The PGL File Collection: File Structures and Procedures

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Documentation of the PGL file collection

The documentation of the PGL (Parties – Governments – Legislatures) file collection is organized in four parts. Part I contains descriptions of the initial datasets (on which the command syntax files are applied) and the final dataset that is produced by executing these syntax files. Part II provides a general description of the script files, their intention, and order in which they have to be applied to the data. It is assumed you have access to SPSS. Our experience has been that working with SPSS 10 is more straightforward, but that it is possible to use SPSS 11 as well (although it has proven to be a bit more cumbersome). In addition, you need to have Perl available on your computer. Section 3 of Part II shows you how to install Perl. Generally, you need only to consult this section of Part II. Part III gives a detailed step-by-step instruction on how to use the SPSS and Perl script files to generate a new yearly or quarterly time series data file with another ideological index that you might choose to create. Finally, Part IV contains a short explanation of how to proceed if one would like to work with time series file that is based on two ideological dimensions instead of one.

Part I

1. List of Variable in the initial dataset on cabinets, first and second chambers (*wish9.sav*)

(Note that no data on the German Bundesrat is to be found in this file. See Part I, Section 2 for a description of the file containing such data.)

xland	= CMP country code
ccode	= COW project country code
natenum	= The number of the lower legislative house election held in this country and contained in the data set
wahldatu	= Election date of first chamber
rcontext	= Note that a value of 1 signals that this is the first government formed as a consequence of an election. If one is interested in examining changes in party ideology, these are the cases on which one would concentrate.
xgbdate	= Start date of government
gedate	= End date of government
wahldat2	= Election date of second chamber
context	= Context refers to a specific constellation of a governing coalition, lower house composition, and upper house composition. The value given here is the nth context since the start of the data series on this country.
pnamesf	= Abbreviation of party name
sitze2	= The number of seats controlled by the party in the second chamber
totsitz2	= Total number of seats in second chamber
xregbet	= Participation in respective government
cmpcode	= Party code from CMP

mrcode	= Mackie-Rose party code
pfam	= Party family. 10 = ecology parties, 20 = (former) communist parties, 30 = social democratic parties, 40 = liberal parties, 50 = christian democratic parties, 60 = conservative parties, 70 = national parties, 80 = agrarian parties, 90 = ethnic and regional parties, 10 = special interest parties
sitze	= The number of seats controlled by the party in the first chamber.
seats	= Total number of seats in first chamber
psummin	= Number of government ministerial positions held by the party
xpm	= Name of prime minister
govnrtc	= Consecutive government number specified for the US
govnrsf	= Consecutive government number
xgpartis	= Number of parties participating in the government
xmrcnam2	= Name of party
xpm1	= Party of prime minister
deputypm	= Party of deputy prime minister
f._aff.-other	= Party of respective minister: Foreign affairs, defence, interior, justice, finance, economic affairs, labour, health, housing, agriculture, industry/ trade, environment, social affairs, public works and others
stimmen	= Number of votes a party received in the election for the lower legislative house (except in US, where the votes recorded are those received by the party in the presidential election)
electora	= Size of the electorate
valvote	= Number of valid votes
tog	= Type of government (Woldendorp et al, 2000: 17f.)
rft	= Reason for termination of government (Woldendorp et al, 2000: 16f.)
cpg	= Ideological complexion of government (Woldendorp et al, 2000: 19)
progtype	= CMP code for type of party program (see Budge, et al, 2001)
per101-706	= There are 56 categories of policy position statements (quasi-statements) coded by CMP. Each of these variables represent the percentage of the total number of policy statements dealing with a specific policy category (see Budge, et al, 2001)
per101*****	= Foreign Special Relationships: Positive.
per102	= Foreign Special Relationships: Negative
per103	= Anti-Imperialism.
per104	= Military: Positive.
per105	= Military: Negative.
per106	= Peace.
per107	= Internationalism: Positive.
per108	= European Community: Positive.

per109 = Internationalism: Negative.
per110 = European Community: Negative.
per201 = Freedom and Human Rights.
per202 = Democracy.
per203 = Constitutionalism: Positive.
per204 = Constitutionalism: Negative.
per301 = Decentralisation.
per302 = Centralisation.
per303 = Governmental and Administrative Efficiency.
per304 = Political Corruption.
per305 = Political Authority.
per401 = Free Enterprise.
per402 = Incentives.
per403 = Market Regulation.
per404 = Economic Planning.
per405 = Corporatism.
per406 = Protectionism: Positive.
per407 = Protectionism: Negative.
per408 = Economic Goals.
per409 = Keynesian Demand Management.
per410 = Productivity.
per411 = Technology and Infrastructure.
per412 = Controlled Economy.
per413 = Nationalisation.
per414 = Economic Orthodoxy.
per415 = Marxist Analysis.
per416 = Anti-Growth Economy.
per501 = Environmental Protection.
per502 = Culture.
per503 = Social Justice.
per504 = Welfare State Expansion.
per505 = Welfare State Limitation.
per506 = Education Expansion.
per507 = Education Limitation.
per601 = National Way of Life: Positive.
per602 = National Way of Life: Negative.

per603 = Traditional Morality: Positive.

per604 = Traditional Morality: Negative.

per605 = Law and Order.

per606 = Social Harmony.

per607 = Multiculturalism: Positive.

per608 = Multiculturalism: Negative.

per701 = Labour Groups: Positive.

per702 = Labour Groups: Negative.

per703 = Agriculture and Farmers.

per704 = Middle Class and Professional Groups.

per705 = Underprivileged Minority Groups.

per706 Non-economic Demographic Groups.

peruncod = Percentage of uncoded quasi-sentences in manifesto (see Budge, et al, 2001)

total = total number of policy related quasi-sentences in manifesto(see Budge, et al, 2001)

rile = The CMP's Left-Right index for ideological position of the party (see Budge, et al, 2001). (per104 + per201 + per203 + per305 + per401 + per402 + per407 + per414 + per505 + per601 + per603 + per605 + per606) - (per103 + per105 + per106 + per107 + per403 + per404 + per406 + per412 + per413 + per504 + per506 + per701 + per202).

rfttc = Reason for termination of government recoded (incomplete)

togtc = Type of government recoded (incomplete)

planecon = (per403 + per404+per412)/3

markecon = (per401 + per414)/2

welfare = (per503 + per504)/2

keynes = per409

effgov = per303

myrl2 = (markecon+effgov) – (planecon+welfare)

myplecon = (per403 + per404 + per409 + per412 + per413)/5

base = markecon + effgov + myplecon + welfare

myrl3 = (((markecon + effgov) - (myplecon + welfare))/base)*100

pjoint = composite ideology index based on Castles/Mair, Huber/Inglehart, and Laver/Hunt. Where needed, fitted value from equation estimating myrl2. Range is from -100 (far left) to +100 (far right).

***** Note that per101-706 can be used to compute alternative indices. If you choose to do so, please compute the alternative within WISH9.SAV and save the file. See Budge, et al (2001) for the detailed definitions of these variables

Publicly available information on the Comparative Manifesto Project (CMP) is to be found in Ian Budge, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Adreas Volkens, Judith Bara, and Eric Tanabaum (2001*) Mapping Policy Preferences: Estimates for Parties, Electors, and Governments, 1945-1998*.Oxford: Oxford University Press. The CMP data was kindly provided to us by our colleague, Andrea Volkens, who also generously shared the data she had collected on party seats in the lower house and the results from elections to the lower house. In the main, data on cabinet seats and party participation in government derive from Jaap Woldendorp, Hans Keman, and Ian Budge (2000), *Party Government in 48 Democracies (1945-1998)*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers. Some errors and inconsistencies were discovered in both data sets and we used a variety of sources, in particular, numerous articles in the *European Journal of Political Research* as well as entire special editions of this journal in recent years, to rectify these problems. We collected the data on the upper houses (2nd chambers) of national legislatures from a variety of national sources (see the Documentation Notes for Parties, Governments, and Legislatures Data Set).

The data on ideological positions based on expert surveys have been drawn from the following publications:

Castles, Frank and Peter Mair (1984) "Left-Right Political Scales: Some Expert Judgments." *European Journal of Political Research*, 12:73-88.

Huber, John and Ronald Inglehart (1995) "Expert Interpretations of Party Space and Party Locations in 42 Societies." *Party Politics*, 1:73-111.

Laver, Michael and W. Ben Hunt (1992) *Policy and Party Competition*. New York: Routledge.

2. List of Variable in the initial dataset on the German Bundesrat (*coalcat.sav*)

The file ***coalcat.sav*** provides supplementary information about the governments in the federal states (Länder) in Germany and the second chamber, (Bundesrat). It contains following variables:

year	= year
bundesla	= abbreviation for the state (or Land)
stimmenb	= number of votes the state's government commands in the Bundesrat
gbdate	= start date of the state government
coalcat	= 1 = coalition is the same in Bund und Land; 2 = coalition is different, but the majority party in Bund and Land is equal; 3 = the majority party in the coalition on the Bundeslevel is a minority party in the Land coalition ; 4 = everything else;
numpart	= number of parties in the respective state government
cdu_csu	= Christian Democratic Union; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
spd	= Social Democrats; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
green	= Green Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
fdp	= Free Democratic Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
pds	= Party for Democratic Socialism; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
dp	= German Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
gbhe	= Refugee Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
dz	= Center Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise
bp	= Bavarian Party; 1 if government party, missing if otherwise

3. Variables in a final datase on cabinets, first, and second legislative chambers
wish9_context_yearly_x.sav
wish9_context_quarterly_x.sav*
(see also: comments in ***wish9_context_macro.sps*** where government and opposition variables are based on rile, myrl2, myrl3 or pjoint)

See notes at bottom of this table for an explanation of the terms, center of political gravity, fractionalization, parties on the left and parties on the right.

xland	= CMP country code
contydo	= Year
contqdo1	= Quarter (only in quarterly datasets)
context	= The context that was calculated to be the dominant one, the one existing for the longest part of the year/quarter
ccode	= COW Project country code
count	= number of parties within the context i.e. number of cases that were aggregated to receive the government and opposition variables in the final dataset
contbeg	= Beginning date of context
contend	= Ending date of context
cideocg	= The center of political gravity of the cabinet
cminideo	= The minimum ideological position of the parties within the cabinet
cmaxideo	= The maximum ideological position of the parties within the cabinet
typegov1	= Describes whether the cabinet coalition has a minority (1) , equal (2) or majority (3) position in the lower house
govpspct	= Percentage of seats in lower house held by the government
opppspct	= Percentage of seats in lower house held by non-government parties
gptys1	= Number of parties in cabinet
gnptys1	= Whether or not one or more cabinet members do not belong to a party
oppptys1	= Number of parties in lower house that do not belong to the government coalition
parlideo	= The overall center of political gravity in the lower house
gpideocg	= The center of political gravity of the government parties in the lower house
gpminide	= The minimum ideological position of the government parties in the lower house

* x is a placeholder for the ideological index that is used for the computation. E.g. ***wish9_context_yearly_rile.sav***. The user is asked to name the file before executing ***wish9_context_macro***.

gpmaxide = The maximum ideological position of the government parties in the lower house

opideocg = The center of political gravity of the non-government parties in the lower house

ominideo = The minimum ideological position the non-government parties in the lower house

omaxideo = The maximum ideological position of the non-government parties in the lower house

typegov2 = Describes whether the cabinet coalition has a minority (1) , equal (2) or majority (3) position in the upper house based on the parties in the cabinet

uhgpct = Percentage of seats in upper house held by the government

uhopct = Percentage of seats in upper house held by the non –government parties

gpinuh = Number of government parties in upper house

opinuh = Number of non-government parties in upper house

uhideocg = The overall center of political gravity in the upper house

uhgideo = The center of political gravity of government parties in the upper house

uhoideo = The center of political gravity of non-government parties in the upper house

uhgimax = The maximum ideological position of the government parties in upper house

uhgimin = The minimum ideological position of the government parties in upper house

uhoimax = The maximum ideological position of non-government parties in upper house

uhiomin = The minimum ideological position of non-government parties in upper house

lhlefts = The percentage of seats in lower house controlled by parties on the left

lhrts = The percentage of seats in lower house controlled by parties on the right

lhnoidss =The percentage of seats in lower house controlled by parties for which we have no ideological score

uhlefts = The percentage of seats in upper house controlled by parties on the left

uhrts = The percentage of seats in upper house controlled by parties on the right

uhnoidss = The percentage of seats in upper house controlled by parties for which we have no ideological score

leftpar = The number of parties that are on the left in lower house

rtpar = The number of parties that are on the right in lower house

nipar = The number of parties for which we have no ideological score in lower house

leftcg = The center of political gravity of left parties in the lower house

leftmax = The maximum ideological position of the left parties in lower house

leftmin = The minimum ideological position of the left parties in lower house

rtcg = The center of political gravity of the right parties in the lower house

rtmax = The maximum ideological position of the right parties in lower house

rtmin = The minimum ideological position of the right parties in lower house

leftpar2 = The number of left parties in the upper house

rtpar2 = The number of right parties in the upper house

nipar2 = The number of parties in the upper house for which we have no ideological score

leftcg2 = The center of political gravity of left parties in the upper house

leftmax2 = The maximum ideological position of the left parties in upper house

leftmin2 = The minimum ideological position of the left parties in upper house

rtcg2 = The center of political gravity of the right parties in the upper house

rtmax2 = The maximum ideological position of the right parties in upper house

rtmin2 = The minimum ideological position of the right parties in upper house

maxpcab = Largest government party's percentage of seats hold in cabinet

maxplh = Largest government party's percentage of seats hold in lower house

maxpuh = Largest government party's percentage of seats hold in upper house

fraclh = Fractionalization of lower house as a whole

fracuh = Fractionalization of upper house as a whole

fraccab = Fractionalization of the cabinet

fracgolh = Fractionalization of government parties' bloc in lower house

fracoplh = Fractionalization of opposition parties' bloc in lower house

fracgouh = Fractionalization of government parties' bloc in upper house

fracopuh = Fractionalization of opposition parties' bloc in upper house

fraclelh = Fractionalization of left parties' bloc in lower house

fracrtlh = Fractionalization of right parties' bloc in lower house

fracleuh = Fractionalization of left parties' bloc in upper house

fracrtuh = Fractionalization of right parties' bloc in upper house

gvotesht = government parties' share of votes in election

ovotesht = opposition parties' share of votes in election

govnum = government number in context

tgov1l = Describes whether the cabinet coalition has a minority (1) , equal (2) or majority (3) position in the lower house, using loose-majority rule

tgov2l = Describes whether the cabinet coalition has a minority (1) , equal (2) or majority (3) position in the upper house, using loose-majority rule

contqb = Begin quarter of context (only in quarterly datasets)

contqe = End quarter of context (only in quarterly datasets)

durate = The duration of the context chosen for the respective year, quarter to be dominant in days within that year, quarter

contydo = Year (only in quarterly datasets last variable)

A variety of indices here are based on a concept called the Center of Political Gravity. This index is a summation across all parties of each party's relative strength weighted by its ideological position (see Gross and Sigelman, 1984):

$$CPG = \sum_{i=1}^{n} T_i C_i$$

where:

T_i = party i's decimal share of seats/votes, and

C_i = party i's position on the ideological dimension

Additionally, there are numerous fractionalization indices. These are constructed with the following formula (see Rae, 1968):

$$F = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} T_i^2$$

The convention for splitting parties into two categories, left and right, used here has been to treat a party as being on the left if its ideological score was less than 0, and to treat all other parties as being on the right, including those few ambiguous cases where the ideological score was exactly 0.

See:

Gross, Donald A. and Lee Sigelman (1984) "Comparing Party Systems: A Multidimensional Approach." *Comparative Politics* 16: 463-479.

Rae, Douglas (1968) "A Note on Fractionalization of Some European Party Systems" *Comparative Political Studies* 1:413-418.

The following table of case summaries provides an overview of the starting dates of the first and last governments contained in the file *wish9.sav*.

Case Summaries

Start date of government

CMP country code	Minimum	Maximum
Sweden	31-MAY-1945	21-SEP-1998
Norway	01-NOV-1945	17-OCT-1997
Denmark	08-NOV-1945	27-NOV-2001
Finland	17-APR-1945	15-APR-1999
Iceland	21-OCT-1944	28-MAY-1999
Belgium	11-MAR-1946	23-JUN-1995
Netherlands	03-JUL-1946	06-MAY-1998
Luxembourg	20-NOV-1945	07-AUG-1999
France	12-DEC-1946	03-JUN-1997
Italy	12-JUL-1946	17-MAY-1996
Spain	04-JUL-1977	06-MAY-1996
Greece	17-NOV-1974	25-APR-2000
Portugal	16-JUL-1976	21-OCT-1999
Germany	15-SEP-1949	27-SEP-1998
Austria	07-NOV-1949	04-FEB-2000
Switzerland	11-DEC-1947	15-DEC-1999
United Kingdom	26-JUL-1945	08-JUN-2001
Ireland	18-FEB-1948	26-JUN-1997
United States	03-JAN-1949	03-JAN-2001
Canada	30-AUG-1945	27-NOV-2000
Australia	31-OCT-1946	03-OCT-1998
New Zealand	20-DEC-1946	09-DEC-1999
Japan	08-DEC-1960	04-JUL-2000
Total	21-OCT-1944	27-NOV-2001

Part II

1. Getting from *wish9.sav* to a format based on yearly or quarterly information about government and its legislative situation. The PGL file collection:

The PGL file collection currently consists of 6 script files in the main folder. 2 original data files in the folder **wish9_data**. 4 intermediate data files in the folder **wish9_all_contexts**. 8 time series data files in the folder **wish9_result** . A manual in the folder **wish9_manual** and 2 include files in the folder **wish9_include**. Note that if you desire that all countries contain the same time span in the final output file, it is necessary that a Perl program be used. For information on downloading and installing Perl on your computer, see below Part II section 3.

i. The basic file *wish9.sav* in the folder **wish9_data** that is described in Part I.

ii. *wish9_context_macro.sps* in the main folder.

In a first step this file computes and aggregates the party information provided by *wish9.sav* for a consecutive number of contexts per nation. They are distinguished solely by the nature of the ideological index used.

There are four predefined ideological indexes available in *wish9.sav***.** Three based on the CMP data: rile, myrl2, myrl3. Then there is pjoint to produce the ideological information based on expert codings and predicted values of such codings where pjoint was not available but a value for myrl2 was at hand. Note that the value of pjoint effectively centers the index on zero and allows it to range from –100 to +100, similar to the other ideological scales that, themselves, are based on the CMP data.

When running *wish9_context_macro.sps* the user has to name the ideological index she or he would like to use and the name of the final time series file that is saved in the folder **wish9_result** (like for example *wish9_context_quarterly_rile.sav*). Additionally an intermediate outfile has to be named that is used to save all contexts *wish9_context_macro.sps* produces. These file are automatically saved in the subfolder **wish9_all_contexts.** As long as you have not altered the initial file (*wish9.sav*), it is unlikely that erroneous results will be produced. If, however, you detect such results, you can track them down in this aggregate files[+]. (The last choice that has to be taken is whether one would like to finally obtain yearly or quarterly time series when *wish9_context_macro.sps* is finished. This is done by making *wish9_context_macro.sps* to include one of the following two file:

iii. *wish9_context_yearly.sps / wish9_context_quarterly.sps* in the folder *wish9_include*. These two files are automatically included in the computation when *wish9_context_macro.sps* is executed. They transform the data that is stored in the intermediate files *all_contexts_x.sav*[*] in a way that their data can be used as time series in either a yearly (*context_yearly.sps*) or quarterly (*context_quarterly.sps*) format. Note that the context that is chosen is the one that dominates the respective

[+] Note for users of the Windows version of SPSS 11: the syntax *(.sps)* and the perl scripts *(.pl)* files as well as the folders with the data and the include files and the folder for the resulting files must be in the ***My Documents*** (***Eigene Dateien***) folder. The fact that folders and files all begin with the phrase wish9 should enable the user to do so even when the My Documents folder is packed with other files and folders (sort alphabetically).

[*] x is a placeholder for the ideological index that is used for the computation. E.g. *all_contexts_rile.sav* that is transformed to *wish9_context_yearly_rile.sav*.

year or quarter. The resulting files are named *wish9_context_yearly_x.sav* or *wish9_context_quarterly_x.sav* and are saved in the folder **wish9_result**

iv. When *wish9_context_macro.sps* is completed *wish9_brat_complete.sps* should be used to complete the time series files with the German Bundesrat information stored in *coalcat.sav* in the folder **wish9_data** (it does not matter whether the yearly or the quarterly files are used). One has to entry the ideological index that was used to compute the time series file and the name to the time series file itself. When *wish9_brat_complete.sps* is finished the time series file in the folder **wish9_result** *wish9_brat_complete.sps* was applied to is completed*.

v. At this stage one can assure that the quarterly or yearly data sets contain the same time span for each country. To do this one needs to execute a series of steps.

1. First, one selects either the yearly or quarterly syntax file (*wish9_missing_years.sps* or *wish9_missing_quarts.sps*). Follow the instructions in the **.sps* files to produce *fill_years.txt* or *fill_quarts.txt*. This is done in Step I of the syntax file. Important: specify which of the yearly *(wish9_context_yearly_x.sav)* or quarterly *(wish9_context_quarterly_x.sav)* input data file you wish to use for the completion.
2. Go to the DOS window. Change to the working directory and execute either *missing_years.pl* (for yearly formatted data) or *missing_quarts.pl* (for quarterly formatted data). One types: '*perl wish9_missing_years.pl*' (return) or *perl wish9_missing_quarts.pl*. Note, that while executing, the program reports on the steps being carried out. The output file from the Perl program is either *input_years.txt* or *input_quarts.txt*, depending on which Perl script file you used.
3. When the program execution has been completed, return to the SPSS syntax window with the *wish9_missing_years.sps* or *wish9_missing_quarts.sps* syntax file. Proceed with Step 2 in the file. Select the lines of Step 2 and run the selection. After that the specified time series file is balance it is about to add 15 kilobyte to a yearly time series file and about 60 kilobyte to a quarterly time series file.

2. Error messages

i. If you receive an error message such as '*fill_y.sav* could not be erased it is read only or currently in use', just ignore it. Sometimes SPSS is too fast for itself. You can erase the file manually after having processed the script files.

ii. When executing the *wish9_context_macro.sps* or *wish9_brat_complete.sps* files, an output file with a message concerning a lead being computed is produced. This one is okay and should not disquiet you.

iii. If you receive anything other than the messages described above, proceed with caution. It is likely that something went wrong, and you should investigate.

* Note that a completion does not add file size to the time series file, but you can easily check whether the process was successful. When Germany (No. 41 is the last country in the data matrix and the variable typegov2, uhgpct, uhopct, uhideocg, uhgideo, uhoideo are not missing the completion was successful.

3. Installing Perl on your computer

Make sure that Perl is installed on your computer. If it is not installed, you can download it from the URL *http://www.activestate.com/Products/Download/Get.plex?id=ActivePerl*. Download the MSI – Version. Perl automatically adds its path to the ***autoexec.bat*** and is executable via the Windows Command Prompt (DOS window) when installed. If you are using Windows95 or an older Version of Windows98 or ME, download and install the Microsoft Installer 2.0 first. It is available on the same site.
It is up to you whether you select 'file name association' or not. Files with the suffix pl are displayed with an tiny yellow ball if you opt for 'file name association'. If you have not opted for 'file name association' **.pl* – files are displayed with the small Windows sign that is used for unknown file types. Nevertheless, **.pl* file would be executable via the command prompt. This depends solely on the path (e.g. C:\perl\bin) in the *autoexec.bat* file.

After having installed the Installer, you have to reboot the machine. And, again, after having installed Perl , you must once more reboot the machine.

Note that you should always start the Perl scripts at the DOS command prompt. This is the safest way of executing the Perl script programs.

Part III

1. General remarks

Error messages: Sometimes SPSS is not able to delete working files that are no longer needed. If this situation arises, the error message you see is
"file xyz could not be deleted it is still in use or does not exist"
This is not problematic; you simply need to delete them by hand. The files that need to be deleted are easily recognized because they are not part of the list in Table 1 below.

Table 1: The PGL file collection (folders in bold letters/ files in italic letters)

Main Directory	***Subdirectories and Files contained in Main Directory***	***Files in Subdirectories***
the_pgl_collection	**wish9_all_contexts**	*all_contexts_myrl2.sav* *all_contexts_myrl3.sav* *all_contexts_pjoint.sav* *all_contexts_rile.sav*
	wish9_data	*coalcat.sav* *wish9.sav*
	wish9_include	*context_quarterly.sps* *context_yearly.sps*
	wish9_manual	*wish9_manual_1028.doc*
	wish9_read_me	*read_me.txt*
	wish9_result	*wish9_context_quarterly_myrl2.sav* *wish9_context_quarterly_myrl3.sav* *wish9_context_quarterly_pjoint.sav* *wish9_context_quarterly_rile.sav* *wish9_context_yearly_myrl2.sav* *wish9_context_yearly_myrl3.sav* *wish9_context_yearly_pjoint.sav* *wish9_context_yearly_rile.sav*
	wish9_brat_complete.sps	
	wish9_context_macro.sps	
	wish9_missing_quarts.pl	
	wish9_missing_quarts.sps	
	wish9_missing_years.pl	
	wish9_missing_years.sps	

If, however, other error messages are reported, this should be taken seriously. It indicates that something has gone wrong and you will have to make the necessary correction(s) and redo the run.

2. Folder and files of of the PGL file collection

The **the_pgl_collection** folder is by default your current SPSS working directory if you open one of it's first level **.sps* files (SPSS 10 and earlier versions of SPSS). In SPSS 11 you will have to copy the complete contents of **the_pgl_collection** folder to **My Documents** (**Eigene Dateien**). SPSS claims that there is a way to change the default working directory in SPSS 11, but we never succeeded in doing so.[1] For this reason we generally gave the files and folders

[1] Note that SPSS version 11.5 allows one to operate normally, as with SPSS 10. Thus, it is not necessary to place the contents of **the_pgl_collection** in **My Documents**

the cumbersome prefix wish9, thus making it easier to handle the collection in a **My Documents** folder packed with other items (alphabetically ordered, they stay neatly together).

If you open the **the_pgl_collection** folder you will see:

I. The **wish9_all_contexts** folder which contains four SPSS files named:
all_contexts_rile.sav
all_contexts_myrl2.sav
all_contexts_myrl3.sav
all_contexts_pjoint.sav
These are working files which served as an intermediate step towards the final time series files stored in the folder wish9_result (see Part III, section 2, subsection VI below). They contain all possible government-legislative contexts of each country in the data set, even those contexts which are not kept in the final time series files because they did not dominate the selected time span (year or quarter).

II. The **wish9_data** folder includes:
wish9.sav
coalcat.sav
These files contain the original data set on parties, governments, and legislatures (*wish9.sav*) that is processed by the file *wish9_context_macro.sps* to obtain the final time series file (see Part III, section 2, subsection VI below) and the complementary data on the German Bundesrat which is used when the file *wish9_brat_complete.sps* is executed to complete the final time series files with this information. The reason for the separate handling of the German Bundesrat is the special composition and election mode of this chamber made it impossible to include this information in *wish9.sav* from the beginning.

III. The **wish9_include** folder contains the files:
context_quarterly.sps
context_yearly.sps
One of these files is automatically included according to your specification when the file *wish9_context_macro.sps* is executed. By including the one or the other in the execution of *wish9_context_macro.sps* you can control whether the final time series file contains yearly or quarterly time intervals.

IV. The **wish9_manual** folder contains the *wish9_manual.doc* and further documentation on the data of wish9.sav.

V. The **wish9_read_me** folder contains a *read_me.txt* file.

VI. The **wish9_result** folder contains the final time series files. The 8 files you find there when you open the PGL file collection the first time are those we prepared for you (see Table 2):

Table 2: Prepared Time Series Files in wish9_result

Ideological Variable	***Quarterly Interval***	***Yearly Interval***
myrl2	*wish9_context_quarterly_myrl2.sav*	*wish9_context_yearly_myrl2.sav*
myrl3	*wish9_context_quarterly_myrl3.sav*	*wish9_context_yearly_myrl3.sav*
pjoint	*wish9_context_quarterly_pjoint.sav*	*wish9_context_yearly_pjoint.sav*
rile	*wish9_context_quarterly_rile.sav*	*wish9_context_yearly_rile.sav*

The file names indicate whether the time interval is quarterly or yearly and describes the

ideological variable used in their construction (myrl2, myrl3, pjoint, rile - see Part I section 1.). They are complete with the German Bundesrat information and have a balanced structure (each country in the dataset has the same number of years, i.e., 1944 – 1998).

VII. In the **the_pgl_collection** folder you will find 4 SPSS syntax files and 2 Perl files: (The Perl files require Perl to be installed on your computer, see Part II, Section 3.). Note that the order in which we describe these file immediately below is not the order in which you should execute the files.

1. The file *wish9_brat_complete.sps* is applied to the time series files produced by wish9_context_macro.sps in order to complete the information on the Bundesrat.

2. The file *wish9_context_macro.sps* is the 'Master Script'. It produces the time series files in the **wish9_result** folder. The only things missing in these time series files is the information on the German Bundesrat (see Part III section VII.1 above) and a balanced file structure (see 3 – 6, immediately below).

3. *wish9_missing_quarts.pl* is the Perl script that has to be run when you are half way through the execution of the SPSS syntax file *wish9_missing_quarts.sps*. This is done if one would like to obtain a quarterly time series file with equally long time spans for all countries (balanced file structure).

4. *wish9_missing_quarts.sps*: see 3, immediately above.

5. *wish9_missing_years.pl* is the Perl script that has to be run when you are half way through the execution of the SPSS syntax file *wish9_missing_years.sps*. This is done if one would like to obtain a yearly time series file with equally long time spans for all countries (balanced file structure).

6. *wish9_missing_years.sps:* see 5, immediately above.

3. How to create your own time series file on Parties – Governments – Legislatures

I. Compute your own ideological index variable in the file *wish9.sav*, the basic data file of the PGL collection. In Part I, Section 1. you can see how myrl2, myrl3, pjoint, or rile have been computed. For this manual we assume that you named your ideological index ***myideo*** (you are obviously free to choose any name you wish). After you have computed the variable, save *wish9.sav*, and make sure that it still resides in the folder **wish9_data**. It is crucial for the error-free execution of all the SPSS syntax files that the sub-folder structure of the collection below the folder **the_pgl_collection** is not altered.

II. Open the *wish9_context_macro.sps* syntax file and go to the code block displayed in USER ACTION I box below.

USER ACTION I : Insert the name of your new ideological variable in the code, for example here we have inserted the variable ***myideo***.

```
*USER ACTION I.
****Specify the ideological variable you would like to use in the macro compvar.
define compvar ()
        myideo.
!enddefine.
```

Please do not forget that every period is crucial for a successful execution of one of these syntax files.
After completing USER ACTION I go to,

USER ACTION II: Make a decision as to whether a quarterly or a yearly time series file should be produced. If you edit the code block like as has been done in the USER ACTION II box below, you opted for a quarterly time series file by having the script include the file *context_quarterly.sps* from the folder **wish9_include**:

```
*USER ACTION II.
****Specify whether you would like obtain a final time series file with yearly or quarterly intervals.
****by alternatively selecting context_yearly.sps or context_quarterly.sps as include file (macro
envokes).
define envokes ()
        include 'wish9_include\context_quarterly.sps'.
*       include 'wish9_include\context_yearly.sps'.
!enddefine.
```

If, instead you would like to obtain a yearly time series file you should make sure that the code block looks like this:

```
*USER ACTION II.
****Specify wether you would like obtain a final time series file with yearly or quarterly intervals.
****by alternatively selecting context_yearly.sps or context_quarterly.sps as include file (macro
envokes).
define envokes ()
*       include 'wish9_include\context_quarterly.sps'.
        include 'wish9_include\context_yearly.sps'.
!enddefine.
```

The * makes the difference. It excludes the include file you do not want to use.
Always make sure that only one of the include files is activated.
After finishing USER ACTION II proceed to USER ACTION III.

USER ACTION III
In this step you will have to name the intermediate file that contains all the government – legislative contexts with your personal ideological index. We recommend that you name this file in such a way as to clearly indicate the identity of the ideological index that has been used in its construction. In the example shown in USER ACTION III box we have included ***myideo*** in the file name.

```
*USER ACTION III.
****Specify the name of intermediate file that contains all aggregated contexts.
**** resulting from wish9.sav before those contexts are chosen that dominate a year.
****This intermediate files are saved in the subfolder all_contexts - assign unique names
.****or one result file is overwriting the other if you plan to have several.
****consecutive runs.
****Note that the yearly and the quarterly version of a special "compvar" use.
****a identical instance of the all_contexts file.
define allcon ()
        'wish9_all_contexts\all_contexts_myideo.sav'.
!enddefine.
```

Note that both the file *context_quarterly.sps* and *context_yearly.sps* use the same intermediate file. That is the reason why you will find only 4 intermediate files but 8 final time series files among the prepared files.
After having completed USER ACTION III go to USER ACTION IV.

USER ACTION IV: Here it is necessary to name the final time series file. In the example provided in the USER ACTION IV box we have given the final time series file a name that shows the data is constructed with a yearly time interval and is based on the ideological variable, ***myideo***.

```
*USER ACTION IV.
****Specify the name of the time series file in the macro tsfile.
****This is the name of the final result file that is going to be saved.
**** in the folder wish9_result - assign unique names.
****or one result file is overwriting the other if you plan to have several.
****consecutive runs.
define tsfile ()
        'wish9_result\wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav'.
!enddefine.
```

Having completed USER ACTIONS I through IV you are now ready to execute the commands contained in the syntax file. Choose the option *run -> all* to execute the syntax file (*ausführen -> alles*).

III. If you did everything correctly one single item is produced in the SPSS output window. It reports that there is a result variable called CEDATE and the creating function was LEADS(XCBDATE, 1). After the execution you will find one additional file in the folder **wish9_all_contexts**, *all_contexts_myideo.sav*, and one additional file in the folder **wish9_result**, *wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav.*

At this stage, *wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav* still lacks the German Bundesrat information. Use *wish9_brat_complete.sps* to correct this. Again, you have to insert in the syntax file the name of your custom made ideological variable (see USER ACTION I, below) and the name of the time series file you would like to complete (see USER ACTION II, below). Note that *wish9_brat_complete.sav* accepts files with a yearly structure as well as files with a quarterly structure.

```
USER ACTION I.
****Specify the ideological variable you used for the computation.
****of the time series file you would like to complete in the macro idvar.
define idvar ()
        myideo.
!enddefine.

*USER ACTION II.
*****Specify the time series file in the folder wish9_result.
*****you would like to complete.
define cfile ()
        'wish9_result\wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav'.
!enddefine.
```

Having completed USER ACTIONS I through II immediately above, you are now ready to execute the commands contained in the syntax file. Choose the option *run* -> *all* to execute the syntax file (*ausführen* -> *alles*).

If you did everything correctly, one single item is produced in the SPSS output window. It reports that there is a result variable called GBHE_tmp and that the creating function was LEADS(GBHE1, 37).
With the execution of the syntax file *wish9_brat_complete.sps* the preliminary time series file *wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav* has been amended so as to include the relevant data for the German Bundesrat. Note that the data file structure will have been slightly changed here. In the preliminary version the data is sorted in ascending order on the basis of the variable xland. The amended version of the time series file has Germany (xland = 41) at the end of the file.

IV. The only thing that is left to do now is to balance the time series file. For that purpose open the SPSS syntax file *wish9_missing_years.sps* and insert the name of the time series file in the folder **wish9_result** you would like to balance:

```
define balfile ()
        'wish9_result\wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav'.
!enddefine.
```

Then mark the first part of the file until you reach the line
*STOP*STOP*STOP*.
Now choose the option *run -> selection*. **It is important that you do not close the syntax file after having executed this first part**. You should now run the Perl script. To do this you have to open the DOS Prompt. Go to your working directory – **the_pgl_collection** folder in our case – with the command:

cd path_to_working_directory

and type:

perl missing_years.pl

While executing, the Perl script reports how many years are created for each country. It produces a text file that is meant to be merged with your time series file. This is done in the second part of *wish9_missing_years.sps* which you have left open. Return to the SPSS syntax window and select the second part of the syntax file (i.e. the rest of the file succeeding the line *STOP*STOP*STOP*). Now execute it with the option *run -> selection* (*ausführen -> auswahl*). The final time series file, in our example, *wish9_context_yearly_myideo.sav*, in the folder **wish9_result** is now balanced.

Part IV Working with More than One Ideological Dimension

If the user would like to deal with more than a one-dimensional representation of the party, government, legislative units, there is a relatively simple way in which the desired data set can be produced. A simple example of how to accomplish this is laid out below.

1. Compute two separate time series file with the two ideological dimensions you would like to combine.
2. Take one of these time series files and delete all variables that contain no ideological information or that are not of any interest for you. Be sure to keep the variables xland and contydo (xland and contqdo in case you are planning to merge to quarterly time series files) because these two variables will be used as keys when you merge the two files.
3. In the slimmed-down time series file, rename the ideological variables to avoid naming conflicts when you merge the unchanged and the slimmed-down time series file. xland and contydo or contqdo, should not be renamed, as these variables must have the same names in both the unchanged and in the slimmed-down time series file. The reason for this is that these variables will be used as keys during the file merge, i.e. the two files are paired according to every unique combination of xland and contydo or contqdo.
4. At this point you have one slim time series file with the variables xland and contydo, or contqdo, as well as the renamed ideological variables you have chosen. You also have an unchanged time series file with all the variables described in Part II Section 3. Now make the unchanged file your working file and go to the option data -> merge files -> add variables. You are prompted for the file that contains the variables you would like to add. Choose the slimmed-down time series file.
5. If you eliminated or renamed all variables in the slimmed-down time series file with the exception of xland and contydo or contqdo, the right upper box should only contain xland and the time interval variable (contydo or contqdo). The left upper box should contain all variables of the unchanged time series file plus the renamed ideological variables from the slimmed-down time series file.
6. Check the option 'Match cases on key variables in sorted file' (the files are correctly sorted if you have not altered their sequence). Leave the option 'both files provide cases' checked. Now, bring the variables xland and the time interval variable (contydo or contqdo) to the left lower box in exactly that order. Then, click 'OK'.
7. Run a frequency command on xland and switch off the table display. If no missing cases have been produced by the merge command and all the variables you have left in the slimmed-down time series data file are appended to the unchanged time series file, you have successfully combined two ideological dimensions into one time series file.