

# Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

ChengXiang Zhai

*Department of Computer Science*

*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

# Central Questions to Ask about a LM: “ADMI”

- **Application:** Why do you need a LM? For what purpose?



Evaluation metric for a LM

Topic mining and analysis  
Sequential structure discovery

- **Data:** What kind of data do you want to model?



Data set for estimation & evaluation

Sequence of words

- **Model:** How do you define the model?



Assumptions to be made

Latent state, Markov assumption

- **Inference:** How do you infer/estimate the parameters?



Inference/Estimation algorithm

Viterbi, Baum-Welch

# Modeling a Multi-Topic Document

A document with 2 subtopics, thus 2 types of vocabulary

...  
text mining passage  
food nutrition passage  
text mining passage  
text mining passage  
food nutrition passage  
...

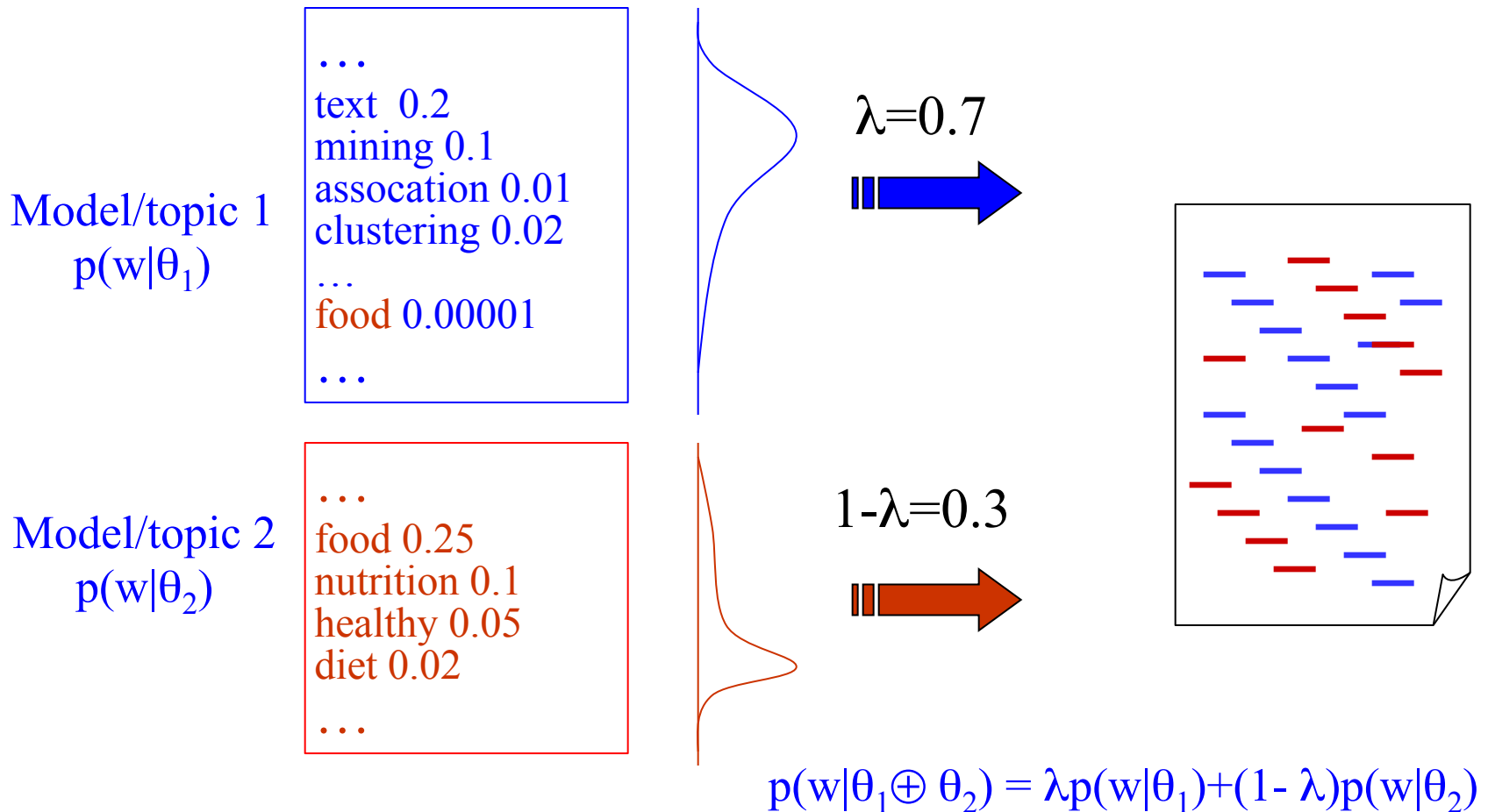
How do we model such a document?

How do we “generate” such a document?

How do we estimate our model?

We’ve already seen one solution – unigram mixture model + EM  
This lecture is about another (better) solution – HMM + EM

# Simple Unigram Mixture Model



# Deficiency of the Simple Mixture Model

- Adjacent words are sampled independently
- Cannot ensure passage cohesion
- Cannot capture the dependency between neighboring words

We apply the text mining algorithm to the **nutrition** data to find patterns ...

Topic 1= text mining  
 $p(w|\theta_1)$

Topic 2= health  
 $p(w|\theta_2)$

Topic 1= text mining  
 $p(w|\theta_1)$

Solution=?

# The Hidden Markov Model Solution

- Basic idea:
  - Make the choice of model for a word depend on the choice of model for the previous word
  - Thus we model both the choice of model (“state”) and the words (“observations”)

O: We apply the text mining algorithm to the **nutrition** data to find patterns ...

S1:  $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1$

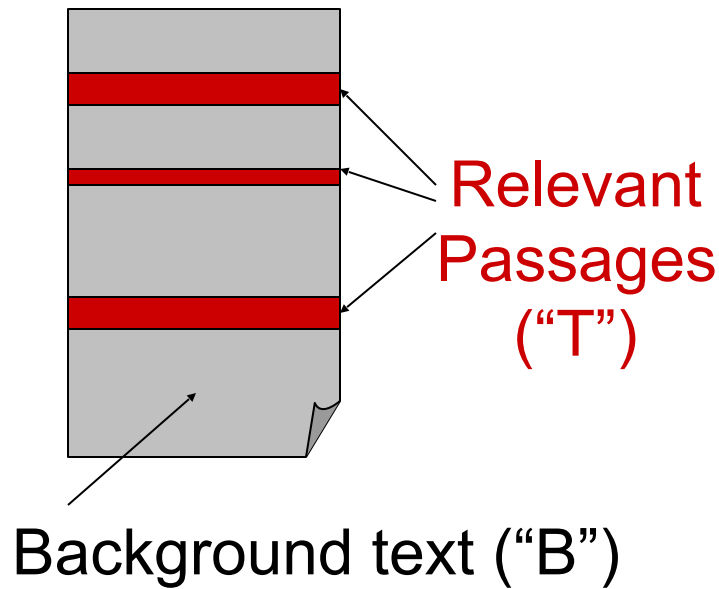
.....

O: We apply the text mining algorithm to the **nutrition** data to find patterns ...

S2:  $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_1$

$$P(O, S1) > p(O, S2)?$$

# Another Example: Passage Retrieval



- ❑ Strategy I: Build passage index
  - ◆ Need pre-processing
  - ◆ Query independent boundaries
  - ◆ Efficient
- ❑ Strategy II: Extract relevant passages dynamically
  - ◆ No pre-processing
  - ◆ Dynamically decide the boundaries
  - ◆ Slow

**O:** We apply the text mining algorithm to the nutrition data to find patterns ...

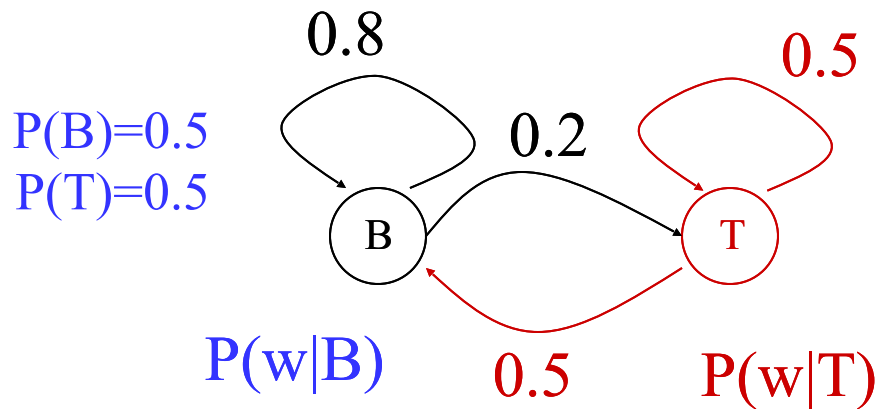
**S1:** B T B T T T BB T T B T T



**O:**..... We apply the text mining ... patterns. ....

**S2:** BB...BB T T T T T .... T BB.... BBBB

# A Simple HMM for Recognizing Relevant Passages



the 0.2  
a 0.1  
we 0.01  
to 0.02  
...  
text 0.0001  
mining 0.00005  
...

...  
text = 0.125  
mining = 0.1  
association = 0.1  
clustering = 0.05  
...

Background

Topic

## Parameters

Initial state prob:

$$p(B) = 0.5; p(T) = 0.5$$

State transition prob:

$$p(B \rightarrow B) = 0.8 \quad p(B \rightarrow T) = 0.2$$

$$p(T \rightarrow B) = 0.5 \quad p(T \rightarrow T) = 0.5$$

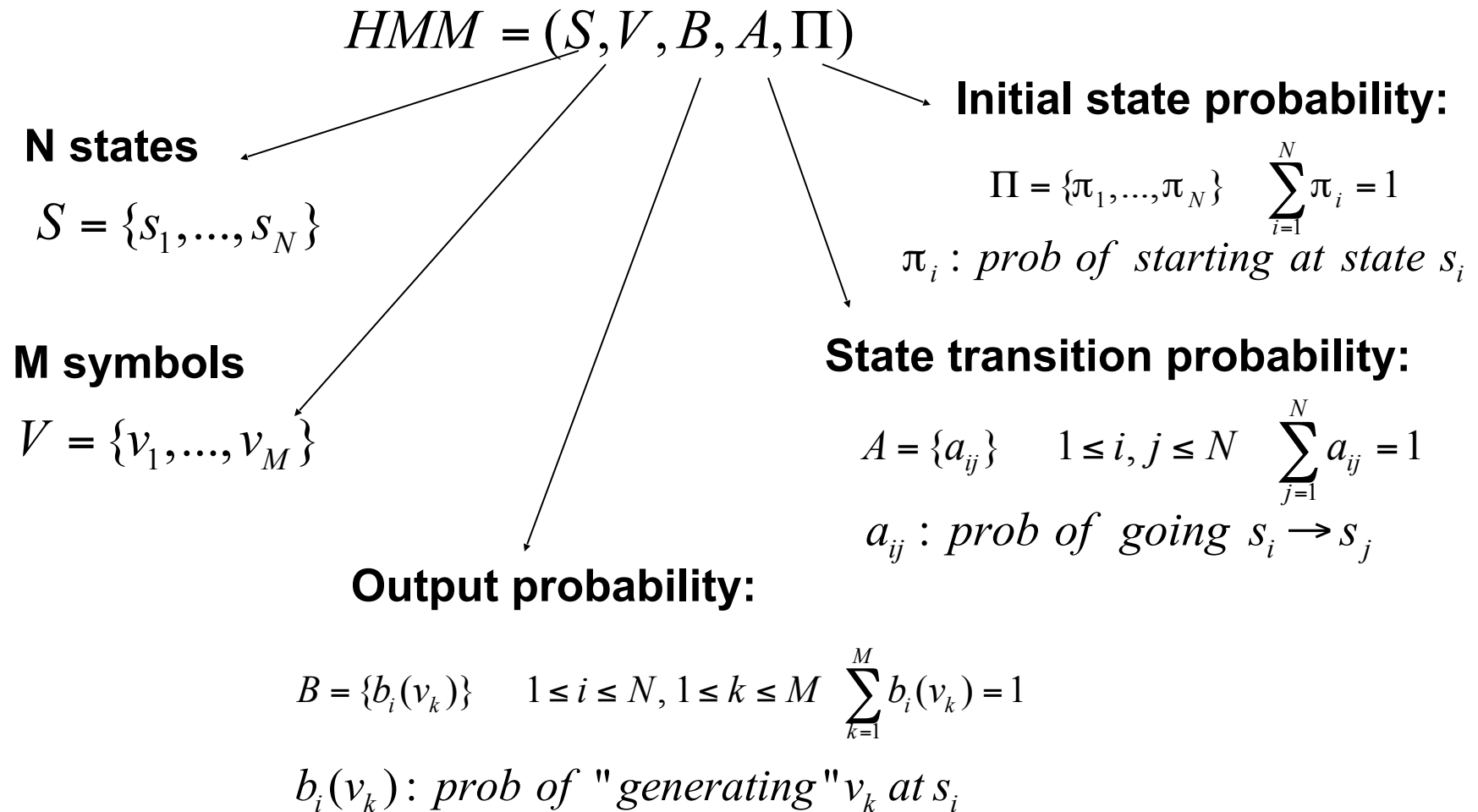
Output prob:

$$P(\text{"the"}|B) = 0.2 \dots$$

$$P(\text{"text"}|T) = 0.1 \dots$$



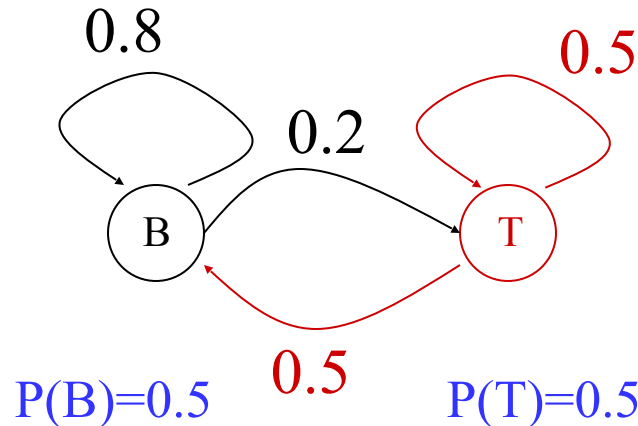
# A General Definition of HMM



# How to “Generate” Text?

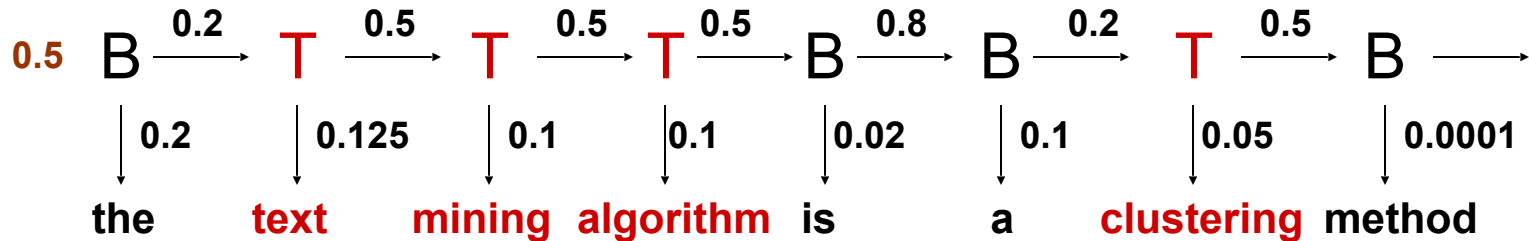
$P(w|B)$

the 0.2  
a 0.1  
we 0.01  
is 0.02  
...  
method 0.0001  
mining 0.00005  
...



$P(w|T)$

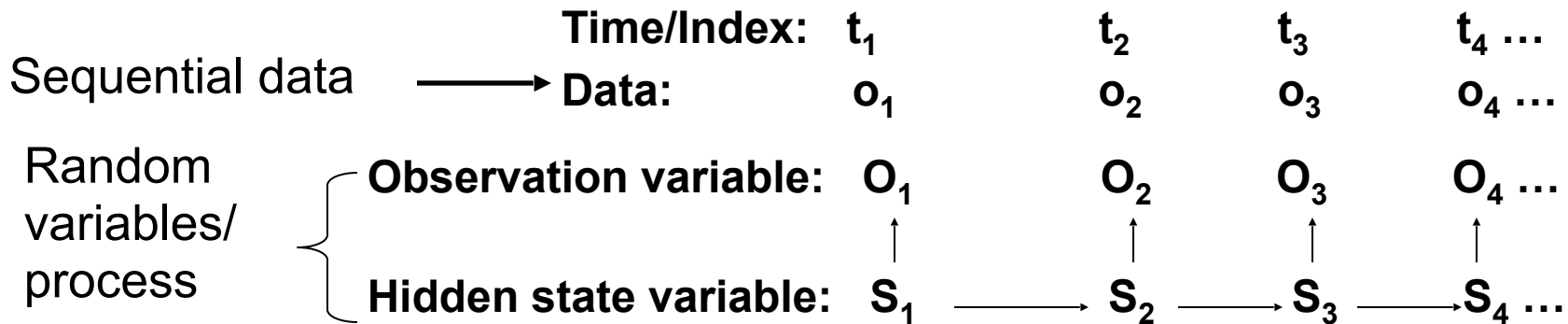
...  
text = 0.125  
mining = 0.1  
algorithm = 0.1  
clustering = 0.05  
...



$$P(BTT\dots, \text{"the text mining..."}) = p(B)p(\text{the}|B)p(T|B)p(\text{text}|T)p(T|T)p(\text{mining}|T)\dots$$

$$= 0.5 * 0.2 * 0.2 * 0.125 * 0.5 * 0.1 \dots$$

# HMM as a Probabilistic Model



**State transition prob:**  $p(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_T) = p(S_1)p(S_2 | S_1) \dots p(S_T | S_{T-1})$

### Probability of observations with known state transitions:

$$p(O_1, O_2, \dots, O_T \mid S_1, S_2, \dots, S_T) = p(O_1 \mid S_1)p(O_2 \mid S_2) \dots p(O_T \mid S_T)$$

**Joint probability (complete likelihood):**    **Init state distr.**    **Output prob.**

$$p(O_1, O_2, \dots, O_T, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_T) = p(S_1) p(O_1 | S_1) p(S_2 | S_1) p(O_2 | S_2) \dots p(S_T | S_{T-1}) p(O_T | S_T)$$

### Probability of observations (incomplete likelihood):

$$p(O_1, O_2, \dots, O_T) = \sum_{S_1, \dots, S_T} p(O_1, O_2, \dots, O_T, S_1, \dots, S_T)$$

## State trans. prob.

# Three Problems

## 1. **Decoding** – finding the most likely path

**Given:** model, parameters, observations (data)

**Find:** most likely states sequence (path)

$$S_1^* S_2^* \dots S_T^* = \arg \max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(S_1 S_2 \dots S_T | O) = \arg \max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(S_1 S_2 \dots S_T, O)$$

## 2. **Evaluation** – computing observation likelihood

**Given:** model, parameters, observations (data)

**Find:** the likelihood to generate the data

$$p(O | \lambda) = \sum_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(O | S_1 S_2 \dots S_T) p(S_1 S_2 \dots S_T)$$

# Three Problems (cont.)

## 3. Training – estimating parameters

$$\lambda^* = \arg \max_{\lambda} p(O | \lambda)$$

### – Supervised

**Given:** model structure, labeled data( data+states sequence)

**Find:** parameter values

### – Unsupervised

**Given:** model structure, data (unlabeled)

**Find:** parameter values

# **Problem I: Decoding/Parsing**

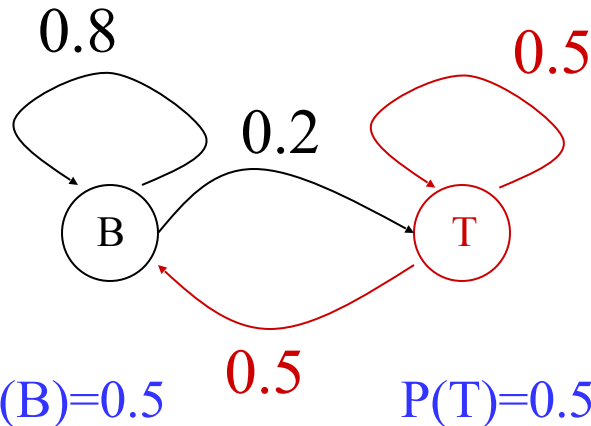
## **Finding the most likely path**

This is the most common way of using an HMM  
(e.g., extraction, structure analysis)...

# What's the most likely path?

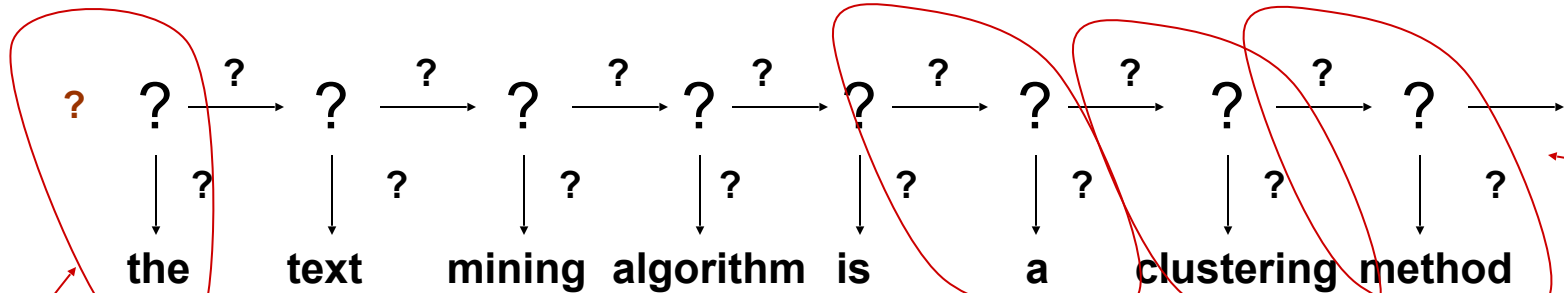
$P(w|B)$

the 0.2  
a 0.1  
we 0.01  
is 0.02  
...  
method 0.0001  
mining 0.00005  
...



$P(w|T)$

...  
text = 0.125  
mining = 0.1  
algorithm = 0.1  
clustering = 0.05  
...

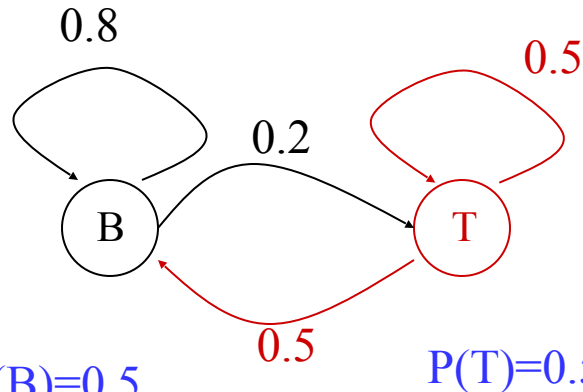


$$S_1^* S_2^* \dots S_T^* = \arg \max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(S_1 S_2 \dots S_T, O) = \arg \max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} \pi(S_1) b_{S_1}(v_{o_1}) \prod_{i=2}^T a_{S_{i-1} S_i} b_{S_i}(v_{o_i})$$

# Viterbi Algorithm: An Example

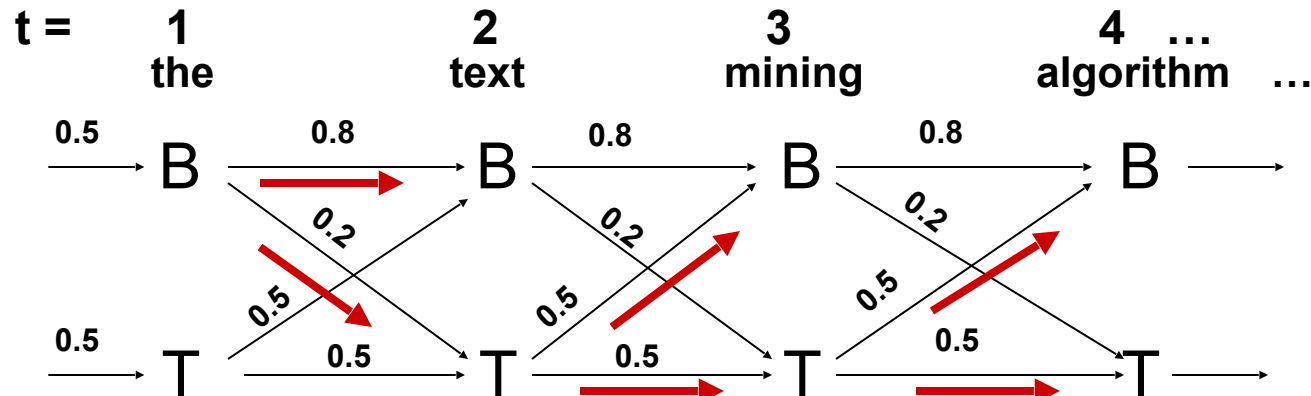
$P(w|B)$

the 0.2  
a 0.1  
we 0.01  
...  
algorithm 0.0001  
mining 0.005  
text 0.001



$P(w|T)$

...  
the 0.05  
text = 0.125  
mining = 0.1  
algorithm = 0.1  
clustering = 0.05



**VP(B):**  $0.5 \cdot 0.2$  (B)  $\rightarrow 0.5 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.8 \cdot 0.001$  (BB)  $\rightarrow \dots \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.005$  (BTB)  $\rightarrow \dots \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.0001$  (BTTB)

**VP(T):**  $0.5 \cdot 0.05$  (T)  $\rightarrow 0.5 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 0.125$  (BT)  $\rightarrow \dots \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.1$  (BTT)  $\rightarrow \dots \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.1$  (BTTT) ← **Winning path!**



# Viterbi Algorithm

Observation:  $\max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(o_1 \dots o_T, S_1 \dots S_T) = \max_{s_i} [ \max_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_{T-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_T, S_1 \dots S_{T-1}, S_T = s_i) ]$

Prob. of best path ending at state  $i$

Algorithm:  
(Dynamic programming)

$$VP_t(i) = \max_{S_1 \dots S_{t-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_t, S_1 \dots S_{t-1}, S_t = s_i)$$

$$q_t^*(i) = [ \arg \max_{S_1 \dots S_{t-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_t, S_1 \dots S_{t-1}, S_t = s_i) ] \rightarrow (i)$$

Best path ending at state  $i$

$$1. VP_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(o_1), \quad q_1^*(i) = (i), \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$2. \text{ For } 1 \leq t < T, \quad VP_{t+1}(i) = \max_{1 \leq j \leq N} VP_t(j) a_{ji} b_i(o_{t+1}),$$

$$q_{t+1}^*(i) = q_t^*(k) \rightarrow (i), \quad k = \arg \max_{1 \leq j \leq N} VP_t(j) a_{ji} b_i(o_{t+1}), \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, N$$

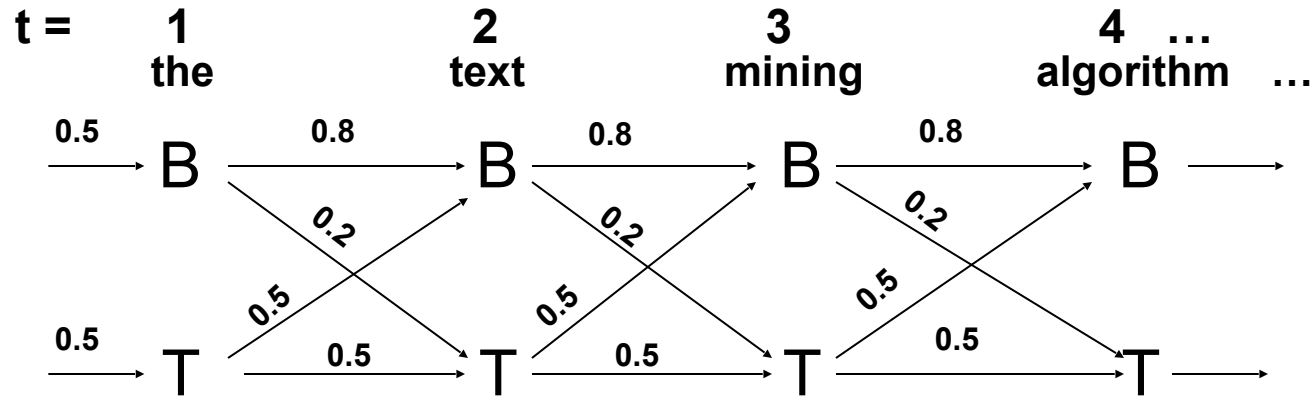
The best path is  $q_T^*(i)$  Complexity:  $O(TN^2)$

# **Problem II: Evaluation**

## **Computing the data likelihood**

- Another use of an HMM, e.g., as a generative model for classification
- Also related to Problem III – parameter estimation

# Data Likelihood: $p(O|\lambda)$

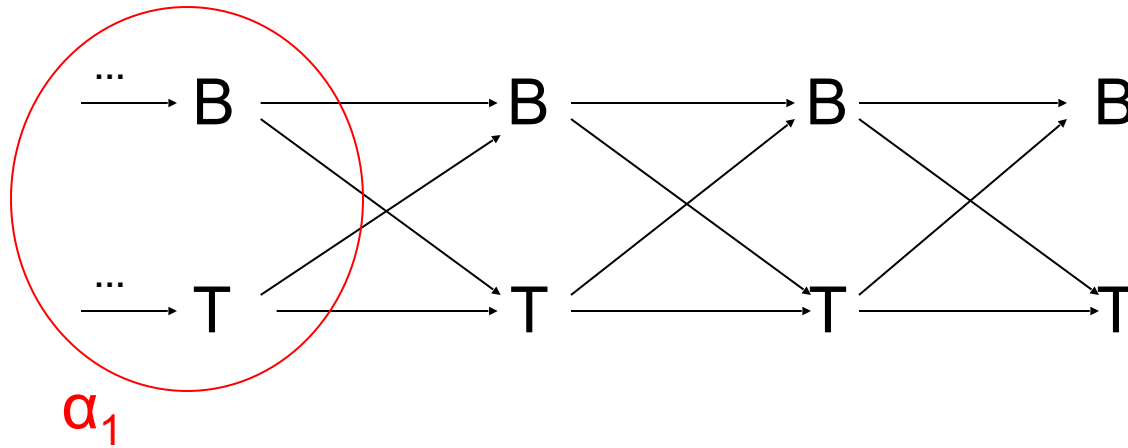


In general,  $p(O|\lambda) = \sum_{S_1 S_2 \dots S_T} p(O | S_1 S_2 \dots S_T) p(S_1 S_2 \dots S_T)$  enumerate all paths

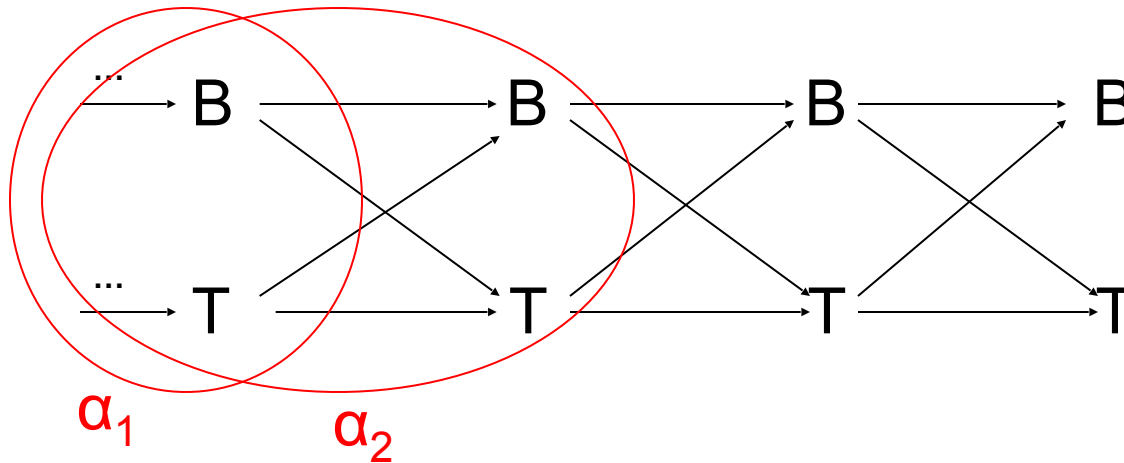
$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\text{"the text ..."} | \lambda) &= p(\text{"the text ..."} | BB \dots B) p(BB \dots B) && \leftarrow BB \dots B \\
 &+ p(\text{"the text ..."} | BT \dots B) p(BT \dots B) && \leftarrow BT \dots B \\
 &+ \dots + p(\text{"the text ..."} | TT \dots T) p(TT \dots T) && \leftarrow TT \dots T
 \end{aligned}$$

Complexity of a naïve approach?

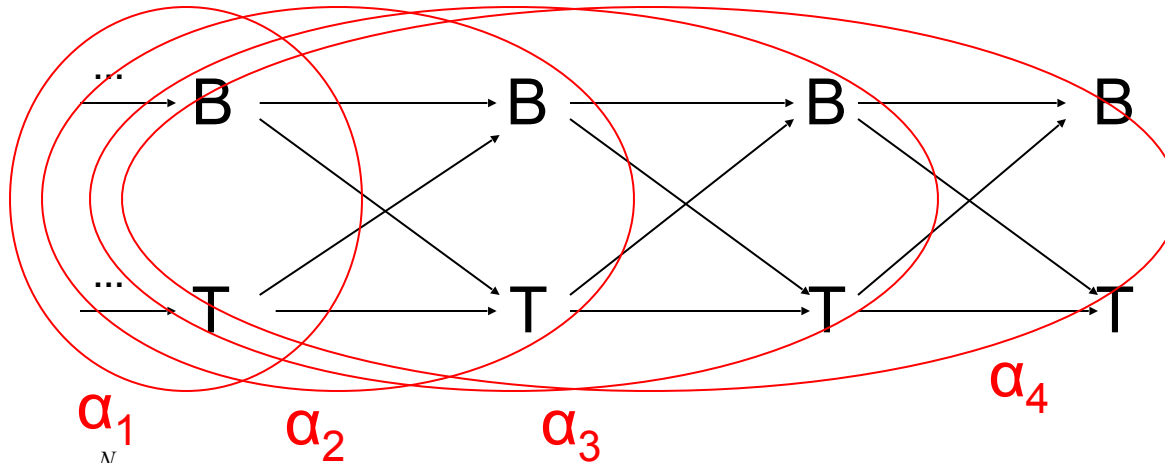
# The Forward Algorithm



# The Forward Algorithm



# The Forward Algorithm



$$p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{s_1 s_2 \dots s_{T-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_T, s_1 s_2 \dots s_{T-1}, s_T = s_i)$$

$$\alpha_t(i) = \sum_{s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_t, s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-1}, s_t = s_i)$$

Generating  $o_1 \dots o_t$   
with ending state  $s_i$

$$= \sum_{s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-1}} p(o_1 \dots o_{t-1}, s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-1}) p(s_t = s_i | s_{t-1}) p(o_t | s = s_i)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \sum_{s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-2}} p(o_1 \dots o_{t-1}, s_1 s_2 \dots s_{t-1} = s_j) \right] a_{ji} b_i(o_t)$$

$$= b_i(o_t) \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_{t-1}(j) a_{ji}$$

The data likelihood is

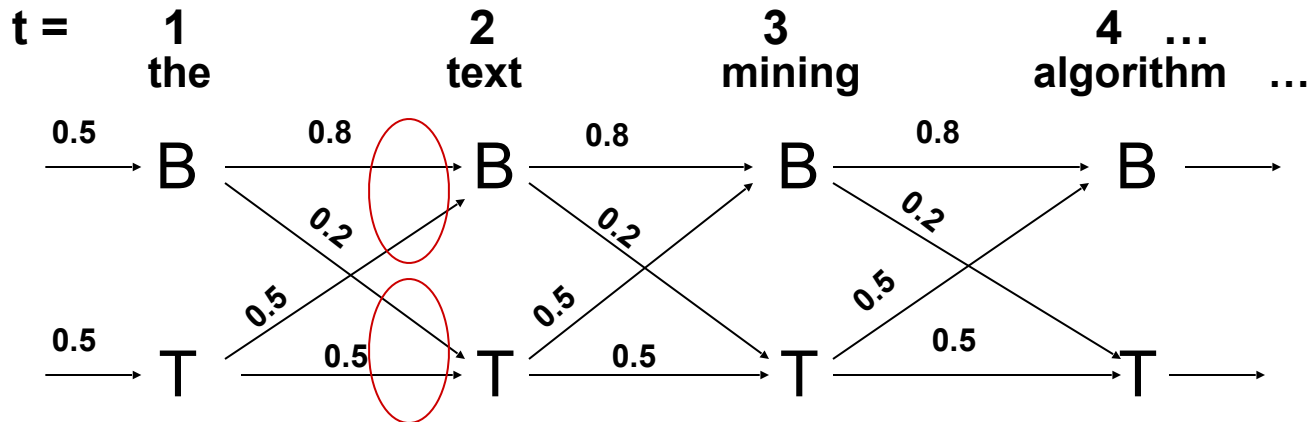
$$p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_T(i)$$

Complexity:  $O(TN^2)$

# Forward Algorithm: Example

$$p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_T(i)$$

$$\alpha_t(i) = b_i(o_t) \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_{t-1}(j) a_{ji}$$



$$\alpha_1(\mathbf{B}): 0.5 \cdot p(\text{"the"} | \mathbf{B}) \quad \alpha_2(\mathbf{B}): [\alpha_1(\mathbf{B}) \cdot 0.8 + \alpha_1(\mathbf{T}) \cdot 0.5] \cdot p(\text{"text"} | \mathbf{B}) \dots\dots$$

$$\alpha_1(\mathbf{T}): 0.5 \cdot p(\text{"the"} | \mathbf{T}) \quad \alpha_2(\mathbf{T}): [\alpha_1(\mathbf{B}) \cdot 0.2 + \alpha_1(\mathbf{T}) \cdot 0.5] \cdot p(\text{"text"} | \mathbf{T}) \dots\dots$$

$$P(\text{"the text mining algorithm"}) = \alpha_4(\mathbf{B}) + \alpha_4(\mathbf{T})$$

# The Backward Algorithm

Observation:  $p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{S_2 \dots S_T} p(o_1 \dots o_T, S_1 = s_i, S_2 \dots S_T)$

Algorithm: 
$$= \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i b_i(o_1) \sum_{S_2 \dots S_T} p(o_2 \dots o_T, S_2 \dots S_T | S_1 = s_i) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(o}_1 \dots \text{o}_t \text{ already generated)} \\ \text{Starting from state } s_i \\ \text{Generating } o_{t+1} \dots o_T \end{array}$$

$$\beta_t(i) = \sum_{S_{t+1} \dots S_T} p(o_{t+1} \dots o_T, S_{t+1} \dots S_T | S_t = s_i)$$

$$= \sum_{S_{t+1} \dots S_T} p(o_{t+2} \dots o_T, S_{t+2} \dots S_T | S_{t+1}) p(S_{t+1} | S_t = s_i) p(o_{t+1} | S_{t+1})$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} b_j(o_{t+1}) \sum_{S_{t+2} \dots S_T} p(o_{t+2} \dots o_T, S_{t+2} \dots S_T | S_{t+1} = s_j)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} b_j(o_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)$$

Complexity:  $O(TN^2)$

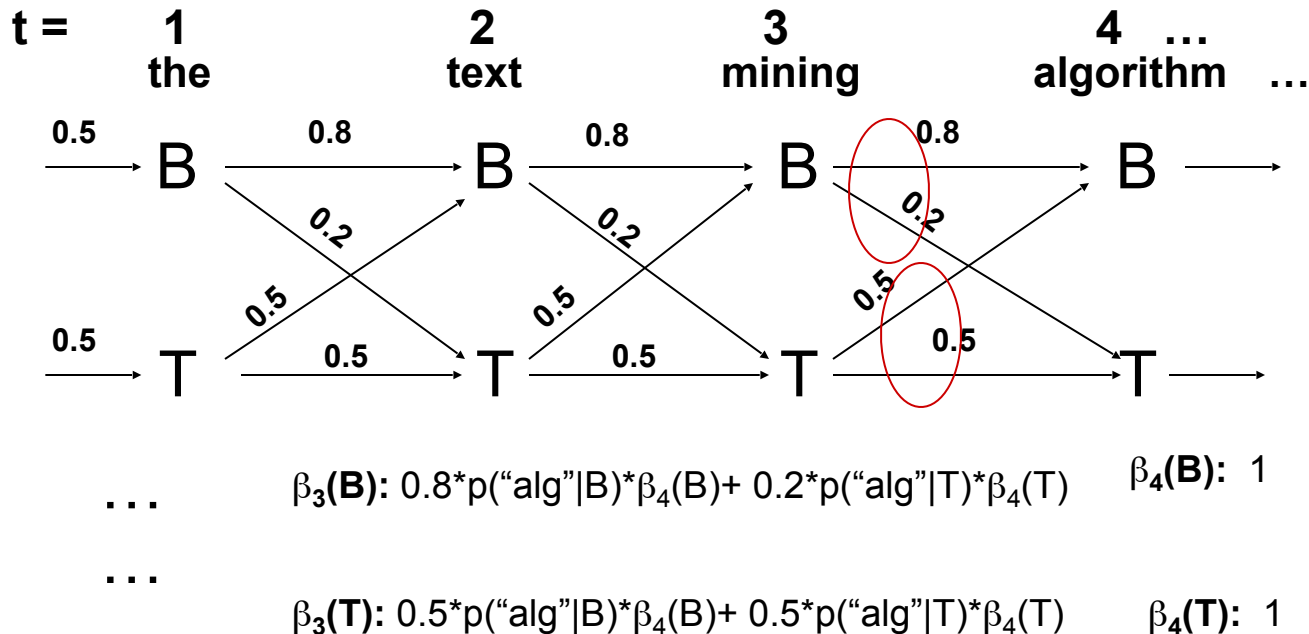
The data likelihood is

$$p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i b_i(o_1) \beta_1(i) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_1(i) \beta_1(i) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_t(i) \beta_t(i) \quad \text{for any } t$$



# Backward Algorithm: Example

$$p(o_1 \dots o_T | \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i b_i(o_1) \beta_1(i) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_1(i) \beta_1(i) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_t(i) \beta_t(i) \text{ for any } t$$



$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{"the text mining algorithm"}) &= \alpha_1(\mathbf{B}) * \beta_1(\mathbf{B}) + \alpha_1(\mathbf{T}) * \beta_1(\mathbf{T}) \\ &= \alpha_2(\mathbf{B}) * \beta_2(\mathbf{B}) + \alpha_2(\mathbf{T}) * \beta_2(\mathbf{T}) \end{aligned}$$

# Problem III: Training Estimating Parameters

- Where do we get the probability values for all parameters?
- Supervised vs. Unsupervised

# Supervised Training

Given:

1.  $N$  – the number of states, e.g., 2, ( $s_1$  and  $s_2$ )
2.  $V$  – the vocabulary, e.g.,  $V=\{a,b\}$
3.  $O$  – observations, e.g.,  $O=aaaaabbbbb$
4. State transitions, e.g.,  $S=1121122222$

Task: Estimate the following parameters

1.  $\pi_1, \pi_2$

$$\pi_1 = 1/1 = 1; \pi_2 = 0/1 = 0$$

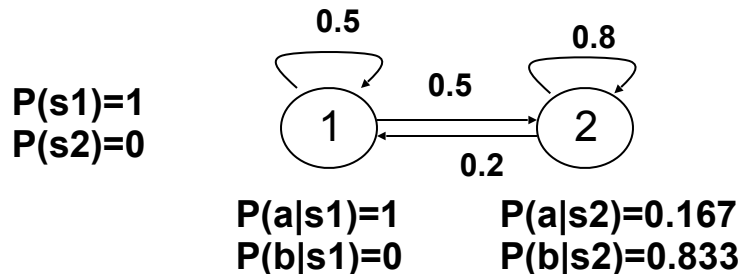
2.  $a_{11}, a_{12}, a_{22}, a_{21}$

$$a_{11} = 2/4 = 0.5; a_{12} = 2/4 = 0.5$$

3.  $b_1(a), b_1(b), b_2(a), b_2(b)$

$$a_{21} = 1/5 = 0.2; a_{22} = 4/5 = 0.8$$

$$b_1(a) = 4/4 = 1.0; \quad b_1(b) = 0/4 = 0;$$
$$b_2(a) = 1/6 = 0.167; \quad b_2(b) = 5/6 = 0.833$$



# Unsupervised Training

Given:

1.  $N$  – the number of states, e.g., 2, ( $s_1$  and  $s_2$ )
2.  $V$  – the vocabulary, e.g.,  $V=\{a,b\}$
3.  $O$  – observations, e.g.,  $O=aaaaabbbbbbb$
4. ~~State transitions, e.g.,  $S=1121122222$~~

Task: Estimate the following parameters

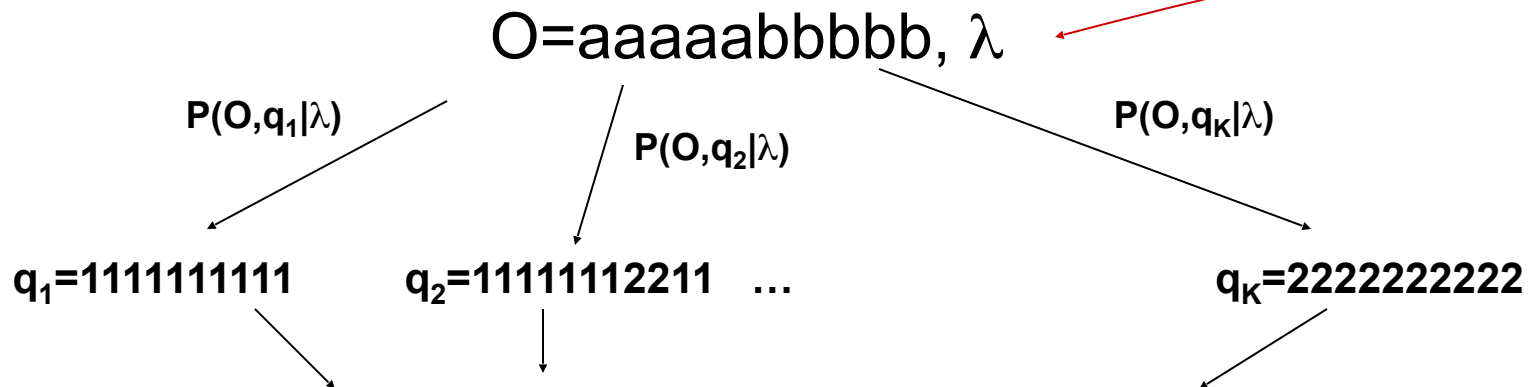
1.  $\pi_1, \pi_2$
2.  $a_{11}, a_{12}, a_{22}, a_{21}$
3.  $b_1(a), b_1(b), b_2(a), b_2(b)$

How could this be possible?

$\lambda$

Maximum Likelihood:  $\lambda^* = \arg \max_{\lambda} p(O | \lambda)$

# Intuition



$$\pi_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda) \delta[q_k(1) = 1]}{\sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda)}$$

$$a_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda) \delta[q_k(t) = i, q_k(t+1) = j]}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda) \delta[q_k(t) = i]}$$

$$b_i(v_j) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda) \delta[q_k(t) = i, o_t = v_j]}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{k=1}^K p(O, q_k | \lambda) \delta[q_k(t) = i]}$$

**New  $\lambda'$**

**Computation of  $P(O, q_k | \lambda)$  is expensive ...**

# Baum-Welch Algorithm

Basic “counters”:

Being at state  $s_i$  at time  $t$

$$\gamma_t(i) = p(q(t) = s_i \mid O, \lambda)$$

$$\xi_t(i, j) = p(q(t) = s_i, q(t+1) = s_j \mid O, \lambda)$$

Being at state  $s_i$  at time  $t$  and  
at state  $s_j$  at time  $t+1$

Computation of counters:

$$\gamma_t(i) = \frac{\alpha_t(i)\beta_t(i)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_t(j)\beta_t(j)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_t(i, j) &= \frac{\alpha_t(i)a_{ij}b_j(o_{t+1})\beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_t(j)\beta_t(j)} \\ &= \gamma_t(i) \frac{a_{ij}b_j(o_{t+1})\beta_{t+1}(j)}{\beta_t(i)} \end{aligned}$$

Complexity:  $O(N^2)$

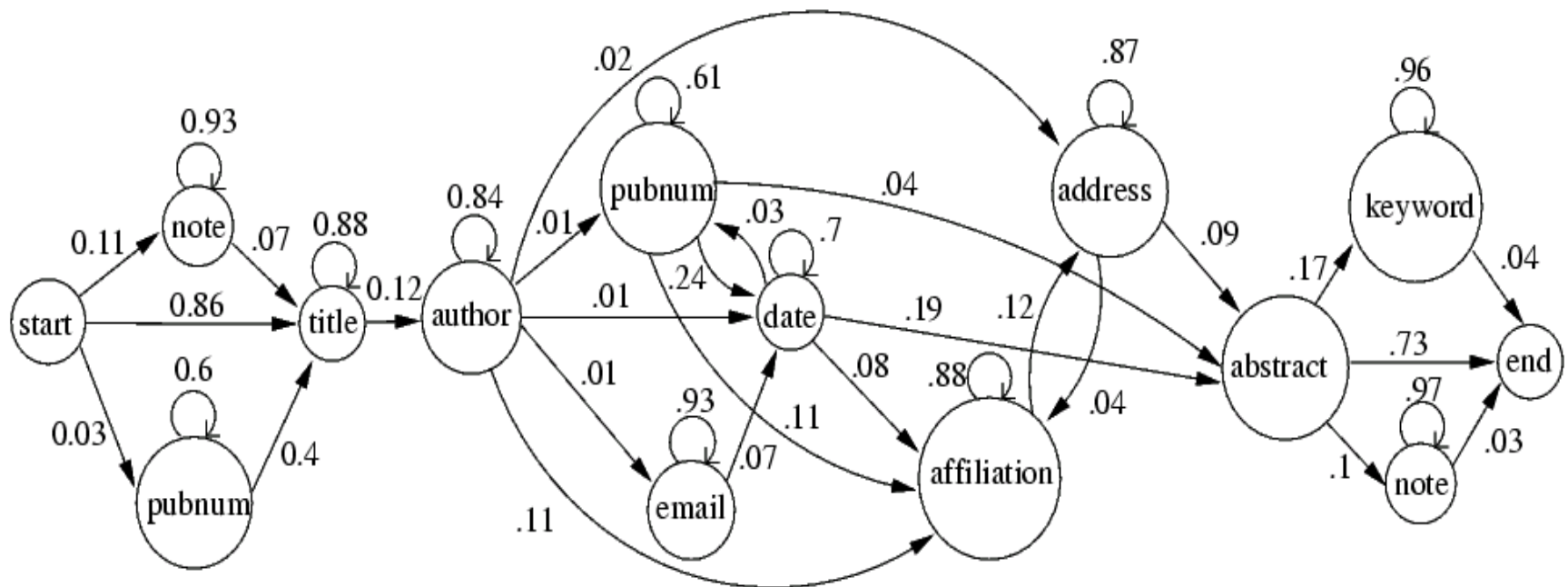
# Baum-Welch Algorithm (cont.)

Updating formulas:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \pi_i' = \gamma_1(i) \\ a_{ij}' = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \xi_t(i, j)}{\sum_{j'=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \xi_t(i, j')} \\ b_i(v_k) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(i) \delta[o_t = v_k]}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(i)} \end{array} \right.$$

Overall complexity for each iteration:  $O(TN^2)$

# An HMM for Information Extraction (Research Paper Headers)





# What You Should Know

- Definition of an HMM
- What are the three problems associated with an HMM?
- Know how the following algorithms work
  - **Viterbi algorithm**
  - **Forward & Backward algorithms**
- Know the basic idea of the Baum-Welch algorithm

# Readings

- Read [Rabiner 89] sections I, II, III
- Read the “brief note”