

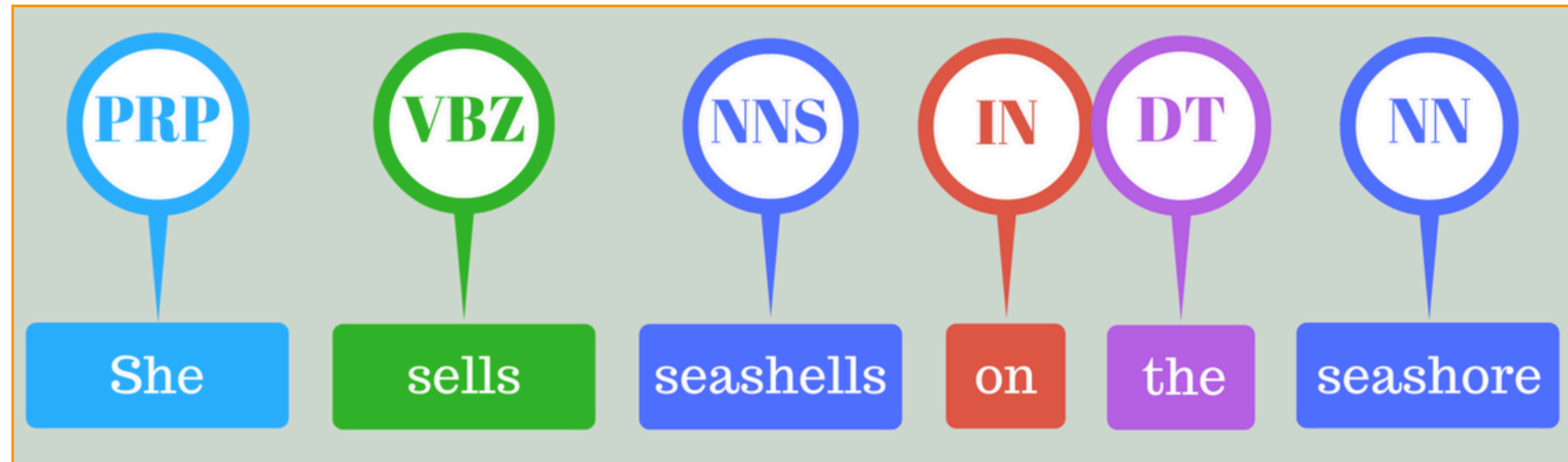


COS 484/584

# Sequence Models - I

Spring 2021

# Why model sequences?



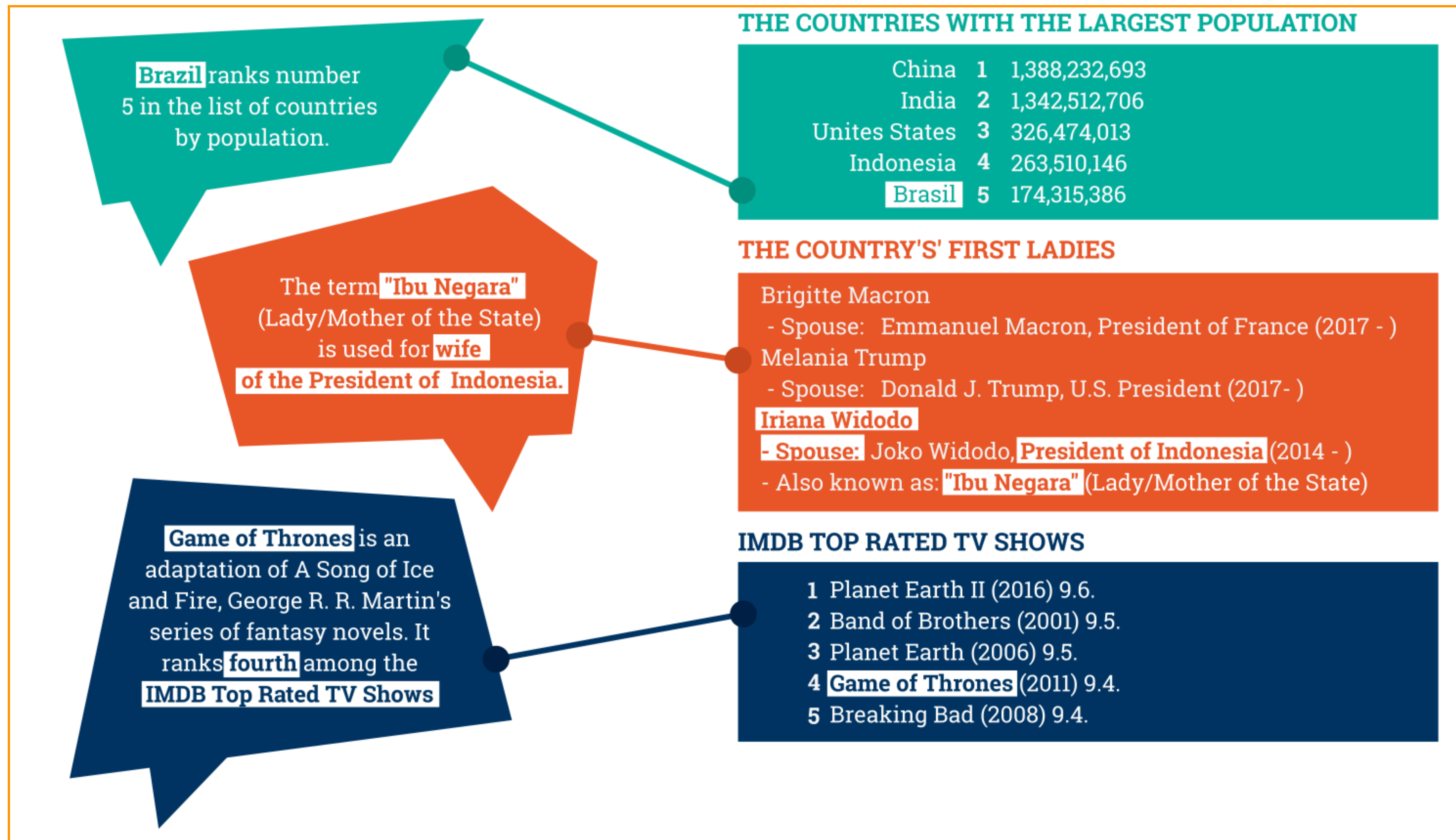
Part of Speech tagging

# Why model sequences?



Named Entity recognition

# Why model sequences?

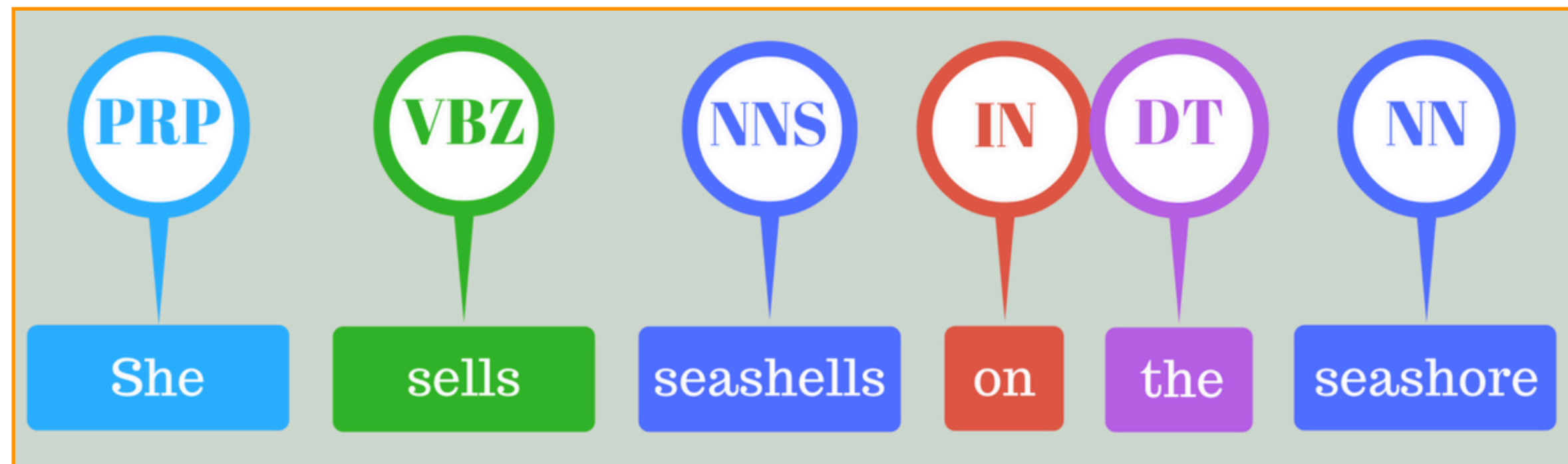


Information  
Extraction

# Overview

- Hidden markov models (HMM)
- Viterbi algorithm

# What are part of speech tags?



- Word classes or syntactic categories
- Reveal useful information about a word (and its neighbors!)

1. The/**DT** cat/**NN** sat/**VBD** on/**IN** the/**DT** mat/**NN**
2. Princeton/**NNP** is/**VBZ** in/**IN** New/**NNP** Jersey/**NNP**
3. The/**DT** old/**NN** man/**VB** the/**DT** boat/**NN**



# Parts of Speech

- Different words have different functions
- Can be roughly divided into two classes
- **Closed class:** fixed membership, **function words**
  - e.g. prepositions (*in, on, of*), determiners (*the, a*)
- **Open class:** New words get added frequently
  - e.g. nouns (Twitter, Facebook), verbs (google), adjectives, adverbs



# Parts of Speech



- How many part of speech tags do you think English has?

A.  $< 10$

B. 10 - 30

C.  $>30$





# Penn Tree Bank tagset

45 tags

(Marcus et al., 1993)

Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example
CC	coordinating conjunction	<i>and, but, or</i>	PDT	predeterminer	<i>all, both</i>	VBP	verb non-3sg present	<i>eat</i>
CD	cardinal number	<i>one, two</i>	POS	possessive ending	<i>'s</i>	VBZ	verb 3sg pres	<i>eats</i>
DT	determiner	<i>a, the</i>	PRP	personal pronoun	<i>I, you, he</i>	WDT	wh-determ.	<i>which, that</i>
EX	existential 'there'	<i>there</i>	PRP\$	possess. pronoun	<i>your, one's</i>	WP	wh-pronoun	<i>what, who</i>
FW	foreign word	<i>mea culpa</i>	RB	adverb	<i>quickly</i>	WP\$	wh-possess.	<i>whose</i>
IN	preposition/ subordin-conj	<i>of, in, by</i>	RBR	comparative adverb	<i>faster</i>	WRB	wh-adverb	<i>how, where</i>
JJ	adjective	<i>yellow</i>	RBS	superlatv. adverb	<i>fastest</i>	\$	dollar sign	<i>\$</i>
JJR	comparative adj	<i>bigger</i>	RP	particle	<i>up, off</i>	#	pound sign	<i>#</i>
JJS	superlative adj	<i>wildest</i>	SYM	symbol	<i>+, %, &amp;</i>	“	left quote	<i>‘ or “</i>
LS	list item marker	<i>1, 2, One</i>	TO	“to”	<i>to</i>	”	right quote	<i>’ or ”</i>
MD	modal	<i>can, should</i>	UH	interjection	<i>ah, oops</i>	(	left paren	<i>[, (, {, &lt;</i>
NN	sing or mass noun	<i>llama</i>	VB	verb base form	<i>eat</i>	)	right paren	<i>], ), }, &gt;</i>
NNS	noun, plural	<i>llamas</i>	VBD	verb past tense	<i>ate</i>	,	comma	<i>,</i>
NNP	proper noun, sing.	<i>IBM</i>	VBG	verb gerund	<i>eating</i>	.	sent-end punc	<i>. ! ?</i>
NNPS	proper noun, plu.	<i>Carolinas</i>	VBN	verb past part.	<i>eaten</i>	:	sent-mid punc	<i>: ; ... --</i>

**Figure 8.1** Penn Treebank part-of-speech tags (including punctuation).

Other corpora: Brown, WSJ, Switchboard

# Part of Speech Tagging

- Tag each word with its part of speech
  - Disambiguation task: each word might have different senses/ functions
  - The/DT **man/NN** bought/VBD a/DT boat/NN
  - The/DT old/NN **man/VB** the/DT boat/NN
- Same word, different tags

Types:		WSJ	Brown
Unambiguous	(1 tag)	44,432 (86%)	45,799 (85%)
Ambiguous	(2+ tags)	7,025 (14%)	8,050 (15%)
Tokens:			
Unambiguous	(1 tag)	577,421 (45%)	384,349 (33%)
Ambiguous	(2+ tags)	711,780 (55%)	786,646 (67%)

**Figure 8.2** Tag ambiguity for word types in Brown and WSJ, using Treebank-3 (45-tag) tagging. Punctuation were treated as words, and words were kept in their original case.

# Part of Speech Tagging

- Tag each word with its part of speech
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  - The/DT old/NN **man/VB** the/DT boat/NN
- Same word, different tags

earnings growth took a **back/JJ** seat  
a small building in the **back/NN**  
a clear majority of senators **back/VBP** the bill  
Dave began to **back/VB** toward the door  
enable the country to buy **back/RP** about debt  
I was twenty-one **back/RB** then

Some words have many  
functions!

# A simple baseline



- Many words might be easy to disambiguate
- **Most frequent class:** Assign each token (word) to the class it occurred most in the training set. (e.g. man/NN)
- Accurately tags **92.34%** of word tokens on Wall Street Journal (WSJ)!

How accurate do you think this baseline would be at tagging words?

- State of the art ~ 97%

A) <50%

B) 50-75%  
• Average English sentence ~ 14 words

C) 75-90%

D) >90%  
• Sentence level accuracies:  $0.92^{14} = \mathbf{31\%}$  vs  $0.97^{14} = \mathbf{65\%}$

- POS tagging not solved yet!

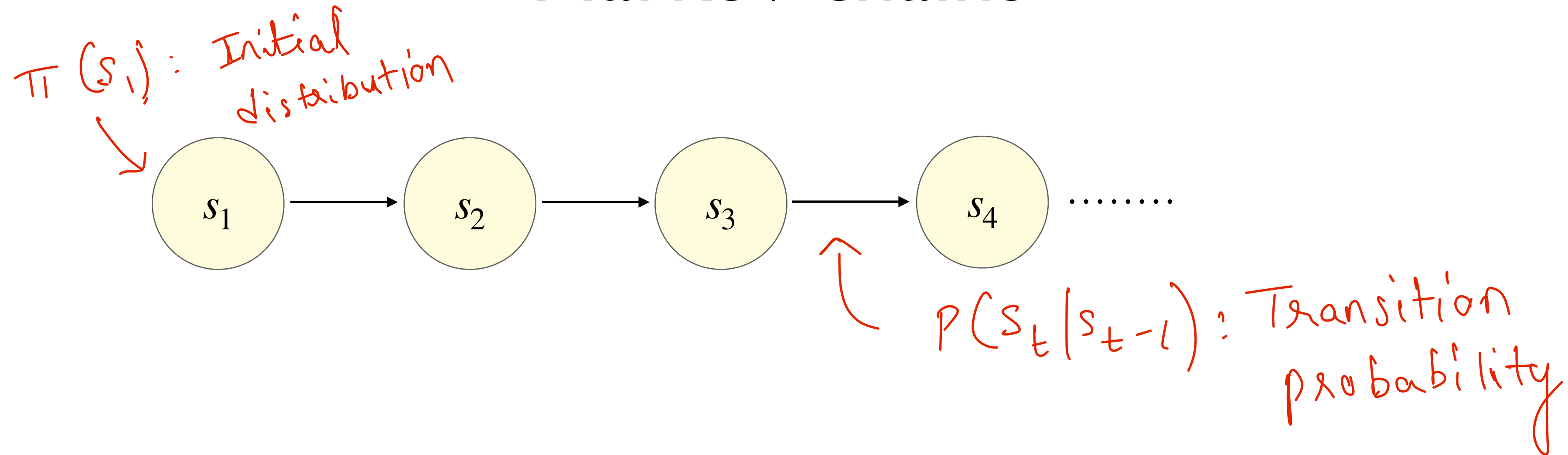
# Some observations

- The function (or POS) of a word depends on its context
  - The/DT **old/NN** **man/VB** the/DT boat/NN
  - The/DT **old/JJ** **man/NN** bought/VBD the/DT boat/NN
- Certain POS combinations are extremely unlikely
  - $\langle JJ, DT \rangle$  ("good the") or  $\langle DT, IN \rangle$  ("the in")
- Better to make decisions on entire sentences instead of individual words  
(Sequence modeling!)

# Hidden Markov Models



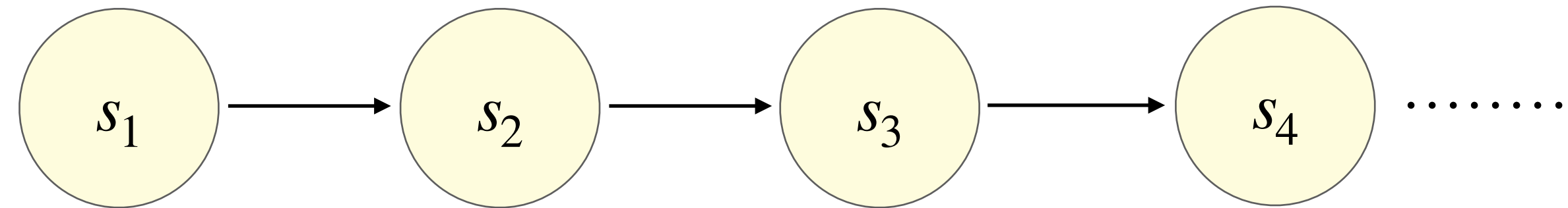
# Markov chains



- Model probabilities of sequences of variables
- Each state can take one of  $K$  values (can assume  $\{1, 2, \dots, K\}$  for simplicity)
- Markov assumption:  $P(s_t | s_{<t}) \approx P(s_t | s_{t-1})$

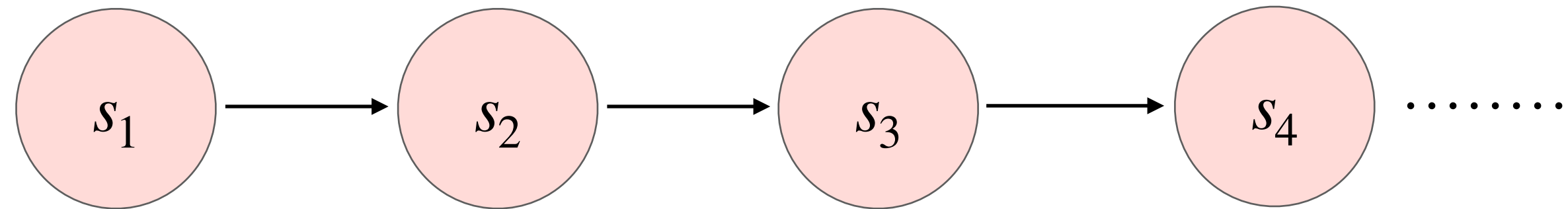
Where have we seen this before? Language models!

# Markov chains



The/**DT** cat/**NN** sat/**VBD** on/**IN** the/**DT** mat/**NN**

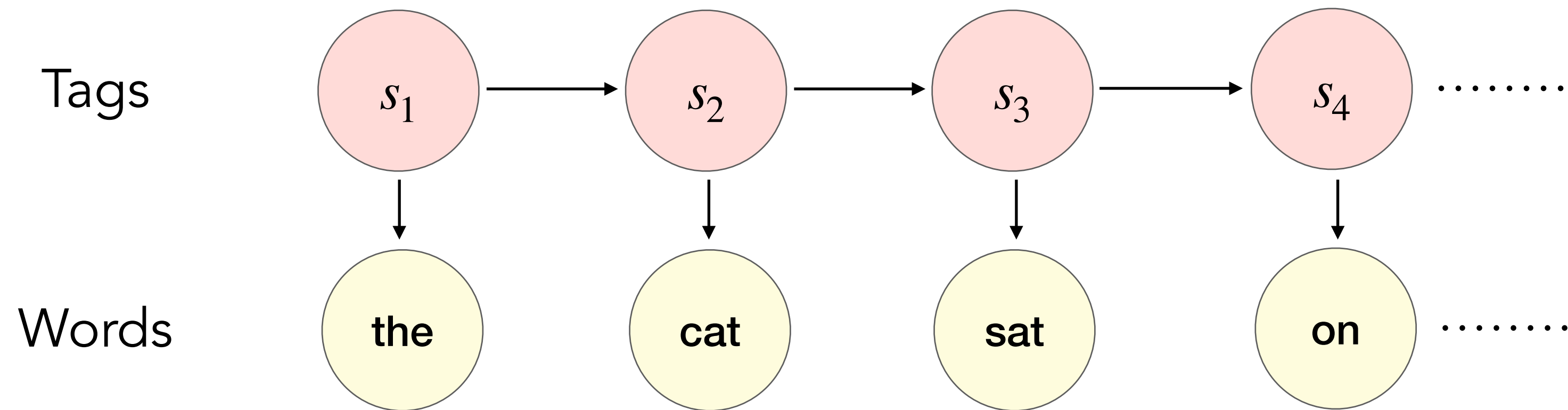
# Markov chains



The/?? cat/?? sat/?? on/?? the/?? mat/??

- We don't normally see sequences of POS tags in text

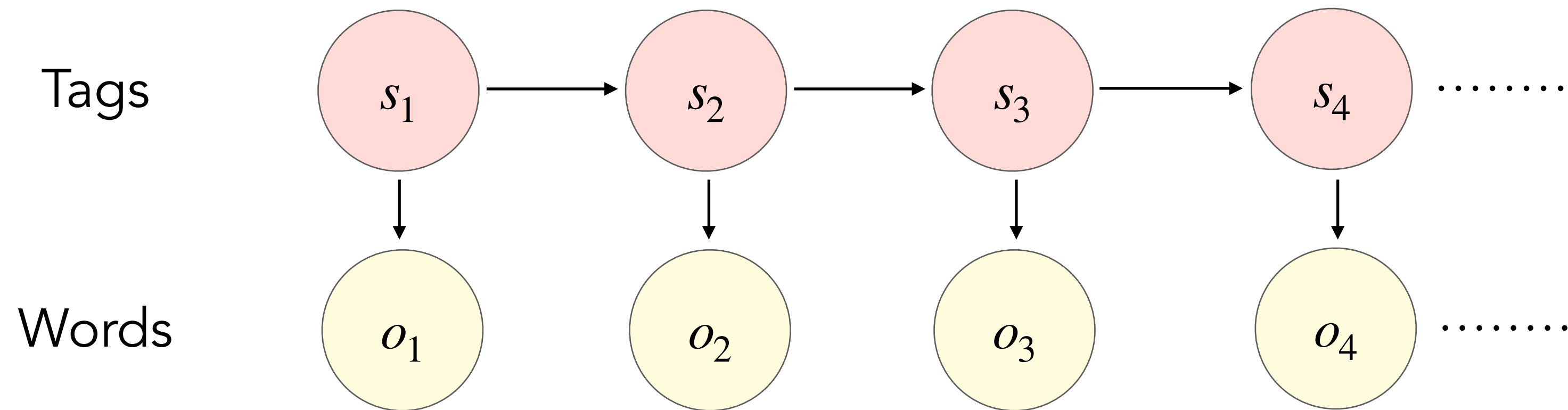
# Hidden Markov Model (HMM)



The/?? cat/?? sat/?? on/?? the/?? mat/??

- We don't normally see sequences of POS tags in text
- But we do observe the words!
- HMM allows us to *jointly reason* over both **hidden** and **observed** events.
- Assume that each position has a tag that generates a word

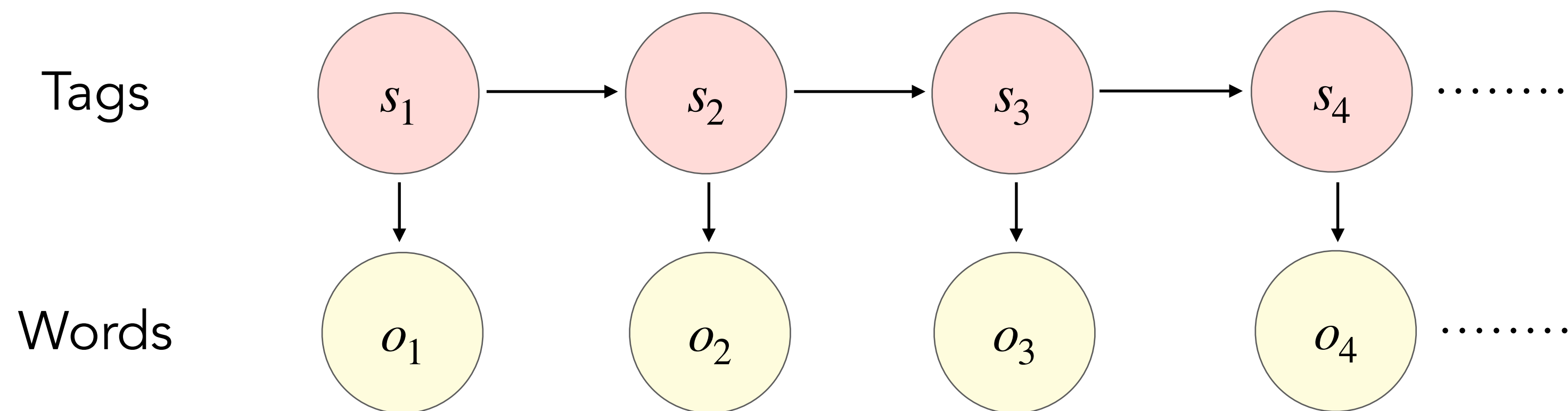
# Components of an HMM



1. Set of states  $S = \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$  and set of observations  $O$
2. Initial state probability distribution  $\pi(s_1)$
3. Transition probabilities  $P(s_{t+1} | s_t)$  (OR  $\theta_{s_t \rightarrow s_{t+1}}$ )
4. Emission probabilities  $P(o_t | s_t)$  (OR  $\phi_{s_t \rightarrow o_t}$ )



# Assumptions



1. Markov assumption:

$$P(s_{t+1} | s_1, \dots, s_t) \approx P(s_{t+1} | s_t)$$

2. Output independence:

$$P(o_t | s_1, \dots, s_t) \approx P(o_t | s_t)$$

Depends on language!

Which do you think is a stronger assumption?

1) assumes POS tag sequences do not have very strong priors/long-range dependencies

A) Markov assumption

2) assumes neighboring tags

don't affect current word

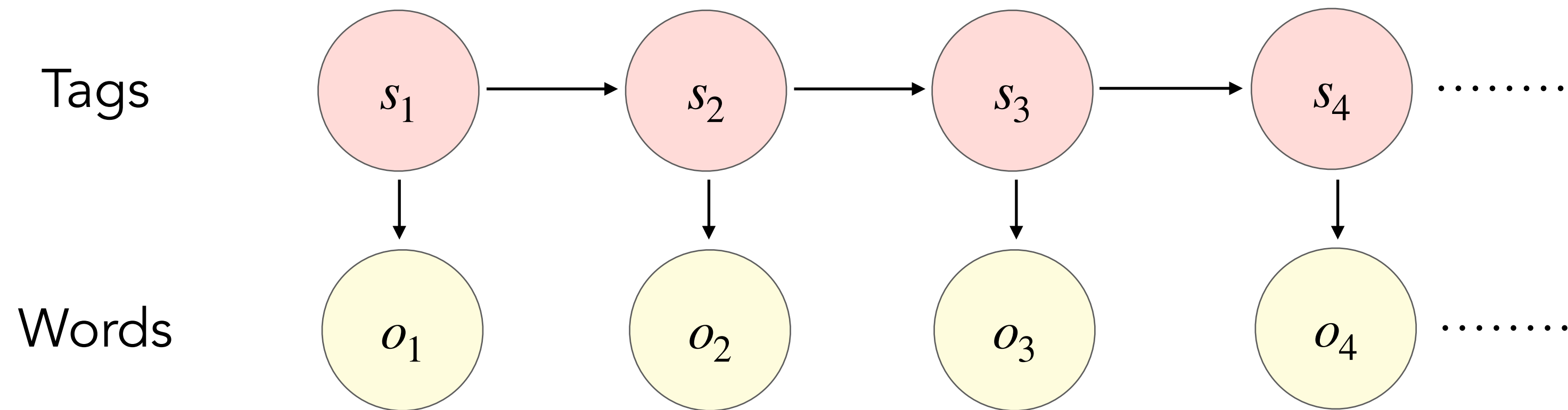
B) Output independence





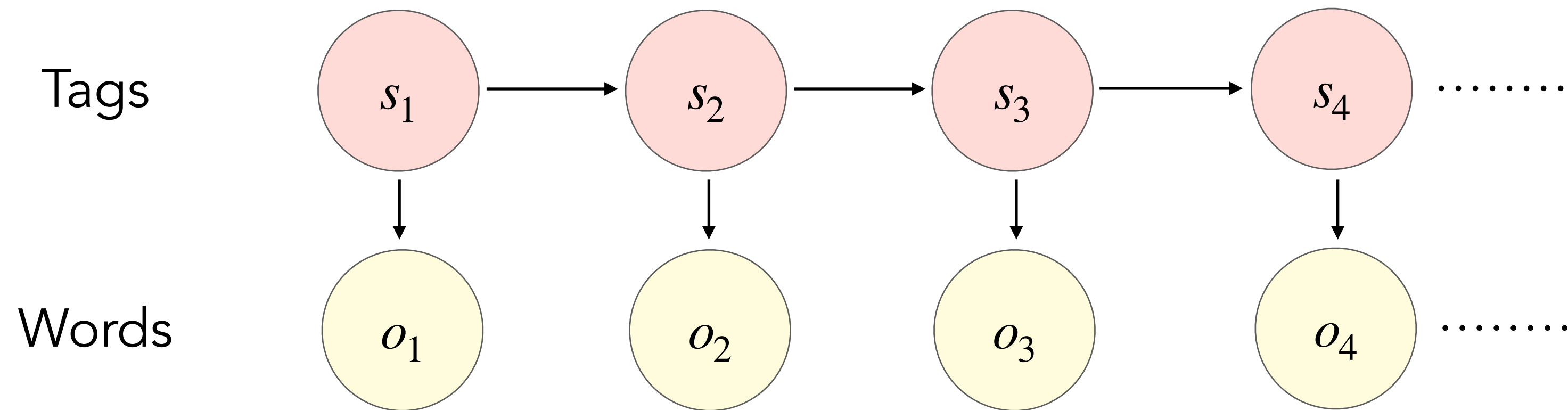


# Sequence likelihood



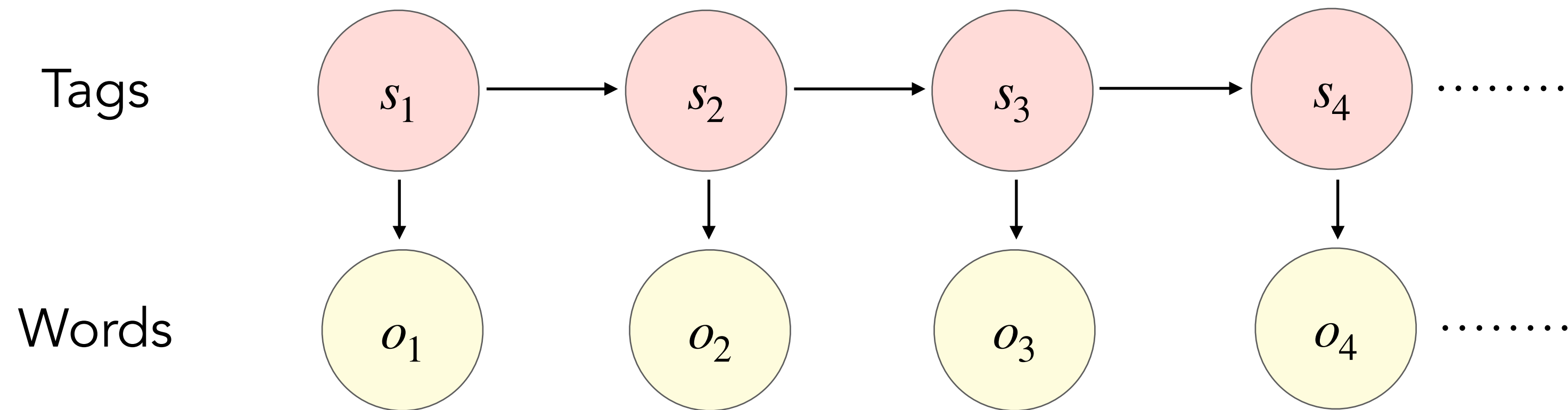
$$P(s, o) = P(s_1, s_2 \dots s_n, o_1, o_2 \dots o_n)$$

# Sequence likelihood



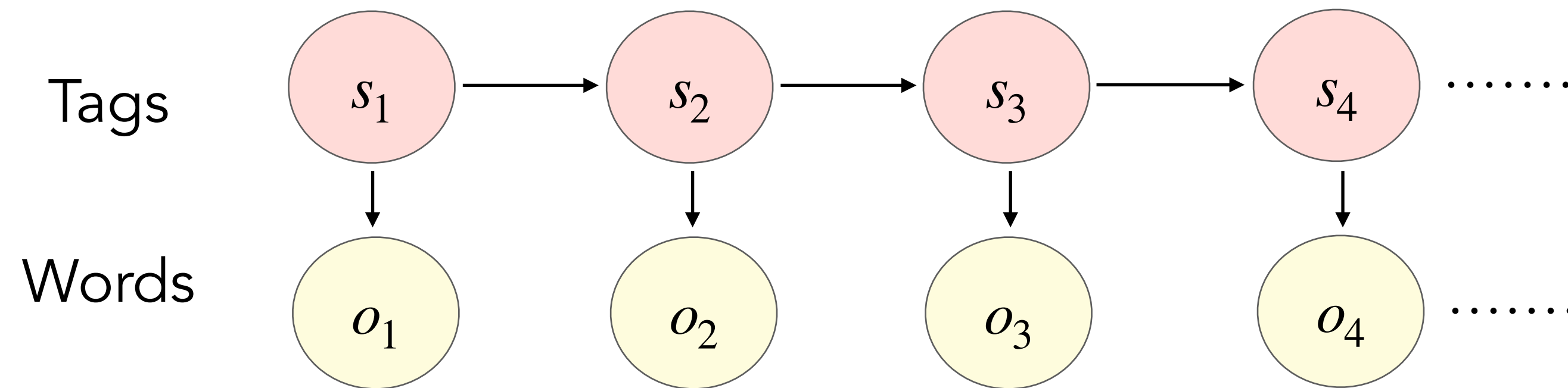
$$\begin{aligned} P(s, o) &= P(s_1, s_2 \dots s_n, o_1, o_2 \dots o_n) \\ &= \pi(s_1) P(o_1 | s_1) \prod_{i=2}^n P(s_i, o_i | s_{i-1}) \end{aligned}$$

# Sequence likelihood



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(s, o) &= P(s_1, s_2 \dots s_n, o_1, o_2 \dots o_n) \\
 &= \pi(s_1) P(o_1 | s_1) \prod_{i=2}^n P(s_i, o_i | s_{i-1}) \\
 &= \pi(s_1) P(o_1 | s_1) \prod_{i=2}^n \underbrace{P(s_i | s_{i-1})}_{\text{Transition}} \underbrace{P(o_i | s_i)}_{\text{Emission}}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Sequence likelihood



*What is the joint probability  $P(\text{the cat, DT NN})$ ?*

Dummy start state

$s_t$	$s_{t+1}$	
	DT	NN
$\emptyset$	0.8	0.2
DT	0.2	0.8
NN	0.3	0.7

$O_t$		
	the	cat
DT	0.9	0.1
NN	0.5	0.5

- A)  $(0.8 * 0.8) * (0.9 * 0.5)$
- B)  $(0.2 * 0.8) * (0.9 * 0.5)$
- C)  $(0.3 * 0.7) * (0.5 * 0.5)$

Ans: A



# Learning

## Training set:

**1** Pierre/**NNP** Vinken/**NNP** ,/, 61/**CD** years/**NNS** old/**JJ** ,/  
join/**VB** the/**DT** board/**NN** as/**IN** a/**DT** nonexecutive/**JJ** di  
Nov./**NNP** 29/**CD** ./.

**2** Mr./**NNP** Vinken/**NNP** is/**VBZ** chairman/**NN** of/**IN** Elsev  
N.V./**NNP** ,/, the/**DT** Dutch/**NNP** publishing/**VBG** group/

**3** Rudolph/**NNP** Agnew/**NNP** ,/, 55/**CD** years/**NNS** old/**JJ**  
chairman/**NN** of/**IN** Consolidated/**NNP** Gold/**NNP** Fields/**NN**  
/,/, was/**VBD** named/**VBN** a/**DT** nonexecutive/**JJ** director/**NN**  
this/**DT** British/**JJ** industrial/**JJ** conglomerate/**NN** ./.

...

**38,219** It/**PRP** is/**VBZ** also/**RB** pulling/**VBG** 20/**CD** peopl  
of/**IN** Puerto/**NNP** Rico/**NNP** ,/, who/**WP** were/**VBD** help  
Hurricane/**NNP** Hugo/**NNP** victims/**NNS** ,/, and/**CC** sendin  
them/**PRP** to/**TO** San/**NNP** Francisco/**NNP** instead/**RB** ./.

- Maximum likelihood estimate:

$$P(s_i | s_j) = \frac{Count(s_j, s_i)}{Count(s_j)}$$

$$P(o | s) = \frac{Count(s, o)}{Count(s)}$$

# Learning Example

1. the/**DT** cat/**NN** sat/**VBD** on/**IN** the/**DT** mat/**NN**
2. Princeton/**NNP** is/**VBZ** in/**IN** New/**NNP** Jersey/**NNP**
3. the/**DT** old/**NN** man/**VB** the/**DT** boats/**NNS**

$$P(NN | DT) = \frac{3}{4}$$

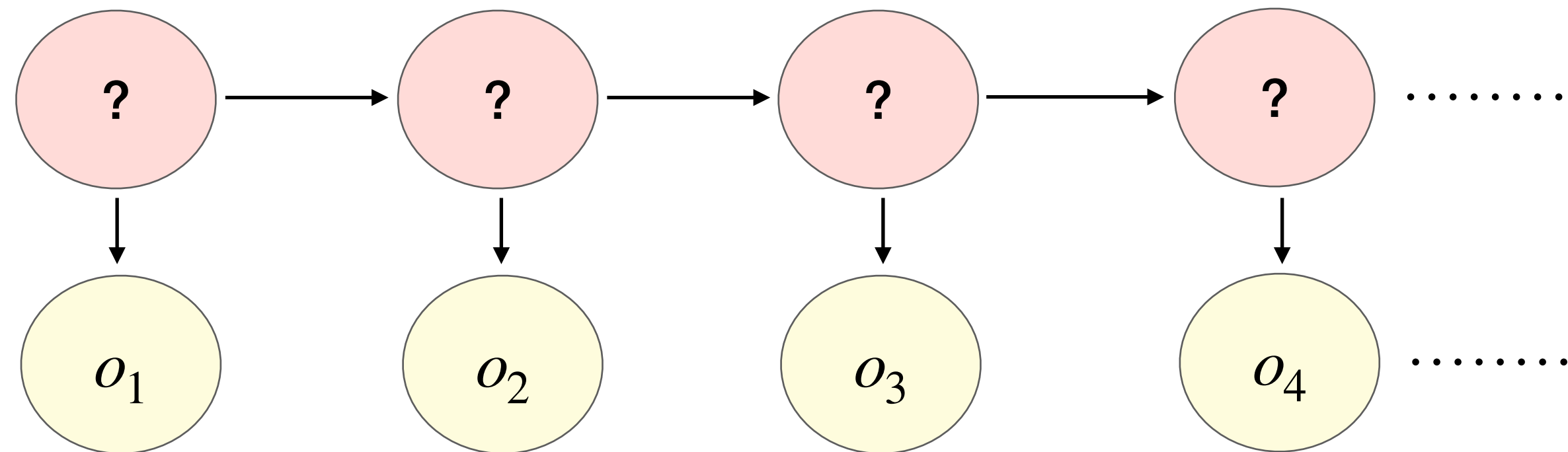
$$P(cat | NN) = \frac{1}{3}$$

- Maximum likelihood estimate:

$$P(s_i | s_j) = \frac{Count(s_j, s_i)}{Count(s_j)}$$

$$P(o | s) = \frac{Count(s, o)}{Count(s)}$$

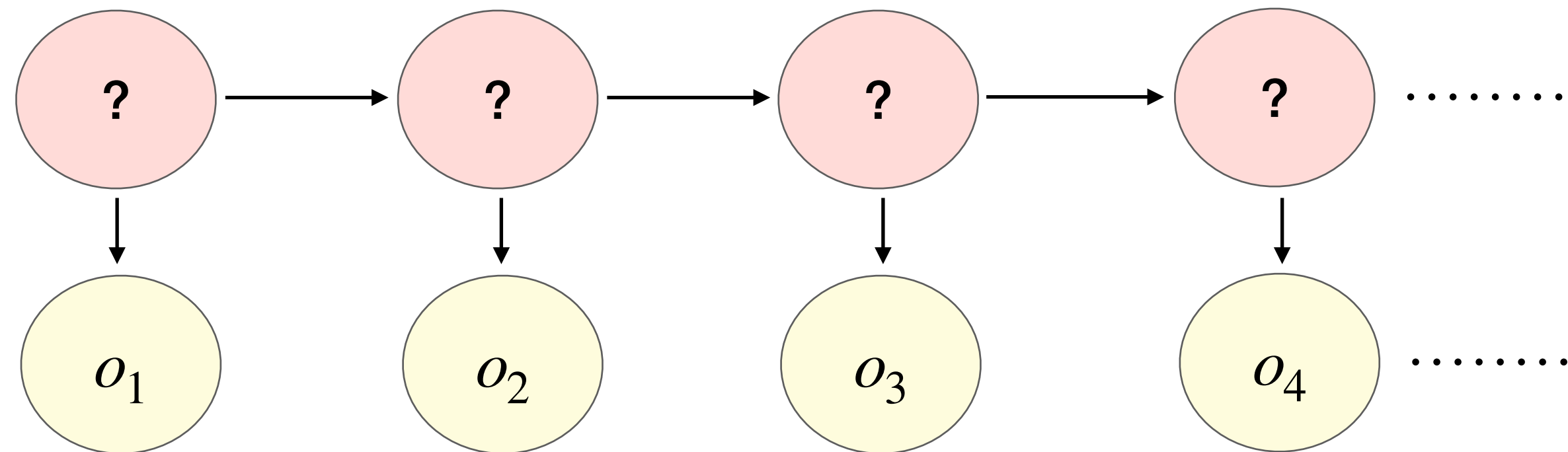
# Decoding with HMMs



**Task:** Find the most probable sequence of states  $\langle s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \rangle$  given the observations  $\langle o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n \rangle$

$$\hat{S} = \underset{S}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(S|O) = \underset{S}{\operatorname{argmax}} \frac{P(S) P(O|S)}{P(O)} \quad [\text{Bayes}]$$

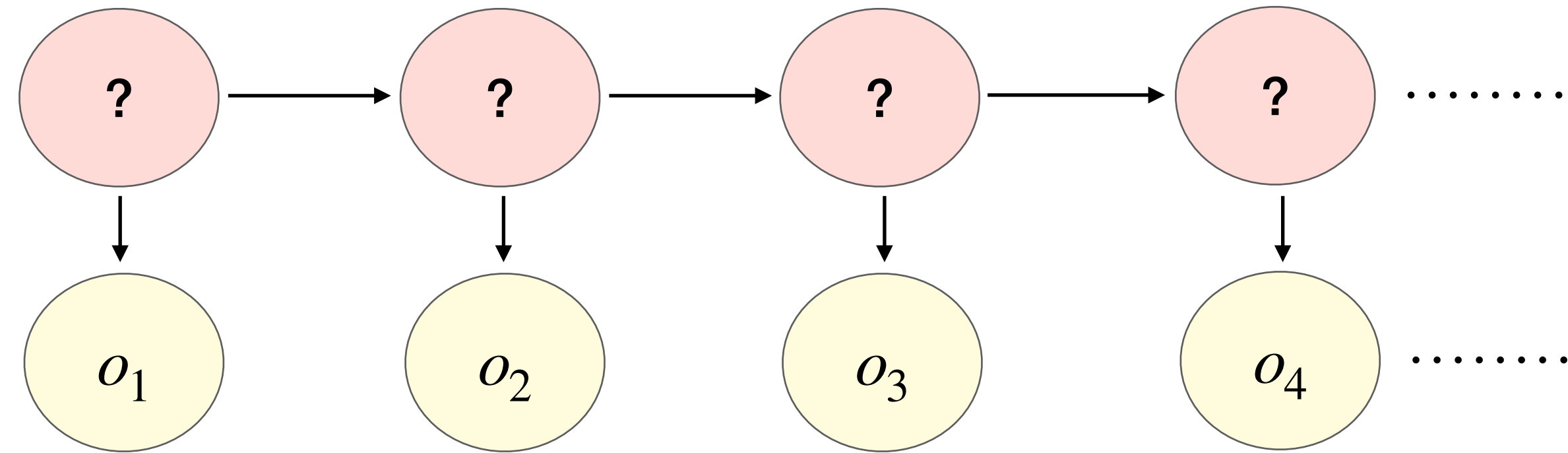
# Decoding with HMMs



**Task:** Find the most probable sequence of states  $\langle s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \rangle$  given the observations  $\langle o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{S} &= \operatorname{argmax}_S P(s|o) = \operatorname{argmax}_S \frac{P(s) P(o|s)}{P(o)} \quad [\text{Bayes}] \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_S P(s) P(o|s)\end{aligned}$$

# Decoding with HMMs



**Task:** Find the most probable sequence of states  $\langle s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n \rangle$  given the observations  $\langle o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n \rangle$

$$\hat{S} = \arg \max_S P(S) P(O|S)$$

$$= \arg \max_S \prod_{i=1}^n \underbrace{P(s_i | s_{i-1})}_{\text{Transition}} \underbrace{P(o_i | s_i)}_{\text{Emission}}$$

How can we maximize this?  
Search over all state sequences?

# Greedy decoding



Decode/reveal one state at a time

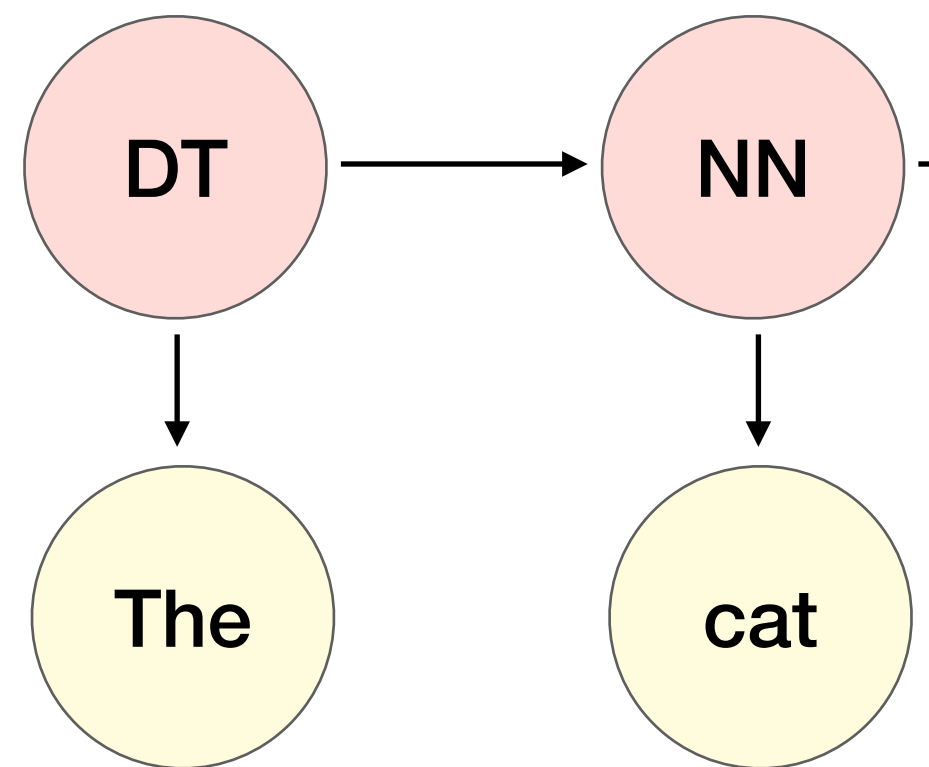
$$\operatorname{argmax}_S \pi(S_1 = S) P(\text{The} | S) \\ = \text{'DT'}$$

$$\hat{S} = \operatorname{argmax}_S P(S) P(O | S)$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_S \underbrace{\prod_{i=1}^n P(s_i | s_{i-1})}_{\text{Transition}} \underbrace{P(o_i | s_i)}_{\text{Emission}}$$



# Greedy decoding

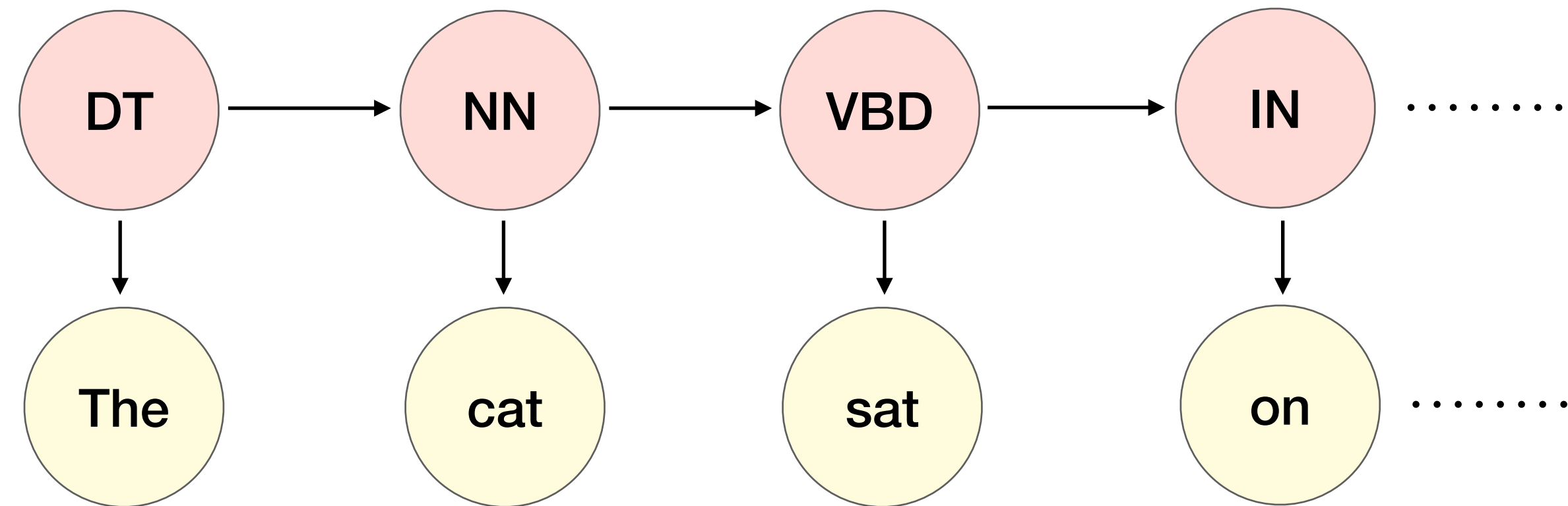


$$\operatorname{argmax}_S P(s_2=s \mid \text{DT}) P(\text{cat} \mid s) \\ = \text{'NN'}$$

$$\hat{S} = \operatorname{argmax}_S P(s) P(o \mid s)$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_S \prod_{i=1}^n \underbrace{P(s_i \mid s_{i-1})}_{\text{Transition}} \underbrace{P(o_i \mid s_i)}_{\text{Emission}}$$

# Greedy decoding



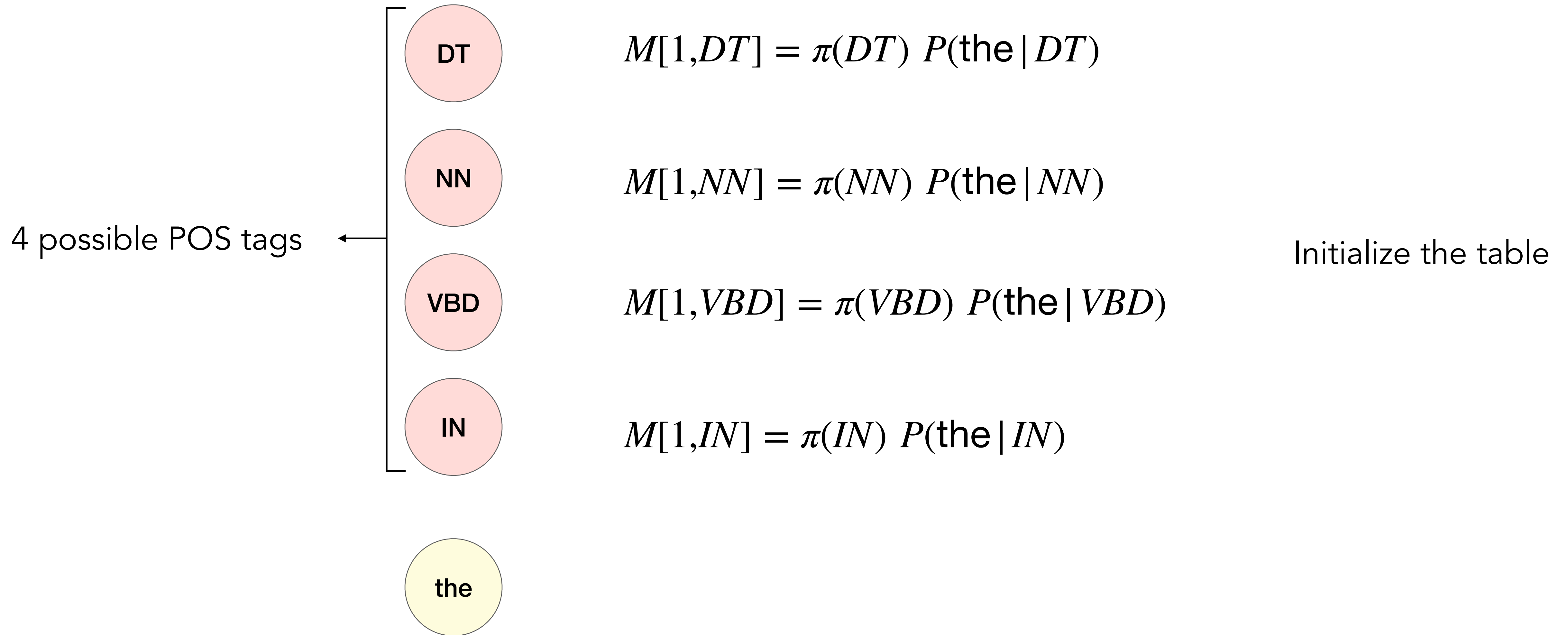
$$\forall t, \hat{s}_{t+1} = \underset{s}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(s | \hat{s}_t) p(o_{t+1} | s)$$

- Not guaranteed to produce the overall optimal sequence
- Local decisions

# Viterbi decoding

- Use dynamic programming!
- Maintain some extra data structures
- Probability lattice,  $M[T, K]$  and backtracking matrix,  $B[T, K]$ 
  - $T$  : Number of time steps
  - $K$  : Number of states
- $M[i, j]$  stores most probable sequence of states ending with state **j** at time **i**
- $B[i, j]$  is the tag at time **i-1** in the most probable sequence ending with tag **j** at time **i**

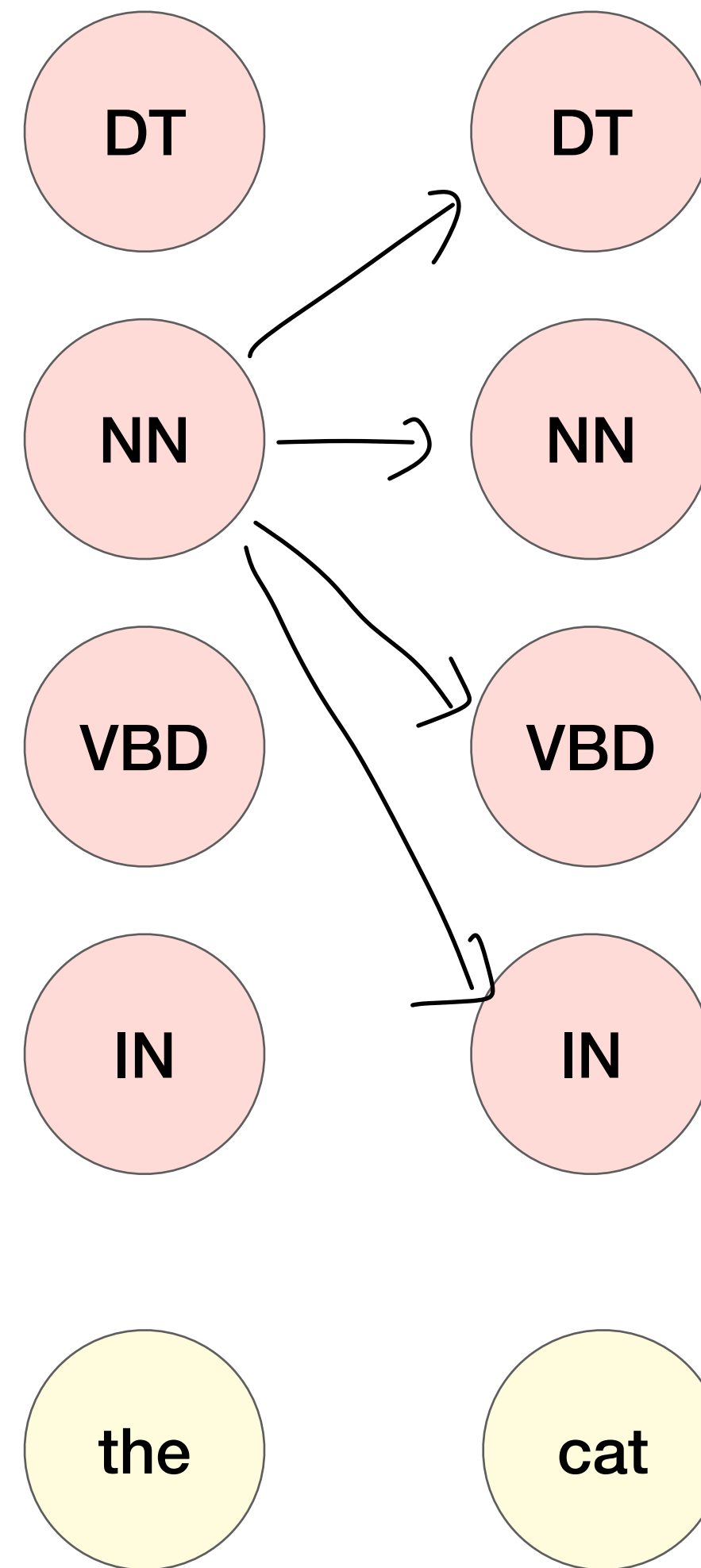
# Viterbi decoding



*Forward*

# Viterbi decoding

Consider all possible  
previous tags



$$M[2,DT] = \max_k M[1,k] P(DT|k) P(\text{cat}|DT)$$

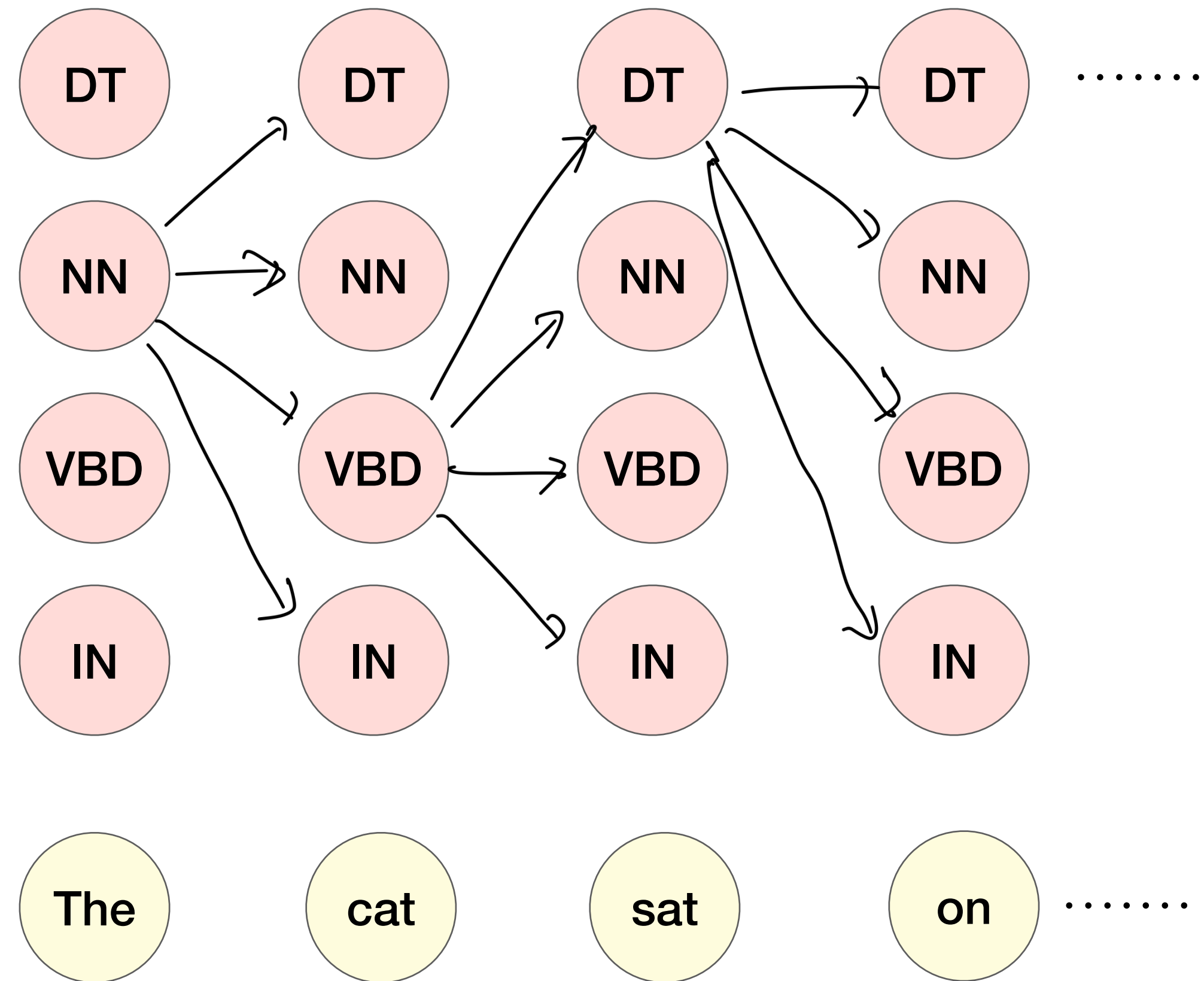
$$M[2,NN] = \max_k M[1,k] P(NN|k) P(\text{cat}|NN)$$

$$M[2,VBD] = \max_k M[1,k] P(VBD|k) P(\text{cat}|VBD)$$

$$M[2,IN] = \max_k M[1,k] P(IN|k) P(\text{cat}|IN)$$

*Forward*

# Viterbi decoding



What is the time complexity of this algorithm?

$O(nK^2)$

- A)  $O(n)$
- B)  $O(nK)$
- C)  $O(nK^2)$
- D)  $O(n^2K)$

$n$  = number of timesteps

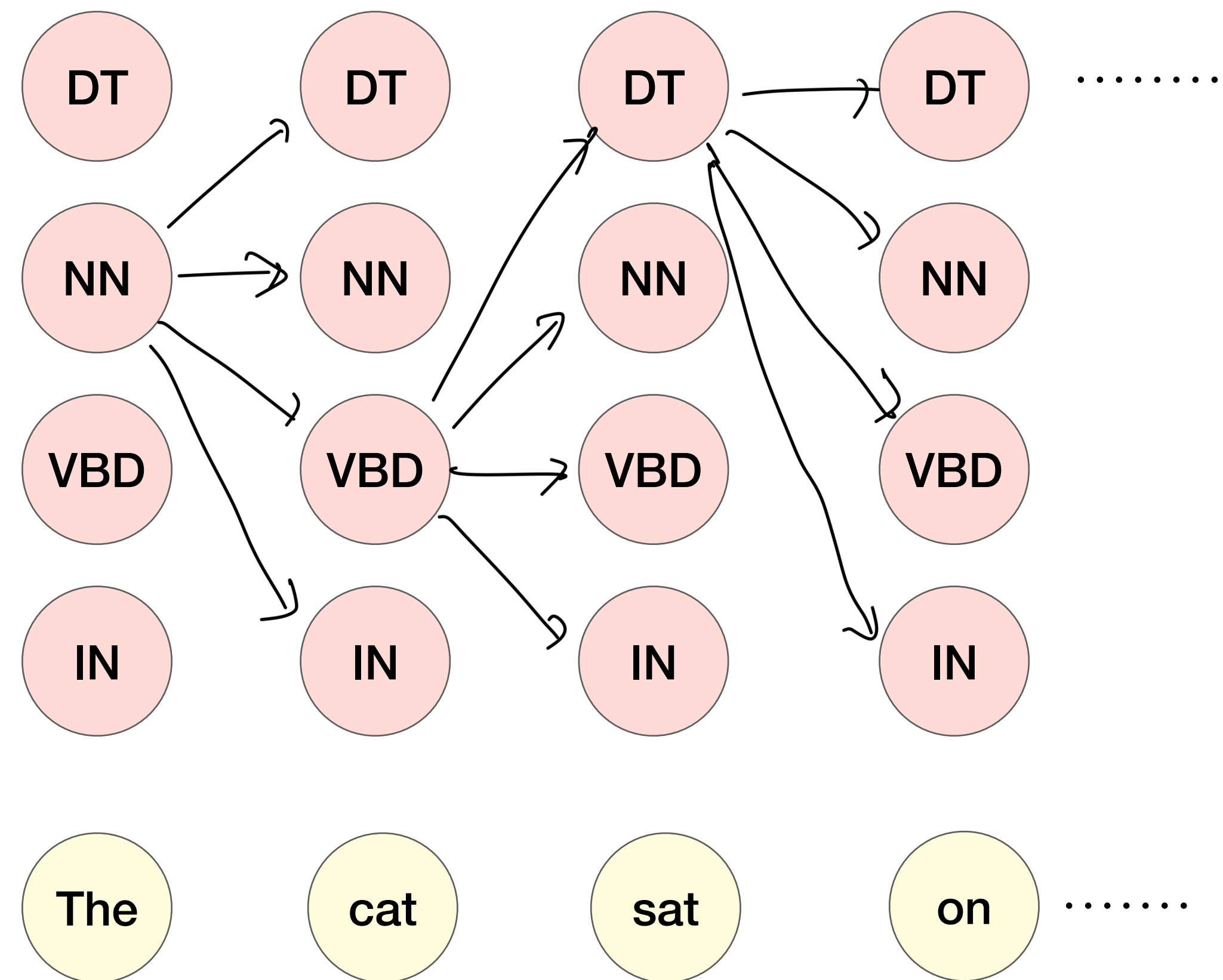
$K$  = number of states

$$M[i, j] = \max_k M[i - 1, k] P(s_j | s_k) P(o_i | s_j) \quad 1 \leq k \leq K \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

*Backward:* Pick  $\max_k M[n, k]$  and backtrack using  $B$

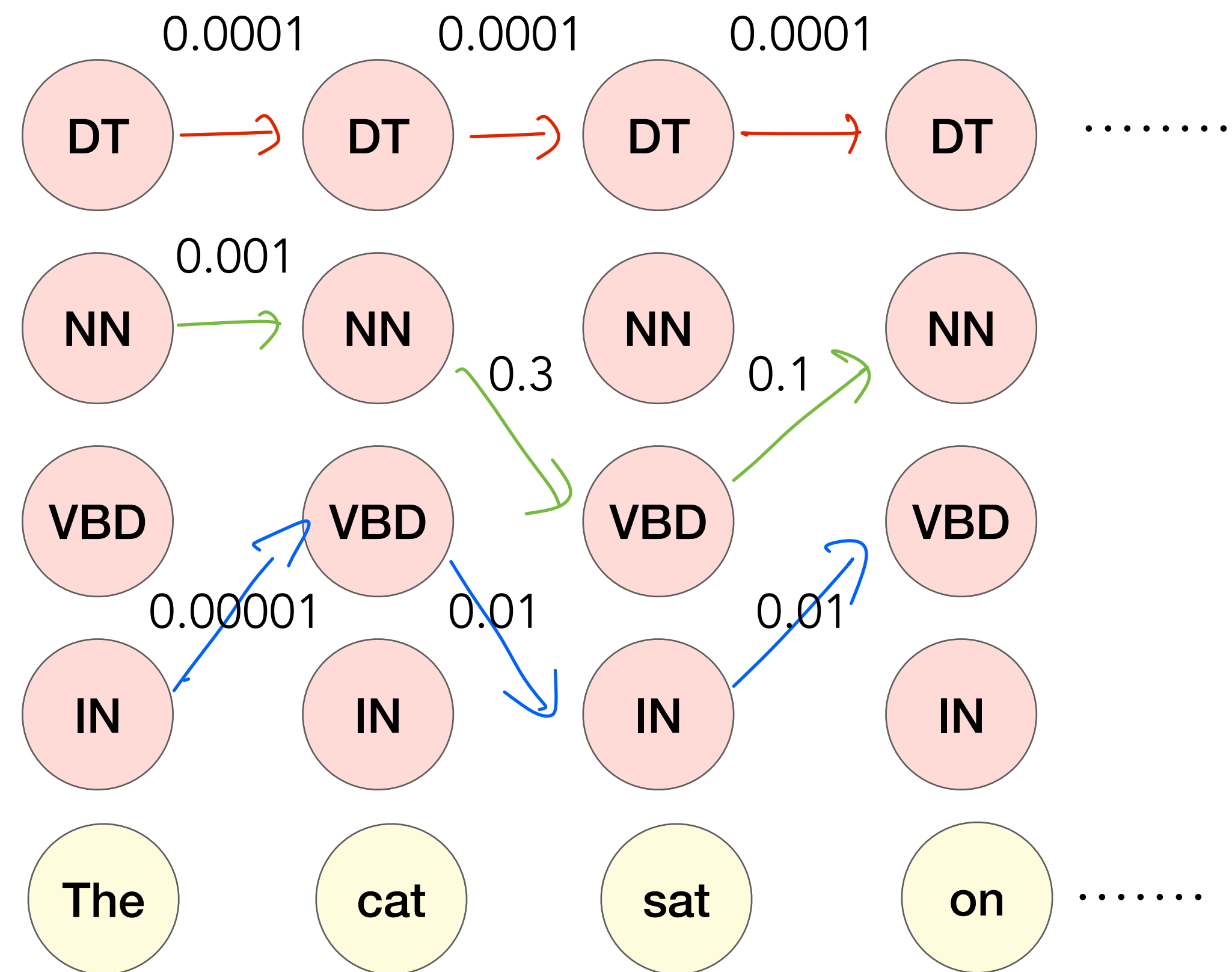
# Beam Search

If  $K$  (number of possible hidden states) is too large, Viterbi is too expensive!



# Beam Search

- If K (number of states) is too large, Viterbi is too expensive!



Observation: *Many paths have very low likelihood!*

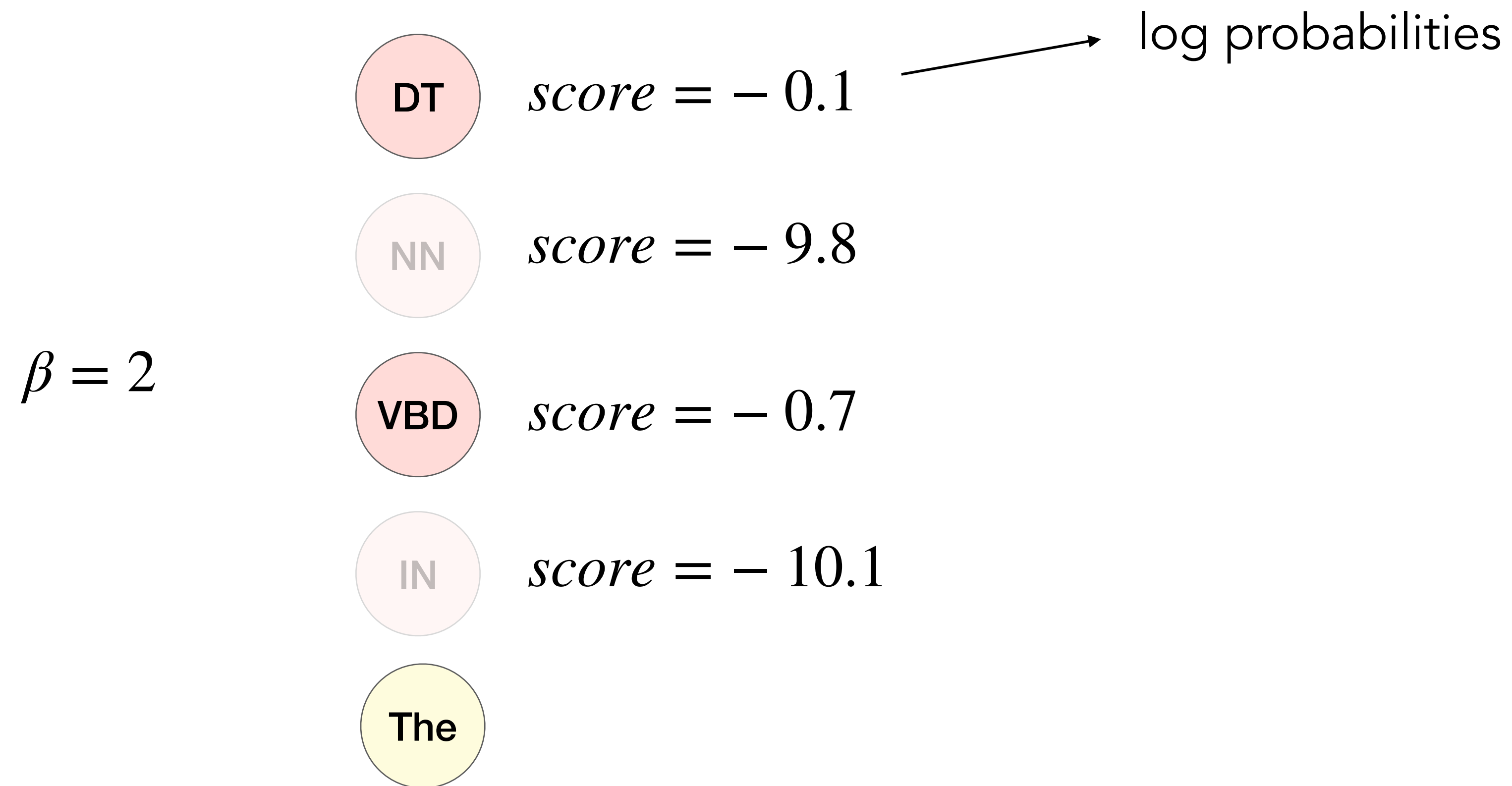


# Beam Search

- If  $K$  (number of states) is too large, Viterbi is too expensive!
- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point
- Beam width,  $\beta$

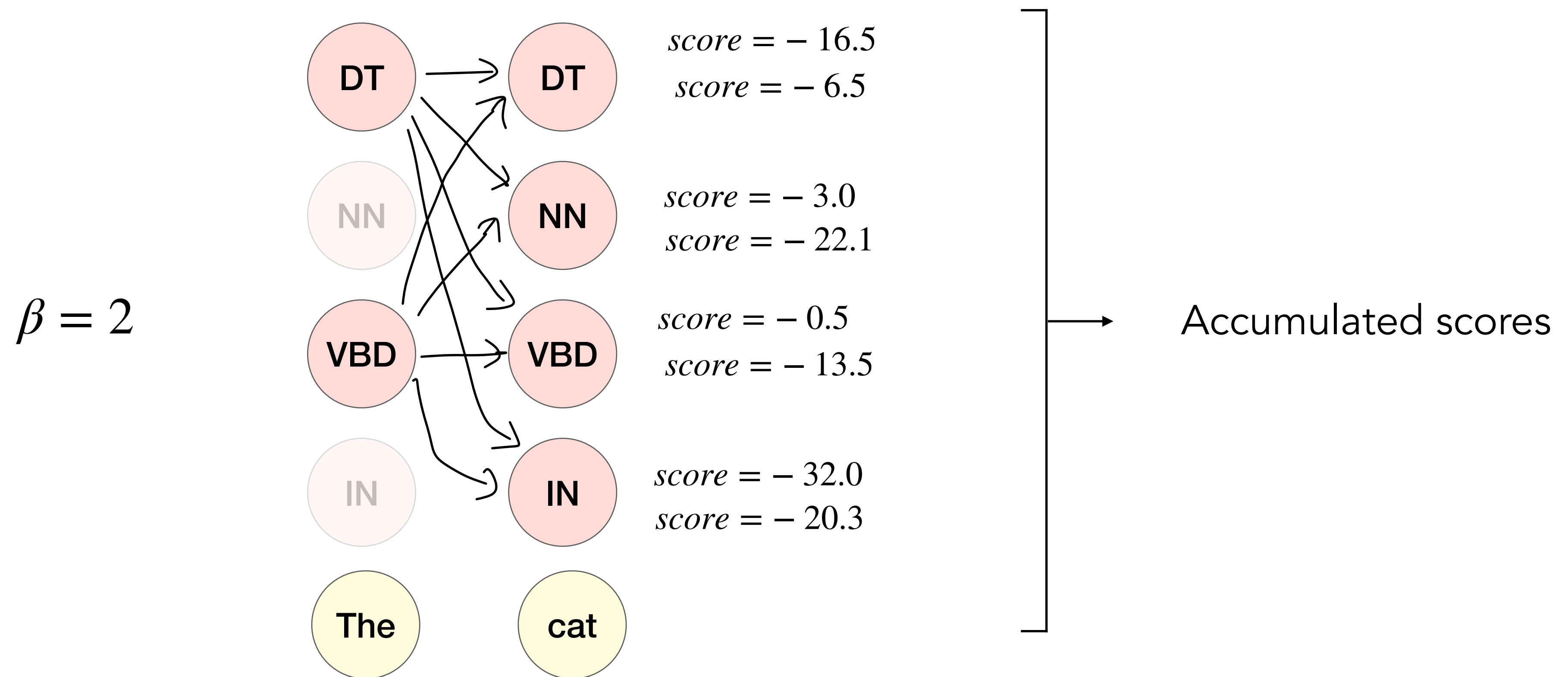
# Beam Search

- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point



# Beam Search

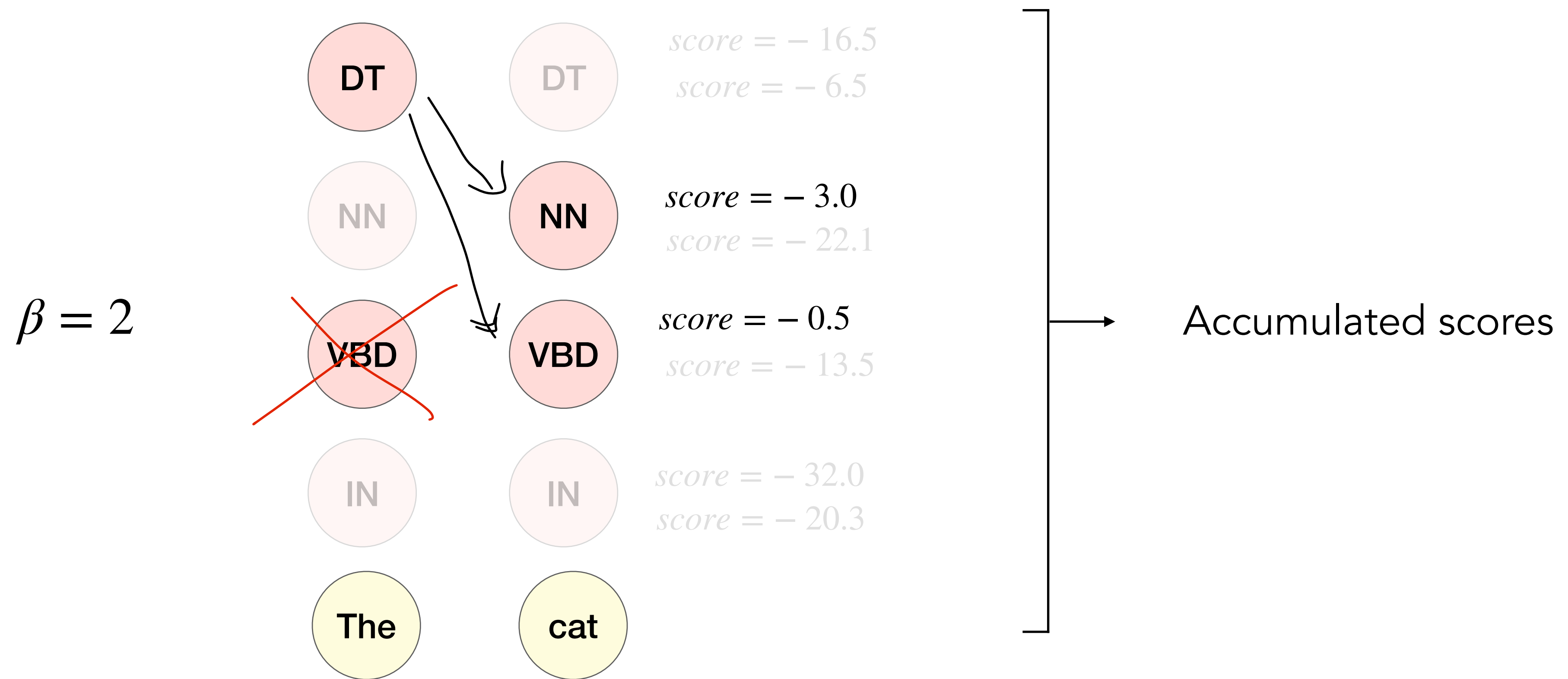
- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point



**Step 1:** Expand all partial sequences in current beam

# Beam Search

- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point

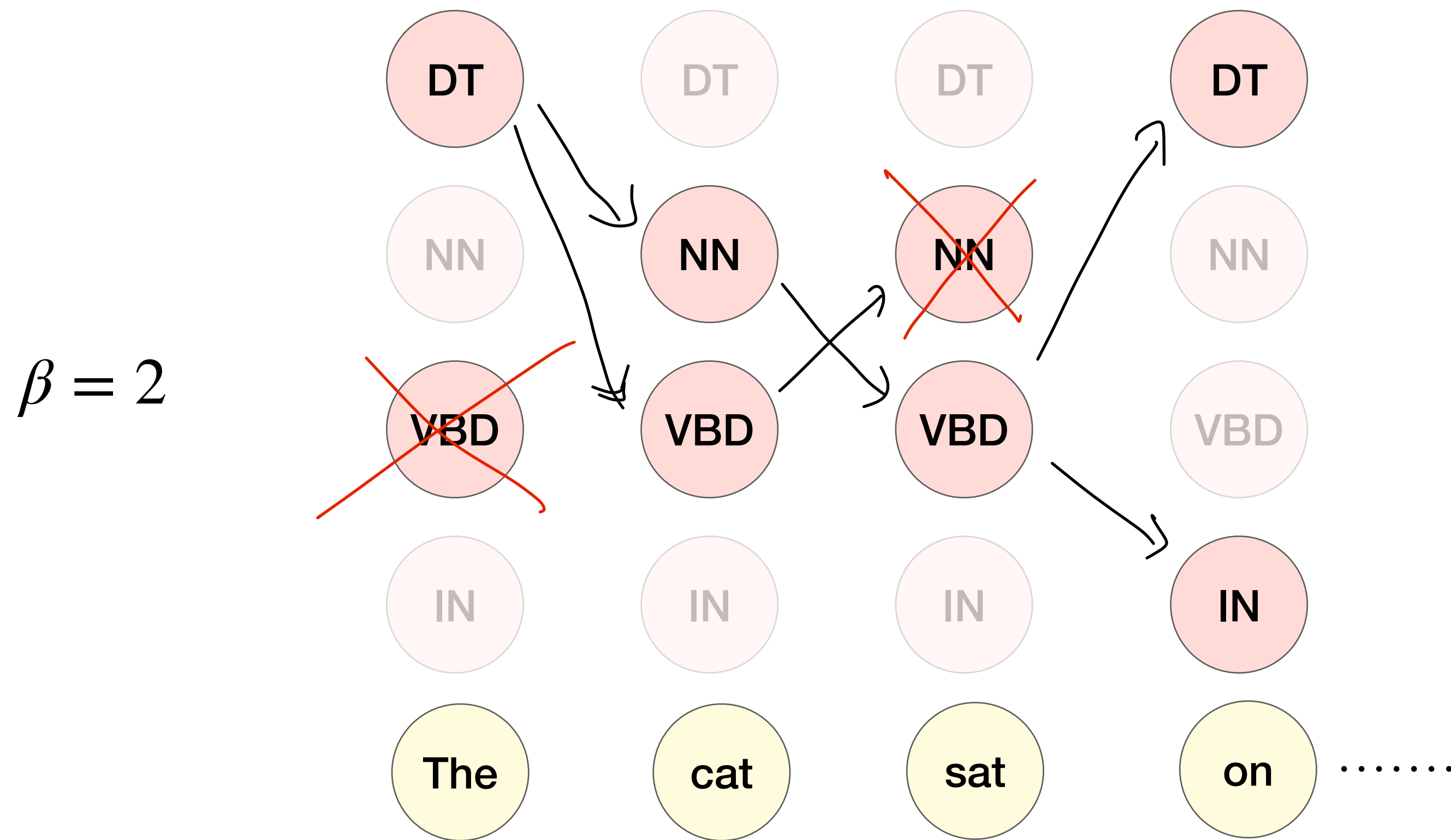


**Step 2:** Prune set back to top  $\beta$  sequences (sort and select)

... and Repeat!

# Beam Search

- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point



*What is the time complexity of this algorithm?*

$n$  = number of timesteps

$K$  = number of states

$\beta$  = beam width

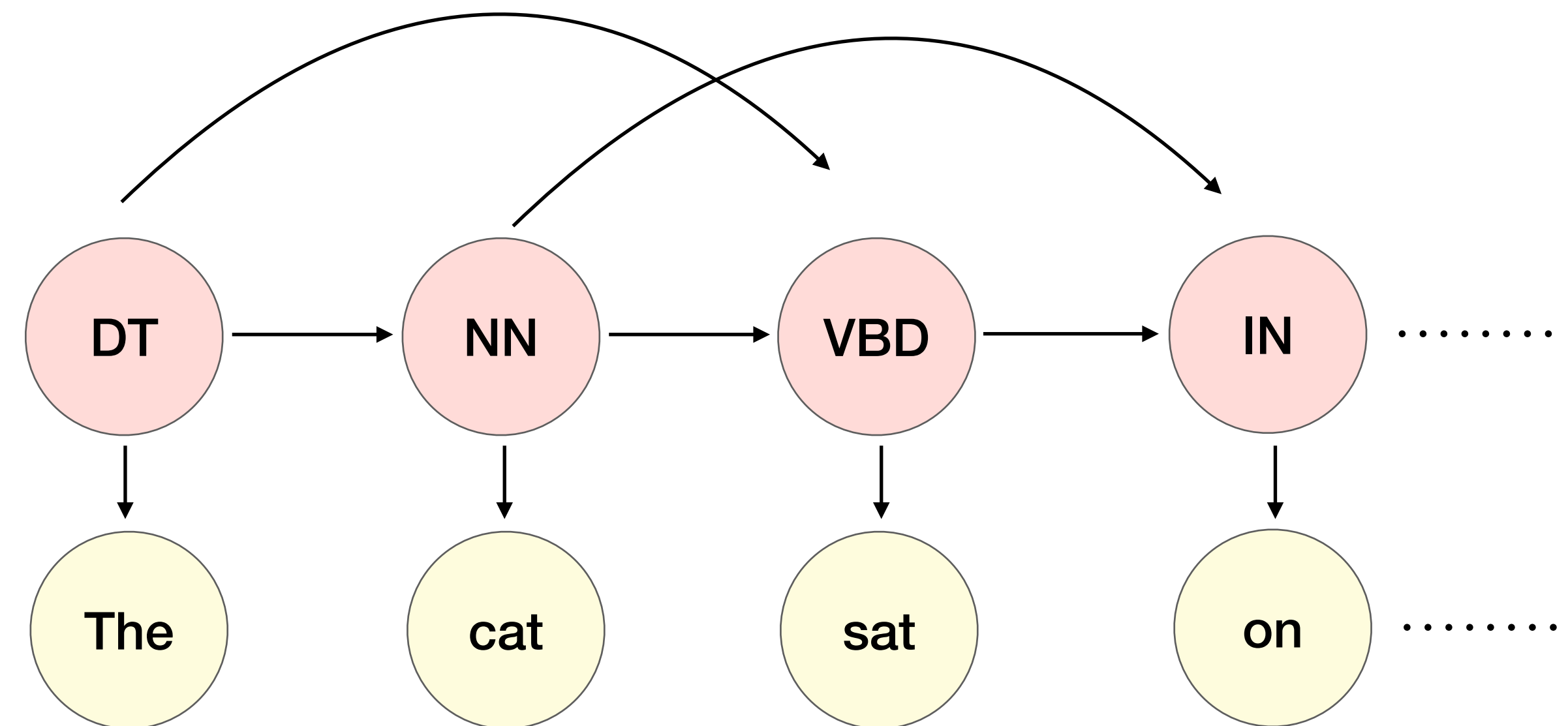
Pick  $\max_k M[n, k]$  from within beam and backtrack

# Beam Search

- If  $K$  (number of states) is too large, Viterbi is too expensive!
- Keep a fixed number of hypotheses at each point
  - Beam width,  $\beta$
- Trade-off (some) accuracy for computational savings

# Beyond bigrams (Advanced)

- Real-world HMM taggers have more relaxed assumptions
- Trigram HMM:  $P(s_{t+1} | s_1, s_2, \dots, s_t) \approx P(s_{t+1} | s_{t-1}, s_t)$



Pros?

Cons?

Give us feedback!

<https://forms.gle/D5Fw1tqmWNRNYEzKA>



