



Distributed Learning, Estimation and Control In the Routing Game

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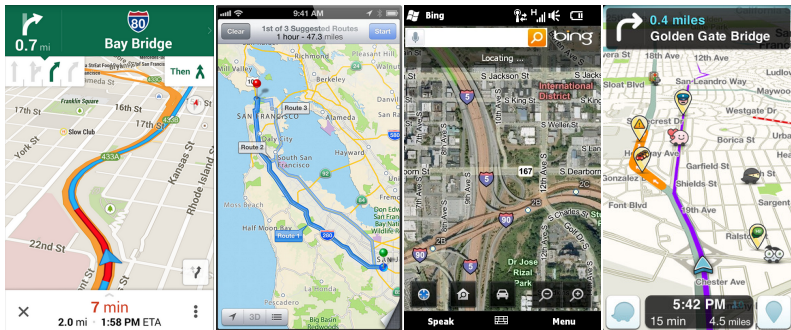
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Learning dynamics in the routing game

- Routing games model congestion on networks.
- Nash equilibrium quantifies efficiency of network in steady state.

System *does not operate at equilibrium*. Beyond equilibria, we need to understand *decision dynamics* (learning).

- A realistic model for decision dynamics is essential for prediction, control.

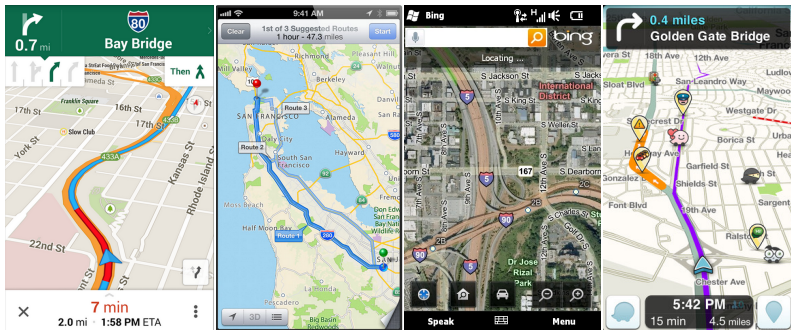


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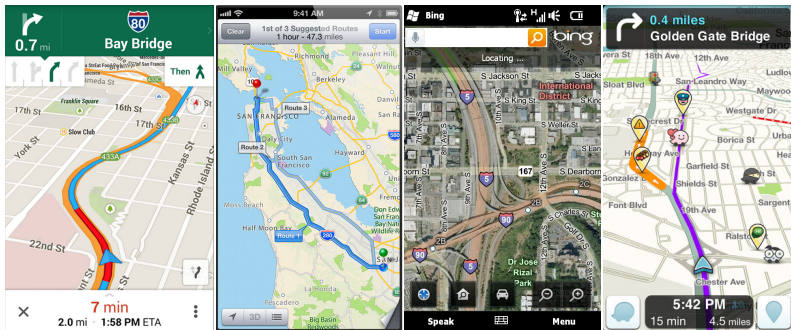


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Desiderata

Learning dynamics should be

- **Realistic** in terms of information requirements, computational complexity.
- **Consistent** with the full information Nash equilibrium.

$$x^{(t)} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}^*$$

- **Robust** to stochastic perturbations, e.g. observation noise.

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Outline

- 1 Distributed learning model
- 2 Estimation of Learning Rates
- 3 Optimal Control

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Online learning in the routing game

- Player drives from source to destination node
- Chooses path from \mathcal{A}_k
- Mass of players on each edge determines cost on that edge.

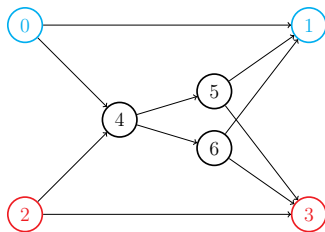


Figure: Routing game

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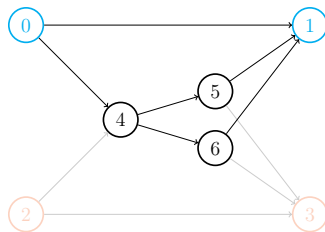


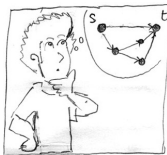
Figure: Routing game

Online learning in the routing game

Online Learning Model

- 1: **for** $t \in \mathbb{N}$ **do**
- 2: Play $p \sim x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}$
- 3: Discover $\ell_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}$
- 4: Update $x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t+1)} = u_k(x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}, \ell_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)})$
- 5: **end for**

$$x_{\mathcal{A}_1}^{(t)} \in \Delta_{\mathcal{A}_1}$$



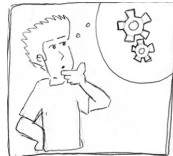
$$\text{Sample } p \sim x_{\mathcal{A}_1}^{(t)}$$



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Main problem

Define class of dynamics \mathcal{C} such that

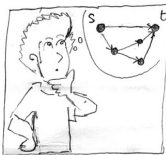
$$u_k \in \mathcal{C} \forall k \Rightarrow x^{(t)} \rightarrow x^*$$

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Stochastic convex optimization

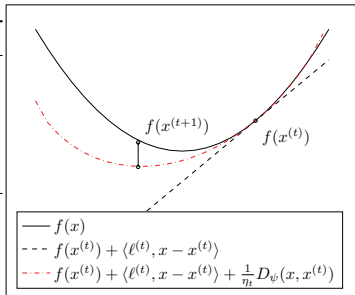
Idea:

- The set of Nash equilibria is $\arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x)$ (the Rosenthal potential).
- View the learning dynamics as a **distributed algorithm to minimize f** .

Algorithm 1 MD Method

- 1: **for** $t \in \mathbb{N}$ **do**
- 2: observe $\ell^{(t)} \in \partial f(x^{(t)})$
- 3: $x^{(t+1)} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \langle \ell^{(t)}, x \rangle + \frac{1}{\eta_t} D_\psi(x, x^{(t)})$
- 4: **end for**

- η_t : learning rate
- D_ψ : Bregman divergence



Stochastic convex optimization

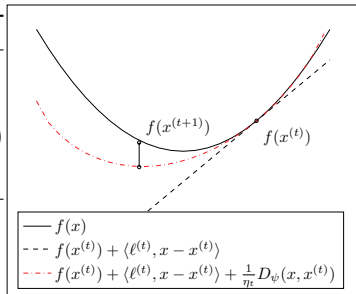
Idea:

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Algorithm 2 MD Method

- 1: **for** $t \in \mathbb{N}$ **do**
- 2: observe $\ell_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)} \in \partial_{\mathcal{A}_k} f(x^{(t)})$
- 3: $x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t+1)} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{A}_k}} \langle \ell_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}, x \rangle + \frac{1}{\eta_t^k} D_{\psi_k}(x, x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)})$
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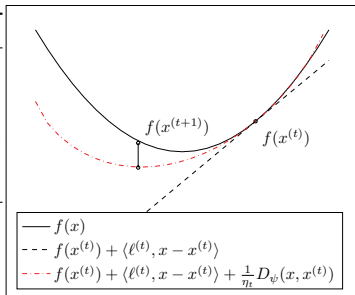
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Algorithm 2 SMD Method

- 1: **for** $t \in \mathbb{N}$ **do**
- 2: observe $\hat{\ell}_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}$ with $\mathbb{E} \left[\hat{\ell}_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1} \right] \in \partial_{\mathcal{A}_k} f(x^{(t)})$
- 3: $x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t+1)} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{A}_k}} \left\langle \hat{\ell}_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)}, x \right\rangle + \frac{1}{\eta_t^k} D_{\psi_k}(x, x_{\mathcal{A}_k}^{(t)})$
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Convergence

Convergence of Distributed Stochastic Mirror Descent

For $\eta_t^k = \frac{\theta_k}{t^{\alpha_k}}$, $\alpha_k \in (0, 1)$,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[f(x^{(t)}) \right] - f^* = \mathcal{O} \left(\sum_k \frac{\log t}{t^{\min(\alpha_k, 1 - \alpha_k)}} \right)$$

[1] Syrine Krichene, Walid Krichene, Roy Dong, and Alexandre Bayen. [Convergence of heterogeneous distributed learning in stochastic routing games.](#)

In *53rd Allerton Conference on Communication, Control and Computing*, 2015

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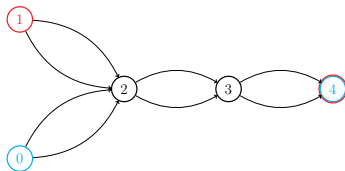


Figure: Example network with 2 populations.

- Centered Gaussian noise on edges.
- Population 1: Hedge with $\eta_t^1 = t^{-.3}$
- Population 2: Hedge with $\eta_t^2 = t^{-.4}$

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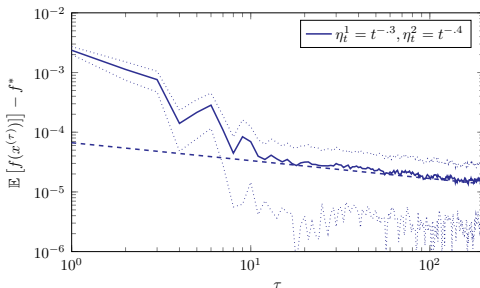


Figure: Potential values.

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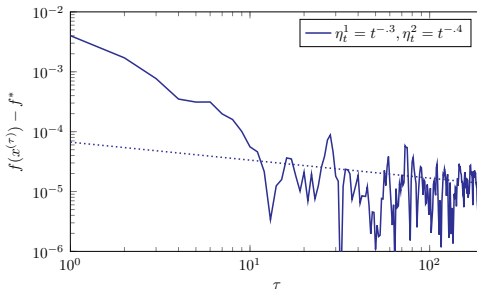


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A routing experiment

- Interface for the routing game.
- Used to collect sequence of decisions $\bar{x}^{(t)}$.

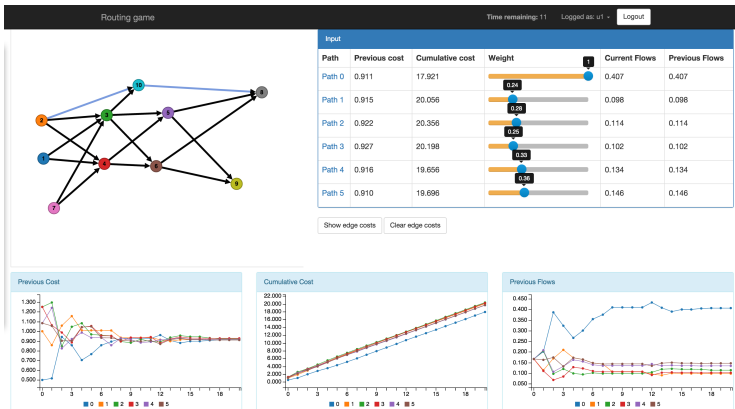


Figure: Interface for the routing game experiment.

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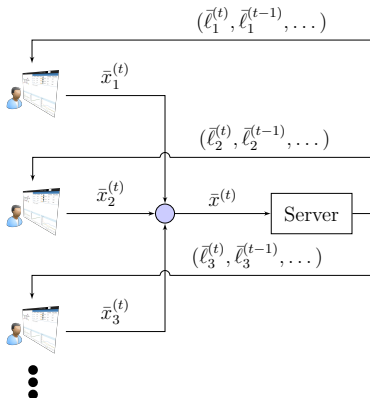


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Estimation of learning dynamics

- We observe a sequence of player decisions $(\bar{x}^{(t)})$ and losses $(\bar{\ell}^{(t)})$.
- Can we **fit a model** of player dynamics?

Mirror descent model

Estimate the learning rate in the mirror descent model

$$x^{(t+1)}(\eta) = \arg \min_{x \in \Delta^{\mathcal{A}_k}} \langle \bar{\ell}^{(t)}, x \rangle + \frac{1}{\eta} D_{KL}(x, \bar{x}^{(t)})$$

Then $d(\eta) = D_{KL}(\bar{x}^{(t+1)}, x^{(t+1)}(\eta))$ is a convex function. Can minimize it to estimate $\eta_k^{(t)}$.

[2] Kiet Lam, Walid Krichene, and Alexandre M. Bayen. Estimation of learning dynamics in the routing game.

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Preliminary results

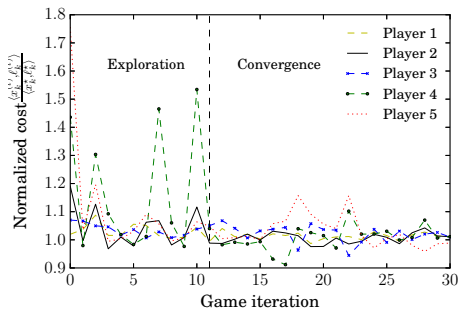


Figure: Costs of each player (normalized by the equilibrium cost)

Preliminary results

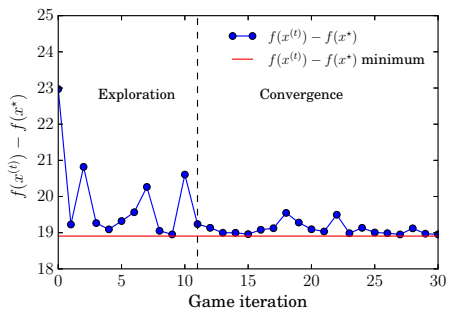


Figure: Potential function $f(x^{(t)}) - f^*$.

Preliminary results

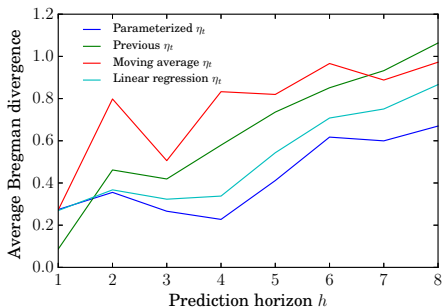


Figure: Average KL divergence between predicted distributions and actual distributions, as a function of the prediction horizon h .

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Optimal routing with learning dynamics

Assumptions

- A central authority has control over a fraction of traffic: $u^{(t)}$
- Remaining traffic follows learning dynamics: $x^{(t)}$

Optimal routing under selfish learning constraints

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{u^{(1:T)}, x^{(1:T)}} && \sum_{t=1}^T J(x^{(t)}, u^{(t)}) \\ & \text{subject to} && x^{(t+1)} = u(x^{(t)} + u^{(t)}, \ell(x^{(t)} + u^{(t)})) \end{aligned}$$

Solution methods:

- Greedy method: Approximate the problem with a sequence of convex problems.
- Mirror descent with the adjoint method.

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Application to the L.A. highway network

- Simplified model of the L.A. highway network.
- Cost functions uses the B.P.R. function, calibrated using the work of [4].

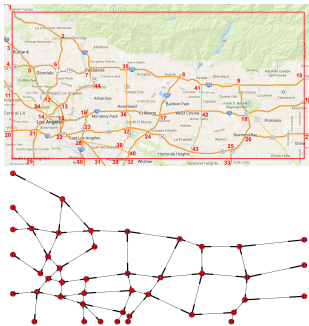


Figure: Los Angeles highway network.

[4]J. Thai, R. Hariss, and A. Bayen. [A multi-convex approach to latency inference and control in traffic equilibria from sparse data.](#)

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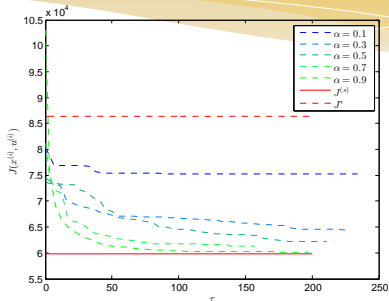


Figure: Average delay without control (dashed), with full control (solid), and different values of α .

[3] Milena Suarez, Walid Krichene, and Alexandre Bayen. [On optimal routing under selfish learning dynamics.](#)

Transactions on Control of Network Systems, in review, 2015

Summary and ongoing work

- A model of online learning as coupled sequential decision problems.
- Design / analysis of learning dynamics using stochastic optimization.
- Estimation of player dynamics, optimal control under learning.
- Can be applied to model predictive control.

Thank you!

eecs.berkeley.edu/~walid/

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