

A Proofs of Section 3

Consider a basic full information problem with N experts. Let $R_T(\text{SD}, i)$ be the regret of the SD algorithm with respect to expert i up to time T . We have the following results for the SD algorithm.

Lemma 8. *For any expert $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$, $R_T(\text{SD}, i) \leq 4\sqrt{T \log N} + \log N$, and also for any $1 \leq t \leq T$, $\mathbb{P}(\text{Switch at time } t) \leq \sqrt{\frac{\log N}{T}}$.*

Proof. The proof of the regret bound can be found in [17, Theorem 3]. The proof of the bound on the probability of switch is similar to the proof of Lemma 2 in [17] and is as follows: As shown in [17, Lemma 2], the probability of switch at time t is $\alpha_t = (W_{t-1} - W_t)/W_{t-1}$. Thus, $W_t = (1 - \alpha_t)W_{t-1}$. Because the loss function is bounded in $[0, 1]$, we have that

$$W_t = \sum_{i=1}^N w_{i,t} = \sum_{i=1}^N w_{i,t-1}(1 - \eta)^{c_t(i)} \geq \sum_{i=1}^N w_{i,t-1}(1 - \eta) = (1 - \eta)W_{t-1}.$$

Thus, $1 - \alpha_t \geq 1 - \eta$, and thus, $\alpha_t \leq \eta \leq \sqrt{(\log N)/T}$. \square

A.1 Proof of Theorem 1

In the rest of this section, we write A to denote the OMDP algorithm. For the proof we use the regret decomposition (1):

$$R_T(A, \pi) = B_T(A) + C_T(A, \pi).$$

Lemma 9. *For any policy $\pi \in \Pi$,*

$$\mathbb{E}[C_T(A, \pi)] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi}, \pi)\right] \leq 4\sqrt{T \log |\Pi|} + \log |\Pi|.$$

Proof. Consider the following imaginary game between a learner and an adversary: we have a set of experts (policies) $\Pi = \{\pi^1, \dots, \pi^{|\Pi|}\}$. At round t , the adversary chooses a loss vector $c_t \in [0, 1]^{|\Pi|}$, whose i th element determines the loss of expert π^i at this round. The learner chooses a distribution over experts q_t (defined by the SD algorithm), from which it draws an expert π_t . Next, the learner observes the loss function c_t . From the regret bound for the SD algorithm (Lemma 8), it is guaranteed that for any expert π ,

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \langle c_t, q_t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T c_t(\pi) \leq 4\sqrt{T \log |\Pi|} + \log |\Pi|.$$

Next, we determine how the adversary chooses the loss vector. At time t , the adversary chooses a loss function ℓ_t and sets $c_t(\pi^i) = \mathbb{E}[\ell_t(x_t^{\pi^i}, \pi^i)]$. Noting that $\langle c_t, q_t \rangle = \mathbb{E}[\ell_t(x_t^{\pi_t}, \pi_t)]$ and $c_t(\pi) = \mathbb{E}[\ell_t(x_t^{\pi}, \pi)]$ finishes the proof. \square

Lemma 10. *We have that*

$$\mathbb{E}[B_T(A)] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^A, a_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi_t}, \pi_t)\right] \leq 2\tau^2 \sqrt{\log |\Pi| T}.$$

First, we state the following two lemmas.

Lemma 11 (Lemma 5.1 of Even-Dar et al. [12]). *For any state distribution d , any transition kernel m , and any policies π and π' ,*

$$\|dP(\pi, m) - dP(\pi', m)\|_1 \leq \|\pi - \pi'\|_{\infty, 1}.$$

Note that matrix $P(\pi, m)$ was defined for finite state spaces, but with appropriate modifications the same argument works for continuous state spaces as well.

Lemma 12. *Let α_t be the probability of a policy switch at time t . Then, $\alpha_t \leq \sqrt{\log |\Pi|/T}$.*

Proof. Proof is identical to the proof of Lemma 8. \square

Proof of Lemma 10. Let $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_t)$. Notice that the choice of policies are independent of the state variables. We can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[B_T(A)] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^A, a_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \left(\mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^A=x\}} - \mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^{\pi_t}=x\}} \right) \ell_t(x, \pi_t(x)) \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^A=x\}} - \mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^{\pi_t}=x\}} \right) \ell_t(x, \pi_t(x)) \mid \mathcal{F}_T \right] \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \ell_t(x, \pi_t(x)) \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^A=x\}} - \mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^{\pi_t}=x\}} \right) \mid \mathcal{F}_T \right] \right] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \|\ell_t\|_\infty \left\| \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^A=x\}} - \mathbb{I}_{\{x_t^{\pi_t}=x\}} \right) \mid \mathcal{F}_T \right] \right\|_1 \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \|\ell_t\|_\infty \|u_t - v_{t,t}\|_1 \right] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \|u_t - v_{t,t}\|_1 \right], \tag{2}
\end{aligned}$$

where $u_s = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{I}_{\{x_s^A=x\}} \mid \mathcal{F}_T \right]$ is the distribution of x_s^A for $s \leq t$ and $v_{s,t} = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{I}_{\{x_s^{\pi_t}=x\}} \mid \mathcal{F}_T \right]$ is the distribution of $x_s^{\pi_t}$ for $s \leq t$.⁵ Let E_t be the event of a policy switch at time t . From inequality

$$\|\pi_{t-k} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} \leq \|\pi_{t-k} - \pi_{t-k+1}\|_{\infty,1} + \dots + \|\pi_{t-1} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} \leq 2 \sum_{s=t-k+1}^t \mathbb{I}_{\{E_s\}},$$

and Lemma 12, we get that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\|\pi_{t-k} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} \right] \leq 2 \sqrt{\frac{\log |\Pi|}{T}} k. \tag{3}$$

⁵Notice that \mathcal{F}_T contains only policies, which are independent of the state variables.

Let $P_t^\pi = P(\pi, m_t)$. We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} [\|u_t - v_{t,t}\|_1] &= \mathbb{E} [\|u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_{t-1}} - v_{t-1,t}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t}\|_1] \\
&= \mathbb{E} [\|u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_{t-1}} - u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t} + u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t} - v_{t-1,t}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t}\|_1] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} [\|u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_{t-1}} - u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t}\|_1 + \|u_{t-1}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t} - v_{t-1,t}P_{t-1}^{\pi_t}\|_1] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} [\|\pi_{t-1} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} + e^{-1/\tau} \|u_{t-1} - v_{t-1,t}\|_1] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} [\|\pi_{t-1} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} + e^{-1/\tau} (\|u_{t-2}P_{t-2}^{\pi_{t-2}} - u_{t-2}P_{t-2}^{\pi_t}\|_1 \\
&\quad + \|u_{t-2}P_{t-2}^{\pi_t} - v_{t-2,t}P_{t-2}^{\pi_t}\|_1)] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} [\|\pi_{t-1} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} + e^{-1/\tau} \|\pi_{t-2} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1} + e^{-2/\tau} \|u_{t-2} - v_{t-2,t}\|_1] \\
&\leq \dots \\
&\leq \sum_{k=0}^t e^{-k/\tau} \mathbb{E} [\|\pi_{t-k} - \pi_t\|_{\infty,1}] + e^{-t/\tau} \|u_0 - v_{0,t}\|_1 \\
&\leq \sum_{k=0}^t 2e^{-k/\tau} \sqrt{\frac{\log |\Pi|}{T}} k + 0 \quad \text{By (3)} \\
&\leq 2\sqrt{\frac{\log |\Pi|}{T}} \tau^2, \tag{4}
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that $\|u_0 - v_{0,t}\|_1 = 0$, because the initial distributions are identical. By (4) and (2), we get that

$$\mathbb{E} [B_T(A)] \leq 2\tau^2 \sum_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\frac{\log |\Pi|}{T}} = 2\tau^2 \sqrt{\log |\Pi| T}.$$

□

What makes the analysis possible is the fact that all policies mix no matter what transition kernel is played by the adversary.

Proof of Theorem 1. The result is obvious by Lemmas 9 and 10. □

A.2 Proof of Corollary 2

Proof of Corollary 2. Let $L_T(\pi) = \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^\pi, \pi) \right]$ be the value of policy π . Let $u_{\pi,t}(x) = \mathbb{P}(x_t^\pi = x)$. First, we prove that the value function is Lipschitz with Lipschitz constant τT . The argument is similar to the argument in the proof of Lemma 10. For any π_1 and π_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned}
|L_T(\pi_1) - L_T(\pi_2)| &= \left| \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi_1}, \pi_1) - \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_t(x_t^{\pi_2}, \pi_2) \right] \right| \leq 2 \left| \sum_{t=1}^T \|u_{\pi_1,t} - u_{\pi_2,t}\|_1 \|\ell_t\|_\infty \right| \\
&\leq 2 \left| \sum_{t=1}^T \|u_{\pi_1,t} - u_{\pi_2,t}\|_1 \right|.
\end{aligned}$$

With an argument similar to the one in the proof of Lemma 10, we can show that $\|u_{\pi_1,t} - u_{\pi_2,t}\|_1 \leq \tau \|\pi_1 - \pi_2\|_{\infty,1}$. Thus, $|L_T(\pi_1) - L_T(\pi_2)| \leq \tau T \|\pi_1 - \pi_2\|_{\infty,1}$. Given this and the fact that for any policy $\pi \in \Pi$, there is a policy $\pi' \in \mathcal{C}(\epsilon)$ such that $\|\pi - \pi'\|_{\infty,1} \leq \epsilon$, we get that

$$\mathbb{E} [R_T(\text{OMDP}, \pi)] \leq (4 + 2\tau^2) \sqrt{T \log \mathcal{N}(\epsilon)} + \log \mathcal{N}(\epsilon) + \tau T \epsilon.$$

□

B Proof of Theorem 7

Let $x_{t,l}$ and $a_{t,l}$ denote the state and the action at step l of episode t . Let $x_{t,l}^\pi$ denote the state at stage l of round t if we run policy π . As $c(x, a) = c(n(x), a)$, we can write that

$$R_T(\pi) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi).$$

We have the following regret decomposition:

$$R_T(\pi) = B_T + C_T,$$

where

$$B_T = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L \left(c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) - Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L \right), \quad C_T = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L \left(Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L - c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) \right).$$

We bound these terms in the following sections.

B.1 Bounding $\mathbb{E}[C_T]$

First, we prove the following lemma.

Lemma 13. *Let π be a policy. Let $x = (s, a_0, n_1, a_1, \dots, n_{l-1}, a_{l-1}, n_l)$. We have that*

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \pi(a_0|s) \dots \pi(a_{l-1}|n_{l-1}) \leq |\mathcal{G}|.$$

Proof. For any graph g ,

$$\sum_{x: g \in C(x)} \pi(a_0|s) \dots \pi(a_{l-1}|n_{l-1}) = 1.$$

We get the result by summing over the graphs. \square

Lemma 14. *We have that*

$$\mathbb{E}[C_T] \leq L |\mathcal{G}| \sqrt{T \log \frac{|\mathcal{A}|}{2}} + L \sqrt{8T \log(2T)} + L.$$

Proof. For any step l during an episode t , we have that $Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) = c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) + \mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l}^\pi]$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) &= c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) + \mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l}^\pi] - \mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) + Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t). \end{aligned}$$

For episode t ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t)) &= \sum_{l=1}^L c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l}^\pi] - \mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi]) \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t)) \\ &= -Q_t(s, \pi_t) + \sum_{l=1}^L c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi) \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbb{E}[Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L - c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi)) &= \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbb{E} [Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t)) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Let $\mu_{\pi,t,l}(\cdot)$ be the state distribution at stage l of round t under policy π . For $x = (s, a_0, n_1, a_1, \dots, n_l)$, we can write

$$\mu_{\pi,t,l}(x) = \pi(a_0|s) \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(s, a_0)=n_1\}} \dots \pi(a_{l-1}|n_{l-1}) \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(n_{l-1}, a_{l-1})=n_l\}}.$$

Introduce the notation

$$\pi(a_{0\dots(l-1)}|x) = \pi(a_0|s) \dots \pi(a_{l-1}|n_{l-1}), \quad \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(n_{1\dots l}|x)\}} = \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(s, a_0)=n_1\}} \dots \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(n_{l-1}, a_{l-1})=n_l\}}.$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi)) \right] &= \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \mu_{\pi,t,l}(x) (Q_t(x, \pi_t) - Q_t(x, \pi)) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \sum_{t=1}^T \mu_{\pi,t,l}(x) (Q_t(x, \pi_t) - Q_t(x, \pi)) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \sum_{t=1}^T \pi(a_{0\dots(l-1)}|x) \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(n_{1\dots l}|x)\}} (Q_t(x, \pi_t) - Q_t(x, \pi)) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \pi(a_{0\dots(l-1)}|x) \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{I}_{\{g_t(n_{1\dots l}|x)\}} (Q_t(x, \pi_t) - Q_t(x, \pi)), \end{aligned}$$

where the last step follows from the fact that $\pi(a_{0\dots(l-1)}|x)$ does not depend on time. Thus, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi)) \right] &\leq \sqrt{T \log \frac{|\mathcal{A}|}{2}} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}_l} \pi(a_{0\dots(l-1)}|x) \\ &\leq L |\mathcal{G}| \sqrt{T \log \frac{|\mathcal{A}|}{2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where the first step follows from the regret bound for the EWA algorithm [16] and the second step follows from Lemma 13.

Finally, by an application of Azuma's inequality, we obtain that

$$\sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbb{E} [Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t) | x_{t,l-1}^\pi] - Q_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi_t)) \leq L \sqrt{8T \log(2T)} + L. \quad (7)$$

From (5),(6),(7), we obtain the desired result:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L - c_t(x_{t,l}^\pi, \pi)) \right] \leq L |\mathcal{G}| \sqrt{T \log \frac{|\mathcal{A}|}{2}} + L \sqrt{8T \log(2T)} + L.$$

□

B.2 Bounding $\mathbb{E}[B_T]$

Lemma 15. *We have that $\mathbb{E}[B_T] \leq L \sqrt{8T \log(2T)} + L$.*

Proof. We have that $Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) = \mathbb{E} \left[c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) + Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right]$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) - \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l-1}^{\pi_t} \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l-1}^{\pi_t} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

For episode t ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{l=1}^L \left(Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) - \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l-1}^{\pi_t} \right] \right) &= \sum_{l=1}^L \mathbb{E} \left[c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^L \left(\mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l+1}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l-1}^{\pi_t} \right] \right) \\ &= -Q_t(s, \pi_t) + \sum_{l=1}^L \mathbb{E} \left[c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L \left(\mathbb{E} \left[c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l}^{\pi_t} \right] - Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L \right) = \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L \left(Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) - \mathbb{E} \left[Q_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) \mid x_{t,l-1}^{\pi_t} \right] \right).$$

Thus, by an application of Azuma's inequality, we obtain that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{l=1}^L (c_t(x_{t,l}^{\pi_t}, \pi_t) - Q_t(s, \pi_t)/L) \right] \leq L\sqrt{8T \log(2T)} + L.$$

□

Proof of Theorem 7. The result is obvious by Lemmas 14 and 15.

□