

Tufte Example

Robert Moss

MOSSR@CS.STANFORD.EDU

Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

1 Loss Function

In mathematical optimization, statistics, decision theory and machine learning, a *loss function* or *cost function* is a function that maps an event or values of one or more variables onto a real number intuitively representing some “cost” associated with the event.¹ An optimization problem seeks to minimize a loss function. An objective function is either a loss function or its negative (sometimes called a *reward function* or a *utility function*), in which case it is to be maximized.

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loss_function

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[-y^{(i)} \log(h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})) - (1 - y^{(i)}) \log(1 - h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})) \right] \quad (1)$$

```
function loss_function(theta, X, y)
    m = length(y) # number of training examples
    grad = zeros(size(theta))
    h = sigmoid(X * theta)
    J = 1/m * sum((-y'*log(h)) - (1.-y)'*log(1.-h))
    grad = 1/m*(X'*(h-y))
    return (J, grad)
end
```