$$p(\phi_n, C_k) = p(C_k)p(\phi_n|C_k) = \pi_k p(\phi_n|C_k)$$

The likelihood function is given by

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_K) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \prod_{k=1}^{K} (\pi_k p(\phi_n|C_k))^{t_{nk}}$$

The log-likelihood function is given by

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_K) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \ln \left((\pi_k p(\phi_n | C_k))^{t_{nk}} \right)$$
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} t_{nk} \ln(\pi_k) + t_{nk} \ln(p(\phi_n | C_k))$$

We need to maximizing w.r.t K parameters : π_k for all $k = 1 \dots K$.

But we also have a constraint : $\sum_{i=1}^{K} \pi_k = 1$.

If we use constrained optimization, we can define a Lagrangian function (using this reference):

$$L(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_K, \lambda) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{K} (t_{nk} \ln(\pi_k) + t_{nk} \ln(p(\phi_n | C_k))) + \lambda \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K} \pi_k\right)$$

For any particular π_k ,

$$\frac{dL(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_K, \lambda)}{d\pi_k} = \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{t_{nk}}{\pi_k} + 0\right) - \lambda = 0$$

$$\Longrightarrow \lambda = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{t_{nk}}{\pi_k}$$

$$\Longrightarrow \lambda = \frac{N_k}{\pi_k}$$

$$\Longrightarrow \pi_k = \frac{N_k}{\lambda}$$

Using the constraint,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{K} \pi_i = 1$$

$$\Longrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{K} \frac{N_k}{\lambda} = 1$$

$$\Longrightarrow \frac{N}{\lambda} = 1$$

$$\Longrightarrow \lambda = N$$

Thus, we can see that

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k}{\lambda} = \frac{N_k}{N}, \quad \forall k = \{1, 2, \dots, K\}.$$