Top Machine Learning Algorithms

Learning Type	Model Family	ALGORITHM	DESCRIPTION	APPLICATIONS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Supervised Learning	Linear Models	Linear Regression	A simple algorithm that models a linear relationship between inputs and a continuous numerical output variable	USE CASES 1. Stock price prediction 2. Predicting housing prices 3. Predicting customer lifetime value	1. Explainable method 2. Interpretable results by its output coefficients 3. Faster to train than other machine learning models	1. Assumes linearity between inputs and output 2. Sensitive to outliers 3. Can underfit with small, high-dimensional data
Supervised Learning	Linear Models	Logistic Regression	A simple algorithm that models a linear relationship between inputs and a categorical output (1 or 0)	USE CASES 1. Credit risk score prediction 2. Customer churn prediction	1. Interpretable and explainable 2. Less prone to overfitting when using regularization 3. Applicable for multi-class predictions	1. Assumes linearity between inputs and outputs 2. Can overfit with small, high-dimensional data
Supervised Learning	Linear Models	Ridge Regression	Part of the regression family — it penalizes features that have low predictive outcomes by shrinking their coefficients closer to zero. Can be used for classification or regression	USE CASES 1. Predictive maintenance for automobiles 2. Sales revenue prediction	1. Less prone to overfitting 2. Best suited where data suffer from multicollinearity 3. Explainable & interpretable	1. All the predictors are kept in the final model 2. Doesn't perform feature selection
Supervised Learning	Linear Models	Lasso Regression	Part of the regression family — it penalizes features that have low predictive outcomes by shrinking their coefficients to zero. Can be used for classification or regression	USE CASES 1. Predicting housing prices 2. Predicting clinical outcomes based on health data	1. Less prone to overfitting 2. Can handle high-dimensional data 3. No need for feature selection	1. Can lead to poor interpretability as it can keep highly correlated variables
Supervised Learning	Tree-Based Models	Decision Tree	Decision Tree models make decision rules on the features to produce predictions. It can be used for classification or regression	USE CASES 1. Customer churn prediction 2. Credit score modeling 3. Disease prediction	1. Explainable and interpretable 2. Can handle missing values	1. Prone to overfitting 2. Sensitive to outliers
Supervised Learning	Tree-Based Models	Random Forests	An ensemble learning method that combines the output of multiple decision trees	USE CASES 1. Credit score modeling 2. Predicting housing prices	1. Reduces overfitting 2. Higher accuracy compared to other models	1. Training complexity can be high 2. Not very interpretable
Supervised Learning	Tree-Based Models	Gradient Boosting Regression	Gradient Boosting Regression employs boosting to make predictive models from an ensemble of weak predictive learners	USE CASES 1. Predicting car emissions 2. Predicting ride hailing fare amount	1. Better accuracy compared to other regression models 2. It can handle multicollinearity 3. It can handle non-linear relationships	1. Sensitive to outliers and can therefore cause overfitting 2. Computationally expensive and has high complexity
Supervised Learning	Tree-Based Models	XGBoost	Gradient Boosting algorithm that is efficient & flexible. Can be used for both classification and regression tasks	USE CASES 1. Churn prediction 2. Claims processing in insurance	1. Provides accurate results 2. Captures non linear relationships	1. Hyperparameter tuning can be complex 2. Does not perform well on sparse datasets
Supervised Learning	Tree-Based Models	LightGBM Regressor	A gradient boosting framework that is designed to be more efficient than other implementations	USE CASES 1. Predicting flight time for airlines 2. Predicting cholesterol levels based on health data	1. Can handle large amounts of data 2. Computational efficient & fast training speed 3. Low memory usage	1. Can overfit due to leaf-wise splitting and high sensitivity 2. Hyperparameter tuning can be complex
Unsupervised Learning	Clustering	K-Means	K-Means is the most widely used clustering approach—it determines K clusters based on euclidean distances	USE CASES 1. Customer segmentation 2. Recommendation systems	1. Scales to large datasets 2. Simple to implement and interpret 3. Results in tight clusters	1. Requires the expected number of clusters from the beginning 2. Has troubles with varying cluster sizes and densities
Unsupervised Learning	Clustering	Hierarchical Clustering	A "bottom-up" approach where each data point is treated as its own cluster—and then the closest two clusters are merged together iteratively	USE CASES 1. Fraud detection 2. Document clustering based on similarity	1. There is no need to specify the number of clusters 2. The resulting dendrogram is informative	1. Doesn't always result in the best clustering 2. Not suitable for large datasets due to high complexity
Unsupervised Learning	Clustering	Gaussian Mixture Models	A probabilistic model for modeling normally distributed clusters within a dataset	USE CASES 1. Customer segmentation 2. Recommendation systems	1. Computes a probability for an observation belonging to a cluster 2. Can identify overlapping clusters 3. More accurate results compared to K-means	1. Requires complex tuning 2. Requires setting the number of expected mixture components or clusters
Unsupervised Learning	Association	Apriori algorithm	Rule based approach that identifies the most frequent itemset in a given dataset where prior knowledge of frequent itemset properties is used	USE CASES 1. Product placements 2. Recommendation engines 3. Promotion optimization	1. Results are intuitive and Interpretable 2. Exhaustive approach as it finds all rules based on the confidence and support	1. Generates many uninteresting itemsets 2. Computationally and memory intensive. 3. Results in many overlapping item sets