Gallic arithmetics

(July 2024)

Let us examine recent parliamentarian elections in the land of Blaise Pascal [1] and René Descartes [2].

Three main political segments vied for control of Parliament.

Let's style the segments **A**, **B**, and **C**, in the order of the ballots obtained in the second round of elections, in which:

- **A** obtained **10,109,044** votes, while
- **B** got **7,039,429**, and
- **C** took **6,691,619**.

However, after thorough calculation on the *Pascaline*,

- **C** was given **157** seats in the second round, while
- **B** received **148**, and
- **A** took **104**.

In effect, one could contend that, in the second round:

- If one kilogram of parliamentarian of the **C** quality costs **1 dollar** to buy,
- You would need as much as **2 dollars and 28 cents** to buy one kilogram of parliamentarian of the **A** quality**.**

Or, conversely:

- If **one dollar** buys **one kilogram of** parliamentarian of the **C** quality,
- The same **one dollar** buys only **438 grams** of parliamentarian of the **A** quality.

Although there will probably be quite some rationalization coming from the followers of **C**, chances are that the cohorts of **A** will be tempted to loudly express their displeasure with the *Pascaline*.

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[1] 1623 – 1662: among other prowess, as reported by Wikipedia, "*Pascal, not yet 19, constructed a mechanical calculator capable of addition and subtraction, called Pascal's calculator or the Pascaline*."

[2] 1637: *Cogito, ergo sum*, in *Discourse on the Method*