

1 We would like to thank all reviewers for insightful comments. In the response below, we address the main concern of  
 2 Reviewer 2. Due to the space limit, we cannot address other comments, which are indeed interesting and helpful. All  
 3 typos and suggestions related to the presentation and the writing of the paper will be fixed/included in the final version.

4 **Response to Reviewer 2.** The main concern is whether there is a bug in the proof of the online stochastic mirror  
 5 descent, specifically the inequality between line 254 and line 255 in the supplementary material.  
 6 In fact, there is **no** bug in the proof.

7 Let's consider first the given example (copy below).

8 - take  $\Phi$  to be  $0.5 \cdot \ell_2^2$   
 9 - take all norms to be  $\ell_2$   
 10 - take  $\theta_t = y_t = (0, 1)$   
 11 - take  $\theta_{t+1} = y_{t+1} = (0, 0)$   
 12 - set  $K$  to be half plane where first coordinate is bigger than say 1  
 13 - thus  $x_t = (1, 1)$   
 14 - the inequality does not hold, as you would need  $1 \geq 2$

15 By the choice of  $\Phi(\cdot) = \frac{1}{2} \|\cdot\|_2^2$ , we have  $\nabla \Phi(x^t) = x^t$ . By our notation,  $\theta^t = \nabla \Phi(x^t)$ , so  $\theta^t = x^t$ . Consequently,  
 16 we do not understand why in the example,  $\theta^t$  is taken to be  $(0, 1)$  and  $x^t$  can be  $(1, 1)$ .

17 Besides, between line 254 and line 255 (in the supplementary material, i.e., full paper),  $\theta^{t+1}$  does not involve so we do  
 18 not understand the role of  $\theta^{t+1}$  in the example here. We try to guess whether the reviewer meant  $\vartheta^{t+1}$ . However, even  
 19 with that guess, we do not see any contradiction.

20 In the following, we give the proof of the inequality between line 254 and 255 with very detail explanation. Recall that  
 21  $\Psi^t = \frac{1}{\eta} D_\Phi(x^* \| x^t)$ . First, we observe that

$$\eta (\Psi^{t+1} - \Psi^t) = D_\Phi(x^* \| x^{t+1}) - D_\Phi(x^* \| x^t) \quad (1)$$

$$\leq D_\Phi(x^* \| y^{t+1}) - D_\Phi(x^* \| x^t) \quad (2)$$

$$= \Phi(x^*) - \Phi(y^{t+1}) - \underbrace{\langle \nabla \Phi(y^{t+1}), x^* - y^{t+1} \rangle}_{\vartheta^{t+1}} - \Phi(x^*) + \Phi(x^t) + \underbrace{\langle \nabla \Phi(x^t), x^* - x^t \rangle}_{\theta^t} \quad (3)$$

$$= \Phi(x^t) - \Phi(y^{t+1}) - \langle \vartheta^{t+1}, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle - \langle \vartheta^{t+1} - \theta^t, x^* - x^t \rangle \quad (4)$$

$$= \Phi(x^t) - \Phi(y^{t+1}) - \langle \theta^t, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle + \langle \eta g^t, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle + \langle \eta g^t, x^* - x^t \rangle \quad (5)$$

$$\leq -\frac{\alpha_\Phi}{2} \|y^{t+1} - x^t\|^2 + \eta \langle g^t, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle + \eta \langle g^t, x^* - x^t \rangle \quad (6)$$

$$\leq \frac{\eta^2}{2\alpha_\Phi} \|g^t\|_*^2 + \eta \langle g^t, x^* - x^t \rangle \quad (7)$$

22 where

23 (1) by definition of  $\Psi^t$ ;

24 (2) by the generalized Pythagorean property (Lemma 1);

25 (3) by the definition of the Bregman divergence;

26 (4) by notation  $\vartheta^{t+1} = \nabla \Phi(y^{t+1})$  and  $\theta^t = \nabla \Phi(x^t)$ ;

27 (5) using  $\vartheta^{t+1} = \theta^t - \eta \cdot g^t$  by the algorithm;

28 (6) using the  $\alpha_\Phi$ -strong convexity of  $\Phi$ , specifically,  $\Phi(x^t) - \Phi(y^{t+1}) - \langle \theta^t, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle \leq -\frac{\alpha_\Phi}{2} \|y^{t+1} - x^t\|^2$  since  
 29  $\Phi(y^{t+1}) \geq \Phi(x^t) + \langle \theta^t, y^{t+1} - x^t \rangle + \frac{\alpha_\Phi}{2} \|y^{t+1} - x^t\|^2$  where recall  $\theta^t = \nabla \Phi(x^t)$  and  $-\langle \theta^t, x^t - y^{t+1} \rangle =$   
 30  $\langle \theta^t, y^{t+1} - x^t \rangle$ ;

31 (7) using Cauchy-Schwarz inequality  $\langle a, b \rangle \leq \|b\| \|a\|_* \leq \|b\|^2/2 + \|a\|_*^2/2$ , specifically  $\langle \eta g^t, (x^t - y^{t+1}) \rangle \leq$   
 32  $\frac{\alpha_\Phi}{2} \|y^{t+1} - x^t\|^2 + \frac{\eta^2}{2\alpha_\Phi} \|g^t\|_*^2$ .

33 Remark that, as mentioned in the paper, our approach follows the potential argument of Bansal et Gupta [4], which has  
 34 been appeared recently in *Theory of Computing*, pp. 1-32, vol 15, 2019. In particular, the part related to the concern  
 35 is proved in their paper (page 19, paragraph "Potential change", <https://theoryofcomputing.org/articles/v015a004/v015a004.pdf>). Note that they considered convex functions.

37 In conclusion, we believe that our proof is correct.