Alliances as Conflict Managers:

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Outline

NATO During the Cold War:

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Consider this:

First balancing alliance (Franco-Russian) not concluded until 1894.

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Our Answer: Dyadic Focus

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HOWEVER,

- Must account for when states form multilateral alliance as a group (Fordham and Poast Forthcoming) = use *k*-adic data.
- Must properly code threat (Poast, Von-Hagen Jamar, and Morrow N.D.) = use *rivals*

Unit of Observation: k-ad

What is a k-ad? Group of k number of states (Poast 2010).

Dyad: Is when $k = 2$

Triad: Is when $k = 3$

Quad-ad: Is when $k = 4$

etc.

Dependent Variable: Alliance Formation

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Alliance Formation Data: ATOP (Leeds et al 2002).

Key Independent Variable: Rivalry Density

$$D_{t,i} = \frac{2E_{t,i}}{N_{t,i}(N_{t,i} - 1)} \quad (1)$$

where $E_{t,i}$ is the number of rivalries in the k-ad-year and $N_{t,i}$ is the number of states in the k-ad-year.

Rivalry Data: Thompson 2001

Research Design Summary

Unit of Observation: K-ad Year

DV: K-ad form alliance in year t (ATOP).

Key IV: Rivalry Density (Thompson 2001).

Controls: CINC, Number of k-ad members, common threat density, max polity difference, distance, min polity score, previous alliance formations.

Estimation: Logit with time polynomial

Multivariate Model

Table : Main Results

	Base Logit	RE Logit	FE Logit	Cox
Main Variables				
Rivalry Density	-1.01***	-1.01***	-1.73***	-1.08***
	(0.27)	(0.25)	(0.63)	(0.27)
Common Threat Density	0.61***	0.61***	1.05**	0.69***
	(0.18)	(0.18)	(0.48)	(0.20)
Number of Observations	21,855	21,855	12,678	19,154

* p¡0.10, ** p¡0.05, *** p¡0.01

Multivariate Model

Table : Base Logit, by Alliance Type

	Defense	Offense	Neutrality	Nonagg	Consultative
Main Variables					
Rivalry Density	-1.06***	-1.70***	0.57	-0.90*	-1.57***
	(0.30)	(0.49)	(0.76)	(0.51)	(0.45)
Common Threat Density	0.66***	1.38***	0.99	0.27	1.18***
	(0.19)	(0.33)	(0.64)	(0.39)	(0.25)
Number of Observations	21,855	21,855	21,855	21,855	21,855

* p¡0.10, ** p¡0.05, *** p¡0.01

Rate of Conflict (MID) Onset

Table : For Dyads with Rivals, Alliance v. Not in Alliance

	In Alliance	
	Yes	No
Rate of MID Onset	0.070 N= 8,382	0.096 N = 4,722

Table : For *K*-ads with Rivals, Alliance v. Not in Alliance

	In Alliance	
	Yes	No
Rate of MID Onset	0.195 N= 200	0.297 N = 5,179

Conclusions

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THANK YOU!