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Measurement-Theoretic Foundation of Threshold Utility Maximiser's Preference Logic

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Structure of This Talk

- ① Introduction
- ② Weak Orders as Global Rationality and Semiorders as Bounded Rationality
- ③ Threshold Utility Maximiser's Preference Logic TUMPL
 - Language of TUMPL
 - Semantics of TUMPL
 - Syntax of TUMPL
 - Metalogic of TUMPL
- ④ Summary, Further Investigation and Our Related Work

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Counterexample to Transitivity of Indifference (1)

- The economist Armstrong ([Armstrong 1939]) was one of the first to argue that **indifference** is not always **transitive**.



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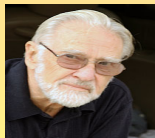


Armstrong, E. W.:

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- Luce ([Luce 1956]: 179]) gave the following counterexample to the transitivity of indifference:



Luce, D.:

Semiororders and a Theory of Utility Discrimination.

Econometrica **24** (1956) 178–191.

Counterexample to Transitivity of Indifference (2)

Example (Avoidance of Sorites Paradox in Preference)

- If indifference were transitive, then he would be unable to detect any weight differences, however great, which is patently false...

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- If indifference were transitive, then he would be unable to detect any weight differences, however great, which is patently false...
- Find a subject who prefers a cup of coffee with one cube of sugar to one with five cubes. . . .
- Now prepare 401 cups of coffee with $(1 + \frac{i}{100})x$ grams of sugar, $i = 0, 1, \dots, 400$, where x is the weight of one cube of sugar.

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- It is evident that he will be indifferent between cup i and cup $i + 1$, for any i , but by choice he is not indifferent between $i = 0$ and $i = 400$.



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- It is evident that he will be indifferent between cup i and cup $i + 1$, for any i , but by choice he is not indifferent between $i = 0$ and $i = 400$.

This example shows a situation where we would face the **Sorites Paradox** in preference if indifference were transitive.

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What kind of preference logic can formalise inferences in which indifference is not transitive? ■

We call it the **Nontransitivity Problem**.

The Aim of This Talk

The aim of this talk is to propose a new version of complete and decidable **extrinsic** preference logic—**threshold utility maximiser's preference logic** (TUMPL) that can solve the Nontransitivity Problem.

Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference (1)

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- Von Wright divided preferences into two categories: **extrinsic** and **intrinsic** preference.



Von Wright, G. H.:
The Logic of Preference.
Edinburgh UP, Edinburgh (1963).



Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference (2)

- An agent is said to prefer φ **extrinsically** to ψ if φ is better than ψ in some explicit respect. So we can **explain** extrinsic preference from some explicit point of view.

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- If we cannot explain preference from any explicit point of view, we call it **intrinsic**.

Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference (3)

- Von Wright posed the following fundamental problem intrinsic preference logics faced.



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The development of a satisfactory logic of preference has turned out to be unexpectedly problematic. The evidence for this lies in the fact that almost every principle which has been proposed as fundamental to one preference logic has been rejected by another one. ■

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- We call it the **Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference**.

Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference (4)

Example

	von Wright	Martin	Chisholm and Sosa
Transitivity	+	+	+
Contraposition	—	+	—
Conjunctive Expansion	+	—	—
Disjunctive Distribution	—	—	—
Conjunctive Distribution	+	—	—



Chisholm, R. M. and Sosa, E.:

On the Logic of “Intrinsically Better”.

American Philosophical Quarterly **3** (1966) 244–249.



Martin, R. M.:

Intension and Decision.

Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs (1963).

Mullen's Analysis of Cause of Fundamental Problem (1)

- According to Mullen ([Mullen 1979]), we can analyse the cause of the Fundamental Problem as follows.



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- The adequacy criteria for intrinsic preference principles considered by preference logicians have been whether the principles are consistent with their **intuitions** of reasonableness.
- But each intuitions often **disagrees** even on the fundamental properties.

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- Different theories, such as ethics, welfare economics, consumer demand theory, game theory and decision theory make different demands upon the fundamental properties of preference.

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- Different theories, such as ethics, welfare economics, consumer demand theory, game theory and decision theory make different demands upon the fundamental properties of preference.
- So if we would like to propose preference logic that can avoid the Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference, it should be constructed not from intuition but from a **theory** or a **rule in a theory**, that is, it should be **extrinsic**.

Measurement Theory (1)

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 - ① the **representation problem**—justifying the assignment of numbers to objects or propositions,

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- In order to avoid the Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference, we resort to **measurement theory**.
- There are two main problems with measurement theory:
 - ① the **representation problem**—justifying the assignment of numbers to objects or propositions,
 - ② the **uniqueness problem**—specifying the transformation up to which this assignment is unique.

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- A solution to the first problem can be furnished by a **representation theorem**, which establishes that the chosen numerical system preserves the relations of the relational system.

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- When we provide TUMPL with a model based on **semiorders**, by virtue of a **corollary** of the **Scott-Suppes representation theorem**, we can adopt **threshold utility maximisation** as a rule in utility theory that makes demands upon the fundamental properties of preference, which enables TUMPL to avoid the Fundamental Problem of Intrinsic Preference.

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Global Rationality

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- **Utility maximisation** is a typical example of an optimising behavior.

Representation Theorem for Utility Maximisation

- Cantor ([Cantor 1895]) proved the representation theorem for utility maximisation.



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Theorem (Representation for Utility Maximisation, Cantor ([Cantor 1895]))

Suppose $\mathbf{A}$ is a countable set and $\succeq$ is a binary relation on $\mathbf{A}$.
Then $\succeq$ is a **weak order** (**transitive** and **connected**) iff there is a function $u : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $x, y \in \mathbf{A}$,

$$x \succeq y \text{ iff } u(x) \geq u(y).$$



Bounded Rationality

- But according to Simon ([Simon 1982]), cognitive and information-processing constraints on the capabilities of agents, together with the complexity of their environment, render an **optimising behavior** an **unattainable ideal**.



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- He dismissed the idea that agents should exhibit global rationality and suggested that they in fact exhibit **bounded rationality** that allows a **satisficing behavior**.

Semiorders (1)

- One explanation for Example 1 is that the nontransitivity of indifference results from the fact that we cannot generally discriminate **very close quantities**.

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- The concept of a **semiorder** was introduced by Luce ([Luce 1956]) to construct a model to interpret situations like Example 1 of nontransitive indifference with a **threshold** of discrimination.

Semiorders (2)

- Scott and Suppes defined ([[Scott and Suppes 1958]: 117]) a semiorder as follows:



Scott, D. and Suppes, P.:

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Journal of Symbolic Logic 3 (1958) 113–128.



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- 3 If $w \succ x$ and $x \succ y$, then $w \succ z$ or $z \succ y$. (Semitransitivity).



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Theorem (Representation for Threshold Utility Maximisation, Scott and Suppes ([Scott and Suppes 1958]))

*Suppose that $\succ$ is a binary relation on a finite set **A** and δ is a positive number. Then $\succ$ is a semiorder iff there is a function $u : \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $x, y \in \mathbf{A}$,*

$$x \succ y \text{ iff } u(x) > u(y) + \delta.$$



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$$\varphi ::= s \mid \top \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi_1 \& \varphi_2 \mid \Box\varphi \mid \text{SPR}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2),$$

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- The set of all well-formed formulae of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{TUMPL}}$ will be denoted by $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{TUMPL}}}$. ■

The Point of Introducing $\Box$

Remark

We introduce $\Box$ to construct a Boolean algebra of subsets of $\mathbf{W}$ that is accessible from $w \in \mathbf{W}$. ■

Model

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- ρ is a preference space assignment that assigns to each $w \in \mathbf{W}$ a preference space $(\mathcal{F}_w, \succ_w)$ such that $\mathcal{F}_w$ is a Boolean algebra of subsets of $\{w' \in \mathbf{W} : R(w, w')\}$ and $\succ_w$ on $\mathcal{F}_w$ is a **semiorder**.



Representation on Finite Boolean Algebra

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Corollary (Representation on Finite Boolean Algebra)

Suppose that $\mathbf{W}$ is a finite set of possible worlds and $\mathcal{F}$ is a finite Boolean algebra of subsets of $\mathbf{W}$ and $\succ$ is a binary relation on $\mathcal{F}$, and δ is a positive number. Then $\succ$ is a semiorder iff there is a function $u : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{F}$,

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Remark

*This corollary, by virtue of **filtration theory**, can guarantee that $\succ_w$ on $\mathcal{F}_w$ is a **threshold utility maximiser's preference relation**. ■*

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- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} s$ iff $V(w)(s) = \mathbf{true}$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \top$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_1 \& \varphi_2$
iff $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_1$ and $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_2$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \neg \varphi$ iff $(\mathcal{M}, w) \not\models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \Box \varphi$
iff, for any w' such that $R(w, w')$, $(\mathcal{M}, w') \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$,

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Definition (Truth)

The notion of $\varphi \in \Phi_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{TUMPL}}}$ being true at $w \in W$ in $\mathcal{M}$, in symbols $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$ is inductively defined as follows:

- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} s$ iff $V(w)(s) = \mathbf{true}$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \top$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_1 \& \varphi_2$
iff $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_1$ and $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi_2$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \neg \varphi$ iff $(\mathcal{M}, w) \not\models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \Box \varphi$
iff, for any w' such that $R(w, w')$, $(\mathcal{M}, w') \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$,
- $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \mathbf{SPR}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2)$ iff $\llbracket \varphi_1 \rrbracket_w^{\mathcal{M}} \succ_w \llbracket \varphi_2 \rrbracket_w^{\mathcal{M}}$,

where $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_w^{\mathcal{M}} := \{w' \in \mathbf{W} : R(w, w') \text{ and } (\mathcal{M}, w') \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi\}$. ■

Validity

Definition (Validity)

- If $(\mathcal{M}, w) \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$ for all $w \in \mathbf{W}$, we write $\mathcal{M} \models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$ and say that φ is valid in $\mathcal{M}$.

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- If φ is valid in all structured Kripke models for TUMPL, we write $\models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$ and say that φ is valid.



Counter-Model of Transitivity of Indifference (1)

- We would like to provide a **counter-model** of the transitivity of indifference.

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- It must be noted that, for any i ($0 \leq i \leq 400$), because $\succsim_{w_i}$ on $\mathcal{F}_{w_i}$ is a semiorder,

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \varphi_j \rrbracket_{w_i}^{\mathcal{U}} &\sim_{w_i} \llbracket \varphi_{j+1} \rrbracket_{w_i}^{\mathcal{U}} \text{ for any } j \text{ } (0 \leq j \leq 400) \text{ does not imply} \\ \llbracket \varphi_0 \rrbracket_{w_i}^{\mathcal{U}} &\sim_{w_i} \llbracket \varphi_{400} \rrbracket_{w_i}^{\mathcal{U}}. \end{aligned}$$

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- Therefore we obtain the following proposition.

Proposition (Nontransitivity of Indifference)

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Proof System

We provide TUMPL with a proof system.

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Theorem (Soundness)

For any $\varphi \in \Phi_{\mathcal{L}_{\text{TUMPL}}}$, if $\vdash_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$, then $\models_{\text{TUMPL}} \varphi$. ■

Completeness

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Segerberg, K.:

Qualitative Probability in a Modal Setting. in Fenstad, J. E. (ed.):

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Theorem (Completeness)

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Theorem (Decidability)

TUMPL *is decidable*. ■

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Weak Orders as Global Rationality and Semiorders as Bounded Rationality
- 3 Threshold Utility Maximiser's Preference Logic TUMPL
 - Language of TUMPL
 - Semantics of TUMPL
 - Syntax of TUMPL
 - Metalogic of TUMPL
- 4 Summary, Further Investigation and Our Related Work

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- FURTHER INVESTIGATION: This talk is only a part of a larger measurement-theoretic study. We are now trying to construct such logics as [dyadic deontic logic](#), [logic for goodness and badness](#), and [logic of questions and answers](#) by means of measurement theory.

Our Related Work



Satoru Suzuki:

Preference Logic and Its Measurement-Theoretic Semantics.

In: Accepted Papers of 8th Conference on Logic and the Foundations of Game and Decision Theory (LOFT 2008), Universiteit van Amsterdam (2008).



Satoru Suzuki:

Prolegomena to Dynamic Epistemic Preference Logic.

In: Hattori, H. et al. (eds.), New Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence, LNAI 5447, Springer-Verlag, Berlin (2009) 177–192.



Satoru Suzuki:

Measurement-Theoretic Foundation of Preference-Based Dyadic Deontic Logic.

In: He, X. et al. (eds.), Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Logic, Rationality, and Interaction (LORI-II), LNAI 5834, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, (2009) 278–291.



Satoru Suzuki:

Measurement-Theoretic Foundation of Logic for Goodness and Badness.

In: Bekki, D. (ed.), Proceedings of the Sixth Workshop on Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics (LENLS 2009), JSAI, (2009) 1–14.

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Thank You for Your Attention!