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3: and original 
$$V^2 \cdot [2,5]$$
 $V^3 \cdot [2,5]$ 

and therefore  $V^* \cdot [2,5]$ 

and therefore  $V^* \cdot [2,5]$ 

(a) For i.1,  $||V^1 - V^4||_{00} = \max_{s \in S} |V^1(s) - V^*(s)| \cdot \max_{s \in S} (2,0) - 2$ 

For i.2,  $||V^2 - V^4||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

For i.3,  $||V^1 - V^4||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

For i.3,  $||V^1 - V^4||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

and  $||V^2 - V^4||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

Thus  $||V^1 - V^2||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

Thus  $||V^1 - V^2||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

Thus  $||V^1 - V^2||_{00} \cdot 0$ 

Thus  $||V^2 -$ 

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(cc) From (b), we can also conclude that -
$$\|V^{n \cdot k} - V^{n}\|_{\partial D} \leq 8^{n} \|V^{k} - V^{0}\|$$
and 
$$\|V^{n} - V^{0}\|_{\partial D} \leq \|V^{k} - V^{k-1}\| + \|V^{k-1} - V^{k-2}\| + \dots + \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-2} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-2} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-2} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

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$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-2} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

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$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-2} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-1} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 8^{k-1} + \dots + 1\right) \|V^{1} - V^{0}\|$$

$$\leq \left(8^{k-1} + 1\right) \|V^{1} -$$

# **Dynamic Programming (30 points)**

In this assignment, we will implement a few dynamic programming algorithms, namely, policy iteration and value iteration and run them on a simple MDP - the Frozen Lake environment.

The sub-routines for these algorithms are present in vi and pi.py and must be filled out to test your implementation.

The deliverables are located at the end of this notebook and show the point distribution for each part.

```
In [36]: %load_ext autoreload
%autoreload 2

import numpy as np
import gym
import time

from IPython.display import clear_output

from lake_envs import *
from vi_and_pi import *

np.set_printoptions(precision=3)

env_d = gym.make("Deterministic-4x4-FrozenLake-v0")
env_s = gym.make("Stochastic-4x4-FrozenLake-v0")
The autoreload extension is already loaded. To reload it, use:
%reload ext autoreload
```

#### Render Mode

The variable RENDER\_ENV is set True by default to allow you to see a rendering of the state of the environment at every time step. However, when you complete this assignment, you must set this to False and re-run all blocks of code. This is to prevent excessive amounts of rendered environments from being included in the final PDF.

#### IMPORTANT: SET RENDER\_ENV TO FALSE BEFORE SUBMISSION!

```
In [37]: RENDER_ENV = False
```

### **Part 1: Value Iteration**

For the first part, you will implement the familiar value iteration update from class.

In  $vi\_and\_pi.pi$  and complete the  $value\_iteration$  function.

Run the cell below to train value iteration and render a single episode of following the policy obtained at the end of value iteration

You should expect to get an Episode reward of 1.0.

```
In [39]: print("\n" + "-"*25 + "\nBeginning Value Iteration\n" + "-"*25)

V_vi, p_vi = value_iteration(env_d.P, env_d.nS, env_d.nA, gamma=0.9, tol=1e-3)
    render_single(env_d, p_vi, 100, show_rendering=RENDER_ENV)

------

Beginning Value Iteration
------
[0.59     0.656     0.729     0.656     0.656     0.      0.81      0.      0.729     0.81      0.9      0.
     0.     0.9     1.      0.      ]
    Episode reward: 1.0000000
```

### **Part 2: Policy Iteration**

In this question, you will implement policy iteration.

In class, we studied the value iteration update:

$$V_{t+1}(s) \leftarrow \max_{a} \sum_{s'} p(s'|s,a) \left[ r(s,a) + \gamma V_t(s') \right]$$

This is used to compute the value function  $V^*$  corresponding to the optimal policy  $\pi^*$ . We can alternatively compute the value function  $V^{\pi}$  corresponding to an arbitrary policy  $\pi$ , with a similar update loop:

$$V_{t+1}^{\pi}(s) \leftarrow \sum_{a} \pi(a|s) \sum_{s'} p(s'|s,a) \left[ r(s,a) + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s') \right]$$

On convergence, this will give us  $V^{\pi}$ , which is the first step of a policy iteration update.

The second step involves policy refinement, which will update the policy to take actions greedily with respect to  $V^{\pi}$ :

$$\pi_{new} \leftarrow \arg\max_{a} \left[ r(s, a) + \gamma \sum_{s'} p(s'|s, a) V^{\pi}(s') \right]$$

A single update of policy iteration involves the two above steps: (1) policy evaluation (which itself is an inner loop which will converge to  $V^{\pi}$  and (2) policy refinement. In the first part of assignment, you will implement the functions for policy evaluation, policy improvement (refinement) and policy iteration.

In  $vi\_and\_pi.pi$  and complete the  $policy\_evaluation$ ,  $policy\_improvement$  and  $policy\_iteration$  functions. Run the blocks below to test your algorithm.

#### Part 3: VI on Stochastic Frozen Lake

Now we will apply our implementation on an MDP where transitions to next states are stochastic. Modify your implementation of value iteration as needed so that policy iteration and value iteration work for stochastic transitions.

## Part 4: PI on Stochastic Frozen Lake

Now, we will run policy iteration on stochastic frozen lake.

#### **Evaluate All Policies**

Now, we will first test the value iteration implementation on two kinds of environments - the dererministic FrozenLake and the stochastic FrozenLake. We will also run the same for policy iteration

#### Deliverable 1 (10 points)

Run value iteration on deterministic FrozenLake. You should get a reward of 1.0 for full credit.

#### Deliverable 2 (10 points)

Run value iteration on stochastic FrozenLake. Note that this time, running the same policy over multiple episodes will result in different outcomes (final reward) due to stochastic transitions in the environment, and even the optimal policy may not succeed in reaching the goal state 100% of the time.

You should get a reward of 0.7 or higher over 1000 episodes for full credit.

#### **Deliverable 3 (5 points)**

Run policy iteration on deterministic FrozenLake. You should get a reward of 1.0 for full credit.

#### **Deliverable 4 (5 points)**

Run policy iteration on stochastic FrozenLake.

You should get a reward of 0.7 or higher over 1000 episodes for full credit.

#### **Submission Reminder**

PLEASE RE-RUN THE NOTEBOOK WITH RENDER ENV SET TO FALSE BEFORE SUBMISSION!

# Q-Learning & DQNs (30 points + 5 bonus points)

In this section, we will implement a few key parts of the Q-Learning algorithm for two cases - (1) A Q-network which is a single linear layer (referred to in RL literature as "Q-learning with linear function approximation") and (2) A deep (convolutional) Q-network, for some Atari game environments where the states are images.

Optional Readings:

- Playing Atari with Deep Reinforcement Learning, Mnih et. al., <a href="https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf">https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf</a>
   (https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf)
- The PyTorch DQN Tutorial <a href="https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html">https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html</a>)

  (<a href="https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html">https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/reinforcement\_q\_learning.html</a>)

Note: The bonus credit for this question applies to both sections CS 7643 and CS 4803

```
In [6]: %load_ext autoreload
        %autoreload 2
        import numpy as np
        import gym
        import torch
        import torch.nn as nn
        import torch.optim as optim
        from core.dqn_train import DQNTrain
        from utils.test env import EnvTest
        from utils.schedule import LinearExploration, LinearSchedule
        from utils.preprocess import greyscale
        from utils.wrappers import PreproWrapper, MaxAndSkipEnv
        from linear_qnet import LinearQNet
        from cnn_qnet import ConvQNet
        if torch.cuda.is available():
            device = torch.device('cuda', 0)
        else:
            device = torch.device('cpu')
```

The autoreload extension is already loaded. To reload it, use: %reload\_ext autoreload

## Part 1: Setup Q-Learning with Linear Function Approximation

Training Q-networks using (Deep) Q-learning involves a lot of moving parts. However, for this assignment, the scaffolding for the first 3 points listed below is provided in full and you must only complete point 4. You may skip to point 4 if you only care about the implementation required for this assignment.

- 1. **Environments**: We will use the standardized OpenAl Gym framework for environment API calls (read through <a href="http://gym.openai.com/docs/">http://gym.openai.com/docs/</a> (http://gym.openai.com/docs/) if you want to know more details about this interface). Specifically, we will use a custom Test environment defined in <a href="https://utility.org/">utility.org/<a href="https://utility.org/">https://utility.org/<a href="https://utility.org/">https://util
- 1. **Exploration**: In order to train any RL model, we require experience or "data" gathered from interacting with the environment by taking actions. What policy should we use to collect this experience? Given a Q-network, one may be tempted to define a greedy policy which always picks the highest valued action at every state. However, this strategy will in most cases not work since we may get stuck in a local minima and never explore new states in the environment which may lead to a better reward. Hence, for the purpose of gathering experience (or "data") from the environment, it is useful to follow a policy that deviates from the greedy policy slightly in order to explore new states. A common strategy used in RL is to follow an  $\epsilon$ -greedy policy which with probability  $0 < \epsilon < 1$  picks a random action instead of the action provided by the greedy policy.
- 1. Replay Buffers: Data gathered from a single trajectory of states and actions in the environment provides us with a batch of highly correlated (non IID) data, which leads to high variance in gradient updates and convergence. In order to ameliorate this, replay buffers are used to gather a set of transitions i.e. (state, action, reward, next state) tuples, by executing multiple trajectories in the environment. Now, for updating the Q-Network, we will first wait to fill up our replay buffer with a sufficiently large number of transitions over multiple different trajectories, and then randomly sample a batch of transitions to compute loss and update the models.
- 1. Q-Learning network, loss and update: Finally, we come to the part of Q-learning that we will implement for this assignment -- the Q-network, loss function and update. In particular, we will implement a variant of Q-Learning called "Double Q-Learning", where we will maintain two Q networks -- the first Q network is used to pick actions and the second "target" Q network is used to compute Q-values for the picked actions. Here is some referance material on the same Blog 1 (https://towardsdatascience.com/double-q-learning-the-easy-way-a924c4085ec3), Blog 2 (https://medium.com/@ameetsd97/deep-double-q-learning-why-you-should-use-it-bedf660d5295), but we will not need to get into the details of Double Q-learning for this assignment. Now, let's walk through the steps required to implement this below.
  - Linear Q-Network: In linear\_qnet.py, define the initialization and forward pass of a Q-network with a single linear layer which takes the state as input and outputs the Q-values for all actions.
  - Setting up Q-Learning: In <code>core/dqn\_train.py</code>, complete the functions <code>process\_state</code>, forward\_loss and update\_step and update\_target\_params. The loss function for our Q-Networks is defined for a single transition tuple of (state, action, reward, next state) as follows.  $Q(s_t, a_t)$  refers to the state-action values computed by our first Q-network at the current state and and for the current actions,  $Q_{target}(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1})$  refers to the state-action values for the next state and all possible future actions computed by the target Q-Network

$$Q_{sample}(s_t) = r_t$$
 if done  
=  $r_t + \gamma \max_{a_{t+1}} Q_{target}(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1})$  otherwise  
Loss =  $(Q_{sample}(s_t) - Q(s_t, a_t))^2$ 

#### Deliverable 1 (15 points)

Run the following block of code to train a Linear Q-Network. You should get an average reward of ~4.0, full credit will be given if average reward at the final evaluation is above 3.5

```
Evaluating...
Average reward: -1.90 +/- 0.00
1001/10000 [==>.....] - ETA: 4s - Loss: 0.1648 - Avg_R:
0.2500 - Max_R: 3.8000 - eps: 0.8020 - Grads: 0.3893 - Max_Q: 0.1621 - lr: 0.0
042
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.90 +/- 0.00
2001/10000 [====>.....] - ETA: 4s - Loss: 0.4842 - Avg_R:
0.3800 - Max_R: 2.2000 - eps: 0.6040 - Grads: 0.3710 - Max_Q: 0.1591 - lr: 0.0
034
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 +/- 0.00
3001/10000 [=======>.....] - ETA: 4s - Loss: 0.1939 - Avg_R:
0.7900 - Max_R: 2.2000 - eps: 0.4060 - Grads: 0.5881 - Max_Q: 0.1635 - lr: 0.0
026
Evaluating...
Average reward: 1.20 +/- 0.00
4001/10000 [======>.....] - ETA: 3s - Loss: 0.4250 - Avg R:
0.7900 - Max R: 2.8000 - eps: 0.2080 - Grads: 0.7223 - Max Q: 0.2427 - lr: 0.0
018
Evaluating...
Average reward: 1.00 + /- 0.00
5001/10000 [========>....] - ETA: 3s - Loss: 1.0064 - Avg_R:
1.0650 - Max_R: 4.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 1.5649 - Max_Q: 0.3641 - lr: 0.0
010
Evaluating...
Average reward: 1.40 +/- 0.00
6001/10000 [=========>.....] - ETA: 2s - Loss: 0.4374 - Avg_R:
2.1950 - Max_R: 3.9000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 1.0343 - Max_Q: 0.4988 - lr: 0.0
010
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.90 +/- 0.00
2.0200 - Max_R: 3.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.5001 - Max_Q: 0.5865 - lr: 0.0
010
Evaluating...
Average reward: 1.90 +/- 0.00
2.7300 - Max_R: 4.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.8762 - Max_Q: 0.6363 - lr: 0.0
Evaluating...
Average reward: 3.10 +/- 0.00
2.1500 - Max_R: 4.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.5634 - Max_Q: 0.6745 - lr: 0.0
010
Evaluating...
Average reward: 1.90 +/- 0.00
10001/10000 [===========] - 7s - Loss: 0.9780 - Avg_R: 2.95
50 - Max_R: 4.0000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.9523 - Max_Q: 0.6302 - lr: 0.0010
- Training done.
Evaluating...
Average reward: 4.00 +/- 0.00
```

You should get a final average reward of over 4.0 on the test environment.

# Part 2: Q-Learning with Deep Q-Networks

In <code>cnn\_qnet.py</code> , implement the initialization and forward pass of a convolutional Q-network with architecture as described in this DeepMind paper:

"Playing Atari with Deep Reinforcement Learning", Mnih et. al. (<a href="https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf">https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf</a> (<a href="https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf">https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~vmnih/docs/dqn.pdf</a>)

## **Deliverable 2 (10 points)**

Run the following block of code to train our Deep Q-Network. You should get an average reward of ~4.0, full credit will be given if average reward at the final evaluation is above 3.5

```
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
Populating the memory 150/200...
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + /- 0.00
301/1000 [=======>.....] - ETA: 4s - Loss: 0.0822 - Avg_R:
0.6250 - Max R: 2.3000 - eps: 0.4060 - Grads: 0.2266 - Max_Q: 0.0691 - lr: 0.0
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
401/1000 [========>....] - ETA: 5s - Loss: 0.2881 - Avg R:
0.3150 - Max R: 1.6000 - eps: 0.2080 - Grads: 0.0296 - Max Q: 0.0745 - lr: 0.0
Evaluating...
Average reward: 3.80 +/- 0.00
501/1000 [=========>.....] - ETA: 5s - Loss: 0.5684 - Avg_R:
0.5850 - Max R: 4.0000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.1568 - Max Q: 0.0800 - lr: 0.0
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
601/1000 [=========>.....] - ETA: 5s - Loss: 0.3703 - Avg_R:
0.6800 - Max_R: 2.3000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.1801 - Max_Q: 0.0798 - lr: 0.0
001
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
0.5300 - Max R: 1.7000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.1666 - Max Q: 0.0858 - lr: 0.0
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
0.8550 - Max R: 3.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.0723 - Max Q: 0.0889 - lr: 0.0
001
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
0.4600 - Max_R: 0.5000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.0337 - Max_Q: 0.0936 - lr: 0.0
001
Evaluating...
Average reward: 0.50 + - 0.00
1001/1000 [==========] - 16s - Loss: 0.1136 - Avg_R: 1.030
0 - Max R: 4.1000 - eps: 0.0100 - Grads: 0.1427 - Max Q: 0.1008 - lr: 0.0001
- Training done.
Evaluating...
Average reward: 4.00 +/- 0.00
```

You should get a final average reward of over 4.0 on the test environment, similar to the previous case.

# Part 3: Playing Atari Games from Pixels - using Linear Function Approximation

Now that we have setup our Q-Learning algorithm and tested it on a simple test environment, we will shift to a harder environment - an Atari 2600 game from OpenAl Gym: Pong-v0 (<a href="https://gym.openai.com/envs/Pong-v0/">https://gym.openai.com/envs/Pong-v0/</a> (<a href="https://gym.openai.com/envs/Pong-v0/">https://gym.openai.com/envs/Pong-v0/</a>), where we will use RGB images of the game screen as our observations for state.

No additional implementation is required for this part, just run the block of code below (will take around 1 hour to train). We don't expect a simple linear Q-network to do well on such a hard environment - full credit will be given simply for running the training to completion irrespective of the final average reward obtained.

You may edit configs/p3\_train\_atari\_linear.py if you wish to play around with hyperparamters for improving performance of the linear Q-network on Pong-v0, or try another Atari environment by changing the env\_name hyperparameter. The list of all Gym Atari environments are available here: <a href="https://gym.openai.com/envs/#atari">https://gym.openai.com/envs/#atari</a> (https://gym.openai.com/envs/#atari)

#### **Deliverable 3 (5 points)**

Run the following block of code to train a linear Q-network on Atari Pong-v0. We don't expect the linear Q-Network to learn anything meaingful so full credit will be given for simply running this training to completion (without errors), irrespective of the final average reward.

```
In [ ]: from configs.p3_train_atari_linear import config as config lina
        # make env
        env = gym.make(config lina.env name)
        env = MaxAndSkipEnv(env, skip=config lina.skip frame)
        env = PreproWrapper(env, prepro=greyscale, shape=(80, 80, 1),
                            overwrite_render=config_lina.overwrite_render)
        # exploration strategy
        exp schedule = LinearExploration(env, config lina.eps begin,
                config_lina.eps_end, config_lina.eps_nsteps)
        # learning rate schedule
        lr schedule = LinearSchedule(config lina.lr begin, config lina.lr end,
                config_lina.lr_nsteps)
        # train model
        model = DQNTrain(LinearQNet, env, config_lina, device)
        print("Linear Q-Net Architecture:\n", model.q_net)
        model.run(exp_schedule, lr_schedule)
        Evaluating...
        Linear Q-Net Architecture:
         LinearONet(
          (fc): Linear(in features=25600, out features=6, bias=True)
        Average reward: -21.00 +/- 0.00
         79201/500000 [===>.....] - ETA: 2234s - Loss: 0.5385 - A
        vg R: -20.5200 - Max R: -19.0000 - eps: 0.9287 - Grads: 32.7293 - Max Q: 0.739
        1 - 1r: 0.0002
```

# Part 4: [BONUS] Playing Atari Games from Pixels - using Deep Q-Networks

This part is extra credit and worth 5 bonus points. We will now train our deep Q-Network from Part 2 on Pong-v0.

Again, no additional implementation is required but you may wish to tweak your CNN architecture in cnn\_qnet.py and hyperparameters in configs/p4\_train\_atari\_cnn.py (however, evaluation will be considered at no farther than the default 5 million steps, so you are not allowed to train for longer). Please note that this training may take a very long time (we tested this on a single GPU and it took around 6 hours).

The bonus points for this question will be allotted based on the best evaluation average reward (EAR) before 5 million time stpes:

```
1. EAR >= 0.0 : 4/4 points
2. EAR >= -5.0 : 3/4 points
3. EAR >= -10.0 : 3/4 points
4. EAR >= -15.0 : 1/4 points
```

#### Deliverable 4: (5 bonus points)

Run the following block of code to train your DQN:

```
In [ ]: from configs.p4 train atari cnn import config as config cnna
        # make env
        env = gym.make(config_cnna.env_name)
        env = MaxAndSkipEnv(env, skip=config_cnna.skip_frame)
        env = PreproWrapper(env, prepro=greyscale, shape=(80, 80, 1),
                            overwrite_render=config_cnna.overwrite_render)
        # exploration strategy
        exp_schedule = LinearExploration(env, config_cnna.eps_begin,
                config_cnna.eps_end, config_cnna.eps_nsteps)
        # learning rate schedule
        lr schedule = LinearSchedule(config cnna.lr begin, config cnna.lr end,
                config_cnna.lr_nsteps)
        # train model
        model = DQNTrain(ConvQNet, env, config_cnna, device)
        print("CNN Q-Net Architecture:\n", model.q_net)
        model.run(exp_schedule, lr_schedule)
```

```
In [ ]:
```