

# Implementing the Viterbi algorithm using Semigroups and folds

## Introduction

The goal of this assignment is to implement the *Viterbi* algorithm using *Semigroups* (or *Monoids*) and *folds* in *Haskell*. A version of the *Viterbi* algorithm making use of *logs* is also required to deal with underflows. The *fold* example, given in [2], should be adapted appropriately in order to obtain an implementation of the *Viterbi* algorithm. This is an essential requirement and the project will not be accepted without this being taken into account.

## Implementation Description

The *Viterbi* algorithm should be used to find the most likely sequence of hidden states, called a *Viterbi path*, for a sequence of observations that is observed from a *Hidden Markov Model* (*HMM*).

Let  $S = \{x_i: i = 1, 2, \dots, K\}$  be the set of states in the HMM and  $O = \{y_j: j=1, 2, \dots, T\}$  the sequence of observations. A HMM datatype should be defined as follows, but modified to take into account that a Semigroup or Monoid is used so that the same code can handle the situation where probabilities are multiplied, or the log of probabilities are added:

```
data HMM = HMM {states :: [String],      -- State labels
                emissionLabels :: [String], -- Emission labels
                transitionMatrix :: [[Double]], -- Transition probability matrix
                emissionMatrix :: [[Double]], -- Emission probability matrix
                initialProb :: [Double]      -- Initial probabilities
                } deriving (Show)
```

The *Viterbi* algorithm requires the use of two tables (see [1]). One for the probability of the most likely path thus far to each state, table  $T_1$ , and a table  $T_2$  from which the states visited on each optimal path (to a given

state) can be reconstructed. After  $T_2$  is fully constructed, the Viterbi path is found by backtracking on  $T_2$ , using the state that has the highest probability in the last column of  $T_1$  as a starting point. Note that the last column in  $T_1$  is the only information being used for determining a starting state for backtracking and for determining the next column that should be added to  $T_1$ . We thus replace the function *roadStep* from [1] by the function *viterbiStep* having the following signature, which should again be modified to take Semigroups or Monoids into account:

```
viterbiStep :: HMM -> ([[Int]], [Double]) -> Int -> ([[Int]], [Double])
```

The types `[[Int]]` and `[Double]` are used for  $T_2$  and  $T_1$  respectively. Also, the `Int` in the signature **indicates the next observation**.

*ViterbiStep* (with the first argument supplied) should be used as the parameter of type function for *foldl*, and the folding should return a type `([[Int]], [a])`, where `a` is a type parameter generalizing the type `Double` in the description above.

## Additional Requirement

In order to switch seamlessly between an implementation that multiplies probabilities to one that adds *logs* of probabilities, you should make use of Semigroups or Monoids. There will be a deduction of 25% if this requirement is not fulfilled.

## Test cases

- The example from [1] where the observations ['normal', 'cold', 'dizzy'] are, with highest probability, generated by the states ['Healthy', 'Healthy', 'Fever'].
- Output blocks 8, 9, 10, 11 in the [following](#) Jupyter notebook.
- 10% of the final mark is reserved for additional unspecified test cases (that you should come up with on your own).

## References

[1] [Wikipedia: Viterbi Algorithm](#)

[2] [Functionally Solving Problems in Learn You a Haskell for Great Good!](#)

