

Lecture 3: Loss Functions and Optimization

Administrative: Assignment 1

Released last week, due **Wed 4/22 at 11:59pm**

Administrative: Project proposal

Due **Wed 4/27**

TA expertise listed on piazza

There is a Piazza thread to find teammates

Slack has topic specific channels for you to use

~~Administrative: Midterm~~

~~24 Hours open notes exam~~

~~Combination of True/False, Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Coding~~

~~Will be released May 12th, specific time TBD~~

~~Due May 13th, 24 hours from release time~~

~~The exam should take 3-4 hours to finish~~

Administrative: Midterm Updates

University has updated guidance on administering exams in spring quarter. In order to comply with the current policies, we have changed the exam format as the following to be consistent with exams in previous offerings of cs 231n:

Date: released on Tuesday 5/12 (open for 24 hours to choose 1hr 40 mins time frame)

Format: Timestamped with Gradescope

Administrative: Piazza

Please make sure to check and read all pinned piazza posts.

Image Classification: A core task in Computer Vision



This image by [Nikita](#) is
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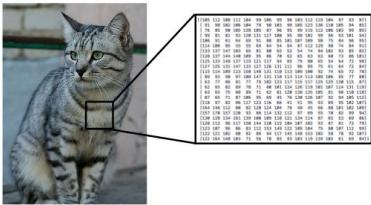
(assume given a set of labels)
{dog, cat, truck, plane, ...}



cat
dog
bird
deer
truck

Recall from last time: Challenges of recognition

Viewpoint



Illumination



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Deformation



[This image](#) by Umberto Salvagnin
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Occlusion



[This image](#) by jonsson is licensed
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Clutter



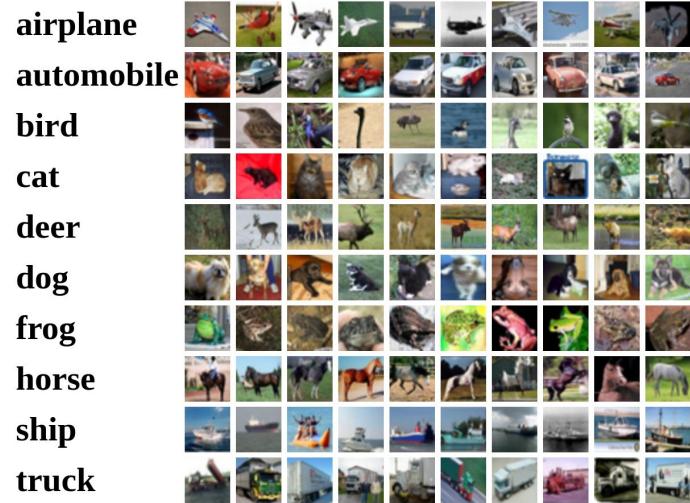
[This image](#) is CC0 1.0 public domain

Intraclass Variation

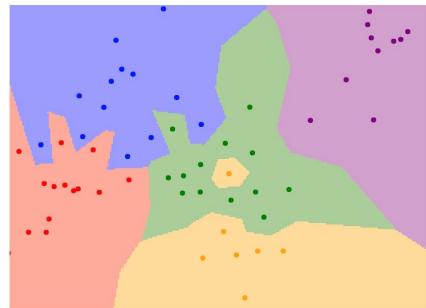


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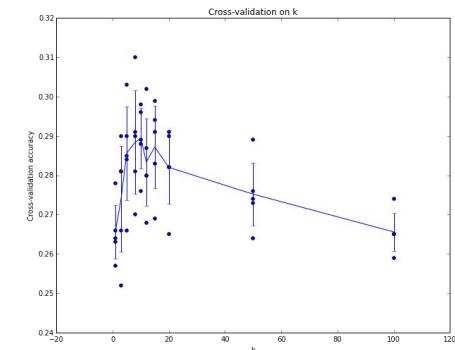
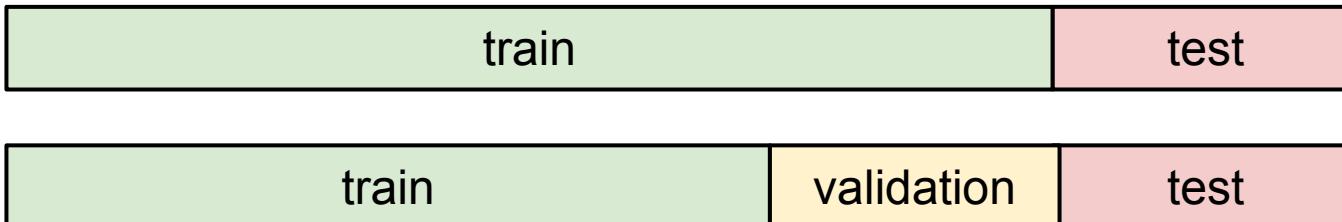
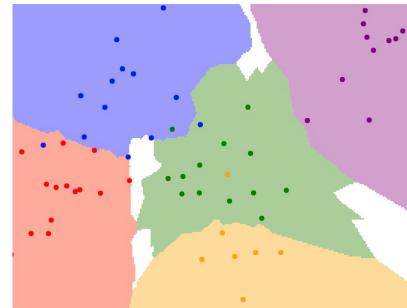
Recall from last time: data-driven approach, kNN



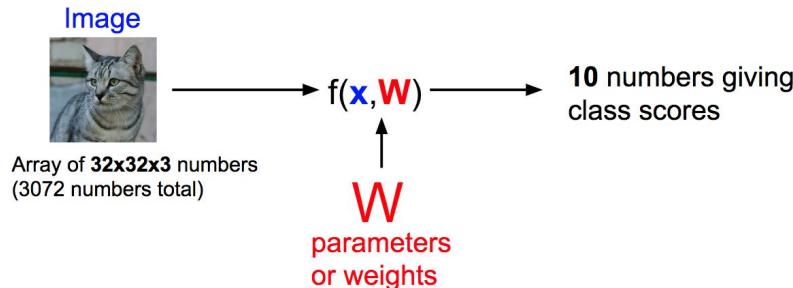
1-NN classifier



5-NN classifier



Recall from last time: Linear Classifier



$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{W}) = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}$$

Algebraic Viewpoint

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{W}) = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}$$

Stretch pixels into column:

Input image

W

b

56	231	2				
24	1	2				
0.2	-0.5	0.1	2.0	56	1.1	-96.8
1.5	1.3	2.1	0.0	231	3.2	437.9
0	0.25	0.2	-0.3	24	-1.2	61.95

Cat score
Dog score
Ship score

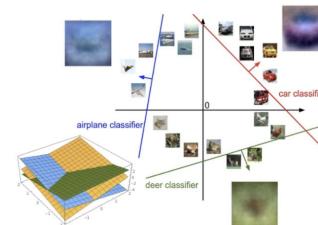
Visual Viewpoint

One template per class



Geometric Viewpoint

Hyperplanes cutting up space

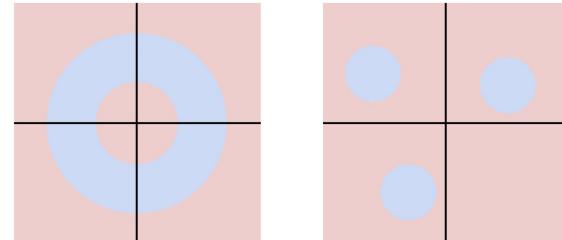


Class 1:
 $1 \leq L_2 \text{ norm} \leq 2$

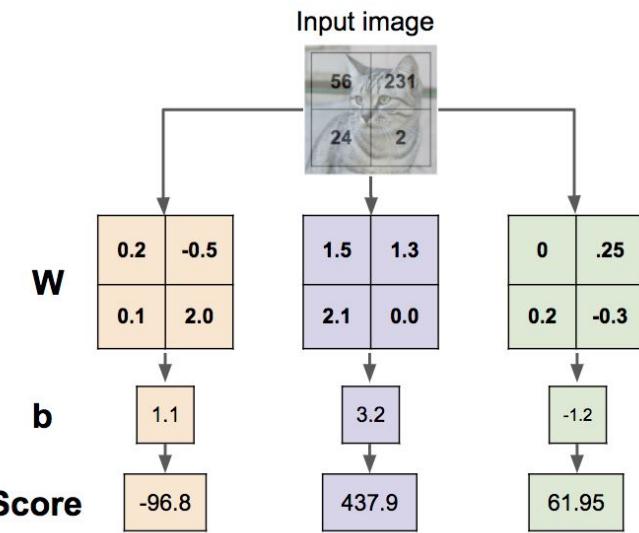
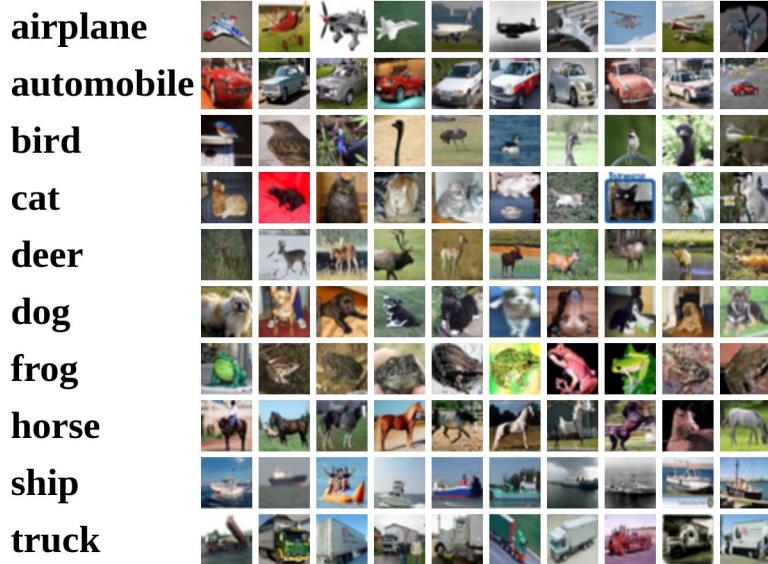
Class 2:
Everything else

Class 1:
Three modes

Class 2:
Everything else



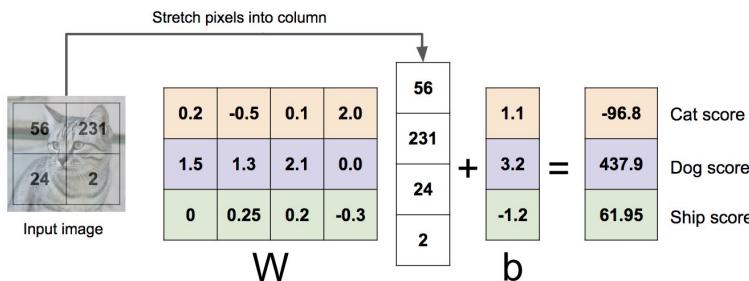
Interpreting a Linear Classifier: Visual Viewpoint



Example with an image with 4 pixels, and 3 classes (cat/dog/ship)

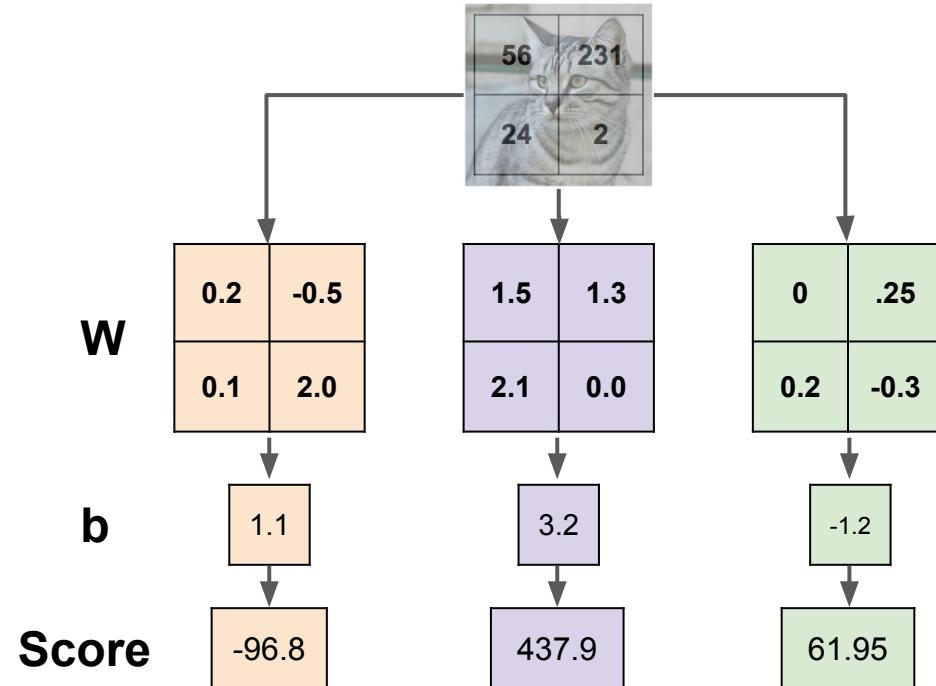
Algebraic Viewpoint

$$f(x, W) = Wx$$

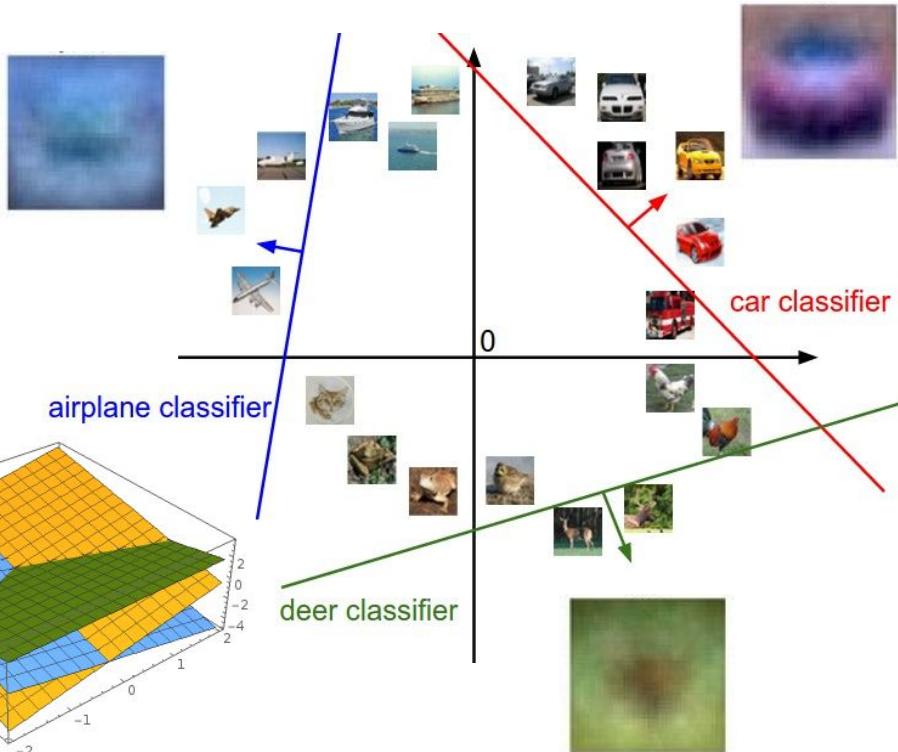


Visual Viewpoint

Input image



Interpreting a Linear Classifier: Geometric Viewpoint



$$f(x, W) = Wx + b$$



Array of **32x32x3** numbers
(3072 numbers total)

Plot created using [Wolfram Cloud](#)

[Cat image](#) by [Nikita](#) is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)

Recall from last time: Linear Classifier



airplane	-3.45	-0.51	3.42
automobile	-8.87	6.04	4.64
bird	0.09	5.31	2.65
cat	2.9	-4.22	5.1
deer	4.48	-4.19	2.64
dog	8.02	3.58	5.55
frog	3.78	4.49	-4.34
horse	1.06	-4.37	-1.5
ship	-0.36	-2.09	-4.79
truck	-0.72	-2.93	6.14

TODO:

1. Define a **loss function** that quantifies our unhappiness with the scores across the training data.
2. Come up with a way of efficiently finding the parameters that minimize the loss function.
(optimization)

Cat image by Nikita is licensed under CC-BY 2.0; Car image is CC0 1.0 public domain; Frog image is in the public domain

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.

With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:

A **loss function** tells how good our current classifier is



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
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A **loss function** tells how good our current classifier is

Given a dataset of examples

$$\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$$

Where x_i is image and
 y_i is (integer) label

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
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A **loss function** tells how good our current classifier is

Given a dataset of examples

$$\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$$

Where x_i is image and
 y_i is (integer) label

Loss over the dataset is a average of loss over examples:

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)$$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
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`j ≠ y_i` means skipping the correct class

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s_{y_i} \geq s_j + 1 \\ s_j - s_{y_i} + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

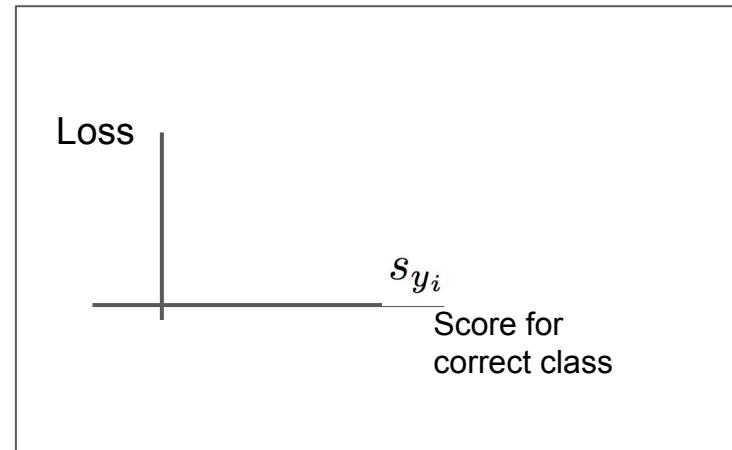
all incorrect y, safety margin is 1

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



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Interpreting Multiclass SVM loss:



$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s_{y_i} \geq s_j + 1 \\ s_j - s_{y_i} + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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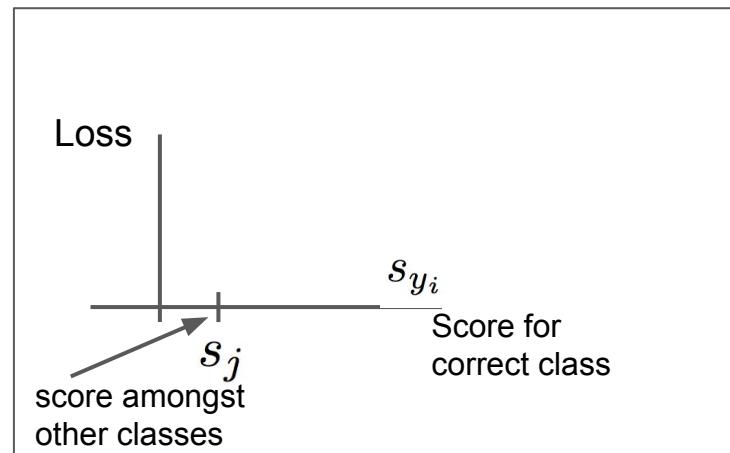
what this loss is saying is that we are happy if the ‘true’ score (not label) is much higher than all the other scores. It needs to be higher than all the other scores by some ‘safety margin’. And if the true score is not high enough, not greater than any of the other scores, then we will incur some loss and that would be bad.

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Interpreting Multiclass SVM loss:



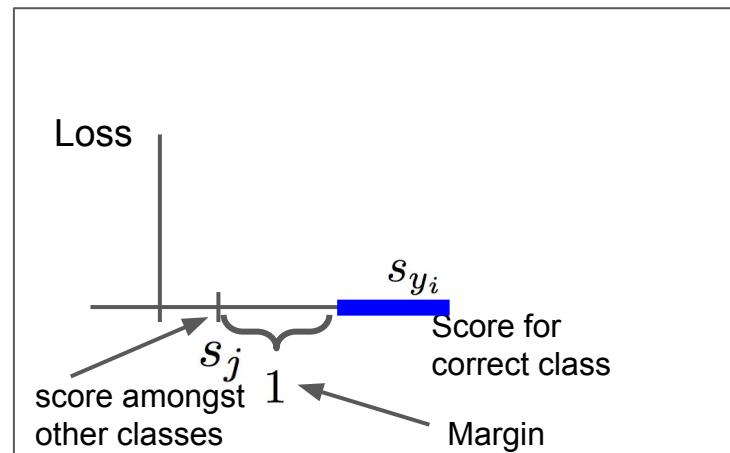
$$\begin{aligned}
 L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s_{y_i} \geq s_j + 1 \\ s_j - s_{y_i} + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

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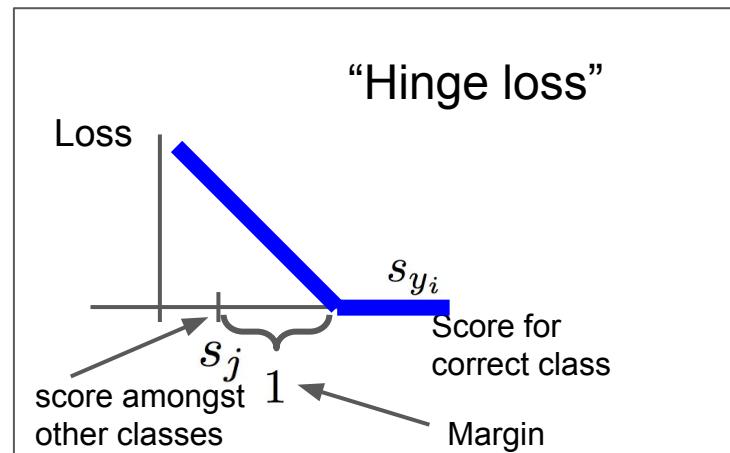
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Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

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frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9		

Multiclass SVM loss:

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and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, 5.1 - 3.2 + 1) \\
 &\quad + \max(0, -1.7 - 3.2 + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, 2.9) + \max(0, -3.9) \\
 &= 2.9 + 0 \\
 &= 2.9
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
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Losses:	2.9	0	

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the SVM loss has the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, 1.3 - 4.9 + 1) \\
 &\quad + \max(0, 2.0 - 4.9 + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, -2.6) + \max(0, -1.9) \\
 &= 0 + 0 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9	0	12.9

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, 2.2 - (-3.1) + 1) \\
 &\quad + \max(0, 2.5 - (-3.1) + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, 6.3) + \max(0, 6.6) \\
 &= 6.3 + 6.6 \\
 &= 12.9
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
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Losses:	2.9	0	12.9

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Loss over full dataset is average:

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= (2.9 + 0 + 12.9)/3 \\ &= 5.27 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.

With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:

Multiclass SVM loss:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$



cat	1.3
car	4.9
frog	2.0
Losses:	0

Q1: What happens to loss if car scores decrease by 0.5 for this training example?

not change

Q2: what is the min/max possible SVM loss L_i ?
 $[0, \infty)$

Q3: At initialization W is small so all $s \approx 0$. What is the loss L_i , assuming N examples and C classes?
C-1, debugging skill ...

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
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frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9	0	12.9

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Q4: What if the sum
was over all classes?
(including $j = y_i$)

+1, we skip y_i in practice because we like
0 to be the case you're not losing at all

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9	0	12.9

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

and using the shorthand for the scores vector: $s = f(x_i, W)$

the SVM loss has the form:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Q5: What if we used mean instead of sum?

not change. scaling the loss function by a constant does not matter.

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9	0	12.9

Multiclass SVM loss:

Given an example (x_i, y_i) where x_i is the image and where y_i is the (integer) label,

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the SVM loss has the form:

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Q6: What if we used

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)^2$$

kind of a different loss function.

Multiclass SVM Loss: Example code

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

```
def L_i_vectorized(x, y, W):
    scores = W.dot(x)                                     # First calculate scores
    margins = np.maximum(0, scores - scores[y] + 1)      # Then calculate the margins  $s_j - s_{y_i} + 1$ 
    margins[y] = 0                                         # only sum j is not  $y_i$ , so when  $j = y_i$ , set to zero.
    loss_i = np.sum(margins)                               # sum across all j
    return loss_i
```

$$f(x, W) = Wx$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, f(x_i; W)_j - f(x_i; W)_{y_i} + 1)$$

Q7. Suppose that we found a W such that $L = 0$.
Is this W unique?

$$f(x, W) = Wx$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, f(x_i; W)_j - f(x_i; W)_{y_i} + 1)$$

E.g. Suppose that we found a W such that $L = 0$.
Is this W unique?

No! $2W$ is also has $L = 0!$

Suppose: 3 training examples, 3 classes.
With some W the scores $f(x, W) = Wx$ are:



cat	3.2	1.3	2.2
car	5.1	4.9	2.5
frog	-1.7	2.0	-3.1
Losses:	2.9		0

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Before:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \max(0, 1.3 - 4.9 + 1) \\
 &\quad + \max(0, 2.0 - 4.9 + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, -2.6) + \max(0, -1.9) \\
 &= 0 + 0 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

With W twice as large:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \max(0, 2.6 - 9.8 + 1) \\
 &\quad + \max(0, 4.0 - 9.8 + 1) \\
 &= \max(0, -6.2) + \max(0, -4.8) \\
 &= 0 + 0 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x, W) = Wx$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, f(x_i; W)_j - f(x_i; W)_{y_i} + 1)$$

E.g. Suppose that we found a W such that $L = 0$.
Is this W unique?

No! $2W$ is also has $L = 0$!

How do we choose between W and $2W$?

Regularization

$$L(W) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)}_{\text{Data loss}}$$

Data loss: Model predictions
should match training data

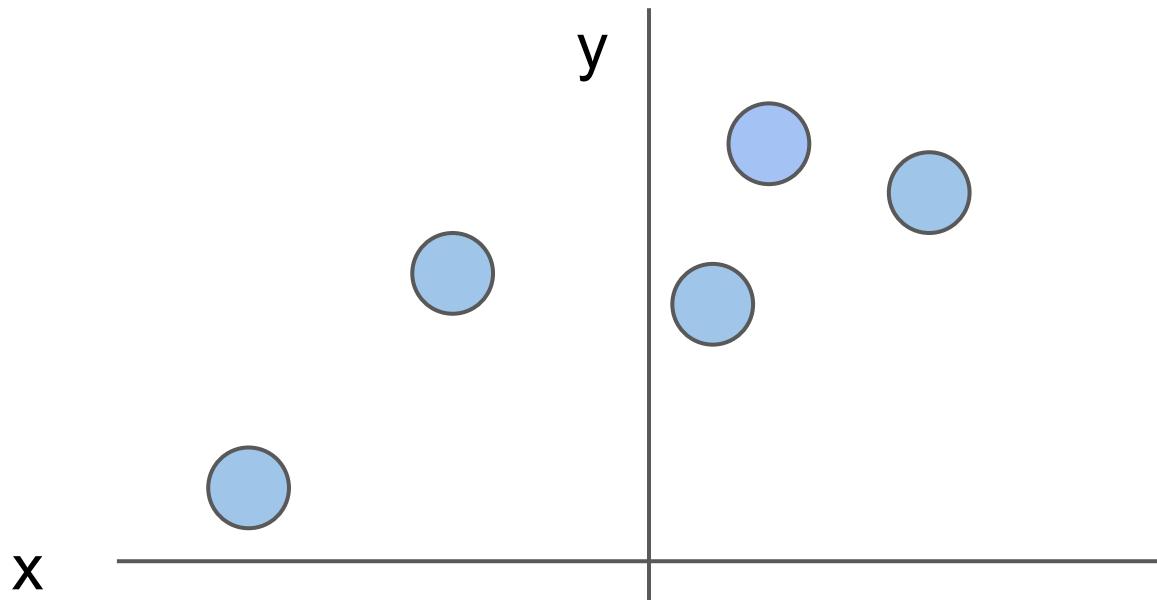
Regularization

$$L(W) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)}_{\text{Data loss: Model predictions should match training data}} + \lambda R(W)$$

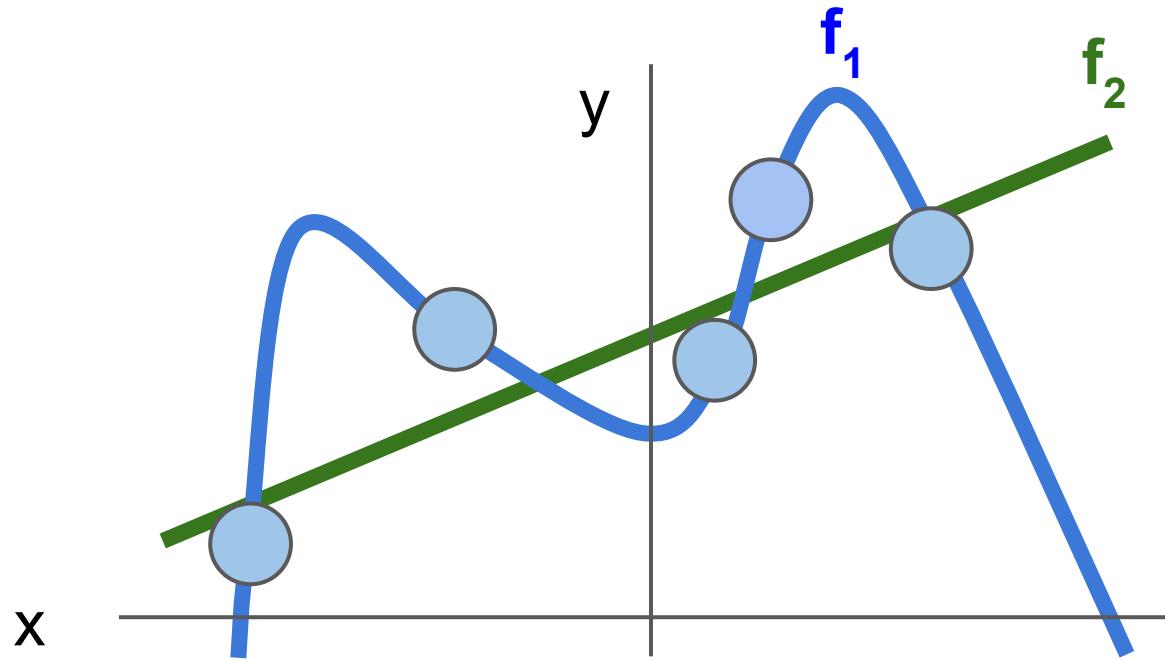

Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

Regularization: Prevent the model from doing *too well* on training data

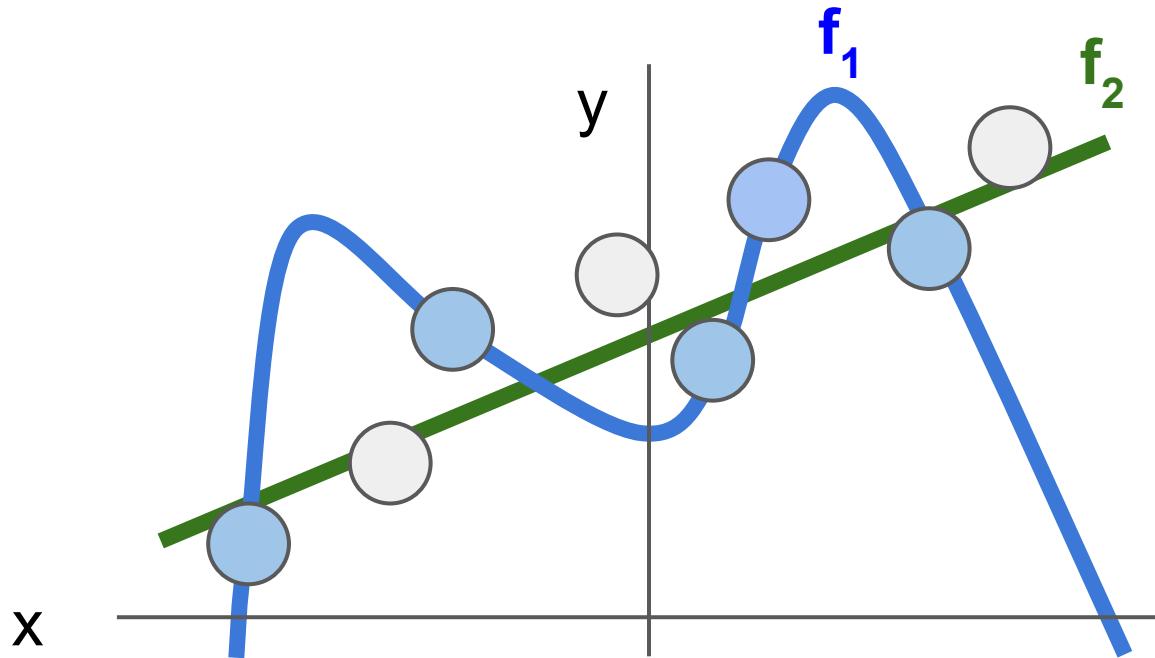
Regularization intuition: toy example training data



Regularization intuition: Prefer Simpler Models



Regularization: Prefer Simpler Models



Regularization pushes against fitting the data
too well so we don't fit noise in the data

Regularization

$$L(W) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)}_{\text{Data loss: Model predictions should match training data}} + \lambda R(W)$$


Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

Regularization: Prevent the model from doing *too well* on training data

Occam's Razor: Among multiple competing hypotheses, the simplest is the best,
William of Ockham 1285-1347

Regularization

λ = regularization strength
(hyperparameter)

$$L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i) + \lambda R(W)$$

Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

Regularization: Prevent the model from doing *too well* on training data

maybe the model has access to polynomials of very high degree, but through this regression term you could encourage the model to prefer polynomials of lower degree, if the fit the data properly.

You could imagine there's 2 ways to do this, either you can constrain your model class to just not contain the more powerful, more complex models, or you can add this soft penalty where the model still has access to more complex models, but the soft constraint says if want to use these more complex models, you need to overcome this penalty for using their complexity.

Regularization

λ = regularization strength
(hyperparameter)

more important hyper param

$$L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i) + \lambda R(W)$$

Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

Regularization: Prevent the model from doing *too well* on training data

Simple examples

L2 regularization: $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$

L1 regularization: $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l |W_{k,l}|$

Elastic net (L1 + L2): $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l \beta W_{k,l}^2 + |W_{k,l}|$

Regularization

λ = regularization strength
(hyperparameter)

$$L(W) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)}_{\text{Data loss: Model predictions should match training data}} + \lambda R(W)$$



Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

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Simple examples

L2 regularization: $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$

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Elastic net (L1 + L2): $R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l \beta W_{k,l}^2 + |W_{k,l}|$

More complex:

Dropout

Batch normalization

Stochastic depth, fractional pooling, etc

more specific to
deep learning

Regularization

λ = regularization strength
(hyperparameter)

$$L(W) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(f(x_i, W), y_i)}_{\text{Data loss: Model predictions should match training data}} + \lambda R(W)$$


Data loss: Model predictions should match training data

Regularization: Prevent the model from doing *too well* on training data

Why regularize?

- Express preferences over weights
- Make the model *simple* so it works on test data
- Improve optimization by adding curvature

Regularization: Expressing Preferences

$$x = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$

$$w_1 = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

$$w_2 = [0.25, 0.25, 0.25, 0.25]$$

L2 Regularization

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$$

Which of w1 or w2 will
the L2 regularizer prefer?

$$w_1^T x = w_2^T x = 1$$

Regularization: Expressing Preferences

$$x = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$

$$w_1 = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

$$w_2 = [0.25, 0.25, 0.25, 0.25]$$

L2 Regularization

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$$

Which of w1 or w2 will
the L2 regularizer prefer?

L2 regularization likes to
“spread out” the weights

$$w_1^T x = w_2^T x = 1$$

Regularization: Expressing Preferences

$$x = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$

$$w_1 = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

$$w_2 = [0.25, 0.25, 0.25, 0.25]$$

L2 Regularization

$$R(W) = \sum_k \sum_l W_{k,l}^2$$

Which of w1 or w2 will
the L2 regularizer prefer?

L2 regularization likes to
“spread out” the weights

$$w_1^T x = w_2^T x = 1$$

Which one would L1
regularization prefer?

Softmax classifier

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k | X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)



Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**

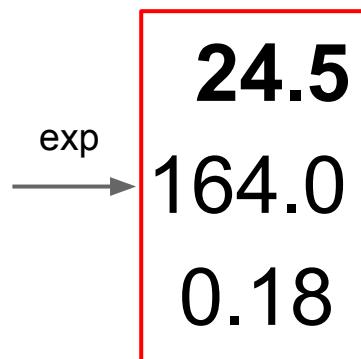
$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7



unnormalized
probabilities

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

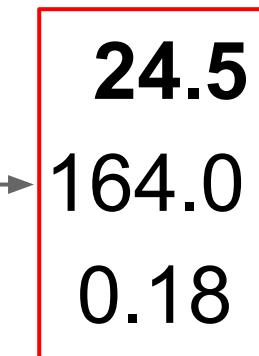
Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

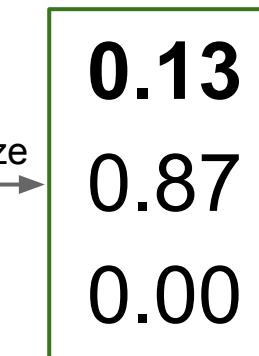
cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

exp



unnormalized
probabilities

normalize



probabilities

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

cat
car
frog

3.2
5.1
-1.7

Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

exp

24.5
164.0
0.18

unnormalized
probabilities

normalize

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

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Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

exp

24.5
164.0
0.18

unnormalized
probabilities

normalize

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

$$\rightarrow L_i = -\log(0.13) \\ = 2.04$$

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$
 Softmax Function

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

Probabilities
must sum to 1

cat
car
frog

3.2
5.1
-1.7

exp

24.5
164.0
0.18

normalize

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

unnormalized
probabilities

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

$$\rightarrow L_i = -\log(0.13) \\ = 2.04$$

Maximum Likelihood Estimation
Choose weights to maximize the likelihood of the observed data
(See CS 229 for details)

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

cat
car
frog

3.2
5.1
-1.7

Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

exp

24.5
164.0
0.18

unnormalized
probabilities

normalize

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

compare

1.00
0.00
0.00

Correct
probs

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

cat
car
frog

3.2
5.1
-1.7

Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

exp

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unnormalized
probabilities

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

Probabilities
must sum to 1

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

normalize

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

compare

Kullback–Leibler
divergence

$$D_{KL}(P||Q) = \sum_y P(y) \log \frac{P(y)}{Q(y)}$$

1.00

0.00

0.00

Correct
probs

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)



Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**

$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

Probabilities
must be ≥ 0

cat
car
frog

3.2
5.1
-1.7

Unnormalized
log-probabilities / logits

exp

24.5
164.0
0.18

unnormalized
probabilities

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

Probabilities
must sum to 1

0.13
0.87
0.00

probabilities

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

compare

1.00

0.00

0.00

Cross Entropy

$$H(P, Q) = H(p) + D_{KL}(P||Q)$$

Correct
probs

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

Maximize probability of correct class

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Putting it all together:

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)



Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**

$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax Function

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Maximize probability of correct class

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

Putting it all together:

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

Q1: What is the min/max possible softmax loss L_i ?
0 / ∞

Q2: At initialization all s_j will be approximately equal;
what is the softmax loss L_i , assuming C classes?

$$-\log\frac{1}{C} = \log C$$

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)



Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**

$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax Function

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Maximize probability of correct class

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

Putting it all together:

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

Q: What is the min/max possible loss L_i ?
A: min 0, max infinity

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)



Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**

$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax Function

Maximize probability of correct class

Putting it all together:

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Q2: At initialization all s_j will be approximately equal; what is the loss?

Softmax Classifier (Multinomial Logistic Regression)

Want to interpret raw classifier scores as **probabilities**



$$s = f(x_i; W)$$

$$P(Y = k|X = x_i) = \frac{e^{s_k}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}$$

Softmax
Function

Maximize probability of correct class

Putting it all together:

$$L_i = -\log P(Y = y_i|X = x_i)$$

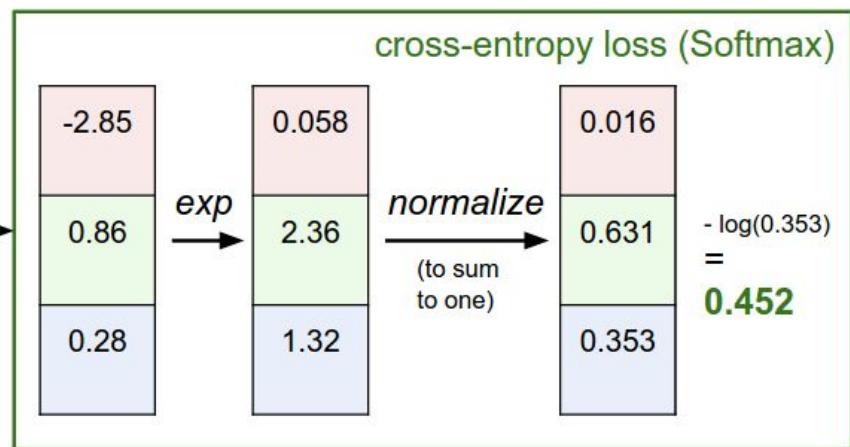
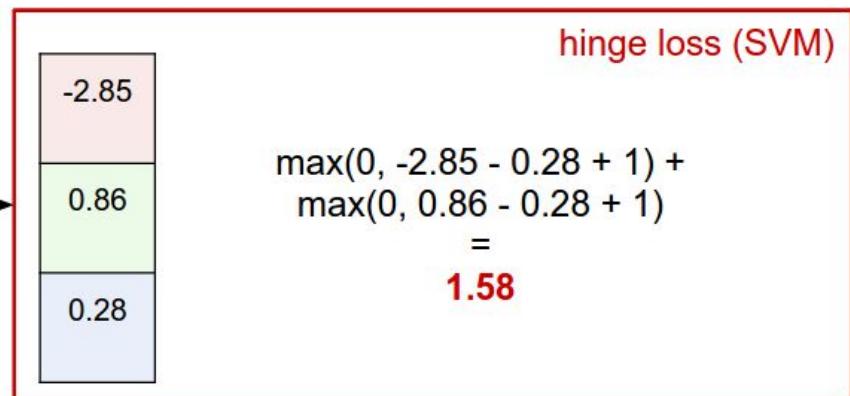
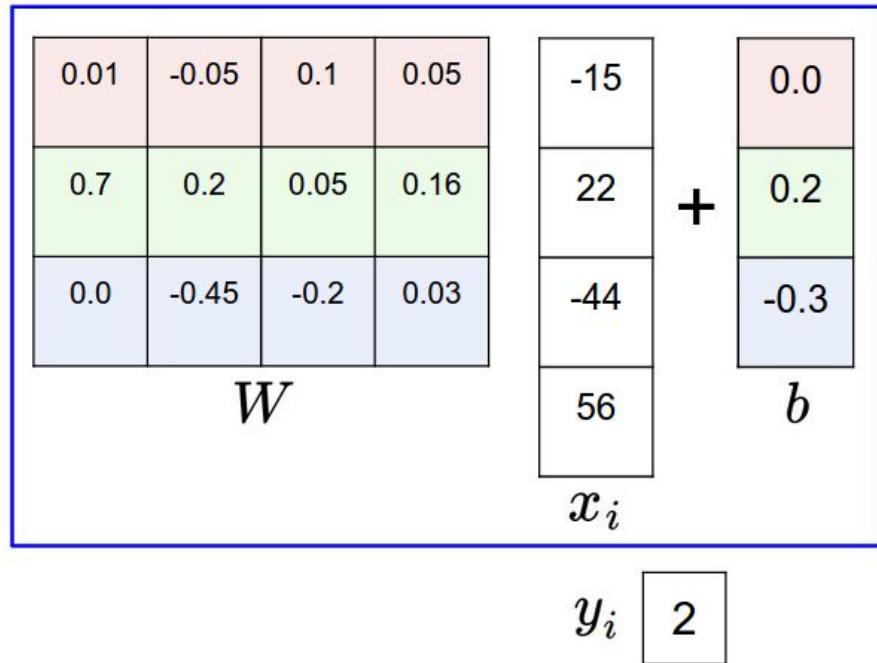
$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

cat	3.2
car	5.1
frog	-1.7

Q2: At initialization all s will be approximately equal; what is the loss?
A: $-\log(1/C) = \log(C)$,
If $C = 10$, then $L_i = \log(10) \approx 2.3$

Softmax vs. SVM

matrix multiply + bias offset



Softmax vs. SVM

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

Softmax vs. SVM

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

assume scores:

[10, -2, 3]

[10, 9, 9]

[10, -100, -100]

and $y_i = 0$

Q: What is the **softmax loss** and the **SVM** loss?

Softmax vs. SVM

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{s_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{s_j}}\right)$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

assume scores:

[10, -2, 3]

[10, 9, 9]

[10, -100, -100]

and

$y_i = 0$

Q: What is the **softmax loss** and the **SVM loss if I double the correct class score from 10 -> 20?**

SVM will get this data point over the bar to be the correctly classified and then just give up.

Whereas softmax will just always try to continually improve every single data point to get better and better.

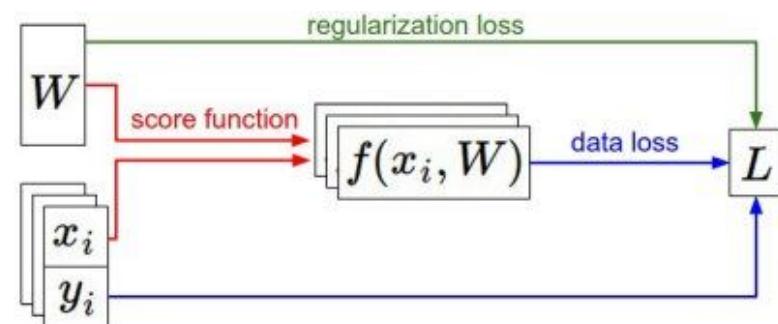
Recap

- We have some dataset of (x, y)
- We have a **score function**: $s = f(x; W) = Wx$ e.g.
- We have a **loss function**:

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{sy_i}}{\sum_j e^{sj}}\right) \quad \text{Softmax}$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \quad \text{SVM}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + R(W) \quad \text{Full loss}$$

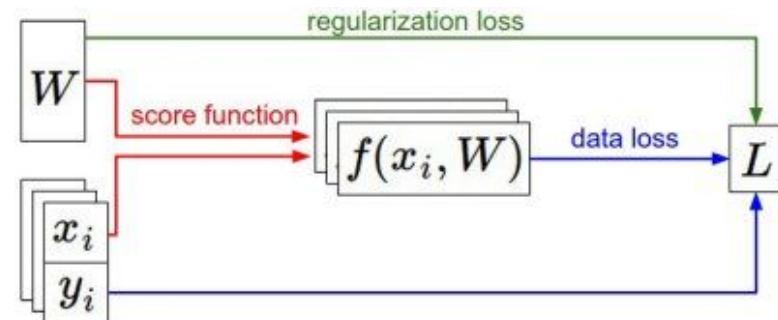


Recap

How do we find the best W ?

- We have some dataset of (x, y)
- We have a **score function**: $s = f(x; W) = Wx$ e.g.
- We have a **loss function**:

$$L_i = -\log\left(\frac{e^{sy_i}}{\sum_j e^{sj}}\right) \quad \text{Softmax}$$
$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \quad \text{SVM}$$
$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + R(W) \quad \text{Full loss}$$



Optimization

How do we find the w ?



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[Walking man image is CC0 1.0 public domain](#)

Strategy #1: A first very bad idea solution: Random search

```
# assume X_train is the data where each column is an example (e.g. 3073 x 50,000)
# assume Y_train are the labels (e.g. 1D array of 50,000)
# assume the function L evaluates the loss function

bestloss = float("inf") # Python assigns the highest possible float value
for num in xrange(1000):
    W = np.random.randn(10, 3073) * 0.0001 # generate random parameters
    loss = L(X_train, Y_train, W) # get the loss over the entire training set
    if loss < bestloss: # keep track of the best solution
        bestloss = loss
        bestW = W
    print 'in attempt %d the loss was %f, best %f' % (num, loss, bestloss)

# prints:
# in attempt 0 the loss was 9.401632, best 9.401632
# in attempt 1 the loss was 8.959668, best 8.959668
# in attempt 2 the loss was 9.044034, best 8.959668
# in attempt 3 the loss was 9.278948, best 8.959668
# in attempt 4 the loss was 8.857370, best 8.857370
# in attempt 5 the loss was 8.943151, best 8.857370
# in attempt 6 the loss was 8.605604, best 8.605604
# ... (truncated: continues for 1000 lines)
```

Lets see how well this works on the test set...

```
# Assume X_test is [3073 x 10000], Y_test [10000 x 1]
scores = Wbest.dot(Xte_cols) # 10 x 10000, the class scores for all test examples
# find the index with max score in each column (the predicted class)
Yte_predict = np.argmax(scores, axis = 0)
# and calculate accuracy (fraction of predictions that are correct)
np.mean(Yte_predict == Yte)
# returns 0.1555
```

15.5% accuracy! not bad!
(SOTA is ~99.3%)

Strategy #2: Follow the slope



Strategy #2: Follow the slope

In 1-dimension, the derivative of a function:

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

In multiple dimensions, the **gradient** is the vector of (partial derivatives) along each dimension

i.e. dot product has biggest value if 2 vector are in same direction.

The slope in any direction is the **dot product** of the direction with the gradient
The direction of steepest descent is the **negative gradient**

current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25347

gradient dW:

[?,
?,
?,
?,
?,
?,
?,
?,
?,
?,...]

current W:	W + h (first dim):	gradient dW:
[0.34, -1.11, 0.78, 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...] loss 1.25347	[0.34 + 0.0001, -1.11, 0.78, 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...] loss 1.25322	[?, , , , , , , , ,...]

current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25347

W + h (first dim):

[0.34 + 0.0001,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25322

gradient dW:

[-2.5,

?,

?,

$$\frac{(1.25322 - 1.25347)}{0.0001} = -2.5$$

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

?,

?,...]

current W:	W + h (second dim):	gradient dW:
[0.34, -1.11, 0.78, 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...]	[0.34, -1.11 + 0.0001 , 0.78, 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...]	[-2.5, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?,...]

loss 1.25347 **loss 1.25353**

current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss **1.25347**

W + h (second dim):

[0.34,
-1.11 + **0.0001**,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss **1.25353**

gradient dW:

[-2.5,
0.6,
?,
?]

$$\frac{(1.25353 - 1.25347)}{0.0001} = 0.6$$

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

?,...]

current W:	W + h (third dim):	gradient dW:
[0.34, -1.11, 0.78, 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...]	[0.34, -1.11, 0.78 + 0.0001 , 0.12, 0.55, 2.81, -3.1, -1.5, 0.33,...]	[-2.5, 0.6, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?,...]

loss 1.25347

loss 1.25347

current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss **1.25347**

W + h (third dim):

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78 + **0.0001**,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss **1.25347**

gradient dW:

[-2.5,
0.6,
0,
?,
0]

$$\frac{(1.25347 - 1.25347)}{0.0001} = 0$$

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

?, ...]

current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25347

W + h (third dim):

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78 + **0.0001**,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25347

gradient dW:

[-2.5,
0.6,
0,
?,
?]

[...,]

Numeric Gradient

- Slow! Need to loop over all dimensions
- Approximate

This is silly. The loss is just a function of W :

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \sum_k W_k^2$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

want $\nabla_W L$

This is silly. The loss is just a function of W:

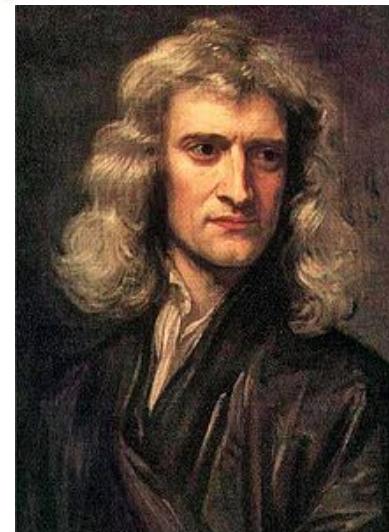
$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \sum_k W_k^2$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

want $\nabla_W L$

Use calculus to compute an analytic gradient



[This image](#) is in the public domain



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current W:

[0.34,
-1.11,
0.78,
0.12,
0.55,
2.81,
-3.1,
-1.5,
0.33,...]

loss 1.25347

gradient dW:

[-2.5,
0.6,
0,
0.2,
0.7,
-0.5,
1.1,
1.3,
-2.1,...]

dW = ...
(some function
data and W)



In summary:

- Numerical gradient: approximate, slow, easy to write
- Analytic gradient: exact, fast, error-prone

=>

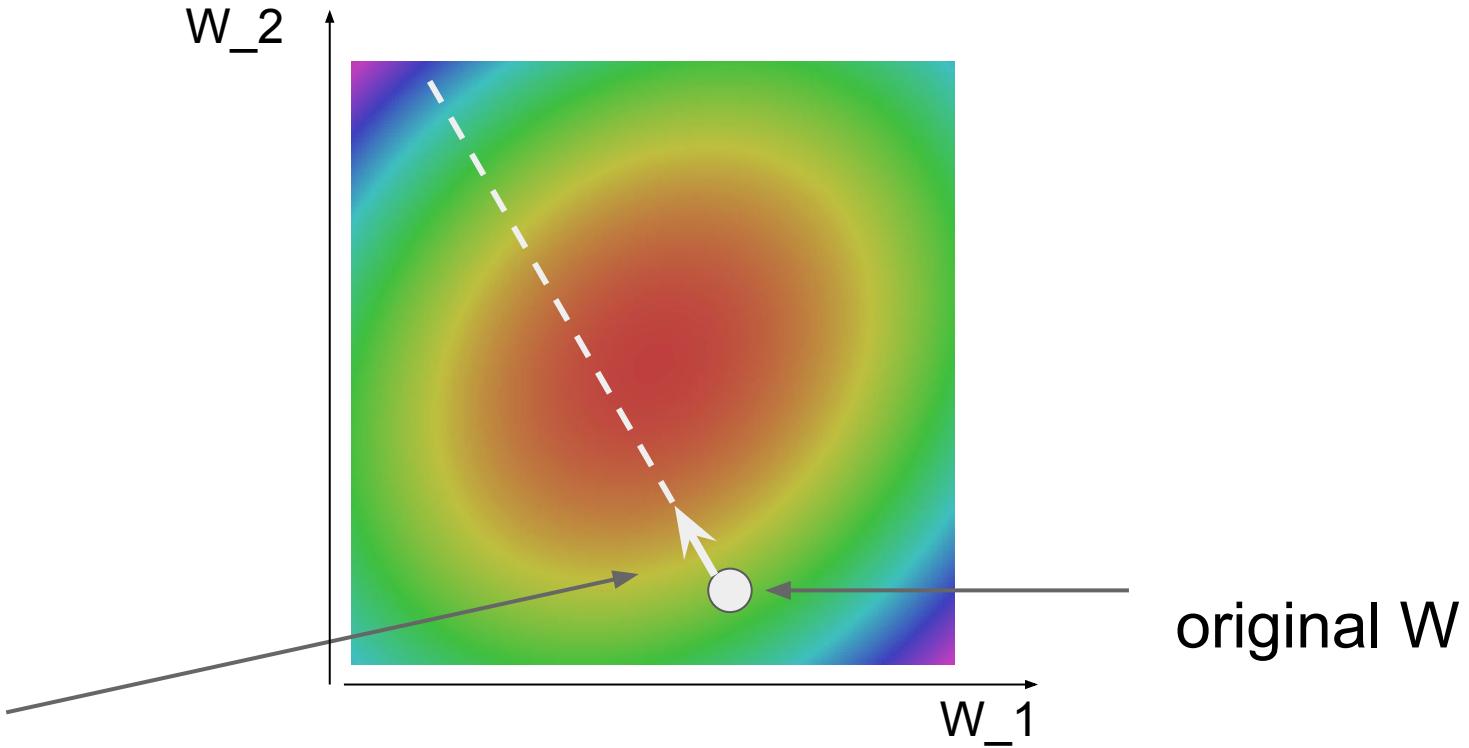
In practice: Always use analytic gradient, but check implementation with numerical gradient. This is called a **gradient check**.

Gradient Descent

```
# Vanilla Gradient Descent

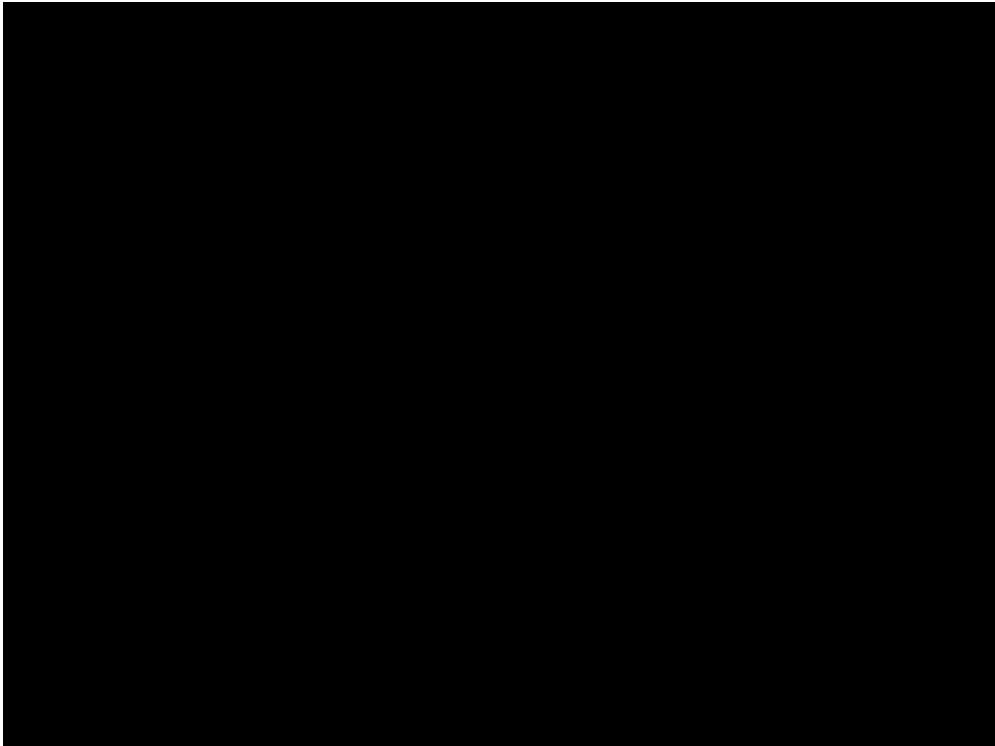
while True:
    weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data, weights)
    weights += - step_size * weights_grad # perform parameter update
```

step_size: one of the most important hyper-parameters



negative gradient direction

original W



Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

$$L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i(x_i, y_i, W) + \lambda R(W)$$

$$\nabla_W L(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \nabla_W L_i(x_i, y_i, W) + \lambda \nabla_W R(W)$$

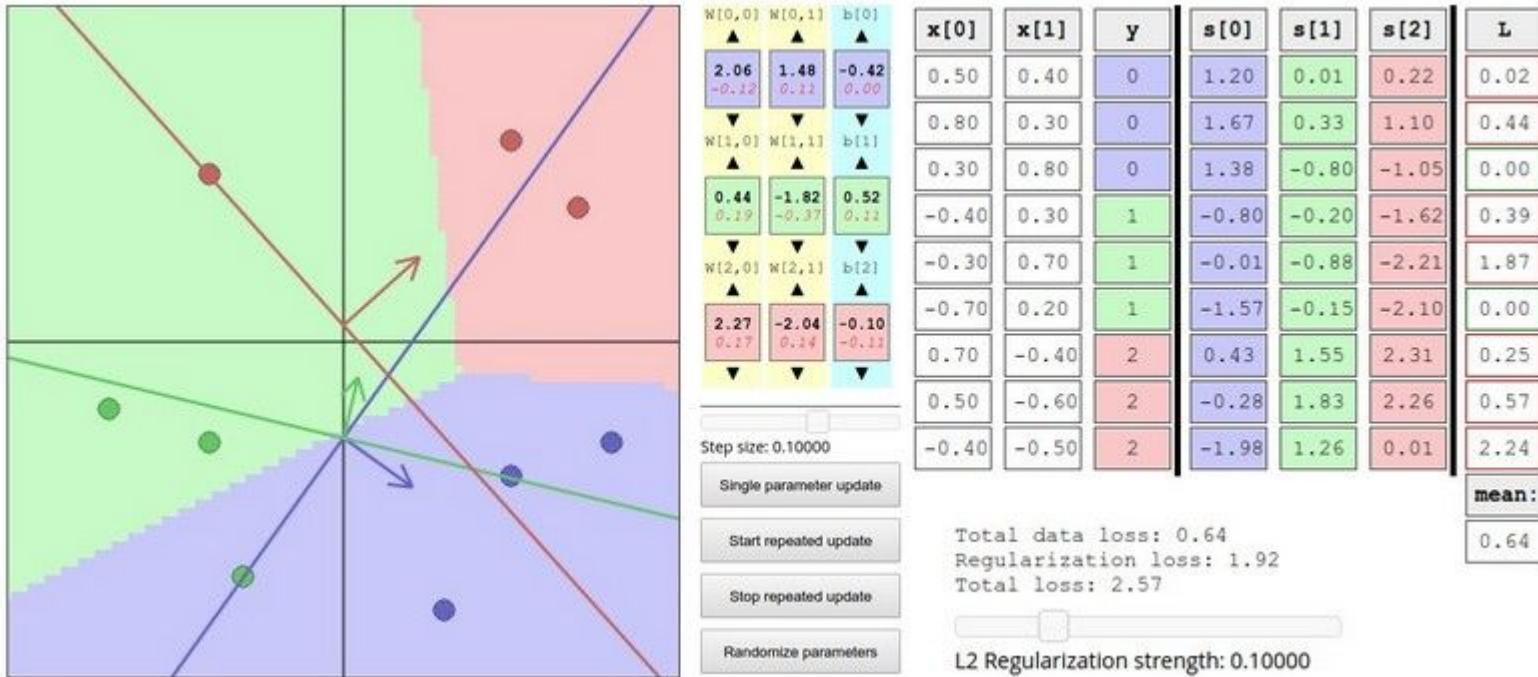
Full sum expensive
when N is large!

Approximate sum
using a **minibatch** of
examples
32 / 64 / 128 common

```
# Vanilla Minibatch Gradient Descent
```

```
while True:  
    data_batch = sample_training_data(data, 256) # sample 256 examples  
    weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data_batch, weights)  
    weights += - step_size * weights_grad # perform parameter update
```

Interactive Web Demo



<http://vision.stanford.edu/teaching/cs231n-demos/linear-classify/>

Next time:

Introduction to neural networks

Backpropagation