

Claim: Suppose  $f$  satisfies SP, ONTO, ANON, then

$$f(P) = \text{median}(p_1, \dots, p_n, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}).$$

Case 1:  $a$  is a phantom peak - proved

Case 2:  $a$  is an agent peak

We will prove this for 2 players. The general case repeats this argument.

Claim:  $N = \{1, 2\}$ , let  $P$  and  $P'$  be such that

$$P_i(1) = P'_i(1), \forall i \in N. \text{ Then } f(P) = f(P').$$

Proof: Let  $a = P_1(1) = P'_1(1)$ , and  $P_2(1) = P'_2(1) = b$ .

$$f(P) = x \text{ and } f(P', P_2) = y$$

Since  $f$  is SP,  $x \succ P_1 \succ y$  and  $y \succ P'_1 \succ x$

Since peaks of  $P_1$  and  $P'_1$  are the same, if  $x, y$  are on the same side of the peak, they must be the same, as the domain is single peaked.

The only other possibility is that  $x$  and  $y$  fall on different sides of the peak. We show that this is impossible.

WLOG  $x < a < y$  and  $a < b$

$f$  is SP+ONTO  $\Leftrightarrow f$  is SP+PE

PE requires  $f(P) \in [a, b]$ , but  $f(P) = x < a \rightarrow \leftarrow$

now repeat this argument for  $(P_1', P_2) \rightarrow (P_1', P_2')$   $\square$

Profile:  $(P_1, P_2) = P$ ,  $P_1(1) = a$ ,  $P_2(1) = b$

$y_1$  is the phantom peak.

by assumption, median  $(a, b, y_1)$  is an agent peak

WLOG assume the median is  $a$ .

Assume for contradiction  $f(P) = c \neq a$ .

By PE,  $c$  must be within  $a$  and  $b$ . We have two cases to consider:  $b < a < y_1$  and  $y_1 < a < b$ .

Case 2.1:  $b < a < y_1$ , by PE  $c < a$

construct  $P_1'$  s.t.  $P_1'(1) = a = P_1(1)$

and  $y_1, P_1', c$  (possible since they are on different sides of  $a$ )

by the earlier claim,  $f(P) = c \Rightarrow f(P_1', P_2) = c$ .

now consider the profile  $(P_1', P_2)$

$\uparrow$  peak at the rightmost

$P_2(1) = b < y_1 \leq P_1'(1)$ , hence the median of  $\{b, y_1, P_1'(1)\}$  is  $y_1$  (which is a phantom peak, hence case 1 applies).

$$f(P_1', P_2) = y_1.$$

But  $y_1, P_1' < c$  (by construction) and  $f(P_1', P_2) = c$   
agent 1 manipulates  $P_1' \rightarrow P_1$ , contradiction to  $f$  being SP.

Case 2.2:  $y_1 < a < b$ ,  $PE \Rightarrow a < c$

construct  $P_1'$  s.t.  $P_1'(1) = a = P_1(1)$  and  $y_1, P_1' < c$

$$f(P_1', P_2) = c \text{ (by claim)}$$

Consider  $(P_1^0, P_2)$ ,  $P_1^0(1) \leq y_1 < b \Rightarrow f(P_1^0, P_2) = y_1$

but  $y_1, P_1' < c$ , hence manipulable by agent 1.

This completes the proof for two agents (case 2). For the generalization to  $n$  players, see Moulin (1980)

"On strategyproofness and single peakedness".