Summary: The puzzle of the absentminded driver combines an unstable decision problem with a version of the Sleeping Beauty problem. Its analysis depends on the choice between “halving” and “thirding” as well as that between “evidential” and “causal” decision theory. I show that all four combinations lead to interestingly different solutions, and draw some general lessons about the formulation of causal decision theory, the interpretation of mixed strategies and the connection between rational credence and objective chance.

MSC:

03A05  Philosophical and critical aspects of logic and foundations
91B06  Decision theory
03B42  Logics of knowledge and belief (including belief change)

Keywords:

causal decision theory; evidential decision theory; diachronic rationality; mixed strategies; deliberation; sleeping beauty

Full Text: DOI Link

References:

[16] Horgan, T, Sleeping beauty awakened: new odds at the dawn of the new day, Analysis, 64, 10-21, (2004) · doi:10.1093/analys/64.1.10