策略梯度定理:

定义

当轨迹中某个 '状态-动作对' (s,a) 是令人满意的,即 Q(s,a)>0,那就增加 $\pi_{\theta}(s,a)$ 的概率。

证明

策略梯度定理 有两种形式:

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = E_{\substack{s_t \sim \Pr(s_0 \to s_t, t, \pi) \\ a_t \sim \pi(a_t \mid s_t)}} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t) \nabla \ln \pi(a_t \mid s_t) \right]$$

$$\tag{1}$$

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) \propto E_{\substack{s \sim D^{\pi} \\ a \sim \pi(a|s)}} \left[Q_{\pi_{\theta}}(s, a) \nabla_{\theta} \ln \pi_{\theta}(a|s) \right] \tag{2}$$

首先,定义强化学习的优化目标: $J(\theta)\doteq V_{\pi_{\theta}}(s_0)$,其中, $v_{\pi_{\theta}}$ 是 π_{θ} 的真实价值函数。目标函数求梯度有:

$$\begin{split} \nabla_{\theta}J(\theta) &= \nabla_{\theta}V_{\pi_{\theta}}(s_{0}) = \nabla \left[\sum_{a_{0}} \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}} \left[\nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) + \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})\nabla Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}} \left[\nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) + \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})\nabla \sum_{s_{1},r_{1}} p(s_{1},r_{1}|s_{0},a_{0})(r_{1} + \gamma V(s_{1})) \right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) + \sum_{a_{0}} \pi(a_{0}|s_{0}) \sum_{s_{1}} p(s_{1}|s_{0},a_{0}) \cdot \gamma \nabla V(s_{1}) \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \\ &+ \sum_{a_{0}} \pi(a_{0}|s_{0}) \sum_{s_{1}} p(s_{1}|s_{0},a_{0}) \cdot \gamma \sum_{a_{1}} \left[\nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1})Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) + \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \sum_{s_{2}} p(s_{2}|s_{1},a_{1}) \gamma \nabla V(s_{2}) \right] \\ &= \sum_{a_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \\ &+ \sum_{a_{0}} \pi(a_{0}|s_{0}) \sum_{s_{1}} p(s_{1}|s_{0},a_{0}) \cdot \gamma \sum_{a_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1})Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{0},0,\pi) \sum_{s_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0})\gamma^{0}Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \\ &+ \sum_{s_{1}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},1,\pi) \sum_{a_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1})\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{0},0,\pi) \sum_{a_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{0}|s_{0}) \left[\gamma^{0}Q_{\pi}(s_{0},a_{0}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{0}|s_{0}) \right] \\ &+ \sum_{s_{1}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},1,\pi) \sum_{a_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{a_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{a_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{s_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{s_{1}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{s_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots \\ &= \sum_{s_{0}} \sum_{s_{0}} \Pr(s_{0} \rightarrow s_{1},t,\pi) \sum_{s_{0}} \nabla \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \left[\gamma^{1}Q_{\pi}(s_{1},a_{1}) \nabla \ln \pi(a_{1}|s_{1}) \right] + \dots$$

其中, $p(s_1,r_1|s_0,a_0)$ 表示环境转移概率, $\Pr(s_0\to s_t,t,\pi)$ 表示从状态 s_0 出发,在策略 π 的作用下,经过 t 步到 达状态 s_t 的概率。如:

$$egin{aligned} \Pr(s_0 o s_0, 0, \pi) &= 1 \ \Pr(s_0 o s_1, 1, \pi) &= \sum_{a_0} \pi(a_0|s_0) p(s_1|s_0, a_0) \end{aligned}$$

此外,还使用了 $\nabla \pi(a|s) = \pi(a|s) \nabla \ln \pi(a|s)$ 的恒等变换。第 4 行到第 5 行对 $\nabla V(s_1)$ 进行了第 1 行到第 4 行对 $\nabla V(s_0)$ 的展开。基于此,我们得到 策略梯度定理 的基本形式:

$$abla_{ heta}J(heta) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty}\sum_{s_t} \Pr(s_0 o s_t, t, \pi) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t|s_t) \left[\gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t|s_t)
ight]$$

形式 1 的证明:

显然有 $\sum_{a_t}\pi(a_t|s_t)=1$ 。此外,还有 $\sum_{s_t}\Pr(s_0\to s_t,t,\pi)=1$,由于概率求和等于 1,基本形式可以写成期望的形式:

$$egin{aligned}
abla_{ heta} J(heta) &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s_t} \Pr(s_0
ightarrow s_t, t, \pi) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t | s_t) \left[\gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} E_{s_t \sim \Pr(s_0
ightarrow s_t, t, \pi)} \left[\gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_T)
ight] \ &= E_{s_t \sim \Pr(s_0
ightarrow s_t, t, \pi)} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \end{aligned}$$

形式 2 的证明:

从基本形式出发,先对t个时刻求和,再写成期望的形式:

$$egin{aligned}
abla_{ heta} J(heta) &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s_t} \Pr(s_0 o s_t, t, \pi) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t | s_t) \left[\gamma^t Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \sum_{s_t} \Pr(s_0 o s_t, t, \pi) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t | s_t) \left[Q_{\pi}(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \ &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \Pr(s_0 o x, t, \pi) \sum_{a} \pi(a | x) \left[Q_{\pi}(a | x)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \ &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} d^{\pi}(x) \sum_{a} \pi(a | x) \left[Q_{\pi}(x, a)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \end{aligned}$$

其中 $\mathcal S$ 是从 s_0 出发通过策略 π 能到达的所有状态的集合。 $d^\pi(x) = \sum_{t=0}^\infty \gamma^t \Pr(s_0 \to x, t, \pi)$ 是 折扣状态分布。但它的求和不等于一。

 $\sum_{x\in\mathcal{S}}d^\pi(x)=\sum_{x\in\mathcal{S}}\sum_{t=0}^\infty\gamma^t\Pr(s_0\to x,t,\pi)=\sum_{t=0}^\infty\gamma^t\sum_{s_t}\Pr(s_0\to x,t,\pi)=\sum_{t=0}^\infty\gamma^t=rac{1}{1-\gamma}$ 因此,如果写成期望的形式,需要将 $d^\pi(x)$ 归一化为标准分布 $D^\pi(x)$ 即,

$$\begin{split} \nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} d^{\pi}(x) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t | s_t) \left[Q_{\pi}(x, a_t) \nabla \ln \pi(a_t | x) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} (1 - \gamma) d^{\pi}(x) \sum_{a} \pi(a | x) \left[Q_{\pi}(x, a) \nabla \ln \pi(a | x) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} D^{\pi}(x) \sum_{a} \pi(a | x) \left[Q_{\pi}(x, a) \nabla \ln \pi(a | x) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} E_{\substack{x \sim D^{\pi} \\ a \sim \pi(a | x)}} \left[Q_{\pi}(x, a) \nabla \ln \pi(a | x) \right] \\ &\propto E_{s \sim D^{\pi} a \sim \pi(a | s)} \left[Q_{\pi}(s, a) \nabla \ln \pi(a | s) \right] \end{split}$$

可以发现, $\nabla_{\theta}J(\theta)$ 与 $E_{\substack{s\sim D^{\pi}\\a\sim\pi(a|s)}}[Q_{\pi}(s,a)\nabla\ln\pi(s,a)]$ 并非严格相等而是正比关系。

讨论

形式 1 是先写成期望的形式,再对 t 个时刻求和;形式 2 是先对 t 个时刻求和,再写成期望的形式。两种形式的最大区别是**状态的概率分布不同**。在形式 1 中,状态 s_t 服从从状态 s_0 出发,在策略 π 的作用下经过 t 步能到达的所有状态的分布。每个时刻的状态都服从各自的分布。即, $s_t \sim \Pr(s_o \to s_t, t, \pi)$ 。在形式 2 中,当 $\gamma = 1$ 时, $D^\pi(s)$ 为轨迹中状态 s 在每个时刻出现的平均概率。

用形式 1 计算策略梯度:

$$egin{aligned}
abla_{ heta} J(heta) &= E_{s_t, a_t \sim au_\pi} \left[\sum_{t=0}^2 \gamma^t Q_\pi(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t)
ight] \ &= \sum_{t=0}^2 \sum_{s_t} \Pr(s_0
ightarrow s_t, t, \pi) \sum_{a_t} \pi(a_t | s_t) Q_\pi(s_t, a_t)
abla \ln \pi(a_t | s_t) \end{aligned}$$

用形式 2 计算策略梯度: $(\gamma = 1$ 时,归一化系数为 T 而非 $\frac{1}{1-\alpha}$)

$$egin{aligned}
abla_{ heta} J(heta) &= T imes E_{\substack{s \sim D^{\pi} \ a \sim \pi(a|s)}} \left[Q_{\pi}(s,a)
abla \ln \pi(a|s)
ight] \ &= T \cdot \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} D^{\pi}(s) \sum_{a} \pi(a|s) Q_{\pi}(s,a)
abla \ln \pi(a|s) \end{aligned}$$