MBS 96-05 Solutions to Three Functional Equations Arising from Different Ways of Measuring Utility János Aczél, R. Duncan Luce, Gy. Maksa

Utility of gains (losses) can be measured in four distinct ways: riskiness vs. risky choices and gains (losses) alone vs. the gain-loss trade-off. Conditions forcing these measures all to be the same lead to functional equations, three of which are: F-1[F(X) + F(-Y)Z = F-1[F(XZ) = F(-YZ)] F:]-k,k' [(]-K,K'[; k,k',K,K' > 0) (i) $F(X-R) [1-F(Y)] + F(Y) = F[F-1(F(X)[1-F(Y)] = F(Y) - S] (F: [0,1[([0,1[, P: [0,1[x[0,1]([0,1]) (ii) We determine all strictly increasing, subjective a\(and thus continuous) solutions of (i) and (ii) and all strictly increasing, subjective solutions of (iii) that are differentiable on (0,1[as are their inverses (thus, f'(0 on]0,1[).$