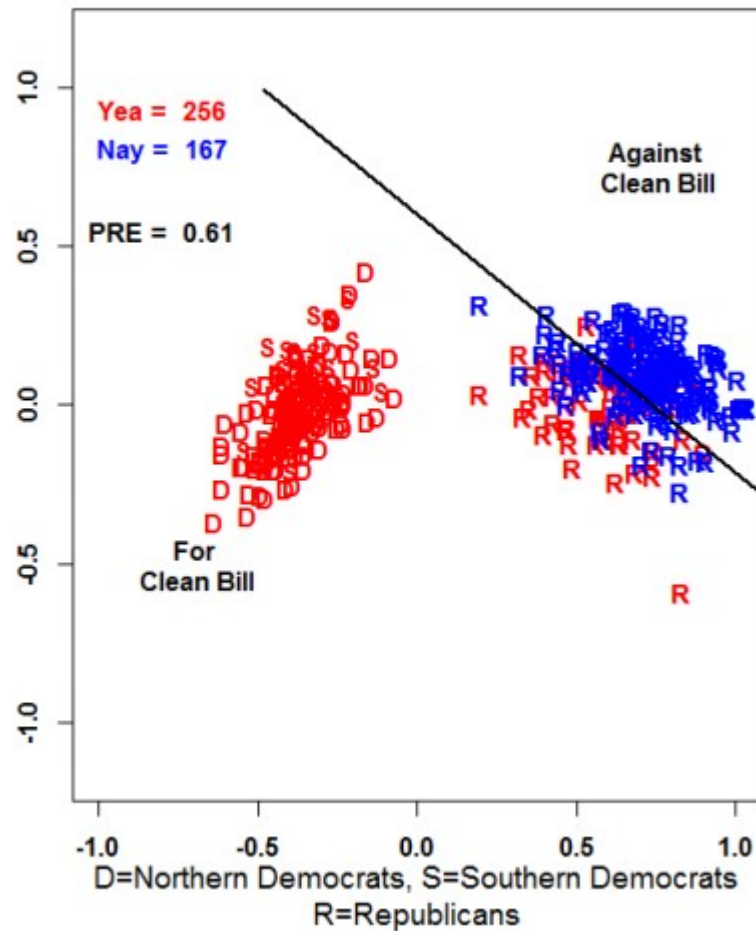
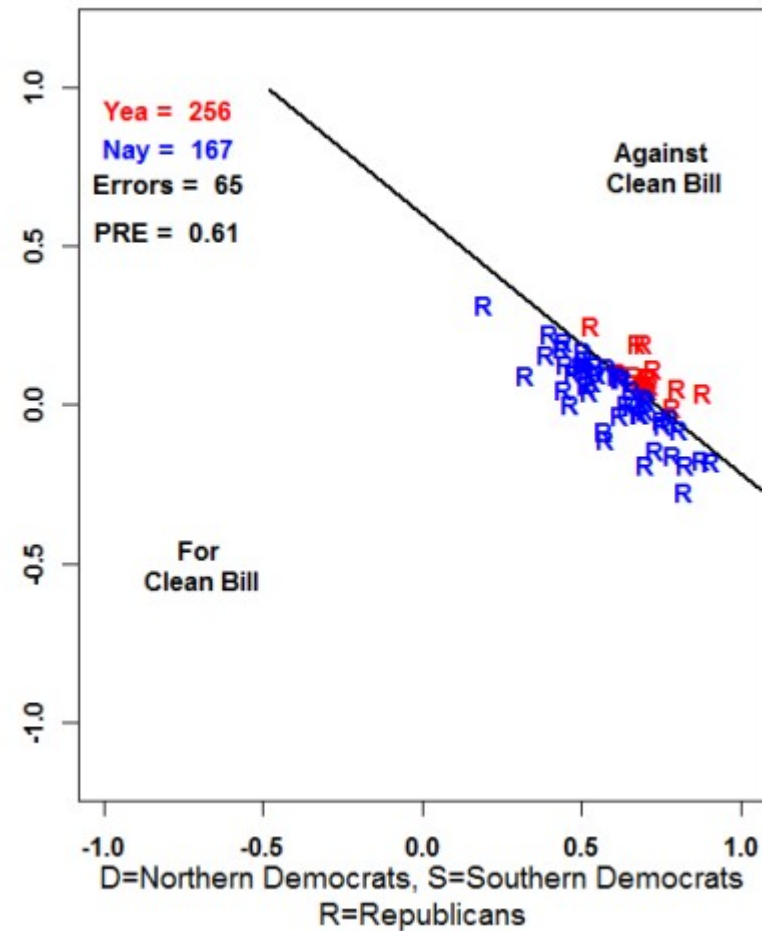


Rollcall Scaling in R

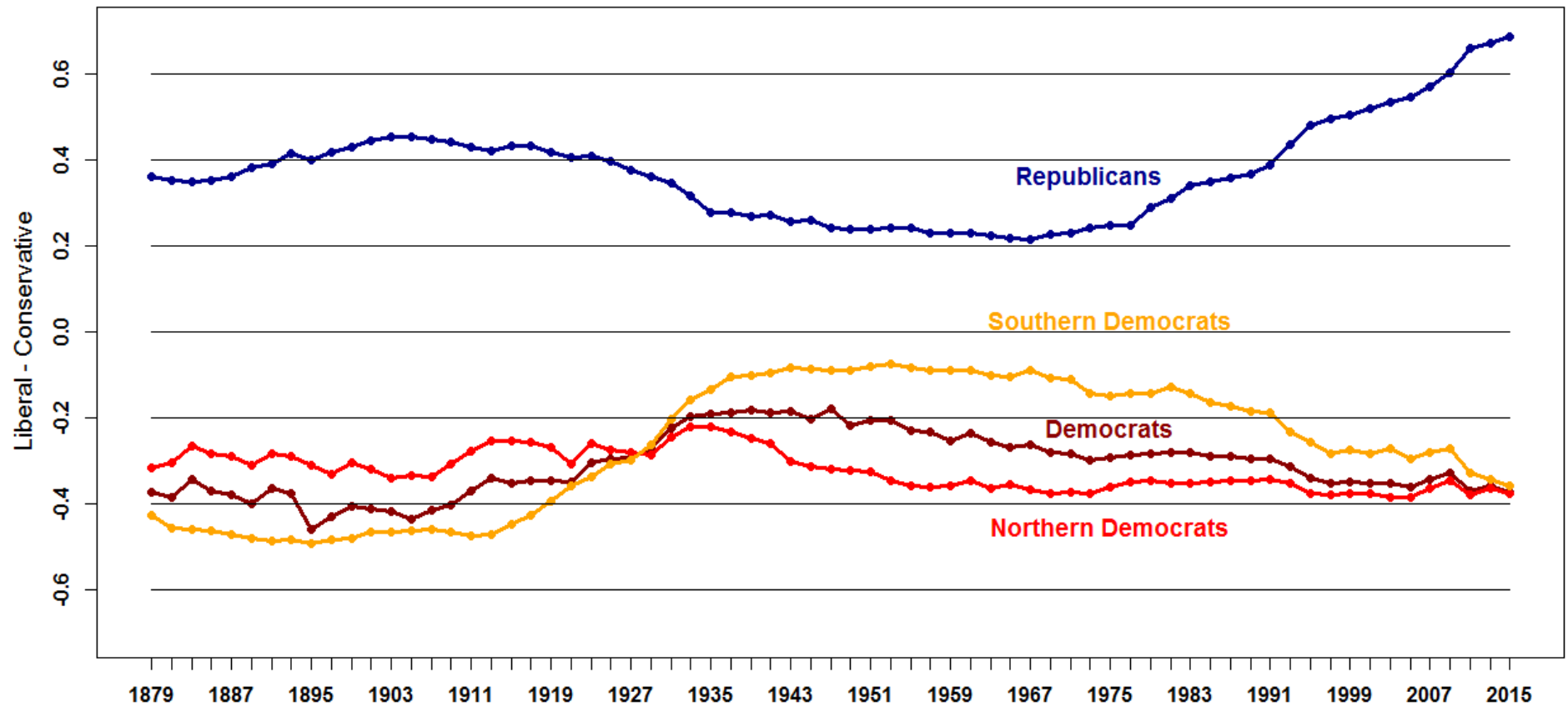
House: Pass Clean DHS Funding Bill
All Voters, 3 March 2015



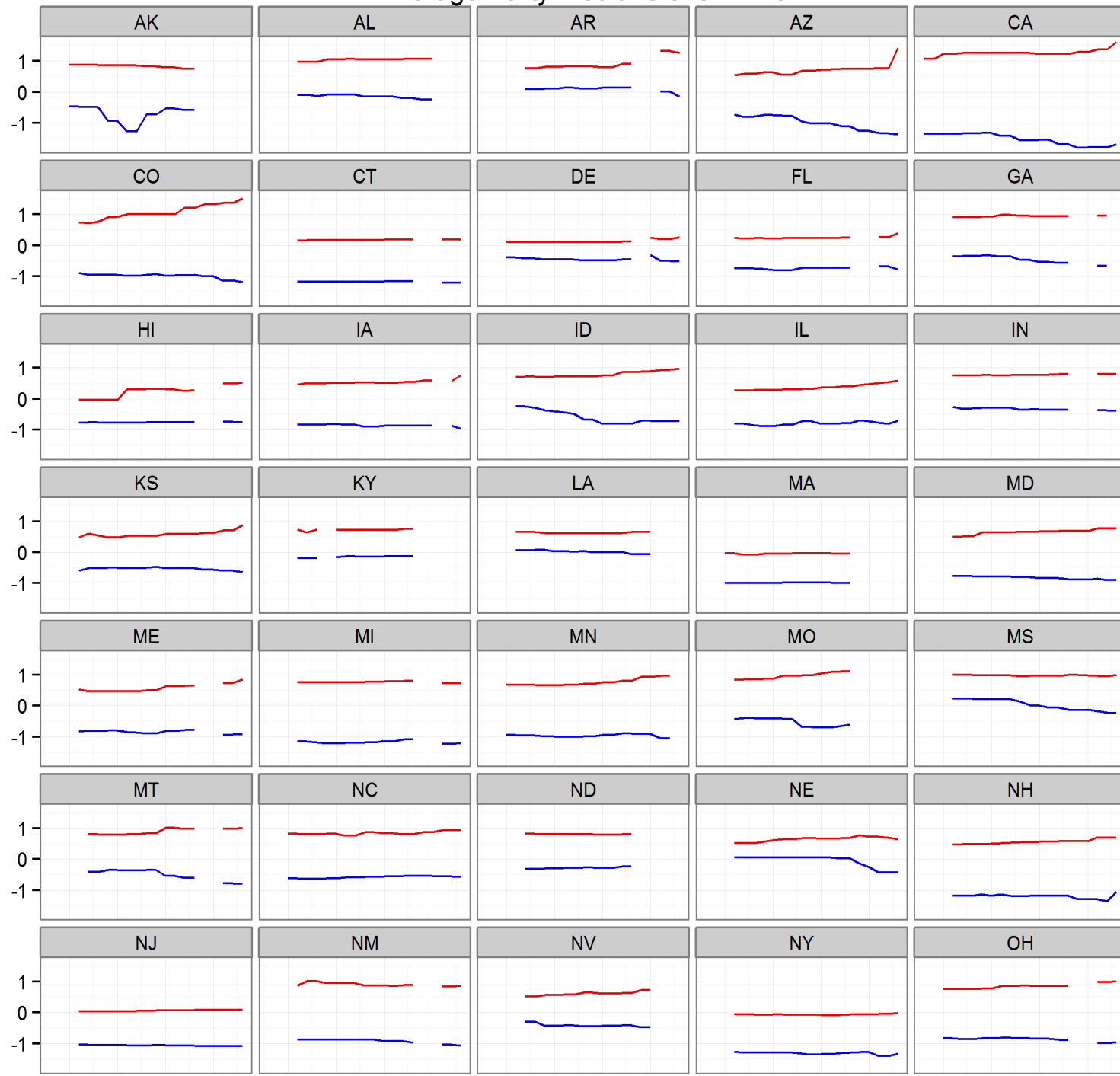
House: Pass Clean DHS Funding Bill
Errors Only, 3 March 2015



House 1879-2015
Party Means on Liberal-Conservative Dimension

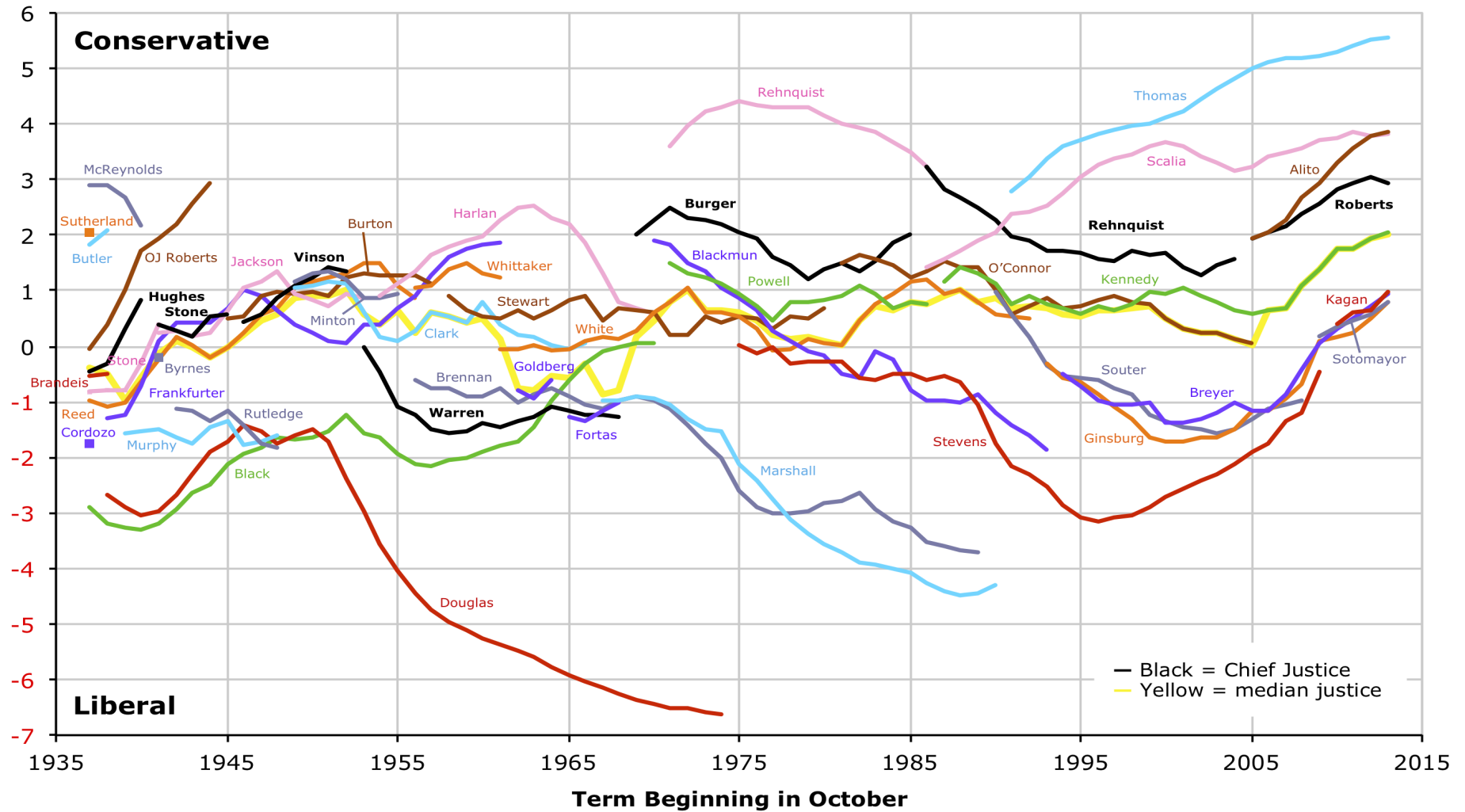


Average Party Medians over Time

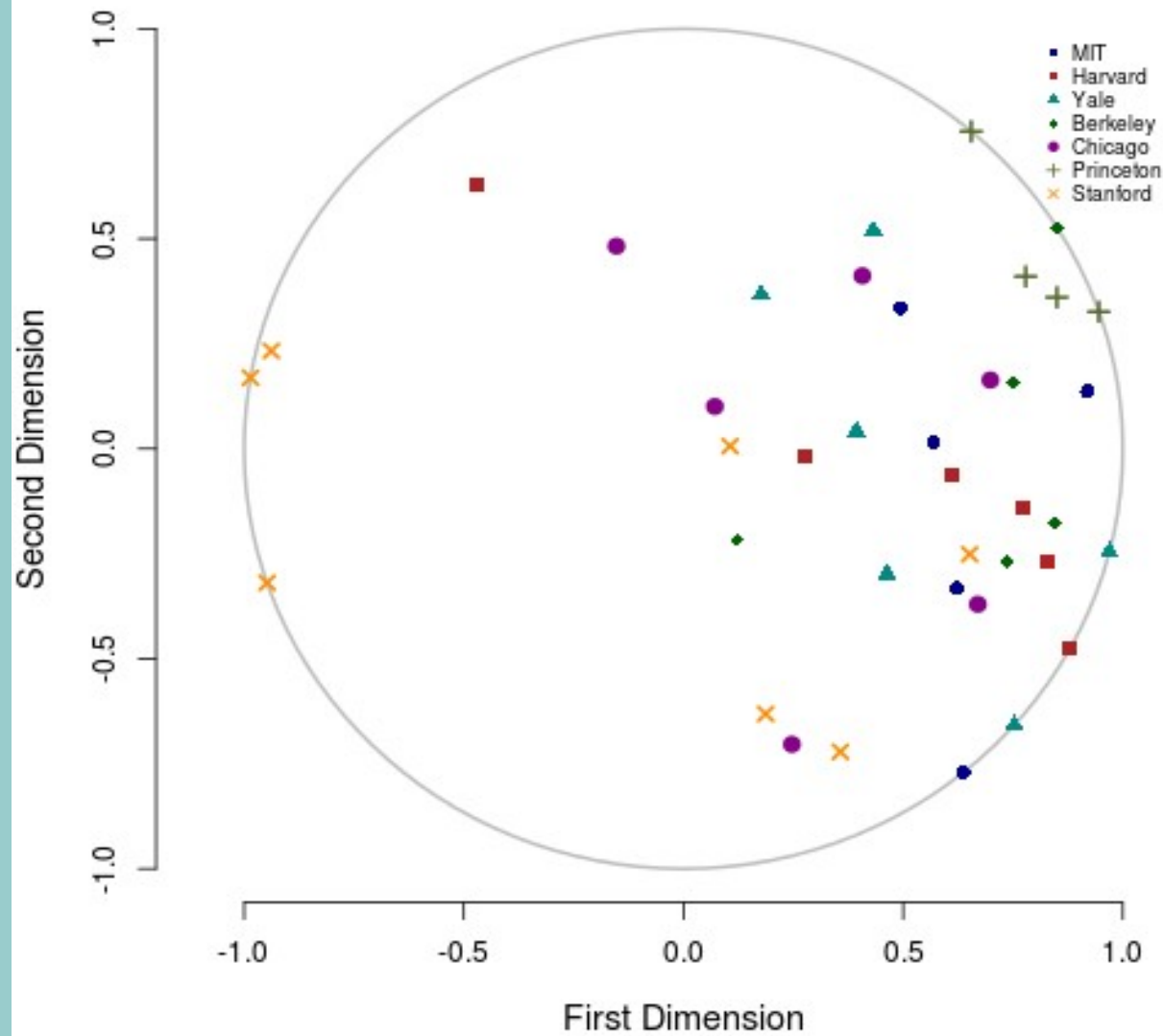


Ideological Leanings of Supreme Court Justices

Source Data: Andrew D. Martin and Kevin M. Quinn
<http://mqscores.berkeley.edu/measures.php>



W-NOMINATE Coordinates



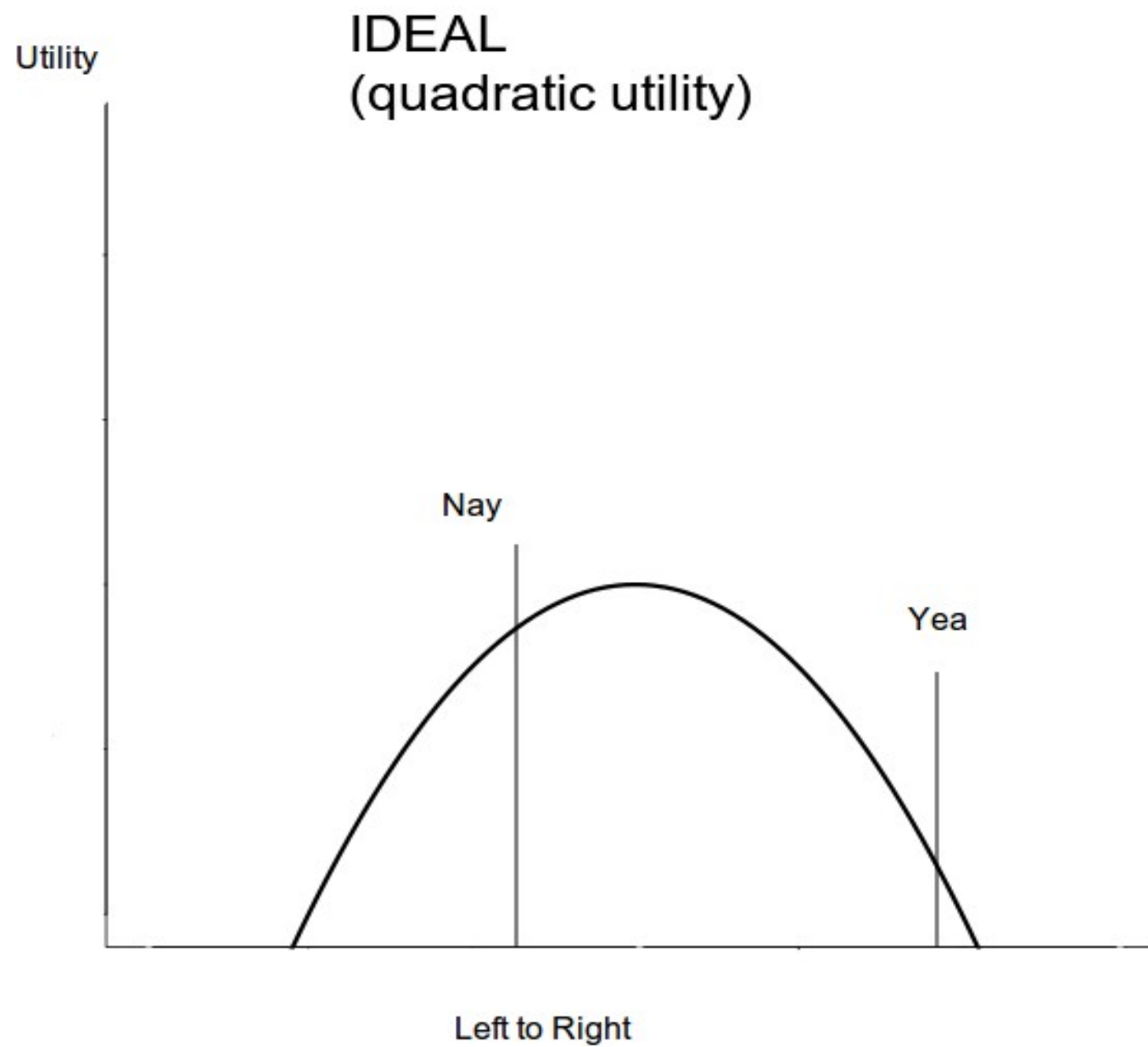
Assumptions

- Politics is spatial
- Legislators have an ideal point in the space

Organizing the data

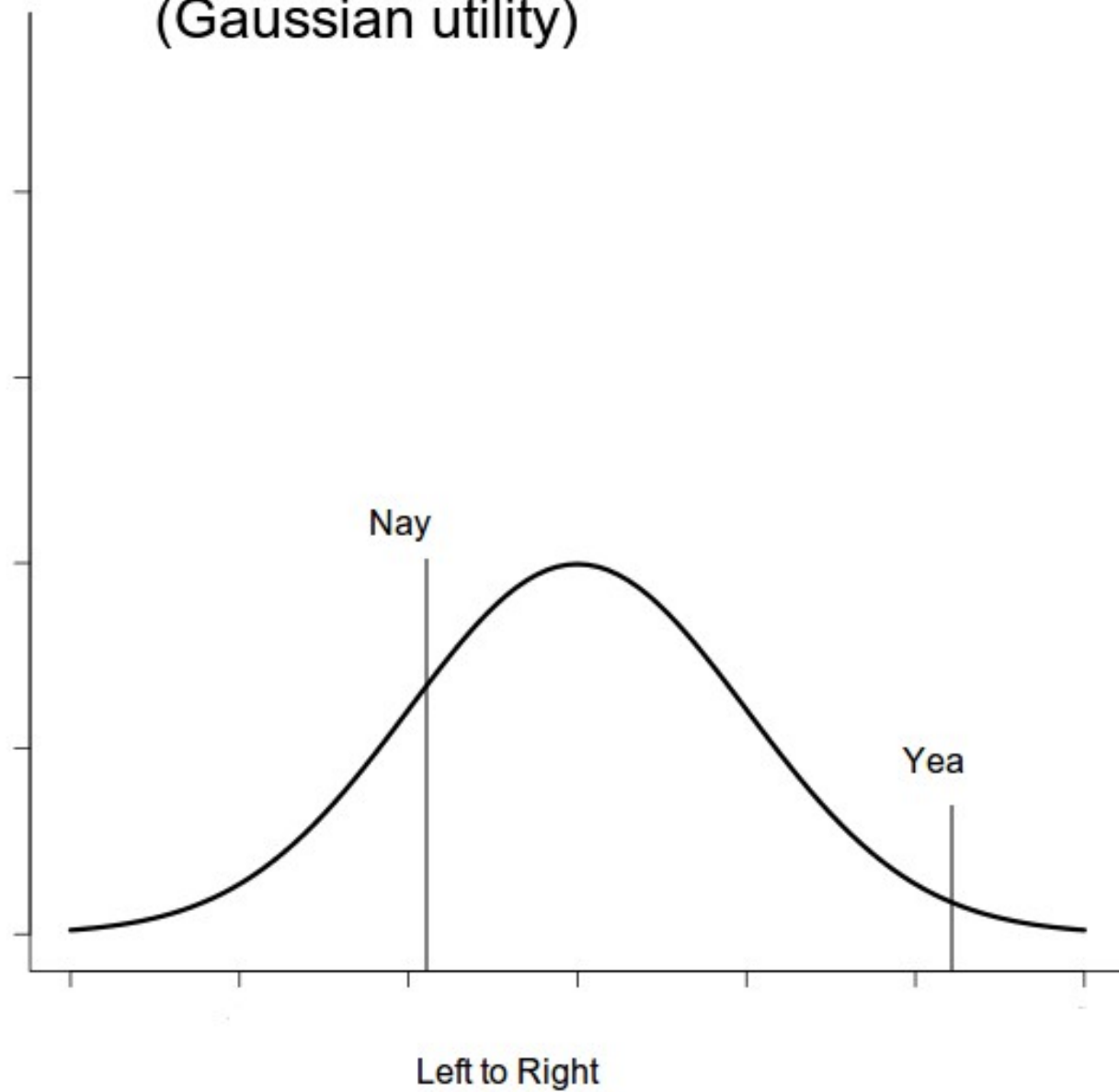
	vote_id	leg_id	name	vote
1	NYV00024824	NYL000055	Skelos	yes
2	NYV00024824	NYL000033	Libous	yes
3	NYV00024824	NYL000006	Bonacic	yes
4	NYV00024824	NYL000008	Carlucci	yes
5	NYV00024824	NYL000014	Farley	yes
6	NYV00024824	NYL000015	Flanagan	yes
7	NYV00024824	NYL000022	Hannon	yes
8	NYV00024824	NYL000031	Larkin	yes
9	NYV00024824	NYL000032	LaValle	yes
10	NYV00024824	NYL000035	Marcellino	yes
11	NYV00024824	NYL000037	Maziarz	yes
12	NYV00024824	NYL000040	Nozzolio	yes
13	NYV00024824	NYL000054	Seward	yes
14	NYV00024824	NYL000060	Valesky	yes
15	NYV00024824	NYL000059	Stewart-Cousins	yes
16	NYV00024824	NYL000007	Breslin	yes
17	NYV00024824	NYL000011	Dilan	yes
18	NYV00024824	NYL000023	Hassell-Thompson	yes
19	NYV00024824	NYL000028	Krueger	yes
20	NYV00024824	NYL000039	Montgomery	yes
21	NYV00024824	NYL000043	Parker	yes
22	NYV00024824	NYL000045	Perkins	yes
23	NYV00024824	NYL000018	Gianaris	yes

	leg_id	NYV00017346	NYV00019286	NYV00019289	NYV00019294
1	NYL000063	yes	yes	yes	yes
2	NYL000064	yes	yes	yes	yes
3	NYL000066	yes	yes	yes	yes
4	NYL000067	yes	yes	yes	yes
5	NYL000068	yes	yes	no	no
6	NYL000070	yes	yes	yes	yes
7	NYL000072	yes	yes	yes	no
8	NYL000073	other	other	yes	yes
9	NYL000075	yes	yes	yes	yes
10	NYL000076	yes	yes	yes	yes
11	NYL000077	yes	yes	yes	no
12	NYL000078	yes	yes	yes	yes
13	NYL000080	yes	yes	yes	yes
14	NYL000081	yes	yes	yes	yes
15	NYL000083	yes	yes	yes	yes
16	NYL000087	yes	yes	yes	no
17	NYL000088	yes	yes	yes	yes
18	NYL000089	yes	yes	yes	yes
19	NYL000091	yes	yes	yes	yes
20	NYL000092	yes	yes	no	no
21	NYL000093	yes	yes	yes	yes
22	NYL000094	yes	yes	yes	yes
23	NYL000095	other	yes	no	no

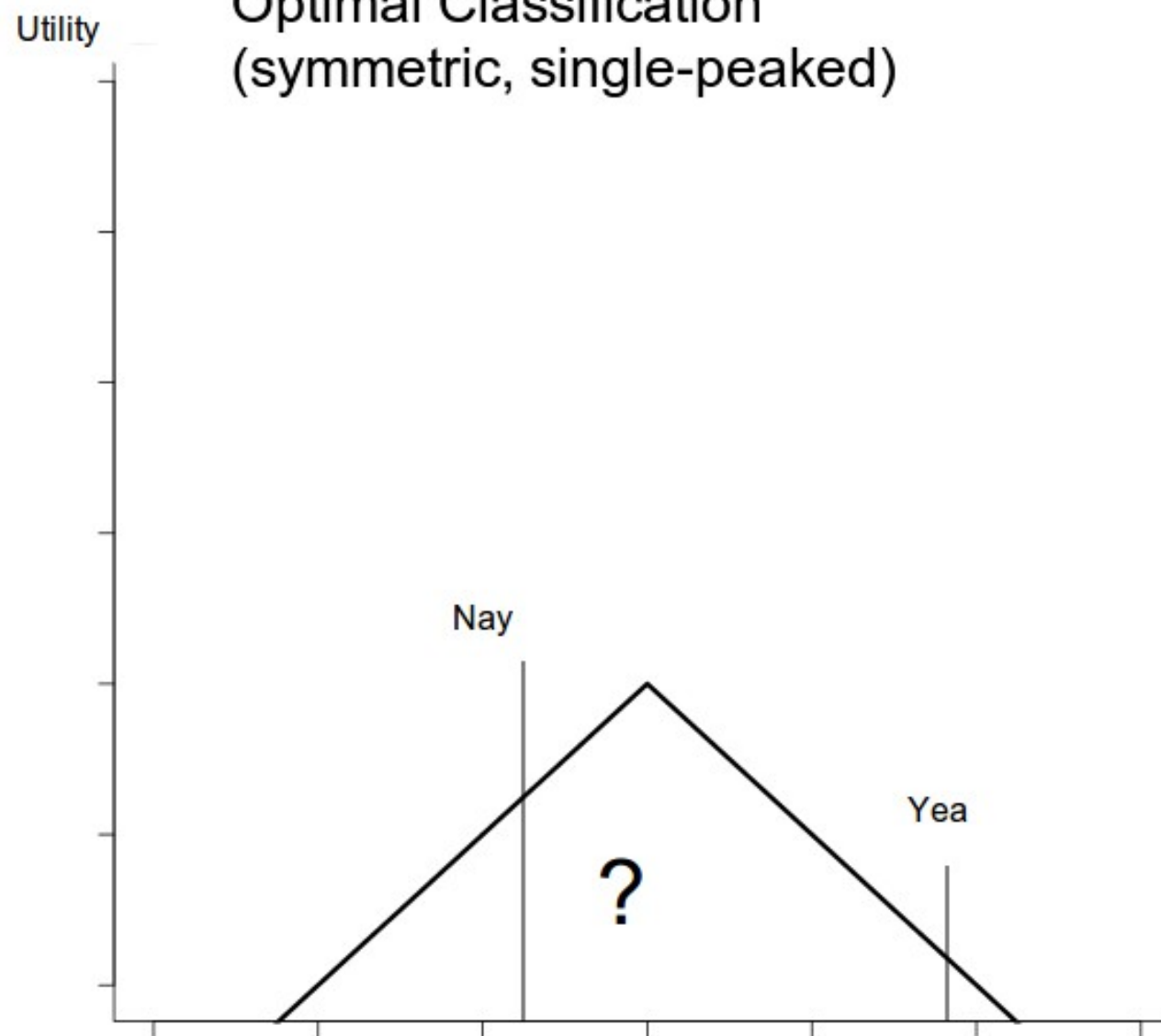


Utility

W-NOMINATE (Gaussian utility)



Optimal Classification (symmetric, single-peaked)



Pitfalls

Results are only as good as your assumptions:

- Party can influence scores, independently of ideology
- Changes in which votes are counted can influence scores
- In parliamentary systems, party alliances can influence scores

More reading:

