REASONING ABOUT THE WORLD

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First InveniaCon 27 September 2017 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 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.

B

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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$$B \implies P$$

 \overline{P}

 $\cdot \cdot \overline{B}$

$$C \implies K$$

K

C

$$\operatorname{valid} \colon \qquad \stackrel{B}{\Longrightarrow} \stackrel{P}{\Longrightarrow} P$$
 $(\operatorname{modus\ tollens}) \qquad \stackrel{\overline{P}}{\overline{F}}$
 $:: \overline{B}$
 $\operatorname{invalid} \colon \qquad \stackrel{C}{\Longrightarrow} \stackrel{K}{K}$
 $(\operatorname{logical\ fallacy}) \qquad \stackrel{K}{\longleftrightarrow} \stackrel{C}{\smile} C$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{valid:} & & B & \Longrightarrow & P \\ & & & \overline{P} & & \\ & & & \ddots & \overline{B} & & \\ & & & & \ddots & \overline{B} & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{valid:} & & B \implies P \\ & & \overline{P} \\ & & \ddots \overline{B} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C \implies K \text{ becomes more plausible} \\ & & K \\ & & \ddots C \text{ becomes more plausible} \end{array}$$

- ? $\xrightarrow{B} \implies P$ becomes more plausible \overline{P}
 - $\therefore \overline{B}$ becomes more plausible
- $C \implies K$ becomes more plausible K $\therefore C$ 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.

Assumption (Representation)

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• Plausibility is ordered.

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

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

Lemma (Representation)

Plausibility can be represented by real numbers.

Plausible Reasoning

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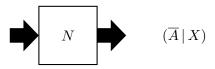
Truth

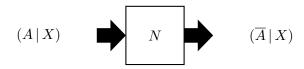
Truth

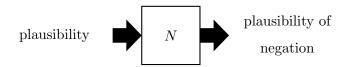
Assumption (Truth)

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

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







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).
- $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$

- Define F = N(T).
- $F \le (A | X) \le T$:
 - $(\overline{A} | X) \leq \mathsf{T}$.

(Definition of T)

- Define F = N(T).
- $F \le (A | X) \le T$:
 - $(\overline{A} \mid X) \leq \mathsf{T}$.

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

(Definition of T)

(N is decreasing)

- Define F = N(T).
- $F \le (A | X) \le T$:

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

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

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

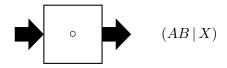
QED.

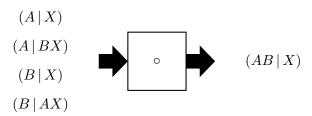
(Definition of T)

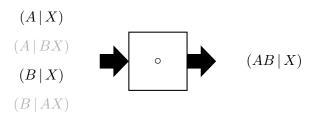
(N is decreasing)

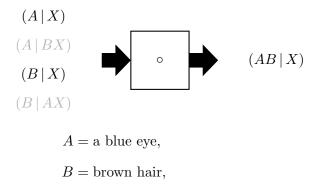
(Definition of N and F)

 $(AB \mid X)$









AB = a blue eye and brown hair.

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

$$(A \mid BX)$$

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

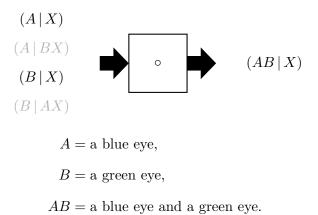
$$(B \mid AX)$$

$$(B \mid AX)$$

A = a blue eye,

B = brown hair,

AB = a blue eye and brown hair.



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

$$(A \mid BX)$$

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

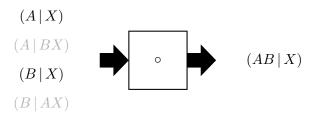
$$(B \mid AX)$$

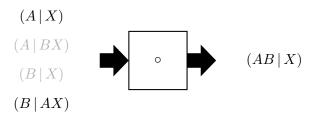
$$(B \mid AX)$$

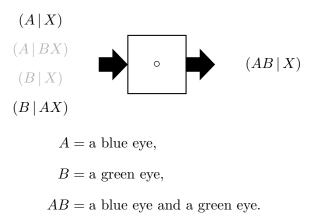
A = a blue eye,

B = a green eye,

AB = a blue eye and a green eye.







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

$$(A \mid BX)$$

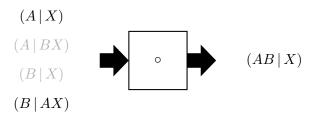
$$(B \mid X)$$

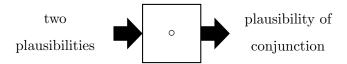
$$(B \mid AX) = \text{low}$$

$$A = \text{a blue eye,}$$

$$B = \text{a green eye,}$$

$$AB = \text{a blue eye and a green eye.}$$





Assumption (Conjunction)

There exists a function \circ such that

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

for all A and B.

•
$$x \circ \mathsf{T} =$$

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

- $x \circ \mathsf{T} = x$:
 - $\bullet \ (A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$

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

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

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

(Definition of T)

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

• $x \circ \mathsf{F} =$

•
$$x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$$

• $x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$:

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

(Definition of T)

• $x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$:

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

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

 $({\rm Definition\ of\ } T)$

• $x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$:

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

$$\Rightarrow (A\overline{A} \mid X) = \mathsf{F}.$$
 (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 F)
$$\bullet (A\overline{A} \mid X) = (A \mid X) \circ (\overline{A} \mid AX).$$
 (Definition of \circ)

• $x \circ \mathsf{F} = \mathsf{F}$:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

•
$$x \circ (y \circ z) = (x \circ y) \circ z$$
:
 $(ABC \mid X) = (A(BC) \mid X)$
 $= (A \mid X) \circ (BC \mid AX)$
 $= (A \mid X) \circ ((B \mid AX) \circ (C \mid ABX)),$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 $\Rightarrow \circ \cong \times.$

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 $\Rightarrow \circ \cong \times.$

•
$$p(B | AX) = \frac{p(AB | X)}{p(A | X)}$$
.

•
$$p(T) = 1$$

- p(T) = 1:
 - $(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$

- $p(\mathsf{T}) = 1$:
 - $(A \mid X) = (A(B + \overline{B}) \mid X).$
 - $\Rightarrow p(A \mid X) = p(A(B + \overline{B}) \mid AX).$

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

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

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

(Product Rule)

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

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

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

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

(Product Rule)

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

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

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

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

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

(Product Rule)

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

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

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

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

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

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

QED.

(Product Rule)

•
$$p(\mathsf{T}) = 1$$
:

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

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

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

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

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

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

QED.

•
$$p(\mathsf{F}) = 0$$
.

(Product Rule)

•
$$0 \le p(A \mid X) \le 1$$

- $0 \le p(A | X) \le 1$:
 - $F \leq (A \mid X) \leq T$.

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

(p is strictly increasing)

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

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.

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

 $\Rightarrow N \cong 1 - \cdots$

Cox's Theorem 21/28

Theorem (Cox)

Plausibility is probability.

(logical fallacy)

.:. C

Revisited

K

C

valid:
$$\overrightarrow{B} \Longrightarrow \overrightarrow{P}$$
 $\overrightarrow{B} \Longrightarrow \overrightarrow{P}$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} \overline{P} $\therefore \overline{B}$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $C \Longrightarrow K$ $C \Longrightarrow K$ (logical fallacy) K K $\therefore C$ $\therefore C$

.. C

Revisited

valid:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \implies P$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = \dots$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $C \implies K$ $C \implies K$ (logical fallacy) K

 $\cdot \cdot C$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23/28

$$p(B | \overline{P}X) = \frac{p(\overline{BP} | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)}$$
 (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)
$$= \frac{(1 - 1)p(B | X)}{p(\overline{P} | X)}$$
 (X = (B \imprimes P))
$$= 0.$$

valid:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \Longrightarrow P$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $C \Longrightarrow K$ $C \Longrightarrow K$ (logical fallacy) K K $C \Longrightarrow K$

valid:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \implies \overline{P}$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $p(K \mid CY) = 1$ $C \implies \overline{P}$ (logical fallacy) $C \implies \overline{P}$ $C \implies \overline{P}$

$$p(C \mid KY)$$

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

$$p(C \mid KY) = \frac{p(CK \mid Y)}{p(K \mid Y)}$$
 (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:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \implies \overline{P}$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $p(K \mid CY) = 1$ $C \implies \overline{R}$ (logical fallacy) $C \implies \overline{R}$ $C \implies \overline{R}$ $C \implies \overline{R}$

valid:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \Longrightarrow \overline{P}$ (modus tollens) \overline{P} $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0$ $\therefore \overline{B}$ invalid: $p(K \mid CY) = 1$ $C \Longrightarrow \overline{R}$ (logical fallacy) \overline{P} $C \Longrightarrow \overline{R}$ $C \Longrightarrow \overline{R}$

valid:
$$p(P \mid BX) = 1$$
 $\overline{B} \implies \overline{P}$ (modus tollens) $p(B \mid \overline{P}X) = 0$ $\therefore \overline{B}$

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

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

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

Plausibility Probability $(A \mid X) \longrightarrow p \longrightarrow p(A \mid X)$

Plausibility Probability $(A \mid X) \qquad \longleftarrow p^{-1} \longrightarrow \qquad p(A \mid X)$

"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)