

# 1) Inverse RL

like imitation learning, we learn from expert demonstrations.

rather than learning the expert's policy, IRL tries to learn the reward function

1) Imitation via reward fn  
- reward fn. is more succinct/transferrable

2) Scientific Inquiry  
- modelling human/animal behavior

3) Multiagent setting - model other agents

Setting:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{ \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, P, r, H, \gamma \} \quad (P \text{ known})$$

- Reward function  $r(s,a)$  is unknown and signal  $r_t$  is unobserved

- observe trajectories from expert w/ optimal policy  $\pi^*$

Basic Idea: Find a reward function which is consistent with the optimality of the expert policy

$$\text{find } r \text{ s.t. } \mathbb{E}[r(s,a)] \geq \mathbb{E}[r(s,a)] \quad \forall \pi$$

$r: \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0,1]$        $s, a \sim d_{\pi^*}$        $s, a \sim d_{\pi}$

$$\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \pi^*} [V^{\pi^*}(s)]$$

estimate from expert trajectories

Problems w/ Formulation:

1) Need to consider all  $A^{\mathcal{S}}$  policies

2) Ambiguity: more than one reward function may satisfy ( $r=0$ )

Reframe: Find a policy that is as good as the expert <sup>← unknown</sup>

Key assumption:  $\mathbb{E}[r(s,a)] = \Theta_*^T \phi(s,a)$   
 linear reward wrt features <sup>← known</sup>

ex-  $\phi(s,a) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{P}(\text{building}) \\ \mathbb{P}(\text{sidewalk}) \\ \mathbb{P}(\text{road}) \end{bmatrix}$   $\Theta_*$  weighs negatives (driving on sidewalks, hitting building) & positives (road)

We can write the policy consistency problem:

find  $\pi$  s.t.  $\mathbb{E}_{s, a \sim \pi} [\phi(s,a)] = \mathbb{E}_{s, a \sim \pi} [\phi(s,a)]$   
 $\pi: \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \Delta(\mathcal{S})$

estimate from  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi(s_i, a_i)$

To solve the ambiguity problem, we will use the "maximum entropy principle"

The Max Entropy IRL method:

max Entropy  $\pi$   $\leftarrow$   
 $\pi$   
 s.t.  $\mathbb{E}_{d_{\pi}^*} [\phi(s,a)] = \mathbb{E}_{d_{\pi}^*} [\phi(s,a)]$

## 2) Maximum Entropy Principle

Def (Entropy) Distribution  $P(x) \in \Delta(\mathcal{X})$   
 $\text{Ent}(P) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} [-\log(P(x))] = -\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} P(x) \log(P(x))$

$P(x) \in [0, 1]$ , Entropy is positive

ex - deterministic distribution  $X = x_0$  w.p. 1

$$P_{x_0}(x) = \mathbb{1}_{\{x=x_0\}}$$

↑

$$\text{Ent}(P_{x_0}) = -\sum_{x \neq x_0} 0 \cdot \log(0) + -1 \cdot \log(1) = 0$$

ex - uniform distribution over  $|X| = N$  elements

↑

$$\text{Ent}(U) = -\sum_{x \in X} \frac{1}{N} \log(1/N) = -\log(1/N) = \log N$$

### Max Ent Principle:

"Among consistent distributions, w/ constraints arising from observation, mean, variance, choose the one w/ the most uncertainty, i.e. the highest entropy."

The max-ent IRL approach:

$$\max_{\pi, s, a} \mathbb{E} [\text{Ent}(\pi(\cdot|s))] = \max_{\pi, s, a} - \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbb{E} [\log(\pi(a|s))] \right]$$

s.t. constraints

$$= \min_{\pi, s, a} \mathbb{E} [\log(\pi(a|s))] = \min_{\pi, s, a} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi(s_i^*, a_i^*)$$

min  $\mathbb{E} [\log \pi(a|s)]$

s.t.  $\mathbb{E} \phi(s, a) = \mathbb{E} \phi(s, a)$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi(s_i^*, a_i^*)$$

### 3) Constrained optimization

consider the constrained optimization problem:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_x [f(x) \text{ st. } g(x)=0]$$



Lagrange Formulation:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left[ \max_{w \in \mathbb{R}} f(x) + w \cdot g(x) \right]$$

if  $g(x) \neq 0$ ,  $w \rightarrow \pm \infty$  so inner max is  $\infty$   
 if  $g(x) = 0$ , inner maximization:  $f(x)$

$$\max_w f(x) + w \cdot g(x) = \begin{cases} \infty & g(x) \neq 0 \\ f(x) & g(x) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_x \max_w f(x) + w \cdot g(x)$$

example:

$$\min x+y \text{ st. } x^2+y^2=1$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\min_{x,y} \max_w \underbrace{x+y+w(x^2+y^2-1)}_{\mathcal{L}(x,y,w)}$$

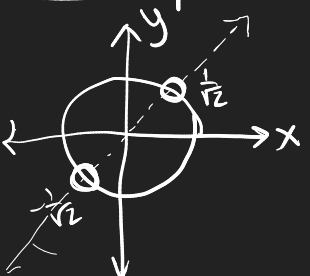
$$\nabla_x \mathcal{L} = 1 + 2xw \stackrel{0}{\Rightarrow} x^* = -\frac{1}{2w}$$

$$\nabla_y \mathcal{L} = 1 + 2yw \stackrel{0}{\Rightarrow} y^* = -\frac{1}{2w}$$

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L} = x^2+y^2-1 \stackrel{0}{\Rightarrow} (x^*)^2 + (y^*)^2 = 1$$

$$\left(-\frac{1}{2w}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{2w}\right)^2 = 1 \Rightarrow w = \pm \sqrt{1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

critical points:  $(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$  and  $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$



# Iterative Procedure

initialize  $w_0$

For  $t=0, \dots, T-1$

$$x_t = \operatorname{argmin}_x f(x) + w_t g(x)$$

(Best response)

$$w_{t+1} = w_t + \eta g(x_t)$$

(incremental update)

Return  $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} x_t$ ,

$\bar{x} \rightarrow x^*$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$   
if  $f, g$  are convex