DDPG

: Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient

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Deterministic Policy Gradient (DPG)

Stochastic policy gradient

• Learns a **stochastic** policy $\pi_{\theta}(a \mid s)$

• (Stochastic) Policy gradient theorem

Objective function $J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\pi}, a \sim \pi_{\theta}}[Q^{\pi}(s, a)]$

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\pi}, a \sim \pi_{\theta}} [Q^{\pi}(s, a) \nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s)]$$

Weight update

$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta)$$

Deterministic policy gradient

• Learns a **deterministic** policy

$$a = \mu(s)$$

• Deterministic policy gradient theorem

Objective function
$$J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}}[Q^{\mu}(s, a)]$$

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}} \left[\left. \nabla_{a} Q^{\mu}(s, a) \right|_{a = \mu_{\theta}(s)} \nabla_{\theta} \mu_{\theta}(s) \right]$$

Weight update

$$\theta := \theta + \alpha \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta)$$

• DPG requires less samples to approximate the gradient than stochastic PG

Deterministic Policy Gradient Theorem

(Stochastic) Policy Gradient Theorem

Objective function

$$J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\pi}, \, a \sim \pi_{\theta}}[Q^{\pi}(s, a)] = \int_{S} \rho_{\pi}(s) \int_{A} \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s) \, Q^{\pi}(s, a) \, da \, ds$$

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = \int_{S} \rho_{\pi}(s) \int_{A} \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s) Q^{\pi}(s, a) da ds$$

$$= \int_{S} \rho_{\pi}(s) \int_{A} \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s) Q^{\pi}(s, a) \frac{\nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s)}{\pi_{\theta}(a \mid s)} da ds$$

$$= \int_{S} \rho_{\pi}(s) \int_{A} \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s) Q^{\pi}(s, a) \nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s) da ds$$

$$= E_{S \sim \rho_{\pi}, a \sim \pi_{\theta}} [Q^{\pi}(s, a) \nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(a \mid s)]$$

Deterministic Policy Gradient Theorem

Objective function

$$J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}}[Q^{\mu}(s, a)] = \int_{S} \rho_{\mu}(s)Q^{\mu}(s, a) ds$$
 where $a = \mu_{\theta}(s)$

$$\begin{split} \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) &= \int_{S} \rho_{\mu}(s) \, \nabla_{\theta} Q^{\mu}(s, a) \, ds \\ &= \int_{S} \rho_{\mu}(s) \, \nabla_{a} Q^{\mu}(s, a) \, \big|_{a = \mu_{\theta}(s)} \, \nabla_{\theta} \mu_{\theta}(s) \, ds \\ &= E_{s \sim \rho_{\pi}, \, a \sim \pi_{\theta}} \left[\left. \nabla_{a} Q^{\mu}(s, a) \, \right|_{a = \mu_{\theta}(s)} \, \nabla_{\theta} \mu_{\theta}(s) \right] \end{split}$$

• State visitation frequency: discounted sum of probabilities of visiting a given state s under policy π

$$\rho_{\pi}(s) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t} P(s_{t} = s \mid \pi) = \int_{S} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t} p_{0}(s') p(s' \to s \mid t, \pi) \, ds'$$

$$\to \sum_{s \in S} \rho_{\pi}(s) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t} \sum_{s \in S} P(s_{t} = s \mid \pi) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma}$$

$$\text{in } t \text{ steps following } \pi$$

 \rightarrow Therefore, $(1 - \gamma)\rho_{\pi}(s)$ considered as a probability distribution over the state space

Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (DDPG)

• DDPG

- Actor-Critic algorithm
- DPG (deterministic policy) + DQN (experience replay / target network)

Actor

Objective function (maximize)

$$J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}}[Q_{\phi}(s, a)]$$
 where $a = \mu_{\theta}(s)$

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}} \left[\left. \nabla_{a} Q_{\phi}(s, a) \right|_{a = \mu_{\theta}(s)} \nabla_{\theta} \mu_{\theta}(s) \right]$$

Critic

Loss function (minimize)

$$L(\phi) = E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}} [(r + \gamma \hat{Q}_{\hat{\phi}}(s', \hat{\mu}_{\hat{\theta}}(s')) - Q_{\phi}(s, a))^{2}]$$
 where $a = \mu_{\theta}(s)$

$$\nabla_{\phi} L(\phi) = -E_{s \sim \rho_{\mu}} \left[\left(r + \gamma \hat{Q}_{\hat{\phi}}(s', \hat{\mu}_{\hat{\theta}}(s')) - Q_{\phi}(s, a) \right) \nabla_{\phi} Q_{\phi}(s, a) \right]$$

- For action exploration, adding a noise : $a_t = \mu_{\theta}(s_t) + N_t$
- Soft update: $\hat{\phi} \leftarrow \tau \phi + (1 \tau) \hat{\phi}$, $\hat{\theta} \leftarrow \tau \theta + (1 \tau) \hat{\theta}$
- Difficulty: performance does not improve monotonically

DDPG pseudo code

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Initialize critic network Q(s, a; \phi) and actor network \mu(s; \theta) randomly
Initialize target networks \hat{Q}, \hat{\mu} with weights \hat{\phi} = \phi, \hat{\theta} = \theta
Initialize replay buffer \mathcal{R}
for episode = 1, M do
      Initialize a random noise process N for action exploration
      Receive initial observation state s_1
      for t = 1, T do
            Select action a_t = \mu(s_t; \theta) + N_t exploration
            Execute a_t and observe r_{t+1}, s_{t+1}
            Store transition (s_t, a_t, r_{t+1}, s_{t+1}) in \mathcal{R} replay buffer
            Sample minibatch of B transitions (s_i, a_i, r_{i+1}, s_{i+1}) from \mathcal{R}
            Set y_i = r_{i+1} + \gamma \hat{Q}(s_{i+1}, \hat{\mu}(s_{i+1}; \hat{\theta}); \hat{\phi})
            Update critic network by minimizing the loss L = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{i} (y_i - Q(s_i, a_i; \phi))^2
            Update actor network using the deterministic policy gradient:
                 \nabla_{\theta} J \approx \frac{1}{B} \sum_{i} \nabla_{a} Q(s_{i}, a; \phi) \Big|_{a=\mu(s_{i};\theta)} \nabla_{\theta} \mu(s_{i}; \theta)
            Update target networks: \hat{\phi} \leftarrow \tau \phi + (1-\tau) \hat{\phi}, \ \hat{\theta} \leftarrow \tau \theta + (1-\tau) \hat{\theta}
      end
end
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