

Logistic Regression - Math Summary

1. Model (Hypothesis)

For binary classification with d input features, logistic regression models the **log-odds** as a linear function:

$$z_i = b_0 + b_1x_{i1} + b_2x_{i2} + \cdots + b_dx_{id}$$

The predicted probability is obtained via the sigmoid function:

$$\hat{p}_i = P(y_i = 1 \mid x_i) = \sigma(z_i) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_i}}$$

2. Design Matrix

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1d} \\ 1 & x_{21} & x_{22} & \cdots & x_{2d} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{n1} & x_{n2} & \cdots & x_{nd} \end{bmatrix} \quad \beta = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_d \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Linear Predictor (Logit)

$$\mathbf{z} = X\beta$$

Each component:

$$z_i = \log \left(\frac{\hat{p}_i}{1 - \hat{p}_i} \right)$$

4. Sigmoid Function

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

This maps any real-valued input to a probability in $(0, 1)$.

5. Predicted Probabilities

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}} = \sigma(X\beta)$$

where $\sigma(\cdot)$ is applied element-wise.

6. Loss Function (Binary Cross-Entropy)

The cost function to minimize is the negative log-likelihood:

$$J(\beta) = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [y_i \log(\hat{p}_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \hat{p}_i)]$$

7. Gradient of the Loss

Let:

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}} = \sigma(X\beta)$$

Then the gradient with respect to β is:

$$\nabla_{\beta} J(\beta) = \frac{1}{n} X^{\top} (\hat{\mathbf{p}} - \mathbf{y})$$

8. Optimization (Gradient Descent)

Logistic regression has no closed-form solution. Parameters are learned iteratively:

$$\beta^{(t+1)} = \beta^{(t)} - \alpha \frac{1}{n} X^{\top} (\hat{\mathbf{p}} - \mathbf{y})$$

where α is the learning rate.

9. Prediction (Classification Rule)

Given a threshold τ (usually $\tau = 0.5$):

$$\hat{y}_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \hat{p}_i \geq \tau \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

10. Feature Scaling (Standardization)

For each numeric feature:

$$z_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - \mu_j}{\sigma_j}$$

This improves numerical stability and convergence of gradient descent.

11. Interpretation of Coefficients

Each coefficient b_j represents the change in **log-odds** for a unit increase in x_j (holding other features constant):

$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = b_0 + \sum_{j=1}^d b_j x_j$$

Exponentiating:

$$e^{b_j} = \text{odds ratio associated with } x_j$$

12. Model Evaluation Metrics

Common evaluation metrics include:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad \text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

$$\text{ROC AUC} = P(s(x^+) > s(x^-))$$