# Latent Variable Models and Hidden Markov Models

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Lent 2011



### Machine Learning for Language Processing: Lecture 4

MPhil in Advanced Computer Science

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### **Latent Variable Models**

- The models generated to date have "meaning" for each variable
  - for topic detection, topic and words in text
- It is possible to introduce latent variables into the model
  - do not have to have anf "meaning"
  - these variables are never observed in test (possibly in training)
  - marginalised over to get probabilities
  - may be discrete (mixture models, HMMs), continuous (factor-analysis)
- This lecture will concentrate on two forms model
  - mixture models
  - hidden Markov models



- Consider three forms of Byesian Network (BN) for an observation  $m{x}$ 
  - indicator variable q (or q) shows value of continuous  $\boldsymbol{z}$  or discrete  $c_m$  space
  - probability found by marginalising over the latent variable

factor analysis Gaussian mixture models discrete mixture model

$$\int p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{z})p(\boldsymbol{z})d\boldsymbol{z} \\ \sum_{m=1}^{M} P(\boldsymbol{c}_m)p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{c}_m) \\ \sum_{m=1}^{M} P(\boldsymbol{c}_m)P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{c}_m)$$

- these models are extensively used in many machine learning applications

### **Gaussian Mixture Models**

- Gaussian mixture models (GMMS) are based on (multivariate) Gaussians
  - form of the Gaussian distribution:

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)$$

• For GMM each component modelled using a Gaussian distribution

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} P(\mathbf{c}_m) p(\boldsymbol{x} | \mathbf{c}_m) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} P(\mathbf{c}_m) \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_m, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_m)$$

- component prior:  $P(c_m)$
- component distribution:  $p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{c}_m) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_m, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_m)$
- Highly flexible model, able to model wide-range of distributions

### **Classifying Doughnut Data using GMMs**





### **Sequence Mixture Models**

- Add latent variable to a sequence classifier
  - sequence  $x_1, \ldots, x_3$ ,  $(x_0 \text{ start } x_4 \text{ end})$
  - feature additionally dependent on latent variable
  - latent variable is not observed
- Consider conditional independence and marginalising over the latent variable

$$P(x_{i}|x_{o},...,x_{i-1},q_{0},...,q_{i},\omega_{j}) = P(x_{i}|x_{i-1},q_{i})$$

$$P(x_{i}|x_{i-1},\omega_{j}) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} P(c_{m}|\omega_{j})P(x_{i}|x_{i-1},c_{m})$$

• So the overall probability (similar to a mixture-model class-dependent LM)

$$P(\boldsymbol{x}|\omega_j) = \prod_{i=1}^4 \left( \sum_{m=1}^M P(\mathbf{c}_m | \omega_j) P(x_i | x_{i-1}, \mathbf{c}_m) \right); \quad \text{Note } P(x_0 | \omega_j) = 1$$

### Mixture Language Model

• The general form of a mixture language model (for a trigram) is:

$$P(w_k|w_i, w_j) = \sum_{m=1}^M \lambda_m P_m(w_k|w_i, w_j); \quad \lambda_m = P(\mathbf{c}_m)$$

- ${\cal M}$  is the number of mixture components
- $P_m(w_k|w_i, w_j)$  is the language model probability for component m
- $\lambda_m$  is the language model component prior (tuned for the task) note

$$\sum_{m=1}^{M} \lambda_m = 1, \quad \lambda_m \ge 0$$

- Each of the individual component language is trained on a different sources
- Component prior,  $\lambda_m$ , tuned for a particular task using development data

### **Hidden Markov Models**

- An important model for sequence data is the hidden Markov model (HMM)
  - an example of a dynamic Bayesian network (DBN)
  - consider a sequence of multi-dimensional observations  $oldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,oldsymbol{x}_T$



- add discrete latent variables
  - $q_t$  describes discrete state-space
  - conditional independence assumptions

$$P(q_t|q_0,\ldots,q_{t-1}) = P(q_t|q_{t-1})$$
$$p(\boldsymbol{x}_t|\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1},q_0,\ldots,q_t) = p(\boldsymbol{x}_t|q_t)$$

• The likelihood of the data is

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_T) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{q}\in\boldsymbol{Q}_T} P(\boldsymbol{q})p(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_T|\boldsymbol{q}) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{q}\in\boldsymbol{Q}_T} P(q_0)\prod_{t=1}^T P(q_t|q_{t-1})p(\boldsymbol{x}_t|q_t)$$

 $q = \{q_0, \ldots, q_{T+1}\}$  and  $Q_T$  is all possible state sequences for T observations

### **HMM Parameters**

- Two types of states are often defined for HMMs (total N states)
  - emitting states: produce the observation sequence
  - non-emitting states: used to define valid state and end states
- The parameters are normally split into two (assume  $s_1$  and  $s_N$  are non-emitting)
  - transition matrix A:

 $a_{ij} = P(q_t = s_j | q_{t-1} = s_i)$  is the probability of transitioning from state  $s_i$  to state  $s_j$ 

- state output probability  $\{b_2(x_t), \ldots, b_{N-1}(x_t)\}$ :  $b_j(x_t) = p(x_t | q_t = s_j)$  is the output distribution for state  $s_j$
- The estimation of the parameters  $\lambda = \{A, b_2(x_t), \dots, b_{N-1}(x_t)\}$  will be discussed later in the course
  - usually trained using Expectation-Maximisation (EM)





- To design a classifier need to determine:
  - transition matrix: discrete state-space and allowed transitions (diagram left)
  - state output distribution: form of distribution  $p(\boldsymbol{x}_t|q_t)$
- Can then be used as a generative classifier

$$\hat{\omega} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\omega} \{ P(\omega | \boldsymbol{x}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{x}_T) \} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\omega} \{ P(\omega) p(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{x}_T | \omega) \}$$

need to be able to compute  $p({m x}_1,\ldots,{m x}_T|\omega)$  efficiently



### Viterbi Approximation

- An important technique for HMMs (and other models) is the Viterbi Algorithm
  - here the likelihood is approximated as (ignoring dependence on class  $\omega$ )

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_T) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{q}\in\boldsymbol{Q}_T} p(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_T,\boldsymbol{q}) \approx p(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_T,\hat{\boldsymbol{q}})$$

where

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{q}} = \{\hat{q}_0, \dots, \hat{q}_{T+1}\} = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{q} \in \boldsymbol{Q}_T} \{p(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{x}_T, \boldsymbol{q})\}$$

- This yields:
  - an approximate likelihood (lower bound) for the model
  - the best state-sequence through the discrete-state space



# Viterbi Algorithm

- Need an efficient approach to obtaining the best state-sequence,  $\hat{q}$ ,
  - simply searching through all possible state-sequences impractical ...



- Consider generating the observation sequence  $oldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,oldsymbol{x}_7$ 
  - HMM topology 3 emitting states with strict left-to-right topology (left)
  - representation of all possible state sequences on the right





- Partial path state sequence  $\{1, 2, 2, 3, 3\}$  with cost  $\phi_3(4)$ : now extend path
  - cost of staying in state  $s_3$  and generating observation  $x_5$ :  $\log(a_{33}b_3(x_5))$
  - cost of moving to state  $s_4$  and generating observation  $x_5$ :  $\log(a_{34}b_4(x_5))$
- Hence:  $\phi_3(5) = \phi_3(4) + \log(a_{33}b_3(\boldsymbol{x}_5))$  and  $\phi_4(5) = \phi_3(4) + \log(a_{34}b_4(\boldsymbol{x}_5))$





- Require best partial path to state  $s_4$  at time 5 (with associated cost  $\phi_4(5)$ )
  - cost of moving from state s $_3$  and generating observation  $m{x}_5$ :  $\log(a_{34}b_4(m{x}_5))$
  - cost of staying in state  $s_4$  and generating observation  $x_5$ :  $\log(a_{44}b_4(x_5))$
- Select "best:  $\phi_4(5) = \max \{ \phi_3(4) + \log(a_{34}b_4(\boldsymbol{x}_5)), \phi_4(4) + \log(a_{44}b_4(\boldsymbol{x}_5)) \}$



## **Viterbi Algorithm for HMMs**

• The Viterbi algorithm for HMMs can then be expressed as:

- Initialisation: (LZERO= log(0))  

$$\phi_1(0) = 0.0$$
,  $\phi_j(0) =$  LZERO,  $1 < j < N$ ,  
 $\phi_1(t) =$  LZERO,  $1 \le t \le T$ 

- Recursion: for  $t = 1, \dots, T$ for  $j = 2, \dots, N-1$  $\phi_j(t) = \max_{1 \le k < N} \{\phi_k(t-1) + \log(a_{kj})\} + \log(b_j(\boldsymbol{x}_t))$
- Termination:  $\log(p(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{x}_T, \hat{\boldsymbol{q}})) = \max_{1 < k < N} \{\phi_k(T) + \log(a_{kN})\}$
- Can also store the best previous state to allow best sequence  $\hat{q}$  to be found.



# State-Space

- The state-space can define many different attributes e.g.
  - sub-parts of phones/words/sentences in a speech recognition system
  - part-of-speech tags
  - word-alignments in machine translation
  - named entities
- HMMs can be combined together to form models of sequences of labels
  - many "classes" can be formed from combining sub-classes together
  - for examples words into phones

speech task = /s/ /p/ /iy/ /ch/ /t/ /ae/ /s/ /k/

- number of observations and labels do not need to be the same

