

today: limitations of learning

NP hard to achieve small regret

or doing one step of

follow the leader is NP-hard even
approximately

Model: i values v_{ij} for item j

$$v_i(A) = \max_{j \in A} v_{ij}$$

We know: if not regretting (all player)

bidding $(0, \dots, 0, \frac{v_{ij}}{2}, 0, \dots, 0) \forall j$

\Rightarrow Social welfare $\geq \frac{1}{2} \text{OPT}$

bidding $(0, \dots, 0, k\delta, 0, \dots, 0)$ of this form

strategies = # items $\cdot \frac{1}{\delta} = K$

Example today:

Your value $v_{ij} = v$ all j

Opponent bid: $\underline{1} \ll v \ll \underline{v}$
on all items

Sets to opponent bids & are

$T_1, \text{ or } T_2 \text{ or } \dots \text{ or } T_m$ equally likely
non-empty

bidding rationally:

bid 1^+ on a set $S \neq \emptyset$ all others

resulting value (expected)

$$u(S) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i (v | T_i \cap S \neq \emptyset) - \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{price}}}{|T_i \cap S|}$$

Suppose $\max_i |T_i| = d$

$$V = 2dm$$

Claim optimal (near optimal) bid
ensures · winning an item

Proof: e.g. $S = \cup T_i$

$$\text{this gets you: } V = \frac{1}{m} \cdot \sum_i |T_i|$$

if S does not guarantee a win

$$\Rightarrow u(S) \leq v \cdot \frac{m-1}{m} = v - d$$

Recall Hitting Set (NP-hard)

T_1, \dots, T_m non-empty sets

find S s.t. $S \cap T_i \neq \emptyset$ all i
& $|S|$ minimal

Our problem

T_1, \dots, T_m non-empty

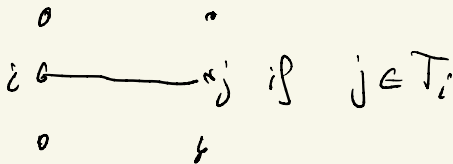
find S s.t. $T_i \cap S \neq \emptyset$ all i

& $\sum_i |T_i \cap S|$ minimal.

variant : regular hitting set also NP-hard

$|T_i| = d$ all i & $|\{i : j \in T_i\}| = r_j = r$
all j

set element



degree
 d

degree
 r

goal find hitting set S

min $|S|$

} NP-hard to
even approximate
to a factor
better than
 $\frac{1}{2} \ln r$

Our objective is find $T_1 \dots T_m$
is part of regular hitting set

$$u(S) = r - \frac{1}{m} \sum_i |S \cap T_i| = r - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j \in S} r_j = \frac{r|S|}{m}$$

\nearrow
hitting set

All poly time algorithm must have
regret due to picking $|S'| \geq \frac{1}{2} \ln r \cdot |S|$

Recall regret in our algorithms

$$O(\sqrt{\ln K \cdot T}) = O(\sqrt{u \log \frac{1}{\delta} \cdot T})$$

$$K = \# \text{strategies} = \left(\frac{1}{\delta}\right)^u$$

$(k, \delta_1, \dots, k_u \delta)$ for u items

Multiplicative weight: too many probabilities
to maintain to run

Follow the leader: cannot implement on step.