

Value-Based Model Free RL

Last Time

- Policy Optimization ← Cross Entropy
- Policy Gradient
- Tricks for Policy Gradient
 - log-derivative
 - Causality
 - baseline subtraction

Map

Map

Model
Based

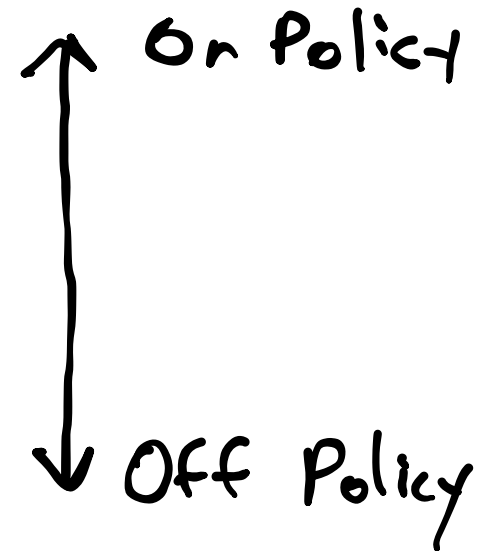
Model
Free



Map

Model
Based

Model
Free



Map

Model
Based

Model
Free



ML MBTRL
(learn T, R)

On Policy
Off Policy

A vertical line with arrows at both ends, pointing towards 'On Policy' at the top and 'Off Policy' at the bottom.

Map

Model
Based

Model
Free

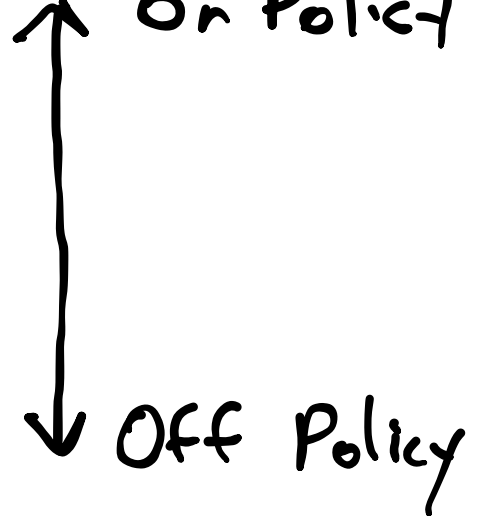


learn Q

learn π

On Policy

MLMBTRL
(learn T, R)



Map

Model
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Model
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learn Q

learn π
Policy
Gradient

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Model
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learn Q
SARSA

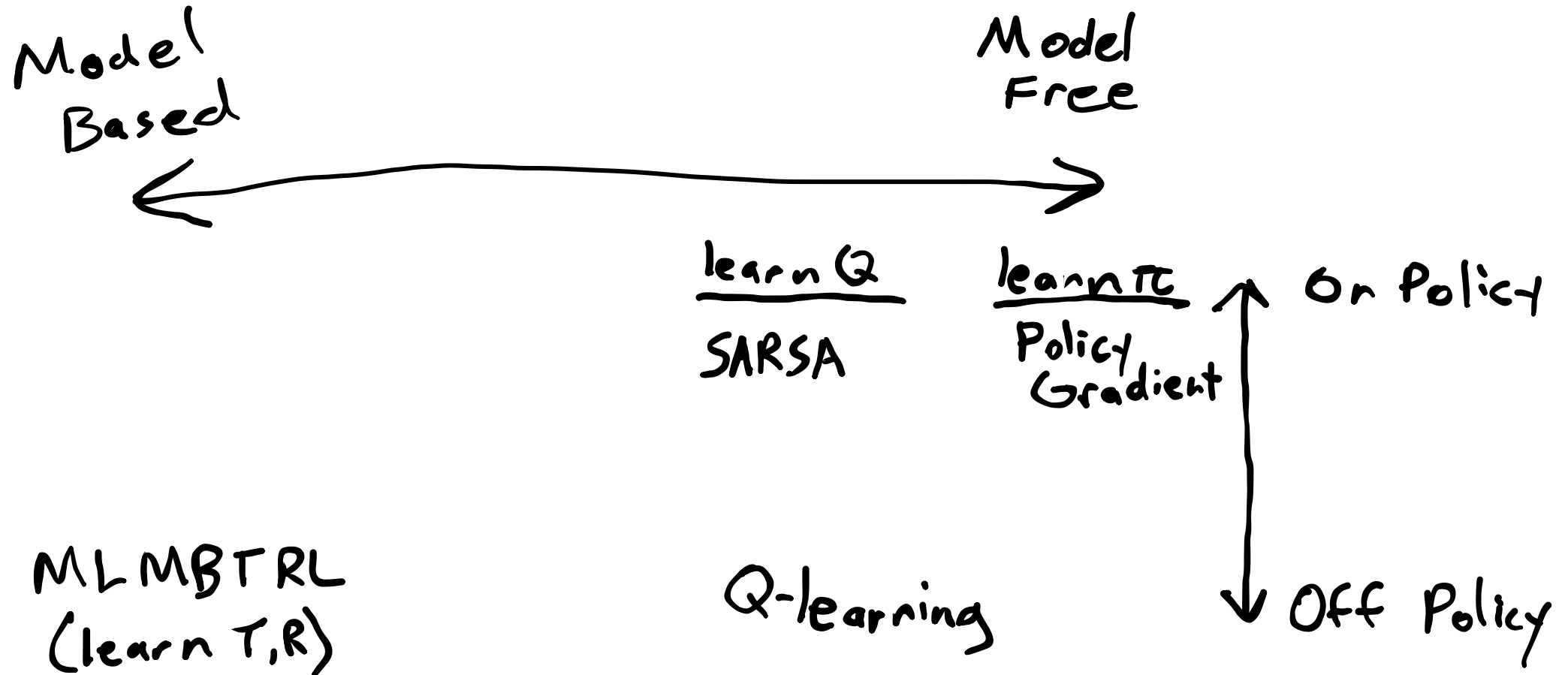
learn π
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Map



Today

Today

- Basic On- and Off-Policy **value based** model free RL algorithms

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- Basic On- and Off-Policy **value based** model free RL algorithms
- Tricks for tabular value based RL algorithms

Today

- Basic On- and Off-Policy **value based** model free RL algorithms
- Tricks for tabular value based RL algorithms
- Understanding of On- vs Off-Policy

Why learn Q?

T, R

π

U, Q

$$\pi(s) = \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} (R(s, a) + \gamma E \underline{U}(s'))$$

$$\pi(s) = \underset{a}{\operatorname{argmax}} (Q(s, a))$$

Incremental Mean Estimation

Incremental Mean Estimation

$$\hat{x}_m = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m x^{(i)}$$

Incremental Mean Estimation

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_m &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m x^{(i)} \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \left(x^{(m)} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} x^{(i)} \right)\end{aligned}$$

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```
function simulate!( $\pi$ ::MonteCarloTreeSearch, s, d= $\pi$ .d)
    if d  $\leq$  0
        return  $\pi$ .U(s)
    end
     $\mathcal{P}$ , N, Q, c =  $\pi$ . $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\pi$ .N,  $\pi$ .Q,  $\pi$ .c
     $\mathcal{A}$ , TR,  $\gamma$  =  $\mathcal{P}$ . $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$ .TR,  $\mathcal{P}$ . $\gamma$ 
    if !haskey(N, (s, first( $\mathcal{A}$ )))
        for a in  $\mathcal{A}$ 
            N[(s,a)] = 0
            Q[(s,a)] = 0.0
        end
        return  $\pi$ .U(s)
    end
    a = explore( $\pi$ , s)
    s', r = TR(s,a)
    q = r +  $\gamma$ *simulate!( $\pi$ , s', d-1)
    N[(s,a)] += 1
    Q[(s,a)] += (q-Q[(s,a)])/N[(s,a)]
    return q
end
```

Incremental Mean Estimation

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    Q[(s,a)] += (q-Q[(s,a)])/N[(s,a)]
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```

loop

$$\hat{x} \leftarrow \hat{x} + \alpha (x - \hat{x})$$

learning

Incremental Mean Estimation

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Q[(s,a)] += (q-Q[(s,a)])/N[(s,a)]
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```

loop

$$\hat{x} \leftarrow \hat{x} + \alpha (x - \hat{x})$$

"Temporal Difference
(TD) Error"

Q Learning

Q learning and SARSA

Have a table $Q(s,a)$

Want

$$\underline{Q(s,a)} \leftarrow \underline{Q(s,a)} + \alpha \left(\underline{q(s,a,r,s')} - \underline{Q(s,a)} \right)$$

$$Q(s,a) = R(s,a) + \gamma E(U(s'))$$

$$= R(s,a) + \gamma E \left[\max_{a'} \underline{Q(s',a')} \right]$$

$$\underline{(s,a,r,s')}$$

$$q(s,a,r,s') = \underline{r} + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(\underline{s'}, \underline{a'})$$

$$Q(s,a) \leftarrow Q(s,a) + \alpha \left(r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s',a') - Q(s,a) \right)$$

(s, a, r, s')

Q learning and SARSA

Off Policy

Q-Learning

(s, a, r, s', a')

On-Policy

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow 0 \quad \forall s, a$$

$$s \leftarrow s_0$$

loop

$$a \leftarrow \underbrace{\arg\max Q(s, a) \text{ w.p. } 1 - \epsilon, \quad \text{rand}(A) \text{ o.w.}}_{\epsilon\text{-greedy}}$$

$$r \leftarrow \text{act}!(\text{env}, a)$$

$$s' \leftarrow \text{observe}(\text{env})$$

$$\rightarrow Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

$$s \leftarrow s'$$

$$a \leftarrow \text{rand}(A)$$

X

$a' \leftarrow \text{epsilon greedy policy}$

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

$$a \leftarrow a'$$

Q learning and SARSA

Q-Learning

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow 0$$

$$s \leftarrow s_0$$

loop

$$a \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax} Q(s, a) \text{ w.p. } 1 - \epsilon, \quad \operatorname{rand}(A) \text{ o.w.}$$

$$r \leftarrow \operatorname{act!}(\operatorname{env}, a)$$

$$s' \leftarrow \operatorname{observe}(\operatorname{env})$$

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \underbrace{\gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a)}_{\text{TD}})$$

$$s \leftarrow s'$$

Illustrative Problem

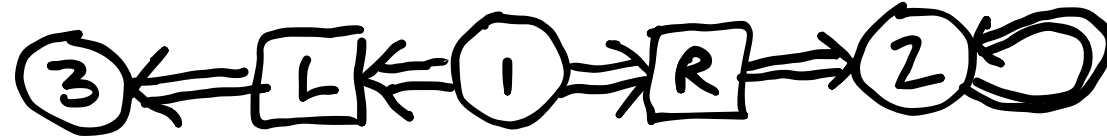
Illustrative Problem



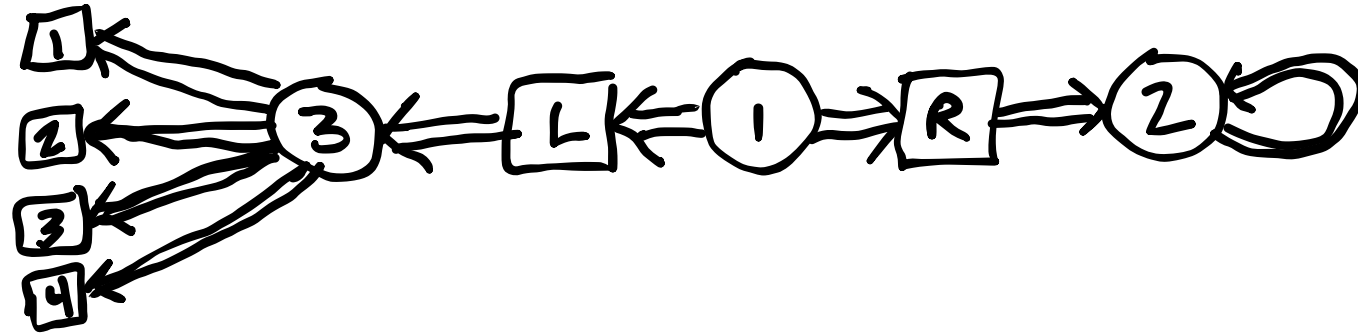
Illustrative Problem



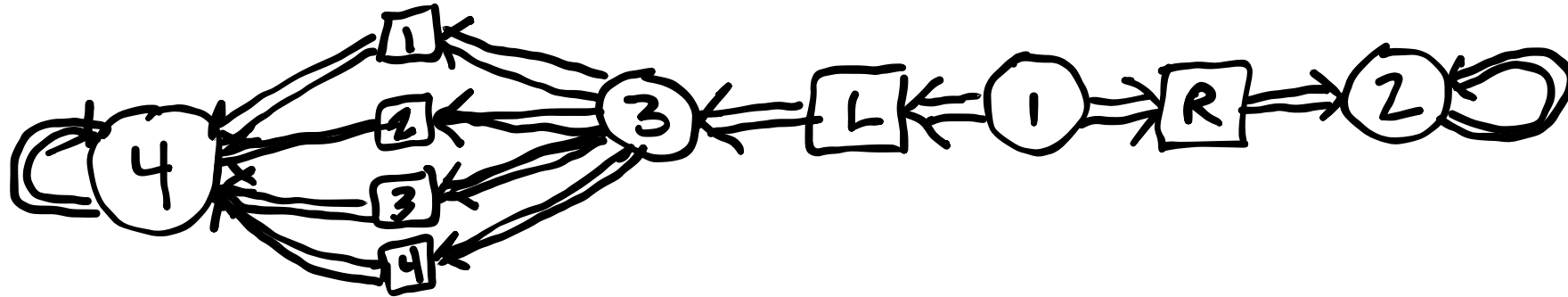
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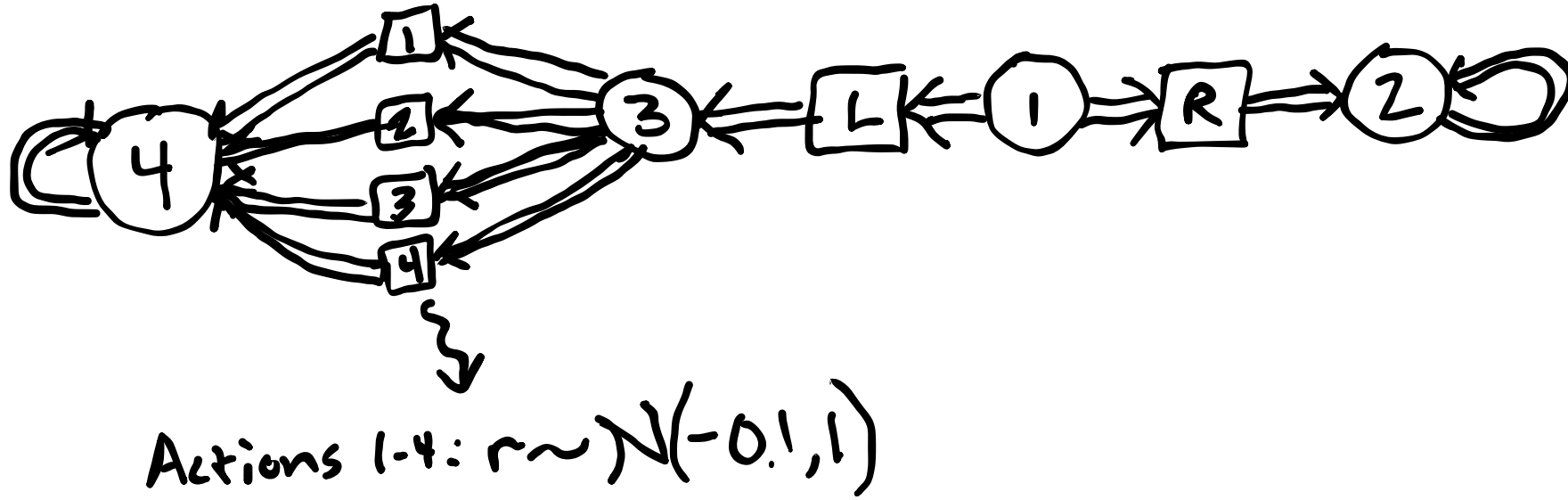
Illustrative Problem



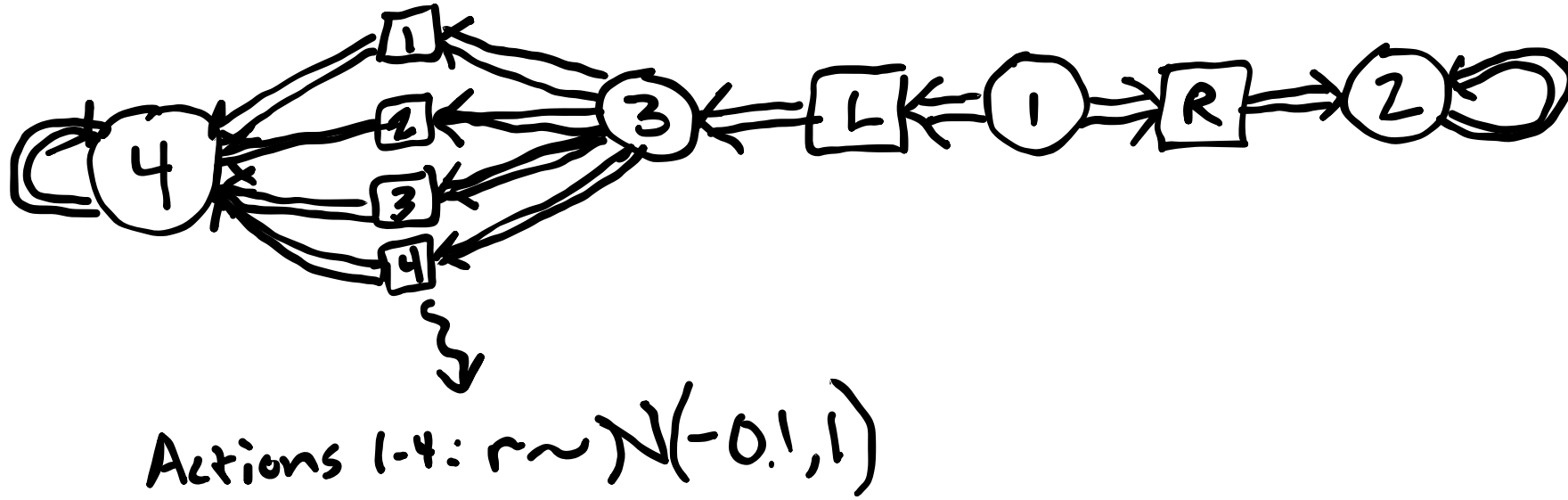
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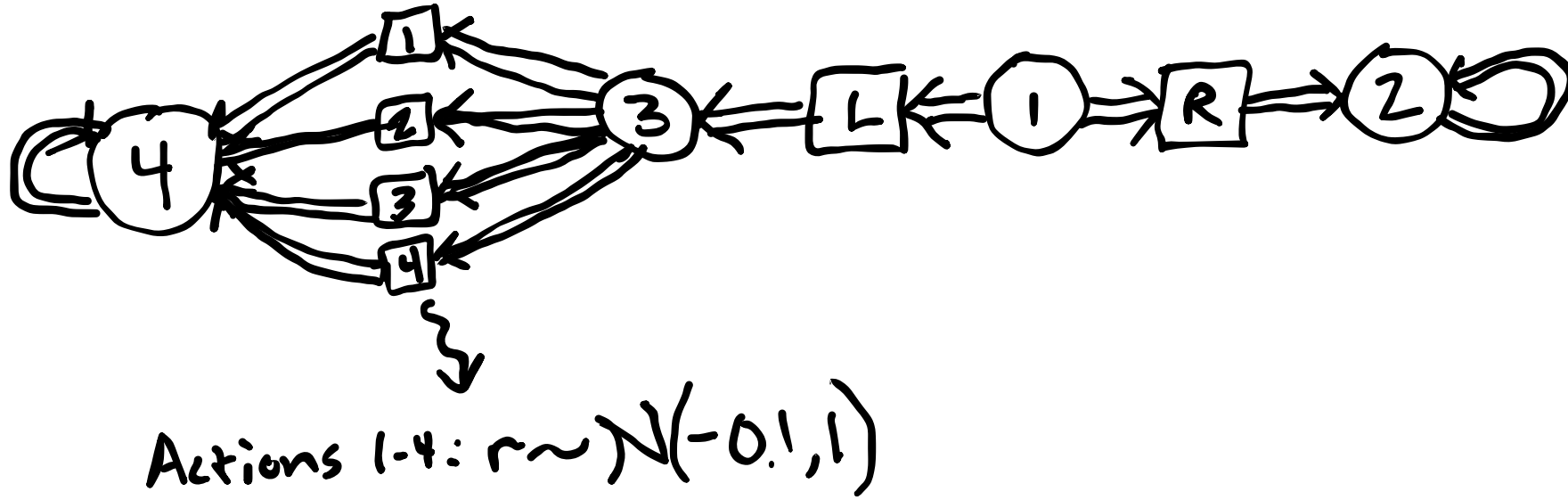


Illustrative Problem



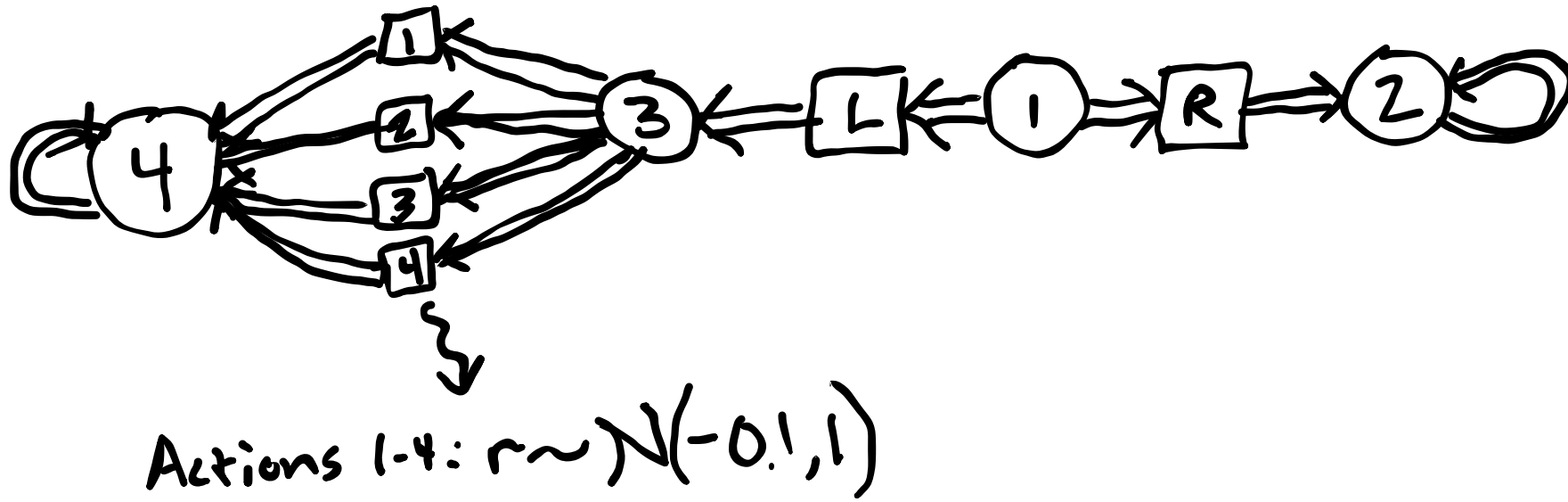
1. After a few episodes, what is $Q(3, a)$ for a in 1-4?

Illustrative Problem



1. After a few episodes, what is $Q(3, a)$ for a in 1-4?
2. After a few episodes, what is $Q(1, L)$?

Illustrative Problem



1. After a few episodes, what is $Q(3, a)$ for a in 1-4? $Q(3, a) \approx -0.1 \pm 1$
2. After a few episodes, what is $Q(1, L)$? $Q(1, L) \approx \max_a Q(3, a)$
3. Why is this a problem and what are some possible solutions?

Big Problem: Maximization Bias

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Even if all $Q(s', a')$ unbiased, $\max_{a'} Q(s', a')$ is biased!

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Solution: Double Q Learning

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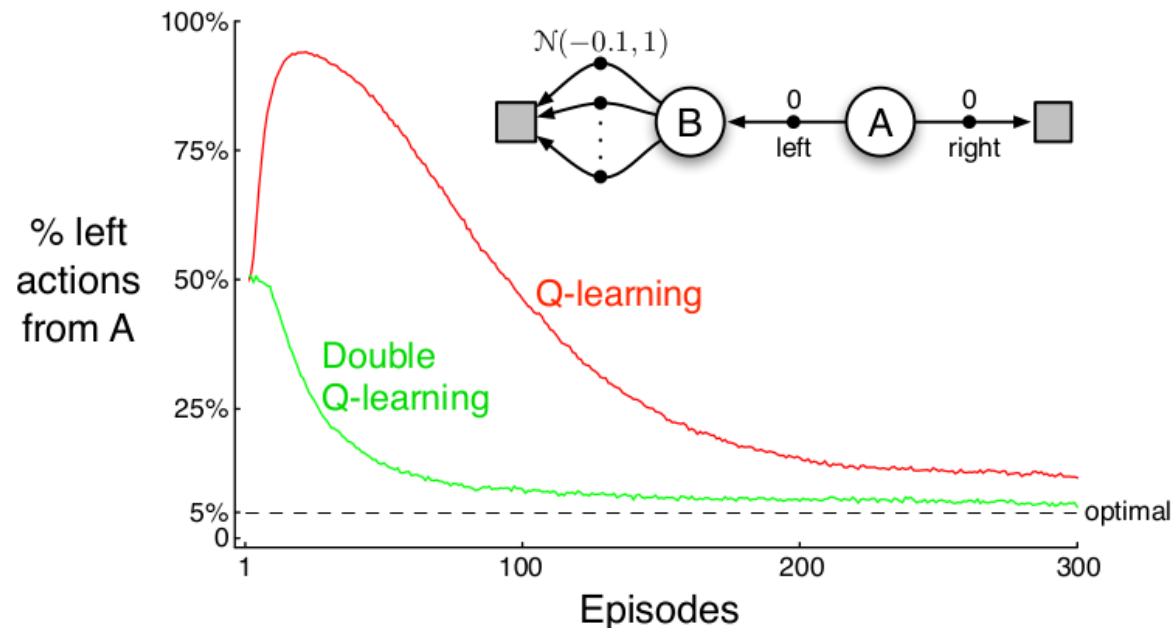
$$Q_1(s, a) \leftarrow Q_1(s, a) + \alpha \left(r + \gamma Q_2 \left(s', \underset{a'}{\operatorname{argmax}} Q_1(s', a') \right) - Q_1(s, a) \right)$$

Big Problem: Maximization Bias

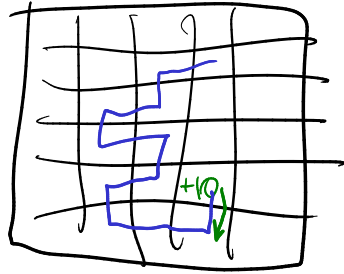
Even if all $Q(s', a')$ unbiased, $\max_{a'} Q(s', a')$ is biased!

Solution: Double Q Learning Q_1, Q_2

$$Q_1(s, a) \leftarrow Q_1(s, a) + \alpha \left(r + \gamma \underbrace{Q_2 \left(s', \underbrace{\operatorname{argmax}_{a'} Q_1(s', a')}_{a'} \right)}_{\text{maximized } Q_1} - Q_1(s, a) \right)$$



Eligibility Traces



SARSA- λ

SARSA- λ

$$Q(s, a), N(s, a) \leftarrow 0 \quad \forall (s, a)$$

N = decaying count of visits to (s, a)

initialize s, a, r, s'

loop

$$a' \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax} Q(s', a) \text{ w.p. } 1 - \epsilon, \quad \operatorname{rand}(A) \text{ o.w.}$$

$$N(s, a) \leftarrow N(s, a) + 1$$

$$\delta \leftarrow r + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a)$$

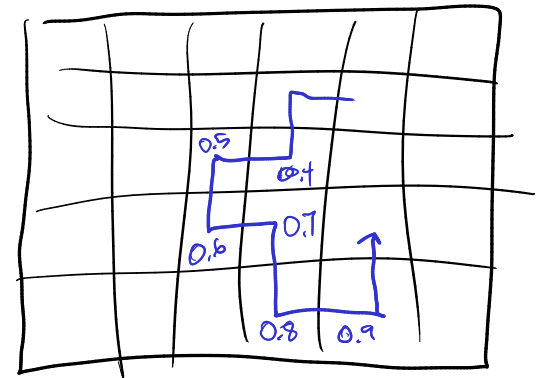
$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha \delta N(s, a) \quad \forall s, a$$

$$\rightarrow N(s, a) \leftarrow \gamma \lambda N(s, a) \quad \forall s, a$$

$$s \leftarrow s', \quad a \leftarrow a'$$

$$r \leftarrow \operatorname{act}!(\operatorname{env}, a)$$

$$s' \leftarrow \operatorname{observe}(\operatorname{env})$$



Convergence

Convergence

- Q learning converges to optimal Q-values w.p. 1
(Sutton and Barto, p. 131)

Convergence

- Q learning converges to optimal Q-values w.p. 1
(Sutton and Barto, p. 131)
- SARSA converges to optimal Q-values w.p. 1 ***provided that***
 $\pi \rightarrow \text{greedy}$
(Sutton and Barto, p. 129)

On vs Off-Policy

On vs Off-Policy

On Policy

On vs Off-Policy

On Policy

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On vs Off-Policy

On Policy

Off Policy

SARSA:

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

On vs Off-Policy

On Policy

SARSA:

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \gamma Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

Off Policy

Q-learning:

$$Q(s, a) \leftarrow Q(s, a) + \alpha (r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s', a') - Q(s, a))$$

On vs Off-Policy

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Will eligibility traces work with Q-learning?

On vs Off-Policy

On Policy

SARSA:

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Will eligibility traces work with Q-learning?

Not easily

On vs Off-Policy

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Policy Gradient:

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \alpha \sum_{k=0}^d \nabla_{\theta} \log \pi_{\theta}(a_k \mid s_k) R(\tau)$$

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 - Tricks for tabular value based RL algorithms
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- ← Double Q-learning
↖ Eligibility Traces