



# Data X

## Loss vs Risk Data, Signals, and Systems

Ikhtlaq Sidhu  
Chief Scientist & Founding Director,  
Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology  
IEOR Emerging Area Professor Award, UC Berkeley

## Remember this Classification Example

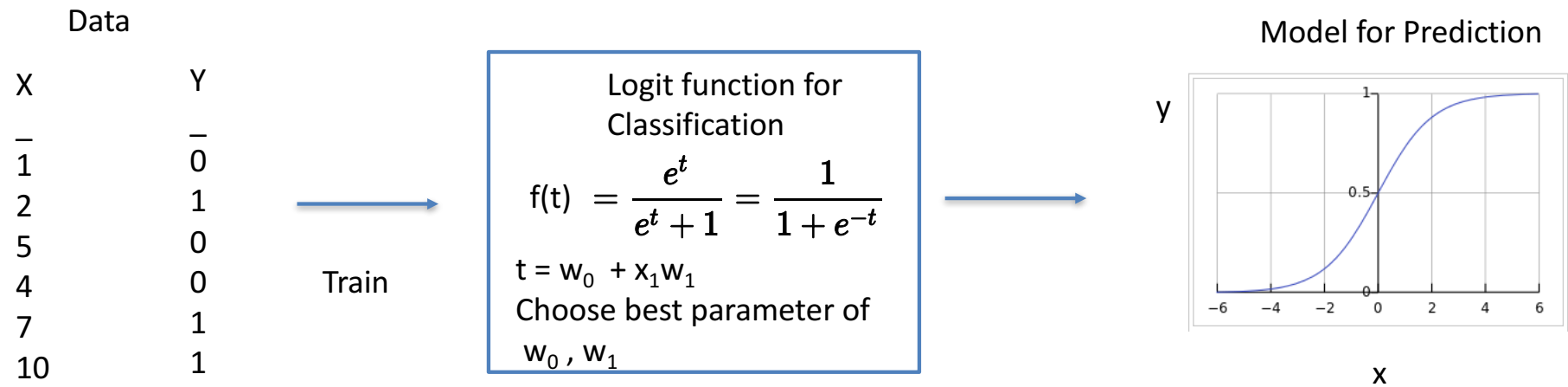


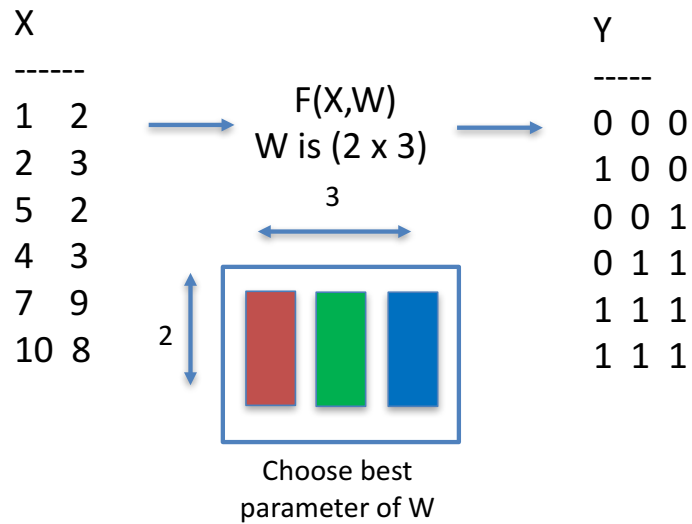
Illustration only  
These numbers are not real

Data<sup>x</sup>

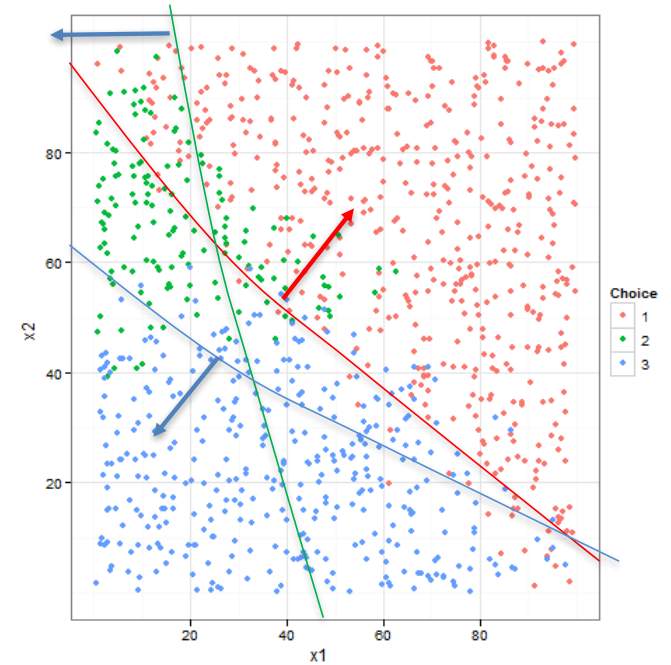
# Classification Extended to Multiple Variables

Illustration only  
These numbers are not real

Train  
Data



$$f(x_i, W) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0 + x_{i,1} w_1 + x_{i,2} w_2 \dots)}}$$

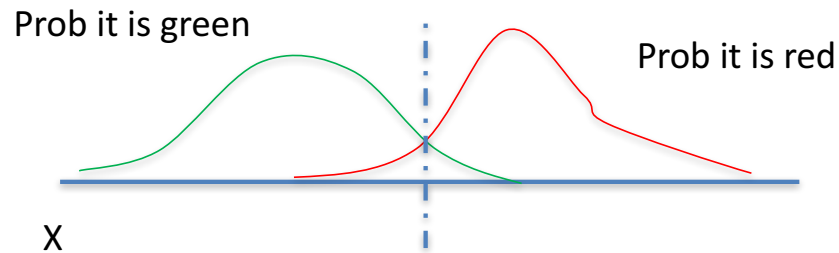


Model for Prediction

y1 boundary  
y2 boundary  
y3 boundary

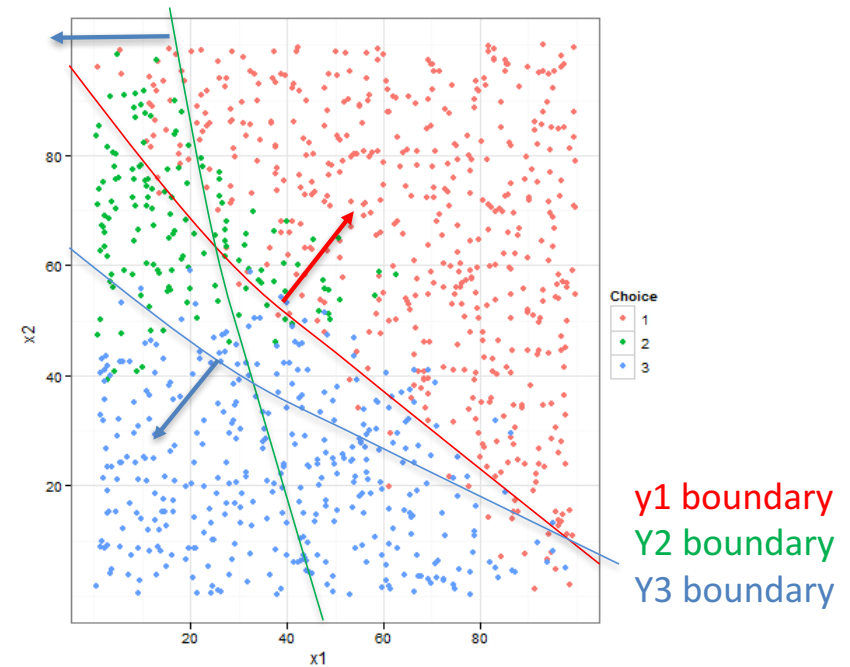
Data<sup>x</sup>

# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?



One way is by likelihood that it is red vs green

$P(\text{green} | x) > P(\text{red} | x)$  for all  $x$   
(this is maximum likelihood estimation)



Data<sup>x</sup>

# For Reference: Maximum Likelihood Estimation

To use the method of maximum likelihood,<sup>[7]</sup> one first specifies the [joint density function](#) for all observations. For an [independent and identically distributed](#) sample, this joint density function is

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid \theta) = f(x_1 \mid \theta) \times f(x_2 \mid \theta) \times \dots \times f(x_n \mid \theta).$$

Now we look at this function from a different perspective by considering the observed values  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  to be fixed "parameters" of this function, whereas  $\theta$  will be the function's variable and allowed to vary freely; this same function will be called the [likelihood](#):

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta; x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i \mid \theta).$$

Note that " ; " denotes a separation between the two categories of input arguments: the parameters  $\theta$  and the observations  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

In practice it is often more convenient when working with the [natural logarithm](#) of the likelihood function, called the **log-likelihood**:

$$\ln \mathcal{L}(\theta; x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f(x_i \mid \theta),$$

or the average log-likelihood:

$$\hat{\ell} = \frac{1}{n} \ln \mathcal{L}.$$

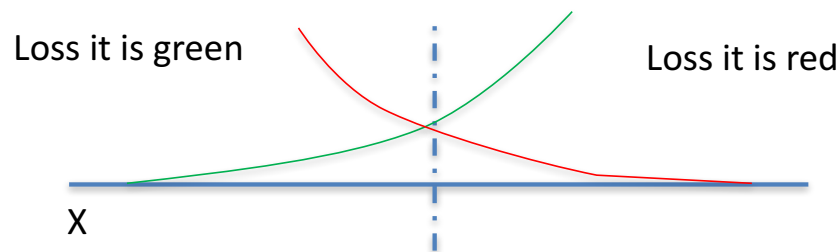
The [hat](#) over  $\ell$  indicates that it is akin to some estimator. Indeed,  $\hat{\ell}$  estimates the expected log-likelihood of a single observation in the model.

The method of maximum likelihood estimates  $\theta_0$  by finding a value of  $\theta$  that maximizes  $\hat{\ell}(\theta; x)$ . This method of estimation defines a **maximum likelihood estimator (MLE)** of  $\theta_0$ :



# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?

Another way would be to use a loss function to decide

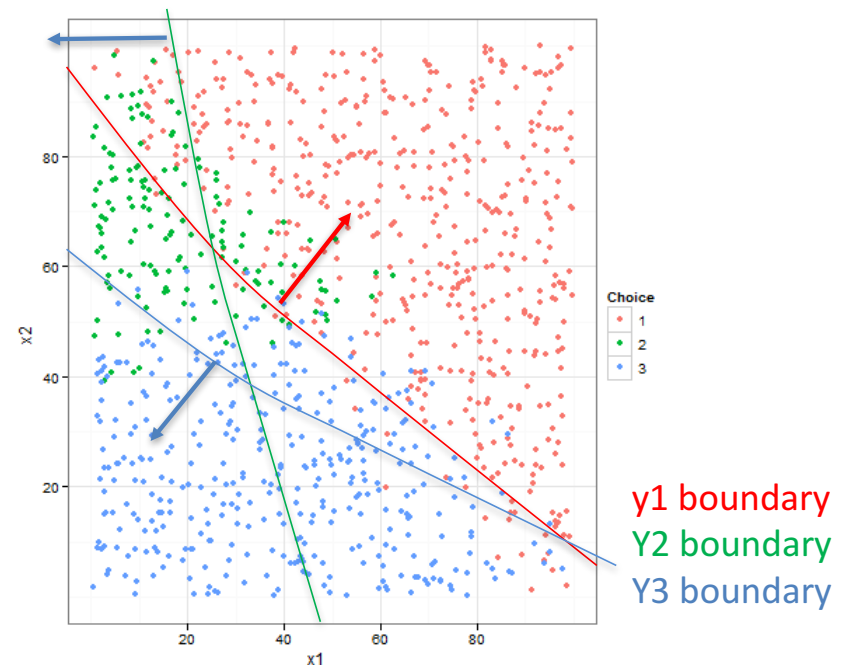


$L_{red}(x)$ : red loss as a function of vector  $X$

(assume the actual outcome is red, then  $L_{red}(x)$  is larger when  $x$  is not likely predict to be red.

$L_{green}(x)$ : green loss as a function of vector  $X$

Boundary could be where  $L_{red}=L_{green}$

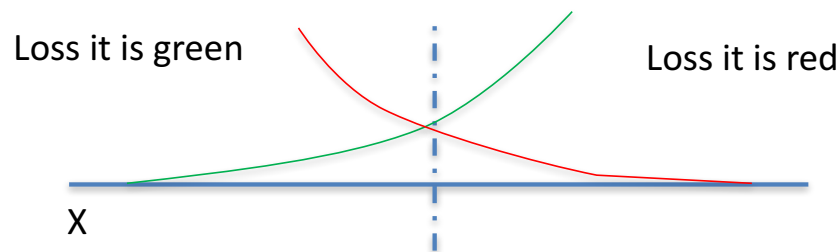


e.g. Cross Entropy =  $-t \ln(f(\vec{x})) - (1 - t) \ln(1 - f(\vec{x}))$

Data<sup>X</sup>

# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?

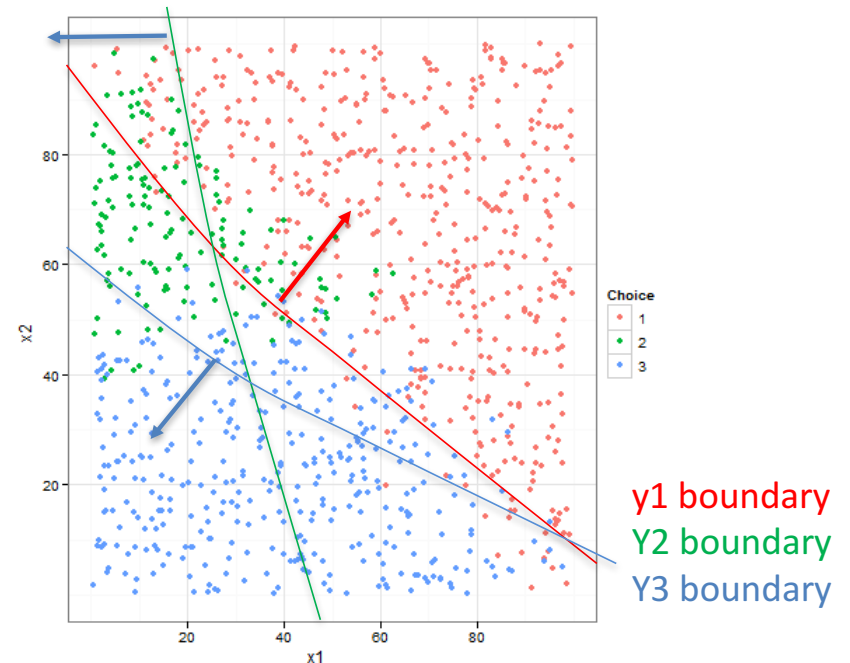
- Another way would be to use a loss function to decide:



In math notation:

Loss Function:  $L(\theta, \delta(X))$

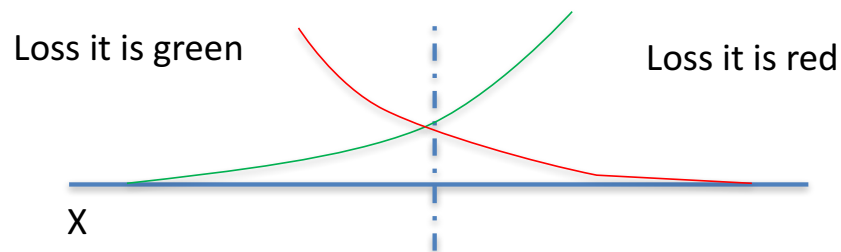
Expected Loss:  $R(\theta, \delta) = \mathbb{E}(L(\theta, \delta(X)))$



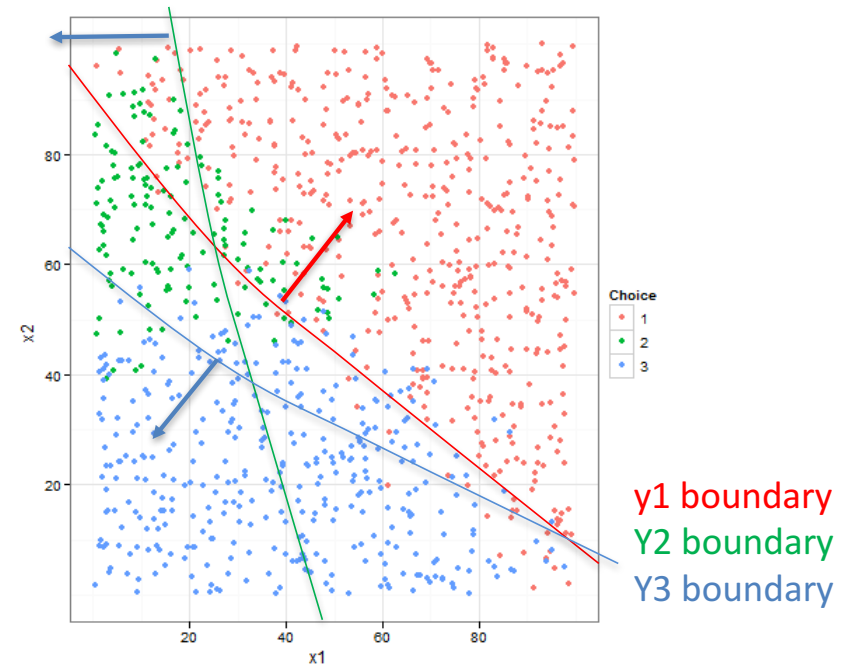
Data<sup>X</sup>

# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?

- Another way would be to use a loss function to decide:



Boundary could be where  $L(\text{red})=L(\text{green})$   
BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS



Data<sup>x</sup>



# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?

Consider the  
Application:

Reward or Risk is not same as loss

National  
Security

Red = there is a  
national security  
breach

Green =  
everything is OK

Predicted	Predicted No Breach	Predicted Breach
Actual: No Breach	Loss = 0 COST = 0	Loss = .5 COST = 10
Actual: Breach	Loss = 0.6 COST = 1000	Loss = 0 COST = 0

Data<sup>x</sup>

# How Should We Decide a Classification Boundary?

Consider the  
Application:

Reward or Risk is not same as loss

National  
Security

Red = there is a  
national security  
breach

Green =  
everything is OK

Predicted	Predicted No Breach	Predicted Breach
Actual: No Breach	Loss = 0 COST = 0	Loss = .5 COST = 10
Actual: Breach	Loss = 0.6 COST = 1000	Loss = 0 COST = 0

Supermarket  
Coupon by  
fingerprint

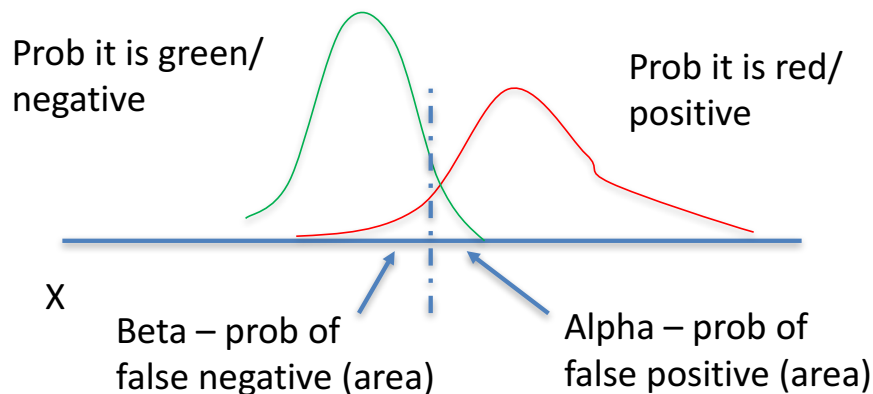
Red = fingerprint  
does not match  
for supermarket  
coupon

Green =  
fingerprint match

Predicted	Predicted Match	Predicted No Match
Actual: Match	Loss = 0 COST = 0	Loss = .5 COST = 1000
Actual: No match	Loss = 0.6 COST = 10	Loss = 0 COST = 0

DataX

## A Risk Function will consider the application



Predicted	Predicted RED	Predicted GREEN
Actual: RED	#500 Risk = 0	#100 COST = 50
Actual: GREEN	#300 COST = 10	#300 Risk = 0

We want to set the boundary where the Risk of False Positive = Risk of False Negative

$$\text{Alpha} \times \text{FPcost} = \text{Beta} \times \text{FNcost}$$

Risk (Red = actual, Green = predicted)  
 = Prob (Red actual and Green predicted) x cost of false negative  
 =  $100/600 \times 50 = 8.3$

Risk (Green actual, Red predicted) = Prob (Green actual, red predicted) x cost of false positive)  
 =  $300/600 \times 10 = 5$

Data<sup>X</sup>

End of Section

