

Descriptive and constructive aspects of political science or possibilities for planning in politics.

Stepan Sulakshin

(Doctor of Political Science, GAPAC's General Director)

1. Interdisciplinary using of natural sciences and humanities methods in the process of cognition.

Speaking about the problems of scientific knowledge it is necessary to define two main objects of science: cognition and transformation of the world around. The first one is achieved by applying basic philosophical methods – reflection and description. Here the potential of humanities and their tools are indispensable. But when a scientist deal with more complicated issues (generalization of empirical information, simulation models construction, theorization) he can do nothing without language of mathematics. Description turns into comprehension by the means of exact science.

Figure 1. Space of science functions. Restricted area is shown by hatching.

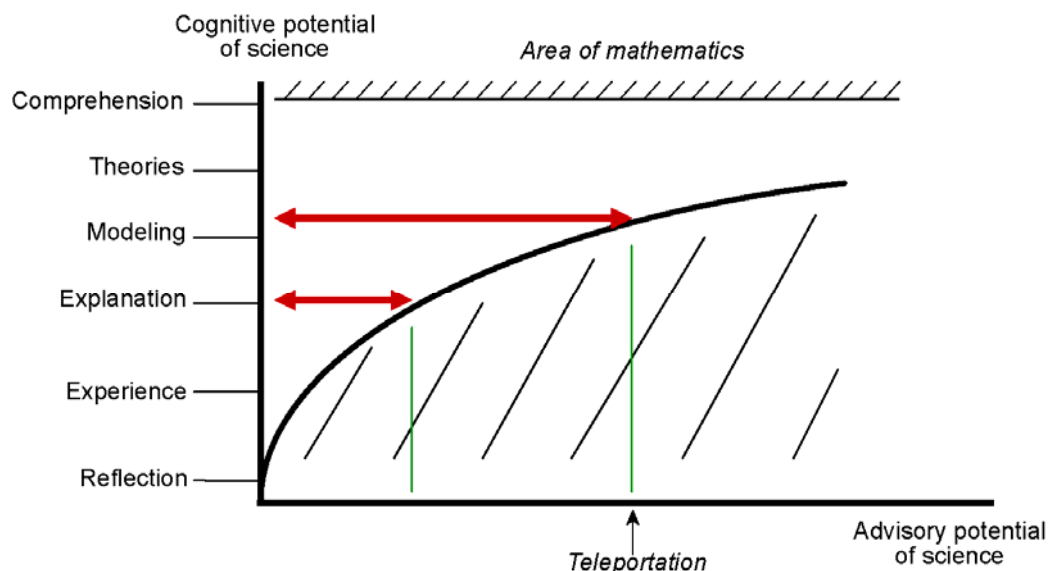
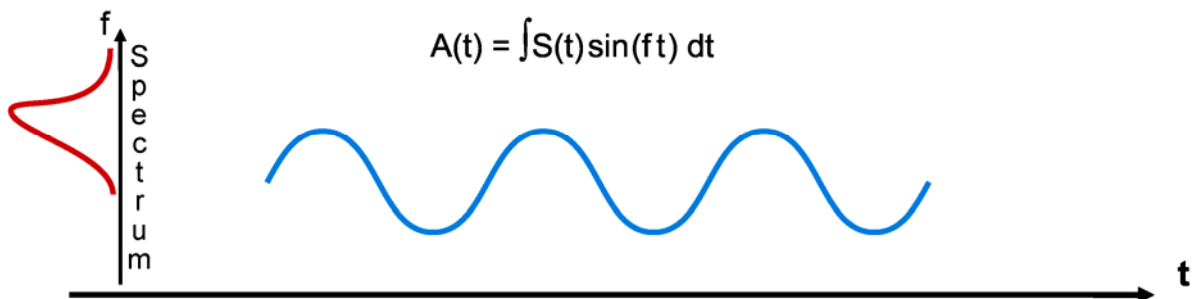


Figure 1 clearly shows two levels of scientific knowledge and their concrete interaction. Any transformation of the world around should correspond to a certain scale of phenomenon comprehension. This is relevant both for natural and social sciences.

2. Problem of planning in political science.

Modern political science gives us a profitable field for using interdisciplinary approach. Methods of traditional descriptive disciplines are quite effective for collecting information and its primary analysis. They even help to formulate some exact recommendations for politicians, businessmen and other political actors. But there is one more goal. The tools of interdisciplinary approach help not only to give prognostics but also to plan concrete parameters of developing social systems. We could regulate conditions of modern public institutions in order to define their future features. But here a question appears: is there any connection between a final state of a system and its modern conditions? Except philosophical answers there is a pragmatic one. Physicians are well acquainted with a notion of spectral analysis, for which transition from static position to temporal development of a process is quite typical. An example of such a transformation of spectrum is given in Figure 2.

Figure 2. The problem of instantaneous position and temporal progress.



In physics: an instantaneous spectrum and a time scan of a process

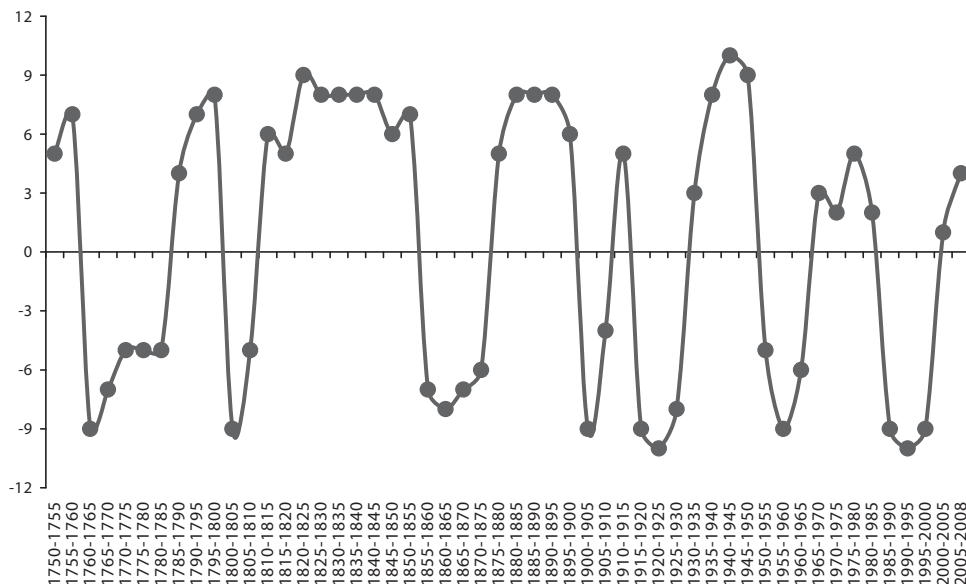
In economics: Kondratiev cycles, waves, etc. But they are not harmonic processes or processes with very broad spectrum

And what about politics? Is any connection between the present position and a future process?

It is clear that this method cannot take into account all the factors influencing a system. But if we deal with two ones the results can be significant even for such a complicated entity as a human society. So, we distinguished several pairs of factors, changing of which could transform basic features of society. They are two types of civilization identity, two ideological poles (conservatism and modernism), relationship between two generations and balance of social energy between elite and majority of population.

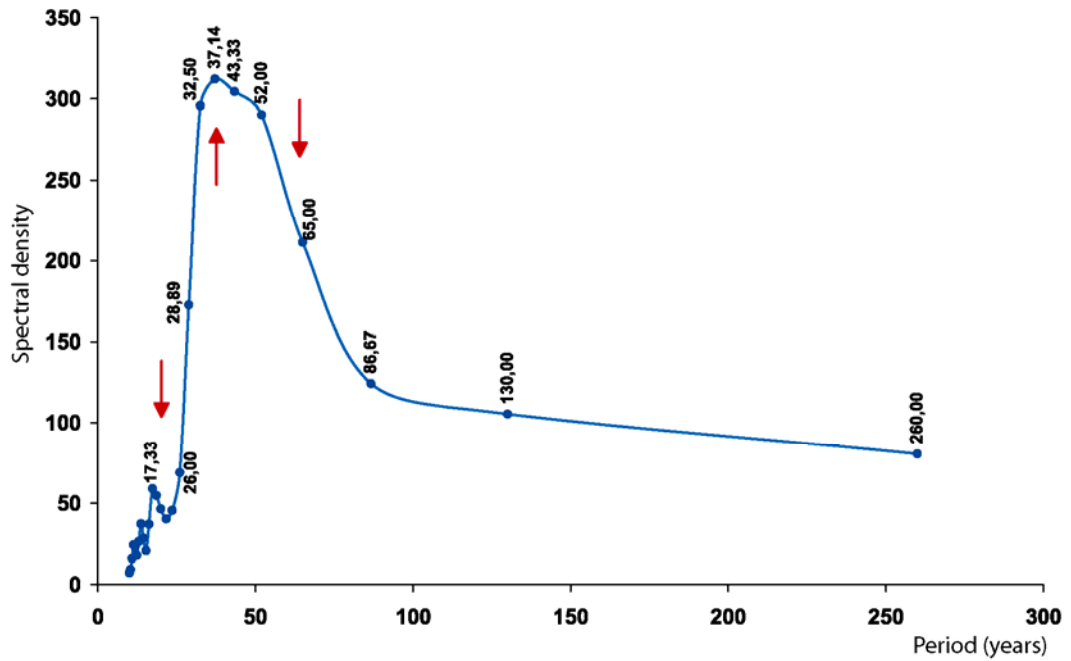
Analysis of civilization identity of Russia gave very important results by historical periods. Having been represented in the diagram, its curve turned out to be harmonic (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Dynamics of civilization identity of Russia.



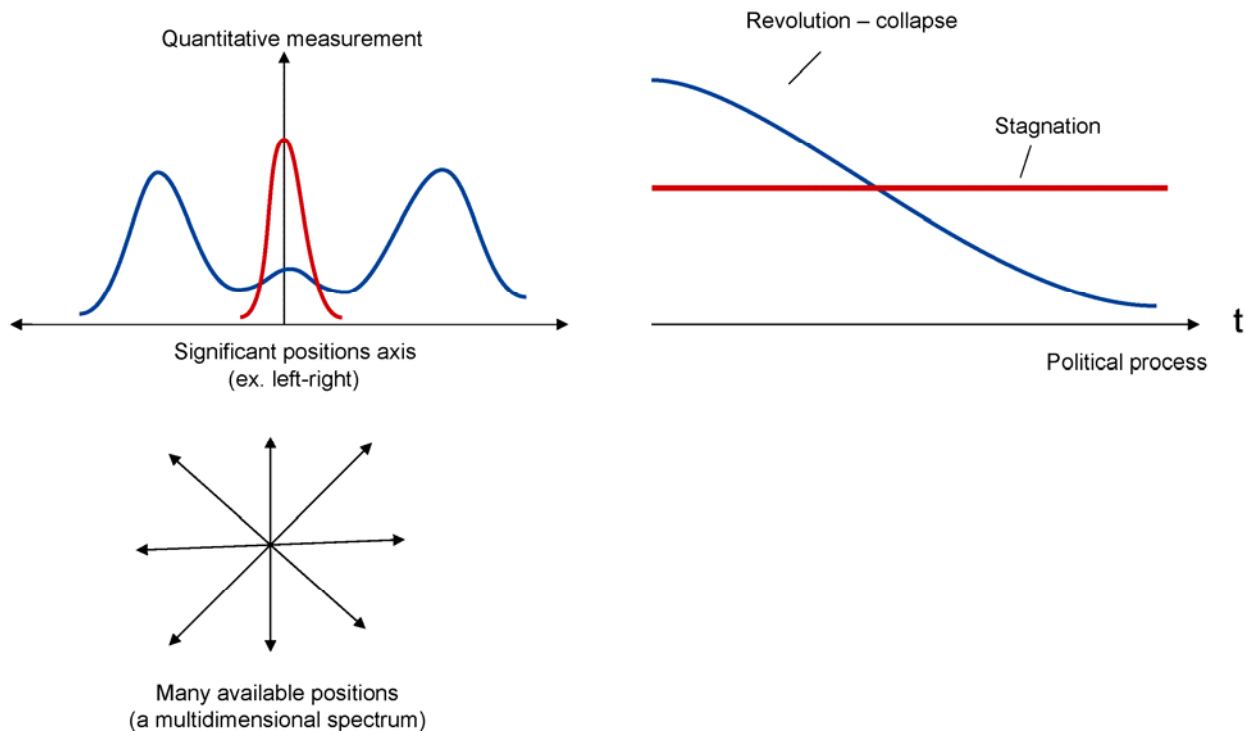
Not less representative is the result for demographic trends. The curve has 3 peaks which mark 3 age groups corresponding to cycles of human life – marriage age, growing-up and ageing. In such a way our investigation discovered a universal mechanism which conditions demographical processes in society: interfamilial intergenerational communication. Hence we get an effective instrument for pursuing demographical policy (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Mechanism of demographical movement in Russia.



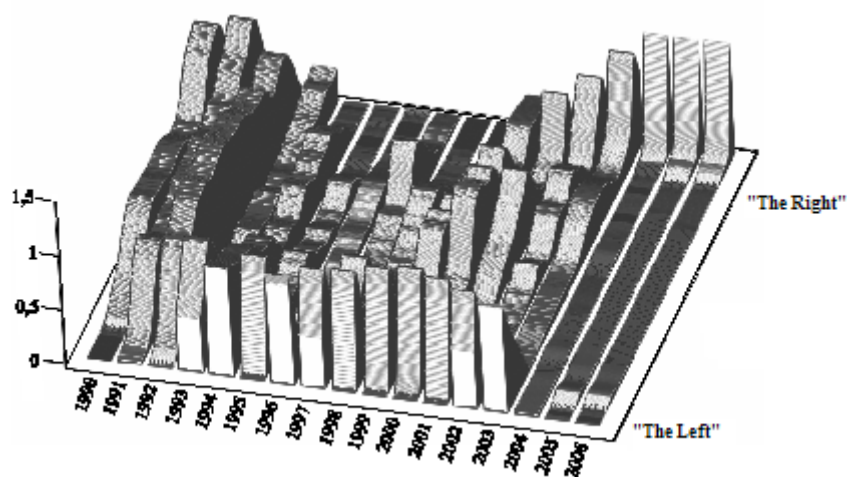
The main object of our investigation was to find a way to apply the spectrum analysis method in political science. It is clear that political process is the resultant of social and political groups' wills, interests, actions, and resources. But there is a problem to detect and identify stable elementary factors and to show how their changing could determine future parameters of political organism. Here we introduce a notion of political spectrum (Figure 5).

Figure 5. The idea of a political spectrum.



Taking as a basis two factors characterizing a political appearance of society (prevailing of left or right forces, for example) and comparing their balance one can forecast the future parameters of development. The width of political spectrum determines the period of system's transformation. It is evident that very narrow spectrum, depicting the single-party system – for example, the Communist Party times in Russia or modern “United Russia” – produces stagnation in political and social development. Too wide spectrum, typical for revolutionary and post-revolutionary time, produces processes of collapse. Empirical evidences of Russian political spectrum evolution from 1990 till 2006 were analyzed on the basis of real voting data in the State Duma of the Russian Federation (Sulakshin, 2007). The dynamics of spectrum form and width change, characterized by fast variability and instability, is observed (Figure 6). It is interesting to track, upon which spectrum the most successful socio-economic indicators can be observed.

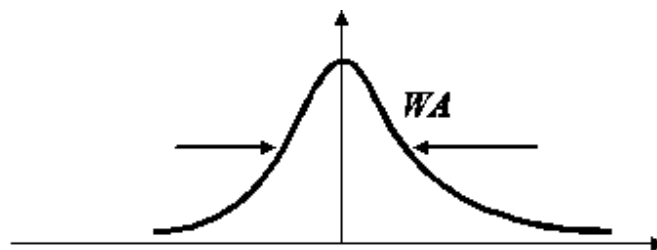
Figure 6. Evolution of the Russian political spectrum (State Duma sociology).



Here we propose a weight-average model of political spectrum defined by the formula:

Figure 7. Our hypothesis: an instantaneous political spectrum impacts political (in a general sense) temporal process.

$$WA = \sum_i |X_i| \frac{Y_i}{\sum_i Y_i}$$



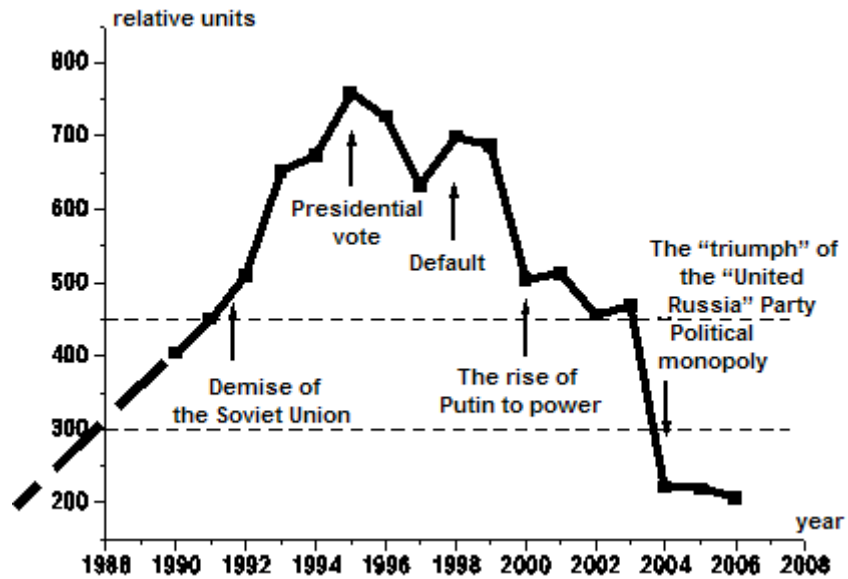
Where X_i — political frequency;

Y_i — the number of Deputies, rating values of which arrived at a given political frequency

The political process in the wide sense: variability of political, humanitarian, economical, and social indicators of the state and society

Evolution of political spectrum width is well seen when one uses it to analyze contemporary history of Russia (Figure 7).

Figure 8.



It is clear, that political process brings us to the situation of late CPSU. Right now we are going to see what this offers in terms of the country development. We should consider the optimum corridor width (dotted line in Figure 8). The size of weighted breadth of a political spectrum turned out to be “responsible” for the country development results (Figures 8–25).

Figure 8. Gross domestic product

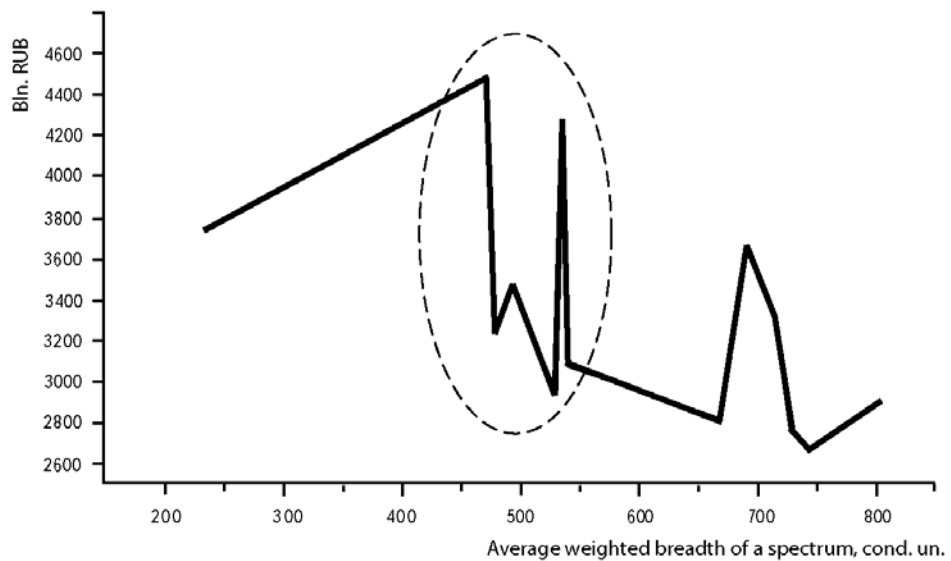


Figure 9. Human development index

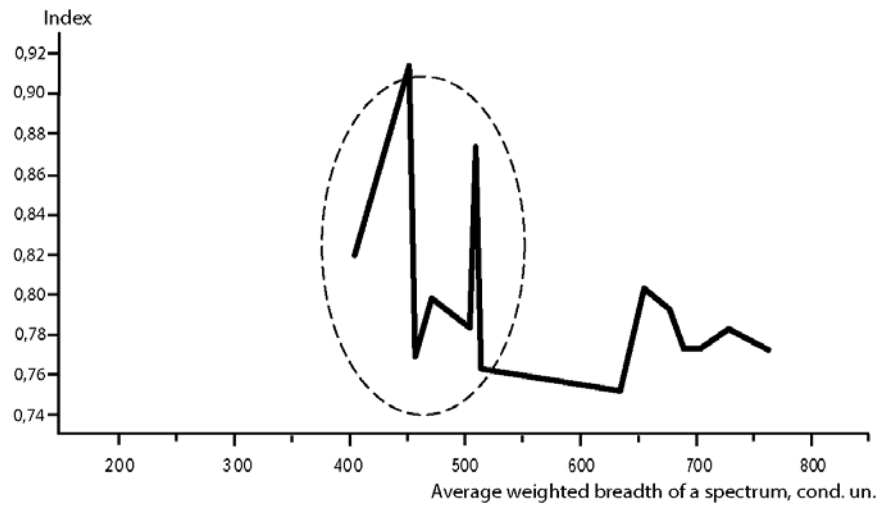


Figure 10. Industrial efficiency

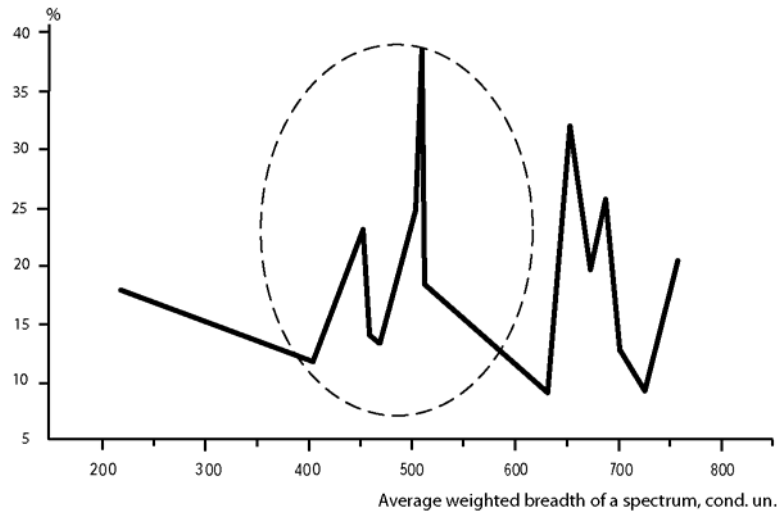


Figure 11. A number of marriages (per 1000 people a year)

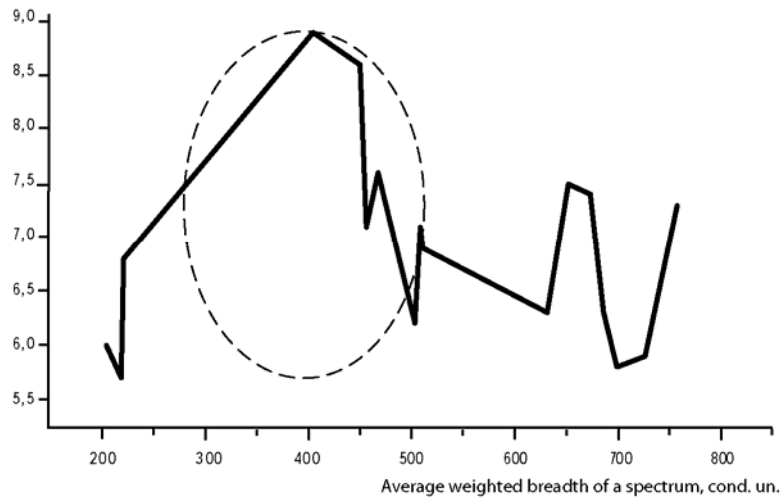


Figure 12. A number of divorces (per 1000 people a year)

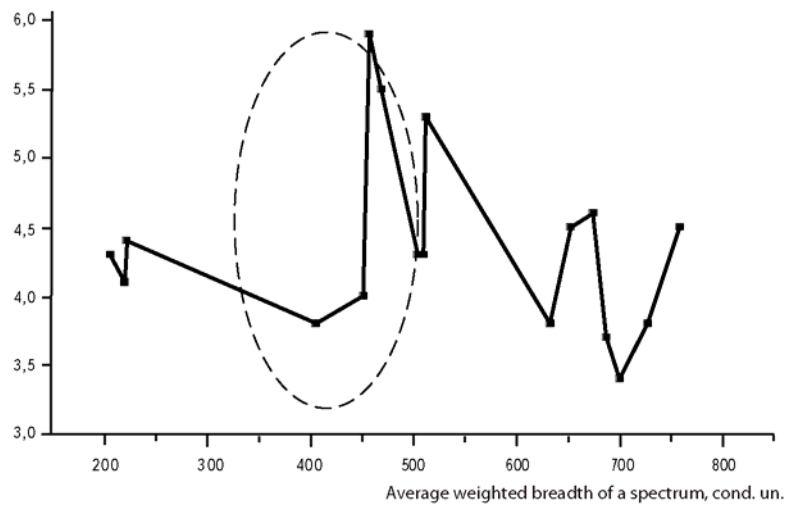


Figure 13. Birth rate (per 1000 people a year)

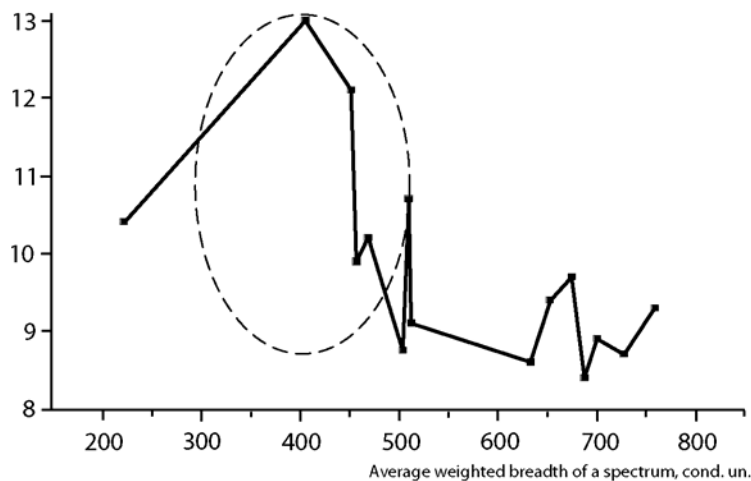
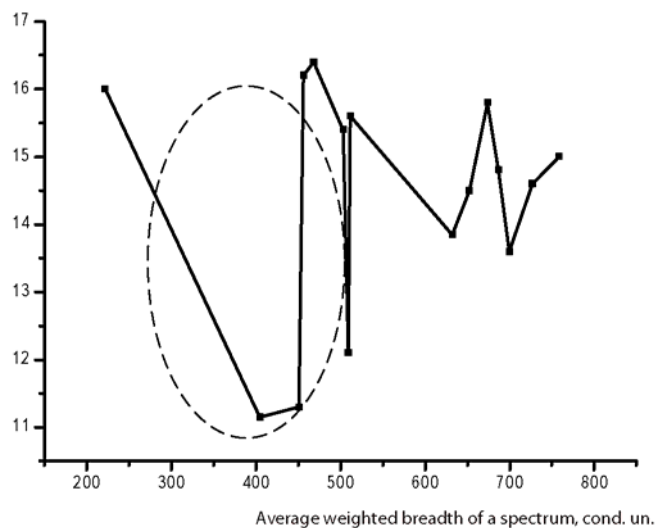


Figure 14. Death rate (per 1000 people a year)



To conclude, there is an optimum value for a political spectrum width, which determines the most favorable social and economic situation in the country, and which enables the optimal background for invariably high economic growth rate and other social indications. The offered tools are sensitive to specific features of a political process, which is a gauge of efficiency in methods for plotting a political spectrum in order to monitor and forecast a political process.