

## Reinforcement Learning (cont)

### - Deep Q-Networks (DQN) (still value-based)

- what it does: Using Neural Networks to approximate the Q function (instead of a table which breaks down in big / continuous environments)
- Key innovation (2015, DeepMind): Apply deep learning + Q-functions
- Ex: instead of storing all possible board states in memory on a table (action vs states 2D Grid) which is impossible the DQN learns "Features" of the game to predict Q values
- So Q-learning: tabular (small problems), DQN = Q-learning + deep NN (big / complex problems)

### - Policy Gradients (Policy Based)

- what it does: Directly learn the policy  $\pi(a|s)$  (probability of taking each action in a given state)
- use gradient ascent to adjust policy parameters to maximize expected reward
- Example: in a continuous action (like steering angle for car) it's easier to directly learn "how much to turn" instead of assigning Q-values to infinitely many actions

### - Actor - Critic Method (combines both)

- what it does: actor = learns policy (decides which action to take)  
critic = learns the value function (estimates how good the action was)
- they work together: actor suggests action  $\rightarrow$  critic judges it and gives feedback (good or bad)  $\rightarrow$  Actor updates policy based on this feedback
- Why useful: more stable than PG, good for continuous/complex action spaces

• Ex: A3C, PPO