

An illustration of several hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark) holding white papers. The hands are arranged in a circular pattern, suggesting a collaborative or voting process. The background is a light blue gradient with some darker blue and yellow accents.

# Voting with Preference Intensities

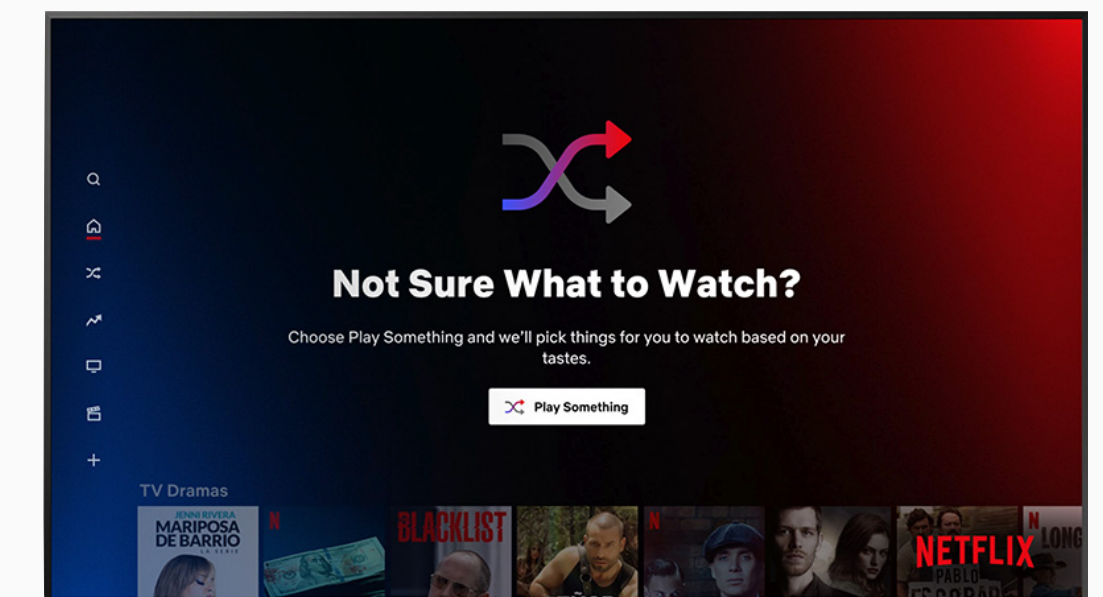
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Anson Kahng, **Mohamad Latifian**, Nisarg Shah

AAAI 2023

# Voting

- ▶ Voting is a way to aggregate agents' preferences
  - ▶ Political elections
  - ▶ Movie night
  - ▶ Choose a representative committee
  - ▶ Recommender systems



# Elicitation

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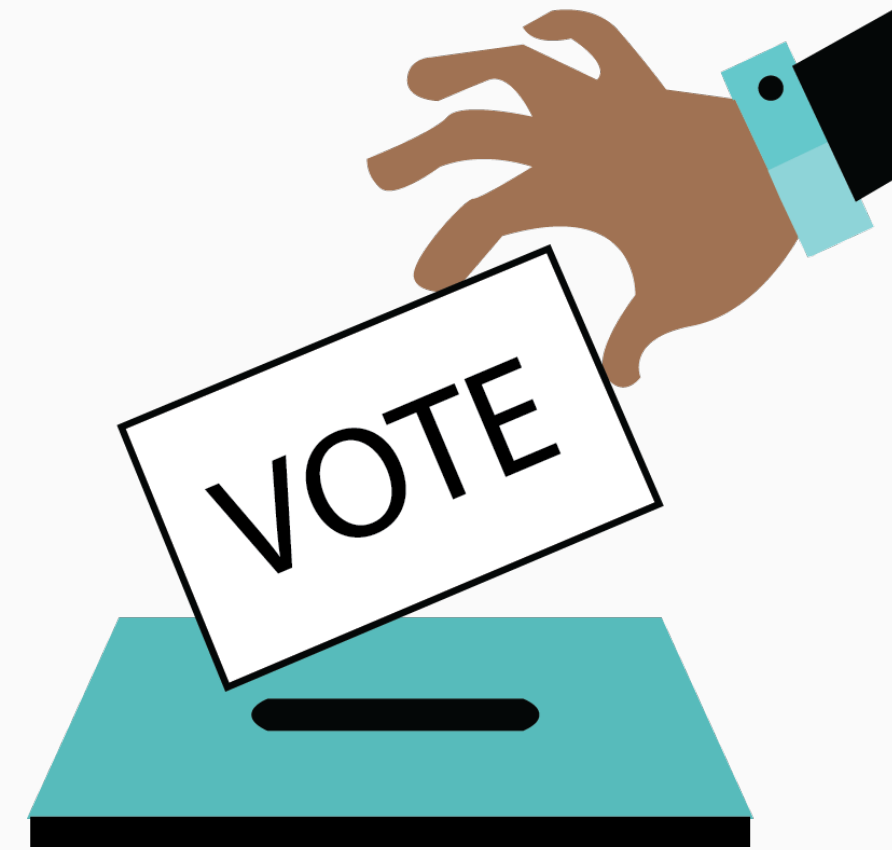
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- ▶ How to collect the preferences?

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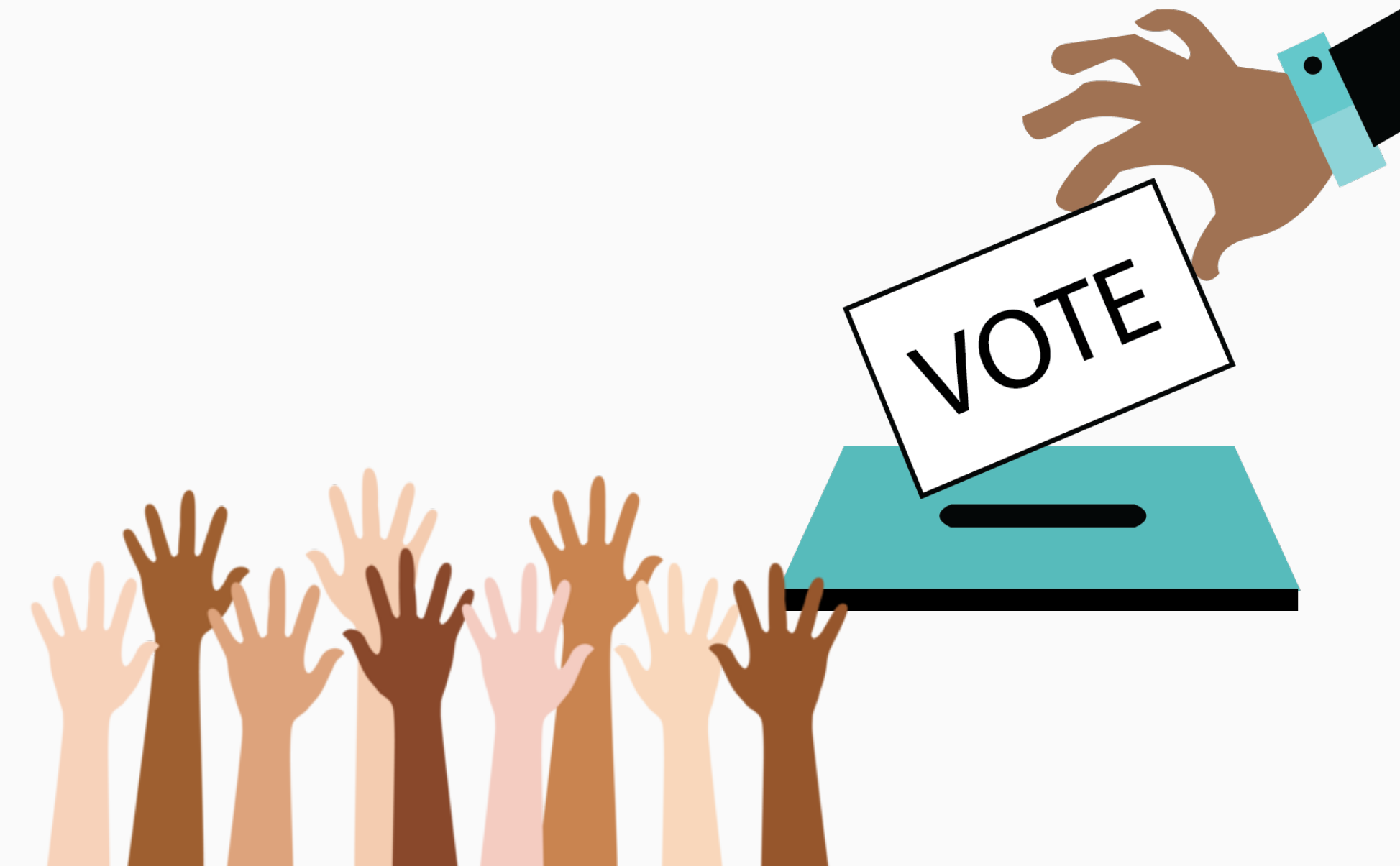
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  - ▶ Ranked ballots



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- ▶ How to collect the preferences?
  - ▶ Top votes
  - ▶ Show of hands
  - ▶ Ranked ballots
  - ▶ Approval ballots





# Voting with Ranked Ballots

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We have a surplus of 4000\$ in our budget.  
What should we do with that?  
We can buy a copier, a set of chairs, or go  
out for lunch for a week? Let's decide.

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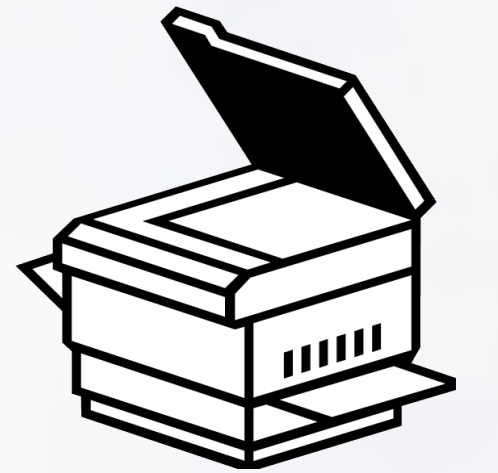
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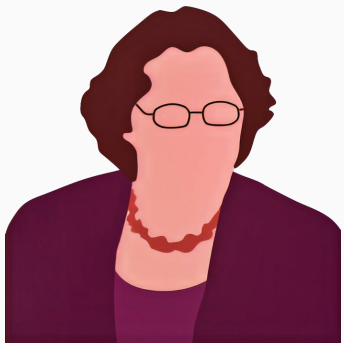


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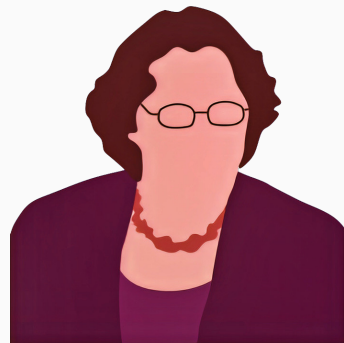


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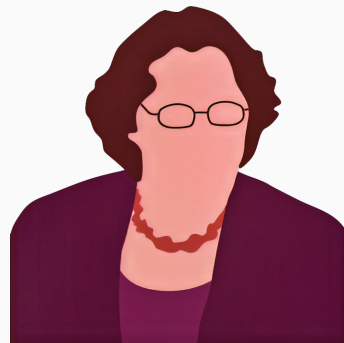
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Voting rule



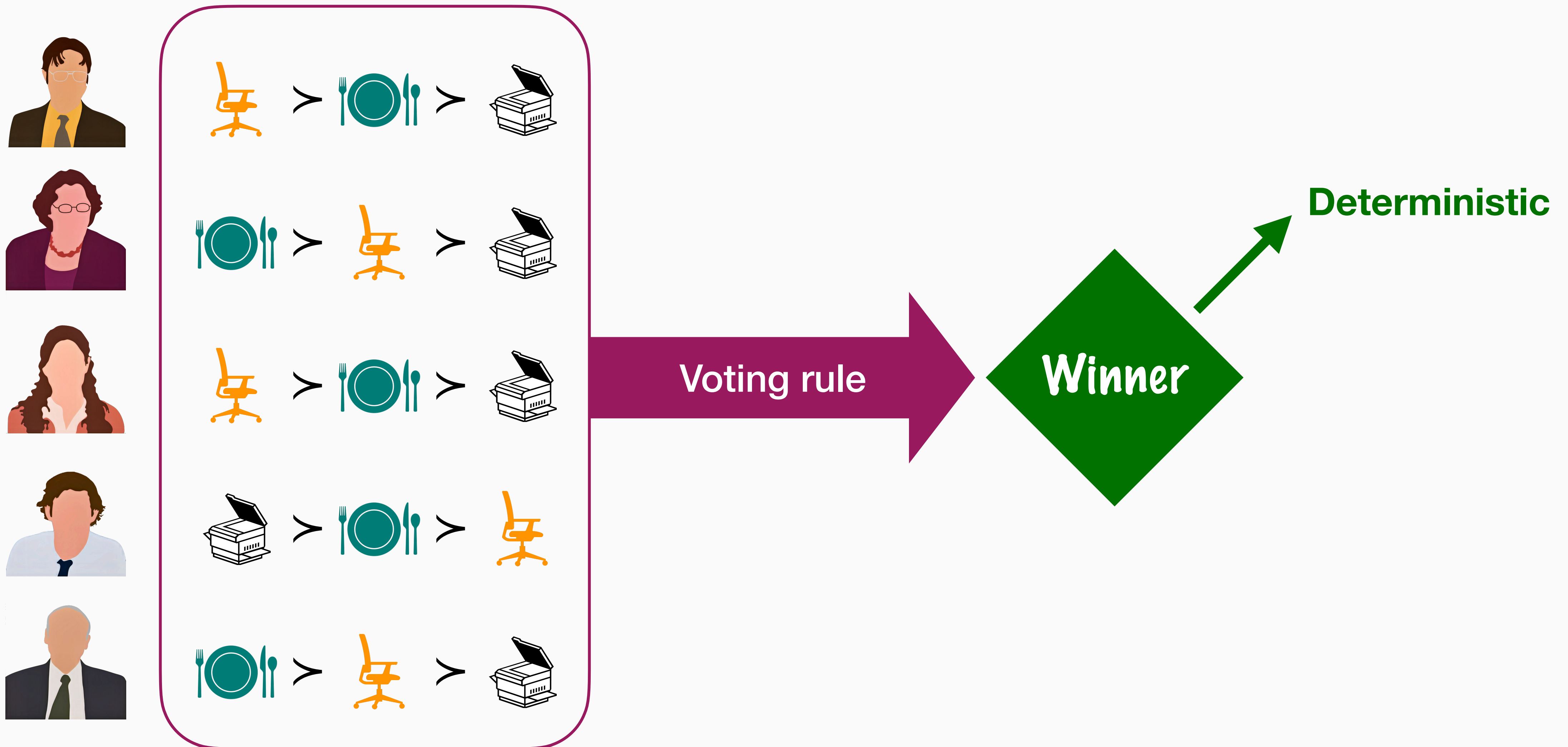
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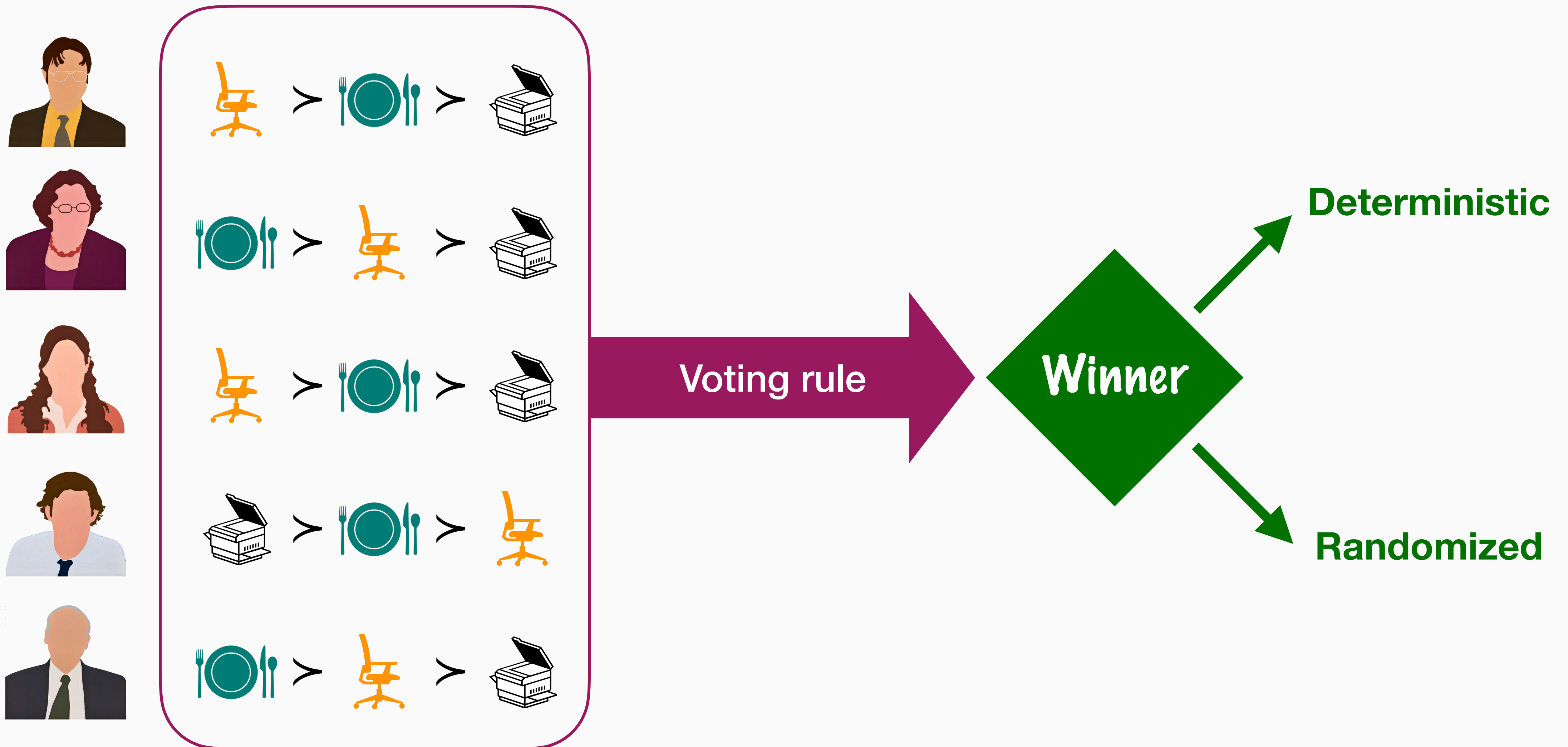
Voting rule

Winner

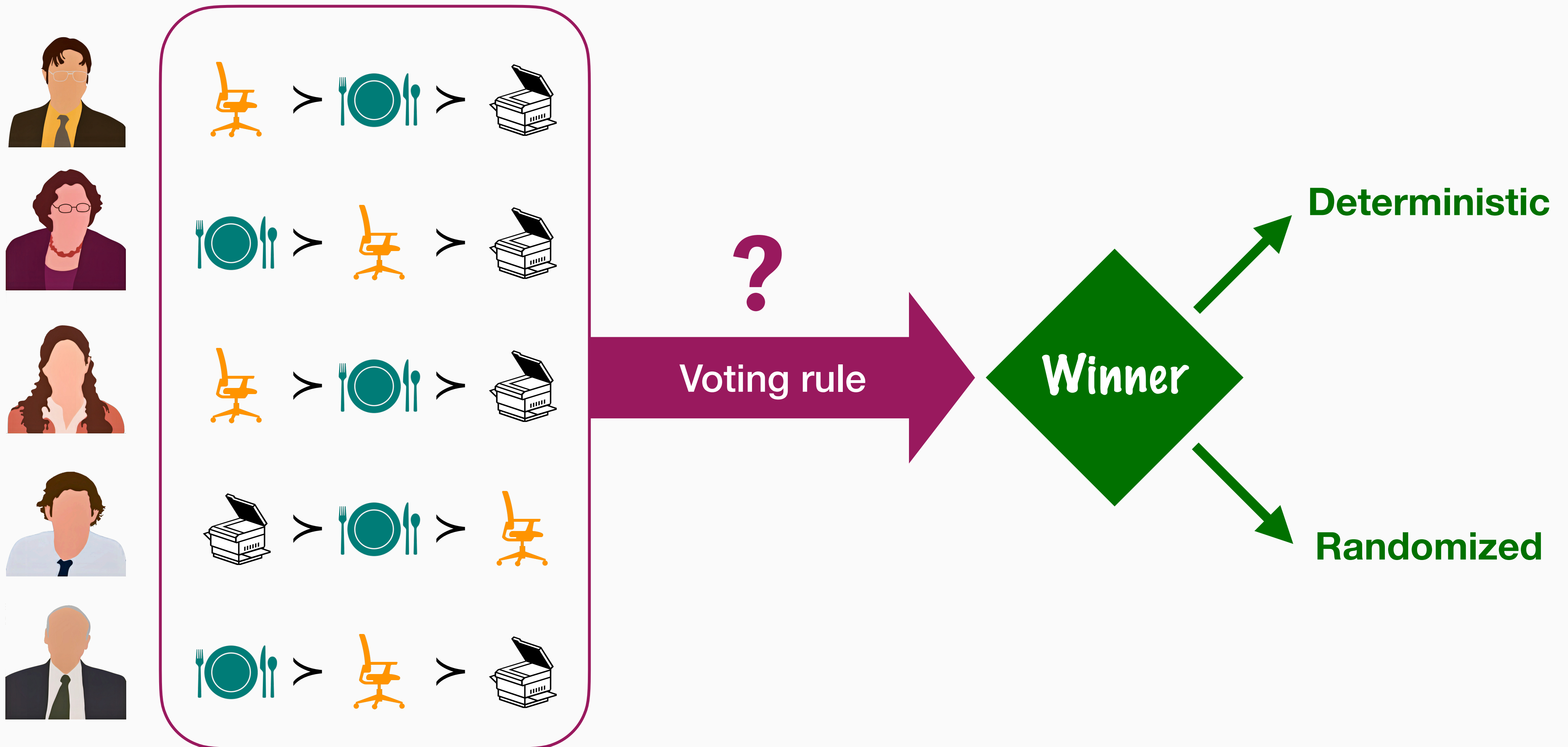
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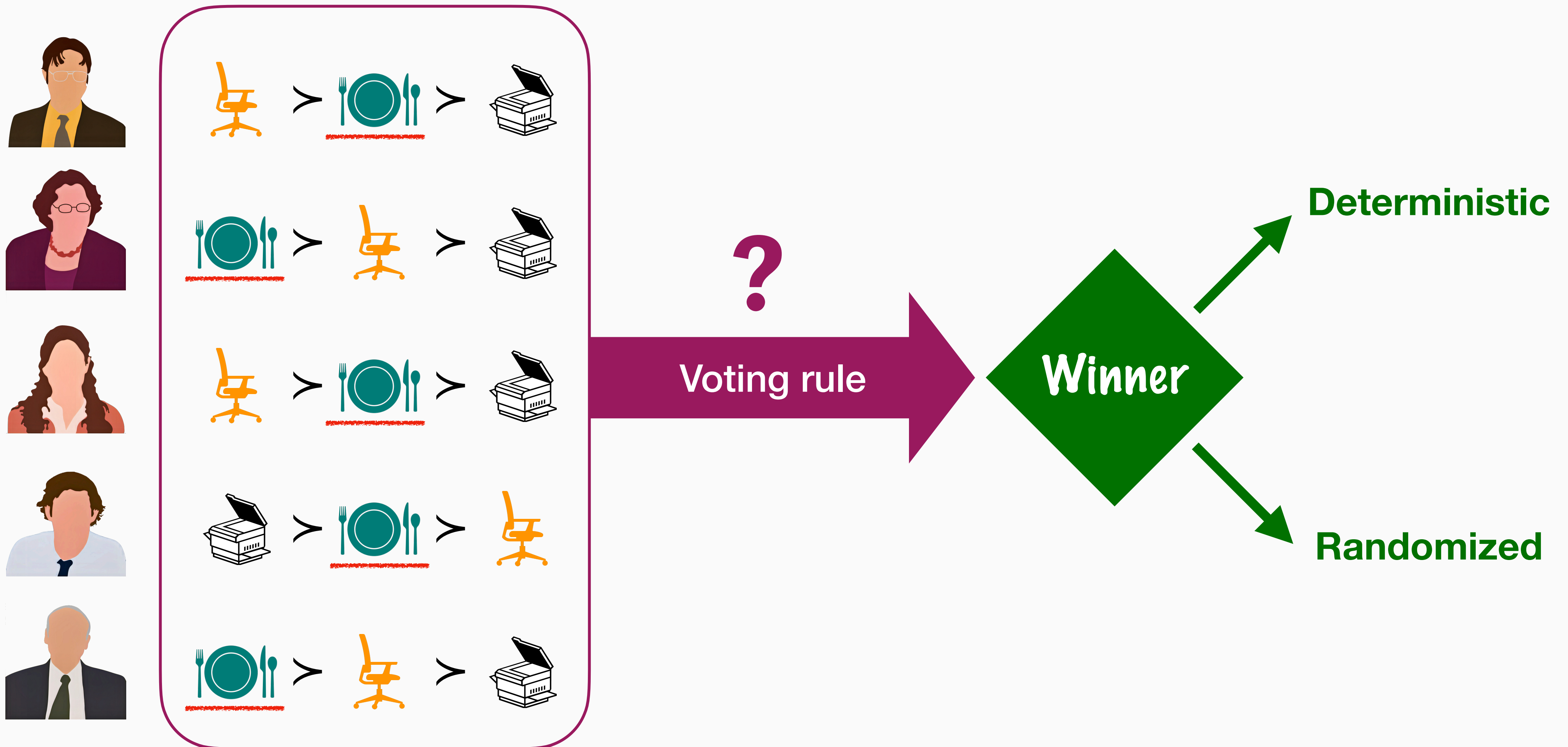
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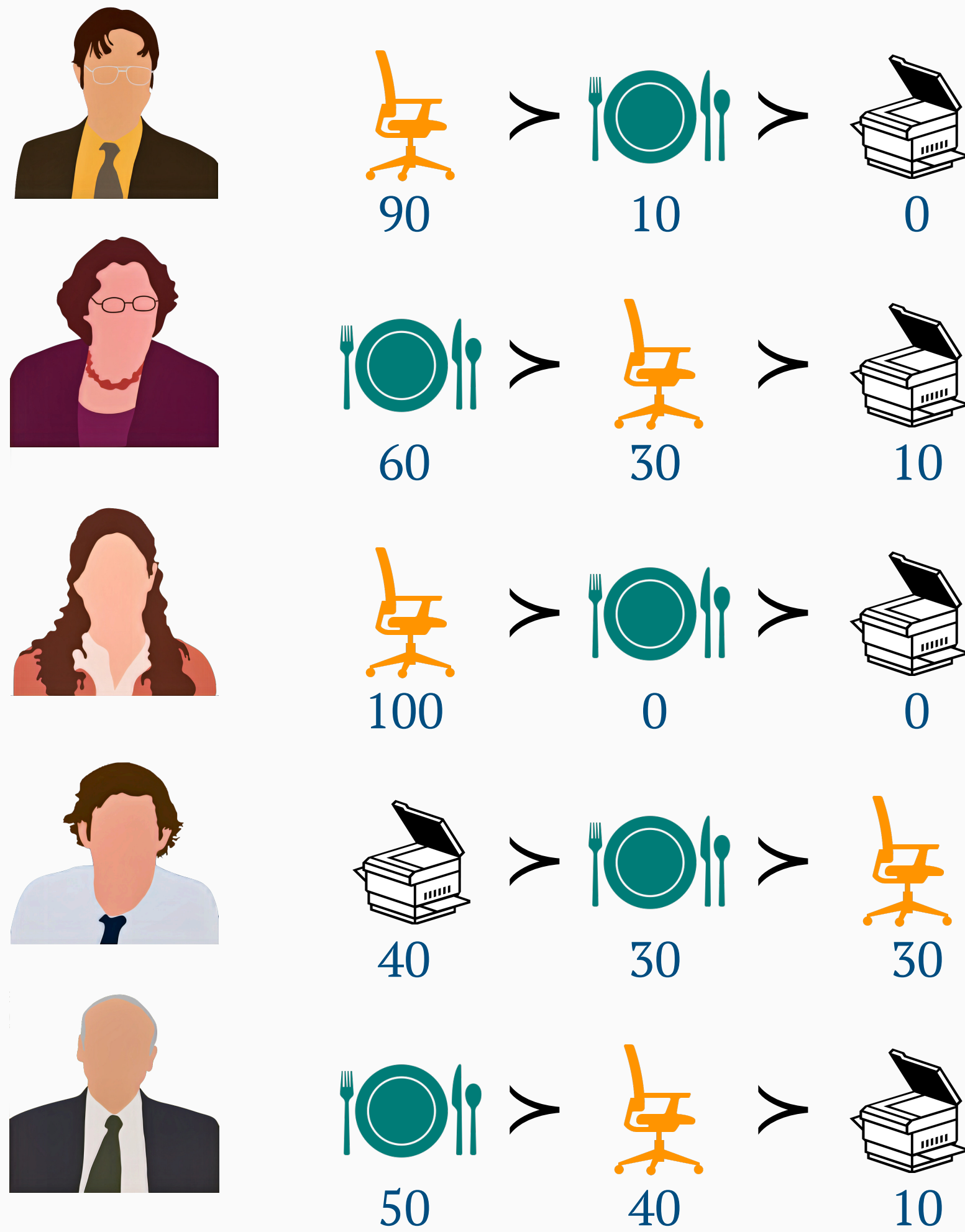
# Utilitarian View

[Procaccia and Rosenshcein, 2006]



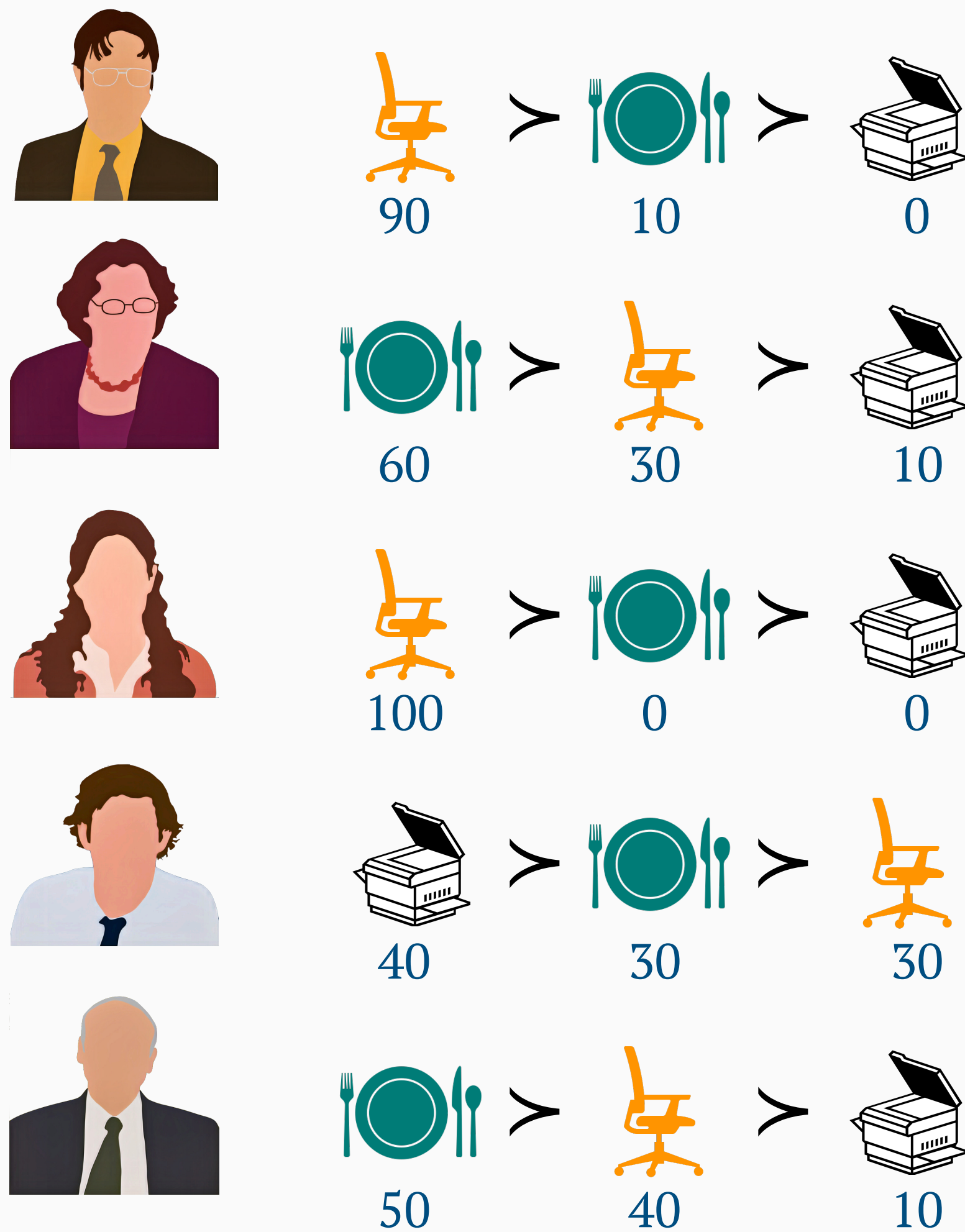
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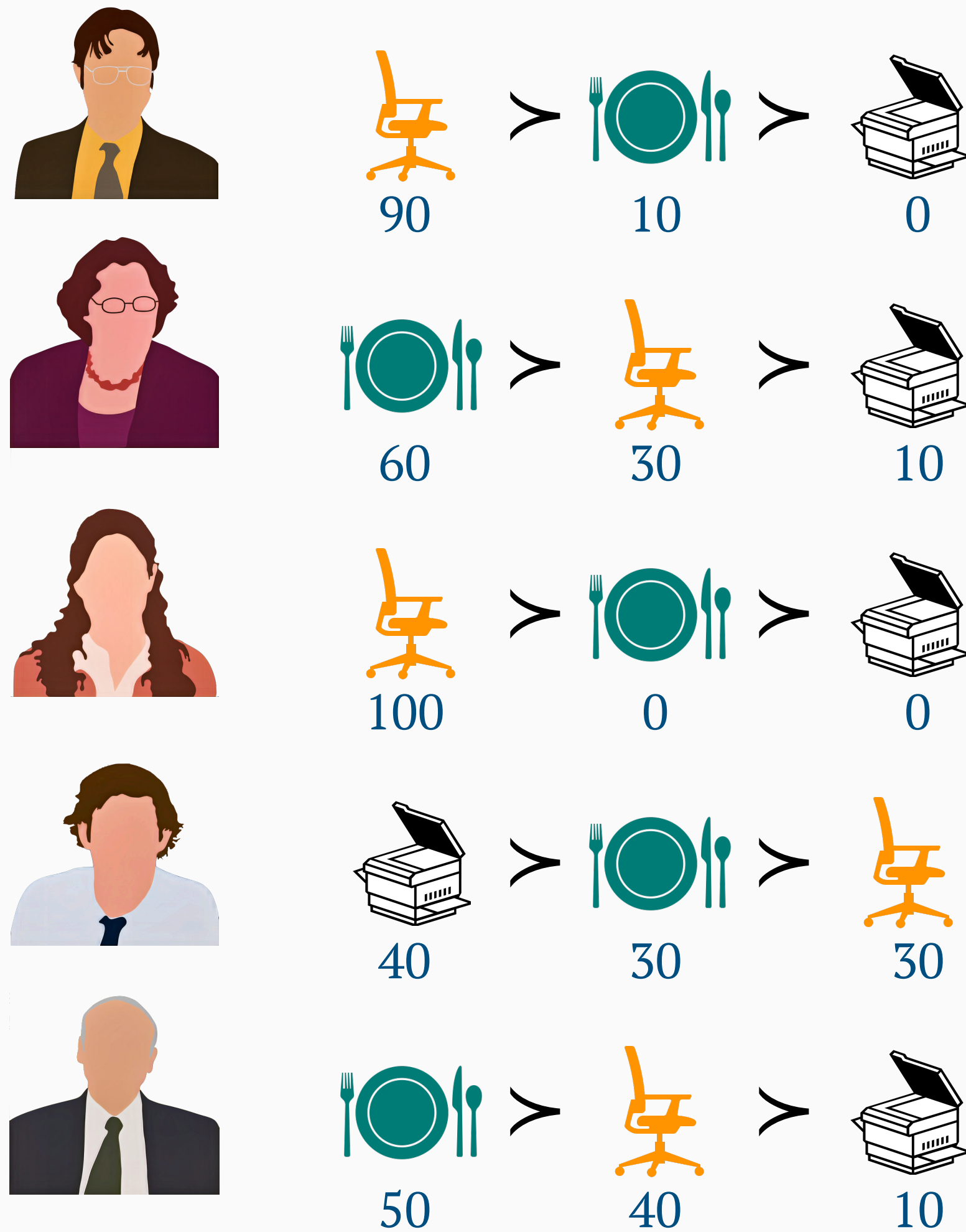


► Total utility (social welfare)



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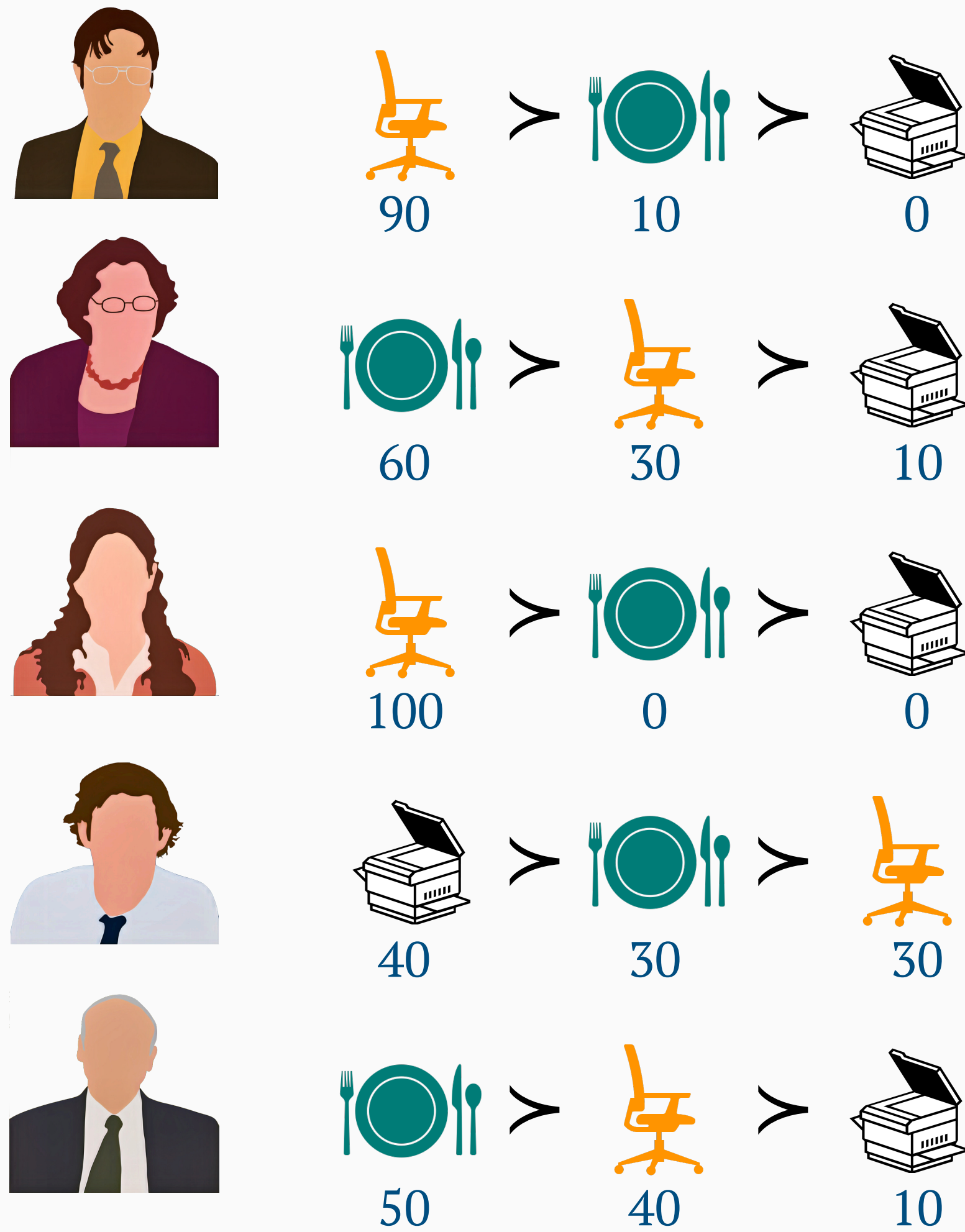


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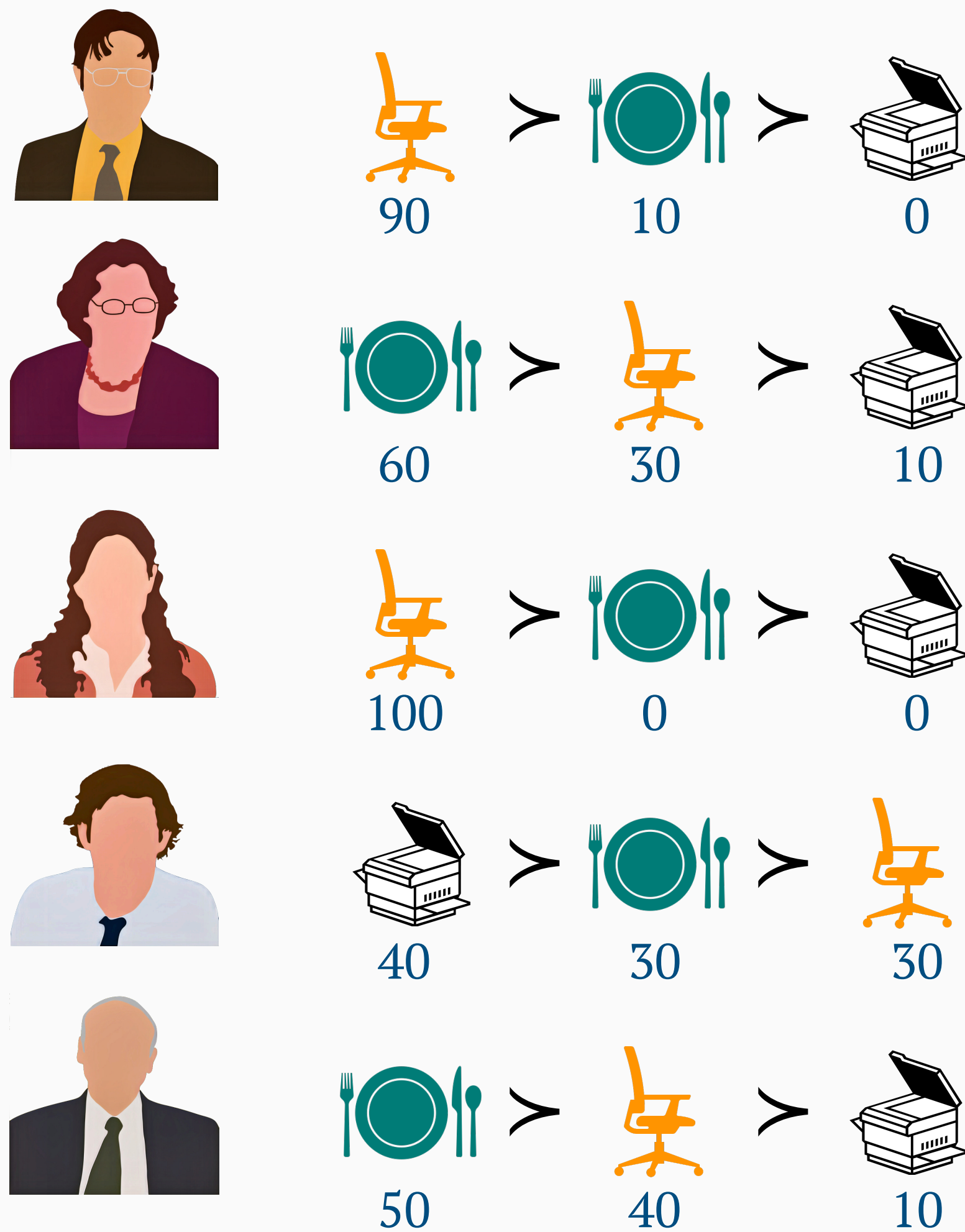


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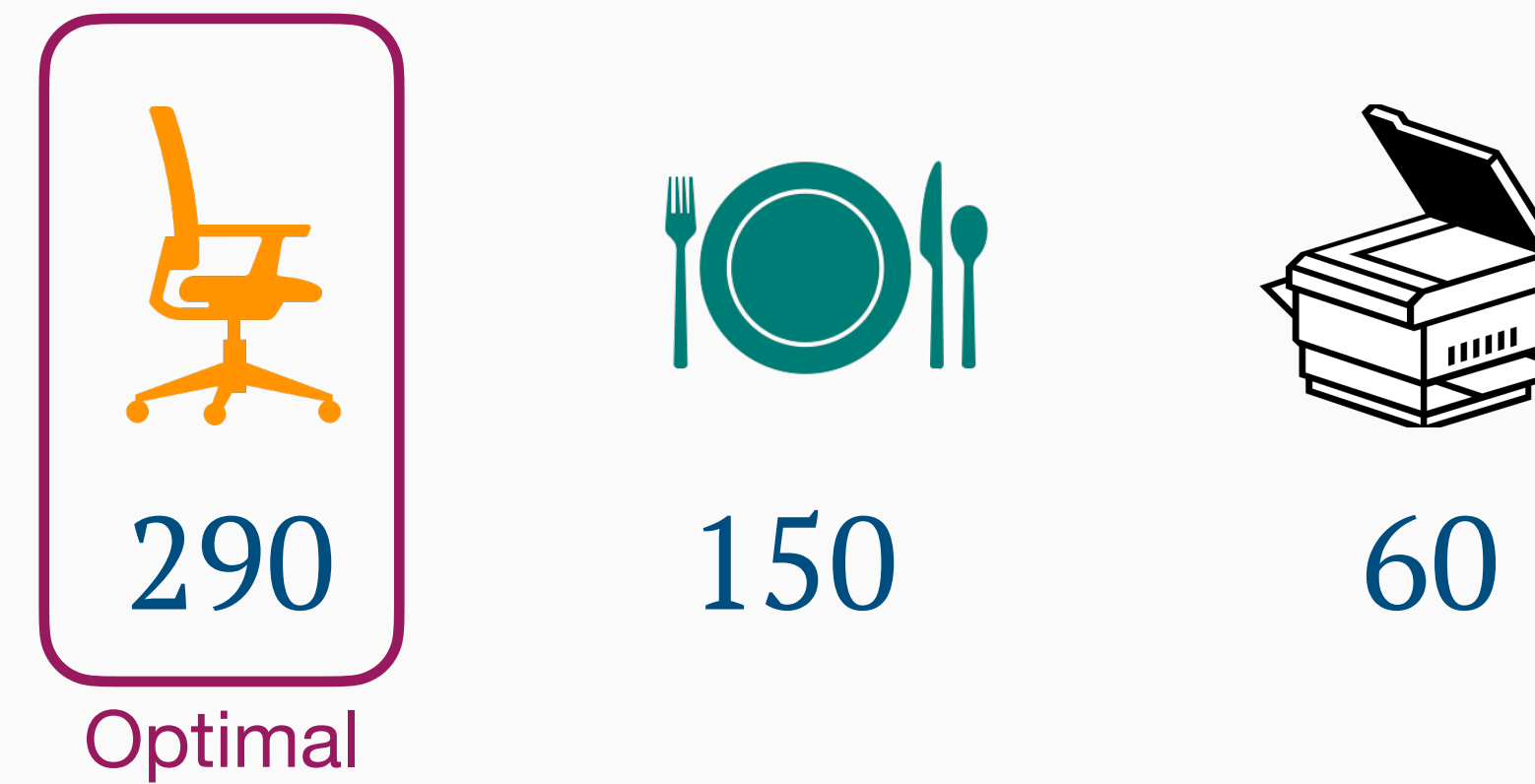


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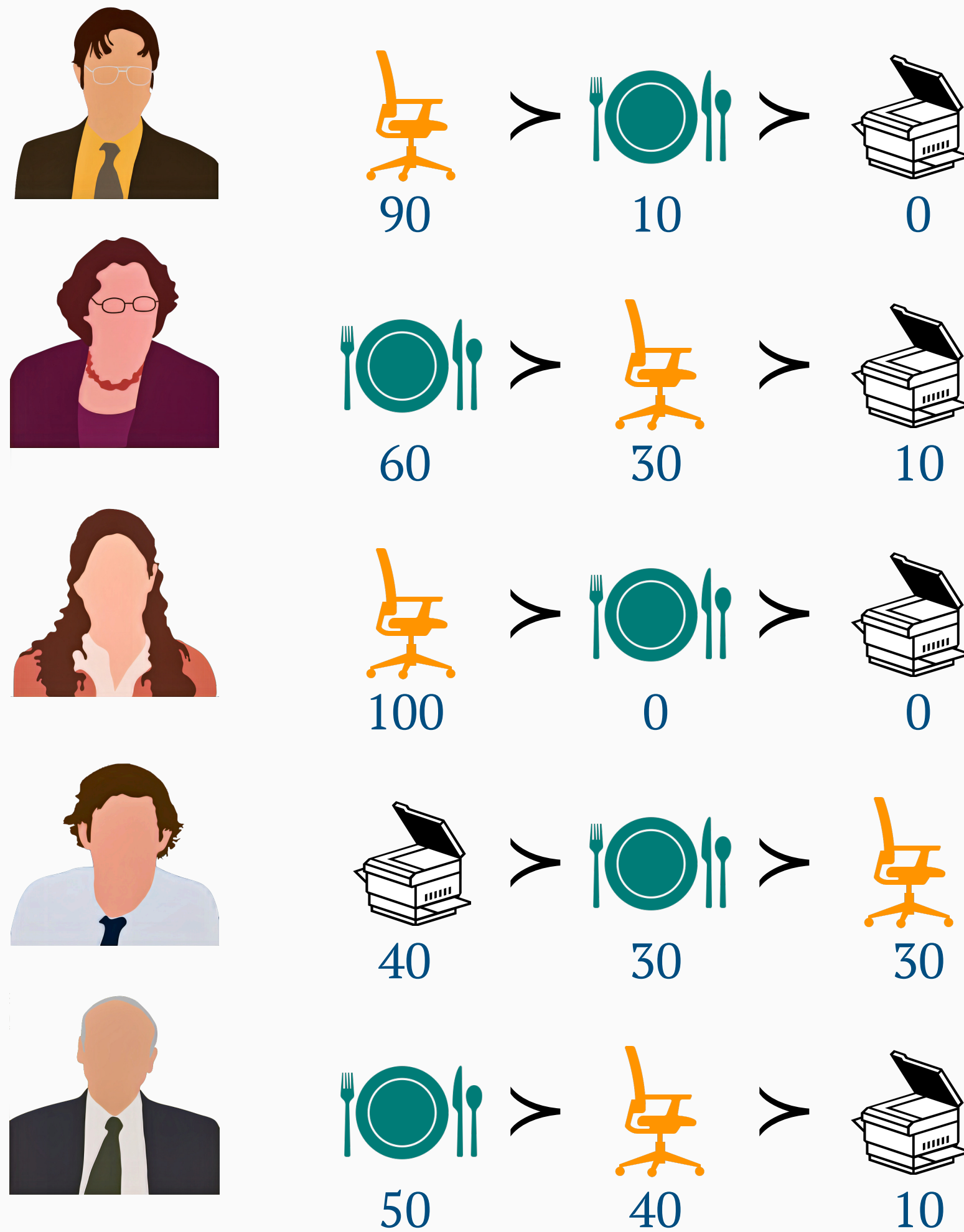


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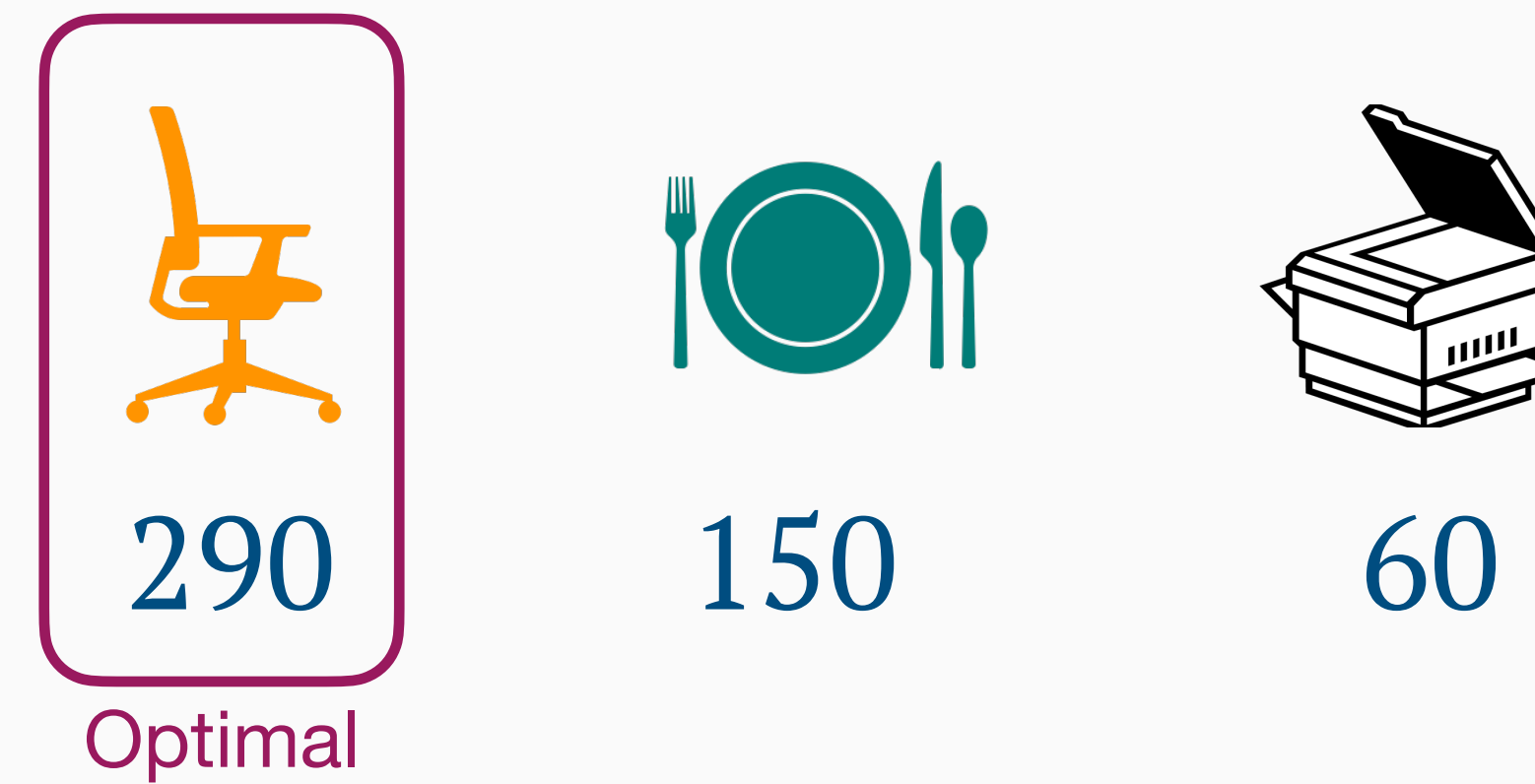


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► Can we make sure that the **winner** is close to optimal?

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- ▶ Voting rule  $f$  gets preference profile  $\vec{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$  and outputs a distribution over the candidates.
- ▶ Unit-sum assumption:  $\sum_{c \in C} u_i(c) = 1$ .

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$$\text{dist}(f) = \max_{\vec{u} \triangleright \vec{\sigma}} \text{Apx}(f(\vec{\sigma})) = \max_{\vec{u} \triangleright \vec{\sigma}} \mathbb{E}_{c \sim f(\vec{\sigma})} [\text{Apx}(c)]$$

# Previous Works

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- ▶ The assumption is each voter submits a vote in this format
$$c_1 \succ c_2 \succ c_3 \succ \dots \succ c_m$$
and since we don't know the exact utilities this seems to be all we can do.

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# A Voting Scenario

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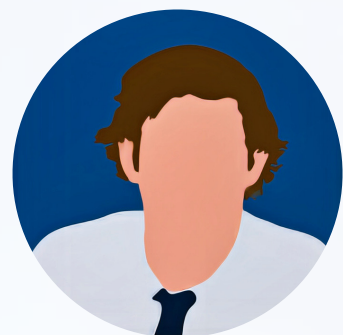
I'm taking everyone out for lunch today.  
Pizza, Chinese, Steak, or Falafel? Let's decide.



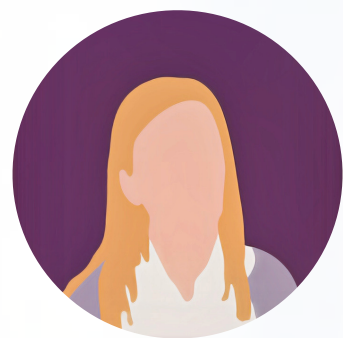


# A Voting Scenario

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I prefer Steak, then Chinese and then Falafel.  
I don't really like Pizza.

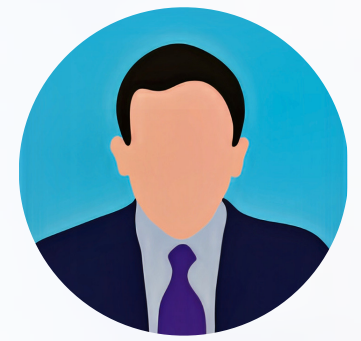


I'm a vegetarian, so I don't eat steak.  
Among other options I prefer Falafel, Pizza and then Chinese.



Thanks Michael! I prefer Steak.

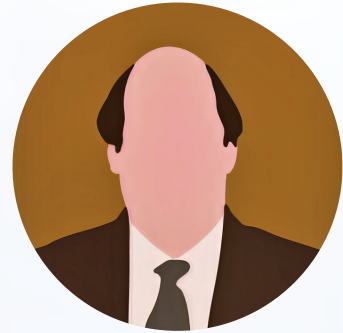
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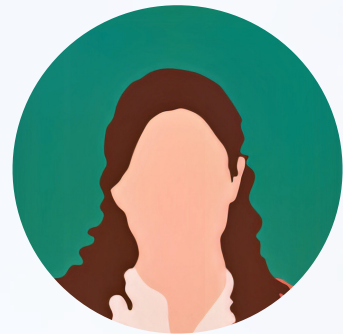
You're not invited Toby!



# A Voting Scenario



I prefer Pizza and then Steak. I don't really like the two other options but I prefer Chinese to Falafel.



All options seem good to me. But if I have to vote I say Falafel, Pizza, Chinese and then Steak.



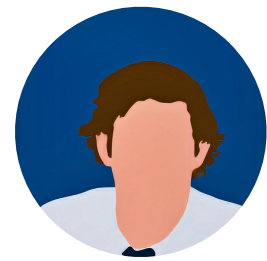
The answer is Pizza, and then by far Steak, Chinese and Falafel.



OK. I swallowed all your ideas. I'm going to digest them and see what comes out the other end.



# Classic Model



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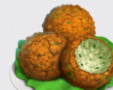



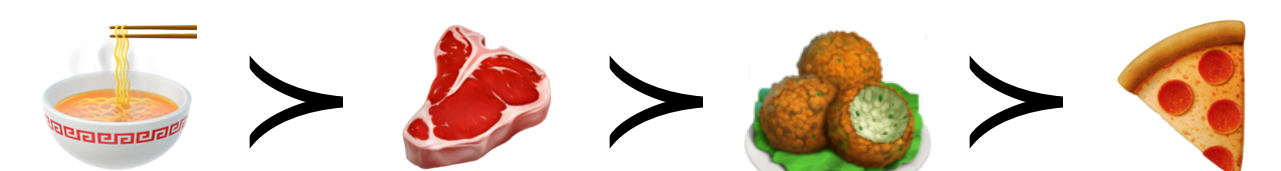
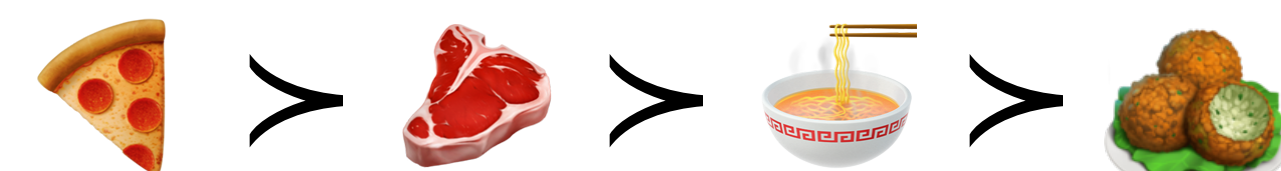
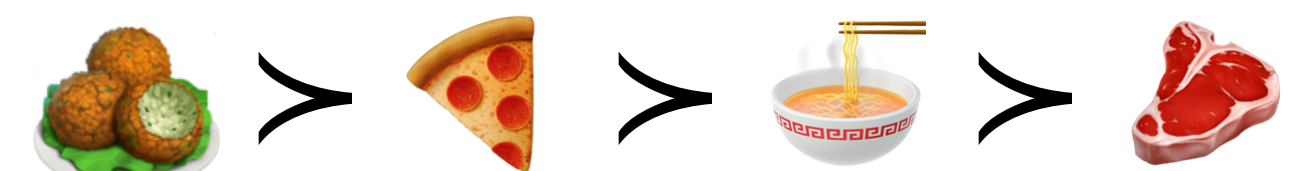
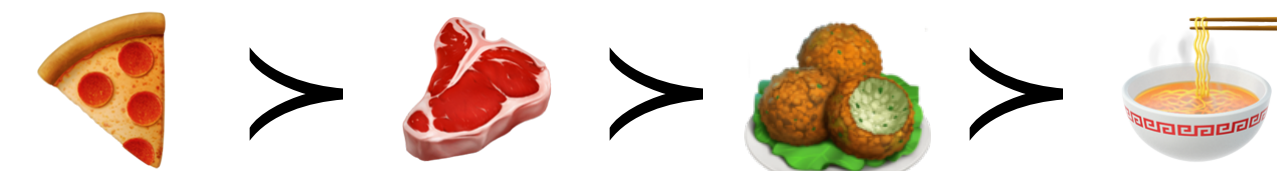
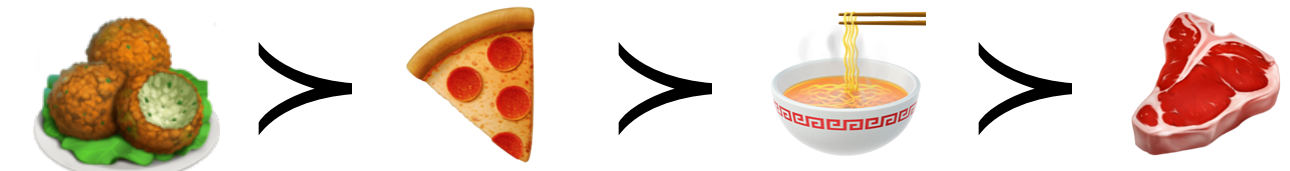
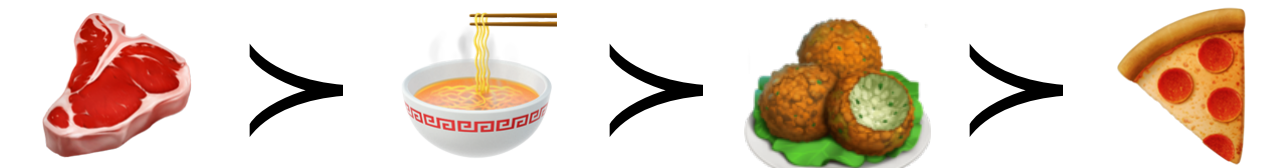
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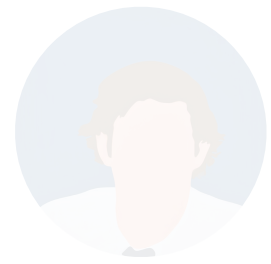
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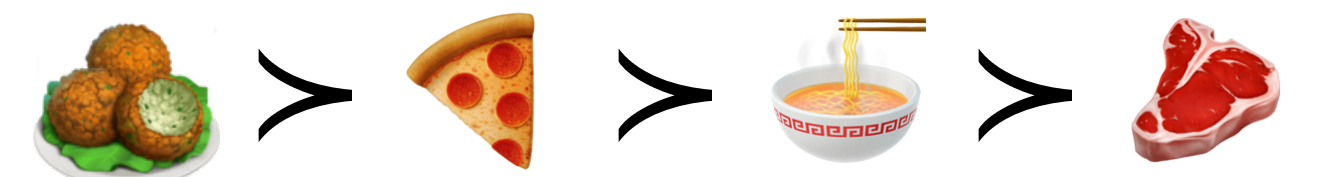
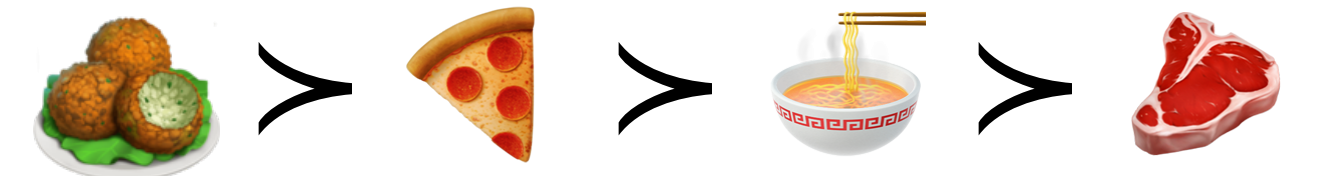
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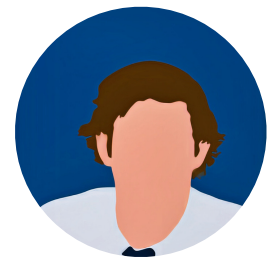
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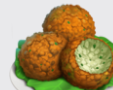



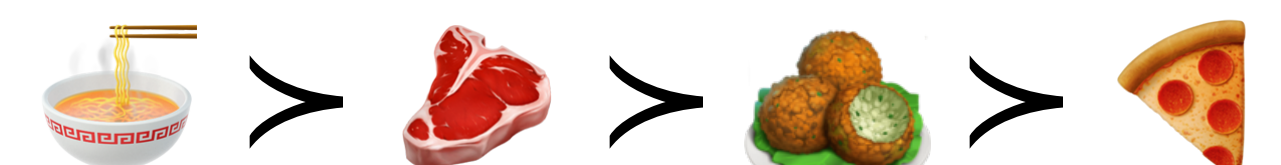
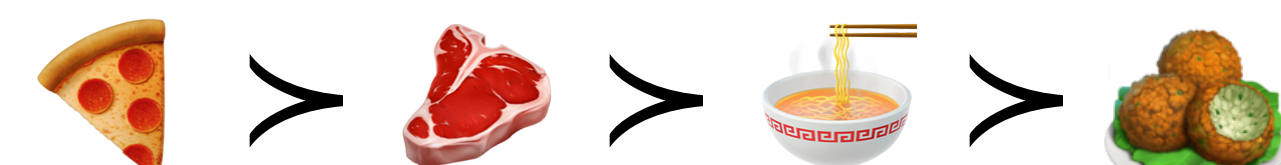
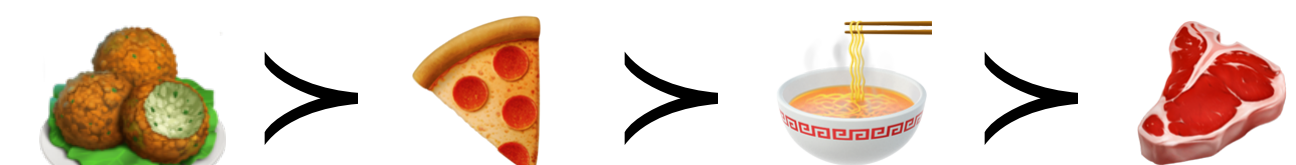
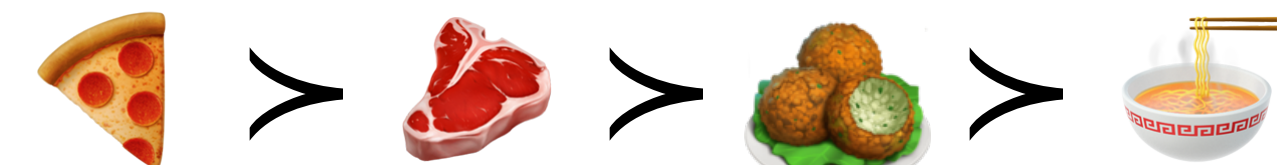
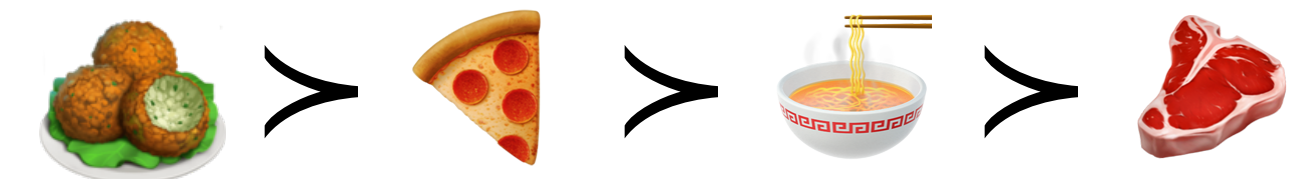
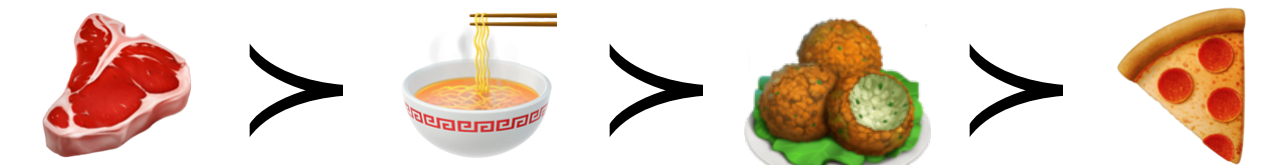
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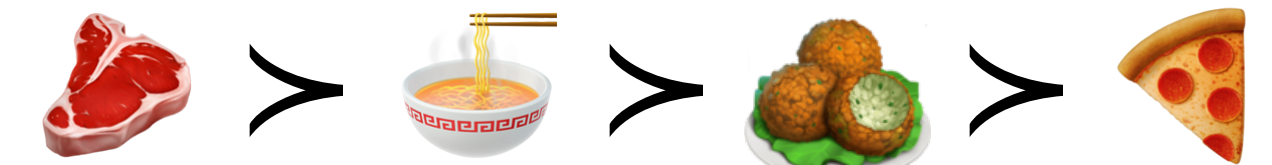
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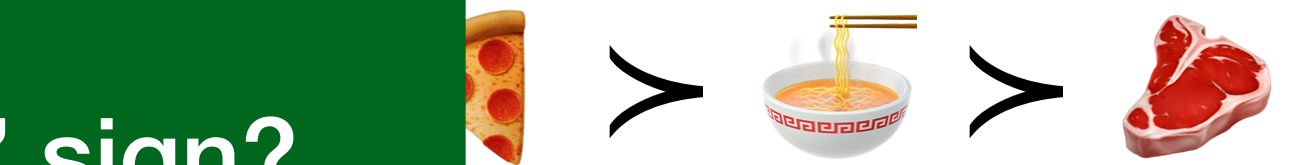


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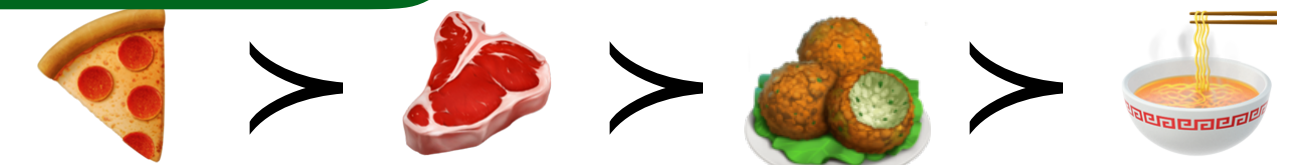


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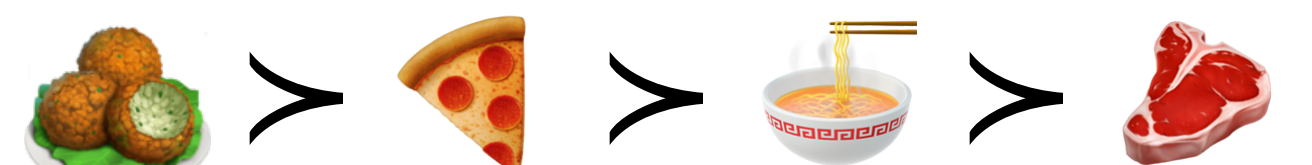
What if we give them the option to use “ $\succ$ ” sign?



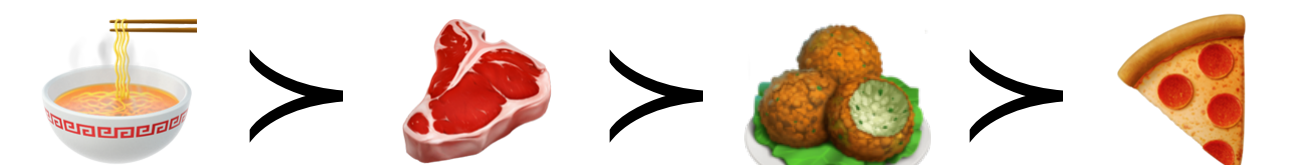
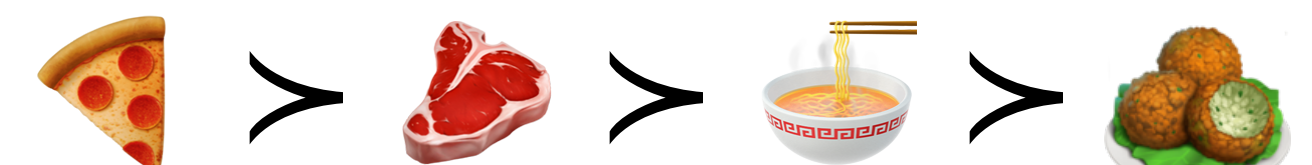
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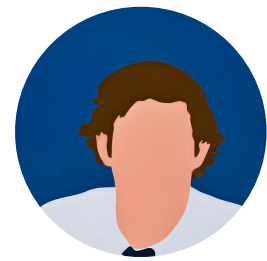
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I don't really like Pizza.



I'm a vegetarian, so I don't eat steak. Among other options I prefer Falafel, Pizza and then Chinese.



I prefer Pizza and then Steak. I don't really like the two other options but I prefer Falafel to Chinese.



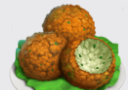



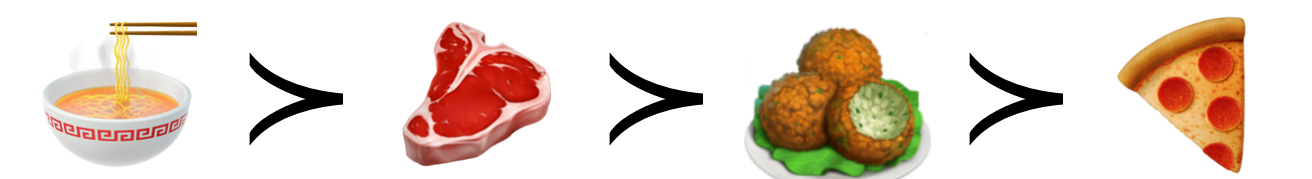
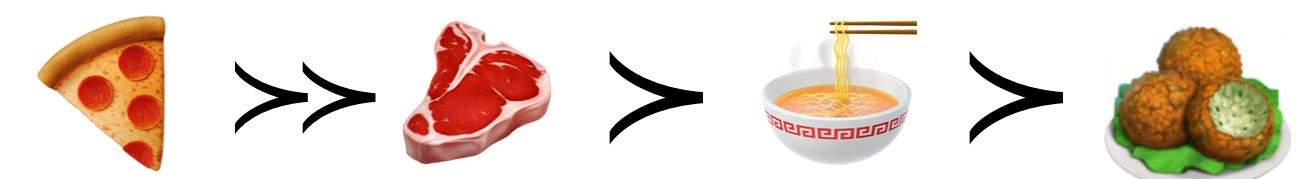
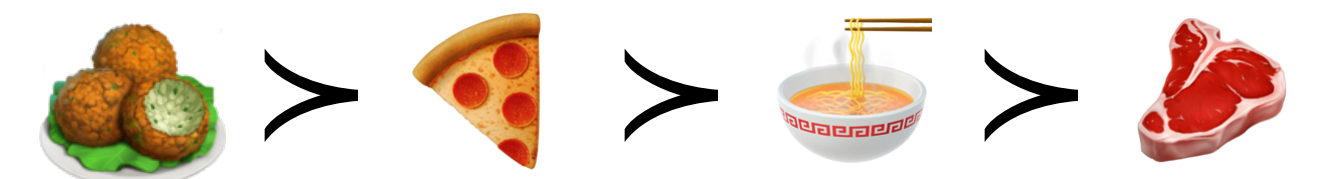
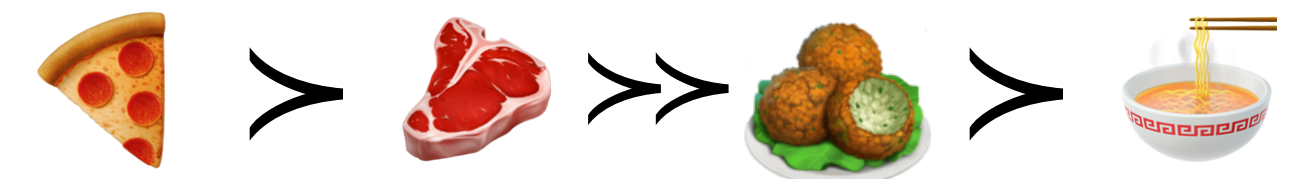
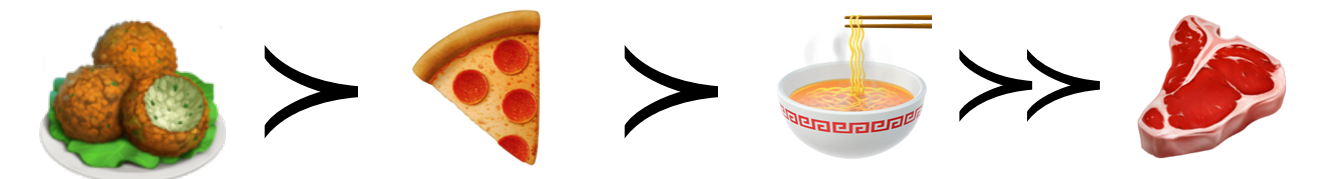
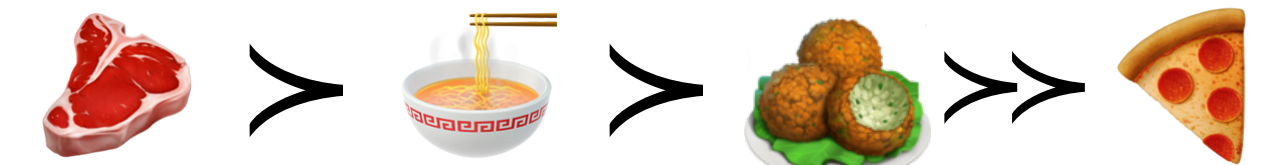
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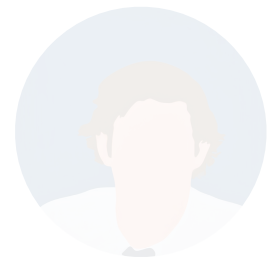
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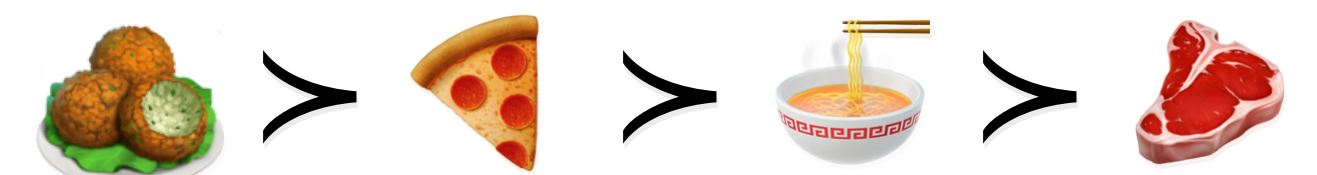
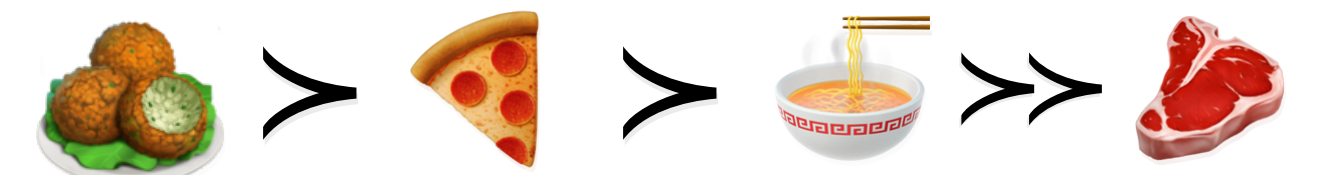
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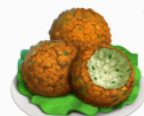




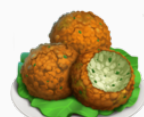



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$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$$

	 0.5	 0.3	 0.2	 0
	 0.27	 0.26	 0.24	 0.23

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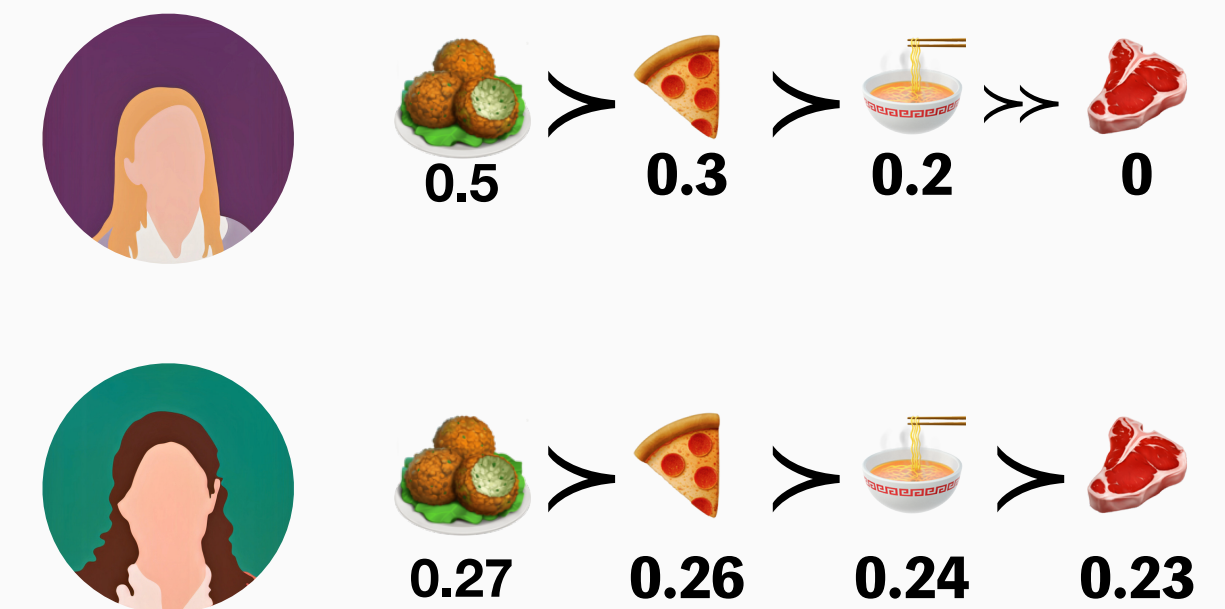
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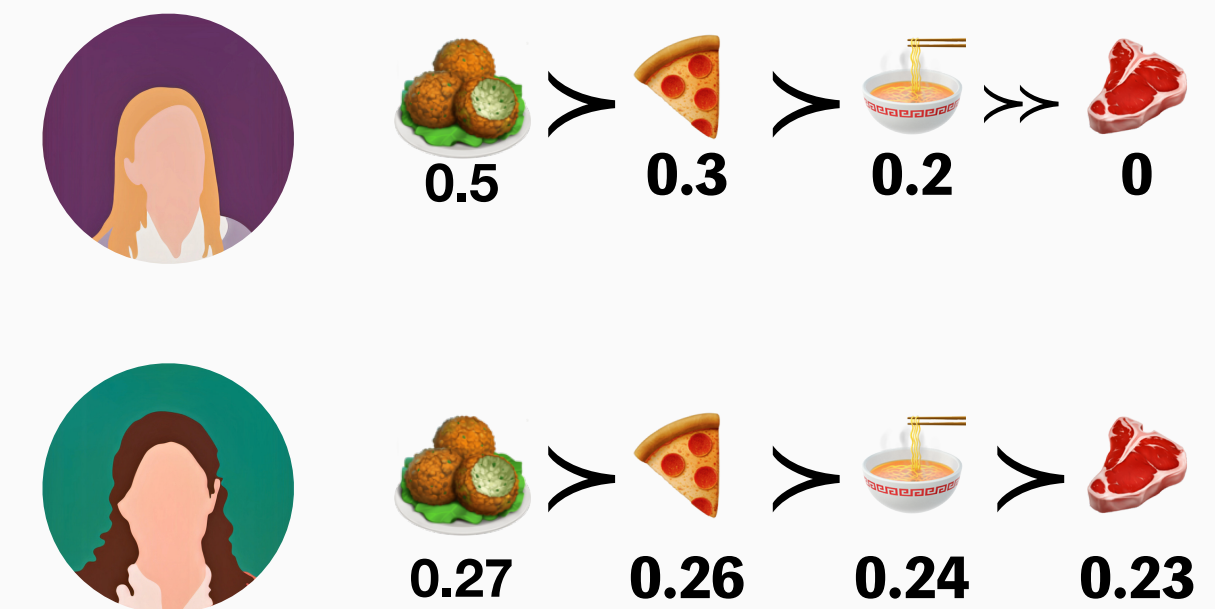
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- ▶ Extreme cases:  $\alpha \simeq 1, \alpha = 0$



# Special Cases

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**Deterministic**

**Ramdomized**

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	<b>No Intensities</b> $\pi_i = ( > , > , \dots , > )$
<b>Deterministic</b>	$\Theta (m^2)$ Plurality Winner
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<b>Deterministic</b>	$\Theta ( m^2 )$ Plurality Winner	$\Theta ( \alpha^2 m^2 + 1 )$ Plurality Winner	$\Theta \left( \frac{(\alpha m + 1)(1 - \alpha^m)}{1 - \alpha} \right)$ Plurality Winner
<b>Randomized</b>	$\Theta ( \sqrt{m} )$ Stable lottery rule	$\Theta \left( \frac{\alpha m + 1}{\alpha \sqrt{m} + 1} \right)$ Decisive SLR	$\Omega \left( \min \left( \sqrt{m}, \frac{1 - \alpha^m}{1 - \alpha} \right) \right)$

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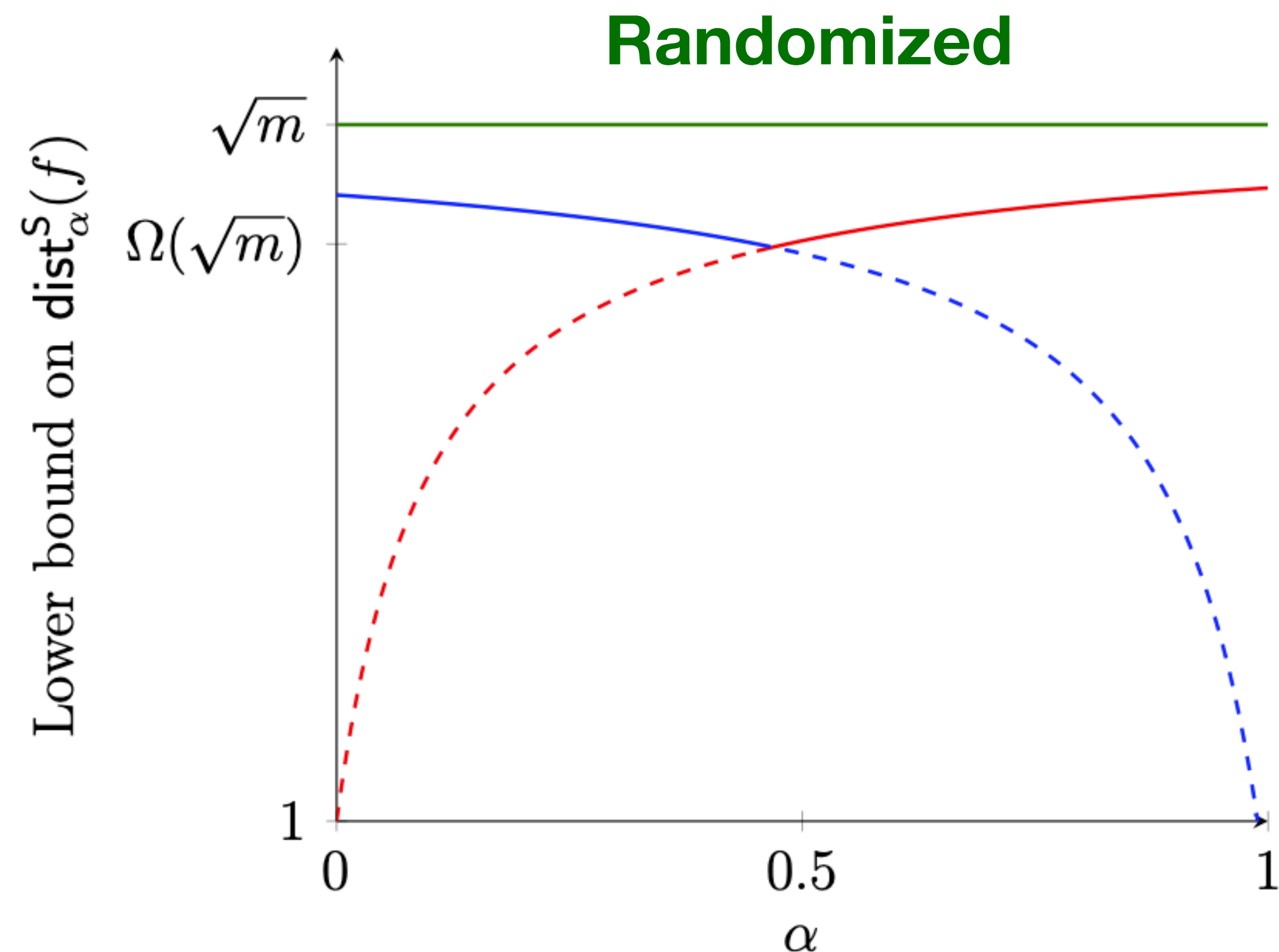
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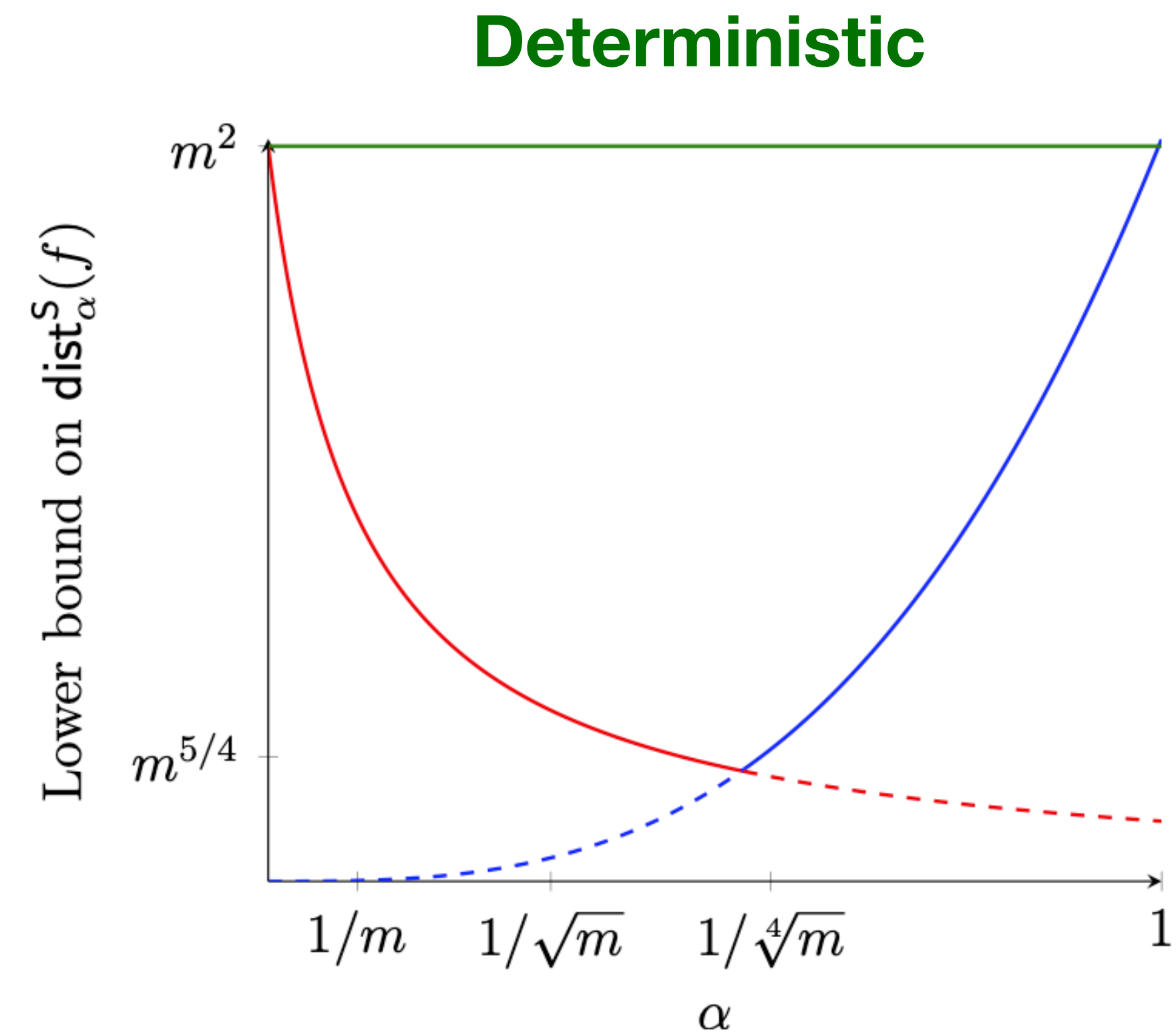
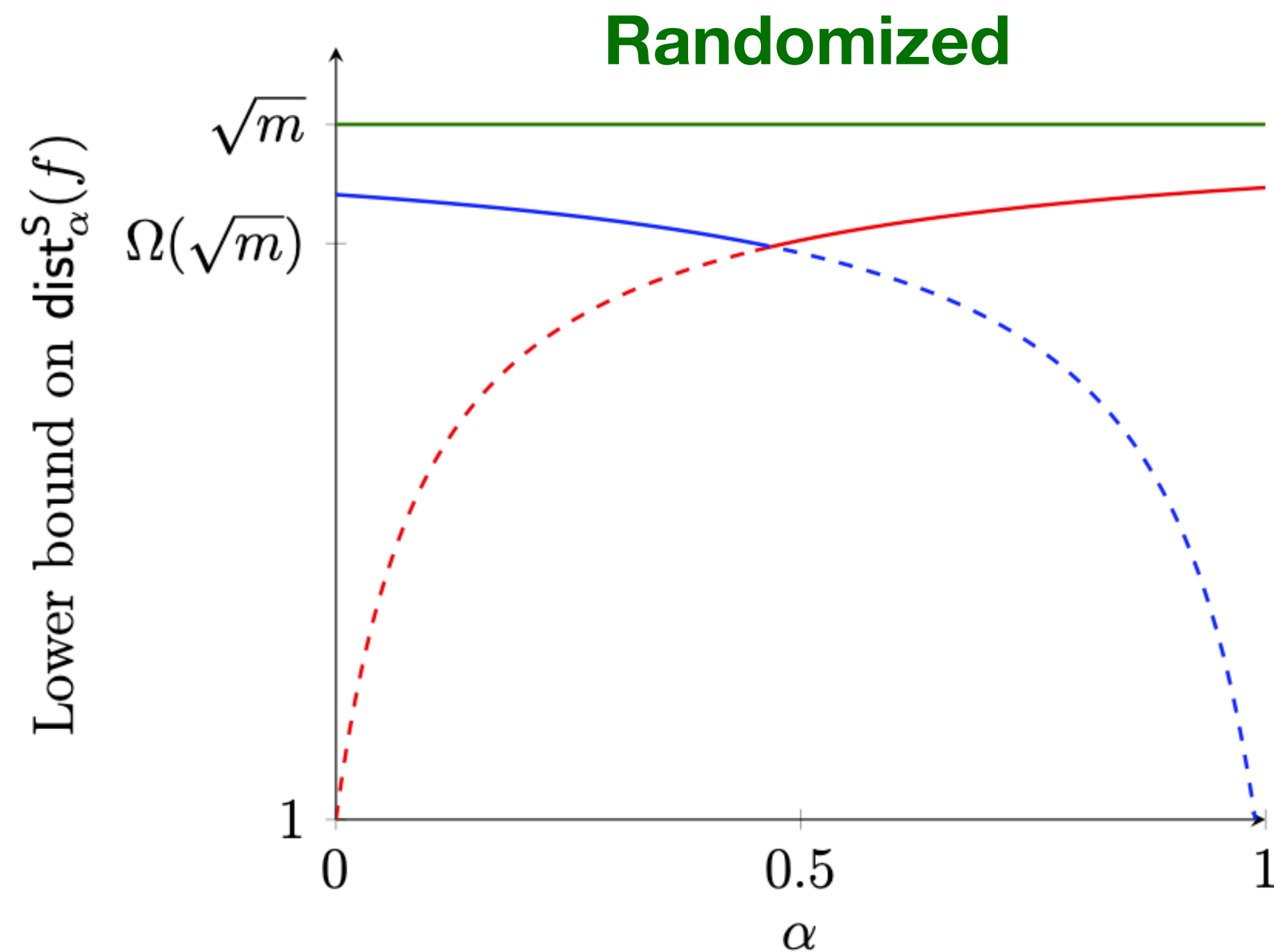
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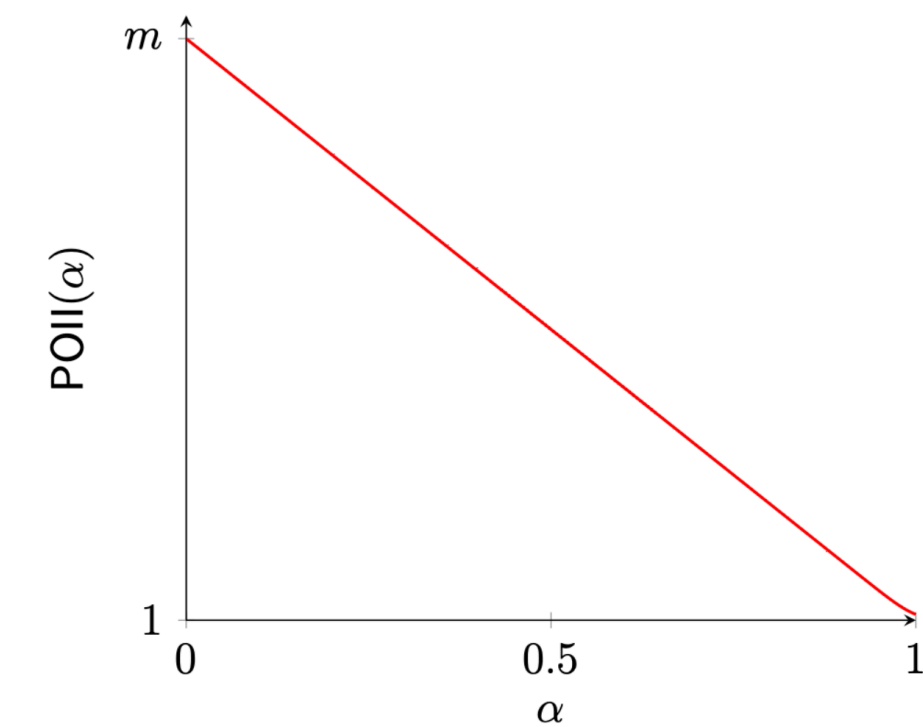
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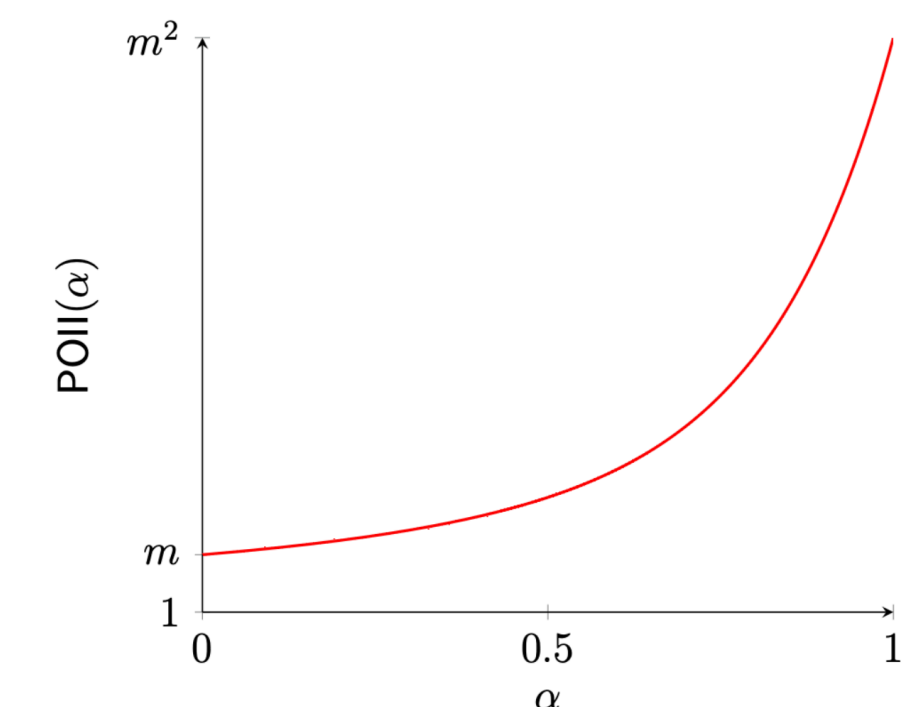
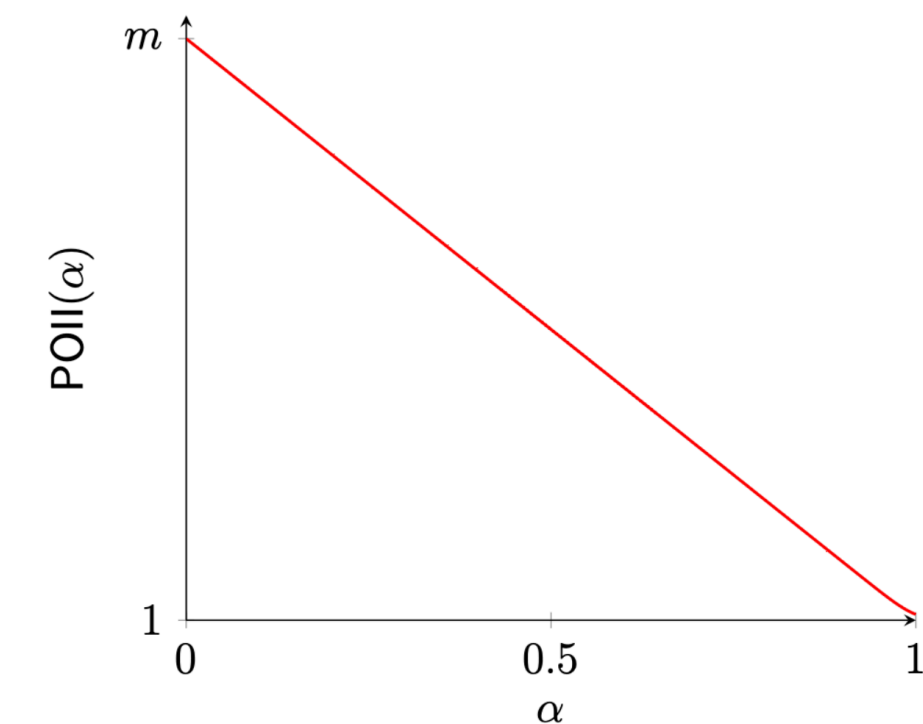
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