

## The link between an optimal value and policy

In an optimal Q-Table we also have an optimal policy because we know what is the best action to take in each state.

$$\pi^*(s) = \arg \max_a Q^*(s, a)$$

But, in the beginning, our Q-table is useless since it gives arbitrary values.

As the agent explores the environment and we update the Q-table, it will give us better and better approximations to the optimal policy.

### Q-Learning algorithm

Input: policy  $\pi$ , num-episodes,  $\alpha$ ,  $GLIE(\epsilon)$

Output: Value function  $Q$

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Initialize Q-table (all 0's)

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to num-episodes do

$\epsilon \leftarrow \epsilon_i$

Observe  $S_0$

$t \leftarrow 0$

repeat

Choose action  $A_t$  using policy derived from  $Q$  ( $\epsilon$ -greedy)

Take action  $A_t$  and observe  $R_{t+1}$ ,  $S_{t+1}$

$Q(S_t, A_t) \leftarrow Q(S_t, A_t) + \alpha(\dots)$  (update state-action pair)

$t \leftarrow t + 1$

until  $S_t$  is terminal

end

return  $Q$