Readme and Codebook for

"Coalition mood in European parliamentary democracies"

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Readme

There are three script files:

1_generate_mood: loads data on monthly applause between parties, cleans it, calculates the 'coalition mood', standardizes it and adds a few additional variables which are necessary for further analyses.

2_analyses_figures_tables: calculates the models used in the validity check sections and creates Figures 1-6 as well as Tables 1-2.

functions: defines two functions necessary for simulations, is called from '2_analyses_figures_tables', not necessary to execute it on its own.

You should open the script files using UTF-8 encoding as there are German umlauts in the party- and cabinet names.

In both '1_generate_mood' and '2_analyses_figures_tables', a slightly adapted version of one R-package ("ggeffects" and "coxed", respectively) are installed, as small changes had to be made to them to account for small bugs. At the end of each script, the forked version of the package is un-installed again and, if a version of the package was installed on the device before, the original version is installed again. **Please note, however, that, if you originally had an outdated Github version of the package installed, the current Github version is installed instead, as it is not possible to install old versions**. If you used an outdated CRAN version, the same outdated CRAN version is installed.

In the following, the variables of the main data sets used in the analyses are described.

- applausebymonth.RDATA contains applause aggregated by month and is the main data file used to generate the mood measure
- polls.RDATA includes election- and opinion poll results of all parties and is used for concurrent validity
- govbills.RDATA includes data on all government bills introduced in the observed time frame and is used for predictive validity
- mood.RDATA is the result of '1_generate_mood' and contains the coalition mood

Codebook

applausebymonth.RDATA

variable name	description
date	month of observation, YYYY-MM
party_to	party that received applause
party_from	party that applauded
applause	number of times party_from applauded for party_to in that month
words_party_to	number of words politicians of party_to spoke in that month
seats_party_to	number of seats held by party_to in that month
gov_party_to	binary, was party_to in government in that month?
gov_party_from	binary, was party_from in government in that month?
undirect_party_dyads	differentiates between combinations of all parties, not differentiating who applauded whom (e.g. 'FDP_SPD' if FDP applauded for SPD or SPD applauded for FDP)
dyad	differentiates whether both party_to and party_from are in government ('gov-gov'), in opposition ('opp-opp') or whether one was in government and one in opposition ('gov-opp')
dyad2	same as 'dyad', but with an additional characteristic if a party applauded for itself ('self'), not differentiating whether this party is in government or opposition.
cabinet	name of cabinet in office in that month
country	abbreviation for country, "at" (Austria) or "de" (Germany)

polls.RDATA

variable name	description
date	month of observation, YYYY-MM-DD
cabinet	name of cabinet in office in that month
ref_point	binary, was an election held in this month and do these values represent election results rather than polls or not?
SPÖ – BZÖ (AT); CDUCSU – FDP (DE)	election results (if ref_point = TRUE) or average polling results (if ref_point = FALSE) of respective party
diff_SPÖ – diff_BZÖ (AT); diff_CDUCSU – diff_FDP (DE)	difference of current average polling results of respective party in this month to last election result (0 if ref_point = TRUE)
joint_diff	sum of differences of all government parties
spr	absolute value of joint_diff
share	(predicted) share of percentage points of chancellor party of all percentage points the government parties reach
share_comp	share compared to share on last election day

govbills.RDATA

variable name	description
id	id of bill
date	month of observation, YYYY-MM
start.x	first day bill was in parliament in this month
end.x	last day bill was in parliament in this month
start.y	first day bill was in parliament/ day bill was introduced
end.y	last day bill was in parliament/ day bill was passed or day legislative term ended before bill was passed
duration	duration bill was in parliament (in days)
duringmonth	duration bill was in parliament in this month (in days)
tstart	number of days bill was in parliament at start.x
time	number of days bill was in parliament at end.x
status	binary, indicates whether bill was passed in this month
s_gov	government issue saliency – average saliency of issue area the bill was in between government parties (measured by % of quasi-sentences in last election manifesto of parties dedicated to that topic)
s_opp	opposition issue saliency – average saliency of issue area the bill was in between opposition parties (measured by % of quasi-sentences in last election manifesto of parties dedicated to that topic)
d_gov	government issue divisiveness – average standard deviation from the mean position on the issue area the bill was in between government parties
d_opp	opposition issue divisiveness – average standard deviation from the mean position on the issue area the bill was in between opposition parties
monthspassed	months passed since the inauguration of the government
monthspassedsq	months passed since the inauguration of the government squared
agriculture - health	binary variables, indicating whether the bill was (among others) about this issue area

mood.RDATA

variable name	description
date	month of observation, YYYY-MM
mood	coalition mood, standardized between 0 and 10
std.error	standard error of coalition mood
conf.low	lower confidence interval of coalition mood (95%)
conf.high	upper confidence interval of coalition mood (95%)
country	abbreviation for country, "at" (Austria) or "de" (Germany)
cabinet	name of cabinet in office in that month
honeymoon	binary, differentiates whether a government was in its 'honeymoon period' (month of formation + 3 following months) or not
caretaker	binary, differentiates whether the acting government *either* has 1) a caretaker role (early elections have been announced but the government remains in office *or* 2) is still in office after an election before a new government is formed) or not
coalition	indicates which parties are in coalition
mood_lag	coalition mood, standardized between 0 and 10, lagged by one month
std.error_lag	standard error of coalition mood, lagged by one month