

**Exercise 7.1 (Compositions of strictly monotone functions)** Let  $O$  be some set of *outcomes*,  $\preceq$  a total, reflexive and transitive relation (*preference relation*). Let  $u : O \times O \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  represent the relation  $\preceq$ , that is, for all  $x, y \in O$  it holds:

$$x \preceq y \Leftrightarrow u(x) \leq u(y).$$

Let  $v : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be *strictly* monotonously increasing. We claim that  $v \circ u$  also represents  $\preceq$ .

**Lemma:** If  $v : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is strictly monotonous, that is:

$$a < b \Rightarrow v(a) < v(b),$$

then it holds:

$$a \leq b \Leftrightarrow v(a) \leq v(b).$$

**Proof of the lemma:** Suppose  $a \leq b$ . Then either  $a = b$  or  $a < b$ . The first case clearly implies  $v(a) = v(b)$ , because  $v$  is a function, not some non-deterministic algorithm. The second case implies by definition  $v(a) < v(b)$ . In both cases we obtain  $v(a) \leq v(b)$ .

Now suppose  $v(a) \leq v(b)$ . If  $v(a) = v(b)$ , then  $a = b$ , because  $v$  is injective. If  $v(a) < v(b)$ , then  $b \leq a$  cannot hold, because otherwise we would have  $v(b) \leq v(a)$ . Therefore, it must hold  $a < b$ . In both cases we obtain  $a \leq b$ .

Both directions together show the lemma. ■

Now, the proof of the main claim that  $(v \circ u)$  also represents  $\preceq$  is easy:

**Proof:** For all  $x, y \in O$  it holds:

$$x \preceq y \Leftrightarrow u(x) \leq u(y) \Leftrightarrow v(u(x)) \leq v(u(y)).$$

■

**Remark:** Injectivity of  $v$  is really necessary, because otherwise we get only

$$x \preceq y \Leftrightarrow u(x) \leq u(y) \Rightarrow v(u(x)) \leq v(u(y)).$$

with  $v = 0$  as counterexample for the opposite implication.

**Exercise 7.2 (Lex)** Define the lexicographical order on  $I^2 := [0, 1]^2$  as follows:

$$x \leq_{lex} y \Leftrightarrow x_1 < x_2 \vee (x_1 = x_2 \wedge x_2 \leq y_2).$$

**a)** We claim that  $\leq$  is a total, reflexive and transitive relation.

**Proof:** Let  $x, y \in I^2$  be two arbitrary points. Since the usual relation  $\leq$  is total on  $I$ , there are three possible cases:  $x_1 < y_1$ ,  $x_1 = y_1$  or  $x_1 > y_1$ . The first and last cases are analogous, so we consider only the first two. In the first case it holds  $x \leq_{lex} y$ . In the second case, at least one of the both inequalities  $x_2 \leq y_2$  or  $y_2 \leq x_2$  must hold,

therefore it's either  $x \leq_{lex} y$  or  $y \leq_{lex} x$  respectively. In every case, either  $x \leq_{lex} y$  or  $y \leq_{lex} x$  holds, so  $\leq_{lex}$  is total.

Obviously,  $x_1 = x_1$  and  $x_2 \leq x_2$ , therefore  $x \leq_{lex} x$ , so  $\leq_{lex}$  is reflexive.

Now let  $z \in I^2$  be a third point. We want to show that from  $x \leq_{lex} y \leq_{lex} z$  it follows that  $x \leq_{lex} z$ . The proof can again be done by a trivial case-analysis. However, since it's tedious and error-prone, it seems to be easier and safer to check all the cases by brute-force, for example using the following little C program:

```
#include <stdio.h>

int lex(int a1, int a2, int b1, int b2) {
    return (a1 < b1) || (a1 == b1 && a2 <= b2);
}

int main(void) {
    int allImplicationsHold = 1;
    int x1; for (x1 = 0; x1 < 3; x1++) {
    int x2; for (x2 = 0; x2 < 3; x2++) {
    int y1; for (y1 = 0; y1 < 3; y1++) {
    int y2; for (y2 = 0; y2 < 3; y2++) {
    int z1; for (z1 = 0; z1 < 3; z1++) {
    int z2; for (z2 = 0; z2 < 3; z2++) {
        int xLy = lex(x1, x2, y1, y2);
        int yLz = lex(y1, y2, z1, z2);
        int xLz = lex(x1, x2, z1, z2);
        int implication = !(xLy && yLz) || xLz;
        allImplicationsHold = allImplicationsHold && implication;
        printf("%d %d %d %d\n", xLy, yLz, xLz, implication);
    }
    }
    }
    }
    }
    printf("All implications hold: %d ", allImplicationsHold);
}
```

This program generates all possible cases for all possible relations of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, z_2$  and checks that  $x \leq_{lex} z$  holds whenever  $x \leq_{lex} y$  and  $y \leq_{lex} z$  hold. The output is a truth table with  $3^6 = 729$  lines, together with a last line that tells us whether the implication always holds.

```
1 1 1 1
...
1 0 0 1
1 0 1 1
1 0 1 1
1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1
...
1 0 0 1
1 0 0 1
1 0 0 1
1 0 1 1
1 0 1 1
1 0 1 1
1 1 1 1
...
1 0 0 1
```

1 1 1 1  
All implications hold: 1

The result is 1, which means *true*, so the computer-assisted case analysis proves our claim. ■

**b)** We want to show that  $\leq_{lex}$  on  $I^2$  is not representable by any  $\mathbb{R}$ -valued function.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there is some  $u : I^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which represents  $\leq_{lex}$ . For all  $x \in I$  it must hold:  $u(x, 0) < u(x, 1)$ , that is  $u(x, 1) - u(x, 0)$  is positive. Subdivide the unit interval as follows:

$$X_n := \left\{ x \in I \mid u(x, 1) - u(x, 0) > \frac{1}{n} \right\}.$$

Since  $I$  is uncountable, there must exist some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $X_N$  is also uncountable, because otherwise the unit interval  $I$  would be countable as a countable union of countable sets. Let  $M := \lceil u(1, 1) \rceil$  be the ceiling maximum value of the function  $u$ , and  $m := \lfloor u(0, 0) \rfloor$  the floored minimum value of the function  $u$ . Let  $K := 2(M - m)N + 1$ . Since  $X_N$  contains infinitely many elements, we can find  $K$  distinct elements  $x_1, \dots, x_K$  in  $X_N$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that the finite sequence  $(x_i)_{i=1}^K$  is sorted in increasing order. It holds:

$$u(x_i, 1) + \frac{1}{N} < u(x_{i+1}, 0) + \frac{1}{N} < u(x_{i+1}, 1),$$

applying this  $K - 1$  times to the whole sequence  $(x_i)_i$  yields:

$$u(x_K, 1) > u(x_1, 1) + \frac{2(M - m)N}{N} = u(x_1, 1) + 2(M - m),$$

and in particular

$$u(1, 1) \geq u(x_K, 1) > u(x_1, 1) + 2(M - m) \geq u(0, 0) + 2(M - m).$$

Now we obtain the situation where the difference between  $u(0, 0)$  and  $u(1, 1)$  is at least twice as big as the difference between the smallest and the largest value of  $u$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore there can not be a representing function for  $\leq_{lex}$ . ■

**Exercise 7.3 (Harasanyi-Game)** This seems to be just a “term-unification”/“definition-understanding” task, so we just show how the concepts in the text match the symbols in the definition of a Harasanyi-game.

The set of players is  $N = \{\text{buyer}, \text{seller}\}$ . The sets of types are

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{buyer}} &= \{\text{wantCar}\} \\ T_{\text{seller}} &= \{\text{offerGoodCar}, \text{offerBadCar}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The type-dependent action sets are:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\text{buyer}}(\text{wantCar}) &= \{\text{buy}, \neg\text{buy}\} \\ A_{\text{seller}}(\text{offerGoodCar}) &= A_{\text{seller}}(\text{offerBadCar}) = \{\text{sell}, \neg\text{sell}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The probability distribution  $\mathbb{P} \in \Delta(T)$  is described by a single constant  $q \in [0, 1]$ , because

$$T = \{(\text{wantCar}, \text{offerGoodCar}), (\text{wantCar}, \text{offerBadCar})\}$$

contains just two elements, so it holds:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[\{(\text{wantCar}, \text{offerGoodCar})\}] &= q \\ \mathbb{P}[\{(\text{wantCar}, \text{offerBadCar})\}] &= 1 - q.\end{aligned}$$

The type dependent utility functions  $u_1, u_2$  are given by the matrices (we use the convention that  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are written in single cell):

$$\begin{aligned}u_{1,2}(\text{wantCar}, \text{offerGoodCar}) &= \begin{bmatrix} & \text{sell} & \neg\text{sell} \\ \text{buy} & 6 - c, c & 0, 5 \\ \neg\text{buy} & 0, 5 & 0, 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ u_{1,2}(\text{wantCar}, \text{offerBadCar}) &= \begin{bmatrix} & \text{sell} & \neg\text{sell} \\ \text{buy} & 4 - c, c & 0, 0 \\ \neg\text{buy} & 0, 0 & 0, 0 \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

Here  $c$  stands for the cost of the car.