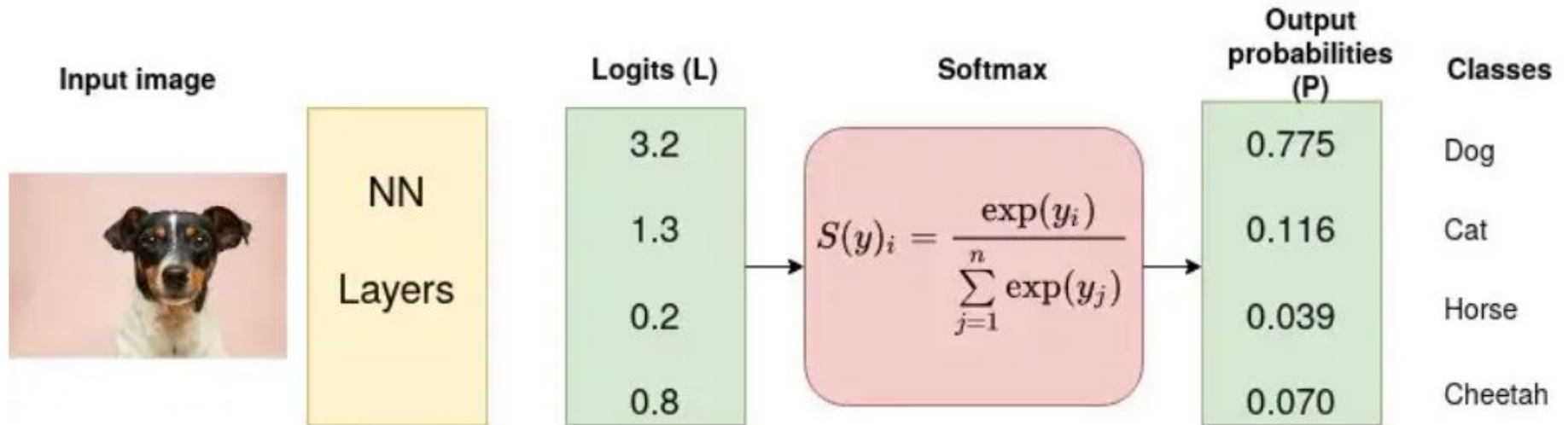


Multiclass Classification

Softmax

Sparse categorical cross-entropy

Softmax: From Logits to Probabilities



Input image source: Photo by [Victor Grabarczyk](#) on [Unsplash](#) . Diagram by author.

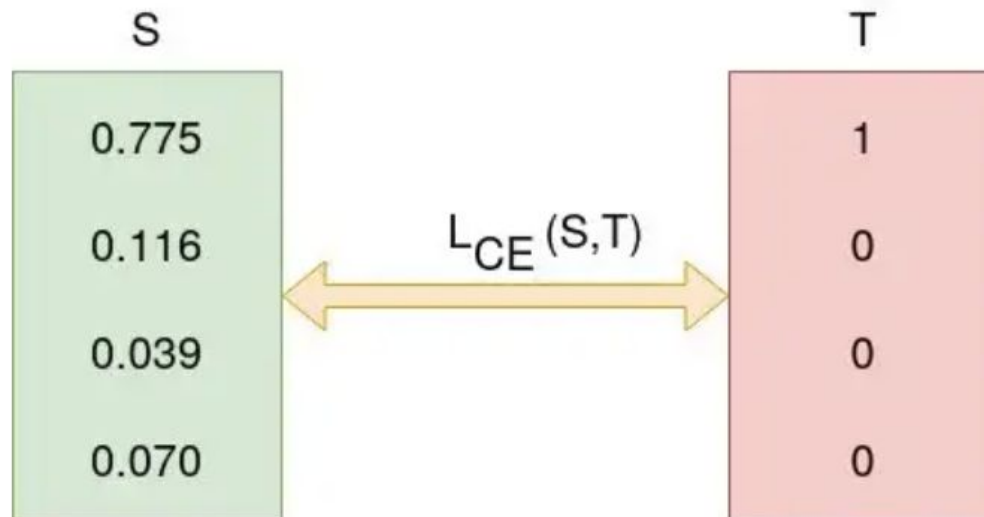
Softmax

$$\sigma(\mathbf{z})_i = \frac{e^{z_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^K e^{z_j}}$$

- The softmax function takes as input a vector of K real numbers and normalizes it into a probability distribution consisting of K probabilities proportional to the exponentials of the input numbers. That is:
 - Prior to applying softmax, some vector components could be negative, or greater than one; and might not sum to 1; but after applying softmax, each component will be in the interval (0,1)
 - The components will add up to 1, so that they can be interpreted as probabilities
 - The larger input components will correspond to larger probabilities.

Categorical cross-entropy

- Computes the *cross-entropy loss* between the labels and predictions.
- Cross-entropy is a quantity from the field of information theory that measures the distance between probability distributions or, in this case, between the ground-truth distribution and the model's predictions.



Categorical cross-entropy

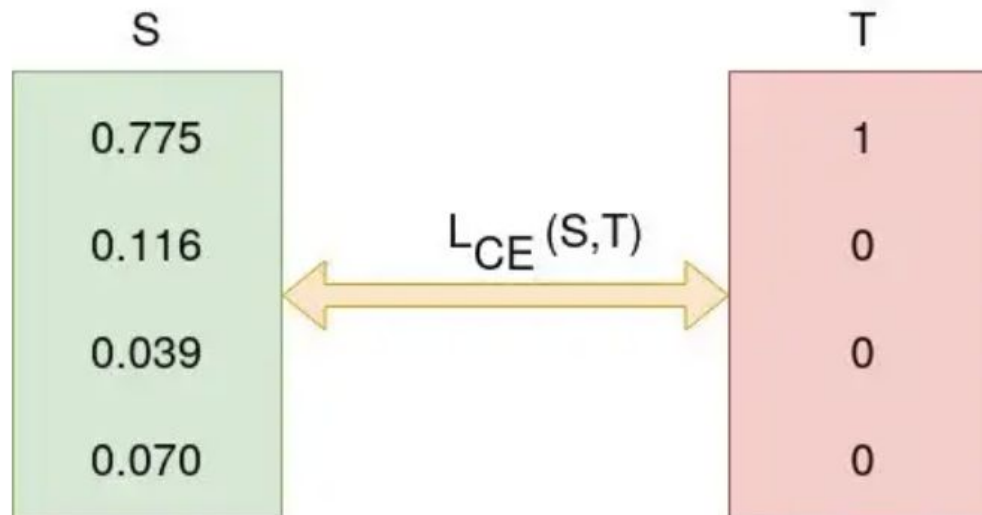
$$L_{\text{CE}} = - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \log(p_i), \text{ for } n \text{ classes,}$$

where t_i is the truth label and p_i is the Softmax probability for the i^{th} class.

Categorical cross-entropy

$$L_{CE} = - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \log(p_i), \text{ for } n \text{ classes,}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_{CE} &= - \sum_{i=1} T_i \log(S_i) \\ &= - [1 \log_2(0.775) + 0 \log_2(0.126) + 0 \log_2(0.039) + 0 \log_2(0.070)] \\ &= - \log_2(0.775) \\ &= 0.3677 \end{aligned}$$



Sparse Categorical cross-entropy

- Categorical cross-entropy is used when true labels are one-hot encoded, for example, we have the following true values for 3-class classification problem $[1,0,0]$, $[0,1,0]$ and $[0,0,1]$.
- In **sparse categorical cross-entropy** , truth labels are integer encoded, for example, $[1]$, $[2]$ and $[3]$ for 3-class problem.