

A set of individuals V is almost decisive for x against y if xPy whenever xP_iy for every $i \in V$ and yP_ix for every $i \notin V$.

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Notice that it is possible that a set V can be almost decisive but not decisive.

Suppose $xP_iy \forall i \in V$ is true and there exists $j \notin V$ such that xR_jy and the social preference is yRx . It satisfies almost decisive but not decisive.

Therefore, it is not always true that $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(x, y)$.

But $\bar{D}(x, y) \rightarrow D(x, y)$.

If $xP_iy \forall i \in V$ and $j \notin V$, xR_jy , and xPy then if part of the definition of almost decisive set is false so the state is trivially true. It is decisive.

Lemma 1

If there is some individual J who is almost decisive for any ordered pair of alternative, then an Social welfare function satisfying conditions U , P , and I implies that J must be a dictator.

Proof: Suppose that person J is almost decisive for some x against some y , it means $\exists x, y \in X : D(x, y)$. Let z be another alternative and let i refers to all individuals other than J . Assume $xP_Jy \& yP_Jz$, and that $yP_i x \& yP_i z$. We have not specified the preferences of the persons other than J between x and z . Now $[D(x, y) \& xP_Jy \& yP_i x] \rightarrow xPy$. Further $[yP_Jz \& yP_i z] \rightarrow yPz$ from the condition P Pareto principle. But $[xPy \& yPz] \rightarrow xPz$, by the transitivity of the strict social preference relation.

We have xPz without any assumption on the preference relation over x and z on part of the individuals other than J . We have only assumed $yP_i z$ and $yP_i x$. Now, these ranking of x and y and the ranking of y and z has any effect on the ranking of x and z it violates condition I , independence of irrelevant alternatives.. Hence xPz must be independent of the assumptions on x and y and y and z . Also, xPz is the consequence of $xP_j z$ alone without having any effect from the ordering of i s. This means that J is decisive for x against z . We get $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(x, z)$ (1).

Now suppose $zP_jx \& xP_jy$, and $zP_ix \& yP_ix$. We have zPx from Pareto condition. And $D(x, y) \& xP_jy \& yP_ix$, we have xPy . Using transitivity of strict social preference relation we have, $zPx \& xPy \rightarrow zPy$. Again, we have got the social relation over z and y without specifying the individual preference relation of i s. Hence J is decisive for z against y .

We get $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(z, y)$ (2).

We can also show $D(x, z) \rightarrow \bar{D}(y, z)$ (3)
by interchanging z with y in (2).

Again putting x in place of z , z in place of y , and y in place of x , we obtain from (1)

$$D(y, z) \rightarrow \bar{D}(y, x) \text{ (4).}$$

We have $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(x, z)$ from (1)

$\rightarrow D(x, z)$ using the definition of decisive and almost decisive

$\rightarrow \bar{D}(y, z)$ from (3)

$\rightarrow D(y, z)$ from definition

$\rightarrow \bar{D}(y, x)$ from (4).

We get that $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(y, x)$ (5).

By interchanging x and y in (1), (2) and (5), we get

$$D(x, y) \rightarrow [\bar{D}(y, z) \& \bar{D}(z, x) \& \bar{D}(x, y)] \text{ (6).}$$

Now, $D(x, y) \rightarrow \bar{D}(y, x)$ from (5)
 $\rightarrow D(y, x)$.

Hence from (6) we have

$$D(x, y) \rightarrow [\bar{D}(y, z) \& \bar{D}(z, x) \& \bar{D}(x, y)] \quad (7).$$

Combining (1), (2), (5) and (7), it is seen that $D(x, y)$ implies that individual J is decisive for every ordered pair of alternatives from the set of three alternative $\{x, y, z\}$ given the condition U, P and I . Thus, J is a dictator over any set of three alternatives containing x and y .

Now, consider a larger number of alternatives. Take any two alternatives u and v out of the entire set of alternatives. If u and v are so chosen that they are same as x and y , then $\bar{D}(u, v)$ holds, as can be shown by taking a triple consisting of u, v and any other alternative z . If one of u and v is same as one of x and y , say u and x are same but not v and y , then take the triple consisting of $x(or\ u), y$, and v . Since $D(x, y)$, holds it again follows that $\bar{D}(u, v)$ and also $\bar{D}(v, u)$.

Let both u and v be different from x and y . Now first take $\{x, y, u\}$ and we get $\bar{D}(x, u)$ which implies $D(x, u)$. Now take the triple $\{x, u, v\}$. Since $D(x, u)$, it follows from previous argument that $\bar{D}(u, v)$ and also $\bar{D}(v, u)$. Thus, $D(x, y)$ for some x and y , implies $\bar{D}(u, v)$ for all possible ordered pairs (u, v) . Therefore, individual J is a dictator.