

Note on creating the external threat measure in:

Leeds, Brett Ashley and Burcu Savun. 2007. Terminating Alliances: Why do States Abrogate Agreements? *Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 1118-1132.

Many people have contacted me to request code to create the external threat measure used in this article. Here is STATA code:

```
bysort ccode1 year: egen threat=sum(cap_2) if s_un_glo<.759 & pol_rel==1 & atopally~=1
```

```
recode threat (.=0)
```

```
collapse (max)threat, by (ccode1 year)
```

You will need directed-dyad data with capability, s-score, and political relevance and an allied variable from ATOP. You can get most of this from EUGene, including ATOP if you add that user dataset. 0.759 was the median s-score in my sample. You might want to replace it with the median from your sample.

One thing to think about is whether you want the politically relevant dyads that include a major and a minor power to be bi-directional in terms of threat or uni-directional. For example, the U.S. and Nicaragua are a politically relevant dyad. Some might argue that in cases of noncontiguity, the major power is part of the minor power's threat environment, but the minor power is not part of the major power's threat environment. Are all states in the world part of the threat environment of major powers? If you use the political relevance term as designed, that's what you will get. Thus, end-users could modify this depending on the theory.