

Latent Variable Models for Sequential/Time-Series Data

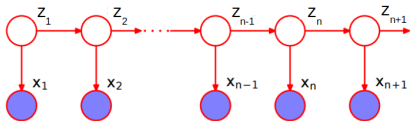
Piyush Rai

Probabilistic Machine Learning (CS772A)

Nov 7, 2017

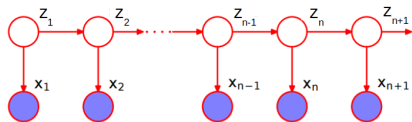
Latent Variable Models for Sequential Data

- Task: Given a sequence of observations, infer the latent state of each observation

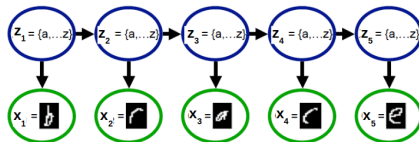


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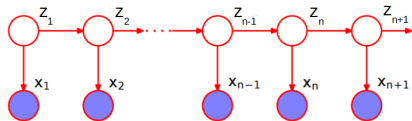


- An example: Recognizing a sequence of handwritten characters

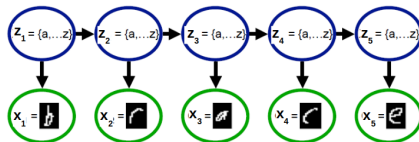


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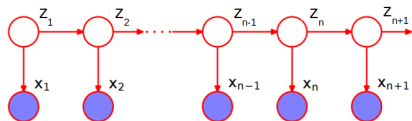
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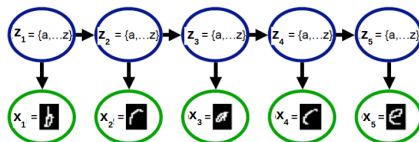
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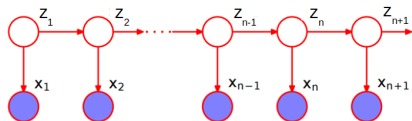
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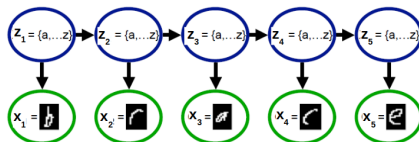
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- Another example: Given a sequence of observed noisy 2D coordinates x_n of an object, infer its latent state z_n , e.g., actual coordinates, velocity, acceleration, etc. at each step $n = 1, 2, \dots$

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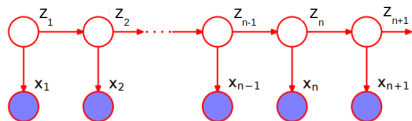
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 - In this example, the latent state z_n at step n is a **continuous vector**

Latent Variable Models for Sequential Data

- For both cases (discrete/continuous \mathbf{z}_n), the generic model can be written as follows

$$\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{z}_{n-1} \sim p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{z}_{n-1}) \quad (\text{first-order dependence b/w } \mathbf{z}_n\text{'s})$$

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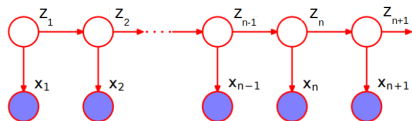


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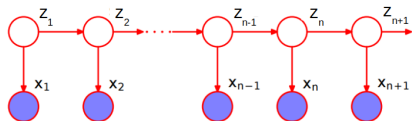
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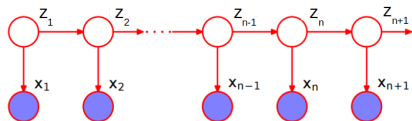
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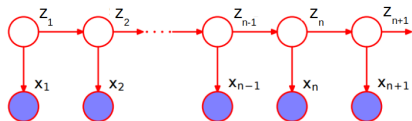
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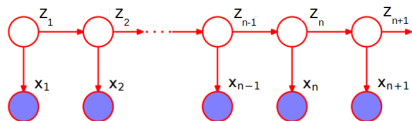
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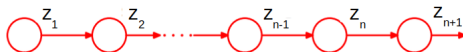
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- In both cases, observations \mathbf{x}_n can be anything (discrete/real)

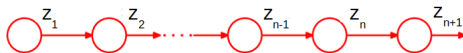
State-Transition Model



- For discrete states case (HMM), $p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{z}_{n-1})$ will be a **discrete distribution**, e.g.,

$$p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{z}_{n-1} = \ell) = \text{multinoulli}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell)$$

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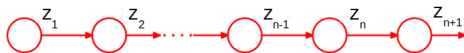


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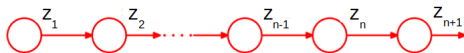
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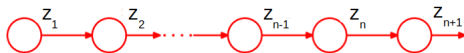
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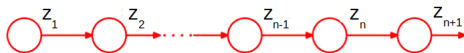
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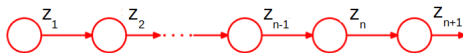
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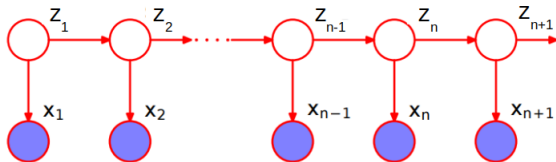
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$$p(\mathbf{z}_1) = \text{multinoulli}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_0) \quad (\text{for HMM})$$

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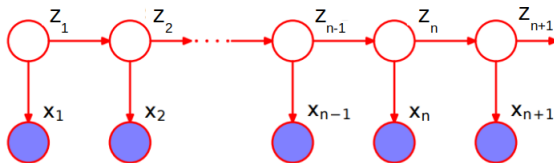
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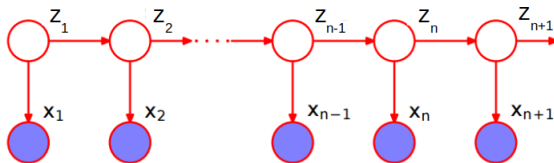
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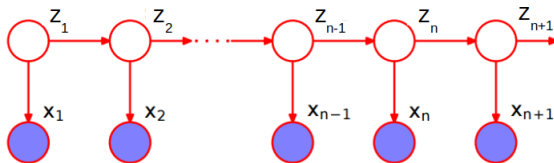
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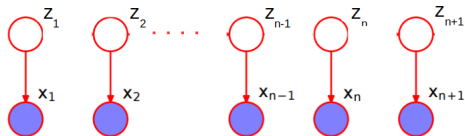
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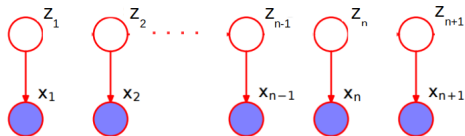
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- What if we have i.i.d. latent states, i.e., $p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{z}_{n-1}) = p(\mathbf{z}_n)$?



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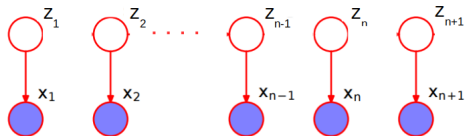
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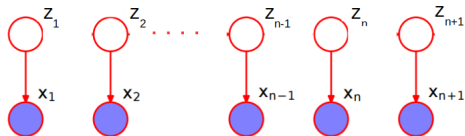
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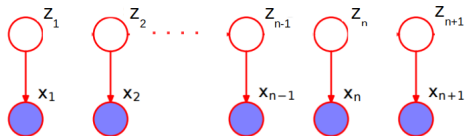
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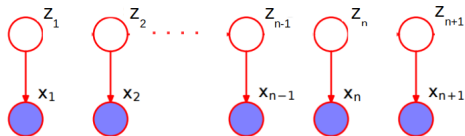
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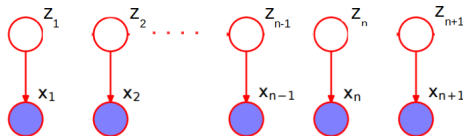
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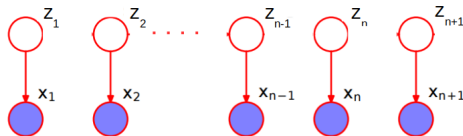
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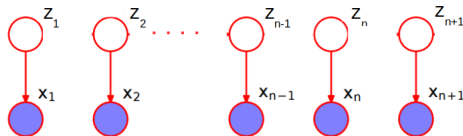
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- Therefore, inference algorithms for HMM/SSM are often very similar to mixture models/PPCA

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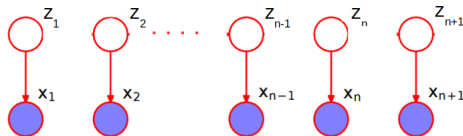
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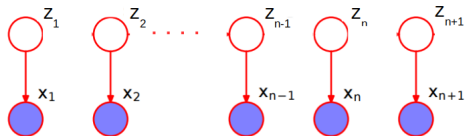
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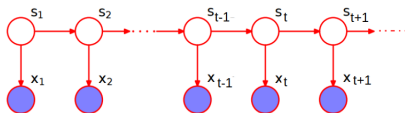
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- Today we will mainly focus on SSM (when the latent variables are continuous vectors)



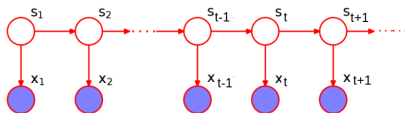
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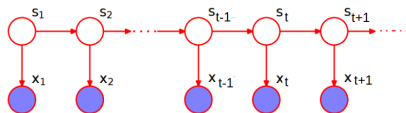
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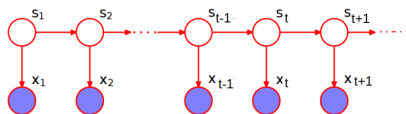
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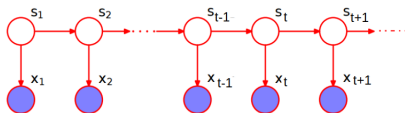
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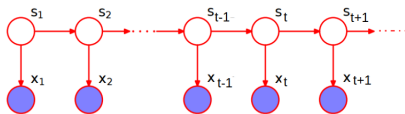
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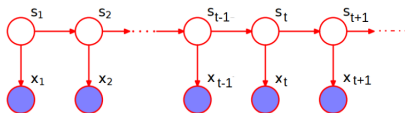
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- Note: If $g_t, h_t, \mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{R}_t$ are independent of t then the model is called **stationary**

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- A simple example of a state-space model

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- Note: $\mathbf{A}_t, \mathbf{B}_t, \mathbf{Q}_t, \mathbf{R}_t$ may be known (fixed) or may be required to be learned

Linear Gaussian SSM (LDS): An Example

- Consider the linear Gaussian SSM: $\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{A}_t \mathbf{s}_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$ and $\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{B}_t \mathbf{s}_t + \delta_t$

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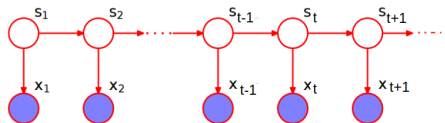
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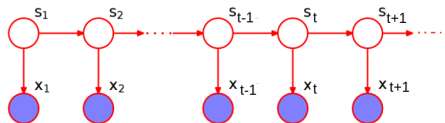
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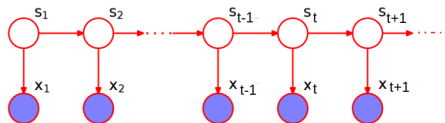
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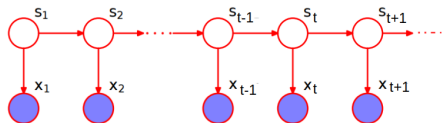
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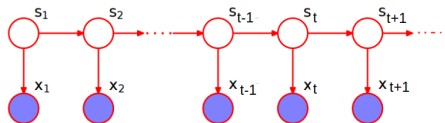
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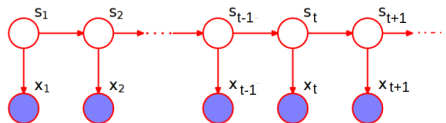
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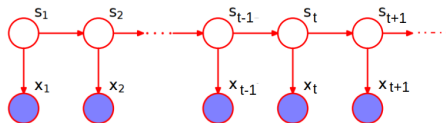
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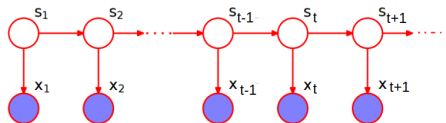
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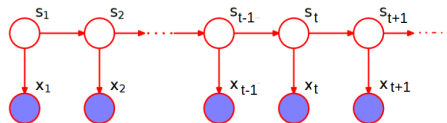
Typical Inference Tasks in Gaussian SSM

- One of the key tasks: Given sequence $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3, \dots$, infer the latent states $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{s}_3, \dots$



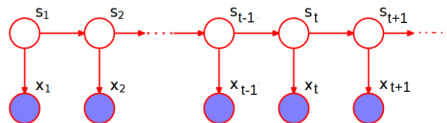
- This is usually solved in one of the following two ways
 - Infer the distribution $p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$ given the past observations: “Filtering Problem”
 - Infer the distribution $p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T)$ given all (past/future) observations: “Smoothing Problem”
- Other tasks we may be interested in
 - Predicting future state(s) given observations seen thus far: $p(\mathbf{s}_{t+h} | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$ for $h \geq 1$
 - Predict next observation(s) given observations seen thus far: $p(\mathbf{x}_{t+h} | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$ for $h \geq 1$
- Today, we'll mainly focus on the filtering problem (solved using the [Kalman Filtering](#) algorithm)

Kalman Filtering



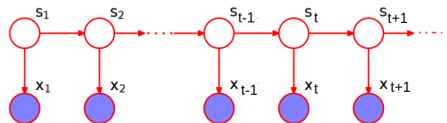
- Recall that $\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{s}_{t-1} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{A}_t \mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{Q}_t)$ and $\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{s}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{B}_t \mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{R}_t)$

Kalman Filtering



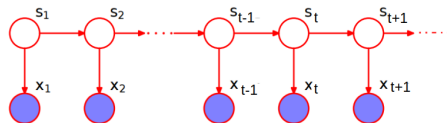
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Kalman Filtering



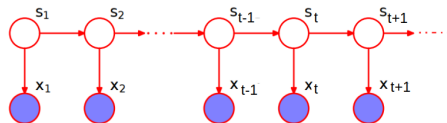
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 - Note: The “exactness” assumes we are given \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{Q} , \mathbf{R} are known (or have estimated these)

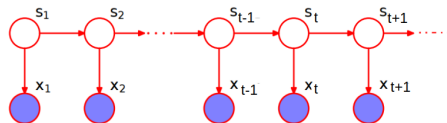
Kalman Filtering



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Kalman Filtering



- Recall that $s_t | s_{t-1} \sim \mathcal{N}(s_t | \mathbf{A}_t s_{t-1}, \mathbf{Q}_t)$ and $x_t | s_t \sim \mathcal{N}(x_t | \mathbf{B}_t s_t, \mathbf{R}_t)$
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- The “prior” above is: $p(s_t | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{t-1}) = \int p(s_t | s_{t-1}) p(s_{t-1} | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{t-1}) ds_{t-1}$

Kalman Filtering

- Thus the Kalman Filtering problem computes the following

$$p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t) \propto \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{s}_t)}_{\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{B}\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{R})} \int \underbrace{p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{s}_{t-1})}_{\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{Q})} p(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) d\mathbf{s}_{t-1}$$

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- In this Linear Gaussian SSM, $p(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$ would be a Gaussian, say $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$

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 - Reason: Starting with $p(\mathbf{s}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_0 | \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_K)$, the posterior over \mathbf{s}_t will be Gaussian at each step t

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- In this Linear Gaussian SSM, $p(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$ would be a Gaussian, say $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$
 - Reason: Starting with $p(\mathbf{s}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_0 | \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_K)$, the posterior over \mathbf{s}_t will be Gaussian at each step t
- Also, using Gaussian’s properties, we know that

$$\int \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{Q}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) d\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^\top)$$

Kalman Filtering

- We can now compute the desired posterior

$$p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{B}\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{R}) \times \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^\top)$$

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- This again is a Gaussian (Gaussian likelihood and Gaussian prior), given by

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where the Gaussian posterior's covariance matrix and mean vector are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}' &= [(\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^\top)^{-1} + \mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{B}]^{-1} \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}' &= \boldsymbol{\Sigma}' [\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_t + (\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}]\end{aligned}$$

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- Thus we get closed form expressions for the parameters $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}', \boldsymbol{\mu}')$ of $p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$ in terms of the parameters $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$ of $p(\mathbf{s}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$

Kalman Filtering: Predicting Future Observations

- We saw how to compute $p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$ which was a Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{s}_t | \boldsymbol{\mu}', \boldsymbol{\Sigma}')$

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$$p(\mathbf{x}_{t+1} | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t)$$

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- This requires two integrals but the final result is again a Gaussian (expression not shown here)

Kalman Filtering: Some Notes

- Note that we assumed the LDS parameters \mathbf{A}_t , \mathbf{B}_t , \mathbf{Q}_t , \mathbf{R}_t are known

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- This can be done using approximate inference methods such as EM, MCMC, or VB

An Application: Online Dynamic Linear Regression

- Consider a **dynamic linear model for regression**
- The underlying (“true”) weight vector \mathbf{w} is not static (fixed) but can change with each observation

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- Can now apply Kalman filtering to solve for \mathbf{w}_t and y_t at future time-steps (note: this problem is also called the “recursive least squares” problem)

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- It's a hybrid LDS – the “state” consists of two latent variables c_t, \mathbf{z}_t (discrete and continuous)

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 - E.g., in LDA, we can make the topic assignments of adjacent words follow a Markov relationship (results in an HMM-LDA type model)

Backup Slides: Kalman Smoothing

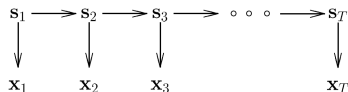
Kalman Smoothing in SSMs

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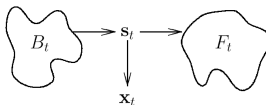
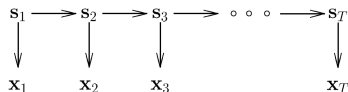
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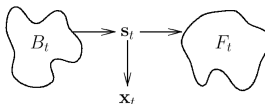
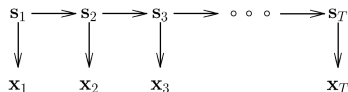
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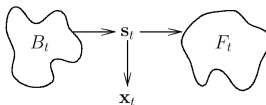
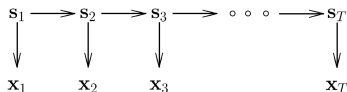
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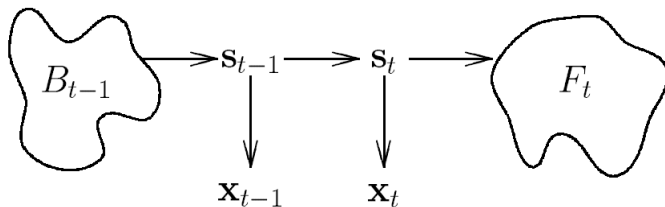
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- From the joint, we can compute $p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}_t} p(\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T)$, and $p(\mathbf{s}_t | \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T)$ using Bayes rule

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Denote $B_t = B_{t-1} \cup \{\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}\}$ and $F_{t-1} = \{\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{x}_t\} \cup F_t$

Can compute α and β recursively

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_t(\mathbf{s}_t) = p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t)p(B_t^x, \mathbf{s}_t) &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{s}_t) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \alpha_{t-1}(\mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$

Forward recursion for α

Estimation via Forward-Backward Recursion

Denote $B_t = B_{t-1} \cup \{\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}\}$ and $F_{t-1} = \{\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{x}_t\} \cup F_t$

Can compute α and β recursively

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_t(\mathbf{s}_t) &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t)p(B_t^x, \mathbf{s}_t) = p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{s}_t) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \alpha_{t-1}(\mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$

Forward recursion for α

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_{t-1}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) &= p(F_{t-1}^x|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) = \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_t, F_t^x|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) p(F_t^x|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) \beta_t(\mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$

Backward recursion for β

Estimation via Forward-Backward Recursion

Denote $B_t = B_{t-1} \cup \{\mathbf{s}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}\}$ and $F_{t-1} = \{\mathbf{s}_t, \mathbf{x}_t\} \cup F_t$

Can compute α and β recursively

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_t(\mathbf{s}_t) &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t)p(B_t^x, \mathbf{s}_t) = p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{s}_t) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(B_{t-1}^x, \mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \\ &= p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t) \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t|\mathbf{s}_{t-1} = \mathbf{z}) \alpha_{t-1}(\mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$

Forward recursion for α

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_{t-1}(\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) &= p(F_{t-1}^x|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) = \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_t, F_t^x|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) p(F_t^x|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}|\mathbf{s}_{t-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{s}_t = \mathbf{z}) \beta_t(\mathbf{z})\end{aligned}$$

Backward recursion for β

Initialize as $\alpha_1(\mathbf{s}_1) = p(\mathbf{s}_1)p(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{s}_1)$ and $\beta_T(\mathbf{s}_T) = 1$