

$$= \hat{y}(1 - \hat{y}) \cdot x_j$$

The last equality is because the only term in the sum which is not a constant with respect to w_j is precisely $w_j x_j$, which clearly has derivative x_j .

Now, we can go ahead and calculate the derivative of the error E at a point x , with respect to the weight w_j .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} E &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} [-y \log(\hat{y}) - (1 - y) \log(1 - \hat{y})] \\ &= -y \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} \log(\hat{y}) - (1 - y) \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} \log(1 - \hat{y}) \\ &= -y \cdot \frac{1}{\hat{y}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} \hat{y} - (1 - y) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \hat{y}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial w_j} (1 - \hat{y}) \\ &= -y \cdot \frac{1}{\hat{y}} \cdot \hat{y}(1 - \hat{y})x_j - (1 - y) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \hat{y}} \cdot (-1)\hat{y}(1 - \hat{y})x_j \\ &= -y(1 - \hat{y}) \cdot x_j + (1 - y)\hat{y} \cdot x_j \\ &= -(y - \hat{y})x_j \end{aligned}$$

A similar calculation will show us that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b} E = -(y - \hat{y})$$

This actually tells us something very important. For a point with coordinates (x_1, \dots, x_n) , label y , and prediction \hat{y} , the gradient of the error function at that point is $-(y - \hat{y})x_1, \dots, -(y - \hat{y})x_n, -(y - \hat{y})$. In summary, the gradient is

$$\nabla E = -(y - \hat{y})(x_1, \dots, x_n, 1).$$

If you think about it, this is fascinating. The gradient is actually a scalar times the coordinates of the point! And what is the scalar? Nothing less than a multiple of the difference between the label and the prediction. What significance does this have?