COMS 4720/5720 Fall 2024

Project 3: Reasoning with Bayesian Networks (50 pts)

Due at 11:59pm

Sunday, Dec 8

Extended with no penalty to 11:59pm

Friday, Dec 13

1. The Coin Switch Problem

In this project, you are required to perform experiments using a Bayesian network software tool, more specifically, to conduct reasoning over the problem below.

Lisa was given a fair coin \mathcal{C}_1 and asked to flip it eight times in a row. Lisa also had a biased coin \mathcal{C}_2 with a probability 0.75 of landing heads. It is to our knowledge that Lisa flipped the fair coin \mathcal{C}_1 the first time, and then intended to switch to the biased coin \mathcal{C}_2 . She tended to be 45% successful in performing the switch per attempt. In the case of a successful switch, Lisa would keep using the biased coin for the remaining flips.

Suppose that we were able to observe the outcomes of her eight coin flips sequentially as *tail*, *head*, *head*, *tail*, *tail*, *head*, *head*, *head*. Now, we want to find out

- a) whether Lisa managed to perform a coin switch, and
- b) when the switch took place.

2. Tasks

You are asked to do the following:

- a) Construct a Bayesian network for solving the above problem using a Bayesian network software tool (e.g., Samlam as detailed in the appendix). Save the Bayesian network file (e.g. as Coin.net in Samlam).
- b) Describe a probabilistic query for solving the problem and answer the queries using the Bayesian network software tool. (Some examples of probabilistic queries are P(X), P(X | Y = False), P(X = True | Y = False), etc.)

3. Submission

Turn in via Canvas a zip file named Firstname Lastname proj3.zip that contains the following:

- a) A file Answer.pdf containing queries and answers to the queries.
- b) The Bayesian network file (e.g. Coin.net in Samlam).

Please follow the discussion forums Project 3 Discussion and Project 3 Clarifications on Canvas.

Appendix

We recommend Samlam (which uses Java), but please feel free to use other packages.

- a) The Windows and Mac versions of Samlam are attached (For Windows 32 bit system, download samiam30 windows i386.zip; For Windows 64 bit system, download samiam30 windows amd64.zip). For online help and downloading other versions including Linux and Solaris, please visit http://reasoning.cs.ucla.edu/samiam/. A good place to learn Samlam is http://reasoning.cs.ucla.edu/samiam/help/. A tutorial video is attached.
- b) If you have trouble installing Samlam on Windows with the error message "'C:\Program' is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file", try modifying the samiam.bat file as follows. Change

```
%EXECCMD% %VMARGS% -launchcommand "%EXECCMD% %VMARGS% %\*" -
launchscript %0 %\*

to

"%EXECCMD%" %VMARGS% -launchcommand "%EXECCMD% %VMARGS% %\*" -
launchscript %0 %\*

(i.e., adding double quotes around the first %EXECCMD%).
```

c) Please contact the TAs for any further help with your installation.