Majority Judgment:
a new method for electing and ranking Спикер:
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joint work with Michel Balinski

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There is a growing, nagging sense that the electoral systems used throughout the world – the UK's and USA's first-past-the-post, France's "two-past-the-post," Australia's and Ireland's STV, and others – are not satisfactory.

First, it must be clearly understood why they are bad, a task that already asks for sophistication. Second, an electoral system that meets the necessary set of criteria must be proposed. Regrettably, the theory of "social choice" – the theory of voting – has been unable to propose a viable system of voting. Why? Because, since Ramon Llull in 1299 and Nicolas Cusanus in 1433, the model of voting has remained exactly the same, and it leads to paradoxes, impossibilities and incompatibilities that cannot be overcome. The most famous are Arrow's "impossibility theorem" and Condorcet's paradox.

Majority Judgment is a new alternative – whose antecedents may be traced to the Marquis de Laplace and Sir Francis Galton – that sees the problem and models it differently. In the new paradigm, Arrow's theorem says that there is no satisfactory mechanism unless there is a common language of measuring the merits of the candidates. But when a common language exists – and practice and experimental evidence show they do exist and can be defined – then one mechanism meets the most important properties: Majority Judgment.

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