

# Continuous Computational Social Choice

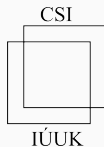
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Martin Koutecký

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CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of mathematics  
and physics



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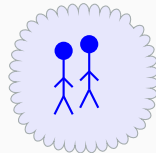
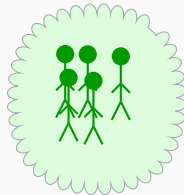
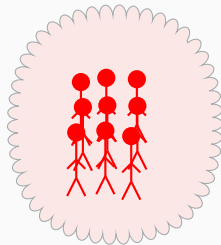
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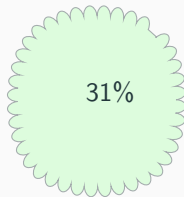
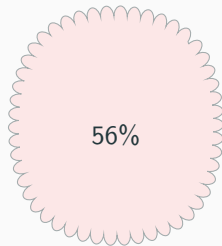
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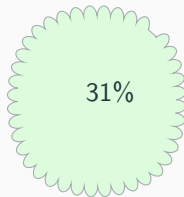
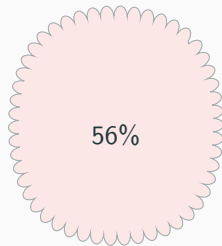
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- **Analogous to:** Mean-field Theory
  - Statistical Physics
  - Mean-field Game Theory
  - “Geometry of Voting”



## Case Study: Voting & Bribery

**Candidates:** ▲, ■, and ★.

**People:** preference (e.g. ■  $\succ$  ▲  $\succ$  ★)

**Society:** how many people of which type  $\Rightarrow$  **Society Graph:**

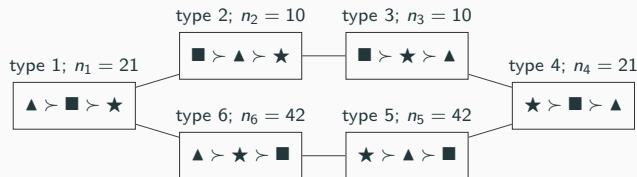


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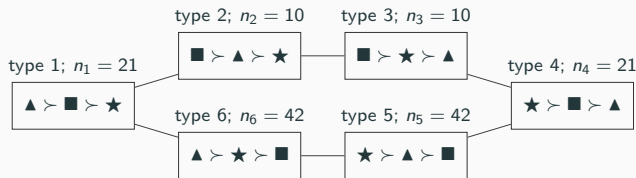
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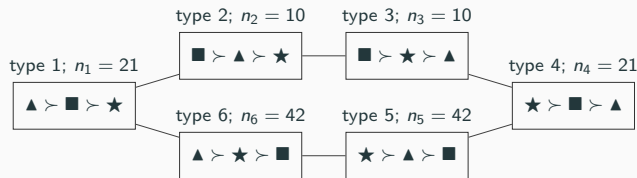
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**Continuous Society:**

$$\mu = \frac{\mathbf{n}}{\|\mathbf{n}\|_1} \approx (.14, .07, .07, .14, .29, .29)$$

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$n_i = \# \text{voters of type } i;$

$x_i = \# \text{deleted voters of type } i$

$$\min \sum_i x_i$$

$$0 \leq x_i \leq n_i \quad i \in [\tau]$$

$$\sum_{i: c^* >_i c'} (n_i - x_i) > \sum_{i: c' >_i c^*} (n_i - x_i) \quad \forall c' \neq c^*$$

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- **Society Continuum:** Polytime! (Linear Programming)

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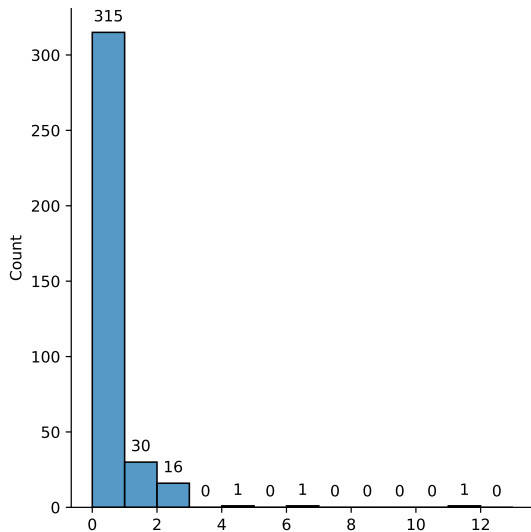
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## Young Voting: Preflib (Political Elections)

On political elections of PrefLib ( $n = 364$ ):

- $\text{YOUNG SCORE}$  vs  $\text{YOUNG SCORE}_\infty$   
**always** give the same ranking
- On  $n = 315$  elections both scores **agree completely**
- On remaining 49 elections never differ by more than 12, or 0.14% in relative terms.

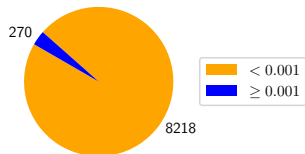


# Young Voting: Preflib (All Elections)

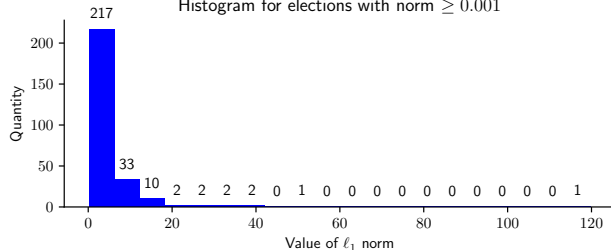
On all elections of PrefLib  
( $n = 8482$  elections):

- $\text{YOUNG SCORE}$  vs  $\text{YOUNG SCORE}_\infty$  give the same ranking on 97% instances
- On remaining elections does not differ much

Proportion of elections with norms  $< 0.001$



Histogram for elections with norm  $\geq 0.001$



# Dodgson Voting

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- We're lucky: **shifts up suffice**, o/w  $\Theta(m!)$  “output types” to consider

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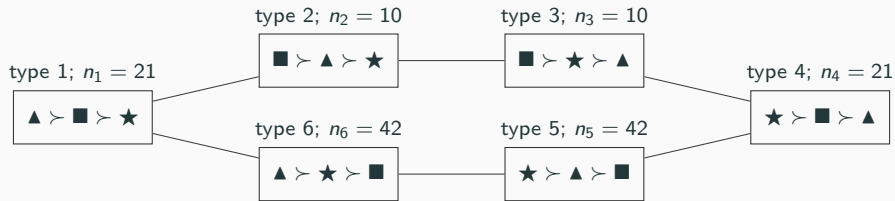
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- : Down-scaling weights by a scalar doesn't change the average!

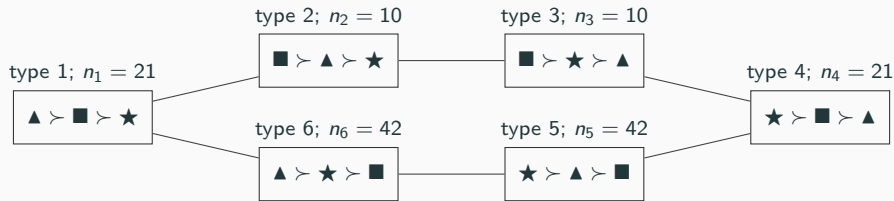
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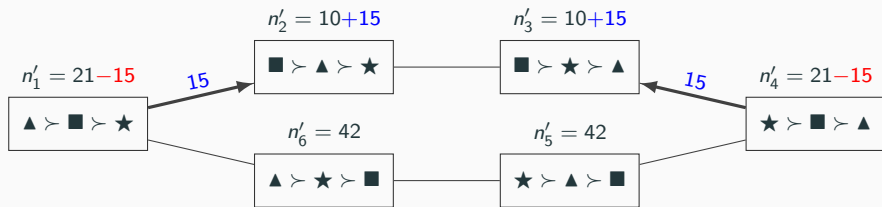
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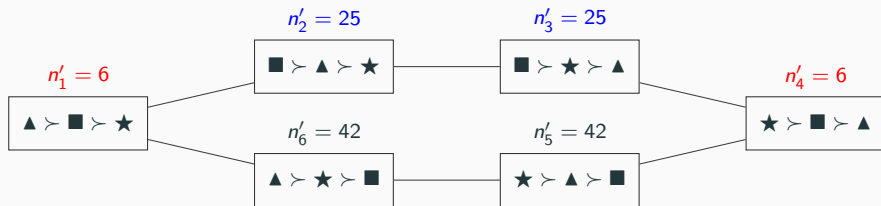
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move  $\mathbf{m} = (0, \dots, 0, +15, +15, 0, \dots, 0)$  (arc space of complete oriented graph)

change  $\Delta = \Delta(\mathbf{m}) = (-15, +15, +15, -15, 0, 0)$

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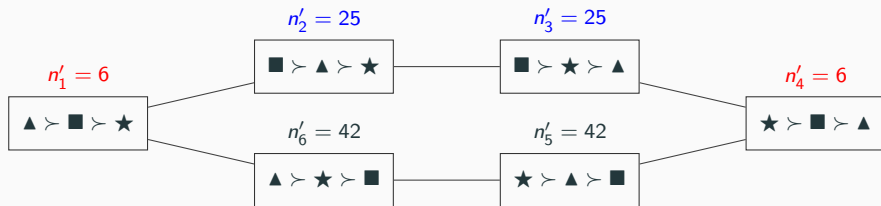


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**Actually:** BRIBERY, \$BRIBERY, SHIFT BRIBERY, SWAP BRIBERY, CCDV, etc.

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  - costs like "swapping candidates initially at distance  $k$  costs  $k$ "



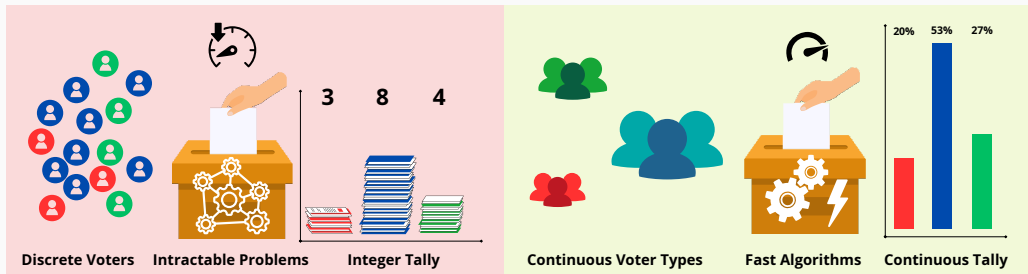
## Borda-•-Bribery

- **Borda's Rule:** give  $m - 1$  points to 1st candidate,  $m - 2$  to 2nd, etc.
- $\text{SHIFT-BRIBERY}_\infty$ : easy (LP with  $\mathcal{O}(\tau m)$  variables)
- $\text{CONSTRUCTIVE CONTROL BY ADDING/DELETING VOTERS}_\infty$ : ditto
- Unit cost  $\text{SWAP BRIBERY}_\infty$ : easy (reduces to  $\text{SHIFT BRIBERY}_\infty$ )
- $\text{BRIBERY}$ ,  $\text{\$BRIBERY}_\infty$ : easy-ish (Configuration LP with easy separation problem)
  - LP with  $\tau m!$  variables but  $m + \tau$  constraints
  - Its dual has  $m + \tau$  vars but many constraints
  - Separation  $\implies$  Optimization
  - Here, separation = sorting
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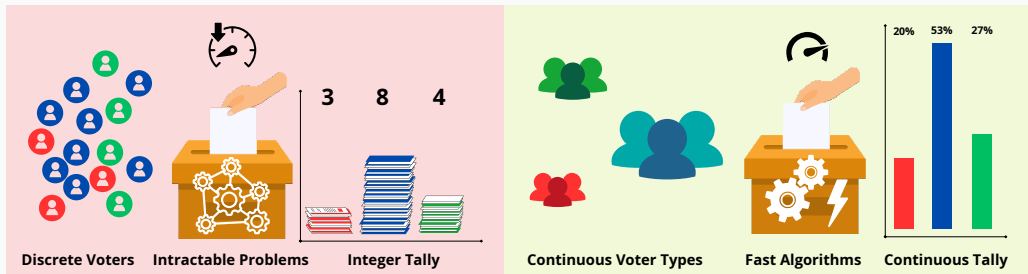
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  - For our costs, optimal face of a known LO relaxation is integral!

# Bottom Line



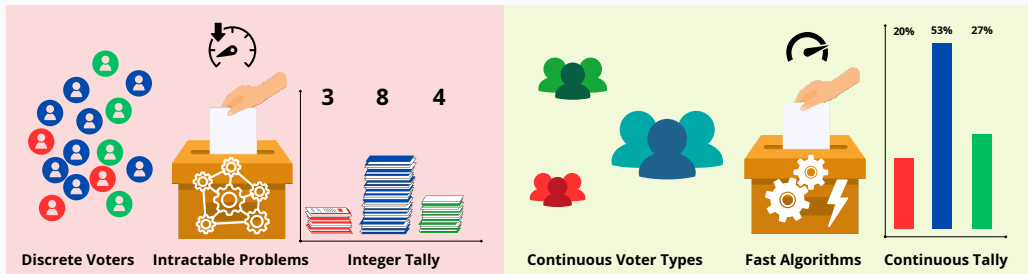
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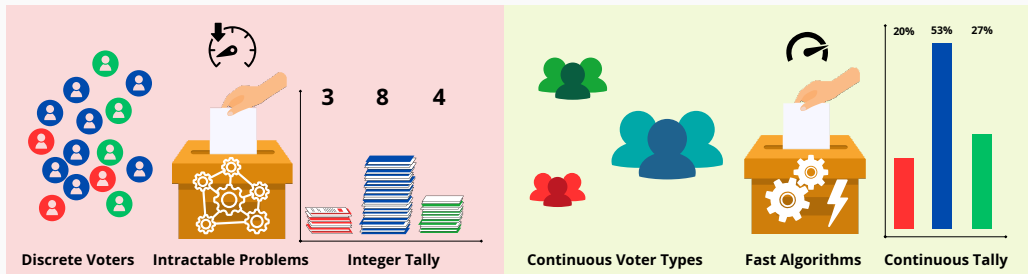
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# Bottom Line



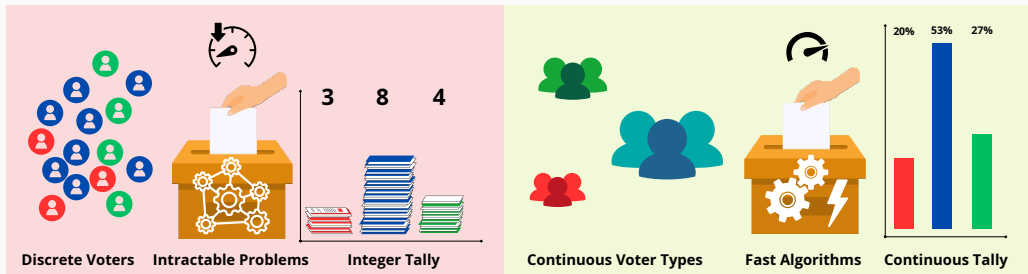
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# Bottom Line



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**Thank You!**