

Banker Online Mirror Descent

— A Universal Approach for Delayed Online Bandit Learning

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[*]: Equal contribution.



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- Agent picks action A_t at each round t = 1, 2, ..., T, but only observes (t, l_{t,A_t}) at the end of round $t + d_t$
- Optimal regret achieved by Zimmert et al. (2020): $O(\sqrt{KT} + \sqrt{D \log K}).$



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 - $O(\sqrt{KT} + \sqrt{D \log K})$ optimal regret **already achieved**
 - But... crucially depend on negative-entropy regularizer
 - Also task specific not generalize to other problems
- Want **a universal approach** to handle delays robustly!

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 - OMD Algorithm ≈ Regularizer + Step-sizes:

$$x_{t+1} = \arg\min_{x \in A} \left(\eta \langle \tilde{l}_t, x \rangle + D_{\Psi}(x, x_t) \right), \qquad \forall t.$$

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- Sadly, vanilla OMD cannot handle delays





















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Banker-OMD




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- Why Banker?
 - Fine-grained analysis of <u>potential terms</u> due to OMD steps

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- Single-step OMD lemma still holds:

 $\langle x_t - y, \tilde{l}_t \rangle \leq \sigma_t D_{\Psi}(y, x_t) - \sigma_t D_{\Psi}(y, \nabla \overline{\Psi}^*(w'_t)) + \sigma_t D_{\Psi^*}(w'_t, w_t).$



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- Core observation:
 - Convex combination on dual space keeps balance of bookkeeping: $\forall t_1, t_2, \dots, t_I$, we have $\sum_i \sigma_{t_i} D_{\Psi} \left(y, \nabla \overline{\Psi}^* (w'_{t_i}) \right) \ge \sigma_{\Sigma} D_{\Psi} (y, x_*), \quad \text{where } \sigma_{\Sigma} = \sum_i \sigma_{t_i} , x_* = \nabla \overline{\Psi}^* \left(\sum_i \frac{\sigma_{t_i}}{\sigma_{\Sigma}} w'_{t_i} \right).$
 - We are allowed to execute x^* at scale σ_{Σ} "free of charge"!



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High-Level Ideas of Banker-OMD

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 - Apply a "default investment" $x_0 = \left(\frac{1}{K}, \dots, \frac{1}{K}\right)$ (with mirror image w_0)

Dual Space \mathbb{R}^{K}

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^w₀

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 - Consistent rule for regret bookkeeping, ensuring

$$\operatorname{Regret}_{T} \leq \sum_{t} b_{t} \cdot D_{\Psi}(y, x_{0}) + \sum_{t} \sigma_{t} D_{\Psi^{*}}(w_{t}', w_{t}) !$$



Dual Space \mathbb{R}^{K}

 w'_{t_1}

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 σ_t

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Can be executed at scale

 $\sigma_t = \sigma_{t_1} + \sigma_{t_2} + b_t$

 $\nabla\overline{\Psi}{}^*$

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• And... provides general scale rule to deal with delays!

$$\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{D+T}\right)$$
 – style bounds made easy!

 $b_t D_{\Psi}(y, x_0)$ extra cost

Main Theorem of Banker-OMD



• Given a practical algorithm based on vanilla OMD with $\mathcal{O}(C\sqrt{T})$ regret for <u>non-delayed adversarial</u> <u>bandit</u> problem, there is a Banker-OMD based version using the same regularizer, guaranteeing $\mathcal{O}(C\sqrt{T} + C'\sqrt{D\log D})$

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- Non-delayed Algorithm ≈ OMD + Regularizer + Step-sizes
- **Delay-robust** Algorithm ≈ **Banker-OMD**+ Same regularizer + Modified step-sizes



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• State-of-the-art regret bound for <u>non-delayed scale-free MABs</u> (Ours): $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{KT}L\log T + L\log L).$





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• Banker version regret bound for <u>delayed scale-free MABs</u> (Ours): $\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{K(D+T)}L\right)$.



The End

• Thank for listening!

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