

Bellman Equation for $v_\pi(s)$

Stuff we want to write $v_\pi(s)$ in terms of:

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(a|s) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Pr(A_t = a | S_t = s) \\ p(s', r|s, a) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Pr(S_{t+1} = s', R_{t+1} = r | S_t = s, A_t = a)\end{aligned}$$

Partition theorem or law of total expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_y \Pr(Y = y) \mathbb{E}[X | Y = y] \tag{1}$$

Definition of $v_\pi(s)$:

$$v_\pi(s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_t | S_t = s]$$

Pull one reward out of the return:

$$v_\pi(s) = \mathbb{E}_\pi[R_{t+1} + \gamma G_{t+1} | S_t = s]$$

Apply Equation 1 to condition the expectation on actions:

$$v_\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \mathbb{E}_\pi[R_{t+1} + \gamma G_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a]$$

Split the expectation of a sum into a sum of expectations (note that given an action, the expected immediate reward doesn't depend on the policy):

$$v_\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) (\mathbb{E}[R_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a] + \gamma \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a])$$

Write expected immediate reward in terms of $p(s', r|s, a)$:

$$\begin{aligned}v_\pi(s) &= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \left(\sum_r r \sum_{s'} p(s', r|s, a) + \gamma \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a] \right) \\ v_\pi(s) &= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \left(\sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) r + \gamma \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a] \right)\end{aligned}$$

Apply Equation 1 to condition the other expectation on the next state:

$$v_\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \left(\sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) r + \gamma \sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_t = s, A_t = a, S_{t+1} = s'] \right)$$

By the Markov property, knowing S_{t+1} makes the expectation independent of S_t and A_t :

$$v_\pi(s) = \sum_a \pi(a|s) \left(\sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) r + \gamma \sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_{t+1} = s'] \right)$$

Acknowledging that $v_\pi(s') = \mathbb{E}_\pi[G_{t+1} | S_{t+1} = s']$, and combining the summations:

$$\begin{aligned}v_\pi(s) &= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \left(\sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) r + \gamma \sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) v_\pi(s') \right) \\ v_\pi(s) &= \sum_a \pi(a|s) \sum_{s', r} p(s', r|s, a) (r + \gamma v_\pi(s'))\end{aligned}$$