

Assignment

Based on the lecture, we have a set of hypotheses to be tested regarding the relation between political variables such as legislative organization, inter-branch conflict, and issue types on the one hand, and agency discretion on the other hand.

1. How would you measure each of these variables?
 - a. Inter-branch difference in preferences
 - b. Degree to which committees are outliers
 - c. Informational content of issue types
 - d. Agency discretion, which is composed of:
 - i. Delegation and
 - ii. Constraints

Be as specific as possible, including data sources and any statistical techniques you would employ in constructing these measures.

2. Once you have these measures in hand, what sorts of results would you want to look at before doing any specific regression analysis of the hypotheses? I.e., what debates in the literature could your data address? How would you test the validity of your constructs?
3. Finally, how would you use these data to test the hypotheses given in class? Try to be specific about the types of regression analysis used, and potential pitfalls in the testing.