

# RL Summary EN

Georg Pernice, ..

12.02.2026

# Contents

<b>1 Preword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 00 - Orga and Intro</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 01 - Bandits and Explore</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 02 - Opt. Dec. Making</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 04 - Value Based Meth.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 05 - Policy Gradient</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7 06 - Offpolicy Actor critic</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8 07 - Control as Inference</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9 08 - Trust Region Methods</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10 09 - Imitation Learning</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>11 10 - Offline RL</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>12 12 - Motion Primitives and Temp. Extend. Actions</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>13 13 - Trafos</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>14 14 - Diffusion</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>15 14b Diffusion2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>16 15 - Diverse Behavior and Skill Discovering</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>17 16 - Diffusion RL and Scaling RL</b>	<b>5</b>
17.1 Self Check Questions . . . . .	5

<b>18 Exercises with Math</b>	<b>6</b>
18.1 Multivariate Policy Exercise 3 . . . . .	7

## **1 Preword**

Obtain the Latex source code for this document here to compile translate it or  
create your own version: <https://github.com/g14p/learninglatex>

- 2 00 - Orga and Intro**
- 3 01 - Bandits and Explore**
- 4 02 - Opt. Dec. Making**
- 5 04 - Value Based Meth.**
- 6 05 - Policy Gradient**
- 7 06 - Offpolicy Actor critic**
- 8 07 - Control as Inference**
- 9 08 - Trust Region Methods**
- 10 09 - Imitation Learning**
- 11 10 - Offline RL**
- 12 12 - Motion Primitives and Temp. Extend. Actions**
- 13 13 - Trafos**
- 14 14 - Diffusion**
- 15 14b Diffusion2**
- 16 15 - Diverse Behavior and Skill Discovering**
- 17 16 - Diffusion RL and Scaling RL**

### **17.1 Self Check Questions**

- What is problem when reusing off-policy data more often to update network parameters?
  - Reusing off-policy data corresponds to increasing Replay Ratio or Update to Data (UTD) Ratio. The fact that train data **and** tar-

gets change over time states a problem, leading to Placticity Loss and Primary Bias. (See them explained below)

- How to counteract the primacy bias?
  - **Primacy Bias** = tendency to overfit initial experiences which damages the learn proess regarding other experiences. Resetting the environment in intervals helps especially when running SAC algorithm in 'humanoid run' environment.
- What kinda regularization exist to make RL scalable?
  - Regularization in ML refers to prevention of overfitting by punishing model complexity with additional loss term. (Ideas like Dropout, Punishing model size, ..)
  - The BRO ( Bigger Regularized Optimistic) algorithm uses
    - \* Weight Decay
    - \* Layer Norm
    - \* ..
- It scales the Network by multiple blocks of
  - \* Dense Layer
  - \* Layer Norm
  - \* ..
- In general in RL Neuron Resetting seems a valid regularization, used in the 'ReDo' (Recycling Dormant Neurons) algorithm.
- **Batch Normalization** acc. to Summary slide seems to be as well a regularization technique in RL
- What is the downside to increasing the number of updates?
  - Updating more often even does harm to the network return. As the targets will change updating too much on them doesnt make lots of sense. → Placticity Loss(lose ability to learn from new XP) and Primary Bias (overfit initial XP) occur! This question seems very similar to the first one imho.

## 18 Exercises with Math

Exercise 2: Policy differentiation Compute the gradient of  $\log p_\theta(\tau)$  , where  $\log p_\theta(\tau)$  : trajectory distribution induced by params theta theta : policy parameters

## 18.1 Multivariate Policy Exercise 3

Consider multi-variate policy distribution  $\pi(a|s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^{d_e} |\Sigma|}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}(a - \mu(s))^T \Sigma^{-1}(a - \mu(s)) \right\}$   
 where  $a \in \mathbb{R}^{d_e}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}^{d_e}$  and we consider an isotropic covariance i.e.  $\Sigma = \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}$   
 where  $\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_e \times d_e}$  and  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^+$

**Derive  $\nabla_\sigma \log \pi(a|s)$  Solution Approach:**

$$\nabla_\sigma \log \pi(a|s) = \nabla_\sigma \log \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^{d_e} |\Sigma|}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}(a - \mu(s))^T \Sigma^{-1}(a - \mu(s)) \right\} \right\}$$

Split the logs the exp dies because of right log. Because we get a sum of two logs we can split the gradient as well.

$$\nabla_\sigma \log \pi(a|s) = \nabla_\sigma \log \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^{d_e} |\Sigma|}} \right\} + \nabla_\sigma \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}(a - \mu(s))^T \Sigma^{-1}(a - \mu(s)) \right\}$$

With the two identities  $\Sigma^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \mathbf{I}$  and  $|\Sigma| = (\sigma^2)^{d_e}$  for the covariance we arrive at:

$$\nabla_\sigma \log \pi(a|s) = \nabla_\sigma \log \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^{d_e} |(\sigma^2)^{d_e}|}} \right\} + \nabla_\sigma \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (a - \mu(s))^T \mathbf{I} (a - \mu(s)) \right\}$$