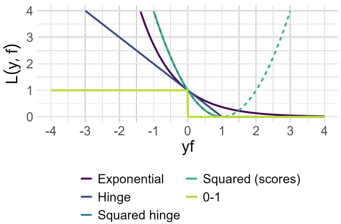
Introduction to Machine Learning

Advanced Risk Minimization

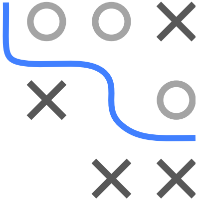
Advanced Classification Losses



Learning goals

- Know the (squared) hinge loss
- Know the *L*2 loss defined on scores
- Know the exponential loss
- Know the AUC loss

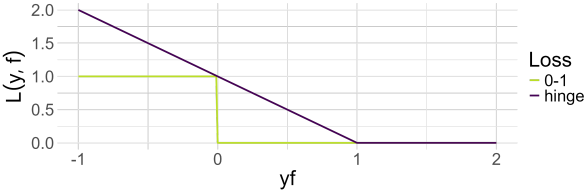
HINGE LOSS



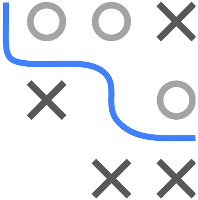
- The intuitive appeal of the 0-1-loss is set off by its analytical properties ill-suited to direct optimization.
- The **hinge loss** is a continuous relaxation that acts as a convex upper bound on the 0-1-loss (for $y \in \{-1, +1\}$):

$$L(y, f) = \max\{0, 1 - yf\}.$$

- Note that the hinge loss only equals zero for a margin ≥ 1, encouraging confident (correct) predictions.
- It resembles a door hinge, hence the name:



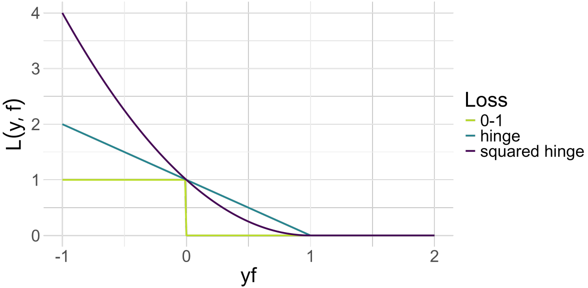
SQUARED HINGE LOSS



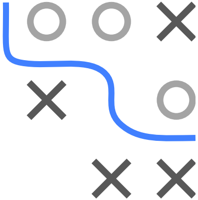
- We can also specify a **squared** version for the hinge loss:

$$L(y,f) = \max\{0, (1 - yf)\}^2.$$

- The $L2$ form punishes margins $yf \in (0,1)$ less severely but puts a high penalty on more confidently wrong predictions.
- Therefore, it is smoother yet more outlier-sensitive than the non-squared hinge loss.



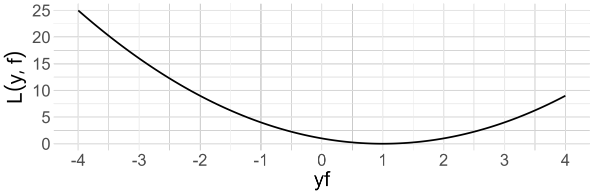
SQUARED LOSS ON SCORES



- Analogous to the Brier score defined on probabilities we can specify a **squared loss on classification scores** (again, $y \in \{-1, +1\}$, using that $y^2 \equiv 1$):

$$\begin{aligned} L(y, f) = &\quad (y - f)^2 = y^2 - 2yf + f^2 = \\ = &\quad 1 - 2yf + (yf)^2 = (1 - yf)^2 \end{aligned}$$

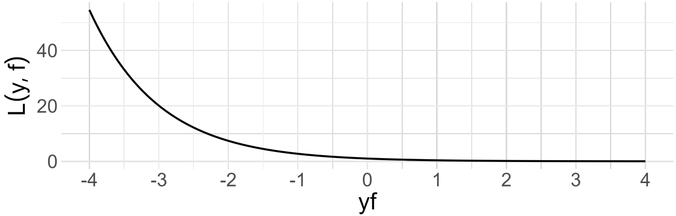
- This loss behaves just like the squared hinge loss for $yf < 1$, but is zero only for $yf = 1$ and actually increases again for larger margins (which is in general not desirable!)



CLASSIFICATION LOSSES: EXPONENTIAL LOSS

Another smooth approximation to the 0-1-loss is the **exponential loss**:

- $L(y, f) = \exp(-yf)$, used in AdaBoost.
- Convex, differentiable (thus easier to optimize than 0-1-loss).
- Loss increases exponentially for wrong predictions with high confidence; if prediction is correct but with low confidence only, the loss is still positive.
- No closed-form analytic solution to (empirical) risk minimization.



CLASSIFICATION LOSSES: AUC-LOSS

- Often AUC is used as an evaluation criterion for binary classifiers.
- Let $y \in \{-1, +1\}$ with n_- negative and n_+ positive samples.
- The AUC can then be defined as

$$AUC = \frac{1}{n_+}\frac{1}{n_-} \sum_{i:y^{(i)}=1} \sum_{j:y^{(j)}=-1} [f^{(i)} > f^{(j)}]$$

- This is not differentiable w.r.t f due to indicator $[f^{(i)} > f^{(j)}]$.
- The indicator function can be approximated by the distribution function of the triangular distribution on $[-1, 1]$ with mean 0.
- However, direct optimization of the AUC is numerically difficult and might not work as well as using a common loss and tuning for AUC in practice.