



states: $\{s \in S\}$

actions: $\{a \in A\}$

reward: $R(s)$

policy: $\pi(a|s) \rightarrow$ confidence of this being the right action

discount factor: $\gamma < 1$

transitional probability: $p(s', r|s, a)$

Gain: $G_t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1}$

Value function: $V^\pi(s) = E^\pi[G_t | S_t = s]$ $E[X] = \sum_i p(x=x_i) x_i$

$$= E^\pi \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1} \mid S_t = s \right]$$

$$= E^\pi \left[R_{t+1} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1} \mid S_t = s \right]$$

$$= E^\pi \left[R_{t+1} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{k+1} R_{t+k+2} \mid S_t = s \right]$$

$$= E^\pi \left[R_{t+1} + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+2} \mid S_t = s \right]$$

$$= \sum_a \pi(a|s) E^{s',r} \left[R_{t+1} + \gamma E^\pi \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+2} \mid S_{t+1} = s' \right] \right]$$

$$= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r|s, a) \left[r + \gamma E^\pi \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+2} \mid S_{t+1} = s' \right] \right]$$

$$= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r|s, a) \left[r + \gamma V^\pi(s') \right]$$

Bellman Equation: $V^\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r|s, a) [r + \gamma V^\pi(s')] \quad \forall s \in S$

When the environment is deterministic $p(s', r|s, a) \in \{0, 1\}$ and an action in a specific state will always lead to the same resultant state

If $\pi(a|s) \in \{0, 1\}$, which is a definite policy, and the environment is deterministic then a simpler bellman equation can be used

$$V^\pi(s) = \max_a \left[r + \gamma V^\pi(s') \right] \quad \forall s \in S$$

Iterative Policy Evaluation: finding $V^\pi(s)$ from $\pi(a|s)$

o Random Policy: $\pi(a|s) = \frac{1}{\text{len}(\text{actions}(s))} \forall s \in S, a \in \text{actions}(s)$

while True:

for $s \in S$:

old_v = $V^\pi(s)$

if s is not terminal:

new_v = 0

$\pi(a|s) = 1/\text{len}(\text{actions}(s)) \forall a \in \text{actions}(s)$

for $a \in \text{actions}(s)$:

grid.set_state(s)

r = grid.move(a)

new_v += $\pi(a|s) [r + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$

$V^\pi(s) = \text{new_v}$

$\Delta = \max(\Delta, |\text{new_v} - \text{old_v}|)$

if $\Delta < \epsilon$:

break

deterministic

$p(s', r|s, a) \in \{0, 1\}$

o Definite Policy: $\pi(a|s) \in \{0, 1\} \forall s \in S, a \in \text{actions}(s) \mid$ given $\pi(a|s)$

while True:

$\Delta = 0$

for $s \in S$:

old_v = $V^\pi(s)$

if s is not terminal:

new_v = 0

for $a \in \text{actions}(s)$:

grid.set_state(s)

r = grid.move(a)

new_v += $p(s', r|s, a) [r + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$

$V^\pi(s) = \text{new_v}$

$\Delta = \max(\Delta, |\text{new_v} - \text{old_v}|)$

if $\Delta < \epsilon$:

break

not deterministic

$p(s', r|s, a) \in [0, 1]$

definite policies can be written

as

$\pi(s) = a$

where $\pi(a|s) = 1$

Policy Improvement: finding a better policy π' so that $V^\pi(s') \leq V^{\pi'}(s')$

Policy Iteration: going from $V^\pi(s) \rightarrow \pi'$ Solving the control problem

policy-changed = False

for $s \in S$

old- $a = \pi(s)$

$$\pi(s) = \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left[\sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma V(s')] \right]$$

if $\pi(s) \neq \text{old-}a$;
policy-changed = True

new- $a = \text{None}$

best-value = $-\infty$

for $a \in \text{actions}(s)$:

$v = 0$

for $a_2 \in \text{actions}(s)$:

grid.set_state(s)

$r = \text{grid.move}(a_2)$

$$v += p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma V(s')]$$

if $v > \text{best-value}$

new- $a = a$

best-value = v

$\pi(s) = \text{new-}a$

a is the action the agent attempted
 a_2 is what actually happened

Workflow

① initialize $V^\pi(s)$ and $\pi(s)$

while True:

② $V^\pi(s) = \text{iterative_policy_evaluation}(\pi)$

③ $\pi(s)$, policy-changed = policy-iteration(V^π)

④ if not policy-changed:

break

Value Iteration: alternative to policy iteration and iterative policy evaluation

↳ combines policy evaluation and policy improvement into one step

$$V_{k+1}(s) = \max_a \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) \{r + \gamma V_k(s')\}$$

initialize $V(s) = 0 \quad \forall s \in S$

while True:

$\Delta = 0$

for $s \in S$:

old- $v = V(s)$

$$V(s) = \max_a \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) \{r + \gamma V^\pi(s')\}$$

$$\Delta = \max(\Delta, |V^\pi(s) - \text{old-}v|)$$

if $\Delta < \epsilon$:

break

for $s \in S$:

$$\pi(s) = \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) \{r + \gamma V^\pi(s')\}$$

↳ This is only possible since policy iteration uses argmax and policy evaluation will just use the value at this maximum, by using in \max straight into $V(s)$ allows us to skip calculating $\pi(s)$ till the optimal value function is found

calculating $V^\pi(s)$

Finding $\pi(s)$ from $V^\pi(s)$

↳ Policy Iteration Policy Evaluation