# Coupling planning and learning

Corrado Possieri

Machine and Reinforcement Learning in Control Applications

### Introduction

Planning: model-based. Dato un modello trovo funzione valore (qualità) e policy ottima.

Learning: model free. Dato il reward e transizione stato azione successiva per aggiornare la funzione valore.

- The hearth of both methods is computing a value function
  - look ahead to future events;
  - compute a backed-up value;
  - update target.
- Can these methods be intermixed? Queste tecniche possono essere combinate poiché i metodi sono basati sulla stima della funzione valore. In un caso si

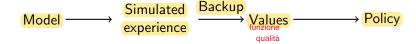
queste tecnicre possono essere combinate poicre i metodi sono basati sulla sunta della funzione valore. In un caso si parte da un modello, dall'altro si parte dall'esperienza, ma stimano entrambi la funzione valore. La parte in comune è che si guardano gli eventi futuri: in un caso nel planning (matrice transizione e reward) per tenedere alla funzione valore ottima. Entrambi i matodi aggiornano le stime tramite l'eg, di Bellmano.

ottima. Entrambi i metodi aggiornano le stime tramite l'eq. di Bellmann La differenza tra planning e learning è che cosa mi implica l'aggiornamento: il primo è il modello, il secondo è l'esperienza. Sulla base di questo si stima la funzione valore.

#### A unified view

## Model, learning, and planning

- A model is anything the agent can use to predict the behavior of the environment
  - distribution models: gives all possibilities and their probability; sample models: produce just one of the possibilities.
- Distribution models can be used to generate samples.



Learning can be used for planning.

## Sample-based planning

- Use the model only to generate samples.
- Sample experience from model

$$S_{t+1} \sim p(S_{t+1}|S_t, A_t),$$
  
 $R_{t+1} = r(S_t, A_t).$ 

- Apply model-free RL to samples.
- Often more efficient than planning.

## Indirect reinforcement learning

Indiretto perché utilizzo l'esperienza per costruire un modelle Value/policy Acting **Planning** Direct RL MC,TD etc.. Experience Model Model learning

Fino a che non ho sufficiente esperienza

A unified view

# Notes on indirect learning

- Indirect methods often make fuller use of a limited amount of experience.
- Direct methods are simpler and are not affected by biases.
- Model-based RL is only as good as the estimated model.
- When the model is inaccurate, planning will compute a suboptimal policy.

A unified view

## How to learn a model Model Learning

- In deterministic environments
  - $\blacksquare$  in state  $S_t$ , take action  $A_t$ ;
  - observe  $R_{t+1}$  and  $S_{t+1}$ ;
  - $p(S_{t+1}|S_t, A_t) \leftarrow 1, \ p(s|S_t, A_t) \leftarrow 0, \forall s \neq S_{t+1};$
  - $r(S_t, A_t) \leftarrow R_{t+1}.$
- In MDP environments
  - observing the history
    - ightharpoonup determining p(s'|s,a) is a density estimation problem;
    - ightharpoonup determining r(s,a) is a regression problem.

### Table lookup model

- Assuming S and A known
  - for and MDP we need to estimate P and R
    - use empirical samples

episodio diverso

Stima densità di probabilità density estimation

$$\hat{P}_{s,s',a} = \frac{1}{N(s,a)} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{t=1}^{T_k} \mathbf{1}(s_{t+1}^k = s', s_t^k = s, a_t^k = a),$$

$$\hat{R}_{s,a} = \frac{1}{N(s,a)} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{t=1}^{T_k} r_t^k \mathbf{1}(s_t^k = s, a_t^k = a).$$

## Dyna-Q

A unified view

- Use deterministic model learning
- Use one-step Q-learning as planning method
  - randomly sample from state-action pairs that have been previously experienced;
  - the model returns the last-observed next state and next reward as its prediction.

- Use one-step Q-learning as direct RL method.
- Learning and planning differ only in the source of their experience.

#### Appluco Q-learning

Ricavati dal modello

$$S_{t+1} = p(S \mid S, A)$$

$$R_{t+1} = r (S_1 A)$$

$$\mathbb{K}t_{11} = 1 \cdot (317)$$

### Dyna-Q algorithm

nuce tempo prime.

Non appena si ha una nuova esperienza, si pesce randocimante fea quelle precedenti

e si aggiorna in hase alla nuova esperienza, si pesce randocimante rea quere precedenti e si aggiorna in hase alla nuova funzione qualità. Non si ha il vincolo di lavorare su un

### Dyna-Q algorithm

Input:  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ Output:  $q_*$ ,  $\pi_*$  La problematica è che aggiorno le coppia stato azione in maniera casuale. Ciò causa un apprendimento più lento.

#### Initialization

$$\begin{array}{l} Q(s,a) \leftarrow \mathsf{arbitrary}, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}(s), \forall s \in \mathcal{S}; Q(\mathsf{terminal}, \cdot) \leftarrow 0 \\ \mathsf{Model}(s,a) \leftarrow \emptyset, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}(s), \forall s \in \mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

#### Loop

 $S \leftarrow \text{current state} \\ A \leftarrow \varepsilon - \text{greedy}(S,Q) \\ \text{take action } A \text{ and observe } R,S' \\ Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha(R+\gamma \max_a Q(S',a) - Q(S,A)) \\ \text{Model}(s,a) \leftarrow S',R \\ \text{repeat} \\ (S,A) \leftarrow \text{random previously experienced pair}$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} (S,A) \leftarrow \text{random previously experienced pair} \\ R,S' \leftarrow \operatorname{Model}(S,A) \\ Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha(R+\gamma \max_a Q(S',a) - Q(S,A)) \\ \text{until next sample is available} \end{array}$ 

### Notes on Dyna-Q

- Learns much faster in deterministic environments.
- If the environment changes, it can adapt.
- However, the formerly correct policy may not reveal improvements.
- The planning process is likely to compute a suboptimal policy.
- Exploration/exploitation conflict in a planning context
  - exploration: try to improve the model;
  - exploitation: take the best possible action according to the available model.

### $\mathsf{Dyna}\text{-}\mathsf{Q}+$

A unified view

- Keep track for each state—action pair of how many time steps have elapsed since last visit.
- The more time that has elapsed, the more is like that the model is incorrect.
- Encourage behavior that tests long-untried actions
  - the modeled reward for a transition is r:
  - the transition has not been tried in  $\tau$  time steps;
  - $\begin{tabular}{ll} & \textbf{planning assumes that the reward is } r+\kappa\sqrt{\tau}; & \textbf{Reward vero+bias*sqrt(tempo trascorso)} \\ & \textbf{an alternative is to select action as that maximizing} \\ \end{tabular}$

e.greedy sulla funzione 
$$Q(S_t,a)$$
  $+$   $\kappa\sqrt{\tau(S_t,a)}$ .

# Prioritized sweeping

A unified view

- Planning is more efficient if simulated transitions and updates
   are focused on particular state—action pairs.
   Quelle che devono essere cambiate di
   più.
- If simulated transitions are generated uniformly, then many wasteful updates are made.
- In general, we want to work back from any state whose value has changed
  - the predecessor pairs of those that have changed are more likely to also change;
  - prioritize the updates according to a measure of their urgency;

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needs an inverse model.
Da coppia stato azione, mi dice i predecessori cappie stato azioni

### Prioritized sweeping algorithm

### Prioritized sweeping algorithm

Input:  $\alpha>0$ ,  $\varepsilon>0$ , threshold  $\theta>0$  soglia che determina le coppie stato azione che hanno avuto un apprendimento importante Output:  $q_*$ ,  $\pi_*$ 

#### Initialization

 $S \leftarrow \text{current state}$ 

if  $P > \theta$  then

```
Q(s, a) \leftarrow \text{arbitrary}, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}(s), \forall s \in \mathcal{S}; Q(\text{terminal}, \cdot) \leftarrow 0
```

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{Model}(s,a) \leftarrow \emptyset, \forall a \in \mathcal{A}(s), \forall s \in \mathcal{S} \\ \mathsf{PQueue} \leftarrow \emptyset & \mathsf{Una} \ \mathsf{coda} \ \mathsf{di} \ \mathsf{priorita}; \ \mathsf{da} \ \mathsf{una} \ \mathsf{seq}, \ \mathsf{di} \ \mathsf{elementi} \ \mathsf{e} \ \mathsf{una} \ \mathsf{priorita} \ \mathsf{di} \ \mathsf{selezione} \ \mathsf{degli} \ \mathsf{elementi} \\ \end{array}$ 

#### Loop

```
A \leftarrow \varepsilon-greedy(S, Q)
take action A and observe R, S'
\mathsf{Model}(s,a) \leftarrow S', R
P \leftarrow |R + \gamma \max_a Q(S', a) - Q(S, A)|
```

Indice di priorità

Determino l'importanza dell'ielemento di apprendimento: è l'ampiezza dell'aggornamento. Se è grande la modifica è importante, al contrario se

insert S, A into PQueue with priority P

piccolo questo evento non è molto influente per l'apprendimento. Pianificazion Phile PQueue ≠ ∅ do

 $(S,A) \leftarrow \mathsf{first}(\mathsf{PQueue})^{\mathsf{a}} \mathsf{priorit\`{a}} \mathsf{maggiore}$ 

$$R, S' \leftarrow \mathsf{Model}(S, A)$$

 $Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha(R + \gamma \max_a Q(S',a) - Q(S,A))$  for all  $\bar{S},\bar{A}$  predicted to lead to S do aggiorno coppre stato azione che  $\bar{R}, \bar{S}' \leftarrow \mathsf{Model}(\bar{S}, \bar{A})$ mi hanno portato in quello stato  $\bar{P} \leftarrow |\bar{R} + \gamma \max_{a} \hat{Q}(\bar{S}', a) - Q(\bar{S}, \bar{A})|$ 

Priotirizzo le coppia (s,a) con priorità P che hanno subito un evento di apprendimento. Più P è grande più la coppia S,A ha bisongo di essere aggiornata.

if  $\bar{P} > \theta$  then

insert  $\bar{S}$ ,  $\bar{A}$  into PQueue with priority  $\bar{P}$ 

Verifico la priorità anche per gli stati e le azioni precedenti

Modello

inverso

# Trajectory sampling

A unified view

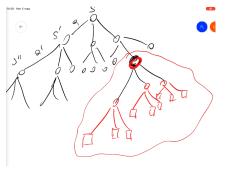
Proabilità di essere uno stato con la policy corrente

- Distribute updates according to the on-policy distribution
  - distribution observed when following the current policy;
  - simulate individual trajectories and perform updates at the state encountered along the way.
- States actually visited are updated more often.
- Uninteresting parts of the space are ignored.
- This is the same that happens in real time DP
  - can find a policy that is optimal on the relevant states without visiting every state infinitely often.

# Planning at decision time

predecessori.

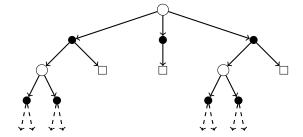
- Planning executed at current state.
- The values and policy are specific to the current state.
- The values and policy created are discarded after being used.
- Useful in applications in which fast responses are not required



Mi concentro solo sul sottoalbero e vado in avanti. Faccio una scelta per i successori e per il principip di ottimalità la policy ottimalità la soluzione che verrà fuori sarà sempre ottima.

### Heuristic search

- Go through the tree of possible continuations.
- Use a model of the sub-MDP starting from now.
- Focused on state/actions that immediately follow.
- Build a search tree with  $S_t$  at its root.



## Rollout algorithms

A unified view

- Heuristic search guided by MC simulation.
- Simulate episodes from now with the model.
- Average returns of simulated trajectories that start with each action and then follow rollout policy
  - lacksquare simulate K episodes following first action a and then policy  $\pi$

$$S_t, a, R_{t+1}^k, S_{t+1}^k, A_{t+1}^k, R_{t+2}^k, \dots, R_T^k, S_T^k;$$

evaluate actions by mean return

$$Q(S_t, a) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} G_t^k;$$

 $\blacksquare$  take action that maximize Q

$$A_t = \arg\max_{a} Q(S_t, a).$$

- Monte Carlo tree search
  - Use rollout method by modifying policy.
  - Record the values of Q in the search tree.
  - In the tree, we pick actions to maximize Q (e.g.,  $\varepsilon$ -greedy).
  - Outside the tree use a default policy.
  - MC control applied to simulated experience.
  - Expand the part of the tree that looks promising.
  - MC can be substituted by TD.





