Codebook "Bargaining Delays in the Government Formation Process" by Sona N. Golder in *Comparative Political Studies* (2010).

1 Dataset : delay.dta

1.1 Variables

These variables are taken from Muller & Strom (2000) unless otherwise indicated.

COUNTRYNAME
Names of countries used in analysis.

COUNTRY
Unique number identifying each country.

CABINET
Unique number identifying each country. Begins with country code, followed by cabinets 1 - n.

CABINETNAME
Cabinet name identified by surname of prime minister (followed by a number if the PM presided over more than one cabinet).

BARGAININGDAYS
The number of days between either an election or the resignation of the previous government and the day on which the new government is officially inaugurated.

DATEIN
Date on which a government took office. Format is YYMMDD.

DATEOUT
Date on which a government left office. Format is YYMMDD.

POSTELECTION
Dichotomous variable that equals 1 if a government is the first to form after an election (more uncertainty) and 0 if it forms in an interelection period (less uncertainty).

NONPARTISAN
Dichotomous variable that equals 1 if the government is nonpartisan and 0 otherwise.

LEGISLATIVE_PARTIES
This variable is calculated as $1/\Sigma s_i^2$, where s_i is the percentage of legislative seats won by the i^{th} party.

INCONCLUSIVE
The number of inconclusive bargaining rounds prior to a new government successfully forming.

SINGLEPARTY_MAJORITY
Dichotomous variable that equals 1 if a single party controls a majority of the legislative seats, 0 otherwise.

POLARIZATION
Measures the level of ideological polarization in the party system.
This measure is calculated as $K \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \pi_i^{\alpha+1} \pi_j \mid y_i - y_j \mid$, where n is the number of parties, π_i is the size of party i, y_i is the ideological position of party i, K is a constant (and is, therefore, not important here), and α is a parameter that can take on values between (0, α^*). As Esteban and Ray (1994) recommend, α is set equal to 1.6. The overall polarization measure comes from Indridason (2006), who uses several expert surveys to calculate the party positions.

CONTINUATION
Dichotomous variable that equals 1 if the outgoing government or formateur gets the first opportunity to form a new government, 0 otherwise. Data for this variable come from DvR (1998). Of the four countries in my dataset that are not in DvR (Greece, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom), only the UK has this feature (Bogdanor 1995, 147-150).

POSITIVE_PARL
Dichotomous variable that equals 1 if a new government requires the explicit support of a legislative majority in order to take office, 0 otherwise (Bergman 1995).

1.2 Variables created when running the "results.do" file

Several interaction terms are created in the do file, all involving multiplying a variable with the POSTELECTION variable. They are the following:

POST_LEGISLATIVE_PARTIES is POSTELECTION × LEGISLATIVE_PARTIES;
POST_POLARIZ is POSTELECTION × POLARIZATION;
POST_POSITIVE is POSTELECTION × POSITIVE_PARL

References

Bergman, Torbjörn. 1995. "Constitutional Rules and Party Goals in Coalition Formation: An Analysis of Winning Minority Governments in Sweden." Ph.D Thesis, Department of Political Science, Umea University (Sweden).

Bogdanor, Vernon. 1995. *The Monarchy and the Constitution*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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Esteban, Joan-María & Debraj Ray. 1994. "On the Measurement of Polarization." *Econometrica* 62(4):819–851.

Indridason, Indridi. 2006. "Coalition Formation and Polarization." Manuscript, University of Iceland.

Müller, Wolfgang C. & Kaare Strøm, eds. 2000. *Coalition Governments in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. hardcover version.