



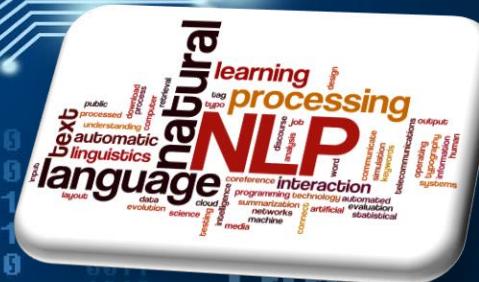
Cairo University

**Cairo University  
Faculty of Engineering  
Computer Engineering Department**

# Natural Language Processing

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# Dr. Sandra Wahid



# Sequence Labeling

Sequence  
Labeling  
Tasks

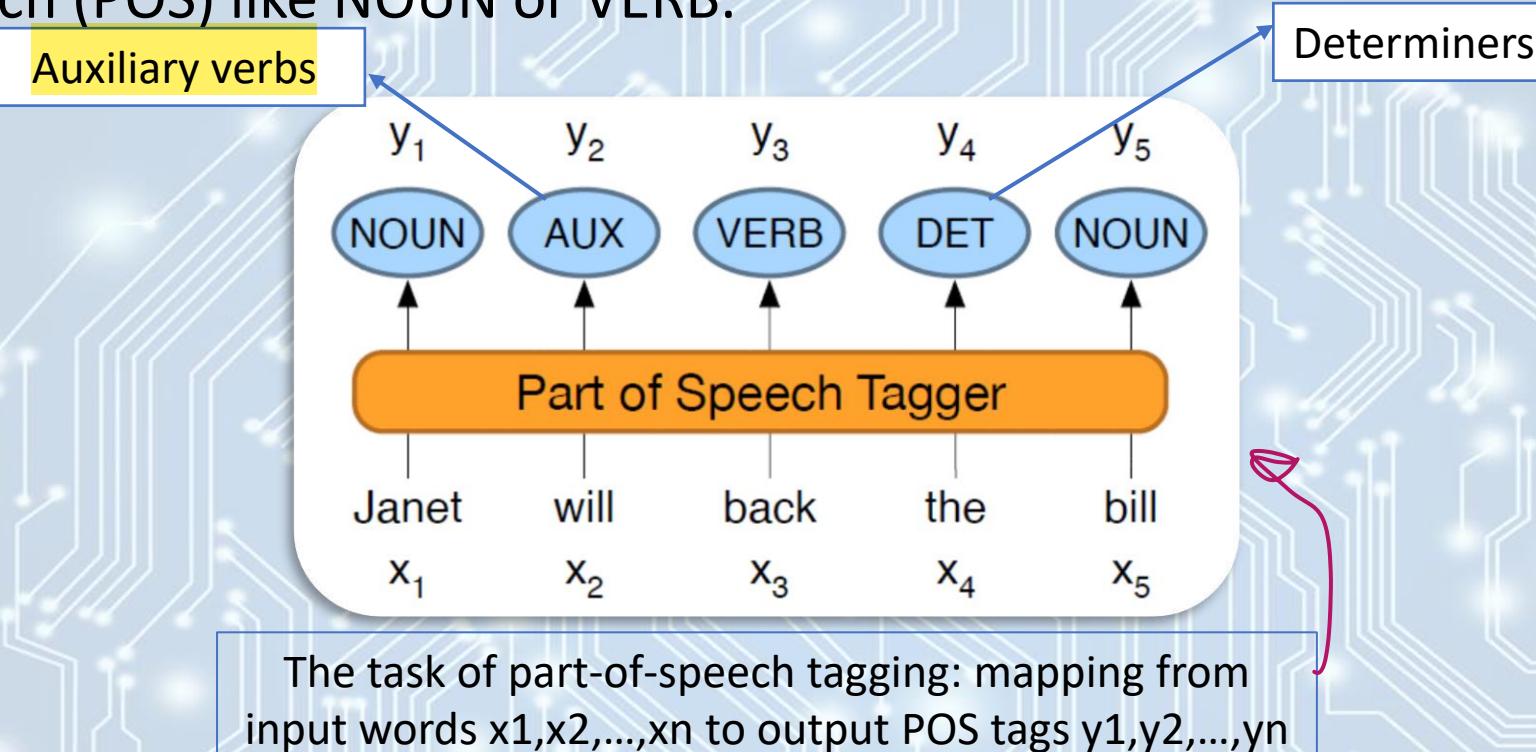
Part-of-Speech  
Tagging (POS  
Tagging)

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.



- 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). this is an example for word sense disambiguation. :)
- 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.

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

mynf34 t2ol I w temshy fahem?

[PER Jane Villanueva] of [ORG United]<sup>S-ORG</sup>, a unit of [ORG United Airlines]  
[ Holding], said the fare applies to the [LOC Chicago] route.

| 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

- Recurrent Neural Networks: RNN

- Transformers

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

- 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.

qi = state.

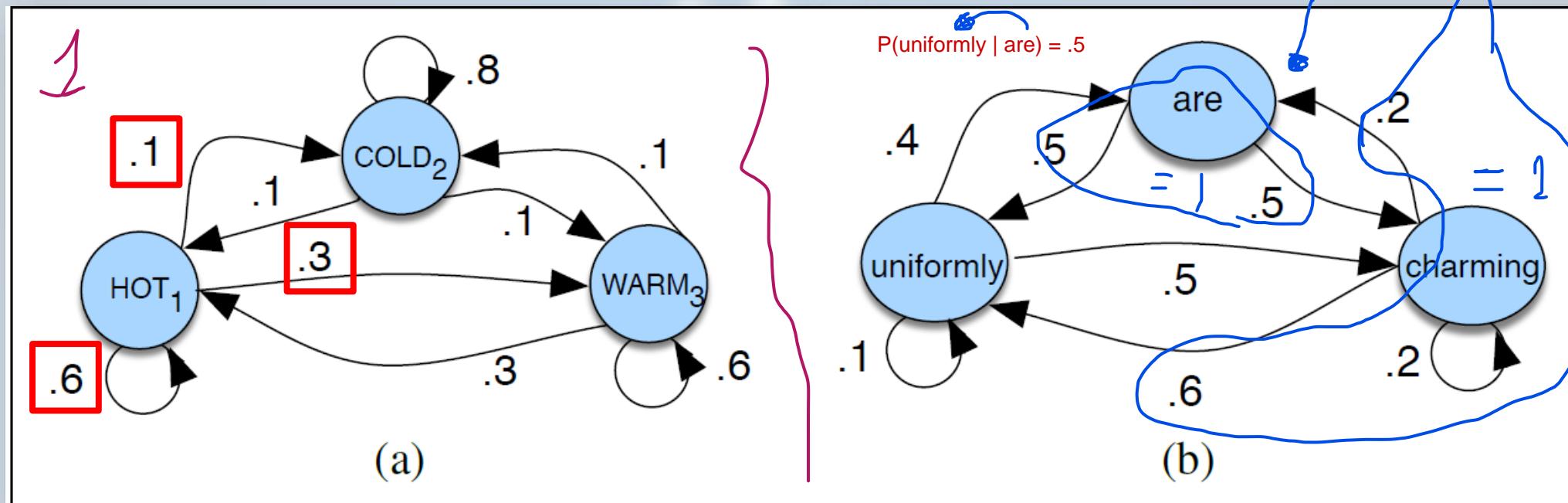
if we want to predict current state, then what matters is previous state -> enta fahem baa.

**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 |

mgmon el arches elly  
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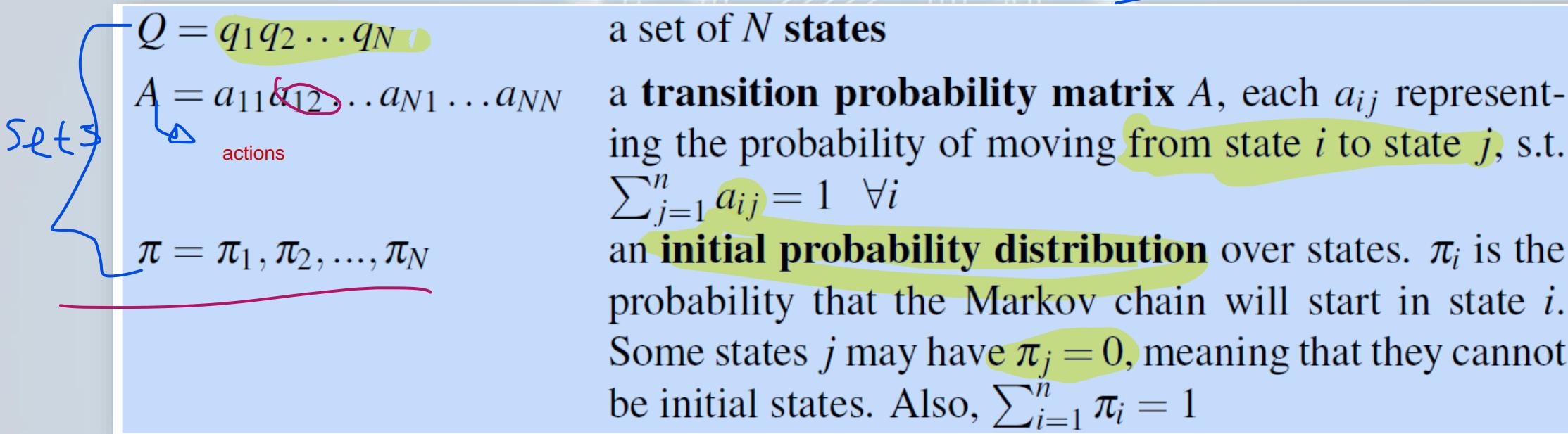
(a) A Markov chain for weather

(b) A Markov chain for words

- The graph consists of nodes and edges:
  - Nodes → states
  - Edges → the transitions, with their probabilities
- 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

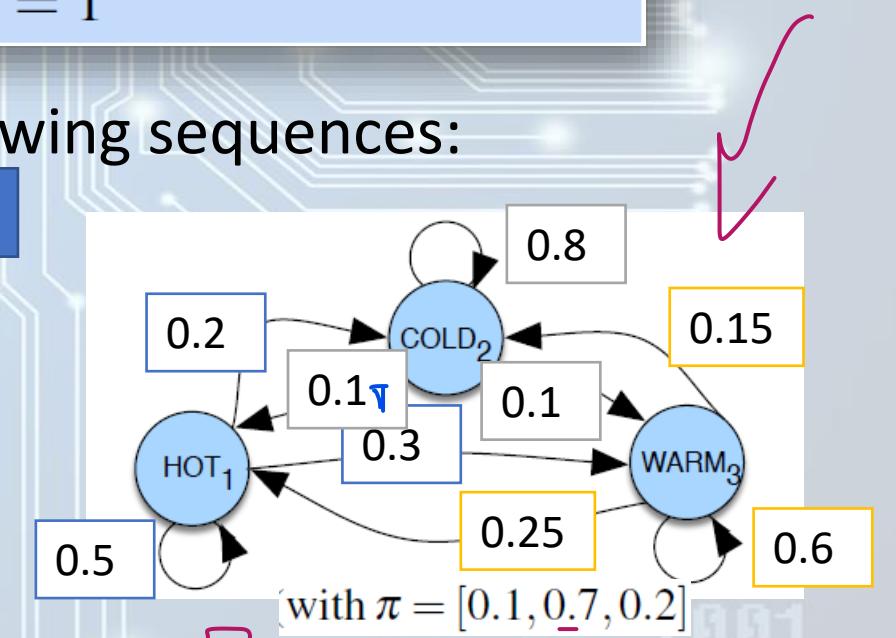
- Formally, a Markov chain is specified by the following components:



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

- hot hot hot hot:  
 $P(\text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{hot})$   
 $= 0.1 * 0.5 * 0.5 * 0.5 = 0.0215$
- cold hot cold hot:  
 $P(\text{cold}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{cold}) * P(\text{cold} | \text{hot}) * P(\text{hot} | \text{cold})$   
 $= 0.7 * 0.1 * 0.2 * 0.1 = 0.0014$

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



# 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**.  
*why?*
- 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:**  $P(o_i|q_1, \dots, q_i, \dots, q_T, o_1, \dots, o_i, \dots, o_T) = P(o_i|q_i) = b_i(o_i)$

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# 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*).

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

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

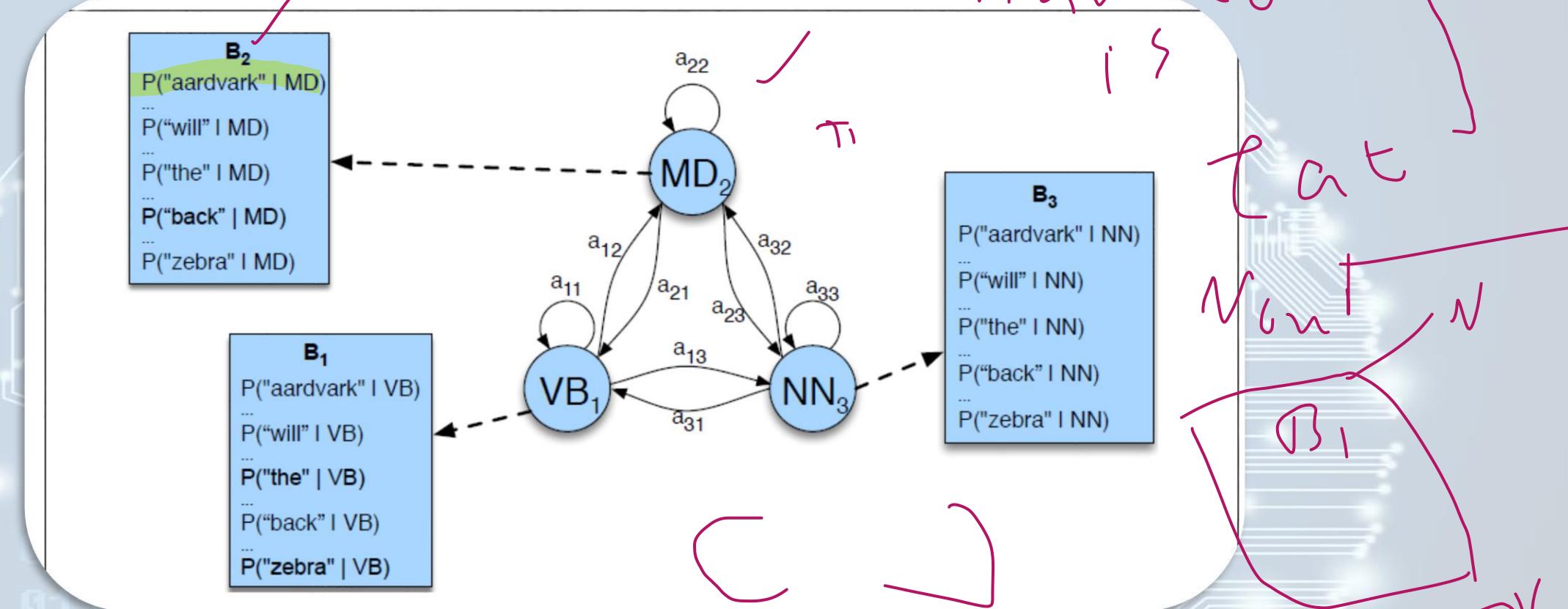
This likelihood term is NOT asking:  
“which is the most likely tag for the word *will*? ”  
→ the posterior  $P(MD|will)$ .

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

N V

- 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  $w_1 \dots w_n$ :

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

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

same observations for all probabilities :D

- Using Bayes' rule:
- Dropping the denominator:
- 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. nfa 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

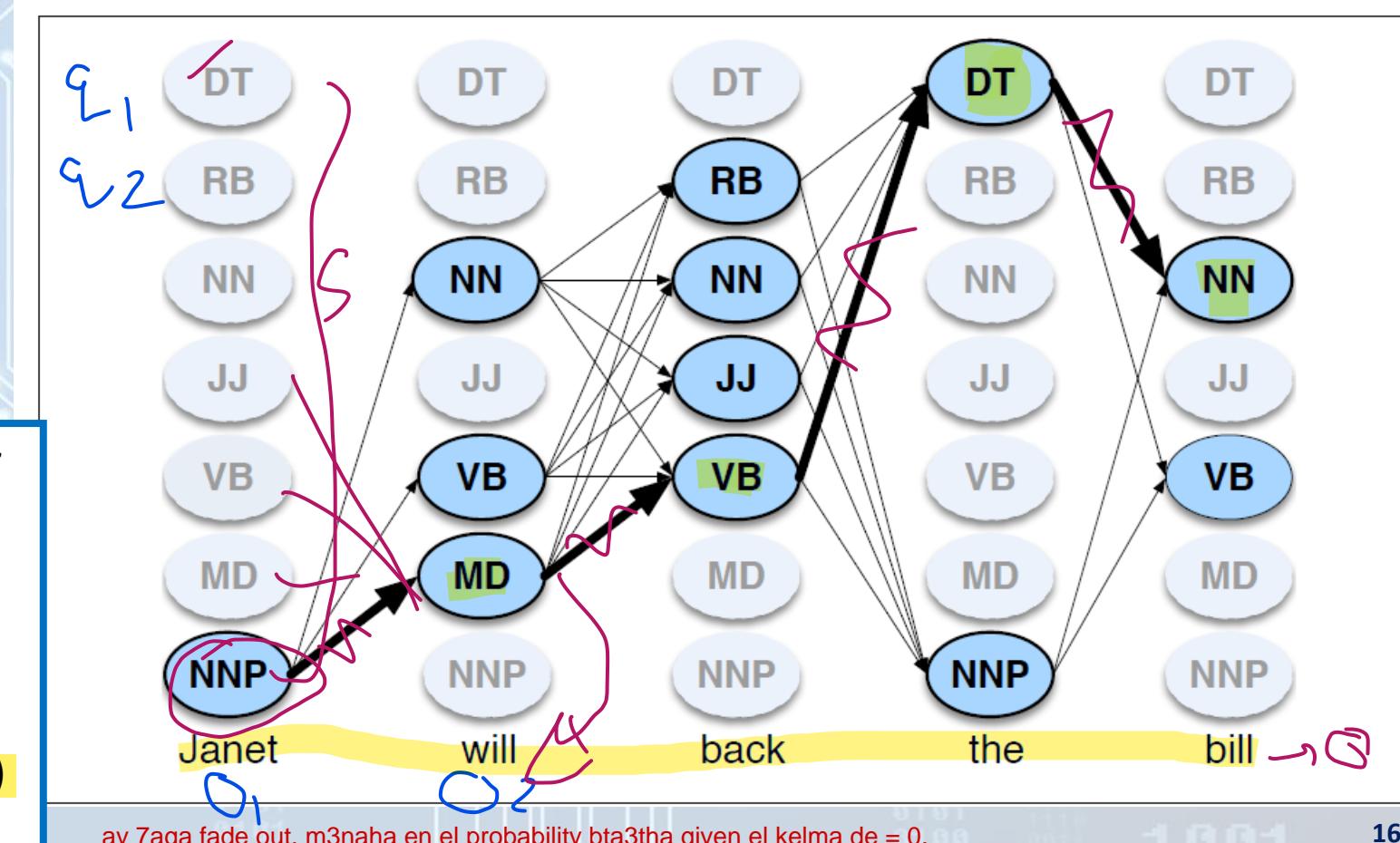
- The decoding algorithm for HMMs is the **Viterbi algorithm**, it is an instance of dynamic programming.
- The algorithm first sets up a **probability matrix or lattice**, with one column for each observation  $o_t$  and one row for each state  $q_i$  in the state graph.

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

the

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:

t -> observation

j -> state

i -> iterator over all the possible states.

$v_t(j)$  = probability of the observation t to have the state j.

hence,  $v_t(j) = \max(\text{from } i = 1 \text{ to } N) v_i$  of previous state

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

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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0110  
1001

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

transition table

| el rows homa el given | NNP    | MD     | VB     | JJ     | NN     | RB     | DT     | el column hya el 7aga elly bdwr 3leha. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| $< s >$               | 0.2767 | 0.0006 | 0.0031 | 0.0453 | 0.0449 | 0.0510 | 0.2026 | T                                      |
| NNP                   | 0.3777 | 0.0110 | 0.0009 | 0.0084 | 0.0584 | 0.0090 | 0.0025 | el table da given 3ndk.                |
| 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

if you know that the state is ... then the probability to get the word .... is ....

cell value.

- 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*.

emission table.

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

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

in real life project, the summation of each row should sum up to one, but this is just an example.

dayman enta btdwr 3la goz2en

1. byegy mn el transition matrix -> from state (verb) go to state (noun)

2. byegy mn el emission matrix -> if we inside the verb, what is the probability to get this observed word.

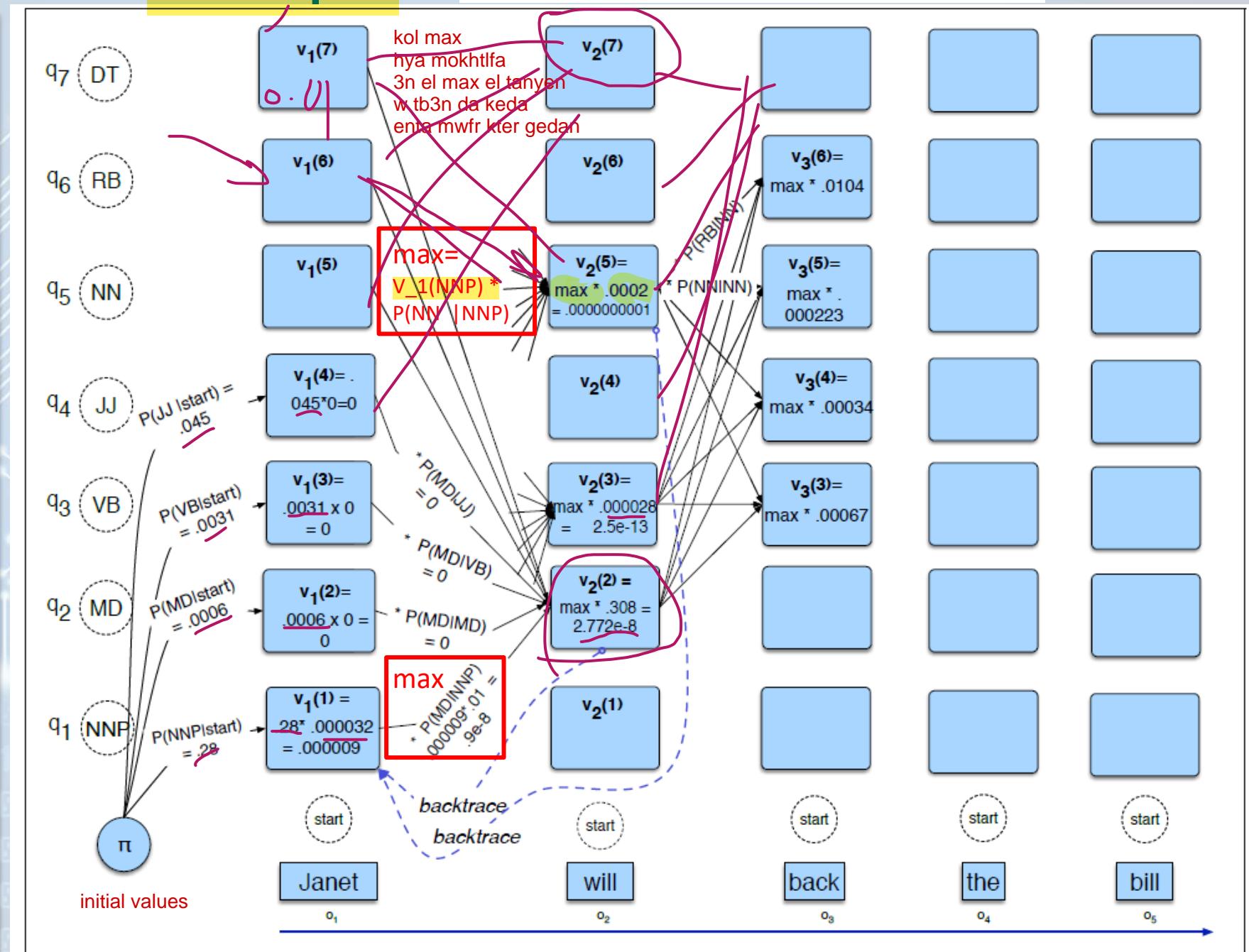
let's apply

# The Viterbi Algorithm Example

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

←

- 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

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

*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**

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

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

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

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