

rational.tk

Description

Rationality is the quality or state of being rational – that is, being based on or agreeable to [reason](#).^{[1][2]} Rationality implies the conformity of one's beliefs with one's [reasons](#) to believe, and of one's actions with one's [reasons](#) for action. "Rationality" has different specialized meanings in [philosophy](#),^[3] [economics](#), [sociology](#), [psychology](#), [evolutionary biology](#), [game theory](#) and [political science](#).

To determine what behavior is the most rational, one needs to make several key assumptions, and also needs a logical formulation of the problem. When the goal or problem involves making a decision, rationality factors in all information that is available (e.g. complete or incomplete [knowledge](#)). Collectively, the formulation and background assumptions are the model within which rationality applies. Rationality is relative: if one accepts a model in which benefitting oneself is optimal, then rationality is equated with behavior that is self-interested to the point of being selfish; whereas if one accepts a model in which benefitting the group is optimal, then purely selfish behavior is deemed irrational. It is thus meaningless to assert rationality without also specifying the background model assumptions describing how the problem is framed and formulated.

Rational egoism (also called **rational selfishness**) is the principle that an action is rational if and only if it maximizes one's self-interest.^[1] The view is a [normative](#) form of [egoism](#). It is distinct from [psychological egoism](#) (according to which people are *motivated* only to act in their own self-interest) and [ethical egoism](#) (that moral agents *ought* only to do what is in their own self-interest).^[1]

Category

1. External Domains

Date Created

29. November 2018

Author

web45