Big Data Computing

Master's Degree in Computer Science 2019-2020

Gabriele Tolomei

Department of Computer Science Sapienza Università di Roma

tolomei@di.uniroma1.it



Recap from Last Lectures

- We described linear regression as a powerful technique to predict realvalued function
- Linear regression tries to fit a straight hyperplane between features (i.e., independent variables) and the target (i.e., dependent variable)
- OLS method to easily estimate the parameters of the model
- More advanced techniques may be applied if the relationship between features and the target is not linear (e.g., polynomial regression)

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- Examples:
 - spam vs. non-spam emails
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- Classification methods may first predict the probability of each category of a qualitative response to make in turn a decision

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- We may encode the above values as a categorical response variable Y

$$Y = egin{cases} 1 & ext{if stroke;} \ 2 & ext{if drug overdose;} \ 3 & ext{if epileptic seizure.} \end{cases}$$

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- Different (and still legitimate) encodings will produce different models

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- For a binary response with a 0/1 encoding, linear regression by OLS does anyway make sense
 - Predict I if the outcome is > 0.5, 0 otherwise
- Still, it is preferable to use a classification method which works by design

LOGISTIC REGRESSION

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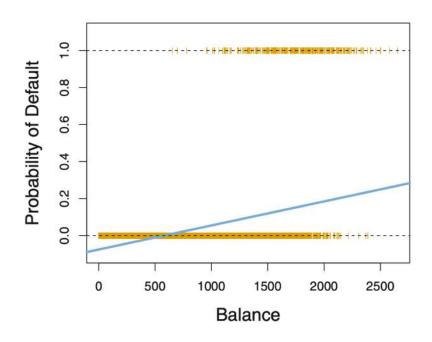
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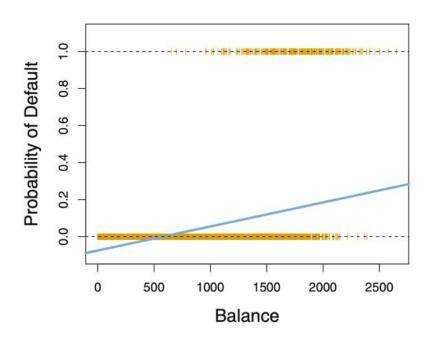
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Logistic Regression instead models the **probability** that Y belongs to one of the two possible outcome values



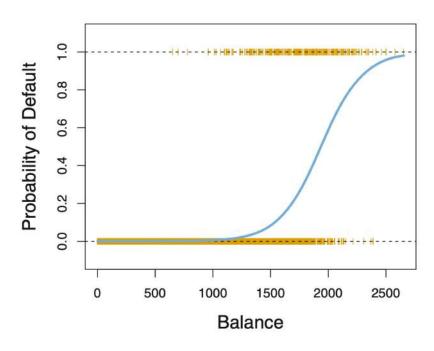
Predicted probability using linear regression (some estimated probabilities are negative!)

Linear Regression



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Linear Regression



Predicted probability using logistic regression (all probabilities lie between 0 and 1)

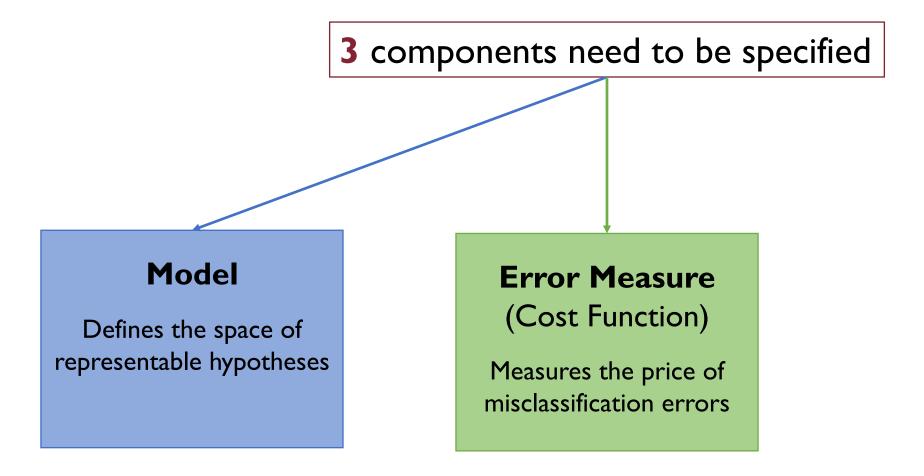
Logistic Regression

3 components need to be specified

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Model

Defines the space of representable hypotheses



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Error Measure

(Cost Function)

Measures the price of misclassification errors

Learning Algorithm

Picks the best hypothesis exploring search space

MODEL

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$$\mathcal{F} = \{ f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} : \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \longmapsto \mathbb{R} \mid f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) = \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i x_i \}$$

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- $f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ is referred to as (linear) signal

Hypothesis Space (Revisited)

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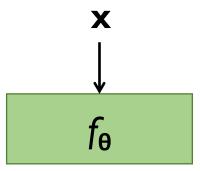
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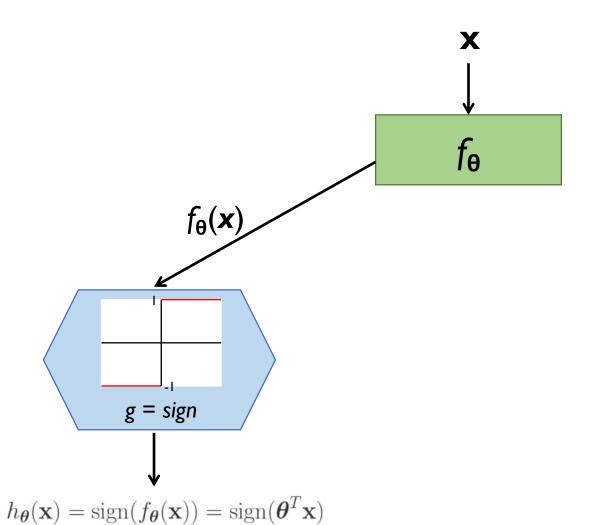
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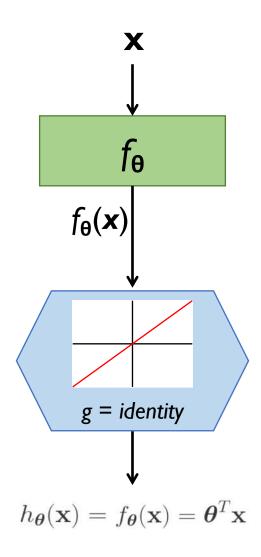
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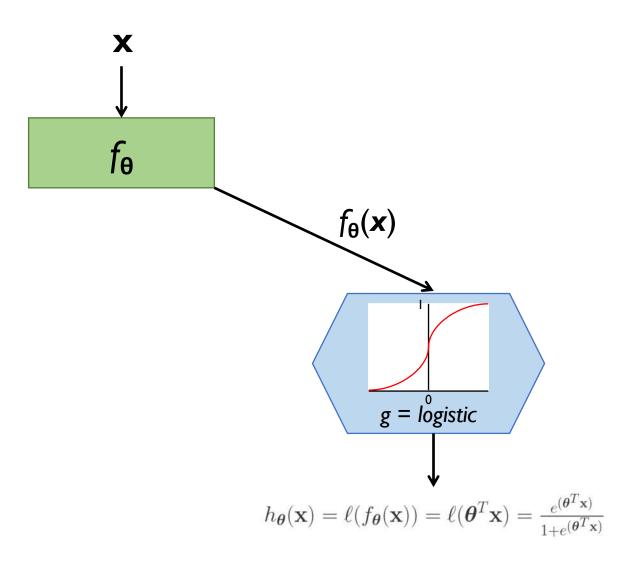
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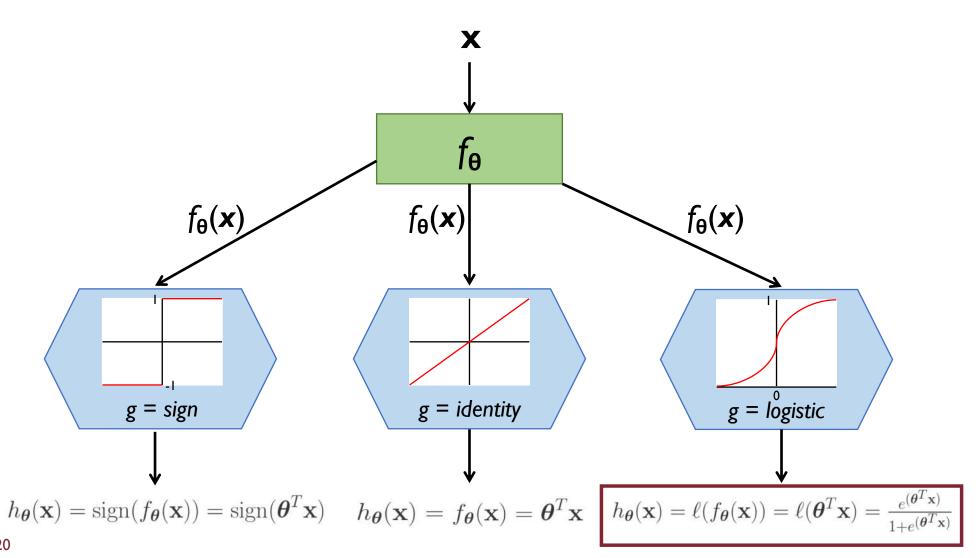
The set of possible hypotheses H changes depending on the parametric model (f_{θ}) and on the **thresholding function** (g)

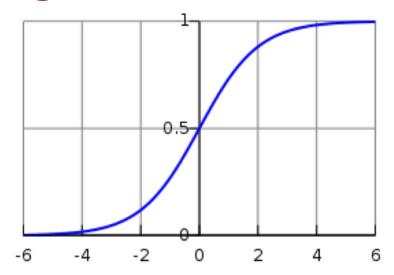




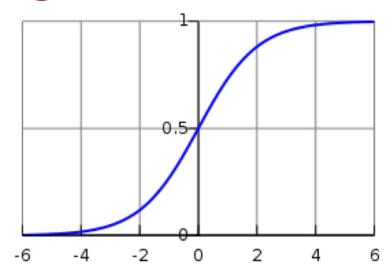






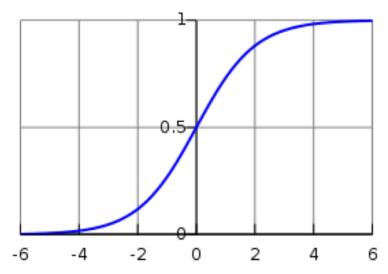


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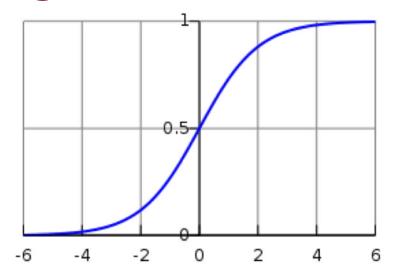
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- Output can be genuinely interpreted as a probability value

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- All we know is that the logistic function always produce a real value between 0 and I
- Other functions may have the same property [e.g., $I/\pi \arctan(x) + I/2$]

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- The key points here are:
 - the output of the logistic function can be interpreted as a probability even during learning
 - the logistic function is mathematically convenient!

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- odds(success) = p/q = p/(1-p)
- odds(failure) = q/p = 1/p/q = 1/odds(success)
- logit(p) = ln(odds(success)) = ln(p/q) = ln(p/I-p) = ln(p) ln(I-p)

Logistic Regression is in fact an ordinary linear regression where the logit is the response variable!

$$logit(p) = ln(\frac{p}{1-p}) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \ldots + \theta_d x_d = \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}$$

The coefficients of logistic regression are expressed in terms of the natural logarithm of odds

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Probabilities are only defined on the range [0, 1]

It would need very complicated constraints on the regression coefficients to work with probability

From Odds to Probability

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$$e^{\operatorname{logit}(p)} = e^{\operatorname{ln}\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right)} = \frac{p}{1-p} = e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}$$

$$p = e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})} (1-p) = e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})} - e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})} p$$

$$p + e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})} p = e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}$$

$$p(1+e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}) = e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}$$

$$p = \frac{e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}}{1+e^{(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})}} = \frac{1}{e^{-(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})+1}}$$

Using (log) odds rather than actual probabilities provides an easier interpretation of the model's coefficients learned

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Suppose we want to measure the effect of a unit increase in one of the predictors to the output response

Let's measure the ratio between the odds computed at a certain input **x** and the odds computed at a different point **x**'

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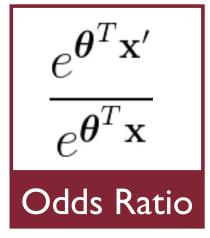
x' is just the same as x where the i-th predictor/feature is increased by I unit

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The ratio of the odds for I-unit increase in x_i

or

 θ_i is the ratio of the natural log(odds) for I-unit increase in x_i

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Example

An odds ratio of 1.08 will give an 8% increase in the odds at any value of x_i

Probabilistically-Generated Data

As with any other supervised learning problem we are given a finite set D of m i.i.d. labelled examples which we can try to learn from

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x_1}, y_1)\}, \dots, (\mathbf{x_m}, y_m)\}$$

where each y_i is a binary variable taking on two values (e.g., $\{-1,+1\}$)

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The data we observe from D is actually generated by an underlying and unknown probability function (noisy target) which we want to estimate

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \phi(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = +1\\ 1 - \phi(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = -1 \end{cases}$$

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Goal

 $\phi: \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \to [0,1]$ is the unknown noisy target which generates our examples, our aim is to find an estimate ϕ^* which best approximates ϕ

Estimating Noisy Target

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \phi^*(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = +1\\ 1 - \phi^*(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = -1 \end{cases}$$

Estimating Noisy Target

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \phi^*(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = +1\\ 1 - \phi^*(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = -1 \end{cases}$$

We claim that the best estimate ϕ^* of ϕ is $h^*_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ which in turn is picked from the set of hypotheses defined by logistic function

$$\phi^*(\mathbf{x}) = h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^*(\mathbf{x}) = \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}) \approx \phi(\mathbf{x})$$

• How do we estimate $h_{\theta}^*(\mathbf{x})$?

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- We will use the same general framework introduced for the supervised learning problem!
- We already fixed the set of hypothesis function to select from
- We still need:
 - A training set D
 - An error measure (cost function) to minimize

COST FUNCTION

Finding The Best Hypothesis

If the hypothesis space H is made of a family of parametric models, $h^*_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ can be picked as:

$$h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \in \mathcal{H}} P(h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mid \mathcal{D})$$

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That is, we want to maximize the probability of the chosen hypothesis given the data D we observed

Flipping the Coin: The Likelihood Function

We measure the error we are making by assuming that $h^*_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ approximates the true noisy target ϕ

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We measure the error we are making by assuming that $h^*_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ approximates the true noisy target ϕ

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Find the hypothesis which maximizes the probability of the observed data D given a particular hypothesis

$$h_{\pmb{\theta}}^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{h_{\pmb{\theta}} \in \mathcal{H}} \ P(\ \mathcal{D}\ | h_{\pmb{\theta}})$$

Given the generic training example (\mathbf{x}, y) and assuming it has been generated by a hypothesis $h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ the likelihood function is:

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = +1\\ 1 - h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } y = -1 \end{cases}$$

where φ has been replaced with our hypothesis

If we assume the hypothesis is the logistic function

$$h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) = \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})$$

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And by noticing that logistic function is symmetric, i.e. $\ell(-z) = I - \ell(z)$, the likelihood for a single example is:

$$P(y \mid \mathbf{x}) = \ell(y\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x})$$

Having access to a full set of m i.i.d. training examples D

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x_1}, y_1)\}, \dots, (\mathbf{x_m}, y_m)\}$$

The overall likelihood function is computed as:

$$\prod_{i=1}^m P(y_i \mid \mathbf{x_i}) = \prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i})$$

Why Does Likelihood Make Sense?

How does the likelihood $\ell(y_i \theta^T \mathbf{x_i})$ changes w.r.t. the sign of y_i and $\theta^T \mathbf{x_i}$?

	$\mathbf{\theta}^{T}\mathbf{x}_{i} > 0$	$\theta^{T}\mathbf{x}_{i} < 0$
y _i > 0	~	≈ 0
y _i < 0	≈ 0	≈

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If the label is **concordant** with the signal (either positively or negatively) then $\ell(y_i \mathbf{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i})$ approaches to I

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Maximum Likelihood Estimate (MLE)

Find the vector of parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ such that the likelihood function is maximum

$$\mathrm{argmax}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(\prod_{i=1}^m P(y_i \,|\, \mathbf{x_i}) \bigg) = \mathrm{argmax}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \pmb{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \bigg)$$

From MLE to In-Sample Error

Given a hypothesis h_{θ} and a training set D of m labelled samples we are interested in measuring the "in-sample" (i.e. training) error

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How we can "transform" MLE to the "in-sample" error above?

$$\text{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \bigg(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \bigg)$$

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \bigg(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \bigg)$$

$$\mathrm{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \bigg(\frac{1}{m} \ln \Big(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \Big) \bigg)$$

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{argmax}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \pmb{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \bigg) & \operatorname{argmax}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(\frac{1}{m} \ln \left(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \pmb{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \right) \bigg) \\ \operatorname{argmax}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(\frac{1}{m} \ln \left(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \pmb{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \right) \bigg) &= \operatorname{argmin}_{\pmb{\theta}} \bigg(-\frac{1}{m} \ln \left(\prod_{i=1}^m \ell(y_i \pmb{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}) \right) \bigg) \end{split}$$

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Cross-Entropy Error

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln \left(\frac{1}{\ell(y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i})} \right) \right)$$

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$$\ell(z) = \frac{e^z}{1 + e^z} = \frac{1}{e^{-z} + 1}$$

We can finally write the "in-sample" error to be minimized:

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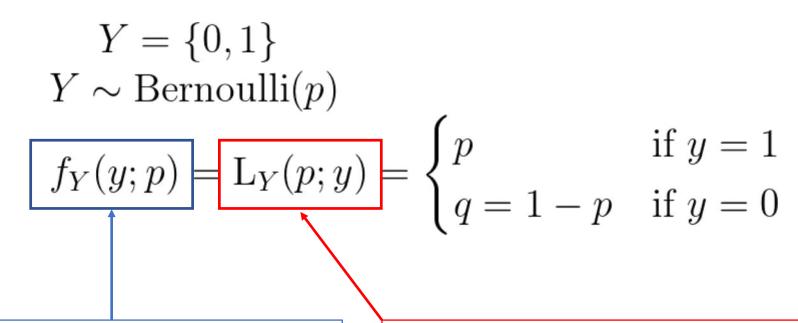
2 formulations of cross-entropy can be found depending on the labeling chosen for the (binary) response y

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)$$

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-y_i \theta^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \ln(p) + (1 - y_i) \ln(1 - p)$$
$$p = \frac{e^{\theta^T \mathbf{x}}}{e^{\theta^T \mathbf{x}} + 1} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T \mathbf{x}}}$$

$$y = \{-1, +1\}$$

$$y = \{0, 1\}$$



Probability density function of a Bernoulli-distributed random variable with known parameter p

Likelihood of an observed Bernoullidistributed random variable (parameter p is unknown)

Likelihood Function

Likelihood function of m i.i.d. observations of Y

$$L_Y(p; y_1 \dots y_m) = \prod_{i=1}^m p^{y_i} (1-p)^{(1-y_i)}$$

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Here the unknown is the parameter p and we use the observations $y_1, ..., y_m$ to find p so as to maximize the likelihood

$$p^* = \operatorname{argmax}_p \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^m p^{y_i} (1-p)^{(1-y_i)} \right\}$$

$$p^* = \operatorname{argmin}_p \left\{ -\ln \left[\prod_{i=1}^m p^{y_i} (1-p)^{(1-y_i)} \right] \right\}$$

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Except for the I/m factor this is exactly the second formulation we gave for the cross-entropy error

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \ln(p) + (1-y_i) \ln(1-p)$$

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \ln(p) + (1 - y_i) \ln(1 - p)$$

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \ln\left(\frac{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i}}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1}\right) + (1 - y_i) \ln\left(1 - \frac{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i}}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1}\right)$$

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$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \left[\ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i}) - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)\right] + (1 - y_i) \left[\ln(1) - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)\right]$$

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_{i} [\ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}) - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1)] + (1 - y_{i}) [\ln(1) - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1)]$$

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We want to show the 2 formulations below lead to the same function to be minimized

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)$$

$$y = \{-1, +1\}$$

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)$$

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$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{\theta^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{\theta^T \mathbf{x}_i} + 1)$$

$$\mathbf{y} = -\mathbf{I}$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

We want to show the 2 formulations below lead to the same function to be minimized

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1) \qquad \stackrel{?}{=} \qquad -\sum_{i=1}^{m} \boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i} - \ln(e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1)$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{I}$$

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$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1) \right| = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln\left(\frac{1}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}} + 1\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln\left(\frac{1 + e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}}\right)$$

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}} + 1) \right| = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln\left(\frac{1}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}} + 1\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln\left(\frac{1 + e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}}{e^{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T} \mathbf{x}_{i}}}\right)$$

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LEARNING ALGORITHM

Picking the Best Hypothesis

- So far, we have defined:
 - The model (logistic function)
 - The error measure (cross-entropy)

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 - The model (logistic function)
 - The error measure (cross-entropy)

To actually select the best hypothesis, we have to pick the vector of parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ so that the error measure is minimized

$$E_{\text{in}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(e^{-y_i \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i}} + 1)$$

In the case of linear regression we have a similar expression for the error measure, i.e. Mean Squared Error (MSE)

$$E_{\text{in}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\boldsymbol{\theta}^T \mathbf{x_i} - y_i)^2$$

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Minimising MSE through Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) leads to a closed-form solution often referred to as the OLS estimator for θ

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

The problem is that using Cross-Entropy as error measure we cannot find a closed-form solution to the minimization problem

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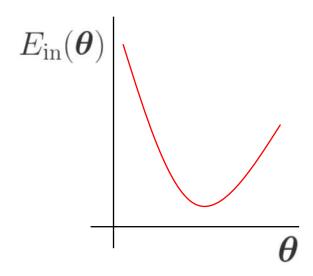
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Iterative Solution

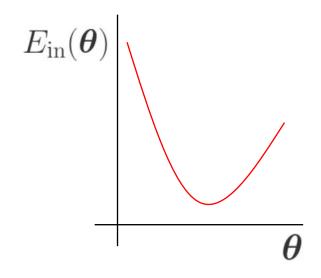
(Batch) Gradient Descent

General iterative method for any nonlinear optimization



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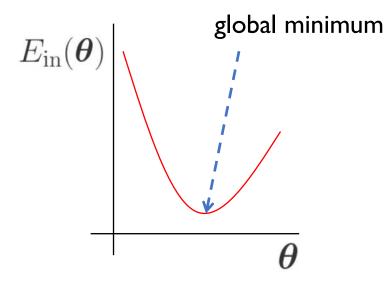


The method guarantees the convergence to a local minimum

(Under specific assumptions on the objective function and learning rate)

(Batch) Gradient Descent

General iterative method for any nonlinear optimization



The method guarantees the convergence to a local minimum

(Under specific assumptions on the objective function and learning rate)

If the objective function is **convex** (like cross-entropy) then the local minimum is also the **global minimum**

I. At t=0 initialize the (guessed) vector of parameters θ to $\theta(0)$

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- 2. Repeat until convergence:
 - a. Update the current vector of parameters $\theta(t)$ by taking a "step" along the "steepest" slope: $\theta(t+1) = \theta(t) + \eta v$
 - b. Return to 2.

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First-order Taylor approximation Second-order error term

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To summarize and generalize to the multivariate case of θ :

$$\delta f = f(x) - f(x_0) = \Delta E_{\text{in}} = \eta \nabla E_{\text{in}} (\boldsymbol{\theta}(t-1))^T \mathbf{v} + O(\eta^2)$$

The greek letter nabla indicates the gradient

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The second-order approximation term is negligible (when the step size is small)

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$$\Delta E_{in}$$

The most **positive** ΔE_{in} when $cos(\alpha) = I$ (i.e., $\alpha = 0^{\circ}$)

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The most **negative** ΔE_{in} when $cos(\alpha) = -1$ (i.e., $\alpha = 180^{\circ}$)

The error and step vectors have opposite direction

At each iteration t, we want the unit vector \mathbf{v} which makes exactly **the most negative** ΔE_{in}

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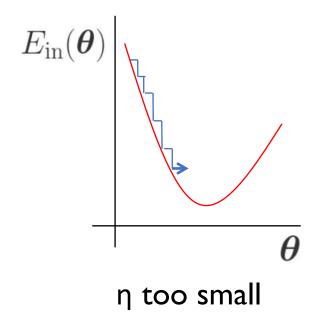
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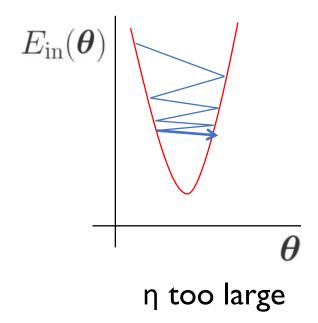
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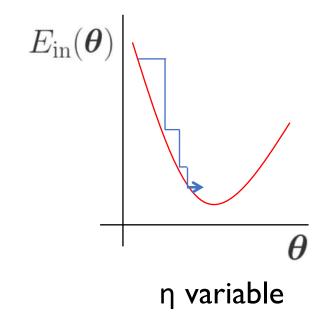
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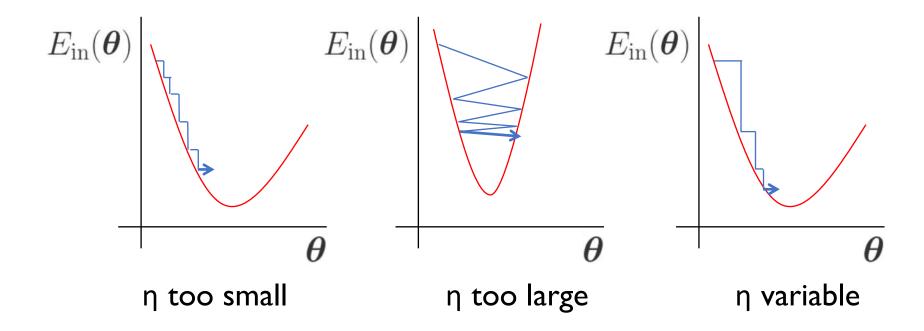
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How the step magnitude η affects the convergence?



How the step magnitude η affects the convergence?



Rule of thumb

Dynamically change η proportionally to the gradient!

Remember that at each iteration the update strategy is:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}(t+1) = \boldsymbol{\theta}(t) + \eta \mathbf{v}$$

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At each iteration t, the step η is fixed

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}(t+1) = \boldsymbol{\theta}(t) - \eta \frac{\nabla E_{\text{in}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}(t))}{\|\nabla E_{\text{in}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}(t))\|}$$

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chain rule of derivative

194

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- In general, we may get to the local minimum nearest to $\theta(0)$

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- A bad initialization might cause GD to end up into a "bad" local minimum and miss "better" ones (or even the global if it exists)
- Solution (heuristic): repeating GD 100÷1,000 times each time with a different $\theta(0)$ may reduce the chance the above issue occurs

Gradient Descent: Stopping Criterion

• If the function is convex GD reaches the global minimum when

$$\nabla \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{in}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathsf{t})) = 0$$

Gradient Descent: Stopping Criterion

• If the function is convex GD reaches the global minimum when $\nabla E_{in}(\theta(t)) = 0$

- In general, we don't know if eventually the gradient gets to 0 therefore we can use several criteria of termination:
 - stop whenever the difference between two iterations is "small enough" → may converge "prematurely"
 - stop when the error equals to $\epsilon \rightarrow$ may not converge if the target error is not achievable
 - stop after T iterations
 - combinations of the above in practice works...

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 - At each iteration, compute the gradient only from one instance (SGD) or a sample of k instances (MBGD) rather than the full dataset
- Regularization
 - Include the L1- or L2-norm of the vector of parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ in the cross-entropy error to avoid overfitting

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- No closed-form solution \rightarrow iterative Gradient Descent