Uncertainty Review (AIMA 12)

Artificial Intelligence

1. You have a fair 6-sided die whose outcome is given by the random variable D. What is the probability of the event $D < 4$?

> **Solution:**
> $$P(D < 4) = 0.5$$

2. You roll a weighted 4-sided die 20 times. Representing the number of times i is rolled by the number in the ith position of a vector of results, we have $\langle 10, 5, 3, 2 \rangle$. Using a similarly structured vector, what is the probability distribution over the number of times each number is rolled?

> **Solution:**
> $$\langle 0.5, 0.25, 0.15, 0.1 \rangle$$

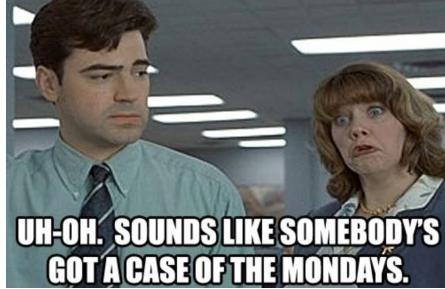3. Given the following discrete probability distributions:

$P(X)$

$P(x = T) = 0.8$

$P(x = F) = 0.2$

$P(Y)$

$P(y = A) = 0.6$

$P(y = B) = 0.4$

$P(X \mid Y)$

$P(x = T \mid y = A) = .8$

$P(x = F \mid y = A) = .2$

$P(x = T \mid y = B) = .8$

$P(x = F \mid y = B) = .2$

What can you say about X and Y?

A. X and Y are independent.

B. X and Y are not independent.

> **Solution:** By definition (AIMA 12.4), if $P(X) = P(X \mid Y)$, then X and Y are independent. In plain language, if the probabilities for each value of X are the same no matter the value of Y, then X and Y are independent.

4. Most people don't like Mondays. It's so bad that the probability that a randomly chosen person has a full-blown case of The Mondays is $P(M = True) = 0.8$. The new temp is very concerned with cases of The Mondays, so she's constantly on the lookout. She is better than a coin flip at detecting The Mondays, so if you have The Mondays, she tells you so 60% of the time, $P(T = True \mid M = True) = 0.6$. She's very concerned about The Mondays, so gives many false positives, $P(T = True \mid M = False) = 0.3$. Given the prevalence of The Mondays and the temp's penchant for reporting cases of The Mondays, what is the probability that you have The Mondays if the temp sees you and declares:

UH-OH. SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S GOT A CASE OF THE MONDAYS.

Solution: We want to know the posterior probability that you have The Mondays given that you got a positive test from the temp. Using abbreviated notation, we need to calculate:

$$P(m \mid t) = \frac{P(t \mid m)P(m)}{P(t)}$$

We know $P(t \mid m)$ and $P(m)$ from the problem statement. We need to calculate $P(t)$, the probability that the temp tells you that you have The Mondays whether you have it or not. We can sum out m using the conditioning rule (12.8):

$$P(T) = \sum_m P(T|M)P(M)$$

Here we only care about the $T = True$ case:

$$P(t) = P(t \mid m)P(m) + P(t \mid \neg m)P(\neg m)$$
$$= (0.6)(0.8) + (0.3)(0.2)$$
$$= 0.54$$

Now we have all the quantities we need to plug into Bayes' Rule:

$$P(m \mid t) = \frac{P(t \mid m)P(m)}{P(t)}$$
$$= \frac{(0.6)(0.8)}{0.54}$$
$$= 0.89$$

Thinking intuitively, the temp's accuracy in assessing cases of The Mondays is a little better than 50/50, so the posterior probability that you have The Mondays should be a little higher than the prior probability, given a positive "test."