Codebook for the Replication Data for "Agenda Setting and Attention to Precedent in the U.S. Federal Courts"

JBrandon Duck-Mayr, Thomas G. Hansford, and James F. Spriggs, II

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Data collection

Data for this paper was collected following the approach in Fowler et al. (2007), who gathered citation data from *Shepard's Citations*, and update their data to include more recent citations through the end of 2015. In the summer of 2016, we downloaded the *Shepard's* report for each precedent decided between 1946 and 1985, which lists for the precedent every instance that another court case cites the precedent. We were therefore able to tabulate for each year after each precedent was decided how many times the precedent was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, how many times it was cited by a U.S. Court of Appeals, and how many times it was cited by a U.S. District Court, allowing us to create three time series for each precedent, *SC cites*, *AC cites*, and *DC cites*.

Shepard's Citations also codes the nature of each citation it records, so we know if and when the Supreme Court overruled one of these precedents, which allowed us to code an indicator variable for each precedent-year signifying whether the precedent had been overruled in or before that year. Finally, we pulled Martin-Quinn scores (Martin and Quinn 2002) for every justice serving between 1946 and 2015 that allowed us to code variables giving the median Martin-Quinn score of the opinion coalition for each precedent and the median Martin-Quinn score of the Supreme Court in each year between 1946 and 2015, which in turn allowed us to code our distance covariate, measuring the absolute distance between those two numbers for each precedent-year.

citation-data.csv

This file contains precedent-year-level data on citations to U.S. Supreme Court precedents decided between 1946 and 1985, with columns:

- cited_case: The LEXIS citation for the precedent (character)
- citing_year: The year of the precedent-year observation (integer)
- cited_year: The year the precedent was decided (integer)
- DCcites: The number of times a U.S. District Court cited the precedent in that year (integer)
- ACcites: The number of times a U.S. appellate court cited the precedent in that year (integer)

- SCcites: The number of times the U.S. Supreme Court cited the precedent in that year
- overruled: A binary indicator for whether the precedent had been overruled before that year (integer)
- age: The age of the precedent in that year (integer)
- courtMedian: The median Martin-Quinn score of the U.S. Supreme Court justices in that year (numeric)
- opinionMedian: The median Martin-Quinn score of the coalition of justices that signed onto the opinion of the Court for that precedent (numeric)
- distance: The absolute distance between courtMedian and opinionMedian (numeric)

coef-signs.csv

This file contains summary data on the "sign" for lag coefficients in all optimal-lag models run for the paper, i.e., whether the lag coefficient's 95% credible interval bounded zero, and if not, indicating which side of zero the credible interval lied, with columns:

- cited_case: The LEXIS citation for the precedent (character)
- optimal_lags: The optimal number of lags for the precedent (integer)
- SC1_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer), either -1 for reliably negative, 0 indicating the 95% credible interval bounded zero, or 1 for reliably positive.
- SC1_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer)
- SC1_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer)
- AC1_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer)

- AC1_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer)
- AC1_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer)
- DC1_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer)
- DC1_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer)
- DC1_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the first lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer)
- SC2_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- SC2_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- SC2_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- AC2_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- AC2_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- AC2_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- DC2_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- DC2_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1
- DC2_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the second lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1

- SC3_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- SC3_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- SC3_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *SC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- AC3_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- AC3_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- AC3_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *AC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- DC3_SC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *SC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- DC3_AC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *AC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2
- DC3_DC: The "sign" of the coeffient on the third lag of the *DC cites* variable in the *DC cites* equation (integer); will be NA if "optimal_lags" is 1 or 2

coef-summaries.csv

This file contains summary data on the posterior draws for lag coefficients in all one-lag models[1] run for the paper, with columns:

- cited_case: The LEXIS citation for the precedent (character)
- var: The lag coeffient for this observation observation (character), where
  - "SC1_SC" indicates the coefficient is on the first lag of the *SC cites* variable, in the *SC cites* equation,

1. Recall the optimal number of lags for the vast majority of precedents is one, so comparisons are more uniform using the one-lag model for all precedents.

  - "AC1_SC" indicates the coefficient is on the first lag of the *AC cites* variable, in the *SC cites* equation,
  - "SC1_DC" indicates the coefficient is on the first lag of the *SC cites* variable, in the *DC cites* equation,

  and so forth.

- low: The 2.5% quantile of the lag coefficient draws for the specified lag coefficient for the specified precedent (numeric)
- mean: The mean of the lag coefficient draws for the specified lag coefficient for the specified precedent (numeric)
- median: The 50% quantile of the lag coefficient draws for the specified lag coefficient for the specified precedent (numeric)
- high: The 97.5% quantile of the lag coefficient draws for the specified lag coefficient for the specified precedent (numeric)

dynamic-summaries.csv

This file contains summary data on impulse responses and forecast error variance decomposition calculated from the posterior draws for all one-lag models run for the paper, with columns:

- cited_case: The LEXIS citation for the precedent (character)
- dynamic: The type of dynamic store in this observation (character), either "IRF" or "FEVD"
- step: The "step ahead" the dynamic is calculated for (integer), in the set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, where 1 is the time period the shock is introduced, 2 is one "step ahead", up to 5, which is 4 time periods after the period in which the shock is introduced.
- quantity: The quantity recorded for the precedent-dynamic-step triad in this observation (character), taking values
  - "0.16" for the 16% quantile of the dynamic draws for that precedent-dynamic-step

  - "0.5" for the 50% quantile of the dynamic draws for that precedent-dynamic-step
  - "mean" for the mean of the dynamic draws for that precedent-dynamic-step
  - "0.84" for the 84% quantile of the dynamic draws for that precedent-dynamic-step

- SC_to_SC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *SC cites* variable and response in the *SC cites* variable (numeric)
- AC_to_SC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *AC cites* variable and response in the *SC cites* variable (numeric)
- DC_to_SC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *DC cites* variable and response in the *SC cites* variable (numeric)
- SC_to_AC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *SC cites* variable and response in the *AC cites* variable (numeric)
- AC_to_AC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *AC cites* variable and response in the *AC cites* variable (numeric)
- DC_to_AC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *DC cites* variable and response in the *AC cites* variable (numeric)
- SC_to_DC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *SC cites* variable and response in the *DC cites* variable (numeric)
- AC_to_DC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *AC cites* variable and response in the *DC cites* variable (numeric)
- DC_to_DC: The value for this precedent-dynamic-step-quantity tetrad for a shock to the *DC cites* variable and response in the *DC cites* variable (numeric)

Bibliography

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