

## Q 2 :

- Bellman eq for  $m$ :

$$Q_m^* = \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) [R(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q_m^*(s', a')]$$

- Bellman eq for  $m'$ :

$$Q_{m'}^* = \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) [R'(s, a, s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q_{m'}^*(s', a')]$$

Plug in  $a'$  as  $a$

$$= \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) [R(s, a, s') + \phi(s) - \gamma \phi(s') + \gamma \max_{a'} Q_{m'}^*(s', a')]$$

$$= \sum_{s'} P(s|s, a) R(s, a, s') + \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \phi(s) - \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \phi(s') + \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \max_{a'} Q_{m'}^*(s', a')$$

$\phi(s)$  is independent of  $s'$

$$= \sum_{s'} P(s|s, a) R(s, a, s') + \phi(s) \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) - \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \phi(s') + \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \max_{a'} Q_{m'}^*(s', a')$$

$\sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) = 1$

$$= \sum_{s'} P(s|s, a) R(s, a, s') + \phi(s) \cdot 1 - \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \phi(s') + \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \max_{a'} Q_{m'}^*(s', a')$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_{m'}^*(s, a) = Q_m^*(s, a) + \underbrace{\phi(s) - \gamma \sum_{s'} P(s'|s, a) \phi(s')}_{=0}$$

Since this term is a state dependent and independent of  $a$ , it does not affect on the selection of the optimal policy.

$\Rightarrow$  The optimal policy for  $m$  and  $m'$  are identical //

Q 4:

1) - from the starting position  $(b, 1)$  the legal moves are:

$(b, 1) \rightarrow (a, 3)$

$(c, 3)$

$(d, 2)$

- to return to  $(b, 1)$  after 2 steps the knight must move to a position which it can return to  $(b, 1)$ , possible moves are:

$(a, 3) \rightarrow (b, 1)$

$(c, 3) \rightarrow (b, 1)$

$(d, 2) \rightarrow (b, 1)$

- So, initially the knight has 3 legal moves

- from each it can return to  $(b, 1)$

$$\Rightarrow P = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{8} \cdot 3 = \frac{1}{8} //$$

2) - the markov chain is irreducible since its possible to get from any state to any other,  
for the knight it can eventually get to any square from any starting position.

- the Markov chain is periodic since the knight can return to any square every "pair" steps (8 odd moves), thus the biggest divisor is 2, thus periodic with  $T=2$

3) the mean recurrence time  $T_i$  to a state  $i$  is the reciprocal of the stationary distribution  $\pi_i$  so that state

- let  $d_i$  be the degree of vertex  $i$ .
- since the knight moves randomly  
 $P_i = 1/d_i$   $P_i \leftarrow$  transition probability

- in irreducible Markov chain

$$1. \quad \overline{11}_j = \frac{1_j}{\sum 1_i}$$

$$2. \quad m_i = 1/\pi_i$$

- for a corner  $\ell_{\text{corner}} = d$ ,  $\sum_i d_i = 336$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_{\text{corner}} = 1/168$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{m = 108}$$