



Working Paper Series

On revealed diversity

Gaetano Gaballo
Ernesto Savaglio

ECINEQ WP 2012 – 254

On revealed diversity

Gaetano Gaballo

Banque de France

Ernesto Savaglio*

DEC, University of Pescara and GRASS

Abstract

We introduce and characterize axiomatically a diversity criterion, capturing individual dissimilarity as ‘revealed’ by the different best-choices that members of a society select from a set of opportunities. Diversity ordering is induced by a class of frequency-based evaluation functions, the one element of which is the celebrated diversity measure, Shannon entropy.

JEL Classification: D31, D63, I31.

* **Contact details:** Ernesto Savaglio ernesto@unich.it

“The prospects of peace, tolerance, freedom and democracy in the contemporary world may well lie in the recognition of the plurality of our identities, where personal identity must be understood as an extension of one’s own choice of being someone or doing something” (Sen (2006))

1. INTRODUCTION

A liberal tradition (see Mill (1859) and Nozick (1974) among others) regards the diversity of a society as a desirable characteristic in itself and considers the freedom of choice of individuals as an adequate tool for guaranteeing such diversity. How can we measure the diversity of individual choices in a free society? We answer this question by proposing and characterizing axiomatically a diversity ranking of opportunity sets. In other words, we introduce a new criterion that evaluates the diversity of the best options freely selected by individuals from a suitable set of opportunities. While most of the current economic literature (see e.g. Barberà, Bossert and Pattanaik (2004) or Gravel (2008)) is concerned with evaluation of the diversity of available options from an opportunity set, we measure the extent to which such options are diverse after individual choice. Indeed, the diversity of options in a set does not guarantee the diversity of personal choices. In a democratic society, individuals are always free to select the same option irrespective of the possible diversification of non-valuable opportunities. We therefore capture the diversity within a society, as advocated by the libertarian tradition, by focusing on the diversity of *actual* choices, which *reveals* the freedom of individuals to pursue their own *personal life-plans*.

The concept of *revealed diversity* requires jointly considering a set of opportunities and a preference profile. In our setting, an opportunity set is a collection of well-defined and not necessarily *mutually exclusive* positive-valued options that may be interpreted as possible individual life-plans. In other words, an option can be regarded as a bundle of rights and basic liberties (or functionings *à la Sen*)¹, that everybody may claim to have (without preventing others from claiming them as well) in order to live a life worth living. Thus, opportunities are seen as both *non-rival* and *excludible*. Moreover, all individuals are assumed to be endowed with a well-defined preference ordering when they choose an option (their life-plans) from a set of opportunities. In other words, we imagine that each individual in a given (democratic) society selects what she most prefers to be or do (i.e. according to Sen (2006), she claims different meaningful lives), among all the possible opportunities a society offers. As a consequence, each individual is *identified* with the option she claims, and at the same time, her choice ‘*reveals*’ her diversity from others. Indeed, if someone chooses, for example, to eat certain food and to

¹A suggested sample of different categories of functionings *à la Sen*, each of which an individual can choose to practise in a (free) society, consists for example in claiming to be a European, an Italian citizen, a Tuscan with Spanish ancestry, a French resident, an economist, a man, a feminist, a strong believer in democracy, a defender of gay and lesbian rights and a nonbeliever in afterlife.

study for a doctorate in physics she will be identified as *diverse* with respect to another eating special dishes according to religious precepts and leaving school as soon as possible. In as much as a society enhances *revealed diversity* among its members, it can be considered better in the sense that it allows more “significant choices with respect to various aspects of personal life” (Nozick, (1974)). In other words, we value a society in which individuals make more heterogeneous claims as better. In our case, the importance of diversity comes directly from the value of freedom of choice, i.e. it depends on the liberty people have in their choice processes (see e.g. Sen (2006)).

This is the first attempt to formalize the idea that diversity is conditional to freedom of choice. Evaluation of diversity depends on what individuals select as an opportunity when they claim their liberty, and not simply on the number of different options they have.

In what follows, given an opportunity set (A) and a finite collection of individual preference orderings (\mathfrak{R}), i.e. given the pair (A, \mathfrak{R}) , we first analyze a criterion that compares each individual best choice with those of others in terms of their dis-similarity. In particular, we consider a choice to be more dissimilar than another if the number of choices that do not coincide with the latter is lower than those coinciding with the former. Thus, we introduce and characterize the so-called co-cardinality total ordering of dissimilarity, which is the dual (in the present more general setting) of the celebrated cardinality criterion characterized by Pattanaik and Xu (1990).

Then we propose a diversity criterion that ranks different pairs of (A, \mathfrak{R}) . The ranking is induced by a family of frequency-based measures of diversity of choices. This class of evaluation functions is obtained by monotonic transformations of weighted averages of the dissimilarity evaluations of each single choice. Specifically, for any (A, \mathfrak{R}) , we average the diversity generated by each individual (best) choice in A , normalized by the number of individuals in the reference population. The diversity ranking we obtain is therefore a complete preorder. The characterization of this criterion relies on a new property that rules out the evaluation of (A, \mathfrak{R}) changes in if the preference of a single individual changes in the preference profile \mathfrak{R} . In particular, if an individual, whose preferences in \mathfrak{R} are changed, now selects a different option that is providing to be more dissimilar (in the sense explained above) than the one chosen before, then the aggregate diversity must increase. A very interesting result of our analysis is that the Shannon entropy measure is an element of the family of evaluation functions we study (see also subsection 3.2 below)

It is worth noticing here that the introduction of frequencies for individual choices is quite novel in economic literature on axiomatic measurement of diversity.² It allows us to consider the role of preferences in each single option’s contribution to diversity enhancement and prevents Sen’s (1991)

²The more traditional approach focuses on the objective diversity measurement of the options in a given menu. Indeed, according to Gravel (2008), we can distinguish at least three approaches sharing this last view: aggregate cardinal dissimilarity (see Weitzman (1992), (1998); Bossert et al. (2003), Van Hees (2004)), aggregate ordinal dissimilarity

critique of the so-called objective rankings of opportunity sets. In fact, since the work of Sen (1990), (1991), individual preferences are considered to have a vital role in judgements regarding freedom and/or opportunity. A line of economic research models an agent's freedom of choice using a set of preferences used by an individual in evaluating her opportunities. However, the origin of such preferences may seem quite arbitrary if not based on actual choices.³ In the present work, we endogenously justify our set of complete and transitive orderings by assuming that they are *revealed* by a decisional process of choice, namely there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the rules of individual choices that satisfy certain plausible properties and the class of preferences we use to rank sets of opportunities in terms of their diversity. The choices made by people from some set X of all possible options (e.g. alternative life-plans) have a rational explanation, or rationalizing ordering (that is a complete preorder) such that for any $A \subseteq X$, an individual's choice from A is the best element in A according to that ordering. In other words, whatever the choice $a \in A$, it can be explained by an ordering, the maximization of which is consistent with the individuals' behavior (see Kalai, Rubinstein and Spiegler (2002) and in particular Aizerman and Malishevski (1981)). We therefore focus on the foregoing motivation to justify the use of preferences in our setting.

The remainder of our paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we introduce the notation, definitions, and axioms that provide a first result on how to rank options from a set of choices in terms of their (relative) dis-similarity. Section 3 contains our main result and some prominent examples. Section 4 concludes.

2. HOW TO COMPARE INDIVIDUAL CHOICES IN TERMS OF DIVERSITY

2.1. Notation and definitions. Let X be the universal set of options, assumed to be finite, and $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$ be the set of individuals of a given population. We denote with $\wp(X)$ the set of all non-empty subsets of X . The elements A, B, C , etc. of $\wp(X)$ are the different feasible sets faced by an agent and interpreted as opportunity (or capability) sets. If \mathbf{R} is the set of all possible preference profiles over X , then one element $\mathfrak{R}_i \in \mathbf{R}$ is a complete and transitive binary relation, representing the preferences over X of an individual i belonging to N . We denote with a_i the choice of the i th individual in A according to \mathfrak{R}_i . For any $x, y \in X$, $x\mathfrak{R}_iy$ means that “ x is at least as good as y ” according to \mathfrak{R}_i .

(Pattanaik and Xu (2000), Bervoets and Gravel, (2004)), and the valuation of realized attributes (Nehering and Puppe (2002)).

³Jones and Sugden (1982) and Sugden (1998) consider *potential preferences*, namely the set of “all possible preference orderings that an individual might reasonably have”. For instance, Pattanaik and Xu (1998) proposed a model in which individuals are endowed with a given set of *reasonable preferences*. However, both approaches take the relevant preference orderings as exogenously determined. Dietrich and List (2012) claim that “an agent's preferences are based on certain ‘motivationally salient’ properties of the alternatives over which preferences are held”. In few words, they explain a given set of preferences using other, let us say, deeper preferences, which, in our opinion need a further recursive explanation.

Therefore, $\mathfrak{R} = \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_i, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_m\} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$ is a preference profile of $M = \{1, \dots, m\} \subset N$ individuals, where $\wp(\mathbf{R})$ is the set of all possible non-empty subsets of \mathbf{R} .

A choice set $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ is the set of all maximal elements of an opportunity set A with respect to a preference profile \mathfrak{R} . Analytically, for any $(A, \mathfrak{R}) \in \wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R})$ we have that:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} = \{a_i \in A \mid \exists \mathfrak{R}_i \in \mathfrak{R} \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m \text{ such that for any } a \in A, \text{ if } a \mathfrak{R}_i a_i \text{ then } a = a_i\}$$

This means that individual i chooses an element a_i (that could be a bundle of opportunities or functionings) that she most prefers from set A . Thus, the number of elements in $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, i.e. the cardinality of $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ denoted as $|A^{\mathfrak{R}}|$, is equal to the number of individuals in the population considered. In the present framework, we allow an element of any given set A to occur a finite number of times in $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$. Indeed, $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ may include as many copies of the same element as the number of individual preference orderings \mathfrak{R}_i in \mathfrak{R} , for which it is a maximal element. Therefore, a generic choice set $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ may have the mathematical structure of a *multiset*,⁴ because individuals may select the same option/opportunity from A , and thus the same option could be allowed to appear more than once in $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$. Such a restriction strongly suggests that in our model, opportunities are best regarded as both non-rival and excludible, which means that an option $a \in A$ may be a bundle of rights and basic liberties (or functionings) that everybody could claim in order to live a life worth living. This interpretation is consistent with our idea that an individual simply chooses her own identity as opposed (therefore diverse) to that of others. Indeed, in choosing a preferred option from a set of opportunities, a person claims a sample of different categories of functionings *à la Sen*, each of which she can choose to practise (without preventing others from doing so), thus revealing her diversity from the rest of the population.

Now, let \aleph be the set of all possible choice sets built over $\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R})$, then for any $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$ and any $i \in M$, let $[a_i]$ be the *class of equivalence* of a_i in $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$:

$$[a_i] \equiv \{a_j : a_j \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}, \text{ and } a_j = a_i \text{ with } j \in M\},$$

namely the subset of all elements (a_i for $i = 1, \dots, m$) of $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ that are equal. In particular, if $[a_i] = \{a_i\}$, then we say that a_i is an *isolated* choice (*Is*), i.e. it identifies the situation in which there is only one individual selecting that particular option as maximal in A . Conversely, if $[a_i] = A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, every preference ordering in the profile \mathfrak{R} selects the same option. Finally, we note that $[a_i] = \emptyset$ if $i \notin M$.

2.2. Axioms and characterization. Recent normative economics has introduced *liberty* as a relevant characteristic fore evaluating alternative states of affairs. The basic idea of the foregoing literature

⁴Note that a finite multiset on X is defined as a function $m : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $\sum_{x \in X} m(x) < \infty$, i.e. each member of a multiset has a multiplicity, which is a natural number indicating (loosely speaking) how many memberships it has in the multiset. Like sets, multisets support operations to insert and withdraw items and the basic set operations of union, intersection, and difference.

is that people are free if they have access to (at least some basic) opportunities to choose from. In particular, an individual must be able to choose what she regards as valuable in terms of her own preferences (Sen, 1991) in the set of *diverse* options open to her. In fact, diversity is a fundamental aspect of freedom of choice in different situations (see e.g. Barberà, Bossert and Pattanaik (2004)). As long as a plurality of *different* choices exists, there is also a plurality of *diverse* individual possibilities to be or to do. In other words, if we want to evaluate the liberty of members of a society, we have to look at the diversity of choices that the society allows its citizens. We now proceed with our analysis of the individual diversity by introducing a notion of *dissimilarity* of items in a choice set. In other words, given any choice set $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, we define a binary relation \succeq ,⁵ over the classes of equivalence of personal choices, which establishes that for any $[a_i], [a_j] \subset A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, all elements in $[a_i]$ provide at least as much diversity as all elements in $[a_j]$, i.e. $[a_i] \succeq [a_j]$. In particular, we characterize the following measure of options' diversity \succeq_d :

Definition 1. *Given $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$, for any $[a_i], [a_j] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, we say that*

$$(2.1) \quad [a_i] \succeq_d [a_j] \quad \text{if and only if} \quad d([a_i], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq d([a_j], A^{\mathfrak{R}}),$$

where for each $[a_s] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, $d([a_s], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \equiv |\{A^{\mathfrak{R}} \setminus [a_s]\}|$.

In words, we say that, given a choice set $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ the choice a_i provides at least as much diversity as a_j if and only if the number of individuals (represented by the orderings \mathfrak{R}_i in \mathfrak{R}) choosing an option different from a_i is not smaller than the number of individuals choosing an option different from a_j . The ordering \succeq_d is the so-called co-cardinality total preordering induced by our notion of dis-similarity and relies on the information provided by a cardinally meaningful numerical distance between the objects of the choice set in question.

We now characterize \succeq_d using the following list of suitable properties:

Axiom 1 (Total Preorder - **TP**). *The binary relation \succeq is a complete preorder.*

Axiom 2 (Indifference - **I**). *Given $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$ and for any $[a_i], [a_j] \subseteq A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ that are Is, $[a_i] \sim [a_j]$.*

Axiom 3 (Dominance - **D**). *Given $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$, for any $[a_i] \subseteq A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ that is Is and any $[a_j] \subseteq A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ that is not, $[a_i] \succ [a_j]$.*

Let $\{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\ell}$ be a finite ℓ -partition of $\mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$, counting ℓ elements, so that $(\cup_{k=1}^{\ell} \mathfrak{R}^{(k)}) = \mathfrak{R}$ and $\mathfrak{R}^{(k)} \cap \mathfrak{R}^{(q)} = \emptyset$ for any $k, q \in \{1, \dots, \ell\}$. Given $\mathfrak{R}^{(k)} \in \{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\ell}$, let $[a_{i_k}] \subseteq A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}}$ denote the class of equivalence of the choice $a_i \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ restricted to $\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}$, i.e. $[a_{i_k}] \equiv \{a_j \in [a_i] \subseteq A^{\mathfrak{R}} : \mathfrak{R}_j \in \mathfrak{R}^{(k)} \text{ with } j \in M\}$. Then,

⁵Note that \succ and \sim represent the asymmetric and symmetric parts of \succeq , respectively.

Axiom 4 (Independence - **N**). Given $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$, if there exist at least a 2-partition of \mathfrak{R} , namely $\{\mathfrak{R}^{(1)}, \mathfrak{R}^{(2)}\}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{for } [a_{i_1}], [a_{j_1}] &\in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(1)}}, [a_{i_1}] \succeq [a_{j_1}] \text{ and} \\ \text{for } [a_{i_2}], [a_{j_2}] &\in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(2)}}, [a_{i_2}] \sim [a_{j_2}], \end{aligned}$$

then for $[a_i], [a_j] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}, [a_i] \succeq [a_j]$.

To our knowledge, all diversity rankings discussed in economic literature and used in practice are assumed to be reflexive (any set is at least as diverse as itself), transitive and complete, because, for example, a social decision-maker or government agency that intends to measure the degree of biodiversity of different ecological environments must be able to establish that one environment is more or less diverse than another or that both have the same level of diversity. Hence, the first axiom has its own rational.

The other three axioms have a natural interpretation. Indifference establishes that any indifference class that is a singleton set provides the same diversity. This property is satisfied by most indices used in current economic literature. However, some scholars claim that conceptions of diversity that focus on the attributes of the objects in a set rather than on the objects themselves have no reason to observe this property: in principle, there is no reason to consider two ecological environments with only mosquitoes or human beings as indifferent in terms of diversity they provide. This criticism does not apply to our framework. We compare options that are bundles of *positive* valuable items, such as individual rights and personal liberties, on which there are no *a priori* preferences. In other words, in the present general setting, saying that the choice of identity (to be a painter) by a person who would like to be different from others is better than an analogous choice (to be a lawyer) of another is totally arbitrary or requires (a class of) preferences that are, difficult to justify and on the whole unnecessary for the aim of the present analysis of diversity. We can therefore rely on this axiom.

Since isolated choices represent sets of maximal diversity, Dominance requires that sharing a choice with others leads to a set that is worse in terms of diversity according to \succ than any choice taken in isolation. As dominance-type axioms tend to rule out rankings of sets that are based on ‘total-goodness’ criteria with respect to \succ (see Fishburn (1988)), the dominance axiom appears to be a plausible requirement in the present work.

Independence makes it possible to consider unions of preference orderings so that implications can be derived for potential choices ruled by I or D under larger preference sets. More specifically, Independence concerns the order of two classes of equivalence of a choice set obtained on a given set of options A after merging two different preference orderings. In such a case, indifference between classes

of equivalence in one of the two choice sets on A , yielded by the two starting orderings, is neutral for the determination of the order of the corresponding classes of equivalence in the final choice set on A .

The above axioms fully characterize the total preordering \succeq_d , as the following result shows:

Theorem 1. *Let \succeq be a complete preorder on $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$, Then \succeq satisfies (I), (D), (N) if and only if $\succeq = \succeq_d$.*

Rule 2.1 differs from the cardinality total preorder rule characterized by Pattanaik and Xu (1990). Indeed, it compares items of the same choice set, rather than sets, and avoids the fundamental criticisms of Sen (1991) according to which “*the idea of effective freedom cannot be dissociated from our preferences*”. More important, our criterion is the first step to precisely formalize the notion that having a number of similar alternatives available does not provide the same degree of freedom as having the same number of distinct options. Definition 1 considers individuals’ freedom to choose as an effective means to analyze their diversity and consequently the diversity of the society represented by the choice set under consideration as a desirable feature in itself.

3. ON THE COMPARISON OF *choice sets* IN TERMS OF DIVERSITY

3.1. New axioms and a characterization. In what follows, we compare pairs (Z, \mathfrak{R}) of sets of opportunity and individual preference orderings in terms of aggregate diversity. In order to do so, we introduce a binary relation \succeq defined over \aleph such that, for any $A^{\mathfrak{R}'}, B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \in \aleph$, $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \succeq B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ if and only if the choice set $A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$ provides at least as much aggregate diversity as the choice set $B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$, where $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$ can be interpreted as a hypothetical society in which persons with well-formed preferences face a set of suitable options to be chosen. In particular, we study the following prominent notion of aggregate diversity:

Definition 2. *For any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any two profiles of preferences $\mathfrak{R}' = \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_i, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_m\}$ and $\mathfrak{R}'' = \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_i, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_n\}$, \succeq_D is an aggregate-diversity total preorder, defined by the following rule:*

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \succeq_D B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) \geq E(B^{\mathfrak{R}''})$$

where

$$(3.1) \quad E(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = \frac{1}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \sum_{i=1}^I \frac{d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \quad \text{for any } Z \in \wp(X) \text{ and any } \mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R}).$$

where $d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})$ is the measure of diversity reflecting \succeq_d .

In words, for a given choice set $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$, $E(Z^{\mathfrak{R}})$ is the average of the (normalized) measure of diversity \succeq_d of any choice in $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$. The criterion underlying 3.1 takes into account the degree of dissimilarity between alternatives. It establishes that the diversity of a (choice) set is obtained by aggregating the

dissimilarities between the elements of that set. We now examine under what circumstances this is true by axiomatically characterizing \succeq_D as follows:

Axiom 5 (Replication Principle - **RP**). *For any $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$,*

$$(A^{\mathfrak{R}})^t \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}}$$

where $(A^{\mathfrak{R}})^t \equiv \{\underbrace{A^{\mathfrak{R}}}_1, \underbrace{A^{\mathfrak{R}}}_2, \dots, \underbrace{A^{\mathfrak{R}}}_{t-1}, \underbrace{A^{\mathfrak{R}}}_t\}$ denotes the t -replication of $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$.

Axiom 6 (Option Anonymity - **OA**). *Given a preference profile $\mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$ and any $A, B \in \wp(X)$, such that $B \equiv \{(A \setminus \{a\}) \cup \{b\}\}$, with $a \neq b \in X$, if $b = b_i \in B^{\mathfrak{R}}$ for all and only i for which $a = a_i \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, then*

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}}.$$

Axiom 7 (Preference Substitution - **PS**). *For any $A \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$, consider a single preference substitution $\mathfrak{R}' := \mathfrak{R} \setminus \mathfrak{R}_j \cup \mathfrak{R}_h$ with $\mathfrak{R}_j \neq \mathfrak{R}_h$ and $\mathfrak{R}_h \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathfrak{R}$, then:*

- (1) (weak dominance) *if $a_h = a_i$ and $[a_i] \succ_d [a_j]$, then $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}}$,*
- (2) (strict dominance) *if $a_h = a_i$ and $[a_i] \sim_d [a_j]$, then $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \prec A^{\mathfrak{R}}$,*
- (3) (preference anonymity) *if $a_h = a_j$, then $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}}$.*

The Replication Principle just states that the aggregate diversity has to be neutral with respect to the number of individuals with the same preference orderings, i.e. the diversity of a given choice set does not change if we consider a (t -fold) repetition of its elements. Option anonymity implies that the substitution of a single option, which does not affect the distribution of the choices in a given choice set, does not modify the value of the aggregate diversity of the new choice set. The Preference substitution axiom, on the other hands, settles the changes in aggregate diversity after a single individual preference substitution. The OA-axiom is generally more demanding than the PS-axiom. Changing a single preference never affects other personal choices, whereas the substitution of a single option can change the distribution of the choices unpredictably, since a new option is now available. This is why OA is conditional on a certain property of the preference ordering profile ensuring that an option can be changed without affecting the distribution of choices. Nevertheless, to satisfy this condition (on preferences) one can make sequential use of PS. Example 1 below shows how OA and PS can be used jointly to compare two generic choice sets.

We are now ready to state that:

Theorem 2. *Let \succeq be a complete preorder on \aleph , then \succeq satisfies RP, OA and PS if and only if $\succeq = \succeq_D$.*

This result on ranking sets of opportunities in terms of the diversity revealed by individual choice captures the freedom (directly) and democracy (indirectly) of a social structure at an abstract level. Individual autonomy plays a central role in the present characterization: people choose their life plans in isolation from others revealing their preference to be someone or to do something. A society that allows more pluralistic choices can therefore be considered better than another in terms of the freedom/diversity it provides to its members. For intuition on how the system of axioms works, consider the following:

Example 1. Suppose two different opportunity sets A and B with $|A| \geq |B|$, and two preference orderings, namely $\mathfrak{R} = \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2\}$ and $\mathfrak{R}''' = \{\mathfrak{R}_3, \mathfrak{R}_4, \mathfrak{R}_5\}$. Suppose the two corresponding choice sets $A^{\mathfrak{R}} = \{a_1, a_2\}$ and $B^{\mathfrak{R}'''} = \{b_3, b_4, b_5\}$ where $[b_3] = \{b_3, b_4\}$, while all other choices in both choice sets are isolated.

By direct application of I and D we know $[b_3] \prec [b_5]$ and $[a_1] \sim [a_2]$. In order to compare $A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ and $B^{\mathfrak{R}''}'$ according to $E(\cdot)$, we first establish that $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \sim (A^{\mathfrak{R}})^3$ by RP . We also consider the single preference substitution of $\mathfrak{R}_2 \in (\mathfrak{R})^3$ with $\mathfrak{R}_6 \neq \mathfrak{R}_2 \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathfrak{R}$, so that:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{R}(0) &= \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2\} = (\mathfrak{R})^3 \\ \mathfrak{R}(1) &= \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_6\} = \mathfrak{R}'\end{aligned}$$

with $a_6 = a_1$, that is \mathfrak{R}_1 and \mathfrak{R}_6 select the same element in A . Therefore, $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} = \{[a_1], [a_2]\}$ with $|[a_1]| = 4$ and $|[a_2]| = 2$. Applying $PS.2$, we get $(A^{\mathfrak{R}})^3 \succ A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$. we now build up $\mathfrak{R}'' = \{\mathfrak{R}_8, \mathfrak{R}_9, \mathfrak{R}_8, \mathfrak{R}_9, \mathfrak{R}_{10}, \mathfrak{R}_{10}\}$ such that: i) b_3 is \mathfrak{R}_8'' -maximal and \mathfrak{R}_9'' -maximal in $\{A \cup B\}$ and a_1 is \mathfrak{R}_8'' -maximal and \mathfrak{R}_9'' -maximal in $\{(A \cup B) \setminus \{b_3\}\}$, ii) b_5 is \mathfrak{R}_{10}'' -maximal in $\{A \cup B\}$ and a_2 is \mathfrak{R}_{10}'' -maximal in $\{(A \cup B) \setminus \{b_5\}\}$. Then $A^{\mathfrak{R}''} = \{[a_8], [a_{10}]\}$ and $B^{\mathfrak{R}''} = \{[b_8], [b_{10}]\}$ where $|[a_8]| = |[b_8]| = 4$ and $|[a_{10}]| = |[b_{10}]| = 2$ with $a_8 = a_9 = a_1$, $a_{10} = a_2$ and $b_8 = b_9 = b_3$, $b_{10} = b_5$. By iterated application of OA , we can state that $A^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ and by iterated single preference substitutions $PS.3$, we also have $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ and $B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$. Thus, by transitivity, we obtain that $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \succ B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$. Accordingly, our measure of aggregate diversity yields: $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = 1/2 > 4/9 = E(B^{\mathfrak{R}''})$.

Pattanaik and Xu (1998) characterize a criterion for ranking sets of opportunity in terms of freedom of choice. It simply counts the number of distinct options selected by at least one individual in the reference set in order to establish if one set (of opportunity) is better than another. As already observed, our insight is rather that the options people choose have to be evaluated proportionally with respect to the diversity they allow, i.e. the distribution of all individual choices matters as long as it actually reveals the differentiation of people through choices. The diversity criterion (3.1) we propose is therefore not a refinement of the one characterized by Theorem 1 in Pattanaik and Xu (1998), as the following example shows:

Example 2. Suppose $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and $\mathfrak{R} = \{\mathfrak{R}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_i, \dots, \mathfrak{R}_{10}\}$ are such that:

$$\begin{aligned} A^{\mathfrak{R}} &= \{[a_1], [a_4], [a_7]\} \\ B^{\mathfrak{R}} &= \{[b_1], [b_8], [b_9], [b_{10}]\} \end{aligned}$$

where $|[a_1]| = |[a_4]| = 3$, $|[a_7]| = 4$, $|[b_1]| = 7$ and $|[b_8]| = |[b_9]| = |[b_{10}]| = 1$. Then, according to Pattanaik and Xu (1998) $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \prec_M B^{\mathfrak{R}}$ because $M(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = 3 < M(B^{\mathfrak{R}}) = 4$, where $M(Z^{\mathfrak{R}})$ is the number of classes of equivalence in $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$ which induces the \prec_M -ranking. On the contrary, applying (3.1), we get that $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \succ B^{\mathfrak{R}}$ because $E(A) = 0.66 > E(B) = 0.48$.

In particular, our criterion (3.1) prevents some paradoxical situations resulting from the use of \prec_M in Pattanaik and Xu (1998), as shown in the following:

Example 3. We want to compare three different schooling systems to offer to a set of individuals with a given preference profile \mathfrak{R} . The first system A provides a scientific (s) and a humanistic (h) curriculum; system B offers a generalist (g) and an artistic (a) curriculum; system C has a humanistic and domestic science (d) curriculum. Let us imagine that \mathfrak{R} is such that when faced with i) A , half the individuals prefer the scientific curriculum and the other half the humanistic one; ii) B , only one individual chooses (a) and the others choose (g); iii) C , everybody prefers the generalist curriculum (g).

According to Pattanaik and Xu's criterion \prec_M , A and B are evaluated equally and higher than C , since the cardinality of the \mathfrak{R} -maximal sets is equal to two for A and B and equal to one for C . Instead, according to (3.1) A is better than B in terms of diversity for preference profile \mathfrak{R} because it allows higher *average* differentiation in the society. Moreover, it still maintains that B is undoubtedly a better opportunity set than C according to \mathfrak{R} , because it allows at least to one individual to reveal his diversity. However, the improvement in diversity is only marginal and it is still rated much lower than that of A .

3.2. Diversity, preferences and entropy. As a final remark we point out the connection between the class of evaluation functions that induces our diversity criterion (3.1) and the classical entropy measure advocated by Suppes (1996) and Erlander (2005) as a suitable tool for ranking opportunity sets in terms of freedom of choice. In fact, for any choice set $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$, the Shannon entropy measure, denoted as $Ent(\cdot)$, belongs to the class of frequency-based functions in (3.1), because it can be obtained by an order-preserving transformation of $d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) / |Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|$, namely:

$$(3.2) \quad Ent(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = -\frac{1}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \sum_{i=1}^I \log \left(1 - \frac{d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \right).$$

Shannon entropy has been widely used in biology to measure the diversity of ecosystems, since entropy is a measure of the “disorder” of a system. Translated into our setting, a set of opportunities that is maximally “disordered”, namely has the greatest variety of dissimilar options, is considered maximally diverse. Note that Suppes (1996) and Erlander (2005) proposed an entropy-based measure of freedom of choice, but did not characterize it axiomatically. Our work could also be seen as the first axiomatic foundation for using entropy as a measure of diversity of choices. Suppes (1996) and Erlander (2005) motivated application of this measure by stochastic utility theory of logit models (see e.g. MacFadden (1974)).⁶ However, the usual entropy interpretation and its well-known characterizations in physics and biology cannot directly be applied in an economic environment. Indeed, additivity⁷, the key-property of almost all entropy characterizations, does not find a proper meaning in the economic context of revealed diversity unless we severely restrict the domain of individual preference orderings. Two distinct populations, choosing their best options from two different opportunity sets such that the resulting choice sets have a null intersection, will not typically select the same options when both populations and opportunity sets are merged together. In other words, it is not generally true that the entropy of choices satisfies additivity once the whole set of individuals has to select from the union of the two opportunity sets. This only happens in some very special cases after appropriate restriction of individual preference orderings. Our axiomatic method avoids this difficulty, making entropy a measure applicable to the our context. In fact, joint application of the *preference substitution* axiom with *option anonymity* and the *replication principle* shows the direction in which the aggregate diversity evaluation of a generic $Z^{\mathfrak{R}}$ changes after a single change in the preference profile (see Example 1).

4. CONCLUDING NOTE

In the present paper, we have explored the problem of ranking opportunity sets (the elements of which are interpreted as bundle of rights and basic liberties), in terms of their diversity after the individuals (with well-defined preference profiles) of a population have selected their best choice. Since the choice concerns various aspects of personal life, it *reveals* the diversity of people in a society. A society that enhances (more) *revealed diversity* among its members can be considered better than a society where individuals make homogeneous claims, because diversity draws its value from greater freedom of choice (see e.g. Sen (2006)). If the set of opportunities a society provides to its members contains only one suitable option, ‘human identities are formed by membership of a single social group’ (see Sen, (2006)) and ‘everyone is locked up in tight little boxes from which she emerges only to attack

⁶Indeed, in that perspective, the utility function is the propensity to choose and no longer a deterministic device as in standard utility theory. The analysis relies on the concept of statistical equilibrium as defined in e.g. Foley (1994).

⁷The entropy of a joint distribution of two variables is bounded (or equal to in the case of independent variables) from above by the sum of the entropies of the two distributions.

one another' (see Sen (2006)). "The prospects of peace, tolerance, freedom and democracy in the contemporary world may well lie in the recognition of the plurality (hence *diversity*) of our identities, where personal identity must be understood as an extension of one's own choice of being someone or doing something" (Sen (2006)). This study was devoted to providing a rationale for this insight, in an attempt to open new research perspectives in the analysis of freedom of choice and (individual) diversity.

5. APPENDIX: PROOFS

Proof of Theorem 1. (\Rightarrow) That \succeq_d be a total preorder and satisfy I , D , N is trivial;

(\Leftarrow) Conversely, for any $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$, take $[a_i], [a_j] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ such that $d([a_i], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) > d([a_j], A^{\mathfrak{R}})$ and suppose $[a_i] \prec [a_j]$. The fact $d([a_i], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) > d([a_j], A^{\mathfrak{R}})$ implies that $[a_i]$ has less elements than $[a_j]$. Specifically, suppose without loss of generality that $|[a_i]| = \ell < n = |[a_j]|$. Construct an ℓ -partition $\{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\ell}$ of \mathfrak{R} , such that for $k < \ell$, $[a_{i_k}], [a_{j_k}] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}}$ are both Is . Hence according to I $[a_{i_k}] \sim [a_{j_k}]$ for each $k < \ell$. By construction it follows that $[a_{i_\ell}], [a_{j_\ell}] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(\ell)}}$ such that $[a_{i_\ell}]$ is Is and $[a_{j_\ell}]$ is not Is . Thus, by D , $[a_{i_\ell}] \succ [a_{j_\ell}]$. Therefore, since \succ is a complete preorder, by $\ell - 1$ iterated applications of N , we get that $[a_i] \succeq [a_j]$, hence a contradiction.

Now, let $d([a_i], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = d([a_j], A^{\mathfrak{R}})$ but suppose $[a_i] \approx [a_j]$. That is, assume that $[a_i]$ is not indifferent to $[a_j]$, or without loss of generality that $[a_i] \prec [a_j]$. The fact $d([a_i], A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = d([a_j], A^{\mathfrak{R}})$ means that $|[a_i]| = |[a_j]| = \ell$. For $\ell = 1$ a contradiction arises from direct application of I . For $\ell > 1$, exactly as before, construct an ℓ -partition $\{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{\ell}$ of \mathfrak{R} counting ℓ elements, such that for $k < \ell$, $[a_{i_k}], [a_{j_k}] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(k)}}$ are both Is . Hence again according to I , $[a_{i_k}] \sim [a_{j_k}]$ for each $k < \ell$. But now, by construction it must be that $[a_{i_\ell}], [a_{j_\ell}] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(\ell)}}$ are also both Is . Therefore, since \succ is a complete preorder, by $\ell - 1$ iterated applications of N , we obtain that $[a_i] \sim [a_j]$, hence a contradiction.⁸ \square

Proof of Theorem 2. (\Rightarrow) To check that \succeq_D is a total preorder and satisfies RP , OA and $PS.3$ is straightforward. To show that \succeq_D also satisfies $PS.1$ and $PS.2$, take any $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \in \aleph$ and for any $[a_i], [a_j] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ suppose that $k_i = |[a_i]|$, $k_j = |[a_j]|$ and $|\mathfrak{R}| = m$ without loss of generality. By definition:

$$E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = (1/m^2) [k_i (k_j + k_{-i,j}) + k_j (k_i + k_{-i,j}) + \mathbf{k}],$$

where $k_{-i,j} = m - (k_i + k_j)$ and \mathbf{k} is a real number depending on the distribution of potential choices outside the set $\{[a_i] \cup [a_j]\}$ and on $(k_i + k_j)$. Now take $\mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$ such that $\mathfrak{R}' = \mathfrak{R} \setminus \mathfrak{R}_j \cup \mathfrak{R}_h$ with

⁸In the present general setting, since the total preordering \succeq_d is the dual of the cardinality total preordering of opportunity sets characterized by Pattanaik and Xu (1990), we do not provide examples of the independence of the axioms used, but can supply them on request.

$\mathfrak{R}_h \in \mathbf{R} \setminus \mathfrak{R}$ and compute $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'})$. In the case $a_h = a_i$, we have:

$$E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) = (1/m^2) ((k_i + 1)(k_j - 1 + k_{-i,j}) + (k_j - 1)(k_i + 1 + k_{-i,j}) + \mathbf{k}),$$

in which both the distribution of potential choices outside the set $\{[a_i] \cup [a_j]\}$ and the sum $(k_i + k_j)$ are unaffected by the preference substitution. Thus, the difference $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) - E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = (2/m^2)(-k_i + k_j - 1)$ does not depend on \mathbf{k} , so

$$(5.1) \quad E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) \geq E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \text{ if and only if } k_j \geq k_i + 1.$$

If $[a_i] \succ_d [a_j]$ then $k_j > k_i$ and therefore $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}}$, as required by *PS.1*. If $[a_i] \sim_d [a_j]$, then $k_j = k_i$ and $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) < E(A^{\mathfrak{R}})$ and therefore $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \prec A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ as required by *PS.2*. We therefore conclude that \succeq_D also satisfies weak dominance and strict dominance in *PS*.

(\Leftarrow) To show that if the total preorder \succeq satisfies *RP*, *OA* and *PS* then $\succeq = \succeq_D$, take $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and first suppose without loss of generality $|A| \geq |B|$. Then, take $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}''' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$ such that $|\mathfrak{R}| = m$ and $|\mathfrak{R}'''| = n$ and suppose $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) > E(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})$, but $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \prec B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$.

First step. Given that $(A^{\mathfrak{R}})^n \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}}$ and $(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$ by *RP*, then $E((A^{\mathfrak{R}})^n) = E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) > E(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}) = E((B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m)$. Since $|A| \geq |B|$ and $|(A^{\mathfrak{R}})^n| = |(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m|$, it is possible to obtain an $\mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$, where $|\mathfrak{R}'| = n \times m$, by iterated preference substitutions such that $E((A^{\mathfrak{R}'})^n) = E((B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m)$. To show that $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$, consider a finite sequence $\mathfrak{R}^{(0)}, \dots, \mathfrak{R}^{(q)}, \dots, \mathfrak{R}^{(s)}$ obtained by iterated single preference substitutions such that $\mathfrak{R}^{(0)} = (\mathfrak{R})^n$ and $\mathfrak{R}^{(s)} = \mathfrak{R}'$ and $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(q)}}) \geq E(A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(q+1)}})$ for any $q = 0, \dots, s-1$. In order to construct such a sequence use the double implication in (5.1). That is, at any step q , substitute an \mathfrak{R}_j with an \mathfrak{R}_h such that $a_h = a_i$ with $k_j \leq k_i + 1$. The latter implies that $[a_j] \succ_d [a_i]$ if $k_j < k_i$ and $[a_j] \sim_d [a_i]$ if $k_j = k_i$. Therefore, by *PS.1* and *PS.2*, we have $A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(q)}} \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}^{(q+1)}}$ for any $q = 0, \dots, s-1$, hence by transitivity $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$.

Second step. Since $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}'}) = E((B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m)$ then $A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$ and $(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m$ have the same distribution of choices.⁹ Therefore there exists a finite number of pairs $([a_i], [b_j])$ with $[a_i] \in A^{\mathfrak{R}'}$, $[b_j] \in (B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m$ with the same cardinality (i.e. $|[b_j]| = |[a_i]|$) that form a partition of the set $\{A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \cup (B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})^m\}$. Now, build up an $\mathfrak{R}'' \in \mathbf{R}$ with $|\mathfrak{R}''| = n \times m$, such that, for each pair $([a_i], [b_j])$ with the same cardinality ℓ , there exist at least ℓ elements $\mathfrak{R}_h'' \in \mathfrak{R}''$ such that b_j is \mathfrak{R}_h'' -maximal in $\{A \cup B\}$ and a_i is \mathfrak{R}_h'' -maximal in $\{(A \cup B) / \{b_j\}\}$.

By repeated applications of *PS.3*, we obtain $A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}''}$. Notice that $A^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ allows iterated applications of *OA* to obtain $B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}''}$. Indeed, \mathfrak{R}'' avoids changes in distribution of choices in $A^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ with sequential substitution of options in A , so that *OA* applies. Again, using *PS.3*, we get $(B^{\mathfrak{R}''})^m \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$.

Thus $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \sim (A^{\mathfrak{R}})^n \succeq A^{\mathfrak{R}'} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim (B^{\mathfrak{R}''})^m \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ and by transitivity $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \succeq B^{\mathfrak{R}''}$ which is a contradiction.

⁹This is a property of the Shannon entropy measure (see Theil (1967) chap.5) that also holds for 3.2.

Third step. Suppose $E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = E(B^{\mathfrak{R}'''})$, but $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \approx B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$ and in particular, without loss of generality, that $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \prec B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$. Repeat the second step with due correspondences to show $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \sim A^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}''} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$ so that by transitivity $A^{\mathfrak{R}} \sim B^{\mathfrak{R}'''}$, which is a contradiction.

The above characterization is tight. To check the validity of this claim, consider the following examples.

i - Completeness: Independence of the completeness requirement is immediately demonstrated by considering the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_c)$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_c B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \begin{cases} |A^{\mathfrak{R}}| \geq |B^{\mathfrak{R}'}| \quad \text{and} \\ E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq E(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}) \end{cases}.$$

ii - Transitivity: Independence of the transitivity requirement can be shown by considering the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_t)$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_t B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \quad \text{if and only if there exists } k \in \mathbb{Z}_+, k \geq 1 \\ \text{such that } E(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = E(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}) + k(|A^{\mathfrak{R}}| - |B^{\mathfrak{R}'}|).$$

iii - Replication Principle: To prove independence of the *RP* property from the other conditions, let us consider the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_{rp})$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_{rp} B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \quad \text{if and only if } E'(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) = E'(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}), \text{ where} \\ E'(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = \sum_{i=1}^I d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) \quad \text{for any } Z \in \wp(X) \text{ and any } \mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R}).$$

iv - Opportunity Anonymity: To establish independence of the *OA* property from the others, let us introduce the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_{oa})$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_{oa} B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \quad \text{if and only if } E^*(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq E^*(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}), \text{ where} \\ E^*(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = \frac{1}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \sum_{i=1}^I \frac{\alpha_i d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \quad \text{for any } Z \in \wp(X) \text{ and any } \mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R}), \\ \text{with } \begin{cases} \alpha_i = 2 & \text{if } \alpha_i = \bar{x} \in X, \\ \alpha_i = 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

v - Preference substitution: (a) strict dominance: To check independence of the Strict Dominance property in the Preference Substitution axiom from the others, let us introduce the binary relational

system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_{st})$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_{st} B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \text{ if and only if } E^+(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq E^+(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}),$$

where $E^*(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = \frac{1}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \sum_{i=1}^I \frac{\max\{\beta, d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})\}}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|}$ for any $Z \in \wp(X)$, any $\mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$ and $\beta > 0$.

vi - Preference substitution: (b) weak dominance: In order to prove the independence of the Weak Dominance property in the Preference Substitution axiom from the others, let us introduce the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_{wt})$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_{wt} B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \text{ if and only if } E^\circ(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq E^\circ(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}), \text{ where}$$

$$\begin{cases} E^\circ(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = 1 & \text{if and only if } [z_i] \sim_d [z_j] \text{ for any } i, j \in I \\ E^\circ(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for any $Z \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$.

vii - Preference substitution: (c) preference anonymity: To check independence of the Preference Anonymity property in the Preference Substitution axiom from the others, let us introduce the binary relational system $(\wp(X) \times \wp(\mathbf{R}), \geq_{pa})$, defined as follows: for any $A, B \in \wp(X)$ and any $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}' \in \wp(\mathbf{R})$:

$$A^{\mathfrak{R}} \geq_{pa} B^{\mathfrak{R}'} \text{ if and only if } E^\#(A^{\mathfrak{R}}) \geq E^\#(B^{\mathfrak{R}'}), \text{ where}$$

$$E^\#(Z^{\mathfrak{R}}) = \frac{1}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \sum_{i=1}^I \frac{\alpha_i d([z_i], Z^{\mathfrak{R}})}{|Z^{\mathfrak{R}}|} \text{ for any } Z \in \wp(X) \text{ and any } \mathfrak{R} \in \wp(\mathbf{R}),$$

$$\text{with } \begin{cases} \alpha_i = 2 & \text{if } \alpha_i = \bar{i} \in I, \\ \alpha_i = 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

□

REFERENCES

- [1] Aizerman, M. A. and A.V. Malishevski (1981) - General theory of best variants choice: some aspects - *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, AC-26
- [2] Barberà S., Bossert W., Pattanaik P.K. (2004) - Ranking Set of Objects - in Barberà S., Hammond P.C., Seidl C., (eds.), *Handbook of Utility Theory, vol. II, Extension*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, pp. 893-977
- [3] Basili, M. and S. Vannucci (2012) - Diversity as width - *Social Choice and Welfare* (forthcoming)
- [4] Baumgärtner S. (2006) - Why the Measurement of Species diversity requires Prior Value Judgements - Mimeo, Department of Economics, University of Heidelberg.
- [5] Bervoets S., Gravel N., (2010) - Appraising diversity with an ordinal notion of Similarity: an Axiomatic Approach -. *Mathematical Social Science*
- [6] Bossert W., Pattanaik P.K., Xu Y. (2003) - Similarity of Options and the Measurement of Diversity - *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, pp. 405-421.
- [7] Erlander S. (2005) - Welfare, freedom of choice and composite utility in the logit model - *Social Choice and Welfare*, 24 pp.509-525.

- [8] Fishburn, P. C. (1988) - *Nonlinear Preference and Utility Theory* - Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- [9] Foley D. (1994) - A Statistical Equilibrium Theory of Markets - *Journal of Economic Theory*, 62:2, pp. 321-345.
- [10] Gravel, N. (2008) - What is diversity? - in *Rational choice and Normative Philosophy*, R. Gekker and M. Van Hees eds., Routledge, London.
- [11] Hayek F.A. (1960) - *The Constitution of Liberty* - Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- [12] Jones P. and Sugden, R. (1982) - Evaluating choice - *International Review of Law and Economics*, 2 pp. 47-65.
- [13] Kalai, G., A. Rubinstein and R. Spiegel (2002) - Rationalizing choice functions by multiple rationales - *Econometrica* 70, 2481-2488.
- [14] MacFadden (1974) - Conditional Logit Analysis of Qualitative Choice Behavior - in Zarembka P. (ed), *Frontiers of Econometrics*, Academic Press, New York, pp. 105-142.
- [15] Mill, J. S. (1859) - *On Liberty* - published in Italian as "Saggio sulla Libertà", (1981), Mondadori.
- [16] Nehring, K. and Puppe, C. (2002) - A Theory of Diversity - *Econometrica*, 70, pp. 1155-1190.
- [17] Nozick, R. (1974) - *Anarchy, State and Utopia* - Basic Books, NY.
- [18] Pattanaik, P.K. and Xu, Y. (1990) - On ranking of opportunity sets in terms of freedom of choice - *Recherches Economiques de Louvain*, 56, 383-390.
- [19] Pattanaik, P.K. and Xu, Y. (1998) - On preference and freedom - *Theory and Decision*, 14, pp.173-198.
- [20] Pattanaik, P.K. and Xu, Y. (2000) - On ranking opportunity sets in economic environments - *Journal of Economic Theory*, 93, pp. 48-71.
- [21] Puppe, C. (1996) - An axiomatic approach to preference for freedom of choice - *Journal of Economic Theory*, 68, pp. 174-199.
- [22] Puppe, C. (1998) - Individual Freedom and Social Choice - in Laslier J.F., Fleubaey M., Gravel N., Trannoy A., (eds.), *Freedom in Economics: New Perspective in Normative Analysis*, pp. 49-68. Routledge, London.
- [23] Sen, A. (1990) - Welfare, freedom and social choice; a reply - *Recherches Economiques de Louvain* 56: 452-485.
- [24] Sen, A. K. (1991) - Welfare, preference and freedom - *Journal of Economics* 50: 15-29.
- [25] Sen, A. K. (2006) - *Identity and violence: the illusion of destiny* - W.W. Norton and C.
- [26] Sugden, R. (1998) - The Metric of Opportunity - *Economics and Philosophy*, 14 pp. 307-337.
- [27] Suppes, P. (1996) - The nature and measurement of freedom - *Social Choice and Welfare*, 13 pp. 183-200.
- [28] Theil, H. (1967) - *Economics and Information Theory* - North-Holland, Amsterdam.
- [29] VanHees M., (2004) - Freedom of Choice and Diversity of Options: some Difficulties - *Social Choice and Welfare*, 22, pp. 253-266.
- [30] Weitzman M.L. (1992) - On diversity - *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 107, pp. 363-406.