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# Hidden Markov Models

703075. Machine Learning

<https://iis.uibk.ac.at/courses/2020s/703075>

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# Hidden Markov models

Introduction

Discrete Markov process

Observable Markov model

Hidden Markov model (HMM)

Solving HMMs

# Hidden Markov models

## Introduction

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# Introduction

- Modeling dependencies in input; no longer iid
- Sequences:
  - Temporal: In speech; phonemes in a word (dictionary), words in a sentence (syntax, semantics of the language).
    - In handwriting, pen movements
  - Spatial: In a DNA sequence; base pairs

# Introduction

- Modeling dependencies in input; no longer iid
- Sequences:
  - A sequence can be characterized as being generated by a *parametric random process*

# Hidden Markov models

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# Discrete Markov Process

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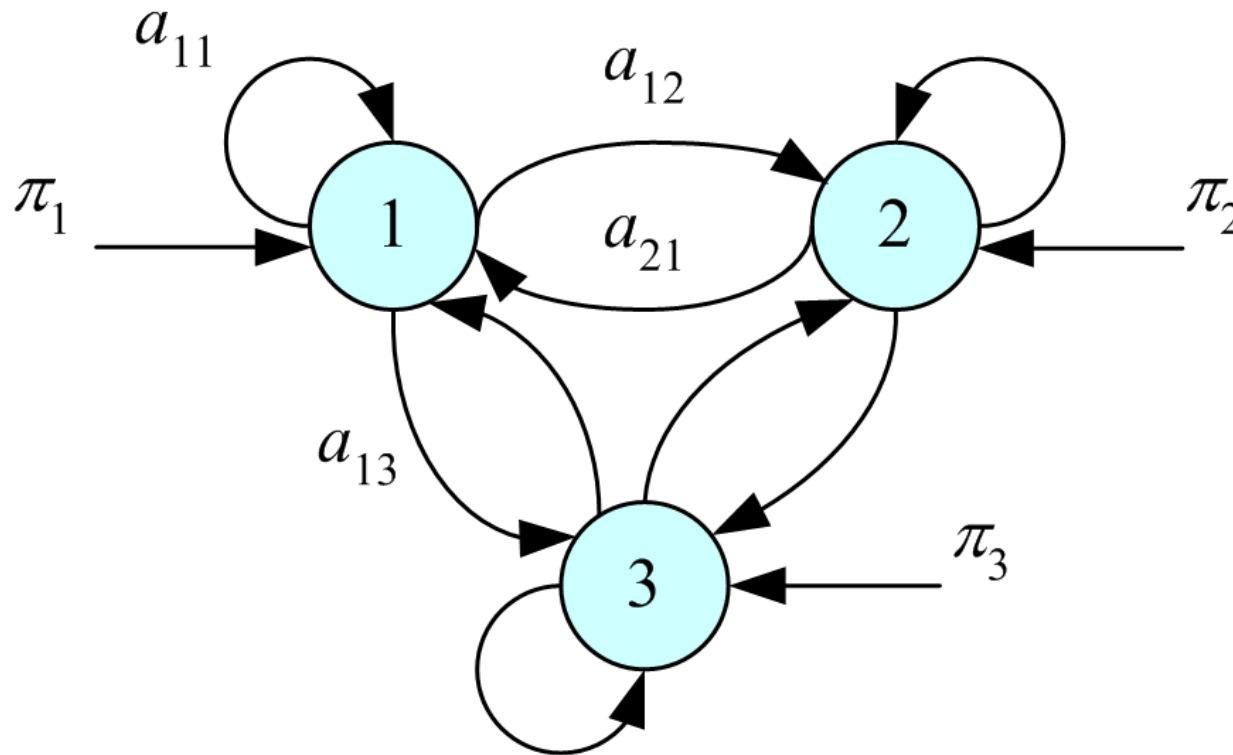
- Transition probabilities

$$a_{ij} \equiv P(q_{t+1}=S_j \mid q_t=S_i) \quad a_{ij} \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}=1$$

- Initial probabilities

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# Stochastic Automation



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# Observable Markov model

- The states are observable
  - At any time  $t$  we know  $q_t$
  - Having an observation sequence

$$O = Q = \{q_1 q_2 \dots q_T\}$$

$$P(O = Q | \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{\Pi}) = P(q_1) \prod_{t=2}^T P(q_t | q_{t-1}) = \pi_{q_1} a_{q_1 q_2} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{q_{T-1} q_T}$$

# Example: Balls and Urns

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- Three urns each full of balls of one color  
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$$P(O | \mathbf{A}, \Pi)$$

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$$P(O | \mathbf{A}, \Pi) = P(S_1) \cdot P(S_1 | S_1) \cdot P(S_3 | S_1) \cdot P(S_3 | S_3)$$

$$= \pi_1 \cdot a_{11} \cdot a_{13} \cdot a_{33}$$

$$= 0.5 \cdot 0.4 \cdot 0.3 \cdot 0.8 = 0.048$$

# Example: Balls and Urns

- Learning

- Given  $K$  example sequences of length  $T$

$$\hat{\pi}_i = \frac{\#\{\text{sequences starting with } s_i\}}{\#\{\text{sequences}\}} = \frac{\sum_k 1(q_1^k = s_i)}{K}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \hat{a}_{ij} &= \frac{\#\{\text{transitions from } s_i \text{ to } s_j\}}{\#\{\text{transitions from } s_i\}} \\ &= \frac{\sum_k \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} 1(q_t^k = s_i \text{ and } q_{t+1}^k = s_j)}{\sum_k \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} 1(q_t^k = s_i)} \end{aligned}$$

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- Emission probabilities
  - *Observation* that we observe  
 $v_m$ ,  $m = 1, \dots, M$  in state  $S_j$

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- The state sequence  $Q$  is not observed
  - but it should be inferred from the observation sequence  $O$



# Example: Balls and Urns

- In each urn, there are balls of different colors, but with different probabilities.
  - For each observation sequence, there are multiple state sequences
  - $b_j(m) \equiv P(O_t=v_m \mid q_t=S_j)$  denotes the probability of drawing a ball of color  $m$  from urn  $j$

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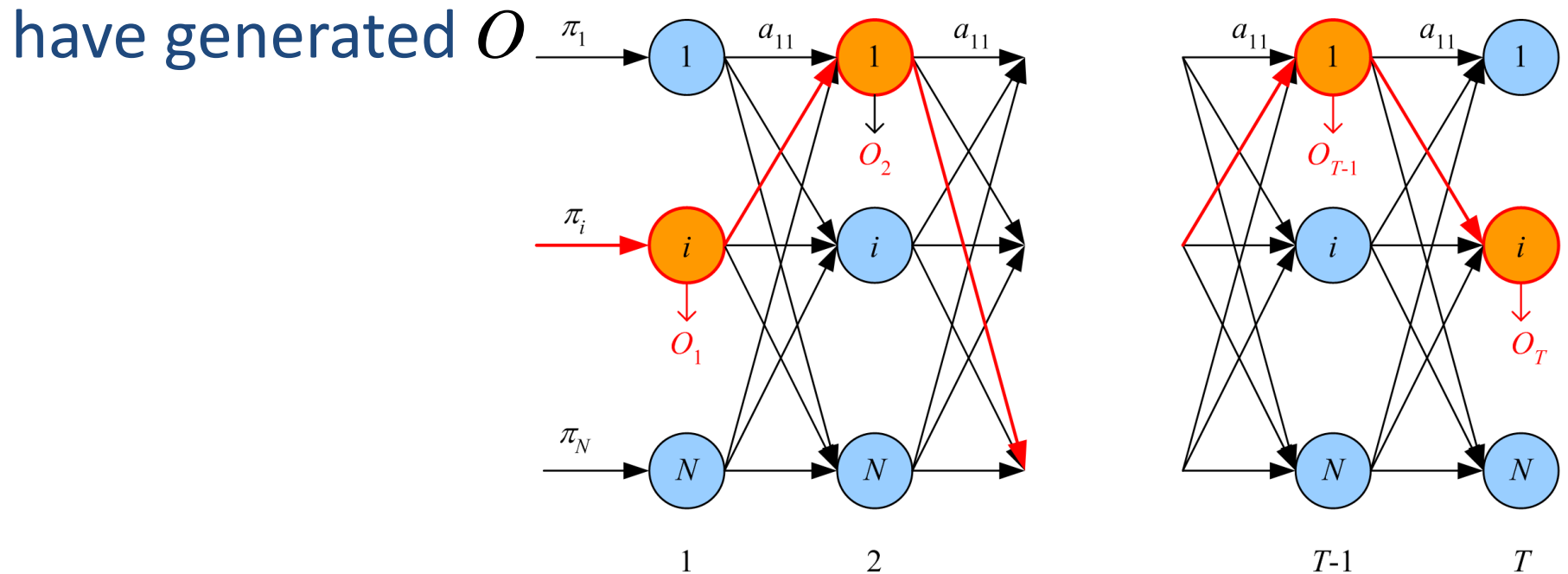
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  - $b_j(m) \equiv P(O_t=v_m \mid q_t=S_j)$  denotes the probability of drawing a ball of color  $m$  from urn  $j$
  - We again observe a sequence of ball colors but without knowing the sequence of urns from which the balls were drawn

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- In each urn, there are balls of different colors, but with different probabilities.
  - The observable model is a special case of the hidden model
  - where  $M = N$
  - and  $b_j(m)$  is 1 if  $j = m$  and 0 otherwise

# Example: Balls and Urns

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  - For the same observation sequence  $O$ , there may be many possible state sequences  $Q$  that could



# Elements of an HMM

- $N$ : Number of states  $S = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$
- $M$ : Number of observation symbols  
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$\lambda = (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{\Pi})$ , parameter set of HMM

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## 3. Learning

Given  $X = \{O^k\}_k$ , find  $\lambda^*$  such that

$$P(X | \lambda^*) = \max_{\lambda} P(X | \lambda)$$

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- Given an observation sequence  $O = \{O_1 O_2 \cdots O_T\}$  and a state sequence  $Q = \{q_1 q_2 \cdots q_T\}$ , the probability of observing  $O$  given the state sequence  $Q$  is

$$P(O|Q, \lambda) = \prod_{t=1}^T P(O_t|q_t, \lambda) = b_{q_1}(O_1) \cdot b_{q_2}(O_2) \cdots b_{q_T}(O_T)$$

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- But, we can compute the probability of a state

sequence  $P(Q|\lambda) = P(q_1) \prod_{t=2}^T P(q_t|q_{t-1}) = \pi_{q_1} a_{q_1 q_2} \cdot \dots \cdot a_{q_{T-1} q_T}$

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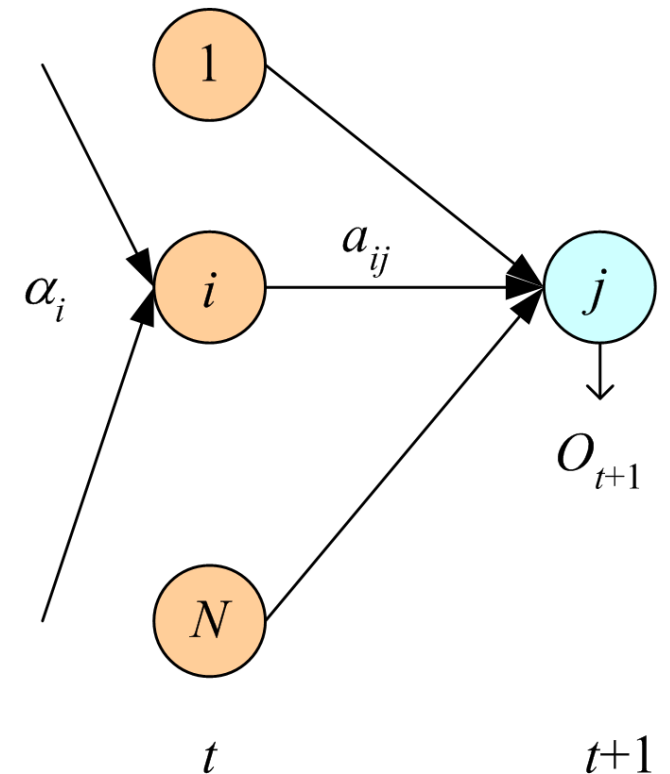
- There are  $N^T$  possible  $Q$

# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(O, q_T = S_i | \lambda)$$

- Forward-Backward procedure
  - Forward variable

$$\alpha_t(i) \equiv P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_t = S_i | \lambda)$$



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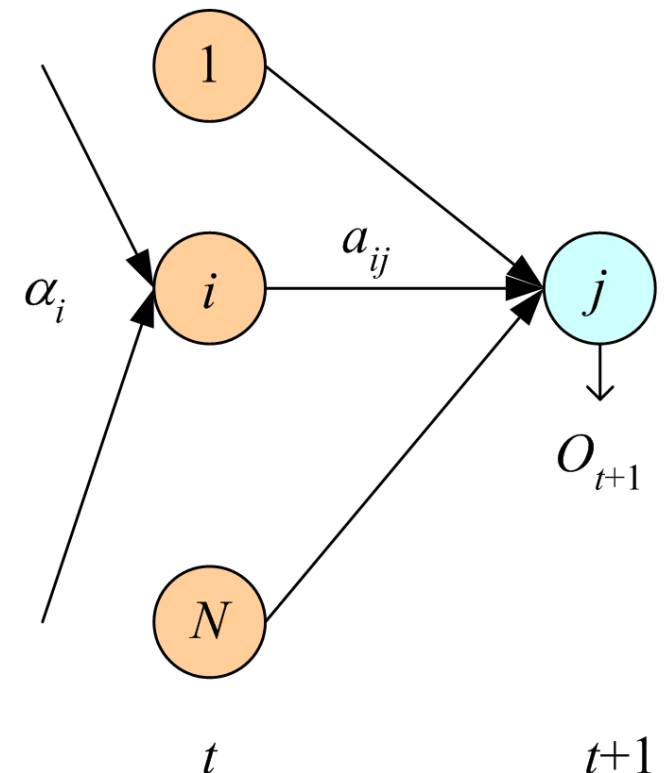
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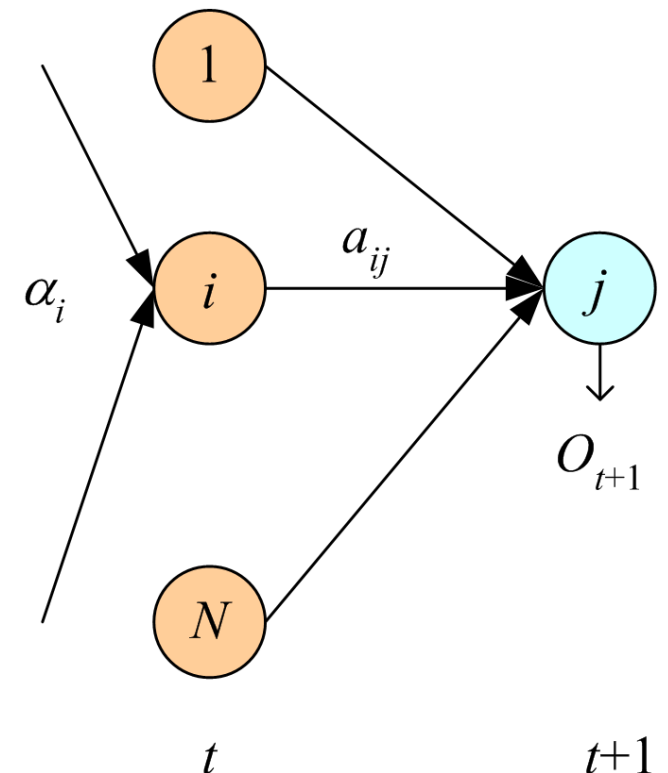
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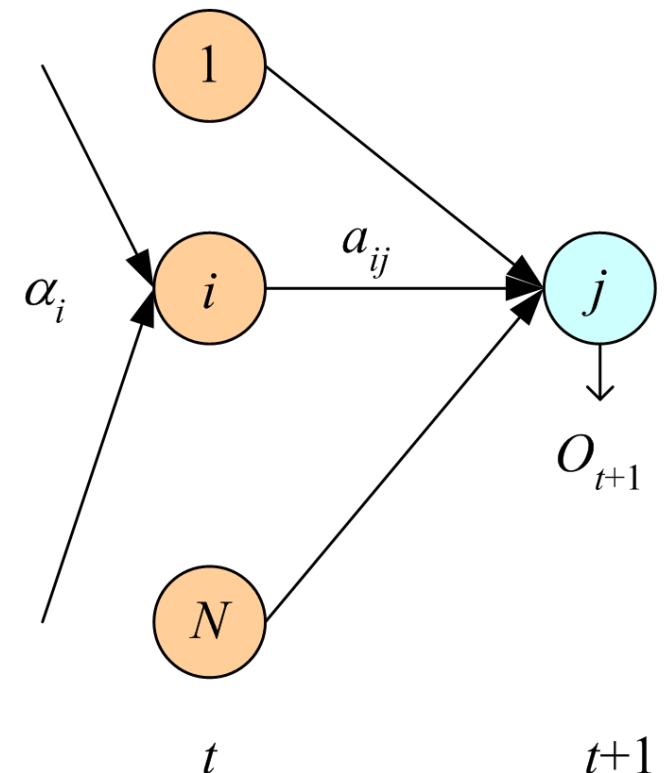
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Recursion:

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

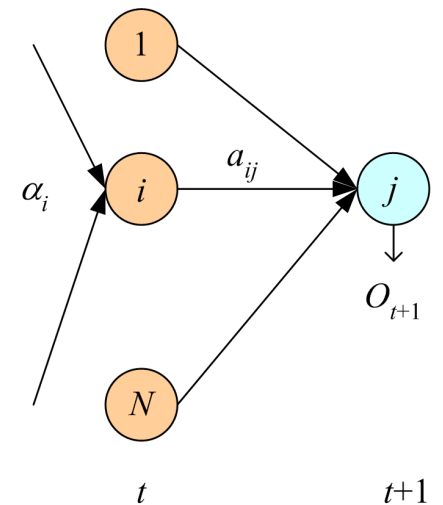


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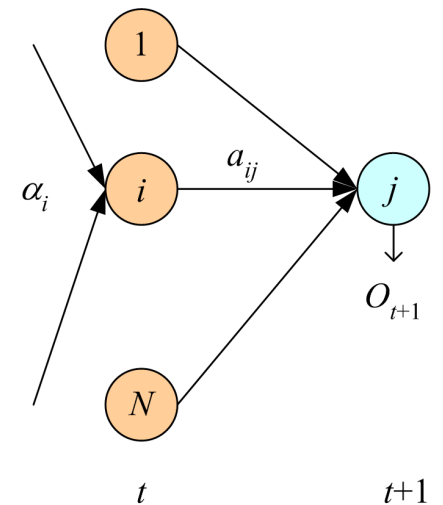


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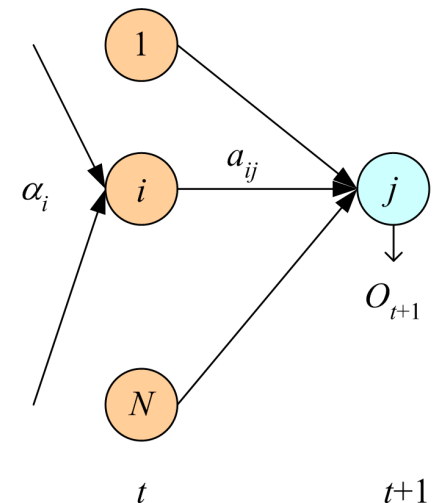
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$$= P(O_1 \cdots O_t | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda)$$





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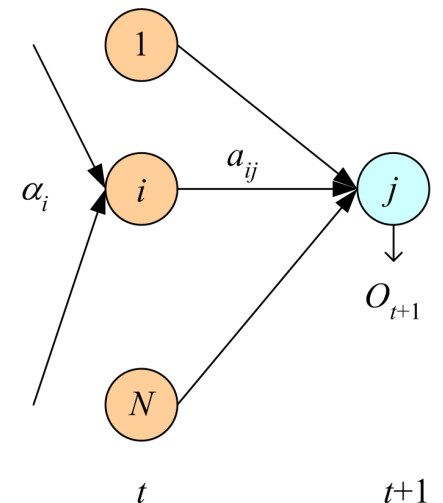
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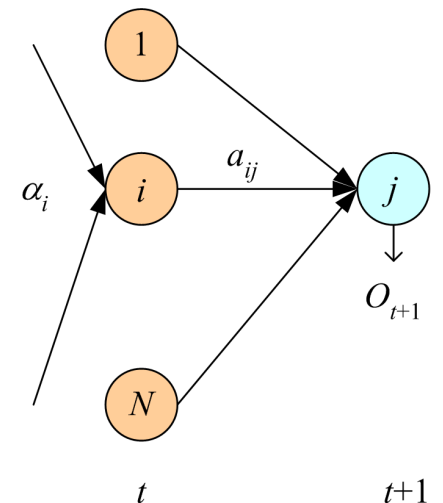


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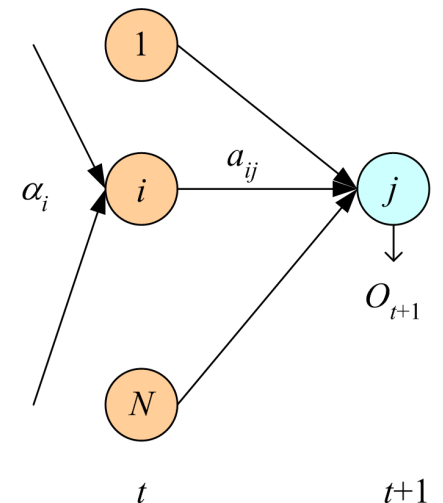


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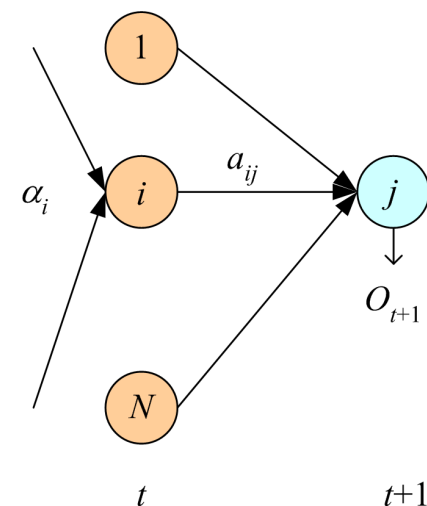


# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(O, q_T = S_i | \lambda)$$

## Recursion

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{t+1}(j) &\equiv P(O_1 \cdots O_{t+1}, q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda) \\ &= P(O_1 \cdots O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda) \\ &= P(O_1 \cdots O_t | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda) \\ &= P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ &= P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \sum_i P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_t = S_i, q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda) \\ &= P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ &\quad \sum_i P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_{t+1} = S_j | q_t = S_i, \lambda) P(q_t = S_i | \lambda) \\ &= P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ &\quad \sum_i P(O_1 \cdots O_t | q_t = S_i, \lambda) P(q_{t+1} = S_j | q_t = S_i, \lambda) P(q_t = S_i | \lambda) \end{aligned}$$



# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(O, q_T = S_i|\lambda)$$

## Recursion

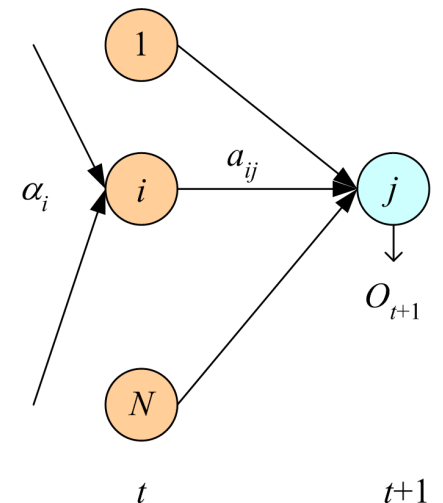
$$\alpha_{t+1}(j) \equiv P(O_1 \cdots O_{t+1}, q_{t+1} = S_j|\lambda)$$

$$= P(O_{t+1}|q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda)$$

$$\sum_i P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_{t+1} = S_j|q_t = S_i, \lambda)P(q_t = S_i|\lambda)$$

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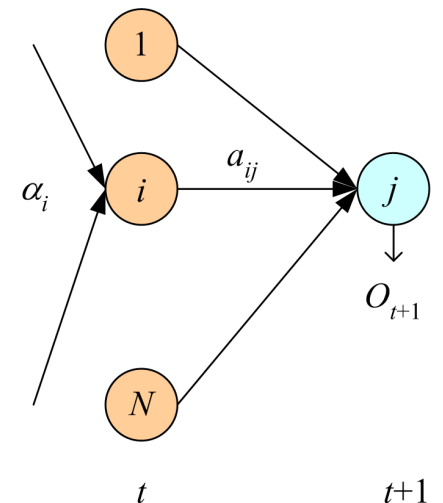
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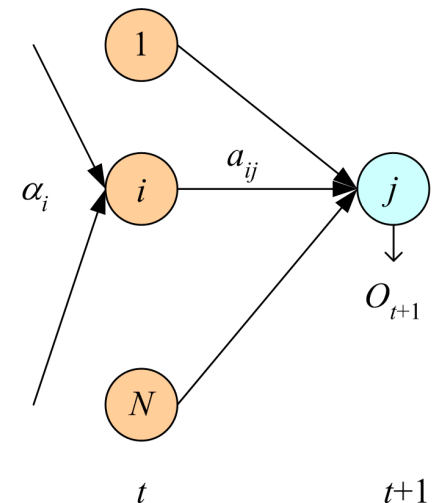
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$$= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_t(i) a_{ij} \right] b_j(O_{t+1})$$



# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N P(O, q_T = S_i | \lambda)$$

- Forward-Backward procedure
  - Forward variable

$$\alpha_t(i) \equiv P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_t = S_i | \lambda)$$

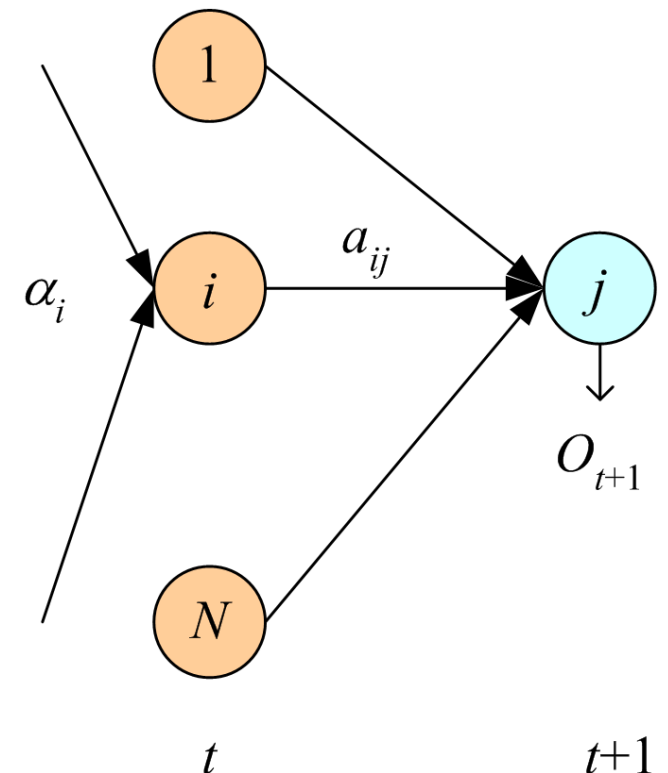
Initialization:

$$\alpha_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1)$$

Recursion:

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

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



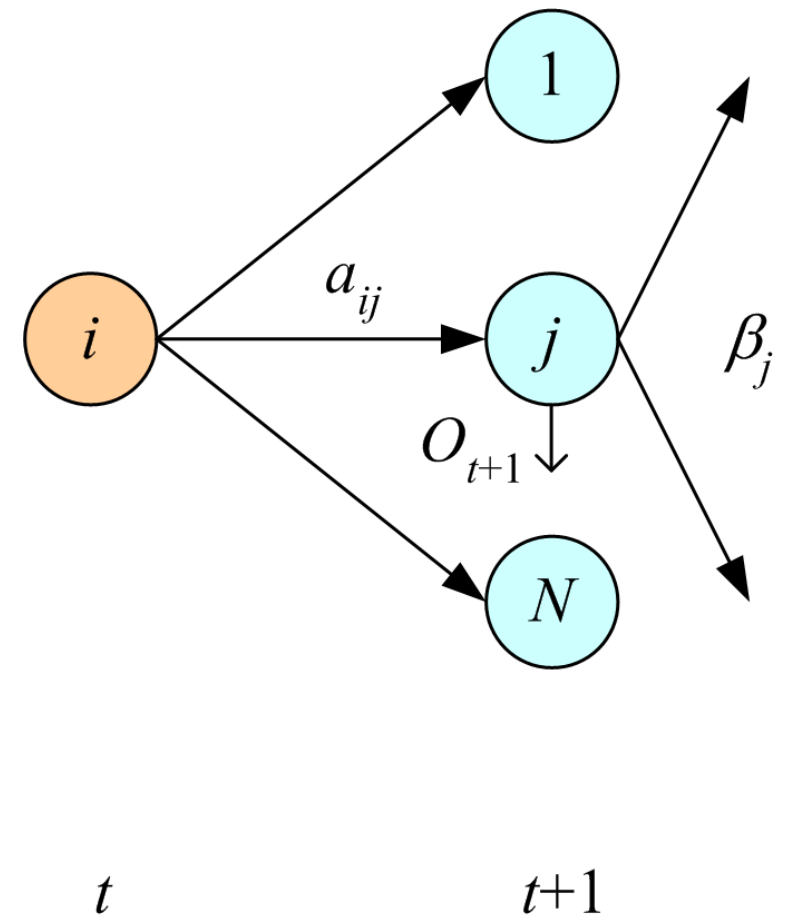


# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|Q, \lambda) = \prod_{t=1}^T P(O_t | q_t, \lambda) = b_{q_1}(O_1) \cdot b_{q_2}(O_2) \cdot \dots \cdot b_{q_T}(O_T)$$

- Forward-Backward procedure
  - Backward variable

$$\beta_t(i) \equiv P(O_{t+1} \dots O_T | q_t = s_i, \lambda)$$



# 1. Evaluation

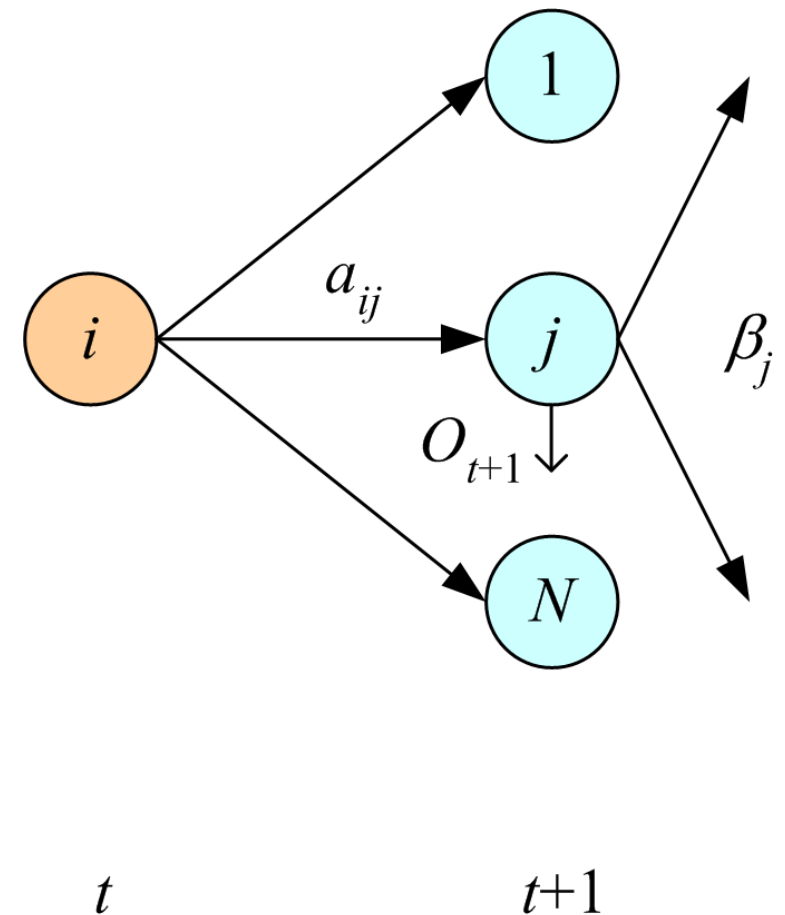
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- Forward-Backward procedure
  - Backward variable

$$\beta_t(i) \equiv P(O_{t+1} \dots O_T | q_t = s_i, \lambda)$$

Initialization:

$$\beta_T(i) = 1$$



# 1. Evaluation

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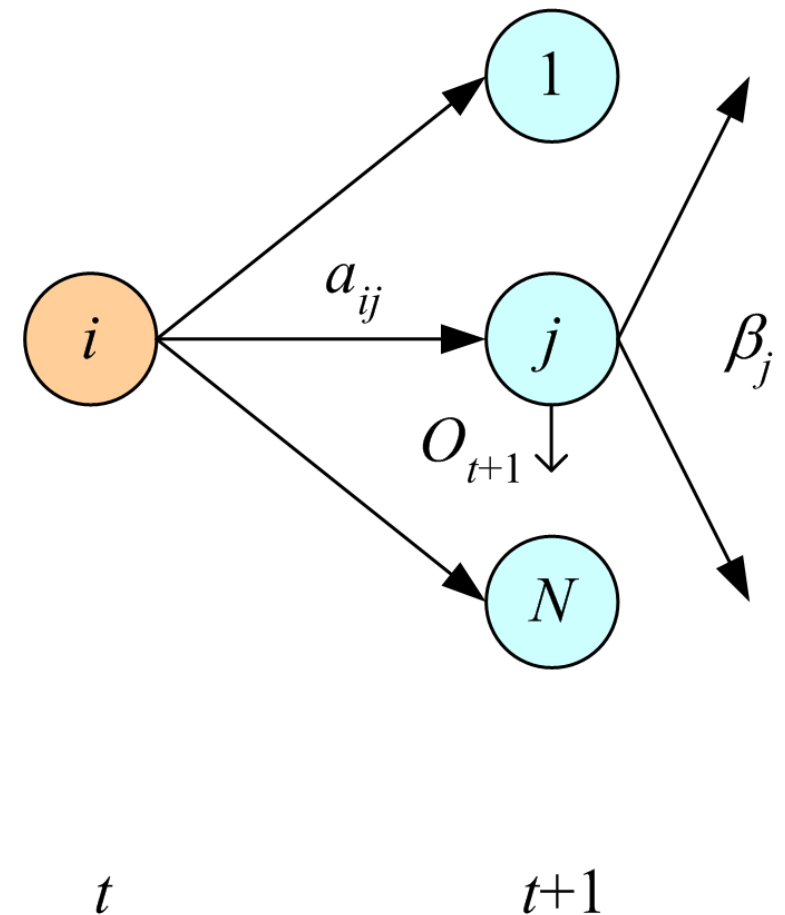
$$\beta_t(i) \equiv P(O_{t+1} \dots O_T | q_t = s_i, \lambda)$$

Initialization:

$$\beta_T(i) = 1$$

Recursion:

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



# 1. Evaluation

$$P(O|Q, \lambda) = \prod_{t=1}^T P(O_t | q_t, \lambda) = b_{q_1}(O_1) \cdot b_{q_2}(O_2) \cdot \dots \cdot b_{q_T}(O_T)$$

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

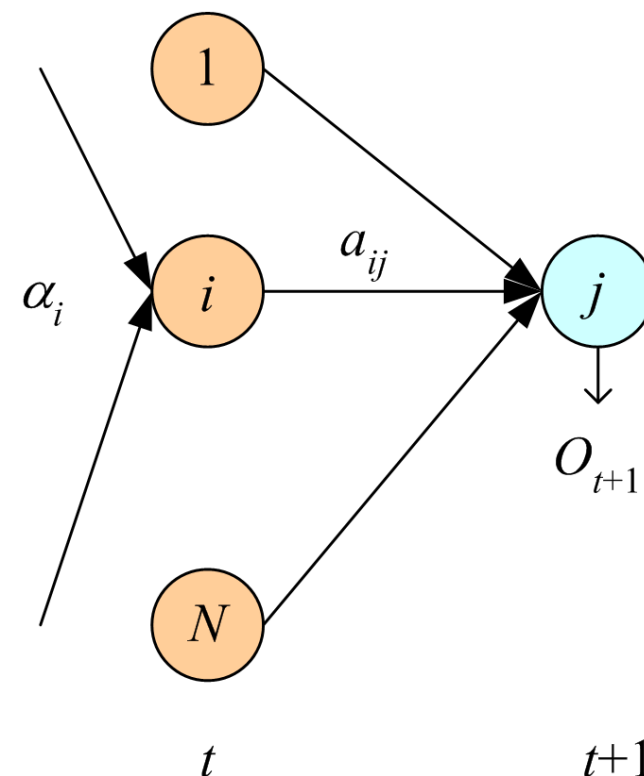
Initialization:

$$\alpha_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1)$$

Recursion:

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

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



## 2. State sequence

- Find the state sequence  $Q = \{q_1 q_2 \cdots q_T\}$  having the highest probability of generating the observation sequence  $O = \{O_1 O_2 \cdots O_T\}$ , given the model  $\lambda$

$$P(Q^* | O, \lambda) = \max_Q P(Q | O, \lambda)$$

## 2. State sequence

$$P(Q^* | O, \lambda) = \max_Q P(Q | O, \lambda)$$

- Let us define  $\gamma_t(i)$  as the probability of being in state  $S_i$  at time  $t$ , given  $O$  and  $\lambda$

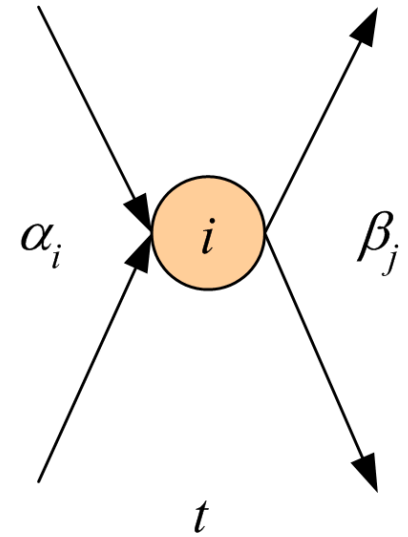
$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_t(i) &\equiv P(q_t = S_i | O, \lambda) \\ &= \frac{P(O | q_t = S_i, \lambda) P(q_t = S_i | \lambda)}{P(O | \lambda)}\end{aligned}$$

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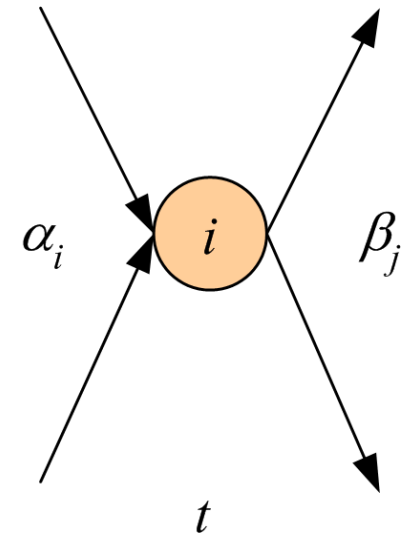


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- Choose the state that has the highest probability
- for each time step:  $q_t^* = \arg \max_i \gamma_t(i)$



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- **Viterbi Algorithm**

## 2. State sequence

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- Viterbi Algorithm

- Given state sequence  $Q = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_T$  and observation sequence  $O = O_1 \cdots O_T$ , we define  $\delta_t(i)$  as the probability of the highest probability path at time  $t$  that accounts for the first  $t$  observations and ends in  $S_i$

$$\delta_t(i) \equiv \max_{q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}} p(q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}, q_t = S_i, O_1 \cdots O_t | \lambda)$$

## 2. State sequence

$$\delta_t(i) \equiv \max_{q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}} p(q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}, q_t = S_i, O_1 \cdots O_t | \lambda)$$

- Viterbi Algorithm

- Initialization:

$$\delta_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1)$$

$$\psi_1(i) = 0$$

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- Viterbi Algorithm

- Initialization:

$$\delta_1(i) = \pi_i b_i(O_1)$$

$$\psi_1(i) = 0$$

- Recursion

$$\delta_t(j) = \max_i \delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_t)$$

$$\psi_t(j) = \operatorname{argmax}_i \delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij}$$

## 2. State sequence

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- Termination:

$$p^* = \max_i \delta_T(i)$$

$$q_T^* = \operatorname{argmax}_i \delta_T(i)$$

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- Path backtracking

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

- Termination:

$$p^* = \max_i \delta_T(i)$$

$$q_T^* = \operatorname{argmax}_i \delta_T(i)$$

## 2. State sequence

$$\delta_t(i) \equiv \max_{q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}} p(q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{t-1}, q_t = S_i, O_1 \cdots O_t | \lambda)$$

- Viterbi Algorithm

- Recursion

$$\delta_t(j) = \max_i \delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_t)$$

$$\psi_t(j) = \operatorname{argmax}_i \delta_{t-1}(i) a_{ij}$$

- Path backtracking

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

- $\psi_t(j)$  keeps track of the state that maximizes  $\delta_t(j)$  at time  $t - 1$ , that is, the best previous state

- Termination:

$$p^* = \max_i \delta_T(i)$$

$$q_T^* = \operatorname{argmax}_i \delta_T(i)$$

# 3. Learning

- Maximum Likelihood
  - Calculate  $\lambda^*$  that maximizes the likelihood of the sample of training sequences,  
 $X = \{O^k\}_{k=1}^K$ , namely,  $P(X|\lambda)$



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

# 3. Learning

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$$= \left( \frac{1}{P(O | \lambda)} \right) P(O_1 \cdots O_t | q_t = S_i, \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ P(O_{t+2} \cdots O_T | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) a_{ij} P(q_t = S_i | \lambda)$$

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$$= \left( \frac{1}{P(O | \lambda)} \right) P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_t = S_i | \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ P(O_{t+2} \cdots O_T | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) a_{ij}$$

$$= \frac{\alpha_t(i) b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j) a_{ij}}{\sum_k \sum_l P(q_t = S_k, q_{t+1} = S_l, O | \lambda)}$$

# 3. Learning

- Maximum Likelihood

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

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_t(i, j) &= P(q_t = S_i, q_{t+1} = S_j | O, \lambda) \\ &= \frac{P(O | q_t = S_i, q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) P(q_t = S_i, q_{t+1} = S_j | \lambda)}{P(O | \lambda)} \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{P(O | \lambda)} \right) P(O_1 \cdots O_t, q_t = S_i | \lambda) P(O_{t+1} | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) \\ &\quad P(O_{t+2} \cdots O_T | q_{t+1} = S_j, \lambda) a_{ij} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_t(i) b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j) a_{ij}}{\sum_k \sum_l P(q_t = S_k, q_{t+1} = S_l, O | \lambda)} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_k \sum_l \alpha_t(k) a_{kl} b_l(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(l)} \end{aligned}$$

# 3. Learning

- Maximum Likelihood

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

$$\xi_t(i, j) = \frac{\alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(o_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_k \sum_l \alpha_t(k) a_{kl} b_l(o_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(l)}$$

- We can calculate the probability of being in state  $S_i$  at time  $t$  by marginalizing over the arc probabilities for all possible next states

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

# 3. Learning

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

- If the Markov model were not hidden but observable, both  $\gamma_t(i)$  and  $\xi_t(i, j)$  would be 0/1.
- In this case when they are not, we estimate them with posterior probabilities that give us *soft counts*

# 3. Learning

- Maximum Likelihood

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- In this case when they are not, we estimate them with posterior probabilities that give us *soft counts*
- We estimate posterior probabilities first (in the E-step) and calculate the parameters with these estimates (in the M-step).



# 3. Learning

- Baum-Welch algorithm
  - E-step computes  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$
  - M-step re-calculate  $\lambda$  given  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$
  - Until convergence
    - $P(O|\lambda)$  never decreases

# 3. Learning

- Baum-Welch algorithm

- E-step computes  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$

$$\begin{aligned} E[z_i^t] &= \gamma_t(i) & z_i^t &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} & z_{ij}^t &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \text{ and } q_{t+1} = S_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ E[z_{ij}^t] &= \xi_t(i, j) \\ \xi_t(i, j) &= \frac{\alpha_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_k \sum_l \alpha_t(k) a_{kl} b_l(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(l)} & \gamma_t(i) &= \sum_{j=1}^N \xi_t(i, j) \end{aligned}$$

# 3. Learning

- Baum-Welch algorithm

- E-step computes  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$

$$E[z_i^t] = \gamma_t(i) \quad z_i^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad z_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \text{ and } q_{t+1} = S_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E[z_{ij}^t] = \xi_t(i, j)$$

$$\xi_t(i, j) = \frac{a_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_k \sum_l a_t(k) a_{kl} b_l(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(l)} \quad \gamma_t(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N \xi_t(i, j)$$

- M-step re-calculate  $\lambda$  given  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$

- Ratio of number of transitions from  $S_i$  to  $S_j$

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

- Probability of observing  $v_m$  in  $S_j$   $\hat{b}_j(m) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j) 1(O_t = v_m)}{\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t(j)}$

# 3. Learning

- Baum-Welch algorithm

- E-step computes  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$

$$E[z_i^t] = \gamma_t(i) \quad z_i^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad z_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q_t = S_i \text{ and } q_{t+1} = S_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E[z_{ij}^t] = \xi_t(i, j)$$

$$\xi_t(i, j) = \frac{a_t(i) a_{ij} b_j(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)}{\sum_k \sum_l a_t(k) a_{kl} b_l(O_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(l)} \quad \gamma_t(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N \xi_t(i, j)$$

- M-step re-calculate  $\lambda$  given  $\xi_t(i, j)$  and  $\gamma_t(i)$

- For multiple observation sequences

$$\hat{a}_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{t=1}^{T_k-1} \xi_t^k(i, j)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{t=1}^{T_k-1} \gamma_t^k(i)} \quad \hat{\pi}_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_1^k(i)}{K}$$

$$\hat{b}_j(m) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{t=1}^{T_k} \gamma_t^k(j) 1(O_t^k = v_m)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{t=1}^{T_k} \gamma_t^k(j)}$$

# Classification with HMMs

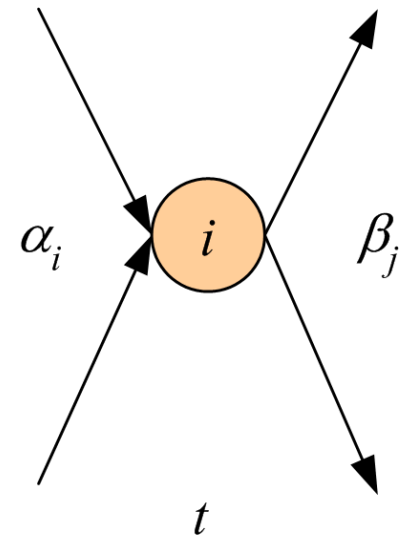
- We have a set of HMMs, each one modeling the sequences belonging to one class
  - For example, in spoken word recognition, examples of each word train a separate model,  $\lambda_i$ .
  - Given a new word utterance  $O$  to classify, all of the separate word models are evaluated to calculate  $P(O|\lambda_j)$ .
  - We then use Bayes' rule to get the posterior probabilities 
$$P(\lambda_i|O) = \frac{P(O|\lambda_i)P(\lambda_i)}{\sum_j P(O|\lambda_j)P(\lambda_j)}$$

# Exercise 1

- Prove the recursion expression for the forward-backward algorithm:

Recursion:

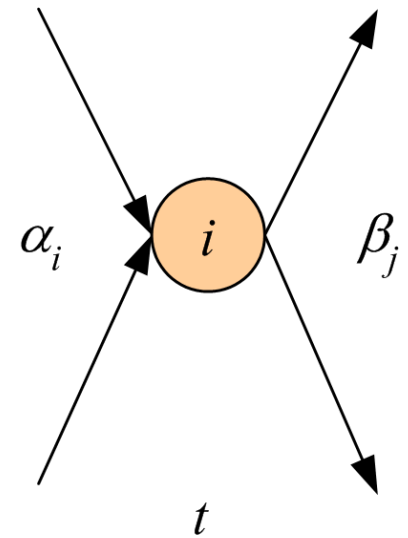
$$\beta_t(i) = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} b_j(o_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(j)$$



## Exercise 2

- Prove that for finding the state sequence

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

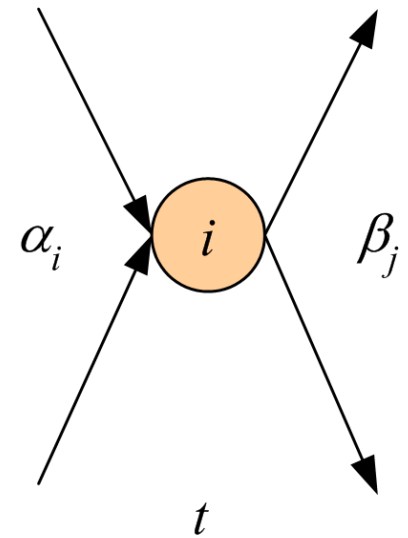


## Exercise 2

- Prove that for finding the state sequence

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

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_t(i) &\equiv \frac{P(q_t = s_i | O, \lambda)}{P(O | \lambda)} \\ &= \frac{P(O | q_t = s_i, \lambda)P(q_t = s_i | \lambda)}{P(O | \lambda)}\end{aligned}$$





# Summary

Introduction

Discrete Markov process

Observable Markov model

Hidden Markov model (HMM)

Solving HMMs