

# Online Multicalibration and No-Regret Learning

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# Agenda

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- Uncertainty Estimation

- Why Uncertainty Estimation is Challenging

- Our Contributions

- Setting

## Multicalibration

- Deriving Guarantees via Game Theory

- Results

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- Definition and Derivation

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## No-Regret Learning

- No-Regret Classics

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- Online Multivalid Learning: Means, Moments and Prediction Intervals (joint with Varun Gupta, Chris Jung, Mallesh Pai and Aaron Roth)  
(<https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.01739>)

Our Results  $\in$  Uncertainty Quantification  $\cap$  Fair ML

- We show how to obtain uncertainty guarantees in the contextual online adversarial setting...
- With respect to arbitrary collections of “population groups” (= subsets of context space)

Minimax theorem is the main ingredient

Our Technique = Simple & General Game-Theoretic Framework

Yields many flavors of uncertainty estimates

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# On Accuracy and Uncertainty

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- ▶ Traditionally: “Model gets it right most of the time”
- ▶ Recent focus: “Model knows when it does not know”

# On Uncertainties and Subpopulations

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$[\ell(x), u(x)]$  is a 95% marginal prediction interval.

But I'm part of a demographic  
group representing less than  
5% of the population...



# On Uncertainties and Subpopulations

What about for people like me?

For African Americans under the age of 50,  
the 95% prediction interval is  $[a, b]$

For women with a family history of diabetes,  
the 95% prediction interval is  $[c, d]$

For people with egg allergies and no history of smoking,  
the 95% prediction interval is  $[e, f]$

What does this mean for me?

# How Strong Can Uncertainty Guarantees Be?

► Ideally: **Conditional** guarantees

- $f(x) = \mathbb{E}[y|x]$
- $g(x) = \mathbb{E}[(y - \mathbb{E}[y|x])^2|x]$
- $\Pr_y[y \in [\ell(x), u(x)]|x] = 0.95$

► Hardly possible in rich feature spaces: any given  $x$  probably seen at most once (and probably, never)

- A “statistical” way out: make a strong parametric assumption, such as  $\mathbb{E}[y|x] = \langle \theta, x \rangle$ , and estimate uncertainty of  $\theta$

► More realistically: **Marginal** guarantees

- Calibration:  $f(x) = \mathbb{E}[y|f(x)]$
- Marginal Moment:  $\mathbb{E}_{(x,y)}[(y - f(x))^2]$
- Marginal Coverage:  $\Pr_{(x,y)}[y \in [\ell(x), u(x)]] = 0.95$



# Distributional Assumptions

- ▶ Standard assumption in Conformal Prediction theory:
  - ▶ Exchangeability — future looks like past
  - ▶ Only slightly weaker than iid.
- ▶ Such an assumption is often unrealistic:
  - ▶ **Time series data** — disease severity can change over time, future depends on past
  - ▶ **Covariate shift** — as disease moves through population, demographics can change
  - ▶ **Label shift** — better medicine can change outcome distribution conditional on patient's features
  - ▶ **Strategic effects** — lending, hiring, admissions classifiers may need to be frequently retrained, as candidates manipulate their features to exploit current deployed version

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- ▶ We give **stronger-than-marginal** guarantees:
  - ▶ Marginal guarantees (e.g. prediction interval coverage) that hold *for every group  $G$*  (= subset of feature space) in chosen, potentially large/complex, collection  $\mathcal{G}$
- ▶ We assume **nothing** about the data:
  - ▶ Data arrives online, potentially adversarially selected
  - ▶ Allows for correlates, covariate shift, strategic effects, ...

- ▶ Space of contexts  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ A collection of groups  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq 2^{\mathcal{X}}$ 
  - ▶ Can be large and overlapping

In rounds  $t = 1 \dots T$ :

1. Adversary picks a joint distribution over context-label pairs  $(x_t, y_t) \in \mathcal{X} \times [0, 1]$
2. Learner observes realized context  $x_t$
3. Learner makes a prediction regarding  $y_t | x_t$ :
  - ▶ Mean  $\bar{\mu}_t$  (Our guarantee: Multicalibration)
  - ▶ Mean &  $k^{\text{th}}$  moment:  $(\bar{\mu}_t, \bar{m}_t^k)$  (Mean-Moment Multicalibration)
  - ▶ Prediction interval:  $(\ell_t, u_t)$  (Prediction Interval Multivalidity)
4. Learner observes realized label  $y_t$

# Our Plan Now...



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1. Define online multicalibration
2. Cast Learner-Adversary interaction as repeated game
3. Show multicalibration bounds Learner gets by playing well
4. Explicitly show how to *efficiently* solve repeated game

- ▶ At each round  $t$ , Learner predicts mean  $\bar{\mu}_t$
- ▶ Partition  $[0, 1] = B(1) \cup \dots \cup B(n)$ , where  $B(i) = [\frac{i-1}{n}, \frac{i}{n})$ 
  - ▶ Roughly,  $\bar{\mu}_t \in B(i) \iff \bar{\mu}_t \approx \frac{2i-1}{2n}$
- ▶ “Regular” online calibration: For  $i \in [n]$ , over rounds where Learner predicted  $\approx \frac{i}{n}$ , the average true label  $\approx \frac{i}{n}$
- ▶ **Multicalibration** [Hebert-Johnson, Kim, Reingold, Rothblum]: For all groups  $G \in \mathcal{G}$ , be calibrated over rounds where  $x_t \in G$

## Definition (Online Multicalibration)

- ▶ For  $G \in \mathcal{G}, i \in [n], s \in [T]$ , let

$$V_s^{G,i} = \sum_{t=1}^s 1[x_t \in G, \bar{\mu}_t \in B(i)] \cdot (y_t - \bar{\mu}_t)$$

- ▶ Learner is  $(\alpha, n)$ -multicalibrated if

$$\frac{1}{T} \max_{G \in \mathcal{G}, i \in [n]} |V_T^{G,i}| \leq \alpha$$

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# Multicalibration

## Analyzing the Definition



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- ▶ What is the structure of this definition?
  - ▶ Asks to satisfy  $2|G|n$  constraints of the form:  $\pm V_T^{G,i} \leq \alpha T$
  - ▶ Each constraint is a sum of terms linear in  $y_1, \dots, y_T$
- ▶ To make this tractable, there are 3 hurdles to overcome:
  1. Overall objective  $\max |V_T^{G,i}|$  analytically inconvenient: non-smooth!
  2. All constraints are sums *over all rounds*  $1 \dots T$  — but Learner needs to make decisions affecting these constraints *at every round*
  3. At every round, Learner has to predict label mean *without any knowledge* of Adversary's conditional distribution  $y_t|x_t$  — how is this possible?

# Making Multicalibration Tractable

Pick a Surrogate Loss...



- ▶ We are unhappy that overall objective
  1. is a *max* of many constraints — hence nonsmooth
  2. takes into account all of the rounds — while Learner's decisions are local to each round
- ▶ Let's solve both these issues!
- ▶ First, instead of  $\max_{G \in \mathcal{G}, i \in [n]} |V_T^{G,i}|$ , switch to *surrogate loss*

$$L_T = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}, i \in [n]} \exp(\eta V_T^{G,i}) + \exp(-\eta V_T^{G,i})$$

- ▶ Known as *softmax* — smoothly approximates maximum
- ▶ Now that our loss is smooth, we can bound its increase at any round  $t$  via Taylor ( $e^x \leq 1 + x + x^2$  for  $|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ):

$$\Delta_t(y_t, \bar{\mu}_t) = L_t - L_{t-1} \leq \eta(y_t - \bar{\mu}_t) C_{t-1}^{\text{bucket of } \bar{\mu}_t}(x_t) + 2\eta^2 L_{t-1},$$

where for  $i \in [n]$ , let  $C_{t-1}^i = \sum_{G \ni x_t} \exp(\eta V_{t-1}^{G,i}) - \exp(-\eta V_{t-1}^{G,i})$

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# Making Multicalibration Tractable

Be Greedy...



- ▶ Loss increments bounded as:

$$\Delta_t(y_t, \bar{\mu}_t) \leq A \cdot (y_t - \bar{\mu}_t) C_{t-1}^{\text{bucket of } \bar{\mu}_t}(x_t) + B$$

- ▶ If at all rounds  $t$ , Learner gets prediction  $\bar{\mu}_t$  close to true label  $y_t$ , then all  $\Delta_t$  will be small
- ▶ If all  $\Delta_t$  small, can bound  $L_T$  by “telescoping”
- ▶ Make Learner greedy — at round  $t$ , chooses  $\bar{\mu}_t$  so as to make  $\Delta_t$  small *without regard* to future rounds

Let us focus on any round  $t$ ...

- ▶ Imagine Learner-Adversary interaction as 2-player game:
  - ▶ Contested quantity is  $u(y_t, \bar{\mu}_t) = (y_t - \bar{\mu}_t) C_{t-1}^{\text{bucket of } \bar{\mu}_t}(x_t)$
  - ▶ Learner wants it to be small, goes first and plays (distribution over)  $\bar{\mu}_t$
  - ▶ Adversary wants it to be large, goes second and plays  $y_t$
- ▶ Learner seems handicapped here... False impression!

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# Making Multicalibration Tractable

...And Win the Game!

- ▶ **Minimax Theorem of Zero-Sum Games:** For any 2 player zero sum game with finite action sets  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$  and utility  $u$ , order of play does not matter:

$$\min_{q_1 \in \Delta A_1} \max_{a_2 \in A_2} u(q_1, a_2) = \max_{q_2 \in \Delta A_2} \min_{a_1 \in A_1} u(a_1, q_2) = \text{value of game}$$

- ▶ To use this result, restrict Learner's action set to be finite:  $\{0, \frac{1}{rn}, \dots, 1\}$  for some  $r$
- ▶ Thus despite going first, Learner has a *minimax optimal* strategy, which obtains the best possible bound on  $\Delta_t$ :
  - ▶ As good as if Learner first got to see Adversary's label  $y_t$
- ▶ But if Learner knew true label, would make  $|y_t - \bar{\mu}_t| \leq \frac{1}{2rn}$ 
  - ▶ Minimax strategy achieves this even though Learner actually goes first!
- ▶ Now **unwrap**: Plug  $\frac{1}{2rn}$  back into bound on  $\Delta_t \Rightarrow$  bound  $L_T \Rightarrow$  bound  $\max |V_T^{G,i}| \Rightarrow$  get multicalibration guarantee

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## Theorem

Given: collection of groups  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $n$  buckets,  $\epsilon > 0$ .  
Can make Learner  $(\alpha, n)$ -multicalibrated, where:

- (High-Probability Bound)  $\forall \lambda \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$\alpha \leq (4 + \epsilon) \sqrt{\frac{2}{T} \ln \left( \frac{2|\mathcal{G}|n}{\lambda} \right)} \text{ with prob. } 1 - \lambda;$$

- (In-Expectation Bound)

$$\mathbb{E}[\alpha] \leq (2 + \epsilon) \sqrt{\frac{2}{T} \ln (2|\mathcal{G}|n)}.$$

- If every  $x_t$  is in  $\leq d$  groups, can replace  $|\mathcal{G}|$  with  $d$

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# Algorithm: A Multicalibrated Learner

At each round  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

- For all  $i \in [n]$ , compute “historical quantities”

$$C_{t-1}^i(x_t) = \sum_{G \ni x_t} \exp(\eta V_{t-1}^{G,i}) - \exp(-\eta V_{t-1}^{G,i})$$

- There are 3 cases:

- $C_{t-1}^i(x_t) > 0$  for all  $i \in [n]$ : Predict  $\bar{\mu}_t = 1$  with prob. 1
- $C_{t-1}^i(x_t) < 0$  for all  $i \in [n]$ : Predict  $\bar{\mu}_t = 0$  with prob. 1
- $C_{t-1}^j(x_t) \cdot C_{t-1}^{j+1}(x_t) \leq 0$  for some  $j \in [n]$ :

$$\text{Predict } \bar{\mu}_t = \begin{cases} \frac{j}{n} - \frac{1}{n} & \text{with prob. } q_t = \frac{|C_{t-1}^{j+1}(x_t)|}{|C_{t-1}^j(x_t)| + |C_{t-1}^{j+1}(x_t)|}, \\ \frac{j}{n} & \text{with remaining prob.} \end{cases}$$

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1. Define prediction interval multivalidity
2. Derive existential guarantees — same steps as before
3. Display efficient algorithm that achieves these guarantees

# Prediction Interval Multivalidity

- ▶ At each round, Learner predicts interval  $(\ell_t, u_t)$ 
  - ▶ Bucketing:  $(\ell, u) \in B(i, j) \iff \ell \approx \frac{i}{n} \ \& \ u \approx \frac{j}{n}$
- ▶ **Goal:** For  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , predict  $(\ell, u)$  s.t.  $\Pr[y \in (\ell, u)] \approx 1 - \delta$ 
  - ▶ And this should hold conditional on  $x_t \in G$  for all  $G \in \mathcal{G}$
- ▶ For all  $G \in \mathcal{G}, (i, j) \in [n] \times [n], s \in [T]$ , let

$$V_s^{G, (i, j)} = \sum_{t=1}^s \mathbf{1}[x_t \in G, (\ell_t, u_t) \in B(i, j)] \cdot \overbrace{(1[y_t \in (\ell_t, u_t)] - (1 - \delta))}^{\text{coverage} \approx 1 - \delta}$$

## Definition (Prediction Interval Multivalidity)

Learner's prediction intervals are  $(\alpha, n)$ -multivalid if

$$\frac{1}{T} \max_{G \in \mathcal{G}, (i, j) \in [n] \times [n]} |V_T^{G, (i, j)}| \leq \alpha$$

- ▶ Also assume Adversary  $\rho$ -smooth:  $\Pr[y_t \in [a, b] \text{ of len } \leq \frac{1}{m}] \leq \rho$ 
  - ▶ E.g. if label always 1, any  $(\ell, u)$  has coverage 0/1, not  $1 - \delta$

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# Deriving Prediction Interval Guarantees

We know the drill:

- Switch to softmax loss

$$L_T = \sum_{G,(i,j)} \exp(\eta V_T^{G,(i,j)}) + \exp(-\eta V_T^{G,(i,j)})$$

- Bound one-step differences  $\Delta_t((\ell_t, u_t), y_t) = L_t - L_{t-1}$  using  $e^x \leq 1 + x + x^2$  for  $|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$
- Consider zero-sum game with payoff = (bound on  $\Delta_t$ ), where Learner is the min player
- Assuming Learner plays minimax optimally, get existential bounds via telescoping
  - Consider: If Learner knew true label distribution, easy to build good prediction interval!
- Give efficient alg for finding minimax optimal strategy

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## Theorem

Given:  $n$  buckets, coverage param  $\delta$ , adversary  $\rho$ -smooth.

Can get:  $(\alpha, n)$ -multivalid  $(1 - \delta)\%$  prediction intervals, where:

- (High-Probability Bound)  $\forall \lambda \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$\alpha \leq \rho + 4\sqrt{\frac{2}{T} \ln \left( \frac{2|\mathcal{G}|n^2}{\lambda} \right)} \text{ with prob. } 1 - \lambda;$$

- (In-Expectation Bound)

$$\mathbb{E}[\alpha] \leq \rho + 2\sqrt{\frac{2 \ln (2|\mathcal{G}|n^2)}{T}}.$$

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# Algorithm: Multivalid Prediction Intervals

At each round  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

- For all  $(i, j) \in [n] \times [n]$ , compute “historical quantities”

$$G_{t-1}^{\ell, u}(x_t) = \sum_{G \ni x_t} \exp\left(\eta V_{t-1}^{G, (i, j)}\right) - \exp\left(-\eta V_{t-1}^{G, (i, j)}\right)$$

- Solve the following LP (using Ellipsoid with sep. oracle) — “Find distr.  $Q_t^L$  over intervals that works against any adversarial distr.  $Q^A$  over labels”:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{Q_t^L \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{int}}^m} \gamma \text{ s.t.} \\ & \forall Q^A \in \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{\rho, m}: \sum_{y \in \mathcal{P}^m} Q^A(y) \sum_{(\ell, u) \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{int}}^m} Q_t^L(\ell, u) G_{t-1}^{\ell, u}(x_t) (1[y \in (\ell, u)] - (1 - \delta)) \leq \gamma, \\ & \sum_{(\ell, u) \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{int}}^m} Q_t^L(\ell, u) = 1, \\ & \forall (\ell, u) \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{int}}^m: Q_t^L(\ell, u) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Linear Program to compute Learner's round- $t$  minimax strategy.

- Predict interval  $(\ell_t, u_t)$  sampled from  $Q_t^L$ .

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- ▶ We have presented a general technique which obtains *stronger-than-marginal* uncertainty guarantees in an *adversarial* online setting
- ▶ Both *in-expectation* and *high-probability* guarantees are available
- ▶ Besides providing *existential guarantees*, our algorithms derived in this framework are *efficiently implementable*

# Future Directions

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- ▶ We believe our results may be extended along a few directions:
  - ▶ From binary to multilabel settings
  - ▶ From prediction intervals to *prediction sets*
- ▶ Can the prediction intervals algorithm be implemented even *more* efficiently to make it fully practical?
  - ▶ Currently uses Ellipsoid method (efficient but slow!)
- ▶ Experimental evaluation of our algorithms
  - ▶ Do they empirically perform better on distributional data?

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- ▶ Our game-theoretic framework can be naturally extended to more general online environments with convex-concave vector losses
- ▶ See <https://arxiv.org/abs/2108.03837>
- ▶ In the same manner as for multicalibration, it lets one easily design efficient algorithms for:
  - ▶ Very general no-regret settings (external, internal, sleeping experts, adaptive, multigroup, ...)
  - ▶ Blackwell approachability on polytopes
  - ▶ ...

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# No-Regret Learning, Classical Setting

Learner has a finite set of pure actions (“experts”)  $\mathcal{A}$ .  
In rounds  $t = 1 \dots T$ :

1. Learner picks a distribution  $x_t$  over actions  $\mathcal{A}$
2. Adversary picks bounded vector of losses for each action:  
 $r^t \in [0, 1]^{\mathcal{A}}$
3. Learner samples action for this round:  $a_t \sim x_t$
4. Learner experiences loss  $r_{a_t}^t$  for this round, and gets to observe the entire vector of losses  $r^t$ .
  - If Learner could only observe  $r_{a_t}^t$  (loss of taken action), that would be called **bandit feedback**

Learner’s goal is to ensure that **external regret** is sublinear in  $T$ :

$$\underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^T r_{a_t}^t}_{\text{total incurred loss}} - \underbrace{\min_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_j^t}_{\text{benchmark}} = o(T) \quad \text{in expectation.}$$

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# Exponential Weights Update

- ▶ Want algorithm giving Learner sublinear external regret:

$$\underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^T r_{a_t}^t}_{\text{total incurred loss}} - \underbrace{\min_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_j^t}_{\text{benchmark}} = o(T) \quad \text{in expectation}$$

- ▶ Take “history” into account
- ▶ The more losses action  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  accumulates before round  $t$ , the less Learner wants to pick  $a$  in round  $t$
- ▶ **Exponential Weights Update** with rate  $\eta \in (0, 1/2)$ :  
At round  $t$ , play action  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  with prob. proportional to

$$\exp \left( -\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_a^s \right)$$

- ▶ **Theorem:** With  $\eta \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}$ , EWU has external regret  $O(\sqrt{T})$

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# Other Famous No-Regret Benchmarks

- **Internal Regret:** Family of “substitution” maps  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{A}}$ : identity map  $\mu_{\text{id}}(a) = a$ , and for each pair of actions  $i \neq j$ , map  $\mu_{i \rightarrow j}$  s.t.  $\mu_{i \rightarrow j}(i) = j$  and  $\mu_{i \rightarrow j}(a) = a$  for  $a \neq i$ .

$$\max_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{a_t}^t - r_{\mu(a_t)}^t$$

- **Adaptive Regret:** Do (almost) as well as locally best action on each time interval.

$$\max_{1 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq T} \max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=t_1}^{t_2} r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t$$

- **Sleeping Experts Regret:** At each round  $t$ , only a subset  $\mathcal{A}_t \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  of actions are “awake” (= available to Learner).

$$\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t: j \in \mathcal{A}_t} r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t.$$

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# Deriving Sublinear-Regret for All These Benchmarks and More: General Setting

In rounds  $t = 1 \dots T$ , Learner accumulates a  $d$ -dimensional coordinate-wise bounded ( $\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq C$ ) loss vector.

1. Before round  $t$ , Adversary selects an *environment*:
  - 1.1 Learner's and Adversary's convex compact action sets  $\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{Y}_t$  embedded into a finite-dimensional Euclidean space;
  - 1.2 Continuous vector loss  $\ell^t(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathcal{X}_t \times \mathcal{Y}_t \rightarrow [-C, C]^d$ , with convex-concave coordinates  $\ell_j^t(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathcal{X}_t \times \mathcal{Y}_t \rightarrow [-C, C]$ .
2. Learner selects some  $x_t \in \mathcal{X}^t$ .
3. Adversary observes  $x_t$ , and responds with some  $y_t \in \mathcal{Y}^t$ .
4. Learner suffers (and observes) loss vector  $\ell^t(x_t, y_t)$ .

Adversary-Moves-First Regret:

$$\max_{j \in [d]} \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_j^t(x_t, y_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T w^t,$$

$$\text{where } w^t = \sup_{y_t \in \mathcal{Y}_t} \min_{x_t \in \mathcal{X}_t} \max_{j \in [d]} \ell_j^t(x_t, y_t).$$

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# Adversary-Moves-First Regret

$$\max_{j \in [d]} \sum_{t=1}^T \ell_j^t(x_t, y_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T w^t,$$

$$\text{where } w^t = \sup_{y_t \in \mathcal{Y}_t} \min_{x_t \in \mathcal{X}_t} \max_{j \in [d]} \ell_j^t(x_t, y_t).$$

- Encodes that Learner cares about minimizing **max coordinate in accumulated (= summed over all rounds) loss vector**
- $\sum_t w^t$  is the benchmark:  $w^t$  is the best Learner could do in round  $t$  if Adversary told his strategy in advance (Adversary-Moves-First value)

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# Deriving No-AMF-Regret

- ▶ AMF regret is equivalently  $\max_{j \in [d]} R_j^T$ , where

$$R_j^t = \sum_{s=1}^t \ell_j^s(x_s, y_s) - \sum_{s=1}^t w^s$$

- ▶ This max is nonsmooth, so instead track softmax loss:

$$L^t = \sum_{j \in [d]} \exp(\eta R_j^t)$$

- ▶ Can show a Taylor bound:

$$L^t \leq (4\eta^2 C^2 + 1) L^{t-1} + \underbrace{\eta \sum_{j \in [d]} \exp(\eta R_j^{t-1}) \cdot (\ell_j^t(x_t, y_t) - w^t)}_{:= u^t(x_t, y_t)}$$

- ▶ Learner should play  $x_t \in \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_t} \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}_t} u^t(x, y)$
- ▶ Via minimax theorem + defn of  $w^t$ , turns out:  
 $\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_t} \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}_t} u^t(x, y) = 0$
- ▶ Hence with optimal play,  $L^T \leq (4\eta^2 C^2 + 1)^T d$  for all  $t$ , and can obtain

$$\text{AMF Regret} \leq 4C\sqrt{T \ln d}.$$

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# Reducing External to AMF Regret

► External Regret:  $\sum_{t=1}^T r_{a_t}^t - \min_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_j^t$ .

► Equivalently:

$$\max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t$$

► So define: Learner's space  $\mathcal{X}_t$  = distributions over  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  
Adversary's space  $\mathcal{Y}_t$  = vectors  $r^t \in [0, 1]^{\mathcal{A}}$ ,  
loss vector  $\ell^t$  with  $d = |\mathcal{A}|$  dims, with coordinate  $j$  equal to:

$$\ell_j^t(a, r^t) = r_a^t - r_j^t.$$

► Each Adversary-Moves-First value is:

$$w^t = \sup_{r^t \in \mathcal{Y}_t} \min_{a_t \in \mathcal{A}} \max_{j \in [d]} r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t = 0$$

► If Learner knew action losses  $r^t$  for round  $t$ , would just pick  
 $a = \arg \min_j r_j^t$  and get regret 0 in that round

$$\text{AMF Regret} = \max_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{t=1}^T \underbrace{\ell_j^t(x_t, r_t)}_{\mathbb{E}_{a_t \sim x_t}[r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t]} - \underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^T w^t}_{=0} \implies \mathbb{E}[\text{External Regret}].$$

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# What Is This Algorithm?

- ▶ We use the AMF minimization algorithmic procedure, on the “external-regret” loss coordinates  $\ell_j^t(a, r^t) = r_{a_t}^t - r_j^t$

- ▶ Recall that Learner solves for

$x_t \in \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_t} \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}_t} u^t(x, y)$ , where

$$u^t(x_t, y_t) = \sum_{j \in [d]} \exp\left(\eta R_j^{t-1}\right) \cdot \left(\ell_j^t(x_t, y_t) - w^t\right).$$

- ▶ Recall that

$$R_j^{t-1} = \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \ell_j^s(x_s, y_s) - \sum_{s=1}^t w^s = \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (r_{a_s}^s - r_j^s)$$

$$x_t \in \arg \min_{x \in \Delta \mathcal{A}} \max_{r^t \in [0,1]^{|\mathcal{A}|}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{\exp\left(\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (r_{a_s}^s - r_j^s)\right)}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} \exp\left(\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (r_{a_s}^s - r_i^s)\right)} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim x} [r_a^t - r_j^t],$$

$$= \arg \min_{x \in \Delta \mathcal{A}} \max_{r^t \in [0,1]^{|\mathcal{A}|}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{\exp\left(-\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_j^s\right)}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} \exp\left(-\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_i^s\right)} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim x} [r_a^t - r_j^t],$$

$$= \arg \min_{x \in \Delta \mathcal{A}} \max_{r^t \in [0,1]^{|\mathcal{A}|}} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim x, j \sim \text{EW}_{\eta}(\pi^{t-1})} [r_a^t - r_j^t],$$

- ▶ The unique distribution  $x_t$  that makes this minimax objective 0 is the EW distribution!

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# Summary

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- ▶ The AMF framework is a very general online learning tool for getting low regret relative to vector objectives
- ▶ We derived online multicalibration + prediction intervals
- ▶ Next, we discovered how this framework results in another motivation for the Exponential Weights algorithm
  - ▶ So now you know that EW is just the result of a greedy Learner playing to minimize the short-term increase in the softmax surrogate loss!
- ▶ And in fact we can similarly derive efficient No-X-Regret algorithms for every benchmark X that we know of

Thank you!

