

The error function we wish to minimize is:

$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \{t_n - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)\}^2 \quad (1)$$

We take its derivatives and set them to zero:

$$\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = - \sum_{n=1}^N \{t_n - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)\} \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)^T \quad (2)$$

$$\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = 0^T \quad (3)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N t_n \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)^T = \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_n) \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)^T \quad (4)$$

In order to write these sums using matrix notation, define the matrix Φ :

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_N) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_N) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Now,

$$\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = 0^T \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{t}^T \Phi = \mathbf{w}^T \Phi^T \Phi \quad (6)$$

Taking transpose of both sides:

$$\Phi^T \mathbf{t} = \Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{w} \quad (7)$$

Assuming the inverse of $\Phi^T \Phi$ exists (e.g. basis functions are not linearly dependent):

$$\mathbf{w} = (\Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T \mathbf{t} \quad (8)$$