CMPT 729 G100

Jason Peng

Overview

- Q-Function
- Q-Learning
- Exploration

Taxonomy of RL Algorithms

- Policy-Based Methods
- Value-Based Methods
- Actor-Critic Methods
- Model-Based Methods

Policy-Based Methods

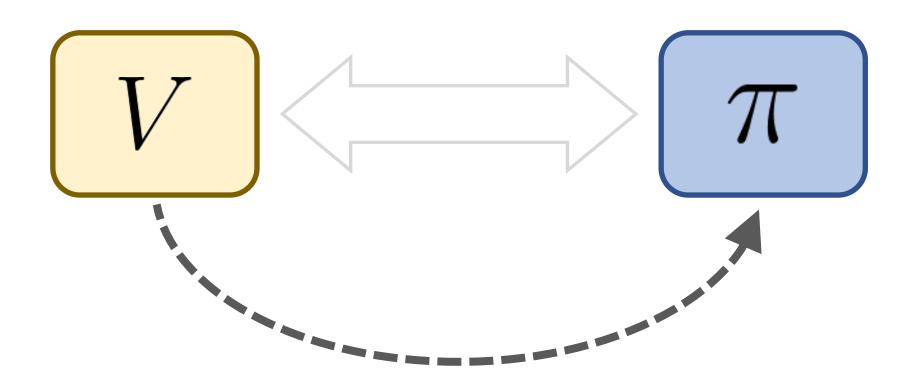
$$\pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})$$

$$\mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \boxed{\pi} \Rightarrow \mathbf{a}$$

Value-Based Methods



Value-Based Methods



$$\nabla_{\pi} J(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s} \sim d_{\pi}(\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\nabla_{\pi} \log \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) \left(\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t - \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{s}) \right) \right]$$

$$\nabla_{\pi} J(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s} \sim d_{\pi}(\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\nabla_{\pi} \log \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) \left(\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right) \right]$$

$$\nabla_{\pi}J(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s} \sim d_{\pi}(\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \left[\nabla_{\pi} \log \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau|\pi, \mathbf{s}_{0} = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_{0} = \mathbf{a})} \left(\sum_{t=0}^{\tau} \gamma^{t} r_{t} \right) \right]$$
"reward-to-go"
$$= Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

reward-to-go: expected return of taking an action ${f a}$ in state ${f s}$

$$\nabla_{\pi} J(\pi) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s} \sim d_{\pi}(\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \left[\nabla_{\pi} \log \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) \underline{Q}^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \right]$$

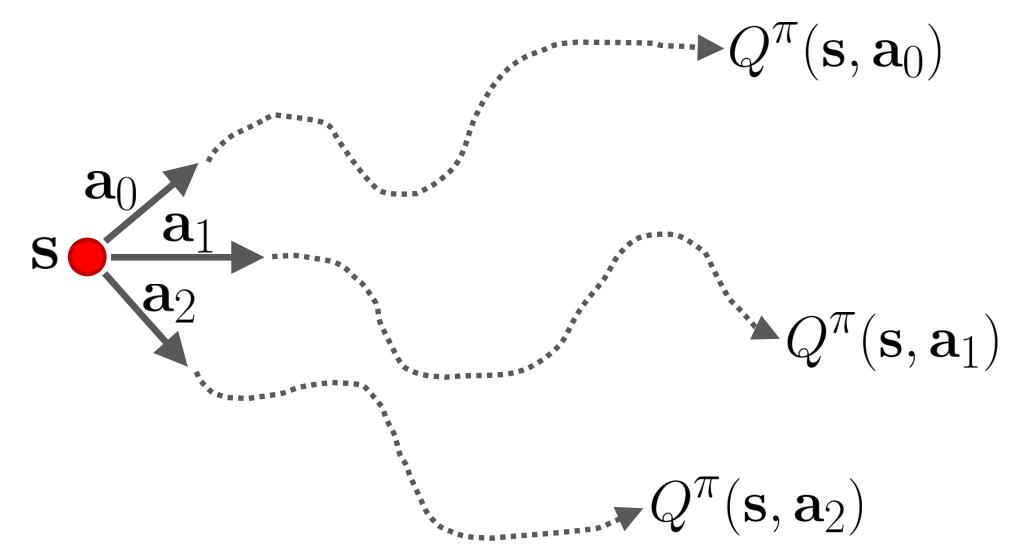
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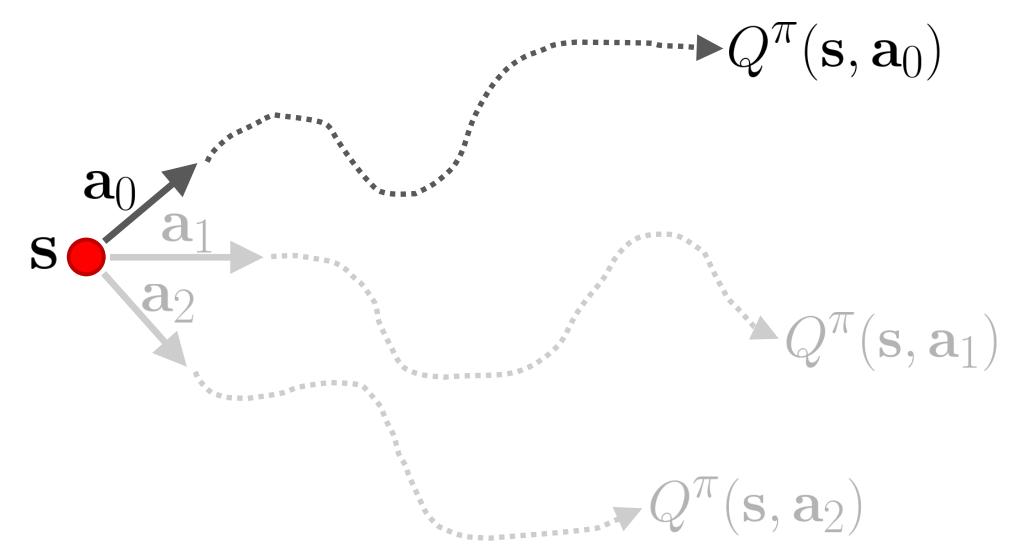
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$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \right]$$

Per-state objective: pick actions that maximize the expected return at each state (i.e. Q-function)





Value Functions

Value Function

"State Value Function"

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$

Likelihood of a trajectory starting at state ${\bf S}$ and then following π for all future timesteps

Q-Function

"State-Action Value Function"

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\tau} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$

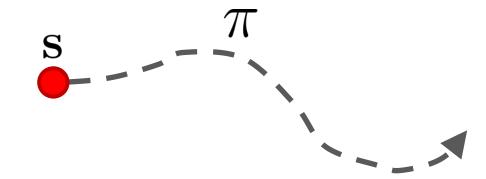
Likelihood of a trajectory after taking action ${\bf a}$ in state ${\bf S}$ and then following π for all future timesteps

Value Functions

Value Function

"State Value Function"

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$



Q-Function

"State-Action Value Function"

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\tau} \gamma^t r_t \right] \qquad Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\tau} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$

$$\mathbf{s} \qquad \mathbf{s} \qquad \mathbf{s} \qquad \mathbf{s}' \qquad \mathbf{\pi}$$

Value Function

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a})} \left[\underline{r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'})} + \gamma V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s'}) \right]$$

Value Function

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Value Function

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$$= Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

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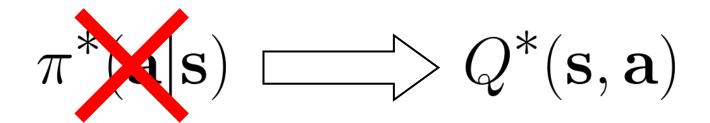
$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$
$$= V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}')$$

Value Function

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}') \right]$$
$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a} \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \right]$$

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$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s'}) \right]$$

Q-Function



Recover optimal policy:

$$\pi^*(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^*(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Instead of learning policy, just learn Q-function.

Q-Function

$$\pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) \longrightarrow Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a})$$

Recover a policy:

"arg max policy"
$$\pi'(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

New policy is at least as good as the old policy.

$$J(\pi') \ge J(\pi)$$
 $Q^{\pi'}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \ge Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$

Key idea:

- Instead of trying to learn the optimal policy, just learn optimal Q-function
- Then recover policy from Q-function

Recursive definition

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$

Optimal policy

$$Q^*(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi^*(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^*(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$

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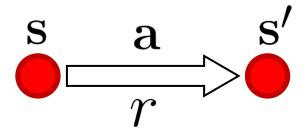
Recursive definition

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$

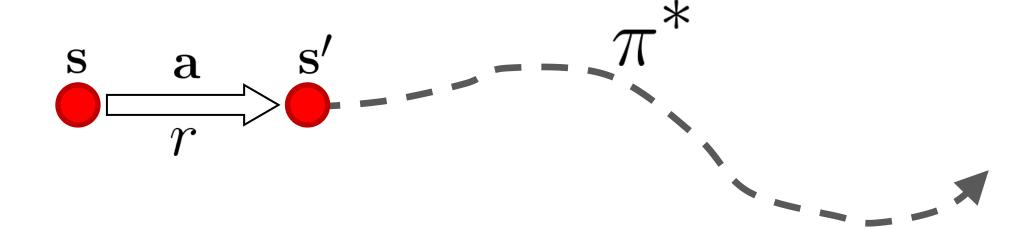
Optimal policy

$$Q^*(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^*(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

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Not true for non-optimal policies

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \neq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

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arg max policy

$$Q^*(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^*(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

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$$Q^{\pi'}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \leq Q^{\pi'}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

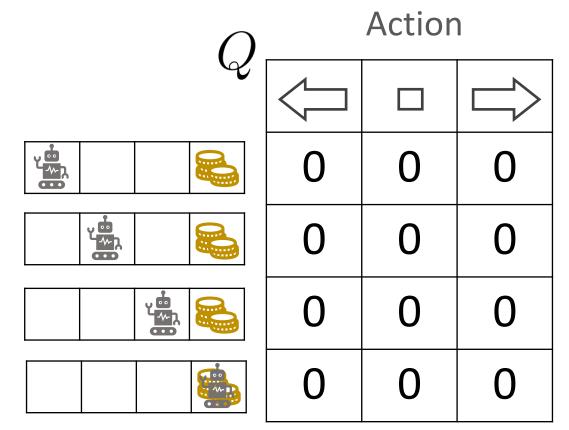
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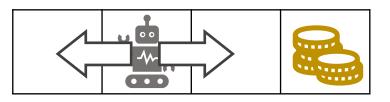
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$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \ge Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

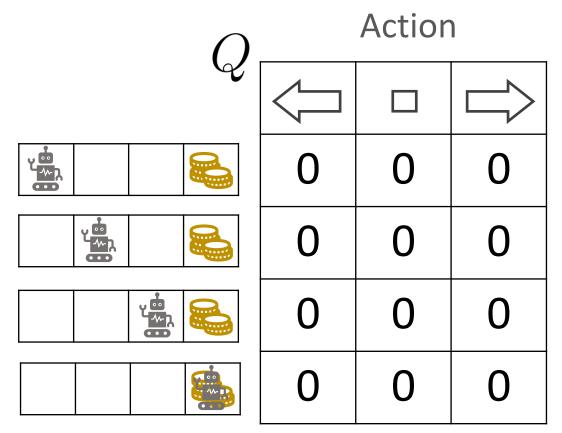


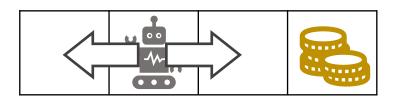


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

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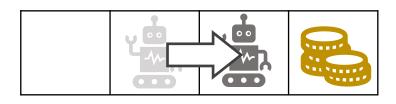


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Iteration 0:

Action

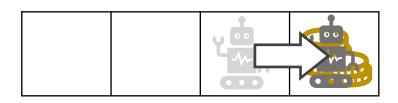


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Iteration 0:

Action



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$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:





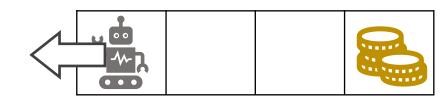
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:



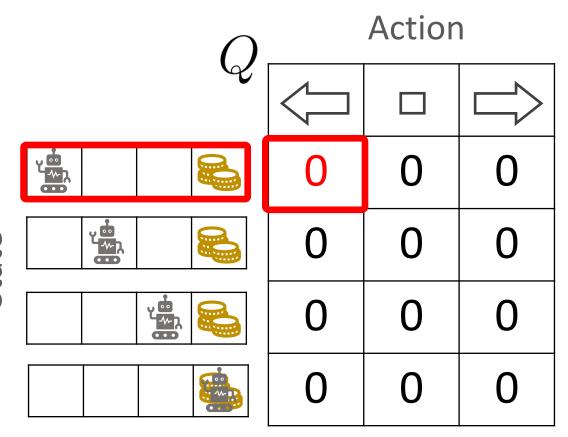


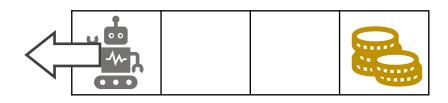
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:



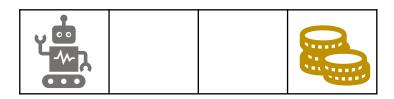


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:





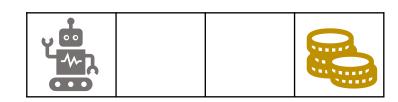
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:





$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:

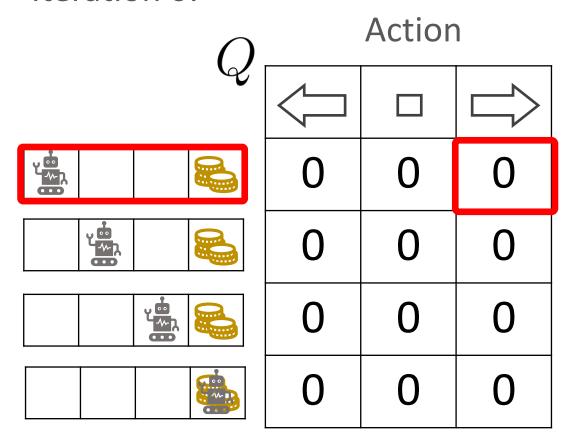


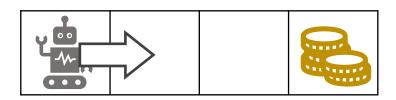


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

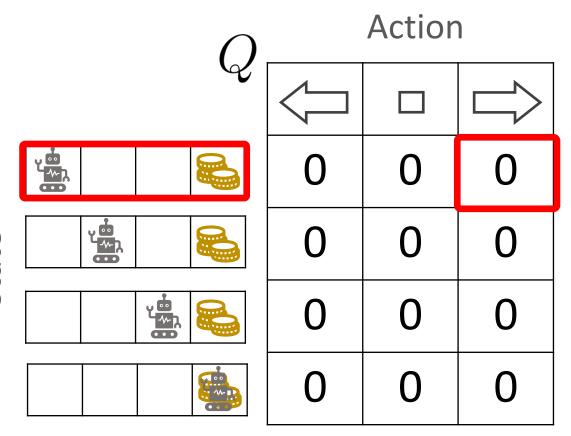


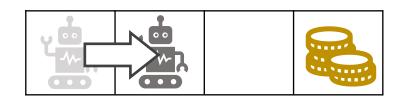


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:



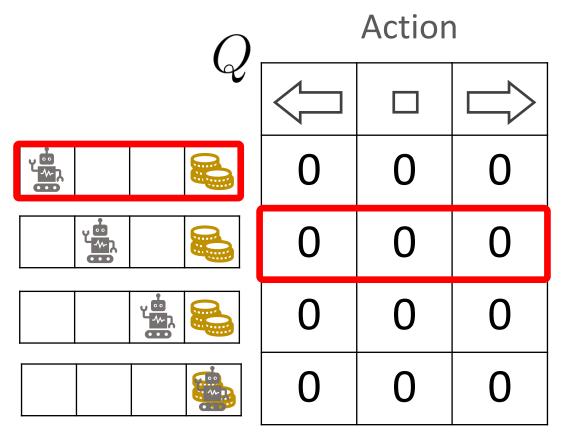


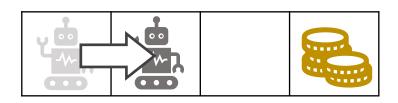
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:



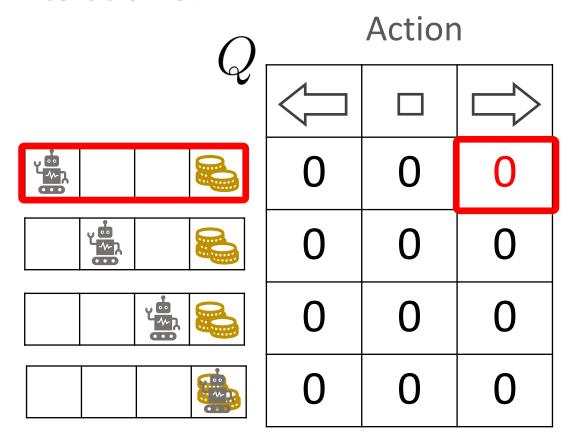


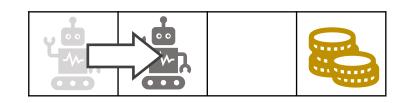
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 0$$

Iteration 0:

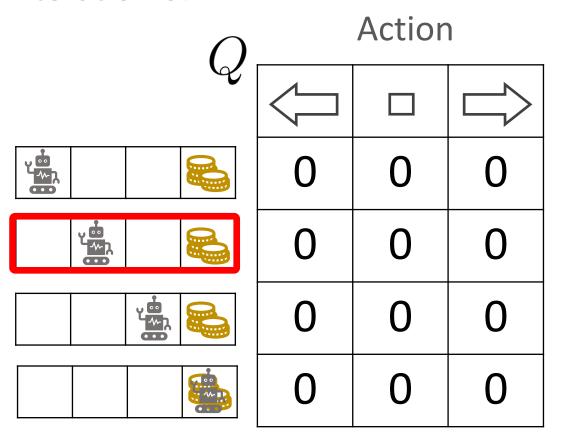


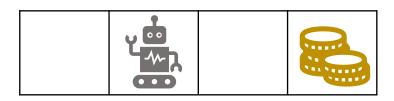


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

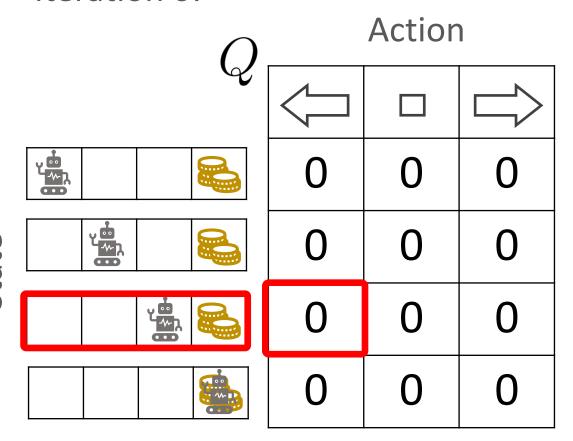


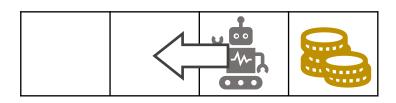


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

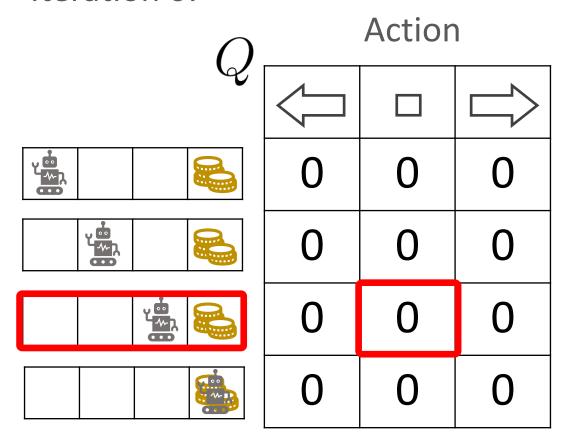


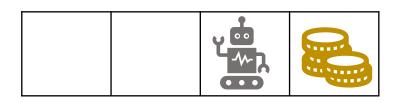


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

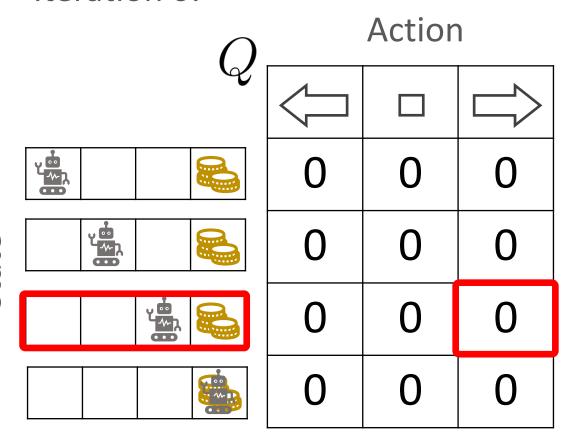


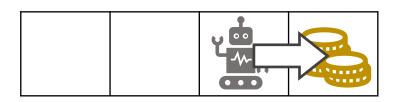


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

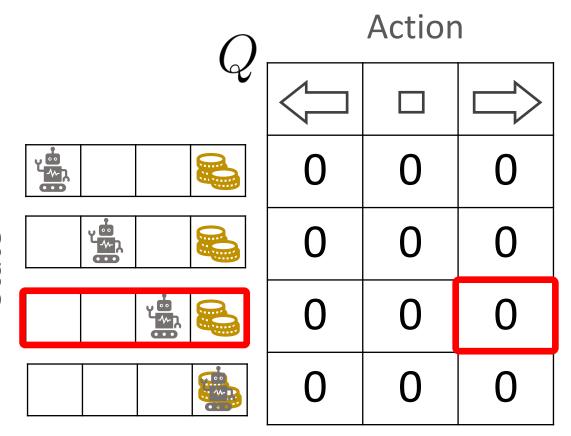


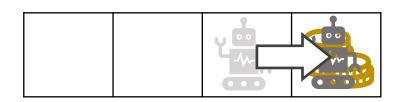


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:



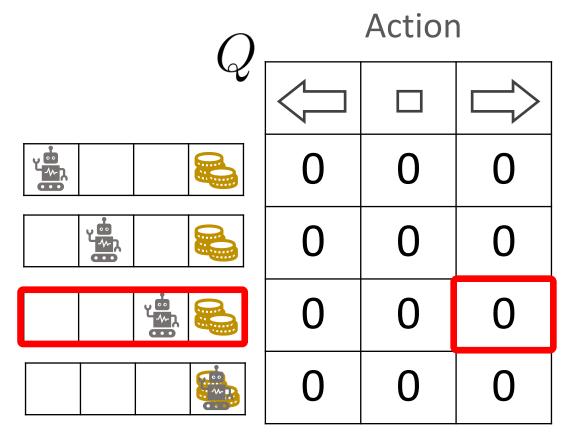


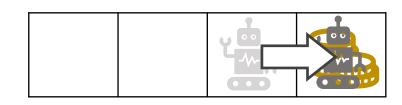
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 1 \qquad = 0$$

Iteration 0:



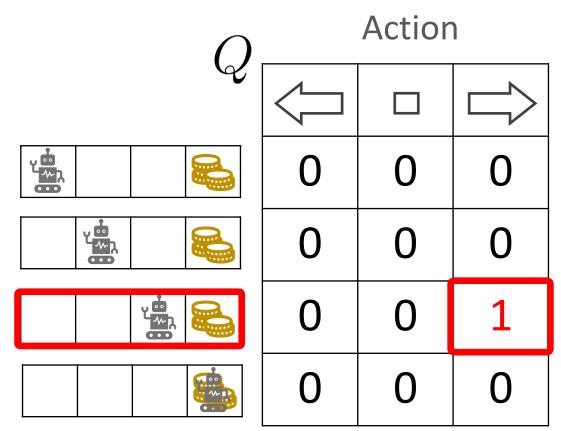


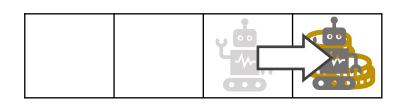
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 1 \qquad = 0$$

Iteration 0:

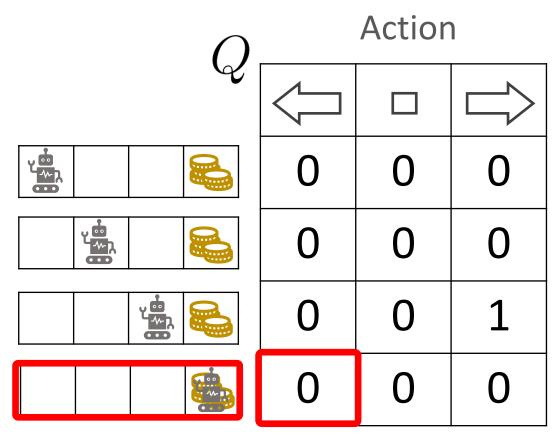


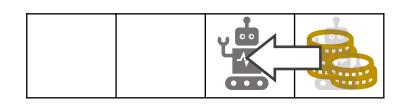


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:



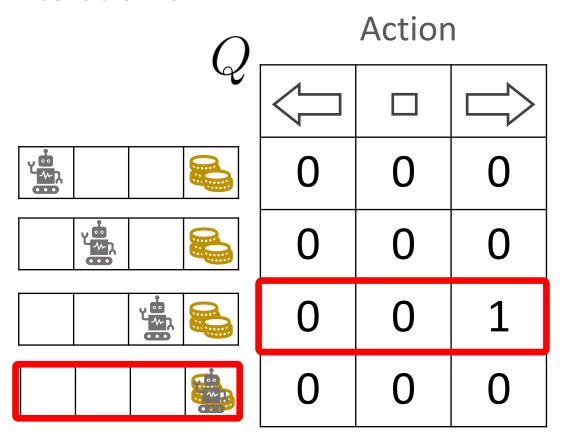


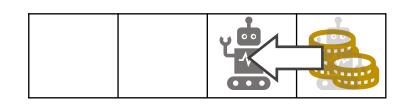
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 0:



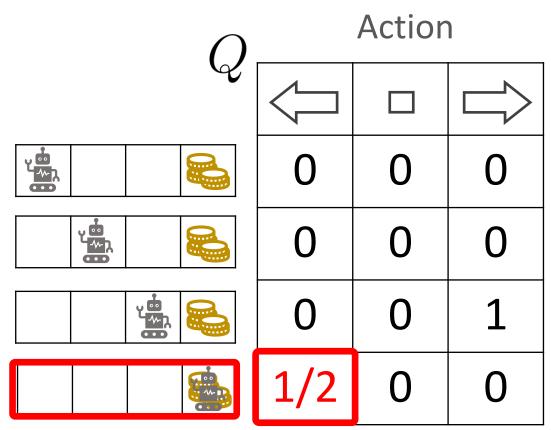


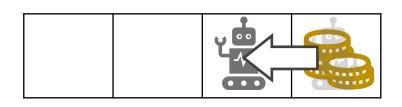
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 0:

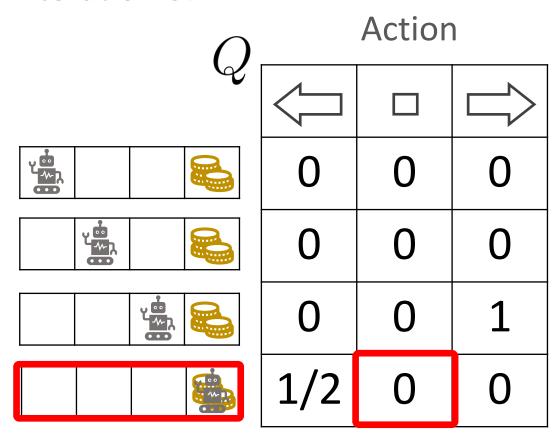


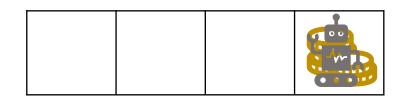


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

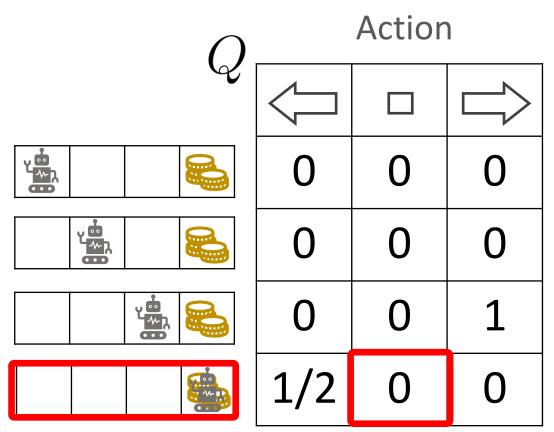




$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:



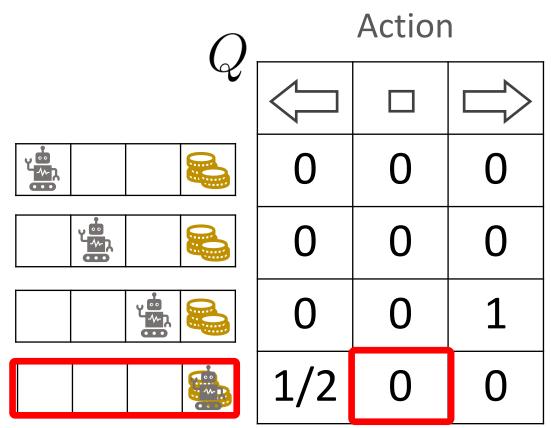


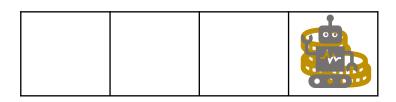
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 1$$

Iteration 0:



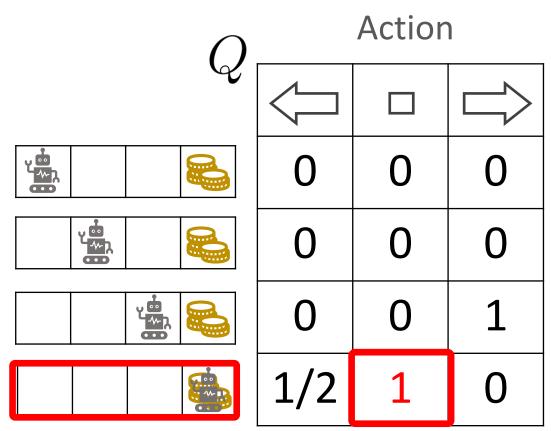


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 1 \qquad = 0$$

Iteration 0:

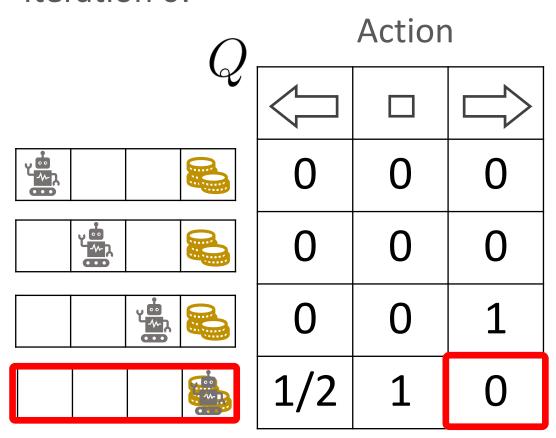


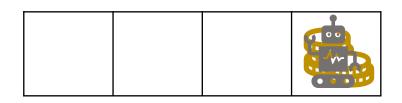


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:



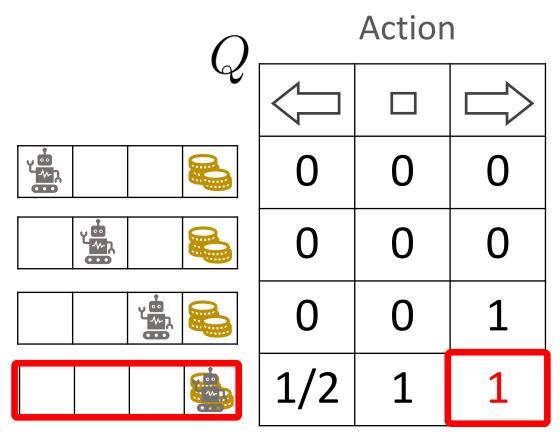


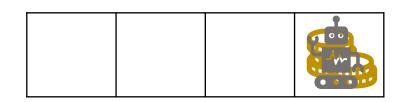
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$-1 = 0$$

Iteration 0:

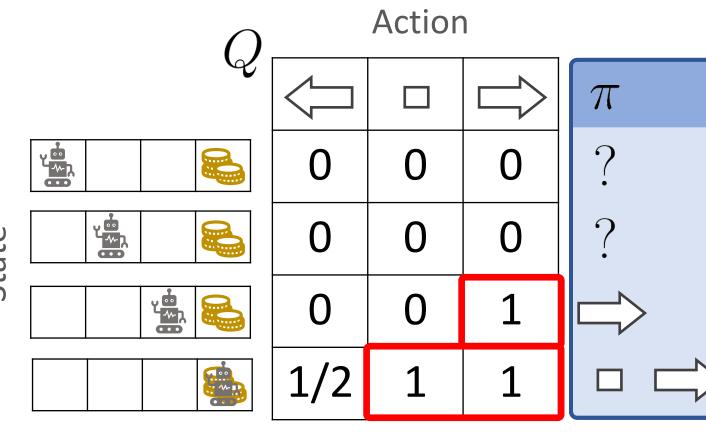




$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 0:

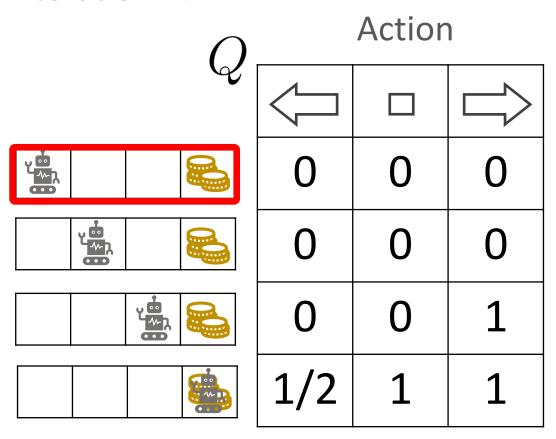


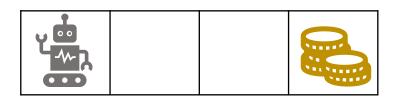


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 1:

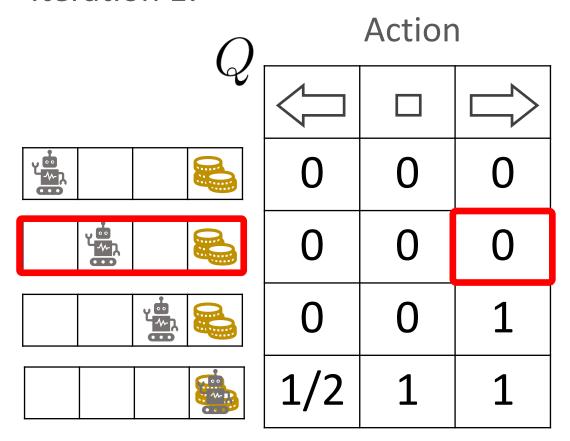


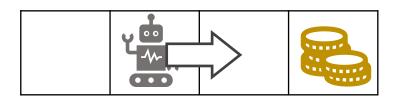


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 1:

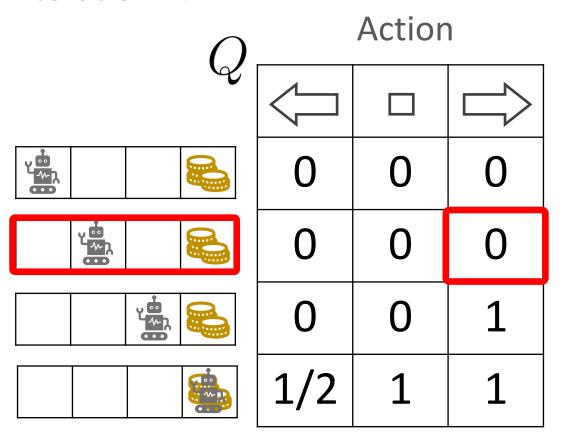


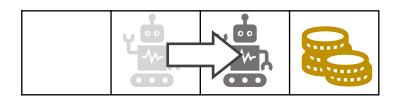


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 1:



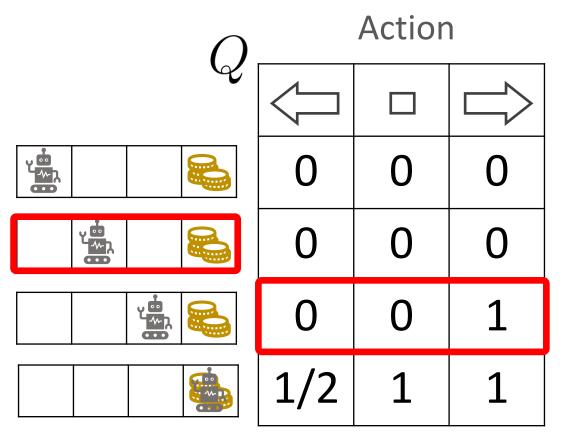


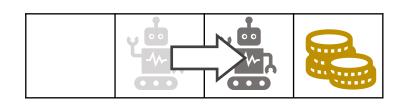
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 1:



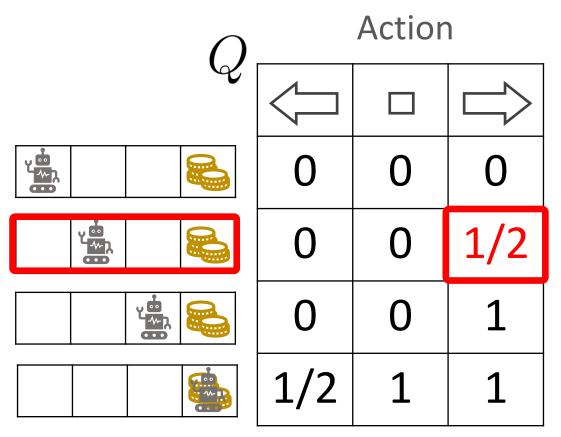


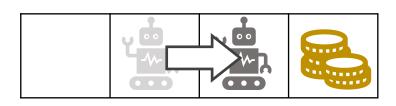
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 1:

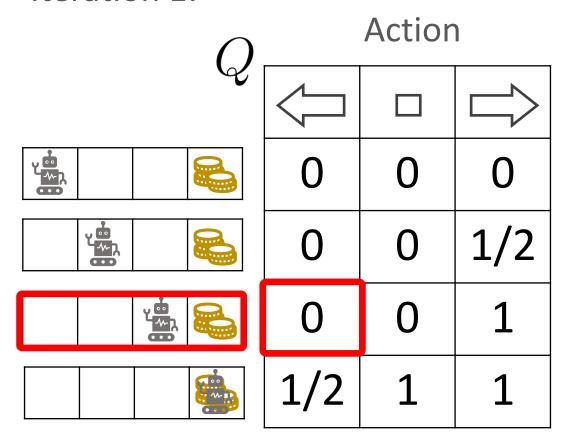


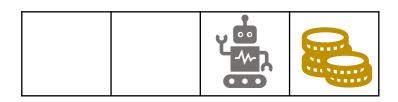


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) \right]$$

Iteration 1:

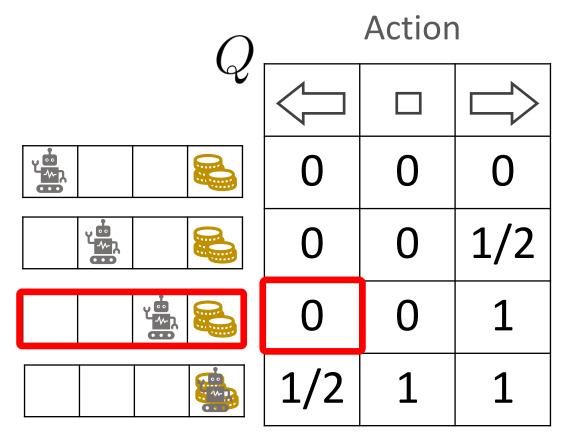


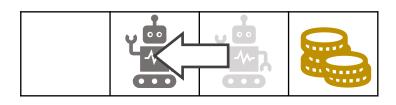


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s'}) + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} \left(Q^k(\mathbf{s'}, \mathbf{a'}) \right) \right]$$

Iteration 1:



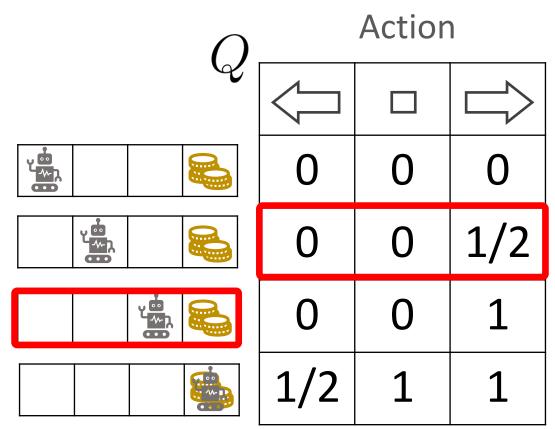


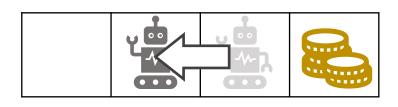
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$$= 0 \qquad = 1/2$$

Iteration 1:



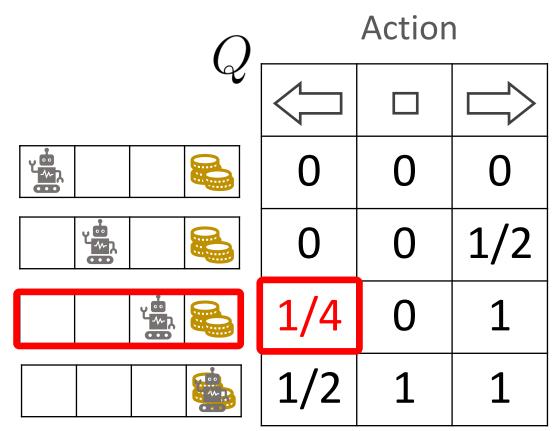


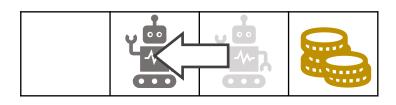
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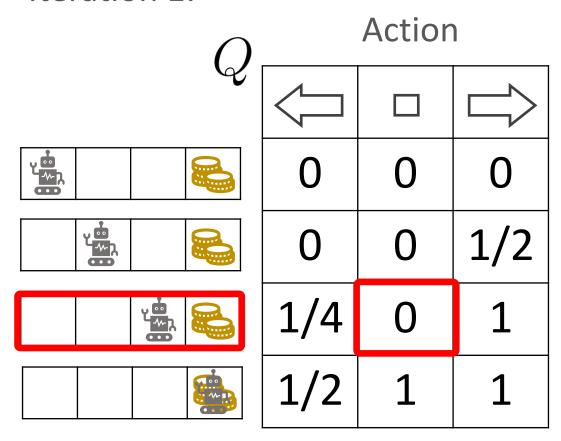


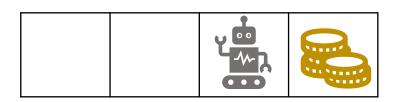


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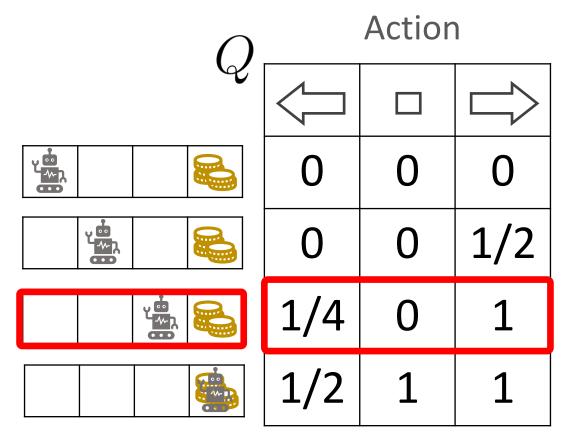


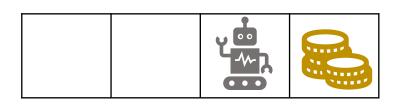
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

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$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 1:



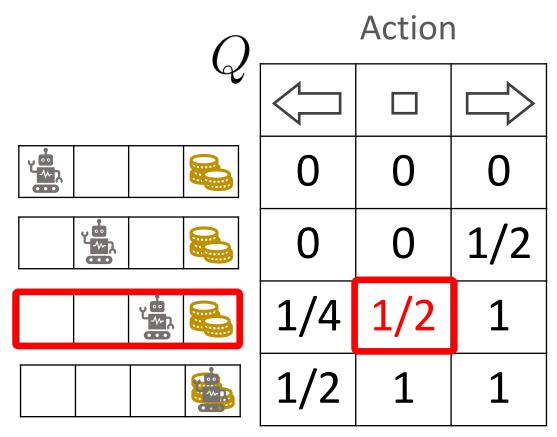


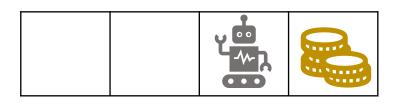
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$$= 0 = 1$$

Iteration 1:



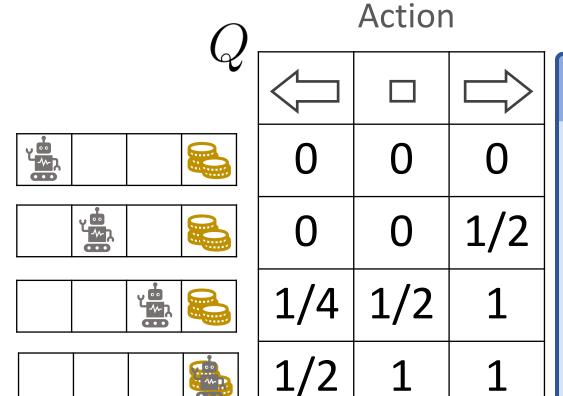


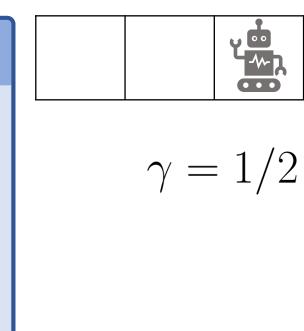
$$\gamma = 1/2$$

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$$= 0$$

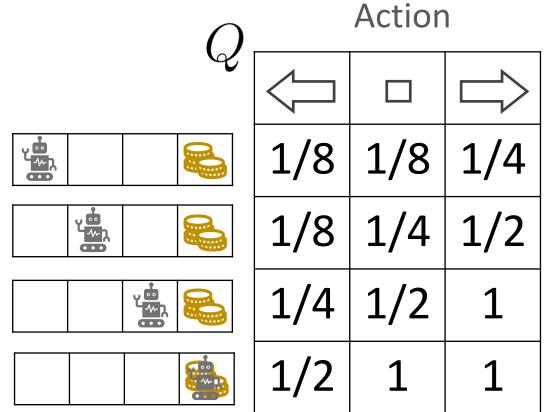
Iteration 1:



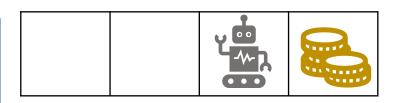


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Iteration k:



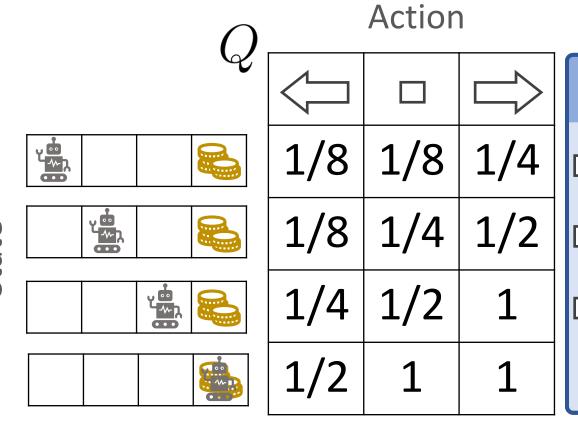
? \(\rightarrow \)

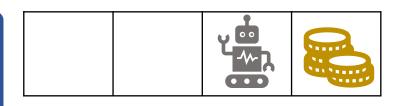


$$\gamma = 1/2$$

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Iteration k:

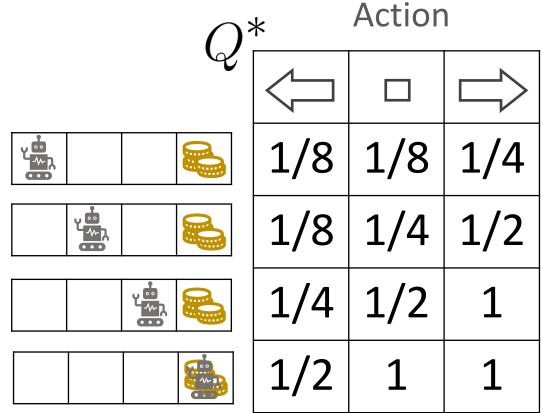


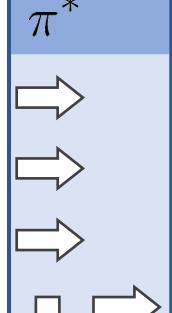


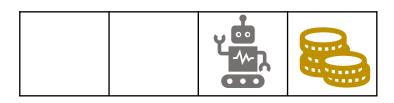
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Iteration k:







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In tabular setting:

- Every iteration leads to a better Q-function + policy
- Converges to optimal Q-function + policy

Limitations:

- Can only be applied to discrete states and actions
- Need to enumerate over all states and actions every iteration

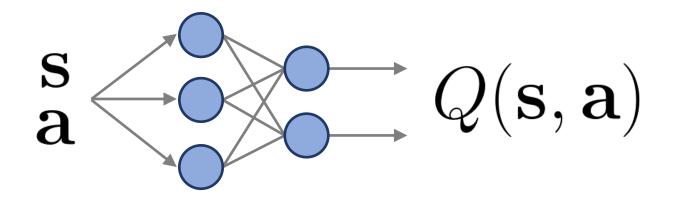
Large State Spaces

Observation:

- 64 x 64 image
- 8 bits per pixel
- $2^{8\times64\times64}$ different states!

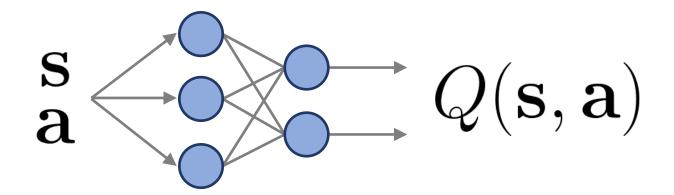


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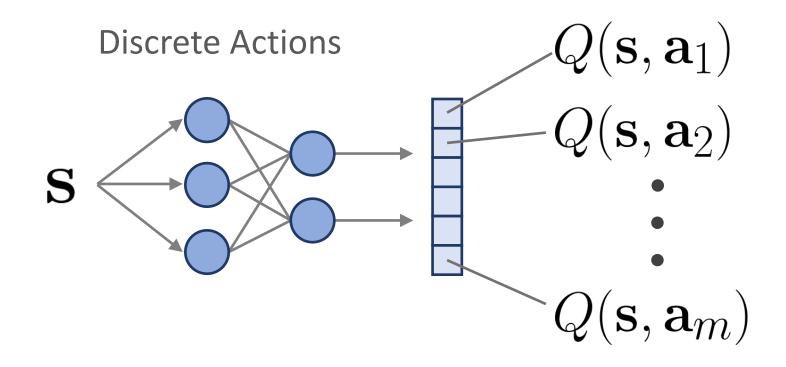


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Discrete Actions

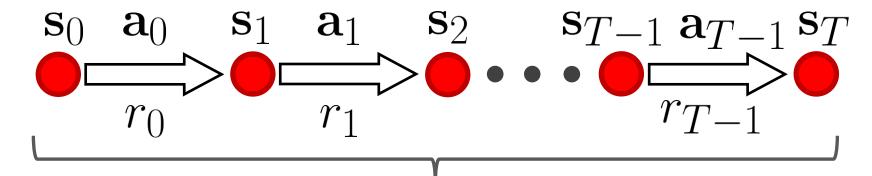


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$$Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \longrightarrow \pi^k(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})$$



$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i, r_i, \mathbf{s}_i')\}$$

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$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i, r_i, \mathbf{s}_i')\}$$

Compute target values for each sample i

$$y_i = r_i + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a'}} Q^k(\mathbf{s'_i}, \mathbf{a'})$$

Fit new Q-function

$$Q^{k+1} = \arg\min_{Q} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i, r_i, \mathbf{s}_i') \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[(y_i - Q(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i))^2 \right]$$
"Bellman error"

- 1: $Q^0 \leftarrow \text{initialize Q-function}$
- 2: $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \{\emptyset\}$ initialize dataset
- 3: **for** iteration k = 0, ..., n 1 **do**
- 4: Sample trajectory τ according to $Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$
- 5: Add transitions to dataset $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i, r_i, \mathbf{s}_i')\}$
- 6: Calculate target values for each sample *i*: $y_i = r_i + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} Q^k(\mathbf{s}'_i, \mathbf{a}')$
- 7: Update Q-function: $Q^{k+1} = \arg\min_{Q} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{s}_{i}, \mathbf{a}_{i}, \mathbf{r}_{i}, \mathbf{s}'_{i}) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[(y_{i} - Q(\mathbf{s}_{i}, \mathbf{a}_{i}))^{2} \right]$
- 8: end for
- 9: return Q^n

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ALGORITHM: Q-Learning

- 1: $Q^0 \leftarrow \text{initialize Q-function}$
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How to sample trajectories?

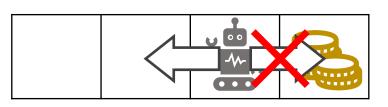
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Sampling

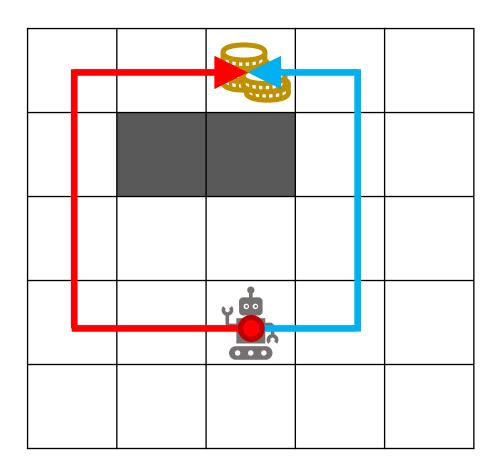
$$Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \Longrightarrow \pi^k(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})$$

$$\pi^{k}(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^{k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$





Need to try new actions in case they are better



Need to try new actions in case they are better



Keep going to the same restaurant



Try new restaurant

Need to try new actions in case they are better

$$\pi^{k}(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^{k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

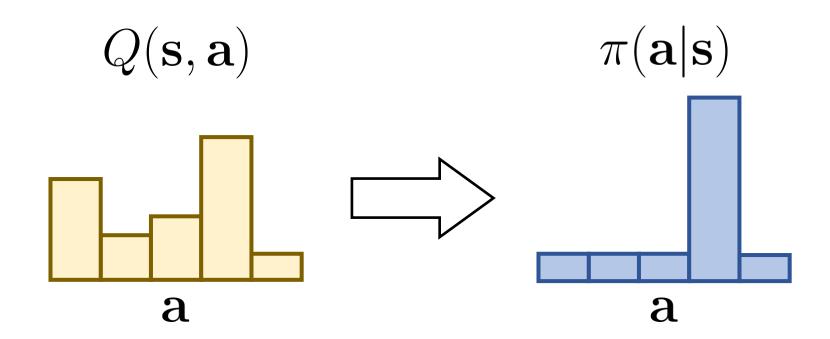
Need to try new actions in case they are better

$$\pi^{k}(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^{k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ \epsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ullet With probability $1-\epsilon$ exploit current best action
- ullet With probability ϵ explore new action by sampling a random action
- Start with $\epsilon=1$ and then anneal to lower value (e.g. $\epsilon \to 0.1$)

$$\pi^{k}(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} Q^{k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ \epsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\epsilon \to 1$$



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$$Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
 $\pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})$

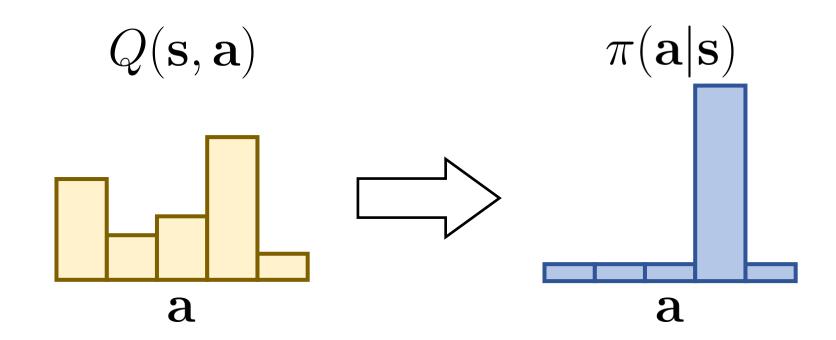
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$$\epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

$$Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
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$$\epsilon \to 0$$



Probability of an action is proportion to its "goodness"

$$\pi^k(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})\right)$$

where,

temperature parameters: $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$

normalization factor:
$$Z = \sum_{\mathbf{a'}} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'})\right)$$

$$\pi^k(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})\right)$$

$$\beta \to \infty$$

$$Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
 $\pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s})$

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$$Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
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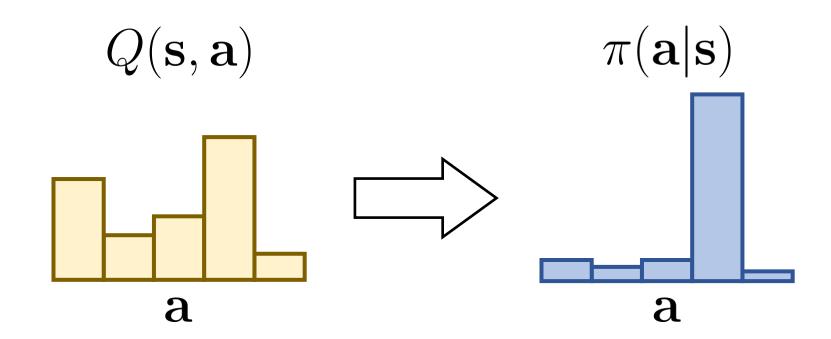
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$$\beta \to 0$$

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$$\pi^k(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})\right)$$

$$\beta \to 0$$



Testing

After training, test with greedy policy

$$\pi^{k}(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg\max_{\mathbf{a'}} \ Q^{k}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Q-Learning

ALGORITHM: Q-Learning

- 1: $Q^0 \leftarrow \text{initialize Q-function}$
- 2: $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \{\emptyset\}$ initialize dataset
- 3: **for** iteration k = 0, ..., n 1 **do**
- 4: Sample trajectory τ according to $Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$
- 5: Add transitions to dataset $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{(\mathbf{s}_i, \mathbf{a}_i, r_i, \mathbf{s}_i')\}$
- 6: Calculate target values for each sample *i*: $y_i = r_i + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} Q^k(\mathbf{s}'_i, \mathbf{a}')$
- 7: Update Q-function: $Q^{k+1} = \arg\min_{Q} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{s}_{i}, \mathbf{a}_{i}, \mathbf{r}_{i}, \mathbf{s}'_{i}) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[(y_{i} - Q(\mathbf{s}_{i}, \mathbf{a}_{i}))^{2} \right]$
- 8: end for
- 9: return Q^n

Q-Learning with Function Approximators

No improvement guarantees

$$Q^{k+1}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \times Q^k(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
 $J(\pi^{k+1}) \times J(\pi^k)$

No convergence guarantees

$$Q^k \longrightarrow Q^*$$

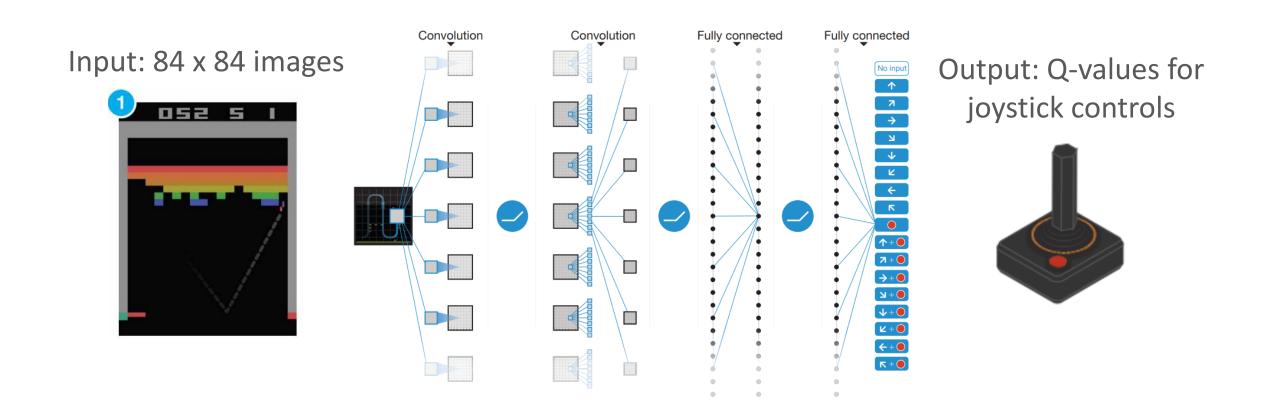
• But in practice, it works!

Deep Q-Networks (DQN)



Human-Level Control Through Deep Reinforcement Learning [Mnih et al. 2015]

Deep Q-Networks (DQN)



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Q-Learning

- **/**
- Often much more sample efficient than policy gradient
- ✓ Off-policy learning
- Limited to relatively small discrete action spaces
- X Does not directly optimize performance
 - Lower Bellman error ≠ better performance
- X No convergence guarantees with function approximators

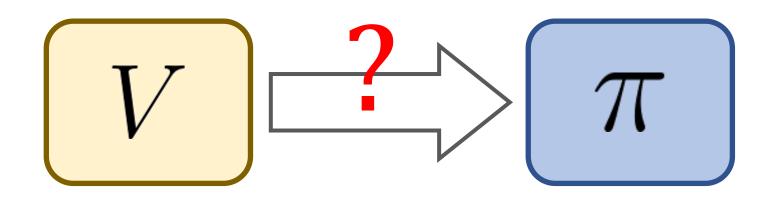
$$Q^{k+1} = \arg\min_{Q} \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, r, \mathbf{s}') \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[\left(\left(r + \gamma \max_{\mathbf{a}'} Q^k(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right) - Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) \right)^2 \right]$$

Intractable in large/continuous action spaces

Value Functions

$$\pi(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{s}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{a} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{a'}} Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a'}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

What about $V(\mathbf{s})$?

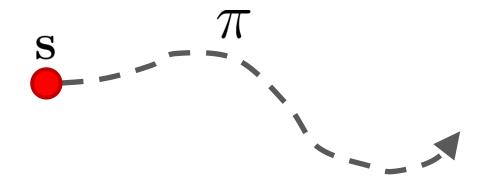


Value Functions

Value Function

"State Value Function"

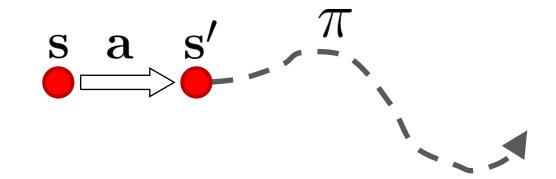
$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$



Q-Function

"State-Action Value Function"

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right] \qquad Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$

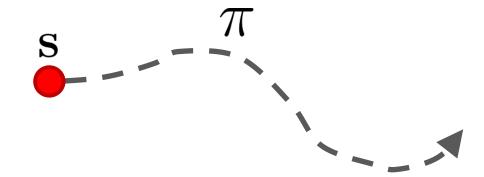


Value Functions

Value Function

"State Value Function"

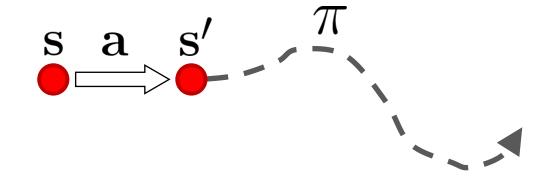
$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$



Q-Function

"State-Action Value Function"

$$V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right] \qquad Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau \mid \pi, \mathbf{s}_0 = \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}_0 = \mathbf{a})} \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t \right]$$

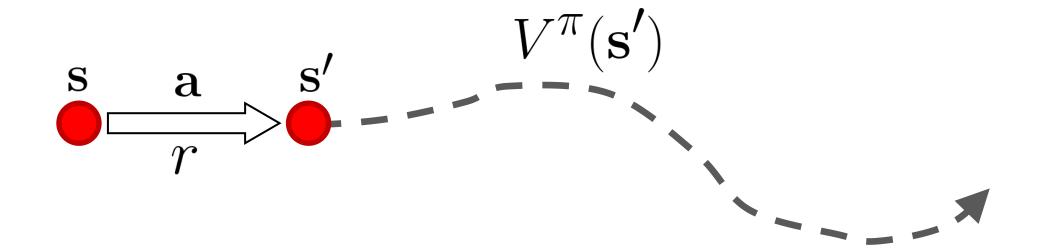


Recursive definition

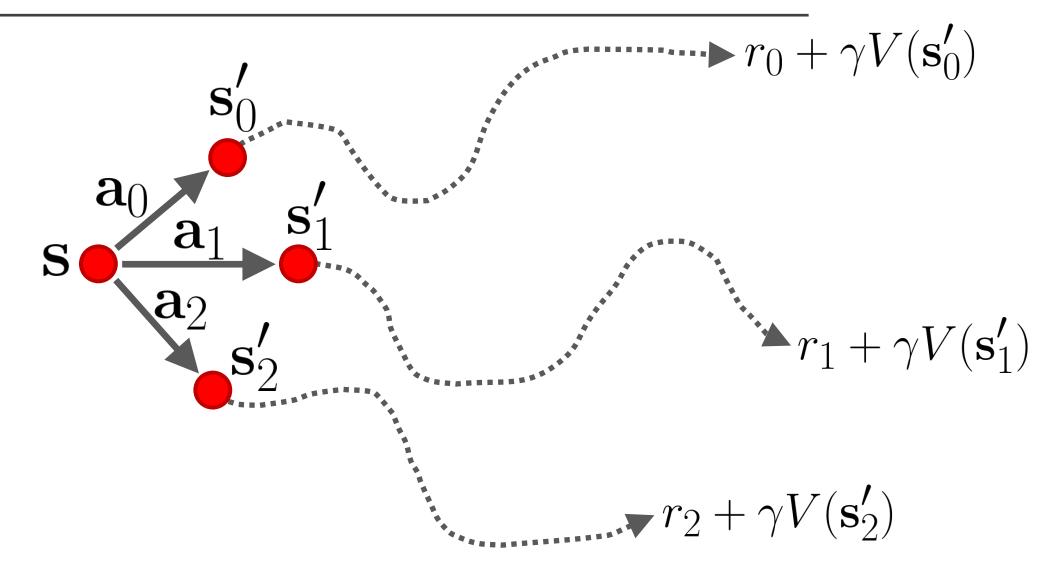
$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$

Recursive definition

$$Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{a}' \sim \pi(\mathbf{a}'|\mathbf{s}')} \left[Q^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{a}') \right] \right]$$
$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s}' \sim p(\mathbf{s}'|\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s}') + \gamma V^{\pi}(\mathbf{s}') \right]$$



Value Function



Value Function

Value-function:

$$\max_{\mathbf{a}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a})} \underbrace{ \begin{bmatrix} r(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a},\mathbf{s'}) + \gamma V(\mathbf{s'}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Need access to}}$$

Value Function

Value-function:

$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{a}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{s'} \sim p(\mathbf{s'}|\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a})} \left[r(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{a},\mathbf{s'}) + \gamma V(\mathbf{s'}) \right]$$

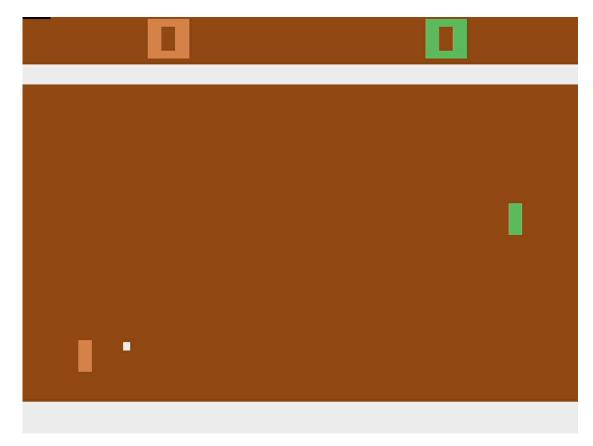
Q-function:

$$\operatorname{arg\ max} Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})$$
 \mathbf{a}
Do not need dynamics

Summary

- Q-Function
- Q-Learning
- Exploration

Assignment 3: Q-Learning



Pong



Breakout