

Parameter Estimation for HMMs

Example: let both the emitted sequence \vec{x} and the hidden state sequence \vec{z} be known, but the transition and emission parameters be unknown. Let $K = 2$ and $B = 2$, so two hidden states $\{0,1\}$ and two possible observations $\{0,1\}$. Let

$$\vec{z} = [1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0]$$

$$\vec{x} = [0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0]$$

1. Warmup: what is L ?

2. Let

$$A_{kl} = \# \text{ of transitions from } k \rightarrow l \text{ in the data}$$

$$E_k(b) = \# \text{ of emissions of } b \text{ from state } k \text{ in the data}$$

Fill in the tables below for A_{kl} (row: start state, col: end state) and $E_k(b)$ (row: hidden state, col: emitted state).

A	$l = 0$	$l = 1$
$k = 0$		
$k = 1$		

E	$b = 0$	$b = 1$
$k = 0$		
$k = 1$		

3. To estimate the transition probabilities a_{kl} and emission probabilities $e_k(b)$, we will divide each of the counts above by the sum of the counts in each row:

$$a_{kl} = \frac{A_{kl}}{\sum_{l'} A_{kl'}}, \quad e_k(b) = \frac{E_k(b)}{\sum_{b'} E_k(b')}$$

Use this idea to fill in the tables for a_{kl} and $e_k(b)$.

a	$l = 0$	$l = 1$
$k = 0$		
$k = 1$		

e	$b = 0$	$b = 1$
$k = 0$		
$k = 1$		

4. What could go wrong with this estimation procedure if we don't observe some transitions and/or emissions?

5. How could you estimate initial probabilities (π_k for each state k) as well?