# Multi-step RL: Unifying Algorithm

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November 4, 2017

#### Overview

- Introduction
- From Monte Carlo and one-step TD to multi-step Bootstrapping
- Algorithm
- Conclusion

## Results



## Monte Carlo methods

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# One-step TD methods

# *n*-step TD methods

# $Q(\sigma)$ algorithm

```
Initialize S_0 \neq terminal

Select A_0 according to \pi(.|S_0)

Store S_0, A_0, Q(S_0, A_0)

for t = 0, \dots, T + n - 1 do

if t < T then

Take Action A_t, observe R and store S_{t+1}

end if
```

# Intuition and Examples



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# **Synopsis**

- ullet  $Q(\sigma)$  unifies n-step Sarsa and Tree-backup
- $Q(\sigma)|_{\sigma=0}$  is Tree-backup
- $Q(\sigma)|_{\sigma=1}$  is *n*-step Sarsa



#### References



Kristopher De Asis, J. Fernando Hernandez-Garcia, G. Zacharias Holland, Richard S. Sutton.

Multi-step Reinforcement Learning: A Unifying Algorithm. arXiv, 3 Mar 2017.



Richard S. Sutton, Andrew G. Barto.

Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction.

MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 19 Jun 2017 Draft.



# The End

