



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Changing for the better : preference dynamics and agent diversity

Liu, F.

Publication date
2008

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Liu, F. (2008). *Changing for the better : preference dynamics and agent diversity*. ILLC.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgments

It has been quite a journey to finish this thesis, with so many people to thank.

I thank my promotor, Johan van Benthem, who brought me back to Amsterdam when I thought I would never have the chance. He has walked with me as I struggled to create something new over all these years. His vision, guidance, and encouragement helped me in all the research and writing that went into this thesis. I have always been overwhelmed with his incredibly stimulating comments, and every visit to his office reminded me of what I once read in Nottingham University: “Arrive alert, leave enlightened”. I learned a lot, not only in logic, but also in many other aspects. My appreciation for his trust and constant support is beyond any words that I could possibly find. He is one of the rare supervisors that students dream to have. I was lucky indeed.

I thank my co-promotor, Dick de Jongh, for all the attention that he has paid to me during these years. I feel grateful for his help in the process of my Mosaic grant application, which indirectly led to my current project, funded by the Dutch Science Organization NWO and the University of Amsterdam. I am constantly impressed by his instantaneous grasp of difficult problems. He is always ready to help. I learned much from him, especially through working on our joint paper. His careful reading of all of my writing and his corrections will never be forgotten. In particular, I deeply appreciate his never-failing understanding and kindness. I also thank him for teaching me his vast knowledge on biking.

I thank Natasha Alechina, Alexandru Baltag, Vincent Hendricks, John-Jules Meyer, and Frank Veltman for their willingness to assess my dissertation.

I thank the following people with whom I have discussed questions concerning my thesis in person or via email. Their views have shaped my thoughts: Thomas Ågotnes, Natasha Alechina, Guillaume Aucher, Reinhard Blutner, Jan Broersen, Denis Bonnay, Hans van Ditmarsch, Paul Egré, Ulle Endriss, Patrick Girard, Till Grüne-Yanoff, Sven Ove Hansson, Paul Harrenstein, Andreas Herzig, Brian Hill, Alistair Isaac, Jérôme Lang, Brian Logan, Ondrej Majer, Teresita Mijangos, Eric Pacuit, Rohit Parikh, Leo Perry, Adrian Piper, Floris Roelofsen, Josh Snyder,

Leon van der Torre, Tomoyuki Yamada, and Henk Zeevat.

ILLC is an ideal place to study. Yde Venema, Maricarmen Martínez, Frank Veltman, Krister Segerberg, Johan van Benthem, and Peter van Emde Boas taught me a lot in the courses I took from them. In addition, many results of this thesis were first presented at the ‘dynamics seminar’, whose participants gave me very helpful feedback. I want to thank: Harald Bastiaanse, Tijmen Daniels, Cédric Dégrement, Ulle Endriss, Patrick Girard, Sujata Ghosh, Fernando Velazquez-Quesada, Sieuwert van Otterloo, Eric Pacuit, Floris Roelofsen, Olivier Roy, Yanjing Wang, and Jonathan Zvesper.

ILLC is also a unique place as a friendly cultural environment. I thank my officemate Brian Semmes for sharing the office, and for his effort to speak “zhoumo yukuai”. I thank the following persons who taught me about different cultures: Nick Benzhanišvili, Gaëlle Fontaine, Amélie Gheerbrant, Nina Gierasimczuk, Tikitu de Jager, Joost Joosten, Aline Honingh, Daisuke Ikegami, Clemens Kupke, Lena Kurzen, Olivia Ladinig, Markos Mylonakis, Alessandra Palmigiano, Yoav Seginer, Merlijn Sevenster, Leigh Smith, Reut Tsarfaty, Sara Uckelman, Joel Uckelman, Raul Leal Rodriguez, Jakub Szymanik, Levan Uridia, Jacob Vosmaer, Andreas Witzel, and Jelle Zuidema.

Balder ten Cate, Loredana Afanasiev, Maarten Marx, Yoav Seginer, and Sonja Smets provided essential encouragement during the hard time of my final thesis writing. Patrick Girard read my Chapter 4 and provided very useful comments. Natasha Alechina, Dick de Jongh, Stefan Minica, and Yanjing Wang helped improve the typographical presentation. Olivier Roy helped arrange the defense and many other logistic things.

Special thanks go to Ingrid van Loon, Tanja Kassenaar, Marjan Veldhuisen, Jessica Pogorzelski, Karin Gigengack, Peter van Ormondt, René Goedman, and Adri Bon for their being so nice and warm. They were always immediately ready to help with any administrative or other non-scientific problem.

My Chinese friends in Amsterdam have been a big family for me. Whenever I need a hand, they are always available. I thank them for their help and entertainment: Bo Gao, Hai Hu, Yuli Huo, Fangbin Liu, Huiye Ma, Zhenwei Pu, Bosheng Tsai, Xiaoping Wei, Yanjing Wang, Yingying Wang, Hang Wang, Mengxiao Wu, Ming Wu, Jie Xie, Fan Yang, Junwei Yu, Shibiao Zhang. In particular, I want to thank Zhisheng Huang and his family for all their care these years.

I also want to thank my colleagues in Beijing: Junren Wan, Xiaochao Wang, and Lu Wang at Tsinghua University, Jingyuan Li, Shangmin Wu, Dikun Xie, and Qingyu Zhang at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, for their generous consideration in allowing me to finish my thesis abroad.

Finally, I thank my husband Xiaowei Song for his quiet support and patience that enabled me to complete this work.

Fenrong Liu
Amsterdam, January, 2008.