Universal Pattern of Voting Behavior

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Statistical physics provides a conceptual framework for studying large-scale social phenomena. Elections represent a valuable area for quantitative study of human behavior. We analyze the candidate performance In proportional elections with nominative votes within the party list. The study of election data sets from different countries with open- list proportional systems confirms that nations with similar election rules belong to the same universality class. Deviations from this trend are associated with differences in the election rules. Our analysis reveals that voting process is characterized with dynamics that does not depend on the historical, political or economical context where the voters operate.