

# Supreme Court Database Project

We will be using data from the Supreme Court Database available at: <http://scdb.wustl.edu/index.php>

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## Downloading Data

The first file we want (MODERN Database: 2019 Release 01, Justice Centered Data, Cases Organized by Supreme Court Citation, CSV file type) is at:

[http://scdb.wustl.edu/\\_brickFiles/2019\\_01/SCDB\\_2019\\_01\\_justiceCentered\\_Citation.csv.zip](http://scdb.wustl.edu/_brickFiles/2019_01/SCDB_2019_01_justiceCentered_Citation.csv.zip)

## Assignment: Due Friday, October 25, 9 pm on Blackboard

1. Create the subset of all cases *from the 2000 term to the most recently completed term* (i.e., the end of what is in the database) to use for problems 2 and 3
2. Calculate and plot the number of cases for each term
3. For each justice, calculate and plot the number of votes in each "direction" (total, not by term)
4. Download Case centered data from the Supreme Court Database site. It has cases organized by Supreme Court decision. Restrict to cases from the 2006-2018 terms for problems 5 and 6
5. Calculate and plot the number of cases for each caseDisposition type
6. Create and briefly describe your own plot

## Not assigned but potentially interesting

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- Pick a 3-6 year period in the 1980s or 1990s.
- Look up for each justice in the period (e.g., in Wikipedia) whether they were nominated by a Democratic or Republican President. Do separate plots of the "direction" of the votes of the justices who were nominated

by each party.

- Eyeball how different the Democratic-nominated and Republican-nominated plots are.
- Repeat the above for the most recently completed 3 to 6 terms of the Court.
- Comment on the similarity or difference between the results.

(This one is a little more work in practice than our assignment.)