# Elections and Strategic Voting: Condorcet and Borda 

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Bloomington
October 5, 2018

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choose candidate preferred by majority to each other candidate


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- choose candidate who maximizes sum of voters' utilities
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not implementing intended voting rule decision problem for voters may be hard
- But basic negative result Gibbard-Satterthwaite (GS) theorem
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- if 3 or more candidates, no voting rule is always nonmanipulable
(except for dictatorial rules - - where one voter has all the power)
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Which (reasonable) voting rule(s) nonmanipulable most often?

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- Paper tries to answer question
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if $x \neq y$, then $U_{i}(x) \neq U_{i}(y)$
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- profile $U_{\text {. }}$ - specification of each individual's utility function
- voting rule $F$

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& \text { for all profiles } U . \text { and all } Y \subseteq X, \\
& \qquad F(U ., Y) \in Y
\end{aligned}
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- with continuum, ties are nongeneric
- so, correct definition:
for generic profile $U$. and all $Y \subseteq X$

$$
F\left(\dot{U}_{.}, Y\right) \in Y
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plurality rule:
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F^{P}\left(U_{.}, Y\right)=\{a \mid & \mu\left\{i \mid U_{i}(a) \geq U_{i}(b) \text { for all } b\right\} \\
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- invoked by both Arrow (1951) and Nash (1950)
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- if $x$ chosen and some non-chosen candidates removed, $x$ still chosen
- Nash formulation (rather than Arrow)
- no "spoilers" (e.g. Nader in 2000 U.S. presidential election, Le Pen in 2002 French presidential election)
- Majority rule and utilitarianism satisfy I, but others don't:
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- plurality rule

$$
\begin{array}{cccl}
\frac{.35}{x} & \frac{.33}{y} & \frac{.32}{z} & F^{P}(U .,\{x, y, z\})=x \\
y & z & y & \\
z & x & x & F^{P}(U .,\{x, y\})=y
\end{array}
$$

- Majority rule and utilitarianism satisfy I, but others don't:
- plurality rule

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\frac{.35}{x} & \frac{.33}{y} & \frac{.32}{z} & F^{P}(U .,\{x, y, z\})=x \\
y & z & y & F^{p}(U .,\{x, y\})=y \\
z & x & x & y
\end{array}
$$

- rank-order voting

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\frac{.55}{x} & \frac{.45}{y} & F^{B}(U .,\{x, y, z\})=y \\
y & z & F^{B}(U .,\{x, y\})=x
\end{array}
$$

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then
$U_{i}(x)>U_{i}\left(x^{\prime}\right)$ for some $i \in C$
- the members of coalition $C$ can't all gain from misrepresenting utility functions as $U_{i}^{\prime}$
- NM implies voting rule must be ordinal (no cardinal information used)
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- Lemma: If $F$ satisfies NM, $F$ ordinal
- NM rules out utilitarianism


## But majority rule also violates NM

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- $F^{C}$ not even always defined

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.35 & \frac{.33}{x} & \frac{.32}{x} & F^{c}(U .,\{x, y, z\})=\varnothing \\
y & \frac{z}{z} & x & \\
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F^{C / B}(U ., Y)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
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(Black's method)

- extensions make $F^{C}$ vulnerable to manipulation

| - | .35 | $\frac{.33}{}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $x$ | $\frac{.32}{y}$ |  |
| $y$ | $z$ | $x$ |
| $z$ | $x$ | $y$ |

$$
F^{C / B}(U .,\{x, y, z\})=x
$$

$z$
$y$
$x$

$$
F^{C / B}\left(U^{\prime},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
$$

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overly pessimistic - many cases in which some rankings unlikely

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- strongly-felt candidate
- in 2002 French election, 3 main candidates: Chirac, Jospin, Le Pen
- voters didn’t feel strongly about Chirac and Jospin
- felt strongly about Le Pen (ranked him first or last)
- Voting rule F works well on domain $\mathscr{U}$ if satisfies P,A,N,I,NM when utility functions restricted to $\mathscr{U}$
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- e.g., $F^{C}$ works well when preferences single-peaked
- Theorem 1: Suppose $F$ works well on domain $\mathscr{U}$, then $F^{C}$ works well on $\mathscr{V}$ too.
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Dasgupta-Maskin (2008), JEEA

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- shows that Theorem 1 holds when NM replaced by ordinality

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- Suppose $F$ works well on
- If $F^{C}$ doesn't work well on $\mathscr{U}$, Lemma implies $\mathscr{Z}$ must contain Condorcet cycle $\left.\begin{array}{ccc}x & y & z \\ & y & z\end{array}\right]$
- Consider
- Consider

$$
U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \cdots \\
x & z \\
z & x & x
\end{array}
$$

- Consider

$$
U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} \cdots \frac{n}{z} \\
z & x & z
\end{array}
$$

$\left(^{*}\right) \quad$ Suppose $F\left(U_{.}^{1},\{x, z\}\right)=z$

- Consider

$$
U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} \cdots \frac{n}{x} \\
z & x & z \\
z & x
\end{array}
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- $\quad U_{.}^{2}=\begin{array}{cccc}\underline{1} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \underline{n} \\ y & y & z & z \\ z & z & x & x \\ z & x & y & y\end{array}$
- Consider

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$$
F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=x \Rightarrow\left(\text { from I) } F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, z\}\right)=x, \text { contradicts }\left(^{*}\right)\right.
$$

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U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=x \quad \text { (from I) } F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, z\}\right)=x, \text { contradicts }\left(^{*}\right) \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=y \quad \Rightarrow\left(\text { from I) } F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y\}\right)=y, \text { contradicts }\left(^{*}\right)(\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{~N})\right.
\end{aligned}
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U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \cdots \\
z & z & z \\
z & x & x
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- $U^{2}=\begin{array}{cccc}\underline{1} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \underline{n} \\ x & y & z & z \\ y & z & x & x \\ z & x & y & y\end{array}$
$F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=x \Rightarrow\left(\right.$ from I) $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, z\}\right)=x$, contradicts $(*)$
$F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=y \quad \Rightarrow\left(\right.$ from I) $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y\}\right)=y$, contradicts $(*)(\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{N})$

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& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
\end{aligned}
$$

- so $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{y, z\}\right)=z \quad$ (I)
- Consider

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F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
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U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \cdots \\
x & z & z \\
z & x & x
\end{array}
$$

$\left(^{*}\right) \quad$ Suppose $F\left(U_{.}^{1},\{x, z\}\right)=z$

- $\quad U^{2}=\begin{array}{cccc}\underline{1} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \frac{n}{x} \\ y & z & z & z \\ z & x & y & x \\ y\end{array}$
$F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=x \Rightarrow\left(\right.$ from I) $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, z\}\right)=x$, contradicts $\left(^{*}\right)$
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$$
F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
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- $\quad$ so $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{y, z\}\right)=z \quad$ (I)
- so for
$U_{.}^{3}=\begin{array}{ccccc}\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \cdots & \frac{n}{n} \\ z & z & z & & z \\ & & x & & x\end{array}$
- Consider

$$
U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
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$$
F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
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- so for

$$
\begin{aligned}
& U^{3}=\begin{array}{ccccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \cdots & \frac{n}{z} \\
z & z & z & & x \\
& & x & & x
\end{array} \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{3},\{x, z\}\right)=z \quad(\mathrm{~N})
\end{aligned}
$$

- Consider

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U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
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x & z & z \\
z & x & x
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\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \cdots & \frac{n}{z} \\
z & z & z & & x \\
& & x & & x
\end{array} \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{3},\{x, z\}\right)=z \quad(\mathrm{~N})
\end{aligned}
$$

- Continuing in the same way, let $U_{.}^{4}=\begin{array}{ccc}\frac{1}{x} & \cdots & \frac{n-1}{x} \\ z & \frac{n}{z} \\ z & z & x\end{array}$
- Consider

$$
U_{.}^{1}=\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \underline{2} & \cdots \\
x & z & z \\
z & x & x
\end{array}
$$

$\left(^{*}\right) \quad$ Suppose $F\left(U_{.}^{1},\{x, z\}\right)=z$

- $U_{.}^{2}=\begin{array}{cccc}\underline{1} & \underline{2} & \underline{3} & \underline{n} \\ y & y & z & z \\ z & z & x & x \\ z & x & y & y\end{array}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=x \quad \Rightarrow\left(\text { from I) } F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, z\}\right)=x, \text { contradicts }\left(^{*}\right)\right. \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=y \quad \Rightarrow\left(\text { from I) } F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y\}\right)=y, \text { contradicts }\left({ }^{*}\right)(\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{~N})\right. \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{x, y, z\}\right)=z
\end{aligned}
$$

- $\quad$ so $F\left(U_{.}^{2},\{y, z\}\right)=z \quad$ (I)
- so for

$$
\begin{aligned}
U_{.}^{3}= & \left.\begin{array}{ccccc}
\frac{1}{x} & \frac{2}{x} & \frac{3}{z} & \cdots & \frac{n}{z} \\
z & z & x & x \\
& F\left(U_{.}^{3},\{x, z\}\right)=z \quad(N)
\end{array}, \begin{array}{lll} 
& &
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
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$$
F\left(U_{.}^{4},\{x, z\}\right)=z, \text { contradicts }\left({ }^{*}\right)
$$

- So F can’t work well on $\mathscr{U}$ with Condorcet cycle
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U_{.}^{\circ}=\frac{1-\alpha}{x} \quad \frac{\alpha}{y} \begin{gathered}
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- But not hard to show that $F^{C}$ unique voting rule satisfying P,A,N, and NM when $|X|=2-$ - contradiction
- Let's drop I
- Let's drop I
- most controversial
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- no voting rule satisfies $\mathrm{P}, \mathrm{A}, \mathrm{N}, \mathrm{NM}$ on $\mathscr{U}_{X}$
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- F works nicely on $\mathscr{U}$ if satisfies P,A,N,NM on $\mathscr{U}$

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- so $F^{B}$ works nicely on थ .


## Striking that the 2 longest-studied voting rules (Condorcet and Borda) are also

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- only two that work nicely on maximal domains

