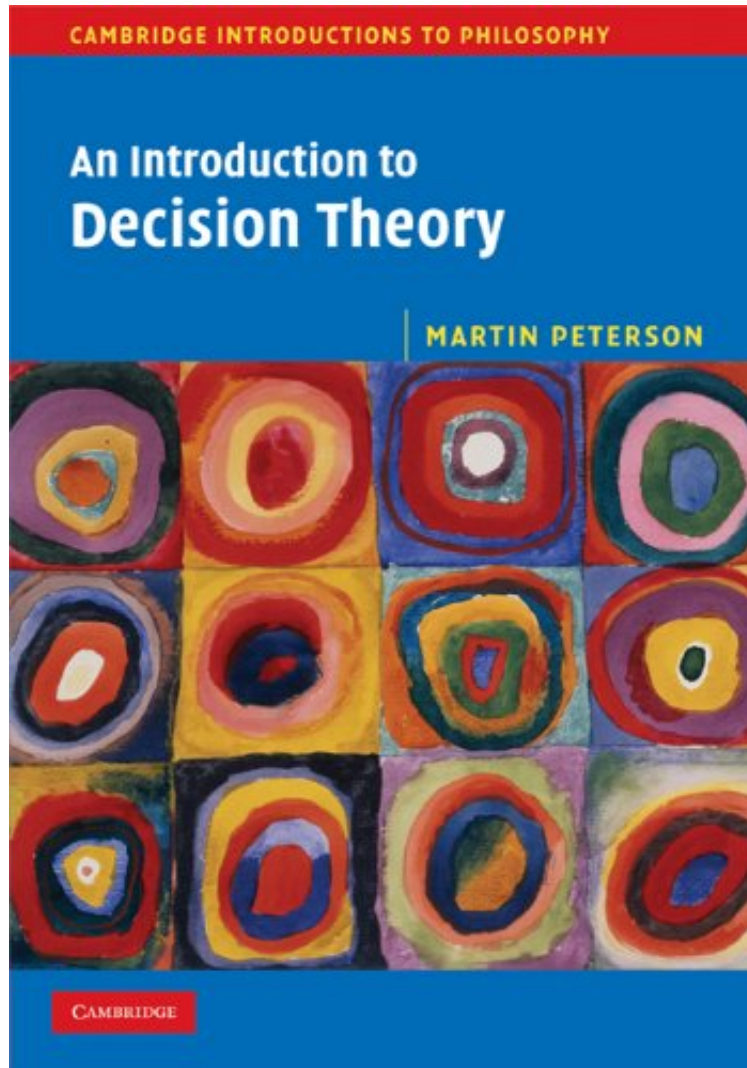


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An Introduction to Decision Theory (Cambridge Introductions to Philosophy)

Martin Peterson

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strong and weak dominance. According to the author, one act weakly dominates another if the outcomes of the first act are always at least as good as the outcomes of the second act. One act strongly dominates another if this same condition holds, and also if under at least one state the outcome of the first act is better than the outcome of the other act. My experience is that the author's definition of strong dominance is really what most have in mind when they say weak dominance. In addition, strong dominance as most of us know it (the outcome of act one is better than the outcome of act two in every state) is not even mentioned. Under the author's system, it is possible for two acts to weakly dominate each other. That's tough to wrap my mind around, to say the least. There are other areas of the book like this, but this is the one that seems to stand out as the most bizarre. The book isn't bad as a collection of interesting problems, but if you learn the fundamentals from this book, you might find yourself not using the same definitions as those around you. This could lead to confusion, to say the least. 3 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Very Limited and Distorted Introduction to Decision Theory By Hector Horace Munro, PhD A poorly constructed book that only focuses on synoptic, hyper-rational approaches to decision-making. The author doesn't use real world examples to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of various decision theories. The author also ignores the works of Herbert Simon (a Nobel prize winner) and others from the limited rationality school. This book is not worth purchasing.

This introduction to decision theory offers comprehensive and accessible discussions of decision-making under ignorance and risk, the foundations of utility theory, the debate over subjective and objective probability, Bayesianism, causal decision theory, game theory, and social choice theory. No mathematical skills are assumed, and all concepts and results are explained in non-technical and intuitive as well as more formal ways. There are over 100 exercises with solutions, and a glossary of key terms and concepts. An emphasis on foundational aspects of normative decision theory (rather than descriptive decision theory) makes the book particularly useful for philosophy students, but it will appeal to readers in a range of disciplines including economics, psychology, political science and computer science.

"This up-to-date introduction to decision theory offers comprehensive and accessible discussions of decision-making under ignorance and risk, the foundations of utility theory, the debate over subjective and objective probability, Bayesianism, causal decision theory, game theory, and social choice theory.... all concepts and results are explained in non-technical and intuitive as well as more formal ways. There are over 100 exercises with solutions, and a glossary of key terms and concepts. An emphasis on foundational aspects of normative decision theory (rather than descriptive decision theory) makes the book particularly useful for philosophy students, but it will appeal to readers in a range of disciplines including economics, psychology, political science and computer science." -- Mathematical sAbout the Author Martin Peterson is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. He is author of Non-Bayesian Decision Theory (2008).