CS 188
Spring 2023

Regular Discussion 8

1 Pacman with Feature-Based Q-Learning

We would like to use a Q-learning agent for Pacman, but the size of the state space for a large grid is too massive to hold in memory. To solve this, we will switch to feature-based representation of Pacman's state.

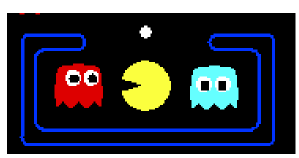
(a) We will have two features, F_g and F_p, defined as follows:

$$F_g(s,a) = A(s) + B(s,a) + C(s,a)$$
$$F_p(s,a) = D(s) + 2E(s,a)$$

where

$$A(s) = \text{number of ghosts within 1 step of state } s$$
$$B(s,a) = \text{number of ghosts Pacman touches after taking action } a \text{ from state } s$$
$$C(s,a) = \text{number of ghosts within 1 step of the state Pacman ends up in after taking action } a$$
$$D(s) = \text{number of food pellets within 1 step of state } s$$
$$E(s,a) = \text{number of food pellets eaten after taking action } a \text{ from state } s$$

For this pacman board, the ghosts will always be stationary, and the action space is $\{left, right, up, down, stay\}$.



calculate the features for the actions $\in \{left, right, up, stay\}$

(b) After a few episodes of Q-learning, the weights are $w_g = -10$ and $w_p = 100$. Calculate the Q value for each action $\in \{left, right, up, stay\}$ from the current state shown in the figure.

(c) We observe a transition that starts from the state above, s, takes action up, ends in state s' (the state with the food pellet above) and receives a reward $R(s, a, s') = 250$. The available actions from state s' are $down$ and $stay$. Assuming a discount of $\gamma = 0.5$, calculate the new estimate of the Q value for s based on this episode.

(d) With this new estimate and a learning rate (α) of 0.5, update the weights for each feature.

2 Q-learning

Consider the following gridworld (rewards shown on left, state names shown on right).

Rewards

+10	+1

State names

A	B
G1	G2

From state A, the possible actions are right(→) and down(↓). From state B, the possible actions are left(←) and down(↓). For a numbered state (G1, G2), the only action is to exit. Upon exiting from a numbered square we collect the reward specified by the number on the square and enter the end-of-game absorbing state X. We also know that the discount factor $\gamma = 1$, and in this MDP all actions are **deterministic** and always succeed.

Consider the following episodes:

Episode 1 ($E1$)

s	a	s'	r
A	↓	$G1$	0
$G1$	exit	X	10

Episode 2 ($E2$)

s	a	s'	r
B	↓	$G2$	0
$G2$	exit	X	1

Episode 3 ($E3$)

s	a	s'	r
A	→	B	0
B	↓	$G2$	0
$G2$	exit	X	1

Episode 4 ($E4$)

s	a	s'	r
B	←	A	0
A	↓	$G1$	0
$G1$	exit	X	10

(a) Consider using temporal-difference learning to learn $V(s)$. When running TD-learning, all values are initialized to zero.
For which sequences of episodes, if repeated infinitely often, does $V(s)$ converge to $V^*(s)$ for all states s?

(Assume appropriate learning rates such that all values converge.)
Write the correct sequence under "Other" if no correct sequences of episodes are listed.

☐ $E1, E2, E3, E4$ ☐ $E1, E2, E1, E2$ ☐ $E1, E2, E3, E1$ ☐ $E4, E4, E4, E4$
☐ $E4, E3, E2, E1$ ☐ $E3, E4, E3, E4$ ☐ $E1, E2, E4, E1$

☐ Other ______________________________

(b) Consider using Q-learning to learn $Q(s, a)$. When running Q-learning, all values are initialized to zero. For which sequences of episodes, if repeated infinitely often, does $Q(s, a)$ converge to $Q^*(s, a)$ for all state-action pairs (s, a)

(Assume appropriate learning rates such that all Q-values converge.)
Write the correct sequence under "Other" if no correct sequences of episodes are listed.

☐ $E1, E2, E3, E4$ ☐ $E1, E2, E1, E2$ ☐ $E1, E2, E3, E1$ ☐ $E4, E4, E4, E4$
☐ $E4, E3, E2, E1$ ☐ $E3, E4, E3, E4$ ☐ $E1, E2, E4, E1$

☐ Other ______________________________