

# Gradient Descent: Intuition

Gradient descent is an optimization method that iteratively updates parameters to reduce a loss function.

The gradient points in the direction of steepest increase, so moving opposite the gradient typically decreases the loss.

*Key idea: Take small steps downhill on the loss surface.*

# Softmax

Softmax converts a vector of scores into probabilities by exponentiating and normalizing.

## Formula:

$$\text{softmax}(z_i) = \exp(z_i) / \sum_j \exp(z_j)$$

## Symbols:

$z_i$  = score (logit) for class  $i$

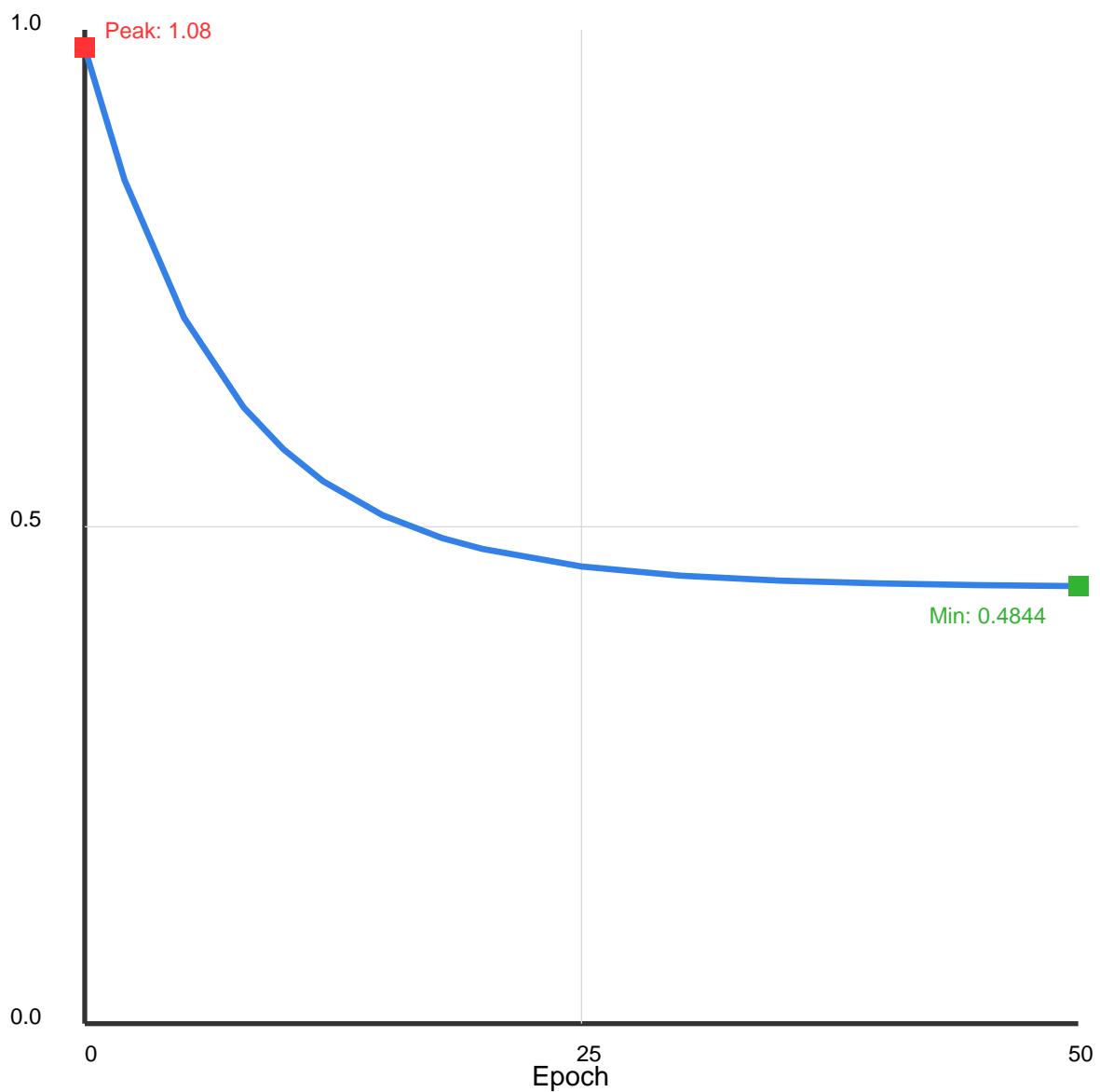
$\exp$  = exponential function

$\sum_j$  = sum over all classes  $j$

## Example:

If scores are  $[2, 1, 0]$ , exponentiate to  $[e^2, e^1, e^0]$   
and divide each by their sum.

# Training Loss Curve



*Loss decreases quickly early on and then flattens as training converges.*

# Model Pipeline

