

The given dataset comprises of  $m$  examples, one example  $(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})$  per row. In particular, the  $i^{th}$  row contains columns  $x_0^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}, x_1^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e.  $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $y^{(i)} \in \{0, 1\}$ .

The average empirical loss function for Logistic Regression,

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m y^{(i)} \log(h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log(1 - h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}))$$

where  $y^{(i)} \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $h_{\theta}(x) = g(\theta^T x)$  and  $g(z) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-z}}$  and  $\theta$  is an  $n$  dimensional parameter vector.

We have to find the Hessian matrix  $H$  of the empirical loss function with respect to  $\theta$ , and show that the hessian  $H$  is positive semi-definite in nature.

Rewriting  $h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})$  and loss function in terms of weight  $\omega$ ,

$$h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \equiv \sigma(\omega^T x^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_i}} = \alpha^{(i)}$$

$$mJ(\omega) = -\sum_{i=1}^m y^{(i)} \log(\alpha^{(i)}) + (1 - y^{(i)}) \log(1 - \alpha^{(i)})$$

Some helper partial derivatives,

$$\frac{\partial \log \alpha^{(i)}}{\partial \omega^{(i)}} = \frac{1}{\alpha^{(i)}} \frac{\partial \alpha^{(i)}}{\partial \omega^{(i)}} = \frac{1}{\alpha^{(i)}} \frac{\partial \alpha^{(i)}}{\partial z_i} \frac{\partial z_i}{\partial \omega^{(i)}} = (1 - \alpha^{(i)}) x^{(i)}$$

$$\frac{\partial \log(1 - \alpha^{(i)})}{\partial \omega^{(i)}} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^{(i)}} \frac{\partial (1 - \alpha^{(i)})}{\partial \omega^{(i)}} = -\alpha^{(i)} x^{(i)}$$

Computing the partial derivative of  $J(\omega)$  wrt.  $\omega$

$$\begin{aligned} m \frac{\partial J(\omega)}{\partial \omega^{(j)}} &= -\sum_{i=1}^m y^{(i)} x^{(i)} (1 - \alpha^{(i)}) - (1 - y^{(i)}) x_j^{(i)} \alpha^{(i)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m (\alpha^{(i)} - y^{(i)}) x_j^{(i)} \end{aligned}$$

Representing the above result in matrix form,  $m \nabla_{\omega} J = A^T (\alpha - Y)$ , where  $A = \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} & x_1^{(1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_0^{(m)} & x_1^{(m)} \end{pmatrix}$

The partial derivative of  $\alpha$  wrt  $\omega$ ,

$$\frac{\partial \alpha^{(i)}}{\partial \omega^{(k)}} = x_k^{(i)} \alpha^{(i)} (1 - \alpha^{(i)})$$

Computing the Hessian,

$$\begin{aligned} H &= m \frac{\partial^2 J(\omega)}{\partial \omega^{(j)} \partial \omega^{(k)}} = \sum_{i=1}^m x_j^{(i)} \frac{\partial \alpha^{(i)}}{\partial \omega^{(k)}} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m x_j^{(i)} x_k^{(i)} \alpha^{(i)} (1 - \alpha^{(i)}) \\ &= (Z^{(j)})^T B Z^{(k)} \end{aligned}$$

where,  $(Z^{(j)})^T = (x_j^{(1)}, x_j^{(2)}, \dots, x_j^{(m)})_j$ ,  $x^{(j)} = (x_0^{(j)}, x_1^{(j)})^T$  and

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \alpha^{(2)}(1 - \alpha^{(2)}) & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Notice,  $B$  is a diagonal matrix with all diagonal entries positive and less than 1, as  $\alpha^{(i)} \equiv \frac{1}{1+e^{-z_i}} < 1$ . Similarly,  $(1 - \alpha^{(i)}) < 1$

Finally representing the Hessian in matrix form,

$$\begin{aligned} H &= m \nabla_{\omega}^2 J = A^T B A \\ &= A^T B^{\frac{1}{2}} B^{\frac{1}{2}} A \\ &= (B^{\frac{1}{2}} A)^T (B^{\frac{1}{2}} A) \\ &= K^T K \end{aligned}$$

Notice  $(K^T K)^T = K^T K$ , i.e.  $H$  is symmetric. As  $|K^T K| = |K|^2 \geq 0$ , the Hessian  $H$  is positive semi-definite.

Alternate proof for positive semi-definite,

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} & x_0^{(2)} & \dots & x_0^{(m)} \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & \dots & x_1^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \alpha^{(2)}(1 - \alpha^{(2)}) & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} & x_1^{(1)} \\ x_0^{(2)} & x_1^{(2)} \\ \cdot & \cdot \\ x_0^{(m)} & x_1^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} & x_0^{(2)} & \dots & x_0^{(m)} \\ x_1^{(1)} & x_1^{(2)} & \dots & x_1^{(m)} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0^{(1)} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) & x_1^{(1)} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) \\ x_0^{(2)} \alpha^{(2)}(1 - \alpha^{(2)}) & x_1^{(2)} \alpha^{(2)}(1 - \alpha^{(2)}) \\ \cdot & \cdot \\ x_0^{(m)} \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) & x_1^{(m)} \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} (x_0^{(1)})^2 \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) + \dots + (x_0^{(m)})^2 \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) & x_0^{(1)} x_1^{(1)} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) + \dots + x_0^{(m)} x_1^{(m)} \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) \\ x_0^{(1)} x_1^{(1)} \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) + \dots + x_0^{(m)} x_1^{(m)} \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) & (x_1^{(1)})^2 \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) + \dots + (x_1^{(m)})^2 \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)}) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

As discussed earlier, it is clear that the Hessian is symmetric.

$$\det(H) = 0$$

$$\text{tr}(H) = 2[(x_0^{(1)})^2 \alpha^{(1)}(1 - \alpha^{(1)}) + (x_0^{(2)})^2 \alpha^{(2)}(1 - \alpha^{(2)}) + \dots + (x_0^{(m)})^2 \alpha^{(m)}(1 - \alpha^{(m)})] > 0$$

So, the eigenvalues are positive, precisely,  $\lambda = \sqrt{\text{tr}(H)}$

This establishes that the Hessian is positive semi-definite.