



Cairo University

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Cairo University  
Faculty of Engineering  
Computer Engineering Department

# Natural Language Processing

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Dr. Sandra Wahid

natural learning processing  
text tag input output  
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output

# Sequence Labeling

Sequence  
Labeling  
Tasks

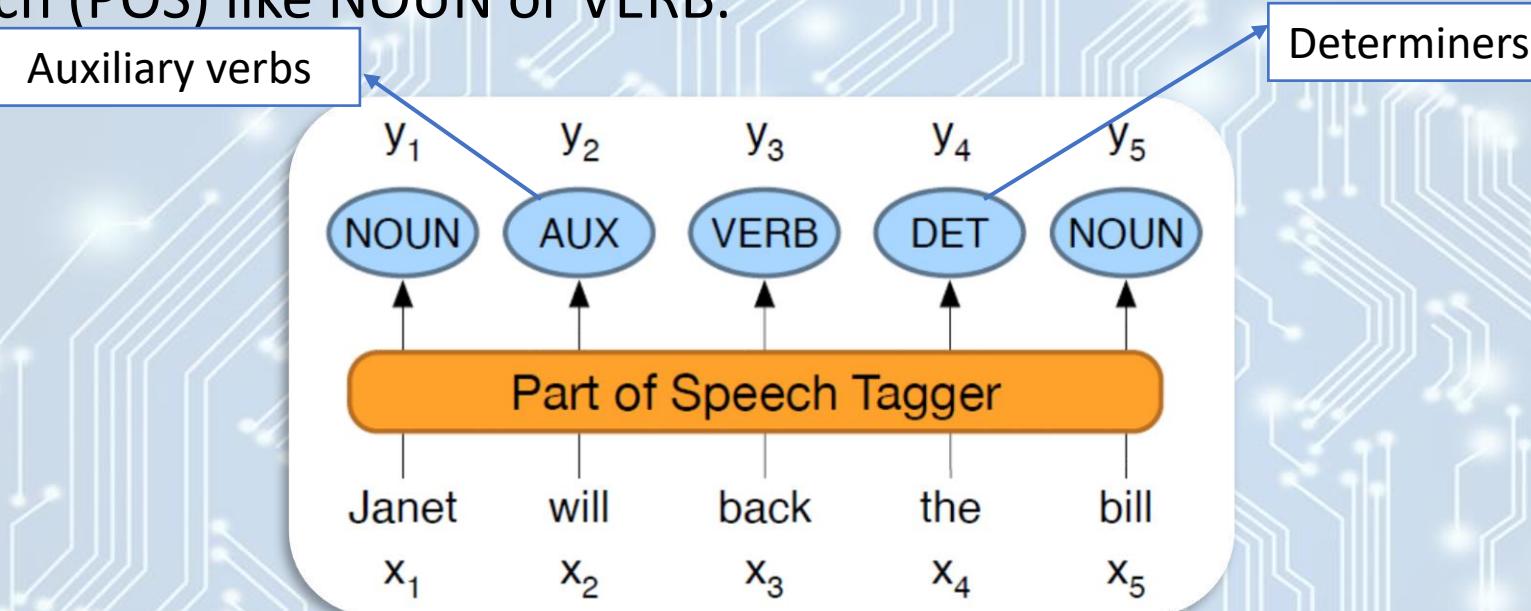
Part-of-Speech  
Tagging (POS  
Tagging)

Named Entity  
Recognition  
(NER)

- Tasks in which we assign, to each word  $x_i$  in an input word sequence, a label  $y_i$ , so that the output sequence  $Y$  has the same length as the input sequence  $X$  are called **sequence labeling tasks**.

# Part-of-Speech Tagging (POS Tagging)

- Part-of-speech tagging: is the task of taking a sequence of words and assigning each word a part of speech (POS) like NOUN or VERB.



The task of part-of-speech tagging: mapping from input words  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  to output POS tags  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$

- Tagging is a **disambiguation task**: words are ambiguous—have more than one possible part-of-speech—the goal of POS-tagging is to resolve these ambiguities, choosing the proper tag for the context.
  - For example, book can be a **verb** (book that flight) or a **noun** (hand me that book).
- POS tagging is a useful first step in lots of natural language processing tasks: Named Entity Recognition (NER), sentiment analysis, machine translation and word sense disambiguation.

# Part-of-Speech Tagging (POS Tagging)

- Parts of speech fall into two broad categories:
  - closed class
  - open class
- **Open classes:** (such as nouns, verbs and adjectives) acquire new members constantly. New nouns and verbs like *iPhone* or *to fax* are continually being created or borrowed.
- **Closed classes:** (such as pronouns, prepositions and conjunctions) acquire new members infrequently, if at all. These are generally function words like *of*, *it*, *and*, or *you*, which tend to be very short, occur frequently, and often have structuring uses in grammar.
- The accuracy of part-of-speech tagging algorithms is extremely high, reaches 97% which is also the human performance on this task.
- **Most Frequent Class Baseline:** Always compare a classifier against a baseline at least as good as the most frequent class baseline (assigning each token to the class it occurred in most often in the training set) → The most-frequent-tag baseline has an accuracy of about 92%. The baseline thus differs from the state-of-the-art and human ceiling (97%) by only 5%.
- **Penn Treebank** is a famous English-specific part-of-speech **tagset** that has been used to label many syntactically annotated corpora like the Penn Treebank corpora.

# Named Entity Recognition (NER)

- NER: is the task of assigning words or phrases tags like PERSON, LOCATION, or ORGANIZATION.

Citing high fuel prices, [ORG United Airlines] said [TIME Friday] it has increased fares by [MONEY \$6] per round trip on flights to some cities also served by lower-cost carriers. [ORG American Airlines], a unit of [ORG AMR Corp.], immediately matched the move, spokesman [PER Tim Wagner] said. [ORG United], a unit of [ORG UAL Corp.], said the increase took effect [TIME Thursday] and applies to most routes where it competes against discount carriers, such as [LOC Chicago] to [LOC Dallas] and [LOC Denver] to [LOC San Francisco].

- NER is a useful first step in lots of natural language processing tasks: sentiment analysis (want to know a consumer's sentiment toward a particular entity), question answering and information extraction.
- Unlike part-of-speech tagging, where there is no segmentation problem since each word gets one tag.
- NER is to find and label spans of text, it is partly difficult due to:
  - Segmentation ambiguity: need to decide what's an entity and what isn't, and where the boundaries are. Indeed, most words in a text will not be named entities.
  - Type ambiguity: for example Kentucky is a restaurant, person or location.

# Named Entity Recognition (NER)

- The standard approach to sequence labeling for a span-recognition problem like NER is “**BIO tagging**” and its variants: “**IO tagging**” and “**BIOES tagging**”.
  - BIO tagging:** we label any token that **begins** a span of interest with the label **B**, tokens that occur **inside** a span are tagged with an **I**, and any tokens **outside** of any span of interest are labeled **O**.
  - IO tagging:** loses some information by eliminating the B tag.
  - BIOES tagging:** adds an end tag **E** for the **end** of a span, and a **span tag S** for a span consisting of only **one** word.

[PER Jane Villanueva] of [ORG United], a unit of [ORG United Airlines Holding], said the fare applies to the [LOC Chicago] route.

I-Per, enta btdy tag lel entity  
y3ny hya asha person msln  
w el tag bta3ha enha inside.

mynf34 t2ol I w temshy fahem?

Words	IO Label	BIO Label	BIOES Label
Jane	I-PER	B-PER	B-PER
Villanueva	I-PER	I-PER	E-PER
of	O	O	O
United	I-ORG	B-ORG	B-ORG
Airlines	I-ORG	I-ORG	I-ORG
Holding	I-ORG	I-ORG	E-ORG
discussed	O	O	O
the	O	O	O
Chicago	I-LOC	B-LOC	S-LOC
route	O	O	O
.	O	O	O

- This way the NER is a sequence labeling task same as part-of-speech tagging assigning a single label  $y_i$  to each input word  $x_i$ : a sequence labeler is trained to label each token in a text with tags that indicate the presence (or absence) of particular kinds of named entities.

# Sequence Labeling Approaches

- Hidden Markov Model: **HMM**

ay sequence labeling task, ana a2dr a7lha b wa7da mn el approaches de.

- Conditional Random Field: **CRF**

msh hnshofhom, laken enta dwr feh, 34an da haga mohema awy.

- Recurrent Neural Networks: **RNN**

- **Transformers**

- Others

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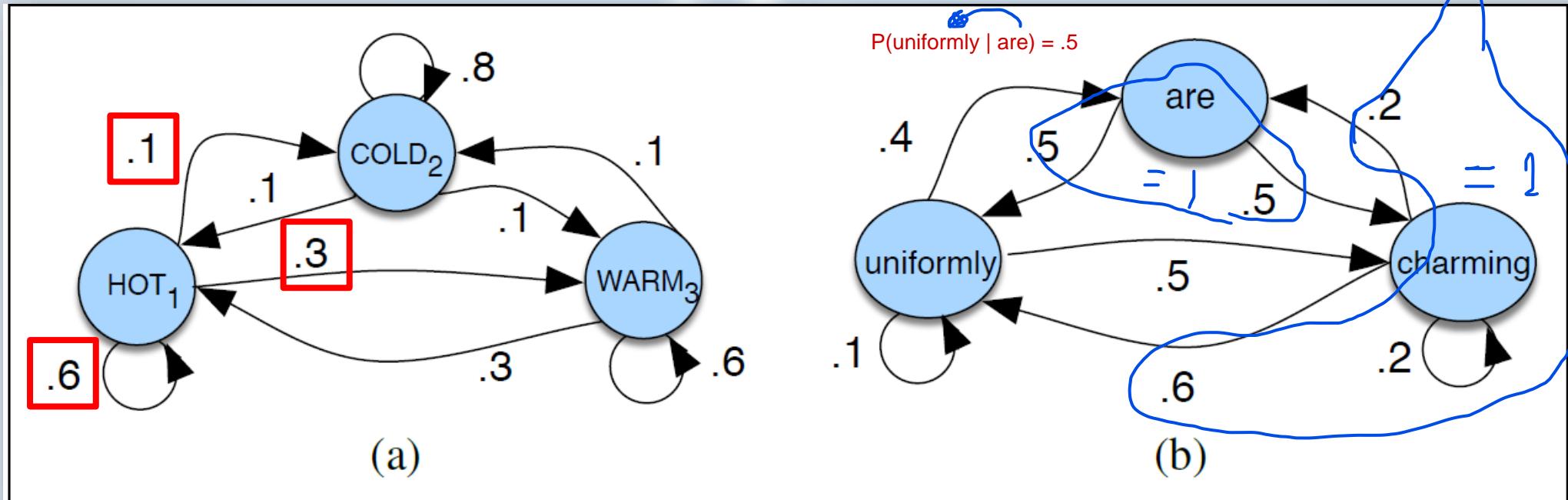
# Hidden Markov Model (HMM)

- HMM is a **generative** approach.
- An HMM is a **probabilistic** sequence model: given a **sequence of units** (words, letters, morphemes, sentences, ...), it **computes** a probability distribution over possible sequences of labels and chooses the best label sequence.
- HMM is based on augmenting the **Markov chain**.
- A **Markov chain** is a model that tells us something about the **probabilities** of sequences of **random variables/states**, each of which can take on values from some set.
  - These sets can be words, or tags, or symbols representing anything, for example the **weather**.
- A Markov chain **makes a very strong assumption** that if we want to **predict** the future in the sequence, all that matters is the **current state**.
  - To predict tomorrow's weather, you could examine today's weather but you weren't allowed to look at yesterday's weather.

**Markov Assumption:**  $P(q_i = a | q_1 \dots q_{i-1}) = P(q_i = a | q_{i-1})$

# Markov Chains

bnro7 mn el abl el | le b3d el |



(a) A Markov chain for weather

- The graph consists of nodes and edges:

- Nodes → states
- Edges → the transitions, with their probabilities

(b) A Markov chain for words

- The values of arcs leaving a given state must **sum to 1**.
- (a) shows a Markov chain for assigning a probability to a sequence of weather events, for which the vocabulary consists of HOT, COLD, and WARM.
- (b) shows a Markov chain for assigning a probability to a sequence of words w<sub>1</sub>...w<sub>t</sub>.
  - This Markov chain should be familiar: it represents a **bigram language model**, with each edge expressing the probability p(w<sub>i</sub>|w<sub>j</sub>)

# Markov Chains

- Formally, a Markov chain is specified by the following components:

$$Q = q_1 q_2 \dots q_N$$

a set of  $N$  states

$$A = a_{11} a_{12} \dots a_{N1} \dots a_{NN}$$

a **transition probability matrix**  $A$ , each  $a_{ij}$  representing the probability of moving from state  $i$  to state  $j$ , s.t.  
 $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} = 1 \quad \forall i$

$$\pi = \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_N$$

an **initial probability distribution** over states.  $\pi_i$  is the probability that the Markov chain will start in state  $i$ . Some states  $j$  may have  $\pi_j = 0$ , meaning that they cannot be initial states. Also,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i = 1$

- Example: compute the probability of each of the following sequences:

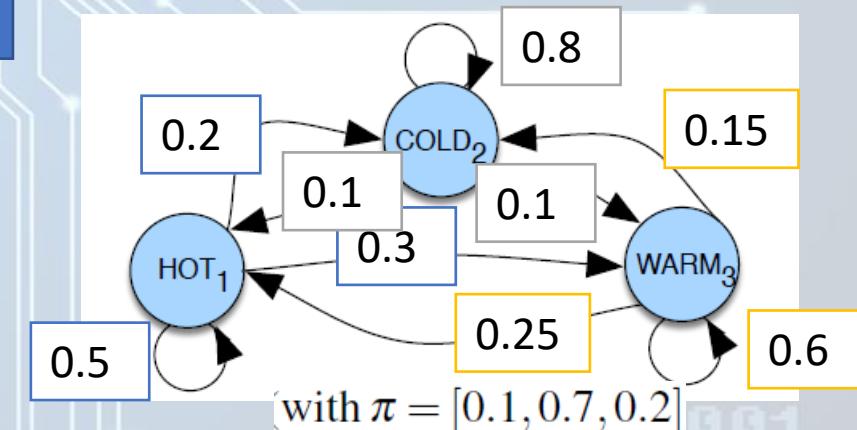
Can you prove these calculations **mathematically??**

- hot hot hot hot:

$$\begin{aligned} & P(\text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot}) \\ & = 0.1 * 0.5 * 0.5 * 0.5 = 0.0215 \end{aligned}$$

- cold hot cold hot:

$$\begin{aligned} & P(\text{cold}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{cold}) * P(\text{cold} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{cold}) \\ & = 0.7 * 0.1 * 0.2 * 0.1 = 0.0014 \end{aligned}$$



# Hidden Markov Model

- A **Markov chain** is useful when we need to compute a probability for a sequence of **observable events**.
- In many cases, however, the events we are interested in are **hidden**: we don't observe them directly.
- For example, we don't normally observe part-of-speech tags in a text. Rather, we see words, and must infer the tags from the word sequence.
  - We call the tags **hidden** because they are not **observed**.  

- A hidden Markov model (**HMM**) allows us to talk about both **observed events** (like **words** that we see in the input) and **hidden events** (like part-of-speech tags).

# Hidden Markov Model

el 7aga elly bhtm eny agblha probability hya elly b3tbr enaha state.

- An HMM is specified by the following components:

$$Q = q_1 q_2 \dots q_N$$

a set of  $N$  states

$$A = a_{11} \dots a_{ij} \dots a_{NN}$$

a **transition probability matrix**  $A$ , each  $a_{ij}$  representing the probability of moving from state  $i$  to state  $j$ , s.t.  $\sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} = 1 \quad \forall i$

$$O = o_1 o_2 \dots o_T$$

a sequence of  $T$  **observations**, each one drawn from a vocabulary  $V = v_1, v_2, \dots, v_V$

$$B = b_i(o_t)$$

a sequence of **observation likelihoods**, also called **emission probabilities**, each expressing the probability of an observation  $o_t$  being generated from a state  $q_i$

$$\pi = \pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_N$$

an **initial probability distribution** over states.  $\pi_i$  is the probability that the Markov chain will start in state  $i$ . Some states  $j$  may have  $\pi_j = 0$ , meaning that they cannot be initial states. Also,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i = 1$

- A first-order hidden Markov model instantiates two simplifying assumptions:

- probability of a particular state depends only on the previous state:

**Markov Assumption:**  $P(q_i|q_1, \dots, q_{i-1}) = P(q_i|q_{i-1})$

- probability of an **output observation**  $o_i$  depends only on the **state** that produced the observation  $q_i$  and not on any other states or any other observations:

**Output Independence:**  $P(o_i|q_1, \dots, q_i, \dots, q_T, o_1, \dots, o_i, \dots, o_T) = P(o_i|q_i) = b_i(o_i)$

# HMM Tagger

An HMM has two components, the A and B probabilities:

- The **A** matrix contains the tag transition probabilities  $P(t_i|t_{i-1})$  which represent the probability of a tag occurring given the previous tag.
  - For example, modal verbs (MD) like *will* are very likely to be followed by a verb in the base form (VB) like *learn* → we expect this probability to be high.
  - We compute the **maximum likelihood estimate** of this transition probability by **counting**: out of the times we see the first tag in a labeled corpus, how often the first tag is followed by the second:

$$P(t_i|t_{i-1}) = \frac{C(t_{i-1}, t_i)}{C(t_{i-1})}$$

nfs el fekra baa, dayman bfdal a3ed.

$$P(VB|MD) = \frac{C(MD, VB)}{C(MD)} = \frac{10471}{13124} = .80$$

- The **B** emission probabilities  $P(w_i|t_i)$  represent the probability, given a tag (say *MD*), that it will be associated with a given word (say *will*).

- The **MLE** of the emission probability is:

$$P(w_i|t_i) = \frac{C(t_i, w_i)}{C(t_i)}$$

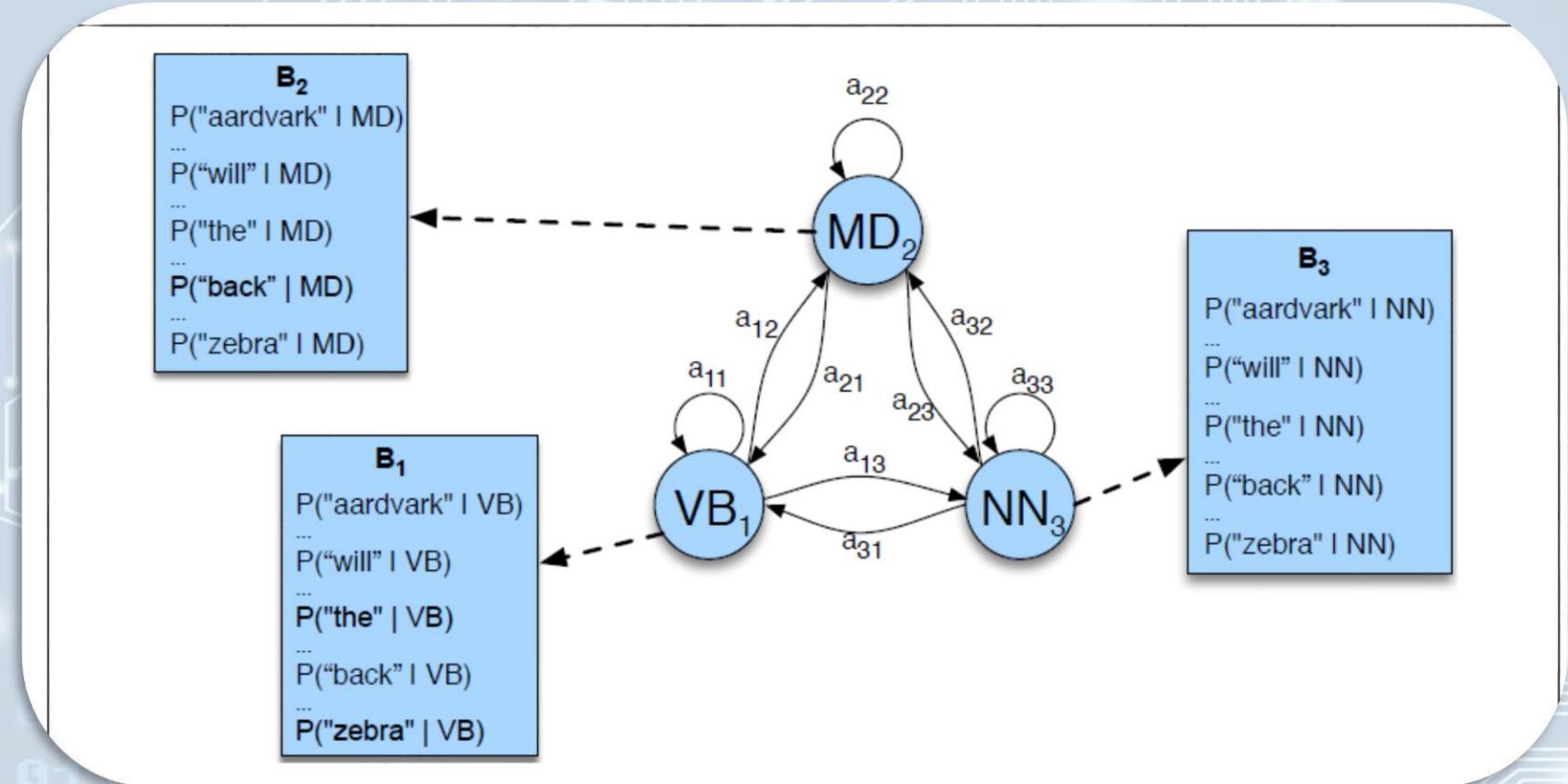
$$P(will|MD) = \frac{C(MD, will)}{C(MD)} = \frac{4046}{13124} = .31$$

This likelihood term is **NOT** asking:  
“which is the most likely tag for the word **will**? ”  
→ the posterior  $P(MD|will)$ .

Instead,  $P(will|MD)$  answers the question:  
“If we were going to generate a **MD**, how likely  
is it that this modal would be **will**? ”

# HMM Tagger

- A three states HMM part-of-speech tagger (the full tagger would have one state for each tag):



An illustration of the two parts of an HMM representation:

- the A transition probabilities.
- the B observation likelihoods that are associated with each state, one likelihood for each possible observation word.

# HMM Tagging as Decoding

- **Decoding:** is the task of determining the hidden variables sequence corresponding to the sequence of observations.

**Decoding:** Given as input an HMM  $\lambda = (A, B)$  and a sequence of observations  $O = o_1, o_2, \dots, o_T$ , find the most probable sequence of states  $Q = q_1 q_2 q_3 \dots q_T$ .

- For part-of-speech tagging, the goal of HMM decoding is to choose the tag sequence  $t_1 \dots t_n$  that is most probable given the observation sequence of  $n$  words  $w_1 \dots w_n$ :

$$\hat{t}_{1:n} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t_1 \dots t_n} P(t_1 \dots t_n | w_1 \dots w_n)$$

- Using Bayes' rule:  $\hat{t}_{1:n} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t_1 \dots t_n} \frac{P(w_1 \dots w_n | t_1 \dots t_n) P(t_1 \dots t_n)}{P(w_1 \dots w_n)}$

- Dropping the denominator:  $\hat{t}_{1:n} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t_1 \dots t_n} P(w_1 \dots w_n | t_1 \dots t_n) P(t_1 \dots t_n)$

- HMM taggers make two further simplifying assumptions:

$$P(w_1 \dots w_n | t_1 \dots t_n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^n P(w_i | t_i)$$

$$P(t_1 \dots t_n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^n P(t_i | t_{i-1})$$

probability of a word appearing depends only on its own tag and is independent of neighboring words and tags.

the bigram assumption, is that the probability of a tag is dependent only on the previous tag, rather than the entire tag sequence.

pi 34an homa independent. nfs el klam baa. enta b2et 5ebra delw2ty.

$$\hat{t}_{1:n} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t_1 \dots t_n} P(t_1 \dots t_n | w_1 \dots w_n) \approx \operatorname{argmax}_{t_1 \dots t_n} \prod_{i=1}^n \overbrace{P(w_i | t_i)}^{\text{emission transition}} \overbrace{P(t_i | t_{i-1})}^{\text{transition}}$$

enta btdwr 3la kol el permutations, da very computationally expensive,

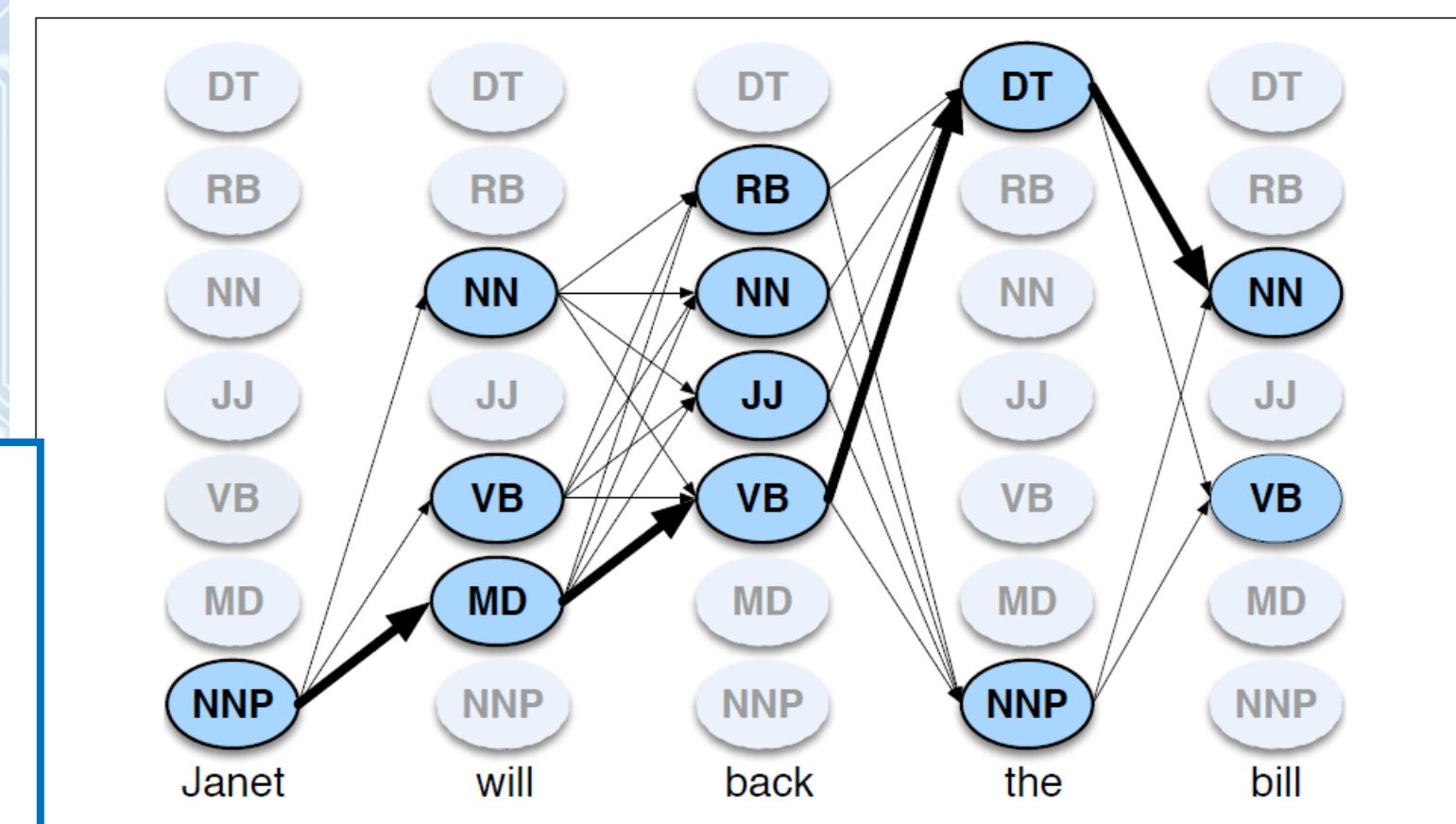
# The Viterbi Algorithm

- The decoding algorithm for HMMs is the Viterbi algorithm, it is an instance of dynamic programming.
- The algorithm first sets up a **probability matrix or lattice**, with one column for each observation  $o_t$  and one row for each state  $q_i$  in the state graph.

- DT: determiner
- RB: adverb
- NN: singular or mass noun
- JJ: adjective
- VB: verb base
- MD: modal
- NNP: proper noun, singular

A sketch of the lattice for *Janet will back the bill*:

- The possible tags ( $q_i$ ) for each word.
- The path corresponding to the correct tag sequence is highlighted.
- States (parts of speech) which have a zero probability of generating a particular word according to the B matrix such as  $P(\text{Janet} | \text{DT})$  are greyed out.



# The Viterbi Algorithm

- Each cell of the lattice,  $v_t(j)$ , represents the probability that the HMM is in state  $j$  after seeing the first  $t$  observations and passing through the most probable state sequence  $q_1, \dots, q_{t-1}$ , given the HMM  $\lambda$ .
- The value of each cell  $v_t(j)$  is computed by recursively taking the most probable path that could lead us to this cell:

$$v_t(j) = \max_{i=1}^N v_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(o_t)$$

enta m5zn el result, fa hena baa bntb2 el dp logic ....

$v_{t-1}(i)$	the <b>previous Viterbi path probability</b> from the previous time step
$a_{ij}$	the <b>transition probability</b> from previous state $q_i$ to current state $q_j$
$b_j(o_t)$	the <b>state observation likelihood</b> of the observation symbol $o_t$ given the current state $j$

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# The Viterbi Algorithm Example

- Let's tag the sentence *Janet will back the bill*
- The gold answer: *Janet/NNP will/MD back/VB the/DT bill/NN*
- The **A transition probabilities**  $P(t_i|t_{i-1})$  computed from the WSJ corpus without smoothing (*ONLY part is shown*). Rows are labeled with the conditioning event:

- E.g.:  $P(VB|MD)=0.7968$ ,  $P(NNP|<s>)=\pi_{NNP} = 0.2767$

el rows homa el given	NNP	MD	VB	JJ	NN	RB	DT	el column hya el 7aga elly bdwr 3leha.
<i>&lt; s &gt;</i>	0.2767	0.0006	0.0031	0.0453	0.0449	0.0510	0.2026	el table da given 3ndk.
NNP	0.3777	0.0110	0.0009	0.0084	0.0584	0.0090	0.0025	
MD	0.0008	0.0002	0.7968	0.0005	0.0008	0.1698	0.0041	
VB	0.0322	0.0005	0.0050	0.0837	0.0615	0.0514	0.2231	
JJ	0.0366	0.0004	0.0001	0.0733	0.4509	0.0036	0.0036	
NN	0.0096	0.0176	0.0014	0.0086	0.1216	0.0177	0.0068	
RB	0.0068	0.0102	0.1011	0.1012	0.0120	0.0728	0.0479	
DT	0.1147	0.0021	0.0002	0.2157	0.4744	0.0102	0.0017	

# The Viterbi Algorithm Example

- The **observation likelihoods B (Emission probability matrix)** computed from the WSJ corpus without smoothing (*simplified slightly*).
  - E.g.:  $P(\text{back} | \text{JJ})=0.000340$
  - The word *Janet* only appears as an *NNP*, *back* has 4 possible parts of speech, and the word *the* can appear as a *determiner* or as an *NNP*.

Remember the greyed out nodes in the graph → Prob=0



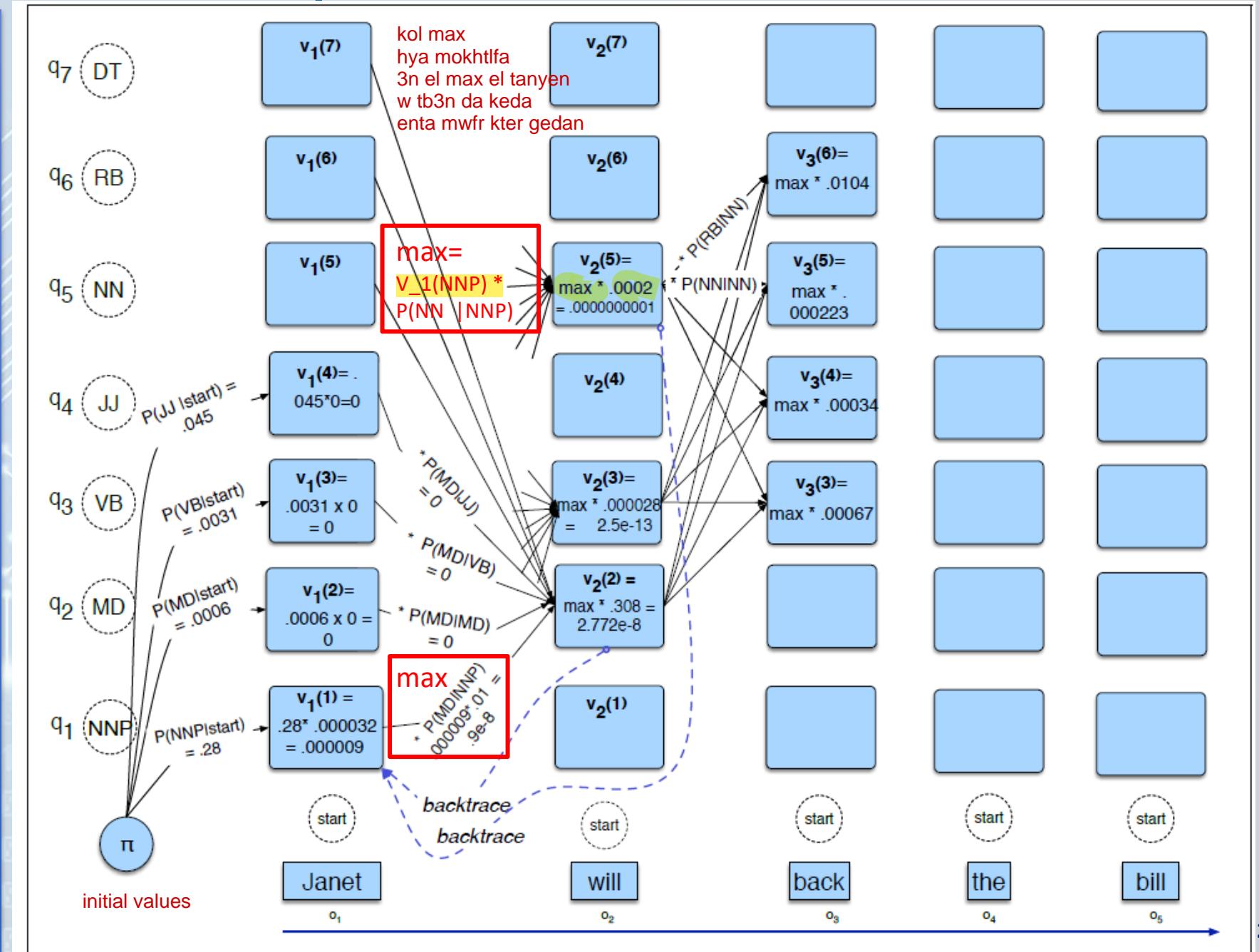
	Janet	will	back	the	bill	
NNP	0.000032	0	0	0.000048	0	dol homa el emission probabilities.
MD	0	0.308431	0	0	0	
VB	0	0.000028	0.000672	0	0.000028	
JJ	0	0	0.000340	0	0	
NN	0	0.000200	0.000223	0	0.002337	
RB	0	0	0.010446	0	0	
DT	0	0	0	0.506099	0	

# The Viterbi Algorithm Example

$$v_t(j) = \max_{i=1}^N v_{t-1}(i) \alpha_{ij} b_j(o_t)$$

kol max  
hya mokhtifa  
3n el max el tanyen  
w tb3n da keda  
enta mwfr kte gedan

- We begin in column 1 (for the word *Janet*) by setting the Viterbi value in each cell to the product of the  $\pi$  transition probability and the observation likelihood of the word *Janet* given the tag for that cell.
- Next, each cell in the *will* column gets updated. For each state, we compute the value  $viterbi[s,t]$  by taking the maximum over the extensions of all the paths from the previous column that lead to the current cell.
- Each cell keeps the probability of the best path so far and a pointer to the previous cell along that path.
- Termination: take the max value from the last column of the Viterbi matrix selecting its tag and then use the pointer to go back (selecting tags) until reach the 1st word.



# The Viterbi Algorithm

**function** VITERBI(*observations* of len  $T$ ,*state-graph* of len  $N$ ) **returns** *best-path*, *path-prob*

create a path probability matrix *viterbi*[ $N,T$ ]

**for** each state  $s$  **from** 1 **to**  $N$  **do** ; initialization step

$\text{viterbi}[s,1] \leftarrow \pi_s * b_s(o_1)$

$\text{backpointer}[s,1] \leftarrow 0$

**for** each time step  $t$  **from** 2 **to**  $T$  **do** ; recursion step

**for** each state  $s$  **from** 1 **to**  $N$  **do**

$\text{viterbi}[s,t] \leftarrow \max_{s'=1}^N \text{viterbi}[s',t-1] * a_{s',s} * b_s(o_t)$

$\text{backpointer}[s,t] \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{s'=1}^N \text{viterbi}[s',t-1] * a_{s',s} * b_s(o_t)$

$\text{bestpathprob} \leftarrow \max_{s=1}^N \text{viterbi}[s,T]$  ; termination step

$\text{bestpathpointer} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{s=1}^N \text{viterbi}[s,T]$  ; termination step

*bestpath*  $\leftarrow$  the path starting at state *bestpathpointer*, that follows *backpointer*[] to states back in time

**return** *bestpath*, *bestpathprob*



# Thank You

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