

# Package: RANN (via r-universe)

October 4, 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

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Repository** <https://jefferislab.r-universe.dev>

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RANN-package

*Wrapper for Arya and Mount's Approximate Nearest Neighbours (ANN) C++ library*


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### 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)

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- Sunil Arya ([ORCID](#)) [copyright holder]
- David Mount ([ORCID](#)) [copyright holder]

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- 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

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nn2

*Nearest Neighbour Search*


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### 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 <b>M</b> x <b>d</b> data.frame or matrix, where each of the <b>M</b> rows is a point or a (column) vector (where <b>d=1</b> ).                                                                                                              |
| query      | A set of <b>N</b> x <b>d</b> points that will be queried against data. <b>d</b> , 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:

|                       |                                                                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>nn.idx</code>   | A <b>N</b> x <b>k</b> integer matrix returning the near neighbour indices.     |
| <code>nn.dists</code> | A <b>N</b> x <b>k</b> 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)
```

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