

Reinforcement Learning cont

* Evaluation (after training measure performance)

1) Freeze the policy (no more learning)

2) run agent many episodes in the environment

3) collect metrics like:

- Avg reward per episode

- success rate (eg % of times robot reached goal)

- Cumulative reward curve over time

- Stability (does performance vary a lot)

- this tells us how well the agent generalizes not just memorized

A RL vs RLHF

RL:

- Env: game / robotic world

- Agent: learns by taking action in env

- Reward: comes directly from env, ex: win + loss

- Training loop: Agent in env \rightarrow reward \rightarrow update policy

- Eval: Avg score, success rate

- used in games, cars, robotics

RLHF:

- Env: human preference data

- Agent: a LLM

- Reward: not built in \rightarrow learned from humans

1) collect LLM outputs

2) humans rank which ones better

3) train Reward model to predict human preference

4) use RL (PPO AC mtds) to fine tune LLM for maximized reward

- Training: LLM generates reward model scores \rightarrow policy updates

- Eval: human eval, quality checks, alignment benchmarks

- used in ChatGPT, Claude etc.

Model Based vs Model Free

Model Based: learns a model of the env or may be given model, can plan ahead w model, can be value or policy based but relies on model for planning

(ex: Dyna-Q, planning methods)

- Value function or policy, no explicit

Model Free: Doesn't learn model env, learns directly transition or reward models (Ex: Q-learning, DQN, PPO, Reinforce)