

# Logistic Regression

1

- The statisticians approached the problem - “**how can we use linear regression to solve this?**”
  - We could consider the following encoding
    - Dependent variable coded as 0 (**Not Spam**) or 1 (**Spam**)

1

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2

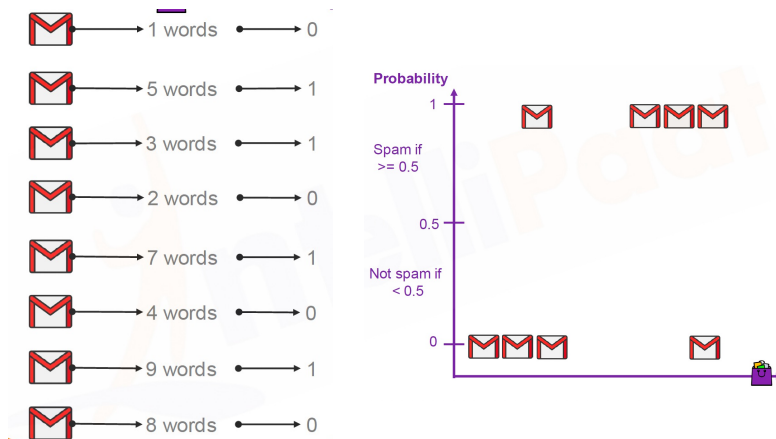
- We can fit a linear regression to this binary response
  - and classify as **Spam** if  $\hat{y} > 0.5$  and **Not Spam** otherwise, interpreting  $\hat{y}$  as a probability that Email is Spam

2

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3

## • Spam email classifier



3

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4

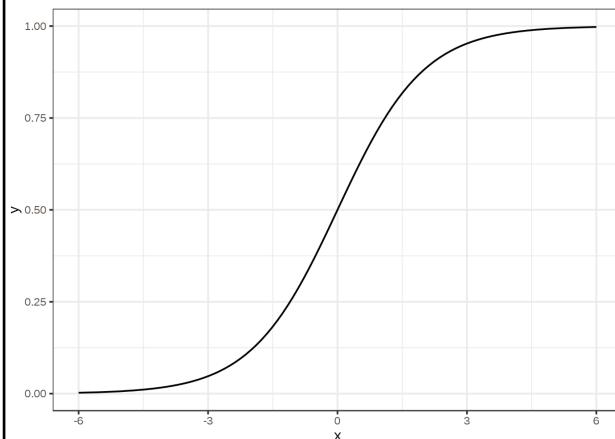
- A major problem with such an approach
- Linear regression models produce values in  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ , which does not make sense as a probability
  - Employ a function that constrains the values between 0 and 1

4

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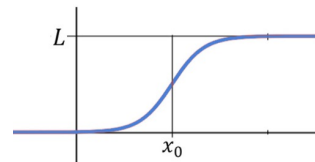
5

- Logistic function (Sigmoid)



$$f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(x-x_0)}}$$

$x_0$  = x value of midpoint  
 $L$  = maximum value  
 $k$  = growth rate



5

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6

- Logistic regression model
  - Let  $Y$  be a binary outcome and  $X$  a predictor

Sigmoid input  $\rightarrow \log\left(\frac{p_X}{1 - p_X}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X$  Linear regression output

$$p_X = \frac{e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X}}{1 + e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X}} \quad 0 \leq p_X \leq 1$$

6

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7

- Terminology

- The **logit**  $\log\left(\frac{p_X}{1-p_X}\right)$  ← Log **odds**

- The odds of an event is defined as

$$\text{odds}(Y = 1) = \frac{P(Y = 1)}{1 - P(Y = 1)} = \frac{p}{1 - p}$$

- Chance can be expressed either as a probability or as odds

7

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8

- Ranges

Measure	Min	Max	Name
$P(Y = 1)$	0	1	“probability”
$\frac{P(Y=1)}{1-P(Y=1)}$	0	$\infty$	“odds”
$\log\left[\frac{P(Y=1)}{1-P(Y=1)}\right]$	$-\infty$	$\infty$	“log-odds” or “logit”

8

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9

- The cost/loss function
  - The likelihood function

$$\prod_{i=1}^N p_{x_i}^{y_i} (1 - p_{x_i})^{1-y_i}$$

- The likelihood is a function of model parameters, and we can estimate them by **maximizing the likelihood**
  - Maximum likelihood estimates (MLE)

9

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10

- The cost/loss function
  - No closed form solution for MLE
  - We rely on numerical approximation to find the MLE
    - Most software uses the **Newton Raphson algorithm or gradient descent algorithm**

10

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11

- In practice, it is more convenient to maximize the **log of the likelihood function**
  - product of a large number of small probabilities can easily lead to **underflow in computing machines**

11

Thank You!

12