Codebooks and Data Descriptions for:

Testing Theories of Interbranch Relations Using a Textual Measure of Congressional Delegation

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1 Full Dataset

This dataset is called "all_bill_level_agency_scores.rdata" on our Dataverse page. The unit of analysis for this dataset is the bill-version, so there is a row for each version of each bill (H.R. or S.) from the 110^{th} and 111^{th} Congresses.

- **bill_id:** Unique identifier for each row (bill number, Congress, and version string)
- **dim1:** Weighted first-dimension bill-level agency independence scores calculated using agency-level scores from Selin (2015). More detail on construction of scores found in manuscript.
- **dim2:** Weighted second-dimension bill-level agency independence scores calculated using agency-level scores from Selin (2015). More detail on construction of scores found in manuscript.
- **ideol_profile:** Weighted bill-level agency ideology scores calculated using agency-level scores from Clinton *et al.* (2012). More detail on construction of scores found in manuscript.
- **unweighted_dim1:** Unweighted first-dimension bill-level agency independence scores calculated using agency-level scores from Selin (2015).
- **unweighted_dim2:** Unweighted second-dimension bill-level agency independence scores calculated using agency-level scores from Selin (2015).
- **unweighted_ideol_profile:** Unweighted bill-level agency ideology scores calculated using agency-level scores from Clinton *et al.* (2012).
- **cong:** Congress number
- **dem_house_median:** First-dimension NOMINATE score of the median Democrat in the House.

- **dem_senate_median:** First-dimension NOMINATE score of the median Democrat in the Senate.
- **dem_cong_median:** First-dimension NOMINATE score of the median Democrat in Congress (pooling across House and Senate).
- **house_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between ideol_profile and dem_house_median
- **senate_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between ideol_profile and dem_senate_median
- **cong_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between ideol_profile and dem_cong_median
- **unweighted_house_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between unweighted_ideol_profile and dem_house_median
- **unweighted_senate_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between unweighted_ideol_profile and dem_house_median
- **unweighted_cong_median_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between unweighted_ideol_profile and dem_house_median
- **delegation_num:** Number of delegations in each bill-version
- **BillID:** Bill ID from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **DW1:** Bill sponsor first-dimension NOMINATE score from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **Party:** Bill sponsor party from Adler & Wilkerson (2011) (100 = Democrat; 200 = Republican)
- **PLaw:** Indicator for if bill became a law (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)

- **PassH:** Indicator for if bill passed the House (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **PassS:** Indicator for if bill passed the Senate (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **ImpBill:** Indicator for if the bill was coded as "Important" (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **Majority:** Indicator for if the bill sponsor was in the majority party (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **Major:** Bill-level Policy Agendas Project topic from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **Private:** Indicator for if the bill is a private bill (1) or not (0) from Adler & Wilkerson (2011) (all should be 0)
- **words:** Number of words in bill-version
- **delegation_ratio.1:** Delegation ratio for each bill-version
- **n.agencies:** Number agencies receiving delegated authority in each bill-version
- **version:** Bill version factor variable, using codes from congress.gov
- **mayhew:** Indicator variable for whether bill was coded as a landmark law by Mayhew (1) or not (0)
- **bill_type:** Factor variable for type of bill (hr for House bill; S for Senate bills)
- **sponsor_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between sponsor first-dimension NOMINATE and ideol_profile
- **unweighted_sponsor_dist:** Absolute value of the difference between sponsor first-dimension NOMINATE and unweighted_ideol_profile

- **test:** Created to check specific variable coding. Can be ignored. All observations equal 0 on this variable.
- **top_agency:** Factor variable for the agency that receives the greatest number of delegations in each bill-version
- **top_agency_prop:** Proportion of the delegations in each bill-version going to the top agency
- **section_total:** Total number of sections in each bill-version
- **conservative:** Indicator variable for whether the ideol_profile score of each bill-version is at least one standard deviation more conservative than the mean across all bill versions (1) or not (0).
- **unified_gov:** Indicator variable for unified government. Equals 1 in the 111^{th} Congress and 0 in the 110^{th} Congress.

2 Bill Version Specific Datasets

These datasets (introduced_hr_bills.rdata, introduced_senate_bills.rdata, reported_hr_bills.rdata, senate_reported_bills.rdata, engrossed_house.rdata, and engrossed_senate.rdata) are included in one section because they are nearly identical in terms of the variables. These datasets are all bill-version-based subsets of all_bill_level_agency_scores.rdata, but some of them include additional variables. Variables 1-42 in these datasets are identical to those described above from all_bill_level_agency_scores.rdata. Any variable unique to these subsets is described below.

- **MRef:** Indicator variable for whether a bill was referred to a committee on which its sponsor serves (1) or not (0)

- **ChRef:** Indicator variable for whether a bill was referred to a committee on which its sponsor serves as chair (1) or not (0), from Adler & Wilkerson (2011)
- **PooleID:** Sponsor Poole ID
- **rept_house:** Indicator variable for whether each bill was reported favorably out of a House committee (1) or not (0)
- **rept_senate:** Indicator variable for whether each bill was reported favorably out of a Senate committee (1) or not (0)
- **Title:** Bill title
- **RepArr:** Codes for reporting committees

3 Expanded Datasets with Agency Information

These datasets (cong110_agency_bills.rdata and cong111_agency_bills.rdata) are in a wide format and include a variable for every executive branch body that acts as a recipient of delegated authority in our study (departments, agencies, etc.). In both of these datasets the unit of analysis is the bill-version. Each dataset contains variables described above, and any variable unique to these datasets is described below.

- **bill_number:** Bill number (for example, 1 for HR 1)
- **Variables from Congressional Bills Project:** Variables 4-48 are all taken directly from the Congressional Bills Project and merged in based on BillID
- **bill_id:** A version of the BillID variable that also includes information about the bill version
- **delegates:** Number of delegations in each bill-version
- **text:** The text of each bill-version

- **Agency Variables:** Variables 55-219 are counts of the number of delegations to each agency in each bill version. Each agency gets its own variable (for example, variable 55 is for the Administration for Children and Families, and it takes on a numerical value for each observation based on the number of delegations to that agency in that specific bill-version).

- **PartyName:** Name of the bill sponsor's party

- **ReportCommittee:** Indicator variable for whether (1) or not (0) a bill was reported out of a committee in either chamber

- **PassChamber:** Indicator variable for whether (1) or not (0) a bill passed its parent chamber

- **characters:** Number of characters in bill-version

References

Adler, E. Scott, & Wilkerson, John. 2011. *Congressional Bills Project*.

Clinton, Joshua D, Bertelli, Anthony, Grose, Christian R, Lewis, David E, & Nixon, David C. 2012. Separated powers in the United States: The ideology of agencies, presidents, and congress. *American Journal of Political Science*, **56**(2), 341–354.

Selin, Jennifer L. 2015. What Makes an Agency Independence? *American Journal of Political Science*, **59**(4), 971–987.