

We wish to represent the joint probability distribution over actions  $a^i$  and reaction times  $rt^i$  given the state  $s^i$  for trial  $i$  in the task  $p(a^i, rt^i | s^i)$

$$p(a^i, rt^i | s^i) = \frac{p(a^i, rt^i, s^i)}{p(s^i)} \text{ by the chain rule for probabilities}$$

$$= \frac{p(rt^i | a^i, s^i) p(a^i | s^i) p(s^i)}{p(s^i)} \text{ by the chain rule for probabilities}$$

$$= p(rt^i | a^i, s^i) p(a^i | s^i)$$

$$= p(rt^i | a^i = 0, s^i) p(a^i = 0 | s^i) + p(rt^i | a^i = 1, s^i) p(a^i = 1 | s^i) \text{ where } a^i = 0 \text{ corresponds to withholding a response and } a^i = 1 \text{ corresponds to a response}$$

Let's code  $rt^i = NaN$  when  $a^i = 0$ . Then

$$p(a^i, rt^i | s^i) = \begin{cases} p(rt^i | a^i = 1, s^i) p(a^i = 1 | s^i), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ p(rt^i | a^i = 0, s^i) p(a^i = 0 | s^i), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

Because  $p(rt^i = NaN | a^i = 0, s^i) = 1$ , we can simplify

$$p(a^i, rt^i | s^i) = \begin{cases} p(rt^i | s^i) p(a^i = 1 | s^i), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ p(a^i = 0 | s^i), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

Next we consider each term separately. We can represent  $p(a^i = a | s^i)$  for  $a \in 0, 1$  using the softmax rule

$$p(a^i = a | s^i) = \frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}$$

Next, if we assumed reaction times are linearly related to the Q value for the go action  $rt^i = \beta * Q(s^i, a^i) + \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

This implies that

$$p(rt^i | Q(s^i, a^i)) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(rt^i - Q(s^i, a^i)\beta)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

Note that this equation generalizes to multiple linear regression and simply says that the probability of an observation is specified by a Gaussian PDF centered on the regression line. Note that the minimum of this function does not depend on the variance of the gaussian distribution, so this formulation is equivalent to the standard least squared minimization approach. However, we will need to use the variance when computing the joint probability distribution over actions and rts.

We wish to maximize the log likelihood of the parameters  $\theta$ .

$$\log(L(\theta)) = \sum \log(p(a^i, rt^i | s^i; \theta)) =$$

$$\begin{cases} \sum \log(p(rt^i | s^i)) + \sum \log(p(a^i = 1 | s^i)), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ \sum \log(p(a^i = 0 | s^i)), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

We can substitute in the softmax and the probabilistic regression equation from above to

get

$$\begin{cases} \sum \log(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma} \exp(\frac{-(rt^i - Q(s^i, a^i) * \beta)^2}{2\sigma^2})) + \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=1)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=0)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

If there m trials, then this simplifies to:

$$\begin{cases} m \log(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum (rt^i - Q(s^i, a^i) * \beta)^2 + \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=1)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=0)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

and since we wish maximize  $L(\theta)$ , then we can drop the first term because it does not depend on  $\theta$

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum (rt^i - Q(s^i, a^i) * \beta)^2 + \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=1)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt \neq NaN \\ \sum \log(\frac{\exp(Q(s^i, a=0)\tau)}{\sum_{a'} \exp(Q(s^i, a')\tau)}), & \text{if } rt = NaN \end{cases}$$

At each iteration of model fitting,  $\sigma$  can be computed exactly as the variance of the residual RT distribution. Ultimately, maximizing the likelihood function for the joint distribution on actions and reaction times reduces to minimizing the weighted sum of their independent loss functions:

$$\max(LL(actions, RTs|state; \theta)) = \min(\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} Loss(Regression) + Loss(QLearning))$$