

# Hidden Markov Models

A Summary for

“A tutorial on Hidden Markov Models and Selected  
Applications in Speech Recognition,  
by Lawrence R. Rabiner”

By Seçil Öztürk

# Outline

- Signal Models
- Markov Chains
- Hidden Markov Models
- Fundamentals for HMM Design
- Types of HMMs

# Signal Models...

- Are used to characterize real world signals.
- Provide a basis for a theoretical description of a signal processing system.
- Tell about the signal source without having the source available.
- Are used to realize practical systems efficiently.

# 2 Types of Signal Models:

- Deterministic Models:

- Specific properties of the signal are known.  
eg. The signal is a sine wave
- Determining values for parameters of the signal, such as frequency, amplitude, etc is required.

- Statistical Models:

- eg. Gaussian processes, Markov processes, Hidden Markov processes
- Characterizing the statistical properties of the signal is required.
- Assumption:
  - \* Signal can be characterized as a parametric random process.
  - \* Parameters of the random process can be determined in a precise and well defined manner.

# Discrete Markov Processes

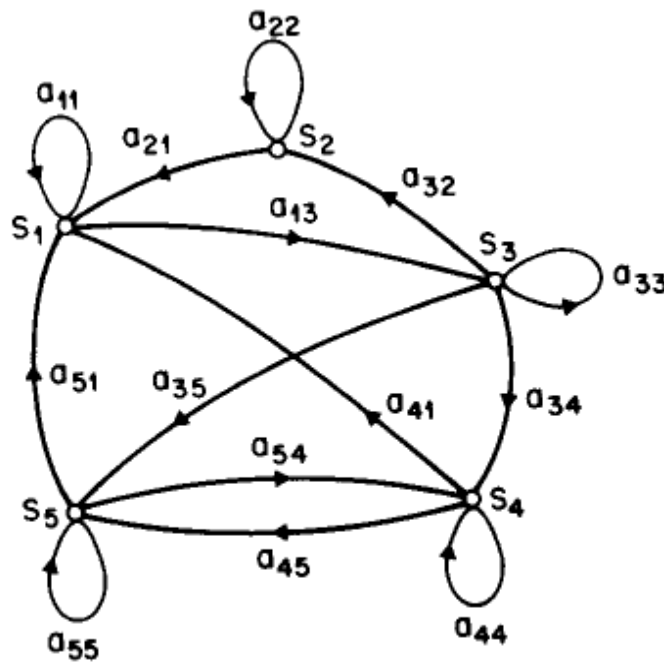


Fig. 1. A Markov chain with 5 states (labeled  $S_1$  to  $S_5$ ) with selected state transitions. [1]

- The system is described by  $N$  distinct states:  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N$
- The system can be in one of these states at any time.
- Time instants associated with state changes are:  $t = 1, 2, \dots$
- Actual state at time  $t$  is  $q_t$
- Predecessor states must also be known for the probabilistic description.
- $a_{ij}$ 's are state transition probabilities.

Assuming discrete, first order Markov Chain, the probabilistic description of this system is:

$$P[q_t = S_j \mid q_{t-1} = S_i, q_{t-2} = S_k, \dots] = P[q_t = S_j \mid q_{t-1} = S_i]$$

# A 3 State Example for Weather

- States are defined as:
  - State 1: rainy/snowy
  - State 2: cloudy
  - State 3: sunny
- The weather at day  $t$  should be in one the states above.
- State transition matrix is  $A$ .
- $a_{ij}$  's represent the probabilities of going from state  $i$  to  $j$ .
- The observation sequence is denoted with  $O$ .
  - Say for  $t=1$ , sun is observed. (initial state)
  - Next observation: sun-sun-rain-rain-cloudy-sun
  - $O = \{S_3, S_3, S_1, S_1, S_3, S_2, S_3\}$   
corresponding to  
 $t=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8$

$$A = \{a_{ij}\} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.3 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.6 & 0.2 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# A 3 State Example for Weather

- The probability of the observation sequence given the model is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} P(O|\text{Model}) &= P[S_3, S_3, S_3, S_1, S_1, S_3, S_2, S_3|\text{Model}] \\ &= P[S_3] \cdot P[S_3|S_3] \cdot P[S_3|S_3] \cdot P[S_1|S_3] \\ &\quad \cdot P[S_1|S_1] \cdot P[S_3|S_1] \cdot P[S_2|S_3] \cdot P[S_3|S_2] \\ &= \pi_3 \cdot a_{33} \cdot a_{33} \cdot a_{31} \cdot a_{11} \cdot a_{13} \cdot a_{32} \cdot a_{23} \\ &= 1 \cdot (0.8)(0.8)(0.1)(0.4)(0.3)(0.1)(0.2) \\ &= 1.536 \times 10^{-4} \end{aligned}$$

where we use the notation

$$\pi_i = P[q_1 = S_i], \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

here,  $\pi_i$ 's are the initial state probabilities.

# Hidden Markov Models

- \* In Markov Models,  
states corresponded to observable/pyhsical events.
- \* In Hidden Markov Models,  
observations are probabilistic functions of the state.
  - So, HMMs are **doubly embedded stochastic processes**.
  - The underlying stochastic process is not observable/hidden.  
It can be observed through another set of stochastic processes producing the observation sequences.

*(ie., in Markov Models, the problem is finding the probability of the observation to be in a certain state,  
in HMMs, the problem is still finding the probability of the observation to be in a certain state, but observation is also a probabilistic function of the state. )*

eg. Hidden Coin Tossing Experiment, Urn and Ball Model



# Elements of an HMM

- **N**: # of states  
Individual states:  $S = \{S_1, \dots, S_N\}$       State at time  $t$ :  $q_t$
  - **M**: (# of distinct observation symbols)/state  
ie. discrete alphabet size in speech processing  
eg. heads & tails in coins experiment  
individual symbols:  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_M\}$
  - **A**: State transition prob. distribution  
 $a_{ij} = P[q_{t+1} = S_j | q_t = S_i]$  where  $1 \leq i, j \leq N$
  - **B**: the observation symbol probability distribution in state  $j$   
 $B = b_j(k)$  where  $b_j(k) = P[v_k \text{ at } t | q_t = S_j]$  where  $\begin{matrix} 1 \leq j \leq N \\ 1 \leq k \leq M. \end{matrix}$   
eg. The probability of heads of a certain coin at time  $t$ .
  - $\pi = \{ \pi_i \}$  is are the initial state distribution.
  - $\pi_i = P[q_1 = S_i]$  where  $1 \leq i \leq N$
- \*\*\* Given **N**, **M**, **A**, **B**,  $\pi$ , HMM can be generated for **O**.
- **O** : Observation sequence  $O = O_1, O_2, \dots, O_T$ .  $O_T$ 's are one of  $v_i$ 's.  $T$  is # of total observations.

# Complete specification of an HMM requires:

- \*  $A, B, \pi$ : probability measures
- \*  $N$  and  $M$ : model parameters
- \*  $O$ : observation symbols

HMM notation:  $\lambda (A, B, \pi)$

# Three Fundamental Questions in Modelling HMMs

## 1) Evaluation Problem:

*Given* Observation sequence:  $O = O_1 O_2 \dots O_T$

HMM model:  $\lambda (A, B, \pi)$

*How to compute  $P(O|\lambda)$ ?*

## 2) Uncover Problem:

*Given* Observation sequence:  $O = O_1 O_2 \dots O_T$

HMM model:  $\lambda (A, B, \pi)$

*How to choose corresponding optimal state seq.  $Q = q_1 q_2 \dots q_T$ ?*

## 3) Training Problem:

*How to adjust parameters  $A, B, \pi$  to maximize  $P(O|\lambda)$ ?*

# Solution for Problem 1

$$P(O|\lambda)=?$$

Enumerate every possible T length state sequence.  
eg. Assume fixed  $Q=q_1q_2\ldots q_T$

$$P(O|Q, \lambda) = \prod_{t=1}^T P(O_t|q_t, \lambda)$$

$$P(O|Q, \lambda) = b_{q_1}(O_1) \cdot b_{q_2}(O_2) \cdot \cdots \cdot b_{q_T}(O_T).$$

$$P(Q|\lambda) = \pi_{q_1} a_{q_1q_2} a_{q_2q_3} \cdots a_{q_{T-1}q_T}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(O|\lambda) &= \sum_{\text{all } Q} P(O|Q, \lambda) P(Q|\lambda) \\ &= \sum_{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_T} \pi_{q_1} b_{q_1}(O_1) a_{q_1q_2} b_{q_2}(O_2) \\ &\quad \cdots a_{q_{T-1}q_T} b_{q_T}(O_T). \end{aligned}$$

Unfeasible  
computation time!  
On order of  $2^T \cdot N^T$

# Solution for Problem 1

## Forward-Backward procedure

Forward variable:

$$\alpha_t(i) = P(O_1 O_2 \dots O_t, q_t = S_i | \lambda)$$

(prob. for partial observation sequence  $O_1 \dots O_t$  ending at state  $S_i$  at time  $t$ ,  $\lambda$ )

Inductive Solution!

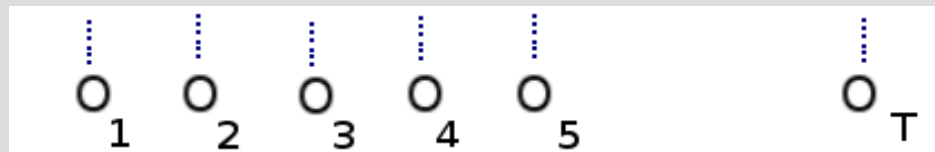
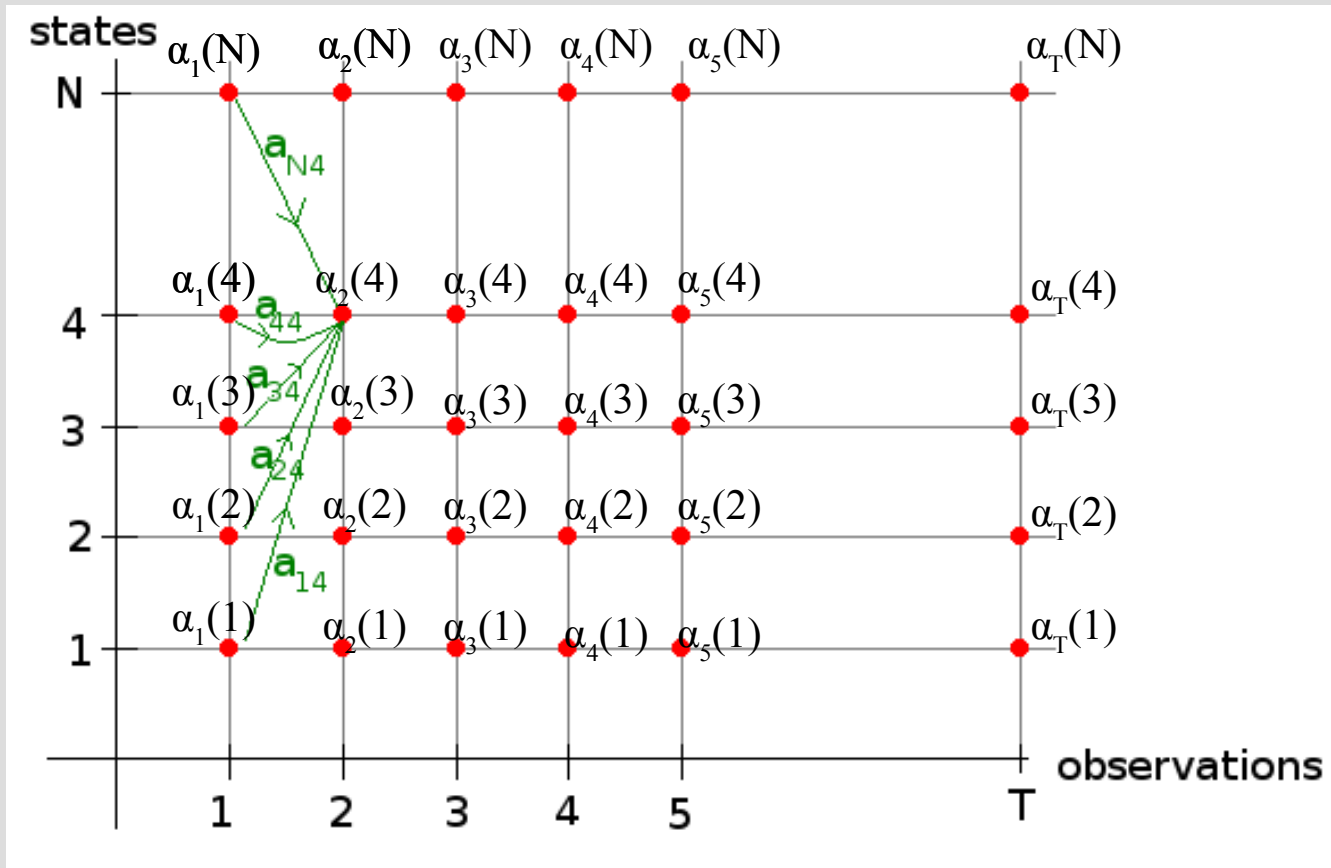
$$\alpha_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1), \quad 1 \leq i \leq N.$$

$$\alpha_{t+1}(j) = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_t(i) a_{ij} \right] b_j(O_{t+1}), \quad 1 \leq t \leq T-1$$
$$1 \leq j \leq N.$$

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

Computation time:  
On order of  $N^2T$

# Trellis



## Backward Variable:

$$\beta_t(i) = P(O_{t+1} O_{t+2} \dots O_T | q_T = S_i, \lambda)$$

(probability of the partial observation sequence from  $t+1$  to end, given state  $S_i$  at time  $t$ ,  $\lambda$ )

## Inductive Solution!

$$\beta_T(i) = 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N.$$

$$\beta_t(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j),$$

$$t = T - 1, T - 2, \dots, 1, 1 \leq i \leq N.$$

Computation time:  
On order of  $N^2T$

# Solution for Problem 2

- \* Aim is to find an optimal state sequence for the observation.
- \* Several solutions exist.
- \* Optimality criteria must be adjusted.

eg. states individually most likely at time  $t$ .  
maximizes expected # of correct individual states.



## A posteriori probability variable $\gamma$ :

$$\gamma_t(i) = P(q_t = S_i | O, \lambda)$$

(probability of being in state  $S_i$  at time  $t$  given observation sequence  $O$  and  $\lambda$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_t(i) &= \frac{P(q_t = i | O, \lambda)}{P(O | \lambda)} \\ &= \frac{P(O, q_t = i | \lambda)}{\sum_{i=1}^N P(O, q_t = i | \lambda)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma_t(i) = \frac{\alpha_t(i) \beta_t(i)}{P(O | \lambda)} = \frac{\alpha_t(i) \beta_t(i)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_t(i) \beta_t(i)}$$

$P(O | \lambda)$  is normalization factor to make sure sum of  $\gamma_t(i)$ 's equals 1

Individually most likely state  $q_t$  at time  $t$ :

$$q_t = \operatorname{argmax}_{1 \leq i \leq N} [\gamma_t(i)], \quad 1 \leq t \leq T.$$

Problem:

This equation finds the most likely state at each  $t$  regardless of the probability of occurrence of states, so the resulting sequence may be invalid.

Possible solution to the problem above:  
Find the state sequence maximizing pairs or triples  
of states

OR

Find the single best state sequence  
to maximize  $P(Q|O, \lambda)$   
equivalent to maximize  $P(Q, O|\lambda)$

# Viterbi Algorithm

Aim: to find the single best state sequence  $Q=\{q_1 q_2 \dots q_T\}$   
for given observation sequence  $O=\{O_1 O_2 \dots O_T\}$

Define  $\delta$ :

$$\delta_t(i) = \max_{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{t-1}} P(q_1 q_2 \dots q_t = i, O_1 O_2 \dots O_t | \lambda)$$

(the best score, ie. highest probability along a single path, at time t)  
(accounts for the first t observations, ends in state  $S_i$ )

$$\delta_{t+1}(j) = [\max_i \delta_t(i) a_{ij}] \cdot b_j(O_{t+1}).$$

For each t and j, must keep track of argument maximizing above equation.

Use array  $\psi_t(j)$

# Viterbi Algorithm

To find the best state sequence:

## 1. Initialization

$$\delta_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1), \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

$$\psi_1(i) = 0.$$

- Just like forward procedure.
- But finds max instead of summation.
- $\psi$  Keeps track of maximizing points

## 2. Recursion

$$\delta_t(j) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} [\delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij}] b_j(O_t), \quad 2 \leq t \leq T$$

$$1 \leq j \leq N$$

$$\psi_t(j) = \operatorname{argmax}_{1 \leq i \leq N} [\delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij}], \quad 2 \leq t \leq T$$

$$1 \leq j \leq N.$$

## 3. Termination

$$P^* = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} [\delta_T(i)]$$

$$q_T^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{1 \leq i \leq N} [\delta_T(i)].$$

## 4. Path/State Sequence Backtracking

$$q_t^* = \psi_{t+1}(q_{t+1}^*), \quad t = T-1, T-2, \dots, 1.$$

# Solution for Problem 3

Aim: Adjusting  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $\pi$  to maximize the probability of the training data.

Choose  $\lambda (A,B,\pi)$  such that  $P(O|\lambda)$  is locally maximized using:

Methods:

- \* Baum-Welch Method
- \* Expectation-Modification (EM) Method
- \* Gradient Techniques

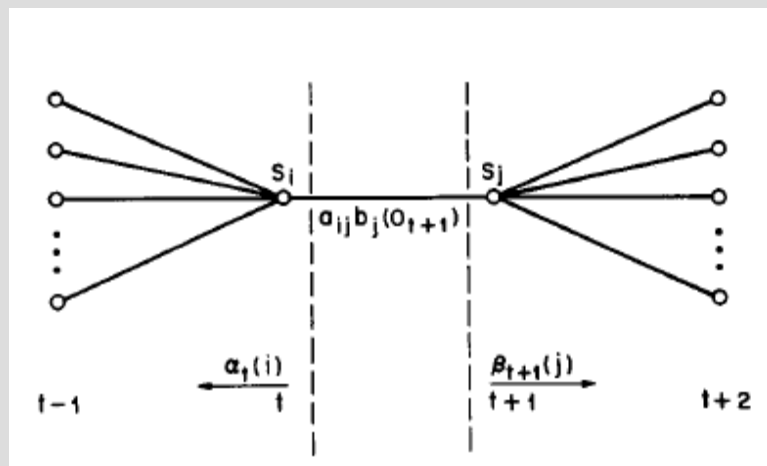
# Baum-Welch Method

Define Variable  $\xi$ :

$$\xi_t(i,j) = P(q_t = S_i, q_{t+1} = S_j | O, \lambda)$$

(the probability of being in state  $S_i$  at  $t$ , in  $S_j$  at  $t+1$ , given observation and model)

The path satisfying this condition:



$$\xi_t(i,j) = \frac{P(q_t = i, q_{t+1} = j, \mathbf{O} | \lambda)}{P(\mathbf{O} | \lambda)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_t(i,j) &= \frac{\alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{P(\mathbf{O} | \lambda)} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)} \end{aligned}$$

Relate to  $\gamma$ :

$$\gamma_t(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N \xi_t(i,j).$$

# Baum-Welch Method

Expected number of transitions made from state  $S_i$  in  $O$ :

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \gamma_t(i)$$

Expected number of transitions made from state  $S_i$  to  $S_j$  in  $O$ :

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \xi_t(i, j)$$

Reestimation formulas for  $A, B, \pi$ :

$\bar{\pi}_i$  = expected frequency (number of times) in state  $S_i$  at time  $(t = 1) = \gamma_1(i)$

$\bar{a}_{ij} = \frac{\text{expected number of transitions from state } S_i \text{ to state } S_j}{\text{expected number of transitions from state } S_i}$

$$= \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \xi_t(i, j)}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \gamma_t(i)}$$

$\bar{b}_j(k) = \frac{\text{expected number of times in state } j \text{ and observing symbol } v_k}{\text{expected number of times in state } j}$

$$= \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j)}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j) \text{ s.t. } O_t = v_k}.$$

# Baum-Welch Method

Current Model:  $\lambda (A, B, \pi)$

Reestimation Model:  $\bar{\lambda} (\bar{A}, \bar{B}, \bar{\pi},)$

Either;

- 1)  $\lambda$  defines critical point of the likelihood function, where  $\lambda = \bar{\lambda}$
- 2) model  $\bar{\lambda}$  is more likely than  $\lambda$   
in the sense  $P(O|\bar{\lambda}) > P(O|\lambda)$

So  $\bar{\lambda}$  is the new model matching the observation sequence better.

Using  $\bar{\lambda}$  as  $\lambda$  iteratively and repeating reestimation calculation, improvement for the probability of  $O$  being observed in model is reached.

Final result is called a maximum likelihood estimate of the HMM.



# Baum-Welch Method

Reestimation formulas can be derived by maximizing Baum's auxiliary function over  $\bar{\lambda}$ :

$$Q(\lambda, \bar{\lambda}) = \sum_Q P(Q|O, \lambda) \log [P(O, Q|\bar{\lambda})]$$

Proved that maximizing  $Q(\lambda, \bar{\lambda})$  leads to increased likelihood.

$$\max_{\bar{\lambda}} [Q(\lambda, \bar{\lambda})] \Rightarrow P(O|\bar{\lambda}) \geq P(O|\lambda).$$

Eventually likelihood function converges to a critical point.

# Baum-Welch Method

Stochastic constraints are satisfied in each reestimation procedure:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \bar{\pi}_i = 1$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \bar{a}_{ij} = 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^M \bar{b}_j(k) = 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq N$$

Also, Lagrange multipliers can be used to find  $\pi, a_{ij}, b_j(k)$  parameters maximizing  $P(O|\lambda)$   
(Think of the parameter estimation as a constrained optimization problem for  $P(O|\lambda)$ , constrained by above equations)

## Using Lagrange Multipliers;

$$\pi_i = \frac{\pi_i \frac{\partial P}{\partial \pi_i}}{\sum_{k=1}^N \pi_k \frac{\partial P}{\partial \pi_k}}$$

$$a_{ij} = \frac{a_{ij} \frac{\partial P}{\partial a_{ij}}}{\sum_{k=1}^N a_{ik} \frac{\partial P}{\partial a_{ik}}}$$

$$b_j(k) = \frac{b_j(k) \frac{\partial P}{\partial b_j(k)}}{\sum_{\ell=1}^M b_j(\ell) \frac{\partial P}{\partial b_j(\ell)}}$$

Manipulating these equations, it can be shown that reestimation formulas are correct at critical points of  $P(O|\lambda)$

# Types of HMMs

So far, considered only ergodic HMMs:

Ergodic Model:

Every state transition is possible.  $a_{ij}$ 's positive.

Left-Right (Bakis) Model:

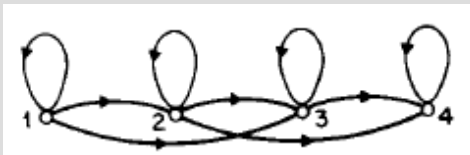
As time increases, state index increases or stays the same. ie. states proceed from left to right.

$$a_{ij} = 0, \quad j < i$$

$$\pi_i = \begin{cases} 0, & i \neq 1 \\ 1, & i = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$a_{NN} = 1$$

$$a_{Ni} = 0, \quad i < N.$$



$$a_{ij} = 0, \quad j > i + \Delta$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & 0 \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{33} & a_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a_{44} \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Continuous Observation Densities in HMMs

- Finite alphabet up to now.
- Observations are continuous signals/vectors.
- General representation of the pdf:

$$b_j(\mathbf{O}) = \sum_{m=1}^M c_{jm} \mathcal{N}[\mathbf{O}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_{jm}, \mathbf{U}_{jm}], \quad 1 \leq j \leq N$$

- $\mathbf{O}$ : vector being modeled
- $c_{jm}$ : mixture coeff. for  $m^{\text{th}}$  mixture in state  $j$
- $\mathcal{N}$  log concave/elliptical symmetric density (eg. Gaussian) mean:  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{jm}$ , cov:  $\mathbf{U}_{jm}$

- $c_{jm}$  should satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^M c_{jm} &= 1, & 1 \leq j \leq N \\ c_{jm} &\geq 0, & 1 \leq j \leq N, 1 \leq m \leq M \end{aligned}$$

such that pdf is normalized:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} b_j(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq N.$$

# Continuous Observation Densities in HMMs

Reestimation formulas:

$$\bar{c}_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k)}{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^M \gamma_t(j, k)}$$

$$\bar{\mu}_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k) \cdot \mathbf{O}_t}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k)}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k) \cdot (\mathbf{O}_t - \mu_{jk})(\mathbf{O}_t - \mu_{jk})'}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k)}$$

$\gamma_t(j, k)$  prob. Of being in state  $j$  at time  $t$  with  $k^{\text{th}}$  mixture component accounting for  $\mathbf{O}_t$

$$\gamma_t(j, k) = \left[ \frac{\alpha_t(j) \beta_t(j)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_t(j) \beta_t(j)} \right] \left[ \frac{c_{jk} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{O}_t, \mu_{jk}, \mathbf{U}_{jk})}{\sum_{m=1}^M c_{jm} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{O}_t, \mu_{jm}, \mathbf{U}_{jm})} \right].$$

# Autoregressive HMMs

- Particularly applicable to speech processing.
- Observation vectors are drawn from an autoregression process.
- Observation vector  $O: (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{k-1})$
- $O_k$ 's are related by: 
$$o_k = -\sum_{i=1}^p a_i o_{k-i} + e_k$$
where  $e_k$ ,  $k=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, p$  are Gaussian, independent, identically distributed rv. with zero mean, variance  $\sigma^2$
- $a_{ij}$ ,  $i=1, \dots, p$  are predictor (autoregression) coefficients.

# Autoregressive HMMs

- For large K, density function O is approximately:

$$f(\mathbf{O}) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-K/2} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \delta(\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{a}) \right\}$$

where

$$\delta(\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{a}) = r_a(0) r(0) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^p r_a(i) r(i)$$

$$\mathbf{a}' = [1, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p]$$

$$r_a(i) = \sum_{n=0}^{p-i} a_n a_{n+i} \quad (a_0 = 1), 1 \leq i \leq p$$

$$r(i) = \sum_{n=0}^{K-i-1} x_n x_{n+i} \quad 0 \leq i \leq p.$$

- $r(i)$  autocorrelation of observation samples
- $r_a(i)$  autocorr. Of autoreg. coeff.s



# Autoregressive HMMs

- Total prediction residual  $\alpha$  is

$$\alpha = E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K (e_i)^2 \right] = K\sigma^2$$

$\sigma^2$  is variance per sample of error signal.

- Normalized observation vector:

$$\hat{o} = \frac{o}{\sqrt{\alpha}} = \frac{o}{\sqrt{K\sigma^2}}$$

- Samples  $x_i$ 's are divided by  $\sqrt{K\sigma^2}$  (normalized by sample variance)

- 

$$f(\hat{\mathbf{O}}) = \left( \frac{2\pi}{K} \right)^{-K/2} \exp \left( -\frac{K}{2} \delta(\hat{\mathbf{O}}, \mathbf{a}) \right).$$

# Autoregressive HMMs

Using Gaussian autoregressive density, assume the mixture density:

$$b_j(\mathbf{O}) = \sum_{m=1}^M c_{jm} b_{jm}(\mathbf{O})$$

Each  $b_{jm}(\mathbf{O})$  is density with autoregression vector  $\mathbf{a}_{jm}$  (or autocorr. vector  $\mathbf{r}_{ajm}$ )

$$b_{jm}(\mathbf{O}) = \left( \frac{2\pi}{K} \right)^{-K/2} \exp \left\{ -\frac{K}{2} \delta(\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{a}_{jm}) \right\}.$$

Reestimation formula for sequence autocorrelation  $r(i)$  for the  $j$ th state,  $k$ th mixture component:

$$\bar{r}_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k) \cdot r_t}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j, k)}$$

Where  $\gamma_t(j, k)$  is the prob. of being in state  $j$  at time  $t$ , using mixture component  $k$ ,

$$\gamma_t(j, k) = \frac{\left[ \frac{\alpha_t(j) \beta_t(j)}{\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_t(j) \beta_t(j)} \right] \left[ \frac{c_{jk} b_{jk}(\mathbf{O}_t)}{\sum_{k=1}^M c_{jk} b_{jk}(\mathbf{O}_t)} \right]}{1}.$$

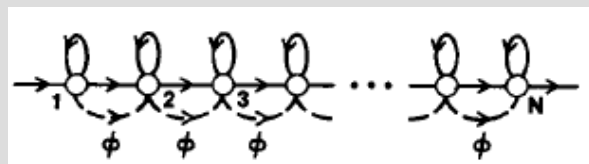
# Null Transitions

NULL Transitions:

Observations are associated with the arcs of the model.

Used for transitions which makes no output. (jumps between states produce no observation)

Eg: a left-right model:



It is possible to omit transitions between states and conclude with 1 observation to account for a path beginning in state 1, ending in state N.

# Tied States

- Equivalence relation between HMM parameters in different states.
- # of independent parameters in model is reduced.
- Used in cases where observation density is the same for two or more states. (eg in speech sounds)
- Model becomes simpler for parameter estimation

# More...

- Inclusion of Explicit State Duration Density in HMMs
- Optimization Criterion

# Bibliography

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Thanks for Listening!