# Soft Inference and Posterior Marginals

21 February 2018

#### The questions we answered so far

- "What is the best path through this graph"
- "What is the state sequence underlying this string"
- "Is this string a part of this language"
- "How do you compose this string, with this language"
- Decisive answers to definitive questions
- "Hard" inference

## "Soft" questions

- How probable is it for this language to produce this symbol sequence?
- How likely is it that the word "feed" here is a noun and not a verb?
- How likely is this segment to be a constituent?
- How probable is it that rule X → YZ has been used in composing this sentence
- "Confidence"-type answers to questions about certainty
- "Soft" inference

## Soft vs. Hard Inference

- Hard inference
  - "Give me a single solution"
  - Viterbi algorithm
  - Maximum spanning tree (Chu-Liu-Edmonds alg.)
- Soft inference
  - Task 1: Compute a distribution over outputs
  - Task 2: Compute functions on distribution
    - marginal probabilities, expected values, entropies, divergences

# Why Soft Inference?

- Useful applications of posterior distributions
  - **Entropy**: how confused is the model?
  - Entropy: how confused is the model of its prediction at time *i*?
  - Expectations
    - What is the expected number of words in a translation of this sentence?
    - What is the expected number of times a word ending in –ed was tagged as something other than a verb?
  - Posterior marginals: given some input, how likely is it that some (*latent*) event of interest happened?

#### What we will cover

 Soft inference can be applied to any probabilistically defined model

Or weighted model in general

- We will specifically look at soft inference in
  - Regular grammars
    - FSGs / PFSGs
  - Context free grammars
    - HMMs / CFGs / PCFGs

### **Inference in Regular Languages**



- Regular languages can be recognized by a DFA or an NDFA
  - Question answered: "Does this string belong to this language"
- Can we answer : *Is the state "b" visited in recognizing "00011"* 
  - DFA: Yes
  - NDFA: No
    - How about how likely is it that the state "b" was visited in recognizing "b"?

#### The probabilistic (finite) automaton

- Probabilistic extension of NDFA
- Conventional NDFA rules:



{init}

- State  $s_i$  can transition to both  $s_j$  and  $s_k$  after absorbing symbol a
- PFA rules:

 $s_i \xrightarrow{a} s_j(0.2)$  $s_i \xrightarrow{a} s_k(0.8)$ 

The different transitions have probabilities

$$\sum_{k} P(s_i \xrightarrow{a} s_k) = 1.0$$

Note: The distribution (which sums to 1.0) is specific to state-symbol combination (not just state)

### **Inference in Regular Languages**



- What is the probability that the state "b" is visited in recognizing "00011"
- Can now view the recognition as a random walk *through the state sequences* that can "absorb" 00011
- What is the probability that the state "b" was visited in recognizing 00011



- What is the probability that the state "b" is visited in recognizing "00011"
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aacbe P = 0.004
aaabe P = 0.0032
aaade P = 0.0008
Why don't these sum to 1.0? Hint: figure is incomplete, but it doesn't affect our computation

- What is the probability that the state "b" is visited in recognizing "00011"
- Can now view the recognition as a random walk *through the state sequences* that can "absorb" 00011
- What is the probability that the state "b" was visited in recognizing 00011



• We aren't interested in state sequences which end in  $\phi$ 



- What is the probability that the state "b" is visited in recognizing "00011"
  - Given that the final state was e!
- Can now view the recognition as a random walk *through the state sequences* that can "absorb" 00011
- What is the probability that the state "b" was visited in recognizing 00011



• Note that we really need the probabilistic framework to make this statement

- The PFA is actually a probability distribution over strings!!

- But the naïve computation we just performed is not scalable
  - Need an efficient algorithm!



 $0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1$ 

 Plot all the state sequences (ending in "e") that can "consume" the symbol sequence to the right



- Convert the string to an FSA
  - Note that the symbols appear on the *edges*
  - This is a DFA because the observed string is definitive
    - Will address what happens when we are unsure of observation later



• Redrawing it linearly for illustration..





- Redrawing it linearly (and rotating it) for illustration..
  - Lets compose the two graphs!



- This graph shows all paths that can consume *any* sequence of seven symbols
- But we are only interested in the paths that consume the actual observation



• Cleanup: Eliminate all nodes without incoming edges, and all nodes (except in the last column) without outgoing edges



• The complete set of all paths that can absorb the observed sequence

– But what weights do the edges carry?



The complete set of all paths that can absorb the observed sequence
 Edges carry the probability of the particular symbol absorbed



- The probability of any given state sequence is the product of the probabilities on all the edges representing the state sequence
  - The probability of *a c c c b c b e* is 0.1



• The total probability of visiting "c" is the total probability of all paths that go through "c" and end at "e"



• The total probability of all paths that get to the final state "e" is the probability of the entire graph



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#### **Composition and computation**

- Composition and computation can be done dynamically as one processes the input string
- Alternately, one may use any of the FSA composition algorithms in the literature (and tools available on the web)
  - These can be highly efficient

#### **Dealing with uncertainty..**



• Easily adapted to deal with uncertainty..



- Uncertainty is reflected in the input string
- The rest of the process remains largely unchanged



#### **Moving on: Generative models**

- Hidden Markov Models
  - "Stochastic functions of Markov Chains"

• E.g. a finite-state automaton over tags, that can generate word sequences

**Initial Probabilities:** 

 $\bigcirc \longrightarrow \textbf{DET ADJ NN V} \\ 0.5 \quad 0.1 \quad 0.3 \quad 0.1 \end{aligned}$ 

#### $\eta$ Transition Probabilities:

-
)
2



0.2

0.3

0.2

0.1

0.19

0.01

#### $\gamma$ Emission Probabilities:

DET		ADJ		NN	NN			
the	0.7	green	0.1	book	0.3	might		
а	0.3	big	0.4	plants	0.2	watch		
		old	0.4	people	0.2	watches		
		might	0.1	person	0.1	loves		
				John	0.1	reads		
				watch	0.1	books		

#### Examples:



# **String Marginals**

• Inference question for HMMs

What is the probability of a string w?
 Answer: generate all possible tag sequences and explicitly *marginalize*

 $O(|\Omega|^{|\mathbf{w}|})$  time

**Initial Probabilities:** 

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				John	0.1	reads		
				watch	0.1	books		

#### Examples:



John	might	watch	$\Pr(x,y)$	John	might	watch	$\operatorname{Pr}(x,y)$	John	might	watch	$\operatorname{Pr}(x,y)$	John	might	watch	$\Pr(x,y)$
DET	DET	DET	0.0	ADJ	DET	DET	0.0	NN	DET	DET	0.0	V	DET	DET	0.0
DET	DET	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	DET	ADJ	0.0	NN	DET	ADJ	0.0	V	DET	ADJ	0.0
DET	DET	NN	0.0	ADJ	DET	NN	0.0	NN	DET	NN	0.0	V	DET	NN	0.0
DET	DET	V	0.0	ADJ	DET	V	0.0	NN	DET	V	0.0	V	DET	V	0.0
DET	ADJ	DET	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	DET	0.0	NN	ADJ	DET	0.0	V	ADJ	DET	0.0
DET	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	NN	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	V	ADJ	ADJ	0.0
DET	ADJ	NN	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	NN	0.0	NN	ADJ	NN	0.0000042	V	ADJ	NN	0.0
DET	ADJ	V	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	V	0.0	NN	ADJ	V	0.000009	V	ADJ	V	0.0
DET	NN	DET	0.0	ADJ	NN	DET	0.0	NN	NN	DET	0.0	V	NN	DET	0.0
DET	NN	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	NN	ADJ	0.0	NN	NN	ADJ	0.0	V	NN	ADJ	0.0
DET	NN	NN	0.0	ADJ	NN	NN	0.0	NN	NN	NN	0.0	V	NN	NN	0.0
DET	NN	V	0.0	ADJ	NN	V	0.0	NN	NN	V	0.0	V	NN	V	0.0
DET	V	DET	0.0	ADJ	V	DET	0.0	NN	V	DET	0.0	V	V	DET	0.0
DET	V	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	V	ADJ	0.0	NN	V	ADJ	0.0	V	V	ADJ	0.0
DET	V	NN	0.0	ADJ	V	NN	0.0	NN	V	NN	0.0000096	V	V	NN	0.0
DET	V	V	0.0	ADJ	V	V	0.0	NN	V	V	0.000072	V	V	V	0.0

#### John might watch Pr(x, y)John might watch Pr(x, y)John might watch Pr(x, y)John might watchPr(x, y)DET DET ADJ DET DET DET DET V DET DET DET 0.0 0.0 NN 0.0 0.0 DET ADJ DET ADJ ADJ DET ADJ DET 0.0 ADJ 0.0 NN DET 0.0 V 0.0 NN DET DET DET 0.0 ADJ DET NN 0.0 NN DET NN 0.0 V NN 0.0 DET DET V 0.0 ADJ DET V 0.0 NN DET V 0.0 V DET V 0.0 ADJ ADJ ADJ DET DET 0.0 DET 0.0 NN ADJ DET 0.0 V ADJ DET 0.0 DET ADJ ADJ ADJ ADJ ADJ ADJ ADJ 0.0 0.0 NN ADJ 0.0 V ADJ 0.0 DET ADJ NN 0.0 ADJ ADJ NN 0.0 NN ADJ NN 0.0000042 ADJ NN 0.0 V DET ADJ V 0.0 ADJ ADJ V 0.0 NN ADJ V 0.000009 V ADJ V 0.0 DET NN DET 0.0 ADJ NN DET 0.0 NN NN DET 0.0 NN DET 0.0 V DET NN ADJ 0.0 ADJ NN ADJ 0.0 NN NN ADJ 0.0 V NN ADJ 0.0 DET NN NN 0.0 ADJ NN NN 0.0 NN NN NN 0.0 V NN NN 0.0 DET NN V 0.0 ADJ NN V 0.0 NN NN V 0.0 V NN V 0.0 DET V DET 0.0 ADJ V DET 0.0 NN V DET 0.0 V V DET 0.0 DET ADJ 0.0 ADJ V ADJ 0.0 NN ADJ 0.0 V V ADJ 0.0 V V DET V NN 0.0 ADJ V NN 0.0 NN V NN 0.0000096 V V NN 0.0 DET V V 0.0 ADJ V V 0.0 NN V V 0.0000072 V V V 0.0

p = 0.0000219
John	might	watch	$\operatorname{Pr}(x,y)$	John	might	watch	$\operatorname{Pr}(x,y)$	John	might	watch	$\operatorname{Pr}(x,y)$	John	might	watch	ו $\Pr(x,y)$
DET	DET	DET	0.0	ADJ	DET	DET	0.0	NN	DET	DET	0.0	V	DET	DET	0.0
DET	DET	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	DET	ADJ	0.0	NN	DET	ADJ	0.0	V	DET	ADJ	0.0
DET	DET	NN	0.0	ADJ	DET	NN	0.0	NN	DET	NN	0.0	V	DET	NN	0.0
DET	DET	V	0.0	ADJ	DET	V	0.0	NN	DET	V	0.0	V	DET	V	0.0
DET	ADJ	DET	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	DET	0.0	NN	ADJ	DET	0.0	V	ADJ	DET	0.0
DET	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	NN	ADJ	ADJ	0.0	V	ADJ	ADJ	0.0
DET	ADJ	NN	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	NN	0.0	NN	ADJ	NN	0.0000042	V	ADJ	NN	0.0
DET	ADJ	V	0.0	ADJ	ADJ	V	0.0	NN	ADJ	V	0.000009	V	ADJ	V	0.0
DET	NN	DET	0.0	ADJ	NN	DET	0.0	NN	NN	DET	0.0	V	NN	DET	0.0
DET	NN	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	NN	ADJ	0.0	NN	NN	ADJ	0.0	V	NN	ADJ	0.0
DET	NN	NN	0.0	ADJ	NN	NN	0.0	NN	NN	NN	0.0	V	NN	NN	0.0
DET	NN	V	0.0	ADJ	NN	V	0.0	NN	NN	V	0.0	V	NN	V	0.0
DET	V	DET	0.0	ADJ	V	DET	0.0	NN	V	DET	0.0	V	V	DET	0.0
DET	V	ADJ	0.0	ADJ	V	ADJ	0.0	NN	V	ADJ	0.0	V	V	ADJ	0.0
DET	V	NN	0.0	ADJ	V	NN	0.0	NN	V	NN	0.0000096	V	V	NN	0.0
DET	V	V	0.0	ADJ	V	V	0.0	NN	V	V	0.000072	V	V	V	0.0

Exponential computation, if done naïvely.  $\ p=0.0000219$ 

# A different perspective

• "Graphical" view of the generative process..









JOHN



JOHN MIGHT WATCH



	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1



JOHN MIGHT WATCH



	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1



JOHN MIGHT WATCH



	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1



JOHN MIGHT WATCH



	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1







ADJ		V	
green	0.1	might	0.2
big	0.4	watch	0.3
old	0.4	watches	0.2
might	0.1	loves	0.1
		reads	0.19
		books	0.01





 $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN) = 0.3 \times 0.1$ 



 $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ) = 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$ 



 $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ, x_2 = MIGHT) = 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$ 



This is the "trellis" that shows all possible ways of generating the word sequence  $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ, x_2 = MIGHT, s_3 = NN)$  $= 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.7$ 



This is the "trellis" that shows all possible ways of generating the word sequence  $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ, x_2 = MIGHT, s_3 = NN, x_3 = WATCH)$  $= 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.7$ 



This is the "trellis" that shows all possible ways of generating the word sequence  $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ, x_2 = MIGHT, s_3 = NN, x_3 = WATCH, s_4 = STOP)$  $= 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.7 \times 0.2$ 



This is the "trellis" that shows all possible ways of generating the word sequence  $P(s_1 = NN, x_1 = JOHN, s_2 = ADJ, x_2 = MIGHT, s_3 = NN, x_3 = WATCH, s_4 = STOP)$  $= 0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.7 \times 0.2$ 





DP Argument: For a Markov process, the best N-length path to any state *must* be an extension of a best N-1 length path to some state



# **The Viterbi Algorithm**

Probability of the most likely state sequence that ends at state  $s_t$  at t and produces  $x_1 \dots x_t$ 

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{s_1 s_2, \dots, s_{t-1}} P(s_1, x_1, \dots, s_t, x_t) \\ &= \max_{s_1 s_2, \dots, s_{t-1}} P(s_1, x_1, \dots, s_{t-1}, x_{t-1}) \eta(s_{t-1} \to s_t) \gamma(s_t \downarrow x_t) \\ &= \max_{s_{t-1}} \max_{s_1 s_2, \dots, s_{t-2}} P(s_1, x_1, \dots, s_{t-1}, x_{t-1}) \eta(s_{t-1} \to s_t) \gamma(s_t \downarrow x_t) \end{aligned}$$

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Probability of the most likely state sequence that ends at state  $s_{t-1}$  at t - 1 and produces  $x_1 \dots x_{t-1}$ 

 The probabilities are decomposed in a manner suited to DP

## Viterbi

$$\max_{s_1s_2,\dots,s_{t-1}} P(s_1, x_1, \dots, s_t, x_t)$$
  
=  $\max_{s_{t-1}} \max_{s_1s_2,\dots,s_{t-2}} P(s_1, x_1, \dots, s_{t-1}, x_{t-1}) \eta(s_{t-1} \to s_t) \gamma(s_t \downarrow x_t)$ 

- Let  $max_{s_1s_2,...,s_{t-1}}P(s_1, x_1, ..., s_t, x_t) = R(s_t, t)$
- for t = 1:T  $h(s,t) = \operatorname{argmax} R(s',t-1)\eta(s' \to s)$  R(s,t) = R(h(s,t),t-1) $\eta(h(s,t) \to s_t)\gamma(s \downarrow x_t)$

 $R(s,1) = P_{in}(s)\gamma(s \downarrow x_1)$ 



$$h(s,t) = \underset{s'}{\operatorname{argmax}} R(s',t-1)\eta(s' \to s)$$



$$h(s,t) = \underset{s'}{\operatorname{argmax}} R(s',t-1)\eta(s' \to s)$$











# **String Marginals**

- Inference question for HMMs
  - What is the probability of a string w?
    Answer: generate all possible tag sequences and explicitly marginalize

 $O(|\Omega|^{|\mathbf{w}|})$  time

Can we do this efficiently?



# **Forward Algorithm**

- How to compute: use the forward algorithm
- Analogous to Viterbi
  - Instead of computing a max of inputs at each node, use addition
- Same run-time, same space requirements

$$O(|\Omega|^2 imes |\mathbf{w}|)$$
 time  $O(|\Omega|)$  space

## Define

$$\alpha_t(s) = P(x_1 \dots x_t, s_t = s)$$

• The probability of generating  $x_1 \dots x_t$  such that the process is in state *s* at time *t* 

### **String Marginals**



 $\alpha_2(ADJ)$  is the probability of producing JOHN MIGHT such that the second word is an adjective

This is the total probability of all paths leading to ADJ at t=2, while producing JOHN MIGHT

## **Forward Algorithm Recurrence**

$$\alpha_0(\text{START}) = 1$$
  
$$\alpha_t(r) = \sum_{q \in \Omega} \alpha_{t-1}(q)\eta(q \to r)\gamma(r \downarrow x_t)$$

#### **Forward Algorithm**



 $\alpha_0(START)$ 

#### **Forward Algorithm**



 $\alpha_1(s) = \alpha_0(START)\eta(START \to s) \gamma(s \downarrow x_1)$ 

#### **Forward Algorithm**


Viterbi : Find the best path (most probable)

#### **Forward Algorithm**





p = 0.0000219

- Marginal inference question for HMMs
  - Posterior Marginal: Given x, what is the probability of being in a state q at time t?
  - Marginal: What is the probability of x and being in state q at time t?

$$p(s_t = q | x_1, \dots, x_T) \propto p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q) = p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q, x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T)$$



The marginal of ADJ at t=2 is the total probability of all paths that go through ADJ at t=2

- Marginal inference question for HMMs
  - State: Given x, what is the probability of being in a state q at time t?

$$p(s_t = q | x_1, \dots, x_T) \propto p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q) = p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q, x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T)$$

– Transition: Given x, what is the probability of transitioning from state q to r at time t?

$$p(s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r | x_1, \dots, x_T) \propto p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r)$$
  
=  $p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r, x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T)$ 

- Marginal inference question for HMMs
  - State: What is the probability of x and being in a state q at time t?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q) = p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q)p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q)$$

 Transition: What is the probability of x and of transitioning from state q to r at time t?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r)$$
  
=  $p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q) \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)$ 

- Marginal inference question for HMMs
  - State: What is the probability of x and being in a state q at time t?

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– Transition: What is the probability of x and of transitioning from state q to r at time t?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r) = p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q) \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)$$

- Marginal inference question for HMMs
  - State: What is the probability of x and being in a state q at time t?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q) = p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q) \frac{p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q)}{p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q)}$$

– Transition: What is the probability of x and of transitioning from state q to r at time t?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r)$$
  
=  $p(x_1, \dots, x_t, s_t = q) \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) \frac{p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)}{p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)}$ 

## **The Backward Probability**

$$P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q) = \sum_{s} P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T, s_{t+1} = r | s_t = q)$$

$$P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T, s_{t+1} = r | s_t = q) =$$
  
$$\eta(q \to s)\gamma(s \downarrow x_{t+1})P(x_{t+2}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)$$

$$P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q) =$$

$$\sum_{s} \eta(q \to s) \gamma(s \downarrow x_{t+1}) P(x_{t+2}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)$$

# **Backward Algorithm**

$$P(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T | s_t = q) = \sum_r \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) P(x_{t+2}, \dots, x_T | s_{t+1} = r)$$

- Define  $\beta_t(q) = P(x_{t+1}, ..., x_T | s_t = q)$
- Recursion

$$\beta_t(q) = \sum_r \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{i+1}) \beta_{t+1}(r)$$

# **Backward Algorithm**

 Start at the goal node(s) and work backwards through the trellis

#### **Backward Recurrence**

$$\beta_{|\mathbf{x}|+1}(\text{STOP}) = 1$$
  
$$\beta_t(q) = \sum_{r \in \Omega} \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(r)$$

- •

  - • •

  - •
    - - - $\mathbf{\hat{\beta}}_{|\mathbf{x}|+1}(\text{STOP}) = 1$



- - i=5





 $\beta_t(q) = \sum_{r \in \Omega} \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(r)$ 



# **Backward Chart** $\beta_t(q) = p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_{|\mathbf{x}|} \mid y_t = q)$ С b • • • $\beta_3(s_2)$ i=4 i=5 i=3

$$\beta_t(q) = \sum_{r \in \Omega} \eta(q \to r) \gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1}) \beta_{t+1}(r)$$

## **Forward-Backward**

- Compute forward chart  $\alpha_t(q) = p(\text{START}, x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t = q)$
- Compute backward chart  $\beta_t(q) = p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_{|\mathbf{x}|}, \text{STOP} \mid y_t = q)$

#### **Forward Backward**



The forward and backwards probabilities

## Forward-Backward

- Compute forward chart  $\alpha_t(q) = p(\text{START}, x_1, \dots, x_t, y_t = q)$
- Compute backward chart  $\beta_t(q) = p(x_{t+1}, \dots, x_{|\mathbf{x}|}, \text{STOP} \mid y_t = q)$  $\alpha_t(q) \times \beta_t(q)$
- $= p(START, x_1, ..., x_t | y_t = q) p(x_{t+1}, ..., x_T, STOP | y_t = q)$

$$p(\mathbf{x}, y_t = q) = \alpha_t(q) \times \beta_t(q)$$

# **Edge probability**

• What is the probability that **x** was generated and  $q \rightarrow r$  happened at time *t*?

$$p(x_{1}, ..., x_{T}, s_{t} = q, s_{t+1} = r) =$$

$$p(x_{1}, ..., x_{t}, s_{t} = q)$$

$$\eta(q \to r)\gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1})$$

$$p(x_{t+1}, ..., x_{T} | s_{t+1} = r)$$

# **Edge probability**

• What is the probability that **x** was generated and  $q \rightarrow r$  happened at time *t*?

$$p(x_{1}, ..., x_{T}, s_{t} = q, s_{t+1} = r) =$$

$$p(x_{1}, ..., x_{t}, s_{t} = q)$$

$$\eta(q \to r)\gamma(r \downarrow x_{t+1})$$

$$p(x_{t+1}, ..., x_{T} | s_{t+1} = r)$$

$$\alpha_t(q)\eta(q\to r)\gamma(r\downarrow x_{t+1})\beta_{t+1}(r)$$

#### **Forward-Backward**



 $p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_t = q, s_{t+1} = r) = \alpha_t(q)\eta(q \rightarrow r)\gamma(r \rightarrow x_{t+1})\beta_{t+1}(r)$ 

# **Actual Marginals**

Posterior Marginal

$$p(s_i = q | x_1, \dots, x_T) = \frac{p(x_1, \dots, x_T, s_i = q)}{p(x_1, \dots, x_T)} = \frac{\alpha_t(q)\beta_t(q)}{\alpha_{T+1}(STOP)}$$

• Edge Marginal

 $p(s_i = q, s_{i+1} = r | x_1, \dots, x_T) = \frac{\alpha_t(q)\eta(q \to r)\gamma(r \to x_{i+1})\beta_{t+1}(r)}{\alpha_{T+1}(STOP)}$ 

## **RECAP: Inference from PFA**



- The probability of any given state sequence is the product of the probabilities on all the edges representing the state sequence
  - The probability of *a c c c b c b e* is 0.1

#### **Recap: Inference on HMMs**



The forward and backwards probabilities

# What we've done

- Able to answer questions about marginal distributions of components of finite-state models of language
  - Finite state grammars
  - HMMs
- E.g.
  - How probable is state q at time t, given x
    - E.g. how likely is it that the second word in "John might watch" is an adjective
  - How probable is the state transition  $q \rightarrow r$  at time t, given **x** 
    - E.g. how likely is it that "might watch" consists of an adjective followed by a verb

# A different problem

- We've answered the following questions:
  - How probable is state q at time t, given x
  - How probable is the state transition  $q \rightarrow r$  at time *t*, given **x**
- More generic question:
  - How probable is it that the process visited state q, given x
    - Is there an adjective in "John might watch"?
  - How probable is it that the transition  $q \rightarrow r$  occurred, given **x** 
    - Does the sentence have an adjective followed by a verb?

#### **HMMs are PCFGs too**

**Initial Probabilities:** 



#### $\eta$ Transition Probabilities:

	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1



#### $\gamma$ Emission Probabilities:

DET		ADJ	
the	0.7	green	0.1
а	0.3	big	0.4
		old	0.4
		might	0.1

NN		V	
book	0.3	might	0.2
plants	0.2	watch	0.3
people	0.2	watches	0.2
person	0.1	loves	0.1
John	0.1	reads	0.19
watch	0.1	books	0.01

#### EXERCISE: Convert this HMM to a PCFG

# HMM→PCFG

 Split a state into State-transition NT and Stateemission NT

$$S \rightarrow Q_i \{Q_i = ADJ, NN, DET, V\} P_{in}(Q_i)$$
$$Q_i \rightarrow E_i Q_j \{Q_j = ADJ, NN, DET, V, STOP\} P(Q_j | Q_i)$$
$$E_i \rightarrow word P(word | E_i)$$

• Note: We do not define the second rule for the *STOP* state

#### HMMs can be cast as PFAs too

**Initial Probabilities:** 



#### **Transition Probabilities:** Ί.

	DET	ADJ	NN	V
DET	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
ADJ	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NN	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2
V	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1
	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1



#### **Emission Probabilities:**

DET		ADJ
the	0.7	green
а	0.3	big
		old
		might

NN		V	
book	0.3	might	0.2
plants	0.2	watch	0.3
people	0.2	watches	0.2
person	0.1	loves	0.1
John	0.1	reads	0.19
watch	0.1	books	0.01

#### EXERCISE: Convert this HMM to a PFA

0.1

0.4

0.4

0.1

# HMM→PFA

• First, recall an earlier grammar



- We aren't interested in state sequences which end in  $\phi$ .
  - So no need to explicitly represent it

# HMM $\rightarrow$ PFA: Back to our grammar

- Let  $Q = \{ADJ, NN, V, DET, STOP\}$
- Let  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_N, \blacksquare\}$ 
  - is a termination symbol to signify end of sentence
- PFA:

$$\pi(Q_i) = P_{in}(Q_i)$$
$$Q_i \xrightarrow{w} Q_j : P = P(Q_j | Q_i) P(w | Q_i) \quad \forall i, j, w$$
## A different problem

- We've answered the following questions:
  - How probable is state q at time t, given x
  - How probable is the state transition  $q \rightarrow r$  at time t, given **x**
- More generic question:
  - How probable is it that the process visited state q, given x
    - E.g. does the sentence have an adjective



•  $P(state s = visited, \mathbf{x})$  is the probability that s is visited at least once.

– E.g. "What is the probability that at least one of the words is an adjective

- This is the total probability of the subset of the trellis where every path from start to end visits state *s* (e.g. ADJ) at least once
  - Its generally difficult or impossible to isolate this portion of the trellis

#### **Derivation by ablation**

• 
$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(s, \mathbf{x}) + p(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x})$$

– s = state s is visited at least once

$$-\overline{s}$$
 = state *s* is never visited

• 
$$p(s, \mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}) - p(\overline{s}, \mathbf{x})$$

• 
$$p(s|\mathbf{x}) = 1 - \frac{p(\bar{s},\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x})}$$



• The portion of the trellis where *no* path visits state *s* 

This is complete; there are no other paths that do not visit s



- The portion of the trellis where *no* path visits state *s* 
  - This is complete; there are no other paths that do not visit s
  - The total probability of this trellis is  $p(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x})$ 
    - Can be computed using the forward algorithm on this trellis

#### **Derivation by ablation**

• 
$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(s, \mathbf{x}) + p(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x})$$

-s = state s is visited at least once

 $-\bar{s}$  = state *s* is never visited

• 
$$p(s, \mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x}) - p(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x})$$

Computed by the forward algorithm on the *reduced* trellis

•  $p(s|\mathbf{x}) = 1 - \frac{p(\bar{s},\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x})}$ 

Computed by the forward algorithm on the complete trellis

## A different problem

- We've answered the following questions:
  - How probable is state q at time t, given x
  - How probable is the state transition  $q \rightarrow r$  at time t, given **x**
- More generic question:
  - How probable is it that the process visited state q, given x
  - How probable is it that the transition  $q \rightarrow r$  occurred, given **x** 
    - E.g. Is an adjective followed by a verb in this sentence?

### Visiting a transition



use the shown transition

No possible to isolate this portion of the trellis



 $-p(\mathbf{x}, state \ q \ is \ never \ followed \ by \ state \ r)$ 

- What is the probability that *both* state *s* AND state *r* were visited?
  - What is the probability that "John might watch" includes both a verb and an adjective?

### Visiting multiple states



Again, not possible to isolate the corresponding portion of the trellis

#### **NOT** visiting multiple states



• What is the probability that *both* state *s* AND state *r* were visited?  $p(s \cap r) = 1 - (p(\bar{s}) + p(\bar{r}) - p(\bar{s} \cup r))$ 

$$P(s, r, \mathbf{x}) = P(\mathbf{x}) - (P(\overline{s}, \mathbf{x}) + P(\overline{r}, \mathbf{x}) - P(\overline{s \cup r}, \mathbf{x}))$$

$$P(s, r | \mathbf{x}) = 1 - \frac{P(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x}) + P(\bar{r}, \mathbf{x}) - P(\bar{s} \cup r, \mathbf{x})}{P(\mathbf{x})}$$

• What is the probability that *both* state *s* AND state *r* were visited?

 $p(s \cap r) = \underbrace{1 \quad (m(\bar{s}) + m(\bar{x}))}_{\substack{\text{Computed from the Trellis} \\ with the r row removed}} p(\bar{s} \cup r))$   $\underbrace{p(s \cup r)}_{\substack{\text{Computed from the Trellis} \\ \text{with the s row removed}}} (\bar{s}, \mathbf{x}) + P(\bar{r}, \mathbf{x}) - r(s \cup r, \mathbf{x}))$ 

$$P(s, r | \mathbf{x}) = 1 - \frac{P(\bar{s}, \mathbf{x}) + P(\bar{r}, \mathbf{x}) - P(\bar{s} \cup r, \mathbf{x})}{P(\mathbf{x})}$$

Computed from the full Trellis

 Other more complex inferences can be similarly obtained

 Becomes increasingly more computationally expensive as the order of the inference increases

# **Higher-level grammars**

- We have derived probabilistic inferences from PFAs and HMMs
- More generally we want similar inferences from CFGs and PCFGs
  - Given word sequence w, what is the probability of having a constituent of type Z from i to j?
    - 'A person who trusts no one can't be trusted' : what is the probability that the "A person who trusts no one" is a noun phrase?
  - Given w, what is the probability of having a constituent of any type from i to j?
    - What is the probability that 'A person...trusted' is any type of phrase
  - Given w, what is the probability of using rule Z -> XY to derive the span from i to j?
    - What is the probability that VP → V N generated "can't be trusted"
- That will require a generalization of the algorithms we just saw..

## **Generalizing Forward-Backward**

- Inference in HMMs was performed using the forward-backward algorithm
  - Recall that HMMs are instances of PCFGs
- For more general PCFGs we will use the insideoutside algorithm
  - A generalization of the forward backward algorithm
  - Builds upon the CKY algorithm

## **Inside/Outside Algorithm**



Have you seen this man somewhere?

• "Trainable grammars for speech recognition," J. K. Baker, 1979

#### Inferences we would like to make..



- What is the probability of "dogs in houses and cats"?
- What is the probability that "houses and cats" is a clause by itself?
  - What is the probability that its an *NP*?
- Is there a *PP* in the sentence?

## Inferences we would like to make..



- Which of the probability of "dogs in houses and cats"
  - P("dogs in houses and cats")
- What is the probability that "houses and cats" is a clause by itself?
  - P("houses and cats" = clause | "dogs in houses and cats")
- What is the probability that its an NP?
  - P("houses and cats" = NP | "dogs in houses and cats")
- Is there a *PP* in the sentence?
  - P(PP | "dogs in houses and cats")

### **Recall the CKY algorithm**



- Given: A PCFG in CNF, and a word sequence
- Build a skeleton that can hold every possible tree

#### **Recall the CKY algorithm**



• *Each* box in the grid (potentially) holds *every* non-terminal

## Inferences we would like to make..



- Which of the probability of "dogs in houses and cats"
  - P("dogs in houses and cats")
- What is the probability that "houses and cats" is a clause by itself?
  - P("houses and cats" = clause | "dogs in houses and cats")
- What is the probability that its an NP?
  - P("houses and cats" = NP | "dogs in houses and cats")
- Is there a *PP* in the sentence?
  - P(PP | "dogs in houses and cats")

## **Probability computation using CKY**



- What we desire to compute:
  - $-P(w_1, ..., w_N)$ : Probability of producing the word sequence
    - Total possibility of every possible tree that could produce the word sequence

### **The Inside Algorithm**



 Let α(NT, i, j) be the probability that the non-terminal NT produced words w<sub>i</sub> ... w<sub>j</sub> (at the word positions i ... j within the sentence)

$$-\alpha(NT,i,j) = p(NT \to w_i \dots w_j) = p(w_i \dots w_j | c(i,j) = NT)$$







Each edge represents an ordered pairing of NTs from the corresponding cells



S (or any other orange NT) may expand out to any of the edges (This dependency could be represented by a three-way hyperedge)





 $P(S \rightarrow w_3 \dots w_5) = P(S \rightarrow S S)P(S \rightarrow w_3 \dots w_4)P(S \rightarrow w_5) + \cdots$ 



$$P(S \to w_3 \dots w_5) = \sum_{NT} P(S \to S NT) P(S \to w_3 \dots w_4) P(NT \to w_5) + \cdots$$





 $P(S \to w_3 \dots w_5) = \sum_{NT_a} \sum_{NT_b} P(S \to NT_a NT_b) P(NT_a \to w_3 \dots w_4) P(NT_b \to w_5) + \cdots$ 



$$P(S \to w_3 \dots w_5) = \sum_{NT_a, NT_b} P(S \to NT_a NT_b) P(NT_a \to w_3 \dots w_4) P(NT_b \to w_5) + \cdots$$





#### **More generally**



$$p(NT \to w_i \dots w_j) = \sum_k \sum_{NT_a} \sum_{NT_b} P(NT \to NT_a NT_b) P(NT_a \to w_i \dots w_k) P(NT_b \to w_{k+1} \dots w_j)$$

$$\alpha(NT, i, j) = \sum_{i \le k \le j} \sum_{NT_a, NT_b} P(NT \to NT_a NT_b) \alpha(NT_a, i, k) \alpha(NT_b, k+1, j)$$












# Inferences we would like to make..



# Inferences we would like to make..



### **The Conditional Probability**



- What we desire to compute:
  - $P(NT \in c(i, j)|W)$ : Probability that the cell spanning words  $i \dots j$  contains the specific nonterminal NT, given the observed word sequence W
    - The probability that  $w_i \dots w_j$  were produced by NT given the entire word sequence W

## **Conditional vs Joint**

• 
$$P(NT \in c(i,j)|W) = \frac{P(NT \in c(i,j),W)}{P(W)}$$

- We know how to compute the denominator
- So we must compute:  $P(NT \in c(i, j), W)$

#### **The Joint Probability** NT $W_1$ $W_2$ W<sub>3</sub> $W_4$ Wς $W_6$ $W_7$ Wg

•  $P(NT \in c(i, j), w_1 \dots w_N)$  is the total probability of the entire word sequence AND that cell c(i, j) contains NT $P(NT \in c(i, j), w_1 \dots w_N) = P(NT \rightarrow w_i \dots w_j, w_1 \dots w_N)$ 

 $= P(NT \rightarrow w_i \dots w_j, w_1 \dots w_{i-1}, w_{j+1} \dots w_N)$ 

#### **The Joint Probability**



- $P(NT \to w_i \dots w_j, w_1 \dots w_{i-1}, w_{j+1} \dots w_N) =$  $P(NT \to w_i \dots w_j)P(w_1 \dots w_{i-1}, w_{j+1} \dots w_N, c(i, j) = NT)$
- Note: The second term on the RHS explicitly takes advantage of the fact that for a CFG the NT isolates the rest of the sentence from the words produced by the NT



 Note: The second term on the RHS explicitly takes advantage of the fact that for a CFG the NT isolates the rest of the sentence from the words produced by the NT

#### The *Outside* Probability NT $W_4$ W<sub>3</sub> Ws $W_1$ $W_2$ $W_6$ $W_7$ Wg

- $P(w_1 \dots w_{i-1}, w_{j+1} \dots w_N, c(i, j) = NT)$ 
  - The probability of the words under the white region of the grid, conditioned on the pink node taking value NT



- Option 1: NT is part of a tree with a root at the Brown cell (w<sub>2</sub> .. w<sub>7</sub>)
  - $-w_8$  is not part of the tree
  - Must generate  $w_1..w_2$ ,  $w_8$  *outside* the tree



• Option 1: NT is part of a tree with a root equal to S at the Brown cell  $P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_7 \dots w_8, c(3,6) = NT) =$ 

$$P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_8, c(3,7) = S) \sum_{NT_b} P(S \to NT NT_b) P(NT_b \to w_7) + \cdots$$

Outside probability of (3,7)



• Option 1: NT is part of a tree with a root at the Brown cell  $P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_7 \dots w_8, c(3,6) = NT) =$ 

$$\sum_{NT_a} P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_8, c(3,7) = NT_a) \sum_{NT_b} P(NT_a \to NT NT_b) P(NT_b \to w_7) + \cdots$$

 $P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_7 \dots w_8, c(3,6) = NT) =$ 





 $W_1$   $W_2$   $W_3$   $W_4$   $W_5$   $W_6$   $W_7$   $W_8$ 

Option 2: NT is part of a tree with a root at the Green cell



• Option 2: *NT* is part of a tree *with a root at the Green cell* 

 $P(w_1 \dots w_2, w_7 \dots w_8, c(3, 6) = NT) =$ 



• Option 2: *NT* is part of a tree *with a root at the Green cell* 



• Option 2: *NT* is part of a tree *with a root at the Green cell* 



- Option 3: *NT* is part of a tree *with a root at the purple cell* 
  - Note the counterpart cell of NT under the purple root
  - Now the outside part is  $w_1$ ,  $w_7$ ... $w_8$



- Option 4: NT is part of a tree with a root at the blue cell
  - Note the counterpart cell of NT under the blue root
  - Now the outside part is  $w_7 \dots w_8$



- Option 4: NT is part of a tree with a root at the blue cell
  - Note the counterpart cell of NT under the blue root
  - Now the outside part is  $w_7 \dots w_8$



- Option 4: *NT* is part of a tree *with a root at the blue cell* 
  - Note the counterpart cell of NT under the blue root
  - Now the outside part is  $w_7 \dots w_8$



• Generic equation



• Generic equation



• Generic equation







 $P(w_1 \dots w_{i-1}, w_{j+1} \dots w_N, c(i, j) = NT) = \beta(NT, i, j)$ 



- Note: The computation of any outside probability  $\beta$  depends only on other betas *above* it and alphas *below* it
  - Beta computation requires preliminary computation of inside probabilities (alphas)
  - Given alpha, betas can now be computed recursively



For all NT:  $\beta(NT, 1, N) = 1$ 






#### **The Outside Recursion**





#### **Posterior Marginal**

 $P(c(i,j) = NT, w_1 \dots w_N) = \alpha(NT, i, j)\beta(NT, i, j)$ 

• The posterior marginal is:

$$P(c(i,j) = NT|W) = \frac{\alpha(NT,i,j)\beta(NT,i,j)}{\alpha(S,1,N)}$$



# **Posterior Marginal**

• The posterior marginal that  $w_i \dots w_j$  is a constituent:

$$P(c(i,j)|W) = \sum_{NT} \frac{\alpha(NT, i, j)\beta(NT, i, j)}{\alpha(S, 1, N)}$$



#### **Rule marginals**

• 
$$P(PP|W; G) = \frac{\alpha(S,1,N; G \setminus PP \, rules)}{\alpha(S,1,N; G)}$$



Does the sentence have both a VP and a PP?
 – Exercise for you..

## **Posterior Marginals**

- Marginal inference question for PCFGs
  - Given w, what is the probability of having a constituent of type Z from i to j?
  - Given w, what is the probability of having a constituent of any type from i to j?
  - Given w, what is the probability of using rule
    Z -> XY to derive the span from i to j?

# In Conclusion

- Have looked at a few ways of arriving at posterior marginal inferences for fininte-state and context-free grammars
- Similar approach extends to dependency grammars
  - If you can use DP and you can write probabilistic rules, you can derive probabilistic inferences
- Possibly one of the biggest uses for these methods is *learning*
  - Applicable in EM methods to *learn* grammars
  - Not a topic for today..