

POMDP(Belief-MDP) defined in the belief space \mathbb{B}

At time step t , the current belief b_t already contain all the information used for taking actions. So it is again a Markovian decision process

$$b_{t+1}(s) = P(S_{t+1} = s | o_{0:t+1}, a_{0:t}) = P(S_{t+1} = s | o_{t+1}, a_t, b_t)$$

where the capital \mathbf{b}_t is the believed Probability distribution of all state at time t,
if the states are discrete, the \mathbf{b}_t is a Probability Mass Function containing the probability of all states;
if the states are continuous , the \mathbf{b}_t is a Probability Density Function over the state space \mathbb{S} .

The dimension of the belief space $d_{\mathbb{B}}$ is dependent on the dimension of the state space $d_{\mathbb{S}}$. $d_{\mathbb{S}}$ is the number of features chosen as the state variable
These $d_{\mathbb{S}}$ number of different features could have discrete values or continuous values.

For the state with discrete values. If there are N possible values, the belief state \mathbf{b}_t is a N -dimensional Probability Mass Function, which is a point in the $N - 1$ -simplex
The set of all such belief states is the standard $(N - 1)$ -simplex, which is defined by

$$\Delta^{N-1} = \{(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N | p_i > 0 \forall i \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^N p_i = 1\}$$

For continuous state space with ∞ number of possible values, the belief state \mathbf{b}_t is a Probability Density Function.

But in real application, we could use a finite parametric representation to approximate the belief.

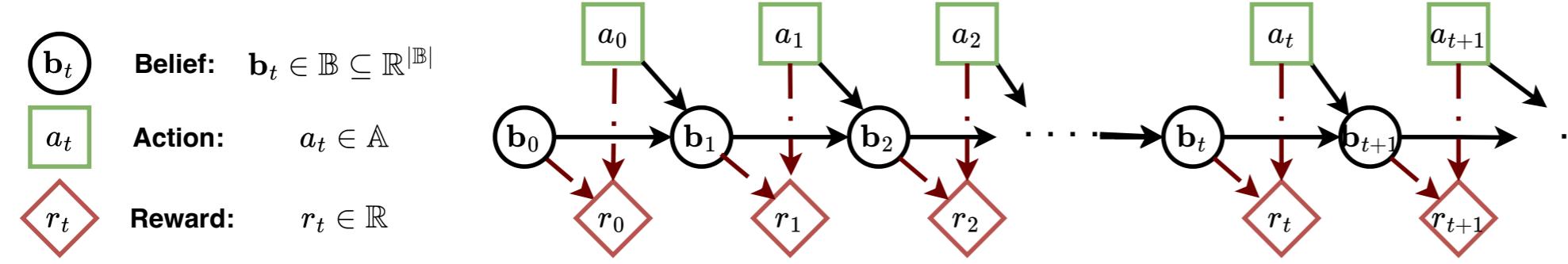
If we define the number of finite parameters are $d_{\mathbb{B}}$, then the belief state \mathbf{b}_t is represented by a vector with $d_{\mathbb{B}}$, $\mathbf{b}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\mathbb{B}}}$

e.g.

Gaussian distribution

Gaussian Mixture distribution

Neural Network?



$$P(\mathbf{b}_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t) = \int_{o_{t+1} \in \mathbb{O}} P(\mathbf{b}_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t, o_{t+1}) P(o_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t) do_{t+1}$$

→ **Transition Model:** $P(\mathbf{b}_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t) = \sum_{o_{t+1} \in \mathbb{O}} P(\mathbf{b}_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t, o_{t+1}) P(o_{t+1} | \mathbf{b}_t, a_t)$

— · — → **Reward Model:** $r(a_t, \mathbf{b}_t) = \int_{s_t \in \mathbb{S}} r(a_t, s_t) b_t(s_t)$

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