

COST Action IC1205 on Computational Social Choice: STSM Report

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During my STSM to the University of Patras (Italy), I worked together with my host Ioannis Caragiannis on strategic issues of opinion formation. The term “opinion formation” refers to the process which the voters follow in order to determine which vote to cast in an election that takes place openly in a social network. In this case, one might prefer to express a different opinion compared to his internal belief in order to be close to the expressed opinions of his neighbors in the social network. The work continues the joint research project that we initiated recently during the STSM of Ioannis Caragiannis to the University of Salerno (Italy). During that STSM, we started cooperating together with Giuseppe Persiano and Enzo Auletta from the University of Salerno and Clemente Galdi from the University of Naples.

During my STSM to Patras, we focused on understanding at which extent the social network can influence the outcome of one election. In particular, we found that for almost any graph it is possible that a set of beliefs in which a certain opinion is minority can evolve to an equilibrium profile in which this same opinion becomes majority.