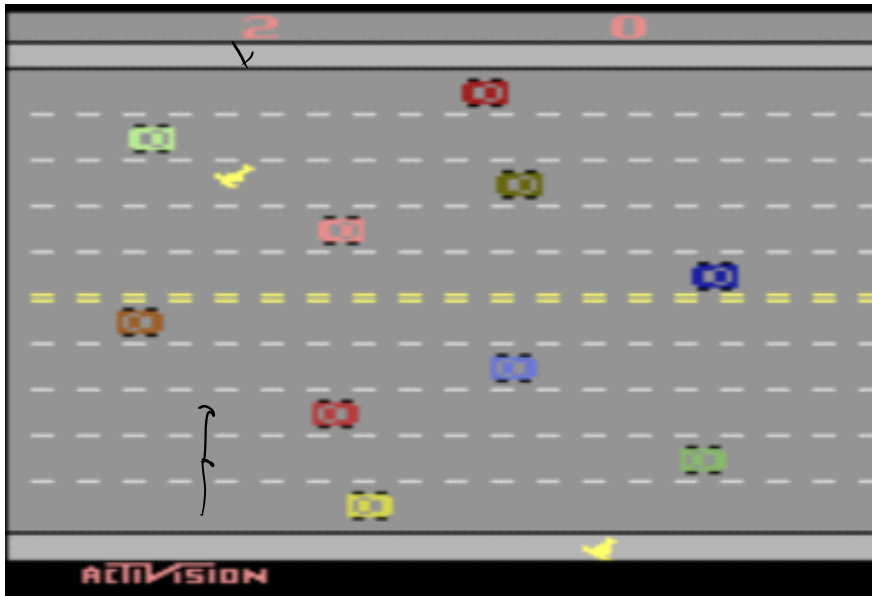


Reward Shaping

Friday, 21 September 2018 15:22 PM



Key idea: add some small additional reward for particular behaviour:

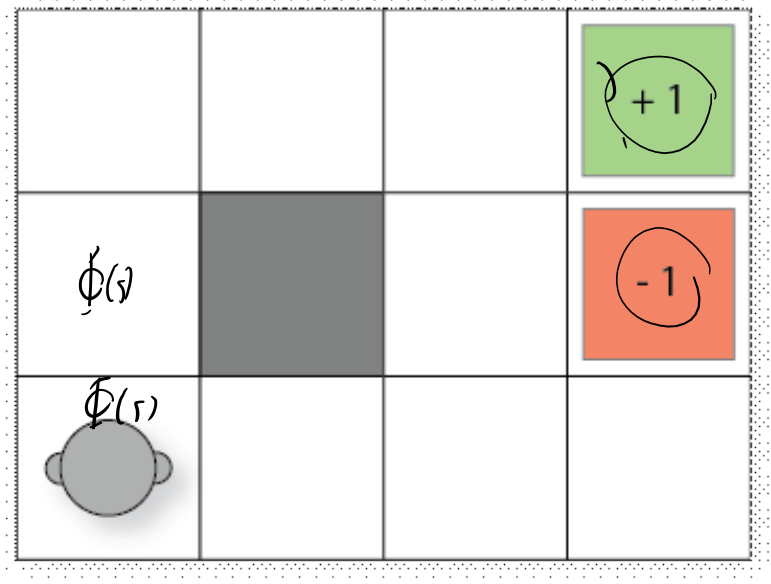
$$Q(s,a) := Q(s,a) + \alpha[r + \underbrace{F(s,s')}_{\text{shaped reward}} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s',a') - Q(s,a)]$$

Potential-based Reward shaping:

$$F(s,s') = \gamma \underline{\Phi(s')} - \underline{\Phi(s)}$$

GridWorld example:

$$\Phi(s) = \frac{1}{\max_{g \sim \pi} (|x(g) - x(s)| + |y(g) - y(s)|)}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 F((1,2), (2,2)) &= \gamma \cdot \Phi(s') - \Phi(s) \\
 &= 0.9 \cdot \frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2} \\
 &= 0.4
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F((0,0), (0,1)) &= \\
 &=
 \end{aligned}$$

Alternative to reward shaping: Q-function initialisation