


# Binary Classification

BSDS 100, Spring 2021  
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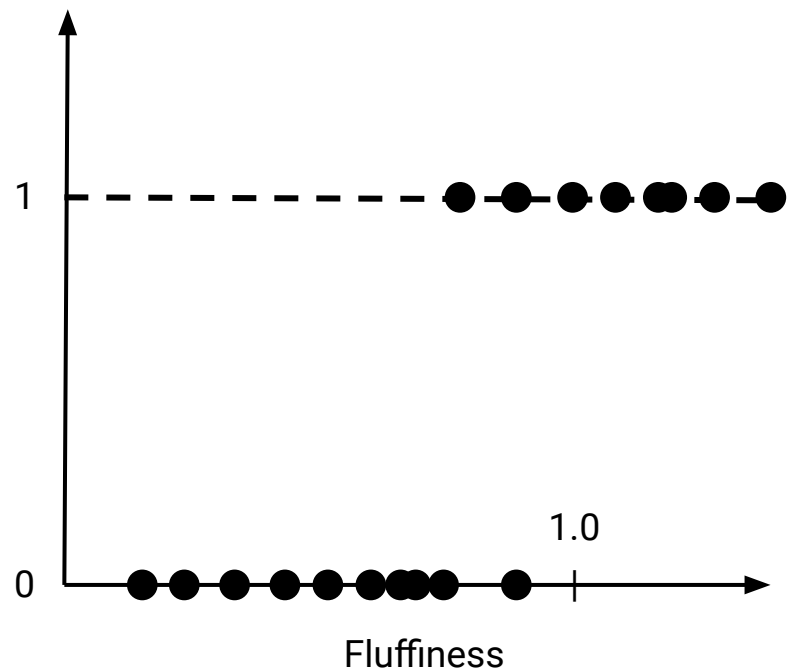
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# Binary Classification

- Binary Classification is the task of classifying inputs in two groups.
- Examples
  - Classify images as either Cat or Dog
  - Emails: Spam or Not Spam
  - Medical Diagnosis: Positive or Negative Diagnosis

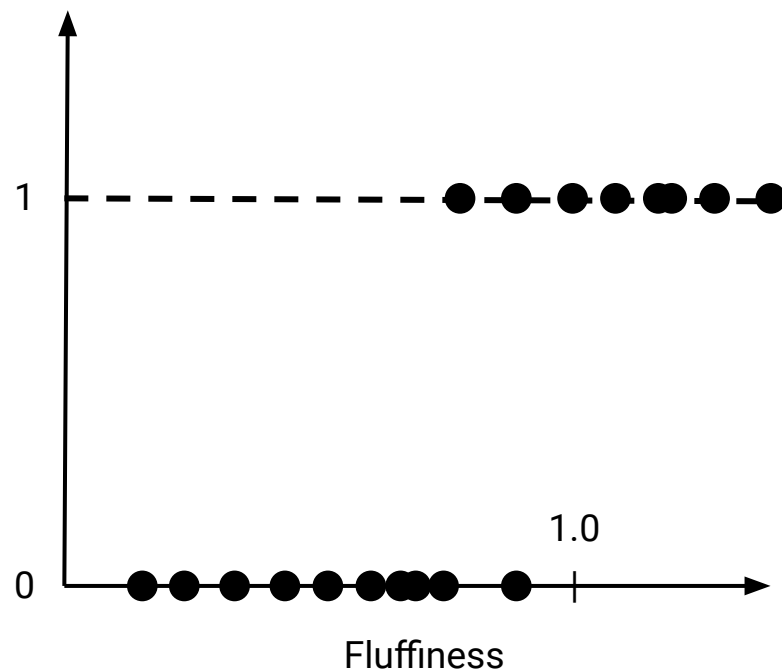
# Univariate Binary Classification

- Binary classification with one variable as an input *feature*.
- Example: Classify as “Cat” or “Not Cat” based on Fluffiness
- “Not Cat” is encoded as 0 and “Cat” is encoded as 1



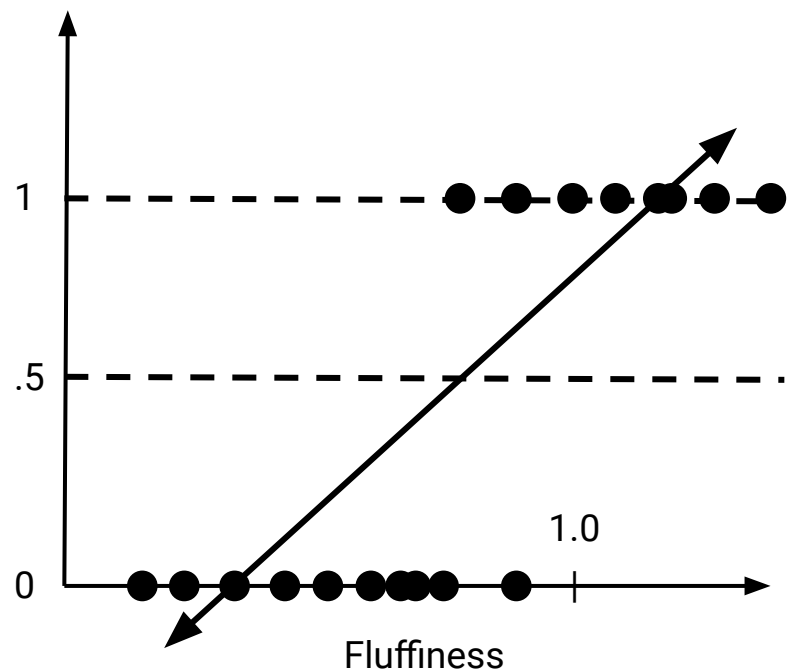
# Univariate Binary Classification

- Goal: Construct a model that outputs the probability of being a Cat given its Fluffiness score.



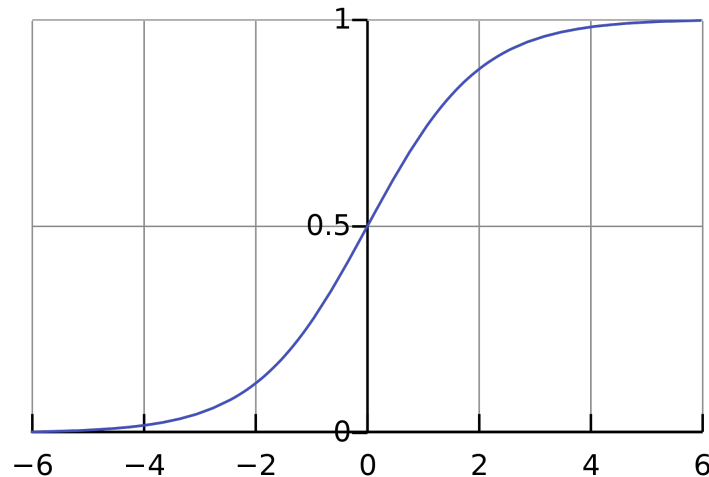
# Univariate Binary Classification

- Goal: Construct a model that outputs the probability of being a Cat, given its Fluffiness score.
- Linear Model doesn't do a great here....



# Univariate Binary Classification

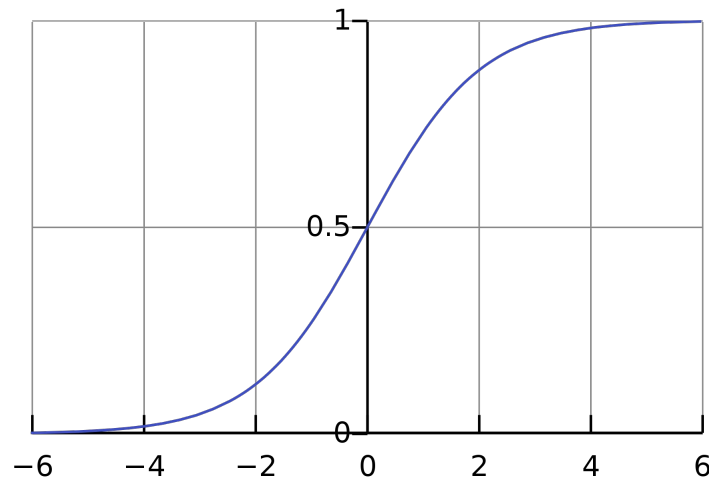
- Instead we often use what is called a **logistic model**.
- As  $x$  becomes more negative, the function  $p(x)$  approaches zero.
- As  $x$  becomes larger, the function  $p(x)$  approaches 1.
- *Sigmoid*



$$p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

# Univariate Binary Classification

- To fit a logistic model to data, we can introduce a more general *model family* with parameters.
- Equivalent to applying  $p(x)$  to a linear function of  $x$ .

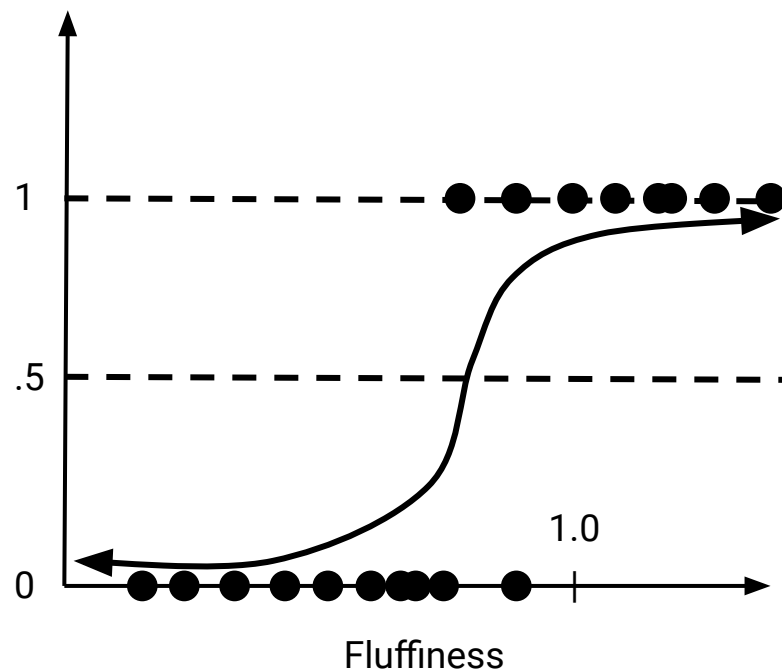


$$p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2 x)}}$$

# Univariate Binary Classification

- Fitting a logistic model means choosing “good” values for parameters  $a_1$  and  $a_2$ .

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2 x)}}$$

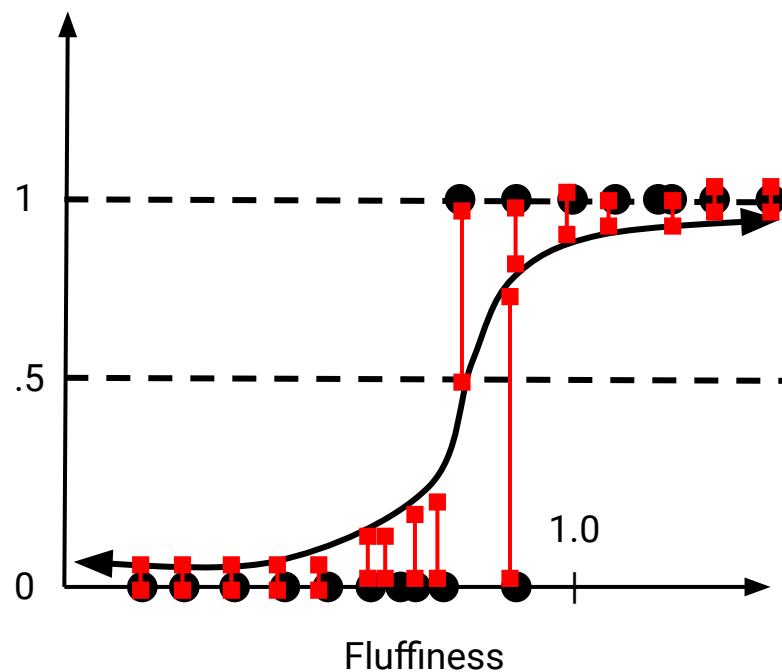




# Binary Cross-Entropy Loss

- As before we can estimate the error of our prediction.
- Error for a single point:

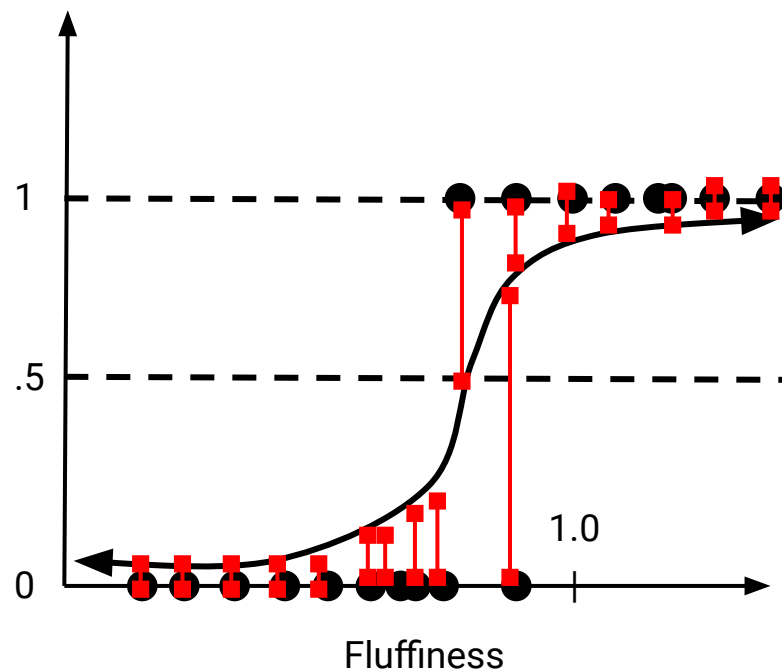
$$y(1 - p(x)) + (1 - y)p(x)$$



# Binary Cross-Entropy Loss

- But for BCE Loss we measure how *well* the model does (and take the negative).

$$-[yp(x) + (1 - y)(1 - p(x))]$$

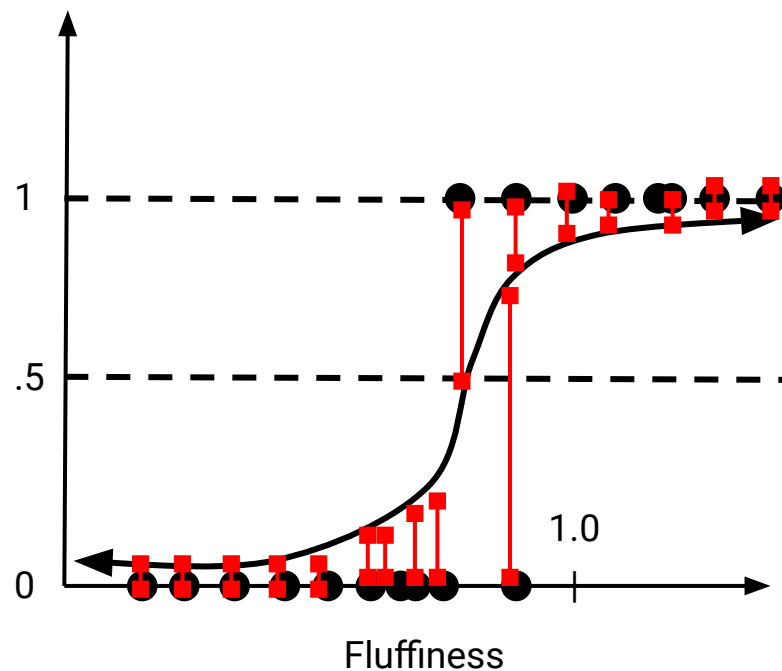


# Binary Cross-Entropy Loss

- Instead of measuring probabilities we measure the *logarithm* of the probabilities.

$$-[y \log(p(x)) + (1 - y) \log(1 - p(x))]$$

- Based on a dissimilarity measure between prob. distributions.



# Binary Cross-Entropy Loss

- Finally we average this score over all points in our training data.

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N -[y_i \log(p(x_i)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p(x_i))]}{N}$$

- Optimization: Find values of  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  that minimize above.

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2 x)}}$$

# Binary Cross-Entropy Loss

- Find parameters in our model family that minimize the loss function

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N -[y_i \log(p(x_i)) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p(x_i))]}{N}$$

↖ Loss

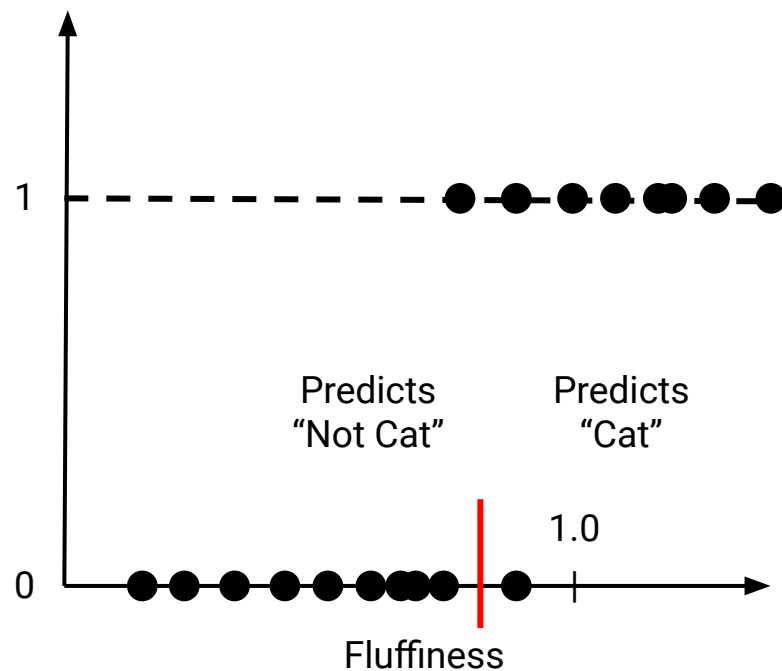
$$p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2 x)}}$$

parameters ↗ ↘

← model family

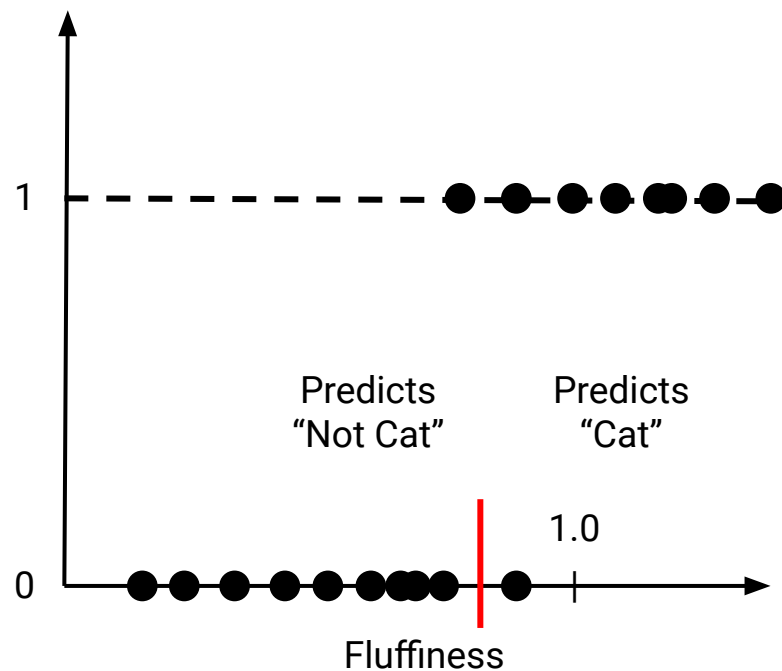
# Decision Boundary

- We can also interpret the logistic model as finding a good *decision boundary*.



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- Model:  $a_1 + a_2 x$
- Positive -> "Cat"
- Negative -> "Not Cat"



# Decision Boundary

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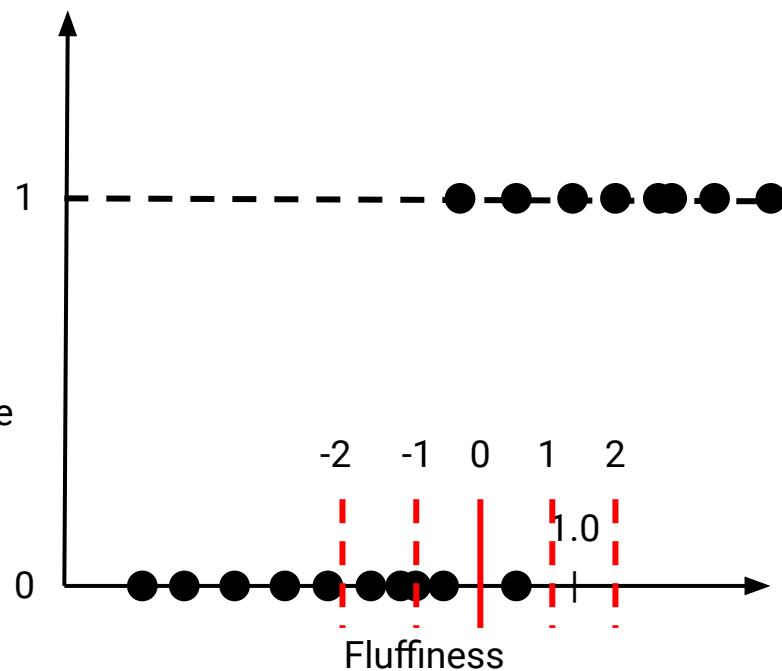
Position of boundary

- Model:  $a_1 + a_2 x$

- Positive -> "Cat"

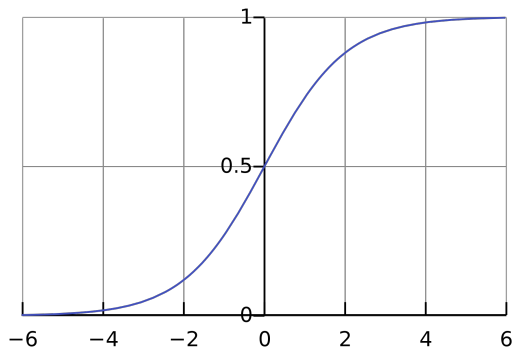
Scaling of magnitude  
"confidence"

- Negative -> "Not Cat"





# Decision Boundary

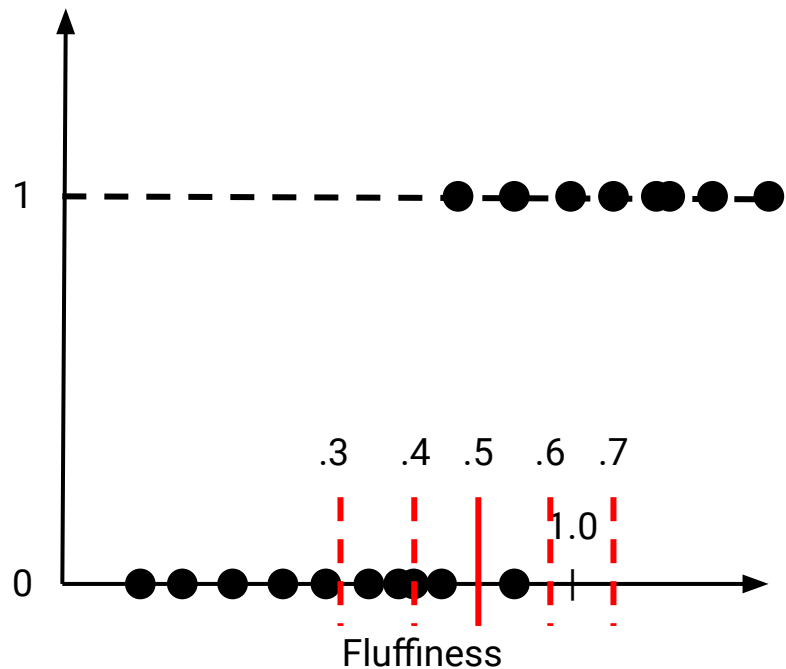


- Model:

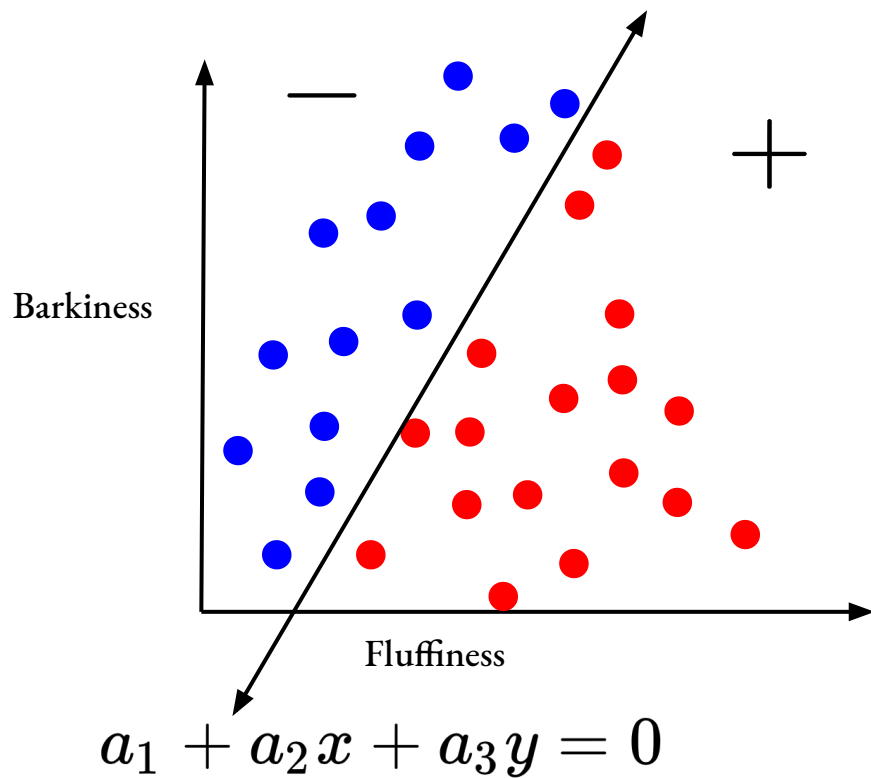
$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2 x)}}$$

$p(x) > .5 \rightarrow \text{"Cat"}$

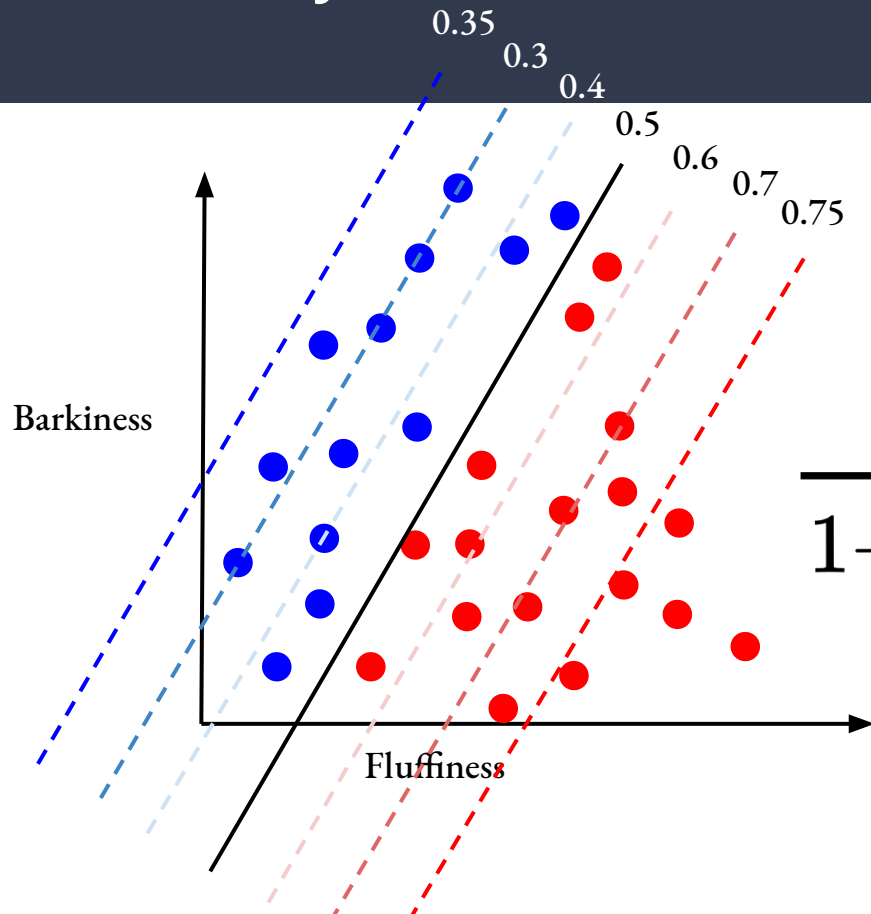
-  $p(x) < .5 \rightarrow \text{"Not Cat"}$



# Decision Boundary



# Decision Boundary



$$\frac{1}{1 + e^{-(a_1 + a_2x + a_3y)}}$$

# Summary

- The steps for logistic regression are the same as for linear regression
  - Good Model Family and Loss Function
  - Find parameters that minimize Loss
- We can implement it from scratch almost identically to how we implemented linear regression in R
- We will also see that these models are so common that there are built-in methods for linear/logistic regression