# **Logistic Regression**

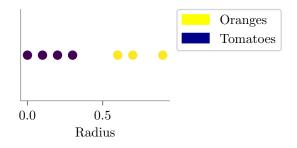
Nipun Batra

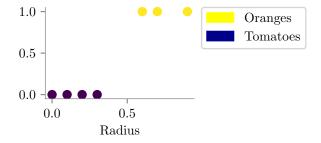
IIT Gandhinagar

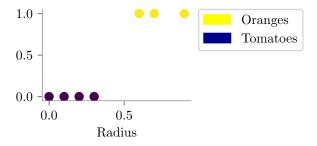
October 23, 2025

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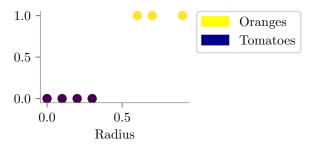
# **Problem Setup**





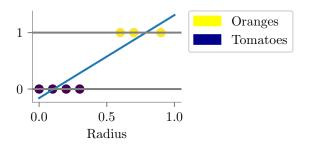


 $Aim:\ Probability(Tomatoes \mid Radius)\ ?\ or$ 

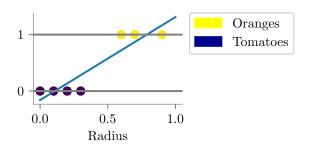


Aim: Probability(Tomatoes | Radius) ? or

More generally,  $P(y = 1 | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})$ ?



$$P(X = Orange|Radius) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 \times Radius$$



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Generally,

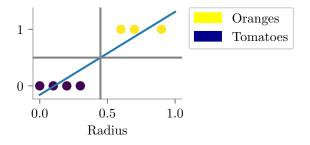
$$P(y=1|\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

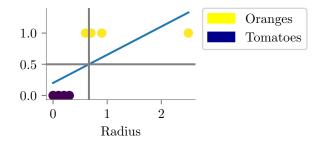
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Prediction: If \theta_0 + \theta_1 \times Radius > 0.5 \rightarrow Orange Else \rightarrow Tomato
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Problem:

Range of  $X\theta$  is  $(-\infty, \infty)$ 

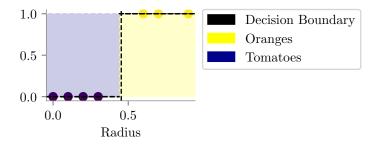
But 
$$P(y = 1 | ...) \in [0, 1]$$





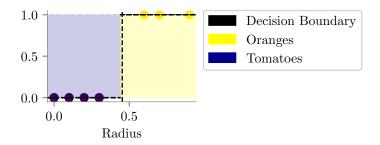
Linear regression for classification gives a poor prediction!

# Ideal boundary

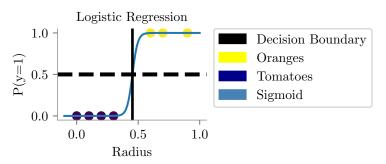


 Have a decision function similar to the above (but not so sharp and discontinuous)

# Ideal boundary



- Have a decision function similar to the above (but not so sharp and discontinuous)
- Aim: use linear regression still!



Question. Can we still use Linear Regression? Answer. Yes! Transform  $\hat{y} \rightarrow [0,1]$ 

$$\hat{y} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$\phi = \text{Sigmoid / Logistic Function } (\sigma)$$

$$\phi(\hat{y}) \in [0, 1]$$

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

$$0.5$$

$$0.0$$

$$-10$$

$$0$$

$$10$$

 $z \to \infty$ 

$$z \to \infty$$
  
 $\sigma(z) \to 1$ 

$$z \to \infty$$

$$\sigma(z) \to 1$$

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 $\sigma(z) \to 0$ 
 $z = 0$ 

$$z \to \infty$$

$$\sigma(z) \to 1$$

$$z \to -\infty$$

$$\sigma(z) \to 0$$

$$z = 0$$

$$\sigma(z) = 0.5$$

Question. Could you use some other transformation  $(\phi)$  of  $\hat{y}$  s.t.

$$\phi(\hat{y}) \in [0,1]$$

Yes! But Logistic Regression works.

$$P(y = 1|\mathbf{X}) = \sigma(\mathbf{X}\theta) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{X}\theta}}$$

Q. Write  $\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}$  in a more convenient form (as P(y=1|X), P(y=0|X))

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$$\therefore \frac{P(y=1|X)}{1-P(y=1|X)} = e^{\mathbf{X}\theta} \implies \mathbf{X}\theta = \log \frac{P(y=1|X)}{1-P(y=1|X)}$$

# Odds (Used in betting)

$$\frac{P(win)}{P(loss)}$$

Here,

$$Odds = \frac{P(y=1)}{P(y=0)}$$

$$log-odds = log \frac{P(y=1)}{P(y=0)} = \mathbf{X}\theta$$

## Logistic Regression

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# Logistic Regression

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$$P(y=1|X)=P(y=0|X)$$
 or  $\frac{1}{1+e^{-X\theta}}=\frac{e^{-X\theta}}{1+e^{-X\theta}}$  or  $e^{X\theta}=1$  or  $X\theta=0$ 

Could we use cost function as:

$$J(\theta) = \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$
$$\hat{y}_i = \sigma(\mathbf{X}\theta)$$

Answer: No (Non-Convex)

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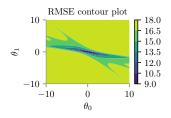
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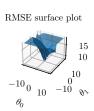
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- No guarantee gradient descent finds global optimum
- This is why we need cross-entropy loss instead!

Deriving Cost Function via Maximum Likelihood Estimation

# Cost function convexity





Likelihood = 
$$P(D|\theta)$$
  
 $P(y|X,\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(y_i|x_i,\theta)$   
where y = 0 or 1

 $\mathsf{Likelihood} = P(D|\theta)$ 

$$P(y|X,\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(y_i|x_i,\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x_i^T \theta}} \right\}^{y_i} \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x_i^T \theta}} \right\}^{1 - y_i}$$

[Above: Similar to  $P(D|\theta)$  for Linear Regression;

Difference Bernoulli instead of Gaussian]

 $-\log P(y|\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{ heta}) = ext{Negative Log Likelihood} = ext{Cost function will be mini}$ 

 Assume you have a coin and flip it ten times and get (H, H, T, T, T, H, H, T, T, T).

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- Answer 2: What is likelihood of seeing the above sequence when the p(Head)=θ?
- Idea find MLE estimate for  $\theta$

• 
$$p(H) = \theta$$
 and  $p(T) = 1 - \theta$ 

- $p(H) = \theta$  and  $p(T) = 1 \theta$
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- Log-likelihood =  $\mathcal{LL}(\theta) = n_h \log(\theta) + n_t \log(1 \theta)$
- $\frac{\partial \mathcal{LL}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = 0 \implies \frac{n_h}{\theta} + \frac{n_t}{1-\theta} = 0 \implies \theta_{MLE} = \frac{n_h}{n_h + n_t}$

# **Cross Entropy Cost Function**

$$J(\theta) = -\log\left\{\prod_{i=1}^{n}\left\{\frac{1}{1 + e^{-x_i^T\theta}}\right\}^{y_i}\left\{1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x_i^T\theta}}\right\}^{1 - y_i}\right\}$$

$$J(\theta) = -\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{N}y_i\log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) + (1 - y_i)\log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i))\right\}$$

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This cost function is called cross-entropy.

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This cost function is called cross-entropy. Why?

What is the interpretation of the cost function?

What is the interpretation of the cost function? Let us try to write the cost function for a single example:

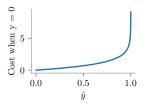
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First, assume  $y_i$  is 0, then if  $\hat{y}_i$  is 0, the loss is 0; but, if  $\hat{y}_i$  is 1, the loss tends towards infinity!



Notebook: logits-usage

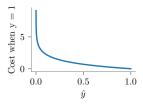
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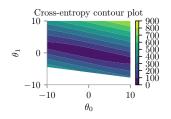
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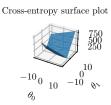
$$J(\theta) = -y_i \log \hat{y}_i - (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i)$$

Now, assume  $y_i$  is 1, then if  $\hat{y}_i$  is 0, the loss is huge; but, if  $\hat{y}_i$  is 1, the loss is zero!



# Cost function convexity





$$\begin{split} &\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{j}} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} \bigg\{ \sum_{i=1}^{N} y_{i} log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) + (1 - y_{i}) log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) \bigg\} \\ &= -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \bigg[ y_{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} \log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) + (1 - y_{i}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) \bigg] \end{split}$$

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{j}} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ y_{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} \log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) + (1 - y_{i}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{j}} \log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \frac{y_{i}}{\sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{i}} \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i}) + \frac{1 - y_{i}}{1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_{i}} (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_{i})) \right]$$

Aside:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\sigma(z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} = -(1 + e^{-z})^{-2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (1 + e^{-z})$$

$$= \frac{e^{-z}}{(1 + e^{-z})^2} = \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}\right) \left(\frac{e^{-z}}{1 + e^{-z}}\right) = \sigma(z) \left\{\frac{1 + e^{-z}}{1 + e^{-z}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}\right\}$$

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

Resuming from (1)

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta_j} = -\sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i}{\sigma_{\theta}(x_i)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) + \frac{1 - y_i}{1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \frac{y_i \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)}{\sigma_{\theta}(x_i)} (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} (x_i \theta) + \frac{1 - y_i}{1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)} (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ y_i (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) x_i^j - (1 - y_i) \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) x_i^j \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ (y_i - y_i \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) + y_i \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) x_i^j \right]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i \right] x_i^j$$

# Learning Parameters

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\theta_j} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i \right] x_i^j$$

Now, just use Gradient Descent!

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_j} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_i} - \hat{y_i}) z_i^j$$

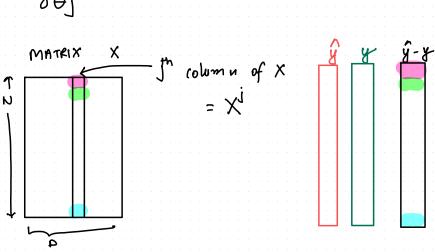
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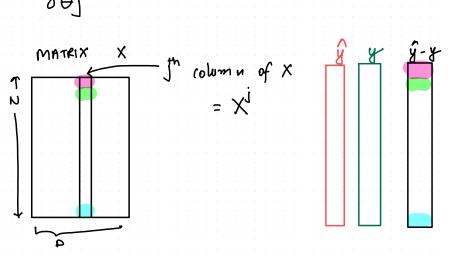
$$\frac{\partial \Theta_{j}}{\partial J(\theta)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_{i}} - y_{i}) z_{i}$$

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$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial J(\theta)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_i} - \hat{y_i}) z_i^j$$



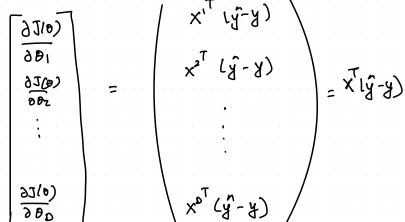
$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial x_i} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_i} - \hat{y_i}) z_i^j = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_i} - \hat{y_i})$$

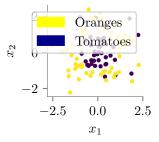


$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{i}})^{2_{i}} = x^{jT} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{j}})$$

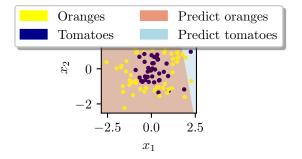
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} \\ \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^{jT} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{j}}) \\ x^{jT} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{j}}) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^{jT} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{j}}) \\ \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x^{jT} (\hat{y_{i}} - \hat{y_{j}}) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \Theta_{j}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{y_{i}} - y_{i}) z_{i}^{j} = x_{i}^{j} (\hat{y_{i}} - y_{j})$$

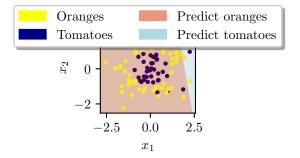




What happens if you apply logistic regression on the above data?

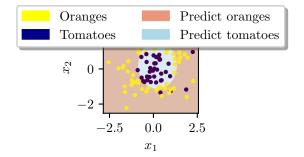


Linear boundary will not be accurate here. What is the technical name of the problem?



Linear boundary will not be accurate here. What is the technical name of the problem? Bias!

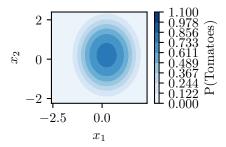
$$\phi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_0(x) \\ \phi_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{K-1}(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ x^2 \\ x^3 \\ \vdots \\ x^{K-1} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^K$$

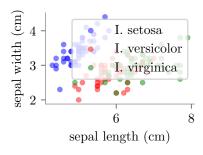


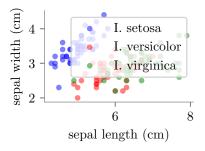
Using  $x_1^2, x_2^2$  as additional features, we are able to learn a more accurate classifier.

How would you expect the probability contours look like?

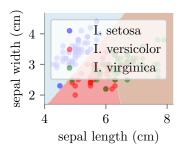
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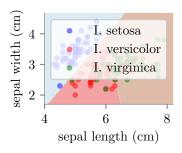




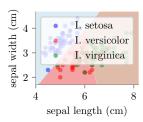


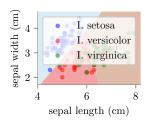
How would you learn a classifier? Or, how would you expect the classifier to learn decision boundaries?



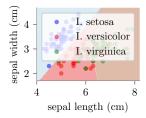


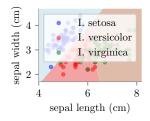
- 1. Use one-vs.-all on Binary Logistic Regression
- 2. Use one-vs.-one on Binary Logistic Regression
- 3. Extend Binary Logistic Regression to Multi-Class Logistic Regression





- 1. Learn P(setosa (class 1)) =  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{ heta}_1)$
- 2.  $P(versicolor (class 2)) = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{X}\theta_2)$
- 3. P(virginica (class 3)) =  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{X}\theta_3)$
- 4. Goal: Learn  $\theta_i \forall i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$
- 5. Question: What could be an  $\mathcal{F}$ ?





- 1. Question: What could be an  $\mathcal{F}$ ?
- 2. Property:  $\sum_{i=1}^{3} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}_i) = 1$
- 3. Also  $\mathcal{F}(z) \in [0,1]$
- 4. Also,  $\mathcal{F}(z)$  has squashing proprties:  $R\mapsto [0,1]$

### Softmax

$$Z \in \mathbb{R}^d$$
  $\mathcal{F}(z_i) = rac{e^{z_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^d e^{z_i}}$   $\therefore \sum \mathcal{F}(z_i) = 1$   $\mathcal{F}(z_i)$  refers to probability of class  $\underline{i}$ 

# Softmax for Multi-Class Logistic Regression

$$k = \{1, \dots, k\} \text{ classes}$$

$$\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \dots \\ \theta_1 \theta_2 \dots \theta_k \\ \dots \\ \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P(y = k | X, \theta) = \frac{e^{X\theta_k}}{\sum_{k=1}^K e^{X\theta_k}}$$

# Softmax for Multi-Class Logistic Regression

For K = 2 classes,

$$P(y = k|X, \theta) = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_k}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_k}}$$

$$P(y = 0|X, \theta) = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_0}}{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_0} + e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_1}}$$

$$P(y = 1|X, \theta) = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_1}}{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_0} + e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_1}} = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_1}}{e^{\mathbf{X}\theta_1}\{1 + e^{X(\theta_0 - \theta_1)}\}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\mathbf{X}\theta'}}$$

$$= \text{Sigmoid!}$$

Assume our prediction and ground truth for the three classes for  $i^{th}$  point is:

$$\hat{y}_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1\\0.8\\0.1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_i^1\\\hat{y}_i^2\\\hat{y}_i^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_i^1 \\ y_i^2 \\ y_i^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Assume our prediction and ground truth for the three classes for  $i^{th}$  point is:

$$\hat{y}_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 \\ 0.4 \\ 0.3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_i^1 \\ \hat{y}_i^2 \\ \hat{y}_i^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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For 2 class we had:

$$J(\theta) = -\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i \log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i))\right\}$$

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Extend to K-class:

$$J(\theta) = -\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} y_i^k \log(\hat{y}_i^k)\right\}$$

#### Now:

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta_k} = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ x_i \left\{ I(y_i = k) - P(y_i = k | x_i, \theta) \right\} \right]$$

### Hessian Matrix

The Hessian matrix of f(.) with respect to  $\theta$ , written  $\nabla^2_{\theta} f(\theta)$  or simply as  $\mathbb{H}$ , is the  $d \times d$  matrix of partial derivatives,

$$\nabla_{\theta}^{2} f(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{1}^{2}} \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{1} \partial \theta_{2}} \cdots \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{1} \partial \theta_{n}} \\ \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{2} \partial \theta_{1}} \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{2}^{2}} \cdots \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{2} \partial \theta_{n}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{n} \partial \theta_{1}} \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{n} \partial \theta_{2}} \cdots \frac{\partial^{2} f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{n}^{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

### Newton's Algorithm

The most basic second-order optimization algorithm is Newton's algorithm, which consists of updates of the form,

$$\theta_{k+1} = \theta_k - \mathbb{H}_k^{-1} g_k$$

where  $g_k$  is the gradient at step k. This algorithm is derived by making a second-order Taylor series approximation of  $f(\theta)$  around  $\theta_k$ :

$$f_{quad}(\theta) = f(\theta_k) + g_k^T(\theta - \theta_k) + \frac{1}{2}(\theta - \theta_k)^T \mathbb{H}_k(\theta - \theta_k)$$

differentiating and equating to zero to solve for  $\theta_{k+1}$ .

# Learning Parameters

Now assume:

$$g(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i \right] x_i^j = \mathbf{X}^{\top} (\sigma_{\theta}(X) - y)$$
$$\pi_i = \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)$$

Let  $\mathbb{H}$  represent the Hessian of  $J(\theta)$ 

$$\mathbb{H} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} g(\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i \right] x_i^j$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) x_i^j - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} y_i x_i^j \right] = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sigma_{\theta}(x_i) (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) x_i x_i^T$$

$$= \mathbf{X}^{\top} \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_{\theta}(x_i) (1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i))) \mathbf{X}$$

# Iteratively reweighted least squares (IRLS)

For binary logistic regression, recall that the gradient and Hessian of the negative log-likelihood are given by:

$$g(\theta)_k = \mathbf{X}^{\top}(\pi_k - y)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_k = \mathbf{X}^{\top}S_k\mathbf{X}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_k = diag(\pi_{1k}(1 - \pi_{1k}), \dots, \pi_{nk}(1 - \pi_{nk}))$$

$$\pi_{ik} = sigm(\mathbf{x}_i\theta_k)$$

The Newton update at iteraion k + 1 for this model is as follows:

$$\theta_{k+1} = \theta_k - \mathbb{H}^{-1} g_k = \theta_k + (X^T S_k X)^{-1} X^T (y - \pi_k)$$
$$= (X^T S_k X)^{-1} [(X^T S_k X) \theta_k + X^T (y - \pi_k)] = (X^T S_k X)^{-1} X^T [S_k X \theta_k + y - x_k]$$

# Regularized Logistic Regression

Unregularised:

$$J_1(\theta) = -\left\{\sum_{i=1}^N y_i \log(\sigma_{\theta}(x_i)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma_{\theta}(x_i))\right\}$$

L2 Regularization:

$$J(\theta) = J_1(\theta) + \lambda \theta^T \theta$$

L1 Regularization:

$$J(\theta) = J_1(\theta) + \lambda |\theta|$$

**Class Imbalance Handling** 

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- Naive approach fails: Predicting all samples as majority class

With 99% class 0, 1% class 1:

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- Need: Better evaluation metrics and techniques

Modify the cost function to penalize minority class errors more:

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i \left[ y_i \log(\sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\top} \mathbf{x}_i)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\top} \mathbf{x}_i)) \right]$$

• Class weights:  $w_i = w_0$  if  $y_i = 0$ ,  $w_i = w_1$  if  $y_i = 1$ 

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- Implementation: Available in most ML libraries (sklearn: class\_weight='balanced')

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- **Trade-off**: Lower threshold  $\rightarrow$  higher recall, lower precision

## Modify the training data distribution:

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- **SMOTE**: Generate synthetic minority examples

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  - Creates new samples between existing minority samples

- Undersampling: Remove samples from majority class
  - Pro: Faster training, balanced classes
  - Con: Loss of information, smaller dataset
- Oversampling: Duplicate samples from minority class
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  - More sophisticated than simple duplication

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- PR-AUC: Area under precision-recall curve (better for imbalanced data)

# Practice and Review

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- Regularization: L1/L2 help prevent overfitting