RI: model = 12 / 124 mbp = 2/4 olgo DRL: Deep neural net + RL.

#### Lecture H1. DRL - Value-based agent 1

Sim, Min Kyu, Ph.D., mksim@seoultech.ac.kr



■ 서울과학기술대학교 데이터사이언스학과

- I. Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL)
- II. Value-based agent
- III. Deep Q-learning (DQN)

I. Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL)

# Agent's space to learn

RL agent must explore its state and action space. The space can be

- Discrete, finite and small set.
   Skiier's problem has only 8 states and 2 actions.
  - 2. Discrete, finite, but large set.
    - Chess has  $10^{47}$  states.
    - Go has 10 70 states.
  - 3. Discrete and infinite set.
  - 4. Continuous set (thus infinite).
    - Fine-control problems such as pendulum problem
    - Require policy-based approach.
    - May discretize it into discrete set.



# Suitable approaches

- For 1, tabular approach is possible. For 2, 3, and 4, states are too many.
  - The storage space itself is burden, if the state has size of  $10^{170}$ .
  - In tabular approach, (s, a, r, s') updates only a single state's value. Thus, processing time can be inhibitive
  - For large or continuous space, functional approximation approach is necessary to search for all spaces. - new into

• For large space,

If the space is discrete, value-based approach such as DQN is desirable.

- 1. If the space is continuous, then policy-based approach is required.
  - Generalization plays an important role in the acquisition of intelligence by humans and machines
    - Remind that the extension from an action to a policy is a form of **generalization**.
    - Tabular form to functional form has also an implication of generalization.

II. Value-based agent

### Connecting deep learning with value functions.

• Suppose the a function is parameterized with  $\theta$ . Then, an approximation function's (e.g. neural net) loss function is typically written as

$$L(\theta) = (\underline{y_{true}} - \underline{y_{\theta}})^2,$$
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where  $y_{\theta}$  is an estimated response using the function parameterized by  $\theta$ .

ullet If the function approximates state-value function V(s), then

$$L(\theta) = \left( \underbrace{V_{true}(s) - V_{0}(s)} \right)^{2} \quad \text{w}.$$

ullet If the function approximates state-value function q(s,a), then

$$L(\theta) = \left(q_{true}(s, a) - q_{\theta}(s, a)\right)^{2}$$

 $\bullet$  Find something missing here? How to aggregate the argument s and a so that  $L(\theta)$  is a single value?

- Possible approach is to aggregate over all *s*.
  - Is this possible? Not realistic in current simulated approach because we have to create a stochastic path that goes through all states and only once for each state.
  - Is this desirable? Not really, we should want to focus more on frequent states or frequent trajectory.
  - If you agree with the above two points, then see the following alternative.

$$L(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[ \left( V_{true}(s) - V_{\theta}(s) \right)^2 \right]$$

or

$$L(\theta) = \text{Im} \left[ \left( q_{true}(s,a) - q_{\theta}(s,a) \right)^2 \right]$$

- In this approach, the update goes through a stochastic path through  $\pi$ .
- During the agent's learning process, the current  $\pi$  is the best at the moment during the learning. Thus, the visited states following  $\pi$  is most important concern. This learning process is natural in a sense of the Einstein's quote, "Learn from yesterday, live for today."

#### Summary

$$L(\theta) = (y_{true} - y_{\theta})^{2}$$

$$L(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[ (V_{true}(s) - V_{\theta}(s))^{2} \right]$$

$$L(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[ (q_{true}(s, a) - q_{\theta}(s, a))^{2} \right]$$

$$\theta' \leftarrow \theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} L(\theta)$$

III. Deep Q-learning (DQN)

### Main algorithm

- $\bullet$  q(s,a)
  - V(s) is value, and  $\pi(s)$  is policy. Then, what is really q(s,a)?
  - Remind that having an accurate q(s,a) leads to  $\pi$ . In this sense, q(s,a) can be regarded as *implicit policy*.
  - ullet Thus, q(s,a) is value and also implicit policy.
- In pol\_eval\_Q()), Q-learning updates q(s, a) in the following way.

$$\mathbf{V} \qquad q(s,a) \leftarrow q(s,a) + \alpha (r_t + \gamma \max_{a' \in \mathcal{A}} q(s',a') - q(s,a)), \ \forall s,a \in \mathcal{A}$$

ullet In pol\_eval\_DQN(), DQN updates q(s,a) in the following way.

$$q_{\pmb{\theta}}(s,a) \leftarrow q_{\pmb{\theta}}(s,a) + \alpha (r_t + \gamma max_{a' \in \mathcal{A}} \, q_{\pmb{\theta}}(s',a') - q_{\pmb{\theta}}(s,a)), \ \forall s,a$$

# Experienced replay



- In "Atari 2013' 'paper, the authors introduced the notion of *replay buffer*.
- This is related to what samples should be used for deep learning updates or so-called model.fit(). Sample:
- Replay buffer stores the recent records of N episodes, shuffle them, and select only some small portion of data to update Q-network. Data structure type of deque is popularly used.
- This reduces correlation of the data. Is this desirable?
- Is experienced replay desirable for stationary or non-stationary environment)
- Experienced replay works for off-policy algorithm, because the study material data is not only stemmed from current policy.
- **V●** The implementation is not complex.
  - Mnih, V., Kavukcuoglu, K., Silver, D., Graves, A., Antonoglou, I., Wierstra, D., & Riedmiller, M. (2013). Playing atari with deep reinforcement learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:1312.5602.

### Target network

- Default setting of DQN has a single neural net for q(s,a). This network is used to setting a Q-target (q\_tgt) and the value of Q-target (q\_tgt) is used to update the deep Q-netwrowk (q\_net()).
- This may deteriorate the stability, resulting in a high variance during the learning.
- The idea is to prepare two separate networks for q(s,a). The two networks are repetitively and interchangeably used for prediction and updating.
- The implementation is not complex.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. - Albert Einstein"