

# Multiple-Play Stochastic Bandits with Shareable Finite-Capacity Arms

Xuchuang Wang<sup>1</sup>, Hong Xie<sup>2</sup>, John C.S. Lui<sup>1</sup>

The Chinese University of Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>, Chongqing University<sup>2</sup>



香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



重庆大学  
CHONGQING UNIVERSITY

June 27, 2022

## Multiple-Play Multi-Armed Bandits

- $K$  arms: each associated with a reward random variable  $X_k$  with mean  $\mu_k$ .
  - Assume  $\mu_1 > \dots > \mu_N > \dots > \mu_K$ .
- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :
  - Pulls  $N$  arms among  $\{1, 2, \dots, K\}$ .
  - Collects reward  $X_{k,t}$  from  $N$  pulled arms.
- Denote action  $\mathbf{a}_t \in \mathbb{N}_+^K$ : if arm  $k$  is pulled then  $a_{k,t} = 1$ ; or otherwise  $a_{k,t} = 0$ .
  - e.g.,  $\mathbf{a}_t = (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$
  - $\sum_{k=1}^K a_{k,t} = N$
- Goal: maximize total reward; or minimize the regret

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)] := \underbrace{\text{Optimal}}_{\text{Orange Box}} - \underbrace{\text{Algorithm's}}_{\text{Blue Box}} .$$

## Multiple-Play Multi-Armed Bandits

- $K$  arms: each associated with a reward random variable  $X_k$  with mean  $\mu_k$ .
  - Assume  $\mu_1 > \dots > \mu_N > \dots > \mu_K$ .
- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :
  - Pulls  $N$  arms among  $\{1, 2, \dots, K\}$ .
  - Collects reward  $X_{k,t}$  from  $N$  pulled arms.
- Denote action  $\mathbf{a}_t \in \mathbb{N}_+^K$ : if arm  $k$  is pulled then  $a_{k,t} = 1$ ; or otherwise  $a_{k,t} = 0$ .
  - e.g.,  $\mathbf{a}_t = (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$
  - $\sum_{k=1}^K a_{k,t} = N$
- Goal: maximize total reward; or minimize the regret

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)] := \underbrace{T \sum_{k=1}^N \mu_k}_{\text{Optimal}} - \underbrace{\text{Algorithm's}}_{\text{Algorithm's}} .$$

## Multiple-Play Multi-Armed Bandits

- $K$  arms: each associated with a reward random variable  $X_k$  with mean  $\mu_k$ .
  - Assume  $\mu_1 > \dots > \mu_N > \dots > \mu_K$ .
- For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :
  - Pulls  $N$  arms among  $\{1, 2, \dots, K\}$ .
  - Collects reward  $X_{k,t}$  from  $N$  pulled arms.
- Denote action  $\mathbf{a}_t \in \mathbb{N}_+^K$ : if arm  $k$  is pulled then  $a_{k,t} = 1$ ; or otherwise  $a_{k,t} = 0$ .
  - e.g.,  $\mathbf{a}_t = (0, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$
  - $\sum_{k=1}^K a_{k,t} = N$
- Goal: maximize total reward; or minimize the regret

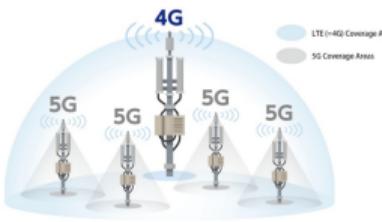
$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)] := \underbrace{T \sum_{k=1}^N \mu_k}_{\text{Optimal}} - \underbrace{\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{k:a_{k,t}=1} \mu_k}_{\text{Algorithm's}}.$$

# Shareable Finite-Capacity Arm

- Each arm has **two unknowns**:
  - “per-load” reward **mean**  $\mu_k$  and integer reward **capacity**  $m_k$ .



(a) Edge Computing [2]



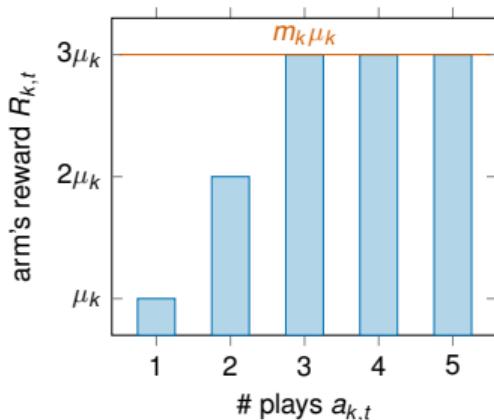
(b) Wireless Network [1]

# Shareable Finite-Capacity Arm

- Each arm has **two unknowns**:
  - “per-load” reward  $\text{mean } \mu_k$  and integer reward  $\text{capacity } m_k$ .
- If  $a_{k,t}$  plays pull the arm  $k$  with  $m_k$   $\text{capacity}$ , then the reward from this arm

$$R_{k,t} := \min\{a_{k,t}, m_k\} X_{k,t} = \begin{cases} a_{k,t} X_{k,t}, & a_{k,t} \leq m_k \\ m_k X_{k,t}, & a_{k,t} > m_k \end{cases}$$

- $X_{k,t}$  is the “per-load” reward random variable.



# Shareable Finite-Capacity Arm

- Each arm has **two unknowns**:
  - “per-load” reward **mean**  $\mu_k$  and integer reward **capacity**  $m_k$ .
- If  $a_{k,t}$  plays pull the arm  $k$  with  $m_k$  **capacity**, then the reward from this arm

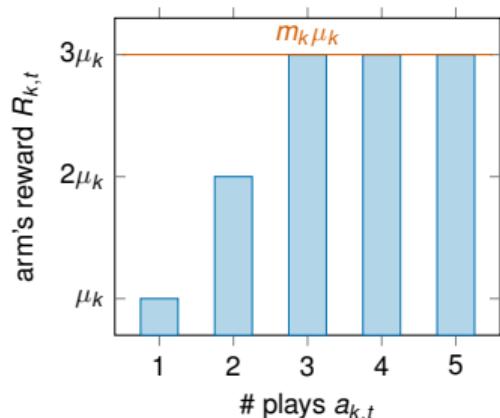
$$R_{k,t} := \min\{a_{k,t}, m_k\} X_{k,t} = \begin{cases} a_{k,t} X_{k,t}, & a_{k,t} \leq m_k \\ m_k X_{k,t}, & a_{k,t} > m_k \end{cases}$$

- $X_{k,t}$  is the “per-load” reward random variable.

- Optimal allocation:

$$\mathbf{a}^* := \left( m_1, \dots, m_{L-1}, N - \sum_{k=1}^{L-1} m_k, 0, \dots, 0 \right)$$

where  $L := \min \left\{ n : \sum_{k=1}^n m_k \geq N \right\}$ , the smallest number of top arms covering  $N$  plays.



## Learn Reward Capacity $m_k$

- Sample Complexity Minimax **Lower Bound** (Gaussian): for any estimator  $\hat{m}_t$

$$n \geq \frac{\sigma_k^2 m_k^2 \log(1/4\delta)}{\mu_k^2}.$$

Explorations can have any number of plays pulling the same arm.

## Learn Reward Capacity $m_k$

- Sample Complexity Minimax Lower Bound (Gaussian): for any estimator  $\hat{m}_t$

$$n \geq \frac{\sigma_k^2 m_k^2 \log(1/4\delta)}{\mu_k^2}.$$

Explorations can have any number of plays pulling the same arm.

- Estimator:  $\hat{m}_t = \frac{\text{"full-load"} \hat{\nu}_{k,t}}{\text{"per-load"} \hat{\mu}_{k,t}} \left( \approx \frac{m_k \mu_k}{\mu_k} \right)$ 
  - Individual exploration (IE,  $a_{k,t} < m_k$ )  $\Rightarrow$  "per-load" reward empirical mean  $\hat{\mu}_{k,t}$
  - United exploration (UE,  $a_{k,t} \geq m_k$ )  $\Rightarrow$  "full-load" reward empirical mean  $\hat{\nu}_{k,t}$

## Learn Reward Capacity $m_k$

- Sample Complexity Minimax **Lower Bound** (Gaussian): for any estimator  $\hat{m}_t$

$$n \geq \frac{\sigma_k^2 m_k^2 \log(1/4\delta)}{\mu_k^2}.$$

Explorations can have any number of plays pulling the same arm.

- Estimator:  $\hat{m}_t = \frac{\text{"full-load"} \hat{\nu}_{k,t}}{\text{"per-load"} \hat{\mu}_{k,t}} \left( \approx \frac{m_k \mu_k}{\mu_k} \right)$ 
  - Individual exploration (IE,  $a_{k,t} < m_k$ )  $\Rightarrow$  "per-load" reward empirical mean  $\hat{\mu}_{k,t}$
  - United exploration (UE,  $a_{k,t} \geq m_k$ )  $\Rightarrow$  "full-load" reward empirical mean  $\hat{\nu}_{k,t}$
- Estimator's Sample Complexity **Upper Bound**:  $\tau_{k,t}$  IEs and  $\iota_{k,t}$  UEs

$$\tau_{k,t}, \iota_{k,t} \leq \frac{49 m_k^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\mu_k^2}.$$

# Regret Minimization for MP-MAB with Shareable Arms

## ■ Regret Lower Bound

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)]}{\log T} \geq \underbrace{\sum_{k=L+1}^K \frac{\Delta_{L,k}}{\text{kl}(\mu_k, \mu_L)}}_{\text{estimate reward mean}} + \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{L-1} \frac{\Delta_{k,L} \sigma^2 m_k^2}{\mu_k^2} + \frac{\Delta_{L,L+1} \sigma^2 m_L^2}{(m_L - \bar{m}_L + 1)^2 \mu_L^2}}_{\text{estimate reward capacity}}$$

# Regret Minimization for MP-MAB with Shareable Arms

## ■ Regret Lower Bound

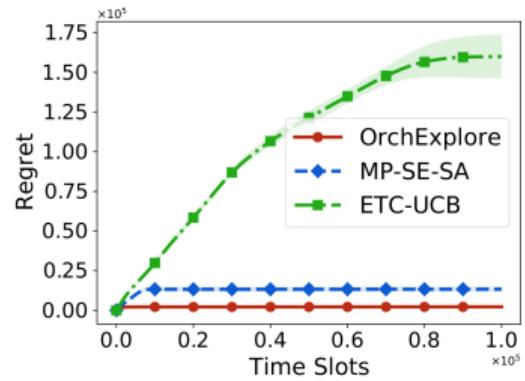
$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)]}{\log T} \geq \underbrace{\sum_{k=L+1}^K \frac{\Delta_{L,k}}{\text{kl}(\mu_k, \mu_L)}}_{\text{estimate reward mean}} + \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{L-1} \frac{\Delta_{k,L} \sigma^2 m_k^2}{\mu_k^2} + \frac{\Delta_{L,L+1} \sigma^2 m_L^2}{(m_L - \bar{m}_L + 1)^2 \mu_L^2}}_{\text{estimate reward capacity}}$$

## ■ OrchExplore Algorithm: Parsimonious IEs + UEs

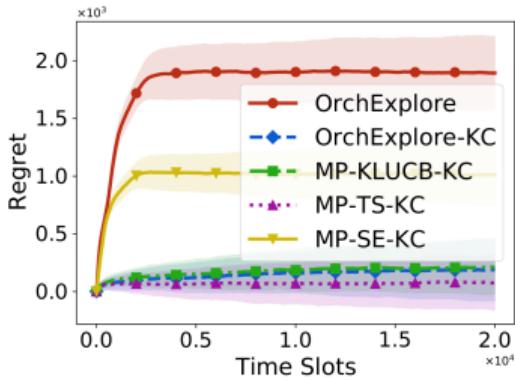
## ■ Regret Upper Bound

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\text{Reg}(T)]}{\log T} \leq \sum_{k=L+1}^K \frac{\Delta_{L,k}}{\text{kl}(\mu_k, \mu_L)} + \sum_{k=1}^{L-1} \frac{49 w_k m_k^2}{\mu_k^2} + \frac{49 w_L m_L^2}{(m_L - \bar{m}_L + 1)^2 \mu_L^2}.$$

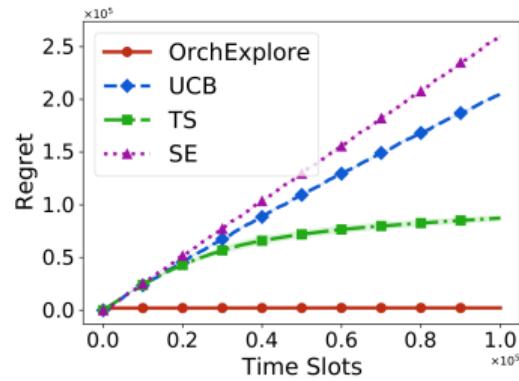
# Simulations



(a) OrchExplore vs. Others



(b) Price of learning  $m_k$



(c) Implicitly learn  $m_k$

# Thank you!

Full paper at [arXiv:2206.08776](https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.08776)

## References I

- [1] Tokyu Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation. Launch of pilot experiment on 5g base-station-sharing business in shibuya, 2019. URL <https://www.sumitomocorp.com/en/africa/news/release/2019/group/12330>.
- [2] SPEC INDIA. What is edge computing? the quick overview explained with examples, 2019. URL <https://www.spec-india.com/blog/what-is-edge-computing-the-quick-overview-explained-with-examp>