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DIV: B/B1

AI

Experiment 10

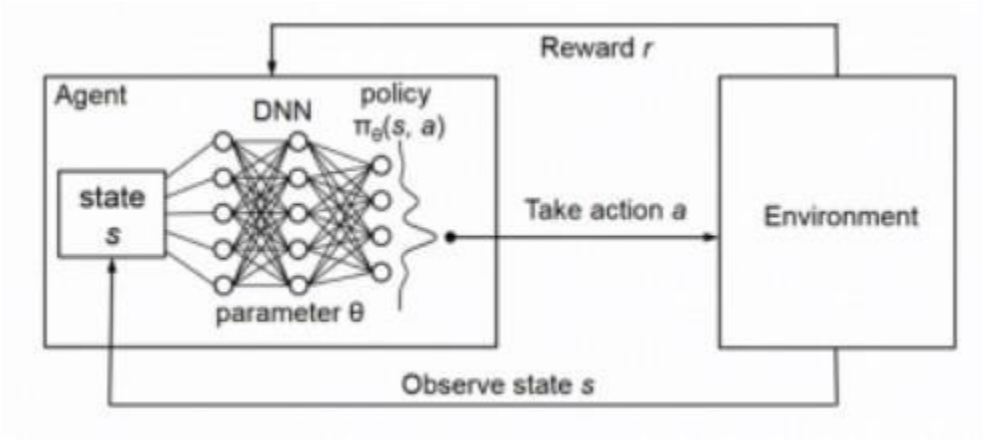
CASE STUDY
Paper Link: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9325622

Introduction:
This paper is a comparative study for deep reinforcement learning with CNN, RNN, and LSTM in autonomous navigation. For the comparison, a PyGame simulator has been used with the final goal that the representative will learn to move without hitting four different fixed obstacles. Autonomous vehicle movements were simulated in the training environment and the conclusion drawn was that the LSTM model was better than the others.

Approach:
The research is wholly based on reinforcement learning which is a machine learning training method based on rewarding desired behaviors and/or punishing undesired ones. This method assigns positive values to the desired actions to encourage the agent and negative values to undesired behaviors. This programs the agent to seek long-term and maximum overall reward to achieve an optimal solution.
These long-term goals help prevent the agent from stalling on lesser goals. With time, the agent learns to avoid the negative and seek the positive. This learning method has been adopted in artificial intelligence (AI) as a way of directing unsupervised machine learning through rewards and penalties.
The main advantage of reinforcement learning in this scenario is that unlike deep learning (DL) algorithms, it does not require a data set during the training phase, increasing its popularity and making it more suitable.

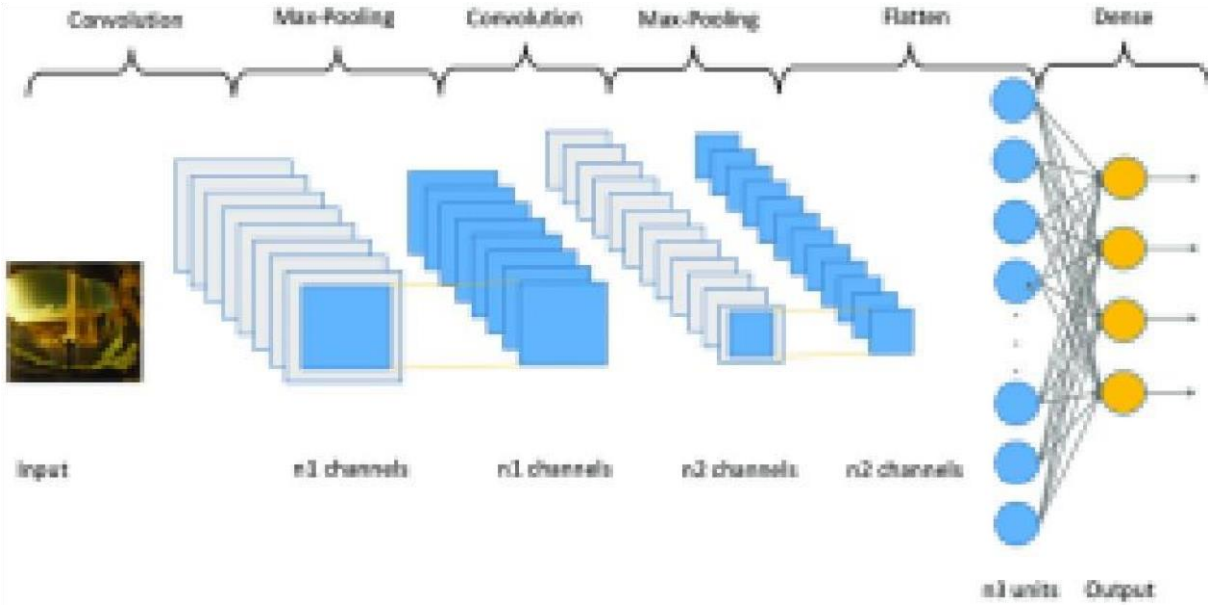
The PyGame simulator interface consists of an agent that learns to move without hitting 4 different randomly positioned obstacles and edges limiting the area. In addition, the paper presents a model-free, off policy approach in this study.
During the research, 4 algorithms were compared. They are:

1. **Deep Q-Network:**It trains on inputs that represent active players in areas or other experienced samples and learns to match those data with desired outputs. This is a powerful method in the development of artificial intelligence that can play games like chess at a high level, or carry out other high-level cognitive activities – the Atari or chess video game playing example is also a good example of how AI uses the types of interfaces that were traditionally used by human agents.



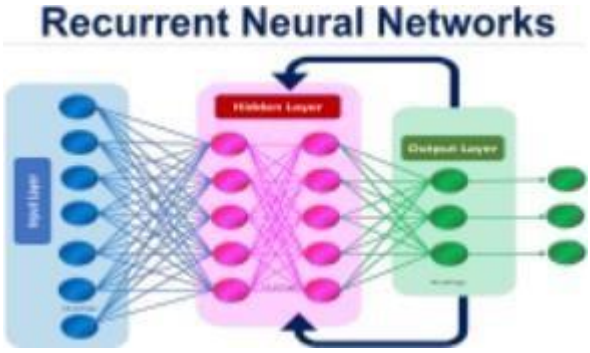
2. CNN: A Convolutional Neural Network (ConvNet/CNN) is a Deep Learning algorithm which can take in an input image, assign importance (learnable weights and biases) to various aspects/objects in the image and be able to differentiate one from the other.

   The pre-processing required in a ConvNet is much lower as compared to other classification algorithms. While in primitive methods filters are hand-engineered, with enough training, ConvNets have the ability to learn these filters/characteristics.
   The architecture of a ConvNet is analogous to that of the connectivity pattern of Neurons in the Human Brain and was inspired by the organization of the Visual Cortex. Individual neurons respond to stimuli only in a restricted region of the visual field known as the Receptive Field. A collection of such fields overlap to cover the entire visual area. The main purpose of the convolution process is to extract the feature map from the input data.



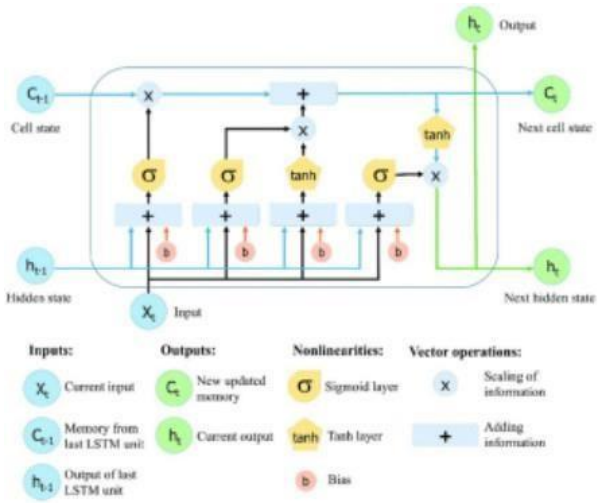
3. RNN: Recurrent Neural Network(RNN) is a type of Neural Network where the output from the previous step is fed as input to the current step. In traditional neural networks, all the inputs and outputs are independent of each other, but in cases like when it is required to predict the next word of a sentence, the previous words are required and hence there is a need to remember the previous words.

Thus RNN came into existence, which solved this issue with the help of a Hidden Layer. The main and most important feature of RNN is the Hidden state, which stores some information about a sequence.



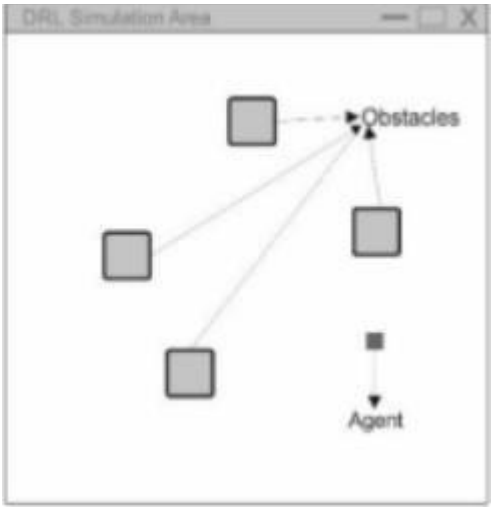
4. LSTM: Long Short Term Memory is a kind of recurrent neural network. In RNN output from the last step is fed as input in the current step. LSTM was designed by Hochreiter & Schmidhuber. It tackled the problem of long-term dependencies of RNN in which the RNN cannot predict the word stored in the long-term memory but can give

more accurate predictions from the recent information. As the gap length increases RNN does not give an efficient performance. LSTM can by default retain the information for a long period of time. It is used for processing, predicting, and classifying on the basis of time-series data. LSTM has a chain structure that contains four neural networks and different memory blocks called cells. Information is retained by the cells and the memory manipulations are done by the gates. There are three gates – Forget gate, Input gate and the output gate. With LSTMs, there is no need to keep a finite number of states from beforehand as required in the hidden Markov model (HMM). LSTMs provide us with a large range of parameters such as learning rates, and input and output biases. Hence, no need for fine adjustments.



The complexity to update each weight is reduced to O(1) with LSTMs, similar to that of Back Propagation Through Time (BPTT), which is an advantage.

SIMULATION: In this work, PyGame library was used as a robot simulation environment. 4 different obstacles were placed randomly in a 360 * 360 pixel area and the agent was allowed to float within the specified area without hitting these obstacles as shown below.



The agent loses -150 points when hitting obstacles during the learning phase and -50 points when it hits walls. It gets +2 points for every step where it does not hit walls and obstacles. Four different actions in this simulation are shown in the table below.

Num.	Action
0	go to the left
1	go to the right
2	go to the up
3	go to the bottom

For the model training, python was used as the software language and Keras, a deep learning library was used to create the neural networks. Mean Squared Error was used as the Loss function.

Linear was preferred as the activation function. Sigmoid function is used as the activation function in the output layer. The training took 5 hours for CNN, 18 hours for RNN and 35 hours for LSTM on a standard equipped (core i5 Processor and 8GB RAM) computer.

CONCLUSION: Multiple deep learning algorithms were separately tested on the PyGame simulation interface and the conclusions were drawn. The first conclusion was that even though deep reinforcement learning (DRL) models provide fast and safe solutions for autonomous vehicles, their training time is very high. After training it was observed that RNN and LSTM,which are generally used to solve language processing problems, can also be successful in such autonomous navigation problems. The second conclusion was that while the LSTM model took the maximum time to train, it showed the highest success in the success-episode graphics. The paper then concludes with saying that this is a very rich field in terms of future research prospects.