

Obtaining Party Positions on Immigration from Party Manifestos

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Overview

- Why manifestos
- Possible approaches
- Data and methods
- Results: Parties over time
- Results: Comparison of approaches
- Results: Cross-national
- Conclusion

Why Manifestos

- Lack of expert data
- Specific issue domain: immigration
- Data over time
- Collecting data in retrospective

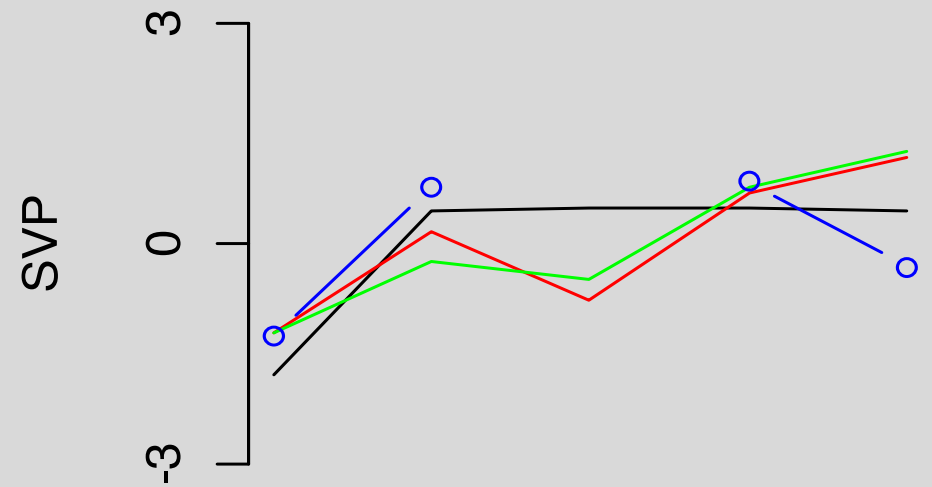
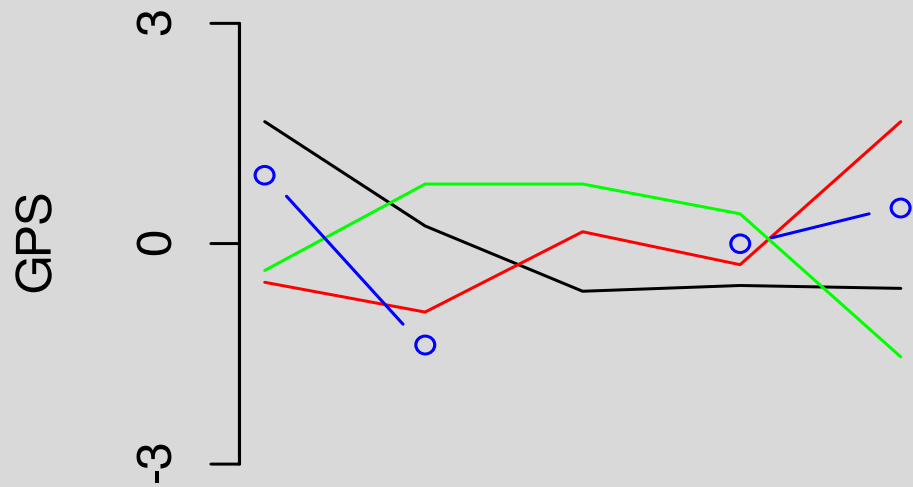
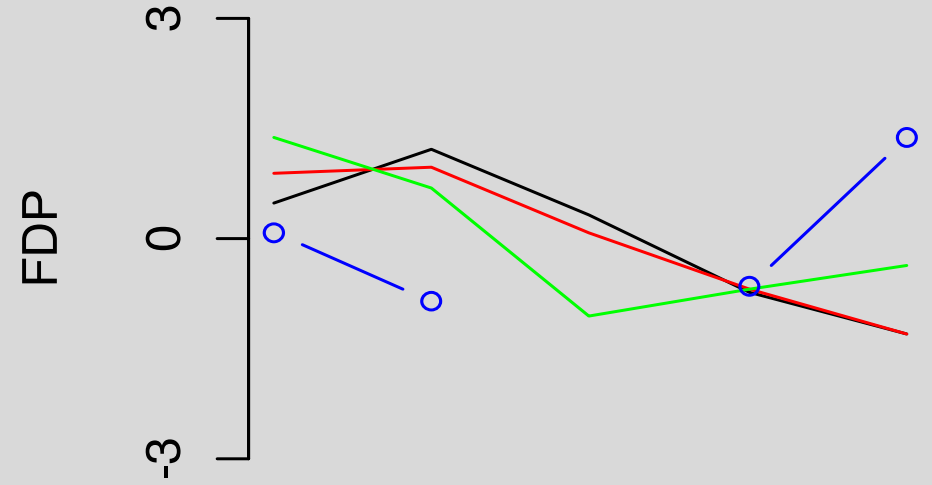
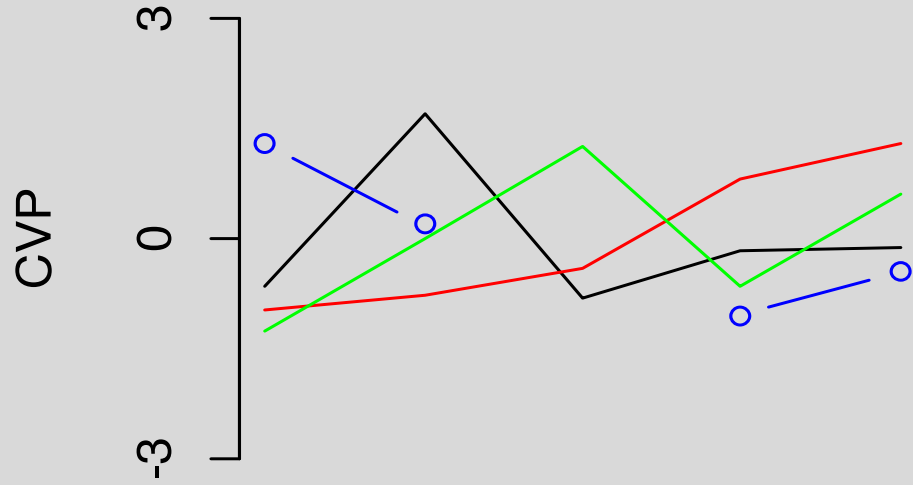
Possible Approaches

- Manual coding (codebook)
- Automatic dictionary coding (Yoshikoder)
- Wordscores (different ways)
- Checklist

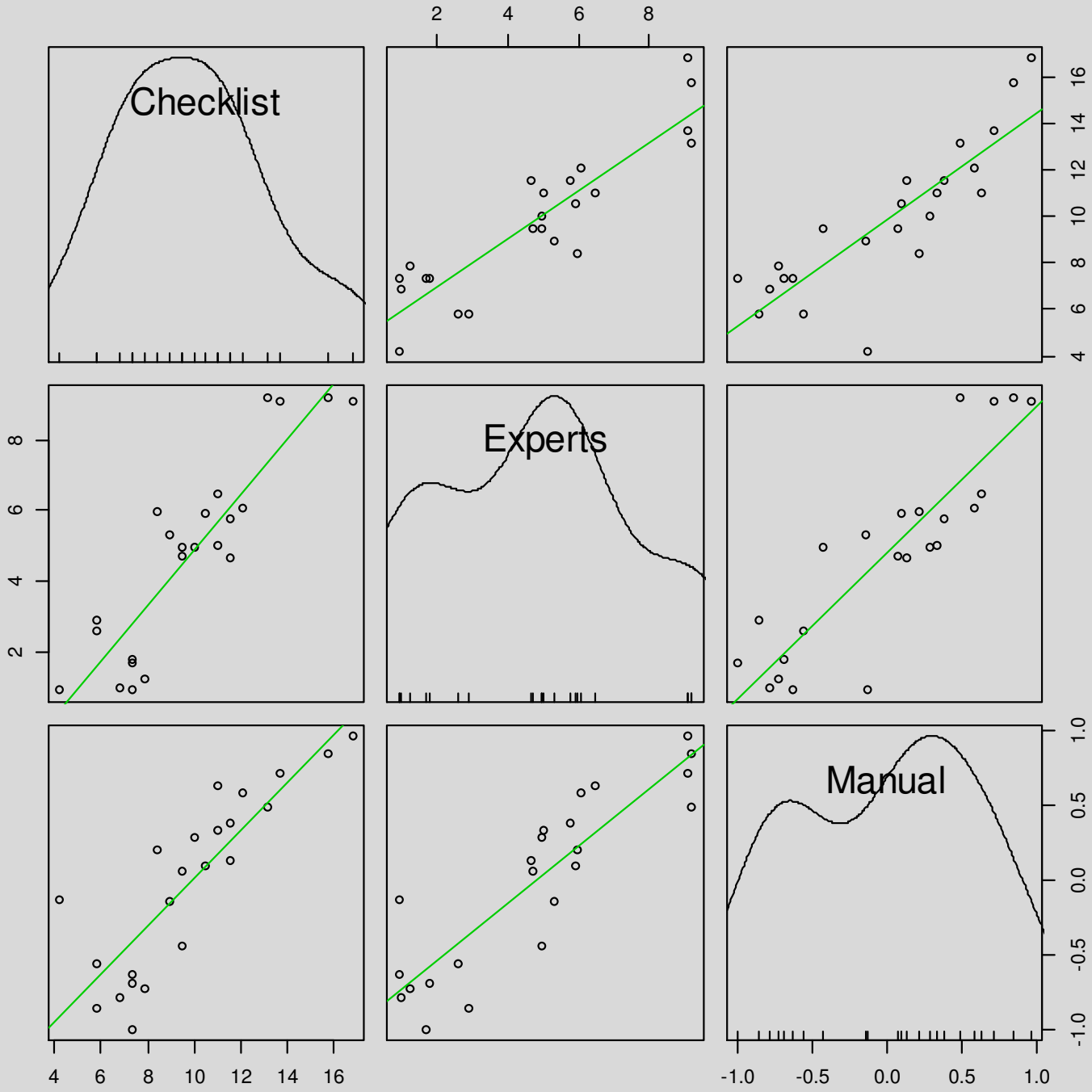
Data & Methods

- Pooled expert data (after all)
- Swiss manifestos 1995-2011: full, short
- Cross-national (AT, BE, CH, ES, IE, NL, UK)
- Manual codebook
- Yoshikoder dictionary
- Wordscores: JFreq, Austin in R
- Checklist

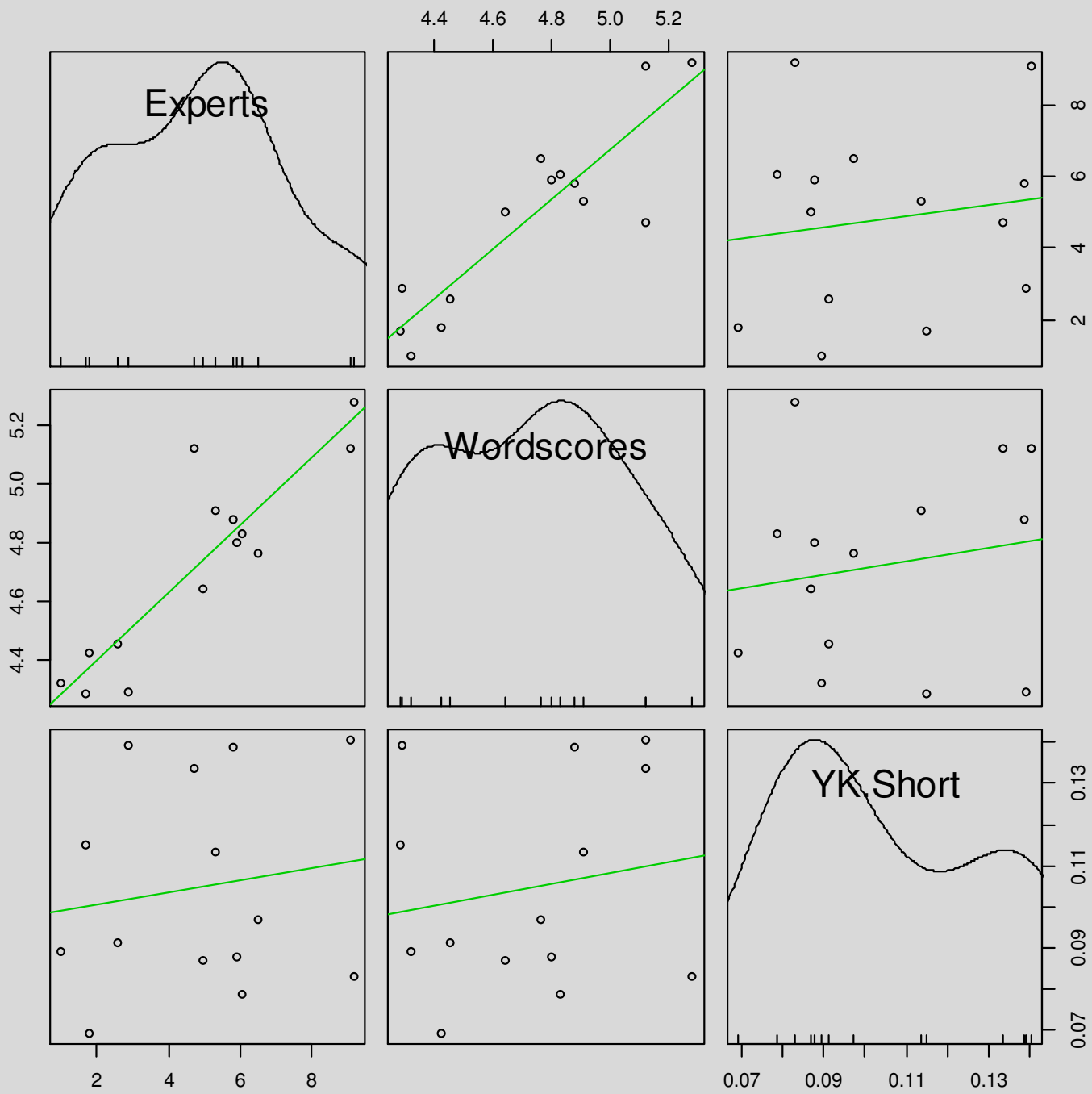
Parties over Time



Manual Approaches



Automatic Approaches



Cross-National

- Austria (1994-2008): same results
- Cross-national (2006)
 - Expert – Manual: $r=0.92$
 - Expert – Checklist: $r=0.79$
 - Expert – Wordscores: $r=0.87$
 - Expert – Dictionary: $r=0.81$, $r=0.71$
- Sometimes unexpected party positions

Conclusion

- High correlations
 - Manual coding
 - Checklist
 - Wordscores
 - Dictionary only cross-nationally
- Lack of mention for specific issues
- Experts using heuristics