

(1)

## MC Week 11 - Reinforcement Learning

RF Learning is loosely based on how humans learning

RL Agent learns by interacting w/ environment

↳ to achieve given goal(s)

### RL environment

State → Agent observe the env state / conditions  
 $s_t \in S$  @ time stamp  $t$

State has a markor property.  
dependant on state @ tag of  $t$ 's . e.g  $(t)$ ,  $(t, t-1)$   $(t, t-1, t-2)$

Action → Agent can select an action  
@ time  $t$  →  $a_t$   
→ available given the state  
→  $A(s_t)$

$$a_t \in A(s_t)$$

Reward → the reward that the env gives at  $t+1$  dependant on the action taken @  $t$

Arrive @ new state  $s_{t+1}$



## ► RL Agent elements

Agent → • continually interacts w/ timesteps  
• obj is to max reward

Policy → Function that specifies the behaviour available to an agent given the env

State to action

function may be either deterministic or stochastic

value → agents estimation of future reward

## ► reward vs value

reward is short-term gain from next ~~step~~

value long-term total gain

↳ more important to learning



## ► Supervised vs Reinforcement

SL

- Model (weights)

- Input data

- Prediction

- Loss func

Model is train on  
existing ground truth  
(input data)

min loss on train data,  
generalize to unseen

RL

- Agent (Policy)

- Env state

- Agent Action, next state

- Reward

Agent & Env interact to  
learn

Agent learns from own  
experience (no exist truth)

Max reward via  
Exploration of actions

## ► Exploit vs Exploration

Exploitation →

(greedy)

Select action which reward for next  
action, requires knowledge of  
action & rewards

Exploration →

Select action w/ uncertain  
value to obtain better value  
estimate

test & learn for future