

1. About  $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1 > \hat{\mu}_2)$ 

Setting:

Best arm  $a_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2)$ . Pulled  $m$  times.

Second best arm  $a_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma^2)$ . Pulled  $n$  times.

So,

Estimation  $\hat{\mu}_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \frac{\sigma^2}{m})$ .

Estimation  $\hat{\mu}_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$

Set  $\Delta = \mu_1 - \mu_2 > 0$ ,

$s^2 = \frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{n}$ ,

$X = \hat{\mu}_1 - \hat{\mu}_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1 - \mu_2, \frac{\sigma^2}{m} + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}) = \mathcal{N}(\Delta, (\sigma s)^2)$ ,

$\Phi(x)$  as the CDF for standard Gaussian distribution.

So,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1 > \hat{\mu}_2) &= \mathbb{P}(X > 0) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P}(X \leq 0) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{X - \Delta}{\sigma s} \leq -\frac{\Delta}{\sigma s}\right) \quad \text{where } \frac{X - \Delta}{\sigma s} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \\ &= 1 - \Phi\left(-\frac{\Delta}{\sigma s}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$n \nearrow \Rightarrow s \searrow \Rightarrow -\frac{\Delta}{\sigma s} \searrow \Rightarrow \Phi\left(-\frac{\Delta}{\sigma s}\right) \searrow \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1 > \hat{\mu}_2) \nearrow$$

When  $n$  increases,  $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1 > \hat{\mu}_2)$  increases monotonously.

## 2. Thought

Although more singals increase the probability to choose the best arm at certain round, the events of  $\hat{\mu}_1 < \hat{\mu}_2$  are more serious. It's harder to recover just by pulling  $a_2$  more.

Instead we should consider how long it will take to achieve  $\hat{\mu}_1 > \hat{\mu}_2$ . For example, given  $\hat{\mu}_1$  and  $\hat{\mu}_2$ . Denote  $Y_n(\hat{\mu}_1)$  as the estimation of  $a_2$ 's mean after  $n$  rounds. The rounds it takes to recover might be

## 3. Formulation attempt

Set estimation of  $\hat{\mu}_1$   $\hat{\mu}_2$  after  $t$  rounds as  $\hat{\mu}_1^t$  and  $\hat{\mu}_2^t$ . They are pulled  $m^t$  and  $n^t$  times.

So,

$$\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^t > \hat{\mu}_2^t) = \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^t > \hat{\mu}_2^t | \hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} > \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1}) \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} > \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1}) + \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^t > \hat{\mu}_2^t | \hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} \leq \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1}) \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} \leq \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1})$$

If  $\hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} > \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1}$ , arm  $a_1$  is chosen last round. Then  $m = m^{t-1} + 1$  in computing  $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^t > \hat{\mu}_2^t | \hat{\mu}_1^{t-1} > \hat{\mu}_2^{t-1})$ . Similarly,  $n = n^{t-1} + 1$  in computing the other condition.

For easier computation,  $m^t = \mathbb{E}(m^t) = m^{t-1} + \mathbb{P}(\hat{\mu}_1^t > \hat{\mu}_2^t)$