

Homework 5

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- 5.1. Consider a regression problem involving multiple target variables in which it is assumed that the distribution of the targets, conditioned on the input vector x , is a Gaussian of the form

$$p(t|x, w) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(x, w), \Sigma)$$

where $y(x, w)$ is the output of a neural network with input vector x and weight vector w , and Σ is the covariance of the assumed Gaussian noise on the targets.

- (a) Given a set of independent observations of x and t , write down the error function that must be minimized in order to find the maximum likelihood solution for w , if we assume that Σ is fixed and known.
 - (b) Now assume that Σ is also to be determined from the data, and write down an expression for the maximum likelihood solution for Σ .
- 5.2. The error function for binary classification problems was derived for a network having a logistic-sigmoid output activation function, so that $0 \leq y(x, w) \leq 1$