

1.) Input: a Policy π to be evaluated

Initialize:

$$V(s) = 0 \quad \text{for all } s \in S$$

$$N(s) = 0 \quad \text{for all } s \in S$$

Loop forever (for each episode):

Generate an episode following π : $s_0, a_0, r_1, s_1, a_1, r_2, \dots, s_{T-1}, a_{T-1}, r_T$

$$G \leftarrow 0$$

Loop for each step of episode, $t = T-1, T-2, \dots, 0$:

$$G \leftarrow \gamma G + R_{t+1}$$

$$N(s_t) \leftarrow N(s_t) + 1$$

$$V(s_t) \leftarrow V(s_t) + \frac{1}{N(s_t)} (G - V(s_t))$$

2.a) \Rightarrow A state in Blackjack is the player's total sum, the dealer's visible card and whether there is a usable ace.

Considering there are no splitting or doubling down according to special rules.

It can be considered that there won't be much of a difference because the episodes are ended in the game of blackjack when the player wins or loses or got a draw.

Let's consider an episode where the user has

(14, 2, usable Ace) and if he hits and got a 6 the total would be

(21)

another episode (14, 2, usable Ace) and he strikes the total would be

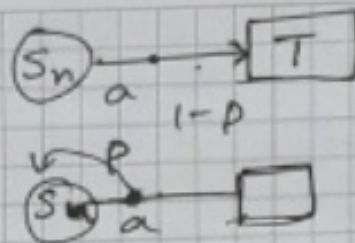
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which is not usable at the episode it already happened and the game is won which will not impact the policy improvement as required.



TWT

2b)



The first visit only updates the returns for the non-terminal state only once

$$Q_{FVHC}(s, a) = \text{average}(10) = 10$$

But in case of every visit - MC it updates the non-terminal state every time it visits with an increased reward value.

$$\therefore Q_{EVHC}(s, a) = \text{average}(1+2+3+\dots+10) = 5.5$$