

## Simplified Harsanyi's Theorem

Assumptions: Assume that a finite social state space  $X$  equipped with sigma-algebra  $\mathcal{X}$ , a finite set of probability measures on  $X$ :  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X})$ . Suppose  $n$  agent have welfare ordering  $\succeq_i$  on  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X})$  that satisfy the expected utility assumption with expected utility  $\mathbb{E}_\mu v_i(x)$ . Suppose that there's a social preference  $\succeq$  on  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X})$  that satisfy the expected utility assumption with expected utility  $\mathbb{E}_\mu w(x)$  as well. Pareto indifference is satisfied. If  $\forall i, \mathbb{E}_\mu v_i = \mathbb{E}_\nu v_i$  then we have  $\mathbb{E}_\mu w = \mathbb{E}_\nu w$ .

Statement: there exists a weight  $\alpha_i$  and a constant  $\alpha$  such that  $w(x) = \alpha + \sum_i \alpha_i v_i(x)$ .

Proof: Denote the elements of  $X$  as  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$ . Denote  $v_i = (v_i(x_1), v_i(x_2), \dots, v_i(x_k))$  and  $v_i \in \mathbb{R}^k$ . Similarly,  $w = (w(x_1), w(x_2), \dots, w(x_k))$  and  $w \in \mathbb{R}^k$ . Hence it's enough to show  $w = \sum_i \alpha_i v_i + \alpha$ . Denote  $v_0 = \mathbf{1}$ . Let  $S = \text{span}(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_n)$ , if  $w \in S$ , the theorem is obvious. Assume  $w \notin S$ , by separating hyperplane theorem, we have that  $\exists r \in \mathbb{R}^k, \gamma \neq \beta \in \mathbb{R} \quad \forall v \in S \text{ s.t. } rv = \gamma, rv = \beta$ . Since  $\mathbf{0} \in S$ ,  $\beta = 0$ . Because  $\mathbf{1} \in S$  we have  $r\mathbf{1} = 0 \Rightarrow r^+\mathbf{1} = r^-\mathbf{1} = K$ , hence  $r^+/K$  and  $r^-/K$  are in  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X})$ . Because  $\forall v_i, rv_i = 0$ , we have that  $r^+/K v_i = r^-/K v_i \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}_{r^+/K} v_i = \mathbb{E}_{r^-/K} v_i$ , according to Pareto indifference, we have that  $\mathbb{E}_{r^+/K} w_i = \mathbb{E}_{r^-/K} w_i$  which means  $rw = 0$  and a contradiction.