

# Axiomatic Foundations of Voting Theory (part I)

William S. Zwicker

Mathematics Department, Union College

Computational Social Choice Summer School

San Sebastian, Spain

18-22 July 2016

COST IC1205

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# 1) Intro: Three voting rules

- Election with 3 candidates  
a, b, c for mayor of a town
- 303 voters
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$P_1$		
<u>102</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>
<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>

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	$a$	$b$	$c$
	$b$	$c$	$b$
	$c$	$a$	$a$

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- Plurality rule is common in RW
- Elect US senator from NY State
- 3-way 1980 vote

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- Such examples are major reason for opposition to plurality rule . . .
- . . . and interest in voting theory

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- 2010 Meeting, Ch. du Baffy, Normandy
- We agreed . . . on almost nothing . . . \*

Cope 12nd ~~THH~~ IIII B/20 K II  
 Approval Voting ~~THH THH THH~~ 15  
 Bzliinski-haraki ~~THH~~  
 Alternative Vote (Hove) ~~LAT THH~~ 10  
 Fishburn  
 Simpson (Maximin) ~~THH~~  
 Top Cycle 1  
 Kemeny ~~THH~~ III  
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 Plurality (FPTP)  
 2 Round Plurality ~~THH~~ 1  
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 Range Voting II  
 Uncovered set etc. 1  
 Untrapped Set  
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- . . . \*but note score for plurality is 0
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- Which voting rule won?
- What question should you be asking me . . . ?

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<u>102</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>1</u>
<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>

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- In profile  $P_2$ 
  - 202 voters rank **a** over **b**

$P_2$			
<u>102</u>	101	<u>100</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>
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<b>c</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>

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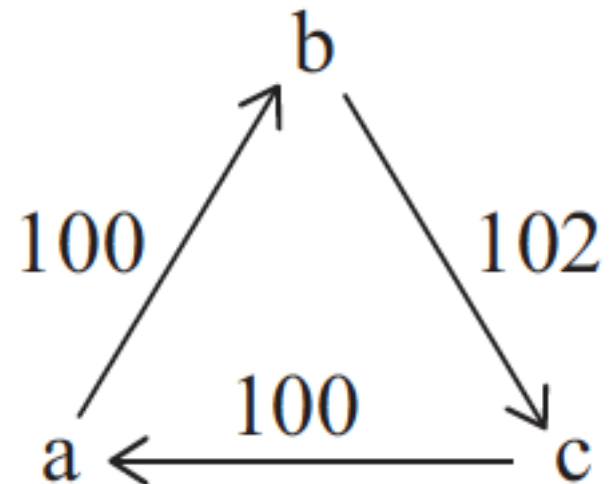
$P_2$

102	<u>101</u>	100	<u>1</u>
<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
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# 1) Intro: Three voting rules

- In profile  $P_2$ 
  - 202 voters rank a over b
  - 102 rank b over a
  - $\text{Net}_{P_2}(a > b) = 202 - 102 = 100$

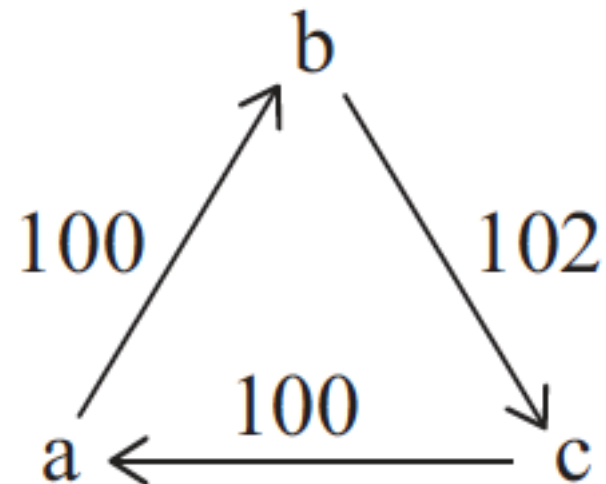
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- We get a **weighted tournament** induced by the profile  $P_2$

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<b><i>a</i></b>	<b><i>b</i></b>	<b><i>c</i></b>	<b><i>c</i></b>
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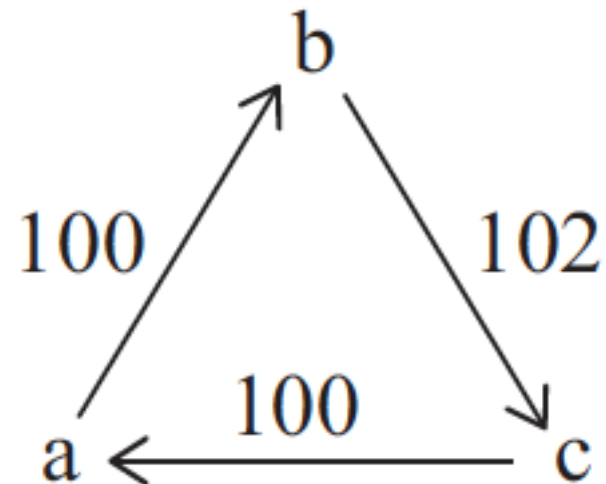




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- **Tournament:**
  - A graph in which the vertices are the candidates
  - For each two vertices, *either*  $a \rightarrow b$  *or*  $a \leftarrow b$  is an edge

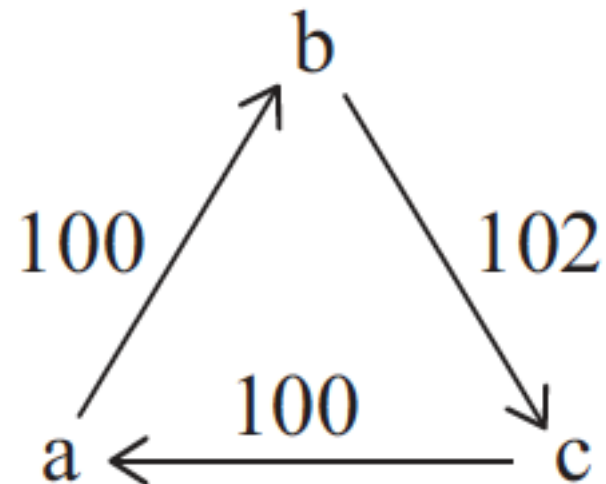
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- **Tournament:**
  - A graph in which the vertices are the candidates
  - For each two vertices, *either*  $a \rightarrow b$  or  $a \leftarrow b$  is an edge
- **Edge weights:**
  - Assign  $\text{Net}_{P_2}(a > b)$  to  $a \rightarrow b$

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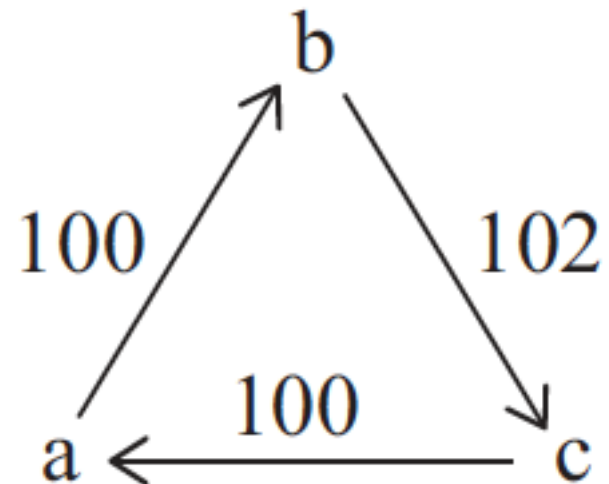


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## Pairwise Majority Preference

- $x >^{\mu} y$  means (strictly) more voters rank  $x$  over  $y$  than  $y$  over  $x$

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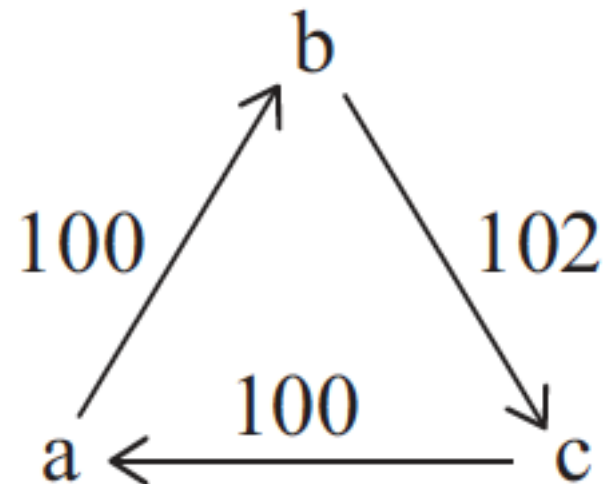


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## Pairwise Majority Preference

- $x >^{\mu} y$  means (strictly) more voters rank  $x$  over  $y$  than  $y$  over  $x$
- Equivalently,  $\text{Net}_p(x > y) > 0$

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<u>102</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>1</u>
<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>

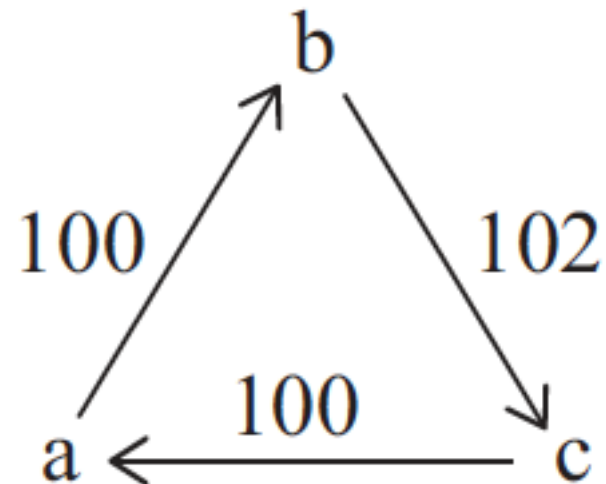


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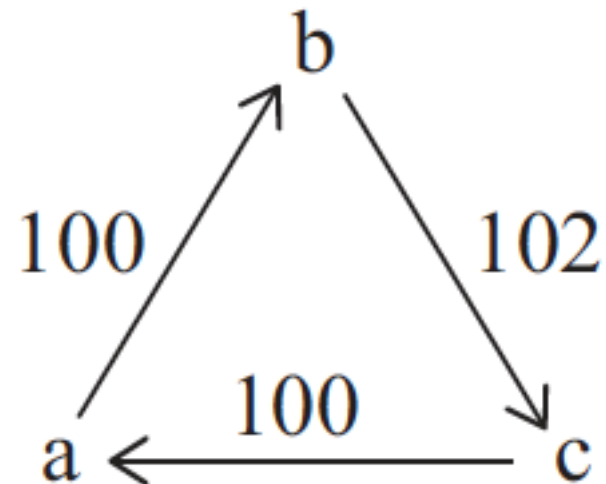


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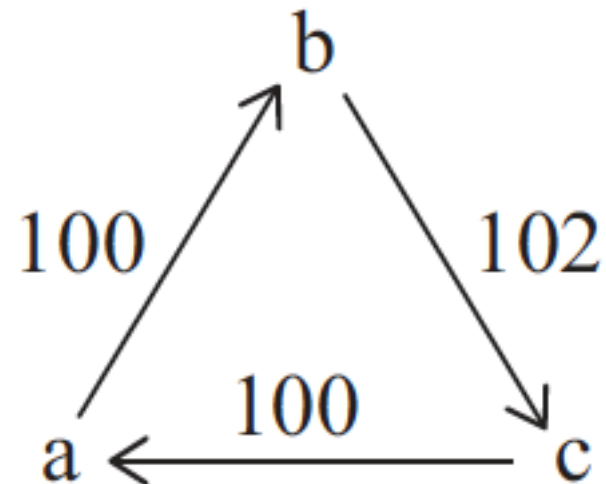


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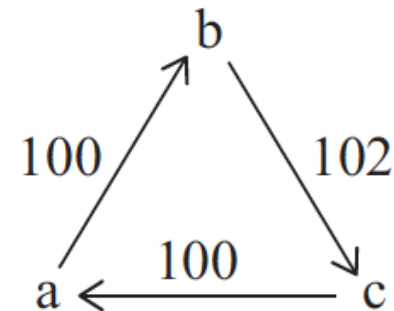
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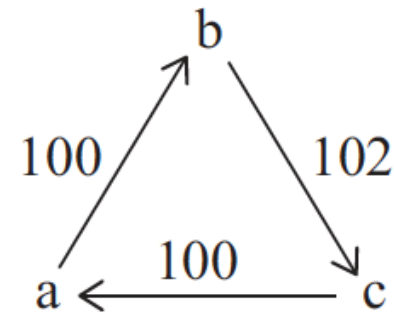
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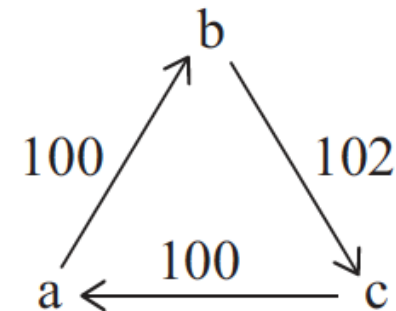
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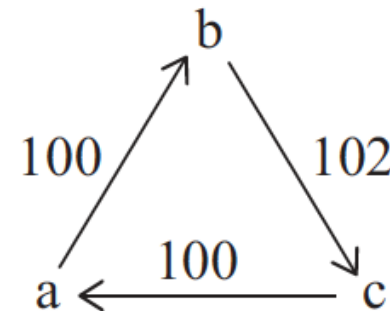
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Exercise 1: Do other versions of Copeland score yield the same rule?



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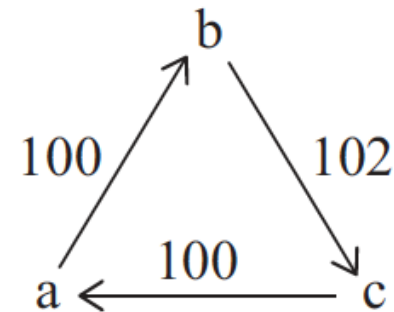
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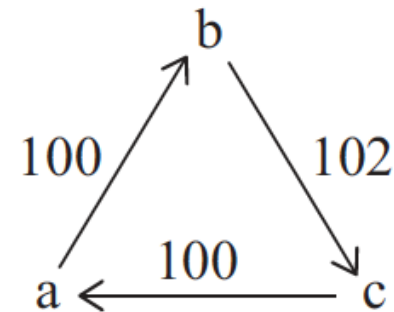
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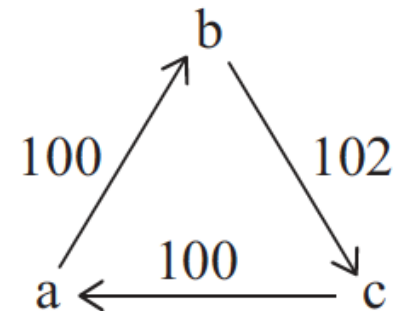
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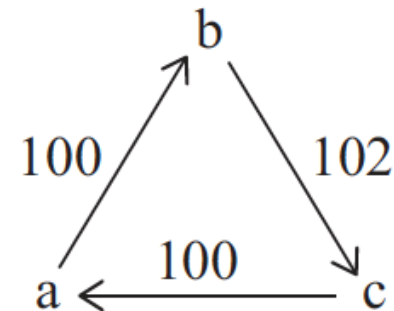
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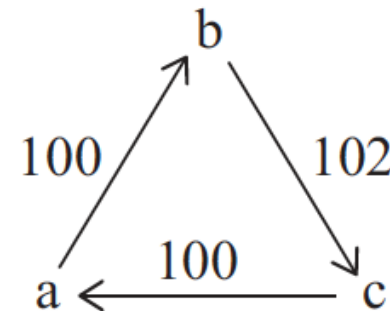
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 $m-1, m-2, \dots, 0$ ; **evenly**  
 $2, 1, 0$  for  $m = 3$  **spaced**
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# 1) Intro: Three voting rules

## Exercise 2

a) Scoring vectors  $w_1, \dots, w_m$  and  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  are **affinely equivalent** if there exist constants  $\gamma, \delta$  with  $\gamma > 0$  and  $v_i = \gamma w_i + \delta$  for each  $i$ . Show that

- affinely equivalent vectors induce same voting rule, and
- any two evenly spaced vectors are affinely equivalent.

b) Show symmetric Borda weights yield a total score =  $\beta(x)$ .

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Goal: select one alternative  
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1. Each voter (finitely many)  
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**Alternatives = . . . ?**

- **candidates for mayor of small town**
- € budgets for new firehouse
- Estimates for amount of oil lying beneath a region
- (amend the constitution?)  
**yes** or **no**
- different versions of an immigration reform bill
- committees

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A ballot might be ...

- an individual alternative
- a strict ranking of alternatives

Francine

d  
a  
c  
b  
e

linear ordering  $\geq_F$  of  $A = \{a,b,c,d,e\}$

$\mathcal{L}(A)$  = the set of all possible linear orderings of  $A$ .  $|\mathcal{L}(A)| = m!$

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Ahmed  
d,e  
c  
a,b

$d \geq_A e$  and  $e \geq_A d$  **both** hold, so we say “Ahmed is indifferent to  $d$  and  $e$ .” **But maybe not . . .**

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- an individual alternative
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- a weak ranking of alternatives
- **yes** or **no** or **abstain** or ...
- a set of 1 or more alternatives *those you “approve” for mayor*
- a separate score (1-10) assigned to each alternative



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- **a strict ranking of alternatives**
- a weak ranking of alternatives
- yes or no or abstain or ...
- a set of 1 or more alternatives *those you “approve” for mayor*
- a separate score (1-10) assigned to each alternative

## 2) Social Choice Functions

Goal: select one alternative from a finite set A

1. Each voter (finitely many) casts **a ballot**
2. Apply some voting rule

A ballot might be . . .

- an individual alternative
- a strict ranking of alternatives
- **a weak ranking of alternatives**
- yes or no or abstain or ...
- a set of 1 or more alternatives *those you “approve” for mayor*
- a separate score (1-10) assigned to each alternative

*There are many types of voting.*

*We focus on one type:*

*Social Choice Functions SCFs*

## 2) Social Choice Functions

- $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  set of  $n$  voters
  - $A$  = finite set of  $m$  alternatives
  - $C(A) = \{X \subseteq A \mid X \neq \emptyset\}$
  - $\succeq_j$  = ballot cast by voter  $j$ , an element of  $\mathcal{L}(A)$
  - $P = (\succeq_1, \succeq_2, \dots, \succeq_n) \in \mathcal{L}(A)^n$  specifies a ballot for each voter  $j \in N$ .  $P$  is a **profile**.
  - A **SCF** is a function that assigns, to each election, one winner (or several, if a tie)  
 $f: \mathcal{L}(A)^n \rightarrow C(A)$
- A SCF with no ties is **resolute**
  - A **variable electorate** SCF handles profiles for all finite  $n$

$$\mathcal{L}(A)^{<\infty} = \bigcup \{ \mathcal{L}(A)^n \mid n \in \mathbf{N} \}$$

$$f: \mathcal{L}(A)^{<\infty} \rightarrow C(A)$$

### 3) A taste of strategic manipulation

Consider profile  $P_3$ , in which  
Ali is one of the last 2 voters.

$P_3$	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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	<hr/>		
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
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	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>

*e loses to d and to no one else*

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	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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**Before** the election, Ali  
anticipates this bad outcome

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	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
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	<hr/>		
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
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	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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*d beats everyone else, winning the Copeland election.*

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- By misrepresenting her preferences Ali does better

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<hr/>		
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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$P_3$	2	3	2
	<hr/>		
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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### 3) A taste of strategic manipulation

- By misrepresenting her preferences Ali does better – she has *manipulated* the election
- How much better?

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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- By misrepresenting her preferences Ali does better – she has *manipulated* the election
- **How much better?**
- We don't know – cannot extract cardinal utilities from ordinal preferences.

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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- Condorcet's principle: if  $x$  is a Condorcet alternative, it should win

$P_3$	2	3	2
	$e$	$d$	$a$
	$c$	$e$	$b$
	$a$	$b$	$c$
	$d$	$c$	$d$
	$b$	$a$	$e$

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	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
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- Condorcet's principle: if x is a Condorcet alternative, \* it should win **\*might not be any**
- A SCF honoring this principle is called a **Condorcet extension**

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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- Copeland Rule is a Cond. Extn. (A Cond. Alt. uniquely gets the max poss. Copeland score  $m-1$ )

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<hr/>		
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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- Who wins in  $P_3$ ?

$P_3$	2	3	2
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	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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- **Who wins in  $P_3$ ?** Still e.  $(6)_{\text{sym}}$

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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- Who wins in  $P_3^*$ ?

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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- A SCF honoring this principle is called a **Condorcet extension**
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$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
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	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
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- In  $P_3$ , can Ali manip'ate Borda?
- Yes: lift d to top, push others down. e:  $(6)$  d:  $(4) \rightarrow (10)$

$P_3$	2	3	2
	<i>e</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>a</i>
	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>b</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>
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*If a rule always yields ties,  
it is never s-v manipulable*

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## 4) The GST: Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem and Arrow's Impossibility Theorem

# 4a) The GST: Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem

**Theorem** (Alan Gibbard, Mark Satterthwaite)

Let  $f$  be any SCF for three or more alternatives.

**If**  $f$  is:

- resolute
- nonimposed
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**then**  $f$  must be a dictatorship

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## 4b) Arrow's Impossibility Theorem

**Theorem** (Kenneth Arrow) Let  $f$  be any Social Welfare Function (SWF) for **three or more alternatives**.

### Social Welfare Function

- Ballots are linear orders of  $A$  (as before), . . .
- but the outcome  $F(P)$  of an election is a weak order of  $A$

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- whenever each voter  $i$  ranks  $x >_i y$ ,
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- $F$  respects unanimity in strict preferences*



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A SWF  $F$  satisfies **IIA** if

- for each pair  $x, y$  of alternatives
- the relative ranking of  $x$  VS  $y$  in the outcome  $F(P)$
- depends only on the relative ranking of  $x$  VS  $y$  in the ballots

## 4b) Arrow's Impossibility Theorem

Example P	<u>Robert</u>	<u>Sandra</u>	<u>Dieter</u>	<u>Pablo</u>	<u>Mei-Ling</u>
	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>
	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
	a	a	a	a	a
	b	b	b	b	b
	c	c	c	c	c

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	a	a	a	a	a
	b	b	b	b	b
	c	c	c	c	c
P*	<u>Robert</u>	<u>Sandra</u>	<u>Dieter</u>	<u>Pablo</u>	<u>Mei-Ling</u>
	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>
	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>y</b>	a	a
	a	a	a	b	b
	b	b	b	c	c
	c	c	c	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>

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$P \mapsto P^*$ : no individual voter changes **relative** ranking of **x** VS **y**.

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$P \mapsto P^*$ : no individual voter changes **relative** ranking of **x** VS **y**.  
 So IIA says "If  $F(P) = \mathbf{x} > \mathbf{y} > a > b > c$  then  $F(P^*)$  must have  $\mathbf{x} > \mathbf{y}$ "

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**Theorem** (Kenneth Arrow) Let  $f$  be any Social Welfare Function (SWF) for **three or more alternatives**.

**If**  $f$  satisfies:

- **the weak Pareto property for SWFs**
- and **independence of irrelevant alternatives "IIA"**

**then**  $f$  must be a dictatorship.

Equivalently . . . **No** SWF for 3 or more alternatives satisfies weak Pareto + **IIA** + nondictatoriality

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters

101

**b**

100

**a**





## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters
- For the moment, only top choices visible

101

**b**

100

**a**



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters
- For the moment, only top choices visible
- Based on this limited info, **b** wins

101

**b**

100

**a**





## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters
- For the moment, only top choices visible
- Based on this limited info, **b** wins
- Argument for b is stronger than “b is the plurality winner” . . .

101

**b**

100

**a**



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters
- For the moment, only top choices visible
- Based on this limited info, **b** wins
- Argument for b is stronger than “b is the plurality winner” . . .

101

**b**

100

**a**

**WHY?**





## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters
- For the moment, only top choices visible
- Based on this limited info, **b** wins
- Argument for b is stronger than “b is the plurality winner” . . .

**WHY?**

Majoritarian Principle

101

**b**

100

**a**



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters 101 100
- For the moment, only top choices visible **b** **a**
- Based on this limited info, **a** **a**
- We see the hidden info c d
- e e
- f f
- e **b**
- f c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                   | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • For the moment, only top choices visible  | <b>b</b>   | <b>a</b>   |
| • Based on this limited info, <b>b</b> wins | <b>a</b>   | d          |
| • We see the hidden info                    | c          | e          |
| • Should <b>b</b> still win?                | d          | f          |
|   | e          | <b>b</b>   |
|   | f          | c          |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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| • We see the hidden info                    | c          | e          |
| • Should <b>b</b> still win? <b>hands</b>   | d          | f          |
| • Or should it be <b>a</b> ?                | e          | <b>b</b>   |
|   | f          | c          |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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|   | f          | c          |

***b is Condorcet alt, so b wins***

***Copeland***

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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|   | f          | c          |

***b is Condorcet alt, so b wins***

***Copeland***

***a is Borda winner. . . Borda***

***“favors compromise over Maj.”***

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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|   | f          | c          |

***b is Condorcet alt, so b wins***

***Copeland***

***a is Borda winner. . . Borda***

***“favors compromise over Maj.”***

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- A profile of 201 voters 101 100
  - Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| b        | a        |
| a        | d        |
| <b>c</b> | e        |
| d        | f        |
| e        | b        |
| f        | <b>c</b> |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                          | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win | b          | a          |
|  | a          | d          |
| • Counterargument is ... ?                         | <b>c</b>   | e          |
|  | d          | f          |
|  | e          | b          |
|  | f          | <b>c</b>   |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                          | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win | <b>b</b>   | a          |
| • Counterargument is ... ?                         | a          | d          |
|  | <b>c</b>   | e          |
|  | d          | f          |
|  | e          | <b>b</b>   |
|  | f          | <b>c</b>   |



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                          | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win | <b>b</b>   | a          |
| • Counterargument is ... ?                         | a          | d          |
| • Every voter prefers b to c                       | <b>c</b>   | e          |
|  | d          | f          |
|  | e          | <b>b</b>   |
|  | f          | <b>c</b>   |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                          | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win | <b>b</b>   | a          |
| • Counterargument is ... ?                         | a          | d          |
| • Every voter prefers b to c                       | <b>c</b>   | e          |
| • c is “Pareto dominated” by b                     | d          | f          |
|  | e          | <b>b</b>   |
|  | f          | <b>c</b>   |

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- |  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| • A profile of 201 voters                          | <u>101</u> | <u>100</u> |
| • Someone says it is c, not a or b, who should win | <b>b</b>   | a          |
| • Counterargument is ... ?                         | a          | d          |
| • Every voter prefers b to c                       | <b>c</b>   | e          |
| • c is “Pareto dominated” by b                     | d          | f          |
|  | e          | <b>b</b>   |

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  satisfies the ***Pareto Principle*** if  $f(P)$  never includes a Pareto dominated alternative

f	<b>c</b>
---	----------

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Easy Theorem: *Pareto Principle*** is satisfied by

- Plurality rule
- Borda
- Copeland

101

**b**

a

**c**

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

**b**

**c**

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Easy Theorem: *Pareto Principle*** is satisfied by

- Plurality rule
- Borda
- Copeland

(And by most “reasonable”  
SCFs)

101

**b**

a

**c**

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

**b**

**c**

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Easy Theorem: *Pareto Principle*** is satisfied by

- Plurality rule
- Borda
- Copeland

(And by most “reasonable” SCFs)

Pareto implies that winner for this 201-vote profile is **a** or **b**

101

**b**

a

**c**

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

**b**

**c**

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

101

100

b

a

a

d

c

e

d

f

e

b

f

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- Anna is a type **I** voter  
(among 1<sup>st</sup> group of 101);  
Stevo is type **II**

101

100

b

a

a

d

c

e

d

f

e

b

f

c



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- Anna is a type **I** voter (among 1<sup>st</sup> group of 101); Stevo is type **II**
- Anna is convinced by Sara to change her ballot to type **II**.

101

b

a

c

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

b

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- Anna is a type **I** voter (among 1<sup>st</sup> group of 101); Stevo is type **II**
- Anna is convinced by Sara to change her ballot to type **II**.
- At same time Stevo is convinced to change his ballot to type **I**

101

b

a

c

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

b

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- Anna is a type **I** voter (among 1<sup>st</sup> group of 101); Stevo is type **II**
- Anna is convinced by Sara to change her ballot to type **II**.
- At same time Stevo is convinced to change his ballot to type **I**

101

b

a

c

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

b

c

After both switches, how should outcome change?

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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101

b

a

c

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

b

c

After both switches, how should outcome change?  
It depends!

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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101

b

a

c

d

e

f

100

a

d

e

f

b

c

After both switches, how should outcome change?  
It depends! In some contexts, ***not at all***.

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is *anonymous* if each pair of voters play interchangeable roles:  
 $f(P) = f(P^*)$  whenever  $P^*$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping ballots of 2 voters.

<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>
b	a
a	d
c	e
d	f
e	b
f	c

After both switches, how should outcome change?

It depends! In some contexts, ***not at all***.

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is *anonymous* if each pair of voters play interchangeable roles:  
 $f(P) = f(P^*)$  whenever  $P^*$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping ballots of 2 voters.

**Math** This says  $f(P) = f(\tau P)$  for each *transposition*  $\tau$  of voters.

Transpositions generate the full symmetric group. So  $f(P) = f(\sigma P)$  for each *permutation*  $\sigma$  of the set  $N$  of voters.

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is *anonymous* if each pair of voters play interchangeable roles:  
 $f(P) = f(P^*)$  whenever  $P^*$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping ballots of 2 voters.

Anonymity is a very *strong* form of equal influence by voters. Non-dictatoriality is a very *weak* form.

**Math** This says  $f(P) = f(\tau P)$  for each *transposition*  $\tau$  of voters.

Transpositions generate the full symmetric group. So  $f(P) = f(\sigma P)$  for each *permutation*  $\sigma$  of the set  $N$  of voters.



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner  
for this profile is **a**.

101

100

b

a

a

d

c

e

d

f

e

b

f

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)

101

100

b

a

a

d

c

e

d

f

e

b

f

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)

101

b

a f

c

d

e

f a

100

a f

d

e

f a

b

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)

101

100

b

**f**

**f**

d

c

e

d

**a**

e

b

**a**

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)
- After the switches, how should outcome change?

<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>
b	<b>f</b>
<b>f</b>	d
c	e
d	<b>a</b>
e	b
<b>a</b>	c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)
- After the switches, how should outcome change?
- Assume the voting rule treats candidates equivalently.

101

b

**f**

c

d

e

**a**

100

**f**

d

e

**a**

b

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)
- After the switches, how should outcome change?
- Assume the voting rule treats candidates equivalently.
- **f** should win, post switch

101

b

**f**

c

d

e

**a**

100

**f**

d

e

**a**

b

c

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

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**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is *neutral* if each pair of candidates play interchangeable roles.



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

Again, assume the winner for this profile is **a**.

- This time, switch *candidate a* with *candidate f* (in all ballots)
- After the switches, how should outcome change?
- Assume the voting rule treats candidates equivalently.
- **f** should win, post switch

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is *neutral* if each pair of candidates play interchangeable roles:  $f(P^\tau) = \tau[f(P)]$  whenever  $P^\tau$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping 2 alternatives in all ballots.

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is ***anonymous*** if each pair of voters play interchangeable roles:  $f(P) = f(P^*)$  whenever  $P^*$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping ballots of 2 voters.

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is ***neutral*** if each pair of candidates play interchangeable roles:  $f(P^\tau) = \tau[f(P)]$  whenever  $P^\tau$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping 2 alternatives in all ballots.

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is **anonymous** if each pair of voters play interchangeable roles:  $f(P) = f(P^*)$  whenever  $P^*$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping ballots of 2 voters.

**Axiom** An SCF  $f$  is **neutral** if each pair of candidates play interchangeable roles:  $f(P^\tau) = \tau[f(P)]$  whenever  $P^\tau$  is obtained from  $P$  by swapping 2 alternatives in all ballots.

Again, we can replace  $\tau$  with  $\sigma$ :  $f(P^\sigma) = \sigma^{-1}[f(P)]$

Why use **inverse** of  $\sigma$ ?

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them
- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*

*And certainly, the GST and Arrow's Theorem show this*

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them
- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*
- Together, they have negative implications for resoluteness

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them
- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*
- Together, they have negative implications for resoluteness
- A profile for  $3k$  voters,  $m$  alternatives

<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>
a	c	b
b	a	c
c	b	a



## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them
- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*
- Together, they have negative implications for resoluteness
- A profile for  $3k$  voters,  $m$  alternatives

<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>
a	c	b
b	a	c
c	b	a
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- These three axioms are easy to satisfy: many rules satisfy all of them
- But they already show *you can't always get what you want*
- Together, they have negative implications for resoluteness
- A profile for  $3k$  voters,  $m$  alternatives

$k$	$k$	$k$
$a$	$c$	$b$
$b$	$a$	$c$
$c$	$b$	$a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- Pareto  $\Rightarrow f(P) \subseteq \{a,b,c\}$

<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>
a	c	b
b	a	c
c	b	a
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- Pareto  $\Rightarrow f(P) \subseteq \{a,b,c\}$
- WLOG assume  $a \in f(P)$

<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>
a	c	b
b	a	c
c	b	a
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- Pareto  $\Rightarrow f(P) \subseteq \{a,b,c\}$
- WLOG assume  $a \in f(P)$
- First, permute voters

<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>
a	c	b
b	a	c
c	b	a
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- Pareto  $\Rightarrow f(P) \subseteq \{a,b,c\}$
- WLOG assume  $a \in f(P)$
- First, permute voters
- $\rho$ : **1<sup>st</sup> k**  $\rightarrow$  last k  $\rightarrow$  **mid k**

<b>k</b>	<b>k</b>	<b>k</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>
<b>x<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>x<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>x<sub>1</sub></b>
<b>⋮</b>	<b>⋮</b>	<b>⋮</b>
<b>x<sub>m-2</sub></b>	<b>x<sub>m-2</sub></b>	<b>x<sub>m-2</sub></b>

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

- Pareto  $\Rightarrow f(P) \subseteq \{a,b,c\}$
- WLOG assume  $a \in f(P)$
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- $\rho$ : 1<sup>st</sup>  $k \rightarrow$  last  $k \rightarrow$  mid  $k$

<u>k</u>	k	<u>k</u>
c	b	a
a	c	b
b	a	c
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$	$x_{m-2}$

We'll show a 3-way tie is forced

## 5) Axioms I Pareto property, anonymity, neutrality

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- $f(\rho P) = f(P)$

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c	b	a
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$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
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<u>k</u>	k	<u>k</u>
c a	b c	a b
a b	c a	b c
b c	a b	c a
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
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- with  $\sigma: c \rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$
- $f(P) = f((\rho P)^\sigma)$

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c a$	$b c$	$a b$
$a b$	$c a$	$b c$
$b c$	$a b$	$c a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
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 $= \sigma^{-1}[f(\rho P)]$

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c\ a$	$b\ c$	$a\ b$
$a\ b$	$c\ a$	$b\ c$
$b\ c$	$a\ b$	$c\ a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
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 $= \sigma^{-1}[f(\rho P)] = \sigma^{-1}[f(P)] \dots$

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c \ a$	$b \ c$	$a \ b$
$a \ b$	$c \ a$	$b \ c$
$b \ c$	$a \ b$	$c \ a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
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 $= \sigma^{-1}[f(\rho P)] = \sigma^{-1}[f(P)] \dots$
- So  $f(P)$  is closed under  $\sigma^{-1}$

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c \ a$	$b \ c$	$a \ b$
$a \ b$	$c \ a$	$b \ c$
$b \ c$	$a \ b$	$c \ a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
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- with  $\sigma: c \rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$
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 $= \sigma^{-1}[f(\rho P)] = \sigma^{-1}[f(P)] \dots$
- So  $f(P)$  is closed under  $\sigma^{-1}$ ,  
 so  $\{a,b,c\} \subseteq f(P)$

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c a$	$b c$	$a b$
$a b$	$c a$	$b c$
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Assume  $5k$  voters and  $5 \leq m$   
 $= \#$  alt's.

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c a$	$b c$	$a b$
$a b$	$c a$	$b c$
$b c$	$a b$	$c a$
$x_1$	$x_1$	$x_1$
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 $= \#$  alt's. Get 5-way tie.

$k$	$k$	$k$
$c a$	$b c$	$a b$
$a b$	$c a$	$b c$
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**Theorem** (Moulin) Pareto +  
 anon + neutral + some  $j \leq m$   
 divides  $n \Rightarrow$   
 every SCF is irresolute.

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Recent improvements in  $\iff$  by  
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***Opinions differ!***

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## 6) More Rules: 3 Important Classes

I Scoring rules

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Like Borda, they use a vector of scoring weights

$$w_1 \geq w_2 \geq \dots \geq w_m; w_1 > w_m$$

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**Formula 1 racing champ:**

$w = (25, 18, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$  [since 2010]

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**k-approval:**

$$w = (1, \dots, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0, 0)$$

with k 1s

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### II Condorcet Extensions

Recall: A **Condorcet**

**alternative**  $a$  satisfies  $a \succ^{\mu} b$

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Simpson Score  $SS(a) =$   
 $\text{Min} \{ \text{Net}_p(a > x) \mid x \in A \setminus \{a\} \}$

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1. Can more than one alternative  $a$  have  $SS(a) > 0$ ?

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S-K rule chooses the  $x \in A$  maximizing  $SS(x)$ : it's a Condorcet Extension

1. Can more than one alternative  $a$  have  $SS(a) > 0$ ?
2. Suppose  $SS(a) > 0 \dots$  what can you say about alt.  $a$ ?

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**Top Cycle:** A subset  $X \subseteq A$  is a **dominating set** if  $x \succ^\mu y$  holds for each  $x \in X, y \notin X$

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**Top Cycle:** A subset  $X \subseteq A$  is a **dominating set** if  $x \succ^{\mu} y$  holds for each  $x \in X, y \notin X$

**TC(P)** = the smallest dominating set (which is unique)

## 6) More Rules: 3 Important Classes

### II Condorcet Extensions

Recall: A **Condorcet alternative**  $a$  satisfies  $a \succ^\mu b$  for each alternative  $b \neq a$

A SCF  $f$  is a

#### **Condorcet Extension**

if  $f(P)$  = the Cond. alt. (for each  $P$  having a Cond. alt.)

Examples include Copeland, **Maximin (Minimax, Simpson-Kramer)**

**Top Cycle:** A subset  $X \subseteq A$  is a **dominating set** if  $x \succ^\mu y$  holds for each  $x \in X, y \notin X$

**TC(P)** = the smallest dominating set (which is unique)

Why is Top Cycle a Condorcet Extension?



# Exercises

- This section contains precise versions of problems mentioned on slides
- Only do the ones you find interesting (there are too many for you to do all right now)
- Most of the tutorial is based on Chapter 2 of the *Handbook of Computational Social Choice*, Cambridge University Press, 2016. You may find the chapter helpful for these problems.
- Free PDF of the book at [http://www.cambridge.org/download\\_file/898428](http://www.cambridge.org/download_file/898428)
- To open the PDF use password: cam1CSC

# Exercises

## 1) Copeland scoring

- Recall ***symmetric Copeland score*** is given by

$$\text{Cop}(x) = |\{y | x \succ^\mu y\}| - |\{y | y \succ^\mu x\}|$$

- ***Asymmetric Copeland score*** is given by

$$\text{Cop}^{\text{Ass.}}(x) = |\{y | x \succ^\mu y\}|$$

- ***Asymmetric+ Copeland score*** is given by

$$\text{Cop}^{\text{Ass.+}}(x) = |\{y | x \succ^\mu y\}| + (\frac{1}{2}) |\{y | y =^\mu x\}| *$$

**Are these three rules all the same? All different? Answer as completely as possible.**

\* We write  $y =^\mu x$  when  $\text{Net}_p(x > y) = 0$ . You will need to consider profiles for an even number of voters, making  $y =^\mu x$  possible.

# Exercises

## 2) Scoring weights and affine equivalence

- Scoring vectors  $w = w_1, \dots, w_m$  and  $v = v_1, \dots, v_m$  are ***affinely equivalent*** if there exist constants  $\gamma, \delta$  with  $\gamma > 0$  such that  $v_i = \gamma w_i + \delta$  for each  $i$ .
- Prove that two scoring vectors  $w, v$  induce the same scoring rule iff they are affinely equivalent.
- Prove that any two evenly spaced vectors are affinely equivalent.
- Prove that ***symmetric*** Borda weights  $m-1, m-3, \dots, -m+1$  yield a total score of  $\beta(x)$  for each alternative  $x$ .

Recall that 
$$\beta(x) = \sum_{y \in A} \text{Net}_p(x > y)$$

# Exercises

3) Reversal Manipulation We saw Copeland can be *manipulated via reversal*: a profile  $P$  exists for which some voter  $i$  can, by completely reversing her ranking, switch the winning alternative from  $x$  to some alternative  $y$  whom she sincerely prefers (she ranked  $y$  over  $x$  before reversing)

- Prove that Borda cannot be manipulated via reversal (the same argument shows all scoring rules are similarly immune)
- Prove that Simpson-Kramer can be manipulated via reversal
- **Difficult:** Prove that every resolute Condorcet extension for 4 or more alternatives can be manipulated via reversal