



Why Centralisation and Decentralisation in Federations? A Comparative Analysis

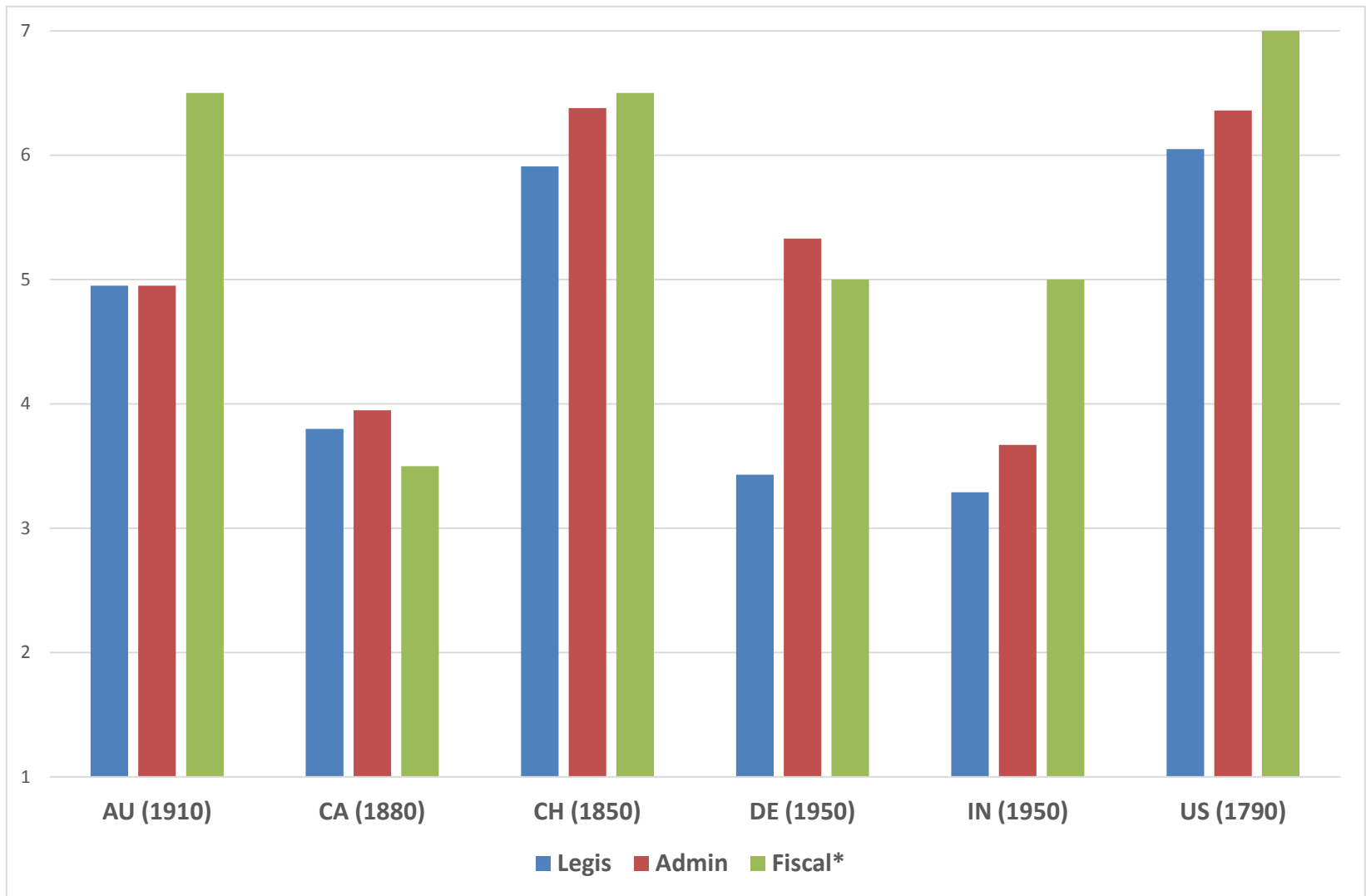
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Dynamic de/centralisation in federations

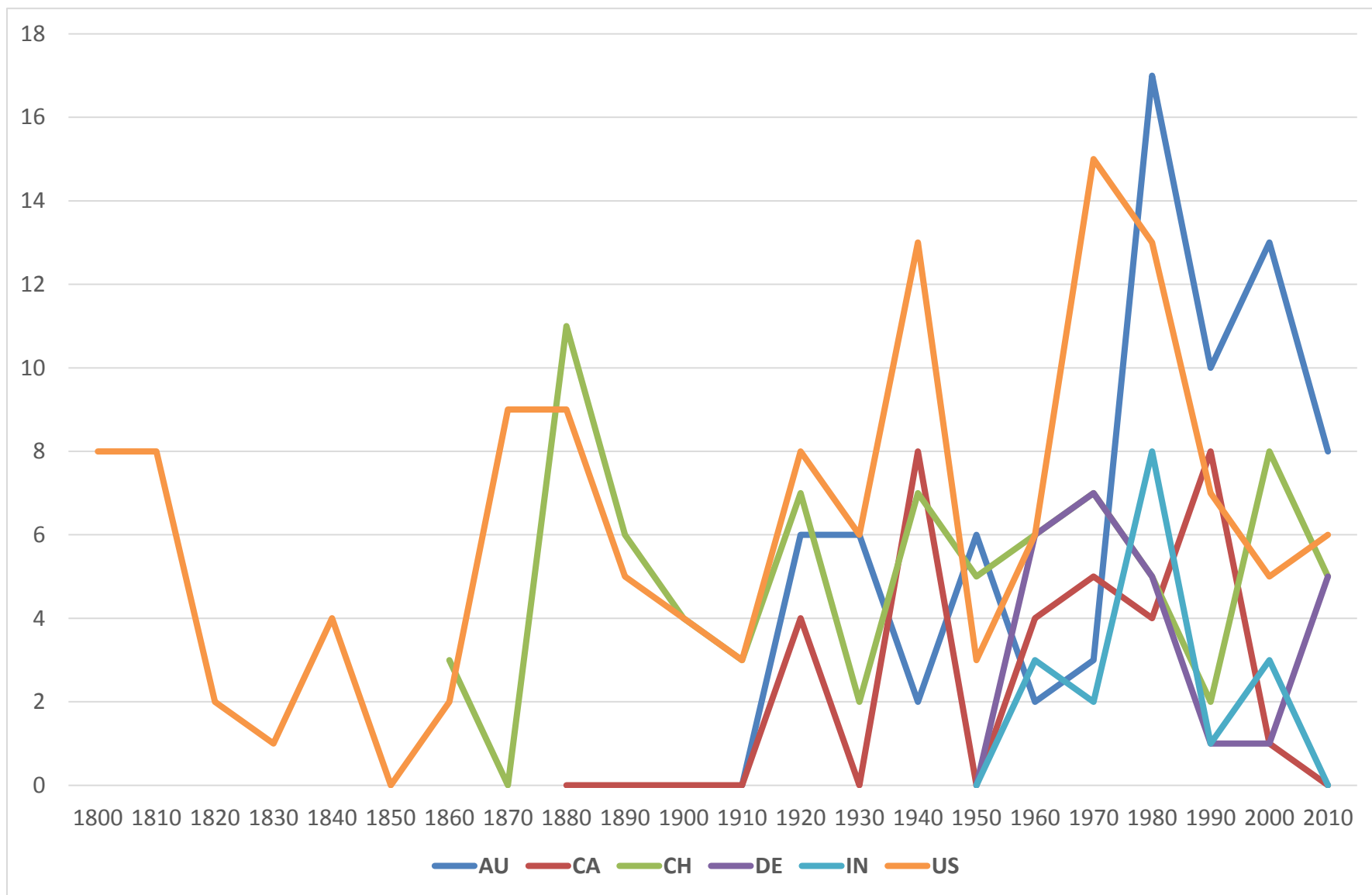
- ▶ **Static** (single time point) and **dynamic** (over time) de/centralisation; akin to stock and flow in economics
- ▶ **De/centralisation** rooted in **autonomy** of a **single** constituent unit vs central government and other constituent units
- ▶ Two dimensions: **policy** (22 categories) and **fiscal** (5 categories); distinction **legislation/administration** in policy dimension
- ▶ **Measurement**: 7-point scale; static de/ce every **10** years; in AU, CA, CH, DE, IN, US since foundation
- ▶ **Properties** of **dynamic** de/centralisation: direction, magnitude, tempo (frequency, pace, timing, sequence), form, instruments
- ▶ **Theorisation**: antecedents, socio-economic trends, socio-cultural trends, shocks, collective attitudes, political agency, institutions



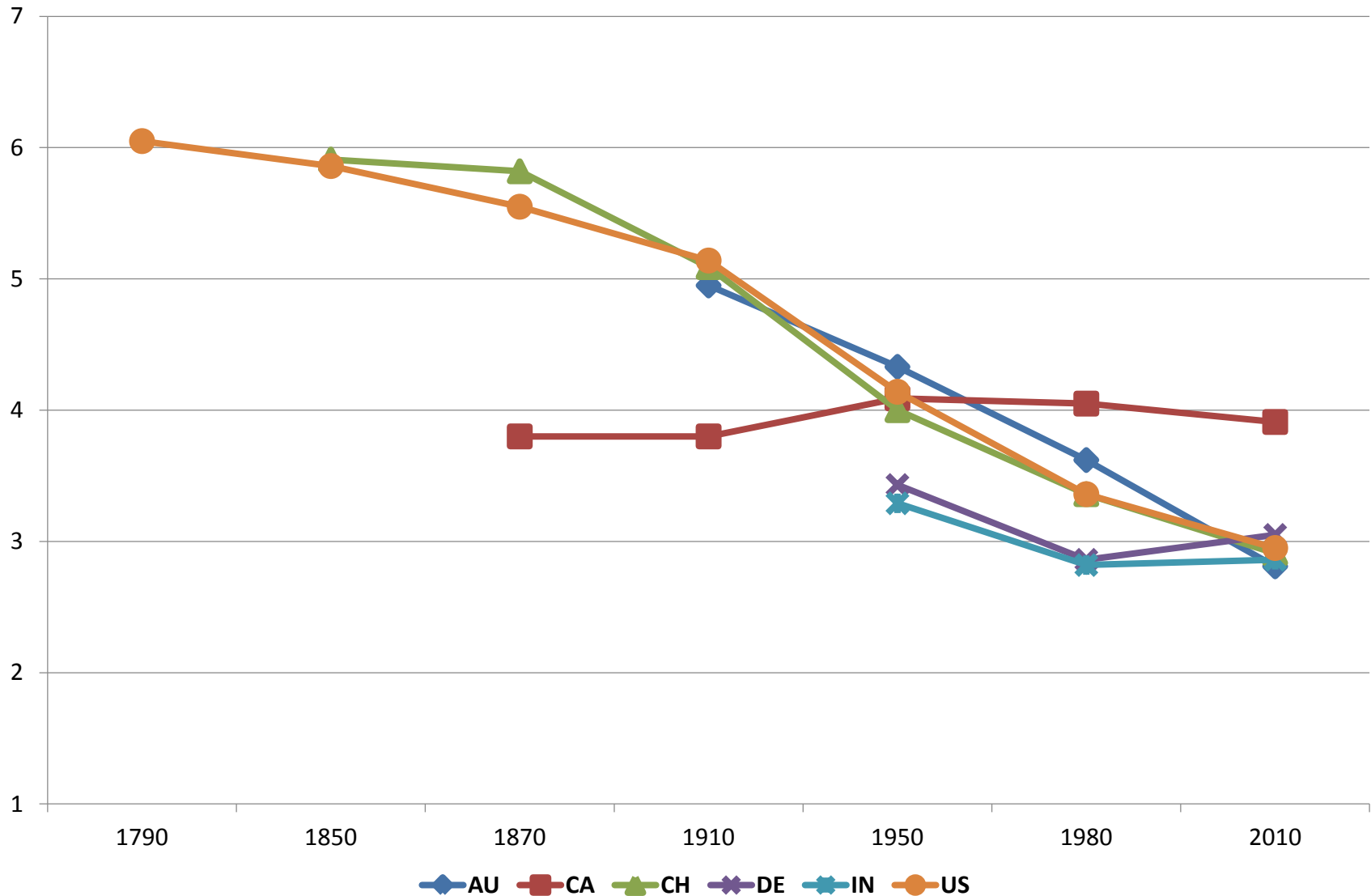
Static de/centralisation at the outset



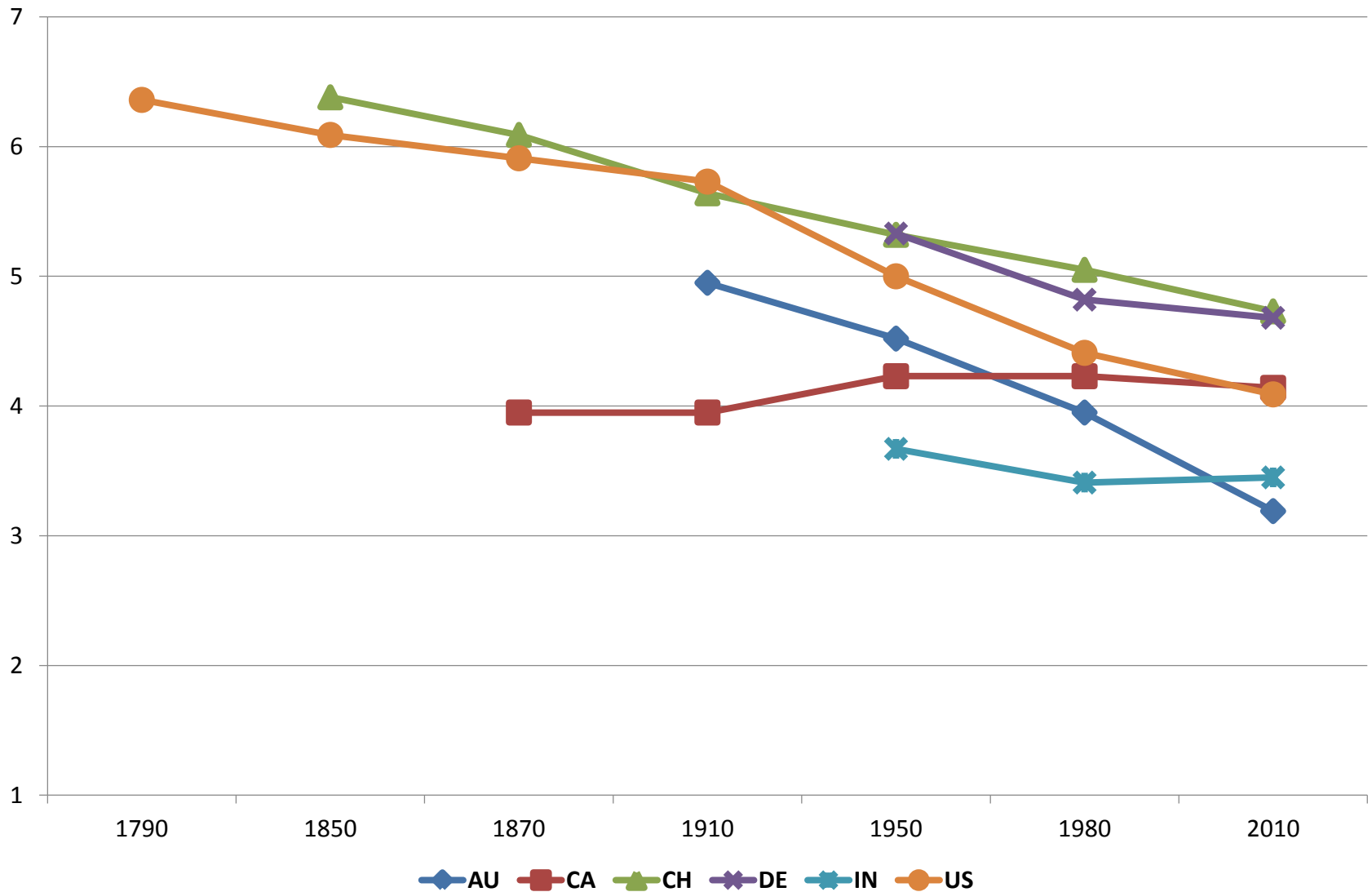
Frequency of dynamic policy de/ce by time point



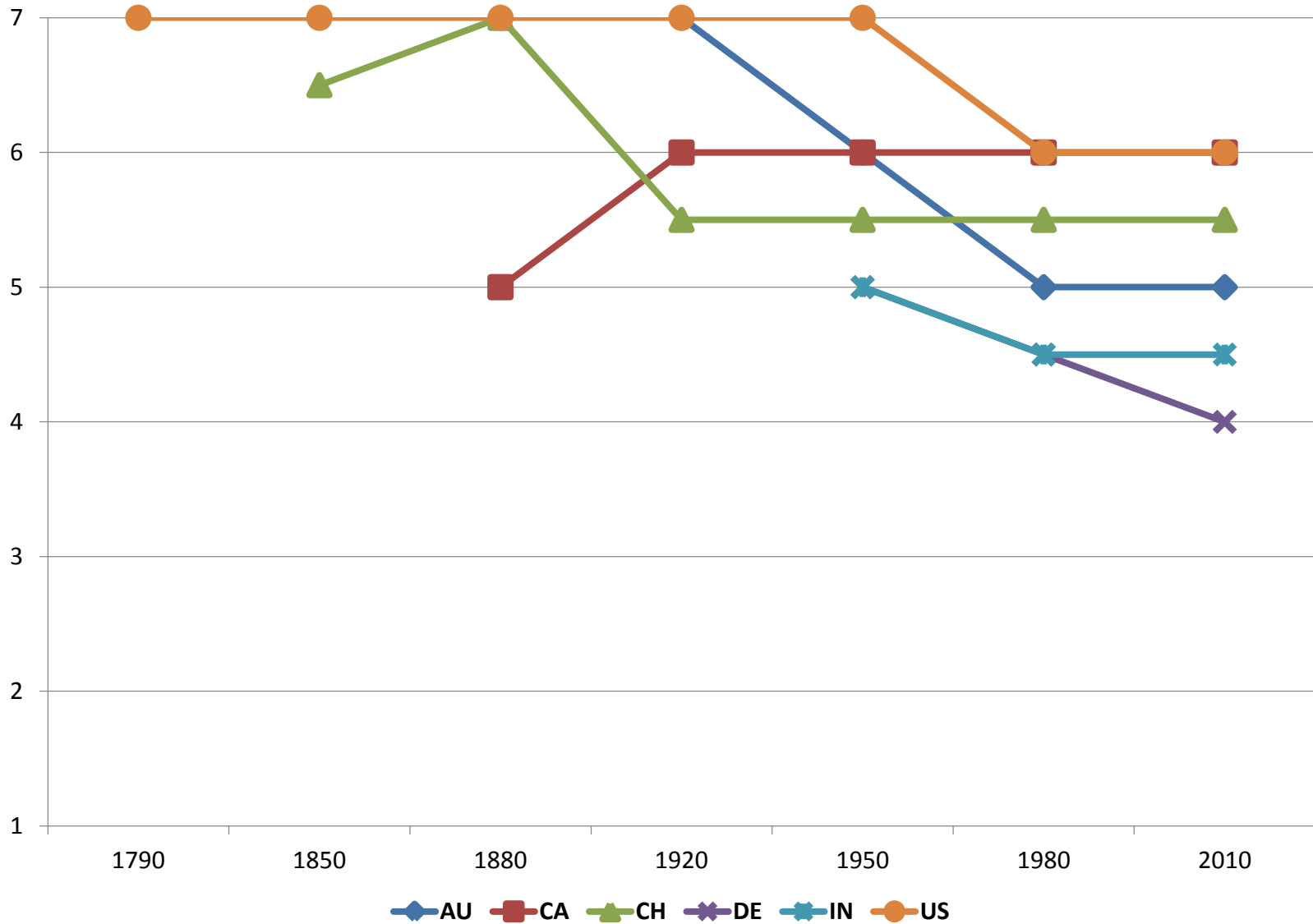
Mean static legislative de/centralisation



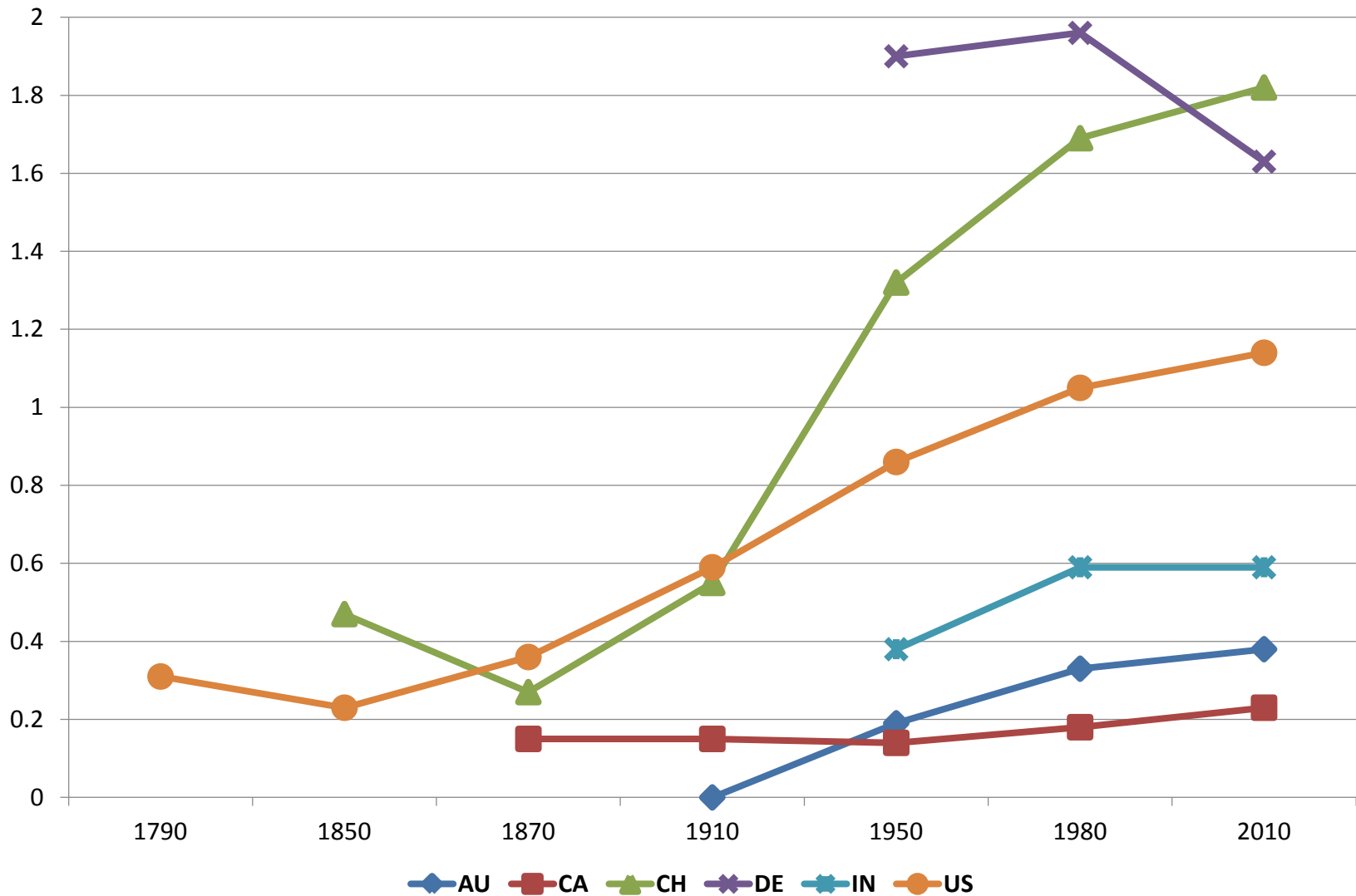
Mean static administrative de/centralisation



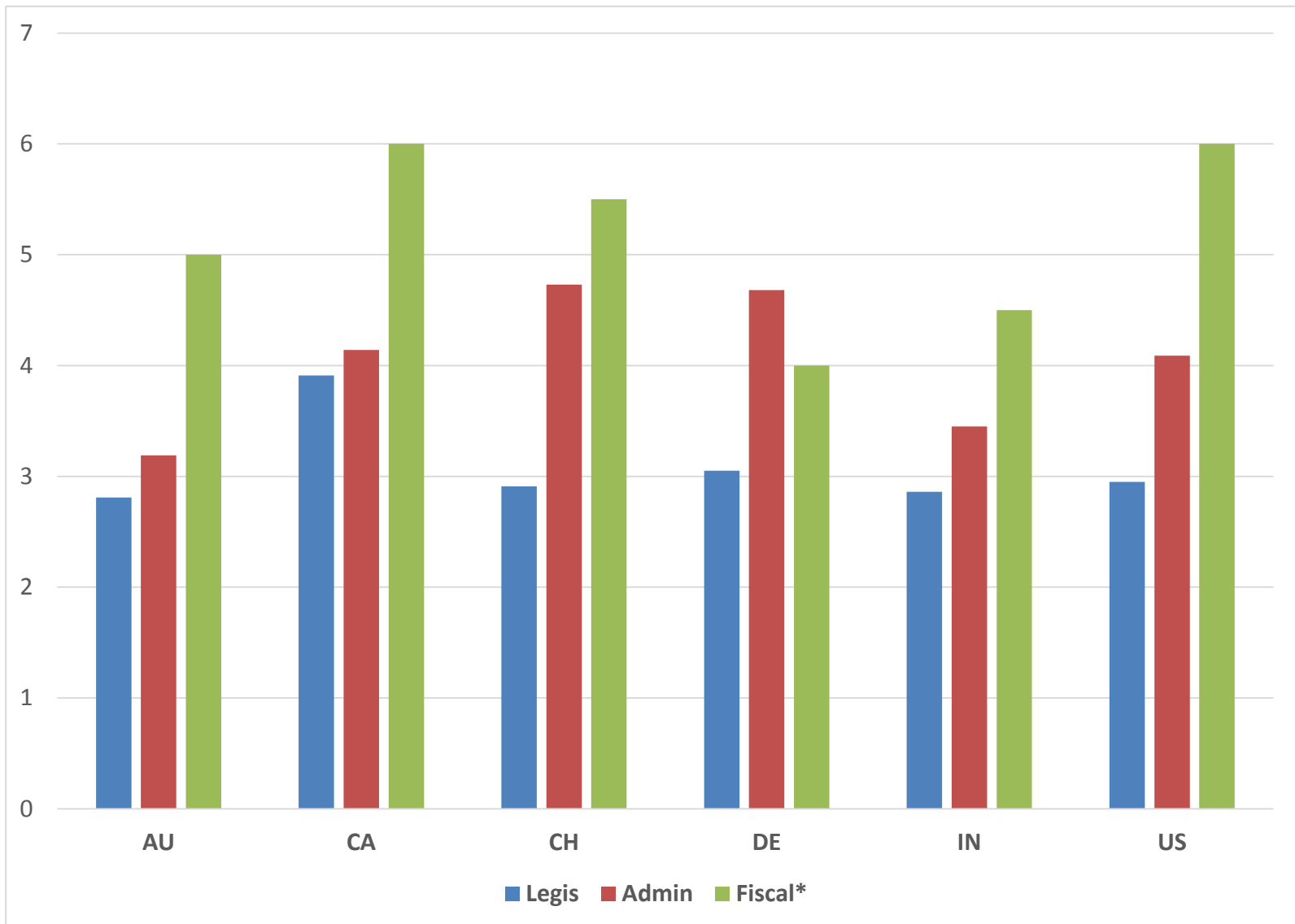
Mean static fiscal de/centralisation



Legislative-administrative mean deviation



Mean static de/centralisation, 2010



Conclusions

- ▶ Federations tend to become more **centralised** over time but not **inevitably** so; e.g. Canada but also Germany, India post-1980
- ▶ Dynamic centralisation primarily **legislative** rather than fiscal; most federations increasingly **'German'**, i.e. administrative
- ▶ Higher **centralisation** in the older federations – ex CA – largely because **more decentralised** at the outset; **convergence** over time
- ▶ **Institutional** properties influence **instruments** but not direction and magnitude
- ▶ **Structural** factors more powerful than **political** agency or institutional features



Thank you

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