## Policy gradient theorem的证明

如今,强化学习基本都采用参数化的神经网络来学习一个策略,而神经网络一般是通过梯度下降法或者各种变种来优化的,因此,获取累积回报关于策略的梯度至关重要。本节会给大家推导策略梯度的表达式,并介绍实际训练中是如何采样近似该表达式的。

$$\begin{split} &\nabla_{\theta}J(\theta) \\ &= \nabla_{\theta}V\left(s_{0}\right) \\ &= \nabla\left[\sum_{a_{0}}\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right)\right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\left[\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right) + \pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\nabla Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right)\right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\left[\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right) + \pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\nabla \sum_{s_{1}, r_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right)\left(r_{1} + \gamma V\left(s_{1}\right)\right)\right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right) + \sum_{a_{0}}\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\sum_{s_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \cdot \gamma \nabla V\left(s_{1}\right) \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\sum_{s_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \cdot \gamma \sum_{s_{1}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right) \\ &+ \sum_{a_{0}}\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\sum_{s_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \cdot \gamma \sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\sum_{s_{2}}p\left(s_{2}\mid s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\gamma \nabla V\left(s_{2}\right) \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\sum_{s_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \cdot \gamma \sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\sum_{s_{2}}p\left(s_{2}\mid s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\gamma \nabla V\left(s_{2}\right) \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\sum_{s_{1}}p\left(s_{1}\mid s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \cdot \gamma \sum_{a_{1}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right) + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{0}, 0, \pi\right)\sum_{s_{1}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{0}\mid s_{0}\right)\gamma^{0}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{0}, a_{0}\right) \\ &+ \sum_{s_{1}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{1}, 1, \pi\right)\sum_{a_{1}}\nabla\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right) + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{s_{1}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{1}, 1, \pi\right)\sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\nabla\log\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\right] + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty}\sum_{s_{1}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{1}, 1, \pi\right)\sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\nabla\log\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\right] + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty}\sum_{s_{1}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{1}, 1, \pi\right)\sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\nabla\log\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\right] + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty}\sum_{s_{1}}Pr\left(s_{0}\rightarrow s_{1}, 1, \pi\right)\sum_{a_{1}}\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}\left(s_{1}, a_{1}\right)\nabla\log\pi\left(a_{1}\mid s_{1}\right)\right] + \cdots \end{split}$$

其中 Pr  $(s_0 \to s_t, t, \pi)$  代表: 从状态  $s_0$  出发,且按照策略  $\pi$  与环境交互(rollout),在 t 时刻到达状态  $s_t$  的概率。

通过上述的推导,我们就得到了**无限长时间步**下的策略梯度的表达式,对于**有限长时间步**的环境,我们可以做一个简单的转化,把它变成无限长,从而同样适用上述公式。假设时间步长度为T,对于所有可能出现在最后一步的状态  $s_{T-1}$  ,我们定义:

- 1. 从  $s_{T-1}$  出发,不论采取什么动作,一定会跳转到一个虚拟的吸收态  $s_T$  ,并返回奖励值0。
- 2. 从  $s_T$  出发,不论采取什么动作,一定会跳转回这个虚拟的吸收态  $s_T$  ,并返回奖励值0。 由此将有限长的时间步扩展到了无限长,因为环境会陷入到  $s_T$  的死循环中。

不过,上式实际上很难优化,要求遍历整个状态空间和时间步空间。具体来说,该式要求计算每个时间步上到达每个状态的概率。一方面,这在**计算成本上是无法容忍**的;另一方面,我们在绝大多数情况下,**无法获得环境的转移概率**,因此无法计算特定时间步下整个状态空间上的概率分布。

那怎么办,我们可以用 Monte Carlo 方法,通过采样来逼近上面的策略梯度公式。这里先把上式转化为期望的形式:

$$\begin{split} & \bot \vec{\Xi} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s_t} Pr \ \left( s_0 \rightarrow s_t, t, \pi \right) \sum_{a_t} \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} E_{s_t} \sum_{a_t} \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} E_{s_t} E_{a_t} \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} E_{s_t, a_t} \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \\ &= E_{s_0, a_0, s_1, a_1, \dots} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \\ &= E_{\tau} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left[ \gamma^t Q_{\pi} \left( s_t, a_t \right) \nabla \log \pi \left( a_t \mid s_t \right) \right] \end{split}$$

其中 $\tau=[s_0,\,a_0,\,s_1,a_1,\,\cdots]$ 是按照策略 $\pi$  rollout 出来的状态动作的轨迹。可以看出,将  $\gamma^tQ_\pi\left(s_t,a_t\right)\nabla\log\pi\left(a_t\mid s_t\right)$  这一项,先在时间步 t 上求和,再关于轨迹 $\tau$  取期望,就得到了策略梯度。至此,Monte Carlo方法就可以很简单地结合进来,我们先将将 $E_\tau$  替换为采样N条轨迹  $\left[\tau^1,\cdots,\tau^N\right]$ 。并定义其中第n条轨迹为 $\tau^n=\left\langle s_0^n,a_0^n,r_0^n,\cdots,s_{T_n-1}^n,a_{T_n-1}^n,r_{T_n-1}^n\right\rangle$ ,轨迹长度为 $T_n$ 。最后对结果取平均:

$$egin{aligned} E_{ au} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left[ \gamma^{t} Q_{\pi}\left(s_{t}, a_{t}
ight) 
abla \log \pi\left(a_{t} \mid s_{t}
ight) 
ight] \ &= rac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{t=0}^{T_{n}-1} \left[ \gamma^{t} Q_{\pi}\left(s_{t}^{n}, a_{t}^{n}
ight) 
abla \log \pi\left(a_{t}^{n} \mid s_{t}^{n}
ight) 
ight] \end{aligned}$$

注意到  $Q_{\pi}\left(s_{t}^{n},a_{t}^{n}
ight)=E_{s_{t+1}^{n},a_{t+1}^{n},s_{t+2}^{n},a_{t+2}^{n},\cdots\mid s_{t}^{n},a_{t}^{n}}\left[\sum_{l=t}^{T_{n}-1}\gamma^{l}\ r_{l}^{n}
ight]$ ,因此从期望角度二者也是可以替换的。

当我们的算法没有显示地估计  $Q_{\pi}\left(s_{t}^{n},a_{t}^{n}\right)$  时(即最朴素的策略梯度),可以定义

 $G_{t}\left( au^{n}
ight)=\sum_{l=t}^{T_{n}-1}\gamma^{l}\;r_{l}^{n}$ ,并用它替换 $Q_{\pi}\left(s_{t}^{n},a_{t}^{n}
ight)$ ,从而得到实际使用的策略梯度公式:

$$rac{1}{N}\sum_{n=1}^{N}\sum_{t=0}^{T_{n}-1}\left[\gamma^{t}G_{t}\left( au^{n}
ight)
abla\log\pi\left(a_{t}^{n}\mid s_{t}^{n}
ight)
ight]$$