STA371G: Homework 2

Instructions

Submit your assignment at the **beginning** of class on **Monday Feb 11**.

Grading

A small number of the problems on each assignment will be graded for correctness, and the remainder graded for completeness. A complete response answers the question posed and also shows your work. This means showing the steps of a mathematical calculation, or including the R code you used to arrive at your answer. For questions that are not just calculations (e.g., more than computing an expected value from a table) you should answer in complete, concise sentences. Detailed solutions will be available – you should always check your work against these solutions.

Problem 1: Freemark Abbey Winery (I) (15 points)

This problem is based on the Freemark Abbey Winery case. Please read this case carefully before answering the following questions. You should assume that Freemark Abbey Winery sells the wine in bulk at \$1 per bottle if the storm hits and there is no mold. Assume that the winery produces 1,000 cases of 12 bottles each (unless there is mold - see the case for the appropriate volume under that outcome). Use units of thousands of dollars (so that a payoff of 10 below corresponds to the winery making \$10,000).

1. Fill out the payoff table below using the information given in the case.

|--|

	Storm Botrytis	Storm No Botrytis	No Storm Sugar 25%	No Storm Sugar 20%	No Storm Acidity <0.7%
Harvest Now	Douryus	110 Doury 015	54gai 2070	54gai 2070	
Harvost Lator					

- Harvest Later
- 2. Construct a decision tree using the information given in the case.
- 3. What is the probability distribution of the possible outcomes if Jaeger decides not to harvest immediately? What is the mean of this distribution?
- 4. What decision would you recommend to Jaeger given the information you have?
- 5. Would your decision change if the probability changes from 0.4 to 0.2 that the botrytis mold forms given that the storm hits? Why or why not?

Problem 2: Freemark Abbey Winery (II) (20 points)

In this problem, we will study the value of information for Jaeger.

- 1. Suppose you could buy perfect information regarding whether or not the botrytis mold forms if the storm hits. Build a new decision tree reflecting the receipt of perfect information about the mold.
- 2. Compute the expected payoff if Jaeger pays for the perfect information. What is the most Jaeger should be willing to pay for this information?

Problem 3: Freemark Abbey Winery (III) (30 points)

In problem #2, you computed the expected value of the mold expert's perfect information regarding whether or not the condition of the grapes is such that the botrytis mold will form if the storm hits. In this problem, we will apply Bayes theorem to find out the expected value of imperfect (sample) information.

Suppose that if the condition of the grapes is such that the mold will form if the storm hits, the mold expert correctly indicates this 75% of the time; and if the condition of the grapes is such that mold will not form if the storm hits, the mold expert correctly indicates this 85% of the time.

1. Fill the joint probability table shown below:

	Mold	No Mold	
Expert States Mold			
Expert States No Mold			

- 2. Construct the new decision tree for the case with imperfect information.
- 3. Compute the expected payoff if Jaeger pays for the imperfect information. What is the most Jaeger should be willing to pay for the mold expert's imperfect information?

Problem 4 (18 points)

A construction company needs to complete a project within 11 weeks, or they will incur significant cost overruns, including penalties due to the client. The manager of the company has assessed that the project will take between 10 and 14 weeks to complete. The manager has also estimated the probability of each possible outcome:

Weeks to complete	Probability
10	0.075
11	0.65
12	0.2
13	0.05
14	0.025

1. What is the probability of completing the project on time?

- 2. What is the probability of not completing the project on time?
- 3. What is the expected value of the time to complete the project?
- 4. What is the variance of the time to complete the project?
- 5. The company must pay a penalty of \$5,000 for every additional week (beyond 12) that they work, plus a \$50,000 penalty if the work extends beyond 13 weeks. What is the expected value of the penalty incurred?
- 6. Suppose you're the engineer in charge of bidding for the project (i.e. estimating the total cost of the job, plus overhead and profit). How would you use the information from the previous question to price this job?