## Lab 6

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Lab6 Deadline no demo

## **Outline**

- 1. Solve CartPole-v1 using DQN
- 2. Solve Pendulum-v0 using DDPG
- 3. Modify and Run Sample Code
- 4. Scoring Criteria
- 5. Reminders

## 1. CartPole-v1

- Observation [4]
  - Cart Position
  - Cart Velocity
  - Pole Angle
  - Pole Velocity at Tip
- Action [2]
  - Left
  - Right
- Reward
  - +1 for every time step



- Starting State
  - All observations are assigned a uniform random value between ±0.05
- Episode Termination
  - Pole Angle is more than ±12°
  - Center of the cart reaches the edge of the display
  - Episode length is greater than 500

## Deep Q-Network (DQN)

#### Algorithm 1: deep Q-learning with experience replay.

Initialize replay memory D to capacity NInitialize action-value function Q with random weights  $\theta$ Initialize target action-value function  $\hat{Q}$  with weights  $\theta^- = \theta$ 

For episode = 1, M do

Initialize sequence  $s_1 = \{x_1\}$  and preprocessed sequence  $\phi_1 = \phi(s_1)$ 

For t = 1,T do

With probability  $\varepsilon$  select a random action  $a_t$  otherwise select  $a_t = \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(\phi(s_t), a; \theta)$ 

Execute action  $a_t$  in emulator and observe reward  $r_t$  and image  $x_{t+1}$ 

Set  $s_{t+1} = s_t, a_t, x_{t+1}$  and preprocess  $\phi_{t+1} = \phi(s_{t+1})$ 

Store transition  $(\phi_t, a_t, r_t, \phi_{t+1})$  in D

Sample random minibatch of transitions  $(\phi_j, a_j, r_j, \phi_{j+1})$  from D

Set 
$$y_j = \begin{cases} r_j & \text{if episode terminates at step } j+1 \\ r_j + \gamma \max_{a'} \hat{Q}(\phi_{j+1}, a'; \theta^-) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Perform a gradient descent step on  $\left(y_j - Q(\phi_j, a_j; \theta)\right)^2$  with respect to the network parameters  $\theta$ 

Every C steps reset Q = Q

#### TODO:

- Construct the neural network
- Select action according to epsilon-greedy
- Construct Q-values and target Q-values
- Calculate loss function
- Update behavior and target network
- Understand deep Q-learning mechanisms

**End For** 

## 2. Pendulum-v0

#### Observation [3]

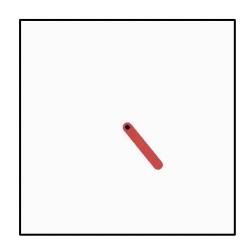
- cos(theta) (Angle)
- sin(theta) (Angle)
- theta\_dot (Angular Velocity)
- Action [1]
  - Joint Effort

#### Reward

 In essence, the goal is to remain at zero angle (vertical), with the least rotational velocity, and the least effort.

#### Starting State

- Random angle from -pi to pi, and random velocity between -1 and 1
- Episode Termination
  - Episode length is greater than 200



## Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)

#### Algorithm 1 DDPG algorithm

Randomly initialize critic network  $Q(s, a|\theta^Q)$  and actor  $\mu(s|\theta^\mu)$  with weights  $\theta^Q$  and  $\theta^\mu$ .

Initialize target network Q' and  $\mu'$  with weights  $\theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \theta^Q$ ,  $\theta^{\mu'} \leftarrow \theta^{\mu}$ 

Initialize replay buffer R

for episode = 1, M do

Initialize a random process N for action exploration

Receive initial observation state  $s_1$ 

for t = 1, T do

Select action  $a_t = \mu(s_t|\theta^{\mu}) + \mathcal{N}_t$  according to the current policy and exploration noise

Execute action  $a_t$  and observe reward  $r_t$  and observe new state  $s_{t+1}$ 

Store transition  $(s_t, a_t, r_t, s_{t+1})$  in R

Sample a random minibatch of N transitions  $(s_i, a_i, r_i, s_{i+1})$  from R

Set 
$$y_i = r_i + \gamma Q'(s_{i+1}, \mu'(s_{i+1}|\theta^{\mu'})|\theta^{Q'})$$

Update critic by minimizing the loss:  $L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} (y_i - Q(s_i, a_i | \theta^Q))^2$ 

Update the actor policy using the sampled policy gradient:

$$\nabla_{\theta^{\mu}} J \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \nabla_{a} Q(s, a | \theta^{Q})|_{s=s_{i}, a=\mu(s_{i})} \nabla_{\theta^{\mu}} \mu(s | \theta^{\mu})|_{s_{i}}$$

Update the target networks:

$$\theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \tau \theta^{Q} + (1 - \tau)\theta^{Q'}$$
$$\theta^{\mu'} \leftarrow \tau \theta^{\mu} + (1 - \tau)\theta^{\mu'}$$

#### TODO:

- Construct neural networks of both actor and critic
- Select action according to the actor and the exploration noise
- Update critic
- Update actor
- Update target network softly
- Understand the mechanism of actor-critic

## 3. Modify Sample Code

- 1. Find a #TODO comment with hints
- 2. remove the raise NotImplementedError

## 3. Run Sample Code

- Simply train and test: python dqn.py
- Only test and render: python dqn.py --restore --render
- Help message: python dqn.py --help
- Other usages:
  - Save as different model name: python dqn.py -m cart\_model
  - Load and test different model: python dqn.py -m cart\_model --restore
  - Only run on cpu: python dqn.py -d cpu
  - Only run on 3rd gpu: python dqn.py -d cuda:2
  - Set episode length to 2000: python dqn.py -e 2000

## 4. Scoring Criteria

Show your work, otherwise no credit will be granted.

- Report (80%)
  - (DO explain; do not only copy and paste your codes.)
- Report Bonus (10%)
  - Explain the choice of the random process rather than normal distribution. (5%)
  - Implement and Experiment on Double-DQN (5%)
- Performance (20%)
  - [CartPole-v1] Average reward of 10 testing episodes: Average ÷ 5
  - [Pendulum-v0] Average reward of 10 testing episodes: (Average + 700) ÷ 5

### 5. Reminders

- Your network architecture and hyper-parameters can differ from the defaults.
- Be careful of the target q-value at the end of an episode in DQN.
- Ensure the shape of tensors all the time especially when calculating the loss.
- with no\_grad(): scope is the same as xxx.detach()
- Be aware of the indentation of hints.
- When testing DDPG, action selection need NOT include the noise.

## References

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- 4. Lillicrap, Timothy P. et al. "Continuous control with deep reinforcement learning." CoRR abs/1509.02971 (2015).
- 5. Silver, David et al. "Deterministic Policy Gradient Algorithms." ICML (2014).
- 6. OpenAl. "OpenAl Gym Documentation." Retrieved from Getting Started with Gym: <a href="https://gym.openai.com/docs/">https://gym.openai.com/docs/</a>.
- 7. OpenAl. "OpenAl Wiki for Pendulum v0." Retrieved from Github: <a href="https://github.com/openai/gym/wiki/Pendulum-v0">https://github.com/openai/gym/wiki/Pendulum-v0</a>.
- 8. PyTorch. "Reinforcement Learning (DQN) Tutorial." Retrieved from PyTorch Tutorials: <a href="https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html">https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html</a>.