

# Estimating the position of political parties: expert survey versus candidate survey

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# Outline

- Why do we need to position the political parties? (focus on VAAs)
- What are the methods that have been used so far? (focus on experts)
- The candidate study
- Compare between experts and candidates
  - Central tendency (median)
  - Variance (IQR)

# Motivation to code the parties

- Facilitates a deeper understanding of the political parties; it makes clear what policies they support.
- More practical reason: to use the position of the parties on voting advice applications
  - web applications that enable voters to compare their political views with the positions of the political parties

# Voting Advice Applications

- Smartvote (Switzerland)
- Stemwijzer (Netherlands)
- Kieskompas (Netherlands)
- Wahlkabine.at (Austria)
- Wahl-O-Mat (Germany)
- VoteMatch (EU) + many other for the election to the European Parliament

# Ways to position parties

- Contact the leadership of the party and ask them to place their parties
  - Less likely to answer on controversial issues
- Extract party positions from party manifestos
  - Cost. May not cover all issues
- Expert Surveys
  - May judge parties from various points of view
  - Uncertain about newer or smaller parties

# Greek Candidate Study 2015

- Part of the Comparative Candidate Survey (CCS) which is a joint multi-national project
- Established in Greece since 2007.
  - Many published papers based on the previous Greek surveys
- Limited number from KKE and GD
  - The Communist Party of Greece (KKE) has never agreed to participate in the Greek Candidate Study. Golden Dawn (GD) replies that all candidates share the same opinion. In 2012 the leadership of GD agreed to answer one questionnaire centrally.

# Findings

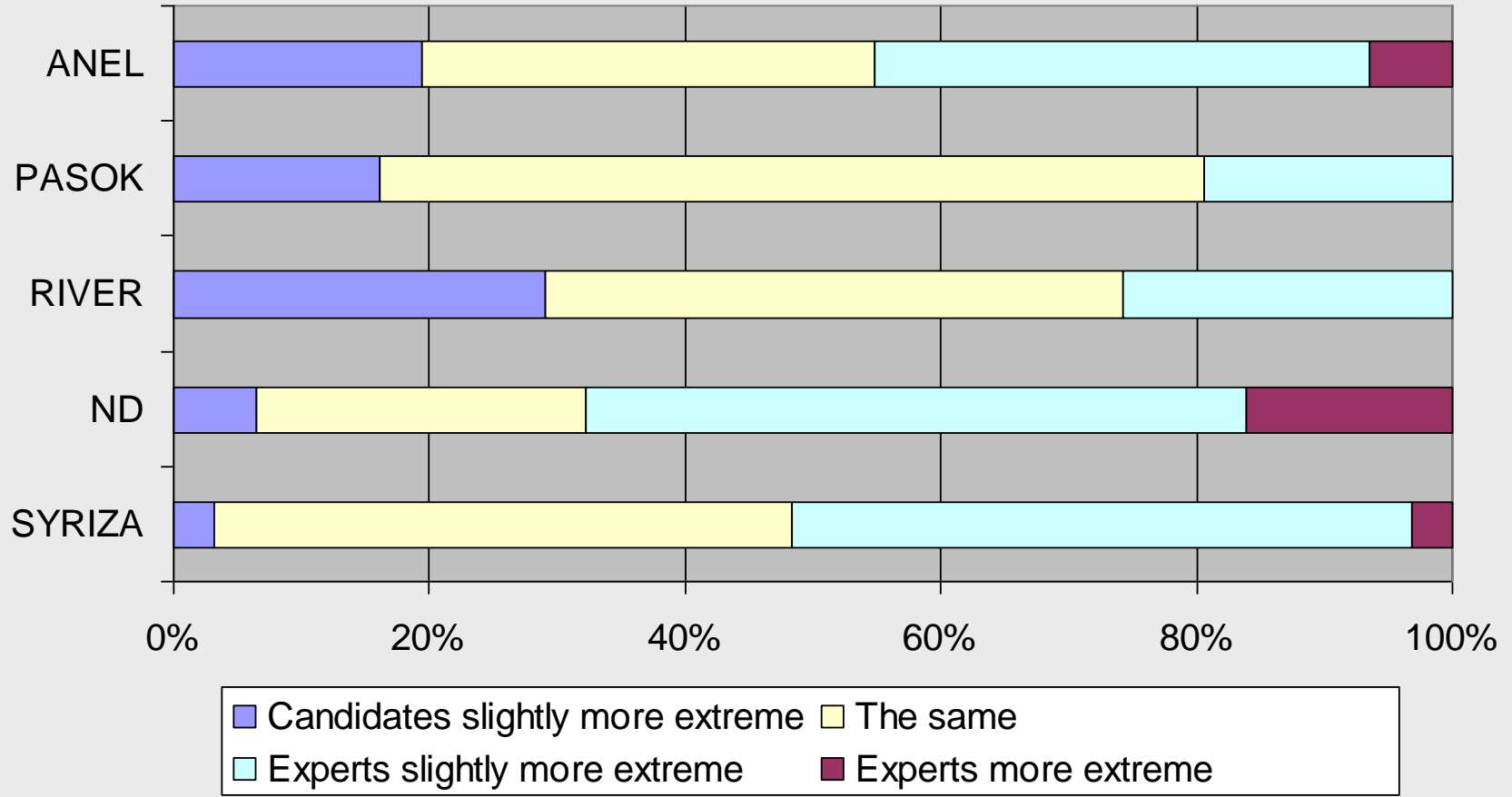
- Central tendency
  - Absolute Median Difference
  - $\text{Abs}(\text{Median}(\text{Candidates}) - \text{Median}(\text{Experts}))$
  - $\leq 1$  is not very important (Strongly agree – Agree)
  - $\geq 2$  is large (Strongly agree – Neither nor) or (Agree – Disagree)
- Variance
  - Interquartile range:  $\text{IQR} = \text{Q3} - \text{Q1}$
  - $\text{IQR}(\text{Candidates}) - \text{IQR}(\text{Experts})$
  - No absolute value: to observe which of the two groups gives a more uncertain estimate

# Absolute Median Difference

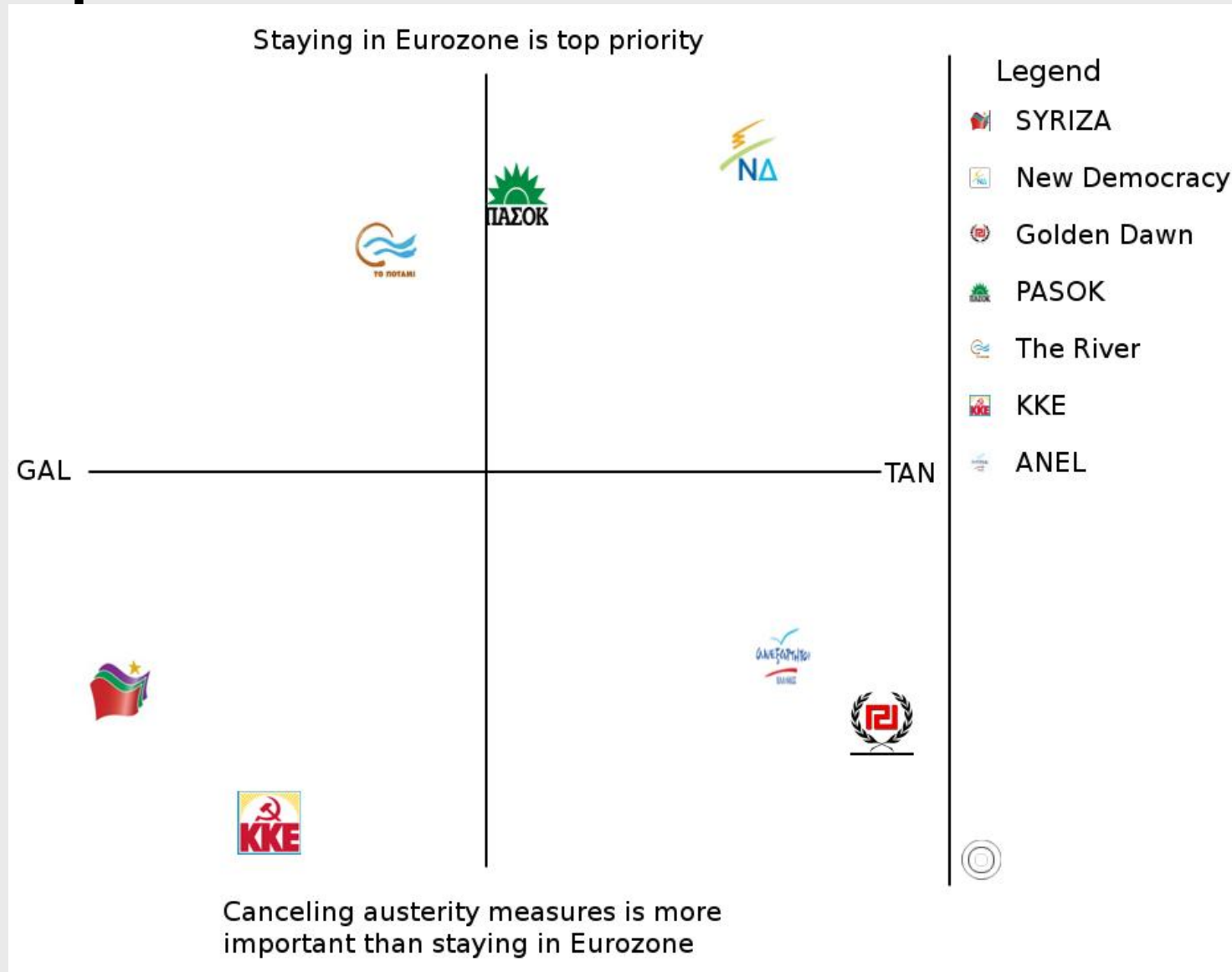
	0	0,5	1	1,5	2
SYRIZA	45,2%	12,9%	38,7%		3,2%
ND	19,4%	6,5%	51,6%	3,2%	19,4%
RIVER	45,2%	19,4%	35,5%		
PASOK	54,8%	6,5%	29,0%		9,7%
ANEL	25,8%	3,2%	48,4%	6,5%	16,1%
Total	38,1%	9,7%	40,6%	1,9%	9,7%



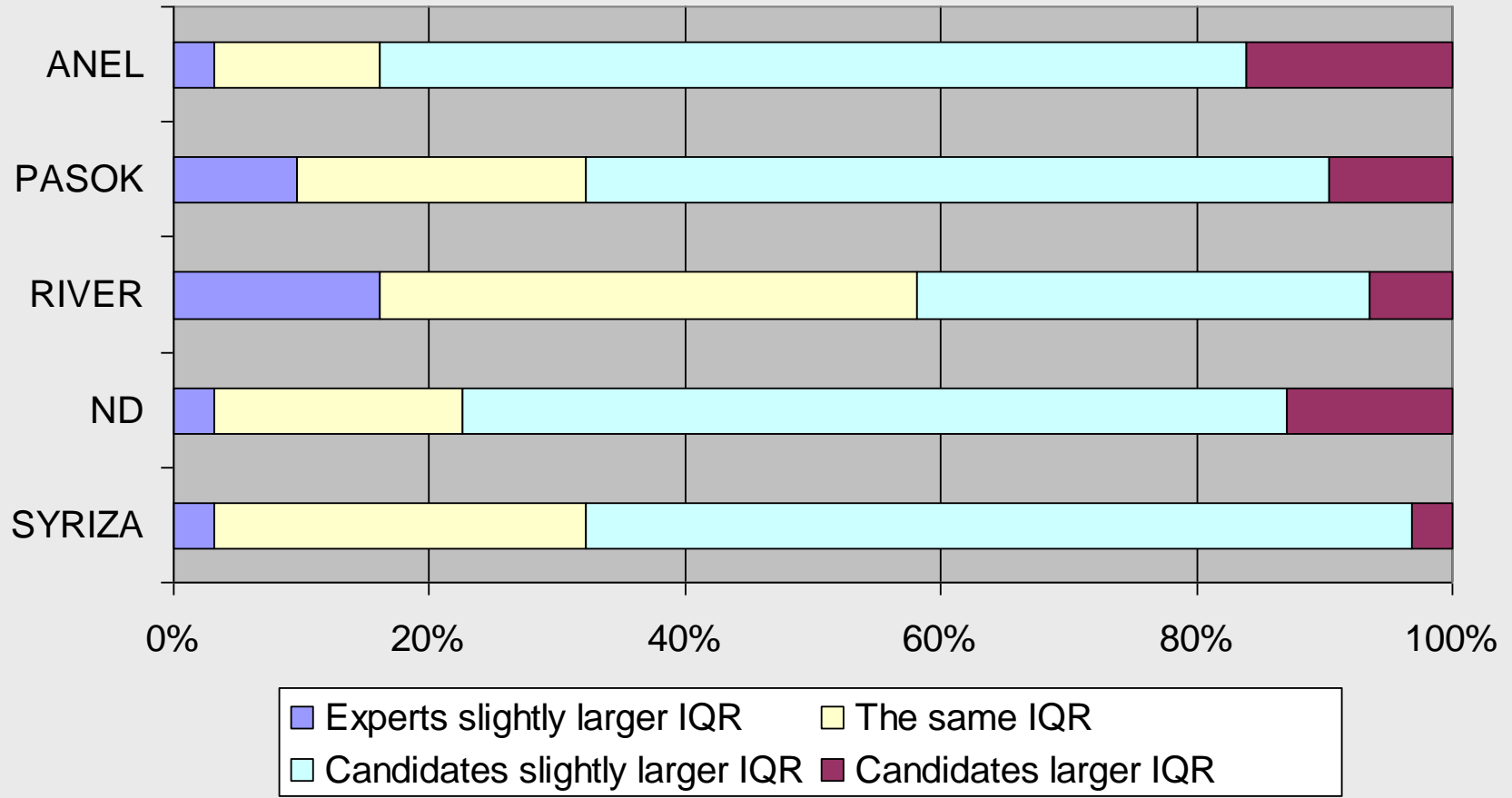
# Who gives more extreme answers?



# HelpMeVote 2015 Political Map



# Comparison of IQRs



# Thank you!

- Feedback?
- Questions?
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