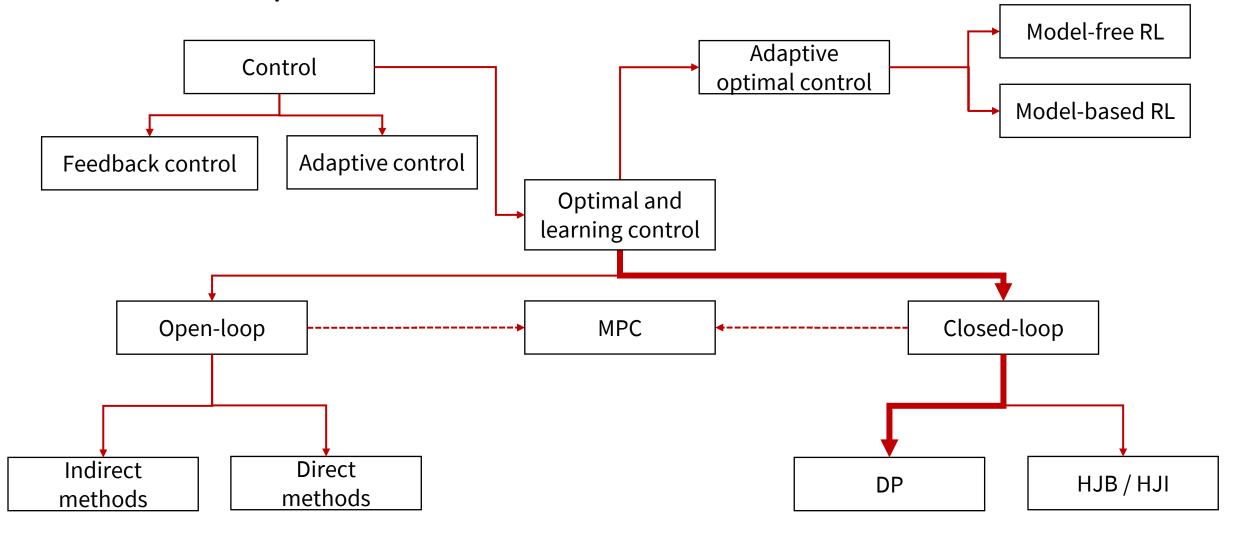
AA203 Optimal and Learning-based Control

Discrete LQR, stochastic DP, value iteration, policy iteration





Roadmap



Dynamic programming

- Model: $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, k), \quad \mathbf{u}_k \in U(\mathbf{x}_k)$
- Cost: $J(\mathbf{x}_0) = h_N(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} g(\mathbf{x}_k, \pi_k(\mathbf{x}_k), k)$

DP Algorithm: For every initial state \mathbf{x}_0 , the optimal cost $J^*(\mathbf{x}_0)$ is equal to $J_0^*(\mathbf{x}_0)$, given by the last step of the following algorithm, which proceeds backward in time from stage N-1 to stage 0:

$$J_N^*(\mathbf{x}_N) = h_N(\mathbf{x}_N)$$

$$J_k^*(\mathbf{x}_k) = \min_{\mathbf{u}_k \in U(\mathbf{x}_k)} g(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, k) + J_{k+1}^* (f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, k)), \qquad k = 0, \dots, N-1$$

Furthermore, if $\mathbf{u}_k^* = \pi_k^*(\mathbf{x}_k)$ minimizes the right hand side of the above equation for each \mathbf{x}_k and k, the policy $\{\pi_0^*, \pi_1^*, \dots, \pi_{N-1}^*\}$ is optimal

Discrete LQR

- Canonical application of dynamic programming for control
- One case where DP can be solved analytically (in general, DP algorithm must be performed numerically)

Discrete (Deterministic) LQR: select control inputs to minimize

$$J_0(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}_N^T Q_N \mathbf{x}_N + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + 2 \mathbf{x}_k^T S_k \mathbf{u}_k \right)$$

subject to the dynamics

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k, \qquad k \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$$

assuming

$$Q_k = Q_k^T \succeq 0, \quad R_k = R_k^T \succ 0, \quad \begin{bmatrix} Q_k & S_k \\ S_k^T & R_k \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0 \quad \forall k$$

Discrete LQR

Many important extensions, some of which we'll cover later in this class

- Tracking LQR: \mathbf{x}_k , \mathbf{u}_k represent small deviations ("errors") from a nominal trajectory (possibly with nonlinear dynamics)
- Cost with linear terms, affine dynamics: can consider today's analysis with augmented dynamics

$$\mathbf{y}_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_k & c_k \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_k \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_k = \tilde{A}\mathbf{y}_k + \tilde{B}\mathbf{u}_k$$

Discrete LQR – trajectory optimization

Rewrite the minimization of

$$J_0(\mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}_N^T Q_N \mathbf{x}_N + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + 2 \mathbf{x}_k^T S_k \mathbf{u}_k \right)$$

subject to dynamics

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k, \qquad k \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$$

as...

Discrete LQR – trajectory optimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_{k}, \mathbf{u}_{k}} \ \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{0} \\ \mathbf{u}_{0} \\ \mathbf{x}_{1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{x}_{N} \end{bmatrix}^{I} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{0} & S_{0} \\ S_{0}^{T} & R_{0} \\ & Q_{1} & S_{1} \\ & & S_{1}^{T} & R_{1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{0} \quad \mathbf{u}_{0} \quad \mathbf{x}_{1} \quad \mathbf{u}_{1} \quad \vdots \quad \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ & & & & \ddots \quad \vdots \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ &$$

Discrete LQR – trajectory optimization

Defining suitable notation, this is

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{z}^T W \mathbf{z}$$

s.t. $C \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{0}$

with solution from applying NOC (also SOC in this case, due to problem convexity):

$$egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}^* \\ oldsymbol{\lambda}^* \end{bmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} W & C^T \\ C & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ -\mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix}$$

First step:

$$J_N^*(\mathbf{x}_N) = \frac{1}{2} x_N^T Q_N x_N = \frac{1}{2} x_N^T P_N x_N$$

Proceeding backward in time:

$$J_{N-1}^{*}(\mathbf{x}_{N-1}) = \min_{\mathbf{u}_{N-1}} \frac{1}{2} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{N-1} & S_{N-1} \\ S_{N-1}^{T} & R_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{x}_{N}^{T} P_{N} \mathbf{x}_{N} \right)$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_{N-1}} \frac{1}{2} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \begin{bmatrix} Q_{N-1} & S_{N-1} \\ S_{N-1}^{T} & R_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} \\ \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} + \left(A_{N-1} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} + B_{N-1} \mathbf{u}_{N-1} \right)^{T} P_{N} (A_{N-1} \mathbf{x}_{N-1} + B_{N-1} \mathbf{u}_{N-1}) \right)$$

Unconstrained NOC:

$$\nabla_{u_{N-1}} J_{N-1}(\mathbf{x}_{N-1}) = R_{N-1} \mathbf{u}_{N-1} + S_{N-1}^T \mathbf{x}_{N-1} + B_{N-1} \mathbf{u}_{N-1} + B_{N-1} \mathbf{u}_{N-1}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\Longrightarrow \mathbf{u}_{N-1}^* = -(R_{N-1} + B_{N-1}^T P_N B_{N-1})^{-1} (B_{N-1}^T P_N A_{N-1} + S_{N-1}^T) \mathbf{x}_{N-1}$$

$$:= F_{N-1} x_{N-1}$$

Note also that SOC hold:

$$\nabla_{u_{N-1}}^2 J_{N-1}(\mathbf{x}_{N-1}) = R_{N-1} + B_{N-1}^T P_N B_{N-1} \succ 0$$

Plugging in the optimal policy:

$$J_{N-1}^{*}(\mathbf{x}_{N-1}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}_{N-1}^{T} \left(Q_{N-1} + A_{N-1}^{T} P_{N} A_{N-1} - (A_{N-1}^{T} P_{N} B_{N-1} + S_{N-1}) (R_{N-1} + B_{N-1}^{T} P_{N} B_{N-1})^{-1} (B_{N-1}^{T} P_{N} A_{N-1} + S_{N-1}^{T}) \right) \mathbf{x}_{N-1}$$

$$:= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}_{N-1}^{T} P_{N-1} \mathbf{x}_{N-1}$$

Algebraic details aside:

- Cost-to-go (equivalently, "value function") is a quadratic function of the state at each step
- Optimal policy is a time-varying linear feedback policy

Proceeding by induction, we derive the Riccati recursion:

1.
$$P_N = Q_N$$

2.
$$F_k = -(R_k + B_k^T P_{k+1} B_k)^{-1} (B_k^T P_{k+1} A_k + S_k^T)$$

3.
$$P_k = Q_k + A_k^T P_{k+1} A_k - (A_k^T P_{k+1} B_k + S_k) (R_k + B_k^T P_{k+1} B_k)^{-1} (B_k^T P_{k+1} A_k + S_k^T)$$

4.
$$\pi_k^*(\mathbf{x}_k) = F_k \mathbf{x}_k$$

5.
$$J_k^*(\mathbf{x}_k) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}_k^T P_k \mathbf{x}_k$$

Compute policy backwards in time, apply policy forward in time.

Stochastic optimal control problem: Markov Decision Problem (MDP)

- System: $x_{k+1} = f_k(x_k, u_k, w_k), k = 0, ..., N-1$
- Control constraints: $u_k \in U(x_k)$
- Probability distribution: $w_k \sim P_k(\cdot \mid x_k, u_k)$
- Policies: $\pi = \{\pi_0 ..., \pi_{N-1}\}$, where $\boldsymbol{u}_k = \pi_k(\boldsymbol{x}_k)$
- Expected Cost:

$$J_{\pi}(\mathbf{x}_0) = E_{\mathbf{w}_k, k=0,...,N-1} \left[g_N(\mathbf{x}_N) + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} g_k(\mathbf{x}_k, \pi_k(\mathbf{x}_k), \mathbf{w}_k) \right]$$

Stochastic optimal control problem

$$J^*(x_0) = \min_{\pi} J_{\pi}(\boldsymbol{x}_0)$$

Key points

- Discrete-time model
- Markovian model
- Objective: find optimal closed-loop policy
- Additive cost (central assumption)
- Risk-neutral formulation

Key points

- Discrete-time model
- Markovian model
- Objective: find optimal closed-loop policy
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Other communities use different notation: Powell, W. B. AI, OR and control theory: A Rosetta Stone for stochastic optimization. Princeton University, 2012.

Principle of optimality

• Let $\pi^* = \{\pi_0^*, \pi_1^*, ..., \pi_{N-1}^*\}$ be an optimal policy

Consider tail subproblem

$$E\left[g_N(\boldsymbol{x}_N) + \sum_{k=i}^{N-1} g_k(\boldsymbol{x}_k, \pi_k(\boldsymbol{x}_k), \boldsymbol{w}_k)\right]$$

and the tail policy $\{\pi_i^*, ..., \pi_{N-1}^*\}$

Principle of optimality: The tail policy is optimal for the tail subproblem

The DP algorithm (stochastic case)

Intuition

- DP first solves ALL tail subproblems at the final stage
- At generic step, it solves ALL tail subproblems of a given time length, using solution of tail subproblems of shorter length

The DP algorithm (stochastic case)

The DP algorithm

Start with

$$J_N(\mathbf{x}_N) = g_N(\mathbf{x}_N)$$

and go backwards using

$$J_k(\mathbf{x}_k) = \min_{\mathbf{u}_k \in U(\mathbf{x}_k)} E_{w_k} \left[g_k(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k) + J_{k+1} \left(f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k) \right) \right]$$

for
$$k = 0, 1, ..., N - 1$$

• Then $J^*(x_0) = J_0(x_0)$ and optimal policy is constructed by setting $\pi_k^*(x_k) = \operatorname*{argmin} E_{w_k} \left[g_k(x_k, u_k, w_k) + J_{k+1} \left(f(x_k, u_k, w_k) \right) \right]$ $u_k \in U(x_k)$

- Stock available $x_k \in \mathbb{N}$, inventory $u_k \in \mathbb{N}$, and demand $w_k \in \mathbb{N}$
- Dynamics: $x_{k+1} = \max(0, x_k + u_k w_k)$
- Constraints: $x_k + u_k \le 2$
- Probabilistic structure: $p(w_k = 0) = 0.1$, $p(w_k = 1) = 0.7$, and $p(w_k = 2) = 0.2$

• Cost
$$E \begin{bmatrix} 0 & + & \sum_{k=0}^{2} (u_k + (x_k + u_k - w_k)^2) \\ g_3(x_3) & g_k(x_k, u_k, w_k) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Stock available $x_k \in \mathbb{N}$, inventory $u_k \in \mathbb{N}$, and demand $w_k \in \mathbb{N}$
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• Cost
$$E \begin{bmatrix} 0 & + & \sum_{k=0}^{2} (u_k + (x_k + u_k - w_k)^2) \\ & & & \\$$

More generally, could imagine costs:

- (matching stock with demand)

Algorithm takes form

$$J_k(x_k) = \min_{0 \le u_k \le 2 - x_k} E_{w_k} [u_k + (x_k + u_k - w_k)^2 + J_{k+1}(\max(0, x_k + u_k - w_k))]$$

for k = 0, 1, 2

For example

$$J_2(0) = \min_{u_2=0,1,2} E_{w_2} [u_2 + (u_2 - w_2)^2] =$$

$$\min_{u_2=0,1,2} u_2 + 0.1(u_2)^2 + 0.7(u_2 - 1)^2 + 0.2(u_2 - 2)^2$$
which yields $J_2(0) = 1.3$, and $\pi_2^*(0) = 1$

Final solution:

- $\cdot J_0(0) = 3.7,$
- $J_0(1) = 2.7$, and
- $\bullet J_0(2) = 2.818$

(see this spreadsheet)

Stochastic LQR

Find control policy_that minimizes

$$E\left[\frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{x}_{N}^{T}Q\boldsymbol{x}_{N}+\frac{1}{2}\sum_{k=0}^{N-1}(\boldsymbol{x}_{k}^{T}Q_{k}\boldsymbol{x}_{k}+\boldsymbol{u}_{k}^{T}R_{k}\boldsymbol{u}_{k})\right]$$

subject to

• dynamics $\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1} = A_k \boldsymbol{x}_k + B_k \boldsymbol{u}_k + \boldsymbol{w}_k$

with $x_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(\overline{x_0}, \Sigma_{x_0}), \{w_k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{w_k})\}$ independent and Gaussian vectors

Stochastic LQR

As before, let's suppose $J_{k+1}^*(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}_{k+1}^T P_k \mathbf{x}_{k+1}$. Then:

$$J_k^*(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) = \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[g_k(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k) + J_{k+1}^* (f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k)) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k) \right]$$

$$= 2(A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k + \mathbf{w}_k^T P_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k) + \operatorname{tr}(P_{k+1} \Sigma_{\mathbf{w}_k}) \right)$$

Stochastic LQR

As before, let's suppose $J_{k+1}^*(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}_{k+1}^T P_k \mathbf{x}_{k+1}$. Then:

$$J_k^*(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) = \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[g_k(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k) + J_{k+1}^* (f(\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k, \mathbf{w}_k)) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}_k} \left[\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k) \right]$$

$$= 2(A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k + \mathbf{w}_k^T P_{k+1} \mathbf{w}_k$$

$$= \min_{\mathbf{u}_k} \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{x}_k^T Q_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{u}_k^T R_k \mathbf{u}_k + (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k)^T P_{k+1} (A_k \mathbf{x}_k + B_k \mathbf{u}_k) + \operatorname{tr}(P_{k+1} \Sigma_{\mathbf{w}_k}) \right)$$

→ optimal policy is the same as in the deterministic case; cost-to-go is increased by some constant related to magnitude of noise

Infinite Horizon MDPs

State: $x \in \mathcal{X}$ (often $s \in \mathcal{S}$)

Action: $u \in \mathcal{U}$ (often $a \in \mathcal{A}$)

Transition Function: $T(x_t | x_{t-1}, u_{t-1}) = p(x_t | x_{t-1}, u_{t-1})$

Reward Function: $r_t = R(x_t, u_t)$

Discount Factor: γ

MDP: $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{U}, T, R, \gamma)$

Infinite Horizon MDPs

MDP:

$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{U}, T, R, \gamma)$$

Stationary policy:

$$u_t = \pi(x_t)$$

Goal: Choose policy that maximizes cumulative (discounted) reward

$$\pi^* = \arg\max_{\pi} E\left[\sum_{t\geq 0} \gamma^t R(x_t, \pi(x_t))\right]$$

Infinite Horizon MDPs

• The optimal reward $V^*(x)$ satisfies Bellman's equation

$$V^*(x) = \max_{u} \left(R(x, u) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, u) V^*(x') \right)$$

• For any stationary policy π , the value $V_{\pi}(x) \coloneqq E\left[\sum_{t\geq 0} \gamma^t R\left(x_t, \pi(x_t)\right)\right]$ is the unique solution to the equation

$$V_{\pi}(x) = R(x, \pi(x)) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, \pi(x)) V_{\pi}(x')$$

Solving infinite-horizon MDPs

If you know the model, use DP-ideas

Value Iteration / Policy Iteration

RL: Learning from interaction

- Model-Based
- Model-free
 - Value based
 - Policy based

Value Iteration

- Initialize $V_0(x) = 0$ for all states x
- Loop until finite horizon / convergence:

$$V_{k+1}(x) = \max_{u} \left(R(x, u) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, u) V_k(x') \right)$$

State-action value functions (Q functions)

$$V^*(x) = \max_{u} \left(R(x, u) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, u) V^*(x') \right)$$

$$V^*(x) = \max_{u} Q^*(x, u)$$

Value iteration for Q functions

$$Q_{k+1}(x,u) = R(x,u) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x,u) \max_{u'} Q_k(x',u')$$

Policy Iteration

Starting with a policy $\pi_k(x)$, alternate two steps:

1. Policy Evaluation

Compute $V_{\pi_k}(x)$ as the solution of

$$V_{\pi}(x) = R(x, \pi(x)) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, \pi(x)) V_{\pi}(x')$$

2. Policy Improvement

Define
$$\pi_{k+1}(x) = \arg\max_{u} \left(R(x, u) + \gamma \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{X}} T(x'|x, u) V_{\pi_k}(x') \right)$$

Proposition:
$$V_{\pi_{k+1}}(x) \ge V_{\pi_k}(x) \ \forall \ x \in \mathcal{X}$$

Inequality is strict if π_k is suboptimal

Use this procedure to iteratively improve policy until convergence

Recap

- Value Iteration
 - Estimate optimal value function
 - Compute optimal policy from optimal value function
- Policy Iteration
 - Start with random policy
 - Iteratively improve it until convergence to optimal policy
- Require model of MDP to work!

Next time

- Belief space MDPs
- Dual control
- LQG
- Intro to reinforcement learning