



OCTOBER 14, 2024

ADVENTURES IN DEMOCRATIC
DECISION MAKING

LOGISTICS

Adrian Haret
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First, let's get to know each other.

ABOUT ME



ADRIAN HARET

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Chair in Philosophy and Decision Theory
MCMP, LMU Munich

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🔗 <https://adrianharet.github.io>

ABOUT ME

Background in Philosophy, at the University of Bucharest.

Switched to Computer Science, with a PhD in the logic of belief change at TU Wien.

Followed by Postdoc in Computational Social Choice at the University of Amsterdam.

Write to me!

Or drop by, I'm in office 032.

Your turn!

FORMAT

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In-person, on campus, 2hrs each.

45 mins + 15 mins break (to ask questions, take naps) + 45 mins.

Any slides will be posted online after the sessions.*

Discussions based on main text(s).

Potentially, these can be led by students.

*<https://adrianharet.github.io/adventures-in-democratic-decision-making>

SCHEDULE

One lecture per week

Monday, 12:00 - 14:00, Room 021 (here!)

FIRST LECTURE

October 14, 2024 (now!)

NO LECTURE

December 23, 2024 (Christmas)

LAST LECTURE

February 3, 2025

EVALUATION

GRADE

Four elements, which can be either of:

- small essay (3-5 pages)
- oral presentation of one of the texts discussed
- implementation/simulation of some of the ideas

These can be mixed any which way is more convenient, e.g., a 6-10 page essay instead of two smaller essays.

Ideal: one oral presentation, one small mid-term essay, one final essay (= 2 smaller essays).

Essays can be:

- research on some topic that caught your interest
- review of relevant literature, e.g., a paper
- tackling a research question
- coding up something (a simulation) and reporting the results

ETIQUETTE

PERSONAL WORK

Don't plagiarize, etc.

RESPECT TOWARDS PEERS

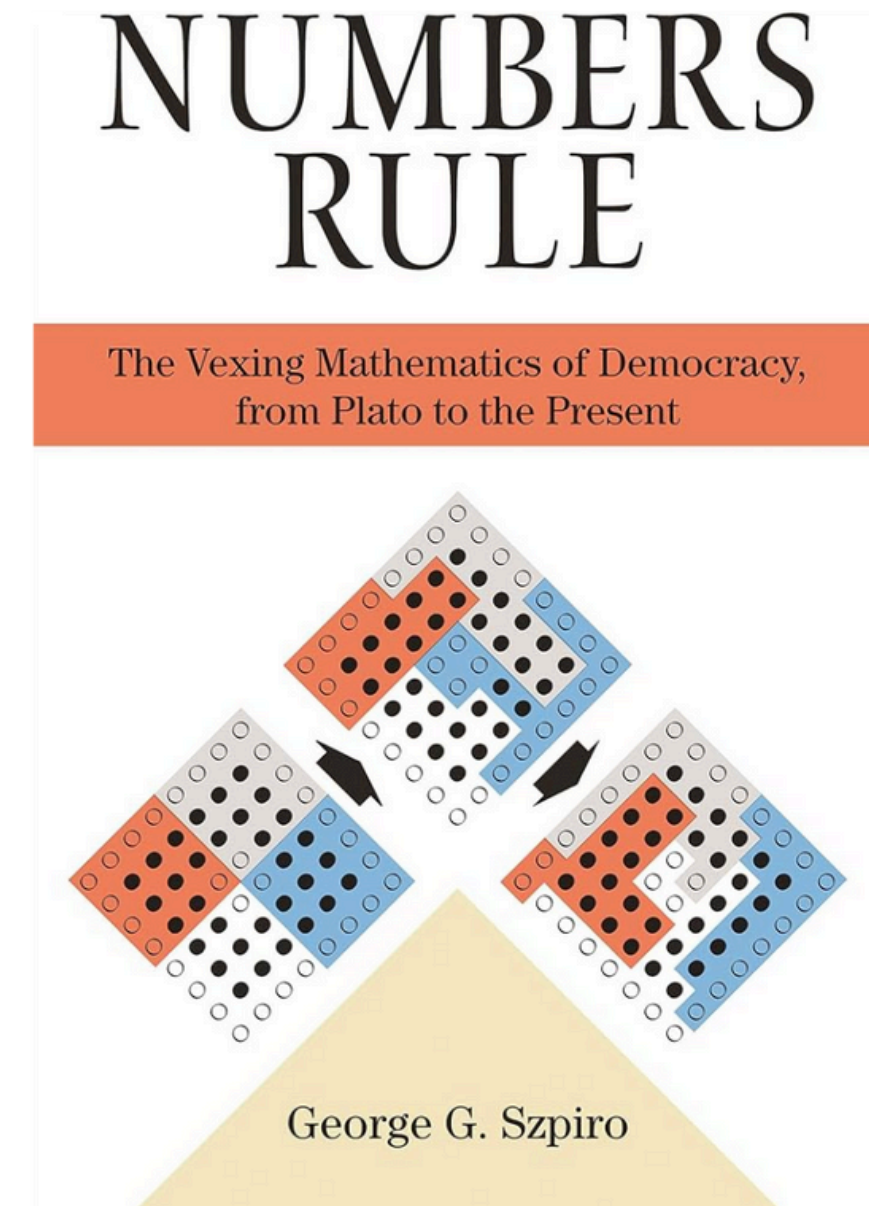
Please.

QUESTIONS DURING LECTURES

Yes!

Feel free to interrupt and ask.

MAIN TEXT



Numbers Rule: The Vexing Mathematics of Democracy, from Plato to the Present

GEORGE G. SZPIRO

Princeton University Press
2010

TOPIC

SOCIAL CHOICE

The science and art of group decisions.

At the intersection of political science, philosophy, economics and mathematics.

The class is intended to be a soft introduction to the main themes.

Through interesting case studies, documented in Szpiro's book.

AIMS

SINK YOUR TEETH INTO THIS FASCINATING TOPIC

Very interdisciplinary topic, with broad reach.

SEE WHAT IS SO 'VEXING' ABOUT DEMOCRACY

How individual decisions get compiled into aggregate behaviors.

What we want, what we can get, what can go wrong.

Understand the formal structure of social procedures.

Examples of collective decisions?