

## **Exercise: Testing Theories of Legislative Speech**

The purpose of this exercise is to examine whether different electoral regimes affect the participation of MPs in legislative debates.

Your task is to replicate results from Proksch and Slapin's Article "Institutional Foundations of Legislative Speech". We focus on the replication of the empirical results from the article based on data from the UK House of Commons. See Table 1 and Model 3 of the article, you will find the data in `exercise_legislativespeech.Rdata` (with a description at the end of the exercise).

It is generally argued that in *majoritarian* systems, the *larger* the distance between an MP's ideological position to the party, the *higher* the speech participation rate.

### **Part 1: Count Model**

First we want to replicate model 3 in table 1. For this exercise we work with a Poisson model (instead of a negative binomial as used by the authors).

1. Implement the R-Code to replicate the results in the table.
2. Make a regression table. Do the results correspond to the article?

### **Part 2: Substantive Interpretation using Quantities of Interest**

In a next step we would like to simulate the effect of ideology on the expected number of speeches from the Poisson Model.

1. Simulate the first difference the number of legislative comparing a party leader with a normal MP (setting all other covariates to zero) Provide a 95% confidence interval based on the appropriate quantiles of the simulations. Do you find a systematic difference?
2. Simulate the expected number of speeches when ideological distance increases from its lowest to its highest observed value. Plot these results in a clearly labeled graph with the expected number of speeches on the y-axis and ideological distance on the x-axis. Also add 95% confidence bounds to the lines you plotted using the appropriate quantiles of your simulations. The plot should look similar to Figure 3 of the article.

## The Data

Dataessay.RData contains Data-sets for Germany (2005-2009) and the UK (2001-2005). The datasets contain information on the number of legislative speeches for a subset of the MPs, 169 in the UK and 209 in Germany. Both datasets contain a measurement of each MP's distance to the position of the party leaders. The datasets further include party affiliation and if the MP is one of the party leaders. In the German case the data set further includes information about

### Codebook GERdata

The codebook summarizes all variables from the dataset and explains what they measure.

Variable	Description
speech	Number of speeches delivered by an MP during legislative term 2005-2009
partyleader	Dummy variable indicating if MP is one of the party leaders
party	Party affiliation of MP
distance	Distance of an MP to party leaders <sup>1</sup>
mptype	Direct candidate (0) or party list candidate (1)
committee	MP's number of committee assignments
coalMPoutside	Dummy Variable that indicates if MP is located inside the interval of the governing coalition of SPD and CDU <sup>2</sup>

### Codebook UKdata

Variable	Description
speech	Number of speeches delivered by an MP during legislative term 2001-2005
partyleader	Dummy indicating if MP is one of the party leaders
party	Dummy Variable indicating party affiliation of MP (1) conservative (0) otherwise
distance	Distance of a MP to party leader <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The distance-measurement is created by rescaling self-placements of the MPs using Aldrich-McKelvey procedure and calculating the distance to the median of the rescaled self-placements of the party leaders.

<sup>2</sup>The interval is between the CDU party leader and the SPD party leader.

<sup>3</sup>The distance-measurement is created by rescaling self-placements of the MPs using Aldrich-McKelvey procedure and calculating the distance to the median of the rescaled self-placements of the party leaders.