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# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
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Simple example of Q-Learning using gym
The "taxi problem": we want to build a self-driving taxi that can pick
up passengers at one of a set of fixed locations, drop them off at another
location, and get there in the quickest amount of time while avoiding obstacles.
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import gym
import random
random.seed(1234)
streets = gym.make("Taxi-v3").env #New versions keep getting released; if -v3 doesn't work, try -v2
or -v4
streets.render()
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R, G, B, and Y are pickup or dropoff locations.
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The BLUE letter indicates where we need to pick someone up from.

The MAGENTA letter indicates where that passenger wants to go to.

The solid lines represent walls that the taxi cannot cross.

The filled rectangle represents the taxi itself - it's yellow when empty, and green when carrying a passenger.

Our little world here, which we've called "streets", is a 5x5 grid. The state of this world at any time can be defined by:

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Where the taxi is (one of 5x5 = 25 locations)
What the current destination is (4 possibilities)
Where the passenger is (5 possibilities: at one of the destinations, or inside the taxi)
So there are a total of 25 \times 4 \times 5 = 500 possible states that describe our world.
For each state, there are six possible actions:
Move South, East, North, or West
Pickup a passenger
Drop off a passenger
Q-Learning will take place using the following rewards and penalties at each state:
A successfull drop-off yields +20 points
Every time step taken while driving a passenger yields a -1 point penalty
Picking up or dropping off at an illegal location yields a -10 point penalty
Moving across a wall just isn't allowed at all.
Define an initial state, with the taxi at location (2, 3), the passenger at
pickup location 2, and the destination at location 0:
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initial_state = streets.encode(2, 3, 2, 0)
streets.s = initial_state
streets.render()
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streets.P[initial_state]
{0: [(1.0, 368, -1, False)],
1: [(1.0, 168, -1, False)],
2: [(1.0, 288, -1, False)],
3: [(1.0, 248, -1, False)],
4: [(1.0, 268, -10, False)],
5: [(1.0, 268, -10, False)]}
Each row corresponds to a potential action at this state: move South, North, East, or West, pickup,
or dropoff. The four values in each row are the probability assigned to that action,
the next state that results from that action, the reward for that action, and whether that action
indicates a successful dropoff took place.
So for example, moving North from this state would put us into state number 368, incur a penalty of
-1 for taking up time, and does not result in a successful dropoff.
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import numpy as np
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Now doing the Q learning. First the model must be trained. We
train over 10,000 simulated taxi runs. For each run, we step
through time, with a 10% chance at each step of making a random, exploratory
step instead of using the learned Q values to guide our actions.
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q_table = np.zeros([streets.observation_space.n, streets.action_space.n])
learning_rate = 0.1
discount_factor = 0.6
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exploration = 0.1

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epochs = 10000
for taxi_run in range(epochs):
  state = streets.reset()
  done = False
  while not done:
    random_value = random.uniform(0, 1)
    if (random_value < exploration):</pre>
      action = streets.action_space.sample() # Explore a random action
    else:
      action = np.argmax(q_table[state]) # Use the action with the highest q-value
    next_state, reward, done, info = streets.step(action)
    prev_q = q_table[state, action]
    next_max_q = np.max(q_table[next_state])
    new_q = (1 - learning_rate) * prev_q + learning_rate * (reward + discount_factor * next_max_q)
    q_table[state, action] = new_q
    state = next_state
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q_table[initial_state]
array([-2.40163985, -2.4127401, -2.41347444, -2.3639511, -7.29630643,
    -5.81744604])
Initial state: The lowest q-value here corresponds to the action "go West",
which makes sense - that's the most direct route toward our destination from
that point.
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from IPython.display import clear_output
from time import sleep
for tripnum in range(1, 11):
  state = streets.reset()
  done = False
  trip_length = 0
  while not done and trip_length < 25:
    action = np.argmax(q_table[state])
    next_state, reward, done, info = streets.step(action)
    clear_output(wait=True)
    print("Trip number " + str(tripnum) + " Step " + str(trip_length))
    print(streets.render(mode='ansi'))
    sleep(.5)
    state = next_state
    trip_length += 1
 # sleep(2)
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