CS 5/7320
Artificial Intelligence

Making Simple Decisions
AIMA Chapter 16

Introduction slides by Michael Hahsler

Decision network slides by Dan Klein and Pieter Abbeel

What is a simple decision?

- A decision that we make frequently + making it once does not affect the future decisions.
- This means we make them in an **episodic environment**.
- Decision theory formalizes making simple decisions.

Decision theory =

Probability theory (evidence & belief)

+

Utility theory (want)

Decision-theoretic Agents (=Utility-based Agent)

Logical agents

Cannot deal with:
- Uncertainty
- Conflicting goals

Goal-based agents

- Can only assign goal/not goal to states and find goal states.

Utility-based agents

- Assign a utility value to each state.
- A rational agent optimizes the expected utility (i.e., is utility-based).
- Utility is related to the external performance measure (see PEAS).

Utility

- A utility function $U(s)$ expresses the desirability of being in state s.
- Utility functions are derived from rational preferences:

$$U(A) > U(B) \Leftrightarrow A \succ B$$

and

$$U(A) = U(B) \Leftrightarrow A \sim B$$

- Therefore, it is often enough to know the utility **ranking** of states.

Expected Utility

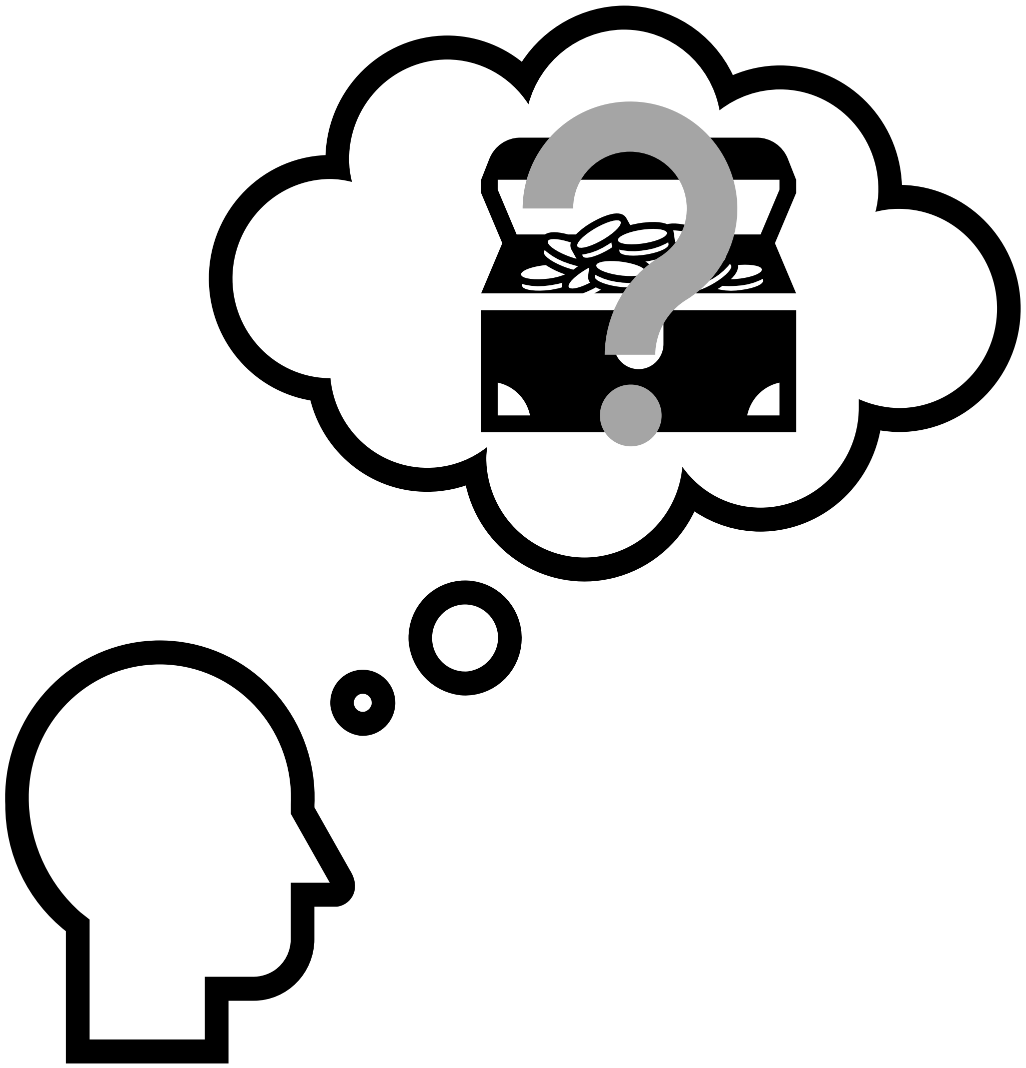
We need:

- A utility function $U(s)$.
- The probability $P(s)$, that the current state is s.
- The probability that an action will get us to different states s'

$$P(Result(a) = s') = \sum_{s} P(s)P(s'|s,a)$$

Expected utility of an action:

$$EU(a) = \sum_{s'} P(Result(a) = s')U(s')$$



Principle of Maximum Expected Utility (MEU)

Given the expected utility of an action

$$EU(a) = \sum_{s'} P(Result(a) = s')U(s')$$

choose action that maximizes the expected utility:

$$a^* = \text{argmax}_a\, EU(a)$$

Issues:

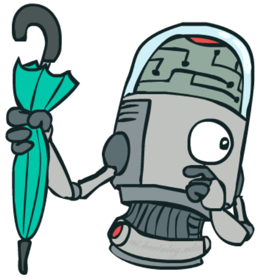
- $P(Result(a) = s')$ needs a causal model.
- $U(s)$ may be hard to estimate. It may depend on what states we can get to from s.
- MEU leads to the “optimizer’s curse” where the estimated expected utility is higher than the actual outcomes with new data.

Decision Networks

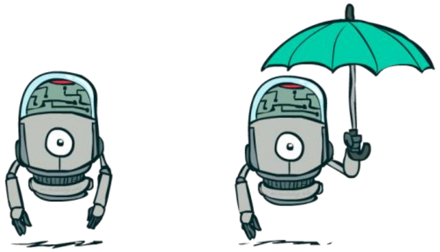
Bayes Nets with Actions

These slides were created by Dan Klein, Pieter Abbeel, Sergey Levine, with some materials from A. Farhadi. All CS188 materials are at http://ai.berkeley.edu

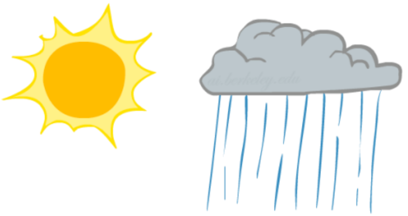
Decision Networks

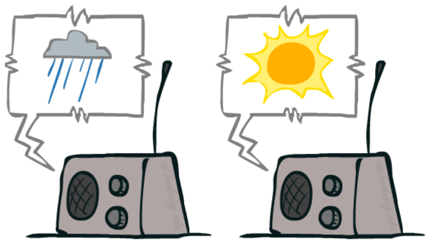


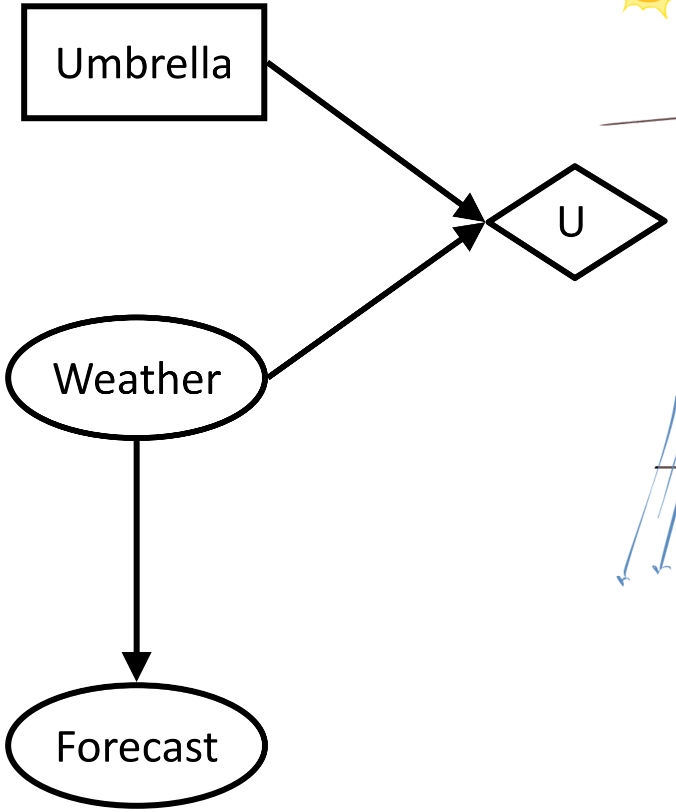
Decision



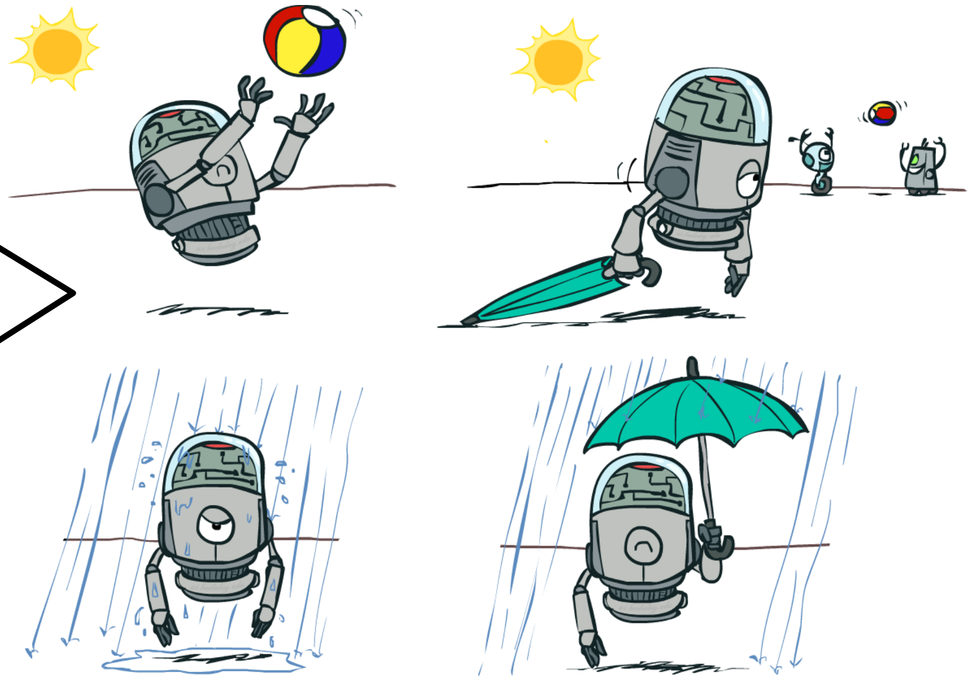
Random
Events







Utility

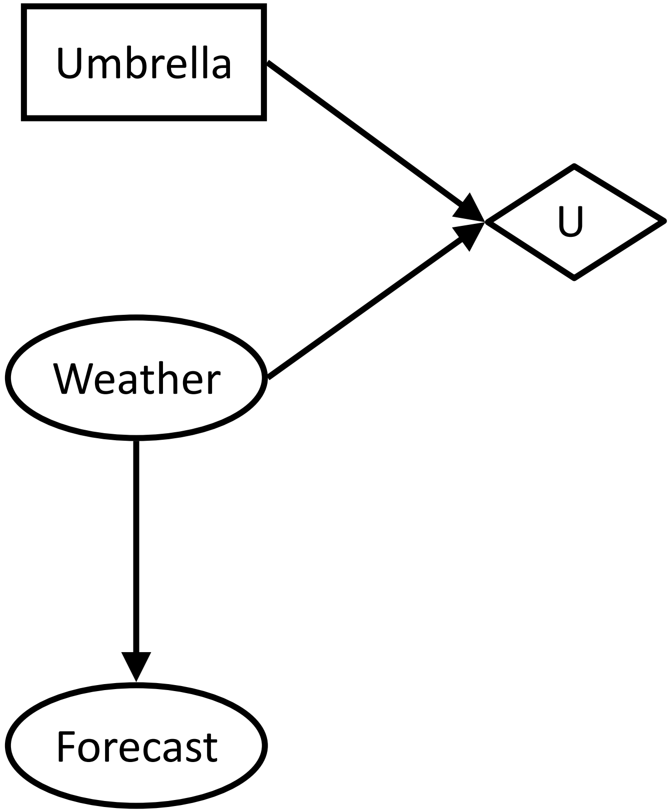


Decision Networks

MEU: choose the action which maximizes the expected utility given the evidence.

Decision networks

- Bayes nets with additional nodes for utility and actions.
- Calculate the expected utility for each possible action and choose the best.



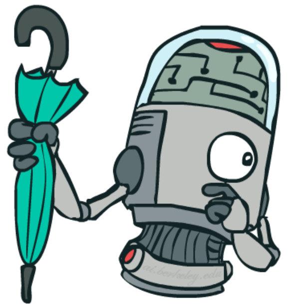
Node types

Chance nodes: Random variables in BNs

Action nodes: Cannot have parents, act as observed evidence

Utility node: Depends on action and chance nodes

Decision Network without Forecast



Action: Umbrella = leave

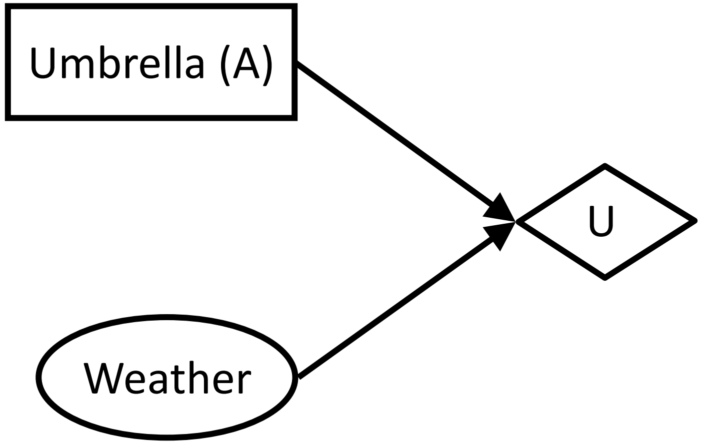
$$\mathrm{EU}(\mathrm{leave}) = \sum_{w} P(w)U(\mathrm{leave}, w)$$
$$= 0.7 \cdot 100 + 0.3 \cdot 0 = 70$$

Action: Umbrella = take

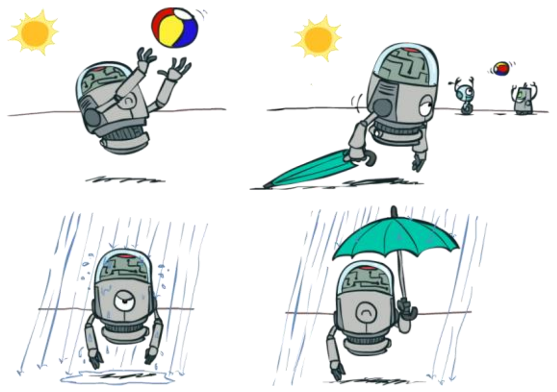
$$\mathrm{EU}(\mathrm{take}) = \sum_{w} P(w)U(\mathrm{take}, w)$$
$$= 0.7 \cdot 20 + 0.3 \cdot 70 = 35$$

Optimal decision a^* = leave

$$\mathrm{MEU}(\emptyset) = \max_{a} \mathrm{EU}(a) = 70$$

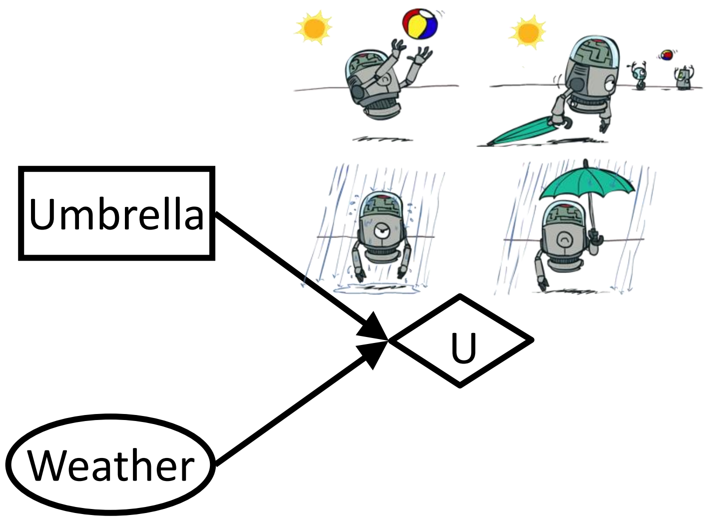


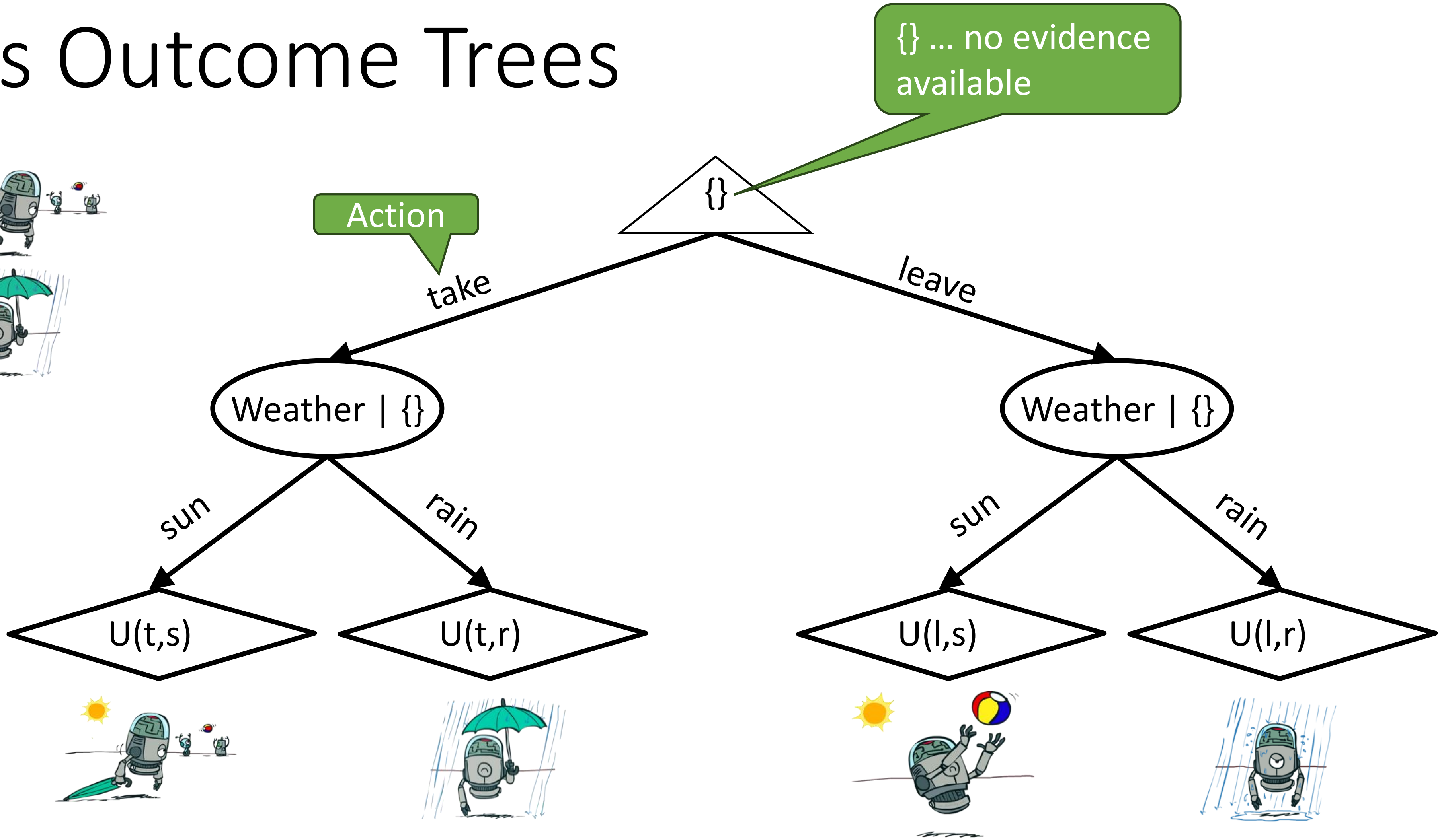
W	$P(W)$
sun	0.7
rain	0.3

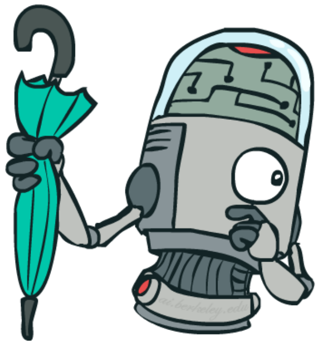


A	W	$U(A,W)$
leave	sun	100
leave	rain	0
take	sun	20
take	rain	70

Decisions as Outcome Trees

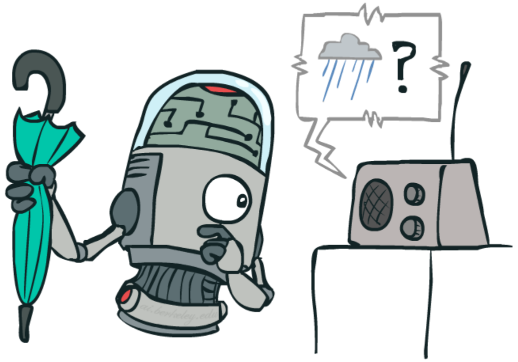






Almost exactly like expectimax tree for stochastic games.

Decision Network with Bad Forecast



Action: Umbrella = leave

$$\mathrm{EU}(\mathrm{leave}|\mathrm{bad}) = \sum_{w} P(w|\mathrm{bad})U(\mathrm{leave}, w)$$

$$= 0.34 \cdot 100 + 0.66 \cdot 0 = 34$$

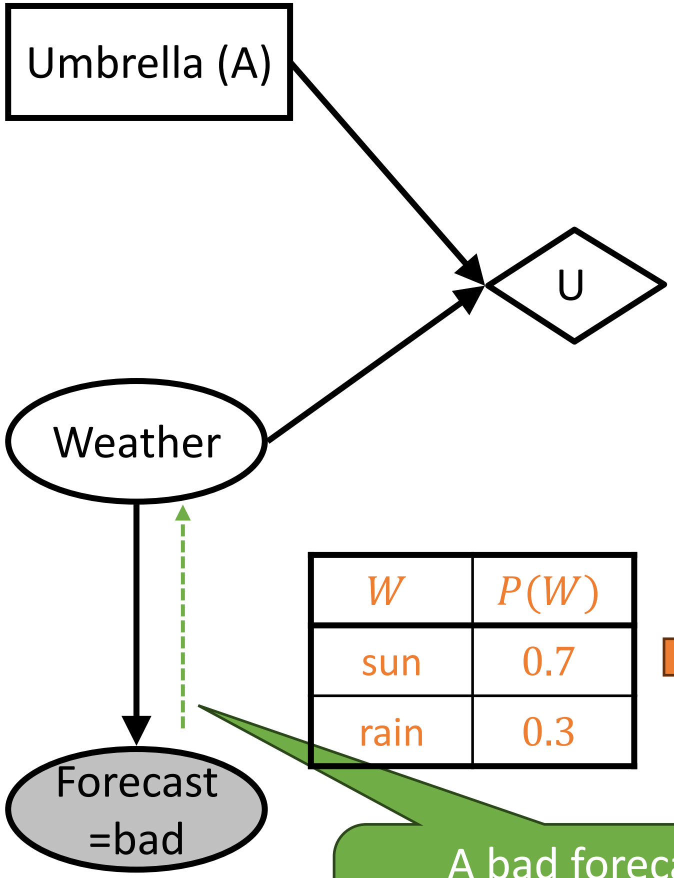
Action: Umbrella = take

$$\mathrm{EU}(\mathrm{take}|\mathrm{bad}) = \sum_{w} P(w|\mathrm{bad})U(\mathrm{take}, w)$$

$$= 0.34 \cdot 20 + 0.66 \cdot 70 = 53$$

Optimal decision = take

$$\mathrm{MEU}(F = \mathrm{bad}) = \max_{a} \mathrm{EU}(a|\mathrm{bad}) = 53$$



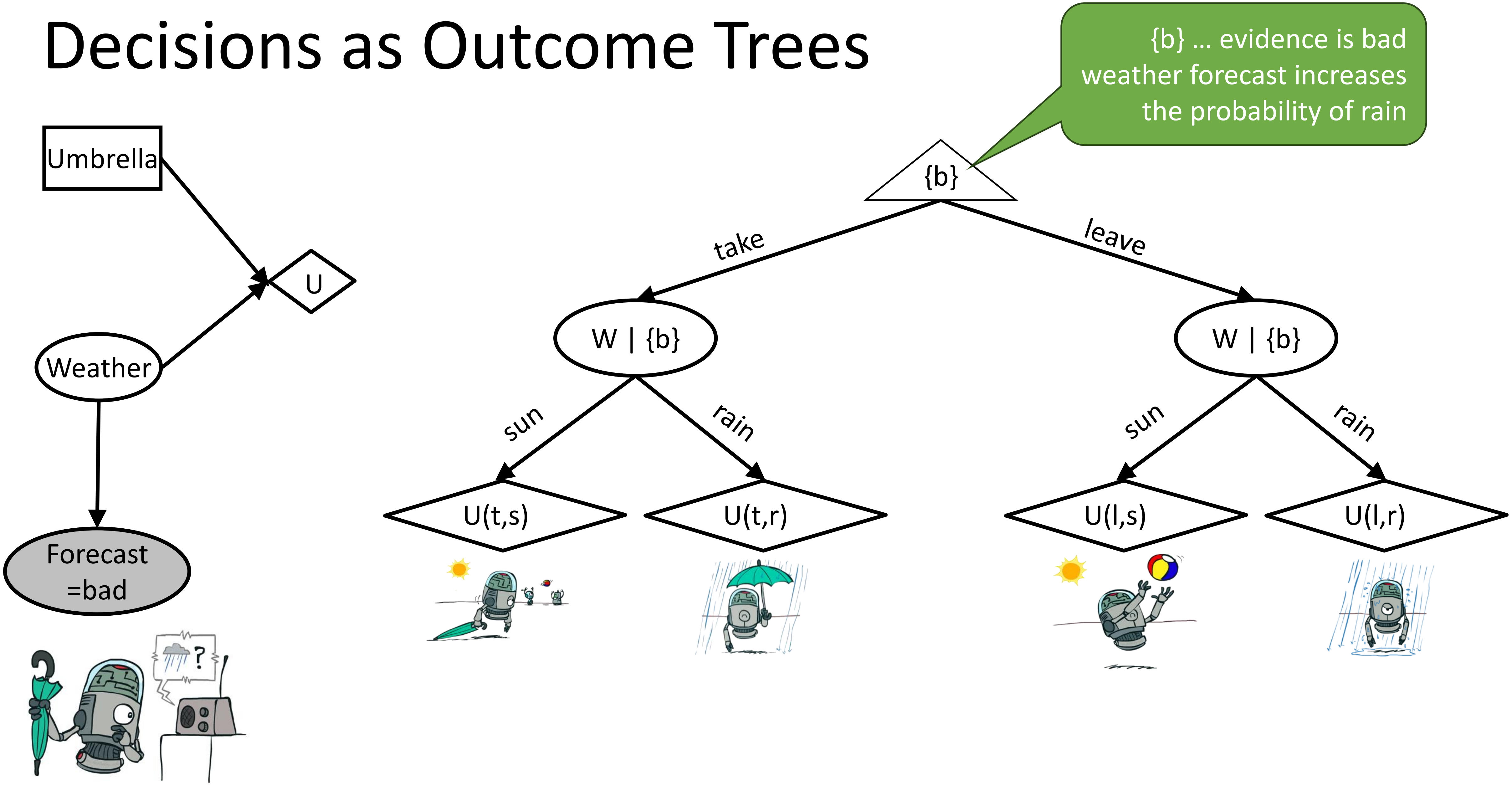
A	W	$U(A,W)$
leave	sun	100
leave	rain	0
take	sun	20
take	rain	70

W	$P(W)$
sun	0.7
rain	0.3

W	$P(W\|F = bad)$
sun	0.34
rain	0.66

A bad forecast increases the probability of rain!

Decisions as Outcome Trees



Conclusion

Decision networks are an extension of Bayes nets that add actions and utility.

Evidence and independence can be used as for Bayes nets.

Decision networks can be used to make simple decisions (a single, repeating decision, i.e., the environment is episodic).

Sequential decision-making deals with decisions that influence each other and are made over time. This is a more complex decision problem and needs different methods like **Markov Decision Processes.**