Codebook

Inferring Individual Preferences from Group Decisions:
Judicial Preference Variation and Aggregation on Collegial Courts

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A. Codebook for "AADecisions.csv"

The AA`decisions.csv` dataset contains data on appeals on asylum issues filed at the Swiss Federal Administrative Court's divisions IV and V between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

Note that this dataset and the codebook for the dataset are not included in the repository. To request the full dataset and the accompanying codebook, please contact the Swiss Federal Administrative Court, Deputy Executive Secretary, Postfach, 9023 St. Gallen, Switzerland; e-Mail: direction-taf@bvger.admin.ch

B. Codebook for "aadata.Rda" ("DataL")

For the appeal decisions that are publicly available on the FAC's decisions database, the `DataL` dataset contains information about whether or not the appellant had a legal representative (lawyer/paralegal).

These data come from a historical version of the FAC's judgements database (FAC 2007). The current version can be found here: https://www.bvger.ch/en/jurisprudence/judgments-database This database contains all publicly available decisions.

- Steps for accessing these data:
  - Eingangsjahr: "2007"
  - Abteilung: „Abt. IV (Asylrecht)" and „Abt. V (Asylrecht)"
  - Click „Suche"

The following cases were dropped from the dataset:

- For joint cases – connected appeals that received a joint decision – only one entry was kept.

Variable	Description	Class
`caseid`	case identification number	character
`lawyer`	• "TRUE" = the appellant(s) had a legal representative • "FALSE" = the appellant(s) did not have a legal representative	character/ binary

C. Codebook for "jdata.Rda" ("JData")

This dataset includes the identifiers for the FAC asylum appeal judges in 2007, abbreviations of the political parties the FAC judges are affiliated with, the colors associated with the parties for the plots, and the judges' seniority.

These data stem from the following source:

- Federal Administrative Court (2007). Judges. (historical versions of the website)
  - Judges Division IV: https://web.archive.org/web/20110224032509/http://www.bvger.ch/gericht/richter/00563/00580/index.html?lang=de (for example)
  - Judges Division V: https://web.archive.org/web/20110224032558/http://www.bvger.ch/gericht/richter/00563/00581/index.html?lang=de (for example)

Variable	Description	Class
TAG	FAC Asylum appeal judge identifier, based on judge party affiliation/sympathy and a randomly generated ID number	character
Party	Abbreviations of Swiss political parties (and non-partisan)	character
red	Rgb red light value	integer
green	Rgb green light value	integer
blue	Rgb blue light value	integer
seniority	Judge's number of years of experience in deciding asylum appeals at the beginning of 2007	integer

D. Codebook for "materie_codes.Rda" ("materie_agg_codes")

The materie_agg_codes dataset provides an overview of the code and description associated with each Sachgebiet (legal issue), at the aggregated level.

The data stem from the following source:

- Federal Administrative Court (2017) Codeauflösung Rechtsmaterie ("Sachgebiet")

Variable	Description	Class
Code	Legal issue ("Sachgebiet") code at the aggregate level (14 unique legal issues)	character
Text_de	Legal issue ("Sachgebiet") description at the aggregate level (14 unique legal issues) in German	character
Text_en	Legal issue ("Sachgebiet") description at the aggregate level (14 unique legal issues) in English (own translation)	character

Note:

Unless noted otherwise, missing values are NA in all datasets.