

인공지능

22년 삼성 AI 전문가과정
6월 9일 목요일 2교시
장병탁



17차시 : Reinforcement Learning

서울대학교 컴퓨터공학부
담당 교수: 장병탁

Seoul National University
Byoung-Tak Zhang



Lecture Overview

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Introduction: Reinforcement Learning

❑ Supervised Learning (Previous lectures)

- With **supervised learning**, an agent learns by **passively observing example input/output pairs** provided by a “**teacher**.”
- **Deep learning** models also learn this way, including feedforward neural networks, convolutional neural networks, and recurrent neural networks.

❑ Reinforcement Learning (This lecture)

- In reinforcement learning, the agents can **actively learn from their own experience, without a teacher**, by considering their own ultimate success or failure.
- We see how experiencing **rewards** and **punishments** can teach an agent **how to maximize rewards** in the future
- Passive/Active RL, Generalization in RL, Policy Search, Inverse RL, etc.

Problems with Supervised Learning

What's wrong with supervised learning?

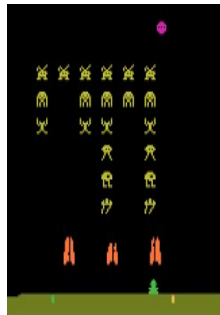
- ❑ A supervised learning agent learns by **passively** observing example input/output pairs provided by a “**teacher**”
 - ❑ Can we train the chess agent with supervised learning?
 - Data: examples of chess positions (each labeled with the correct move)
 - Available training data set for winners: 10^8
 - The space of **all possible** chess positions: 10^{40}
- Chess **cannot be solved** by supervised learning



Reinforcement Learning

Reinforcement learning (RL)

- ❑ An agent **interacts** with the world and periodically receives **rewards** (**reinforcements**) that reflect how well it is doing
 - For example, in case of chess, the reward is 1 for winning, 0 for losing, and $\frac{1}{2}$ for a draw
 - As long as we can provide the correct reward signal to the agent, **RL** provides a **very general way** to build AI systems (i.e. build **right** reward function!)
- ❑ Deep Reinforcement Learning (Deep Learning + RL) Applications



Deep Q-learning (Mnih et al., 2013)



Multi-task Robotic RL (Chebotar et al., 2021)



Poker AI (Brown et al., 2017)

Lecture 17 Reinforcement Learning

Reinforcement Learning

- ❑ Model-based **vs.** Model-free
- ❑ Passive learning agent **vs.** Active learning agent
- ❑ Exploration **vs.** Safe exploration
 - Exploration, Exploitation, Bayesian RL
- ❑ Generalization in Reinforcement Learning
 - Function approximation, Deep RL, Reward shaping, Hierarchical RL
- ❑ Apprenticeship Learning
 - Imitation learning, Inverse reinforcement learning

Outline (Lecture 17)

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17.1 Learning from Rewards



17.1 Learning from Rewards (1/4)

What's wrong with Supervised Learning (SL)?

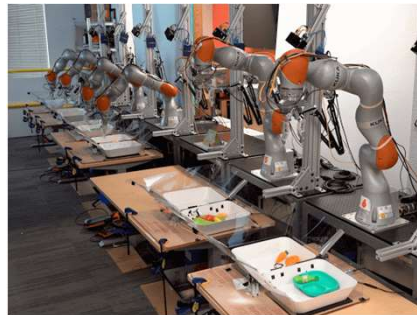
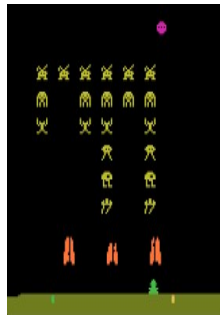
- With **supervised learning**, an agent learns by passively observing example input/output pairs provided by a “**teacher**”
 - Can we train the chess agent with supervised learning?
 - Data: examples of chess positions (each labeled with the correct move)
 - Few examples of winner: 10^8
 - The space of **all possible** chess positions: 10^{40}
- Chess **cannot be solved** by **supervised learning**



17.1 Learning from Rewards (2/4)

Reinforcement Learning (RL)

- An agent interacts with the world and periodically receives **rewards** (**reinforcements**) that reflect how well it is doing
 - For example, in case of chess, the reward is 1 for winning, 0 for losing, and $\frac{1}{2}$ for a draw
 - As long as we can provide the correct reward signal to the agent, **RL** provides a **very general way** to build AI systems (i.e. build **right** reward function!)
- Deep Reinforcement Learning (Deep Learning + RL) Applications



Deep Q-learning (Mnih et al., 2013)

Multi-task Robotic RL (Chebotar et al., 2021)

Poker AI (Brown et al., 2017)

17.1 Learning from Rewards (3/4)

Categorization of Reinforcement Learning

- Model-based Reinforcement Learning
 - An agent uses a transition model of the environment.
 - The model may be **initially unknown** or **already be known**
e.g. A chess program may know the rules of chess even if it does not know how to choose good move.
 - In partially observable environments, the transition model is also useful for **state estimation**.
 - Model-based RL systems often **learn a utility function $U(s)$** , defined in terms of the sum of rewards from state s onward.

17.1 Learning from Rewards (4/4)

Categorization of Reinforcement Learning

➤ Model-free Reinforcement Learning

- An agent **neither** knows **nor** learns a transition model for the environment.
- Instead, the agent learns a more **direct representation** of how to behave.
- **Action-utility learning**
 - Most common form is **Q-learning**, where the agent learns a Q-function $Q(s, a)$
 - Given Q-function (sum of rewards from s and a), the agent can choose what to do in state s by finding the action with **the highest Q-value**
- **Policy search**
 - The agent learns a policy $\pi(s)$ that maps directly from states to actions.
 - This is a **reflex agent**.



17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning



17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (1/6)

Passive learning agent

- An agent already has a **fixed** policy $\pi(s)$ that determines its actions.
- The agent is trying to learn the **utility function** $U^\pi(s)$ —the expected total discounted reward if policy π is executed beginning in state s .
- Passive learning task is similar to the **policy evaluation** task (part of **policy iteration algorithm**).
- What are the **differences** between passive learning and policy evaluation?
 - Passive learning agent does **not** know the transition model $P(s'|s, a)$.
 - Passive learning agent does **not** know the reward function $R(s, a, s')$.

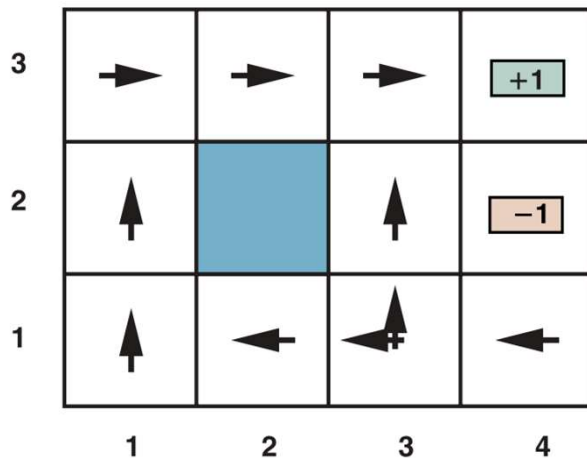
17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (2/6)

Passive learning agent

- The optimal policies for the 4×3 world

- $R(s, a, s') = -0.04$ (nonterminal state)

$(1,1) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (1,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (2,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (3,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (4,3)$
 $(1,1) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (2,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (3,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (3,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (3,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (4,3)$
 $(1,1) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (1,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (2,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (3,3) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Right} (3,2) \xrightarrow[-0.04]{Up} (4,2)$



3	0.8516	0.9078	0.9578	<div>+1</div>
2	0.8016		0.7003	<div>-1</div>
1	0.7453	0.6953	0.6514	0.4279
	1	2	3	4

$$U^\pi(s) = E \left[\sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \gamma^t R(S_t, \pi(S_t), S_{t+1}) \right]$$

17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (3/6)

Direct utility estimation

- The utility of a state is defined as **the expected total reward** from that state onward (called the expected **reward-to-go**)
 - In the limit of infinitely many trials, the sample average will converge to the true expectation in equation below

$$U^\pi(s) = E \left[\sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \gamma^t R(S_t, \pi(S_t), S_{t+1}) \right]$$

- We have reduced **reinforcement learning** to a **standard supervised learning** problem in which each example is a (*state, reward-to-go*)
- But the utility of a state is determined by the reward and the expected utility of the successor states. Specifically, the utility values obey the **Bellman equations for a fixed policy**

$$U_i(s) = \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, \pi_i(s)) [R(s, \pi_i(s), s') + \gamma U_i(s')]$$

17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (4/6)

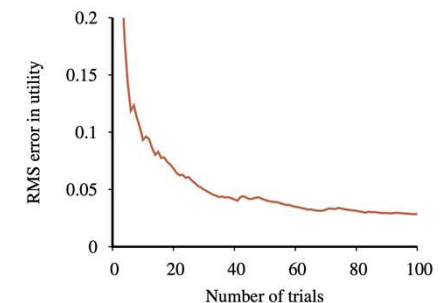
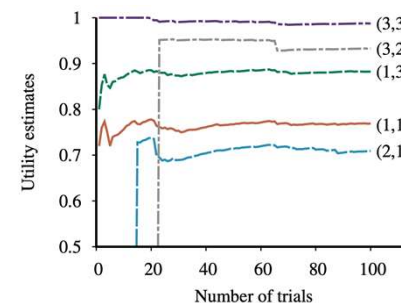
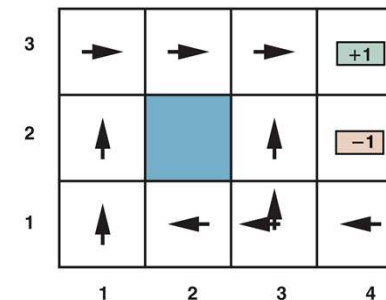
Adaptive dynamic programming (ADP)

- ADP agent takes advantage of the constraints among the utilities of the states by **learning the transition model that connects them and** solving the corresponding Markov decision process (MDP) using **dynamic programming**.

function PASSIVE-ADP-LEARNER(*percept*) **returns** an action
inputs: *percept*, a percept indicating the current state s' and reward signal r
persistent: π , a fixed policy
 mdp, an MDP with model P , rewards R , actions A , discount γ
 U , a table of utilities for states, initially empty
 $N_{s'|s,a}$, a table of outcome count vectors indexed by state and action, initially zero
 s, a , the previous state and action, initially null

if s' is new **then** $U[s'] \leftarrow 0$
if s is not null **then**
 increment $N_{s'|s,a}[s, a][s']$
 $R[s, a, s'] \leftarrow r$
 add a to $A[s]$
 $P(\cdot | s, a) \leftarrow \text{NORMALIZE}(N_{s'|s,a}[s, a])$
 $U \leftarrow \text{POLICY-EVALUATION}(\pi, U, \text{mdp})$
 $s, a \leftarrow s', \pi[s']$
 return a

Figure 23.2 A passive reinforcement learning agent based on adaptive dynamic programming. The agent chooses a value for γ and then incrementally computes the P and R values of the MDP. The POLICY-EVALUATION function solves the fixed-policy Bellman equations, as described on page 567.



17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (5/6)

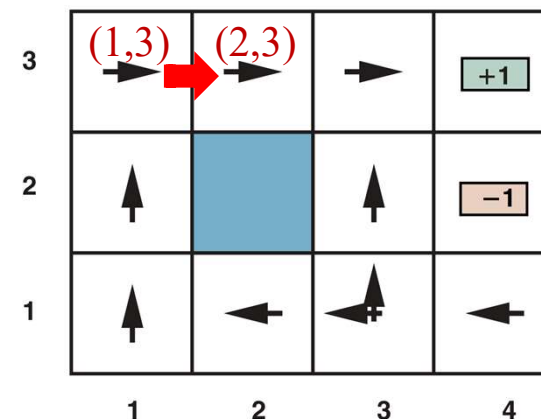
Temporal-difference learning (TD learning)

- Another way for solving MDP is to use the observed transitions to **adjust the utilities** of the **observed states** so that they agree with the constraint equations
 - For example, if the transition from (1,3) to (2,3): $U^\pi(1,3) = -0.04 + U^\pi(2,3)$
 - More generally: $U^\pi(s) \leftarrow U^\pi(s) + \alpha[R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma U^\pi(s') - U^\pi(s)]$

function PASSIVE-TD-LEARNER(*percept*) **returns** an action
inputs: *percept*, a percept indicating the current state s' and reward signal r
persistent: π , a fixed policy
 s , the previous state, initially null
 U , a table of utilities for states, initially empty
 N_s , a table of frequencies for states, initially zero

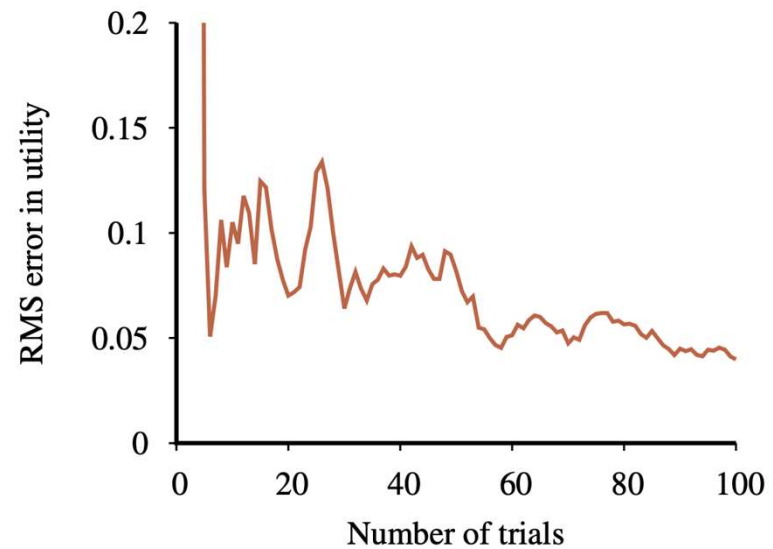
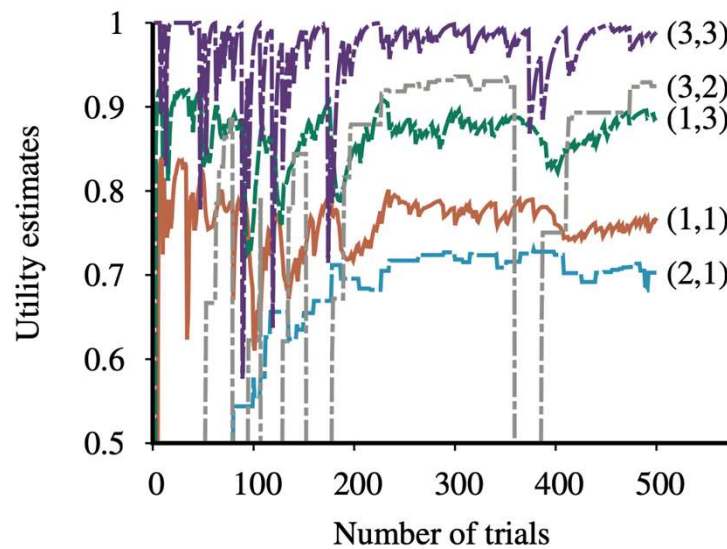
if s' is new **then** $U[s'] \leftarrow 0$
if s is not null **then**
 increment $N_s[s]$
 $U[s] \leftarrow U[s] + \alpha(N_s[s]) \times (r + \gamma U[s'] - U[s])$
 $s \leftarrow s'$
return $\pi[s']$

Figure 23.4 A passive reinforcement learning agent that learns utility estimates using temporal differences. The step-size function $\alpha(n)$ is chosen to ensure convergence.



17.2 Passive Reinforcement Learning (6/6)

Temporal-difference learning (TD learning)





17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning



17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (1/8)

Active learning agent

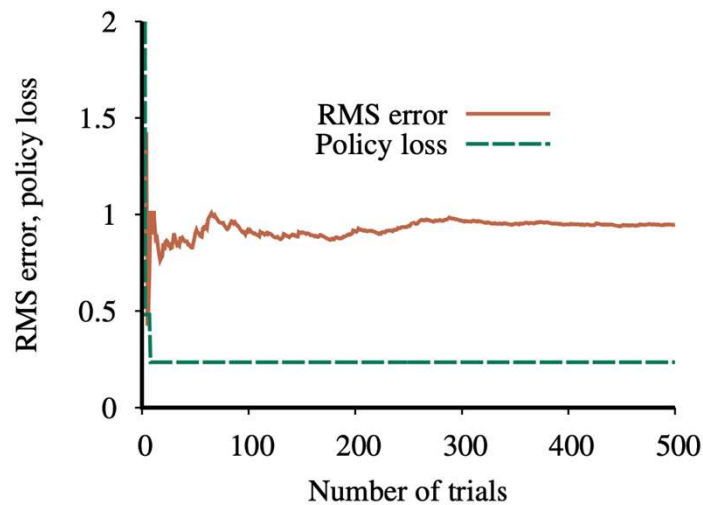
- A **passive learning agent** has a **fixed policy** that determines its behavior.
- An **active learning agent** gets to decide what actions to take.
- Consider ADP agent that how it can be modified to take advantage
 - The agent will need to learn a complete transition model with outcome probabilities for all actions.
 - We need to take into account the fact that the agent has a choice of actions.
 - The utilities it needs to learn are those defined by the optimal policy; they obey the **Bellman equations** (**value iteration** or **policy iteration**)

$$U(s) = \max_{a \in A(s)} \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) [R(s, a, s') + \gamma U(s')]$$

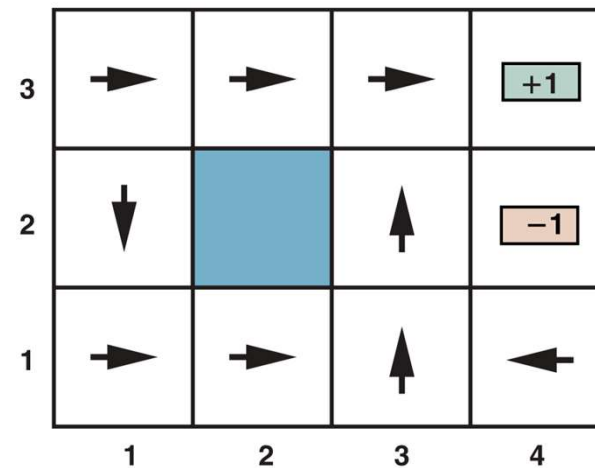
17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (2/8)

Active learning agent

- The **greedy agent** does not learn the true utilities or the true optimal policy!
Then, what should it do?



(a)

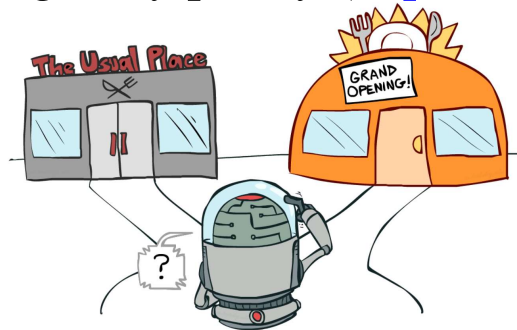


(b)

17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (3/8)


Exploration

- The greedy agent **overlooks** the fact that actions do more than provide *reward*.
- An agent must make a **tradeoff** between *exploitation* and *exploration*.
- GLIE (Greedy in the Limit of Infinite Exploration)
 - Choose random action at time step t with probability $\frac{1}{t}$ (*exploration*)
 - Otherwise, follow the greedy policy (*exploitation*)



17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (4/8)

Exploration

- Can we do **better** exploration?
- **A better approach:** give some **weight** to actions that the agent has **not** tried very often, while tending to avoid actions that are believed to be of **low** utility
 - $U^+(s)$: **optimistic** estimate of the utility (i.e. the expected reward-to-go)
 - $N(s, a)$: the number of times action a in state s
 - $f(u, n) = \begin{cases} R^+ & \text{if } n < N_e \\ u & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$  R^+ is best possible reward (optimistic estimate)
 N_e is a fixed parameter
Determine how **greed** is traded off against **curiosity**
 - Then we can rewrite the update equation with **exploration function** f as below

$$U^+(s) \leftarrow \max_a f \left(\sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) [R(s, a, s') + \gamma U^+(s')] , N(s, a) \right)$$

17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (5/8)

Exploration

- An agent with exploration shows a rapid convergence toward zero policy loss (unlikely with the greedy approach)

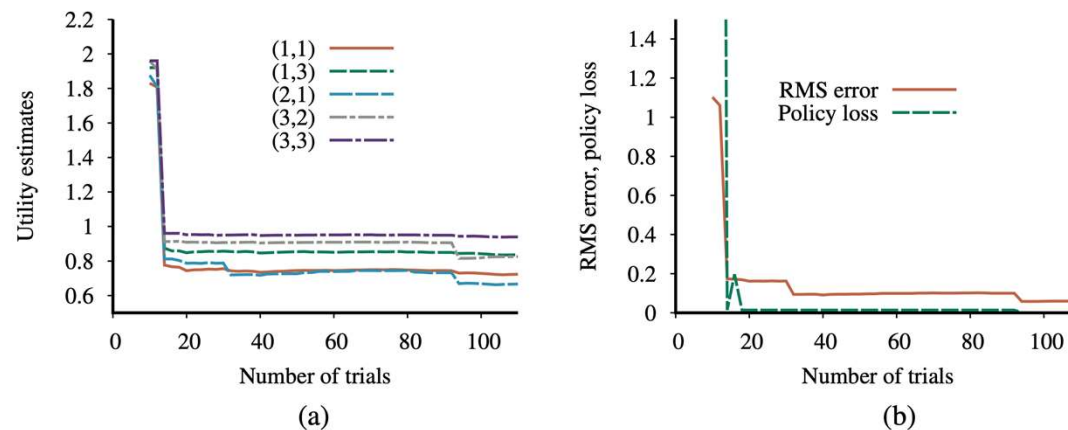


Figure 23.7 Performance of the exploratory ADP agent using $R^+ = 2$ and $N_e = 5$. (a) Utility estimates for selected states over time. (b) The RMS error in utility values and the associated policy loss.

17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (6/8)

Safe exploration

- In a simulation environment, any accidents give us more information, and we can just hit the reset button.
- How about a real world setting? (e.g. robot learning)
 - In the worst case, the agent enters an **absorbing state** where no actions have any effect and no rewards are received.
- One of **safe exploration** approaches: **Bayesian reinforcement learning**
 - Assume a prior probability $P(h)$ over hypotheses h about the true model
 - The posterior $P(h|\mathbf{e})$ is obtained by Bayes' rule (i.e. $P(h|\mathbf{e}) = \frac{P(h)P(\mathbf{e}|h)}{P(\mathbf{e})}$)
 - The utility obtained by executing policy π in model h . Then we have,

$$\pi^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\pi} \sum_h P(h|\mathbf{e}) U_h^{\pi}$$

17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (7/8)

Temporal-difference Q-learning

- Two algorithms of TD learning for active ADP agent: SARSA, Q-learning
 - TD learning does **not** need a transition model $P(s'|s, a)$
- **SARSA** (for **S**tate, **A**ction, **R**eward, **S**tate, **A**ction)
 - SARSA updates with the Q-value of the action a' **that is actually taken**:
$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha [R(s, a, s') + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a)]$$
 - SARSA is an **on-policy** algorithm (behavior policy = target policy)
- **Q-learning**
 - Q-learning TD update is calculated whenever a is executed in s learning to s'
$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha [R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a)]$$
 - Q-learning is an **off-policy** algorithm (**not always** behavior policy = target policy)

17.3 Active Reinforcement Learning (8/8)

Temporal-difference Q-learning

```
function Q-LEARNING-AGENT(percept) returns an action
  inputs: percept, a percept indicating the current state  $s'$  and reward signal  $r$ 
  persistent:  $Q$ , a table of action values indexed by state and action, initially zero
                $N_{sa}$ , a table of frequencies for state–action pairs, initially zero
                $s, a$ , the previous state and action, initially null


  if  $s$  is not null then
    increment  $N_{sa}[s, a]$ 
     $Q[s, a] \leftarrow Q[s, a] + \alpha(N_{sa}[s, a])(r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q[s', a'] - Q[s, a])$ 
     $s, a \leftarrow s', \text{argmax}_{a'} f(Q[s', a'], N_{sa}[s', a'])$   The exploration function  $f(u, n)$  we have learned
  return  $a$ 
```

Figure 23.8 An exploratory Q-learning agent. It is an active learner that learns the value $Q(s, a)$ of each action in each situation. It uses the same exploration function f as the exploratory ADP agent, but avoids having to learn the transition model.



17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning



17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (1/6)

Function approximation

- Two dimensional grid environment: about 10^6 states space
 - What about **real-world** environment?
 - Backgammon is simpler than most real-world applications, yet it has 10^{20} states.
 - We **cannot** easily visit them all in order to learn how to play the game.
 - We need to use **function approximation** for approximating utility function
 - e.g. weighted linear combination of features
- $$\hat{U}_{\theta}(s) = \theta_1 f_1(s) + \theta_2 f_2(s) + \dots + \theta_n f_n(s)$$
- Instead of learning 10^6 states values (in table),
an agent can learn 20 values for parameters $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_{20})$



17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (2/6)

Approximating direct utility estimation

- Consider 4×3 world environment (with x and y coordinates)

$$\hat{U}_\theta(x, y) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 y$$

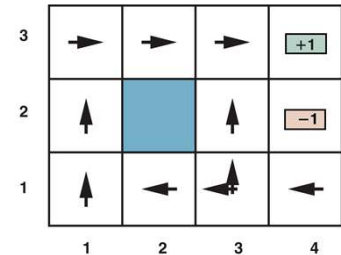
- As with neural network learning, we write an **error function** and **compute its gradient** w.r.t. parameters ($u_j(s)$ is the observed total reward in j th trial)

$$E_j(s) = \left(\hat{U}_\theta(s) - u_j(s) \right)^2 / 2$$

$$\theta_i \leftarrow \theta_i - \alpha \frac{\partial E_j(s)}{\partial \theta_i} = \theta_i + \alpha [u_j(s) - \hat{U}_\theta(s)] \frac{\partial \hat{U}_\theta(s)}{\partial \theta_i}$$

- This is called the **Widrow–Hoff rule** (or **delta rule**). We get three simple update rules

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_0 &\leftarrow \theta_0 + \alpha [u_j(s) - \hat{U}_\theta(s)], \\ \theta_1 &\leftarrow \theta_1 + \alpha [u_j(s) - \hat{U}_\theta(s)] x, \\ \theta_2 &\leftarrow \theta_2 + \alpha [u_j(s) - \hat{U}_\theta(s)] y. \end{aligned}$$



17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (3/6)

Approximating temporal-difference learning

- We can apply the idea in previous slide equally well to TD learners

- For utility

$$\theta_i \leftarrow \theta_i + \alpha [R(s, a, s') + \gamma \hat{U}_\theta(s') - \hat{U}_\theta(s)] \frac{\partial \hat{U}_\theta(s)}{\partial \theta_i}$$

- For Q-value

$$\theta_i \leftarrow \theta_i + \alpha [R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} \hat{Q}_\theta(s', a') - \hat{Q}_\theta(s, a)] \frac{\partial \hat{Q}_\theta(s, a)}{\partial \theta_i}$$

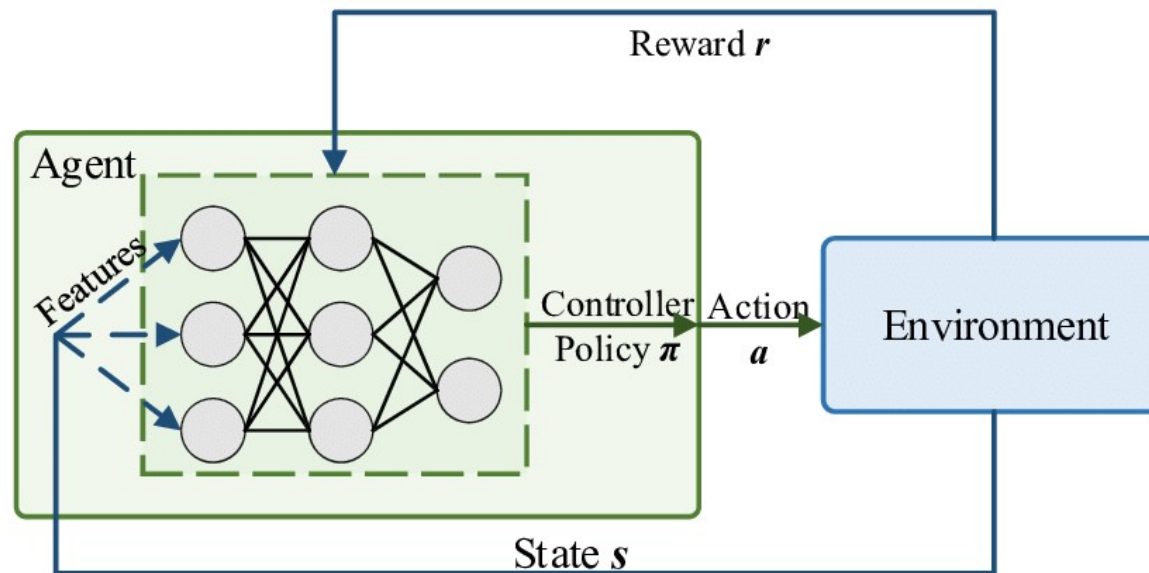
- The problem of **catastrophic forgetting**

- One of solutions is using **experience replay**.
- The learning algorithm can **retain trajectories** from the entire learning process and **replay those trajectories** to ensure that its value function is still accurate for parts of the state space it no longer visits.

17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (4/6)

Deep reinforcement learning

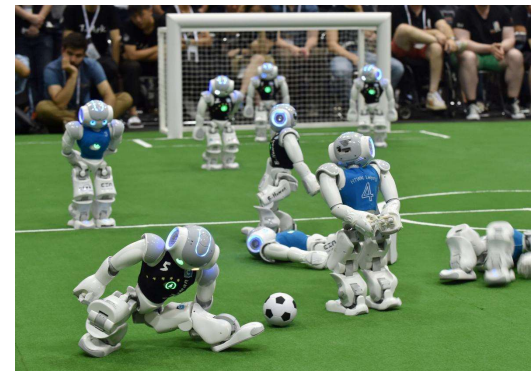
- The linear approximator may be insufficient → Use **deep neural networks**!
 - e.g. Video games, AlphaGo, training robots etc.



17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (5/6)

Reward shaping

- The **credit assignment** problem
 - Real-world environments may have very **sparse** rewards → many primitive actions are required to achieve any nonzero reward
 - For example, a soccer-playing robot might send a hundred thousand motor control commands to its various joints before conceding a goal. → Now it has to work out **what it did wrong**.
- One of good solutions is **reward shaping**
 - For any **potential function** Φ ,
$$R'(s, a, s') = R(s, a, s') + \gamma\Phi(s') - \Phi(s)$$
 - e.g. potential function Φ for soccer playing robot
→ A bonus for reducing distance of the ball from the opponents' goal

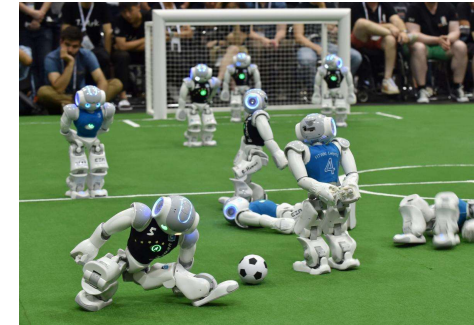


17.4 Generalization in Reinforcement Learning (6/6)

Hierarchical reinforcement learning

- Break **long action sequences** up into **a few smaller pieces**

```
while not IS-TERMINAL( $s$ ) do
  if BALL-IN-MY-POSSESSION( $s$ ) then choose({PASS, HOLD, DRIBBLE})
  else choose({STAY, MOVE, INTERCEPT-BALL}).
```



- HRL agent is solving a Markovian decision problem with following elements:
 - The **states** are the choice states σ of the joint state space
 - The **actions** at σ are the choices c available in σ according to the partial program
 - The **reward function** $\rho(\sigma, c, \sigma')$ is the expected sum of rewards
 - The **transition model** $\tau(\sigma, c, \sigma')$ is defined in the obvious way:
 - if c invokes a physical action a , then τ borrows from the physical model $P(s'|s, a)$;
 - if c invokes a computational transition, such as calling a subroutine, then the transition deterministically modifies the computational state m according to the rules of the programming language



17.5 Policy Search



17.5 Policy Search (1/2)

Policy representation

- Policy representation in terms of **Q-functions**

$$\pi(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_a \hat{Q}_\theta(s, a)$$

- **Problem:** policy change **discontinuously**, which makes gradient-based search difficult

- (**Stochastic**) Policy representation with **softmax**

$$\pi_\theta(s, a) = \frac{e^{\beta \hat{Q}_\theta(s, a)}}{\sum_{a'} e^{\beta \hat{Q}_\theta(s, a)}}$$

- Use a stochastic policy representation, which specifies the **probability** of actions
- Parameter $\beta > 0$ modulates softness of the softmax (**high:** hard max, **low:** uniform)

17.5 Policy Search (2/2)

Policy gradient methods

- $\rho(\theta)$ is **policy value** and $\nabla_{\theta}\rho(\theta)$ is **policy gradient**

$$\nabla_{\theta}\rho(\theta) = \nabla_{\theta} \sum_a R(s_0, a, s_0) \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a) = \sum_a R(s_0, a, s_0) \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a)$$

- **Monte Carlo approximation:** approximate by samples generated from $\pi_{\theta}(s_0, a)$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\theta}\rho(\theta) &= \sum_a \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a) \cdot \frac{R(s_0, a, s_0) \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a)}{\pi_{\theta}(s_0, a)} \\ &\approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{R(s_0, a_j, s_0) \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a_j)}{\pi_{\theta}(s_0, a_j)} \end{aligned}$$

- For the sequential case

$$\nabla_{\theta}\rho(\theta) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{u_j(s) \nabla_{\theta} \pi_{\theta}(s_0, a_j)}{\pi_{\theta}(s_0, a_j)}$$



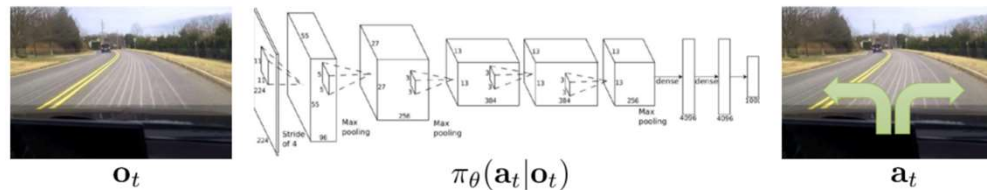
17.6 Apprenticeship and Inverse Reinforcement Learning



17.6 Apprenticeship and Inverse RL (1/2)

Apprenticeship learning

- How to behave well given observations of **expert behavior**
- We can apply supervised learning using state-action pairs to learn policy
 - ➔ **Imitation learning**



<출처> Bojarski et al. '16, NVIDIA

17.6 Apprenticeship and Inverse RL (2/2)

Inverse reinforcement learning

- **Learn rewards** by observing a policy, rather than **learning a policy** by observing rewards
- How to find the **expert's reward function**, given the expert's actions
- **Feature matching** method
 - Assume the reward function as **a weighted linear combination** of features

$$R_{\theta}(s, a, s') = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i f_i(s, a, s') = \theta \cdot \mathbf{f}$$

- Recall the utility function of executing a policy π . We can derive **feature expectation** $\mu_i(\pi)$ (expected discounted value of the feature f_i)

$$\begin{aligned} U^{\pi}(s) &= E \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t R(S_t, \pi(S_t), S_{t+1}) \right] = E \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i f_i(S_t, \pi(S_t), S_{t+1}) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i E \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t f_i(S_t, \pi(S_t), S_{t+1}) \right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i \mu_i(\pi) = \theta \cdot \mu(\pi) \end{aligned}$$



17.7 Applications of Reinforcement Learning



17.7 Applications of Reinforcement Learning (1/1)

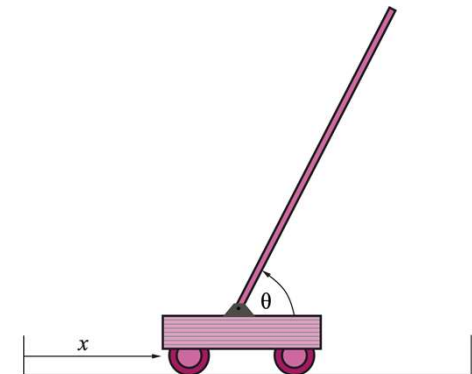
Application of Reinforcement Learning

➤ Game playing

- Checker program written by Arthur Samuel (1959, 1967)
- TD-GAMMON (Backgammon) program by Gerry Tesauro (1992)
- AlphaGo program by Google DeepMind (2016)

➤ Robot control

- Cart-pole balancing problem by Michie and Chambers (1968)
- Helicopter flight using policy search by Bagnell et al. (2001)
- Deep RL for robotics and self-driving cars (2016~present)



Cart-pole balancing



Helicopter flight

Summary

1. **Direct utility estimation** uses the total observed reward-to-go for a given state as direct evidence for learning its utility.
2. A **model-based** reinforcement learning agent acquires a transition model for the environment and learns a utility function.
3. A **model-free** reinforcement learning agent may learn an action-utility function or a policy
4. **Adaptive dynamic programming** (ADP) learns a model and a reward function from observations and then uses value or policy iteration to obtain the utilities or an optimal policy.
5. **Temporal difference** (TD) methods update utility estimates to match those of successor states.
6. **Action-utility functions** (Q-functions) can be learned by an ADP approach or a TD approach.
7. **Policy-search methods** operate directly on a representation of the policy, attempting to improve it based on observed performance.
8. **Apprenticeship learning** through observation of expert behavior can be an effective solution when a correct reward function is hard to specify.
9. **Imitation learning** formulates the problem as supervised learning of a policy from the expert's state-action pairs.
10. **Inverse reinforcement learning** infers reward information from the expert's behavior.