

A preliminary study of
**notions of independence
for choice functions**

Justyna Dąbrowska
16 June 2026

What about
choice
functions?

for pmf: p on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ is
independent if $p = p_X p_Y$
(if $p > 0$) $p|_X = p_Y$ and $p|_Y = p_X$

A preliminary study of **notions of independence** *for choice functions*

very general
desirability model

$C(\text{☂️🕶️👗}) = \text{👗☂️}$

lower previsions, sets
of desirable gambles
are its special cases

Types of independence

epistemic irrelevance (from X to Y)

learning which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains does not change my beliefs about Y

Types of independence

epistemic irrelevance (from X to Y)

learning which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains does not change my beliefs about Y

representational irrelevance (from X to Y)

the joint model has a representation such that all of its elements satisfy epistemic irrelevance (from X to Y)

Types of independence

epistemic irrelevance (from X to Y)	<i>learning which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains does not change my beliefs about Y</i>
representational irrelevance (from X to Y)	<i>the joint model has a representation such that all of its elements satisfy epistemic irrelevance (from X to Y)</i>
S-irrelevance (from X to Y)	<i>it is unreasonable to pay to find out which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains to decide about Y</i>

Types of independence

epistemic independence	<i>learning which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains does not change my beliefs about Y and learning which $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ obtains does not change my beliefs about X</i>
representational independence	<i>the joint model has a representation such that all of its elements satisfy epistemic independence</i>
S-independence	<i>it is unreasonable to pay to find out which $x \in \mathcal{X}$ obtains to decide about Y and vice versa</i>

Choice functions

X

uncertain variable

$\mathcal{X}$

finite possibility space

$\mathcal{X} = \{ \text{☀️}, \text{☁️🌧️} \}$ *Should I take an umbrella today?*

Choice functions

X uncertain variable
 $\mathcal{X}$ finite possibility space
 $f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ gamble
 $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$ all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$

$\mathcal{X} = \{ \text{☀️}, \text{☁️} \}$ Should I take an umbrella today?

$$f_{\text{☂️}}(\text{☀️}) = -3 \quad f_{\text{☂️}}(\text{☁️}) = 5$$

$$f_{\text{☂️} \times}(\text{☀️}) = 1 \quad f_{\text{☂️} \times}(\text{☁️}) = -10$$

Choosing between $f_{\text{☂️}}$ and $f_{\text{☂️} \times}$ depends on my beliefs about the weather that day.

Choice functions

X	uncertain variable
$\mathcal{X}$	finite possibility space
$f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	gamble
$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$	all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$
F	gamble set
$\mathcal{L}(F)$	all gamble sets

$\mathcal{X} = \{ \text{☀️}, \text{☁️} \}$ Consider a gamble of taking a raincoat:

$$f_{\text{🧥}}(\text{☀️}) = -1 \quad f_{\text{🧥}}(\text{☁️}) = 3.$$

Form a gamble set $F = \{ f_{\text{☂️}}, f_{\text{❌}}, f_{\text{🧥}} \}$.

Choice functions

X	uncertain variable
$\mathcal{X}$	finite possibility space
$f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	gamble
$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$	all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$
F	gamble set
$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{X})$	all gamble sets
$C: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$	choice function
R	rejection function

$\mathcal{X} = \{ \text{☀️}, \text{☁️} \}$ Consider a gamble of taking a raincoat:

$$f_{\text{☔️}}(\text{☀️}) = -1 \quad f_{\text{☔️}}(\text{☁️}) = 3.$$

Form a gamble set $F = \{ f_{\text{☔️}}, f_{\text{☔️} \times}, f_{\text{☔️}} \}$.

I believe it is likely to rain today. My choice is

$$C(F) = \{ f_{\text{☔️}}, f_{\text{☔️}} \} \subseteq F$$

since I reject $R(F) = F \setminus C(F) = \{ f_{\text{☔️} \times} \}$.

Choice functions

X	uncertain variable
$\mathcal{X}$	finite possibility space
$f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	gamble
$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$	all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$
F	gamble set
$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{X})$	all gamble sets
$C: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$	choice function
R	rejection function
K	set of desirable gamble sets

$\mathcal{X} = \{ \text{☀️}, \text{☁️} \}$ Consider a gamble of taking a raincoat:

$$f_{\text{☔️}}(\text{☀️}) = -1 \quad f_{\text{☔️}}(\text{☁️}) = 3.$$

Form a gamble set $F = \{ f_{\text{☔️}}, f_{\text{☔️} \times}, f_{\text{☔️}} \}$.

I believe it is likely to rain today. My choice is

$$C(F) = \{ f_{\text{☔️}}, f_{\text{☔️}} \} \subseteq F$$

since I reject $R(F) = F \setminus C(F) = \{ f_{\text{☔️} \times} \}$.

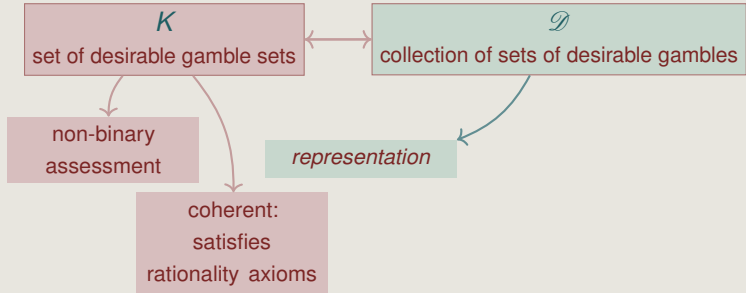
If 0 is rejected for $F \cup \{0\}$, we have

$$K := \{ F \in \mathcal{Q} : 0 \in R(F \cup \{0\}) \},$$

called a set of desirable gamble sets.

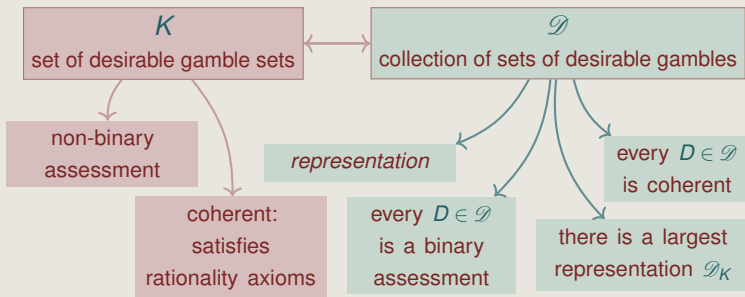
Choice functions

X	uncertain variable
$\mathcal{X}$	finite possibility space
$f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	gamble
$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$	all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$
F	gamble set
$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{X})$	all gamble sets
$C: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$	choice function
R	rejection function
K	set of desirable gamble sets
$\mathcal{D}$	representation



X	uncertain variable
$\mathcal{X}$	finite possibility space
$f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	gamble
$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$	all gambles on $\mathcal{X}$
F	gamble set
$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{X})$	all gamble sets
$C: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$	choice function
R	rejection function
K	set of desirable gamble sets
$\mathcal{D}$	representation
$\mathcal{D}_K$	largest representation

Choice functions



Epistemic independence

K_X is epistemically irrelevant to K_Y if learning that any event E_X obtains does not change my assessment in K_Y .

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

$E_X \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{X}$

$E_Y \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{Y}$

K_X set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}$

K_Y set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{Y}$

Epistemic independence

K_X is epistemically irrelevant to K_Y if learning that any event E_X obtains does not change my assessment in K_Y .

K_X and K_Y are epistemically independent if they are epistemically irrelevant to each other:

$$\text{Marg}_Y(K \rfloor E_X) = \text{Marg}_Y(K),$$

$$\text{Marg}_X(K \rfloor E_Y) = \text{Marg}_X(K).$$

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

$E_X \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{X}$

$E_Y \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{Y}$

K_X set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}$

K_Y set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{Y}$

Marg marginalisation

$\rfloor$ conditioning

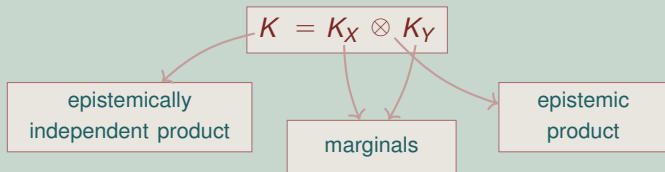
Epistemic independence

K_X is epistemically irrelevant to K_Y if learning that any event E_X obtains does not change my assessment in K_Y .

K_X and K_Y are epistemically independent if they are epistemically irrelevant to each other:

$$\text{Marg}_Y(K \downarrow E_X) = \text{Marg}_Y(K),$$

$$\text{Marg}_X(K \downarrow E_Y) = \text{Marg}_X(K).$$



$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

$E_X \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{X}$

$E_Y \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ non-empty event on $\mathcal{Y}$

K_X set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}$

K_Y set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{Y}$

Marg marginalisation

$\downarrow$ conditioning

$\otimes$ epistemic product

Representational independence

K is representationally independent if every D in its representation $\mathcal{D}$ satisfies epistemic independence.

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

K
set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}$ representation of K

K_X, K_Y
sets of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}_{K_X}, \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$
largest representations of K_X, K_Y

Representational independence

K is representationally independent if every D in its representation $\mathcal{D}$ satisfies epistemic independence.

$$D = D_X \otimes D_Y$$

epistemic product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

$$D = D_X \boxtimes D_Y$$

strong product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

K
set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}$ representation of K

K_X, K_Y
sets of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}_{K_X}, \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$
largest representations of K_X, K_Y

$\otimes$ epistemic product

$\boxtimes$ strong product

Representational independence

K is representationally independent if every D in its representation $\mathcal{D}$ satisfies epistemic independence.

$$D = D_X \otimes D_Y$$

epistemic product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

$$D = D_X \boxtimes D_Y$$

strong product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

For both, we find their representationally independent natural extensions: $K_X \boxtimes K_Y$ and $K_X \boxdot K_Y$.

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

K
set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}$ representation of K

K_X, K_Y
sets of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}_{K_X}, \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$
largest representations of K_X, K_Y

$\otimes$ epistemic product

$\boxtimes$ strong product

Representational independence

K is representationally independent if every D in its representation $\mathcal{D}$ satisfies epistemic independence.

$$D = D_X \otimes D_Y$$

epistemic product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

$$D = D_X \boxtimes D_Y$$

strong product of
 $D_X \in \mathcal{D}_{K_X}, D_Y \in \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$

For both, we find their representationally independent natural extensions: $K_X \boxdot K_Y$ and $K_X \boxtimes K_Y$.

We also show $K_X \otimes K_Y \subseteq K_X \boxdot K_Y \subseteq K_X \boxtimes K_Y$.

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ possibility spaces

K
set of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}$ representation of K

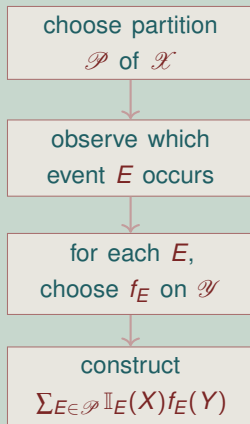
K_X, K_Y
sets of des. gamble sets on $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

$\mathcal{D}_{K_X}, \mathcal{D}_{K_Y}$
largest representations of K_X, K_Y

$\otimes$ epistemic product

$\boxtimes$ strong product

S-independence



$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

possibility spaces

X, Y

uncertain variables

$\mathcal{P}$

partition of $\mathcal{X}$

$E \in \mathcal{P}$

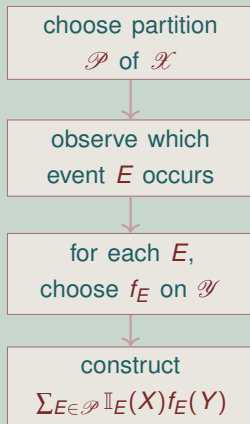
event on $\mathcal{X}$

$\mathbb{I}_E(X)$

indicator gamble

S-independence

If X is S -irrelevant to Y , it is unreasonable to pay to observe X to make decision about Y :
reject $\sum_{E \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{I}_E(X) f_E(Y) - \varepsilon$ from the gamble set $\{f_E : E \in \mathcal{P}\} \cup \{\sum_{E \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{I}_E(X) f_E(Y) - \varepsilon\}$.



$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

possibility spaces

X, Y

uncertain variables

$\mathcal{P}$

partition of $\mathcal{X}$

$E \in \mathcal{P}$

event on $\mathcal{X}$

$\mathbb{I}_E(X)$

indicator gamble

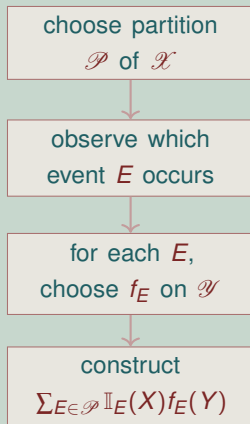
S-independence

If X is S -irrelevant to Y , it is unreasonable to pay to observe X to make decision about Y :
 reject $\sum_{E \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{I}_E(X) f_E(Y) - \varepsilon$ from the gamble set $\{f_E : E \in \mathcal{P}\} \cup \{\sum_{E \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{I}_E(X) f_E(Y) - \varepsilon\}$.

K is S -irrelevant from X to Y if

$$\{\sum_{G \in \mathcal{P} \setminus \{E\}} \mathbb{I}_G[f_E - f_G] + \varepsilon : E \in \mathcal{P}\} \in K,$$

for all partitions $\mathcal{P}$ of $\mathcal{X}$, all $\varepsilon > 0$ and all $f_E \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Y})$.



$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$

possibility spaces

X, Y

uncertain variables

$\mathcal{P}$

partition of $\mathcal{X}$

$E \in \mathcal{P}$

event on $\mathcal{X}$

$\mathbb{I}_E(X)$

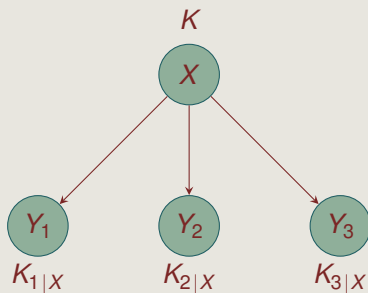
indicator gamble

S-independence

- ◆ K is S -independent if and only if K_D is S -independent for all $D \in \mathcal{D}$.
- ◆ S -independent natural extension $K_X \circledast K_Y$ for mixing and Archimedean K .
- ◆ For mixing K , representational independence implies S -independence.
- ◆ For mixing and Archimedean K , representational independence and S -independence coincide.

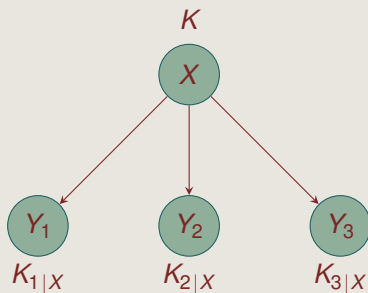
mixing K $\mathcal{D}$ = lexicographic D s
mixing and Archimedean K
 $\mathcal{D}$ = linear previsions

Conclusions



How to combine the local models for the children into a joint model?

Conclusions



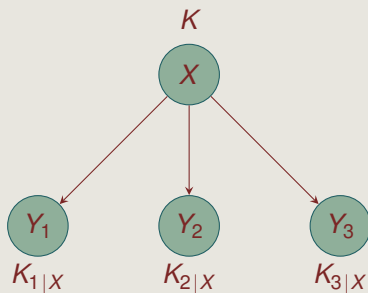
Let $\diamond$ be an independent product of choice, then

$$K_{\downarrow X} := \diamond_{\ell=1}^3 K_{\ell \downarrow X}$$

is the joint model, provided that $\diamond$ **is associative**.

How to combine the local models for the children into a joint model?

Conclusions



How to combine the local models for the children into a joint model?

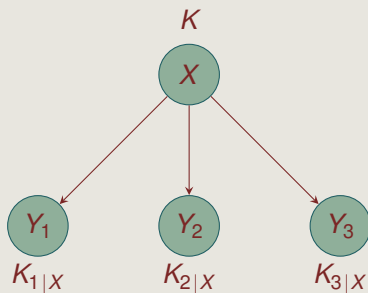
Let $\diamond$ be an independent product of choice, then

$$K_{\downarrow X} := \diamond_{\ell=1}^3 K_{\ell|X}$$

*is the joint model, provided that $\diamond$ **is associative**.*

What is the resulting representation of the joint model?

Conclusions



How to combine the local models for the children into a joint model?

Let $\diamond$ be an independent product of choice, then

$$K_{\downarrow X} := \diamond_{\ell=1}^3 K_{\ell \downarrow X}$$

*is the joint model, provided that $\diamond$ **is associative**.*

What is the resulting representation of the joint model?

Depending on $\diamond$, does K have the same properties as its independent marginals?