

A Guided Tour of Chapter 11: Batch RL: Experience Replay, DQN, LSPI

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- Essentially each data point is “discarded” after being used for update

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- For trace experience i , parameters updated at each time step t :

$$\mathbf{E}_t = \gamma \lambda \cdot \mathbf{E}_{t-1} + \nabla_{\mathbf{w}} V(S_{i,t}; \mathbf{w})$$

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Parameters \mathbf{w}^- of target network infrequently updated to values of Q-network parameters \mathbf{w} (hence, Q-learning targets treated as “frozen”)

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- Value Function is approximated as:

$$V(s; \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j=1}^m \phi_j(s) \cdot w_j = \phi(s)^T \cdot \mathbf{w}$$

where $\phi(s) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the feature vector for state s

Least-Squares Monte-Carlo (LSMC)

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- Loss function for Batch MC Prediction with data $[(S_i, G_i) | 1 \leq i \leq n]$:

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \phi_j(S_i) \cdot w_j - G_i \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\phi(S_i)^T \cdot \mathbf{w} - G_i \right)^2$$

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On/Off Policy	Algorithm	Tabular	Linear	Non-Linear
On-Policy	MC	✓	✓	✓
	LSMC	✓	✓	-
	TD	✓	✓	✗
	LSTD	✓	✓	-
Off-Policy	MC	✓	✓	✓
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- This technique is known as Least Squares Policy Iteration (LSPI)

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- Iteration ends by setting the next iteration's start parameters \mathbf{w} to \mathbf{w}^*

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Least Squares Policy Iteration (LSPI)

- We set the semi-gradient of $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}^*)$ to 0

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- GPI with LSTDQ and greedy policy improvement known as *LSPI*

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Algorithm	Tabular	Linear	Non-Linear
MC Control	✓	(✓)	✗
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(✓) means it chatters around near-optimal Value Function

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- So we represent each atomic experience for training as a 2-tuple (s, s')

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- This reduces LSPI Semi-Gradient Equation (1) to:

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- Factoring out \mathbf{w}^* , we get:

$$(\sum_i \phi(s_i) \cdot (\phi(s_i) - \mathbb{I}_{C1} \cdot \gamma \cdot \phi(s'_i)))^T \cdot \mathbf{w}^* = \gamma \cdot \sum_i \mathbb{I}_{C2} \cdot \phi(s_i) \cdot g(s'_i)$$

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- This can be written in the familiar vector-matrix notation: $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{w}^* = \mathbf{b}$

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