

# Asymmetric Information in Automobile Insurance: New Evidence from Driving Behavior\*

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We provide novel insights into the effects of private information in automobile insurance. Based on a unique data set of driving behavior we find direct evidence that private information has significant effects on contract choice and risk. The number of car rides (controlled for the distance driven) and the relative distance driven on weekends are significant risk factors. While the number of car rides and average speeding above legal speed limits are negatively related to the level of third-party liability coverage, the number of car rides and the relative distance driven at night are positively related to the level of first-party insurance coverage. These results indicate multiple and counteracting effects of private information based on risk preferences and driving behavior.

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# 1 Introduction

This paper provides new insights into the relevance of private information in insurance markets based on a telematic data set of insured cars which is inaccessible to the insurance company.<sup>1</sup> The data contains detailed information about driving behavior, e.g., speed, distance driven, road type, and is recorded approximately every two kilometers (1.24 miles) by a telematic device which is installed in the insured car. While the insurance company uses the aggregate distance driven for premium calculation, it refrains from accessing any other telematic data.<sup>2</sup> In addition, we also have access to the corresponding insurance data set which we can link to the telematic data set on the car level. The combination of insurance and telematic data and the fact that most information contained in the telematic data is unobservable to the insurance company allows us to directly test whether private information about driving behavior is relevant and how it is linked to the policyholder's choice of insurance contract and the conditional loss distribution.

Controlled for the risk classification of the insurance company, we find the following aspects of driving behavior to be significantly linked to contract choice and/or a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class:<sup>3</sup> average speeding above legal speed limits, the number of car rides a policyholder undertakes, and the relative distance driven on weekends and at night. The number of car rides (controlled for the distance driven) and the relative distance driven on weekends are positively related to a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class. The effect of the number of car rides is also economically significant. By increasing the number of car rides from an average of two to four per day while adjusting for the average distance driven per car ride the predicted probability of a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class increases from 5.58% to 10.44%.<sup>4</sup> With regard to the link between driving behavior and contract choice, we find that average speeding above legal speed limits and the number of car rides are both negatively related to the level of third-party liability coverage. In contrast, the number of car rides and the relative distance driven at night are positively related to the level of first-party insurance coverage.

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<sup>1</sup> *Telematics* stands for the fusion of *telecommunication* and *informatics*. It is typically based on a GPS device which allows for the transmission of information about moving objects, e.g., as used in navigation systems.

<sup>2</sup> The production and installation of the hardware into the cars as well as the collection and management of the telematic data is carried out by an independent telematic company.

<sup>3</sup> Premiums for third-party liability insurance are based on a experience rating system. A downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class, i.e. a *malus*, is triggered by the submission of at least one liability claim during a year and results in a higher premium for the following year. We use such a downgrade in the year following the beginning of our telematic data as a proxy for risk.

<sup>4</sup> The mean number of car rides per day in our data sample is 2.73 with a mean probability of a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class of 7.09%. If we do not adjust for the average distance driven per car ride by keeping the mean total distance constant, the increase in the predicted probability is still significant from 5.95% with two car rides a day to 9.48% with four car rides a day.

Our results suggest multiple and counteracting effects of private information based on risk preferences and driving behavior. The negative relation of the number of car rides and of average speeding to the level of liability coverage indicate a selection and incentive effect based on hidden risk preferences. More risk-averse policyholders both purchase more liability coverage and act more cautiously by speeding on average less above legal speed limits and by undertaking fewer short car rides. The positive relation between the number of car rides to the level of first-party coverage and to a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class suggest a selection and/or incentive effect based on driving behavior. Policyholders who undertake more short car rides purchase more first-party insurance coverage and are more likely to be subsequently downgraded in their Bonus-Malus class.

Most of the empirical literature on asymmetric information in insurance markets analyzes insurance data alone and estimates the sign of the correlation between the level of insurance coverage and ex post realizations of risk. The classical models both of adverse selection and moral hazard (Arrow, 1963; Pauly, 1974; Rothschild and Stiglitz, 1976; Harris and Raviv, 1978; Holmstrom, 1979; Shavell, 1979) are based on one-dimensional private information and predict a positive correlation. This prediction has been confirmed in the health insurance market (Cutler and Reber, 1998; Cutler and Zeckhauser, 1998) and in the annuity market (Finkelstein and Poterba, 2002, 2004; McCarthy and Mitchell, 2010). However, there is also evidence for a negative correlation between the level of insurance coverage and claims probability in the markets for life insurance (Cawley and Philipson, 1999; McCarthy and Mitchell, 2010) and for Medigap insurance (Fang et al., 2008). Moreover, no statistically significant correlation has been found in automobile insurance (Chiappori and Salanié, 2000; Dionne et al., 2001; Cohen, 2005) and in long-term care insurance (Finkelstein and McGarry, 2006).<sup>5</sup> We refer to Cohen and Siegelmann (2010) for a review of the empirical literature on asymmetric information in insurance markets.

The existence of counteracting effects of private information poses a challenge for empirical tests based on the residual correlation between the level of insurance coverage and ex post realizations of risk. Failing to reject the null hypothesis of zero residual correlation could either indicate the absence of relevant private information or the presence of multiple, counteracting effects of private information that cancel each other out with respect to the residual correlation. We

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<sup>5</sup>Puelz and Snow (1994) did find a positive relation between coverage and risk. Their result, however, was subsequently challenged by Chiappori and Salanié, 2000, and Dionne et al., 2001. While Cohen (2005) did not find any correlation for beginning drivers, she did find a statistically significant positive relation for experienced drivers.

also test for the residual correlation based on our insurance data and fail to reject the null hypothesis of zero residual correlation between the level of first-party insurance coverage and a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class. Given our direct empirical evidence that private information does matter, this confirms that the absence of residual correlation between the level of insurance coverage and ex post realizations of risk is not sufficient to conclude that private information is absent or irrelevant. In addition, we find a statistically significant positive residual correlation between the level of liability coverage and ex post realizations of risk. This points to adverse selection and/or incentive effects which are opposite to the preference-based selection effect in liability coverage discussed above. These joint findings support our interpretation of multiple and counteracting effects of private information about driving behavior and risk preferences.

Our result of offsetting effects of asymmetric information based on risk preferences and driving behavior is consistent with the literature that examines the effect of hidden risk preferences. Chiappori et al. (2006) examine the extent to which models of adverse selection and moral hazard can be generalized while still predicting a positive correlation between chosen level of insurance coverage and the expected value of indemnity.<sup>6</sup> They emphasize that hidden degree of risk aversion can be pivotal for violating the prediction of positive correlation. de Meza and Webb (2001) show that a separating equilibrium with a negative relation between coverage and accident probability can exist if hidden information about the degree of risk aversion is combined with hidden investment in risk reduction. Finkelstein and Poterba (2006) also argue that if asymmetric information is present on multiple characteristics, including the degree of risk aversion, then the result of rejecting (not rejecting) the hypothesis of non-dependence between the level of insurance coverage and risk may not be indicative of the existence (absence) of asymmetric information. Cohen and Einav (2007) develop a structural model which accounts for unobserved heterogeneity in both risk and risk aversion. By using a large data set of an Israeli insurance company, they find that unobserved heterogeneity in risk aversion is much larger than unobserved heterogeneity in risk.

Our paper is most closely related to the recent literature that tests for the effects of multi-dimensional private information in insurance markets. Finkelstein and McGarry (2006) use individual-level survey data on long-term care insurance and show that individuals' self-reported

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<sup>6</sup>If there are multiple loss levels, Koufopoulos (2007) shows that the positive correlation property between the level of insurance coverage and *accident probability* (as opposed to the expected value of indemnity) may not hold.

beliefs of entering a nursing home is positively related to both subsequent nursing home use and insurance coverage. Despite the existence of this risk-based selection, actual nursing home use and insurance coverage is not positively correlated. The authors explain this fact by providing evidence that the risk-based selection is offset by a selection based on heterogeneous degrees of risk aversion as proxied by seat belt usage and investment in preventive health care measures. Fang et al. (2008) also use individual-level survey data on Medigap insurance to examine the reasons for the significant and negative correlation between insurance coverage and medical expenditure. They show that cognitive ability rather than risk preferences is the essential factor explaining this negative relation. A potential problem with using survey data is that responses to survey questions can be biased, in particular if they relate to self-reported probabilities of future events. Examples include the anchoring bias of unfolding bracket questions (Hurd et al., 1998; Hurd, 1999) and problems of focal responses (Gan et al., 2005). These survey response biases could then partially explain the relation between self-reported information and both contract choice and realized risk.

We contribute to this literature by analyzing a unique data set that is provided by an independent and unbiased third party, the telematic company. Importantly, the data contains detailed information about real decisions and behavior of individuals that is of direct interest (but unobservable) to the insurance company. We thus do not rely on possibly noisy proxies for (cautious) behavior. In addition, the detailedness of the telematic data allows us to analyze multiple aspects of driving behavior and test for their relations to contract choice and risk.

Finkelstein and Poterba (2006) propose an empirical test based on “unused observables,” i.e. on characteristics which are observable to the insurance company but are not used for pricing, either voluntarily or for legal reasons. They argue that if those characteristics are significantly related to contract choice and risk, then this is direct evidence of relevant private information which is not confounded by hidden information on risk preferences. In their study of the UK annuity market, they use postcode information which is collected by the insurance company but not used for pricing. They find that the inhabitants’ socio-economic characteristics of different postcode areas are correlated with both survival probability and choice of insurance coverage. Similarly, Saito (2006) uses postcode information which is collected but not used by insurance companies for pricing in automobile insurance. The author rejects the hypothesis that policyholders who live in high accident probability regions are more likely to purchase insurance. A potential problem with unused but observable data is that the information, although not used in pricing, might be used in

other types of underwriting activities by the insurance company. For example, policyholders who observably differ in their underlying risk might be offered different contracts, might be scrutinized differently in the claims settlement process, or might face different cancellation policies. In that case, a significant relation between the “unused observable” and contract choice might reflect rather those different underwriting policies than an effect of private information. In our paper, we have access to data which provides us with information which is *unobservable* to the insurance company. Thus, the insurance company is not able to condition any type of underwriting activity on that information.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we provide detailed information about the insurance contract based on distance driven and about the telematic and insurance data sets. In Section 3, we introduce the indices for driving behavior and specify the econometric model. We present and discuss our results in Section 4 and perform robustness checks in Section 5.1. Section 6 concludes.

## 2 Background and Data

The insurance company offers a pay-as-you-drive insurance contract in addition to its traditional car insurance contract. Cars insured under this contract are equipped with a telematic device which uses GPS. The pricing of this pay-as-you-drive contract is based on the aggregate distance driven - fewer kilometers driven imply a lower premium - and on the road type used. The company distinguishes between three road types: urban, country road, and motorway. Kilometers driven on country roads and motorways are scaled down by a factor of 0.8. Furthermore, policyholders get a discount on the premium of full comprehensive insurance coverage. In addition to the pay-as-you-drive feature, the telematic device is equipped with an emergency device and a crash sensor. If activated, either by the car driver or in case of an accident, an emergency signal is sent to the help desk of the insurance company. The help desk will then try to contact the policyholder and call the police and ambulance if needed or if the policyholder cannot be reached. An additional benefit of the telematic device is that stolen cars can be tracked via GPS. Policyholders have to pay a one-time fee for the installation of the telematic device and a monthly fee for the safety services.

Since policyholders have the choice whether to opt for this pay-as-you-drive contract or not, the characteristics of policyholders under this contract might differ from those that chose not to opt

for this contract. Based on a random sample of policyholders who chose not to opt for this contract, we show in Section 5.1 that the pay-as-you-drive contract is more likely to be chosen by younger, female policyholders who live in urban areas and drive newer, more valuable cars with more engine power.

The economic rationale for pay-as-you-drive insurance contracts is the internalization of accident and congestion externalities. Edlin and Karaca-Mandic (2006) estimate that the externality cost due to an additional driver in California is around \$1,725 – \$3,239 per year. Vickrey (1968) proposed the idea of *distance-based pricing* as a solution to the externality problem. However, insurance companies have only recently started to offer such contracts. In the U.S., the insurance companies Progressive, Allstate, and State Farm recently started to offer pay-as-you-drive insurance contracts for privately owned cars. Liberty Mutual offers pay-how-you-drive insurance contracts for fleets. Edlin (2003) argues that monitoring costs for mileage-based pricing might be too high and suggests that regulatory enforcement could be necessary since private gains might be much smaller than social gains. Bordoff and Noel (2008) estimate that a US nationwide implementation of pay-as-yo-drive insurance would result in a 8% reduction of mileage driven which would yield a social benefit of \$50 billion per year, a reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 2%, and a reduction of oil consumption by 4%. They also estimate that two thirds of all households would pay a lower premium under pay-as-you-drive insurance with an average saving of \$270 per car per year.

Due to the safety features of telematic devices, the European Commission has passed a “*recommendation on support for an EU-wide eCall service in electronic communication networks for the transmission of in-vehicle calls based on 112*” on September 8, 2011. The full implementation of this telematic-based eCall system is expected to be in place by 2015. In response, several automobile manufacturers such as BMW, Ford, GM, Peugeot, and Volvo have already begun to equip their cars with telematic units and to offer different services, e.g., automatic crash response and stolen vehicle tracking.

## 2.1 Telematic Data

An independent telematic company develops the hardware and collects and manages the telematic data. Each data point includes date, time, GPS-coordinates, direction of driving, actual speed, distance to the last data point, ignition status of the engine, and road type (urban, country road,

or motorway). A data point is recorded when the engine is started, after approximately every two kilometers (1.24 miles) driven, and when the engine is switched off. We have access to this data set for 2,340 cars for a period of 3 months, from February 1st, 2009 to April 30th, 2009, which includes 3.7 million individual data points.<sup>7</sup>

For our analysis we restrict our data set to completed car rides, i.e. for which switching on and switching off the engine were both recorded. We exclude car rides with unrealistically high values of speed (above 200 km/h = 124.27 mph which is above the 99.9% quantile of the empirical distribution) and of distances between data points (above the 99.9% quantile) which both indicate a connection failure with the GPS satellite.<sup>8</sup> These exclusions leave us with 3.15 million data points. Table 1 displays the summary statistics of the telematic data.

Table 1: SUMMARY STATISTICS TELEMATIC DATA

	urban	country road	motorway	total
Number of cars				2,340
Number of car rides				537,181
Number of data points	1,717,049	686,042	744,542	3,147,633
Avg. speed in km/h	47.72	73.87	113.22	78.03
(mph)	(29.65)	(45.90)	(70.35)	(48.49)
Std. dev. speed in km/h	18.99	22.56	24	35.67
(mph)	(11.79)	(14.01)	(14.91)	(22.16)
Distance driven in km	2,041,466	1,195,018	1,567,140	4,803,624
(miles)	(1,268,508)	(742,550)	(973,776)	(2,984,834)
Avg. distance per ride in km				8.94
(miles)				(5.56)

The insurance company has access only to the telematic data that is necessary for the pricing of the pay-as-you-drive contract, i.e., to the aggregate distance driven per road type. The insurer contractually refrains from accessing any other telematic data because of privacy concerns. The telematic data set thus provides us with detailed private information about driving behavior which is inaccessible to the insurance company. This setting allows us to directly test whether private information as reflected in driving behavior is relevant for the level of insurance coverage and risk.

<sup>7</sup>Those are all the pay-as-you-drive contracts the insurer had in his portfolio on February 1st, 2009.

<sup>8</sup>Most of those excluded car rides reveal further unrealistic characteristics such as speed above 200 km/h at the time the engine is switched on or off, or at the only data point in between, or in urban areas.



## 2.2 Insurance Data

For all privately insured cars in the telematic data set we have the corresponding data of the insurance contract which we can link to the telematic data on the car level via an anonymous identification number in both data sets. We thus exclude all corporate cars. The insurance data comprises all the information used for pricing of the policies in February 2009. Additionally, we have an update of the insurance data set for February 2010 that we use to extract information about the submission of a liability claim during that year. We thus restrict the telematic data set to those cars which are still insured under the pay-as-you-drive contract after one year. Moreover, we only include cars with more than 4 kW (5.4 HP).<sup>9</sup> This leaves us with 1849 insurance contracts for our analysis.

For each contract, the insurance data contains the following information:

1. *Car-related information*: year of construction, brand, engine power, and value of the car
2. *Policyholder-related information*: age, gender, and postal code (urban / rural)
3. *Bonus-Malus class*: Premiums for third-party liability insurance are based on a experience-rating scheme. There are 19 Bonus-Malus classes which reflect the car owner's history of claims. Each Bonus-Malus class is related to a scaling factor of a base premium ranging from 44% (lowest class) to 170% (highest class). A car owner with no driving experience starts with 110% of the base premium. If a policyholder does not file a claim during a year, then he is upgraded one class (*Bonus*) and pays the next lowest percentage of the base premium in the following year. If a policyholder files a liability claim during the year, then he is downgraded three classes (*Malus*) and pays the correspondingly higher percentage of the base premium in the following year.<sup>10</sup>
4. *Downgrade in Bonus-Malus class*: We use downgrades in the Bonus-Malus record between February 2009 and February 2010 to proxy for risk.<sup>11</sup>
5. *Coverage of first-party insurance*: The insurance company offers three levels of first-party coverage: none, comprehensive insurance (covers losses from vandalism, theft, weather

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<sup>9</sup>All cars with 4kW (5.4 HP) or less are micro-cars which are license-exempt vehicles with a maximum speed of 45km/h (28 mph). The driving behavior of a micro-car is thus closer to the driving behavior of a moped than to that of a car.

<sup>10</sup>The national insurance association monitors the Bonus-Malus record for each nationwide registered car owner which is accessible to all insurance companies.

<sup>11</sup>A downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class is triggered by the submission of at least one liability claim during the year.

etc.), and full comprehensive insurance (in addition including at-fault collision losses).<sup>12</sup>

6. *Coverage of third-party liability insurance:* The insurance company offers two levels of third-party liability coverage which are both in excess of the level of coverage mandated by the insurance law: € 10 million or € 15 million. In addition to the owner of the car, each person that drives the car with the permission of the owner is insured under this contract.

Table 2 provides the summary insurance statistics.

Table 2: SUMMARY STATISTICS INSURANCE DATA

	Mean				
	total	none/compr.	full compr.	liab. 10m	liab. 15m
car's characteristics:					
years since construction	3.47	6.74	1.92	3.68	2.99
kW	87.09	83.52	88.78	86.57	88.3
(HP)	(116.74)	(111.96)	(119.01)	(116.05)	(118.36)
value of car in €	26,709	26,204	27,023	26,656	26,835
policyholder's characteristics:					
age in years	48.67	48.16	48.91	48.13	49.91
male	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.62
urban	0.44	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.42
BM (Bonus-Malus class)	0.52	0.55	0.51	0.52	0.51
downgrade BM class in %	7.6	9.7	6.6	7.9	7.0
number of obs.	1849	595	1254	1293	556

Notes: Column 2 "none/compr." includes contracts with no first-party insurance coverage or comprehensive coverage; Column 3 "full compr." includes contracts with comprehensive coverage and at-fault collision; Bonus-Malus class gives the scaling factor for the base premium of liability coverage.

## 3 Empirical Approach

### 3.1 Driving Behavior

We investigate four types of individual driving behavior utilizing the information contained in our telematic data set: average speeding above legal speed limits, the number of car rides, the relative distance driven on weekends, and the relative distance driven at night. The speeding index is given by

$$AvgSpeeding = \frac{\sum_j \sum_{i \in \Delta_n} (v_{ij} - u_j)}{n} \quad (1)$$

<sup>12</sup>We do not use the information on deductible choice since the standard deductible of € 300 is chosen by more than 99% of all policyholders.

where  $j$  is road type (urban, country, motorway),  $u_j$  is the countrywide legal speed limit for road type  $j$  in km/h (urban: 50 km/h = 31.07 mph, country: 100 km/h = 62.14 mph, motorways: 130 km/h = 80.78 mph),  $i = 1, \dots, n$  is a data point,  $v_{ij}$  is the speed of the car at data point  $i$  on road type  $j$ , and  $\Delta_n = \{i = 1, \dots, n | v_{ij} > u_j\}$  is the set of data points at which the speed of the car is above the legal speed limit.<sup>13</sup>

The second index  $\#Rides$  is the number of car rides driven between February 1st, 2009 and April 30th, 2009. We define a car drive if the engine is switched on, a distance is driven, and the engine is switched off. For the other two indices, we derive the distance driven on weekends and at night relative to the total distance driven per policyholder,  $DistWE/Dist$  and  $DistNight/Dist$ . For the distance driven on weekends, we use all data points recorded between Saturday 0:00 am and Sunday midnight. For the distance driven at night, we use all data points recorded between sunset and sunrise, using the monthly average as a proxy for both.

We derive all four indices for each car in our data set. The summary statistics for these indices are given in Table 3.

Table 3: SUMMARY STATISTICS INDICES

	first-party cov.		liability cov.		$\Delta BM$ class		
	total	0	1	0	1	0	1
Mean AvgSpeeding	3.15	3.05	3.19	3.2	3.02	3.15	3.16
Mean $\#Rides$	243	217	255	246	236	238	293
Mean $DistWE/Dist$	0.268	0.286	0.26	0.268	0.269	0.266	0.288
Mean $DistNight/Dist$	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.081	0.085	0.062
Number of obs.	1849	595	1254	1293	556	1708	141

Notes: first-party coverage is 1 for full comprehensive insurance and 0 otherwise; liability insurance is set to 0, if € 10m are covered and is 1, if coverage is € 15m;  $\Delta BM$  class is set to 1, if the policyholder was downgraded in the Bonus-Malus class during the subsequent year and 0 otherwise.

### 3.2 Econometric Model

We test for the direct effect of private information on contract choice and risk by extending the econometric model suggested by Finkelstein and Poterba (2006). Their model is based on Chiappori and Salanié (2000) who propose the following bivariate probit model for insurance

<sup>13</sup>The countrywide legal speed limits are the maximum speed limits. The actual legal speed limit can be lower either permanently, e.g., in residential areas or road sections prone to accidents, or temporarily, e.g., due to road works or construction sites. We thus underestimate the extent to which drivers speed by using the countrywide legal speed limits for each road type.

coverage and risk

$$Coverage = 1(X\beta + \varepsilon_1 > 0) \quad (2)$$

$$Risk = 1(X\gamma + \varepsilon_2 > 0) \quad (3)$$

where  $X$  is the vector of all risk classifying variables used by the insurance company. They test the null hypothesis that the correlation  $\rho$  of the error terms  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_2$  is zero and interpret rejecting the null hypothesis as an indication for the existence of private information. A statistically significant, positive correlation coefficient is consistent with the classical models of adverse selection and moral hazard with asymmetric information about one parameter of the loss distribution (Arrow, 1963; Pauly, 1974; Rothschild and Stiglitz, 1976; Harris and Raviv, 1978; Holmstrom, 1979; Shavell, 1979). Chiappori et al. (2006) show that this prediction can be extended to general settings, including, for example, heterogeneous preferences and multidimensional hidden information linked with hidden action. However, they point out that the prediction about the positive relation between the level of insurance coverage and risk might no longer hold if the degree of risk aversion is private information.

Finkelstein and Poterba (2006) propose the following extension of Chiappori and Salanié (2000)

$$Coverage = 1(X\beta_1 + Y\beta_2 + \varepsilon_1 > 0) \quad (4)$$

$$Risk = 1(X\gamma_1 + Y\gamma_2 + \varepsilon_2 > 0) \quad (5)$$

where  $Y$  includes information which is observable but not used by the insurance company. Under the null hypothesis that there is no private information contained in  $Y$  that is relevant for contract choice and risk, we have  $\beta_2 = 0$  and  $\gamma_2 = 0$ . The benefit of this model extension is that the rejection of the null hypothesis directly provides evidence of relevant private information independent of the type of asymmetric information. This model is appropriate in our context in which the information  $Y$  is not observed by the insurance company but accessible to the econometrician.

Unlike in Chiappori and Salanié (2000) and Finkelstein and Poterba (2006), policyholders in our data set simultaneously choose the level of coverage along two dimensions, first-party and third-party liability coverage. To take into account potential interaction between these two choices, we apply a trivariate probit model. This model consists of three probit regressions

based on the Geweke-Hajivassiliou-Keane (GHK) smooth recursive simulator. Interpretation of the results of this trivariate probit model is analogous to the interpretation of the bivariate probit model. We define the dependent variables of the three probits as follows. For liability coverage, we set  $CovLiab = 1$  if the upper limit is € 15m and  $CovLiab = 0$  if the upper limit is € 10m. For first-party coverage, we set  $CovFP = 1$  if the contract covers at-fault losses (full comprehensive insurance) and  $CovFP = 0$  otherwise. The dependent variable  $\Delta BM$  is set to 1 if the policyholder was downgraded in his Bonus-Malus class within the subsequent year and is set to 0 otherwise.

$X$  is the set of variables which the insurance company observes and uses for the pricing of the contract (see Section 2.2). In addition, we also include the aggregate distance driven by the policyholder since this is the part of the telematic data which the insurance company observes and uses for setting the premium.

$Y$  is the set of the four indices  $AvgSpeeding$ ,  $\#Rides$ ,  $DistWE/Dist$ , and  $DistNight/Dist$  that characterize driving behavior and are constructed from the telematic data set (see Section 3.1). This information is not observable by the insurance company. We thus apply the following trivariate probit model

$$CovLiab = 1(X\beta_1 + Y\beta_2 + \varepsilon_1 > 0) \quad (6)$$

$$CovFP = 1(X\gamma_1 + Y\gamma_2 + \varepsilon_2 > 0) \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta BM = 1(X\delta_1 + Y\delta_2 + \varepsilon_3 > 0) \quad (8)$$

with

$$Y = (AvgSpeeding, \#Rides, DistWE/Dist, DistNight/Dist)$$

and test the null hypothesis that there is no private information contained in  $Y$  that is relevant for contract choice and risk, i.e. we test for  $\beta_2 = 0$ ,  $\gamma_2 = 0$  and/or  $\delta_2 = 0$ .

We then compare the direct evidence about the relevance of private information with the results obtained from the residual correlation test. In particular, we apply the model of Chiappori and Salanié (2000) by testing for the sign of the correlation coefficients  $\rho_{Liab,FP}$ ,  $\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$  and  $\rho_{FP,\Delta BM}$  of each pair of residual error terms  $\varepsilon_1$ ,  $\varepsilon_2$  and  $\varepsilon_3$  both excluding and including the set of variables  $Y = (AvgSpeeding, \#Rides, DistWE/Dist, DistNight/Dist)$ . Comparing the results allows us to assess whether the conclusions that would have been drawn from the results

of the residual correlation test are consistent with the direct evidence. Moreover, any differences in the results indicate additional hidden information.

## 4 Results and Discussion

Table 4 reports the results of the trivariate probit model, equations (6), (7), and (8).

Table 4: COEFFICIENTS OF TRIVARIATE PROBIT MODEL

	<i>CovLiab</i>	<i>CovFP</i>	$\Delta BM$
<i>AvgSpeeding</i>	-0.0111* (0.0059)	0.003 (0.0069)	0.0026 (0.0031)
<i>#Rides</i>	-0.0002* (0.0001)	0.0003** (0.0001)	0.0002*** (0.0001)
<i>DistWE/Dist</i>	0.0307 (0.0951)	-0.1335 (0.1119)	0.0934* (0.0495)
<i>DistNight/Dist</i>	0.1295 (0.1365)	0.3345** (0.1673)	-0.0463 (0.0802)
kW	0.0015** (0.0008)	-0.0005 (0.0009)	0.0003 (0.0005)
year of construction	0.0116*** (0.0031)	0.1003*** (0.0049)	-0.0073*** (0.0014)
value of car in €	1.41e-06 (2.23e-06)	-1.04e-06 (2.69e-06)	-2.75e-07 (1.34e-06)
urban	-0.0509** (0.0224)	0.0733** (0.0266)	0.0231** (0.0126)
male	-0.0053 (0.0236)	0.178 (0.0281)	-0.0016 (0.0123)
Bonus-Malus class	-0.0342 (0.0766)	-0.3012*** (0.0884)	0.043* (0.0384)
age of policyholder	0.0014* (0.0008)	-0.0003 (0.001)	0.0005 (0.0004)
total distance driven	-2.23e-08 (2.08e-08)	7.49e-08*** (2.67e-08)	1.82e-08 (1.08e-08)
Pseudo- $R^2$	0.0160	0.3532	0.0508
N	1849	1849	1849

Notes: Reported coefficients are marginal effects; significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10%, respectively; heteroscedastic robust standard errors are stated in parentheses.

The coefficients of the four driving indices *AvgSpeeding*, *#Rides*, *DistWE/Dist* and *DistNight/Dist* are reported in the first four rows for each of the three probit regressions. In the remaining rows, we report the coefficients of the insurance company's risk classifying variables, the Pseudo- $R^2$ , and the number of observations. The first column reports the coefficients of the liability coverage

equation (6), the second column of the first-party coverage equation (7), and the third column of the downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class equation (8). For interpreting the coefficients we only report marginal effects. Both signs and statistical significances of coefficients are identical when estimating the trivariate probit model simultaneously. In our following discussion we focus on the effects of private information contained in the four driving indices.

The results in the third column show that the number of car rides is a highly statistically significant risk factor, controlling for the distance driven. An additional car ride in the 3 month observation period is related to a 0.02% increase in the probability of a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class. To illustrate the economic significance of this effect, we derive predicted probabilities of a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class for different numbers of car rides. We take the estimated coefficients of our trivariate probit model and set all variables to the mean of their empirical distribution. We then vary the number of car rides and derive the associated probabilities of a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class from equation (8).

Table 5 reports the predicted probabilities for the lower quartile, the mean, and the upper quartile of the empirical distribution of the number of car rides per day. We also report the predicted probabilities for two car rides per day, e.g. driving to work, and four car rides a day, e.g. driving to work and separately to a supermarket. The third column shows the predicted probabilities when adjusting the total distance driven for the average distance driven per car ride. The differences in the predicted probabilities can be interpreted as arising from additional car rides. The fourth column shows the predicted probabilities when keeping the total distance driven at the mean. These differences can be related to breaks of car rides, e.g. stopping at the supermarket on the way home from work. The differences in the predicted probabilities are economically significant. For example, when adjusting for the average distance driven per car ride, undertaking four as opposed to two car rides per day almost doubles the predicted probability from 5.58% to 10.44%. But even when keeping the total distance driven at the mean, the increase of the predicted probability from 5.95% to 9.48% is economically significant.

A possible explanation for this risk factor is that the start and the end of a car ride are particularly exposed to accident risk since the driver has to fulfill multiple tasks such as pulling out the car into the passing traffic, switching on the radio, adjusting the driving mirrors and seat, or parking the car which involves slowing down, potentially looking for a parking spot, and reversing into it. Towards the end of the drive, the driver's mind might also be already distracted by the actual

Table 5: IMPACT OF #RIDES ON  $\Delta BM$ 

# car rides / day	quantile	predicted probability of $\Delta BM$	
		adj. for distance driven / car ride	mean total distance driven
1.22	25%	4.27%	4.90%
2	42.5%	5.58%	5.95%
2.73	50%	7.09%	7.09%
3.78	75%	9.78%	9.02%
4	78.3%	10.44%	9.48%

purpose of the drive, e.g., a meeting, shopping, or outdoor activity. These simultaneous tasks at the beginning and at the end of a drive might demand much more attention from the driver and are thus more prone to accidents than the task of driving the car in the traffic.

The third column of Table 4 also shows that the relative distance driven on weekends is a statistically significant risk factor. This result might give empirical support to the phenomenon of *Sunday drivers* who use their cars relatively more during leisure time. Last, we note that speeding is not significantly related to a downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class. This could arise from the fact that we underestimate speeding by applying countrywide legal speed limits per road type. In particular, we might underestimate the effect of speeding at street areas which are prone to accident since speed limits in these areas are likely to be below the countrywide speed limits.

We now discuss the relation between the four driving indices and contract choice, as reported in the first and second column of Table 4. The results in the first column show that both average speeding and the number of car rides are negatively related to the level of liability coverage. More precisely, speeding on average one km/h (0.62 mph) more above legal speed limits is related to a 1.11% decrease in the probability of choosing the high liability coverage option. Furthermore, undertaking one additional car ride in the 3 month observation period is related to a 0.02% decrease in the probability of choosing the high liability coverage option.

These results in combination with the result that the number of car rides is a significant risk factor are opposite to the predictions of adverse selection and moral hazard. They could be explained by selection based on heterogeneous, hidden degrees of risk aversion linked with hidden action (de Meza and Webb, 2001) or overconfidence. Policyholders who are more risk-averse or less overconfident purchase a higher level of liability coverage, speed on average less, undertake fewer



car rides, and are less likely to be downgraded in the Bonus-Malus class.<sup>14</sup>

In contrast, the results on first-party insurance coverage as shown in the second column are consistent with the predictions of adverse selection and moral hazard. The number of car rides is positively related to the level of first-party coverage. Policyholders who undertake more car rides are more likely to purchase full comprehensive insurance coverage and more likely to be downgraded in their Bonus-Malus class. Specifically, undertaking an additional car ride in the 3 month observation period is associated to a 0.03% increase in the probability of choosing full comprehensive insurance coverage. Last, the relative distance driven at night is positively related to the level of first-party coverage.

In summary, the results of the trivariate probit model show that there exists private information contained in the four driving indices that is relevant for contract choice and risk as measured by a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class. Furthermore, the effects related to third-party liability coverage are opposite to the effects related to first-party coverage. The results suggest a negative association between the level of liability coverage and risk, while they suggest a positive association between the level of first-party coverage and risk. These opposite correlation signs could result from an overlay of risk-based and preference-based selection effects. The risk-based selection originates from private information on risk characteristics which overlays the selection based on preferences such as risk aversion. Since the potential severity of liability claims is much higher than the one of first-party claims, the preference-based selection might have a relatively stronger effect on liability coverage than it has on first-party coverage. Differences in the degrees of risk aversion might be a much more important factor when facing claims in millions of € than when facing a loss that is restricted by the value of the car. This would explain the opposite effects on liability and on first-party coverage.<sup>15</sup>

In Table 6, we report the correlation coefficients  $\rho_{Liab,FP}$ ,  $\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$ , and  $\rho_{FP,\Delta BM}$  of each pair

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<sup>14</sup>Our results show that the level of liability coverage is positively related to the age of the policyholder. There is empirical evidence that individuals become less risk averse when they get older (e.g., Morin and Suarez, 1983; Bucciol and Miniaci, 2011). This supports our conjecture that risk aversion effects the choice of liability coverage.

<sup>15</sup>While it is true that individuals who are more risk-averse value insurance coverage more, the effect of risk aversion on the value of risk control is ambiguous (see Ehrlich and Becker, 1972; Dionne and Eeckhoudt, 1985; Jullien et al., 1999). Moreover, if insurance coverage and risk control are substitutes, then a higher level of insurance coverage might reduce the willingness to invest in risk control. Depending on the setting, more risk-averse individuals might as well purchase more insurance coverage but invest less in risk control and thereby be of higher risk. Jullien et al. (2007) develop a principal-agent model with hidden degree of risk aversion and show that, depending on the parameters, the correlation between insurance coverage and risk can be positive, negative, or zero. Cohen and Einav (2007) present a structural model which accounts for unobserved heterogeneity in both risk and risk aversion. By using a large data set of an Israeli insurance company they find a strong positive correlation between unobserved risk aversion and unobserved risk which strengthens the positive correlation property.

of residual error terms in the trivariate probit model, equations (6), (7), and (8).

Table 6: CORRELATIONS OF RESIDUAL ERROR TERMS

	without private information	with private information
$\rho_{Liab,FP}$	0.113** (0.0106)	0.128*** (0.0041)
$\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$	0.061* (0.0822)	0.06* (0.0944)
$\rho_{FP,\Delta BM}$	-0.015 (0.7311)	0.000 (0.9967)
N	1849	1849

Notes: significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10%, respectively; heteroscedastic robust standard errors are stated in parentheses.

We first test for the positive correlation property between insurance coverage and risk as if we did not have access to the additional private information contained in  $Y$ . The first column reports the correlation coefficients when excluding the four driving indices from the trivariate probit model. This model is thus a trivariate version of the model of Chiappori and Salanié (2000), equations (2) and (3). The results show that we fail to reject the null hypothesis of zero correlation between first-party coverage and a downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class,  $\rho_{FP,\Delta BM} = 0$ , which is consistent with the results of most empirical studies in automobile insurance, see e.g. Chiappori and Salanié (2000) and Dionne et al. (2001). As discussed in Chiappori et al. (2006) and Finkelstein and Poterba (2006), we cannot draw unambiguous conclusions from failing to reject the null hypothesis about the existence and relevance of asymmetric information. And this is exactly confirmed by our direct evidence. Although we fail to reject the null hypothesis of zero residual correlation between first-party coverage and a downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class, we do find that private information, in particular the number of car rides, is relevant for the level of first-party insurance coverage and for a downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class (see Table 4).

A similar conclusion must be drawn about interpreting the statistically significant positive correlation of the residual error terms between liability coverage and a downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class,  $\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$ . The positive sign of the correlation coefficient is new to the literature which has focused on first-party coverage. This could be interpreted as arising from adverse selection and/or incentive effects. However, the negative relation of both average speeding and number of car rides to the level of liability insurance coverage (see Table 4) suggest at least an additional preference-based selection effect which is opposite to the one of adverse selection. The positive

correlation coefficient in conjunction with the results on average speeding and the number of car rides is thus another indication of overlaying risk-based and preference-based selection effects.

Last, the correlation between the residual error terms of the liability and first-party coverage equations  $\rho_{Liab,FP}$  is highly statistically significant and positive. This is consistent with some private information, such as risk aversion, which explains why policyholders who choose full comprehensive coverage also choose the high liability coverage option.

The second column in Table 6 reports the correlation coefficients between the residual error terms when including the four driving indices in the trivariate probit model. The results do not change. The correlation coefficient  $\rho_{FP,\Delta BM}$  between the error terms of first-party coverage and risk remains to be not statistically different from zero. Similarly, the correlation coefficients  $\rho_{Liab,FP}$  and  $\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$  between the error terms of liability and first-party coverage and between liability coverage and risk remain statistically significant and positive.

## 5 Robustness

### 5.1 Selection Bias

The pay-as-you-drive insurance contract is offered for choice. Hence there might be a selection bias if the characteristics of policyholders who choose the pay-as-you-drive insurance contract are correlated with the three dependent variables. To control for the potential selection bias, we employ a Heckman correction method based on an additional data set of randomly selected 2000 cars which are insured under the traditional insurance contract. The policyholders contained in this data set thus decided not to switch to the pay-as-you-drive contract. Data cleaning (excluding cars with less than 4 kW = 5.4 HP) leaves us with 1987 traditional insurance contracts. Table 7 provides the summary insurance statistics under the traditional insurance contract.

In our context, we have a probit selection equation and a trivariate probit outcome equation. Since we are not aware of a sample selection model in connection with a trivariate probit regression we run three separate bivariate probit models with sample selection. In each model, we simultaneously run a probit model in the selection equation and a probit model in the outcome equation. While the selection equation is identical in all three models, the outcome equation varies according to the three variables of interest: the level of liability coverage, the level of first-party coverage, and the subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class.

Table 7: SUMMARY STATISTICS TRADITIONAL INSURANCE DATA

	Mean				
	total	none/compr.	full compr.	liab. 10m	liab. 15m
car's characteristics:					
years since construction	5.32	7.18	0.94	5.53	4.83
kW	75.83	74.41	79.17	75.49	76.62
(HP)(0.0027)	(101.69)	(99.79)	(106.17)	(101.23)	(102.75)
value of car in €	22,768	22,615	23,127	22,588	23,188
policyholder's characteristics:					
age in years	54.65	54.82	54.25	54.57	54.83
male	0.67	0.70	0.63	0.68	0.67
urban	0.21	0.19	0.25	0.20	0.21
BM (Bonus-Malus class)	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	0.45
number of obs.	1987	1394	593	1392	595

Notes: Column 2 "none/compr." includes contracts with no first-party insurance coverage or comprehensive coverage; Column 3 "full compr." includes contracts with comprehensive coverage and at-fault collision; Bonus-Malus class gives the scaling factor for the base premium of liability coverage.

The selection equation

$$Selection = 1(X\gamma_1 + \varepsilon_1 > 0)$$

is based on both samples of policyholders, the randomly selected sample of those who chose not to sign up and the sample of those who signed up for the pay-as-you-drive insurance contract. *Selection* is a binary variable, equal to 1 if the policyholder chose the pay-as-you-drive insurance contract and equal to 0 if the policyholder chose the traditional insurance contract.  $X$  consists of all the variables used by the insurance company for pricing the traditional insurance contract.

The outcome equation in each of the three regressions is given by

$$Outcome = 1(X\beta_1 + Y\beta_2 + \varepsilon_2 > 0) \quad (9)$$

where the variable *Outcome* in the three bivariate probit models with sample selection is either *CovLiab* for liability coverage, or *CovFP* for first-party coverage, or  $\Delta BM$  for a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class.

We use the gender variable *male* as an instrumental variable since it indicates the gender of the person that purchased the insurance contract. This person is thus likely to be the one who decides whether to switch to the pay-as-you-drive insurance contract or not. However, this person is not necessarily the person who mainly drives the car since the insurance contract is related to the car and not to the specific driver. In fact, any person who drives the car with the approval of

the policyholder is insured under the contract.

Table 8 reports the results of the selection equation. It shows that all the variables are highly significant for the selection of the type of insurance contract. The pay-as-you-drive insurance contract is more likely to be chosen by younger and female individuals who live in urban areas and are in a higher Bonus-Malus class. Moreover, they own newer, more valuable cars with more engine power.

Table 8: RESULTS OF SELECTION EQUATION

	Coefficients
kW	0.0019*** (0.0006)
year of construction	0.0195*** (0.0018)
value of car in €	3.86e-06** (1.62e-06)
urban	0.2692*** (0.0171)
male	-0.0666*** (0.0185)
Bonus-Malus class	1.6062*** (0.1061)
age of policyholder	-0.0066*** (0.0006)
Pseudo- $R^2$	0.1733
N	3985

Notes: Reported coefficients are marginal effects; significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10%, respectively; heteroscedastic robust standard errors are stated in parentheses.

Table 9 reports the coefficients of the outcome equation and shows that our results on the relevance and effects of private information contained in the four driving indices *AvgSpeeding*, *#Rides*, *%DistWE* and *%DistNight* are robust when controlling for a selection-bias. The only exception is that the relation between the relative distance driven during weekends and a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class loses its significance.

We conclude that while policyholder's and car's characteristics are relevant for the decision to sign up for the pay-as-you-drive insurance contract this selection does not affect the within-group correlations between driving behavior and the level of liability coverage, the level of first-party coverage, and a subsequent downgrade in the Bonus-Malus class.

Table 9: COEFFICIENTS OF OUTCOME EQUATIONS

	<i>CovLiab</i>	<i>CovFP</i>	$\Delta BM$
<i>AvgSpeeding</i>	-0.011* (0.0058)	0.0022 (0.0048)	0.0027 (0.0033)
<i>#Rides</i>	-0.0002* (0.0001)	0.0002* (0.0001)	0.0002*** (0.0001)
<i>DistWE/Dist</i>	0.0297 (0.0943)	-0.09 (0.0741)	0.0991 (0.0619)
<i>DistNight/Dist</i>	0.13 (0.1353)	0.2263** (0.109)	-0.0539 (0.0814)
kW	0.0015* (0.0008)	-0.0003 (0.0007)	0.0003 (0.0004)
year of construction	0.0115*** (0.003)	0.0689*** (0.0029)	-0.0077*** (0.0014)
value of car in €	1.32e-06 (2.08e-06)	-5.75e-07 (2.07e-06)	-3.15e-07 (1.18e-06)
urban	-0.0507 (0.0223)	0.0491*** (0.0176)	0.0242 (0.0123)
Bonus-Malus class	-0.0432 (0.1033)	-0.2717 (0.0725)	0.08 (0.0641)
age of policyholder	0.0014 (0.0008)	-0.0003 (0.0006)	0.0006 (0.0004)
total distance driven	-1.95e-08 (2.09e-08)	4.53e-08*** (1.58e-08)	1.80e-08 (1.15e-08)
N	1849	1849	1849

Notes: Reported coefficients are marginal effects; significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10%, respectively; heteroscedastic robust standard errors are stated in parentheses.

## 5.2 Disposable Income

Income might influence the level of insurance coverage and potentially driving behavior. The insurance company does not collect income information in the underwriting process. To control for income in our model, we use data on purchasing power for 2009.<sup>16</sup> Purchasing power is defined as yearly gross income minus direct taxes and social security contributions plus interest earnings and transfer payments. We merge the average purchasing power per resident on the post code level with the insurance data set through the post code information. Table 10 shows the average purchasing power for the different levels of insurance coverage.

Table 11 states the results of the trivariate probit model with purchasing power as an additional control variable. We conclude that purchasing power is not significantly related to any of the

<sup>16</sup>The purchasing power data was provided by the Austrian Institute for SME Research.

Table 10: SUMMARY STATISTICS PURCHASING POWER

	Mean				
	total	none/compr.	full compr.	liab. 10m	liab. 15m
purchasing power in €	17,572	17,369	17,668	17,597	17,513

Notes: Column 2 “none/compr.” includes contracts with no first-party insurance coverage or comprehensive coverage; Column 3 “full compr.” includes contracts with comprehensive coverage and at-fault collision; Bonus-Malus class gives the scaling factor for the premium of liability coverage.

three dependent variables. More importantly, our results are robust to including purchasing power as an additional variable.

Table 11: COEFFICIENTS OF TRIVARIATE PROBIT MODEL

	<i>CovLiab</i>	<i>CovFP</i>	$\Delta BM$
<i>AvgSpeeding</i>	-0.0116* (0.0059)	0.0037 (0.0072)	0.0024 (0.0031)
<i>#Rides</i>	-0.0002* (0.0001)	0.0003** (0.0001)	0.0002*** (0.0001)
<i>%DistWE</i>	0.0300 (0.0954)	-0.1335 (0.1119)	0.0935* (0.0582)
<i>%DistNight</i>	0.1295 (0.1365)	0.3345** (0.1673)	-0.0459 (0.0770)
kW	0.0015* (0.0008)	-0.0005 (0.0011)	0.0003 (0.0004)
years since construction	-0.0117*** (0.0030)	-0.1002*** (0.0070)	0.0073*** (0.0013)
value of car in €	1.50e-06 (2.12e-06)	-1.24e-06 (3.14e-06)	-2.42e-07 (1.12e-06)
urban	-0.04778* (0.0228)	0.0681** (0.0269)	0.0244** (0.0127)
male	-0.0067 (0.0232)	0.199 (0.0271)	-0.002 (0.0126)
Bonus-Malus class	-0.0322 (0.0833)	-0.3050*** (0.0884)	0.044* (0.0377)
age of policyholder	0.0014* (0.0008)	-0.0004 (0.0009)	0.0005 (0.0004)
total distance driven	-2.22e-08 (2.24e-08)	7.33e-08*** (2.45e-08)	1.83e-08 (1.12e-08)
purchasing power in €	-3.17e-06 (4.03e-06)	5.30e-06 (5.23e-06)	-1.32e-06 (2.00e-06)
Pseudo- $R^2$	0.0162	0.3537	0.0512
N	1849	1849	1849

Notes: Reported coefficients are marginal effects; significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10% respectively; heteroscedastic robust standard errors are stated in parentheses.

Table 12 shows the results for the residual correlation when including purchasing power in the trivariate probit model. Again, our results do not change.

Table 12: CORRELATIONS OF RESIDUAL ERROR TERMS

	without private information	with private information
$\rho_{Liab,FP}$	0.125*** (0.0044)	0.133*** (0.003)
$\rho_{Liab,\Delta BM}$	0.06* (0.0728)	0.06* (0.0913)
$\rho_{FP,\Delta BM}$	0.006 (0.8822)	0.007 (0.8691)
N	1849	1849

Notes: significance levels are labeled \*\*\*, \*\* and \* at 1%, 5% and 10% respectively; p values are stated in parentheses.

## 6 Conclusions

We capitalize on having access to detailed data on driving behavior of policyholders in automobile insurance which is inaccessible to the insurance company. By connecting this data to insurance data, we provide direct evidence that driving behavior is relevant for contract choice in first-party and third-party liability insurance as well as for risk. Whereas number of car rides and average speeding above legal speed limits is negatively related to the level of liability coverage, the number of car rides and the relative distance driven at night are positively related to the level of first-party insurance coverage. Moreover, the number of car rides and the relative distance driven on weekends are significant risk factors. These results pulled together suggest the coexistence and interaction of risk-based and preference-based selection effects.

We then test for the residual correlation between insurance coverage and risk which would be the standard test for asymmetric information if we did not have access to the data on driving behavior. The results emphasize that the residual correlation test can be misleading when interpreted in the context of asymmetric information. We fail to reject the hypothesis of zero residual correlation between first-party coverage and risk although the number of car rides is positively related to both first-party insurance coverage and risk. Similarly, we find a significant positive residual correlation between liability coverage and risk although the number of car rides is negatively related to liability coverage but positively related to risk.



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