APPLICATION: THE ELECTION OF 1824

- Presidential Candidates (all Democratic-Republicans)
 - John Quincy Adams (MA)
 - Secretary of state, eldest son of Jon Adams



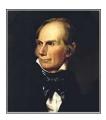
- Andrew Jackson (TN)
 - Hero of the Battle of New Orleans, former member of the U.S. House



- William Harris Crawford (GA)
 - Secretary of the treasury, elected President by the caucus system, but that was just for fun.



Speaker of the House.



Election Results

- Jackson won the popular vote and a "plurality" of the electoral college.
- Since no one won a majority of the electoral college, the U.S. House of Representatives got to decide.
- The House chose Adams.

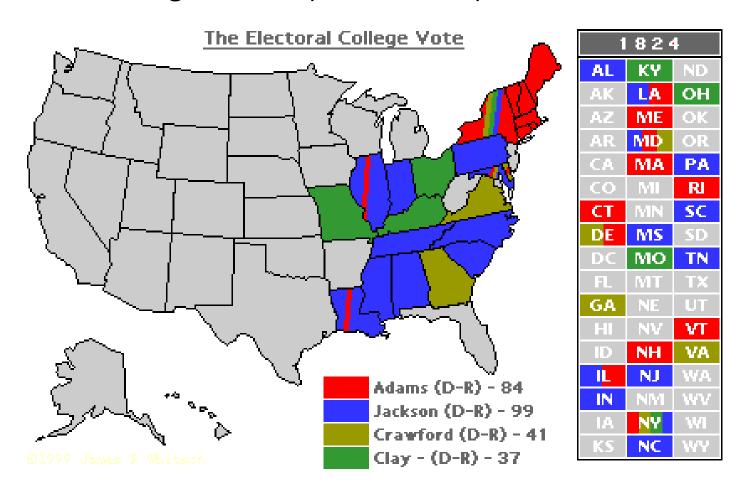
Alleged vote trade

- After winning, Adams named Henry Clay his Secretary of State.
- Since Clay supporters swung the vote in the House, Jackson claimed that Adams and Clay made a "corrupt bargain."
 - Historians have echoed Jackson's claim.

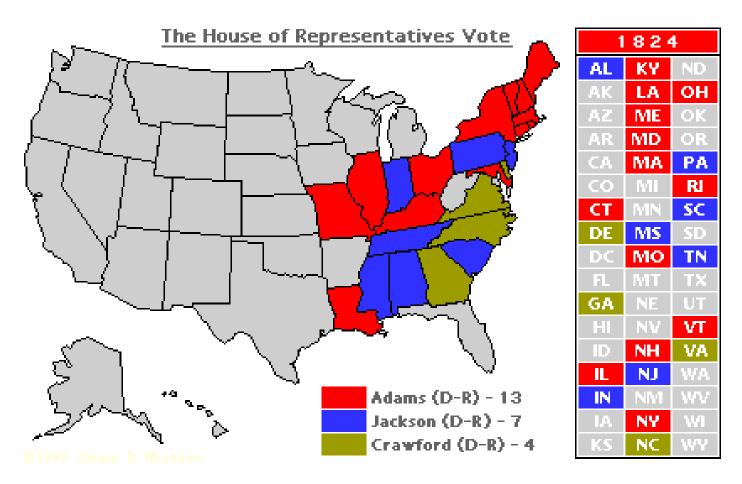
Electoral Procedure

- According to Article 12 of the Constitution, if no candidate wins a
 majority of the electoral college, then the top three candidates will be
 considered by the House voting in state blocs and candidate winnnig
 majority of state delegations will win.
 - Bloc voting means that each state gets one vote. The state's vote is determined by the majority of its delegation.
 - Ex: If there are three representatives from GA, two vote for Crawford, one votes for Jackson, then the state vote is for Crawford.

Electoral College Results (261 electors)



Vote in the House (24 states)



Spatial Analysis

- To evaluate the corrupt bargain, Jenkins and Sala infer the ideal points of the members of the U.S. House and determine who they would vote for under a sincere vote.
 - If Adams would win under a sincere vote, then there was no need for a vote trade.
 - If Jackson would win under a sincere vote, then members of Congress probably voted strategically.

Figure 1. Common-Space Nominate Scores by Region

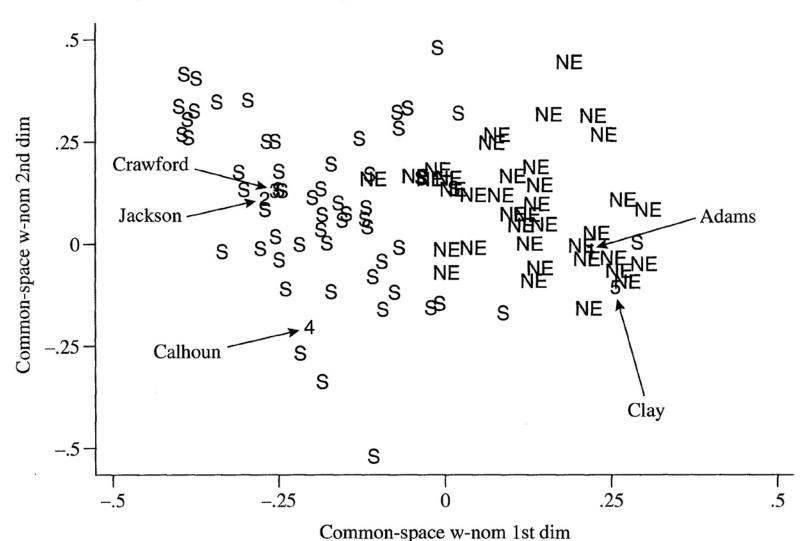
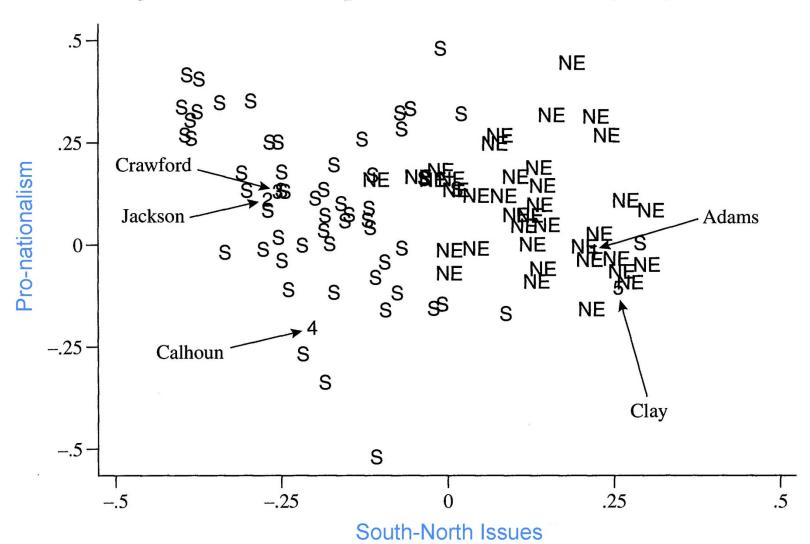


Figure 1. Common-Space Nominate Scores by Region



Summary

- Crawford and Jackson split the Southern vote.
- Voting sincerely, Clay supporters voted for Adams.
- Hence, no need for a vote trade.

Additional Evidence

- Representatives did not get punished at the next election for voting for Adams.
 - Those who voted for Adams but were supposed to vote for someone else according to the model, retained a greater proportion of their seats than those who voted for Jackson.
- No additional signs of compensation for vote trades.
 - Adams did not appoint any of the lame duck representatives to office.
- Jenkins and Sala conclude: no corrupt bargain.

Discussion

- What do you think? Do you believe there was a vote trade?
- What other type of evidence would help you determine whether there was a vote trade?
- Are there other reasons why those who voted for Adams retained a higher proportion of their seats than those who voted for Jackson?
 - Perhaps those voters were able to bring home the pork for the next two years because they supported Adams.