

Correlation Misperception in Choice

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Motivation

“The debt collectors at Deutschebank sensed the bond traders at Morgan Stanley misunderstood their own trade. They weren't lying; they genuinely failed to understand the nature of the subprime CDO. The correlation among triple-B-rated subprime bonds was not 30 percent; it was 100 percent. When one collapsed, they all collapsed, because they were all driven by the same broader economic forces.”

–Michael Lewis, *The Big Short*

Motivation

- Trader chooses between:
 - ① The 500 stocks of the S&P 500 (in right proportion)
 - ② One share of S&P 500 index fund
- Usually, no difference (other than transaction costs) between owning the stocks and owning the index fund
- But reasonable to see strict preference between the two
- Misperceiving the correlation between assets implies not equivalent

Motivation

- Thought experiment: choice between
 - 1 \$100 for sure, and
 - 2 the combination of b_C and b_F , where

$$b_C = \begin{cases} \$100 & \text{if high temp. here tomorrow } \geq 20^\circ C \\ \$0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$b_F = \begin{cases} \$100 & \text{if high temp. here tomorrow } < 68^\circ F \\ \$0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Illustration

- Suppose 100 preferred to having **both** b_C and b_F ($\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$)
- Let Ω be the set of possible high temperatures
- If each portfolio were reduced to a standard act on Ω , then $\langle 100 \rangle \succ \langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ is impossible
 - ▶ $20^\circ C = 68^\circ F$, so $100 = b_C(\omega) + b_F(\omega)$ for all $\omega \in \Omega$
 - ▶ The portfolios $\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ and $\langle 100 \rangle$ reduce to the same act, implying indifference
- One explanation: misperception of correlation
 - ▶ thinks b_C and b_F are independent instead of negatively correlated
- When can we attribute $\langle 100 \rangle \succ \langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ to misperception?
 - ▶ many alternative explanations

Illustration: Formal Setting

- Key Ingredients (primitives):
 - ① State space Ω
 - ★ Describes objective reality in relationships between assets
 - ② Set \mathcal{A} of assets
 - ★ Each asset a gives a return of $a(\omega) \in \mathbb{R}$ in state ω
 - ③ Portfolios of assets, e.g. $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$
 - ★ cares about the overall payoff
 - ★ overall payoff equals the sum of returns of underlying assets
 - ④ Trader who maximizes preference \succsim over portfolios
 - ★ Ranks every portfolio of assets

Illustration: Key Behavior

- $\langle 100 \rangle \succ \langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ violates “Monotonicity”
 - ▶ for **every** $\omega \in \Omega$, $b_C(\omega) + b_F(\omega) \geq 100(\omega)$
- With misperception, Monotonicity is too demanding
 - ▶ In fact, it implies reduction as above
- If misperception drives this violation, then she still satisfies “Weak Monotonicity”; for any assets a, b, c :
 - ▶ if $\langle b, c \rangle$ always yields a better outcome than $\langle a \rangle$ for **every possible joint distribution** over a, b, c , then $\langle b, c \rangle \succsim \langle a \rangle$
 - ★ $\min_{\omega} b(\omega) + \min_{\omega} c(\omega) \geq \max_{\omega} a(\omega) \implies \langle b, c \rangle \succsim \langle a \rangle$
 - ★ $\min_{\omega} a(\omega) \geq \max_{\omega} b(\omega) + \max_{\omega} c(\omega) \implies \langle a \rangle \succsim \langle b, c \rangle$
 - ▶ **any** individual violation of Monotonicity can be attributed to misperception of correlation

Illustration: Main Results

We consider a DM who satisfies Weak Monotonicity as well as order, independence, and continuity. She **acts as if** she:

- 1 has beliefs about joint distribution of actions described by a probability measure π defined on product state space $\Omega^{\{a,b,c\}}$
 - ▶ she thinks $\langle a, b \rangle$ returns $a(\omega_1) + b(\omega_2)$ with probability

$$\pi(\omega_a = \omega_1 \ \& \ \omega_b = \omega_2)$$

- 2 has tastes described by utility index u
 - ▶ risk attitude plays role in identifying π
- 3 maximizes expected utility, given π and u

Formally, \succsim is represented by V where

$$V(\langle a, b \rangle) = \int_{\Omega^{\{a,b,c\}}} u(a(\omega_a) + b(\omega_b)) \pi(\vec{\omega})$$

Illustration: Main Results

Equivalent procedure easier to apply and allows tighter identification

- Trader **endogenously** splits assets into “understanding classes”
 - ▶ In basic representation, the trader “has” $|\mathcal{A}|$ copies of the original Ω ; now, she “has” many fewer copies
- She has beliefs about the correlation between classes of assets
 - ▶ Correlation **within** a class **correctly perceived**
 - ▶ Correlation **across** classes (potentially) **misperceived**
 - ▶ π defined on product space indexed by classes rather than assets
 - ▶ If two assets belong to the same understanding class, then they depend on the same “copy” of Ω
- If each class contains **diverse enough** assets, then uniquely identified “coarsest” understanding classes and beliefs

Related literature

- Failure of logical omniscience: Lipman (1999)
- Complexity via preference for flexibility: Al-Najjar et al. (2003)
- Unforeseen contingencies: Kochov (2015)
- Framing effects: Tversky-Kahneman (1981), Ahn-Ergin (2010), Salant-Rubinstein (2008)
- Failures of inference: Piccione-Rubinstein (2003), Eyster-Rabin (2005), Jehiel (2005), Esponda (2008), Eyster-Piccione (2012), Spiegler (2014)
- Correlation misperception: DeMarzo et al. (2003), Eyster-Weizsacker (2010), Levy-Razin (2015a,b), Rubinstein-Salant (2015), Ortoleva-Snowberg (2015)
- Models related but not covered: Barberis et al (2006), Rabin-Weizsacker (2009), Esponda (2008), Spiegler (2014), Levy-Razin (2015c)

Preview

- 1 Formal framework
- 2 Behavior of interest within this framework
- 3 Foundations
- 4 Main results
- 5 Identification and Understanding

Framework

- An exogenous state space Ω that determines objective relationship between actions
 - ▶ e.g. payoffs in a financial market
 - ▶ e.g. structure of an incomplete info. game
- An exogenous set $X = \mathbb{R}$ of consequences
- A set \mathcal{A} of actions, mappings from Ω to X (caveats)
 - ▶ e.g. security or behavioral strategy
- The set of all **action profiles** \mathcal{F} over \mathcal{A}
 - ▶ “multi-sets” of actions (order does not matter and same action may enter many times)
 - ▶ Take actions a and b : $\langle a, b \rangle$ or $\langle b, a \rangle$
 - ▶ Take actions a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n is $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle = \langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n$
- Preference \succsim on $\Delta\mathcal{F}$, the set of all (finite support) **lotteries over action profiles**

Behavior of Interest

- DM fails to reduce profiles to acts
- If $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i(\omega)$, then the Savage act corresponding to $\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n$ equals the Savage act corresponding to $\langle b_i \rangle_{i=1}^m$
 - ▶ $100 = b_C(\omega) + b_F(\omega)$ for all ω but $100 \succ \langle b_C, b_F \rangle$
- Observed violation of following axiom

Axiom: Reduction to Acts

If $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i(\omega)$ for all ω , then $\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n \sim \langle b_i \rangle_{i=1}^m$

- Reduction to Acts implied by usual Monotonicity assumption:

Axiom: Monotonicity

If $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\omega) \geq \sum_{i=1}^m b_i(\omega)$ for all ω , then $\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n \succsim \langle b_i \rangle_{i=1}^m$

Weak Monotonicity

- Set of **plausible realizations** of $\{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ equals

$$\text{range}(c_1) \times \text{range}(c_2) \times \dots \times \text{range}(c_n).$$

- Vector of outcomes $\vec{x} = (x^a)$ s.t. a **could, in isolation**, yield x^a
 - ▶ There exists a correlation structure in which every $a \in \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ simultaneously gives x^a with positive probability
- \vec{x} is a **plausible realization of lotteries p and q** if it is a plausible realization of the set of all the actions included in profiles that are assigned positive probability by either p or q
 - ▶ Formally, of $\{a_j \in \{a_1, \dots, a_n\} : p(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n) + q(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n) > 0\}$
- Assigns outcome to each action that arises in some profile $\langle a_i \rangle$ with $p(\langle a_i \rangle) > 0$ or $q(\langle a_i \rangle) > 0$

Weak Monotonicity

- for a plausible realization \vec{x} of p and q , p **induces the lottery**

$$\left(p\left(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n\right), \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n x^{a_i} \right\rangle \right)_{p(\langle a_i \rangle) > 0} \equiv p_{\vec{x}}$$

- outcome yielded by the profile $\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n$, $\sum_{i=1}^n x^{a_i}$ according to \vec{x} , occurs with the probability of that profile, $p(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n)$
- similarly q induces the lottery $q_{\vec{x}}$

Axiom: Weak Monotonicity

For any $p, q \in \Delta\mathcal{F}$, if for **every** plausible realization \vec{x} of p and q $p_{\vec{x}} \succsim q_{\vec{x}}$, then $p \succsim q$.

- Very weak when comparing $\langle a, b \rangle$ with $\langle c \rangle$
 - ▶ Becomes: $\min a + \min b \geq \max c \implies \langle a, b \rangle \succsim \langle c \rangle$
 - ▶ Independence, and lotteries, make it a stronger assumption

Weak Monotonicity

How does this apply to:

- $\langle 100 \rangle$ vs $\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$?
 - ▶ for $\vec{x} = (100, 100, 100)$: $\langle 100 \rangle$ induces 100, $\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ induces 200
 - ▶ for $\vec{x} = (100, 0, 0)$: $\langle 100 \rangle$ induces 100, $\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ induces 0
 - ▶ Weak Monotonicity **does not** impose a ranking
- $\langle 100 \rangle$ vs $\langle b_C \rangle$?
 - ▶ $\langle 100 \rangle$ induces 100, $\langle b_C \rangle$ induces 100 or 0
 - ▶ Weak Monotonicity implies $\langle 100 \rangle \succ \langle b_C \rangle$
- $p = \frac{1}{2}\langle b_F, b_C \rangle + \frac{1}{2}0$ vs $q = \frac{1}{2}\langle b_C \rangle + \frac{1}{2}\langle b_F \rangle$?
 - ▶ p and q induce same lottery for $\vec{x} \in \{(100, 0), (0, 100), (0, 0)\}$
 - ▶ for $\vec{x} = (100, 100)$: $p_{\vec{x}} = (\frac{1}{2}, 200; \frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and $q_{\vec{x}} = (1, 100)$
 - ▶ Risk-averse DM expresses $q \succ p$ and risk-loving expresses $p \succ q$

Standard Axioms

Axioms: Mixture Space

\succsim satisfies the vN-M/Herstein-Milnor Mixture space axioms:

- 1 \succsim is complete and transitive
- 2 $p \succsim q \iff \alpha p + (1 - \alpha)r \succsim \alpha q + (1 - \alpha)r$ for $1 \geq \alpha > 0$
- 3 The sets $\{\alpha \in [0, 1] : \alpha p + (1 - \alpha)q \succsim r\}$ and $\{\alpha \in [0, 1] : r \succsim \alpha p + (1 - \alpha)q\}$ are closed

Representation

- Uncertainty beyond that captured by Ω relevant
- Represent by expanding the “dimension” of uncertainty

Theorem

\succsim satisfies the Mixture Space Axioms and Weak Monotonicity if and only if there exists:

- a utility index $u : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and
 - a probability measure π on Ω^A (with an appropriate σ -algebra)
- such that for any $p, q \in \Delta\mathcal{F}$, $p \succsim q$ if and only if

$$\sum_{p(\langle a_i \rangle) > 0} V(\langle a_i \rangle) p(\langle a_i \rangle) \geq \sum_{q(\langle b_j \rangle) > 0} V(\langle b_j \rangle) q(\langle b_j \rangle)$$

where

$$V(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n) = \int_{\Omega^A} u \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\omega^{a_i}) \right) \pi(d\vec{\omega})$$

Representation

- Ω^A captures all possible correlations between actions
 - ▶ DM attaches a (possibly zero) probability to receiving $b_F(\tau_F) + b_C(\tau_C)$ from $\langle b_C, b_F \rangle$ for each τ_F, τ_C
- $\pi(\cdot)$ assigns probabilities to correlations
 - ▶ if $\pi(\tau_C \neq \tau_F) > 0$ for some τ , then DM does not think temp in Celsius perfectly correlated with temp in Fahrenheit
 - ▶ Allows $100 \succ \langle b_F, b_C \rangle$ or $\langle b_F, b_C \rangle \succ 100$
- Special cases: $\pi(\times_{i=1}^m E_{\nu_i} \times \Omega^{\mathcal{U} \setminus \{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_m\}}) =$
 - ▶ $q_{SEU}(\cap_{i=1}^m E_{\nu_i})$ is standard model
 - ▶ $\prod_{i=1}^m q_{Prod}(E_{\nu_i})$ is correlation neglect model
 - ▶ $\chi q_{Prod} + (1 - \chi)q_{SEU}$ is “ χ -cused” model
 - ▶ $\sum_{E \in \mathcal{Q}} \prod_{i=1}^m q(E_{\nu_i} \cap E)q(E)$ is \mathcal{Q} -analogical model
 - ★ (\mathcal{Q} is a partition of Ω)
- Caveats: π might not be unique and Ω^A far from parsimonious

Representation: Equivalent procedure

DM acts as if she does the following:

- 1 Divides assets into subsets that are easy to understand
 - ▶ Such a subset of assets called an “understanding class”
 - ▶ DM reduces any portfolio of assets in same class to act
 - ▶ Let \mathcal{U} be the set of such classes
 - ★ e.g. $\mathcal{U} = \{B_C, B_F\}$ where B_C are actions understood in terms of Celsius and B_F are actions understood in terms of Fahrenheit
- 2 Assigns probabilities to returns across classes
 - ▶ π defined on $\Omega^{\mathcal{U}}$ rather than Ω or $\Omega^{\mathcal{A}}$
 - ★ State is “(temp. in $^{\circ}F$, temp. in $^{\circ}C$)” rather than “temp.”
 - ★ If $\pi(\tau_{B_F} = \tau_{B_C}) < 1$, then DM acts as if uncertain (or wrong) about conversion for Celsius to Fahrenheit
- 3 Maximizes expected utility, where all the assets in a given understanding class use the same coordinate of $\Omega^{\mathcal{U}}$

Equivalent Representation, formally

Definition

\succsim has a **probabilistic correlation representation (PCR)** if

- \mathcal{U} is a set of “understanding classes”, subsets of \mathcal{A}
 - ▶ let Σ_C be the σ -algebra generated by the actions in $C \in \mathcal{U}$
- π is a probability measure defined on $(\Omega^{\mathcal{U}}, \otimes_{C \in \mathcal{U}} \Sigma_C)$
- u is a utility index

and \succsim has an EU representation with utility index $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where

$$V(\langle a_i \rangle_{i=1}^n) = \int_{\Omega^{\mathcal{U}}} u \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\omega^{C_i}) \right) \pi(d\vec{\omega})$$

for any $C_1, \dots, C_n \in \mathcal{U}$ with $a_i \in C_i$

- \succsim has a PCR $\iff \succsim$ satisfies the Mixture Space Axioms and Weak Monotonicity (equivalent representation)

Identification: How do parameters affect behavior?

- 1 What does DM believe about the joint distribution of actions?
- 2 Can we precisely characterize the extra dimensionality needed to represent the preferences of the DM?

Advantage of PCR: can provide tighter answer to these questions

- In basic representation, every action has its own understanding class; finest possible grouping
 - ▶ Set of profiles “sparse” in domain of π ; no hope for uniqueness
- PCR allows more action per “dimension”
- If sufficient diversity, we can uniquely identify both coarsest correlation cover and beliefs (with caveats)

Identification

Definition

- A set $B \subset A$ is **rich** if for any $f : \Omega \rightarrow X$, there exists $c \in B$ s.t. $c(\omega) = f(\omega)$ for all ω .
- The PCR (\mathcal{U}, π, u) is **rich** if every $C \in \mathcal{U}$ is rich.
- Rich if there are “diverse enough” actions in each class
 - ▶ e.g. trader understands connection between a stock and any of its derivatives but not necessarily between two distinct stocks
- Similar spirit to Savage assumption that all acts are conceivable
- Rich PCR allows for unique identification and exists under weak additional conditions (in paper)

Identification

Theorem

If the preference \succsim has a rich PCR (\mathcal{U}, π, u) , then:

- there exists a unique coarsest correlation cover, and
 - π is unique if u is not a polynomial.
-
- \mathcal{U} is **coarsest** if there is a rich PCR with correlation cover \mathcal{U} and if (\mathcal{U}', π', u') is also a rich PCR of \succsim , then for any $B' \in \mathcal{U}'$, there exists $B \in \mathcal{U}$ with $B' \subseteq B$.
 - Coarsest \mathcal{U} is not a partition
 - ▶ every $x \in X$ belongs to every $C \in \mathcal{U}$
 - ▶ if DM knows that $0^\circ C = 32^\circ F$, then any action measurable w.r.t. freezing or not is in both Celsius and Fahrenheit classes
 - When u is polynomial, uniqueness of π typically fails
 - ▶ e.g. for risk-neutral DM, only marginals matter

Implications

- Fixed DM undervalues certain profiles while overvaluing others
 - ▶ rich PCR, strictly risk-averse with same marginals
 - ▶ Fix assets a, b, c and event E so that

	$a(\cdot)$	$b(\cdot)$	$c(\cdot)$	$d(\cdot)$
$\omega \in E$	1	1	-1	2
$\omega \notin E$	-1	-1	1	-2

- ▶ Correct evaluations: $\langle a, c \rangle \sim \langle 0 \rangle$ and $\langle d \rangle \sim \langle a, b \rangle$
 - ▶ If $\langle b, c \rangle \sim \langle 0 \rangle$, then $\langle a, c \rangle \succ \langle 0 \rangle \iff \langle d \rangle \succ \langle a, b \rangle$
 - ▶ If underestimates safety of $\langle a, c \rangle$, underestimates risk of $\langle a, b \rangle$
- Independence requires that the DM is unsophisticated
 - ▶ If $\langle b, c \rangle \sim 0$ and $\langle a, b \rangle \sim \langle a, c \rangle$, then DM misperceives relationship between the assets
 - ▶ Sophisticated DM, recognizing misperception, may express $\frac{1}{2}\langle a, b \rangle + \frac{1}{2}\langle a, c \rangle \succ \langle a, b \rangle \sim \langle a, c \rangle$

Implications: Structured Finance

- Misperception allows tranching to alter the evaluation of CDO
- Untranching CDO: return equals the sum of underlying assets
 - ▶ Any two traders that agree on the expected value of each component asset also agree on value of the untranching CDO
 - ▶ even if they disagree about the correlation between the assets.
- Tranching changes the calculations
- Consider two tranches: senior has a claim on the first y dollars of return, junior the return in excess of y
- The expected returns calculated using indexes $u^J(x) = \max\{x - y, 0\}$ and $u^S(x) = \min\{x, y\}$
- neither is a polynomial, so all correlations relevant
- distinct assessments, even when each of the underlying assets is evaluated correctly

Implications: Structured Finance

- Consider a trader with a PCR $(\{C_i\}_{i=1}^N, u, \pi^\chi)$ where π^χ satisfies

$$\pi^\chi(\omega^{C_1}, \dots, \omega^{C_N}) = \chi q\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^N \{\omega^{C_i}\}\right) + (1 - \chi) \prod_{i=1}^N q(\{\omega^{C_i}\})$$

for some probability measure q over Ω

- ▶ q interpreted as objective distribution on Ω
- ▶ $\chi = 1$ implies no misperception, $\chi = 0$ implies independence
- CDO is a profile $\langle a_1^n, \dots, a_n^n \rangle$, where:
 - ▶ each a_i^n is a $\frac{1}{n}$ share of an asset a_i ,
 - ▶ $a_i^n \in C_i$ for each i and n ,
 - ▶ a_i is identical to a_j : each $a_i^n(\omega) = \frac{1}{n} a(\omega) \geq 0$ for all ω

Implications: Structured Finance

- risk neutral trader correctly evaluates an untranched $\langle a_1^n, \dots, a_n^n \rangle$ as exactly $E_q[a]$
- Suppose CDO is tranched as above, i.e. senior tranche claims first y dollars, junior everything else u^J and u^S
- Junior tranche undervalued and Senior tranche overvalued
 - ▶ Misvaluation monotonic in n and in χ
- Profit opportunity: short the senior and go long on the junior
- Lewis (2010) reports the story of a Morgan Stanley trader adopting the opposite trade strategy and losing over \$9 billion

Thank you

Representation

- Uncertainty beyond that captured by Ω relevant
- Represent by expanded the “dimension” of uncertainty
 - ▶ Cartesian product of Ω
 - ▶ Assigns each action to a copy
- Event “action a yields x and action b yields y ” is

$$a^{-1}(x) \times b^{-1}(y) \times \Omega \times \Omega \times \dots$$

- DM assigns a probability to each event as above

The Model

- For the thought experiment, the state space can equal

$$\Omega^* = \Omega\{C,F\}$$

with $b_C \in C$ and $b_F \in F$

- The probability measure π defined on Ω^* , includes

$$E = \{\vec{\tau} : \tau_C \geq 0^\circ C \text{ and } \tau_F < 0^\circ C\}$$

- Chooses profile that maximizes EU with π and Ω^*
 - ▶ $V(\langle b_C, b_F \rangle) = \int_{\Omega^*} u(b_C(\tau_C) + b_F(\tau_F))\pi(d\omega^*)$
 - ▶ $V(100) = \int_{\Omega^*} u(100)\pi(d\omega^*) = u(100)$
 - ▶ If $\pi(E) \neq 0$ and DM risk averse, then $100 \succ \langle b_C, b_F \rangle$

Framework: Consequences

There is a set X of outcomes with an operation $+$

- $+: X \times X \rightarrow X$, with $+(x, y) \equiv x + y$
- There exists $0 \in X$ and for all $x \in X$, $0 + x = x$
- $+$ commutative and associative
 - ▶ $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$
 - ▶ $x + y = y + x$
- Subset of algebraic group, closed under $+$
 - ▶ might not include inverses

◀ Framework

Framework: Actions

There is a set \mathcal{A} of **actions** (securities)

- Function ρ maps action a and state ω to consequence $\rho(a, \omega)$
- **Assume** $\rho(a, \cdot)$ is finite ranged
 - ▶ **Assume** for every $x \in X$ there is $a \in \mathcal{A}$ s.t. $\rho(a, \omega) = x$ (constant action that gives x for sure) and write as x
- Notation: $a(\omega)$ for $\rho(a, \omega)$ and $\sigma(a)$ for $\sigma(\rho(a, \cdot))$ coarsest σ -algebra by which a is measurable
- Do not need to have every possible action in \mathcal{A} but require that all constant outcomes are in \mathcal{A}

◀ Framework

Framework

- \mathcal{F} not mixture space
- Typical trick: consider horse race - roulette wheel acts
 - ▶ Does not help: hard to define mixtures and must add lotteries
- In usual framework, can replace ex-post lotteries (Fishburn, 1970) by ex-ante lotteries (Kreps, 1988; Battigali et al, 2013)
 - ▶ Monotonicity assumption less elegant to state
 - ▶ Explicit “reduction of compound uncertainty”
- $\Delta\mathcal{F}$ is a mixture space, and:
 - ▶ No addition take place over lotteries
 - ▶ Mixing between profiles does not create/destroy connections
 - ▶ Do not have to specify mixtures of actions
 - ▶ Easy to interpret; allows simple axiomatization
- Other papers use ex-ante mixtures as well, e.g. Anscombe-Aumann (1963); Seo (2009); Saito (2013/15)

Understanding

- Two assumptions imply existence of rich PCR
 - ① [Non-Singularity] For every a , there exists $B_a \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ where
 - ① B_a is understood:
 $p \succsim q$ if $p_{\vec{x}} \succsim q_{\vec{x}}$ for every plausible realization \vec{x} of p and q with the property that for $x^c = c(\omega)$ for each $c \in B_a$ for some ω
 - ② B_a is rich
 - ② [Strict Concavity] X is a convex set, and for any $x \neq y \in X$ and $\lambda \in (0, 1)$, $(1, \lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \succ (\lambda, x; (1 - \lambda), y)$.