

The Infinite Principle

The Rationality of Optimism

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Abstract

The Infinite Principle establishes that whenever an option has unbounded upside and bounded downside, pursuing it is not just reasonable—it is mathematically required. Rooted in expected value theory, the principle proves that any decision meeting these conditions dominates all finite alternatives.

This paper derives the Infinite Principle rigorously, addresses key objections, and demonstrates its universal applicability across domains such as venture capital, existential risk mitigation, and technological innovation. Optimism, long considered a bias, emerges as the only rational stance in decisions where potential is limitless.

The conclusion is inescapable: when unbounded opportunity exists, rejecting it in favor of finite caution is a systematic error. Rejecting infinite potential is not caution—it is miscalculation. Rationality demands we embrace the infinite.

Introduction

Rational decision-making under uncertainty has long relied on expected value (EV) theory to balance probabilities and outcomes. But hidden within EV theory is a simple, undeniable truth: whenever an option has unbounded upside, it mathematically dominates any alternative with a finite outcome—so long as the downside is limited and the probability of success is nonzero.

This is the **Infinite Principle**: optimism is not a cognitive bias—it is a rational necessity.

Pessimism, often mistaken for prudence, is mathematically irrational. Choosing bounded caution over unbounded possibility is a guaranteed loss. This paper establishes three key arguments:

1. Deriving the Infinite Principle rigorously from probability theory, proving that unbounded upside always dominates when downside is finite.
2. Debunking common objections using frameworks from long-termism, decision theory, and statistical mathematics.
3. Demonstrating real-world applications—from venture capital to existential risk mitigation—where embracing unbounded potential has defined history’s greatest successes.

The Infinite Principle does not describe a personality trait—it defines the only rational strategy where upside is limitless. If unbounded potential exists, then infinite possibility, not finite caution, must guide our decisions.

Mathematical Formalization of the Infinite Principle

The Infinite Principle arises directly from expected value (EV) theory, the foundation of rational decision-making under uncertainty. It follows from a single unavoidable truth: when an outcome has unbounded reward and nonzero probability, its expected value dominates any finite alternative—so long as the downside is limited.

For a given option with reward R , cost C , and probability of success P_s , expected value is:

$$EV = P_s \cdot R - P_f \cdot C, \quad \text{where } P_f = 1 - P_s \tag{1}$$

Case 1: Finite Reward

When R is finite, the expected value depends entirely on the balance of P_s , R , and C . For example:

$$EV_{\text{finite}} = (0.1 \times 100) - (0.9 \times 10) = 1 \quad (2)$$

In this case, even a small probability of success yields a marginally positive EV, but it does not decisively outweigh alternative choices. Risk aversion in finite contexts may be rational.

Case 2: Unbounded Reward

When $R \rightarrow \infty$, the expected value transforms:

$$EV_{\text{infinite}} = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} (P_s \cdot R - P_f \cdot C) \quad (3)$$

For any $P_s > 0$, the term $P_s \cdot R$ dominates as $R \rightarrow \infty$, yielding:

$$EV_{\text{infinite}} \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty \quad (4)$$

This holds even for vanishingly small P_s , provided C remains bounded. The conclusion is inescapable: unbounded upside mathematically outweighs any bounded alternative.

Mathematical Necessity of Optimism

The Infinite Principle follows directly from three core constraints that govern rational decision-making:

1. **Nonzero Probability** ($P_s > 0$): No outcome is truly impossible. Even an extremely low P_s (e.g., 10^{-6}) suffices.
2. **Bounded Downside** ($C < \infty$): Costs must be finite, such as a capped investment or fixed R&D budget.
3. **Unbounded Upside** ($R \rightarrow \infty$): Potential rewards must have no fixed ceiling, whether in societal impact, technological breakthroughs, or existential gains.

Given these conditions, the expected value of an unbounded option always dominates any finite alternative. As $R \rightarrow \infty$, the term $(P_s \cdot R)$ outstrips $(1 - P_s) \cdot C$, provided $P_s > 0$. This enforces optimism as the only rational stance where upside is limitless.

Implications for Decision Theory

Under the Infinite Principle, any option with unbounded reward exhibits strict dominance over finite alternatives. Formally, for any $P_s > 0$ and bounded C :

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} (P_s \cdot R - P_f \cdot C) \gg EV_{\text{finite}} \quad (5)$$

This aligns with first-order stochastic dominance (Levy, 1992), where one option's cumulative distribution function strictly exceeds another's. Unlike traditional utility models that discount low-probability events, the Infinite Principle mandates prioritizing unbounded potential when conditions permit.

Bounded Downside: A Necessary Constraint

The principle applies exclusively to decisions where downside is constrained. Without this constraint, the framework collapses into risk-seeking irrationality. Examples include:

- **Venture Capital:** A \$1M investment (bounded loss) in a biotech startup pursuing a cure for aging (unbounded societal upside).
- **Existential Risk Mitigation:** Allocating finite resources to prevent human extinction, preserving humanity's unbounded future.

This mirrors insurance logic, where bounded premiums mitigate unbounded risks. The Infinite Principle reframes optimism not as an emotional stance but as a mathematical necessity whenever upside is unbounded and costs are finite.

Discussion

The Infinite Principle is not an abstract curiosity—it is a paradigm shift in how societies, individuals, and institutions evaluate risk and reward. By demonstrating that optimism is not just reasonable but mathematically necessary under unbounded conditions, the principle redefines rationality itself. This section explores its implications across domains.

The Calculus of Civilizational Progress

Entrepreneurship exemplifies the Infinite Principle: bounded risks (e.g., capital, time) are dwarfed by unbounded potential. History's greatest leaps followed this logic:

- **Human Migration:** Early humans leaving Africa faced finite risks (starvation, conflict) but unlocked unbounded gains—global expansion, cultural evolution, and tech-

nological progress.

- **Scientific Breakthroughs:** Marie Curie’s research on radioactivity (bounded risk: health exposure) revolutionized medicine and energy, proving that unbounded societal upside justifies finite sacrifice.
- **Civil Rights Movements:** Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. faced personal risks in pursuit of moral progress with infinite generational impact.

These cases align with the Infinite Principle: when upside is unbounded, the only rational choice is to pursue it.

Existential Philosophy: The Rationality of Choosing Life

Traditional existential thought often frames life’s suffering as outweighing its joys. The Infinite Principle inverts this—life’s unbounded potential for meaning, growth, and discovery makes choosing existence the rational default.

Non-existence is a fixed, bounded state.

Existence, despite uncertainty, carries infinite potential.

This aligns with Viktor Frankl’s logotherapy: finding purpose in life’s uncertainty is not just therapeutic—it is mathematically sound.

Existential Risk Mitigation: Preserving Infinity

Efforts to curb climate change, AI misalignment, or pandemics are often dismissed as costly long shots. Yet, under the Infinite Principle, these are the rational priorities:

- **Climate Action:** Finite investments in renewables preserve humanity’s unbounded future.
- **AI Alignment:** Bounded R&D costs prevent unbounded existential catastrophe.
- **Pandemic Prevention:** Preventing tail-risk biological events protects an unbounded future.

In each case, the cost is finite. The upside—continued existence—is unbounded.

Reframing Optimism: From Naïveté to Necessity

Optimism is often dismissed as wishful thinking. The Infinite Principle reveals it as the only logical stance in unbounded contexts. Pessimism—fixating on finite risks while ignoring unbounded potential—is mathematically irrational.

When outcomes are unbounded, fear is a calculation error.

This challenges traditional decision theories that overvalue short-term caution. In reality, when faced with infinite upside, bounded caution must yield to limitless possibility.

Addressing Objections to the Infinite Principle

Any framework that claims to redefine rationality must withstand its strongest possible counterarguments. Below, we present the most compelling objections to the Infinite Principle and evaluate whether they hold under scrutiny.

Objection 1: Nothing is Truly Infinite

It may be argued that no real-world outcome is literally infinite. Human lifespans are finite, technological progress has physical constraints, and even the expansion of civilization must contend with the limitations of time, energy, and entropy.

Response: The Infinite Principle does not require actual infinity—it requires unboundedness. There is no fixed ceiling to knowledge, innovation, or human potential. So long as an outcome can grow without a predetermined limit, it behaves mathematically like an infinite reward in expected value calculations. The key insight is not that we will reach infinity, but that any bound we impose is arbitrary and premature.

Objection 2: The Probability is Too Small to Matter

Even if an outcome is unbounded, what if the probability of achieving it is so small that it effectively vanishes? Betting on astronomically improbable events seems irrational, even if the reward is large.

Response: Expected value theory dictates that as long as probability is nonzero, an unbounded reward dominates any finite alternative. Moreover, history demonstrates that transformative breakthroughs—whether in science, technology, or social change—often seemed improbable at first. Betting against unlikely events has systematically underestimated human potential. The key is not dismissing low probabilities but recognizing that when upside is limitless, even small chances must be taken seriously.

Objection 3: Risk Aversion Undermines the Principle

People are naturally risk-averse. If an investment, endeavor, or life decision carries uncertainty, many will opt for a sure, finite gain rather than an uncertain, unbounded one.

Response: Risk aversion is rational in contexts where downside is significant. However,

the Infinite Principle applies only when downside is bounded. In such cases, the refusal to pursue unbounded potential is not caution—it is systematic error. Moreover, much of modern decision-making already contradicts this objection: venture capital, long-term scientific research, and space exploration all operate under the premise that bounded losses are justified in pursuit of unbounded rewards.

Objection 4: The Principle Ignores Short-Term Constraints

Unbounded potential may be compelling in theory, but real-world decisions often involve urgent, immediate trade-offs. If survival depends on near-term resources, prioritizing long-term infinite possibilities could be dangerously impractical.

Response: The Infinite Principle does not advocate ignoring short-term survival—it simply asserts that when both short-term security and unbounded potential can be pursued, the latter must be prioritized. Historical breakthroughs were often achieved by those who balanced immediate constraints with long-term ambition. The principle demands a shift in mindset, not reckless disregard for practical necessities.

Objection 5: The Principle is Unfalsifiable

A theory that cannot be tested or disproven is not scientific. If every situation can be reframed to justify optimism, then the Infinite Principle risks becoming a tautology rather than a meaningful decision-making framework.

Response: The Infinite Principle is falsifiable: if there exists a case where a finite alternative systematically outperforms an unbounded one in expected value terms, the principle would be invalidated. However, no such case exists when the necessary conditions—bounded downside and nonzero probability—are met. The principle is not a universal claim that all optimism is warranted; it is a precise mathematical claim about decision-making under specific conditions.

Conclusion: The Burden of Proof Lies with Finite Thinking

The objections presented highlight common misconceptions about unbounded decision-making. The burden of proof is not on those who embrace infinite potential, but on those who claim that finite caution is superior when conditions allow for unbounded upside. Rationality must align with mathematics, and mathematics dictates that the pursuit of infinite possibility is not just reasonable—it is required.

Conclusion: The Mathematics of Infinite Potential

The Infinite Principle distills a fundamental truth: whenever an option has unbounded upside, pursuing it is not merely reasonable—it is mathematically mandated. Expected value theory enforces a singular conclusion: as long as downside is finite and probability is nonzero, the pursuit of infinite potential dominates all finite alternatives.

Rationality Reframed: Optimism as the Only Logical Choice

For too long, optimism has been treated as an emotional disposition rather than a rational strategy. The Infinite Principle reveals this as a misconception. In decision-making where upside is limitless, pessimism is not caution—it is a miscalculation. The burden of proof is not on those who embrace unbounded potential, but on those who insist on limiting themselves to finite expectations.

Implications Across Domains

The Infinite Principle transforms how we approach risk and reward:

- **Entrepreneurship:** Every major technological leap—from electricity to space travel—was achieved by those who prioritized boundless opportunity over finite setbacks.
- **Existential Risk Mitigation:** Preventing catastrophic threats is rational because preserving human civilization offers infinite potential for future generations.
- **Personal Decision-Making:** Choosing growth over stagnation, whether in education, relationships, or creativity, aligns with the only mathematically rational approach.

Fortune Favors the Bold: A Rational Imperative

Fortune favors the bold—not as a vague maxim, but as a mathematical certainty. The future belongs to those who embrace unbounded potential. The Infinite Principle is not just about optimism—it is about refusing to settle for anything less than the infinite. Every great breakthrough, every moment of progress, and every leap forward in human history has been driven by those who saw beyond limits and reached for more.

In a world enamored with short-term thinking, the Infinite Principle provides a guiding light: risk is not the enemy—finitude is. We must not ask whether infinite potential is worth pursuing. We must recognize that failing to pursue it is the only irrational choice.

**The future has always belonged to those who believe
in the unbounded possibility of life.**

Key Takeaways

- **Optimism is Rational, Not Emotional:** When upside is unbounded and downside is finite, expected value theory mandates optimism as the only logical stance.
- **Risk Aversion is Only Rational When Downside is Unbounded:** The Infinite Principle applies exclusively to scenarios where losses are capped—where finite caution cannot justify rejecting infinite potential.
- **The Principle Applies Across Domains:** Venture capital, existential risk mitigation, personal growth, and technological innovation all obey the same mathematical imperative—where potential is limitless, rationality demands pursuit.
- **The Burden of Proof is on Finite Thinkers:** The default assumption should be to pursue unbounded potential unless proven otherwise. Finite caution must justify itself, not the other way around.
- **Failure to Pursue Infinite Potential is the Only Irrational Choice:** In a world of limitless possibilities, the greatest mistake is settling for the finite.

Appendix A: Theoretical Foundations and Related Works

The infinite principle synthesizes insights from decision theory, psychology, philosophy, and systems science. This appendix details how foundational works across disciplines converge to support its mathematical framework.

Decision Theory and Mathematical Foundations

- **Expected Utility Theory** (von Neumann & Morgenstern, 1944): Establishes axioms for rational choice under uncertainty, formalizing the optimization of expected outcomes. The infinite principle extends this by demonstrating that unbounded rewards ($R \rightarrow \infty$) necessitate redefining rationality itself.
- **Pascal's Wager** (Pascal, 1670): An early application of infinite expected value to theological decision-making. The principle generalizes Pascal's logic to secular domains (e.g., innovation, existential risk), where finite costs justify pursuing unbounded societal gains.
- **Prospect Theory** (Kahneman & Tversky, 1979): Describes how humans irrationally overweight finite losses. The infinite principle circumvents this bias by constraining downside ($C < \infty$), aligning descriptive behavior with prescriptive rationality in unbounded contexts.

Psychological and Behavioral Research

- **Growth Mindset** (Dweck, 2006): Empirical studies show that belief in malleable intelligence increases perseverance and achievement. The infinite principle mathematically validates this: viewing skills as unbounded ($R \rightarrow \infty$) justifies investing finite effort (C).
- **Learned Optimism** (Seligman, 1991): Demonstrates that optimistic explanatory styles improve health, productivity, and resilience. The principle reframes this as rational strategy: optimism maximizes EV when outcomes (e.g., career success) are unbounded.

Philosophical Perspectives

- **Man's Search for Meaning** (Frankl, 1946): Argues that finding purpose in suffering unlocks human potential. The principle operationalizes this: even in bounded adversity (e.g., imprisonment), life's unbounded meaning ($R \rightarrow \infty$) justifies enduring finite costs.

- **The Black Swan** (Taleb, 2007): Analyzes how rare, high-impact events drive history. The principle formalizes Taleb’s insight: low-probability, unbounded rewards ($R \rightarrow \infty$) dominate EV calculations, justifying “Black Swan hunting.”
- **Antifragile** (Taleb, 2012): Proposes systems that gain from volatility. The principle’s bounded-downside condition ($C < \infty$) enables antifragility, as failures remain survivable while successes scale limitlessly.

Complex Systems and Evolution

- **The Structure of Scientific Revolutions** (Kuhn, 1962): Paradigm shifts (e.g., Newton to Einstein) demonstrate how scientific progress is non-linear and unbounded. The principle explains why challenging entrenched theories—despite high C (e.g., academic ridicule)—is rational when R (e.g., unified physics) is unbounded.
- **The Origin of Species** (Darwin, 1859): Natural selection’s cumulative mutations ($R \rightarrow \infty$) mirror the principle: minor, bounded variations (e.g., beak shapes) enable unbounded biological diversification over geologic time.

Synthesis

These works collectively reveal a universal pattern: when downside is bounded and upside unbounded, optimizing for transformative potential is mathematically inevitable. The infinite principle unifies these insights into a coherent framework, bridging disciplines under a singular logic of rational action.

Appendix B: Evolutionary Expansion

The Infinite Principle is not just a mathematical framework—it is embedded in humanity’s survival and progress. Evolution itself selected for optimism bias because those who embraced unbounded potential were the ones who shaped the future. From the first human migrations to the modern push for interstellar exploration, history favors those who pursue infinite upside.

The Pioneer Mentality

Bill Bowerman, co-founder of Nike, captured the essence of survival and success when describing the pioneers of Oregon:

“The cowards never started, and the weak never made it, and that leaves us.”

His words reflect the fundamental evolutionary logic of expansion: those unwilling to take risks never began, and those without resilience did not last. Only those who embraced uncertainty and endured setbacks became the architects of the future.

This mirrors the logic of the Infinite Principle:

- The cowards (hyper-pessimists) never left the cave.
- The weak (some realists) started but lacked the resilience to endure setbacks.
- The optimists—those who believed success was possible—are the ones who survived and passed on their genes.

Optimism bias is not a flaw—it is a survival mechanism that has ensured humanity’s expansion and dominance. The very fact that it exists today is proof that it was a successful evolutionary strategy.

The “Out of Africa” Migration: The Original Example

The “Out of Africa” migration (70,000–100,000 BP) represents humanity’s first deliberate optimization of unbounded potential. The decision to migrate was dictated by the same logic that governs the Infinite Principle: the downside was finite, but the potential upside—new resources, safer environments, and cultural evolution—was effectively limitless.

Bounded Downside: Quantifying Ancestral Risks

Migration risks were finite and quantifiable:

- **Individual Risk:** Mortality rates from starvation/predation likely ranged between

20–40% per generation (Shea, 2003).

- **Group Risk:** Social fragmentation probability (P_f) rose with distance but remained bounded by kin networks (Dunbar, 1993).
- **Species Risk:** Genetic bottlenecks (e.g., Toba catastrophe theory) posed extinction risks ($C \approx 0.1$) (Ambrose, 1998).

Unbounded Upside: The Geometry of Human Expansion

The EV of migration diverged to infinity through compounding gains:

- **Resource Multipliers:** New ecosystems (e.g., Eurasian steppes) increased caloric yield by 10^2 – $10^3 \times$ (Diamond, 1997).
- **Cultural Evolution:** Tool complexity followed Moore’s Law-like growth post-migration (Henrich, 2015).
- **Demographic Scaling:** Founder populations of $N \approx 1,000$ (Mellars, 2006) enabled exponential growth to 8×10^9 .

Mathematical Formalization of Expansion

The migration decision maps to the Infinite Principle:

$$EV_{migrate} = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} (P_s \cdot R - P_f \cdot C) \quad (6)$$

Where:

- $P_s \approx 0.5$: Estimated survival probability for cohesive groups (Grove, 2009).
- $R \rightarrow \infty$: Cumulative gains from colonization (e.g., R = trillions of future lives).
- $C \approx 0.4$: Maximum extinction risk (finite due to Africa’s refugia).

Contemporary Implications: From Paleolithic to Interstellar

The same logic that drove human expansion continues to shape modern frontiers:

- **Space Colonization:** SpaceX’s Mars missions (bounded $C \approx \$10^{10}$) aim for unbounded R = multiplanetary civilization (Musk, 2021).
- **Genetic Diversity:** CRISPR technology mitigates migration-era risks (bounded editing costs vs. unbounded disease resistance).

- **Cultural Innovation:** Digital platforms (e.g., open-source software) replicate ancestral migration's EV dynamics: finite effort (C) for infinite replication (R).

Synthesis: Evolution Favors the Infinite Principle

The "Out of Africa" migration was not merely about survival—it was humanity's first application of the Infinite Principle. Every great expansion, from early migration to space exploration, follows the same iterative pattern:

1. A system (humanity) must explore new states (innovation, discovery, risk-taking) to expand.
2. It cannot be too conservative (pessimistic), or it stagnates.
3. It cannot be too reckless (pure optimism), or it collapses.
4. The successful pattern oscillates between exploration and risk mitigation.

Evolution wired the human brain for this exact balance—optimism for the future, but risk aversion for the present. The Infinite Principle is not just a model for decision-making; it is an evolutionary necessity.

Appendix C: The Infinite Principle and Insurance

The Infinite Principle and insurance share a fundamental mathematical structure—both optimize decision-making under uncertainty, but in opposite directions. Insurance mitigates unbounded downside by converting it into a manageable, finite cost. The Infinite Principle, conversely, seeks unbounded upside while keeping downside finite. This appendix formalizes their relationship, revealing a universal framework for rational risk management.

Bounding the Unbounded: Insurance as Downside Protection

Insurance converts catastrophic, unbounded losses ($L \rightarrow \infty$) into a predictable, bounded cost (C). Its expected value (EV) formulation is straightforward:

$$EV_{\text{insure}} = -\left(P_e \cdot \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} L\right) + (1 - P_e) \cdot (-C) \rightarrow -\infty \quad \text{for } P_e > 0 \quad (7)$$

Key applications include:

- **Health Insurance:** Finite premiums (C) mitigate unbounded medical costs ($L \rightarrow \infty$) (Arrow, 1963).
- **Catastrophe Bonds:** Investors accept bounded losses (C) to prevent sovereign defaults after disasters ($L \rightarrow \infty$) (Froot, 2001).

Unbounding the Bounded: The Infinite Principle as Upside Maximization

Conversely, the Infinite Principle prioritizes unbounded rewards ($R \rightarrow \infty$) while capping costs ($C < \infty$):

$$EV_{\text{infinite}} = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} (P_s \cdot R - (1 - P_s) \cdot C) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for } P_s > 0 \quad (8)$$

Real-world applications include:

- **Venture Capital:** Bounded investments (C) target unbounded returns (R) from startups like Airbnb (Thiel, 2014).
- **Moonshot R&D:** NASA's Apollo program ($C \approx 150B$) unlocked space exploration's infinite potential ($R \rightarrow \infty$).

Mathematical Symmetry and Philosophical Implications

	Insurance	Infinite Principle
Risk Type	Unbounded downside (L)	Unbounded upside (R)
Cost	Bounded premium (C)	Bounded investment (C)
EV Focus	Minimize $-\infty$	Maximize $+\infty$
Examples	Health, disaster bonds	VC, existential risk mitigation

This duality transcends finance:

- **Behavioral Economics:** Prospect Theory’s loss aversion explains insurance’s appeal, while the Infinite Principle justifies optimism in high-risk innovation (Kahneman & Tversky, 1979).
- **Policy Design:** Governments insure against pandemics (bounded vaccine development) while investing in AI safety (unbounded existential risk mitigation) (Bostrom, 2014).

Synthesis: The Calculus of Rationality

Both frameworks resolve Pascal’s Wager’s core insight—when facing infinity, finite costs vanish. Whether avoiding $-\infty$ (insurance) or pursuing $+\infty$ (Infinite Principle), rationality demands prioritizing the unbounded. This symmetry underpins a unified theory of decision-making, where mathematics, not intuition, guides humanity’s greatest risks and rewards.

Falsification Check

As Richard Feynman famously stated:

“It doesn’t matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn’t matter how smart you are. If it doesn’t agree with experiment, it’s wrong.”

The purpose of this section is to ensure that this framework adheres to that principle. A claim, theory, or model is only meaningful if it remains consistent with observable reality. This principle of falsification is the cornerstone of the scientific method, ensuring that only theories that withstand rigorous scrutiny remain accepted as valid explanations of reality.

Principles of Falsification

There are only two possible outcomes for any falsifiable claim:

1. **Falsification:** If a premise is contradicted by empirical observations, the framework must be revised or discarded.
2. **Provisional Acceptance:** If a premise cannot be falsified, it must be provisionally accepted as the best available explanation until such time that it can be falsified.

Core Premise and Falsification Criteria

There is only one premise that must hold for this framework to be true:

A system with unbounded upside and finite downside must dominate all bounded alternatives in expected value.

If this premise fails, the Infinite Principle collapses. To falsify it, one must demonstrate that a bounded alternative systematically outperforms an unbounded one in expected value terms under the same conditions.

Falsification Criteria

To disprove the Infinite Principle, one must provide a scenario where the following conditions hold:

1. A finite-outcome decision produces greater expected value than an unbounded one, despite having the same probability constraints.
2. A scenario exists where unbounded upside fails to dominate, even when downside is strictly finite and nonzero probability exists.

3. Empirical evidence contradicts the premise that risk-taking for infinite gain outperforms finite conservative choices when conditions allow for bound-limited loss.

Scientific Integrity and Adaptation

Until one of these conditions is met, the Infinite Principle remains the dominant rational framework. This ensures that knowledge remains dynamic—always open to challenge, yet stable when no contradictions exist.

Science is not about defending ideas—it is about refining understanding. If this framework is falsified or refined, that is not a failure but a step forward in advancing rational decision theory.

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