# Decision Analysis: Choice of the Best Alternative



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# **Course Objectives**

- Understanding how to set "what is problem";
- Ability to choose the best alternative among available alternatives by:
  - Identifying their consequences;
  - Asking experts, especially if there are *multi* criteria/attributes.
  - Ability to analyze confrontation;
  - Enjoy and survive during this course!

#### Problems of Choice



#### Model of Decision Analysis



- D: a decision maker
- C : possible courses of action (alternatives)
- $O_1$  and  $O_2$ : possible outcomes/consequences/payoffs
- $\blacksquare$  E<sub>i,j</sub> : Events (State of Natures/SON)
- **p**<sub>i,j</sub> : probabilities

### Structure of Decision Tree

- Decision Node
  - Alternatives available for decision maker to choose;
  - Situation controllable by decision maker.



Alternatives of actions

#### Structure of Decision Tree

#### Event Node

- Events may happen after every action made by decision maker;
- Uncontrollable by decision maker;
- Decision maker only has information about probability of each event → no complete information.



#### **Building Decision Tree**

- Identify what decisions should be made by DM;
  - What are the *first* decision, and *next* decisions to be made?
- 2. Identify what SON happen after each decision;
- 3. Draw decision node and event node (SON);
- 4. Complete information about probabilities;
- 5. Complete information about payoff.

## Goferbroke Company Case



#### Goferbroke Company(1)



Max Flyer is the founder of and sole owner of the Goferbroke Company, which develops oil wells in unproven territory. Max's friends refer to him affectionately as a wildcatter. However he prefers to think himself as an entrepreneur. He has poured his life saving's into the company in the hope of making it big with a large strike of oil.

Now his chance possibly has come. His company *has purchased various tracts of land* that larger oil companies have spurned as unpromising even though they are near some large oil fields. *Now Max has received an exciting report about one of these tracts. A consulting geologist has just informed Max that he believes there is one chance in four of oil there.* 

Max has learned from bitter experience to be skeptical about the chances of oil reported by consulting geologist. Drilling for oil on this tract would require an investment of about \$100,000. If the lands *turns out to be dry (no oil)*, the entire investment would be lost. Since his company doesn't have much capital left, this lost would be quite serious.

# Goferbroke Company(2)

- On the other hand, *if the tract does contain oil*, the consulting geologist estimates that there would be enough there to generate a net revenue of approximately \$800,000, leaving an approximate profit of:
  - Profit if find oil = Revenue if find oil Drilling cost
    - = \$800,000 \$100,000

= \$700,000

There is another option that another oil company has gotten wind of consulting geologist's report and so has offered to purchase the tract of land from Max for \$90,000. This is very tempting. This too would provide a welcome infusion of capital into the company, but without incurring the large risk of a very substansial loss of \$100,000.

## Decision Trees of Goferbroke

- Decision tree is decision making help tools that could describe entire alternatives with whole events that may happen (SoN).
- Showing : Alternatives, SoN, Prior Probability, and Payoff.
- Using Bayes' Decision Rule to choose the best action.



#### Event nodes



Payoff



Payoff



## Using Treeplan software



# Goferbroke's Case Continued

- Survey by geologist will provide more accurate information about *P(oil);*
- How if Max has to decide two alternatives:
  - 1. Do survey before drill/sell
  - 2. Drill/sell without Survey
  - Events:
    - Do Survey
      - **FSS** : Favorable Seismic Sounding : Oil is fairly likely
      - **USS** : Unfavorable seismic sounding: Oil is quite unlikely.
    - Drill or Sell
      - Oil
      - Dry

#### Max`s Experience

•P(state) → prior; which is P(Oil)=0.25 & P(Dry)=0.75;
•P (finding|state) → being known based on Max's experiences; which is

•P(FSS|Oil)=0.6,
•P(USS|Oil)=0.4,
•P(FSS|Dry)=0.2, and
•P(USS|Dry)=0.8

Which:

- •State : Oil and Dry;
- •Finding : FSS and USS;
- •FSS : favorable seismic sounding; oil is fairly likely;
- •USS : unfavorable seismic sounding; oil is quite unlikely.

#### Leveled Decision Analysis



# Decision Tree: What-If Analysis

#### Sensitivity Analysis

The Study of how different assumptions about future (parameters) would affect the recommended decision.

## **Current Solution**





Do survey, if USS then Sell, else Drill

# Sensitivity Analysis Graph

- There are three Sensitivity Analysis tools that being depicted in graph to help analyze Decision Tree solution:
  - Plot graph
  - Spider graph
  - Tornado graph
- All of these graphs are built by Sensit-Sensitivity Analysis software.

# Sensitivity Analysis Graph Tips

- Plot graph were sensitivity analysis tools that being used to investigating <u>the effect of prior probability of</u> <u>finding oil on the expected payoff;</u>
- Spider graph were sensitivity analysis tool that being used to investigating <u>how the expected payoff would</u> <u>change if one of parameters changes (the cost or</u> <u>revenues) by up to plus or minus 10%;</u>
- Tornado diagram are being used to analyze different parameters that had different degrees of variability on the expected payoff.

## Sensitivity Analysis(1)





Effect of P(oil) and P(dry) on expected payoff

## Sensitivity Analysis(2)





#### Effect of revenue and costs on expected payoff

# Sensit-Sensitivity Analysis-Plot



Let p = prior probability of oil;

- If  $p \le 0.168$ , then sell the land (no seismic survey);
- If 0.169 ≤ p ≤ 0.308, then do the survey,
  •drill if favorable and sell if not;
- If  $p \ge 0.309$ , then drill for oil (no seismic survey)

# Sensit-Sensitivity Analysis-Spider



Conclusion : Payoff more influenced by Revenue if Oil variable than others.

### Sensit-Sensitivity Analysis-Tornado



Conclusion : Although revenue if oil 25% reduced, but expected payoff still > \$ 90,000 (Drill is robust)

#### Thanks



#### **Posterior Probability**

Given:



P(finding|state) = Max's experience on probabilities of finding (FSS or USS) could occur if some SoN (oil or dry) has been already happened.





# Posterior Probability Formula

#### Given :

- P(state)  $\rightarrow$  prior probability: P(Oil)=0.25 & P(Dry)=0.75;
- P(finding|state)  $\rightarrow$  P(FSS|Oil)=0.6, P(USS|Oil)=0.4, P(FSS|Dry)=0.2, and P(USS|Dry)=0.8.

#### Then:

- P(State and Finding)=P(State)P(Finding|State)
- such that : P(Oil and FSS)=P(Oil)P(FSS|Oil)

$$\rightarrow$$

 $P(state \mid finding) = \frac{P(state \text{ and } finding)}{P(finding)}$ 

#### And P(finding):

P(FSS)=P(oil and FSS)+P(dry and FSS)
P(USS)=P(oil and USS)+P(dry and USS)

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
А	30	40	70	
B	10	20	30	
TOTAL	40	60	100	

$$P(B) = \frac{30}{100}$$
  $P(A) = \frac{70}{100}$ 

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Α	30	40	70	
B	10	20	30	
TOTAL	40	60	100	

$$P(Male) = \frac{40}{100}$$

 $P(Female) = \frac{60}{100}$ 

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	30	40	70
B	10	20	30
TOTAL	40	60	100

$$P(A \text{ and } Male) = P(Male \text{ and } A) = \frac{30}{100}$$
$$P(B \text{ and } Male) = P(Male \text{ and } B) = \frac{10}{100}$$

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Α	30	40	70
B	10	20	30
TOTAL	40	60	100

$$P(B|Male) = \frac{P(B \text{ and } Male)}{P(Male)} = \frac{\frac{10}{100}}{\frac{40}{100}} = \frac{1}{40}$$

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	30	40	70
B	10	20	30
TOTAL	40	60	100

$$P(Male|B) = \frac{P(Male and B)}{P(B)} = \frac{\frac{10}{100}}{\frac{30}{100}} = \frac{1}{3}$$

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	30	40	70
B	10	20	30
TOTAL	40	60	100

$$P(B) = P(B \text{ and } Male) + P(B \text{ and } Female)$$
$$= \frac{10}{100} + \frac{20}{100} = \frac{30}{100}$$

GRADE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	30	40	70
B	10	20	30
TOTAL	40	60	100

P(Male) = P(A and Male) + P(B and Male) $= \frac{30}{100} + \frac{10}{100} = \frac{40}{100}$ 

### Max`s Preference on Risk

- According to Max, loss as much as 130 thousands dollar in current difficult time gives deadly effect to his company;
- But, in normal condition, loss as much as 130 thousands dollar can be handled easily.

- 1. Pay off in unit money can not accommodate DM's preference on risk
- 2. It is needed to consider DM's preference on risk into payoff
- **3.** Utility function accommodates DM's on risk by transforming payoff in unit money onto utility value

## Utility Function for Money



# Dealing with the Goferbroke Co. Problem

- Let according to Max U(0)=0, and U(-130)=-150, then calculate U(700);
- Give two choices to Max:
  - A1: Obtain a payoff of 700 with probability *p*.
     Obtain a payoff of –130 with probability (1-*p*);
  - A2 : Definitely obtain payoff of 0.
- Ask Max to choose value of p such that he will be indifferent over A1 and A2;
  - If Max has chosen p=0.2 then
    - E(A1)=E(A2);
    - 0.2U(700)+(1-0.2)U(-130)=0
    - U(700)=600
- Transform other payoffs: U(-100)=-105, and U(90)=90, etc.

## Max's Utility Function for Money

Money M	Max's Utility U(M)
-130	-150
-100	-105
0	0
60	60
90	90
670	580
700	600

# Revision of DT using Max's Utility Function for Money



# Calculation of Utility Function for money

Fundamental property : if a decision maker is indifferent over two alternatives then the alternatives have the same expected utility.