Speech and Language Processing

Part-of-Speech Tagging

Chapter 5 of SLP

Parts of Speech

- 8 (ish) traditional parts of speech
  - Noun, verb, adjective, preposition, adverb, article, interjection, pronoun, conjunction, etc
  - Called: parts-of-speech, lexical categories, word classes, morphological classes, lexical tags...
  - Lots of debate within linguistics about the number, nature, and universality of these
    - We’ll completely ignore this debate.

POS examples

N	noun	*chair, bandwidth, pacing*
V	verb	*study, debate, munch*
ADJ	adjective	*purple, tall, ridiculous*
ADV	adverb	*unfortunately, slowly*
P	preposition	*of, by, to*
PRO	pronoun	*I, me, mine*
DET	determiner	*the, a, that, those*

POS Tagging

- The process of assigning a part-of-speech or lexical class marker to each word in a collection.

WORD	tag
the	**DET**
koala	**N**
put	**V**
the	**DET**
keys	**N**
on	**P**
the	**DET**
table	**N**

Why is POS Tagging Useful?

- First step of a vast number of practical tasks
- Speech synthesis
  - How to pronounce "lead"?
  - INsult inSULT
  - OBject objECT
  - OVERflow overFLOW
  - DIScount disCOUNT
  - CONtent conTENT
- Parsing
  - Need to know if a word is an N or V before you can parse
- Information extraction
  - Finding names, relations, etc.
- Machine Translation

Open and Closed Classes

- Closed class: a small fixed membership
  - Prepositions: of, in, by, …
  - Auxiliaries: may, can, will had, been, …
  - Pronouns: I, you, she, mine, his, them, …
  - Usually function words (short common words which play a role in grammar)
- Open class: new ones can be created all the time
  - English has 4: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs
  - Many languages have these 4, but not all!

Open Class Words

- Nouns
  - Proper nouns (Boulder, Granby, Eli Manning)
    - English capitalizes these.
  - Common nouns (the rest).
  - Count nouns and mass nouns
    - Count: have plurals, get counted: goat/goats, one goat, two goats
    - Mass: don't get counted (snow, salt, communism) (*two snows)
- Adverbs: tend to modify things
  - Unfortunately, John walked home extremely slowly yesterday
  - Directional/locative adverbs (here,home, downhill)
  - Degree adverbs (extremely, very, somewhat)
  - Manner adverbs (slowly, slinkily, delicately)
- Verbs
  - In English, have morphological affixes (eat/eats/eaten)

Closed Class Words

Examples:

- prepositions: *on, under, over, …*
- particles: *up, down, on, off, …*
- determiners: *a, an, the, …*
- pronouns: *she, who, I, ..*
- conjunctions: *and, but, or, …*
- auxiliary verbs: *can, may should, …*
- numerals: *one, two, three, third, …*

Prepositions from CELEX

of	540,085	through	14,964	worth	1,563	pace	12
in	331,235	after	13,670	toward	1,390	nigh	9
for	142,421	between	13,275	plus	750	re	4
to	125,691	under	9,525	till	686	mid	3
with	124,965	per	6,515	amongst	525	o'er	2
on	109,129	among	5,090	via	351	but	0
at	100,169	within	5,030	amid	222	ere	0
by	77,794	towards	4,700	underneath	164	less	0
from	74,843	above	3,056	versus	113	midst	0
about	38,428	near	2,026	amidst	67	o'	0
than	20,210	off	1,695	sans	20	thru	0
over	18,071	past	1,575	circa	14	vice	0

Conjunctions

and	514,946	yet	5,040	considering	174	forasmuch as	0
that	134,773	since	4,843	lest	131	however	0
but	96,889	where	3,952	albeit	104	immediately	0
or	76,563	nor	3,078	providing	96	in as far as	0
as	54,608	once	2,826	whereupon	85	in so far as	0
if	53,917	unless	2,205	seeing	63	inasmuch as	0
when	37,975	why	1,333	directly	26	insomuch as	0
because	23,626	now	1,290	ere	12	insomuch that	0
so	12,933	neither	1,120	notwithstanding	3	like	0
before	10,720	whenever	913	according as	0	neither nor	0
though	10,329	whereas	867	as if	0	now that	0
than	9,511	except	864	as long as	0	only	0
while	8,144	till	686	as though	0	provided that	0
after	7,042	provided	594	both and	0	providing that	0
whether	5,978	whilst	351	but that	0	seeing as	0
for	5,935	suppose	281	but then	0	seeing as how	0
although	5,424	cos	188	but then again	0	seeing that	0
until	5,072	supposing	185	either or	0	without	0

POS Tagging
Choosing a Tagset

- There are so many parts of speech, potential distinctions we can draw
- To do POS tagging, we need to choose a standard set of tags to work with
- Could pick very coarse tagsets
  - N, V, Adj, Adv.
- More commonly used set is finer grained, the "Penn TreeBank tagset", 45 tags
  - PRP$, WRB, WP$, VBG
- Even more fine-grained tagsets exist

Penn TreeBank POS Tagset

Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example
CC	coordin. conjunction	*and, but, or*	SYM	symbol	+,%, &
CD	cardinal number	*one, two, three*	TO	“to”	*to*
DT	determiner	*a, the*	UH	interjection	*ah, oops*
EX	existential ‘there’	*there*	VB	verb, base form	*eat*
FW	foreign word	*mea culpa*	VBD	verb, past tense	*ate*
IN	preposition/sub-conj	*of, in, by*	VBG	verb, gerund	*eating*
JJ	adjective	*yellow*	VBN	verb, past participle	*eaten*
JJR	adj., comparative	*bigger*	VBP	verb, non-3sg pres	*eat*
JJS	adj., superlative	*wildest*	VBZ	verb, 3sg pres	*eats*
LS	list item marker	*1, 2, One*	WDT	wh-determiner	*which, that*
MD	modal	*can, should*	WP	wh-pronoun	*what, who*
NN	noun, sing. or mass	*llama*	WP$	possessive wh-	*whose*
NNS	noun, plural	*llamas*	WRB	wh-adverb	*how, where*
NNP	proper noun, singular	*IBM*	$	dollar sign	$
NNPS	proper noun, plural	*Carolinas*	#	pound sign	#
PDT	predeterminer	*all, both*	“	left quote	‘ or “
POS	possessive ending	*’s*	”	right quote	’ or ”
PRP	personal pronoun	*I, you, he*	(	left parenthesis	[, (, {, <
PRP$	possessive pronoun	*your, one’s*	)	right parenthesis	],), }, >
RB	adverb	*quickly, never*	,	comma	,
RBR	adverb, comparative	*faster*	.	sentence-final punc	. ! ?
RBS	adverb, superlative	*fastest*	:	mid-sentence punc	: ; ... – -
RP	particle	*up, off*			

Using the Penn Tagset

- The/**DT** grand/**JJ** jury/**NN** commmented/**VBD** on/**IN** a/**DT** number/**NN** of/**IN** other/**JJ** topics/**NNS** ./.
- Prepositions and subordinating conjunctions marked **IN** ("although/IN I/PRP..")
- Except the preposition/complementizer "to" is just marked **TO**.

POS Tagging

- Words often have more than one POS: *back*
  - The *back* door = JJ
  - On my *back* = NN
  - Win the voters *back* = RB
  - Promised to *back* the bill = VB
- The POS tagging problem is to determine the POS tag for a particular instance of a word.

These examples from Dekang Lin

How Hard is POS Tagging? Measuring Ambiguity

		87-tag Original Brown		45-tag Treebank Brown	
Unambiguous (1 tag)		**44,019**		**38,857**	
Ambiguous (2–7 tags)		**5,490**		**8844**	
Details:	2 tags	4,967		6,731	
	3 tags	411		1621	
	4 tags	91		357	
	5 tags	17		90	
	6 tags	2	(*well*, *beat*)	32	
	7 tags	2	(*still*, *down*)	6	(*well*, *set*, *round*, *open*, *fit*, *down*)
	8 tags			4	(*'s*, *half*, *back*, *a*)
	9 tags			3	(*that*, *more*, *in*)

Icelandic Frequency Dictionary Corpus (Íslensk Orðtíðnibók)

700 possible tags; 639 of which appear in the corpus

Feature	Number	Ratio
Tokens	590,297	
Ambigious tokens	352,200	59.66%
Ambiguity rate	2.74	
Types	59,358	
Unambiguous types	34,979	81.16%
Ambiguous types	9,403	15.84%

Two Methods for POS Tagging

1. Rule-based tagging
   - (ENGTWOL/ENGCG)
2. Data-driven (stochastic)
   1. Probabilistic sequence models, like:
      - HMM (Hidden Markov Model) tagging
      - MEMMs (Maximum Entropy Markov Models) (we will not discuss MEMMs)

Rule-Based Tagging

- Constraint Grammar (CG) Framework
  - Start with a dictionary
  - Assign all possible tags to words from the dictionary
  - Write rules by hand to selectively remove tags
  - Leaving the correct tag for each word.

Start With a Dictionary

- she: PRP
- promised: VBN,VBD
- to TO
- back: VB, JJ, RB, NN
- the: DT
- bill: NN, VB

- Etc… for the ~100,000 words of English with more than 1 tag

Assign Every Possible Tag

			NN			
			RB			
	VBN		JJ		VB	
PRP	VBD	TO	VB	DT	NN	
She	**promised**	**to**	**back**	**the**	**bill**	

Write Rules to Eliminate Tags

Eliminate VBN if VBD is an option when VBN|VBD follows “<s> PRP”

			NN			
			RB			
	VBN		JJ		VB	
PRP	VBD	TO	VB	DT	NN	
She	**promised**	**to**	**back**	**the**	**bill**	

Stage 1 of ENGCG Tagging

- First Stage: Run words through FST morphological analyzer to get all parts of speech.
- Example: *Pavlov had shown that salivation …*

Pavlov	**PAVLOV N NOM SG PROPER**
had	**HAVE V PAST VFIN SVO**
	HAVE PCP2 SVO
shown	**SHOW PCP2 SVOO SVO SV**
that	ADV
	PRON DEM SG
	DET CENTRAL DEM SG
	CS
salivation	**N NOM SG**

Stage 2 of ENGCG Tagging

- Second Stage: Apply NEGATIVE constraints.
- Example: Adverbial "that" rule
  - Eliminates all readings of "that" except the one in
    - "It isn't *that* odd"

Given input: "that"

If

(+1 A/ADV/QUANT) **;if next word is adj/adv/quantifier**

(+2 SENT-LIM) **;following which is E-O-S**

(NOT -1 SVOC/A) **; and the previous word is not a**

; verb like "consider" which

; allows adjective complements

; in "I consider that odd"

Then eliminate non-ADV tags

Else eliminate ADV

ENGCG demo

- http://www2.lingsoft.fi/cgi-bin/engcg
- Try "**Pavlov had shown that salivation was dangerous**"

Hidden Markov Model Tagging

- Using an HMM to do POS tagging is a special case of *Bayesian inference*
  - Foundational work in computational linguistics
  - Bledsoe 1959: OCR
  - Mosteller and Wallace 1964: authorship identification
- It is also related to the "noisy channel" model that's the basis for ASR, OCR and MT

POS Tagging as Sequence Classification

- We are given a sentence (an "observation" or "sequence of observations")
  - *Secretariat is expected to race tomorrow*
- What is the best sequence of tags that corresponds to this sequence of observations?
- Probabilistic view:
  - Consider all possible sequences of tags
  - Out of this universe of sequences, choose the tag sequence which is most probable given the observation sequence of n words $w_1 \ldots w_n$.

Getting to HMMs

- We want, out of all sequences of n tags $t_1 \ldots t_n$ the single tag sequence such that $P(t_1 \ldots t_n | w_1 \ldots w_n)$ is highest.

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(t_1^n | w_1^n)$$

- Hat ^ means "our estimate of the best one"
- argmax_x f(x) means "the x such that f(x) is maximized"

Getting to HMMs

- This equation is guaranteed to give us the best tag sequence

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(t_1^n | w_1^n)$$

- But how to make it operational? How to compute this value?
- Intuition of Bayesian classification:
  - Use Bayes rule to transform this equation into a set of other probabilities that are easier to compute

Using Bayes Rule

$$P(x|y) = \frac{P(y|x)P(x)}{P(y)}$$

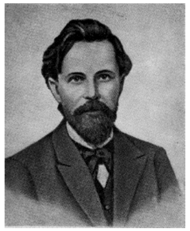
$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} \frac{P(w_1^n|t_1^n)P(t_1^n)}{P(w_1^n)}$$

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(w_1^n|t_1^n)P(t_1^n)$$

Likelihood and Prior

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} \overbrace{P(w_1^n|t_1^n)}^{\text{likelihood}} \; \overbrace{P(t_1^n)}^{\text{prior}}$$

$$P(w_1^n|t_1^n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(w_i|t_i)$$



$$P(t_1^n) \approx \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(t_i|t_{i-1})$$

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(t_1^n|w_1^n) \approx \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(w_i|t_i)P(t_i|t_{i-1})$$

Two Kinds of Probabilities

- Tag transition probabilities $p(t_i|t_{i-1})$
  - Determiners likely to precede adjs and nouns
    - That/DT flight/NN
    - The/DT yellow/JJ hat/NN
    - So we expect P(NN|DT) and P(JJ|DT) to be high
    - But P(DT|JJ) to be:
  - Compute P(NN|DT) by counting in a labeled corpus:

$$P(t_i|t_{i-1}) = \frac{C(t_{i-1}, t_i)}{C(t_{i-1})}$$

$$P(NN|DT) = \frac{C(DT,NN)}{C(DT)} = \frac{56,509}{116,454} = .49$$

Two Kinds of Probabilities

- Word likelihood probabilities $p(w_i|t_i)$
  - VBZ (3sg Pres verb) likely to be "is"
  - Compute P(is|VBZ) by counting in a labeled corpus:

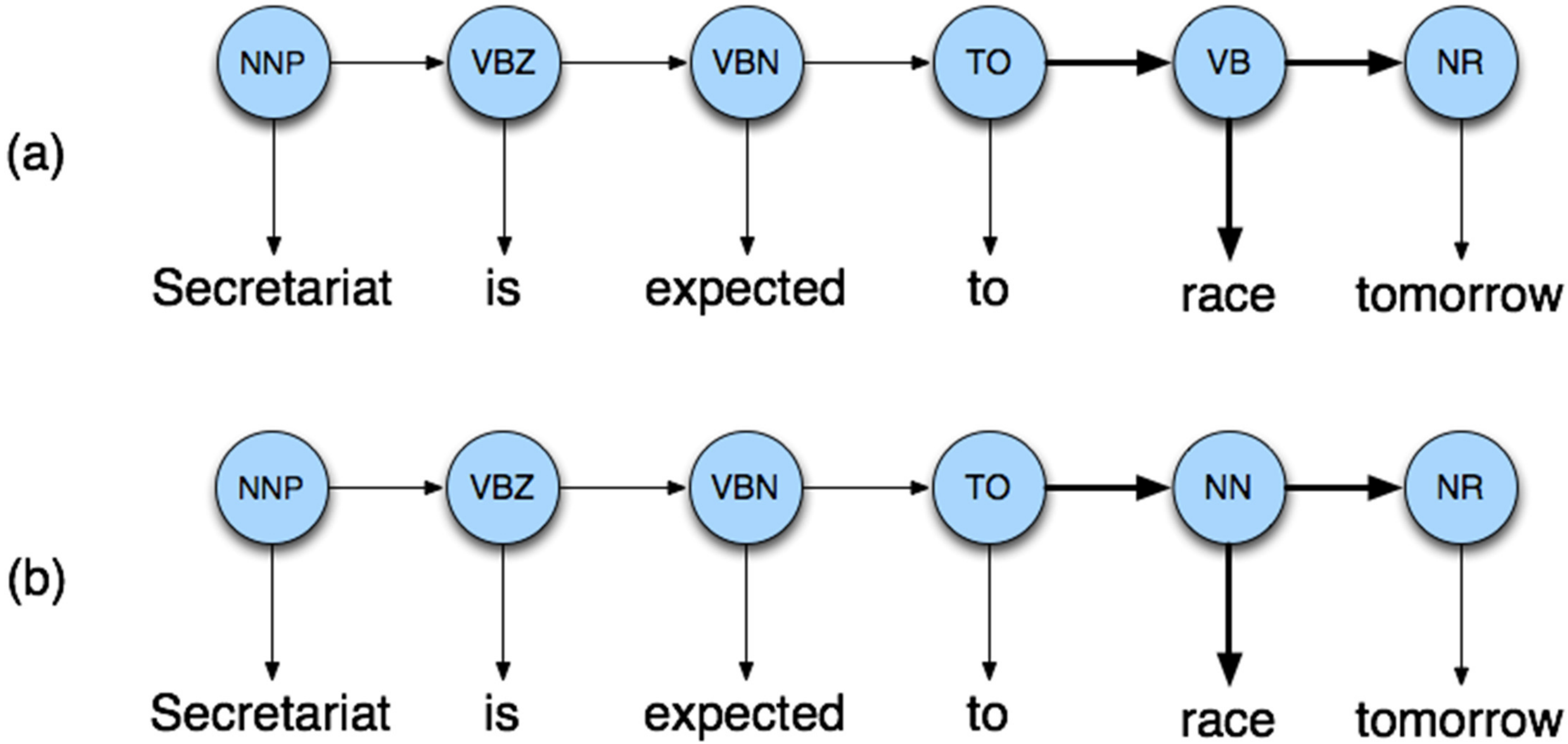
$$P(w_i|t_i) = \frac{C(t_i, w_i)}{C(t_i)}$$

$$P(is|VBZ) = \frac{C(VBZ, is)}{C(VBZ)} = \frac{10,073}{21,627} = .47$$

Example: The Verb "race"

- Secretariat/NNP is/VBZ expected/VBN to/TO **race**/VB tomorrow/NR
- People/NNS continue/VB to/TO inquire/VB the/DT reason/NN for/IN the/DT **race**/NN for/IN outer/JJ space/NN
- How do we pick the right tag?

Disambiguating "race"



Example

- $P(NN|TO) = .00047$
- $P(VB|TO) = .83$
- $P(race|NN) = .00057$
- $P(race|VB) = .00012$
- $P(NR|VB) = .0027$
- $P(NR|NN) = .0012$
- $P(VB|TO)P(NR|VB)P(race|VB) = .00000027$
- $P(NN|TO)P(NR|NN)P(race|NN)=.00000000032$
- So we (correctly) choose the verb reading,

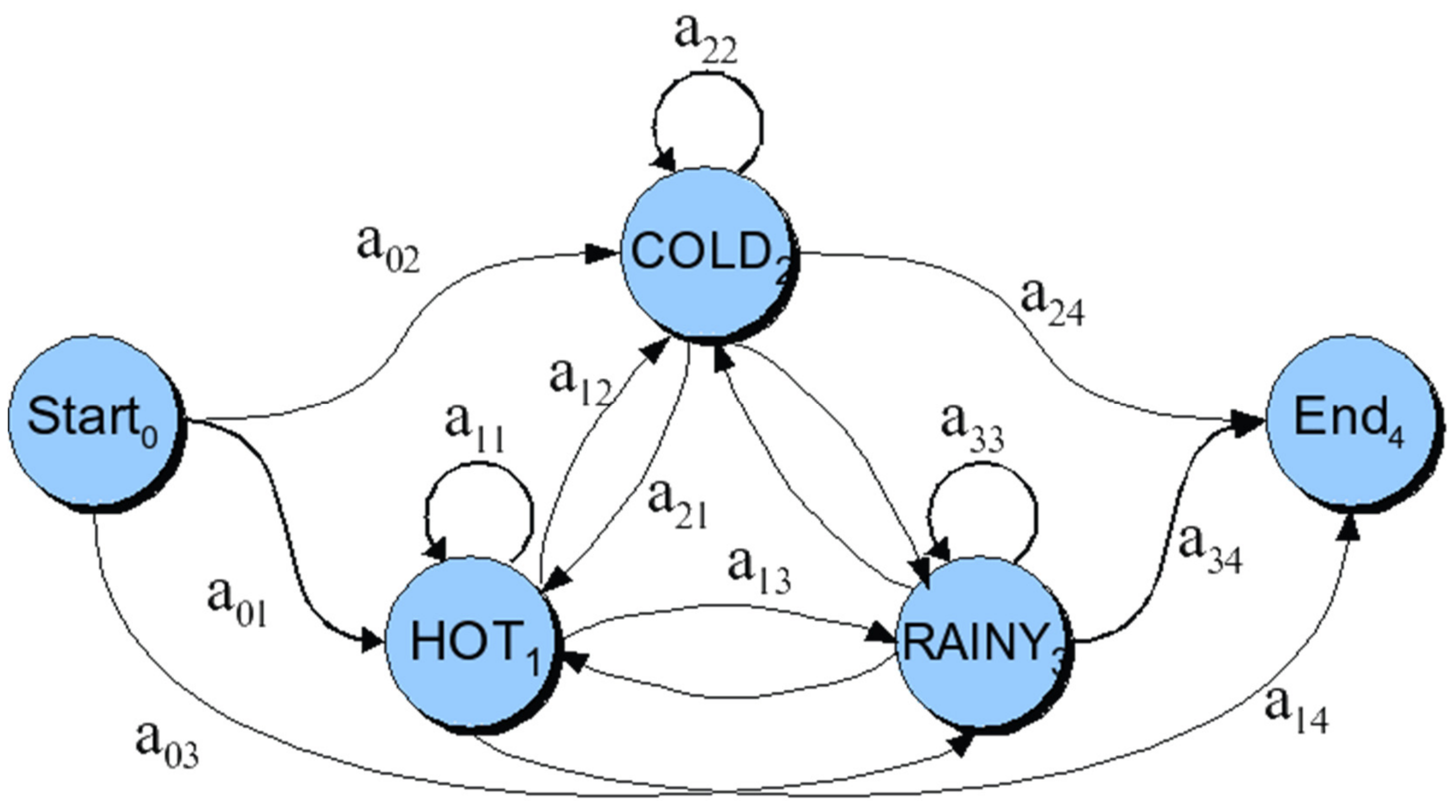
Hidden Markov Models

- What we've described with these two kinds of probabilities is a **H**idden **M**arkov **M**odel (HMM)

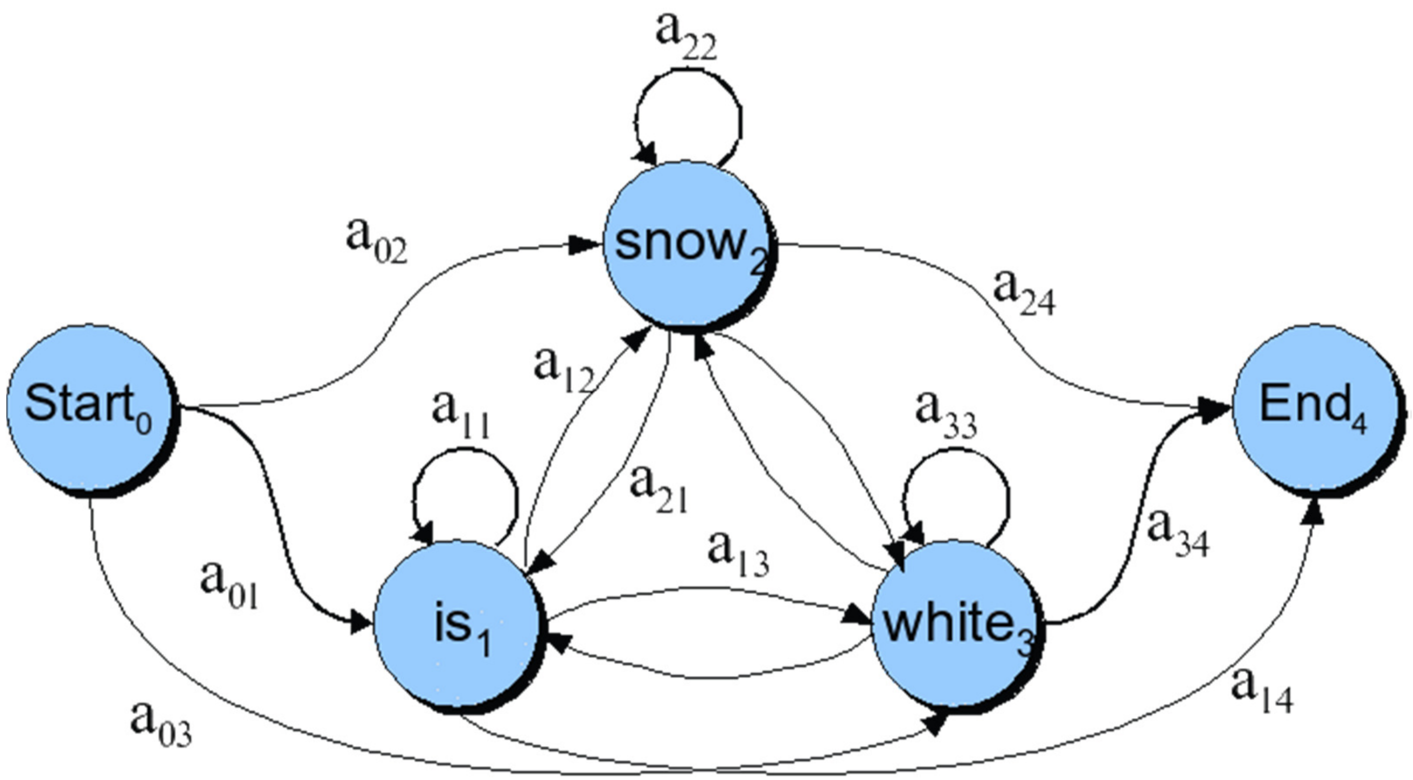
Definitions

- A weighted finite-state automaton adds probabilities to the arcs
  - The sum of the probabilities leaving any arc must sum to one
- A Markov chain is a special case of a WFST in which the input sequence uniquely determines which states the automaton will go through
- Markov chains can't represent inherently ambiguous problems
  - Useful for assigning probabilities to unambiguous sequences

Markov Chain for Weather



Markov Chain for Words



Markov Chain: "First-order observable Markov Model"

- A set of states
  - $Q = q_1, q_2 \ldots q_{N;}$ the state at time t is q_t
- Transition probabilities:
  - a set of probabilities $A = a_{01} a_{02} \ldots a_{n1} \ldots a_{nn}$.
  - Each a_{ij} represents the probability of transitioning from state i to state j
  - The set of these is the transition probability matrix A
- Current state only depends on previous state

$$P(q_i \mid q_1 \ldots q_{i-1}) = P(q_i \mid q_{i-1})$$

Markov Chain for Weather

- What is the probability of 4 consecutive rainy days?
- Sequence is rainy-rainy-rainy-rainy
- I.e., state sequence is 3-3-3-3
- P(3,3,3,3) =
  - $\pi_1 a_{33} a_{33} a_{33} a_{33} = 0.2 \times (0.6)^3 = 0.0432$

Hidden Markov Model

- For Markov chains, the output symbols are the same as the states.
  - See **hot** weather: we're in state **hot**
- But in part-of-speech tagging (and other things)
  - The output symbols are **words**
  - But the hidden states are **part-of-speech tags**
- So we need an extension!
- A Hidden Markov Model is an extension of a Markov chain in which the input symbols are not the same as the states.
- This means we don't know which state we are in.

Hidden Markov Models

- States $Q = q_1, q_2 \ldots q_{N;}$
- Observations $O = o_1, o_2 \ldots o_{N;}$
  - Each observation is a symbol from a vocabulary V = $\{v_1, v_2, \ldots v_V\}$
- Transition probabilities
  - Transition probability matrix $A = \{a_{ij}\}$

$$a_{ij} = P(q_t = j \mid q_{t-1} = i) \quad 1 \le i, j \le N$$

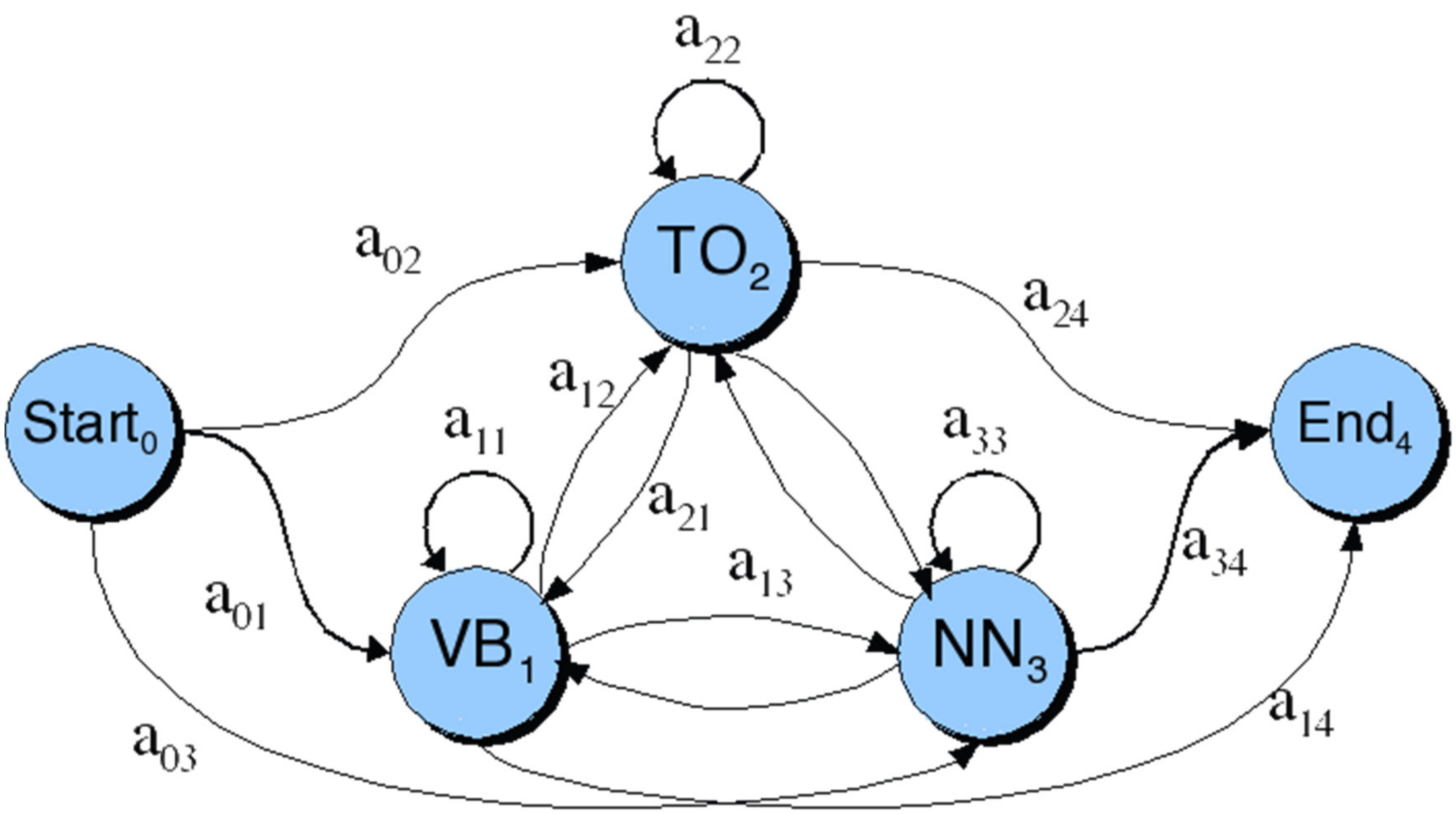
- Observation likelihoods
  - Output probability matrix $B = \{b_i(k)\}$

$$b_i(k) = P(X_t = o_k \mid q_t = i)$$

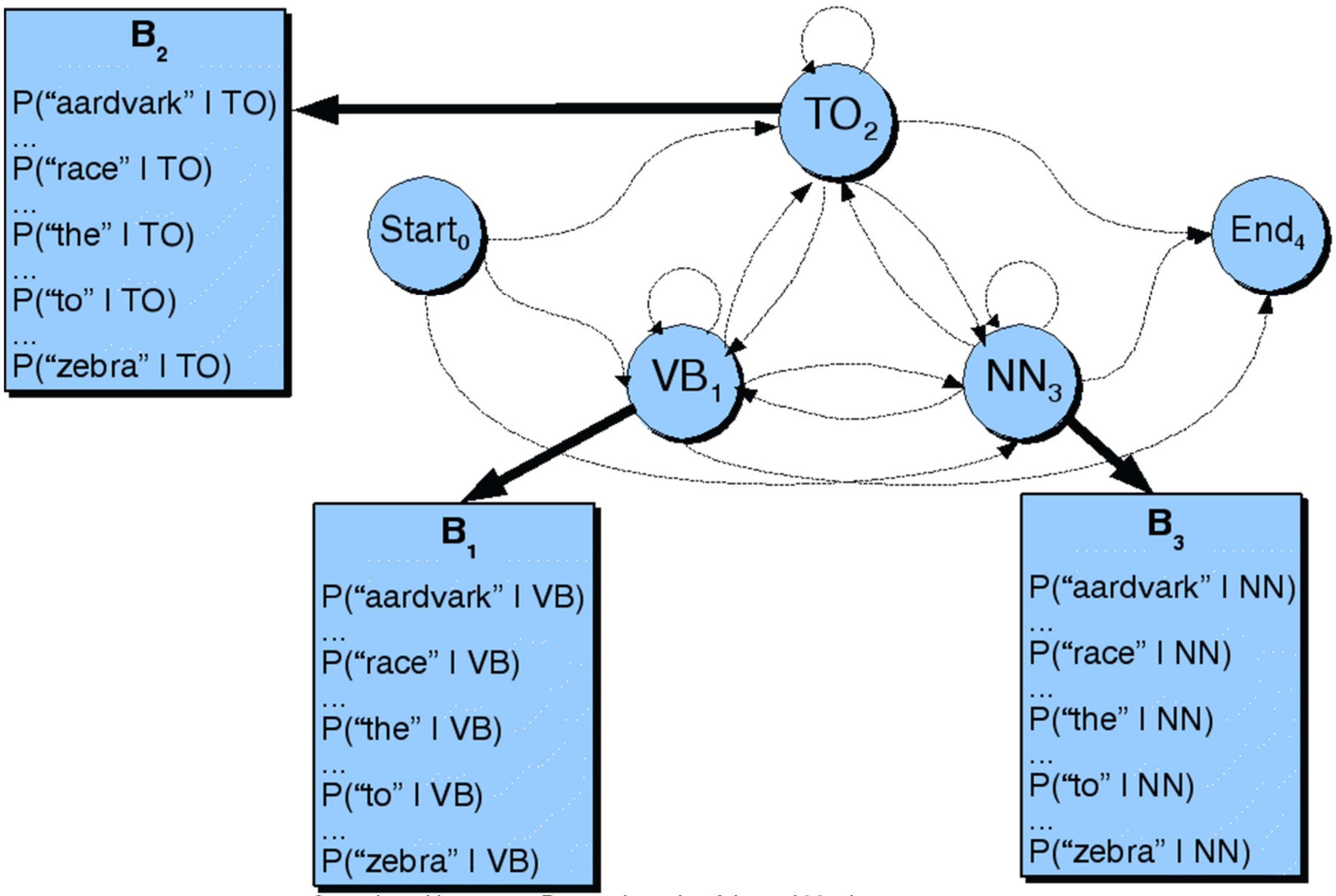
$$\pi_i = P(q_1 = i) \quad 1 \le i \le N$$

- Special initial probability vector π

Transition Probabilities



Observation Likelihoods



Decoding

- Ok, now we have a complete model that can give us what we need. Recall that we need to get

$$\hat{t}_1^n = \underset{t_1^n}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(t_1^n | w_1^n)$$

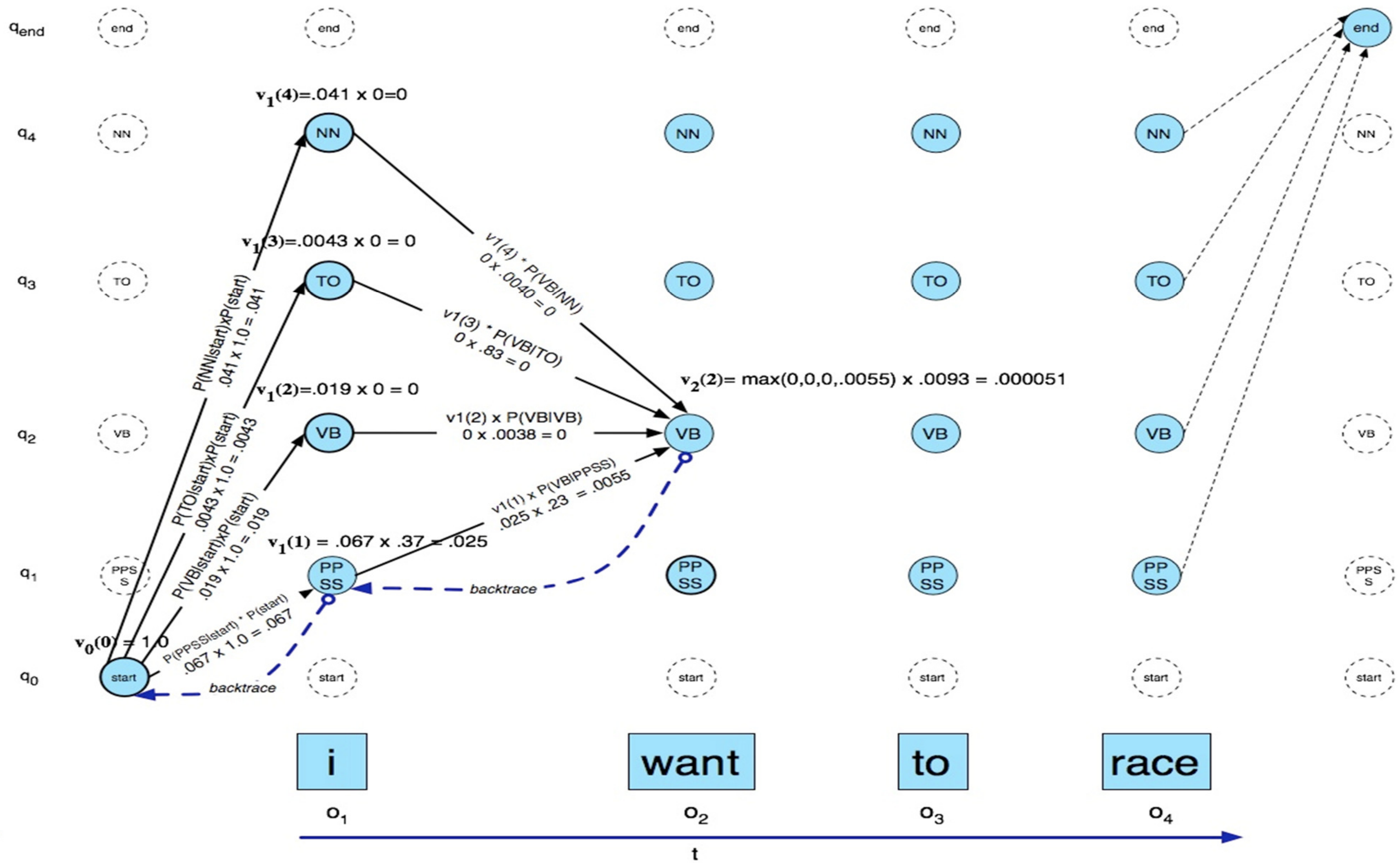
- We could just enumerate all paths given the input and use the model to assign probabilities to each.
  - Not a good idea.
  - Luckily dynamic programming (last seen in Ch. 3 with minimum edit distance) helps us here

The Viterbi Algorithm

function VITERBI(*observations* of len T,*state-graph* of len N) **returns** *best-path*

create a path probability matrix *viterbi[N+2,T]*
for each state s **from** 1 **to** N **do** ; initialization step
$$viterbi[s,1] \leftarrow a_{0,s} \, * \, b_s(o_1)$$
$$backpointer[\mathrm{s},1] \leftarrow 0$$
for each time step t **from** 2 **to** T **do** ; recursion step
for each state s **from** 1 **to** N **do**
$$viterbi[\mathrm{s,t}] \leftarrow \max_{s'=1}^{N} \; viterbi[s',t-1] \, * \, a_{s',s} \, * \, b_s(o_t)$$
$$backpointer[\mathrm{s,t}] \leftarrow \operatorname*{argmax}_{s'=1}^{N} \; viterbi[s',t-1] \, * \, a_{s',s}$$
$$viterbi[q_F,\mathrm{T}] \leftarrow \max_{s=1}^{N} \; viterbi[s,T] \, * \, a_{s,q_F}$$; termination step
$$backpointer[q_F,\mathrm{T}] \leftarrow \operatorname*{argmax}_{s=1}^{N} \; viterbi[s,T] \, * \, a_{s,q_F}$$; termination step
return the backtrace path by following backpointers to states back in time from *backpointer*$[q_F, T]$

Viterbi Example



Evaluation

- So once you have your POS tagger running how do you evaluate it?
  - Overall error rate with respect to a gold-standard test set.
  - Error rates on particular tags
  - Error rates on particular words
  - Tag confusions...

Evaluation

- Train using a training corpus
- Test using a test corpus
- Usually the same corpus
  - But split into train and test sets using **10-fold cross-validation**

Error Analysis

- Look at a confusion matrix

	IN	JJ	NN	NNP	RB	VBD	VBN
IN	—	.2			.7		
JJ	.2	—	**3.3**	2.1	1.7	.2	**2.7**
NN		**8.7**	—				.2
NNP	.2	**3.3**	**4.1**	—	.2		
RB	**2.2**	2.0	.5		—		
VBD		.3	.5			—	**4.4**
VBN		**2.8**				**2.6**	—

- See what errors are causing problems
  - Noun (NN) vs ProperNoun (NNP) vs Adj (JJ)
  - Preterite (VBD) vs Participle (VBN) vs Adjective (JJ)

Evaluation

- The result is compared with a manually coded “Gold Standard”
  - Typically accuracy reaches 96-97%
  - This may be compared with result for a baseline tagger (one that uses no context).
- Important: 100% is impossible even for human annotators.