

Partisan Dislocation:

A Precinct-Level Measure of Representation and Gerrymandering

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We introduce a fine-grained measure of the extent to which electoral districts combine and split local communities of co-partisans in unnatural ways. Our indicator – which we term Partisan Dislocation – is a measure of the difference between the partisan composition of a voter’s geographic nearest neighbors and that of her assigned district. We show that our measure is a good local and global indicator of district manipulation, easily identifying instances in which districts carve up clusters of co-partisans (cracking) or combine them in unnatural ways (packing). We demonstrate that our measure is related to but distinct from other approaches to the measurement of gerrymandering, and has some clear advantages, above all as a complement to simulation-based approaches. It can also be used prospectively by district-drawers who wish to create maps that reflect voter geography, but according to our analysis, that goal is sometimes in conflict with the goal of partisan fairness.



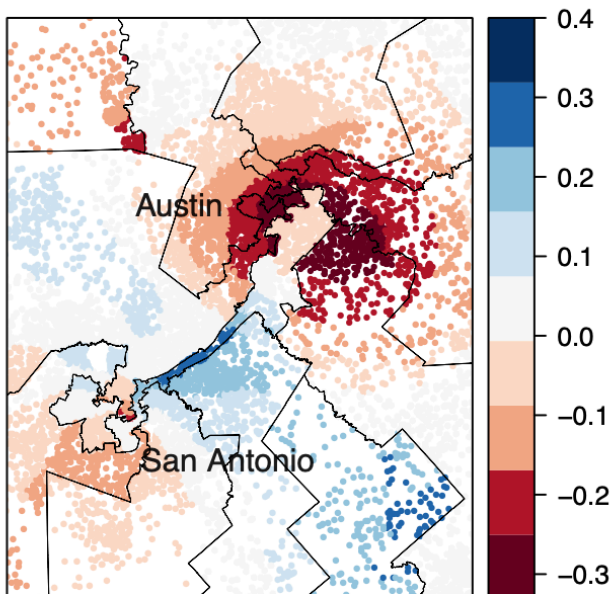
Friday, March 26, 2021

2-3p.m. PDT

Zoom Meeting ID: 823 8550 9211

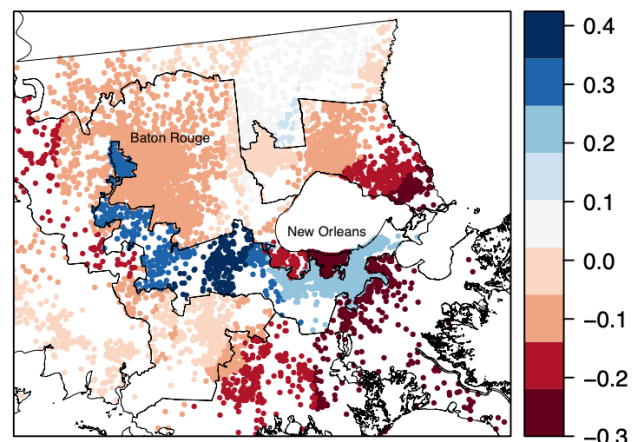
Zoom Passcode: CSUSB_Math

Austin & San Antonio



District D–Share minus Voter's KNN D–Share
State Avg Abs. Dislocation: 0.077

Baton Rouge & New Orleans, 2010–2019



District D–Share minus Voter's KNN D–Share
State Avg Abs. Dislocation: 0.102
Dist 2 Avg Absolute Dislocation: 0.236