DLP-Lab6

ILE 310553043 You-Pin, Chen

May 22, 2022

1 Introduction

In this assignment, we are asked to implement two deep reinforcement algorithms by solving LunarLander-v2 using deep Q-network (DQN)[2] and LunarLanderContinuous-v2 using deep deterministic policy gradient (DDPG)[1]. DeepMind proposed DQN in 2013 and 2015 which uses a deep network to represent the value function. According to the Q-Learning in reinforcement learning, it provides the target value for the deep network and continuously updates the network until it converges. DQN uses two key technologies, one is a sample pool to break the correlation between samples, and the other is a fixed target network for better training stability and convergence. DQN can cope with high-dimensional input, but is helpless with high-dimensional action output. Subsequently, DDPG, also proposed by DeepMind, can solve situations with high-dimensional or continuous action spaces. It is an Actor-Critic method that combines deep networks. The code is available in github[link].

2 Result

2.1 Plot

2.1.1 LunarLander-v2

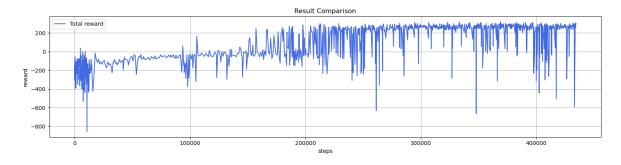


Figure 1: Total reward.



Figure 2: Ewma reward.

2.1.2 LunarLanderContinuous-v2

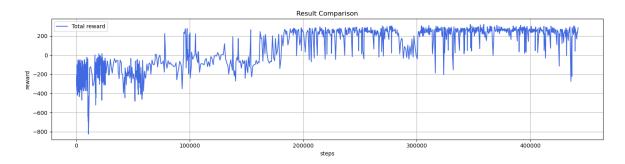


Figure 3: Total reward.



Figure 4: Ewma reward.

2.2 Performance

2.2.1 LunarLander-v2

```
Start Testing
Length: 206
              Total reward: 260.26
Length: 228
              Total reward: 249.40
Length: 245
              Total reward: 274.16
Length: 188
              Total reward: 306.07
Length: 239
              Total reward: 279.27
Length: 218
              Total reward: 308.13
Length: 205
              Total reward: 304.34
Length: 193
              Total reward: 279.80
Length: 254
              Total reward: 290.89
Length: 211
              Total reward: 253.31
Average Reward 280.561535729407
```

2.2.2 LunarLanderContinuous-v2

```
Length: 162 Total reward: 290.61
Length: 212 Total reward: 285.03
Length: 161 Total reward: 268.01
Average Reward 282.66754364019397
```

3 Implementation

3.1 Major implementation of Both algorithms in detail

3.1.1 Net (DQN)

This neural network is the place where DQN update the status of target value. The input is eight observations while the output is four actions. For our network architecture, we reimplemented the structure which provided by TA in the lab document as baseline. It contains input and output layer with one hidden layer. The dimension of hidden layer is 32 in default which in our experiment it did not perform well, so we changed different dimensions to 256 and got 280.56 reward score.

• Observation

- Horizontal Coordinate
- Vertical Coordinate
- Horizontal Speed
- Vertical Speed
- Angle
- Angle Speed
- If first leg has contact
- If second leg has contact

Action

- No-op
- Fire left engine
- Fire main engine
- Fire right engine

```
class Net(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, state_dim=8, action_dim=4, hidden_dim=256):
        super().__init__()
    ## TODO ##
    self.network = nn.Sequential(
        nn.Linear(state_dim, hidden_dim),
        nn.ReLU(),
        nn.Linear(hidden_dim, hidden_dim),
        nn.ReLU(),
        nn.Linear(hidden_dim, action_dim))

def forward(self, x):
    ## TODO ##
    out = self.network(x)
    return out
```

3.1.2 Algorithm (DQN)

About DQN algorithm, the optimizer used while training is Adam. The explanation of implemented function shows in below.

- select_action
 - The model will select a unknown action with probability ϵ , otherwise it will select the action by maximum Q-values. For ϵ value, we set 1.0 in default which will decay after warm up steps by another hyperparameter eps_decay . The lower bound of ϵ will be 0.01 till the end of training which we said that the model will focus on exploitation.
- update behavior network
 - This part is the place to update the weights. Since we will first sample transitions $(\phi_j, a_j, r_j, \phi_{j+1})$ from replay memory. The update equation in Eq.3.1.1 while γ is discount factor and \hat{Q} , θ^- is target network and its weights respectively. Then we choose Mean Square Error (MSE) as loss function to perform a gradient descent step on Eq.3.1.2 with respect to the network parameters θ .

$$y_{j} = \begin{cases} r_{j} &, if \ episode \ terminates \ at \ step \ j+1 \\ r_{j} + \gamma \ max_{a'} \hat{Q}(\phi_{j+1}, a', ; \theta') &, otherwise \end{cases}$$
(3.1.1)

$$MSE\ Loss = (y_i - Q(\phi_i, a_i; \theta))^2 \tag{3.1.2}$$

- update target network
 - This function update the target network by copying from behavior network in every C steps.

```
class DQN:
   def __init__(self, args):
       self._behavior_net = Net().to(args.device)
       self._target_net = Net().to(args.device)
       # initialize target network
       self._target_net.load_state_dict(self._behavior_net.state_dict())
       ## TODO ##
       self._optimizer = torch.optim.Adam(self._behavior_net.parameters(), lr=args.lr)
       # memory
       self._memory = ReplayMemory(capacity=args.capacity)
       ## config ##
       self.device = args.device
       self.batch_size = args.batch_size
       self.gamma = args.gamma
       self.freq = args.freq
       self.target_freq = args.target_freq
   def select_action(self, state, epsilon, action_space):
       '''epsilon-greedy based on behavior network'''
        ## TODO ##
       if random.random() < epsilon:</pre>
          return action_space.sample()
       else:
           with torch.no_grad():
              state_tensor = torch.tensor(state, device=self.device).reshape(1, -1)
              actions = self._behavior_net(state_tensor)
              return torch.max(actions, dim=1)[1].item()
```

```
def append(self, state, action, reward, next_state, done):
   self._memory.append(state, [action], [reward / 10], next_state,
                      [int(done)])
def update(self, total_steps):
   if total_steps % self.freq == 0:
       self._update_behavior_network(self.gamma)
   if total_steps % self.target_freq == 0:
       self._update_target_network()
def _update_behavior_network(self, gamma):
   # sample a minibatch of transitions
   state, action, reward, next_state, done = self._memory.sample(
       self.batch_size, self.device)
   ## TODO ##
   q_value = self._behavior_net(state).gather(dim=1, index=action.long())
   with torch.no_grad():
       q_next = self._target_net(next_state)
       \max_{q} = \operatorname{torch.max}(q = 1)[0].\operatorname{reshape}(-1, 1)
       q_target = reward + gamma*max_q_next*(1-done)
   criterion = nn.MSELoss()
   loss = criterion(q_value, q_target)
   # optimize
   self._optimizer.zero_grad()
   loss.backward()
   nn.utils.clip_grad_norm_(self._behavior_net.parameters(), 5)
   self._optimizer.step()
def _update_target_network(self):
    '''update target network by copying from behavior network'''
   ## TODO ##
   self._target_net.load_state_dict(self._behavior_net.state_dict())
def save(self, model_path, checkpoint=False):
   if checkpoint:
       torch.save(
               'behavior_net': self._behavior_net.state_dict(),
               'target_net': self._target_net.state_dict(),
               'optimizer': self._optimizer.state_dict(),
           }, model_path)
   else:
       torch.save({
           'behavior_net': self._behavior_net.state_dict(),
       }, model_path)
def load(self, model_path, checkpoint=False):
   model = torch.load(model_path)
   self._behavior_net.load_state_dict(model['behavior_net'])
   if checkpoint:
       self._target_net.load_state_dict(model['target_net'])
       self._optimizer.load_state_dict(model['optimizer'])
```

3.1.3 Testing (DQN)

Epsilon-greedy strategy is still used while selecting the action during testing. The value of ϵ is set 0.01 while we hope the model will estimate the action value by itself.

```
def test(args, env, agent, writer):
   print('Start Testing')
   action_space = env.action_space
   epsilon = args.test_epsilon
   seeds = (args.seed + i for i in range(10))
   rewards = []
   for n_episode, seed in enumerate(seeds):
       total_reward = 0
       env.seed(seed)
       state = env.reset()
       ## TODO ##
       for t in itertools.count(start=1):
          if args.render:
              env.render()
          action = agent.select_action(state, epsilon, action_space)
          next_state, reward, done, _ = env.step(action)
          state = next_state
          total_reward += reward
          if done:
              writer.add_scalar('Test/Episode Reward', total_reward, n_episode)
              print(f'Length: {t:3d}\tTotal reward: {total_reward:.2f}')
              rewards.append(total_reward)
              break
   print('Average Reward', np.mean(rewards))
   env.close()
```

3.1.4 Replay Memory (DDPG)

Replay Memory is the place to store transition, and then DDPG will sample randomly while selecting action based on the actor network and exploration noise. The implementation is similar with the same part in DQN.

```
class ReplayMemory:
    __slots__ = ['buffer']

def __init__(self, capacity):
    self.buffer = deque(maxlen=capacity)

def __len__(self):
    return len(self.buffer)

def append(self, *transition):
    # (state, action, reward, next_state, done)
    self.buffer.append(tuple(map(tuple, transition)))

def sample(self, batch_size, device):
    '''sample a batch of transition tensors'''
    ## TODO ##
    transitions = random.sample(self.buffer, batch_size)
    return (torch.tensor(x, dtype=torch.float, device=device) for x in zip(*transitions))
```

3.1.5 ActorNet (DDPG)

The Actor output is a deterministic action, and the network that generates this deterministic action is defined as $a = \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})$. In the past, the policy gradient adopted a random strategy, and each acquisition action required sampling the distribution of the current optimal strategy, while DDPG adopted a deterministic strategy, which was directly determined by the function μ . Actor's estimation network is $a = \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})$, θ is the parameter of the neural network, and this estimation network is used to output real-time actions. In addition, Actor has a target network with the same structure but different parameters, which is used to update the value network Critic. Both networks are output actions action. The structure is referenced by the document provided by TA.

3.1.6 CriticNet (DDPG)

Its role is to fit the value function $Q(s, a|\theta^Q)$. There is also an estimation network and a target network. Both networks output the value Q-values of the current state at the output, and differ at the input. The target network input of Critic has two parameters, which are the observation value of the current state and the action output of the Actor's target network. The input of the Critic estimation network is the action action of the current Actor's estimation network output. The target network is used to calculate Q_{target} .

```
class CriticNet(nn.Module):
   def __init__(self, state_dim=8, action_dim=2, hidden_dim=(400, 300)):
       super().__init__()
       h1, h2 = hidden_dim
       self.critic_head = nn.Sequential(
          nn.Linear(state_dim + action_dim, h1),
          nn.ReLU(),
       )
       self.critic = nn.Sequential(
          nn.Linear(h1, h2),
          nn.ReLU(),
          nn.Linear(h2, 1),
       )
   def forward(self, x, action):
       x = self.critic_head(torch.cat([x, action], dim=1))
       return self.critic(x)
```

3.1.7 Algorithm (DDPG)

The optimizer used in DDPG is same with DQN which is Adam. The explanation of implemented function shows in below.

- select_action
 - Compare to epislon-greedy strategy used in DQN, DDPG algorithm will combine the output of ActorNet with N_t according to the current policy and exploration noise. The noise will only be added in training process while we directly choose the output of ActorNet as next action in testing process.
- _update_behavior_network
 - This part is the place to update the weights. Since we will first sample transitions (s_i, a_i, r_i, s_{i+1}) from replay memory same as DQN. We will calculate the target value in every sample while updating behavior critic network. The update equation is in Eq.3.1.5 while γ is discount factor and Q', $\theta^{Q'}$ is target critic network and its weights respectively. Then we choose Mean Square Error (MSE) as loss function to perform a gradient descent step on Eq.3.1.4 with respect to the network parameters θ . Since our goal is to emphasize the ability of actor network in deciding, we estimated the value with the status between behavior actor network and behavior critic network while updating the behavior actor network.

$$y_i = r_i + \gamma Q'(s_{t+1}, \mu'(s_{t+1}|\theta^{\mu'})|\theta^{Q'})$$
(3.1.3)

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} (y_i - Q(s_i, a_i | \theta^Q))^2$$
(3.1.4)

- $\bullet \ _update_target_network \\$
 - Updating the target network by soft copy. Instead of copy the weights from behavior network to target network directly, given a percentage τ to update the weight.

$$\theta^{Q'} \leftarrow \tau \theta^{Q} + (1 - \tau)\theta^{Q'}$$

$$\theta^{\mu'} \leftarrow \tau \theta^{Q} + (1 - \tau)\theta^{\mu'}$$
(3.1.5)

```
class DDPG:
   def __init__(self, args):
       # behavior network
       self._actor_net = ActorNet().to(args.device)
       self._critic_net = CriticNet().to(args.device)
       # target network
       self._target_actor_net = ActorNet().to(args.device)
       self._target_critic_net = CriticNet().to(args.device)
       # initialize target network
       self._target_actor_net.load_state_dict(self._actor_net.state_dict())
       self._target_critic_net.load_state_dict(self._critic_net.state_dict())
       self._actor_opt = torch.optim.Adam(self._actor_net.parameters(), lr=args.lra)
       self._critic_opt = torch.optim.Adam(self._critic_net.parameters(), lr=args.lrc)
       # action noise
       self._action_noise = GaussianNoise(dim=2)
       self._memory = ReplayMemory(capacity=args.capacity)
       ## config ##
```

```
self.device = args.device
   self.batch_size = args.batch_size
   self.tau = args.tau
   self.gamma = args.gamma
def select_action(self, state, noise=True):
   ''' based on the behavior (actor) network and exploration noise'''
   with torch.no_grad():
       state_tensor = torch.tensor(state, device=self.device)
       if noise:
          noise_tensor = torch.tensor(self._action_noise.sample(), device=self.device)
           action = self._actor_net(state_tensor.reshape(1, -1)) +
               noise_tensor.reshape(1, -1)
       else:
          action = self._actor_net(state_tensor.reshape(1, -1))
   return action.squeeze().cpu().numpy()
def append(self, state, action, reward, next_state, done):
   self._memory.append(state, action, [reward / 100], next_state,
                      [int(done)])
def update(self):
   # update the behavior networks
   self._update_behavior_network(self.gamma)
   # update the target networks
   self._update_target_network(self._target_actor_net, self._actor_net,
                             self.tau)
   self._update_target_network(self._target_critic_net, self._critic_net,
                             self.tau)
def _update_behavior_network(self, gamma):
   actor_net, critic_net, target_actor_net, target_critic_net = self._actor_net,
       self._critic_net, self._target_actor_net, self._target_critic_net
   actor_opt, critic_opt = self._actor_opt, self._critic_opt
   # sample a minibatch of transitions
   state, action, reward, next_state, done = self._memory.sample(
       self.batch_size, self.device)
   ## update critic ##
   # critic loss
   ## TODO ##
   q_value = self._critic_net(state, action)
   with torch.no_grad():
      a_next = self._target_actor_net(next_state)
      q_next = self._target_critic_net(next_state, a_next)
      q_target = reward + gamma*q_next*(1-done)
   criterion = nn.MSELoss()
   critic_loss = criterion(q_value, q_target)
   # optimize critic
   actor_net.zero_grad()
   critic_net.zero_grad()
   critic_loss.backward()
   critic_opt.step()
   ## update actor ##
   # actor loss
   ## TODO ##
   action = self._actor_net(state)
   actor_loss = -self._critic_net(state, action).mean()
   # optimize actor
```

```
actor_net.zero_grad()
   critic_net.zero_grad()
   actor_loss.backward()
   actor_opt.step()
@staticmethod
def _update_target_network(target_net, net, tau):
    '''update target network by _soft_ copying from behavior network'''
   for target, behavior in zip(target_net.parameters(), net.parameters()):
       target.data.copy_(tau*behavior.data+(1-tau)*target.data)
def save(self, model_path, checkpoint=False):
   if checkpoint:
       torch.save(
          {
              'actor': self._actor_net.state_dict(),
              'critic': self._critic_net.state_dict(),
              'target_actor': self._target_actor_net.state_dict(),
              'target_critic': self._target_critic_net.state_dict(),
              'actor_opt': self._actor_opt.state_dict(),
              'critic_opt': self._critic_opt.state_dict(),
          }, model_path)
   else:
       torch.save(
          {
              'actor': self._actor_net.state_dict(),
              'critic': self._critic_net.state_dict(),
          }, model_path)
def load(self, model_path, checkpoint=False):
   model = torch.load(model_path)
   self._actor_net.load_state_dict(model['actor'])
   self._critic_net.load_state_dict(model['critic'])
   if checkpoint:
       self._target_actor_net.load_state_dict(model['target_actor'])
       self._target_critic_net.load_state_dict(model['target_critic'])
       self._actor_opt.load_state_dict(model['actor_opt'])
       self._critic_opt.load_state_dict(model['critic_opt'])
```

3.1.8 Testing (DDPG)

The process is same with DQN testing. While you can see the noise is setting false which we had mentioned in previous section.

```
def test(args, env, agent, writer):
    print('Start Testing')
    seeds = (args.seed + i for i in range(10))
    rewards = []
    for n_episode, seed in enumerate(seeds):
        total_reward = 0
        env.seed(seed)
        state = env.reset()
    ## TODO ##
    for t in itertools.count(start=1):
        if args.render:
            env.render()
        action = agent.select_action(state, noise=False)
        next_state, reward, done, _ = env.step(action)
        state = next_state
```

```
total_reward += reward
    if done:
        writer.add_scalar('Test/Episode Reward', total_reward, n_episode)
        print(f'Length: {t:3d}\tTotal reward: {total_reward:.2f}')
        rewards.append(total_reward)
        break
print('Average Reward', np.mean(rewards))
env.close()
```

3.2 Differences between your implementation and algorithms

During the implementation, there will be a warmup stage at the beginning of the training, which is not present in the algorithm. During the warmup process, we will not update the weights of the model, but simply let the computer continuously generate random actions and change the game's weights. The process is recorded in the replay buffer. Then, another differences between our implementation and algorithm is that the weights of the behavior network are updated every step of play in DQN, while in the implementation, it is preset that the weights will be updated every four steps of play.

3.3 Implementation and the gradient of actor updating

Our goal is to strengthen the behavior actor network's ability to determine actions, so that the behavior critic network can get a larger estimate, so the loss is defined as Eq.3.3.1. We can also separate the equation into two parts 3.3.2 and utilize the chain rule to calculate the gradient.

$$Loss = -Q(s, \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})|\theta^{Q})$$
(3.3.1)

$$\frac{\delta Loss}{\delta \theta^{\mu}} = -\frac{\delta Q(s, \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})|\theta^{Q})}{\delta a} \cdot \frac{\delta a}{\delta \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})} \cdot \frac{\delta \mu(s|\theta^{\mu})}{\delta \theta^{\mu}}$$
(3.3.2)

```
action = self._actor_net(state)
    actor_loss = -self._critic_net(state, action).mean()
# optimize actor
    actor_net.zero_grad()
    critic_net.zero_grad()
    actor_loss.backward()
    actor_opt.step()
```

3.4 Implementation and the gradient of critic updating

Randomly extract some state transitions from the replay buffer, and then use the y which is calculated by the target critic network Q' and the calculated estimated value of the behavior critic network Q to calculate the MSE and update the behavior critic network. The calculation formula of y and MSE shows in Eq.3.1.5 and Eq.3.1.4. The Gradient is derived as follows.

$$\frac{\delta Loss}{\delta \theta^{\mu}} = \frac{2}{N} * (Q(s, a|\theta^{Q}) - y)$$
(3.4.1)

```
## TODO ##
q_value = self._critic_net(state, action)
with torch.no_grad():
    a_next = self._target_actor_net(next_state)
```

```
q_next = self._target_critic_net(next_state, a_next)
q_target = reward + gamma*q_next*(1-done)
criterion = nn.MSELoss()
critic_loss = criterion(q_value, q_target)
# optimize critic
actor_net.zero_grad()
critic_net.zero_grad()
critic_loss.backward()
critic_opt.step()
```

4 Explanation

4.1 Effects of the discount factor

The weight of the current reward is the largest, and the weight of the reward is smaller as the time axis goes back, and the weight decreases exponentially. The gamma in the code is the discount factor.

4.2 Benefits of epsilon-greedy in comparison to greedy action selection

When the model is trained, in addition to selecting the best action from the known situation (exploitation), it is also important to explore the unknown but possibly the best action (exploration). We use a given probability ϵ to decide the next step of the model. Exploitation or exploration, this is epsilon-greedy.

4.3 The necessity of the target network

If we use the same network as the behavior network and the target network, the target network will also be updated every time the behavior network is updated, and it is difficult to train when the target value keeps changing, so we will use the behavior network with The target network is separated, and the target network is updated at regular intervals, which helps to stabilize the training process.

4.4 The effect of replay buffer size in case of too large or too small

If the replay buffer is too small, the buffer will be filled with the latest episodes. In this case, the state of each sample is related to each other at a high level, which may lead to overfitting of the model; if the replay buffer is enlarged, each sample It is more likely to see states with low correlation with each other. Although the training time will be longer, the entire training process will be more stable, and the model will be able to achieve better performance.

5 Bonus

5.1 DDQN

The difference between DQN and DDQN[3] is in the calculation of the target Q-values of the next states. In DQN, we simply take the maximum of all the Q-values over all possible actions. It will overestimated being in this state although this only happened due to the statistical error, hence DDPG proposed to estimate the value of the chosen action instead. The chosen action is the one selected by our policy model.

$$Y_t^{DQN} \equiv R_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a} Q(S_{t+1}, a; \theta_t^-)$$
 (5.1.1)

$$Y_t^{DoubleDQN} \equiv R_{t+1} + \gamma Q(S_{t+1}, \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} Q(S_{t+1}, a; \theta_t); \theta_t^-)$$
 (5.1.2)

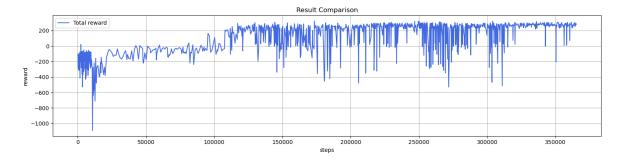


Figure 5: Total reward.

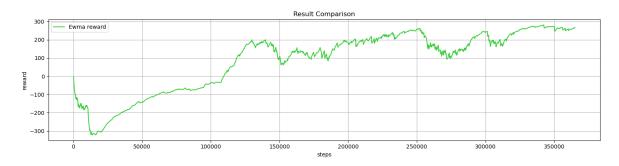


Figure 6: Ewma reward.

```
### DQN ###
q_value = self._behavior_net(state).gather(dim=1, index=action.long())
       with torch.no_grad():
          q_next = self._target_net(next_state)
          max_q_next = torch.max(q_next, dim=1)[0].reshape(-1, 1)
          q_target = reward + gamma*max_q_next*(1-done)
       criterion = nn.MSELoss()
       loss = criterion(q_value, q_target)
### DDQN ###
q_value = self._behavior_net(state).gather(dim=1, index=action.long())
       with torch.no_grad():
          q_next_eval = self._behavior_net(next_state)
          max_q_idx = torch.max(q_next_eval, dim=1)[1].long().reshape(-1, 1)
          q_next = self._target_net(next_state).gather(dim=1, index=max_q_idx)
          q_target = reward + gamma*q_next*(1-done)
       criterion = nn.MSELoss()
       loss = criterion(q_value, q_target)
```

```
Start Testing
Length: 168
              Total reward: 267.40
Length: 190
              Total reward: 255.91
Length: 203
              Total reward: 284.20
Length: 188
              Total reward: 311.94
Length: 202
              Total reward: 283.44
Length: 191
              Total reward: 313.71
Length: 190
              Total reward: 303.09
Length: 175
              Total reward: 287.90
Length: 210
              Total reward: 301.59
              Total reward: 263.53
Length: 171
Average Reward 287.27240881450365
```

References

- [1] Timothy P Lillicrap, Jonathan J Hunt, Alexander Pritzel, Nicolas Heess, Tom Erez, Yuval Tassa, David Silver, and Daan Wierstra. Continuous control with deep reinforcement learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:1509.02971, 2015.
- [2] Volodymyr Mnih, Koray Kavukcuoglu, David Silver, Alex Graves, Ioannis Antonoglou, Daan Wierstra, and Martin Riedmiller. Playing atari with deep reinforcement learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:1312.5602, 2013.
- [3] Hado Van Hasselt, Arthur Guez, and David Silver. Deep reinforcement learning with double q-learning. In *Proceedings of the AAAI conference on artificial intelligence*, volume 30, 2016.