Common-space Measures of Judicial Ideology for Federal Judges

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Description:
This codebook describes data on judicial ideology for the federal lower court judges as described in "A Common-Space Scaling of the American Judiciary and Legal Profession." The dataset was constructed using data from the Federal Judicial Center's Biographical Directory of Federal Judges (FJC) and the Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME). See Bonica and Sen (2016) (link) for details.

Principal Investigator:
Maya Sen and Adam Bonica

Contact:
Email: maya sen@hks.harvard.edu
Webpage: http://scholar.harvard.edu/msen

Email: bonica@stanford.edu
Webpage: http://www.stanford.edu/~bonica/

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1 Data Sources

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges: Data on judicial commissions for federal courts and background information on judges were obtained from the Federal Judicial Center's Biographical Directory of Federal Judges. (Available for download at http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/judges.html.)

Database on Ideology, Money in Politics, and Elections (DIME): Contribution records and corresponding Commmon-space CFscores for judges were obtained from DIME. (Available for download at http://data.stanford.edu/dime.)

DW-NOMINATE Scores: DW-NOMMINATE scores for the 1-114th Congresses were obtained from Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. (Available for download at http://www.voteview.com.)

2 Variable Descriptions

2.1 Federal Judge Dataset (`bonica_sen_fed_judges.csv`)

1) `fjc.judge.idno`: Unique judge identifier assigned by the Federal Judicial Center.
2) `judge.last.name`: Judge's last name.
3) `judge.first.name`: Judge's first name .
4) `judge.middle.name`: Judge's middle name.
5) `suffix`: Judge's suffix (e.g. Jr., Sr., etc.).
6) `party.affiliation.of.president`: The party affiliation of the president at the time of appointment.
7) `president.name`: Name of appointing president.
8) `court.type`: Four letter code indicating the type of court (USDC—federal district courts; USCA—federal circuit court of appeals).
9) `court.name`: Name of the court on which the judge serves.
10) `state`: State from which judge was nominated.
11) `nomination.date.senate.executive.journal`: Date of nomination as reported by Senate.
12) `dime.cid`: The unique DIME contributor ID associated with the judge. This variable can be used to match judges with their personal contributions records in DIME.
13) `dime.cfscore`: Judge's common-space CFscore as a contributor.

14) `imputed.dime.cfscore:` Imputed common-space CFscore for the judge. (See paper for details on how scores were imputed.)

15) `jcs.score.dw:` Estimated score for judge using the Judicial Common-Space (JCS) methodology applied to the Poole and Rosenthal's common-space DW-NOMINATE scores for the 1-114th Congresses. (The JCS scores have been updated through 2015.)

16) `jcs.cfscore.cf:` Estimated score for judge using the Judicial Common-Space (JCS) methodology using the common-space CFscores of appointing actors in place of common-space DW-NOMINATE scores.

17) `pres.dw:` DW-NOMINATE score of the appointing president.

18) `pres.dime.cfscore:` Common-space CFscore of the appointing president.

19) `senscore.dw:` DW-NOMINATE score of home-state senator(s) who are members the appointing president's party. (Takes the average score of home-state senators if both are members of president's party. Takes on a value of *NA* if neither home-state senator is a member of the president's party and for USCA judges.)

20) `senscore.dime.cfscore:` Common-space CFscore of home-state senator(s) who are members the appointing president's party. This takes the average score of home-state senators if both are members of president's party and a value of *NA* if neither home-state senator is a member of the president's party.

21) `state.delegation.dw:` Average DW-NOMINATE score of state's congressional delegation at time of appointment.

22) `state.delegation.dime.cfscore:` Average common-space CFscore of state's congressional delegation at time of appointment.

23) `use.pres:` Is the judge's JCS score calculated solely based on the ideal point of the President? (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

24) `both.sen.opp:` Are both home-state senators from the opposing party of president? (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

25) `unified:` Was the judge appointed during a period of unified government? (0 = No, 1 = Yes)

26) `birth.year:` Birth year of judge (yyyy).

27) `gender:` Gender code from FJC (M: male; F: female).

28) `race.or.ethnicity:` Coded race/ethnicity from FJC.

29) `aba.rating:` ABA rating ('Exceptionally Well Qualified', 'Well Qualified', 'Qualified','Not Qualified')

30) `law.school:` Law school at which judge earned degree.

31) `employment.text.field:` Description of judge's prior employment from the FJC.

32) `exit.year`: Year of judge's commission.

33) `enter.year`: Year judge exited the bench.

2.2 Candidate and Contributor DIME Scores for Lawyer-Candidates (`cand_vs_contrib_dime_scores.csv`)

1) `name`: Attorney-candidate's full name.

2) `last.name`: Attorney-candidate's last name.

3) `first.name`: Attorney-candidate's first name.

4) `middle.name`: Attorney-candidate's middle name.

5) `suffix`: Attorney-candidate's suffix.

6) `isln`: Unique identifier for attorneys from Martindale-Hubbell.

7) `dime.cid`: Unique DIME contributor ID.

8) `dime.rid`: Unique DIME recipient ID.

9) `cand.cycle`: The first cycle in which the attorney appears in the DIME data as a candidate.

10) `cand.party`: Party-affiliation of candidate.

11) `cand.state`: State in which attorney-candidate ran for office.

12) `cand.seat`: Code for office sought from DIME.

13) `dime.contrib.cfscore`: DIME contributor score based on donations made by the candidate.

14) `dime.cand.cfscore`: DIME recipient score based on donations to the candidate's campaign.

15) `dwnom`: DW-NOMINATE score for attorney-candidates who served in Congress.

2.3 Case-level Data on Petitioner and Respondent Attorneys Arguing Before the Supreme Court (`cert_petition_data_matched_to_dime.csv`)

1) `docket`: Docket number.

2) `caseName`: Case name.

3) `partyWinning`: Indicates whether the case was decided in favor of the petitioner party (1-Petitioner wins; 2-Respondent wins).

4) `pet_atty_name`: Name of attorney representing petitioner.

5) `pet_atty_name_parsed`: Name of attorney representing petitioner (parsed).

6) `pet_atty_cid`: Unique DIME contributor ID for petitioner attorney.

7) `cfscore_pet`: DIME contributor score for petitioner attorney.

8) `resp_atty_name`: Name of attorney representing respondent.

9) `resp_atty_name_parsed`: Name of attorney representing respondent (parsed).

10) `resp_atty_cid`: Unique DIME contributor ID for respondent attorney.

11) `cfscore_resp`: DIME contributor score for respondent attorney.

12) `winning_cf`: DIME contributor score for winning attorney.

13) `losing_cf`: DIME contributor score for losing attorney.

14) `minVotes`: Number of votes in the minority.

15) `issueAreaName`: Case Issue area.