# Meeting 8: Decision theory, Utility



A particular product is both manufactured and marketed by two different firms. The total demand for the product is virtually fixed, so neither firm has advertised in the past. However, the owner of Firm A is considering an advertising campaign to woo customers away from Firm B. The ad campaign she has in mind will cost \$200,000. She is uncertain about the number of customers that will switch to her firm as a result of the advertising, but she is willing to assume that she will gain either 10 percent, 20 percent, or 30 percent of the market. For each 10 percent gain in market share, the firm's profits will increase by \$150,000. Construct the payoff table for this problem and find the corresponding loss table.

## Components of the decision problem:

Actions (equal procedures here): Run the campaign  $(\delta_1)$  or not  $(\delta_2)$ .

States of the world: Gain 10 percent ( $\theta_1$ ), 20 percent ( $\theta_2$ ) or 30 percent ( $\theta_3$ ).

Payoffs: with  $\delta_1$ : 150000·( $\theta$ /10) – 200000, with  $\delta_2$ : 0

*Note!* One could consider adding a fourth state of the world: "gain 0%". This will be the only state possible with action  $\delta_2$  but impossible with action  $\delta_1$ . However, since with this state the maximum payoff (and hence loss) will be 0 it will have no effect on the decision problem.

## Payoff table

	$\theta = 10\%$	$\theta = 20\%$	$\theta = 30\%$	
Run campaign $(\delta_1)$	-50000	100000	250000	
Do not run campaign $(\delta_2)$	0	0	0	

$$L_{ij} = \max_{k} R_{kj} - R_{ij}$$

$$\Rightarrow L_{i1} = 0 - R_{i1}$$
 ;  $L_{i2} = 100000 - R_{i2}$  ;  $L_{i3} = 250000 - R_{i2}$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  Loss table

	$\theta=10\%$	$\theta = 20\%$	$\theta = 30\%$	
Run campaign $(\delta_1)$	50000	0	0	
Do not run campaign $(\delta_2)$	0	100000	250000	

In Exercise 6, the owner of Firm A is worried that if she proceeds with the ad campaign, Firm B will do likewise, in which case the market shares of the two firms will remain constant. How does this affect the set of possible states of the world, S? Construct a modified payoff table to allow for this change.

Firm B is assumed to run a campaign only if Firm A does so.

 $\Rightarrow$  Firm A cannot <u>lose</u> any market shares, but the gain of new market may be zero  $\Rightarrow$  One new state of the world: "gain is 0%"

## Modified payoff table

	$\theta = 0\%$	$\theta = 10\%$	$\theta = 20\%$	$\theta = 30\%$
Run campaign	-200000	-50000	100000	250000
Do not run campaign	0	0	0	0

In Exercise 6, the owner of Firm A feels that if the ad campaign is initiated, the events "gain 20 percent of the market" and "gain 30 percent of the market" are equally likely and each of these events is three times as likely as the event "gain 10 percent of the market." Using the ER criterion, what should she do?

The payoff table is

	$\theta = 10\%$	$\theta = 20\%$	$\theta = 30\%$
Run campaign $(\delta_1)$	-50000	100000	250000
Do not run campaign $(\delta_2)$	0	0	0

$$P(\tilde{\theta} = 20\%) = P(\tilde{\theta} = 30\%) = 3 \cdot P(\tilde{\theta} = 10\%)$$

$$P(\tilde{\theta} = 20\%) + P(\tilde{\theta} = 30\%) + P(\tilde{\theta} = 10\%) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow P(\tilde{\theta} = 10\%) = 1/7 \text{ and } P(\tilde{\theta} = 20\%) = P(\tilde{\theta} = 30\%) = 3/7$$
Hence,  $ER(\delta_1) = (-50000) \cdot \frac{1}{7} + 100000 \cdot \frac{3}{7} + 250000 \cdot \frac{3}{7} = \frac{1000000}{7} \approx 143000$ 

$$ER(\delta_2) = 0$$
To formally show this, we could have introduced in the content of the conten

⇒ Run campaign!

To formally show this, we could have introduced the state " $\theta = 0$ %" and put a point mass of probability 1 on this state when the decision is  $\delta_2$ 

In Exercise 17, suppose that the probabilities given are conditional on the rival firm not advertising. If Firm B also advertises, then the owner of Firm A is certain (for all practical purposes) that there will be no change in the market share of either firm. She thinks that the chances are 2 in 3 that Firm B will advertise if Firm A does. What should the owner of Firm A do?

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 10\% | B \text{ not advertising}) = 1/7 \text{ and}$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 20\% | B \text{ not advertising}) = P(\widetilde{\theta} = 30\% | B \text{ not advertising}) = 3/7$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 0\% | B \text{ advertising}) = 1$$

$$P(B \text{ advertising} | A \text{ advertising}) = 2/3$$

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 10\%) = P(\widetilde{\theta} = 10\% | B \text{ not advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ not advertising})$$

$$+ P(\widetilde{\theta} = 10\% | B \text{ advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ advertising}) = (1/7) \cdot (1/3) + 0 \cdot (2/3) = 1/21$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 20\%) = P(\widetilde{\theta} = 20\% | B \text{ not advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ not advertising})$$

$$+ P(\widetilde{\theta} = 20\% | B \text{ advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ advertising}) = (3/7) \cdot (1/3) + 0 \cdot (2/3) = 3/21$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 30\%) = P(\widetilde{\theta} = 20\%) = 3/21$$

$$P(\widetilde{\theta} = 0\%) = P(\widetilde{\theta} = 0\% | B \text{ not advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ not advertising})$$

$$+ P(\widetilde{\theta} = 0\% | B \text{ advertising}) \cdot P(B \text{ advertising}) = 0 \cdot (1/3) + 1 \cdot (2/3) = 2/3$$

The payoff table applicable is

	$\theta = 0\%$	$\theta = 10\%$	$\theta = 20\%$	$\theta = 30\%$
Run campaign	-200000	-50000	100000	250000
Do not run campaign	0	0	0	0

Hence,

$$ER(\delta_1) = (-200000) \cdot \frac{2}{3} + (-50000) \cdot \frac{1}{21} + 100000 \cdot \frac{3}{21} + 250000 \cdot \frac{3}{21} = -\frac{1800000}{7} \approx -86000$$

$$ER(\delta_2) = 0$$

⇒ Do not run campaign!

# Utility

What do we mean by *utility*?

### Example

Consider the following lottery:

The price for buying a lottery ticket is SEK 50. If you win on this lottery you win SEK 10000. The probability of winning is 0.05.

Hence, the expected payoff for buying a ticket is SEK  $(-50)\cdot0.95 + 9950\cdot0.05 = 450$ . The expected payoff for not buying a ticket is SEK 0.

According to the ER – criterion (maximize the expected payoff) you should buy a ticket.

Now, the following three persons are all considering buying a ticket:

- Martin, who has a total asset of SEK 150 000 once he has paid his monthly bills
- Zoran, who has a total asset of SEK 2100 once he has paid his monthly bills
- Sarah, who has a total asset of SEK 1 450 000 once she has paid her monthly bills

Do you think all these three would make their decisions according to the *ER*-criterion?

Temporarily we can work with *consequences* of making a decision (taking an action). Such consequences depend also on the state of the world and a consequence can thus be written

$$c = c(\delta(x), \theta)$$

In the rest of the course we will tune down the necessity of defining a decision procedure, and separating between procedure and action. When working with non-probabilistic criteria this separation is necessary, but with probabilistic criteria like max(ER) and min(EL) it suffices to use actions.

To be consistent with the notation used in Winkler we will from now on use a to denote a specific action (and not  $\delta(x)$ ).

Hence, we will write 
$$c = c(a, \theta)$$

Consequences can often be expressed in monetary terms, i.e. using payoff functions we may have  $c(a, \theta) = R(a, \theta)$ .

Cash equivalents may be used to transform non-monetary consequences into monetary ones.

The following notation is used for comparison of consequences, when the consequences are such that it is not possible to use a simple numerical ordering

 $c_i \prec c_j$  means that consequence  $c_i$  is preferred to consequence  $c_i$ 

 $c_i \sim c_j$  means that  $c_i$  and  $c_j$  are equally preferred

 $c_i \prec c_j$  means that  $c_i$  is not preferred to  $c_j$ 

#### Back to the example with the lottery

- Martin, has a total asset of SEK 150 000 once he has paid his monthly bills
- Zoran, has a total asset of SEK 2100 once he has paid his monthly bills
- Sarah, has a total asset of SEK 1 450 000 once she has paid her monthly bills

### Could the preferences be like the following?

Martin: not buying a ticket  $\prec$  buying a ticket

Zoran: buying a ticket  $\prec$  not buying a ticket

Sarah: buying a ticket ~ not buying a ticket

Clearly, the *ER*-criterion (maximising the expected payoff) is not always the obvious probabilistic criterion.

A consequence of an action can be preferred to another consequence by one decision-maker, while the opposite can hold for another decision-maker.

### Another example

Assume that when the temperature is above 25 °C and you have decided to wear long trousers and a long sleeves shirt, you will as a consequence feel unusually hot  $c_1 = c \ (a = \text{`longs''}, \ \theta > 25 \text{ °C})$ 

Moreover, assume that when the temperature is below 15 °C and you have decided to wear shorts and a t-shirt you will as a consequence feel unusually cold  $c_2 = c$  (a = "shorts",  $\theta < 15$  °C)

**Your** preference order would be one of  $c_1 \prec c_2$ ,  $c_2 \prec c_1$  and  $c_1 \sim c_2$ 

$$c_1 = c$$
 ( $a = \text{``longs''}, \ \theta > 25 \ \text{`C'}$ )  
 $c_2 = c$  ( $a = \text{``shorts''}, \ \theta < 15 \ \text{`C'}$ )

If you think it is always better to feel warm than cold your preference order will be  $c_2 \prec c_1$ 

Another person <u>feeling the same as you</u> may really dislike feeling too warm and hence has the preference order

$$c_1 \prec c_2$$

A third person <u>also feeling the same as you</u> may be someone who would always complain as soon as weather condition and choice of garments do not "fit" well probably has the preference order

$$c_1 \sim c_2$$

To be able to allow for <u>a relative desirability</u> that deviates from the linear comparability of monetary consequences we introduce a so-called *utility function*:

$$U(c) = U(c(a, \theta)) = U(a, \theta)$$

If the difference in payoff between two pairs of action and state of world is  $d_R$ , i.e.

$$d_R = R(a_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) - R(a_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)$$

the following three differences in utility may hold

$$U(a_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) - U(a_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2) < k \cdot d_R$$

$$U(a_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) - U(a_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2) = k \cdot d_R$$

$$U(a_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) - U(a_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2) > k \cdot d_R$$

where k is any constant > 0 that can take care of that utility and payoff may be given on different scales.

## Two axioms of utility:

- 1. If  $c_1 \leq c_2$  then  $U(c_1) \leq U(c_2)$  and if  $c_1 \sim c_2$  then  $U(c_1) = U(c_2)$
- 2. If
  - $O_1$  = Obtaining consequence  $c_1$  for certain
  - $O_2$  = Obtaining consequence  $c_2$  with probability p and obtaining consequence  $c_3$  with probability 1-p
  - $O_1 \sim O_2$

then 
$$U(c_1) = p \cdot U(c_2) + (1-p) \cdot U(c_3)$$

"p-mixture"

Hence, it is not necessary to work with preferences and their notations ( $\prec$ ,  $\sim$ ,  $\prec$ ).

All preferences can be expressed in terms of the utility function:

$$c_{1} \prec c_{2} \iff U(c_{1}) < U(c_{2})$$

$$c_{1} \sim c_{2} \iff U(c_{1}) = U(c_{2})$$

$$c_{1} \prec c_{2} \iff U(c_{1}) \leq U(c_{2})$$

Now, assume  $U(a, \theta)$  is a utility function and let  $W(a, \theta) = c + d \cdot U(a, \theta)$  where c and d are constants with d > 0.

If 
$$U(a_i, \theta_k) < U(a_j, \theta_l)$$
 [where  $i \neq j$  or  $k \neq l$  or both;  $c(a_i, \theta_k) \prec c(a_j, \theta_l)$ ]

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$$

$$W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) = c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l)$$

$$\Rightarrow W(a_j, \theta_l) - W(a_i, \theta_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_j, \theta_l) - (c + d \cdot U(a_i, \theta_k)) = \underbrace{d}_{>0} \cdot \underbrace{U(a_j, \theta_l) - U(a_i, \theta_k)}_{>0} > 0$$

If  $U(a_i, \theta_k) = U(a_i, \theta_l)$  [where  $i \neq j$  or  $k \neq l$  or both]

$$\Rightarrow W(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - (c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)) = \underbrace{d}_{>0} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\underbrace{U(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)}_{=0}\right)} = 0$$

If  $U(a_i, \theta_k) = p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1}) + (1-p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_2})$  [utilities for 3 different consequences]

$$\Rightarrow W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot \left( p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{l_1}) + (1 - p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{l_2}) \right) =$$

$$= c \cdot p + c \cdot (1-p) + d \cdot p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{l_1}) + d \cdot (1-p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{l_2}) =$$

$$= p \cdot (c + d \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1})) + (1 - p) \cdot (c + d \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_2})) = p \cdot W(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1}) + (1 - p) \cdot W(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_{21}})$$

Now, assume  $U(a, \theta)$  is a utility function and let  $W(a, \theta) = c + d \cdot U(a, \theta)$  where c and d are constants with d > 0.

If 
$$U(a_i, \theta_k) < U(a_j, \theta_l)$$
 [where  $i \neq j$  or  $k \neq l$  or both;  $c(a_i, \theta_k) \prec c(a_j, \theta_l)$ ]

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$$

$$W(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) = c + d \cdot U(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l)$$

$$\Rightarrow W(a_j, \theta_l) - W$$
 A utility function is only unique up to a linear transformation

$$\left| \underline{(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)} \right| > 0$$

If 
$$U(a_i, \theta_k) = U(a_i, \theta_l)$$
 [where  $i \neq j$  or  $k \neq l$  or both]

$$\Rightarrow W(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - W(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - (c + d \cdot U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)) = \underbrace{d}_{>0} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\underbrace{U(a_j, \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) - U(a_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)}_{=0}\right)} = 0$$

If 
$$U(a_i, \theta_k) = p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1}) + (1-p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_2})$$
 [utilities for 3 different consequences]  

$$\Rightarrow W(a_i, \theta_k) = c + d \cdot U(a_i, \theta_k) = c + d \cdot \left(p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1}) + (1-p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_2})\right) =$$

$$= c \cdot p + c \cdot (1-p) + d \cdot p \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{l_1}) + d \cdot (1-p) \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{l_2}) =$$

$$= p \cdot \left(c + d \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{j_2}) + (1-p) \cdot \left(c + d \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2}) + (1-p) \cdot W(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2})\right) + (1-p) \cdot W(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2}) =$$

$$= p \cdot \left(c + d \cdot U(a_{j_1}, \theta_{j_2}) + (1-p) \cdot \left(c + d \cdot U(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2}) + (1-p) \cdot W(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2})\right) + (1-p) \cdot W(a_{j_2}, \theta_{j_2}) + (1-p) \cdot W(a$$

The *expected utility* of an action a with respect to a probability distribution of the states of the world is obtained – analogously to how expected payoff and expected loss are obtained – by integrating the utility function with the probability distribution of  $\theta$  using its probability density (or mass) function  $g(\theta)$ :

$$EU = E_g(U(a, \tilde{\theta})) = \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot g(\theta) d\theta$$

When data is not taken into account  $g(\theta)$  is the prior pdf/pmf  $f'(\theta) = p(\theta)$ :

$$EU = \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot f'(\theta) d\theta = \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot p(\theta) d\theta$$

When data (x) is taken into account,  $g(\theta)$  is the posterior pdf/pmf  $f''(\theta|x) = q(\theta|x)$ :

$$EU = \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot f''(\theta | \mathbf{x}) d\theta = \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot q(\theta | \mathbf{x}) d\theta$$

# Assessing/finding a utility function

For a particular state of nature  $\theta$  let

 $c_1$  be the worst consequence and  $c_2$  be the best consequence

Normalise – without loss of generality – the utility function  $U(c(a, \theta))$  such that  $U(c_1) = 0$  and  $U(c_2) = 1$ 

For a particular action with consequence c it must always hold that  $0 \le U(c(a, \theta)) \le 1$ 

Now, assume a gamble in which you should choose between

- 1. Obtaining consequence c for certain
- 2. Obtain consequence  $c_1$  with probability 1–p and consequence  $c_2$  with probability p

With the first choice the expected utility is  $U(c(a, \theta))$ . With the second choice the expected utility is

$$U(c_1) \cdot [1-p] + U(c_2) \cdot p = 0 \cdot (1-p) + 1 \cdot p = p$$

- 1. Obtaining consequence c for certain
- 2. Obtain consequence  $c_1$  with probability 1-p and consequence  $c_2$  with probability p

For a certain value of p,  $p_0$  say, you will be indifferent between 1 and 2

Hence 
$$U(a,\theta) = (1-p_0) \cdot \underbrace{U(c_1)}_{=0} + p_0 \cdot \underbrace{U(c_2)}_{=1} = p_0$$

This means that  $U(a, \theta)$  can be seen as proportional to the probability of obtaining the best consequence.

$$\Pr(\text{Best consequence} \mid a, \theta) \propto U(a, \theta)$$

 $\Rightarrow$ 

$$\Pr(\text{Best consequence} \mid a) \propto \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) \cdot g(\theta) d\theta = \overline{U(a, g)}$$

Hence, the optimal action is the action that *maximises the expected utility* under the probability distribution that rules the state of nature

$$a_g^{\text{(optimal)}} = \arg\max_{a \in \mathcal{A}} (\overline{U(a,g)})$$

 $\mathcal{A}$  is the set of possible actions

 $\Rightarrow$  The Bayes action (decision) is

$$a^{(B)} = \begin{cases} \arg \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}} (\overline{U(a, p)}) & \text{when no data are used} \\ \arg \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}} (\overline{U(a, q, x)}) & \text{when data, } x \text{ are used} \end{cases}$$

# Example

Assume you are choosing between fixing the interest rate of your mortgage loan for one year or keeping the floating interest rate for this period.

Let us say that the floating rate for the moment is 4 % and the fixed rate is 5 %.

The floating rate may however increase during the period and we may approximately assume that with probability  $g_1 = 0.10$  the average floating rate will be 7 %, with probability  $g_2 = 0.20$  the average floating rate will be 6 % and with probability  $g_3 = 0.70$  the floating rate will stay at 4 %.

Let  $d_1$  = Fix the interest rate and  $d_2$  = Keep the floating interest rate Let  $\theta$  = average floating rate for the coming period

$$U(d_{1},\theta) = \begin{cases} 4-5=-1 & \theta=4 \\ 6-5=1 & \theta=6 \\ 7-5=2 & \theta=7 \end{cases} \qquad U(d_{2},\theta) = \begin{cases} 5-4=1 & \theta=4 \\ 5-6=-1 & \theta=6 \\ 5-7=-2 & \theta=7 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overline{U(d_{1},g)} = (-1) \cdot 0.7 + 1 \cdot 0.2 + 2 \cdot 0.1 = -0.3$$

$$\overline{U(d_{2},g)} = 1 \cdot 0.7 + (-1) \cdot 0.2 + (-2) \cdot 0.1 = 0.3 \Rightarrow d^{(B)} = d_{2}$$

## Loss function

When utilities are all non-desirable it is common to describe the decision problem in terms of losses than utilities. The loss function in Bayesian decision theory is defines as

$$L_{S}(a,\theta) = \max_{a' \in \mathcal{A}} (U(a',\theta)) - U(a,\theta)$$

Then, the Bayes action with the use of data can be written

$$a^{(B)} = \arg \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \left( \int_{\theta} U(a, \theta) q(\theta | \mathbf{x}) d\theta \right) =$$

$$= \arg \max_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \left( \int_{\theta} \left[ \max_{a' \in \mathcal{A}} (U(a', \theta)) - L_{S}(a, \theta) \right] q(\theta | \mathbf{x}) d\theta \right) =$$

$$= \arg \min_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \left( \int_{\theta} L_{S}(a, \theta) q(\theta | \mathbf{x}) d\theta \right) = \arg \min_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \overline{L_{S}(a, q, \mathbf{x})}$$

i.e. the action that minimises the expected posterior loss.

## Example

A person asking for medical care has some symptoms that may be connected with two different diseases A and B. But the symptoms could also be temporary and disappear within reasonable time.

For A there is a therapy treatment that cures the disease if it is present and hence removes the symptoms. If however the disease is not present the treatment will lead to that the symptoms remain with the same intense.

For B there is a therapy treatment that generally "reduces" the intensity of the symptoms by 10 % regardless of whether B is present or not. If B is present the reduction is 40 %.

Assume that A is present with probability 0.3, that B is present with probability 0.4. Assume further that A and B cannot be present at the same time and therefore that the probability of the symptoms being just temporary is 0.3.

What is the Bayes action in this case: Treatment for A, treatment for B or no treatment?

$$Pr(A) = 0.3$$
  
 $Pr(B) = 0.4$   
 $Pr(A \cap B) = 0 \Rightarrow Pr(\overline{A \cup B}) = 0.3$ 

#### Use normalised utilities:

 $U(\text{Decision, State of nature}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{Symptoms remain with same intense}$  $U(\text{Decision, State of nature}) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \text{Symptoms disappear}$ 

Treatment for A (T<sub>A</sub>): 
$$U(T_A, A) = 1$$
 Treatment for B (T<sub>B</sub>):  $U(T_B, A) = 0.1$  
$$U(T_A, B) = 0$$
 
$$U(T_B, B) = 0.4$$
 
$$U(T_A, \overline{A \cup B}) = 0$$
 
$$U(T_B, \overline{A \cup B}) = 1$$

No treatment (NT): 
$$U(NT, A) = 0$$
  
 $U(NT, B) = 0 \Rightarrow$   
 $U(NT, \overline{A \cup B}) = 1$   $\overline{U(T_A)} = 1 \cdot 0.3 + 0 \cdot 0.4 + 0 \cdot 0.3 = 0.30$   
 $\overline{U(T_B)} = 0.1 \cdot 0.3 + 0.4 \cdot 0.4 + 1 \cdot 0.3 = 0.49$   
 $\overline{U(NT)} = 0 \cdot 0.3 + 0 \cdot 0.4 + 1 \cdot 0.3 = 0.30$ 

The Bayes' action is therapy treatment for B