

State-of-the-art on winning probability relations

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INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

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1. Intransitivity of indifference

The Sorites Paradox

Many versions of the Sorites Paradox:

- **The Bald Man Paradox:** there is no particular number of hairs whose loss marks the transition to baldness
- **The Heap Paradox:** no grain of wheat can be identified as making the difference between a heap and not being a heap
- **The Luce Paradox:** sugar in coffee example

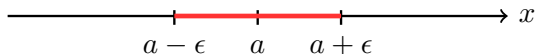


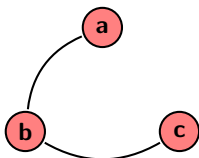
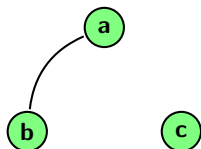
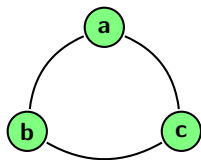
The Poincaré Paradox

Approximate equality of real numbers is not transitive, i.e. stating that $a \in \mathbb{R}$ is similar to $b \in \mathbb{R}$ if

$$|a - b| \leq \epsilon$$

is **not transitive**



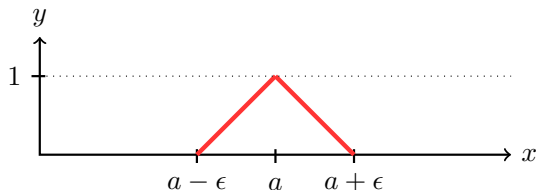
Possible symmetric configurations ($n = 3$)

The Poincaré Paradox revisited

The fuzzy relation

$$E_\epsilon(a, b) = \max\left(1 - \frac{|a - b|}{\epsilon}, 0\right)$$

is T_L -transitive, i.e. $E_\epsilon(a, b) + E_\epsilon(b, c) - 1 \leq E_\epsilon(a, c)$



The function $d_\epsilon = 1 - E_\epsilon$ is a metric: the **triangle inequality** holds

$$d_\epsilon(a, b) + d_\epsilon(b, c) \geq d_\epsilon(a, c)$$

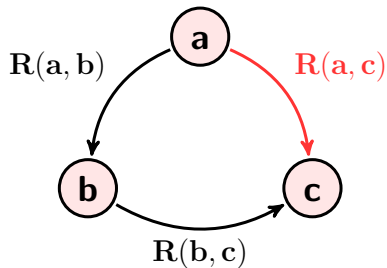
T -Transitivity of fuzzy relations

Fuzzy relation: $R : A^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$, with a **unipolar** semantics

- A fuzzy relation R on A is called **T -transitive**, with T a t-norm, if

$$T(R(a, b), R(b, c)) \leq R(a, c)$$

for any a, b, c in A



Triangular norms

Basic continuous t-norms:

minimum	T_M	$\min(x, y)$
product	T_P	xy
Łukasiewicz t-norm	T_L	$\max(x + y - 1, 0)$

T -triplets

Consider three elements a_1 , a_2 and a_3 :

- A permutation (a_i, a_j, a_k) is called a **T -triplet** if

$$T(R(a_i, a_j), R(a_j, a_k)) \leq R(a_i, a_k)$$

- There can be at most 6 T -triplets
- T -transitivity expresses that there always are 6 T -triplets

2. Intransitivity of preference

Transitivity of preference

Transitivity of preference is a fundamental principle underlying most major rational, prescriptive and descriptive contemporary models of decision making

- **Rationality of individual and collective choice**: a transitive person, group or society that prefers choice option x to y and y to z must prefer x to z
- **Intransitive relations** are often perceived as something **paradoxical** and are associated with **irrational behaviour**
- Main argument: **money pump**



Intransitivity of preference

- **Transitivity** is expected to hold if preferences are based on a single scale (fitness maximization)
- **Intransitive choices** have been reported from both humans and other animals, such as **gray jays** (Waite, 2001) collecting food for storage

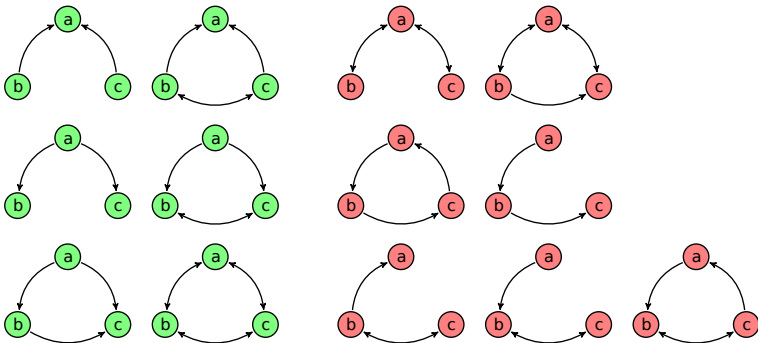


- **Bounded rationality**: intransitive choices are a suboptimal byproduct of heuristics that usually perform well in real-world situations (Kahneman and Tversky, 1969)
- Intransitive choices can result from decision strategies that maximize fitness (Houston, McNamara and Steer, 2007), as a kind of insurance against a run of bad luck

Intransitivity in life

Life provides many examples of intransitive relations, they often seem to be necessary and play a positive role

- sports: team A which defeated team B, which in turn won from C, can be overcome by C
- 13 love triangles:



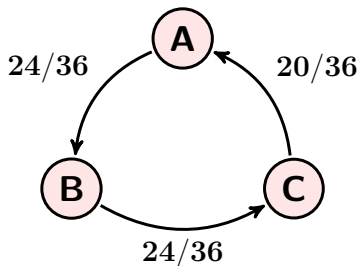
The God-Einstein-Oppenheimer dice puzzle

(New York Times, 30-03-09)

Integers 1–18 distributed over **3 dice**:

A	1	2	13	14	15	16
B	7	8	9	10	11	12
C	3	4	5	6	17	18

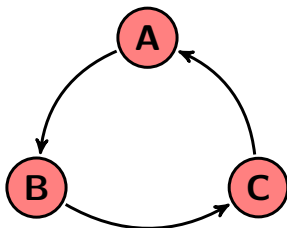
Winning probabilities:



Statistical preference

Statistical preference: X is preferred to Y if $\text{Prob}\{X > Y\} > \frac{1}{2}$

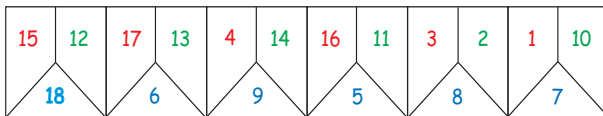
- May lead to cycles (Steinhaus and Trybuła, 1959):



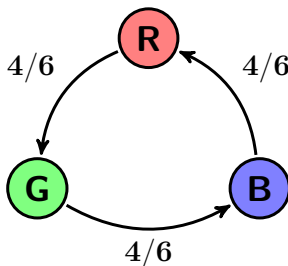
- There exist 10.705 cyclic distributions of the numbers 1–18 and 15 of them constitute a cycle of the highest equal probability $21/36 = 7/12$

A single die variant

Integers 1–18 distributed over **1 die**: 3 numbers on each face



Winning probabilities:

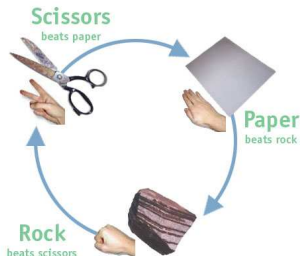


The single die can be seen as 3 coupled dice

Rock-Paper-Scissors

Cyclic dice are a type of **Rock-Paper-Scissors** (RPS):
(ancient children's game, *jan-ken-pon*, *rochambeau*)

- rock defeats scissors
- scissors defeat paper
- rock loses to paper

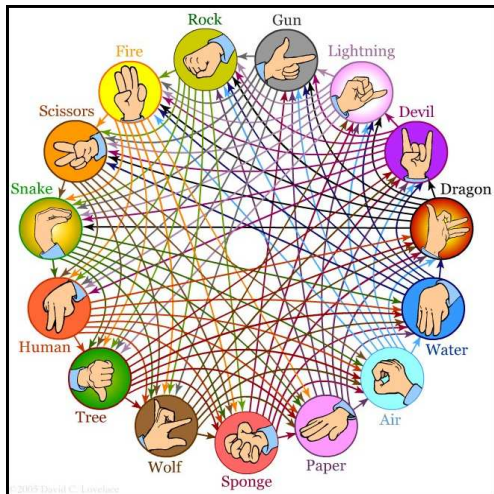


Rock-Paper-Scissors

The Rock-Paper-Scissors game:

- is often used as a **selection method** in a way similar to coin flipping, drawing straws, or throwing dice
- unlike truly random selection methods, RPS can be played with a **degree of skill**: recognize and exploit the non-random behaviour of an opponent
- **World RPS Society**:
“Serving the needs of decision makers since 1918”

Rock-Paper-Scissors



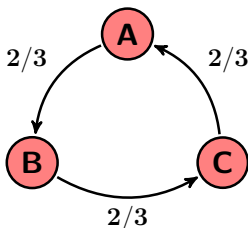
RPS in voting

The voting paradox of Condorcet (Marquis de Condorcet, 1785)

voter 1: $A > B > C$

voter 2: $B > C > A$

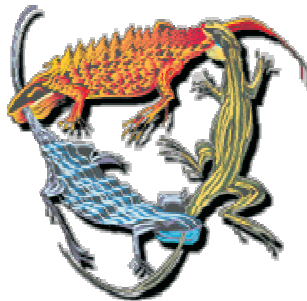
voter 3: $C > A > B$



Inspiration to **Arrow's impossibility theorem**: there is no choice procedure meeting the democratic assumptions

RPS in evolutionary biology: lizards

Common side-blotched **lizard** mating strategies (Sinervo and Lively, Nature, 1996) depending on the colour of throats of males



RPS in evolutionary biology: Survival of the Weakest

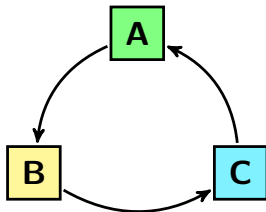
Cyclic competitions in spatial ecosystems (Reichenbach et al., 2007; Frey, 2009) (alternative to Lotka-Volterra equations, computer simulations using cellular automata)

- in large populations, the weakest species would - with very high probability - come out as the victor
- biodiversity in RPS games is negatively correlated with the rate of migration: critical rate of migration ϵ_{crit} above which biodiversity gets lost

Simulating microbial competition

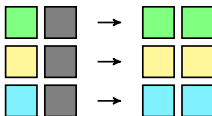
Simulation setting:

- three subpopulations: A, B, C
- initial population density: 25 % A, 25 % B, 25 % C, 25 % ■
- cellular automaton on a square grid
- environmental conditions discarded

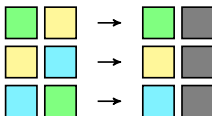


Simulating microbial competition: mechanisms

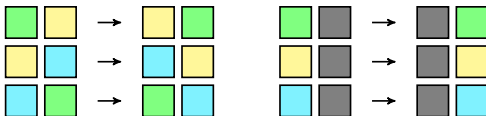
- Reproduction (μ):



- Selection (σ):



- Migration (ϵ):



Simulation experiment 1

 $\epsilon < \epsilon_c$

Simulation experiment 2

$$\epsilon > \epsilon_c$$

3. Reciprocal relations

Reciprocal relations

Reciprocal relation: $Q : A^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$, with a **bipolar** semantics, satisfying

$$Q(a, b) + Q(b, a) = 1$$

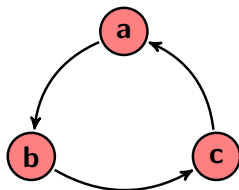
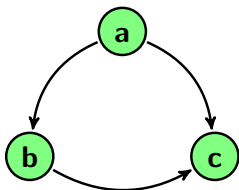
- Example 1: **3-valued representation** of a **complete** relation R

$$Q(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if } R(a, b) = 1 \text{ and } R(b, a) = 0 \\ 1/2 & , \text{ if } R(a, b) = R(b, a) = 1 \\ 0 & , \text{ if } R(a, b) = 0 \text{ and } R(b, a) = 1 \end{cases}$$

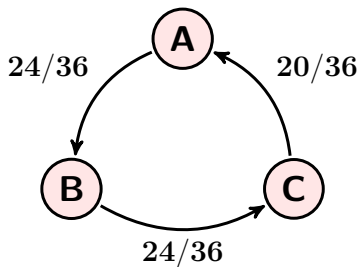
- Example 2: **winning probabilities** associated with a random vector (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)

$$Q(X_i, X_j) = \text{Prob}\{X_i > X_j\} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Prob}\{X_i = X_j\}$$

Possible complete asymmetric configurations ($n = 3$)



Oppenheimer's set of dice



Reciprocal relation:

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 24/36 & 16/36 \\ 12/36 & 1/2 & 24/36 \\ 20/36 & 12/36 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

T -transitivity of reciprocal relations

Although not compatible with the bipolar semantics, T -transitivity can be imposed formally

Theorem

Consider a reciprocal relation on three elements:

- There are either **3**, **5** or **6** T_M -triplets
- There are either **3**, **4**, **5** or **6** T_P -triplets
- There are either **3** or **6** T_L -triplets

T_L -transitivity of reciprocal relations

T_L -transitivity of a reciprocal relation = “triangle inequality”:

$$Q(a, b) + Q(b, c) \geq Q(a, c)$$

Theorem

The **winning probability relation** associated with a random vector satisfies the **triangle inequality**

Stochastic transitivity of reciprocal relations

A reciprocal relation Q is called **g -stochastic transitive** if

$$(Q(a, b) \geq 1/2 \wedge Q(b, c) \geq 1/2) \Rightarrow g(Q(a, b), Q(b, c)) \leq Q(a, c)$$

- **weak** stochastic transitivity ($g = 1/2$): iff 1/2-cut of Q is transitive
- **moderate** stochastic transitivity ($g = \min$):
iff all α -cuts (with $\alpha \geq 1/2$) are transitive
- **strong** stochastic transitivity ($g = \max$)

A reciprocal relation Q is called **partially stochastic transitive** if

$$(Q(a, b) > 1/2 \wedge Q(b, c) > 1/2) \Rightarrow \min(Q(a, b), Q(b, c)) \leq Q(a, c) ;$$

iff all α -cuts (with $\alpha > 1/2$) are transitive



4. Dice games: independent RV



A probabilistic viewpoint

Three random variables X_1 , X_2 and X_3 :

$$\text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_2 \wedge X_2 > X_3\} \leq \text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_3\}$$

Even if they are independent, then not necessarily

$$\text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_2\} \text{Prob}\{X_2 > X_3\} \leq \text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_3\}$$

How close are winning probabilities to being T_P -transitive

$$Q(a, b)Q(b, c) \leq Q(a, c) ?$$

Oppenheimer's set of dice

Reciprocal relation:

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 24/36 & 16/36 \\ 12/36 & 1/2 & 24/36 \\ 20/36 & 12/36 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Four product-triplets, the only conditions **not** fulfilled are

$$Q(b, c)Q(c, a) \leq Q(b, a) \quad \text{and} \quad Q(c, a)Q(a, b) \leq Q(c, b)$$

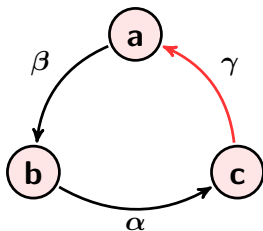
since

$$\frac{20}{36} \times \frac{24}{36} = \frac{12}{36} + \frac{1}{27} > \frac{12}{36}$$

Cycle-transitivity

Reciprocal relation Q :

α_{abc}	$\min\{Q(a, b), Q(b, c), Q(c, a)\}$
β_{abc}	$\text{median}\{Q(a, b), Q(b, c), Q(c, a)\}$
γ_{abc}	$\max\{Q(a, b), Q(b, c), Q(c, a)\}$



T_P -transitivity

A reciprocal relation Q is T_P -transitive if and only if $\alpha\beta \leq 1 - \gamma$
(both clockwise and counter-clockwise)

Pairwise independent random variables

Theorem (characterization for $n = 3$ and rational numbers)

The **winning probability relation** Q^P associated with **pairwise independent** random variables is **weakly T_P -transitive** (dice-transitive), i.e.

$$\beta\gamma \leq 1 - \alpha$$

(both clockwise and counter-clockwise)

Interpretation

The winning probability relation Q^P is **at least $\frac{4}{6} \times 100\%$ T_P -transitive**

Some interesting numbers for 3 dice

	4 faces	5 faces	6 faces	7 faces
4 T_P -triplets	8.66%	1.67%	0.325%	0.060%
5 T_P -triplets	14.01%	7.98%	4.2 %	2.31 %
6 T_P -triplets	85.90%	92.00%	95.8%	97.68%
total number	5.78E+03	1.26E+05	2.86E+06	6.65+07

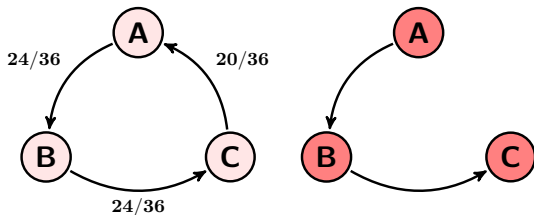
Avoiding cycles

- The **strict ϕ -cut** of Q^P , with ϕ the **golden section**:

$$\frac{22}{36} < \phi = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2} < \frac{23}{36}$$

contains no cycles of length 3

- The **3/4-cut** of Q^P is acyclic



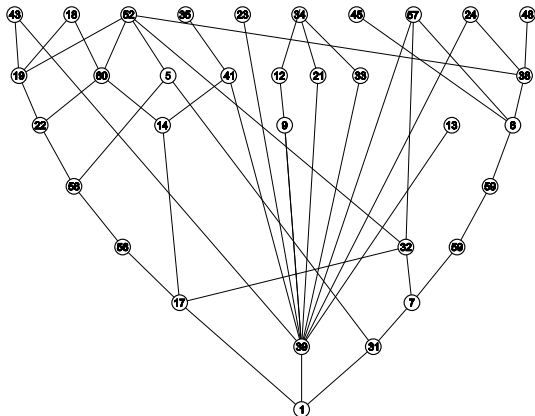
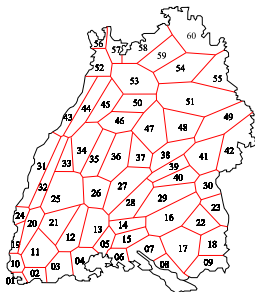
5. Poset ranking: coupled RV

Partially ordered sets

Partially ordered sets (**posets**) are witnessing an increased interest:

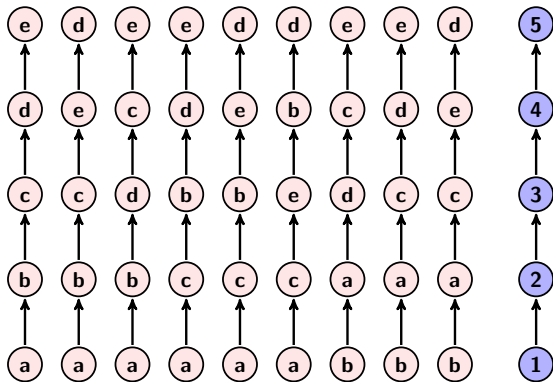
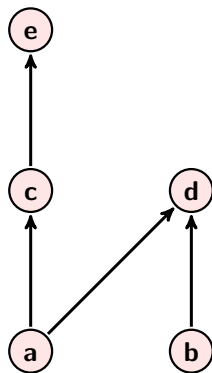
- multi-criteria analysis without a common scale
- allow for incomparability
- usually based on product ordering in a multi-dimensional setting
- the **Hasse diagram technique** in **environmetrics** and **chemometrics**

Real-world example: pollution in Baden-Württemberg



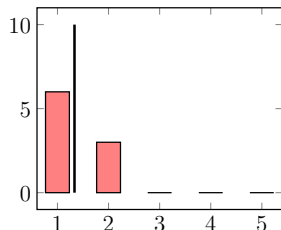
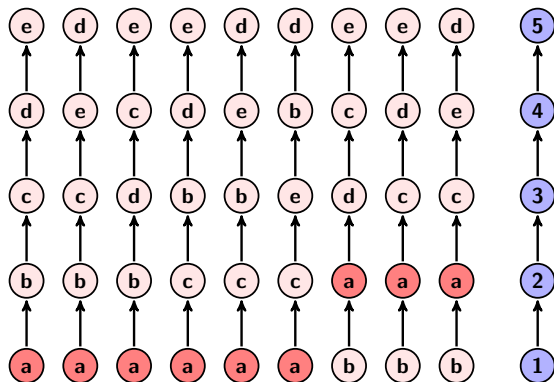
Toy example: a poset and its linear extensions

Linear extension: an **order-preserving permutation** of the elements



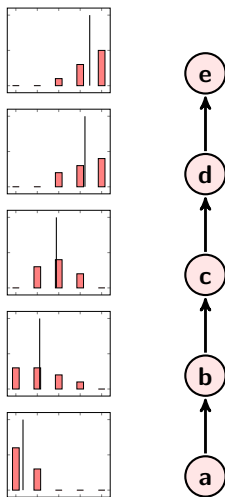
Toy example: average rank

Discrete random variable X_a describing the position of a in a random linear extension



Toy example: poset ranking

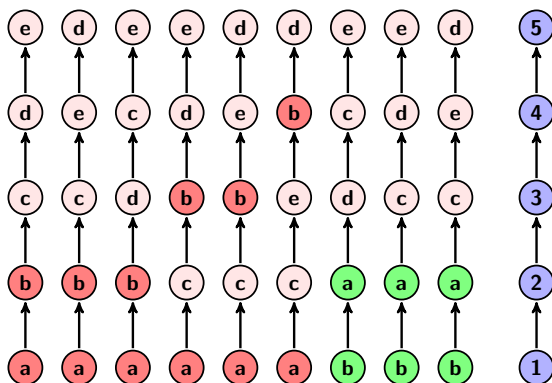
Ranking the elements according to their average rank (weak order)



Toy example: mutual rank probabilities

Fraction of linear extensions in which a is ranked above b :

$$\text{Prob}\{X_a > X_b\} = \frac{3}{9}$$



Mutual rank probability relation

Mutual rank probability relation: reciprocal relation expressing the probability that x_i is ranked above x_j

$$Q(x_i, x_j) = \text{Prob}\{X_i > X_j\}$$

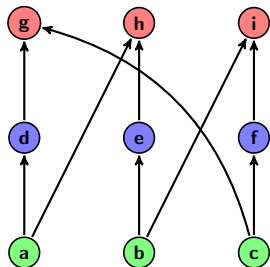
Toy example:

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 3/9 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 6/9 & 1/2 & 3/9 & 0 & 1/9 \\ 1 & 6/9 & 1/2 & 2/9 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 7/9 & 1/2 & 4/9 \\ 1 & 8/9 & 1 & 5/9 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear extension majority cycles

Linear Extension Majority: x_i is ranked above x_j if $\text{Prob}\{X_i > X_j\} > \frac{1}{2}$

- May lead to cycles ($n \geq 9$): only 5 out of 183 231 posets of size 9 contain LEM 3-cycles, none of them contains longer LEM cycles



$$Q(g, h) = Q(h, i) = Q(i, g) = \frac{720}{1431}$$

$$Q(d, e) = Q(e, f) = Q(f, d) = \frac{720}{1431}$$

$$Q(a, b) = Q(b, c) = Q(c, a) = \frac{720}{1431}$$

- Yu (1998): α -cuts of Q_P are transitive for

$$\alpha > \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + (\sqrt{2} - 1) \sqrt{2\sqrt{2} - 1} \right) \approx 0.78$$

Transitivity

Theorem

The mutual rank probability relation is **moderately T_P -transitive**, i.e.

$$\alpha\gamma \leq 1 - \beta$$

(both clockwise and counter-clockwise)

Interpretation

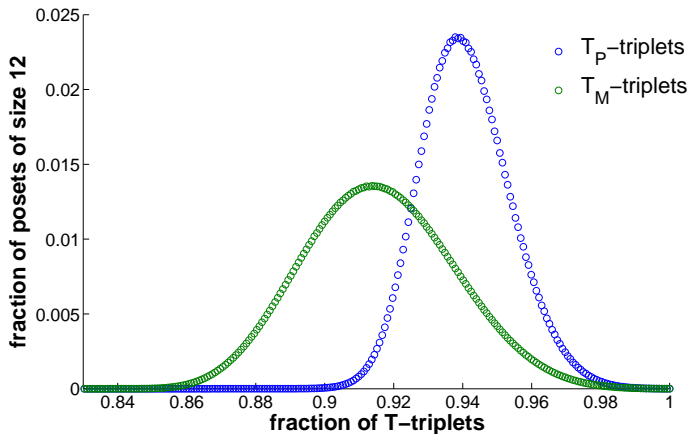
The mutual rank probability relation is **at least $\frac{5}{6} \times 100\%$ T_P -transitive**

Avoiding 3-cycles

The strict ϕ -cut of Q_P , with ϕ the **golden section**, contains no cycles of length 3

Product-triplets and min-triplets

There are 1 104 891 746 non-isomorphic posets of 12 elements



6. Graded stochastic dominance: artificially coupled RV

Stochastic dominance

Aim:

- to define a **partial order relation** on a set of real-valued RV
- **semantics**: RV taking higher values are preferred

Application areas:

- economics and finance
- social statistics
- decision making under uncertainty
- machine learning and multi-criteria decision making

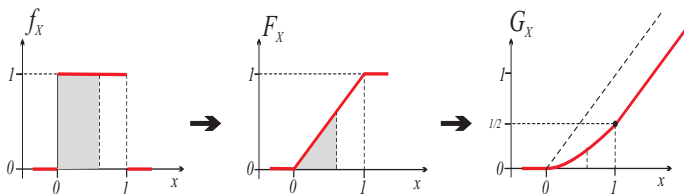
Stochastic dominance

General principle:

- **pairwise** comparison of RV
- pointwise comparison of **performance functions**

The **cumulative distribution function** (CDF) F_X :

$$F_X(x) = \text{Prob}\{X \leq x\}$$



First order stochastic dominance (FSD)

- First order stochastic dominance relation (FSD):

$$X \succeq_{\text{FSD}} Y \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} F_X \leq F_Y$$

or, equivalently,

$$\mathbf{E}[u(X)] \geq \mathbf{E}[u(Y)]$$

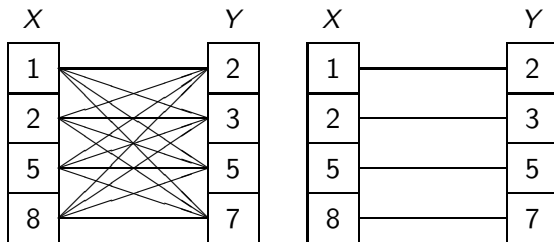
for any **increasing** function u

- FSD implies weak **statistical preference**: $Q^P(X, Y) \geq 1/2$

Shortcomings

- **no tolerance** for small deviations, **no grading**
- usually **sparse** graphs

Dice games versus co-monotone comparison



$$Q^P(X, Y) = 7/16$$

$$Q^M(X, Y) = 3/8$$

Proportional expected difference

- Reciprocal relation: $Q^{\mathbf{M}}(X, Y) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_k^{\mathbf{M}}$

with

$$\delta_k^{\mathbf{M}} = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if } x_k > y_k \\ 1/2 & , \text{ if } x_k = y_k \\ 0 & , \text{ if } x_k < y_k \end{cases}$$

- Proportional expected difference relation:**

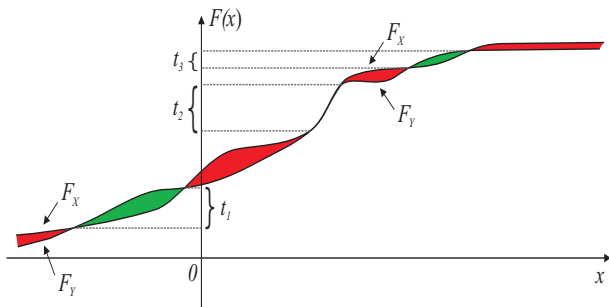
$$Q^{\text{PED}}(X, Y) = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k - y_k)_+}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k - y_k|} = \frac{\mathbf{E}[(X - Y)_+]}{\mathbf{E}[|X - Y|]}$$

with $Q^{\text{PED}}(X, Y) = 1$ if and only if $X \succ_{\text{FSD}} Y$

Proportional expected difference

The case of continuous RV:

$$Q^{\text{PED}}(X, Y) = \frac{\int (F_Y(x) - F_X(x))_+ dx}{\int |F_Y(x) - F_X(x)| dx}$$



Transitivity

Theorem

The proportional expected difference relation Q^{PED} is **partially stochastic transitive**

Use

- The strict $1/2$ -cut of Q^{PED} yields the strict order relation characterized by

$$Q^{\text{PED}}(X, Y) > \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{E}[X] > \mathbf{E}[Y]$$

- Any α -cut (with $\alpha > 1/2$) yields a **strict order relation**: with increasing α the graph (Hasse diagram) becomes more and more sparse (Hasse tree)

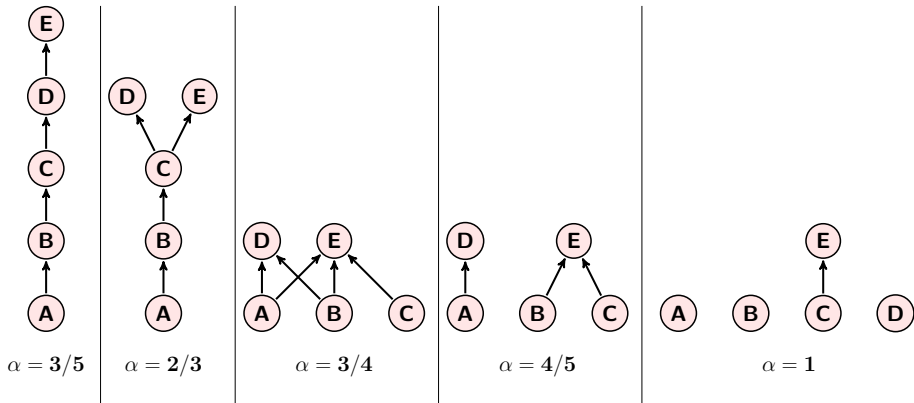
Example

Integers 1–9 distributed over **5 dice**:

A	1	4	9
B	3	4	8
C	3	6	7
D	2	7	8
E	5	6	7

$$Q^{\text{PED}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/5 & 1/4 \\ 2/3 & 1/2 & 1/3 & 1/4 & 1/5 \\ 2/3 & 2/3 & 1/2 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 4/5 & 3/4 & 2/3 & 1/2 & 2/5 \\ 3/4 & 4/5 & 1 & 3/5 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example





7. More dice games: beyond transitivity

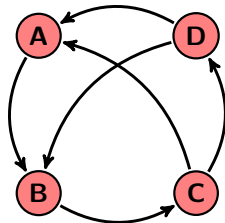
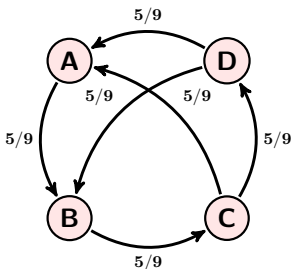


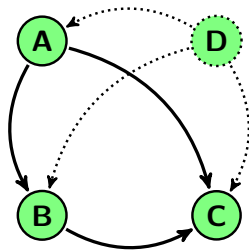
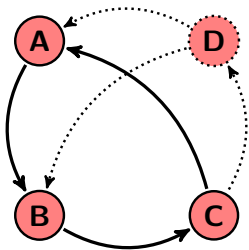
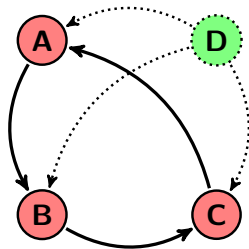
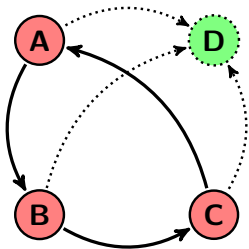
Rock-Paper-Scissors-Lizard

Integers 1–12 distributed over **4 dice**:

A	1	6	12
B	4	5	10
C	3	8	9
D	2	7	11

Statistical preference: 4-cycle *ABCD* and two 3-cycles *ABC* and *BCD*



Possible complete asymmetric configurations ($n = 4$)

Product-triplets ($n = 4$)

Interpretation

The winning probability relation Q^P is **at least** $\frac{4}{6} \times 100\%$ **T_P -transitive**

Some figures: number of product-triplets for 4 dice

	4 faces	5 faces	6 faces
16 triplets	-	-	-
17 triplets	-	-	0.000001 %
18 triplets	0.001%	0.00004%	0.000003 %
19 triplets	0.010%	0.0013%	0.0001%
20 triplets	0.26%	0.080%	0.018 %
21 triplets	3.37%	1.51%	0.54 %
22 triplets	17.45%	9.48%	4.91 %
23 triplets	10.63%	8.23%	5.35 %
24 triplets	68.28%	80.69%	89.18%
total number	2.63E+06	4.89E+08	9.30E+10

At least 16 product-triplets it is!

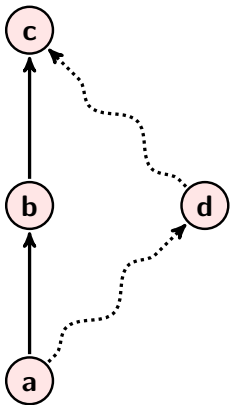
Integers 1–36 distributed over **4 dice**:

<i>A</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	34	35
<i>B</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	36
<i>C</i>	1	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>D</i>	2	3	27	28	29	30	31	32	33

Semi-transitivity and the Ferrers property

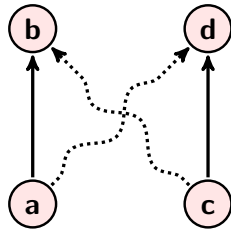
Semi-transitivity:

if aRb and bRc , then aRd or dRc



The Ferrers property:

if aRb and cRd , then aRd or cRb



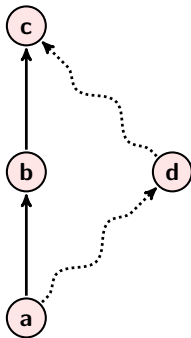
Key property of methods for **ranking fuzzy intervals (numbers)**, rather than transitivity!

T -semi-transitivity

A fuzzy relation R on A is called **T -semi-transitive**, with T a t-norm and T^* its dual t-conorm, if

$$T(R(a, b), R(b, c)) \leq T^*(R(a, d), R(d, c))$$

for any a, b, c, d in A

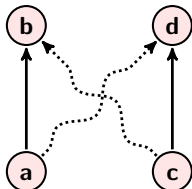


T -Ferrers property

A fuzzy relation R on A is called **T -Ferrers**, with T a t-norm and T^* its dual t-conorm, if

$$T(R(a, b), R(c, d)) \leq T^*(R(a, d), R(c, b))$$

for any a, b, c, d in A



Reciprocal relations

- **Complete relations:** transitivity implies semi-transitivity and the Ferrers property
- **Reciprocal relations:** if T is 1-Lipschitz continuous, then
 - T -transitivity implies T -semi-transitivity
 - T -transitivity implies the T -Ferrers property

T_L -Ferrers

The **winning probability relation** associated with a random vector is

T_L -Ferrers

The Ferrers property

Four **independent** random variables X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 :

$$\text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_2\}\text{Prob}\{X_3 > X_4\}$$

$$\leq \text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_4\} + \text{Prob}\{X_3 > X_2\} - \text{Prob}\{X_1 > X_4\}\text{Prob}\{X_3 > X_2\}$$

Theorem

The **winning probability relation** Q^P associated with pairwise independent random variables is **T_P -Ferrers**

A stronger version of the T_P -Ferrers property

Weak T_P -transitivity and the T_P -Ferrers property revisited

- A reciprocal relation Q is weakly T_P -transitive (dice-transitive) if and only if for any 3 consecutive weights (t_1, t_2, t_3) it holds that

$$t_1 + t_2 + t_3 - 1 \geq \min(t_1 t_2, t_2 t_3, t_3 t_1)$$

- A reciprocal relation Q is T_P -Ferrers if and only if for any 4 consecutive weights (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) it holds that

$$t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 - 1 \geq t_1 t_3 + t_2 t_4$$

4-cycle condition

The winning probability relation Q^P associated with pairwise independent random variables satisfies for any for any 4 consecutive weights (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4)

$$t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 - 1 \geq t_1 t_3 + t_2 t_4 + \min(t_1, t_3) \min(t_2, t_4)$$

What if God does throw dice?

Integers 1–20 distributed over **5 dice**:

<i>A</i>	1	5	12	20
<i>B</i>	2	6	15	18
<i>C</i>	3	9	14	17
<i>D</i>	4	8	11	19
<i>E</i>	7	10	13	16

Whatever X , Y selected by Oppenheimer and Einstein, God can select Z such that

$$\text{Prob}\{Z > \max(X, Y)\} > \text{Prob}\{X > \max(Y, Z)\}$$

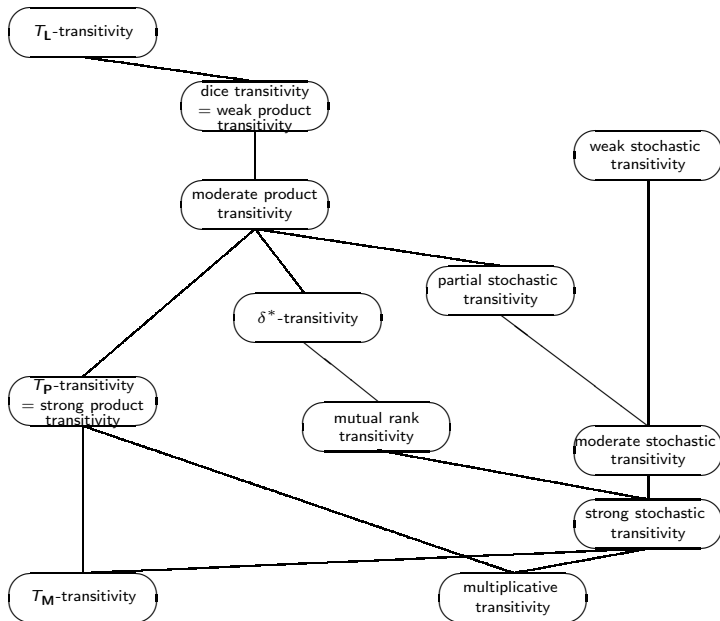
$$\text{Prob}\{Z > \max(X, Y)\} > \text{Prob}\{Y > \max(X, Z)\}$$

This cannot be realized with 3 or 4 dice

Conclusion

Conclusion

- **Cyclic phenomena** are not necessarily incompatible with transitivity, but arise due to the **granularity** considered
- **Cycle-transitivity** yields a general framework for studying the transitivity of **reciprocal relations**
- **Frequentist interpretation** of the transitivity of **winning probabilities** in terms of product-transitivity
- Alternative theories of **stochastic dominance**
- **In silico species competition** and coexistence
- In **machine learning**, the **AUC** (area under the ROC curve) in a 1-versus-1 multi-class classification scheme form a reciprocal relation



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