# Von Neumann Morgenstern Utility Theorem \*

Julian Parsert

Cezary Kaliszyk

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#### Abstract

Utility functions form an essential part of game theory and economics. In order to guarantee the existence of utility functions most of the time sufficient properties are assumed in an axiomatic manner. One famous and very common set of such assumptions is that of expected utility theory. Here, the rationality, continuity, and independence of preferences is assumed. The von-Neumann-Morgenstern Utility theorem shows that these assumptions are necessary and sufficient for an expected utility function to exists. This theorem was proven by Neumann and Morgenstern in "Theory of Games and Economic Behavior" which is regarded as one of the most influential works in game theory.

We formalize these results in Isabelle/HOL. The formalization includes formal definitions of the underlying concepts including continuity and independence of preferences.

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```
theory PMF-Composition
imports
HOL-Probability.Probability
begin
```

## 1 Composition of Probability Mass functions

**definition** mix-pmf :: real  $\Rightarrow$  'a pmf  $\Rightarrow$  'a pmf  $\Rightarrow$  'a pmf where mix-pmf  $\alpha$  p q = (bernoulli-pmf  $\alpha$ )  $\gg$  ( $\lambda X$ . if X then p else q)

**lemma** pmf-mix:  $a \in \{0..1\} \Longrightarrow pmf$  (mix-pmf a p q) x = a \* pmf p x + (1 - 1)a) \* pmf q x $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** pmf-mix-deeper:  $a \in \{0..1\} \Longrightarrow pmf$  (mix-pmf a p q) x = a \* pmf p x + a \* pmfpmf q x - a \* pmf q x $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** bernoulli-pmf-0 [simp]: bernoulli-pmf 0 = return-pmf False  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** bernoulli-pmf-1 [simp]: bernoulli-pmf 1 = return-pmf True  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** pmf-mix-0 [simp]: mix-pmf 0 p q = q $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** pmf-mix-1 [simp]: mix-pmf 1 p q = p $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** set-pmf-mix:  $a \in \{0 < ... < 1\} \implies$  set-pmf (mix-pmf a p q) = set-pmf p  $\cup$ set-pmf q $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** set-pmf-mix-eq:  $a \in \{0..1\} \implies mix-pmf \ a \ p \ p = p$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *pmf-equiv-intro*[*intro*]: **assumes**  $\bigwedge e. \ e \in set\text{-pmf } p \implies pmf \ p \ e = pmf \ q \ e$ assumes  $\bigwedge e. \ e \in set\text{-pmf } q \implies pmf \ q \ e = pmf \ p \ e$ 

```
shows p = q
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma pmf-equiv-intro1[intro]:
  assumes \bigwedge e. \ e \in set-pmf \ p \implies pmf \ p \ e = pmf \ q \ e
 shows p = q
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma pmf-inverse-switch-eqals:
  assumes a \in \{0...1\}
  shows mix-pmf a p q = mix-pmf (1-a) q p
\langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-comp-left-div:
  assumes \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}
   and \beta \in \{0..(1::real)\}
  assumes \alpha > \beta
  shows pmf (mix-pmf (\beta/\alpha) (mix-pmf \alpha p q) q) e = \beta * pmf p e + pmf q e -
\beta * pmf q e
\langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-comp-with-dif-equiv:
  assumes \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}
   and \beta \in \{0..(1::real)\}
 assumes \alpha > \beta
 shows mix-pmf (\beta/\alpha) (mix-pmf \alpha p q) q = mix-pmf \beta p q (is ?l = ?r)
\langle proof \rangle
lemma product-mix-pmf-prob-distrib:
 assumes a \in \{0..1\}
   and b \in \{0...1\}
 shows mix-pmf a (mix-pmf b p q) q = mix-pmf (a*b) p q
\langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-subset-of-original:
 assumes a \in \{0...1\}
  shows (set-pmf (mix-pmf a p q)) \subseteq set-pmf p \cup set-pmf q
\langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-preserves-finite-support:
  assumes a \in \{0...1\}
 assumes finite (set-pmf p)
   and finite (set-pmf q)
  shows finite (set-pmf (mix-pmf a p q))
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma ex-certain-iff-singleton-support:
  shows (\exists x. pmf p \ x = 1) \leftrightarrow card (set-pmf p) = 1
\langle proof \rangle
```

We thank Manuel Eberl for suggesting the following two lemmas.

**lemma** *mix-pmf-partition*:

fixes p :: 'a pmfassumes  $y \in set\text{-}pmf \ p \ set\text{-}pmf \ p - \{y\} \neq \{\}$ **obtains**  $a \ q$  where  $a \in \{0 < .. < 1\}$  set-pmf q = set-pmf  $p - \{y\}$  $p = mix-pmf \ a \ q \ (return-pmf \ y)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *pmf-mix-induct* [consumes 2, case-names degenerate mix]: **assumes** finite A set-pmf  $p \subseteq A$ **assumes** degenerate:  $\bigwedge x. \ x \in A \implies P$  (return-pmf x)  $\begin{array}{c} \bigwedge p \ a \ y. \ set \ pmf \ p \subseteq A \implies a \in \{0 < ... < 1\} \implies y \in A \implies p \implies p \implies p \ (mix \ pmf \ a \ p \ (return \ pmf \ y)) \end{array}$ assumes *mix*: shows P p $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** pmf-mix-induct' [consumes 2, case-names degenerate mix]: **assumes** finite A set-pmf  $p \subseteq A$ assumes degenerate:  $\bigwedge x. \ x \in A \implies P \ (return-pmf \ x)$  $\bigwedge p \ q \ a. \ set-pmf \ p \subseteq A \Longrightarrow set-pmf \ q \subseteq A \Longrightarrow a \in \{0 < .. < 1\}$ assumes *mix*:  $\implies$  $P \ p \Longrightarrow P \ q \Longrightarrow P \ (mix-pmf \ a \ p \ q)$ shows P p $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *finite-sum-distribute-mix-pmf*: **assumes** finite (set-pmf (mix-pmf a p q)) **assumes** finite (set-pmf p) assumes finite (set-pmf q) shows  $(\sum i \in set\text{-}pmf (mix\text{-}pmf a p q), pmf (mix\text{-}pmf a p q) i) = (\sum i \in set\text{-}pmf$ p. a \* pmf p i) + ( $\sum i \in set pmf q (1-a) * pmf q i$ )  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *distribute-alpha-over-sum*: shows  $(\sum i \in set\text{-}pmf \ T. \ a * pmf \ p \ i * f \ i) = a * (\sum i \in set\text{-}pmf \ T. \ pmf \ p \ i * f \ i)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *sum-over-subset-pmf-support*: assumes finite T**assumes** set-pmf  $p \subseteq T$ shows  $(\sum i \in T. \ a * pmf \ p \ i * f \ i) = (\sum i \in set-pmf \ p. \ a * pmf \ p \ i * f \ i)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *expected-value-mix-pmf-distrib*: **assumes** finite (set-pmf p) and finite (set-pmf q) assumes  $a \in \{0 < .. < 1\}$ **shows** measure-pmf.expectation (mix-pmf a p q) f = a \* measure-pmf.expectationp f + (1-a) \* measure-pmf.expectation q f

### $\langle proof \rangle$

```
\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma expected-value-mix-pmf:}\\ \textbf{assumes finite (set-pmf p)}\\ \textbf{and finite (set-pmf q)}\\ \textbf{assumes } a \in \{0..1\}\\ \textbf{shows measure-pmf.expectation (mix-pmf a p q) } f = a * measure-pmf.expectation \\ p \ f + (1-a) * measure-pmf.expectation q f \\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}
```

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

```
theory Lotteries

imports

PMF-Composition

HOL-Probability.Probability

begin
```

## 2 Lotteries

```
definition lotteries-on

where

lotteries-on Oc = \{p : (set-pmf \ p) \subseteq Oc\}

lemma lotteries-on-subset:

assumes A \subseteq B
```

```
shows lotteries-on A \subseteq lotteries-on B \langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma support-in-outcomes:
 \forall oc. \forall p \in lotteries-on \ oc. \forall a \in set-pmf \ p. \ a \in oc \ \langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma lotteries-on-nonempty:

assumes outcomes \neq {}

shows lotteries-on outcomes \neq {}

\langle proof \rangle
```

```
\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma finite-support-one-oc:} \\ \textbf{assumes card outcomes} = 1 \\ \textbf{shows} \ \forall \ l \in \ lotteries-on \ outcomes. \ finite \ (set-pmf \ l) \\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}
```

```
lemma one-outcome-card-support-1:

assumes card outcomes = 1

shows \forall l \in lotteries-on outcomes. card (set-pmf l) = 1

\langle proof \rangle
```

**lemma** finite-nempty-ex-degernate-in-lotteries: **assumes** out  $\neq$  {} **assumes** finite out **shows**  $\exists e \in lotteries$ -on out.  $\exists x \in out. pmf e x = 1$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** card-support-1-probability-1: **assumes** card (set-pmf p) = 1 **shows**  $\forall e \in set-pmf p. pmf p e = 1$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

```
lemma one-outcome-card-lotteries-1:
  assumes card outcomes = 1
  shows card (lotteries-on outcomes) = 1
  ⟨proof⟩
```

**lemma** return-pmf-card-equals-set: **shows** card {return-pmf  $x | x. x \in S$ } = card S  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

```
\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma mix-pmf-in-lotteries:}\\ \textbf{assumes } p \in lotteries-on \ A\\ \textbf{and } q \in lotteries-on \ A\\ \textbf{and } a \in \{0 < .. < 1\}\\ \textbf{shows } (mix-pmf \ a \ p \ q) \in lotteries-on \ A\\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}
```

```
lemma card-degen-lotteries-equals-outcomes:

shows card \{x \in lotteries-on \ out. \ card \ (set-pmf \ x) = 1\} = card \ out \ \langle proof \rangle
```

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

```
theory Neumann-Morgenstern-Utility-Theorem
imports
HOL—Probability.Probability
First-Welfare-Theorem.Utility-Functions
Lotteries
begin
```

# 3 Properties of Preferences

### 3.1 Independent Preferences

Independence is sometimes called substitution

Notice how r is "added" to the right of mix-pmf and the element to the left q/p changes

definition independent-vnm where independent- $vnm \ C P =$  $(\forall p \in C. \forall q \in C. \forall r \in C. \forall (\alpha::real) \in \{0 < ... 1\}. p \succeq [P] q \longleftrightarrow mix-pmf \alpha p$  $r \succeq [P] \text{ mix-pmf } \alpha \ q \ r)$ **lemma** *independent-vnmI1*: **assumes**  $(\forall p \in C, \forall q \in C, \forall r \in C, \forall \alpha \in \{0 < ... 1\}, p \succeq [P] q \longleftrightarrow mix-pmf \alpha$  $p \ r \succeq [P] \ mix-pmf \ \alpha \ q \ r)$ shows independent- $vnm \ C \ P$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** independent-vnmI2: assumes  $\bigwedge p \ q \ r \ \alpha. \ p \in C \Longrightarrow q \in C \Longrightarrow r \in C \Longrightarrow \alpha \in \{0 < ... 1\} \Longrightarrow p \succeq P$  $q \longleftrightarrow mix-pmf \ \alpha \ p \ r \succeq [P] \ mix-pmf \ \alpha \ q \ r$ shows independent- $vnm \ C \ P$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** independent-vnm-alt-def: shows independent-vnm  $C P \longleftrightarrow (\forall p \in C. \forall q \in C. \forall r \in C. \forall \alpha \in \{0 < .. < 1\}.$  $p \succeq [P] q \longleftrightarrow mix-pmf \alpha p r \succeq [P] mix-pmf \alpha q r)$  (is  $?L \longleftrightarrow ?R$ )  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** independece-dest-alt:  $\textbf{assumes} \ independent {-}vnm \ C \ P$ shows  $(\forall p \in C, \forall q \in C, \forall r \in C, \forall (\alpha::real) \in \{0 < ... 1\}, p \succeq [P] q \leftrightarrow mix-pmf$  $\alpha \ p \ r \succeq [P] \ mix-pmf \ \alpha \ q \ r)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *independent-vnmD1*: assumes independent- $vnm \ C \ P$ shows  $(\forall p \in C. \forall q \in C. \forall r \in C. \forall \alpha \in \{0 < ... 1\}. p \succeq [P] q \leftrightarrow mix-pmf \alpha p$  $r \succeq [P] \text{ mix-pmf } \alpha \neq r)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *independent-vnmD2*: fixes  $p q r \alpha$ assumes  $\alpha \in \{0 < ... 1\}$ and  $p \in C$ and  $q \in C$ and  $r \in C$ assumes independent- $vnm \ C P$ assumes  $p \succeq [P] q$ **shows** mix-pmf  $\alpha$  p r  $\succeq [P]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  q r  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** independent-vnmD3:

```
fixes p q r \alpha
  assumes \alpha \in \{\theta < ... 1\}
    and p \in C
    and q \in C
    and r \in C
  assumes independent-vnm \ C P
  assumes mix-pmf \alpha p r \succeq [P] mix-pmf \alpha q r
  shows p \succeq [P] q
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma independent-vnmD4:
  assumes independent-vnm CP
  assumes refl-on C P
  assumes p \in C
    and q \in C
    and r \in C
    and \alpha \in \{0..1\}
    and p \succeq [P] q
  shows mix-pmf \alpha p r \succeq [P] mix-pmf \alpha q r
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma approx-indep-ge:
  assumes x \approx [\mathcal{R}] y
  assumes \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}
 assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
   and ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
  shows \forall r \in lotteries-on outcomes. (mix-pmf <math>\alpha y r) \succeq [\mathcal{R}] (mix-pmf \alpha x r)
\langle proof \rangle
lemma approx-imp-approx-ind:
  assumes x \approx [\mathcal{R}] y
  assumes \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}
 assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
    and ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
  shows \forall r \in lotteries-on outcomes. (mix-pmf \alpha \ y \ r) \approx [\mathcal{R}] (mix-pmf \alpha \ x \ r)
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma geq-imp-mix-geq-right:
  assumes x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y
  assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
 assumes ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
 assumes \alpha \in \{\theta ... (1::real)\}
  shows (mix-pmf \alpha x y) \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y
\langle proof \rangle
lemma geq-imp-mix-geq-left:
  assumes x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y
 assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
 assumes ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
```

```
assumes \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}
shows (mix-pmf \alpha \ y \ x) \succeq [\mathcal{R}] \ y
\langle proof \rangle
lemma sq-imp-mix-sq:
```

```
assumes x \succ [\mathcal{R}] y
assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
assumes ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
assumes \alpha \in \{0 < ..(1::real)\}
shows (mix-pmf \ \alpha \ x \ y) \succ [\mathcal{R}] \ y
\langle proof \rangle
```

## 3.2 Continuity

Continuity is sometimes called Archimedean Axiom

```
definition continuous-vnm
  where
    continuous-vnm C P = (\forall p \in C, \forall q \in C, \forall r \in C, p \succeq [P] q \land q \succeq [P] r \longrightarrow
    (\exists \alpha \in \{0..1\}. (mix-pmf \ \alpha \ p \ r) \approx [P] \ q))
lemma continuous-vnmD:
  assumes continuous-vnm \ C \ P
  shows (\forall p \in C. \forall q \in C. \forall r \in C. p \succeq P] q \land q \succeq P] r \longrightarrow
    (\exists \alpha \in \{0..1\}, (mix-pmf \ \alpha \ p \ r) \approx [P] \ q))
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma continuous-vnmI:
  assumes \bigwedge p \ q \ r. \ p \in C \Longrightarrow q \in C \Longrightarrow r \in C \Longrightarrow p \succeq [P] \ q \land q \succeq [P] \ r \Longrightarrow
    \exists \alpha \in \{0..1\}. (mix-pmf \ \alpha \ p \ r) \approx [P] q
  shows continuous-vnm \ C \ P
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-in-lot:
  assumes x \in lotteries-on outcomes
    and y \in lotteries-on outcomes
    and \alpha \in \{0...1\}
```

shows (mix-pmf  $\alpha x y$ )  $\in$  lotteries-on outcomes  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

```
lemma non-unique-continuous-unfolding:

assumes cnt: continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}

assumes rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}

assumes p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q

and q \succeq [\mathcal{R}] r

and p \succ [\mathcal{R}] r

shows \exists \alpha \in \{0..1\}. q \approx [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha p r

\langle proof \rangle
```

## 4 System U start, as per vNM

These are the first two assumptions which we use to derive the first results. We assume rationality and independence. In this system U the von-Neumann-Morgenstern Utility Theorem is proven.

```
context
  fixes outcomes :: 'a set
  fixes \mathcal{R}
  assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
  assumes ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
begin
abbreviation \mathcal{P} \equiv \textit{lotteries-on outcomes}
lemma relation-in-carrier:
  x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y \Longrightarrow x \in \mathcal{P} \land y \in \mathcal{P}
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-preferred-independence:
  assumes r \in \mathcal{P}
    and \alpha \in \{\theta...1\}
  assumes p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q
  shows mix-pmf \alpha p r \succeq [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha q r
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-strict-preferred-independence:
  assumes r \in \mathcal{P}
    and \alpha \in \{\theta < ... 1\}
  assumes p \succ [\mathcal{R}] q
  shows mix-pmf \alpha p r \succ [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha q r
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma mix-pmf-preferred-independence-rev:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
    and r \in \mathcal{P}
    and \alpha \in \{0 < ... 1\}
  assumes mix-pmf \alpha p r \succeq [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha q r
  shows p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q
\langle proof \rangle
lemma x-sg-y-sg-mpmf-right:
  assumes x \succ [\mathcal{R}] y
  assumes b \in \{0 < .. (1::real)\}
  shows x \succ [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf b y x
\langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma neumann-3B-b:
```

```
assumes u \succ [\mathcal{R}] v
  assumes \alpha \in \{0 < .. < 1\}
  shows u \succ [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha u v
\langle proof \rangle
lemma neumann-3B-b-non-strict:
  assumes u \succeq [\mathcal{R}] v
  assumes \alpha \in \{0..1\}
  shows u \succeq [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha u v
\langle proof \rangle
lemma greater-mix-pmf-greater-step-1-aux:
  assumes v \succ [\mathcal{R}] u
  assumes \alpha \in \{0 < .. < (1 :: real)\}
    and \beta \in \{0 < ... < (1::real)\}
  assumes \beta > \alpha
  shows (mix-pmf \beta v u) \succ [\mathcal{R}] (mix-pmf \alpha v u)
\langle proof \rangle
```

# 5 This lemma is in called step 1 in literature. In Von Neumann and Morgenstern's book this is A:A (albeit more general)

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma step-1-most-general:}\\ \textbf{assumes } x \succ [\mathcal{R}] \ y\\ \textbf{assumes } \alpha \in \{0..(1::real)\}\\ \textbf{and } \beta \in \{0..(1::real)\}\\ \textbf{assumes } \alpha > \beta\\ \textbf{shows } (\textit{mix-pmf } \alpha \ x \ y) \succ [\mathcal{R}] (\textit{mix-pmf } \beta \ x \ y)\\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}$ 

Kreps refers to this lemma as 5.6 c. The lemma after that is also significant.

**lemma** approx-remains-after-same-comp: **assumes**  $p \approx [\mathcal{R}] q$  **and**  $r \in \mathcal{P}$  **and**  $\alpha \in \{0..1\}$  **shows** mix-pmf  $\alpha$  p  $r \approx [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  q r  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

This lemma is the symmetric version of the previous lemma. This lemma is never mentioned in literature anywhere. Even though it looks trivial now, due to the asymmetric nature of the independence axiom, it is not so trivial, and definitely worth mentioning.

```
lemma approx-remains-after-same-comp-left:

assumes p \approx [\mathcal{R}] q

and r \in \mathcal{P}

and \alpha \in \{0..1\}
```

shows mix-pmf  $\alpha$  r p  $\approx [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  r q  $\langle proof \rangle$ lemma mix-of-preferred-is-preferred: assumes  $p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] w$ assumes  $q \succeq [\mathcal{R}] w$ assumes  $\alpha \in \{0..1\}$ shows mix-pmf  $\alpha$  p q  $\succeq [\mathcal{R}] w$   $\langle proof \rangle$ lemma mix-of-not-preferred-is-not-preferred: assumes  $w \succeq [\mathcal{R}] p$ assumes  $w \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q$ assumes  $\alpha \in \{0..1\}$ shows  $w \succeq [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  p q  $\langle proof \rangle$  definition degenerate-lotteries where degenerate-lotteries = { $x \in \mathcal{P}$ . card (set-pmf x) = 1}

private definition best where best = { $x \in \mathcal{P}$ . ( $\forall y \in \mathcal{P}$ .  $x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y$ )}

private definition worst where worst = { $x \in \mathcal{P}$ . ( $\forall y \in \mathcal{P}$ .  $y \succeq [\mathcal{R}] x$ )}

**lemma** degenerate-total:  $\forall e \in degenerate-lotteries. \forall m \in \mathcal{P}. e \succeq [\mathcal{R}] m \lor m \succeq [\mathcal{R}] e \langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** degen-outcome-cardinalities: card degenerate-lotteries = card outcomes  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** degenerate-lots-subset-all: degenerate-lotteries  $\subseteq \mathcal{P}$   $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** best-indifferent:  $\forall x \in best. \forall y \in best. x \approx [\mathcal{R}] y$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** worst-indifferent:  $\forall x \in worst. \forall y \in worst. x \approx [\mathcal{R}] y$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** best-worst-indiff-all-indiff: assumes  $b \in best$ 

```
and w \in worst
and b \approx [\mathcal{R}] w
shows \forall e \in \mathcal{P}. \ e \approx [\mathcal{R}] w \ \forall e \in \mathcal{P}. \ e \approx [\mathcal{R}] b
\langle proof \rangle
```

Like Step 1 most general but with IFF.

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma mix-pmf-pref-iff-more-likely [iff]:}\\ \textbf{assumes } b \succ [\mathcal{R}] w\\ \textbf{assumes } \alpha \in \{0..1\}\\ \textbf{and } \beta \in \{0..1\}\\ \textbf{shows } \alpha > \beta \longleftrightarrow \textit{mix-pmf } \alpha \ b \ w \succ [\mathcal{R}] \ \textit{mix-pmf } \beta \ b \ w \ (\textbf{is } ?L \longleftrightarrow ?R)\\ \langle \textit{proof} \rangle\\ \end{array}$  $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma better-worse-good-mix-preferred[iff]:}\\ \textbf{assumes } b \succeq [\mathcal{R}] w\\ \textbf{assumes } \alpha \in \{0..1\}\\ \textbf{and } \beta \in \{0..1\}\\ \end{array}$ 

assumes  $\alpha \geq \beta$ shows mix-pmf  $\alpha$  b  $w \succeq [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\beta$  b w

### $\langle proof \rangle$

### 5.1 Add finiteness and non emptyness of outcomes

```
context
assumes fnt: finite outcomes
assumes nempty: outcomes \neq {}
begin
```

**lemma** finite-degenerate-lotteries: finite degenerate-lotteries  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** degenerate-has-max-preferred:  $\{x \in degenerate-lotteries. (\forall y \in degenerate-lotteries. x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y)\} \neq \{\}$  (is  $?l \neq \{\}$ )  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** degenerate-has-min-preferred:  $\{x \in degenerate-lotteries. (\forall y \in degenerate-lotteries. y \succeq [\mathcal{R}] x)\} \neq \{\}$  (is  $?l \neq \{\}$ )  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** exists-best-degenerate:  $\exists x \in degenerate-lotteries. \forall y \in degenerate-lotteries. x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** exists-worst-degenerate:  $\exists x \in degenerate-lotteries. \forall y \in degenerate-lotteries. y \succeq [\mathcal{R}] x \ \langle proof \rangle$  **lemma** best-degenerate-in-best-overall:  $\exists x \in degenerate-lotteries. \forall y \in \mathcal{P}. x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y$   $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** worst-degenerate-in-worst-overall:

 $\exists x \in degenerate-lotteries. \forall y \in \mathcal{P}. \ y \succeq [\mathcal{R}] \ x \\ \langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** overall-best-nonempty: best  $\neq$  {}  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** overall-worst-nonempty: worst  $\neq$  {}  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

```
lemma trans-approx:

assumes x \approx [\mathcal{R}] y

and y \approx [\mathcal{R}] z

shows x \approx [\mathcal{R}] z

\langle proof \rangle
```

First EXPLICIT use of the axiom of choice

**private definition** some-best where some-best = (SOME x.  $x \in$  degenerate-lotteries  $\land x \in$  best)

**private definition** some-worst **where** some-worst = (SOME x.  $x \in$  degenerate-lotteries  $\land x \in$  worst)

private definition my- $U :: 'a \ pmf \Rightarrow real$ where

my-U  $p = (SOME \ \alpha. \ \alpha \in \{0..1\} \land p \approx [\mathcal{R}] \text{ mix-pmf } \alpha \text{ some-best some-worst})$ 

**lemma** exists-best-and-degenerate: degenerate-lotteries  $\cap$  best  $\neq$  {}  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** exists-worst-and-degenerate: degenerate-lotteries  $\cap$  worst  $\neq$  {}  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** some-best-in-best: some-best  $\in$  best  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** some-worst-in-worst: some-worst  $\in$  worst  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** best-always-at-least-as-good-mix: assumes  $\alpha \in \{\theta...1\}$ and  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ **shows** mix-pmf  $\alpha$  some-best  $p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] p$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** geq-mix-imp-weak-pref: assumes  $\alpha \in \{\theta...1\}$ and  $\beta \in \{\theta...1\}$ assumes  $\alpha \geq \beta$ **shows** mix-pmf  $\alpha$  some-best some-worst  $\succeq [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\beta$  some-best some-worst  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** gamma-inverse: assumes  $\alpha \in \{0 < .. < 1\}$ and  $\beta \in \{0 < .. < 1\}$ shows  $(1::real) - (\alpha - \beta) / (1 - \beta) = (1 - \alpha) / (1 - \beta)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** all-mix-pmf-indiff-indiff-best-worst: assumes  $l \in \mathcal{P}$ **assumes**  $b \in best$ **assumes**  $w \in worst$ assumes  $b \approx [\mathcal{R}] w$ shows  $\forall \alpha \in \{0..1\}$ .  $l \approx [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  b w  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *indiff-imp-same-utility-value*: **assumes** some-best  $\succ [\mathcal{R}]$  some-worst assumes  $\alpha \in \{0...1\}$ assumes  $\beta \in \{0...1\}$ **assumes** mix-pmf  $\beta$  some-best some-worst  $\approx [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  some-best some-worst shows  $\beta = \alpha$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *leq-mix-imp-weak-inferior*: **assumes** some-best  $\succ [\mathcal{R}]$  some-worst assumes  $\alpha \in \{0...1\}$ and  $\beta \in \{\theta...1\}$ **assumes** mix-pmf  $\beta$  some-best some-worst  $\succeq [\mathcal{R}]$  mix-pmf  $\alpha$  some-best some-worst shows  $\beta \geq \alpha$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** ge-mix-pmf-preferred: assumes  $x \succ [\mathcal{R}] y$ assumes  $\alpha \in \{0..1\}$ and  $\beta \in \{0..1\}$ assumes  $\alpha \geq \beta$ shows (mix-pmf  $\alpha x y$ )  $\succeq [\mathcal{R}]$  (mix-pmf  $\beta x y$ )

 $\langle proof \rangle$ 

### 5.2 Add continuity to assumptions

```
context assumes cnt: continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} begin
```

In Literature this is referred to as step 2.

These following two lemmas are referred to sometimes called step 2.

```
lemma create-unique-indiff-using-distinct-best-worst:
  assumes l \in \mathcal{P}
 assumes b \in best
 assumes w \in worst
 assumes b \succ [\mathcal{R}] w
  shows \exists ! \alpha \in \{0..1\}. l \approx [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha b w
\langle proof \rangle
lemma exists-element-bw-mix-is-approx:
 assumes l \in \mathcal{P}
 assumes b \in best
 assumes w \in worst
  shows \exists \alpha \in \{0..1\}. l \approx [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf \alpha b w
\langle proof \rangle
lemma my-U-is-defined:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
 shows my \cdot U p \in \{0..1\} p \approx [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf (my-U p) some-best some-worst
\langle proof \rangle
lemma weak-pref-mix-with-my-U-weak-pref:
 assumes p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q
 shows mix-pmf (my-Up) some-best some-worst \succeq [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf (my-Uq) some-best
some-worst
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma preferred-greater-my-U:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
  assumes mix-pmf (my-U p) some-best some-worst \succ [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf (my-U q)
some\-best\ some\-worst
  shows my-U p > my-U q
```

### $\langle proof \rangle$

```
lemma geq-my-U-imp-weak-preference:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
  assumes some-best \succ [\mathcal{R}] some-worst
  assumes my-U p \ge my-U q
  shows p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q
\langle proof \rangle
lemma my-U-represents-pref:
  assumes some-best \succ [\mathcal{R}] some-worst
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
  shows p \succeq [\mathcal{R}] q \longleftrightarrow my U p \ge my U q (is ?L \longleftrightarrow ?R)
\langle proof \rangle
lemma first-iff-u-greater-strict-preff:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
  assumes some-best \succ [\mathcal{R}] some-worst
  shows my - U p > my - U q \iff mix - pmf (my - U p) some-best some-worst \succ [\mathcal{R}]
mix-pmf (my-Uq) some-best some-worst
\langle proof \rangle
lemma second-iff-calib-mix-pref-strict-pref:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
  assumes some-best \succ [\mathcal{R}] some-worst
 shows mix-pmf (my-Up) some-best some-worst \succ [\mathcal{R}] mix-pmf (my-Uq) some-best
some-worst \longleftrightarrow p \succ [\mathcal{R}] q
\langle proof \rangle
lemma my-U-is-linear-function:
  assumes p \in \mathcal{P}
    and q \in \mathcal{P}
    and \alpha \in \{0...1\}
  assumes some-best \succ [\mathcal{R}] some-worst
  shows my-U (mix-pmf \alpha p q) = \alpha * my-U p + (1 - \alpha) * my-U q
\langle proof \rangle
```

Now we define a more general Utility function that also takes the degenerate case into account

```
private definition general-U
where
general-U p = (if \text{ some-best } \approx [\mathcal{R}] \text{ some-worst then 1 else my-U } p)
```

lemma general-U-is-linear-function: assumes  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ 

```
and q \in \mathcal{P}
and \alpha \in \{0..1\}
shows general-U (mix-pmf \alpha p q) = \alpha * (general-U p) + (1 - \alpha) * (general-U q)
\langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma general-U-ordinal-Utility:
shows ordinal-utility \mathcal{P} \mathcal{R} general-U
\langle proof \rangle
```

Proof of the linearity of general-U. If we consider the definition of expected utility functions from Maschler, Solan, Zamir we are done.

```
theorem is-linear:

assumes p \in \mathcal{P}

and q \in \mathcal{P}

and \alpha \in \{0..1\}

shows \exists u. u \ (mix-pmf \ \alpha \ p \ q) = \alpha * (u \ p) + (1-\alpha) * (u \ q)

\langle proof \rangle
```

Now I define a Utility function that assigns a utility to all outcomes. These are only finitely many

```
private definition ocU
where
    ocU p = general-U (return-pmf p)
```

```
lemma geral-U-is-expected-value-of-ocU:

assumes set-pmf p \subseteq outcomes

shows general-U p = measure-pmf.expectation p ocU

\langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma ordinal-utility-expected-value:
ordinal-utility \mathcal{P} \mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation x ocU)
\langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma ordinal-utility-expected-value':

\exists u. ordinal-utility \mathcal{P} \mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation x u)

\langle proof \rangle
```

```
lemma ocU-is-expected-utility-bernoulli:

shows \forall x \in \mathcal{P}. \forall y \in \mathcal{P}. x \succeq [\mathcal{R}] y \longleftrightarrow

measure-pmf.expectation x ocU \geq measure-pmf.expectation y ocU

\langle proof \rangle
```

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

end

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

```
lemma expected-value-is-utility-function:
  assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
 assumes x \in lotteries-on outcomes and y \in lotteries-on outcomes
  assumes ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation
x u
 shows measure-pmf.expectation x \ u \ge measure-pmf.expectation \ y \ u \longleftrightarrow x \succeq [\mathcal{R}]
y (is ?L \leftrightarrow ?R)
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma system-U-implies-vNM-utility:
  assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
 assumes rpr: rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
  assumes ind: independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
 assumes cnt: continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
 shows \exists u. ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) <math>\mathcal{R}(\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation)
x u
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma vNM-utility-implies-rationality:
  assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
 assumes \exists u. ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation)
x u
  shows rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
  \langle proof \rangle
theorem vNM-utility-implies-independence:
 assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
 assumes \exists u. ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) <math>\mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation)
x u
  shows independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
\langle proof \rangle
lemma exists-weight-for-equality:
 assumes a > c and a \ge b and b \ge c
  shows \exists (e::real) \in \{0..1\}. (1-e) * a + e * c = b
\langle proof \rangle
lemma vNM-utilty-implies-continuity:
  assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
 assumes \exists u. ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) <math>\mathcal{R}(\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation)
x u
  shows continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R}
\langle proof \rangle
```

```
theorem Von-Neumann-Morgenstern-Utility-Theorem:
assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
```

```
shows rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} \land

independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} \land

continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} \longleftrightarrow

(\exists u. ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} (\lambda x. measure-pmf.expectation x

u))

\langle proof \rangle
```

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

```
theory Expected-Utility
imports
Neumann-Morgenstern-Utility-Theorem
begin
```

## 6 Definition of vNM-utility function

We define a version of the vNM Utility function using the locale mechanism. Currently this definition and system U have no proven relation yet.

Important: u is actually not the von Neuman Utility Function, but a Bernoulli Utility Function. The Expected value p given u is the von Neumann Utility Function.

```
locale vNM-utility =
  fixes outcomes :: 'a set
  fixes relation :: 'a pmf relation
  fixes u :: 'a \Rightarrow real
 assumes relation \subseteq (lotteries-on outcomes \times lotteries-on outcomes)
 assumes \bigwedge p \ q. p \in lotteries \text{-}on \ outcomes \Longrightarrow
                  q \in lotteries-on outcomes \Longrightarrow
       p \succeq [relation] q \longleftrightarrow measure-pmf.expectation p u \ge measure-pmf.expectation
q \ u
begin
lemma vNM-utilityD:
 shows relation \subseteq (lotteries-on outcomes \times lotteries-on outcomes)
    and p \in lotteries-on outcomes \implies q \in lotteries-on outcomes \implies
    p \geq [relation] q \longleftrightarrow measure-pmf.expectation p u \geq measure-pmf.expectation q
u
  \langle proof \rangle
lemma not-outside:
  assumes p \succeq [relation] q
 shows p \in lotteries-on outcomes
    and q \in lotteries-on outcomes
\langle proof \rangle
```

**lemma** utility-ge: **assumes**  $p \succeq [relation] q$  **shows** measure-pmf.expectation  $p \ u \ge measure-pmf.expectation q u$  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

**sublocale** vNM-utility  $\subseteq$  ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) relation ( $\lambda p$ . measure-pmf.expectation p u)  $\langle proof \rangle$ 

context vNM-utility begin

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{lemma strict-preference-iff-strict-utility:}\\ \textbf{assumes } p \in lotteries-on \ outcomes\\ \textbf{assumes } q \in lotteries-on \ outcomes\\ \textbf{shows } p \succ [relation] \ q \longleftrightarrow measure-pmf.expectation \ p \ u > measure-pmf.expectation\\ q \ u\\ \langle proof \rangle \end{array}$ 

```
lemma pos-distrib-left:

assumes c > 0

shows (\sum z \in outcomes. pmf q z * (c * u z)) = c * (\sum z \in outcomes. pmf q z * (u z))

\langle proof \rangle
```

**lemma** sum-pmf-util-commute:  $(\sum_{a \in outcomes. pmf \ p \ a * u \ a) = (\sum_{a \in outcomes. u \ a * pmf \ p \ a)} \langle proof \rangle$ 

## 7 Finite outcomes

context assumes fnt: finite outcomes begin

 ${\bf lemma} {\it \ sum-equals-pmf-expectation}:$ 

assumes  $p \in lotteries$ -on outcomes shows $(\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf p z) * (u z)) = measure-pmf.expectation p u \langle proof \rangle$ 

**lemma** expected-utility-weak-preference: **assumes**  $p \in lotteries-on outcomes$  **and**  $q \in lotteries-on outcomes$  **shows**  $p \succeq [relation] q \longleftrightarrow (\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf p z) * (u z)) \ge (\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf q z) * (u z))$  (pmf q z) \* (u z)) $\langle proof \rangle$  **lemma** *diff-leq-zero-weak-preference*: **assumes**  $p \in lotteries$ -on outcomes and  $q \in lotteries$ -on outcomes shows  $p \succeq q \longleftrightarrow ((\sum a \in outcomes. pmf q \ a * u \ a)) - (\sum a \in outcomes. pmf p \ a)$  $* \ u \ a) \le 0)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *expected-utility-strict-preference*: **assumes**  $p \in lotteries$ -on outcomes and  $q \in lotteries$ -on outcomes shows  $p \succ [relation] q \longleftrightarrow measure-pmf.expectation p u > measure-pmf.expectation$  $q \ u$  $\langle proof \rangle$ lemma scale-pos-left: assumes  $c > \theta$ **shows** vNM-utility outcomes relation  $(\lambda x. \ c * u \ x)$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *strict-alt-def*: **assumes**  $p \in lotteries$ -on outcomes and  $q \in lotteries$ -on outcomes shows  $p \succ [relation] q \longleftrightarrow$  $(\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf p z) * (u z)) > (\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf q z) * (u z))$  $\langle proof \rangle$ **lemma** *strict-alt-def-utility-g*: assumes  $p \succ [relation] q$ shows  $(\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf p z) * (u z)) > (\sum z \in outcomes. (pmf q z) * (u z))$  $\langle proof \rangle$ end end **lemma** *vnm-utility-is-ordinal-utility*: assumes vNM-utility outcomes relation u

```
assumes vNM-utility outcomes relation u
shows ordinal-utility (lotteries-on outcomes) relation (\lambda p. measure-pmf.expectation
p u)
\langle proof \rangle
```

```
theorem expected-utilty-theorem-form-vnm-utility:
assumes fnt: finite outcomes and outcomes \neq {}
shows rational-preference (lotteries-on outcomes) \mathcal{R} \land
```

```
\begin{array}{l} \textit{independent-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) } \mathcal{R} \land \\ \textit{continuous-vnm (lotteries-on outcomes) } \mathcal{R} \longleftrightarrow \\ (\exists u. vNM\text{-utility outcomes } \mathcal{R} \ u) \\ \langle \textit{proof} \rangle \end{array}
```

 $\mathbf{end}$ 

## 8 Related work

Formalizations in Social choice theory has been formalized by Wiedijk [13], Nipkow [7], and Gammie [4, 5]. Vestergaard [12], Le Roux, Martin-Dorel, and Soloviev [10, 11] provide formalizations of results in game theory. A library for algorithmic game theory in Coq is described in[1].

Related work in economics includes the verification of financial systems [9], binomial pricing models [3], and VCG-Auctions [6]. In microeconomics we discussed a formalization of two economic models and the First Welfare Theorem [8].

To our knowledge the only work that uses expected utility theory is that of Eberl [2]. Since we focus on the underlying theory of expected utility, we found that there is only little overlap.

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