Using MALLET for Conditional Random Fields

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CSCI 548 – Lecture 3
The road to CRFs…

- In the beginning…Generative Models (Probability of X and Y $\Rightarrow P(X,Y)$?)

- *Markov assumption*: prob. in current state only depends on previous and current state

- Standard model: Hidden Markov Model (HMM)
Markov Process

Let’s say we’re independent of time, then we can define

- \( a_{ij} = P(q_t=S_j|q_{t-1}=S_i) \) as a STATE TRANSITION from \( S_i \) to \( S_j \)
- \( a_{ij} \geq 0 \)

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{ij} = 1
\]

This conserves all of the “Mass” of probability; i.e. all outgoing probabilities sum to 1
Markov Process

- Two more terms to define:
  - \( \pi_i = P(q_1 = S_i) \) = probability that we start in state \( S_i \)
  - \( b_j(k) = P(k|q_t = S_j) \) = probability of observation symbol \( k \) in State \( j \).

So, let's say symbols = \{A,B\}, then we could have something like \( b_1(A) = P(A|S1) \)
i.e. what is the probability that we output A in state 1?
Hidden Markov Model

- A Hidden Markov Model (HMM)
  - Set of states, Set of $a_{i,j}$, Set of $\pi_i$, Set of $b_j(k)$
  - learn a set of sequence of observations, and their transition and emission probabilities. ➔ Training
- When testing, input comes in, and fits model’s internal observations with some probability, output best state transition sequence to produce the input observation ➔ Decoding
- you can observe the sequence of emissions, but you do not know what state the model is in ➔ “Hidden”
  
  If 2 states output “yes”, all I see is “yes,” I have no idea what state or set of states produced this!
HMM - Example

Urn and Ball Model – Each urn has large num. of M distinct colored balls. Randomly pick an urn, and pick out a colored ball, repeat.

S = set of states = set of urns
Transition Probs = choice of next urn
$b_i$(color) = prob. of getting that colored ball in urn$_i$
Urn and Ball Problem

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{URN 1} & : \\
\text{URN 2} & : \\
\text{URN N} & : \\
P(\text{RED}) &= b_1(1) \\
P(\text{BLUE}) &= b_1(2) \\
P(\text{GREEN}) &= b_1(3) \\
P(\text{YELLOW}) &= b_1(4) \\
& \vdots \\
P(\text{ORANGE}) &= b_1(M) \\
& \\
\text{URN 2} & : \\
P(\text{RED}) &= b_2(1) \\
P(\text{BLUE}) &= b_2(2) \\
P(\text{GREEN}) &= b_2(3) \\
P(\text{YELLOW}) &= b_2(4) \\
& \vdots \\
P(\text{ORANGE}) &= b_2(M) \\
& \\
\text{URN N} & : \\
P(\text{RED}) &= b_N(1) \\
P(\text{BLUE}) &= b_N(2) \\
P(\text{GREEN}) &= b_N(3) \\
P(\text{YELLOW}) &= b_N(4) \\
& \vdots \\
P(\text{ORANGE}) &= b_N(M) \\
\end{align*} \]

\[ O = \{ \text{GREEN, GREEN, BLUE, RED, YELLOW, RED, ........, BLUE} \} \]
Urn and Ball Example

Let’s say we have the following:

- 2 urns
- 2 colors (Red, Blue)
- \( a_{1,1} = 0.25 \quad a_{1,2} = 0.75 \)
- \( a_{2,1} = 0.3 \quad a_{2,2} = 0.7 \)
- \( b_1(\text{Red}) = 0.9, \quad b_1(\text{Blue}) = 0.1 \)
- \( b_2(\text{Red}) = 0.4, \quad b_2(\text{Blue}) = 0.6 \)
Let's say it's perfectly random to start with either urn, i.e. $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = 0.5$

What is the most probable state sequence that produces \{Red, Red, Blue\}?
We will use the Viterbi algorithm to do this, recursively:
Define $\zeta(i) = \max P[q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_t = i, O_1, O_2, \ldots, O_n | \text{HMM model}]$
(Remember, $q_t = \text{current state}$, $O$ are observations)
So, $\zeta_{t+1}(i) = [\max \zeta_t(i) * a_{i,j}] * b_j(O_{t+1})$
We need a first set of initialized values:
\[ \zeta_1(i) = \pi_i \cdot b_i(O_1 = \text{Red}) \quad i = \{1,2\} \]

\[ \zeta_1(1) = \pi_1 \cdot b_1(O_1 = \text{Red}) = 0.5 \cdot 0.9 = 0.45 \]

\[ \zeta_1(2) = \pi_2 \cdot b_2(O_1 = \text{Red}) = 0.5 \cdot 0.4 = 0.2 \]
Now, recurse:

$\zeta_2(1) = \max\left( \{ \zeta_1(1) \cdot a_{1,1}, \zeta_1(2) \cdot a_{2,1} \} \right) \cdot b_1(O_2 = \text{Red})$

= $\max(\{0.45 \cdot 0.25, 0.2 \cdot 0.3\}) \cdot 0.9 = 0.10125$

$\zeta_2(2) = \max(\{ \zeta_1(1) \cdot a_{1,2}, \zeta_1(2) \cdot a_{2,2} \}) \cdot b_2(O_2 = \text{Red})$

= $\max(\{0.45 \cdot 0.75, 0.2 \cdot 0.7\}) \cdot 0.4 = 0.135$
Now, recurse:

\( \zeta_3(1) = \max \left( \{ \zeta_2(1) \cdot a_{1,1}, \zeta_2(2) \cdot a_{2,1} \} \right) \cdot b_1(O_3 = \text{Blue}) \)
\[ = \max( \{0.10125 \cdot 0.25, 0.135 \cdot 0.3\} ) \cdot 0.1 = 0.00405 \]

\( \zeta_3(2) = \max( \{ \zeta_2(1) \cdot a_{1,2}, \zeta_2(2) \cdot a_{2,2} \} ) \cdot b_2(O_3 = \text{Blue}) \)
\[ = \max( \{0.10125 \cdot 0.75, 0.135 \cdot 0.7\} ) \cdot 0.6 = 0.0567 \]
So, we see that at each step, maximally we have:
\[ \zeta_3(2) = 0.0567, \ \zeta_2(2) = 0.135, \ \zeta_1(1) = 0.45 \]
So, working backwards, know the state transitions went
Urn 2 \( \leftrightarrow \) Urn 2 \( \leftrightarrow \) Urn 1.

So, if we are given observation (Red,Red,Blue) we say that the most probable State transition set is
\{Start in Urn 1/red, Go to Urn 2/red, Stay Urn 2/blue\}
HMM Issues

1 – Independence Assumption

Current observation only depends on what state you are in right now.

Or, to say it differently, the current output has no dependence on previous outputs. For our urn example, we couldn’t model the fact that if urn1 outputs a red ball, than urn2 should decrease its probability of doing so.
HMM Issues

2 – Multiple Features Issue

HMM generates a set of probabilities given an observation.

But what if you want to capture many features from an observation, and these features interact?

E.g. observation is “Doug.” This is a noun, capital, and masculine. Now, what if transition is into state = “MAN”?

Now, we know that state MAN probably depends on the observations noun and capital. But, what if we have state CITY too? Doesn’t that depend on noun and cap?

To transfer into MAN might require a masculine name. This observation strongly depends on the word having feature masculine.
HMM Issues

3 – an abundance of training data for one state has no effect on the others
Hidden Markov Model

\[ P(X, Y) = \prod_i P(X_i \mid Y_i)P(Y_i \mid Y_{i-1}) \]
But how do we model this?

DEPENDENT FEATURES!!
Choice #1: Model all dependencies

Grows infeasible. Need LOTS of training data…
Choice #2: Ignore dependencies

Not really a solution…
Conditional Model

- We prefer a model that is trained to maximize a conditional probability rather than joint probability: $P(s|o)$ instead of $P(s,o)$:
  - Allow arbitrary, non-independent features on the observation sequence $X$
    - Examine features, but don’t generate them. (There is not a directed transition from a state to an output)
    - Don’t have to explicitly model their dependencies.
  - Conditionally trained means, “Given a set of observations (input) what is the most likely set of labels (states, nodes in the graph) that the model has been trained to traverse given this input”
Maximum Entropy Markov Models (MEMMs)

- Exponential model
- Given training set $X$ with label sequence $Y$:
  - Train a model $\theta$ that maximizes $P(Y|X, \theta)$
  - For a new data sequence $x$, the predicted label $y$ maximizes $P(y|x, \theta)$
MEMMs (cont’d)

- MEMMs have all the advantages of Conditional Models

\[ P(y' | y, x) = \frac{1}{Z(y, x)} \exp \left( \sum_k \lambda_k \frac{f_k(x, y, y')}{\text{weight}} \right) \]

- Per-state normalization: all the mass that arrives at a state must be distributed among the possible successor states ("conservation of score mass")

- Subject to Label Bias Problem
Label Bias Problem

• Consider this MEMM:

\[ P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ro) = P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } ro)P(1 \mid ro) = P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } o)P(1 \mid r) \]
\[ P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ri) = P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } ri)P(1 \mid ri) = P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } i)P(1 \mid r) \]

• Since \( P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } x) = 1 \) for all \( x \), \( P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ro) = P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ri) \)
In the training data, label value 2 is the only label value observed after label value 1
Therefore \( P(2 \mid 1) = 1 \), so \( P(2 \mid 1 \text{ and } x) = 1 \) for all \( x \)

• However, we expect \( P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ri) \) to be greater than \( P(1 \text{ and } 2 \mid ro) \).

• Per-state normalization does not allow the required expectation
Another view of Label Bias

However, since sequential classifiers are trained to make the best local decision, unlike generative models they cannot trade off decisions at different positions against each other. In other words, sequential classifiers are myopic about the impact of their current decision on later decisions (Bottou, 1991; Lafferty et al., 2001).
Conditional Random Fields (CRFs)

- CRFs have all the advantages of MEMMs without label bias problem
  - MEMM uses per-state exponential model for the conditional probabilities of next states given the current state
  - CRF has a single exponential model for the joint probability of the entire sequence of labels given the observation sequence
- Undirected acyclic graph
- Allow some transitions “vote” more strongly than others depending on the corresponding observations
Random Field – what it looks like

Let $G = (Y, E)$ be a graph where each vertex $Y_v$ is a random variable. Suppose $P(Y_v \mid \text{all other } Y) = P(Y_v \mid \text{neighbors}(Y_v))$ then $Y$ is a random field.

Example:

- $P(Y_5 \mid \text{all other } Y) = P(Y_5 \mid Y_4, Y_6)$
CRF – what it looks like

Suppose $P(Y_v \mid X, \text{all other } Y) = P(Y_v \mid X, \text{neighbors}(Y_v))$
then $X$ with $Y$ is a **conditional** random field

- $P(Y_3 \mid X, \text{all other } Y) = P(Y_3 \mid X, Y_2, Y_4)$
- Think of $X$ as observations and $Y$ as labels
CRF – the guts

vector $f$ of local feature functions $f = \langle f^1, \ldots, f^K \rangle$
map $(x, v)$ and an index $i$ to a measurement $f^k(i, x, y) \in R$.

$$F(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^{x} f(i, x, y)$$

For the case of NER: $f^{13}(i, x, y) = [x_i \text{ is capitalized}] \cdot [y_i = I]$. 

$$F^{13}(x, y)$$

number of capitalized words $x_i$ paired with the label $I$. 
CRF...defined

We make feature functions to define features –
Not generated by model (X’s of HMM)

\[ Pr(y|x, W) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} e^{W \cdot F(x,y)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where \( W \) is a weight vector over the components of \( F \), and \( Z(x) = \sum_y e^{W \cdot F(x,y')} \).
CRF

- Now we have \( \text{Pr}(\text{label}|\text{obs.},\text{model}) \)
  - Find most probable label sequence (y’s), given an observation sequence (x’s)
  - No more independence assumption
    - conditionally trained for a whole label sequence given an input sequence (so long range and multi-feature reflected by this)
Example of a feature funct.
(y’s are labels, x’s are input obs)

\[ f_k (y_{t-1}, y_t, x, t) \]

\[ f_{12} (\text{adjective, proper noun, } x, t) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } x_t \text{ begins with Capital Letter} \\
0 & \text{otherwise} 
\end{cases} \]

![Diagram showing feature function with nodes labeled as adjective, proper noun, and xt = "Bill".](Diagram.png)
M ALLET

- Machine learning toolkit specifically for language tasks
- Developed at U. Mass. by Andrew McCallum and his group
- For our purposes, we will use the SimpleTagger class which implements Conditional Random Fields
Getting MALLET to work...

1. Install Cygwin (HW Instructions)
2. Install Ant (HW Inst.)
3. Install MALLET (HW Inst.)
4. Train/Test/Label with SimpleTagger
SimpleTagger

Training

- Each line is of the form:
  <feature1> <feature2> … <featureN> <label>

Let’s start with an example of a sentence:
Los Angeles is a great city!

We want to find all nouns, like the example in:
http://mallet.cs.umass.edu/index.php/SimpleTagger_example
Training CRFs

Let’s say we have some tools that can identify features:

Colors $\rightarrow$ List of colors

Regex $\rightarrow$ Apostrophe finder

Regex $\rightarrow$ Capitalized

Stop-Words $\rightarrow$ Common tokens: a, the, etc.. (not etc. the word..)

The red bear’s favorite color is green?

STOPWORD

CAPITALIZED

APOS

COLOR
Training CRFs

GOAL: Find NOUNS

Labeled Inputs:
The SW CAP not-noun
red COLOR not-noun
bear’s APOS noun

The red bear’s favorite color is green?

Note: In SimpleTagger, the default “ignore” label is O (Used in HW)
Train SimpleTagger

- java -cp "class;lib/mallet-deps.jar" edu.umass.cs.mallet.base.fst.SimpleTagger --train true --model-file SAVEDMODEL TrainingData.txt
Labeling with SimpleTagger

- Once you have a trained model, can re-use it to label new data!

- `java -cp "class;lib/mallet-deps.jar" edu.umass.cs.mallet.base.fst.SimpleTagger --include-input true --model-file SAVEDMODEL NotLabeledText.txt > LabeledOutput.txt`
CRFs and MALLET

- Have fun!