

Consensual Decision-Making Among Epistemic Peers

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the question of how to resolve disagreement, and uses the Lehrer-Wagner model as a formal tool for investigating consensual decision-making. The main result consists in a general definition of when agents treat each other as epistemic peers (Kelly 2005; Elga 2007), and a theorem vindicating the "equal weight view" to resolve disagreement among epistemic peers. We apply our findings to an analysis of the impact of social network structures on group deliberation processes, and we demonstrate their stability with the help of numerical simulations.

Keywords: Formal social epistemology, consensus, disagreement, epistemic peers, equal weight view, social networks

[Specific Sciences: Probability/Statistics](#)

[General Issues: Decision Theory](#)

Subjects: [General Issues: Confirmation/Induction](#)

[Specific Sciences: Sociology](#)

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