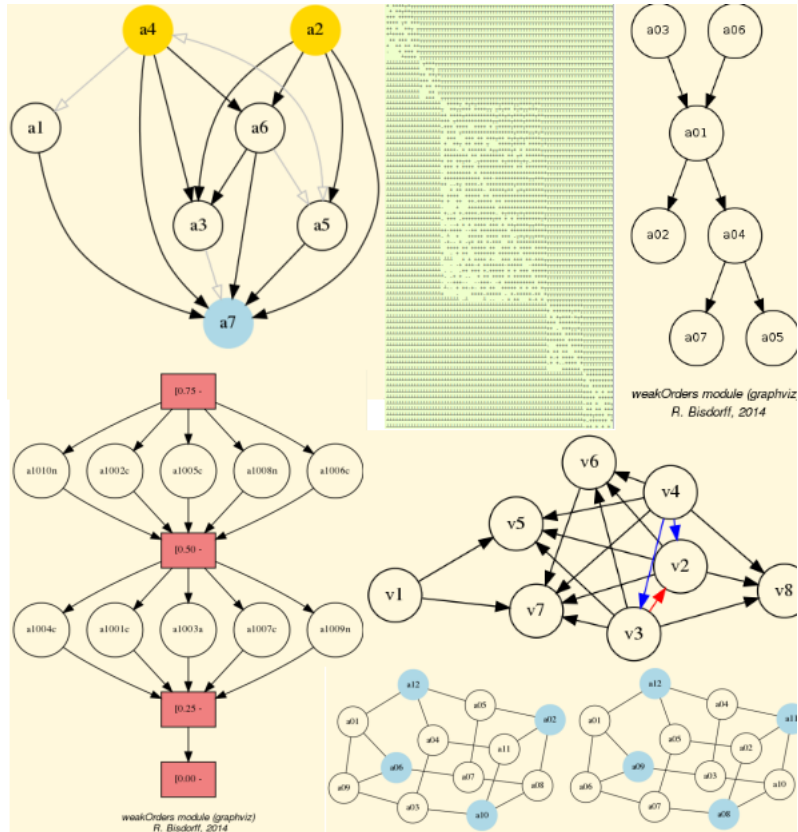


Documentation of the DIGRAPH3 software collection



Tutorials and Pearls

Raymond BISOORFF

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This documentation is dedicated to late Marc ROUBENS who, through his expertise in fuzzy sets and systems, greatly stimulated our research in bipolar-valued epistemic logic.

More documents are freely available [here](#)

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Pearls of Bipolar-valued Epistemic Logic

In this part of the **Digraph3** *documentation*, we provide an insight in computational enhancements one may get when working in a *bipolar-valued logical framework*, like easily coping with *missing data* and uncertain criterion *significance weights*, computing valued *ordinal correlations* between bipolar-valued outranking digraphs, solving bipolar-valued Berge kernel equation systems, and testing for stability of outranking statements when facing only ordinal criteria significance weights.

1 Coping with missing data and indeterminateness

- *A motivating data set*
- *Modelling pairwise bipolar-valued rating opinions*

In a stubborn keeping with a two-valued logic, where every argument can only be true or false, there is no place for efficiently taking into account missing data or logical indeterminateness. These cases are seen as problematic and, at best are simply ignored. Worst, in modern data science, missing data get often replaced with *fictive* values, potentially falsifying hence all subsequent computations.

In social choice problems like elections, *abstentions* are, however, frequently observed and represent a social expression that may be significant for revealing non represented social preferences.

In marketing studies, interviewees will not always respond to all the submitted questions. Again, such abstentions do sometimes contain nevertheless valid information concerning consumer preferences.

1.1 A motivating data set

Let us consider such a performance tableau gathering a *Movie Magazine* 's rating of some movies that could actually be seen in town¹ (see Fig. 1.1).

```
1 >>> from outrankingDigraphs import *
2 >>> t = XMCDAA2PerformanceTableau('graffiti07')
3 >>> t.showHTMLPerformanceTableau(ndigits=0)
```

¹ *Graffiti*, Edition Revue Luxembourg, September 2007, p. 30. You may find the data file *graffiti07.xml* (XMCDAA-2.0 Format) in the *examples/Graffiti* directory of the Digraph3 ressources.

Performance table graffitiPerfTab.xml

criteria	AP	AS	CF	CS	DR	FG	GS	JH	JPT	MR	RR	SF	SJ	TD	VT
weight	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
mv_AL	3	-1	2	-1	NA	NA	3	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	2
mv_BI	1	-1	1	1	-1	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
mv_CM	NA	3	3	2	NA	NA	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	NA	2
mv_DF	NA	4	3	1	2	NA	1	3	2	2	2	3	-1	NA	1
mv_DG	3	2	2	3	3	1	4	3	3	3	NA	NA	-1	NA	3
mv_DI	1	2	NA	1	2	2	NA	1	2	2	NA	1	1	NA	NA
mv_DJ	3	1	3	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	2	2	NA	2	4	3	-1
mv_FC	3	2	2	1	3	NA	1	3	3	3	2	NA	2	1	3
mv_FF	2	3	2	1	2	2	NA	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1
mv_GG	2	3	3	1	NA	NA	1	-1	NA	-1	2	NA	-1	NA	1
mv_GH	1	NA	1	-1	2	2	1	2	1	3	4	NA	NA	NA	NA
mv_HN	3	1	3	1	3	NA	4	3	2	NA	1	NA	3	3	3
mv_HP	1	NA	3	1	NA	NA	NA	1	1	2	3	NA	1	2	NA
mv_HS	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	2	3	NA	1	3	NA
mv_JB	3	4	3	NA	3	2	3	2	3	2	NA	2	2	NA	3
mv_MB	NA	2	NA	NA	1	NA	1	2	2	1	2	NA	2	2	NA
mv_NP	NA	1	3	1	NA	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	NA	NA	3
mv_PE	3	4	2	NA	3	1	NA	2	4	2	NA	3	3	NA	3
mv_QS	NA	3	2	NA	4	3	NA	4	4	3	3	4	NA	4	4
mv_RG	2	2	2	2	NA	NA	3	1	2	2	1	NA	NA	3	NA
mv_RR	3	2	NA	1	4	NA	4	3	3	4	3	3	NA	4	2
mv_SM	3	3	2	2	2	2	NA	3	2	2	3	NA	2	2	3
mv_TF	-1	NA	1	1	1	NA	NA	1	2	NA	-1	NA	-1	1	NA
mv_TM	2	1	2	2	NA	NA	2	2	2	3	NA	2	NA	4	NA
mv_TP	2	3	3	1	2	NA	NA	3	2	NA	2	NA	1	NA	2

Fig. 1.1: *Graffiti* magazine's movie ratings from September 2007

15 journalists and movie critics provide here their rating of 25 movies: 5 stars (*master-piece*), 4 stars (*must be seen*), 3 stars (*excellent*), 2 stars (*good*), 1 star (*could be seen*), -1 star (*I do not like*), -2 (*I hate*), NA (*not seen*).

To aggregate all the critics' rating opinions, the *Graffiti* magazine provides for each movie a global score computed as an *average grade*, just ignoring the *not seen* data. These averages are thus not computed on comparable denominators; some critics do indeed use a more or less extended range of grades. The movies not seen by critic *SJ*, for instance, are favored, as this critic is more severe than others in her grading. Dropping the movies that were not seen by all the critics is here not possible either, as no one of the 25 movies was actually seen by all the critics. Providing any value for the missing data will as well always somehow falsify any global value scoring. What to do ?

A better approach is to rank the movies on the basis of pairwise bipolar-valued *at least as*

well rated as opinions. Under this epistemic argumentation approach, missing data are naturally treated as opinion abstentions and hence do not falsify the logical computations. Such a ranking (see the Ranking-Tutorial-label tutorial) of the 25 movies is provided, for instance, by the **heat map** view shown in Fig. 1.2.

```
>>> t.showHTMLPerformanceHeatmap(Correlations=True,
...                               rankingRule='NetFlows',
...                               ndigits=0)
```

Heatmap of Performance Tableau 'grafittiPerfTab.xml'

criteria	JH	JPT	AP	DR	MR	VT	GS	CS	SJ	RR	TD	CF	SF	AS	FG
weights	+3.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+3.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00
tau(*)	+0.50	+0.43	+0.32	+0.26	+0.25	+0.23	+0.16	+0.14	+0.14	+0.13	+0.11	+0.11	+0.10	+0.08	+0.03
mv_QS	4	4	NA	4	3	4	NA	NA	NA	3	4	2	4	3	3
mv_RR	3	3	3	4	4	2	4	1	NA	3	4	NA	3	2	NA
mv_DG	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	-1	NA	NA	2	NA	2	1
mv_NP	3	3	NA	NA	3	3	2	1	NA	2	NA	3	3	1	3
mv_HN	3	2	3	3	NA	3	4	1	3	1	3	3	NA	1	NA
mv_HS	3	4	2	2	2	NA	2	3	1	3	3	2	NA	4	2
mv_SM	3	2	3	2	2	3	NA	2	2	3	2	2	NA	3	2
mv_JB	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	NA	2	NA	NA	3	2	4	2
mv_PE	2	4	3	3	2	3	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	2	3	4	1
mv_FC	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	NA	2	NA
mv_TP	3	2	2	2	NA	2	NA	1	1	2	NA	3	NA	3	NA
mv_CM	2	3	NA	NA	2	2	3	2	2	1	NA	3	2	3	NA
mv_DF	3	2	NA	2	2	1	1	1	-1	2	NA	3	3	4	NA
mv_TM	2	2	2	NA	3	NA	2	2	NA	NA	4	2	2	1	NA
mv_DJ	NA	2	3	NA	2	-1	3	NA	4	NA	3	3	2	1	NA
mv_AL	NA	2	3	NA	NA	2	3	-1	2	NA	NA	2	NA	-1	NA
mv_RG	1	2	2	NA	2	NA	3	2	NA	1	3	2	NA	2	NA
mv_MB	2	2	NA	1	1	NA	1	NA	2	2	2	NA	NA	2	NA
mv_GH	2	1	1	2	3	NA	1	-1	NA	4	NA	1	NA	NA	2
mv_HP	1	1	1	NA	2	NA	NA	1	1	3	2	3	NA	NA	NA
mv_BI	NA	2	1	-1	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	2	NA	1	NA	-1	NA
mv_DI	1	2	1	2	2	NA	NA	1	1	NA	NA	NA	1	2	2
mv_FF	1	2	2	2	2	1	NA	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	2
mv_GG	-1	NA	2	NA	-1	1	1	1	-1	2	NA	3	NA	3	NA
mv_TF	1	2	-1	1	NA	NA	NA	1	-1	-1	1	1	NA	NA	NA

Color legend:

quantile	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	57.14%	71.43%	85.71%	100.00%
----------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------

(*) tau: Ordinal (Kendall) correlation between marginal criterion and global ranking relation

Ranking rule: **NetFlows**

Ordinal (Kendall) correlation between global ranking and global outranking relation: **+0.780**

Fig. 1.2: *Graffiti* magazine's ordered movie ratings from September 2007

There is no doubt that movie *mv_QS*, with 6 'must be seen' marks, is correctly best-ranked and the movie *mv_TV* is worst-ranked with five 'don't like' marks.

1.2 Modelling pairwise bipolar-valued rating opinions

Let us explicitly construct the underlying bipolar-valued outranking digraph and consult in Fig. 1.3 the pairwise characteristic values we observe between the two best-ranked movies, namely *mv_QS* and *mv_RR*.

```
1 >>> g = BipolarOutrankingDigraph(t)
2 >>> g.recodeValuation(-19,19) # integer characteristic values
3 >>> g.showHTMLPairwiseOutrankings('mv_QS','mv_RR')
```

Pairwise Comparison										
Comparing actions : (mv_QS,mv_RR)										
crit.	wght.	g(x)	g(y)	diff	ind	wp	p	concord	wv	v polarisation
AP	1.00	NA	3.00					0.00		
AS	1.00	3.00	2.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
CF	1.00	2.00	NA					0.00		
CS	1.00	NA	1.00					0.00		
DR	1.00	4.00	4.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
FG	1.00	3.00	NA					0.00		
GS	1.00	NA	4.00					0.00		
JH	3.00	4.00	3.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+3.00		
JPT	1.00	4.00	3.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
MR	1.00	3.00	4.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00		
RR	1.00	3.00	3.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
SF	1.00	4.00	3.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
SJ	1.00	NA	NA					0.00		
TD	1.00	4.00	4.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
VT	3.00	4.00	2.00	+2.00	None	None	None	+3.00		
Valuation in range: -19.00 to +19.00; global concordance: +11.00										

Pairwise Comparison										
Comparing actions : (mv_RR,mv_QS)										
crit.	wght.	g(x)	g(y)	diff	ind	wp	p	concord	wv	v polarisation
AP	1.00	3.00	NA					0.00		
AS	1.00	2.00	3.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00		
CF	1.00	NA	2.00					0.00		
CS	1.00	1.00	NA					0.00		
DR	1.00	4.00	4.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
FG	1.00	NA	3.00					0.00		
GS	1.00	4.00	NA					0.00		
JH	3.00	3.00	4.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-3.00		
JPT	1.00	3.00	4.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00		
MR	1.00	4.00	3.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
RR	1.00	3.00	3.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
SF	1.00	3.00	4.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00		
SJ	1.00	NA	NA					0.00		
TD	1.00	4.00	4.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00		
VT	3.00	2.00	4.00	-2.00	None	None	None	-3.00		
Valuation in range: -19.00 to +19.00; global concordance: -5.00										

Fig. 1.3: Pairwise comparison of the two best-ranked movies

Six out of the fifteen critics have not seen one or the other of these two movies. Notice the higher significance (3) that is granted to two locally renowned movie critics, namely *JH* and *VT*. Their opinion counts for three times the opinion of the other critics. All nine critics that have seen both movies, except critic *MR*, state that *mv_QS* is rated at least as well as *mv_RR* and the balance of positive against negative opinions amounts to +11, a characteristic value which positively validates the outranking situation with a majority of $(11/19 + 1.0) / 2.0 = 79\%$.

The complete table of pairwise majority margins of global ‘at least as well rated as’ opinions, ranked by the same rule as shown in the heat map above (see Fig. 1.2), may be shown in Fig. 1.4.

```
1 >>> ranking = g.computeNetFlowsRanking()
2 >>> g.showHTMLRelationTable(actionsList=ranking, ndigits=0,\
3 ... tableTitle='Bipolar characteristic values of\
4 ... "rated at least as good as" situations')
```

Bipolar characteristic values of "rated at least as good as" situations

r(x S y)	mv_QS	mv_RR	mv_DG	mv_NP	mv_HN	mv_HS	mv_SM	mv_JB	mv_PE	mv_FC	mv_TP	mv_CM	mv_DF	mv_TM	mv_DJ	mv_AL	mv_RG	mv_MB	mv_GH	mv_HP	mv_BI	mv_DI	mv_FF	mv_GG	mv_FF
mv_QS	-	11	12	11	10	9	14	9	11	13	9	10	9	9	7	6	9	9	7	6	5	9	15	8	8
mv_RR	-5	-	5	7	8	6	4	5	2	9	10	9	12	9	10	8	9	10	8	9	6	10	13	10	9
mv_DG	-8	9	-	9	10	5	9	7	8	13	7	7	10	10	6	8	10	7	9	5	6	7	9	9	9
mv_NP	-7	5	7	-	10	3	7	9	8	11	9	8	12	8	7	6	4	6	8	6	5	7	12	10	7
mv_HN	-10	4	8	8	-	5	9	9	8	10	10	7	10	6	8	10	7	6	8	8	5	7	13	9	11
mv_HS	-3	2	5	5	3	-	10	2	5	6	9	5	10	7	0	1	10	9	8	9	7	11	14	9	11
mv_SM	-8	6	7	5	7	6	-	6	6	10	12	9	10	6	4	9	9	10	7	9	7	11	15	11	11
mv_JB	-9	-1	5	1	3	4	8	-	9	6	6	13	6	8	9	9	9	9	8	8	5	11	15	12	8
mv_PE	-7	2	6	0	4	3	6	11	-	5	4	10	5	7	6	8	8	8	5	6	5	9	13	9	8
mv_FC	-9	5	11	9	8	2	8	8	7	-	10	6	11	5	3	8	6	9	9	5	7	10	12	10	11
mv_TP	-7	4	-1	3	2	3	0	-4	-4	0	-	6	11	6	4	5	7	6	7	7	7	9	14	12	10
mv_CM	-8	-1	-5	-4	-3	-3	-1	5	-2	-2	4	-	3	8	8	9	10	7	5	7	3	9	14	11	8
mv_DF	-9	-2	-2	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	5	1	-	4	6	-1	6	8	6	5	6	8	13	13	9
mv_TM	-3	-7	-6	-2	-2	-1	0	0	1	-1	-2	2	-2	-	2	2	7	6	9	7	5	7	9	5	8
mv_DJ	-7	-8	-4	-3	2	4	2	1	-2	-1	0	0	0	4	-	3	5	4	3	6	4	4	3	1	5
mv_AL	-4	0	-4	-6	-6	1	-1	-3	-4	-2	3	1	3	2	3	-	2	2	5	1	3	1	5	3	3
mv_RG	-7	-7	-6	-4	-1	-2	-1	-5	-4	-2	-3	-2	-2	1	3	4	-	1	0	6	4	8	9	4	9
mv_MB	-9	-8	-5	-4	-4	-9	-4	-1	-2	-1	-2	1	-2	2	-2	2	3	-	2	4	4	4	2	6	8
mv_GH	-5	-8	-7	-6	-8	-4	-3	0	1	-5	-5	1	-2	-1	-3	-3	0	6	-	5	2	5	3	3	5
mv_HP	-4	-5	-5	-2	-4	-3	-3	-4	-4	-3	-1	-3	1	-7	-2	-1	2	-2	-1	-	3	6	5	7	8
mv_BI	-5	-4	-6	-1	-1	-7	-5	-5	-5	-3	-1	-3	0	-3	-2	1	-2	0	2	1	-	1	-1	-1	4
mv_DI	-9	-6	-5	-5	-3	-3	-3	-7	-7	-6	-1	-7	0	-5	0	1	4	0	1	8	5	-	6	4	8
mv_FF	-11	-11	-7	-10	-5	0	-3	-9	-9	-8	-2	-6	1	-1	5	-1	9	0	1	7	5	12	-	9	11
mv_GG	-6	-8	-7	-4	-5	-7	-9	-10	-9	-4	-2	-7	3	-3	1	-3	-2	-2	-1	-3	5	-2	3	-	2
mv_FF	-8	-7	-7	-5	-7	-11	-9	-8	-8	-7	-6	-8	-3	-6	-3	-1	-1	-4	-3	0	2	2	-1	2	-

Valuation domain: [-19.00; +19.00]

Fig. 1.4: Pairwise majority margins of ‘at least as well rated as’ rating opinions

Positive characteristic values, validating a global ‘at least as well rated as’ opinion are marked in light green (see Fig. 1.4). Whereas negative characteristic values, invalidating such a global opinion, are marked in light red. We may by the way notice that the best-ranked movie *mv_QS* is indeed a *Condorcet* winner, i.e. *better rated than all the other movies* by a 65% majority of critics. This majority may be assessed from the average determinateness of the given bipolar-valued outranking digraph *g*.

```
>>> print( '%.0f%%' % g.computeDeterminateness(InPercents=True) )
65%
```

Notice also the *indeterminate* situation we observe, for instance, when comparing movie *mv_PE* with movie *mv_NP*.

```
>>> g.showHTMLPairwiseComparison('mv_PE','mv_NP')
```

Pairwise Comparison

Comparing actions : (mv_PE, mv_NP)

crit.	wght.	g(x)	g(y)	diff	ind	wp	p	concord	wv	v	polarisation
AP	1.00	3.00	NA					0.00			
AS	1.00	4.00	1.00	+3.00	None	None	None	+1.00			
CF	1.00	2.00	3.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00			
CS	1.00	NA	1.00					0.00			
DR	1.00	3.00	NA					0.00			
FG	1.00	1.00	3.00	-2.00	None	None	None	-1.00			
GS	1.00	NA	2.00					0.00			
JH	3.00	2.00	3.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-3.00			
JPT	1.00	4.00	3.00	+1.00	None	None	None	+1.00			
MR	1.00	2.00	3.00	-1.00	None	None	None	-1.00			
RR	1.00	NA	2.00					0.00			
SF	1.00	3.00	3.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+1.00			
SJ	1.00	3.00	NA					0.00			
TD	1.00	NA	NA					0.00			
VT	3.00	3.00	3.00	+0.00	None	None	None	+3.00			

Valuation in range: -19.00 to +19.00; global concordance: +0.00

Fig. 1.5: Indeterminate pairwise comparison example

Only eight, out of the fifteen critics, have seen both movies and the positive opinions do neatly balance the negative ones. A global statement that *mv_PE* is ‘at least as well rated as’ *mv_NP* may in this case hence **neither be validated, nor invalidated**; a preferential situation that cannot be modelled with any scoring approach.

It is fair, however, to eventually mention here that the *Graffiti* magazine’s average scoring method is actually showing a very similar ranking. Indeed, average scores usually confirm well all evident pairwise comparisons, yet *enforce* comparability for all less evident ones.

Notice finally the ordinal correlation *tau* values in Fig. 1.2 3rd row. How may we compute these ordinal correlation indexes ?

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2 Ordinal correlation equals bipolar-valued relational equivalence

- *Kendall’s tau index*
- *Bipolar-valued relational equivalence*
- *Fitness of ranking heuristics*
- *Illustrating preference divergences*
- *Exploring the better rated and the as well as rated opinions*

2.1 Kendall's *tau* index

M. G. Kendall ([KEN-1938p]) defined his *ordinal correlation index tau* for linear orders of dimension n as a *balancing* of the number $\#C$ of correctly oriented pairs against the number $\#I$ of incorrectly oriented pairs. The total number of irreflexive pairs being $n(n-1)$, in the case of linear orders, $\#C + \#I = n(n-1)$. Hence $\tau = (\#C / n(n-1)) - (\#I / n(n-1))$. In case $\#I$ is zero, $\tau = +1$ (all pairs are *equivalently oriented*); inversely, in case $\#C$ is zero, $\tau = -1$ (all pairs are *differently oriented*).

Noticing that $(\#C / n(n-1)) = 1 - (\#I / n(n-1))$, and recalling that the bipolar-valued negation is operated by changing the sign of the characteristic value, *Kendall's* original *tau* definition implemented in fact the bipolar-valued **negation** of the **non equivalence** of two linear orders:

$$\tau = 1 - 2(\#I / n(n-1)) = -[2(\#I / n(n-1)) - 1] = 2(\#C / n(n-1)) - 1,$$

i.e. the **normalized majority margin** of *equivalently oriented* irreflexive pairs.

Let $R1$ and $R2$ be two random crisp relations defined on a same set of 5 alternatives. We may compute Kendall's *tau* index as follows.

Listing 2.1: Crisp Relational Equivalence Digraph

```

1  >>> from digraphs import *
2  >>> R1 = RandomDigraph(order=5,Bipolar=True)
3  >>> R2 = RandomDigraph(order=5,Bipolar=True)
4  >>> E = EquivalenceDigraph(R1,R2)
5  >>> E.showRelationTable(ReflexiveTerms=False)
6  * ---- Relation Table ----
7  r(<=>)|  'a1'      'a2'      'a3'      'a4'      'a5'
8  -----|-----
9  'a1' |   -        -1.00     1.00    -1.00     1.00
10 'a2' |  -1.00         -     -1.00     1.00    -1.00
11 'a3' |  -1.00    -1.00      -      1.00     1.00
12 'a4' |  -1.00     1.00   -1.00      -      1.00
13 'a5' |  -1.00     1.00   -1.00     1.00      -
14 Valuation domain: [-1.00;1.00]
15 >>> E.correlation
16 {'correlation': -0.1, 'determination': 1.0}

```

In the table of the equivalence relation $R1 \leq R2$ above (see Listing 2.1 Lines 9-13), we observe that the normalized majority margin of equivalent versus non equivalent irreflexive pairs amounts to $(9 - 11)/20 = -0.1$, i.e. the value of Kendall's *tau* index in this plainly determined crisp case (see Listing 2.1 Line 16).

What happens now with more or less determined and even partially indeterminate relations ? May we proceed in a similar way ?

2.2 Bipolar-valued relational equivalence

Let us now consider two randomly bipolar-valued digraphs $R1$ and $R2$ of order five.

Listing 2.2: Two Random Bipolar-valued Digraphs

```

1 >>> R1 = RandomValuationDigraph(order=5,seed=1)
2 >>> R1.showRelationTable(ReflexiveTerms=False)
3 * ---- Relation Table ----
4 r(R1)|   'a1'       'a2'       'a3'       'a4'       'a5'
5 -----|-----
6 'a1' |    -        -0.66     0.44     0.94    -0.84
7 'a2' |   -0.36         -     -0.70     0.26     0.94
8 'a3' |    0.14        0.20         -     0.66    -0.04
9 'a4' |   -0.48       -0.76     0.24         -    -0.94
10 'a5' |   -0.02        0.10     0.54     0.94         -
11 Valuation domain: [-1.00;1.00]
12 >>> R2 = RandomValuationDigraph(order=5,seed=2)
13 >>> R2.showRelationTable(ReflexiveTerms=False)
14 * ---- Relation Table ----
15 r(R2)|   'a1'       'a2'       'a3'       'a4'       'a5'
16 -----|-----
17 'a1' |    -        -0.86    -0.78    -0.80    -0.08
18 'a2' |   -0.58         -     0.88     0.70    -0.22
19 'a3' |   -0.36        0.54         -    -0.46     0.54
20 'a4' |   -0.92        0.48     0.74         -    -0.60
21 'a5' |    0.10        0.62     0.00     0.84         -
22 Valuation domain: [-1.00;1.00]

```

We may notice in the relation tables shown above that 9 pairs, like $(a1, a2)$ or $(a3, a2)$ for instance, appear equivalently oriented (see Listing 2.2 Lines 6 and 17). The `digraphs.EquivalenceDigraph` class implements this *relational equivalence* relation between digraphs $R1$ and $R2$ (see Listing 2.3).

Listing 2.3: Bipolar-valued Equivalence Digraph

```

1 >>> eq = EquivalenceDigraph(R1,R2)
2 >>> eq.showRelationTable(ReflexiveTerms=False)
3 * ---- Relation Table ----
4 r(<=>)|   'a1'       'a2'       'a3'       'a4'       'a5'
5 -----|-----
6 'a1' |    -         0.66    -0.44    -0.80     0.08
7 'a2' |    0.36         -    -0.70     0.26    -0.22
8 'a3' |   -0.14        0.20         -    -0.46    -0.04
9 'a4' |    0.48       -0.48     0.24         -     0.60
10 'a5' |   -0.02        0.10     0.00     0.84         -
11 Valuation domain: [-1.00;1.00]

```

In our bipolar-valued epistemic logic, logical disjunctions and conjunctions are implemented as *max*, respectively *min* operators. Notice also that the logical equivalence $(R1 \leq R2)$ corresponds to a double implication $(R1 \Rightarrow R2)$ and $(R2 \Rightarrow R1)$ and that the implication $(R1 \Rightarrow R2)$ is logically equivalent to the disjunction $(\text{not } R1 \text{ or } R2)$.

$R2$).

If $r(x \ R1 \ y)$ and $r(x \ R2 \ y)$ denote the bipolar-valued characteristic values of relation $R1$, resp. $R2$, we may hence compute as follows a majority margin $M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2)$ between equivalently and not equivalently oriented irreflexive pairs (x, y) .

$$M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2) = \sum_{(x,y)} \{ \min [\max(-r(x \ R1 \ y), r(x \ R2 \ y)), \max(-r(x \ R2 \ y), r(x \ R1 \ y))] \}.$$

$M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2)$ is thus given by the sum of the non reflexive terms of the relation table of eq , the relation equivalence digraph computed above.

In the crisp case, $M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2)$ is now normalized with the maximum number of possible irreflexive pairs, namely $n(n-1)$. In a generalized r -valued case, the maximal possible equivalence majority margin M corresponds to the sum D of the **conjoint determinations** of $(x \ R1 \ y)$ and $(x \ R2 \ y)$ (see [BIS-2012p]).

$$D = \sum_{(x,y)} \min [\text{abs}(r(x \ R1 \ y)), \text{abs}(r(x \ R2 \ y))].$$

Thus, we obtain in the general r -valued case:

$$\text{tau}(R1, R2) = M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2) / D .$$

$\text{tau}(R1, R2)$ corresponds thus to a classical ordinal correlation index, but restricted to the **conjointly determined parts** of the given relations $R1$ and $R2$. In the limit case of two crisp linear orders, D equals $n(n-1)$, i.e. the number of irreflexive pairs, and we recover hence *Kendall* 's original tau index definition.

It is worthwhile noticing that the ordinal correlation index $\text{tau}(R1, R2)$ we obtain above corresponds to the ratio of

- $r(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2) = M(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2) / n(n-1)$: The normalized majority margin of the pairwise relational equivalence statements, also called *valued ordinal correlation*, and
- $d = D / n(n-1)$: The normalized determination of the corresponding pairwise relational equivalence statements, in fact the determinateness of the relational equivalence digraph.

We have thus successfully **out-factored** the *determination* effect from the *correlation* effect. With completely determined relations, $\text{tau}(R1, R2) = r(R1 \Longleftrightarrow R2)$. By convention, we set the ordinal correlation with a *completely indeterminate* relation, i.e. when $D = 0$, to the *indeterminate* correlation value 0.0. With *uniformly* chosen random r -valued relations, the **expected** tau index is **0.0**, denoting in fact an **indeterminate** correlation. The corresponding expected normalized determination d is about 0.333 (see [BIS-2012p]).

We may verify these relations with help of the corresponding equivalence digraph eq (see Listing 2.4).

Listing 2.4: Computing the Ordinal Correlation Index
from the Equivalence Digraph

```

1 >>> eq = EquivalenceDigraph(R1,R2)
2 >>> M = Decimal('0'); D = Decimal('0')
3 >>> n2 = eq.order*(eq.order - 1)
4 >>> for x in eq.actions:
5 ...     for y in eq.actions:
6 ...         M += eq.relation[x][y]
7 ...         D += abs(eq.relation[x][y])
8 >>> print('r(R1<=>R2) = %+.3f, d = %.3f, tau = %+.3f' % (M/n2,D/n2,M/D))
9 r(R1<=>R2) = +0.026, d = 0.356, tau = +0.073

```

In general we simply use the `digraphs.Digraph.computeOrdinalCorrelation()` method which renders a dictionary with a ‘*correlation*’ (*tau*) and a ‘*determination*’ (*d*) attribute. We may recover $r(<=>)$ by multiplying *tau* with *d* (see Listing 2.5 Line 4).

Listing 2.5: Directly Computing the Ordinal Correlation
Index

```

1 >>> corrR1R2 = R1.computeOrdinalCorrelation(R2)
2 >>> tau = corrR1R2['correlation']
3 >>> d = corrR1R2['determination']
4 >>> r = tau * d
5 >>> print('tau(R1,R2) = %+.3f, d = %.3f, r(R1<=>R2) = %+.3f' % (tau, d, r))
6 tau(R1,R2) = +0.073, d = 0.356, r(R1<=>R2) = +0.026

```

We provide for convenience a direct `digraphs.showCorrelation()` method:

```

>>> corrR1R2 = R1.computeOrdinalCorrelation(R2)
>>> R1.showCorrelation(corrR1R2)
Correlation indexes:
Extended Kendall tau      : +0.073
Epistemic determination   : 0.356
Bipolar-valued equivalence : +0.026

```

We may now illustrate the quality of the global ranking of the movies shown with the heat map in Fig. 1.2.

2.3 Fitness of ranking heuristics

We reconsider the bipolar-valued outranking digraph g modelling the pairwise global ‘*at least as well rated as*’ relation among the 25 movies seen above (see Listing 2.6).

Listing 2.6: Global Movies Outranking Digraph

```

1 >>> g = BipolarOutrankingDigraph(t,Normalized=True)
2 *----- Object instance description -----*
3 Instance class      : BipolarOutrankingDigraph

```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
4 Instance name      : rel_grafittiPerfTab.xml
5 # Actions         : 25
6 # Criteria        : 15
7 Size              : 390
8 Determinateness   : 65%
9 Valuation domain : {'min': Decimal('-1.0'),
10                      'med': Decimal('0.0'),
11                      'max': Decimal('1.0'),}
12 >>> g.computeCoSize()
13 188
```

Out of the $25 \times 24 = 600$ irreflexive movie pairs, digraph g contains 390 positively validated, 188 positively invalidated outranking situations, and 22 *indeterminate* outranking situations (see the zero-valued cells in Fig. 1.4).

Let us now compute the normalized majority margin $r(<=>)$ of the equivalence between the marginal critic's pairwise ratings and the global *Net-Flows* ranking shown in the ordered heat map (see Fig. 1.2).

Listing 2.7: Marginal Criterion Correlations with global *NetFlows* Ranking

```
1 >>> from linearOrders import NetFlowsOrder
2 >>> nf = NetFlowsOrder(g)
3 >>> nf.netFlowsRanking
4 ['mv_QS', 'mv_RR', 'mv_DG', 'mv_NP', 'mv_HN', 'mv_HS', 'mv_SM',
5  'mv_JB', 'mv_PE', 'mv_FC', 'mv_TP', 'mv_CM', 'mv_DF', 'mv_TM',
6  'mv_DJ', 'mv_AL', 'mv_RG', 'mv_MB', 'mv_GH', 'mv_HP', 'mv_BI',
7  'mv_DI', 'mv_FF', 'mv_GG', 'mv_TF']
8 >>> for i,item in enumerate(\
9 ... g.computeMarginalVersusGlobalRankingCorrelations(\
10 ... nf.netFlowsRanking,ValuedCorrelation=True)):
11 ...     print('r(%s<=>nf) = %+.3f' % (item[1],item[0]))
12 r(JH<=>nf) = +0.500
13 r(JPT<=>nf) = +0.430
14 r(AP<=>nf) = +0.323
15 r(DR<=>nf) = +0.263
16 r(MR<=>nf) = +0.247
17 r(VT<=>nf) = +0.227
18 r(GS<=>nf) = +0.160
19 r(CS<=>nf) = +0.140
20 r(SJ<=>nf) = +0.137
21 r(RR<=>nf) = +0.133
22 r(TD<=>nf) = +0.110
23 r(CF<=>nf) = +0.110
24 r(SF<=>nf) = +0.103
25 r(AS<=>nf) = +0.080
26 r(FG<=>nf) = +0.027
```

In Listing 2.7 (see Lines 12-26), we recover above the relational equivalence characteristic

values shown in the third row of the table in Fig. 1.2. The global *Net-Flows* ranking represents obviously a rather balanced compromise with respect to all movie critics' opinions as there appears no valued negative correlation with anyone of them. The *Net-Flows* ranking apparently takes also correctly in account that the journalist *JH*, a locally renowned movie critic, shows a higher significance weight (see Line 12).

The ordinal correlation between the global *Net-Flows* ranking and the digraph g may be furthermore computed as follows:

Listing 2.8: Correlation between outrankings global *Net-Flows* Ranking

```

1 >>> corrgnf = g.computeOrdinalCorrelatin(nf)
2 >>> g.showCorrelation(corrgnf)
3 Correlation indexes:
4   Extended Kendall tau      : +0.780
5   Epistemic determination   :  0.300
6   Bipolar-valued equivalence : +0.234

```

We notice in Listing 2.8 Line 6 that the ordinal correlation $\tau(g, nf)$ index between the *Net-Flows* ranking nf and the determined part of the outranking digraph g is quite high (+0.78). Due to the rather high number of missing data, the r -valued relational equivalence between the nf and the g digraph, with a characteristics value of *only* +0.234, may be misleading. Yet, +0.234 still corresponds to an epistemic majority support of nearly 62% of the movie critics' rating opinions.

It would be interesting to compare similarly the correlations one may obtain with other global ranking heuristics, like the *Copeland* or the *Kohler* ranking rule.

2.4 Illustrating preference divergences

The valued relational equivalence index gives us a further measure for studying how **divergent** appear the rating opinions expressed by the movie critics.

```

1 >>> g = BipolarOutrankingDigraph(t, Normalized=True)
2 >>> g.showCriteriaCorrelationTable(ValuedCorrelation=True)
3 Criteria valued ordinal correlation index
4
5   AP  AS  CF  CS  DR  FG  GS  JH  JPT  MR  RR  SF  SJ  TD  VT
6   AP  +0.63 +0.04 +0.19 +0.09 +0.22 -0.01 +0.11 +0.23 +0.25 +0.08 +0.02 +0.04 +0.19 +0.04 +0.12
7   AS      +0.77 +0.12 +0.12 +0.04 -0.02 -0.06 +0.02 +0.24 -0.08 +0.07 +0.04 -0.07 -0.01 +0.02
8   CF          +0.77 +0.07 +0.11 +0.03 +0.05 +0.07 +0.10 -0.03 +0.01 +0.00 +0.06 +0.03 -0.04
9   CS              +0.63 +0.04 -0.02 +0.07 +0.13 +0.25 +0.01 +0.03 +0.00 +0.02 +0.03 +0.07
10  DR                  +0.45 +0.03 +0.07 +0.17 +0.23 +0.16 +0.06 +0.03 +0.10 +0.07 +0.10
11  FG                      +0.15 -0.01 +0.04 +0.01 +0.06 -0.00 +0.02 +0.01 +0.01 +0.02
12  GS                          +0.40 +0.07 +0.07 +0.09 -0.02 +0.00 +0.06 +0.04 +0.04
13  JH                              +0.77 +0.28 +0.26 +0.15 +0.12 +0.10 +0.05 +0.14
14  JPT                                  +0.92 +0.15 +0.06 +0.06 +0.08 +0.08 +0.17
15  MR                                      +0.63 +0.10 +0.08 +0.03 +0.09 +0.10
16  RR                                          +0.51 +0.04 +0.01 +0.05 +0.05
17  SF                                              +0.18 +0.01 +0.02 +0.05
18  SJ                                                  +0.51 +0.03 +0.07
19  TD                                                      +0.26 +0.00
20  VT                                                          +0.40

```

It is remarkable to notice in the criteria correlation matrix (see Fig. ??) that, due to the

quite numerous missing data, all pairwise valued ordinal correlation indexes $r(x \leq y)$ appear to be of low value, except the *diagonal* ones. These reflexive indexes $r(x \leq x)$ would trivially all amount to +1.0 in a plainly determined case. Here they indicate a reflexive normalized determination score d , i.e. the *proportion* of pairs of movies each critic did evaluate. Critic *JPT* (the editor of the Graffiti magazine), for instance, evaluated all but one ($d = 24 \cdot 23 / 600 = 0.92$), whereas critic *FG* evaluated only 10 movies among the 25 in discussion ($d = 10 \cdot 9 / 600 = 0.15$).

To get a picture of the actual *divergence of rating opinions* concerning **jointly seen** pairs of movies, we may develop a *Principal Component Analysis* ⁽²⁾ of the corresponding *tau* correlation matrix. The 3D plot of the first 3 principal axes is shown in Fig. 2.1.

```
>>> g.export3DplotOfCriteriaCorrelation(ValuedCorrelation=False)
```

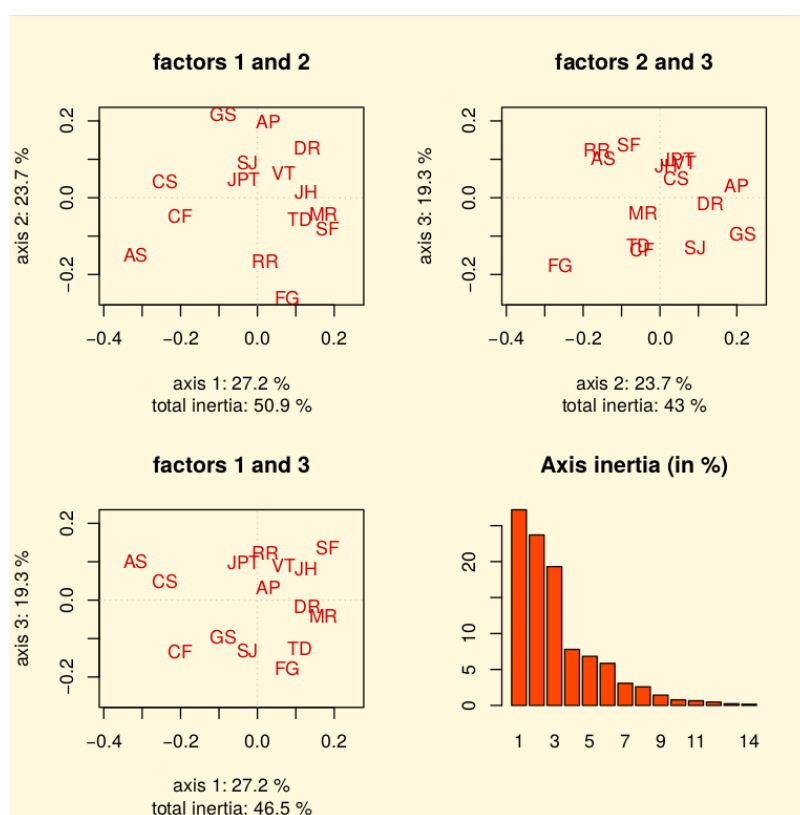


Fig. 2.1: 3D PCA plot of the criteria ordinal correlation matrix

The first 3 principal axes support together about 70% of the total inertia. Most *eccentric* and *opposed* in their respective rating opinions appear, on the first principal axis with 27.2% inertia, the conservative daily press against labour and public press. On the second principal axis with 23.7.7% inertia, it is the people press versus the cultural critical press. And, on the third axis with still 19.3% inertia, the written media appear most opposed to the radio media.

² The 3D PCA plot method requires a running *R statistics software* (<https://www.r-project.org/>) installation and the Calmat matrix calculator (see the calmat directory in the Digraph3 ressources)

2.5 Exploring the *better rated* and the *as well as rated* opinions

In order to furthermore study the quality of a ranking result, it may be interesting to have a separate view on the asymmetric and symmetric parts of the ‘*at least as well rated as*’ opinions (see the tutorial Digraphs-Tutorial-label).

Let us first have a look at the pairwise asymmetric part, namely the ‘*better rated than*’ and ‘*less well rated than*’ opinions of the movie critics.

```
>>> ag = AsymmetricPartialDigraph(g)
>>> ag.showHTMLRelationTable(actionsList=g.computeNetFlowsRanking(),ndigits=0)
```

Valued Adjacency Matrix

(x S y)	mv_QS	mv_RR	mv_DG	mv_NP	mv_HN	mv_HS	mv_SM	mv_JB	mv_PE	mv_FC	mv_TP	mv_CM	mv_DF	mv_TM	mv_DJ	mv_AL	mv_RG	mv_MB	mv_GH	mv_HP	mv_BI	mv_DI	mv_FF	mv_GG	mv_TF
mv_QS	-	11	12	11	10	9	14	9	11	13	9	10	9	9	7	6	9	9	7	6	5	9	15	8	8
mv_RR	-5	-	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9	12	9	10	8	9	10	8	9	6	10	13	10	9
mv_DG	-8	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	10	10	6	8	10	7	9	5	6	7	9	9	9
mv_NP	-7	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	8	7	6	4	6	8	6	5	7	12	10	7
mv_HN	-10	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	0	10	7	6	8	8	5	7	13	9	11
mv_HS	-3	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	7	0	0	10	9	8	9	7	11	14	9	11
mv_SM	-8	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	12	9	0	6	0	9	9	10	7	9	7	11	15	11	11
mv_JB	-9	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	6	0	6	8	0	9	9	9	8	8	5	11	15	12	8
mv_PE	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	4	10	0	0	6	8	8	8	0	6	5	9	13	9	8
mv_FC	-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	0	5	3	8	6	9	9	5	7	10	12	10	11
mv_TP	-7	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-4	-4	0	-	0	0	6	4	0	7	6	7	7	7	9	14	12	10
mv_CM	-8	-1	-5	-4	-3	-3	-1	0	-2	-2	0	-	0	0	8	0	10	0	0	7	3	9	14	11	8
mv_DF	-9	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	4	6	-1	6	8	6	0	6	8	0	0	9
mv_TM	-3	-7	-6	-2	-2	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	0	-2	-	0	0	0	0	9	7	5	7	9	5	8
mv_DJ	-7	-8	-4	-3	0	4	0	0	-2	-1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	4	3	6	4	4	0	0	5
mv_AL	-4	0	-4	-6	-6	0	-1	-3	-4	-2	0	0	3	0	0	-	0	0	5	1	0	0	5	3	3
mv_RG	-7	-7	-6	-4	-1	-2	-1	-5	-4	-2	-3	-2	-2	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	9
mv_MB	-9	-8	-5	-4	-4	-9	-4	-1	-2	-1	-2	0	-2	0	-2	0	0	-	0	4	4	4	2	6	8
mv_GH	-5	-8	-7	-6	-8	-4	-3	0	0	-5	-5	0	-2	-1	-3	-3	0	0	-	5	0	0	0	3	5
mv_HP	-4	-5	-5	-2	-4	-3	-3	-4	-4	-3	-1	-3	0	-7	-2	-1	0	-2	-1	-	0	0	0	7	8
mv_BI	-5	-4	-6	-1	-1	-7	-5	-5	-5	-3	-1	-3	0	-3	-2	0	-2	0	0	0	-	0	-1	-1	0
mv_DI	-9	-6	-5	-5	-3	-3	-3	-7	-7	-6	-1	-7	0	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
mv_FF	-11	-11	-7	-10	-5	0	-3	-9	-9	-8	-2	-6	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	5	0	-	0	11
mv_GG	-6	-8	-7	-4	-5	-7	-9	-10	-9	-4	-2	-7	0	-3	0	-3	-2	-2	-1	-3	5	-2	0	-	0
mv_TF	-8	-7	-7	-5	-7	-11	-9	-8	-8	-7	-6	-8	-3	-6	-3	-1	-1	-4	-3	0	0	0	-1	0	-

Valuation domain: [-19.00; +19.00]

We notice here that the *Net-Flows* ranking rule inverts in fact just three ‘*less well ranked than*’ opinions and four ‘*better ranked than*’ ones. A similar look at the symmetric part, the pairwise ‘*as well rated as*’ opinions, suggests a preordered preference structure in several *equivalently rated* classes.

```
>>> sg = SymmetricPartialDigraph(g)
>>> sg.showHTMLRelationTable(actionsList=g.computeNetFlowsRanking(),ndigits=0)
```


Valued Adjacency Matrix

f(x S y)	mv_QS	mv_RR	mv_DG	mv_NP	mv_HN	mv_HS	mv_SM	mv_JB	mv_PE	mv_FC	mv_TP	mv_CM	mv_DF	mv_TM	mv_DJ	mv_AL	mv_RG	mv_MB	mv_GH	mv_HP	mv_BI	mv_DI	mv_FF	mv_GG	mv_TF
mv_QS	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_RR	0	-	5	7	8	6	4	0	2	9	10	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_DG	0	9	-	9	10	5	9	7	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_NP	0	5	7	-	10	3	7	9	8	11	9	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_HN	0	4	8	8	-	5	9	9	8	10	10	0	10	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_HS	0	2	5	5	3	-	10	2	5	6	9	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0
mv_SM	0	6	7	5	7	6	-	6	6	10	12	0	10	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_JB	0	0	5	1	3	4	8	-	9	6	0	13	6	8	9	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_PE	0	2	6	0	4	3	6	11	-	5	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_FC	0	5	11	9	8	2	8	8	7	-	10	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_TP	0	4	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	-	6	11	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_CM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	-	3	8	8	9	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_DF	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	5	1	-	0	6	0	0	0	0	5	6	8	13	13	0
mv_TM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	-	2	2	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mv_DJ	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	-	3	5	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0
mv_AL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	3	-	2	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
mv_RG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	-	1	0	6	0	8	9	0	0
mv_MB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	3	-	2	0	4	4	2	0	0	0
mv_GH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	-	0	2	5	3	0	0
mv_HP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	-	3	6	5	0	8
mv_BI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	-	1	0	0	4
mv_DI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	8	5	-	6	0	8
mv_FF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	9	0	1	7	0	12	-	9	0
mv_GG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	-	2	0
mv_TF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	-

Valuation domain: [-19.00; +19.00]

Such a preordering of the movies may, for instance, be computed with the `digraphs`. `Digraph.computeRankingByChoosing()` method, where we iteratively extract *dominant kernels* -best remaining choices- and *absorbent kernels* -worst remaining choices- (see the tutorial Kernel-Tutorial-label). We operate therefore on the asymmetric ‘better rated than’, i.e. the *codual* ⁽³⁾ of the ‘at least as well rated as’ opinions (see Listing 2.9 Line 2).

Listing 2.9: Ranking by choosing the Graffiti movies

```

1 >>> from transitiveDigraphs import RankingByChoosingDigraph
2 >>> rbc = RankingByChoosingDigraph(g, CoDual=True)
3 >>> rbc.showRankingByChoosing()
4 Ranking by Choosing and Rejecting
5 1st Best Choice ['mv_QS']
6 2nd Best Choice ['mv_DG', 'mv_FC', 'mv_HN', 'mv_HS', 'mv_NP',
7                  'mv_PE', 'mv_RR', 'mv_SM']
8 3rd Best Choice ['mv_CM', 'mv_JB', 'mv_TM']
9 4th Best Choice ['mv_AL', 'mv_TP']
10 4th Worst Choice ['mv_AL', 'mv_TP']
11 3rd Worst Choice ['mv_GH', 'mv_MB', 'mv_RG']
12 2nd Worst Choice ['mv_DF', 'mv_DJ', 'mv_FF', 'mv_GG']
13 1st Worst Choice ['mv_BI', 'mv_DI', 'mv_HP', 'mv_TF']

```

In the tutorial Kernel-Tutorial-label, we thoroughly discuss the computation of *kernels* in bipolar-valued digraphs. Yet, we do not tackle there the problem of computing the corresponding bipolar-valued **kernel membership** characteristic vectors. This is the topic for the next pearl of bipolar-valued epistemic logic.

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³ A *kernel* in a digraph g is a *clique* in the dual digraph $-g$.

3 Bipolar-valued kernel membership characteristic vectors

- Claude Berge's *kernel equation systems*
- *Solving bipolar-valued kernel equation systems*

3.1 Claude Berge's kernel equation systems

Let $G(X, R)$ be a crisp irreflexive digraph defined on a finite set X of nodes and where R is the corresponding $\{-1, +1\}$ -valued adjacency matrix. Let Y be the $\{-1, +1\}$ -valued membership characteristic (row) vector of a choice in X . When Y satisfies the following equation system

$$Y \circ R = -Y ,$$

where for all x in X ,

$$(Y \circ R)(x) = \max_{y \in X, x \neq y} (\min(Y(x), R(x, y))) .$$

then Y characterises an **initial kernel** ([BER-1958p]).

When transposing now the membership characteristic vector Y into a column vector Y^t , the following equation system

$$R \circ Y^t = -Y^t ,$$

makes Y^t similarly characterise a **terminal kernel**.

Let us verify this result on a tiny random digraph.

```

1  >>> from digraphs import *
2  >>> g = RandomDigraph(order=3, seed=1)
3  * ---- Relation Table ----
4  R   | 'a1'      'a2'      'a3'
5  -----|-----
6  'a1' |  -1   +1       -1
7  'a2' |  -1   -1       +1
8  'a3' |  +1   +1       -1
9  >>> g.showPreKernels()
10 *---- Computing preKernels ----*
11 Dominant preKernels :
12 ['a3']
13     independence : 1.0
14     dominance    : 1.0
15     absorbency   : -1.0
16     covering     : 1.000
17 Absorbent preKernels :
18 ['a2']

```

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19	independence	:	1.0
20	dominance	:	-1.0
21	absorbency	:	1.0
22	covered	:	1.000

It is easy to verify that the characteristic vector $[-1, -1, +1]$ satisfies the initial kernel equation system; $a3$ gives an *initial* kernel. Similarly, the characteristic vector $[-1, +1, -1]$ verifies indeed the terminal kernel equation system and hence $a2$ gives a *terminal* kernel.

We succeeded now in generalizing *Berge's* kernel equation systems to genuine bipolar-valued digraphs ([BIS-2006_1p]). The constructive proof, found by M. Pirlot, is based on the following fixpoint equation that may be used for computing bipolar-valued kernel membership vectors,

$$T(Y) := -(Y \circ R) = Y,$$

3.2 Solving bipolar-valued kernel equation systems

John von Neumann showed indeed that, when a digraph $G(X, R)$ is **acyclic** with a **unique initial kernel** K characterised by its membership characteristics vector Yk , then the following double bipolar-valued fixpoint equation

$$T^2(Y) := -(- (Y \circ R) \circ R) = Y.$$

will admit a stable high and a stable low fixpoint solution that converge both to Yk ([SCH-1985p]).

Inspired by this crisp double fixpoint equation, we observed that for a given bipolar-valued digraph $G(X, R)$, each of its dominant or absorbent prekernels Ki in X determines an induced **partial graph** $G(X, R/Ki)$ which is *acyclic* and admits Ki as unique kernel (see [BIS-2006_2p]).

Following the *von Neumann* fixpoint algorithm, a similar bipolar-valued extended double fixpoint algorithm, applied to $G(X, R/Ki)$, allows to compute hence the associated bipolar-valued kernel characteristic vectors Yi in polynomial complexity.

Algorithm

- in* : bipolar-valued digraph $G(X, R)$,
out : set $\{ Y1, Y2, .. \}$ of bipolar-valued kernel membership characteristic vectors.
1. enumerate all initial and terminal crisp prekernels $K, K2, \dots$ in the given bipolar-valued digraph (see the ‘Kernel-Tutorial-label’ tutorial);
 2. for each crisp initial kernel Ki :
 - a. construct a partially determined subgraph $G(X, R/Ki)$ supporting exactly this unique initial kernel Ki ;

- b. Use the double fixpoint equation $T2$ with the partially determined adjacency matrix R/Ki for computing a stable low and a stable high fixpoint;
 - c. Determine the bipolar-valued Ki -membership characteristic vector Yi with an epistemic disjunction of the previous low and high fixpoints;
3. repeat step (2) for each terminal kernel Kj by using the double fixpoint equation $T2$ with the transpose of the adjacency matrix R/Kj .

Time for a practical illustration.

Listing 3.1: Random Bipolar-valued Outranking Digraph

```

1  >>> from outrankingDigraphs import *
2  >>> g = RandomBipolarOutrankingDigraph(Normalized=True,seed=5)
3  >>> print(g)
4  *----- Object instance description -----*
5  Instance class      : RandomBipolarOutrankingDigraph
6  Instance name      : rel_randomperftab
7  # Actions          : 7
8  # Criteria         : 7
9  Size               : 26
10 Determinateness (%) : 67.14
11 Valuation domain   : [-1.0;1.0]
12 Attributes         : ['name', 'actions', 'criteria', 'evaluation',
13                       'relation', 'valuationdomain', 'order',
14                       'gamma', 'notGamma']

```

The random outranking digraph g , we consider here in Listing 3.1 for illustration, models the pairwise outranking situations between seven decision alternatives evaluated on seven incommensurable performance criteria. We compute its corresponding bipolar-valued prekernels on the associated codual digraph gcd .

Listing 3.2: Strict Prekernels

```

1  >>> gcd = ~(-g) # strict outranking digraph
2  >>> gcd
3  >>> gcd.showPreKernels()
4  *--- Computing prekernels ---*
5  Dominant prekernels :
6  ['a1', 'a4', 'a2']
7      independence : +0.000
8      dominance    : +0.070
9      absorbency   : -0.488
10     covering     : +0.667
11 Absorbent prekernels :
12 ['a7', 'a3']
13     independence : +0.000
14     dominance    : -0.744
15     absorbency   : +0.163

```

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```
16      covered      : +0.800
17 *----- statistics -----
18 graph name: converse-dual_rel_randomperftab
19 number of solutions
20   dominant kernels : 1
21   absorbent kernels: 1
22 cardinality frequency distributions
23 cardinality      : [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
24 dominant kernel  : [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0]
25 absorbent kernel: [0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
26 Execution time   : 0.00022 sec.
```

The codual outranking digraph, modelling a *strict outranking* relation, admits an initial prekernel $[a1, a2, a4]$ and a terminal one $[a3, a7]$ (see Listing 3.2 Line 7 and 13).

Let us compute the *initial* prekernel restricted adjacency table with the `digraphs.Digraph.domkernelrestrict()` method.

```
1 >>> k1Relation = gcd.domkernelrestrict(['a1','a2','a4'])
2 >>> gcd.showHTMLRelationTable(
3 ...     actionsList=['a1','a2','a4','a3','a5','a6','a7'],
4 ...     relation=k1Relation,
5 ...     tableTitle='K1 restricted adjacency table')
```

K1 restricted adjacency table

r(x S y)	a1	a2	a4	a3	a5	a6	a7
a1	-	-0.23	-1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
a2	-0.21	-	-0.21	0.21	0.44	0.05	0.49
a4	0.00	-0.21	-	0.21	0.00	0.07	0.58
a3	-0.28	-0.21	-0.74	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
a5	-0.26	-0.67	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
a6	-0.12	-0.49	-0.49	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
a7	-0.51	-0.49	-0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	-

Valuation domain: [-1.00; +1.00]

Fig. 3.1: Initial kernel $[a1, a2, a4]$ restricted adjacency table

We first notice that this initial prekernel is indeed only *weakly independent*: The outranking situation between $a4$ and $a1$ appears *indeterminate*. The corresponding initial prekernel membership characteristic vector may be computed with the `digraphs.Digraph.computeKernelVector()` method.

Listing 3.3: Fixpoint iterations for initial prekernel [a_1 , a_2 , a_4]

```

1  >>> gcd.computeKernelVector(['a1', 'a2', 'a4'], Initial=True, Comments=True)
2  --> Initial prekernel: {'a1', 'a2', 'a4'}
3  initial low vector : [-1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00]
4  initial high vector: [+1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00]
5  1st low vector      : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21,  0.00, -0.44, -0.07, -0.58]
6  1st high vector     : [+1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00]
7  2nd low vector      : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21,  0.00, -0.44, -0.07, -0.58]
8  2nd high vector     : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.05, -0.21]
9  3rd low vector      : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.07, -0.21]
10 3rd high vector     : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.05, -0.21]
11 4th low vector      : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.07, -0.21]
12 4th high vector     : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.07, -0.21]
13 # iterations        : 4
14 low & high fusion   : [ 0.00, +0.21, -0.21, +0.21, -0.21, -0.07, -0.21]
15 Choice vector for initial prekernel: {'a1', 'a2', 'a4'}
16 a2: +0.21
17 a4: +0.21
18 a1:  0.00
19 a6: -0.07
20 a3: -0.21
21 a5: -0.21
22 a7: -0.21

```

We start the fixpoint computation with an empty set characterisation as first low vector and a complete set X characterising high vector. After each iteration, the low vector is set to the negation of the previous high vector and the high vector is set to the negation of the previous low vector.

A unique stable prekernel characteristic vector $Y1$ is here attained at the fourth iteration with positive members a_2 : +0.21 and a_4 : +0.21 (60.5% criteria significance majority); a_1 : 0.00 being an ambiguous potential member. Alternatives a_3 , a_5 , a_6 and a_7 are all negative members, i.e. positive **non members** of this outranking prekernel.

Let us now compute the restricted adjacency table for the outranked, i.e. the *terminal* prekernel [a_3 , a_7].

```

1  >>> k2Relation = gcd.abskernelrestrict(['a3', 'a7'])
2  >>> gcd.showHTMLRelationTable(
3  ...     actionsList=['a3', 'a7', 'a1', 'a2', 'a4', 'a5', 'a6'],
4  ...     relation=k2Relation,
5  ...     tableTitle='K2 restricted adjacency table')

```

K2 restricted adjacency table

r(x S y)	a3	a7	a1	a2	a4	a5	a6
a3	-	0.00	-0.28	-0.21	-0.74	-0.40	-0.53
a7	-1.00	-	-0.51	-0.49	-0.86	-0.67	-0.63
a1	0.00	0.16	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
a2	0.21	0.49	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
a4	0.21	0.58	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
a5	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
a6	0.30	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-

Valuation domain: [-1.00; +1.00]

Fig. 3.2: Terminal kernel ['a3','a7'] restricted adjacency table

Again, we notice that this terminal prekernel is indeed only weakly independent. The corresponding bipolar-valued characteristic vector $Y2$ may be computed as follows.

```

1 >>> gcd.computeKernelVector(['a3','a7'],Initial=False,Comments=True)
2 --> Terminal prekernel: {'a3', 'a7'}
3 initial low vector : [-1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00, -1.00]
4 initial high vector : [+1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00]
5 1st low vector : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.58, -0.16, -0.30, +0.49]
6 1st high vector : [+1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00, +1.00]
7 2nd low vector : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.58, -0.16, -0.30, +0.49]
8 2nd high vector : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.49, -0.16, -0.26, +0.49]
9 3rd low vector : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.49, -0.16, -0.26, +0.49]
10 3rd high vector : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.49, -0.16, -0.26, +0.49]
11 # iterations : 3
12 high & low fusion : [-0.16, -0.49, 0.00, -0.49, -0.16, -0.26, +0.49]
13 Choice vector for terminal prekernel: {'a3', 'a7'}
14 a7: +0.49
15 a3: 0.00
16 a1: -0.16
17 a5: -0.16
18 a6: -0.26
19 a2: -0.49
20 a4: -0.49

```

A unique stable bipolar-valued high and low fixpoint is attained at the third iteration with $a7$ positively confirmed (about 75% criteria significance majority) as member of this terminal prekernel, whereas the membership of $a3$ in this prekernel appears indeterminate. All the remaining nodes have *negative* membership characteristic values and are hence positively excluded from this prekernel.

When we reconsider the graphviz drawing of this outranking digraph (see `bestWorstOrientation` in the tutorial 'Kernel-Tutorial-label'),

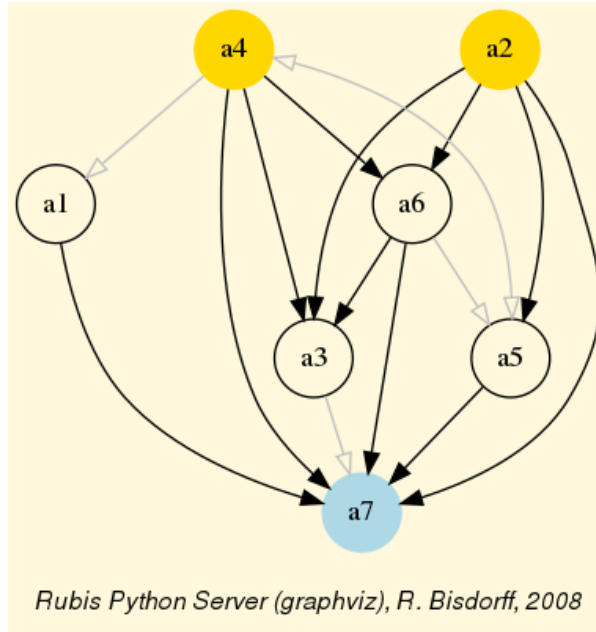


Fig. 3.3: The strict outranking digraph oriented by the positive members of its initial and terminal prekernels

it becomes obvious why alternative *a1* is **neither included nor excluded** from the initial prekernel. Same observation is applicable to alternative *a3* which can **neither be included nor excluded** from the terminal prekernel. It may even happen, in case of more indeterminate outranking situations, that no alternative is positively included or excluded from a weakly independent prekernel; the corresponding bipolar-valued membership characteristic vector being completely indeterminate (see for instance the tutorial ‘Rubis-Tutorial-label’).

To illustrate finally why sometimes we need to operate an *epistemic disjunctive fusion* of **unequal** stable low and high membership characteristics vectors (see Step 2.c.), let us consider, for instance, the following crisp 7-cycle graph.

```

1  >>> g = CirculantDigraph(order=7,circulants=[-1,1])
2  >>> g
3  *----- Digraph instance description -----*
4  Instance class      : CirculantDigraph
5  Instance name      : c7
6  Digraph Order      : 7
7  Digraph Size       : 14
8  Valuation domain   : [-1.00;1.00]
9  Determinateness (%) : 100.00
10 Attributes         : ['name', 'order', 'circulants', 'actions',
11                       'valuationdomain', 'relation',
12                       'gamma', 'notGamma']

```

Digraph *c7* is a symmetric crisp digraph showing, among others, the maximal independent set $\{2, 5, 7\}$, i.e. an initial as well as terminal kernel. We may compute the corresponding initial kernel characteristic vector.


```

1 >>> g.computeKernelVector(['2','5','7'],Initial=True,Comments=True)
2 --> Initial kernel: {'2', '5', '7'}
3 initial low vector   : [-1.0, -1.0, -1.0, -1.0, -1.0, -1.0, -1.0]
4 initial high vector  : [+1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0]
5 1 st low vector      : [-1.0,  0.0, -1.0, -1.0,  0.0, -1.0,  0.0]
6 1 st high vector     : [+1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0, +1.0]
7 2 nd low vector      : [-1.0,  0.0, -1.0, -1.0,  0.0, -1.0,  0.0]
8 2 nd high vector     : [ 0.0, +1.0,  0.0,  0.0, +1.0,  0.0, +1.0]
9 stable low vector    : [-1.0,  0.0, -1.0, -1.0,  0.0, -1.0,  0.0]
10 stable high vector   : [ 0.0, +1.0,  0.0,  0.0, +1.0,  0.0, +1.0]
11 #iterations         : 3
12 low & high fusion    : [-1.0, +1.0, -1.0, -1.0, +1.0, -1.0, +1.0]
13 Choice vector for initial prekernel: {'2', '5', '7'}
14 7: +1.00
15 5: +1.00
16 2: +1.00
17 6: -1.00
18 4: -1.00
19 3: -1.00
20 1: -1.00

```

Notice that the stable low vector characterises the **negative membership** part, whereas, the stable high vector characterises the **positive membership** part (see Lines 9-10 above). The bipolar **disjunctive fusion** assembles eventually both stable parts into the correct prekernel characteristic vector (Line 12).

The adjacency matrix of a symmetric digraph staying *unchanged* by the transposition operator, the previous computations, when qualifying the same kernel as a *terminal* instance, will hence produce exactly the same result.

It is worthwhile noticing again the essential computational role, the logical **indeterminate value 0.0** is playing in this double fixpoint algorithm. To implement such kind of algorithms without a logical **neutral term** would be like implementing numerical algorithms without a possible usage of the number 0. Infinitely many trivial *impossibility theorems* and *dubious logical results* come up.

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4 On confident outrankings with uncertain criteria significances

- *Modelling uncertain criteria significances*
- *Bipolar-valued likelihood of “at least as good as ” situations*
- *Confidence level of outranking situations*

When modelling preferences following the outranking approach, the signs of the majority margins do sharply distribute validation and invalidation of pairwise outranking situations. How can we be confident in the resulting outranking digraph, when we acknowledge the usual imprecise knowledge of criteria significance weights coupled with small majority margins?

To answer this question, one usually requires *qualified* majority margins for confirming outranking situations. But how to choose such a qualifying majority level: two third, three fourth of the significances ?

In this tutorial we propose to link the qualifying significance majority with a required alpha%-confidence level. We model therefore the significance weights as random variables following more or less widespread distributions around an average significance value that corresponds to the given deterministic weight. As the bipolar-valued random credibility of an outranking statement hence results from the simple sum of positive or negative independent random variables, we may apply the Central Limit Theorem (CLT) for computing the *bipolar likelihood* that the expected majority margin will indeed be positive, respectively negative.

4.1 Modelling uncertain criteria significances

Let us consider the significance weights of a family F of m criteria to be **independent random variables** W_j , distributing the potential significance weights of each criterion $j = 1, \dots, m$ around a mean value $E(W_j)$ with variance $V(W_j)$.

Choosing a specific stochastic model of uncertainty is usually application specific. In the limited scope of this tutorial, we will illustrate the consequence of this design decision on the resulting outranking modelling with four slightly different models for taking into account the uncertainty with which we know the numerical significance weights: *uniform*, *triangular*, and two models of *Beta laws*, one more *widespread* and, the other, more *concentrated*.

When considering, for instance, that the potential range of a significance weight is distributed between 0 and two times its mean value, we obtain the following random variates:

1. A continuous **uniform** distribution on the range 0 to $2E(W_j)$. Thus $W_j \sim U(0, 2E(W_j))$ and $V(W_j) = 1/3(E(W_j))^2$;
2. A **symmetric beta** distribution with, for instance, parameters $alpha = 2$ and $beta = 2$. Thus, $W_j \sim \text{Beta}(2,2) * 2E(W_j)$ and $V(W_j) = 1/5(E(W_j))^2$.
3. A **symmetric triangular** distribution on the same range with mode $E(W_j)$. Thus $W_j \sim \text{Tr}(0, 2E(W_j), E(W_j))$ with $V(W_j) = 1/6(E(W_j))^2$;
4. A **narrower beta** distribution with for instance parameters $alpha = 4$ and $beta = 4$. Thus $W_j \sim \text{Beta}(4,4) * 2E(W_j)$, $V(W_j) = 1/9(E(W_j))^2$.

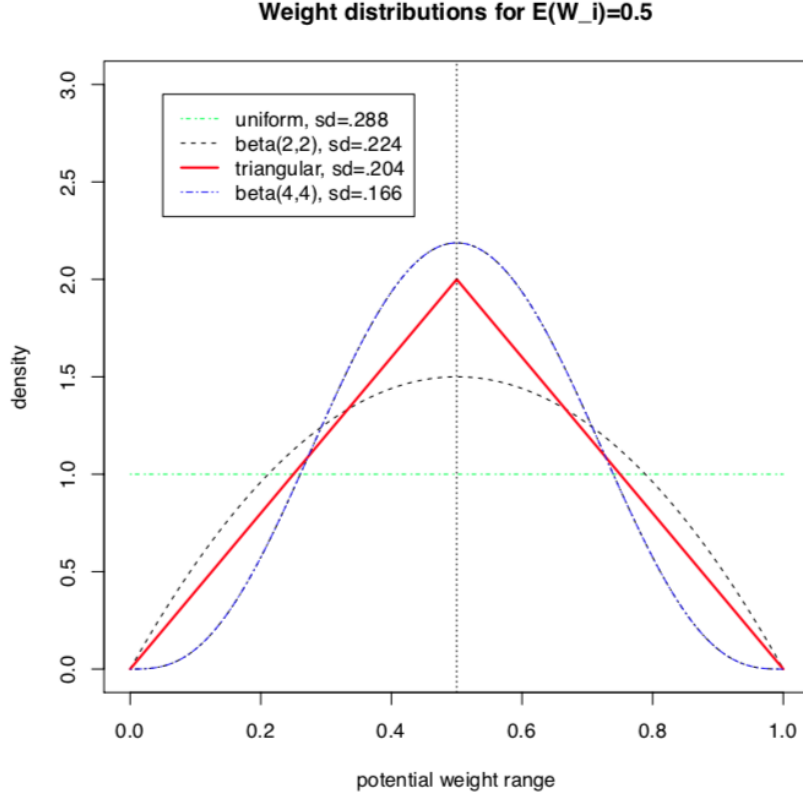


Fig. 4.1: Four models of uncertain significance weights

It is worthwhile noticing that these four uncertainty models all admit the same expected value, $E(W_j)$, however, with a respective variance which goes decreasing from $1/3$, to $1/9$ of the square of $E(W)$ (see Fig. 4.1).

4.2 Bipolar-valued likelihood of “at least as good as” situations

Let $A = \{x, y, z, \dots\}$ be a finite set of n potential decision actions, evaluated on $F = \{1, \dots, m\}$, a *finite* and *coherent* family of m performance criteria. On each criterion j in F , the decision actions are evaluated on a real performance scale $[0; M_j]$, supporting an upper-closed indifference threshold ind_j and a lower-closed preference threshold pr_j such that $0 \leq ind_j < pr_j \leq M_j$. The marginal performance of object x on criterion j is denoted x_j . Each criterion j is thus characterising a marginal double threshold order \geq_j on A (see Fig. 4.2):

$$r(x \geq_j y) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } x_j - y_j \leq ind_j, \\ -1 & \text{if } x_j - y_j \leq pr_j, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Semantics of the marginal bipolar-valued characteristic function:

- +1 signifies x is performing at least as good as y on criterion j ,
- -1 signifies that x is not performing at least as good as y on criterion j ,

- 0 signifies that it is unclear whether, on criterion j , x is performing at least as good as y .

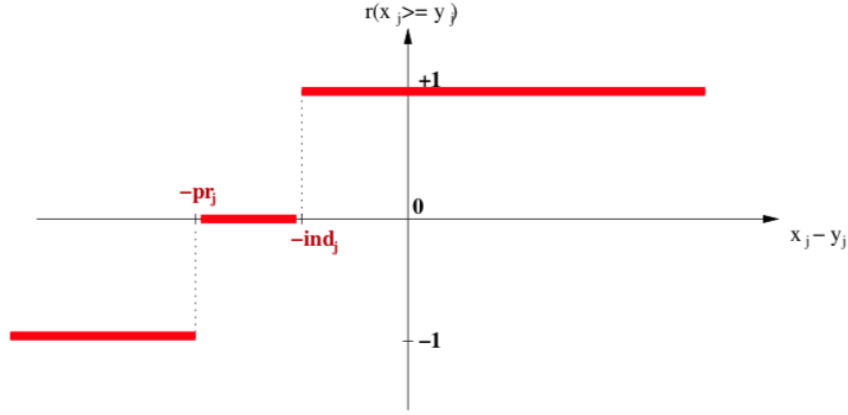


Fig. 4.2: Bipolar-valued outranking characteristic function

Each criterion j in F contributes the random significance W_j of his ‘at least as good as’ characteristic $r(x \geq_j y)$ to the global characteristic $\tilde{r}(x \geq y)$ in the following way:

$$\tilde{r}(x \geq y) = \sum_{j \in F} W_j \times r(x \geq_j y)$$

Thus, $\tilde{r}(x \geq y)$ becomes a simple sum of positive or negative independent random variables with known means and variances where $\tilde{r}(x \geq y) > 0$ signifies x is globally performing at least as good as y , $\tilde{r}(x \geq y) < 0$ signifies that x is not globally performing at least as good as y , and $\tilde{r}(x \geq y) = 0$ signifies that it is unclear whether x is globally performing at least as good as y .

From the *Central Limit Theorem* (CLT), we know that such a sum of random variables leads, with m getting large, to a Gaussian distribution Y with

$$E(Y) = \sum_{j \in F} E(W_j) \times r(x \geq_j y) \text{ and}$$

$$V(Y) = \sum_{j \in F} V(W_j) \times |r(x \geq_j y)|.$$

And the **likelihood of validation**, respectively **invalidation** of an ‘at least as good as’ situation, denoted $lh(x \geq y)$, may hence be assessed by the probability $P(Y > 0) = 1.0 - P(Y \leq 0)$ that Y takes a positive, resp. $P(Y < 0)$ takes a negative value. In the bipolar-valued case here, we can judiciously make usage of the standard Gaussian **error function**, i.e. the bipolar $2P(Z) - 1.0$ version of the standard Gaussian $P(Z)$ probability distribution function:

$$lh(x \geq y) = -\text{erf}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{-E(Y)}{\sqrt{V(Y)}}\right)$$

The range of the bipolar-valued $lh(x \geq y)$ hence becomes $[-1.0; +1.0]$, and $-lh(x \geq y) = lh(x \not\geq y)$, i.e. a **negative likelihood** represents the likelihood of the correspondent **negated** ‘at least as good as’ situation. A likelihood of $+1.0$ (resp. -1.0) means the corresponding preferential situation appears **certainly validated** (resp. **invalidated**).

Example

Let x and y be evaluated wrt 7 equisignificant criteria; Four criteria positively support that x is *at least as good performing* than y and three criteria support that x is *not at least as good performing* than y . Suppose $E(W_j) = w$ for $j = 1, \dots, 7$ and $W_j \sim \text{Tr}(0, 2w, w)$ for $j = 1, \dots, 7$. The expected value of the global ‘*at least as good as*’ characteristic value becomes: $E(\tilde{r}(x \geq y)) = 4w - 3w = w$ with a variance $V(\tilde{r}(x \geq y)) = 7\frac{1}{6}w^2$.

If $w = 1$, $E(\tilde{r}(x \geq y)) = 1$ and $sd(\tilde{r}(x \geq y)) = 1.08$. By the CLT, the bipolar likelihood of the *at least as good performing* situation becomes: $lh(x \geq y) = 0.66$, which corresponds to a global support of $(0.66 + 1.0)/2 = 83\%$ of the criteria significance weights.

A *Monte Carlo* simulation with 10 000 runs empirically confirms the effective convergence to a Gaussian (see Fig. 4.3 realised with *gretl*⁴).

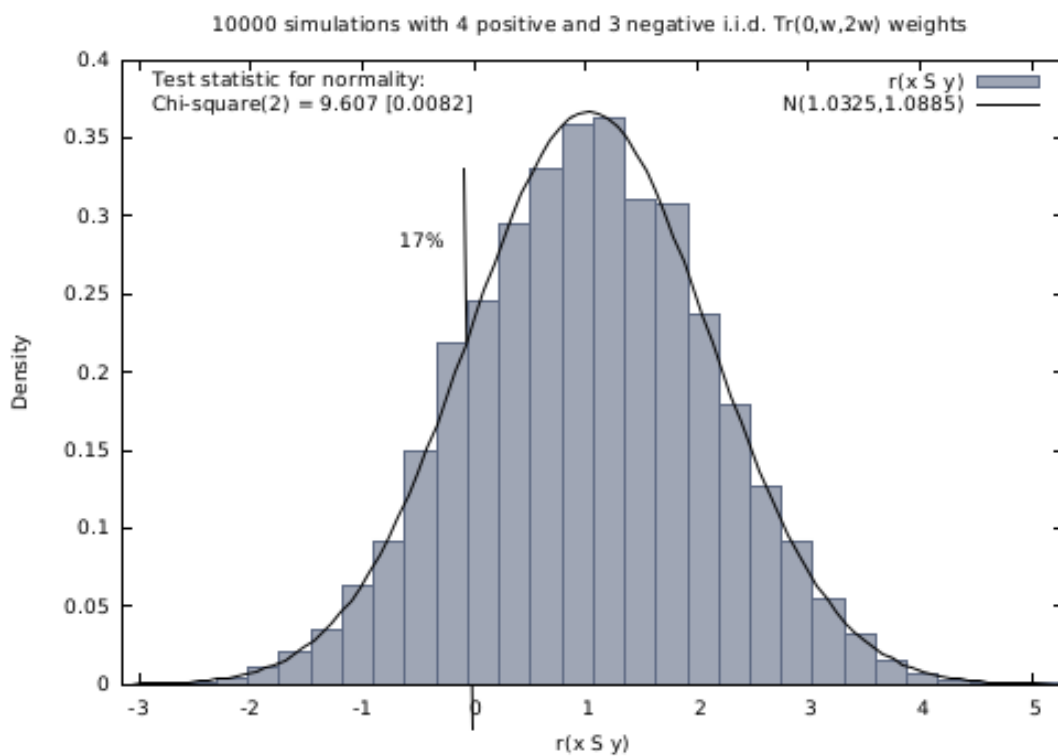


Fig. 4.3: Distribution of 10 000 random outranking characteristic values

Indeed, $\tilde{r}(x \geq y) \rightsquigarrow Y = \mathcal{N}(1.03, 1.089)$, with an empirical probability of observing a negative majority margin of about 17%.

⁴ The Gnu Regression, Econometrics and Time-series Library <http://gretl.sourceforge.net/> .

4.3 Confidence level of outranking situations

Now, following the classical outranking approach (see [BIS-2013p]), we may say, from an epistemic perspective, that decision action x **outranks** decision action y at *confidence level* α %, if

1. an expected majority of criteria validates, at confidence level α % or higher, a global ‘*at least as good as*’ situation between x and y , and
2. no considerably less performing is observed on a discordant criterion.

Dually, decision action x **does not outrank** decision action y at confidence level α %, if

1. an expected majority of criteria at confidence level α % or higher, invalidates a global ‘*at least as good as*’ situation between x and y , and
2. no considerably better performing situation is observed on a concordant criterion.

Time for a coded example

Let us consider the following random performance tableau.

```

1 >>> from outrankingDigraphs import *
2 >>> t = RandomPerformanceTableau(numberOfActions=7,numberOfCriteria=7,seed=100)
3 >>> t.showPerformanceTableau(Transposed=True)
4 *----- performance tableau -----*
5 criteria | weights | 'a1'  'a2'  'a3'  'a4'  'a5'  'a6'  'a7'
6 -----|-----
7 'g1'  |      1 | 15.17 44.51 57.87 58.00 24.22 29.10 96.58
8 'g2'  |      1 | 82.29 43.90  NA  35.84 29.12 34.79 62.22
9 'g3'  |      1 | 44.23 19.10 27.73 41.46 22.41 21.52 56.90
10 'g4'  |      1 | 46.37 16.22 21.53 51.16 77.01 39.35 32.06
11 'g5'  |      1 | 47.67 14.81 79.70 67.48  NA  90.72 80.16
12 'g6'  |      1 | 69.62 45.49 22.03 33.83 31.83  NA  48.80
13 'g7'  |      1 | 82.88 41.66 12.82 21.92 75.74 15.45  6.05

```

For the corresponding confident outranking digraph, we require a confidence level of $\alpha = 90\%$. The `outrankingDigraphs.ConfidentBipolarOutrankingDigraph` class provides such a construction.

```

1 >>> g90 = ConfidentBipolarOutrankingDigraph(t,confidence=90)
2 >>> print(g90)
3 *----- Object instance description -----*
4 Instance class      : ConfidentBipolarOutrankingDigraph
5 Instance name       : rel_randomperftab_CLT
6 # Actions           : 7
7 # Criteria          : 7
8 Size                : 15
9 Determinateness (%) : 62.07
10 Valuation domain    : [-1.00;1.00]
11 Attributes          : ['name', 'bipolarConfidenceLevel',
12                        'distribution', 'betaParameter', 'actions',

```

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```
13         'order', 'valuationdomain', 'criteria',
14         'evaluation', 'concordanceRelation',
15         'vetos', 'negativeVetos',
16         'largePerformanceDifferencesCount',
17         'likelihoods', 'confidenceCutLevel',
18         'relation', 'gamma', 'notGamma']

1 >>> g90.showRelationTable(LikelihoodDenotation=True)
2 * ---- Outranking Relation Table ----
3 r/(lh) | 'a1'      'a2'      'a3'      'a4'      'a5'      'a6'      'a7'
4 -----|-----
5 'a1' | +0.00  +0.71  +0.29  +0.29  +0.29  +0.29  +0.00
6      | ( - )  (+1.00) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.65)
7 'a2' | -0.71  +0.00  -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  +0.29  -0.57
8      | (-1.00) ( - ) (-0.95) (-0.65) (+0.73) (+0.95) (-1.00)
9 'a3' | -0.29  +0.29  +0.00  -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  -0.29
10     | (-0.95) (+0.95) ( - ) (-0.95) (-0.73) (-0.00) (-0.95)
11 'a4' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.57  +0.00  +0.29  +0.57  -0.43
12     | (-0.00) (+0.65) (+1.00) ( - ) (+0.95) (+1.00) (-0.99)
13 'a5' | -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.29  -0.29
14     | (-0.95) (-0.00) (+0.73) (-0.00) ( - ) (+0.99) (-0.95)
15 'a6' | -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00
16     | (-0.95) (-0.00) (+0.73) (-0.95) (+0.73) ( - ) (-0.00)
17 'a7' | +0.00  +0.71  +0.57  +0.43  +0.29  +0.00  +0.00
18     | (-0.65) (+1.00) (+1.00) (+0.99) (+0.95) (-0.00) ( - )
19 Valuation domain   : [-1.000; +1.000]
20 Uncertainty model  : triangular(a=2.0,b=2.0)
21 Likelihood domain  : [-1.0;+1.0]
22 Confidence level   : 0.80 (90.0%)
23 Confident majority : 0.14 (57.1%)
24 Determinateness    : 0.24 (62.1%)
```

The resulting 90% confident expected outranking relation is shown above. The (lh) figures, indicated in the table above, correspond to bipolar likelihoods and the required bipolar confidence level equals $(0.90+1.0)/2 = 0.80$ (see Line 22 above). Action ‘ $a1$ ’ thus confidently outranks all other actions, except ‘ $a7$ ’ where the actual likelihood (+0.65) is lower than the required one (0.80) and we furthermore observe a considerable counter-performance on criterion ‘ $g1$ ’.

Notice also the lack of confidence in the outranking situations we observe between action ‘ $a2$ ’ and actions ‘ $a4$ ’ and ‘ $a5$ ’. In the deterministic case we would have $r(a2 \geq a4) = -0.143$ and $r(a2 \geq a5) = +0.143$. All outranking situations with a characteristic value lower or equal to $\text{abs}(0.143)$, i.e. a majority support of $1.143/2 = 57.1\%$ and less, appear indeed to be *not confident* at level 90% (see Line 23 above).

We may draw the corresponding strict 90%-confident outranking digraph, oriented by its initial and terminal prekernels (see Fig. 4.4).

```
1 >>> gcd90 = ~ (-g90)
```

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```
2 >>> gcd90.showPreKernels()
3 *--- Computing preKernels ---*
4 Dominant preKernels :
5 ['a1', 'a7']
6     independence : 0.0
7     dominance    : 0.2857
8     absorbency   : -0.7143
9     covering     : 0.800
10 Absorbent preKernels :
11 ['a2', 'a5', 'a6']
12     independence : 0.0
13     dominance    : -0.2857
14     absorbency   : 0.2857
15     covered     : 0.583
16 >>> gcd90.exportGraphViz(fileName='confidentOutranking',
17 ...     bestChoice=['a1', 'a7'],worstChoice=['a2', 'a5', 'a6'])
18 *----- exporting a dot file dor GraphViz tools -----*
19 Exporting to confidentOutranking.dot
20 dot -Grankdir=BT -Tpng confidentOutranking.dot -o confidentOutranking.png
```

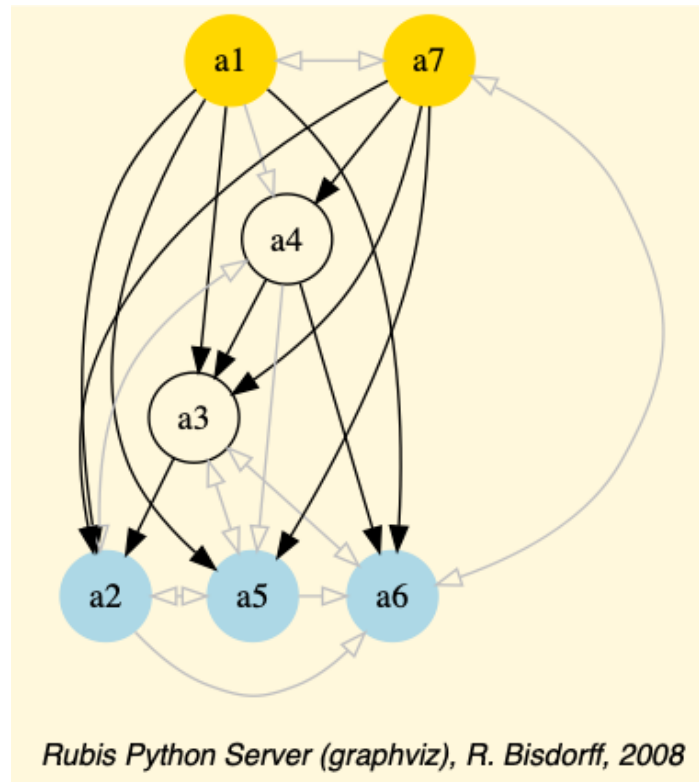


Fig. 4.4: Strict 90%-confident outranking digraph oriented by its prekernels

Now, what becomes this 90%-confident outranking digraph when we require a stronger confidence level of, say 99% ?


```

1 >>> g99 = ConfidentBipolarOutrankingDigraph(t,confidence=99)
2 >>> g99.showRelationTable()
3 * ---- Outranking Relation Table ----
4 r/(lh) | 'a1'      'a2'      'a3'      'a4'      'a5'      'a6'      'a7'
5 -----|-----
6 'a1' | +0.00  +0.71  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00
7      | ( - )  (+1.00) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.95) (+0.65)
8 'a2' | -0.71  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  -0.57
9      | (-1.00) ( - ) (-0.95) (-0.65) (+0.73) (+0.95) (-1.00)
10 'a3' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00
11      | (-0.95) (+0.95) ( - ) (-0.95) (-0.73) (-0.00) (-0.95)
12 'a4' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.57  +0.00  +0.00  +0.57  -0.43
13      | (-0.00) (+0.65) (+1.00) ( - ) (+0.95) (+1.00) (-0.99)
14 'a5' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.29  +0.00
15      | (-0.95) (-0.00) (+0.73) (-0.00) ( - ) (+0.99) (-0.95)
16 'a6' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00
17      | (-0.95) (-0.00) (+0.73) (-0.95) (+0.73) ( - ) (-0.00)
18 'a7' | +0.00  +0.71  +0.57  +0.43  +0.00  +0.00  +0.00
19      | (-0.65) (+1.00) (+1.00) (+0.99) (+0.95) (-0.00) ( - )
20 Valuation domain : [-1.000; +1.000]
21 Uncertainty model : triangular(a=2.0,b=2.0)
22 Likelihood domain : [-1.0;+1.0]
23 Confidence level : 0.98 (99.0%)
24 Confident majority : 0.29 (64.3%)
25 Determinateness : 0.13 (56.6%)

```

At 99% confidence, the minimal required significance majority support amounts to 64.3% (see Line 24 above). As a result, most outranking situations don't get anymore validated, like the outranking situations between action 'a1' and actions 'a3', 'a4', 'a5' and 'a6' (see Line 5 above). The overall epistemic determination of the digraph consequently drops from 62.1% to 56.6% (see Line 25).

Finally, what becomes the previous 90%-confident outranking digraph if the uncertainty concerning the criteria significance weights is modelled with a larger variance, like *uniform* variates.

```

1 >>> gu90 = ConfidentBipolarOutrankingDigraph(t,confidence=90,distribution=
2   ↪ 'uniform')
3 >>> gu90.showRelationTable()
4 * ---- Outranking Relation Table ----
5 r/(lh) | 'a1'      'a2'      'a3'      'a4'      'a5'      'a6'      'a7'
6 -----|-----
7 'a1' | +0.00  +0.71  +0.29  +0.29  +0.29  +0.29  +0.00
8      | ( - )  (+1.00) (+0.84) (+0.84) (+0.84) (+0.84) (+0.49)
9 'a2' | -0.71  +0.00  -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  +0.29  -0.57
10      | (-1.00) ( - ) (-0.84) (-0.49) (+0.56) (+0.84) (-1.00)
11 'a3' | -0.29  +0.29  +0.00  -0.29  +0.00  +0.00  -0.29
12      | (-0.84) (+0.84) ( - ) (-0.84) (-0.56) (-0.00) (-0.84)
13 'a4' | +0.00  +0.00  +0.57  +0.00  +0.29  +0.57  -0.43
14      | (-0.00) (+0.49) (+1.00) ( - ) (+0.84) (+1.00) (-0.95)

```

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```
14 'a5' | -0.29 +0.00 +0.00 +0.00 +0.00 +0.29 -0.29
15      | (-0.84) (-0.00) (+0.56) (-0.00) ( - ) (+0.92) (-0.84)
16 'a6' | -0.29 +0.00 +0.00 -0.29 +0.00 +0.00 +0.00
17      | (-0.84) (-0.00) (+0.56) (-0.84) (+0.56) ( - ) (-0.00)
18 'a7' | +0.00 +0.71 +0.57 +0.43 +0.29 +0.00 +0.00
19      | (-0.49) (+1.00) (+1.00) (+0.95) (+0.84) (-0.00) ( - )
20 Valuation domain : [-1.000; +1.000]
21 Uncertainty model : uniform(a=2.0,b=2.0)
22 Likelihood domain : [-1.0;+1.0]
23 Confidence level : 0.80 (90.0%)
24 Confident majority : 0.14 (57.1%)
25 Determinateness : 0.24 (62.1%)
```

Despite lower likelihood values (see the *g90* relation table above), we keep the same confident majority level of 57.1% (see Line 24 above)and, hence, also the same 90%-confident outranking digraph.

For concluding, it is worthwhile noticing again that it is the *neutral* value of our bipolar-valued epistemic logic that allows us to easily handle alpha% confidence or not of outranking situations when confronted with uncertain criteria significances. Remarkable furthermore is the usage, the standard Gaussian error function provides by delivering *signed likelihood values* immediately concerning either a *positive* relational statement, or when negative, its negated version.

Back to *Content Table*

5 Robustness analysis of bipolar-valued outranking digraphs

- *Cardinal or ordinal criteria significances*
- *Qualifying the stability of outranking situations*
- *Computing the stability denotation of outranking situations*
- *Robust bipolar-valued outranking digraphs*

5.1 Cardinal or ordinal criteria significances

The required cardinal significance weights of the performance criteria represent the *Achilles'* heel of the outranking approach. Rarely will indeed a decision maker be cognitively competent for suggesting precise decimal-valued criteria significance weights. More often, the decision problem will involve more or less equally important decision objectives with more or less equi-significant criteria. A random example of such a decision problem may be generated with the `randomPerfTabs.Random3ObjectivesPerformanceTableau` class.

Listing 5.1: Random 3 Objectives Performance Tableau

```
1 >>> from randomPerfTabs import Random3ObjectivesPerformanceTableau
2 >>> t = Random3ObjectivesPerformanceTableau(numberOfActions=7,\
3 ...                                         numberOfCriteria=9,seed=102)
4 >>> t
5 *----- PerformanceTableau instance description -----*
6 Instance class      : Random3ObjectivesPerformanceTableau
7 Seed               : 102
8 Instance name       : random3ObjectivesPerfTab
9 # Actions           : 7
10 # Objectives        : 3
11 # Criteria          : 9
12 Attributes         : ['name', 'valueDigits', 'BigData', 'OrdinalScales',
13                       'missingDataProbability', 'negativeWeightProbability',
14                       'randomSeed', 'sumWeights', 'valuationPrecision',
15                       'commonScale', 'objectiveSupportingTypes', 'actions',
16                       'objectives', 'criteriaWeightMode', 'criteria',
17                       'evaluation', 'weightPreorder']
18 >>> t.showObjectives()
19 *----- show objectives -----"
20 Eco: Economical aspect
21     ec1 criterion of objective Eco 8
22     ec4 criterion of objective Eco 8
23     ec8 criterion of objective Eco 8
24     Total weight: 24.00 (3 criteria)
25 Soc: Societal aspect
26     so2 criterion of objective Soc 12
27     so7 criterion of objective Soc 12
28     Total weight: 24.00 (2 criteria)
29 Env: Environmental aspect
30     en3 criterion of objective Env 6
31     en5 criterion of objective Env 6
32     en6 criterion of objective Env 6
33     en9 criterion of objective Env 6
34     Total weight: 24.00 (4 criteria)
```

In this example (see [Listing 5.1](#)), we face seven decision alternatives that are assessed with respect to three *equally important* decision objectives concerning: first, an *economical* aspect with a coalition of three performance criteria of significance weight 8, secondly, a *societal* aspect with a coalition of two performance criteria of significance weight 12, and

thirdly, an *environmental* aspect with a coalition four performance criteria of significance weight 6.

The question we tackle is the following: How *dependent* on the actual values of the significance weights appears the corresponding bipolar-valued outranking digraph ? In the previous section, we assumed that the criteria significance weights were random variables. Here, we shall assume that we know for sure only the preordering of the significance weights. In our example we see indeed three increasing weight equivalence classes (Listing 5.2).

Listing 5.2: Significance weights preorder

```
1 >>> t.showWeightPreorder()
2 ['en3', 'en5', 'en6', 'en9'] (6) <
3 ['ec1', 'ec4', 'ec8'] (8) <
4 ['so2', 'so7'] (12)
```

How stable appear now the outranking situations when assuming only ordinal significance weights?

5.2 Qualifying the stability of outranking situations

Let us construct the normalized bipolar-valued outranking digraph corresponding with the previous 3 Objectives performance tableau *t*.

Listing 5.3: Example Bipolar Outranking Digraph

```
1 >>> from outrankingDigraphs import BipolarOutrankingDigraph
2 >>> g = BipolarOutrankingDigraph(t, Normalized=True)
3 >>> g.showRelationTable()
4 * ---- Relation Table ----
5 r(>=) | 'a1'  'a2'  'a3'  'a4'  'a5'  'a6'  'a7'
6 -----|-----
7 'a1' | +1.00 -0.42 +0.00 -0.69 +0.39 +0.11 -0.06
8 'a2' | +0.58 +1.00 +0.83 +0.00 +0.58 +0.58 +0.58
9 'a3' | +0.25 -0.33 +1.00 +0.00 +0.50 +1.00 +0.25
10 'a4' | +0.78 +0.00 +0.61 +1.00 +1.00 +1.00 +0.67
11 'a5' | -0.11 -0.50 -0.25 -0.89 +1.00 +0.11 -0.14
12 'a6' | +0.22 -0.42 +0.00 -1.00 +0.17 +1.00 -0.11
13 'a7' | +0.22 -0.50 +0.17 -0.06 +0.78 +0.42 +1.00
```

We notice on the principal diagonal, the *certainly validated* reflexive terms +1.00 (see Listing 5.3 Lines 7-13). Now, we know for sure that *unanimous* outranking situations are completely independent of the significance weights. Similarly, all outranking situations that are supported by a *majority* significance in *each* coalition of equi-significant criteria are also in fact independent of the actual importance we attach to each individual criteria coalition. But we are also able to test (see [BIS-2014p]) if an outranking situation is independent of all the potential significance weights that respect the given *preordering* of the weights. Mind that there are, for sure, always outranking situations that are indeed *dependent* on the very values we allocate to the criteria significances.

Such a stability denotation of outranking situations is readily available with the common `showRelationTable()` method.

Listing 5.4: Relation Table with Stability Denotation

```

1 >>> g.showRelationTable(StabilityDenotation=True)
2 * ---- Relation Table ----
3 r/(stab) | 'a1' 'a2' 'a3' 'a4' 'a5' 'a6' 'a7'
4 -----|-----
5 'a1' | +1.00 -0.42 +0.00 -0.69 +0.39 +0.11 -0.06
6      | (+4) (-2) (+0) (-3) (+2) (+2) (-1)
7 'a2' | +0.58 +1.00 +0.83 0.00 +0.58 +0.58 +0.58
8      | (+2) (+4) (+3) (+2) (+2) (+2) (+2)
9 'a3' | +0.25 -0.33 +1.00 0.00 +0.50 +1.00 +0.25
10     | (+2) (-2) (+4) (0) (+2) (+2) (+1)
11 'a4' | +0.78 0.00 +0.61 +1.00 +1.00 +1.00 +0.67
12     | (+3) (-1) (+3) (+4) (+4) (+4) (+2)
13 'a5' | -0.11 -0.50 -0.25 -0.89 +1.00 +0.11 -0.14
14     | (-2) (-2) (-2) (-3) (+4) (+2) (-2)
15 'a6' | +0.22 -0.42 0.00 -1.00 +0.17 +1.00 -0.11
16     | (+2) (-2) (+1) (-2) (+2) (+4) (-2)
17 'a7' | +0.22 -0.50 +0.17 -0.06 +0.78 +0.42 +1.00
18     | (+2) (-2) (+1) (-1) (+3) (+2) (+4)

```

We may thus distinguish the following bipolar-valued stability levels:

- **+4 | -4** : *unanimous* outranking | outranked situation. The pairwise trivial reflexive outrankings, for instance, all show this stability level;
- **+3 | -3** : *validated* outranking | outranked situation in *each* coalition of equi-significant criteria. This is, for instance, the case for the outranking situation observed between alternatives *a1* and *a4* (see Listing 5.4 Lines 6 and 12);
- **+2 | -2** : outranking | outranked situation *validated* with *all* potential significance weights that are *compatible* with the given significance *preorder* (see Listing 5.2. This is case for the comparison of alternatives *a1* and *a2* (see Listing 5.4 Lines 6 and 8);
- **+1 | -1** : *validated* outranking | outranked situation with the given significance weights, a situation we may observe between alternatives *a3* and *a7* (see Listing 5.4 Lines 10 and 16);
- **0** : *indeterminate* relational situation, like the one between alternatives *a1* and *a3* (see Listing 5.4 Lines 6 and 10).

It is worthwhile noticing that in the one limit case where all performance criteria appear equi-significant, i.e. there is given a single equivalence class containing all the performance criteria, we may only distinguish stability levels +4 and +3 (rep. -4 and -3). Furthermore, when in such a case an outranking (resp. outranked) situation is validated at level +3 (resp. -3), no potential preordering of the criteria significances exists that could qualify the same situation as outranked (resp. outranking) at level -2 (resp. +2).

In the other limit case, when all performance criteria admit different significances, i.e. the

significance weights may be linearly ordered, no stability level +3 or -3 may be observed.

As mentioned above, all *reflexive* comparisons confirm an unanimous outranking situation: all decision alternatives are indeed trivially *as well performing as* themselves. But there appear also two non reflexive unanimous outranking situations: when comparing, for instance, alternative a_4 with alternatives a_5 and a_6 (see Listing 5.4 Lines 14 and 16).

Let us inspect the details of how alternatives a_4 and a_5 compare.

Listing 5.5: Comparing Decision Alternatives a_4 and a_5

```

1 >>> g.showPairwiseComparison('a4','a5')
2 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
3 Comparing actions : (a4, a5)
4 crit. wght. g(x) g(y) diff | ind pref r() |
5 ec1 8.00 85.19 46.75 +38.44 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
6 ec4 8.00 72.26 8.96 +63.30 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
7 ec8 8.00 44.62 35.91 +8.71 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
8 en3 6.00 80.81 31.05 +49.76 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
9 en5 6.00 49.69 29.52 +20.17 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
10 en6 6.00 66.21 31.22 +34.99 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
11 en9 6.00 50.92 9.83 +41.09 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
12 so2 12.00 49.05 12.36 +36.69 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
13 so7 12.00 55.57 44.92 +10.65 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
14 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: +72.00

```

Alternative a_4 is indeed performing unanimously *at least as well as* alternative a_5 : $r(a_4 \text{ outranks } a_5) = +1.00$ (see Listing 5.4 Line 11).

The converse comparison does not, however, deliver such an unanimous *outranked* situation. This comparison only qualifies at stability level -3 (see Listing 5.4 Line 13 $r(a_5 \text{ outranks } a_4) = 0.89$).

Listing 5.6: Comparing Decision Alternatives a_5 and a_4

```

1 >>> g.showPairwiseComparison('a5','a4')
2 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
3 Comparing actions : (a5, a4)
4 crit. wght. g(x) g(y) diff | ind pref r() |
5 ec1 8.00 46.75 85.19 -38.44 | 5.00 10.00 -8.00 |
6 ec4 8.00 8.96 72.26 -63.30 | 5.00 10.00 -8.00 |
7 ec8 8.00 35.91 44.62 -8.71 | 5.00 10.00 +0.00 |
8 en3 6.00 31.05 80.81 -49.76 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
9 en5 6.00 29.52 49.69 -20.17 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
10 en6 6.00 31.22 66.21 -34.99 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
11 en9 6.00 9.83 50.92 -41.09 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
12 so2 12.00 12.36 49.05 -36.69 | 5.00 10.00 -12.00 |
13 so7 12.00 44.92 55.57 -10.65 | 5.00 10.00 -12.00 |
14 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: -64.00

```

Indeed, on criterion $ec8$ we observe a small negative performance difference of -8.71 (see Listing 5.6 Line 7) which is effectively below the supposed *preference discrimination threshold* of 10.00. Yet, the outranked situation is supported by a majority of crite-

ria in each decision objective. Hence, the reported preferential situation is completely independent of any chosen significance weights.

Let us now consider a comparison, like the one between alternatives $a2$ and $a1$, that is only qualified at stability level $+2$, resp. -2 .

Listing 5.7: Comparing Decision Alternatives $a2$ and $a1$

```

1 >>> g.showPairwiseOutrankings('a2','a1')
2 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
3 Comparing actions : (a2, a1)
4 crit. wght.  g(x)  g(y)   diff | ind  pref   r()   |
5 ec1   8.00  89.77  38.11 +51.66 | 5.00  10.00  +8.00  |
6 ec4   8.00  86.00  22.65 +63.35 | 5.00  10.00  +8.00  |
7 ec8   8.00  89.43  77.02 +12.41 | 5.00  10.00  +8.00  |
8 en3   6.00  20.79  58.16 -37.37 | 5.00  10.00  -6.00  |
9 en5   6.00  23.83  31.40  -7.57 | 5.00  10.00  +0.00  |
10 en6   6.00  18.66  11.41  +7.25 | 5.00  10.00  +6.00  |
11 en9   6.00  26.65  44.37 -17.72 | 5.00  10.00  -6.00  |
12 so2  12.00  89.12  22.43 +66.69 | 5.00  10.00 +12.00  |
13 so7  12.00  84.73  28.41 +56.32 | 5.00  10.00 +12.00  |
14 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: +42.00
15 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
16 Comparing actions : (a1, a2)
17 crit. wght.  g(x)  g(y)   diff | ind  pref   r()   |
18 ec1   8.00  38.11  89.77 -51.66 | 5.00  10.00  -8.00  |
19 ec4   8.00  22.65  86.00 -63.35 | 5.00  10.00  -8.00  |
20 ec8   8.00  77.02  89.43 -12.41 | 5.00  10.00  -8.00  |
21 en3   6.00  58.16  20.79 +37.37 | 5.00  10.00  +6.00  |
22 en5   6.00  31.40  23.83  +7.57 | 5.00  10.00  +6.00  |
23 en6   6.00  11.41  18.66  -7.25 | 5.00  10.00  +0.00  |
24 en9   6.00  44.37  26.65 +17.72 | 5.00  10.00  +6.00  |
25 so2  12.00  22.43  89.12 -66.69 | 5.00  10.00 -12.00  |
26 so7  12.00  28.41  84.73 -56.32 | 5.00  10.00 -12.00  |
27 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: -30.00

```

In both comparisons, the performances observed with respect to the environmental decision objective are not validating with a significant majority the otherwise unanimous outranking, resp. outranked situations. Hence, the stability of the reported preferential situations is in fact dependent on choosing significance weights that are compatible with the given significance weights preorder (see *Significance weights preorder*).

Let us finally inspect a comparison that is only qualified at stability level $+1$, like the one between alternatives $a7$ and $a3$ (see Listing 5.8).

Listing 5.8: Comparing Decision Alternatives $a7$ and $a3$

```

1 >>> g.showPairwiseOutrankings('a7','a3')
2 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
3 Comparing actions : (a7, a3)
4 crit. wght.  g(x)  g(y)   diff | ind  pref   r()   |
5 ec1   8.00  15.33  80.19 -64.86 | 5.00  10.00  -8.00  |

```

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(continued from previous page)

```
6 ec4 8.00 36.31 68.70 -32.39 | 5.00 10.00 -8.00 |
7 ec8 8.00 38.31 91.94 -53.63 | 5.00 10.00 -8.00 |
8 en3 6.00 30.70 46.78 -16.08 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
9 en5 6.00 35.52 27.25 +8.27 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
10 en6 6.00 69.71 1.65 +68.06 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
11 en9 6.00 13.10 14.85 -1.75 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
12 so2 12.00 68.06 58.85 +9.21 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
13 so7 12.00 58.45 15.49 +42.96 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
14 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: +12.00
15 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
16 Comparing actions : (a3, a7)
17 crit. wght. g(x) g(y) diff | ind pref r() |
18 ec1 8.00 80.19 15.33 +64.86 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
19 ec4 8.00 68.70 36.31 +32.39 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
20 ec8 8.00 91.94 38.31 +53.63 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
21 en3 6.00 46.78 30.70 +16.08 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
22 en5 6.00 27.25 35.52 -8.27 | 5.00 10.00 +0.00 |
23 en6 6.00 1.65 69.71 -68.06 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
24 en9 6.00 14.85 13.10 +1.75 | 5.00 10.00 +6.00 |
25 so2 12.00 58.85 68.06 -9.21 | 5.00 10.00 +0.00 |
26 so7 12.00 15.49 58.45 -42.96 | 5.00 10.00 -12.00 |
27 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: +18.00
```

In both cases, choosing significances that are just compatible with the given weights preorder will not always result in positively validated outranking situations.

5.3 Computing the stability denotation of outranking situations

Stability levels 4 and 3 are easy to detect, the case given. Detecting a stability level 2 is far less obvious. Now, it is precisely again the bipolar-valued epistemic characteristic domain that will give us a way to implement an effective test for stability level +2 and -2 (see [BIS-2004_1p], [BIS-2004_2p]).

Let us consider the significance equivalence classes we observe in the given weights preorder. Here we observe three classes: 6, 8, and 12, in increasing order (see Listing 5.2). In the pairwise comparisons shown above these equivalence classes may appear positively or negatively, besides the indeterminate significance of value 0. We thus get the following ordered bipolar list of significance weights:

$$W = [-12, -8, -6, 0, 6, 8, 12].$$

In all the pairwise marginal comparisons shown in the previous Section, we may observe that each one of the nine criteria assigns one precise item out of this list W . Let us denote $q[i]$ the number of criteria assigning item $W[i]$, and $Q[i]$ the cumulative sums of these $q[i]$ counts, where i is an index in the range of the length of list W .

In the comparison of alternatives $a2$ and $a1$, for instance (see Listing 5.7), we observe the following counts:

$W[i]$	-12	-8	-6	0	6	8	12
$q[i]$	0	0	2	1	1	3	2
$Q[i]$	0	0	2	3	4	7	9

Let use denote $-q$ and $-Q$ the reversed versions of the q and the Q lists. We thus obtain the following result.

$W[i]$	-12	-8	-6	0	6	8	12
$-q[i]$	2	3	1	1	2	0	0
$-Q[i]$	2	5	6	7	9	9	9

Now, a pairwise outranking situation will be qualified at stability level +2, i.e. positively validated with any significance weights that are compatible with the given weights pre-order, when for all i , we observe $Q[i] \leq -Q[i]$ and there exists one i such that $Q[i] < -Q[i]$. Similarly, a pairwise outranked situation will be qualified at stability level -2, when for all i , we observe $Q[i] \geq -Q[i]$ and there exists one i such that $Q[i] > -Q[i]$ (see [BIS-2004_2p]).

We may verify, for instance, that the outranking situation observed between $a2$ and $a1$ does indeed verify this *first order distributional dominance* condition.

$W[i]$	-12	-8	-6	0	6	8	12
$Q[i]$	0	0	2	3	4	7	9
$-Q[i]$	2	5	6	7	9	9	9

Notice that outranking situations qualified at stability levels 4 and 3, evidently also verify the stability level 2 test above. The outranking situation between alternatives $a7$ and $a3$ does not, however, verify this test (see Listing 5.8).

$W[i]$	-12	-8	-6	0	6	8	12
$q[i]$	0	3	1	0	3	0	2
$Q[i]$	0	3	4	4	7	7	9
$-Q[i]$	2	2	5	5	6	9	9

This time, *not* all the $Q[i]$ are *lower or equal* than the corresponding $-Q[i]$ terms. Hence the outranking situation between $a7$ and $a3$ is not positively validated with all potential significance weights that are compatible with the given weights preorder.

Using this stability denotation, we may, hence, define the following **robust** version of a bipolar-valued outranking digraph.

5.4 Robust bipolar-valued outranking digraphs

We say that decision alternative x **robustly outranks** decision alternative y when

- x positively outranks y at stability level *higher or equal to 2* and we may not observe any *considerable counter-performance* of x on a discordant criterion.

Dually, we say that decision alternative x **does not robustly outrank** decision alternative y when

- x negatively outranks y at stability level *lower or equal to -2* and we may not observe any *considerable better performance* of x on a discordant criterion.

The corresponding *robust* outranking digraph may be computed with the `outrankingDigraphs.RobustOutrankingDigraph` class as follows.

Listing 5.9: Robust outranking digraph

```

1  >>> from outrankingDigraphs import RobustOutrankingDigraph
2  >>> rg = RobustOutrankingDigraph(t)
3  >>> rg
4  *----- Object instance description -----*
5  Instance class      : RobustOutrankingDigraph
6  Instance name      : robust_random30bjectivesPerfTab
7  # Actions          : 7
8  # Criteria         : 9
9  Size              : 22
10 Determinateness (%) : 68.45
11 Valuation domain   : [-1.00;1.00]
12 Attributes         : ['name', 'methodData', 'actions', 'order',
13                       'criteria', 'evaluation', 'vetos',
14                       'valuationdomain', 'cardinalRelation',
15                       'ordinalRelation', 'equisignificantRelation',
16                       'unanimousRelation', 'relation',
17                       'gamma', 'notGamma']
18 >>> rg.showRelationTable(StabilityDenotation=True)
19 * ---- Relation Table ----
20 r/(stab) | 'a1'  'a2'  'a3'  'a4'  'a5'  'a6'  'a7'
21 -----|-----
22 'a1'    | +1.00 -0.42 +0.00 -0.69 +0.39 +0.11 +0.00
23          | (+4)  (-2)  (+0)  (-3)  (+2)  (+2)  (-1)
24 'a2'    | +0.58 +1.00 +0.83 +0.00 +0.58 +0.58 +0.58
25          | (+2)  (+4)  (+3)  (+2)  (+2)  (+2)  (+2)
26 'a3'    | +0.25 -0.33 +1.00 +0.00 +0.50 +1.00 +0.00
27          | (+2)  (-2)  (+4)  (+0)  (+2)  (+2)  (+1)
28 'a4'    | +0.78 +0.00 +0.61 +1.00 +1.00 +1.00 +0.67
29          | (+3)  (-1)  (+3)  (+4)  (+4)  (+4)  (+2)
30 'a5'    | -0.11 -0.50 -0.25 -0.89 +1.00 +0.11 -0.14
31          | (-2)  (-2)  (-2)  (-3)  (+4)  (+2)  (-2)
32 'a6'    | +0.22 -0.42 +0.00 -1.00 +0.17 +1.00 -0.11
33          | (+2)  (-2)  (+1)  (-2)  (+2)  (+4)  (-2)
34 'a7'    | +0.22 -0.50 +0.00 +0.00 +0.78 +0.42 +1.00

```

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	(+2)	(-2)	(+1)	(-1)	(+3)	(+2)	(+4)
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

We may notice that all outranking situations, qualified at stability level +1 or -1, are now put to an *indeterminate* status. In the example here, we actually drop three positive outrankings: between $a3$ and $a7$, between $a7$ and $a3$, and between $a6$ and $a3$, where the last situation is actually already put to doubt by a veto situation (see Listing 5.9 Lines 22-35). We drop as well three negative outrankings: between $a1$ and $a7$, between $a4$ and $a2$, and between $a7$ and $a4$ (see Listing 5.9 Lines 22-35).

Notice by the way that outranking (resp. outranked) situations, although qualified at level +2 or +3 (resp. -2 or -3) may nevertheless be put to doubt by considerable performance differences. We may observe such an outranking situation when comparing, for instance, alternatives $a2$ and $a4$ (see Listing 5.9 Lines 24-25).

Listing 5.10: Comparing alternatives $a2$ and $a4$

```

1 >>> rg.showPairwiseComparison('a2','a4')
2 *----- pairwise comparison -----*
3 Comparing actions : (a2, a4)
4 crit. wght. g(x) g(y) diff | ind pref r() | v veto
5 -----
6 ec1 8.00 89.77 85.19 +4.58 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
7 ec4 8.00 86.00 72.26 +13.74 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
8 ec8 8.00 89.43 44.62 +44.81 | 5.00 10.00 +8.00 |
9 en3 6.00 20.79 80.81 -60.02 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 | 60.00 -1.00
10 en5 6.00 23.83 49.69 -25.86 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
11 en6 6.00 18.66 66.21 -47.55 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
12 en9 6.00 26.65 50.92 -24.27 | 5.00 10.00 -6.00 |
13 so2 12.00 89.12 49.05 +40.07 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
14 so7 12.00 84.73 55.57 +29.16 | 5.00 10.00 +12.00 |
15 Valuation in range: -72.00 to +72.00; global concordance: +24.00

```

Despite being robust, the apparent positive outranking situation between alternatives $a2$ and $a4$ is indeed put to doubt by a considerable counter-performance (-60.02) of $a2$ on criterion $en3$, a negative difference which exceeds slightly the assumed veto discrimination threshold $v = 60.00$ (see Listing 5.10 Line 9).

We may finally compare in Fig. 5.1 the *standard* and the *robust* version of the corresponding strict outranking digraphs, both oriented by their respective identical initial and terminal prekernels.

Standard strict outranking digraph Robust strict outranking digraph

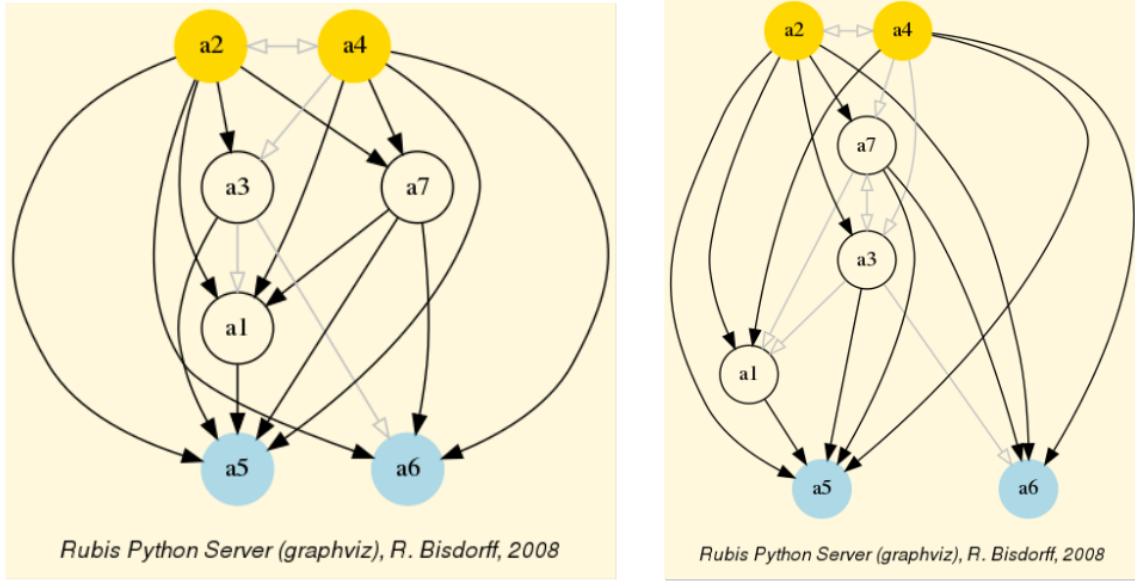


Fig. 5.1: Standard versus robust strict outranking digraphs oriented by their initial and terminal prekernels

The robust version drops two strict outranking situations: between a_4 and a_7 and between a_7 and a_1 . The remaining 14 strict outranking (resp. outranked) situations are now all verified at a stability level of $+2$ and more (resp. -2 and less). They are, hence, only depending on potential significance weights that must respect the given significance preorder (see [Listing 5.2](#)).

To appreciate the apparent orientation of the standard and robust strict outranking digraphs shown in [Fig. 5.1](#), let us have a final heat map view on the underlying performance tableau ordered by the *NetFlows* ranking rule.

```
>>> t.showHTMLPerformanceHeatmap(Correlations=True,rankingRule='NetFlows')
```

Heatmap of Performance Tableau 'random3ObjectivesPerfTab'

criteria	ec4Ec	so2So	ec1Ec	ec8Ec	en9En	en3En	so7So	en6En	en5En
weights	+8.00	+12.00	+8.00	+8.00	+6.00	+6.00	+12.00	+6.00	+6.00
tau(*)	+0.55	+0.52	+0.45	+0.38	+0.31	+0.29	+0.24	+0.05	+0.05
a4	72.26	49.05	85.19	44.62	50.92	80.81	55.57	66.21	49.69
a2	86.00	89.12	89.77	89.43	26.65	20.79	84.73	18.66	23.83
a3	68.70	58.85	80.19	91.94	14.85	46.78	15.49	1.65	27.25
a7	36.31	68.06	15.33	38.31	13.10	30.70	58.45	69.71	35.52
a1	22.65	22.43	38.11	77.02	44.37	58.16	28.41	11.41	31.40
a6	75.76	48.59	21.06	29.63	32.96	12.54	26.40	36.04	43.09
a5	8.96	12.36	46.75	35.91	9.83	31.05	44.92	31.22	29.52

Color legend:

quantile	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	57.14%	71.43%	85.71%	100.00%
----------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---------

(*) tau: Ordinal (Kendall) correlation between marginal criterion and global ranking relation

Ranking rule: **NetFlows**

Ordinal (Kendall) correlation between global ranking and global outranking relation: **+0.942**

Fig. 5.2: Heat map of the random 3 objectives performance tableau ordered by the *NetFlows* ranking rule

As the initial prekernel is here validated at stability level +2, recommending alternatives *a4*, as well as *a2*, as potential best choices, appears well justified. Alternative *a4* represents indeed an overall *best compromise choice* between all decision objectives, whereas alternative *a2* gives an unanimous best choice with respect to two out of three decision objectives. Up to the decision maker to make his final choice.

For concluding, let us mention that it is precisely again our bipolar-valued *logical characteristic framework* that provides us here with a **first order distributional dominance** test for effectively qualifying the stability level 2 *robustness* of an outranking digraph when facing performance tableaux with criteria of only ordinal-valued significances. A real world application of our stability analysis with such a kind of performance tableau may be consulted in [BIS-2015p].

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6 Bibliography

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