

Fenchel-Young Losses with Skewed Entropies

for Class-posterior Probability Estimation



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Keywords: loss function, proper scoring rule, binary classification, convex analysis

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Logistic Regression | Modeling Binary Outcomes

- Logit model

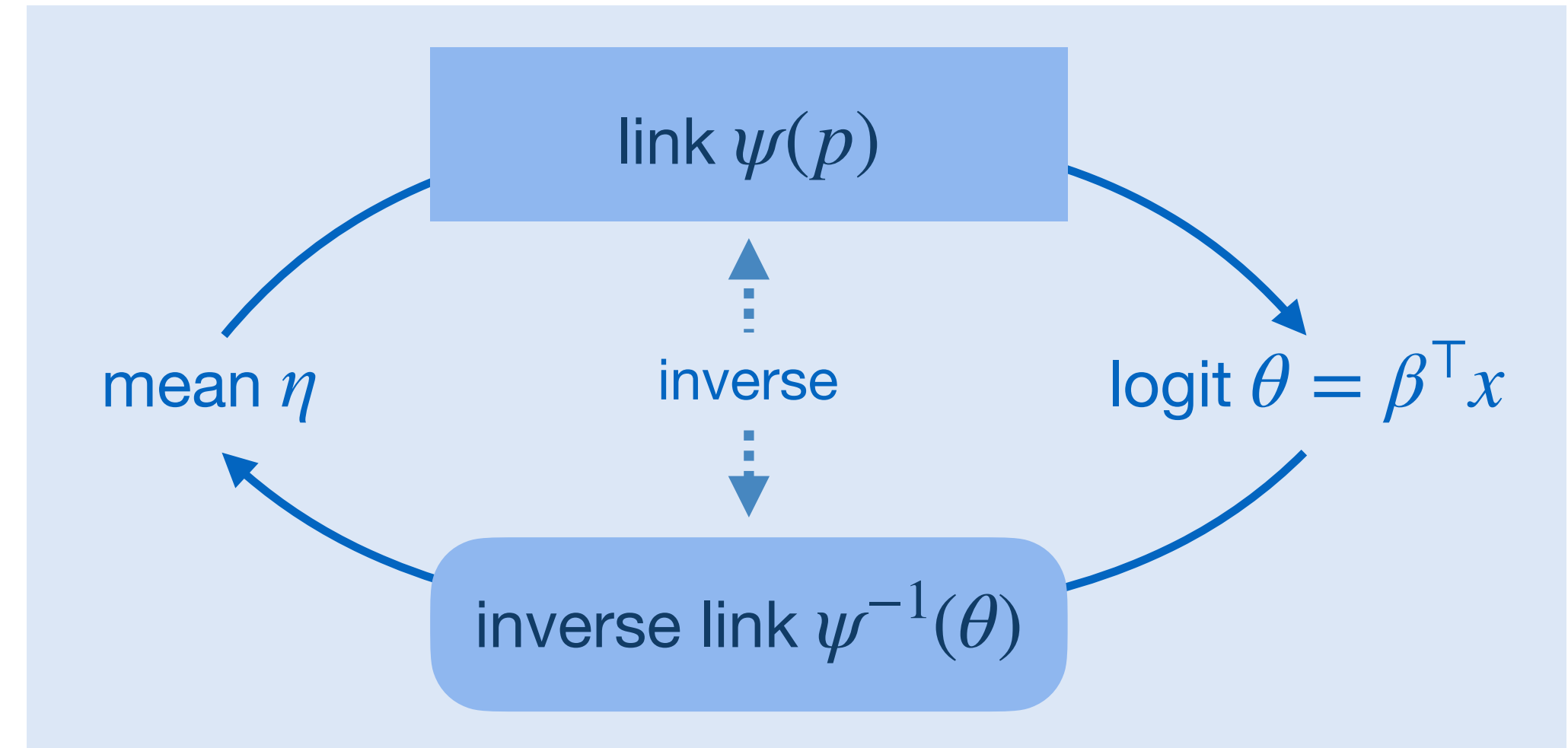
$$Y|x \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\eta) \quad \text{where} \quad \eta = \psi^{-1}(\beta_*^\top x) := \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\beta_*^\top x)}$$

inverse logit link

- fitting via maximum log-likelihood

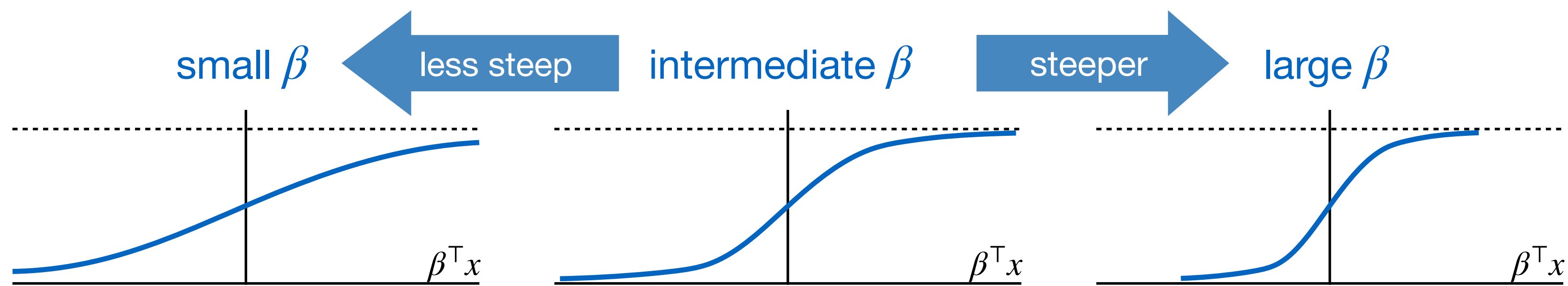
$$\min_{\beta} \sum_i -\log \eta_i^{y_i} (1 - \eta_i)^{1-y_i}$$

log loss inverse logit $\eta_i := \psi^{-1}(\beta^\top x_i)$



😊 identifiability (\because convex in β), efficiency, asymptotic normality, etc.

😞 link misspecification (\because symmetry of ψ^{-1})



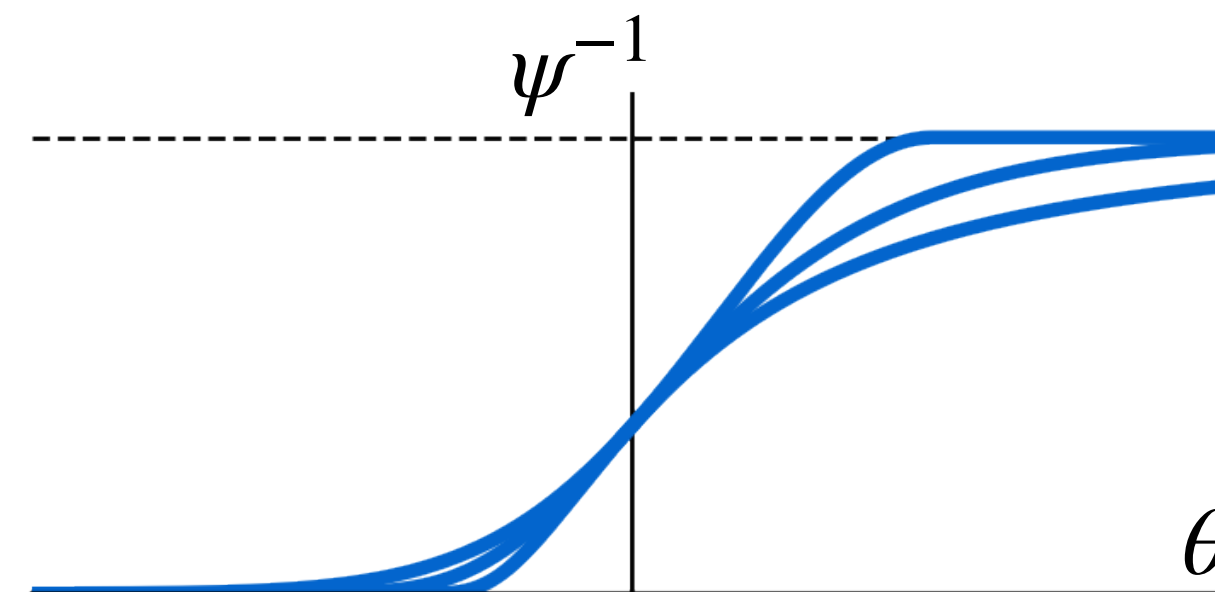
skewed link can't be modeled!

The graph shows a curve that is skewed to the right, starting at 0 and ending at 1, but with a sharp rise followed by a long tail. A vertical dashed line is drawn at the point of the sharp rise, and a horizontal dashed line is drawn at the top of the curve.

Skewed Link | More Flexible Modeling

- GEV (Generalized Extreme Value) link

$$\psi^{-1}(\theta) = \exp\left((1 + \xi\theta)_+^{-1/\xi}\right)$$

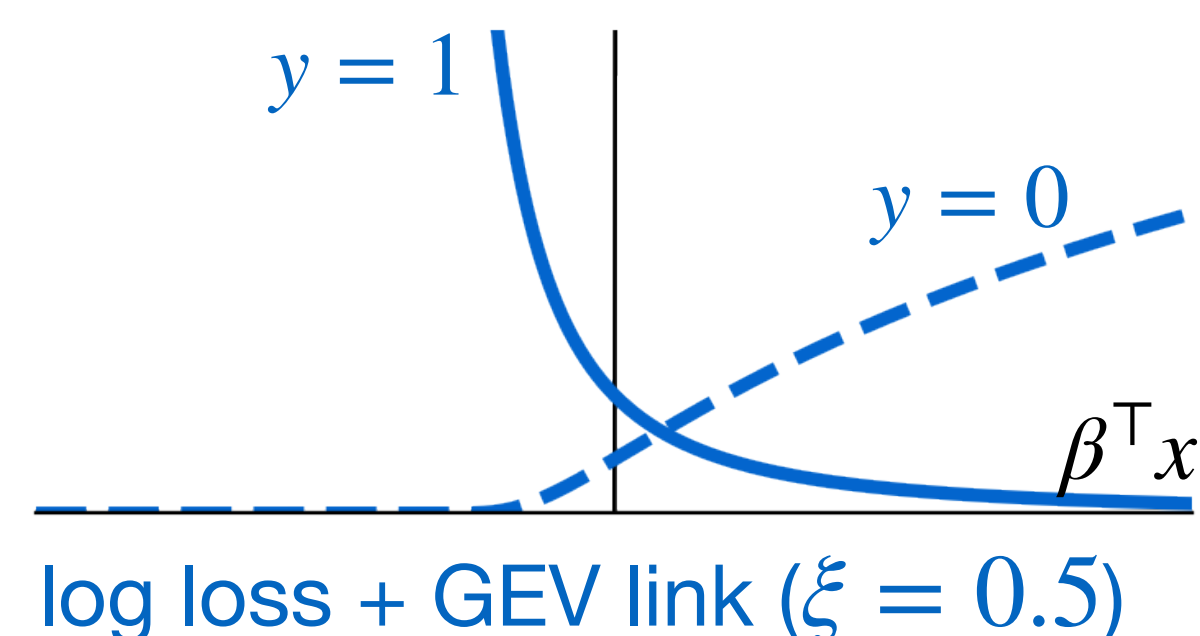
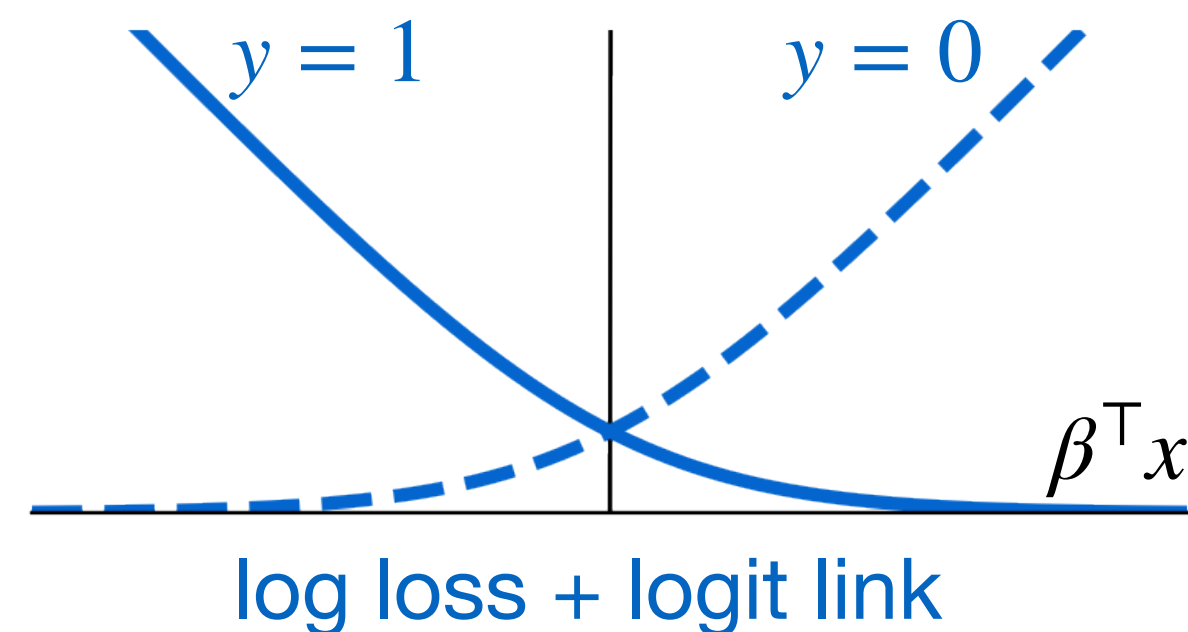


[Wang & Dey 2010]

❖ ξ : skewness hyperparameter

😊 single hyperparameter controls skewness (\rightarrow model selection)

😞 MLE is no longer convex hence not necessarily identifiable



❖ canonical proper loss is not defined for all logits over \mathbb{R}

[Agarwal et al. 2014]

Wang, X., & Dey, D. K. (2010). Generalized extreme value regression for binary response data: An application to B2B electronic payments system adoption. *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, 4(4), 2000-2023.

Agarwal, A., Narasimhan, H., Kalyanakrishnan, S., & Agarwal, S. (2014). GEV-canonical regression for accurate binary class probability estimation when one class is rare. In *ICML*, 1989-1997.

Our Idea: Fenchel-Young Loss + GEV Link = Convex

Definition. Given an entropy $\Omega : [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ associated with a link function, Fenchel-Young loss is

$$L_{\Omega}(\theta, y) := \Omega^{\star}(\theta) + \Omega(y) - \langle \theta, y \rangle$$

logit outcome

Ω^{\star} : Fenchel conjugate

[Blondel et al. 2020]

