

1. Consider the following assumption we might impose on  $(\succ_x)_{x \in X}$  :

$$y \succ_x x \implies y \succ_y x$$

- (a) Interpret this assumption in words. Explain why (or in what context) this is, or is not, a reasonable assumption.
- (b) Note that this assumption implies that our example of an empty choice is ruled out. (Our example had  $X = \{x, y\}$ ,  $y \succ_x x$  and  $x \succ_y y$ .) True or false: This assumption implies choice in the RD model is non-empty. If true, prove; if false, find a counterexample.
2. Recall that we defined IIA as follows:

$$\forall x \in A \subset B \subset X, x = c(B) \implies x = c(A).$$

We can't quite apply this IIA to the RD model because now choice from a set is a subset, so we need to change the notation. But the same idea is captured with the following condition:

$$\forall x \in A \subset B \subset X, x \in c(B) \implies x \in c(A).$$

Prove that the RD model satisfies this version of IIA.

3. Consider the RD model. Assume  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ . True or false (prove if true, provide a counter-example if false): If  $c_{\succ_x}(X) = X$  then  $c_{\succ_x}(A) = A$  for all  $A \subseteq X$ . Hint: If  $a \in c(X)$  then what can you say about whether  $a \succ_a b$ ? What about  $a \succ_a c$ ? Then, if  $a \in A$  what can you say about whether or not  $a \in c_{\succ_x}(A)$ ?
4. Expansion, as studied in the SR model, said: if  $c(A) = c(B) = x$  then  $c(A \cup B) = x$ . This notion applies only when the choice is a singleton, denoted here by  $x$ . In the RD model choice need not be a singleton. Describe a change in the expansion condition which would apply also when choice is not a singleton.
5. Are the following choices consistent with the SR-model when  $X = \{x, y, z\}$ ? If your answer is yes, find asymmetric binary relations that lead to these choices when used by a decision maker in the SR model. Make sure that the two asymmetric relations lead to a single choice from each possible subset of  $X$ . If your answer is no, say whether EXPANSION or SR-IIA is violated.
- (a)  $c(\{x, y\}) = x$ ,  $c(\{y, z\}) = y$ ,  $c(\{z, x\}) = z$ .
- (b) Now consider  $X = \{x, y, z, w\}$ ,  $c(\{x, z\}) = x$ ,  $c(\{y, z\}) = y$ ,  $c(\{x, y, z, w\}) = x$ ,  $c(\{x, y, z\}) = z$ .
6. Suppose you observe the choices from all sets in  $2^X \setminus \emptyset$ . The choices you observe satisfy SR-IIA and EXPANSION. Consider the following relations  $\gg_1^R$  and  $\gg_2^R$ :
- $x \gg_1^R y \Leftrightarrow \nexists S \in 2^X \setminus \emptyset$  such that  $y = c(S)$  and  $x \in S$
  - $x \gg_2^R y \Leftrightarrow x = c(\{x, y\})$

This exercise asks you to show that when you observe behavior that satisfies SR-IIA and EXPANSION then a decision maker that behaves according to the SR model and uses  $\gg_1^R$

in the first stage of elimination and  $\gg_2^R$  in the second stage makes exactly the choices you observe. This implies that for any choices consistent with SR-IIA and EXPANSION there is an SR-model that explains them.

Remember that observed choices are singletons. Also remember that  $x$  is eliminated from  $A$  in the round if and only if  $\exists y \in A$  with  $y \gg_1 x$ .  $x$  is **not** eliminated in the second round if and only if  $\nexists y \in A$  that survives the first round and for which  $y \gg_2 x$ . The element that is not eliminated in either round is chosen.

- (a) Show that  $x$  survives the first round of elimination if the decision maker behaves according to the SR model and uses  $\gg_1^R$  in the first round of elimination.
  - (b) Suppose that there is some  $y \in A$  with  $y = c(\{x, y\})$ . Show that if  $\forall z \in A \setminus \{y\}$  there is a set  $B_{zy}$  with  $y = c(B_{zy})$  and  $z \in B_{zy}$ , then we must have that  $x \neq c(A)$ . (To do this you might first want to apply EXPANSION to all  $B_{zy}$  and then SR-IIA using to union of all  $B_{zy}$ .)
  - (c) Show that  $x$  survives the second round of elimination if the decision maker behaves according to the SR model, uses  $\gg_2^R$  in the second round of elimination, and  $\gg_1^R$  in the first round. (You might want to do this by showing that all elements that are better than  $x$  according to  $\gg_2^R$  are eliminated in the first round using the result from the previous part.)
7. Consider the SR model with  $\gg_1$  and  $\gg_2$  that leads to the choice  $c_{12}$  as defined in class. Define  $c_{21}(A) = c_1(c_2(A))$ . Find an example to show that it is possible that  $c_{12}(A) \neq c_{21}(A)$ .
  8. Prove directly that IIA implies Expansion. That is, show that if choice  $c$  satisfies IIA then it satisfies Expansion. Do not use the result that choice satisfying IIA corresponds to choice from a complete-strict-preference model.
  9. Read and understand the following indirect proof the of the preceding claim that does use the result you were told not to use: Since the SR-IIA model includes the complete-strict-preference model as a special case, the complete-strict-preference model must satisfy SR-IIA and Expansion. Since we know that any choice satisfying IIA comes from a complete-strict-preference model, we know that any choice satisfying IIA models satisfies SR-IIA and Expansion.