# Reinforcement Learning For Grasping Top Open Liquid Containers

Adam McCutcheon

Peter Driscoll

12/13/24

### Coming up!



Robotics.farama.org

# RL (Reinforcement Learning)

DDPG (Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient)

HER (Hindsight Experience Replay)

# Reinforcement Learning

# **General Idea**

- To learn a policy that can complete the task (Picking up an object and moving it to a goal without spilling its contents).
- Policies are usually a neural network.
- Rewards can be sparse (goal state or not) or dense (every time step, complicated)

#### Problem! Can you get to the goal state efficiently focusing on just a short sighted next best step? **Probably not!**

# **Helpful Terms**

- State (s) { Joint positions, Goal position, object positions }
- Action (*a*) Action to take change joint positions/velocities.
- Policy ( $\pi$ ) Given a state output an action  $\pi(s) \rightarrow a$
- Reward (r) Given a state and action outputs a reward r (s,a)→val

#### Reward Solution (Bellman's)

The expected reward of a state **S** and action **a** is the current reward plus the expected future reward



#### DDPG (Deep Deterministic Policy Gradient) 2 Neural Networks

#### Actor

- A deterministic policy that outputs an action given a state.
- Maximized Reward aka Minimize Critics loss function

#### Critic

 Trained to approximate Bellman's Q(s,a). Minimize error to Bellman's

$$L(\theta^Q) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( Q(s_i, a_i | \theta^Q) - y_i \right)^2$$
Only N
Timesteps
Forward
Predicted
Reward
Bellman Actual
Reward

# HER (Hindsight Experience Replay)

Switches failed attempts into successes then learns from them.

Helps the model quickly learn general ideas of how to reach different goal states by not throwing away "failed" past attempts.



Ingredients for robotic research openAI

### Short Demo

MuJoCo Physics Simulation

Gymnasium Environment



Stable Baselines 3 RL Algorithms

Fetch Mobile Manipulator

# Questions?