Foreign Reserves and Capital Controls: Role of Financial Development

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Introduction

- $\bullet\,$ Financial globalization $\rightarrow\,$ Countries are more subject to external shocks.
- Capital controls and foreign reserves as stabilization policy tools.
- Data: wide cross-country variation in these two policies.
- Questions:
 - Why do countries use both capital controls and foreign reserves?
 - What explains the cross-country variation in these two policies?

This Paper

• Empirical facts about cross-country variation:

- Foreign reserve-to-GDP ratio is non-monotonic in financial development: Countries with intermediate development have high reserve-to-GDP ratio.
- Capital control index monotonically decreases in financial development index.
- Small-open-economy model:
 - Size of rollover risk (proxy for financial development)
 - \rightarrow Explains the cross-country pattern of reserves and capital controls.

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Literature

- Capital controls: Bianchi (2011), Benigno et al. (2013), Benigno et al. (2016), Bianchi and Mendoza (2018), Jeanne and Korinek (2020), Ma (2020).
- Foreign reserves: Jeanne and Rancière (2011), Hur and Kondo (2016), Cavallino (2019), Céspedes and Chang (2020), Bianchi and Sosa-Padilla (2020), Bocola and Lorenzoni (2020), Jeanne and Sandri (2020), Shousha (2021), Matsumoto (2022).
- Substitutes: Arce et al. (2019), Davis et al. (2021a), Davis et al. (2021b), Fanelli and Straub (2021).
- Combination: Amador et al. (2017), Lutz and Zessner-Spitzenberg (2022).
- Contribution of our work:
 - > Explain observed cross-country pattern in policy and financial development.

Empirical Facts

Reserve-to-GDP Ratio and Capital Controls

- 85 countries, average over 1980-2019. Similar results for each decade.
- Financial development: IMF Financial Development Index.
- Capital control index: Chinn-Ito Index.



Regressions

	Reserv	e/GDP	Capita	Capital Control Index		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
Financial Development	0.48***	0.43***	-3.83*	** -3.78***		
	(0.12)	(0.12)	(0.52) (0.44)		
Financial Development ²	-0.69***	-0.62***				
	(0.15)	(0.16)				
Pop (log)		-0.00		0.09		
		(0.01)		(0.09)		
GDP per capita (log)		-0.01		-0.57***		
		(0.01)		(0.13)		
Private credit		0.03		0.39		
		(0.02)		(0.40)		
Trade		0.05***		-0.01		
		(0.02)		(0.32)		
Observations	85	85	83	83		

Model

Firm-Households

• Utility function:

$$\mathbb{E}_0\left[\sum_{t=0}^\infty \beta^t \ln(c_t)\right]$$

• Budget constraint:

$$c_t + \frac{b_t}{R_t} + \frac{s_t}{R^s} + z_t = a_t + b_{t-1} + s_{t-1} + q_t a_t^{\ell}$$

- *b_t*: foreign bond (negative *b_t* is borrowing).
- ▶ *s*_t: reserve holdings.
- *z_t*: investment to accumulate productive assets.
- a_t : productive assets and output, $y_t = a_t$. Accumulates through z_t .
- $q_t a_t^{\ell}$: proceeds from asset liquidation (next page).

Liquidity Shock and Asset Liquidation

- At the beginning of each period, liquidity shock may hit the economy.
 - ▶ Need to repay θ fraction of debt b_{t-1} before new borrowing and production.
 - θ : size of roll-over risk. Proxy for the measure of financial development.
- Households repay debt $-\theta b_{t-1}$ by
 - ▶ Reserve holdings *s*_{*t*−1}.
 - Liquidating a_t^{ℓ} units of asset to obtain liquidity $q_t a_t^{\ell}$.

• Liquidation a_t^{ℓ} needs to cover the liquidity shortage $-\theta b_{t-1} - s_{t-1}$:

$$q_t a_t^\ell \ge -\theta b_{t-1} - s_{t-1}$$

- Downward-sloping demand for a_t^{ℓ} from foreign buyers.
- q_t declines in aggregate $a_t^\ell o$ Fire-sale externality.

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Cost and Benefit of Reserve Holdings

• Combining the Euler equations regarding b_t and s_t :

$$\beta(R_t - R^s)\mathbb{E}_t[u'(c_{t+1})] = \beta\mathbb{E}_t[(R^s - R_t\theta)\psi_{t+1}] + \nu_t$$

• LHS: opportunity cost of holding reserves due to the interest gap $R_t > R^s$.

• RHS: reserves have liquidity advantage over debt.

- ψ_{t+1} : benefit of reducing liquidity shortage and asset fire-sale at t+1.
- ▶ If $R^s > R_t \theta$, HHs can lower liquidity shortage $-\theta b_t s_t$ by borrowing debt and accumulating reserves.
- Households choose b_t and s_t to equalize cost and benefit of holding reserves.

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Non-Monotonic Relation between θ and Reserves

$$\beta(R_t - R^s)\mathbb{E}_t[u'(c_{t+1})] = \beta\mathbb{E}_t[(R^s - R_t\theta)\psi_{t+1}] + \nu_t$$

Proposition 1

If $\theta = 0$, households do not hold reserves, $s_t = 0$.

 $\theta = 0$ implies $\psi_{t+1} = 0$ for any states. No liquidity risk.

Proposition 2 If $\theta \ge R^s / R_t$, households do not hold reserves, $s_t = 0$.

No liquidity advantage of reserves.

• Intermediate $\theta \rightarrow$ Both liquidity risk and advantage are relatively high.

 \rightarrow Reserve holdings become large.

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Social Planner's Solution

- Social planner internalizes that q_t is decreasing in a_t^{ℓ} .
- Planner chooses b_t and s_t by internalizing the fire-sale externality.
 - Liquidity shortage $-\theta b_t s_t$ is lower.
 - Fire-sale a_t^{ℓ} is lower, and liquidation price q_t is higher.
- Planner's allocation can be achieved by tax on debt and either of
 - subsidy on reserves, or
 - public reserve holdings with no private reserves.

• $\partial \tau_t^b / \partial \theta > 0$ can be analytically shown in a simplified two-period model.

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Quantitative Analysis

Crisis Dynamics under DE and SP ($\theta = 0.45$)





Optimal Policies across Different θ

- Reserve-to-GDP is non-monotonic and peaks at 33% when $\theta = 0.30$.
- Capital controls monotonically increase in θ .
- Expected welfare gain: 0.4% higher permanent consumption when $\theta = 0.45$.



Conclusion

- Empirical facts on cross-country patterns of reserves and capital controls:
 - ▶ Reserve-to-GDP ratio is non-monotonic in financial development.
 - Capital controls monotonically decrease with financial development.
- Small-open-economy model with liquidity shock:
 - Reserve holdings are determined by two factors:
 Opportunity cost and liquidity advantage of reserves.
 - Fire-sale externality justifies joint use of capital controls and reserve policy.
- Model can explain the cross-country patterns of capital controls and reserves.

Appendix

External Liability and External Debt Liability 🚥

• Positive correlation between financial development and external liability.



Panel Regressions **Dack**

	Reserv	e/GDP	Capital Control Index		External Liability/GDP		External Debt Liability/GDP	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Financial Development	0.78***	0.91***	-0.56***	-0.24**	0.89***	0.50**	0.64***	0.63***
	(0.15)	(0.24)	(0.08)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.21)	(0.10)	(0.22)
Financial Development ²	-0.22***	-0.23***						
	(0.07)	(0.09)						
GDP per capita (log)		-0.16		-0.28		-0.87***		-0.81***
		(0.35)		(0.26)		(0.32)		(0.29)
Trade (% GDP)		0.18		-0.24**		0.24***		0.08
		(0.13)		(0.09)		(0.08)		(0.11)
Institutional Quality		0.20		-0.55**		-0.39*		-0.26
		(0.26)		(0.21)		(0.21)		(0.25)
Peg		-0.06		0.00		-0.02		0.02
		(0.15)		(0.08)		(0.07)		(0.08)
CA (% GDP)		0.07		-0.02		-0.03		0.01
		(0.04)		(0.02)		(0.04)		(0.04)
Constant	0.16**	0.29**	0.04***	-0.04	-0.08***	0.16*	-0.08***	-0.01
	(0.06)	(0.14)	(0.01)	(0.07)	(0.01)	(0.10)	(0.01)	(0.08)
Year FE	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Country FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	3212	1853	3141	1852	3137	1819	3138	1813
Adjusted R ²	0.480	0.681	0.685	0.869	0.533	0.747	0.504	0.697

Ma and Matsumoto

Joint Dynamics of Debt and Reserves **Debt**

Dep. Variables	Capital flows (% GDP)				Reserve flows (% GDP)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Reserve flows	0.57*** (0.19)	0.56** (0.21)					
EMBI spread			-0.30*** (0.09)	-0.20*** (0.07)	-0.05** (0.02)	-0.06** (0.03)	
Population		13.76* (7.01)		46.29** (19.22)		2.10 (4.94)	
GDP per capita		7.33** (3.00)		15.05*** (4.97)		-0.06 (0.93)	
Trade		-0.41 (2.99)		8.75* (4.97)		5.97** (2.42)	
Private credit		4.23 (3.23)		-7.83 (7.92)		-7.76*** (2.68)	
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Observations	1269	961	663	574	664	575	
Adjusted R ²	0.143	0.183	0.202	0.250	0.112	0.150	

Asset Liquidation Price **back**

• Foreign buyers produce tradable goods using a_t^{ℓ} and a_t^* :

$$\pi_t^* = \max_{\substack{a_t^\ell}} (a_t^*)^{\zeta} (a_t^\ell)^{1-\zeta} - q_t a_t^\ell$$

• a_t^* grows at a fixed rate $1 + \bar{g}$.

• FOC determines the asset liquidation price q_t:

$$q_t = (1 - \zeta) \left(rac{a_t^*}{a_t^\ell}
ight)^\zeta$$

► Liquidation price q_t declines as aggregate liquidation a_t^{ℓ} increases. But individual households take q_t as given \rightarrow Fire-sale externality.

Maximization Problem

• Households' maximization problem, taking q_t as given:

$$\begin{split} & V(b_{t-1}, s_{t-1}, z_{t-1}, a_{t-1}; \Theta_t, a_{t-1}^*) \\ &= \max_{c_t, b_t, s_t, z_t, a_t^\ell, a_t} u(c_t) + \beta \mathbb{E}_t V(b_t, s_t, z_t, a_t; \Theta_{t+1}, a_t^*) \\ &- \lambda_t \left[c_t + \frac{b_t}{R_t} + \frac{s_t}{R^s} + z_t - a_t - b_{t-1} - s_{t-1} - q_t a_t^\ell \right] \\ &- \xi_t \left[a_t - a_{t-1} - \eta z_{t-1}^{\gamma} \left[(1 - \kappa) a_{t-1} + \kappa a_{t-1}^* \right]^{1 - \gamma} + a_t^\ell \right] \\ &+ \psi_t \left[q_t a_t^\ell + \theta_t b_{t-1} + s_{t-1} \right] \\ &+ \varphi_t q_t a_t^\ell \\ &+ \nu_t \frac{s_t}{R^s} \end{split}$$

• $\theta_t = \{0, \theta\}$ is a liquidity shock.

• Non-negativity constraints on liquidation a_t^{ℓ} and reserves s_t .

Firsr-Order Conditions by Households **Gene**

$$\begin{split} u'(c_t) &= \beta \frac{R_t}{1 + \psi_b \exp\left(-\frac{b_t}{a_t} - \bar{b}\right) \frac{b_t/a_t}{R_t}} \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1}\theta_{t+1}\right] \\ u'(c_t) &= \beta R^s \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1}\right] + \nu_t \\ u'(c_t) &= \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[\xi_{t+1}\eta\gamma \left(\frac{z_t}{(1 - \kappa)a_t + \kappa a_t^*}\right)^{\gamma - 1}\right] \\ &\quad \xi_t &= u'(c_t) \left[1 + \left(\frac{b_t/a_t}{R_t}\right)^2 \psi_b \exp\left(-\frac{b_t}{a_t} - \bar{b}\right)\right] \\ &\quad + \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[\xi_{t+1} \left\{\phi + \eta(1 - \gamma)(1 - \kappa) \left(\frac{z_t}{(1 - \kappa)a_t + \kappa a_t^*}\right)^{\gamma}\right\}\right] \\ &\quad \psi_t + \varphi_t &= \frac{\xi_t}{q_t} - u'(c_t) \end{split}$$

First-Order Conditions w.r.t. Liquidation a_t^{ℓ}

$$a_t^\ell:\psi_t+\varphi_t=\frac{\xi_t}{q_t}-u'(c_t)$$

• When $a_t^{\ell} > 0$, liquidity constraint binds. $\psi_t > 0$ and $\varphi_t = 0$.

- When $a_t^{\ell} = 0$, non-negativity constraint binds. $\psi_t = 0$ and $\varphi_t > 0$.
- ψ_t : *private* value of one unit of liquidity when the liquidity constraint binds:
 - One unit of liquidity reduces liquidity shortage $-\theta b_{t-1} s_{t-1}$ by one unit.
 - One unit of liquidity reduces liquidation by $1/q_t$ units, whose value is ξ_t/q_t .
 - It also reduces available resource by one unit, whose value is $-u'(c_t)$.

back

First-Order Conditions **Dack**

• First-order conditions:

$$a_t^{\ell}: \psi_t = \frac{\xi_t}{q_t} - u'(c_t)$$

$$b_t: u'(c_t) = \beta R_t \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1} \theta \right]$$

$$s_t: u'(c_t) = \beta R^s \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1} \right] + \nu_t$$

- ψ_t : <u>Private</u> value of liquidity when there is a liquidity shortage and $a_t^{\ell} > 0$. One unit of liquidity $\rightarrow 1/q_t$ -unit reduction in asset liquidation.
- HHs can reduce liquidity shortage $-\theta b_t s_t$.
 - Reducing debt $-b_t \rightarrow$ Reduce liquidity shortage by $R_t \theta$ units at t + 1.
 - Increasing reserve $s_t \rightarrow$ Reduce liquidity shortage by R^s units at t + 1.

Social Planner's Problem **Gale**

$$\begin{split} & V(b_{t-1}, s_{t-1}, z_{t-1}, a_{t-1}; \Theta_t, a_{t-1}^*) \\ &= \max_{c_t, b_t, s_t, z_t, a_t^\ell, a_t} u(c_t) + \beta \mathbb{E}_t V(b_t, s_t, z_t, a_t; \Theta_{t+1}, a_t^*) \\ &- \lambda_t \left[c_t + \frac{b_t}{R_t} + \frac{s_t}{R^s} + z_t - a_t - b_{t-1} - s_{t-1} - q(a_t^\ell; a_t^*) a_t^\ell \right] \\ &- \xi_t \left[a_t - a_{t-1} - \eta(z_{t-1})^\gamma (a_{t-1} + \kappa (a_{t-1}^* - a_{t-1}))^{1-\gamma} + a_t^\ell \right] \\ &+ \psi_t^{SP} \left[q(a_t^\ell; a_t^*) a_t^\ell + \theta_t b_{t-1} + s_{t-1} \right] \\ &+ \varphi_t^{SP} q(a_t^\ell; a_t^*) a_t^\ell \\ &+ \nu_t \frac{s_t}{R^s} \end{split}$$

Social Planner's Solution Gark

- Social planner internalizes that q_t is decreasing in a_t^{ℓ} .
- <u>Social</u> value of liquidity when there is a liquidity shortage:

$$\psi_t^{SP} = \frac{\xi_t}{q_t - \zeta q_t} - u'(c_t)$$

- $(\partial q_t / \partial a_t^\ell) a_t^\ell = -\zeta q_t < 0$ is the fire-sale externality.
- ▶ $\psi_{t+1}^{SP} > \psi_{t+1}$ implies households overborrow and hold too little reserves.
- Planner's allocation can be achieved by tax on debt and either of
 - subsidy on reserves, or
 - public reserve holdings with no private reserves.

Social Planner's Euler Equations

• Planner's Euler equations:

$$u'(c_t) = \beta R_t \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1}^{SP} \theta_{t+1} \right]$$
$$u'(c_t) = \beta R^s \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1}^{SP} \right] + \nu_t$$

- $\psi_{t+1}^{SP} > \psi_{t+1}$ implies households overborrow and hold too little reserves.
- Planner's allocation can be achieved by tax on debt and either of:
 - subsidy on reserves, or
 - public reserve holdings with no private reserves.
- Propositions 1, 2, 3 hold under the planner's solution.
- $\partial \tau_t^b / \partial \theta > 0$ can be analytically shown in a simplified two-period model.



• Tax on debt:

$$u'(c_t) = \beta(1+\tau_t^b) R_t \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1} \theta_{t+1} \right]$$

with

$$1 + \tau_t^b = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1}^{SP} \theta_{t+1} \right]}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1} \theta_{t+1} \right]}$$

• $\partial \tau_t^b / \partial \theta > 0$ can be shown in a simplified two-period model.

- As θ becomes higher, the size of liquidation a_t^{ℓ} becomes larger and q_t lowers.
- Lower q_t increases the value of liquidity ψ_t and ψ_t^{SP} .
- Internalizing effect of a_t^ℓ on q_t , ψ_t^{SP} increases proportionally more than ψ_t .

Externally Determined Parameter Values 📖

• One period is one year. Utility function is $u(c_t) = \ln(c_t)$.

	Parameter	Value	Source
β	Discount factor	0.91	Bianchi (2011)
R^{b}	Gross interest rate on debt	1.06	Standard
Rs	Gross interest rate on reserves	1	Standard
γ	Investment curvature	0.8	Comin and Gertler (2006)
Ē	Foreign growth rate	0.0261	Data
ε^R	Interest rate shock	0.0196	Mendoza (2010)

• Three-state Markov process for shocks:

•
$$(\varepsilon_t^R, \theta_t) = \{(\varepsilon^R, \mathbf{0}), (-\varepsilon^R, \mathbf{0}), (\varepsilon^R, \theta)\}$$

- ▶ In normal times, ε_t^R stays/changes with 54%/36%, and liquidity shock 10%.
- ▶ In liquidity crisis, $(\varepsilon^R, 0)$ with 90%, and (ε^R, θ) with 10%.

Calibrated Parameter Values 🛛 📾

Parameter		Value	Target	Model	
η	Investment efficiency	0.1085	Mean CA-to-GDP	-0.017	-0.017
κ	Productivity spillover	0.25	Fire-sale price/normal price	0.37	0.36
ζ	Share of foreign assets	0.46	Elasticity of fire-sale price	1.74	1.87
ψ_{b}	Debt-elasticity of spread	0.01	S.D. of CA-to-GDP	0.063	0.064
Б	Baseline debt-to-GDP	0.8	Mean debt-to-GDP	0.53	0.53
θ	Size of liquidity shock	0.45	Mean reserve-to-GDP	0.17	0.17

- Fire-sale price and elasticity are based on Aguiar and Gopinath (2005).
- Other moments are average of 47 emerging economies in 1987-2019.
- Baseline parameter is $\theta = 0.45$. Later study how the value of θ affects policy.

Crisis Dynamics in Decentralized Economy



Crisis Dynamics in Decentralized Economy

- Percentage deviations from pre-crisis 10-period log-linear trend.
- Persistent impacts are consistent with the empirical regularities of crises.



Business Cycle Correlations of Debt and Reserves

- Positive correlation between debt and reserve flows.
- \bullet Low interest rate \rightarrow High debt and low opportunity cost \rightarrow High reserves.



Welfare Gains across Different θ

- Expected welfare gain is the largest at 0.4% when $\theta = 0.45$.
- Excessive risk taking in decentralized economy peaks when $\theta = 0.45$.



Model with Endogenous Maturity Choice

- Endogenize θ as a choice of maturity composition:
 - θ_t : Share of short-term debt that is subject to liquidity shock.
- New assumption on the interest rate:
 - Short-term interest rate R_t is the same as the baseline model.
 - Long-term interest rate R_t^L is increasing in the share of long-term debt:

$$R_t^L = R_t + \Gamma (1 - \theta_t)^2$$

- Low (high) Γ is high (low) financial development:
 - Broner et al. (2013) show that emerging economies pay higher risk premium on long-term bonds than on short-term bonds.
 - Empirical evidence on cross-country correlations across financial development, maturity, and interest rate. Qian and Strahan (2007), Bae and Goyal (2009).

Model Modifications and First-Order Conditions

• Households' budget constraint is now:

$$c_{t} + \frac{\theta_{t}b_{t}}{R_{t}} + \frac{(1 - \theta_{t})b_{t}}{R_{t}^{L}} + \frac{s_{t}}{R^{s}} + z_{t} = a_{t} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-1} + q_{t}a_{t}^{\ell}$$

• First-order conditions regarding b_t and θ_t :

$$b_t: \ u_c(t) \left[\frac{\theta_t}{R_t} + \frac{1 - \theta_t}{R_t^L} \right] = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[u_c(t+1) + \psi_{t+1} \theta_t \right]$$

$$\theta_t: \ u_c(t) \left[\frac{1}{R_t} - \frac{1}{R_t^L} - (1 - \theta_t) \frac{1}{(R_t^L)^2} \frac{\partial R_t^L}{\partial \theta_t} \right] = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[\psi_{t+1} \right]$$

- LHS: Increasing θ_t lowers the average interest rate and R_t^L .
- RHS: Increasing θ_t increases the liquidity risk next period.
- Socially too high debt b_t and short-term debt share θ_t because $\psi_{t+1} < \psi_{t+1}^{SP}$.

Choosing b_t^S and b_t^L Separately

• Alternatively, households choose b_t^S and b_t^L separately:

$$c_t + \frac{b_t^S}{R_t} + \frac{b_t^L}{R_t^L} + \frac{s_t}{R^s} + z_t = a_t + b_{t-1} + s_{t-1} + q_t a_t^\ell$$

• First-order conditions regarding b_t^S and b_t^L :

$$b_t^{S}: u'(c_t) \left[\frac{1}{R_t} - \frac{b_t^L}{(R_t^L)^2} \frac{\partial R_t^L}{\partial b_t^S} \right] = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) + \psi_{t+1} \right]$$
$$b_t^L: u'(c_t) \left[\frac{1}{R_t^L} - \frac{b_t^L}{(R_t^L)^2} \frac{\partial R_t^L}{\partial b_t^L} \right] = \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[u'(c_{t+1}) \right]$$

- Households overborrow short-term debt b_t^S , but no distortion regarding b_t^L .
- If tax on short-term debt is available, policy to correct θ_t is not necessary.

Optimal Policies across Different Γ

- Low Γ (better financial development) is associated with low θ .
- Reserves are non-monotonic in financial development $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}.$
- Capital controls on the entire debt monotonically increase in Γ .



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