

# More parties - cheaper to bribe?

Marina Bannikova

URV

## **Abstract**

A parliament formed by parties must decide whether to accept or reject a certain proposal. Each member of the parliament votes in favor or against according to the party line. The proposal is rejected if the number of positively voted members is fewer than the acceptance threshold. A non-member of the parliament, the briber, is interested in having the proposal accepted. To this end, he or she is willing to bribe members who vote against to induce them to vote in favour. We determine the average number of seats that the briber has to bribe to pass the threshold in parliaments with different number of parties. We find that the average number of seats needed to be bribed decreases with the increase of number of parties. Restricting the minimal number of seats a party can occupy, we show that the election threshold reduces the average number of seats to be bribed. Restricting the maximum number of seats a party can occupy, we find that under simple majority the average number of seats needed to be bribed is smaller for parliaments where one party has majority, but under qualified majority it hardly changes.