

# Classification

How do we predict a target that is a categorical rather than a number (as in the Regression task) ?

To be concrete: we consider the *Binary Classification* task

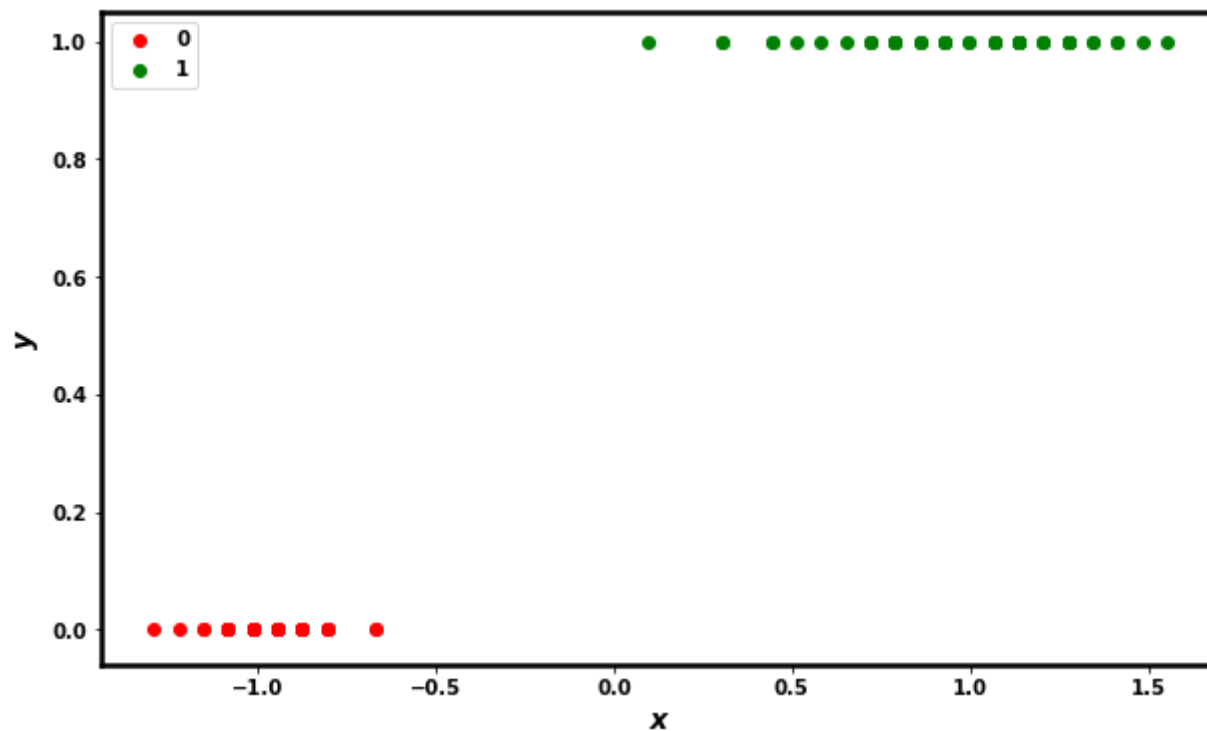
- Two classes (categories)
- Refer to the classes as Positive and Negative

Consider examples with a single feature.

We will encode Positive/Negative as the numbers 1/0 and plot them as Green/Red

```
In [4]: X_ls, y_ls = lsh.load_iris()

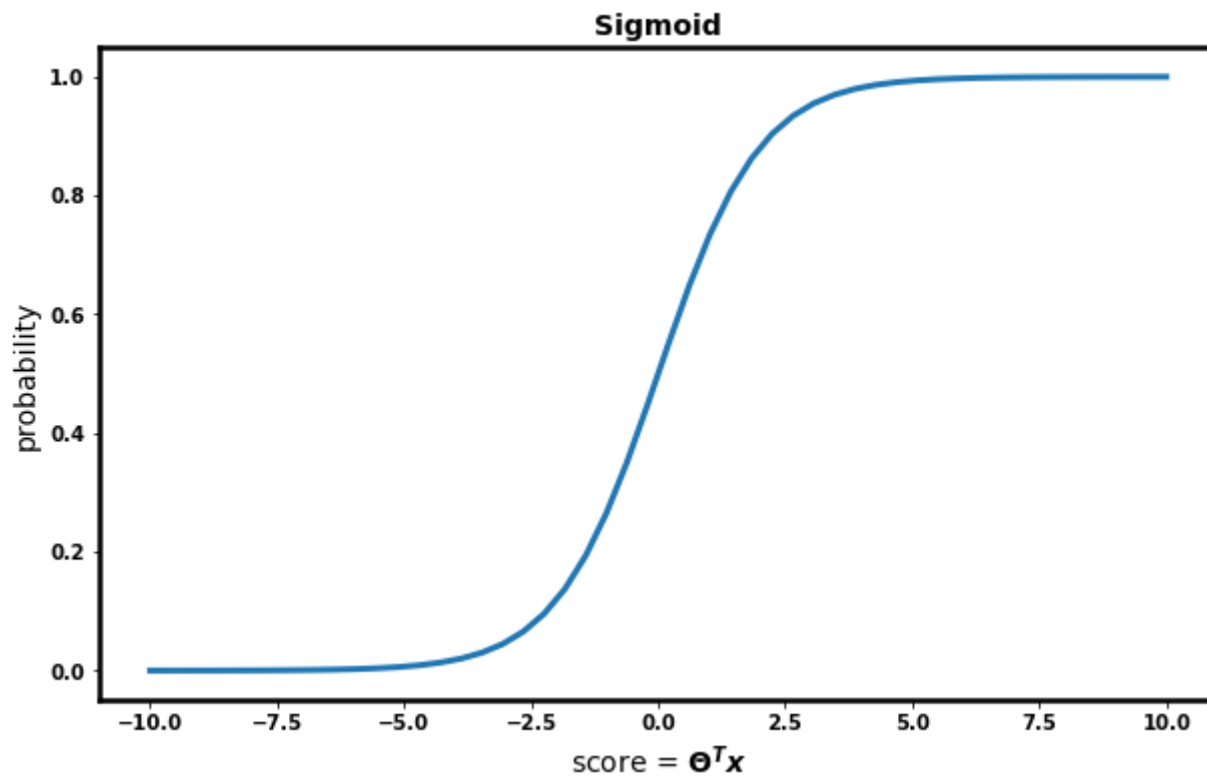
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
_= lsh.plot_y_vs_x(ax, X_ls[:,0], y_ls)
```



As you can see, a model that fits straight line (Linear Regression) would be a poor fit.

There is a function, the *sigmoid*, that has the right shape:

```
In [5]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        _ = lsh.plot_sigmoid(ax)
```



So fitting the sigmoid function to the data might be a reasonable solution to the Binary Classification Task.

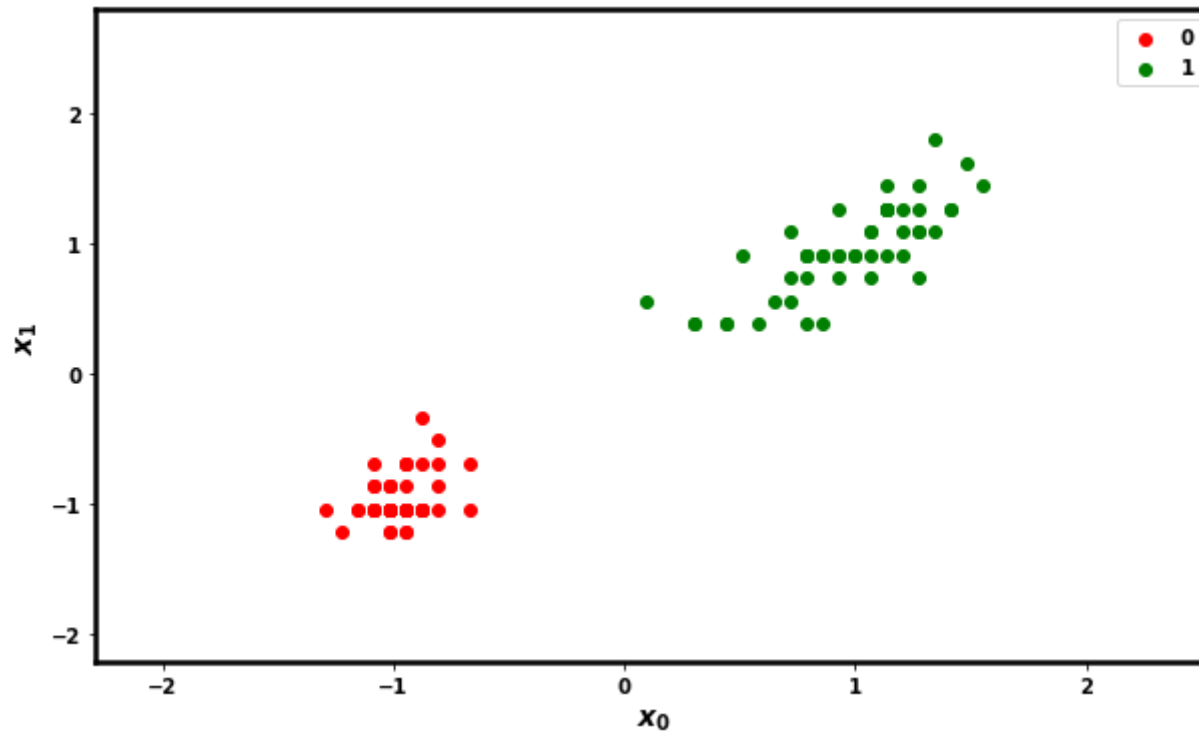
It turns out that we can adapt the Linear Regression model to this end.

Let's explore this idea further.

Here is a example with two features.

Again, Positive/Negative examples are plotted in Green/Red.

```
In [6]: clf_ls = lsh.fit_LR(X_ls,y_ls)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
_= lsh.plot(ax, clf_ls, X_ls, y_ls, draw_boundary=False, scores=np.array([]))
```





Might it be possible to use Linear Regression to fit a line that separates Positive and Negative examples ?

An obvious idea:

- Use the features  $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$  to compute a "score" (*logit*)  $\hat{s}^{(i)}$
- Compare the predicted score to a threshold
- Predict Positive if the score exceeds the threshold; Negative otherwise

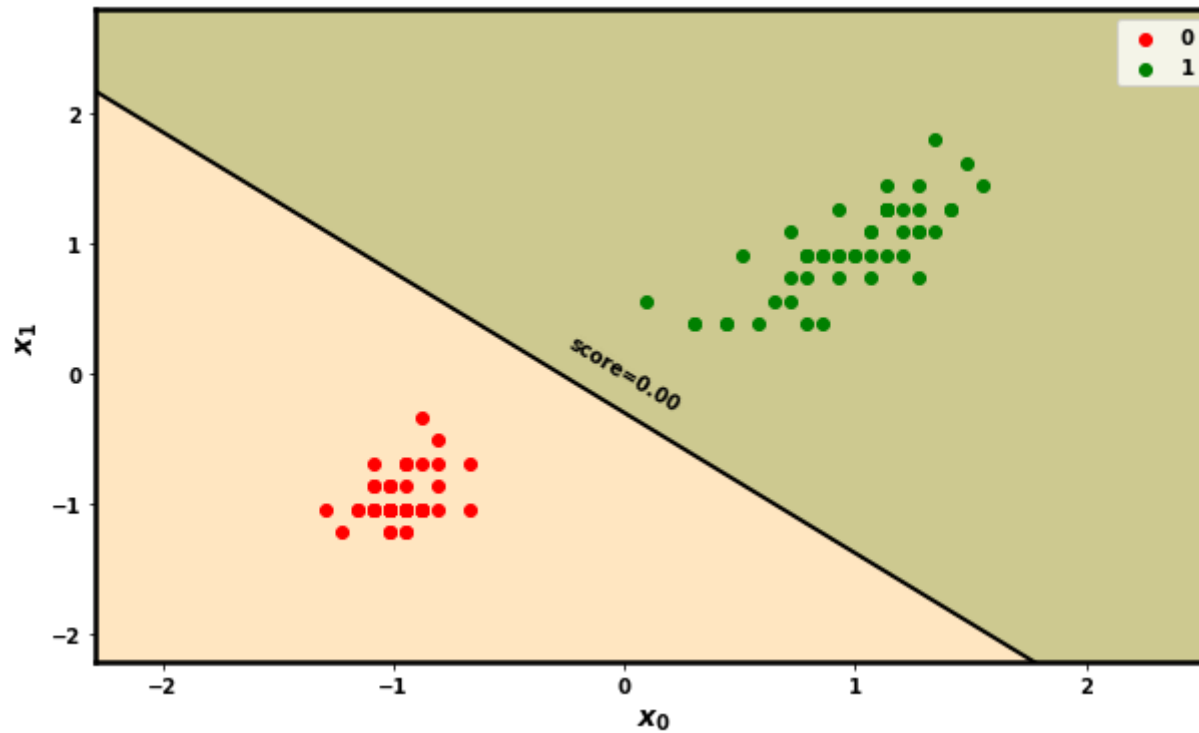
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(\mathbf{i})} = \begin{cases} \text{Negative} & \text{if } \hat{s}^{(\mathbf{i})} < 0 \\ \text{Positive} & \text{if } \hat{s}^{(\mathbf{i})} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

If the score has the form of a Linear Regression

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = \Theta^T \mathbf{x}$$

then we get something like this

```
In [7]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        _ = lsh.plot(ax, clf_ls, X_ls, y_ls, draw_prob=False)
```



That is: the score  $s(\mathbf{x})$

- Is linear in features  $\mathbf{x}$
- Separates Positive from Negative examples
  - Examples  $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1)$  with non-negative scores (i.e, points above the line) get classified as Positive
  - Examples  $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1)$  with negative scores (i.e, points below the line) get classified as Negative

If we can successfully classify by this method, the dataset set is *linearly separable*

A classifier for linearly separable data fits a hyperplane (e.g., the line  $\hat{s} = 0$ ) to the training data such that

- Examples lying above the plane are classified as Positive
- Examples lying below the plane are classified as Negative

$$s = \Theta^T \mathbf{x}$$

Can be interpreted as

- using template matching on the features  $\mathbf{x}$  to produce a "score"

$$s = \Theta^T \mathbf{x} = \Theta \cdot \mathbf{x}$$

# Transforming Binary Classification into Linear Regression

How do we fit the scoring function ?

We adapt Linear Regression.

Let's reinterpret the targets/labels  $\mathbf{y}^{(i)}$  as a probability  $p^{(i)}$

$$p^{(i)} = p(\mathbf{y}^{(i)} = \text{Positive} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(i)})$$



So

- $\mathbf{y}^{(i)} = \text{Positive}$  is equivalent to  $p^{(i)} = 1$ : the target for example  $i$  is Positive with 100% probability
- $\mathbf{y}^{(i)} = \text{Negative}$  is equivalent to  $p^{(i)} = 0$ : the target for example  $i$  is Positive with 0% (i.e., is Negative)

We can go further: map  $\hat{s}^{(i)}$ , which is continuous, into a continuous probability  $\hat{p}^{(i)} \in [0, 1]$ .

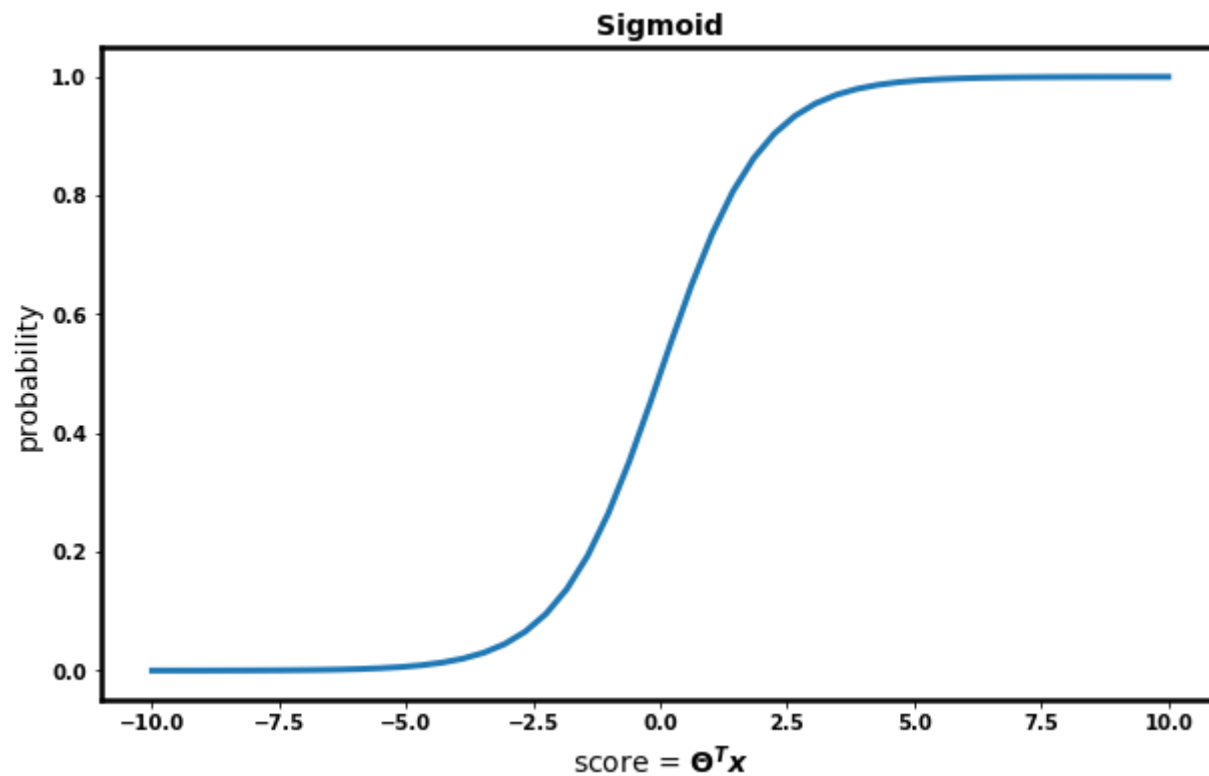
A very large predicted score  $\hat{s}^{(i)}$  (far greater than a threshold) corresponds to  $\hat{p}^{(i)} \approx 1$ .

The *Logistic Function*  $\sigma(s)$  transforms a number  $s$  (e.g., score) into a probability

$$\hat{p} = \sigma(s) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-s}}$$

Let's plot the logistic function to gain some intuition:

```
In [8]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))  
       _ = lsh.plot_sigmoid(ax)
```



As you can see, it acts almost like a binary "switch"

- range is mostly 0 or 1

So this function creates a sharp boundary (measured in probability).

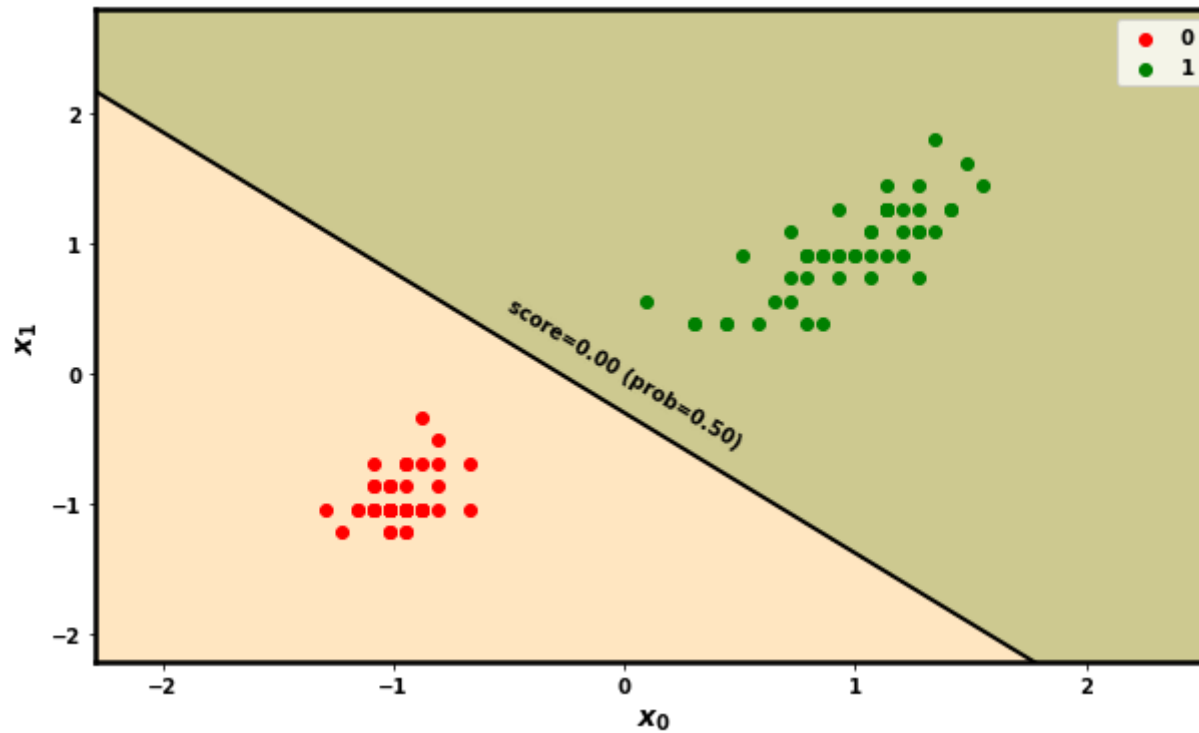
Now that we can convert between scores and probabilities the following two forms of classification are equivalent

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} \text{Negative} & \text{if } \hat{s}^{(i)} < 0 \\ \text{Positive} & \text{if } \hat{s}^{(i)} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} \text{Negative} & \text{if } \hat{p}^{(i)} < 0.5 \\ \text{Positive} & \text{if } \hat{p}^{(i)} \geq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

This follows since  $\sigma(0) = 0.5$ .

Relabeling the separating line with both score and probability:

```
In [9]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        _ = lsh.plot(ax, clf_ls, X_ls, y_ls)
```

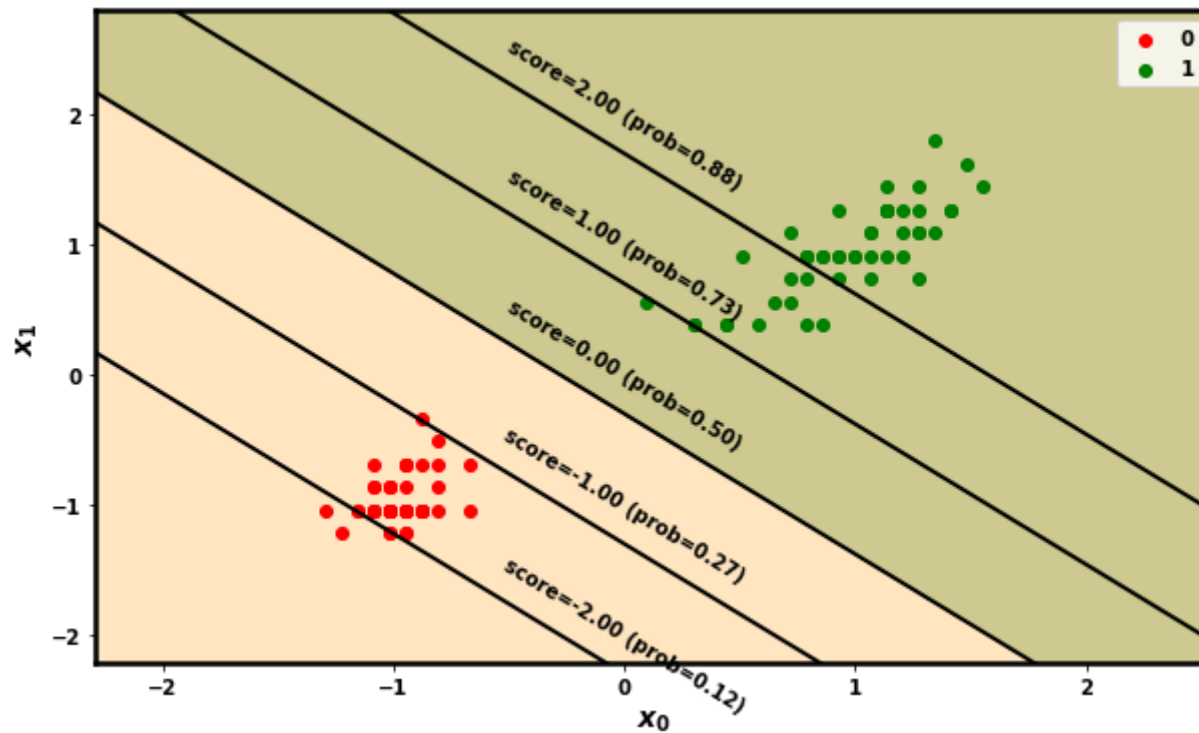


One can see the relationship between score and probability by looking at lines of constant score/probability.



```
In [10]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        _ = lsh.plot(ax, clf_ls, X_ls, y_ls, scores = np.arange(-2, 3,1))

        fig.savefig(os.path.join("/tmp",'class_overview_prob_lines.jpg') )
```



- Increasingly positive scores result in increasing probability of Positive
- Increasingly negative scores result in decreasing probability of Positive (and hence increasing probability of Negative)

When the score is infinite, the probability becomes 100% (positive infinity) or 0% (negative infinity)

# Logistic Regression

Because we use the Logistic function to map scores to probabilities, this method is called *Logistic Regression*.

To recap:

$$s = \Theta^T \mathbf{x}$$

$$\hat{p} = \sigma(s)$$

$$\hat{y}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} \text{Negative} & \text{if } \hat{p}^{(i)} < 0.5 \\ \text{Positive} & \text{if } \hat{p}^{(i)} \geq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

## Preview

The expression for  $\hat{p}$

$$\hat{p} = \sigma(\Theta^T \mathbf{x})$$

which involves

- template matching of features versus template ( $\Theta$ ) since  $\Theta^T \mathbf{x} = \Theta \cdot \mathbf{x}$
- convert the score into a probability with the sigmoid function

will reappear in the Deep Learning part of the course.

Of all the functions to "squeeze" score  $s$  into the range  $[0, 1]$ , why choose the Logistic Function ?

Let's invert the relationship induced by the Logistic Function

$$\hat{p} = \sigma(s)$$

between probability  $\hat{p}$  and  $s$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\hat{p}}{1-\hat{p}} &= \frac{\frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}}{1-\frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}} \\
 &= \frac{\frac{1}{1+e^{-s}}}{\frac{e^{-s}}{1+e^{-s}}} \\
 &= e^s \\
 \log_e \frac{\hat{p}}{1-\hat{p}} &= s
 \end{aligned}$$

So, using the logistic function to compute  $\hat{p}$  results in

$$\log_e \frac{\hat{p}}{1 - \hat{p}} = \Theta^T \mathbf{x}$$

The above equation has the form of Linear Regression where target  $\mathbf{y}$  has been transformed to

$$\log_e \frac{\hat{p}}{1 - \hat{p}}$$

The term  $\frac{\hat{p}}{1 - \hat{p}}$  is called the *odds* (of being Positive) so the dependent variable is the *log odds*.

We have thus transformed Binary Classification into Linear Regression.



This introduction glosses over several problems, which we will subsequently address

- the log odds is positive infinity when  $p = 1$
- the log odds is negative infinity when  $p = 0$

This means that MSE can't be used as a Loss Function for fitting since some residuals are infinite.

```
In [11]: print("Done")
```

Done