

## Agenda:

- Bayesian Regret
- Markov Decision processes

### Bayesian regret:

So far we studied "Frequentist" regret. For an environment  $\mathcal{V}$ , and time step  $n$ , we studied  $R(\mathcal{V}, n)$ . We studied random regret, sometimes we took an expectation with respect to part of randomness in the reward, sometimes we took expectation with respect to all the randomness in the problem.

In the end, our regret bounds hold for all  $\mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{E}$ .

Now consider the case that some one tells us  $\mathcal{V} \sim P_{\mathcal{V}}$  and also tells us, given  $\mathcal{V}$ , what is the exact distribution of reward.

For example, assume for each arm  $i$ ,  $\mu_i \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha_i)$  and the reward is from  $r_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\mu_i)$

Now we can ask, what is  $E_{\mathcal{V} \sim P_{\mathcal{V}}} [R(\mathcal{V}, T)]$ : Bayesian Regret

## Posterior Sampling Reinforcement Learning (PSRL)

### PSRL:

First draw  $\mathcal{V}_1 \sim \text{Prior}$ ,

For  $t = 1, \dots$

Choose the optimal arm of  $\mathcal{V}_t$

Observe  $X_t$

Update the posterior over  $\mathcal{V}_t$

Draw  $\mathcal{V}_{t+1} \sim \text{posterior}$

This simple algorithm usually gives us good Bayesian regret bound.

Example: Consider a 2-armed bandit

where reward of arm 1 is  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_1, 1)$

arm 2 is  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_2, 1)$

where  $\mu_1 \sim \text{prior 1}$

$\mu_2 \sim \text{prior 2}$

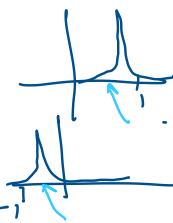
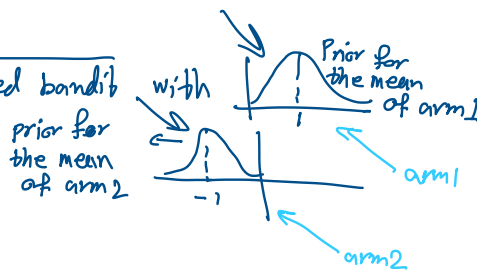
At time  $t$  we compute the Posterior 1  
Posterior 2

draw  $\mu_1 \sim \text{posterior 1} \rightarrow \mu_1$  becomes 0.5

$\mu_2 \sim \text{posterior 2} \rightarrow \mu_2$  becomes -0.2

Therefore arm 1 is optimal for this draw

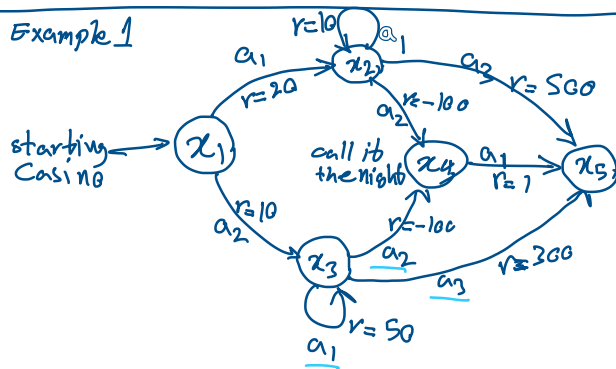
we pull arm 1 and use the reward to update the posterior of arm 1



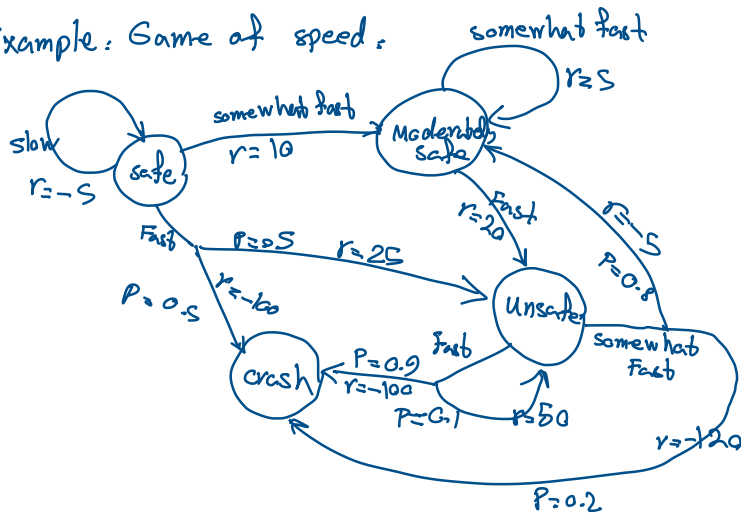
# Markov Decision Process (MDP)

MDP is a controlled Markov process.

## Example 1



## Example: Game of speed



## Example: plain:

stochastic differential equation

$$\rightarrow \dot{x} = f(x, a) + dB$$

restless bandit where under each arm there is a Markov chain