Manifesto Project Election Level do-file

Documentation

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Website: https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/datasets

Version 1.0
from December 1, 2014

1 Introduction & How it Works

The Manifesto Project Election Level do-file (mpelds) is the successor of the median voter dataset, which accompanied the books Mapping Policy Preferences I and II (Budge et al. 2001; Klingemann et al. 2006). The script facilitates the calculation of indicators on the election level such as the median voter, the center of gravity, the degree of polarization, etc...

The do-file can be applied to any version of the Manifesto Dataset since Version 2009a. We decided to provide a script instead of a dataset because scripts are much more transparent than ready-made datasets and much more flexible.

The script works only for Stata. The do-file assumes that a version of the Manifesto Project Dataset is loaded in stata. Open the dataset and execute the script and it will add the following variables to the dataset:

All scores related to ideology are based on the rile-variable of the Manifesto Dataset. However, small changes (replacing e.g. rile by planeco) would result in the same scores for other ideological dimensions.

The most recent version of this do-file can be found on the Manifesto Project's Website:

`http://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/datasets/mpelds`

The most recent version of the Manifesto Project Main Dataset can be found on:

`http://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/datasets/`

2 Measures provided:

cnt_parties
The number of parties coded in the Manifesto Project Dataset for this election.

cnt_parl_parties
The number of parties coded in the Manifesto Project Dataset for this election that won at least one parliamentary seat.

sum_pervote
The sum of vote shares won by the parties covered by the Manifesto Project Dataset.

sum_seats
Number of seats won by parties that are covered in the Manifesto Project Dataset.

total_seats
Total number of seats in parliament.

eff_nr_parties
The effective number of electoral parties (Laakso and Taagepera 1979) based on the pervote variable from the Manifesto Project Dataset. It is calculated according to the following formula:

$$EN_e = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i^2}$$

where EN_e is the effective number of electoral parties and V is the vote share of party i (pervote/sum_pervote).

eff_nr_parl_parties
The effective number of parliamentary parties (Laakso and Taagepera 1979) based on the seatshare (calculated from the absseat and totseats variable in the Manifesto Project dataset). It is calculated according to the following formula:

$$EN_p = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} S_i^2}$$

where EN_p is the effective number of parliamentary parties, n are the parties and S is the parliamentary seat share of a party (share of seats covered by the Manifesto Project Dataset, this is not necessarily equal to the totals of the parliament).

disprop
Gallagher index of vote-seat disproportionality (Gallagher 1991). The formula is:

$$dis = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(V_i - S_i)^2}$$

where dis indicates the disproportionality and ranges from 0 (no disproportionality) to 1 (complete disproportional system), V indicates the vote share of a party i and S the seat share of a party i.

rile_min
The left-right position of the most leftist party at the election.

rile_max The left-right position of the most rightist party at the election.

rile_range The distance between the most leftist and the most righist party.

rile_mean The election mean left-right score.

rile_wmean The mean left-right position weighted by the parties' vote share (also known as the ideological center of gravity Gross and Sigelman 1984). It is calculated according to the following formula:

$$wmean = \sum_{i=1}^{n}(\frac{V_i}{T} \cdot p_i)$$

with T as the sum of vote share at the election (sum_pervote), V a party's vote share and p a party's left-right position.

rile_polarization The left-right polarization of the party system calculated according to the formula by Dalton (2008):

$$pol = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n}((\frac{(p_i - wmean)}{100})^2 \cdot V_i)}$$

where pol is the polarization index ranging from 0 to 10, p is a party's left-right position, V is a party's vote share and wmean the weighted left-right mean (rile_wmean).

rile_import_mean The average saliency of the sum of all rile categories across parties at one election.

rile_import_wmean The average saliency of the sum of all rile categories weighted by the party's vote share across parties at one election .

heterogeneity Heterogeneity indicates how the issue emphasis differs across parties within elections. It is calculated according to the formula by Franzmann (2008):

$$het = \frac{\frac{1}{C}\sum_{i=1}^{c} s^2}{\sqrt{N}}$$

where het is the heterogeneity at a specific election, C the number of categories (here all categories), c the category, s the standard deviation in emphasis of the category and N the number of parties (cnt_parties).

median_voter

The position of the median voter, calculated according to the formula by Kim and Fording (1998; 2003).

$$m = L + ((K - CUM)/F) * W$$

Where m is the median voter position, L is lower end of the interval containing the median, K is 0.5*sum_pervote, CUM is the cumulative vote share up to but not including the interval containing the median and W is the width of the interval containing the median. See the works of Kim & Fording for a more detailed description of the calculation (1998; 2003). Different parties with the same left-right position (e.g. alliances) are treated as one party with the cumulative vote share. Minor differences to the data published with Mapping Policy Preferences II exist due to slightly different election results and changes in the Manifesto Project Dataset.

median_voter_adj

The position of the median voter, calculated according to the formula by Kim and Fording (1998; 2003) adjusted according to theorizing by Michael McDonald (McDonald 2002). The Kim-Fording formula produces odd estimates for cases where the party that contains the median voter is the most leftist or most rightist party as the midpoint is assumed to be -100 or 100. In the adjusted formula the midpoint is "mirrored" from the midpoint of the other side: "Rather than assuming the party's voters are so widely dispersed, this variable assumes they are spread in a symmetrical interval around the party's position. For example, for a leftmost party at -15 and a 0 midpoint between it and an adjacent party on the right, we assume the left boundary of that party's voters is -30." (McDonald 2002). The rest of the formula remains the same.

References

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