

Depolarizing Power of Anticonformity

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When a **polarized** society has to make a **collective decision**, how can **opposing factions** reach a **compromise**?

- Most computational studies focus on **xenophobia**, prejudice against outsiders, which radicalizes opinions
- Recent experiments by Dvorak et al. (2024) show that **asserting uniqueness** is a strategic social response in a reward prospect
- We propose **anticonformity** as a behavioral intervention aiming to reduce polarization on a three-state issue
- Universality of the results is tested within an entire family of q -voter models

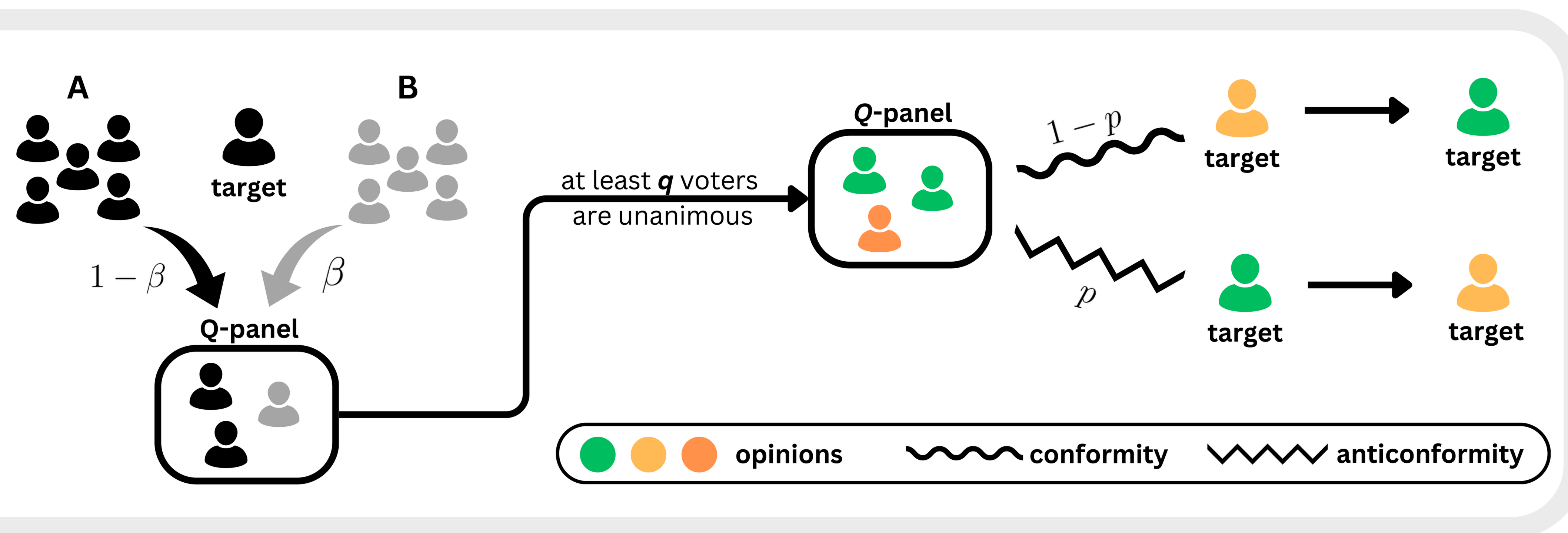


Anticonformity can be more effective than intuitive depolarizing strategies such as:

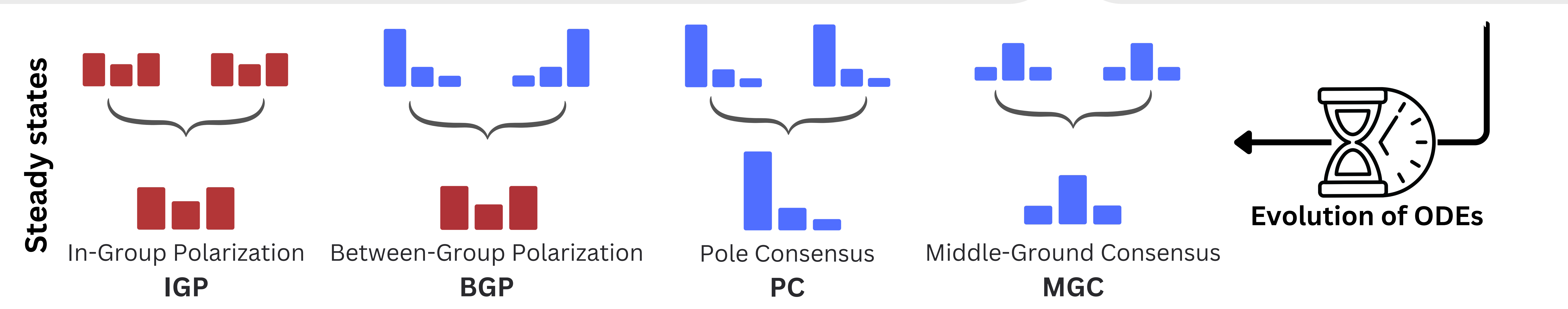
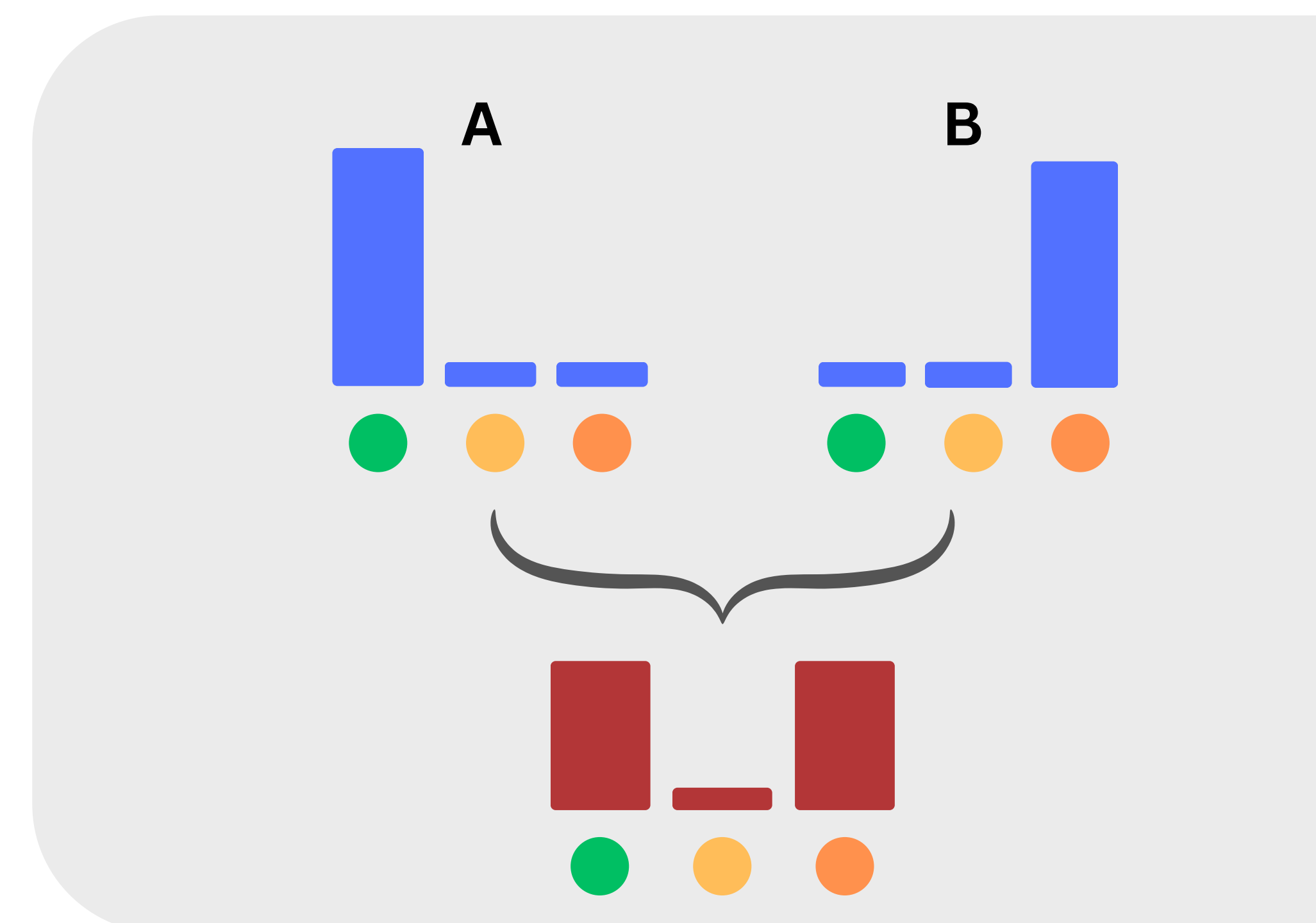
- increasing openness to opposing views - modeled with **bounded confidence (BC)**
- promoting out-group interactions

The level of anticonformity required for depolarization matches empirical observations - **promising for real-world application!**

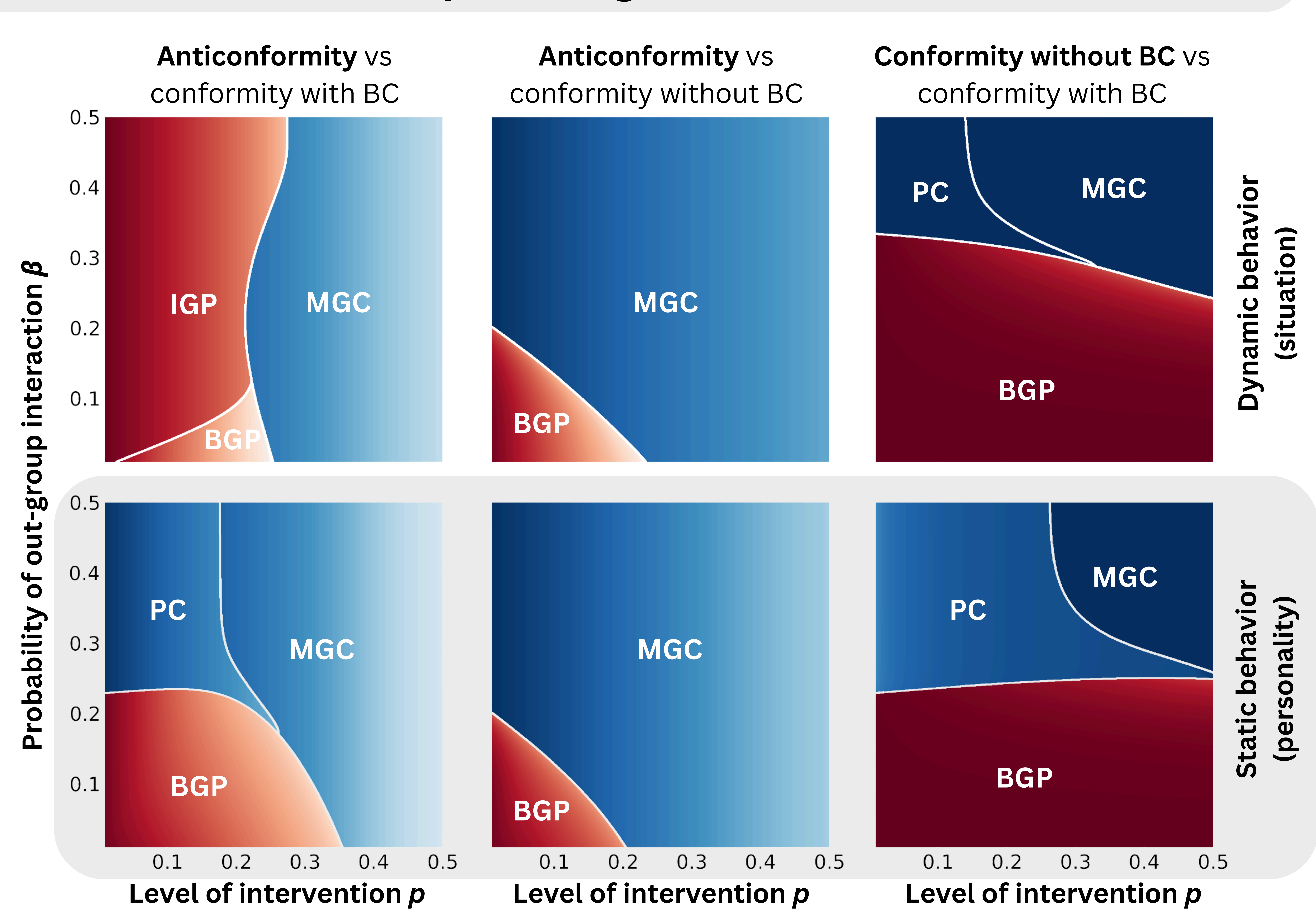
Two-faction threshold q -voter model



Initially polarized factions



Depolarizing interventions



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Expert Systems with Applications (2025)

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