

# Hidden Markov Models

**Course: Introduction to AI**

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## 1 Preview

## 2 Problems to solve

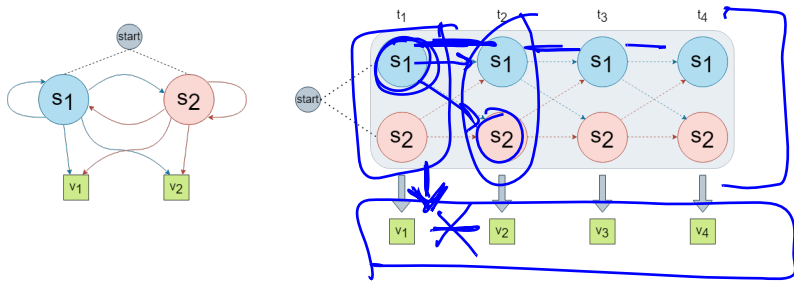
- Observation Likelihood
  - Brute Force
  - Forward Algorithm
- Decoding Hidden State Sequence
  - Brute Force
  - Viterbi Algorithm
- Learning the HMM
  - Backward Algorithm
  - Estimating A and B
  - Forward-Backward Algorithm

## 3 References

# Introduction



Hidden Markov Models are applied to sequential problems of the following kind:



Where,

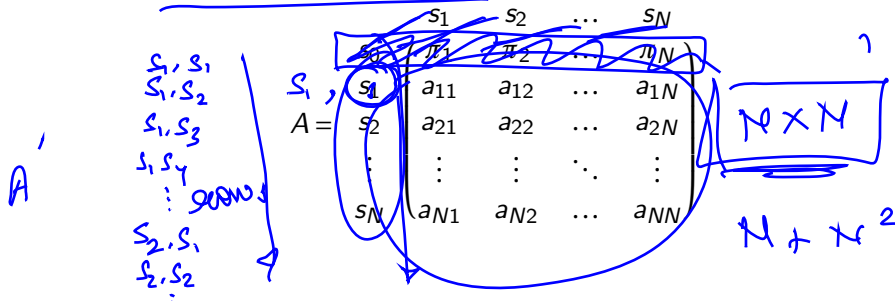
- observation sequence
- state sequence (underlying and invisible)
- a given state is independent of all historical states given the immediately preceding state

$\{O_1, O_2, O_3, \dots, O_n\}$

# Defining the HMM



- N-hidden States:  $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_N\}$
- M-observable states:  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_M\}$
- Initial probabilities – probability of state  $i$  being the starting state in the sequence
  - $\pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_N\}$
- Transition probabilities – probability of moving from one hidden state  $s_i$  to another  $s_j$ 
  - $a_{ij} \in A = \{a_{11}, a_{12}, \dots, a_{1N}, \dots, a_{NN}\}$



# Defining the HMM



Observable

- Emission probabilities – probability of the generating an output  $V$  from a hidden state  $s_j$

- $b_j(v_k) \in B = \{s_1(v_1), s_1(v_2), \dots, s_1(v_M), \dots, s_N(v_M)\}$

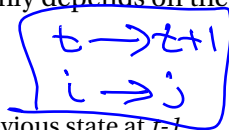
$$B = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} v_1 & v_2 & \dots & v_M \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_N \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} s_1(v_1) & s_1(v_2) & \dots & s_1(v_M) \\ s_2(v_1) & s_2(v_2) & \dots & s_2(v_M) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ s_N(v_1) & s_N(v_2) & \dots & s_N(v_M) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

- HMM:  $\lambda = (\pi, A, B)$

$$\lambda = (\pi, A, B)$$



- A Markov chain is a stochastic model describing a sequence of events wherein, the probability of an event occurring only depends on the state in its previous event.



- Formally writing this assumption

- 1 The state at time  $t$  is only dependent on the previous state at  $t-1$

$$P(S_t | S_1 \dots S_{t-1}) = P(S_t | S_{t-1})$$

- 1.1 This leads into the transition probabilities:

$a_{ij} = P(S_{t+1} = s_j | S_t = s_i)$  for simpler notation, we denote  $s_i, s_j$  as  $i, j$

$$a_{ij} = P(S_{t+1} = j | S_t = i)$$

- 2 The emission at time  $t$  is only dependent on the hidden state at time  $t$

$$P(V_t | S_1 \dots S_t, V_1 \dots V_{t-1}) = P(V_t | S_t)$$

- 2.1 This leads into the emission probabilities:

$$b_j(v_k) = P(V_t = v_k | S_t = j) \text{ or } b_j(k) = P(V_t = k | S_t = j)$$



- Observation likelihood
- Most probable hidden state sequence
- Learning HMM parameters

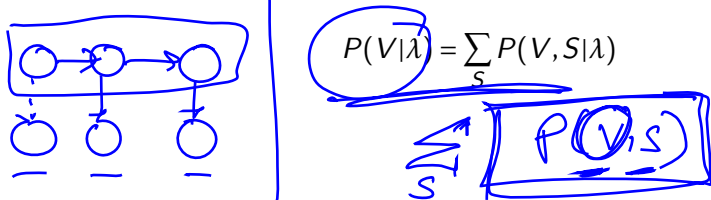


## A. Observation Likelihood Computation

**P1. Given an HMM  $\lambda$  and an observation sequence  $V$ , find the likelihood of observation i.e.,  $P(V|\lambda)$**

*Brute Force method*

- HMM parameters ( $\lambda$ ) operate to yield observation sequences through hidden state sequences
- All hidden state sequences can generate a given observation sequence, but with different probabilities
- Thus, the total probability of observation has to be computed by summing over all possible hidden state sequences.







# A. Observation Likelihood Computation

- Let's take a sample observation sequence  $V = V_1, V_2, V_3$
- For the hidden state sequence  $S = S_1, S_2, S_3$

$$P(V_1 V_2 V_3, S_1 S_2 S_3) = P(S_1 | \text{start}) \times P(S_2 | S_1) \times P(S_3 | S_2) \times P(V_1 | S_1) \times P(V_2 | S_2) \times P(V_3 | S_3)$$

$$= \prod_{t=1}^T P(V_t | S_t) \times \prod_{t=1}^T P(S_t | S_{t-1})$$

*emission*

- Thus, the total probability of generating observation  $V$ , factorises as follows:

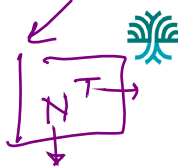
$$P(V) = \sum_S P(V, S) = \sum_S P(V | S) \times P(S)$$

$$= \sum_S \prod_{t=1}^T P(V_t | S_t) \times \prod_{t=1}^T P(S_t | S_{t-1})$$

*Handwritten notes:*

- $\sum_S P(V, S) \leq P(V, S) \downarrow$
- $\sum_S P(V | S) \times P(S)$
- $S_1 = s_1, S_2 = s_1$
- $S_3 = s_2$
- $\{s_1, s_2\}$
- $3 / 2$

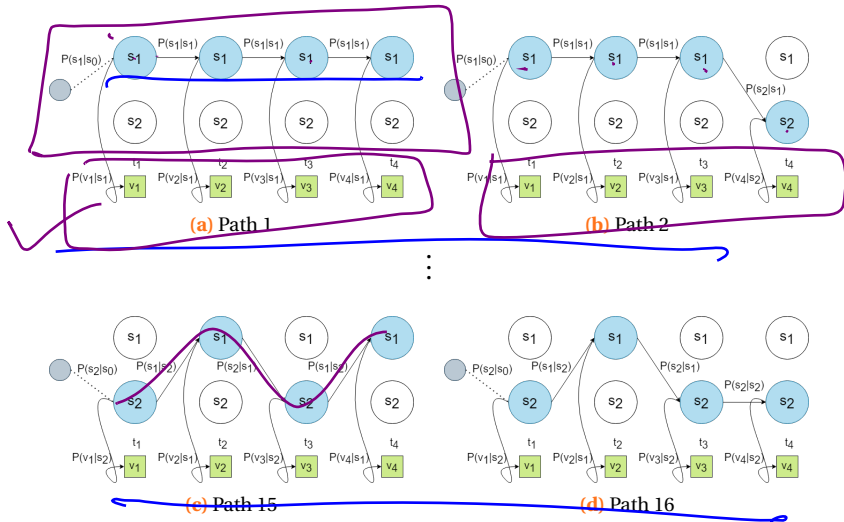
## A. Observation Likelihood Computation



**Complexity analysis:** For an HMM with  $N$  hidden states and  $T$  observations, we need to sum over  $N^T$ !! possible hidden sequences to compute the total probability. For large models, this becomes computationally expensive very quickly 💣.



# A. Observation Likelihood Computation



**Figure:** Some of the possible paths using the brute force method;  $N^T$  computations. Refer to Appendix A for all possible paths.



## A. Observation Likelihood Computation

### Forward Algorithm (Dynamic Programming)

This method uses a more efficient algorithm that goes on tabulating intermediate values as it build up the probability of the observation sequence, constructed called **forward trellis**

A cell  $\alpha_t(j)$  in the trellis at time  $t$  represents the probability of being in a state  $j$  at time  $t$ , having seen previous observations up till time  $t$ , given the model  $\lambda$ . This can be represented as the sum over all paths that could lead to this cell.

$$\alpha_t(j) = P(V_1, V_2 \dots V_t, S_t = j | \lambda)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N P(V_1, V_2 \dots V_{t-1}, S_{t-1} = i | \lambda) \times P(S_t = j | S_{t-1} = i) \times P(V_t | S_t = j)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(V_t)$$

Handwritten notes and diagrams include:

- A green box around the equation  $\alpha_t(j) = P(V_1, V_2 \dots V_t, S_t = j | \lambda)$ .
- A green box around the term  $P(V_1, S_1)$ .
- A green box around the term  $\pi(b_j(V_1))$ .
- A diagram showing a trellis structure with nodes and arrows, representing the forward algorithm's state transitions over time.
- A handwritten equation  $\alpha_t(j) = \sum \alpha_{t-1}(i) (\$)$  with a green arrow pointing to the summation in the main equation.

## A. Observation Likelihood Computation

$$\alpha_{t-2} \quad \alpha_{t-3} \quad \alpha_{t-4} \quad \dots \quad \alpha_1(i)$$

The forward algorithm can be formalised in the following steps:

1 Initialization:

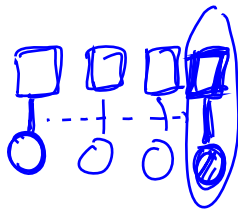
$$\alpha_1(j) = \pi_j b_j(V_1) \quad 1 \leq j \leq N$$

2 Recursion:

$$\alpha_t(j) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(V_t) \quad 1 \leq j \leq N, 1 \leq t \leq T$$


3 Termination:

$$P(V | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_T(i)$$



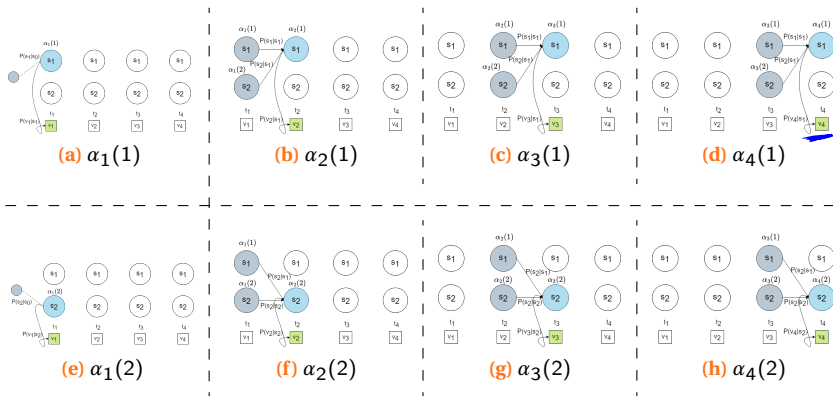


## Complexity analysis

- For an HMM with  $N$  hidden states and  $T$  observations, each cell in the forward trellis is the sum over all paths leading into it from the previous time step.
- For each cell, there will be  $N$  computations thus, for  $N$  cells there will be  $N^2$  computations in one time step.
- Over all time steps, there are  $N^2 T$  computations .



# A. Observation Likelihood Computation



**Figure:** The trellis filled using the forward algorithm;  $N^2T$  computations.

*for forward trellis*

## B. Decoding the Hidden State Sequence



$$P(S_1) \times P(S_2|S_1) \times P(S_3|S_2) \\ \times P(V_1|S_1) \times P(V_2|S_2) \times P(V_3|S_3)$$

**P2. Given an HMM  $\lambda$  and an observation sequence  $V = V_1, V_2 \dots V_T$ , find the most probable sequence of states i.e.,  $S = S_1, S_2 \dots S_T$ .**

*Brute Force method*

- Consider the sequence of observations and a potential hidden state sequence and find their joint probability  $P(V, S | \lambda)$ .
- Repeat for every possible hidden state sequence and pick the one that maximizes the probability.
- For  $N$  hidden states and  $T$  observations  $\rightarrow O(N^T)$  (again)

$$S' = \underset{S}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(V, S | \lambda)$$
$$\sum_i P(V_i, S_i | \lambda)$$
$$= P(V | \lambda) = P(V)$$



## B. Decoding the Hidden State Sequence



### Viterbi Algorithm

$\sim V'$

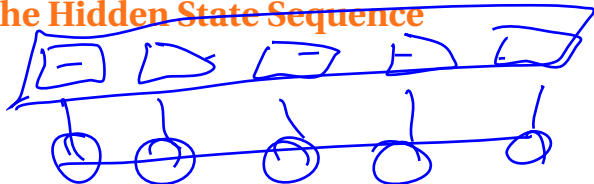
$\arg\max_{S'} (P_k(V, S'))$

Similar to the forward algorithm, this moves through each time step filling up a trellis.

A cell  $F_t(j)$  in the trellis at time  $t$  represents the probability of being in a state  $j$  at time  $t$ , having seen previous observations up till time  $t$  and passing through the most probable state sequence  $S_1 \dots S_{t-1}$  in the past, given the model  $\lambda$ . This can be represented recursively as the most probable path over all possible paths that could lead to this cell.

$$\begin{aligned} F_t(j) &= \max_{S_1 \dots S_{t-1}} P(V_1 \dots V_t, S_1 \dots S_{t-1}, S_t = j \mid \lambda) \\ &= \max_{i=1}^N P(V_1 \dots V_{t-1}, S_1 \dots S_{t-2}, S_{t-1} = i \mid \lambda) \times P(S_t = j \mid S_{t-1} = i) \times P(V_t \mid S_t = j) \\ &= \max_{i=1}^N F_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(V_t) \end{aligned}$$

## B. Decoding the Hidden State Sequence



An additional component Viterbi algorithm has over the forward algorithm is **backtracing**.

Backtracing is used to find the most likely hidden state sequence by selecting the state at the previous time step that maximized the probability of reaching the state at the current time step, and doing this recursively.



## B. Decoding the Hidden State Sequence

The Viterbi algorithm can be formalised in the following steps:

1 Initialization:

$$\Rightarrow \begin{aligned} F_1(j) &= \pi_j b_j(V_1) \quad 1 \leq j \leq N \\ bk\_track_1(j) &= 0 \quad 1 \leq j \leq N \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{P(V_1, S_1)}{P(V_1, V_2, S_2)}$$

2 Recursion:

$$F_t(j) = \max_{i=1}^N F_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(V_t) \quad 1 \leq j \leq N, 1 \leq t \leq T$$

$$bk\_track_t(j) = \arg\max_{i=1}^N F_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(V_t) \quad 1 \leq j \leq N, 1 \leq t \leq T$$

$$\frac{P(V_1, V_2, V_3, S_3)}{\vdots}$$

3 Termination:

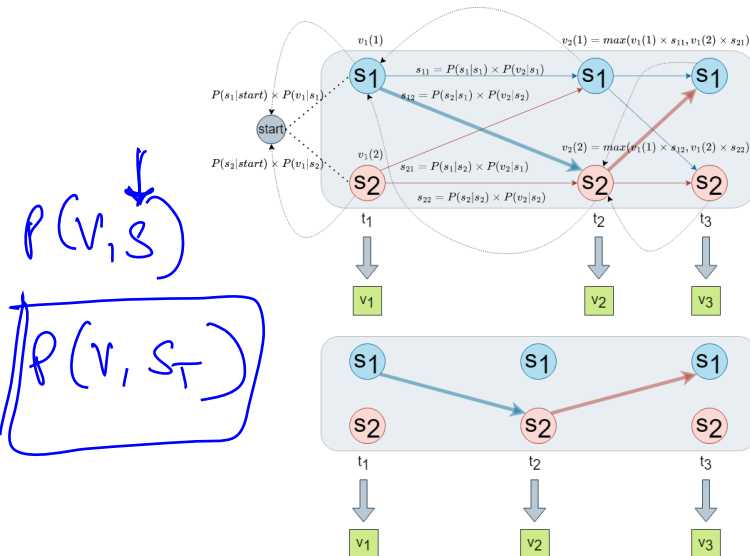
$$P^* = \max_{i=1}^N F_T(i)$$

$$S^* = \arg\max_{i=1}^N F_T(i)$$

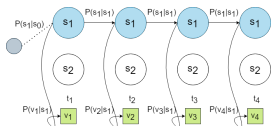
$$P(V_1, V_2, \dots, V_{T-1}, S_T)$$



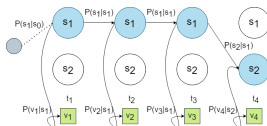
## B. Decoding the Hidden State Sequence



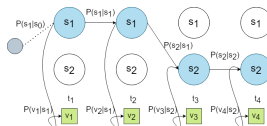
**Figure:** Top: Propagation of probabilities along the transition paths. Bottom: Backtracing algorithm picking the maximising state from termination to the start.



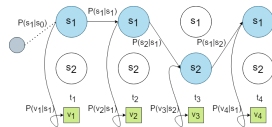
(a) Path 1



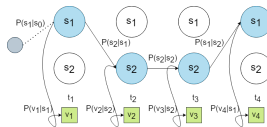
(b) Path 2



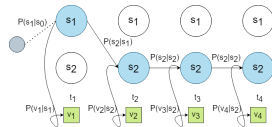
(c) Path 3



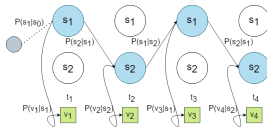
(d) Path 4



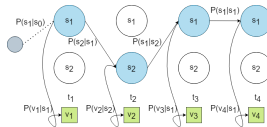
(e) Path 5



(f) Path 6

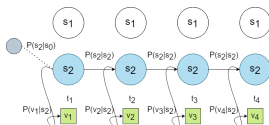


(g) Path 7

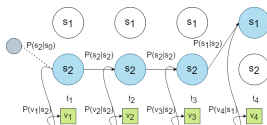


(h) Path 8

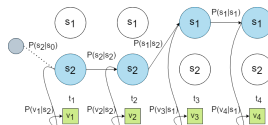
**Figure:** Paths 1-8 out of all possible paths using the brute force method;  $N^T$  computations.



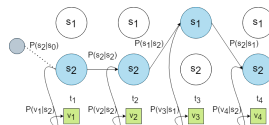
(a) Path 9



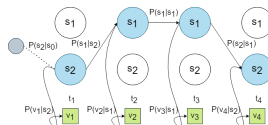
(b) Path 10



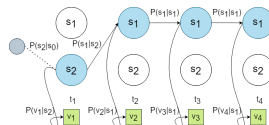
(c) Path 11



(d) Path 12



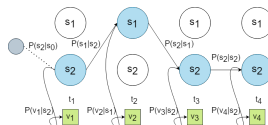
(e) Path 13



(f) Path 14



(g) Path 15



(h) Path 16

**Figure:** Paths 9-16 out of all possible paths using the brute force method;  $N^T$  computations.