

Clustering under the slowly mixing Gaussian Hidden Markov Model

Ibrahim Kaddouri

Joint work with Mohamed Ndaoud



Hidden Markov Model

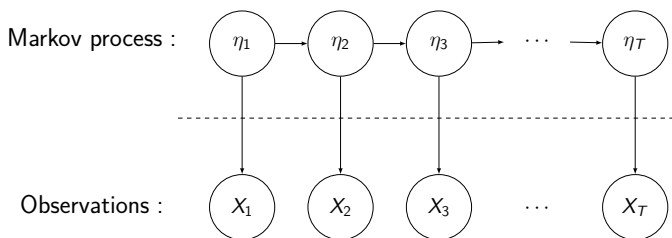


Figure: A Hidden Markov Model.

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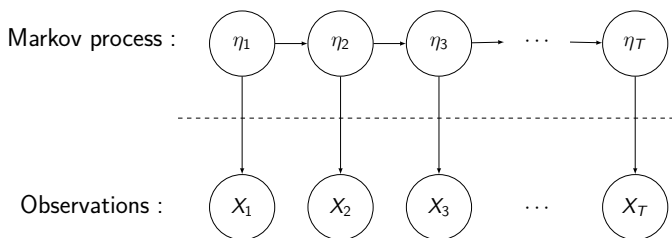


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Observations $(x_k)_k$ are **independent conditionally to** $(\eta_k)_k$.

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- Estimation of θ
- Estimation of δ
- Clustering

The problem of estimation

The problem of estimating θ has already been studied recently in [Karagulyan and Ndaoud 2024](#). Let

$$M(n, d, \delta, t) = \inf_{\hat{\theta}(X_{1:n})} \sup_{\|\theta\|=t} \mathbb{E}_{\theta} \left[\min \left\{ \|\hat{\theta}(X_{1:n}) - \theta\|, \|\hat{\theta}(X_{1:n}) + \theta\| \right\} \right]$$

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It was shown in [Karagulyan and Ndaoud 2024](#) that when $d \leq \delta n$,

$$M(n, d, \delta, t) \asymp \begin{cases} t & \text{if } t \leq \left(\frac{\delta d}{n}\right)^{1/4} \\ \frac{1}{t} \sqrt{\frac{\delta d}{n}} & \text{if } \left(\frac{\delta d}{n}\right)^{1/4} \leq t \leq \sqrt{\delta} \\ \sqrt{\frac{d}{n}} & \text{if } \sqrt{\delta} \leq t \end{cases}$$

The problem of clustering

Let $\eta = (\eta_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$ and $\ell(\hat{\eta}, \eta) = \min_{\nu \in \{-1, 1\}} |\hat{\eta} + \nu \eta|$ where $|\cdot|$ is the Hamming distance. We define the risk of a clustering procedure $\hat{\eta}$ as

$$\mathcal{R}(\theta, \delta, \hat{\eta}) = \mathbb{E}[\ell(\hat{\eta}(X_{1:n}), \eta)]$$

and the Bayes risk of clustering as

$$\inf_{\hat{\eta}} \mathcal{R}(\theta, \delta, \hat{\eta})$$

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This risk was studied in [Gassiat, Kaddouri and Naulet 2023](#) in the strongly mixing setting. It was shown that for $\tilde{\alpha}_n = \frac{C}{\delta^5 \sqrt{n}}$

$$\frac{\delta^2(1 - \tilde{\alpha}_n)}{2(1 - \delta)} e^{-2\|\theta\|^2} \leq \inf_{\hat{\eta}} \mathcal{R}(\theta, \delta, \hat{\eta}) \leq (1 - \delta) e^{-\frac{\|\theta\|^2}{2}}$$

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When δ is allowed to be very small, this fails to provide a precise understanding of the interplay between the strength of the signal and the Markovian dependence measured by δ .

Two frameworks

We study the risk of clustering observations in two frameworks:

- **Offline setting:** All observations are used in the clustering procedures. Clustering rules are of the form:

$$\hat{\eta}(Y_{1:n}) = (\hat{\eta}_i(Y_{1:n}))_{1 \leq i \leq n}.$$

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- **Online setting:** Observations are clustered sequentially, with access to the past observations only at each step. Clustering rules are of the form: $\hat{\eta}(Y_{1:n}) = (\hat{\eta}_i(Y_{1:i}))_{1 \leq i \leq n}$.

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This upper-bound is reached by this online clustering procedure:

- For $i \in \llbracket 1, k \rrbracket$:

$$\hat{\eta}_i(X_{1:n}) = \text{sign}(\langle X_i, \theta \rangle)$$

- For $i > k$:

$$\hat{\eta}_i(X_{1:n}) = \text{sign} \left(\left\langle \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=i-k+1}^i X_j, \theta \right\rangle \right)$$

with $k = \left\lceil \frac{2}{\|\theta\|^2} \log\left(\frac{\|\theta\|^2}{2\delta}\right) \right\rceil$.

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When $\delta \gtrsim \frac{1}{n}$,

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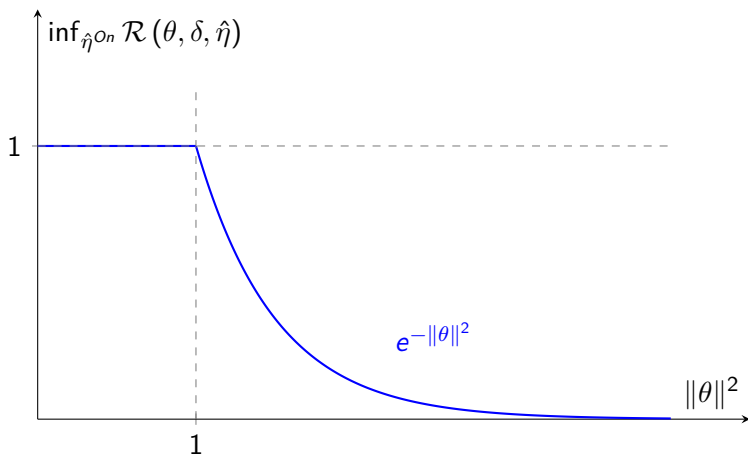
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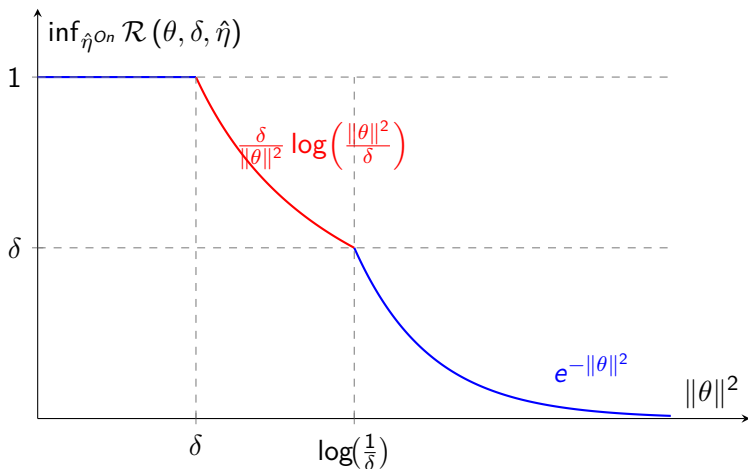
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Behavior of the Bayes risk of online clustering



Behavior of the Bayes risk of online clustering in the **strongly** mixing regime.

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Behavior of the Bayes risk of online clustering in the **slowly** mixing regime.

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Offline clustering procedure

Consider $\tilde{\eta}_{a-1}$ and $\tilde{\eta}_{a+1}$ are the online estimators defined by:

$$\tilde{\eta}_{a-1}(X_{a-k:a-1}) = \left\langle \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=a-k}^{a-1} X_j, \theta \right\rangle, \quad \tilde{\eta}_{a+1}(X_{a+1:a+k}) = \left\langle \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=a+1}^{a+k} X_j, \theta \right\rangle$$

where $k = \left\lceil \frac{2}{\|\theta\|^2} \log \left(\frac{\|\theta\|^2}{2\delta} \right) \right\rceil$.

Consider the clustering procedure $\hat{\eta}$ such that for $a \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$:

$$\hat{\eta}_a(\tilde{\eta}_{a-1}, X_{a-k:a+k}, \tilde{\eta}_{a+1}) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\eta}_{a-1} & \text{if } \tilde{\eta}_{a-1} = \tilde{\eta}_{a+1}, \|\theta\|^2 < \log \left(\frac{1}{\delta} \right) \text{ and } a \in \llbracket k+1, n-k \rrbracket \\ \text{sign}(\langle X_a, \theta \rangle) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

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Behavior of the Bayes risk of offline clustering

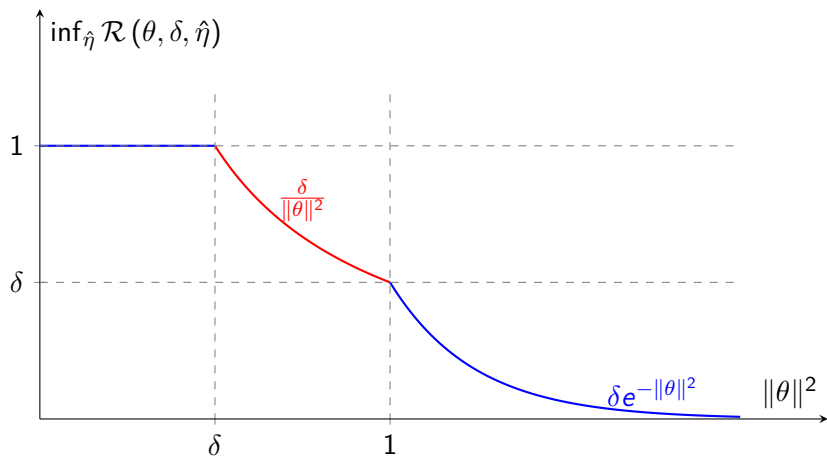


Figure: Behavior of the Bayes risk of offline clustering in the slowly mixing regime

Adaptation

WLOG, assume $n = k\ell$. For each bucket $i \in \llbracket 1, \ell \rrbracket$, consider the sample mean of k observations inside the i -th bucket

$$\tilde{X}_i = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=k(i-1)+1}^{ki} X_j$$

Note that

$$\tilde{X}_i = \theta \bar{\eta}_i + \frac{\xi_i}{\sqrt{k}}$$

where $\bar{\eta}_i = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=k(i-1)+1}^{ki} \eta_j$ and ξ_i is a standard Gaussian vector.

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We stack the ℓ terms in an $\mathbb{R}^{d \times \ell}$ matrix form as follows:

$$\tilde{X} = \theta \bar{\eta}^\top + \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{k}}$$

We then consider the Gram matrix of observations $\tilde{X}\tilde{X}^\top$.

Adaptation

It is easy to see that:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\ell} \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^\top \right] = \frac{\mathbb{E} [\|\tilde{\eta}\|^2]}{\ell} \theta \theta^\top + \frac{1}{k} \mathbf{I}_d$$

Since our goal is adaptation up to multiplicative constants, it is natural to consider the following estimator of $\|\theta\|$:

$$\|\hat{\theta}(\ell)\| = \left\| \frac{1}{\ell} \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^\top - \frac{1}{k} \mathbf{I}_d \right\|_{op}^{1/2}$$

Proposition

There exists $c > 0$ and $C > 0$ such that for $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\ell \geq n\|\theta\|^2 \vee \frac{d}{\varepsilon^2} \vee \frac{2}{3\varepsilon} n\delta$,

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\left| \|\hat{\theta}(\ell)\|^2 - \|\theta\|^2 \right| \geq C\varepsilon \frac{\ell}{n} \right) \leq e^{-\frac{c\varepsilon^2 \ell}{2}}.$$

Define now $\mathbf{I}_\ell = \left[\|\hat{\theta}(\ell)\|^2 - \frac{5}{6} \frac{\ell}{n}, \|\hat{\theta}(\ell)\|^2 + \frac{5}{6} \frac{\ell}{n} \right]$ and $\hat{\ell} = \min \left\{ \tilde{\ell} \mid \cap_{\ell \geq \tilde{\ell}} \mathbf{I}_\ell \neq \emptyset \right\}$. Let $\tilde{\theta} \in \cap_{\ell \geq \hat{\ell}} \mathbf{I}_\ell$.

Theorem

There exist positive absolute constants c_1, c_2 and c_3 such that in the regime where $\|\theta\|^2 \geq c_1 \left(\frac{d}{n} \vee \delta \right)$,

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\left| \tilde{\theta}^2 - \|\theta\|^2 \right| \geq \frac{\|\theta\|^2}{2} \right) \leq c_2 e^{-c_3 n \|\theta\|^2}.$$

This shows that $\tilde{\theta}^2$ is an appropriate estimator of $\|\theta\|^2$ up to multiplicative constants.

- Clustering is easier under the slowly mixing regime.
- Unexpected behavior of the Bayes risk in some regimes.
- Many questions are still not answered: full adaptation, high dimension, estimation of δ .



Gassiat, Elisabeth, Ibrahim Kaddouri **and** Zacharie Naulet (2023). “Clustering and Classification Risks in Non-parametric Hidden Markov and I.I.D. Models”. [inarXiv: 2309.12238 \[stat.ST\]](#).



Karagulyan, Vahe **and** Mohamed Ndaoud (2024). “Adaptive Mean Estimation in the Hidden Markov sub-Gaussian Mixture Model”. [inarXiv: 2406.12446 \[stat.ST\]](#).