"A RAGS-TO-FEATHER-BOAS HERO STRIKES GOLD" –PEOPLE

THE LADY CHABLIS

THE SIZZLING LIFE STORY OF THE
FABULOUS DRAG QUEEN FROM THE BESTSELLING
MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL

WITH THEODORE BOULOUKOS

HIDING MY CANDY

INTRODUCTION BY JOHN BERENDT

“Strategic Institutional Maintenance” (S.I.M.)

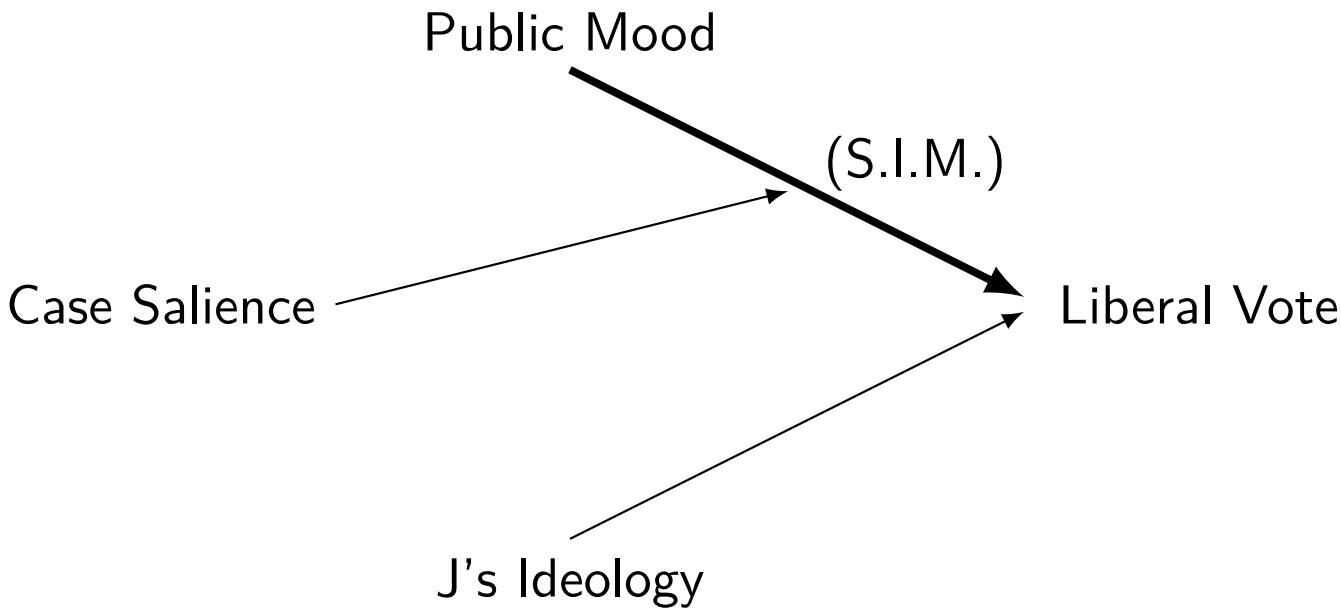
The Good:

- So hot right now
- Individual-level / psychological
- Plausible-ish

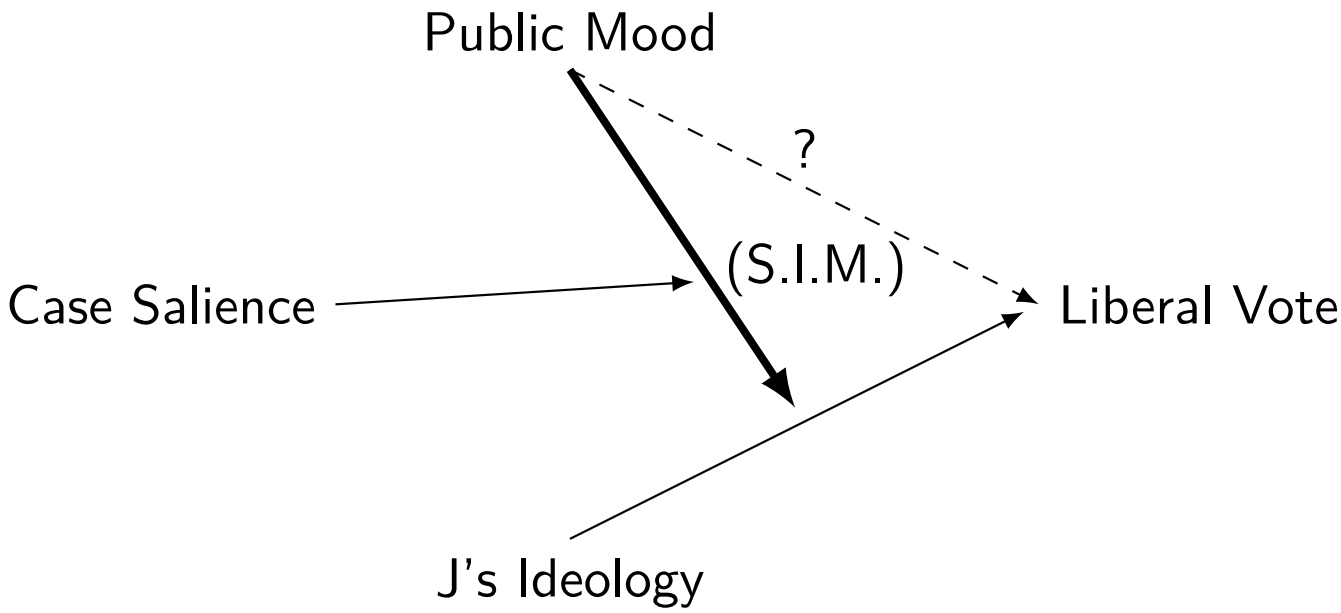
The Bad:

- Nobody agrees on anything
- Impossible to measure directly

What You're Doing



What (I Think) You Should Be Doing



Many Small Things

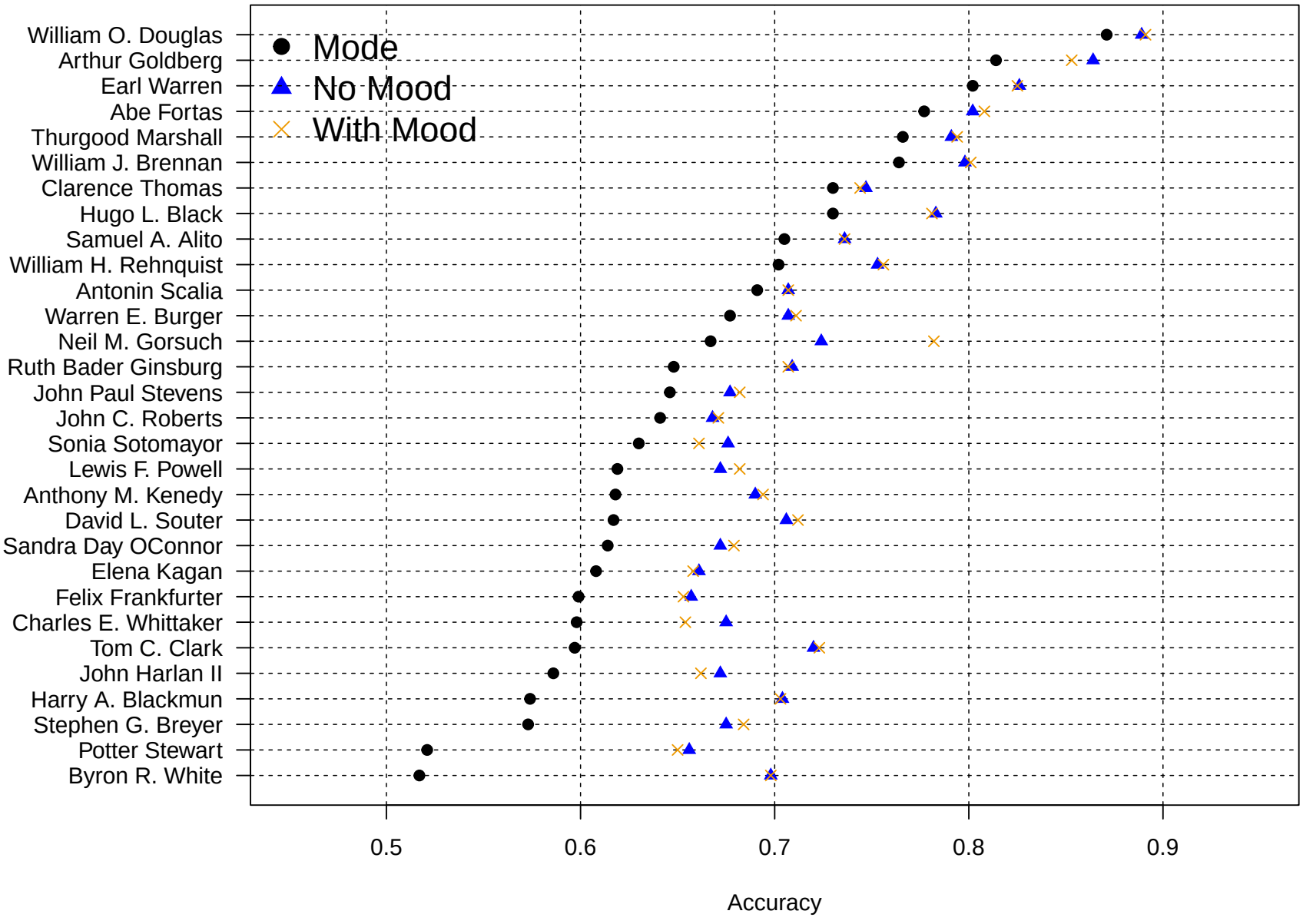
Random forest details:

- Classification or regression?
- Node depth, etc.
- Stratify by term? $\rightarrow$ Dimension(s) of variation (in *Mood*)
- Presentation of (+ claims about) permutation tests (Figure 3.1)
- Monotonicity / "Pushing" *Mood*. . . ?
- Interpretation:
  - *Highlight* variable importance
  - Same with minimal depth
  - Use available tools to discuss interactions, etc. (`ranger`, `randomForestSRC`, `rfInfer`, `grf`, `rfinterval`, `randomForestExplainer`, others)

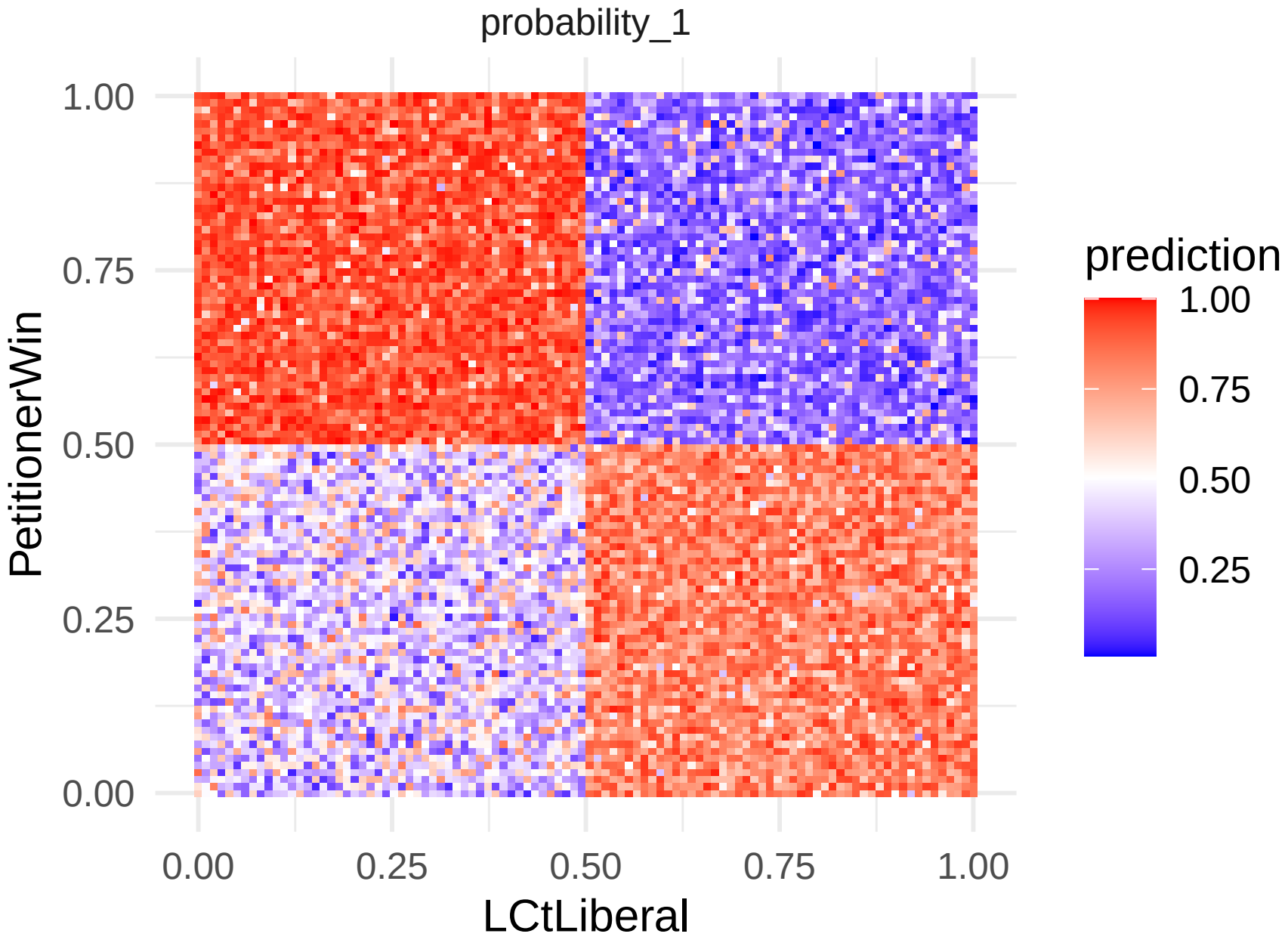
Other things:

- Endogeneity issues:
  - Justice Ideology $\leftrightarrow$ votes
  - Other predictors (e.g. decision type, amici, etc.)
- Issue-specific public opinion?
- Opinion text?

A Better Table 3.1



Interactions in Random Forests



More Generally: What's Going On

Micro ⟶ Macro

Project Organization

Chapter	**Level**	**Theory**	**Outcome**	**Predictor**	**Method**
Three	Individual	S.I.M.	Vote	*Mood*	RFs
Five	Justice-Year	"Drift"	Vote %	*Mood*	VAR
Six	Court-Year	Personnel Change	Decision %	*Mood*	VAR