

CSE 5525 Artificial Intelligence II
Homework #3: MDPs and Reinforcement Learning
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Your Name: _____ OSU ID: _____

1 Blackjack

In this question, you will play a simplified version of blackjack where the deck is infinite and the dealer always has a fixed count of 15. The deck contains cards 2 through 10, J , Q , K , and A , each of which is equally likely to appear when a card is drawn. Each number card is worth the number of points shown on it, the cards J , Q , and K are worth 10 points, and A is worth 11. At each turn, you may either *hit* or *stay*. If you choose to hit, you receive no immediate reward and are dealt an additional card. If you stay, you receive a reward of 0 if your current point total is exactly 15, +10 if it is higher than 15 but not higher than 21, and -10 otherwise (i.e. lower than 15 or larger than 21). After taking the *stay* action, the game enters a terminal state *end* and ends. A total of 22 or higher is referred to as a *bust*; from a bust, you can only choose the action *stay*. As your state space you take the set $\{0, 2, \dots, 21, \text{bust}, \text{end}\}$ indicating point totals, “bust” if your point total exceeds 21, and “end” for the end of the game.

Questions:

1) Suppose you have performed k iterations of value iteration. Compute $V_{k+1}(12)$ given the partial table below for $V_k(s)$. Give your answer in terms of the discount γ as a variable. Note: do not worry about whether the listed V_k values could actually result from this MDP!

s	$V_k(s)$
13	2
14	10
15	10
16	10
17	10
18	10
19	10
20	10
21	10
bust	-10
end	0

$$V_{k+1}(12) = ?$$

2) You suspect that the cards do not actually appear with equal probability and decide to use Q -learning instead of value iteration. Given the partial table of initial Q -values below, fill in the partial table of Q -values on the right after the following episode occurred. Assume a learning rate of 0.5 and a discount factor of 1. The initial portion of the episode has been omitted. Leave blank any values which Q -learning does not update.

Initial values

s	a	$Q(s, a)$
19	hit	-2
19	stay	5
20	hit	-4
20	stay	7
21	hit	-6
21	stay	8
bust	stay	-8

Episode

s	a	r	s	a	r	s	a	r
19	hit	0	21	hit	0	bust	stay	-10

Updated values ?

s	a	$Q(s, a)$
19	hit	
19	stay	
20	hit	
20	stay	
21	hit	
21	stay	
bust	stay	