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Reinforcement Learning for the Soccer Dribbling Task

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(Submitted on 28 May 2013)

We propose a reinforcement learning solution to the \emph{soccer dribbling task}, a scenario in which a soccer agent has to go from the beginning to the end of a region keeping possession of the ball, as an adversary attempts to gain possession. While the adversary uses a stationary policy, the dribbler learns the best action to take at each decision point. After defining meaningful variables to represent the state space, and high-level macro-actions to incorporate domain knowledge, we describe our application of the reinforcement learning algorithm \emph{Sarsa} with CMAC for function approximation. Our experiments show that, after the training period, the dribbler is able to accomplish its task against a strong adversary around 58% of the time.

 Subjects:
 Learning (cs.LG); Robotics (cs.RO); Machine Learning (stat.ML)

 DOI:
 10.1109/CIG.2011.6031994

 Cite as:
 arXiv:1305.6568 [cs.LG]

 (or arXiv:1305.6568v1 [cs.LG] for this version)

Submission history

From: Arthur Carvalho [view email] [v1] Tue, 28 May 2013 17:47:08 GMT (179kb)

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