# Continuous Deep Q-Learning with Model-based Acceleration

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# 背景与动机

- 传统Q-learning应用于连续动作空间时,每一步求解复杂的非线性函数最大值会相当麻烦。
  - 常用AC方法来解决连续动作空间的问题(如: DDPG),但AC方法需要构建并训练Actor和Critic两个网络。
- 对于model-free的RL算法,其采样复杂度会随FA的维度变高而变高。
  - 采用task-specific的特征表示方式可提高采样效率,但限制了学习的范围 且需要大量的先验知识。
  - 采用model-based的RL方法也可提高效率,但是策略学习受到模型限制。
  - 大部分现实任务中, 学习一个好策略比学习一个好模型要简单。

# 背景与动机

• 由此, 文中提出了两个完备的算法:

- 连续的Q-learning算法——Normalized Advantage Function(NAF)
- 基于imagination rollouts的NAF算法

# NAF算法

- Normalized Advantage Function
  - Q函数:

$$Q(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{u}|\theta^Q) = A(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{u}|\theta^A) + V(\boldsymbol{x}|\theta^V)$$

• A函数:

$$A(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{u}|\theta^A) = -\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}|\theta^{\mu}))^T \boldsymbol{P}(\boldsymbol{x}|\theta^P)(\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}|\theta^{\mu}))$$

• 其中P为正定矩阵,即有 $x^T P x > 0$ ,P矩阵可被分解为:

$$P(x|\theta^P) = L(x|\theta^P)L(x|\theta^P)^T$$

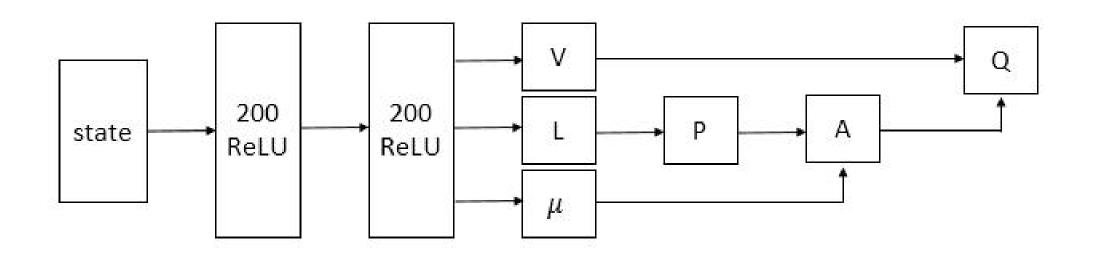
• L是对角线为正数下三角矩阵(实际中对角线进行了exp指数化)

## NAF算法

#### Algorithm 1 Continuous Q-Learning with NAF

```
Randomly initialize normalized Q network Q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}|\theta^Q).
Initialize target network Q' with weight \theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \theta^Q.
Initialize replay buffer R \leftarrow \emptyset.
for episode=1, M do
   Initialize a random process N for action exploration
   Receive initial observation state x_1 \sim p(x_1)
   for t=1, T do
       Select action u_t = \mu(x_t|\theta^{\mu}) + \mathcal{N}_t
       Execute u_t and observe r_t and x_{t+1}
       Store transition (\boldsymbol{x}_t, \boldsymbol{u}_t, r_t, \boldsymbol{x}_{t+1}) in R
       for iteration=1, I do
          Sample a random minibatch of m transitions from R
          Set y_i = r_i + \gamma V'(\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}|\boldsymbol{\theta}^{Q'})
          Update \theta^Q by minimizing the loss: L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (y_i - y_i)^2
          Q(\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{u}_i | \theta^Q))^2
          Update the target network: \theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \tau \theta^Q + (1 - \tau)\theta^{Q'}
      end for
   end for
end for
```

# NAF算法网络结构



# NAF算法

- NAF算法特点:
  - 简化了Q-learning计算最大值的复杂操作,但同时网络结构也变得复杂。
  - 实现了连续动作空间的控制算法
  - 相比于AC方法,只需一个网络,算法更简单,采样效率更高。

## **Imagination Rollouts**

- •实验表明,即使在正确模型下,只给予算法"good"的动作对算法的改良还是微乎其微的,算法也需要体验"bad"的动作。 (略)
- 在现实任务中, "bad"动作会增加大量数据,且会导致一定的 危险。
- Imagination Rollouts实际上是在环境的模型上进行rollout,并将 rollout轨迹上的所有样本放入replay buffer中。
- 常用的model-based方法有: iLQG、Dyna-Q

# 基于Imagination Rollouts的NAF算法

# Algorithm 2 Imagination Rollouts with Fitted Dynamics and Optional iLQG Exploration

```
Randomly initialize normalized Q network Q(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{u} | \theta^{Q}).
Initialize target network Q' with weight \theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \theta^Q.
Initialize replay buffer R \leftarrow \emptyset and fictional buffer R_f \leftarrow \emptyset.
Initialize additional buffers B \leftarrow \emptyset, B_{old} \leftarrow \emptyset with size nT.
Initialize fitted dynamics model \mathcal{M} \leftarrow \emptyset.
for episode = 1, M do
    Initialize a random process N for action exploration
    Receive initial observation state \boldsymbol{x}_1
Select \mu'(\boldsymbol{x},t) from \{\mu(\boldsymbol{x}|\theta^{\mu}), \pi_t^{iLQG}(\boldsymbol{u}_t|\boldsymbol{x}_t)\} with proba-
    bilities \{p, 1-p\}
    for t = 1, T do
        Select action \boldsymbol{u}_t = \mu'(\boldsymbol{x}_t, t) + \mathcal{N}_t
        Execute u_t and observe r_t and x_{t+1}
        Store transition (\boldsymbol{x}_t, \boldsymbol{u}_t, r_t, \boldsymbol{x}_{t+1}, t) in R and B
```

```
if mod (episode \cdot T + t, m) = 0 and \mathcal{M} \neq \emptyset then
         Sample m(\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{u}_i, r_i, \boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}, i) from B_{old}
         Use \mathcal{M} to simulate l steps from each sample
         Store all fictional transitions in R_f
      end if
      Sample a random minibatch of m transitions I \cdot l times
      from R_f and I times from R, and update \theta^Q, \theta^{Q'} as in
      Algorithm 1 per minibatch.
   end for
   if B_f is full then
      \mathcal{M} \leftarrow \text{FitLocalLinearDynamics}(B_f) (see Section 5.3)
      \pi^{iLQG} \leftarrow iLQG\_OneStep(B_f, \mathcal{M}) (see appendix)
      B_{old} \leftarrow B_f, B_f \leftarrow \emptyset
   end if
end for
```

# 基于Imagination Rollouts的NAF算法

## • 算法细节:

- 算法前期,imagination rollouts在Q函数较差时较为有用,后期作用相对变小,因此算法在一定的迭代次数后将放弃imagination rollouts。
- 拟合动态模型时,只需要在当前样本集中学习局部模型即可,而不必学习环境的全局模型。
- 模型表示为 $p_t(\boldsymbol{x}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{x}_t,\boldsymbol{u}_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{F}_t[\boldsymbol{x}_t;\boldsymbol{u}_t] + \mathbf{f}_t,\mathbf{N}_t)$ ,每隔n步从replay buffer中重新拟合模型的高斯分布。

### • 算法特点:

• 结合了model-free的泛化性和model-based的高采样效率,加快了RL算法的学习。

# 总结

- 提出NAF算法,将Q-learning算法拓展到连续动作空间
- 通过实验表明了model-based方法的缺陷
- 提出一种结合imagination rollouts的model-based方法,加速了model-free RL算法的学习