find most likely assignment of state sequence $\arg\max_{\{S_t\}_{t=1}^T} p(\{S_t\}_{t=1}^T | \{O_t\}_{t=1}^T) = \arg\max_{\{S_t\}_{t=1}^T} p(\{S_t\}_{t=1}^T, \{O_t\}_{t=1}^T)$

Given HMM parameters $p(S_1), p(S_t|S_{t-1}), p(O_t|S_t)$ & observation

sequence $\{O_t\}_{t=1}^T$

$$V_{T}^{k}$$
 Compute recursively
$$V_{T}^{k} \ \, \text{- probability of most likely sequence of states ending at state } S_{T} = k$$

 $= \arg\max_{k} \max_{\{S_t\}_{t=1}^{T-1}} p(S_T = k, \{S_t\}_{t=1}^{T-1}, \{O_t\}_{t=1}^T)$