

PLSC 473: American Judicial Behavior

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October 15, 2015

An “audit” of “Segal-Cover” scores...

- Update + back-date
- Compare to voting scores
- “Split”: Pre-Warren Court vs. post...

Civil Rights / Liberties & Economics

A14 varIssuesAreas 14 Distinct Values

varIssuesAreas is used in conjunction with:
issueArea

Values:

- 1 Criminal Procedure
- 2 Civil Rights
- 3 First Amendment
- 4 Due Process
- 5 Privacy

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The Supreme Court Database Codebook

- 6 Attorneys
- 7 Unions
- 8 Economic Activity
- 9 Judicial Power
- 10 Federalism
- 11 Interstate Relations
- 12 Federal Taxation
- 13 Miscellaneous
- 14 Private Action

A Little Code

```
# Civil Rights / Liberties Votes ONLY:

CRCL<-Master[Master$issueArea<6,]

# Aggregate justice-level data / scores:

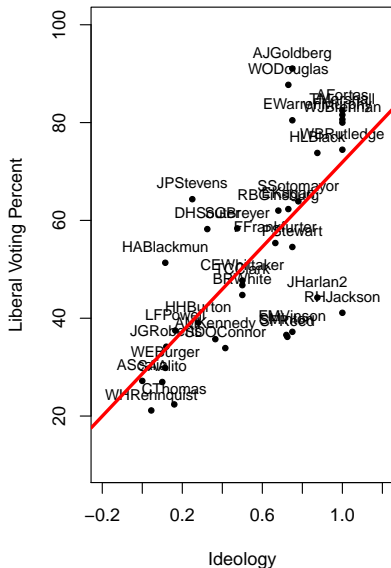
Civ<-ddply(CRCL, c("JID","presname"), summarize,
           LibVote = mean(direction-1,na.rm=TRUE))
Civ<-merge(Civ,SCScores,by="JID")

# Plot vs. ideology:

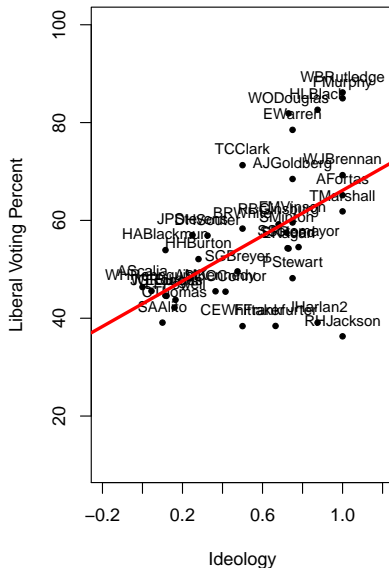
with(Civ, plot(ideology,LibVote*100,pch=20,
              ylab="Liberal Voting Percent",xlab="Ideology",
              xlim=c(-0.2,1.2),ylim=c(10,100),
              main="Civil Rights and Liberties"))
```

Ideology and Voting

Civil Rights and Liberties



Economics



Civil Rights / Liberties & Economics

TABLE 3

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN VALUES AND VOTES

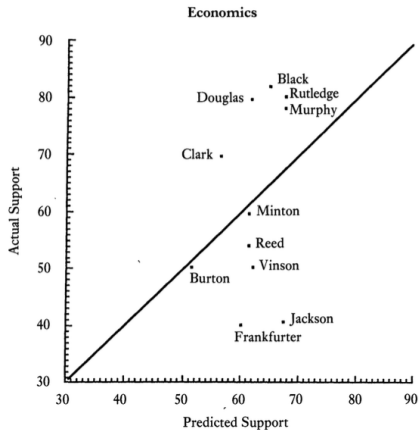
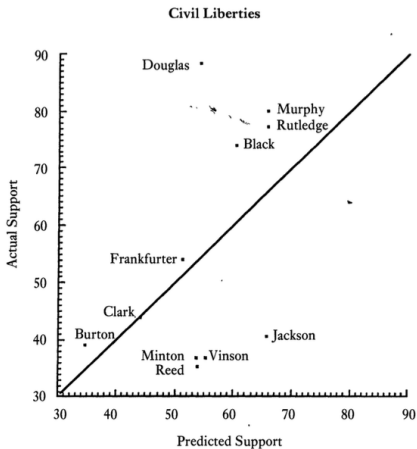
	Justices Appointed By					
	Roosevelt–Truman		Eisenhower–Bush		Roosevelt–Bush	
	Civil Liberties	Economics	Civil Liberties	Economics	Civil Liberties	Economics
<i>R</i>	.47	.31	.80	.61	.69	.56
<i>RMSE</i>	19.2	16.3	13.5	9.9	15.6	12.1

Note: The *RMSE* is the root mean squared error of the bivariate regression equation of *Civil Liberties* and *Economic Votes* with *Ideological Values*.

Updated Table

	Roosevelt-Truman		Eisenhower-Obama		Roosevelt-Obama	
	Civil Rights	Economics	Civil Rights	Economics	Civil Rights	Economics
<i>R</i>	0.45	0.30	0.80	0.59	0.69	0.53

Ideology and Voting: Predictions



Some Predictions Of Our Own

```
# Post-Truman justices ONLY:
```

```
CivNew<-Civ[Civ$presname!="roosevelt, franklin delano" &  
            Econ$presname!="truman, harry s.",]
```

```
# Fit a regression and generate predictions:
```

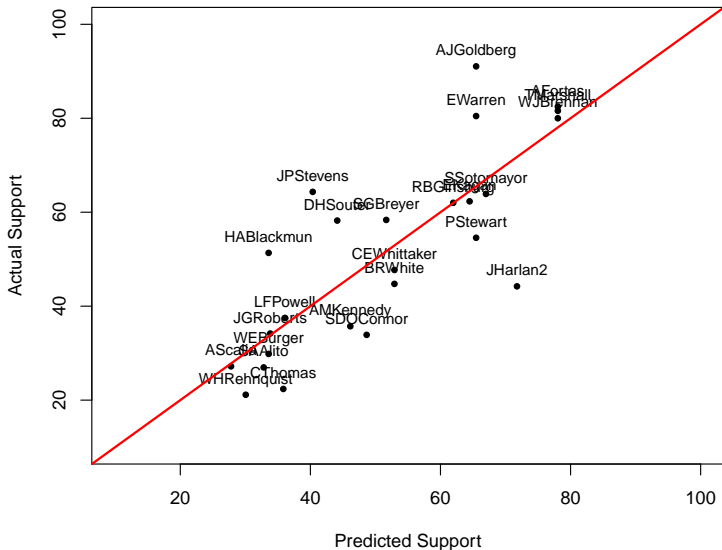
```
CFit<-with(CivNew, lm(LibVote*100~ideology))  
CPreds<-CFit$fitted.values
```

```
# Plot them against each other:
```

```
plot(CPreds,CivNew$LibVote*100,pch=20,  
      ylab="Actual Support",  
      xlab="Predicted Support",  
      xlim=c(10,100),ylim=c(10,100),  
      main="Civil Rights and Liberties")
```


Ideology and Voting: Predictions

Civil Rights and Liberties



Economics



Segal et al: Breyer and Ginsburg Predictions

What is more, in all likelihood Ginsburg will be no doctrinaire liberal. To generate predictions of her votes, we multiplied her score of .36 by the coefficients of the attitudinal measure produced for the Eisenhower–Bush appointees (for both civil liberties and economic votes) and added the constant.¹² The results indicate that she will cast about 61% of her civil liberties votes and 57% of her economic votes in a liberal direction. Of course, this suggests that she will be ideologically distinct

Turning to Breyer, we can see, in table 2, that his value score of $-.05$ puts him slightly closer to the center of the current Court than Ginsburg. Indeed, our predictions for Breyer's civil liberties (50.4%¹⁴) and economics (53.2%¹⁵) votes suggest that he will sit to the left of O'Connor and to the right of Ginsburg on the ideological spectra. To put it another way, his presence will, in all likelihood, help to

Ginsburg and Breyer: Actual Votes (1993/4-2014)

	Civil Rights	Economics
Ginsburg	62.0	59.1
Breyer	58.4	49.6