

# Lab 7 - Viterbi Algorithm

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## **Abstract**

This report explains the process involved in finding the most likely sequence of states for a given Hidden Markov Model(HMM) using Viterbi Algorithm.

# 1 Introduction

This report considers the problem of predicting the hidden state sequence of a Hidden Markov Model(HMM), that most likely describes a given observation sequence using Viterbi algorithm. A Markov model is a stochastic model used to model randomly changing systems. Hidden Markov Model (HMM) is a statistical Markov model in which the system being modeled is assumed to be a Markov process with unobserved (i.e. hidden) states. The Viterbi algorithm is a dynamic programming algorithm for finding the most likely sequence of hidden states called the Viterbi Path that results in a sequence of observed events.

The Viterbi algorithm is named after Andrew Viterbi, who proposed it in 1967 as a decoding algorithm for convolutional codes over noisy digital communication links. Viterbi Path and Viterbi Algorithm have become standard terms for the application of dynamic programming algorithms to maximization problems involving probabilities. The algorithm has found universal application in decoding the convolutional codes used in both CDMA and GSM digital cellular, dial-up modems, satellite, deep-space communications and 802.11 wireless LANs. It is now also commonly used in speech recognition, speech synthesis, diarization, keyword spotting, computational linguistics, and bioinformatics.

This report describes implementing Viterbi Algorithm for predicting the sequence of states for a given sequence of observed events from the given Hidden Markov Model(HMM).

## 2 Methods

The given Hidden Markov Model(HMM) consists of two states, represented as H and L. The prior probabilities are 0.5, 0.5. The state transition probabilities are 0.5, 0.5 for state H and 0.4, 0.6 for state L. Each state observes a discrete value that takes on one of four values A, C, G, T. The emission probabilities of these values are 0.2, 0.3, 0.3, 0.2 for state H and 0.3, 0.2, 0.2, 0.3 for state L. The HMM in consideration is represented in figure 1.

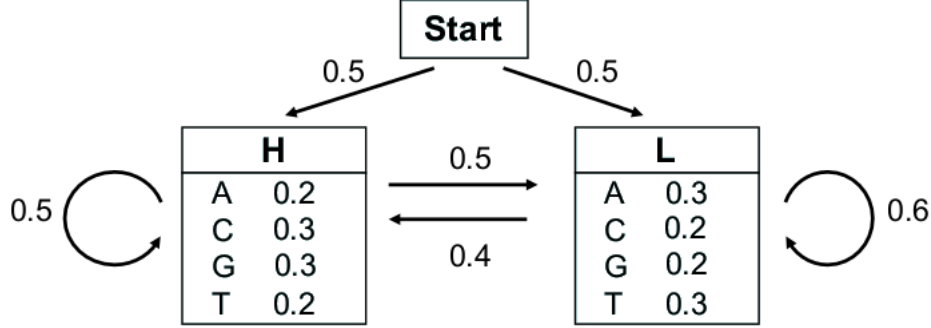


Figure 1: Given Hidden Markov Model

The implementation of Viterbi Algorithm for predicting the sequence of states for the given sequence of observed events from the given HMM is described in below section.

### 2.2 Implementation of Viterbi Algorithm

The Viterbi algorithm is a dynamical programming algorithm that allows us to compute the most probable path of system state for the given sequence of observations.

Let us consider a Hidden Markov Model(HMM) which consists of k states. The probability of the most probable path ending in state  $l$  with observation  $i$  is given as:

$$p_l(i, x) = e_l(i) \max_k (p_k(j, x-1) \cdot p_{kl}); \quad (1)$$

Here,

$x$  = Position of observation  $i$  in sequence of observations.

$e_l(i)$  = Probability of observation  $i$  in state  $l$ .

$p_k(j, x-1)$  = Probability of the most probable path ending at position  $x-1$  in state  $k$  with observation  $j$ .

$p_{kl}$  = Probability of the transition from state  $l$  to state  $k$ .

According to equation 1, to determine the maximum probability of the  $x$ th observation in the sequence, the knowledge of the maximum probability of the  $(x - 1)$ th observation is sufficient. Thus by using equation 1 recursively (i.e. from the first element to the last element of the observation sequence) the most probable path and its probability is determined.

The probability of the most probable path for the observation sequence is obtained at the last position and this path can be retrieved by back-tracking.

Please refer to the Appendix for the Matlab implementation of the Viterbi Algorithm.

### 3 Results

Two sequence of observations  $O_1 = \text{GGCACTGAA}$  and  $O_2 = \text{TCAGCGGCT}$  from the Hidden Markov Model shown in Figure 1 are provided. Using equation 1, the most probable state path for each of the sequence of observations is determined.

#### 1. Observation Sequence: GGCACTGAA

Seq.	G	G	C	A	C	T	G	A	A
High	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>-5.47</b>	<b>-8.21</b>	-11.53	-14.00	-17.32	-19.53	-22.86	-25.65
Low	-3.32	-6.05	-8.79	<b>-10.94</b>	<b>-14.00</b>	<b>-16.48</b>	<b>-19.53</b>	<b>-22.01</b>	<b>-24.48</b>
Max	-2.73	-5.47	-8.21	-10.94	-14.00	-16.48	-19.53	-22.01	-24.48
<b>Path</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>

Table 1: Table of Maximum Probability of the observations in the sequence GGCACTGAA.

The most probable state path for the Observation Sequence: GGCACTGAA is HHHLLL-LLL and its probability is  $2^{-24.48} = 4.2517e - 08$ .

#### 2. Observation Sequence: TCAGCGGCT

Seq.	T	C	A	G	C	G	G	C	T
High	-3.32	-5.79	-9.11	<b>-11.32</b>	<b>-14.06</b>	<b>-16.80</b>	<b>-19.53</b>	<b>-22.27</b>	-25.59
Low	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>-5.79</b>	<b>-8.26</b>	-11.32	-14.38	-17.38	-20.12	-22.86	<b>-25.01</b>
Max	-2.73	-5.79	-8.26	-11.32	-14.06	-16.80	-19.53	-22.27	-25.01
<b>Path</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>L</b>

Table 2: Table of Maximum Probability of the observations in the sequence TCAGCGGCT.

The most probable state path for the Observation Sequence: TCAGCGGCT is LLLHHH-HHL and its probability is  $2^{-25.01} = 2.9525e - 08$

## 4 Conclusion

The report describes in detail the analytical process involved in implementing the Viterbi Algorithm to predict the most probable state path for the given sequence of observations from the provided Hidden Markov Model (HMM).

Viterbi Algorithm utilizes the knowledge of the HMM model parameters and for a particular output sequence, it finds the state sequence that is most likely to have generated that output sequence by finding a maximum over all possible state sequences.

# Appendix

## Matlab Code for Viterbi Algorithm

```
1 % FILE NAME      : viterbi_algo.m
2 %
3 % DESCRIPTION    : Code to implement Viterbi Algorithm.
4 %
5 % PLATFORM      : Matlab
6 %
7 % DATE          NAME
8 % 27th-Nov-2018   Shashi Shivaraju
9
10 clc; %clear all the varaibles
11 close all;%close all windows
12 clear; %clear the screen
13
14 %Given State Sequence Order in HMM = [A C G T] = [1 2 3 4]
15
16 %Given State Sequence
17 %State_Seq = ['G', 'G', 'C', 'A', 'C', 'T', 'G', 'A', 'A' ];
18 %State_Seq_Index = [3 3 2 1 2 4 3 1 1];
19
20 State_Seq = ['T', 'C', 'A', 'G', 'C', 'G', 'G', 'C', 'T' ];
21 State_Seq_Index = [4 2 1 3 2 3 3 2 4];
22 size = length(State_Seq); %Length of the given sequence
23
24 %Probabilities of the HMM states
25 Prob_iH = -1; %initial to High
26 Prob_iL = -1; %initial to Low
27 Prob_HH = -1; %High to High
28 Prob_HL = -1; %High to Low
29 Prob_LL = log2(0.6); %Low to Low
30 Prob_LH = log2(0.4); %Low to High
31 Prob_H = [log2(0.2), log2(0.3), log2(0.3), log2(0.2)]; % State = [
      A C G T] = [1 2 3 4]
32 Prob_L = [log2(0.3), log2(0.2), log2(0.2), log2(0.3)]; % State = [
      A C G T] = [1 2 3 4]
33
34
35 %Matrix to store the result
36 %row 1 = prob. at H state
37 %row 2 = prob. at L state
38 %row 3 = max(row1,row2) at each index
```



```

39 %row 4 = 0/1 (1 = H state;0 = L state)
40 Result = zeros(4, size);
41
42 %Loop through the given sequence to calculate the max. prob. at
    High and Low States
43 for i = 1:size
44
45     %Transition from intial State
46     if( i == 1)
47         Result(1,i) = Prob_iH + Prob_H(State_Seq_Index(i))
            ; %initial -> H ->State(i)
48     Result(2,i) = Prob_iL + Prob_L(State_Seq_Index(i)); %
        initial -> L ->State(i)
49
50         %select the state with highest prob.
51         if(Result(1,i) > Result(2,i))
52             Result(3,i) = Result(1,i);
53         Result(4,i) = 1;
54     else
55         Result(3,i) = Result(2,i);
56         Result(4,i) = 0;
57     end
58
59     else % Transition from State(i-1) -> State(i)
60         Result(1,i) = Prob_H(State_Seq_Index(i)) + max ( (
            Result(1, i-1) + Prob_HH), (Result(2, i-1) +
            Prob_LH));
61         Result(2,i) = Prob_L(State_Seq_Index(i)) + max ( (
            Result(1, i-1) + Prob_HL), (Result(2, i-1) +
            Prob_LL));
62
63             %select the state with highest prob.
64         if(Result(1,i) == Result(2,i)) %if both states have
            equal prob,stay with the previous state
65             Result(3,i) = Result(1,i);
66             Result(4,i) = 2;
67         elseif( Result(1,i) < Result(2,i))
68             Result(3,i) = Result(2,i);
69             Result(4,i) = 0;
70         else
71             Result(3,i) = Result(1,i);
72             Result(4,i) = 1;
73         end
74     end
75 end

```

```

76
77 %back tracking to find the path which corresponds to the
    highest probability
78 for i = size:-1:1
79     if(Result(4,i) == 2 && i ~= size)
80         Result(4,i) = Result(4,i+1);
81     elseif(Result(4,i) == 2 && i == size)
82         Result(4,i) = Result(4,i-1);
83     end
84 end
85
86
87 disp("Most probable state path is ");
88     for i = 1:size
89         if(Result(4,i) == 1)
90             disp('H');
91         elseif(Result(4,i) == 0)
92             disp('L');
93         end
94     end
95
96 disp("Result Matrix = ");
97 disp(Result);

```

## References

1.Viterbi Algorithm from Wikipedia  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viterbi>

2.TeX Live - TeX Users Group  
<https://www.tug.org/texlive/>