

**Question 1.** [20 MARKS]**Part 1: (10)**

In this question, we ask you to give an extension of the law of total probability. The law of total probability applied to an unconditional probability  $P(B)$  is given by:

$$P(B) = \sum_k P(B|A_k)P(A_k).$$

Here we are writing the probability of event  $B$  in an expanded form with conditional probabilities where the conditional events  $A_k$  is a partition of the sample space  $\Omega$ , which amounts to the following three conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} A_i &\neq \{\} \forall i; \text{ each event is non-empty,} \\ A_i \cap A_j &= \{\}, i \neq j, \forall i, j; \text{ mutually exclusive,} \\ \cup_i A_i &= \Omega; \text{ collectively exhaustive.} \end{aligned}$$

Now, instead of  $P(B)$ , if we want apply the law of total probability to conditional probability  $P(B|C)$ , what will be the formula? Write all the correct options and the corresponding formulas in your answer.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad P(B|C) &= \sum_k P(B|A_k)P(A_k) \\ \text{(b)} \quad P(B|C) &= \sum_k P(B|A_k \cap C)P(A_k) \quad \Rightarrow \text{only true when } B \text{ and } C \text{ are independent.} \\ \text{(c)} \quad P(B|C) &= \sum_k P(B|A_k \cap C)P(A_k|C). \quad \text{both have to given } C. \end{aligned}$$

*A 与 C 的交集.*

The conditional events  $A_k$  are still a partition of the sample space here.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c).} \quad \because P(A \cap B|C) &= P(A|B \cap C)P(B|C) \quad \therefore C \text{ 对} \\ &\downarrow \\ &\text{这个符号相当于 } \cap \\ \therefore P(B) &= \sum_j P(B|A_j)P(A_j) \quad \therefore \text{不选.} \end{aligned}$$

**Part 2: (10)**

If two non-empty events  $D$  and  $F$  are *independent*, then their probabilities do not change if the other event is given as a condition:  $P(D) = P(D|F)$  and  $P(F|D) = P(F)$ .

In part 1, if the events  $A_k$  in the partition are all independent of event  $C$ , which of the above options (a), (b) and (c) are correct? Write all the correct options and the corresponding formulas in your answer.

$$\begin{aligned} A \text{ 与 } C \text{ independent} \quad \therefore P(A_k) &= P(A_k|C) \\ \therefore \text{(b) 与 (c) 在此情况下相等.} \\ \therefore \text{这里选 (b), (c).} \end{aligned}$$



**Question 3.** [20 MARKS]

(10+10)

In this question, we ask you to give the Bellman optimality equation and value iteration update rule for action values. The Bellman optimality equation for  $v_*$  is given by:

$$v_*(y) = \max_b \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma v_*(y')], \forall y, \quad (1)$$

where  $p(y', w|y, b)$  is the joint probability of next state  $y'$  and reward  $w$  given the current state-action pair  $y, b$ . Then the value iteration method can be directly obtained based on the optimality equation by replacing the optimal state value  $v_*$  with estimate  $v_k$  for the  $k$ th iteration and replacing equality = with assignment  $\doteq$ :

$$v_{k+1}(y) \doteq \max_b \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma v_k(y')], \forall y. \quad (2)$$

Provide the **Bellman optimality equation** for  $q_*$  and the corresponding value iteration update rule for action value using the **state-action pair  $y, b$** .

**Ans:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_*(s) &= \max_{a \in A(s)} q_{\pi_*}(s, a) \\
 &= \max_a \mathbb{E}_{\pi_*}[G_t \mid S_t = s, A_t = a] \\
 &= \max_a \mathbb{E}_{\pi_*}[R_{t+1} + \gamma G_{t+1} \mid S_t = s, A_t = a] \\
 &= \max_a \mathbb{E}[R_{t+1} + \gamma v_*(S_{t+1}) \mid S_t = s, A_t = a] \\
 &= \max_{s', r} \sum p(s', r|s, a) [r + \gamma v_*(s')].
 \end{aligned}$$

(a)

**Ans:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_*(s, a) &= \mathbb{E}[R_{t+1} + \gamma \max_{a'} q_*(S_{t+1}, a') \mid S_t = s, A_t = a] \\
 &= \sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) [r + \gamma \max_{a'} q_*(s', a')].
 \end{aligned}$$

**Ans:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_{k+1}(y, b) &\doteq \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma \max_{b'} q_k(y', b')] \quad \forall y, \forall b. \\
 q_{k+1}(y, b) &\doteq \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma \max_{b'} q_k(y', b')] \quad \forall y, \forall b.
 \end{aligned}$$

**Ans:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_{k+1}(y, b) &\doteq \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma \max_{b'} q_k(y', b')] \quad \forall y, \forall b. \\
 q_{k+1}(y, b) &\doteq \sum_{y', w} p(y', w|y, b) [w + \gamma \max_{b'} q_k(y', b')] \quad \forall y, \forall b.
 \end{aligned}$$

**Question 4.** [20 MARKS]

Prove that the discounted sum of rewards is always finite if the rewards are bounded:  $|R_{t+1}| \leq R_{\max}$  for all  $t$  for some finite  $0 < R_{\max} < \infty$ :

$$\left| \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma^i R_{t+1+i} \right| < \infty;$$

for  $\gamma \in [0, 1)$ .

$\because |R_{t+1}| \leq R_{\max}$   
 $\therefore R_{t+1} \leq R_{\max}$   
 $\therefore$  在  $\gamma$  的情况下,  $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma^i R_{t+1+i} = R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \dots$   
 $\leq R_{\max} + \gamma R_{\max} + \gamma^2 R_{\max} + \dots$   
 $\downarrow$  提取公因子  $R_{\max}$   
 $= R_{\max} (1 + \gamma + \gamma^2 + \dots)$   
 $= \frac{R_{\max}}{1 - \gamma} \rightarrow$  如果  $\gamma$  一直等于  $R_{\max}$   
 $< \infty$

$$\therefore \left| \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma^i R_{t+1+i} \right| < \infty$$

• Continuing Task 有  $\gamma$  的折扣因子  $\gamma$  在  $[0, 1)$  之间, 奖励  $R$  是有界的 (bounded)

$$G_t = R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1} \quad 0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_t &\doteq R_{t+1} + \gamma R_{t+2} + \gamma^2 R_{t+3} + \gamma^3 R_{t+4} + \dots \\
 &= R_{t+1} + \gamma (R_{t+2} + \gamma R_{t+3} + \gamma^2 R_{t+4} + \dots) \\
 &= R_{t+1} + \gamma G_{t+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

如果  $R$  一直等于 1:  $G = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma}$

**Question 5.** [20 MARKS]

In this question, we ask you to amend incorrect statements. In the following, there are two incorrect statements. Write mathematical equations or expressions that will make the statements correct and briefly list the changes you made on the provided equations or expressions.

**Part 1: (10)**

The Bellman equation for action value can be written as:

$$q_{\pi}(s, a) \stackrel{\text{? 应为 } =}{=} \sum_{s', r} p(s', r | s, a) \pi(a' | s') [r + \gamma q_{\pi}(s', a')], \forall s, \forall a.$$

*Handwritten notes:*  
 -  $s', r, s, a'$  are circled in yellow.  
 - "function 的变量: 没有的在两部分以独立" (function variables: none in both parts are independent)  
 - "现在求和了!!" (now summed!!)  
 - "∴ 求和了后也应该有 function 的变量" (∴ after summation, there should also be function variables)  
 - "有的变量!!" (some variables!!)  
 - "前两项求和为  $\sum_{s'} \pi(a' | s')$ " (the first two terms sum to  $\sum_{s'} \pi(a' | s')$ )

**Part 2: (10)**

The optimal state value can be related to the optimal action value in the following way:

$$v_*(s) \leq \max_a q_{\pi}(s, a), \forall s, \forall a.$$

*Part 1. 因为*  $q_{\pi}(s, a) \stackrel{\text{? 应为 } =}{=} \sum_{s'} p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') q_{\pi}(s', a')]$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') q_{\pi}(s', a')] \\
 &= \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) \left[ r + \gamma \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') \sum_{a''} [G_{s+1} | S_{s+1} = s', A_{s+1} = a'] \right] \\
 &= \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) \left[ r + \gamma \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') q_{\pi}(s', a') \right] \\
 &v_{\pi}(s) = \sum_a \pi(a | s) \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma v_{\pi}(s')] \\
 &q_{\pi}(s, a) = \sum_{s'} \sum_r p(s', r | s, a) [r + \gamma \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') q_{\pi}(s', a')]
 \end{aligned}$$

*Handwritten notes:*  
 - "从而  $q_{\pi}(s, a) = \sum_{s', r} p(s', r | s, a) \sum_{a'} \pi(a' | s') [r + \gamma q_{\pi}(s', a')], \forall s, \forall a$ "  
 - "Part 2. 因为:  $v_{\pi}(s) = \max_a q_{\pi}(s, a)$ "

# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	Total
/20	/20	/20	/20	/20	/100