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# **GRPO:** Group Relative Policy Optimization



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# DeepSeekMath: Pushing the Limits of Mathematical Reasoning in Open Language Models

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paper: arxiv.org/pdf/2402.0330...

这里快速介绍一下 deepseek 提出来的这个GRPO 的算法原理。 暂时不对论文通篇进行讲解了。

GRPO的核心思想是通过**组内相对奖励**来估计基线(baseline),从而避免使用额外的价值函数模型(critic model)。传统的PPO算法需要训练一个价值函数来估计优势函数(advantage function),而GRPO通过从同一问题的多个输出中计算平均奖励来替代这一过程,显著减少了内存和计算资源的消耗。

## 1. 框架图+

首先看一下PPO 与GRPO 的比较图。 对PPO 算法不熟悉的话,可以查看前一篇文章: <u>知行者:</u> PPO: Proximal Policy Optimization Algorithms

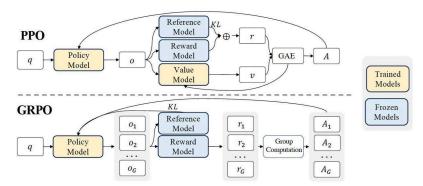


Figure 4 | Demonstration of PPO and our GRPO. GRPO foregoes the value model, instead estimating the baseline from group scores, significantly reducing training resources.

从图上可以看出,GRPO 与PPO 的主要区别有:

- GRPO 省略了 value function model.
- GRPO reward 计算,改成了一个q 生成多个r, 然后reward 打分。
- PPO 优势函数\*计算时, KL 是包含在GAE内部的。 GRPO 直接挪到了外面,同时修改了计算方法。

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## 2.1 PPO 复习

直接上原文,首先是PPO的目标函数+:

这个比较熟悉,策略概率比与优势函数的乘积。同时做了clip限制了参数更新范围。

#### 4.1.1. From PPO to GRPO

Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) (Schulman et al., 2017) is an actor-critic RL algorithm that is widely used in the RL fine-tuning stage of LLMs (Ouyang et al., 2022). In particular, it optimizes LLMs by maximizing the following surrogate objective:

$$\mathcal{J}_{PPO}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}\left[q \sim P(Q), o \sim \pi_{\theta_{old}}(O|q)\right] \frac{1}{|o|} \sum_{t=1}^{|o|} \min \left[\frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_t|q, o_{< t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_t|q, o_{< t})} A_t, \operatorname{clip}\left(\frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_t|q, o_{< t})}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}(o_t|q, o_{< t})}, 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon\right) A_t\right], \quad (1)$$

where  $\pi_{\theta}$  and  $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$  are the current and old policy models, and q, o are questions and outputs sampled from the question dataset and the old policy  $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$ , respectively.  $\varepsilon$  is a clipping-related hyper-parameter introduced in PPO for stabilizing training.  $A_t$  is the advantage, which is computed by applying Generalized Advantage Estimation (GAE) (Schulman et al., 2015), based

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公式2 是PPO 中优势函数的计算。 在reward 打分上,加一个per-token 的KL 散度\*惩罚。

on the rewards  $\{r_{\geq t}\}$  and a learned value function  $V_{\psi}$ . Thus, in PPO, a value function needs to be trained alongside the policy model and to mitigate over-optimization of the reward model, the standard approach is to add a per-token KL penalty from a reference model in the reward at each token (Ouyang et al., [2022), i.e.,

$$r_t = r_{\varphi}(q, o_{\leq t}) - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_t | q, o_{< t})}{\pi_{ref}(o_t | q, o_{< t})}, \tag{2}$$

where  $r_{\varphi}$  is the reward model,  $\pi_{ref}$  is the reference model, which is usually the initial surprise and  $\beta$  is the coefficient of the KL penalty.

#### 2.2 GRPO的优化

下面是GRPO 的改进。 **论文认为value function model 占用了额外的显存和计算资源**。因此提出以下的改进方法。

去除value function , reward 直接对单个q生成的response进行打分,归一化后,作为替代的优势函数。

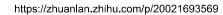
同时将KL散度抑制,移到了优势函数计算的外面。 KL 散度的计算也进行了改进,可以见公式4. 为了保证KL散度 $^+$ 为正值。

As the value function employed in PPO is typically another model of comparable size as the policy model, it brings a substantial memory and computational burden. Additionally, during RL training the value function is treated as a baseline in the calculation of the advantage for variance reduction. While in the LLM context, usually only the last token is assigned a reward score by the reward model, which may complicate the training of a value function that is accurate at each token. To address this, as shown in Figure  $\P$ , we propose Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO), which obviates the need for additional value function approximation as in PPO, and instead uses the average reward of multiple sampled outputs, produced in response to the same question, as the baseline. More specifically, for each question q, GRPO samples a group of outputs  $\{o_1, o_2, \cdots, o_G\}$  from the old policy  $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$  and then optimizes the policy model by maximizing the following objective:

$$\mathcal{J}_{GRPO}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}\left[q \sim P(Q), \{o_i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{\theta_{old}}(O|q)\right]$$

$$\frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G \frac{1}{|o_i|} \sum_{t=1}^{|o_i|} \left\{ \min\left[\frac{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|q, o_{i,
(3)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  and  $\beta$  are hyper-parameters, and  $\hat{A}_{i,t}$  is the advantage calculated based on relative rewards of the outputs inside each group only, which will be detailed in the following subsections. The group relative way that GRPO leverages to calculate the advantages, aligns well with the comparative nature of rewards models, as reward models are typically trained on datasets of comparisons between outputs on the same question. Also note that, instead of adding KL penalty in the reward, GRPO regularizes by directly adding the KL divergence between the trained policy and the reference policy to the loss, avoiding complicating the



And different from the KL penalty term used in (2), we estimate the KL divergence with the following unbiased estimator (Schulman) (2020):

$$\mathbb{D}_{KL}\left[\pi_{\theta}||\pi_{ref}\right] = \frac{\pi_{ref}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})}{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})} - \log \frac{\pi_{ref}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})}{\pi_{\theta}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})} - 1,$$
(4)

which is guaranteed to be positive.

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下图是基于group reward 计算优势函数的,归一化公式:

#### 4.1.2. Outcome Supervision RL with GRPO

Formally, for each question q, a group of outputs  $\{o_1,o_2,\cdots,o_G\}$  are sampled from the old policy model  $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$ . A reward model is then used to score the outputs, yielding G rewards  $\mathbf{r} = \{r_1,r_2,\cdots,r_G\}$  correspondingly. Subsequently, these rewards are normalized by subtracting the group average and dividing by the group standard deviation. Outcome supervision provides the normalized reward at the end of each output  $o_i$  and sets the advantages  $\hat{A}_{i,t}$  of all tokens in the output as the normalized reward, i.e.,  $\hat{A}_{i,t} = \widetilde{r}_i = \frac{r_i - \mathrm{mean}(\mathbf{r})}{\mathrm{std}(\mathbf{r})}$ , and then optimizes the policy by maximizing the objective defined in equation (3).

下面是GRPO 的计算伪代码+:

```
Algorithm 1 Iterative Group Relative Policy Optimization
Input initial policy model \pi_{\theta_{\text{init}}}; reward models r_{\varphi}; task prompts \mathcal{D}; hyperparameters \varepsilon, \beta, \mu
 1: policy model \pi_{\theta} \leftarrow \pi_{\theta_i}
 2: for iteration = 1, ..., I do
         reference model \pi_{ref} \leftarrow \pi_{\theta}
 3:
 4:
         for step = 1, ..., M do
               Sample a batch \mathcal{D}_b from \mathcal{D}
 5:
               Update the old policy model \pi_{\theta_{old}} \leftarrow \pi_{\theta}
 6:
              Sample G outputs \{o_i^i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{\theta_o dd}(\cdot \mid q) for each question q \in \mathcal{D}_b Compute rewards \{r_i\}_{i=1}^G for each sampled output o_i by running r_{\phi}
 7:
 8:
 9.
               Compute \hat{A}_{i,t} for the t-th token of o_i through group relative advantage estimation.
10:
               for GRPO iteration = 1, ..., \mu do
                   Update the policy model \pi_{\theta} by maximizing the GRPO objective (Equation 21)
11:
12:
         Update r_{\varphi} through continuous training using a replay mechanism.
                                                                                                                        知平 @知行者
Output \pi_{\theta}
```

## GRPO的计算流程包括:

- 1. 采样一组输出并计算每个输出的奖励。
- 2. 对组内奖励进行归—化处理。
- 3. 使用归一化后的奖励计算优势函数。
- 4. 通过最大化目标函数更新策略模型。
- 5. 迭代训练,逐步优化策略模型。

GRPO通过组内相对奖励估计基线,避免了传统PPO中价值函数<sup>+</sup>的使用,显著减少了训练资源消耗,同时提升了模型在数学推理<sup>+</sup>等复杂任务中的表现。

## 3. GRPO 计算总结

```
GRPO 计算流程

1. 初始化

・ 策略模型: 初始化策略模型 \pi_{\theta},通常基于预训练的语言模型或经过监督微调(SFT)的模型。

・ 奖励模型: 初始化奖励模型 r_{\phi},用于对模型的输出进行评分。

・ 参考模型: 设置参考模型 \pi_{ref},通常是初始的SFT模型,用于计算KL散度以防止策略模型过度偏离初始模型。

2. 采样输出

对于每个问题 q:

1. 从当前策略模型 \pi_{\theta_{old}} 中采样一组输出 \{o_1,o_2,\dots,o_G\},其中 G 是组的大小(例如 G=64)。

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#### 3. 归一化奖励

1. 计算组内奖励的平均值:

$$ext{mean}(\mathbf{r}) = rac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G r_i$$

2. 计算组内奖励的标准差:

$$ext{std}(\mathbf{r}) = \sqrt{rac{1}{G}\sum_{i=1}^G (r_i - ext{mean}(\mathbf{r}))^2}$$

3. 对每个输出  $o_i$  的奖励  $r_i$  进行归一化处理:

$$ar{r}_i = rac{r_i - ext{mean}(\mathbf{r})}{ ext{std}(\mathbf{r})}$$

#### 4. 计算优势函数

ullet 对于每个输出  $o_i$ ,其每个时间步 t 的优势函数  $\hat{A}_{i,t}$  被设置为归一化后的奖励  $ar{r}_i$  :

$$\hat{A}_{i,t} = ar{r}_i$$

- 如果使用**过程监督**(Process Supervision),则优势函数会基于每个推理步骤的**契**加抵行的
- 这里的公式缺了一部分,不要在意。可以查看查看原文截图。

#### 5. 优化策略模型

通过最大化以下目标函数来更新策略模型  $\pi_{ heta}$ :

$$\mathcal{J}_{GRPO}( heta) = \mathbb{E}[q \sim P(Q), \{o_i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{ heta_{old}}(O|q)] rac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G rac{1}{|o_i|} \sum_{t=1}^{|o_i|} \left( \min \left[ rac{\pi_{ heta}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})}{\pi_{ heta_{old}}(o_{i,t}|q,o_{i,< t})} \hat{A}_{i,t}, ext{clip} 
ight]$$

#### 其中:

- $\epsilon$  是裁剪参数,用于限制策略更新的幅度。
- ullet eta 是KL散度的系数,用于防止策略模型过度偏离参考模型。
- $D_{KL}[\pi_{ heta} || \pi_{ref}]$  是策略模型与参考模型之间的KL散度。

### 6. 迭代训练

- ullet **更新奖励模型**:在每一轮训练后,根据新的采样输出更新奖励模型  $r_\phi$ 。
- **更新策略模型**:使用更新后的奖励模型继续优化策略模型  $\pi_{ heta}$ 。
- 迭代: 重复上述过程,直到策略模型收敛或达到预定的训练轮数。

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GRPO 的确节约了显存+和计算资源。 但是是否真的提升复杂任务能力保留疑问。

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