

## 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  $s'$

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

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

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

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 state every "pair" steps (e.g. 15 to 20), 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  $\pi_i$  for that state

Since the knight spends an equal amount of time on each square:

$$\pi_i = 1/64 \quad \forall i$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$T_{\text{corner}} = \frac{1}{\pi_{\text{corner}}} = 64$$