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Machine Learning with Python-From Linear Models to Deep Learning[Course](#)[Progress](#)[Dates](#)[Discussion](#)[Resources](#)[Course](#) / [Unit 5. Reinforcement Learning \(2 weeks\)](#) / [Project 5: Text-Based Game](#)[< Previous](#)

1. Introduction

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In this project, we address the task of learning control policies for text-based games using reinforcement learning. In these games, all interactions between players and the virtual world are through text. The world state is described by elaborate text, and the underlying state is not directly observable. Players receive descriptions of the state and respond with natural language **commands** to take actions.

For this project you will conduct experiments on a small **Home World**, which mimics the real world. The world consists of a few rooms, and each room contains a representative object for the player to interact with. For instance, the kitchen has an **apple** that the player can **eat**. The goal of the game is to complete some quest. An example of a quest given to the player in text is **You are hungry now**. To complete the quest, the player has to navigate through the house to reach the kitchen and eat the apple. In the **Home World**, the **hidden** state is hidden from the player, who only receives a description of the underlying room. At each step, the player receives the text describing the current room and the quest, and responds with some command. The player then receives some reward that depends on the state and his/her command.

In order to design an autonomous game player, we will employ a reinforcement learning algorithm to learn command policies using game rewards as feedback. Since the state observable to the player is text, we have to choose a mechanism that maps text descriptions into vector representations. One simple approach is to create a map that assigns a unique index for each text description. However, this becomes difficult to implement when the number of textual state descriptions are huge. A more scalable approach is to use a bag-of-words representation derived from the text description. This project aims to complete the following tasks:

1. Implement the tabular Q-learning algorithm for a simple setting where each text description is mapped to a unique index.
2. Implement the Q-learning algorithm with linear approximation architecture, using bag-of-words representation for textual state description.
3. Implement a deep Q-network.
4. Use your Q-learning algorithms on the **Home World** game.



As with the previous projects, please use Python's NumPy numerical library for handling numerical operations; use matplotlib for producing figures and plots.

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1. Note on software: For all the projects, we will use Python 3.6 augmented with the NumPy toolbox, the matplotlib plotting toolbox. For THIS project, you will also be using PyTorch.

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