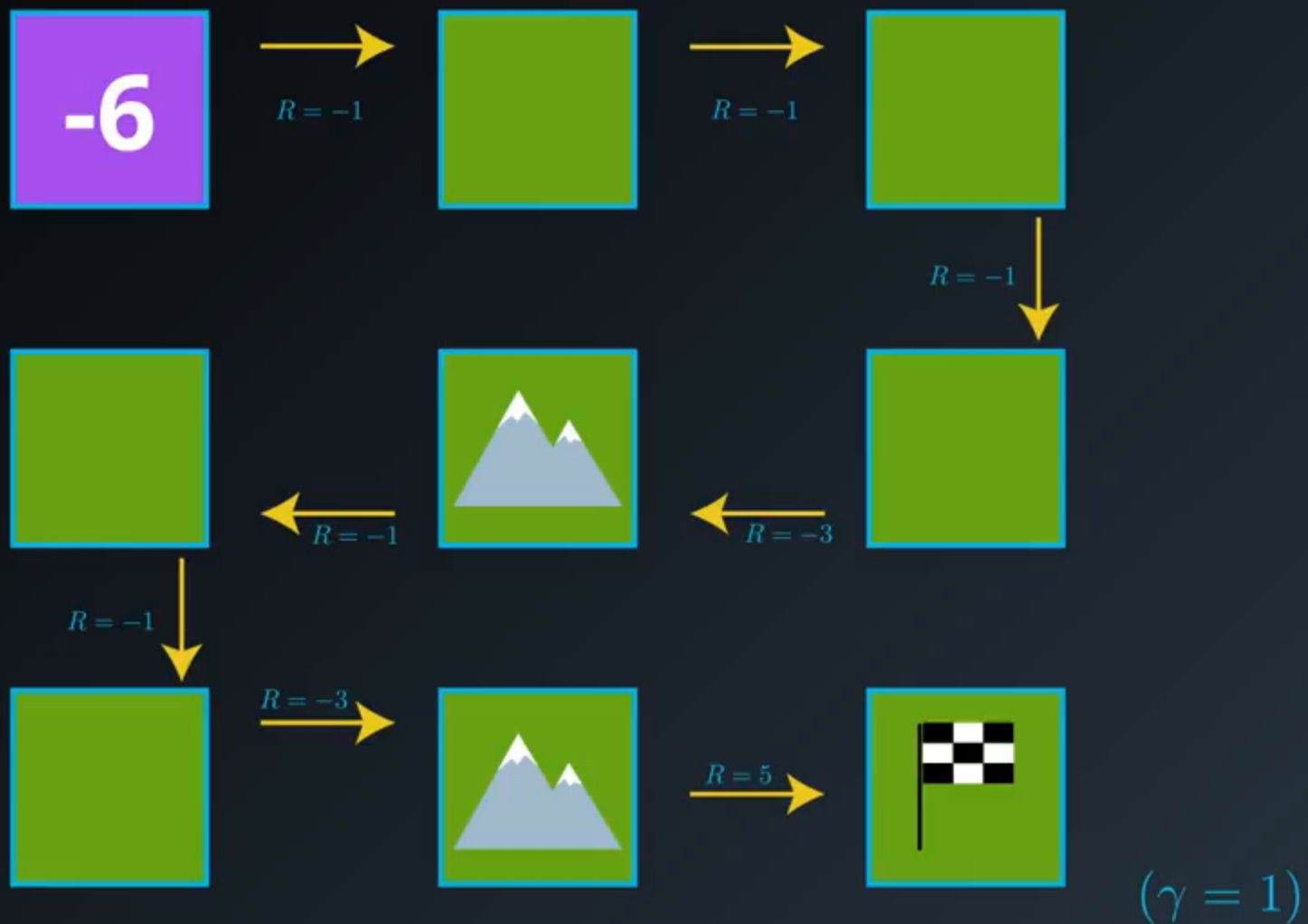
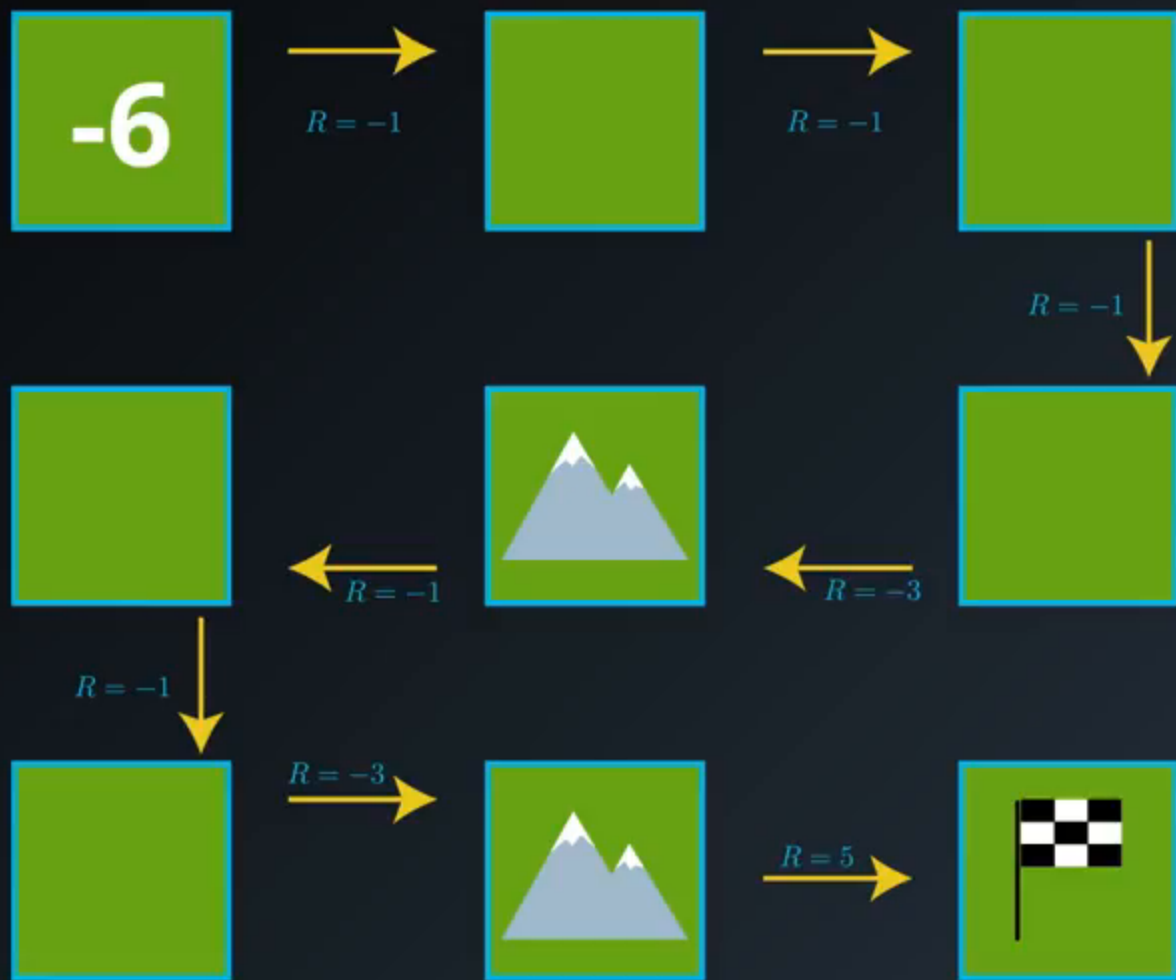


$$(-1) + (-1) + (-1) + (-3) + (-1) + (-1) + (-3) + 5 = -6$$



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$(\gamma = 1)$





( $\gamma = 1$ )

$$(-1) + (-1) + (-3) + (-1) + (-1) + (-3) + 5 = -5$$









-6	-5	-4
1	0	-3
2	5	0

For each state, the state-value function yields the expected return, if the agent started in that state, and then followed the policy for all time steps.

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## Definition

We call  $v_\pi$  the state-value function for policy  $\pi$

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## Definition

We call  $v_\pi$  the state-value function for policy  $\pi$   
 The value of state  $s$  under a policy  $\pi$  is

$$v_\pi(s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_t | S_t = s]$$

For each **state s**  
 it yields the **expected return**

If  $\pi$  is greedy

-6	-5	-4
1	0	-3
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For each **state s**  
it yields the **expected return**  
if the agent **starts in state s**  
and then uses **the policy**  
to choose its actions for all time steps

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**Note #1:** The notation  $\mathbb{E}\pi[\cdot]$  is borrowed from the suggested [textbook](#).  $\mathbb{E}\pi[\cdot]$  is defined as the expected value of a random variable, given that the agent follows policy  $\pi$ .

**Note #2:** In this course, we will use "return" and "discounted return" interchangeably. For an arbitrary time step  $t$ , both terms refer to  $G_t \doteq R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1}$ , where  $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ . In particular, when we refer to "return", it is not necessarily the case that  $\gamma = 1$ , and when we refer to "discounted return", it is not necessarily true that  $\gamma < 1$ . (This also holds for the readings in the recommended [textbook](#).)

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