

## V and Q recursions

$$V^\pi(s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} | s_t = s \right\} \quad (1)$$

$$Q^\pi(s, a) = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} | s_t = s, a_t = a \right\} \quad (2)$$

From Sutton's book page 70, Equation (3.10), recursive formulation of the value function update is:

$$V^\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(s, a) \underbrace{\sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a [R_{ss'}^a + \gamma V^\pi(s')]}_{Q^\pi(s, a)} \quad (3)$$

$$= \sum_a \pi(s, a) Q^\pi(s, a) \quad (4)$$

As an exercise (Exercise 3.8, page 72 in Suttons book), the same recursion has to be derived, but this time for the Q-Value function, Equation 2.

$$\begin{aligned} Q^\pi(s, a) &= \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} | s_t = s, a_t = a \right\} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ r_{t+1} + \gamma \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+2} | s_t = s, a_t = a \right\} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_\pi \{ r_{t+1} | s_t = s, a_t = a \} + \gamma \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+1} | s_t = s, a_t = a \right\} \\ &= \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a R_{ss'}^a + \gamma \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+2} | s_{t+1} = s', a_t = a \right\} \\ &= \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a R_{ss'}^a + \gamma \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a \sum_{a'} \pi(s', a') \mathbb{E}_\pi \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k r_{t+k+2} | s_{t+1} = s', a_{t+1} = a' \right\} \\ &= \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a R_{ss'}^a + \gamma \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a \sum_{a'} \pi(s', a') Q(s', a') \\ &= \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a \left[ R_{ss'}^a + \gamma \underbrace{\sum_{a'} \pi(s', a') Q(s', a')}_{V^\pi(s')} \right] \end{aligned}$$

We note that the last term in the expansion of Q, contains Equation 4. So we can substitute it back in and get:

$$Q^\pi(s, a) = \sum_{s'} P_{ss'}^a \left[ R_{ss'}^a + \gamma V^\pi(s') \right] \quad (5)$$