Supplementary Materials
Estimating Onsets of Binary Events in Panel Data

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These supplementary materials include:

1. Analysis of the Monte Carlo experiments for the full set of scenarios which include proportions of $y = 1 > 0.25$.
2. Full results from the sensitivity analysis as well as information on the variables included.
3. The review and coding of published papers discussed in the main text (table 1).

Replication code for these results and those in the main text can be found on the Dataverse.

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1 Full Monte Carlo Results

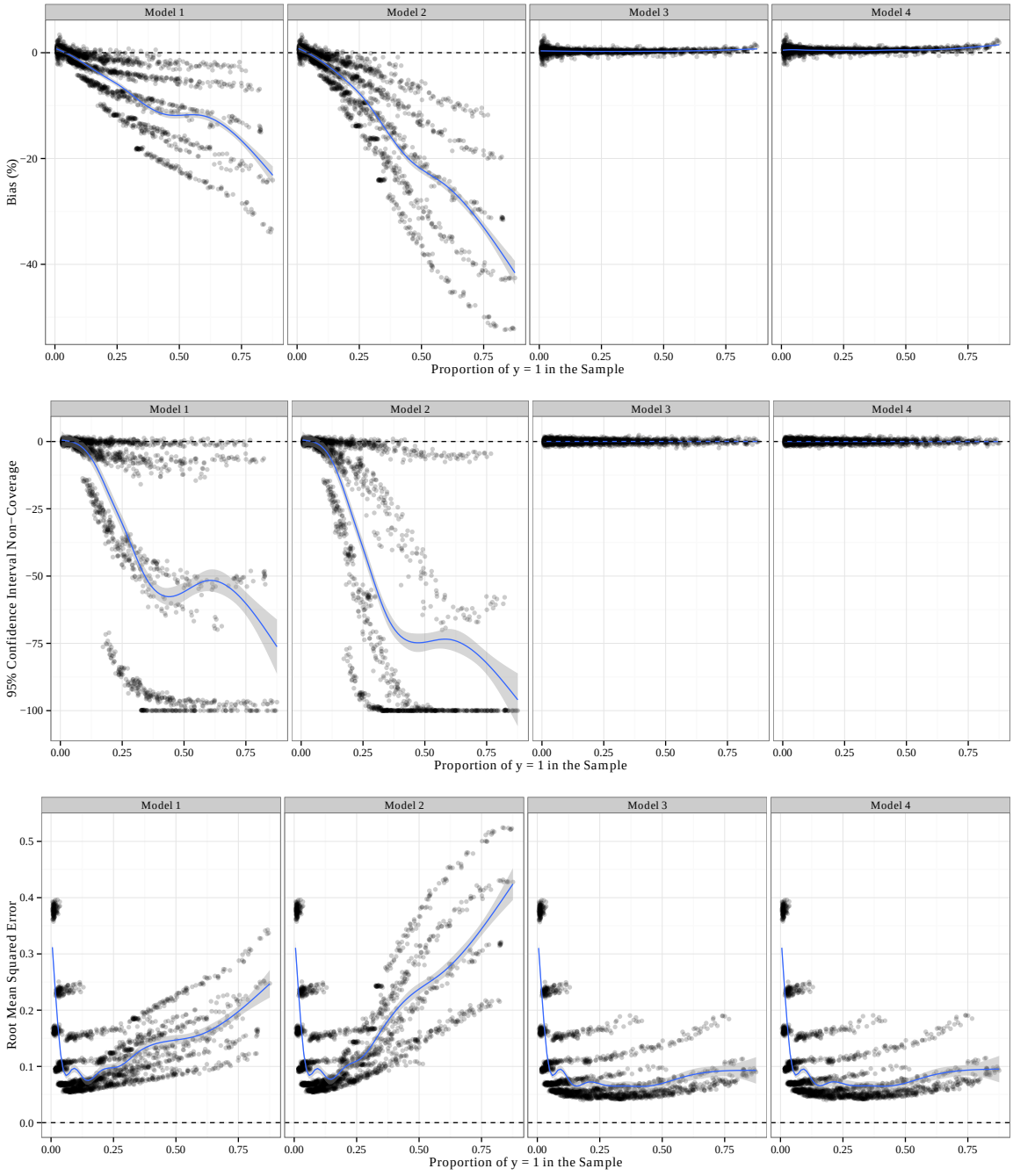

Figure 1: Bias, confidence interval non-coverage and root mean squared error as a function of the proportion of $y = 1$ in the sample for the full sample of experiments.

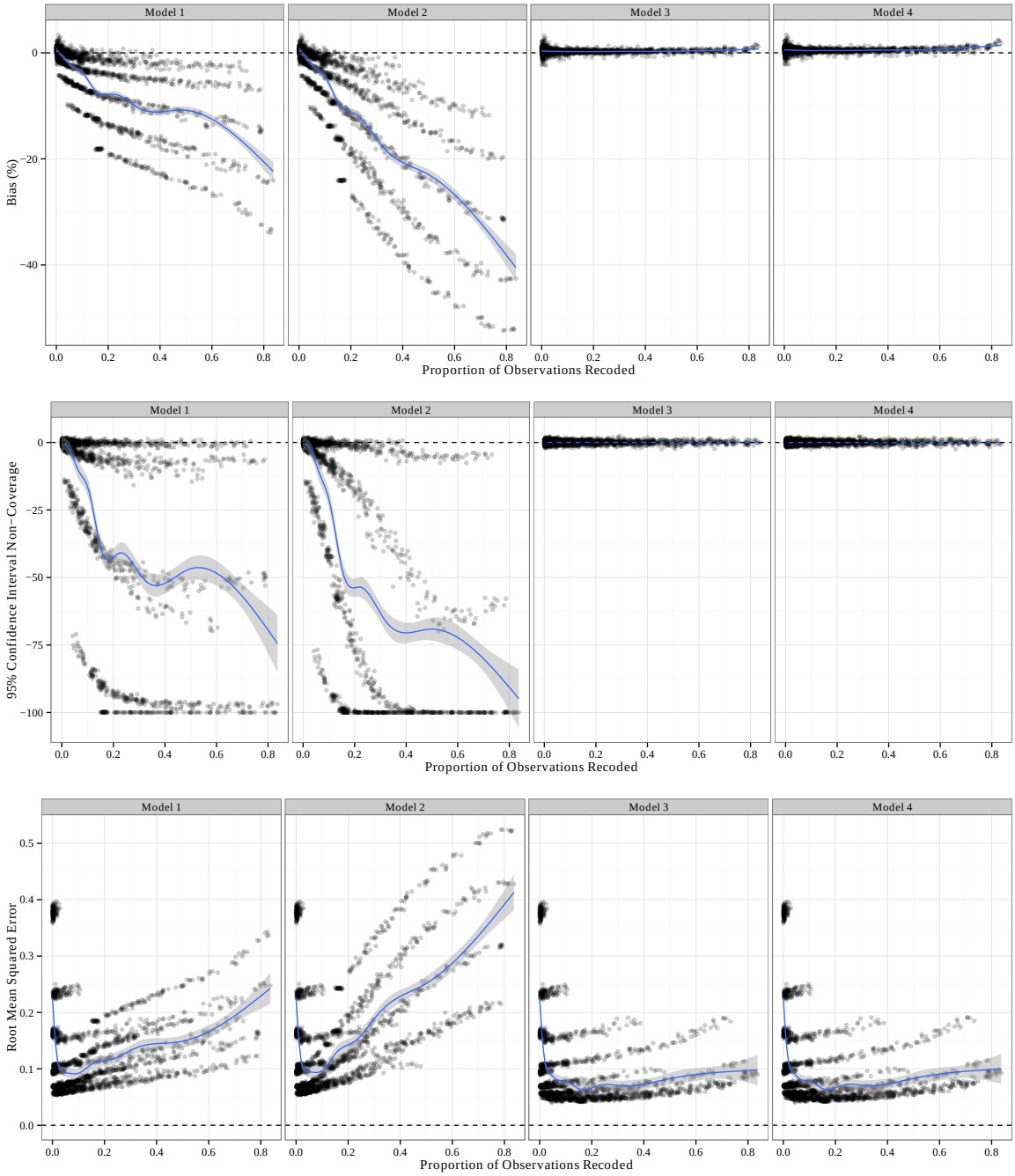

Figure 2: Bias, confidence interval non-coverage and root mean squared error as a function of the number of observations of y recoded in the sample as a proportion of the number of observations for the full sample of experiments.

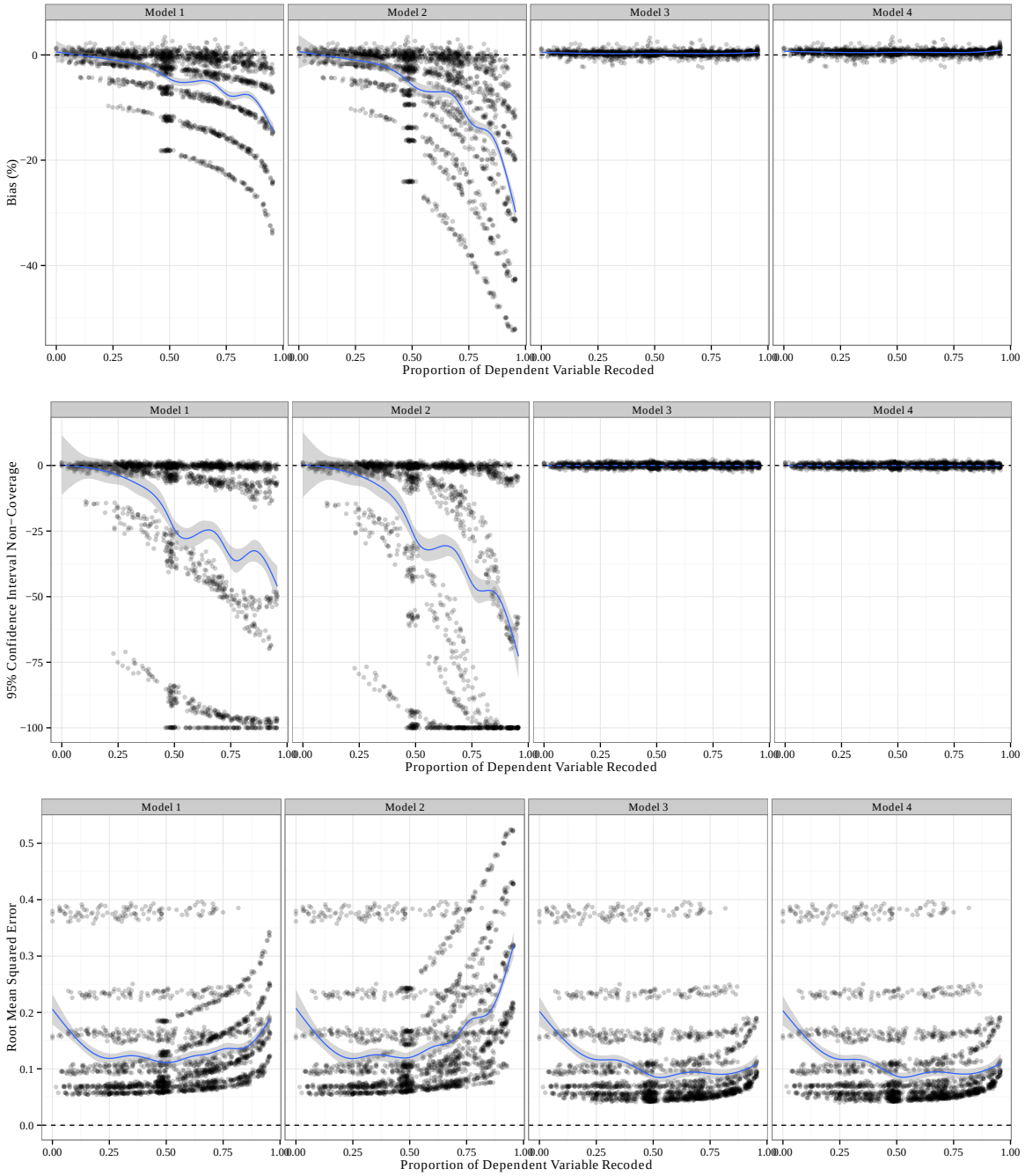

Figure 3: Bias, confidence interval non-coverage and root mean squared error as a function of the number of observations of y recoded as a proportion of the frequency of y in the sample for the full sample of experiments.

2 *Sensitivity Analysis based upon Hegre and Sambanis (2006a)*

Table 1: Concept Categories and Variable Names (Table 1 from Hegre and Sambanis (2006))

Concept Label	*Concept No.*	*Variable Name*	*Description*	*Source*
Dependent Variable		warstns	War onset (ongoing years dropped)	Sambanis (2004a)
		warstnsb	War onset (ongoing years set to zero)	Sambanis (2004a)
		atwarns	Civil war incidence	Sambanis (2004a)
Core Variables		ln_popns	Population, log-transformed	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
		ln_gdpen	GDP per capita, log-transformed	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
		t, t2, t3	Cubic polynomial of time since last civil war	Authors' coding, based on Sambanis (2004a)
Ethnic fragmentation	1	dlang	Linguistic component of ehet	Vanhanen (1999)
	1	drace	Racial component of ehet	Vanhanen (1999)
	1	drel	Religious component of ehet	Vanhanen (1999)
	1	ef	Ethnic fractionalization index	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	1	ef2	Ef squared	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	1	ehet	Ethnic heterogeneity index	Vanhanen (1999)
	1	elfo	Ethnolinguistic diversity	Collier and Hoeffler (2004)
	1	elfo2	Ethnolinguistic diversity squared	Collier and Hoeffler (2004)
	1	numlang	Number of languages in Ethnologue	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	1	plural	Share of largest ethnic group	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	1	plurrel	Size of largest confession	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	1	relfrac	Religious fractionalization	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
Ethnic dominance/polarization	2	etdo4590	Ethnic dominance measure	Collier and Hoeffler (2004)
	2	second	Percent population in second largest group	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
Level of democracy	3	auto4	Autocracy index from Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	dem	Dummy: 1 for democracies and 0 for autocracies	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	dem4	Democracy index from Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	exrec	Executive recruitment concept variable Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	mirps2	Consistent autocracy	Gates et al. (2006)
	3	mirps3	Consistent democracy	Gates et al. (2006)
	3	parcomp	Competitiveness of participation nonelites (Polity IV)	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	parreg	Regulation of participation (Polity IV)	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	part	ln(share of population voting oppositions share of votes cast)	Vanhanen (2000)
	3	pol4	Polity index; Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	pol4m	Polity Index; Polity IV; 77 and 88 coded = 0	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	polcomp	Political competition: concept variable (Polity IV)	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	3	reg	Dummy: 1 for dictatorships and 0 for democracies (ACLP)	Przeworski et al. (2000)
	3	sip2	Continuous measure of democracy	Gates et al. (2006)
	3	xconst	Executive constraintsoperational independence of CE Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
Inconsistency of political institutions	4	anoc	Dummy: anocracy = 1	Fearon and Laitin (2003)

	4	mirps0	Inconsistent polity (semi-democracy)	Gates et al. (2006)
	4	mirps1	Caesaristic polity	Gates et al. (2006)
	4	partfree	Partially free polity	Freedom House (2002)
	4	pol4sq	Pol4 squared	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
Political instability	5	ager	Age in years of the current regime as classified by REG (ACLP)	Przeworski et al. (2000)
	5	autch98	Autocracy annual change; Polity 98	Gurr and Jaggers (2000)
	5	demch98	Democracy annual change; Polity 98	Gurr and Jaggers (2000)
	5	durable	Years since last regime transition/since 1949 (Polity IV)	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	5	Inst3	Political instability; whether there was a change in Polity score in the past three years	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	5	nwstate	New state	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	5	p4mchg	Annual change in modified polity; Polity IV	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	5	polch98	Polity annual change; Polity 98	Gurr and Jaggers (2000)
	5	proxregc	$2^{(-\text{durable}/0.5)}$	Gurr and Jaggers (2000)
Political system	6	incumb	Consolidation of incumbent advantage; ACLP	Przeworski et al. (2000)
	6	inst	0-dict; 1-parliam; 2-mixed dem; 3-pres dem; ACLP	Przeworski et al. (2000)
	6	major	Majoritarian system	Przeworski et al. (2000)
	6	presi	Presidential system	Przeworski et al. (2000)
Centralization	7	autonomy	Country has de facto autonomous regions	Sambanis (2004a)
	7	centpol3	Centralized state? (Polity III data plus updates for post-1994)	Sambanis (2004a)
	7	fedpol3	Federal state? (Polity III data plus updates for post-1994)	Sambanis (2004a)
	7	semipol3	Semi-federal state? (Polity III data plus updates for post-1994)	Sambanis (2004a)
Neighborhood political economy	8	avgnabo	Average SIP score of neighbors	Gates et al. (2006)
	8	nmdgdp	Neighbors average ln(GDP per capita)	Fearon and Laitin (2003) and Sambanis (2001)
	8	nmdp4_alt	Neighbors median polity (both land and water contiguity using polity2)	Marshall and Jaggers (2000)
	8	regd4_alt	Median regional polity (using polity2)	Sambanis (2002)
Region	9	geo1	Region: Western Europe and the United States	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	9	geo2	Region: Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	9	geo34	Region: Middle East and North Africa	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	9	geo57	Region: South and East Asia and Oceania	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	9	geo69	Region: Latin America	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	9	geo8	Region: Sub-Saharan Africa	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
Neighborhood war	10	nat_war	Whether a neighbor is at war in a given year	Sambanis (2004a)
	10	tnatwar	Total number of neighbors at war in a given year	Sambanis (2004a)
Growth	11	gdpgrowth	Annual change in GDP (%)	Computed from Fearon and Laitin (2003) GDP series
Economic policy	12	expgdp	Exports of goods and services as percent GDP WDI data	World Bank (2000)
	12	trade	Trade as percept of GDP in 1995 constant dollars	World Bank (2000)
Social welfare	13	illiteracy	Percent adult population illiterate WDI	World Bank (2000)
	13	infant	Infant mortality WDI	World Bank (2000)
	13	life	Life Expectancy at birth WDI	World Bank (2000)
	13	pri	School enrollment primary percent gross WDI	World Bank (2000)

	13	seceduc	School enrollment secondary percent gross WDI	World Bank (2000)
Resources	14	agexp	Agricultural raw materials exports as percentage of merchandise exports	World Bank (2000)
	14	fuelexp	Fuel and oil products exports as percentage of merchandise exports	World Bank (2000)
	14	manuexp	Manufactures exports as percentage of merchandise exports WDI	World Bank (2000)
	14	oil	Oil exports/GDP	Fearon and Laitin (2003) and Sambanis (2004a)
	14	sxpnew	Primary commodity exports/GDP	Collier and Hoeffler (2004)
	14	sxpsq	Primary commodity exports/GDP squared	Collier and Hoeffler (2004)
Terrain geography and population distribution	15	lmtnest	Rough terrain	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	15	ncontig	Noncontiguous state	Fearon and Laitin (2003)
	15	popdense	Population density: people per square kilometer WDI	World Bank (2000)
Militarization	16	army85	Size of government army in 1985	World Bank (2000)
	16	milper	Military personnel in thousands	World Bank (2000)
Time	17	decade1	Dummy: 1960s	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	17	decade2	Dummy: 1970s	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	17	decade3	Dummy: 1980s	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	17	decade4	Dummy: 1990s	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
	17	coldwar	Code 1 for cold war yearbefore 1990	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)
Colonial war	18	warhist	War in the country since 1945?	Hegre and Sambanis (2006)

Table 2: The Determinants of the Onset of Civil Wars. Sorted by non-normal p-value when ongoing years are set to zero. For full definitions of variables and categories see Hegre and Sambanis (2006*a*).

Variable	Concept	Weighted β:			Non-normal p-value:		
		Zero	Missing	Markov	Zero	Missing	Markov
inst3	5	0.43	0.45	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00
parreg	3	-0.36	-0.40	-0.40	0.01	0.01	0.02
geo34	9	0.29	0.32	0.32	0.02	0.02	0.02
oil	14	0.27	0.18	0.19	0.02	0.17	0.16
proxregc	5	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.02	0.07	0.10
milper	16	-0.51	-0.54	-0.52	0.04	0.03	0.03
gdpgrowth	11	-0.45	-0.55	-0.50	0.05	0.04	0.06
decade1	17	-0.29	-0.30	-0.29	0.06	0.07	0.08
regd4_alt	8	-0.42	-0.52	-0.58	0.07	0.06	0.04
nwstate	5	0.03	-0.00	-0.14	0.07	0.20	0.55
lmtnest	15	0.22	0.28	0.28	0.07	0.04	0.06
decade2	17	0.23	0.18	0.19	0.08	0.15	0.14
anoc	4	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.08	0.10	0.11
partfree	4	0.22	0.29	0.30	0.08	0.05	0.05
geo1	9	-0.86	-0.88	-0.85	0.08	0.10	0.12
nat_war	10	0.24	0.35	0.36	0.12	0.03	0.03
trade	12	0.13	0.08	0.09	0.14	0.50	0.51
decade3	17	-0.21	-0.11	-0.10	0.15	0.47	0.54
fuelexp	14	0.21	0.16	0.12	0.15	0.31	0.42
presi	6	-0.34	-0.39	-0.37	0.16	0.12	0.14
dlang	1	0.19	0.09	0.08	0.16	0.56	0.60
pol4sq	4	-0.23	-0.24	-0.25	0.18	0.18	0.18
manuexp	14	-0.31	-0.29	-0.33	0.19	0.29	0.23
ehet	1	0.16	0.11	0.12	0.20	0.49	0.50
decade4	17	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.24	0.36	0.44
life	13	-0.33	-0.36	-0.34	0.29	0.25	0.26
incumb	6	0.10	0.03	0.04	0.30	0.75	0.73
sxpsq	14	0.03	-0.29	-0.31	0.31	0.51	0.49
mirps1	4	0.02	0.09	0.10	0.32	0.29	0.29
tnatwar	10	0.11	0.18	0.18	0.33	0.12	0.12
relfrac	1	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.36	0.52	0.59
pri	13	-0.14	-0.20	-0.14	0.37	0.24	0.40

army85	16	-0.13	-0.19	-0.18	0.37	0.23	0.22
agexp	14	0.10	0.17	0.19	0.38	0.19	0.16
geo69	9	-0.14	-0.09	-0.07	0.39	0.52	0.57
mirps2	3	-0.13	-0.14	-0.18	0.40	0.35	0.26
elfo	1	0.15	0.10	0.09	0.41	0.58	0.63
drel	1	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.41	0.49	0.51
nmdp4_alt	8	-0.17	-0.25	-0.31	0.43	0.26	0.20
autonomy	7	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.44	0.49	0.49
infant	13	0.15	0.18	0.18	0.45	0.41	0.40
ef	1	0.12	0.04	0.04	0.45	0.72	0.73
elfo2	1	0.12	0.06	0.05	0.45	0.67	0.71
mirps0	4	0.10	0.04	0.05	0.46	0.67	0.63
pol4m	3	0.13	0.16	0.18	0.47	0.40	0.35
plurrel	1	-0.06	-0.03	-0.02	0.48	0.62	0.66
sxpnew	14	0.15	-0.04	-0.06	0.48	0.70	0.69
second	2	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.48	0.42	0.38
plural	1	-0.10	-0.03	-0.02	0.48	0.72	0.73
exrec	3	0.13	0.18	0.22	0.49	0.35	0.26
coldwar	17	-0.08	-0.10	-0.07	0.50	0.54	0.62
ncontig	15	0.07	-0.03	-0.04	0.52	0.65	0.67
illiteracy	13	0.15	0.21	0.22	0.52	0.41	0.37
auto4	3	-0.11	-0.15	-0.18	0.52	0.42	0.36
seceduc	13	-0.20	-0.30	-0.41	0.53	0.43	0.27
etdo4590	2	0.10	0.24	0.25	0.54	0.15	0.14
p4mchg	5	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.56	0.42	0.57
geo2	9	-0.88	-0.84	-1.68	0.57	0.54	0.34
dem	3	-0.06	-0.03	0.01	0.57	0.64	0.69
nmdgdp	8	-0.02	-0.06	-0.13	0.58	0.53	0.44
pol4	3	0.09	0.14	0.17	0.58	0.47	0.40
geo8	9	-0.08	-0.13	-0.11	0.59	0.50	0.55
drace	1	-0.05	0.02	0.04	0.59	0.68	0.67
polcomp	3	0.07	0.10	0.13	0.60	0.54	0.48
ef2	1	0.06	-0.04	-0.03	0.60	0.73	0.74
expgdp	12	-0.10	-0.30	-0.42	0.61	0.32	0.18
inst	6	0.07	0.12	0.15	0.61	0.53	0.43
warhist	18	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.61	0.54	0.55
part	3	0.06	0.12	0.14	0.62	0.51	0.43
parcomp	3	-0.05	-0.05	-0.02	0.62	0.60	0.62
durable	5	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.63	0.64	0.66
xconst	3	-0.04	-0.01	0.00	0.64	0.70	0.71

dem4	3	0.06	0.11	0.14	0.64	0.55	0.48
fedpol3	7	-0.04	-0.10	-0.15	0.66	0.57	0.42
sip2	3	0.06	0.08	0.11	0.66	0.66	0.58
reg	3	0.04	-0.05	-0.08	0.67	0.68	0.60
geo57	9	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.67	0.68	0.67
numlang	1	0.03	-0.11	-0.12	0.67	0.51	0.49
avgnabo	8	-0.01	-0.02	-0.06	0.68	0.63	0.54
centpol3	7	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.68	0.59	0.43
major	6	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.74	0.74
mirps3	3	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.71	0.70	0.67
demch98	5	-0.04	-0.04	-0.06	0.72	0.71	0.70
semipol3	7	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	0.72	0.71	0.76
ager	5	0.01	-0.04	-0.05	0.73	0.67	0.66
popdense	15	-0.05	0.01	0.02	0.73	0.70	0.70
autch98	5	-0.04	-0.01	0.02	0.75	0.90	0.84
polch98	5	-0.00	-0.02	-0.04	0.87	0.85	0.77

3 *Results of the Literature Survey*

Table 3: List of Papers Analysing Binary Onsets

Citation	**Transformed**	**Discussion**	**Lag**
Wegenast (2013)	1	1	0
Getmansky (2013)	1	0	0
Goldsmith et al. (2013)	0	1	.
Sobek and Clare (2013)	0	1	.
Cunningham (2013)	0	1	.
Chenoweth and Lewis (2013)	1	0	1
Cederman et al. (2013)	0	1	.
Murdie and Peksen (2013)	1	1	0
Thyne and Schroeder (2012)	1	1	0
Mousseau (2012)	0	1	.
Gubler and Selway (2012)	1	0	0
Taydas and Peksen (2012)	1	1	0
Sobek, Foster, and Robison (2012)	1	1	0
Peksen and Lounsbery (2012)	1	1	0
Mitchell and Thies (2012)	1	0	1
Bergholt and Lujala (2012)	1	1	0
Theisen, Holtermann, and Buhaug (2011)	1	0	0
Sorens (2011)	.	0	.
Peic and Reiter (2011)	1	0	1
Nielsen et al. (2011)	0	1	.
Nieman (2011)	1	0	1
Conrad and Souva (2011)	0	1	.
Selway (2011)	1	0	0
Regan and Bell (2010)	1	0	0
Fjelde (2010)	1	1	1
Cederman, Hug, and Krebs (2010)	0	1	.
Kennedy (2010)	.	0	.
de Soysa and Fjelde (2010)	.	0	.
Gleditsch and Ruggeri (2010)	0	1	.
Thies (2010)	1	0	1
Hartzell, Hoddie, and Bauer (2010)	1	0	1
Sobek and Payne (2010)	1	1	0
Bussmann (2010)	0	1	.
Carey (2010)	0	1	.
Hwang (2010)	.	0	.
Huibregtse (2010)	.	0	.
Lujala (2010)	1	0	1

Braithwaite (2010)	.	0	.
Cederman, Wimmer, and Min (2010)	0	0	.
Cederman, Girardin, and Gleditsch (2009)	0	1	.
Ostby, Nordas, and Rod (2009)	0	1	.
Rider (2009)	1	1	0
Fjelde (2009)	1	1	0
Lektzian and Souva (2009)	.	0	.
Rustad et al. (2008)	1	0	0
Buhaug, Cederman, and Rod (2008)	.	1	1
Hafner-Burton and Montgomery (2008)	1	0	0
Nel and Righarts (2008)	1	0	0
Ostby (2008)	0	1	.
Schneider and Wiesehomeier (2008)	0	1	.
Choi and James (2008)	0	0	0
de Soysa and Neumayer (2007)	1	1	1
Hendrix and Glaser (2007)	1	1	0
Fearon, Kasara, and Laitin (2007)	1	1	1
Zimerman and Do Couto Alves (2007)	1	0	0
Salehyan (2007)	0	1	.
Tir (2006)	.	0	.
Thyne (2006*a*)	1	1	1
Thyne (2006*b*)	1	1	0
Hegre and Sambanis (2006*b*)	0	1	.
Blimes (2006)	1	0	1
Kimball (2006)	.	0	.
Ross (2006)	.	1	1
Barbieri and Reuveny (2005)	1	1	0
Senese (2005)	.	0	.

Transformed: Does the paper set ongoing years of the binary event to zero?

Discussion: Does the paper explicitly state whether ongoing years are set to zero or to missing?

Transformed: When ongoing years are set to zero, is a lag of the untransformed variable included?

References

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