

# Committee Scoring Rules: How to Choose a Good Committee?

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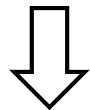
Based on joint works with **Edith Elkind** (University of Oxford, UK), **Jerome Lang** (Dauphine Paris, FR), **Jean-Francois Laslier** (Paris School of Economics, FR), **Piotr Skowron** (University of Warsaw, PL), **Arkadii Slinko** (University of Auckland, NZ), **Nimrod Talmon** (Ben-Gurion University, IL)

# Multiwinner Elections

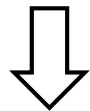
## Single-Winner Elections



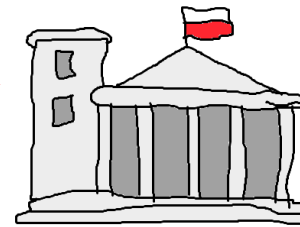
voters' preferences



voting rule



movies  
on a  
plane



parliaments

fundamentally  
different!

making a  
shortlist



Choosing presidents, scheduling, sports/competitions  
Seek the highest-ranked, most widely supported candidates

# Single-Winner Scoring Rules

A single-winner scoring function:

$f(i)$  = score for position  $i$































The candidate with the highest sum of scores is the winner

Examples:

Borda score

$\beta(i) = m-i$

$$C = \{ \text{C1}, \text{C2}, \text{C3}, \text{C4}, \text{C5} \}$$
$$V = (v_1, \dots, v_6)$$

	4	3	2	1	0
$V_1$ :					
$V_2$ :					
$V_3$ :					
$V_4$ :					
$V_5$ :					
$V_6$ :					

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Examples:































Borda score

$$\beta(i) = m - i$$

t-Approval score

$$\alpha_t(i) = 1 \text{ if } i \leq t \text{ and } 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

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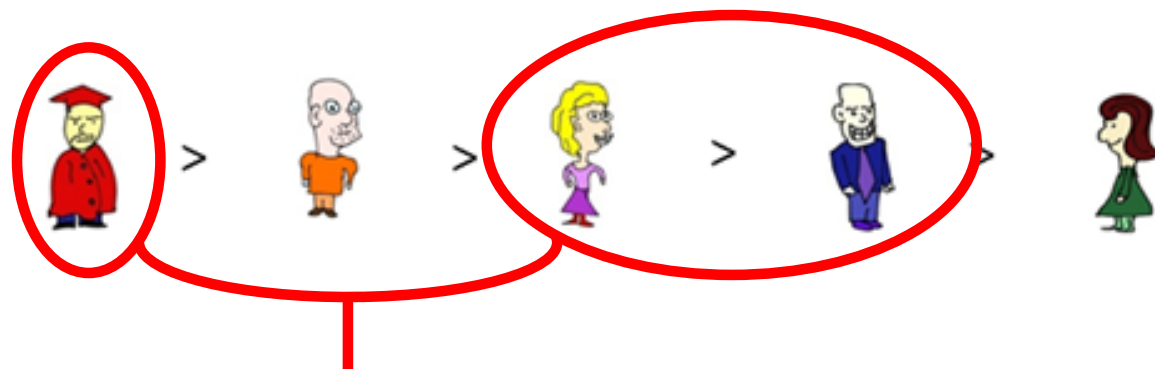
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We Want  
Committee  
Scoring Rules

# Committee Scoring Rules

Consider a preference order:



a committee

Position of the committee = (1, 3, 4)

$f(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k)$  = the score of the committee

Assuming  $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k$

[EFSS17] E. Elkind, P. Faliszewski, P. Skowron, A. Slinko, Properties of Multiwinner Voting Rules, Social Choice and Welfare, 2017

[SFS16] P. Skowron, P. Faliszewski, A. Slinko, Axiomatic Characterization of Committee Scoring Rules, arXiv 2016

# Committee Scoring Rules

## Examples

SNTV:

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_1(i_1) + \alpha_1(i_2) \dots + \alpha_1(i_k)$$

k-Borda:

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \beta(i_1) + \beta(i_2) + \dots + \beta(i_k)$$

Bloc:

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_k(i_1) + \alpha_k(i_2) + \dots + \alpha_k(i_k)$$

Chamberlin—Courant ( $\beta$ -CC):

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \beta(i_1)$$

Proportional Approval Voting (as CSR):

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_k(i_1) + 1/2\alpha_k(i_2) + \dots + 1/k \alpha_k(i_k)$$

# Committee Scoring Rules

$k = 2$

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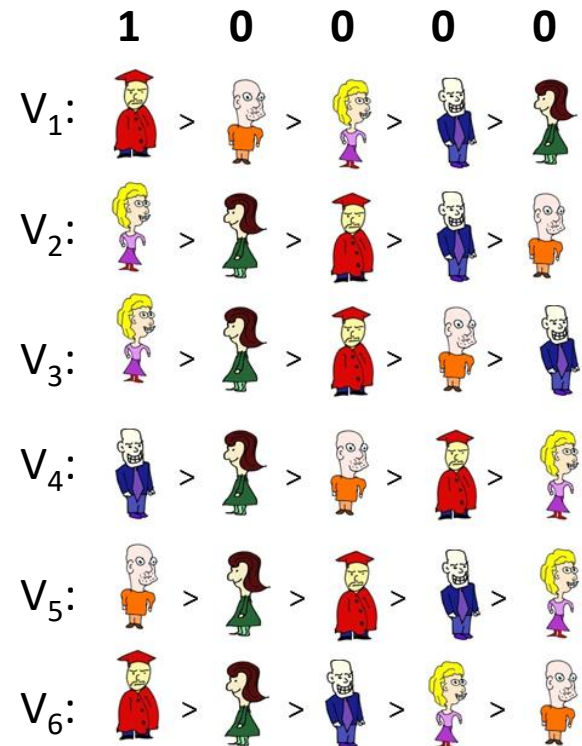
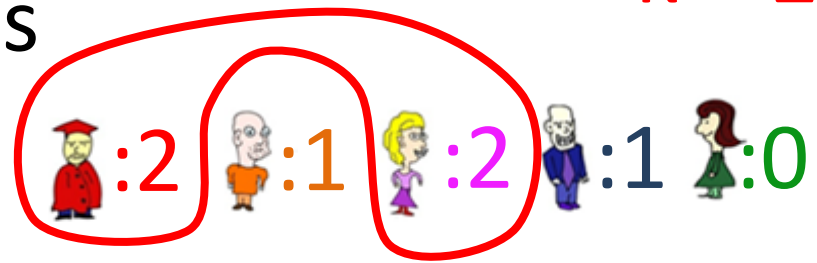
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[Tul67] G. Tullock, Towards a Mathematics of Politics, Univ. of Michigan Press, 1967



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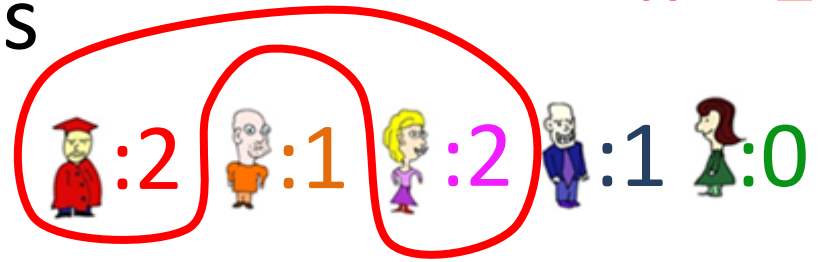
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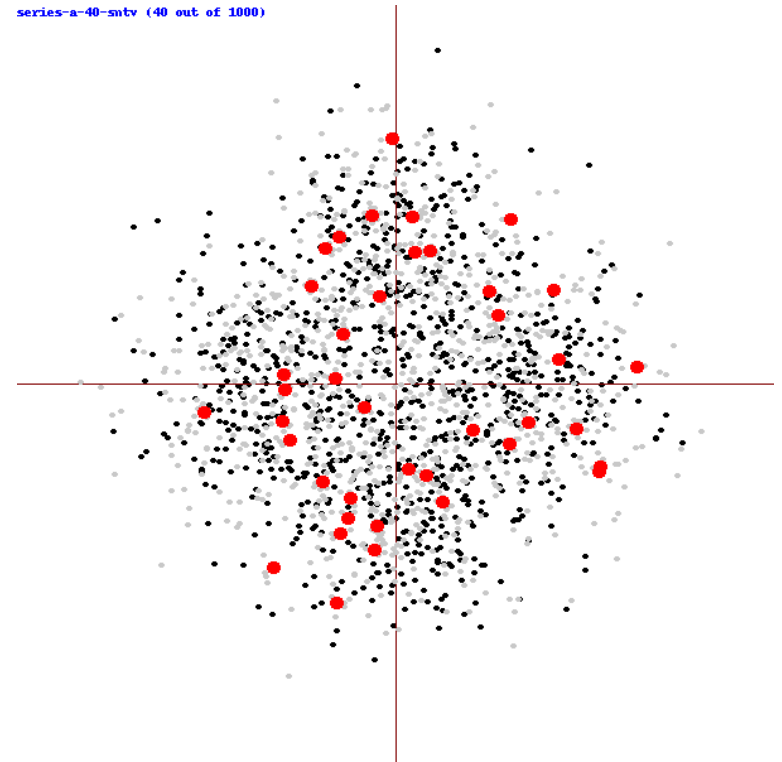
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series-a-40-sntv (40 out of 1000)



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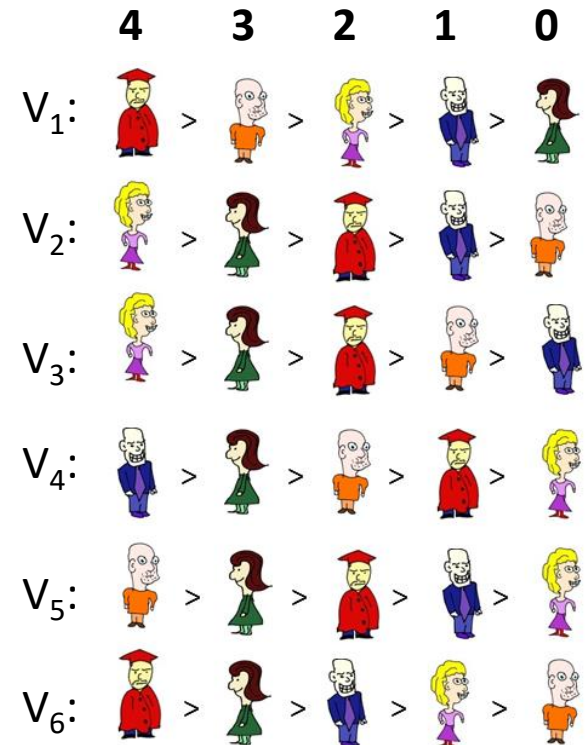
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[Deb92] B. Debord, An Axiomatic Characterization of Borda's k-Choice Function, SC&W 1992

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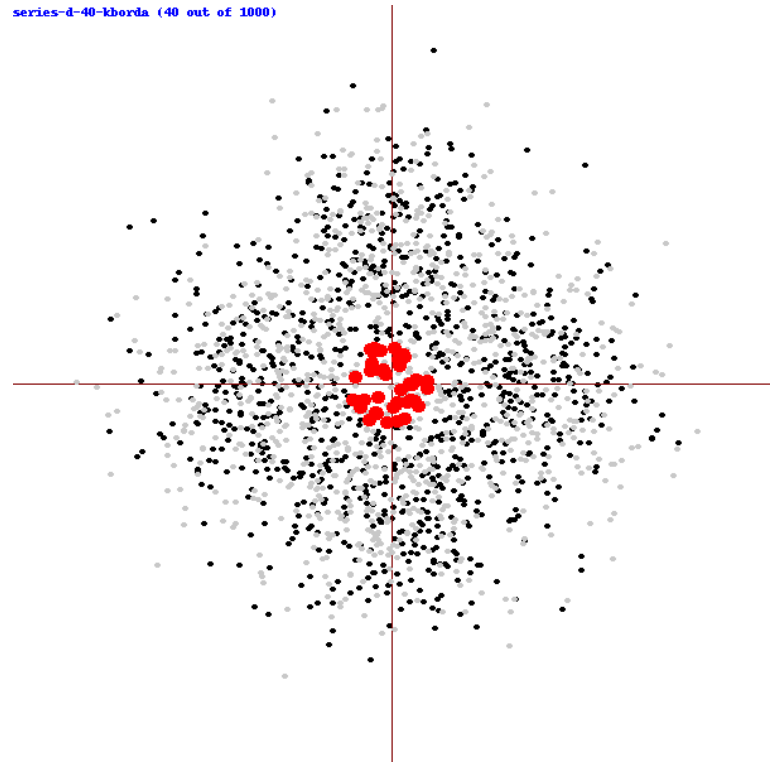
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series-d-40-kborda (40 out of 1000)



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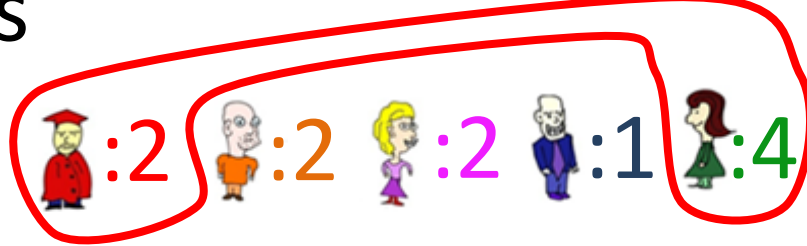
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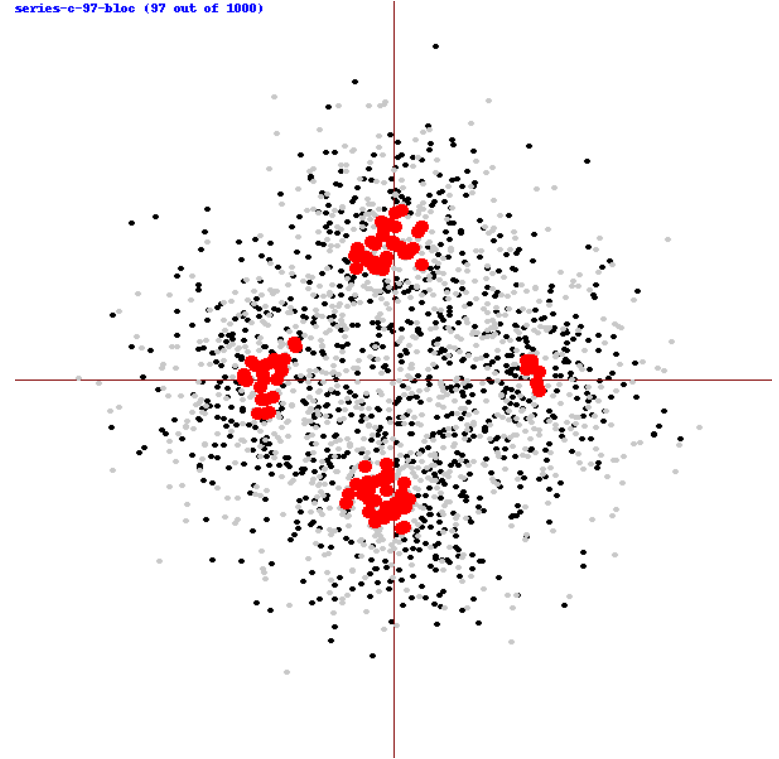
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series-c-97-bloc (97 out of 1000)



# Committee Scoring Rules

$k = 2$

$$S = \{ \text{Graduate}, \text{Female} \}$$

$$\text{score}(S) = 4+3+3+3+3+4 = 20$$

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[CC83] B. Chamberlin, P. Courant, Representative Deliberations and Representative Decisions: Proportional Representation and the Borda Rule, Am. Pol. Sci. Rev. 1983.



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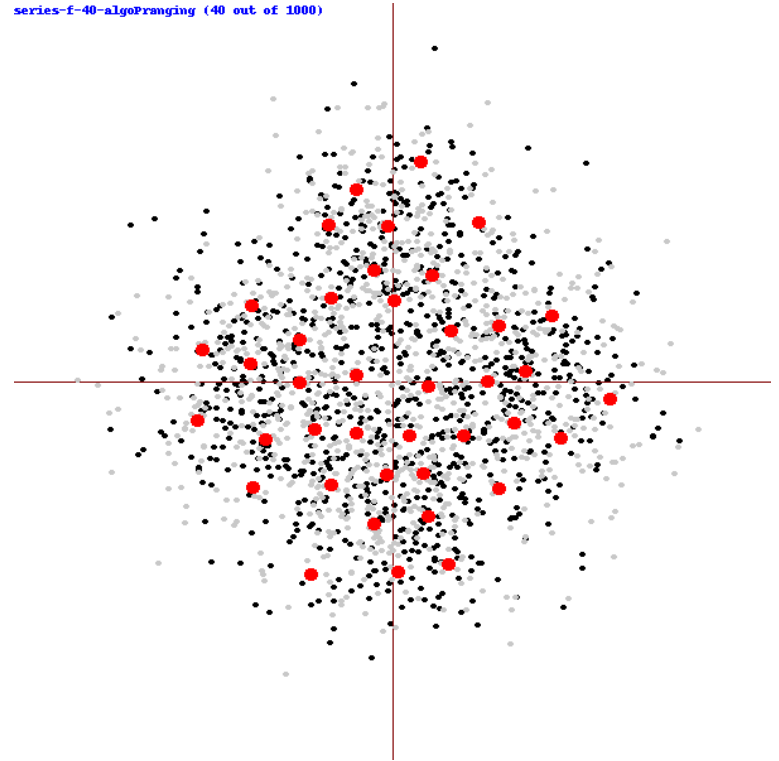
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series-f-40-algoPrangng (40 out of 1000)



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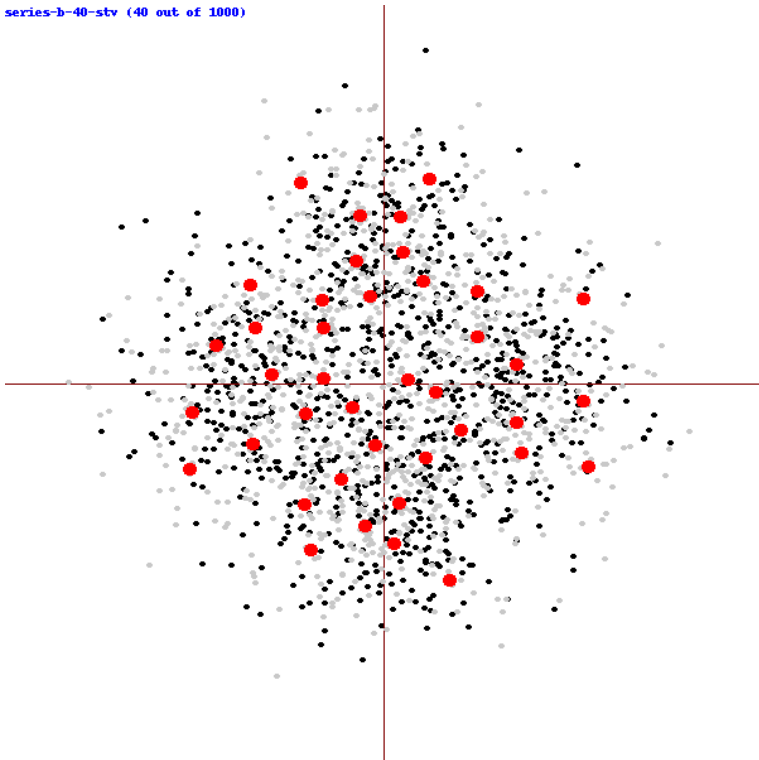
**PAV:** A multiwinner voting that generalizes D'Hondt apportionment method beyond party lists

(D'Hondt method used for choosing parliaments, e.g., in France and Poland)

# Single Transferable Vote

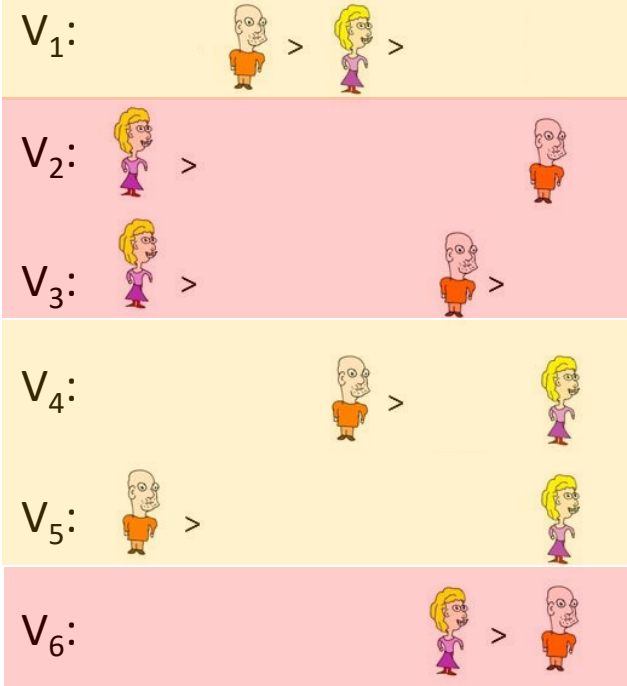
**STV:** Elimination process based on plurality scores (eliminate lowest scores; add to committee after reaching over  $n/(k+1)$  points)

series-b-40-stv (40 out of 1000)



$$C = \{ \text{Candidate 1}, \text{Candidate 2}, \text{Candidate 3}, \text{Candidate 4}, \text{Candidate 5} \}$$

$$V = (v_1, \dots, v_6)$$



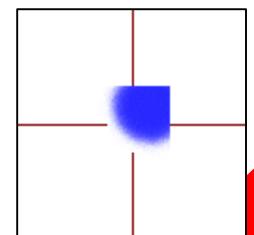
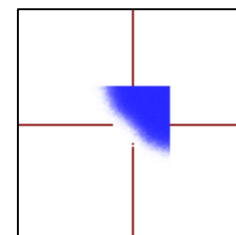
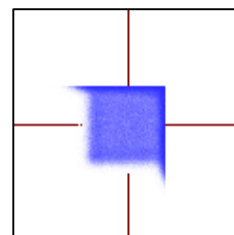
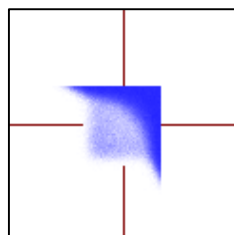
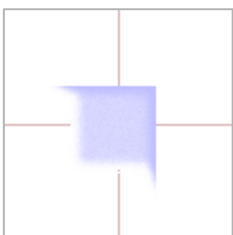
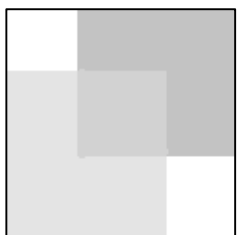
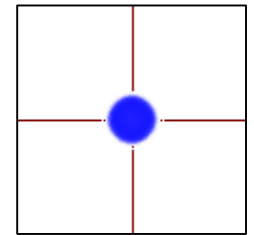
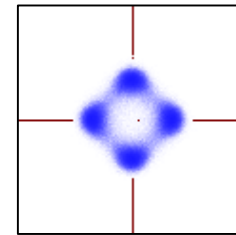
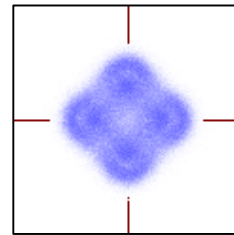
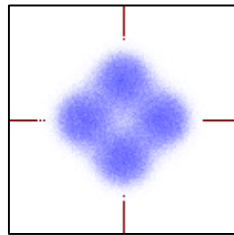
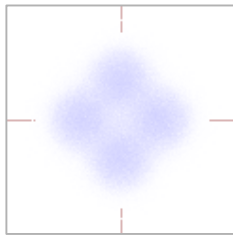
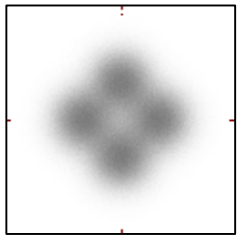
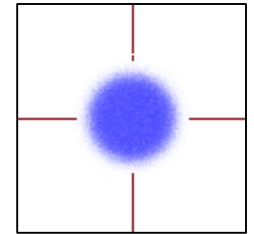
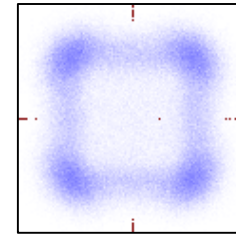
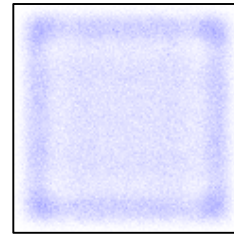
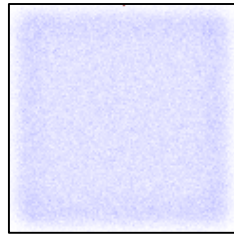
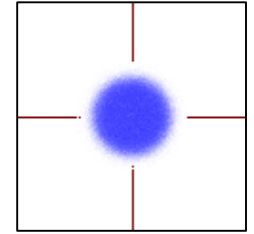
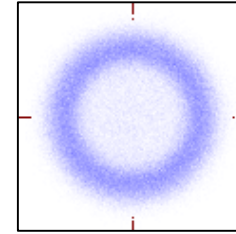
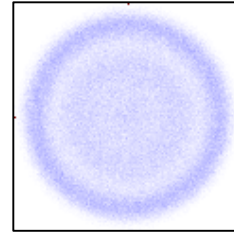
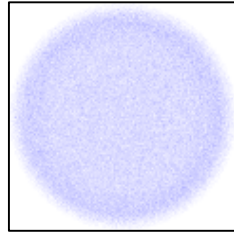
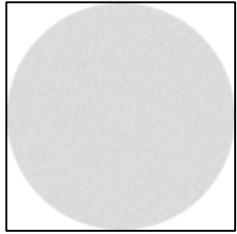
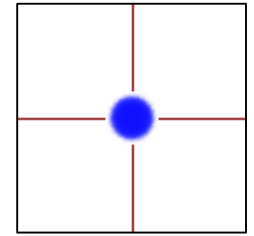
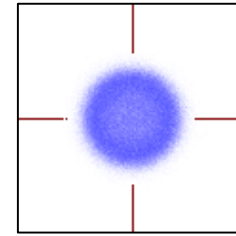
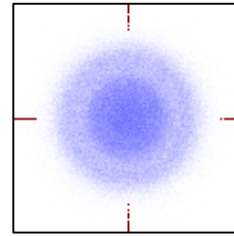
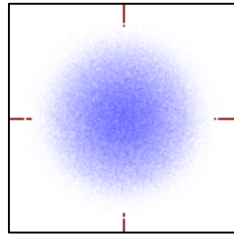
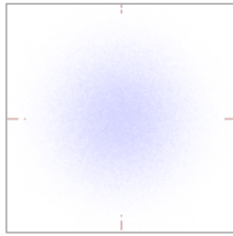
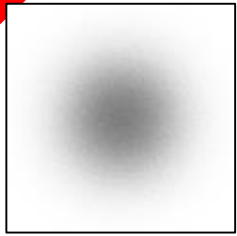
SNTV



STV

CC

Bloc

k-Borda





We want  
**to understand**  
Committee  
Scoring Rules

# Committee Scoring Rules

## Examples

**SNTV:**

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_1(i_1)$$

**k-Borda:**

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \beta(i_1) + \beta(i_2) + \dots + \beta(i_k)$$

**Bloc:**

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_k(i_1) + \alpha_k(i_2) + \dots + \alpha_k(i_k)$$

**Chamberlin—Courant ( $\beta$ -CC):**

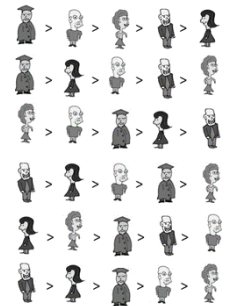
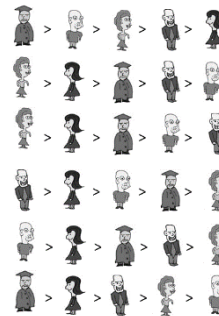
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**Proportional Approval Voting (as CSR):**

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_k(i_1) + 1/2\alpha_k(i_2) + \dots + 1/k \alpha_k(i_k)$$

## Consistency

If  $W$  is a winning committee under two elections,  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , then  $W$  is a winning committee under  $E_1+E_2$  (and only such committees win in  $E_1+E_2$ )





# Committee Scoring Rules

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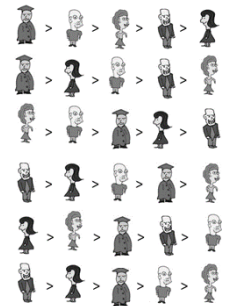
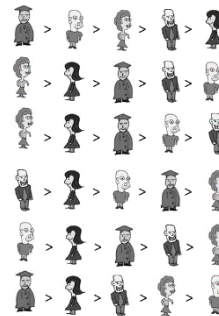
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[EFSS17] E. Elkind, P. Faliszewski, P. Skowron, A. Slinko, Properties of Multiwinner Voting Rules, Social Choice and Welfare, 2017



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[SFS16] P. Skowron, P. Faliszewski, A. Slinko, Axiomatic Characterization of Committee Scoring Rules, arXiv 2016.

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## Theorem

Committee scoring rules are exactly the rules that satisfy consistency (+few more axioms)

## Candidate Monotonicity

If a member of a winning committee  $W$  is shifted forward in some vote, this candidate will still belong to some winning committee (but maybe not  $W$ )

## Theorem

All committee scoring rules satisfy candidate monotonicity

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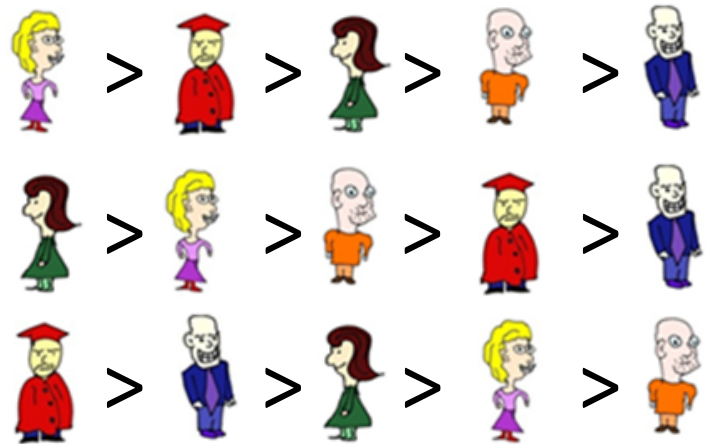
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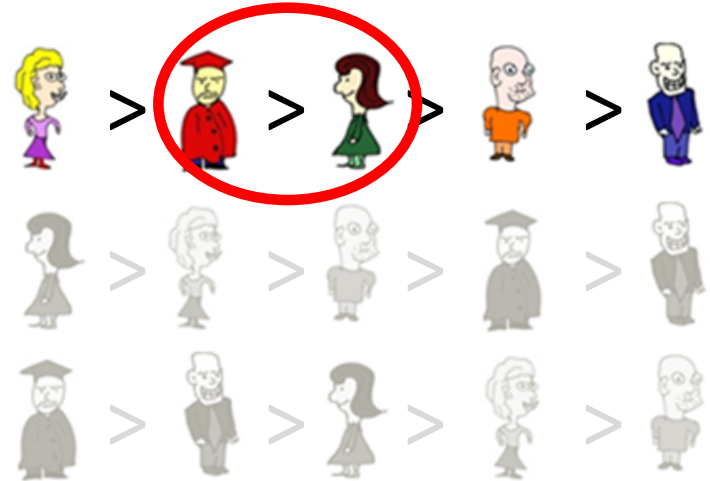
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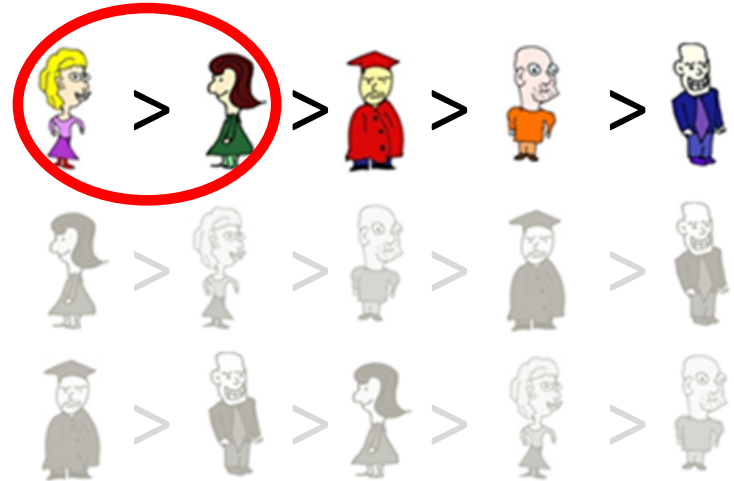
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Committee Scoring Rules

SNTV

separable  
weakly  
k-Borda

Bloc

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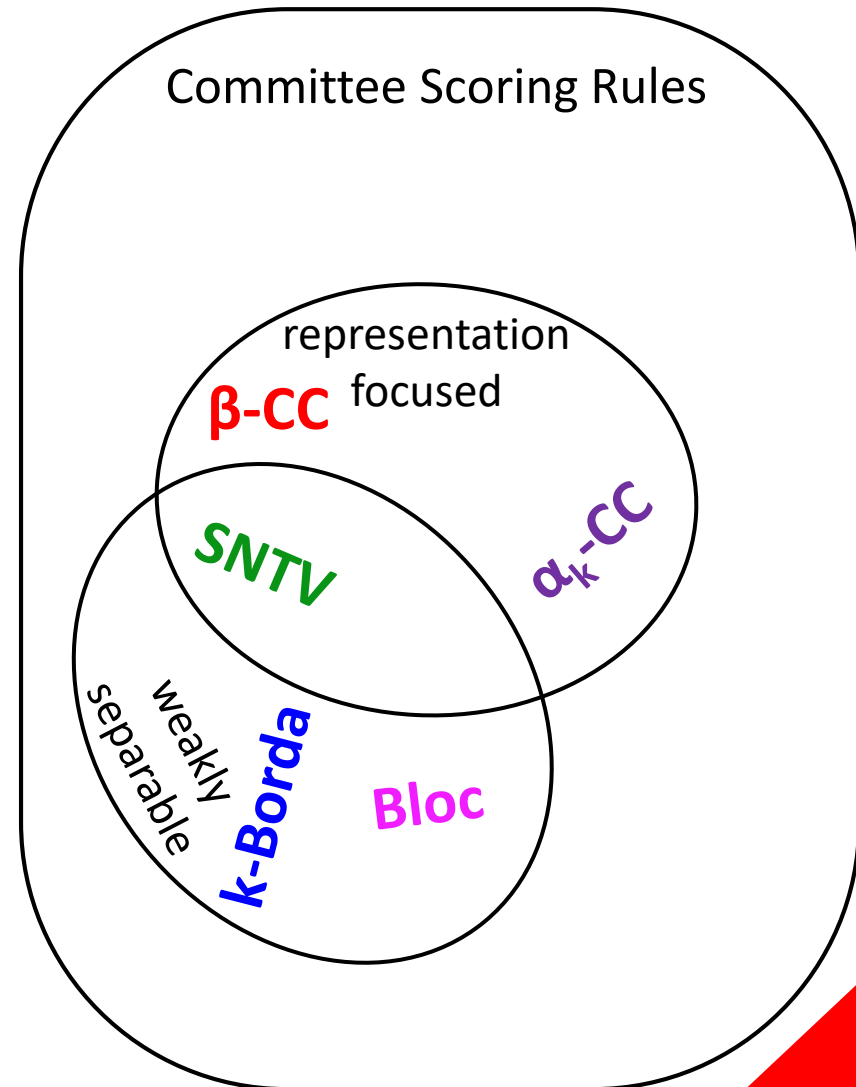
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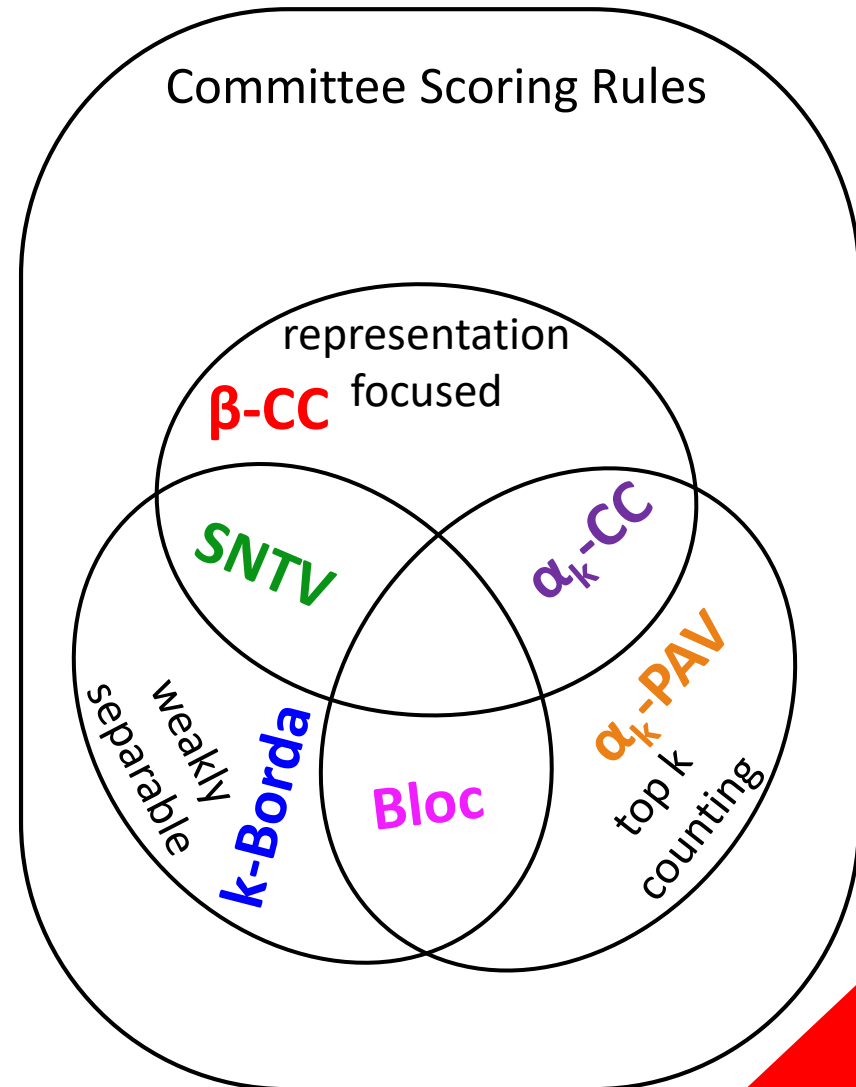
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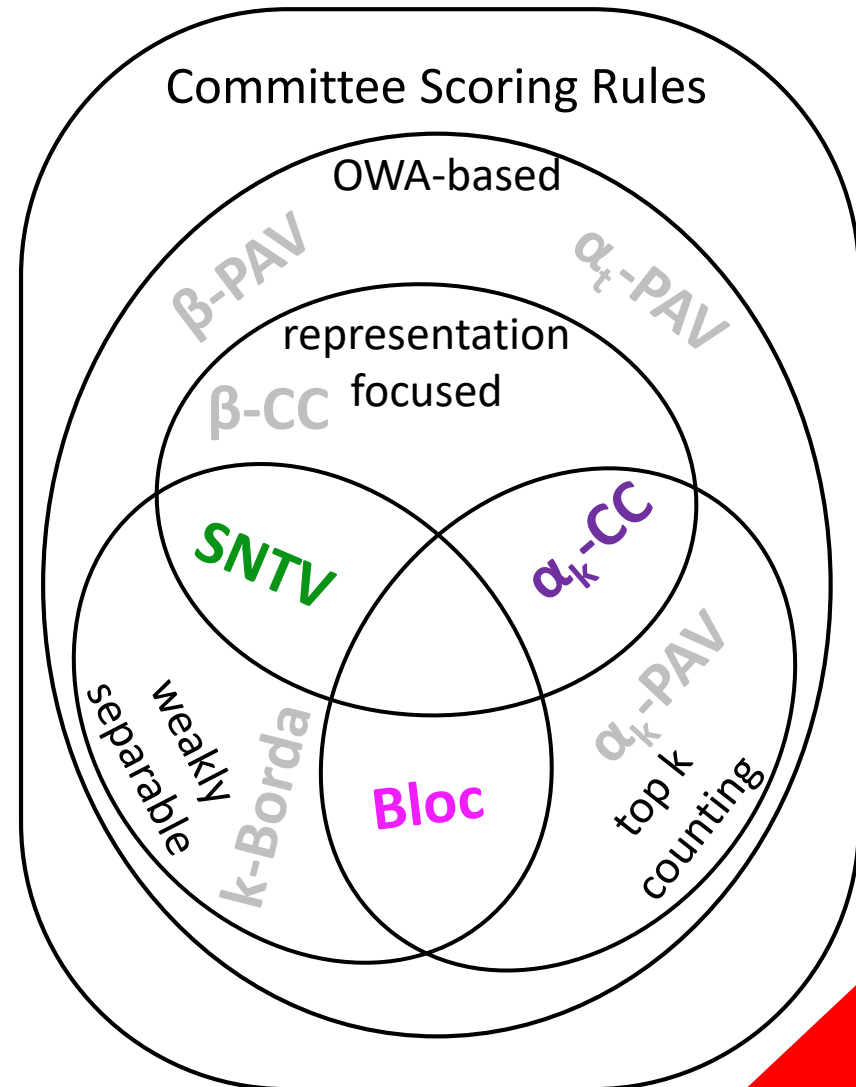
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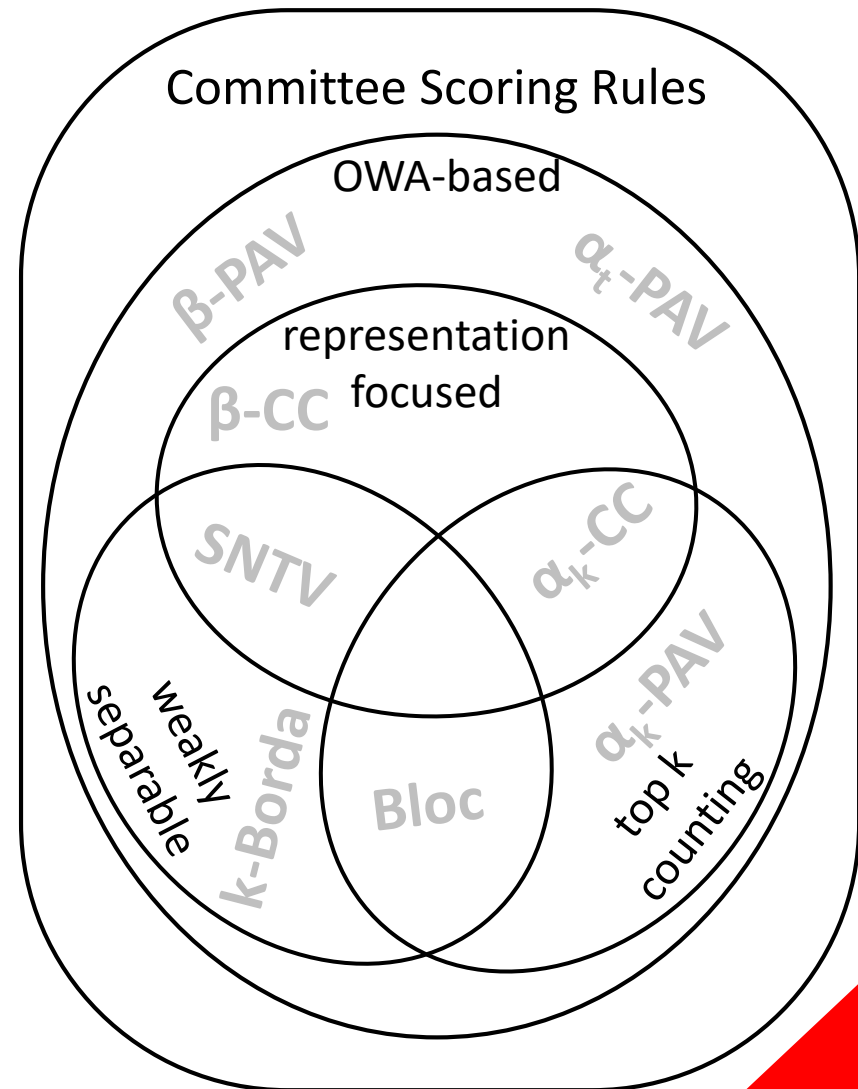
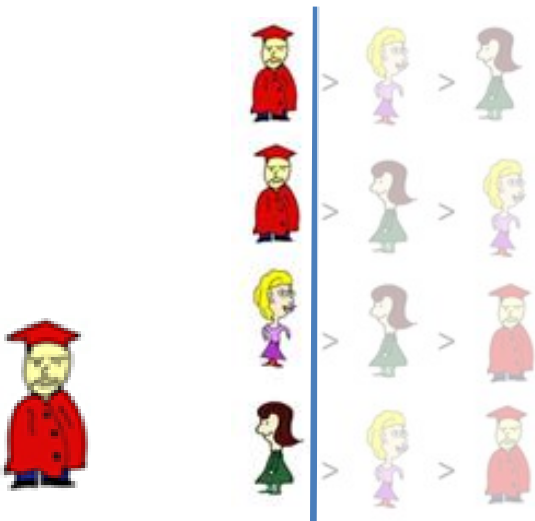
# Nature of the Committees

(Individual Excellence)

# Committee Scoring Rules

**Committee Monotonicity:** If a candidate is selected for a committee of size  $k$ , then this candidate is also selected for committee of size  $k+1$

## Problem with Bloc

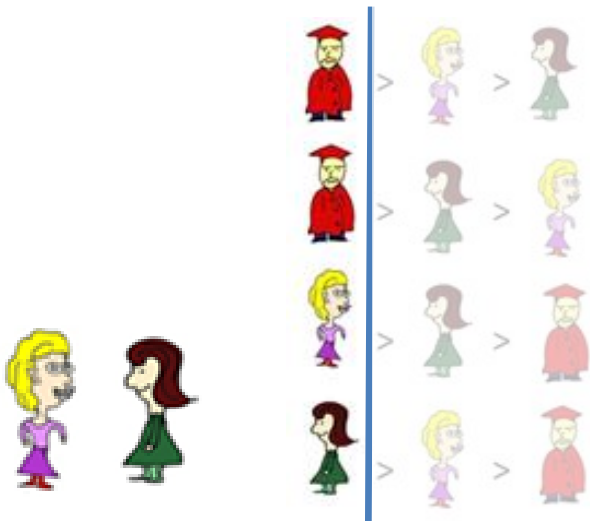


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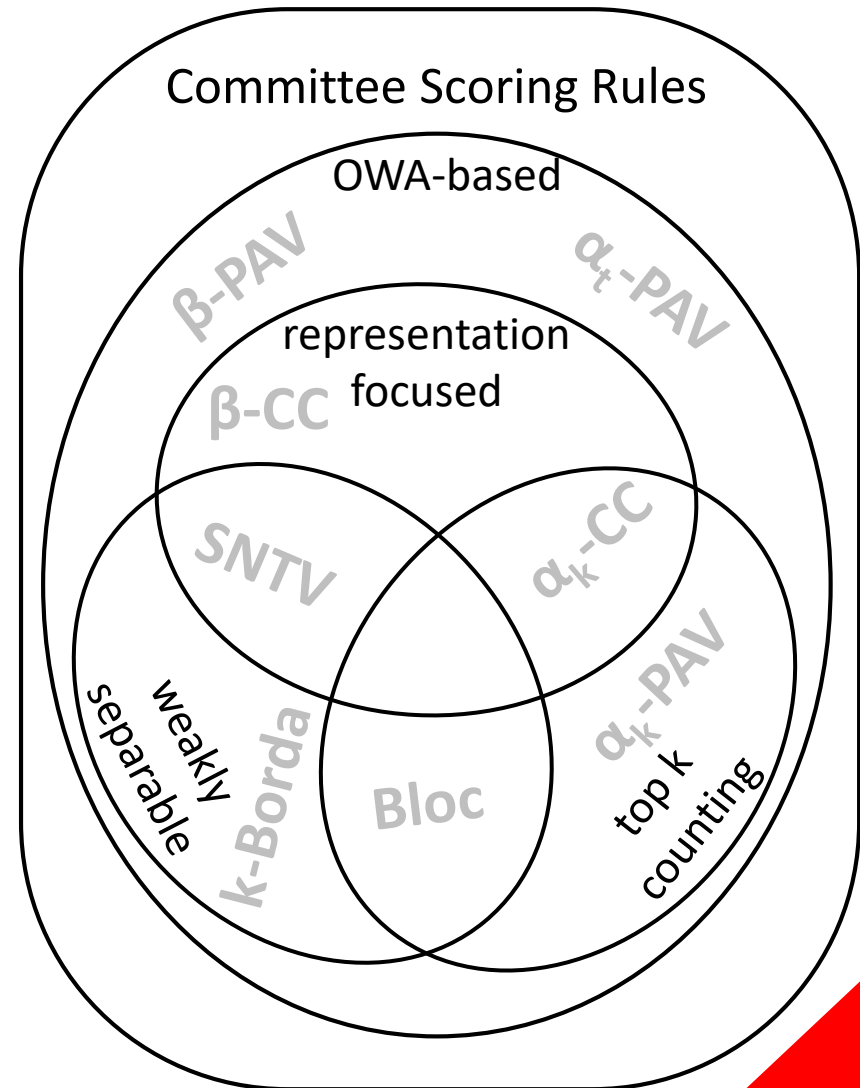
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# Committee Scoring Rules

**Committee Monotonicity:** If a candidate is selected for a committee of size  $k$ , then this candidate is also selected for committee of size  $k+1$

**Theorem** A committee scoring rule is committee monotone if and only if it is separable.

## Separable Rules

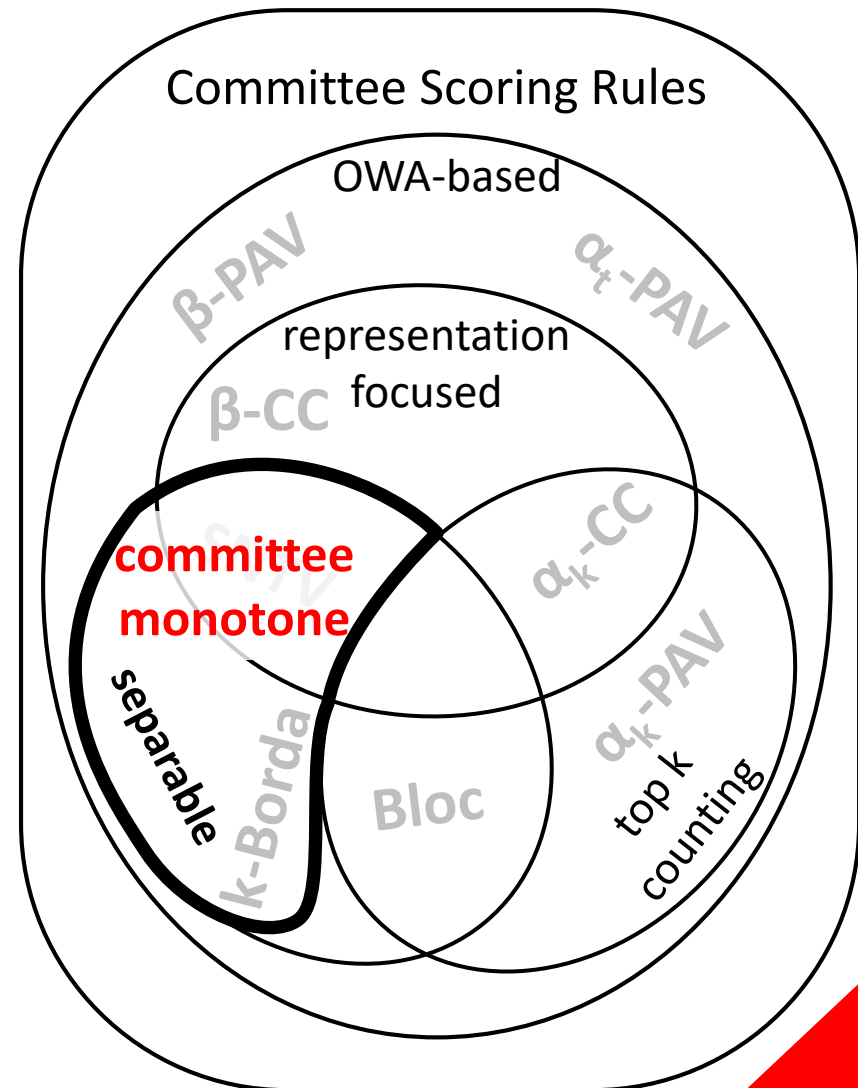
SNTV:

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k-Borda:

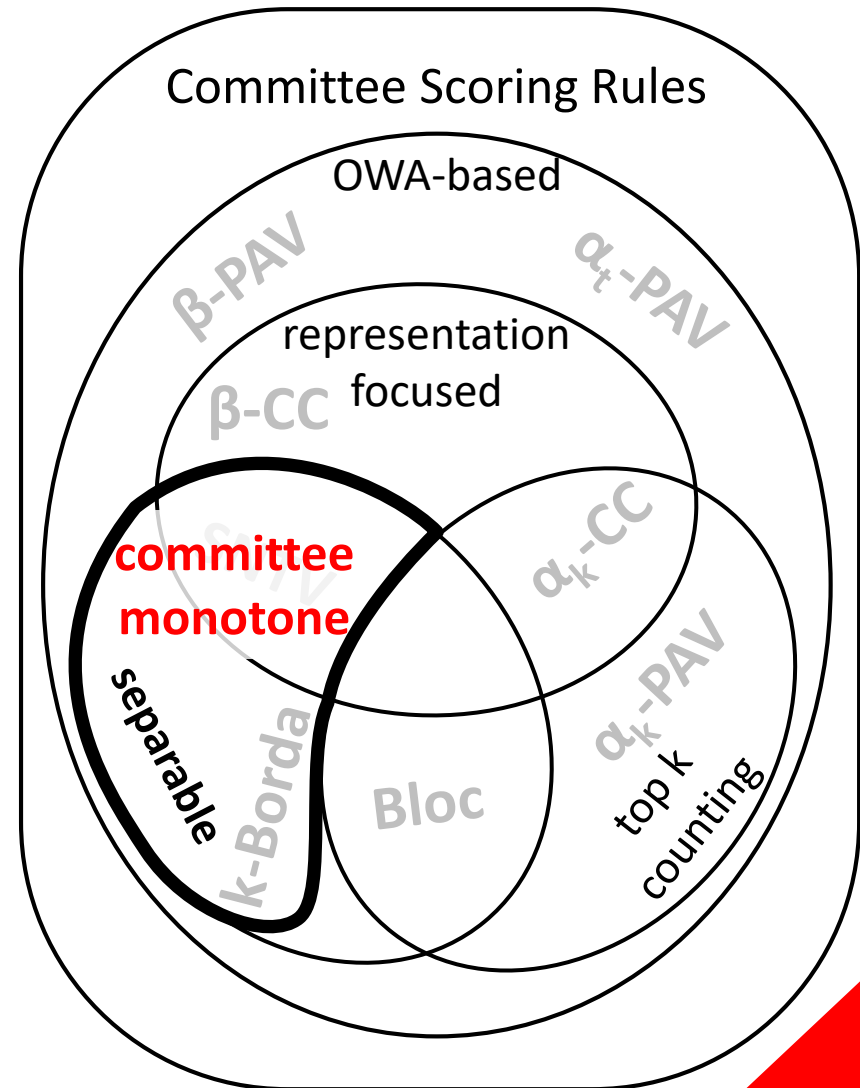
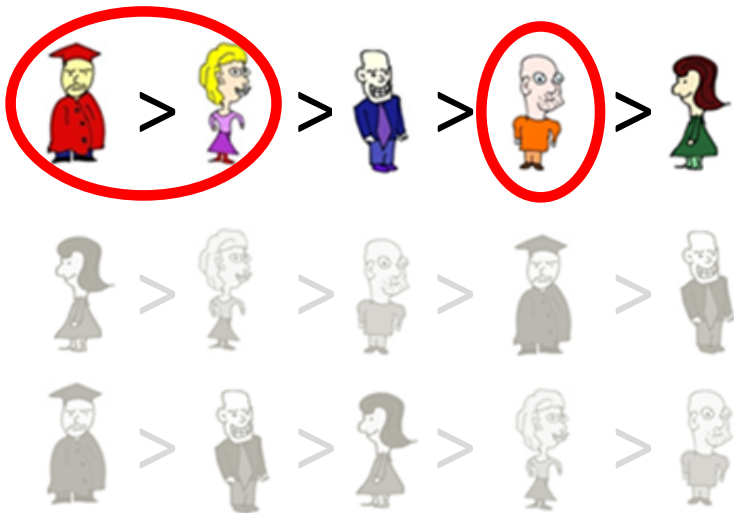
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# Committee Scoring Rules

**Noncrossing Monotonicity:** If a member of the winning committee is moved forward (without passing another committee member), the committee is still winning

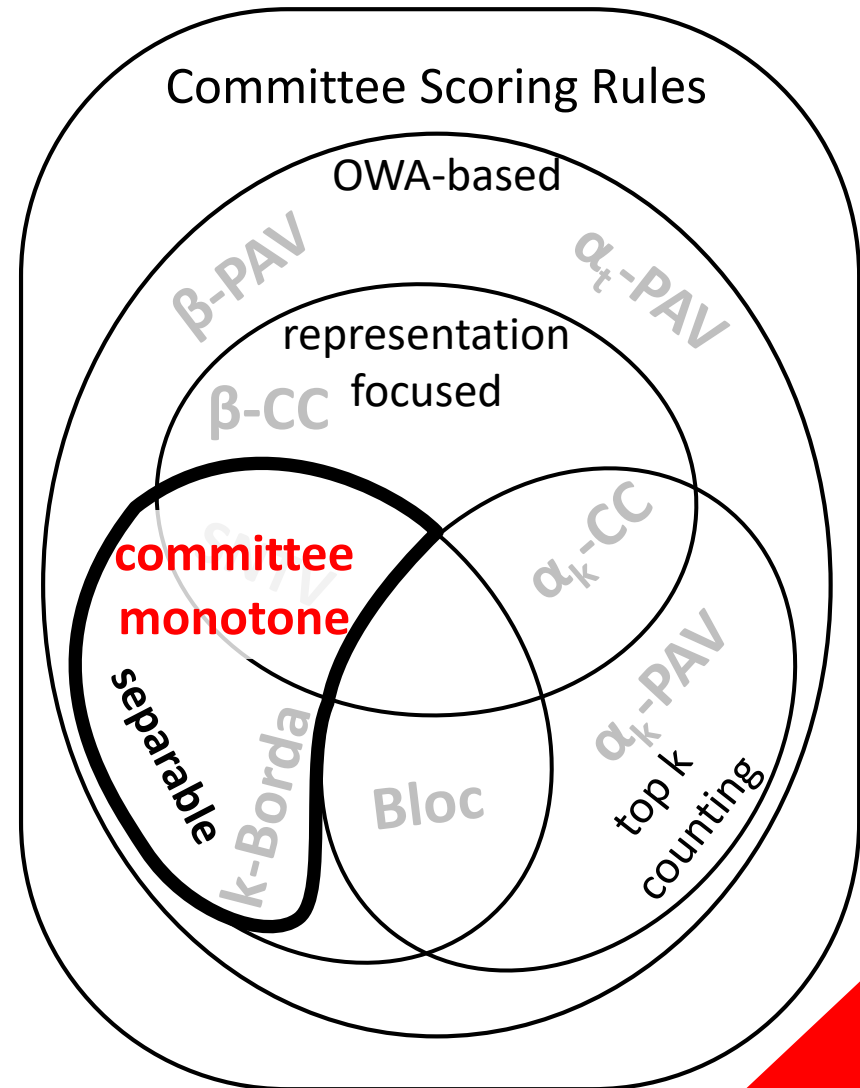
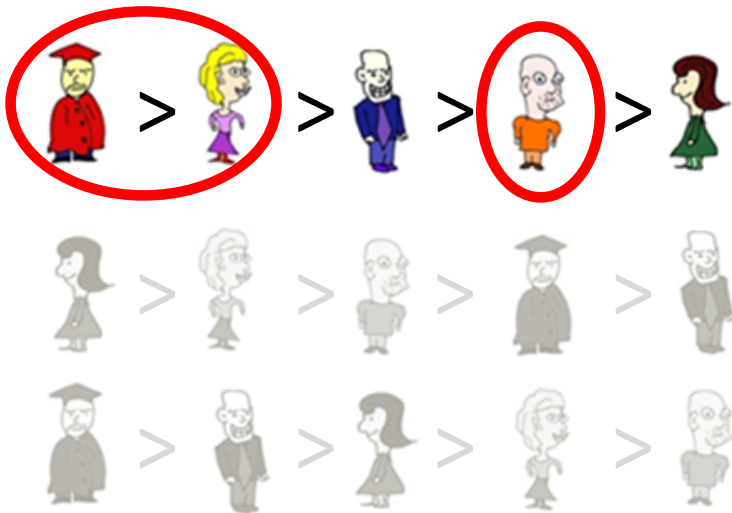


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# Committee Scoring Rules

**Noncrossing Monotonicity:** If a member of the winning committee is moved forward (without passing another committee member), the committee is still winning

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## Weakly Separable Rules

**SNTV:**

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_1(i_1)$$

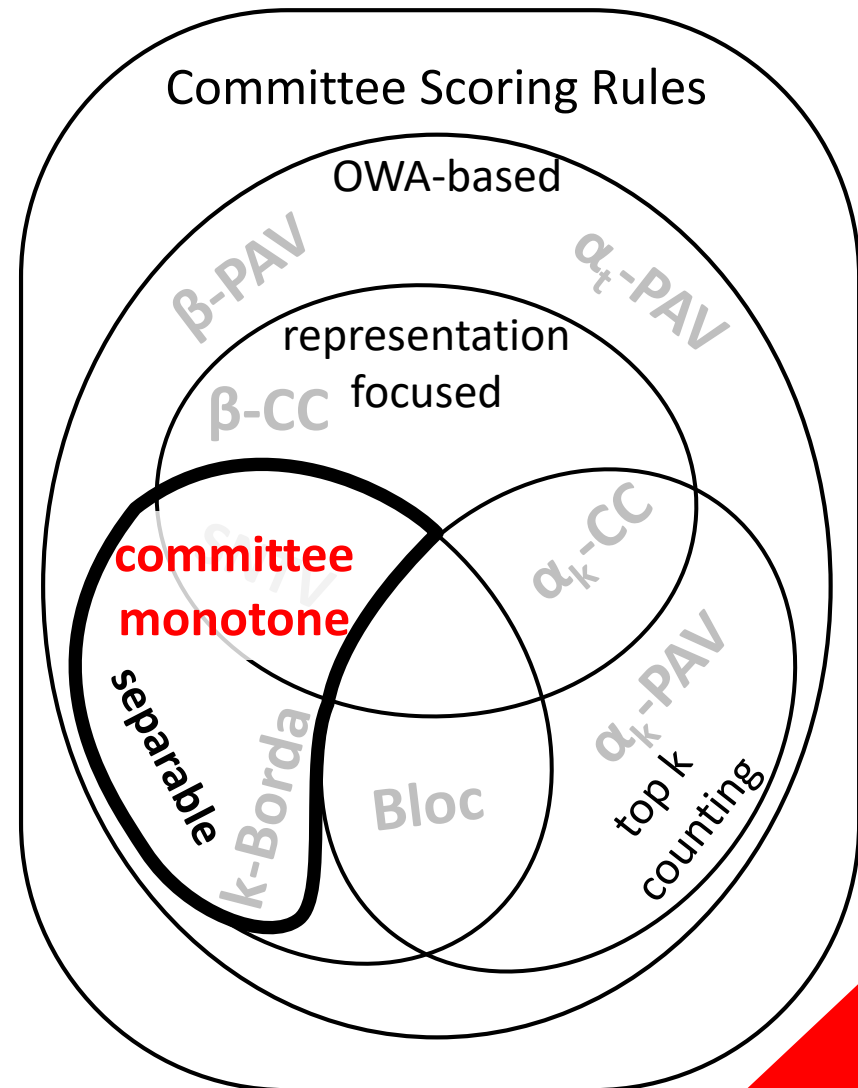
**Bloc:**

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**k-Borda:**

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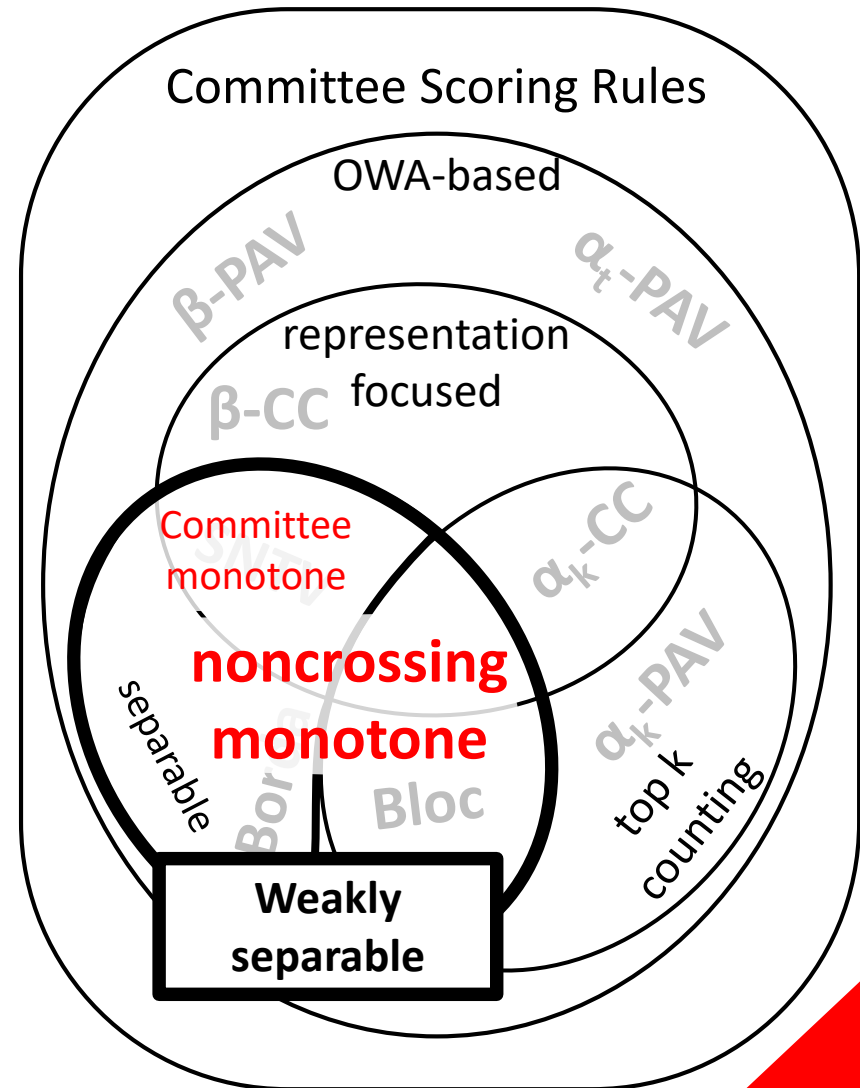
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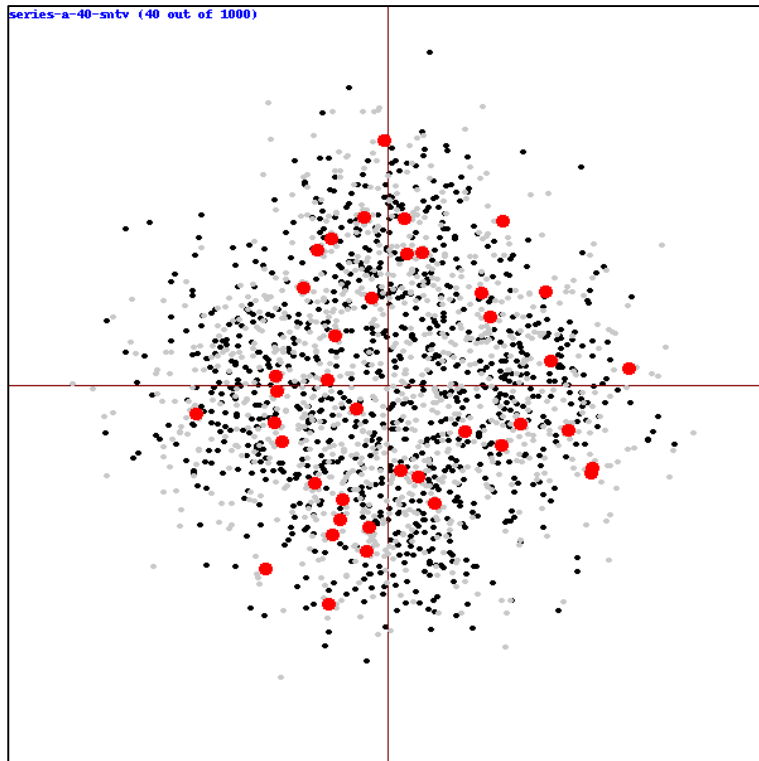
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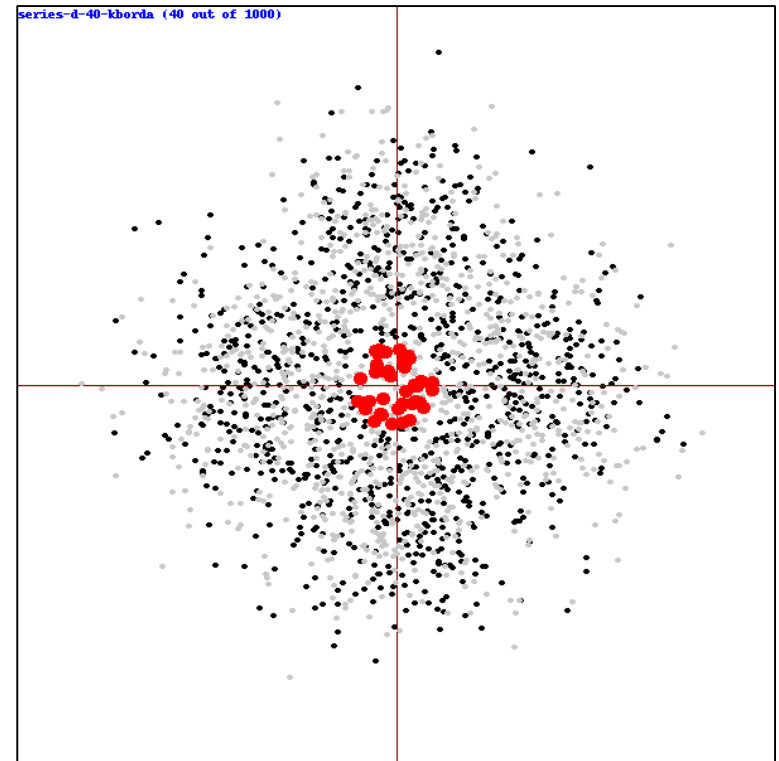


# Is SNTV really good for individual excellence?

SNTV



k-Borda



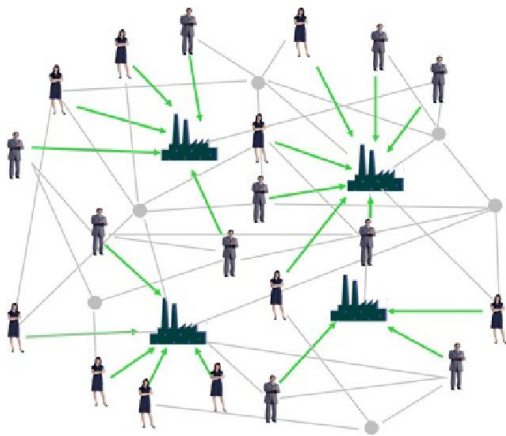


# Nature of the Committees (Diveristy/Coverage)

# Applications Requiring Diversity/Coverage

Instead of finding the “best” candidates (recall Excellence) we aim at covering **all** views of the electorate

Some applications:



Where to place facilities?

Which products to produce?

Which products to advertise?

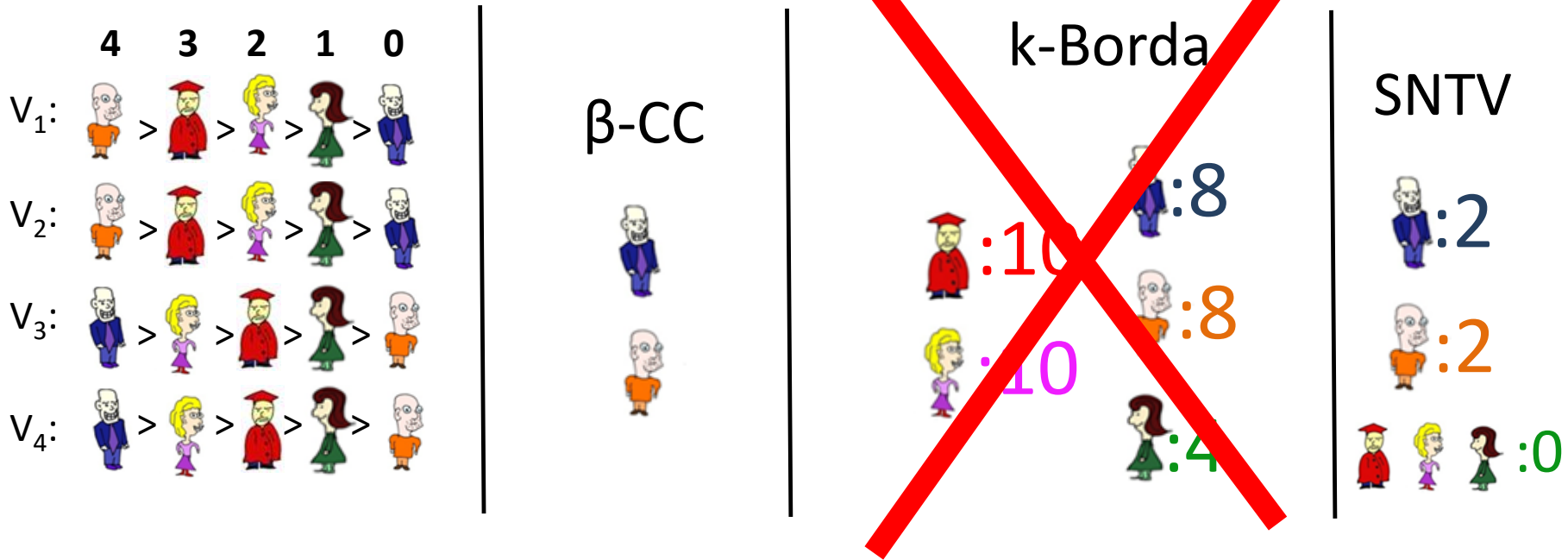
# Axioms for Diversity: Narrow Top

## Narrow Top

A rule satisfies the **narrow top** criterion if whenever there is a set  $W$  of  $k$  candidates such that each voter ranks first a member of  $W$ , then  $W$  is a winning committee

and SNTV

$\beta$ -CC satisfies narrow top  
k-Borda (e.g.,) does not



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**Theorem** If a committee scoring rule is representation-focused then it is narrow-top consistent.

## Representation-Focused Rules

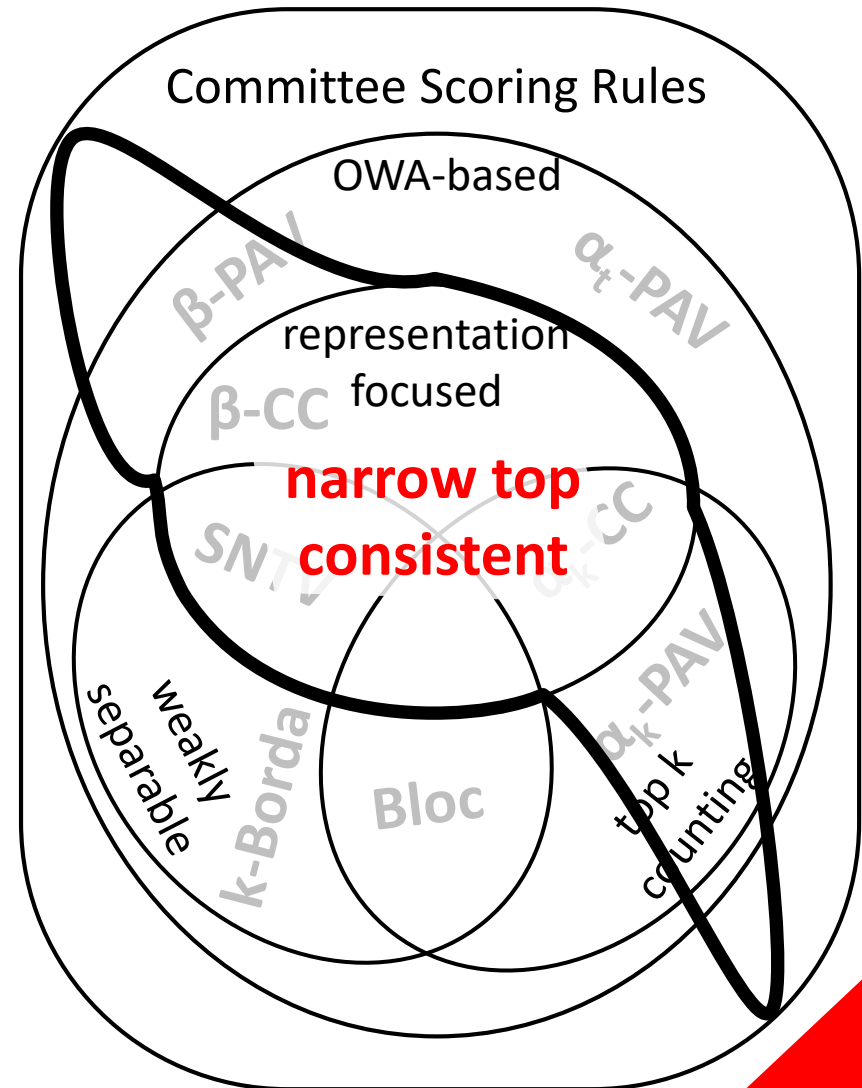
SNTV:

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \alpha_1(i_1)$$

$\beta$ -CC:

$$f(i_1, \dots, i_k) = \beta(i_1)$$

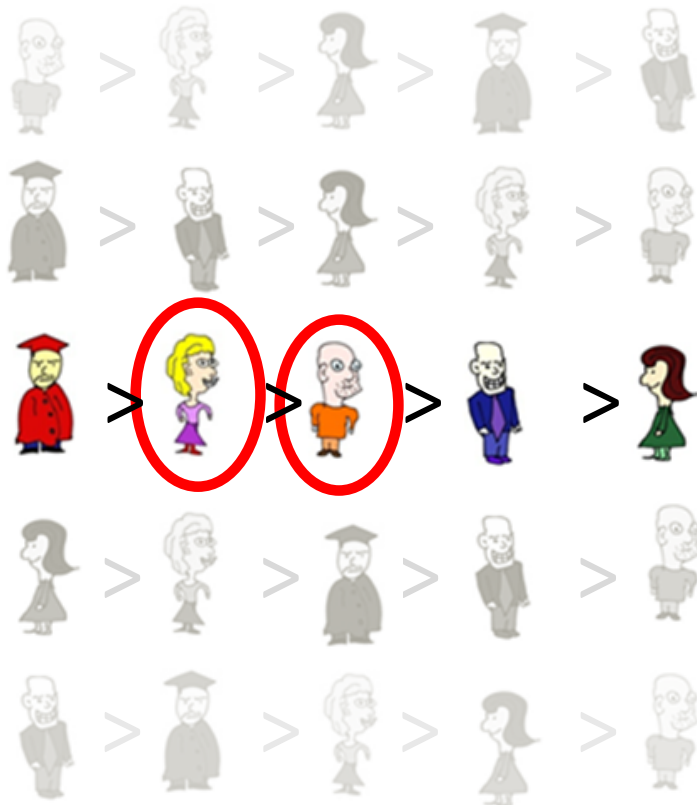
[FSST16] P. Faliszewski, P. Skowron, A. Slinko, N. Talmon, Committee Scoring Rules: Axiomatic Classification and Hierarchy, AAAI-2016





# Axiom: Top-member monotonicity

**Top-Member Monotonicity:** If the highest ranked member of the winning committee is moved forward, the committee still wins.

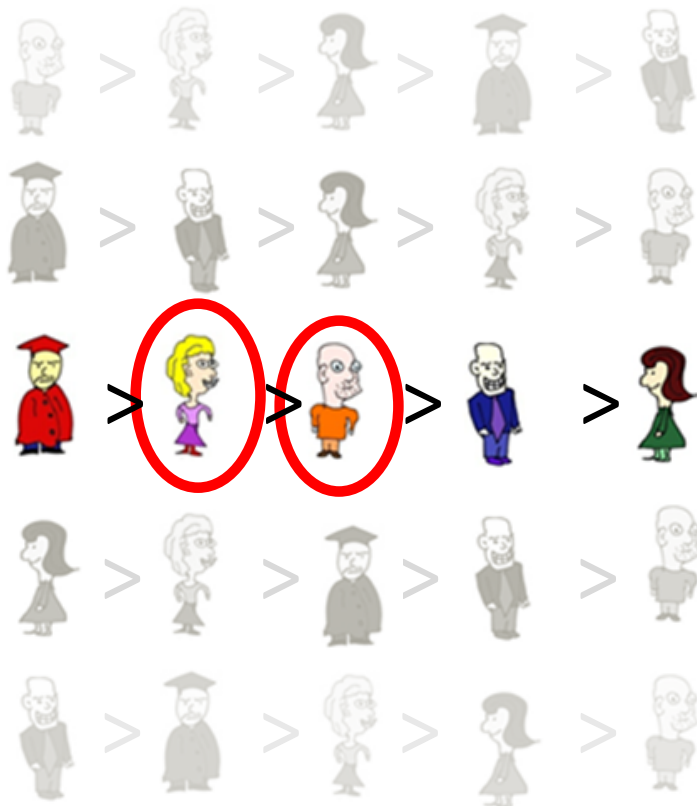


$$\text{score}(\text{woman}, \text{man}) = X$$

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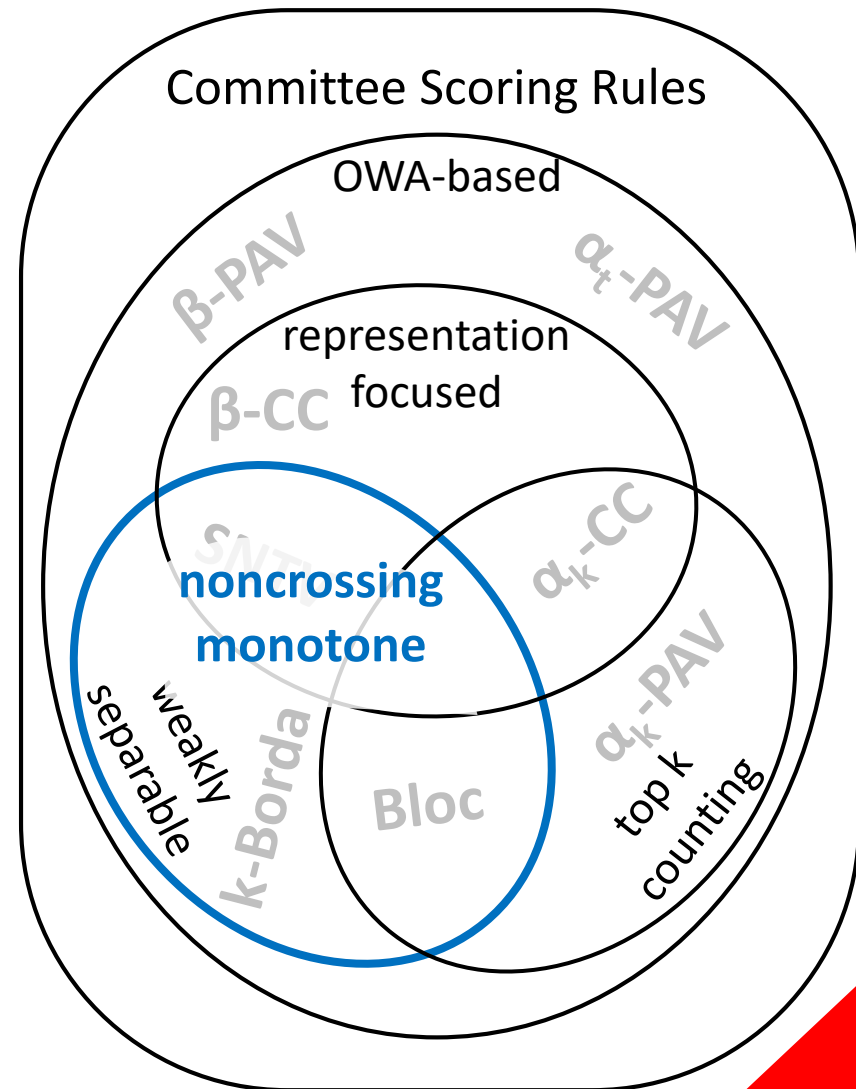


$$\text{score}(\text{woman}, \text{man}) = X+1$$

The shift gives the same number of points to every committee where the candidate is top member

# Axiom: Top-member monotonicity

**Noncrossing Monotonicity:** If a member of the winning committee is moved forward (without passing another committee member), the committee is still winning

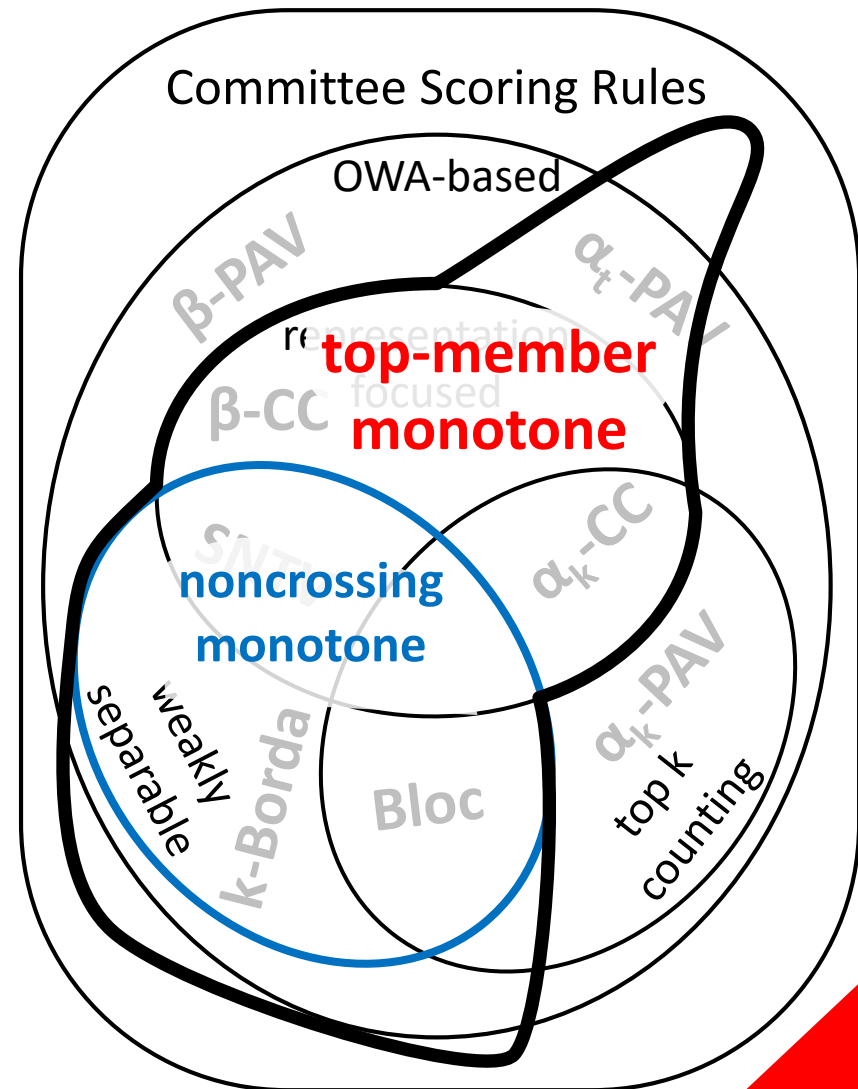


[FSST16] P. Faliszewski, P. Skowron, A. Slinko, N. Talmon, Committee Scoring Rules: Axiomatic Classification and Hierarchy, AAAI-2016

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# Axioms: Narrow Top + Top Member Monotonicity

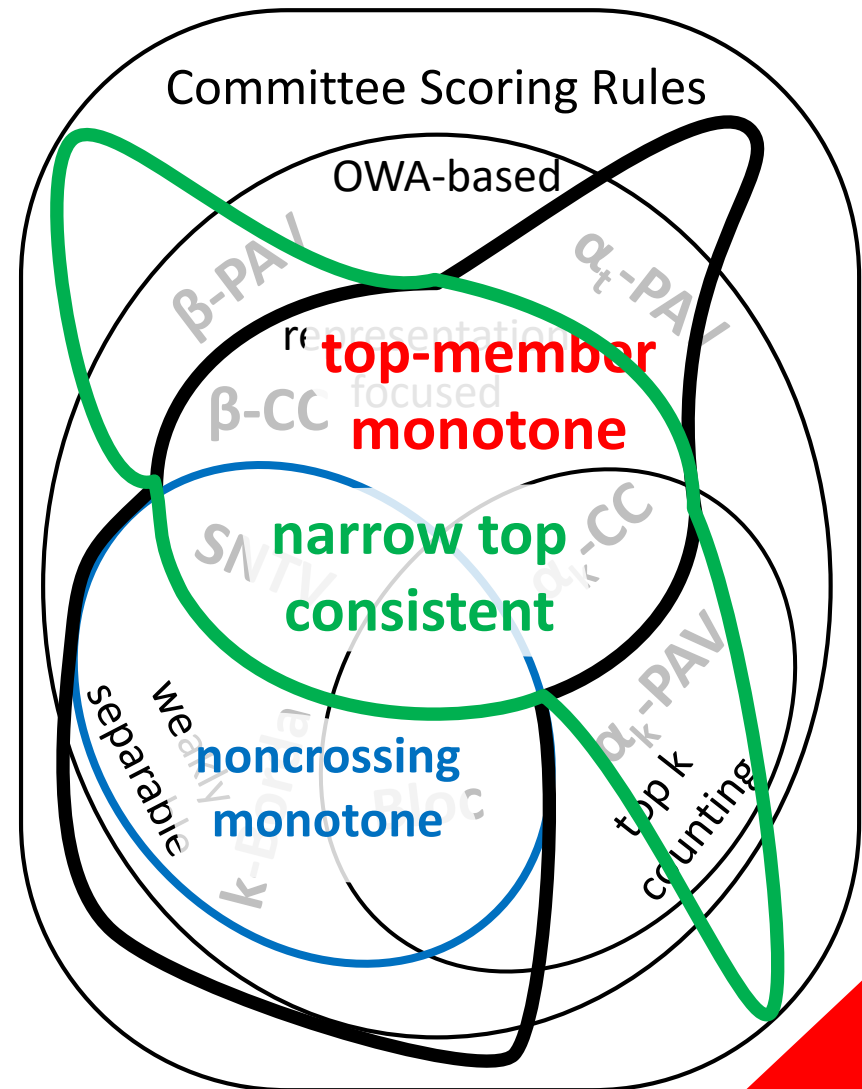
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[FSST16] P. Faliszewski, P. Skowron, A. Slinko, N. Talmon, Committee Scoring Rules: Axiomatic Classification and Hierarchy, AAAI-2016



# Axioms: Narrow Top + Top Member Monotonicity

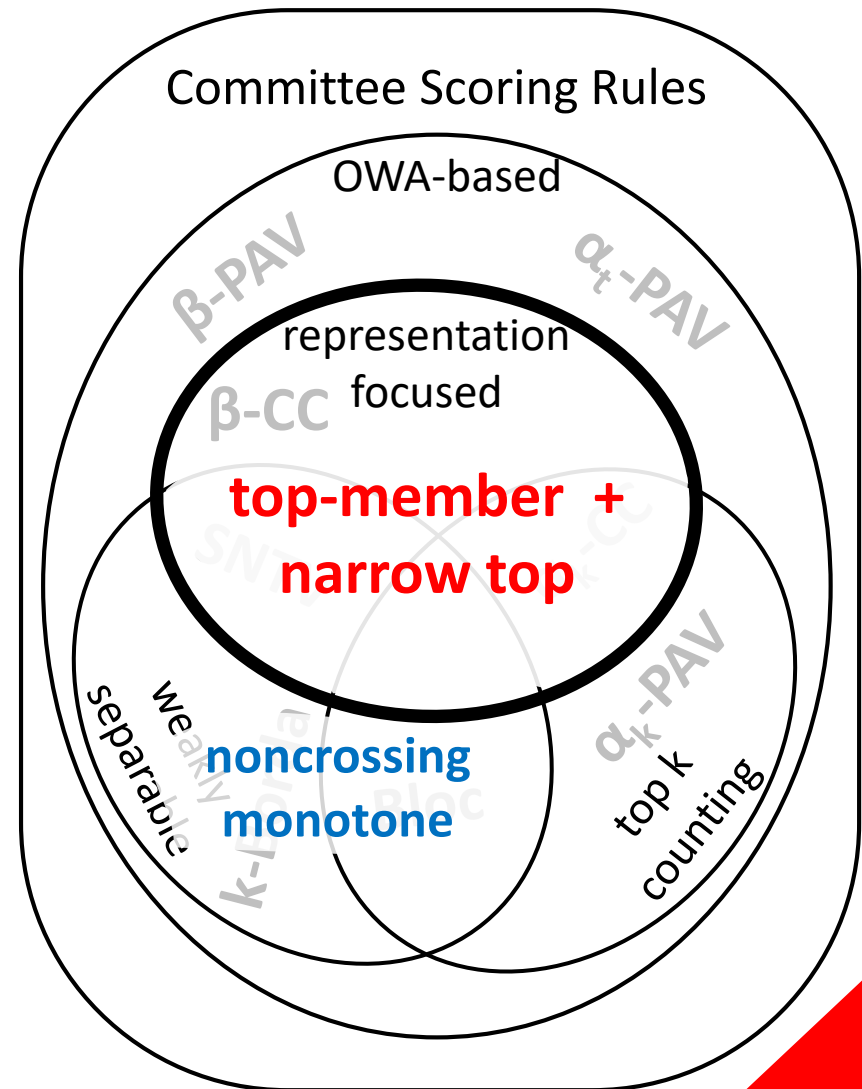
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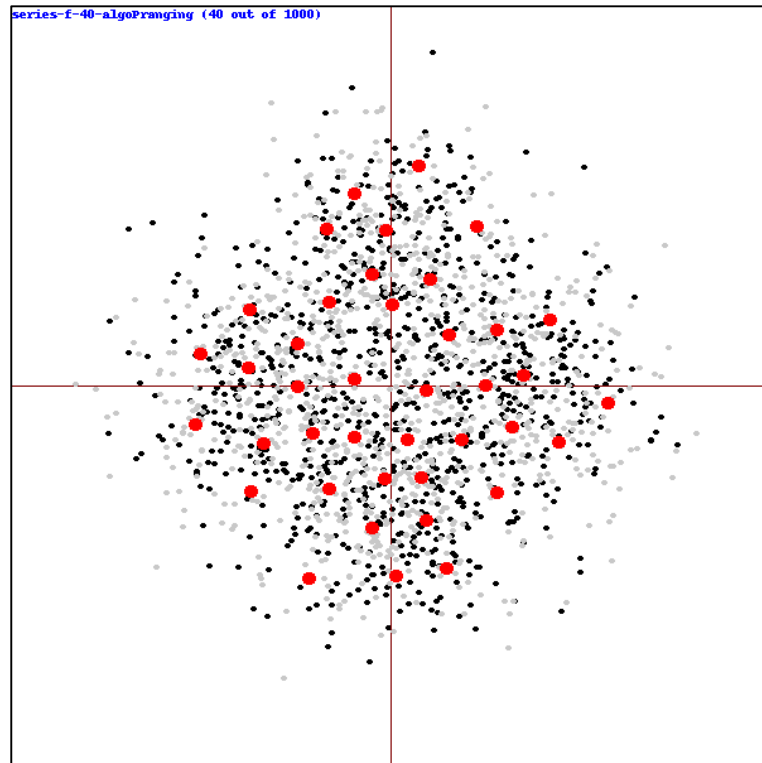
## Narrow Top

A rule satisfies the **narrow top** criterion if whenever there is a set  $W$  of  $k$  candidates such that each voter ranks first a member of  $W$ , then  $W$  is a winning committee

**Theorem** A committee scoring rule is representation focused if and only if it is top-member monotone and consistent with the narrow-top principle.

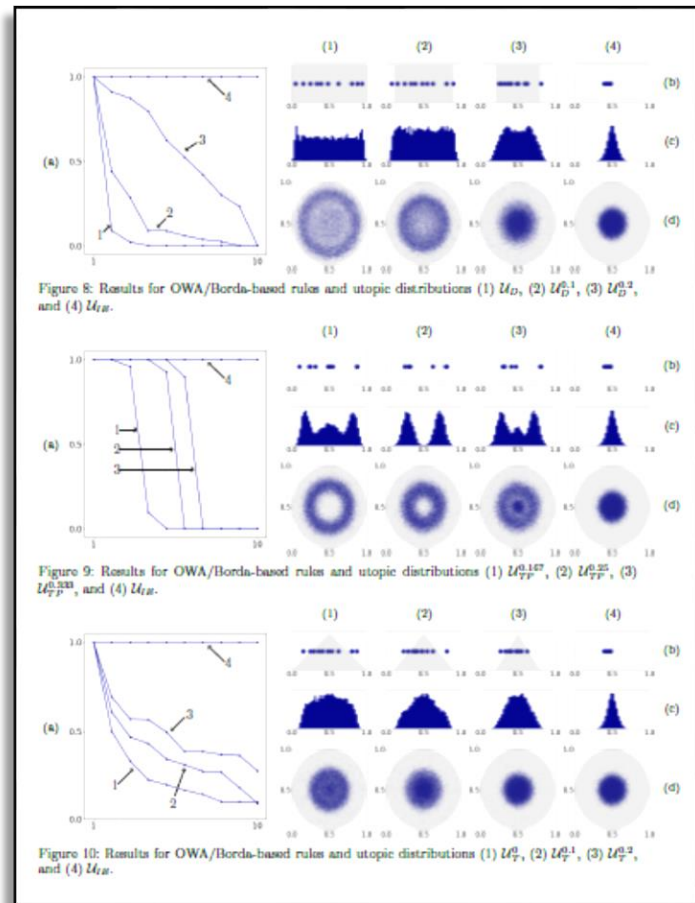
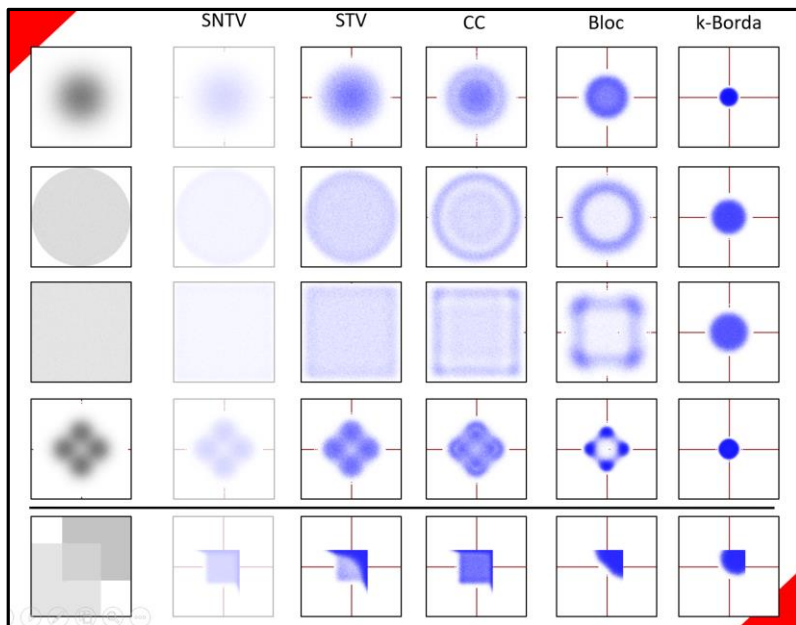


# Chamberlin—Courant is good for diversity



# Challenges

- How to choose the right rules?
  - How to decide if a rule is good?
  - How to design one?
  - How to compute committees?





# Challenges

- **How to choose the right rules?**

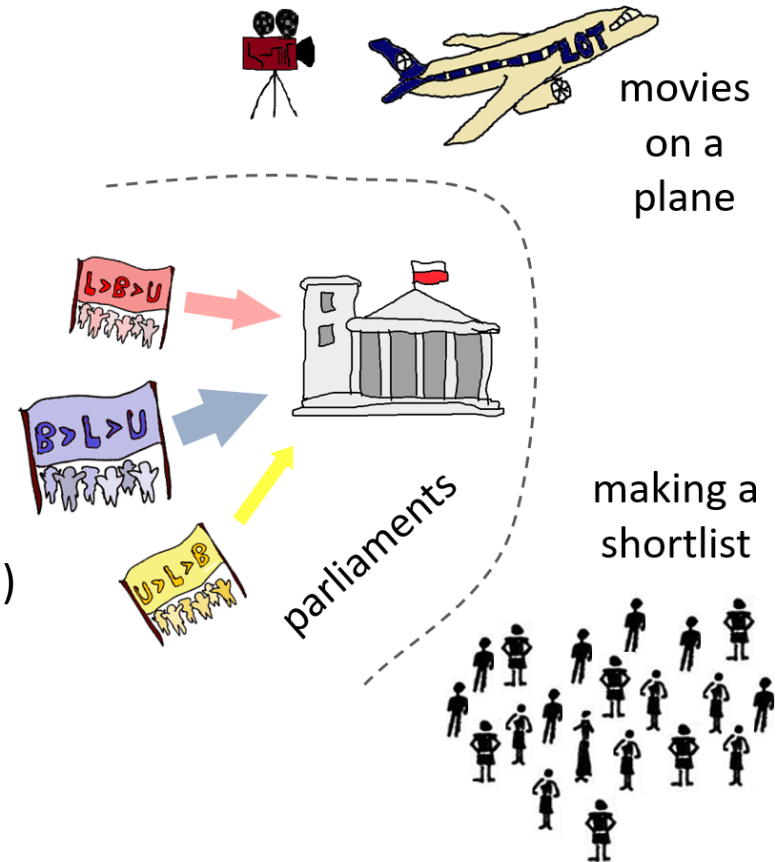
- How to decide if a rule is good?
- How to design one?
- How to compute committees?

- **Practical applications?**

- Participatory budgeting (getting there ...)
- Portfolio selection – possibly
- Sports – yeah!
- Politics? Nah...

- **How meaningful are current results?**

- Game theory can help/spoil the results?
- How people vote in reality?



# Thank You!

<https://github.com/elektronaj/MW2D>

**Multiwinner Voting: A New Challenge for  
Social Choice Theory**, P. Faliszewski,  
P. Skowron, A. Slinko, N. Talmon, Trends in  
Computational Social Choice, 2017