

Q1: Please regenerate Fig. 2.4 in the book, and explain why in the UCB curve there is a spike at the 11th time step.

In the first 10 steps, the algorithm traverses all 10 actions in a random order. The average reward is roughly the average reward of all the actions.

On the 11th step, the player has a rough estimation on each action value, and the uncertainty term is small (due to small  $t$ ) -> if  $c$  is small enough,  $Q$  dominates in the selection criterion, and the player will pick the greedy action (the best among the first 10 actions). At the 12<sup>th</sup> and beyond, the uncertainty term corresponding to the unselected actions increases, and the player will take more explorative actions, such that the average reward may dramatically decrease. When  $c=2$  (compared with  $c=1$ ), more exploration is done, leading to a larger drop of the average reward from the 11<sup>th</sup> peak to the 12<sup>th</sup> value.