NCTU DLP Lab7-Report Temporal Difference Learning

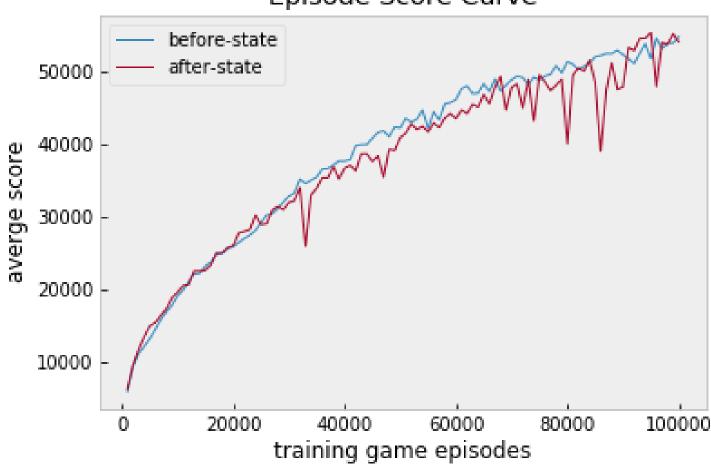
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Outline

- Report (70%)
 - A plot shows episode scores of at least 100,000 training episodes (10%)
 - Describe your implementation in detail. (10%)
 - \blacksquare Describe the implementation and the usage of *n*-tuple network. (10%)
 - Explain the TD-backup diagram of V(state). (5%)
 - Explain the action selection of V(state) in a diagram. (5%)
 - Explain the TD-backup diagram of V(after-state). (5%)
 - Explain the action selection of V(after-state) in a diagram. (5%)
 - Explain the mechanism of temporal difference learning. (5%)
 - Explain whether the TD-update perform bootstrapping. (5%)
 - Explain whether your training is on-policy or off-policy. (5%)
 - Other discussions or improvements. (5%)
- Performance (30%)
 - The 2048-tile win rate in 1000 games, [winrate₂₀₄₈].

A Plot of Episode Scores with 100,000 Training Episodes





從助教給的sample code中,可知這次implementation可以切分為5個 class

- 1. Board:有處理「上 下 左 右」的moving functions,還有board status的處理。
- 2. Feature: 是class Pattern的virtual class,並且主要處理feature vector與weight table的計算
- 3. Pattern:有計算存取對應某tuple pattern的board value的index,並且每個pattern的8個isomorphism也是在此處理。
- 4. State: 處理每次game play中資訊,例如包括state transition、action taken、gained reward等等。
- 5. Learning: TD Learning的方法主要在此進行,包括決定best action的 function、還有backward update function等等。

```
/**
  * estimate the value of a given board
  */
virtual float estimate(const board& b) const {
  float value = 0;
  for (int i = 0; i < iso_last; i++) {
     size_t index = indexof(isomorphic[i], b);
     value += operator[](index);
  }
  return value;
}</pre>
```

左圖為第一個TODO,主要用來評估每種board型態下的board value。

先isomorphic中取出index值,然後算出board value值

```
/**
  * update the value of a given board, and return its updated value
  */
virtual float update(const board& b, float u) {
    float u_split = u / iso_last;
    float value = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < iso_last; i++) {
        size_t index = indexof(isomorphic[i], b);
        operator[](index) += u_split;
        value += operator[](index);
    }
    return value;
}</pre>
```

左圖為第二個TODO,主要用來更新每種board型態下的board value,並且return出這些更新值。

```
size_t indexof(const std::vector<int>& patt, const board& b) const {
    size_t index = 0;
    for (size_t i = 0; i < patt.size(); i++)
        index |= b.at(patt[i]) << (4 * i);
    return index;
}</pre>
```

左圖為第三個TODO,主要用來取出index值

```
/*afterstate*/
state select_best_move_afterstate(const board& b) const {
    state after[4] = { 0, 1, 2, 3 }; // up, right, down, left
    state* best = after;
    for (state* move = after; move != after + 4; move++) {
        if (move->assign(b)) {
            move->set_value(move->reward() + estimate(move->after_state()));
        if (move->value() > best->value())
            best = move;
        } else {
            move->set_value(-std::numeric_limits<float>::max());
        }
        debug << "test " << *move;
    }
    return *best;
}</pre>
```

第四個TODO為選出最佳的 $V(S_t)$ 跟action。 上圖為after-state的code,右圖則為before-state。 注意右圖before state的部分,需先計算從afterstate到next state的期望值,因為下一狀態V未知。

```
state select best move state(const board& b) const {
    state after[4] = { 0, 1, 2, 3 }; // up, right, down, left
    state* best = after;
    for (state* move = after; move != after + 4; move++) {
        if (move->assign(b)) {
            board temp = move->after state();
            board origin = temp;
            float plus2 = 0.0;
            float plus4 = 0.0;
            int count = 0;
            for (int i = 0; i < 16; i++){
                if (temp.at(i) == 0) {
                     temp.set(i, 1);
                    plus2 += estimate(temp);
                    temp = origin;
                     temp.set(i, 2);
                    plus4 += estimate(temp);
                    temp = origin;
                     count++;
            float exp = 0.9*(plus2/count) + 0.1*(plus4/count);
            move->set value(move->reward() + exp);
            if (move->value() > best->value())
                best = move:
        } else {
            move->set value(-std::numeric limits<float>::max());
        debug << "test " << *move;</pre>
    return *best;
```

```
/*afterstate*/
void update_episode_afterstate(std::vector<state>& path, float alpha = 0.1) const {
    float exact = 0;
    for (path.pop_back() /* terminal state */; path.size(); path.pop_back()) {
        state& move = path.back();
        float error = exact - (move.value() - move.reward());
        debug << "update error = " << error << " for after state" << std::endl << move.after_state();
        exact = move.reward() + update(move.after_state(), alpha * error);
    }
}</pre>
```

第五個TODO即為TD的model參數更新。

上圖為after-state的code,下圖則為before-state.

注意都是等每次episode結束後,從terminal update回initial。

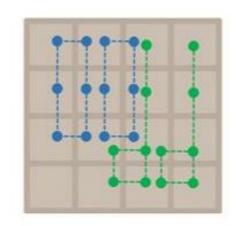
而TD的update function則是在"exact=..."這段code來處理。

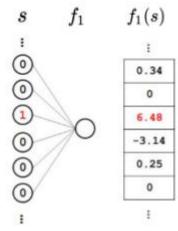
```
/*state*/
void update_episode_state(std::vector<state>& path, float alpha = 0.1) const {
    float exact = 0;
    for (path.pop_back() /* terminal state */; path.size(); path.pop_back()) {
        state& move = path.back();
        float error = move.reward() + exact - estimate(move.before_state());
        debug << "update error = " << error << " for before state" << std::endl << move.before_state();
        exact = update(move.before_state(), alpha * error);
    }
}</pre>
```

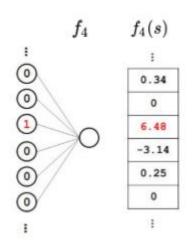
Implementation and the usage of n-tuple network -- 1

本次2048 Lab主要是用以下四個pattern的6-tuple,並且用這四個pattern的value值的總和來表示每個時間點的board的state value:

$$V(s) = f_1(s) + f_2(s) + f_3(s) + f_4(s)$$



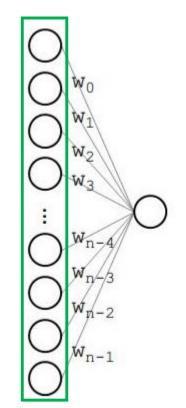


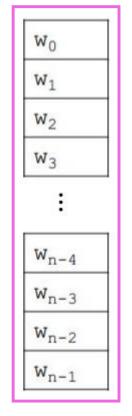


下圖是n-tuple network的示意圖,並且 這裡的feature vector與weight table在 code實作裡,是由「class feature」這 個class來處理。

Weight table

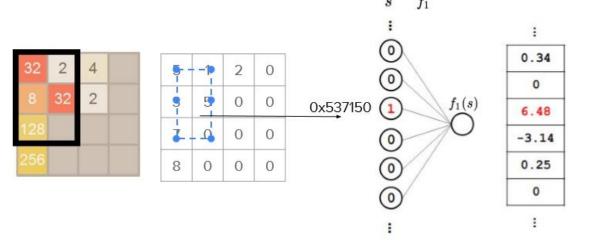
此為state feature, 而其長度為 8×16^6 , 並且會是共有8個1, 其它都是0的sparse feature vector

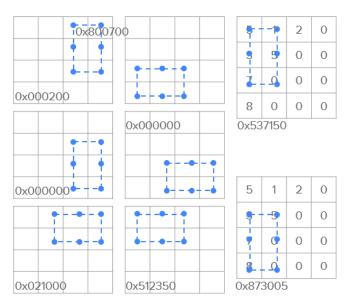




Implementation and the usage of n-tuple network -- 2

下圖為第一種pattern的第一種結構的feature vector表示,一直到對應出weight table的值。





左圖為第一種pattern的8個同構(isomorphism)。因為同一pattern的各個結構的feature vector長度為166。而這4個pattern都各有8個同構,所以這4個patternfeature vector的長度為8×166。

下圖為「class pattern」裡,處理isomorphism的 codes,並且4個pattern都是調用這裡的功能來處理各自的8個同構。

```
pattern(const std::vector<int>& p, int iso = 8) : feature(1 << (p.size() * 4)), iso_last(iso)</pre>
    if (p.empty()) {
        error << "no pattern defined" << std::endl;</pre>
        std::exit(1);
     * isomorphic patterns can be calculated by board
     * take pattern { 0, 1, 2, 3 } as an example
      apply the pattern to the original board (left), we will get 0x1372

    if we apply the pattern to the clockwise rotated board (right), we will get 0x2131,

     * which is the same as applying pattern { 12, 8, 4, 0 } to the original board
     * therefore if we make a board whose value is 0xfedcba9876543210ull (the same as index)
     * we would be able to use the above method to calculate its 8 isomorphisms
    for (int i = 0; i < 8; i++) {
        board idx = 0xfedcba9876543210ull;
        if (i >= 4) idx.mirror();
        idx.rotate(i);
        for (int t : p) {
            isomorphic[i].push_back(idx.at(t));
pattern(const pattern& p) = delete;
virtual ~pattern() {}
pattern& operator =(const pattern& p) = delete;
```

Implementation and the usage of n-tuple network -- 3

N-tuple netwrok的value function,會用以下的formula來approximate:

(註:x(s)為feature vector, θ 為weight)

 Represent value function by a linear combination of features

$$\hat{v}(S;\theta) = x(S)^{\mathrm{T}}\theta = \sum_{j=1}^{n} x_j(S)\theta_j$$

• Gradient of $\hat{v}(S, \theta)$:

$$\nabla_{\theta} \hat{v}(S, \theta) = x(S)$$

N-tuple network的objective function與 weight update function如下所示:

• Objective function is to minimize the following loss in parameter θ . (note: $\hat{v}(S, \theta) = x(S)^{T}\theta$)

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}\left[\left(y_t - \hat{v}(S, \theta)\right)^2\right]$$

$$\nabla_{\theta}\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \left(y_t - \hat{v}(S, \theta)\right) \cdot \nabla_{\theta}\hat{v}(S, \theta) = \Delta V \cdot x(S)$$

• Update features w: step-size * prediction error * feature value $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha \Delta V \cdot x(S)$

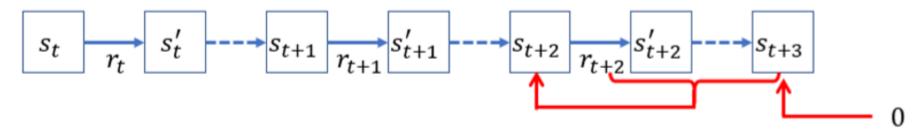
6-tuple的四個pattern的total state數為4×16⁶個並且以下即為此approach法的weight table size:

```
6-tuple pattern 012345, size = 16777216 (64MB)
6-tuple pattern 456789, size = 16777216 (64MB)
6-tuple pattern 012456, size = 16777216 (64MB)
6-tuple pattern 45689a, size = 16777216 (64MB)
```

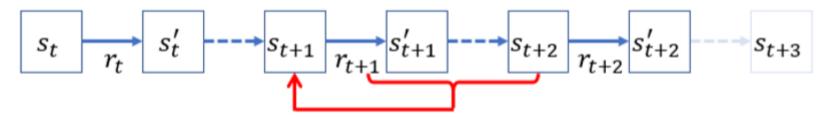
Table size 64MB的推算如下:
of entry = $16^6 \div 2^{20}$ =16 64MB = 16M個entry*4byte的float

Explain the TD-backup diagram of V(state)

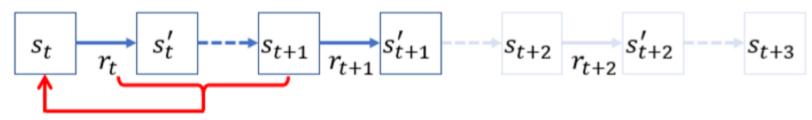
Stepl. 假設某個episode遊戲terminal在(St+3),那就用(St+3)與rt+2來update (St+2)



Step2. 接著再用(St+2)與rt+1來update (St+1)

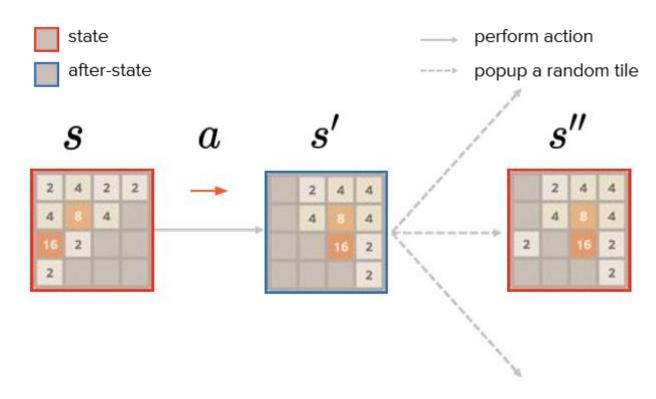


Step3. 以此類推來接連update回initial state,然後再進行下一個episode



註:(S')為afterstate,而在此的TD update並不會用到afterstate

Explain the action selection of V(state) in a diagram



由上圖可以看出,take不同的action (a)後,會前往不同的after-state (S')。而在各個不同的after-state (S')之後,2與4這兩個tiles會以不同的機率在其中一個空格出現,所以會有多個可能的next-states (S'')。

$$a \leftarrow \underset{a' \in A(s)}{\operatorname{argmax}} \text{EVALUATE}(s, a')$$

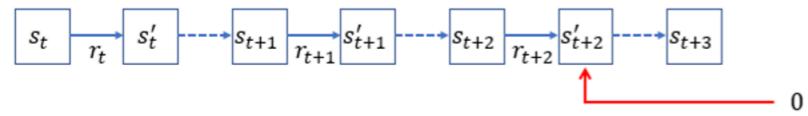
function EVALUATE(s, a) s', $r \leftarrow \text{COMPUTE AFTERSTATE}(s, a)$ $S'' \leftarrow \text{ALL POSSIBLE NEXT STATES}(s')$ return $r + \sum_{s'' \in S''} P(s, a, s'') V(s'')$

由上面的argmax可以知道,algorithm將take的action,是從EVALUATE這個function評估出來的。而評估流程大致是,將當前的state與四個actions輸入到EVALUATE後,算出四組「reward加上next state的V(S'')期望值」,然後取其大者的action為policy。

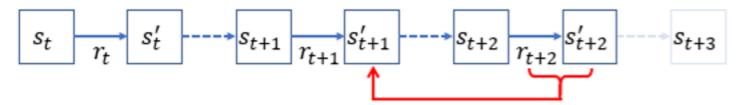
註:V(S'')對應的P(s, a, s'')與2與4這兩個tile random出現的機率有關。

Explain the TD-backup diagram of V(afterstate)

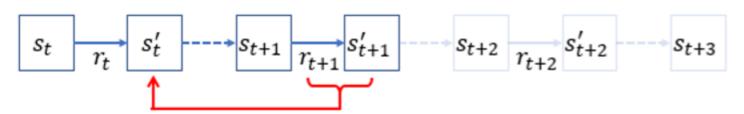
Stepl. 假設某個episode遊戲terminal在(S_{t+3}), 先update(S'_{t+2})



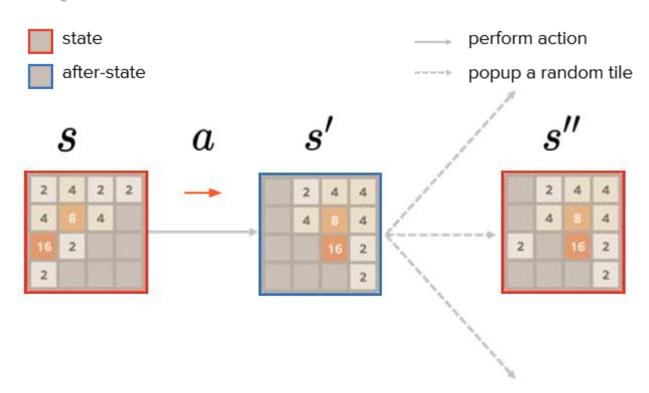
Step2. 接著再用 (S'_{t+2}) 與 r_{t+2} 來update (S'_{t+1})



Step3. 以此類推來接連update回initial state,然後再進行下一個episode



Explain the action selection of V(after-state) in a diagram



由上圖可以看出,take不同的action(a)後,會前往不同的after-state(S')。

$$a \leftarrow \underset{a' \in A(s)}{\operatorname{argmax}} \quad \text{EVALUATE}(s, a')$$

$$function \quad \text{EVALUATE}(s, a)$$

$$s', r \leftarrow \quad \text{COMPUTE AFTERSTATE}(s, a)$$

$$return \quad r + V(s')$$

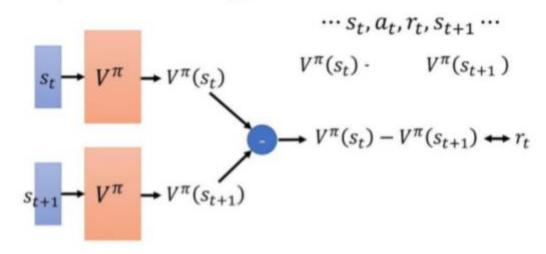
由上面的argmax可以知道,algorithm將take的action,是從EVALUATE這個function評估出來的。而評估流程大致是,將當前的state與四個actions輸入到EVALUATE後,算出四組「reward加上after state的V(S')值」,然後取其大者的action為policy。

註:這裡的EVALUATE function並不需考慮所有可能的next states。

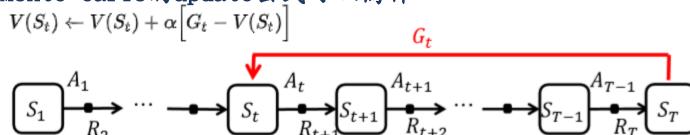
Explain the Mechanism of TD Learning

TD是用來更新V的機制。藉由兩個相鄰狀態的V值的差去計算接近轉換態的reward。來更新V使得V接近理想值。如圖所示:

Temporal-difference approach



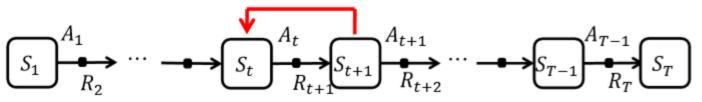
Monte-Carlo的update公式可以寫作:



其中Gt是時間t之後到該次終止時間的獎勵總和,α是學習率。但是TD無需等待到終止時間才進行更新,而是在下一步行動前就可以進行估計的更新了

TD Learning的update公式可以寫作:

$$V(S_t) \leftarrow V(S_t) + \alpha \Big[R_{t+1} + \gamma V(S_{t+1}) - V(S_t) \Big]$$



註:雖然本次2048的lab是等episode terminal後才update回initial,但每次update step都是只看鄰近state的value與reward,所以還是跟Monte-Carlo不一樣。

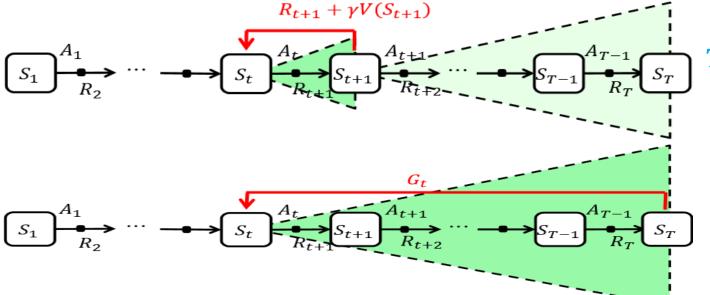
Explain whether the TD-update perform bootstrapping

TD Learning估算return的方式:通過採取action、對reward進行採樣,然後從當前對下一個狀態開始的return估算,來進行bootstrapping。

然後,它朝著此估計的方向邁出了一步,而不必等待整個獎勵序列。

對於bootstrapping的RL算法,是來自dynamic programming的想法。TD Learning有時被視為一種「中間算法」,它統一了Monte-Carlo Learning(對樣本reward進行採樣)和dynamic programming(對當前估計進行bootstrapping)。

Dynamic Programming的Value Iteration: $V(s) \leftarrow \sum_a \pi(s,a) \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) (r + \gamma V(s'))$



TD Learning的update function:

$$V(S_t) \leftarrow V(S_t) + \alpha \Big[R_{t+1} + \gamma V(S_{t+1}) - V(S_t) \Big]$$

Monte-Carlo Learning Hupdate function:

$$V(S_t) \leftarrow V(S_t) + lpha \Big[G_t - V(S_t) \Big]$$

Explain whether your training is on-policy or off-policy

首先回顧什麼是行為策略 (Behavior Policy $\pi(a|s)$) 和目標策略 (Target Policy $\mu(a|s)$): 行為策略是agent與環境互動產生資料的策略,即在訓練過程中做決策;而目標策略在行為策略產生的資料中不斷學習、優化,即學習訓練完畢後拿去應用的策略。

而為瞭解決RL問題中的exploitation和exploration,我們可以用行為策略來保持探索性,提供多樣

化的資料,而不斷的優化另一個策略(目標策略)。

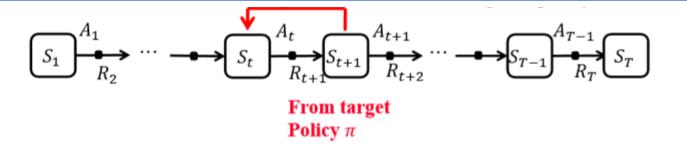
On-policy的目標策略和行為策略是同一個策略。 Off-policy的目標策略和行為策略則是不同的, 行為策略可來自不同agent的經驗,或者是人類專 家好的經驗(例如圍棋高手的policy)

所以從以上的探討中,會發現本次2048lab實作的 algorithm雖然是episode terminal後才進行 update,但仍是採取On-policy的方法。

TD(state)的update function => On-policy function LEARN EVALUATION(s, a, r, s', s'') $V(s) \leftarrow V(s) + \alpha(r + V(s'') - V(s))$

TD(after-state) Houpdate function => On-policy function LEARN EVALUATION(s, a, r, s', s'') $a_{next} \leftarrow \operatorname*{argmax}_{a' \in A(s'')} EVALUATE(s'', a')$ $s'_{next}, r_{next} \leftarrow COMPUTE\ AFTERSTATE(s'', a_{next})$

$$V(s') \leftarrow V(s') + \alpha(r_{next} + V(s'_{next}) - V(s'))$$



TD用importance sampling對V(S)做Off-policy 時需採用的update function:

$$V(S_t) \leftarrow V(S_t) + \alpha \left(\frac{\pi(A_t|S_t)}{\mu(A_t|S_t)} (R_{t+1} + \gamma V(S_{t+1})) - V(S_t) \right)$$

Other Discussions or Possible Improvement Method

On-policy的目標策略 $\pi(a|s)$ 和行為策略 $\mu(a|s)$ 是同一個策略,其好處就是直接利用agent當下附近的資料就可以優化其策略,然而這樣的處理常會導致該策略其實只是在學習一個局部最優,因為On-policy的策略沒辦法很好的同時保持即exploration又exploitation。

所以其中一個可能可以improve的方向是改用Off-policy的方法。

而Off-policy將目標策略和行為策略分開,可以在保持探索的同時,更能求到全域最優值。但其難點在於:如何在一個策略下產生的資料來優化另外一個策略?通常都會利用到 "Important Sampling" 这种技巧來解决,而TD Learning用importance sampling對V(S)做Off-policy時需採用的update function改寫如下:

$$V(S_t) \leftarrow V(S_t) + \alpha \left(\frac{\pi(A_t|S_t)}{\mu(A_t|S_t)} (R_{t+1} + \gamma V(S_{t+1})) - V(S_t) \right)$$

然而上式中,假若有 π (a|s)值很大、 μ (a|s)極小的情況發生的話,將會導致update很不穩定。所以進一步想,原來後來有人用Q-learning來解2048這個遊戲,其實可以避開上述importance sampling方法對TD target乘上那ratio值的不穩定問題。然後用Q-learning的話還有一個好處是也可以巧妙避開從after-state到next state的transition probabilities的問題,減少很多計算量。不過我太晚才搞懂吳老師這個上課時有提到的事,也就是用Q-learning有機會改善on-policy的local minimum問題以及importance sampling的不穩定問題,所以來不及嘗試,以上算是把心得與討論寫下來。

The 2048-tile win rate in 1000 games, [winrate2048]

以下是after-state的結果

```
max = 292704
979000
        mean = 103382
    64 100%
                (0.1\%)
    128 99.9%
                (0.2\%)
    512 99.7%
                (0.7\%)
    1024 99% (5.8%)
            93.2%
                     (16.8\%)
    2048
            76.4%
    4096
                     (26.4\%)
            50% (46.4%)
    8192
    16384
            3.6%
                     (3.6\%)
```

以下是after-state再試著多train的結果

1293000	mean = 64 128 256 512	116039 100% 99.8% 99.6% 99.5%	max = 333232 (0.2%) (0.2%) (0.1%) (0.9%)
	2048 4096	93.6%	(15.1%)
	8192 16384	57.2% 7.4%	(21.3%) (49.8%) (7.4%)

以下是before-state的結果

992000	mean = 128 256 512	105550 100% 99.8% 99.5%	max = 225852 (0.2%) (0.3%) (1.1%)
	2048	94.3%	(9%)
	4096	85.3%	(30.9%)
	8192	54.4%	(54.2%)
	16384	0.2%	(0.2%)

另外有發現,有出現16384的win rate最高者 ,為左下圖的結果。

The End