

Coding Appendix and Dispute Addendum

Naval Combat Capability Dataset

The Naval Combat Capability Dataset is a compilation of three sources:

- Counting of number of warships described as corvettes, frigates, and larger vessels in subject navies from *The Military Balance* between 1970 and 2018 (note that Chubb (2020) describes 1970 as the first inflection point in his described period of Chinese assertiveness in its maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea). The number of such warships was further catalogued as being either equipped with missiles or not equipped with missiles, as armament is included in the reference source. This allows for computation of the proportion of a navy in a given year that is equipped with missile technology. In the paper I argue that this forms a more precise measure of naval power since it should capture many of the same trends afforded by measurement by tonnage displacement, while also capturing hidden modernization and other trends that such broad measures may miss.
- Total tonnage for years available in the study range for state's A and B from Crisher and Souva (2014) Power at Sea dataset.
- Militarized Interstate Dispute (MID) data from the Correlates of War project's Dyadic MID 4.02 dataset (Maoz et al., 2018). Two discrepancies were identified in reviewing MID 4.02 data for this project and rationale for tweaking this dataset are discussed below.

The coding of the dataset is as follows:

- **DISNO (COW):** dispute number of MID if applicable (Dyadic MID 4.02).
- **State A, Name A, State B, Name B:** country code and name for State A and B in dyad year (note: State A is China throughout dataset for simplicity) (Dyadic MID 4.02)
- **Strt day, mnth, yr:** The day the MID began according to COW (Dyadic MID 4.02).
- **Date:** the start day/month/year of the MID per COW in time-date form compatible with R.

- **End day, mnth, yr:** The date the MID ended according to COW ((Dyadic MID 4.02).
- **Tona and tonb:** total tonnage displacement according to Crisher and Souva (2014) Power at Sea dataset for the dyad year for State A and B.
- **Num_PSCa and Num_PSCb:** total number of principal surface combatants (corvettes and larger warships total, missile and non-missile equipped) in each state's navy in the dyad year (compiled per dyad years from *The Military Balance* (IISS).
- **Rat_PSCmisa and Rat_PSCmisb:** the ratio of the navy's principal surface combatants that are armed with a missile system in that dyad year.
- **Dif_ratab:** the difference in the ratio of State A's principle surface combatant missile-equipped with State B's ratio.
- **Hihosta and hihostb:** the highest level of hostility displayed in the MID for each state the COW coding scheme (Dyadic MID 4.02):
 - **1=none**
 - **2=Threat**
 - **3=Display of force**
 - **4=Use of force**
 - **5=Interstate War**
- **Rolea and Roleb:** the role of state's A and B in the MID (target or initiator) (Dyad MID 4.02):
 - 1=Primary initiator
 - 2=Joiner on initiator side
 - 3=Primary target
 - 4=Joiner on target side

Dispute Coding Addendum

There are two deviations to the straight recording of data from the Dyadic MID 4.02 dataset (Maoz et al., 2018) with rationale given below:

- Dispute no 4699: State A is CHN, State B is VNM. The end date in the COW dataset is given as July 5, 2011. However, in searching news databases for deeper context on the COW narratives (Gibler 2018), I found that a joint statement between China and Vietnam had been released in October that seemed to cap the series of events described by Gibler in this MID. I argue that this MID should have its end date changed to October 11, 2011, which is the day the declaration was announced in the media¹.
- No dispute number: State A is CHN, State B is VNM. This is a distinct MID that I discovered while looking for evidence of context for discussion of other MIDs in that year. This MID closely resembled a previous MID in that both episodes involved Chinese vessels cutting the cables of Vietnamese petroleum and resource survey ships in disputed waters with a similar response by Vietnam². Therefore the MID was assigned the same coding as the MID from Dispute Number 4699.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/article/china-vietnam/china-and-vietnam-sign-agreement-to-cool-sea-dispute-idUSL3E7LB4D420111011>

² [https://advance-lexis-com.www2.lib.ku.edu/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5767-6S11-JBKJ-D1KK-00000-00&context=1516831](https://advance.lexis-com.www2.lib.ku.edu/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5767-6S11-JBKJ-D1KK-00000-00&context=1516831).