

→ Logistic Regression

- What is logistic regression

Statistical classification method used to predict the probability of a categorical outcome, most commonly binary outcomes (0 or 1, Yes or No). It is used for classification, not regression.

- Why it is used

- Predicts probabilities
- Performs binary and multiclass classification
- Simple, fast and interpretable
- Works well when the relationship between features and log-odds is linear
- Provides clear decision boundaries.

- How it works

- Takes input features \mathbf{x}
- Computes a linear combination of inputs
- Applies the sigmoid (logistic) function
- Converts output into a probability (0 to 1)
- Uses a threshold (e.g., 0.5) to assign class labels.

- Where it is used

- Machine learning
- Data Science
- Healthcare analytics
- Finance & banking
- Marketing analytics
- Social science, research

- Formula

- Linear Combination: $z = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n$
- Sigmoid function: $\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$
- Logistic Regression model: $P(y=1|x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \dots + \beta_n x_n)}}$

- Technical Details

- Types: Binary, Multinomial, Ordinal
- Cost Function (Log Loss / Binary Cross-Entropy):

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [y_i \log(\hat{y}_i) + (1-y_i) \log(1-\hat{y}_i)]$$
- Optimization: Gradient Descent

Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

Evaluation metrics: Accuracy

Precision, Recall

F1-Score

ROC-AUC

Confusion Matrix

- Pros

- Outputs probabilities, not just classes
- Easy to interpret coefficients
- Computationally efficient
- Works well with linearly separable data
- Less prone to overfitting than complex models.

- Cons

- Assumes linear decision boundary.
- Cannot capture complex non-linear relationships.
- Sensitive to outliers.
- Requires feature scaling for faster convergence.
- Performance drops with highly imbalanced data.

- Real World Application (Where)

- Healthcare: Disease diagnosis (Yes/No)
Patient risk prediction
- Finance: Credit default prediction
Fraud detection
- Marketing: Customer churn prediction
Ad click prediction
- HR Analytics: Employee attrition prediction
- Cybersecurity: Spam detection
Intrusion detection

- Assumptions

- Binary dependent variables
- Independent observations
- Little or no multicollinearity
- Linear relationship between predictors and log-odds
- Large sample size preferred

- Purpose

- Predict the probability of an event occurring
- Classify data into discrete categories, especially binary classes
- Model the relationship between features and log-odds of outcome
- Support decision-making using probability thresholds
- Provide interpretable classification results.