

Is Consistency Procedure Invariant? (joint with Vered Kurtz and Dino Levy)

Procedure Invariance requires that recovered preferences (or heuristics) should be independent of the method used to elicit them.

In this project we test this requirement on laboratory experiments that are designed to provide relatively large data sets on individual choice from linear budget sets.

Two very different methodologies are used to execute these laboratory experiments.

In the Textual Methodology subjects are asked to plug their choice into a sentence that describes their feasible alternatives.

The Graphical Methodology requires subjects to choose their preferred bundle from a visually presented budget line.

Our experiment is designed to compare these methodologies in the context of other-regarding preferences.

We find that subjects are significantly less consistent in the Textual Methodology compared to the Graphical Methodology, especially when the budget lines they encounter are steep.

Moreover, more subjects exhibit selfishness and fewer subjects exhibit egalitarian preferences when the Graphical Methodology is used.

We repeat the experiment in the context of risk preferences to test whether these phenomena are independent of the examined preferences.