Deep Reinforcement Learning and Control

# Learning and Planning with Tabular Methods

Lecture 6, CMU 10703

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# Definitions

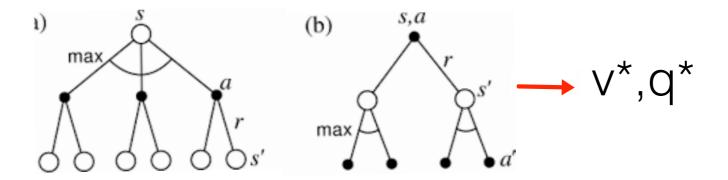
#### Definitions

**Learning:** the acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, study, or by being taught.

Planning: any computational process that uses a model to create or improve a policy

# Planning examples

- Value iteration
- Policy iteration
- TD-gammon (look-ahead search)
- Alpha-Go (MCTS)
- Chess (heuristic search)



#### Definitions

Learning: the acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, study, or by being taught.

e.g., we learn value functions from real experience (action/state trajectories) using MonteCarlo methods, or we learn a model (transition function)

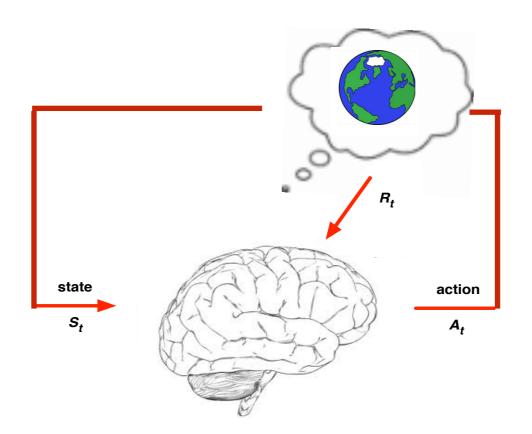
**Planning**: any computational process that uses a model to create or improve a policy,

e.g., we compute value functions from simulated experience (action/state trajectories)



We will combine both, learning and planning:

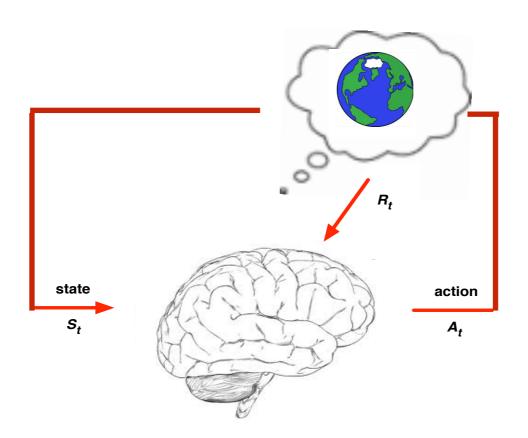
1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.



#### We will combine both, learning and planning:

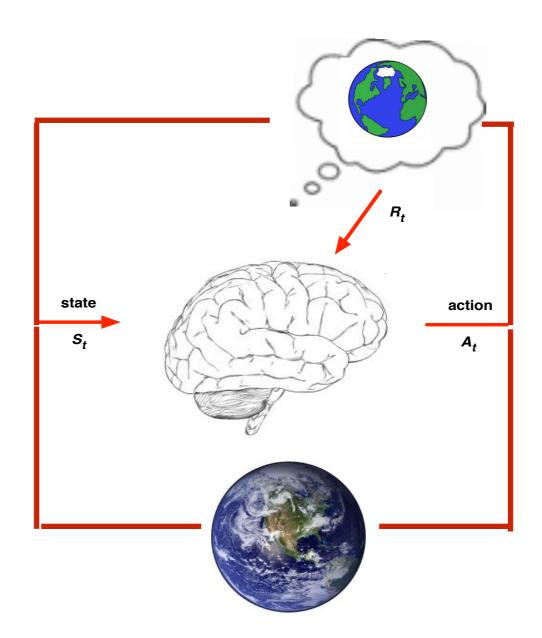
1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.

(Disclaimer: this will be underwhelming: we are still in tabular worlds, essentially we are just going to count, more on this in later lectures..)



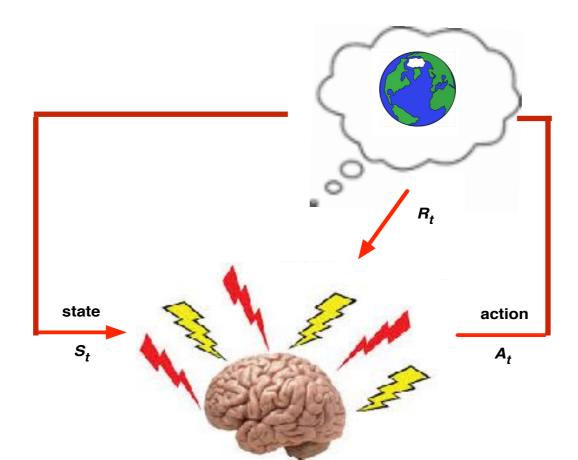
We will combine both, learning and planning:

- 1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.
- 2. Learn/compute value functions using both real experience and the model



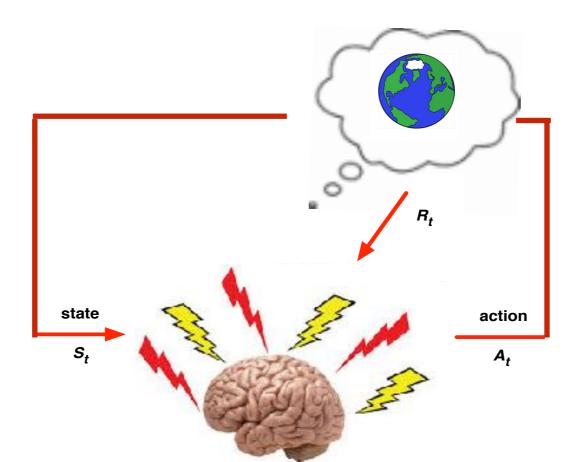
#### We will combine both, learning and planning:

- 1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.
- 2. Learn/compute value functions using both real experience and the model
- 3. Computing value functions online (very successful however so far mostly with ground-truth models)



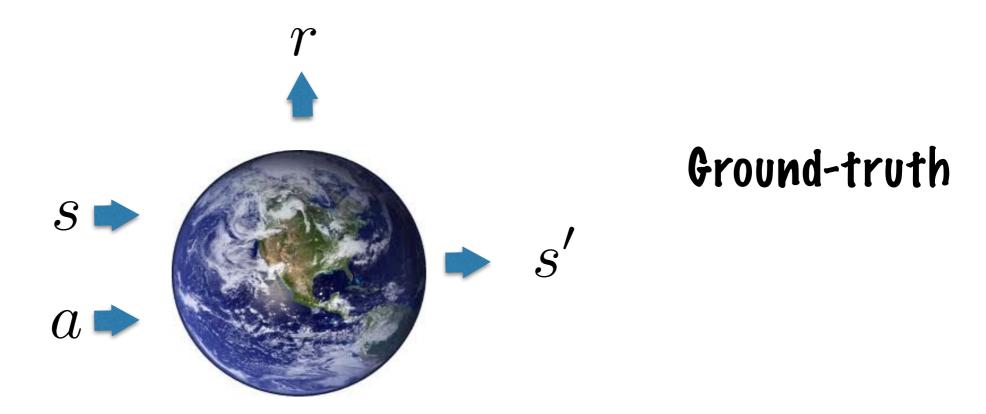
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#### Model

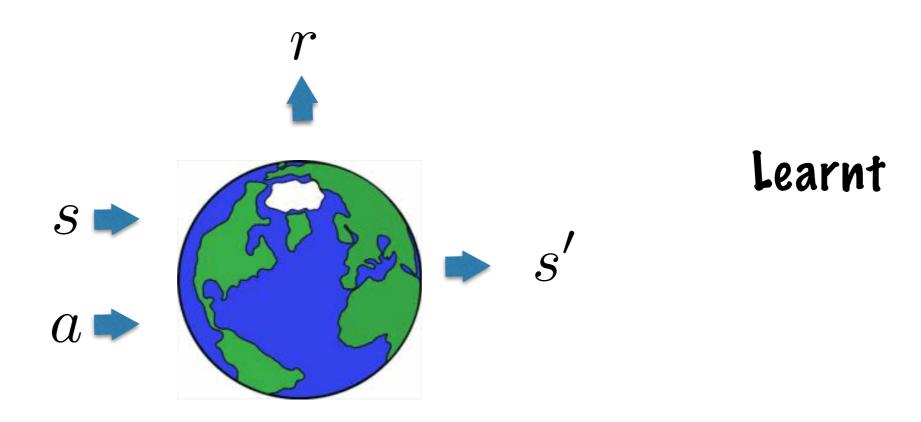
Anything the agent can use to predict how the environment will respond to its actions, concretely, the state transition T(s'|s,a) and reward R(s,a).



this includes transitions of the state of the environment and the state of the agent..

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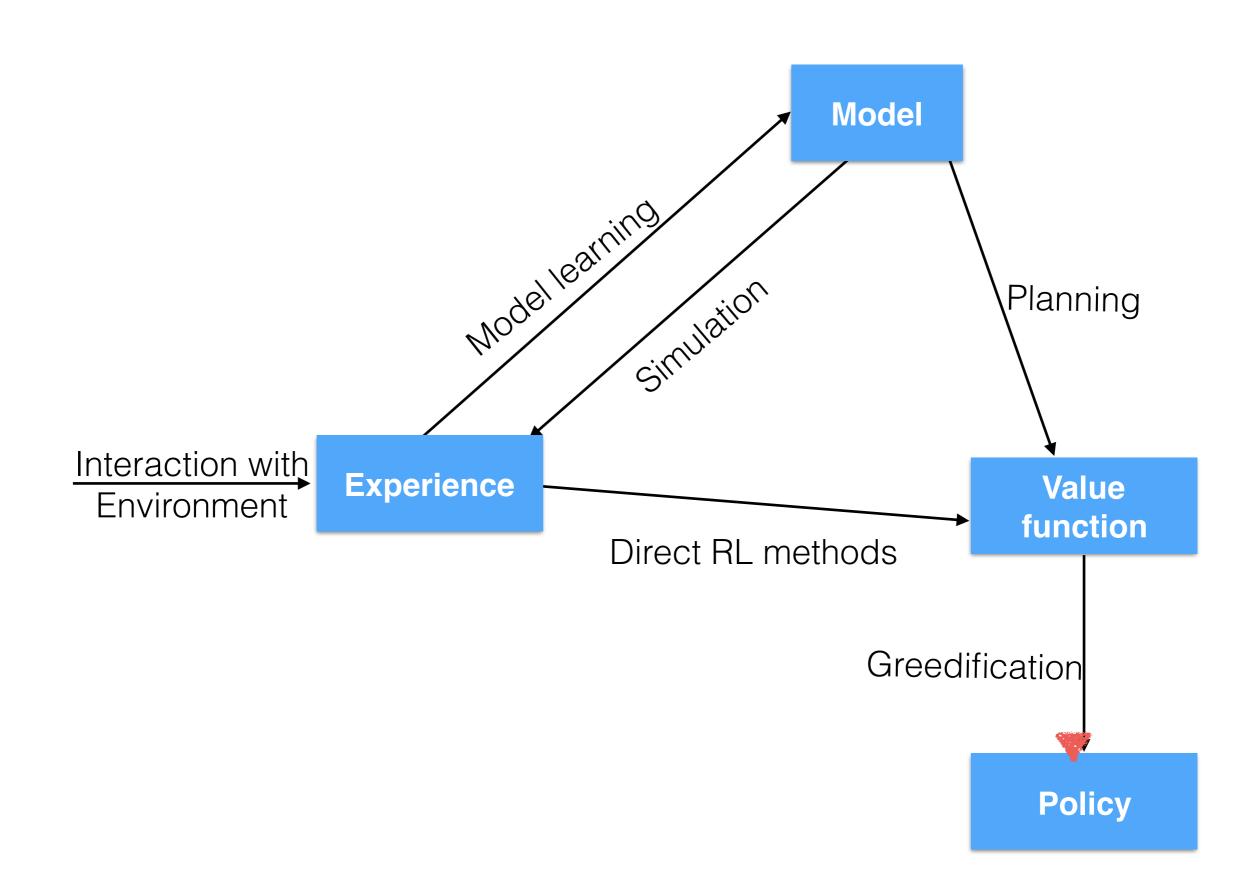
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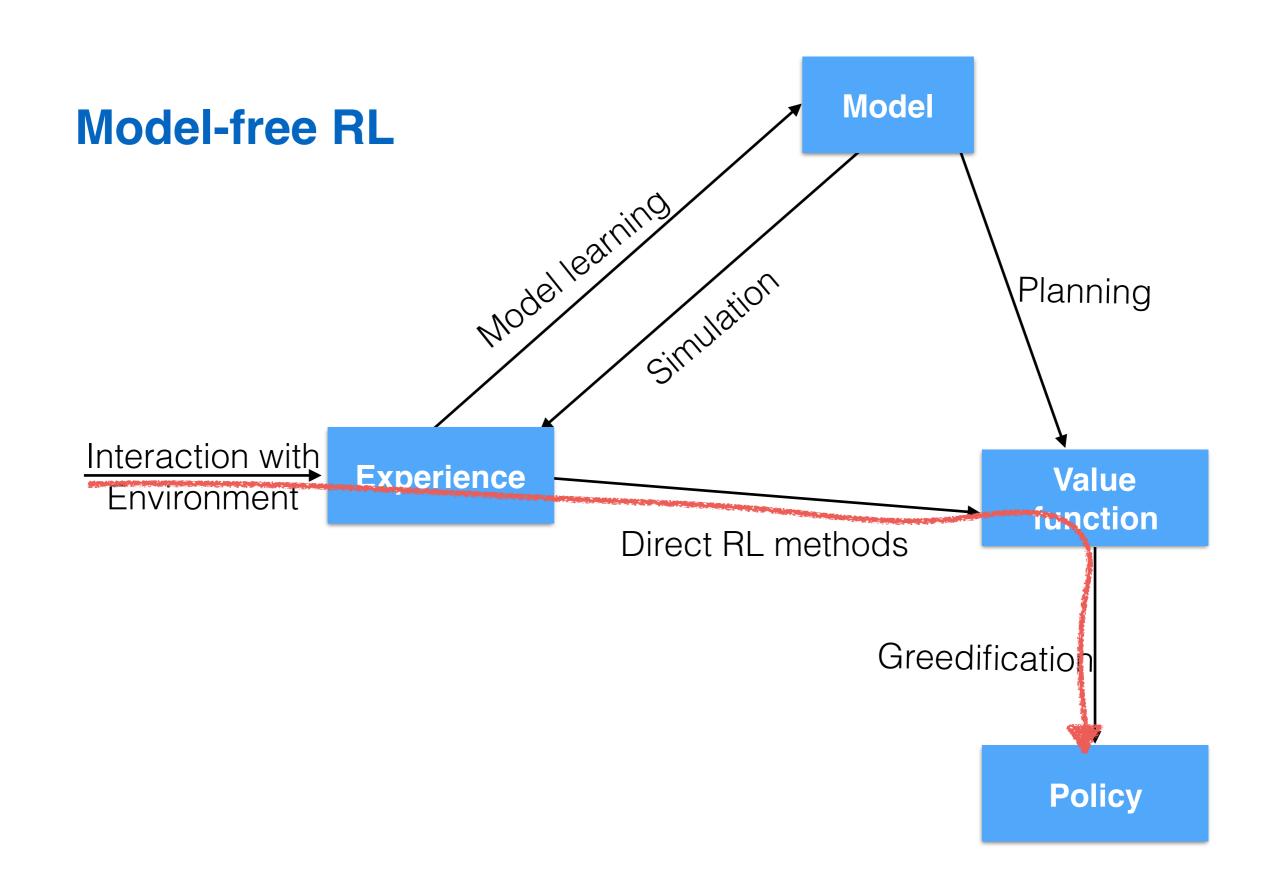
# Distribution VS Sample Models

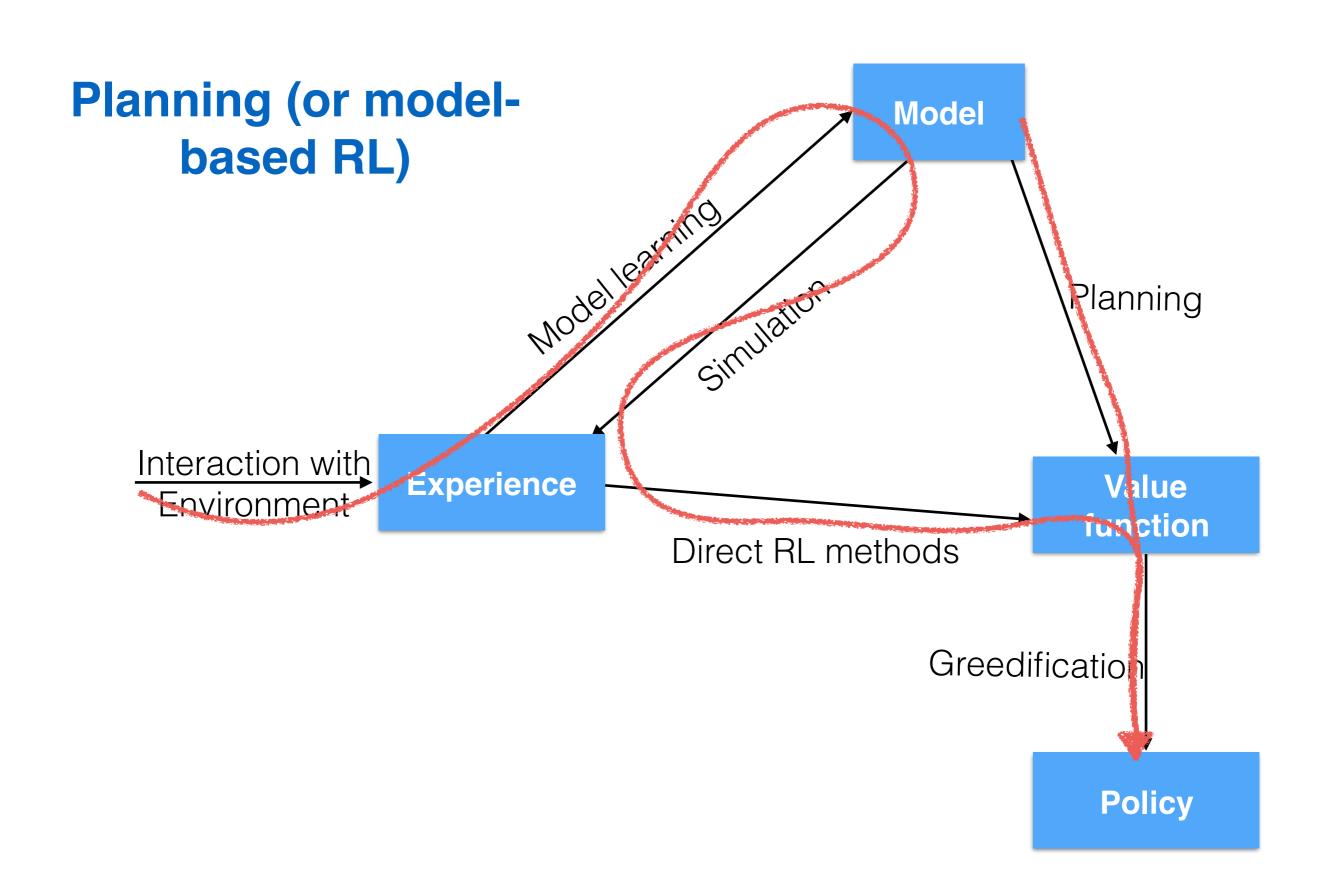
• Distribution model: lists all possible outcomes and their probabilities, *T*(*s*'*ls*,*a*) *for all* (*s*, *a*, *s*') . (we used those in DP)

 Sample model, a.k.a. a simulator produces a single outcome (transition) sampled according to its probability of occurring (we used this in Monte Carlo methods in Black Jack).

Q: which one is more powerful? Which one is easier to obtain/learn?







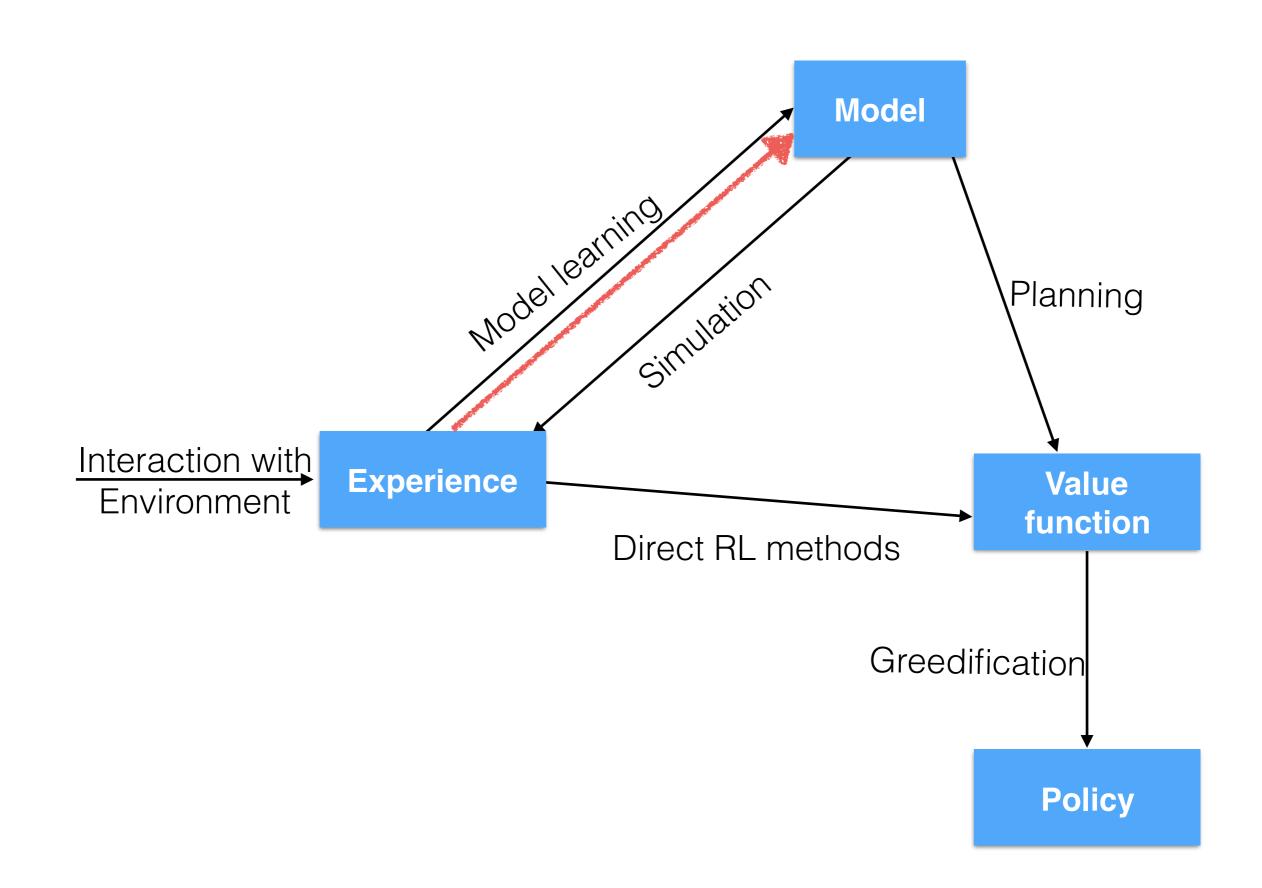
### Advantages of Planning (model-based RL)

#### Advantages:

- Model learning transfers across tasks and environment configurations (learning physics)
- Better exploits experience in case of sparse rewards
- Helps exploration: Can reason about model uncertainty

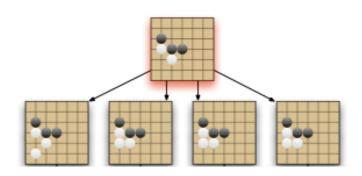
#### Disadvantages:

 First learn model, then construct a value function: Two sources of approximation error

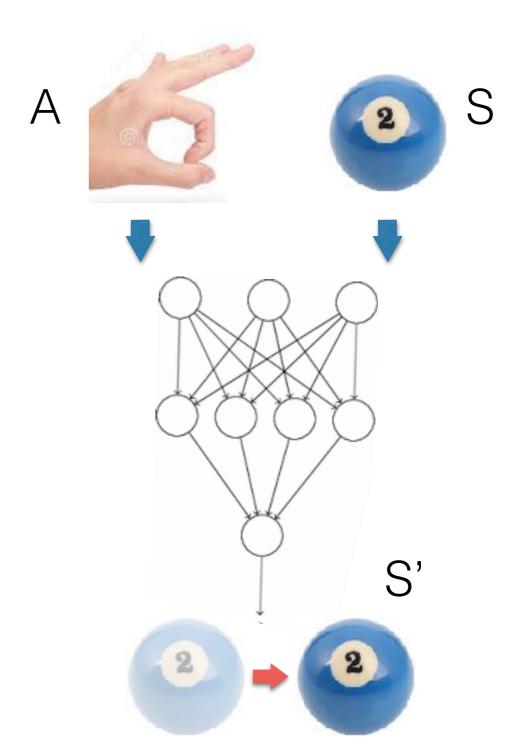


# Examples of Models for T(s'|s,a)

Table lookup model (tabular): bookkeeping a probability of occurrence for each transition (s,a,s')

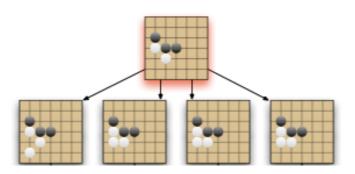


Transition function is approximated through some function approximator

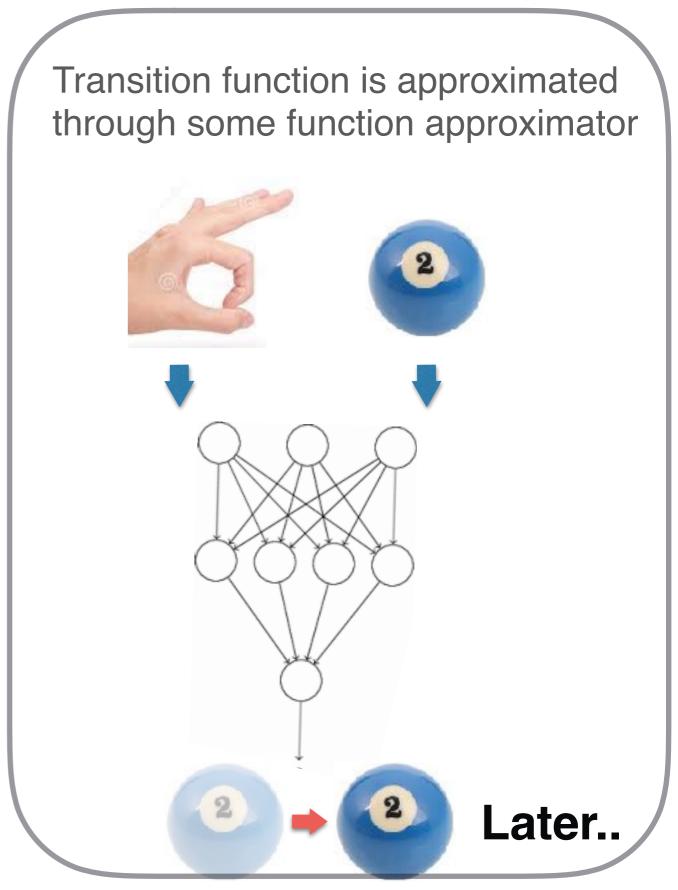


# Examples of Models for T(s'|s,a)

Table lookup model (tabular): bookkeeping a probability of occurrence for each transition (s,a,s')



**This Lecture** 



# Table Lookup Model

- Model is an explicit MDP,  $\hat{T},\hat{\mathcal{R}}$
- Count visits N(s,a) to each state action pair

$$\hat{T}(s'|s,a) = \frac{1}{N(s,a)} \sum_{t=1}^{\mathcal{T}} 1(S_t, A_t, S_{t+1} = s, a, s')$$

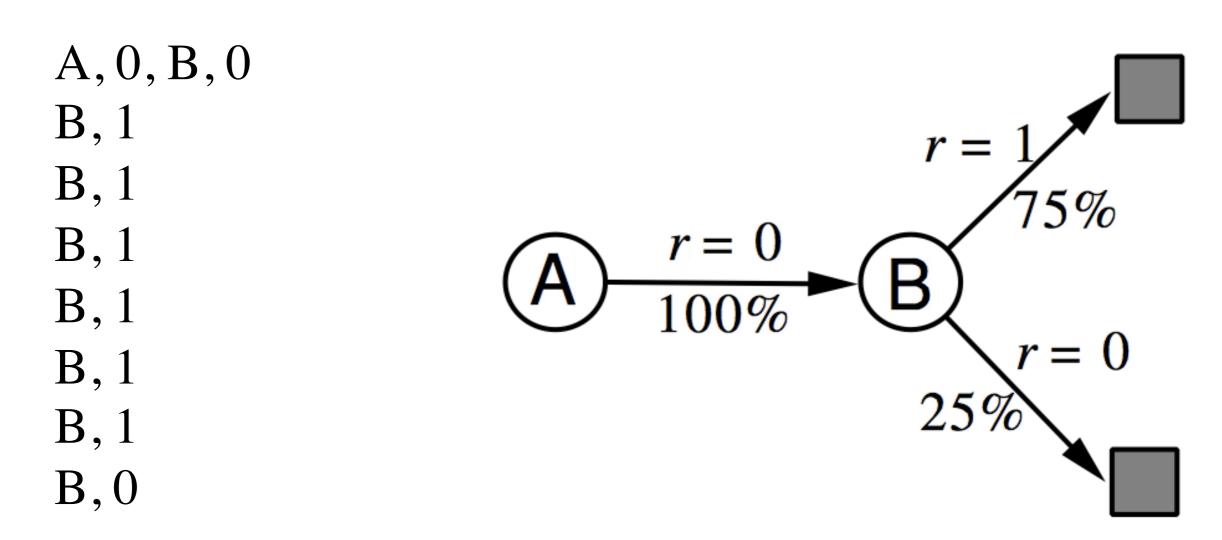
$$\hat{R}(s,a) = \frac{1}{N(s,a)} \sum_{t=1}^{T} 1(S_t, A_t = s, a) R_t$$

- Alternatively
  - At each time-step t, record experience tuple  $\langle S_t, A_t, R_{t+1}, S_{t+1} \rangle$
  - To sample model, randomly pick tuple matching  $\langle s, a, \cdot, \cdot 
    angle$

Essentially here model learning means save the experience, memorization==learning

#### A simple Example

Two states A,B; no discounting; 8 episodes of experience



We have constructed a table lookup model from the experience

### Planning with a Model

Given a model 
$$\mathcal{M}_{\eta} = \langle T_{\eta}, \mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$$
  
Solve the MDP  $\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, T_{\eta} \mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$ 

Using favorite planning algorithm

- Value iteration
- Policy iteration

# Planning with a Model

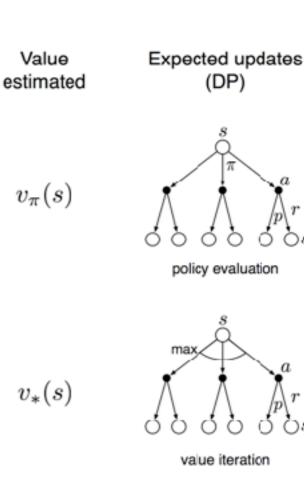
Given a model

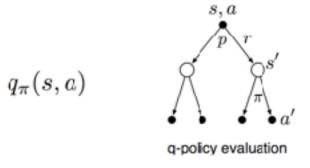
$$\mathcal{M}_{\eta} = \langle T_{\eta}, \mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$$
$$\langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, T_{\eta} \mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$$

Solve the MDP

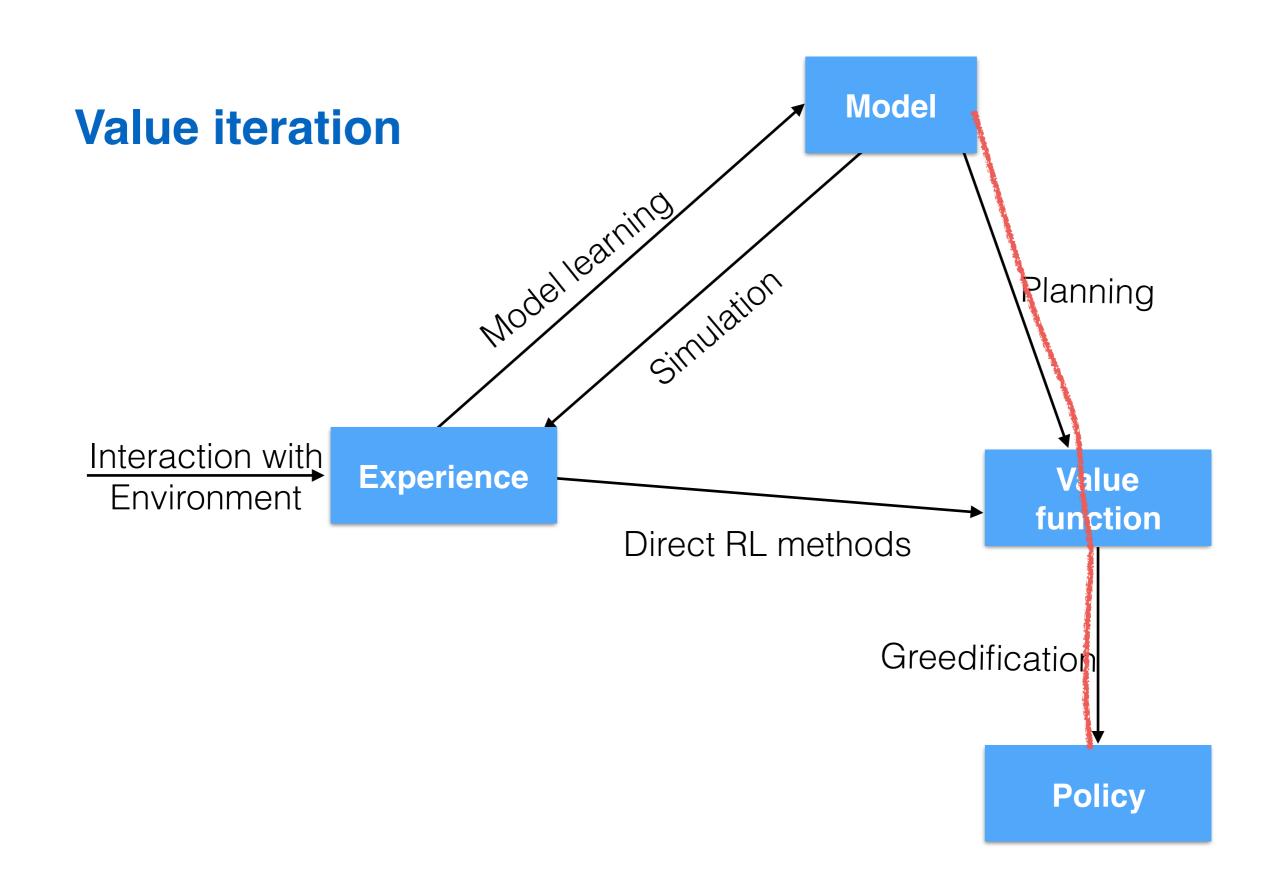
Using one of our favorite planning algorithm:

- Value iteration
- Policy iteration





$$s,a$$
 $p$ 
 $r$ 
 $s'$ 
 $a'$ 
q-value iteration

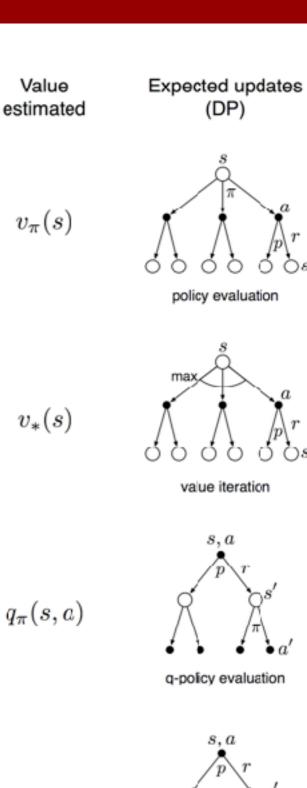


#### Curse of dimensionality

Given a model  $\mathcal{M}_{\eta}=\langle T_{\eta},\mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$ Solve the MDP  $\langle \mathcal{S},\mathcal{A},T_{\eta}\mathcal{R}_{\eta} \rangle$ 

Using one of our favorite planning algorithm:

- Value iteration
- Policy iteration
- However: we visit every state in each sweep. This
  means equal effort is assigned to every state. However,
  states are not created equal: some matter more than
  others, many states never actually occur, we should not
  spend energy estimating their value.
- (often it's impossible to even complete one sweep within one's lifetime. DP does not necessarily needs complete state visitation: we can in fact distribute updates asynchronously, in a prioritized manner, etc. . )
- Q: What is the right distribution from which to sample states and update their values so that we maximize the result of our effort towards improving our policy?



q-value iteration

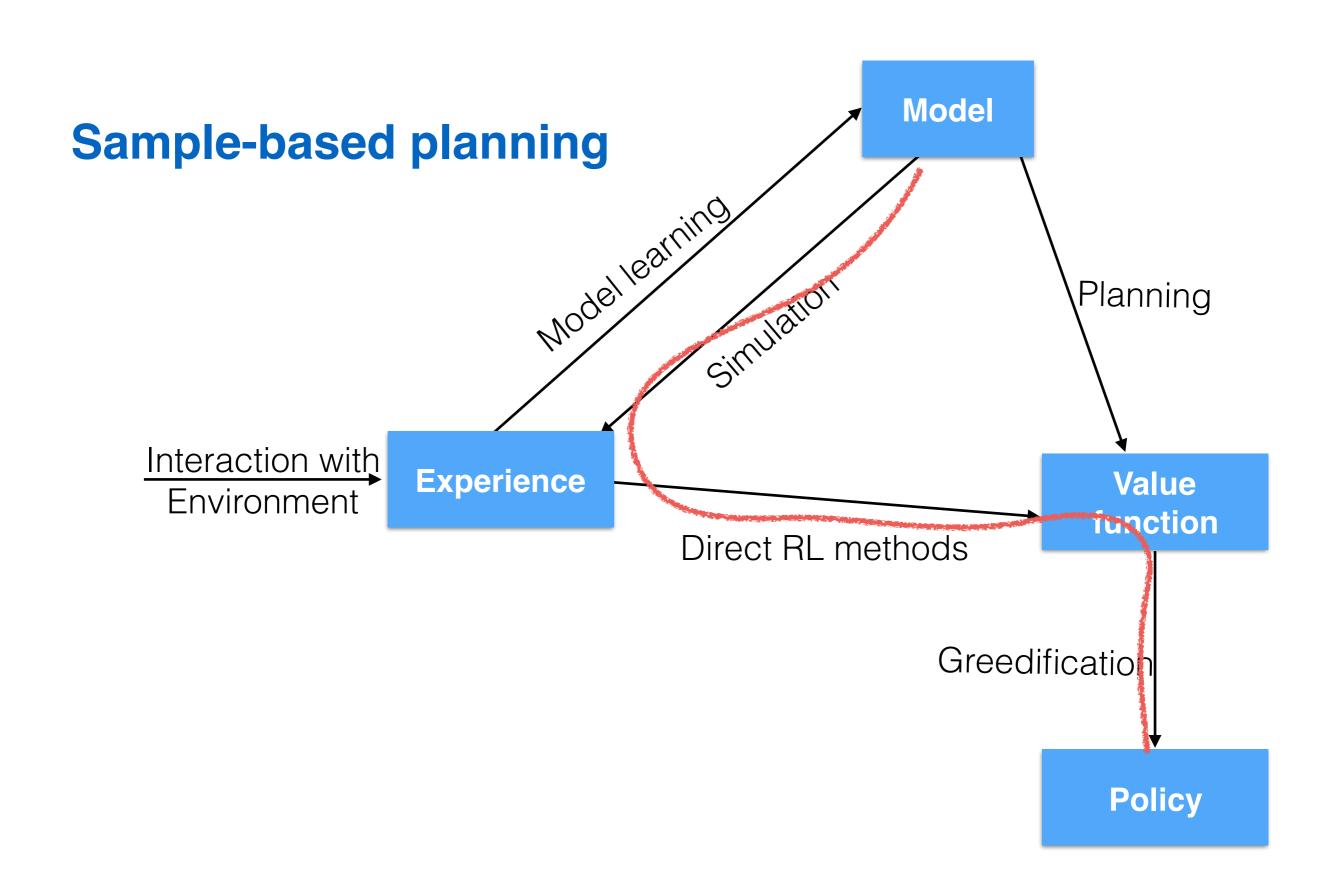
 $q_*(s, a)$ 

# Sample-based Planning

- Use the model only to generate samples, not using its transition probabilities and expected immediate rewards
- Sample experience from model

$$S_{t+1} \sim T_{\eta}(S_{t+1}|S_t, A_t)$$
  
 $R_{t+1} = \mathcal{R}_{\eta}(R_{t+1}|S_t, A_t)$ 

- Apply model-free RL to samples, e.g.:
  - Monte-Carlo control
  - Sarsa  $Q(S_t, A_t) \leftarrow Q(S_t, A_t) + \alpha \left[ R_{t+1} + \gamma Q(S_{t+1}, A_{t+1}) Q(S_t, A_t) \right]$
  - Q-learning  $Q(s,a) \leftarrow Q(s,a) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(S',a') Q(s,a) \right]$
- Sample-based planning methods are often more efficient: rather than exhaustive state sweeps we focus on what is likely to happen



### A Simple Example

- Construct a table-lookup model from real experience
- Apply model-free RL to sampled experience

#### Real experience

A, 0, B, 0

B, 1

B, 1

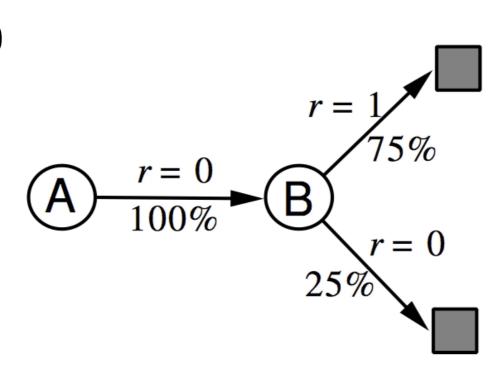
B, 1

B, 1

B, 1

B, 1

B, 0



Sampled experience

B, 1

B, 0

B, 1

A, 0, B, 1

B, 1

A, 0, B, 1

B, 1

B, 0

e.g. Monte-Carlo learning: v(A) = 1, v(B) = 0.75

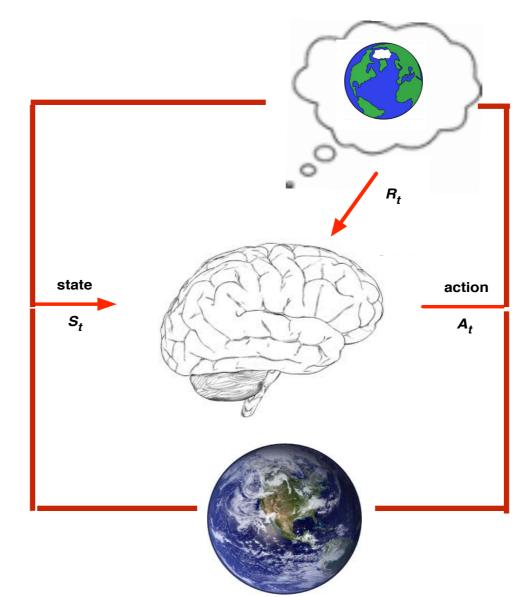
### Combine real and simulated experience

1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.

2. Learn/compute value functions using both real experience and the model

3. Learning value functions online using model-based look-

ahead search



### Real and Simulated Experience

We consider two sources of experience

Real experience - Sampled from environment (true MDP)

$$S' \sim T(s'|s,a)$$

$$R = r(s, a)$$

Simulated experience - Sampled from model

$$S' \sim T_{\eta}(S'|S,A)$$

$$R = \mathcal{R}_{\eta}(\mathcal{R}|\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A})$$

### Dyna-Q Algorithm

Initialize Q(s, a) and Model(s, a) for all  $s \in S$  and  $a \in A(s)$ Do forever:

- (a)  $S \leftarrow \text{current (nonterminal) state}$
- (b)  $A \leftarrow \varepsilon$ -greedy(S, Q)
- (c) Execute action A; observe resultant reward, R, and state, S'
- (d)  $Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_a Q(S',a) Q(S,A) \right]$
- (e)  $Model(S, A) \leftarrow R, S'$  (assuming deterministic environment)
- (f) Repeat n times:

 $S \leftarrow \text{random previously observed state}$ 

 $A \leftarrow \text{random action previously taken in } S$ 

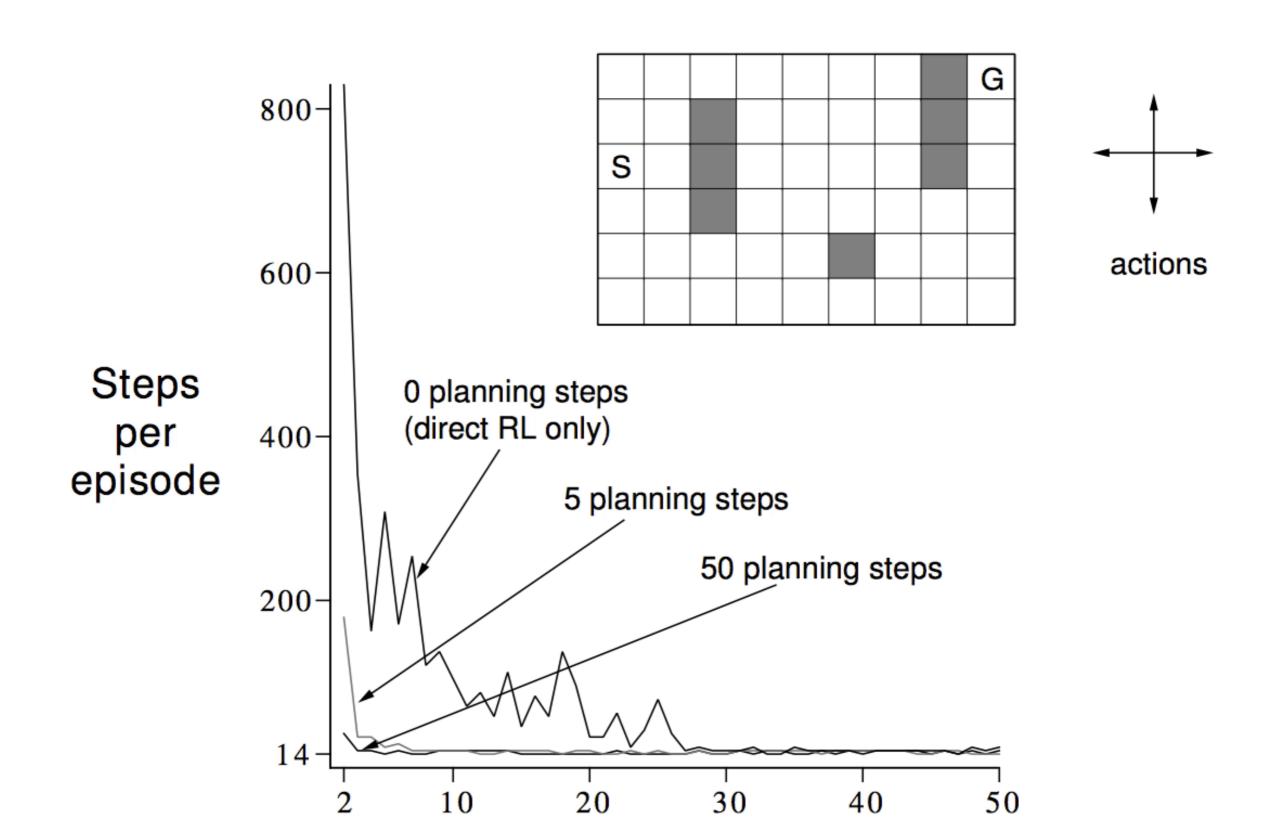
$$R, S' \leftarrow Model(S, A)$$

$$Q(S, A) \leftarrow Q(S, A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_{a} Q(S', a) - Q(S, A) \right]$$

### Dyna-Q Algorithm

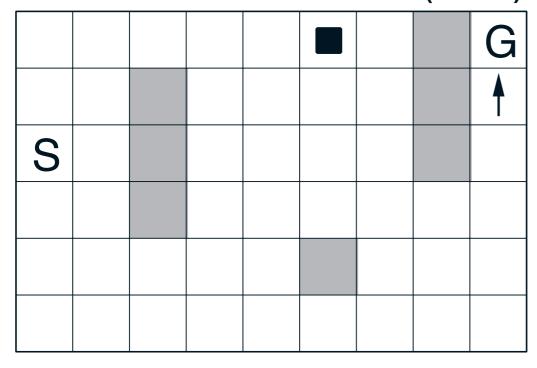
```
Initialize Q(s, a) and Model(s, a) for all s \in S and a \in A(s)
Do forever:
   (a) S \leftarrow \text{current (nonterminal) state}
   (b) A \leftarrow \varepsilon-greedy(S, Q)
   (c) Execute action A; observe resultant reward, R, and state, S'
   (d) Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_a Q(S',a) - Q(S,A) \right]
                                                                                     Direct RL
   (e) Model(S, A) \leftarrow R, S' (assuming deterministic environment) Model learning
   (f) Repeat n times:
          S \leftarrow random previously observed state
                                                                                     Planning
          A \leftarrow random action previously taken in S
          R, S' \leftarrow Model(S, A)
          Q(S, A) \leftarrow Q(S, A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_{a} Q(S', a) - Q(S, A) \right]
```

# Dyna-Q on a Simple Maze



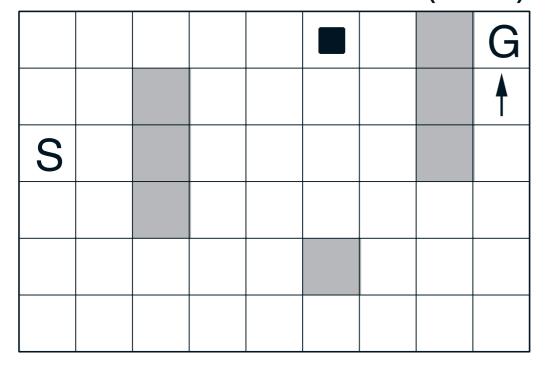
# Midway in 2nd Episode

#### WITHOUT PLANNING (n=0)

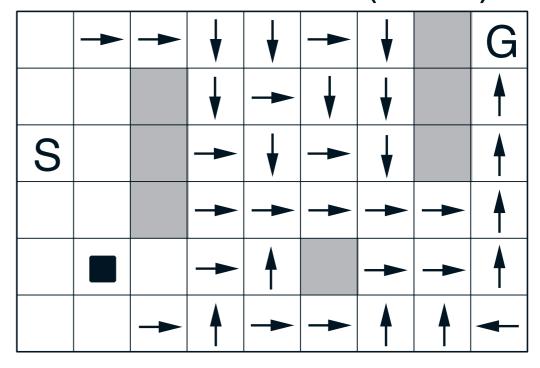


### Midway in 2nd Episode

#### WITHOUT PLANNING (n=0)



#### WITH PLANNING (n=50)



# Random sampling is suboptimal

Initialize Q(s, a) and Model(s, a) for all  $s \in S$  and  $a \in A(s)$ Do forever:

- (a)  $S \leftarrow \text{current (nonterminal) state}$
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- (d)  $Q(S,A) \leftarrow Q(S,A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_a Q(S',a) Q(S,A) \right]$
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- (f) Repeat n times:

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$$R, S' \leftarrow Model(S, A)$$

$$Q(S, A) \leftarrow Q(S, A) + \alpha \left[ R + \gamma \max_{a} Q(S', a) - Q(S, A) \right]$$

# Prioritized sweeping

#### Prioritized sweeping for a deterministic environment

Initialize Q(s, a), Model(s, a), for all s, a, and PQueue to empty Do forever:

- (a)  $S \leftarrow \text{current (nonterminal) state}$
- (b)  $A \leftarrow policy(S, Q)$
- (c) Execute action A; observe resultant reward, R, and state, S'
- (d)  $Model(S, A) \leftarrow R, S'$
- (e)  $P \leftarrow |R + \gamma \max_a Q(S', a) Q(S, A)|$ .
- (f) if  $P > \theta$ , then insert S, A into PQueue with priority P
- (g) Repeat n times, while PQueue is not empty:

$$S, A \leftarrow first(PQueue)$$
  
 $R, S' \leftarrow Model(S, A)$ 

$$Q(S, \Lambda) \leftarrow Q(S, \Lambda) + \alpha [R + \gamma \max_a Q(S', a) - Q(S, \Lambda)]$$

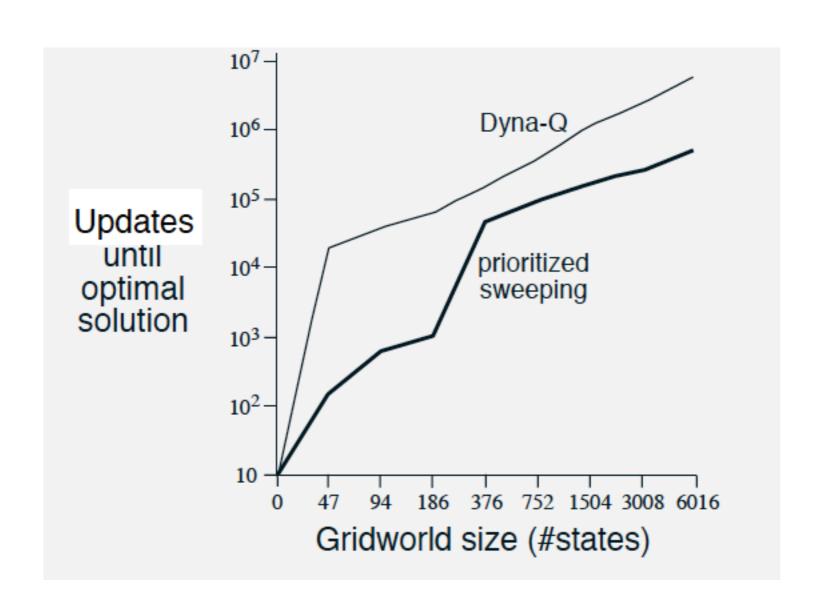
Repeat, for all S, A predicted to lead to S:

$$\bar{R} \leftarrow \text{predicted reward for } \bar{S}, \bar{A}, S$$

$$P \leftarrow |\bar{R} + \gamma \max_a Q(S, a) - Q(\bar{S}, \bar{A})|.$$

if  $P > \theta$  then insert S, A into PQueue with priority P

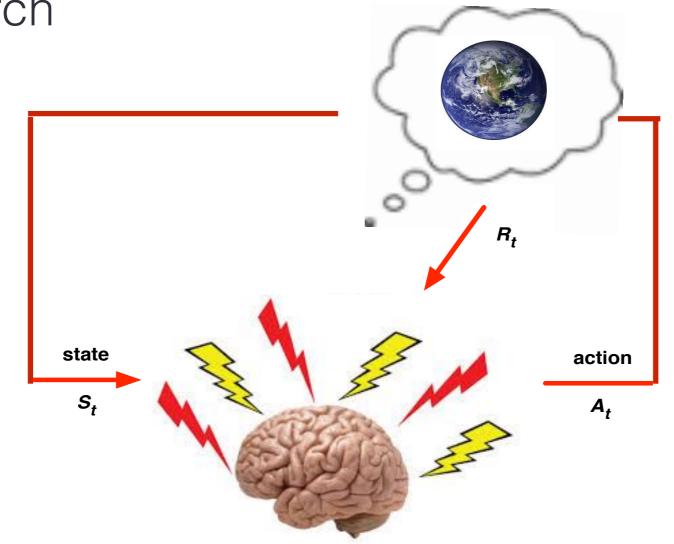
# Prioritized sweeping vs Random Sampling

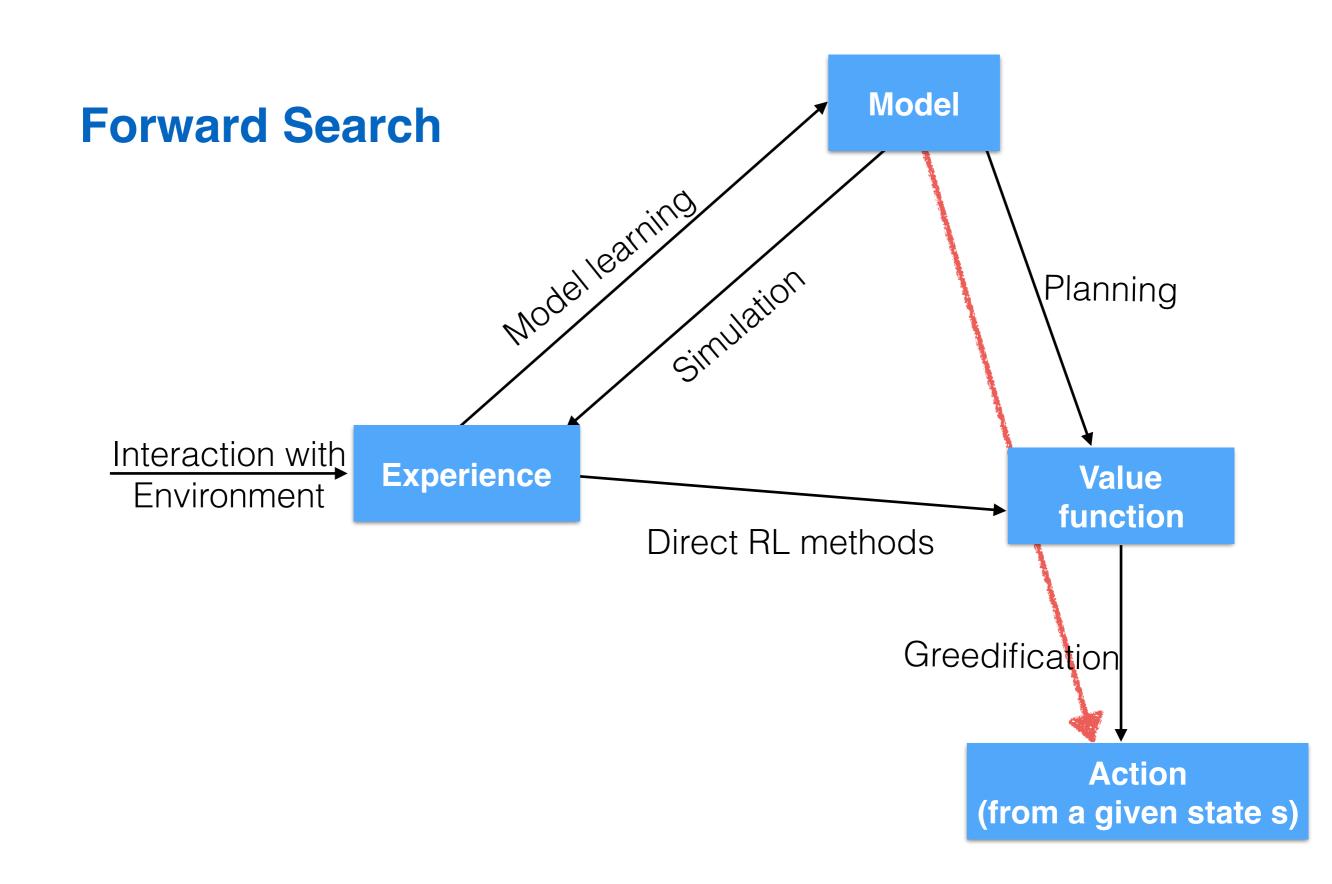


# Sampling-based look-ahead search

- 1. If the model is unknown, we will learn the model.
- 2. Learn value functions using both real and simulated experience

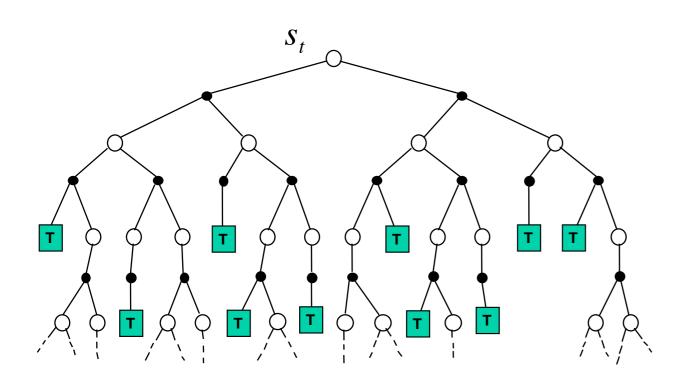
3. Computing value functions online using model-based lookahead search





# Online Planning with Search

- 1. Build a search tree with the current state of the agent at the root
- 2. Compute value functions using simulated episodes (reward usually only on final state, e.g., win or loose)
- 3. Select the next move to execute
- 4. Execute it
- 5. GOTO 1



# Why online planning?

Why don't we learn a value function directly for every state offline, so that we do not waste time online?

- Because the environment has many many states (consider Go 10^170, Chess 10^48, real world ....)
- Very hard to compute a good value function for each one of them, most you will never visit
- Thus, condition on the current state you are in, try to estimate the value function of the relevant part of the state space online
- Focus your resources on sub-MDP starting from now, often dramatically easier than solving the whole MDP

Any problems with online tree search?

# Curse of dimensionality

- The sub-MDP rooted at the current state the agent is in may still be very large (too many states are reachable), despite much smaller than the original one.
- Too many actions possible: large tree branching factor
- Too many steps: large tree depth

# I cannot exhaustively search the full tree

# Curse of dimensionality

#### Consider hex on an NxN board.

branching factor ≤ N<sup>2</sup>

 $2N \le depth \le N^2$ 

board size	max branching factor	min depth	tree size	depth of 10 <sup>10</sup> nodes
6x6	36	12	>10 <sup>17</sup>	7
8x8	64	16	>10 <sup>28</sup>	6
11x11	121	22	>1044	5
19x19	361	38	>10 <sup>96</sup>	4

Goal of HEX: to make a connected line that links two antipodal points of the grid



# How to handle curse of dimensionality?

#### Intelligent search instead of exhaustive search:

- A. The depth of the search may be reduced by **position evaluation**: truncating the search tree at state s and replacing the subtree below s by an approximate value function v(s)=v\*(s) that predicts the outcome from state s.
- B. The breadth of the search may be reduced by sampling actions from a **policy** p(als) that is a probability distribution over possible moves a in position s, instead of trying every action.

## Position evaluation

We can estimate values for positions in two ways:

- Engineering them using human experts (DeepBlue)
- Learning them from self-play (TD-gammon)

Problems with human engineering:

- tiring
- non transferrable to other domains.

YET: that's how Kasparov was first beaten.



http://stanford.edu/~cpiech/cs221/apps/deepBlue.html

# Position evaluation using sampled rollouts

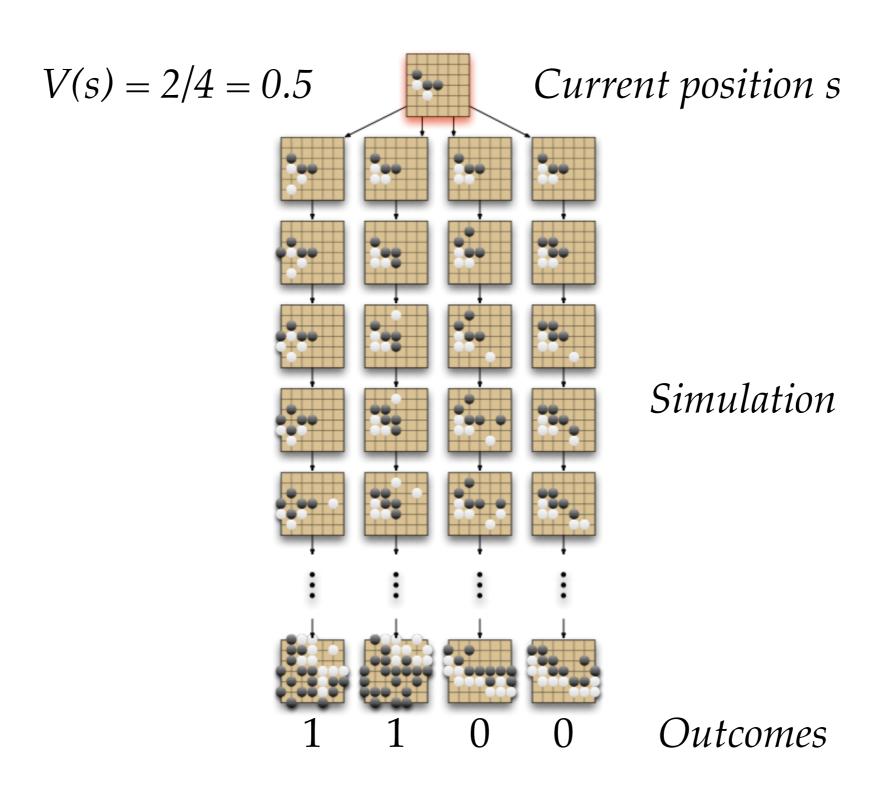
a.k.a. Monte Carlo

```
function MC_BoardEval(state):
    wins = 0
    losses = 0
    for i=1:NUM_SAMPLES
        next_state = state
        while non_terminal(next_state):
            next_state = random_legal_move(next_state)
        if next_state.winner == state.turn: wins++
        else: losses++ #needs slight modification if draws possible
    return (wins - losses) / (wins + losses)
```

What policy shall we use to draw our simulations?

The cheapest one is random...

## Monte-Carlo Position Evaluation in Go



# Simplest Monte-Carlo Search

- Given a model  $\mathcal{M}_{\nu}$  , a root state s\_t, and a most of the times random policy  $\pi$
- For each action  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ 
  - Q(s\_t,a) = MC\_boardEval(s'), s'=T(s,a)
- Select root action:

$$a_t = \operatorname*{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} Q(s_t, a)$$

# Simplest Monte-Carlo Search

- Given a model  $\mathcal{M}_
  u$  and a most of the times random policy  $\pi$
- For each action  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ 
  - Simulate K episodes from current (real) state s:

$$\{s_t, a, R_{t+1}^k, S_{t+1}^k, A_{t+1}^k, ..., S_T^k\}_{k=1}^K \sim \mathcal{M}_{\nu}, \pi$$

Evaluate action value function of the root by mean return

$$Q(s_t, a) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} G_t \xrightarrow{P} q_{\pi}(s_t, a)$$

Select current (real) action with maximum value

$$a_t = \underset{a \in \mathcal{A}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \ Q(s_t, a)$$

## Can we do better?

- Could we improve our simulation policy the more simulations we obtain?
- Yes we can. We can keep track of action values Q not only for the root but also for nodes internal to a tree we are expanding!

# In MCTS the simulation policy improves

How should we select the actions inside the tree?

· This doesn't work:  $a_t = \operatorname*{argmax}_{a \in \mathcal{A}} Q(s_t, a)$ 

Why?

## K-armed Bandit Problem

You are faced repeatedly with a choice among k different options, or actions. After each choice you receive a numerical reward chosen from a stationary probability distribution that depends on the action you selected. Your objective is to maximize the expected total reward over some time period, for example, over 1000 action selections, or time steps.

Each action has an expected reward:

$$q_*(a) = \mathbb{E}[R_t | A_t = a]$$

If we knew what it was, we would always pick the action with the highest expected reward, obviously. Those q values is exactly what we care to estimate.

Note that the state is not changing...
that is a big difference than what we have seen so far...

## K-armed Bandit Problem

You are faced repeatedly with a choice among k different options, or actions. After each choice you receive a numerical reward chosen from a stationary probability distribution that depends on the action you selected. Your objective is to maximize the expected total reward over some time period, for example, over 1000 action selections, or time steps.

Let  $Q_t(a)$  denote our estimates of  $q^*$  at time t.

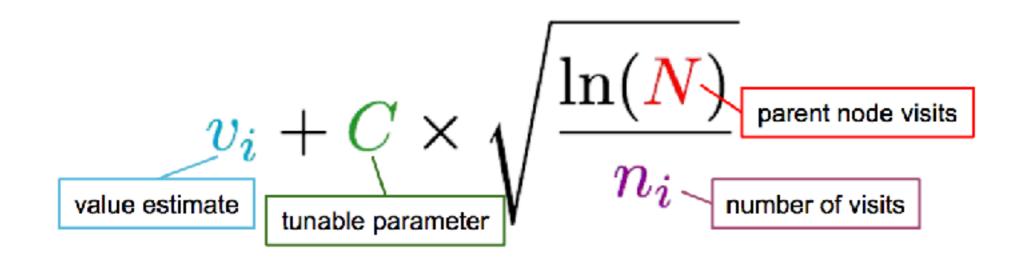
There are two things we can do each time-step:

- Exploit: Pick the action with the highest
- Explore: Pick a different action

 $\epsilon-\operatorname{greedy}(Q)$  is a simple policy that balances in some way exploitation/ exploration. However, it does not differentiate between suboptimal, clearly suboptimal or marginally suboptimal actions, or actions that have been tried often or not, and thus have unreliable Q values.

# Upper-Confidence Bound

Sample actions according to the following score:



- score is decreasing in the number of visits (explore)
- score is increasing in a node's value (exploit)
- always tries every option once

Finite-time Analysis of the Multiarmed Bandit Problem, Auer, Cesa-Bianchi, Fischer, 2002

#### 1. Selection

- Used for nodes we have seen before
- Pick according to UCB

#### 2. Expansion

- Used when we reach the frontier
- Add one node per playout

#### 3. Simulation

- Used beyond the search frontier
- Don't bother with UCB, just play randomly

#### 4. Backpropagation

- After reaching a terminal node
- Update value and visits for states expanded in selection and expansion

Bandit based Monte-Carlo Planning, Kocsis and Szepesvari, 2006

## MCTS helper functions

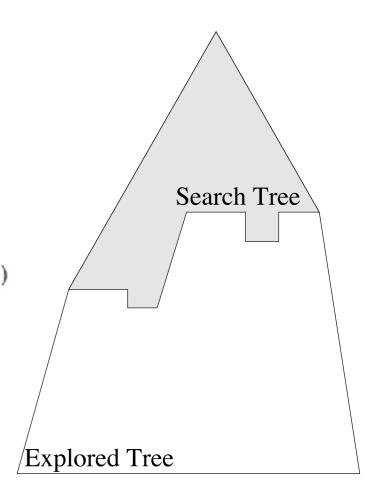
## MCTS helper functions

```
function expand(state):
    state.visits = 1
    state.value = 0

function update value(state, winner):
    if winner == state.turn:
        state.value += 1
    else:
        state.value -= 1
```

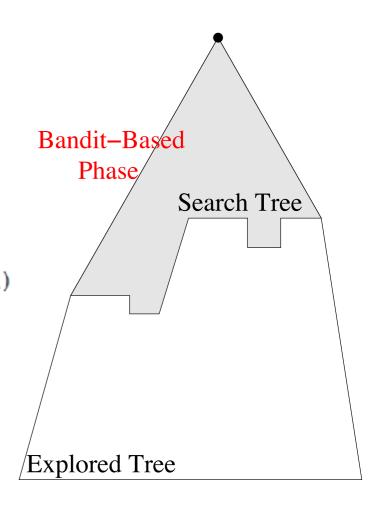
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function MCTS_sample(state)
    state.visits++
    if all children of state expanded:
        next_state = UCB_sample(state)
        winner = MCTS_sample(next_state)

else:
        if some children of state expanded:
            next_state = expand(random unexpanded child)
        else:
            next_state = state
            winner = random_playout(next_state)
        update_value(state, winner)
```



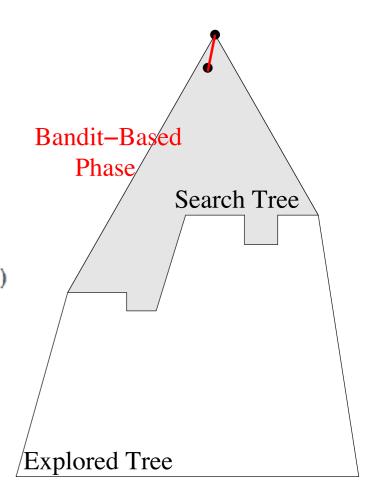
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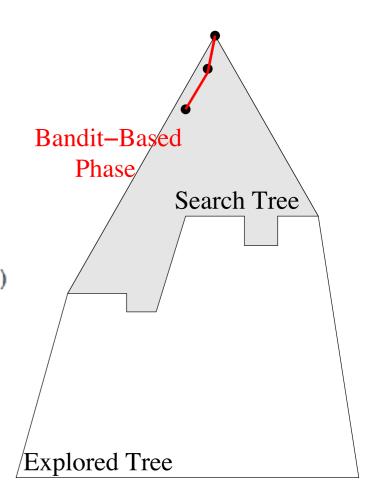
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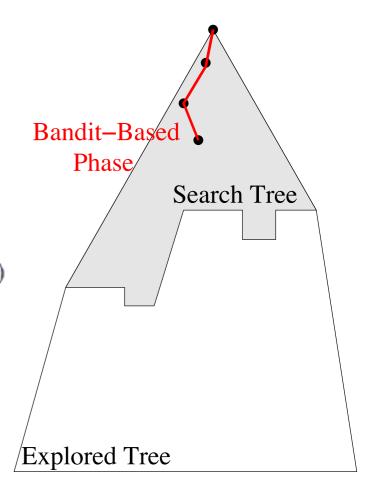
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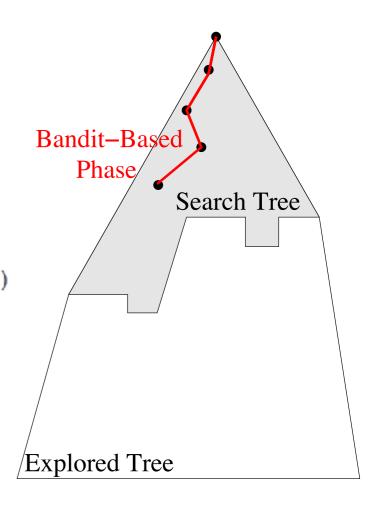


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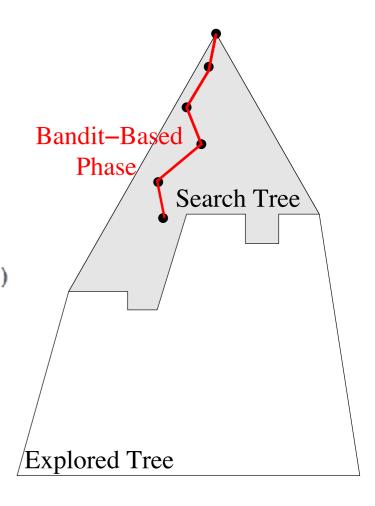


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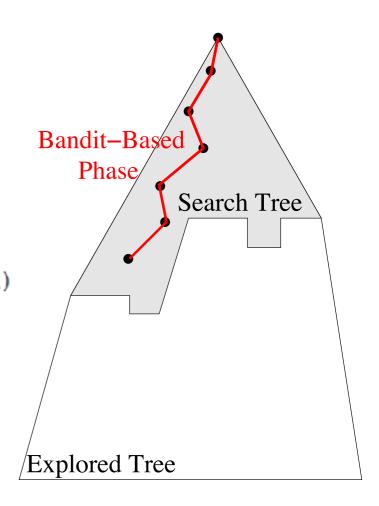
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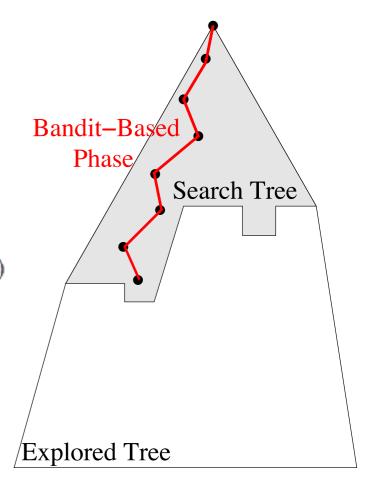
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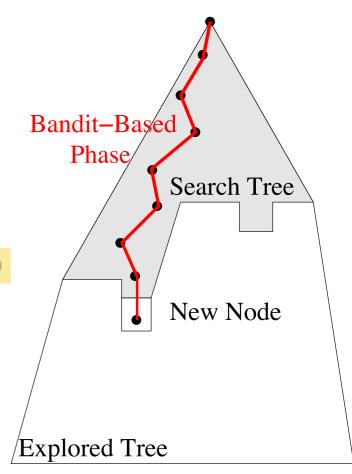


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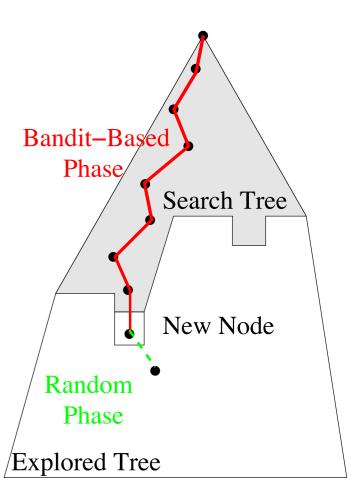
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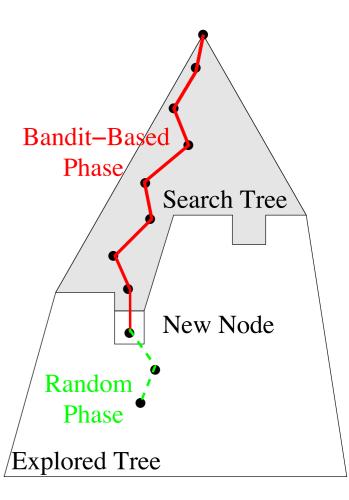
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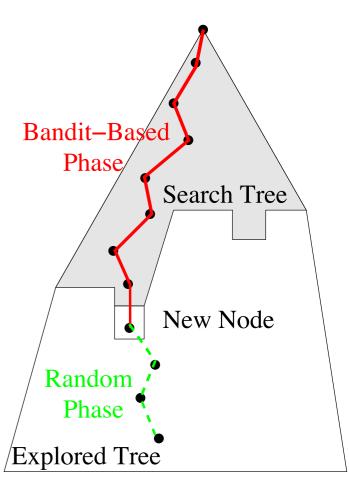
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        else:
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        winner = random playout(next state)
   update value(state, winner)
   function random playout (state):
       if is terminal(state):
           return winner
       else: return random playout (random move (state))
```



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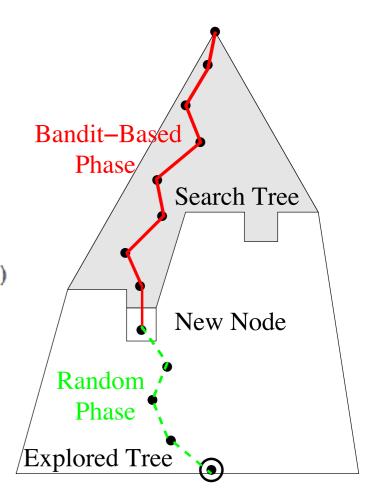
#### Basic MCTS pseudocode

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function MCTS sample(state)
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```
Bandit-Based
Phase
Search Tree
New Node
Random
Phase
Explored Tree
```

#### Basic MCTS pseudocode

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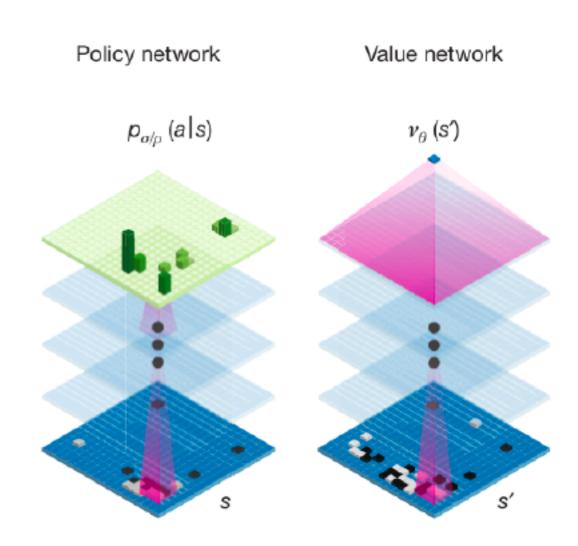


## Can we do better?

Can we inject prior knowledge into value functions to be estimated and actions to be tried, instead of initializing uniformly?

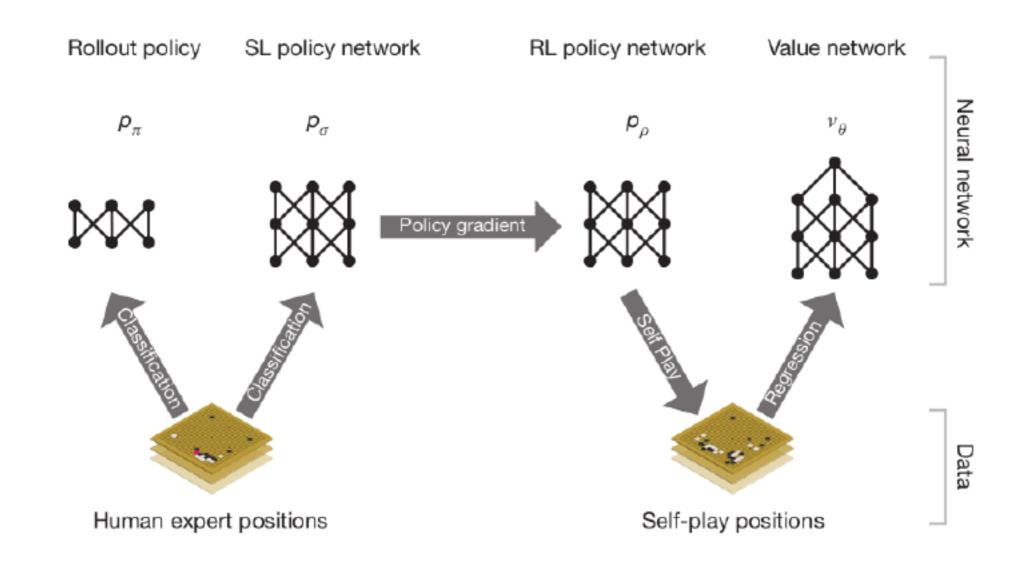
# AlphaGo: Learning-guided MCTS

- Value neural net to evaluate board positions
- Policy neural net to select moves
- Combine those networks with MCTS



# AlphaGo: Learning-guided search

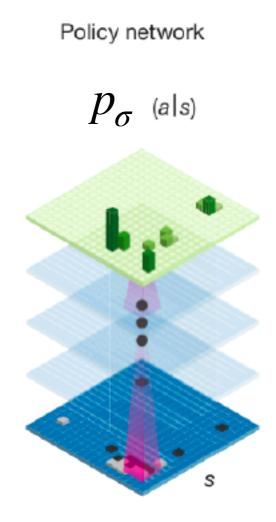
- 1. Train two action policies, one cheap (rollout) policy  $p_{\pi}$  and one expensive policy  $p_{\sigma}$  by mimicking expert moves (standard supervised learning).
- 2. Then, train a new policy  $p_{
  ho}$  with RL and self-play  $p_{\sigma}$  initialized from SL policy.
- 3. Train a value network that predicts the winner of games played by  $\mathcal{P}_{
  ho}$  against itself.



# Supervised learning of policy networks

- Objective: predicting expert moves
- Input: randomly sampled state-action pairs (s, a) from expert games
- Output: a probability distribution over all legal moves a.

SL policy network: 13-layer policy network trained from 30 million positions. The network predicted expert moves on a held out test set with an accuracy of 57.0% using all input features, and 55.7% using only raw board position and move history as inputs, compared to the state-of-the-art from other research groups of 44.4%.



# Reinforcement learning of policy networks

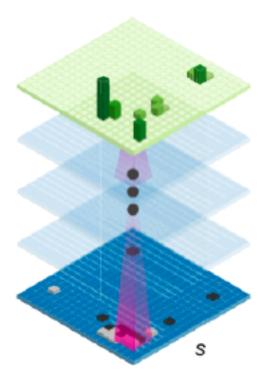
- Objective: improve over SL policy
- Weight initialization from SL network
- Input: Sampled states during self-play
- Output: a probability distribution over all legal moves a.

Rewards are provided only at the end of the game, +1 for winning, -1 for loosing

$$\Delta \rho \propto \frac{\partial \log p_{\rho}(a_t|s_t)}{\partial \rho} z_t$$

Policy network

$$p_{
ho\,{}^{(a|s)}}$$

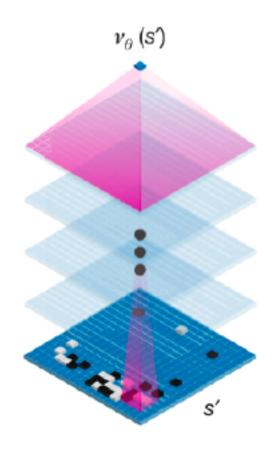


The RL policy network won more than 80% of games against the SL policy network.

## Reinforcement learning of value networks

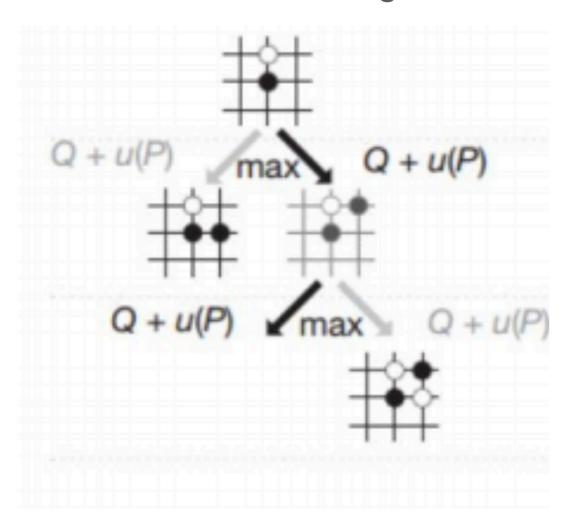
- Objective: Estimating a value function v<sub>s</sub>(s) that predicts the outcome from position s of games played by using RL policy p for both players (in contrast to min-max search)
- Input: Sampled states during self-play, 30 million distinct positions, each sampled from a separate game, played by the RL policy against itself.
- Output: a scalar value

Trained by regression on state-outcome pairs (s, z) to minimize the mean squared error between the predicted value v(s), and the corresponding outcome z.



Value network

Selection: selecting actions within the expanded tree

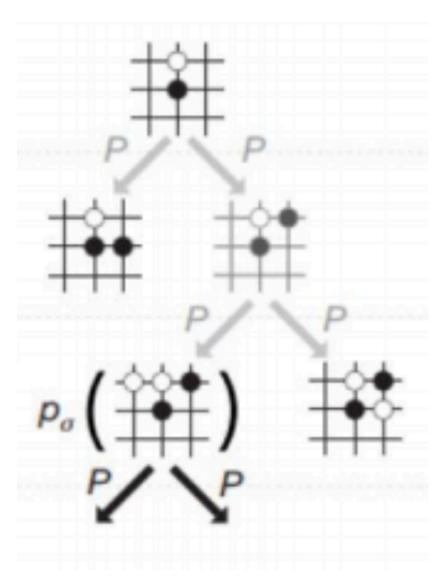


#### **Tree policy**

$$a_t = \operatorname{argmax}_a(Q(s_t, a) + u(s_t, a))$$
$$u(s, a) \propto \frac{P(s, a)}{1 + N(s, a)}$$

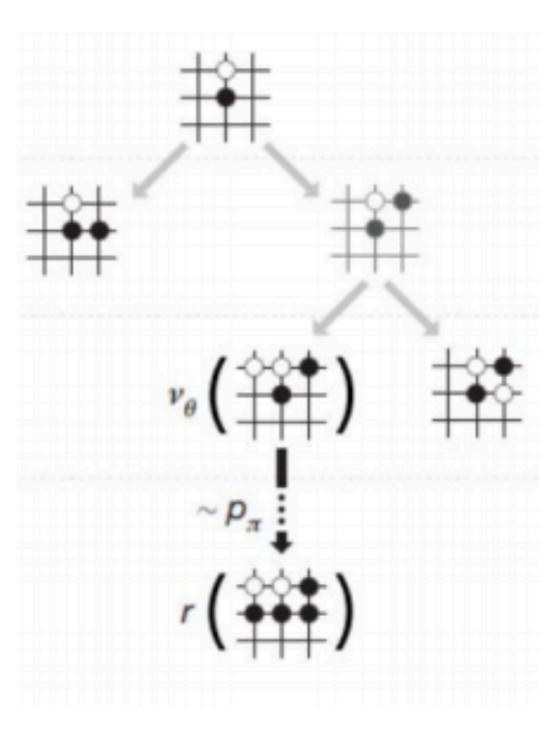
- a, action selected at time step t from board s.
- Q(s<sub>r</sub>, a) average reward collected so far from MC simulations
- P(s, a) prior expert probability of playing moving a provided by SL policy
- N(s, a) number of times we have visited parent node
- u acts as a bonus value
  - Decays with repeated visits

**Expansion**: when reaching a leaf, play the action with highest score from  $P_{\sigma}$ 



- When leaf node is reached, it has a chance to be expanded
- Processed once by SL policy network ( $p_{\sigma}$ ) and stored as prior probs P(s, a)
- Pick child node with highest prior prob

Simulation/Evaluation: use the rollout policy to reach to the end of the game

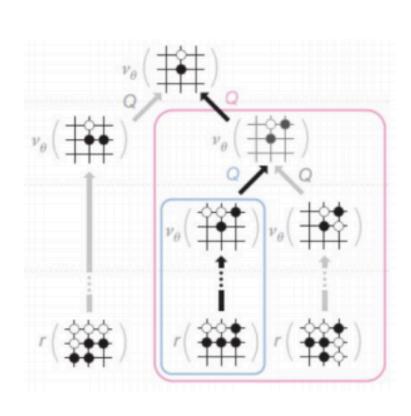


- From the selected leaf node, run multiple simulations in parallel using the rollout policy
- Evaluate the leaf node as:

$$V(s_L) = (1 - \lambda)v_{\theta}(s_L) + \lambda z_L$$

- v<sub>e</sub> value from value function of board position s,
- z<sub>L</sub> Reward from fast rollout p<sub>x</sub>
  - Played until terminal step
- λ mixing parameter
  - Empirical

**Backup**: update visitation counts and recorded rewards for the chosen path inside the tree:



$$N(s,a) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} 1(s,a,i)$$

$$Q(s,a) = \frac{1}{N(s,a)} \sum_{i=1}^{n} 1(s,a,i) V(s_L^i)$$

- Extra index i is to denote the i<sup>th</sup> simulation, n total simulations
- Update visit count and mean reward of simulations passing through node
- Once search completes:
  - Algorithm chooses the most visited move from the root position

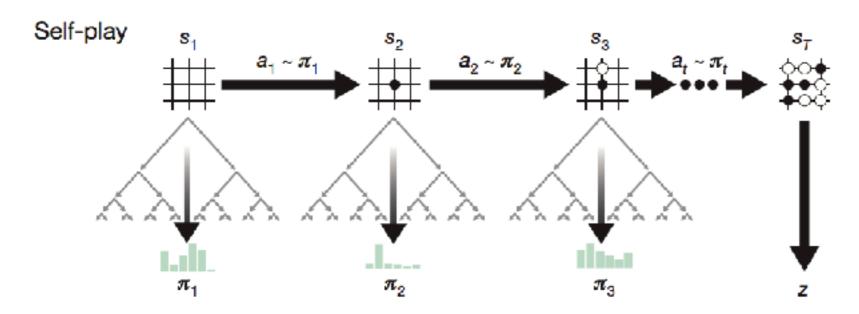
#### AlphaGoZero: Lookahead search during training!

- So far, look-ahead search was used for online planning at test time!
- AlphaGoZero uses it during training instead, for improved exploration during self-play
- AlphaGo trained the RL policy using the current policy network  $p_{\rho}$  and a randomly selected previous iteration of the policy network as opponent (for exploration).
- The intelligent exploration in AlphaGoZero gets rid of need for human supervision.

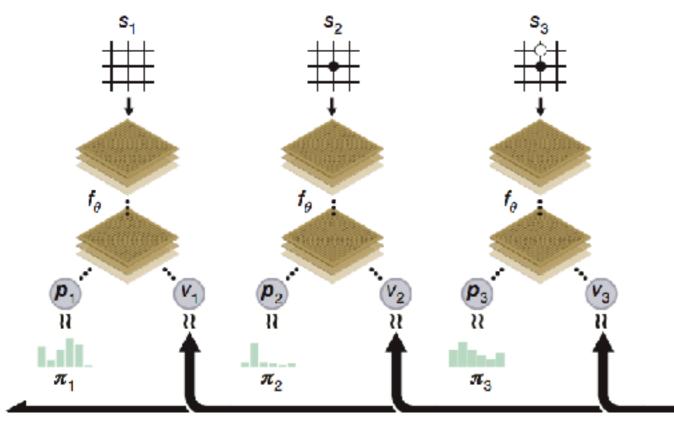
#### AlphaGoZero: Lookahead search during training!

- Given any policy, a MCTS guided by this policy will produce an improved policy (policy improvement operator)
- Train to mimic such improved policy

# MCTS as policy improvement operator

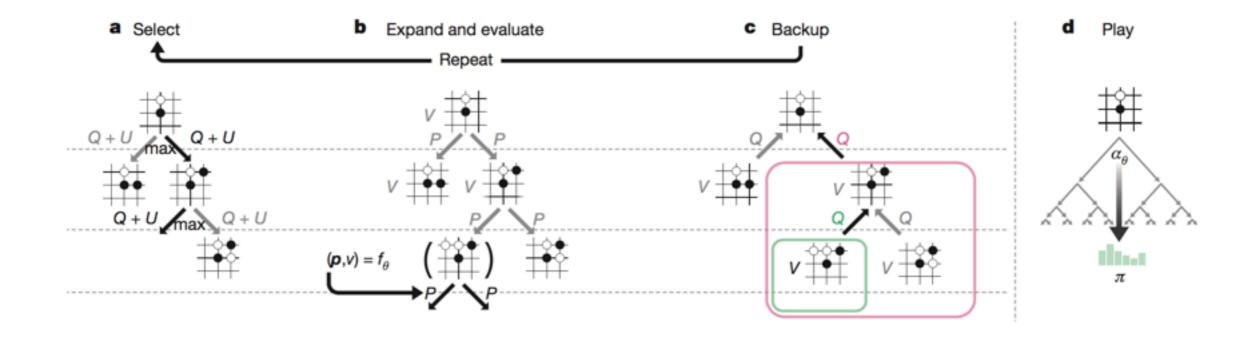


#### Neural network training



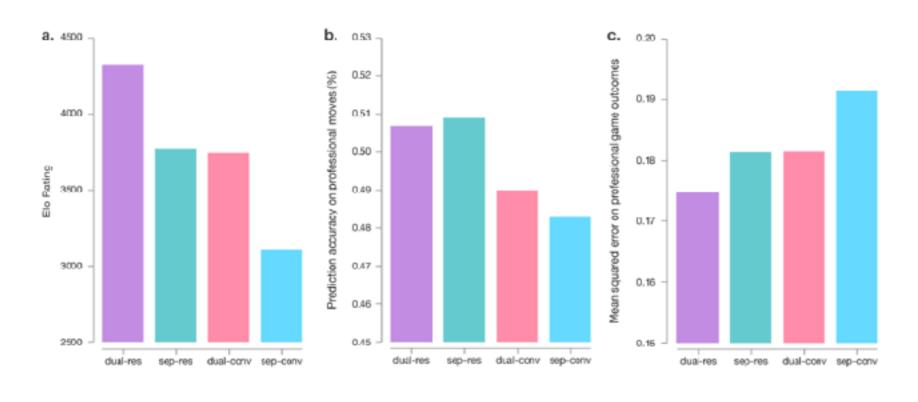
- Train so that the policy network mimics this improved policy
- Train so that the position evaluation network output matches the outcome (same as in AlphaGo)

## MCTS: no MC rollouts till termination

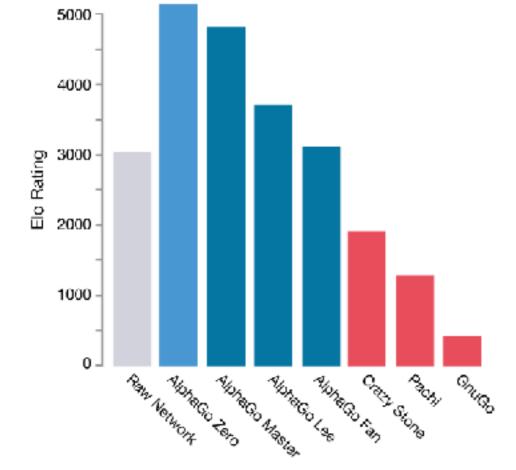


MCTS: using always value net evaluations of leaf nodes, no rollouts!

#### Architectures

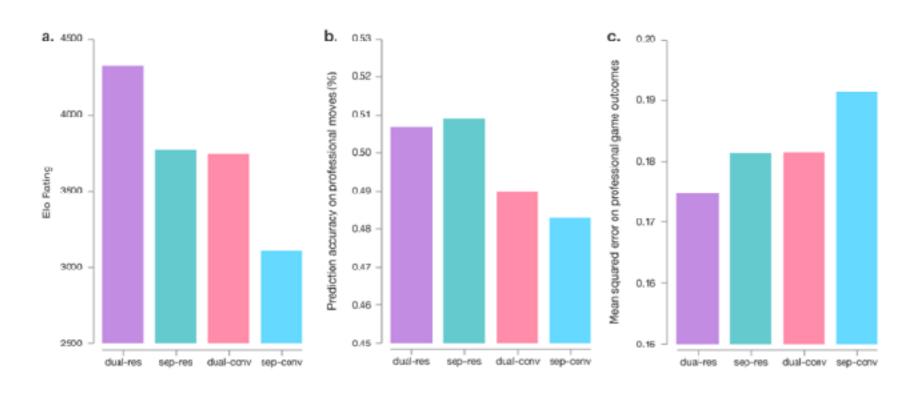


- Resnets help
- Jointly training the policy and value function using the same main feature extractor helps



 Lookahead tremendously improves the basic policy

## Architectures

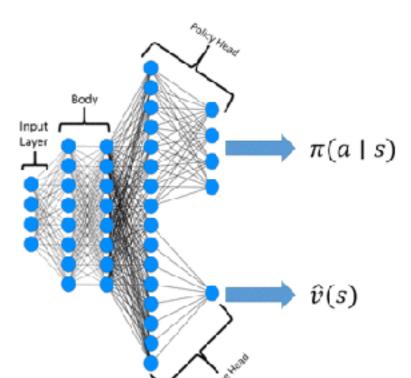


- Resnets help
- Jointly training the policy and value function using the same main feature extractor helps

#### Separate policy/value nets

# Policy network Value network $p_{\sigma/p} \ (a \, | \, s) \qquad \qquad v_{\theta} \ (s')$

#### Joint policy/value nets



# RL VS SL

