

Classification Loss: Cross-Entropy

Measuring dissimilarity between predicted and true distributions



Core Concept

Measures the difference between predicted probability distribution and actual labels, outputting probability distribution through Softmax activation

✓ Encourages high confidence for correct classes

✓ Larger penalty for confident wrong predictions

≡ Equivalent to maximizing log-likelihood of correct class

1

Binary Cross-Entropy

Used for binary classification problems

2 Classes (0 or 1)

2

Categorical Cross-Entropy

Used for multi-class classification problems

N Classes (Multi-class)



Calculation Examples

Binary Cross-Entropy Examples

Categorical Cross-Entropy Examples

$$\text{Loss} = -[y \cdot \log(p) + (1-y) \cdot \log(1-p)]$$

True=1, Pred=0.95

Loss = 0.051

True=1, Pred=0.70

Loss = 0.357

True=0, Pred=0.10

Loss = 0.105

True=1, Pred=0.50

Loss = 0.693

True=1, Pred=0.20

Loss = 1.609

$$\text{Loss} = -\sum y \cdot \log(p) \text{ (only correct class)}$$

True=[0,1,0], Pred=[0.1,0.8,0.1]

Loss = 0.223

True=[1,0,0], Pred=[0.7,0.2,0.1]

Loss = 0.357

True=[0,0,1], Pred=[0.2,0.2,0.6]

Loss = 0.511

True=[0,1,0], Pred=[0.4,0.4,0.2]

Loss = 0.916

True=[1,0,0], Pred=[0.2,0.5,0.3]

Loss = 1.609