

Categorical Cross-Entropy

Loss Function for Multiclass Classification

Formula:

$$L = -\sum_k y_k \log(\hat{y}_k)$$

One-hot Encoding:

$$\mathbf{y} = [0, 0, 1, 0, \dots]$$

for true class

Combined with Softmax:

$$\text{Softmax} + \text{CCE}$$

Differentiable end-to-end



Generalizes binary cross-entropy to **K classes**



Penalizes deviation from true class distribution

Gradient:

$$\hat{y}_k - y_k$$

(elegant and simple!)

Binary → 2 classes

Categorical → K classes