

Assignment 3

Statistical Methods in Applied Computer Science

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In all cases you are supposed to provide as sound algorithms of the types described in the course. Summing over exponentially many terms and other solutions that always gives exponential time, will not be considered sufficient.

Exercise 2 MAP switch setting and position on model railway

Imagine a model railway with a single train. You know the map of the tracks including the position of all the switches, but you don't know current states of the switches, or where the train is currently located. Each switch has three connections: $\{0, L, R\}$. If the train comes from the direction of L or R , it always leaves in the direction 0. If the train comes from the direction 0, it will leave in either direction L or R , depending on the state of the switch. The switch has prior probability $1/2$ for each direction, but will remain the same throughout the train run. You are receiving a stream of signals from the train, each signal specifying the direction in which train has passed a switch: $\{0L, 0R, L0, R0\}$; you do not know, however, which switch the train has passed. Also, the sensors are noisy, and with a certain probability p , the train reports a random signal instead of a real direction in which it passed the switch.

Given the map of the railroad and a sequence of switch signals $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^T$. Your task is to compute MAP switch and current position.

Solution. Represent the connections on switch α with $\{\alpha_0, \alpha_L, \alpha_R\}$.

The outline for this solution is to reduce the original problem to one which fulfills the Markov assumption and can thus be used without being a approximation in a ordinary HMM.

“Current position” can either be the position of the last passed switch which is hinted by the assignment having a list of positions for the switches given or it could be defined as being in between two connections. If we have the first case we simply pick the switch from the last of the two connections we are between according to MAP solution.

Let $\cdot \leftrightarrow \cdot$ denote a link between connections in the given map.

Construct a switch-graph¹ G of the map where each switch is represented by a triangle with the side LR in bold,² each connection is a node, and the edges is given by the map information $\cdot \leftrightarrow \cdot$.

A simple example of a map would be the two switches α, β with the links $\{\alpha_L \leftrightarrow \beta_L, \alpha_0 \leftrightarrow \beta_R, \alpha_R \leftrightarrow \beta_0\}$

If we were to use this representation of states we stumble into problems when you are in state α_0 since you don't know if you came from α_L or α_R and thus cannot decide the correct distribution for the observation. A possible solution to this would be to perform a directed lifting of the graph G and denote this by G' . In the simple example we will have the nodes $\{\alpha_L \rightarrow \beta_L, \alpha_L \leftarrow \beta_L, \alpha_0 \rightarrow \beta_R, \alpha_0 \leftarrow \beta_R, \alpha_R \rightarrow \beta_0, \alpha_R \leftarrow \beta_0\}$. But

Exercise 3 Gibbs sampler for posterior of magic word generative model

The following generative model generates K sequences of length N : $\{s_i\}_{i=1}^K$ where $s_i = \{s_{i,j}\}_{j=1}^N$. All sequences are over the alphabet $[M]$. Each of these sequences has a “magic” word of length w hidden in it and the rest of the sequence is called background.

First $\forall i$, a start position r_i for the magic word is sampled uniformly from $[N - w + 1]$. Then the j :th positions in the words are sampled from $q_j(x)$, which is $Cat(x|\theta_j)$ where θ_j has a $Dir(\theta_j|\alpha)$ prior. All other positions in the sequences are sampled from the background distribution $q(x)$, which is $Cat(x|\theta)$ where θ has a $Dir(\theta|\alpha')$ prior.

Solution.

¹Not a real graph yet because of the switches, they could be deduced at this step but it will just make it harder.

²Arbitrary representation of a switch but it catches that it is one object and that you cannot pass between L and R .