

Voting Theory

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 - ▶ Everybody has individual preferences
 - ▶ Want to transform individual preferences to a single societal preference
 - ▶ Want to do this fairly

Plurality Voting

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- ▶ Everyone gets one vote

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 - ▶ 2: Supporters of both A and C have B as their last choice

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 - ▶ The least preferred candidate wins!

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 - ▶ The least preferred candidate wins!
 - ▶ Example of vote splitting

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 - ▶ Gore: 47.87%
 - ▶ Nader: 2.74%

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 - ▶ 2000 Presidential election:
 - ▶ Bush: 48.38%
 - ▶ Gore: 47.87%
 - ▶ Nader: 2.74%
 - ▶ Do these numbers truly reflect first preference?
 - ▶ Probable that many preferred Nader, but did not want to "throw away their vote"

Runoff Elections

- ▶ One possible solution: hold runoff elections

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- ▶ Used in French presidential elections

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- ▶ Problems:
 - ▶ Inefficient; need to hold election over multiple days

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	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
Voter 1	✓		
Voter 2	✓		✓
Voter 3		✓	✓
Voter 4	✓	✓	

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- ▶ *A* gets 3 votes, *B* gets 2 votes, *C* gets 2 votes
- ▶ *A* wins
- ▶ Used in many professional societies, and the election for the U.N. Secretary-General

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 - ▶ Easy to understand
- ▶ Problems will be covered later

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	Voters								
Most Preferred	A	B	B	B	C	C	A	C	B
	B	C	C	C	A	A	C	B	C
Least Preferred	C	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A

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- ▶ Example:

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Most Preferred	A	B	B	B	C	C	A	C	B
	B	C	C	C	A	A	C	B	C
Least Preferred	C	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A

- ▶ Question: how do we tally the votes?

Instant Runoffs

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- ▶ Back to the example:

	Voters								
Most Preferred	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>B</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
Least Preferred	<i>C</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>

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	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
Least Preferred	<i>C</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>A</i>

- ▶ *A* has 2 votes
- ▶ *B* has 4 votes
- ▶ *C* has 3 votes

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Least Preferred	C	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A

- ▶ ~~A has 2 votes~~

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Least Preferred	C	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A

- ▶ ~~A has 2 votes~~
- ▶ B has 5 votes
- ▶ C has 4 votes

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Least Preferred	C	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A

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- ▶ C has 4 votes

So B wins

Borda Count

- ▶ Another method for tallying ranked votes: the Borda method

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- ▶ A gets $3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 5 = 15$ points

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- ▶ A gets $3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 5 = 15$ points
- ▶ B gets $3 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 3 = 19$ points

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- ▶ B gets $3 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 3 = 19$ points
- ▶ C gets $3 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 5 + 1 \cdot 1 = 20$ points

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so C wins

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 - ▶ A candidate is the **Condorcet winner** if they would win in head-to-head competition with any other candidate

Fair Voting

- ▶ Want to determine if the outcome of the election is “fair”
- ▶ One good idea is the **Condorcet criterion**:
 - ▶ A candidate is the **Condorcet winner** if they would win in head-to-head competition with any other candidate
 - ▶ A voting method satisfies the **Condorcet criterion** if a Condorcet winner will always win

Plurality Voting and the Condorcet Criterion

- ▶ Suppose that:

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- ▶ Suppose that:
 - ▶ 32% prefer A then B then C
 - ▶ 28% prefer B then A then C
 - ▶ 40% prefer C then A then B

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 - ▶ 32% prefer A then B then C
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 - ▶ 40% prefer C then A then B
- ▶ Who would win A vs. B ?

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 - ▶ 32% prefer A then B then C
 - ▶ 28% prefer B then A then C
 - ▶ 40% prefer C then A then B
- ▶ Who would win A vs. B ?
 - ▶ A would get 72%; B would get 36%

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 - ▶ 32% prefer *A* then *B* then *C*
 - ▶ 28% prefer *B* then *A* then *C*
 - ▶ 40% prefer *C* then *A* then *B*
- ▶ Who would win *A* vs. *B*?
 - ▶ *A* would get 72%; *B* would get 36%
- ▶ Who would win *A* vs. *C*?
 - ▶ *A* would get 60%; *C* would get 40%

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 - ▶ 28% prefer B then A then C
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 - ▶ A would get 72%; B would get 36%
- ▶ Who would win A vs. C ?
 - ▶ A would get 60%; C would get 40%
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 - ▶ A would get 72%; B would get 36%
- ▶ Who would win A vs. C ?
 - ▶ A would get 60%; C would get 40%
- ▶ Who would win B vs. C ?
 - ▶ B would get 60%; C would get 40%
- ▶ A is the Condorcet winner

Plurality Voting and the Condorcet Criterion

- ▶ Suppose that:
 - ▶ 32% prefer A then B then C
 - ▶ 28% prefer B then A then C
 - ▶ 40% prefer C then A then B
- ▶ Who would win A vs. B ?
 - ▶ A would get 72%; B would get 36%
- ▶ Who would win A vs. C ?
 - ▶ A would get 60%; C would get 40%
- ▶ Who would win B vs. C ?
 - ▶ B would get 60%; C would get 40%
- ▶ A is the Condorcet winner
- ▶ In a plurality election, C wins the election!

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- ▶ Who would win B vs. C ?
 - ▶ B would get 60%; C would get 40%
- ▶ A is the Condorcet winner
- ▶ In a plurality election, C wins the election!
- ▶ Plurality voting does not satisfy the Condorcet criterion