

Robot Learning

Imitation learning

Inverse reinforcement learning

Last time...

$$\begin{aligned} &\underset{\pi}{\text{maximize}} && \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t R(s_t, a_t) \right] \\ &\text{subject to} && s_t = f(s_t, a_t, w_t) \\ & && a_t = \pi(s_t) \end{aligned}$$

✦ Reinforcement Learning ✦

Model-based

Model-free

Approximate DP
Direct Policy Search

Last time...

$$\begin{aligned} &\underset{\pi}{\text{maximize}} && \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{w}} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t R(s_t, a_t) \right] \\ &\text{subject to} && s_t = f(s_t, a_t, w_t) \\ &&& a_t = \pi(s_t) \end{aligned}$$

Where does this come from?

This is the world model.

This is our optimization variable.

Sometimes it is given...

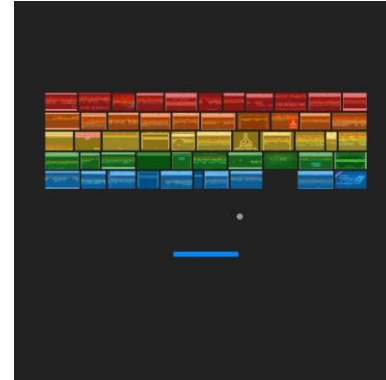
Goal: Achieve a high score in the Atari game “Breakout”

States: Image of the current screen (?)

Actions: Left and right actions



Reward: Change in the score of the game



Sometimes we (try to) design it...

What is a good reward function for an autonomous car?

Proposal:

- Negative reward for crashing
- Positive reward for high speed
- Negative reward for too high speed





Sometimes we (try to) design it...

What is a good reward function for a robot vacuum?

Proposal:

- Positive for vacuuming dirt



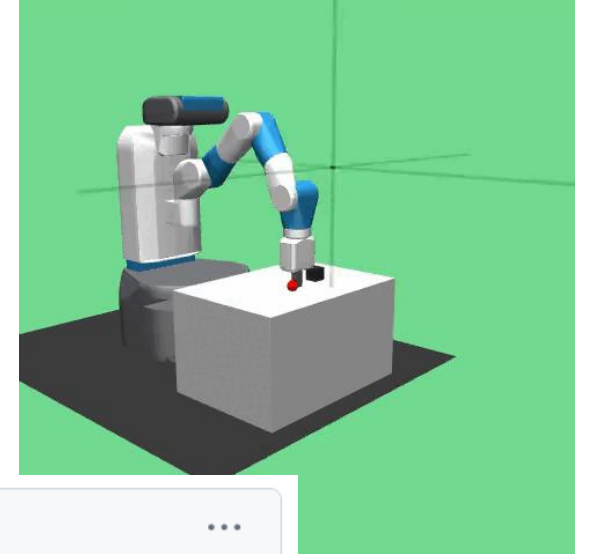
preceding section. We might propose to measure performance by the amount of dirt cleaned up in a single eight-hour shift. With a rational agent, of course, what you ask for is what you get. A rational agent can maximize this performance measure by cleaning up the dirt, then dumping it all on the floor, then cleaning it up again, and so on.

Sometimes we (try to) design it...

What is a good reward function for *FetchPush*?

Proposal:

- Negative for error distance



ghost commented on Mar 1, 2018 • edited by ghost ▾

When I am training HER on FetchPush-v0 the agent sometimes learns to push the big block to achieve it's goal. If you could make it unmovable then the agent would at least not learn such behaviours to achieve the task.



matthiasplappert commented on Mar 22, 2018

Contributor ...

Especially in the FetchSlide task, Fetch sometimes learns to move the table in order to achieve the desired puck position. While entertaining, this is clearly not what Fetch is supposed to do.

Sometimes we (try to) design it...

Goal: Make an RC helicopter fly and perform some maneuvers

States: Sensory input of the helicopter

Actions: Control inputs



Reward: Positive for the maneuvers, negative for crashing

Not that easy!

Goal: Make an RC helicopter fly and perform some maneuvers

States: Sensory input of the helicopter

Actions: Control inputs



Reward: Positive for the maneuvers, negative for crashing

This is a very naïve reward function. They instead learned the reward from expert demonstrations.

Today...

- Imitation learning
- Inverse reinforcement learning (IRL)

Imitation learning vs. IRL

People sometimes use them interchangeably.
We will use the most common definitions.

Given some expert data $(s_0, a_0, s_1, a_1, \dots)$, ...

Imitation learning

directly learns a policy that imitates the expert.

simple, not ambiguous, fast

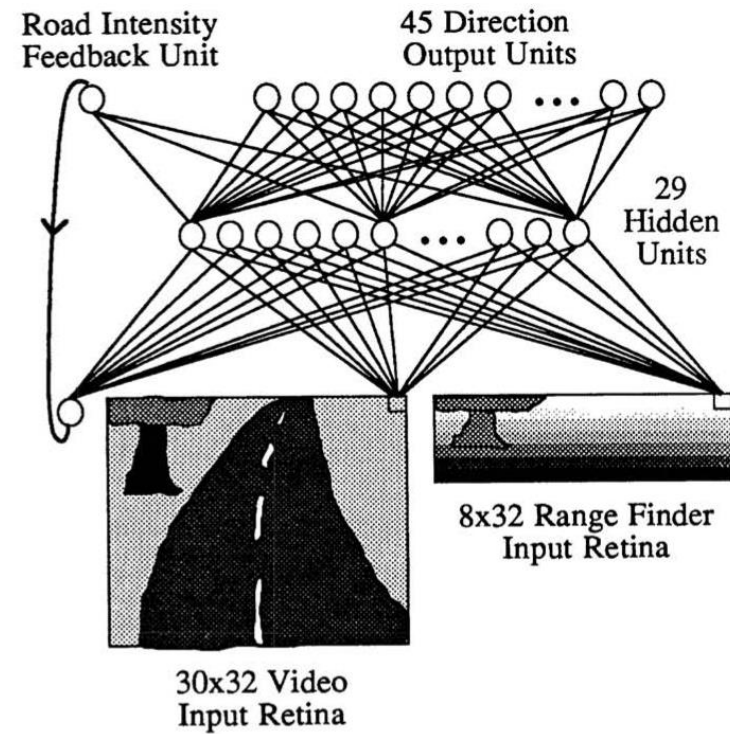
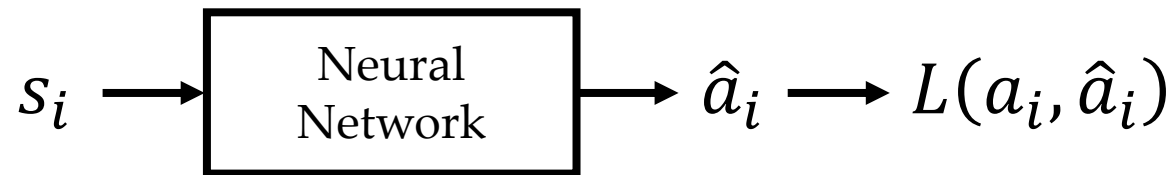
Inverse reinforcement learning

learns a reward function which, when optimized, performs the task.

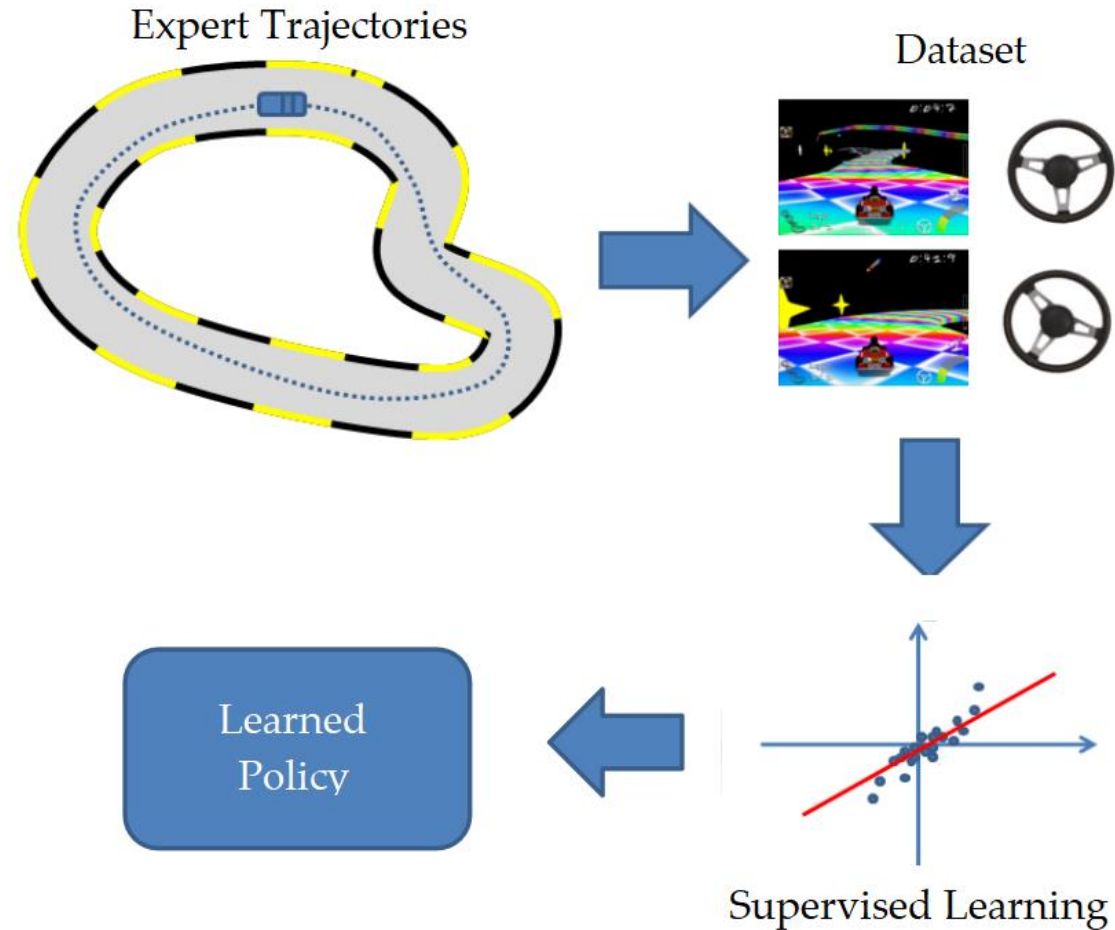
interpretable, generalizable

Behavioral cloning

Train a neural network to map states into expert actions.



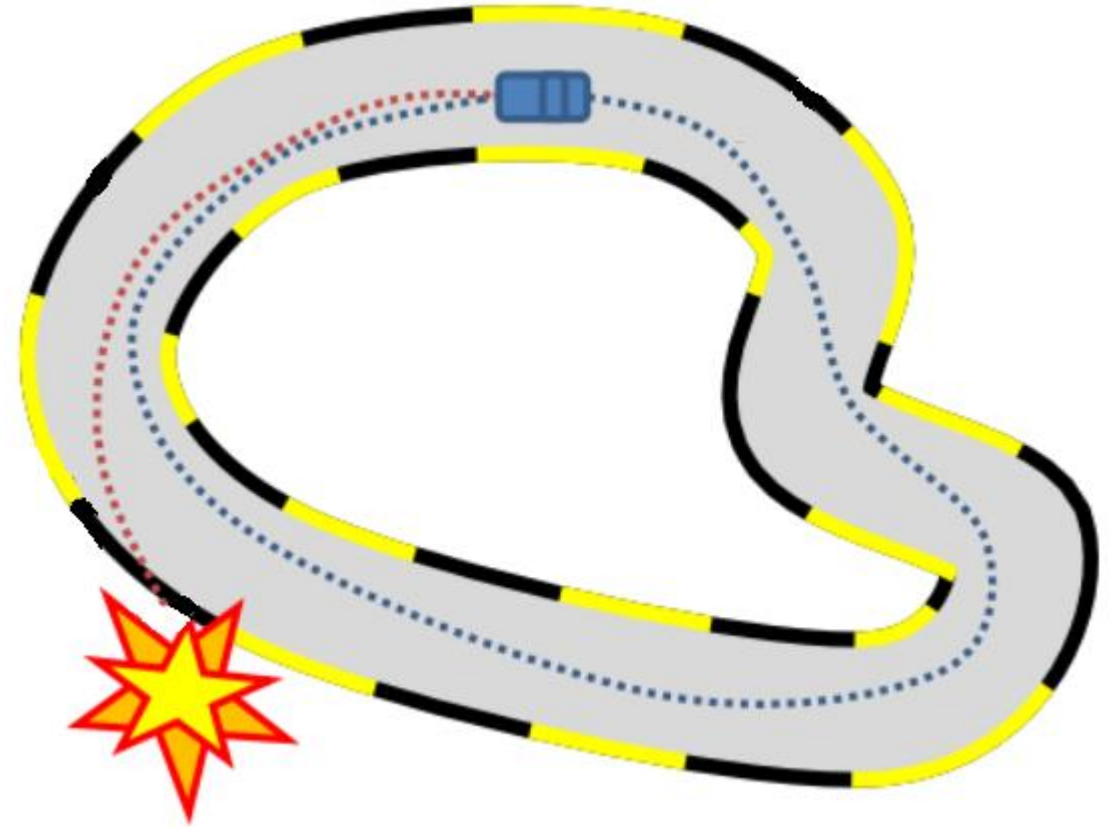
Behavioral cloning



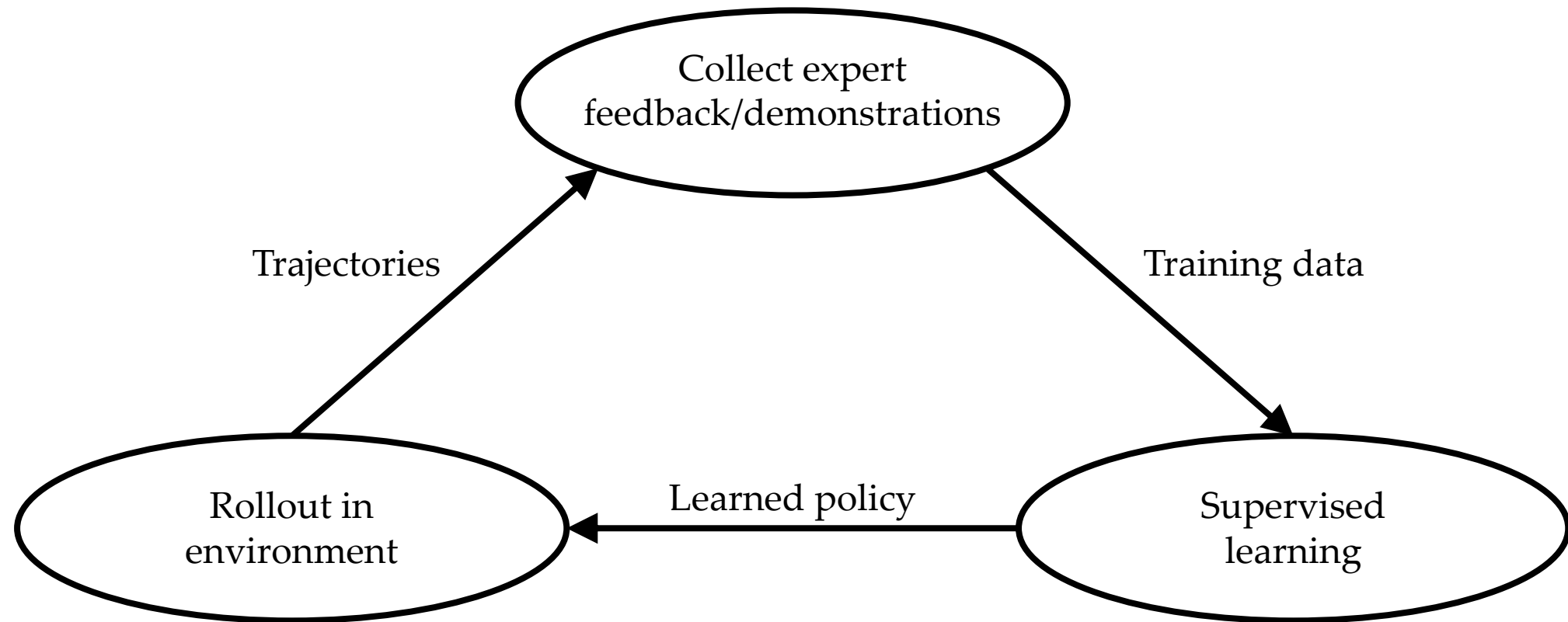
Compounding errors

Small errors in the actions taken will slightly deviate the trajectory from the expert.

These new states will lead to larger errors.



Direct policy learning



Direct policy learning


More on this next week!

- Ross et al., [A Reduction of Imitation Learning and Structured Prediction to No-Regret Online Learning](#) (2011).
- Ho and Ermon, [Generative Adversarial Imitation Learning](#) (2016).
- Florence et al., [Implicit Behavioral Cloning](#) (2021).

Today...

- Imitation learning
- Inverse reinforcement learning (IRL)

Inverse reinforcement learning (IRL)

- 
- Kalman, 1964: Inverse optimal control for 1D problems
 - Boyd et al., 1994: Linear matrix inequality (LMI) for LQ setting
 - Ng, Russel, 2000: First MDP formulation and reward ambiguity
 - Abbeel, Ng, 2004: Apprenticeship learning (feature matching)
 - Ratliff et al., 2006: Max margin planning (MMP)
 - Ziebart et al., 2008: Max-Ent IRL

Today...

- Imitation learning
- Inverse reinforcement learning (IRL)
 - Apprenticeship learning
 - Maximum margin planning
 - Max-Ent IRL

General IRL formulation

We assume a feature function ϕ such that $R(s, a) = w^\top \phi(s, a)$.

We only need to learn w .

$$\begin{aligned} V^\pi(s) &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t \geq 0} \gamma^t R(s_t, \pi(s_t)) \mid s_0 = s \right] \\ &= w^\top \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t \geq 0} \gamma^t \phi(s_t, \pi(s_t)) \mid s_0 = s \right] \\ &= w^\top \phi(\pi, s) \end{aligned}$$

General IRL formulation

We know, for any policy π and $s \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$V^{\pi^*}(s) \geq V^{\pi}(s)$$

which we now write as

$$w^{\top} \phi(\pi^*, s) \geq w^{\top} \phi(\pi, s)$$

This is the only condition w must satisfy.

We just solved IRL: it turns out $w = 0$, yay! 🐝

Reward ambiguity

$$w^\top \phi(\pi^*, s) \geq w^\top \phi(\pi, s)$$

More generally, if a w^* satisfies this condition, cw^* will also satisfy for any $c \geq 0$.

Note: Reward ambiguity is not just this. Many w vectors satisfy the condition even if we constrain $\|w\|_2$ to a constant.

Apprenticeship learning

This is how the helicopter flew!

An attempt to alleviate reward ambiguity. First, assume $\|w\|_2 \leq 1$.

Observation:

$$\|\phi(\pi^*, s) - \phi(\pi, s)\|_2 \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow |w^\top \phi(\pi^*, s) - w^\top \phi(\pi, s)| \leq \epsilon$$

Even if we cannot find the true w^* , we will get expert-level performance if we match the features.

Apprenticeship learning

In most cases, only a subset of the state space can be initial states.

This means we need to match $\phi(\pi^*, s)$ only at $s_0 \sim P(s_0)$:

$$\phi(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{s_0} \left[\sum_{t \geq 0} \gamma^t \phi(s_t, \pi(s_t)) \right]$$

Apprenticeship learning

We iteratively improve the learned w and policy.

Compute the optimal features $\phi(\pi^*)$

Initialize a policy π_0

Loop $i = 0, 1, \dots$:

Find w_i that best separates π^* from π_i

Assuming w_i is true weights, learn π_{i+1} optimizing the reward

Apprenticeship learning

Compute $\phi(\pi^*)$ using expert data

Initialize a policy π_0

for $i = 0, 1, \dots$ **do:**

$$w_i, t_i = \arg \max_{w, t} t$$

$$\text{subject to } w^\top \phi(\pi^*) \geq w^\top \phi(\pi_j) + t, \forall j \in \{0, 1, \dots, i\}$$

$$\|w\|_2 \leq 1$$

if $t_i \leq \epsilon$ **then: return** the best feature-matching policy from $\{\pi_0, \pi_1, \dots, \pi_i\}$

else: $\pi_{i+1} \leftarrow \arg \max_{\pi} w_i^\top \phi(\pi)$  We are solving an RL problem in each iteration!

Apprenticeship learning

Compute $\phi(\pi^*)$ using expert data

Initialize a policy π_0

for $i = 0, 1, \dots$ **do:**

What if the expert is suboptimal?

$$w_i, t_i = \arg \max_{w, t} t$$

$$\text{subject to } w^\top \phi(\pi^*) \geq w^\top \phi(\pi_j) + t, \forall j \in \{0, 1, \dots, i\}$$

$$\|w\|_2 \leq 1$$

if $t_i \leq \epsilon$ **then: return** the best feature-matching policy from $\{\pi_0, \pi_1, \dots, \pi_i\}$

else: $\pi_{i+1} \leftarrow \arg \max_{\pi} w_i^\top \phi(\pi)$

Today...

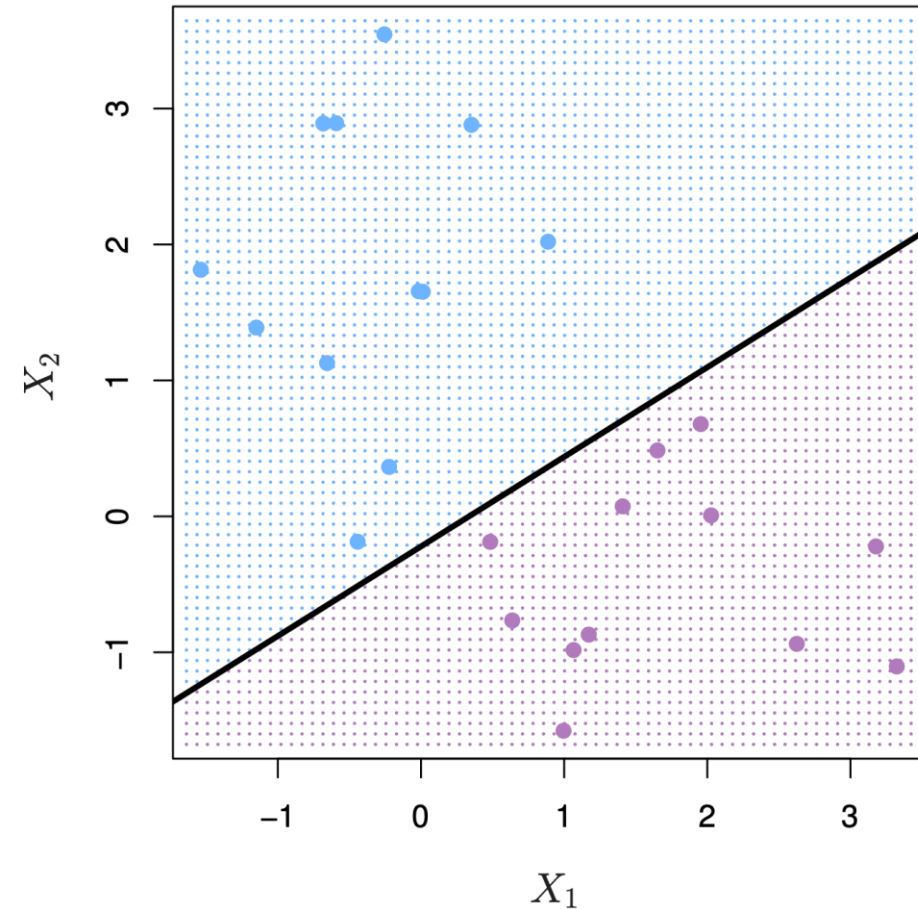
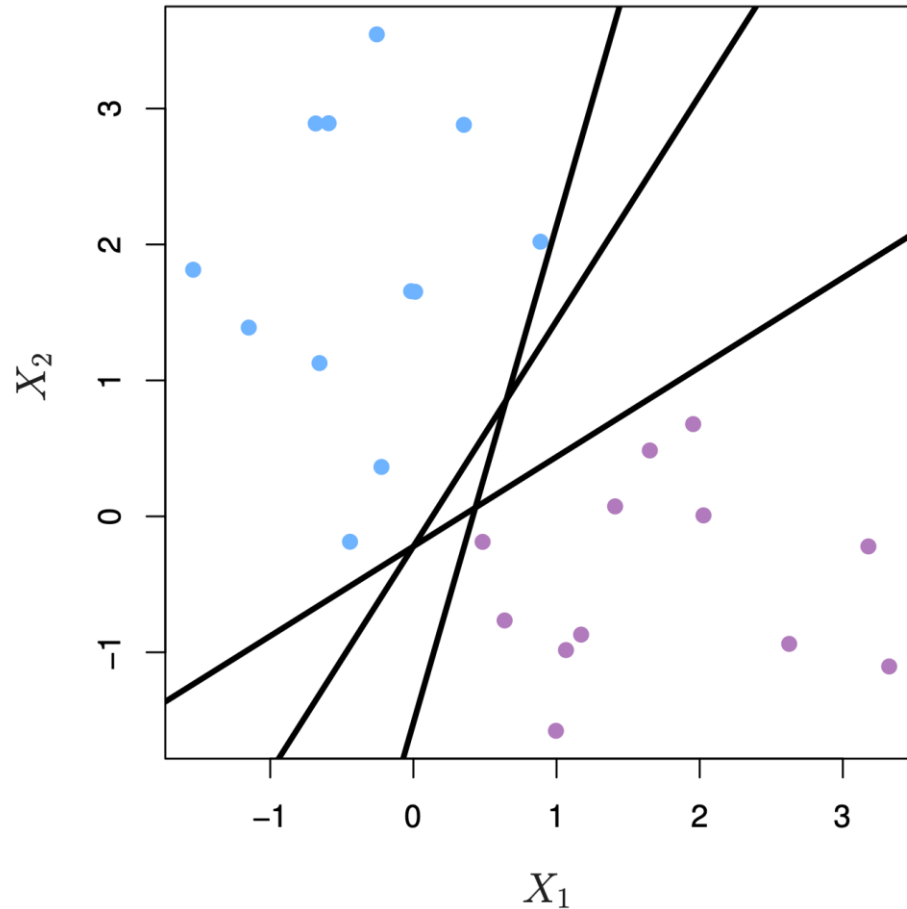
- Imitation learning
- Inverse reinforcement learning (IRL)
 - Apprenticeship learning
 - Maximum margin planning
 - Max-Ent IRL

Maximum margin planning (MMP)

MMP has a similar formulation, but helps with suboptimal experts.

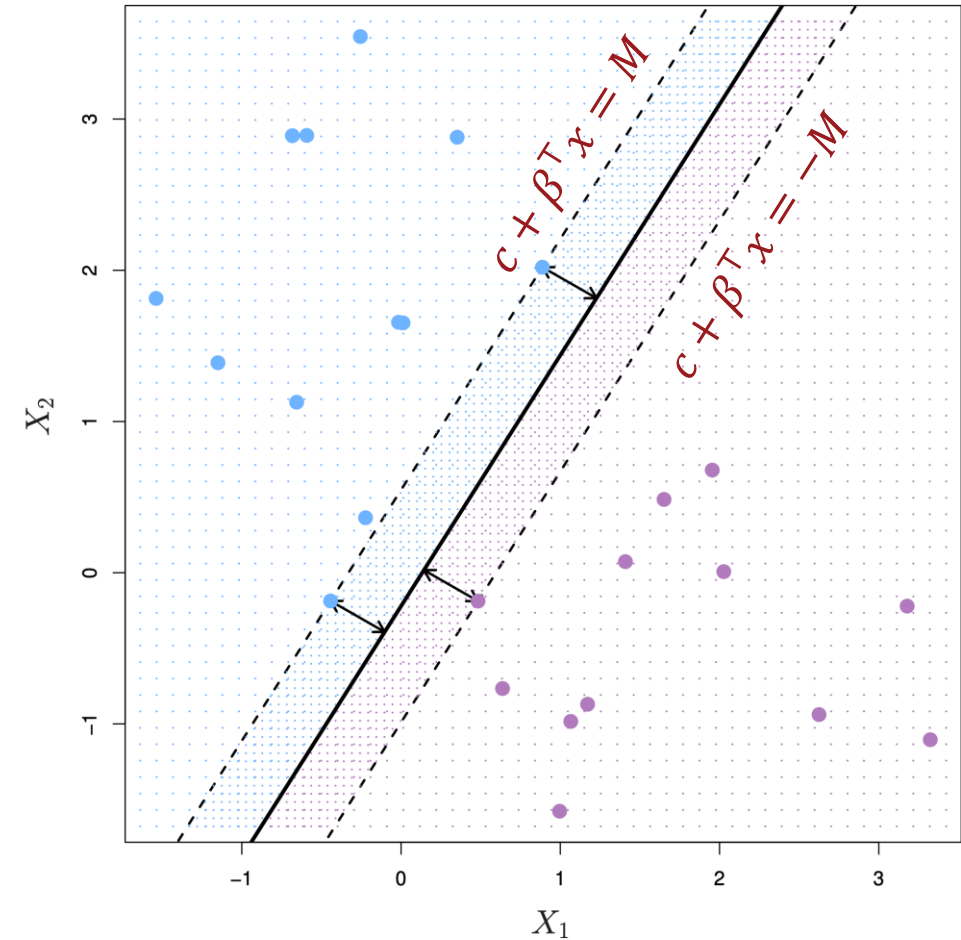
First let's go over *maximal margin classifiers*.

Maximal margin classifiers



Maximal margin classifiers

WLOG, assume the separating hyperplane has distance M to the closest points.



Maximal margin classifiers

WLOG, assume the separating hyperplane has distance M to the closest points.

maximize M
 β, c

subject to $\|\beta\|_2 \leq 1$

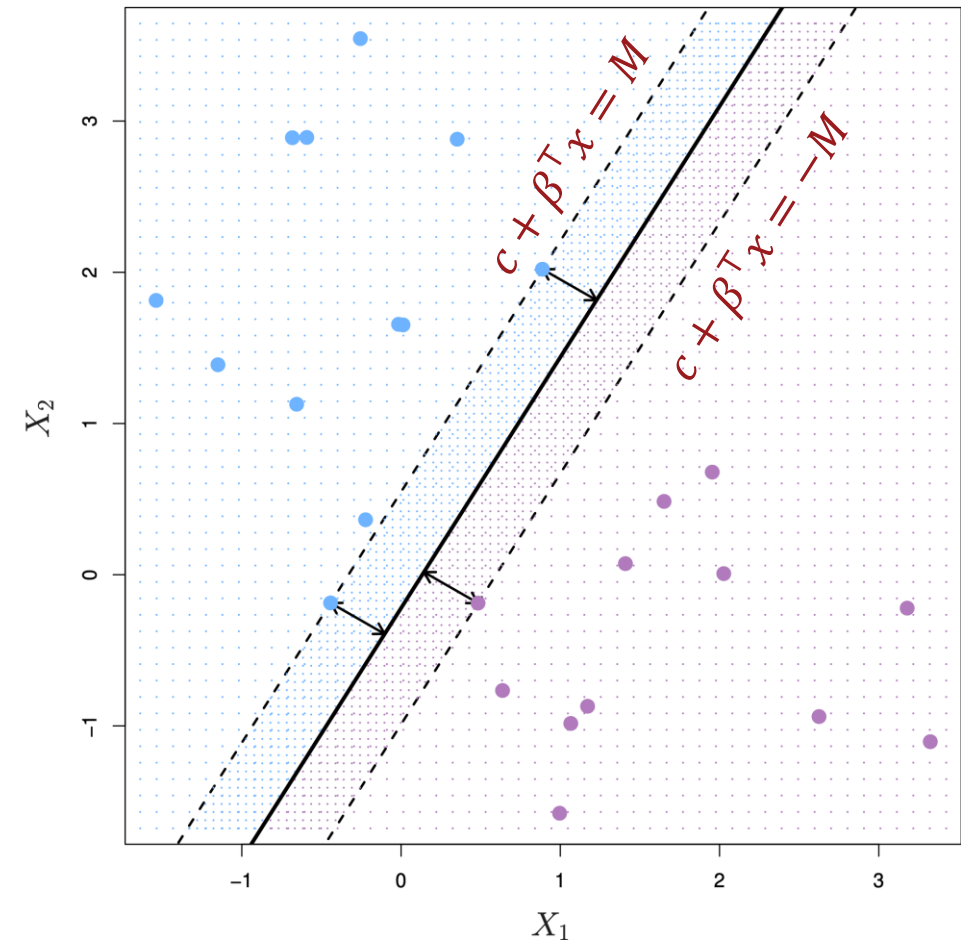
Is it possible that the optimal β has $\|\beta\|_2 < 1$?

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(i)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq M$$

for all positive samples i

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(j)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -M$$

for all negative samples j



Maximal margin classifiers

WLOG, assume the separating hyperplane has distance M to the closest points.

maximize M
 β, c

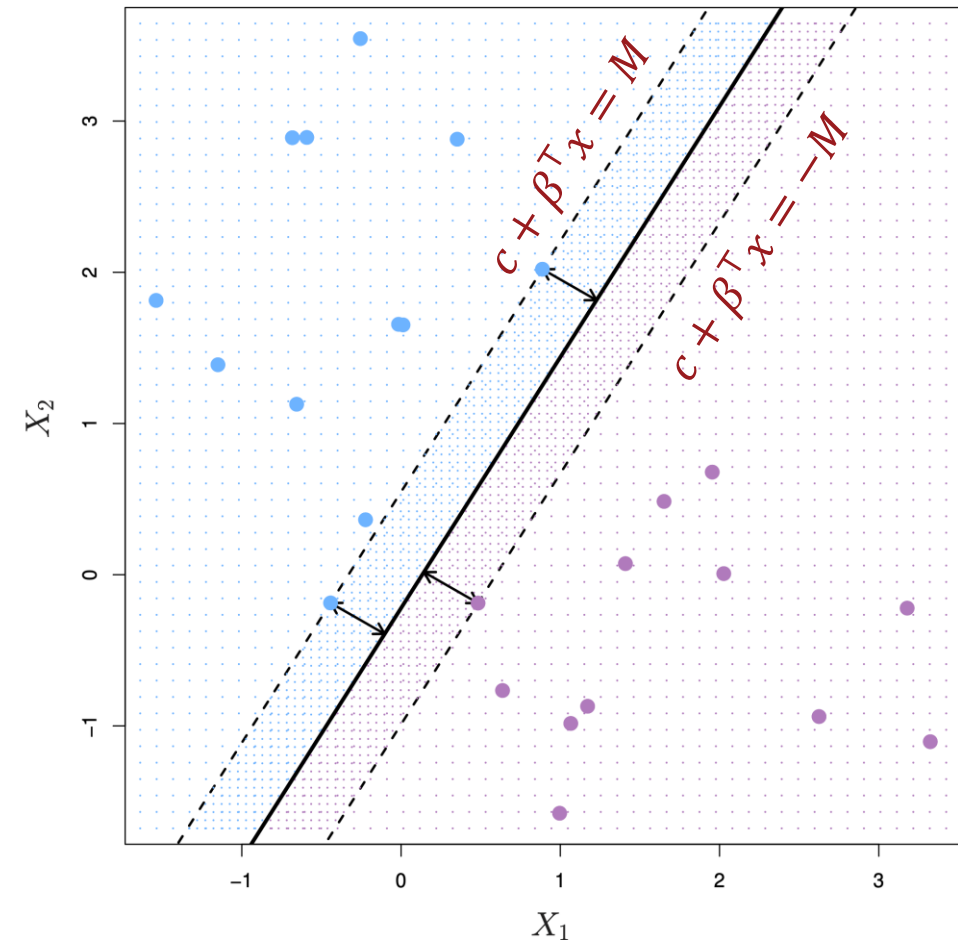
subject to $\|\beta\|_2 = 1$

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(i)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq M$$

for all positive samples i

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(j)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -M$$

for all negative samples j



Maximal margin classifiers

WLOG, assume the separating hyperplane has distance M to the closest points.

maximize M
 β, c

subject to $\|\beta\|_2 = 1$

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(i)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq M$$

for all positive samples i

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(j)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -M$$

for all negative samples j

Let $w = [\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots]/2M$

Note $\|w\|_2 = \frac{\|\beta\|_2}{2M} = \frac{1}{2M}$

Maximal margin classifiers

$$\underset{w, c}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2$$

$$\text{subject to } \|\beta\|_2 = 1$$

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(i)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq M$$

for all positive samples i

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(j)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -M$$

for all negative samples j

$$\text{Let } w = [\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots] / 2M$$

$$\text{Note } \|w\|_2 = \frac{\|\beta\|_2}{2M} = \frac{1}{2M}$$

Maximal margin classifiers

$$\underset{w, c}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2$$

$$\text{subject to } \|w\|_2 = 1/2M$$

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(i)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq M$$

for all positive samples i

$$c + \beta_1 x_1^{(j)} + \beta_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -M$$

for all negative samples j

$$\text{Let } w = [\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots] / 2M$$

$$\text{Note } \|w\|_2 = \frac{\|\beta\|_2}{2M} = \frac{1}{2M}$$

Maximal margin classifiers

$$\underset{w, c}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2$$

$$\text{subject to } \|w\|_2 = 1/2M$$

$$c/2M + w_1 x_1^{(i)} + w_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq 1/2$$

for all positive samples i

$$c/2M + w_1 x_1^{(j)} + w_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -1/2$$

for all negative samples j

$$\text{Let } w = [\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots]/2M$$

$$\text{Note } \|w\|_2 = \frac{\|\beta\|_2}{2M} = \frac{1}{2M}$$

Maximal margin classifiers

minimize $\|w\|_2$
 w, c

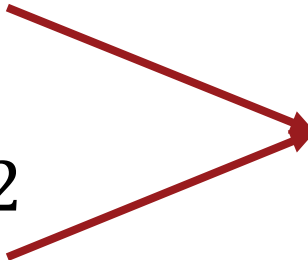
subject to

$$c\|w\|_2 + w_1 x_1^{(i)} + w_2 x_2^{(i)} + \dots \geq 1/2$$

for all positive samples i

$$c\|w\|_2 + w_1 x_1^{(j)} + w_2 x_2^{(j)} + \dots \leq -1/2$$

for all negative samples j



These constraints just mean
 $w^\top x^{(i)} - w^\top x^{(j)} \geq 1$
for all positive samples i
and negative samples j .

Maximal margin classifiers

minimize $\|w\|_2$
 w, c

subject to $w^\top x^{(i)} - w^\top x^{(j)} \geq 1$

for all positive samples i and negative samples j

Maximal margin classifiers

minimize $\|w\|_2$
 w

subject to $w^\top x^{(i)} - w^\top x^{(j)} \geq 1$

for all positive samples i and negative samples j

Back to MMP

If the expert is optimal, there exists a separating hyperplane $w^\top \phi = c$ such that $w^\top \phi(\pi^*) \geq c$ and $w^\top \phi(\pi) \leq c$ for all $\pi \neq \pi^*$.

So we can use a *maximal marginal classifier* with only one positive sample!

$$\underset{w}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad w^\top \phi(\pi^*) - w^\top \phi(\pi) \geq 1 \quad \text{for all } \pi \neq \pi^*$$

Maximum margin planning (MMP)

Let's allow the expert to be suboptimal by adding a slack variable.

$$\underset{w, v}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2 + Cv$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad w^\top \phi(\pi^*) - w^\top \phi(\pi) \geq 1 - v \quad \text{for all } \pi \neq \pi^*$$

Maximum margin planning (MMP)

Let's allow the expert to be suboptimal by adding a slack variable.

We could also be more tolerant to the policies that are similar to π^* .

$$\underset{w, v}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|_2 + Cv$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad w^\top \phi(\pi^*) - w^\top \phi(\pi) \geq 1 - v + d(\pi^*, \pi) \quad \text{for all } \pi \neq \pi^*$$

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Max-Ent IRL

Assumption: Experts are noisily optimal, i.e., the probability that they demonstrate trajectory ξ is:

$$P(\xi \mid w) = \frac{\exp(w^\top \phi(\xi))}{\int \exp(w^\top \phi(\xi')) d\xi'}$$

where $\phi(\xi)$ is the cumulative discounted features of trajectory ξ .

Max-Ent IRL

Key insight: Find a probability distribution P^* over trajectories such that the feature expectation matches the expert features, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim P^*(\xi)}[\phi(\xi)] = \phi(\pi^*)$$

But which distribution?


Principle of maximum entropy

When estimating the probability distribution, you should select that distribution which leaves you *the largest remaining uncertainty* consistent with your constraints. That way you have not introduced any additional assumptions or biases.

Max-Ent IRL

$$\begin{aligned} \max_P \quad & - \int P(\xi) \log P(\xi) d\xi \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \int P(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi = \phi(\pi^*) \\ & \int P(\xi) d\xi = 1 \\ & P(\xi) \geq 0, \quad \forall \xi \end{aligned}$$

Ignore the inequality constraints for now. Later, we will show the solution already satisfies them.



Max-Ent IRL

$$\begin{aligned} \max_P \quad & - \int P(\xi) \log P(\xi) d\xi \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \int P(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi = \phi(\pi^*) \\ & \int P(\xi) d\xi = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Write the Lagrangian using multipliers λ and ν :

$$L(P, \lambda, \nu) = - \int P(\xi) \log P(\xi) d\xi + \lambda^\top \left(\int P(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi - \phi(\pi^*) \right) + \nu \left(\int P(\xi) d\xi - 1 \right)$$

We now need to solve $\min_{\lambda, \nu} \max_P L(P, \lambda, \nu)$.

Solve for P^*

$$L(P, \lambda, \nu) = -\int P(\xi) \log P(\xi) d\xi + \lambda^\top \left(\int P(\xi) \phi(\xi) d\xi - \phi(\pi^*) \right) + \nu \left(\int P(\xi) d\xi - 1 \right)$$

$$L(P, \lambda, \nu) = \int \underbrace{\left(-P(\xi) \log P(\xi) + \lambda^\top P(\xi) \phi(\xi) + \nu P(\xi) \right)}_{F(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi))} d\xi - \underbrace{\lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) + \nu}_{\text{doesn't depend on } P}$$

$$F(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi))$$

doesn't depend on P

Euler-Lagrange Equation

P is a local optimum of $\int F(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi)) d\xi$ if and only if:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial P}(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi)) = \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial \dot{P}}(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi)) \right)$$

This is zero!

Solve for P^*

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial P}(\xi, P(\xi), \dot{P}(\xi)) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial P}(-P(\xi) \log P(\xi) + \lambda^\top P(\xi) \phi(\xi) + \nu P(\xi)) = 0$$

$$\log P^*(\xi) = -1 + \lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu$$

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1}$$

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1}$$

Back to Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L(P^*, \lambda, \nu) &= \int \left(-P^*(\xi) \log P^*(\xi) + \lambda^\top P^*(\xi) \phi(\xi) + \nu P^*(\xi) \right) d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) - \nu \\ &= \int \left(-e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1} (\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1) + \lambda^\top e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1} \phi(\xi) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \nu e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1} \right) d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) - \nu \\ &= \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1} d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) - \nu \end{aligned}$$

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1}$$

Solve for ν^*

Having solved for P^* , we now need to solve $\min_{\lambda, \nu} L(P^*, \lambda, \nu)$.

$$L(P^*, \lambda, \nu) = \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1} d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) - \nu$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \nu}(P^*, \lambda, \nu) = 0 \Rightarrow e^\nu \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi - 1 = 0$$

$$e^{-\nu} = \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

$$\nu^* = -\log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

Back to P^*

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1}$$
$$\nu^* = -\log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu^* - 1}$$

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi - 1}$$

$$P^*(\xi) = \frac{e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)}}{e^{\log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi + 1}}$$

$$P^*(\xi) = \frac{e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)}}{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)} d\xi}$$

Remember this?
It turns out $w^* = \lambda^*$.

Back to Lagrangian

$$P^*(\xi) = e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu - 1}$$
$$\nu^* = -\log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

$$L(P^*, \lambda, \nu^*) = \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) + \nu^* - 1} d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) - \nu^*$$

$$L(P^*, \lambda, \nu^*) = \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi') - 1} d\xi' - 1} d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) + \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

$$L(P^*, \lambda, \nu^*) = \int \frac{e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)}}{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi')} d\xi'} d\xi - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) + \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

$$L(P^*, \lambda, \nu^*) = 1 - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) + \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi$$

Solve for $\lambda^* = w^*$

We want to minimize $L(P^*, \lambda, v^*)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dL}{d\lambda}(P^*, \lambda, v^*) &= \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left(1 - \lambda^\top \phi(\pi^*) + \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\lambda} \log \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi - \phi(\pi^*) \\ &= \frac{\frac{d}{d\lambda} \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi}{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi} - \phi(\pi^*)\end{aligned}$$

Solve for $\lambda^* = w^*$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dL}{d\lambda}(P^*, \lambda, v^*) &= \frac{\frac{d}{d\lambda} \int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi}{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi) - 1} d\xi} - \phi(\pi^*) \\ &= \frac{\int \frac{d}{d\lambda} e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)} d\xi}{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)} d\xi} - \phi(\pi^*) \\ &= \frac{\int \phi(\xi) \boxed{e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)}} d\xi}{\boxed{\int e^{\lambda^\top \phi(\xi)} d\xi}} - \phi(\pi^*)\end{aligned}$$

This is just $P(\xi | w)$

Solve for $\lambda^* = w^*$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dL}{dw}(P^*, w, v^*) &= \int \phi(\xi) P(\xi | w) d\xi - \phi(\pi^*) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim P(\xi | w)}[\phi(\xi)] - \phi(\pi^*)\end{aligned}$$

This gives an algorithm:

1. Initialize w
2. Perform RL to learn a policy that optimizes the reward with w
3. Roll out the learned policy to compute:
$$w \leftarrow w - \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim P(\xi | w)}[\phi(\xi)] - \phi(\pi^*)$$
4. Repeat from step 2

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Next time...

- Learning from human feedback
 - Suboptimal demonstrations
 - Pairwise comparisons
 - ...