Model-Free Episodic Control & Neural Episodic Control

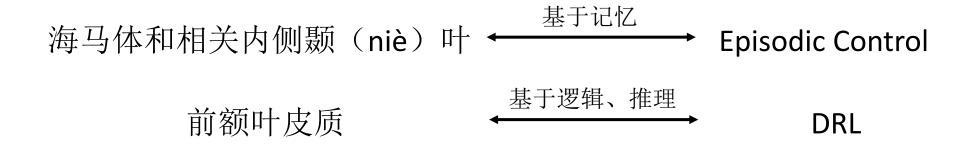
presented by Jason TOKO

背景与动机

- DRL学习速度较慢:
 - 1.SGD优化一般需要较小的学习率;
 - 2.环境的奖励反馈稀疏;
 - 3.经验回放和目标网络使得奖励信息反向传播更慢。
- Episodic Control: 一种memory-based的方法,利用已有的经验快速查找能产生高回报的动作。

背景与动机

• 大脑的学习机制:



• 在不同场景,大脑学习、记忆和决策机制都有所不同。

Model-Free Episodic Control

- Model-Free Episodic Control建造了Q值表格来存储和回放经验
- 存储(更新):

$$Q^{\text{EC}}(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow \begin{cases} R_t & \text{if } (s_t, a_t) \notin Q^{\text{EC}}, \\ \max \left\{ Q^{\text{EC}}(s_t, a_t), R_t \right\} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

• 回放(估计):

$$\widehat{Q^{\text{EC}}}(s,a) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} Q^{\text{EC}}(s^{(i)},a) & \text{if } (s,a) \notin Q^{\text{EC}}, \\ Q^{\text{EC}}(s,a) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

Model-Free Episodic Control

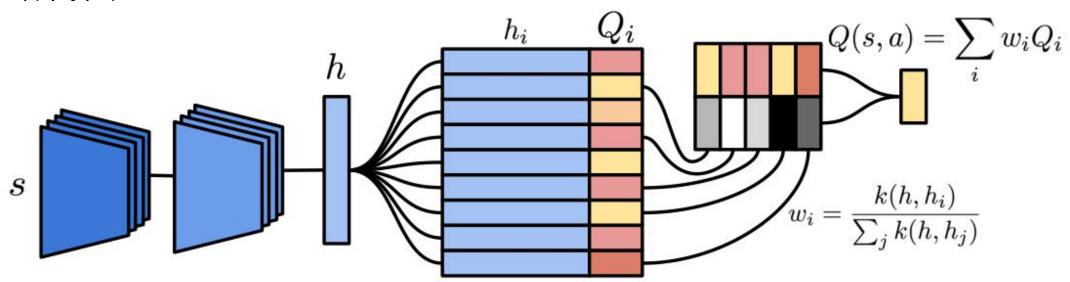
• 算法:

12: end for

Algorithm 1 Model-Free Episodic Control.

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1: for each episode do
            for t = 1, 2, 3, ..., T do
 3:
                   Receive observation o_t from environment.
                  Let s_t = \phi(o_t).
                  Estimate return for each action a via \widehat{Q^{EC}}(s,a) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} Q^{EC}(s^{(i)},a) & \text{if } (s,a) \notin Q^{EC}, \\ Q^{EC}(s,a) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}
 5:
                 Let a_t = \arg \max_a Q^{EC}(s_t, a)
 6:
                   Take action a_t, receive reward r_{t+1}
            end for
            for t = T, T - 1, ..., 1 do
                  Update Q^{\text{EC}}(s_t, a_t) using R_t according to Q^{\text{EC}}(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow \begin{cases} R_t & \text{if } (s_t, a_t) \notin Q^{\text{EC}}, \\ \max \{Q^{\text{EC}}(s_t, a_t), R_t\} \end{cases} otherwise,
10:
            end for
11:
```

- Agent由三个部分组成:
 - · 卷积网络: 输入s, 输出h
 - 可微神经字典(Differentiable Neural Dictionary, DND):输入h、a,输出w
 - 输出网络: 输入w, 输出Q(s,a)
- 结构图



- DND组成:每一个动作 $a \in A$ 各对应一个记忆模块 $M_a = (K_a, V_a)$ K_a 为关键字 h_i 的集合, V_a 为值 v_i 的集合
- DND查找
 - 1、通过k(x,y)计算关键字h与字典关键字 h_i 的kernel值,计算权值

$$w_i = k(h, h_i) / \sum_j k(h, h_j),$$

• 2、加权求和

$$o = \sum_{i} w_i v_i,$$

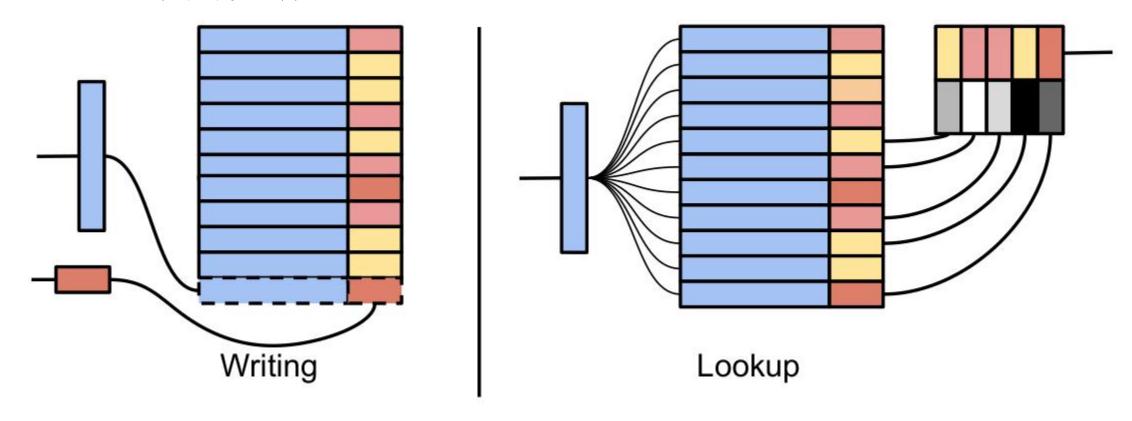
- DND更新
 - 使用N-step Q-value作为DND更新目标

$$Q^{(N)}(s_t, a) = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \gamma^j r_{t+j} + \gamma^N \max_{a'} Q(s_{t+N}, a')$$

- · 若关键字h不存在于字典,则直接加入DND;
- 若关键字h已存在于字典,则使用Q-learning方法更新:

$$Q_i \leftarrow Q_i + \alpha(Q^{(N)}(s, a) - Q_i)$$

• DND查找与更新



- 整个Agent训练:
 - 从replay buffer中随机采样minibatch (s_t, a_t, R_t) 。 其中 $R_t = Q^N(s_t, a_t)$
 - 损失函数:

$$L = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{(s_t, a_t, R_t)} [R_t - Q(s_t, a_t)]^2$$

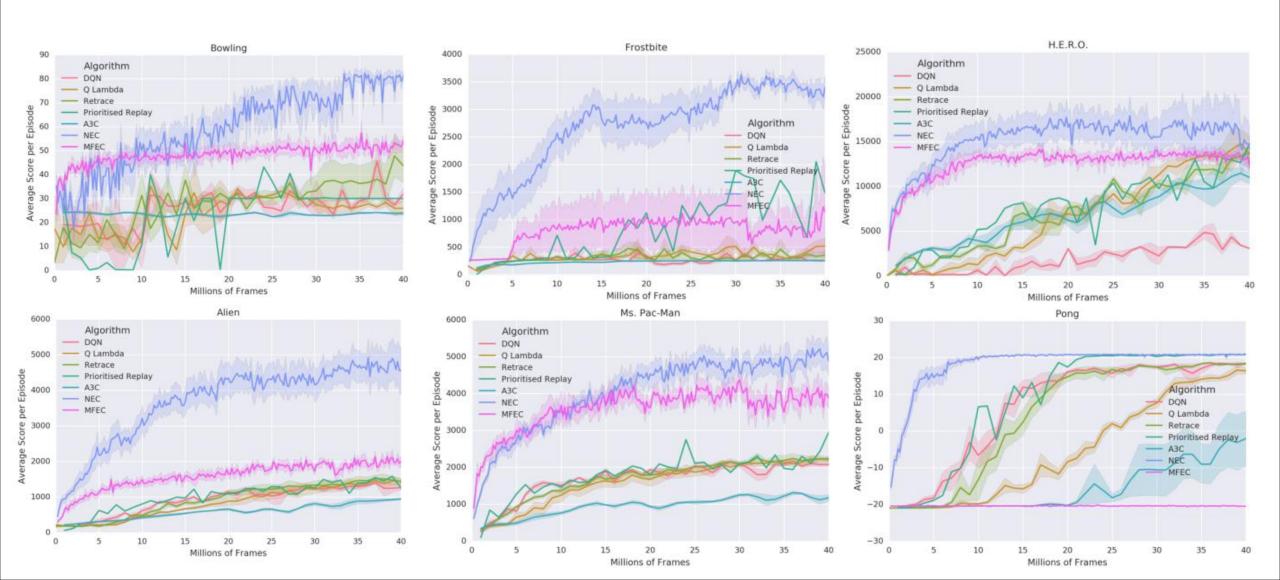
• 算法: Algorithm 1 Neural Episodic Control

```
\mathcal{D}: replay memory.
M_a: a DND for each action a.
N: horizon for N-step Q estimate.
for each episode do
  for t = 1, 2, ..., T do
     Receive observation s_t from environment with em-
     bedding h.
     Estimate Q(s_t, a) for each action a via (1) from M_a
     a_t \leftarrow \epsilon-greedy policy based on Q(s_t, a)
      Take action a_t, receive reward r_{t+1}
     Append (h, Q^{(N)}(s_t, a_t)) to M_{a_t}.
Append (s_t, a_t, Q^{(N)}(s_t, a_t)) to \mathcal{D}.
      Train on a random minibatch from \mathcal{D}.
  end for
end for
```

More.....

- Model-Free Episodic Control和Neural Episodic Control皆使用了字典来实现Q值查找和更新,考虑内存限制以及效率,有以下措施:
 - 1、限制表格大小,溢出时替换最近访问次数最少的状态;
 - 2、使用K-邻近状态来更新而非整个字典,并使用KD树实现查找

实验



Episodic Control与DRL对比

- 优点:解决DRL存在的三个问题,通过不断存储和再现经验,实现快速学习。
- 缺点: Episodic Control 通用性较差,更适用于在exploitation比 exploration重要且相对来说噪音比较少的环境。