EITM

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- TIEO (Theoretical Implications of Empirical Observations)
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  - (Eric) Veto games and position taking.

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- Policy Analysis from EITM
  - (Jim and Torben) What is the cause decreasing support for redistribution in the face of increasing inequality: the cause determines the cure.

EITM as Theoretical Empirics

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- Are there not many theories that make the same comparative static predictions?
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- What would we really like to know?
- Jim and Torben suggest that we might want to estimate something else, the **theoretical** parameters of the model:
  - like ideal points, personal constituency size, preference for position taking.
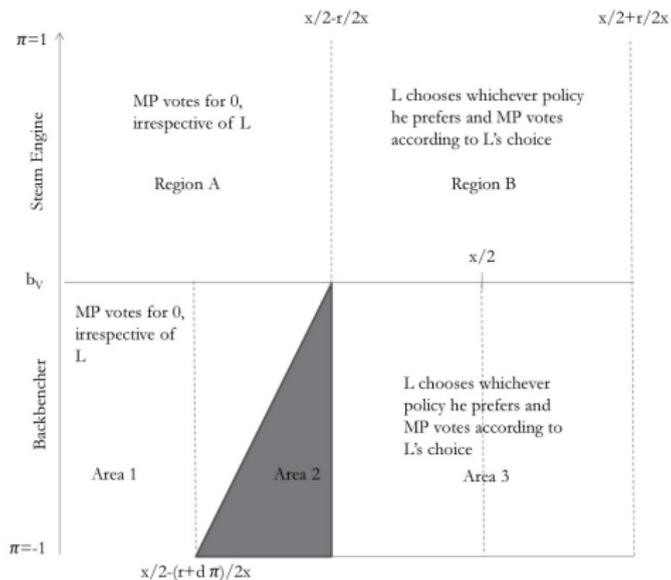- Why might we want to take our models more seriously.

Figure 1: Comparative Statics: Backbenchers and Steam Engines

Causal parameters

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- For example if we let Y be the outcome of a legislative process, and $\mathbf{X}$ is a collection of inputs that can be independently varied , we can write the function $F : R^n \rightarrow R$ as

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- Each X_i is a factor that produces Y and plays the role of a cause. These are the primitives of the theory.

- Some of these X may be stochastic, others may be unobservable.
- Often our hypotheses are of the form

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial X_j}(\mathbf{X})$$

  if differentiable, and consider finite changes otherwise.
- Notice a special case of this framework is the "treatment effect" model where

$$Y = \Sigma_{j=1}^{N} \beta_j(X_j)$$

  and F is additively separable and the causal effect of one variable can be defined independently of the level of other variables.

- In many areas of politics "identification" of causal effects is a problem.
- Furthermore, how does an average treatment effect fit into a theoretical world view?

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- How might we proceed?
    - Models built with measurement in mind
    - Going after deep parameters
    - Computational experiments as counter-factuals with calibration and forecasting as competitive theory testing.