

Optimality and Approximation with Policy Gradient Methods in Markov Decision Processes

Alekh Agarwal* Sham M. Kakade† Jason D. Lee‡ Gaurav Mahajan§

【强化学习 90】PG Theory 2



张楚珩 🔮

清华大学 交叉信息院博士在读

19 人赞同了该文章

是非常新的一篇理论工作,从理论上分析 policy gradient 算法相关的各种性质。这篇文章比较长(有 71 页),我们分两次讲,这是第二部分。

原文传送门

Agarwal, Alekh, et al. "Optimality and Approximation with Policy Gradient Methods in Markov Decision Processes." arXiv preprint arXiv:1908.00261 (2019).

特色

前面说到本文分为两大部分:第一个部分为对 tabular policy parameterization 的分析,即 policy class 一定包含 optimal policy,在这一部分文章中给出了 global optimality 的分析,第二部分为对 restricted policy class 的分析,即 policy class 不一定包含 optimal policy,在这一部分中文字给出了 agnostic result,即相比于该 policy class 中最优 policy 的 loss(agnostic results)。这里讲的是第二部分。

1. 概述

这一部分主要研究参数化的策略族

$$\Pi = \{ \pi_{\theta} | \theta \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d \}$$
(16)

这一部分主要研究两种情况,第一种情况是该函数族对于参数无约束,即 $_{\mathbf{\theta}=\mathbf{R}^d}$; 第二种情况是该函数族对于参数有约束,这样每次做梯度更新之后都需要进行投影(projection)的操作。所研究的函数族不一定包含 optimal policy,通常假设函数族的表示能力是比较局限的,即 $_{\mathbf{d} \leftarrow |\mathbf{S}||\mathbf{d}|}$ 。

2. NPG for unconstrained policy classes

2.1 问题描述

考虑一个无约束的优化问题

$$\max_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} V^{\pi_{\theta}}(\rho)$$

每一轮更新参数

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} + \eta w^{(t)}$$
. (18)

2.2 Compatible function approximation

Sutton 书里面讲 policy gradient 的时候就提到了 compatible 这个概念。compatibility 考虑如下的问题,policy gradient 公式中出现价值函数,在 model-free 的情形下,我们需要估计这个价值函数(function approximation),那么采用什么样的 function approximation 才能够使得其approximation error 不影响策略梯度的估计?换句话说,就是找到估计 χ ,使得

$$\begin{split} \nabla V^{\pi_{\theta}}(\mu) &= \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d_{\mu}^{\pi_{\theta}}} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^{\theta}(\cdot|s)} \big[\nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) A^{\pi_{\theta}}(s,a) \big] \\ &= \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d_{\mu}^{\pi_{\theta}}} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^{\theta}(\cdot|s)} \big[\nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \widehat{A}^{\pi_{\theta}}(s,a) \big]. \end{split}$$

引用 (Sutton, 1999) 的结论,对应的 compatible function approximation为:

$$\widehat{A}^{\pi_{\theta}}(s, a) = w^{\star}(\theta) \cdot \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s),$$

其中

$$w^*(\theta) \in \operatorname{argmin}_w L_{\nu}(w; \theta).$$

为 compatible function approximation error L, 的 minimizer:

$$L_{\nu}(w;\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{s,a\sim\nu} \left[\left(A^{\theta}(s,a) - w \cdot \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right)^{2} \right], \quad L_{\nu}^{\star}(\theta) := \min_{w} L_{\nu}(w;\theta). \tag{19}$$

$$\nu(s, a) = d_{\mu}^{\pi_{\theta}}(s)\pi_{\theta}(a|s)$$

注意到, 🧨 的形式和策略的 parameterization 有关。

2.3 Natural policy gradient

文章直接引用了 (Kakade, 2011) 的结论,natural policy gradient 每一步的更新就是 compatible function approximation error *t*。的 minimizer 。

$$F_{\rho}(\theta)^{\dagger} \nabla V^{\theta}(\rho) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{w} L_{\nu}(w; \theta),$$
 (20)

where $\nu(s, a) = d_{\rho}^{\pi_{\theta}}(s)\pi_{\theta}(a|s)$.

2.4 Minimal compatible function approximation error measures policy expressivity

对于 2.2 中的结论,我们可以换个角度理解: Λ 的 contour 可能很复杂,但是在策略的 expressivity 不够的情况下(即 Λ 较大),这么精细的价值函数估计中的信息也没法被 distill 到策略中。下面举一个例子来说明,考虑一个 linear softmax policy:

$$\pi_{\theta}(a|s) = \frac{\exp(\theta \cdot \phi_{s,a})}{\sum_{a' \in \mathcal{A}} \exp(\theta \cdot \phi_{s,a'})}$$

通过计算不难得出,

$$\nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) = \widetilde{\phi}_{s,a}$$
, where $\widetilde{\phi}_{s,a} = \phi_{s,a} - \mathbb{E}_{a' \sim \pi_{\theta}(\cdot|s)}[\phi_{s,a'}]$

为中心化的 feature,在 policy 形式固定的情况下,feature 表征了模型的 expressivity。相应的 compatible function approximation error 为

$$L_{\nu}(w;\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{s,a\sim\nu}\left[\left(A^{\theta}(s,a) - w \cdot \widetilde{\phi}_{s,a}\right)^{2}\right].$$

即,描述了 feature 对于 advantage function 的表示能力。

2.5 Bound: NPG for unconstrained policy classes w.r.t. a fixed policy

固定一个策略,,以下定理说明做 r 轮 NPG 之后,得到策略性能距离策略,的性能的差距。注意,在下面定理中,不可以把这个固定的策略看做是最优策略,因为最优策略是未知的,而这里的算法假定能获得最优策略产生的状态分布。再后面的定理会通过一个 exploratory 的初始分布来绕过该限制。

Theorem 6.4. (NPG approximation) Fix a comparison policy π and a state distribution ρ . Define ν as the induced state-action measure under π , i.e.

$$\nu(s, a) = d_{\rho}^{\pi}(s)\pi(a|s).$$

Suppose that the update rule (18) starts with $\theta^{(0)} = 0$ and uses the sequence of weights $w^{(0)}, \dots, w^{(T)}$; that Assumption 6.2 holds; and that for all t < T,

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} L_{\nu}(w^{(t)}; \theta^{(t)}) \le \tilde{\epsilon}_{approx}, \quad \|w^{(t)}\| \le W.$$

We have that:

$$\min_{t < T} \left\{ V^{\pi}(\rho) - V^{(t)}(\rho) \right\} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} \left(\sqrt{\widetilde{\epsilon}_{approx}} + \frac{\log |\mathcal{A}|}{\eta T} + \frac{\eta \beta W^2}{2} \right) \sum_{t \in T} \widetilde{\psi} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in T} \widetilde{\psi} \right)$$

Assumption 6.2. (Policy Smoothness) Assume for all $s \in \mathcal{S}$, $a \in \mathcal{A}$ that $\log \pi_{\theta}(a|s)$ is a β -smooth function (in θ).

证明的过程比较巧妙,值得一看,这里不贴出来了。关键点如下:1)利用 smoothness 的条件,说明相邻两轮的策略差别不大;2)每一轮策略相对于策略,的 KL 散度都在减小,并且减小程度的 lower bound 与 compatible function approximation error 和 $(v^*(\rho)-v^*(\rho))$ 有关;3)计算 $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}(v^*(\rho)-v^*(\rho))$ 的上界,利用前述结论,并且前后交叠消项。

2.6 Bound: NPG for unconstrained policy classes w.r.t. optimal policy (agnostic result)

前面得到的 bound 需要作为比较的策略预先知道,一般我们需要和策略函数族中最优策略相比(agnostic analysis),而最优策略是不知道的。因此,前面的方法不构成可行的算法,这里研究一个可行的算法,即把 compatible function approximation error 中需要用到的

$$\nu^{\star}(s, a) = d_{o}^{\pi^{\star}}(s)\pi^{\star}(a|s).$$

换成

$$\nu_{\nu_0}^{\pi}(s, a) := (1 - \gamma) \mathbb{E}_{s_0, a_0 \sim \nu_0} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \Pr^{\pi}(s_t = s, a_t = a | s_0, a_0)$$

其中,为最新的策略,也把上述分布记为,。每一轮参数更新公式为:

$$w^{(t)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{w} L_{\nu^{(t)}}(w; \theta^{(t)}). \tag{21}$$

有如下结论:

Corollary 6.5. (Agnostic Learning with NPG) Suppose that we follow the update rule in (21) starting with $\theta^{(0)} = 0$. Fix a state distribution ρ and a state-action distribution ν_0 ; let $\pi^* = \pi_{\theta^*}$ the best policy in Π for ρ , i.e. $\theta^* \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} V^{\pi_{\theta}}(\rho)$. Define ν^* as the induced state-action measure

$$\nu^{\star}(s, a) = d_{a}^{\pi^{\star}}(s)\pi^{\star}(a|s).$$

Suppose $\eta = \sqrt{2 \log |A|/(\beta W^2 T)}$; Assumption 6.2 holds; and that for all t < T,

$$L_{\nu^{(t)}}^{\star}(\theta^{(t)}) \le \epsilon_{approx}, \quad ||w^{(t)}|| \le W.$$

We have that:

$$\min_{t < T} \left\{ V^{\pi^\star}(\rho) - V^{(t)}(\rho) \right\} \leq \left(\frac{W \sqrt{2\beta \log |\mathcal{A}|}}{(1 - \gamma)} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)^3} \Big\| \frac{\nu^\star}{\nu_0} \Big\|_\infty \epsilon_{approx}} \,.$$

Proof: Since $\nu^{(t)}(s, a) \ge (1 - \gamma)\nu_0(s, a)$,

Proof: Since
$$\nu^{(t)}(s,a) \geq (1-\gamma)\nu_0(s,a)$$
,
$$L_{\nu^*}(w^{(t)};\theta^{(t)}) \leq \left\|\frac{\nu^*}{\nu^{(t)}}\right\|_{\infty} \cdot L_{\nu^{(t)}}(w^{(t)};\theta^{(t)}) \leq \left\|\frac{\nu^*}{\nu^{(t)}}\right\|_{\infty} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{approx}} \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)} \left\|\frac{\nu^*}{\nu_0}\right\|_{\infty} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{approx}}.$$
In this in Theorem 6.4 with the choice of η completes the proof.

Using this in Theorem 6.4 with the choice of η completes the proof.

可以看到,如果我们不能事先得知要比较的策略下的稳态状态分布,就会产生一个代价,即一个 mismatch $\frac{1}{1-\gamma} \| \frac{\nu^{\prime}}{\mu_0} \|_{\infty}$ 。这也其实反映了探索难的问题。

2.7 Finite sample analysis for NPG with unconstrained policy classes

注意到,前面所有的分析都假设能够计算得到准确的策略梯度或者是 1,的最小值点。但是它们需 要通过足够的样本来估算,因此,这里考虑一个实际的基于样本的算法,并且分析得到其相应的 sample complexity 和 computation complexity。

考虑策略参数的更新公式:

$$\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} + \eta \widehat{w}^{(t)}$$
 (22)

而 L, 的最小值点 🔐 通过在 L, 上基于样本做 SGD 得到:

$$w \leftarrow w - \alpha \widehat{\nabla_w L_{\nu^{(t)}}}(w; \theta^{(t)}),$$

where $\widehat{\nabla_w L_{\nu^{(t)}}}(w;\theta^{(t)})$ is an unbiased estimate of the gradient and α is a constant learning rate.

Algorithm 1 Sample-based Natural Policy Gradient with Function Approximation

Require: Learning rate η , SGD learning rate α , and simulation access to the MDP M under starting state-action distribution ν_0 .

- 1: Initialize $\theta^{(0)} = 0$.
- 2: **for** $t = 0, 1, \dots, T 1$ **do**
- Initialize $w_0 = 0$
- 4: for i = 0, 1, ..., N-1 do
- Sample $s, a \sim \nu^{(t)}$. Sample $a' \sim \nu^{(t)}(a|s)$. 5:
- Continue the episode by executing π starting from s, a, using a termination probability 6: of $1-\gamma$. Let $\widehat{Q}(s,a)$ be the cumulative (undiscounted) reward from this episode.
- 7:

$$g_i = \left(w_i \cdot \nabla \log \pi^{(t)}(a|s) - \widehat{Q}(s,a)\right) \nabla \log \pi^{(t)}(a|s) + \widehat{Q}(s,a) \nabla \log \pi^{(t)}(a'|s).$$

Update w: 8:

$$w_{i+1} = w_i - \alpha g_i.$$

- end for 9.
- 10:
- Set $\widehat{w}^{(t)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i$. Update $\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} + \eta \widehat{w}^{(t)}$.
- 12: end for

- 策略参数 , 更新 T轮, 每一轮中, 使用 N 个样本来在 L, 上做 SGD 得到相应的策略参数变化量 ,该变化量由 averaged SGD 产生。
- 第 5 行的做法是从 , 出发,按照当前策略进行 rollout,在每个新遇到的状态上,以 1-7 的概率 接受这个状态作为。,如果该状态被接受,除了把本来采样得到的行动。作用于环境之外,再独 立地采集另外一个行动样本 4 。
- 第 6 行中 q(s,a) 的获取方法如下,从 s,a 出发,每次遇到一个新的状态时,以 1-7 的概率把该状 态作为 terminal state,然后计算 undiscounted cumulative reward 并把它作为 q(e,a) 。容易看到, 这样得到的 Q(e,a) 是 infinite horizon discounted cumulative reward 的无偏估计,即

 $\mathbb{E}[Q(s,a)] = r_1 + \gamma r_2 + \gamma^2 r_3 + \cdots \quad \circ$

• 第7行中的 $_{a}$ 为 $_{\nabla_{w}L_{s,0}(w,a)}$ 的无偏估计,最后减去的一项的期望为 V 函数,即

$$\nabla_{w} L_{\nu^{(t)}}(w;\theta) = 2\mathbb{E}_{s,a\sim\nu^{(t)}} \left[\left(w \cdot \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) - A^{\theta}(s,a) \right) \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right]$$

$$= 2\mathbb{E}_{s,a\sim\nu^{(t)}} \left[\left(w \cdot \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) - Q^{\theta}(s,a) \right) \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right]$$

$$+2\mathbb{E}_{s,a\sim\nu^{(t)}} \left[V^{\theta}(s) \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right]. \tag{23}$$

• 这里只采样一个另外的 action 用于估计 V 函数,同时也采用 online averaged SGD update。还有 很多可以减少 variance 的措施,这里为了便于分析,没有使用。

下面推论给出了上述算法的 sample complexity 和 computational complexity。

Corollary 6.9. (Sample and Computational Complexity of NPG) Suppose that we follow the sample based NPG update rule specified in Algorithm \overline{I} , starting with $\theta^{(0)}=0$ and using N episodes per update of $\theta^{(t)}$. Fix a state distribution ρ and a state-action distribution ν_0 ; let $\pi^\star=\pi_{\theta^\star}$ where $\theta^\star\in \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta\in\Theta}V^{\pi_\theta}(\rho)$; and define $\nu^\star(s,a)=d_\rho^{\pi^\star}(s)\pi^\star(a|s)$.

Define $w^{(t)} := \operatorname{argmin}_w L_{\nu^{(t)}}(w; \theta^{(t)})$. Suppose $\eta = \sqrt{2 \log |\mathcal{A}|/(\beta \widehat{W}^2 T)}$ and $\alpha = 1/B$; assumptions 6.2, 6.6, and 6.7 hold. We have that:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\min_{t < T} \left\{V^{\pi^*}(\rho) - V^{(t)}(\rho)\right\}\right] \leq \left(\frac{\widehat{W}\sqrt{2\beta \log |\mathcal{A}|}}{(1 - \gamma)}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)^3} \left\|\frac{\nu^*}{\nu_0}\right\|_{\infty}} \left(\sqrt{\epsilon_{approx}} + \frac{4\sqrt{d}\left(BW + 1/(1 - \gamma)\right)}{\sqrt{N}}\right).$$

Furthermore, each episode has expected length $2/(1-\gamma)$ so the expected number of total samples is $2NT/(1-\gamma)$; the total number of gradient computations of $\nabla \log T(\alpha | \mathbf{s})$ is 2NT, the total number of scalar multiplies, divides, and additions is $O(dNT + NT/(1-\gamma))$.

Assumption 6.2. (Policy Smoothness) Assume for all $s \in \mathcal{S}$, $a \in \mathcal{A}$ that $\log \pi_{\theta}(a|s)$ is a β -smooth function (in θ).

Assumption 6.6. (Lipschitz Policy) Assume $\|\nabla \log \pi^{(t)}(a|s)\| \leq B$.

Assumption 6.7. (Bounded Error and Weights) Suppose that for all t < T that:

$$\mathbb{E}\bigg[L_{\nu^{(t)}}^{\star}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})\bigg] \leq \epsilon_{\mathrm{approx}}, \quad \mathbb{E}\bigg[\|\widehat{\boldsymbol{w}}^{(t)}\|^2\bigg] \leq \widehat{W}^2, \quad \mathbb{E}\bigg[\|\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)}\|^2\bigg] \leq \underbrace{\widehat{\mathcal{W}}^2}_{j,j} \underbrace{\widehat{\mathcal{W}}^{\frac{2j}{2-j}}}_{j,j} \underbrace{\widehat{\mathcal{W}}^{\frac{2j}{$$

把它和 Corollary 6.5 比较可以看到,相比于 exact case(假设策略梯度能够精确求到),由于使用样本来估计,这里多了不等式右边的最后一项,当每一轮采样样本足够多时,averaged SGD 的结果就等于精确的 NPG,这时 Corollary 6.9 = Corollary 6.5。这一项正比于 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$,同时和参数的维度相关。证明的过程主要套用了 (Bach and Moulines, 2013) 关于 averaged SGD 的结果(与此相关地,才会出现 Assumption 6.6 和 6.7 这两个看起来略奇怪的假设)。

3. Projected PG for constrained policy classes

3.1 Bellman policy error

回忆到,natural policy gradient 更新中每次更新的方向 🛫 (r) 可以通过最小化 compatible function approximation error 💪 得到,这里 projected policy gradient 每次更新的量通过最小化 Bellman policy error டி අ到:

$$w^{\star}(\theta) = \operatorname{argmin}_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d : w + \theta \in \Theta} L_{BPE}(\theta; w).$$
 (26)

其定义如下

$$L_{\text{BPE}}(\theta; w) = \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d^{\pi_{\theta}}} \left[\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \left| \pi_{\theta}^{+}(a|s) - \pi_{\theta}(a|s) - w^{T} \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right| \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d^{\pi_{\theta}}} \left[\left\| \pi_{\theta}^{+}(\cdot|s) - \pi_{\theta}(\cdot|s) - w^{T} \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(\cdot|s) \right\|_{1} \right],$$
(25)

$$\pi_{\theta}^{+}(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in A} A^{\pi_{\theta}}(s, a),$$

其中 🛪 为相对于当前策略对应价值函数下的 1-step greedy policy,Bellman policy error 衡量了从当前策略出发走一个 gradient step(一阶近似)离 😽 还有多远。这里的算法就是每步都更新策略参数,使得这一步上的 Bellman policy error 都被最小化。

注意到当 policy class 为 complete 的时候,Bellman policy error 可以被最小化到零,比如对于 direct policy parameterization:

$$L_{\text{BPE}}(\theta; w) = \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d^{\pi_{\theta}}} \left[\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \left| \pi_{\theta}^{+}(a|s) - \theta_{s,a} - w_{s,a} \right| \right].$$

总可以选择 update step 使得 $\theta_{\bullet,\bullet} + w_{\bullet,\bullet} = \pi_{\bullet}^{\bullet}(\bullet|\bullet)$, 对应的算法就是 tabular case 情形下的 policy iteration。

3.2 Stationarity

前面提到 stationarity implies optimality, 这里再给出。-stationary 的定义

a policy π_{θ} parameterized by θ is ϵ -stationary if for all $\theta + \delta \in \Theta$ and $\|\delta\| \le 1$, we have

$$\delta^{\top} \nabla_{\theta} V^{\pi_{\theta}}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{s \sim d_{\mu}^{\pi_{\theta}}} \left[\sum_{s \in A} \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} \delta^{\top} \nabla \pi_{\theta}(s, a) A^{\pi_{\theta}}(s, a) \right] \leq \epsilon. \tag{24}$$

3.2 Agnostic optimality

当 stationarity 和 Bellman policy error 给定时,能够确定相应 optimality。注意到,这里(包括下一个 subsection)分析的是 exact case。

Theorem 6.10. Given any starting state distribution ρ , suppose we find an ϵ_{opt} -stationary point θ (24) satisfying $L_{BPE}(\theta) \leq \epsilon_{approx}$. Let $\pi^{\star} = \pi_{\theta^{\star}}$ where $\theta^{\star} \in \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} V^{\pi_{\theta}}(\rho)$. We have the guarantee

$$V^{\pi^\star}(\rho) - V^{\pi_\theta}(\rho) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_\rho^{\pi^\star}}{\mu} \right\|_\infty \left(\epsilon_{approx} + (1-\gamma)^2 \left(1 + \|w^\star(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{F}_p^{-1/2}(\rho)}^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right)$$

3.3 Iteration complexity

加上一些 regularity 的假设之后,能够得到前述算法的 iteration complexity。

Corollary 6.13. Suppose that Assumption 6.11 holds and for our definitions (25)-(26) of $L_{BPE}(\theta)$ and $w^*(\theta)$, assume for all t < T

$$L_{BPE}(\theta^{(t)}) \le \epsilon_{approx}$$
 and $\|w^*(\theta^{(t)})\|_2 \le W^*$.

Let

$$\beta = \frac{\beta_2 |\mathcal{A}|}{(1-\gamma)^2} + \frac{2\gamma \beta_1^2 |\mathcal{A}|^2}{(1-\gamma)^3}.$$

Then, projected gradient ascent (27) with stepsize $\eta = \frac{1}{\beta}$ satisfies for all starting state distributions ρ and for any other policy $\pi^* \in \Pi$,

$$\min_{t < T} \left\{ V^{\star}(\rho) - V^{(t)}(\rho) \right\} \leq \frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)^3} \left\| \frac{d_{\rho}^{\pi^{\star}}}{\mu} \right\|_{\infty} \epsilon_{approx} + (W^{\star} + 1)\epsilon, \text{ for } T \geq \frac{8\beta}{(1 - \gamma)^3 \epsilon^2} \left\| \frac{d_{\rho}^{\pi^{\star}}}{\mu} \right\|_{\infty}^2 \epsilon_{approx}^{\frac{1}{2}} \left\| \frac{d_{\rho}^{\pi^{\star}}}{\mu} \right\|_{\infty}^2 \epsilon_{approx}$$

Assumption 6.11 (Lipschitz continuous and smooth policies). Assume that for all $\theta, \theta' \in \Theta$ and for all $s \in \mathcal{S}$ and $a \in \mathcal{A}$, we have

$$\begin{split} |\pi_{\theta}(a|s) - \pi_{\theta'}(a|s)| &\leq \beta_1 \left\|\theta - \theta'\right\|_2 \\ \|\nabla_{\theta}\pi_{\theta}(a|s) - \nabla_{\theta}\pi_{\theta'}(a|s)\right\|_2 &\leq \beta_2 \left\|\theta - \theta'\right\|_2 \end{split} \tag{β_1-Lipschitz)}$$

证明的过程主要需要用到 (Beck, 2017, Theorem 10.15) 关于 projected gradient descent 的结果。

4. 总结

先总结一下本文推导出来的结论和之前工作的对比:

Algorithm	Measure of approximation error	Iteration complexity	Accuracy
Approx. Value/Policy Iteration [Bertsekas and Tsitsiklis, 1996]	$\epsilon_{\infty} \text{: the } \ell_{\infty} \text{ worst-case}$ error of values	$\frac{1}{1-\gamma} \ln \frac{1}{\epsilon_{opt}}$	$\epsilon_{ m opt} + rac{2\epsilon_{\infty}}{(1-\gamma)^2}$
Approx. Policy Iteration, with concentrability [Munos, 2005, Antos et al., 2008]	ϵ_1 : an ℓ_1 average-case approx. notion	$\frac{1}{1-\gamma} \ln \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{opt}}}$	$\epsilon_{ m opt} + rac{2C_{ ho,\mu}\epsilon_1}{(1-\gamma)^2}$
Conservative Policy Iteration [Kakade and Langford, 2002]	ϵ_1 : an ℓ_1 average-case approx. notion	$O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_1^2}\right)$	$\left \left \frac{d_{\rho}^{\pi^{\star}}}{\mu}\right \right _{\infty}\frac{\epsilon_{1}}{(1-\gamma)^{2}}$
Natural Policy Gradient (Cor 6.5)	ϵ_2 : an ℓ_2 average-case approx. notion	$O\left(\frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^2\epsilon_{\mathrm{opt}}^2}\right)$	$\epsilon_{ m opt} + \sqrt{\left\ rac{d_{ ho}^{\pi^*}}{\mu} ight\ _{\infty}} \frac{\epsilon_2}{(1-\gamma)^3}$
Projected Gradient Ascent (Cor 6.13)	ϵ_1 : an ℓ_1 average-case approx. notion	$O\left(\frac{1}{(1-\gamma)^6\epsilon_{\mathrm{opt}}^2}\right)$	$\epsilon_{\mathrm{opt}} + \left\ \frac{d_{p}^{\pi}}{d_{p}^{\pi}} \right\ \underbrace{\epsilon_{1}}_{\text{total}}$

这篇文章传递的主要思想有两点: 1)尽管 MDP 上的优化是 non-convex 的,但是由于有 stationarity -> optimality 的性质,因此,还是能得到相应的 global optimality 的结论; 2)MDP 优化 中比较困难的点在于 insufficient exploration,关于这一点可以参考各种结论中出现的 distribution mismatch coefficient 项。

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强化学习 (Reinforcement Learning)



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