

WEIGHING GOODS

Equality, Uncertainty and Time

John Broome

Basil Blackwell

Contents

Preface	ix
1 Introduction I: The Structure of Good	1
1.1 <i>Acts versus consequences, and agent relativity</i>	3
1.2 <i>The working of ethical considerations</i>	6
1.3 <i>Teleological structure</i>	10
1.4 <i>Does good exist?</i>	17
Notes	20
2 Introduction II: Weighing Goods	22
2.1 <i>Locations of good, and separability</i>	22
2.2 <i>Three dimensions of locations</i>	25
2.3 <i>Dimensions with varying lengths</i>	29
2.4 <i>What things are good?</i>	32
2.5 <i>An outline of the argument</i>	32
Notes	38
3 Similarity Arguments	39
3.1 <i>Parfit, Section 1</i>	40
3.2 <i>Parfit, Section 2</i>	48
3.3 <i>Harsanyi</i>	51
Notes	58
4 The Separability Theorems	60
4.1 <i>Two examples</i>	60
4.2 <i>Definitions and theorems</i>	65
4.3 <i>The significance of additive separability</i>	70

4.4	<i>The rectangular field assumption</i>	80
	Notes	81
	Appendix to Chapter 4: Proofs	82
5	Expected Utility and Rationality	90
5.1	<i>Axiomatic expected utility theory</i>	90
5.2	<i>The sure-thing principle</i>	94
5.3	<i>Individuation of outcomes</i>	95
5.4	<i>Transitivity of preferences</i>	100
5.5	<i>Rational requirements of indifference</i>	104
5.6	<i>Individuation and the sure-thing principle</i>	107
5.7	<i>The dispersion of value amongst states of nature</i>	110
5.8	<i>The rectangular field assumption</i>	115
	Notes	117
6	The Coherence of Good	121
6.1	<i>The goodness of uncertain prospects</i>	122
6.2	<i>Betterness and rational preferences</i>	131
6.3	<i>The argument for coherence</i>	136
6.4	<i>Representing betterness by utility</i>	139
6.5	<i>Bernoulli's hypothesis</i>	142
	Notes	148
7	Coherence Against the Pareto Principle	151
7.1	<i>The conflict</i>	152
7.2	<i>Two better principles</i>	154
7.3	<i>Welfare economics</i>	159
	Notes	164
8	The Principle of Personal Good	165
8.1	<i>Qualifications</i>	165
8.2	<i>The beginning of a defence</i>	167
	Notes	173
9	Equality	174
9.1	<i>A utilitarian case for equality</i>	175
9.2	<i>Types of egalitarianism</i>	177
9.3	<i>Equality under uncertainty</i>	185
9.4	<i>Fairness and equality</i>	192
	Notes	200

10 The Interpersonal Addition Theorem	202
10.1 <i>Proof</i>	203
10.2 <i>Connecting dimensions</i>	209
10.3 <i>The utilitarian principle of distribution</i>	213
Notes	222
11 Utilitarian Metaphysics?	224
11.1 <i>The intertemporal addition theorem</i>	224
11.2 <i>The principle of temporal good</i>	228
11.3 <i>The metaphysical argument</i>	230
11.4 <i>Conclusion</i>	237
Notes	240
Bibliography	241
Index	251