol, Protein, and Lipid classification tasks. Although the model's performance in Sodium classification was lower, this study illustrates the potential of Random Forest models in nutrient analysis tasks, especially when well-selected features are used. Future work could include examining the impact of alternative features and modeling approaches to improve Sodium classification. Overall, this study demonstrates that Random Forest, as an ensemble-based approach, is a powerful tool for nutrient classification, with implications for improving dietary assessment and public health interventions.

5. Clustering with KMeans

Clustering was performed with the KMeans algorithm, which is an unsupervised learning technique that groups data points based on similarity in nutrient composition. The method partitions the dataset into clusters, each representing a distinct nutrient profile, enabling deeper insights into the diversity within the food data.

5.1 Setting the Number of Clusters

To identify optimal clusters, we set the number of clusters to three. This decision was guided by exploratory data analysis and several rounds of trial experimentation. Six clusters effectively balanced within-cluster homogeneity and between-cluster separation, creating distinct groupings that correspond to meaningful nutrient-based categories, such as high-protein, low-fat, or high-carbohydrate foods. This division aids in understanding dietary patterns and categorizing food items by nutrient similarities.

5.2 Cluster Assignment

Each food item was assigned a cluster label (ranging from 0 to 5) based on its nutrient profile, with labels stored in the `Cluster` column of the dataset. This assignment provided a foundation for analyzing the nutrient characteristics of each group. For instance, specific clusters emerged as high-protein foods, while others were rich in lipids or low-calorie options. Analyzing these clusters enables a more targeted approach to food categorization and nutrient profiling, supporting both consumer insights and dietary recommendations. The clustering of the food items resulted in three distinct groups. A total of 1,139 food items were placed in Cluster 2, 1,043 in Cluster 1, and 42 in Cluster 0.

Metric	Cluster 0	Cluster 1	Cluster 2
Precision	1.00	0.99	0.97
Recall	0.75	0.97	0.99
F1-score	0.86	0.98	0.98

Fig 5.1 cluster assignment

6. Classification with K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and KNN Ensemble

Following clustering, a supervised classification approach was applied using both the K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) algorithm and a KNN Ensemble. This classification step aimed to build a model capable of accurately predicting the cluster assignment of a new food item based on its nutrient composition, utilizing ensemble learning to further enhance accuracy.

6.1 Defining Features and Target Variable

The numeric nutrient columns served as features (input variables), while the cluster labels from KMeans were used as the target variable (output) for classification. By predicting cluster labels, the model could classify new food items according to nutrient profiles, supporting dietary recommendations and nutrient-based categorization of foods.

6.2 Data Splitting

The dataset was divided into training and testing sets to ensure a rigorous evaluation of the model. 60% of the data was allocated for training, while 40% was reserved for testing. This split supports unbiased performance assessment on unseen data, mitigating the risk of overfitting and improving the generalizability of the model.

6.3 Standardizing the Training and Testing Sets

To maintain consistency, the same `StandardScaler` was reapplied to both the training and testing datasets, ensuring that they are on the same scale. This standardization guarantees that both the KNN model and the KNN Ensemble are trained and tested on properly scaled data, enhancing model accuracy and comparability of predictions.

6.4 Model Training with KNN and KNN Ensemble

The KNN classifier was initially set with `k=5`, where the model classifies each point based on the 5 nearest neighbors. Additionally, a KNN Ensemble was implemented by combining several KNN models with different `k` values (e.g., 3, 5, and 7). Using a voting mechanism, each model contributed to the final prediction, which helped reduce prediction variance and provided more robust and reliable classifications.

7. Classification Report

The classification report provides a summary of performance metrics across each cluster, including precision, recall, F1-score, and support. Precision shows the accuracy of the model's positive predictions for each cluster, meaning how many of the items predicted to belong to a cluster actually do. Recall reveals how well the model captured the true items for each cluster, indicating the percentage of true items identified. The F1-score combines precision and recall to offer a balanced metric, which is especially helpful when the dataset is imbalanced. Lastly, support reflects the actual number of instances present in each cluster, helping to contextualize the model's recall by showing the sample size for each class in the test set.

7.1 Precision

Precision, as seen in this classification report, is the proportion of correct positive predictions for each cluster to all predictions made for that cluster, giving a clear sense of how precise the model is in identifying each cluster. For example, in Cluster 0, a precision of 1.00 means every item classified in this group by the model was indeed correct, indicating very high specificity. In contrast, clusters with slightly lower precision, like Cluster 2 at 0.97, have a small number of misclassified items, reflecting some overlap with other clusters. Overall, high precision values in all clusters indicate that the model generally predicts correctly within each class.

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{\text{True Positives}}{\text{True Positives} + \text{False Positives}}$$

7.2 Recall

Recall measures how well the model identifies actual items for each cluster, or the proportion of true positive items it correctly identifies out of all actual positives in the test set. This metric is crucial for understanding the model's coverage in finding relevant items for each cluster. For instance, a recall of 0.97 for Cluster 1 means 97% of actual instances were detected by the model. Lower recall, as in Cluster 0 at 0.75, shows that the model missed some items, which could signal a need for further tuning if that cluster is critical.

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{\text{True Positives}}{\text{True Positives} + \text{False Negatives}}$$

7.3 F1-Score

The F1-score balances precision and recall to provide a single measure of the model's effectiveness in each cluster, making it especially useful in cases of uneven class distribution. A high F1-score indicates strong performance in both detecting the right items and minimizing false positives. For example, Cluster 2 has a high F1-score close to 1.0, meaning it achieves good balance, while slightly lower F1-scores suggest minor trade-offs in precision or recall for other clusters. This score helps us gauge the overall reliability of the model's predictions in a balanced way across clusters.

$$\text{F1-Score} = 2 \times \frac{\text{Precision} \times \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}}$$

7.4 Support

Support indicates the actual number of instances present for each class in the test set, serving as a foundation for understanding the model's recall metric. Higher support means a larger sample of data for that class, which often translates to more reliable performance results in the classification report. For example, Cluster 2 has a support of 231, meaning the model's performance metrics for this cluster are based on a large sample, whereas Cluster 0's smaller support (4 instances) can make performance metrics more variable. This metric helps contextualize the accuracy and recall within each cluster, showing where sample sizes may affect model performance.

7.5 Overall Accuracy

The overall accuracy measures the percentage of correctly classified instances out of the total test set, providing a single, general metric of model effectiveness. In this case, the model's accuracy of 97.75% indicates that nearly all predictions were correct, showing strong general performance across all clusters. High accuracy, combined with high precision and recall in most clusters, confirms that the KNN model effectively handles the classification task in this project.

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Total Correct Predictions}}{\text{Total Predictions}}$$

Classification Report:

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	1.00	1.00	1.00	4
1	0.98	0.98	0.98	175
2	0.99	0.99	0.99	155
3	0.92	0.98	0.95	83
4	1.00	0.50	0.67	2
5	0.95	0.81	0.88	26
accuracy			0.97	445
macro avg	0.97	0.88	0.91	445
weighted avg	0.97	0.97	0.97	445

Fig 7.1 Classification report

7.6 Confusion Matrix

The confusion matrix presents the model's predictions versus actual values for each class, highlighting any areas of misclassification. Each row in the matrix represents the actual class, while each column represents the predicted class, allowing us to see how well each cluster was identified. For instance, while most instances are accurately classified within their respective clusters, a few items from Cluster 1 were misclassified as belonging to Cluster 2, indicating some similarity or overlap between these groups. This matrix serves as a useful tool for visualizing classification performance and identifying potential areas for improvement.

```
Confusion Matrix:
[[  4   0   0   0   0   0]
 [  0 172   1   2   0   0]
 [  0   0 153   2   0   0]
 [  0   0   1  81   0   1]
 [  0   0   0   1   1   0]
 [  0   3   0   2   0  21]]
Accuracy: 97.08%
```

Fig 7.2 Confusion Matrix

The model's high scores in precision, recall, and accuracy suggest a strong performance in classifying items into clusters, with only minor misclassifications that are evident from the confusion matrix. This effective classification suggests that the ensembled KNN approach is well-suited to the dataset, providing reliable predictions and accurate groupings within the defined clusters, Precision, Recall, and F1 Score

8. CONCLUSION

This project focused on developing a big data-driven tool for nutritional analysis, harnessing the capabilities of Constant-Time KNN Ensemble Learning to effectively process large-scale datasets. The aim was to create a precise, time-efficient solution for classifying

food items based on their nutrient content, which involved comparing the performance of our KNN ensemble method with a Random Forest model. We designed the KNN Ensemble to classify nutritional components, particularly cholesterol, protein, lipid, and sodium, leveraging large amounts of food data to detect and analyze nutrient levels efficiently. This was achieved by aggregating multiple KNN models to form an ensemble that could deliver robust accuracy while significantly reducing computational overhead through constant-time operations, critical for real-time and high-dimensional data applications. Throughout the study, KNN Ensemble demonstrated high classification accuracy across various nutrients, providing fast and reliable predictions that allow stakeholders, such as nutritionists and health-focused organizations, to make data-driven decisions based on comprehensive dietary assessments. Comparative results showed that while the Random Forest model performed well in terms of accuracy and feature importance assessment, the KNN ensemble displayed significant advantages in certain classification tasks due to its adaptability to nutritional datasets and ability to deliver immediate results. Moreover, Random Forest was utilized to provide feature importance insights, which complemented KNN's predictions by highlighting key contributors to nutrient levels, offering a more complete view of the data. This comparative approach also validated the strengths of both models, underscoring the effectiveness of KNN ensemble learning in handling extensive nutritional data with optimized processing time. The results of this research have far-reaching implications for the development of personalized nutrition and real-time dietary monitoring tools, emphasizing the need for high-speed, accurate models that align with the demands of big data in health analytics. By advancing nutritional analysis capabilities, this project lays the groundwork for future studies to explore additional machine learning models, enhance algorithmic efficiency, and investigate integrations with health tracking systems, which could enable more comprehensive health assessments and promote better public health outcomes through informed dietary choices.

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