Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning Schema for Dynamic Traffic Assignment

Introduction

The 4-step transportation modeling process is a systematic approach used in urban and transportation planning to analyze and optimize transportation systems. The process involves four key stages: (1) Trip Generation, where the total number of trips originating in each zone of the network is estimated; (2) Trip Distribution, which determines the origins and destinations of these trips, and creates the OD matrix; (3) Mode Choice, where the transportation mode for each trip is selected; and (4) Traffic Assignment, the critical step that assigns trips to specific routes in the transportation network, considering factors like road capacity, congestion, and travel time. The last step is a dynamic and competitive process. This traffic assignment problem (TAP) becomes vital due to the finite road resources available (supply), leading travelers to compete for the most efficient routes to minimize their travel times (Shou et al.). The intricacies of road congestion underscore the interconnectivity of travelers' decisions, where the choices of one driver can significantly impact the travel times of others (Grunitzki et al.).

Conventionally, TAP employs one of two key concepts: User Equilibrium (UE) or System Optimum (SO). UE posits that the assignment process is akin to a Markov game with a Nash equilibrium solution, where no individual can enhance their travel time by independently altering their route choice (Sheffi). Nevertheless, it's recognized that Nash equilibria frequently lead to suboptimal outcomes when compared to socially optimal assignments (Zhou et al.). SO, on the other hand, is achievable only when all motorists collectively opt for actions that minimize the total system travel time rather than prioritizing their individual travel times (Sheffi). Traditional TAP, whether considering UE or System SO, is typically addressed through mathematical modeling and solving (Zhou et al.). However, this approach often necessitates the use of simplifying assumptions, resulting in models that may diverge from real-world complexities. Moreover, these models are often difficult to solve. Therefore, in this project, our goal is to employ a Reinforcement Learning (RL) framework to model route choice behavior. This approach treats route selection as an adaptive decision-making process situated within a complex environment, enabling the model to learn optimal actions through iterative interactions with its surroundings.

Methodology

Reinforcement learning (RL) revolves around the challenge of enabling an agent to acquire behavior through dynamic interactions with its environment. Typically, the RL problem is characterized by a set of states (S), actions (A), a state transition function (T), and a reward function (R) that yields the reward R(s,a) following a specific action. The primary objective is to determine a policy (π) that maximizes the agent's cumulative future rewards. At each state, the agent faces the crucial choice of

either exploiting familiar actions or exploring new alternatives, potentially leading to the discovery of more advantageous actions (Grunitzki et al.).

In this research, we explore the realm of partially observable Markov games (POMDPs), an extension of Markov decision processes (MDPs) tailored for multi-agent scenarios. A POMDP involving N agents is characterized by a set of states S, indicating possible configurations of all agents, as well as distinct sets of actions A_1,\ldots,A_N and observations O_1,\ldots,O_N for each agent. Each agent i employs a stochastic policy $\pi_i:O_i\times A_i\to [0,1]$ to determine actions, influencing the subsequent state through the state transition function $T:S\times A_1\times\cdots\times A_N\to S$. Rewards for each agent i are contingent on the state and the agent's action, denoted as $r_i:S\times A_i\to\mathbb{R}$, and private observations correlated with the state are received as $o_i:S\to O_i$. Initial states are determined by a distribution function $\rho:S\to [0,1]$. The primary objective for each agent i is to maximize its individual total expected return $R_i=\sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t r_i(s_t,a_i(t))$, where γ serves as the discount factor, and T represents the time horizon (Lowe et al.).

In this problem, a state $(s \in S)$ comprises two main components: the node and the time. For an agent currently in the state s=(n,t), the available actions $(a \in A)$ can either be selecting one of the outbound links from the node or, alternatively, utilizing one of the predefined routes from the origin to the destination. The reward function is defined as a negative value representing the travel cost associated with the state transition. This reward function is designed so that as travel time decreases, the reward increases, motivating drivers to seek to minimize their travel times (Shou et al.).

To simulate the interaction of agents in the transportation network, we employed the parallel API of the PettingZoo library, a Python toolkit designed for multi-agent environment research. This library offers diverse environments that replicate scenarios involving cooperative and competitive interactions among agents. Built on the foundation of OpenAI Gym, a toolkit for developing and benchmarking reinforcement learning algorithms, PettingZoo extends Gym's capabilities to cater specifically to multi-agent environments. This integration makes the library well-suited for the needs of this research.

This study employs the Multi-Agent Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient (MADDPG) approach, recognizing the limitations of traditional reinforcement learning algorithms like Q-learning and Policy Gradient in addressing multi-agent challenges. The issue lies in the dynamic nature of individual agents' policies during training, leading to non-stationarity in the environment and hindering straightforward use of past experience replay (Lowe et al.). Additionally, policy gradient methods exhibit high variance when coordinating multiple agents. To overcome these challenges, a general-purpose multi-agent learning algorithm is adopted, facilitating cooperative or competitive training in complex environments (Lowe et al.). This choice enhances learning stability and convergence by utilizing decentralized actor and centralized critic architectures.

Network initialization

First, we need to define the network as well as the latency (travel time) function based on the flow on the link. This code defines a simulation framework for a transportation network using the NetworkX library. The network is based on the Nguyen network model, which includes intersections, roads, and traffic flow.

nguyenNetwork

- Reads road network data from CSV files, creates a directed graph representing intersections and roads, and initializes road attributes.
- Returns a NetworkX DiGraph representing the Nguyen network.

```
In []:
        import networkx as nx
        import pandas as pd
        def nguyenNetwork(high=True):
            # Read the CSV file into a DataFrame
            data_types = {"start node": str, "end node": str} # node names should be str
            # for mac OS
            if high == True:
                links = pd.read_csv("./network/NguyenLinksHighDemand200.csv", dtype=data_types)
            else:
                links = pd.read_csv("./network/NguyenLinksLowDemand50.csv", dtype=data_types)
            links['flow'] = 0
            # instantiate null directed graph
            network = nx.DiGraph()
            # initialize intersections
            intersections = {
                "1": {"pos": (1, 3)},
                "2": {"pos": (4, 1)},
                "3": {"pos": (3, 0)},
                "4": {"pos": (0, 2)},
                "5": {"pos": (1, 2)},
                "6": {"pos": (2, 2)},
                "7": {"pos": (3, 2)},
                "8": {"pos": (4, 2)},
                "9": {"pos": (1, 1)},
                "10": {"pos": (2, 1)},
                "11": {"pos": (3, 1)},
                "12": {"pos": (2, 3)},
                "13": {"pos": (2, 0)}
            }
            # add intersections
            for node, attrs in intersections.items():
                network.add_node(node, **attrs)
            # intialize roads
            # Create a list of tuples from the DataFrame
            roads = [(row["start node"],
                       row["end node"],
                      {"ffs": row["free flow speed"],
                       "capacity": row["capacity"],
                       "alpha": row["alpha"],
                       "beta": row["beta"],
                       "latency": row["latency"],
                       "flow": row["flow"]}) for _, row in links.iterrows()]
```

```
# Print the list of roads
# print(roads)

# add roads
network.add_edges_from(roads)

return network
```

latency function

- Calculates the latency (travel time) on a road segment based on the Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) function, considering flow, capacity, and other parameters.
- Parameters:
 - flow: Total number of vehicles on the road.
 - start_node and end_node: Identifiers for the start and end nodes of the road.
- Returns the rounded travel time for the given road segment.

```
In []: def latency(flow, start_node, end_node):
    network = nguyenNetwork()
    edge_data = network.get_edge_data(str(start_node), str(end_node))

# 'flow' takes the total No. of vehicle in the link
# 'start_node' and 'end_node' should be integer values
# This function assumes that the travel time of the links are BPR functions.
# for more information about BPR functions read p#358 of Sheffi's book.
c = edge_data['capacity']
t_0 = edge_data['ffs']
a = edge_data['alpha']
b = edge_data['beta']
t_link = t_0 * (1 + (a * ((flow/c) ** b)))
return round(t_link) # this function only returns integer values
```

traffic_f function

- Generates synthetic traffic demand based on CSV files, creating a list of agents with origins and destinations.
- Returns a dictionary containing information about agents, their origins, and destinations.

```
In []: def traffic_f(high=True):
    if high == True:
        demand = pd.read_csv("./network/NguyenDemandHighDemand200.csv")
    else:
        demand = pd.read_csv("./network/NguyenLowDemand50.csv")
    agents = []
    origins = []
    destinations = []
    agent_no = 0

for index, row in demand.iterrows():
    origin = str(row['Origin'])
    destination = str(row['Destination'])
    count = int(row['OD demand'])
    for i in range(count):
```

```
agent_no += 1
    agents.append(f'agent_{agent_no}')
    origins.append(origin)
    destinations.append(destination)

traffic = {
    "agents": agents,
    "origins": origins,
    "destinations": destinations
}

return traffic
```

Road Network Environment

This code defines a custom environment for simulating traffic assignment on the Nguyen network using the Gymnasium and PettingZoo libraries. The environment is designed for multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) scenarios.

```
In []: import gymnasium
    from gymnasium.spaces import Box, Dict, Discrete
    from gymnasium.spaces.utils import flatten_space
    from gymnasium.utils import EzPickle
    import numpy as np

from pettingzoo import AECEnv
    from pettingzoo.utils import agent_selector, wrappers
    from pettingzoo.utils.conversions import parallel_wrapper_fn

# allows to import the parallel environment using "from NguyenNetworkEnv import parallel
    __all__ = ["ManualPolicy", "env", "parallel_env", "raw_env"]

# environment wrapper
def env(**kwargs):
    env = raw_env(**kwargs)
    env = wrappers.OrderEnforcingWrapper(env)
    return env
```

- Environment Initialization: Sets up the Nguyen Network environment with traffic demand from agents.
- Observation Space: Defines the observation space for each agent, considering the network structure and latency information.
- Action Space: Defines the action space for each agent, representing the choice of road routes.
- Step Function: Simulates one step in the environment for the agents, updating their positions, rewards, and other state information.
- Reset Function: Resets the environment to its initial state.
- Additional Functions:

- observe(agent): Generates observations for a given agent based on its current position and neighbors.
- state(): Returns an array-like object for logging, containing termination triggers and agent travel times.

```
In [ ]: # AEC to parallel wrapper
        parallel env = parallel wrapper fn(env)
        class raw_env(AECEnv):
            metadata = {
                "name": "NguvenNet".
                "is parallelizable": True
            }
            .....
            This is the traffic assignment environment. More documentation to follow.
            # initialize environment with the Nguyen Network and Traffic Demand from agents
            def init (
                self,
                net = nguyenNetwork(),
                traffic = traffic_f(high=False),
                render mode = None
                ):
                # no rendering at the moment
                self.render_mode = render_mode
                # initialize network from Nguyen Network
                self.road network = net
                self.traffic = traffic
                # initialize agents
                self.agents = self.traffic["agents"] # list of agents in environment
                self.possible agents = self.agents[:]
                self.agent_name_mapping = dict(zip(self.agents, list(range(len(self.agents)))))
                self._agent_selector = agent_selector(self.agents)
                self.terminations_check = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
                self.truncations check = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for in self.agents]))
                self.termination_trigger = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
                self.truncation_trigger = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
                # agent origin, destination, and location information
                self.agent origins = self.traffic["origins"].copy()
                self.agent_origin_backup = self.traffic["origins"].copy()
                self.agent locations = self.traffic["origins"].copy()
                self.agent_destinations = self.traffic["destinations"]
                self.agent_path_histories = {agent: [location] for agent, location in zip(self.a
                self.agent wait time = {agent: 0 for agent in self.agents}
                self.agent_travel_time = {agent: 0 for agent in self.agents}
                # agent unflattened observation space, this is flattened alphabetically btw.
                self.unflattened observation spaces = {
                    agent: Dict({
                        "observation": Box(low=-1, high=12, shape=(2,1), dtype=int),
                        "latencies": Box(low=0, high=30, shape=(2,1), dtype=int),
```

```
"location": Box(low = 0, high = 12, shape = (1,1), dtype=int),
        }) for agent in self.agents
    }
    # agent flattened observatino space
    self.observation spaces = {
        i: flatten_space(self.unflattened_observation_spaces[i]) for i in self.unfla
    }
    # agent action space
    self.action_spaces = dict(
        # with the nguyen network agents have at most 2 choices
        zip(
            self.agents,
            [gymnasium.spaces.Discrete(2)]*len(self.agents)
        )
    )
    # agent terminal and truncated states
    self.terminate = False
    self.truncate = False
def observation space(self, agent):
    return self.observation_spaces[agent]
def action_space(self, agent):
    return self.action_spaces[agent]
def observe(self, agent):
    agent idx = self.agent name mapping[agent]
    # get possible nodes the agent can travel to
    agent_position = self.agent_locations[agent_idx]
    agent_node_neighbors = list(self.road_network.neighbors(agent_position))
    # encode position
    position = []
    encoding = int(self.agent_locations[agent_idx])-1
    position.append(encoding)
    # encode node positions
    node_encoded = []
    for node in agent_node_neighbors:
        encoding = int(node)-1
        node_encoded.append(encoding)
    # currently using ffs attribute, need to revise to use updated latency
    # neighboring_nodes_ffs = []
    # for node in agent node neighbors:
          ffs_value = self.road_network.get_edge_data(agent_position, node)["ffs"]
          neighboring_nodes_ffs.append(ffs_value)
    # updated to use "latency" instead of "ffs"
    neighboring_nodes_latencies = []
    for node in agent_node_neighbors:
        latency_value = self.road_network.get_edge_data(agent_position, node)["laten
        neighboring_nodes_latencies.append(latency_value)
```

```
# return observation — a list in structured as [node1, latency1, node 2, latency
    if len(agent_node_neighbors) == 1:
        node encoded = node encoded*2
        # neighboring nodes ffs = neighboring nodes ffs*2
        neighboring_nodes_latencies = neighboring_nodes_latencies*2
    if len(agent node neighbors) == 0:
        node encoded = \begin{bmatrix} -1, -1 \end{bmatrix}
        \# neighboring_nodes_ffs = [0,0]
        neighboring nodes latencies = [0,0]
    # observations = np.array(neighboring_nodes_ffs+position+node_encoded)
    observations = np.array(neighboring_nodes_latencies + position + node_encoded)
    return observations
def state(self) -> np.ndarray:
    """We need to return an np-array like object for logging"""
    return list(self.termination_trigger.values()), list(self.agent_travel_time.valu
def step(self, action):
    """This does not work"""
    # # check if agent is dead
    # if (
          self.terminations check[self.agent selection] or
    #
          self.truncations check[self.agent selection]
    #
    # ):
    #
        # self.rewards[self.agent selection] = 0
        self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    #
    #
          #self. accumulate rewards()
        return
    action = np.asarray(action)
    agent = self.agent_selection
    agent_idx = self.agent_name_mapping[agent]
    self._cumulative_rewards[agent] = 0
    if self. agent selector.is last():
        # Track the count of agents on each link for all agents' positions
        agents_on_link = {edge: 0 for edge in self.road_network.edges()}
        # print(agents on link)
        # print(self.road_network.edges())
        # Update the count based on all agents' neighbors
        for current_agent in self.agents:
            agent idx = self.agent name mapping[current agent]
            agent position = self.agent locations[agent idx]
            agent_node_neighbors = list(self.road_network.neighbors(agent_position))
            for node in agent_node_neighbors:
                for edge in zip([agent_position], [node]):
                    agents_on_link[edge] += 1 # Increment count when an agent enter
        for edge, agent_count in agents_on_link.items():
            link_data = self.road_network.get_edge_data(*edge)
```

```
# print(link_data) # not updated
        flow = agent_count # 'flow' takes the total number of vehicles in the l
        start node = np.int64(edge[0])
        end_node = np.int64(edge[1])
        new_latency = latency(flow, start_node, end_node)
        link_data["latency"] = new_latency
        # print(new latency)
        self.road_network[edge[0]][edge[1]]["latency"] = new_latency
        # print(f"Updated latency for edge {edge}: {self.road_network[edge[0]][e
    self._clear_rewards()
else:
    self._clear_rewards()
# agent travel decrement
if self.agent_wait_time[agent] != 0:
    # if agent has waiting time (i.e. "traveling" along edge, decrement wait tim
    self.agent wait time[agent] -= 1
    self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    self._accumulate_rewards()
    return
# agent reaches terminal state
if self.agent locations[agent idx] == self.agent destinations[agent idx]:
    self.terminations check[agent] = True
   # return reward for arriving at destionation
   if self.termination_trigger[agent] == False:
        completion reward = 100
        self.termination_trigger[agent] = True
   else:
        completion_reward = 0
    self.rewards[agent] = completion_reward
    self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    self._accumulate_rewards()
    return
# agent reaches truncation state
if self.agent_locations[agent_idx] != self.agent_destinations[agent_idx] and \
(self.agent_locations[agent_idx] == "2" or self.agent_locations[agent_idx] == "3"
    self.truncations_check[agent] = True
   # return penalty for arriving at wrong destination
    if self.truncation_trigger[agent] == False:
        completion_penalty = -100
        self.truncation_trigger[agent] = True
    else:
        completion_penalty = 0
    self.rewards[agent] = completion_penalty
    self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    self. accumulate rewards()
    return
```

```
# agent chooses action
    choices = list(
        self.road_network.neighbors(
            self.agent_locations[agent_idx]
        )
    )
    # if only one route
    if len(choices) == 1:
        choices = [choices[0], choices[0]]
    # select action
    chosen route = choices[action]
    # reward based on chosen route latency, again using ffs instead of calculated la
    reward = self.road network.get edge data(
        self.agent locations[agent idx],
        # chosen_route)["ffs"]
        chosen_route) ["latency"]
    # add negative latency to reward — DQN to maximize negative reward
    self.rewards[agent] = -1*reward
    # update latency
    self.agent wait time[agent] += reward
    self.agent_travel_time[agent] += reward
    # update agent position
    self.agent_locations[agent_idx] = chosen_route
    # update path history
    self.agent_path_histories[agent].append(chosen_route)
    # set the next agent to act
    self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    self._accumulate_rewards()
def reset(self, seed=None, options=None):
    # reset to initial states
    self.agent_origins = self.agent_origin_backup.copy()
    self.agent_locations = self.agent_origin_backup.copy()
    self agent_path_histories = {agent: [location] for agent, location in zip(self a
    self.agent_wait_time = {agent: 0 for agent in self.agents}
    self.agent_travel_time = {agent: 0 for agent in self.agents} # added
    self.agents = self.possible_agents[:]
    self._agent_selector.reinit(self.agents)
    self.agent_selection = self._agent_selector.next()
    self.terminate = False
    self.truncate = False
    self.rewards = dict(zip(self.agents, [0 for in self.agents]))
    self._cumulative_rewards = {a: 0 for a in self.agents}
    self.terminations = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
    self.truncations = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
    self.infos = dict(zip(self.agents, [{} for _ in self.agents]))
    # Reset termination and truncation checks
```

```
# check
self.terminations_check = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
self.truncations_check = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
self.termination_trigger = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
self.truncation_trigger = dict(zip(self.agents, [False for _ in self.agents]))
# Reset road network-related variables
# print("Resetting latency values")
for edge in self.road network.edges():
    start node, end node = edge
    self.road_network[start_node][end_node]["latency"] = 0
# Clear any existing rewards
#self._clear_rewards()
# print(self.rewards)
# print(self.state())
# Return the initial state
#return self.state()
```

Train agileRL

This code implements a Multi-Agent Deep Deterministic Policy Gradients (MADDPG) algorithm to address traffic control in road networks, specifically the Nguyen Network. The environment is constructed using Gymnasium and PettingZoo libraries, and the MADDPG algorithm is employed to train a group of agents to navigate through the network.

Environment Setup:

- Initializes the Nguyen Network environment and sets up the MADDPG algorithm.
- Components:
 - Environment instantiation (env).
 - Configuration of algorithm input parameters.
 - Creation of a multi-agent replay buffer (memory).
 - Saving device information to a file (device_info.txt).

```
In []: # import RoadNetEnv
    import pandas as pd
    import torch
    import numpy as np
    from agilerl.components.multi_agent_replay_buffer import MultiAgentReplayBuffer
    from agilerl.algorithms.maddpg import MADDPG

# instantiate env and torch device
    device = torch.device("cuda" if torch.cuda.is_available() else "cpu")
    # env = RoadNetEnv.parallel_env()
    env = parallel_env()
    env.reset()

# configure algo input parameters
try:
        state_dim = [env.observation_space(agent).n for agent in env.agents]
        one_hot = True
    except Exception:
```

```
state_dim = [env.observation_space(agent).shape for agent in env.agents]
    one_hot = False
try:
    action_dim = [env.action_space(agent).n for agent in env.agents]
    discrete actions = True
    max action = None
    min action = None
except Exception:
    action dim = [env.action space(agent).shape[0] for agent in env.agents]
    discrete actions = False
    max_action = [env.action_space(agent).high for agent in env.agents]
    min_action = [env.action_space(agent).low for agent in env.agents]
n_agents = env.num_agents
agent_ids = [agent_id for agent_id in env.agents]
done = {agent_id: False for agent_id in env.agents}
field_names = ["state", "action", "reward", "next_state", "done"]
memory = MultiAgentReplayBuffer(
    memory size=1000000,
    field_names=field_names,
    agent_ids=agent_ids,
    device=device
with open('device_info.txt', 'w') as file:
        file.write(f"Device: {device}")
NET_CONFIG = {
   "arch": "mlp",
   "h_size": [128, 128]
}
```

MADDPG Algorithm Configuration

- Configures the MADDPG algorithm with the necessary hyperparameters and network architecture.
- Components:
 - Configuration of state and action dimensions.
 - Instantiation of the MADDPG agent (agent) with specified parameters.
 - Loading a pre-trained checkpoint if available.

```
In [ ]: agent = MADDPG(
            state_dims=state_dim,
            action dims=action dim,
            one_hot=one_hot,
            n_agents=n_agents,
            agent_ids=agent_ids,
            max action=max action,
            min_action=min_action,
            discrete actions=True,
            device=device,
            net_config=NET_CONFIG,
            lr=1e-2,
            batch size=8,
            gamma=0.99,
            expl_noise=0.2,
            # lr=1e-3, # Learning Rate for Optimizer (defaults to 0.01)
```

```
# batch_size=128, # Batch Size (defaults to 64)
# tau=0.005, # Soft Update Parameter (Tau, defaults to 0.01)
# gamma=0.99, # Discount Factor (Gamma, defaults to 0.95)
# expl_noise=0.2, # Exploration Noise (defaults to 0.1)

# load checkpoint
# agent.loadCheckpoint("./checkpoint/checkpoint_60.pt")

episodes = 200
max_steps = 50
epsilon = 1.0
eps_end = 0.1
eps_decay = 0.995

episode_travel_times = []

log_interval = 10
start_ep = 1
```

Training Loop

- Executes the main training loop for a specified number of episodes.
 - Loop over episodes and steps within each episode.
 - Interaction with the environment to obtain states, actions, rewards, and next states.
 - Saving experiences to the replay buffer.
 - Periodic learning of the agents based on sampled experiences from the replay buffer.
 - Metric logging, including episode rewards and travel times.

```
In [ ]: for ep in range(episodes):
            state, info = env.reset()
            agent_reward = {agent_id: 0 for agent_id in env.agents}
            for i in range(max_steps):
                agent_mask = info["agent_mask"] if "agent_mask" in info.keys() else None
                env_defined_actions = (
                    info["env_defined_actions"]
                    if "env_defined_actions" in info.keys()
                    else None
                # get next action from agent
                cont actions, discrete action = agent.getAction(
                    state, epsilon, agent_mask, env_defined_actions
                if agent.discrete_actions:
                    action = discrete_action
                    action = cont_actions
                # act in environment
                next_state, reward, termination, truncation, info = env.step(
                    action
                )
```

```
# save experience to replay buffer
    memory.save2memory(state, cont_actions, reward, next_state, done)
    for agent id, r in reward.items():
        agent reward[agent id] += r
    # learn according to learning frequency
    if (memory.counter % agent.learn_step == 0) and (len(memory) >= agent.batch_size
        experiences = memory.sample(agent.batch_size)
        agent.learn(experiences)
    # update state
    state = next_state
# metric logging
finishers, travel time = env.state()
episode_travel_times.append(travel_time) # export to csv
# save the total episode reward
score = sum(agent_reward.values())
agent.scores.append(score)
# update epsilon for exploration
epsilon = max(eps_end, epsilon * eps_decay)
if (ep+start ep) % log interval == 0 or ep == episodes -1:
    reward scores = pd.DataFrame(agent.scores)
    reward_scores.to_csv(f"./results/reward_{ep+start_ep}.csv")
    travel times = pd.DataFrame(episode travel times)
    travel_times.to_csv(f"./results/travel_times_{ep+start_ep}.csv")
    agent.saveCheckpoint(f"./checkpoint/checkpoint_{ep+start_ep}.pt")
```

Numerical Example

The model's effectiveness presented in this study is demonstrated by applying it to a real-world transportation network. Transportation networks are graphs where nodes represent intersections, and links correspond to roads through which traffic flows. Each link is associated with a latency function, typically a non-linear function (e.g., the commonly used BPR function), which models the travel time of the link based on its traffic flow (Shou et al.). The equation shows the BPR function:

$$t_i(x_i) = t_0(1+lpha(rac{x_i}{C_i})^eta)$$

where t_i is the travel time of link i, t_0 is the travel time with free flow speed, x_i is the flow in the link, C_i is the capacity of the link, and α and β are coefficients. In this study, we employed the Nguyen-Dupuis network to evaluate the model, a well-established benchmark in similar research efforts (Zhou et al.). This network comprises 13 nodes, 19 links, 25 routes, and 4 origin-destination (O-D) pairs as is shown in Figure 1.

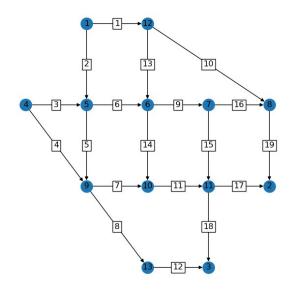


Figure 1. The Nguyen and Dupuis network

In this network, nodes 1 and 3 serve as origins, while nodes 2 and 3 function as destinations, resulting in four O-D pairs, each with its specific demands. Following the UE principle, post-assignment, the travel times for the utilized routes within each O-D pair should be equivalent to one another and surpass the travel time of the unused routes.

We also intend to conduct a comparative analysis of our Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning (MARL) solution method with traditional approaches to evaluate its accuracy and effectiveness. To facilitate this comparison, we leveraged AequilibraE, a Python package designed for transportation modeling (AequilibraE), to perform the traffic assignment within the network and subsequently compare the obtained results. This comparative assessment will help us gauge the performance and advantages of our novel MARL approach in the context of transportation modeling.

Given the computational expense associated with training an RL model, we found it practical to employ a simpler model initially for adjusting hyperparameters and other code-related elements before transitioning to a more intricate example. To facilitate this, we utilized two distinct demand files: a low-demand file involving 50 agents for quick training, a medium demand file with 100 agents that can be trained on our computers and a high-demand scenario with 400 agents representing the final model which is trained using UIC super computers. Table 1 delineates the demand for each O-D pair. Additionally, we adjusted link capacities in accordance with the demands to ensure consistent congestion scenarios in both cases. Table 2 provides details regarding the links in the network for both scenarios.

Table 1: Demand for Each O-D Pair

O-D	Low-demand	Medium-demand	High-demand	
1-2	13	25	100	
1-3	10	19	75	
4-2	15	31	125	
4-3	12	25	100	

Table 2: Network Link Characteristics

Link No.	Start Node	End Node	Free Flow Speed	Alpha	Beta	High-Demand Capacity	Capacity Medium- Demand	Capacity Low-Demand
1	1	12	7	0.15	4	75	7	5
2	1	5	9	0.15	4	50	9	4
3	4	5	9	0.15	4	50	9	4
4	4	9	12	0.15	4	50	12	4
5	5	9	3	0.15	4	90	3	6
6	5	6	9	0.15	4	100	9	7
7	9	10	5	0.15	4	125	5	9
8	9	13	13	0.15	4	65	13	4
9	6	7	2	0.15	4	65	2	4
10	12	8	9	0.15	4	75	9	5
11	10	11	9	0.15	4	125	9	9
12	13	3	10	0.15	4	140	10	9
13	12	6	9	0.15	4	50	9	4
14	6	10	6	0.15	4	100	6	7
15	7	11	9	0.15	4	75	9	5
16	7	8	8	0.15	4	75	8	5
17	11	2	7	0.15	4	50	7	4
18	11	3	14	0.15	4	75	14	5
19	8	2	11	0.15	4	50	11	4

Results

Low Demand (50 agents)

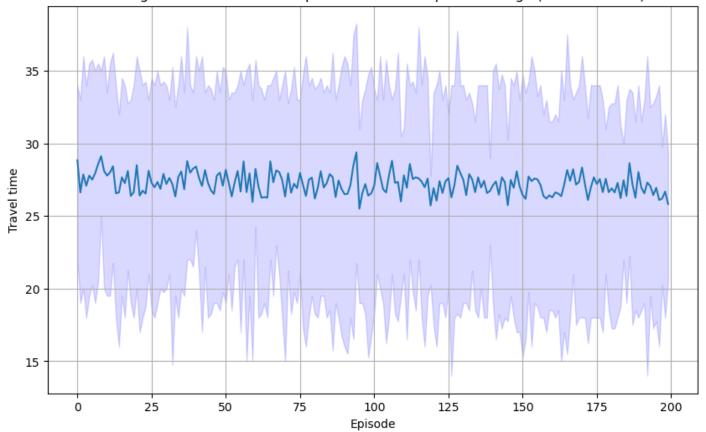
```
In []: # Library
    import pandas as pd
    from matplotlib import pyplot as plt

In []: # Load Travel Time Data
    df = pd.read_csv('travel_times_200.csv', index_col = 0)

In []: # Calculate Stats
    df_stat = pd.DataFrame()
    df_stat['avg'] = df.mean(axis = 1)
    df_stat['std'] = df.std(axis = 1)
    df_stat['md'] = df.median(axis = 1)
```

```
df_stat['min'] = df.min(axis = 1)
df_stat['max'] = df.max(axis = 1)
df_stat['CI'] = df_stat['std'] * 1.96 / len(df.columns)
df_stat['IQR'] = df.quantile(0.75, axis = 1) - df.quantile(0.25, axis = 1)
df_stat['3rdQ'] = df_stat['md'] + df_stat['IQR']
df_stat['1stQ'] = df_stat['md'] - df_stat['IQR']
df_stat['upper'] = df_stat['avg'] + df_stat['CI']
df_stat['lower'] = df_stat['avg'] - df_stat['CI']
# df_stat
```

Average Travel Time Across Episodes with Interquartile Range (Demand = 50)

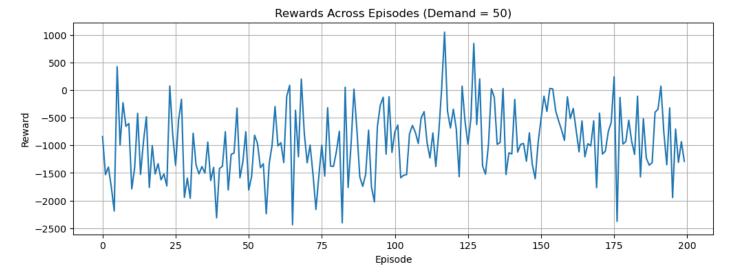


```
In []: # Load Reward Data
    df_r = pd.read_csv('reward_200.csv', index_col = 0)

In []: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12,4))
    x = range(len(df_r))
    ax.plot(x, df r['0'])
```

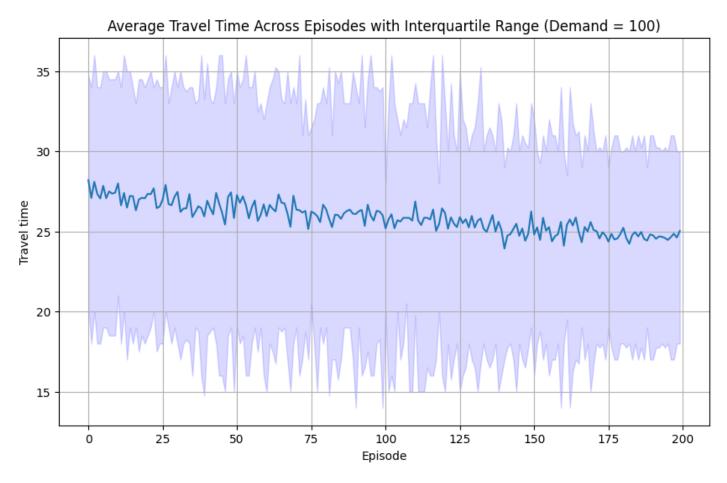
ax.set_title('Rewards Across Episodes (Demand = 50)')

```
ax.grid()
plt.xlabel('Episode')
plt.ylabel('Reward')
plt.savefig('Rewards50.png')
```



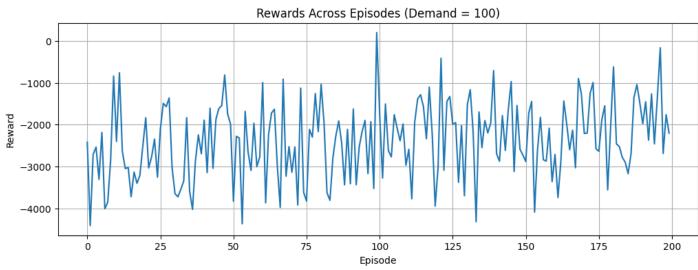
Medium Demand (100 agents)

```
In [ ]: # Load Travel Time Data
        df3 = pd.read_csv('episode_travel_times_3.csv', index_col = 0)
        df = df3
In [ ]: # Calculate Stats
        df_stat = pd.DataFrame()
        df_stat['avg'] = df.mean(axis = 1)
        df_stat['std'] = df.std(axis = 1)
        df_stat['md'] = df.median(axis = 1)
        df_stat['min'] = df.min(axis = 1)
        df_stat['max'] = df.max(axis = 1)
        df_stat['CI'] = df_stat['std'] * 1.96 / len(df.columns)
        df_stat['IQR'] = df_quantile(0.75, axis = 1) - df_quantile(0.25, axis = 1)
        df_stat['3rdQ'] = df_stat['md'] + df_stat['IQR']
        df_stat['1stQ'] = df_stat['md'] - df_stat['IQR']
        df_stat['upper'] = df_stat['avg'] + df_stat['CI']
        df stat['lower'] = df stat['avg'] - df stat['CI']
        # df_stat
In [ ]: # Plot the Figure
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        x = range(len(df))
        ax.plot(x, df_stat['avg'])
        # ax.plot(x, df_stat['md'])
        ax.fill between(
            x, df_stat['1stQ'], df_stat['3rdQ'], color='b', alpha=.15)
        ax.set_title('Average Travel Time Across Episodes with Interquartile Range (Demand = 100)
        ax.grid()
        plt.xlabel('Episode')
        plt.ylabel('Travel time')
        plt.savefig('AvgTT100.png')
```



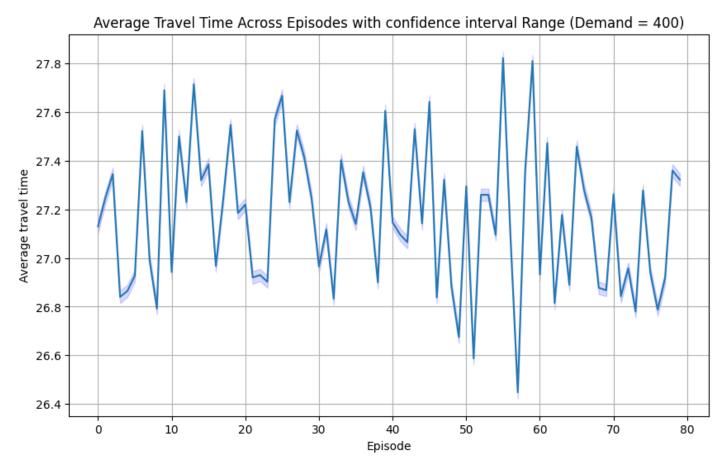
```
In []: # Load Reward Data
    df_r_all = pd.read_csv('reward_scores_3.csv', index_col = 0)
    df_r = df_r_all[300:]

In []: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12,4))
    x = range(len(df_r))
    ax.plot(x, df_r['0'])
    ax.set_title('Rewards Across Episodes (Demand = 100)')
    ax.grid()
    plt.xlabel('Episode')
    plt.ylabel('Reward')
    plt.savefig('Rewards100.png')
```



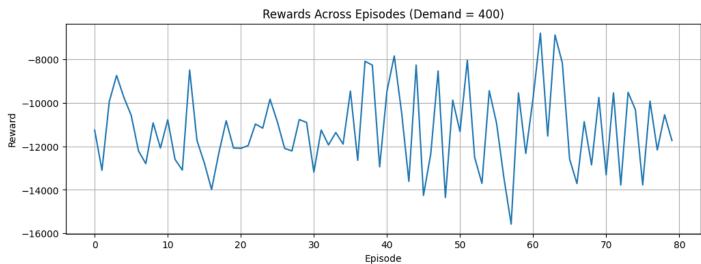
High Demand (400 agents)

```
In [ ]: import pandas as pd
        from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
In [ ]: | df1 = pd.read_csv('travel_times_50.csv', index_col = 0)
        df2 = pd.read_csv('travel_times_80.csv', index_col = 0)
        df = pd.concat([df1, df2], ignore_index=True)
In [ ]: df stat = pd.DataFrame()
        df_stat['avg'] = df.mean(axis = 1)
        df_stat['std'] = df.std(axis = 1)
        df stat['md'] = df.median(axis = 1)
        df stat['min'] = df.min(axis = 1)
        df_stat['max'] = df.max(axis = 1)
        df_stat['CI'] = df_stat['std'] * 1.96 / len(df.columns)
        df_stat['IQR'] = df_quantile(0.75, axis = 1) - df_quantile(0.25, axis = 1)
        df_stat['3rdQ'] = df_stat['md'] + df_stat['IQR']
        df_stat['1stQ'] = df_stat['md'] - df_stat['IQR']
        df stat['upper'] = df stat['avg'] + df stat['CI']
        df_stat['lower'] = df_stat['avg'] - df_stat['CI']
        # df_stat
In []: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
        x = range(len(df))
        ax.plot(x, df_stat['avg'])
        # ax.plot(x, df_stat['md'])
        ax.fill between(
            x, df_stat['lower'], df_stat['upper'], color='b', alpha=.15)
        ax.set_title('Average Travel Time Across Episodes with confidence interval Range (Demand
        ax.grid()
        plt.xlabel('Episode')
        plt.ylabel('Average travel time')
        plt.savefig('AvgTT400.png')
```



```
In []: df_r = pd.read_csv('reward_80.csv')

In []: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12,4))
    x = range(len(df_r))
    ax.plot(x, df_r['0'])
    ax.set_title('Rewards Across Episodes (Demand = 400)')
    ax.grid()
    plt.xlabel('Episode')
    plt.ylabel('Reward')
    plt.savefig('Rewards400.png')
```



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