

# Homework Session 2

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Let's look at a use application. This example is strongly inspired by a paper by Abou-Chadi and Krause (2020). They test to what extent the entry of Radical Right Parties (RPP) into parliament causes mainstream parties to adjust their positions. The threshold that they identify is the vote share of RPPs. By looking at parties with similar levels of voter support, but which either did or did not get into parliament, the authors compare the effects of getting elected versus not getting elected. They hypothesize that when a radical right party wins seats in parliament, this causes mainstream parties to adapt their positions. By focusing on this threshold for representation, they study the effect of the radical right's success on mainstream parties without worrying about the influence of public opinion, which can be hard to account for in regular regression studies.

## ***The Causal Effect of Radical Right Success on Mainstream Parties' Policy Positions: A Regression Discontinuity Approach***

TARIK ABOU-CHADI AND WERNER KRAUSE\*

This article investigates how the success of radical right parties affects the policy positions of mainstream parties. We do this using a regression discontinuity approach that allows us to causally attribute mainstream parties' positional changes to radical right strength independent of public opinion as a potential confounder. Making use of exogenous variation created through differences in electoral thresholds, we empirically demonstrate that radical right success, indeed, causally affects mainstream parties' positions. This is true for mainstream left as well as mainstream right parties. These findings make an important contribution to the broader literature on party competition as they indicate that other parties' behavior and not only public opinion plays a crucial role in explaining parties' policy shift.

You will have to use the data that I simulated for this. Again, this follows loosely the paper. I recommend you read the paper for this homework!

## 1) Plotting the data

Import the `mainstream_parties_simulated.csv` file which you can find in the data file of Session 5.

Next, I would like you to plot the effect of the vote share of the RRP on the mainstream party positions. Find a way to plot the shift of mainstream parties. Use a `facet_wrap()` per parties and highlight the discontinuity through a line where the running variable introduces a change.

### 1.1) Describe the research design

Is the RDD design fuzzy or sharp? What makes it fuzzy or sharp?

What is the treatment (cutoff), what is the outcome, and what is the running variable?

## 2) Running a regression

Run a regression to estimate the effect of the radical right parties' success on the mainstream party positions.

## 3) Interpret the results

Take the output of your RDD analysis and interpret it in your own words. This means to write something outside of the chunks of code ;)

Lastly, change the bandwidth slightly and re-interpret your results. That includes a new chunk of code, a new output of results and a new interpretation!

Abou-Chadi, Tarik, and Werner Krause. 2020. "The Causal Effect of Radical Right Success on Mainstream Parties' Policy Positions: A Regression Discontinuity Approach." *British Journal of Political Science* 50 (3): 829–47.