Learning To Run A Power Network

Turing AI Fellows and Teams Community Hackathon

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Reinforcement Learning





Figure 3: A simple electricity network, showing the circuit nature of a power network, the currents I flowing in the lines and the *interconnectedness* between generators denoted g, customer loads denoted c and substation nodes denoted s

Constraints



Figure 2: An example of the dangers of overheating power-lines, by transporting too much current, the metallic conductor heats and sags close to the ground causing a flash over to ground and endangering human life.

 $\rho_{\rm i}{:}\ {\rm current}\ {\rm flow}\ /\ {\rm thermal}\ {\rm limit}\ \rho_{\rm i}\ {<}1.0$

Reinforcement Learning with Constraints

IPO (Interior Point Optimization)[1]

IPO augments the objective function with logarithmic barrier functions as penalty functions to accommodate the constraints.

$$\max_{\theta} J_R^{\pi_{\theta}} + \sum_{i}^{n-line} \frac{1}{t_i} \log(1.0 - \rho_i)$$

$$\rho_i: \text{ current flow / thermal limit for i-th line}$$
Accumulated Reward
(objective function)
$$t_i: \text{ hyper-parameter (scaling the regularizer term)}$$

[1] Yongshuai Liu, Jiaxin Ding, and Xin Liu. Ipo: Interior-point policy optimization under constraints. In Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, volume 34, pages 4940–4947, 2020

Observations

- All continuous observations have been taken into account.
- Observations (active and reactive power, voltage and other parameters) from generator and loads.
- Topology of the grid.
- Parameters from storage.

Actions

- All discrete actions.
- Change or Set busbars for generators, loads, lines and storage.

Training till Saturation

With regularisation



Without regularisation



Distribution of ρ over time



Learning curve

With constraint penalty (t=1.0)



No constraint penalty



Do nothing baseline: approximately around 3000

Hyperparameter (t)

t=0.1







Hyperparameter (t)

t = 0.5



t = 1.0



Conclusion

Penalty constraints can help