

Accepted Manuscript

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Susumu Cato

PII: S0304-4068(17)30045-9

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmateco.2017.02.002>

Reference: MATECO 2134

To appear in: *Journal of Mathematical Economics*

Received date: 5 July 2016

Revised date: 14 February 2017

Accepted date: 15 February 2017



Please cite this article as: Cato, S., Unanimity, anonymity, and infinite population. *Journal of Mathematical Economics* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmateco.2017.02.002>

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Unanimity, anonymity, and infinite population*

Susumu Cato^{†‡§}

February 15, 2017

Abstract

This paper is concerned with the implications of unanimity and anonymity for the Arrowian social choice theory when population is infinite. Contrary to the finite population case, various unanimity and anonymity axioms can be formulated. We show a tension between unanimity and anonymity by providing possibility and impossibility results. We also examine the case in which social preferences are allowed to be quasi-transitive.

Keywords: Social choice; Arrow's impossibility theorem; unanimity; anonymity; ultrafilter
JEL classification: D71

*This paper was financially supported by Grant-in-Aids for Young Scientists (B) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (26870477). This paper is also supported by the Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad of JSPS. I thank Marc Fleurbaey, Johannes Hörner, Hannu Salonen, and Kotaro Suzumura for helpful suggestions. Moreover, I thank Simon Grant, an editor of this journal, and two anonymous referees for constructive comments.

[†]Institute of Social Science, the University of Tokyo. Tel: +81-3-5841-4904, Fax :+81-3-5841-4905, susumu.cato@gmail.com, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan.

[‡]Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. Robertson Hall, 20 Prospect Ave, Princeton, NJ 08540.

[§]Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

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