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## Conditional Random Field (CRF)

- While the HMM is a useful and powerful model, it turns out that HMMs need a number of augmentations to achieve high accuracy.
  - For example, in POS tagging as in other tasks, we often run into unknown words.
  - It would be great to have ways to add arbitrary features to help:
    - Capitalization or morphology (words starting with capital letters are likely to be proper nouns, words ending with -ed tend to be past tense)
    - Knowing the previous or following words might be a useful feature (if the previous word is the tag is unlikely to be a verb).
- In general, it's hard for generative models like HMMs to add arbitrary features directly into the model in a clean way.
  - Logistic regression is a log-linear model for combining arbitrary features,
  - →But logistic regression isn't a sequence model; it assigns a class to a single observation.
- There is a discriminative sequence model based on log-linear models: the conditional random field (CRF) → we will describe linear chain CRF, the version of the CRF most commonly used for language processing, and the one whose conditioning closely matches the HMM.

## Conditional Random Field (CRF)

We have a sequence of input words X = x1...xn and want to compute a sequence of output tags Y = y1...yn.

• In HMM:

$$\hat{Y} = \underset{Y}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(Y|X)$$

$$= \underset{Y}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(X|Y)p(Y)$$

$$= \underset{Y}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{i} p(x_{i}|y_{i}) \prod_{i} p(y_{i}|y_{i-1})$$

$$= \underset{Y}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{i} p(x_{i}|y_{i}) \prod_{i} p(y_{i}|y_{i-1})$$
transition

 $Z = \operatorname{argmax} P(V|Y)$ 

• In CRF: we compute the posterior p(Y|X) directly:  $\frac{Y}{z}$ 

$$\underline{\underline{\hat{Y}}} = \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(\underline{Y}|X)$$

The CRF does not compute a probability for each tag at each time step.

Instead, at each time step the CRF computes log-linear functions over a set of relevant features.

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{\exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k F_k(X, Y)\right)}{\sum_{Y' \in \mathcal{Y}} \exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k F_k(X, Y')\right)}$$

The function F maps an entire input sequence X and an entire output sequence Y to a feature vector.

Let's assume we have K features, with a weight  $w_k$  for each feature  $F_k$ 

## Conditional Random Field (CRF)

• Re-write as:

$$p(Y|X) = \frac{1}{Z(X)} \exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k F_k(X, Y)\right)$$

$$Z(X) = \sum_{Y' \in \mathcal{Y}} \exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k F_k(X, Y')\right)$$

```
yt = VB, yt-1 = Noun \rightarrow return 1.
yt-1 = VB, i = 2, yt = Noun, X[i-1] = Do
f1, f2, f3.
F1, F2, F3
F1 \rightarrow
Ahmed is playing football.
f1(-, Noun, X, 1) + f1(Noun, VB, X, 2) + f1(VB, VB, X, 3) + f1(VB, Noun, X, 3)
F2 = f2(
Noun, Verb, ADJ
```

- These K functions F<sub>k</sub>(X,Y) are called global features
- ince each one is a property of the entire input sequence X and output sequence Y.
- Computed by decomposing into a sum of local features for each position i in Y:

number of global features = number of local features.

$$F_k(X,Y) = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{=> 3 \text{dd el kalemat (timestep)}}} f_k(y_{i-1},y_i,X,i)$$
prev curr tag tag tag tag timestep

#### Each of these local features fk in a linear-chain CRF is allowed to make use of:

- current output token yi, you must use Markov assumption.
- previous output token yi-1, lw m3mltsh dol, hyb2a genral CRF, w sa3tha 34an ast5dm vetrbi aw keda hyb2a feh shwyt modifications lazm ne3mlhom.
- entire input string X (or any subpart of it),
- current position i.

what characterizes a linear chain CRF: this limitation makes it possible to use versions of the efficient Viterbi and Forward-Backwards algorithms from the HMM.

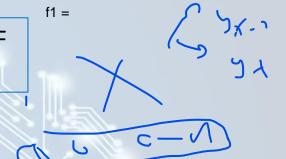
A general CRF, by contrast, allows a feature to make use of any output token.

## Features in a CRF POS Tagger

Some legal features representing common situations might be the following:

```
\mathbb{I}\{x_i = the, y_i = \text{DET}\}
1\{y_i = | VERB, y_{i-1} = AUX\}
```

For simplicity, we'll assume all CRF features take on the value 1 or 0.



Proper noun: name of a person, organization, place, etc.

- Specific features can be automatically populated by using feature templates:
  - These templates automatically populate the set of features from every instance in the training and test set.

$$\langle y_i, x_i \rangle, \langle y_i, y_{i-1} \rangle, \langle y_i, x_{i-1}, x_{i+2} \rangle$$

el xi+2 da example, bs enta keda keda m3ak el input kolo fkhud meno el enta 3auzo.

example: Janet/NNP will/MD back/VB the/DT bill/NN, when xi is the word back, the following features would be generated and have the value 1 (we've assigned them arbitrary feature numbers):  $f_{3743}$ :  $y_i = \text{VB}$  and  $x_i = \text{back}$  bn3ml el klam da 3la kol el inputs.

$$f_{3743}$$
:  $y_i = \text{VB}$  and  $x_i = \text{back}$  bn3ml el klam da 3la kol el inputs.  $f_{156}$ :  $y_i = \text{VB}$  and  $y_{i-1} = \text{MD}$   $f_{99732}$ :  $y_i = \text{VB}$  and  $x_{i-1} = \text{will}$  and  $x_{i+2} = \text{bill}$ 

el klam da 3la kelmt back.

## Features in a CRF POS Tagger



I.M.F -> location

It's also important to have features that help with unknown words:

#### word shape features:

- which represent the abstract letter pattern of the word by mapping: lower-case letters to 'x', upper-case to 'X', numbers to 'd', retaining punctuation.
- Examples: I.M.F would map to X.X.X. and DC10-30 would map to XXdd-dd.

#### short word shape features:

- consecutive character types are removed, so words in all caps map to X, words with initial-caps map to Xx,
- Examples: DC10-30 would be mapped to Xd-d but I.M.F would still map to X.X.X.

#### Example features:

 $x_i$  contains a particular prefix (perhaps from all prefixes of length  $\leq 2$ )  $x_i$  contains a particular suffix (perhaps from all suffixes of length  $\leq 2$ )

 $x_i$ 's word shape

 $x_i$ 's short word shape

The word: well-dressed

prefix $(x_i) = W$  hena khadna 2 34an hwa 3aml define en el prefix kol el shapes elly a2l or = mn 2 suffix $(x_i) = ed$  fa 3la 7asab enta m3rfha suffix $(x_i) = d$  ezay word-shape $(x_i) = xxxxxxxxx$  short-word-shape $(x_i) = x-x$ 

prefix mmkn brdo yfedak -> replay -> (re)

el suffix momken yfedny eny a3rf hwa verb msln wla a -> ed

## Features in a CRF POS Tagger

- The known-word templates are computed for every word seen in the training set.
- The unknown word features can also be computed for all words in training, or only on training words whose frequency is below some threshold.
- The result is a very large set of features:

Generally, a **feature cutoff** is used in which features are thrown out if they have count < 5 in the training set.

- In a CRF we don't learn weights for each of these local features fk.
- Instead, we first sum the values of each local feature (for example feature f3743) over the entire sentence, to create each global feature (for example F3743).
- It is those global features that will then be multiplied by weight w3743.\_ 2
- Thus, for training and inference there is always a fixed set of K features with K weights, even though the length of each sentence is different.

# Features for CRF Named Entity Recognizers • A CRF for NER makes use of very similar features to a POS tagger:

```
identity of w_i, identity of neighboring words
embeddings for w_i, embeddings for neighboring words
part of speech of w_i, part of speech of neighboring words
presence of w_i in a gazetteer
w_i contains a particular prefix (from all prefixes of length \leq 4)
w_i contains a particular suffix (from all suffixes of length \leq 4)
word shape of w_i, word shape of neighboring words
short word shape of w_i, short word shape of neighboring words
gazetteer features
```

- gazetteer: list of place names, often providing millions of entries for locations with detailed geographical and political information.
- name-lists, lists of corporations or products, ...etc.
- Some NER features for a sample sentence:

Words	POS	Short shape	Gazetteer	BIO Label
Jane	NNP	Xx	0	B-PER
Villanueva	NNP	Xx	1	I-PER
of	IN	X	0	0
United	NNP	Xx	0	B-ORG
Airlines	NNP	Xx	0	I-ORG
Holding	NNP	Xx	0	I-ORG
discussed	VBD	X	0	O
the	DT	X	0	O
Chicago	NNP	Xx	1	B-LOC
route	NN	X	0	0
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## **Inference and Training for CRFs**

$$\hat{Y} = \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(Y|X)$$

$$= \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{X \in \mathcal{Y}} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k F_k(X, Y) \right)$$

$$= \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{X=1}^{K} w_k \sum_{i=1}^{K} f_k(y_{i-1}, y_i, X, i)$$

$$= \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k f_k(y_{i-1}, y_i, X, i)$$

$$= \underset{Y \in \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i=1}^{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} w_k f_k(y_{i-1}, y_i, X, i)$$

Inference: How do we find the best tag sequence  $\hat{Y}$  for a given input X?

we can ignore the exp function and the denominator Z(X) because this doesn't change the argmax, and the denominator Z(X) is constant for a given observation sequence X.

replacing transition and emission probabilities with the CRF features

• Using Viterbi Algorithm:  $v_t(j) = \left(\max_{i=1}^{N}\right) v_{t-1}(i) \sum_{k=1}^{N} w_k f_k(y_{t-1}, y_t, X, t)$   $1 \le j \le N, 1 < t \le T$ 

Training: given a sequence of observations, feature functions, and corresponding outputs, we use stochastic gradient descent to train the weights to maximize the log-likelihood of the training corpus.

### **Evaluation**

- >
- Part-of-speech taggers are evaluated by the standard metric of accuracy.
- Named entity recognizers are evaluated by recall, precision, and F1 measure.
  - The fact that named entity tagging has a segmentation component which is not present in tasks like text categorization or part-of-speech tagging causes some problems with evaluation.
  - For example, a system that labeled Jane but not Jane Villanueva as a person would cause two errors:
    - a false positive for O
    - a false negative for I-PER

# **RNN Sequence Labeling**

Inputs: are word embeddings

Outputs: are tag probabilities generated by a softmax layer over the given

tagset.

