**Draft Vignettes – First Attempt**

#1

Your computer has a virus of either type X, Y or Z. You enlist a computer engineer who advises you that there is a ⅓ chance that your computer has been infected with virus X, and a ⅔ chance that it has been infected with either virus Y or Z. She advises you that only one of these viruses compromises your personal and banking details. Which do you hope is true?

A. The virus that compromises your personal and banking details is X

B. The virus that compromises your personal and banking details is Y

Your computer has a virus of either type X, Y or Z. You enlist a computer engineer who advises you that there is a ⅓ chance that your computer has been infected with virus X, and a ⅔ chance that it has been infected with either virus Y or Z. She advises you that two of these viruses are likely to compromise your personal and banking details. Which do you hope is true?

A. The viruses that compromise your personal and banking details are X and Z.

B. The viruses that compromise your personal and banking details are Y and Z.

#2

You are on a hike in the remote wilderness when you notice that you have been bitten by a spider under the sleeves of your shirt. When you roll up your sleeves to inspect the bite, you find 3 spiders. You identify with certainty one spider as species X. However, the other two spiders could be species Y or species Z (the two species are impossible for you to differentiate). You know that one of these spider species (X, Y or Z) is extremely venomous but you can’t remember which one. Which do you hope is true?

A. The species that is venomous is X

B. The species that is venomous is Y

You are on a hike in the remote wilderness when you notice that you have been bitten by a spider under the sleeves of your shirt. When you roll up your sleeves to inspect the bite, you find 3 spiders. You identify with certainty one spider as species X. However, the other two spiders could be species Y or species Z (the two species are impossible for you to differentiate). You know that two of these spider species (X, Y or Z) are extremely venomous but you can’t remember which one. Which do you hope is true?

A. The species that are venomous are X and Z

B. The species that are venomous are Y and Z

#3

You have a stock portfolio of three stocks: X, Y and Z. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to skyrocket in value. He tells you that there is a ⅓ chance that it is stock X and a ⅔ chance that it is either stock Y or Z. However, you have to sell a stock to pay for emergency medical bills. Which stock do you sell?

1. Stock X
2. Stock Y

You have a stock portfolio of three stocks: X, Y and Z. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to skyrocket in value. He tells you that there is a ⅓ chance that it is stock X and a ⅔ chance that it is either stock Y or Z. However, you need to sell two of your stocks to pay for emergency medical bills. Which stock do you sell?

1. Stocks X and Z
2. Stock Y and Z

**Draft Vignettes -- Attempt 2**

**SOCIAL**

Loss

You are attending a social event when an important acquaintance comes over to you to initiate a friendly conversation. Your friend calls you by your name, but you cannot remember theirs. However, you know that their name is either James or Peter. You resolve to attempt to use their name in conversation so as to avoid losing social capital. Which of the following do you prefer:

1. There is a 50% chance that their name is James and a 50% chance that their name is Peter.
2. Their name is either James or Peter, but you are unsure of the probability.

Gain

You are attending a social event when you sight an important acquaintance whom you wish to impress. You decide to go over to them and initiate a friendly conversation. While you have met them before, you cannot recall their name with certainty: you only know that their name is either James or Peter. You resolve to attempt to use their name in conversation so as impress them and gain social status with them. Which of the following do you prefer:

1. There is a 50% chance that their name is James and a 50% chance that their name is Peter.
2. Their name is either James or Peter, but you are unsure of the probability.

**STOCKS**

Loss

You have a stock portfolio of two stocks: X and Y. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to plummet in value, while the other will continue to grow steadily. Due to taxation and investment regulations, you can only sell one of these stocks. Which of the following do you prefer:

1. There is a 50% that Stock X will plummet and a 50% chance that Stock Y will plummet.
2. Either stock X or Y will plummet in value, but you do not know the exact probabilities.

Gain

You have a stock portfolio of two stocks: X and Y. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to skyrocket in value. However, you must sell one of the stocks to pay for emergency medical bills. Which of the following do you prefer:

1. There is a 50% that Stock X will skyrocket and a 50% chance that Stock Y will skyrocket.
2. Either stock X or Y will skyrocket in value, but you do not know the exact probabilities.

**COMPUTER VIRUS**

Loss

Your computer has a virus of either type X or Y. You enlist a computer engineer who advises you that only one of these viruses compromises your personal and banking details. Which of the following do you prefer:

1. There is a 50% chance that it is virus X that will compromise your personal data, and a 50% chance that it is virus Y.
2. Either virus X or Y will compromise your personal data, but you do not know the exact probabilities.

Gain

Your computer has a virus of either type X or Y. You enlist a computer engineer who advises you that only one of these viruses compromises your personal and banking details. The computer engineer also advises you that she can only remove one of these viruses from your computer to safeguard your identity. Which of the following do you prefer?

1. There is a 50% chance that it is virus X that compromises personal data, and a 50% chance that it is virus Y that compromises personal data.
2. Either virus X or Y will compromise your personal data, but you do not know the exact probabilities.

**Medical**

Loss

You learn that your body has developed a strange pathogen with two possible variants: variant X and variant Y. Variant X is potentially deadly while variant Y is somewhat benign. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that it is variant X and a 50% chance that it is variant Y.
2. It is either variant X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

Gain

You learn that your body has developed a strange pathogen with two possible variants: variant X and variant Y, both of which are potentially deadly. There is a simple, cheap, non-invasive and non-painful cure for variant X, but variation Y is incurable. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that it is variant X and a 50% chance that it is variant Y.
2. It is either variant X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

**DEADLY ANIMALS**

Loss

You are on a hike in the remote wilderness when you are bitten by a snake. Only two species of snake exist in the area in which you are hiking: species X and species Y. A bite from species X is possibly lethal, while a bite from species Y is harmless. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that the bite is from species X and a 50% chance that the bite is from species Y.
2. The bite is from either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

Gain

You are on a hike in the remote wilderness when you are bitten by a snake. There are only two species of snake that inhabit the area in which you are hiking: species X and species Y, both of which have potentially lethal venom. Luckily, you brought with you 1 vial of anti-venom that can save your life – but it will only work to save your life from a bite from species X. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that the bite is from species X and a 50% chance that the bite is from species Y.
2. The bite is from either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

**HOUSING**

Loss

You have developed an insect infestation in your house of either species X or species Y (but not both). An infestation of species X will ruin the structural integrity of the house and cause it to plummet in value. Species Y, however, is completely benign and will impose no costs (whether they be financial, aesthetic, or otherwise) to your property. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that the infestation is of species X and a 50% chance that the infestation is of species Y.
2. The infestation is of either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

Gain

You have developed an insect infestation in your house of either species X or species Y (but not both). An infestation of either species X and Y will ruin the structural integrity of the house and cause it to plummet in value. The inspector advises you that she has a cheap, simple and non-invasive solution to exterminate species X, but there is nothing that she can do to mitigate an infestation of species Y. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that the infestation is of species X and a 50% chance that the infestation is of species Y.
2. The infestation is of either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.

**DRAFT VIGNETTES – ATTEMPT 3**

Gains

* + - 1. You have a stock portfolio of two stocks: X and Y. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to skyrocket in value. However, you must sell one of the stocks to pay for emergency medical bills. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% that Stock X will skyrocket and a 50% chance that Stock Y will skyrocket.
2. Either stock X or Y will skyrocket in value, but you do not know the exact probabilities.
   * + 1. You are currently unemployed, but have just been offered a job from two companies: company X and company Y. Both companies compete within an extremely small market so you know that only one of them can be successful and be able to provide you with an ongoing high salary for many years into the future. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
3. There is a 50% that company X will be successful and a 50% chance that company Y will be successful.
4. Either company X or company Y will be successful (but not both), but you do not know the exact probabilities.
5. You have just completed another successful year at work. Based on this success, your boss offers you a promotion. However, your boss gives you a choice: you can become either head of department X or head of department Y. From your perusal of the company’s financial statements and the present macroeconomic conditions you ascertain that one of these departments is extremely likely to undergo breakneck growth in the following years and such growth is almost certain to result in very large financial bonuses accruing to that head of department. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
6. There is a 50% that department X will grow exponentially and a 50% chance that Stock Y will grow exponentially.
7. Either department X or department Y will grow exponentially, but you do not know the exact probabilities.
8. Within your friend group, there are two people that you are romantically interested in: Person X and Person Y. However, you can only pursue one of them, because the second one is sure to feel like second best if you pursue both. You are also sure that a relationship with at least one of them is likely to be extremely fruitful and beneficial for you in many different facets of your life. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
9. There is a 50% that a relationship with person X will be very successful and a 50% chance that a relationship with person Y will be very successful.
10. A relationship with either person X or person Y will be very successful (but not both), but you do not know the exact probabilities
11. You are a competitive runner. Your coach has recently returned from a sports science conference and advises you that he has been informed of two new training protocols: protocol X and protocol Y. One of these training protocols will certainly result in a significant and long-lasting improvement in your personal best running time. However, both protocols are long term in nature, and they are mutually exclusive (i.e. they can’t both be completed at the same time). Which of the following situations would you prefer?
12. There is a 50% that training protocol X will cause significant improvement in your running time and a 50% chance training protocol Y will cause significant improvement in your running times.
13. Either training protocol X or party will cause significant improvement in your running time, but you do not know the exact probability.
14. You are at a job conference attempting to get hired for your dream job. It is the very last session of the conference and you only have time to introduce yourself to one of the two companies you are interested in: company X and company Y. However, unbeknownst to you, only one of these two companies has a position as your dream job available, but you don’t know which one. Which of the following situations would you prefer?
15. There is a 50% that company X has a position as your dream job available and a 50% chance that company Y has a position as your dream job available
16. Either company X or company Y (but not both) has a position as your dream job available, but you do not know the exact probability.
17. You are a website squatter (i.e. you buy domain/website names when they are cheap in order to sell them later at an increased price). You have been doing your research, and there are two domain names that a start-up company might soon buy to house their new international website: domain name X and domain name Y. You are certain that they will soon buy one of these domains at a considerable price (and profit to you if you choose the right one), but you aren’t sure which one. However, you only have enough money to buy one of these domains. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
18. There is a 50% that a domain name X will be bought by the international start-up and a 50% chance that domain name Y will be bought by the international start-up
19. Either domain name X domain name Y will be bought by the international start-up (but not both), but you do not know the exact probability.
20. You are invited to two parties on the same night. One is likely to be the event of the year, while the other will just be an average party. Unfortunately, they are a 3-hours’ drive away from each other, so you cannot attend both. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
21. There is a 50% that a party X will be the amazing one and a 50% chance that party Y will be the amazing one.
22. Either party X or party Y will be amazing (but not both), but you do not know the exact probabilities
23. You are running for election in your local government. You have never held elected office before, and you’re one and only competitor is the incumbent. You are awaiting a report from your campaign manager to advise you about the possibility of winning the election. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
24. There is a 50% chance that you will win the election, and a 50% chance that you will not.
25. You will either win the election or you will not, but you are unsure of the exact probability.
26. Your friend has set you up on a blind date. When you arrive at the arranged meeting place you notice that there are two people who fit the description that your friend has given to you. One of these people you find extremely unattractive, while the other one is of only average or moderate attractiveness. Before you find out who is your date, which of the following situations do you hope is true?
27. There is a 50% chance that the extremely unattractive person is your date, and a 50% chance that the average or moderately attractive person is your date.
28. Either the unattractive person or the average/moderate person is your date, but you are unsure of the exact probability.
29. Travel?

Losses

1. You have a stock portfolio of two stocks: stock X and stock Y. You get a call from your stockbroker who advises you that he has received an anonymous tip that one of your stocks is about to plummet in value, while the other will continue to grow steadily. Due to taxation and investment regulations, you can only sell one of these stocks. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
   1. There is a 50% chance that Stock X will plummet and a 50% chance that Stock Y will plummet.
   2. Either stock X or Y will plummet in value (but not both), but you do not know the exact probabilities.

1. You are on a hike in the remote wilderness when you are bitten by a snake. Only two species of snake exist in the area in which you are hiking: species X and species Y. A bite from species X is possibly lethal, while a bite from species Y is harmless. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?

1. There is a 50% chance that the bite is from species X and a 50% chance that the bite is from species Y.
2. The bite is from either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.
3. You have developed an insect infestation in your house of either species X or species Y (but not both). An infestation of species X will ruin the structural integrity of the house and cause it to plummet in value. Species Y, however, is completely benign and will impose no costs (whether they be financial, aesthetic, or otherwise) to your property. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
4. There is a 50% chance that the infestation is of species X and a 50% chance that the infestation is of species Y.
5. The infestation is of either species X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.
6. Your computer has a virus of either type X or Y. You enlist a computer engineer who advises you that only one of these viruses compromises your personal and banking details. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
7. There is a 50% chance that it is virus X that will compromise your personal data, and a 50% chance that it is virus Y.
8. Either virus X or Y will compromise your personal data, but you do not know the exact probabilities.
9. You learn that your body has developed a strange pathogen with two possible variants: variant X and variant Y. Variant X is potentially deadly while variant Y is somewhat benign. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
10. There is a 50% chance that it is variant X and a 50% chance that it is variant Y.
11. It is either variant X or Y, but you do not know the exact probabilities thereof.
12. You are attending a social event when an important acquaintance comes over to you to initiate a friendly conversation. Your friend calls you by your name, but you cannot remember theirs. However, you know that their name is either James or Peter. You resolve to attempt to use their name in conversation to avoid embarrassment and other negative social repercussions. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
13. There is a 50% chance that their name is James and a 50% chance that their name is Peter.
14. Their name is either James or Peter, but you are unsure of the probability.
15. You have recently been experiencing serious and prolonged back pain. After consultation with your doctor, she advises you that your pain has two possible causes: cause X and cause Y, but unless (or until) you undergo exploratory surgery, it is impossible to know for sure which is the cause. Cause X is completely curable, but cause Y has no known cure or treatment. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
16. There is a 50% chance that the cause is X and a 50% chance that the cause is Y.
17. The cause is either X or Y (but not both), but you are unsure of the probability.
18. You (or your significant other) are six months pregnant. When you go to the doctor for the ultrasound, you become aware of what appears to be the foetus’s irregular heartbeat, a harbinger for a life of seriously ill health. Your doctor tells you that this phenomenon is either due to a malfunction in the machine, or, that the foetus in fact has an irregular heartbeat. While you await a new ultrasound (on a different machine), which of the following situations do you hope is true?
19. There is a 50% chance that the ultrasound machine is faulty and a 50% chance that the foetus has an irregular heartbeat.
20. Either the machine is faulty or the foetus has an irregular heartbeat (but not both), but you are unsure of the probability. PROBLEM? ITS POSSIBLE THAT THE MACHINE IS BROKEN AND the heartbeat is irregular?
21. Your friend has set you up on a blind date. When you arrive at the arranged meeting place you notice that there are two people who fit the description that your friend has given to you. One of these people you find extremely attractive, while the other one is of only average or moderate attractiveness. Before you find out who is your date, which of the following situations do you hope is true?
22. There is a 50% chance that the extremely attractive person is your date, and a 50% chance that the average or moderately attractive person is your date.
23. Either the attractive person or the average/moderate person is your date, but you are unsure of the exact probability.
24. You are a pilot of a commercial flight. Before take-off your plane was refitted with an essential mechanical part. You receive a message from air traffic control which advises you that this part may be faulty and could endanger the safety of the entire flight. Which of the following situations do you hope is true?
25. There is a 50% chance that your plane has been fitted with a faulty part and a 50% chance that it has been fit with a working part.
26. Your plane has been fitted with either a faulty part or a working part, but you are unsure of the exact probability.