

1 Probabilistic or Stochastic DP- Finite Horizon

a) The next state is certain but the reward/cost obtained in the current state is stochastic,

$$f_t(i) = \min_x [\text{Expected Cost } c(i, x) + f_{t+1}(j)], \quad (1)$$

where

$$c(i, x) = \sum_j p(i, x, j)c(i, x, j) \quad (2)$$

b) The next state is uncertain and the reward/cost obtained in the current state is stochastic. In general

$$f_t(i) = \min_x [\text{Expected Cost } c(i, x) + \sum_j p(i, x, j)f_{t+1}(j)], \quad (3)$$

c) There are problems where $c(i, x)$ is fixed (not an expected value) and the next state is uncertain.

$$f_t(i) = \min_x [c(i, x) + \sum_j p(i, x, j)f_{t+1}(j)], \quad (4)$$

d) There are also problems where $c(i, x)$ does not exist. The next state is obviously uncertain.

$$f_t(i) = \min_x [\sum_j p(i, x, j)f_{t+1}(j)], \quad (5)$$

Stochastic DP (finite horizon) is also represented as decision trees.