
Efficient Algorithms for Lipschitz Bandits

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Abstract

Lipschitz bandits is a fundamental framework used to model sequential decision-making problems with large, structured action spaces. This framework has been applied in various areas. Previous algorithms, such as the Zooming algorithm, achieve near-optimal regret with $O(T^2)$ time complexity and $O(T)$ arms stored in memory, where T denotes the size of the time horizons. However, in practical scenarios, learners may face limitations regarding the storage of a large number of arms in memory. In this paper, we explore the bounded memory stochastic Lipschitz bandits problem, where the algorithm is limited to storing only a limited number of arms at any given time horizon. We propose algorithms that achieve near-optimal regret with $O(T)$ time complexity and $O(1)$ arms stored, both of which are almost optimal and state-of-the-art. Moreover, our numerical results demonstrate the efficiency of these algorithms.

1 Introduction

Multi-armed Bandits (MAB) is a powerful framework used to balance the exploration-exploitation trade-off in online decision-making problems. Within this framework, a learner sequentially selects arms (actions, decisions, or items) and learns from the associated feedback, aiming to maximize the expected total reward within finite time horizons. Some well-known algorithms, such as UCB1 and Exp3, have achieved near-optimal regret by storing records of all arms in memory. In many bandit problems, algorithms can access information about the similarity between arms, suggesting that arms with similar characteristics often yield similar expected rewards. The Lipschitz bandits framework is a prominent variant that addresses decision-making in large, structured action spaces, where the expected reward of the arms follows a Lipschitz function. For instance, in recommendation systems, the arms correspond to items represented by feature vectors. Items with similar feature vectors are likely to result in similar outcomes or conversions.

Recently, a series of works in the field of online learning have been dedicated to managing scenarios with large action spaces while maintaining sub-linear memory usage. This direction is driven by the need to effectively tackle extensive real-world applications such as recommendation systems, search ranking, and crowdsourcing. In these applications, arms correspond to items, solutions, or models, which leads to significant memory demands. For instance, in recommendation systems, the learner faces the challenge of choosing from millions of items, like music and movies, to present to users, especially in scenarios characterized by limited space or an infinite number of arms. Therefore, the development of memory-efficient algorithms has become crucial for these applications. In recent years, substantial efforts have been made to address the challenge of bandits with limited memory (Assadi & Wang, 2020; Jin et al., 2021; Maiti et al., 2020; Agarwal et al., 2022; Assadi & Wang, 2022; Wang, 2023; Assadi & Wang, 2023a). However, previous research has mainly focused on unstructured action spaces, often overlooking the fact that in these applications, arms with similar characteristics tend to yield similar expected rewards.

Table 1: Comparison with State-of-the-art Lipschitz Bandits Algorithms

Algorithm	Regret	Time complexity	Space complexity
Zooming(Kleinberg et al., 2019)	$\tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d_x+1}{d_x+2}}\right)$	$O(T^2)$	$O(T)$
HOO(Bubeck et al., 2011a)	$\tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d_x+1}{d_x+2}}\right)$	$O(T \log T)$	$O(T)$
MBAD(Ours)	$\tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d_x+1}{d_x+2}}\right)$	$O(T)$	$O(1)$

One general approach to solving Lipschitz bandits is through discretizing the structured action space. Algorithms based on uniform discretization have been shown to achieve optimal worst-case regret up to a logarithmic factor (Kleinberg, 2004). Another strategy, adaptive discretization, progressively ‘zooms in’ on more promising regions of the action space, yielding near-optimal problem-dependent regret (Kleinberg et al., 2019). However, existing algorithms like the Zooming algorithm necessitate $O(T)$ stored arms in memory and $O(T^2)$ time complexity for stochastic Lipschitz bandits (Kleinberg et al., 2019; Feng et al., 2022), which may be impractical for many real-world applications. In this paper, we consider a typical scenario where the learner operates within the stochastic bandits framework over a Lipschitz action space while facing constraints on the number of arms that can be stored in memory.

The limited memory constraint and large structured action space present several challenges, necessitating a nuanced approach to effectively balance exploration and exploitation under uncertainty. One key challenge is the propensity to over-exploit suboptimal arms retained in memory, leading to high regret. Conversely, reading new arms into memory risks discarding potentially valuable arms. In scenarios with infinite actions, the vast search space requires numerous samples to ensure adequate exploration. The structured nature of the action space demands that algorithms focus on zooming in on more promising regions, but space constraints limit the learner’s capacity to acquire comprehensive knowledge about the metric space. Traditional full-memory algorithms start by dividing the action space into many small subcubes, a process known as discretization. Each cube is treated as an arm, and in each round, the algorithm updates the average estimate of the selected cube’s reward based on feedback. It then compares this estimate against all other cubes in the storage space through various computational methods.

1.1 Our Contributions

Our primary insight revolves around two key aspects: metric embedding and pairwise comparisons. Metric embedding involves mapping elements from one metric space to another while preserving distance relationships as closely as possible. Our algorithm effectively maps the metric space to a tree, where each node represents a cube. Traversing this tree is analogous to navigating the entire metric space. Pairwise comparisons of arms reduce memory complexity. Instead of constantly covering the entire space, our approach considers all subcubes as a stream. From this stream, we continuously select cubes for pairwise comparisons, gradually converging to the optimal region.

Based on this insight, we introduce two algorithms: the Memory Bounded Uniform Discretization (MBUD) algorithm and the Memory Bounded Adaptive Discretization (MBAD) algorithm. The MBUD algorithm employs a uniform discretization strategy combined with an Explore-First approach. In this method, all cubes are of the same size. The algorithm prioritizes selecting a near-optimal arm following an exploration phase and allocates the remaining rounds to exploitation, achieving near-optimal worst-case regret. The exploration phase consists of “cross exploration phases” and the “summarize phase”. During the cross exploration phases, exploration is confined to a subset of cubes to gather information about the optimal arm while minimizing regret. The summarize phase explores all cubes to pinpoint the optimal arm’s location.

The MBAD algorithm utilizes an adaptive discretization strategy, incorporating a round-robin playing approach. This allows for subcubes within subcubes, organizing the entire action space into a tree structure. The algorithm selectively focuses on more promising regions of the action space, thereby attaining near-optimal instance-dependent regret. Each node in this structure represents a subcube, with parent and child nodes corresponding to subcubes and their subdivisions, respectively. Traversal involves transitioning from a node to its child and navigating through a parent node’s children to the next subcube. Pruning prevents over-zooming through two conditions: discarding inferior cubes with high confidence and establishing a lower bound on cube edge length, which decreases as exploration progresses. These conditions ensure efficient exploration without over-zooming.

Overall, our contribution lies in pioneering memory-efficient algorithms for large structured action spaces, particularly within Lipschitz metric spaces. We introduce the MBUD and MBAD algorithms, which achieve near-optimal regret while requiring storage for only the best-estimate arm for exploitation and one additional arm for exploration. This means only two arms need to be stored in memory, regardless of the problem’s scale. Furthermore, each algorithm exhibits $O(T)$ time complexity, indicating that their execution time scales linearly with the number of rounds.

1.2 Related Work

Lipschitz bandits. Multi-armed bandits is one of the most classical frameworks to model the trade-off between exploration and exploitation in online decision problems. The Lipschitz bandits framework considers the large, structured action space in which the algorithm has information on similarities between arms. The model was first introduced by Agrawal (1995) with interval $[0, 1]$. The near-optimal upper and lower bounds for the worst case were provided in Kleinberg (2004) via the uniform discretization strategy. Subsequent work (Kleinberg et al., 2019) proposed the zooming algorithm, achieving near-optimal instance-dependent regret for the problem and studying the extension for the general metric action space. Several other works have established regret bounds for the stochastic reward feedback setting (Bubeck et al., 2011a; Magureanu et al., 2014; Lazaric et al., 2014). Other works have also extended the results to the adversarial version (Podimata & Slivkins, 2021; Kang et al., 2023), contextual setting (Slivkins, 2014; Krishnamurthy et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2022), ranked setting (Slivkins et al., 2013), contract design (Ho et al., 2014), federated X-armed bandit (Li et al., 2024a,b), and other settings (Bubeck et al., 2011b; Lu et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020; Grant & Leslie, 2020; Feng et al., 2022; Xue et al., 2024).

Memory-efficient learning. Another line relevant to this paper is online learning with memory constraints. Liao et al. (2018) considered stochastic bandits with constant arm memory and proposed an algorithm achieving an $O(\log 1/\Delta)$ factor of optimal instance-dependent regret, where Δ is the gap between the best arm and the second-best arm. Chaudhuri & Kalyanakrishnan (2020) studied stochastic bandits with M stored arms and showed there is an algorithm with regret $\tilde{O}(KM + (K^{3/2}\sqrt{T})/M)$. Subsequent work (Agarwal et al., 2022) provided an algorithm achieving regret $O(\sqrt{KT \log T \log \log T})$. In addition to the bandits problem, there are also many works about other online learning problems. Srinivas et al. (2022); Peng & Zhang (2022) showed the trade-off between regret and memory for the expert problem. More pure exploration models with memory constraints were considered in Assadi & Wang (2020), including the coin tossing problem, noisy comparisons problem, and Top- K arms identification. Previous works on bandits with limited memory have not considered structured action spaces and could not deal with infinite actions. There are some other works on memory-efficient online learning (Peng & Rubinstein, 2023; Assadi & Wang, 2023b). Beyond the online learning setting, the memory-efficient learning problem was solved in different situations, including statistical learning (Steinhardt et al., 2016; Garg et al., 2017; Raz, 2017; Garg et al., 2019; Sharan et al., 2019; Lyu et al., 2023), convex optimization (Marsden et al., 2022; Blanchard et al., 2023a,b; Chen & Peng, 2023), estimation problems (Acharya et al., 2019; Diakonikolas et al., 2022; Berg et al., 2022), parity learning (Raz, 2019; Kol et al., 2017), and other learning problems (Hopkins et al., 2021; Brown et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2022).

2 Problem Setup and Preliminaries

Notations. In this paper, we use bold fonts to represent vectors and matrices. For a positive integer T , we use $[T]$ to denote the set $\{1, 2, \dots, T\}$. For a set $\mathcal{X}$, we use $|\mathcal{X}|$ to denote its cardinality. For a random variable Z , we use $\mathbb{E}[Z]$ to denote its expectation. For an event $\mathcal{E}$, we use $\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}]$ to denote its probability.

2.1 Problem Setup

We formally define the Lipschitz bandits problem below. Given T rounds, dimension d , and arm space $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$, each arm $x \in \mathcal{X}$ is associated with an unknown reward distribution $\mathcal{D}_x$. In each round $t \in [T]$, the algorithm selects an arm $x_t \in \mathcal{X}$ and obtains a scalar-valued reward feedback $r_t \in [0, 1]$, which is a sample from the reward distribution $\mathcal{D}_{x_t}$. The expected reward $\mu(\cdot)$ of the reward distribution satisfy the Lipschitz condition: $|\mu(x) - \mu(y)| \leq L \cdot |x - y| \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{X}$. And we call L the Lipschitz constant. Then a problem instance is specified by the known number of time horizons T , known Lipschitz constant L , and unknown mean reward $\mu(\cdot)$. For the purposes of simplification in our proofs, we assume $L = 1$. The algorithm aims to maximize the expected total reward $\mathbb{E}[\sum_{t \in [T]} r_t]$.

140 We use regret to measure the performance of the algorithm compared with the expected total reward
 141 of the best-fixed arm in action space $\mathcal{X}$: $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) = T \cdot \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mu(x) - \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t \in [T]} r_t \right]$.

142 Then we present the memory model employed in the paper. The algorithm operates by selecting
 143 arms from the memory and pulling them. When the memory reaches the capacity and the algorithm
 144 attempts to choose a new arm, it becomes necessary to discard at least one arm from the memory.
 145 Consequently, any statistical information associated with the discarded arm, including its index, mean
 146 reward, and number of pulls, is forgotten and will not be retained thereafter. We measure the space
 147 complexity of the algorithm by the hard constraint for the number of arms stored in the memory. This
 148 constraint aligns with the assumption of having oracle access to the input arm, as commonly defined
 149 in streaming problems.

150 2.2 Covering Dimension and Zooming Dimension

151 Then we provide some technical tools that are used in this paper and introduce the covering dimension
 152 and zooming dimension for one action space $\mathcal{X}$. We use the definitions in (Slivkins, 2019) and provide
 153 them below. Notice that the Lipschitz bandits problem is defined in an infinite-action space. We
 154 select a fixed, finite discretization actions space $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathcal{X}$. Let $\{\mathcal{X}_1, \dots, \mathcal{X}_N\} [\mathcal{X}_i \subset \mathcal{X}]$ be an cover
 155 of the action space $\mathcal{X}$. Let ϵ denote the maximum diameter of $\mathcal{X}_i$ for all $i \in [N]$. Then the arm set
 156 $\mathcal{S} = \{x_i | x_i \in \mathcal{X}_i, i \in [N]\}$ is an ϵ -mesh. The covering dimension d of the action space $\mathcal{X}$ is defined
 157 as $d = \inf_{\alpha \geq 0} \{|\mathcal{S}| \leq \epsilon^{-\alpha}, \forall \epsilon > 0\}$. Let $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}^* := \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mu(x)$ denote the expected per-round reward
 158 of the optimal arm in space $\mathcal{X}$ and $\Delta(x) := \mu_{\mathcal{X}}^* - \mu(x)$ denote the gap between arm x and the optimal
 159 arm. Define $\mathcal{Y}_j = \{x \in \mathcal{X} : 2^{-j} \leq \Delta(x) < 2^{1-j}, j \in \mathbb{N}\}$, then set $\mathcal{Y}_j$ contains all arms whose gap
 160 is between 2^{-j} and 2^{1-j} . Consider the ϵ -mesh $\mathcal{S}_j$ for space $\mathcal{Y}_j$. Then the zooming dimension d_z for
 161 the action space $\mathcal{X}$ is $d_z = \inf_{\beta \geq 0} \{|\mathcal{S}_j| \leq \epsilon^{\beta}, \epsilon = 2^{-j}, \forall j \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

162 Covering dimension is a property of the action space while the zooming dimension is a property of
 163 the instance. Notice that we always have $d_z \leq d$. This is because the covering dimension considers
 164 the ϵ -mesh of the entire action space $\mathcal{X}$, whereas the zooming dimension focuses only on the set $\mathcal{Y}_j$.
 165 The covering dimension is closely related to other notions of dimensionality in a metric space, such as
 166 the Hausdorff dimension, capacity dimension, and box-counting dimension, all of which characterize
 167 the covering properties in fractal geometry. Similarly, the zooming dimension is another measure
 168 used to evaluate the structure of a metric space. Both of these dimensions are widely utilized in the
 169 field of Lipschitz bandits. For further details and alternative formulations regarding the covering
 170 dimension and zooming dimension, refer to (Kleinberg et al., 2019).

171 3 Warm Up: Uniform Discretization Algorithm

172 This section provides the intuition, specification, and theoretical analysis of the Memory Bounded
 173 Uniform Discretization (MBUD) algorithm (shown in Algorithm 1) for the stochastic Lipschitz
 174 bandits problem.

175 **Algorithm overview.** To facilitate our discussion, we begin by outlining the core idea behind the
 176 algorithm. This algorithm employs a uniform discretization strategy and adopts an Explore-First
 177 methodology, which endeavors to identify a near-optimal arm following the exploration phase and
 178 dedicates the remaining rounds to exploitation. Throughout the exploration stage, the algorithm allo-
 179 cates two units of memory space: one for storing the best-estimated arm and another for temporarily
 180 holding a newly read arm. Note that the best-estimated arm serves a dual purpose: it is not only
 181 crucial for the exploitation phase but also enables the swift identification of sub-optimal arms.

182 The exploration phase in Algorithm 1 is divided into $\lceil \log \log T \rceil$ phases, further structured into
 183 two main segments: the ‘cross exploration phases’ and the ‘summarize phase’. During the initial
 184 $\lceil \log \log T \rceil - 1$ phases, the algorithm iterates over the arms within the discretized action space to
 185 minimize regret. Exploration is limited to a subset of cubes at a time, allowing the algorithm to
 186 gather information about the optimal arm while minimizing regret. In the final phase, termed the
 187 ‘summarize phase’, the algorithm revisits all arms within the uniform discretization space. Overall,
 188 each arm is read into memory twice to ensure thorough evaluation. Furthermore, we implement a
 189 budgeting strategy for each phase, wherein the total number of pulls across all arms is constrained by
 190 a predefined budget. The goal is to select the optimal arm with high probability after accumulating
 191 sufficient information during the previous phases. This structured approach balances exploration and

Algorithm 1 Memory Bounded Uniform Discretization (MBUD)

Input: arm space $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$, time horizon T , parameter c .

- 1: $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow \mathbf{0}, \bar{r}_y \leftarrow 0, n_y \leftarrow 0, B_{-1} \leftarrow 1, \epsilon = \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)}, \phi \leftarrow \lceil \log \log T \rceil - 1.$
 - 2: **for** $p = 0, \dots, \phi - 1$ **do**
 - 3: $B_p \leftarrow \sqrt{T B_{p-1}}.$
 - 4: **for** $q = 1, \dots, \lfloor \phi \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$ **do**
 - 5: Generate a new cube $C \leftarrow \text{CROSSCUBE}(\phi, \epsilon, p, q)$, and select a arm $\mathbf{x}$ from C .
 - 6: $(\mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y) \leftarrow \text{COMPARE}(c, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y, \epsilon B_p).$
 - 7: **end for**
 - 8: **end for**
 - 9: **for** $q = 1, \dots, \lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$ **do**
 - 10: Generate a new cube $C \leftarrow \text{GENERATECUBE}(\epsilon, q)$, and select a arm $\mathbf{x}$ from C .
 - 11: $(\mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y) \leftarrow \text{COMPARE}(c, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y, \epsilon B_{\phi-1}).$
 - 12: **end for**
 - 13: Play arm y until the end of the game.
-

Algorithm 2 CROSSCUBE

Input: number of phases ϕ , edge-length ϵ , parameters q .

- 1: $\kappa_1 \leftarrow \max_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{k^d \leq \phi\}, \kappa_2 \leftarrow \max_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{k^d \leq \lfloor \phi \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor\}.$
 - 2: Let node $\leftarrow \epsilon \mathcal{G}_d(p, \kappa_1) + \frac{\epsilon \phi}{\sqrt{d}} \mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa_2)$, then the cube could be determined by node and ϵ .
-

192 exploitation under memory constraints, aiming to quickly identify the optimal arm while minimizing
193 the sampling of suboptimal arms. The specifics of this approach will be detailed subsequently.

194 **Exploration strategies.** For the cross exploration phases, the gap between neighboring arms is
195 $\epsilon \phi$ (ϕ defined in Algorithm 1). There are $O(\epsilon^{-d})$ cubes (arms) in the discretization action set,
196 which is an ϵ -mesh of $\mathcal{X}$. Each cross exploration phase will only explore $O\left(\frac{1}{\log \log T}\right)$ of them.
197 We generate a new cube by using the function $\mathcal{G}_d(a, b)$, $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ which converts the integer a to a
198 d -dimension vector. And the i -th entry of the vector is the i -th right-most digit in base b . To aid
199 understanding, we offer several examples: $\mathcal{G}_3(3, 2) = (0, 1, 1)$, $\mathcal{G}_3(1208, 26) = (1, 20, 12)$, and
200 $\mathcal{G}_2(1208, 26) = (20, 12)$. The function could be done by a succession of Euclidean divisions by b .
201 For the summarize phase, the gap is ϵ and all cubes in the discretization set are explored.

202 The CROSSCUBE function generates cubes for the cross exploration phases by calculating parameters
203 based on the number of phases and the edge-length of the cubes. Specifically, CROSSCUBE generates
204 a new cube using a combination of two geometric sequences. It first calculates the parameters κ_1
205 and κ_2 as the maximum integers such that $k^d \leq \phi$ and $k^d \leq \lfloor \phi \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$, respectively. The function then
206 determines the cube's position using these parameters and the edge-length ϵ . The cube is defined
207 by a node position generated by $\epsilon \mathcal{G}_d(p, \kappa_1)$ and $\frac{\epsilon \phi}{\sqrt{d}} \mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa_2)$, where $\mathcal{G}_d$ is a geometric sequence
208 generator that converts an integer to a d -dimensional vector. The GENERATECUBE function is similar
209 to CROSSCUBE but is used during the summarize phase to generate cubes without considering the
210 phases. It calculates the parameter κ as the maximum integer such that $k^d \leq \lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$. The cube is then
211 determined by the edge-length ϵ and a node position generated by $\epsilon \mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa)$.

212 **Compare strategy.** Then we introduce the compare strategy, which is also useful for the MBAD
213 algorithm described in the following section. The algorithm always selects the arm with the fewest
214 pulls in the memory. After sufficient samples, it will eliminate one sub-optimal arm based on its
215 upper confidence bound and then generate a new arm (i.e., read a new arm into the memory). Notice
216 that the algorithm may prioritize two sub-optimal arms with a small gap. Therefore, there is a cap
217 on the number of pulls each phase for any arm. It helps the algorithm in striking a balance between
218 exploration (read a new arm) and exploitation (play arms in memory).

219 The algorithm maintains three statistics for one arm in memory: the index x , the mean reward
220 estimator $\bar{r}_x$, and the number of pulls n_x . The constant c is an exploration and exploitation balancing
221 parameter. In the exploration part, there are $\lceil \log \log T \rceil$ phases. Let B_p be the budget of samples for
222 the p -th phase. We use y and x to denote the best-estimated arm and the new arm in the algorithm,

Algorithm 3 GENERATECUBE

Input: edge-length ϵ , parameters q .

- 1: $\kappa \leftarrow \max_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{k^d \leq \lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor\}$.
 - 2: Let $\text{node} \leftarrow \epsilon \mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa)$, then the cube could be determined by node and ϵ .
-

Algorithm 4 COMPARE

Input: constant c , arm x and y , $\bar{r}_y, n_y, b$.

- 1: $\bar{r}_x \leftarrow 0, n_x \leftarrow 0$.
 - 2: **while** $n_x \leq b$ or $n_y \leq b$ **do**
 - 3: Pull the least played arm between x and y . If there is no single least played arm, select a random arm.
 - 4: Update $\bar{r}_x, n_x, \bar{r}_y, n_y$.
 - 5: **if** $\min\{\bar{r}_x + \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_x}, 1\} < \max\{\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_y}, 0\}$ **then**
 - 6: Break and return $(y, \bar{r}_y, n_y)$.
 - 7: **else if** $\max\{\bar{r}_x - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_x}, 0\} > \max\{\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_y}, 0\}$ **then**
 - 8: Break and return $(x, \bar{r}_x, n_x)$.
 - 9: **end if**
 - 10: **end while**
 - 11: Return $(y, \bar{r}_y, n_y)$.
-

223 respectively. If the upper confidence bound (UCB) of arm x is less than the lower confidence bound
 224 (LCB) of arm y , then x is suboptimal with high probability. If the LCB of y is less than the LCB of
 225 arm x , then x is not too bad with high probability. For the remaining cases, we could choose either x
 226 or y , and we choose arm y at the end of the algorithm.

227 **Flowchart.** In Appendix A.1, we include a flowchart that illustrates the operation of the algorithm.

228 **Theoretical result.** The computational workload of the MBUD algorithm is characterized by a
 229 constant per-round operation, leading to a total time complexity of $O(T)$, where T represents the
 230 number of rounds. Regarding space complexity, the MBUD algorithm necessitates the storage
 231 of merely two arms in memory at any given time. Additionally, the space requirements for the
 232 GENERATECUBE and CROSSCUBE subroutines are minimal, each consuming $O(1)$ units of space
 233 in terms of arm storage. Consequently, the overall space complexity of the algorithm is $O(1)$.

234 We provide the theoretical result below and provide the details of the theoretical analysis in Appendix
 235 B. The result recovers the worst case regret in previous work and recovers the lower bound up to a
 236 logarithmic factor (Kleinberg, 2004).

237 **Theorem 1.** *For the stochastic Lipschitz bandits problem with metric $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{D})$ and time horizon T ,
 238 where $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$ and $\mathcal{D}$ is a known metric function. Algorithm 1 uses $O(1)$ stored arms and
 239 achieves regret*

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}),$$

240 where d is the covering dimension of space $\mathcal{X}$.

241 The theoretical analysis is mainly based on the ‘clean event’, which holds that the observed mean
 242 average is a good estimator for the expectation with high probability. At a high level, the analysis
 243 shows that the deviation between the mean estimator of the best-estimated arm y and the optimal
 244 expected reward $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}^*$ is small enough when $p \geq 1$. Then the sub-optimal arms could be discarded
 245 quickly, which helps us to bound the incurred regret of sub-optimal arms and the exploitation phase.
 246 We bound the expected regret during all time horizons by considering the discretization error, the
 247 incurred regret of all sub-optimal arms during the exploration, and the sub-optimality of the selected
 248 arm before the exploitation together.

249 4 Adaptive Discretization Algorithm

250 This section provides the main idea, specification, and theoretical analysis of the Memory Bounded
 251 Adaptive Discretization (MBAD) algorithm (shown in Algorithm 5).

Algorithm 5 Memory Bounded Adaptive Discretization (MBAD)

Input: time horizon T , constant c .

- 1: $y \leftarrow 0, \bar{r}_y \leftarrow 0, n_y \leftarrow 0, B_1 \leftarrow \sqrt{T}$.
 - 2: **for** $p = 1, 2, \dots$ **do**
 - 3: $x \leftarrow 0, \bar{r}_x \leftarrow 0, n_x \leftarrow 0, b_p \leftarrow B_p \cdot \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)}$.
 - 4: ADAPTIVECUBE(4, 1).
 - 5: $B_{p+1} \leftarrow B_p \log T$.
 - 6: **end for**
-

Algorithm 6 ADAPTIVECUBE

Input: parameters m, q , edge-length $\epsilon = 2^{-m}$.

- 1: $\kappa \leftarrow \max_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{k^d \leq \lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor\}$.
 - 2: $\text{node} \leftarrow \epsilon \mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa)$, then the cube C could be determined by node and ϵ .
 - 3: Select a arm $\mathbf{x}$ from C .
 - 4: **if** $q + 1 \leq 2^m$ **and** the output of COMPARE($c, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y, 20\epsilon^{-2}$) is arm $\mathbf{y}$ **then**
 - 5: check the next cube with parameters m and $q + 1$.
 - 6: **else if** $20\epsilon^{-2} \leq b_p$ **then**
 - 7: $(\mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y) \leftarrow \text{COMPARE}(c, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \bar{r}_y, n_y, 20\epsilon^{-2})$.
 - 8: Equally partition the cube C into 2^d subcubes and check the first subcube.
 - 9: **end if**
-

252 **Algorithm overview.** We begin with some intuitions. The MBUD algorithm achieves near-optimal
253 regret in the worst case but fails to leverage the beneficial structure of ‘nice’ problem instances.
254 To address this, we present the MBAD algorithm, which is based on adaptive discretization, and
255 establish a near-optimal instance-dependent upper bound. The idea behind adaptive discretization is
256 straightforward: the algorithm should focus more on promising regions. For instance, the zooming
257 algorithm approximates the expected rewards over the action space and explores more in regions
258 with a high probability of yielding high rewards. However, due to memory constraints, the algorithm
259 cannot obtain a comprehensive picture of the action space over time. To overcome this obstacle, the
260 MBAD algorithm employs a “round robin” strategy, storing the best-estimated arm as the next read
261 arm in memory. Unlike the MBUD method, which chooses predetermined steps, the MBAD algorithm
262 selects the next read arm based on the confidence radius of the arms in memory. Consequently, steps
263 are smaller and probes (newly picked arms) are more numerous in promising regions.

264 **Exploration strategies.** The ADAPTIVECUBE subroutine is the cornerstone of the MBAD algo-
265 rithm, functioning as a recursive mechanism to navigate and leverage a cubic region within the
266 decision space. This procedure dynamically adjusts the exploration granularity based on observed
267 rewards and predetermined sampling constraints. Initially, the algorithm selects a cube C for ex-
268 ploration. If this cube is deemed sub-optimal compared to the optimal estimated arm stored in
269 memory (denoted as arm $\mathbf{y}$), the algorithm discards this cube in favor of exploring a subsequent
270 cube, following the generation rules outlined in the GENERATECUBE subroutine described in the
271 MBUD algorithm (Section 3). Conversely, if the cube shows promise, the algorithm proceeds to
272 explore within it, subdividing it into smaller subcubes for more detailed exploration. Each exploration
273 phase is governed by a specific sample budget, which regulates the granularity of exploration to
274 prevent excessive sampling of sub-optimal arms in the early stages. This adaptive exploration process
275 continues until the entire action space has been thoroughly explored. The decision-making process
276 is inherently dynamic, constantly evolving based on past actions to enhance the efficiency of future
277 exploration and exploitation efforts.

278 To prevent the MBAD algorithm from “over-zooming”, we implement two stop conditions. The first
279 condition discards the current cube in favor of a new one once we are highly confident that the current
280 cube is inferior to the best cube we’ve explored (see lines 4-5 of Algorithm 6). The second condition
281 sets a lower bound on the edge length of the cube to be explored in each round, which gradually
282 decreases as exploration progresses (see line 6 of Algorithm 6). These conditions together ensure the
283 algorithm avoids over-zooming. In the initial learning phase, our knowledge of the optimal cube is
284 limited, making it challenging to effectively distinguish suboptimal cubes using only the first stop

condition. However, the second condition, with a larger initial lower bound on cube edge length, prevents over-zooming. As the learning process advances, the algorithm can more reliably eliminate suboptimal cubes, thus avoiding over-zooming on them.

Flowchart and algorithm description. Due to page limitations, Appendix A.2 contains a flowchart illustrating the operation of the algorithm along with its description.

Theoretical result. Analyzing the space complexity of the MBAD algorithm and its ADAPTIVE-CUBE subroutine requires careful consideration due to the subroutine’s recursive nature. Specifically, the conditional logic that triggers further recursion or partitioning into 2^d subcubes adds layers of complexity. Within the ADAPTIVECUBE subroutine, each recursive invocation contributes to the call stack, with space consumption directly proportional to the recursion depth. The space required to sustain the state of each cube, alongside the recursive call stack within ADAPTIVECUBE, implies a complexity that scales linearly with recursion depth, complemented by constant overheads for variables preserved at each recursion level. Nonetheless, the algorithm’s design allows for the direct computation of all parent and neighboring cube information from the current cube’s coordinates and edge length, obviating the need for multiple cube storage in memory. Consequently, only a single cube needs to be maintained at any time during the ADAPTIVECUBE process, affirming a space complexity of $O(1)$ for the MBAD algorithm. This space complexity analysis directly informs the algorithm’s time complexity. Similar to the MBUD algorithm, the overall time complexity of the MBAD algorithm remains linear with respect to the total number of rounds.

As a by-product of the MBAD algorithm, we introduce a simpler, more practical algorithm for scenarios where $d_z \leq 1$. Detailed descriptions and theoretical analyses of this algorithm can be found in Appendix D. We provide the theoretical result below and elaborate on the details of the theoretical analysis in Appendix C. The result establishes the optimal instance-dependent upper bound, up to a logarithmic factor, for the stochastic Lipschitz bandits problem. Previous works (Slivkins, 2014; Kleinberg et al., 2019) have already established related lower bounds, indicating that our work achieves near-optimal regret. While there are other forms of results, such as those presented in work (Magureanu et al., 2014), we believe that adopting one form is sufficient to demonstrate the near-optimal performance of our algorithm.

Theorem 2. *For Lipschitz bandits with time horizon T and Lipschitz constant L , Algorithm 5 with $c \geq 5$ achieves regret*

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}),$$

using $O(1)$ stored arms, where d_z is the zooming dimension of space $\mathcal{X}$.

We also mainly consider the clean event. The algorithm plays in a ‘round-robin’ manner. There are at most $O(\log T)$ phases because of the delicate design of the budget for each phase. For each phase, we show that the deviation between the mean reward of the best-estimated arm and optimal expected per-round reward $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}^*$ is small. Then the algorithm could approximately adjust the sub-optimality of arms and set more probes in more promising regions. Then we prove that the incurred regret could be bounded by $O(T^{\frac{z+1}{z+2}}(\log T)^{\frac{2}{z+2}})$ by bounding the pulls of bad arms according to the definition of zooming dimension.

5 Numerical Evaluations

In this section, we show the efficiency of our algorithms through a series of numerical simulations. The baseline consists of three algorithms: the uniform discretization with UCB1 algorithm (UD) and the zooming algorithm. For the uniform discretization, we pick a fixed ϵ -mesh of the action space and run the UCB1 algorithm only considering the finite uniform discretization action space. The UCB1 algorithm is a popular algorithm for achieving near-optimal regret with finite action space. Kleinberg (2004) prove that the uniform achieves optimal worst-case regret up to logarithm factors. The zooming algorithm (Kleinberg et al., 2019) is an implementation of the adaptive discretization strategy, which deploys more probes in regions deemed more ‘promising’. Theoretical analysis shows that the zooming algorithm both achieves optimal worst-case regret and instance-dependent regret up to logarithm factors.

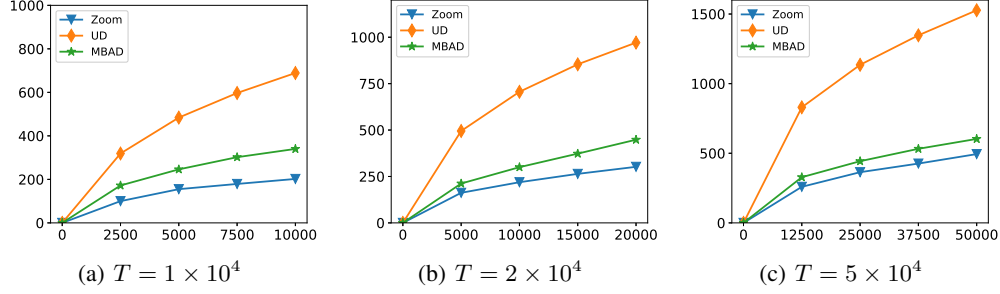


Figure 1: The results obtained with different time horizons.

We set $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]$ and choose the reward function $f(x) = 0.5 - |x - 0.5|$. In each round t , the algorithm plays one arm x_t and receives a stochastic reward y satisfying

$$y = \begin{cases} f(x) + \xi, & 0 \leq f(x) + \xi \leq 1 \\ 1, & f(x) + \xi > 1 \\ 0, & f(x) + \xi < 0 \end{cases}.$$

Specifically, $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.1^2)$ is the Gaussian noise. The MBAD algorithm are only allowed to store two arms in memory, while there is no memory constraint for the UD+UCB1 algorithm and the zooming algorithm. All results are averages over 50 runs. Figure 1 displays the results obtained across varying time horizons, where the horizontal axis denotes the time horizon and the vertical axis measures regret. From the figure, we have that MBAD algorithm significantly outperforms the UD strategy. Additional numerical results are detailed in Appendix E.

6 Conclusion and Discussion

We consider the Lipschitz bandits with limited memory problem. We introduce two novel algorithms: the Memory Bounded Uniform Discretization (MBUD) algorithm and the Memory Bounded Adaptive Discretization (MBAD) algorithm, which are predicated on the principles of uniform and adaptive discretization, respectively. Theoretical analyses reveal that the MBAD algorithm achieves near-optimal performance with $O(1)$ stored arms and $O(T)$ time complexity, highlighting its efficiency and practical applicability. Moreover, numerical results show the efficiency of our algorithms.

The Lipschitz bandit problem in higher dimensions is often perceived as a ‘needle in a haystack’ problem. Intuitively, finding the optimal solution in such high-dimensional spaces seems extremely challenging, but this perception does not always hold in practice. Many scenarios reveal beneficial structures within Lipschitz bandits, which is why our research emphasizes not only worst-case regret but also instance-dependent regret. Our proposed algorithm achieves nearly optimal time and space complexity for both worst-case and instance-dependent regrets.

In practical applications, Lipschitz bandit problems are found in areas such as non-parametric estimation, model selection in machine learning tasks, and decision-making processes in robotics and games. Furthermore, research on Lipschitz bandits has inspired algorithmic advancements in other domains, such as decision trees and tree-based methods, where the principles from Lipschitz bandit algorithms guide the splitting and growth of trees. Despite these advancements, certain limitations remain. High-dimensional Lipschitz bandits can still pose significant computational challenges, especially in cases where the underlying structure is less apparent or more complex. Additionally, the requirement for sufficient exploration to accurately estimate the optimal arm can lead to increased computational overhead in large action spaces.

Our algorithm introduces a novel framework that efficiently addresses online decision-making and balances exploration and exploitation in Lipschitz action spaces. This framework leverages beneficial structures in the problem space to enhance performance while maintaining computational efficiency. We hope our approach could make a substantial contribution to the community, especially in areas that require efficient and effective decision-making under uncertainty.

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487 A Algorithm Flowchart

488 A.1 Flowchart for the MBUD Algorithm

489 The flowchart illustrates the process of the Memory Bounded Uniform Discretization (MBUD)
 490 algorithm, showcasing its core steps and transitions. The algorithm begins by dividing the exploration
 491 phase into $\lceil \log \log T \rceil$ phases, further segmented into cross exploration phases and the summarize
 492 phase.

493 At the start of the algorithm, the arm space $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$, time horizon T , and parameter c are
 494 initialized. The initial values for variables such as the best-estimated arm $\mathbf{y}$, its average reward
 495 $\bar{r}_{\mathbf{y}}$, and the number of pulls $n_{\mathbf{y}}$ are set to zero. The budget parameter B_{-1} is initialized to 1, and
 496 the discretization parameter ϵ is calculated. Rather than covering the entire space continuously, the
 497 MBUD algorithm treats subcubes as a stream, selecting cubes for pairwise comparisons and gradually
 498 converging to the optimal region.

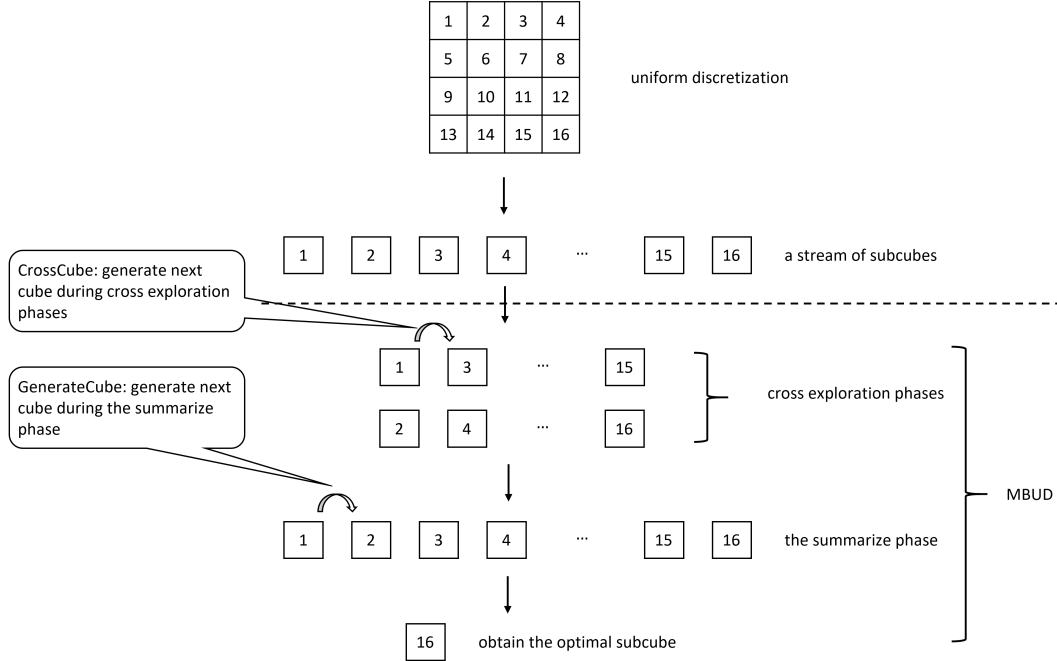


Figure 2: Flowchart for the MBUD algorithm

499 During the cross exploration phases, which encompass the first $\lceil \log \log T \rceil - 1$ phases, the algorithm
 500 iterates over arms within the discretized action space. In each phase p , the budget parameter B_p is
 501 updated to $\sqrt{TB_{p-1}}$. For each q from 1 to $\lfloor \phi \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$, the CROSSCUBE function generates a new cube
 502 C by calculating parameters κ_1 and κ_2 and determining the cube's position using the edge-length ϵ .
 503 An arm $\mathbf{x}$ is then selected from the cube C . The COMPARE function evaluates the selected arm against
 504 the current best-estimated arm $\mathbf{y}$, updating $\mathbf{y}$ if necessary based on the comparison of their upper and
 505 lower confidence bounds. In the final phase, known as the summarize phase, the algorithm revisits
 506 all arms within the uniform discretization space. For each q from 1 to $\lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$, the GENERATECUBE
 507 function generates a new cube C without considering the phases, using a parameter κ to determine the
 508 cube's position. An arm $\mathbf{x}$ is selected from this cube and compared against the current best-estimated
 509 arm $\mathbf{y}$ using the COMPARE function, ensuring thorough evaluation. The algorithm culminates by
 510 selecting the best-estimated arm $\mathbf{y}$ and playing it for the remaining rounds until the end of the time
 511 horizon.

512 A.2 Flowchart for the MBAD Algorithm

513 The MBAD algorithm dynamically adapts its discretization of the action space, focusing more
 514 on promising regions to identify the optimal arm with high probability. The flowchart effectively
 515 demonstrates how the algorithm narrows down the search space through adaptive discretization.
 516 Initially, the algorithm sets up the necessary parameters and variables. During the cross-exploration
 517 phases, the ADAPTIVECUBE function generates and selects arms from cubes. Arrows indicate the
 518 process of moving to the next cube if y remains the best arm, and the selection and evaluation of
 519 subcubes when the comparison budget condition is met.

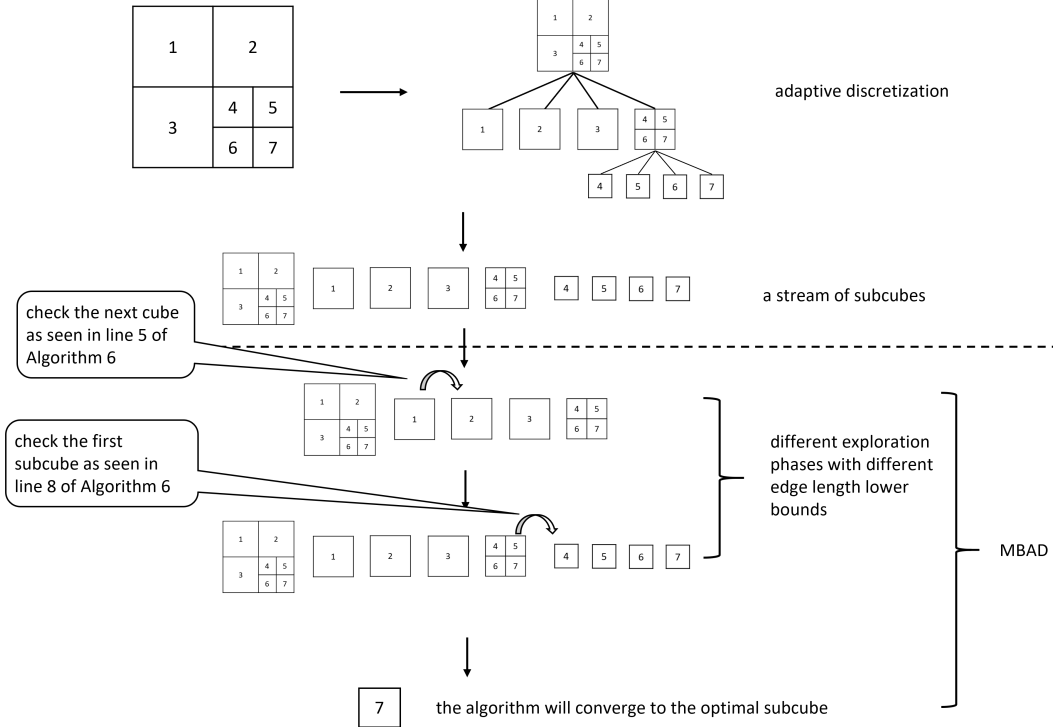


Figure 3: Flowchart for the MBAD algorithm

520 We present the pseudocode. The algorithm begins by initializing key parameters: the time horizon T
 521 and a constant c . Initial values for essential variables include the best-estimated arm y , its average
 522 reward $\bar{r}_y$, and the number of pulls n_y , all set to zero. The initial budget B_1 is set to $\sqrt{T}$. In each
 523 phase p , the algorithm initializes a new arm x with zero values for its index, average reward $\bar{r}_x$, and
 524 the number of pulls n_x . The budget for the current phase b_p is calculated as $B_p \cdot \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)}$. The
 525 ADAPTIVECUBE function is then called with parameters $m = 4$ and $q = 1$, and the budget for the
 526 next phase B_{p+1} is updated to $B_p \log T$.

527 The ADAPTIVECUBE function is crucial for refining the discretization of the action space and
 528 selecting promising arms. It begins by setting the edge-length $\epsilon = 2^{-m}$. The function calculates the
 529 parameter κ as the largest integer such that $k^d \leq \lfloor \epsilon^{-d} \rfloor$. A node is generated using the geometric
 530 sequence $\mathcal{G}_d(q, \kappa)$, and the cube C is defined by this node and ϵ . An arm x is selected from the cube
 531 C . If $q + 1 \leq 2^m$ and the COMPARE function indicates that y remains the best arm after comparison,
 532 the algorithm proceeds to the next cube with parameters m and $q + 1$. If the comparison budget
 533 $20\epsilon^{-2}$ does not exceed b_p , the algorithm updates y using the COMPARE function, partitions the cube
 534 C into 2^d subcubes, and checks the first subcube.

535 B Proof of Theorem 1

536 Let $\mathcal{S}$ denote the ϵ -mesh of the action space where $\epsilon = \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)}$. Similarly, the discretization
 537 error is the gap of the best fixed arm benchmarks between two spaces:

$$\mathbb{D}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{S}) = T \cdot \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mu(x) - T \cdot \sup_{x \in \mathcal{S}} \mu(x).$$

538 Then the regret could be rewrote as

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) = \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) + \mathbb{D}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{S}).$$

539 We call $\mathbb{D}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{S})$ the discretization error and it could be bounded by

$$\mathbb{D}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathcal{S}) \leq T\epsilon \leq T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}} (\log T)^{\frac{1}{d+2}}.$$

540 In the rest of this subsection, we shall prove

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{S}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

541 For any fixed arm $x \in \mathcal{S}$, with probability $1 - T^{-c}$:

$$|\mu(x) - \bar{r}_x| \leq \sqrt{\frac{c \log T}{n_x}}. \quad (1)$$

542 By a union bound for all arms and all rounds, (1) holds for all arm $x_t \in \mathcal{S}, t \in [T]$ with probability at
 543 least $1 - T^{4-c}$. To ease the reading, we assume $c = 5$. We call this ‘clean event’ and let $\mathcal{E}$ denote
 544 it. Then we analyze the regret based on the clean event. Let $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{S}}^p$ denote the regret for the p -th phase.
 545 Consider $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{S}}^0$, because the number of pulls of all arms in phase 0 is bounded by ϵB_0 , we have

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{S}}^0 \leq 2\sqrt{T}/\log \log T.$$

546 Then we consider $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{S}}^p, p \in [\phi - 1]$. Let $\mu_{\mathcal{S}}^* := \sup_{x \in \mathcal{S}} \mu(x)$ denote the expected per-round reward of
 547 the optimal arm in space $\mathcal{S}$. Let x_p^* and μ_p^* denote the optimal selected arm during phase p and its
 548 expected per-round reward, respectively. From the definition of uniform discretization and Lipschitz
 549 condition, we have

$$\mu_{\mathcal{S}}^* - \mu_p^* \leq \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)} \log \log T. \quad (2)$$

550 for all phase $p \in [\phi - 1]$. To ease the reading, define

$$\Phi := \left(\frac{\log T}{T}\right)^{1/(d+2)} \log \log T.$$

551 For phase p , we consider the best estimate arm y at the start of the p -th phase. If x_{p-1}^* is discarded in
 552 phase $p - 1$, according to the stop condition of compare strategy, we have

$$\bar{r}_y \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_y}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_{x_{p-1}^*}}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}}. \quad (3)$$

553 For arbitrary discarded arm x , let R_x^p and N_x^p denote the accumulated reward and total number of
 554 pulls during phase p , respectively. Notice that the value of $\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(5 \log T)/n_y}$ is non-decreasing, so
 555 we have

$$\frac{R_x^p}{N_x^p - 1} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}}.$$

556 Combine (2) and (3) together, we get

$$R_x^p \geq 2N_x^p \left(\mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} \right).$$

557 Let $\mathbb{R}_x^p$ denote the cumulative regret of playing arm x during phase p , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}_x^p &\leq 2N_x^p \left(\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} + \Phi \right) \\ &\leq 2 \left(\sqrt{6N_x^p \log T} + N_x^p \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} + N_x^p \Phi \right).\end{aligned}$$

558 The first term from the gap between the expected reward of best estimated arm and the selected
559 sub-optimal arm. The second term from the deviation between the best estimated arm and optimal
560 expected per-round reward of the $(p-1)$ -th phase. And the last is the discretization error during
561 phase $p-1$. Let $\mathcal{S}_p$ denote the set of arms in phase p . According to Jensen's inequality

$$\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_p|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_p} \sqrt{N_x^p} \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_p|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_p} N_x^p} \leq \sqrt{\epsilon B_p}.$$

562 Then we obtain

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_p} \sqrt{N_x^p} \leq |\mathcal{S}_p| \sqrt{\epsilon B_p} \leq \sqrt{\frac{B_p}{\epsilon \log \log T}}.$$

563 Consider all selected arms during phase p and the stop condition of the compare strategy, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}_S^p &\leq 2 \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_p} \left(\sqrt{6N_x^p \log T} + N_x^p \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} + N_x^p \Phi \right) \\ &\leq \frac{3B_p}{\log \log T} \left(\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} + \Phi \right) + 2\sqrt{6 \log T} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_p} \sqrt{N_x^p} \\ &\leq \frac{3B_p}{\log \log T} \left(\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} + \Phi \right) + 3\sqrt{\frac{6B_p \log T}{\epsilon \log \log T}}.\end{aligned}$$

564 For the incurred regret by the deviation between the expected reward of best estimated arm and the
565 selected sub-optimal arm, we have

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi-1} 3\sqrt{\frac{6B_p \log T}{\epsilon \log \log T}} \leq 6\sqrt{\frac{6B_{\phi-1} \log T}{\epsilon \log \log T}} \leq 6\sqrt{\frac{6T \log T}{\epsilon \log \log T}} \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

566 For the incurred regret the deviation between the best estimated arm and optimal expected per-round
567 reward, we have

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi-1} \frac{3B_p}{\log \log T} \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{p-1}}} \leq 6B_{\phi-1} \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{\phi-2}}} \leq 6\sqrt{T} \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon}}.$$

568 For the incurred regret of the discretization error during one phase, we obtain

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi-1} \frac{3B_p \Phi}{\log \log T} \leq \frac{6B_{\phi-1} \Phi}{\log \log T} \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

569 Combine them together, we get

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi-1} \mathbb{R}_S^p \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

570 Then we consider the total cumulative regret during the exploration part. Let $\mathbb{R}_S^\phi$ denote the regret
571 incurred in the last part. According to that the value of $\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(5 \log T)/n_y}$ is non-decreasing and
572 the relationship between B_ϕ and $B_{\phi-1}$, we have

$$\mathbb{R}_S^\phi \leq \mathbb{R}_S^{\phi-1}.$$

573 Then the regret incurred by the exploration is

$$\sum_{p=0}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_S^p \leq 2 \sum_{p=0}^{\phi-1} \mathbb{R}_S^p \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

574 Consider the selected arm y after the exploration and let $\mathbb{R}_S^y$ denote the regret due to selecting it.
575 According to the stop condition of compare strategy, we have

$$\bar{r}_y \geq \mu_S^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{\phi-1}}}.$$

576 Then for the regret

$$\mathbb{R}_S^y \leq 2T\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{\epsilon B_{\phi-1}}} \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

577 Based on the clean event, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{R}_S(T)|\mathcal{E}] = \mathbb{R}_S^y + \sum_{p=0}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_S^p \leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right).$$

578 Then the regret is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}_S(T) &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{R}_S(T)|\mathcal{E}] \cdot \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}) + \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{R}_S(T)|\neg\mathcal{E}] \cdot \mathbb{P}(\neg\mathcal{E}) \\ &\leq [\tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right)](1 - 1/T) + 1 \\ &\leq \tilde{O}\left(T^{\frac{d+1}{d+2}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

579 Combine it with the discretization error, then we complete the proof.

580 **C Proof of Theorem 2**

581 To ease the reading, let $c = 5$. For all arms $x_t \in \mathcal{X}$ and all rounds $t \in [T]$, the gap between the mean
582 reward and the expectation could be bounded with probability $1 - T^{-1}$:

$$|\mu(x_t) - \bar{r}_{x_t}| \leq \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_{x_t}}}, \forall t \in [T].$$

583 We call this ‘clean event’ $\mathcal{E}$ and mainly analyze the regret based on $\mathcal{E}$. Assume the MBAD algorithm
584 consume all time horizons during the ϕ -th phase. For the stochastic Lipschitz instance, we always
585 have $\phi \leq O\left(\frac{\log T}{\log \log T}\right)$. Let $\mathbb{R}_S^p$ denote the regret for the p -th phase. For the first phase, we have
586 $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^1 \leq N^1 \leq B_1 \leq \sqrt{T}$. Then we consider $\mathbb{R}_S^p$, $1 < p \leq \phi$. For phase p , we consider the best
587 estimate arm y at the start of the p -th phase. If x_{p-1}^* is discarded in phase $p - 1$, according to the
588 stop condition of compare strategy, we have

$$\bar{r}_y \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_y}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_{x_{p-1}^*}}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}}.$$

589 For arbitrary discarded arm x , let R_x^p and N_x^p denote the accumulated reward and total number of
590 pulls during phase p , respectively. Notice that the value of $\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(5 \log T)/n_y}$ is non-decreasing, so
591 we have

$$\frac{R_x^p}{N_x^p - 1} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}}.$$

592 Then we get

$$R_x^p \geq 2N_x^p \left(\mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \right).$$

Let $\mathbb{R}_x^p$ denote the cumulative regret of playing arm x during phase p , we have

$$\mathbb{R}_x^p \leq 2N_x^p \left(\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \right).$$

Similarly, the first term from the gap between the expected reward of best estimated arm and the selected sub-optimal arm. The second term from the deviation between the best estimated arm and optimal expected per-round reward of the $(p-1)$ -th phase. Recall the set

$$\mathcal{Y}_i = \{x \in X : 2^{-i} \leq \Delta(x) < 2^{1-i}, i \in \mathbb{N}\},$$

and the definition of zooming dimension

$$d_z = \inf_{\beta \geq 0} \{|\mathcal{S}_j| \leq O(\epsilon^\beta), \epsilon = O(2^{-j}), \forall j \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Pick $\delta = \left(\frac{\log^2 T}{T}\right)^{\frac{1}{d_z+2}}$, if $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \leq O(\delta)$, then $\mathbb{R}_x^p \leq O(\delta N_x^p)$. If $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} > \Omega(\delta)$, then $b_{p-1} = O(\log T) \Delta^{-2}(x)$. If $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} > \Omega(\delta)$, then $N_x^p = O(\log T) \Delta^{-2}(x)$. According to the stop condition of the compare strategy and the definition of zooming dimension, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p &\leq \delta N^p + \sum_{i: 2^{-i} > \delta} \sum_{x \in Y_i} \mathbb{R}_x^p \\ &\leq \delta N^p + O((\log T)^2) \delta^{d_z+1} \leq \delta T + O((\log T)^2) \delta^{d_z+1} \\ &\leq O(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}} (\log T)^{\frac{2}{d_z+2}}). \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p \leq \sum_{p=1}^{\phi} O(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}} (\log T)^{\frac{2}{d_z+2}}) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

Based on the clean event, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) | \mathcal{E}] \leq \sum_{p=1}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

The regret is

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}) (1 - 1/T) + 1 \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

Then we complete the proof.

D A Simple Algorithm

We present the pseudocode. The algorithm also maintains the index x , the mean reward estimator $\bar{r}_x$, and the number of pulls n_x for one arm in memory. The constants c and η are two parameters to balance the exploration and exploitation. For each phase p , the algorithm determines the budget b_p of samples for each probe, the number of total pulls N^p during the phase, and the usage factor λ_p obtained after the phase. Once the arm x is discarded, the algorithm chooses the next probe by adding $\eta \sqrt{(c \log T)/(n_x L^2)}$, which is the step size and has the same order as the confidence radius of arm x .

We have the following theoretical result.

Theorem 3. For Lipschitz bandits with time horizon T and Lipschitz constant L , Algorithm 7 with $c \geq 5$ and $\eta = 1/3$ achieves regret

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}),$$

using $O(1)$ stored arms, where $d_z \leq 1$ is the zooming dimension of space $\mathcal{X}$.

Algorithm 7 A Simple Algorithm

Input: rounds T , Lipschitz constant L , constant c and η

```
1:  $y \leftarrow 0, \bar{r}_y \leftarrow 0, n_y \leftarrow 0, B_1 \leftarrow \sqrt{T}$ .
2: for  $p = 1, 2, \dots$  do
3:    $x \leftarrow 0, N^p \leftarrow 0$ .
4:   while  $x \leq 1$  do
5:      $\bar{r}_x \leftarrow 0, n_x \leftarrow 0, b_p \leftarrow (B_p/3)^{2/3}(c \log T)^{1/3}L^{-2/3}$ .
6:     while  $n_x \leq b_p$  or  $n_y \leq b_p$  do
7:        $N^p \leftarrow N^p + 1$ .
8:       Pull the least played arm between  $x$  and  $y$ , and select a random arm if there not exists a
       least played arm.
9:       Update  $\bar{r}_x, n_x, \bar{r}_y, n_y$ .
10:      if  $\min\{\bar{r}_x + \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_x}, 1\} < \max\{\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_y}, 0\}$  then
11:        Break.
12:      else if  $\max\{\bar{r}_x - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_x}, 0\} > \max\{\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(c \log T)/n_y}, 0\}$  then
13:         $y \leftarrow x, \bar{r}_y \leftarrow \bar{r}_x, n_y \leftarrow n_x$ .
14:        Break.
15:      end if
16:    end while
17:     $x \leftarrow x + \eta\sqrt{(c \log T)/(n_x L^2)}$ .
18:  end while
19:   $B_{p+1} \leftarrow B_p \log T$ .
20: end for
```

617 D.1 Proof of Theorem 3

618 The proof closely mirrors that of Theorem 2. To ease the reading, let $c = 5$ and $\eta = 1/3$. For all
619 arms $x_t \in \mathcal{X}$ and all rounds $t \in [T]$, the gap between the mean reward and the expectation could be
620 bounded with probability $1 - T^{-1}$:

$$|\mu(x_t) - \bar{r}_{x_t}| \leq \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_{x_t}}}, \forall t \in [T].$$

621 We call this ‘clean event’ $\mathcal{E}$ and mainly analyze the regret based on $\mathcal{E}$. For the number of phases ϕ ,
622 we always have $\phi \leq O\left(\frac{\log T}{\log \log T}\right)$. Notice that the number of total pulls during the phase p ,

$$N^p \leq 3b_p L \sqrt{\frac{b_p}{5 \log T}} \leq 3(B_p/3)^{2/3}(5 \log T)^{1/3} \sqrt{\frac{(B_p/3)^{2/3}(5 \log T)^{1/3}}{5 \log T}} = B_p.$$

623 Let $\mathbb{R}_S^p$ denote the regret for the p -th phase. For the first phase, we have $\mathbb{R}_S^1 \leq N^1 \leq B_1 \leq \sqrt{T}$.
624 Then we consider $\mathbb{R}_S^p, 1 < p \leq \phi$. For phase p , we consider the best estimate arm y at the start of the
625 p -th phase. If x_{p-1}^* is discarded in phase $p-1$, according to the stop condition of compare strategy,
626 we have

$$\bar{r}_y \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_y}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{n_{x_{p-1}^*}}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}}.$$

627 For arbitrary discarded arm x , let R_x^p and N_x^p denote the accumulated reward and total number of
628 pulls during phase p , respectively. Notice that the value of $\bar{r}_y - \sqrt{(5 \log T)/n_y}$ is non-decreasing, so
629 we have

$$\frac{R_x^p}{N_x^p - 1} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} \geq \mu_{p-1}^* - 2\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}}.$$

630 Then we get

$$R_x^p \geq 2N_x^p \left(\mu_{p-1}^* - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} - \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \right).$$

631 Let $\mathbb{R}_x^p$ denote the cumulative regret of playing arm x during phase p , we have

$$\mathbb{R}_x^p \leq 2N_x^p \left(\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \right).$$

632 Similarly, the first term from the gap between the expected reward of best estimated arm and the
 633 selected sub-optimal arm. The second term from the deviation between the best estimated arm and
 634 optimal expected per-round reward of the $(p-1)$ -th phase. Recall the set

$$\mathcal{Y}_i = \{x \in X : 2^{-i} \leq \Delta(x) < 2^{1-i}, i \in \mathbb{N}\},$$

635 and the definition of zooming dimension

$$d_z = \inf_{\beta \geq 0} \{|\mathcal{S}_j| \leq O(\epsilon^\beta), \epsilon = O(2^{-j}), \forall j \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

636 Pick $\delta = \left(\frac{\log^2 T}{T}\right)^{\frac{1}{d_z+2}}$, if $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} \leq O(\delta)$, then $\mathbb{R}_x^p \leq O(\delta N_x^p)$. If $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{b_{p-1}}} > \Omega(\delta)$,
 637 then $b_{p-1} = O(\log T) \Delta^{-2}(x)$. If $\sqrt{\frac{5 \log T}{N_x^p - 1}} > \Omega(\delta)$, then $N_x^p = O(\log T) \Delta^{-2}(x)$. According the
 638 stop condition of the compare strategy and the definition of zooming dimension, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p &\leq \delta N^p + \sum_{i: 2^{-i} > \delta} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{Y}_i} \mathbb{R}_x^p \\ &\leq \delta N^p + O((\log T)^2) \delta^{d_z+1} \leq \delta T + O((\log T)^2) \delta^{d_z+1} \\ &\leq O(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}} (\log T)^{\frac{2}{d_z+2}}). \end{aligned}$$

639 Then we have

$$\sum_{p=1}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p \leq \sum_{p=1}^{\phi} O(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}} (\log T)^{\frac{2}{d_z+2}}) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

640 Based on the clean event, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) | \mathcal{E}] \leq \sum_{p=1}^{\phi} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}^p \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

641 The regret is

$$\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{X}}(T) \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}) (1 - 1/T) + 1 \leq \tilde{O}(T^{\frac{d_z+1}{d_z+2}}).$$

642 Then we complete the proof.

643 E Numerical Results

644 **Different variances.** Keeping other setting of Figure 1(b) unchanged, Figure 4(a-b) present the
 645 results with different variances. For $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.05^2)$ (Figure 4(a)), the MBAD algorithm achieves
 646 140.2% regret of the zooming algorithm. For $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.2^2)$ (Figure 4(b)), the MBAD algorithm
 647 achieves 149.5% regret of the zooming algorithm. Overall, our algorithm performs better when the
 648 variance is small. Note that the algorithm is based on the ‘successive elimination-style’ strategy and
 649 smaller variances make the algorithm select better arms during comparisons with higher probability.

650 **Uniform noise distribution.** Keeping other setting of Figure 1(b) unchanged, Figure 5(a) presents
 651 the results with uniform noise distribution. For $\xi \sim \mathcal{U}(-0.2, 0.2)$ (Figure 5(a)), the MBAD algorithm
 652 achieves 118.1% regret of the zooming algorithm. The results show that our algorithms work robustly
 653 for different noise distributions.

654 **Quadratic reward function.** We also provide the numerical results for different reward functions.
 655 Keeping other setting of Figure 1(b) unchanged, Figure 5(b) presents the results with uniform noise
 656 distribution. For $f(x) = 1 - 4 \times (0.5 - x)^2$ (Figure 5(b)), the MBAD algorithm achieves 132.3%
 657 regret of the zooming algorithm. The results show that our algorithms work robustly for different
 658 reward functions.

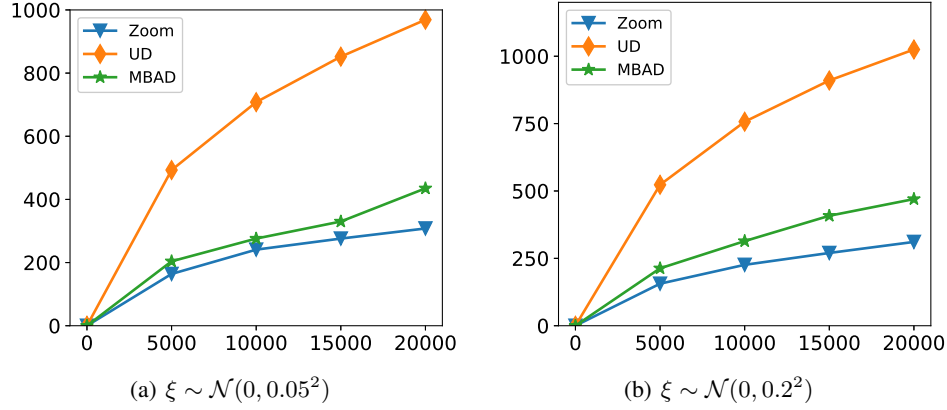


Figure 4: Performance comparisons for Gaussian distribution with different variances.

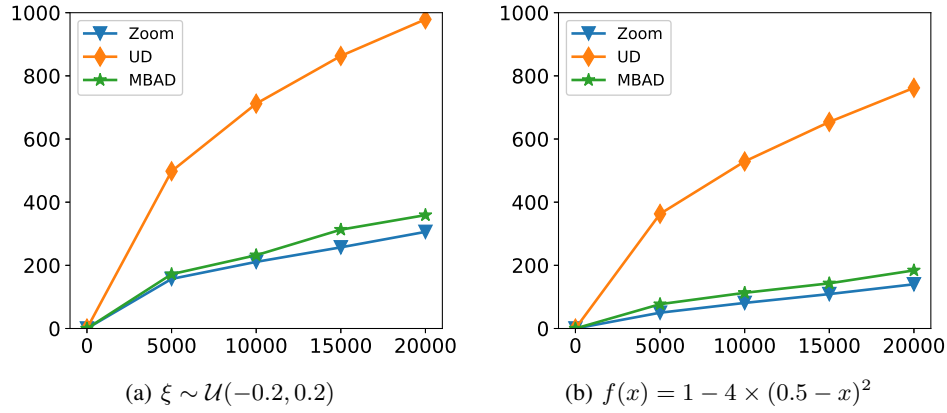


Figure 5: Performance comparisons for (a) Uniform distribution; (b) Quadratic reward function.

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