

# **Machine Learning**

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# **Chapter 1 Linear Regression**

	Introduction
□ ERM	$\square$ Ridge Regression (L <sub>2</sub> regularization)
Gradient Descent	$\square$ Lasso Regression ( $L_1$ regularization)

### 1.1 Basic Knowledge

#### **Example 1.1 Linear Regression**

Settings.

- Dataset:  $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , where  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . Here,  $y_i$  denotes the regression target, while  $x_i$  represents the input features used to predict  $y_i$ .
- Linear Model:  $f(x) = W^{T}x + b$ , with weight  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{d}$  and bias  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ .



**Note** This definition is equivalent to an inner product:  $\hat{y} = W^{T}x + b$ .

#### **Definition 1.1 (Learnable / Trainable Parameters)**

Learnable parameters are those that can be updated during the training process.

**Quiz.** How to determine whether a parameter is learnable? Quiz: How to determine W and b?

Ans: **ERM** (Empirical Risk Minimization)

• Loss function. Squared Loss (SE) is commonly used during optimization. The training objective can be written as:

$$\underset{W,b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in [n]} (y_i - (W^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b))^2$$
(1.1)

The blue factor 1/n can be omitted in theoretical analysis, but is often kept in practice to stabilize the loss function during implementation.

Quiz: How to optimize the parameters?

Ans: Gradient Descent (as a traditional ML method). In the case of linear regression:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b} = -2 \sum_{i \in [n]} (y_i - W^{\mathsf{T}} x_i - b) \tag{1.2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W} = -2 \sum_{i \in [n]} (y_i - W^{\mathsf{T}} x_i - b) x_i \tag{1.3}$$



Note In the field of machine learning, the gradient of a scalar with respect to a vector is itself a vector (not a covector). This means:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_1} \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_d} \end{pmatrix} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_1}, \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_2}, \cdots, \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W_d} \right)^{\mathsf{T}}$$
(1.4)



Note Here are some commonly used derivative formulas:

$$\frac{\partial x^{\top} x}{\partial x} = 2x \tag{1.5}$$

$$\frac{\partial x^{\mathsf{T}} x}{\partial x} = 2x \tag{1.5}$$

$$\frac{\partial a^{\mathsf{T}} x}{\partial x} = a, \quad \frac{\partial A x}{\partial x} = A^{\mathsf{T}} \tag{1.6}$$

$$\frac{\partial x^{\mathsf{T}} A x}{\partial x} = (A + A^{\mathsf{T}}) x \tag{1.7}$$

Remark Both sides of an equation must have the same dimension. This principle can be used as a consistency check.

We optimize the parameters by subtracting a scalar multiple of the gradient from the parameters, considering the physical meaning of the gradient: the direction of the steepest **increase**.

#### **Definition 1.2 (Hyperparameter)**

A parameter that is fixed during optimization and specified before the training process.

That is:

$$W' = W - \alpha \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W}, \quad b' = b - \alpha \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b}$$
 (1.8)

Optimization will stop when the norm of the parameter update becomes smaller than a given hyperparameter.

### 1.2 Closed-Form of Linear Regression

#### **Proposition 1.1**

Linear Regression has Closed-Form solution.

Settings.

- Metrix  $X_0 := (x_1^\top, \cdots, x_n^\top)^\top$ ;
- Metrix  $X := (X_0, \mathbb{1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (d+1)}$ ;
- $y = (y_1, \cdots, y_n)^{\mathsf{T}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ;
- $\hat{w} = (w, b)^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ .

Then the loss function of  $\hat{w}$  can be writtern as:

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) = (y - X\hat{w})^{\mathsf{T}} (y - X\hat{w}) = \|y - X\hat{w}\|_{2}^{2}$$
(1.9)

Here,  $\|\cdot\|_p$  denotes the *p-norm* of a vector.

Note Vectors can sometimes be treated as scalars, since linearity ensures that the validity of a proposition can be extended

to any finite dimension. Notice that the optimization stops when  $\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{w})/\partial \hat{w} = 0$ . Under this condition, the parameters can be solved from

Notice that the optimization stops when  $\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{w})/\partial \hat{w} = 0$ . Under this condition, the parameters can be solved from the above constraint by following steps:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{w})}{\partial \hat{w}} = -2X^{\mathsf{T}}(y - X\hat{w}) \tag{1.10}$$

\$

Note Both dimensional analysis and calculation using Leibniz's rule lead to the same result as the formula above:

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) = y^{\mathsf{T}} y - 2y^{\mathsf{T}} X \hat{w} + \hat{w}^{\mathsf{T}} X^{\mathsf{T}} X \hat{w}$$
$$\partial_{\hat{w}} \mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) = -2X^{\mathsf{T}} y + 2X^{\mathsf{T}} X \hat{w}$$
$$= -2X^{\mathsf{T}} (y - X \hat{w})$$

Remark More matix formulas are available in Matrix Cookbook.

Thus, the target of the optimization satisfied:

$$X^{\mathsf{T}} y = X^{\mathsf{T}} X \hat{w} \tag{1.11}$$

That is:

$$\hat{w} = (X^{\top} X)^{-1} X^{\top} y \tag{1.12}$$

when  $X^{\top}X$  invertible (non-singular / full-rank).

**Example 1.2** When does  $X^{T}X$  not invertible?

**Solution**  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (d+1)}$ :

- d+1 > n. Brief Proof: rank  $(X^T X) = \text{rank } (X) \le \min(n, d+1) = n < d+1$ .
- X has repeated columns. Proof is trivial.

When  $X^{\top}X$  isn't invertible:

- 1. If rank  $(X^{\top}X, X^{\top}y) > \text{rank } (X^{\top}X)$ ,  $\hat{w}$  has no solution;
- 2.  $\hat{w}$  has infinity solution o.w.

Situation 1 is **Impossible** because both  $X^{T}X$  and  $X^{T}y$  can be represented in the column space of  $X^{T}$ . Therefore, the optimization problem must have a solution, which may be either unique or infinite.

As an infinite set of solutions makes it difficult to determine which estimate of  $\hat{w}$  to choose, we apply  $L_2$  regularization to linear regression, which is commonly referred to as **Ridge Regression**. That is:

$$\mathcal{L}_{L_2} := \mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) + \boxed{\lambda ||\hat{w}||_2^2}$$

$$\tag{1.13}$$

Noticed that  $\|\hat{w}\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{d+1} \hat{w}_i^2$ ,  $L_2$  regularization prevents any single dimension from being assigned an excessively large weight, , and encourages the model to make use of more dimensions during training.

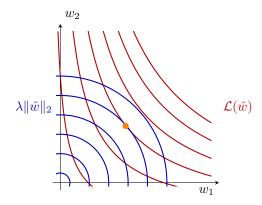


Figure 1.1: Illustration of  $L_2$  regularization. The contours represent level sets of the regularized loss  $\mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) + \lambda ||\hat{w}||_2^2$ , which take the form of concentric ellipses (circle in the plot).

During ridge regression, we minimize the  $\mathcal{L}_{L_2}$ :

$$\underset{\hat{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} (y - X\hat{w})^{\top} (y - X\hat{w}) + \lambda \hat{W}^{\top} \hat{W}$$
(1.14)

The optimization stops when:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{L_2}}{\partial \hat{w}} = -2X^{\mathsf{T}}y + 2X^{\mathsf{T}}X\hat{w} + 2\lambda I\hat{w} = 0 \tag{1.15}$$

$$\Rightarrow (X^{\top}X + \lambda \mathbb{I})\hat{w} = X^{\top}w \tag{1.16}$$

#### **Proposition 1.2**

 $X^{\top}X + \lambda \mathbb{I}$  always invertible.

**Proof** Since  $X^{\top}X$  is a real symmetric matrix, we have the eigen-decomposition  $X^{\top}X = U\Lambda U^{\top}$ , where  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{d+1})$ . Moreover, as  $X^{\top}X \succeq 0$  is positive semi-definite, it follows that  $\forall i \in [d+1], \ \lambda_i \geq 0$ . Note that:

$$\lambda \mathbb{I} = \lambda U U^{\top} \tag{1.17}$$

since U is an orthogonal matrix. Hence:

$$X^{\top}X + \lambda \mathbb{I} = U(\Lambda + \lambda I)U^{\top} \tag{1.18}$$

For all  $i \in [d + 1]$ , we have:

$$\lambda_i + \lambda > \lambda_i \ge 0 \tag{1.19}$$

Thus,  $X^{\top}X + \lambda I$  is a full-rank matrix.

**Remark** Numerical issues may still occur even if  $X^TX$  is full rank (e.g., when eigenvalues  $\lambda_k$  are close to zero). The  $L_2$  regularization factor  $\lambda$  mitigates this issue by shifting the eigenvalues upward, thereby improving numerical stability during training.

Another regularization method often used is  $L_1$  regularization, where the loss function is defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{L_1} := \mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) + \boxed{\lambda ||\hat{w}||_1} \tag{1.20}$$

 $L_1$  regularization can induce sparsity in  $\hat{w}$ , which works in contrast to  $L_2$  regularization. Specifically,  $L_1$  regularization encourages the model to rely on only a small subset of input features, effectively performing **feature selection**.

Linear regression with  $L_1$  regularization is called **Lasso Regression** (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator).

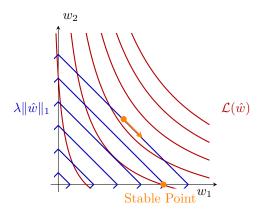


Figure 1.2: Illustration of  $L_1$  regularization. The contours represent level sets of the regularized loss  $\mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) + \lambda ||\hat{w}||_1$ , which take the form of nested diamonds (squares rotated by 45° in the plot).

### 1.3 Geomeric View of LR

Ideally, we would like to solve  $X\hat{w} = y$ . If y lies on the hypersurface

$$\mathcal{M}(X) := \operatorname{Span}(X) = \{Xw : w \in \mathbb{R}^d\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$$
(1.21)

then the equation admits an exact solution. In most cases, however,  $y \notin \mathcal{M}(X)$ , so no exact solution exists. Nevertheless, we can always find an estimator  $\hat{w}$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{M}(X)}y = X\hat{w}$ , where  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{M}(X)}$  denotes the orthogonal projection onto the hypersurface  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ .

Proposition 1.3 
$$\hat{y} = X\hat{w} \implies \hat{w} \text{ is solution to } LR. \tag{1.22}$$

**Proof** 

$$y - \hat{y} \perp \mathcal{M}(X) \quad \Rightarrow \quad y - X\hat{w} \perp \mathcal{M}(X)$$
$$\Rightarrow \quad X^{\top}(y - X\hat{w}) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{w} = (X^{\top}X)^{-1}X^{\top}y$$

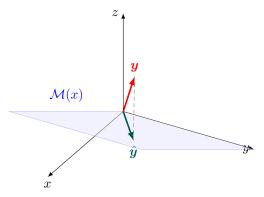


Figure 1.3: Orthogonal projection interpretation of linear regression. The predicted vector  $X\hat{w}$  is obtained as the projection of y onto the hypersurface  $\mathcal{M}(X) = \{Xw : w \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$ , which is a linear subspace in the classical case.

## **Chapter 2 Logistic Regression**

Introduction

#### **Example 2.1 Binary Classification Problem**

Settings.

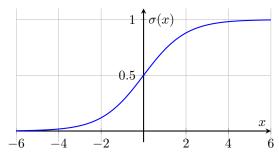
- Dataset:  $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , where  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$ . Here,  $y_i$  denotes the classification target, while  $x_i$  represents the input features used to predict  $y_i$ .
- Model in Logistic Regression: In logistic regression, we start with a linear model  $f(x) = w^{T}x + b$  Unlike in ordinary regression, where the target variable lies in  $\mathbb{R}$ , here the target space collapses to  $\{0, 1\}$ . Thus, we need a function that maps real-valued outputs into this discrete set. Moreover, in many applications it is desirable to obtain not only a hard classification decision (0 or 1), but also a *soft* prediction: the probability of each class. Such a probabilistic interpretation provides both the likelihood estimate and the corresponding classification outcome.

Can we directly use a linear model to fit  $p(y = 1 \mid x = x_i)$ , as we did in the previous chapter? The answer is *no*. This is because there is a mismatch between the range of a linear model output (which lies in  $\mathbb{R}$ ) and the valid domain of probabilities, [0, 1].

To resolve this issue, we introduce a transformation function called the **sigmoid** function. The sigmoid maps any real-valued input into the interval [0, 1], making it suitable for modeling probabilities. It is defined as:

#### **Definition 2.1 (Sigmoid Function)**

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}. (2.1)$$



**Figure 2.1:** The sigmoid function  $\sigma(z)$  over the interval  $z \in [-6, 6]$ .

The sigmoid function enjoys several elegant properties.

#### Theorem 2.1

$$1 - \sigma(z) = \sigma(-z).$$

**Proof** This follows directly from the definition of  $\sigma(z)$ , or equivalently, by observing the symmetry of its graph.

To convert soft prediction results into binary outputs  $\{0,1\}$ , we introduce a threshold: when  $\sigma(z) = 0.5$ , the model makes a hard prediction.

#### **Definition 2.2 (Separating Hyperplane)**

The condition  $\sigma(z) = 0.5$  defines the separating hyperplane. It partitions the input space  $\mathbb{R}^d$  into two regions, thereby transforming probabilistic predictions into binary classification outcomes.

The normal vector w is perpendicular to this hyperplane and points towards the region where the model predicts class 1 (i.e., where  $p(y = 1 \mid x) > 0.5$ ). We ensure this property by choosing the orientation of w accordingly.

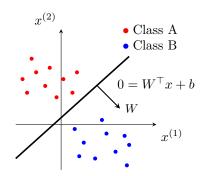


Figure 2.2: Classification by heperplane.

Model definition is clear, and now we turn our attention to parameter optimization. The question is: how can we find the proper w, b that achieve the best performance? The key problem here is to identify a suitable loss function that can be optimized via gradient descent.

Notice that:

$$P(y = 1 \mid x = x_i) = \sigma(f(x_i)) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-w^{\top}x + b)}.$$
 (2.2)

We introduce a new method rather than continuing with ERM, by using **Maximum Likelihood Estimation** (MLE). MLE is naturally designed to address probability modeling problems.

#### **Definition 2.3 (Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE))**

MLE aims to find parameters such that the likelihood of  $P(y = y_i \mid x = x_i)$  is maximized.

**Remark** For brevity, we write  $P(y = y_i \mid x = x_i)$  as  $P(y_i \mid x_i)$ .

#### **Definition 2.4 (Likelihood)**

The likelihood on the entire training data is defined as

$$\prod_{i \in [n]} P(y_i \mid x_i; w, b), \tag{2.3}$$

assuming the samples are independent.

According to the discussion above, in logistic regression we have

$$P(y_i \mid x_i) = \begin{cases} \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b), & y_i = 1, \\ 1 - \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b), & y_i = 0. \end{cases}$$
 (2.4)

Therefore, the likelihood function can be expanded as

$$\prod_{i \in [n]} \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b)^{y_i} \left( 1 - \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b) \right)^{1 - y_i} \tag{2.5}$$

The above form is intuitive once we recall that  $x^0 = 1$ .

To ensure floating-point precision, given the large amount of data and the monotonicity of the logarithm function, we transform the likelihood into the maximization of the log-likelihood:

$$\underset{w,b}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i \in [n]} \left[ y_i \log \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b) + (1 - y_i) \log \left( 1 - \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b) \right) \right]$$
(2.6)

This is the final objective in MLE.

MLE can be transformed into ERM by applying argmin to the negative log-likelihood. Thus we define the Cross-

entropy Loss:

$$\mathcal{L}(w,b) := -\sum_{i \in [n]} \left[ y_i \log \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b) + (1 - y_i) \log \left( 1 - \sigma(w^{\mathsf{T}} x_i + b) \right) \right]$$
(2.7)



**Note** Why is the above loss called the Cross-entropy loss? The name originates from information theory. Entropy is defined as:

$$H(P) = \sum_{y} P(y) \log \frac{1}{P(y)} = -\sum_{y} P(y) \log P(y).$$
 (2.8)

In other words, rarer events (with smaller probability) carry more information, and entropy measures the expected amount of information. In our context, we can evaluate the information content of the prediction for  $y = \hat{y}_i$  given  $x = x_i$  as:

$$H(P) = -\sum_{\hat{y}_i \in \{0,1\}} P(y = \hat{y}_i \mid x_i) \log P(y = \hat{y}_i \mid x_i)$$

$$= -[P(y = 1 \mid x_i) \log P(y = 1 \mid x_i) + P(y = 0 \mid x_i) \log P(y = 0 \mid x_i)]$$
(2.9)

Notice that  $P(y = 1 \mid x_i) = \sigma(f(x_i; w, b))$  and  $P(y = 0 \mid x_i) = 1 - \sigma(f(x_i; w, b))$ . In practice, we substitute the empirical distribution of samples for the true distribution when comparing the negative log-likelihood with entropy. This is why the terminology of entropy from information theory is carried over to name this loss term.



**Note** The formal definition of cross entropy between two propbability distributions q and p H(q, p) is defined by:

$$H(q, p) = -\sum_{y} q(y) \log p(y)$$
 (2.10)

#### **Definition 2.5 (KL-Divergence)**

The KL-Divergence between two distributions p and q is defined by:

$$KL(q||p) = \sum_{y} q(y) \log \frac{q(y)}{p(y)}$$
(2.11)

KL-Divergence measures the difference between two given distributions. In particular, KL(q||p) differs from the cross-entropy by only a constant term H(q):

$$KL(q||p) = H(q, p) - H(q).$$
 (2.12)

In other words, KL-Divergence quantifies the extra number of bits required when we use p to approximate the ground-truth distribution q.

Back to the main content. Rewind that closed-form solution can be extract from linear regression problem as we mensioned in last chapter, we hope to find out whether logistic regression has closed form solution.

Following the same steps we applied in linear case, we define  $\hat{x} = (x^{\top}, 1)^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  and  $\hat{w} = (w^{\top}, b)^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ , thus  $f(x) = \hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{w}) = -\sum_{i \in [n]} y_i \log \sigma(\hat{w}\hat{x}_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i))$$

$$= -\sum_{i \in [n]} y_i \log \frac{1 + \exp(\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i)}{1 + \exp(-\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i)} - \log(1 + \exp(\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i))$$

$$= -\sum_{i \in [n]} y_i (\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i) - \log(1 + \exp(\hat{w}^{\top}\hat{x}_i))$$
(2.13)

Dereviate:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\hat{w})}{\partial \hat{w}} = -\sum_{i \in [n]} \left[ y_i \hat{x}_i - \frac{\exp(\hat{w}^\top \hat{x}_i)}{1 + \exp(\hat{w}^\top \hat{x}_i)} \hat{x}_i \right]$$
(2.14)

$$= -\sum_{i \in [n]} [y_i - P(y = 1 \mid x_i)] \hat{x}_i$$
 (2.15)

By gradient descent, the parameter is updated as  $\hat{w} \leftarrow \hat{w} + \alpha \sum_{i \in [n]} (y_i - P(y_i = 1 \mid x_i)) \hat{x}_i$ . This makes sense, since

the term  $y_i - P(y_i = 1 \mid x_i)$  directly measures the prediction error on sample i, and the update moves  $\hat{w}$  a small step along the direction of the input  $\hat{x}_i$  to reduce this error.

If for all i, we have  $y_i = P(y = 1 \mid x_i)$ , then the model predicts every label  $y_i$  perfectly. At this point, optimization reaches a stationary solution. If the training data admits such a perfect solution:

#### **Definition 2.6 (linearly separable)**

If all points can be separated by a linear model without error, we say the dataset is linearly separable.

Example ?? is linearly separable, and the final state leads to  $||W|| \to \infty$ ,  $||b|| \to \infty$ . However, this situation is not desirable in practice, since it implies poor robustness. Hence a natural question arises: under the condition of linear separability, how can we find a well-chosen separating hyperplane that maximizes robustness? The answer will be presented in the next chapter, where we introduce the Support Vector Machine (SVM). The SVM optimizes  $\hat{w}$ ,  $\hat{b}$  by maximizing the margin (the distance between data points and the separating hyperplane), instead of simply minimizing the cross-entropy loss.

Although logistic regression may suffer from divergence of parameters under separable data, it often achieves better performance than SVM in practice, due to the following reasons:

- 1. In most real-world problems, the data are not linearly separable;
- 2. Applying  $L_2$  regularization can effectively prevent parameter divergence.

**Remark** Why can't we use squared loss for classification? The reason is that in classification tasks such as logistic regression, the label  $y \in \{0, 1\}$  should be interpreted as a categorical outcome rather than a numerical quantity.

#### **Example 2.2 Multi-Class Classification (Softmax Regression)**

We can just combined k sub-classifier to solve a k-Class classification task. That is, we continue appling sigmoid onto each sub-linear model  $f_k(x) = w_k^{\mathsf{T}} x + b_k$ , and output probability of class k with an unified value:

$$P(y = k \mid x) = \frac{\exp(w_k^{\top} x + b_k)}{\sum_{j \in [k]} \exp(w_k^{\top} x + b_k)}$$
(2.16)



**Note** There is a close analogy between **softmax regression** in machine learning and the **partition function** in statistical physics.

In softmax regression, the probability of assigning an input x to class k is

$$P(y = k \mid x) = \frac{\exp(\theta_k^{\top} x)}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \exp(\theta_j^{\top} x)}.$$
 (2.17)

Here the denominator

$$Z(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{K} \exp(\theta_j^{\mathsf{T}} x)$$
 (2.18)

serves as a normalizing constant, ensuring that the probabilities over all classes sum to 1.

In statistical physics, for a system with possible states s of energy E(s), the probability of observing state s under the Boltzmann distribution is

$$P(s) = \frac{\exp(-\beta E(s))}{Z}, \quad Z = \sum_{s} \exp(-\beta E(s)), \tag{2.19}$$

where Z is the partition function. It normalizes the distribution and encodes all thermodynamic properties of the system.

Thus, the role of Z(x) in softmax regression is mathematically analogous to the role of the partition function Z in statistical physics: both are log-sum-exp normalizers that transform unnormalized "scores" (energies or logits) into proper probability distributions.

The softmax regression method has several advantages:

- 1. It is unified:  $\sum_{j \in [j]} P(y = k \mid x) = 1$ ;
- 2. The amplify effect of exp function: when  $f_k(x) \gg f_j(x), \forall j \neq k$ , then  $P(y = k \mid x) = 1$ .

We execute the same MLE process onto the multi-class classification task, so that we are trying to optimize:

$$\underset{\{w_k, b_k\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i \in [n]} \frac{\exp(w_k^{\top} x + b_k)}{\sum_{j \in [k]} \exp(w_k^{\top} x + b_k)}$$
(2.20)

\$

Note In modern NN area, we execute the same softmax regression as the standard classification method. Remark When  $k \to 2$ , softmax regression can reparamization to logistic regression by setting  $w = w_1 - w_2$  and  $b = b_1 - b_2$ . Example 2.3 MLE Explanation for Linear Regression

#### **Definition 2.7 (Gaussian/Normal Distribution)**

$$x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$
 (2.21)

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