Sequential Decision Making and Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

MCTS and Planning with Partial Information

Sarah Keren

The Taub Faculty of Computer Science Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

Agenda

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre

Planning Wit Partial Observability

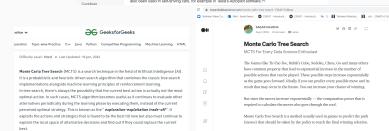
MCTS in POMDF

MCTS

Planning while accounting for partial observability

1 / 48 Sarah Keren





Monte-Carlo Tree

was more of

- Combines exploration and exploitation to choose an action in a tree search setting
- Is relevant to classical planning, stochastic planning, and game playing
 - · Revolutionized the world of computer Go
- · Has many different variants
- Explosion in interest, applications far beyond games:
 Planning, motion planning, optimization, finance, energy management



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Carab Karar

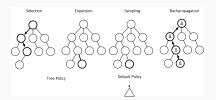
Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ers III i enist s

Key Idea: use **Monte Carlo simulation** to accumulate value estimates to guide towards highly rewarding trajectories in a search tree.

- · Each simulation consists of two phases
 - Tree policy: pick actions to maximise values
 - **Default / roll-out policy:** pick actions randomly to simulate a trajectory.
- Repeat (each simulation)
 - Evaluate states Q(S,A) by Monte-Carlo evaluation
 - Improve tree policy e.g. by ϵ -greedy.
- Converges on the optimal search tree $Q(S,A) \rightarrow q(S,A)$



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDP

 $\textbf{function} \ \textbf{Monte-Carlo-Tree-Search} (\textit{state}) \ \textbf{returns} \ \textit{an} \ \textit{action}$

 $tree \leftarrow Node(state)$

while Is-TIME-REMAINING() do

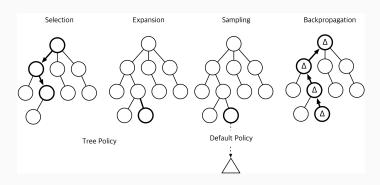
 $leaf \leftarrow Select(tree)$

 $child \leftarrow \text{EXPAND}(leaf)$

 $result \leftarrow SIMULATE(child)$

BACK-PROPAGATE(result, child)

return the move in ACTIONS(state) whose node has highest number of playouts



Reinforcement Learning

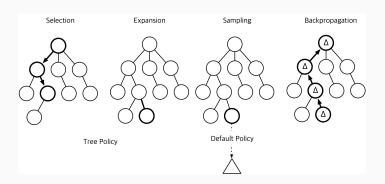
(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDP:

- Selection
- Expansion
- · Sampling / Simulation
- · Back-propogation



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

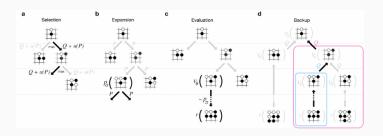
. .

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDE

Example: MCTS for GO



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

C-----------

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

> Partial Observability

MCTS is not just for games

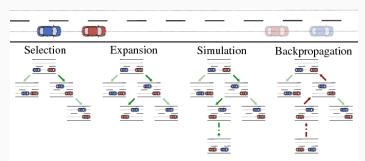


Fig. 1: Phases of Monte Carlo Tree Search for an overtaking maneuver; the

https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/
Decentralized-Cooperative-Planning-for-Automated-Kurzer-Zhou/
585b73322365ba2d0afa7449691c81cb98777599

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

.

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

8 / 48 Sarah Keren

Selection Policy

- · Use results of simulations to guide growth of the game tree
 - · Exploitation: focus on promising moves
 - Exploration: focus on moves where uncertainty about evaluation is high
- · Seems like two contradictory goals
 - · Theory of bandits can help

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Koro

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

> Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

Selection Policy: Multi-Armed Bandit Problem

- We can choose among several arms
- Each arm pull is independent of other pulls
- · Each arm has fixed, unknown average payoff
- · Which arm has the best average payoff?



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Kerer

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDE

10 / 48

Selection Policy: UCB1 [Auer et al 02]

- · First, try each arm once
- · Each arm pull is independent of other pulls
- · Then, at each time step:
- \cdot Choose arm i that maximizes the UCB1 formula for the upper confidence

$$v_i + C \times \sqrt{\frac{ln(N)}{n_i}}$$

where

- \cdot v_i current estimation of the value of bandit i
- \cdot C tunable parmater to balance exploration / exploitation
- · N total number of trials
- n_i no. of trials for bandit

How is this relevant to search trees?

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

C ... | K ...

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

> Planning With Partial Observability

ACTS in POMDPs

Selection Policy: UCT (UCB applied to trees)

- · UCB makes single decision
- · What about sequences of decisions (e.g. planning games?)

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ICTS in POMDPs

Selection Policy: UCT (UCB applied to trees)

- · UCB makes single decision
- What about sequences of decisions (e.g. planning games?)
- · Answer: use a look-ahead tree
 - Bandit arm ≈ move in a game
 - · Payoff ≈ quality of move
 - · Regret ≈ difference to best move
- · Apply UCB-like formula for node selection
 - · Choose "optimistically" where to expand next

$$UCB(s) = \frac{U(s)}{N(s)} + C \times \sqrt{\frac{ln(N(s.parent))}{N(s)}}$$

where

- \cdot U(s) total utility of all rollouts that went through s
- N(s) number of rollouts though s.

Learning (SDMRL)

Carab Voro

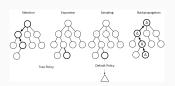
Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

ICIS IN POMDPS

Simulation / Roll-out Policy

- Default roll-out policy is to make uniform random moves
- Goal is to find strong correlations between initial position and result of a simulation
- · Domain independent techniques for games : Ideas ?



From Sarit Kraus: https: //u.cs.biu.ac.il/~krauss/advai2018/MCTS.pdf Reinforcement Learning

Carab Kara

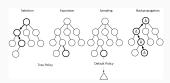
Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

CTS in POMDPs

Simulation / Roll-out Policy

- Default roll-out policy is to make uniform random moves
- Goal is to find strong correlations between initial position and result of a simulation
- · Domain independent techniques for games : Ideas ?
 - · If there is an immediate win, take it
 - · Avoid immediate losses
 - Avoid moves that give opponent immediate win
 - · Last Good Reply
 - · Using prior knowledge



From Sarit Kraus: https: //u.cs.biu.ac.il/~krauss/advai2018/MCTS.pdf Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Koro

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Partial Observability

CTS in POMDPs

Simulation / Roll-out Policy

- Last Good Reply (Drake 2009), Last Good Reply with Forgetting (Baier et al 2010)
- · Machine-learned pattern values (Silver 2009)
- · Simulation balancing (Silver and Tesauro 2009)
- · Using prior knowledge



From Sarit Kraus: https: //u.cs.biu.ac.il/~krauss/advai2018/MCTS.pdf Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree

Planning with Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

14 / 48 Sarah Keren

MCTS efficiency

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree

Partial

ICTS in POMDPS

15 / 48 Sarah Keren

MCTS efficiency

- The time to perform a rollout is linear in the depth of the tree
- This gives plenty of time to consider multiple rollouts
- · For example
 - · if:
- Branching factor b=32
- · Average game length (tree depth) is d=100
- \cdot We can compute 10^9 moves
- · Minimax can search 6 ply deep
- · AlphaBeta can search up to 12 ply deep
- MCTS can do 10⁷ rollouts
- · Works great for games with
 - Large branching factor (then minimax can't search deep enough)
 - Poor evaluation function

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Kerei

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

MCTS for MDPs

A Markov Decision Process(MDP) is a tuple $\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R}, \gamma \rangle$ where

- \cdot \mathcal{S} is a finite set of states
- \cdot \mathcal{A} is a finite set of actions
- \mathcal{P} is a state transition probability matrix $\mathcal{P}^{a}_{s,s'} = \mathcal{P}[S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a]$
- \mathcal{R} is a reward function, $\mathcal{R}_s^a = \mathbb{E}[R_{t+1}|S_t = s, A_t = a]$, and
- optional: γ is a discount factor

How to perform?

- Selection
- Expansion
- Sampling / Simulation
- Back-propogation

Learning

(SDMRL)

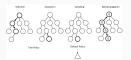
Monte-Carlo Tree Search

> Planning With Partial Observability

> > ACTS in POMDPs

MCTS: Summery

- UCB, UCT are very important algorithms in both theory and practice with well-founded convergence guarantees under relatively weak conditions
- Applicable to a variety of games and other applications, as it is domain independent
- Basis for extremely successful programs for games and many other applications
- Very general algorithm for decision making
 - · Works with very little domain-specific knowledge
 - · (But) needs a simulator of the domain
 - · Can take advantage of knowledge when present
 - Anytime algorithm can stop the algorithm and provide answer immediately, though improves answer with more time



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

(00)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDP:

Planning With Partial Observability

Accounting for Partial Information

• Can we use a Markov Decision Process(MDP) $\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R}, \gamma \rangle$ to account for partially observable environments?



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Kerei

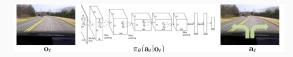
Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

Accounting for Partial Information

Sometimes, yes.



Sometimes, an MDP is not enough.

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Kerei

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

(SDMRL)

Sarah k

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

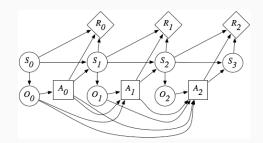
MCTS in POMDP

A Partially Observable Markov Decision Process(POMDP) is a tuple $\langle S, A, P, R, \gamma, \Omega, O, \beta_0 \rangle$ where

- S, A, P, R and γ are as for an MDP.
- $\cdot \Omega$ is a set of observations (observation tokens),
- $\mathcal O$ is a sensor function specifying the conditional observation probabilities $\mathcal O_{s,a}^o=\mathcal P[O_{t+1}=o|S_t=s,A_t=a]$ of receiving observation token $o\in\Omega$ in state s after applying action a ¹.
- β_0 the initial belief: a probability distribution over the states such that $\beta_0(s)$ stands for the probability of s being the true initial state.

¹alternatively: $\mathcal{O}_s^o = \mathcal{P}[o_t = o | S_t = s]$

POMDP- graphical form



Reinforcement Learning

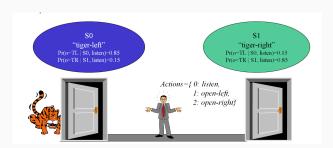
(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning Witl Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

POMDP example



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL) Sarah Keren

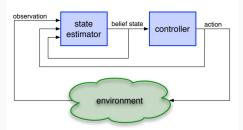
Planning With Partial Observability

ICTS in POMDPs

22 / 48 Sarah Keren

Planning in Belief Space

- A **belief** is a probability distribution over the possible world states such that b(s) stands for the probability that s is the true world state.
- In partially observable domains, we may have a sensor model / state estimator represented as a mapping function from what is observed to the actual world state.



From Kaelbling, L. P., and T. Lozano-Perez. "Integrated Task and Motion Planning in Belief Space" 2013 https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/87038/Kaelbling Integrated%20task.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=v

Reinforcement Learning

Sarah Keren

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

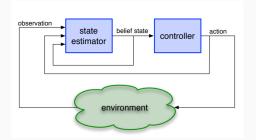
Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

Planning in Belief Space

Two key challenges when planning in belief space:

- Belief tracking what is the state of the world?
- Policy computation what is the best action to perform?



Pineau, Nicholas and Thrun. "A hierarchical approach to POMDP planning and execution." 2001. https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/jpineau/files/jpineau-icml01.pdf

(SDMRL)
Sarah Keren

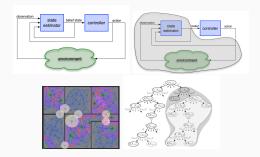
Monte-Carlo TreSearch
Planning With
Partial
Observability

4 / 48 Sarah Keren

Planning in Belief Space: Solution Approaches

Combinations of different approaches:

- · Planning in a belief MDP, an MDP with beliefs as states
- Sampling / discretization
- Approximations / relaxations



See work by Vadim Indelman from the Technion, e.g.,

https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=8793548

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Koror

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ICIS IN POMDPS

Belief Update

When receiving an observation o, the agent updates its current belief β using its **belief update function** $\tau : \mathcal{B} \times \Omega \times \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{B}$ which maps belief $\beta \in \mathcal{B}$ to the new belief.

Commonly, a Bayesian filter is used:

$$\beta^{o,a} = \frac{\hat{P}(o|s,a)\beta(s)}{\int_{s'\in\mathcal{S}}\hat{P}(o|s',a)\beta(s')ds'} \tag{1}$$

where $\beta(s)$ is the estimated probability that s is the actual world state when the new observation o is emitted.

Discrete version:

$$\beta^{o,a} = \frac{\hat{P}(o|s,a)\,\beta(s)}{\sum_{p'\in\mathcal{P}}\hat{P}(o|s',a)\,\beta(s')} \tag{2}$$

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ICTS in POMDPs

26 / 48

Belief Update - Example

The Henry and Marthyn Toub
Faculty of Compositor Science

TECHNION



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

(---

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ICTS in POMDPs

Planning with POMDPs

- A policy $\pi:\beta\mapsto\mathcal{A}$ of a POMDP maps the current belief into an action.
- The belief is assumed to be a sufficient statistic and an optimal policy is the solution of a continuous space "belief MDP"
- · Some relevant links:
 - https://people.csail.mit.edu/lpk/papers/ aij98-pomdp.pdf
 - https://people.eecs.berkeley.edu/~pabbeel/ cs287-fa13/slides/pomdps.pdf
 - https://cs.brown.edu/research/ai/pomdp/ tutorial/pomdp-solving.html
 - https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=cTu7mvRE354

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Keren

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ACTS in POMDPs

Value iteration for POMDPs

Bellman optimality for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s,a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s,a,s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}^*(s') \right]$$

Bellman optimality for POMDPs:

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

Value iteration for POMDPs

Bellman optimality for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s, a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s, a, s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}^*(s') \right]$$

Bellman optimality for POMDPs:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o} \mathcal{P}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}^*(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

ACTS in POMDPs

Bellman optimality for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s,a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s,a,s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}^*(s') \right]$$

Bellman optimality for POMDPs:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o} \mathcal{P}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}^*(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Update formula for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s,a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s,a,s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}_{k}(s') \right]$$

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

Bellman optimality for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s,a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s,a,s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}^*(s') \right]$$

Bellman optimality for POMDPs:

$$\mathcal{V}^*(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o} \mathcal{P}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}^*(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Update formula for MDPS:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(s) = \max_{a} \sum_{s'} \mathcal{P}(s'|s, a) \left[\mathcal{R}(s, a, s') + \gamma \mathcal{V}_{k}(s') \right]$$

Update formula for POMDPs:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Problems?

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Problems?

- · Reward is not a function of the belief, but of the state
- While states are discrete beliefs are continuous (so the space is ∞)

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

Reward is a function of the state:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

Reward is a function of the state:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Beliefs are continuous:

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

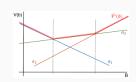
Reward is a function of the state:

$$\mathcal{V}_{k+1}(\beta) = \max_{a} \left[\mathcal{R}(\beta, a) + \gamma \sum_{o \in \Omega} \mathcal{O}(o|a, \beta) \mathcal{V}_{k}(\tau(\beta, a, o)) \right]$$

Beliefs are continuous:

Instead of considering beliefs, we consider a finite set of $\alpha\text{-vectors}$ that represent beliefs.

$$\mathcal{V}_k(\beta) = \max_{\alpha \in \Gamma_k} \alpha \cdot \beta = \max_{\alpha \in \Gamma_k} \Sigma_s \alpha(s) \cdot \beta(s)$$

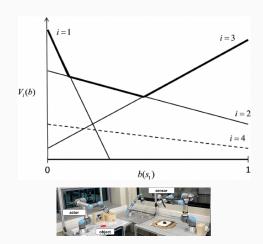


Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

(----

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability



Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre Search

Planning With Partial Observability

- A high-level sketch of the value iteration algorithm for POMDPs.
- The REMOVE-DOMINATED-PLANS step and MAX-DIFFERENCE test are typically implemented as linear programs.

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL) Sarah Keren

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

.....

33 / 48 Sarah Keren

- SARSOP: Efficient Point-Based POMDP Planning by Approximating Optimally Reachable Belief Spaces.
 Kurniawati et al. 2008 https: //bigbird.comp.nus.edu.sg/m2ap/wordpress/ wp-content/uploads/2016/01/rss08.pdf
- Efficient point-based POMDP planning by approximating optimally reachable belief spaces: Kurniawati (2021): https://arxiv.org/pdf/2107.07599.pdf

Sarah Keren

Monte-Carlo Tree
Search

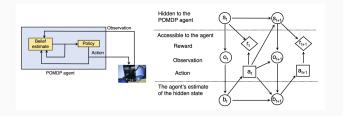
Planning With
Partial
Observability

(SDMRL)

Sarah Keren

When a POMDP $\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P}, \mathcal{R}, \gamma, \Omega, \mathcal{O}, \beta_0 \rangle$ is used to represent a robot's task

- the transition function is typically represented as a noisy dynamics function $s'=f(s,a,\eta)$, where $s,s'\in\mathcal{S}$ and $\eta\sim N$ is a noise vector sampled from noise distribution N, while $f(\cdot)$ denotes the system's dynamics.
- Similarly, \mathcal{O} denotes the sensor/ observation function, representing errors and noise in measurement and perception.



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Keren

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

> Planning With Partial Observability

35 / 48

- POMDP is powerful in its quantification of the non-deterministic effects of actions and partial observability due to errors in sensor measurements and in perception
- The computed policy will balance information gathering and goal attainment.
- But precisely because of this, POMDP is notorious for its high computational complexity and deemed impractical for robotics.
- Until recently, most benchmark problems for POMDPs had less than 30 states and the best algorithms that could solve them took hours.



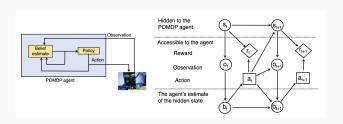
Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Carab Voron

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

- In the past 2 decades, POMDPs solving capabilities have advanced tremendously, thanks to sampling-based approximate solvers.
- Although optimality is compromised, robustness and computational efficiency is improved: practical for many realistic robotics problems.



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tre

Planning With Partial Observability

Algorithm 1 A typical program skeleton for sampling-based POMDP solvers

- 1: Initialize policy π and a set of sampled beliefs B
- {Generally, B is initialised to contain only a single belief (e.g., the initial belief b₀)}
- 2: repeat
- 3: Sample a (set of) beliefs (Some methods sample histories (a history is a sequence of action-observation tuples) rather than beliefs. In POMDPs, beliefs provide sufficient statistics of the entire history [25], and therefore the two provide equivalent information]
- 4: Estimate the values of the sampled beliefs
- {Generally, via a combination of heuristics and update / backup operation}
- Update π {In most methods, this step is a byproduct of the previous step}
 until Stopping criteria is satisfied
- Key idea: sample a set of representative beliefs and computes optimal policy only for them, thus substantially reducing complexity.
- Which set would be sufficiently representative?
 - A variety of sampling strategies have been proposed to select the sample set and to estimate the values of the sampled beliefs.
 - Most sampling-based approximate POMDP solvers are anytime
 - Some methods compute upper and lower bound estimates of the value functions
 - · Can be broadly divided into offline and online.

Reinforcemen Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Planning With Partial Observability

SARSOP

SARSOP: Efficient Point-Based POMDP Planning by Approximating Optimally Reachable Belief Spaces. Kurniawati et al. 2008 https://bigbird.comp.nus.edu.sg/m2ap/wordpress/ wp-content/uploads/2016/01/rss08.pdf



Fig. 1. Belief space B, reachable space $R(b_0)$, and optimally reachable space $\mathcal{R}^{*}(b_{0})$. Note that $\mathcal{R}^{*}(b_{0}) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(b_{0}) \subseteq \mathcal{B}$.

- · Some early POMDP algorithms sample the entire belief space B, using a uniform sampling distribution, such as a grid.
- · More recent point-based algorithms sample only $\mathcal{R}(\beta_0)$, the subset of belief points reachable from a given initial point $\beta_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ under arbitrary sequences of actions.

(SDMRL)

Planning With **Partial** Observability



space $\mathcal{R}^*(b_0)$. Note that $\mathcal{R}^*(b_0) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(b_0) \subseteq \mathcal{B}$.

- SASOP pushes this direction further, by sampling near $\mathcal{R}^*(\beta_0)$, a subset of belief points reachable from β_0 under we**optimal sequences of actions** $(\mathcal{R}^*(\beta_0))$ is usually much smaller than $\mathcal{R}(\beta_0)$).
- Optimality not achievable, so approximations of $\mathcal{R}^*(\beta_0)$ are used.
 - Use successive approximations of $\mathcal{R}^*(\beta_0)$ and converge to it iteratively.
 - The algorithm relies on heuristic exploration to sample $\mathcal{R}(\beta_0)$ and improves sampling over time through a simple on-line learning technique.
 - · Bounding technique are used to avoid sampling in regions that are unlikely to be optimal
 - This leads to substantial gain in computational efficiency

(SDMRL)

Planning With

Partial

Observability

What if we don't have full access to the model of the environment?

Sequential
Decision Makir
and
Reinforcemen
Learning

(SDMRL)

Sarah Kerer

Search

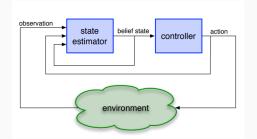
Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

41 / 48 Sarah Keren

Beliefs and Belief Tracking

 The agent maintains its belief via a state estimator - which we will refer to as the process of Belief Tracking.



From Kaelbling, L. P., and T. Lozano-Perez. "Integrated Task and Motion Planning in Belief Space" 2013 https://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/87038/Kaelbling_Integrated%20task.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Reinforcement Learning

(SDMRL)

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

2 / 48 Sarah Keren

Partially Observable Markov Decision Process (POMDP)

A Partially Observable Markov Decision Process(POMDP) is a tuple $\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R}, \gamma, \Omega, \mathcal{O}, \beta_0 \rangle$ where

- S, A, P, R and γ are as for an MDP.
- Ω is a set of observations (observation tokens),
- \mathcal{O} is a sensor function specifying the conditional observation probabilities $\mathcal{O}_{s,a}^o = \mathcal{P}[O_{t+1} = o | S_t = s, A_t = a]$ of receiving observation token $o \in \Omega$ in state s after applying action a^2 .
- β_0 the initial belief: a probability distribution over the states such that $\beta_0(s)$ stands for the probability of s being the true initial state

Sarah Keren

Search

Partial Observability

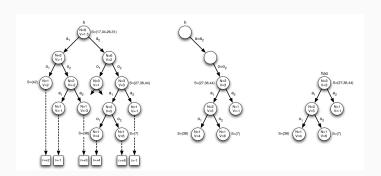
MCTS in POMDPs

43 / 4

Learning (SDMRL)

²alternatively: $\mathcal{O}_s^o = \mathcal{P}[o_t = o|S_t = s]$

POMCP



Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

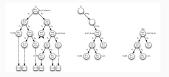
(02....

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

POMCP

- · Extending MCTS to POMDPs.
- In a problem with n states, value iteration reasons about an n-dimensional belief state.
- Furthermore, the number of histories that it must evaluate is exponential in the horizon.
- · Basic idea: use Monte-Carlo in two ways:
 - · sampling start states from the belief state
 - · sampling histories using a black box simulator.
- The algorithm constructs online a search tree of histories.



Reinforcement Learning

Carab Varon

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

45 / 48

```
Algorithm 1 Partially Observable Monte-Carlo Planning
```

```
procedure Search(h)
                                                                procedure Simulate(s, h, depth)
    repeat
                                                                     if \gamma^{depth} < \epsilon then
        if h = empty then
                                                                         return 0
             s \sim T
                                                                     end if
         else
                                                                     if h \notin T then
             s \sim B(h)
                                                                         for all a \in A do
         end if
                                                                              T(ha) \leftarrow (N_{init}(ha), V_{init}(ha), \emptyset)
        SIMULATE(s, h, 0)
                                                                         end for
    until TIMEOUT()
                                                                         return Rollout(s, h, depth)
    return \operatorname{argmax} V(hb)
                                                                     end if
                                                                     a \leftarrow \underset{\iota}{\operatorname{argmax}} V(hb) + c\sqrt{\frac{\log N(h)}{N(hb)}}
end procedure
                                                                     (s', o, r) \sim \mathcal{G}(s, a)
procedure Rollout(s, h, depth)
                                                                     R \leftarrow r + \gamma.\text{SIMULATE}(s', hao, depth + 1)
    if \gamma^{depth} < \epsilon then
                                                                     B(h) \leftarrow B(h) \cup \{s\}
         return 0
                                                                     N(h) \leftarrow N(h) + 1
    end if
                                                                     N(ha) \leftarrow N(ha) + 1
    a \sim \pi_{rollout}(h, \cdot)
                                                                     V(ha) \leftarrow V(ha) + \frac{R-V(ha)}{N(ha)}
    (s', o, r) \sim \mathcal{G}(s, a)
    return r + \gamma.Rollout(s', hao, depth+1)
                                                                     return R
                                                                end procedure
end procedure
```

Recap and what next

- · Spectrum of approaches to planning with
 - · deterministic and stochastic actions
 - full and partial observability
 - · next: what to do when we don't know the model?

Model Free Model Based

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

Sarah Kerer

Search

Partial Observabilit

Do we still need to know about planning?

by Subbarao Kambhampati:

"Human, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot learn, the data to learn the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."



Sarah Kerer

Monte-Carlo Tree Search

Partial Observability

MCTS in POMDPs

Sarah Keren

Reinforcement Learning (SDMRL)

³My addition: and the ability to know what to do about it