

GENETIC REINFORCEMENT LEARNING OF FUZZY INFERENCE SYSTEM APPLICATION TO MOBILE ROBOTIC

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Abstract: An efficient genetic reinforcement learning algorithm for designing Fuzzy Inference System (FIS) with out any priory knowledge is proposed in this paper. Reinforcement learning using Fuzzy Q-Learning (FQL) is applied to select the consequent action values of a fuzzy inference system, in this method, the consequent value is selected from a predefined value set which is kept unchanged during learning and if the optimal solution is not present in the randomly generated set, then the performance may be poor. Also genetic algorithms (Genetic Algorithm) are performed to on line search for better consequent and premises parameters based on the learned Q-values as adaptation function. In Fuzzy-Q-Learning Genetic Algorithm (FQLGA), memberships (premises) parameters are distributed equidistant and the consequent parts of fuzzy rules are randomly generated. The algorithm is validated in simulation and experimentation on mobile robot reactive navigation behaviors.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, fuzzy logic has supplanted conventional technologies in some scientific applications and engineering systems especially in control systems, particularly the control of the mobile robots evolving (moving) in completely unknown environments. Fuzzy logic has the ability to express the ambiguity of human thinking and translate expert knowledge into computable numerical data. Also, for real-time applications, its relatively low computational complexity makes it a good candidate. A fuzzy system consists of a set of fuzzy if-then rules. Conventionally, the selection of fuzzy if-then rules often relies on a substantial amount of heuristic observation to express the knowledge of proper strategies

Recently, many authors proved that it is possible to reproduce the operation of any standard continuous controller using fuzzy controller (Jouffe, 1996), (Watkins, 1992), (Glorennec, 1997), (Dongbing, 2003). However it is difficult for human experts to examine complex systems, then it isn't easy to design an optimized fuzzy controller. Generally the performances of a system of fuzzy inference (SIF) depend on the formulation of the rules, but also the numerical specification of all the

linguistic terms used and an important number of choices is *given a priori* also it is not always easy or possible to extract these data using human expert. These choices are carried with empirical methods, and then the design of the FIS can prove to be long and delicate vis-à-vis the important number of parameters to determine, and can lead then to a solution with poor performance. To cope with this difficulty, many researchers have been working to find learning algorithms for fuzzy system design. These automatic methods enable to extract information when the experts' *priori* knowledge is not available.

The most popular approach to design FLC may be a kind of supervised learning where the training data is available. However in real applications extraction of training data is not always easy and become impossible when the cost to obtain training data is expensive. For these problems, reinforcement learning is more suitable than supervised learning. In reinforcement learning, an agent receives from its environment a critic, called reinforcement, which can be thought of as a reward or a punishment. The objective then is to generate a policy maximizing on average the sum of the rewards in the course of time, starting from experiments (state, action, reward).

This paradigm corresponds to one of the fundamental objectives of the mobile robotics which constitutes a privileged applicability of reinforcement learning. The paradigm suggested is to regard behaviour as a sensor-effectors correspondence function. The objective is to favour the robots autonomy using learning algorithms.

In this article, we used the algorithm of reinforcement learning, Fuzzy Q-Learning (FQL) (Jouffe, 1996), (Souici, 2005) which allows the adaptation of apprentices of the type SIF (continuous states and actions), fuzzy Q-learning is applied to select the consequent action values of a fuzzy inference system. For these methods, the consequent value is selected from a predefined value set which is kept unchanged during learning, and if an improper value set is assigned, and then the algorithm may fail. Also, the approach suggested called Fuzzy-Q-Learning Genetic Algorithm (FQLGA), is a hybrid method of Reinforcement Genetic combining FQL and genetic algorithms for on line optimization of the parametric characteristics of a SIF. In FQLGA we will tune free parameters (precondition and consequent part) by genetic algorithms (GAs) which is able to explore the space of solutions effectively.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, overviews of Reinforcement learning, implementation and the limits of the Fuzzy-Q-Learning algorithm is described. The implementation and the limits of the Fuzzy-Q-Learning algorithm are introduced in Section 3. Section 4 describes the combination of Reinforcement Learning (RL) and genetic algorithm (GA) and the architecture of the proposed algorithm called Fuzzy-Q-Learning Genetic Algorithm (FQLGA). This new algorithm is applied in the section 5 for the on line learning of two elementary behaviors of mobile robot reactive navigation, "Go to Goal" and "Obstacles Avoidance". Finally, conclusions and prospects are drawn in Section 6.

2 REINFORCEMENT LEARNING

As previously mentioned, there are two ways to learn either you are told what to do in different situations or you get credit or blame for doing good respectively bad things. The former is called supervised learning and the latter is called learning with a critic, of which reinforcement learning (RL) is the most prominent representative. The basic idea of RL is that agents learn behaviour through trial-

and-error, and receive rewards for behaving in such a way that a goal is fulfilled.

Reinforcement signal, measures the utility of the exits suggested relative with the task to be achieved, the received reinforcement is the sanction (positive, negative or neutral) of behaviour: this signal states that it should be done without saying how to do it. The goal of reinforcement learning is to find the behavior most effective, i.e. to know, in each possible situation, which action is achieved to maximize the cumulated future rewards. Unfortunately the sum of rewards could be infinite for any policy. To solve this problem a discount factor is introduced.

$$R = \sum_{k \neq 0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_k \quad (1)$$

Where $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$ is the *discount factor*.

The idea of RL can be generalized into a model, in which there are two components: an agent that makes decisions and an environment in which the agent acts. For every time step, the agent perceives information from the environment about the current state, s . The information perceived could be, for example, the positions of a physical agent, to simplify say the x and y coordinates. In every state, the agent takes an action u_t , which transits the agent to a new state. As mentioned before, when taking that action the agent receives a reward.

Formally the model can be written as follows; for every time step t the agent is in a state $st \in S$ where S is the set of all possible states, and in that state the agent can take an action $at \in (At)$, where (At) is the set of all possible actions in the state st . As the agent transits to a new state $st+1$ at time $t + 1$ it receives a numerical reward $rt+1$. It up to date then its estimate of the function of evaluation of the action using the immediate reinforcement, $rt +1$, and the estimated value of the following state, $V_t (St +1)$, which is defined by:

$$V_t (s_{t+1}) = \max_{u_t \in U_{t+1}} Q(s_{t+1}, u_t) \quad (2)$$

The Q-value of each state/action pair is updated by:

$$Q(s_{t+1}, u_t) = Q(s_t, u_t) + \beta \{ r_{t+1} + \gamma V_t (s_{t+1}) - Q(s_t, u_t) \} \quad (3)$$

Where $r_{t+1} + \gamma V_t (s_{t+1}) - Q(s_t, u_t)$ the TD error and β is the learning rate.

This algorithm is called Q-Learning. It shows several interesting characteristics. The estimates of the function Q, also called the Q-values, are independent of the policy pursued by the agent. To calculate the function of evaluation of a state, it is not necessary to test all the possible actions in this state but only to take the maximum Q-value in the new state (eq.4). However, the too fast choice of the action having the greatest Q-value:

$$u_t = \arg \max_{u_t \in U_{t+1}} Q(s_{t+1}, u_t) \quad (4)$$

can lead to local minima. To obtain a useful estimate of Q, it is necessary to sweep and evaluate the whole of the possible actions for all the states: it is what one calls the phase of exploration (Jouffe, 1996), (Souici, 2005). In the preceding algorithm, called TD (0), we use only the state which follows the robot evolution, Moreover only the running state is concerned. Sutton (Souici, 2005) extended the evaluation in all the states, according to their eligibility traces that memorise the previously visited state action pairs in our case. Eligibility traces can be defined in several ways (Jouffe, 1996), (Watkins, 1992), (Souici, 2005). Accumulating eligibility is defined by:

$$e_t(s) = \begin{cases} 1 + \gamma \lambda e_{t-1}(s) & si \quad s = s_t \\ \gamma \lambda e_{t-1}(s) & sinon \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

The algorithm Q (λ) is a generalization of Q-Learning which uses the eligibilities truces (Souici, 2005): *Q-Learning* is then a particular case of Q (λ) when $\lambda=0$.

$$Q(s_{t+1}, u_t) = Q(s_t, u_t) + \beta \{ r_{t+1} + \mathcal{V}_t(s_{t+1}) - Q(s_t, u_t) \} e_t(s) \quad (6)$$

3 FUZZY Q-LEARNING ALGORITHM

In mobile robotics, input and output variables given by the sensors and effectors are seldom discrete, or, if they are, the number of state is very large. However reinforcement learning such as we described it uses a discrete space of states and actions which must be have reasonable size to enable the algorithms to converge in an acceptable time in practice.

The principle of the Fuzzy Q-Learning algorithm consists in choosing for each rule R_i a conclusion among a whole of actions available for this rule. Then it implements a process of competition between actions. With this intention, the

actions corresponding to each rule R_i have a quality

q^i which then determines the probability to choose the action. The output action (*discrete* or *continues*) is then the result of the inference between various actions locally elected. The matrix q enables to implement not only the local policies the rules, but also to represent the function of evaluation of the overall t-optimal policy.

For every time step t the agent is in a state $st \in S$ where S is the set of all possible states, and in that state the agent can take an action $at \in (At)$, where (At) is the set of all possible actions in the state st . As the agent receives a numerical reward $rt+1 \in R$ at time $t + 1$, and it transits to a new state $st+1$. It then perceives this state by the means of its activated degree of its rules. The algorithm FQL uses a Policy of Exploration/Exploitation (PEE) (Jouffe, 1996), (Souici, 2005), combining a random exploration part $\rho^i(U)$ and determinist guided part $\eta^i(U)$.

The steps are summarized as follows:

1. Calculate of the evaluation function:

$$Q_t^*(S_{t+1}) = \sum_{R_i \in A_t} (Max_{U \in U} (q_t^i(U)) \alpha_{R_i}(S_{t+1})),$$

2. Calculate the TD error

$$\tilde{e}_{t+1} = r_{t+1} + \gamma Q_t^*(S_{t+1}) - Q_t(S_t, U_t)$$

3. Update the matrix of Q values

$$q_{t+1}^i = q_t^i + \beta \cdot \tilde{e}_{t+1} e_t^{i^T}, \forall R_i$$

4. Election of the action to be applied

$$U_{t+1}(S_{t+1}) = \sum_{R_i \in A_{t+1}} Election_U(q_{t+1}^i) \alpha_{R_i}(S_{t+1}), \forall U \in U,$$

Where Election is defined by:

$$Election_U(q_{t+1}^i) = ArgMax_{U \in U} (q_{t+1}^i(U) + \eta^i(U) + \rho^i(U))$$

5. Update of the eligibility traces

$$e_{t+1}^i(U^i) = \begin{cases} \gamma \lambda e_t^i(U^i) + \phi_{t+1}^i, & (U^i = U_{t+1}^i) \\ \gamma \lambda e_t^i(U^i), & sinon \end{cases}$$

And new calculation of the evaluation function.

$$Q_{t+1}(S_{t+1}, U_{t+1}) = \sum_{R_i \in A_{t+1}} q_{t+1}^i(U_{t+1}^i) \alpha_{R_i}(S_{t+1}),$$

This value will be used to calculate the TD error in the next step time. However the performances of the controller are closely dependent on the correct choice of the discrete actions set, witch is determined using *a priori* knowledge about system, for complex systems like robots, *priori* knowledge are not available, then it becomes difficult to determine a set of correct actions in which figure the optimal action for each fuzzy rule. To solve this problem and to improve the performances of the

reinforcement learning, the genetic algorithms will explore the broadest space of solutions to find the solution optimal (Dongbing, 2003), (Chia-Feng, 2005), (Min-Soeng, 2000), (Chia-Feng, 2003), and that without any priori knowledge.

4 GENETIC REINFORCEMENT ALGORITHM

Genetic Algorithms (GA) are stochastic optimization algorithms, founded on species evolution mechanisms (Goldberg, 1994). In GA, a candidate solution for a specific problem is called an individual or a chromosome and consists of a linear list of genes. Each individual represents a point in the search space and, hence, a possible solution to the problem. A population consists of a finite number of individuals. Each individual is decided by an evaluating mechanism to obtain its fitness value. Based on this fitness value and undergoing genetic operators, a new population is generated iteratively, with each successive population referred to as a generation.

Genetic Reinforcement Learning enable to determine the best set of parameters of (antecedents / consequences) starting from a random initialization of these parameters and in each iteration, only one action is applied on the system to the difference of a traditional genetic algorithm GA use three basic operators (the selection, crossover, and mutation) to manipulate the genetic composition of a population:

- *Reproduction*: Individuals are copied according to their fitness values. The individuals with higher fitness values have more offspring than those with lower fitness values.
- *Crossover*: The crossover will happen for two parents that have high fitness values with the crossover probability p_c . One point crossover is used to exchange the genes.
- *Mutation*: The real value mutation is done by adding a certain amount of noise (Gaussian in this paper) to new individuals to produce the offspring with the mutation probability p_m . For the i^{th} variable in j^{th} individual, it can be expressed as:

$$a_{t+1} = a_t + \beta(i).N(0, \sigma) \tag{7}$$

Where N denote a Gaussian noise, and $\beta(i) = \exp(-i)$ for the i^{th} generation.

4.1 FQLGA Algorithm

Because of its simplicity, a Takagi-Sugeno Fuzzy inference system is considered, with triangular membership function. The structure (partition of its input space, the determination of the number of IF-THEN rules) of the SIF is predetermined.

Rule R_i : if S_1 is L_1 and.....and S_{j_8} is L_{j_8} then Y is a_j^i with q_j^i

a_j^i is a vector representing the discrete set of K conclusions generated randomly for the rule R_i with which is associated a vector q_j^i representing the quality of each action ($i= 1 \sim N$ and $j= 1 \sim K$).

The principle of the approach is to use a population of K (SIF) and to treat the output of each one of them as a possible action to apply on the system. FQL algorithm exploits local quality function q witch is associated with each action of a fuzzy rule (équat.6) whereas FQLGA algorithm uses as function fitness the sum of local qualities q given by:

$$f(Ind_j) = Q(S_{t+1}, SIF_{t+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^N q_j^i \tag{8}$$

To reduce the training time, the quality matrix Q is not initialized after each iteration but undergoes the same genetic operations as those applied to the set of the individuals (selection, crossing).

4.2 Optimization of the Consequent Part of a FIS

A population of K individuals of a predetermined structure is adopted. The size of an individual is equal to number N of the FIS's rules. The architecture of FQLGA algorithm proposed for the optimization of the conclusions is represented on the figure (1).

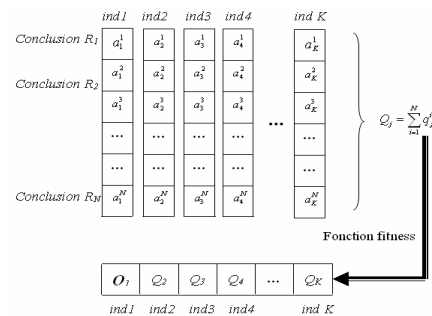


Figure 1:Representation of the individuals and qualities of the actions in FQLGA algorithm.

4.3 Optimization of the Antecedent Part of a SIF

To find the best set of premises generated by GA, a population made up of M SIF is created. Each individual (FIS) of the population encode the parameters of the antecedents i.e. the modal points of the FIS and his performance is evaluated by the fitness function of Q (global quality).

The conclusion part of each individual SIF remains fixed and corresponds to the values determined previously. The coding of the membership functions of the antecedent part of a FIS (individual) is done according to the figure (2). To keep the legibility of the SIF, we impose constraints during the evolution of the FIS to ensure the interpretability of the FIS.

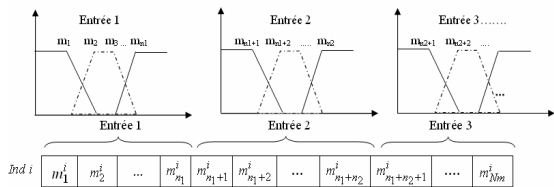


Figure 2: Coding of the parameters of the antecedent part.

Input N : $m_{Nm-n_N+1}^1 < \dots < m_{Nm-2}^1 < m_{Nm}^1$

The fitness function used in by genetic algorithm for the optimization of the antecedent part is the global quality of the FIS which uses the degree of activation of the fuzzy rules; this fitness function is given by the following equation:

$$f(ind_i) = Q(S(t), SIF_i) = \frac{\sum_{R_i \in R_A} \alpha_{R_i}(S(t)) \cdot q_i^j(t)}{\sum_{R_i \in R_A} \alpha_{R_i}(S(t))} \quad (9)$$

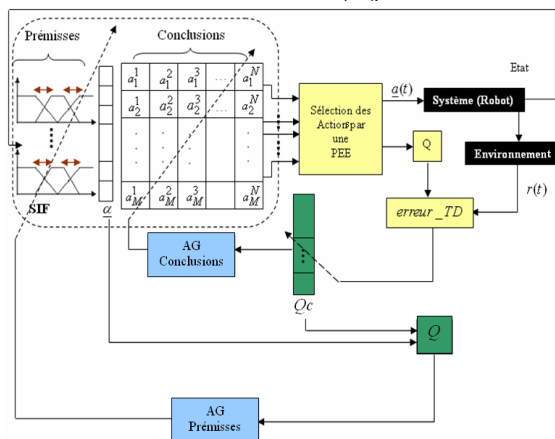


Figure 3: General architecture of FQLGA algorithm.

4.4 Optimization of the Consequent and Antecedent Part of FIS

A SIF consists of a set of fuzzy rules each one of it is made of an antecedent and a consequent part. Optimize the antecedent and the consequent part of the fuzzy controller at the same time is a complex problem which can admit several solutions which are not acceptable in reality, the great number of possible solutions makes the algorithm very heavy and can lead to risks of instability.

FQLGA algorithm proposed in (fig.3) for the optimization of the premises and the conclusions allows the total parametric optimization of the FIS in three stages represented in the flow chart (fig.4).

- At the beginning of the learning process, the quality matrix is initialized at zero, and then traditional algorithm FQL evaluates each action using an exploration policy. This step finishes when a number of negative reinforcements is received.
- After the evaluation of the individuals, the genetic algorithm for the optimization of the consequent part of the fuzzy rules creates a new better adapted generation. This stage is repeated until obtaining convergence of the conclusions or after having reached a certain number of generations. The algorithm passes then to the third stage:
- Once the conclusions of the FIS are optimized, the second genetic algorithm for the optimization of the antecedent part is carried out to adjust the positions of the input membership functions of the controller which are initially equidistant on their universe of discourse.

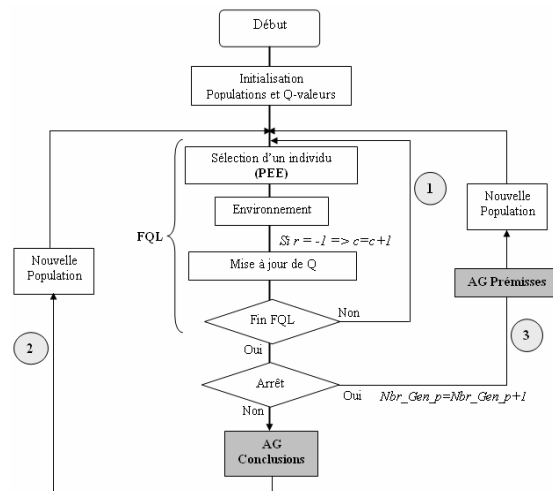


Figure 4: Flow chart of FQLGA algorithm.

5 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

To verify the performance of FQLGA two elementary behaviors of reactive navigation of a mobile robot: "Go to Goal" and "Obstacles Avoidance" are presented in this section; the algorithm was adopted in the experiments for both simulations (Saphira simulator) and real robots (Pioneer II).

5.1 «Go to Goal» Behaviour

The two input variables are: the angle " θ_{Rb} " between the robot velocity vector and the robot-goal vector, and the distance robot-goal " ρ_b ". They are respectively defined by three (*Negative, Zeros, Positive*) and two (*Near, Loin*) fuzzy subsets (fig.5). The two output variables are the rotation speed, V_{rot_CB} and the translation speed V_{tran_CB} each output is represented by nine actions initialised randomly.

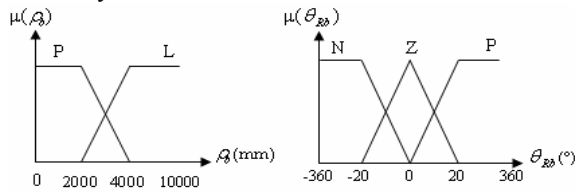


Figure 5: Membership functions of the input space.

The reinforcement functions adopted for the two outputs are respectively given by:

$$r_{V_{rot_CB}}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{Si } (\theta \cdot \dot{\theta} < 0 \text{ ou } -1^\circ < \theta < +1^\circ) \\ 0 & \text{Si } (\theta \cdot \dot{\theta} = 0) \\ -1 & \text{Else} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$r_{V_{tran_CB}}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{Si } V_{trans} \leq 0.15\rho_0 \text{ et } \rho_0 \geq 800 \\ 1 & \text{Si } V_{trans} \geq 220 \text{ et } \rho_0 \geq 800 \text{ et } \text{abs}(\theta) < 5 \\ -1 & \text{Else} \end{cases}$$

The parameters of FQL algorithm and the genetic algorithms are as follows:

γ	λ	L_p	L_c	N_p	N_c	p_m
0.9	0.7	5	6	10	09	0.2

L_p and L_c respectively indicate the sizes of the chromosomes for the antecedents and the conclusions part, N_p , N_c respectively represent the size of the population of the parameters of antecedent and the conclusions and P_m the probability of mutation.

The simulation results are given of the first behaviour "Go to Goal" are presented in the figure (6), 28 generations were sufficient to find the good actions.

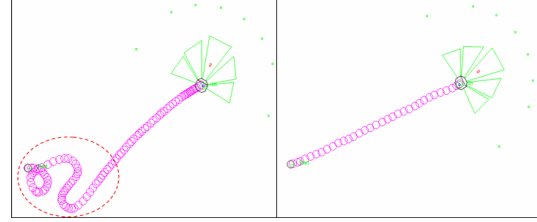


Figure 6: Go to goal: Training/Validation.

Figure (7) shows the convergence of the fitness values of the genetic algorithms for the two output variables V_{rot_CB} and V_{tran_CB} obtained during experimental test.

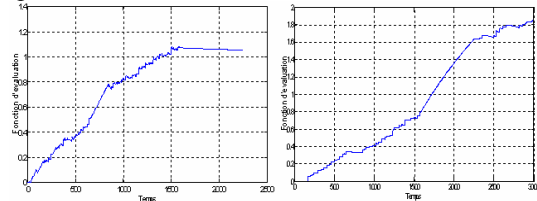


Figure 7: Fitness functions for the two output variables.

5.2 «Obstacles Avoidance» Behaviour

The Inputs of the FIS are the distances provided by the ultrasounds sensors to in the three directions (Frontal, Left and Right) and defined by the three fuzzy subsets: near (N), means (M), and far (F) (fig.8).

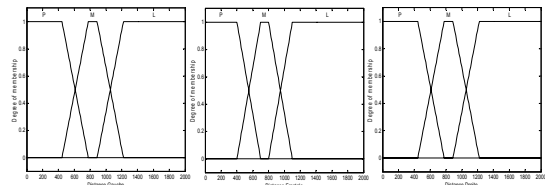


Figure 8: Memberships Functions of the inputs variables.

The conclusions (rotation speeds) are initialized randomly. The translation speed of V_{tran_EO} is given analytically; it is linearly proportional to the frontal distance:

$$V_{tran_EO} = \frac{V_{\max}}{D_{\max}} \cdot (Dis_F - D_s) \quad (11)$$

V_{\max} is the maximum speed of the robot equal to 350mm/s.

D_{max} is the maximum value measured by the frontal sensors and estimated to 2000mm and D_s is a safe distance witch is fixed at 250mm.

The function of reinforcement is defined as follows (Souici, 2005):

$$r_{vrot_CB}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 \times \text{Signe}(V_{rot_EO}) & \text{if } Dis_R < Dis_L \\ & \text{or } Dis_F < Dis_L \text{ and } D_{min} < 800 \\ -1 \times \text{Signe}(V_{rot_EO}) & \text{and } Dis_L < Dis_R \\ & \text{or } Dis_F < Dis_R \text{ and } D_{min} < 800 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

with $D_{min} = \min(Dis_L, Dis_F, Dis_R)$

The parameters of FQL algorithm and the genetic algorithms are identical to the preceding behaviour except for the sizes of the chromosomes $Lp=12$ and $Lc=27$.

Figure (9) represents the trajectories of the robot during the learning phase with FQL algorithm and a random initialization of the consequents part for the 27 fuzzy rules. Several situations of failures are observed, this example show the limits of traditional FQL algorithm when priory knowledge about the system are not available.

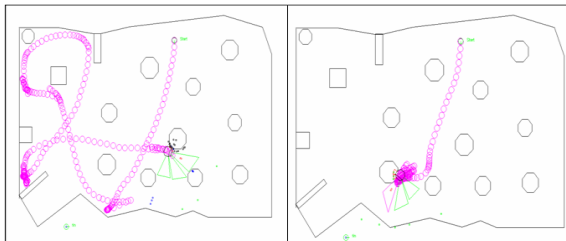


Figure 9: Trajectories of the robot obtained by FQL algorithm using a random initialization of parameters.

The trajectories of figure (10) show the effectiveness of the association of the reinforcement learning FQL and the genetic algorithm as stochastic tool for exploration. FQLGA Algorithm enables to find an optimal FIS for the desired behaviour (obstacles avoidance). The duration of learning depend to the genetic algorithm parameters and the obstruction density of the environment. We observe that after each generation the quality of the FIS (sum of local qualities) increases, which give more chance to the best individuals to be in the next generations.

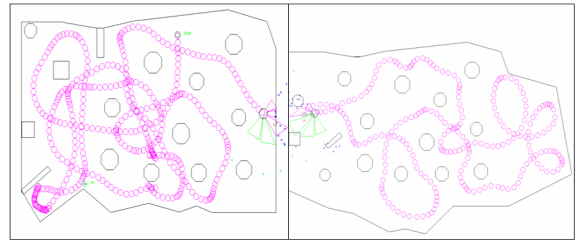


Figure 10: Learning/Validation Trajectories of the robot with FQLGA algorithm for various environments.

Figure (11) shows the performances of FQLGA algorithm compared to the FQL algorithm which can be blocked in a local minimum when the optimal solution is not present in the randomly generated set of actions. On the other hand FQLGA algorithm converges towards the optimal solution independently of the initialized values.

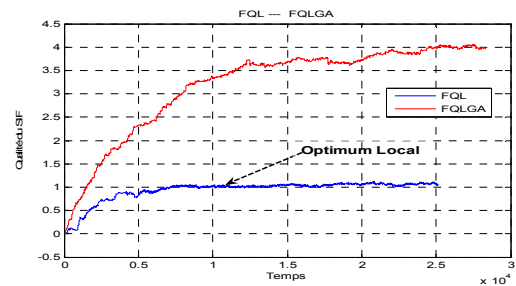


Figure 11: Evolution of the quality of the Fuzzy controller with FQL and FQLGA algorithms.

5.3 Experimental Results with the Real Robot Pioneer II

Figure (12) represents the results of the on line learning of the robot Pioneer II for the behaviour "Go to goal". During the learning phase, the robot does not follow a rectilinear trajectory (represented in green) between the starting point and the goal point because several actions are tested (exploration). Finally the algorithm could find the good actions, and the robot converges towards the goal marked in red colour, the necessary time to find these good actions is estimated at 2mn. Each generation is generated after having noted twenty (20) failures. The learning process requires respectively 32 and 38 generations for GA to determine rotation and translation speed.

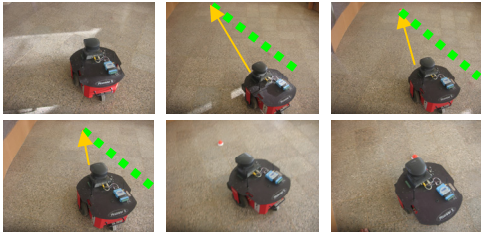


Figure 12: On line learning of the real robot Pioneer II, "Go to goal" behaviour.

Figure (13) represents the results of the on line learning of the "Obstacles Avoidance" robot behaviour. For reasons of safety, we consider that the minimal distances detected by the frontal sonars and of left/right are respectively 408 mm and of 345 mm a lower value than these distances is considered then as a failure and involves a retreat (represented in green) of the mobile robot. A generation is created after 50 failures. The genetic algorithms require 14 generations to optimize the conclusions and 24 generations to optimize the parameters of the antecedents. The duration of on line learning is estimated at 20 min, this time is acceptable vis-à-vis the heaviness of the traditional genetic algorithms.

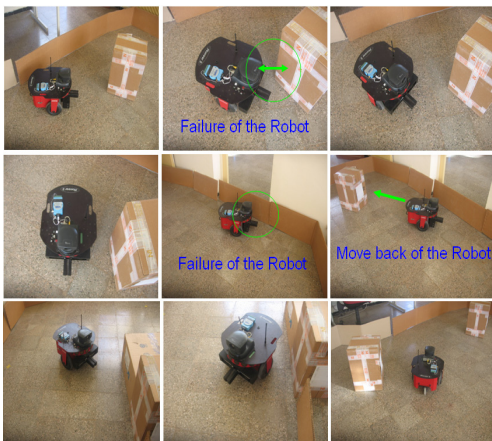


Figure 13: On line learning of the real robot Pioneer II, behaviour "Obstacle Avoidance".

Figure (14) represents the evolution of the fitness function obtained during this experimentation.

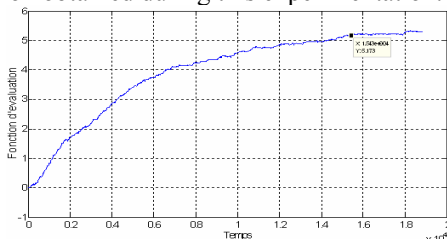


Figure 14: Fitness function evolution, "Obstacles avoidance" robot behaviour.

6 CONCLUSION

The combination of the reinforcement Q-Learning algorithm and genetics Algorithms give a new type of hybrid algorithms (FQLGA) which is more powerful than traditional learning algorithms. FQLGA proved its effectiveness when no *priori* knowledge about system is available. Indeed, starting from a random initialization of the conclusions values and equidistant distribution for the membership functions for antecedent part the genetic algorithm enables to find the best individual for the task indicated using only the received reinforcement signal. The controller optimized by FQLGA algorithm was validated on a real robot and satisfactory results were obtained. The next stage of this work is the on line optimization of the structure of the Fuzzy controller.

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