A preferential, totally proportional electoral system without geographical divisions

Stéphane Rouillon, ing., Ph. D.

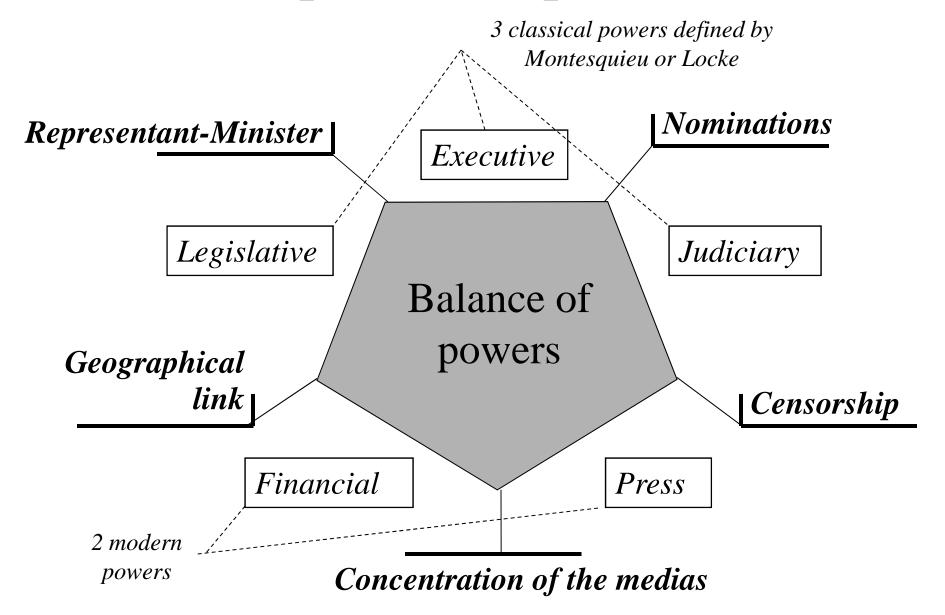
Association des Étudiants des Cycles Supérieurs de Polytechnique

GÉRAD (École Polytechnique de Montréal)

Presentation plan

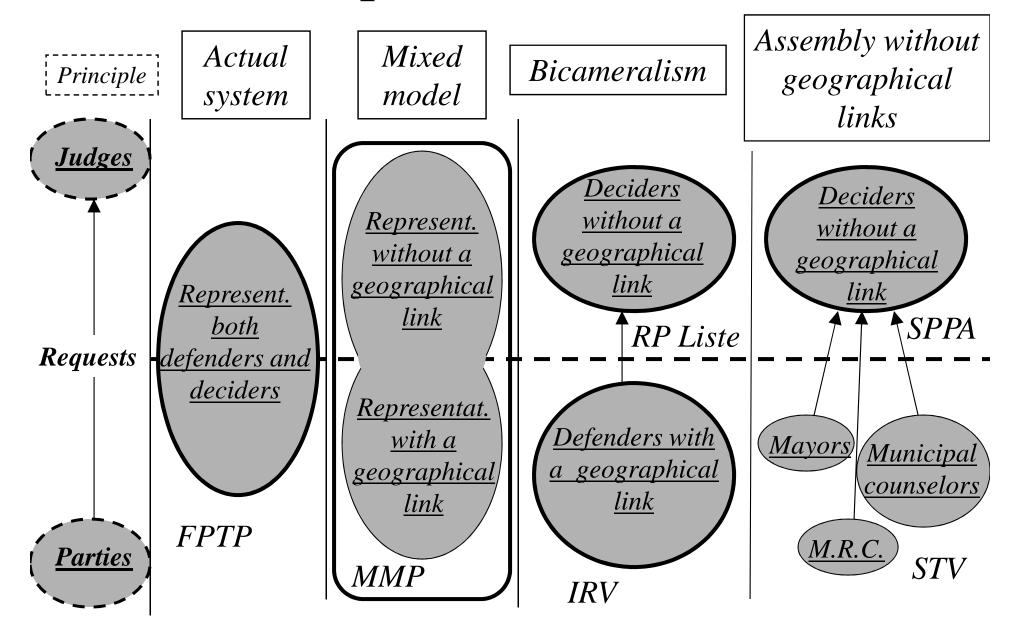
- □ Context
- ☐ Problems reported from FPTP electoral system and other alternatives
- ☐ Proposed solutions
 - Preferential ballot
 - Rallying procedure
 - Integral proportional representation
 - An option: the "crutch"
 - Non-discriminatory district definition

Separate the powers



Separate the roles

4



Advantages and deficiencies of the actual electoral system: First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)

- enhances government stability
- no quota
- not fair but simple
- few candidates to listen and know
- only one visit to the polling station
- same status for independant candidates
- individual accountability of the politicians
- a fixed number of elected members

- one vote, half-weight
- strongholds districts
- democratic deficit
- polarisation of the debate
- party line institutionalised
- less worst candidate
- electorate bribing
- gerrymandering
- confrontation of regions
- vote splitting issues
- low individual approbation rates

=> Keep these advantages without the inconvenients

A Preferential, Proportional and Acirconscriptive System

(SPPA in french)

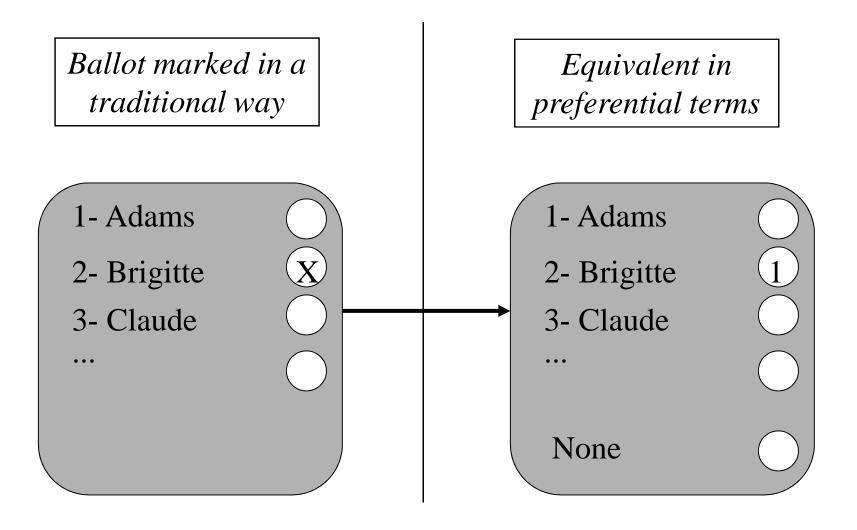
- Separate the roles of defenders (municipal representatives) and deciders (Assemblée Nationale MP's)
- Reconcile stability and fair representation
- Give back their autonomy to the representatives
- Respect the actual voting mecanism

Enhanced preferential ballot

- Dexpress sincere preferences
 - split acceptable candidates from undesired candidates
 - order in increasing preferences the acceptable candidates
- □refuse all candidates
- □ identify an unfitted voter

District n.4	
Candidate A / Party A	
Candidate B / Party B	1
Candidate C / Party C	3
Candidate D / independent	2
Candidate E / independent	
None	0

Respect a traditional ballot



Build the lists from results

Classical proportional systems

Pre-established order

- 1- David
- 2-Ben
- 3- Cécile
- 4- Alicia

• • •

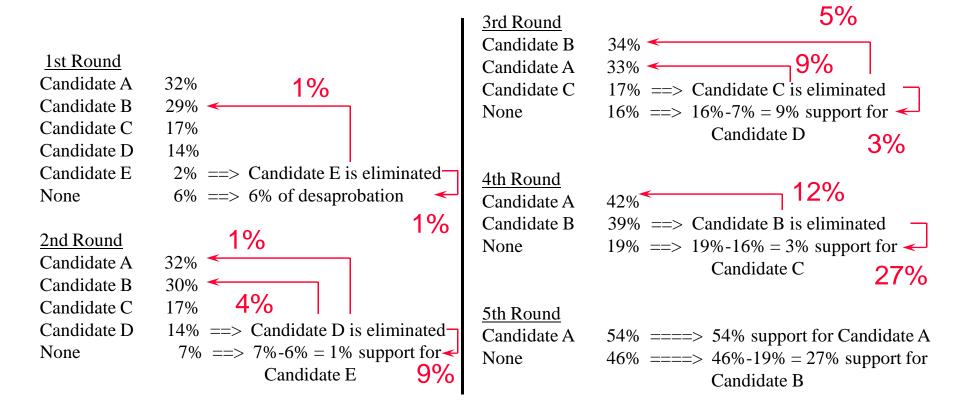
Resulting list

Order determined from the supports received by each candidates of the same political party

	Votes	1- C.
Alicia	14 321	2- D.
Ben	13 467	3- A.
Cécile	18 234	4- B.
David	17 534	•••
•••		

Election allowing to rally

- ☐ Avoid vote-splitting issues (but not crowding or cloning)
 - Like a leadership run-off: alternative vote (AV)
 - Example:



Results per districts

☐ Final supports at district n.4:

Candidate A 54%

Candidate B 27%

Candidate D 9%

Candidate C 3%

Candidate E 1%

None 6%

Party \ District	n.1	n.2	n.3	n.4	n.5	n.6	n.7	n.8	n.9	n.10	Average
Party A	52	6	85	54	6	12	34	39	33	24	34,5
Party B	13	32	6	27	19	12	17	32	31	0	18,9
Party C	9	51	0	3	9	20	19	7	1	22	14,1
Party D	4	0	2	9	11	22	3	10	23	14	9,8
Party E	1	0	0	1	4	4	3	2	4	6	2,5
Independent	0	0	0	0	46	21	10	0	0	23	10
None	21	11	7	6	5	9	14	10	8	11	10,2

Proportional representation to the integral limit

A) Determine first the number of seats for each party

```
4 elected members
Party A : 34,5% / 8,98% = 3,84
                                VS
                                     2 elected members
Party B : 18,9% / 8,98% = 2,1
                                VS
Party C : 14.1\% / 8.98\% = 1.57
                                     2 elected members
                                VS
Party D : 9,8% / 8,98% = 1,09
                                    1 elected member
                                VS
Ind S.5 : 4.6\% / 8.98\% = 0.51
                                    1 elected member
                                VS
                                    0 elected member
Party E : 2.5\% / 8.98\% = 0.28
                                VS
Ind S.10 : 2.3\% / 8.98\% = 0.26 vs
                                    0 elected member
                                    0 elected member
Ind S.6 : 2.1\% / 8.98\% = 0.23
                                VS
                                     0 elected member
Ind S.7 : 1\% / 8.98\% = 0.11
                                VS
```

B) Seats of each party are attributed to its candidates with most support.

Composition of the Parliament:

Party A: Candidates n.1, n.3, n.4 and n.8.

Party B: Candidates n.2 et n.8.

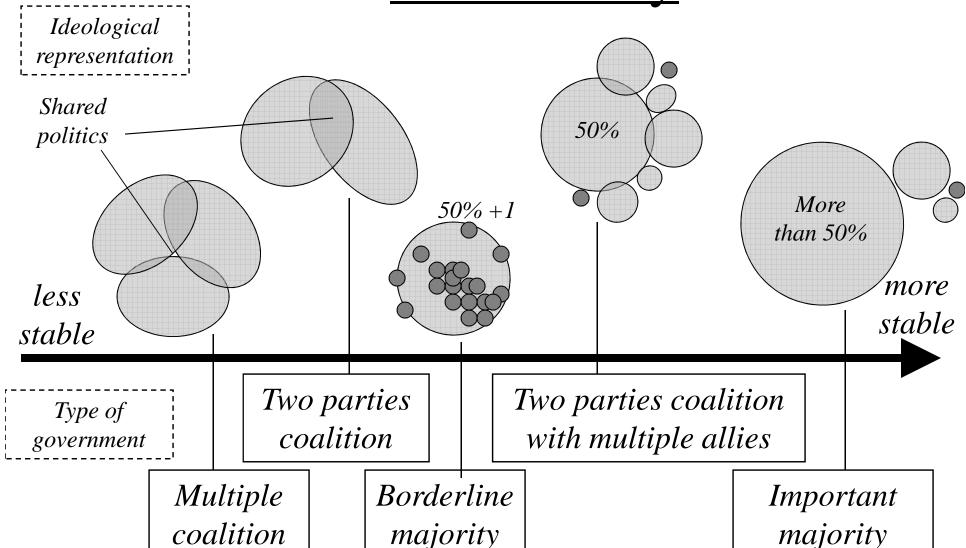
Party C: Candidates n.2 et n.10.

Party D: Candidate n.9.

Independent n.5.

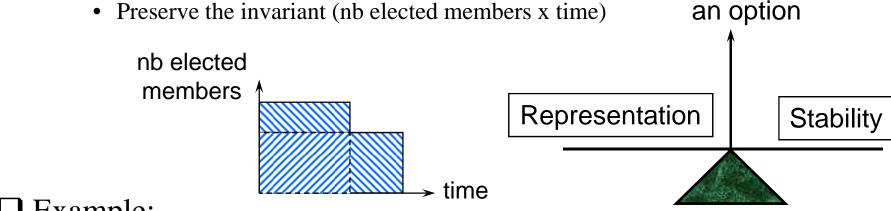
Conciliate representation and stability

(13)



Representation vs stability: the "crutch" option

- ☐ Representation exercise
 - garantee at least coalitions of two parties
 - compense with additional elected members the plurality party in order to reach | 50% | of the seats
 - reduce the maximal length of the mandate in proportion:



- ☐ Example:
 - 30 elected members for an assembly of 70 persons
 - => add 10 elected members to the winning party
 - 40 elected members from a total of 80 seats
 - validity: 30/40 = 75% of the original mandate length

Non discriminatory districts

- ☐ Sampling of the electorate different discretization
 - Last digits of the social insurance number
 - simple for 100 districts
 - Birth dates (day, month, modulo of the year)
 - simple pour 12 seats (municipal)
 - simple for 365 districts

☐ Advantages

- No strategical nominations
- No bribing of the electorate
- No gerrymandering
- No regional confrontation
- Fair representation according to the electorate will

Elements

=>

Qualities

- Preferential ballot
- Mecanism allowing to rally
- Integral proportional representation
- "Crutch" option to garantee at least a coalition of two parties
- Non-discriminatory definition of districts

- still needs only one visit to the polling station
- maintains the accountability link with elected members
- gathers sincere preferences
- allows ordering of the issues by the electorate
- reduce the antagonism between candidates
- vanishes vote-splitting issues
- raises the individual approbation rate of elected members
- treats all candidates equally (independent included)
- eliminates the democratic deficit
- treats all political parties equally (no quota)
- gives to every voter the same weight
- elects party-line builders
- garantees stable coalitions of two parties
- garantees twice the number of MP in the worst case
- preserves learning a small number of candidates to vote
- reduces strategical nominations
- hinders bribing electorate support
- avoids regional confrontation
- eliminates gerrymandering

Three steps implementation

- ☐ The "crutch" option to garantee stable coalitions of two parties
- ☐ Fair representation
 - Preferential ballot
 - applied in Eire (Irish country)
 - Election with rounds allowing to rally and build support
 - applied in Australia
 - Individual proportional representation
 - applied in Finland
- ☐ Non-discriminatory definition of districts