LEARNING FROM EXCHANGE RATES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE INTERVENTIONS

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Foreign exchange interventions: Communication

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- Important role of information in FX markets:
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2. FXIs often **opaque**: not publicly announced or published with lag (Sarno & Taylor 01, Canales-Kriljenko 03, Adler et al. 21) Data on FXI

3. Exchange rates contains information about future fundamentals

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- This paper: Develop a dynamic GE model to:
 - Formalize informational role of the exchange rate
 - Study informational effects of public vs secret FX interventions

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 - Public FXI is additional public signal to agents
 - Secret FXI can either increase or decrease the informativeness of FX
- 3. Optimal communication depends on expectations' formation
 - ▶ Rational expectations: more information is desirable → *Public* FXI is optimal
 - ► Extrapolation: agents use information sub-optimally → Secret FXI can be optimal

Related literature

Empirics:

- Exchange rates & fundamentals: Evans & Lyons 02, Engel & West 05, Itskhoki & Mukhin 21, Chahrour et al. 22, Stavrakeva & Tang 20a, 20b, Goldberg & Krogstrup 23
- Survey expectations on macro variables and FX: Coibion & Gorodnichenko 15, Kohlhas & Walther 20, Bordalo, Gennaioli, Ma & Schleifer 20, Angeletos, Huo & Sastry 20, Candian & De Leo 23
- Empirical properties of FXI: Sarno & Taylor 01, Canales-Kriljenko 03, Kuersteiner et al. 18, Patel & Cavallino 19, Fratzscher et al. 19, Adler et al. 21

Theory:

- Learning from prices: Grossman 76, Kimbrough 83 84, Bacchetta & Van Wincoop 06, Amador & Weill 10, Gaballo & Galli 22
- PE theories of FXI under RE: Vitale 99 03, Fernholz 15
- GE models of FXI under FIRE: Gabaix & Maggiori 15, Amador et al. 19, Cavallino 19, Fanelli & Straub 21, Itskhoki & Mukhin 22
- FXI without RE: lovino & Sergeyev 21
- CB communication on monetary policy: Angeletos & Sastry 20, Chahrour 14, Tang 15, Melosi 17, Kohlhas 20, Candian 21

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- Non-tradable (y_N) : exogenous endowment | Tradable $(y_{T,1}^{i,H})$ technology:

$$\mathcal{V}_{T,1}^{i,H} = a_1 + \alpha k_1^i \qquad \qquad a_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \beta_a^{-1})$$

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• Segmented int'l markets | Financiers in island i are subject to position limits

$$r_{0}^{i} - r_{0}^{\star} - \left(E_{0}^{i}q_{1}^{i} - q_{0}^{i}\right) = \Gamma\left(n_{1}^{i\star} + f_{1}^{i\star} - b_{1}^{i\star}\right)$$

$$\int_i n_1^{i\star} \mathrm{d}i = n_1^{\star} \sim N(0, \beta_n^{-1})$$



Equilibrium exchange rate

• Equilibrium *aggregate* real exchange rate:

Island equilibrium

$$q_0 = \frac{\Gamma\omega_1}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_1 + \omega_3}(n_1^* + f_1^*) - \frac{\omega_2}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_1 + \omega_3}\bar{E}_0a_1 \qquad \tilde{\theta}, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3 > 0$$

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• Exchange rate in frictionless benchmark:

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 $(\Gamma = 0, FIRE)$

$$q_0^{F}=-rac{\omega_2}{\omega_3}a_1$$

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• Exchange rate in frictionless benchmark:

$$F_0 = -rac{\omega_2}{\omega_3}a_1$$

q

• Deviations of q_0 from q_0^F :

$$q_{0} - q_{0}^{F} = \frac{\Gamma\omega_{1}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{\left[(n_{1}^{\star} + f_{1}^{\star}) + \frac{\tilde{\theta}\omega_{2}}{\omega_{3}} a_{1} \right]}_{\text{Intermediation wedge}} - \frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{\left(\bar{E}_{0}a_{1} - a_{1} \right)}_{\text{Belief wedge}}$$

Island equilibrium

 $(\Gamma = 0, FIRE)$

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)

Dispersed information

Bacchetta & Van Wincoop 06

• HHs receive a private signal v^i about a_1

$$v^i = a_1 + \epsilon^i$$
 $\epsilon^i \sim N(0, \beta_v^{-1}), \text{ w/} \text{ prior } a_1 \sim N(0, \beta_a^{-1})$

• Agents observe q_0 as they share same currency

Over-extrapolation

Bordalo et al. 20

• HH over-extrapolate new information compared to RE

$$\mathsf{E}_0^i \mathsf{a}_1 = (1+\delta)(\mathsf{E}_0^{i,\mathsf{RE}}\mathsf{a}_1)$$

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)

• Guess a linear solution for the exchange rate $o q_0 = \lambda_a a_1 + \lambda_n n_1^\star$

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)

- Guess a linear solution for the exchange rate $o q_0 = \lambda_a a_1 + \lambda_n n_1^\star$
- Each island *i* has 3 sources of information about *a*₁
 - 1. Prior: $a_1 \sim N(0, \beta_a^{-1})$

2. Private signal:
$$v^i = a_1 + \epsilon^i \quad \epsilon^i \sim N(0, \beta_v^{-1})$$

3. Public signal:
$$\frac{q_0}{\lambda_a} = a_1 + \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_a} n_1^{\star}$$
 $\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_a} n_1^{\star} \sim N\left(0, \beta_q^{-1}\right), \quad \beta_q \equiv \frac{\lambda_a^2}{\lambda_n^2} \beta_n$

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• Each agent *i* forms the posterior:

$$E_0^i a_1 = (1+\delta) \frac{\beta_v v^i + \beta_q \frac{q_0}{\lambda_a}}{\beta_a + \beta_v + \beta_q}$$

• If $\delta > 0$ agents over-extrapolate relative to RE

Bordalo et al. 20

Definition of equilibrium) Uniqueness

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)

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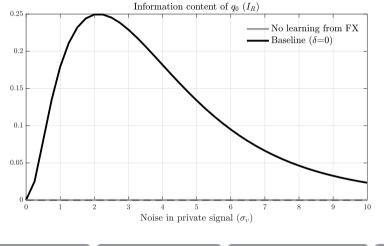
• If $\delta > {\rm 0}$ agents over-extrapolate relative to RE

Bordalo et al. 20

Definition of equilibrium) (Unique

Uniqueness of equilibrium

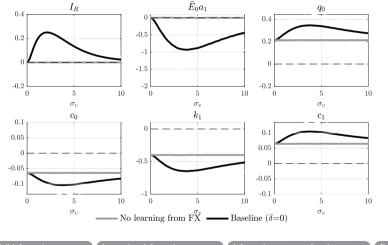
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Parameterization

Noise trading shock (n_1^*)

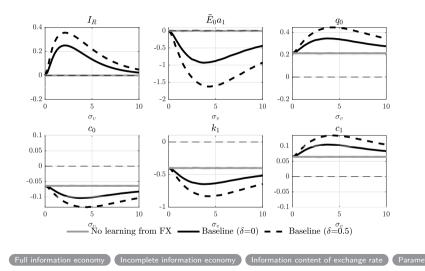
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Parameterization

Noise trading shock (n_1^*)

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)



FOREIGN EXCHANGE INTERVENTIONS

• Central bank observes aggregates $\bar{E}[a_1], q_0 \rightarrow$ Fully informed

Central bank's Information

• FXI: central bank purchases foreign-currency bond f_1^{\star} according to:

$$f_1^\star = \kappa_a a_1 + \kappa_n n_1^\star$$

- Consider two limit cases
- 1 **Public FXI**: Agents perfectly observe FX intervention f_1^{\star}
- 2 Secret FXI: Agents do not observe FX intervention f_1^{\star}

Agents always know the central bank's reaction function (κ_a, κ_n)

Public vs. Secret FXI

PUBLIC FOREIGN EXCHANGE INTERVENTIONS

• Suppose central bank adopts a **public FX intervention**, according to:

$$f_1^\star = \kappa_a a_1 + \kappa_n n_1^\star$$

 $ightarrow f_1^{\star}$ becomes an additional public signal

Public discretionary FXI

$$rac{f_1^\star}{\kappa_{m{a}}} = m{a}_1 + rac{\kappa_n}{\kappa_{m{a}}}m{n}_1^\star \qquad rac{m{q}_0}{\lambda_{m{a}}} = m{a}_1 + rac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_{m{a}}}m{n}_1^\star$$

• Two signals $(f_1^* \text{ and } q_0)$ and two shocks $(n_1^* \text{ and } a_1) \Rightarrow$ Full Information

PUBLIC FXI AND WEDGES

$$q_{0} - q_{0}^{F} = \frac{\Gamma\omega_{1}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{\left[(1 + \kappa_{n})n_{1}^{*} + \left(\frac{\tilde{\theta}\omega_{2}}{\omega_{3}} + \kappa_{a}(1 + \delta)\right)a_{1}\right]}_{\text{Intermediation wedge}} - \frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{(\bar{E}_{0}a_{1} - a_{1})}_{\substack{\text{Belief} \\ \text{wedge} \\ = \delta a_{1}}}$$

• Public FXI can close intermediation wedge with $\left(\kappa_{a} = -\frac{\tilde{\theta}\omega_{2}}{\omega_{3}(1+\delta)}, \kappa_{n} = -1\right)$

- Implies full information: $ar{E}_0 a_1 = (1+\delta)a_1$
 - <u>RE</u> ($\delta = 0$): it closes also belief wedge (a form of "divine coincidence")
 - Extrapolation ($\delta \neq 0$): belief wedge persists under full information

SECRET FOREIGN EXCHANGE INTERVENTIONS

• Suppose central bank adopts a secret FX intervention, according to

$$f_1^{\star} = \kappa_a a_1 + \kappa_n n_1^{\star}$$

- f_1^{\star} alters stochastic properties of $q_0 = \lambda_a a_1 + \lambda_n n_1^{\star}$
- The endogenous precision of q_0 as a public signal is proportional to:

$$\left(\frac{\lambda_{a}}{\lambda_{n}}\right)^{2} = \left[\frac{\omega_{2} - \Gamma\omega_{1}\tilde{\kappa}_{a}}{\Gamma\omega_{1}(1 + \tilde{\kappa}_{n})}(1 + \delta)\frac{\beta_{v}}{\beta_{a} + \beta_{v} + \Lambda^{2}\beta_{n}}\right]^{2}$$

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• $\tilde{\kappa}_n \to -1$ offset noise traders, $\lambda_n \to 0 \Rightarrow$ higher information $\mathcal{I}_R \uparrow$ $\hookrightarrow \tilde{\kappa}_n = -1, q_0 = \lambda_a a_1$ perfectly informative, $\mathcal{I}_R \to \infty \Rightarrow$ Full Information

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- $\tilde{\kappa}_{a} \rightarrow \frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\omega_{1}}$ offset fundamental shock $\lambda_{a} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$ lower information $\mathcal{I}_{R} \downarrow$ $\hookrightarrow \kappa_{a} = \frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\omega_{1}}, q_{0} = \lambda_{n}n_{1}^{*}$ perfectly uninformative, $\mathcal{I}_{R} \rightarrow 0$

Secret discretionary FX

Secret FXI and wedges

$$q_{0} - q_{0}^{F} = \frac{\Gamma\omega_{1}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{\left[(1 + \kappa_{n})n_{1}^{\star} + \left(\frac{\tilde{\theta}\omega_{2}}{\omega_{3}} + \kappa_{a}(1 + \delta)\right)a_{1}\right]}_{\text{Intermediation wedge}} - \frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}} \underbrace{\left(\bar{E}_{0}a_{1} - a_{1}\right)}_{\text{Belief wedge}}$$

• Rational expectations $(\delta = 0)$

- ▶ Offsetting noise traders $\kappa_n = -1 \Rightarrow$ endogenous full information, close belief wedge
- ▶ Then close the intermediation wedge with $\kappa_a < 0 \Rightarrow$ same "divine coincidence"

Secret FXI and wedges

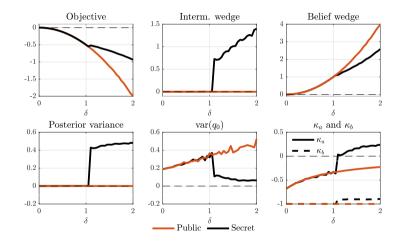
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- ▶ Offsetting noise traders $\kappa_n = -1 \Rightarrow$ endogenous full information, close belief wedge
- ▶ Then close the intermediation wedge with $\kappa_a < 0 \Rightarrow$ same "divine coincidence"
- Extrapolation $(\delta > 0)$
 - if $\delta > \hat{\delta}$, central bank needs to lower info to reduce belief wedge
 - Offset noise traders $\kappa_n \rightarrow -1$ to lower intermediation wedge, **but**
 - Offset fundamental $\kappa_a > 0$ to lower information and belief wedge
 - \Rightarrow Tradeoff between intermediation and belief wedge \rightarrow can't close both Discretionary FXI

OPTIMAL FX INTERVENTIONS

Central bank decide optimal κ_a, κ_n to maximize welfare



CONCLUSIONS

- Formalize the informational role of FX in macro allocation in SOE
- The information channel of FXI depend on communication:
 - 1. Public FXI akin to public announcement
 - 2. Secret FXI tool to affect exchange rate informativeness
- Rationalizes a signaling channel of FXI as well as the opaqueness in many central banks' practices.

Appendix

FINAL GOOD AGGREGATOR

• Consumption and period-1 capital are composites of tradable and non-tradable goods:

$$C_0^i + K_1^i = G(Y_N, Y_{T,0}^i), \quad C_1^i = G(Y_N, Y_{T,1}^i)$$

where $G(Y_N, Y_T) = \left[(1 - \gamma)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} Y_N^{\frac{\theta - 1}{\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\theta}} Y_T^{\frac{\theta - 1}{\theta}} \right]^{\frac{\theta}{\theta - 1}}$ is homogenous of degree 1.

- θ denotes the elasticity of substitution between tradable and non-tradable goods in the production of final goods
- γ is related to the share of tradable goods in the final composite good
- $Y_{T,t}^{i}$ represents domestic absorption of the tradable good, which is the sum (difference) of production and imports from (exports to) the rest of the world $Y_{T,t}^{i} = Y_{T,t}^{i,H} + Y_{T,t}^{i,F}$.
- We assume that each island trades with the rest of the world but not with other islands to avoid full information revelation by inter-island interactions.

ISLAND EQUILIBRIUM

Demand for tradables: Modified UIP condition: Res. constraint + Euler eq.: Country budget constraint: Demand for capital:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{0}^{i} &= -\frac{1-\gamma}{\theta} y_{T,0}^{i} \qquad q_{1}^{i} = -\frac{1-\gamma}{\theta} y_{T,1}^{i} \\ r_{0}^{i} &= E_{0}^{i} q_{1}^{i} - q_{0}^{i} + \frac{\tilde{\Gamma}(1+\phi)}{\beta} y_{T,0}^{i} + \tilde{\Gamma} n_{1}^{i*} + \tilde{\Gamma} f_{1}^{i*} \\ r_{0}^{i} &= \sigma \gamma E_{0}^{i} y_{T,1}^{i} - (\sigma \gamma)(1+\phi) y_{T,0}^{i} + \sigma \phi k_{1}^{i} \\ \frac{(1+\phi)}{\beta} y_{T,0}^{i} &= a_{1} + \alpha k_{1}^{i} - y_{T,1}^{i} \\ k_{1}^{i} &= \frac{1}{1-\alpha} E_{0}^{i} q_{1}^{i} + \frac{1}{1-\alpha} E_{0}^{i} a_{1} - \frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha} r_{0}^{i} \end{aligned}$$

Relative information content of exchange rate (Laissez Faire)

DEFINITION (RELATIVE INFORMATION CONTENT OF EXCHANGE RATE)

Define the relative information content of the exchange rate as its relative accuracy as a signal about the fundamental shock a_1 compared to prior and private signal. That is, the Bayesian weight on public signal: $\mathcal{I}_R = \frac{\Lambda^2 \beta_n}{\beta_a + \beta_v + \Lambda^2 \beta_n}$.

(LAISSEZ FAIRE)

Parameter	Interpretation	Value	Reference
β	Discount factor	0.99	Standard
σ	IES	1	Standard
α	Capital share	0.3	Standard
γ	Trade openness	0.3	Standard
θ	Trade elasticity	1	Standard
Г	Slope of currency demand	3	Pandolfi & Williams 19
σ_{a}	Std. dev. of a_1	1	
σ_n	Std. dev. of n_1^{\star}	0.2	Chahrour et al. 22
σ_{v}	Std. dev. of <i>vⁱ</i>	TBD	Chahrour et al. 22



COROLLARY (INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ECONOMY)

In the case of perfectly inaccurate private signals, $\beta^{v} \to 0$, the exchange rate coefficients equal $\lambda_{a} = 0$ and $\lambda_{n} = \frac{\Gamma \omega_{1}}{\Gamma \tilde{\theta} \omega_{1} + \omega_{3}}$. The relative information content of the exchange rate is nil, i.e. $\mathcal{I}_{R} = 0$ and the overall posterior accuracy is nil, i.e. D = 0.



COROLLARY (FULL INFORMATION ECONOMY)

In the case of perfectly accurate private signals, $\beta_{v} \to \infty$, the exchange rate coefficients equal $\lambda_{a} = -\frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1}+\omega_{3}}(1+\delta)$ and $\lambda_{n} = \frac{\Gamma\omega_{1}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1}+\omega_{3}}$. The relative information content of the exchange rate is nil, i.e. $\mathcal{I}_{R} = 0$, while the overall posterior accuracy is infinite, i.e. $D \to \infty$.

DEFINITION OF EQUILIBRIUM (LAISSEZ FAIRE)

DEFINITION (MARKET EQUILIBRIUM WITH LAISSEZ-FAIRE)

Given shocks realization $\{a_1, n_1^{i^*}\}$ and agents' prior and signals $\{v^i, q_0\}_{i \in [0,1]}$, a symmetric linear market equilibrium is defined as

- an allocation $(\{c_0^i, c_1^i, k_1^i, y_{T,0}^i, y_{T,1}^i, b_1^{i\star}, d_1^{i\star}\}_{i \in [0,1]})$
- a vector of local prices $(\{q_0^i, r_0^i\}_{i \in [0,1]})$

• A aggregate real exchange rate as a linear function of the states $q_0 = \lambda_a a_1 + \lambda_n n_1^*$ solving equations (??)-(??) with expectations respecting (??) and (??).

UNIQUENESS OF EQUILIBRIUM

PROPOSITION

Let $\Lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda_a}{\lambda_n}$. The symmetric linear market equilibrium is unique and the exchange rate is described by (??) with coefficients

$$\lambda_{a} = -\frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}}(1+\delta)\frac{\beta_{v} + \Lambda^{2}\beta_{n}}{\beta_{a} + \beta_{v} + \Lambda^{2}\beta_{n}}$$

$$\lambda_{n} = \frac{\Gamma\omega_{1}}{\Gamma\tilde{\theta}\omega_{1} + \omega_{3}}\frac{\beta_{v} + \Lambda^{2}\beta_{n}}{\beta_{v}}$$
(1)

where Λ^2 is unique and implicitly defined by

$$\Lambda^{2} = \left(\frac{\omega_{2}}{\Gamma\omega_{1}}\right)^{2} (1+\delta)^{2} \frac{\beta_{v}^{2}}{(\beta_{a}+\beta_{v}+\Lambda^{2}\beta_{n})^{2}}$$
(2)

while the explicit solution of Λ is reported in Appendix ??.

Proof.

See Appendix ??.

PUBLIC DISCRETIONARY FXI

PROPOSITION (PUBLIC DISCRETIONARY FXI)

Suppose the central bank adopts a public discretionary FX intervention, i.e. $f_1^* = \varepsilon_1^{f^*}$ and $\sigma_{\eta_f}^2 \to 0$. A more volatile FX intervention does not affect the relative information content of the exchange rate \mathcal{I}_R nor the overall agents' posterior accuracy about fundamental D. The equilibrium exchange rate is given by (??) with the same λ_a and λ_n as in the laissez-faire equilibrium (1).

Proof.

See Appendix ??.

SECRET DISCRETIONARY FXI

PROPOSITION (SECRET DISCRETIONARY FXI)

Suppose the central bank adopts a secret discretionary FX intervention, i.e. $f_1^* = \varepsilon_1^{f^*}$ and $\sigma_{\eta_f}^2 \to \infty$. A more volatile FX intervention decreases the relative information content of the exchange rate \mathcal{I}_R and agents' posterior accuracy about fundamental D. The equilibrium exchange rate is given by (??) with λ_a and λ_n described in Apppendix ??.

Proof.

See Appendix ??.

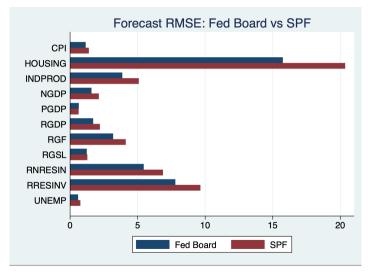
DISCRETIONARY FXI

• Suppose the central bank adopts a "discretionary" FX intervention, according to:

$$f_1^\star = \varepsilon_1^{f^\star}$$

- Public FX interventions
 - FXI does not affect the relative information content of the exchange rate \mathcal{I}_R
 - The equilibrium exchange rate features the same λ_a and λ_n as in laissez-faire
 - Discretionary FXI is uninformative on state of the economy
- Secret FX interventions
 - ▶ FXI decreases the information content of the exchange rate I_R
 - Discretionary FXI adds non-fundamental noise to the exchange rate q_0

CENTRAL BANK'S INFORMATION



FINANCIERS' PROBLEM (1)

- Continuum of risk-neutral financiers, $j \in [0, \infty)$, in each island *i*.
- Financiers hold a zero-capital portfolio in H and F bonds $(d_{i,1}^{i}, d_{i,1}^{i*})$.
- Financier's investment decisions s.t. two restrictions:
 - First, each intermediary is subject to a net open position limit D > 0.
 - Second, intermediaries face heterogeneous participation costs. Each intermediary *j* active in the foreign bond market at *t* is obliged to pay a participation cost of exactly *j* per unit of FC invested.
- Intermediary j in island i optimally invests $\frac{d_{j,1}^i}{R_{\alpha}^*}$ in F bonds:

$$\max_{\substack{\frac{d_{j,1}^{i}}{R_0^{\star}} \in [-D,D]}} \frac{d_{j,1}^{i}}{R_0^{\star}} E_0^i\left(\tilde{R_1^i}^{\star}\right) - j\left|\frac{d_{j,1}^{i}}{R_0^{\star}}\right|,$$

where $\tilde{R_1^{i}}^{*}$ is the return on one foreign-currency unit holding expressed in foreign currency: $\tilde{R_1^{i}}^{*} \equiv R_0^{*} - R_0^{i} \frac{Q_0^{i}}{Q_1^{i}}$.

FINANCIERS' PROBLEM (2)

- Intermediary j's expected cash flow conditional on investing is $D\left|E_{0}^{i}\left(\tilde{R}_{1}^{i*}\right)\right|$ while participation costs are jD.
- Investing is optimal for all intermediaries $j \in [0, \overline{j}]$, with the marginal active intermediary \overline{j} given by $\overline{j} = \left| E_0^i \left(\tilde{R_1^i}^* \right) \right|$.
- The aggregate investment volume is then

$$rac{D_1^{i\,\star}}{R_0^{\star}} = ar{j}D \, \operatorname{sign}\left\{E_0^i\left(ilde{R_1^{i\,\star}}
ight\}
ight\}.$$

Defining Γ ≡ D⁻¹ and substituting out j
 , we obtain the total demand for foreign-currency bonds in island i, D₁^{i*} = ∫ d_{i,1}^{i*} dj:

$$\frac{D_1^{i^{\star}}}{R_0^{\star}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma} E_0^i \left(R_0^{\star} - R_0^i \frac{\mathcal{Q}_0^i}{\mathcal{Q}_1^i} \right)$$

FINANCIERS' PROBLEM (3)

• Zero-capital portfolio of each financier implies:

$$rac{D_1^i}{R_0^i} + \mathcal{Q}_0^i rac{D_1^{i\,\star}}{{R_0}^\star} = 0.$$

• Income from the carry trade of the financiers in island *i* is:

$$\pi_1^{i,D^{\star}} \equiv D_1^{i^{\star}} + \frac{D_1^i}{Q_1^i} = \dots = \tilde{R_1^i}^{\star} \frac{D_1^{i^{\star}}}{R_0^{\star}}$$

- Intermediaries' demand for foreign bonds has a finite (semi-)elasticity to the expected excess return.
- Changes in home bond demand, e.g., induced by FX interventions, can indeed affect q_0
- Γ is a critical parameter
- Participation costs constitute transfers to households in the H island economy | no extra cost terms enter the household's budget constraint.

CONCENTRATION IN CURRENCY MARKETS

- Detailed data on risk taking in this international and opaque over-the-counter market are relatively scarce, which favors specialization and concentration. (Gabaix Maggiori, 15)
- Transaction volume data also portray a highly concentrated market: (Euromoney 14)

the top 10 banks accounted for 80 percent of all flows in 2014

- with the top two banks (Citigroup and Deutsche Bank) accounting for 32 percent of all flows .
- Currency risk also accounts for a large fraction of their overall respective risk taking. (Deutsche Bank 13; Citigroup 13)
 - Regulatory filings reveal that currency risk accounted for 26–35 percent of total (stressed) value at risk at Deutsche Bank in 2013
 - ▶ and between 17 percent and 23 percent at Citigroup in the same period

Data on FXI (1/2)

- Information on FXI scant for most countries (only 16% of EMEs publish data.) \to research on FXI has often relied on coarse proxies
 - ▶ typically, Δ in CB's reserves or reserve flows from B-o-P statistics
- But coarse proxies of FXI are contaminated by
 - (I) valuation changes and investment income flows;
 - (II) CB's FC transactions with residents & nonresidents that affect the amt of reserves but are not FXI (exchange of LC & FC assets).
- How to address:
 - Fratzscher et al. 19 AEJ:Macro: Confidential data from 33 central banks (includes secret FXI)
 - + Identifying FXI via news reports: New data
 - Adler et al. 21: Official FXI data from reports + Proxy FXI data
 - \hookrightarrow download from Rui Mano's website

Return to Intro

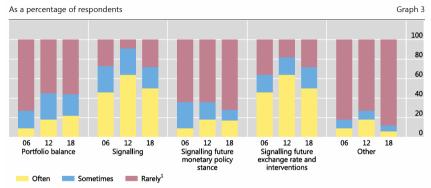
Data on FXI: Adler et al 21 (2/2)

• FXI: 'any transaction changing central bank's FC position'.

- I active transactions (no valuation effects)
- II transaction by CB (no other public sector entities)
- III focus on FC position (no distinction sterilized v. unsterilized)
- IV no focus on stated intent (eg. reserve accumulation, etc...) include both spot & derivative market operations
- Adler et al 21 address shortcomings of coarse proxies using:
 - \blacktriangleright available info on composition of reserve assets \rightarrow estimate valuation Δs
 - $+\,$ info on market rates & interest payment \rightarrow estimate investment income
 - $+ \,$ other adjustments to "vis-a-vis" proxies.
- $\,\hookrightarrow\,$ download from Rui Mano's website

Stated channels (Patel & Cavallino 22)

Signalling remains most important channel of FX intervention



2006: corresponds to the "Up to 2007" period in the 2012 survey, based on the responses of 11 central banks. 2012: corresponds to the "After 2008" period in the 2012 survey, based on the responses of 11 central banks. 2018: based on the responses of 18 central banks.

¹ Central banks which did not provide an answer for a channel category but did fill out at least one other category are assumed as "Rarely".

Source: BIS surveys in 2012 and 2018.

Return to Intro

How to model secret V. Public interventions

- Central bank is fully informed about a1
- FXI: central bank purchases foreign-currency bond f_1^{\star} according to:

$$f_1^{\star} = \kappa_n n_1^{\star} + \kappa_a a_1 + \varepsilon_1^{f^{\star}} \quad \varepsilon_1^{f^{\star}} \sim N(0, \sigma_{\eta_f}^2)$$

• FXI is intermediated by financiers in each island:

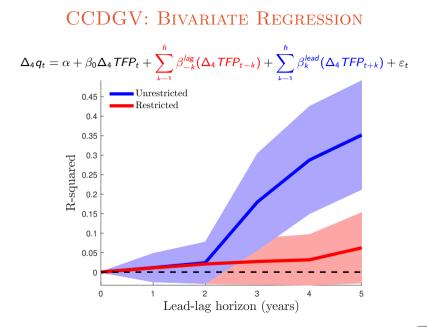
$$f_1^{i^{\star}} = f_1^{\star} + \eta_f^i \quad \eta_f^i \sim N(0, \sigma_{\eta_f}^2)$$

Consider two limit cases

- 1 **Public FXI**: Agents perfectly observe FX intervention $\sigma_{\eta_f}^2 \rightarrow 0$
- 2 Secret FXI: Agents do not observe FX intervention $\sigma_{\eta_f}^2 \to \infty$

Agents always know the central bank's reaction function (κ_a, κ_n)

Central bank's Information



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Model environment

- Two periods: t = [0, 1]
- Real model | Monetary policy in SOE sets $P_t = 1 \,\, orall t$
- Continuum of atomistic islands $i \in [0, 1]$ in SOE
- Households in island i

$$\max_{\substack{C_0^i, B_1^i, K_1^i, C_1^i \\ 0}} \frac{C_0^{i^{1-\sigma}}}{1-\sigma} + \beta \mathbb{E}_0\left(\frac{C_1^{i^{1-\sigma}}}{1-\sigma}\right) \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$C_0^i + K_1^i + \frac{B_1^i}{R_0^i} = P_{N,0}^i Y_N + \mathcal{Q}_0^i Y_{T,0}^{i,H} + T_0^i, \quad C_1^i = B_1^i + P_{N,1}^i Y_N + \mathcal{Q}_1^i Y_{T,1}^{i,H} + T_1^i.$$

• Resource constraint:

$$C_0^i + K_1^i = \left[(1 - \gamma)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} Y_N^{\frac{\theta - 1}{\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\theta}} Y_{T,1}^i \right]^{\frac{\theta - 1}{\theta}}$$

(Lucas 72)

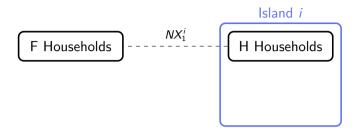
Model environment

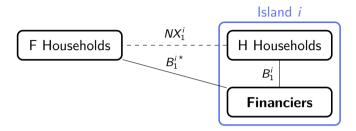
- Firms in island i
 - Non-tradable (Y_N) : exogenous, constant endowment
 - Tradable $(Y_{T,1}^{i,H})$ produced with:

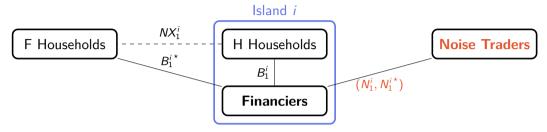
$$Y^{i,H}_{\mathcal{T},1}=A_1K^{i\,lpha}_1 \left[\ln(A_1)\equiv a_1\sim \mathcal{N}(0,eta_a^{-1})
ight]$$

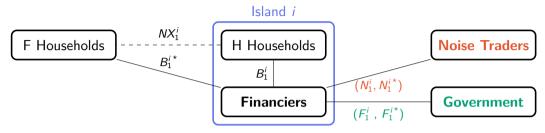
• Island's budget constraint:

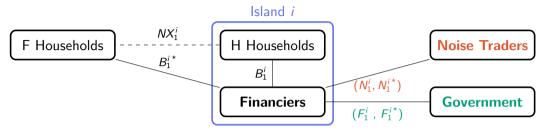
$$rac{B_1^i}{R_0^i} = \mathcal{Q}_0^i(Y_{T,0}^{H,i} - Y_{T,0}^i) + T_0^i$$











• Financiers in island *i* are subject to position limits

Financiers' problem

$$r_{0}^{i} - r_{0}^{\star} - \left(E_{0}^{i}q_{1}^{i} - q_{0}^{i}\right) = \Gamma\left(n_{1}^{i^{\star}} + f_{1}^{i^{\star}} - b_{1}^{i^{\star}}\right) \qquad \int_{i} n_{1}^{i^{\star}} di = n_{1}^{\star} \sim N(0, \beta_{n}^{-1})$$

 \hookrightarrow $\Gamma \to 0$: no frictions; $\Gamma \to \infty$: autarky

• Financiers owned by households in respective island

FX market concentration | Island equilibrium