

## A Pseudocode of Algorithm 2

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### Algorithm 2: Meta-Expert Learning Algorithm

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**Input:** Time horizon  $T$ ; support size  $K$ ; accuracy of error information  $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_T)$ ; norm parameter  $q \in [1, \infty]$ .

**Output:** A bidding policy  $\pi$ .

**Initialization:** Construct  $T^K$  base experts  $\{f_i\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, T^K$ ) that cover the oracle with cumulative reward difference at most  $O(1)$  (as in the proof of Theorem 5);

**for**  $i = 1, 2, \dots, T^K$  **do**

    | Initialize  $R_{0,f_i} \leftarrow 0$ ;

**end**

Initialize  $R_{0,h} \leftarrow 0, R_{0,g} \leftarrow 0, R_{0,f} \leftarrow 0$ ;

Initialize  $L_0 \leftarrow 0$ ;

**for**  $t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}$  **do**

    The bidder receives private value  $v_t \in [0, 1]$ ;

    Set learning rate  $\eta_{t,1} \leftarrow \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \sqrt{\frac{K \log T}{L_t}} \right\}$ ;

    The bidder observes hint  $h_t \in [0, 1]$ , along with its accuracy  $\sigma_t$ ;

$L_t \leftarrow L_{t-1} + \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}$ ;

    Set  $b_{t,h} \leftarrow h_t + \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}$ ;

    Sample  $b_{t,g}$  according to ChEW policy;

**for**  $i = 1, 2, \dots, T^K$  **do**

        | Let  $b_{t,f} \leftarrow f_i(v_t)$  with probability

$$p_{t,i} := \frac{\exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,f_i})}{\exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,h}) + \sum_{i'=1}^{T^K} \exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,f_{i'}})}$$

**end**

    Let  $b_{t,f} \leftarrow b_{t,h}$  with probability  $p_{t,T^K+1} := \frac{\exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,h})}{\exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,h}) + \sum_{i'=1}^{T^K} \exp(\eta_{t,1} R_{t-1,f_{i'}})}$ ;

    Sample  $b_{t,f} \sim p_t$ ;

    Set learning rate  $\eta_{t,2} \leftarrow \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \sqrt{\frac{\log 3}{L_t}} \right\}$ ;

**for**  $i \in \{f, g, h\}$  **do**

$$P_{t,i} = \frac{\exp(\eta_{t,2} R_{t-1,i})}{\sum_{i' \in \{f, g, h\}} \exp(\eta_{t,2} R_{t-1,i'})}$$

**end**

    The bidder samples policy  $i \sim P_t$  and bids  $b_{t,i}$ ;

    The bidder receives others' highest bid  $m_t$ ;

**for**  $i = 1, 2, \dots, T^K$  **do**

$$R_{t,f_i} \leftarrow R_{t-1,f_i} + r(f_i(v_t); v_t, m_t).$$

**end**

**for**  $i \in \{f, g, h\}$  **do**

        | Update  $R_{t,i} \leftarrow R_{t-1,i} + r(b_{t,i}; v_t, m_t)$ ;

**end**

**end**

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The algorithm has a tree structure with the nodes in the upper layer representing algorithms instead of specific oracles. In Algorithm 2, the upper nodes are respectively: the algorithm that achieves the regret upper bound in Theorem 5 described in Appendix C.1, ‘‘ChEW’’ algorithm to achieve  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{T})$  regret bound proposed in [HZF<sup>+</sup>20], and a single expert which bids  $h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)}$  each time. The probability distribution  $P_{t,i}$  runs the multiplicative weights update on the above strategies (see details in Appendix C.2).

## B Proof of Main Result in Section 3

### B.1 Proof of Regret Upper Bounds in Theorem 1 and Theorem 2

#### B.1.1 Proof of Upper Bound in Theorem 1.

We prove a slightly stronger result than Theorem 1:

**Lemma 1.** *If  $v_t \equiv 1$  and the bidder observes  $\sigma_t$  at each time  $t$ , then the following regret upper bound holds for Algorithm 1:*

$$\sup_{\{m_t, h_t, \sigma_t\}} \text{Reg}(\pi_1) = O \left( \log T + \sqrt{\log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \right),$$

with  $\text{Reg}(\pi)$  defined in (2), and the supremum is taken over all  $m_t$  sequences and hints that satisfy (3), and the infimum is taken over all possible policies  $\pi$ .

*Proof.* The following is similar to proof of Theorem 3 in [HZF<sup>+</sup>20]. As in the standard analysis of multiplicative weights [CBL06], define:

$$\phi_t = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{a=1}^K \exp \left( \eta_t \cdot \sum_{s < t} r_{s,a} \right), \quad t = 1, \dots, T+1.$$

Recall that  $K = T+1$  and  $a^*$  is the extra expert. We translate every  $r_{t,a}$  by  $-r_{t,a^*}$  to ensure that  $r_{t,a} \in [-1, 1]$  and  $r_{t,a^*} = 0$ . Then for  $t \in [T]$ , Jensen's inequality with  $\eta_t/\eta_{t+1} \geq 1$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_{t+1})^{\frac{\eta_t}{\eta_{t+1}}} &= \left[ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{a=1}^K \exp \left( \eta_{t+1} \cdot \sum_{s < t+1} r_{s,a} \right) \right]^{\frac{\eta_t}{\eta_{t+1}}} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{K} \sum_{a=1}^K \left[ \exp \left( \eta_{t+1} \cdot \sum_{s < t+1} r_{s,a} \right) \right]^{\frac{\eta_t}{\eta_{t+1}}} \\ &= \phi_t \sum_{a=1}^K p_{t,a} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot r_{t,a}) =: \phi_t \mathbb{E}[\exp(\eta_t X_t)]. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $X_t$  is a random variable that takes value  $r_{t,a}$  with probability  $p_{t,a}$ . Now using Bernstein's inequality

$$\mathbb{E}[\exp(\lambda X)] \leq \exp(\lambda \mathbb{E}[X] + (e^\lambda - \lambda - 1) \text{Var}(X)),$$

with  $|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \leq 1$  almost surely, we have

$$\frac{\log \phi_{t+1}}{\eta_{t+1}} - \frac{\log \phi_t}{\eta_t} \leq \mathbb{E}[X_t] + \frac{e^{\eta_t} - \eta_t - 1}{\eta_t} \text{Var}(X_t) \leq \mathbb{E}[X_t] + \eta_t \text{Var}(X_t),$$

where the last inequality is due to  $e^x - x - 1 \leq x^2$  for  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Define  $r_t^* := \max_{a \in [K]} r_{t,a}$ , we have

$$\text{Var}(X_t) \leq \mathbb{E}[(r_t^* - X_t)^2] \leq 1 \cdot \mathbb{E}[r_t^* - X_t] = r_t^* - \mathbb{E}[X_t].$$

By telescoping and defining  $\eta_{T+1} := \eta_T$ ,

$$\frac{\log \phi_{T+1}}{\eta_T} = \sum_{t=1}^T \left[ \frac{\log \phi_{t+1}}{\eta_{t+1}} - \frac{\log \phi_t}{\eta_t} \right] \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] + \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t (r_t^* - \mathbb{E}[X_t]). \quad (5)$$

For the left-hand side of (5), we also have

$$\log \phi_{T+1} \geq \eta_T \cdot \max_{a \in [K]} \sum_{s=1}^T r_{s,a} - \log K. \quad (6)$$

Combining (5) and (6),

$$\max_{a \in [K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} \leq \frac{\log K}{\eta_T} + \sum_{t=1}^T (1 - \eta_t) \cdot \mathbb{E}[X_t] + \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t \cdot r_t^*. \quad (7)$$

Rearranging (7) leads to the following upper bound on the cumulative regret:

$$\max_{a \in [K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] \leq \frac{\log K}{\eta_T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t r_t^* - \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t \cdot \mathbb{E}[X_t]. \quad (8)$$

Let  $V_T := (\log K)/\eta_T + \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t r_t^*$ , it remains to upper bound the last term of (8). To do so, note that (7) holds for any intermediate value of  $t \in [T]$  as well. Since  $\max_{a \in [K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} \geq \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a^*} = 0$ , for every  $t \in [T]$  we have

$$S_t := \sum_{s=1}^t (1 - \eta_s) \cdot \mathbb{E}[X_s] \geq -\frac{\log K}{\eta_{t+1}} - \sum_{s=1}^t \eta_s \cdot r_s^* = -V_t \geq -V_T,$$

where the last inequality is due to  $\eta_{t+1} \geq \eta_T$  and  $r_t^* \geq r_{t,a^*} = 0$  for every  $t \in [T]$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} -\sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t \cdot \mathbb{E}[X_t] &= -\sum_{t=1}^T (S_t - S_{t-1}) \cdot \frac{\eta_t}{1 - \eta_t} \\ &= -\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} S_t \cdot \left( \frac{\eta_t}{1 - \eta_t} - \frac{\eta_{t+1}}{1 - \eta_{t+1}} \right) - S_T \cdot \frac{\eta_T}{1 - \eta_T} \\ &\leq V_T \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \left( \frac{\eta_t}{1 - \eta_t} - \frac{\eta_{t+1}}{1 - \eta_{t+1}} \right) + V_T \cdot \frac{\eta_T}{1 - \eta_T} \\ &= \frac{V_T \eta_1}{1 - \eta_1} \leq V_T, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used that  $1/4 \geq \eta_1 \geq \eta_2 \geq \dots \geq \eta_T > 0$ . Plugging this inequality back into (7) gives

$$\max_{a \in [K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] \leq 2V_T. \quad (9)$$

Finally it remains to upper bound  $\mathbb{E}[V_T]$ , where the expectation is taken with respect to the randomness in the hint sequence  $\{h_t\}_{t=1}^T$ . Since the definition of the expert  $a^*$  gives that

$$\begin{aligned} r_t^* &\leq (1 - m_t) - (1 - h_t - \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)}) \mathbb{1}(h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \geq m_t) \\ &\leq \begin{cases} h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} - m_t & \text{if } h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \geq m_t \\ 1 & \text{if } h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} < m_t \end{cases}, \end{aligned}$$

we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[r_t^*] &\leq \mathbb{P}(h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} < m_t) + \mathbb{E}[|h_t + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} - m_t|] \\ &\leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[|h_t - m_t|^q]}{(\sigma_t^{q/(q+1)})^q} + (\mathbb{E}[|h_t - m_t|^q])^{1/q} + \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \\ &\leq 2\sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} + \sigma_t \leq 3\sigma_t^{q/(q+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[V_T] &\leq \frac{\log K}{\eta_T} + \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_t \mathbb{E}[r_t^*] \\ &\leq 4 \log K + \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \log K} + 3 \sum_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\frac{\log K}{\sum_{s \leq t} \sigma_s^{q/(q+1)}}} \cdot \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \\ &\leq 4 \log K + 7 \sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{q/(q+1)} \log K}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{j \leq i} a_j}} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\sum_{j \leq i-1} a_j}^{\sum_{j \leq i} a_j} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = \int_0^{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = 2\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i}$$

for any non-negative reals  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ . Plugging the above upper bound of  $\mathbb{E}[V_T]$  into (9) completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

Theorem 1 follows from Lemma 1 and the following Jensen's inequality:

$$\sqrt{\log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \leq \sqrt{\log T \cdot T \cdot \left( \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t}{T} \right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \leq \sqrt{\log T \cdot L^{q/(q+1)} \cdot T^{1/(q+1)}}.$$

### B.1.2 Proof of Upper Bound in Theorem 2.

To achieve the upper bound of Theorem 2, we construct the same  $T$  base experts as Algorithm 1, as well as  $T$  additional experts who bid  $h_t + i/T, i \in [T]$  at each time  $t$ . Then at an additional  $O(1)$  cost in the final regret, the additional experts include an expert who bids  $h_t + \sqrt{L/T}$  at each time  $t$ . Using the same analysis in the proof of Lemma 1, this algorithm achieves a regret upper bound

$$\text{Reg}(\pi_2) \leq 2 \left( \frac{\log(2T)}{\eta} + \eta \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[r_t^*] \right),$$

where  $\eta > 0$  is a fixed learning rate, and

$$r_t^* \leq \begin{cases} h_t + \sqrt{L/T} - m_t & \text{if } h_t + \sqrt{L/T} \geq m_t \\ 1 & \text{if } h_t + \sqrt{L/T} < m_t \end{cases}.$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[r_t^*] &\leq \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[|h_t + \sqrt{L/T} - m_t|] + \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{P}(h_t + \sqrt{L/T} < m_t) \\ &\leq \sqrt{LT} + \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T |h_t - m_t| \right] + \frac{1}{\sqrt{L/T}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T |h_t - m_t| \right] \\ &\leq 2\sqrt{LT} + L \leq 3\sqrt{LT}, \end{aligned}$$

as  $1 \leq L \leq T$ . Now choosing  $\eta = \min\{1/4, \sqrt{(\log T)/\sqrt{LT}}\}$  leads to the regret upper bound  $O\left((\log T)^{\frac{1}{2}} (T \cdot L)^{\frac{1}{4}}\right)$ .

## B.2 Proof of Regret Lower Bounds in Theorem 1 and Theorem 2

### B.2.1 Proof of Lower Bound in Theorem 1.

*Proof.* We use Le Cam's Two-Point method. Construct hint and minimum bid to win as follows: Let  $h_t = \frac{1}{2}, t = 1, \dots, T$  and  $\sigma_t$  be the same for all  $t$  such that  $\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \leq \frac{1}{4}$ . Consider the following two CDFs for  $m_t \in [0, 1]$ :

$$G_1(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } 0 < x < \frac{1}{2} \\ 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x} + \delta), & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < x < \bar{x} \\ 1, & \text{if } \bar{x} < x < 1 \end{cases}, \quad G_2(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } 0 < x < \frac{1}{2} \\ 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x} - \delta), & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < x < \bar{x} \\ 1, & \text{if } \bar{x} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

where  $\bar{x} := \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}$  and let  $\delta < \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}$ . Easy to observe the above construction satisfies:

$$\mathbb{E}[|m_t - h_t|^q] \leq 2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} + \delta\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}\right)^q \leq \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot \left(\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}\right)^q = \sigma^q.$$

Let  $r_1(v_t, b_t)$  and  $r_2(v_t, b_t)$  be the expected instantaneous reward under CDFs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . Then under the above construction:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{b \in [0,1]} r_1(1, b) &= r_1\left(1, \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1 - \bar{x} + \delta}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = 1 - \bar{x} + \delta, \\ \max_{b \in [0,1]} r_2(1, b) &= r_2(1, \bar{x}) = 1 - \bar{x}, \\ \max_{b \in [0,1]} (r_1(1, b) + r_2(1, b)) &= r_1(1, \bar{x}) + r_2(1, \bar{x}) = 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for any  $b_t \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\max_{b \in [0,1]} r_1(1, b) - r_1(1, b_t)\right) + \left(\max_{b \in [0,1]} r_2(1, b) - r_2(1, b_t)\right) \\ &\geq \left(\max_{b \in [0,1]} r_1(1, b)\right) + \left(\max_{b \in [0,1]} r_2(1, b)\right) - \max_{b \in [0,1]} (r_1(1, b) + r_2(1, b)) \\ &= (1 - \bar{x} + \delta) + (1 - \bar{x}) - 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x}) = \delta. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have for any policy  $\pi$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_G \text{Reg}(\pi) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{G_1}[\text{Reg}(\pi)] + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{G_2}[\text{Reg}(\pi)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \mathbb{E}_{P_1^t} \left[ \max_{b \in [0,1]} r_1(1, b) - r_1(1, b_t) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{P_2^t} \left[ \max_{b \in [0,1]} r_2(1, b) - r_2(1, b_t) \right] \right) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \delta \cdot \int \min\{dP_1^t, dP_2^t\} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \delta \cdot (1 - \|P_1^t - P_2^t\|_{\text{TV}}) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} T \delta \cdot (1 - \|P_1^T - P_2^T\|_{\text{TV}}), \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where  $b_t$  in (10) denotes the bid of the oracle chosen by policy  $\pi$  at time  $t$  and  $P_i^t$  ( $i \in \{1, 2\}$ ) denotes the distribution of all observables  $(m_1, \dots, m_{t-1})$  at the beginning of time  $t$ . The KL divergence:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\text{KL}}(P_1^T \| P_2^T) &= (T-1) \cdot D_{\text{KL}}(G_1 \| G_2) \\ &= (T-1) \cdot \left( 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x} + \delta) \cdot \log \frac{1 - \bar{x} + \delta}{1 - \bar{x} - \delta} + 2 \cdot \left(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} - \delta\right) \cdot \log \frac{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} - \delta}{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \delta} \right) \\ &\leq (T-1) \cdot \left( 2 \cdot (1 - \bar{x} + \delta) \cdot \left(\frac{1 - \bar{x} + \delta}{1 - \bar{x} - \delta} - 1\right) + 2 \cdot \left(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} - \delta\right) \cdot \left(\frac{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} - \delta}{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \delta} - 1\right) \right) \\ &= 4 \cdot \delta \cdot (T-1) \cdot \left(\frac{1 - \bar{x} + \delta}{1 - \bar{x} - \delta} - \frac{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} - \delta}{\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \delta}\right) \\ &\leq \frac{4T \cdot \delta^2}{(\bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \delta)(1 - \bar{x} - \delta)} \\ &\leq \frac{16T \cdot \delta^2}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} + \delta} \\ &\leq \frac{32T \cdot \delta^2}{\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking the separation parameter  $\delta = \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \frac{1}{8} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{2(q+1)}} \cdot T^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$  and substituting into (6) leads to the regret lower bound in Theorem 1:

$$\Omega \left( \sqrt{T \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \right) = \Omega \left( \sqrt{L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}}} \right).$$

□

## B.2.2 Proof of Lower Bound in Theorem 2.

*Proof.* At each time  $t$ , let  $v_t = 1$  and point estimation equals to  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Define  $\varepsilon \in [0, \frac{1}{8}]$  to be some parameter relevant to  $L$ . Consider the following two scenarios: (each with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ )

- $\sigma_t$  equals to 0 with probability  $p_1 := 1 - 2(\varepsilon - \delta)$ , and equals to  $\varepsilon$  with probability  $1 - p_1$ , in which case  $m_t$  always takes value  $h_t + \varepsilon$ .
- $\sigma_t$  equals to 0 with probability  $p_2 := 1 - 2(\varepsilon + \delta)$ , and equals to  $\varepsilon$  with probability  $1 - p_2$ , in which case  $m_t$  always takes value  $h_t + \varepsilon$ .

Easy to observe under this construction the expected value of  $L$ :

$$\bar{L} = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \cdot (2(\varepsilon + \delta) + 2(\varepsilon - \delta)) = 2\varepsilon^2 \cdot T.$$

The above construction also satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{b \in [0,1]} R_1(1, b) &= R_1 \left( 1, \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon + \delta, \\ \max_{b \in [0,1]} R_2(1, b) &= R_2 \left( 1, \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon \right) = \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon, \\ \max_{b \in [0,1]} (R_1(1, b) + R_2(1, b)) &= R_1 \left( 1, \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon \right) + R_2 \left( 1, \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon \right) = 2 \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are expected rewards under the two scenarios. The following steps are similar to previous subsection, for any policy  $\pi$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\{m_t, h_t, \sigma_t\}} \text{Reg}(\pi) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_1[\text{Reg}(\pi)] + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_2[\text{Reg}(\pi)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \mathbb{E}_{P_1^t} \left[ \max_{b \in [0,1]} R_1(1, b) - R_1(1, b_t) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{P_2^t} \left[ \max_{b \in [0,1]} R_2(1, b) - R_2(1, b_t) \right] \right) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \delta \cdot \int \min\{dP_1^t, dP_2^t\} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \delta \cdot (1 - \|P_1^t - P_2^t\|_{\text{TV}}) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} T \delta \cdot (1 - \|P_1^T - P_2^T\|_{\text{TV}}), \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

with  $P_1^t$  and  $P_2^t$  defined the same as (10). And the KL divergence

$$\begin{aligned}
D_{\text{KL}}(P_1^T \| P_2^T) &= \sum_{t=1}^T \left( 2(\varepsilon - \delta) \cdot \log \frac{\varepsilon - \delta}{\varepsilon + \delta} + (1 - 2(\varepsilon - \delta)) \cdot \log \frac{1 - 2(\varepsilon - \delta)}{1 - 2(\varepsilon + \delta)} \right) \\
&\leq \sum_{t=1}^T \left( 2(\varepsilon - \delta) \cdot \frac{-2\delta}{\varepsilon + \delta} + (1 - 2(\varepsilon - \delta)) \cdot \frac{4\delta}{1 - 2(\varepsilon + \delta)} \right) \\
&\leq 4\delta T \cdot \left( -\frac{\varepsilon - \delta}{\varepsilon + \delta} + \frac{1 - 2\varepsilon + 2\delta}{1 - 2\varepsilon - 2\delta} \right) \\
&= 8\delta^2 T \cdot \frac{1}{(\varepsilon + \delta)(1 - 2\varepsilon - 2\delta)} \\
&\leq \frac{16T \cdot \delta^2}{\varepsilon}.
\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $\delta = \min \left\{ \varepsilon, \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{2T}} \right\}$  and substitute in (11), we have:

$$\sup_{\{m_t, h_t, \sigma_t\}} \text{Reg}(\pi) \geq \frac{1}{4} \min \left\{ \varepsilon T, \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{T \cdot \varepsilon} \right\},$$

which leads to a lower bound of  $\Omega((T \cdot L)^{\frac{1}{4}})$ . Note that the construction above requires  $\sigma_t$  to be unknown, otherwise one can achieve 0 regret by bidding hint for  $\sigma_t = 0$  and bidding hint  $+\varepsilon$  for  $\sigma = \varepsilon$ , which is a technical explanation for the separation in Section 3.  $\square$

### B.3 Proof of Theorem 3.

*Proof.* If  $L > \left(\sqrt{T}\right)^{\frac{q-1}{q}}$ , then  $T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} > \sqrt{T}$  and the regret can be lower bounded by  $\Omega\left(\sqrt{T}\right)$ .

So in the following construction, we assume  $L \leq \left(\sqrt{T}\right)^{\frac{q-1}{q}}$ . First we divide time horizon to  $\left\lfloor T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor$  equal parts and let  $\sigma_t$  be the same for all  $t$ . Construct private values and hints as follows: For  $t = i \cdot \left\lfloor \left(\frac{T}{L}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor + 1, i \cdot \left\lfloor \left(\frac{T}{L}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor + 2, \dots, (i+1) \cdot \left\lfloor \left(\frac{T}{L}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
v_t &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{i}{T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}, \\
h_t &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \\
m_t &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, & w.p. \quad 1 - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left(\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \pm \delta\right) \\ \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i+1}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, & w.p. \quad \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left(\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \pm \delta\right) \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \left\lfloor T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor - 1$  and  $\delta$  is the separation parameter similarly defined in the proof of Theorem 1. Since  $L \leq \left(\sqrt{T}\right)^{\frac{q-1}{q}}$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \geq \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} = \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}},$$

which ensures any strategy  $\pi$  that bids in  $\left[\frac{1}{4} + \frac{i}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i+1}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}\right]$  for the  $i$ -th part belongs to 1-Lipschitz and monotone oracle. Therefore, we can now consider the whole time horizon as  $\left\lfloor T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor$  independent problems, each of which consists of  $\left\lfloor \left(\frac{T}{L}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor$  time steps and has fixed  $v_t$ . Substituting  $L_i := \left\lfloor \left(\frac{T}{L}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right\rfloor \cdot \sigma$ , which is  $L$  for the  $i$ -th subproblem, and applying similar method

to the proof of Theorem 1, we can get:

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_G \text{Reg}_i(\pi) &= \Omega \left( \sqrt{\left( \left( \frac{T}{\left[ T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right]} \right)^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot \left( \frac{L}{\left[ T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right]} \right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right)} \right) \\ &= \Omega \left( \frac{T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{\left[ T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right]} \right) = \Omega(1), \end{aligned}$$

for each independent problem. Summing over all subproblems leads to the lower bound  $\Omega \left( T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right)$ .  $\square$

#### B.4 Proof of Theorem 4

*Proof.* We prove that even when  $L$  takes expected value  $\Theta(1)$ , the minimax regret is still lower bounded by  $\Omega(\sqrt{T})$ . The proof is similar to that of Theorem 3, but by dividing time horizon into  $\sqrt{T}$  subproblems. At each time  $t$  inside the  $i$ -th subproblem, the bidder observes  $h_t = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i \cdot \varepsilon}{4}$  (where  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}$ ). In the construction of the lower bound in Theorem 2,  $\sigma_t$  equals to 0 with probability  $1 - \Theta(\varepsilon)$  and equals to  $\varepsilon$  with probability  $\Theta(\varepsilon)$ . Thus,

$$\bar{L} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t \right] = T \cdot \varepsilon^2 = \Theta(1).$$

Meanwhile, applying similar method to the proof of Theorem 2, we can get a lower bound of  $\Omega \left( \sqrt{\sqrt{T} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}} \right) = \Omega(1)$  for each independent problem, leading to the final lower bound  $\Omega \left( \sqrt{T} \right)$ .  $\square$

## C Proof of Main Result in Section 4

### C.1 Proof of Theorem 5

#### C.1.1 Proof of Upper Bounds in Theorem 5

*Proof.* In the following subsection, we provide a way to achieve  $O \left( \sqrt{\log T \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot K} \right)$  regret upper bound. \*

Figure 3 shows any function in oracle can be mapped to a piecewise constant function whose value only takes those in the support set, define this mapped function set to be  $A$ . We prove in the appendix that the number of functions in the converted set  $A$  is smaller than  $T^K$ , then applying the algorithm in Theorem 1's proof directly leads to an upper bound of \*

$$O \left( \sqrt{\log(|\text{expert set}|) \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \right) = O \left( \sqrt{\log T \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot K} \right).$$

To show set  $A$  is small enough, let's first imagine walking from  $(1, 0)$  to  $(T, K)$  with each step either to the positive direction of  $x$ -axis or  $y$ -axis exactly by 1. There are  $T + K - 1$  steps in total and one may choose  $K$  of them to go up. Now given any function in  $A$ , suppose at  $x = 1$  the value equals to the  $i$ -th support and at  $x = T$  the value equals to the  $j$ -th support, which can be considered as points  $(1, i)$  and  $(T, j)$ ,  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq K$ . Without loss of monotonicity, we add points  $(0, 0)$  and  $(T + 1, K)$  to the interval-support pairs of this function, i.e. the function takes value of the

\*The other two are described in Appendix A.

\*Although in the proof of Theorem 1 we show an upper bound of  $O \left( \sqrt{\log T \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \right)$ , the proof sketch can indeed be applied to any finite set of experts.



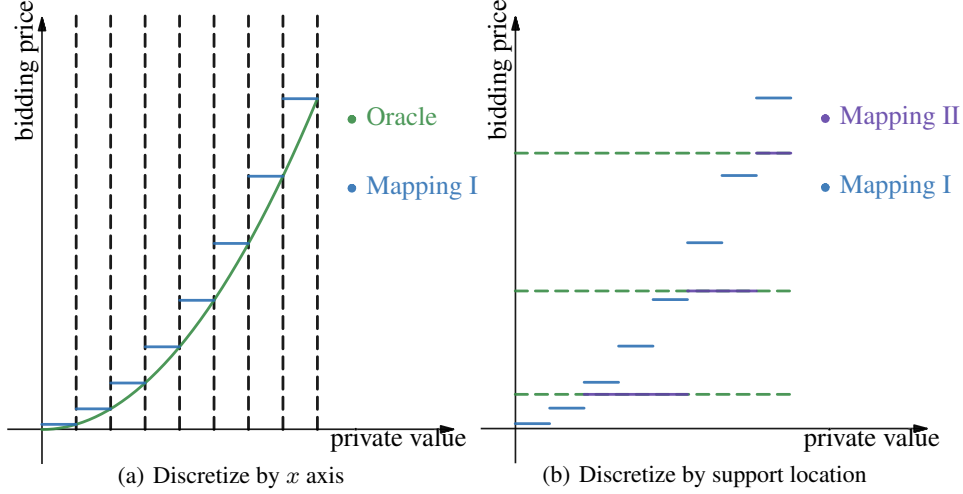


Figure 3: Given any 1-Lipschitz and monotone oracle, we first discretize the  $x$ -axis into  $T$  small intervals, changing the oracle to a piecewise constant function that bids the maximum point for each interval in the oracle; Secondly, we map this piecewise constant function to a piecewise function that only takes support value as bidding price. Easy to verify step 1 leads to  $T \cdot O(\frac{1}{T}) = O(1)$  loss, while step 2 leads to a non-negative change to the cumulative reward.

$i$ -th support for the  $t$ -th interval,  $i \in [K]$ ,  $t \in [T]$ , iff we pass point  $(t, i)$  in the route from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(T + 1, K)$ . The set of routes and set  $A$  forms a bijection, both have cardinality:

$$\binom{T + K - 1}{K} = \frac{T + K - 1}{K} \cdot \frac{T + K - 2}{K - 1} \cdots \frac{T}{1} \leq T^K.$$

□

### C.1.2 Proof of Lower Bounds in Theorem 5

*Proof.* Consider the three cases separately:

- If  $L < \frac{K^{\frac{q+1}{q}}}{T^{\frac{1}{q}}}$ , then as in the proof of Theorem 3 we can construct  $N = \lfloor T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \rfloor$  independent problems since  $N < K$  in this case. For each independent problem the lower bound is  $\Omega(1)$ , leading to a total lower bound of  $\Omega\left(T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}\right)$ .
- If  $\frac{K^{\frac{q+1}{q}}}{T^{\frac{1}{q}}} \leq L \leq \frac{T}{K^{\frac{q+1}{q}}}$ , we cannot divide into  $\lfloor T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} L^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \rfloor$  subproblems since there are only  $K$  values  $m_t$  can take. So instead, we divide time horizon into  $K$  subproblems:

For  $t = i \cdot \lfloor \frac{T}{K} \rfloor + 1, i \cdot \lfloor \frac{T}{K} \rfloor + 2, \dots, (i + 1) \cdot \lfloor \frac{T}{K} \rfloor$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} v_t &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{i}{K}, \\ h_t &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \\ m_t &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, & w.p. \quad 1 - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left(\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \pm \delta\right) \\ \frac{1}{4} + \frac{i+1}{4} \cdot \sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, & w.p. \quad \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left(\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \pm \delta\right) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K-1$ . Observe that the difference between  $v_t$  for adjacent subproblem is  $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{K}$  and the difference between bid value for adjacent subproblem is at most

$$2 \cdot \frac{\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{4} = \frac{\sigma^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{2} = \frac{L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{2 \cdot T^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{K},$$

ensuring the  $N = K$  subproblems are indeed independent from each other. Additionally, the separation parameter  $\delta$  for each subproblem equals to  $\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{\frac{T}{K}}} = \sqrt{\frac{K \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{T^{\frac{1}{q+1}}}}$ , which is smaller than the separation of  $m_t$ :  $\sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} = \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}}$ . Thus substituting Theorem 1, finally the lower bound is,

$$K \cdot \Omega \left( \left(\frac{T}{K}\right)^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot \left(\frac{L}{K}\right)^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right) = \Omega \left( \sqrt{K \cdot T^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \cdot L^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \right).$$

- If  $L > \frac{T}{K^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}$ , a traditional lower bound gives  $\Omega(\sqrt{T})$ .

□

## C.2 Proof of Theorem 6

*Proof.* Let the learning rate for the upper level  $\eta_{t,2} = \min \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \sqrt{\frac{\log 3}{\left[ \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \sigma_s^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right] + 1}} \right\}$  and apply similar analysis as in Appendix B.1.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] &\geq \max_{i \in \{f,g,h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 2 \cdot \left( \frac{\log 3}{\eta_{T,2}} + 2 \sum_{t=1}^T \eta_{t,2} \cdot 2 \cdot \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right) \\ &= \max_{i \in \{f,g,h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 2 \cdot \left( \sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} + 4\sqrt{\log 3} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}{\sqrt{\left[ \sum_{s=1}^t \sigma_s^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right] + 1}} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{\geq} \max_{i \in \{f,g,h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 2 \cdot \left( \sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} + 8\sqrt{\log 3} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \right) \\ &= \max_{i \in \{f,g,h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 18 \cdot \sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $\sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t]$  is the expected total reward by running Algorithm 1, with expectation taken over both policy randomness and possible  $m_t$  sequences. (a) can be considered as taking integral of function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ , but with another piecewise function smaller than it instead. And applying similar method to the lower level of the first node we have:

$$\sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,f} \geq \max_{a \in [TK]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - 18 \cdot \sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}. \quad (13)$$

Combining (12) and (13) and the regret upper bound of ChEW algorithm and choosing hint expert:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] &\geq \max_{i \in \{f,g,h\}} \left( \max_{a \in [TK]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \text{Reg}(i) \right) - 18 \cdot \sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}} \\ &= \max_{a \in [TK]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \min \left\{ 18 \cdot \sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}, 2 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, C \cdot \sqrt{T} \right\} - 18 \cdot \sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is a constant number. Therefore, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Reg}(\pi) &= O\left(\min\left\{\sqrt{\log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot K}, \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \sqrt{T}\right\}\right) + O\left(\sqrt{\log 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}}\right) \\ &\stackrel{(b)}{=} O\left(\min\left\{\sqrt{\log T \cdot \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} \cdot K}, \sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}}, \sqrt{T}\right\}\right), \end{aligned}$$

while (b) holds since  $\sum_{t=1}^T \sigma_t^{\frac{q}{q+1}} > L > 1$ .  $\square$

### C.3 Proof of Theorem 7

#### C.3.1 Proof of Upper Bound in Theorem 7

*Proof.* Instead of one single hint expert in Algorithm 2, construct  $T$  hint experts, with each one bidding a constant gap over  $h_t$ , i.e. with the first hint expert bidding  $h_t + \frac{1}{T}$  for  $t = 1, \dots, T$ ; the second hint expert bidding  $h_t + \frac{2}{T}$  for  $t = 1, \dots, T$ ; etc. The upper layer then consists of  $T$  hint experts and two super nodes, representing ChEW algorithm ( $g$ ) and modified Algorithm 1 ( $f$ ). The lower layer of  $f$  consists of  $T^K$  base experts (constructed as in Appendix C.1) and  $T$  hint experts.

Let the learning rate for the upper level  $\eta_2 = \min\left\{\frac{1}{4}, \sqrt{\frac{\log(T+2)}{\sqrt{TL}}}\right\}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] &\geq \max_{i \in \{f, g, h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 2 \cdot \left(\frac{\log(T+2)}{\eta_2} + 4\eta_2 \sqrt{LT}\right) \\ &= \max_{i \in \{f, g, h\}} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,i} - 10 \cdot \sqrt{\log(T+2) \cdot \sqrt{LT}}, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

And applying similar method to super node  $f$ :

$$\sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,f} \geq \max_{a \in [T^K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - 10 \cdot \sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}. \quad (15)$$

Combining (14) and (15),

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}[X_t] &\geq \max_{i \in \{f, g, h\}} \left(\max_{a \in [T^K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \text{Reg}(i)\right) - 20 \cdot \sqrt{\log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}} \\ &= \max_{a \in [T^K]} \sum_{t=1}^T r_{t,a} - \min\left\{10 \cdot \sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}, 2 \cdot \sqrt{TL}, C \cdot \sqrt{T}\right\} - 20 \cdot \sqrt{\log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is a constant number. Therefore, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Reg}(\pi) &= O\left(\min\left\{\sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}, \sqrt{T}\right\}\right) + O\left(\sqrt{\log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}\right) \\ &= O\left(\min\left\{\sqrt{K \log T \cdot \sqrt{TL}}, \sqrt{T \log T}\right\}\right). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

#### C.3.2 Proof of Lower Bound in Theorem 7

The following is similar to proof of lower bound in Theorem 5.

*Proof.* • If  $L > \frac{T}{K^2}$ , as in the proof of Theorem 4 construct  $N_0 = \lfloor \sqrt{\frac{T}{L}} \rfloor < K$  independent sub-problems, while for each sub-problem

$$L' = \frac{L}{\sqrt{T/L}} = \sqrt{\frac{L^3}{T}}, \quad T' = \frac{T}{\sqrt{T/L}} = \sqrt{TL},$$

and for each sub-problem regret is lower bounded by  $\Omega\left(\left(\sqrt{LT} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{L^3}{T}}\right)^{1/4}\right)$ , leading to a total lower bound of  $\Omega\left(\left(\sqrt{LT} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{L^3}{T}}\right)^{1/4} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T}{L}}\right) = \Omega(\sqrt{T})$ .

- If  $L \leq \frac{T}{K^2}$ , it is not feasible to construct  $N_0$  independent sub-problems as the optimal bidding value can not take  $N_0 > K$  values. Instead construct  $K$  independent problems, with the separation parameter (see Appendix B.2.2):  $\delta = \sqrt{\frac{L}{T}} \cdot \frac{K}{T} < \frac{1}{T}$ , leading to a total regret lower bound of  $\Omega\left(\sqrt{\sqrt{\frac{T}{K}} \cdot \frac{L}{K}} \cdot K = \Omega\left(\sqrt{K} \cdot \sqrt{TL}\right)\right)$ .

□

## D Experimental Details

### D.1 Description of Experiment 1 in Section 5

Divide the whole range of private value to  $D$  bins, each of which contains  $v_t$ 's that are close to each other. As long as the bidder observes  $v_t$  at time  $t$ , we reduce the problem to the bin focusing on the data points with private values close to  $v_t$ . Then each bin itself forms a sub-problem described in Section 3. Experiment 1 only serves as an illustration of the effect by hints. The role of hints is threefolds:

- We use hint to help allocating data to different bins. Instead of binning only by private values, we use hint as a side information and conduct binning also based on it. The total number of bins is  $M_1 \cdot M_2$ , while  $M_1$  is the number of discretization for  $v_t$  and  $M_2$  is the number of discretization for hints. As for the result on empirical data, we observe  $M_2 = 4$  already leads to rather good performance.
- We use hint to calculate the estimation of instantaneous reward for any given bid  $b'_t$  under the assumption that  $m_t = b_t$ :  $r'_{t,a} := r(b_t; h_t, v_t)$ , where  $b_t$  is the bid at time  $t$  according to oracle  $a$ . Then we add this estimated reward to each experts' reward history while sampling among these experts:

$$p_{t,a} = \frac{\exp\left(\eta_t \cdot \left(\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_{s,a} + r'_{t,a}\right)\right)}{\sum_{a' \in \mathcal{F}} \exp\left(\eta_t \cdot \left(\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_{s,a'} + r'_{t,a'}\right)\right)}, t = 2, 3, \dots, T.$$

And if  $\sigma_t$  is also observed, we define  $r'_{t,a} := r(b_t; h_t + c_1 \cdot \sigma_t, v_t)$  instead, where  $c_1$  is a hyper-parameter to be tuned.

- We include a set of hint experts

$$b_t(a_i) := h_t + \sigma_t^{\Delta_i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k,$$

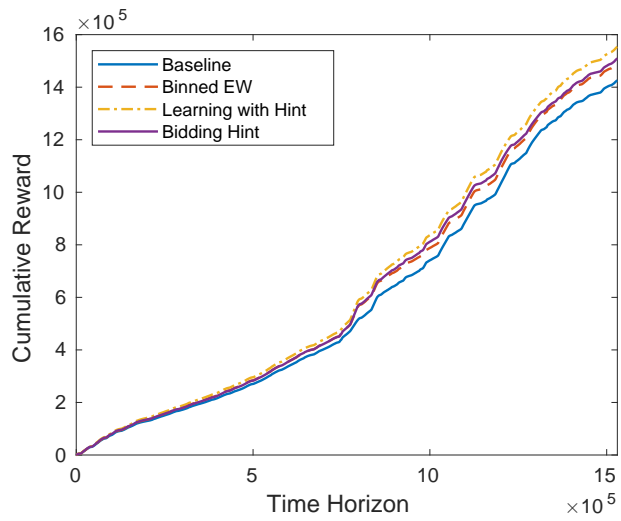
which is close to a combination of algorithms for whether knowing the error, since for real datasets  $q$  is often not observed.

The results in Figure 4 shows the improvement by incorporating hint on other two datasets. The results implies that on datasets whose hint has rather small error, e.g. on dataset 1 bidding hint itself already beats simple online learning algorithm, the improvement by hint is more significant. Namely, 4.38% on dataset 1 with more accurate hint and 3.54% on dataset 2 whose hint is not so good.

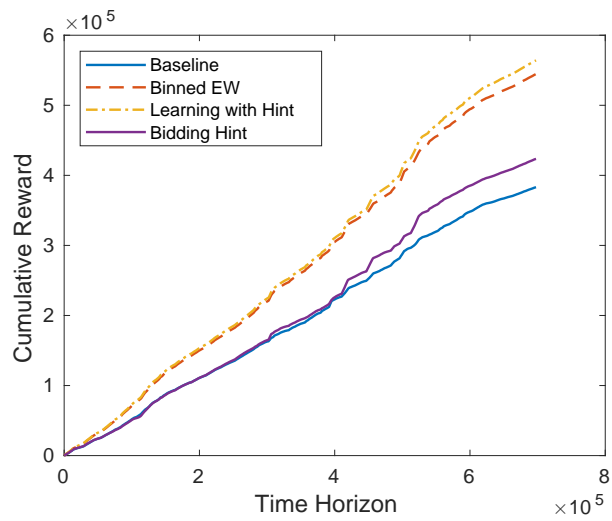
### D.2 Polynomial Algorithm in Section 5

Consider any 1-Lipschitz & monotone oracle  $f$ , since support size is finite,  $f$  can be mapped to a discontinuous function  $f'$  with  $O(1)$  loss, which can be further represented by a series of interval-support pair:

$$\left(0, \frac{1}{D}\right] \leftrightarrow s_{i_1}, \quad \left(\frac{1}{D}, \frac{2}{D}\right] \leftrightarrow s_{i_2}, \quad \dots, \quad \left(\frac{D-1}{D}, 1\right] \leftrightarrow s_{i_D},$$



(a) Results on Dataset 1



(b) Results on Dataset 2

Figure 4: Cumulative rewards as a function of time. The dashdot lines stands for incorporating hint into exponential weighting, and the purple solid lines are directly bidding hint. The dotted lines represent binned exponential algorithm.

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**Algorithm 3:** DP algorithm without knowing support locations

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**Inputs:** Time horizon  $T$ ; support size  $K$ ;

**Initialization:**  $\text{Reward}_{T,K,T} \leftarrow 0$ ;  $P \leftarrow 0$ ;

**for**  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**

*% Calculate Sum\_Forward&Sum\_Backward Matrix*

$\text{Sum\_Forward}_{T,K,T} \leftarrow 1$ ;  $\text{Sum\_Backward}_{T,K,T} \leftarrow 1$ ;

**for**  $i = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**

**for**  $j = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**

$\text{Sum\_Forward}_{i,1,j} \leftarrow \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i-1,1,j} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,1,j})$ ;

$\text{Sum\_Backward}_{i,K,j} \leftarrow \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i+1,K,j} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,K,j})$ ;

**for**  $k = 2, 3, \dots, K - 1$  **do**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i,k,j} &\leftarrow \sum_{v=1}^{j-1} \left( \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i-1,k-1,v} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,k,j}) \right) \\ &\quad + \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i-1,k,j} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,k,j}); \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i,k,j} &\leftarrow \sum_{v=j+1}^T \left( \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i+1,k+1,v} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,k,j}) \right) \\ &\quad + \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i+1,k,j} \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,k,j}); \end{aligned}$$

**end**

**end**

**end**

*% Calculate Probability*

$i \leftarrow \lfloor v_t \cdot T \rfloor$ ;

**for**  $j = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**

$$\begin{aligned} P_j &\leftarrow \sum_{k=1,2,\dots,K} \left( \left( \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i-1,k,j} + \sum_{v=1}^{j-1} \text{Sum\_Forward}_{i-1,k-1,v} \right) \cdot \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{Reward}_{i,k,j}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cdot \left( \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i+1,k,j} + \sum_{v=j+1}^T \text{Sum\_Backward}_{i+1,k+1,v} \right) \right); \end{aligned}$$

**end**

**for**  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$  **do**

$P_{\lfloor h_t \cdot T \rfloor} \leftarrow P_{\lfloor h_t \cdot T \rfloor} + \exp(\eta_t \cdot \text{RH})$ ;

**end**

  Sample  $b_t \sim (P / \sum(P))$ ;

*% Update Reward Matrix*

**for**  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$  **do**

**for**  $j = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**

**if**  $m_t \leq j/T$  **then**

$\text{Reward}_{i,k,j} \leftarrow \text{Reward}_{i,k,j} + (v_t - j/T)$ ;

**end**

**end**

$\text{RH} \leftarrow \text{RH} + r(h_t; v_t, m_t)$ ;

**end**

---

where  $0 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq s_3 \leq \dots \leq s_K \leq 1$  are the locations of supports in increasing order and  $0 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_D \leq K, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The main idea is to record the cumulative reward for all possible interval-support tuples and use dynamic programming to calculate total reward for some expert sets instead of keeping track of all  $T^K$  experts.

Reward[D][K][D]: The first two dimensions represent interval:  $[d][k] : (d/D, (d+1)/D] \leftrightarrow s_k$ . The third dimension represent the bidding, with steply update

$$\text{Reward}_{i,k,j} \leftarrow \text{Reward}_{i,k,j} + (v_t - j/D)$$

Then we use dynamic programming to calculate the sum of the rewards for several continuous intervals, instead of keeping track of all  $T^K$  experts.

Sum\_Forward[D][K][D]: Forward DP recording array, representing combined intervals:  $[d][K] : (0, d/D] \leftrightarrow \{1, \dots, s_k\}$  and the third dimension represents bidding for the last interval:  $(d/D, (d+1)/D]$ . The update calculation is carried out per step before choosing an action.

Sum\_Backward[D][K][D]: Backward DP recording array, representing combined intervals:  $[d][K] : ((d+1)/D, 1] \leftrightarrow \{s_k + 1, \dots, K\}$  and the third dimension represents bidding for the first interval:  $((d+1)/D, (d+2)/D]$ . The update calculation is carried out per step before choosing an action.

Combining the results of Sum\_Forward and Sum\_Backward, we can calculate reward history for a subset of the  $T^K$  experts, which is the only needed quantity for calculating probability in exponential weighting instead of keeping record with an exponential size.