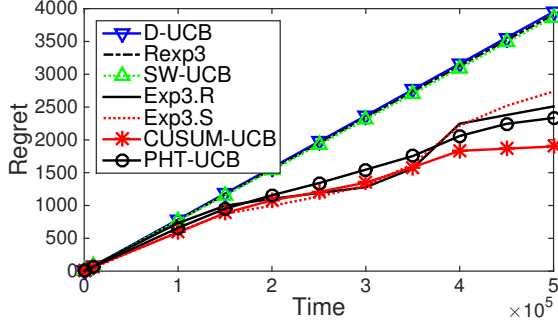


(a) Ground truth



(b) Regret

Figure 3: Rewards and regret over the Yahoo! dataset with $K = 5$

displayed on the Yahoo! Front Page (?). Given the arrival of a user, the goal is to select an article to present to the user, in order to maximize the expected click-through rate, where the reward is a binary value for user click. For the purpose of our experiment, we randomly select the set of 5 articles (i.e., $K = 5$) from a list of 100 permutations of possible articles which overlapped in time the most. To recover the ground truth of the expected click-through rates of the articles, we take the same approach as in ? (?), where the click-through rates were estimated from the dataset by taking the mean of an article's click-through rate every 5000 time ticks (the length of a time tick is about one second), which is shown in Figure 3a.

The regret curves are shown in Figure 3b. We again fit the curves to the model $at^b + c$. The resulting exponents b of D-UCB, Rexp3, SW-UCB, Exp3.R, Exp3.S, CUSUM-UCB and PHT-UCB are 1, 1, 1, 0.81, 0.85, 0.69 and 0.79, respectively. The passively adaptive policies, D-UCB, SW-UCB and Rexp3, receive a linear regret for most of the time. CUSUM-UCB and PHT-UCB achieve much better performance and show sublinear regret, because of their active adaptation to changes. Another observation is that CUSUM-UCB outperforms PHT-UCB. The reason behind is that the Yahoo! dataset has more frequent breakpoints than the switching environment (i.e., high γ_T). Thus, the estimation \hat{y}_k in PHT test may drift away before PHT detects the

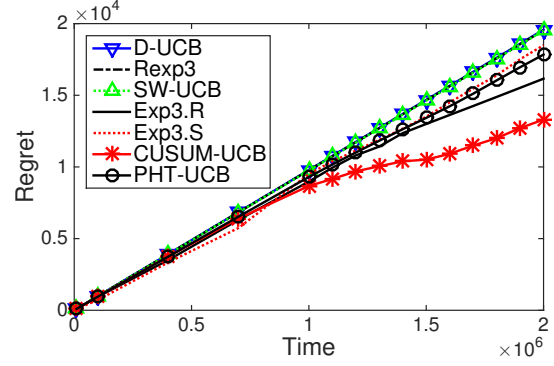


Figure 4: Regret over the Yahoo! dataset with $K = 100$

change, which in turn results in more detection misses and the higher regret.

Yahoo! Experiment 2 ($K = 100$). We repeat the above experiment with $K = 100$. The regret curves are shown in Figure 4. We again fit the curves to the model $at^b + c$. The resulting exponents b of D-UCB, Rexp3, SW-UCB, Exp3.R, Exp3.S, CUSUM-UCB and PHT-UCB are 1, 1, 1, 0.88, 0.9, 0.85 and 0.9, respectively. The passively adaptive policies, D-UCB, SW-UCB and Rexp3, receive a linear regret for most of the time. CUSUM-UCB and PHT-UCB show robust performance in this larger scale experiment.

7 Conclusion

We propose a change-detection based framework for multi-armed bandit problems in the non-stationary setting. We study a class of change-detection based policies, CD-UCB, and provide a general regret upper bound given the performance of change detection algorithms. We then develop CUSUM-UCB and PHT-UCB, that actively react to the environment by detecting breakpoints. We analytically show that the regret of CUSUM-UCB is $O(\sqrt{T\gamma_T \log \frac{T}{\gamma_T}})$, which is lower than the regret bound of existing policies for the non-stationary setting. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first regret bound for actively adaptive UCB policies. Finally, we demonstrate that CUSUM-UCB outperforms existing policies via extensive experiments over arbitrary Bernoulli rewards and the real world dataset of webpage click-through rates.

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