

Reinforcement Learning
Weekly Written Assignment #2

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1 Solution:

Probability approximately correct(PAC) bound for Multi armed bandit(MAB):

Quarter elimination algorithm

Input: $\epsilon > 0, \delta > 0$

Output: An optimal arm

repeat

sample every arm $a \in \delta_l$ for $\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} \log \frac{7}{3\delta}$ times

find the median of sample means $Q_l(a)$ at round l , denoted by m_l

$s_{l+1} = s_l \setminus \{a : Q_l(a) < m_l\}$

$\epsilon_{l+1} = \frac{3}{4}\epsilon_l; \delta_{l+1} = \frac{\delta_l}{2}; l = l + 1$

until $|s_l| = 1$;

end

This algorithm runs $\log_{4/3} K$ rounds K : number of arms

At every round there are two bad events, so summing up there bad probabilities should less than δ_l

event $e_1 = \{Q(a_l^*) < q_*(a_l^*) - \epsilon_l/2\}$;

$P[e_1] \leq 3\delta_l/7$

In the 2nd bad event we get,

$P[\#Badarms \geq 3|s_l|/4 / Q_l(a_l^*) \geq q_*(a_l^*) - \epsilon/2] \leq \frac{4\delta_l}{7}$

So happening of something bad together is $\frac{3\delta_l}{7} + \frac{4\delta_l}{7} = \delta_l$

Hence probability of good is $1 - \delta_l$

After all rounds of algorithm

$\sum_{l=1}^{\log k} \delta_l = \delta/2 + \delta/4 + \dots + \delta/2^{\log_{4/3} k}$

$\sum_{l=1}^{\log k} \delta_l \leq \delta$

$\sum_{l=1}^{\log k} \epsilon_l = (1/4)[\epsilon/(4/3) + \epsilon/(4/3)^2 + \dots + \epsilon/(4/3)^{\log_{4/3} k}]$

$\sum_{l=1}^{\log k} \epsilon_l \leq \epsilon$

showing sample complexity :

$\delta_1 = \delta/2; \delta_l = \delta_{l-1}/2 = \delta/2^l$

$\epsilon_1 = \epsilon/4; \epsilon_l = (3/4)\epsilon_{l-1} = (3/4)^{l-1}\epsilon/4$

$k_1 = k; k_l = (3/4)k_{l-1} = (3/4)^{l-1}k$

Therefore we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{l=1}^{\log_{4/3} k} k_l \frac{\log(7/3\delta_l)}{\epsilon^2/2} &= \sum_{l=1}^{\log_{4/3} k} \frac{2k \log \frac{2^l 7}{3\delta}}{(4/3)^{l-1} ((3/4)^{l-1} \epsilon/4)^2} \\ &= 32 \sum_{l=1}^{\log_{4/3} k} k (4/3)^{l-1} \left[\frac{\log(7/3)}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{\log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon^2} + l \frac{\log(2)}{\epsilon^2} \right] \\ &\leq 32k \frac{\log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon^2} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} (4/3)^{l-1} (lc_1 + c_2) \\ &\leq O(k \frac{\log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon^2}) \end{aligned}$$

Bound for both Median and Quarter elimination algorithm is same.