



Advanced Algorithms

Problem Set 5

Issued: Monday May 27, 2019

Exercise 1: Multiplicative Weight Update with Switches

Given n experts, in each round one must choose (the advice of) one expert. There are T rounds in total and T is known in advance. Choosing expert i in round t causes a loss of f_i^t and $|f_i^t| \leq 1$. We saw how to use multiplicative weight updates (MWU) to select experts, such that the *regret*, defined as difference between the expected loss of MWU and the optimal strategy, is in $O(\sqrt{T \ln n})$.

Assume that we want to compare MWU to the best strategy which is allowed to switch from one expert to another at most k times (instead of comparing MWU to just the best expert). In the rounds between switches the latest chosen expert is reused. The minimal loss with k switches is given by

$$\min_{1=t_1 < \dots < t_k < t_{k+1} = T+1} \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{t=t_j}^{t_{j+1}-1} f_i^t \right).$$

Adapt the MWU strategy (where we are allowed to switch each round), such that it has a regret of at most $O(\sqrt{Tk \ln(nT)})$ compared to the optimal strategy with at most k expert switches. Then prove your claim. For which range of k does the *average* regret converge to zero, as $T \rightarrow \infty$?