

Deep Reinforcement Learning Based Maintenance Free Control

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Collaborative R&D between UBC (Bhushan Gopaluni, Philip Loewen, Greg Stewart) and Honeywell (Michael Forbes, Johan Backstrom)

Overview

- Deep Reinforcement Learning as a (model-free) framework for control in industrial settings
 - Utilize new and historical data
 - Control with minimal disruptions to the plant and minimal human intervention



Initial work

Deep RL for set-point tracking

Actor = controller = deep neural network

 Tracking performance and adaptability is promising, but issues with sample efficiency, stability, interpretability, compatibility, tuning of hyper-parameters



Lillicrap TP, Hunt JJ, Pritzel A, Heess N, Erez T, Tassa Y, Silver D, Wierstra D. Continuous control with deep reinforcement learning. arXiv preprint arXiv: 1509.02971. 2015 Sep 9.

Spielberg S, Tulsyan A, Lawrence NP, Loewen PD, Bhushan Gopaluni R. Toward self-driving processes: A deep reinforcement learning approach to control. AIChE J. 2019;e16689.

Back to basics

• PID
$$u(t) = k_p e(t) + k_i \int_0^t e(\tau) d\tau + k_d \frac{d}{dt} e(t),$$

fits naturally in the actor-critic framework

 Simple, industrially-accepted control structure with straightforward initialization



Lawrence NP, Stewart GE, Loewen PD, Forbes MG, Backstrom JU, Bhushan Gopaluni R. Optimal PID and antiwindup control design as a reinforcement learning problem. IFAC World Congress, submitted.

Anti-windup

- Integral action with actuator constraints can lead to integral windup
- PID + AW is the (nonlinear) actor

$$a_t = \operatorname{sat}(k_p e + k_i I_y + k_d D + \rho I_u)$$



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