Hidden Strings Attached

Damian Raess, Wanlin Ren, and Patrick Wagner

Replication Instructions

All analysis conducted in R (ver. 4.1.0) using R-Studio (release "Ghost Orchid") for Windows

R code is saved as 'RaessRenWagner.R' and data are saved as 'fpadata.RDS' (main data), 'adcfa.csv' (raw aid data), and 'steeldata.RDS' (raw steel data for use in constructing instrumental variable).

Figures 1 and 2

Line 14 introduces the raw aid data used to construct Figure 1 and lines 15-22 prepare the data for use by selecting relevant columns from the dataset; removing projects whose status is 'Suspended,' 'Cancelled,' or 'Pipeline: Pledge' (i.e., not suitable for research); removing regional projects (those with multiple country codes, separated by semi-colon); filtering the years to the period of our research; converting the dollar amounts to USD billions; aggregating by flow class; and then renaming one flow class for purposes of consistency (renaming 'Vague (Official Finance)' to 'VOF-like' to resemble the 'OOF-like' and 'ODA-like' classes used by AidData). Lines 28-30 plot aid by type of flow using ggplot2.

Lines 42-61 create the plot illustrating the constituent parts of the instrumental variable used in the second part of the main analysis (Table 2). To do this we create two plots with ggplot2 and then combine them using ggarrange. Line 42 loads the steel data and line 43 filters to the relevant years while lines 44-50 generate the plot of the evolution of (crude) steel production in China. Lines 51-59 plot the evolution of the ideal point distance from China according to whether countries have a high or low probability of receiving Chinese aid, relative to the median probability.

Main OLS Results

Lines 67-94 replicate our main OLS findings from Table 1 and print the results using the summary function.

Figure 3

Lines 100-114 create our plot for Figure 3, the marginal effect of Chinese OOF-like aid on ideal point distance with China by regime type. Line 100 creates clear labels for the regime-type and lines 106-107 create an lm() version of our main interaction results for use with the plot_model() function since it does not currently have compatibility with felm(). Lines 113-114 use the stored lm() estimates to generate the Figure 3 plot.

Main Instrumental Variable (IV) Results

Lines 120-145 replicate our main instrumental variable results from Table 2. Lines 120-131 generate and print out the first stage results which are included in Table 2 and then lines 133-145 generate and print the main IV results.

Robustness Test Models (Table A5-A14)

Lines 151-589 replicate our supplementary robustness test results, reported in the Appendix of the paper. They all use the same modeling approach and function while including alternative or supplementary variables or alternative samples.

Annex 3 Plots

Lines 597-615 can be used to replicate the plots provided Annex 3. Each of those plots can be reproduced by replacing the CountryName in line 598 with that of the country of focus and then adjusting the amount by which oof is multiplied in line 603 and the second axis is divided by in line 604 to adjust the margins of the plot to accommodate the difference in aid amounts and ideal point distances for each country.