

# CSE 574 Lecture 18: POMDP

(Slides adapted from Kaebbling et. al., Geoff Hollinger CMU lecture, and POMDP tutorial)

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# Last Time

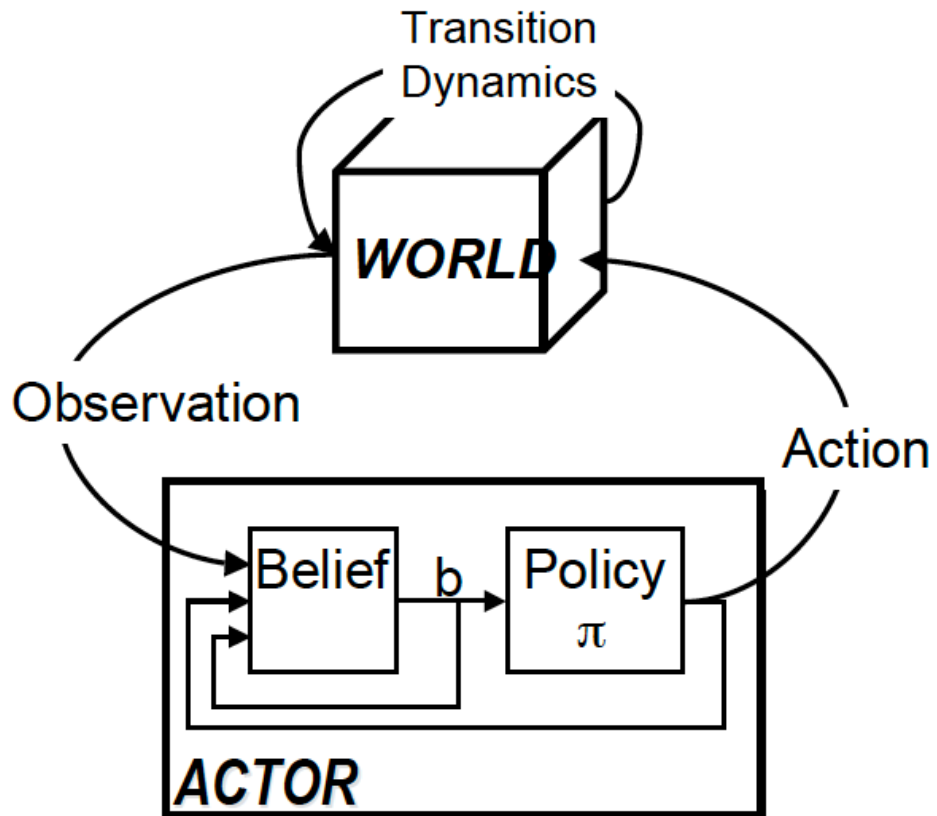
- HMM
- Inference with hidden state
- Viterbi algorithm and the most likely sequence

# Today

- Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes
  - Updating belief state using observations and actions
  - Acting under uncertainty
- References
  - A POMDP tutorial: [https://www.techfak.uni-bielefeld.de/~skopp/Lehre/STdKI\\_SS10/POMDP\\_tutorial.pdf](https://www.techfak.uni-bielefeld.de/~skopp/Lehre/STdKI_SS10/POMDP_tutorial.pdf)
  - “Planning and Acting in Partially Observable Stochastic Domains,” Kaelbling et. al.

# Agent Model

- Set of states
- Set of actions
- Transition and reward probabilities
- Observation function
- Belief state
- Policy



# Goal of a POMDP

- As before, our goal is to maximize long-term total discounted reward
- Find a policy that maximizes the value (expected future reward) of each state  $s$ :

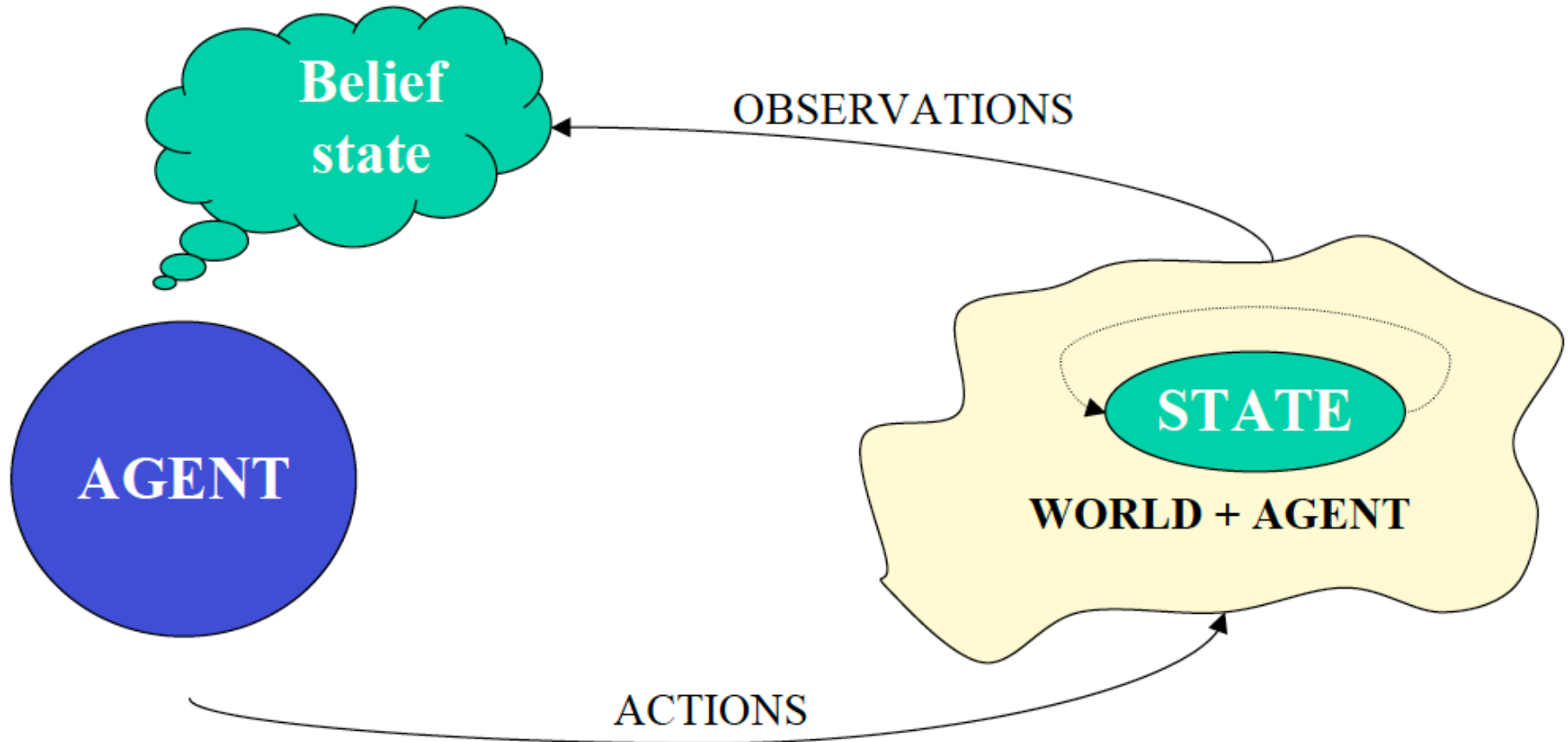
$$V^\pi(s) = E\{r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 r_{t+3} + \dots \mid s_t = s, \pi\}$$

# How Does this Fit in with Past Lectures?

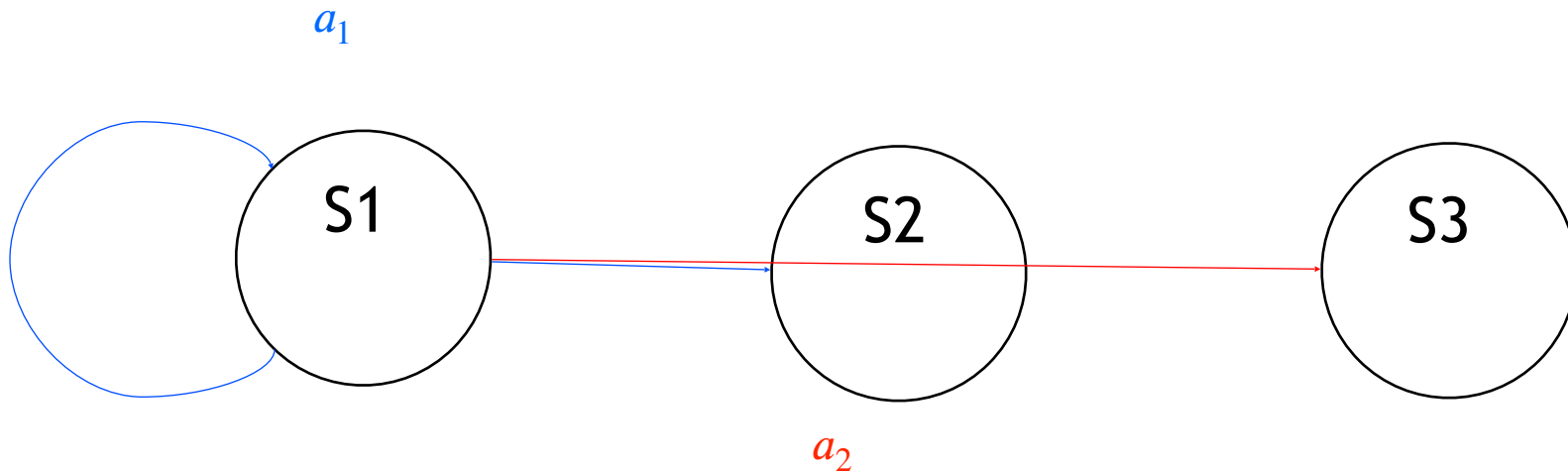
| Markov Models                         |     | Do we have control over the state transitions? |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--|--|
|                                       |     | NO   | YES  |
| Are the states completely observable? | YES | <b>Markov Chain</b>                            | <b>MDP</b><br>Markov Decision Process                        |
|                                       | NO  | <b>HMM</b><br>Hidden Markov Model              | <b>POMDP</b><br>Partially Observable Markov Decision Process |

Source: Geoff Hollinger POMDP tutorial [https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ggordon/780-fall07/lectures/POMDP\\_lecture.pdf](https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ggordon/780-fall07/lectures/POMDP_lecture.pdf)

# Overview of Current Problem



# POMDP Model



## Components:

Set of states:  $s \in S$

Set of actions:  $a \in A$

Set of observations:  $o \in \Omega$

## POMDP parameters:

Initial belief:  $b_0(s) = \Pr(S=s)$

Belief state updating:  $b'(s') = \Pr(s'|o, a, b)$

Observation probabilities:  $O(s', a, o) = \Pr(o|s', a)$

Transition probabilities:  $T(s, a, s') = \Pr(s'|s, a)$

Rewards:  $R(s, a)$

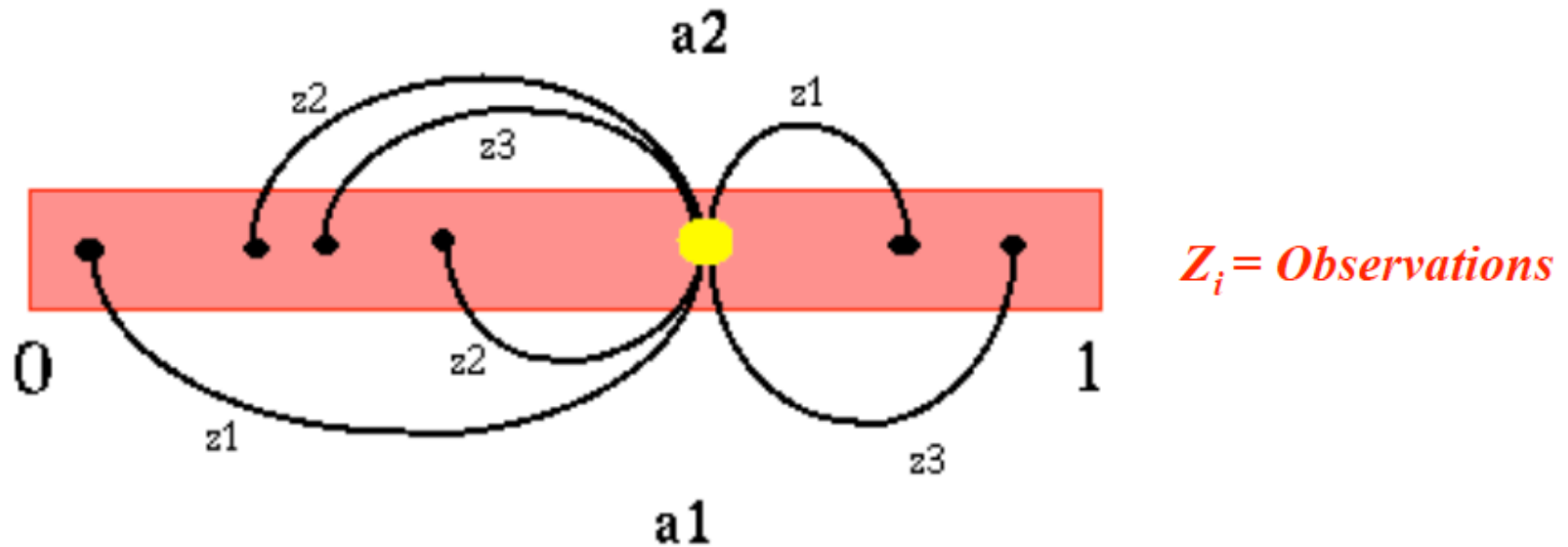
} MDP



# Belief State

- The agent does not know what state it is in
- Definition ***belief state***: which states of the world are currently possible
  - Actions: belief state  $b=\{s_1,s_2\}$
  - Transitions:
- Reward function
- Transition function

# Visualization of Belief State

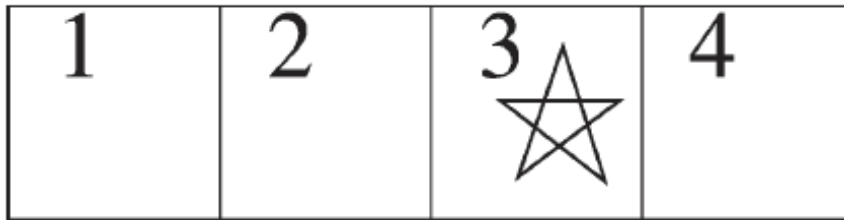


$$b'(s_j) = P(s_j | o, a, b) = \frac{P(o | s_j, a) \sum_{s_i \in S} P(s_j | s_i, a) b(s_i)}{\sum_{s_j \in S} P(o | s_j, a) \underbrace{\sum_{s_i \in S} P(s_j | s_i, a) b(s_i)}_{\alpha}}$$

Belief state  
update

# Computing the Belief State

## Simplified Gridworld



- Initial belief state

[0.333 0.333 0.000 0.333]

- Action is successful with  $p=0.9$  and opposite with  $p=0.1$
- Agent has two observations, in the goal or not in the goal

- Stage 1: agent takes action EAST and does not observe goal

[0.100 0.450 0.000 0.450]

- Stage 2: agent takes action EAST again and does not observe goal

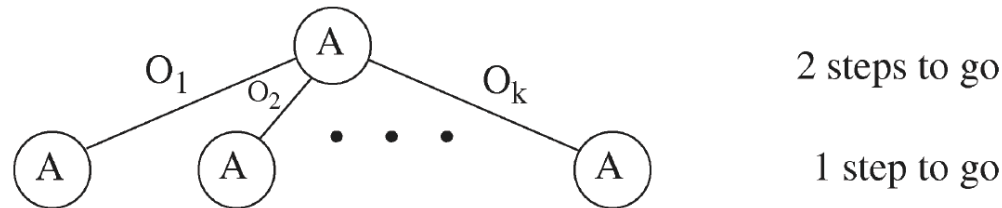
[0.100 0.164 0.000 0.736]

$$b'(s_j) = P(s_j | o, a, b) = \frac{P(o | s_j, a) \sum_{s_i \in S} P(s_j | s_i, a) b(s_i)}{\sum_{s_j \in S} P(o | s_j, a) \sum_{s_i \in S} P(s_j | s_i, a) b(s_i)}$$

# How to Choose an Action?

- If we don't know our state?
- Unlike having a distribution over states, we cannot take a “partial action”

# Policy Tree



- Value of executing a one-step policy tree  $p$

$$V_p(s) = R(s, a(p))$$

- Value of executing a  $t$ -step policy tree  $p$

$$V_p(s) = R(s, a(p)) + \gamma \cdot (\text{Expected value of the future})$$

$$= R(s, a(p)) + \gamma \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} \Pr(s' | s, a(p)) \sum_{o_i \in \Omega} \Pr(o_i | s', a(p)) V_{o_i(p)}(s')$$

# Expected Value of Executing Policy $p$

- Must compute the value over beliefs, not states.  
Build off of the equation on the last slide

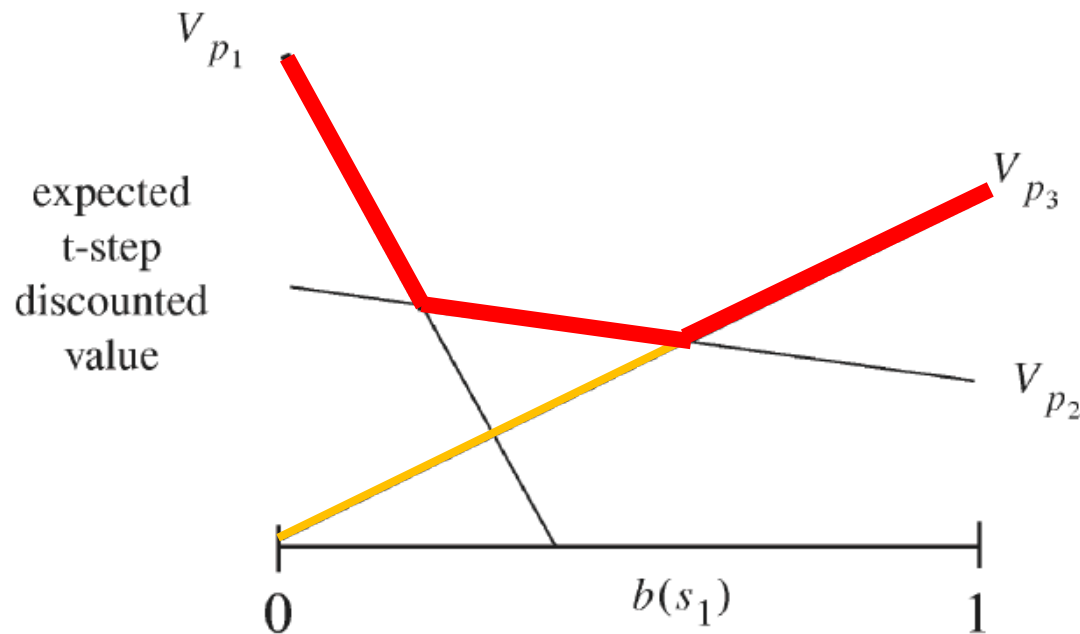
Last slide

$$V_p(b) = \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \overbrace{b(s) V_p(s)}$$

- Denote  $\alpha_p = \langle V_p(s_1), \dots, V_p(s_n) \rangle$  then  $V_p(b) = b \cdot \alpha_p$
- And the optimal t-step value of starting in belief state  $b$  is the value of executing the best policy tree in that belief state

$$V_t(b) = \max_{p \in \mathcal{P}} b \cdot \alpha_p$$

# Pictorial Representation of the Optimal t-step Value for Belief $b$

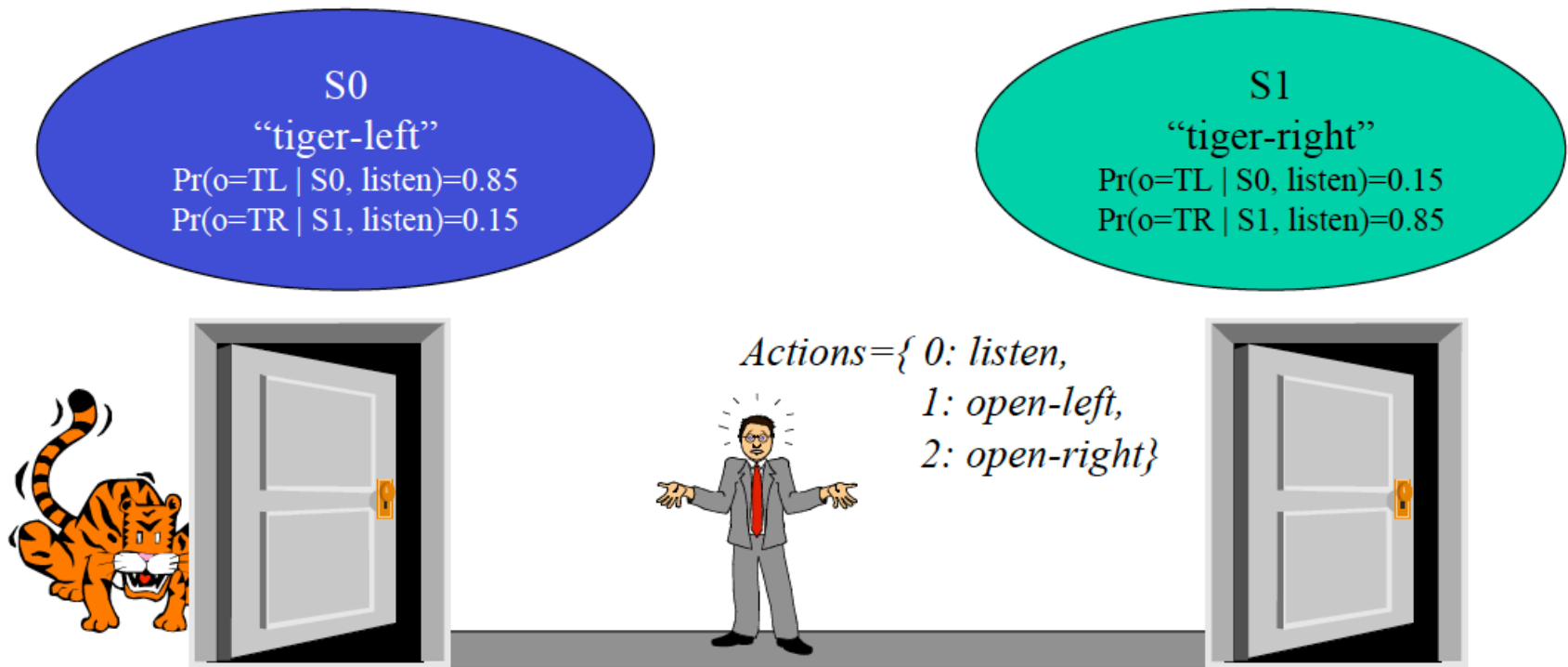


$$\alpha_p = \langle V_p(s_1), \dots, V_p(s_n) \rangle$$

$$V_p(b) = b \cdot \alpha_p$$

$$V_t(b) = \max_{p \in \mathcal{P}} b \cdot \alpha_p$$

# POMDP Example



## Reward Function

- *Penalty for wrong opening: -100*
- *Reward for correct opening: +10*
- *Cost for listening action: -1*

## Observations

- *to hear the tiger on the left (TL)*
- *to hear the tiger on the right (TR)*



# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)

- Transition probabilities

| Prob. (LISTEN) | Tiger: left | Tiger: right |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Tiger: left    | 1.0         | 0.0          |
| Tiger: right   | 0.0         | 1.0          |

**Doesn't change  
Tiger location**

| Prob. (LEFT) | Tiger: left | Tiger: right |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Tiger: left  | 0.5         | 0.5          |
| Tiger: right | 0.5         | 0.5          |

**Problem reset**

| Prob. (RIGHT) | Tiger: left | Tiger: right |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Tiger: left   | 0.5         | 0.5          |
| Tiger: right  | 0.5         | 0.5          |

# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)

- Observation probabilities

| Prob. (LISTEN) | O: TL | O: TR |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| Tiger: left    | 0.85  | 0.15  |
| Tiger: right   | 0.15  | 0.85  |

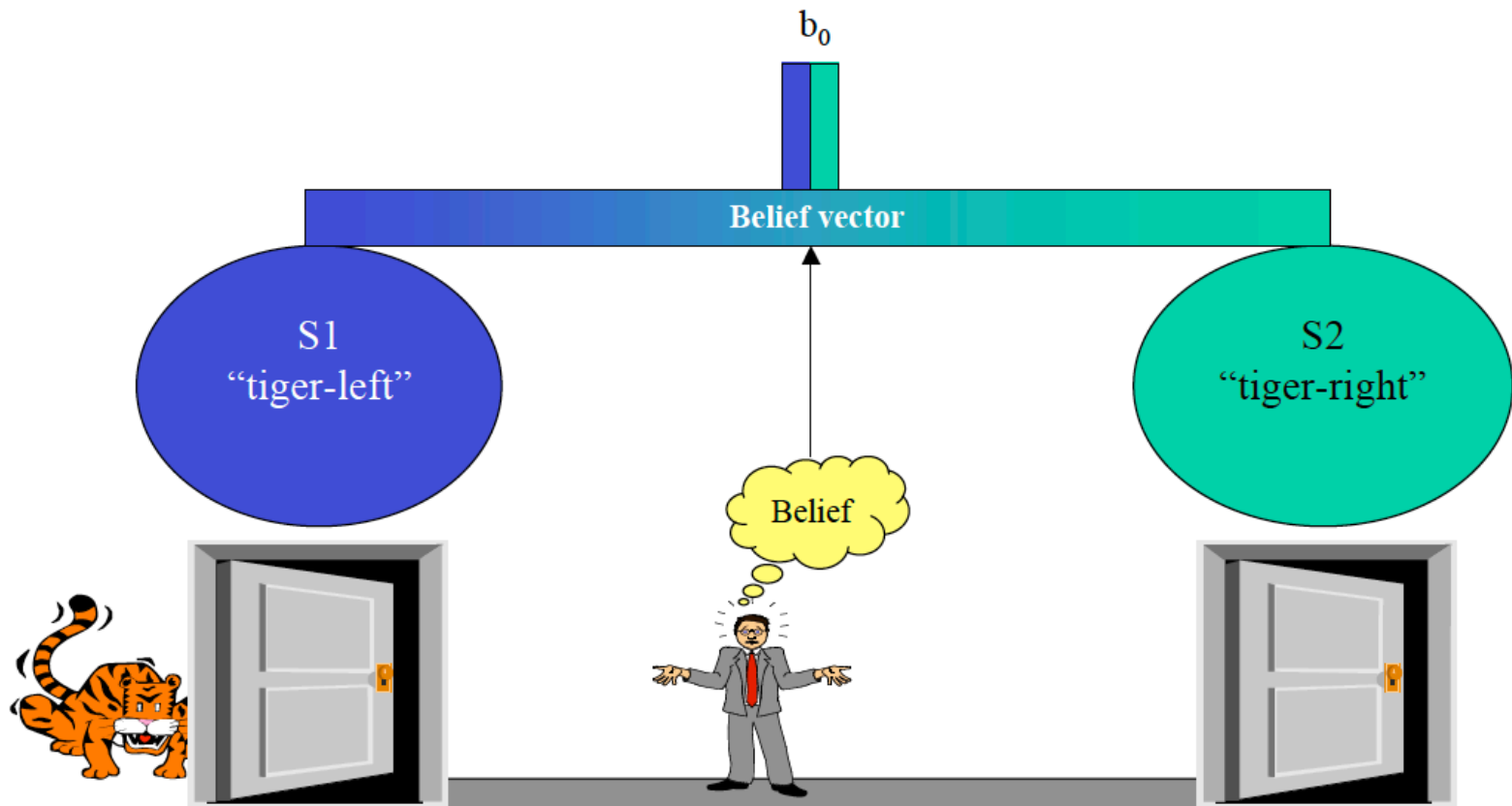
- Immediate rewards

| Reward (LISTEN) |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Tiger: left     | -1 |
| Tiger: right    | -1 |

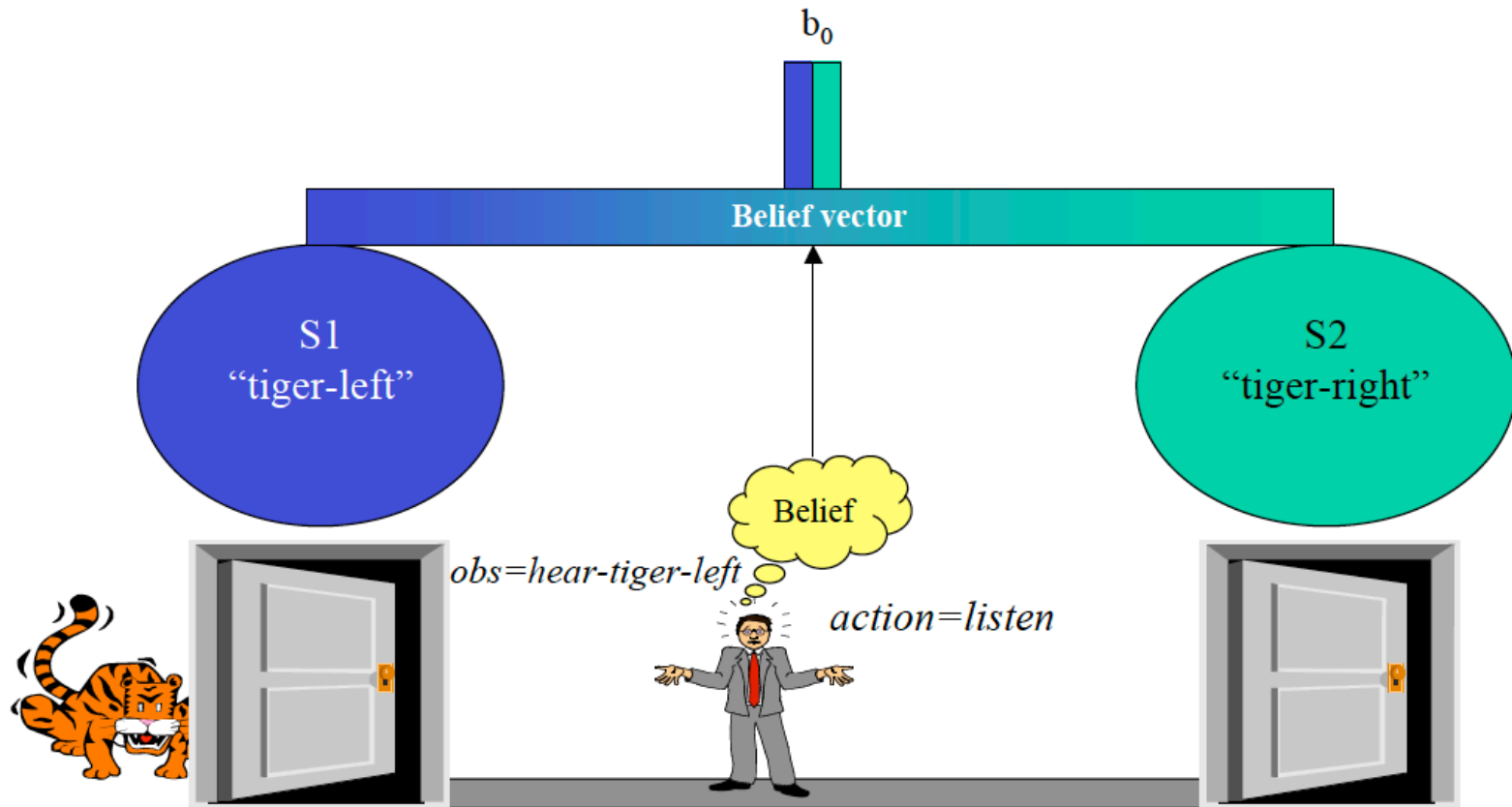
| Reward (LEFT) |      |
|---------------|------|
| Tiger: left   | -100 |
| Tiger: right  | +10  |

| Reward (RIGHT) |      |
|----------------|------|
| Tiger: left    | +10  |
| Tiger: right   | -100 |

# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)

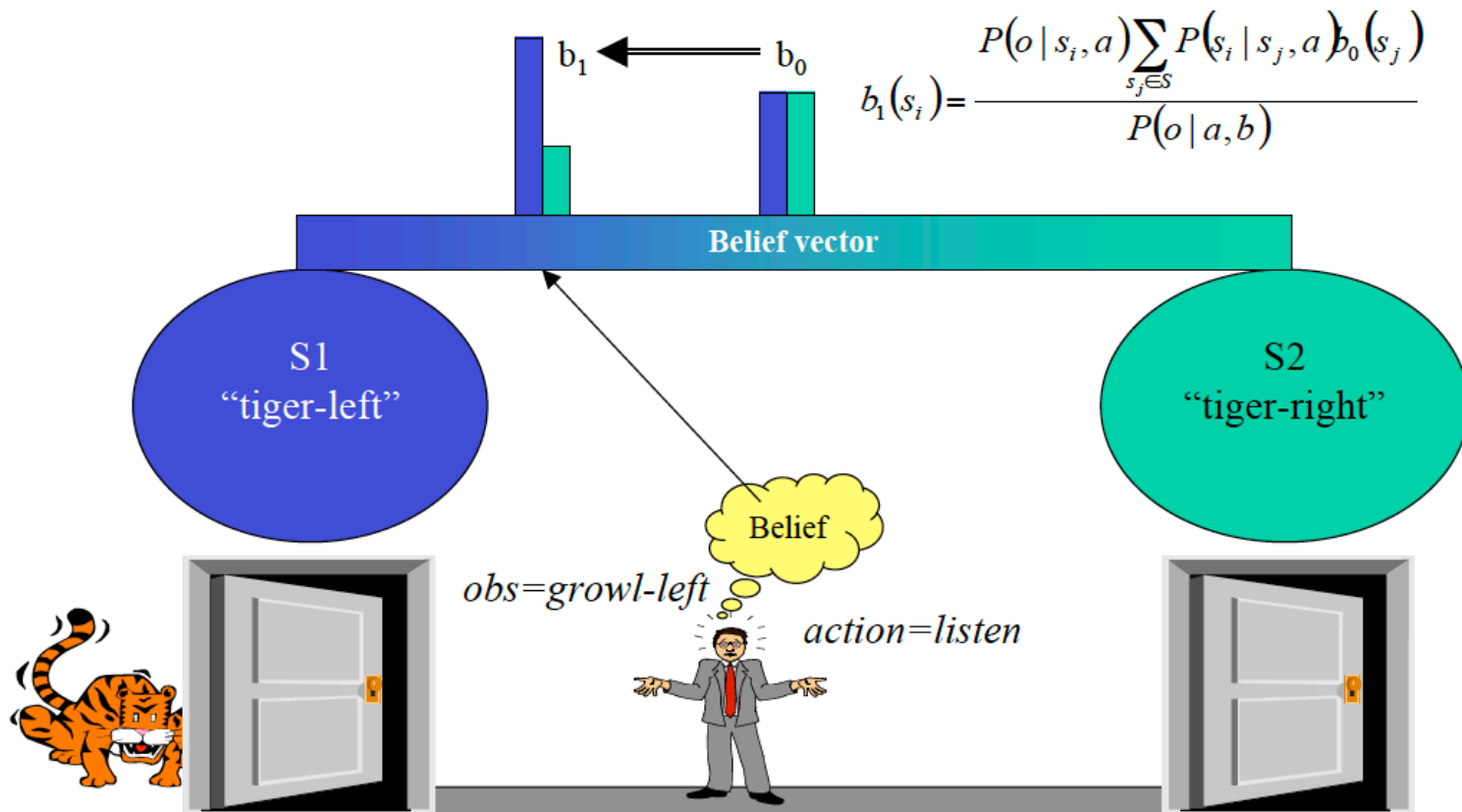


# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)



# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)

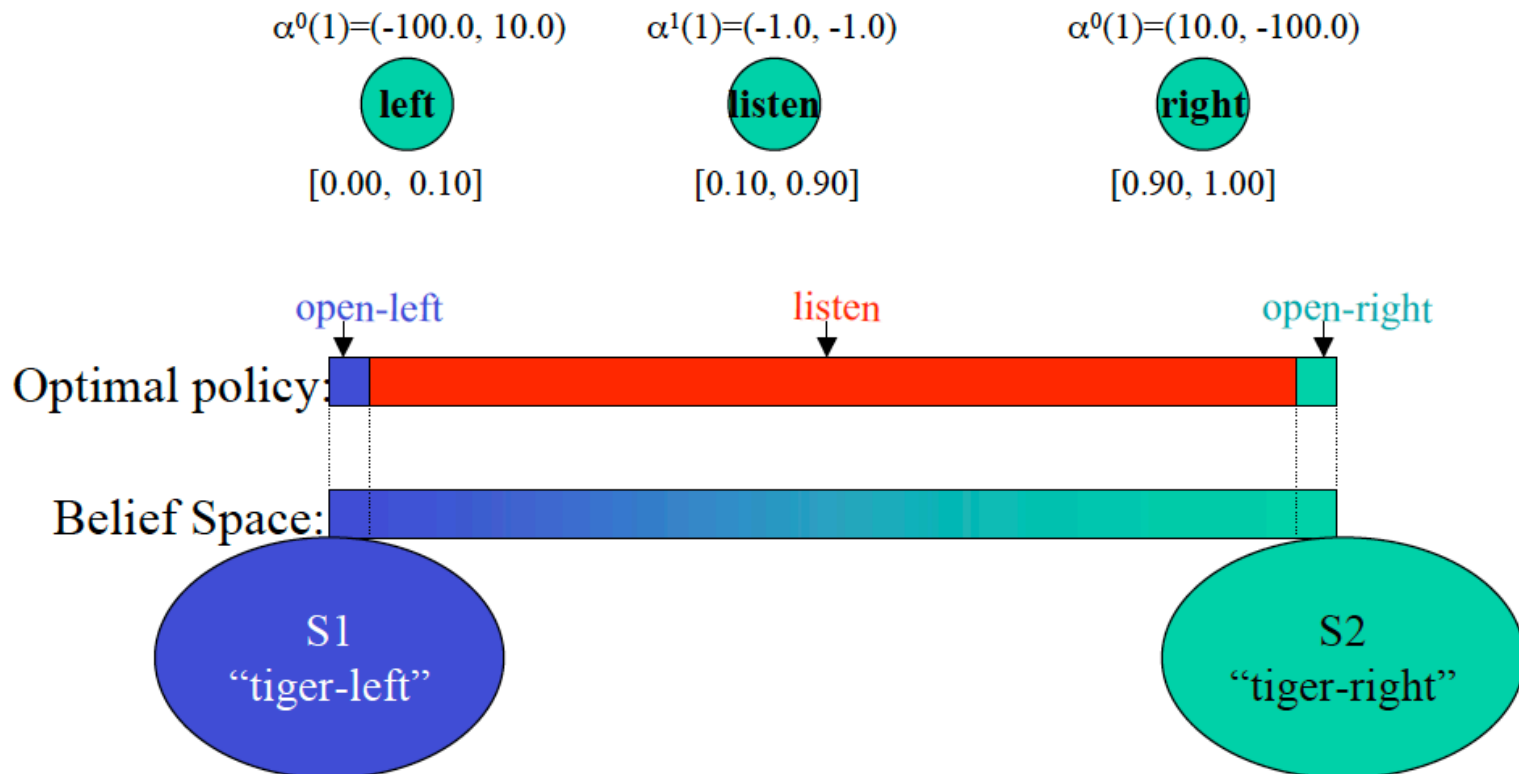
## The tiger problem: State tracking



# Example: Tiger Problem (cont)

## Tiger Example Optimal Policy $t=1$

- Optimal Policy for  $t=1$



# Intro to SLAM

- Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) is also a hidden state problem!

- Idea:

- Given

$$z_{1:t}^i \equiv \{z_1^i, z_2^i, \dots, z_t^i\}$$

$$u_{1:t}^i \equiv \{u_1^i, u_2^i, \dots, u_t^i\}$$

- Simultaneous localize (find sequence  $x_{1:t}^i \equiv \{x_1^i, x_2^i, \dots, x_t^i\}$ )

and a map of the agents' environment

$$p(m, x_{1:t} | z_{1:t}, u_{1:t}, x_0)$$

# Example Video of SLAM

## Wide-Area Indoor and Outdoor Real-Time 3D SLAM

Erik Nelson

UC Berkeley Dept. of EECS / Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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# Applications

- What is SLAM important for?
  - Navigation - this can be robots, cars, drones, etc
  - Mapping and reconnaissance
  - Autonomous driving
    - Rideshare
    - Delivery
- What we will cover in class
  - Introduction to SLAM
  - High-level review of two major approaches (EKF and particle SLAM)
  - Multi-robot algorithms

# Next Time

- Recitation on hidden state problems
- Introduction to SLAM
- Final project presentation schedule is online
- Final project presentations begin on the 19<sup>th</sup>!