ICQ: A Quantization Scheme for Best-Arm Identification Over Bit-Constrained Channels

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Presented by: Adway Girish Information Theory Laboratory





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Classical	Best-Arm	Identification

Team



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Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship India 2022 Winners

Classical Best-Arm Identification	A Distributed Variant	Proposed Solution ICQ	Results 00	Closing 00



Classical Best-Arm Identification

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Classical Best-Arm Identification

2 A Distributed Variant

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- 2 A Distributed Variant
- Proposed Solution ICQ

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Classical Best-Arm Identification

2 A Distributed Variant

Proposed Solution ICQ





• K arms, each with a reward distribution

• K arms, each with a reward distribution (bounded*)

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[https://multithreaded.stitchfix.com/blog/2020/08/05/bandits/]

• Objective: find best arm

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$$\mathbb{P}(au_{\delta} < \infty, J_{ au_{\delta}}
eq J^{*}) < \delta$$

Best-arm identification: Fixed confidence

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- Objective: find best arm highest mean reward
- Fix confidence level $\delta \in (0,1)$; want

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau_{\delta} < \infty, J_{\tau_{\delta}} \neq J^{*}) < \delta, \quad \text{``success w.h.p.''}$$





Round 1, $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$









arms



arms

Round 3, $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$



arms

Round 3, $S = \{1, 2\}$



Round 4, $S = \{1, 2\}$

empirical means



Round 4, $S = \{2\}$

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$$U'(i, \delta) = \sigma \sqrt{\frac{2 \log(4Ki^2/\delta)}{i}}$$

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. . .



- . . .









encode into **s**_{A,i}

inactive in comm. round *i*

pull arm, encode into **s**F.*i*

3/10



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3/10

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Prior Art
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• Conventional MAB algos assume full-precision rewards*

*Lattimore and Szepesvári. Bandit algorithms. Cambridge University Press, 2020

- Conventional MAB algos assume full-precision rewards*
- Adaptive quantization schemes with order-optimal regret^{†‡}

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- Adaptive quantization schemes with order-optimal regret †‡
- Pure exploration over bit-constrained channels[§] but no control over B
- Our work: order-optimal sample complexity, clear dependence on B

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$$\begin{split} |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| &\leq |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \hat{\mu}_{j,i}| + |\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \\ &= \text{ quantization error } + \text{ error in empirical mean} \end{split}$$

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$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{j=1}^{K} \mathbb{P}\bigg(|\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \ge U'(i,\delta) \bigg) < \delta$$

- $\bullet~\mbox{Communication complexity} \rightarrow \mbox{few bits} + \mbox{exponentially sparse}$
- Quantization error \rightarrow new confidence widths

$$\begin{split} |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| &\leq |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \hat{\mu}_{j,i}| + |\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \\ &= \text{ quantization error } + \text{ error in empirical mean} \end{split}$$

• We have
$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{j=1}^{K} \mathbb{P}\left(|\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \ge U'(i,\delta) \right) < \delta$$

• We want $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{j=1}^{K} \mathbb{P}\left(|\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \ge U(i,\delta) \right) < \delta$

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• Quantize $[\alpha, \beta]$ using B = 3 bits



• Quantization error for points in $[\alpha, \beta] \leq$

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• Quantize $[\alpha, \beta]$ using B = 3 bits



• Quantization error for points in $[\alpha, \beta] \leq \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2 \cdot 2^B}$

 $\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$















• $|\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \le |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \hat{\mu}_{j,i}| + |\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j|$ =: quantization error + error in empirical mean



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+



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• Hence, define $U(i, \delta) = + U'(i, \delta)$
ICQ: Confidence intervals



• $|\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j| \le |\tilde{\mu}_{j,i} - \hat{\mu}_{j,i}| + |\hat{\mu}_{j,i} - \mu_j|$ =: quantization error + error in empirical mean

• Hence, define $U(i,\delta) = \frac{1}{2^B} \left[U'(i,\delta) + U(i-1,\delta) \right] + U'(i,\delta)$

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- ${\, \bullet \, }$ With probability $\geq 1-\delta,$ the sample complexity

$$\tau^{\mathsf{ICQ-SE}}_{\delta} \leq \mathcal{O}\left(1 + \frac{1}{2^B}\right)\tau^{\mathsf{SE}}_{\delta}$$

• Only constant factor overhead!

Numerical experiments

 ${\it K}=$ 5 arms; means from ${\sf Beta}(\gamma,1-\gamma)$ distribution, $\gamma\sim{\sf Unif}([0,1])$



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Summary and future directions

• Proposed ICQ:

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 - Extends confidence-bound-based algorithms to bit-constrained settings

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 - More distributed variants

Thank you!