

A Computationally Practical Simulation Estimation Algorithm for Dynamic Panel Data Models with Unobserved Endogenous State Variables

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Abstract

This paper develops a new simulation estimation algorithm that is particularly useful for estimating dynamic panel data models with unobserved endogenous state variables. The new approach can deal with the commonly encountered and widely discussed “initial conditions problem,” as well as the more general problem of missing state variables at any point during the sample period. Repeated sampling experiments on a dynamic panel data probit model with serially correlated errors indicate that the estimator has good small sample properties and is computationally practical for use with panels of the size that are likely to be encountered in practice.

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1 Introduction

The problem of unobserved endogenous state variables arises frequently in the estimation of dynamic discrete choice panel data models. For example, the problem is present whenever there are unobserved initial conditions, i.e., the history of the choice process begins prior to the first period of observed data. The problem is also present whenever panel data sets do not contain complete information on all choices for every individual within the sample period. Consistent estimation in either of these cases requires “integrating out” all possible choice sequences that the individual *may* have followed. However, as the length of the panel grows and the choice set becomes larger, the “integrating out” solution begins to require very high dimensional integrations, rendering it computationally impractical.

In this paper, we assess the performance of a new simulated maximum likelihood (SML) estimation algorithm that is particularly useful for estimating dynamic panel data models with unobserved endogenous state variables. The novel estimation technique was recently introduced by Keane and Wolpin (2001) (KW) in order to estimate the parameters of a discrete choice dynamic programming problem with both unobserved initial conditions and missing choice data during the sample period. However, the algorithm has a much wider applicability beyond the special case that KW considered. In fact, it can be used to simulate the likelihood function in any context where it is tractable to perform *unconditional* simulations of data from the model.

The computational advantage of the new SML estimation algorithm lies in the fact that performing unconditional simulations of data from a model is often straightforward in contexts where performing conditional simulations would be extremely difficult. Simulation of the likelihood in dynamic models typically requires conditional simulation (of choice probabilities conditional on past history), but when past history is not fully observed, conditional simulation is often computationally infeasible. For example, both the GHK and MCMC algorithms require simulation conditional on a

draw from the distribution of past error terms. When the econometrician does not observe the entire past history, the draws required to implement these conditional simulation techniques can be very hard to obtain (see Geweke and Keane (2001)). This was the reason that KW could not use GHK.

In this study, we describe how the SML algorithm developed by KW, which only requires unconditional simulations, can be extended to a number of cases beyond the specific discrete choice dynamic programming problem that they considered. In particular, we assess the performance of the estimator on a simple panel data probit model with a time-varying exogenous covariate, lagged endogenous variables and serially correlated errors. Specification of a simple panel data probit model allows us to focus on and further develop the estimation technique. Note also that the panel data probit model has been a leading case in past discussions of dynamic panel data models with unobserved initial conditions (see Heckman (1981a)). The results of a series of repeated sampling experiments on the dynamic probit model show that the SML estimator with the new algorithm has good small sample properties and is computationally practical for use with panels of the size that are likely to be encountered in practice.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the literature on different approaches to dealing with the problem of unobserved endogenous state variables, and places our algorithm in context. Section 3 describes the general dynamic panel data probit model used in the repeated sampling experiments. Section 4 develops two different models of classification error that are incorporated into the estimation technique. Classification error in discrete outcomes is a key feature of the algorithm. Section 5 describes the estimation algorithm in detail. Section 6 presents Monte-Carlo test results under our first model of classification error (unbiased classification error), for both a random effects model and an $AR(1)$ error model. Section 7 tests the estimation procedure under our second model of classification error (biased classification error). Section 8 summarizes and concludes.

2 Background

Computationally tractable solutions to the initial conditions problem, a particular case of the more general problem of unobserved endogenous state variables, have been proposed before in the econometrics literature. Most notably, Heckman (1981*a*) illustrated how, in a dynamic probit setting, one could usefully employ the simplifying assumption of equilibrium in the dynamic process to derive an expression for the marginal probability of the initial state. This marginal probability could then be incorporated into the likelihood function for consistent estimation.¹ A drawback of this method, however, is that equilibrium implies the process has been in operation far into the past and that the exogenous variables are generated by a stationary stochastic process. Time and age effects must, therefore, be excluded from the set of explanatory variables.

Heckman (1981*a*) also considered the estimation of fixed effects models as a potentially attractive alternative solution to the initial conditions problem. Estimation of a fixed effects model obviates the need to incorporate pre-sample information and the need to commit to a particular mixing distribution for individual effects. However, only in linear probability models and logit models with time-varying covariates can individual fixed effects be eliminated and structural parameters consistently estimated. In general nonlinear models of fixed panel length, the inconsistency of the fixed effects estimator is transmitted to the structural parameters. Moreover, the effective sample size for estimating the structural parameters of the model is the subsample of individuals that change state. This latter fact can easily lead to a form of small sample selection bias. This approach is also difficult to implement if the number of cross-sectional units is large (see Arellano and Honore (2001)).

As a potentially better alternative to assuming equilibrium or estimating a fixed

¹Card and Sullivan (1988) is an example of a study that adopted this method for measuring the effects of training on re-employment probabilities.

effects model, Heckman (1981*a*) suggested approximating the marginal probability of the initial state by a probit function which has as its argument as much pre-sample information on the exogenous variables as is available. The error term in the initial state index function can be left freely correlated with the errors in the index functions during the sample period. This latter estimation strategy has been shown to perform better than the fixed effects probit model in Monte Carlo simulations. Nevertheless, this approximation procedure can produce biases in structural parameters that are relatively large in magnitude. Monte Carlo results in Heckman (1981*a*) show biases of more than 10% in a number of repeated sampling experiments.

More recently, Wooldridge (2003) re-considered Heckman's approximation procedure and proposed an alternative method for handling the initial conditions problem in dynamic, nonlinear random effects models. Wooldridge (2003) suggests conditioning the distribution of unobserved heterogeneity on the initial choice and the observed history of strictly exogenous explanatory variables. Wooldridge's approach is computationally simpler than Heckman's approximation procedure, however, it has not yet been subject to Monte Carlo tests or widely used in empirical applications.

In contrast to the attention given to the initial conditions problem in the literature on dynamic panel data models, alternative practical solutions to the parallel problem of missing data during the sample period have not yet been fully explored. Missingness problems frequently arise in data sets used by applied economists. For example, serious missing data problems exist in data sets such as the National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLSY) and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID).

The most widely known proposed solution to the problem of missing data during the sample period is the EM algorithm. The EM algorithm was developed in the statistical literature by Rubin (1976) and Dempster, Laird and Rubin (1977). The main drawback of EM is that it is generally difficult to compute the conditional distribution required for the E (expectation) step of the algorithm (see Ruud (1991)). EM has also not been used very much in econometric applications.

Another potential solution is the Gibbs-sampling data-augmentation algorithm. Geweke and Keane (2000) used this approach to deal with unobserved initial conditions and missing data in dynamic earnings models. The problem with data augmentation, as with EM, is that the distribution of a missing value conditional on all other information can be quite complex in dynamic models. Also, MCMC techniques can exhibit instability when trying to impute stochastic terms associated with large number of missing outcomes (a problem noted by Geweke and Keane (2000) when they needed to integrate over long pre-sample histories).

Due to these computational difficulties, applied economists frequently resort to the simpler methods of case deletion and imputation when faced with missing data problems. Case deletion, which in the context of panel data models usually takes the form of cutting the individual's history short, is a questionable solution. It can cause large amounts of information to be discarded, resulting in inefficient estimates. Case deletion can also introduce biases to the extent that completely observed histories differ systematically from censored histories. Imputation of missing values by ad hoc methods is no less problematic. Imputing averages tends to bias estimated variances and covariances toward zero while imputing predicted values from regression models tends to bias correlations away from zero. An additional problem is that standard errors of estimates from models with imputed data usually do not reflect the added variability due to the imputations.

In contrast to the previous literature, the SML estimation algorithm that we propose in this paper offers a systematic unified “solution” to both the initial conditions problem and the problem of missing data during the sample period. The algorithm does not involve case deletion or ad hoc imputation of missing values, and it is computationally simple. It is computationally simple because it does not require calculation of the initial state probability and the probabilities of events at each date t conditional on the state at the start of time t , which is the usual approach to construction of the likelihood in dynamic models. In our algorithm, unconditional simulations of

the model are used to form the likelihood.

The key assumption that is required in order to form the likelihood in dynamic models using only unconditional simulations is that reported choices are measured with error. Assuming classification error in reported choices avoids the need to condition on past history, and avoids the usual problem in frequency simulation whereby an impractically large number of simulations is necessary to compute choice probabilities. Furthermore, the assumption that choices are measured with error is certainly valid in the vast majority of data sets that economists use.

The classification error process that we incorporate into the model simply specifies some probability that the reported choice is the true choice and some probability that it is not. Classification error of this type is frequently present in data sets with discrete outcomes and is popular in applied work (see, e.g., Poterba and Summers (1995) and Flinn (1997)). Moreover, if misclassification is present and not included in the analysis, maximum likelihood estimation leads to biased and inconsistent parameter estimates (Hausman, Abrevaya and Scott-Morton (1998)). Repeated sampling experiments in Hausman et. al. (1998) find considerable biases, in the range of 15% to 25%, in ordinary probit models that fail to incorporate classification error into the likelihood.²

In our approach, the investigator has a great deal of flexibility in terms of the details of the classification error process. All that is required is that one can obtain a tractable expression for the probability of observed choices conditional on true choices. One can also specify the classification error process so that it is possible to estimate the extent of classification error in the data. We illustrate this flexibility of the algorithm by considering two different models of classification error in the

²Hausman et. al. (1998) also demonstrate that a distributional assumption on the error term and a monotonicity condition are necessary for separate identification of structural parameters and classification error rates. The dynamic probit models that we consider meet these identification conditions.

repeated sampling experiments.

3 The Panel Data Probit Model

In the panel data probit model, the utility of the first option, for individual i at time t , is denoted as u_{it} , and the utility of the second option is normalized to zero. Utility is always unobserved to the researcher but the individual is assumed to choose the option which gives greatest utility. We will consider applications of our SML approach to models of the general form

$$u_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_{\tau} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

where x_{it} is a strictly exogenous covariate³ and d_{it} is the indicator function defined by

$$d_{it} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u_{it} \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Note that the specification in (1) allows the entire history of past choices to affect current utility. It is, therefore, more general than the familiar first-order Markov process.⁴ Depreciation in the importance of past choices is captured through the weights ρ_{τ} . The theoretical start of the process in the dynamic probit model is, by definition, $d_{i0} = 0$.

The error term ε_{it} in (1) is assumed to be serially correlated. Serial correlation in the error term implies that lagged choices are endogenous. In the simple case of serially independent errors, lagged choices are exogenous, and the problems we

³Generalization to endogenous x_{it} is straightforward but requires that one specify the x_{it} process, as would be true in any ML approach. We do not pursue that generalization here.

⁴More general processes than first-order Markov have not been widely used in the economics literature. We suspect that this is due, in part, to the difficulty in dealing with missing data. But, more general models are quite standard in marketing. See, e.g., Erdem and Keane (1996).

consider in this paper do not arise. Although our approach is very flexible in terms of the nature of the serial correlation that can be accommodated, we consider two leading cases in our experiments. First, the source of serial correlation could be time-invariant random individual effects, i.e.,

$$\varepsilon_{it} = \mu_i + \eta_{it} \tag{3}$$

where μ_i is normally distributed with zero mean and variance σ_μ^2 , and η_{it} is normally distributed with zero mean and variance σ_η^2 . Second, serial correlation could derive from an $AR(1)$ process,

$$\varepsilon_{it} = \phi_1 \varepsilon_{i,t-1} + \eta_{it} \tag{4}$$

where η_{it} has the same distribution as in (3).

Although the model outlined above may appear somewhat restrictive, it should be noted that the estimation procedure can easily accommodate a wide range of alternative covariate specifications and distributions of the error term. For example, in KW a variant of the algorithm is employed in a multinomial choice setting with an error term that is decomposed into a nonparametric individual random effect and a multivariate normal disturbance that is contemporaneously correlated across choices.

While we only consider the scalar process in (1), extension to vectors of discrete and mixed discrete/continuous outcomes (as in KW) is straightforward. We emphasize that our goal here is to focus on relatively simple processes, so that repeated sampling experiments are feasible. Furthermore, the relatively simple processes we do consider have been widely used in the literature, and have been the focus of prior work on the initial conditions problem (see Heckman (1981a) and Wooldridge (2003)).

4 Classification Error

In our approach, we assume that all discrete outcomes are measured subject to classification error. In most contexts in applied economics this is a sensible assumption.

Moreover, our approach can be implemented given any assumed classification error process provided that it is possible to obtain a tractable expression for the probability of observed choices conditional on true choices. Letting d_{it}^* denote the reported choice, the general model of misclassification that we consider is characterized by four classification error rates

$$\begin{aligned}
\pi_{11t} &= \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1) \\
\pi_{01t} &= \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 0) \\
\pi_{00t} &= 1 - \pi_{01t} \\
\pi_{10t} &= 1 - \pi_{11t}
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where π_{11t} is the probability that the first option is reported to be chosen ($d_{it}^* = 1$) given that the first option is the true choice ($d_{it} = 1$); π_{01t} is the probability that the first option is reported to be chosen ($d_{it}^* = 1$) given that the second option is the true choice ($d_{it} = 0$); and π_{00t} and π_{10t} are the corresponding conditional probabilities for $d_{it}^* = 0$.

The investigator has a great deal of leeway in terms of how to further specify the classification error rates π_{11t} and π_{01t} . In our Monte Carlo analysis of the estimation algorithm we will consider cases in which the classification error rates are dependent on the true choice, but are otherwise unconditional on the covariates in the model. Classification error rates would depend on the true value of the dependent variable if, for example, workers who change jobs misreport more often than workers who do not change jobs. Hausman et. al. (1998) find evidence of this type of misclassification in the PSID and the CPS. In a similar vein, Flinn (1997) finds that the misreporting of dismissals in the NLSY is an increasing function of the true dismissal state.

Covariate-dependent misclassification could also be easily incorporated into the classification error model. However, we note that if the measurement error process were made a sufficiently flexible function of covariates and lagged choices, one would lose identification of the structural parameters in (1). Identification of structural

parameters will be stronger the more parsimonious is the model of misclassification. Moreover, economic theory provides guidance for specification of the decision model but does not necessarily provide guidance for specification of the model of misclassification. For both these reasons, we focus on fairly simple specifications of the classification error process. In what follows, we consider two different specifications distinguished by whether classification error is biased or unbiased, and whether there is dynamic misreporting.

4.1 Unbiased Classification Error

The assumption that classification error is unbiased imposes a very simple structure on the classification error rates in (5). Unbiasedness in this context means that the probability a person is observed to choose an option is equal to the true probability that the person chooses that option, or $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1) = \Pr(d_{it} = 1)$. The assumption of unbiased classification error is appealing because it forces the structural parameters of the model to fit the conditional choice frequencies in each period, as opposed to allowing classification error to drive model fit.

Unbiased classification error implies that the classification error rates in (5) are linear in the true choice probability. To see this, note that by definition,

$$\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1) = \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1) \Pr(d_{it} = 1) + \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 0) \Pr(d_{it} = 0) \quad (6)$$

where, in writing $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1)$ and $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$, we have suppressed the obvious dependence of these probabilities on x_{it} and lagged true choices in order to conserve on notation.

If we write the classification error rates as the following linear functions of $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1) &= E + (1 - E) \Pr(d_{it} = 1) \\ \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 0) &= (1 - E) \Pr(d_{it} = 1), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

then these expressions can be substituted into (6) and shown to yield $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1) = \Pr(d_{it} = 1)$.

Note that as the true choice probability, $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$, approaches one, the probability of a correct classification, $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1)$, also approaches one, which must be the case to preserve unbiasedness. Further, as $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$ approaches zero, $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1)$ approaches E . E can thus be interpreted as a “base” classification error rate. In other words, low probability events have a probability equal to E of being classified correctly. The probability of a correct classification increases linearly from E toward one as the true choice probability approaches one. E is treated as a free parameter, thus allowing for estimation of the extent of classification error.

In terms of the original notation, the classification error rates can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_{11t} &= E + (1 - E) \Pr(d_{it} = 1) \\ \pi_{01t} &= (1 - E) \Pr(d_{it} = 1).\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

Note the great parsimony that unbiasedness imposes on the classification error process (i.e., it depends on the single parameter E .) However, one could certainly generalize this specification by letting the base classification error rate E depend on covariates. In that case, one obtains unbiasedness conditional on covariates.

Note also that this model of unbiased classification error is similar to the “flexible” model of classification error considered in Hausman et. al. (1998). In both classification error schemes, the probability of the reported choice is increasing in the index function determining the true choice. The monotonicity condition for identification of classification error rates is thus satisfied. This is also true for the model of biased classification error that we consider below.

4.2 Biased Classification Error

Any classification error scheme that does not impose the linear relationships in (7) will, in general, lead to a biased classification error process in which $\Pr(d_{it}^* = 1) \neq$

$\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$. The biased classification error scheme that we consider as an alternative to (7) is characterized by the following index function,

$$l_{it} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 d_{it} + \gamma_2 d_{it-1}^* + \omega_{it} \quad (9)$$

where d_{it}^* denotes the reported choice and ω_{it} is a stochastic term. If $l_{it} > 0$ then $d_{it}^* = 1$, while $d_{it}^* = 0$ otherwise. Notice that the specification in (9) allows the probability of reporting a particular choice to differ by the true choice, and allows for dynamic misreporting, since d_{it-1}^* appears in the index function. The greater in magnitude is γ_2 , the coefficient on d_{it-1}^* , the more likely is persistent misreporting.

Assuming ω_{it} is distributed logistically yields a tractable, nonlinear expression for the classification error rates,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{11t} &= \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1) = \frac{e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 d_{it-1}^*}}{1 + e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 d_{it-1}^*}} \\ \pi_{01t} &= \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 0) = \frac{e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_2 d_{it-1}^*}}{1 + e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_2 d_{it-1}^*}}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

In the next section, we outline the SML estimation algorithm for any specification of the classification error process in (5), as well as for the two specific classification error processes (biased and unbiased) described above in (8) and (10).

5 The SML Estimation Algorithm

Suppose the data consist of $\{D_i^*, x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ where $D_i^* = \{d_{it}^*\}_{t=1}^T$ is the history of reported choices for individual i , $x_i = \{x_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$ is the history of the exogenous covariate for individual i , and N is the number of individuals in the sample. For ease of exposition, assume that the $\{x_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$ history is fully observed for each individual i and that $t = 1$ is the first period of observed data. Since there may be missing choices during the sample period, let $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})$ be an indicator function which equals one if d_{it}^* is observed, and zero otherwise. Under these conditions, simulation of the likelihood

function requires constructing M simulated choice histories for each $\{x_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$ history as follows:

1. For each individual i , draw M sequences of errors from the joint distribution of $(\varepsilon_{i1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{iT})$ to form $\left\{ \left\{ \{\varepsilon_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^M$.
2. Given $\left\{ \{x_{it}\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ and the error sequences $\left\{ \left\{ \{\varepsilon_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^M$, construct M simulated choice histories for each individual i $\left\{ \left\{ \{d_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^M$ according to (1) and the decision rule (2).
3. Construct the classification error rates $\left\{ \left\{ \{\hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{m=1}^M \right\}$ for each individual i , where j denotes the simulated choice and k denotes the reported choice. The procedure to do this depends on the assumed classification error process, as we discuss below in steps (3a) and (3b).
4. Form an unbiased simulator of the likelihood contribution for each individual i as:

$$\hat{P}(D_i^* \mid \theta, x_i) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \prod_{t=1}^T \left(\sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 \hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m I[d_{it}^m = j, d_{it}^* = k] \right)^{I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})} \quad (11)$$

where θ is the vector of model parameters.

Step (3a):

In the special case of unbiased classification error, the $\hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m$'s in step (3) depend on the true choice probability $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$ (see equation (8)). Therefore, $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$ must also be simulated. $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$ can be computed by forming the unbiased simulator

$$\hat{P}(d_{it} = 1 \mid H_{it}^m) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \Pr \left(\varepsilon_{it} \leq \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau \right) \quad (12)$$

where $H_{it}^m = \left\{ \{x_{i\tau}\}_{\tau=1}^t, \{d_{i\tau}^m\}_{\tau=1}^{t-1} \right\}$ is the history of the exogenous covariate and the simulated lagged endogenous covariate through time t .⁵

⁵When ε_{it} is distributed normally with mean zero and variance σ_ε^2 , the probability in the summation is $\Phi(a)$ where $a = \beta'x/\sigma_\varepsilon$, $\beta'x = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau$, and Φ is the standard normal

Then $\hat{\pi}_{11t}^m$, the classification error rate for $d_{it}^* = 1$ and $d_{it}^m = 1$, and $\hat{\pi}_{01t}^m$, the classification error rate for $d_{it}^* = 1$ and $d_{it}^m = 0$, are, respectively,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\pi}_{11t}^m &= E + (1 - E)\hat{P}(d_{it} = 1 | H_{it}^m) \\ \hat{\pi}_{01t}^m &= (1 - E)\hat{P}(d_{it} = 1 | H_{it}^m)\end{aligned}\quad (13)$$

Step (3b):

In the special case of the biased classification error process given by (10), the $\hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m$'s in step (3) depend on the reported choice in the previous period $d_{i,t-1}^*$. If the reported choice in the previous period is missing, $d_{i,t-1}^*$ must be simulated. The reported choice in the previous period can be easily simulated according to (9). The simulated $d_{i,t-1}^*$ is denoted as $d_{i,t-1}^{*m}$. Let $d_{i,t-1}^{*(m)} = I(d_{i,t-1}^* \text{ observed})d_{i,t-1}^* + (1 - I(d_{i,t-1}^* \text{ observed}))d_{i,t-1}^{*m}$.

Then $\hat{\pi}_{11t}^m$, the classification error rate for $d_{it}^* = 1$ and $d_{it}^m = 1$, and $\hat{\pi}_{01t}^m$, the classification error rate for $d_{it}^* = 1$ and $d_{it}^m = 0$, are, respectively,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\pi}_{11t}^m &= \frac{e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 d_{i,t-1}^{*(m)}}}{1 + e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 d_{i,t-1}^{*(m)}}} \\ \hat{\pi}_{01t}^m &= \frac{e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_2 d_{i,t-1}^{*(m)}}}{1 + e^{\gamma_0 + \gamma_2 d_{i,t-1}^{*(m)}}}\end{aligned}\quad (14)$$

The estimation procedure described in steps (1) through (4) builds the likelihood contribution for each individual by averaging, over M simulated choice histories, the product of the appropriate classification error rates implied by the simulated choice history $\{d_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T$ and the observed choice history $\{d_{it}^*\}_{t=1}^T$. In step (4) the indicator function $I[d_{it}^m = j, d_{it}^* = k]$ “picks out” the appropriate classification error rate by comparing d_{it}^* to d_{it}^m . If d_{it}^* is unobserved, then the value of $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})$ is zero, and there is no contribution to the likelihood (i.e., one simply enters one in the product) in period t .⁶

c.d.f.

⁶If choices are not missing at random, the probability that the choice is not observed can be incorporated into the product, in place of the number one. A similar correction can be made to

Note that any observed choice history has non-zero probability conditional on any simulated choice history. This reflects the fact that any simulated choice history can generate any observed choice history when there is classification error. It is also important to note that (11) builds the likelihood using unconditional simulations of the model. The simulation of conditional probabilities like $P(d_{it} | H_{it})$ is completely avoided, circumventing the severe computational problems that typically arise if H_{it} is not fully observed. In the unconditional approach, the state space is updated according to previous simulated choices, rather than previous reported choices, which then determine current simulated choices.

The asymptotic properties of the SML estimator described here are the same as were discussed in Lee (1992) and Pakes and Pollard (1989). Consistency and asymptotic normality require that $\frac{M}{\sqrt{N}} \rightarrow \infty$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. The estimator we have described is just a special case of SML, differentiated from past approaches only in terms of the algorithm used to simulate the likelihood contribution. However, the importance of this should not be underestimated. Past Monte Carlo work has repeatedly shown that within the class of SML estimators that share common asymptotic properties, finite sample performance hinges critically on the quality of the particular algorithm used to simulate choice probabilities (see Geweke and Keane (2001) for a review).

5.1 Missing Covariates and Initial Conditions

The estimation procedure described above needs to be only slightly modified in order to accommodate missing exogenous covariates and/or an initial conditions problem. In the case of missing covariates, each missing x_{it} is simulated according to the assumed process generating the x_{it} 's. For example, suppose the x_{it} 's are time-varying and stochastic and follow the $AR(1)$ process,

$$x_{it} = \phi_2 x_{i,t-1} + \nu_{it} \tag{15}$$

handle endogenous attrition.

where ν_{it} is normally distributed with zero mean and variance σ_v^2 , and where $x_{i0} = 0$. If x_{it-1} is observed and x_{it} is missing, then the missing x_{it} is replaced by \hat{x}_{it}^m which equals $\phi_2 x_{it-1}$ plus a draw from the ν_{it} distribution. A new draw from the ν_{it} distribution is taken for each simulated choice history m .

The likelihood contribution for each individual i in this case becomes

$$\hat{P}(D_i^*, x_i | \theta) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \prod_{t=1}^T f_m(x_{it})^{I(x_{it} \text{ observed})} \left(\sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 \hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m I[d_{it}^m = j, d_{it}^* = k] \right)^{I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})}$$

where $f_m(x_{it})$ is the density of the exogenous covariate.

Under the assumption that ν_{it} is distributed normally, the density of x_{it} according to draw sequence m is,

$$f_m(x_{it}) = \frac{1}{\sigma_v} \phi \left(\frac{x_{it} - \phi_2 \hat{x}_{it-1}^{(m)}}{\sigma_v} \right) \quad (17)$$

where $\hat{x}_{it-1}^{(m)} = I(x_{i,t-1} \text{ observed}) x_{i,t-1} + (1 - I(x_{i,t-1} \text{ observed})) \hat{x}_{it-1}^m$ and ϕ is the standard normal p.d.f.. Note that in the period in which x_{it} is missing, the density does not affect the likelihood (or one enters the product). $f_m(x_{it})$ affects the likelihood only when x_{it} is observed. The parameters ϕ_2 and σ_v now become part of the parameter vector θ .

In the case of an initial conditions problem, $t = 1$ is not the first period of observed data. Let $t = \tilde{\tau}$ be the first period of observed data where $\tilde{\tau} > 1$. Simulated choice histories are still constructed from the theoretical start of the process, i.e., from $t = 0$ with $d_{i0} = x_{i0} = 0$, irrespective of the value of $\tilde{\tau}$. If the x_{it} 's are also missing, the path of x_{it} 's must be simulated from $t = 1$ until $t = \tilde{\tau}$.⁷

The likelihood contribution for each individual i in this case takes the form

$$\hat{P}(D_i^*, x_i | \theta) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \prod_{t=\tilde{\tau}}^T f_m(x_{it})^{I(x_{it} \text{ observed})} \left(\sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 \hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m I[d_{it}^m = j, d_{it}^* = k] \right)^{I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})} \quad (18)$$

⁷If the first period of observed data is individual specific, simply replace $\tilde{\tau}$ with $\tilde{\tau}_i$.

In (18), the first d_{it}^* is observed at $t = \tilde{\tau}$. In Heckman’s approximation method, one would specify a distribution for $d_{i\tilde{\tau}}^*$. In our method, it is not necessary to construct a marginal distribution for the initial state. The distribution of the initial state in period $\tilde{\tau}$ is implicitly determined by the simulated choice and covariate history from $t = 1$ through $t = \tilde{\tau} - 1$.

In some economic applications, the process has a natural start date (e.g., age 16 for decisions to stay in school or enter the labor force). In other applications, all that can be known reliably is that the process started well before the observation period. In that case, one might just set $\tilde{\tau}$ large enough so that estimates are not sensitive to further increases. Alternatively, if the theoretical start of the process can not be determined, one could easily nest Heckman’s approximation method inside our algorithm, as a simple way to handle the initial period, and still handle the problem of missingness during the sample period. Hybrid approaches such as these will be explicitly considered below.

5.2 Importance Sampling

The estimation procedure can also be easily modified to take advantage of importance sampling techniques that smooth the likelihood function and enable the use of standard gradient methods of optimization.⁸ The non-smoothness of the simulated likelihood function arises because, holding the draw sequence $\{\varepsilon_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T$ fixed, a change in θ can induce discrete changes in the $\{d_{it}^m\}_{t=1}^T$ sequence. We smooth the likelihood by first constructing simulated choice histories $\{d_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ at an initial θ_0 . We then hold the $\{d_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ sequences fixed as we vary θ . Each simulated choice sequence then has an associated importance sampling weight, $W_m(\theta)$, that varies with θ . The basic idea of importance sampling is that, when we change θ , sequences that are more

⁸The non-smooth version of the estimation algorithm considered until now necessitates the use of non-gradient methods of optimization such as the downhill simplex method.

(less) likely under the new θ receive increased (reduced) weight. Thus, we have

$$W_m(\theta) = \frac{P(d_{i1}^m(\theta_0), \dots, d_{iT}^m(\theta_0) \mid \theta, x_i)}{P(d_{i1}^m(\theta_0), \dots, d_{iT}^m(\theta_0) \mid \theta_0, x_i)} \quad (19a)$$

where the numerator is the joint probability that simulated choice history m occurs given the current vector of trial parameters θ . The denominator is the joint probability that simulated choice history m occurs given the initial vector of trial parameters θ_0 . The joint probability of simulated choice history m in (19a) is

$$\prod_{t=1}^T \Pr \left(\varepsilon_{it} \leq \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau \right).$$

Note that an alternative way to smooth the likelihood function is to construct, at the initial θ_0 , simulated choice histories $\{d_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ and the latent variable sequences $\{U_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ that generate $\{d_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$, where $U_{it}^m(\theta_0) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau + \varepsilon_{it}$. One then holds both the $\{d_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ and $\{U_{it}^m(\theta_0)\}_{t=1}^T$ sequences fixed as θ varies. Each simulated choice sequence in this latter case receives an importance sampling weight, $W_m(\theta)$, that takes the form,

$$W_m(\theta) = \frac{P(U_{i1}^m(\theta_0), \dots, U_{iT}^m(\theta_0) \mid \theta, x_i)}{P(U_{i1}^m(\theta_0), \dots, U_{iT}^m(\theta_0) \mid \theta_0, x_i)} \quad (19b)$$

where the joint probability of simulated latent variable sequence m is the product of standardized $U_{it}^m(\theta_0)$ densities. That is, the joint probability of simulated choice history m in (19b) is

$$\prod_{t=1}^T \frac{1}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \phi \left(\frac{1}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \left[U_{it}^m(\theta_0) - \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau \right] \right)$$

where ϕ is the standard normal p.d.f.. The weights in (19b) may be easier to calculate than the weights in (19a) in different contexts.

The likelihood contribution for each individual i in the smooth version of the algorithm is

$$\hat{P}(D_i^*, x_i \mid \theta) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M W_m(\theta) \prod_{t=\tilde{\tau}}^T f_m(x_{it})^{I(x_{it} \text{ observed})} \left(\sum_{j=0}^1 \sum_{k=0}^1 \hat{\pi}_{jkt}^m I[d_{it}^m = j, d_{it}^* = k] \right)^{I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed})} \quad (20)$$

Note that (18) is just a special case of (20) with $W_m = 1$ for each simulated choice history m .⁹

An important computational advantage of the re-weighting scheme over the implicit equal weighting scheme in (18) is that it requires simulated choice histories to be generated only once for each individual, with an initial vector of trial parameters θ_0 , as opposed to constructing simulated choice histories at each vector of trial parameters θ . KW used this smooth version of the algorithm to construct standard errors, but used the non-smooth version in estimation (using a simplex algorithm). Akerberg (2001) describes an analogous use of importance sampling and has a good discussion of how his approach differs from ours.

6 Monte-Carlo Tests - Unbiased Classification Error

In this section, Monte-Carlo tests of the SML estimator with unbiased classification error are reported. The algorithm used to generate artificial data sets with unbiased classification error is described in Appendix A. In subsection 5.1, estimation results for a random effects specification are discussed. In subsection 5.2, we discuss the estimation results for an $AR(1)$ specification for the error term. In each repeated sampling experiment, a vector of true model parameters is chosen and used to create 50 Monte-Carlo data sets which differ in the realizations of the stochastic elements of the model. Parameter estimates are then obtained for each data set.

Each estimation on the 50 different panels $\{D_i^*, x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ uses a different seed for the random elements of the model that generate the M unconditional simulations for each individual in the sample. For each repeated sampling experiment, the true parameters, the mean, the median, the empirical standard deviations, the root mean

⁹The efficiency of importance sampling algorithms is often improved if weights are normalized to sum to one.

square error of the estimates, and the t-statistics for the statistical significance of the biases, based on the empirical standard deviations, are reported.¹⁰

6.1 Random Effects Model

In the random effects model, the error term ε_{it} follows the components of variance structure in (3). The true start of the process is $d_{i0} = 0$. The exogenous covariate x_{it} is generated by the $AR(1)$ process in (15). The depreciation weights ρ_τ are assumed to follow an exponential decay process, $\rho_\tau = \rho e^{-\alpha(t-\tau-1)}$. The parameter α captures the “speed” of depreciation in the effect of past choices. The vector of estimable parameters for this model is $\theta = \{\beta_0, \beta_1, \phi_1, \sigma_v, \rho, \alpha, \sigma_\mu, E\}$. In the special case of no initial conditions problem and no missing exogenous covariates, ϕ_1 and σ_v need not be estimated. Identification conditions for this type of model (a generalized Polya process with decay) are discussed in Heckman (1981b).

Table 1 reports summary statistics, by time period and over individuals, for a representative data set produced by the random effects model. The data set is generated with the number of individuals N set to 500, the number of periods T set to 10, no missing choices or missing exogenous covariates, and the vector of true parameters set at $\theta = \{-.10, 1.00, .25, 1.00, 1.00, .50, .80, .75\}$. For reasons of identification, the variance of ε_{it} is normalized to one, so that $\sigma_\mu^2 + \sigma_\eta^2 = 1$. The normalization implies that the individual effect accounts for 64 percent of the variance in ε_{it} (σ_μ is set to .80).

The Mean d_{it} column in Table 1 shows that there is an increasing proportion of individuals over time that choose the first option. At $t = 1$ just under 50 percent of the sample have $d_{it} = 1$. At $t = 10$, the proportion reaches 85 percent. The Mean d_{it}^* column shows that the proportion that report choosing the first option closely tracks the true proportion. This is a consequence of unbiased classification error. The Mean

¹⁰We do not compare true average partial effects to estimated average partial effects. The reason is that, in dynamic models, there are a multitude of average partial effects that could be calculated.

$\beta'x$ column displays the mean and variance of $\beta'x = \beta_1 x_{it} + \rho \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} e^{-\alpha(t-\tau-1)} d_{i\tau}$ and the Mean ε_{it} column displays the mean and variance of the composite error term. The figures show that the mean of $\beta'x$ increases at a decreasing rate reflecting the increasing proportion of $d_{it} = 1$ over time and the relatively strong depreciation of past choices. The variance of $\beta'x$ is roughly comparable to the variance of ε_{it} by the third period.

The Mean π_{11t} and Mean π_{00t} columns of Table 1 present the average probabilities of a correct classification. The average probability of a correct match of $d_{it} = 1$ and $d_{it}^* = 1$, π_{11t} , is .863 in period 1 and increases over time to .956 in period 10. The average probability of a correct match of $d_{it} = 0$ and $d_{it}^* = 0$, π_{00t} , is .887 in period 1 and decreases over time to .794 in period 10. This pattern emerges because π_{11t} is an increasing linear function of the proportion choosing $d_{it} = 1$, and π_{00t} is a decreasing linear function of the same proportion, as shown in (8). The slope of the linear functions is $(1 - E)$. The base classification error rate E is set to .75, implying that even low probability events have a fairly high probability of being classified correctly.

6.1.1 Non-Smooth SML Algorithm

Table 2 reports the results of four repeated sampling experiments using the non-smooth SML algorithm. The difference between the four experiments is in the proportion of missing choices during the sample period. The four panels correspond to data generating processes (DGPs) with no missing choices, 20% missing choices, 40% missing choices and 60% missing choices, respectively. There are no missing exogenous covariates. The number of simulated choice histories per individual, M , is set equal to 1000 throughout the study, unless otherwise noted. For starting values, we use an initial parameter vector where each element is bumped 20% away from the true values.

As the figures in Table 2 illustrate, the SML estimator produces biases, but the biases are negligible in magnitude. The bias in the estimate of ρ is statistically

significant in all four panels, however, the magnitude of the bias never exceeds 5.1 percent. The biases in the estimates of β_1 and E are sometimes significant but never exceed 2 percent. The medians of the parameter estimates are also quite close to the means, suggesting that the sampling distributions are symmetric. Note that the empirical standard errors of the estimates generally increase with the increased incidence of missing choices. An increased incidence of missing choices does not change the point estimates much since a higher proportion of missing choices does not substantially alter reported choice frequencies. Since choices are missing at random, the effect of a higher proportion of missing choices is only to reduce the effective sample size. The t-statistics for significant biases generally decrease because the biases are mostly unaffected and the empirical standard errors increase.

The biases in the parameter estimates in Table 2 are relatively small considering that biases on the order of 5-8% are quite common even in panel data models estimated by classical maximum likelihood (see Heckman (1981*a*)). Note that the model in the first panel of Table 2, with no missing choices and no initial conditions problem, is difficult to estimate by classical maximum likelihood. Conditional choice probabilities are hard to construct when only lagged reported choices are known and not lagged lagged true choices.

The negligible small sample biases in Table 2 do not appear to be due to simulation error. Doubling the number of simulated choice histories M to 2000 does not noticeably change the results. Lowering M to 500 also does not change the results, but is 61% faster. The mean time to convergence over the 50 repetitions in the second panel of Table 2 (20% missing choices and $M = 1000$) is 3.73 hours with a standard deviation of .92. The mean time to convergence with 20% missing choices and $M = 500$ is 1.46 hours with a standard deviation of .34. All the experiments were run on a desktop computer containing two 1.0 GHz processors and 0.5 GHz RAM.

Table 3 reports the results of three repeated sampling experiments for a modified DGP where the exogenous covariate is missing for the same observations in which

the choice is missing. The three panels display the estimation results for 20%, 40% and 60% missing choices and covariates in each period, respectively. With missing choices and covariates, the parameters of the exogenous covariate process, ϕ_1 and σ_v , are estimated along with the other parameters of the model. As the results in Table 3 illustrate, adding missing covariates does not change the general conclusions from Table 2. The bias in the estimate of ρ is statistically significant but is still negligible in magnitude. The maximum bias over all parameter estimates is only 4.8%.

Table 4 reports the results of three repeated sampling experiments that focus on the initial conditions problem rather than missing information during the sample period. The number of periods in the first two experiments is increased to $T = 20$. The DGP is modified so that choices and covariates are completely missing in periods $t = 1, \dots, 10$ but there are no missing choices or covariates from $t = 11, \dots, 20$.

The first panel of Table 4 reports the results of simulating from $t = 0$, the theoretical start of the process, but with likelihood contributions from periods $t = 11$ to $t = 20$ only. The biases in the estimates of $\beta_1, \rho, \sigma_\nu$ and σ_μ are statistically significant. However, the magnitudes of the biases are negligible in magnitude. The maximum bias over these four parameters is only 3 percent. Simulating choices from the theoretical start of the process works quite well.

The second panel of Table 4 reports the results of simply ignoring the initial conditions problem by assuming the choice process starts at $t = 10$ with $d_{i,10} = 0$. Since there are no missing covariates in this experiment, the parameters of the exogenous covariate process, ϕ_1 and σ_ν , are not estimated. In this case, the biases are generally substantial in magnitude. Note that the standard errors of the estimates of ρ and α increase dramatically and that σ_μ is badly biased upwards. The incorrect treatment of the initial condition results in an overestimate of the importance of individual effects (inflated variance).¹¹

¹¹The variance of the composite error term is restricted to be between zero and one. Since almost all of the estimates of σ_μ are close to the upper boundary of one, the standard deviation over the

The third panel of Table 4 reports the results of handling the initial conditions problem by constructing a proxy for the initial value of the $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_{\tau}$ term using the observed data. The number of periods in this experiment is increased to $T = 30$. The DGP is modified so that choices and covariates are completely missing in periods $t = 1, \dots, 10$ but there are no missing choices or covariates from $t = 11, \dots, 30$. The observed choices in period $t = 11, \dots, 20$ are used to form a proxy for $\sum_{\tau=0}^{20} d_{i\tau} \rho_{\tau}$ and the likelihood is constructed using only data from $t = 21, \dots, 30$. In this method, the latent index at $t = 21$, u_{i21} , is given by:

$$u_{i21} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i21} + \rho \sum_{\tau=11}^{20} e^{-\alpha(21-\tau-1)} d_{i\tau}^* + \varepsilon_{i21}. \quad (20)$$

The biases produced by this method are generally substantial in magnitude. Similar to the results in the previous panel, in which the initial conditions problem was ignored, the standard errors of the estimates of ρ and α increase dramatically and the incorrect treatment of the initial condition leads to upward bias in the estimated variance of the random effect. Also, the estimate of the base classification error rate E is severely biased downward.

Table 5 reports the results of four repeated sampling experiments in which there is an initial conditions problem and the model has a more familiar first-order Markov structure in past choices. The Markov model is nested in the general model by setting $\alpha = 0$ and $\tau = t - 1$ so that $\beta' x = \beta_1 x_{it} + \rho d_{it-1}$. The first panel of Table 5 reports the results of handling the initial conditions problem by simulating from $t = 0$ and including likelihood contributions from periods $t = 10$ to $t = 20$. Simulating choices from the theoretical start of the process works quite well in the Markov model. The resulting biases are small in magnitude, never exceeding 4.1%.

The second panel of Table 5 reports the results of ignoring the initial conditions problem in the Markov model by setting $d_{i9} = 0$. The estimate of ρ in this experiment is substantially biased downward and σ_{μ} is substantially biased upward. In the

fifty estimates is very small.

Markov model, the incorrect treatment of the initial condition results in estimates that imply an overly weak effect of previous choices on current utility, and an overly strong individual effect.

The third panel of Table 5 reports the results of constructing the initial condition by substituting the observed choice in period 10 into the utility function in period 11 (i.e., treating the choice at $t = 10$ as exogenous.) The biases produced in this method are generally less severe than ignoring the initial conditions problem but the bias in the estimate of ρ is substantial in magnitude (14%). As might be expected when treating the initial condition as exogenous, the estimate of ρ is biased upwards.¹²

The fourth panel of Table 5 applies the Heckman (1981a) method of approximating the marginal probability of the initial state using a probit model that incorporates only information on exogenous covariates. The Heckman method specifies a different latent index function, u_{it}^H , in the first period of observed data. The latent index at $t = 10$ is

$$u_{it}^H = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 x_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}^H \quad (21)$$

where the variance of ε_{it}^H is normalized to one and the correlation coefficient between ε_{it}^H and the individual effect μ_i is $\rho_{\mu\varepsilon^H}$. As before, the likelihood function includes contributions from $t = 10, \dots, 20$. The parameters γ_0 , γ_1 and $\rho_{\mu\varepsilon^H}$ are estimated along with the other parameters of the model. We still use our algorithm to accommodate classification error and form the likelihood using only unconditional simulations from $t = 10, \dots, 20$. In effect, we are nesting Heckman's procedure for handling the initial period within our algorithm.

The estimation results show that nesting the Heckman method in our procedure works relatively well in the random effects model. ρ is over-estimated by only 6.4%. Although the biases are not substantial for Heckman's approximate solution approach (except for the constant), simulation from the theoretical start of the process, when

¹²In the $AR(1)$ error model to be discussed below, treating the initial condition as exogenous produces a bias in the estimate of ρ which is considerably larger (23%).

known, is clearly preferable as the parameter estimates are less biased and more precise.

The fifth panel of Table 5 nests the Wooldridge (2003) approach to solving the initial conditions problem within our algorithm. The Wooldridge method models the conditional mean of the random effect as a function of the initial condition and the entire path of exogenous covariates. Assuming the conditional mean is linear,

$$E[\mu_i | d_{i0}^*, x_{i11}, \dots, x_{i20}] = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 d_{i10}^* + \alpha_2 x_{i11} + \dots + \alpha_{11} x_{i20}, \quad (22)$$

the latent index in period $t = 11, \dots, 20$, is

$$u_{it}^W = \tilde{\beta}_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \rho d_{it-1} + \alpha_1 d_{i10}^* + \alpha_2 x_{i11} + \dots + \alpha_{11} x_{i20} + \eta_{it} \quad (23)$$

where $\tilde{\beta}_0 = \beta_0 + \alpha_0$. Note that β_0 and α_0 cannot be separately identified. The additional parameters that are identified in this approach are α_1 through α_{11} .

The estimation results show that nesting Wooldridge's method within our algorithm produces an estimate of ρ that is biased downward by 12.6%. In contrast, Heckman's method yields an estimate of ρ that is biased upward by 6.4%. Wooldridge's approach also produces a more significant bias in the estimate of E . On the other hand, Wooldridge's method yields a better estimate of σ_μ than does Heckman's method.

6.1.2 The Smooth SML Algorithm (Importance Sampling)

The smooth version of the estimation algorithm, differs from the non-smooth version in that the former requires simulated choice histories to be generated only once for each individual in the sample, at the initial vector of trial parameters. The smooth version enables the use of standard gradient methods of optimization as opposed to generally more time consuming non-gradient methods of optimization such as the downhill simplex method. Thus, the smooth version of the algorithm should be faster to converge. We again set simulation size $M = 1000$ and use an initial parameter vector where each element is bumped 20% away from true values.

Table 6 reports the results of three repeated sampling experiments that use the smooth SML algorithm, with the weights specified in (19a), and that are analogous to the repeated sampling experiments in Table 2 that use the non-smooth algorithm. The three experiments in Table 6 differ in the proportion of missing choices during the sample period. There are no missing exogenous covariates and no initial conditions problem.

Similar to the results in Table 2, the results in Table 6 illustrate that the bias in the estimate of ρ is statistically significant but the magnitude of the bias is negligible. The bias in the estimate of ρ never exceeds 4.8 percent. Note that the estimates of ρ and α are less median biased than mean biased under the smooth algorithm. The maximum mean bias in the estimate of α is 9.8% while the maximum median bias is 7.4%. In contrast to the estimates of ρ and α , the other parameters of the model are more precisely estimated under the smooth algorithm. The upward bias in the estimates of ρ and α , the greater extent of mean bias as compared to median bias, and the relatively larger standard errors in estimates of these versus the other parameters are a consequence of a few high valued outliers in the 50 repetitions.

It is important to note that there is a large difference in mean time to convergence between the smooth and non-smooth algorithms in these experiments. As reported earlier, the mean time to convergence over the 50 repetitions in the second panel of Table 2 (20% missing choices) is 3.73 hours with a standard deviation of .92. The mean time to convergence over the 50 repetitions in the first panel of Table 6 (20% missing choices) is 1.96 hours with a standard deviation of .89. The smooth version is 47% faster.

Table 7 reports the results of three repeated sampling experiments that use the smooth SML algorithm and that are analogous to the repeated sampling experiments in Table 3. In these experiments, the exogenous covariate is missing for the same observations in which a choice is missing. In the first panel, with 20% missing choices and covariates in each period, the biases are not statistically significant and are neg-

ligible in magnitude. Increasing the proportion of missing choices and covariates to 40% increases the biases in the estimates of ρ and α , but they remain negligible in magnitude. Further increasing the proportion of missing choices and covariates to 60% produces more serious biases in the estimates of ρ and α . The direction of the biases in these latter parameter estimates and the large relative increase in their standard errors are suggestive of an identification problem when there is a large amount of missing information in the data. In general, when covariates are missing there is less information that can be used to “impute” missing choices.¹³

In summary, for the random effects model, the performance of the smooth algorithm seems slightly inferior to that of the non-smooth algorithm. While the smooth algorithm is faster, it has the disadvantage that as $\hat{\theta}$ departs from θ_0 , the importance sampling weights $W_m(\theta)$ for some sequences m can get small, implying that relatively few sequences are doing all the “work” in simulating the choice probabilities. This is a well known problem with importance sampling algorithms.¹⁴

6.2 *AR*(1) Error Model

In the *AR*(1) error model, the error term ε_{it} follows the first-order serial correlation process in (4). The theoretical start of the process is again $d_{i0} = 0$. As in the random effects model, the exogenous covariate x_{it} is generated by the *AR*(1) process in (15). The depreciation weights ρ_τ follow the same exponential decay process, $\rho_\tau =$

¹³Although ρ and α capture different aspects of the importance of past choices, the under-estimate of ρ generally decreases the impact of past choices while the under-estimate of α generally increases the impact. Note that Little and Rubin (1987) also report identification problems in the EM algorithm when there is a large extent of missing information in the data.

¹⁴The conclusions from the experiments on the random effects model as well as the *AR*(1) error model are not sensitive to the extent of classification error in the data generating process. Similar results were obtained for E , the base classification error rate, set to .25 and .50. Lower values of E correspond to a greater extent of classification error.

$\rho e^{-\alpha(t-\tau-1)}$. The vector of estimable parameters is $\theta = \{\beta_0, \beta_1, \rho, \alpha, \phi_1, \sigma_v, \phi_2, E\}$.

Table 8 reports summary statistics, by time period and over individuals, for a representative data set produced by the $AR(1)$ error model. The data set is generated with the number of individuals N set to 500, the number of periods T set to 10, no missing choices or missing covariates, and the vector of true parameters set at $\theta = \{-.10, 1.00, 1.00, .50, .25, 1.00, .80, .75\}$. Note that an $AR(1)$ error parameter of .80 implies a considerable amount of serial correlation. As in the random effects model, the variance of ε_{it} is normalized to one and the frequency simulator that is used to compute true classification error rates has \widetilde{M} set to 1000. A comparison of Tables 1 and 8 shows that the summary statistics produced by the $AR(1)$ error model are quite similar to the summary statistics produced by the random effects model.

6.2.1 Non-Smooth SML Algorithm

The order of repeated sampling experiments on the $AR(1)$ error model is the same as the order of experiments on the random effects model. Thus, Tables 9 – 12 are analogous to Tables 2 – 5. The four panels of Table 9 report the results of increasing the incidence of missing choices during the sample period with no initial conditions problem and no missing covariates. As in the corresponding experiments on the random effects model, the bias in ρ is significant in all four panels but negligible in magnitude, never exceeding 5.5%. The standard errors of the parameter estimates are generally smaller in the $AR(1)$ error model. Negligible biases and relatively smaller standard errors in comparison to the random effects model also result when adding missing exogenous covariates (compare Tables 3 and 10).

In Table 11, different solutions to the initial conditions problem in the $AR(1)$ error model are examined. The first panel shows that simulating choices from the theoretical start of the process works well. The second panel, in which the initial conditions problem is ignored, reveals serious biases. As in the corresponding experiment on the random effects model, in which the standard deviation of the individual effect is sub-

stantially biased upward, the $AR(1)$ error parameter is substantially over-estimated. The biases in the estimates of ρ and α are also very large. Since ρ is biased downward and α is biased upward, the estimates understate the importance of lagged choices.

The third panel shows results when using observed data to form a proxy for the initial value of the $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau}\rho_{\tau}$ term. The magnitudes of the biases when using this approach are generally smaller in the $AR(1)$ error model than in the random effects model. However, as in the random effects model, the estimates of ρ and α are biased upward.

Table 12 examines different solutions to the initial conditions problem in the Markov model. As in the random effects model, simulating from the theoretical start of the process works well. Ignoring the initial conditions problem produces substantial biases that are similar in direction and magnitude to the random effects model. Treating the initial condition as exogenous (panel 3) and using the Heckman approximation method (panel 4) result in more serious biases in the $AR(1)$ error model than in the random effects model. In these latter two methods, the estimates of ρ are biased upward by 23% and 20%, respectively.¹⁵

6.2.2 The Smooth SML Algorithm (Importance Sampling)

Table 13 reports the results of estimating the $AR(1)$ error model with no missing exogenous covariates and no initial conditions problem using the smooth SML algorithm with the weights in (19a). Similar to the corresponding results in the random effects model, the bias in the estimate of ρ is statistically significant but never exceeds 5.3 percent. The estimates of α and ρ are less median biased than mean biased and have relatively larger standard errors than the other parameter estimates, as was found in the random effects model. The maximum mean bias in the estimate of α is 7.8%

¹⁵The Wooldridge approach is not estimated in the $AR(1)$ case because it was developed specifically for a random effects model. The Wooldridge method works by forming an expectation of the random effect conditional on the initial condition and the information on the exogenous covariates.

while the maximum median bias is only 3.6%.

The $AR(1)$ error model converges much faster when using the smooth algorithm. The mean time to convergence over the 50 repetitions in the second panel of Table 9 (20% missing choices) is 3.07 hours with a standard deviation of .71. The mean time to convergence over the 50 repetitions in the first panel of Table 13 (20% missing choices) is 1.90 hours with a standard deviation of .78. The $AR(1)$ error model converges slightly faster than the random effects model.

Table 14 reports the results of adding missing exogenous covariates. As in the random effects model, with 20% missing choices and covariates in each period, the biases are negligible in magnitude. The biases in the estimates of ρ and α increase but remain negligible in magnitude when the proportion of missing choices and covariates is increased to 40%. As in the random effects model, increasing the proportion of missing choices and covariates to 60% produces rather serious biases in the estimates of ρ and α . But, these biases are not quite as severe as in the corresponding experiment on the random effects model.

7 Monte-Carlo Tests - Biased Classification Error

In this section, Monte-Carlo tests of the SML estimator with biased classification error, as specified in (10), are performed. The algorithm used to generate artificial data sets with biased classification error is described in Appendix B. In subsection 6.1, estimation results for the random effects model are discussed and in subsection 6.2 we discuss estimation results for the $AR(1)$ error model.

7.1 Random Effects Model

7.1.1 Non-Smooth SML Algorithm

The three panels of Table 15 report the results of estimating the random effects model with biased classification error using the non-smooth SML algorithm. The vector of

true structural parameters is the same as in the case of unbiased classification error. In all three panels, 20% of the choices and exogenous covariates are missing in each period and there is no initial conditions problem. The three experiments in Table 15 differ in the true parameters of the classification error process, γ_0 , γ_1 and γ_2 .

The first panel specifies values of the parameters that produce a relatively low level of classification error bias. The parameters in the second panel produce an intermediate level of bias and the parameters in the third panel produce a relatively high extent of bias. The classification error rates $\pi_{11t} = \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 1)$ and $\pi_{01t} = \Pr(d_{it}^* = 1 \mid d_{it} = 0)$ are (.97, .18), (.95, .27) and (.95, .50), in the first, second and third panels, respectively.

The estimation results indicate relatively few statistically significant biases. Only the estimates of ρ and σ_v are consistently significantly biased. However, the magnitudes of these biases are negligible. The biases rarely exceed 3 percent. Note that increases in the extent of biased classification error leads to larger empirical standard errors. The more classification error bias, the less efficient are the estimates.

In general, the algorithm seems to perform very well for the DGPs with biased classification error, both in terms of uncovering the structural parameters and in terms of uncovering the parameters of the classification error process. The algorithm with a high extent of classification error bias and 20% missing choices and covariates is also faster than the corresponding specification with unbiased classification error. The time to convergence per parameter is .54 hours in the former case and .57 hours in the latter.¹⁶

7.1.2 Smooth SML Algorithm

The three panels of Table 16 report the results of estimating three different random effects models with biased classification error using the smooth SML algorithm with

¹⁶The overall time to convergence for the unbiased and biased classification error models cannot be directly compared because they have a different number of parameters.

the weights in (19a). In all three panels, 20% of the choices are missing in each period, there is no initial conditions problem and there is a relatively low extent of true classification error bias, as in panel 1 of Table 15. In the first panel, the results of estimating a first-order Markov process with no missing exogenous covariates are reported. There are no statistically significant biases in the estimates of the structural parameters and the magnitudes of the biases are extremely small. There are significant biases in the estimates of the classification error process parameters. However, the magnitudes of the biases are negligible.

In the second panel, the results of estimating the Polya model with no missing covariates are reported. The same pattern as in the first panel emerges. There are no statistically significant biases in the estimates of the structural parameters, and the biases in the estimates of the parameters of the classification error process are negligible in magnitude. In the third panel, the results of estimating the Polya model with missing covariates are reported. The general conclusions are unchanged. As in the case of unbiased classification using the smooth SML algorithm, increasing the extent of missing choices and covariates increases the magnitude of the biases.

7.2 $AR(1)$ Error Model

7.2.1 Non-Smooth SML Algorithm

The three panels in Table 17 repeat the series of repeated sampling experiments in Table 15 with an $AR(1)$ specification for the error term rather than a random effects specification. The results in all three panels tell a similar story. The biases are negligible in magnitude, rarely exceeding 3 percent, and the empirical standard errors grow with the extent of bias in the true classification error process.

7.2.2 Smooth SML Algorithm

The first three panels in Table 18 repeat the series of repeated sampling experiments in Table 16 with an $AR(1)$ specification for the error term. The general conclusions from the corresponding experiments on the random effects model carry over to $AR(1)$ errors. The biases are negligible in magnitude and mostly not statistically significant. In Table 19, the repeated sampling experiment corresponding to the first panel in Table 18 is performed using the weights in (19b) instead of the weights in (19a). The results illustrate that the choice of weighting scheme does not change the general conclusions.

8 Conclusion

This paper assesses the performance of a new computationally practical SML estimation algorithm for dynamic discrete choice panel data models with unobserved endogenous state variables. The estimation technique offers a unified approach to the initial conditions problem and the problem of missing data during the sample period. The computational advantage of the estimation algorithm lies in the fact that it requires only unconditional simulations of data from the model to form the likelihood. Performing unconditional simulations is often straightforward in contexts where performing conditional simulations is computationally infeasible. Therefore, in such contexts, our algorithm may have a significant advantage over algorithms such as GHK and MCMC that require conditional simulation.

In order to make it feasible to simulate the likelihood using unconditional simulations, a classification error process in discrete choices must be assumed. However, the assumption that reported choices are misclassified is a reasonable one in almost all empirical applications in economics. The estimation technique can also accommodate a wide range of classification error processes, as long as it is possible to write a tractable expression for the classification error rates. The extent of classification

error in the data can also be determined in estimation.

The SML estimation algorithm was tested via a series of repeated sampling experiments on a general panel data probit model with a time-varying exogenous covariate, lagged endogenous variables, serially correlated errors and two different classification error processes. The estimator was shown to have good small sample properties. Under the non-smooth version of the algorithm, we found that biases are negligible in magnitude even for exceedingly high amounts of missing information in the data. Under the faster, smooth version of the algorithm, biases were also negligible in magnitude except for cases in which there is a very high frequency of missing choices and missing exogenous covariates.

In this study, we also show that the new SML estimation algorithm can be easily combined with Heckman's (1981*a*) approximate solution and Wooldridge's (2003) alternative solution to the initial conditions problem. Such a hybrid approach may be appealing when there is no natural starting point to the choice process, but it is necessary to integrate over missing information during the sample period. Heckman's approximate solution method was found to work better than Wooldridge's approach in our experiments with a random effects model. Heckman's approximate solution method worked less well in our experiments with an $AR(1)$ error model (i.e., we found a 20% upward bias in the coefficient on the lagged choice). Overall, it is preferable to simulate choices from the theoretical start of the process when the start of the process can be determined.

Interestingly, our SML algorithm seems to perform better (in terms of consistently producing negligible bias) for models with biased classification error than for models with unbiased classification error. In order to impose the constraint that classification error be unbiased, one must specify that classification error rates are functions of true choice probabilities. This means that classification error rates must themselves be simulated. This induces some additional noise and computation time into the likelihood simulation. In contrast, with biased classification error, one can specify

that classification error rates are closed form functions of true choices (and perhaps also lagged observed choices and covariates). Our algorithm already requires that true choice histories be simulated, so once this has been done, no additional simulation is necessary to form the classification error rates. This saves computation time and avoids one component of simulation error.

Future research will examine the small sample properties of the estimation technique in more complex settings. For example, observed continuous outcomes, such as wages, can be incorporated into estimation by specifying measurement error densities that enter the likelihood. The estimation method can also be extended to handle cases in which the missing data are not missing at random, there is endogenous attrition, and there is feedback from past choices to future covariates.

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Appendix A

Data Generating Process

Unbiased Classification Error

Given a vector of true parameters of the model and defining the initial conditions of the model as $d_{i0} = x_{i0} = 0$, each data set in the repeated sampling experiments is constructed in two stages. The first stage consists of generating the exogenous covariates and computing the “true” classification error rates. The second stage consists of generating the sequence of true choices and misclassified choices, using the true classification rates computed in the first stage. The second stage also determines if a choice is missing from the data. The two stages of the data generating process are as follows:

Stage 1

1. Draw N sequences from the joint distribution of (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{iT}) to form $\left\{ \left\{ x_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
2. Draw \tilde{M} times from the joint distribution of $(\varepsilon_{i1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{iT})$ to form $\left\{ \left\{ \tilde{\varepsilon}_{it}^m \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^{\tilde{M}}$.
Note that \tilde{M} will generally differ from the number of simulated choice histories M generated for each individual in estimation.
3. Given $\left\{ \left\{ x_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ and the error sequence $\left\{ \left\{ \tilde{\varepsilon}_{it}^m \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^{\tilde{M}}$, construct \tilde{M} simulated choices for each individual i in every period t $\left\{ \left\{ \tilde{d}_{it}^m \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{m=1}^{\tilde{M}}$ according to (1) and the decision rule (2).
4. Form the frequency simulator $\hat{P}(\tilde{d}_{it} = 1 \mid H_{it}^m) = \frac{1}{\tilde{M}} \sum_{m=1}^{\tilde{M}} \Pr \left(\varepsilon_{it} \leq \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} \tilde{d}_{i\tau}^m \rho_\tau \right)$ where $H_{it}^m = \left\{ \left\{ x_{i\tau} \right\}_{\tau=1}^t, \left\{ \tilde{d}_{i\tau}^m \right\}_{\tau=1}^t \right\}$.
5. Construct the “true” classification error rates π_{jkt} for each individual i , according to (8), using \hat{P} in place of $\Pr(d_{it} = 1)$.

Stage 2

1. Draw N sequences of errors from the joint distribution of $(\varepsilon_{i1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{iT})$ to form $\left\{ \left\{ \varepsilon_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
2. Given the $\left\{ \left\{ x_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ sequence generated in the first stage, and the error sequence $\left\{ \left\{ \varepsilon_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$, construct N true choices $\left\{ \left\{ d_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ according to (1) and the decision rule (2).
3. In order to construct the sequence of reported choices, draw T times for each individual i from a uniform random number generator to obtain the sequence $\left\{ \left\{ U_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
4. Compare the uniform random draws to the classification error rates to determine if choices are correctly reported. That is, construct N reported choices $\left\{ \left\{ d_{it}^* \right\}_{i=1}^N \right\}_{t=1}^T$ by implementing the following rule: if $d_{it} = 1$ and $U_{it} < \pi_{11t}$ then $d_{it}^* = 1$, else $d_{it}^* = 0$. Similarly, if $d_{it} = 0$ and $U_{it} < \pi_{00t}$ then $d_{it}^* = 0$, else $d_{it}^* = 1$.
5. In order to determine if a reported choice is missing, draw T times for each individual i from a uniform random number generator to obtain the sequence $\left\{ \left\{ \tilde{U}_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
6. Compare the uniform draws to the probability π^{obs} that d_{it}^* is missing in period t . That is, implement the following rule: if $\tilde{U}_{it} < \pi^{obs}$ then $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed}) = 1$, else $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed}) = 0$.

Note that step 6 does not specify π^{obs} as a function of the exogenous covariates or the observed choices. The data are thus missing completely at random. Generating an initial conditions problem and/or missing exogenous covariates as well as data that is missing at random or missing not at random simply involves modifying π^{obs} accordingly.

Appendix B

Data Generating Process

Biased Classification Error

The data generating process in the case of biased classification error follows the same general rules as in the case of unbiased classification error. The only difference is that the data generating process can be accomplished in one stage rather than two. True choice probabilities do not need to be simulated. The procedure is as follows:

1. Draw N sequences from the joint distribution of (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{iT}) to form $\left\{ \left\{ x_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
2. Draw N sequences of errors from the joint distribution of $(\varepsilon_{i1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{iT})$ to form $\left\{ \left\{ \varepsilon_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
3. Given $\left\{ \left\{ x_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ and $\left\{ \left\{ \varepsilon_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$, construct N true choices $\left\{ \left\{ d_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ according to (1) and the decision rule (2).
4. Draw T times for each individual i from a uniform random number generator to obtain the sequence $\left\{ \left\{ U_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
5. Construct N reported choices $\left\{ \left\{ d_{it}^* \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$ by implementing the following rule: if $d_{it} = 1$ and $U_{it} < \pi_{11t}$ then $d_{it}^* = 1$, else $d_{it}^* = 0$. Similarly, if $d_{it} = 0$ and $U_{it} < \pi_{00t}$ then $d_{it}^* = 0$, else $d_{it}^* = 1$. The “true” classification error rates π_{jkt} are obtained directly from (11). It is assumed that $d_{i0}^* = d_{i0} = 0$.
6. Draw T times for each individual i from a uniform random number generator to obtain the sequence $\left\{ \left\{ \tilde{U}_{it} \right\}_{t=1}^T \right\}_{i=1}^N$.
7. Implement the following rule: if $\tilde{U}_{it} < \pi^{obs}$ then $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed}) = 1$, else $I(d_{it}^* \text{ observed}) = 0$.

Table 1

Summary Statistics
 Representative Data Set
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error

t	Mean d_{it}	Mean d_{it}^*	Mean $\beta'x$	Mean ε_{it}	Mean π_{11t}	Mean π_{00t}	N
1	.4800	.4800	-.0124 (.2701)	.0094 (1.0147)	.8630	.8870	500
2	.5780	.5780	.4909 (.5601)	.0149 (1.0046)	.8947	.8553	500
3	.6560	.6660	.8940 (.8547)	-.0116 (.9919)	.9142	.8359	500
4	.7140	.7260	1.1917 (1.0645)	-.0005 (1.0102)	.9264	.8236	500
5	.7460	.7440	1.4164 (1.1355)	-.0232 (.9606)	.9347	.8153	500
6	.7640	.7580	1.6214 (1.2164)	-.0089 (1.0396)	.9414	.8086	500
7	.8140	.8000	1.7812 (1.1329)	-.0325 (1.020)	.9474	.8026	500
8	.8120	.8100	1.8797 (1.2081)	.0138 (1.0405)	.9509	.7991	500
9	.8220	.8100	1.9806 (1.1668)	.0092 (1.0107)	.9545	.7955	500
10	.8460	.8500	1.9863 (1.0949)	.0211 (.9539)	.9565	.7935	500

Note: d_{it} is the true choice, d_{it}^* is the reported choice, π_{11t} and π_{00t} are the probabilities of a correct classification, and $\beta'x = u_{it} - \beta_0$. Variances are in parentheses. The frequency simulator that is used to compute the true classification error rates has \tilde{M} set to 1000. The model is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_{it} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau + \varepsilon_{it} \\
 d_{i0} &= 0, \rho_\tau = \rho e^{-\alpha(t-\tau-1)} \\
 x_{it} &= \phi_2 x_{i,t-1} + \nu_{it}, \nu_{it} \sim N(0, \sigma_\nu^2) \\
 \varepsilon_{it} &= \mu_i + \eta_{it}, \mu_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\mu^2), \eta_{it} \sim N(0, 1 - \sigma_\mu^2).
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 2

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 (No Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
No Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0975	-.0950	.0427	.0427	.42
β_1	1.0000	1.0171	1.0196	.0552	.0578	2.20
ρ	1.0000	1.0463	1.0462	.0513	.0691	6.38
α	.5000	.4912	.4926	.0499	.0506	-1.22
σ_μ	.8000	.8062	.8009	.0269	.0276	1.62
E	.7500	.7408	.7417	.0162	.0186	-3.99
20% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0995	-.1017	.0428	.0428	.08
β_1	1.0000	1.0114	1.0199	.0611	.0622	1.32
ρ	1.0000	1.0450	1.0356	.0528	.0694	6.04
α	.5000	.4864	.4985	.0719	.0731	-1.34
σ_μ	.8000	.8095	.8066	.0259	.0275	2.59
E	.7500	.7409	.7399	.0184	.0206	-3.50
40% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1025	-.1001	.0530	.0530	-.33
β_1	1.0000	1.0183	1.0265	.0612	.0648	2.09
ρ	1.0000	1.0505	1.0425	.0524	.0728	6.81
α	.5000	.4887	.4882	.0633	.0643	-1.26
σ_μ	.8000	.8047	.7989	.0339	.0343	.98
E	.7500	.7437	.7412	.0231	.0239	-1.94
60% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1070	-.1052	.0596	.0600	-.82
β_1	1.0000	1.0147	1.0161	.0860	.0872	1.21
ρ	1.0000	1.0485	1.0562	.0603	.0773	5.68
α	.5000	.4970	.4982	.0817	.0817	-.26
σ_μ	.8000	.8016	.8012	.0486	.0487	.23
E	.7500	.7477	.7426	.0287	.0288	-.55

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta}) - \beta}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 3

Repeated Sampling Experiments
Random Effects Model
Unbiased Classification Error
(Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1051	-.1023	.0436	.0439	-.83
β_1	1.0000	1.0167	1.0191	.0611	.0634	1.92
ρ	1.0000	1.0479	1.0446	.0444	.0653	7.63
α	.5000	.4977	.5031	.0656	.0657	-.24
ϕ_2	.2500	.2520	.2505	.0176	.0177	.80
σ_ν	.5000	.5015	.5016	.0057	.0059	1.86
σ_μ	.8000	.8056	.8017	.0287	.0292	1.38
E	.7500	.7428	.7430	.0172	.0187	-2.95
40% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1087	-.1099	.0539	.0546	-1.15
β_1	1.0000	1.0141	1.0233	.0678	.0692	1.48
ρ	1.0000	1.0458	1.0374	.0636	.0784	5.10
α	.5000	.4953	.4949	.0600	.0602	.56
ϕ_2	.2500	.2521	.2546	.0253	.0254	.59
σ_ν	.5000	.5012	.5012	.0069	.0070	1.21
σ_μ	.8000	.8046	.8063	.0347	.0350	.94
E	.7500	.7474	.7416	.0245	.0246	-.74
60% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0997	-.1116	.0542	.0543	.05
β_1	1.0000	1.034	1.0258	.0894	.0924	1.85
ρ	1.0000	1.0401	1.0512	.0682	.0791	4.15
α	.5000	.4957	.4973	.0721	.0722	-.42
ϕ_2	.2500	.2507	.2498	.0372	.0373	.13
σ_ν	.5000	.5011	.5017	.0089	.0090	.88
σ_μ	.8000	.8096	.8044	.0421	.0432	1.61
E	.7500	.7493	.7440	.0288	.0288	-.16

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 4

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 (No Missing Choices or X's, Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Simulate from start of process with $d_{i0} = 0$ ($t = 11, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1001	-.1022	.0295	.0295	-.02
β_1	1.0000	1.0286	1.0337	.0454	.0537	4.46
ρ	1.0000	1.0298	1.0253	.0324	.0440	6.51
α	.5000	.5044	.5004	.0320	.0323	.98
ϕ_2	.2500	.2501	.2526	.0135	.0135	.05
σ_ν	.5000	.5015	.5025	.0042	.4985	2.56
σ_μ	.8000	.8130	.8145	.0245	.0277	3.74
E	.7500	.7450	.7410	.0193	.0199	-1.82
Assume process starts with $d_{i,10} = 0$ ($t = 11, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	.9367	.9513	.0543	1.0381	135.05
β_1	1.0000	.2966	.2844	.0938	.7096	-53.01
ρ	1.0000	.9543	.9333	.3278	.3310	-.99
α	.5000	.4187	.3995	.2957	.3067	-1.94
σ_μ	.8000	.9905	.9923	.0090	.1907	149.11
E	.7500	.7144	.7125	.0230	.0424	-10.96
Use reported data from $t = 11, \dots, 20$ to proxy for initial condition at $t = 21$ ($t = 11, \dots, 30$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.5239	-.4859	.3039	.5216	-9.86
β_1	1.0000	.4742	.4671	.1788	.5553	-20.80
ρ	1.0000	1.0522	1.1064	.3076	.3120	1.20
α	.5000	.5839	.6139	.2299	.2448	2.58
σ_μ	.8000	.9388	.9758	.0811	.1608	12.10
E	.7500	.5795	.5714	.0615	.1812	-19.61

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 5

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 First Order Markov Process
 (No Missing Choices or X's, Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Simulate from start of process with $d_{i0} = 0$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1127	-.1086	.0391	.0411	-2.30
β_1	1.0000	1.0379	1.0364	.0324	.0500	8.25
ρ	1.0000	1.0330	1.0319	.0386	.0508	6.04
ϕ_2	.2500	.2496	.2511	.0136	.0136	-.19
σ_ν	.5000	.5014	.5011	.0045	.4986	2.17
σ_μ	.8000	.8137	.8133	.0294	.0324	3.29
E	.7500	.7293	.7294	.0150	.0256	-9.75
Assume process starts with $d_{i9} = 0$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	.1598	.1594	.0775	.2712	23.70
β_1	1.0000	.9126	.9171	.0693	.1115	-8.92
ρ	1.0000	.6396	.6171	.1025	.3747	-24.87
σ_μ	.8000	.8823	.8948	.0369	.0902	15.80
E	.7500	.7218	.7226	.0222	.0395	-8.99
Use reported data at $t = 10$ to proxy for initial condition at $t = 11$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1882	-.1867	.0771	.1171	-8.09
β_1	1.0000	1.0328	1.0480	.0595	.0679	3.90
ρ	1.0000	1.1369	1.1465	.1024	.1710	9.45
σ_μ	.8000	.7838	.7843	.0460	.0488	-2.49
E	.7500	.7240	.7262	.0233	.0349	-7.91

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$.

The Markov model replaces $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau$ in Table 1 with $\rho d_{i,t-1}$.

Table 5 (continued)

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 First Order Markov Process
 (No Missing Choices or X's, Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Use Heckman's approximation method to proxy for initial condition at $t = 11$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1721	-.1705	.0728	.1025	-7.01
β_1	1.0000	.9868	.9831	.0616	.0630	-1.52
ρ	1.0000	1.0637	1.0673	.1074	.1249	4.20
σ_μ	.8000	.7735	.7767	.0472	.0542	-3.97
E	.7500	.7438	.7456	.0181	.0191	-2.44
γ_0		.3819	.3843	.0757		
γ_1		.6857	.6799	.1008		
$\rho_{\mu\epsilon^H}$.6565	.6589	.0627		
Use Wooldridge's method of conditioning the distribution of the unobserved effect ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.3276	-.3045	.0872	.2438	-18.46
β_1	1.0000	.9520	.9611	.0628	.0790	-5.40
ρ	1.0000	.8734	.8741	.0712	.1453	-12.57
σ_μ	.8000	.8034	.7988	.0478	.0479	.50
E	.7500	.7046	.7064	.0308	.0549	-10.43
α_1		.4522	.4314	.1124		
α_2		-.0137	-.0132	.0700		
α_3		-.0055	.0009	.0741		
α_4		.0162	.0234	.0761		
α_5		.0124	.0009	.0852		
α_6		.0042	.0058	.0617		
α_7		-.0043	-.0053	.0714		
α_8		.0125	.0021	.0683		
α_9		-.0022	-.0076	.0794		
α_{10}		.0094	.0061	.0708		
α_{11}		.0124	.0132	.0815		

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}\hat{\beta} - \beta}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$.

The Markov model replaces $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau$ in Table 1 with $\rho d_{i,t-1}$.

Table 6

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 Smooth Algorithm
 (No Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1033	-.1034	.0158	.0161	-1.50
β_1	1.0000	1.0000	1.0001	.0093	.0093	.04
ρ	1.0000	1.0485	1.0301	.1049	.1155	3.27
α	.5000	.5493	.5371	.0840	.0974	4.15
σ_μ	.8000	.7993	.7990	.0033	.0034	-1.57
E	.7500	.7454	.7453	.0165	.0171	-1.97
40% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1014	-.1018	.0178	.0179	-.57
β_1	1.0000	1.0003	1.0000	.0107	.0107	.22
ρ	1.0000	1.0397	1.0224	.1192	.1257	2.35
α	.5000	.5419	.5061	.0943	.1032	3.14
σ_μ	.8000	.7998	.7995	.0038	.0038	-.43
E	.7500	.7492	.7476	.0215	.0215	-.28
60% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1011	-.0986	.0204	.0204	-.39
β_1	1.0000	1.0002	1.0011	.0121	.0121	.13
ρ	1.0000	1.0417	1.0138	.1277	.1343	2.31
α	.5000	.5487	.5170	.1211	.1305	2.85
σ_μ	.8000	.8000	.8001	.0046	.0046	.04
E	.7500	.7511	.7452	.0275	.0275	.29

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta}) - \beta}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 7

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 Smooth Algorithm
 (Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0948	-.0960	.0178	.0185	2.06
β_1	1.0000	.9986	.9989	.0106	.0107	-.92
ρ	1.0000	.9923	.9906	.1098	.1101	-.50
α	.5000	.5154	.4954	.0953	.0966	1.15
ϕ_2	.2500	.2508	.2535	.0145	.0145	.40
σ_ν	.5000	.5014	.5015	.0055	.0057	1.77
σ_μ	.8000	.8010	.8011	.0038	.0039	1.93
E	.7500	.7462	.7469	.0168	.0172	-1.61
40% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0867	-.0922	.0265	.0297	3.56
β_1	1.0000	.9970	.9959	.0153	.0155	-1.39
ρ	1.0000	.9455	.9416	.1201	.1319	-3.21
α	.5000	.4752	.4757	.0805	.0842	-2.18
ϕ_2	.2500	.2510	.2498	.0185	.0185	.38
σ_ν	.5000	.5013	.5017	.0065	.0066	1.47
σ_μ	.8000	.8031	.8019	.0059	.0067	3.69
E	.7500	.7514	.7504	.0215	.0216	.45
60% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0539	-.0567	.0355	.0582	9.19
β_1	1.0000	.9959	.9999	.0262	.0265	-1.10
ρ	1.0000	.7979	.7738	.1362	.2437	-10.50
α	.5000	.3826	.3714	.0986	.1533	-8.42
ϕ_2	.2500	.2630	.2636	.0286	.0314	3.21
σ_ν	.5000	.5000	.5000	.0078	.0078	.03
σ_μ	.8000	.8111	.8106	.0095	.0146	8.31
E	.7500	.7540	.7465	.0283	.0286	.99

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 8

Summary Statistics
 Representative Data Set
 AR(1) Error Model
 Unbiased Classification Error

t	Mean d_{it}	Mean d_{it}^*	Mean $\beta'x$	Mean ε_{it}	Mean π_{11t}	Mean π_{00t}	N
1	.4600	.4580	-.0125 (.2701)	-.0330 (1.0164)	.8622	.8878	500
2	.5740	.5700	.4709 (.5272)	-.0220 (1.0525)	.8935	.8565	500
3	.6340	.6280	.8778 (.8917)	-.0146 (.9698)	.9128	.8372	500
4	.6940	.6800	1.1514 (1.1668)	-.0055 (.8593)	.9265	.8235	500
5	.7380	.7420	1.3771 (1.2028)	.0504 (.8507)	.9367	.8133	500
6	.7700	.7840	1.5895 (1.2453)	.0311 (.8962)	.9454	.8046	500
7	.8000	.7960	1.7679 (1.1408)	.0392 (.9582)	.9537	.7963	500
8	.8360	.8620	1.8576 (1.1427)	.0142 (.9893)	.9588	.7912	500
9	.8480	.8260	1.9912 (1.1048)	.0086 (1.0212)	.9640	.7860	500
10	.8600	.8720	2.0187 (.9955)	.0233 (.9182)	.9677	.7823	500

Note: d_{it} is the true choice, d_{it}^* is the reported choice, π_{11t} and π_{00t} are the probabilities of a correct classification, and $\beta'x = u_{it} - \beta_0$. Variances are in parentheses. The frequency simulator that is used to compute the true classification error rates has \tilde{M} set to 1000. The model is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_{it} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau + \varepsilon_{it} \\
 d_{i0} &= 0, \rho_\tau = \rho e^{-\alpha(t-\tau-1)} \\
 x_{it} &= \phi_2 x_{i,t-1} + \nu_{it}, \nu_{it} \sim N(0, \sigma_\nu^2) \\
 \varepsilon_{it} &= \phi_1 \varepsilon_{i,t-1} + \eta_{it}, \eta_{it} \sim N(0, 1 - \phi_1^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 9

Repeated Sampling Experiments
AR(1) Error Model
Unbiased Classification Error
(No Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
No Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1008	-.0967	.0418	.0418	-.14
β_1	1.0000	1.0105	1.0101	.0492	.0503	1.50
ρ	1.0000	1.0357	1.0317	.0479	.0598	5.27
α	.5000	.5058	.5088	.0371	.0375	1.11
ϕ_1	.8000	.8002	.7943	.0266	.0266	.06
E	.7500	.7457	.7445	.0137	.0143	-2.23
20% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1020	-.1028	.0414	.0414	-.35
β_1	1.0000	1.0045	1.0136	.0552	.0554	.57
ρ	1.0000	1.0377	1.0356	.0408	.0556	6.53
α	.5000	.5066	.5125	.0514	.0519	.91
ϕ_1	.8000	.8006	.8016	.0257	.0257	.17
E	.7500	.7469	.7463	.0191	.0193	-1.14
40% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1034	-.1034	.0423	.0424	-.57
β_1	1.0000	.9906	1.0015	.0711	.0718	-.93
ρ	1.0000	1.0470	1.0361	.0540	.0716	6.15
α	.5000	.5072	.5154	.0585	.0590	.87
ϕ_1	.8000	.7974	.7984	.0331	.0333	-.56
E	.7500	.7488	.7470	.0244	.0245	-.36
60% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1056	-.1065	.0605	.0607	-.66
β_1	1.0000	.9904	.9850	.0800	.0806	-.85
ρ	1.0000	1.0553	1.0506	.0731	.0917	5.34
α	.5000	.5054	.5064	.0560	.0562	.68
ϕ_1	.8000	.7986	.8035	.0405	.0405	-.25
E	.7500	.7479	.7430	.0360	.0361	-.42

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta}) - \beta}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 10

Repeated Sampling Experiments
AR(1) Error Model
Unbiased Classification Error
(Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1042	-.0981	.0391	.0394	-.76
β_1	1.0000	1.0021	1.0060	.0519	.0519	.29
ρ	1.0000	1.0444	1.0393	.0424	.0614	7.40
α	.5000	.5057	.5058	.0423	.0428	1.12
ϕ_2	.2500	.2521	.2486	.0181	.0183	.83
σ_ν	.5000	.5018	.5024	.0057	.0060	2.21
ϕ_1	.8000	.7996	.8003	.0264	.0264	-.12
E	.7500	.7473	.7486	.0174	.0176	-1.08
40% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1052	-.1014	.0400	.0403	-.92
β_1	1.0000	1.0036	1.0011	.0566	.0567	.45
ρ	1.0000	1.0460	1.0400	.0446	.0640	7.30
α	.5000	.5018	.5053	.0405	.0405	.32
ϕ_2	.2500	.2522	.2531	.0261	.0262	.61
σ_ν	.5000	.5019	.5026	.0067	.0070	1.98
ϕ_1	.8000	.8002	.7989	.0301	.0301	.05
E	.7500	.7504	.7524	.0251	.0251	.12
60% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1041	-.0996	.0524	.0526	-.55
β_1	1.0000	1.0003	1.0124	.0748	.0748	.03
ρ	1.0000	1.0433	1.0372	.0610	.0748	5.03
α	.5000	.5047	.5077	.0621	.0623	.54
ϕ_2	.2500	.2521	.2514	.0384	.0385	.39
σ_ν	.5000	.5007	.5018	.0086	.0086	.61
ϕ_1	.8000	.7988	.8019	.0364	.0364	-.23
E	.7500	.7514	.7514	.0346	.0348	.77

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 11

Repeated Sampling Experiments
AR(1) Error Model
Unbiased Classification Error
(No Missing Choices or X's, Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Simulate from start of process with $d_{i0} = 0$ ($t = 11, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0896	-.0925	.0265	.0285	2.77
β_1	1.0000	1.0224	1.0221	.0479	.0529	3.31
ρ	1.0000	1.0194	1.0148	.0298	.0356	4.60
α	.5000	.5121	.5128	.0238	.0267	3.59
ϕ_2	.2500	.2511	.2531	.0138	.0139	.56
σ_ν	.5000	.5011	.5013	.0047	.0049	1.58
ϕ_1	.8000	.8071	.8100	.0280	.0289	1.80
E	.7500	.7420	.7455	.0261	.0273	-2.16
Assume process starts with $d_{i,10} = 0$ ($t = 11, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	.9503	.9682	.0605	1.0520	122.84
β_1	1.0000	.1699	.3883	.4544	.9463	-12.92
ρ	1.0000	.5849	.5266	.2792	.5003	-10.51
α	.5000	.7102	.7385	.3180	.3812	4.67
ϕ_1	.8000	.9221	.9259	.0316	.1261	27.33
E	.7500	.7656	.7485	.1323	.1332	.83
Use reported data from $t = 11, \dots, 20$ to proxy for initial condition at $t = 21$ ($t = 11, \dots, 30$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0862	-.0812	.0617	.0632	1.58
β_1	1.0000	.9406	.9781	.0932	.1105	-4.50
ρ	1.0000	1.0445	1.0219	.0924	.1026	3.41
α	.5000	.5908	.5674	.0737	.1170	8.72
ϕ_1	.8000	.7562	.7749	.0828	.0937	-3.74
E	.7500	.7348	.7378	.0288	.0325	-3.73

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 12

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 AR(1) Error Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 First Order Markov Process
 (No Missing Choices or X's, Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Simulate from start of process with $d_{i0} = 0$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.1171	-.1125	.0429	.0462	-2.81
β_1	1.0000	1.0185	1.0191	.0323	.0373	4.05
ρ	1.0000	1.0354	1.0316	.0465	.0585	5.38
ϕ_2	.2500	.2511	.2509	.0139	.0140	.56
σ_ν	.5000	.5013	.5016	.0050	.0052	1.89
ϕ_1	.8000	.8081	.8077	.0266	.0278	2.15
E	.7500	.7401	.7403	.0126	.0160	-5.58
Assume process starts with $d_{i9} = 0$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	.1895	.1797	.0547	.2946	37.43
β_1	1.0000	.8189	.8025	.0727	.1951	-17.63
ρ	1.0000	.5932	.5807	.1054	.4202	-27.29
ϕ_1	.8000	.8377	.8343	.0268	.0463	9.95
E	.7500	.7539	.7544	.0164	.0168	1.68
Use reported data at $t = 10$ to proxy for initial condition at $t = 11$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.2416	-.2501	.0492	.1500	-20.36
β_1	1.0000	1.0150	1.0239	.0430	.0456	2.46
ρ	1.0000	1.2330	1.2380	.0702	.2434	23.47
ϕ_1	.8000	.7480	.7456	.0374	.0640	-9.83
E	.7500	.7322	.7316	.0151	.0234	-8.35
Use Heckman's approximation method to proxy for initial condition at $t = 11$ ($t = 10, \dots, 20$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.2181	-.2206	.0538	.1298	-15.54
β_1	1.0000	1.0333	1.0315	.0471	.0577	5.00
ρ	1.0000	1.1997	1.2129	.0604	.2086	23.37
ϕ_1	.8000	.7727	.7746	.0316	.0418	-6.13
E	.7500	.7385	.7385	.0116	.0164	-7.00
γ_0		.4149	.4118	.0564		
γ_1		.6628	.6614	.0722		
$\rho_{\mu\epsilon^H}$.7238	.7266	.0386		

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$.

The Markov model replaces $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau$ in Table 8 with $\rho d_{i,t-1}$.

Table 13

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 AR(1) Error Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 Smooth Algorithm
 (No Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0988	-.0987	.0188	.0188	.47
β_1	1.0000	.9994	.9995	.0103	.0103	-.39
ρ	1.0000	1.0531	1.0358	.1631	.1715	2.30
α	.5000	.5358	.5136	.0865	.0936	2.92
ϕ_1	.8000	.8004	.8001	.0040	.0040	.72
E	.7500	.7488	.7477	.0178	.0178	-.46
40% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0965	-.0969	.0191	.0194	1.28
β_1	1.0000	.9993	1.0005	.0104	.0105	-.47
ρ	1.0000	1.0508	1.0286	.1398	.1488	2.57
α	.5000	.5398	.5263	.0870	.0957	3.23
ϕ_1	.8000	.8009	.8007	.0040	.0041	1.58
E	.7500	.7522	.7504	.0223	.0234	.70
60% Missing Choices ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0928	-.0912	.0228	.0239	2.24
β_1	1.0000	.9992	.9980	.0095	.0096	-.60
ρ	1.0000	1.0350	1.0013	.1607	.1644	1.54
α	.5000	.5297	.5103	.0936	.0982	2.24
ϕ_1	.8000	.8018	.8017	.0045	.0049	2.79
E	.7500	.7533	.7487	.0297	.0300	.77

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 14

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 AR(1) Error Model
 Unbiased Classification Error
 Smooth Algorithm
 (Missing X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\hat{\beta}$	Median $\hat{\beta}$	$Std(\hat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
20% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0916	-.0910	.0169	.0189	3.48
β_1	1.0000	1.0001	1.0004	.0117	.0117	.03
ρ	1.0000	.9852	.9869	.1012	.1023	-1.03
α	.5000	.5048	.4932	.0614	.0616	.55
ϕ_2	.2500	.2516	.2535	.0154	.0155	.74
σ_ν	.5000	.5015	.5025	.0055	.0057	1.90
ϕ_1	.8000	.8016	.8017	.0037	.0040	3.11
E	.7500	.7495	.7485	.0174	.0174	-.19
40% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0861	-.0899	.0227	.0266	4.33
β_1	1.0000	.9935	.9929	.0171	.0183	-2.68
ρ	1.0000	.9454	.9176	.1317	.1425	-2.93
α	.5000	.4937	.4705	.0947	.0949	-.47
ϕ_2	.2500	.2564	.2561	.0211	.0221	2.13
σ_ν	.5000	.5006	.5009	.0066	.0067	.69
ϕ_1	.8000	.8030	.8020	.0047	.0056	4.52
E	.7500	.7530	.7522	.0216	.0218	.97
60% Missing Choices and X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0669	-.0652	.0337	.0472	6.93
β_1	1.0000	.9836	.9857	.0274	.0324	-4.50
ρ	1.0000	.8601	.8131	.1910	.2368	-5.18
α	.5000	.4537	.4303	.1159	.1248	-2.82
ϕ_2	.2500	.2702	.2665	.0254	.0324	5.61
σ_ν	.5000	.4995	.5000	.0083	.0083	-.47
ϕ_1	.8000	.8078	.8076	.0073	.0107	7.56
E	.7500	.7559	.7548	.0286	.0292	1.46

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\hat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\hat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\hat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 15

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Biased Classification Error
 (20% Missing Choices and X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Low Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0922	-.944	.0387	.0394	1.42
β_1	1.0000	1.0198	1.0131	.0531	.0567	2.63
ρ	1.0000	1.0144	1.0102	.0390	.0415	2.61
α	.5000	.5031	.5104	.0489	.0490	.45
ϕ_2	.2500	.2489	.2456	.0161	.0161	-.47
σ_ν	.5000	.5018	.5018	.0050	.0053	2.47
σ_μ	.8000	.8068	.8041	.0239	.0248	1.99
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.4867	-3.4762	.0580	.0595	1.62
γ_1	5.0000	4.9845	5.0033	.0728	.0744	-1.51
γ_2	2.0000	2.0161	2.0236	.0446	.0475	2.56
Medium Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0941	-.0988	.0425	.0429	.98
β_1	1.0000	1.0045	1.0119	.0608	.0609	.52
ρ	1.0000	1.0222	1.0232	.0465	.0515	3.37
α	.5000	.5160	.5253	.0658	.0677	1.71
ϕ_2	.2500	.2476	.2452	.0162	.0163	-1.04
σ_ν	.5000	.5022	.5026	.0050	.0054	3.04
σ_μ	.8000	.8049	.8041	.0272	.0276	1.29
γ_0	-3.0000	-2.9902	-2.9826	.0561	.0570	1.24
γ_1	4.0000	3.98	3.9951	.0776	.0787	-1.19
γ_2	2.0000	2.0104	2.0134	.0782	.0789	.94
High Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0988	-.0918	.0708	.0708	.12
β_1	1.0000	1.0145	1.0068	.0693	.0708	1.48
ρ	1.0000	1.0218	1.0228	.0791	.0820	1.94
α	.5000	.5088	.5328	.0993	.0997	.63
ϕ_2	.2500	.2484	.2460	.0164	.0165	-.70
σ_ν	.5000	.5021	.5028	.0051	.2980	2.90
σ_μ	.8000	.8023	.7999	.0406	.3050	.40
γ_0	-3.0000	-2.9918	-2.9983	.0638	.0643	.91
γ_1	3.0000	2.9842	2.9920	.0829	.0844	-1.34
γ_2	3.0000	3.0190	3.0371	.1018	.1036	-1.32

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 1.

Table 16

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 Random Effects Model
 Biased Classification Error
 Low Classification Error Bias
 Smooth Algorithm
 (20% Missing Choices, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
No Missing X's (Markov model) ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.1006	-.0996	.0179	.0179	-.22
β_1	1.0000	.9985	.9990	.0087	.0088	-1.19
ρ	1.0000	.9972	.9915	.0561	.0561	-.35
σ_μ	.8000	.7997	.7993	.0037	.0038	-.47
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3219	-3.2916	.2840	.3352	4.43
γ_1	5.0000	4.7449	4.7237	.3041	.3969	-5.93
γ_2	2.0000	2.0537	2.0093	.1870	.1945	2.03
No Missing X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0968	-.0963	.0148	.0152	1.52
β_1	1.0000	.9982	1.0002	.0139	.0140	-.94
ρ	1.0000	.9902	.9904	.0863	.0868	-.80
α	.5000	.5049	.4922	.0662	.0664	.53
σ_μ	.8000	.8006	.8004	.0032	.0033	1.37
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3357	-3.2874	.2398	.2907	4.84
γ_1	5.0000	4.7959	4.8140	.2442	.3183	-5.91
γ_2	2.0000	2.0410	2.0349	.1835	.1881	1.58
Missing X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0965	-.0957	.0159	.0163	1.54
β_1	1.0000	.9973	.9993	.0135	.0138	-1.43
ρ	1.0000	.9926	.9897	.0933	.0936	-.56
α	.5000	.5082	.4982	.0698	.0731	.83
ϕ_2	.2500	.2505	.2477	.0150	.0150	.23
σ_ν	.5000	.5019	.5023	.0049	.0053	2.65
σ_μ	.8000	.8007	.8007	.0034	.0035	1.41
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3503	-3.3084	.2461	.2880	4.30
γ_1	5.0000	4.8156	4.8272	.2598	.3186	-5.02
γ_2	2.0000	2.0356	2.0363	.1779	.1815	1.41

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model in panels 2 and 3 are the same as in Table 1. The Markov model in panel 1 replaces $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau$ in Table 1 with $\rho d_{i,t-1}$.

Table 17

Repeated Sampling Experiments
AR(1) Error Model
Biased Classification Error
(20% Missing Choices and X's, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
Low Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.1033	-.1039	.0406	.0407	.57
β_1	1.0000	1.0176	1.0114	.0649	.0673	1.91
ρ	1.0000	1.0322	1.0325	.0385	.0502	5.92
α	.5000	.5017	.5050	.0461	.0461	.25
ϕ_2	.2500	.2496	.2502	.0165	.0165	-.16
σ_ν	.5000	.5018	.5023	.0049	.0052	2.62
ϕ_1	.8000	.7987	.7961	.0264	.0265	-.35
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.4987	-3.4809	.0664	.0665	.14
γ_1	5.0000	4.9831	5.0056	.0697	.0717	-1.72
γ_2	2.0000	2.0265	2.0196	.0451	.0513	4.15
Medium Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0893	-.0982	.0525	.0536	1.44
β_1	1.0000	1.0075	1.0040	.0745	.0749	.71
ρ	1.0000	1.0283	1.0364	.0534	.0604	3.75
α	.5000	.5162	.5101	.0540	.0563	2.12
ϕ_2	.2500	.2478	.2469	.0163	.0164	-.94
σ_ν	.5000	.5024	.5027	.0046	.0052	3.74
ϕ_1	.8000	.8016	.8023	.0312	.0312	.35
γ_0	-3.0000	-3.0058	-3.0009	.0716	.0718	-.57
γ_1	4.0000	3.9802	3.9803	.0735	.0761	-1.90
γ_2	2.0000	2.0151	2.0227	.0659	.0676	1.62
High Classification Error Bias ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0926	-.0896	.0756	.0758	.69
β_1	1.0000	1.0135	1.0201	.0778	.0790	1.23
ρ	1.0000	1.0276	1.0255	.0682	.0735	2.86
α	.5000	.5074	.5033	.0624	.0629	.83
ϕ_2	.2500	.2476	.2446	.0152	.0153	-1.10
σ_ν	.5000	.5019	.5030	.0051	.0055	2.62
ϕ_1	.8000	.7980	.8046	.0386	.0387	-.36
γ_0	-3.0000	-3.0026	-2.9870	.0823	.0824	-.23
γ_1	3.0000	2.9899	2.9807	.0680	.0687	-1.04
γ_2	3.0000	3.0186	3.0185	.0693	.0717	1.90

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model is the same as in Table 8.

Table 18

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 AR(1) Error Model
 Biased Classification Error
 Low Classification Error Bias
 Smooth Algorithm
 (20% Missing Choices, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
No Missing X's (Markov model) ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0957	-.0974	.0135	.0142	2.26
β_1	1.0000	.9985	.9991	.0088	.0090	-1.19
ρ	1.0000	.9849	.9853	.0404	.0432	-2.65
ϕ_1	.8000	.8009	.8008	.0031	.0032	2.12
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3853	-3.3548	.3321	.3514	2.44
γ_1	5.0000	4.7582	4.7928	.3004	.3856	-5.69
γ_2	2.0000	2.1277	2.1208	.2004	.2376	4.51
No Missing X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0957	-.0963	.0187	.0192	1.64
β_1	1.0000	1.0003	1.0022	.0108	.0108	.17
ρ	1.0000	1.0021	.9954	.0993	.0993	.15
α	.5000	.5048	.4999	.0450	.0453	.76
ϕ_1	.8000	.8009	.8005	.0039	.0039	1.58
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3875	-3.3778	.2774	.2993	2.87
γ_1	5.0000	4.8043	4.8417	.2679	.3318	-5.16
γ_2	2.0000	2.1189	2.1113	.1795	.2153	4.68
Missing X's ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-.1000	-.0954	-.0958	.0185	.0191	1.75
β_1	1.0000	1.0003	1.0014	.0108	.0108	.20
ρ	1.0000	1.0017	.9906	.0983	.0983	.12
α	.5000	.5046	.5012	.0443	.0445	.73
ϕ_2	.2500	.2497	.2497	.0133	.0133	-.14
σ_ν	.5000	.5019	.5024	.0047	.0050	2.83
ϕ_1	.8000	.8009	.8004	.0038	.0039	1.63
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.3885	-3.3811	.2752	.2970	2.86
γ_1	5.0000	4.8058	4.8436	.2676	.3307	-5.13
γ_2	2.0000	2.1185	2.1083	.1785	.2143	4.69

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$. The model in panels 2 and 3 are the same as in Table 8. The Markov model in panel 1 replaces $\sum_{\tau=0}^{t-1} d_{i\tau} \rho_\tau$ in Table 8 with $\rho d_{i,t-1}$.

Table 19

Repeated Sampling Experiments
 AR(1) Error Model
 Biased Classification Error
 Low Classification Error Bias
 Smooth Algorithm
 Density Weighting Scheme
 (20% Missing Choices, No Initial Conditions Problem)

Parameter	True Value	Mean $\widehat{\beta}$	Median $\widehat{\beta}$	$Std(\widehat{\beta})$	$RMSE$	t-Stat
No Missing X's (Markov model) ($t = 1, \dots, 10$)						
β_0	-1.000	-.0964	-.0977	.0176	.0180	1.45
β_1	1.0000	1.0025	1.0002	.0144	.0147	1.21
ρ	1.0000	.9943	.9934	.0345	.0350	-1.18
ϕ_1	.8000	.7992	.7990	.0056	.0057	-1.03
γ_0	-3.5000	-3.4720	-3.4254	.3230	.3242	0.61
γ_1	5.0000	4.8267	4.7863	.3457	.3867	-3.54
γ_2	2.0000	2.1185	2.1286	.2312	.2598	3.62

Note: The number of replications in each experiment is 50 and the number of individuals in the sample is 500. $Std(\widehat{\beta})$ and $RMSE$ refer to the sample standard deviation and the root mean square error, respectively, of the estimated parameters. The t-statistics are calculated as $\sqrt{50} \left(\frac{\text{Mean}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta)}{\text{Std}(\widehat{\beta})} \right)$.