Pop Songs and Political Science

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Sheena Easton and Game Theory

Sheena Easton describes the following scenario for her baby:

- 1. Takes the morning train
- 2. Works from nine 'til five
- 3. Takes another train home again
- 4. Finds Sheena Easton waiting for him

A Total Conflict Game Between Sheena Easton and Her Baby

	Stays Home	Goes to Work
Baby Home Again Baby Stays at Work	-100, 100 50 , 0	100 , 0 -100, 100

Sheena Easton and her baby are playing a zero-sum (total conflict) game.

- Akin to Holmes-Moriarty game (see: von Neumann and Morgenstern)
- ► Solution: mixed strategy

Rick Astley's Re-election Platform

Rick Astley's campaign promises:

- Never gonna give you up.
- Never gonna let you down.
- Never gonna run around and desert you.
- Never gonna make you cry.
- Never gonna say goodbye.
- Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you.

Are these promises (if credible) sufficient to secure re-election?

Rick Astley and Median Voter Theorem

Whereas these pledges conform to the preferences of the **median voter**, we expect Congressman Astley to secure re-election.

Caribbean Queen and Operation Urgent Fury

Billy Ocean released "Caribbean Queen" in 1984.

- Emphasized sharing the same dream
- Hearts beating as one

"Caribbean Queen" is about the poor execution of Operation Urgent Fury.

► Echoed JCS chairman David Jones' frustrations with military establishment.

Billy Ocean is advocating for what became the Goldwater-Nichols Act.

▶ Wanted to take advantage of economies of scale, resolve coordination problems in U.S. military.

The Good Day Hypothesis

We know the following about Ice Cube's day.

- 1. The Lakers beat the Supersonics.
- 2. No helicopter looked for a murder.
- 3. Consumed Fatburger at 2 a.m.
- 4. Goodyear blimp: "Ice Cube's a pimp."

The Good Day Hypothesis

This leads to two different hypotheses:

- \blacktriangleright H_0 : Ice Cube's day is statistically indistinguishable from a typical day.
- \blacktriangleright H_1 : Ice Cube is having a good (i.e. greater than average) day.

These hypotheses are tested using archival data of Ice Cube's life.