



清华大学 交叉信息研究院

Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences, Tsinghua University



PAUL G. ALLEN SCHOOL
OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Variance-Aware Sparse Linear Bandits

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Presented by Yan Dai



Problem Setup & Related Work

- A T -round game between an agent and an environment with **heteroscedastic noises**



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- In round t , agent picks action a_t from d -dim unit sphere \mathbb{S}^{d-1} and observes $r(a_t) + \eta_t$:
 $r(a_t) = \langle a_t, \theta^* \rangle$, $\eta_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\mathbf{t}}^2)$, both θ^* and $\{\sigma_t^2\}_{t=1}^T$ are **unknown**



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	Setting	Regret
Abbasi-Yadkori et al. (2012)	Sparse Linear Bandit with $\sigma_t \equiv 1$	$\tilde{O}(\sqrt{sdT})$
This paper	Sparse Linear Bandit with varying σ_t	$\tilde{O}\left((s^{2.5} + s\sqrt{d})\sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^2} + s^3\right)$

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Main Theorem (informal). For **any** variance-aware linear bandit algorithm \mathcal{A} whose regret $\mathfrak{R}_T^{\mathcal{A}}$ satisfies

$$\mathfrak{R}_T^{\mathcal{A}} = \tilde{O} \left(f(d) \sqrt{\sum \sigma_t^2} + g(d) \right) \text{ for some functions } f, g,$$

our framework gives a variance-aware sparse linear bandit algorithm \mathcal{B} whose regret $\mathfrak{R}_T^{\mathcal{B}}$ satisfies

$$\mathfrak{R}_T^{\mathcal{B}} = \tilde{O} \left((sf(s) + s\sqrt{d}) \sqrt{\sum \sigma_t^2} + sg(s) \right), \text{ giving } \tilde{O}(\text{poly}(s) \sqrt{dT}) \text{ when } \sigma_t \equiv 1 \text{ and } \tilde{O}(\text{poly}(s)) \text{ when } \sigma_t \equiv 0.$$

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Kim et al. (2022)	Linear Bandit (i.e., $s = d$) with varying σ_t	$\tilde{O} \left(d^{1.5} \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^2} + d^2 \right)$



Thank You for Listening!

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