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Part 1: Implementing policy gradient algorithms

Implementation

REINFORCE

1.参数化策略

在REINFORCE中,策略通过参数 θ 定义,表示在状态s下采取动作a的概率分布。 θ 是一个 $nActions \times nStates$ 的向量, $\phi(s,a)$ 是 $nActions \times nStates$ 维线性空间下的标准正交基:

$$\pi_{ heta}(a|s) = rac{exp(heta_{a,s})}{\sum_{a'} exp(heta_{a',s})}$$

根据课件上softmax policy的gradient算法:

$$abla_{ heta}log\pi(a|s) = \phi(s,a) - E_{a \sim \pi}[\phi(s,a)]$$

2.生成轨迹

对于每个 episode:

- 从初始状态s0开始。
- 根据当前策略 π_{θ} 选择动作 a_t ,执行动作后进入下一个状态 s_{t+1} ,并获得即时奖励 r_t 。
- 累计计算折扣奖励

3.策略梯度更新

$$G_t \leftarrow \sum_{k=t+1}^{T} \gamma^{k-t-1} r_k$$

$$heta \leftarrow heta + lpha \gamma^t G
abla_{ heta} ln \pi_{ heta}(a_t|s_t)$$

Actor-Critic

1.参数化策略 (Parameterized Policy)

和上述REINFORCE相同,策略通过参数 θ 定义,表示在状态s下采取动作a的概率分布。 θ 是一个 $nActions \times nStates$ 的向量, $\phi(s,a)$ 是 $nActions \times nStates$ 维线性空间下的标准正交基:

$$\pi_{ heta}(a|s) = rac{exp(heta_{a,s})}{\sum_{a'} exp(heta_{a',s})}$$

根据课件上softmax policy的gradient算法:

$$\nabla_{\theta} log \pi(a|s) = \phi(s,a) - E_{a \sim \pi}[\phi(s,a)]$$

2.更新规则

时间差分 (TD) 误差:

$$\delta_t \leftarrow r_t + \gamma V_w(s_{t+1}) - V_w(s_t)$$

Critic更新:

 $w \leftarrow w + \beta \delta \nabla V(s, w)$ Actor更新: $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha I_t \delta \nabla_{\theta} ln \pi_{\theta}(a_t | s_t)$

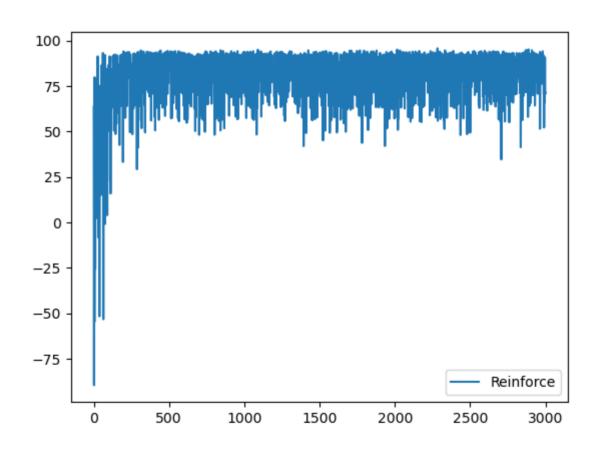
3.算法步骤

- 初始化策略参数 θ 和值函数参数w。
- 对于每个episode:
 - \circ 从初始状态 s_0 开始,设置积累因子I=0
 - 生成轨迹: 在每一步中,
 - 按照策略选择动作
 - 执行动作,观察即时奖励 r_t 和下一个状态 s_{t+1} 。
 - 计算TD误差 δ_t
 - 更新Critic参数w和Actor参数heta
 - 累积折扣奖励

Evaluation

n_episode = 1000 n_trials = 10

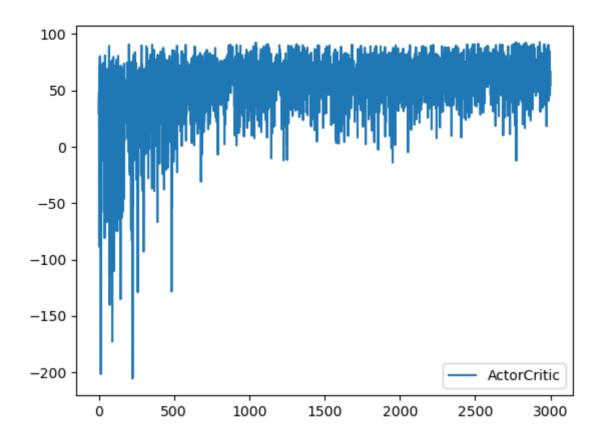
REINFORCE



Code

```
def reinforce(self, theta, alpha=0.001, nEpisodes=3000):
       n_actions, n_states = self.mdp.R.shape
       if theta is None:
            theta = np.random.rand(n_states, n_actions)
       cum_rewards = np.zeros(nEpisodes)
       for episode in range(nEpisodes):
            state = 0
            trajectory = []
            done = False
            while not done:
                probs = self.policy(theta, state)
                action = np.random.choice(range(n_actions), p=probs)
                reward, next_state = self.sampleRewardAndNextState(state, action)
                trajectory.append((state, action, reward))
                cum_rewards[episode] += reward
               state = next_state
               if state == self.mdp.nStates - 1:
                    done = True
            for t, (s, a, r) in enumerate(trajectory):
               G_t = sum([(self.mdp.discount ** k) * reward for k, (_, _, reward) in
enumerate(trajectory[t:])])
                probs = self.policy(theta, s)
                grad_log_pi = -probs
                grad_log_pi[a] += 1
                theta[:, s] += alpha * (self.mdp.discount ** t) * G_t * grad_log_pi
        return cum_rewards, theta
```

Actor-Critic



Code

```
def actorCritic(self, theta, alpha=0.001, beta=0.01, nEpisodes=3000):
    n_actions, n_states = self.mdp.R.shape
    if theta is None:
        theta = np.random.rand(n_states, n_actions)
    w = np.zeros(n_states)
    cum_rewards = np.zeros(nEpisodes)
    for episode in range(nEpisodes):
        state = 0
        I = 1
        done = False
        while not done:
            probs = self.policy(theta, state)
            action = np.random.choice(range(n_actions), p=probs)
            reward, next_state = self.sampleRewardAndNextState(state, action)
            td_error = reward + self.mdp.discount * w[next_state] - w[state]
            w[state] += beta * td_error
            grad_log_pi = -probs
            grad_log_pi[action] += 1
            theta[:, state] += alpha * I * td_error * grad_log_pi
```

```
cum_rewards[episode] += reward
I = self.mdp.discount * I
state = next_state

if state == self.mdp.nStates - 1:
    done = True

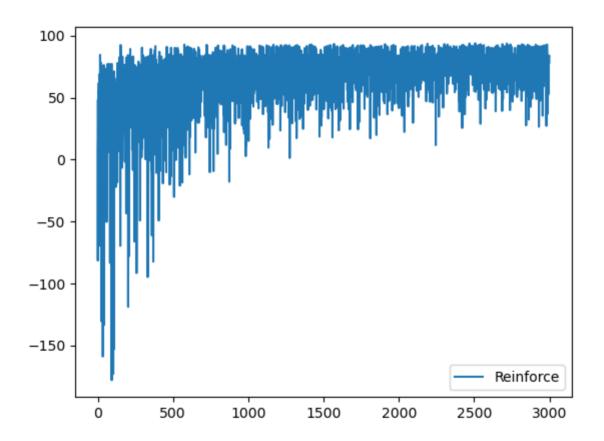
return cum_rewards, theta
```

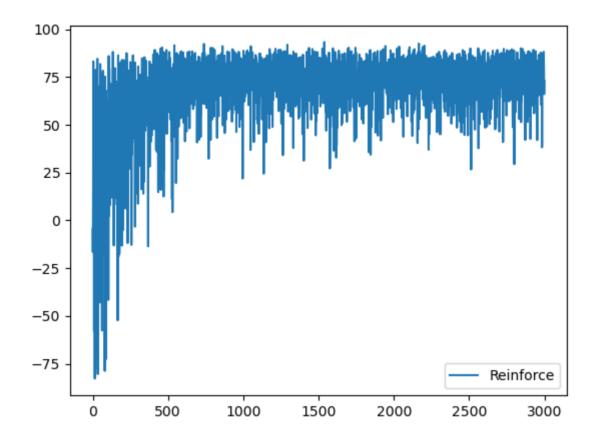
Part 2: Fine-tuning and Comparison

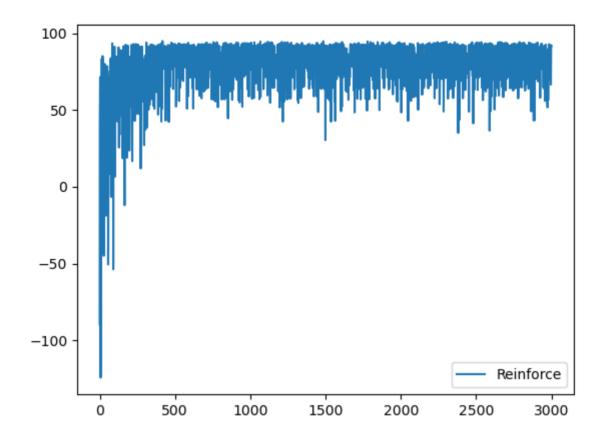
learning rate tuning

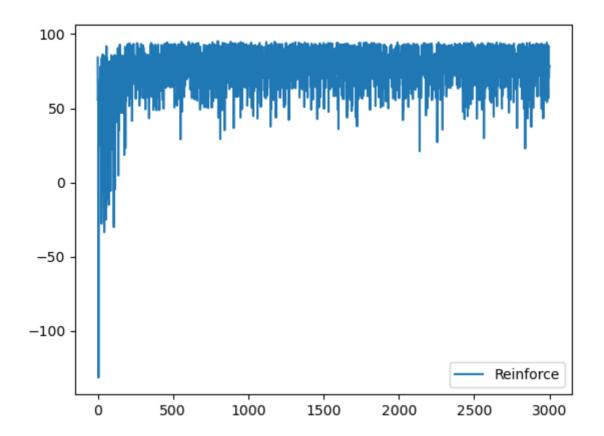
REINFORCE

lpha=0.0001: 大概在episode达到2000时收敛

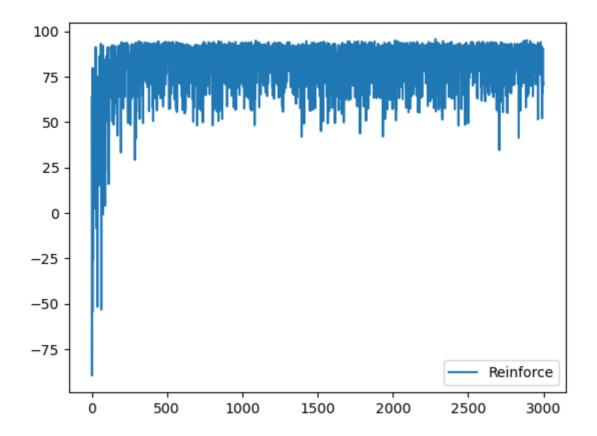


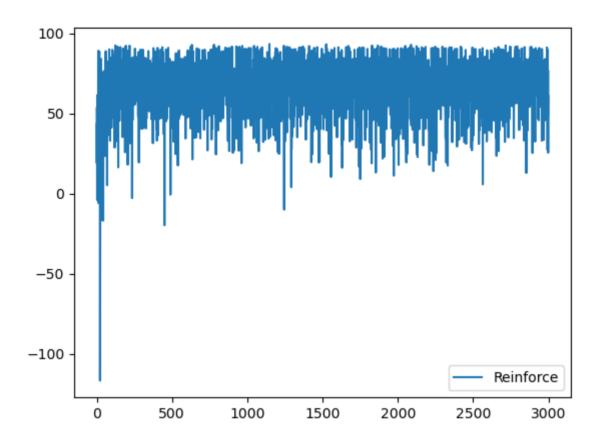






lpha=0.001: 大概在episode达到300时收敛





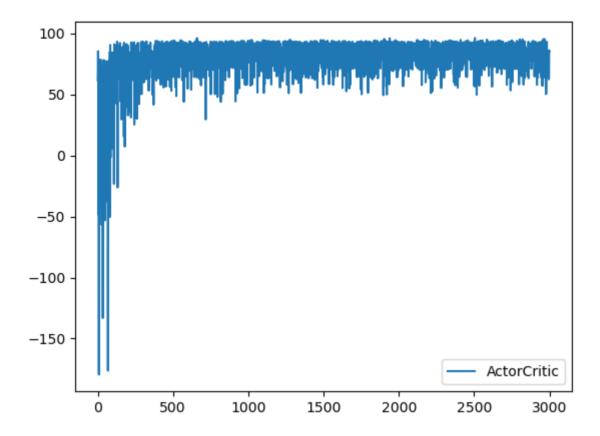
由上述可知在一定范围内 α 越大,收敛得越快。推荐选择 α 为0.001或0.0007,收敛速度较快,且较为稳定。

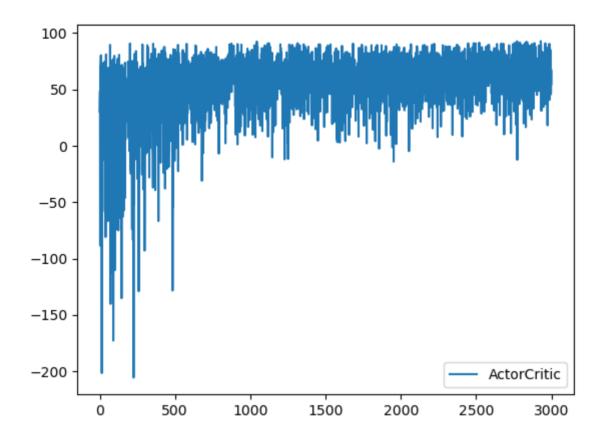
Actor-Critic

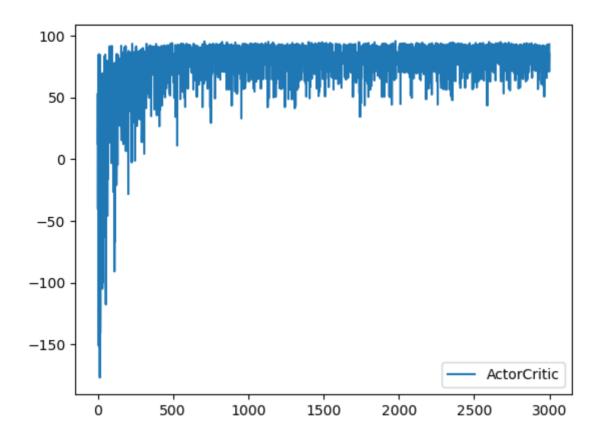
由一般的经验可知,Critic 的学习率一般比 Actor 大一到两个数量级,因为 Critic 的更新需要更快速跟踪状态值估计。

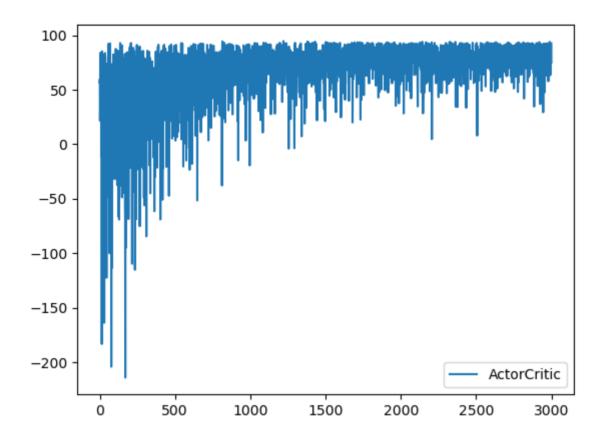
 $\alpha = 0.001, \beta = 0.01$:

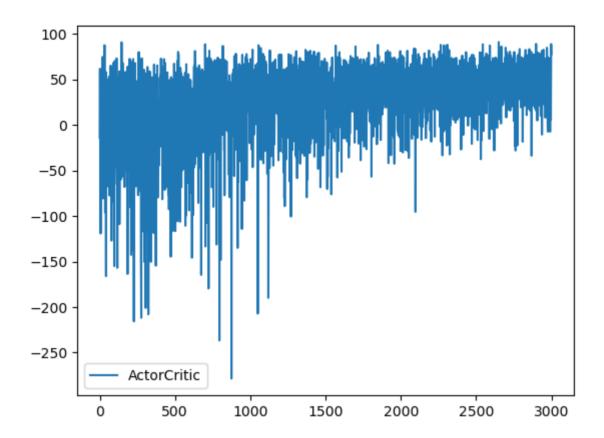
大概在episode达到800时收敛

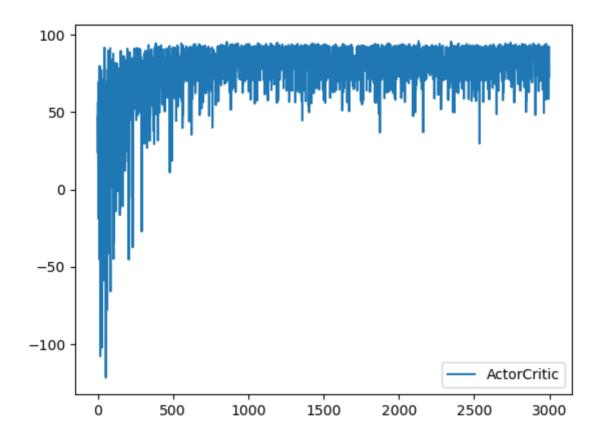


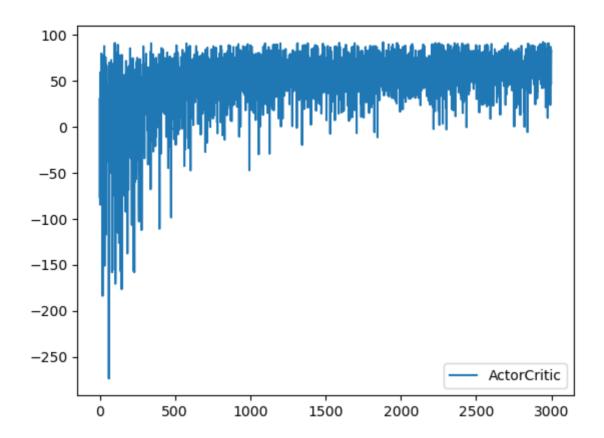


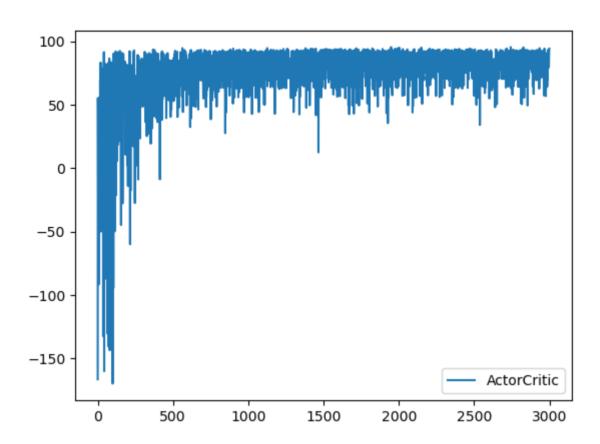












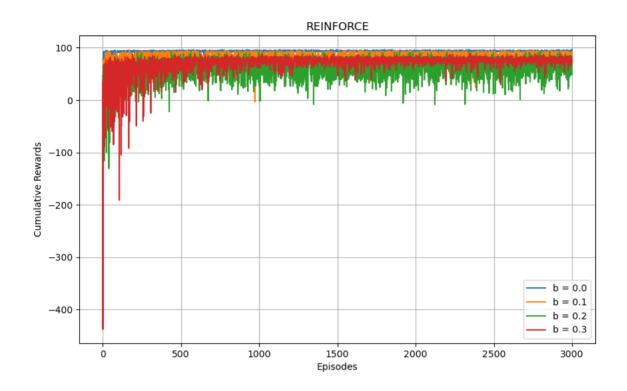
由上述可知当 $\alpha=0.001, \beta=0.01$ 时曲线收敛较快。

affects

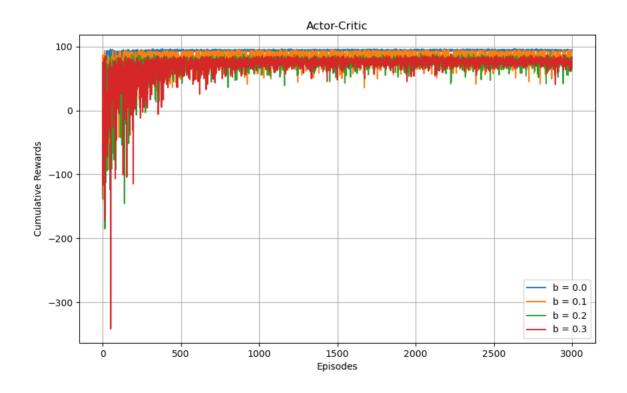
经过上述分析,学习率较小时曲线收敛速度较慢,但最后仍然可能收敛到全局最优。学习率较大时曲线收敛速度较快,但过大的学习率可能导致曲线剧烈波动,甚至不收敛。所以选择适合的学习率有利于算法的收敛速度和稳定性。

changing environment

REINFORCE



Actor-Critic

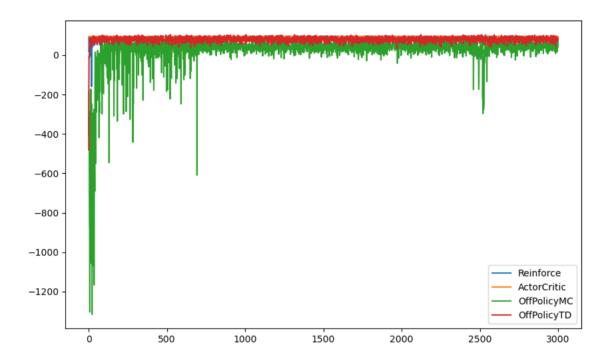


the impact of b

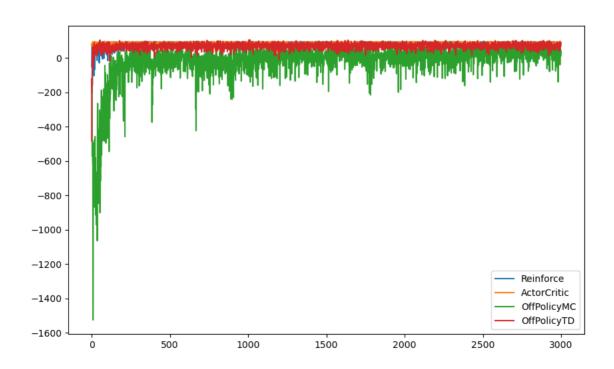
由上述图片可以看出,当b=0时,环境是确定性的,动作完全决定状态的转移,智能体可以稳定地利用学到的策略,所以训练期间累计奖励增长较快。而当b较大时,训练期间累计奖励增长更慢,且可能表现出较高的波动性。

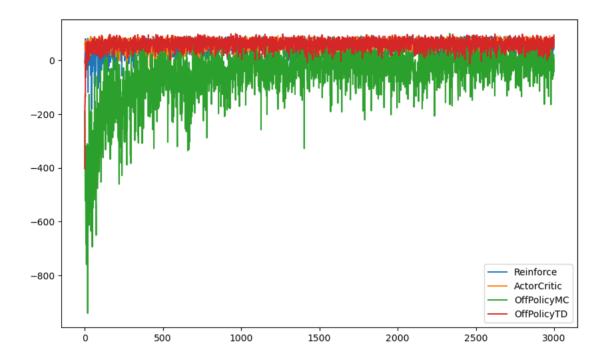
comparison between value-based and policy-based algorithms

取b=0.0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, REINFORCE算法中的alpha取0.001, Actor-Critic算法中的alpha取0.001, beta取0.01, off-policy MC和Q-learning的epsilon均取0.1 b=0.0:

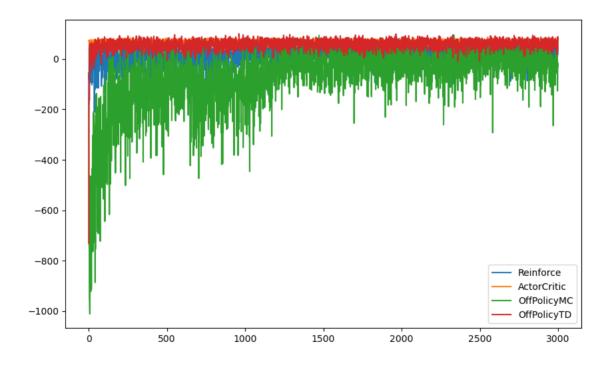


b=0.1:





b=0.3:



由上述图片可以看出: 当b较小时(低随机性): Q-learning 和 Actor-Critic 表现最佳。因为环境更可预测,这两种算法可以较快地收敛到最优策略。 REINFORCE 和 Off-policy MC 方法可能因为梯度估计或采样方差的问题而略显不足。

当b较大时(高随机性):

Actor-Critic 表现最好,因为它的双模块设计可以适应高随机性。

Q-learning 表现略有下降,主要是因为随机性的增加增大了Q(s,a)值的波动,可能当b值更大时表现得更明显。 REINFORCE 的性能显著下降,因为高随机性会进一步放大梯度估计的方差。

Off-policy MC 方法几乎无法有效收敛,重要性采样的方差问题显著。