

## DECISION THEORY AND INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE: MAXIMUM VARIANCE

BY

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### *Introduction*

In a recent paper in this journal, Cannon and Krzysanowicz<sup>1</sup> investigated problems of strategy selection when the decision-maker has certain *a priori* beliefs about the probability distribution of possible future states of nature. In their paper, they show how strategies may be compared in terms of their minimum and maximum expected payoffs, assuming only that the decision-maker has in his mind an ordinal ranking of the probabilities of states of nature. Furthermore, they demonstrate how, in such circumstances, established decision-making criteria such as maximin, maximax, minimax regret, etc., can all be improved by employing minimum and maximum *expected* payoffs rather than crude minima and maxima.

The aim of this paper is to consider the second major characteristic of probability distributions of payoffs which is likely to be of practical interest, their dispersion. It will be shown that, given assumptions identical to those made by Cannon and Krzysanowicz about probability rankings, general results may be derived about the minimum and maximum variance of the payoffs of any strategy. In the following sections these results are derived and variance calculations under additional constraints are briefly discussed. The use of extreme expected payoffs and maximum variances is then examined and finally a numerical example is given.

### *Extreme Variance of Strategies*

Cannon and Krzysanowicz<sup>2</sup> demonstrated that, in choosing between competing strategies, minimum and maximum expected payoff will be an important criterion. It is now, however, likely to be the only one. It is also important to form a judgement as to the likely dispersion of outcomes around these mean values, as, in some cases, the decision-maker's attitude to risk may be such that he will be prepared to trade-off a higher expected return against a strategy with a lower mean value for a greater probability of an actual outcome close to that expectation.

It follows from this line of argument that any statement which can be

<sup>1</sup> Cannon, G. M. and Krzysanowicz, Z. W., 'Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge', *Journal of Management Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 3, October 1974, pp. 324-33.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

# Decision Theory And Incomplete Knowledge

**Francesca Rossi**



## **Decision Theory And Incomplete Knowledge:**

**Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge** Z. W. Kmietowicz,1975 *Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge*  
C. M. Cannon,Z. W. Kmietowicz,1974 **Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge** Z. W. Kmietowicz,A. D.  
Pearman,1981 *Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge: Maximum Variance. University of Leeds. Discussion Paper  
Series. No. 19 ,1975* Decision Theory and Incomplete Knowledge; Sensitivity Analysis. University of Leeds. Discussion  
Paper Series. No.40 ,1976 Decision Theory, Incomplete Knowledge and Constrained Games Michael J. Ryan,University  
(Hull),University of Hull. Department of Economics and Commerce,1991 Decision Theory With Imperfect Information  
Aliiev Rafiq Aziz,Huseynov Oleg H,2014-08-08 Every day decision making in complex human centric systems are  
characterized by imperfect decision relevant information The principal problems with the existing decision theories are that  
they do not have capability to deal with situations in which probabilities and events are imprecise In this book we describe a  
new theory of decision making with imperfect information The aim is to shift the foundation of decision analysis and  
economic behavior from the realm bivalent logic to the realm fuzzy logic and Z restriction from external modeling of  
behavioral decisions to the framework of combined states This book will be helpful for professionals academics managers and  
graduate students in fuzzy logic decision sciences artificial intelligence mathematical economics and computational  
economics **Algorithmic Decision Theory** Francesca Rossi,2009-10-05 This volume contains the papers presented at  
ADT 2009 the first International Conference on Algorithmic Decision Theory The conference was held in San Servolo a small  
island of the Venice lagoon during October 20 23 2009 The program of the conference included oral presentations posters  
invited talks and tutorials The conference received 65 submissions of which 39 papers were accepted 9 papers were posters  
The topics of these papers range from computational social choice preference modeling from uncertainty to preference  
learning from multi criteria decision making to game theory **Planning Based on Decision Theory** Giacomo Della  
Riccia,Rudolf Kruse,Didier Dubois,Hans-J. Lenz,2014-05-04 Planning of actions based on decision theory is a hot topic for  
many disciplines Seemingly unlimited computing power networking integration and collaboration have meanwhile attracted  
the attention of fields like Machine Learning Operations Research Management Science and Computer Science Software  
agents of e commerce mediators of Information Retrieval Systems and Database based Information Systems are typical new  
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management and used in robots software agents etc It is the special feature of the book that planning is embedded into  
decision theory and this will give the interested reader new perspectives to follow up Behavioral Decision Theory  
Kazuhisa Takemura,2021-09-29 This book is the second edition of Behavioral Decision Theory published in 2014 The main  
approach and structure of this book have been retained in the new edition However this second edition provides a fresh  
overview of the idea of behavioral decision theory and related research findings such as theoretical and empirical discoveries

of preference formation time discounting social interaction and social decision making The book covers a wide range from classical to relatively recent major studies concerning behavioral decision theory which in brief is a general term for descriptive theories to explain the psychological knowledge related to people s decision making behavior It is called a theory but is actually a combination of various psychological theories for which no axiomatic systems such as those associated with the utility theory widely used in economics have been established The utility theory is often limited to qualitative knowledge however as the studies of Nobel laureates H A Simon D Kahneman and R Thaler have suggested the psychological methodology and knowledge of behavioral decision theory have been applied widely in such fields as economics business administration and engineering and are expected to become even more useful in the future Research into people s decision making represents an important part in those fields various aspects of which overlap with the scope of behavioral decision theory This theory is closely related to behavioral economics and behavioral finance which have come into greater use in recent years This book will appeal especially to graduate students advanced undergraduate students and researchers who are interested in decision making phenomena

Quantum Decision Theory and Complexity Modelling in Economics and Public Policy Anirban Chakraborti, Emmanuel Haven, Sudip Patra, Naresh Singh, 2023-09-21 This book is an outcome of the interdisciplinary conference held at OP Jindal Global University Quantum Decision making and Complexity modeling and their possible applications in social sciences economics finance and public policy The volume builds upon the emerging fields of Econophysics Complexity theory and Quantum like modelling in cognition and social sciences and their plausible applications in economics and public policy There can be deep linkages between the micro meso and macro scales at which these paradigms operate In this data driven age greater amounts of information along with the facility to harvest sort and process said information have permitted an expansion of the capability to study a society s various factors to a degree of detail and inclusiveness that has never before been available to researchers As a result an increasing number of throughlines is being discovered revealing heretofore unknown connections between various disciplines and enhancing the study of such societal tropes as finance language shared behavior and many others As the reader will see with clearer understanding of the interconnectedness of society s assorted parts comes a clearer understanding of the society as a whole We have received critical thoughts from noted experts in social and natural sciences to explore possible interconnections The editors of this book earnestly hope that the critical reviews presented in this volume will stimulate further scholarly interest but also interest among policy practitioners for the purpose of exploring possibilities for creating a new paradigm for comprehending pressing issues of deep uncertainty and emergence in social dynamics

*International Industrial Engineering Conference Proceedings*, 1988

*Logic-Based Artificial Intelligence* Jack Minker, 2012-12-06 The use of mathematical logic as a formalism for artificial intelligence was recognized by John McCarthy in 1959 in his paper on Programs with Common Sense In a series of papers in the 1960 s he expanded upon these ideas and continues to do so to this date It is now 41 years since

the idea of using a formal mechanism for AI arose It is therefore appropriate to consider some of the research applications and implementations that have resulted from this idea In early 1995 John McCarthy suggested to me that we have a workshop on Logic Based Artificial Intelligence LBAI In June 1999 the Workshop on Logic Based Artificial Intelligence was held as a consequence of McCarthy s suggestion The workshop came about with the support of Ephraim Glinert of the National Science Foundation IIS 9S2013S the American Association for Artificial Intelligence who provided support for graduate students to attend and Joseph JaJa Director of the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies who provided both manpower and financial support and the Department of Computer Science We are grateful for their support This book consists of refereed papers based on presentations made at the Workshop Not all of the Workshop participants were able to contribute papers for the book The common theme of papers at the workshop and in this book is the use of logic as a formalism to solve problems in AI

**Annual International Industrial Engineering Conference** ,1988

A Bridge Between Control Science and Technology International Federation of Automatic Control. World Congress,1985

Assignments in Applied Statistics Simon Conrad,1989-08-15 This book is a practical approach to the use of statistics in a wide variety of situations It covers twenty assignments in applied statistics each one written by a leading authority in the fields of decision analysis forecasting multivariate analysis the design and analysis of surveys and the design and analysis of experiments The assignments cover a wide range of applications in the management sciences social sciences industry and medicine and provide practical experience in data collection and analysis using real life models

**Proceedings of the ...**

**Euromicro Workshop on Advanced Mobile Robots** ,1997 *Decision Theory and Multi-Agent Planning* Giacomo Della Riccia,2006-03-09 The work presents a modern unified view on decision support and planning by considering its basics like preferences belief possibility and probability as well as utilities These features together are immanent for software agents to believe the user that the agents are intelligent

**Proceedings of the 1977 IEEE Conference on Decision & Control, Including the 16th Symposium on Adaptive Processes and a Special Symposium on Fuzzy Set Theory and Applications, December 7-9, 1977, Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana** ,1977 *Analysis and Decision in*

*Regional Policy* Ian Cullen,1979

## **Decision Theory And Incomplete Knowledge** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is actually remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Decision Theory And Incomplete Knowledge**," written by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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