

CS-234

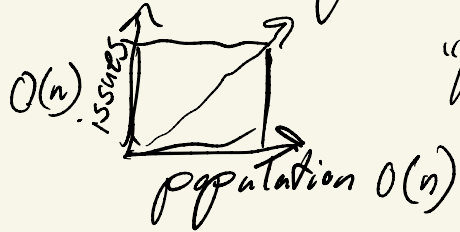
Technologies for  
Democratic society

Fall 2024

Week 7

# Liquid / delegative democracy

Balance / midpoint between direct & rep. democracy



pure direct  
democracy total  
"work"  $O(n^2)$

Bring more individual choice of participation

- how much to participate

- on what topics to participate

Forum with many topics / room / groups

each participant has 1 "original" vote on each topic

can vote directly or delegate

# History

- Lewis Carroll - proposed "ballot clubbing"
- Gordon Mohr 1960s - in-person voting w/ delegation
- 2000 - many near proposals "liquid democracy"
- 200x - LiquidFeedback - German pirate party - sayke

Adhocracy  
Democracy. OS

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# Design space / issues

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- What kind of voting? Granularity?
- Transitive delegation?
- Delegation cycles
- Concentration of voting power
- Delegate whole votes, or can split?  
alternative: rank-order delegation
- Identity, anonymity vs accountability
- Vote coercion: transparency vs free agency

# Coercion issue - potential solutions

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- Ignore problem
- Threshold: public  $> t$  private  $< 1$   
public  $> t$  individual  $< 1$
- free choice
- separate exercise of individual (private) votes  
delegated (public) votes
- microparties