

The Context Algorithm

Yoav Freund

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Outline

Review

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Fixed Length Markov Models

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Variable Length Markov Model (VMM)

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Universal coding, an inefficient solution

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Slides from Frans Willems

The online Bayes Algorithm

- Total loss of expert i

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- ▶ Prediction of algorithm A

$$\mathbf{p}_A^t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i^t \mathbf{p}_i^t}{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i^t}$$

Cumulative loss vs. Final total weight

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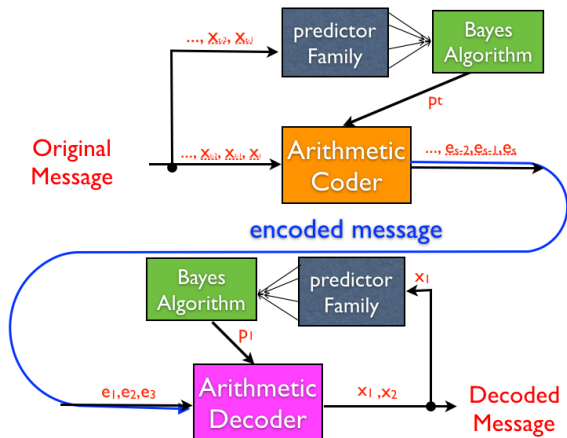
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Universal Online coding



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- ▶ Today we consider the much richer set of variable length markov models.
- ▶ The set of predictors is of exponential size, but the algorithm is efficient.

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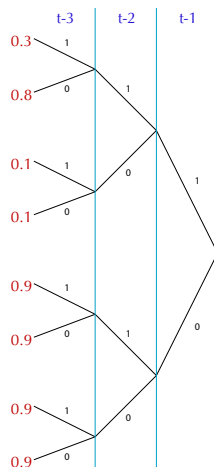
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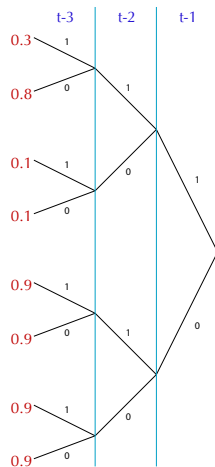
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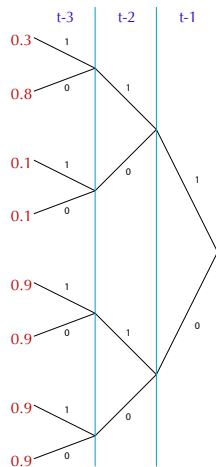
- ▶ Total regret is at most $2^{k-1} \log T$

How variable length markov can reduce regret

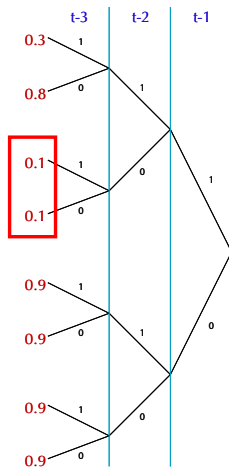
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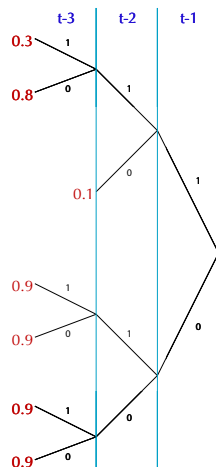
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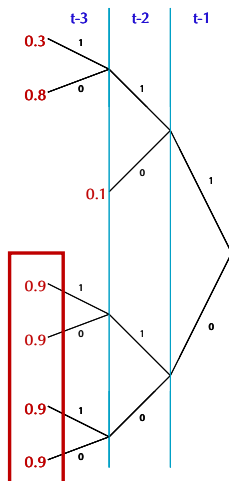
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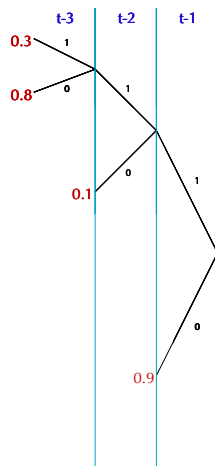
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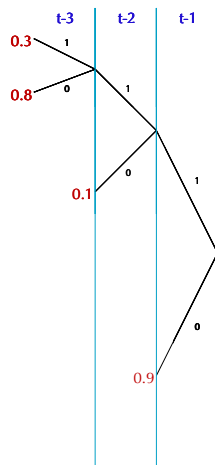
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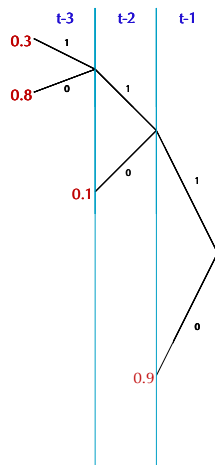


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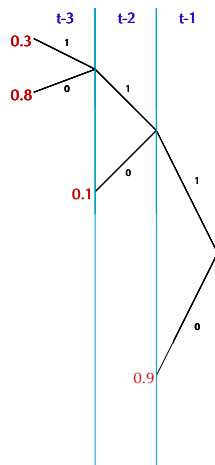
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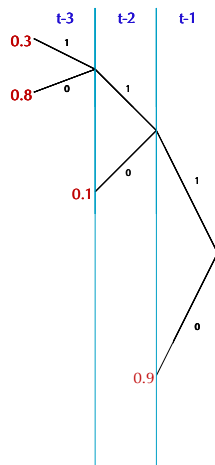
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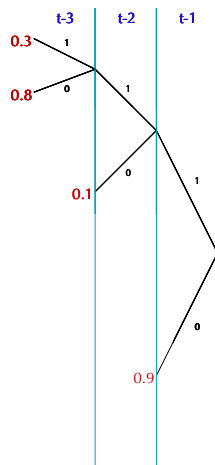
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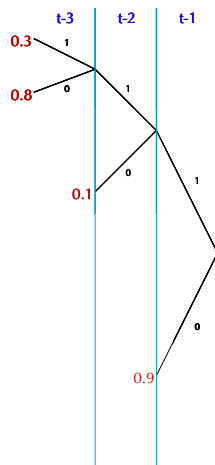
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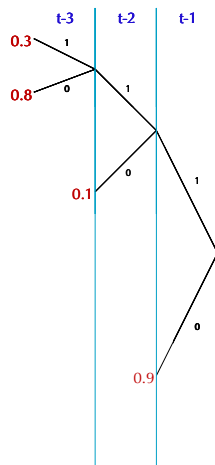
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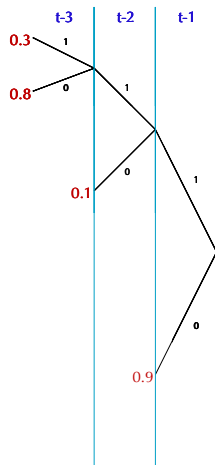


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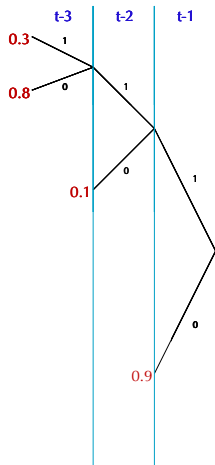
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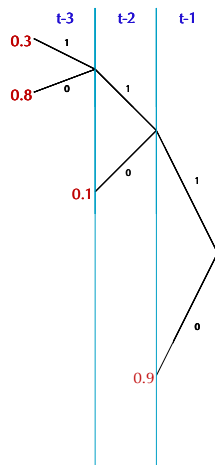


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- ▶ When we have little data, we can get better prediction even if the children are not **Exactly the same**

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- ▶ First - simple but inefficient algorithm, Second - efficient algorithms.

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- ▶ The total regret would be $\frac{l}{2} \log T + n$ where l is the number of leaves in the prefix tree.
- ▶ This algorithm maintains a weight for each prefix tree.
- ▶ The number of prunings of a full tree of depth k is $O(2^{2^k})$ while maintaining all of the counts requires $O(2^k)$.

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- ▶ Probability of a tree with n nodes is 2^{-n}

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- ▶ Subset corresponding to node is contained in subset corresponding to node's parent.

Efficient averaging over the prior (procedure)

- ▶ This is not the method used in the original paper, it appears in a later paper by *Willems, Tjalkens and Ignatenko*. Available on *github*.

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- ▶ The KT estimate associated with node s .

$$P_e^s(X_t = 1 | x_1^{t-1}) = \frac{b_s(x_1^{t-1}) + 1/2}{a_s(x_1^{t-1}) + b_s(x_1^{t-1}) + 1}$$

Assigning probabilities to complete sequences

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- ▶ We can translate probabilities for complete sequences back into predictions.

$$p(x_t = 1|x_1 = y_1, \dots, x_{t-1} = y_{t-1}) = \frac{p(x_1 = y_1, \dots, x_{t-1} = y_{t-1}, x_t = 1)}{p(x_1 = y_1, \dots, x_{t-1} = y_{t-1})}$$

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 - ▶ update β^s

Slides from Frans Willems

IX. Betas: Introduction

Consider an internal node s in the context tree $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{D}}$ and the corresponding *conditional* weighted probability $P_w^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})$. Assuming that $0s$ (and not $1s$) is a suffix of the context x_{1-D}^0, x_1^{t-1} of x_t , we obtain for this probability that

$$\begin{aligned} P_w^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1}) &= \frac{P_e^s(x_1^{t-1}, X_t = 1) + P_w^{0s}(x_1^{t-1}, X_t = 1)P_w^{1s}(x_1^{t-1})}{P_e^s(x_1^{t-1}) + P_w^{0s}(x_1^{t-1})P_w^{1s}(x_1^{t-1})} \\ &= \frac{\beta^s(x_1^{t-1})P_e^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1}) + P_w^{0s}(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})}{\beta^s(x_1^{t-1}) + 1} \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\beta^s(x_1^{t-1}) \triangleq \frac{P_e^s(x_1^{t-1})}{P_w^{0s}(x_1^{t-1})P_w^{1s}(x_1^{t-1})}. \quad (2)$$

If we start in the context-leaf and work our way down to the root, we finally find $P_w^\lambda(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})$.

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Implementation

Assume that in node s the counts $a_s(x_1^{t-1})$ and $b_s(x_1^{t-1})$ are stored, as well as $\beta^s(x_1^{t-1})$. We then get the following sequence of operations:

1. Node 0_s delivers cond. wei. probability $P_w^{0s}(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})$ to node s .
2. Cond. est. probability $P_e^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})$ is determined as follows:

$$P_e^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1}) = \frac{b_s(x_1^{t-1}) + 1/2}{a_s(x_1^{t-1}) + b_s(x_1^{t-1}) + 1}. \quad (3)$$

3. Now $P_w^s(X_t = 1|x_1^{t-1})$ can be computed as in (1).
4. The ratio $\beta^s(\cdot)$ is then updated with symbol x_t as follows:

$$\beta^s(x_1^{t-1}, x_t) = \beta^s(x_1^{t-1}) \cdot \frac{P_e^s(X_t = x_t|x_1^{t-1})}{P_w^{0s}(X_t = x_t|x_1^{t-1})}. \quad (4)$$

5. Finally, depending on the value x_t , either count $a_s(x_1^{t-1})$ or $b_s(x_1^{t-1})$ is incremented.

Sequence: 0,0,1,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,1,0,1,1,1

