

# Final Exam Reviews

# Machine Learning (Regression)

# Supervised learning

## Data

Training  
data set  $D$

$$D = \{(x_i, y_i); i = 1, \dots, m\}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in})$$

$$x_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in})$$

$m$  input  
Feature  
vectors

$x_1$	$x_2$	$\dots$	$x_n$	$y$
$x_{11}$	$x_{12}$	$\dots$	$x_{1n}$	$y_1$
$x_{21}$	$x_{22}$	$\dots$	$x_{2n}$	$y_2$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$		$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m1}$	$x_{m2}$	$\dots$	$x_{mn}$	$y_m$

$m$  outputs

## model

Functional form  $f(x; \theta)$   
Is usually given

Learning  
Algorithm

Using training data set, a learning algorithm finds the best hypothesis function  $h(x)$  that **is believed to accurately predict** the output  $y$  for a given query input  $x$

## prediction

Query input

$$\mathbf{x}_*$$

Hypothesis  
 $f(x; \theta^*)$

Predicted output

$$y_*$$

Input feature vector

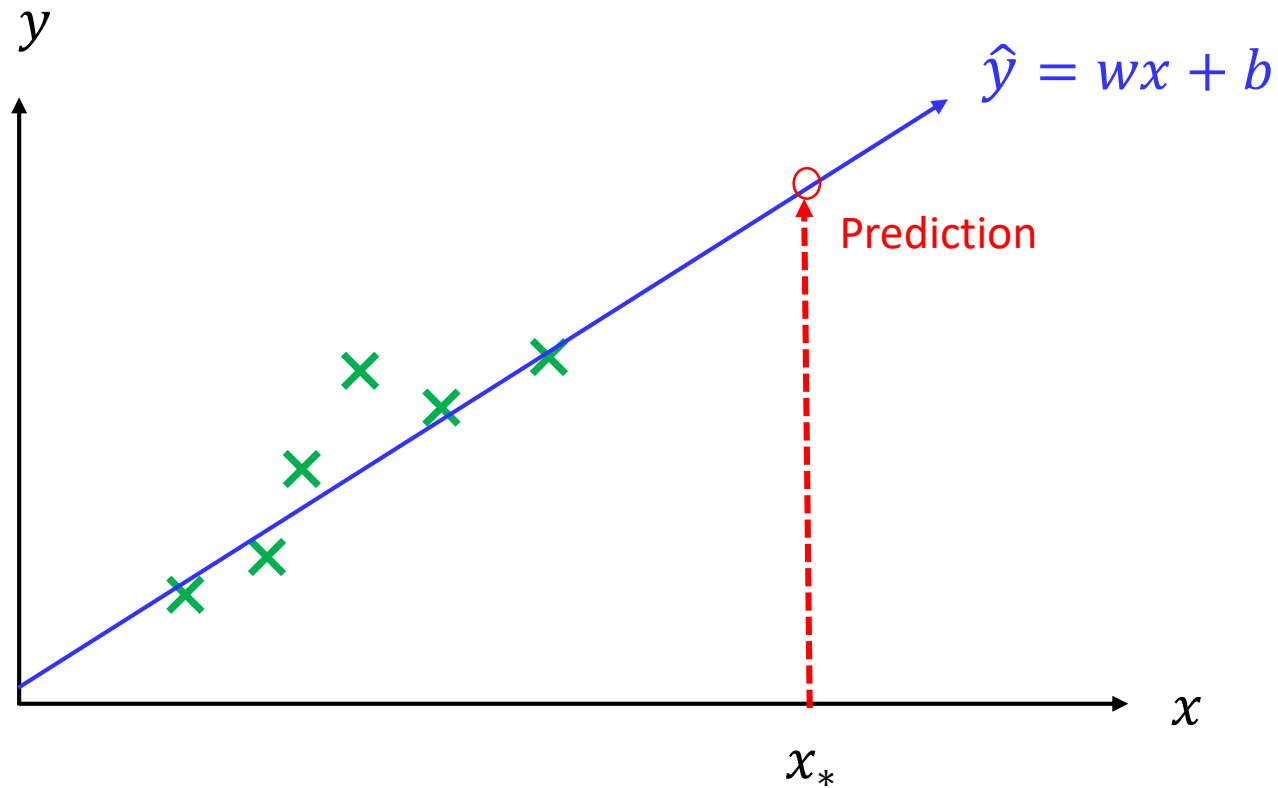
$$\mathbf{x}_* = (x_{*1}, x_{*2}, \dots, x_{*n})$$

if  $y_* \in \mathbb{R}$  : **Regression**

if  $y_* \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  : **Classification**

1. Optimization Approach (Normal Equation)
2. Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) Approach
3. Maximum A Posteriori Estimation (MAP) Approach
4. Full Bayesian Approach
  - ✓ Analytical approach
  - ✓ Sampling approach
5. Regularization regression (Ridge and Lasso)
  - ✓ Optimization view
  - ✓ Bayesian View

## 1D Linear Regression

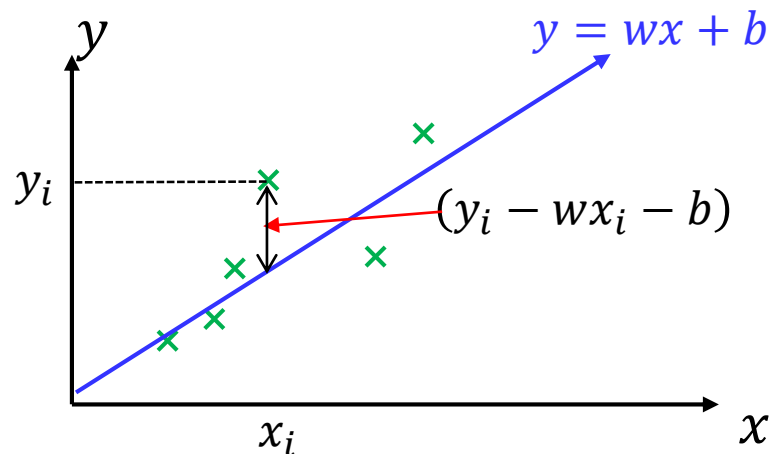


- **Data** :  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m)$
- **Model**: Linear model  $\hat{y} = wx + b$  ( $y = w^T x + b$  for multidimensional)
- **Learning**: What are  $w$  and  $b$ ?
- **Prediction** : What is  $\hat{y}_* = wx_* + b$

## Learning as optimization

- Define an objective (cost) function

$$J(w, b) = \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - wx_i - b)^2$$



- Minimize the error function with respect to  $w$  and  $b$

$$\frac{dJ(w, b)}{dw} = -2 \sum_{i=1}^m x_i (y_i - wx_i - b) = 0 \rightarrow w^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - b^*) x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^m x_i^2} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

$$\frac{dJ(w, b)}{db} = -2 \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - wx_i - b) = 0 \rightarrow b^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - w^* x_i)}{n}$$

## Learning as optimization

Notation for general cases  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$

- A linear regression model

$$\hat{y}_i = w_0 + w_1 x_{i1} + \dots + w_n x_{in}$$

$$\text{with } w = (w_0, w_1, \dots, w_n)^T \text{ and } x_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in})^T$$

- If we introduce  $x_{i0} = 1$ ,

$$\hat{y}_i = w^T x_i$$

$$\text{with } w = (w_0, w_1, \dots, w_n)^T \text{ and } x_i = (x_{i0}, x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in})^T$$

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- In a Matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{y}_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -x_1^T & - \\ \vdots & \\ -x_m^T & - \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_0 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^T w \\ \vdots \\ x_m^T w \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \hat{y} = Xw$$

$m$ : # of data points

$$\text{with } \hat{y} = (\hat{y}_1, \dots, \hat{y}_m)^T, \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} -x_1^T & - \\ \vdots & \\ -x_m^T & - \end{pmatrix}$$

## Learning as optimization (Normal Equation)

- The cost function for the optimization can be defined as :

$$J(w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (x_i^T w - y_i)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|y - wX\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} (Xw - y)^T (Xw - y)$$
$$\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m z_i^2} = \|z\|_2 = \sqrt{z^T z}$$

- The optimum parameters  $\hat{w}$  can be computed by minimizing the cost function :

$$\hat{w} = \arg \min_w J(w) = \arg \min_w \frac{1}{2} \|y - wX\|_2^2$$

- For reference, other vector norms are summarized here :

$$\|z\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|, \quad \|z\|_p = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad (p \geq 1), \quad \|z\|_\infty = \max_i |z_i|$$



## Learning as optimization (Normal Equation)

- For an  $n$ -by- $n$  (square) matrix  $A$ , the trace of  $A$  is defined to be the sum of its diagonal entries:

$$\text{tr}A = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{ii}$$

$$\text{tr}AB = \text{tr}BA$$

$$\text{tr}ABC = \text{tr}CBA = \text{tr}BCA$$

$$\text{tr}A = \text{tr}A^T$$

$$\text{tr}(A + B) = \text{tr}A + \text{tr}B$$

$$\text{tr}aA = a\text{tr}A$$

- Trace operator associated with Matrix derivatives

$$\nabla_A \text{tr}AB = B^T$$

$$\nabla_{A^T} f(A) = (\nabla_A f(A))^T$$

$$\nabla_A \text{tr}ABA^T C = CBA + C^T AB^T$$

$$\nabla_{A^T} \text{tr}ABA^T C = (CBA + C^T AB^T)^T = B^T A^T C^T + BA^T C$$

## Learning as optimization (Normal Equation)

Linear algebra approach for finding the optimum parameters:

$$\hat{w} = \arg \min_w J(w) = \arg \min_w \frac{1}{2} \|y - wX\|_2^2$$

Since,  $J(w)$  is differentiable in  $w$ , the optimality condition :  $\nabla_w J(w) = 0$  at  $w = \hat{w}$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_w J(w) &= \nabla_w \frac{1}{2} (Xw - y)^T (Xw - y) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_w (w^T X^T Xw - w^T X^T y - y^T Xw + y^T y) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_w \text{tr}(w^T X^T Xw - w^T X^T y - y^T Xw + y^T y) \\&= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_w (\text{tr}(w^T X^T Xw) - 2\text{tr}(y^T Xw)) \\&= \frac{1}{2} (X^T Xw + X^T Xw - 2X^T y) \quad \because \nabla_{A^T} \text{tr}ABA^T C = (CBA + C^T AB^T)^T = B^T A^T C^T + BA^T C \\&= X^T Xw - X^T y\end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla_w J(\hat{w}) = X^T X\hat{w} - X^T y = 0$$

$$\rightarrow X^T X\hat{w} = X^T y$$

$$\rightarrow \hat{w} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y \text{ (when } X \text{ is full column rank)}$$

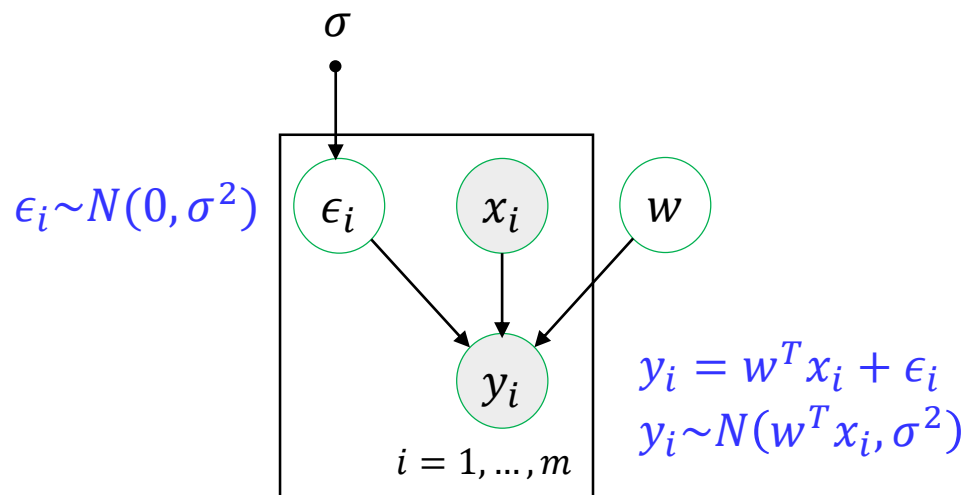
## Probabilistic view on linear regression

- Assume there is uncertainty in the predicted value :

$$y_i = w^T x_i + \epsilon_i \text{ with } \epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

- Then the probabilistic model on output  $y_i$  can be represented as

$$y_i \sim N(w^T x_i, \sigma^2) \quad \text{or} \quad p(y_i | w^T x_i, \sigma) = N(y_i | w^T x_i, \sigma^2)$$



An error  $\epsilon_i$  is independently identically distributed (i.i.d assumption)

- The likelihood of the data is defined as

$$p(y|X, w, \sigma) = \prod_{i=1}^m N(y_i | w^T x_i, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - w^T x_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

## Learning as probabilistic model (MLE Approach)

- The log likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} L(w, \sigma) &= \log p(y|X, w, \sigma) \\ &= \log \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_i - w^T x_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \log \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}\right)^m \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{(y_i - w^T x_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= m \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - w^T x_i)^2 \\ &= m \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} J(w) \end{aligned}$$

- The optimum parameters is determined by maximizing log likelihood

$$(w^*, \sigma) = \max_{(w, \sigma)} L(w, \sigma) = \max_{(w, \sigma)} \log p(y|X, w, \sigma)$$

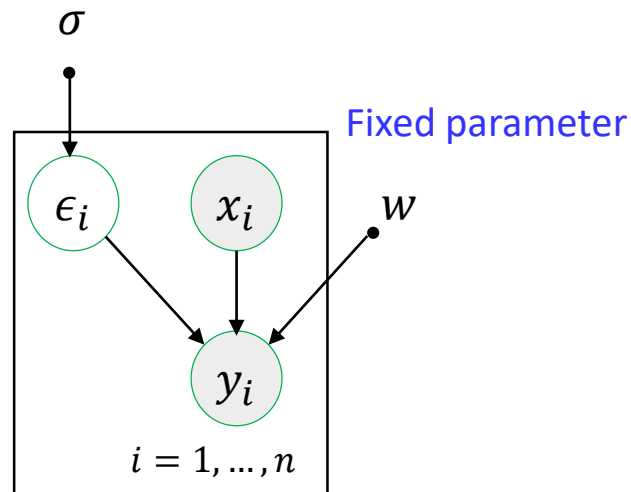
Minimizing the square error sum  $J(w) =$

Maximizing the log likelihood  $\log p(y|X, w, \sigma)$  with respect to  $w$

## Learning as probabilistic model (Bayesian Approach)

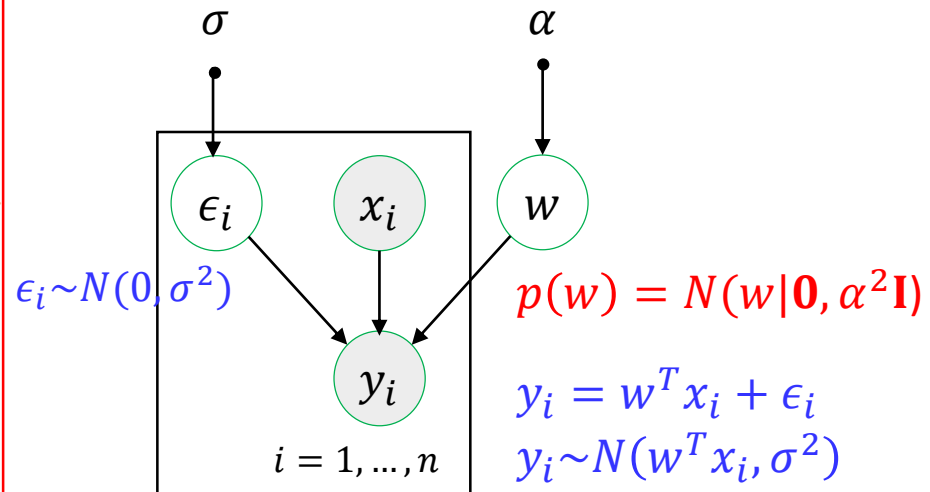
### MLE approach (point estimation)

Fixed hyper-parameter



### Bayesian approach

Fixed hyper-parameter



- Consider the parameter  $w$  as **stochastic variables** (represented as a distribution)
- **(Assume  $\sigma$  is known for simple derivation)**
- Find the distribution on parameter  $w$

$$p(w|y, X) = \frac{p(y|X, w)p(w|X)}{\int_w p(y|X, w)p(w|X)dw} \rightarrow p(w|y) = \frac{p(y|w)p(w)}{\int_w p(y|w)p(w)dw}$$

We will assume  $X$  is fixed for the data  $y$

## Learning as probabilistic model (Bayesian Approach)

- Multivariate regression likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} p(y|w) &= \prod_{i=1}^m p(y_i|x_i, w) \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{m/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - w^T x_i)^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

$m = \# \text{ of data points}$

- Multivariate Gaussian prior on parameter  $w$

$$\begin{aligned} p(w) &= N(w|\mathbf{0}, \alpha^2 \mathbf{I}) \\ p(w) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\alpha^2)^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w\right) \end{aligned}$$

$n = \text{Dimension of } w$

## Learning as probabilistic model (Bayesian Approach)

- We want to find the posterior

$$\begin{aligned} p(w|X, y) &\propto p(y|X, w)p(w) \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{m/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - w^T x_i)^2\right) \frac{1}{(2\pi\alpha^2)^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w\right) \end{aligned}$$

- Take log:

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(w|X, y) &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - w^T x_i)^2 - \frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w + \text{const} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m y_i^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m y_i x_i^T w - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^m w^T x_i x_i^T w - \frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w + \text{const} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^T y + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} y^T X w - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} w^T X^T X w - \frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w + \text{const} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} y^T y + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} y^T X w - \frac{1}{2} w^T \left[ \frac{1}{\sigma^2} X^T X + \frac{1}{\alpha^2} I \right] w + \text{const} \end{aligned}$$

- Posterior distribution is

$$\begin{aligned} p(w|X, y) &= N(w|\mu_w, \Sigma_w) \\ \mu_w &= \Sigma_w \left( \frac{1}{\sigma^2} X^T y \right) \quad \Sigma_w = \left[ \frac{1}{\sigma^2} X^T X + \frac{1}{\alpha^2} I \right]^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

## Learning as probabilistic model (Bayesian Approach)

- Predictive distribution

$$p(y_*|x_*, X, y) = \int_w p(y_*|x_*, w)p(w|X, y)dw$$

Jupyter Demo Simulation  
Bayesian Regression **Analytical**



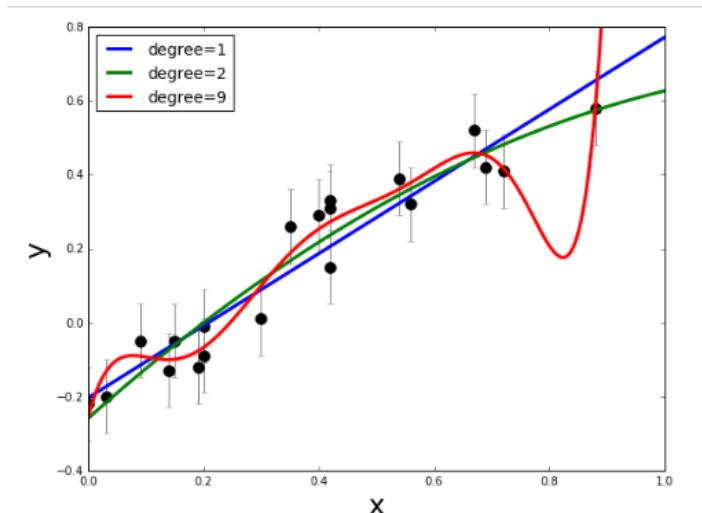
## Learning as probabilistic model (Bayesian Approach)

- Predictive distribution

$$p(y_*|x_*, X, y) = \int_w p(y_*|x_*, w)p(w|X, y)dw$$

Jupyter Demo Simulation  
Bayesian Regression (**Sampling using PyMC**)

## Regularized linear regression



What is a good regression function?

- The goal of regression is to come up with some good prediction function:

$$\hat{f}(x) = x^T \hat{w}$$

- So far, we have found  $\hat{w}$  by finding (Ordinary Least Square Estimation)

$$\hat{w} = \arg \min_w J(w) = \arg \min_w \frac{1}{2} \|y - wX\|_2^2$$

- To see whether  $\hat{f}(x)$  is a good candidate, we need to check

- ✓ Is  $\hat{w}$  close to the true  $w$ ?
- ✓ Will  $\hat{f}(x)$  fit future observation well? (Generalization)

## Regularized linear regression

### Ridge regression

- Ridge regression introduces a regularization with the L-2 norm:

$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \|w\|_2^2 \quad \|w\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^k w_i^2},$$

- Sacrifice a little of bias to reduce the variance of predicted values  
→ More stable and generalize better
- Keep all the repressors in the model  
→ Not easily interpretable model

### Lasso (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator)

- Lasso regression introduces a regularization with the L-1 norm:

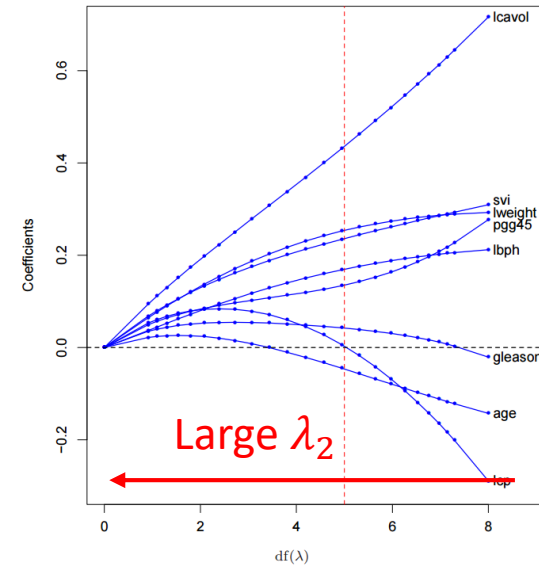
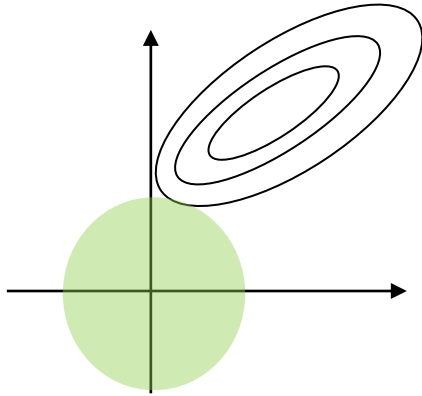
$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|w\|_1 \quad \|w\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^k |w_i|$$

- Only a small subset of features with  $\hat{w}_i \neq 0$  are selected  
→ Increases the interpretability
- More difficult to implement than Ridge Regression

# Regularized linear regression

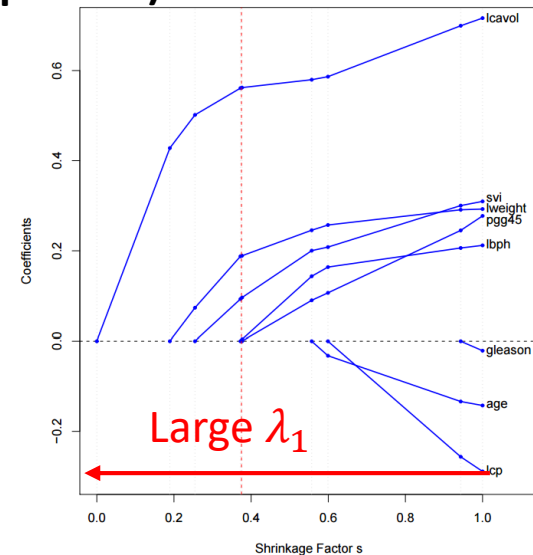
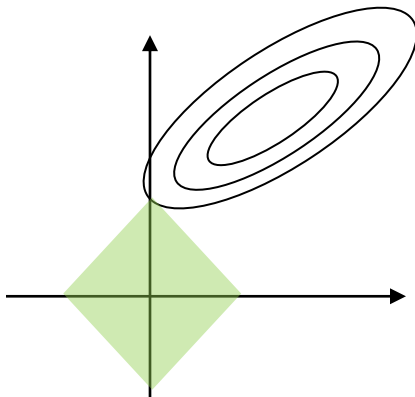
## Ridge regression

$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \|w\|_2^2$$



## Lasso (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator)

$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|w\|_1$$

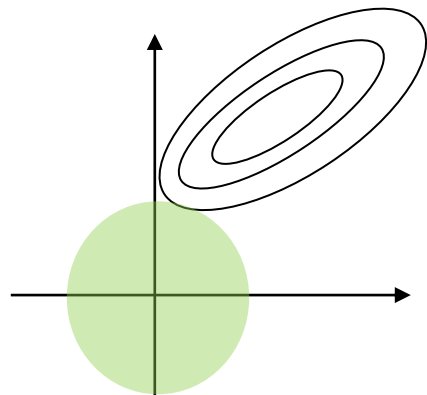


## Bayesian view on Ridge regression

### Ridge regression

$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \|w\|_2^2$$

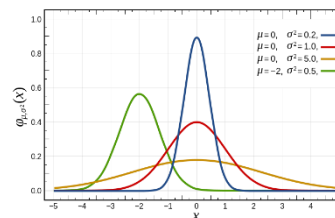
$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmax}_w \log p(w|X, y) = \log p(y|X, w)p(w)$$



MAP estimation view

Gaussian prior

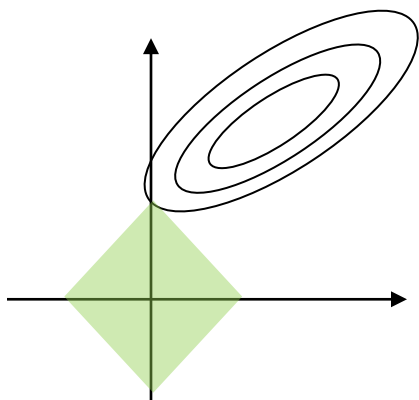
$$p(w) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\alpha^2)^{k/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\alpha^2} w^T w\right)$$



### Lasso (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator)

$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \|y - wX\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \|w\|_1$$

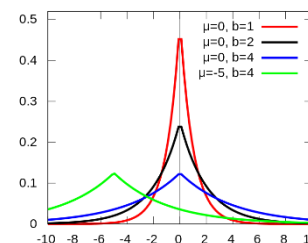
$$\hat{w} = \operatorname{argmax}_w \log p(w|X, y) = \log p(y|X, w)p(w)$$



MAP estimation view

Laplace prior

$$p(w) = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\lambda}{2\sqrt{\tau^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda|w_i|}{\sqrt{\tau^2}}\right)$$



# Machine Learning (Classification)

- **Non-Bayesian approaches**
  - Discriminative model
    - ✓ Logistic regression
    - ✓ Neural Network
  - Generative model
    - ✓ Gaussian Discriminative Analysis
    - ✓ Naïve Bayes classification
- **Full Bayesian approach for classification**
  - Bayesian Logistic regression
  - Bayesian Neural Network

## Non-Bayesian vs Bayesian

- **Non-Bayesian approaches**

- ✓ *discriminative* probabilistic classification

$$p(y|x) = f(w^T x)$$

Directly model posterior  $p(y|x)$  using parameteric form

- ✓ *Generative* probabilistic classification

$$P(y|x) = \frac{P(x|y)P(y)}{P(x)} = \frac{P(x|y)P(y)}{\sum_{y \in Y} P(x|y)P(y)}$$

Model  $P(x|y)$  and  $P(y)$  and combined them in Bayes' rule

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{y \in Y} p(y|x)$$

- **Full Bayesian approach for classification**

1. Construct prior  $p(w)$
2. Construct likelihood  $p(D|w)$  , where  $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^m$
3. Construct posterior  $p(w|D) = \frac{p(D|w)p(w)}{p(D)}$
4. Posterior predictive distribution  $p(y_*|x_*, D) = \int_w p(y_*|x_*, w)p(w|D)dw$



## Logistic regression

- Logistic regression is *discriminative* probabilistic linear classification :  $p(y|x) = g(w^T x)$

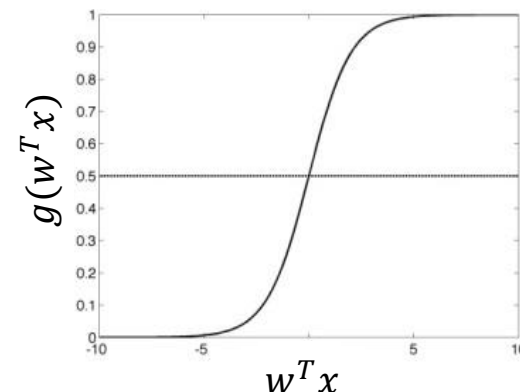
Let's denote  $p$  a probability of having  $y = 1$

$$\text{logit}(p) = \log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = w^T x$$

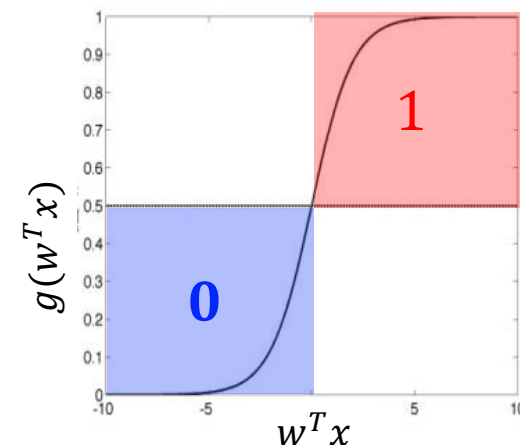
$$\frac{p}{1-p} = \exp(w^T x)$$

$$p = \frac{\exp(w^T x)}{1 + \exp(w^T x)} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-w^T x)} = g(w^T x)$$

- Larger  $w^T x \rightarrow$  larger  $\rightarrow g(w^T x) \rightarrow$  higher  $p$  for  $y = 1$
- Smaller  $w^T x \rightarrow$  smaller  $\rightarrow g(w^T x) \rightarrow$  lower  $p$  for  $y = 1$



$$g(z) = \frac{1}{(1 + \exp(-w^T x))}$$



- Classification rule:

$$y = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } p(Y = 1|x) = g(w^T x) < 0.5 \Leftrightarrow w^T x < 0 \\ 1, & \text{if } p(Y = 1|x) = g(w^T x) \geq 0.5 \Leftrightarrow w^T x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

## Generative model

1. Define Class prior  $p(y)$  and likelihood  $P(x|y)$
2. Learn the parameters of the models,  $P(y)$  and  $P(x|y)$
3. Express posterior distribution on class  $y$  given the input vector  $x$

$$P(y|x) = \frac{P(x|y)P(y)}{P(x)} = \frac{P(x|y)P(y)}{\sum_{y \in Y} P(x|y)P(y)}$$

4. Prediction step: any new input feature vector  $x_{new}$  can be classified according to the maximum a posteriori detection principle (MAP)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y} &= \operatorname{argmax}_y P(y|x_{new}) = \operatorname{argmax}_y \frac{P(x_{new}|y)P(y)}{\sum_y P(x_{new}|y)P(y)} \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_y P(x_{new}|y)P(y)\end{aligned}$$

## Generative model

### 1. Define prior and likelihood

$$p(x|y = \text{dog}), p(y = \text{dog})$$

$$p(x|y = \text{cat}), p(y = \text{cat})$$

### 2. Learn the parameters for the models

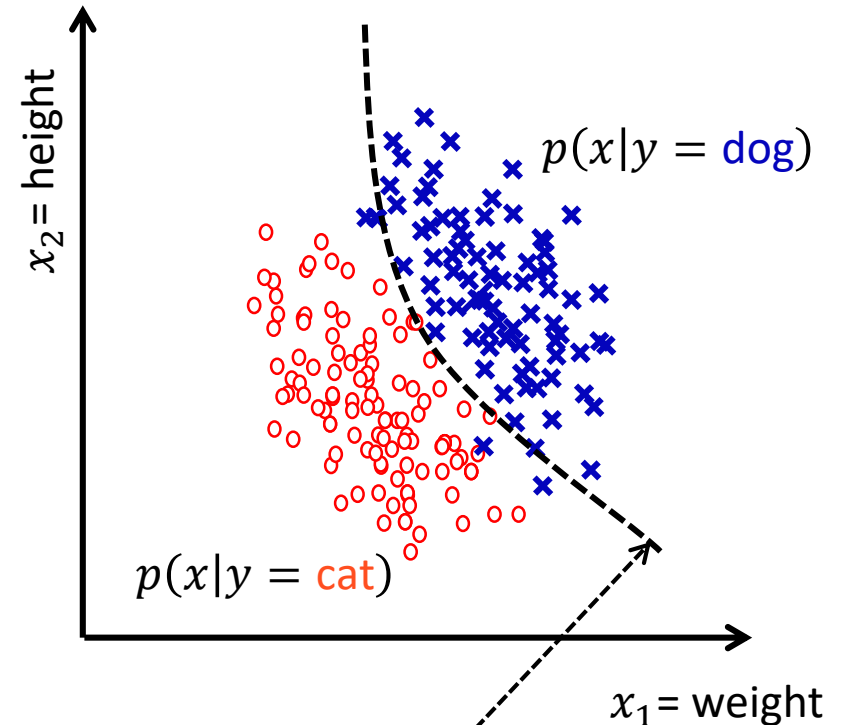
### 3. Construct the posterior distribution on class

$$P(y = \text{dog}|x) = \frac{p(x|y = \text{dog})p(y = \text{dog})}{\sum_{y \in \{\text{dog}, \text{cat}\}} p(x|y)p(y)}$$

$$P(y = \text{cat}|x) = \frac{p(x|y = \text{cat})p(y = \text{cat})}{\sum_{y \in \{\text{dog}, \text{cat}\}} p(x|y)p(y)}$$

### 4. Classify animal based on MAP estimation:

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{y \in Y} P(y|x^{\text{new}})$$



**Decision boundary**

$$p(y = \text{dog}|x) = p(y = \text{cat}|x)$$

The shape of a decision boundary changes depending on the assumptions on the model (ex., linear, quadratic, ...)

## Gaussian Discriminant Analysis

### Parameter learning for GDA

- Using the training data  $\mathbf{D} = \{(x_i, y_i); i = 1, \dots, m\}$ , the parameter sets for GDA are:

$\boldsymbol{\phi} = \{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_N\}$ : set of priors

$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \{\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_N\}$ : set of mean vectors

$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_N\}$ : set of covariance matrices

- The parameters are found as ones maximizing the log-likelihood of data

$$\begin{aligned}\log p(\mathbf{D}|\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\phi}) &= \log \prod_{i=1}^m p(x_i|y_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i) P(y_i|\boldsymbol{\phi}_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \log p(x_i|y_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i) P(y_i|\boldsymbol{\phi}_i)\end{aligned}$$

The log-likelihood function is **concave function** in terms of the parameters

→ the optimum parameters are analytically derived as

$$\phi_j = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m 1\{y_i = j\}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m 1\{y_i = j\} x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^m 1\{y_i = j\}}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^m 1\{y_i = j\}} \sum_{i=1}^m 1\{y_i = j\} (x_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j)(x_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j)^T$$

Indication function

$$1\{y_i = j\} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } y_i = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Class Prediction

- The probability of class  $y = j$  given the new input  $x^{new}$  can be computed

$$\begin{aligned} P(y = j | x^{new}) &\sim P(x^{new} | y = j) P(y = j) & p(y | x^{new}) &= \frac{P(x^{new} | y) P(y)}{P(x^{new})} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma_j|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x^{new} - \mu_j)^T \Sigma_j^{-1} (x^{new} - \mu_j)\right) \phi_j \end{aligned}$$

- The class can be selected using MAP estimation:

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_{y \in Y} p(y | x^{new})$$

- The boundary surface between two neighboring classes  $i$  and  $j$  (i. e.,  $P(y = i | x) = P(y = j | x)$ )

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma_i|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_i)^T \Sigma_i^{-1} (x - \mu_i)\right) \phi_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma_j|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_j)^T \Sigma_j^{-1} (x - \mu_j)\right) \phi_j$$

$$\rightarrow x^T (\Sigma_i^{-1} - \Sigma_j^{-1}) x - 2(\mu_i^T \Sigma_i^{-1} - \mu_j^T \Sigma_j^{-1}) x + \mu_i^T \Sigma_i^{-1} \mu_i - \mu_j^T \Sigma_j^{-1} \mu_j + \log \frac{\phi_j |\Sigma_i|}{\phi_i |\Sigma_j|} = 0$$

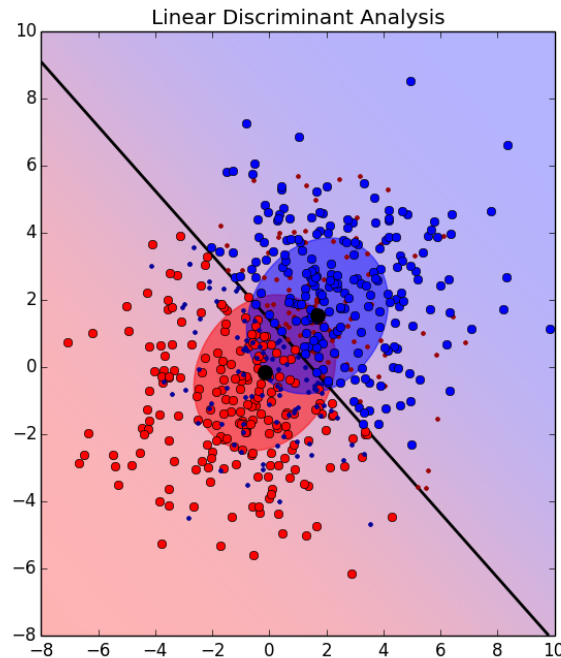
# Gaussian Discriminant Analysis

## Example (binary-classes)

The boundary surface between two neighboring classes  $i$  and  $j$  (i. e.,  $P(y = i|\mathbf{x}) = P(y = j|\mathbf{x})$ )

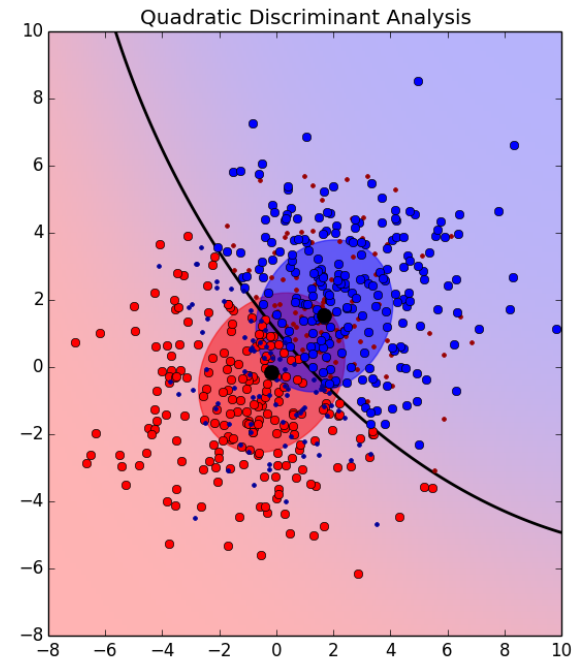
$$\mathbf{x}^T(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i^{-1} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j^{-1})\mathbf{x} - 2(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i^{-1} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j^{-1})\mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_i^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_j + \log \frac{\phi_j |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i|}{\phi_i |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j|} = 0$$

LDA vs QDA



Linear discriminant analysis

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i = \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \text{ for all } i$$

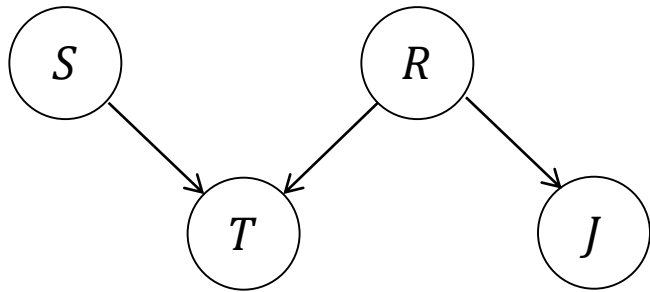


Quadratic discriminant analysis

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i \text{ for each } i$$

# Bayesian Network

## Example : Wet Grass



$R \in \{0,1\} : R = 1$  means that it has been raining

$S \in \{0,1\} : S = 1$  Sprinkler is turned on

$J \in \{0,1\} : J = 1$  Jack's grass is wet

$T \in \{0,1\} : T = 1$  Tracey's grass is wet

*Joint distribution based on chain rule*

$$p(T, J, R, S) = p(T|J, R, S)p(J, R, S)$$

$$= p(T|J, R, S)p(J|R, S)p(R, S)$$

$$= p(T|J, R, S)p(J|R, S)p(R|S)p(S)$$

$$8 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 2^4 - 1 = 15 \text{ parameters are required}$$

*Joint distribution conditional independence*

$$p(T, J, R, S) = p(T|J, R, S)p(J|R, S)p(R|S)p(S)$$

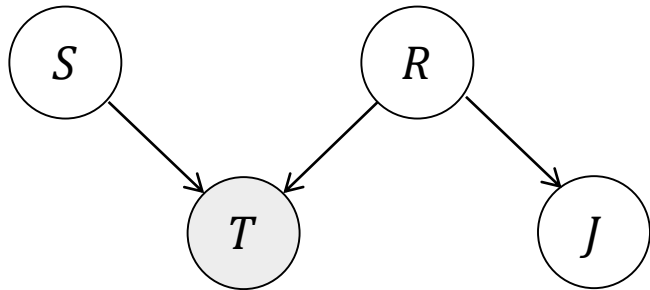
$$= p(T|R, S) \times p(J|R) \times p(R) \times p(S)$$

$$= p(T|R, S)p(J|R)p(R)p(S)$$



## Example : Wet Grass

### Modeling



$R \in \{0,1\} : R = 1$  means that it has been raining

$S \in \{0,1\} : S = 1$  Sprinkler is turned on

$J \in \{0,1\} : J = 1$  Jack's grass is wet

$T \in \{0,1\} : T = 1$  Tracey's grass is wet

$$p(T, J, R, S) = p(T|R, S)p(J|R)p(R)p(S)$$

$p(T|S, R)$

Tracey's Grass wet=1	Rain	Sprinkler
1	1	1
1	1	0
0.9	0	1
0	0	0

$p(J|R)$

Jack's Grass wet=1	Rain
1	1
0.2	0

$$p(S = 1) = 0.1$$

$$p(R = 1) = 0.2$$

The tables and graphical structure fully specify the distribution

## Example : Wet Grass

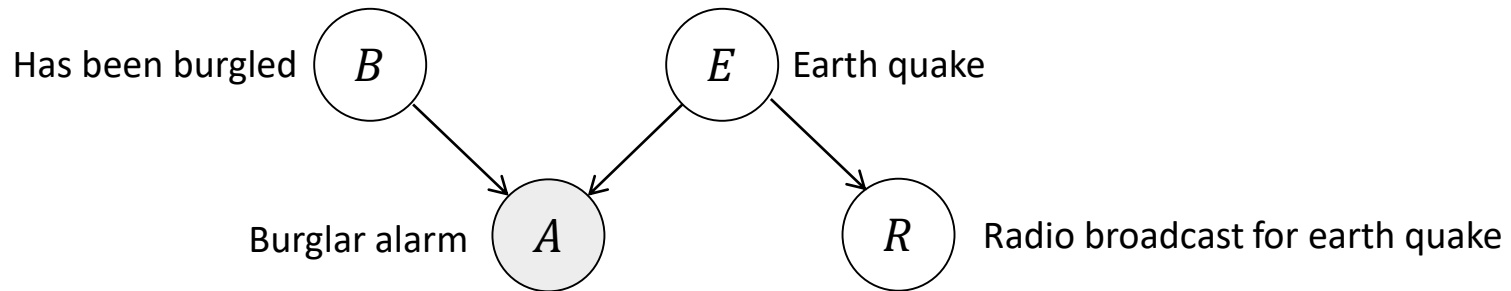
### Inference

$$\begin{aligned} p(S = 1|T = 1) &= \frac{p(S = 1, T = 1)}{p(T = 1)} = \frac{\sum_{J,R} p(T = 1, J, R, S = 1)}{\sum_{J,R,S} p(T = 1, J, R, S)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{J,R} p(J|R)p(T = 1|R, S = 1)p(R)p(S = 1)}{\sum_{J,R,S} p(J|R)p(T = 1|R, S)p(R)p(S)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_R p(T = 1|R, S = 1)p(R)p(S = 1)}{\sum_{R,S} p(T = 1|R, S)p(R)p(S)} \quad \because \sum_J p(J|R) = 1 \\ &= \frac{0.9 \times 0.8 \times 0.1 + 1 \times 0.2 \times 0.1}{0.9 \times 0.8 \times 0.1 + 1 \times 0.2 \times 0.1 + 0 \times 0.8 \times 0.9 + 1 \times 0.2 \times 0.9} = 0.3382 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(S = 1|T = 1, J = 1) &= \frac{p(S = 1, T = 1, J = 1)}{p(T = 1, J = 1)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_R p(T = 1, J = 1, R, S = 1)}{\sum_{R,S} p(T = 1, J = 1, R, S)} \\ &= \frac{\sum_R p(J = 1|R)p(T = 1|R, S = 1)p(R)p(S = 1)}{\sum_{R,S} p(J = 1|R)p(T = 1|R, S)p(R)p(S)} \\ &= \frac{0.0344}{0.2144} = 0.1604 \end{aligned}$$

The fact that Jack's grass is also wet increases the chance that the rain has played a role in making Tracey's grass wet

## Example : Burglar Alarm



$$p(B, E, A, R) = p(A|B, E)p(R|E)p(E)p(B)$$

$$p(A|B, E)$$

Alarm=1	Burglar	Earthquake
0.9999	1	1
0.99	1	0
0.99	0	1
0.0001	0	0

$$p(R|E)$$

Radio=1	Earthquake
1	1
0	0

$$p(E = 1) = 0.01$$

$$p(E = 0) = 0.99$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(B = 1|A = 1) &= \frac{p(B, A = 1)}{p(A = 1)} = \frac{\sum_{E,R} p(B = 1, E, A = 1, R)}{\sum_{B,E,R} p(B, E, A = 1, R)} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{E,R} p(A = 1|B = 1, E)p(R|E)p(E)p(B = 1)}{\sum_{B,E,R} p(A = 1|B, E)p(R|E)p(E)p(B)} \approx 0.99
 \end{aligned}$$

$$p(B = 1|A = 1, R = 1) \approx 0.01$$

## Conditional Independence

What causes the number of parameters to be reduced?

→ **The conditional independence assumptions** encoded by the structure of a Bayesian network

- $X$  and  $Y$  are independent if and only if

$$P(X, Y) = P(X)P(Y)$$

or equivalently  $P(X|Y) = P(X)$

$$\because P(X|Y) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)} = \frac{P(X)P(Y)}{P(Y)} = P(X)$$

- $X$  and  $Y$  are conditionally independent given  $Z$  if and only if

$$P(X, Y|Z) = P(X|Z)P(Y|Z)$$

or equivalently  $P(X|Z) = P(X|Y, Z)$

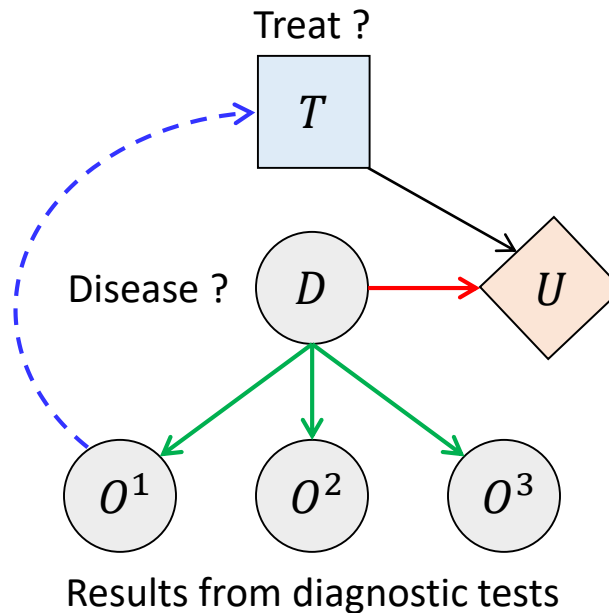
Independence assumptions reduce the number of parameters used to represent a joint pdf




# Influential Diagram

## Introduction

**Bayesian Network** + **Decision node** + **Utility node** = **Decision network (Influential Diagram)**

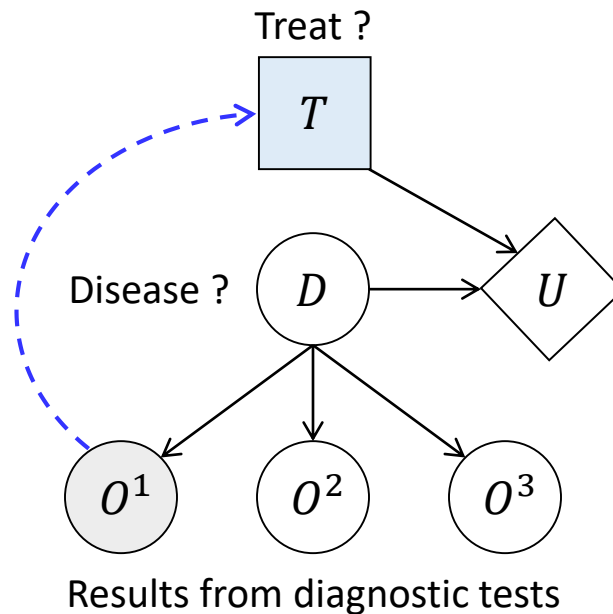
- make rational decisions based on a probabilistic model and utility function



-  **A chance node** corresponds to a random variable
-  **A decision node** corresponds to each decision to be made
-  **A utility node** corresponds to an additive utility component

## Decision Network

Assume we only have a single observation  $O^1 = 1 (= o_1^1)$  from test 1



$$\begin{aligned} EU(t^1|o_1^1) &= \sum_{o_3} \sum_{o_2} \sum_d P(d, o_2, o_3 | t^1, o_1^1) U(t^1, d, o_1^1, o_2, o_3) \\ &\approx \sum_d \underbrace{P(d | t^1, o_1^1)}_{\text{Can be computed using many inference methods}} U(t^1, d) \end{aligned}$$

Can be computed using many inference methods

Compare  $EU(t^0|o_1^1)$  and  $EU(t^1|o_1^1)$  and chose the treatment that lead maximum EU

## Value of Information

- It may be beneficial to administer additional diagnostic tests to reduce the uncertainty about the disease. Then, how to choose a test type to be conducted?
- Expected utility of optimal action given observation  $o$  :

$$EU^*(o) = \operatorname{argmax}_a EU(a|o)$$

- The value of information (VPI) about new variable  $O^{new}$  (**unobserved**) given the current observation  $o$  (**observed**):

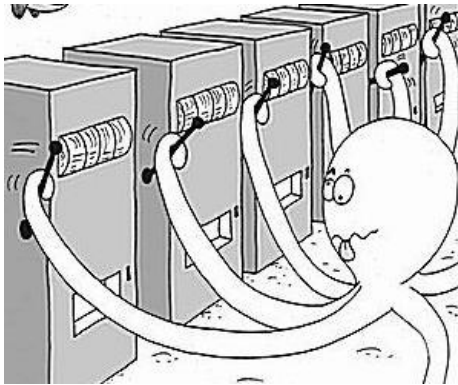
$$VOI(O^{new}|o) = \left( \sum_{o^{new}} P(o^{new}|o) EU^*(o^{new}, o) \right) - EU^*(o)$$

- The value of information about a variable is the increase in expected utility with the observation of that variable
- VPI can only capture the increase in expected utility → need to consider the cost associated with observing the new information



# Bandit Problem

## An $n$ -Armed Bandit Problem



- There are  $n$  machine
- Each machine  $i$  returns a reward  $r \sim P(\theta_i)$  :  $\theta_i$  is unknown
- $a_t \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  : the choice of machine at time  $t$
- $r_t$  : the reward at time  $t$
- Policy  $\pi$  maps all the history to new action:

$$\pi: [(a_1, r_1), (a_2, r_2), \dots, (a_{t-1}, r_{t-1})] \rightarrow a_t$$

Find the optimal policy  $\pi^*$  that maximizes  $E[\sum_{t=1}^T r_t]$  or  $E[r_T]$

Acquiring new information  
**(exploration)**

trade-off

capitalizing on the information  
available so far  
**(exploitation)**

**Internet add** : Advertising showing strategy for users

**Finance** : Portfolio optimization under unknown return profiles (risk vs mean profit)

**Health care** : Choosing the best treatment among alternatives

**Internet shopping** : Choosing the optimum price (sales v.s. profits)

**Experiment design** : Sequential experimental design (or sequential simulation parameter)

## Action-Value Methods

- If at  $t$ th play, action  $a$  has been chosen  $k_a$  times prior to  $t$ , yielding rewards,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{k_a}$ , the estimated action value for  $a$  is defined as

$$Q_t(a) = \frac{r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_{k_a}}{k_a}$$

If  $k_a = 0$ ,  $Q_t(a) = 0$   
If  $k_a = \infty$ ,  $Q_t(a) \rightarrow Q^*(a)$

### *greedy* action selection rule

$$a_t = \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} Q_t(a)$$

- ✓ Always exploits current knowledge to maximize immediate reward
- ✓ spends no time at all sampling apparently inferior actions to see if they might really be better

### $\epsilon$ - *greedy* action selection rule

$$\pi(a) = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon + \epsilon/|A(s)| & \text{If } a = a^* \\ \epsilon/|A(s)| & \text{If } a \neq a^* \end{cases}$$

$$\left(1 - \epsilon + \frac{\epsilon}{|A(s)|}\right) \times 1 + \frac{\epsilon}{|A(s)|} (|A(s)| - 1) = 1$$

- ✓ In the limit as the number of plays increases, every  $a$  will be sampled an infinite number of times, guaranteeing  $k_a \rightarrow \infty$  thus  $Q_t(a) \rightarrow Q^*(a)$
- ✓ The probability of selecting the optimum action converges to greater than  $1 - \epsilon$

## Softmax Action Selection

### Disadvantage in $\epsilon$ – *greedy* action selection:

- When it explores it chooses equally among all actions. That is it is as likely to chose the worst-appearing action as it is to choose the next-to best action

### Solution:

- Vary the action probabilities as a graded function of estimated value
- The greedy action is still given the highest selection probability, but all the others are ranked and weighted according to their values estimates

### Softmax action selection rule

It chooses action  $a$  on the  $t$ th play with probability

$$\frac{e^{Q_t(a)/\tau}}{\sum_{b=1}^n e^{Q_t(b)/\tau}}$$

- ✓  $\tau$  is a positive parameter called the temperature:
  - high  $\tau \rightarrow$  all actions are equiprobable
  - low  $\tau \rightarrow$  greater difference in selection probability for action
  - When  $\tau = 0$ , softmax selection rule become greedy one

Whether softmax action selection or greedy action selection rule is better is unclear and may depend on the task and on human factors (i.e., setting  $\tau$  and  $\epsilon$ )

### Reinforcement Comparison algorithm

- $p_t(a)$  : The preference for each action at time  $t$  (not an actual action value)
- Action determination rule (soft max) :

$$\pi_t(a) = \frac{e^{p_t(a)/\tau}}{\sum_{b=1}^n e^{p_t(b)/\tau}}$$

- After selecting action and observing reward, the preference  $p_t(a)$  is updated :

$$p_{t+1}(a_t) = p_t(a_t) + \beta[r_t - \bar{r}_t]$$

- ✓ High rewards should increase the probability of reselecting the action taken
- ✓  $\beta$  is a positive step-size parameter
- ✓ The reference reward  $\bar{r}_t$  (i.e., average reward) is updated using all recently received rewards whichever actions were taken:

$$\bar{r}_{t+1} = \bar{r}_t + \alpha[r_t - \bar{r}_t]$$

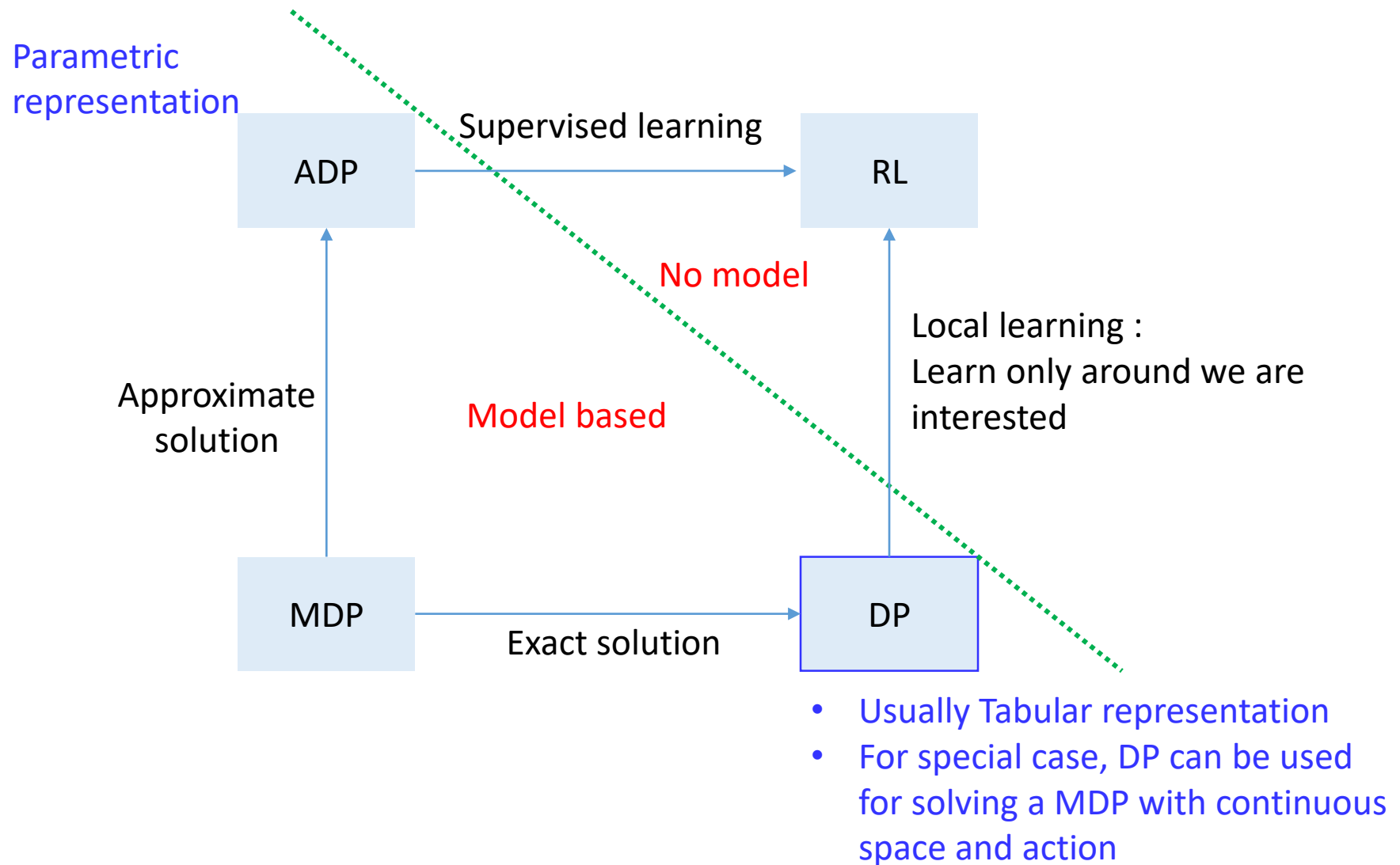
## Relationship with model based approach

		Only Exploitation	Exploration vs Exploitation
		Model is known	Model is unknown
Optimum action	Single state	Optimization	Bandit
Optimum policy	Multiple state	Dynamic Programing	Contextual Bandit
			Reinforcement learning

- We going to learn Dynamic Programming approach first, and move to Reinforcement learning

# Markov Decision Process

## From MDP to RL



- All other methods can be viewed as attempts to achieve much the same effect as DP, only with less computation and without assuming a perfect model of the environment



## Markov Decision Processes

Finite Markov Decision Process (MDP) :The state and action space are finite

An MDP is defined by:

- A set of states  $s \in \mathcal{S}$
- A set of actions  $a \in \mathcal{A}$
- A transition function  $T(s, a, s') = P(S_{t+1} = s' | S_t = s, A_t = a) = P(s' | s, a)$ 
  - ✓ Probability that a from  $s$  leads to  $s'$  when taking action  $a$
  - ✓ Also called the model or the dynamics
- A reward function  $R(s, a, s')$ 
  - ✓  $r_{t+1} = R(s_t, a_t, s_{t+1})$  or  $r_{t+1} = R(s_t, a_t)$
  - ✓ If stochastic,  $R(s, a, s') = \mathbb{E}[r_t + r_{t+1}, \dots | S_t = s, A_t = a, S_{t+1} = s']$
- A start state  $s_0 \in \mathcal{S}$
- A terminal state  $s_T \in \mathcal{S}^+$  (for episodic tasks)

## Value Function & Q function

### Value function (**state value function for $\pi$** )

“How good it is for the agent to be in a given state”

$V^\pi(s)$  : The expected utility received by following policy  $\pi$  from state  $s$

$$V^\pi(s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi(U_t | S_t = s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k} \mid S_t = s\right)$$

$\mathbb{E}_\pi$  : not expectation over policy  $\pi$  but all stochastic state transitions associated with  $\pi$

### Q-function (**action-value function for $\pi$** )

“How good it is for the agent to perform a given action in a given state”

$Q^\pi(s, a)$  : The expected utility of taking action  $a$  from state  $s$ , and then following policy  $\pi$

$$Q^\pi(s, a) = \mathbb{E}_\pi(U_t | S_t = s, A_t = a) = \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k} \mid S_t = s, A_t = a\right)$$

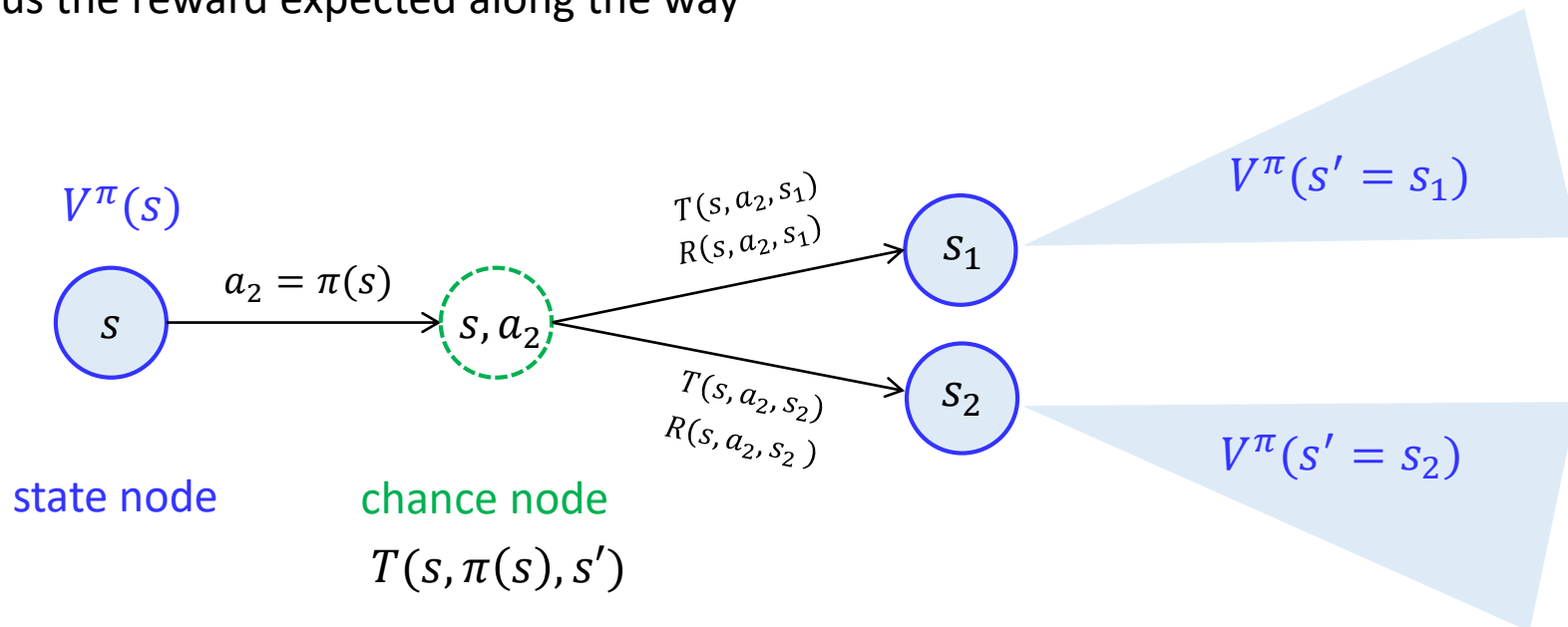
Because the agent can expect to receive in the future depend on what actions it will take  
→ Value and Q functions are defined with respect to a particular policy mapping state  $s \in \mathcal{S}$  to an action  $a \in \mathcal{A}$

# The Bellman Equation for Value Function

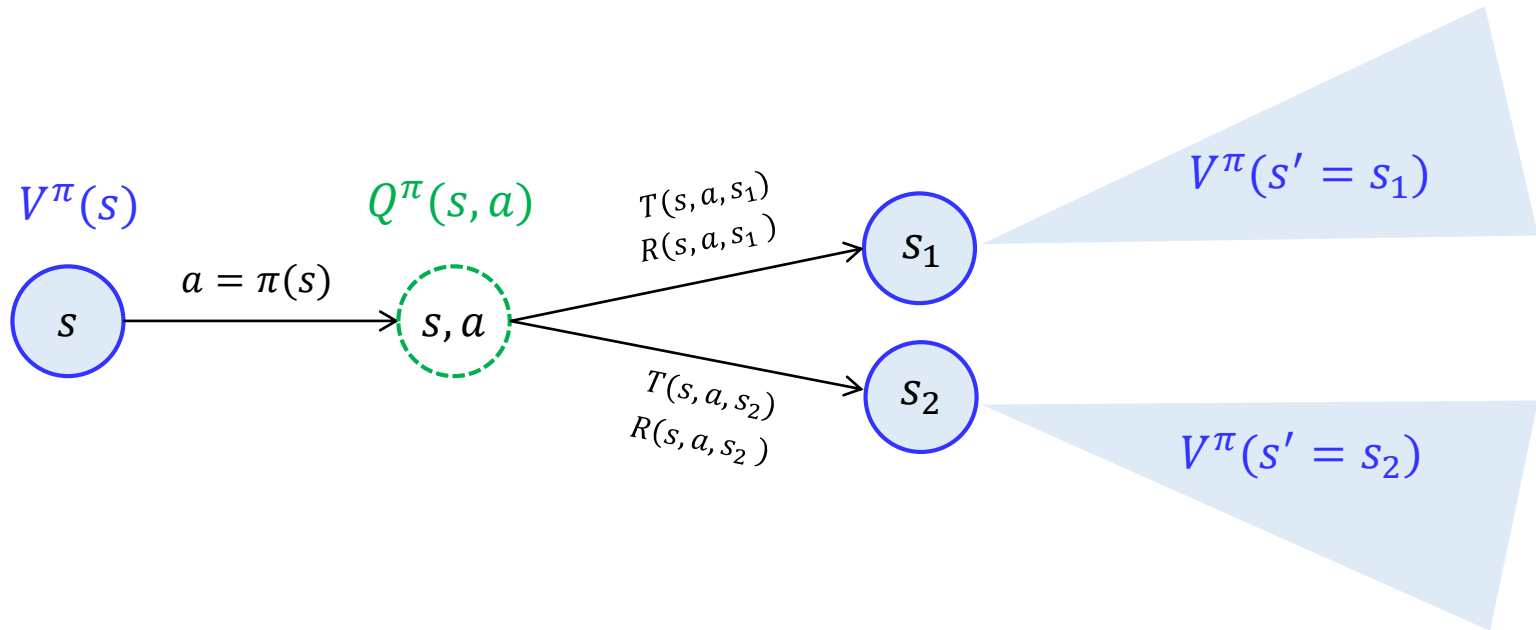
## Recursive Formulation (The Bellman equation)

$$\begin{aligned} V^\pi(s) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k} \mid S_t = s \right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi \left( r_t + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+1+k} \mid S_t = s \right) \\ &= \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{ R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_\pi \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+1+k} \mid S_{t+1} = s' \right) \} \\ &= \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{ R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V^\pi(s') \} \end{aligned}$$

The value of the start state must equal the (discounted) value of the expected next state, plus the reward expected along the way



## Summary for Value function and Q function



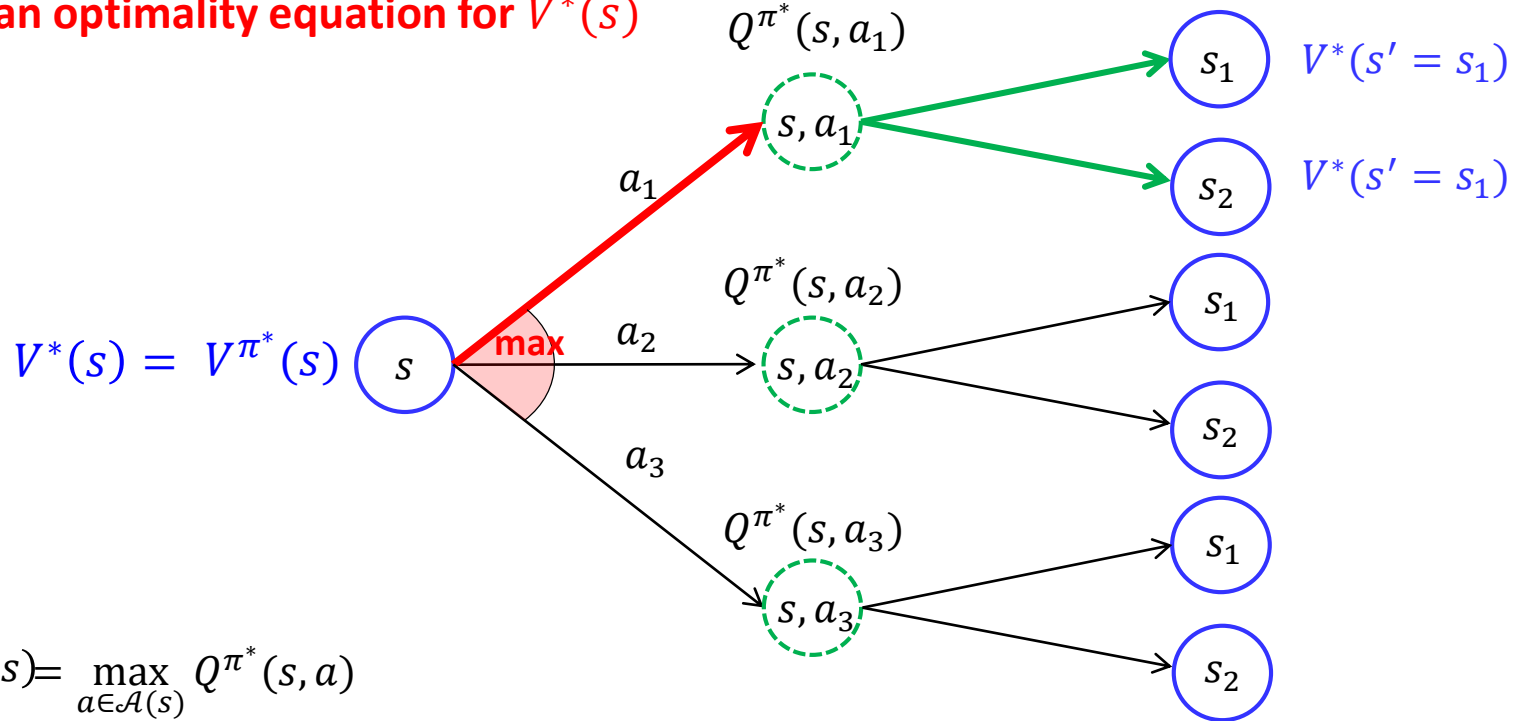
$$V^\pi(s) = \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')\}$$

$$Q^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$$

$$V^\pi(s) = Q^\pi(s, \pi(s))$$

# Bellman Optimality Equation for State-Value Function

## Bellman optimality equation for $V^*(s)$



$$V^{\pi^*}(s) = \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} Q^{\pi^*}(s, a)$$

$$= \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \mathbb{E}_{\pi^*} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k} \mid S_t = s, A_t = a \right)$$

$$= \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \mathbb{E}_{\pi^*} \left( r_t + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} \mid S_t = s, A_t = a \right) \quad \mathbb{E} \text{ is over transitions associated with } \pi^*$$

$$= \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \mathbb{E} \left( r_t + \gamma V^{\pi^*}(s_{t+1}) \mid S_t = s, A_t = a \right) \quad \mathbb{E} \text{ is over transitions}$$

$$= \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{ R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^{\pi^*}(s') \}$$

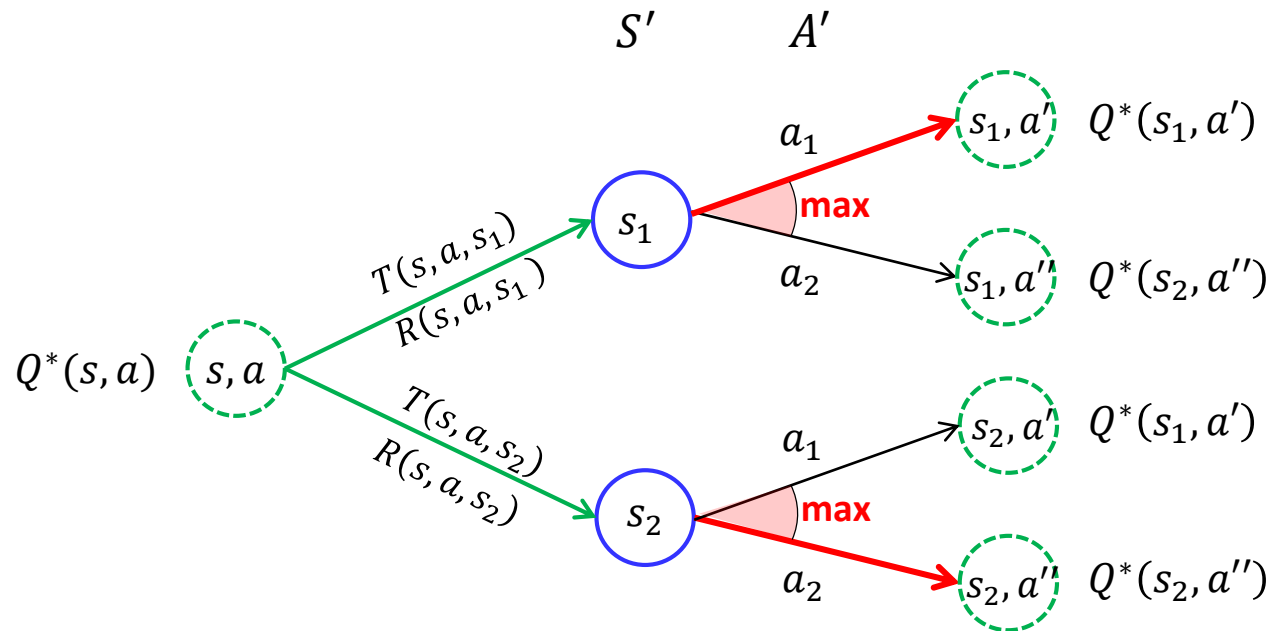
First take optimum action and follow the optimum policy

### Bellman optimality equation for $Q^*(s, a)$

$$Q^*(s, a) = Q^{\pi^*}(s, a) = \max_{\pi} Q^{\pi}(s, a), \text{ for all } s \in \mathcal{S} \text{ and } a \in \mathcal{A}(s)$$

## Bellman Optimality Equation for State-Action Value Function

### Bellman optimality equation for $Q^*(s, a)$



$$\begin{aligned} Q^*(s, a) &= \mathbb{E} \left\{ r_t + \gamma \max_{a'} Q^*(s', a') \mid s_t = s, a_t = a \right\} \\ &= \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \left\{ R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q^*(s', a') \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{E}$  is over transitions  $s \rightarrow s'$

First transits by transition probability and take the optimum action for each consequent states

## Optimal Value Function & Q function

### Relationships between $Q^*(s, a)$ and $V^*(s)$

$$Q^*(s, a) = \max_{\pi} Q^{\pi}(s, a) \text{ for all } s \in \mathcal{S} \text{ and } a \in \mathcal{A}(s)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q^*(s, a) &= \max_{\pi} Q^{\pi}(s, a) && \because Q^{\pi}(s, a) = \mathbb{E}[R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^{\pi}(s') | s_t = s, a_t = a] \\ &= \max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}[R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^{\pi}(s') | s_t = s, a_t = a] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[ R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{\pi} V^{\pi}(s') \mid s_t = s, a_t = a \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s') | s_t = s, a_t = a] \end{aligned}$$



### State-value function & State-action value function allows Optimum Planning as a Greedy Search!

- **Reconstructing optimal policy with  $Q^*(s, a)$  and  $V^*(s)$**

$$\begin{aligned} a^* &= \operatorname{argmax}_a Q^*(s, a) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_a \mathbb{E}[R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s') | s_t = s, a_t = a] \end{aligned}$$

- Any greedy policy with respect to the optimal value function  $V^*(s)$  is an optimal policy
  - because  $V^*(s)$  already takes into account the reward consequences of all possible future behavior
- The Q function effectively catches the results of all one-step-ahead search

# MDP and Dynamic Programming Approach

## Dynamic Programming

- The term **dynamic programming (DP)** refers to a collection of algorithms that can be used to compute optimal policies given a **perfect model of the environment** as a Markov decision process (MDP)
- The key idea of DP (and reinforcement learning) is the use of value functions to organize and structure the search for good policies
- Optimal policies can be derived from the optimal value functions that satisfy the Bellman optimality equations

$$\begin{aligned} V^*(s) &= \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s')\} \\ Q^*(s, a) &= \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q^*(s', a')\} \\ &= \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s')\} \quad \because V^*(s') = \max_{a'} Q^*(s', a') \end{aligned}$$



Optimal policy

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^*(s) &= \operatorname{argmax}_a Q^*(s, a) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_a \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s')\} \end{aligned}$$

## DP Approaches

### Policy Evaluation

For  $t = 1, \dots$

For each state  $s$ :

$$V_{t+1}^{\pi}(s) \leftarrow \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s')\}$$

### Policy Improvement

For each state  $s$ :


$$\pi'(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^{\pi}(s')]$$

Policy Iteration




### Value Iteration

For each state  $s$ :

$$V_{t+1}(s) \leftarrow \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V_t(s')\}$$


### Asynchronous Value iteration

For any single state  $s$ :

$$V(s) \leftarrow \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V(s')\}$$


As long as both processes continue to update all states, the ultimate result is typically the same-convergence to the optimal value function and an optimal policy

## Policy Evaluation

### **Policy evaluation :**

A method to compute the state-value function  $V^\pi(s)$  for an arbitrary policy  $\pi: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$

$$V^\pi(s) = \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')\}$$

➤ A system of  $|\mathcal{S}|$  simultaneous linear equations in  $|\mathcal{S}|$  unknown

### **Algorithm**

**Initialize**  $V_{t=0}^\pi(s) \leftarrow 0$  for all states  $s \in \mathcal{S}$

**Repeat** (iteration  $t = 0, \dots$ ):

**For each state**  $s$ :

$$V_{t+1}^\pi(s) \leftarrow \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V_t^\pi(s')\}$$

**Until**  $\max_{s \in \mathcal{S}} |V_{t+1}^\pi - V_t^\pi(s)| \leq e$

### **Full backup:**

Each iteration of iterative policy evaluation backs up the value of every state once to produce the new approximate value function  $V_{t+1}^\pi$

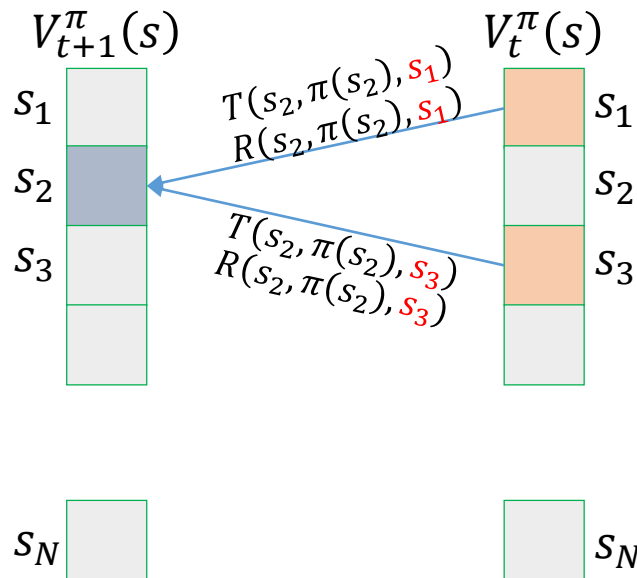
## Policy Evaluation

$$V_{t+1}^{\pi}(s) \leftarrow \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s')\}$$

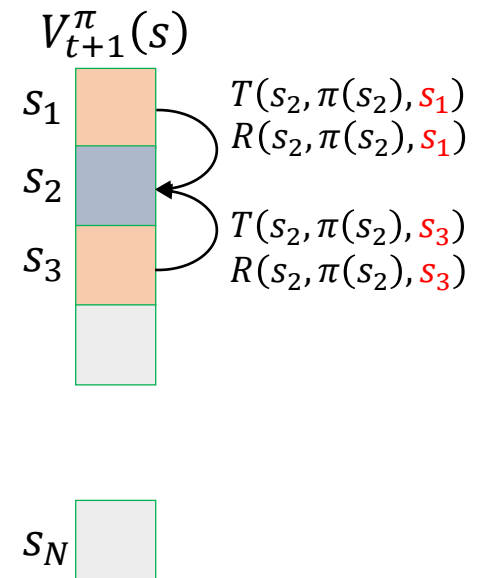
Example:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{t+1}^{\pi}(s_2) &= \sum_{s'} T(s_2, \pi(s_2), s') \{R(s_2, \pi(s_2), s') + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s')\} \\ &= T(s_2, \pi(s_2), s_1) \{R(s_2, \pi(s_2), s_1) + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s_1)\} + T(s_2, \pi(s_2), s_3) \{R(s_2, \pi(s_2), s_3) + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s_3)\} \end{aligned}$$

“Two-arrays” update



“In place” update



Usually faster!  
Less memory

## Policy Improvement

$$\pi'(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} Q^\pi(s, a)$$

$$\rightarrow Q^\pi(s, \pi'(s)) \geq Q^\pi(s, \pi(s)) = V^\pi(s)$$

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmax}_x f(x)$$

$$\rightarrow f(x^*) \geq f(x) \text{ for all } x$$

**Improvement criterion =**

Expected reward provided by **changing one step action** and **following the original policy**

### Proof (Policy improvement Theorem)

Policy improvement must give us a strictly better policy  $\pi'(s)$  than the older policy  $\pi(s)$  except when the original policy is already optimal  $\pi(s) = \pi^*(s)$

$$Q^\pi(s, \pi'(s)) \geq V^\pi(s) \quad \rightarrow \quad \underline{V^{\pi'}(s) \geq V^\pi(s) \text{ for all states } s \in \mathcal{S}}$$

$$\pi' \geq \pi$$

## Policy Improvement

### Proof (Policy improvement Theorem)

Policy improvement must give us a strictly better policy  $\pi'(s)$  than the older policy  $\pi(s)$  except when the original policy is already optimal  $\pi(s) = \pi^*(s)$

$$Q^\pi(s, \pi'(s)) \geq V^\pi(s) \rightarrow V^{\pi'}(s) \geq V^\pi(s) \quad \text{for all states } s \in \mathcal{S}$$

$$V^\pi(s) \leq Q^\pi(s, \pi'(s))$$

Given

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+1}) | s_t = s]$$

$\mathbb{E}_{\pi'}$  is expectation over  $s_{t+1}$  induced by  $\pi'$

$$\leq \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma Q^\pi(s_{t+1}, \pi'(s_{t+1})) | s_t = s] \quad \because V^\pi(s_{t+1}) \leq Q^\pi(s_{t+1}, \pi'(s_{t+1}))$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+2} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+2})] | s_t = s]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 V^\pi(s_{t+2}) | s_t = s]$$

$$\leq \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 Q^\pi(s_{t+2}, \pi'(s_{t+2})) | s_t = s]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+3} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+3})] | s_t = s]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 r_{t+3} + \gamma^3 V^\pi(s_{t+3}) | s_t = s]$$

$\vdots$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\pi'}[r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 r_{t+3} + \gamma^3 r_{t+4} + \dots | s_t = s]$$

$$= V^{\pi'}(s)$$

Thus,  $\pi \leq \pi'$

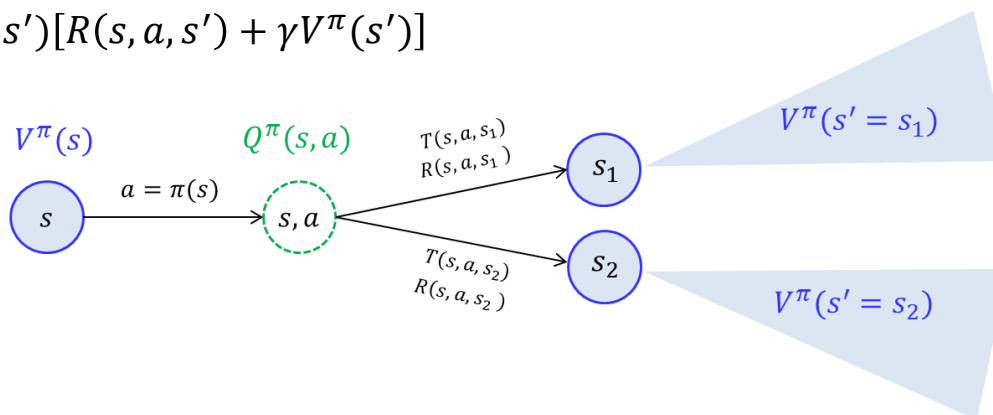


## Policy Improvement

### Policy improvement :

The process of making a new policy  $\pi^{new}$  that improves the original policy  $\pi$ , by making it greedy or nearly greedy with respect to the value function of the original policy

Recall: 
$$Q^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$$



### Algorithm

Input : value of policy  $V^\pi(s)$

Output: new policy  $\pi'$

For each state  $s \in \mathcal{S}$

1. Compute  $Q^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$  for each  $a$

2. Compute  $\pi'(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} Q^\pi(s, a)$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')]$$

## Policy Iteration

### **Policy iteration :**

Iterative way of finding the optimum policy through sequence of policy evaluation and policy improvement

Iteration

For  $t = 0, \dots$  until convergence

For each state  $s$ :

$$V_{t+1}^{\pi}(s) \leftarrow \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(s')\}$$

Converged state value function  $V^{\pi}(s)$

For each state  $s$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \pi'(s) &= \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} Q^{\pi}(s, a) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^{\pi}(s')] \end{aligned}$$

## Value Iteration

### **Value Iteration:**

A method to compute the optimum state-value function  $V^*(s)$  by combining one sweep of policy evaluation and one sweep of policy improvement

### **Algorithm**

Initialize  $V(s) \leftarrow 0$  for all states  $s \in S$

Repeat

For each state  $s$ :

$$V(s) \leftarrow \max_a \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V(s)\}$$

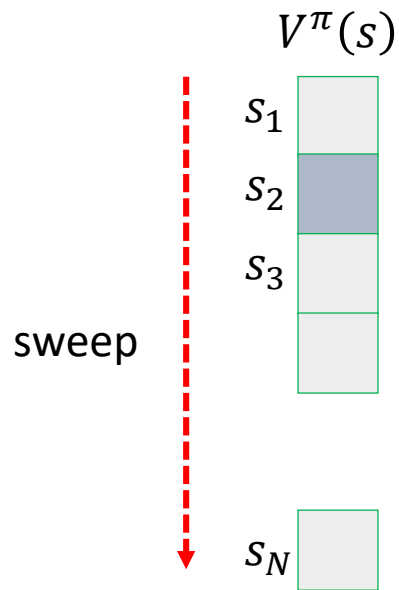
Until  $\max_{s \in S} |V_t(s) - V_{t-1}(s)| \leq e$

**Optimum policy** can be obtained from the converged  $V^*(s)$ :

$$\pi^*(s) = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)} \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') \{R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s)\}$$

## Asynchronous DP Algorithms

A major drawback to the DP methods is that they involve operations over the entire state set of the MDP

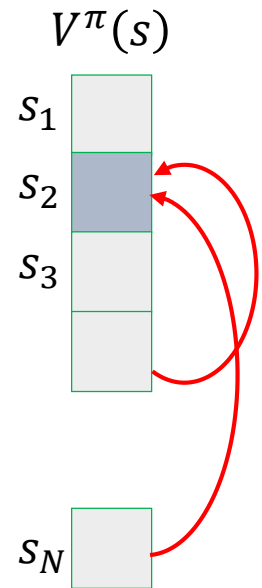


Conventional DP Algorithms

- Black mon game has  $10^{20}$  states
- Go game has  $3^{(19 \times 19)}$  states
- ...



- Take forever to sweep all states
- Does not improve policy until value functions are full backed up



Asynchronous DP Algorithms

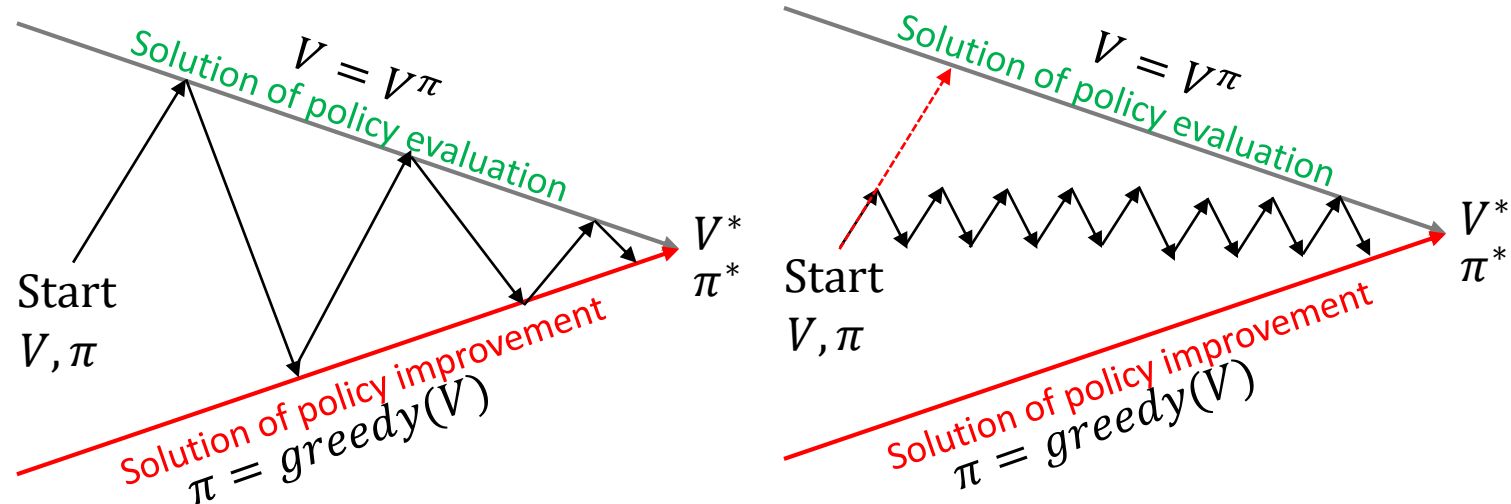
- Back up the values of states in any order whatsoever, using whatever values of other states happen to be available
- Allow great flexibility in selecting states to which backup operations are applied
- Make it easier to intermix computation with real-time interaction: To solve a given MDP, we can run iterative DP algorithm at the same time that an agent is actually experiencing the MDP (Reinforcement Learning !!!!)

## Generalized Policy Iteration

### Generalized Policy Improvement (GPI)

Dynamic Programming  
“full backup”

Asynchronous  
Dynamic Programming



Asynchronous Dynamic Programming is a core concept in Reinforcement learning

# **Reinforcement Learning (Monte Carlo Methods)**



### Markov Decision Process (Offline)

- Have mental model of how the world works
- Find policy to collect the maximum rewards

$$\text{Solve } Q^*(s, a) = \sum_{s'} T(s, a, s') [R(s, a, s') + \gamma V^*(s')] \\ \text{Find } \pi^*(s) = \max_a Q^*(s, a)$$



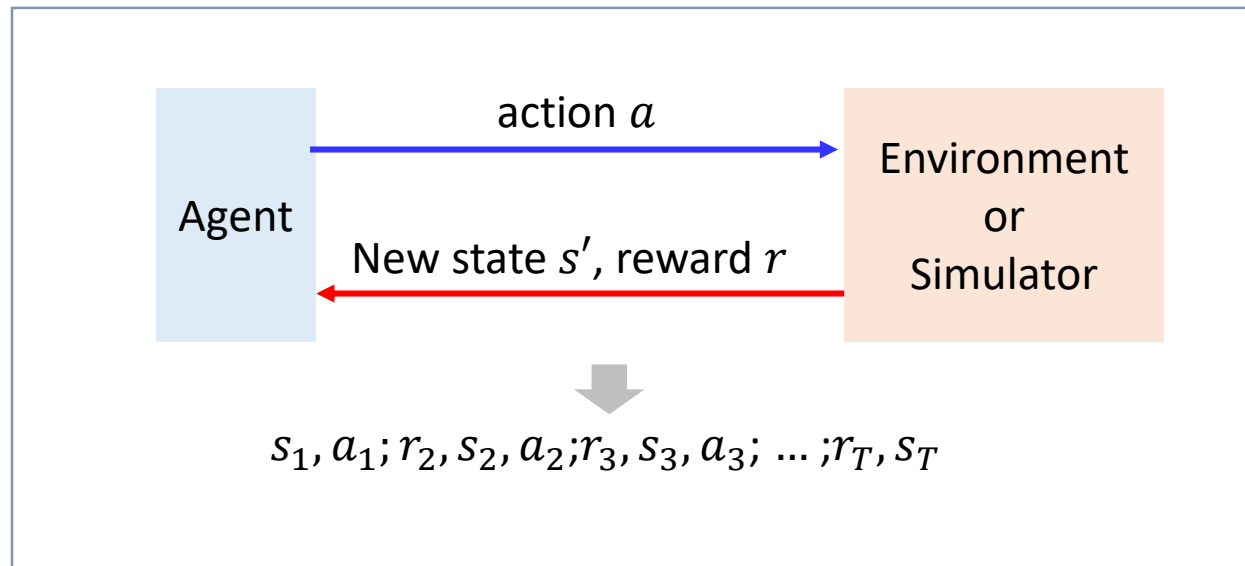
### Reinforcement Learning (Offline & Online)

- Don't know how the world works
- Perform a sequence of actions in the world to maximize the rewards

$$s_1, a_1, r_1; s_2, a_2, r_2; s_3, a_3, r_3; \dots; s_T, a_T, r_T \rightarrow Q^*(s, a) \rightarrow \pi^*(s)$$

- Reinforcement learning is really the way humans work:
  - we go through life, taking various actions, getting feedback.
  - We get rewarded for doing well and learn along the way.

## Reinforcement Learning Template



### Template for Reinforcement Learning

For  $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Choose action  $a_t = \pi(s_t)$  (how?) : Decision making

Receive reward  $r_{t+1}$  and observe new state  $s_{t+1}$  (Environment)

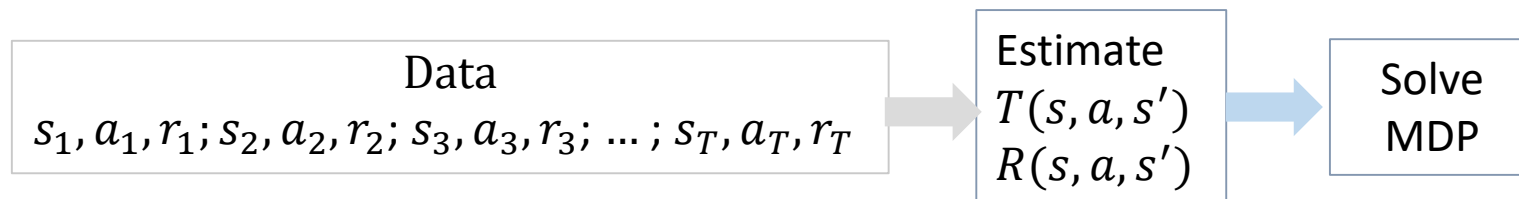
Update parameters associated with  $V(t)$ ,  $Q(s, a)$  (how?) : Learning



- **Monte Carlo Method (Sutton & Barto Ch.5)**
  - Model-Based Monte Carlo method
  - Model-free Monte Carlo method
    - Policy Evaluation
    - Policy Improvement
    - Policy Iteration (Monte Carlo control)
      - ✓ On-policy
      - ✓ Off-policy
- **Temporal Difference Learning (Sutton & Barto Ch.6)**
  - SARSA
  - Q-Learning

## Road Map

- Model-Based Reinforcement learning



- Model-FREE Reinforcement learning

How to estimate  $V^*(s)$  and  $Q^*(s, a)$

Monte Carlo method

Temporal Difference methods

		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
How to explore ?	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning

- Episodic based

- Single-data-point based

## Model-Free Monte Carlo Based Methods

How to estimate  $V^*(s)$  and  $Q^*(s, a)$

Monte Carlo method

Temporal Difference methods

		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
How to explore ?	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning

- Episodic based

- Single-data-point based

### Key Idea : Monte Carlo Policy Evaluation

- Learn the state-value function  $Q^\pi(s, a)$  for a given policy  $\pi$
- The value of action-state is the expected utility - **expected accumulative future reward** starting from  $s$  and following the policy  $\pi$

$$s_t \in \mathcal{S} = \{s^1, s^2, s^3\}, a_t \in \mathcal{A} = \{a^1, a^2, a^3\}$$

(State, Action, Reward ) pairs generated by policy  $\pi$

Episode 1: ( $s^1, a^2, 1$ ); ( $s^3, a^1, 5$ ); ( $s^2, a^3, 3$ ), ( $s^1, a^3, 10$ ), ( $s^2, a^2, 2$ )

Episode 2: ( $s^1, a^1, 5$ ); ( $s^2, a^2, 2$ ); ( $s^1, a^2, 1$ ); ( $s^2, a^3, 3$ ), ( $s^1, a^3, 10$ )

Episode 3: ( $s^2, a^3, 3$ ); ( $s^1, a^2, 1$ ); ( $s^3, a^1, 5$ ); ( $s^1, a^3, 10$ ), ( $s^2, a^2, 2$ )

( $\gamma = 1$ )

Episode 1:  $Q^\pi(s^1, a^2) = 1 + 5 + 3 + 10 + 2 = 21$

Episode 2:  $Q^\pi(s^1, a^2) = 1 + 3 + 10 = 14$

Episode 3:  $Q^\pi(s^1, a^2) = 1 + 5 + 10 + 2 = 19$

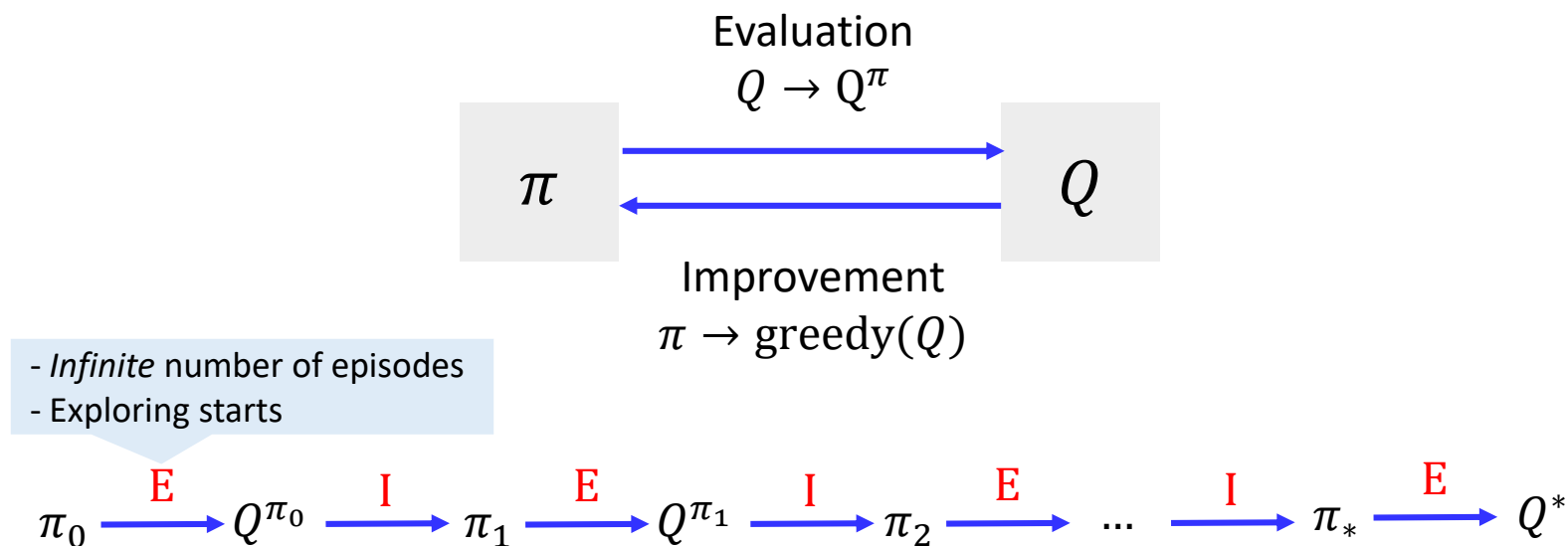
First visit to  $s$

$Q^\pi(s^1, a^2) =$  average of accumulated reward over all episodes

$$= \frac{21+14+19}{3} = 14.6$$

### Key Idea : Monte Carlo Control

- Idea of generalized policy iteration (GPI)
- Monte Carlo Policy Evaluation + Policy improvement



- **Policy Evaluation**
  - ✓ The value function is repeatedly altered to more closely approximate the value function for the current policy  $\pi$
- **Policy Improvement**
  - ✓ The policy is repeatedly improved with respect to the current action value function  $Q$

### Algorithm : Monte Carlo ES Control

Initialize, for all  $s \in S, a \in A(s)$

$Q(s, a) \leftarrow$  arbitrary

$\pi(s) \leftarrow$  arbitrary

$U(s, a) \leftarrow$  empty list

Repeat forever:

(a) Generate *an episode* using *exploring starts* and  $\pi$

(b) For each pair  $(s, a)$  appearing in the episode:

$U \leftarrow$  utility following the first occurrence of  $s, a$

Append  $U$  to  $U(s, a)$

$Q(s, a) \leftarrow \text{average}(U(s, a))$

} Policy evaluation

(c) For each  $s$  in the episode:

$\pi(s) \leftarrow \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} Q(s, a)$

} Policy improvement

In an single episode, both Policy evaluation and policy improvement proceeds together

### Algorithm : $\epsilon$ – *soft* On-Policy Monte Carlo Control

Initialize, for all  $s \in \mathcal{S}, a \in \mathcal{A}(s)$

$Q(s, a) \leftarrow$  arbitrary

$\pi \leftarrow$  an arbitrary  $\epsilon$  – *soft policy*

$U(s, a) \leftarrow$  empty list

Repeat forever:

(a) Generate *an episode* using  $\pi$

(b) For each pair  $(s, a)$  appearing in the episode:

$U \leftarrow$  utility following the first occurrence of  $s, a$

Append  $U$  to  $U(s, a)$

$Q(s, a) \leftarrow \text{average}(U(s, a))$

} Policy evaluation

(c) For each  $s$  in the episode:

$a^* \leftarrow \underset{a \in \mathcal{A}(s)}{\operatorname{argmax}} Q(s, a)$

For all  $a \in \mathcal{A}(s)$

$$\pi(s, a) = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon + \epsilon/|A(s)| & \text{If } a = a^* \\ \epsilon/|A(s)| & \text{If } a \neq a^* \end{cases}$$

} Policy improvement

## Model-Free Monte Carlo Based Methods

How to estimate  $V^*(s)$  and  $Q^*(s, a)$

Monte Carlo method

Temporal Difference methods

		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
How to explore ?	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning

• Episodic based

• Single-data-point based



## Off-policy Monte Carlo Control

### Key Idea : Off-policy algorithm

- Follows the behavior policy while learning about and improving the estimation policy
- *Behavior* policy  $\pi'(s, a)$ 
  - ✓ The policy used to generate behavior
  - ✓ Requires that the behavior policy have a nonzero probability of selecting all actions that might be selected by the estimation policy (e.g.,  $\epsilon$  – *soft policy* )
- *Estimation* policy  $\pi(s, a)$ 
  - ✓ The policy that is evaluated and improved
  - ✓  $\pi$  can be deterministic
  - ✓  $\pi$  can be the greedy policy with respect to  $Q$  (an estimation  $Q^\pi$ )

### Disadvantages

→ Learning can be slow

# **Reinforcement Learning (Temporal Difference)**

## Model-Free Monte Carlo Based Methods

How to estimate  $V^*(s)$  and  $Q^*(s, a)$

Monte Carlo method

Temporal Difference methods

		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
How to explore ?	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning

- Episodic based

- Single-data-point based

# Introduction

## Dynamic Programming (DP) Methods

pros: Update estimates based in part on other learned estimates, without waiting for a final outcome (bootstrap)

cons: Need explicit model

## Monte Carlo (MC) Methods

pros: Learn directly from raw experience without a model

cons: Need to wait until the end of episode to observe expected reward

## Temporal-Difference (TD) Learning

pros: Learn directly from raw experience without a model

MC

+

pros: Update estimates based in part on other learned estimates, without waiting for a final outcome (bootstrap)

DP

On line  
Incremental

Model free

TD Generalized Policy iteration for

TD Policy Evaluation + TD Policy Improvement

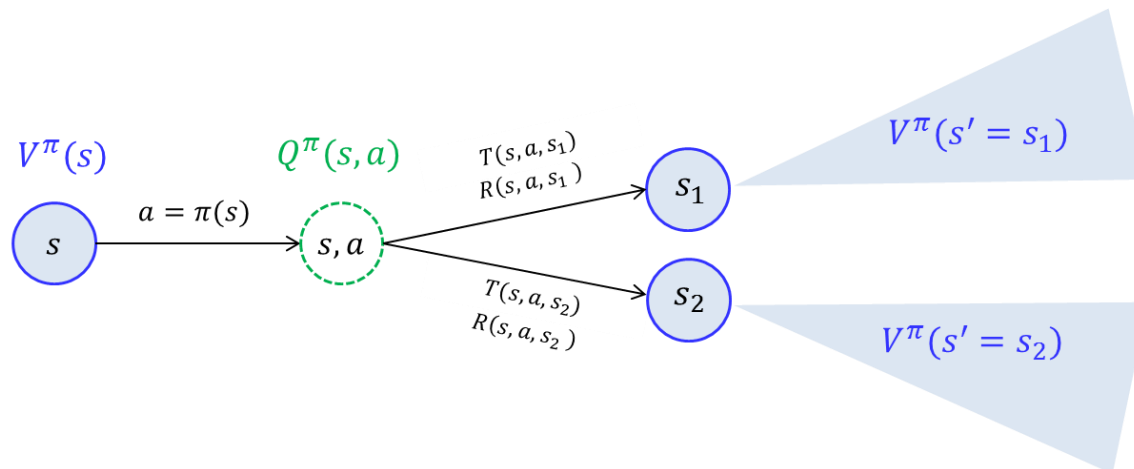
On-Policy TD Control (SARSA)

Off-Policy Q-learning Control

## Recall : Value function

$$\begin{aligned} V^\pi(s) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi(U_t | s_t = s) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi(r_{t+1} + \gamma r_{t+2} + \gamma^2 r_{t+3} + \dots | s_t = s) \text{ Complete episode} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} \mid s_t = s\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(r_{t+1} + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+2} \mid s_t = s\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi(r_{t+1} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+1}) | s_t = s) \end{aligned}$$

Bootstrapping



## Temporal Difference Policy Evaluation

$$\begin{aligned} V^\pi(s) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi(U_t | s_t = s) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} \mid s_t = s\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi\left(r_{t+1} + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+2} \mid s_t = s\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi(r_{t+1} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+1}) | s_t = s) \end{aligned}$$

Bootstrapping

### Temporal Difference Policy Evaluation ;TD(0) :

After visiting  $s_t$  and transiting to  $s_{t+1}$  with a single reward  $r_{t+1}$

$$V(s_t) \leftarrow V(s_t) + \alpha [\underbrace{r_{t+1} + \gamma V(s_{t+1})}_{\text{Target}} - V(s_t)]$$

- Bootstrapping: the TD method updates the state value using the previous estimations
- The TD target is an estimate because
  - ✓ it uses the current estimate of  $V(s_t)$ ,
  - ✓ it samples the expected value

$$\mathbb{E}_\pi(r_{t+1} + \gamma V^\pi(s_{t+1}) | s_t = s)$$

### Algorithm : Tabular $TD(0)$ for estimating $V^\pi$

Initialize  $V(s)$  arbitrarily,  $\pi$  to the policy to be evaluated

**Repeat** (for each episode):

Initialize  $s$

**Repeat** (for **each step** of episode)

$a \leftarrow$  action given by  $\pi$  for  $s$

Take action  $a$ ; observe reward  $r$  and next state  $s'$

$V(s) \leftarrow V(s) + \alpha[r + \gamma V(s') - V(s)]$

$s \leftarrow s'$

Until  $s$  is terminal

- Simple backups (MC method and TD methods) : Use a single sample success state

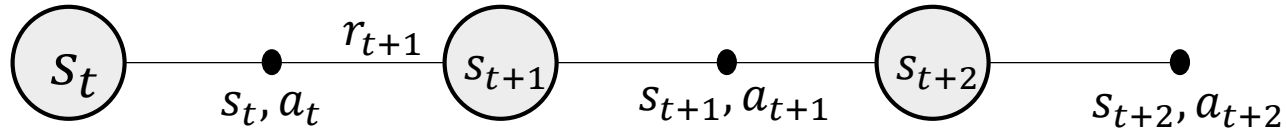
Recall:

- Full Backups (DP approach) : Use complete distribution of all possible successors

$$V^\pi(s) = \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \{R(s, \pi(s), s') + \gamma V^\pi(s')\}$$

## Temporal Difference Policy Evaluation for Q function

As we estimate state value  $V(s)$ , we can estimate  $Q(s, a)$  using a TD method



### Temporal Difference Policy Evaluation for $Q(s, a)$ function

On each  $(s_t, a_t, r_{t+1}, s_{t+1}, a_{t+1})$  for a single episode:

← Note that the action taken is given as data

$$Q(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow Q(s_t, a_t) + \alpha [ \underbrace{r_{t+1} + \gamma Q(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1})}_{\text{Target}} - \underbrace{Q(s_t, a_t)}_{\text{Current estimate}} ]$$



## Model-Free Monte Carlo Based Methods

How to estimate  $V^*(s)$  and  $Q^*(s, a)$

**Monte Carlo method**

**Temporal Difference methods**

How to  
explore ?

		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
How to explore ?	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning

• Episodic based

• Single-data-point based

## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control

### SARSA Algorithm

Initialize  $Q(s, a)$  arbitrarily

Repeat (for each episode):

Initialize  $s$

Choose  $a$  from  $s$  using policy derived from  $Q$  (e.g.,  $\epsilon - greedy$ )

Repeat (for **each time step** of episode):

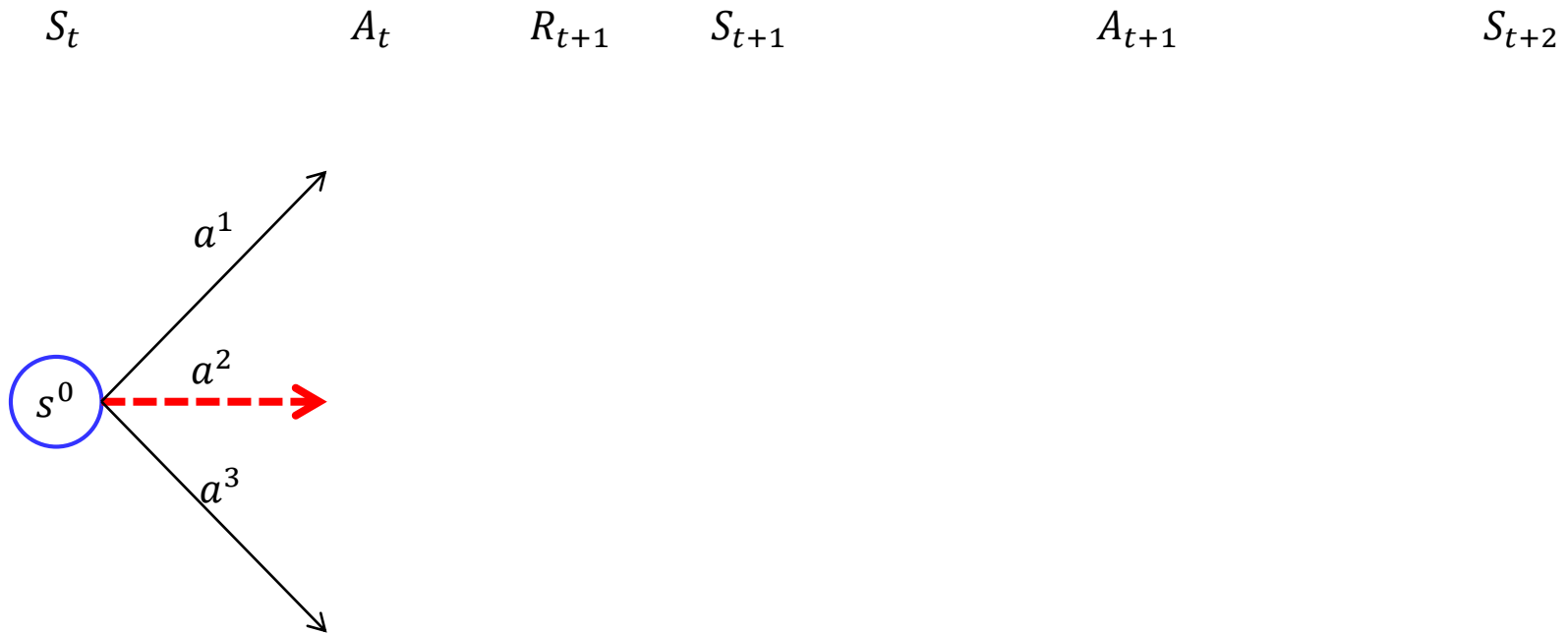
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Take action } a \text{ given } s, \text{ observe } r, s' \\ \text{Choose } a' \text{ from } s' \text{ using policy derived from } Q \text{ (e.g., } \epsilon - greedy \text{)} \\ Q_{\pi}(s, a) \leftarrow Q_{\pi}(s, a) + \eta(r + \gamma Q_{\pi}(s', a') - Q_{\pi}(s, a)) \\ s \leftarrow s'; a \leftarrow a'; \end{array} \right.$

Behavioral policy  
||  
Estimation policy

Until  $s$  is terminal

- As in all on-policy methods, we continually estimate  $Q^{\pi}$  for the behavioral policy, and the same time change  $\pi$  toward greediness with respect to  $Q^{\pi}$
- Converges with
  - ✓ All state-action pairs are visited an infinite number of times
  - ✓ The policy converges in the limit to the greedy policy (i.e.,  $\epsilon - greedy$  with  $\epsilon = 1/t$ )

## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control

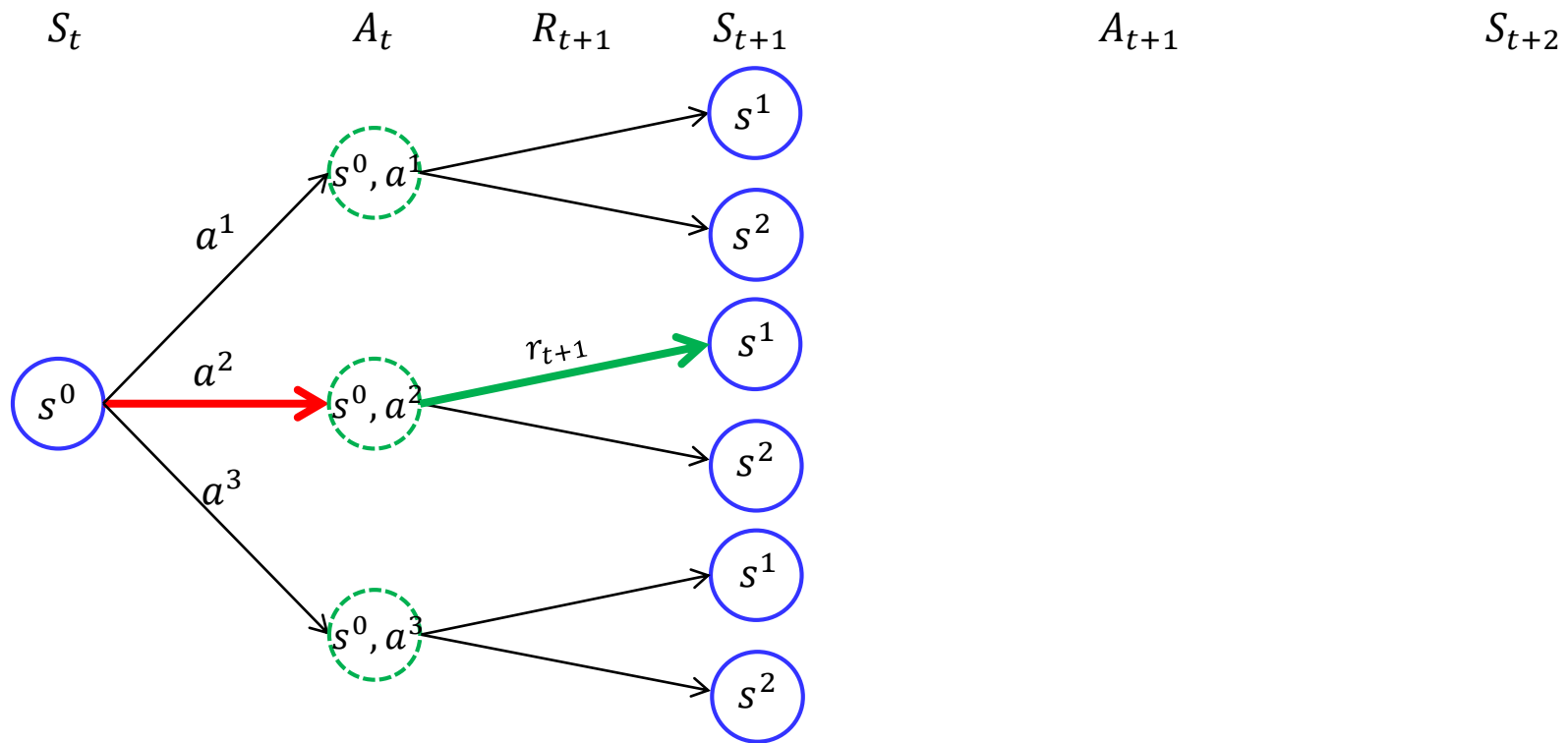


Choose  $a_t$  from  $s_t = s^0$  using current  $Q$

$$a_t = \begin{cases} \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(s_t = s^0, a) & \text{with prob } 1 - \epsilon \\ \text{random action} & \text{with prob } \epsilon \end{cases}$$

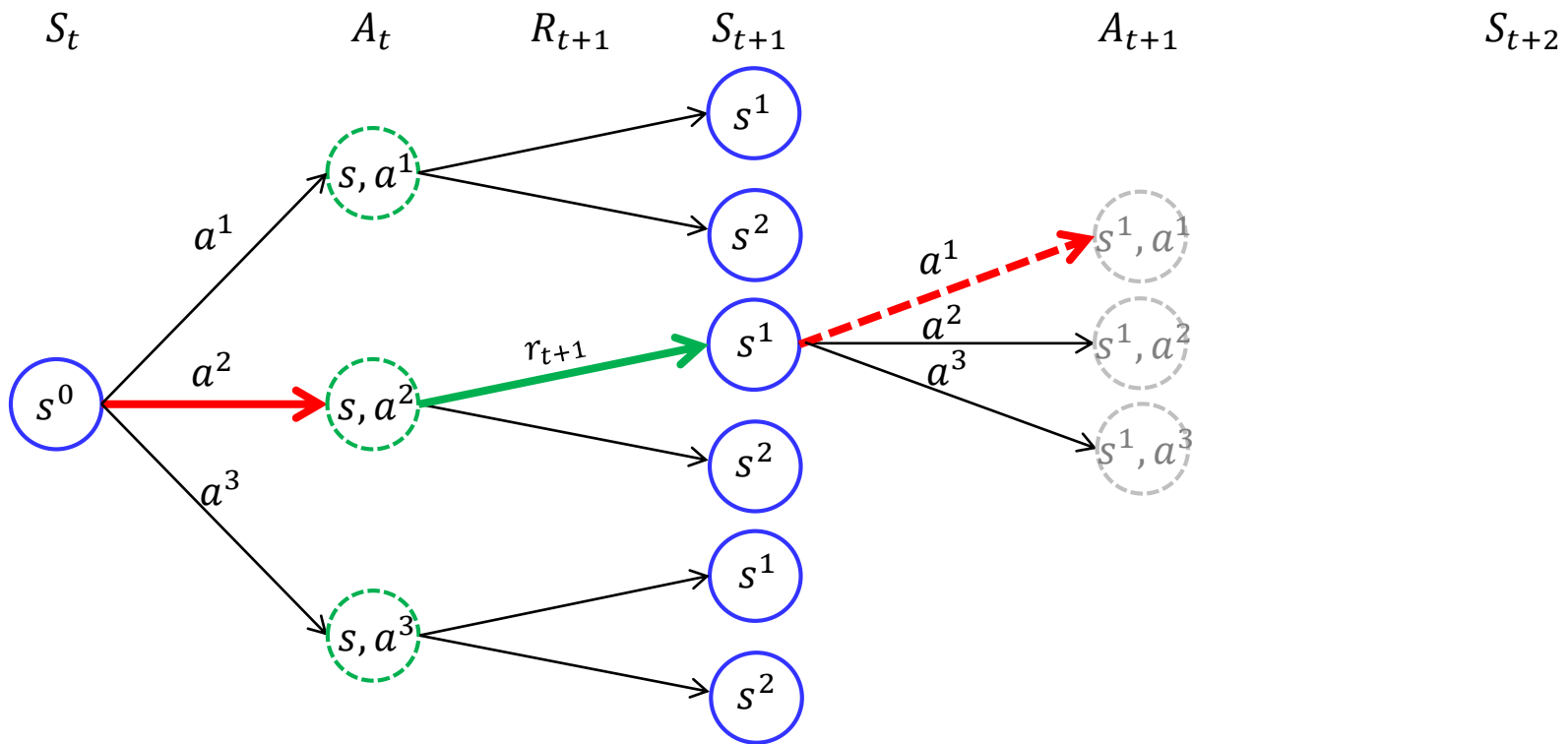
Assume  $a^2$  is chosen

## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control



Take action  $a_t = a^2$  given  $s_t = s^0$  and observe  $r_{t+1}$  and  $s_{t+1} = s^1$

## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control

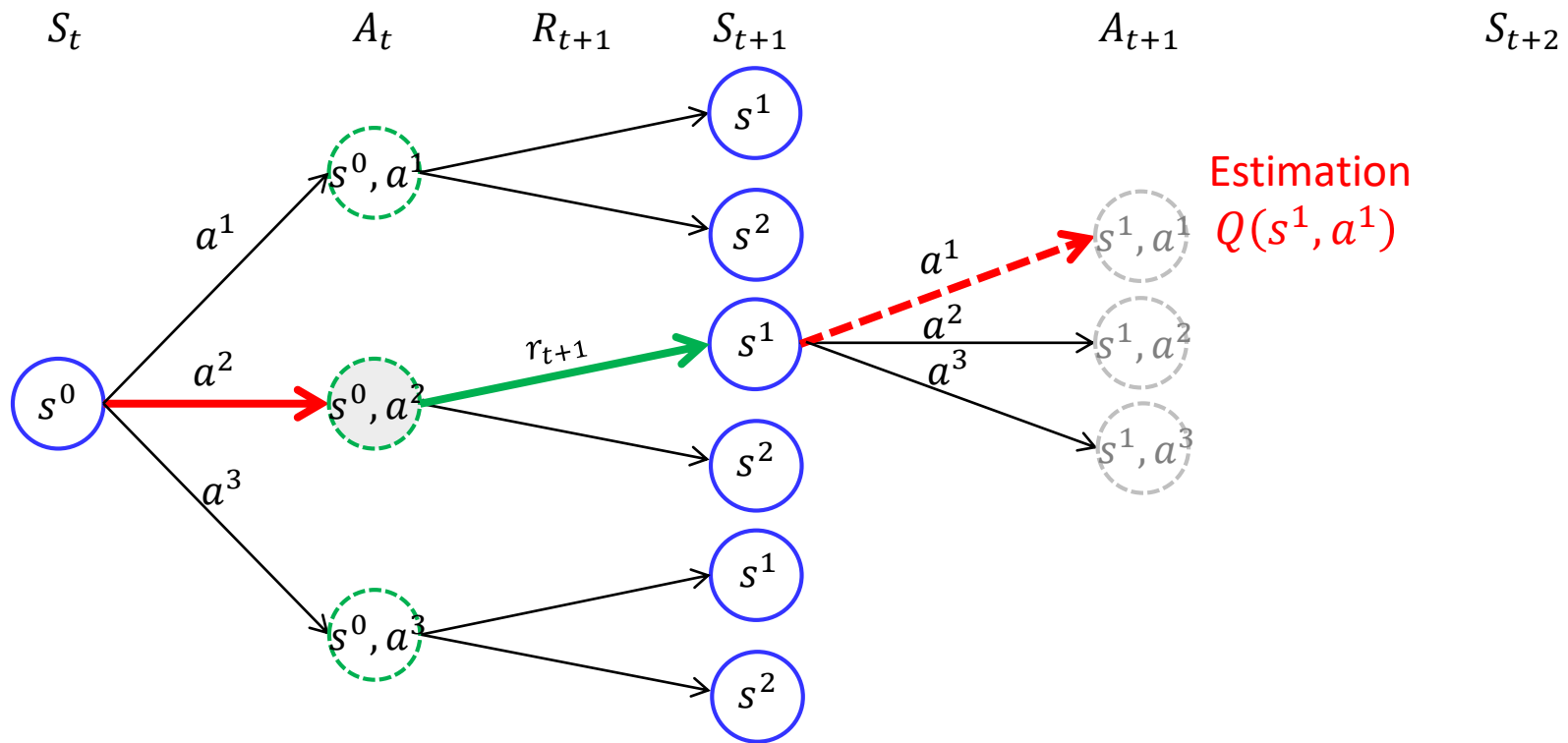


Choose  $a_{t+1}$  from  $s_{t+1} = s^1$  using current  $Q$

$$a_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(s_{t+1} = s^1, a) & \text{with prob } 1 - \epsilon \\ \text{random action} & \text{with prob } \epsilon \end{cases}$$

Assume  $a^1$  is chosen

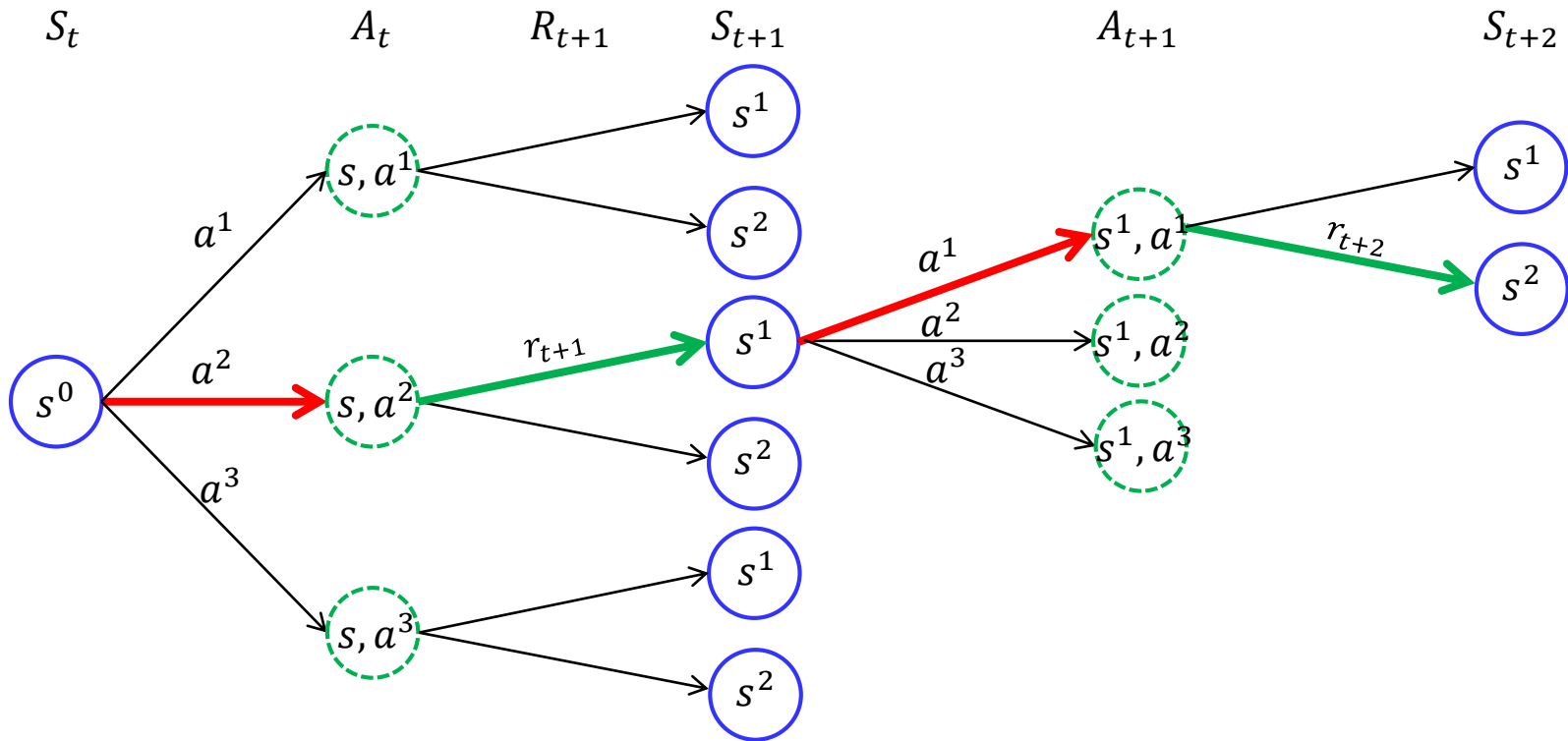
## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control



Update  $Q$  function with the **estimation**  $Q(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1})$

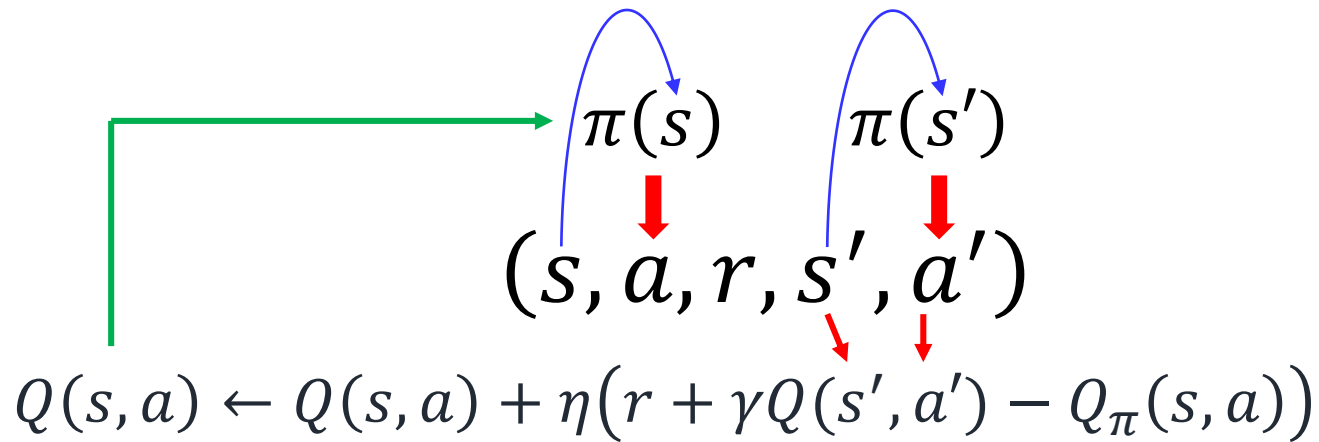
$$Q(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow Q(s_t, a_t) + \alpha[r_{t+1} + \gamma Q(s_{t+1}, a_{t+1}) - Q(s_t, a_t)]$$
$$\rightarrow Q(s^0, a^2) \leftarrow Q(s^0, a^2) + \alpha[r_{t+1} + \gamma Q(s^1, a^1) - Q(s^0, a^2)]$$

## Sarsa: On-Policy TD Control



Take action  $a_{t+1} = a^1$  given  $s_{t+1} = s^1$  and observe  $r_{t+2}$  and  $s_{t+2} = s^2$

## Why Q-learning is considered as Off-Policy method






## Classification of RL

		How to estimate $V^*(s)$ and $Q^*(s, a)$	
		Monte Carlo method	Temporal Difference methods
How to explore ?		Non-Bootstrap	Bootstrap
	On-policy	On-policy Monte Carlo Control	SARSA
	Off-policy	Off-policy Monte Carlo Control	Q-Learning (SARSmAxA)
		• Episodic based	• Single-data-point based

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control

### On-Policy TD Control (SARSA)

Choose  $a'$  from  $s'$  using policy derived from  $Q$  (e.g.,  $\epsilon - greedy$ )

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \eta(r + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$


### Off-Policy TD Control (Q-learning)

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \eta(r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

- The **max over  $a$**  rather than **taking the  $a$  based on the current policy** is the principle difference between Q-learning and SARSA.
- The learned action-value function  $Q$  directly approximates  $Q^*$  independent of the policy being followed
- Converges with
  - ✓ All state-action pairs are visited an infinite number of times
  - ✓ The policy converges in the limit to the greedy policy (i.e.,  $\epsilon - greedy$  with  $\epsilon = 1/t$ )

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control

### Q learning

Initialize  $Q(s, a)$  arbitrarily

Repeat (for each episode):

Initialize  $s$

Repeat (for each time step of episode):

Choose  $a$  from  $s$  using policy derived from  $Q$  (e.g.,  $\epsilon - greedy$ ) **Behavioral policy**

Take action  $a$ , observe  $r, s'$

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \eta \left( r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a) \right)$$

$$s \leftarrow s'$$

Until  $s$  is terminal

**Estimation policy**

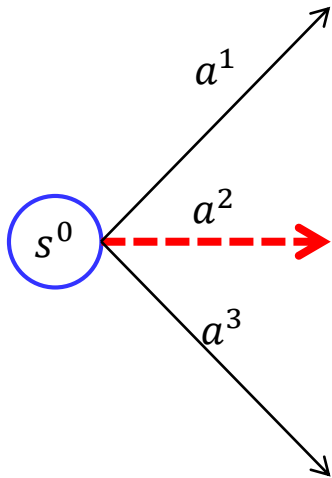
(Always try to estimate the optimal policy)

-Estimation can be greedy)

$a^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{a'} Q(s', a)$  is **not** used in the next state!!!

At the next state  $s'$ , Choose  $a$  using policy derived from  $Q$  (e.g.,  $\epsilon - greedy$ )

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control

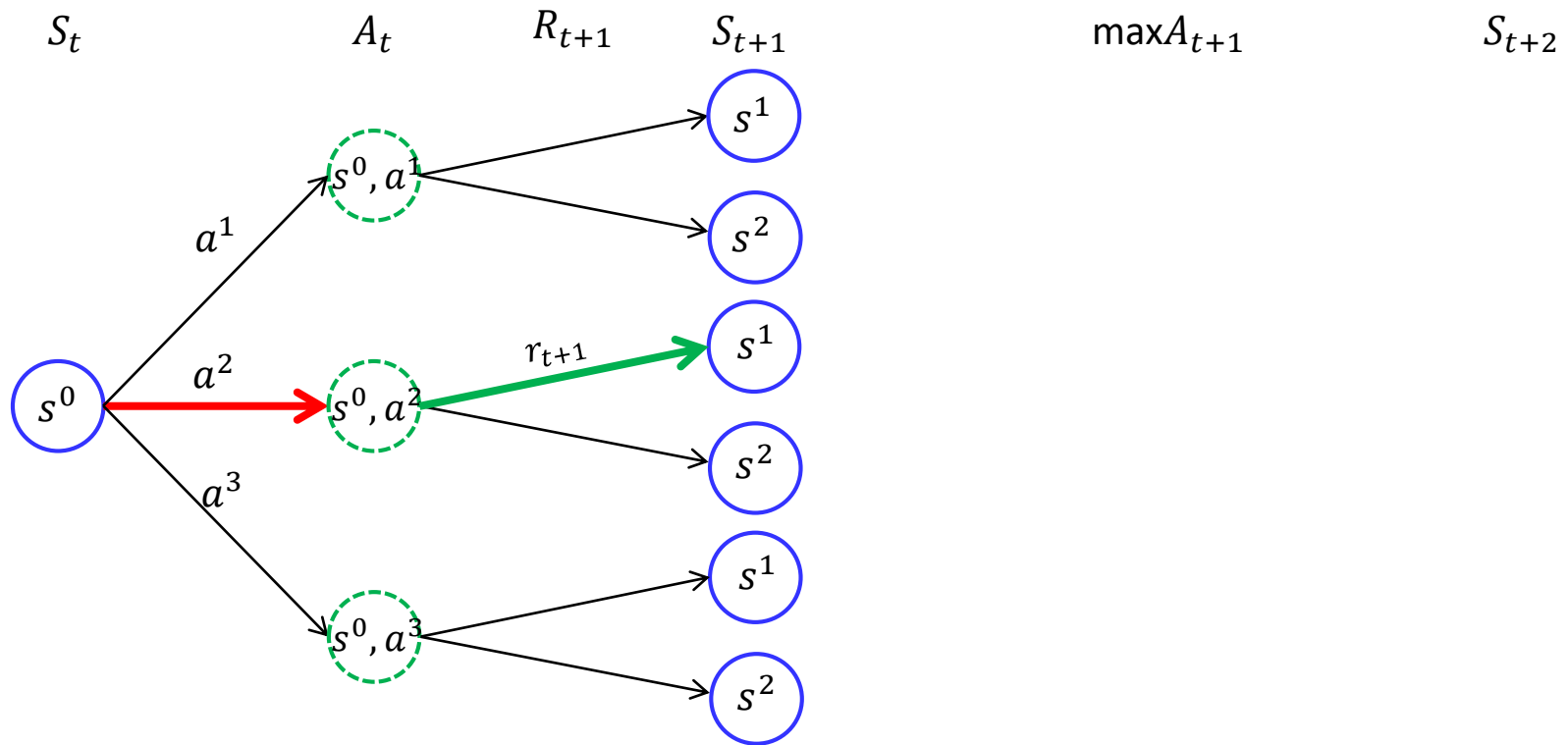
 $s_t$  $A_t$  $R_{t+1}$  $s_{t+1}$  $\max A_{t+1}$  $s_{t+2}$ 

Choose  $a_t$  from  $s_t = s^0$  using current  $Q$

$$a_t = \begin{cases} \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(s_t = s^0, a) & \text{with prob } 1 - \epsilon \\ \text{random action} & \text{with prob } \epsilon \end{cases}$$

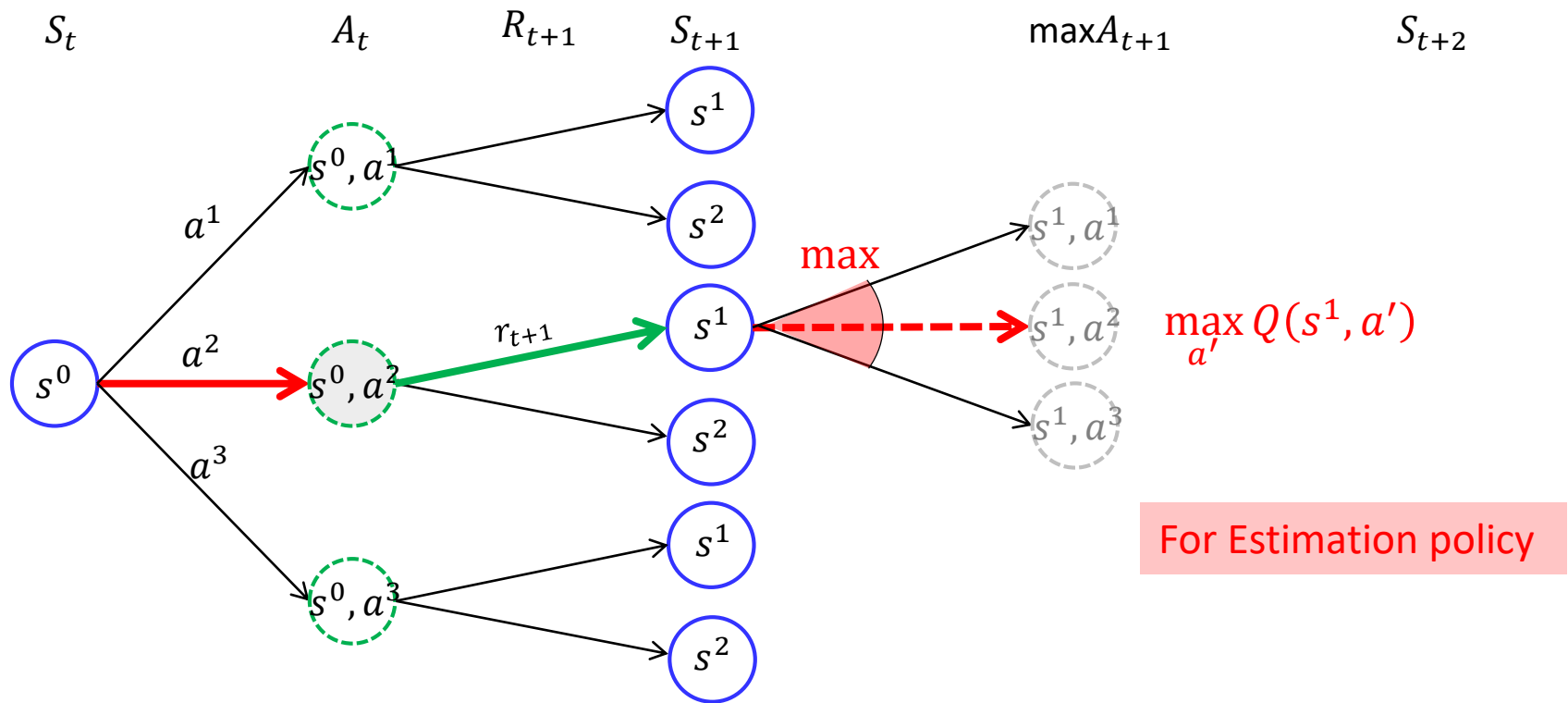
Assume  $a^2$  is chosen

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control



Take action  $a_t = a^2$  given  $s_t = s^0$  and observe  $r_{t+1}$  and  $s_{t+1} = s^1$

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control

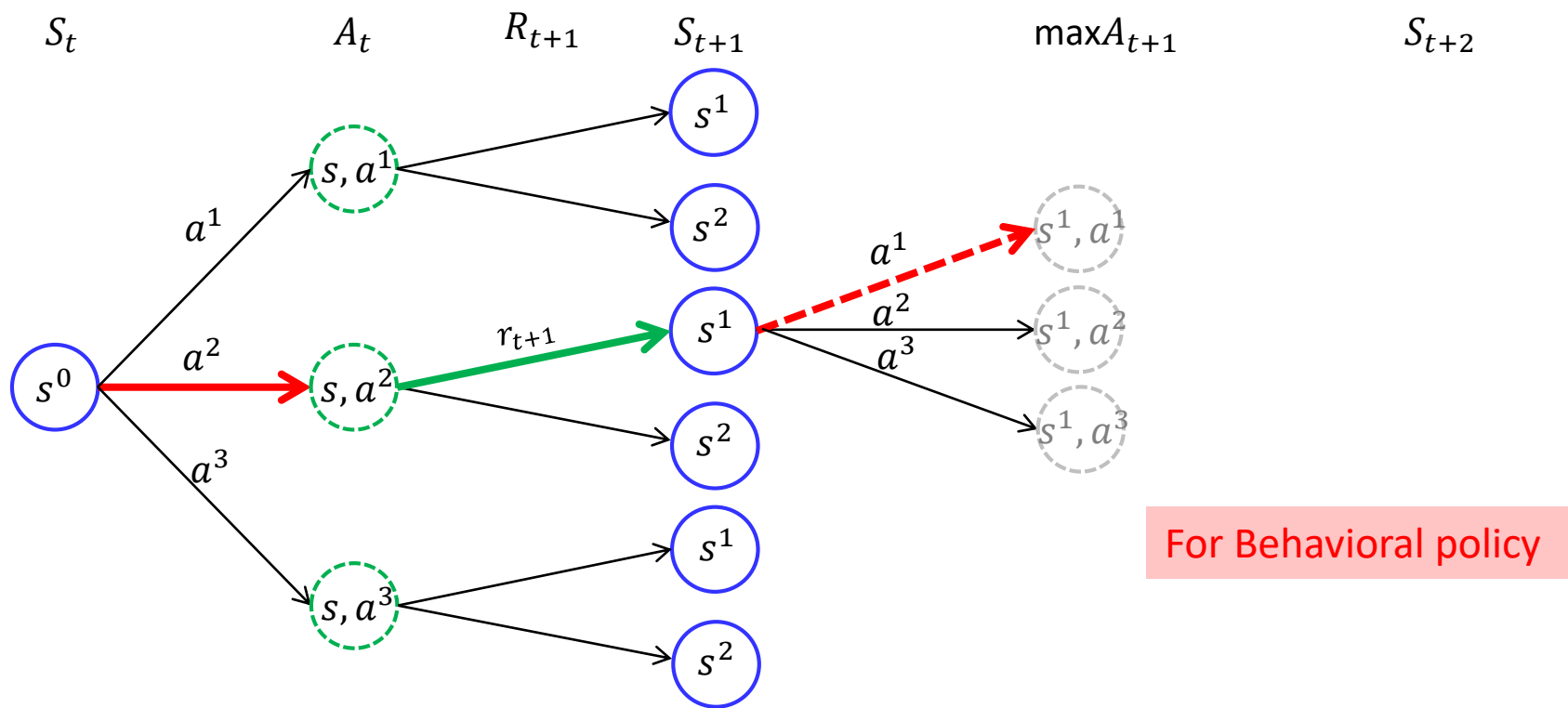


Update  $Q$  function with the  $\max_{a'} Q(s^1, a')$

$$Q(s_t, a_t) \leftarrow Q(s_t, a_t) + \alpha \left[ r_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s, a') - Q(s_t, a_t) \right]$$

$$\rightarrow Q(s^0, a^2) \leftarrow Q(s^0, a^2) + \alpha \left[ r_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s^1, a') - Q(s^0, a^2) \right]$$

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control

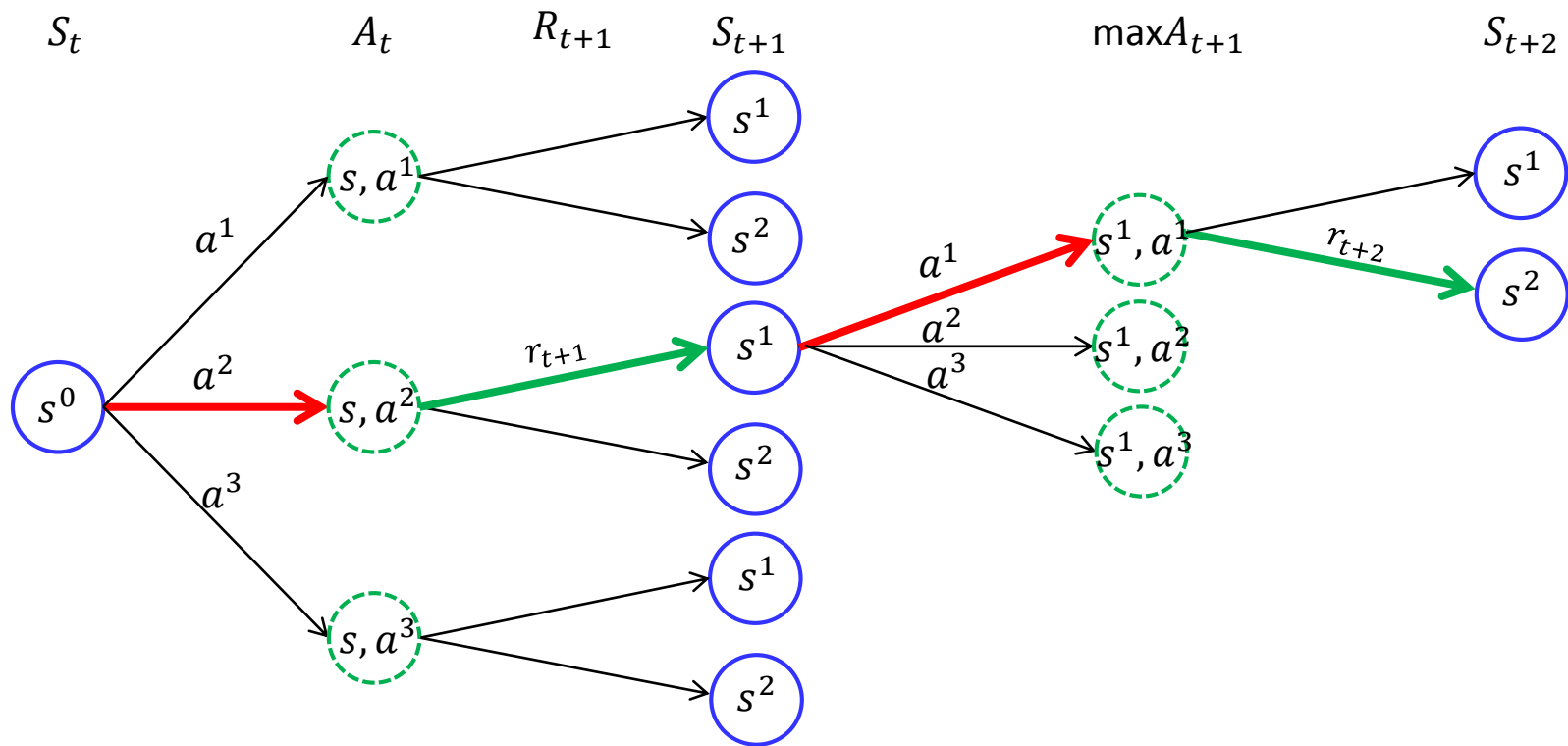


Choose  $a_{t+1}$  from  $s_{t+1} = s^1$  using current  $Q$

$$a_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \operatorname{argmax}_a Q(s_{t+1} = s^1, a) & \text{with prob } 1 - \epsilon \\ \text{random action} & \text{with prob } \epsilon \end{cases}$$

Assume  $a^1$  is chosen

## Q-Learning: Off-Policy TD Control



Take action  $a_{t+1} = a^1$  given  $s_{t+1} = s^1$  and observe  $r_{t+2}$  and  $s_{t+2} = s^2$