

ECN 106 : Decision Making Professor Giacomo Bonanno
WINTER 2024 - SECOND MIDTERM EXAM: ANSWERS for VERSION 1

1. (a) The information is (1) $P(D)=0.02$ (from which we deduce that $P(\neg D)=0.98$), (2) $P(-|D)=0.01$ (from which we deduce that $P(+|D)=0.99$) and (3) $P(+|\neg D)=0.05$. Now, $P(+)=P(+|D)P(D)+P(+|\neg D)P(\neg D)=0.99(0.02)+0.05(0.98)=0.0688=6.88\%$.

(b) 2% of 10,000 is 200; thus 200 have the disease and 9,800 don't. Of the 200 who have the disease, 1%, that is, 2 give a negative result; thus the remaining 198 give a positive result. Of the 9,800 who don't have the disease, 5% (that is, 490) give a positive result. Thus the table is as follows:

	positive blood test	negative blood test	Total
have the disease	198	2	200
don't have the disease	490	9,310	9,800
Total	688	9,312	

(c) $\frac{490}{688} = 0.7122 = 71.22\%$.

2. (a) Putting the money in the checking account corresponds to the lottery $\begin{pmatrix} \$1,200 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, whose expected value is 1,200, while putting it in the mutual fund corresponds to the lottery $\begin{pmatrix} \$1,800 & \$1,400 & \$700 \\ \frac{8}{100} & \frac{74}{100} & \frac{18}{100} \end{pmatrix}$ whose expected value is 1,306. Hence Trevor would be risk averse.

(b) The possible levels of wealth are: \$1,800, \$1,400, \$1,200 and \$700. Assign utility 1 to \$1,800 and zero to \$700. Since $\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \$1,400 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{CD} \sim \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \$1,800 & \$700 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}}_{startup}$ the utility of \$1,400 is

$\frac{1}{2}1 + \frac{1}{2}0 = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$. Finally, since $\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \$1,200 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}_{Checking} \sim \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \$1,400 & \$700 \\ \frac{96}{100} & \frac{4}{100} \end{pmatrix}}_{foreign\ venture}$, the utility of \$1,200 is

$\frac{96}{100}0.5 + \frac{4}{100}0 = 0.48$. Hence Trevor's utility function is

\$1,800	\$1,400	\$1,200	\$700
1	0.5	0.48	0

(c) $\mathbb{E}[U(\text{checking})] = 0.48$, $\mathbb{E}[U(\text{mutual})] = \frac{8}{100}1 + \frac{74}{100}0.5 + \frac{18}{100}0 = 0.45$ $\mathbb{E}[U(CD)] = 0.5$,
 $\mathbb{E}[U(\text{startup})] = 0.5(1) + 0.5(0) = 0.5$, $\mathbb{E}[U(\text{foreign})] = \frac{96}{100}0.5 + \frac{4}{100}0 = 0.48$.

(d) For a risk neutral person we compute expected values. $\mathbb{E}[\text{checking}] = 1,200$,
 $\mathbb{E}[\text{mutual}] = \frac{8}{100}1,800 + \frac{74}{100}1,400 + \frac{18}{100}700 = 1,306$, $\mathbb{E}[CD] = 1,400$,
 $\mathbb{E}[\text{startup}] = 0.5(1,800) + 0.5(700) = 1,250$, $\mathbb{E}[\text{foreign}] = \frac{96}{100}1,400 + \frac{4}{100}700 = 1,372$. Thus the ranking is $CD \succ foreign \succ mutual \succ startup \succ checking$.

3.

(a) First we need to convert outcomes into utilities:

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4
a	4	6	4	9
b	5	13	3	8
c	11	1	10	0

. Thus the

regret table is:

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4
a	7	7	6	0
b	6	0	7	1
c	0	12	0	9

where the maximum regret for each act is

highlighted.

(b) The MinMax Regret solution is: $\{a, b\}$.

(c) (c.1) $H(a, \frac{1}{4}) = 4 \times \frac{1}{4} + 9 \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{31}{4} = 7.75$. (c.2) $H(b, \frac{1}{4}) = 3 \times \frac{1}{4} + 13 \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{42}{4} = 10.5$.

(c.1) $H(c, \frac{1}{4}) = 0 \times \frac{1}{4} + 11 \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{33}{4} = 8.25$.

(d) $\mathbb{E}[U(a)] = \frac{4+6+4+9}{4} = \frac{23}{4}$, $\mathbb{E}[U(b)] = \frac{5+13+3+8}{4} = \frac{29}{4}$, $\mathbb{E}[U(c)] = \frac{11+1+10+0}{4} = \frac{22}{4}$

Thus the act that maximizes expected utility is b .