Impact of some model misspecification in multi-response HSMM - application to fruit tree.

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Biological model, motivation and problem statement

Illustration of errors of interpretation in case of model misspecification

Model selection by BIC



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- Biological assumption: phases of growth that impact simultaneously all observed variables
- Mathematical model: multi-response HSMM (mHSMM) with
 - hidden states = growth phases
 - observations = categorical variables
- Question: effect of cultivar (among 2) on growth phase lengths and/or compositions in terms of observations.



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Approximate inference

- Inference of mHSMM parameters regardless of cultivar (several trajectories)
- Restoration of hidden chains (Viterbi)
- Estimation of emission and state duration distributions: empirical distribution given restored hidden states (counts)

Data analysis based on the mHSMM model



Conclusion

- Cultivar effect on hidden chains. (state durations)
- Cultivar effect on "terminal flowering"
- Cultivar effect on "shoot type"









[2]: M. Mészáros, Y. Guédon, B. Krška and E. Costes, 'Modelling the bearing and branching behaviors of1-year-old shoots in apricot genotypes,' PLoS ONE, Public Library of Science, 2020.

Contradiction with observations on raw data



- Consistency between observations and parameters on "terminal flowering"
- Contradiction on "shoot type"
 - No cultivar effect on observed variable.
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 - ► Variable "terminal flowering" different between cultivars ⇒ generate different semi-Markov chains.
 - ► Different semi-Markov chains ⇒ Different time frame for a given state ⇒ Difference in variable distribution given state

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Two potential classes of models

State $S_{i,t}$, observation $O_{i,t}^{(c)}$, covariate z_i for sequence (tree) *i*.

 $(\mathsf{mHSMM}) \begin{cases} (1) \quad (S_{i,t})_t \text{ unidirectional (Left-right) SMM with state duration potentially dependent on } z_i : \\ \mathbb{P}[S_{i,[t+1:t+d]} = s|z_i] := f(d|s, z_i) \\ (2) \quad (O_{i,t}^{(1)})_t \text{ independent given } (S_{i,t})_t \text{ with emission distribution potentially dependent on } z_i : \\ \mathbb{P}[O_{i,t}^{(1)} = x|S_{i,t} = s, z_i] = g_1(x|s, z_i) \\ (3) \quad (O_{i,t}^{(2)})_t \text{ independent given } (S_{i,t})_t \text{ with emission distribution potentially dependent on } z_i : \\ \mathbb{P}[O_{i,t}^{(2)} = x|S_{i,t} = s, z_i] = g_2(x|s, z_i) \end{cases}$

- $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (1) \quad (S_{i,t})_t \text{ undirectional SMM with state duration potentially dependent on } z_i : \\ \mathbb{P}[S_{i,[t+1:t+d]} = s|z_i] := f(d|s, z_i) \\ \\ (2) \quad (O_{i,t}^{(1)})_t \text{ independent given } (S_{i,t})_t \text{ with emission distribution potentially dependent on } z_i : \\ \mathbb{P}[O_{i,t}^{(1)} = x|S_{i,t} = s, z_i] = g(x|s, z_i) \\ \\ (3) \quad (O_{i,t}^{(2)})_t \text{ follows a regression model on time, does not depend on } (S_{i,t})_t \\ \text{ and may depends on } z_i : \\ O_{i,t}^{(2)} \sim \mathcal{D}(\theta(t)) \end{array} \right.$

State transitions are necessarily $s \rightarrow s + 1$

Goals

- To emphasize using simulations that considering wrong models may lead to wrong interpretation.
- Illustrate that BIC may select the correct model
- Application to our true data set

Remark

In (reg-HSMM) we will consider a simple parametric regression model: two-piece "histogram" (Bernoulli single change-point model).

Simulations under true (reg-HSMM) and estimation based on (mHSMM)





(Erroneous) conclusion: Emission distribution for $O^{(2)}$ depends on cultivar \Rightarrow cultivar effect on $O^{(2)}$.

Simulations under true (mHSMM) and estimation based on (reg-HSMM)



(Erroneous) conclusion: dynamics for $O^{(2)}$ depends on cultivar \Rightarrow cultivar effect on zone length with low flowering probability on $O^{(2)}$

BIC for model selection

 $BIC = log(likelihood) - 0.5 \nu log(nb obs)$ (maximize over models; ν number of free parameters)

- 50 simulations of *n* trajectories of length *T* under either (mHSMM) or (reg-HSMM) (parameters as in previous examples).
- Estimate both models and compute BIC.

Simulation under (reg-HSMM); n = 50, 10, 8, 6, 4, 3, 2; T = 240, 50



nb trajectories <i>n</i>	4	3	2
correct selection			
rate (BIC)	100 %	100 %	100 %

Rate of BIC selecting (reg-HSMM)

Boxplot of BIC values over 50 simulations (n = 2, T = 50)

BIC for model selection: simulation under mHSMM

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Rate of BIC selecting (mHSMM)

Results on true data set

Example: cultivar 1, variable 1 as (reg-HSMM), variables 2 and 3 as (mHSMM)

- Categorical reg variable with 5 categories, one change point.
- BIC mHSMM = -2,755 < BIC regHSMM = -2,542</p>

 Suggests (either?) unique, synchronous change for variable 1, independent on HSMM states

Complicates model selection



Apple tree data set: cultivar 1. Marginal distribution of (reg) variable 1, emission distribution for mHSMM variables 2 and 3 and restored state sequences (3 states: sufficient?)

Conclusion et perspectives

- Summary
 - Classic model for fruit tree flowering (and other plant/organ development) : multi-response HSMM
 - Observations on our data: potential alternative model
 - Model misspecification can lead to erroneous biological conclusions
 - BIC for model selection has promising behaviour
- Perspectives
 - Evaluation of BIC on a realistic model (parameters estimated from data, multiple change-point models with common parameters between trajectories or other regression models)
 - Study of the consistency of BIC in model selection
 - Exploration of the combinatorics of models on true data (which variables are reg-, which ones are mHSMM and then, with how many change-points / states...?)