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# Improved Differentially Private and Lazy Online Convex Optimization: Lower Regret without Smoothness Requirements

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## Abstract

We design differentially private regret-minimizing algorithms in the online convex optimization (OCO) framework. Unlike recent results, our algorithms and analyses do not require smoothness, thus yielding the first private regret bounds with an optimal leading-order term for non-smooth loss functions. Additionally, even for smooth losses, the resulting regret guarantees improve upon previous results in terms their dependence of dimension. Our results provide the best known rates for DP-OCO in all practical regimes of the privacy parameter, barring when it is exceptionally small. The principal innovation in our algorithm design is the use of sampling from *strongly* log-concave densities which satisfy the Log-Sobolev Inequality. The resulting concentration of measure allows us to obtain a better trade-off for the dimension factors than prior work, leading to improved results. Following previous works on DP-OCO, the proposed algorithm explicitly limits the number of switches via rejection sampling. Thus, independently of privacy constraints, the algorithm also provides improved results for online convex optimization with a switching budget.

## 1. Introduction

The framework of online convex optimization (OCO) provides a unified treatment of computational and statistical aspects of decision-making and learning under uncertainty. In it, in each round  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ , a learner chooses an element  $x_t$  from a compact convex set  $\mathcal{K} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , after which an adversarially chosen Lipschitz convex loss

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function  $l_t : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  in revealed. Thus the learner suffers loss  $l_t(x_t)$  in round  $t$ . The learner’s *regret* is defined as  $\sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x_t) - \min_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x)$ . The learner’s performance may be assessed via her expected regret, averaging over the randomness in her and the adversary’s choices. In this paper, we restrict our discussion to *obviously* chosen loss functions, i.e., they are independent of the iterates  $x_t$ .

**Differentially Private OCO (DP-OCO).** Online learning algorithms often operate over sensitive data, e.g. user-level data for personalization-oriented services. Hence, in addition to minimizing regret, limiting privacy leakage is desirable, and has been pursued in Jain et al. (2012); Smith & Thakurta (2013); Agarwal & Singh (2017); Kairouz et al. (2021); Asi et al. (2023); Agarwal et al. (2023). The promise of privacy in DP-OCO dictates that if a loss function  $l_t$  in any round  $t$  were changed to a different function  $l'_t$ , then distribution over the *entire* iterate sequence produced by the algorithm is not altered in a quantitative ( $\epsilon$ -dependent) distributional sense. Kairouz et al. (2021) established a regret upper bound of  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}\left(\frac{d^{1/4}\sqrt{T}}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right)^1$ . This was improved in a series of works (Asi et al., 2023; Agarwal et al., 2023), for moderate ranges of  $\epsilon$ , with Agarwal et al. (2023) providing the known best bound of  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{dT^{1/3}}{\epsilon}\right)$ ; notably, the first term here matches the optimal non-private regret. There are two shortcomings of the result in Agarwal et al. (2023). Firstly, it only applies to smooth loss functions. Moreover, application of artificial smoothing techniques, e.g., Moreau-Yoshida smoothing, to arrive at a result for non-smooth losses yields bounds that are uniformly worse than in Kairouz et al. (2021), and is therefore fruitless. Secondly, the dependence on the dimension in the second term is suboptimal; while specifically for the class of generalized linear model (GLM) functions, the authors proved an improved bound of  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}^{1/3}}{\epsilon}\right)$ , improving the second term by a factor of  $\sqrt{d}$ , obtaining the above bound for the general class of Lipschitz convex functions was left open. In this paper, we resolve both these problems, and offer an unconditional improvement. Concretely, we provide a DP-OCO algorithm for potentially non-smooth convex Lip-

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<sup>1</sup> $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\cdot)$  hides polylog factors in  $1/\delta$  and  $T$ .

schitz losses with  $\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}^{1/3}}{\varepsilon}\right)$  regret.<sup>2</sup> This now provides the known best regret bound for DP-OCO, for all practical regimes of the privacy parameters. We provide a detailed comparison in Table 1.

**Lazy OCO.** Regret bounds for online learners subject to limited switching has seen thorough investigation for prediction with expert advice (Merhav et al., 2002; Kalai & Vempala, 2005; Geulen et al., 2010; Altschuler & Talwar, 2021) and more generally for OCO (Anava et al., 2015; Sherman & Koren, 2021). For smooth losses, the best results known so far for OCO appear in Agarwal et al. (2023); Sherman & Koren (2023) who show a regret bound of  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{T} + \frac{dT}{S})$  while switching at most  $S$  times in expectation. Additionally, Agarwal et al. (2023) gave an improved  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}}{S})$  bound under additional restriction to smooth GLM losses. We improve these results by giving an OCO algorithm that has regret at most  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}}{S})$  for Lipschitz losses, in absence of any smoothness or GLM restrictions. This also improves the known best switching-limited regret bounds for non-smooth losses in Anava et al. (2015); Chen et al. (2020) which scale as  $\tilde{O}(\sqrt{dT} + \frac{dT}{S})$  and  $O(\frac{T}{\sqrt{S}})$ , respectively. In contrast to our result, neither attains an optimal  $\sqrt{T}$  leading-order term for a sub-linear switching budget.

**Overview of our techniques.** The starting point of our algorithm is the Private Shrinking Dartboard algorithm of Asi et al. (2023) which proposes to play a point sampled per step from the distribution with density at  $x$  proportional to  $\exp\left(-\beta\left(\sum_{\tau=1}^t l_{\tau}(x)\right)\right)$ . In this case the regret as well as the differential privacy of the algorithm is governed by the parameter  $\beta$ . As can be easily seen from the regret analyses for such continuous multiplicative weights algorithms, the choice of  $\beta$  scales with the dimension (corresponding to the volume of the domain) leading to an overall regret of  $\sqrt{dT}$ .

In contrast we propose to sample the played point every round from the distribution with density at  $x$  proportional to  $\exp\left(-\beta\left(\sum_{\tau=1}^t l_{\tau}(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2\right)\right)$ . The primary advantage of adding the  $\ell_2$ -norm term is that the stability of the algorithm which affects the regret as well as the differential privacy can now be governed directly by the  $\lambda$  parameter. This is a consequence of that fact that the above density satisfies the Log-Sobolev inequality and thus we are able to leverage the geometry of the underlying domain using the resulting concentration of measure, as opposed to a crude bound on its volume. In particular as we show in Lemma 3.5, the stability of the algorithm which can be measured via the

<sup>2</sup>For a small regime of  $\varepsilon \in [T^{-1/6}, d^{2/3}T^{-1/6}]$  we get an additional  $\frac{\sqrt{dT}^{3/8}}{\varepsilon^{3/4}}$  term; this also arises in Agarwal et al. (2023) for GLM losses. Even with this included, the bound unconditionally improves Agarwal et al. (2023) as shown in Table 1 on page 3.

ratio between the densities of distributions at two consecutive timesteps scales as  $O\left(\sqrt{\beta/\lambda}\right)$  as opposed to  $O(\beta)$  in the Private Shrinking Dartboard algorithm. Tuning the  $\lambda$  parameter appropriately now allows for a significantly better trade-off with respect to the dimension. The idea of using a strongly log-concave distribution has been used previously in the context differentially-private stochastic optimization in the work of Gopi et al. (2022) and Ganesh et al. (2023).

This paper builds upon an earlier paper by the same authors (Agarwal et al., 2023). To maintain continuity and ease understanding for readers who wish to read both papers, the present paper is structured very similarly to Agarwal et al. (2023). In particular, several lemmas are adaptations of analogs in Agarwal et al. (2023); we chose to include them for completeness. Given the similarity between the two papers, we highlight a few key differences and points of technical novelty in Section 5.

## 2. Preliminaries

**Notation.** We use  $\|\cdot\|$  to denote the standard  $\ell_2$  norm on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . For distributions  $p$  and  $q$  on the same outcome space, we use  $\|p - q\|_{\text{TV}}$  to denote their total variation distance. For a distribution  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , we use  $\mu(A)$  to denote the measure of a measurable set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ . With some abuse of notation, we also use  $\mu(x)$  to denote the density of  $\mu$  at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , if it exists.

**Problem Setting.** We have a convex compact set  $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  with diameter  $D \triangleq \max_{x,y \in \mathcal{K}} \|x - y\|$ . At each step  $t \in [T]$ , the learner  $\mathcal{A}$  chooses a point  $x_t \in \mathcal{K}$ , after which she sees a loss function  $l_t : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and suffers a loss of  $l_t(x_t)$ . For any  $t$ -indexed sequence of objects, e.g. the loss function  $l_t$ , let  $l_{1:T} = (l_1, \dots, l_T)$  be the concatenated sequence. We consider *oblivious adversaries* in that we assume the loss function sequence  $l_{1:T}$  is chosen independently of the iterates  $x_t$  picked by the learner.<sup>3</sup> A function  $l : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be  $G$ -Lipschitz if  $|l(x) - l(y)| \leq G\|x - y\|$  for any pair  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\mathcal{K}$  is full-dimensional and contains the origin.

**Assumption 2.1.** *The loss functions  $l_{1:T} \in \mathcal{L}^T$  are chosen obliviously from the class  $\mathcal{L}$  of  $G$ -Lipschitz convex functions.*

The expected regret assigned to the learner is the expected excess aggregate loss of the learner in comparison to the best fixed point in  $\mathcal{K}$  chosen with the benefit of hindsight.

$$\mathcal{R}_T(\mathcal{A}, l_{1:T}) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{A}} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x_t) - \min_{x^* \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x^*) \right]$$

<sup>3</sup>As noted in Asi et al. (2023), the privacy guarantee is not reliant on obliviousness, but the regret bounds are. The necessity of obliviousness is due to our use of the Shrinking Dartboard algorithm. For adaptive adversaries, Asi et al. (2023) show that no algorithm can achieve sublinear regret when  $\varepsilon \leq 1/\sqrt{T}$ .

Privacy Parameter $\varepsilon$	Previous Best		Theorem 4.4
	With Smoothness	No Smoothness	(No Smoothness)
$\varepsilon \geq dT^{-1/6}$	$\sqrt{T}$ (Agarwal et al., 2023)	$\sqrt{dT}$ (Asi et al., 2023)	$\sqrt{T}$
$\varepsilon \in [d^{2/3}T^{-1/6}, dT^{-1/6}]$	$d \cdot T^{1/3} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1}$ (Agarwal et al., 2023)		$\sqrt{dT}$
$\varepsilon \in [\sqrt{dT}^{-1/6}, d^{2/3}T^{-1/6}]$		$\sqrt{d} \cdot T^{3/8} \cdot \varepsilon^{-3/4}$	
$\varepsilon \in [T^{-1/6}, \sqrt{dT}^{-1/6}]$		$d \cdot T^{1/3} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1}$ (Asi et al., 2023)	$\sqrt{d} \cdot T^{1/3} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1}$
$\varepsilon \in [d^{3/2}T^{-1/3}, T^{-1/6}]$	$d^{1/4} \cdot T^{1/2} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1/2}$ (Kairouz et al., 2021)		
$\varepsilon \in [dT^{-1/3}, d^{3/2}T^{-1/3}]$	$d^{1/4} \cdot T^{1/2} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1/2}$ (Kairouz et al., 2021)		
$\varepsilon \leq dT^{-1/3}$	$d^{1/4} \cdot T^{1/2} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1/2}$ (Kairouz et al., 2021) (Current Best)		$\sqrt{d} \cdot T^{1/3} \cdot \varepsilon^{-1}$

Table 1. Landscape of the best known results for DP-OCO across different regimes of the privacy parameter. In red, we highlight our results where they are *strictly better* than the known best result for *both* smooth and non-smooth losses, and in blue are highlighted improved results for *non-smooth* losses alone. Notice that our algorithm strictly improves the best known results *without assuming smoothness* for all  $\varepsilon \geq dT^{-1/3}$ . While we focus on factors of  $d$ , for the asymptotics we assume  $T \gg d$ .

Number of Switches $S$	Previous Best		Theorem 4.5
	With Smoothness	No Smoothness	(No Smoothness)
$d\sqrt{T} \leq S \ll T$	$\sqrt{T}$ (Agarwal et al., 2023) (Sherman & Koren, 2023)	$\sqrt{dT}$ (Anava et al., 2015)	$\sqrt{T}$
$\sqrt{dT} \leq S \leq d\sqrt{T}$	$d \cdot T/S$ (Agarwal et al., 2023) (Sherman & Koren, 2023)		$\sqrt{T}$
$d^2 \leq S \leq \sqrt{d} \cdot T$	$d \cdot T/S$ (Anava et al., 2015)		$\sqrt{d} \cdot T/S$
$d \leq S \leq d^2$	$T/\sqrt{S}$ (Chen et al., 2020)		
$S \leq d$	$T/\sqrt{S}$ (Chen et al., 2020) (Current Best)		$\sqrt{d} \cdot T/S$

Table 2. Comparison between our results and the known best results for Lazy OCO in different regimes for the switching budget  $S$ . In red, we highlight our results where they are *strictly better* than the known best result for *both* smooth and non-smooth losses, and in blue are highlighted improved results for *non-smooth* losses alone. While we focus on factors of  $d$ , for asymptotics we assume  $T \gg d$ .

Without making any distributional assumptions, we will bound the *worst-case* regret,  $\mathcal{R}_T(\mathcal{A}) \triangleq \max_{l_{1:T} \in \mathcal{L}^T} \mathcal{R}_T(\mathcal{A}, l_{1:T})$ , taken over all loss sequences.

The expected number of discrete switches for a given learner can be calculated as

$$\mathcal{S}_T(\mathcal{A}, l_{1:T}) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{A}} \left[ \sum_{t=2}^T \mathbb{1}_{x_t \neq x_{t-1}} \right].$$

For brevity, henceforth we will simply use  $\mathcal{R}_T$  and  $\mathcal{S}_T$  to refer to  $\mathcal{R}_T(\mathcal{A}, l_{1:T})$  and  $\mathcal{S}_T(\mathcal{A}, l_{1:T})$  respectively.

Finally, an online learning algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  is said to  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -differentially private if for any loss function sequence pair  $l_{1:T}, l'_{1:T} \in \mathcal{L}^T$  such that  $l_t = l'_t$  for all but possibly one  $t \in [T]$ , we have for any Lebesgue measurable  $O \subset \mathcal{K}^T$ :

$$\Pr_{\mathcal{A}}(x_{1:T} \in O | l_{1:T}) \leq e^\varepsilon \Pr_{\mathcal{A}}(x_{1:T} \in O | l'_{1:T}) + \delta.$$

To finish up, we recall the adaptive strong composition lemma for differentially-private mechanisms.

**Lemma 2.2** (Whitehouse et al. (2022)). *Let  $\mathcal{A}_t : \mathcal{L}^{t-1} \times \mathcal{K}^{t-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  be a  $t$ -indexed family of  $(\varepsilon_t, \delta_t)$ -differentially private algorithms, i.e. for every  $t$ , for any pair of sequences of loss functions  $l_{1:t-1}, l'_{1:t-1} \in \mathcal{L}^{t-1}$  differing in at most one index in  $[t-1]$ , and any  $x_{1:t-1} \in \mathcal{K}^{t-1}$ :*

$$P_{\mathcal{A}_t}(x_t | l_{1:t-1}, x_{1:t-1}) \leq e^\varepsilon P_{\mathcal{A}_t}(x_t | l'_{1:t-1}, x_{1:t-1}) + \delta.$$

Define a new  $t$ -indexed family  $\mathcal{B}_t : \mathcal{L}^{t-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}^t$  recursively starting with  $\mathcal{B}_1 = \mathcal{A}_1$  as

$$\mathcal{B}_t(l_{1:t-1}) = \mathcal{B}_{t-1}(l_{1:t-2}) \circ \mathcal{A}_t(l_{1:t-1}, \mathcal{B}_{t-1}(l_{1:t-2})).$$

Then for any  $\delta'' > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_T$  is  $(\varepsilon', \delta')$ -differentially private, where

$$\varepsilon' = \frac{3}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t^2 + \sqrt{6 \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t^2 \log \frac{1}{\delta''}}, \quad \delta' = \delta'' + \sum_{t=1}^T \delta_t.$$

Lastly, we state a lemma routinely used in online learning to decompose regret into incremental stability terms.

**Lemma 2.3** (FTL-BTL (Hazan, 2016)). *For any loss function sequence  $l_{0:T}$  over any set  $\mathcal{B}$ , define*

$$y_t = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{B}} \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} l_i(x) \right\}.$$

Then, for any  $x \in \mathcal{B}$ , we have

$$\sum_{t=0}^T l_t(y_{t+1}) \leq \sum_{t=0}^T l_t(x).$$

### 3. Preliminary results for Gibbs measures

In this paper we consider a class of Gibbs distributions over the set  $\mathcal{K}$ . Given any function  $f : \mathcal{K} \in \mathbb{R}$ , a temperature constant  $\beta \geq 0$  and a regularization parameter  $\lambda \geq 0$  we define  $\mu(f, \beta, \lambda) : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  to be a measure function defined as

$$\mu(f, \beta, \lambda)(x) = \exp \left( -\beta \cdot \left( f(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|x\|^2 \right) \right). \quad (3.1)$$

We further define  $Z(f, \beta, \lambda)$  to be normalization constant of the above function defined as

$$Z(f, \beta, \lambda) = \int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp \left( -\beta \cdot \left( f(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|x\|^2 \right) \right) dx. \quad (3.2)$$

Using the above we can define a probability density  $\bar{\mu}(f, \beta, \lambda)(x)$  over  $\mathcal{K}$  as follows

$$\bar{\mu}(f, \beta, \lambda)(x) \triangleq \frac{\mu(f, \beta, \lambda)(x)}{Z(f, \beta, \lambda)}. \quad (3.3)$$

We will interchangeably use the notation  $\bar{\mu}$  for the probability density function as well as the distribution itself. We will suppress  $\beta, \lambda$  from the above definitions when they will be clear from the context. In the following we collect some useful definitions and results pertaining to concentration of measure resulting from the Log-Sobolev Inequality.

**Definition 3.1.** *A distribution  $P$  satisfies the Log-Sobolev Inequality (LSI) with constant  $c$  if for all smooth functions  $g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[g(x)^2] < \infty$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[g(x)^2 \log(g(x)^2)] - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[g(x)^2] \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[\log(g(x)^2)] \\ \leq \frac{2}{c} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P}[\|\nabla g(x)\|^2] \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.2** (Proposition 3 and Corollaire 2 in Bakry & Émery (2006)). *Given a  $\Lambda$ -strongly convex function  $l$ , let  $Q$  be the distribution supported over  $\mathcal{K}$  with density  $\mu(x)$  proportional to  $\exp(-\beta \cdot l(x))$ . Then  $Q$  satisfies LSI (Definition 3.1) with constant  $c = \beta\Lambda$ .*

**Lemma 3.3** (Concentration of Measure; follows from Herbst's argument presented in Section 2.3 of Ledoux (1999)). *Let  $F$  be a  $L$ -Lipschitz function and let  $Q$  be a distribution satisfying LSI with a constant  $c$  then*

$$\Pr_{X \sim Q} (|F(X) - \mathbb{E}[F(X)]| \geq r) \leq 2 \exp \left( -\frac{c \cdot r^2}{2L^2} \right)$$

The following definition defines a notion of closeness for two Gibbs-measures:

**Definition 3.4.** *Two Gibbs distributions  $\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}'$  on  $\mathcal{K}$  are said to be  $(\Phi, \delta)$ -close if the following inequalities hold:*

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} \left[ \frac{1}{\Phi} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}(X)}{\bar{\mu}'(X)} \leq \Phi \right] &\geq 1 - \delta \\ \Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}'} \left[ \frac{1}{\Phi} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}(X)}{\bar{\mu}'(X)} \leq \Phi \right] &\geq 1 - \delta \end{aligned}$$

One of the core components of our analysis is to show that the Gibbs-measures are *smooth* under changes of the underlying functions. A similar result was also proved by Gopi et al. (2022, Theorem 4) and a slightly looser bound by Ganesh et al. (2023). Missing proofs in this section can be found in Appendix A.

**Lemma 3.5** (Density ratio). *Let  $l, l' : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex functions such that  $l - l'$  is  $G$ -Lipschitz. Further let  $\beta, \lambda \geq 0$  be parameters and define the Gibbs-distributions  $\bar{\mu} = \bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}' = \bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  (as defined in (3.1)). Then for any  $\delta \in (0, 1]$ , we have that  $\bar{\mu}$  and  $\bar{\mu}'$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$  close where*

$$\Phi = \exp \left( \frac{2\beta G^2}{\lambda} + \sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\lambda}} \right)$$

The proof of the lemma crucially uses the following bound on the Wasserstein-distance of the Gibbs-distributions and other machinery developed by Ganesh et al. (2023).

**Lemma 3.6** (Wasserstein Distance). *Let  $l, l' : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex functions such that  $l - l'$  is  $G$ -Lipschitz. Further let  $\beta, \lambda \geq 0$  be parameters and define the Gibbs-distributions  $\bar{\mu} = \bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}' = \bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  (as defined in (3.3)). Then we have that  $\infty$ -Wasserstein distance between  $\bar{\mu}$  and  $\bar{\mu}'$  over the  $\ell_2$  metric is bounded as*

$$W_\infty(\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}') \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}.$$

## 4. Algorithm and main result

Our proposed algorithm Private Continuous Online Multiplicative Weights with Euclidean Regularization (POMER)

**Algorithm 1:** Private Online Continuous Multiplicative Weights with Euclidean Regularization (POMER)

**Inputs:** A temperature parameter  $\beta$ , a regularization parameter  $\lambda > 0$ , switching rate parameter  $p \in [0, 1]$ , switching budget  $B \geq 0$ , a scale parameter  $\Phi > 0$ .

Let  $x_1$  be a random variable sampled uniformly from  $\mathcal{K}$ .

**for**  $t = 1$  *to*  $T$  **do**

    Play  $x_t \in \mathcal{K}$ .

    Observe  $l_t : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and suffer a loss of  $l_t(x_t)$ .

    Define the measure function

$$\mu_{t+1}(x) \triangleq \mu(f, \beta, \lambda)(x) \triangleq \exp\left(-\beta \left(\sum_{\tau=1}^t l_\tau(x) + \lambda \frac{\|x\|^2}{2}\right)\right)$$

    Accordingly denote  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)$  the probability density resulting from the measure  $\mu_{t+1}$ . (cf. (3.3))

    Sample

$$S_t \sim \text{Ber}\left(\min\left\{1, \max\left\{\frac{1}{\Phi^2}, \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x_t)}{\Phi \cdot \bar{\mu}_t(x_t)}\right\}\right\}\right) \text{ and } S'_t \sim \text{Ber}(1-p).$$

**if**  $b_t < B$  and  $(S'_t = 0$  or  $S_t = 0)$  **then**

        Update  $b_{t+1} = b_t + 1$  and draw an independent sample  $x_{t+1} \sim \bar{\mu}_{t+1}$ .

**end**

**else**

        Set  $b_{t+1} = b_t$  and  $x_{t+1} = x_t$ .

**end**

**end**

(Algorithm 1) builds upon the Private Shrinking Dartboard algorithm proposed by Asi et al. (2023) (also see Agarwal et al. (2023)). At a high level at every step the algorithm ensures that at every iteration it samples  $x_t$  from the distribution  $\bar{\mu}_t$  over  $\mathcal{K}$  corresponding to the measure function  $\mu_t(x)$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_t(x) &= \mu\left(\sum_{\tau=1}^t l_\tau, \beta, \lambda\right) \\ &= \exp\left(-\beta \left(\sum_{\tau=1}^{t-1} l_\tau(x) + \lambda \frac{\|x\|^2}{2}\right)\right). \end{aligned}$$

The distribution  $\bar{\mu}_t$  is the same distribution as Online Continuous Multiplicative Weights (as used in Asi et al. (2023)) with an added strong-convexity term governed by  $\lambda$ . This additional strong-convexity term is key to the improvements provided in this paper as it provides a better trade-off between switching and regret.

The above scheme was first analyzed by Gopi et al. (2022) and was recently shown to be able to obtain optimal results in the case of stochastic convex optimization (Ganesh et al., 2023). In the online case however a direct application of the above scheme can leak a lot of private information since the algorithm can potentially alter its decisions in each round. To guard against this, as in the work of Asi et al. (2023);

Agarwal et al. (2023), we use a rejection sampling procedure which draws inspiration from Geulen et al. (2010). Specifically, for any  $t$ , the point  $x_{t+1}$  is chosen to be equal to  $x_t$  with probability  $\frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x_t)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x_t)}$ , where  $\Phi$  is a scaling factor.<sup>4</sup> With the remaining probability, we sample  $x_{t+1}$  independently from  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}$  (we call this a “switch”). This rejection sampling technique ensures that the distribution of  $x_{t+1}$  remains very close to  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}$ . We rescale the density ratio  $\frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x_t)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x_t)}$  appropriately to make sure it is at most unit sized with high probability.

We now turn to the regret analysis for Algorithm 1. The following theorem is proved in Section 4.2:

**Theorem 4.1** (Regret bound for POMER). *In Algorithm 1, fix any  $\beta, \lambda > 0$ , any  $\delta \in [0, 1/2]$ , any  $p \in [0, 1]$ , and choose  $\Phi$  such that for all  $t$  the distributions  $\bar{\mu}_t, \bar{\mu}_{t+1}$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$ -close. For any sequence of obliviously chosen  $G$ -Lipschitz, convex loss functions  $l_{1:T}$ , the following hold:*

- If  $B = \infty$ ,

$$\mathcal{R}_T \leq \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{d \log(T)}{\beta} + GD + 6GD\delta T^2.$$

- Let  $\tilde{p} = p + 1 - \Phi^{-2}$ . If  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_T &\leq \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{d \log(T)}{\beta} \\ &\quad + 2GDT(e^{-\tilde{p}T} + 3\delta T) + GD. \end{aligned}$$

The following lemma (originally proved in (Agarwal et al., 2023)), gives a bound on the number of switches made by the Algorithm 1 and immediately follows by observing that the probability of switching in any round is at most  $\tilde{p}$  via a simple Chernoff bound. For completeness we provide a proof in Appendix B.

**Lemma 4.2** (Switching bound). *For any  $p \in [0, 1]$  and any  $\Phi \geq 0$ , setting  $\tilde{p} = p + 1 - \Phi^{-2}$ , we have that the number of switches is bounded in the following manner,*

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{S}_T] \leq \tilde{p}T, \quad \Pr[\mathcal{S}_T \geq 3\tilde{p}T] \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T}.$$

Finally, we turn to the privacy guarantee for Algorithm 1, proved in Appendix C, with a sketch in Section 4.3:

<sup>4</sup>Note one key difference in the definition of the acceptance probability from Asi et al. (2023): we use the ratio of *normalized* instead of unnormalized densities. This is crucial since the ratio of unnormalized densities may introduce unnecessarily high switching probability: consider the case where the two loss sequences which differ only at one time step  $t_0$ , with the constant 0 loss function in one sequence, and the constant 1 loss function in the other.

**Theorem 4.3 (Privacy).** Given  $\beta, \lambda > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1/2]$ , for any  $T \geq 12 \log(1/\delta)$ , let  $\delta' = \frac{\delta T^{-2}}{60}$ ,  $G' = 3G$ . Suppose there exists  $\Phi' > 0$  such that for all convex functions  $l, l'$  where  $l - l'$  is  $G'$ -Lipschitz, we have that, the distributions  $\bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  respectively are  $(\Phi', \delta')$ -close. Then for any sequence of  $G$ -Lipschitz convex functions, [Algorithm 1](#) when run with  $\Phi = \Phi'^2$ ,  $p = \max\left(T^{-1/3}, \left(\frac{G^4 \beta^2}{\lambda^2 \log^2(\Phi)}\right)^{1/3}\right)$ ,  $\tilde{p} = p + 1 - \Phi^{-2}$  and  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$  is  $(\varepsilon, \delta + 3Te^{-(1-\Phi^{-2})T})$ -differentially private where

$$\varepsilon = 3\varepsilon'/2 + \sqrt{6\varepsilon'}\sqrt{\log(2/\delta)},$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon' &= 7T^{2/3} \log^2(\Phi) + 12 \log^3(\Phi)T \\ &+ 11 \left(\frac{G^4 \beta^2}{\lambda^2}\right)^{1/3} \log^{4/3}(\Phi)T. \end{aligned}$$

#### 4.1. Bounds for Lipschitz loss functions

In order to apply the above results for OCO with convex  $G$ -Lipschitz loss functions, all we need to do is compute  $\Phi$ . This bound was established by [Lemma 3.5](#). Using [Lemma 3.5](#) and combining [Theorem 4.3](#) and [Theorem 4.1](#), we get the following result via straightforward calculations:

**Theorem 4.4 (DP OCO).** For any given  $\varepsilon \leq 1, \delta \in (0, 1/2]$  and any  $T \geq 12 \log(1/\delta)$ , set

$$\lambda = \frac{G}{D} \max \left\{ 2\sqrt{T}, \frac{10^3 T^{1/3} \sqrt{d} \log(T/\delta)}{\varepsilon}, \frac{10^3 T^{3/8} \sqrt{d} \log(T/\delta)}{\varepsilon^{3/4}} \right\},$$

$$\beta = \frac{\lambda}{10^5 \cdot G^2 \log^2(T/\delta)} \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon^2}{T^{2/3}}, \frac{\varepsilon^{3/2}}{T^{3/4}} \right\}$$

and other parameters as in [Theorem 4.3](#). Then we get that [Algorithm 1](#) is  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$  differentially private and additionally satisfies

$$\mathcal{R}_T \leq \tilde{O} \left( GD\sqrt{T} + GD \cdot \sqrt{d} \left( \frac{T^{1/3}}{\varepsilon} + \frac{T^{3/8}}{\varepsilon^{3/4}} \right) \right).$$

Similarly, for Lazy OCO, using [Theorem 4.1](#), [Lemma 4.2](#) and [Lemma 3.5](#), we get the following result:

**Theorem 4.5 (Lazy OCO).** For any  $T \geq 3$  and any given bound  $S \leq T$  on the number of switches, set  $\delta = 2/T^2$ ,  $\lambda = \max \left\{ \frac{G\sqrt{2T}}{D}, \frac{\sqrt{512dG \log(T)}}{D} \cdot \frac{T}{S} \right\}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{\lambda}{256G^2 \log(T)} \cdot \frac{S^2}{T^2}$ ,  $\Phi = \exp \left( \frac{2\beta G^2}{\lambda} + \sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\lambda}} \right)$ ,  $p = 0$  and  $B = \infty$

in [Algorithm 1](#). Then for any sequence of obliviously chosen  $G$ -Lipschitz convex loss functions  $l_{1:T}$ , where  $\mathbb{E}[S_T] \leq S$ , [Algorithm 1](#) satisfies the following:

$$\mathcal{R}_T \leq GD\sqrt{2T} + 16GD \log(T) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{d} \cdot T}{S} + 13GD.$$

*Proof.* We begin by first bounding the number of switches using [Lemma 4.2](#). We get that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[S_T] &\leq \tilde{p}T \leq (1 - \Phi^{-2})T \leq 2 \log(\Phi)T \\ &\leq 2T \left( \underbrace{\frac{2\beta G^2}{\lambda}}_{=\frac{S^2}{128T^2 \log(T)} \leq \frac{S}{128T}} + \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\lambda}}}_{\leq \frac{S}{4T}} \right) \leq S \end{aligned}$$

To bound the regret note that [Lemma 3.5](#) implies that the distributions  $\mu_t, \mu_{t+1}$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$ -close and therefore [Theorem 4.1](#) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_T &\leq \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{d \log(T)}{\beta} + GD + 6GD\delta T^2 \\ &= \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{256 \cdot d \cdot G^2 \log^2(T)}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{T^2}{S^2} + 13GD \\ &\leq GD\sqrt{2T} + 16GD \log(T) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{d} \cdot T}{S} + 13GD. \end{aligned}$$

□

#### 4.2. Regret analysis of [Algorithm 1](#)

Here we provide our analysis for the regret of [Algorithm 1](#) given by [Theorem 4.1](#). For notational convenience, define  $\Pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [\frac{1}{\Phi^2}, 1]$  as  $\Pi(x) = \min\{1, \max\{\frac{1}{\Phi^2}, x\}\}$ . Also define  $\zeta_t \triangleq \mathbb{I}(S_t = 0 \text{ or } S'_t = 0)$ . The following lemma adapted from [Agarwal et al. \(2023\)](#) obtains bounds on the actual distribution that  $x_t$  is sampled from in terms of  $\bar{\mu}_t$ :

**Lemma 4.6 (Distribution drift).** Given  $\delta \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]$  and  $\Phi \geq 1$ , suppose that for all  $t \in [T]$ , the Gibbs-measures  $\mu_t, \mu_{t+1}$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$ -close. If  $q_t$  is the marginal distribution induced by [Algorithm 1](#) on its iterates  $x_t$ , then we have that

- If  $B = \infty$ , then for all  $t$ ,  $\|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{TV} \leq 3\delta(t-1)$ .
- If  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$ , then we have
 
$$\|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{TV} \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T} + 3\delta(t-1).$$

We prove this lemma in the [Appendix B](#). Next we prove the main theorem bounding the regret of [Algorithm 1](#), i.e. [Theorem 4.1](#) here:

*Proof of [Theorem 4.1](#).* Recall that we defined  $\mu_t$  to be the distribution with density proportional as

$$\mu_t(x) \propto \exp \left( -\beta \left( \sum_{\tau=1}^{t-1} l_\tau(x) + \lambda \cdot \frac{\|x\|^2}{2} \right) \right)$$

Let  $q_t$  be the distribution induced by Algorithm 1 on its iterates  $x_t$ . Lemma 4.6 establishes that the sequence of iterates  $x_t$  played by Algorithm 1 follows  $\mu_t$  approximately. We define a sequence of random variables  $\{y_t\}$  wherein each  $y_t$  is sampled from  $\mu_t$  independently. In the following we only prove the case when  $B = 3\bar{p}T$ , the  $B = \infty$  can easily be derived by using the bounds from Lemma 4.6 appropriately. We leverage the following lemma,

**Lemma 4.7.** (Levin & Peres, 2017) *For a pair of probability distributions  $\mu, \nu$ , each supported on  $\mathcal{K}$ , we have for any function  $f : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that*

$$|\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} f(x) - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \nu} f(x)| \leq 2\|\mu - \nu\|_{TV} \max_{x \in \mathcal{K}} |f(x)|.$$

We can now apply Lemma 4.7 to pair  $x_t \sim q_t$  and  $y_t \sim \mu_t$ , using Lemma 4.6, and functions  $\bar{l}_t(x) = l_t(x) - l_t(\bar{x})$ , where  $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{K}$  is chosen arbitrarily, to arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T (l_t(x_t) - l_t(y_t)) \right] \right| &\leq \sum_{t=1}^T |\mathbb{E} [l_t(x_t) - l_t(y_t)]| \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^T |\mathbb{E} [\bar{l}_t(x_t) - \bar{l}_t(y_t)]| \\ &\leq 2GDT (e^{-\bar{p}T} + 3\delta T), \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where we use that  $\max_t \max_{x \in \mathcal{K}} |l_t(x) - l_t(\bar{x})| \leq G \max_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \|x - \bar{x}\| \leq GD$ . Therefore hereafter we only focus on showing the expected regret bound for the sequence  $y_t$ .

We take a distributional approach to the regret bound by defining the function  $l_t^\Delta : \Delta(\mathcal{K}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as  $l_t^\Delta(\mu) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} l_t(x)$ . We can now redefine the regret in terms of the distributions as follows

$$\text{Regret}(\mu) = \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu).$$

Let  $x^* \triangleq \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x)$ . Note that  $\arg \min_{\mu \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu)$  is the Dirac-delta distribution at  $x^*$ , and that  $\min_{\mu \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu) = \sum_{t=1}^T l_t(x^*)$ . For a given value  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$  define the set  $\mathcal{K}_\varepsilon : \{\varepsilon x + (1 - \varepsilon)x^* | x \in \mathcal{K}\}$ . Let  $\mu_\varepsilon^*$  to be uniform distribution over the set  $\mathcal{K}_\varepsilon$ . It is now easy to see using the Lipschitzness of  $l_t$ ,

$$\sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*) - \min_{\mu \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu) \leq GDT\varepsilon. \quad (4.2)$$

Further we define a proxy loss function  $l_0(x) = \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2$  and correspondingly,  $l_0^\Delta$ . Finally define  $\mu_0$  as the uniform

distribution over the set  $\mathcal{K}$ . The following lemma establishes an equivalence between sampling from  $\mu_t$  and a Follow-the-regularized-leader strategy in the space of distributions.

**Lemma 4.8.** *Consider an arbitrary distribution  $\mu_0$  on  $\mathcal{K}$  (referred to as the prior) and  $f$  be an arbitrary bounded function on  $\mathcal{K}$ . Define the distribution  $\mu$  over  $\mathcal{K}$  with density  $\mu(x) \propto \mu_0(x)e^{-f(x)}$ . Then we have that*

$$\mu = \arg \min_{\mu' \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} (\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu'} [f(x)] + \text{KL}(\mu' \| \mu_0)).$$

The lemma follows from the Gibbs variational principle and a proof is included in Appendix B. Using the above lemma, we have that at every step  $t \geq 1$ ,

$$\mu_t = \arg \min_{\mu \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} \left( \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} \beta \cdot l_\tau^\Delta(\mu) + \text{KL}(\mu \| \mu_0) \right).$$

Using the above and the FTL-BTL Lemma (Lemma 2.3) we get the following

$$\begin{aligned} &\beta \cdot \left( \sum_{t=1}^T (l_t^\Delta(\mu_t) - l_t^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*)) \right) \\ &\leq \beta \cdot \left( \sum_{t=1}^T (l_t^\Delta(\mu_t) - l_t^\Delta(\mu_{t+1})) \right) \\ &\quad + \beta \cdot (l_0^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*) - l_0^\Delta(\mu_1)) + \text{KL}(\mu_\varepsilon^* \| \mu_0) - \text{KL}(\mu_0 \| \mu_0) \\ &\leq \beta \cdot \left( \sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_t} [\beta \cdot l_t(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_{t+1}} [\beta \cdot l_t(x)]) \right) \\ &\quad + \beta \cdot l_0^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*) + \text{KL}(\mu_\varepsilon^* \| \mu_0) \end{aligned}$$

Now using Lemma 3.6, there is a coupling  $\gamma$  between  $\mu_t$  and  $\mu_{t+1}$  such that  $\sup_{(x, x') \sim \gamma} \|x - x'\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . Using this coupling we get that,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_t} [l_t(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_{t+1}} [l_t(x)]) \\ &= \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{(x, x') \sim \gamma} [l_t(x) - l_t(x')] \\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{(x, x') \sim \gamma} G \|x - x'\| \leq \sum_{t=1}^T G^2 / \lambda \leq \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Combining the above two displays one gets the following

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Regret}(\mu_\varepsilon^*) &= \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T l_t^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*) \\ &\leq l_0^\Delta(\mu_\varepsilon^*) + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{\text{KL}(\mu_\varepsilon^* \| \mu_0)}{\beta} \\ &\leq \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{d}{\beta} \log(1/\varepsilon) \end{aligned}$$

where we use that  $\text{KL}(\mu_\varepsilon^* \parallel \mu_0) = d \log(1/\varepsilon)$ , since  $\mu_\varepsilon^*$  is the uniform distribution over  $\mathcal{K}_\varepsilon \subseteq \mathcal{K}$  and  $\frac{\text{Vol}(\mathcal{K}_\varepsilon)}{\text{Vol}(\mathcal{K})} = \varepsilon^d$ . Setting  $\varepsilon = 1/T$  and using (4.2) we get that for any  $\mu$ ,

$$\text{Regret}(\mu) \leq \frac{\lambda D^2}{2} + \frac{G^2 T}{\lambda} + \frac{d \log(T)}{\beta} + GD.$$

Combining the above with (4.1) finishes the proof.  $\square$

### 4.3. Sketch of the privacy analysis of Algorithm 1

In this section we provide a sketch of the proof of privacy for Algorithm 1, i.e. Theorem 4.3. The full proof is provided in the appendix. Note that while our algorithm is quite similar to the one proposed by Asi et al. (2023), the privacy analysis is complicated by the fact that the switching probabilities depend on the entire sequence of loss functions and not just the latest one due to our use of the ratio of normalized densities to define the switching probabilities, unlike Asi et al. (2023). The analysis sketch presented below leverages techniques from Agarwal et al. (2023), to together with new ideas, to match this challenge.

For brevity of notation, we say two random variables  $X, Y$  supported on some set  $\Omega$  are  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -indistinguishable if for any outcome set  $O \subseteq \Omega$ , we have that

$$\Pr(X \in O) \leq e^\varepsilon \Pr(Y \in O) + \delta.$$

Consider any two  $t$ -indexed loss sequences  $l_{1:T}, l'_{1:T} \in \mathcal{L}^T$  that differ at not more than one index  $t_0 \in [T]$ , i.e. it is the case that  $l_t(x) = l'_t(x)$  holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $t \in T - \{t_0\}$ . For ease of argumentation we will show differential privacy for the outputs  $x_t$  of the algorithm along with the internal variables  $\zeta_t$  which constitutes the decision to switch, defined for any  $t$  in the algorithm as

$$\zeta_t \triangleq \mathbb{I}\{S'_t = 0 \text{ or } S_t = 0\}.$$

We now provide the claim that is the core of the privacy proof. The claim analyses the privacy loss at three types of timesteps, viz. before the switch of the loss function happened, at the switch and after the switch. To establish definitions, let  $\{(x_t, \zeta_t)\}_{t=1}^T$  and  $\{(x'_t, \zeta'_t)\}_{t=1}^T$  be the instantiations of the random variables determined by Algorithm 1 upon execution on  $l_{1:T}$  and  $l'_{1:T}$ , respectively. For brevity of notation, we will denote by  $\Sigma_t$  the random variable  $\{x_\tau, \zeta_\tau\}_{\tau=1}^t$ . We denote by  $\Sigma_t$  all possible values  $\Sigma_t$  can take. We make the following claim,

**Claim 4.9.** *Let  $\delta' \geq 0$  and  $\Phi$  be as defined in Theorem 4.3. Then for any  $t \in [T]$  the random variable pairs  $(x_t, \zeta_t)$  and  $(x'_t, \zeta'_t)$  are  $(\varepsilon_t, \delta_t)$ -indistinguishable when conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$ , i.e. when conditioned on identical values of random choices made by the algorithm before (but not including)*

round  $t$ , where  $\delta_t = 4\delta' + 9\delta'T + 3e^{-\bar{p}T}$  and

$$\varepsilon_t = \begin{cases} 0, & t < t_0 \\ \mathbb{I}_{\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta_s < B} \cdot 2 \log(\Phi)/p, & t = t_0 \\ \mathbb{I}_{\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta_s < B} \left( \zeta_{t-1} \log(\Phi) + \frac{2G^2\beta/\lambda}{p} \right) & t > t_0 \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

Next, we sketch the proof of the claim and Theorem 4.3 follows from applying the strong composition Lemma 2.2 to the above claim. In particular note that the privacy loss for all time steps  $t > t_0$  depends on whether the switch was made at the step or not via the  $\zeta_{t-1}$ . Therefore the total privacy loss depends on the number of overall switches which is why the algorithm needs a bounded switching mechanism. The above claim divides the privacy loss into three cases depending upon the time step  $t$ .

**Case 1:**  $t < t_0$  At any such time the privacy loss is naturally 0 as the algorithm has seen the same sequence thus far.

**Case 2:**  $t = t_0$  Since  $x_{t_0}$  depends only on the past there is no privacy loss for  $x_{t_0}$ . Now consider the random variable  $\zeta_{t_0}$  which depends on the random variables  $S_{t_0}, S'_{t_0}$ . If we use only  $S_t$  to decide on switching it can be seen that the privacy loss at this step can be infinite (essentially a single loss function change can cause a deterministic non-switch decision to a deterministic switch). As a result following the idea introduced in Asi et al. (2023) we add a small probability  $p$  of forced switching at every step. Via a simple calculation it can be seen that the privacy loss is now bounded by the density ratio between two consecutive time steps is bounded by  $\log(\Phi)/p$ .

**Case 3:**  $t > t_0$ : As remarked before at any such step we see that conditioned on the history thus far being equal privacy loss occurs only if a switch is performed, i.e.  $\zeta_{t-1} = 0$ . If a switch is indeed performed the privacy loss through  $x_t$  is bounded by the ratio of the densities which is at most  $\log(\Phi)$ . We now consider the privacy loss through the variables  $\zeta_t$  which depends on the log ratio of consecutive probabilities of success in the Bernoulli trials. Via an argument that utilizes convexity of a certain log-partition function, and the Wasserstein distance bound for Gibbs measures (Lemma 3.6), we can show that the log ratio of probabilities scales like  $O(\frac{\beta}{\lambda p})$  (see Appendix C for details). Accounting for these two privacy losses if a switch happens gives the overall privacy loss in this case.

Overall putting these arguments together finishes the proof of the claim and an application of strong composition (Lemma 2.2) implies Theorem 4.3.

## 5. Comparisons to Agarwal et al. (2023)

**Algorithm.** The algorithm in this paper differs significantly from Agarwal et al. (2023) in our use of correlated

sampling on top of continuous multiplicative weights, instead of Follow the Perturbed Leader (FTPL). The FTPL approach crucially uses smoothness in bounding the number of switches and it is unclear how this might extend to non-smooth settings. In this regard, our algorithm is similar to [Asi et al. \(2023\)](#) with the vital difference being the addition of a  $\ell_2$  regularization term in the sampling log-density.

**Regret analysis.** While *prima facie* adding a regularization term to the sampling density might appear to be a minor change it is a vital idea towards obtaining our results. A key observation is that upon adding the regularization term the stability term in the regret analysis becomes independent of the temperature  $\beta$  in exponential density. To gain intuition, consider the two extremes: if  $\beta = 0$  we sample from uniform distribution and are stable by definition; if  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$  our algorithm essentially reduces to Follow The Regularized Leader for which the stability comes from the regularization term.

Note that without the regularization term in the log-density,  $\beta$  cannot be very large without degrading stability, and overall that leads to a bias which adds a square root of dimension factor to regret. To the best of our knowledge even in the non-private case this simple modification to the sampling density leading to optimal regret is not known in the literature. The main lemma that proves the stability is [Lemma 3.6](#) which is a Wasserstein bound on the successive densities. We believe this observation is useful more broadly.

**Privacy analysis.** The significant deviation in the privacy analysis from the one in [Agarwal et al. \(2023\)](#) is in the case  $t > t_0$ ;  $t_0$  is the point of change in the loss function sequence. Herein we need to explicitly account for the privacy loss incurred due to the switching decisions  $S_t$  which depends on the logarithm of the ratio of consecutive probabilities of success in the Bernoulli trials. Since the distribution used by us is entirely different from the FTPL-based one in [Agarwal et al. \(2023\)](#), we develop a new, substantially different, argument which applies to our case. This argument that utilizes the convexity of a certain log-partition function and the Wasserstein distance bound for Gibbs measures. In particular, we develop and prove [Lemma C.4](#) and the analysis following this lemma in the appendix, which marks a complete departure from the analysis presented in [Agarwal et al. \(2023\)](#).

## 6. Conclusion

We studied the task of differentially private online convex optimization, and presented an algorithm Private Continuous Online Multiplicative Weights with Euclidean Regularization (POMER) that is  $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differentially private and has a regret of at most  $\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}^{1/3}}{\epsilon}\right)$  for Lipschitz loss

functions. This improves the known best bound for smooth loss functions by a factor of  $\sqrt{d}$ . Furthermore, for non-smooth loss functions, it gives the first regret bound with an optimal leading-order regret term. While the addition of strongly-convex terms in general does not yield improved regret bounds for the unregularized objective in OCO, our improvement leverages LSI properties of log-strongly-convex measures induced by additional regularization. To the best of our knowledge this is the best rate known for DP-OCO.

A central open question that remains is whether this rate can be further improved. In particular for linear functions a rate of  $\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{d}}{\epsilon}\right)$  was shown by [Agarwal & Singh \(2017\)](#) and it remains an open question to show such a rate of convex functions. This rate would close the existing gap between the online and the one-pass stochastic setting. An intermediate goal would be to show a slightly improved bound of  $\tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{T} + \frac{\sqrt{dT}^{1/3}}{\epsilon^{2/3}}\right)$  which has a more appropriate scaling of  $T, \epsilon$  than our result. On the other hand showing any separation between the online and the stochastic setting in terms of regret is also open.

A second open question concerns lazy OCO in the *strongly-convex* setting. A straightforward application of the techniques in this paper unfortunately do not seem to yield improvements in this setting, and new ideas may be needed.

## Impact statement

This paper presents work that advances the state of the art for differentially private learning in the OCO framework. By lowering the cost of privacy to data-efficient learning, we hope such a foundational advances leads to greater adoption of privacy preserving measures in digital interactions by platforms, and greater willingness for data sharing by participants to enable social goods.

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## A. Proofs of smoothness of Gibbs measures

In this section we prove the Lemmas concerning the smoothness of Gibbs measures, i.e. Lemmas 3.6 and 3.5. We begin by restating and proving Lemma 3.6.

**Lemma A.1** (Wasserstein Distance). *Let  $l, l' : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex functions such that  $l - l'$  is  $G$ -Lipschitz. Further let  $\beta, \lambda \geq 0$  be parameters and define the Gibbs-distributions  $\bar{\mu} = \bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}' = \bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  (as defined in (3.3)). Then we have that  $\infty$ -Wasserstein distance between  $\bar{\mu}$  and  $\bar{\mu}'$  over the  $\ell_2$  metric is bounded as*

$$W_\infty(\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}') \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}.$$

*Proof of Lemma 3.6.* By definition  $W_\infty(\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}') = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}')} \sup_{(X, X') \sim \gamma} \|X - X'\|$ , where the notation  $\sup_{(X, X') \sim \gamma}$  is shorthand for all  $(X, X')$  in the support of  $\gamma$ . To bound  $W_\infty$  we consider the following coupling between  $\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}'$ . Define the functions  $L(x) = l(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2$ ,  $L'(x) = l'(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2$  and consider the following "Projected" Langevin diffusions given by the following SDEs (see (Ganesh et al., 2023) for details):

$$dX_{t+1} = -\beta \nabla L(X_t) + \sqrt{2}dW_t - \nu_t \zeta(d_t)$$

$$dX'_{t+1} = -\beta \nabla L'(X'_t) + \sqrt{2}dW_t - \nu'_t \zeta'(d_t)$$

where  $\zeta$  and  $\zeta'$  are measures supported on  $\{t : X_t \in \partial K\}$  and  $\{t : X'_t \in \partial K\}$  respectively, and  $\nu_t$  and  $\nu'_t$  are outer unit normal vectors at  $X_t$  and  $X'_t$  respectively. It is known that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t$  converges in distribution to  $\bar{\mu}$  and similarly  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X'_t$  converges in distribution to  $\bar{\mu}'$ . Our desired coupling  $\gamma$  is defined by sampling a Brownian motion sequence  $\{W_t\}_{t=1}^\infty$  and the output sample is set to  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X'_t$  with the same  $\{W_t\}_{t=1}^\infty$  sequence. For a fixed Brownian motion sequence  $\{W_t\}_{t=1}^\infty$ , we get the following calculations (by defining  $\Delta_t = \|X_t - X'_t\|$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\Delta_t^2}{dt} &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\|X_t - X'_t\|^2}{dt} = \left\langle \frac{dX_t}{dt} - \frac{dX'_t}{dt}, X_t - X'_t \right\rangle \\ &= -\beta \langle \nabla l(X_t) - \nabla l'(X'_t), X_t - X'_t \rangle - \langle \nu_t, X_t - X'_t \rangle \frac{\zeta(d_t)}{d_t} + \langle \nu'_t, X_t - X'_t \rangle \frac{\zeta'(d_t)}{d_t} \\ &\leq -\beta \langle \nabla l(X_t) - \nabla l'(X'_t), X_t - X'_t \rangle \\ &(\because \langle \nu_t, X'_t - X_t \rangle \leq 0 \text{ and } \langle \nu'_t, X_t - X'_t \rangle \leq 0 \text{ since } K \text{ is convex}) \\ &= -\beta \langle \nabla l(X_t) - \nabla l(X'_t), X_t - X'_t \rangle + \beta \langle \nabla l'(X'_t) - \nabla l(X'_t), X_t - X'_t \rangle \\ &\leq \beta (-\lambda \|X_t - X'_t\|^2 + G \|X_t - X'_t\|) = \beta (-\lambda \Delta_t^2 + G \Delta_t) \\ &\leq \beta \left( -\lambda \Delta_t^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \Delta_t^2 + \frac{G^2}{2\lambda} \right) \\ &\leq \beta \left( -\frac{\lambda}{2} \Delta_t^2 + \frac{G^2}{2\lambda} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Defining  $F_t = \Delta_t^2 - \frac{G^2}{\lambda^2}$ , the above implies that  $\frac{dF_t}{dt} \leq -\beta \lambda F_t$  which implies, via Grönwall's inequality, that  $F_t \leq F_0 \exp(-\beta \lambda t)$ . Therefore we have that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} F_t \rightarrow 0$  which implies that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_t \rightarrow \frac{G}{\lambda}$ .

Therefore we get that under the above coupling  $\gamma$  we have that  $\sup_{(x, y) \sim \gamma} \|x - y\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$  which finishes the proof.  $\square$

Using the above we restate and prove Lemma 3.5 below.

**Lemma A.2** (Density ratio). *Let  $l, l' : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex functions such that  $l - l'$  is  $G$ -Lipschitz. Further let  $\beta, \lambda \geq 0$  be parameters and define the Gibbs-distributions  $\bar{\mu} = \bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}' = \bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  (as defined in (3.1)). Then for any  $\delta \in (0, 1]$ , we have that  $\bar{\mu}$  and  $\bar{\mu}'$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$  close where*

$$\Phi = \exp \left( \frac{2\beta G^2}{\lambda} + \sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\lambda}} \right)$$

*Proof of Lemma 3.5.* We begin first by proving the direction

$$\Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} \left[ \frac{1}{\Phi} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}(X)}{\bar{\mu}'(X)} \leq \Phi \right] \geq 1 - \delta$$

and reverse direction follows easily by switching the roles of  $\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}'$  through the analysis. To this end define the function  $g(X) = \log \left( \frac{\bar{\mu}(X)}{\bar{\mu}'(X)} \right)$ . Therefore we are required to show that

$$\Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} (|g(X)| > \log(\Phi)) \leq \delta.$$

We will show this by first bounding  $\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}}[g(X)]$  and then showing that it concentrates around its expectation. We first show that  $g$  is a  $2\beta G$ -Lipschitz function. To see this consider the following

$$|g(X) - g(X')| = \left| \log \left( \frac{\bar{\mu}(X)}{\bar{\mu}'(X')} \right) + \log \left( \frac{\bar{\mu}'(X')}{\bar{\mu}'(X)} \right) \right| = |-\beta(l(X) - l(X') + l'(X') - l'(X))| \leq 2\beta G \|X - X'\|.$$

Using the proof of Lemma 3.6 we get that there is a coupling  $\gamma$  between  $\bar{\mu}, \bar{\mu}'$  such that  $\sup_{(X, X') \sim \gamma} \|X - X'\| \leq \frac{G}{\Lambda}$ , therefore sampling from the coupling and using the Lipschitzness of  $g$ , we get that

$$\mathbb{E}_{(X, X') \sim \bar{\mu}} [|g(X) - g(X')|] \leq 2\beta G \cdot \mathbb{E}_{(X, X') \sim \bar{\mu}} [\|X - X'\|] \leq 2\beta G \cdot \frac{G}{\Lambda},$$

which implies that

$$\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} [g(X)] \leq \mathbb{E}_{X' \sim \bar{\mu}'} [g(X')] + 2\beta G \cdot \frac{G}{\Lambda}$$

Now noticing that  $\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}'} [g(X)] = -\text{KL}(\bar{\mu}' \parallel \bar{\mu}) \leq 0$ , we get that

$$\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} [g(X)] \leq \frac{2\beta G^2}{\Lambda}.$$

Furthermore, note that  $\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} [g(X)] = \text{KL}(\bar{\mu} \parallel \bar{\mu}') \geq 0$ . Thus, we have

$$0 \leq \mathbb{E}_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} [g(X)] \leq \frac{2\beta G^2}{\Lambda}.$$

Next we give a high probability bound on  $g$ . Lemma 3.2 implies that the distribution corresponding to  $\bar{\mu}$  satisfies LSI (Definition 3.1) with constant  $\beta\Lambda$ . Now by Lemma 3.3, plugging in the LSI constant and Lipschitzness bound for  $g$ , we have that

$$\Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} [|g(X) - \mathbb{E}[g(X)]| \geq r] \leq 2 \exp \left( -\frac{\Lambda r^2}{8\beta G^2} \right)$$

Thereby setting  $r = \sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\Lambda}}$  we have that

$$\Pr_{X \sim \bar{\mu}} \left( |g(X)| > \frac{2\beta G^2}{\Lambda} + \sqrt{\frac{8\beta G^2 \log(2/\delta)}{\Lambda}} \right) \leq \delta.$$

□

## B. Analysis of Algorithm 1

As a reminder for the notation,  $\Pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [\frac{1}{\Phi^2}, 1]$  as  $\Pi(x) = \min\{1, \max\{\frac{1}{\Phi^2}, x\}\}$ . Also,  $\zeta_t \triangleq \mathbb{I}(S_t = 0 \text{ or } S'_t = 0)$ . We restate and prove Lemma 4.2 first:

**Lemma B.1** (Switching bound). *For any  $p \in [0, 1]$  and any  $\Phi \geq 0$ , setting  $\tilde{p} = p + 1 - \Phi^{-2}$ , we have that the number of switches is bounded in the following manner,*

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{S}_T] \leq \tilde{p}T, \quad \Pr[\mathcal{S}_T \geq 3\tilde{p}T] \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T}.$$

*Proof of Lemma 4.2.* Since  $S_t \sim \text{Ber}\left(\Pi\left(\frac{\mu_{t+1}(x_t)}{\Phi\mu_t(x_t)}\right)\right)$ , we have  $\Pr[S_t = 0] \leq 1 - \Phi^{-2}$ . From the definition of  $\zeta_t$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\zeta_t] = \Pr(S'_t = 0) + (1 - \Pr(S'_t = 0)) \cdot \Pr(S_t = 0) \leq p + (1 - p) \cdot (1 - \Phi^{-2}) \leq \tilde{p}. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Thus, the random variable  $S_T = \sum_{t=1}^T \zeta_t$  is stochastically dominated by the sum of  $T$  Bernoulli random variables with parameter  $\tilde{p}$ . Hence,  $\mathbb{E}[S_T] \leq \tilde{p}T$  and the Chernoff bound<sup>5</sup> implies

$$\Pr[S_T \geq 3\tilde{p}T] \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T}.$$

□

Next we restate and prove Lemma 4.6.

**Lemma B.2** (Distribution drift). *Given  $\delta \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]$  and  $\Phi \geq 1$ , suppose that for all  $t \in [T]$ , the Gibbs-measures  $\mu_t, \mu_{t+1}$  are  $(\Phi, \delta)$ -close. If  $q_t$  is the marginal distribution induced by Algorithm 1 on its iterates  $x_t$ , then we have that*

- If  $B = \infty$ , then for all  $t$ ,  $\|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 3\delta(t-1)$ .
- If  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$ , then we have

$$\|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T} + 3\delta(t-1).$$

*Proof of Lemma 4.6.* We first consider the  $B = \infty$  case. We prove that  $\|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 3\delta(t-1)$  by induction on  $t$ . For  $t = 1$ , the claim is trivially true. So assume it is true for some  $t$  and now we prove it for  $t+1$ . Let  $M = \{x \in \mathcal{K} \mid \Phi^{-1} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(x)} \leq \Phi\}$ . Then by Definition 3.4, we have  $\bar{\mu}_t(M) \geq 1 - \delta$  and  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(M) \geq 1 - \delta$ . Next, let  $\tilde{\mu}_t$  be the distribution of  $X \sim \bar{\mu}_t$  conditioned on the event  $X \in M$ . Since  $\bar{\mu}_t(M) \geq 1 - \delta$ , it is easy to see that  $\|\bar{\mu}_t - \tilde{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \delta$ . Let  $\tilde{q}_{t+1}$  be the distribution of  $x_{t+1}$  if  $x_t$  were sampled from  $\tilde{\mu}_t$  instead of  $q_t$ . Let  $E$  be any measurable subset of  $\mathcal{K}$ . Using the facts that for any  $x \in M$ , we have  $\Pi\left(\frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(x)}\right) = \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(x)}$ , and that  $\tilde{\mu}_t(x) = \frac{\bar{\mu}_t(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(M)}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{q}_{t+1}(E) &= \int_{x \in E} \left( \Pr(S'_t = 0 | x_t = x) \Pr(x_{t+1} \in E | x_t = x, S'_t = 0) \right. \\ &\quad + \Pr((S'_t = 1 \wedge S_t = 0) | x_t = x) \Pr(x_{t+1} \in E | x_t = x, (S'_t = 1 \wedge S_t = 0)) \\ &\quad \left. + \Pr((S'_t = 1 \wedge S_t = 1) | x_t = x) \Pr(x_{t+1} \in E | x_t = x, (S'_t = 1 \wedge S_t = 1)) \right) \tilde{\mu}_t(x) dx \\ &= p\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E) + (1-p)\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E) \int_M \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(x)}\right) \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}_t(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(M)}\right) dx \\ &\quad + (1-p) \int_{E \cap M} \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(x)}\right) \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}_t(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(M)}\right) dx \\ &= p\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E) + (1-p)\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(M)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(M)}\right) + (1-p) \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E \cap M)}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(M)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{q}_{t+1}(E) - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E)| &= \frac{1-p}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(M)} |\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E)\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(M) - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E \cap M)| \\ &= \frac{1-p}{\Phi\bar{\mu}_t(M)} |\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E \setminus M) - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}(E \cap M)\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(M^c)| \\ &\leq \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}, \end{aligned}$$

since  $\bar{\mu}_t(M) \geq 1 - \delta$  and  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(M) \geq 1 - \delta$ . Since  $\delta \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , we conclude that

$$\|\tilde{q}_{t+1} - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 2\delta.$$

<sup>5</sup>The specific bound used is that for independent Bernoulli random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_T$ , if  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[\sum_{t=1}^T X_t]$ , then for any  $\delta > 0$ , we have  $\Pr[\sum_{t=1}^T X_t \geq (1 + \delta)\mu] \leq e^{-\delta^2\mu/(2+\delta)}$ .

Furthermore, we have

$$\|q_{t+1} - \tilde{q}_{t+1}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \|q_t - \tilde{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \|q_t - \bar{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} + \|\bar{\mu}_t - \tilde{\mu}_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 3\delta(t-1) + \delta,$$

where the first inequality follows by the data-processing inequality for f-divergences like TV-distance (note that  $q_{t+1}$  and  $\tilde{q}_{t+1}$  are obtained from  $q_t$  and  $\tilde{\mu}_t$  respectively via the same data-processing channel), and the second inequality is due to the induction hypothesis. Thus, we conclude that

$$\|q_{t+1} - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \|q_{t+1} - \tilde{q}_{t+1}\|_{\text{TV}} + \|\tilde{q}_{t+1} - \bar{\mu}_{t+1}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 3\delta(t-1) + \delta + 2\delta = 3\delta t,$$

completing the induction.

We now turn to the  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$  case. Let  $q'_t$  be the distribution of  $x_t$  if  $B = \infty$ . We now relate  $q'_t$  and  $q_t$ . We start by defining  $q_{\text{all}}$  as the probability distributions over all possible random variables, i.e.  $S_{1:T}, S'_{1:T}, Z_{1:T}, x_{1:T}$ , sampled by [Algorithm 1](#). Similarly, let  $q'_{\text{all}}$  be the analogue for the infinite switching budget variant. Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be the event that  $\sum_{t=1}^T \zeta_t \geq 3\tilde{p}T$ . Note that [Lemma 4.2](#) implies that both  $q_{\text{all}}(\mathcal{E}), q'_{\text{all}}(\mathcal{E}) \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T}$ . Therefore we have that,

$$\begin{aligned} \|q_{\text{all}} - q'_{\text{all}}\|_{\text{TV}} &= \sup_{\text{measurable } A} (q_{\text{all}}(A) - q'_{\text{all}}(A)) \\ &= \sup_{\text{measurable } A} \left( q_{\text{all}}(A \cap \mathcal{E}) - q'_{\text{all}}(A \cap \mathcal{E}) + \underbrace{q_{\text{all}}(A \cap \neg\mathcal{E}) - q'_{\text{all}}(A \cap \neg\mathcal{E})}_{=0} \right) \\ &= \sup_{\text{measurable } A} (q_{\text{all}}(A \cap \mathcal{E}) - q'_{\text{all}}(A \cap \mathcal{E})) \\ &\leq e^{-\tilde{p}T} \end{aligned}$$

Now, for any  $t$ , since  $q_t, q'_t$  are marginals of  $q_{\text{all}}, q'_{\text{all}}$  respectively, we have

$$\|q_t - q'_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq \|q_{\text{all}} - q'_{\text{all}}\|_{\text{TV}} \leq e^{-\tilde{p}T}.$$

Since we have  $\|\mu_t - q'_t\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 3\delta(t-1)$  by the  $B = \infty$  analysis, the proof is complete by the triangle inequality.  $\square$

We finish this section by repeating and proving [Lemma 4.8](#).

**Lemma B.3.** *Consider an arbitrary distribution  $\mu_0$  on  $\mathcal{K}$  (referred to as the prior) and  $f$  be an arbitrary bounded function on  $\mathcal{K}$ . Define the distribution  $\mu$  over  $\mathcal{K}$  with density  $\mu(x) \propto \mu_0(x)e^{-f(x)}$ . Then we have that*

$$\mu = \arg \min_{\mu' \in \Delta(\mathcal{K})} (\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu'} [f(x)] + \text{KL}(\mu' \| \mu_0)).$$

*Proof of Lemma 4.8.* The proof follows from the following lemma appearing as in ([Donsker & Varadhan, 1975](#))

**Lemma B.4** (Lemma 2.1 in ([Donsker & Varadhan, 1975](#)), rephrased). *Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be the set of continuous functions on  $\mathcal{K}$  satisfying  $u(x) \in [c_1, c_2]$  for all  $u \in \mathcal{U}, x \in \mathcal{K}$ , for some constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$ . Let  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  be any distributions on  $\mathcal{K}$ , then we have that*

$$\text{KL}(\nu_1 \| \nu_2) = \sup_{u \in \mathcal{U}} (\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \nu_1} [\log(u(x))] - \log(\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \nu_2} [u(x)]))$$

Using the above lemma, setting  $\nu_1 = \mu, \nu_2 = \mu_0, u(x) = e^{-f(x)}$ , we get that

$$-\log(\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_0} [e^{-f(x)}]) \leq \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} [f(x)] + \text{KL}(\mu \| \mu_0).$$

Let  $Z = \int_{\mathcal{K}} e^{-f(x)} \mu_0(x) dx$ , then we have that

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} [f(x)] + \text{KL}(\mu \| \mu_0) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} [f(x)] + \int_{\mathcal{K}} \mu(x) \log(e^{-f(x)}/Z) dx = -\log(Z) = -\log(\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu_0} [e^{-f(x)}]).$$

Combining the above two displays finishes the proof.  $\square$

### C. Privacy Analysis

For brevity of notation, we say two random variables  $X, Y$  supported on some set  $\Omega$  are  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -indistinguishable if for any outcome set  $O \subseteq \Omega$ , we have that

$$\Pr(X \in O) \leq e^\varepsilon \Pr(Y \in O) + \delta.$$

We restate and prove [Theorem 4.3](#):

**Theorem 4.3** (Privacy). *Given  $\beta, \lambda > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1/2]$ , for any  $T \geq 12 \log(1/\delta)$ , let  $\delta' = \frac{\delta T^{-2}}{60}$ ,  $G' = 3G$ . Suppose there exists  $\Phi' > 0$  such that for all convex functions  $l, l'$  where  $l - l'$  is  $G'$ -Lipschitz, we have that, the distributions  $\bar{\mu}(l, \beta, \lambda)$  and  $\bar{\mu}(l', \beta, \lambda)$  respectively are  $(\Phi', \delta')$ -close. Then for any sequence of  $G$ -Lipschitz convex functions, [Algorithm 1](#) when run with  $\Phi = \Phi'^2$ ,  $p = \max\left(T^{-1/3}, \left(\frac{G^4 \beta^2}{\lambda^2 \log^2(\Phi)}\right)^{1/3}\right)$ ,  $\tilde{p} = p + 1 - \Phi^{-2}$  and  $B = 3\tilde{p}T$  is  $(\varepsilon, \delta + 3Te^{-(1-\Phi^{-2})T})$ -differentially private where*

$$\varepsilon = 3\varepsilon'/2 + \sqrt{6\varepsilon'}\sqrt{\log(2/\delta)},$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon' &= 7T^{2/3} \log^2(\Phi) + 12 \log^3(\Phi)T \\ &\quad + 11 \left(\frac{G^4 \beta^2}{\lambda^2}\right)^{1/3} \log^{4/3}(\Phi)T. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Consider any two loss sequences  $l_{1:T}, l'_{1:T} \in \mathcal{L}^T$  that possibly differ at some index  $t_0 \in [T]$ , i.e.  $l_t(x) = l'_t(x)$  holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $t \in T - \{t_0\}$ . For ease of argumentation we will show differential privacy for the outputs  $x_t$  of the algorithm along with the internal variables  $\zeta_t$  which are defined for any  $t$  in the algorithm as

$$\zeta_t \triangleq \mathbb{I}\{S'_t = 0 \text{ or } S_t = 0\}.$$

To establish privacy, let  $\{(x_t, \zeta_t)\}_{t=1}^T$  and  $\{(x'_t, \zeta'_t)\}_{t=1}^T$  be the instantiations of the random variables determined by [Algorithm 1](#) upon execution on  $l_{1:T}$  and  $l'_{1:T}$ , respectively. For brevity of notation, we will denote by  $\Sigma_t$  the random variable  $\{x_\tau, \zeta_\tau\}_{\tau=1}^t$ . We denote by  $\Sigma_t$  all possible values  $\Sigma_t$  can take. We now prove [Claim 4.9](#), which we restate here for convenience:

**Claim C.2.** *Let  $\delta' \geq 0$  and  $\Phi$  be as defined in [Theorem 4.3](#). Then for any  $t \in [T]$  the random variable pairs  $(x_t, \zeta_t)$  and  $(x'_t, \zeta'_t)$  are  $(\varepsilon_t, \delta_t)$ -indistinguishable when conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$ , i.e. when conditioned on identical values of random choices made by the algorithm before (but not including) round  $t$ , where  $\delta_t = 4\delta' + 9\delta'T + 3e^{-\tilde{p}T}$  and*

$$\varepsilon_t = \begin{cases} 0, & t < t_0 \\ \mathbb{I}_{\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta_s < B} \cdot 2 \log(\Phi)/p, & t = t_0 \\ \mathbb{I}_{\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta_s < B} \left( \zeta_{t-1} \log(\Phi) + \frac{2G^2 \beta/\lambda}{p} \right) & t > t_0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{C.1})$$

The proof of the above claim appears after the present proof.

We intend to use adaptive strong composition for differential privacy ([Lemma 2.2](#)) with [Claim 4.9](#) and to that end consider

the following calculations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t^2 &\leq \frac{4 \log^2(\Phi)}{p^2} + 2B \log^2(\Phi) + \frac{8G^4 \beta^2 / \lambda^2}{p^2} T \\
 &\leq \frac{4 \log^2(\Phi)}{p^2} + 6pT \log^2(\Phi) + 12 \log^3(\Phi) T + \frac{8G^4 \beta^2 / \lambda^2}{p^2} T \\
 &\text{(Using } B = 3pT + 3(1 - \Phi^{-2})T \leq 3pT + 6 \log(\Phi)T) \\
 &= \frac{4 \log^2(\Phi)}{p^2} + 3pT \log^2(\Phi) + 12 \log^3(\Phi) T + 3pT \log^2(\Phi) + \frac{8G^4 \beta^2 / \lambda^2}{p^2} T \\
 &\leq 7T^{2/3} \log^2(\Phi) + 12 \log^3(\Phi) T + 11 \left( \frac{G^4 \beta^2}{\lambda^2} \right)^{1/3} \log^{4/3}(\phi) \cdot T
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \delta_t = 4\delta' T + 9T^2 \delta' + 3T e^{-\tilde{p}T} \leq \frac{\delta}{6} + 3T e^{-pT} + 3T e^{-(1-\Phi^{-2})T} \leq \frac{\delta}{3} + 3T e^{-(1-\Phi^{-2})T}.$$

Using the above calculations and applying [Lemma 2.2](#) with  $\delta' = \delta/2$  (in [Lemma 2.2](#)) concludes the proof.  $\square$

*Proof Of Claim 4.9.* We begin by defining a subset  $\mathcal{E}_t \in \mathcal{K}$  for all  $t$  as

$$\mathcal{E}_t = \left\{ x \in \mathcal{K} \left| \left( \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)} \in \left[ \frac{1}{\Phi^2}, 1 \right] \right) \wedge \left( \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_t(x)} \in \left[ \frac{1}{\Phi^2}, 1 \right] \right) \right. \right\}.$$

The following claim whose proof is presented after the present proof shows that  $\mathcal{E}_t$  occurs with high probability conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$  taking any value  $\Sigma$  in its domain.

**Claim C.3.** *Let  $\Phi$  be as defined in [Theorem 4.3](#), then we have that for all  $\Sigma \in \Sigma_t$ ,*

$$\Pr(x_t \in \mathcal{E}_t | \Sigma_{t-1} = \Sigma) \geq 1 - 3\delta' - 9T\delta' - 3e^{-\tilde{p}T}.$$

The general recipe we will follow in the proof is to show that  $x_t, x'_t$  are  $(\varepsilon_x, \delta_x)$ -indistinguishable conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$  and the event that  $x_t \in \mathcal{E}_t$ , for some  $(\varepsilon_x, \delta_x)$ . We will then show that  $\zeta_t, \zeta'_t$  are  $(\varepsilon_\zeta, \delta_\zeta)$ -indistinguishable after conditioning on  $\Sigma_{t-1}, x_t = x$  (and  $x'_t = x$  respectively) for an arbitrary  $\mathcal{E}_t$ . Then, by standard composition of differential privacy ([Dwork & Roth, 2014](#)), it is implied that  $(x_t, \zeta_t), (x'_t, \zeta'_t)$  are  $(\varepsilon_x + \varepsilon_\zeta, \delta_x + \delta_\zeta)$  indistinguishable when conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$  and the event that  $x_t \in \mathcal{E}_t$ . It then follows that the same pair is  $(\varepsilon_x + \varepsilon_\zeta, \delta_x + \delta_\zeta + \Pr(x_t \notin \mathcal{E}_t | \Sigma_{t-1}))$  indistinguishable when conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$ .

To execute the above strategy, we will examine the three cases – *ante*  $t < t_0$ , *at*  $t = t_0$ , and *post*  $t > t_0$  – separately. Recall that  $l_{1:T}$  and  $l'_{1:T}$  are loss function sequences that differ only at the index  $t_0$ .

**Case 1:**  $t \leq t_0$  : Observe that since  $l_{1:t_0-1} = l'_{1:t_0-1}$ , having not yet encountered a change (at  $t = t_0$ ) in loss, the algorithm produces identically distributed outputs for the first  $t_0$  rounds upon being fed either loss sequence. Therefore we have that

$$\forall t < t_0, (x_t, \zeta_t) \text{ and } (x'_t, \zeta'_t) \text{ are } (0, 0) \text{ – indistinguishable} \tag{C.2}$$

For the remaining two cases, we first assume that number of switches so far have not exceeded  $B$ , i.e.  $\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta_s = \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \zeta'_s < B$  (conditioned on the same history). If not then both algorithms become deterministic from this point onwards and are  $(0, 0)$ -indistinguishable.

**Case 2:**  $t = t_0$ : The last display in the previous case also means that  $x_{t_0}$  and  $x'_{t_0}$  are identically distributed random variables. Therefore, to conclude the claim for  $t_0$ , we need to demonstrate that  $\zeta_{t_0}$  and  $\zeta'_{t_0}$  are indistinguishable when also

additionally conditioned on  $x_{t_0} = x'_{t_0}$ . We now observe that for any  $x \in \mathcal{E}_{t_0}$  and any  $\Sigma \in \Sigma_{t_0-1}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Pr(\zeta'_{t_0} = 1 | \Sigma_{t_0-1} = \Sigma, x'_{t_0} = x)}{\Pr(\zeta_{t_0} = 1 | \Sigma_{t_0-1} = \Sigma, x_{t_0} = x)} &= \frac{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_{t_0}(x)}\right)}{p + (1-p) \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_{t_0}(x)}\right)}_{\geq 0}} \\ &\leq \frac{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_{t_0}(x)}\right)}{p} \\ &\leq 1 + \frac{1}{p} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_{t_0}(x)}\right) \leq 1 + \frac{1}{p} (1 - \Phi^{-2}) \\ &\leq 1 + \frac{1}{p} (1 - e^{-2 \log \Phi}) \leq 1 + \frac{2 \log(\Phi)}{p} \leq e^{2 \log \Phi / p}, \end{aligned}$$

using the definition of the set  $\mathcal{E}_{t_0}$  and that for any real  $x$   $1 + x \leq e^x$ . Similarly, we have for any  $x \in \mathcal{E}_{t_0}$ ,

$$\frac{\Pr(\zeta'_{t_0} = 0 | \Sigma_{t_0-1} = \Sigma, x'_{t_0} = x)}{\Pr(\zeta_{t_0} = 0 | \Sigma_{t_0-1} = \Sigma, x_{t_0} = x)} = \frac{(1-p) \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_{t_0}(x)}}{(1-p) \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t_0+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_{t_0}(x)}} = \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}'_{t_0}(x)} \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t_0}(x)}{\bar{\mu}_{t_0+1}(x)} \leq e^{2 \log \Phi}.$$

The above displays thereby imply that conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t_0-1}$  and the event  $x_t \in \mathcal{E}_{t_0}$ , we have that  $(x_{t_0}, \zeta_{t_0})$  and  $(x'_{t_0}, \zeta'_{t_0})$  are  $(2 \log(\Phi)/p, 0)$ -indistinguishable. Thereby combining with [Claim C.3](#) we get that conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$

$$(x_{t_0}, \zeta_{t_0}) \text{ and } (x'_{t_0}, \zeta'_{t_0}) \text{ are } (2 \log(\Phi)/p, 3\delta' + 9T\delta' + 3e^{-\bar{p}T}) \text{ - indistinguishable} \quad (\text{C.3})$$

**Case 3:  $t > t_0$ :** Recall that while claiming indistinguishability of appropriate pair of random variables, we condition on a shared past of  $\Sigma_{t-1}$ . In particular, this means that  $x'_{t-1} = x_{t-1}$  and that  $\zeta_{t-1} = \zeta'_{t-1}$ . Now, if  $\zeta_{t-1} = 0$ , then  $x'_t = x'_{t-1} = x_{t-1} = x_t$ . If  $\zeta_{t-1} = 1$ , the iterates are sampled as  $x_t \sim \bar{\mu}_t$  and  $x'_t \sim \bar{\mu}'_t$  in round  $t$ . Once again by applying the condition on  $\Phi$  as stated in [Theorem 4.3](#) we have that  $x_t, x'_t$  are  $(\zeta_{t-1} \log \Phi, \delta')$ -indistinguishable.

To conclude the claim and hence the proof, we need to establish the indistinguishability of  $\zeta_t$  and  $\zeta'_t$  conditioned additionally on the event  $x_t = x'_t$ . Unlike for  $t = t_0$ , the analysis here for  $\zeta$ 's is more involved. To proceed, we first obtain a second-order perturbation result. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(x)} &= \frac{\exp(-\beta(l_{1:t}(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2))}{\exp(-\beta(l_{1:t-1}(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2))} \cdot \frac{\int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp(-\beta(l_{1:t}(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2)) dx}{\int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp(-\beta(l_{1:t-1}(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2)) dx} \\ &\triangleq \exp(-\beta \cdot l_t(x)) \cdot \frac{Z(l_{1:t-1})}{Z(l_{1:t})} \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined  $Z(l) = \int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp(-\beta(l(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}\|x\|^2)) dx$ . Define  $B_t = \frac{Z(l_{1:t-1})}{Z(l_{1:t})}$ . To bound  $B_t$  we define the following scalar function  $p(t) : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as  $p(t) = \log(Z(l_{1:t-1} + t \cdot l_t), \beta, \lambda)$ . The following lemma shows that  $p(t)$  is a convex function and characterizes the derivative of  $p$ .

**Lemma C.4.** *Given two differentiable loss functions  $f, g$ , and any number  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  define the measure  $\mu(t)(x)$  over a convex set  $\mathcal{K}$  as  $\mu(t) = \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x)))$ . Further define the log partition function of  $\mu(t)$ ,  $p(t) \triangleq \log(\int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx)$ . Define the probability distribution  $\bar{\mu}(t)(x) = \frac{\mu(t)(x)}{\exp(p(t))}$ . We have that  $p(t)$  is a convex function of  $t$ . Furthermore  $p'(t) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \bar{\mu}(t)}[-g(x)]$ .*

*Proof of Lemma C.4.* We first derive the expression for the derivative. Consider the following calculation

$$p'(t) = \frac{\int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} -g(x) \cdot \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx}{\int_{x \in \mathcal{K}} \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx} = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \bar{\mu}(t)}[-g(x)]$$

To prove convexity we consider  $p''(t)$ . Once again, we can calculate as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p''(t) &= \frac{\int_{x \in K} g^2(x) \cdot \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx}{\int_{x \in K} \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx} - \left( \frac{\int_{x \in K} g(x) \cdot \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx}{\int_{x \in K} \exp(-(f(x) + tg(x))) dx} \right)^2 \\ &= \text{Var}_{\bar{\mu}(t)}(g(x)) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p''(t) \geq 0$  this proves that the function is convex.  $\square$

In particular using the above lemma we get that

$$\log(B_t) = p(0) - p(1) \leq -\frac{\partial p(0)}{\partial t} = \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_t}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)]$$

$$\log(B_t) = p(0) - p(1) \geq -\frac{\partial p(1)}{\partial t} = \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_{t+1}}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)]$$

It now follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \log \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(x)} &\leq -\beta \cdot l_t(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_t}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)] \\ \log \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}_t(x)} &\geq -\beta \cdot l_t(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_{t+1}}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)]. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly for  $\bar{\mu}'$ , one can establish

$$\begin{aligned} \log \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}'_t(x)} &\leq -\beta \cdot l'_t(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}'_t}[\beta \cdot l'_t(y)] \\ \log \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\bar{\mu}'_t(x)} &\geq -\beta \cdot l'_t(x) + \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}'_{t+1}}[\beta \cdot l'_t(y)]. \end{aligned}$$

At this point, note that since  $t > t_0$ ,  $l'_t = l_t$ , and that  $l_{1:t-1} - l'_{1:t-1} = l_{t_0} - l'_{t_0}$ , we can now bound the term of interest for privacy for all  $x$ .

$$\log \frac{\frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_t(x)}}{\frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)}} \leq \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}'_t}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)] - \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_{t+1}}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)].$$

Now using [Lemma 3.6](#) twice we get that  $W_\infty(\bar{\mu}'_t, \bar{\mu}_{t+1}) \leq \frac{2G}{\lambda}$  which implies that there is a coupling  $\gamma$  between  $\bar{\mu}'_t$  and  $\bar{\mu}_{t+1}$  such that  $\sup_{(y, y') \sim \gamma} \|y - y'\| \leq \frac{2G}{\lambda}$ . Therefore we have that

$$\mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}'_t}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)] - \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \bar{\mu}_{t+1}}[\beta \cdot l_t(y)] = \beta \cdot \mathbb{E}_{(y, y') \sim \gamma}[l_t(y) - l_t(y')] \leq \beta \cdot G \cdot \mathbb{E}_{(y, y') \sim \gamma}[\|y - y'\|] \leq \frac{\beta \cdot 2G^2}{\lambda}.$$

The above display immediately gives that for all  $\Sigma \in \Sigma_{t-1}$  and for all  $x \in \mathcal{E}_t$ ,

$$\frac{\Pr(\zeta'_t = 0 | \Sigma'_{t-1} = \Sigma, x'_t = x)}{\Pr(\zeta_t = 0 | \Sigma_{t-1} = \Sigma, x_t = x)} = \frac{(1-p) \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_t(x)}}{(1-p) \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)}} \leq e^{\frac{2G^2 \beta}{\lambda}}.$$

Now, for the remaining possibility, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\Pr(\zeta'_t = 1 | \Sigma'_{t-1} = \Sigma, x'_t = x)}{\Pr(\zeta_t = 1 | \Sigma_{t-1} = \Sigma, x_t = x)} &= \frac{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}'_t(x)}\right)}{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)}\right)} \\
 &\leq \frac{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)} e^{-\frac{2G^2\beta}{\lambda}}\right)}{p + (1-p) \left(1 - \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)}\right)} \\
 &\quad \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi \bar{\mu}_t(x)} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{2G^2\beta}{\lambda}}\right) \\
 &\leq 1 + \frac{\leq 1}{p} \\
 &\leq e^{\frac{1}{p} \cdot \frac{2G^2\beta}{\lambda}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

The above displays thereby imply that conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$  and  $x_t \in \mathcal{E}_t$  we have that  $\zeta_t$  and  $\zeta'_t$  are  $(\frac{2G^2\beta/\lambda}{p}, 0)$ -indistinguishable. Thereby we get that conditioned on  $\Sigma_{t-1}$

$$(x_t, \zeta_t) \text{ and } (x'_t, \zeta'_t) \text{ are } \left( \zeta_{t-1} \log \Phi + \frac{2G^2\beta/\lambda}{p}, 4\delta' - 9T\delta' - 3e^{-\bar{p}T} \right) \text{ - indistinguishable} \quad (\text{C.4})$$

Combining the statements in Equations (C.2), (C.3) and (C.4) finishes the proof.  $\square$

*Proof Of Claim C.3.* Let  $q_t$  be the probability distribution induced on the iterates chosen by [Algorithm 1](#) when run on a loss sequence  $l_{1:T}$ . Using the conditions in the theorem and by [Lemma 4.6](#), we have that  $\|\bar{\mu}_t - q_t\| \leq e^{-\bar{p}T} + 3T\delta'$  for any  $t \in [T]$ . From this, noting that  $l_{1:t} - l_{1:t-1}$  is  $G$ -Lipschitz and  $\beta$ -smooth, we have that for all  $t$ ,

$$\Pr_{X \sim q_t} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}_{t+1}(X)}{\bar{\mu}_t(X)} \leq \sqrt{\Phi} \right] \geq 1 - \delta' - 3T\delta' - e^{-\bar{p}T}$$

Furthermore noting that  $l_{1:t-1} - l'_{1:t-1}$  is  $2G$ -Lipschitz and  $2\beta$ -smooth we have that for all  $t$ ,

$$\Pr_{X \sim q_t} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}_t(X)}{\bar{\mu}'_t(X)} \leq \sqrt{\Phi} \right] \geq 1 - \delta' - 3T\delta' - e^{-\bar{p}T}$$

Similarly noting that  $l'_{1:t} - l_{1:t-1}$  is  $3G$ -Lipschitz and  $2\beta$ -smooth we can apply the same argument to obtain

$$\Pr_{X \sim q_t} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \leq \frac{\bar{\mu}'_{t+1}(X)}{\bar{\mu}_t(X)} \leq \sqrt{\Phi} \right] \geq 1 - \delta' - 3T\delta' - e^{-\bar{p}T}$$

The above statements imply the claim.  $\square$