

POLI 100B: Congress

Agenda Topic 4: Ideology, Party, and Polarization in Congress

A. The Spatial (Geometric) Model of Voting and Party Competition: Theory

- 1. The Median Voter Theorem**
- 2. Utility Functions and Indifference Curves**
- 3. Constraint: The Role of Ideology**

B. Estimating Spatial (Geometric) Maps of Voting and Party Competition

- 1. Roll Call Voting in Congress**
 - a. Driving Distances and Geographic Maps**
 - b. Disagreement Scores and Ideological Maps**
 - c. The *Unfolding* Problem**
 - d. The Spatial (Geometric) Model of Roll Call Voting**

- 2. The Basic Space of American Politics**

C. The Polarization of American Politics

- 1. Political Party Means 1879 – 2006**
- 2. The Disappearance of Moderate Legislators**