# 01.112 Machine Learning Homework 4

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## Hidden Markov Models

## **Model Parameters**

#### Parameters associated with the HMM

The HMM is parameterized by:

- 1.  $\mathcal{T}$ , the set of states, including the START and STOP states.  $\mathcal{T} = 0$  (START),..., $|\mathcal{T}| 2$  (STOP).
- 2.  $\mathcal{O}$ , the set of observation symbols.
- 3.  $a_{u,v}$ , the transition parameters, which are the probabilities of transitioning from state u to v.

$$a_{u,v} = p(y_{next} = v \mid y_{curr} = u) \tag{1}$$

where  $u \in [0, ..., |\mathcal{T}| - 2], v \in [1, ..., |\mathcal{T}| - 1].$ 

4.  $b_u(o)$ , the emission parameters, which are the probabilities of emitting symbol o given state u.

$$b_u(o) = p(x = o | y = u)$$
 (2)

#### Computing optimal model parameters

- States  $\mathcal{T} = \{ \texttt{START}, X, Y, Z, \texttt{STOP} \}$
- Observations  $\mathcal{O} = \{a, b, c\}$
- Transition parameters:

$$a_{\mathtt{START},X} = \frac{Count(\mathtt{START};X)}{Count(\mathtt{START})} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.5 \quad \ (3)$$

$$a_{\mathtt{START},Z} = \frac{Count(\mathtt{START};Z)}{Count(\mathtt{START})} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.5 \quad (4)$$

$$a_{X,Y} = \frac{Count(X;Y)}{Count(X)} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$
 (5)

$$a_{X,Z} = \frac{Count(X;Z)}{Count(X)} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$
 (6)

$$a_{Y,X} = \frac{Count(Y;X)}{Count(Y)} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$$
 (7)

$$a_{Y,Z} = \frac{Count(Y;Z)}{Count(Y)} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$$
 (8)

$$a_{Z,X} = \frac{Count(Z;X)}{Count(Z)} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4 \tag{9}$$

$$a_{Z,Y} = \frac{Count(Z;Y)}{Count(Z)} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6$$
 (10)

$$a_{X, \texttt{STOP}} = \frac{Count(X; \texttt{STOP})}{Count(X)} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2 \qquad (11)$$

$$a_{Y, \text{STOP}} = \frac{Count(Y; \text{STOP})}{Count(Y)} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \qquad (12)$$

• Emission parameters:

$$b_X(a) = \frac{Count(X \to a)}{Count(X)} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$
 (13)

$$b_Y(a) = \frac{Count(Y \to a)}{Count(Y)} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$
 (14)

$$b_Z(a) = \frac{Count(Z \to a)}{Count(Z)} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2$$
 (15)

$$b_X(b) = \frac{Count(X \to b)}{Count(X)} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6$$
 (16)

$$b_Z(b) = \frac{Count(Z \to b)}{Count(Z)} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \tag{17}$$

$$b_Y(c) = \frac{Count(Y \to c)}{Count(Y)} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6$$
 (18)

$$b_Z(c) = \frac{Count(Z \to c)}{Count(Z)} = \frac{1}{5} = 0.2 \tag{19}$$

## Viterbi Algorithm

#### **Formulation**

1. Our objective is to outut the sequence of tags  $y_1, \ldots, y_n$  with the highest likelihood:

$$\max_{y_1,\dots,y_n} P(y_1,\dots,y_n) \tag{20}$$

Let  $y_1, \ldots, y_k$  be a subset of  $y_1, \ldots, y_n$ , where  $v = y_k$ . Define  $\pi(k, v)$  as the sequence of tags up to  $y_k$  that has the highest likelihood:

$$\pi(k, v) = \max_{y_1, \dots, y_k} P(y_1, \dots, y_k)$$

$$\max_{y_1, \dots, y_k} \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^k a_{y_{i-1}, y_i} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k b_{y_i}(x_i) \right\}$$
(21)

Table of $\pi(k, v)$ for next state $v$				
iteration $k$	0	1		n
$\overline{v} = \mathtt{START}$	1	0		0
$v = y_1$	0	$\pi(1,y_1)$		$\pi(n,y_1)$
$v = y_2$	0	$\pi(1,y_2)$		$\pi(n,y_2)$
	:	:	٠.	:
$v = y_n$	0	$\pi(1,y_n)$		$\pi(n,y_n)$

For example, for iteration k = 4, and next state  $v = y_2$ , we find the maximum probability of the over all possible states.

$$\pi(4, y_2) = \max_{u \in y_0, \dots, y_{n+1}} \left\{ \pi(3, u) \cdot a_{u, y_2} \cdot b_{y_2}(x_4) \right\},$$
(22)

- $\pi(3, u)$ , where u is the state which survives after taking the maximum probability over all possible states when k = 3,
- $a_{u,y_2}$ , the probability of transitioning from state u to state  $y_2$ ,
- $b_{y_2}(x_4)$ , the probability of emitting observation  $x_4$  given state  $y_2$ .
- 2. Base case, k = 0.

$$\pi(k=0,v) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } v = \text{START} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (23)

3. Recursive, for k = 1, ..., n, the best probability of the best previous path  $\times$  transition  $\times$  emission.

$$\pi(k, v) = \max_{u} \left\{ \pi(k - 1, u) \cdot a_{u, v} \cdot b_{v}(x_{k}) \right\}$$
 (24)

4. Termination case.

$$\pi(k=(n+1),\, \mathtt{STOP}) = \max_{v} \left\{ \, \pi(n,v) \cdot a_{v,\, \mathtt{STOP}} \, \right\} \tag{25}$$

#### Computation

- 1. Input:  $x = \{b, b\}$
- 2. k = 0, base case:

$$\pi(0, \mathtt{START}) = 1 \tag{26}$$

3. k = 1:

$$\begin{split} \pi(1,X) &= \pi(0,\mathsf{START}) \cdot a_{\mathsf{START},X} \cdot b_X(b) \\ &= 1 \times 0.5 \times 0.6 = 0.3 \\ \pi(1,Y) &= \pi(0,\mathsf{START}) \cdot a_{\mathsf{START},Y} \cdot b_Y(b) \\ &= 1 \times 0 \times 0 = 0 \\ \pi(1,Z) &= \pi(0,\mathsf{START}) \cdot a_{\mathsf{START},Z} \cdot b_Z(b) \\ &= 1 \times 0.5 \times 0.6 = 0.3 \end{split} \tag{27}$$

4. k = 2:

$$\pi(2, X) = \max_{X,Y,Z} \left\{ \pi(1, X) \cdot a_{X,X} \cdot b_X(b), \right.$$

$$\pi(1, Y) \cdot a_{X,Y} \cdot b_Y(b),$$

$$\pi(1, Z) \cdot a_{X,Z} \cdot b_Z(b) \right\}$$

$$= \max \left\{ 0, 0, 0.072 \right\} = 0.072$$

$$\pi(2, Y) = \max \left\{ 0, 0, 0 \right\} = 0$$

$$\pi(2, Z) = \max \left\{ 0.072, 0, 0 \right\} = 0.072$$

5. k = 3, termination case:

$$\begin{split} \pi(3, \, \mathtt{STOP}) &= \max_{v} \big\{ \, \pi(2, v) \cdot a_{v, \mathtt{STOP}} \, \big\} \\ &= \max \big\{ \pi(2, X) \cdot a_{X, \mathtt{STOP}} \\ &\quad \pi(2, Y) \cdot a_{Y, \mathtt{STOP}}, \\ &\quad \pi(2, Z) \cdot a_{Z, \mathtt{STOP}} \big\} \\ &= \max \big\{ 0.072 \times 0.2, \, 0, \, 0 \big\} = 0.0144 \end{split}$$

6. We then backtrack, finding the best values for each state:

$$y_2 : \underset{v}{\arg \max} \{ 0.0144, 0, 0 \} = X$$
  
 $y_1 : \underset{v}{\arg \max} \{ 0, 0, 0.072 \} = Z$  (30)

So the most probable sequence is:

$$y_0, \dots, y_{n+1} = \mathtt{START}, Z, X, \mathtt{STOP}$$
 (31)

## Top-k decoding

Currently, at each  $\pi(i, u)$  we only store one parent. However suppose we stored the top k predecessors. So each  $\pi(i, u)$  corresponds not only to a most likely value and the node which it transitioned from, but a list of the top k nodes it could have transitioned from and their values in sorted order. Therefore, in order to perform top-k decoding, we must store the top k optimal sub-paths at each node, instead of just the top sub-path with the highest probability.

#### **Formulation**

1. Base case, i = 0. This is unchanged from the vanilla Viterbi algorithm.

$$\pi(i=0,v) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } v = \text{START} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (32)

2. Recursive, for i = 1, ..., n, the k best probabilities of the previous paths  $\times$  transition  $\times$  emission. Here, in contrast to the vanilla Viterbi algorithm which carries out a max operation to sieve out the best preceding node, we take the top k preceding nodes and store them.

We define a k-max operator, which selects the k highest elements in the set, then sorts them in descending order.

$$\pi(i, v) = \text{k-max}_u \{ \pi(i - 1, u) \cdot a_{u, v} \cdot b_v(x_i) \}$$
(33)

3. Termination case.

$$\pi(i = (n+1), \, \mathtt{STOP}) = \mathrm{k\text{-}max}_v \, \{ \, \pi(n,v) \cdot a_{v, \, \mathtt{STOP}} \, \} \tag{34}$$

4. Backtracking. We can visualize the backtracking using a matrix A, of size  $k \times n$ .

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & 1 & \dots & n \\ 1 & & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ k & & & & \end{array}$$

At the termination point, we have  $\pi(n,v) \cdot a_{v,\text{STOP}}$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{T}$ . Since  $\pi(n+1,\text{STOP})$  is now a list of the k highest probabilities of paths, we check which paths from the n-th layer led to it. For each v, if  $\pi(n,v) \cdot a_{v,\text{STOP}} \in \pi(n+1,\text{STOP})$ , then fill the n-th column of A with the states v that contributed to these highest probabilities.

Similarly, for the *i*-th layer, compute  $\pi(i-1,u) \cdot a_{u,v} \cdot b_v(x_i)$  and check which path from the (i-1)-th layer led to it, and fill the *i*-th column of A with the states u that contributed to the highest probabilities. Repeat this till the first (i=1) layer, where we instead compute  $\pi(1,u) \cdot a_{\text{START},v} \cdot b_v(x_i)$ . Reading the rows of A then gives us each top-k most probable sequences.

## Forward-backward algorithm

Define two observation spaces  $\{X_1,\ldots,X_n\}$ , and  $\{Y_1,\ldots,Y_n\}$ . Define a state space  $\{Z_0,\ldots,Z_{n+1}\}$  where  $Z_0=\text{START},\ Z_{n+1}=\text{STOP}$ . Parameterize the model by  $a_{u,v},\ b_u(o)$ , and  $c_o(e)$ , where  $c_o(e)$  is the additional emission probability introduced. Unfolding the joint probability using newly defined  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ :

$$P(x_{1},...,x_{n},y_{1},...,y_{n},z_{i}=u)$$

$$=P(x_{1},...,x_{i-1},y_{1},...,y_{i-1},z_{i}=u)\cdot$$

$$P(x_{1},...,x_{n},y_{1},...,y_{n}|z_{i}=u)$$

$$=P(x_{1},...,x_{i-1},z_{i}=u)\cdot\sum_{j=1}^{i}P(y_{j}|x_{j})\cdot$$

$$P(x_{1},...,x_{i-1}|z_{i}=u)\cdot\sum_{k=i}^{n}P(y_{k}|x_{k})$$

$$=\alpha_{u}(i)\cdot\beta_{u}(i)$$
(35)

## Forward algorithm

1. Base case:

$$\alpha_u(1) = a_{\text{START},u} \tag{36}$$

2. Recursive case:

$$\alpha_u(i) = \sum_{v} \alpha_v(i-1) \cdot a_{v,u} \cdot b_u(x_i) \cdot c_{x_i}(y_i) \quad (37)$$

## Backward algorithm

1. Base case:

$$\beta_u(n) = a_{u.STOP} \cdot b_u(x_n) \cdot c_{x_n}(y_n) \tag{38}$$

2. Recursive case:

$$\beta_u(i) = \sum_{v} \beta_v(i+1) \cdot a_{v,u} \cdot b_u(x_i) \cdot c_{x_i}(y_i) \quad (39)$$

For this algorithm, time complexity will be  $O(n|T|^2)$  for both forward and backward algorithms. We need to visit each node in the layer once, giving  $|T|^2$  total operations. We also traverse from START to STOP, over n total layers. Hence the total number of operations is  $n \cdot |T|^2$ .