MSBA – Optimization 2 Instructions for Atari with python

There are separate instructions for doing this on your machine and on Colab. Before you can do either, there are a few steps you need to follow.

- 1) Go to http://www.atarimania.com/rom collection archive atari 2600 roms.html
- 2) Download the roms file at the bottom of the page
 - This is a .rar file
- 3) Extract the .rar file
 - If you're on a Mac, download 'The Unarchiver' from the app store
 - If you're on a Windows machine, download 7-zip
- 4) The extracted folder contains 2 .zip files, leave these files alone, just remember where they're saved on your computer

Follow these instructions if you want to play Atari on your own machine:

- 1) Run the following 3 lines in your Terminal/AnacondaPrompt
 - conda install gym
 - conda install gym[atari]
 - python -m atari py.import roms /location/of/ROMs/

You could also use pip instead of conda. In step c, /location/of/ROMs/ is the location on your machine where you saved those 2 .zip files. For example, on my Mac I saved them in a folder on my desktop, so I ran

python -m atari py.import roms /users/Dan/Desktop/Roms/

If you use pip instead of conda, you may also have to run

pip install atari-py

before you import the roms.

2) In your jupyter notebook just import gym and you're good to go!

Follow these instructions if you want to play Atari on Colab:

- 1) Gym is already installed in Colab, but it doesn't have the Atari roms
- 2) Upload those 2 .zip files somewhere on your GoogleDrive
- 3) Give your Colab notebook access to your GoogleDrive
 - from google.colab import drive
 - drive.mount('/content/drive')
 - Follow the pop-up window instructions
- 4) In your Colab notebook run the following line
 - !python -m atari py.import roms /location/of/ROMs/

Here, /location/of/ROMs/ is the location on your GoogleDrive of those .zip files. For example, I created a folder called Roms in my GoogleDrive, so I ran

- !python -m atari py.import roms /content/drive/MyDrive/Roms/
- 5) In your Colab notebook just import gym and you're good to go!
- 6) You'll have to redo steps 3-5 every time you open your Colab notebook

After you follow these instructions, you can check that it worked by running the atari_check.ipynb notebook that's on canvas.