

Obtaining Party Positions on Immigration: Comparing Different Methods

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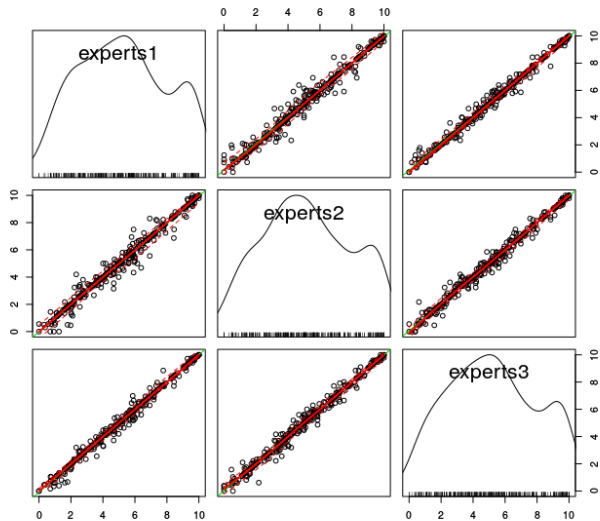
Lausanne, FORS/UNIL Methods and Research Meetings

Political Text (Manifesto) \Rightarrow Party Position

Different Methods

- ▶ expert positions, pooled (for comparison)
- ▶ manually coding manifestos
- ▶ automatic coding
- ▶ sections on immigration
 - ▶ specific issue
 - ▶ short texts
 - ▶ emphasis of negative positions only?
- ▶ not yet done: rescaling (empirical)

Expert Positions



Manual Coding

- ▶ sentence by sentence
 - ▶ mean
 - ▶ interpolated median
- ▶ checklist
 - ▶ manifesto as unit
 - ▶ 19 questions
 - ▶ mean
 - ▶ adjustment for 'issue space'

Automatic Coding

- ▶ dictionary of keywords (Yoshikoder)
- ▶ Wordscores
- ▶ Wordfish
- ▶ salience (being adventurous)

Data

- ▶ 8 countries: AT, BE, CH, ES, FR, IE, NL, UK
 - ▶ a priori variance in the salience of immigration
- ▶ elections between 1993 and 2013: 20 years
 - ▶ relevant parties
 - ▶ 283 manifestos, 43 elections
 - ▶ 7303 sentences coded manually
- ▶ language: only a minor problem (Switzerland)

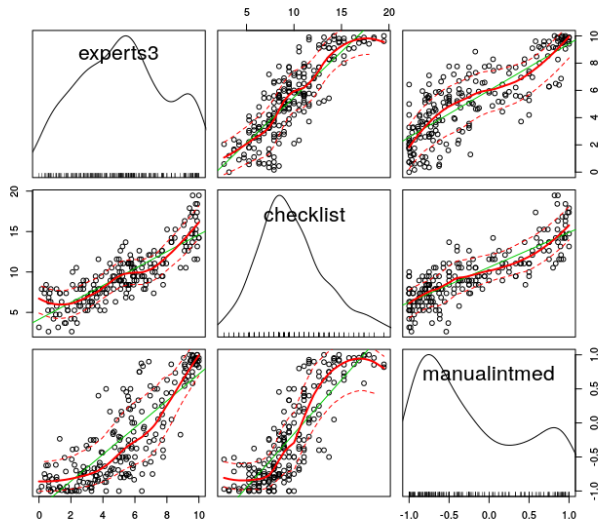
Ruedin, Didier. 2013. "The role of language in the automatic coding of political texts." *Swiss Political Science Review* 19(4): 539-45. doi:doi:10.1111/spsr.12050.

Results

Everything Pooled

- ▶ high correlations between experts and manual (0.85), checklist (0.84)
- ▶ factor analysis
 - ▶ one factor is enough (VSS, scree)
 - ▶ same construct
 - ▶ differences in placement
 - ▶ salience (relative word count) also associated

Everything Pooled



Country-Level

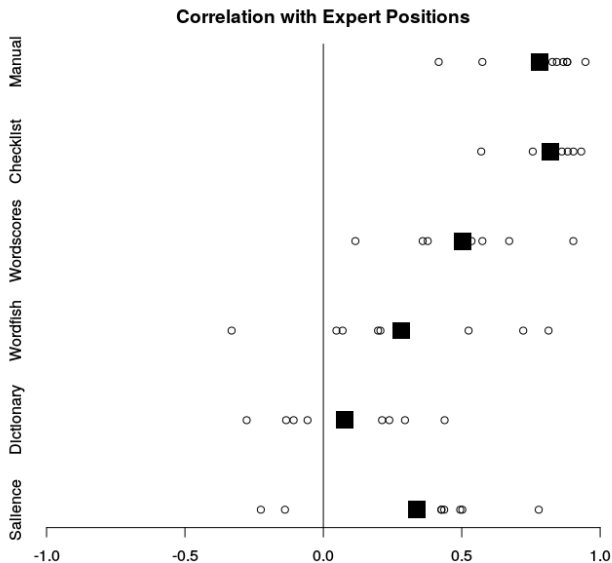
- ▶ generally same patterns as overall
 - ▶ manual and checklist stable over time
- ▶ automatic methods work in some contexts
 - ▶ especially Wordscores (BE, CH, FR, NL, UK)
 - ▶ usually not stable over time
 - ▶ Wordscores consistently high in UK
- ▶ checklist > manual when very short texts (ES, IE)

Meta-Analysis

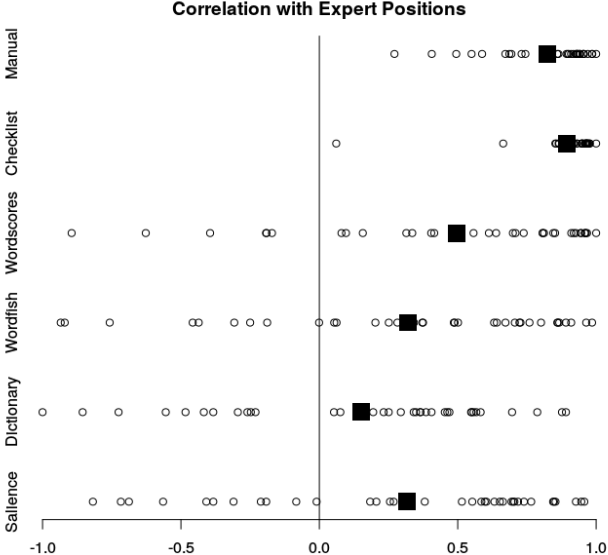
- ▶ 'true' correlation coefficient
- ▶ $\bar{r} = \frac{\sum r}{n}$
- ▶ Fisher z-transformation: $\bar{Z}_r = \frac{\sum Z_r}{n}$
- ▶ weighted: number of manifestos

Experts	\bar{r}	\bar{Z}_r	Weighted	Min	Max	Median
Manual	0.78	0.83	0.79	0.42	0.95	0.86
Checklist	0.82	0.84	0.83	0.57	0.93	0.85
Wordscores	0.50	0.55	0.46	0.12	0.90	0.52
Wordfish	0.28	0.34	0.29	-0.33	0.81	0.20
Dictionary	0.08	0.08	0.12	-0.28	0.44	0.08
Salience	0.34	0.37	0.34	-0.23	0.78	0.43

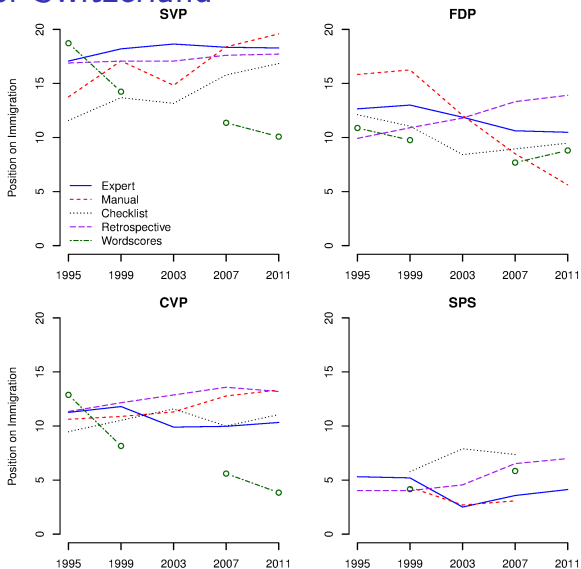
Meta-Analysis: Countries



Meta-Analysis: Elections



Rescaled for Switzerland



Ruedin, Didier. 2013. "Obtaining party positions on immigration in Switzerland: Comparing different methods." *Swiss Political Science Review* 19(1): 84-105. doi:10.1111/spr.12018

Conclusion

Conclusion

- ▶ manual coding (sentence as unit of analysis)
- ▶ checklist coding (manifesto as unit of analysis)
 - ▶ resource friendly
 - ▶ 'quite good' for short texts
- ▶ automatic approaches with limitations
 - ▶ research question
- ▶ know your method!
- ▶ can we trust experts when salience is low?
 - ▶ using left-right positions as heuristics
- ▶ is there a 'true' position?