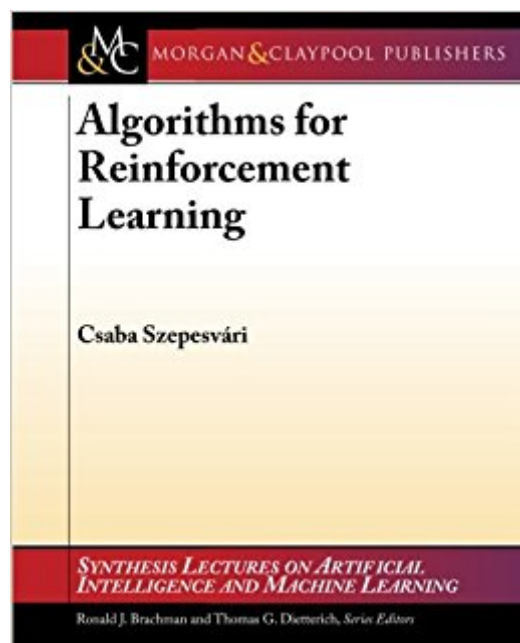


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Algorithms For Reinforcement Learning (Synthesis Lectures On Artificial Intelligence And Machine Learning)



Synopsis

Reinforcement learning is a learning paradigm concerned with learning to control a system so as to maximize a numerical performance measure that expresses a long-term objective. What distinguishes reinforcement learning from supervised learning is that only partial feedback is given to the learner about the learner's predictions. Further, the predictions may have long term effects through influencing the future state of the controlled system. Thus, time plays a special role. The goal in reinforcement learning is to develop efficient learning algorithms, as well as to understand the algorithms' merits and limitations. Reinforcement learning is of great interest because of the large number of practical applications that it can be used to address, ranging from problems in artificial intelligence to operations research or control engineering. In this book, we focus on those algorithms of reinforcement learning that build on the powerful theory of dynamic programming. We give a fairly comprehensive catalog of learning problems, describe the core ideas, note a large number of state of the art algorithms, followed by the discussion of their theoretical properties and limitations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an extraordinary resource for a graduate student. Szepesvari reviews the current place of the literature, gives a very quick but still thorough introduction to reinforcement learning, and includes algorithms for quite a few methods. This is everything a graduate student could ask for in a text. And

in 100 pages! Fantastic. I almost docked one star because the book doesn't have an index, but then remembered that you can get a pdf version of this book straight from the authors website -- which of course you can then simply search for the term you want. That alone makes me want to give it 6 stars. Ah well, I will have to settle for 5 and shining review.

not usable for my needs. long on a few theories, short on applications. there are better texts on the subject.

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