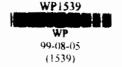


QUASITRANSITIVE RATIONAL CHOICE AND MONOTONIC PREFERENCE FOR FREEDOM

Ву

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ABSTRACT

We consider a finite universal set of alternatives and the set of all feasible sets are simply the set of all non-empty subsets of this universal set. A choice function assigns to each feasible set a non-empty subset of it. In such a framework we propose and study necessary and sufficient conditions for various types of quasi-transitive rationalizability. In a final section of this paper, we analyse necessary and sufficient conditions for quasi-transitive rationalizability of choice functions generated by a monotonic preference for freedom.

1. Introduction

We consider a finite universal set of alternatives and the set of all feasible sets are simply the set of all non-empty subsets of this universal set. A choice function assigns to each feasible set a non-empty subset of it.

An interesting problem in such a context is to explore the possibility of the choice function coinciding with the best elements with respect to a binary relation. This is precisely the problem of rational choice theory. There is a large literature today on this topic.

In this paper, we propose three new axioms which are used to fully characterize all choice functions which are rationalized by quasi-transitive, semi-transitive and a third kind of "almost" transitive (: the property is called intervality in the literature) binary relations. These "almost" transitive (: but not exactly so!) binary relations, which are now quite popular in the literature (: see Yu [1985]), have the rather interesting feature of revealing intransitive indifference for single valued choice functions. This phenomena has been dealt with rather elegantly by Kim [1987]. Our purpose, is to shed new light on the problem in the absence of the single-valuedness assumption. We, propose axiomatic characterizations which are minimal. Several examples are provided, to show that the assumptions we use are logically independent.

While characterizing choice functions which coincide with the best elements with respect to a binary relation satisfying intervality, we invoke a property due to Fishburn [1971], which we refer to in the paper as Fishburn's Intervality Axiom. In Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995], can be found an axiom called Functional Acyclicity, which generalizes Fishburn's Intervality Axiom. It is correctly claimed in Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995], that satisfaction of Functional Acyclicity is equivalent to the existence

of two real valued functions, one with domain being the finite universal set and the other with domain being the set of all finite subsets of the universal set, such that given a feasible set, only those alternatives are chosen whose value corresponding to the first function is at-least as much as the value assigned to the feasible set by the second function. Such choice functions are called threshold rationalizable. In this paper, we provide a correct proof of this result, in view of obvious logical discrepencies in the proof available in Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995].

In a final section of this paper we address the problem concerning quasi-transitive rationalizations of choice functions generated by what we refer to in this paper as "preference for freedom". The concept of "preference for freedom", can be traced back to the modest yet significant literature on "freedom of choice". In the "freedom of choice" literature, the principal problem is to define a binary relation on non-empty subsets of a given set, so as to formalize the notion of "preference for freedom" which any non-empty set of alternatives provides to a decision maker. Presumably, the idea is to use this binary relation to rank opportunity sets and arrive at decisions on the basis of such a ranking. This field has been pioneered by Pattanaik and Xu [1990], with subsequent contributions by Pattanaik and Xu [1997, 1998], Arrow [1995], Carter [1996], Puppe [1996], Sen [1990, 1991], Rosenbaum [1996], Van Hees [1998, 1999], Van Hees and Wissenburg [1999] and Arlegi and Nieto [1999] (as also the references therein). In a related effort (Lahiri [1999]) a necessary and sufficient condition has been proposed which answers the question arising out of the converse problem: given a choice function, is there anything akin to a "preference for freedom" (: however, queer that may be !) which rationalizes the observed behaviour of a decision maker? Puppe[1996], considers a choice function which chooses only those points from a feasible set, whose unilateral deletion from the feasible set leads to a perceived deterioration. We show that in the framework cosidered by Puppe [1996], Chernoff's Axiom and the Generalized Condorcet Axiom (both celebrated in classical rational choice theory) imply our New Quasi Transitivity Axiom, and hence as a consequence of an earlier result, guarantee quasi transitive rationalization.

2. <u>Model</u> Let X be a finite, non-empty universal set. If S is any non-empty subset of X, let [S] denote the set of all non-empty subsets of S. A choice function on X is a function $C : [X] \to [X]$ such that $C(S) \subset S \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon [X]$. Given a binary relation R on X and S $\epsilon [X]$, let $G(S, R) = \{x \epsilon S / (x, y) \epsilon R \ \forall \ y \epsilon S\}$. This set is called the set of <u>best elements</u> in S with respect to R.Let, $P(R) = \{(x,y) \epsilon R / (y,x) \notin R\}$. Given a choice function C on X, let $R^C = \{(x,y) \epsilon XxX/x \epsilon C (\{x,y\})\}$ and let $R_C = \{(x,y) \epsilon XxS/S \epsilon [X]\}$. Let $\Delta = \{(x,x)/x \epsilon X\}$.

The following result is well known in the literature on rational choice.

<u>Proposition 1</u>: Given a choice function C on X if there exists a binary relation R on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$, then $R = R^C$.

A binary relation R on X is said to be

- i. Reflexive if $(x, x) \in R \ \forall \ x \in S$;
- ii. Complete if $\forall x, y \in X, x \neq y$ implies $(x, y) \in R$ or $(y, x) \in R$.

- iii. Quasitransitive if $\forall x,y,z \in X$, $(x,y) \in P(R)$, $(y,z) \in P(R)$ implies $(x,z) \in P(R)$.
- iv) A Quasi-ordering if it satisfies (i), (ii) and (iii).
- v) Transitive if $\forall x, y, z \in X$, $(x, y) \in R & (y, z) \in R$ implies $(x, z) \in R$;
- vi) An Ordering if it satisfies (i), (ii) and (v).

A choice function is said to satisfy:

- a) Chernoffs Axiom (CA) if \forall S,T ε [X] with S \subset T, C(T) \cap S \subset C(S);
- b) Generalized Condorcet (GC) if \forall S ϵ [X], G(S, R^C) \subset C(S);
- c) Bandopadhyay Sengupta Acyclicity Axiom (BSAA) if \forall S ϵ [X],[x ϵ S\C(S) implies that there exist y ϵ S with (x,y) \notin R_C].

<u>Proposition 2:</u> Given a choice function $C : [X] \to [X]$ there exists a binary relation R on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \ \forall \ S \in [X]$ if and only if at least one of the following two conditions hold:

- 1) C satisfies CA and GC;
- 2) C satisfies BSAA

The above results are available in Suzumura [1983] and Bandopadhyay and Sengupta [1991].

The reason why we refer to one of the axioms above as an acyclicity axiom is that if $\forall S \in [X]$, C(S) = G(S,R) where R is a binary relation on X, then R must be acyclic in the following sense: there does not exist $t \in N$ and $\{x^i\}_{i=1,...,t}$, all in X such that with $(x^i, x^{i+1}) \in P(R)$ $\forall i \in \{1,...,t-1\}$ with $(x^i, x^i) \in P(R)$.

A choice function C is said to satisfy the <u>Bandopadhyay Sengupta Quasi Transitivity Axiom</u> (BSQTA) if $\forall S \in [X]$, $[x \in S \setminus C(S)$ implies that there exist $y \in C(S)$ with $(x,y) \notin R_C$.

The following result has been established in Bandopadhyay and Sengupta [1991].

<u>Proposition 3</u>: Given a choice function $C : [X] \to [X]$, there exists a quasi-ordering R on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$ only if C satisfies BSQTA.

3. Quasi-Transitive Rationality: A choice function C on X is said to satisfy

- d) Outcasting (O) if \forall S, T ε [X], C(T) \subset S \subset T implies C(S) = C(T);
- e) Superset Axiom (SUA) if \forall S, T ε [X], C(T) \subset C(S) \subset T implies C(S) = C(T),
- f) Jamison and Lau's Quasi Transitivity Axiom (JLQTA) if $\forall S, T \in [X], S \subset T \setminus C(T)$ implies $C(T \setminus S) = C(T)$;
- g) Sen's Quasi Transitivity Axiom (SQTA) if \forall S,T ϵ [X], S \subset T, x, y ϵ C(S), x \neq y implies C(T) \neq {x}.
- h) Fishburn's Quasi Transitivity Axiom (FQTA) if \forall S, T ϵ [X], [S \ C(S)] \cap C(T) $\neq \phi$ implies C(S) \T $\neq \phi$.

Outcasting is generally attributed to Nash [1950]; the Superset Axiom can be found in Suzumura [1983]; Jamison and Lau's Quasi Transitivity Axiom can be found in Jamison and Lau [1973], Sen's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom can be found in Sen [1971]; Fishburn's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom can be found in Fishburn [1975]. The following result can be found in the above mentioned papers and in Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995].

Theorem 1: Given a choice function C on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$, where R is a binary relation on X, R is a quasi-transitive if and only if any one of the following holds:

- i Outcasting;
- ii Superset Axiom;
- iii Jamsion and Lau's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom;
- iv Sen's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom;
- v Fishburn's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom.

We now introduce a new quasi-transitivity axiom, similar in spirit to Sen's Quasi-Transitivity Axiom. This Axiom is originally due to Nehring (1997).

New Quasi Transitivity Axiom (NQTA): A choice function C on X is said to satisfy the New Quasi Transitivity Axiom if $\forall S \in [X]$, $[x, y \in C(S)]$ implies $y \notin C(S \setminus \{x\})$.

We now introduce the following result:

Theorem 2: Let C be a choice function on X such that $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S \in [X]$, where R is a binary relation on X. Then R is quasi-transitive if and only if C satisfies NQTA.

Proof: Suppose $C(S) = G(S, R) \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon \ [X]$, where R is a quasi-ordering on X. Let x, y $\epsilon \ S \setminus C(S)$. Since S is finite and R is a quasi-ordering, there exists $z \ \epsilon \ C(S)$ such that $(z,x) \ \epsilon \ P(R)$. Thus, $z \ \epsilon \ S \setminus \{y\}$. Hence, $x \notin G(S \setminus \{y\}, R) = C(S \setminus \{y\})$.

Now suppose $C(S) = G(S,R) \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon[X]$ and C satisfies NQTA. Let $(x,y) \ \epsilon \ P(R)$, $(y,z) \ \epsilon \ (P,R)$. Let $S = \{x,y,z\}$. Since $C(S) \neq \emptyset$, we must have $C(S) = \{x\}$. Hence $(z,x) \notin P(R)$. If $(x,z) \notin P(R)$, then $C(\{x,z\}) = \{x,z\}$. However, then $y,z \in S \setminus C(S)$ and $z \in C(S \setminus \{y\})$, contradicts NQTA. Thus, $(x,z) \in P(R)$. This proves the theorem.

4. Complete Logical Independence of CA, GC and NQTA:

Example 1: A choice function which does not satisfy either CA or GC or NOTA: Let $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x\}$, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x,y\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y,z\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{z\}$, $C(\{a\}) = \{a\} \ \forall \ a \in X$. Since $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$, C does not satisfy CA. Since $z \notin C(X)$, C does not satisfy GC; since $y,z \in X \setminus C(X)$ and $z \in C(X \setminus \{y\})$, C does not satisfy NQTA. We have here a choice function which does not satisfy BSAA either: $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$ and BSAA implies $(x,z) \notin R_c$. However $z \in X$ and $x \in C(X)$, contradicting BSAA.

Example 2: A choice function which does not satisfy either CA or GC but satisfies NOTA: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x,y\}$, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x,y\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y,z\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{z\}$, $C(\{a\}) = \{a\} \ \forall \ a \in X$. C does not satisfy CA since $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$; C does not satisfy GC since $z \notin C(X)$. However, C satisfies NQTA. Note C does not satisfy BSAA: $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$ implies by BSAA, $(x,z) \notin R_c$. However $z \in X$ and $x \in C(X)$, contradicting BSAA.

Example 3: A choice function which does not satisfy either CA or NQTA, but satisfies GC: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x\}$, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{z\}$, $C(\{a\}) = \{a\} \ \forall \ a \in X$. C does not satisfy CA, since, $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$; C does not satisfy NQTA, since $y,z \notin C(X)$, but $z \in C(X \setminus \{y\})$. However, C satisfies GC vacuously. Note that C does not satisfy BSAA: $x \notin C(\{x,z\})$ and BSAA imply $(x,z) \notin R_c$ contradicting $z \in X$ and $x \in C(X)$.

Example 4: A choice function which does not satisfy either GC or NOTA but satisfies CA: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x\}$, $C(S) = S \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon \ [X]$, $S \ne X$. C does not satisfy GC since $y \notin C(X)$. C does not satisfy NQTA, since $y, z \in X \setminus C(X)$ but $z \in C(X \setminus \{y\})$. However, C satisfies CA. Note that C does not satisfy BSAA: $y \in X \setminus C(X)$ implies either $(y,x) \notin R_c$ or $(y,z) \notin R_c$ contradicting $y \in C(\{x,y\})$ and $y \in C(\{y,z\})$.

Example 5: A choice function which does not satisfy CA, but satisfies GC and NQTA: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, C(X) = X, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{z\}$, $C(\{a\}) = \{a\} \forall a \in X$. C does not satisfy CA, since, $y \notin C(\{x,y\})$. However it satisfies GC and NQTA vacuously. Note C does not satisfy BSAA: $y \in \{x,y\} \setminus C(\{x,y\})$ implies by $(x,y) \notin R_c$ contradicting $y \in X$ and $x \in C(X)$.

Example 6: A choice function which does not satisfy GC, but satisfies CA and NOTA: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x,y\}$, $C(S) = S \forall S \in [X]$, $S \neq X$. C does not satisfy GC, since $z \notin C(X)$. C satisfies CA. C satisfies NQTA vacuously. Note C does not satisfy BSAA: $z \in X \setminus C(X)$ implies by BSAA either $(z,x) \notin R_c$ or $(z,y) \notin R_c$ contradicting $z \in C(\{x,z\})$ and $z \in C(\{y,z\})$.

Example 7: A choice function which does not satisfy NQTA, but satisfies CA and GC: $X = \{x,y,z\}$, $C(X) = \{x\}$, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{x,z\}$. C satisfies CA and GC. But C does not satisfy NQTA: $y, z \in X \setminus C(X)$ and yet $z \in C(X \setminus \{y\})$. Note C satisfies BSAA.

Example 8: A choice function which satisfies CA, GC and NQTA: $X = \{x,y,z,w\}$, $C(X) = \{x,w\}$, $C(\{x,y\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{y,z\}) = \{y\}$, $C(\{x,z\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{x,w\}) = \{x,w\}$, $C(\{z,w\}) = \{z,w\}$, $C(\{y,z,w\}) = \{y,w\}$, $C(\{x,y,z\}) = \{x\}$, $C(\{x,y,w\}) = \{x,w\}$, $C(\{x,z,w\}) = \{x,w\}$. $C(\{y,z,w\}) = \{y,w\}$. C satisfies CA, GC and NQTA. Note that C satisfies BSAA as well.

$$R = \{(x,x), (y,y), (z,z), (w,w), (x,y), (y,z), (x,z), (x,w), (w,x), (y,w), (w,y), (z,w), (w,z)\}$$
 and,

 $C(S) = G(S, R) \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon \ [X]$. R is a quasi-ordering. However, $(z,w) \ \epsilon \ R$ and $(w,x) \ \epsilon \ R$. Yet $(z,x) \notin R$. Hence R is not transitive. Thus, R is not an ordering. In view of Proposition 1, we may conclude that there does not exist any ordering on X, such that for every S in [X], C(S) is equal to the set of best in S with respect to the given ordering. Further, by appealing to Proposition 2 and Theorem 2, we may now assert the following:

Theorem 3: Given a choice function C on X, there exists a quasi-ordering R on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$ if and only if any one of the following holds:

- a) C satisfies CA, GC and NQTA;
- b) C satisfies BSAA and NQTA.

Note:

Example 1 above gives an example of a choice function which does not satisfy either BSQTA or NQTA; Examples 2, 5, 6 above gives examples of choice functions which satisfy NQTA but not BSQTA. Thus, in view of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 we may conclude the following.

Theorem 4: BSQTA implies NQTA. However, the converse is not true.

It may be interesting to compare the relative strengths of SQTA and NQTA. Towards that goal we have the following result to offer:

<u>Theorem 5</u>: NQTA implies SQTA. However the converse is not true.

Proof: Suppose C satisfies NQTA and towards a contradiction suppose that there exists A,B ϵ [X] with B \subset A and there exists x,y ϵ C(B) with x \neq y but $\{x\}$ =C(A). Since this is clearly not possible with B=A, we must have B \subset CA.Let A\B= $\{x_1,...,x_r\}$, for some positive integer r.Clearly, y \notin $\{x_1,...,x_r\}$. Suppose C(B \cup { x_1 })= $\{y\}$. Then x_1 , x ϵ (B \cup { x_1 }) \ C(B \cup { x_1 }) and x ϵ B contradicting NQTA. Thus,

 $C(B \cup \{x_1\}) \neq \{y\}$. Now suppose $\{y\} \neq C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_q\})$ for q < r. Towards a contradiction suppose, $\{y\} = C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\})$.

<u>Casel</u>: $y \notin C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_q\})$. Let $z \in C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_q\})$. Thus $z \neq y$. Thus, $z, x_{q+1} \in (B \cup \{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\})$. $C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\})$, and $z \in C(B \cup \{x_1,...,x_q\})$, contradicting NQTA.

Case2: $\{y\}\subset\subset C(B\cup\{x_1,...,x_q\})$. Let $z\in C(B\cup\{x_1,...,x_q\})$, with $z\neq y$. Thus, z, $x_{q+1}\in B\cup\{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\}$) $C(B\cup\{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\})$, and $z\in C(B\cup\{x_1,...,x_q\})$, contradicting NQTA.

Hence, $\{y\}\neq C(B\cup\{x_1,...,x_{q+1}\})$. By a simple induction argument, we may conclude that $\{y\}\neq C(A)$. Thus, C satisfies SQTA.

To show that SQTA does not necessarily imply NQTA, let $X=\{x,y,z\}$. Define $C:[X]\to [X]$ as follows: $C(X)=\{x\}$ and C(A)=A for all $A\in [X]\setminus \{X\}$. C satisfies SQTA vacuously. However, $y,z\in X\setminus C(X)$ and yet, $y\in C(\{x,y\})$, contradicting NQTA.

Q.E.D.

Our primary reason for invoking and emphasising NQTA is because of the significant role it plays in obtaining a neat characterization of quasitransitively rationalizable choice functions generated by a monotonic preference for freedom, as we shall observe later on.

Semitransitive Rationality:

A binary relation R on X is said to be <u>semi-transitive</u> if $\forall x, y, z. w \in X$, $[(x,y) \in P(R)]$ and $(y, z) \in P(R)$ implies $[(x, w) \in P(R)]$ or $(w,z) \in P(R)$.

If R is reflexive and complete, then R is semi-transitive if and only if $\forall x, y, z, w \in X$, $[(x, y) \in P(R)]$ and $(y,z) \in P(R)$ implies [either $(w, x) \notin R$ or $(z, w) \notin R$].

Proposition 4:

Let R on X be a binary relation which is reflexive, complete and semi-transitive. Then R is a quasi-order.

A binary relation R on X which is reflexive, complete and semi-transitive is called a semi-order (or a semi-ordering).

A set of necessary and sufficient conditions for a choice function C on X to satisfy $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S$ ε [X], where R is a semi-order can be found in Fishburn [1975] and Gensemer [1991]. We present a different axiomatic characterization below.

A choice function C on X is said to satisfy the New Semi Transitivity Axiom (NSTA) if \forall S, T ϵ [X] with $T \subset S \setminus C(S)$, $[z \in T \setminus C(T) \to [(z, x) \notin R_c$, whenever $x \in C(S)$]

Theorem 6: Let C be a choice function on S such that $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S \in [X]$, for some binary relation R on X. Then R is semi-transitive if and only if C satisfies NSTA.

Proof: Let R be a semi-ordering on X such that $C(S) = G(S, R) \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon \ [X]$. Let $T \subset S \setminus C(S)$ and $z \in T \setminus C(T)$ where S, $T \in [X]$. Since R is of necessity quasi-transitive, there exists $y \in C(T) : (y, z) \in P(R)$. Since $y \in S \setminus C(S)$, there exists $x \in C(S)$ such that $(x, y) \in P(R)$. Let $w \in C(S)$. Clearly, $(x, w) \notin P(R)$. Hence by semi-transitivity of R, $(w, z) \in P(R)$. Thus, $(z, w) \notin R_C$.

Now suppose $C(S) = G(S, R) \ \forall \ S \ \epsilon \ [X]$ and suppose C satisfies NSTA. Let $(x, y) \ \epsilon \ P(R)$ and $(y,z) \ \epsilon \ P(R)$. Thus, $\{x\} = C(\{x, y, z\})$ and $\{y\} = C(\{y,z\})$. Now $\{y,z\} \subset (x, y, z) \ C(\{x, y, z\})$ and $z \ \epsilon \ \{y,z\} \ C(\{y,z\})$. Thus by NSTA, $(z, x) \notin R_c$. Thus $z \notin C(\{x,z\})$. Thus $(x,z) \in P(R)$. Thus R is quasitransitive. Now suppose R and towards a contradiction suppose R and R are a point R and towards a contradiction suppose R and R are a point R and R are a poi

In view of Proposition 4, Theorem 6 and Theorem 2, NSTA \rightarrow NQTA. Example 8 shows that the converse is not necessarily true. In fact a combination of CA, GC and NQTA does not imply NSTA. The fact that CA and GC combined together does not imply NSTA or that BSAA does not imply NSTA follows from the examples that we have given above. Without being unnecessarily repetitive, we might mention that the logical independence of CA, GC and NSTA follows from Examples 1 to 7, since whenever the cardinality of X is three (or less) NSTA and NQTA are equivalent. Hence, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 7:Let C be a choice function on X. Then there exists a semi-order R on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$ if and only if any one of the following holds:

- a) C satisfies CA, GC and NSTA.
- b) C satisfies BSAA and NSTA.
- 6. <u>Intervality and Rational Choice:</u>

A binary relation R on X is said to satisfy <u>intervality</u> if $\forall x, y, z, w \in X$, $(x, y) \in P(R)$ & $(z,w) \in P(R)$ implies [either $(z,y) \in P(R)$ or $(x,w) \in P(R)$]. By setting y = z we see easily, that a reflexive binary relation satisfying intervality, also satisfies quasi-transitivity. If R is reflexive and complete, then R satisfies intervality is equivalent to the following condition:

 $\forall x, y, z, w \in X$, $[(x, y) \in R \& (z, w) \in R]$ implies [either $(z, y) \in R$ or $(x, w) \in R$].

Proposition 5:

Let R be reflexive and complete. Then R satisfies intervality if and only if R satisfies the following condition:

Condition (*):

 $\forall x, y, z, w \in X, (x, y) \in P(R)(y, z) \in \& R, (z, y) \in R \text{ and } (z, w) \in R \text{ implies } (x, w) \in P(R)$].

<u>Proof.</u> Let R be reflexive, complete and satisfy intervality and let x, y, z, w be as in Condition (*). Then since $(z, y) \notin P(R)$, by intervality $(x, w) \in P(R)$. Thus, R satisfies Condition (*).

Now let R be reflexive, complete and satisfy Condition (*). Let $(x, y) \in P(R)$ and (z, w) P(R). Suppose y = z. Then since R is reflexive, by condition (*), $(x, w) \in P(R)$. Suppose then that $y \neq z$. If $(z, y) \in P(R)$ then we are done. Hence suppose, $(z, y) \notin P(R)$. If $(y, z) \in P(R)$, then since Condition (*) along with the reflexivity of R implies that R is quasi-transitive, we get $(x, w) \in P(R)$. Finally, if $(y, z) \in R$ & $(z, y) \in R$, then by condition (*) we get $(x, w) \in P(R)$. Thus, R satisfies intervality.

Q.E.D.

The following axiom can be found in Bandopadhyay and Sengupta [1991]: A choice function C on X is said to satisfy <u>Bandopadhyay and Sengupta's Intervality Axiom</u> (BSIA) if $\forall S \in [X]$, $S \setminus C(S) \neq \emptyset$ implies that there exists $x \in C(S)$ such that $(y, x) \notin R_C$ whenever $y \in S \setminus C(S)$.

<u>Proposition 6</u>: A choice function C on X satisfies BSIA if and only if there exists a reflexive, complete binary relation R on X satisfying intervality such that $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S \in [X]$.

A reflexive, complete binary relation on X satisfying intervality is called an interval order.

In the literature on rational choice, we find the following two axioms as well:

A choice function C on X is said to satisfy <u>Fishburn's Intervality Axiom</u> (FIA) if \forall S, T, ε [X], C(S) \cap [T\C(T)] \neq \varnothing implies [S\C(S)] \cap C(T) = \varnothing .

A choice function C on X is said to satisfy <u>Aizerman and Aleskerov's Intervality Axiom</u> (AAIA) if \forall S, T ϵ [X], C(S) \subset C(C(S) \cup T) implies C(T) \subset C(C(T) \cup S).

FIA is due to Fishburn [1971]. AAIA can be found in Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995].

Theorem 8: Let C be a choice function on X such that $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S \in [X]$, where R is a binary relation on X. Then R satisfies intervality, if and only if any one of the following conditions hold:

- a) C satisfies FQTA and FIA
- b) C satisfies AAIA

We now propose the following axiom:

A choice function C on X is said to satisfy the <u>New Intervality Axiom</u> (NIA) if $\forall S \in [X]$, y, w $\in S \setminus C(S)$, $y \neq w$, $z \in C(S)$, $(y,z) \in R_c$ implies $w \notin C(S \setminus \{x,z\})$.

Theorem 9: Let C be a choice function on X such that $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$, where R is a binary relation on X. Then R satisfies intervality if and only if C satisfies NQTA and NIA.

Proof: Let $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$ where R satisfies intervality. Thus, R is quasi-transitive and thus, C satisfies NQTA (by Theorem 2).

Now, let y, w ε S \ C(S), y \neq w, z ε C(S), (y, z) ε R_c. Thus there exists x ε C(S): (x,w) ε P(R). Suppose x \neq z. Thus x ε S \ {z} and hence w \notin C(S \ {z}). Hence suppose x = z. Now y ε S \ C(S) implies that there exists v ε C(S) such that (v, y) ε P(R). Since (y,z) ε R_c, v \neq z. Thus, (v,y) ε P(R) & (z,w) ε P(R) implies by intervality, that either (z,y) ε P(R) or (v,w) ε P(R). Since (y,z) ε R_c, we cannot have (z,y) ε P(R). Thus, (v,w) ε P(R). Since v \neq z, v ε S \ {z}. Thus w \notin C(S \ {z}).

Now suppose $C(S) = G(S, R) \forall S \in [X]$ and C satisfies NQTA and NIA. By Theorem 2, R is a quasi-transitive. Now suppose, $(x,y) \in P(R)$ & $(z,w) \in P(R)$. If $(z,y) \in P(R)$ we are done. Hence suppose, $(z,y) \notin P(R)$. If $(y,z) \in P(R)$, then by quasi-transitivity of R, $(x,w) \in P(R)$ and we are done. Thus, suppose $(z,y) \in R$ and $(y,z) \in R$. If $(z,x) \in P(R)$, then $(z,y) \in P(R)$ by quasi-transitivity of R, which we have ruled out. If $(x,z) \in P(R)$, then $(x,w) \in P(R)$ by quasi-transitivity of R and we are done. Hence suppose $(x,z) \notin P(R)$. Thus $(z,x) \notin P(R)$ and $(x,z) \notin P(R)$. Similarly, $(w,x) \in P(R)$ would imply by quasi-transitivity that $(z,y) \in P(R)$ which we have ruled out.

Thus, $C(\{x,y,z,w\}) = \{x,z\}$ provided $(x,w) \notin P(R)$ and $(z,y) \notin P(R)$.

However, $C(\{x,y,w\}) = \{x,w\}$ if $(x,w) \notin P(R)$ and $(z,y) \notin P(R)$.

Let $S = \{x,y,z,w\}$. Now, y, w ε S \ C(S), y \neq w, z ε C(S) and (y,z) ε R^C \subset R_C. By NIA, w \notin C ($\{x,y,w\}$), contradicting what we have obtained above. Thus, R satisfies intervality.

Q.E.D.

Example 9: C satisfies CA, GC and NQTA but C does not satisfy NIA: Let $X = \{x,y,z,w\}$.

Let $R = \Delta \cup \{(x,y), (z,w), (y,z), (z,y), (x,w), (w,x), (y,w), (w,y)\}.$

Let $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$. C satisfies CA, GC and NQTA, but C does not satisfy NIA.

In view of Theorem 9 and Example 9, we may state the following:

Theorem 10: Let C be a choice function on X. Then $C(S) = G(S,R) \forall S \in [X]$, where R is an interval order on X, if and only if, C satisfies CA, GC, NQTA and NIA.

7. Functional Acyclicity:- A choice correspondence C is said to satisfy Functional Acyclicity (FA), if given any collection of sets $S_1,...., S_r$ in [X], $C(S_{t+1}) \cap (S_t \setminus C(S_t)) \neq \phi \ \forall \ t = 1,..., \ r-1$ implies $C(S_1) \cap (S_r \setminus C(S_r)) = \phi$.

Observe that FA implies FIA.

A choice correspondence C is said to be interval rationalizable if there exists functions h: $X \to \Re$ and $\delta: [X] \to \Re$ such that $C(S) = \{ x \in S \mid h(x) \ge h(y) + \delta(S) \forall y \in S \}$.

A choice correspondence C is said to be threshold rationalizable if there exists functions h: $X \to \Re$ and $V: [X] \to \Re$ such that $C(S) = \{ x \in S \mid h(x) \ge V(S) \}$.

Theorem 11: A choice correspondence is interval rationalizable if and only if it is threshold rationalizable.

Proof: Theorem 3.15 in Aizerman and Aleskerov [1995].

<u>Theorem 12</u>:- A choice correspondence C is said to be threshold rationalizable if and only if it satisfies functional acyclicity.

<u>Proof.</u> Let C be a choice correspondence which is threshold rationalizable. Thus there exists h: $X \to \Re$ and $V : [X] \to \Re$ such that $C(S) = \{x \in S \mid h(x) \ge V(S)\} \ \forall \ S \in [X]$. Towards a contradiction assume that $C(S_{t+1}) \cap (S_t \setminus C(S_t)) \ne \emptyset \ \forall \ t = 1,...,\ r-1$ and $C(S_1) \cap (S_r \setminus C(S_r)) \ne \emptyset$

Let
$$x_{t+1} \in C(S_{t+1}) \cap (S_t \setminus C(S_t)) \neq \phi \ \forall \ t = 1, ..., r-1$$

and $x_1 \in C(S_1) \cap (S_r \setminus C(S_r))$

Thus
$$h(x_t) \ge V(S_t) \ \forall \ t = 1, ..., r$$
 further $h(x_{t+1}) \le V(S_t) \ \forall \ t = 1, ..., r-1$ and $h(x_1) \le V(S_r)$

Thus from the weak inequalities we get, $\Sigma_{t \in \{1,\dots,r\}} h(x_t) \ge \Sigma_{t \in \{1,\dots,r\}} V(S_t)$

and from the strict inequality we get, $\Sigma_{t \in \{1,...,r\}} h(x_t) \le \Sigma_{t \in \{1,...,r\}} V(S_t)$

This contradiction implies that C must satisfy functional acyclicity. Let $R_C^* = \bigcup \{C(S)x(S\setminus C(S)/S \epsilon[X]\}$ and $T(R_C^*)$ denote the transitive hull of R_C^*

(see Suzumura[1983]). $T(R_C^*)$ is transitive. Further, by Functional Acyclicity $(x, y) \in T(R_C^*)$ implies $(y,x) \notin T(R_C^*)$. Let $R = \Delta \cup T(R_C^*)$. By Szpilrajn's extension theorem (see Fishburn [1970]) there exists the a function $h: X \to R$ such that $(x, y) \in T(R_C^*)$ implies h(x) > h(y).

Given $S \in [X]$, let $V(S) = \min \{h(y) / y \in C(S)\}$.

Clearly, $x \in C(S) \rightarrow h(x) \ge V(S)$ and $x \in S$.

Now, suppose $x \in S$, $h(x) \ge V(S)$ and towards a contradiction assume $x \notin C(S)$. Let $y \in C(S)$ with h(y) = V(S). Thus, $(y, x) \in R_C^*$. Thus by the above h(y) > h(x) which contradicts what we obtained above. Thus $x \in S$, $f(x) \ge V(S)$ implies $x \in C(S)$.

Q.E.D.

Coupled with Theorem 11, we have thus proved:

Theorem 13: A choice correspondence is interval rationalizable if and only if it satisfies functional acyclicity.

8. Monotonic Preference for Freedom: A binary relation \Im on [X] is any non-empty subset of [X]x[X]. Let $\Gamma = \{(S,S)/S \in [X]\}$. \Im is said to be reflexive if $\Gamma \subset \Im$. \Im is said to be transitive if $(S,T),(T,U) \in \Im$ implies $(S,U) \in \Im$. Let, $M = \{(S,T)/T \subset S\}$. Note $\Gamma \subset M$ that \Im is said to be Monotonic with respect to Set Inclusion (MSI)if $M \subset \Im$. Given \Im let $P(\Im) = \{(S,T) \in \Im/(T,U) \notin \Im\}$ and $P(\Im) = \{(S,T) \in \Im/(T,S) \in \Im\}$. \mathbb{F} is said to satisfy Preference for Freedom of Choice(PFC)if $\forall S \in [X]$ which has at least two elements, there exists $P(\Im) \in \mathbb{F}$ with $P(\Im) \in \mathbb{F}$ is said to be a Preference for Freedom (PF). If in addition it satisfies MIS, it is said to be a Monotonic Preference for Freedom (MPF).

Let \Im be a MPF. Define $E_{\Im}[X] \rightarrow [X]$ as follows:

 $E_3(S)=S$, if S has exactly one element,

= $\{x \in X/(S,S\setminus\{x\})\in P(\mathfrak{I})\}$, otherwise.

It is easy to see that E₃ is well defined by virtue of PFC.

Let $R_3 = \{(x,y)/x \in E_3(\{x,y\}).$

Observation: Given an MPF \Im if there exists a binary relation R on X such that $E_{\Im}(S)=G(S,R)$ \forall $S\in[X]$, then $R=R_{\Im}$.

A PF \Im is said to satisfy <u>Independence with respect to Non-essential Alternatives</u> (INA) if $(E_{\Im}(S),S) \in \Im$, for all $S \in [X]$.

Theorem 14: Let \Im be an MPF. \Im satisfies INA if and only if E_{\Im} satisfies NQTA.

Proof: Suppose \Im satisfies INA and towards a contradiction suppose that there exists $S \in [X]$ with $x,y \in S \setminus E_3(S)$ and $y \in E_3(S \setminus \{x\})$. Hence $x \neq y$. By INA and MIS, $(E_3(S),S) \in I(\Im)$. Now, $y \in E_3(S \setminus \{x\})$ implies $(S \setminus \{x\},S \setminus \{x,y\}) \in P(\Im)$ and by MSI $(S,S \setminus \{x\}) \in \Im$. Since $x,y \in S \setminus E_3(S)$, $E_3(S) \subset S \setminus \{x,y\}$. By

MSI, $(S\setminus\{x,y\}, E_3(S)) \in \mathfrak{I}$, so that by transitivity of $\mathfrak{I}(S, E_3(S)) \in P(\mathfrak{I})$ contradicting INA.Hence E_3 satisfies NQTA.

Now suppose E_3 satisfies NQTA and let $S \in [X]$.If $E_3(S) = S$, then clearly $(E_3(S),S) \in \mathfrak{I}$, by reflexivity of \mathfrak{I} .Hence, suppose $E_3(S) \subset C$ S.Let $S \setminus E_3(S) = \{x_1,...,x_r\}$, for some positive integer r.By MSI and definition of E_3 , $(S,S \setminus \{y\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$ for $y \in \{x_1,...,x_r\}$. Hence if r=1, $(S,E_3(S)) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$. Thus, suppose r > 1. Suppose $(S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_q\}, S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_{q+1}\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$, $\forall \{y_1,...,y_{q+1}\} \subset \{x_1,...,x_r\}$ and for q=1,...,s < r-1. Consider, $S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_{s+1}\}$. Now, y_{s+1} , $y_{s+2} \in (S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_s\}) \setminus E_3(S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_s\})$. By, NQTA, $y_{s+2} \in (S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_s,y_{s+1}\}) \setminus E_3(S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_s,y_{s+1}\}) \cap I$. Thus, $(S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_{s+1}\}, S \setminus \{y_1,...,y_{s+2}\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$. By a standard induction argument and transitivity of \mathfrak{I} , $(E_3(S),S) \in \mathfrak{I}$. Thus \mathfrak{I} satisfies INA.

Q.E.D.

We have already seen in Theorem 5,that NQTA implies SQTA and that the converse is not true. Let $X=\{x,y,z\}$ and let $\mathfrak{I}=M\cup\{(S,T)\in[X]x[X]\ /x\in S$ and S has at least two elements}. It is easily checked that \mathfrak{I} is an MPF and $E_{\mathfrak{I}}\equiv C$, where C is the choice function in Theorem 5 which satisfied SQTA but did not satisfy NQTA. Hence, we may assert:

<u>Proposition 7</u>: There exists an MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies SQTA but does not satisfy NQTA.

Theorem 15: Let \Im be an MPF such that E_{\Im} satisfies CA and GC. Then E_{\Im} satisfies NQTA.

Proof: Let \Im be an MPF such that E_{\Im} satisfies CA and GC and towards a contradiction suppose that there exists $S \in [X]$ with $x,y \in S \setminus E_{\Im}(S)$ and yet $y \in E_{\Im}(S \setminus \{x\})$. Hence since \Im is an MPF:

```
(1) (S,S\setminus\{x\})\in I(\mathfrak{I});
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 $(2) (S,S\setminus\{y\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I});$

 $(3) (S\setminus\{x\},S\setminus\{x,y\}) \in P(\mathfrak{I}).$

Thus by transitivity of \Im , we get $(S\setminus\{x\},S\setminus\{y\})\in I(\Im)$ which leads to $(S\setminus\{x\},S\setminus\{x,y\})\in P(\Im)$, once again by the transitivity of \Im . Hence, by the definition of E_{\Im} , $x\in E_{\Im}(S\setminus\{y\})$. By CA, $x\in E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$ $\forall z\in S\setminus\{y\}$ and $y\in E_{\Im}(\{y,z\})$ $\forall y\in S\setminus\{y\}$. Since, $x,y\in S\setminus E_{\Im}(S)$ by GC, $E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})=\phi$, contradicting the fact that the range of E_{\Im} does not contain the empty set. Hence E_{\Im} satisfies NQTA.

Q.E.D.

Corollary of Theorem 15 (Puppe [1996]: Proposition 2): Let \Im be an MPF such that E_{\Im} satisfies CA and GC. Then $E_{\Im}(S) = G(S, R_{\Im})$ for all $S \in [X]$, and R_{\Im} is a quasi-order.

Proof: Follows easily from Theorems 3 and 15.

Q.E.D.

Example 10: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies CA and NQTA but does not satisfy GC: Let $X=\{x,y,z\}$ and let $\Im=M\cup\{(\{x,y\},S)/S\in[X]\}$. \Im is an MPF.Now, $E_{\Im}(X)=\{x,y\}$, and $E_{\Im}(S)=S$ for all $S\in[X]\setminus\{X\}$. Clearly E_{\Im} satisfies CA and NQTA. However $z\in E_{\Im}(\{z,a\})\ \forall\ a\in X$, and yet $z\in X\setminus E_{\Im}(X)$ contradicting GC.

Example 11: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies GC and NQTA but does not satisfy CA: Let $X=\{x,y,z\}$ and let $\Im=M\cup\{(\{x\},S)/S\in[X],$ and S has atmost two elements $\}\cup\{(\{y\},S)/S\in[X]\}$ and $x\notin S\}$. \Im is an MPF. Now, $E_{\Im}(X)=X$, $E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})=\{x\}=E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$, $E_{\Im}(\{y,z\})=\{y\}$ and $E_{\Im}(S)=S$ otherwise. Clearly E_{\Im} satisfies GC and NQTA. However, $z\in E_{\Im}(X)\cap\{x,z\}$, but $z\in\{x,z\}\setminus E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$ contradicting CA.

Example 12: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies CA but does not satisfy either GC or NQTA: Let $X=\{x,y,z\}$ and let $\Im=M\cup\{(\{x,y\},S)/S\in[X]\}\cup\{(\{x,z\},S)/S\in[X]\}$. \Im is an MPF. Now, $E_{\Im}(X)=\{x\}, E_{\Im}(S)=S$ otherwise. Clearly E_{\Im} satisfies CA and NQTA. However, $y\in E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})\cap E_{\Im}(\{y,z\})$, but $y\in X\setminus E_{\Im}(X)$, contradicting GC.

Example 13: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies GC but does not satisfy either CA or NQTA: Let $X=\{x,y,z,w\}$ and let $\Im=M\cup\{(\{x,y,z\},S)/S\in[X]\}\cup\{(\{x,y,w\},S)/S\in[X]\}\cup\{(\{x\},\{x,y\}),(\{x\},\{y\}),\Im$ is an MPF. Now, $E_{\Im}(X)=\{x,y\},E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})=\{x\},E_{\Im}(S)=S$ otherwise. Clearly E_{\Im} satisfies GC. However, $w,z\in X\setminus E_{\Im}(X)$ and $w\in E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})$, contradicting NQTA. Further, $y\in E_{\Im}(X)\cap\{x,y\}$, and yet $y\in\{x,y\}\setminus E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})$, thus contradicting CA.

<u>Proposition 8</u>: Suppose X has three or less elements. Then for any MPF \Im , [E₃ satisfies GC] implies [E₃ satisfies NQTA].

Proof: If X has one or two elements then NQTA is satisfied vacuously. The same is true if X has three elements and $E_3(X)$ has two elements. Hence assume X has three elements and without loss of generality suppose $E_3(X) = \{x\}$. Thus $(X,\{x,y\})$ and $(X,\{x,z\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$ and by transitivity of \mathfrak{I} $(\{x,y\},\{x,z\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$ as well. Now a violation of NQTA occurs if (without generality) $y \in E_3(\{x,y\})$. Thus, $(\{x,y\},\{x\}) \in P(\mathfrak{I})$ and consequently (since $(\{x,y\},\{x,z\}) \in I(\mathfrak{I})$), $(\{x,z\},\{x\}) \in P(\mathfrak{I})$. However, then $z \in E_3(\{x,z\})$. Since $E_3(\{y,z\}) \cap \{y,z\} \neq \emptyset$, $\{y,z\} \subset X \setminus E_3(X)$, leads to a contradiction of GC, thereby proving the proposition.

Q.E.D.

Example 14: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies NQTA but does not satisfy either CA or GC: Let $X=\{x,y,z\}$ and let $\Im=M\cup\{(\{y,z\},S)/S\in[X]\}\cup\{(\{x\},S)/S\in\{\{x,y\},\{x,z\},\{y\},\{z\}\}\}\}$. \Im is an MPF. Now, $E_{\Im}(X)=\{y,z\}$, $E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})=\{x\}=E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$, $E_{\Im}(\{y,z\})=\{y,z\}$ and $E_{\Im}(S)=S$ otherwise. Clearly E_{\Im} NQTA. However, $x\in E_{\Im}(\{x,y\})\cap E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$, but $x\in X\setminus E_{\Im}(X)$, contradicting GC. Further, $z\in E_{\Im}(X)\cap \{x,z\}$, but $z\in \{x,z\}\setminus E_{\Im}(\{x,z\})$ contradicting CA.

Example 15: An MPF \Im such that E_{\Im} satisfies both CA and GC and hence NQTA: Let $\Im = \{(S,T) \in [X]x[X] / \text{ cardinality of } S \text{ is not less than the cardinality of } T \}$. This is the MPF due to Pattanaik and Xu [1990]. The corresponding E_{\Im} is easily seen to satisfy CA,GC and NQTA. The interesting thing about this MPF is that $R_{\Im} = XxX$.

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