Logics for Social Choice Theory

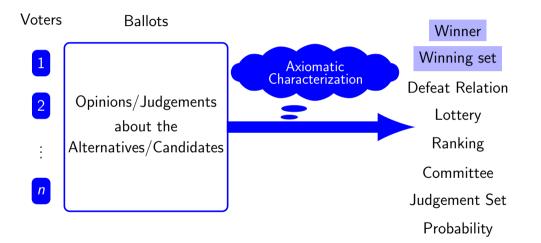
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Lecture 3

ESSLLI 2022

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Social Choice Theory



Anonymous profiles

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Let P be a profile and $a, b \in X(P)$. Then the margin of a over b is:

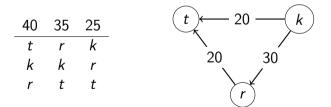
$$Margin_{P}(a, b) = |\{i \in V(P) \mid aP_{i}b\}| - |\{i \in V(P) \mid bP_{i}a\}|.$$

We say that a is **majority preferred** to b in P when $Margin_{P}(a, b) > 0$.

Margin Graph

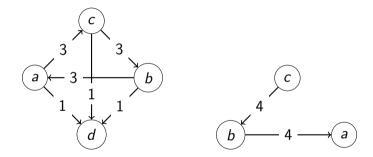
The **margin graph of** P, $\mathcal{M}(P)$, is the weighted directed graph whose set of nodes is X(P) with an edge from *a* to *b* weighted by Margin(a, b) when Margin(a, b) > 0. We write

$$a\stackrel{lpha}{
ightarrow}_{\sf P}{\sf b}$$
 if $lpha={\it Margin}_{\sf P}({\sf a},{\sf b})>0$.



Margin Graph

A margin graph is a weighted directed graph ${\cal M}$ where all the weights have the same parity.



Theorem (Debord, 1987)

For any margin graph \mathcal{M} , there is a profile P such that \mathcal{M} is the margin graph of P.

Social choice correspondence

A voting method is a function F on the domain of all profiles such that for any profile P, $\emptyset \neq F(P) \subseteq X(P)$ (also called a variable social choice correspondence VSCC).

A (V, X)-SCC is a social choice correspondence defined on (V, X)-profiles.
 A voting method F is resolute if for all P, |F(P)| = 1. Resolute SCCs are called social choice functions.

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There are many examples of voting methods.

See https://pref_voting.readthedocs.io for a Python package that provides computational tools to study different voting methods.

Positional scoring rules

A scoring vector is a vector $\langle s_1, \ldots, s_n \rangle$ of numbers such that for each $m \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, $s_m \ge s_{m+1}$.

Given a profile P with |X(P)| = n, $x \in X(P)$, a scoring vector \vec{s} of length n, and $i \in V(P)$, define $score_{\vec{s}}(x, P_i) = s_r$ where $r = Rank(x, P_i)$.

Let $score_{\vec{s}}(x, P) = \sum_{i \in V(P)} score_{\vec{s}}(x, P_i)$. A voting method F is a **positional** scoring rule if there is a map S assigning to each natural number n a scoring vector of length n such that for any profile P with |X(P)| = n,

$$F(\mathsf{P}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{x \in X(\mathsf{P})} score_{\mathcal{S}(n)}(x,\mathsf{P}).$$

Examples

Plurality:	$\mathcal{S}(n) = \langle n-1, n-2, \dots, 1, 0 \rangle$ $\mathcal{S}(n) = \langle 1, 0, \dots, 0 \rangle$ $\mathcal{S}(n) = \langle 1, 1, \dots, 1, 0 \rangle$				
	1	3	2	4	
	а	b	b	С	•
	С	а	С	а	
	Ь	С	а	Ь	

Borda winnercPlurality winnerbAnti-Plurality winnera

Iterative procedures: Instant Runoff

- If some alternative is ranked first by an absolute majority of voters, then it is declared the winner.
- Otherwise, the alternative ranked first be the fewest voters (the plurality loser) is eliminated.
- Votes for eliminated alternatives get transferred: delete the removed alternatives from the ballots and "shift" the rankings (e.g., if 1st place alternative is removed, then your 2nd place alternative becomes 1st).

Also known as Ranked-Choice, STV, Hare

How should you deal with ties? (e.g., multiple alternatives are plurality losers)

Iterative procedures

Variants:

Plurality with runoff: remove all candidates except top two plurality score;

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- Coombs: remove candidates with most last place votes;
- Baldwin: remove candidate with smallest Borda score;
- ▶ Nanson: remove candidates with below average Borda score

Example

1	1	1	1	1
С	b	а	b	d
а	d	b	С	а
d	а	С	d	b
b	С	d	а	С

Instant Runoff $\{b\}$ Plurality with Runoff $\{a, b\}$ Coombs $\{d\}$ Baldwin $\{a, b, d\}$ Strict Nanson $\{a\}$

Condorcet criteria

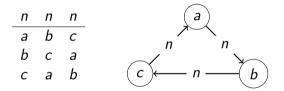
The **Condorcet winner** in a profile P is a candidate $x \in X(P)$ that is the maximum of the majority ordering, i.e., for all $y \in X(P)$, if $x \neq y$, then $Margin_P(x, y) > 0$.

The **Condorcet loser** in a profile P is a candidate $x \in X(P)$ that is the minimum of the majority ordering, i.e., for all $y \in X(P)$, if $x \neq y$, then $Margin_P(y, x) < 0$.

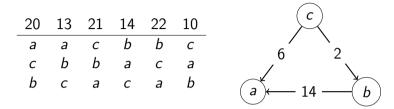
A voting method F is **Condorcet consistent**, if for all P, if x is a Condorcet winner in P, then $F(P) = \{x\}$.

A voting method F is susceptible to the **Condorcet loser paradox** (also known as *Borda's paradox*) if there is some P such that x is a Condorcet loser in P and $x \in F(P)$.

Condorcet paradox



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- Condorcet winner: c
- Instant Runoff winner: b
 - Plurality winner: b
 - Borda winner: b

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Theorem (Smith 1973, Young 1974)

A voting method satisfies Anonymity, Neutrality and **Reinforcement** if and only if F is a scoring rule.

Saari's argument, Balinski and Laraki (2010, pg. 77); Zwicker (2016, Proposition 2.5): Multiple districts paradox, *f cancels properly*.

2	2	2	1	2
а	b	С	а	Ь
Ь	С	а	b	а
С	а	Ь	с	С

- no Condorcet winner in the left profile
- **b** is the Condorcet winner in the right profile
- ▶ *a* is the Condorcet winner in the combined profiles

Condorcet consistent voting methods



- Copeland
- Beat Path
- Ranked Pairs
- Split Cycle

Minimax: For a profile P, The Minimax winners in P are:

 $\operatorname{argmin}_{x \in X(\mathsf{P})} \max\{\operatorname{Margin}_{\mathsf{P}}(y, x) \mid y \in X(\mathsf{P})\}$

Copeland/Llull: For $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, the Copeland_{α} score of *a* in P is the number of $b \in X(P)$ such that $Margin_P(a, b) > 0$ plus α times the number of $b \in X(P)$ such that $Margin_P(a, b) = 0$. Copeland(P) (resp. Llull(P)) is the set of candidates with maximal Copeland_{1/2} (resp. Copeland₁) score in P.

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Schulze Beat Path

For $a, b \in X(P)$, a path from a to b in P is a sequence $\rho = x_1, \ldots, x_n$ of distinct candidates in X(P) with $x_1 = a$ and $x_n = b$ such that for $1 \le k \le n - 1$, $Margin_P(x_k, x_{k+1}) > 0$.

The strength of ρ is min{ $Margin_P(x_k, x_{k+1}) \mid 1 \leq k \leq n-1$ }.

Then a defeats b in P according to Beat Path if the strength of the strongest path from a to b is greater than the strength of the strongest path from b to a.

BP(P) is the set of undefeated candidates.

For a profile P and $T \in \mathcal{L}(\{(x, y) \mid x \neq y \text{ and } Margin_{P}(x, y) \ge 0\})$, called the *tie-breaking ordering*

A pair (x, y) of candidates has a *higher priority* than a pair (x', y') of candidates according to T when either $Margin_P(x, y) > Margin_P(x', y')$ or $Margin_P(x, y) = Margin_P(x', y')$ and (x, y) T(x', y').

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Tideman Ranked Pairs, II

We construct a *Ranked Pairs ranking* $\succ_{P,T} \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ as follows:

- 1. Initialize $\succ_{\mathsf{P},\mathcal{T}}$ to \varnothing .
- 2. If all pairs (x, y) with $x \neq y$ and $Margin_{P}(x, y) \geq 0$ have been considered, then return $\succ_{P,T}$. Otherwise let (a, b) be the pair with the highest priority among those with $a \neq b$ and $Margin_{P}(a, b) \geq 0$ that have not been considered so far.
- If ≻_{P,T} ∪ {(a, b)} is acyclic, then add (a, b) to ≻_{P,T}; otherwise, add (b, a) to ≻_{P,T}. Go to step 2.

When the procedure terminates, $\succ_{P,T}$ is a linear order.

The set RP(P) of Ranked Pairs winners is the set of all $x \in X(P)$ such that x is the maximum of $\succ_{P,T}$ for some tie-breaking ordering T.

Split Cycle

Split Cycle defeat: a candidate a defeats a candidate b just in case

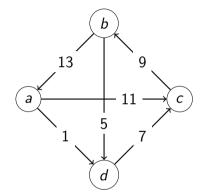
- \blacktriangleright the majority margin of *a* over *b* is greater than 0, and
- for every majority cycle containing a and b, the margin of a over b is greater than the smallest margin between consecutive candidates in the cycle.

The Split Cycle winners are the undefeated candidates.

An intuitive way defeat relation is as follows:

- 1. In each majority cycle, identify the wins with the smallest margin in that cycle.
- 2. After completing step 1 for all cycles, discard the identified wins. All remaining wins count as defeats.

Example



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Key idea: Unequivocal increase in support for a candidate should not result in that candidate going from being a winner to being a loser.

- monotonicity: if a candidate x is a winner given a preference profile P, and P' is obtained from P by one voter moving x up in their ranking, then x should still be a winner given P'. (fixed-electorate axiom)
- positive involvement: if a candidate x is a winner given P, and P* is obtained from P by adding a new voter who ranks x in first place, then x should still be a winner given P*. (variable-electorate axiom)

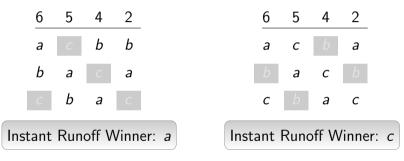




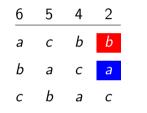


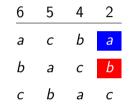
Instant Runoff Winner: a

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Instant Runoff Winner: a

Instant Runoff Winner: c

Any failure of monotonicity for a resolute voting rule F represents an opportunity for a voter to manipulate F in a particular way: via a simple drop or simple lift.

Suppose that *F* is a resolute voting rule *F* is **manipulable** provided there are two profiles

$$P = (P_1, ..., P_i, ..., P_n)$$
 and $P' = (P'_1, ..., P'_i, ..., P'_n)$

and a voter i such that

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 $P_j = P'_j$ for all $j \neq i$, and

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i strictly prefers the winner under P' to the winner under P: aP_ib where $F(P') = \{a\}$ and $F(P) = \{b\}$.

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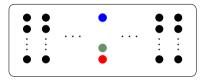
$$P_j = P'_j$$
 for all $j \neq i$, and

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Intuition: P_i is voter *i*'s "true preference".

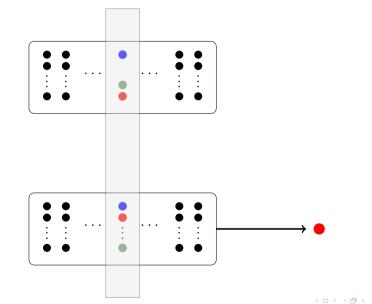
Strategizing



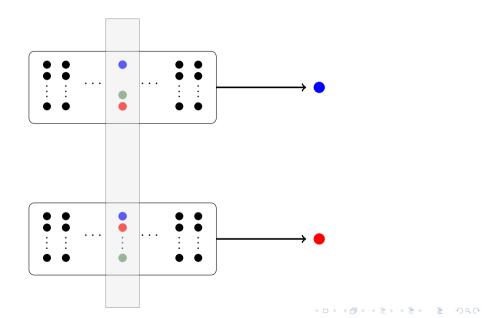


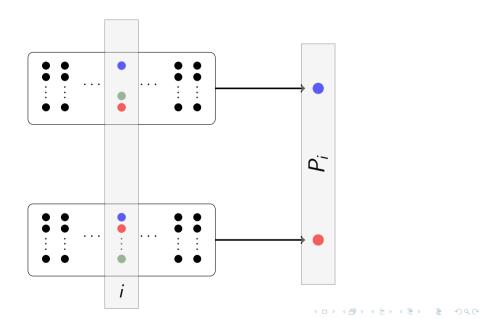


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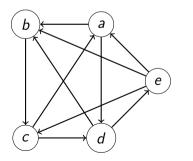
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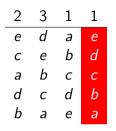




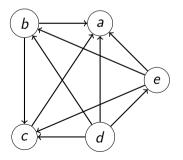
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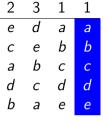
Copeland winning set: $\{e\}$





Copeland winning set: $\{d\}$





Borda winning set: $\{e\}$

3 2 1 1 d е а d С е Ь а b b а С d c d b а е е

Borda winning set: $\{d\}$

Borda scores:

- *a*: 12
- *b*: 12
- *c*: 13
- *d*: 16
- e: 17

Borda scores: a: 11 b: 11 c: 12 d: 19 e: 17

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Monotonicity Properties

Strategyproofness if for all profiles P, if $P' = P[P_i/Q_i]$, then not $F(P')P_iF(P)$

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Maskin monotonicity if for all profiles P, if $P' = P[P_i/Q_i]$ and for all y, $F(P)P_iy$ implies $F(P')Q_iy$, then F(P) = F(P')

The Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem

Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem. Consider a resolute voting rule F that is defined for some number m of alternatives with $m \ge 3$, with no restrictions on the preference domain. Then, this rule must be at least one of the following:

- 1. dictatorial: there exists a single fixed voter whose most-preferred alternative is chosen for every profile;
- 2. imposing: there is at least one alternative that does not win under any profile;
- 3. manipulable (i.e., not strategy-proof).

M. A. Satterthwaite. *Strategy-proofness and Arrow's conditions: Existence and correspondence theorems for voting procedures and social welfare functions.* Journal of Economic Theory, 10(2):187-217, 1975.

A. Gibbard. Manipulation of voting schemes: A general result. Econometrica, 41(4):587-601, 1973.

Theorem 13.1 For n = 3 voters and m > 3 alternatives, no (resolute) voting rule satisfies both strategyproofness and the majority criterion.

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Lemma 1. Let m = 3 and n = 3. There is no resolute voting rule F satisfying strategyproofness and the majority criterion

Lemma 2. Let $m \ge 3$ and n = 3. If F is a resolute voting rule satisfying strategyproofness and the majority criterion for m + 1 alternatives, then there exists a voting rule F' for m alternatives with the same properties.

Christian Geist and Dominik Peters. *Computer-aided Methods for Social Choice Theory*. Trends in Computational Social Choice, chapter 13, pages 249–267. AI Access, 2017.

Theorem (Muller-Satterthwaite) Assume that there are more than 3 candidates. Any resolute voting method satisfying surjectivity and Maskin monotonicity is dictatorial.

Key idea: Unequivocal increase in support for a candidate should not result in that candidate going from being a winner to being a loser.

- monotonicity: if a candidate x is a winner given a preference profile P, and P' is obtained from P by one voter moving x up in their ranking, then x should still be a winner given P'. (fixed-electorate axiom)
- positive involvement: if a candidate x is a winner given P, and P* is obtained from P by adding a new voter who ranks x in first place, then x should still be a winner given P*. (variable-electorate axiom)

Violating Positive Involvement: Coombs

2	2	1	1	2	1	1
С	b	d	d	С	а	b
а	а	С	а	b	d	d
Ь	С	b	С	d	b	а
d	d	а	Ь	а	С	С

Coombs winner: $\{b\}$

(the order of elimination is d, c)

2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
С	b	d	d	С	а	b	b
а	а	С	а	b	d	d	d
Ь	С	b	С	d	b	а	С
d	d	а	Ь	а	С	С	а

Coombs winner: $\{c\}$

(a and d are tied for the most last place votes)

Breaking Ties

There are many tiebreaking rules: non-anonymous, non-neutral, random Parallel universe tiebreaking: x is a winner if x wins according to some tiebreaking rule.

S. Obraztsova, E. Elkind and N. Hazon. *Ties Matter: Complexity of Voting Manipulation Revisited.* Proceedings of the Twenty-Second International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

J. Wang, S. Sikdar, T. Shepherd, Z. Zhao, C. Jiang and L. Xia. *Practical Algorithms for Multi-Stage Voting Rules with Parallel Universes Tiebreaking*. Proceedings of AAAI, 2019.

Violating Positive Involvement: Coombs PUT

	1	1	1	1	1	
	а	С	b	С	d	
	С	d	d	а	Ь	
	b	b	а	b	а	
	d	а	С	d	С	
Coombs winner: $\{a, b\}$						

1	1	1	1	1	1
а	С	b	С	d	а
С	d	d	а	Ь	d
b	Ь	а	b	а	Ь
d	а	С	d	С	С
Coombs winner: $\{b, d\}$					

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No Show Paradox

The term "No Show Paradox" was introduced by Fishburn and Brams for violations of what is now called *negative involvement*: Adding a new voter who ranks a candidate last should not result in the candidate going from being a loser to a winner.

P. Fishburn and S. Brams. *Paradoxes of Preferential Voting*. Mathematics Magazine, 56(4), pp. 207 - 214, 1983.

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D. Saari. Basic Geometry of Voting. Springer, 1995.

Moulin changed the meaning of "No Show Paradox" to refer to violations of participation: A resolute voting method satisfies participation if adding a new voter who ranks x above y cannot result in a change from x being the unique winner to y being the unique winner.

H. Moulin. *Condorcet's Principle Implies the No Show Paradox*. Journal of Economic Theory 45(1), pp. 53 - 64, 1988.

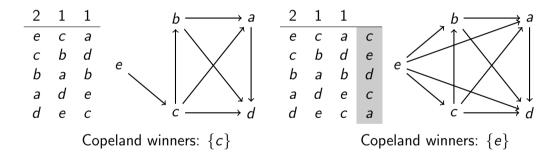
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Peréz concludes that the Strong No Show Paradox is a common flaw of many *Condorcet consistent* voting methods, which are methods that always pick a Condorcet winner—a candidate who is majority preferred to every other candidate—if one exists.

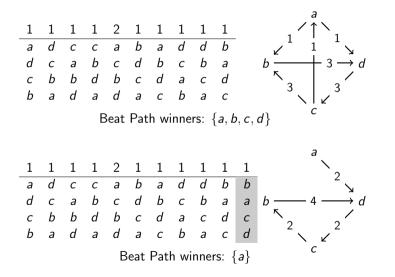
J. Pérez. The Strong No Show Paradoxes are a common flaw in Condorcet voting correspondences. Social Choice and Welfare 18(3), pp. 601 - 616, 2001.

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Violating Positive Involvement: Copeland



Violating Positive Involvement: Beat Path



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A logic for resolute social choice correspondences

G. Ciná and U. Endriss. *Proving classical theorems of social choice theory in modal logic.* Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems, 30, pp. 963 - 989, 2016.

N. Troquard, W. van der Hoek, and M. Wooldridge. *Reasoning about social choice functions*. Journal of Philosophical Logic 40(4), 473 - 498 (2011).

T. Agotnes, W. van der Hoek, and M. Wooldridge. *On the logic of preference and judgment aggregation*. Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems 22(1), 4 - 30 (2011).

Language

Atomic Propositions:

▶ $Pref[V, X] := \{p_{x \succeq y}^i \mid i \in V, x, y \in X\}$ is the set of preference atomic propositions, where $p_{x \prec y}^i$ means *i* prefers *y* to *x*.

Each $x \in X$ is an atomic proposition.

Modality:

 $\triangleright \ \Diamond_C \varphi: \ C \ can \ ensure \ the \ truth \ of \ \varphi.$

Language

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Modality:

$$\blacktriangleright \ \Diamond_C \varphi: \ C \ can \ ensure \ the \ truth \ of \ \varphi.$$

 $\boldsymbol{p} \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \land \psi \mid \Diamond_{\boldsymbol{C}} \varphi$

Model

A **model** is a triple $M = \langle N, X, F \rangle$, consisting of a finite set of agents N (with n = |N|), a finite set of alternatives X, and a resolute SCC $F : \mathcal{L}(X)^V \to X$.

A world is a profile (P_1, \ldots, P_n)

Truth

Let $w = (P_1, ..., P_n)$ $M, w \models p_{x \succeq y}^i$ iff $x P_i y$ $M, w \models x$ if and only if $F(P_1, ..., P_n) = x$ $M, w \models \neg \varphi$ if and only if $M, w \not\models \varphi$ $M, w \models \varphi \land \psi$ if and only if $M, w \models \varphi$ and $M, w \models \psi$ $M, w \models \varphi_C \varphi$ if and only if $M, w' \models \varphi$ for some $w' = (P'_1, ..., P'_n)$ with $P_j = P'_j$ for all $j \in N - C$.

(1) $p_{x \succeq x}^{i}$ (2) $p_{x \succeq y}^{i} \leftrightarrow \neg p_{y \succeq x}^{i}$ for $x \neq y$ (3) $p_{x \succeq y}^{i} \land p_{y \succeq y}^{i} \rightarrow p_{x \succeq z}^{i}$

(1)
$$p_{x \succeq x}^{i}$$

(2) $p_{x \succeq y}^{i} \leftrightarrow \neg p_{y \succeq x}^{j}$ for $x \neq y$
(3) $p_{x \succeq y}^{i} \wedge p_{y \succeq y}^{i} \rightarrow p_{x \succeq z}^{i}$

$$\textit{ballot}_i(w) \ = \ p^i_{x_1 \succeq x_2} \wedge \dots \wedge p^i_{x_{m-1} \succeq x_m}$$

$$\mathit{profile}(w) = \mathit{ballot}_1(w) \wedge \dots \wedge \mathit{ballot}_n(w)$$

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(4) all propositional tautologies (5) $\Box_i(\varphi \to \psi) \to (\Box_i \varphi \to \Box_i \psi)$ $(\mathbf{K}(i))$ (6) $\Box_i \phi \to \phi$ (T(*i*)) (7) $\boldsymbol{\varphi} \to \Box_i \diamondsuit_i \boldsymbol{\varphi}$ (B(*i*)) (8) $\Diamond_i \Box_i \varphi \leftrightarrow \Box_i \Diamond_i \varphi$ (confluence) (9) $\Box_{C_1} \Box_{C_2} \varphi \leftrightarrow \Box_{C_1 \cup C_2} \varphi$ (union) (10) $\Box_{\emptyset} \phi \leftrightarrow \phi$ (empty coalition) (11) $(\diamondsuit_i p \land \diamondsuit_i \neg p) \rightarrow (\Box_i p \lor \Box_i \neg p)$, where $i \neq j$ (exclusiveness) (12) $\diamondsuit_i ballot_i(w)$ (ballot) (13) $\diamond_{C_1} \delta_1 \land \diamond_{C_2} \delta_2 \to \diamond_{C_1 \cup C_2} (\delta_1 \land \delta_2)$ (cooperation) (14) $\bigvee_{x \in X} (x \land \bigwedge_{y \in X \setminus \{x\}} \neg y)$ (resoluteness) (15) $(profile(w) \land \boldsymbol{\varphi}) \rightarrow \Box_N(profile(w) \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\varphi})$ (functionality)

Theorem (Ciná and Endriss) The logic L[V, X] is sound and complete w.r.t. the class of models of resolute social choice correpsondences.

Pareto

$$Par := \bigwedge_{x \in X} \bigwedge_{y \in X - \{x\}} \left[\left(\bigwedge_{i \in N} p^i_{x \succeq y} \right) \to \neg y \right]$$

$$IIA := \bigwedge_{w \in \mathcal{L}(X)^n} \bigwedge_{x \in X} \bigwedge_{y \in X - \{x\}} [\Diamond_V(profile(w) \land x) \to (profile(w)(x, y) \to \neg y)]$$

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Dictatorship

$$Dic := \bigvee_{i \in N} \bigwedge_{x \in X} \bigwedge_{y \in X - \{x\}} (p^i_{x \succeq y} \to \neg y)$$

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Theorem (Ciná and Endriss) Consider a logic L[V, X] with a language parameterised by X such that |X| > 3. Then we have:

 $\vdash \textit{Par} \land \textit{IIA} \rightarrow \textit{Dic}$

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Strong Monotonicity

$$SM := \bigwedge_{w \in \mathcal{L}(X)^n} \bigwedge_{x \in X} \left[\Diamond_V(\textit{profile}(w) \land x) \land \left(\bigwedge_{y \in X \setminus \{x\}} N^w_{x \succeq y} \right) \to x \right]$$

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Surjectivity

$$Sur := \bigwedge_{x \in X} \bigwedge_{w \in \mathcal{L}(X)^V} \Diamond_V(profile(w) \wedge x)$$

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Theorem (Ciná and Endriss) Consider a logic L[V, X] with a language parameterised by X such that $|X| \ge 3$. Then we have:

 \vdash *SM* \land *Sur* \rightarrow *Dic*