

## Reinforcement Learning

### Introduction to Dynamic Programming

#### What is Dynamic Programming ??

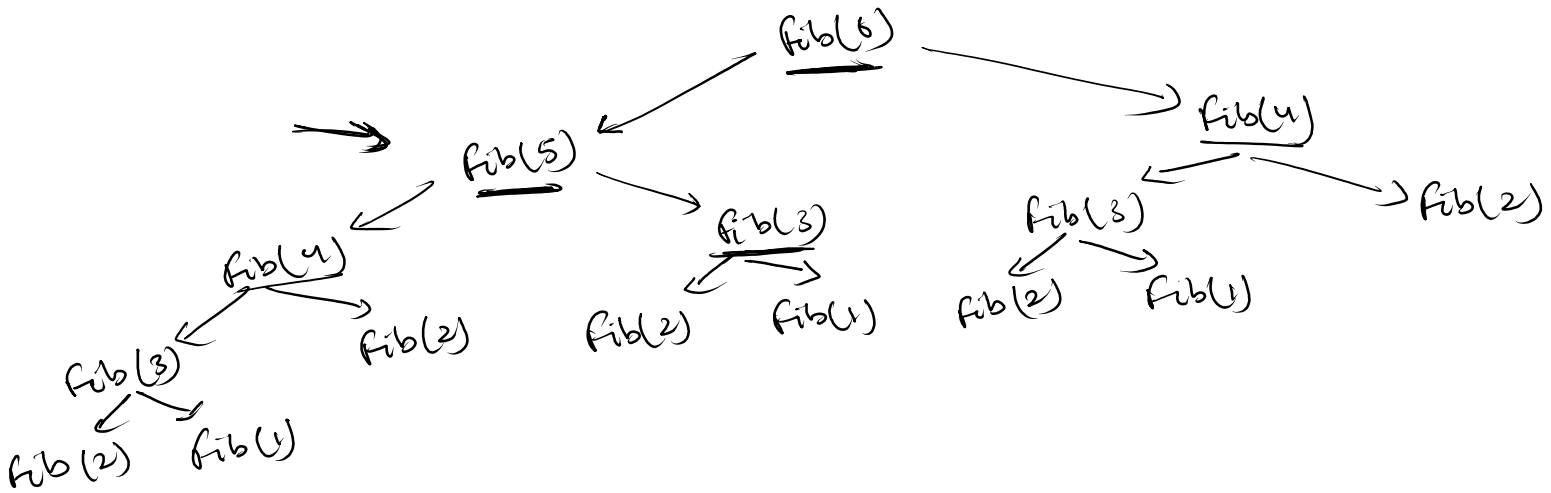
$$k_{th} \rightarrow \text{Fib}(k)$$

$$\text{Fib}(1) = 1$$

$$\text{Fib}(2) = 1$$

$$\text{Fib}(3) = 2$$

$$\underline{\text{Fib}(n)} = \underline{\text{Fib}(n-1)} + \underline{\text{Fib}(n-2)}$$



Dynamic programming for solving RL problems:

model based  
methods

Optimal policy.

perfect model of the environment

→  $p(s', r | s, a)$

## Reinforcement Learning Policy Evaluation

- Policy Evaluation (Prediction) -
- Policy Improvement (Control) -

$$\pi \rightarrow v_{\pi}$$

### Policy Evaluation using DP

Bellman equation for  $v_{\pi}$ :

$$v_{\pi}(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_{\pi}(s')]$$

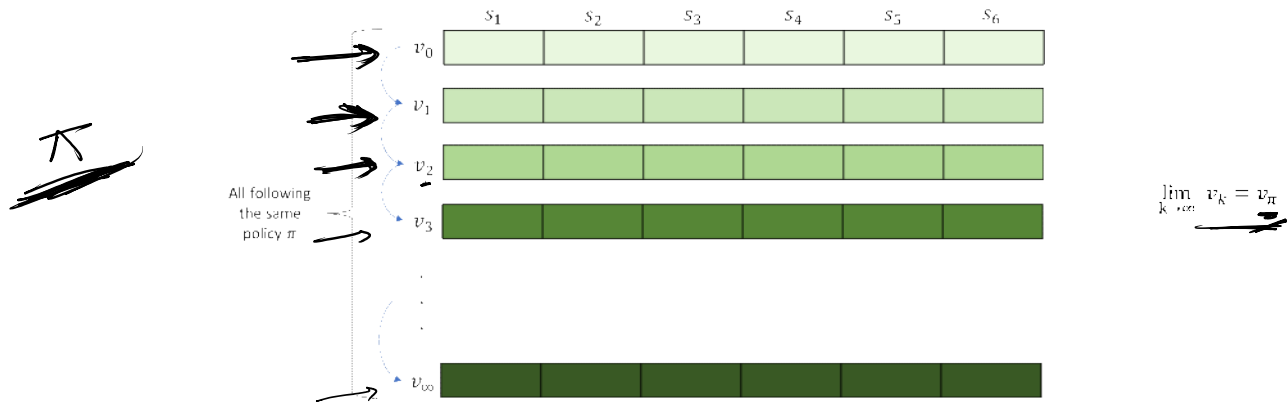
$$\pi \rightarrow v_{\pi}$$

Update equation for policy evaluation:

$$v_{k+1}(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_k(s')]$$

$$v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$$

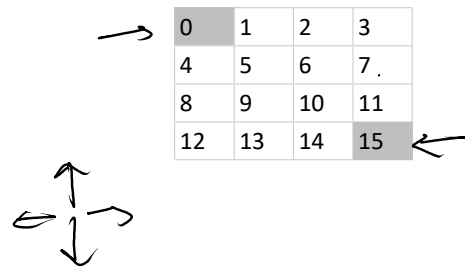
$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} v_k = v_{\pi}$$



### Gridworld example

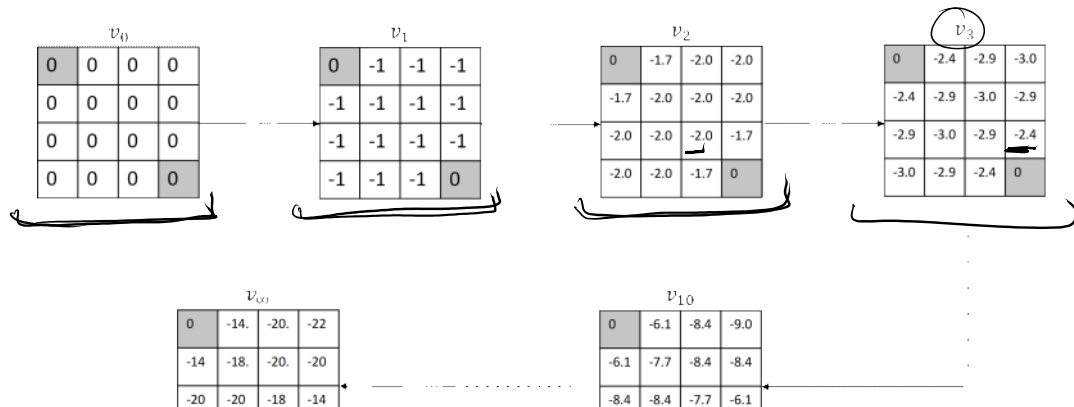
- State 0 and 15 are the terminal states.
- Agent is allowed to move UP, RIGHT, DOWN and LEFT.
- Each action deterministically cause the state transitions, except that actions which would take our agent off the grid, in such case the state remains unchanged.
- Reward of -1 on all transitions.
- Undiscounted and episodic.
- Policy to be evaluated is the equiprobable policy:

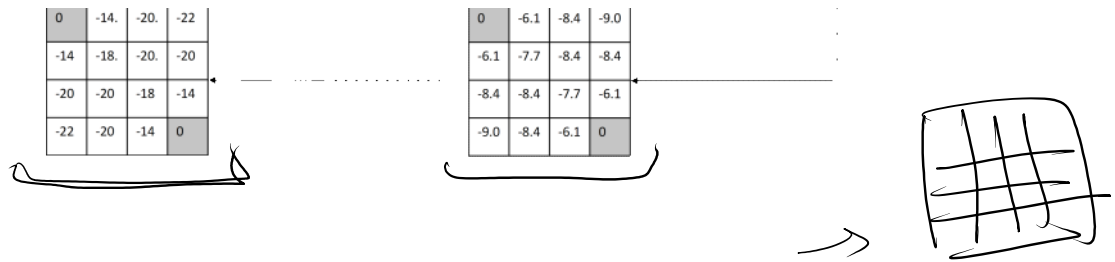
$$\pi(UP|s) = \pi(RIGHT|s) = \pi(DOWN|s) = \pi(LEFT|s) = 0.25 \forall s \in S$$



$$\frac{1}{4} \times 1 \times [-1 + (-2.0)] + \frac{1}{4} \times 1 \times [-1 + (-2.0)] + \frac{1}{4} \times 1 \times [-1 + (-1.7)] + \frac{1}{4} \times 1 \times [-1 + 0]$$

$$= -2.4$$





### Policy Evaluation using DP (Algorithm)

**Iterative Policy Evaluation, for estimating  $V \approx v_\pi$**

Input  $\pi$ , the policy to be evaluated  
 Algorithm parameter: a small threshold  $\theta > 0$  determining accuracy of estimation  
 Initialize  $V(s)$ , for all  $s \in \mathcal{S}^+$ , arbitrarily except that  $V(\text{terminal}) = 0$

Loop:  
 $\Delta \leftarrow 0$   
 Loop for each  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ :  
 $v \leftarrow V(s)$   
 $\rightarrow V(s) \leftarrow \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma V(s')] \leftarrow$   
 $\Delta \leftarrow \max(\Delta, |v - V(s)|)$   
 until  $\Delta < \theta$

## Reinforcement Learning

### Policy Improvement

$$\underline{\pi} \rightarrow v_{\pi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi' &\geq \pi \\ v_{\pi'}(s) &\geq v_{\pi}(s) \quad \forall s. \end{aligned}$$

$$s \quad \pi(s) = \underline{a} \quad v_{\pi}(s).$$

$$q_{\pi}(s, a') = \sum_{s', r} p(s', r | s, a') [r + \gamma v_{\pi}(s)]$$

### Policy Improvement Theorem:

Let  $\pi$  and  $\pi'$  be any pair of deterministic policies s.t.,

$$q_{\pi}(s, \pi'(s)) \geq v_{\pi}(s) \quad \forall s \in S$$

Then  $\pi' \geq \pi$ , that is,

$$v_{\pi'}(s) \geq v_{\pi}(s) \quad \forall s \in S$$

$$\pi \leq \pi'$$

$$q_{\pi}(s, a') > \frac{v_{\pi}(s)}{q_{\pi}(s, a)} \rightarrow \pi(s).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi' &\pi'(s) = a' \quad \pi(s) = a \\ \pi' &\geq \pi \end{aligned}$$

Policy  $\pi'$  is greedy wrt the value function of previous policy, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi'(s) &= \operatorname{argmax}_a q_{\pi}(s, a) \\ &= \operatorname{argmax}_a \sum_{s', r} p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma v_{\pi}(s)] \end{aligned}$$

When the new policy  $\pi'$  is as good as the previous policy  $\pi$ , then  $v_\pi = v_{\pi'}$ , hence

$$\begin{aligned} v_{\pi'}(s) &= \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_\pi(s)] \\ &= \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_{\pi'}(s)] \end{aligned}$$

$$v_*(s) \approx \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_*(s)]$$

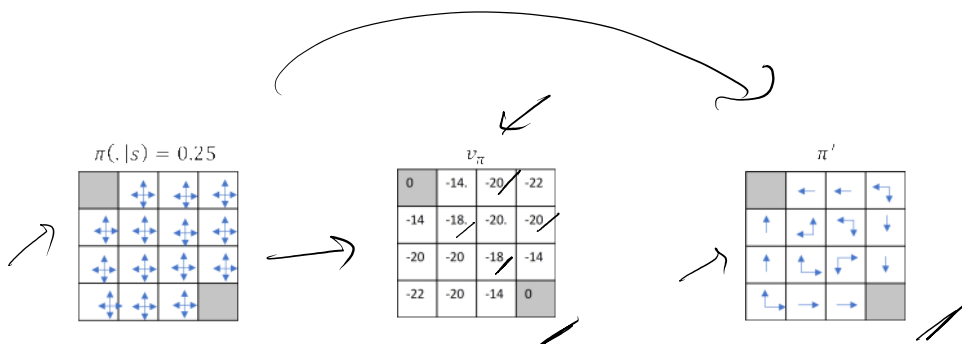
$$v_{\pi'} \approx v_*$$

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0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15

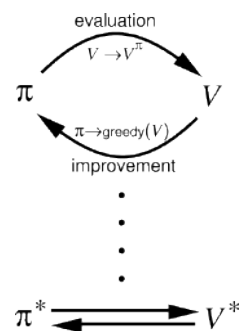
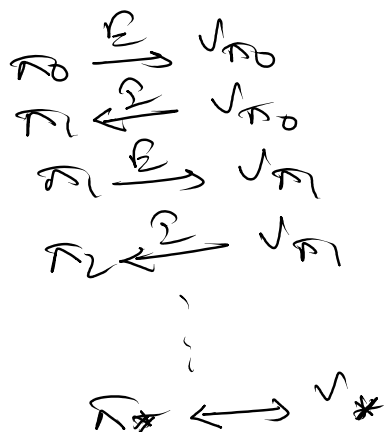
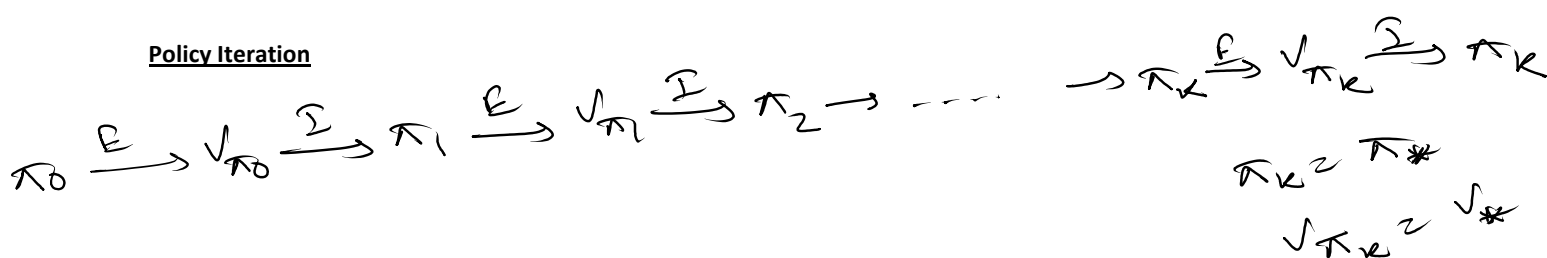


# Policy Iteration

Saturday, March 21, 2020 10:57 PM

## Reinforcement Learning Policy Iteration

### Policy Iteration



Generalized policy iteration.

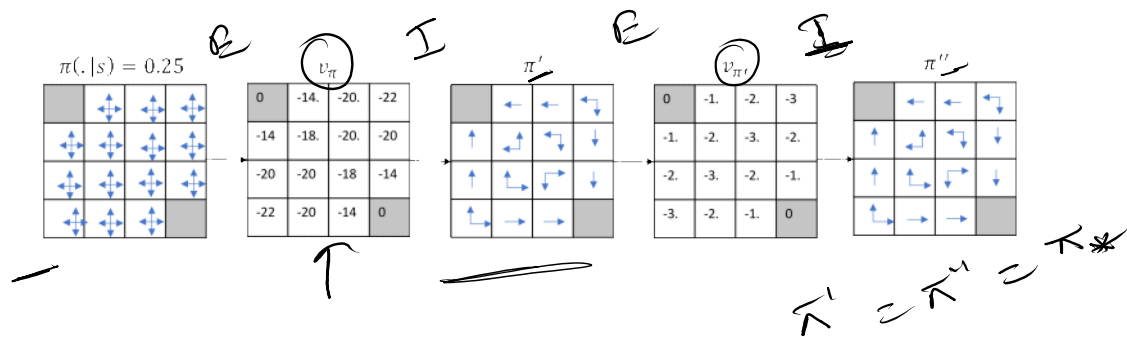


## Gridworld example

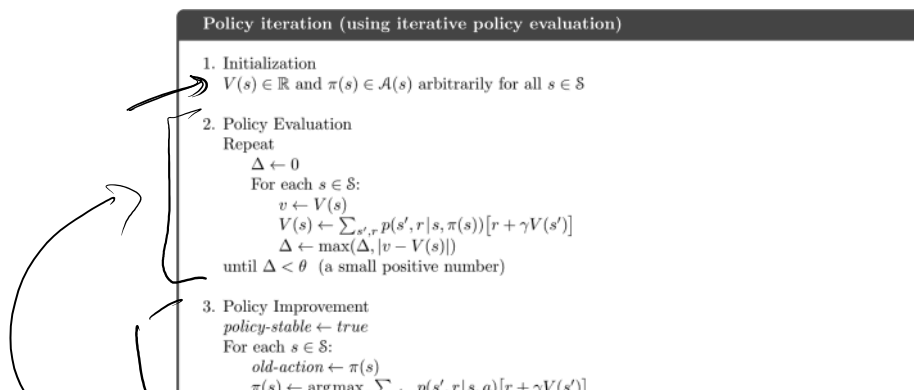
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## Policy Iteration Algorithm



3. Policy Improvement

$policy\_stable \leftarrow true$

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

$old\_action \leftarrow \pi(s)$

$\pi(s) \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_a \sum_{s', r} p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma V(s')]$

If  $old\_action \neq \pi(s)$ , then  $policy\_stable \leftarrow false$

If  $policy\_stable$ , then stop and return  $V \approx v_*$  and  $\pi \approx \pi_*$ ; else go to 2

## Reinforcement Learning

### Value Iteration

#### Value Iteration:

Value iteration update rule:

$$v_{k+1}(s) = \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_k(s')] \quad \forall s \in S$$

$$v_*(s) = \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma v_*(s')]$$

Handwritten notes below the equation include  $v_k$ ,  $v_{k+1}$ , and three small diagrams of a 2x2 grid world state.

#### Policy iteration (using iterative policy evaluation)

1. Initialization  
 $V(s) \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\pi(s) \in \mathcal{A}(s)$  arbitrarily for all  $s \in S$
2. Policy Evaluation  
 Repeat  
 $\Delta \leftarrow 0$   
 For each  $s \in S$ :  
 $v \leftarrow V(s)$   
 $V(s) \leftarrow \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,\pi(s)) [r + \gamma V(s')]$   
 $\Delta \leftarrow \max(\Delta, |v - V(s)|)$   
 until  $\Delta < \theta$  (a small positive number)
3. Policy Improvement  
 $\text{policy-stable} \leftarrow \text{true}$   
 For each  $s \in S$ :  
 $\text{old-action} \leftarrow \pi(s)$   
 $\pi(s) \leftarrow \arg\max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma V(s')]$   
 If  $\text{old-action} \neq \pi(s)$ , then  $\text{policy-stable} \leftarrow \text{false}$   
 If  $\text{policy-stable}$ , then stop and return  $V \approx v_*$  and  $\pi \approx \pi_*$ ; else go to 2

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## Value iteration algorithm

### Value iteration

Initialize array  $V$  arbitrarily (e.g.,  $V(s) = 0$  for all  $s \in S^+$ )

Repeat

$\Delta \leftarrow 0$

For each  $s \in S$ :

$v \leftarrow V(s)$

$\rightarrow V(s) \leftarrow \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma V(s')]$

$\Delta \leftarrow \max(\Delta, |v - V(s)|)$

until  $\Delta < \theta$  (a small positive number)

Output a deterministic policy,  $\pi \approx \pi_*$ , such that

$\pi(s) = \arg \max_a \sum_{s',r} p(s',r|s,a) [r + \gamma V(s')]$

optimal value function.  
greedy  
optimal policy.

$E \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$

optimal policy.

$E \rightarrow \Sigma$   
Optimal function  $\longrightarrow$  Optimal policy.

## Efficiency of DP

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:41 PM

### Reinforcement Learning Efficiency of DP based methods

$|S|$

$|A|$

$\begin{bmatrix} |A| & |S| \end{bmatrix}$

$P$