# Reasoning About the World

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Reasoning 2/2

If the butler killed the man, then there must be a pistol. There is no pistol.

Therefore, the butler did not kill the man.

Reasoning 2/28

If the butler killed the man, then there must be a pistol. There is no pistol.

Therefore, the butler did not kill the man.

If the cook killed the man, then there must be a knife.

There is a knife.

Therefore, the cook killed the man.

If the butler killed the man, then there must be a pistol. There is no pistol.

Therefore, the butler did not kill the man.

If the cook killed the man, then there must be a knife.

There is a knife.

Therefore, the cook killed the man.

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If B , then P . Therefore, \overline{P} . If C , then K . Therefore, C
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Reasoning 3/28

$$\begin{array}{c}
B \Longrightarrow P \\
\hline
P \\
\therefore \overline{B}
\end{array}$$

$$C \Longrightarrow K \\
K \\
\therefore C$$

Reasoning

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3/28
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\begin{array}{c} \text{valid:} & \dfrac{B}{\overline{P}} \Longrightarrow P \\ \text{(modus tollens)} & \vdots \overline{B} \\ \\ \text{invalid:} & \dfrac{C}{K} \Longrightarrow K \\ \text{(logical fallacy)} & \vdots C \end{array}
```

Reasoning

```
valid: \frac{B}{P} \Longrightarrow P

(modus tollens) \therefore \overline{B}

? \frac{C}{K} \Longrightarrow K

\therefore C becomes more plausible
```

Reasoning

3/28

```
valid: \frac{B}{P} \Longrightarrow P

(modus tollens) \therefore \overline{B}

? C \Longrightarrow K becomes more plausible K
\therefore C becomes more plausible
```

- ?  $\frac{B}{\overline{P}} \Longrightarrow P$  becomes more plausible  $\overline{B}$  becomes more plausible
- ?  $C \Longrightarrow K$  becomes more plausible K
  - ∴ C becomes more plausible

• Propositions have a degree of plausibility.

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- Reasoning depends on background information.

### Notation (Plausibility)

 $(A \mid X)$ : plausibility of A given background information X.

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Goal: figure out what exactly plausibility is.

• Plausibility is ordered.

- Plausibility is ordered.
- Between any two plausibilities, we can find another plausibility.

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- Between any two plausibilities, we can find another plausibility.

## Lemma (Representation)

Plausibility can be represented by real numbers.

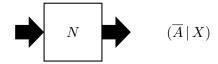
## Plausible Reasoning: Truth

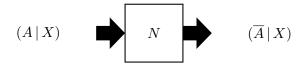
### Assumption (Truth)

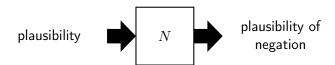
- There exists a plausibility T such that  $(A \mid X) \leq T$  for all A.
- (tautology | X) = T.

## Plausible Reasoning: Negation

 $(\overline{A} | X)$ 







## Assumption (Negation)

There exists a decreasing function N such that

$$(\overline{A} \,|\, X) = N(A \,|\, X)$$

for all A.

Define F = N(T).

Define 
$$F = N(T)$$
.

Then 
$$F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$$

Define 
$$F = N(T)$$
.

Then  $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$ :

• 
$$(\overline{A} | X) \leq \mathsf{T}$$
.

(Definition of T)

Define F = N(T).

Then  $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$ :

- $(\overline{A} \mid X) \leq \mathsf{T}$ .
- $\Rightarrow N(\overline{A} | X) \ge N(\mathsf{T}).$

(Definition of T)

(N is decreasing)

Define F = N(T).

Then  $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$ :

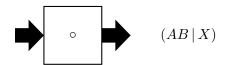
- $(\overline{A} \mid X) \leq \mathsf{T}$ .
- $\Rightarrow N(\overline{A} | X) \ge N(\mathsf{T}).$
- $\Rightarrow (A \mid X) \ge F.$  QED.

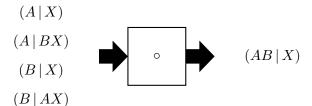
(Definition of T)

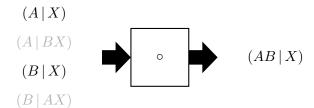
(N is decreasing)

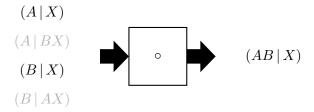
(Definition of N and F)

 $(AB \mid X)$ 



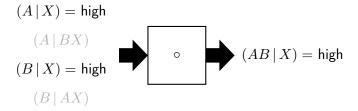




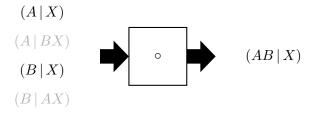


A = a blue eye, B = brown hair,

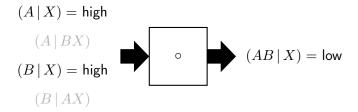
AB = a blue eye and brown hair.



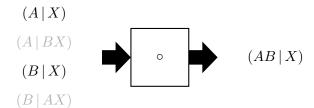
 $A={\sf a}$  blue eye,  $B={\sf brown\ hair},$   $AB={\sf a}$  blue eye and brown hair.

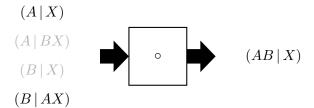


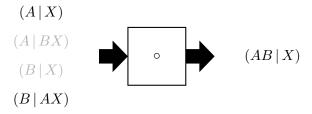
 $A={\sf a}$  blue eye,  $B={\sf a} \ {\sf green} \ {\sf eye},$   $AB={\sf a}$  blue eye and a green eye.



 $A={\sf a}$  blue eye,  $B={\sf a}$  green eye,  $AB={\sf a}$  blue eye and a green eye.







 $A={\sf a}$  blue eye,  $B={\sf a} \ {\sf green} \ {\sf eye},$   $AB={\sf a}$  blue eye and a green eye.

$$(A \mid X) = \text{high}$$

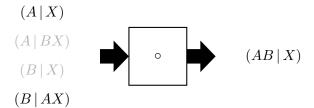
$$(A \mid BX)$$

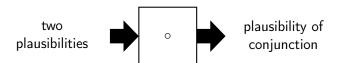
$$(B \mid X)$$

$$(B \mid AX) = \text{low}$$

$$(AB \mid X) = \text{low}$$

 $A={\sf a}$  blue eye,  $B={\sf a} \ {\sf green} \ {\sf eye},$   $AB={\sf a}$  blue eye and a green eye.





## Assumption (Conjunction)

There exists a function o such that

$$(AB \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ (B \mid AX)$$

for all A and B.

$$x \circ \mathsf{T} =$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$$
:

$$\bullet \ (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

 $x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$ :

- $(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$
- $(A(B+\overline{B})|X) = (A|X) \circ (B+\overline{B}|AX)$ . (Definition of  $\circ$ )

 $x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$ :

- $\bullet \ (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$
- $(A(B + \overline{B}) | X) = (A | X) \circ (B + \overline{B} | AX)$ . (Definition of  $\circ$ )
- $(B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = T$ . (Definition of T)

 $x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$ :

$$\bullet \ (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

• 
$$(A(B+\overline{B})|X) = (A|X) \circ (B+\overline{B}|AX)$$
. (Definition of  $\circ$ )

• 
$$(B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = T$$
. (Definition of T)

$$\Rightarrow (A \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ \mathsf{T}.$$
 QED.

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} =$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$$
:  
 $\Rightarrow (\overline{A}\overline{\overline{A}} \mid X) = \mathsf{T}$ .

(Definition of T)

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$$
:

$$\Rightarrow (\overline{A}\overline{A} | X) = \mathsf{T}.$$

$$\Rightarrow N(\overline{A\overline{A}} \mid X) = N(\mathsf{T}).$$

(Definition of T)

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$$
:

$$\Rightarrow \ (\overline{A}\overline{A} \,|\, X) = \mathsf{T}. \tag{Definition of T)}$$

$$\Rightarrow N(\overline{A\overline{A}} \mid X) = N(\mathsf{T}).$$

$$\Rightarrow (A\overline{A} | X) = F.$$

(Definitions of N and F)

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}:$$
  $\Rightarrow (\overline{A}\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{T}.$  (Definition of T) 
$$\Rightarrow N(\overline{A}\overline{A} \mid X) = N(\mathsf{T}).$$
  $\Rightarrow (A\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{F}.$  (Definitions of  $N$  and  $\mathsf{F}$ ) 
$$\bullet (A\overline{A} \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ (\overline{A} \mid AX).$$
 (Definition of  $\circ$ )

•  $(\overline{A} \mid AX) = F$ .

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}:$$
  $\Rightarrow (\overline{A}\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{T}.$  (Definition of T) 
$$\Rightarrow N(\overline{A}\overline{A} \mid X) = N(\mathsf{T}).$$
  $\Rightarrow (A\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{F}.$  (Definitions of  $N$  and  $\mathsf{F}$ )
$$\bullet (A\overline{A} \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ (\overline{A} \mid AX).$$
 (Definition of  $\circ$ )

QED.

$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}:$$

$$\Rightarrow (\overline{AA} \mid X) = \mathsf{T}. \qquad \text{(Definition of T)}$$

$$\Rightarrow N(\overline{AA} \mid X) = N(\mathsf{T}).$$

$$\Rightarrow (A\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{F}. \qquad \text{(Definitions of $N$ and $\mathsf{F}$)}$$

$$\bullet (A\overline{A} \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ (\overline{A} \mid AX). \qquad \text{(Definition of $\circ$)}$$

$$\bullet (\overline{A} \mid AX) = \mathsf{F}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathsf{F} = (A \mid X) \circ \mathsf{F}.$$

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$
:  
 $(ABC \mid X)$ 

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$
:  
 $(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$ 

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$
:  
 $(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$   
 $= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$ 

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z:$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ \Big( (B \mid AX) \circ (C \mid ABX) \Big),$$

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z:$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ \Big( (B \mid AX) \circ (C \mid ABX) \Big),$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = ((AB)C \mid X)$$

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z:$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$$

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$$= (AB \mid X) \circ (C \mid ABX)$$

$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z:$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$$

$$= (A \mid X) \circ \Big( (B \mid AX) \circ (C \mid ABX) \Big),$$

$$(ABC \mid X) = ((AB)C \mid X)$$

$$= (AB \mid X) \circ (C \mid ABX)$$

$$= \Big( (A \mid X) \circ (B \mid AX) \Big) \circ (C \mid ABX). \text{ QED.}$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{T} = \mathsf{T} \circ x = x \\ x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F} \circ x = \mathsf{F} \\ x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$

$$x \circ \mathsf{T} = \mathsf{T} \circ x = x \\ x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F} \circ x = \mathsf{F} \\ x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$

$$x \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot x = x$$
$$x \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot x = 0$$
$$x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z$$

## Lemma (Product Rule)

There exists a nonnegative, strictly increasing function p such that

$$p(AB \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(B \mid AX)$$

for all A and B.

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$$p(AB | X) = p((A | X) \circ (B | AX)) = p(A | X)p(B | AX)$$

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 $\Rightarrow \circ \cong \times$ .

#### Lemma (Product Rule)

There exists a nonnegative, strictly increasing function p such that

$$p(AB \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(B \mid AX)$$

for all A and B.

- $p(AB \mid X) = p((A \mid X) \circ (B \mid AX)) = p(A \mid X)p(B \mid AX)$  $\Rightarrow \circ \cong \times.$
- $p(B | AX) = \frac{p(AB | X)}{p(A | X)}$ .

$$p(\mathsf{T}) = 1$$

$$p(T) = 1$$
:

$$\bullet \ (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

#### p(T) = 1:

- $(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$
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(Product Rule)

$$p(T) = 1$$
:

• 
$$(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A(B + \overline{B}) \mid AX).$$

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(B + \overline{B} \mid AX).$$

• 
$$(B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = \mathsf{T}.$$

(Product Rule)

(Definition of T)

$$p(T) = 1$$
:

• 
$$(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A(B + \overline{B}) \mid AX).$$

$$\Rightarrow \ p(A \,|\, X) = p(A \,|\, X) p(B + \overline{B} \,|\, AX). \tag{Product Rule}$$

• 
$$(B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = T$$
. (Definition of T)

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(T).$$

(Definition of T)

```
p(T) = 1:
```

• 
$$(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$$

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A(B + \overline{B}) \mid AX).$$

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(B + \overline{B} \mid AX).$$
 (Product Rule)

• 
$$(B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = \mathsf{T}$$
.

$$\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(T).$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = p(\mathsf{T}).$$

QED.

 $p(\mathsf{F}) = 0.$ 

```
p(T) = 1:
   • (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).
  \Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A(B + \overline{B}) \mid AX).
  \Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(B + \overline{B} \mid AX).
                                                                               (Product Rule)
   • (B + \overline{B} \mid AX) = \mathsf{T}.
                                                                             (Definition of T)
  \Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A \mid X)p(T).
  \Rightarrow 1 = p(\mathsf{T}).
       QED.
```

$$0 \le p(A \mid X) \le 1$$

$$0 \le p(A | X) \le 1$$
:

•  $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$ .

$$0 \le p(A | X) \le 1$$
:

- $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$ .
- $\Rightarrow \ p(\mathsf{F}) \leq p(A \,|\, X) \leq p(\mathsf{T}).$

(p is strictly increasing)

$$0 \le p(A | X) \le 1$$
:

- $F \le (A | X) \le T$ .
- $\Rightarrow p(\mathsf{F}) \le p(A \mid X) \le p(\mathsf{T}).$
- $\Rightarrow \ 0 \le p(A \,|\, X) \le 1.$  QED.

(p is strictly increasing)

## Lemma (Sum Rule)

It holds that

$$p(\overline{A} \mid X) = 1 - p(A \mid X)$$

for all A.

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• 
$$p(\overline{A} | X) = p(N(A | X)) = 1 - p(A | X).$$

## Lemma (Sum Rule)

It holds that

$$p(\overline{A} \mid X) = 1 - p(A \mid X)$$

for all A.

•  $p(\overline{A} \mid X) = p(N(A \mid X)) = 1 - p(A \mid X).$  $\Rightarrow N \cong 1 - \bullet.$  Cox's Theorem 21/28

# Theorem (Cox)

Plausibility is probability.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{valid:} & (P \mid BX) = \mathsf{T} & & & & & & \\ (\text{modus tollens}) & & \overline{P} & & & \overline{P} \\ & \therefore \overline{B} & & & \ddots \overline{B} \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{valid:} & p(P \mid BX) = 1 \\ & \overline{P} \\ & p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = \dots \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \overline{B} \Longrightarrow P \\ \overline{P} \\ & \vdots \ \overline{B} \\ & \vdots \ C \end{array}$$
 invalid: 
$$\begin{array}{c} C \Longrightarrow K \\ K \\ & \vdots \ C \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} C \Longrightarrow K \\ K \\ & \vdots \ C \end{array}$$

 $p(B | \overline{P}X)$ 

$$p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(B\overline{P} \mid X)}{p(\overline{P} \mid X)}$$

(Product Rule)

$$p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(B\overline{P} \mid X)}{p(\overline{P} \mid X)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{p(\overline{P} \mid BX)p(B \mid X)}{p(\overline{P} \mid X)}$$
 (Product Rule)

$$p(B | \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(B\overline{P} | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{p(\overline{P} | BX)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{(1 - p(P | BX))p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)}$$
 (Sum Rule)

$$p(B | \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(BP | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Product Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\overline{P} | BX)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Product Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{(1 - p(P | BX))p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Sum Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{(1 - 1)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad (X = (B \implies P))$$

$$p(B | \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(BP | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Product Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{p(\overline{P} | BX)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Product Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{(1 - p(P | BX))p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad \text{(Sum Rule)}$$

$$= \frac{(1 - 1)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)} \qquad (X = (B \implies P))$$

$$= 0.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{valid:} & p(\begin{subarray}{c} P \mid BX) = 1 \\ & p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0 \\ & & \therefore C \\ & & \\ \hline \\$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{valid:} & p(\begin{subarray}{c} P \mid BX) = 1 & & & & \\ \hline p(\begin{subarray}{c} B \mid \overline{P}X) = 1 & & & \\ \hline p(\begin{subarray}{c} B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0 & & \\ \hline p(\begin{subarray}{c} C \mid \overline{P}X) = 1 & & \\ \hline p(\begin{subarray}{c} C \mid \overline{P}X \mid$$

 $p(C \mid KY)$ 

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(CK \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)} \tag{}$$

(Product Rule)

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(CK \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{p(K \mid CY)p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(CK \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)  

$$= \frac{p(K \mid CY)p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)  

$$= \frac{1 \cdot p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Y = (C \imprimes K))

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(CK \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{p(K \mid CY)p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (Product Rule)
$$= \frac{1 \cdot p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 ( $Y = (C \implies K)$ )
$$= \frac{p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}.$$

valid: 
$$p(\begin{tabular}{ll} p(B \begin{tabular}{ll} p(B \begin{tabular}{ll}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{valid:} & p(\begin{subarray}{c} P \,|\, BX) = 1 \\ \text{(modus tollens)} & p(B \,|\, \overline{P}X) = 0 \\ \\ \text{invalid:} & p(\begin{subarray}{c} K \,|\, CY) = 1 \\ \text{(logical fallacy)} & p(\begin{subarray}{c} K \,|\, CY) \geq p(\begin{subarray}{c} C \,|\, Y) \\ \end{array} & \therefore C \end{array}$$

valid: 
$$p(\begin{tabular}{c} P \mid BX) = 1 \\ (\text{modus tollens}) \\ p(\begin{tabular}{c} P \mid BX) = 1 \\ p(\begin{tabular}{c} B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(K \mid CY)p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$

$$p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(\overline{P} \mid BX)p(B \mid X)}{p(\overline{P} \mid X)}$$

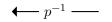
$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(K \mid CY)p(C \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$

# Plausibility Probability $(A \,|\, X) \qquad \qquad p \longrightarrow \qquad p(A \,|\, X)$

## Plausibility

Probability

$$(A \mid X)$$



$$p(A \mid X)$$

It is clear that, not only is the quantitative use of the rules of probability theory as extended logic the only sound way to conduct inference; it is the failure to follow those rules strictly that has for many years been leading to unnecessary errors, paradoxes, and controversies.

(Jaynes, 2003, p. 143)