

1 We thank all reviewers for their detailed feedback. We will be sure to address all questions and incorporate all
2 suggestions from the reviewers in the final version of the paper. **Note: Reference numbers below refer to the main**
3 **submission, not the supplementary version.** To reiterate and clarify, our contributions include the following:

- 4 1. We reduce contextual linear bandits with infinite action sets to a regression problem with an algorithm that is both
5 practical and efficient.
- 6 2. We optimally adapt to an unknown level of misspecification, which is a non-trivial open problem [27]. Recall
7 that previous works in contextual bandits required oracle knowledge of the misspecification level in order to tune the
8 algorithm’s parameters (e.g., the upper confidence bound in LinUCB). Let us emphasize that neither doubling tricks
9 nor other methods were known to circumvent this requirement. The solution for static action sets heavily relies on
10 elimination, and does not generalize to the contextual case [27].
- 11 3. We adapt to a compelling notion of sparsity defined by an average effective dimension.
- 12 4. We provide a novel view of corraling bandits and give an improved master algorithm.

13 **Questions common to multiple reviewers**

- 14 - *Optimization problem:* Several valid questions were raised regarding solving the optimization problem in Def. 7 and
15 the associated computational cost. This is a convex optimization problem over a convex set with easily computable
16 gradients. Finding an ϵ -approximation takes $\mathcal{O}(\text{Poly}(d) \log(1/\epsilon))$ time. (see “Relatively-Smooth Convex Optimization
17 by First-Order Methods, and Applications” (Hu, Freund, Nesterov), Theorem 3.1). See also the optimal design example
18 in Sect. 2.2 therein which, up to a linear term and a benign term in the Hessian, is equivalent to our problem. At every
19 inner iteration, the solver needs to find $\arg\max_{a \in \mathcal{A}_t} \langle a, \mu \rangle + \beta \|a\|_{H^{-1}}^2$, where H^{-1} can be updated in $\mathcal{O}(d^2)$ time,
20 while finding the argmax is the same problem that the standard LinUCB algorithm is solving. We will add a formal
21 proof and discussion along these lines to the paper.
- 22 - *Experiments:* We agree that experiments on real-world or synthetic data would be a bonus here, but we believe that our
23 strong theoretical results stand for themselves.

24 **Reviewer 1**

- 25 - *Foster and Rakhlin show ... can you get $\min(K, d)$?* The effective dimension we use in Theorem 13 (L. 249) is upper
26 bounded by K , since the linear subspace spanned by the feature vectors of all arms trivially includes the action set. In
27 fact, when K is equal to the effective dimension, then the logdet barrier and the logbarrier coincide.

28 **Reviewer 2**

- 29 - *On logdet-barrier being a proper distribution:* This holds by definition, because the optimization problem in Def. 7 is
30 over the probability simplex.
- 31 - *Adapting SquareCB to the misspecification setting is non-trivial:* Briefly, the optimal setting for the parameter γ in
32 SquareCB (see Theorem 5/6 in [21]) depends on ϵ . Any choice for γ that ignores ϵ leads to suboptimal regret (e.g.,
33 using the optimal choice for $\epsilon = 0$ leads to regret scaling as $\epsilon^2 T^{3/2}$ when $\epsilon \neq 0$). Hence, the purpose of the master
34 algorithm is to learn a near-optimal choice for γ on-the-fly. See also Item 2 at the top of this page.
- 35 - *On assumptions in Theorem 10:* Theorem 10 is stated and proven for general function classes $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$,
36 we don’t see any inconsistency with LL. 486-487 (note that the θ_t^* notation in this proof is just shorthand for $f^*(x_t)$).
- 37 - *Line 487, how to obtain the 2nd eq. from the 1st one:* This follows by adding and subtracting terms, and then applying
38 the triangle inequality to term differences.

39 **Reviewer 3**

- 40 - *This is a little different ... the small deviation case of [22]:* These results are not comparable because their work only
41 considers fixed action sets. We are not aware of a suitable definition of “small deviation” for the contextual case with
42 changing action sets. We agree that it is an interesting direction for future research.
- 43 - *Regret bound still linear in T ... :* There is a tight lower bound (see, e.g., [27]) showing that the $\epsilon \sqrt{dT}$ term is generally
44 unavoidable, even if ϵ is known beforehand. Nonetheless, notice that our bounds rely on the *empirical* quantity $\epsilon_T \leq \epsilon$
45 and, in practice, one may hope for an ϵ_T of order $T^{-\alpha}$, for some positive α , leading to no-regret results.

46 **Reviewer 4**

- 47 - *The statement of Theorem 12 contains an additional \sqrt{d} ... seems to be a typo:* Indeed, thanks for spotting this!
- 48 - *On Assumption 1 in other settings other than linear, e.g., with kernels:* In a kernelized setting, one could use kernelized
49 Online Gradient Descent as a regression oracle, which is dimension-independent (scaling instead with the RKHS norm)
50 but has a $T^{\frac{1}{2}}$ regret rather than $d \log(T)$. On the other hand, one can always rely on the standard kernel online ridge
51 regression regret bound, that replaces bound $d \log(T)$ by the log determinant of the kernel Gram matrix of the data, and
52 then rely on the speed of eigenvalue decay of this matrix.
- 53 - *Misspecification in the case of universal kernels such as Gaussian:* With sufficiently small bandwidth, a universal
54 kernel can be realizable, i.e. $\epsilon = 0$. Yet, choosing small bandwidth comes at a cost of increasing sample complexity,
55 and the optimal results for a particular problem instance may be obtained by trading off kernel bandwidth versus
56 misspecification.