

Monday, November 5, 2018 2:56 PM

PARTIALLY-OBSERVABLE MDP (POMDP)

• MDP

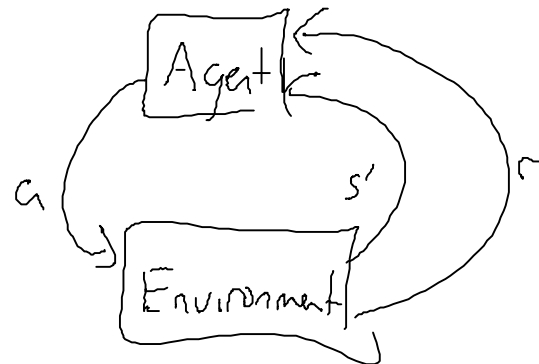
S : states

A : actions

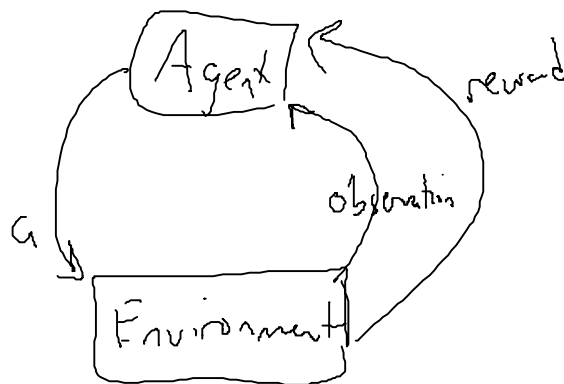
T : $T(s, a, s') \leftarrow P(s' | s, a) = P(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s,$

R : reward fn.

→ Find a policy π



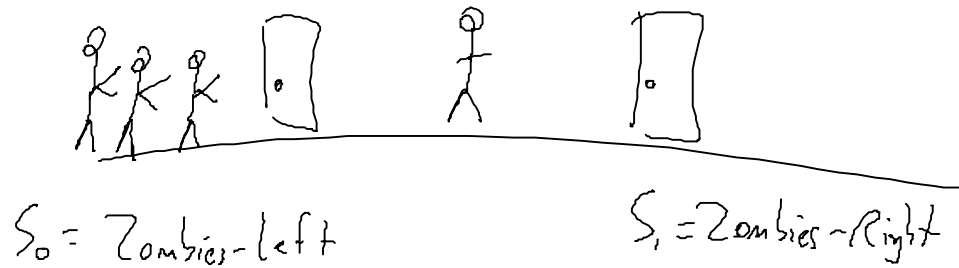
→ POMDP



Instead of getting state, you have a belief distribution of possible states that you are in, and you get an observation

toward or against different states.

EXAMPLE:



Observations: ZL : zombies-on-left
 ZR : zombies-on-right

$$P(o=ZL | S_0, do(\text{listen})) = 0.85$$

$$P(o=ZR | S_0, do(\text{listen})) = 0.15$$

$$P(o=ZL | S_1, do(\text{listen}))$$

$$P(o=ZR | S_1, do(\text{listen}))$$

Reward: wrong: -100
 right: +10
 listen: -1

Belief state: Probability distribution over states

initial belief: $P(S_0) = 0.5$
 $P(S_1) = 0.5$

$P(S_0)$ $P(S_1)$

0.5	0.5
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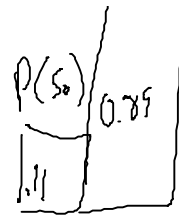
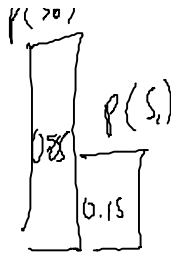
$do = \text{listen}$

$O=ZL$

$O=ZR$

$P(S_1)$

$P(S_0)$



belief state:

$$b = \langle P(s_0), P(s_1), P(s_2), \dots, P(s_n) \rangle$$

$b(s)$ ← probability of being in state s

(we make a move)

belief update: $b'(s') = \alpha P(o|s') \sum_s P(s'|s, a) b(s)$

just received this observation (points to $P(o|s')$)
 hidden variable (points to s)
 prob of seeing an observation in my new state (points to $P(s'|s, a)$)
 transition model (points to $P(s'|s, a)$)
 prior bel. (points to $b(s)$)

Shorthand: $b' = \text{FORWARD}(b, a, o)$

Policy: $\pi(b) = a$

Missing: A transition function from getting from belief state to another

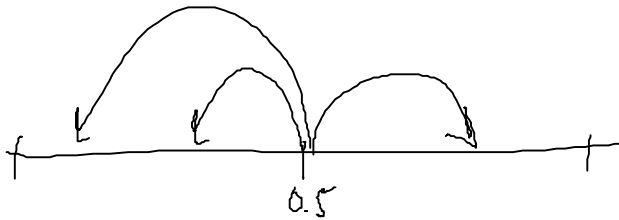
$$T(b, a, b') = P(b' | a, b)$$

Missing: A reward as a function of belief states

$$p(b) \Rightarrow R$$

$$P(b' | a, b) = \sum_o \left[\underbrace{P(b' | o, a, b)}_{\text{FORWARD model}} \sum_{s'} \left[\underbrace{P(o | s')}_{\text{FORWARD model}} \sum_s \left[\underbrace{P(s' | s, a)}_{\text{FORWARD model}} b \right] \right] \right]$$

$$P(b' | o, a, b) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } b' = \text{FORWARD}(b, a) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$$p(b) = \sum_s b(s) R(s)$$

(rho)

Problem: Continuous MDP (belief states are continuous random variables)

Either do a lot of math \rightarrow intractable

Approximation