Decisions Under Uncertainty: Reinforcement Learning for Impulse Control Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

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May 2025

Medical context

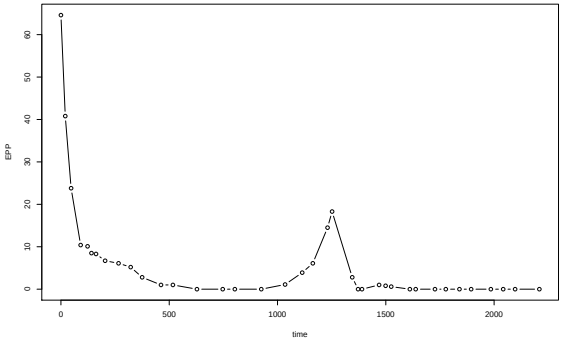

FIGURE: Example of patient data[a]

- Patients who have had cancer benefit from regular follow-up;
- The concentration of clonal immunoglobulin is measured over time;
- The doctor has to make new decisions at each visit.

[a] IUCT Oncopole and CRCT, Toulouse, France

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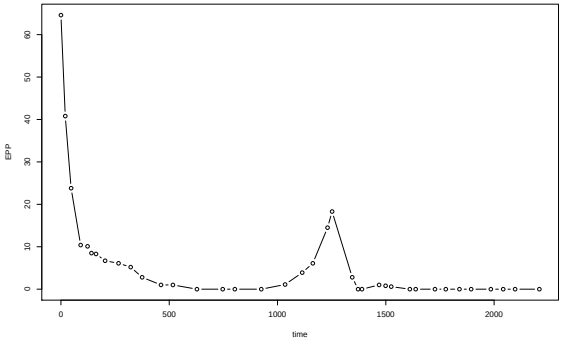

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$\Longrightarrow$ **Optimising decision-making to ensure the patient's quality of life**

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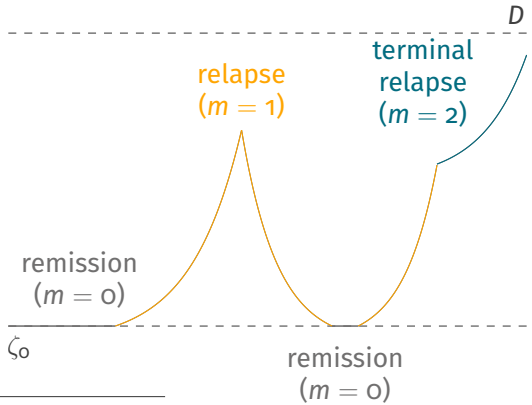
Controlled PDMP[1]

We switch randomly from one deterministic regime to another.



[1]Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

Controlled PDMP[1]

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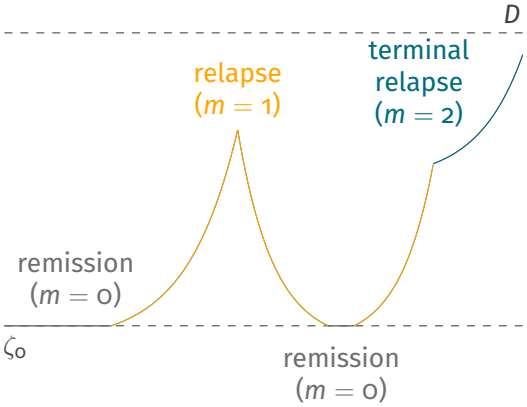


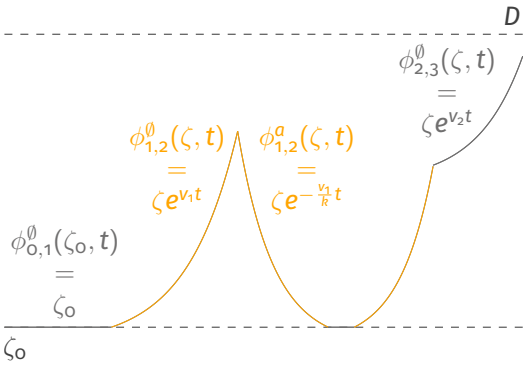
Let $x = (m, \ell, k, \zeta, u)$ the patient's condition:

- m the patient's condition;
- ℓ the current treatment;
- k the number of treatments;
- ζ the biomarker;
- u the time since the last jump.

[1] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

Local Characteristics of a PDMP[2]

A PDMP is defined by three local characteristics.



Flow

Description of the deterministic part of the process.

$$\Phi^{\ell}(x,t) = (m, k, \ell, \phi^{\ell}_{m,k}(\zeta,t), u+t)$$

[2] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

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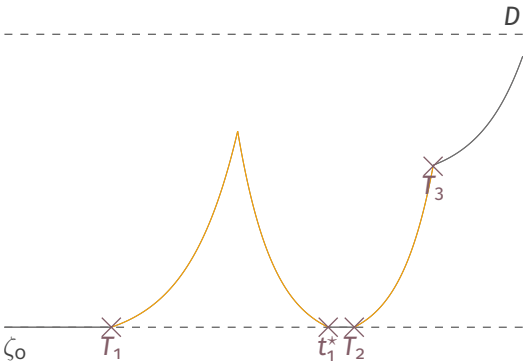

Jump intensity

Description of the process jump mechanisms.

- Boundary jump (deterministic)

$$t^\star(x) = t^{\ell\star}_{m,k}(\zeta) = \inf\{t > 0 : \phi^\ell_{m,k}(\zeta, t) \in \{\zeta_0, D\}\}$$

- Random jump

$$\mathbb{P}(T > t) = e^{-\int_0^t \lambda^\ell_{m,k}(\Phi(x,s))\,\mathrm{d}s}$$

[2] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

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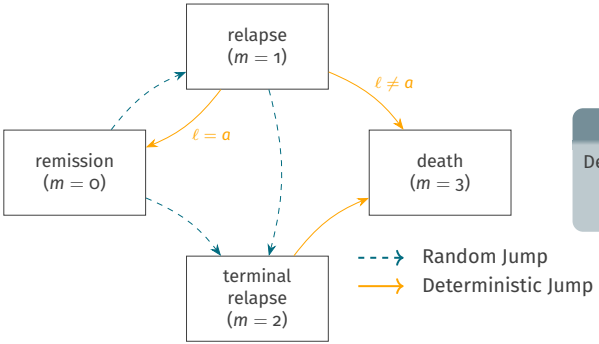

Markov kernel

Description of the state of the process after each jump.

$$\mathbb{P}(X' \in A | X = x) = \int_A Q^d_{m,k}(\Phi^\ell(x, T), \mathrm{d}x')$$

[2] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

Solving impulse control for PDMP[3]

Identify an ϵ-optimal strategy $\mathcal{S} = (\tau_n, \chi_n)_{n \geq 1}$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{S}, x)}_{\text{Expected cost of strategy}\mathcal{S}} = \mathbb{E}_x^{\mathcal{S}} \left[\int_0^{+\infty} e^{-\gamma t} \underbrace{c_R(X_t)}_{\text{current trajectory cost}} dt + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{c_I}_{\text{impulse cost}} \left(X_{\tau_n}, X_{\tau_n^+}\right) \right],$$

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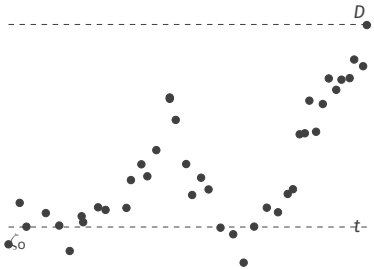
$$\mathcal{V}^\star(x) = \inf_{\mathcal{S} \in S} \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{S}, x)$$

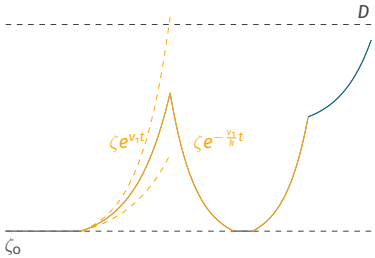
[3] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

Difficulties

Partial observation

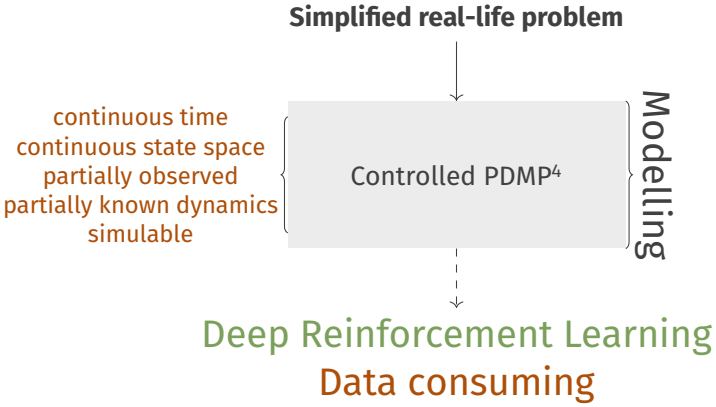


Partially known dynamics



Hypothesis: $v_1 \sim$ Log-Normal (μ, σ^{-2}), with μ and σ unknown.

Methods



[4]Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes

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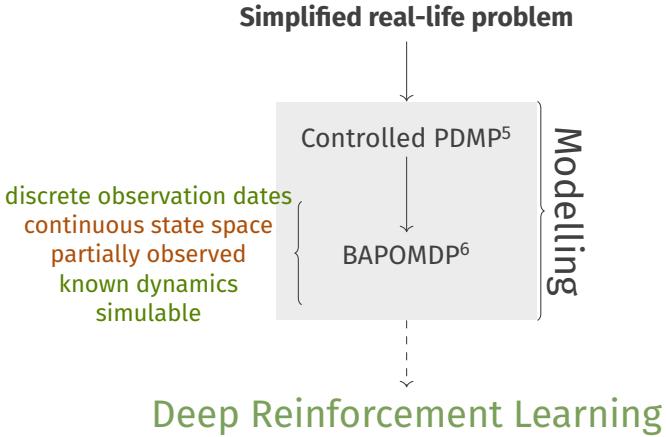
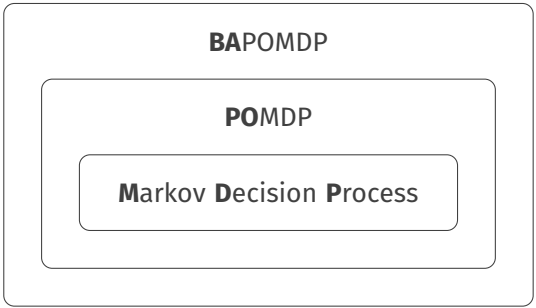


[5] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes
[6] Bayes-Adaptive Partially Observed Markov Decision Process

Characteristics of a MDP[7]



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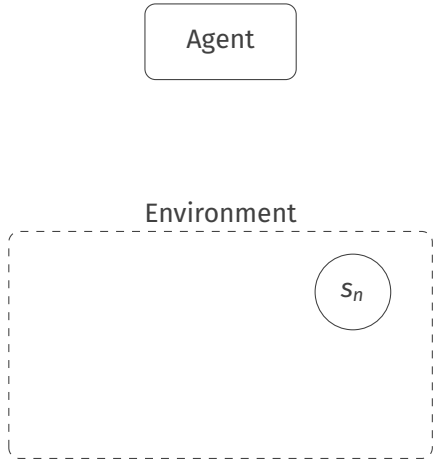

MDP Definition

A MDP is defined by a tuple $(\mathbb{S}, \mathbb{A}, P, c)$.

- Patient condition $s = (m, k, \zeta, u) \in \mathbb{S}$;
- Actions $a = (\ell, r) \in \mathbb{A}$;
- Transition function $P(s'|s, a)$;
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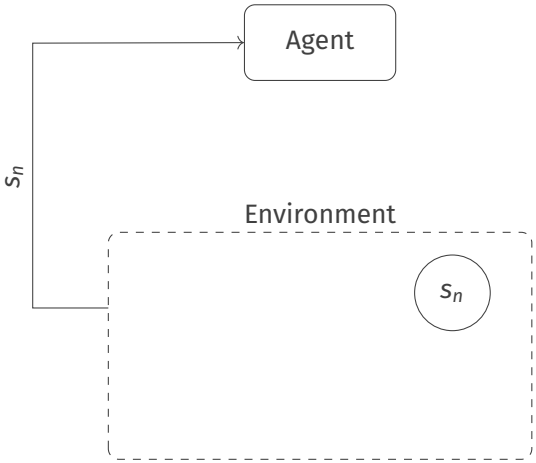

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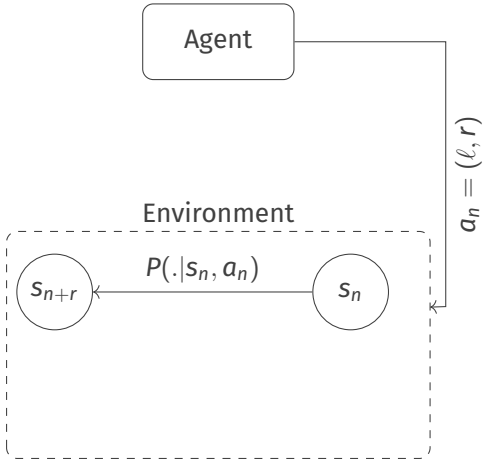

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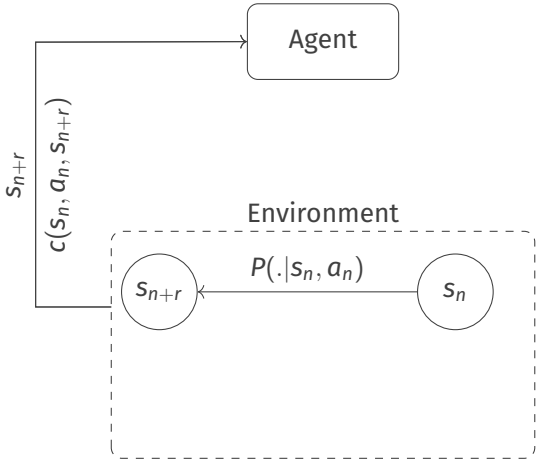

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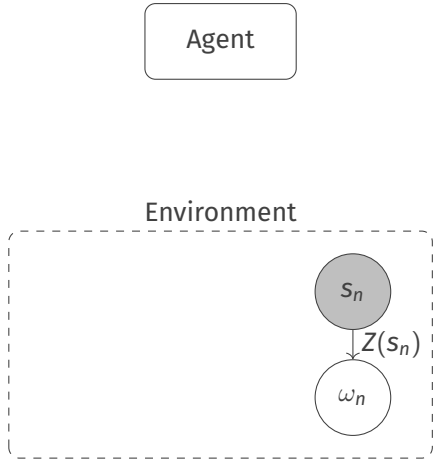
[7] Markov Decision Process

Characteristics of a POMDP[8]



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[8] Partially Observed Markov Decision Process

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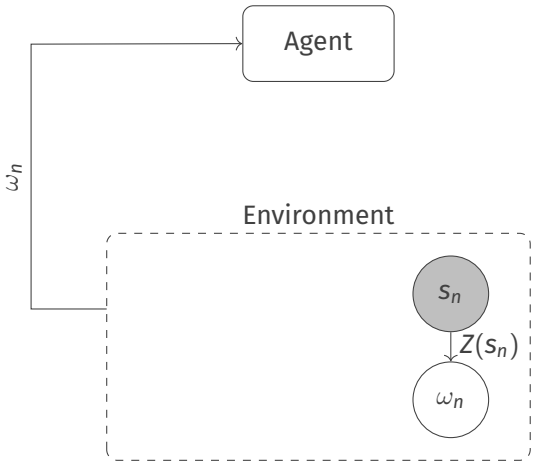

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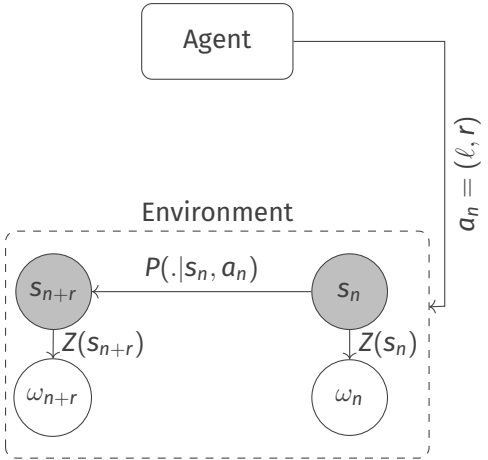

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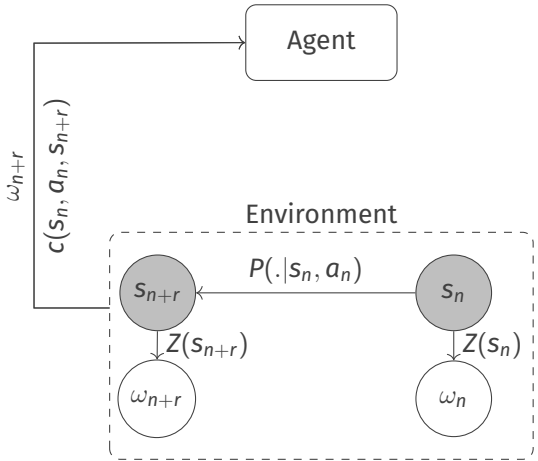

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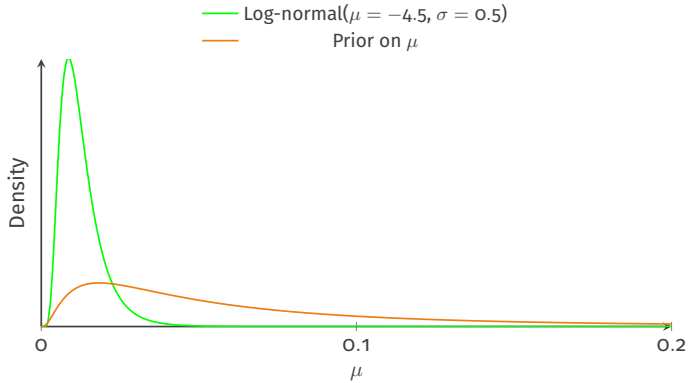
[8] Partially Observed Markov Decision Process

Handle uncertainty with Bayesian framework

We do not know the distribution parameters (μ, σ^{-2}) of the slope law v1



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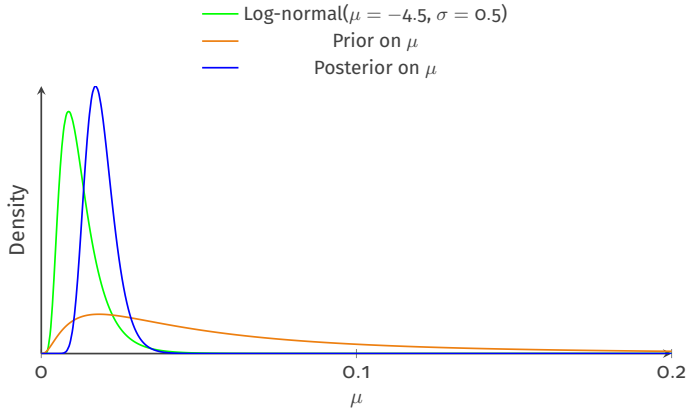

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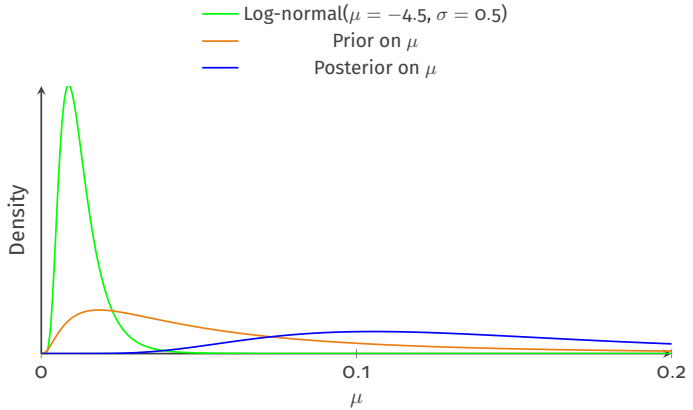

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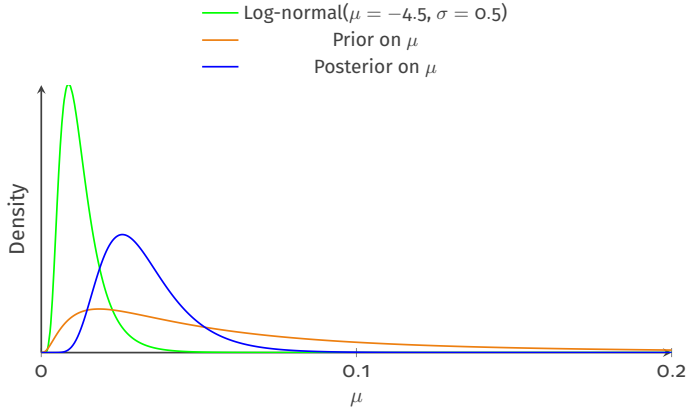
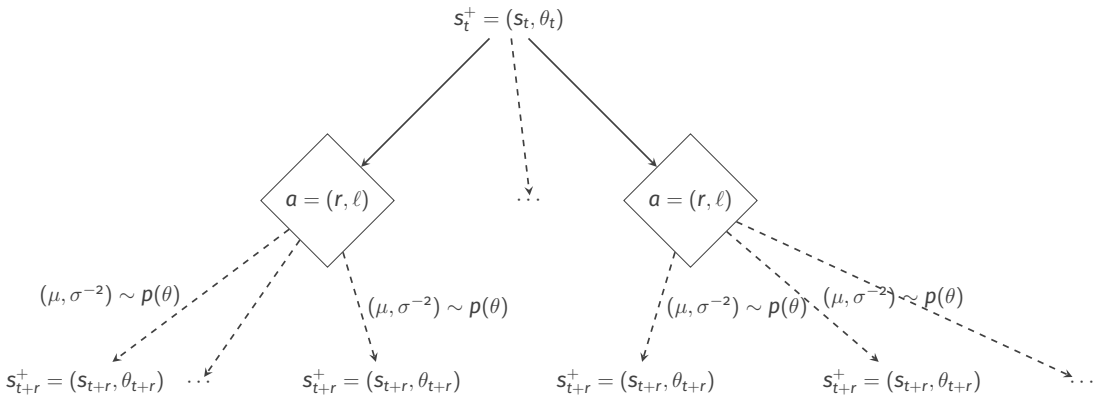


Generate transition from prior



Characteristics of a BAPOMDP[9]

BAPOMDP Definition

Un BAPOMDP se définit par un tuple $(\mathbb{S}^+, \mathbb{A}, P^+, \Omega, Z, c)$.

- **Space of hyperstate** $\mathbb{S}^+ = \mathbb{S} \times \Theta$**;**
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[9] Bayes Adaptive Partially observed Markov decision process

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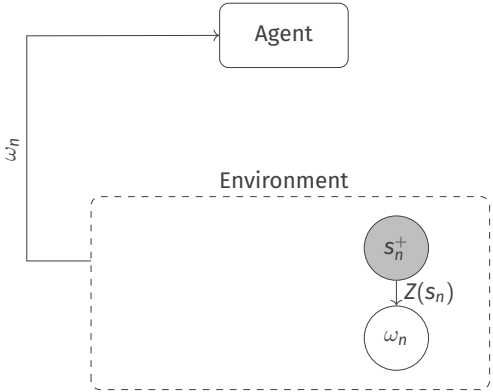

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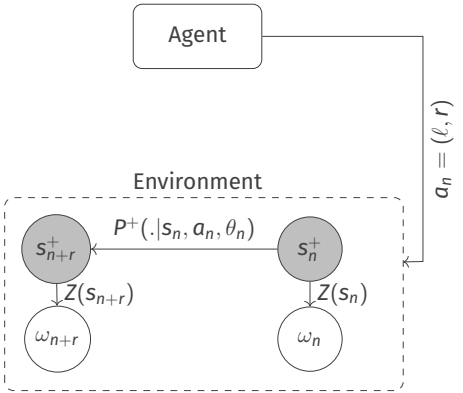

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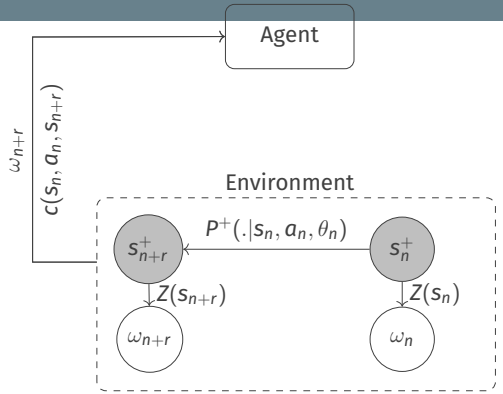

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[9] Bayes Adaptive Partially observed Markov decision process

Solving a BAPOMDP[10]

Identify an optimal policy $\pi^\star$

$$\underbrace{c(s,a,s')}_{\text{Cost function}} = \underbrace{C_V}_{\text{visit cost}} + \underbrace{C_D(H-t')\times \mathbb{1}_{m'=3}}_{\text{death cost}} + \underbrace{\kappa_C \times r \times \mathbb{1}_{\ell=a}}_{\text{treatment cost}}$$

[10] Bayes Adaptative Partially Observable Markov Decision Process

Solving a BAPOMDP[10]

Identify an optimal policy $\pi^\star$

$$\underbrace{V(\pi, s)}_{\text{Optimization criterion}} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_s^\pi[\sum_{n=0}^{H-1} c(S_{n-1}, A_n, S_n)]}_{\text{Expected long-term cost as a result of the policy } \pi}$$

[10] Bayes Adaptative Partially Observable Markov Decision Process

Solving a BAPOMDP[10]

Identify an optimal policy $\pi^\star$

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$$\underbrace{V^\star(s)}_{\text{Value function}} = \underbrace{\min_{\pi \in \Pi} V(\pi, s)}_{\text{Minimisation across policy space}}$$

[10] Bayes Adaptative Partially Observable Markov Decision Process

Solving a BAPOMDP[10]

Identify an optimal policy $\pi^\star$

In reality, we do not observe state space!

Let $h_n = (\omega_0, a_0, \omega_1, a_1, \ldots, \omega_n)$ be the history

$$\underbrace{V^\star(h)}_{\text{Value function}} = \underbrace{\min_{\pi \in \Pi} V(\pi, h)}_{\text{Minimisation across policy space.}}$$

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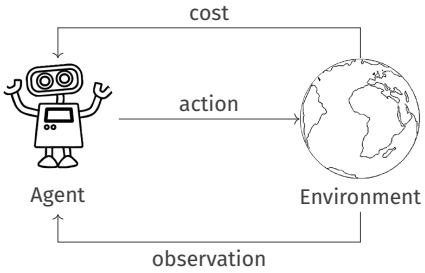
Reinforcement Learning



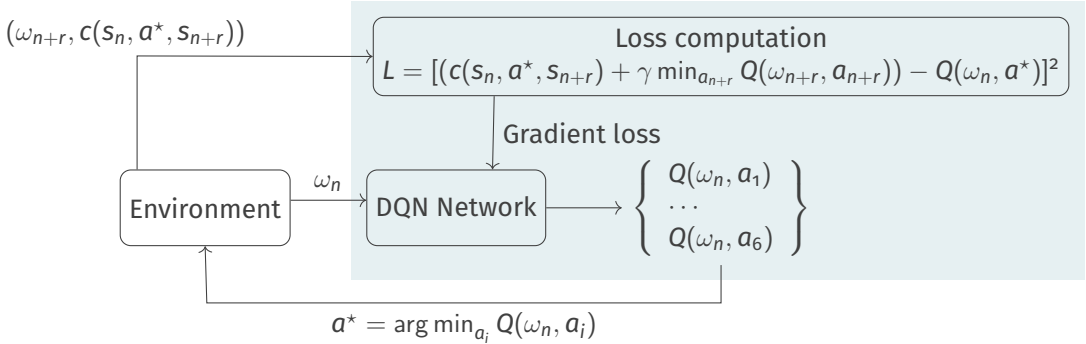
The optimal policy is obtained from the experiments $< \omega, a, \omega', c >$, generate from P^+ transition function

$$\underbrace{Q^\pi(s,d)}_{\text{Optimization criterion}} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}^\pi[\sum_{n=0}^{H-1} c(S_{n-1}, A_n, S_n)|s, a = (\ell, r)]}_{\text{Value of an action in a state according to the policy } \pi}$$

$$\underbrace{Q^\star(s,a)}_{\text{Q fonction}} = \min_{\pi \in \Pi} Q^\pi(s,a)$$

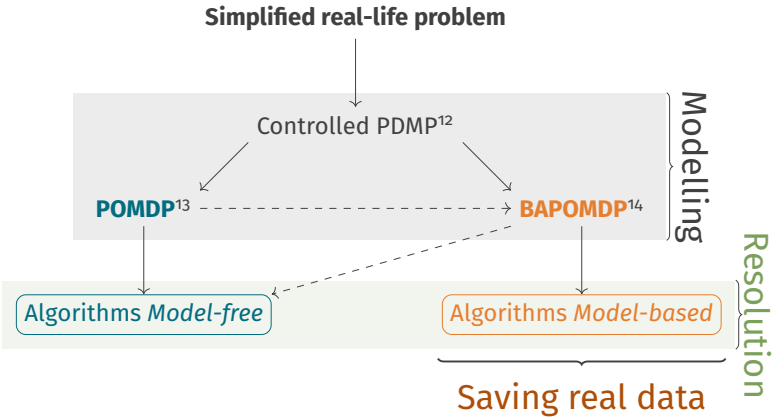
$$\underbrace{\pi^\star}_{\text{Q fonction}} = \arg\min_{a \in \mathbb{A}} Q^\star(s,a)$$

Algorithm example: DQN[11]



[11] Deep Q-Network

Conclusion and future work



[12] Piecewise Deterministic Markov Processes
[13] Partially Observed Markov Decision Process
[14] Bayes Adaptative Partially Observed Markov Decision Process