

Problem: UCB and KL-UCB for Bernoulli Bandits,  
 prove that if  $0 < \delta(t) \leq \delta'(t)$ , then  $ucb_a^t \leq ucb_a^{kl,t}$  for any number of pulls  $u_a^t$   
 and empirical mean  $\hat{p}_a^t$

**Solution:**

Given,

UCB:

$$ucb_a^t = \hat{p}_a^t + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right)}$$

KL-UCB:

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} = \operatorname{argmax}_{q \in [0,1]} u_a^t KL(\hat{p}_a^t, q) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)$$

where,  $\delta'(t) = 1/(t \ln t^c)$  for  $c \geq 3$

To Prove:

if  $0 \leq \delta'(t)' \leq \delta(t)$  then  $ucb_a^t \leq ucb_a^{kl,t}$   
 for any number of pulls  $ucb_a^t$  and empirical mean  $\hat{p}_a^t$

Proof:

$$u_a^t KL(\hat{p}_a^t, ucb_a^{kl,t}) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)$$

Using Pinsker's Inequality  $[KL(x, y) \geq 2(x - y)^2]$ ,

$$u_a^t * 2(\hat{p}_a^t - ucb_a^{kl,t})^2 \leq u_a^t KL(\hat{p}_a^t, ucb_a^{kl,t}) = \ln \frac{1}{\delta'(t)}$$

$$(\hat{p}_a^t - ucb_a^{kl,t})^2 \leq \frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)$$

$$|\hat{p}_a^t - ucb_a^{kl,t}| \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)}$$

- Consider case 1,  $\hat{p}_a^t \geq ucb_a^{kl,t}$ :

$$\hat{p}_a^t - ucb_a^{kl,t} \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)}$$

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} \geq \hat{p}_a^t - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)}$$

Since  $0 < \delta(t) \leq \delta'(t)$ ,  
 $\ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right) \leq \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)$

Therefore,

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} \geq \hat{p}_a^t - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right)} = ucb_a^t$$

- Consider case 2,  $\hat{p}_a^t < ucb_a^{kl,t}$ :

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} - \hat{p}_a^t \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)}$$

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} \leq \hat{p}_a^t + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)} \leq \hat{p}_a^t + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right)} = ucb_a^t$$

Since  $0 < \delta(t) \leq \delta'(t)$ ,

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right) \leq \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta'(t)}\right)$$

Therefore,

$$ucb_a^{kl,t} \geq \hat{p}_a^t - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2u_a^t} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\delta(t)}\right)} = ucb_a^t$$

In both cases, we have shown that  $ucb_a^t \leq ucb_a^{kl,t}$