## Imperfectly Informed Voters and Strategic Extremism

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## Abstract

A unidimensional model of two-candidate elections is developed under the assumption that voters have incomplete information about the candidates' policy proposals. We consider that candidates are purely office motivated and that voters cannot observe the exact policy proposals of the candidates but only which candidate offers the most leftist/rightist platform. We analyze various setups (discrete/continuous policy spaces, candidates of equal/unequal valence, perfect/imperfect information about the voters' preferences, (in)existence of a fraction of perfectly informed voters) and we show that, in equilibrium, "extremism" is the most common candidate behavior. In particular, for the unequal valence case we show that the unique equilibrium prediction is maximum differentiation.