

FREE WILL & RATIONAL CHOICE

The rational choice with which decision theory and game theory are concerned resembles classical free will (Bertalanffy, GST, p. 115). Indeed, a rational choice is one such that (a) ~~it~~ is based on the individual's knowledge of alternative courses of action and their probable effects, (b) the individual is free to make, in the sense that, were it not for his awareness of the convenience of choosing one alternative over the others, he could also choose the latter, and (c) maximizes^z the individual's satisfaction. Unfortunately, while men could in principle satisfy all three conditions, they usually satisfy conditions (a) and (b) but seldom condition (c). On the other hand animals very often satisfy condition (c) without, however, satisfying conditions (a) and (b): indeed, for the most part, they do not choose and they do not behave on the basis of experience and theory.

