

DAY'S SUBJECT Expected Utility Theory I DATE 1/17/17

$$l = 0.5p + 0.5p'$$

$$l = (l_1, l_2, l_3) = (0.6, 0.325, 0.075)$$

$$\text{where } l_1 = 0.5 \underset{p_1}{(0.4)} + 0.5 \underset{p'_1}{(0.8)} = 0.6$$

$$l_2 = 0.5(0.6) + 0.5(0.05) = 0.325$$

$$l_3 = 0.5(0) + 0.5(0.15) = 0.075$$

Preferences over Lotteries

→ Next, we need to define preferences over lotteries. This is different from preferences over the set of outcomes/prizes.

* Preferences are defined by the relation $\succeq$ on $\mathcal{P}$.

* What conditions do we require the preference relation $\succeq$ to satisfy?

(i) Axiom 1: Completeness (A decision maker expresses a preference for every pair of lotteries.)

(ii) Axiom 2: Transitivity (For any 3 lotteries, $p, q, r \in \mathcal{P}$, if $p \succeq q$ and $q \succeq r$, then we must have $p \succeq r$.)

(iii) Axiom 3: Continuity (Archimedian Axiom: A preference relation $\succeq$ on $\mathcal{P}$ is continuous if, for any 3 lotteries, $p, q, r \in \mathcal{P}$ w/ $p \succeq q \succeq r$, there exists some $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ such that $\alpha p + (1-\alpha)r \sim q$.)

→ Interpretation: No lottery in $\mathcal{P}$ can be infinitely more (or less) desirable than any other lottery.

* Alternative formulation for Axiom 3: For any $p \succ q \succ r$,

$$(1) \exists \alpha \in (0, 1) \text{ s.t. } \alpha p + (1-\alpha)r \succ q$$

$$(2) \exists \beta \in (0, 1) \text{ s.t. } q \succ \beta p + (1-\beta)r$$