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Missing part in recursive definition of pi function?

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UNRESOLVED

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On slide 33/38 in the slides for week two you are giving a recursive definition for π .

You say, that this rule applies for any $u \in S$ and $v \in S$

However, I think that at least for u it should be $u \in S \cup \{*\}$, because otherwise the term $\pi(k-1, w, u)$ is always equal to zero.

I am sorry, if I missed something.

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[Eszter Csernai](#) · 3 years ago

I think I agree - as I understand the recursive definition, for $k = 1$, both u and w , and for $k = 2$, w should be allowed to take the value $\$$, *because they need to correspond to $\{it\ y\{0\}\}$ and $\{it\ y\{-1\}\}$, which are defined to be $\$$.*

Also hope I did not miss something.

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[+ Comment](#)[Michael Collins](#) INSTRUCTOR · 3 years ago

You're absolutely correct, this was a bug in the definitions.

I've posted a revised version of the note on HMMs at

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~mcollins/notes-spring2013.html>

You'll see that I've now taken care to include * where appropriate (comments welcome...)

Many thanks for catching this -

Mike

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Michael Collins INSTRUCTOR · 3 years ago 🔒

We've now corrected the videos on the Viterbi lectures to fix this bug (thanks again for catching it), and to match the note at

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~mcollins/notes-spring2013.html>

The new definitions are close to the old ones, but are now correct. We have

$$\pi(0, \cdot) = 1$$

as the base case, and the recursive case is now:

For any $k \in 1 \dots n$, for any $u \in S_{k-1}$ and $v \in S_k$:

$$\pi(k, u, v) = \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \left(\pi(k-1, w, u) \times q(v | w, u) \times e(x_k | v) \right)$$

where S_k is defined to be the set of possible tags at position k : more precisely

$$S_{-1} = S_0 = \{*\}$$

and

$$S_k = S \text{ for } k = 1 \dots n$$

where S is the set of possible tags.

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Nikhil George Titus · 3 years ago [🔗](#)

Are the video lectures present now reflecting the changes.. Or should we refer to ur notes for correction

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Anonymous · 3 years ago [🔗](#)

It seems that the two videos Viterbi Part 1 & Part 2 are concerned, but not sure whether the video sequences at hand have been corrected as intended.

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Michael Collins INSTRUCTOR · 3 years ago [🔗](#)

The videos "The Viterbi Algorithm for HMMs" Parts 1, 2 and 3 should now reflect this change.

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FRANCISCO IVANILDO PEREIRA DA SILVA · 3 years ago [🔗](#)

HI IM NEW IN COURSE I WILL SAW THW VIDEOS TODAYNIGHT I FROM BRAZIL AND I HOPE GOD LUCK FOR ALL BEST REGARDS.

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