

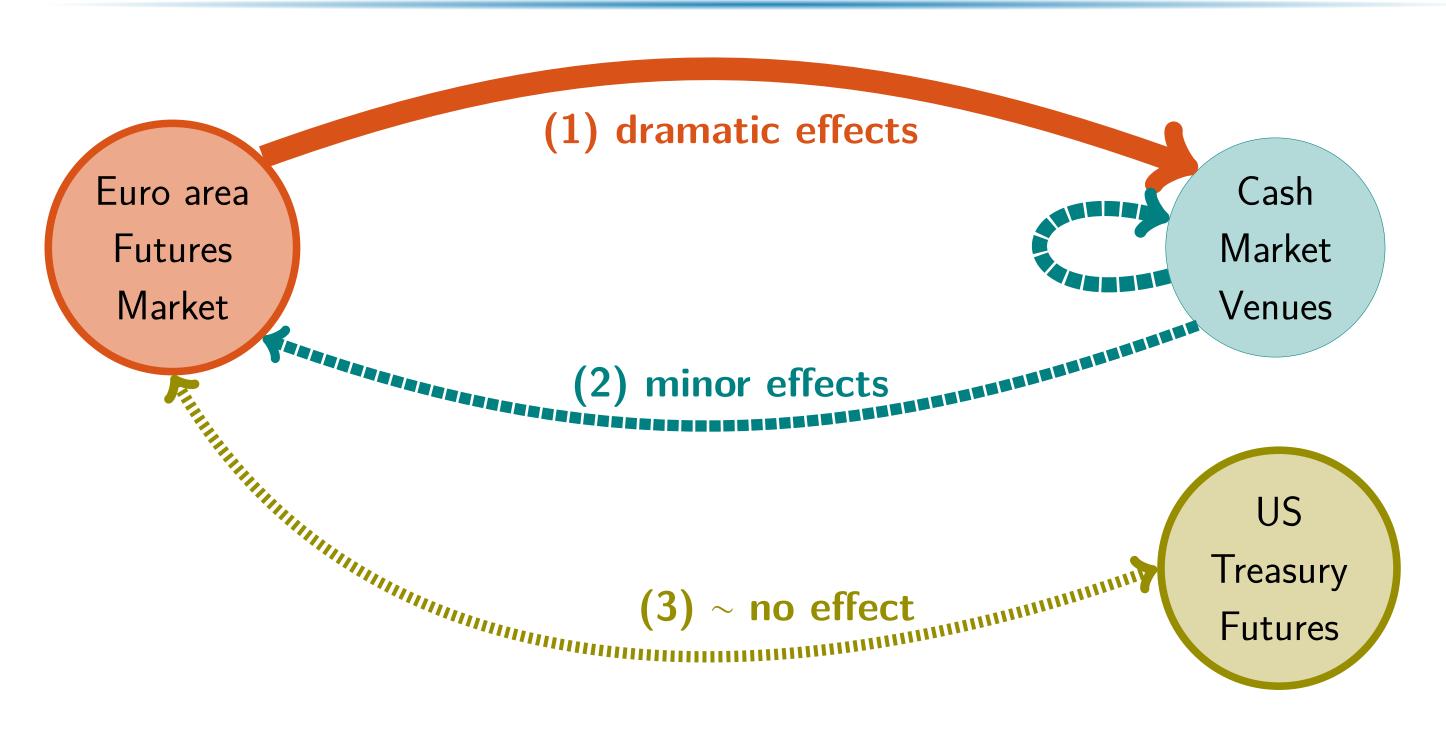
# Outages in Sovereign Bond Markets

Mark Kerssenfischer<sup>1,2</sup>, Caspar Helmus<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>European Central Bank <sup>2</sup>Deutsche Bundesbank



# Macro-level effect of outages

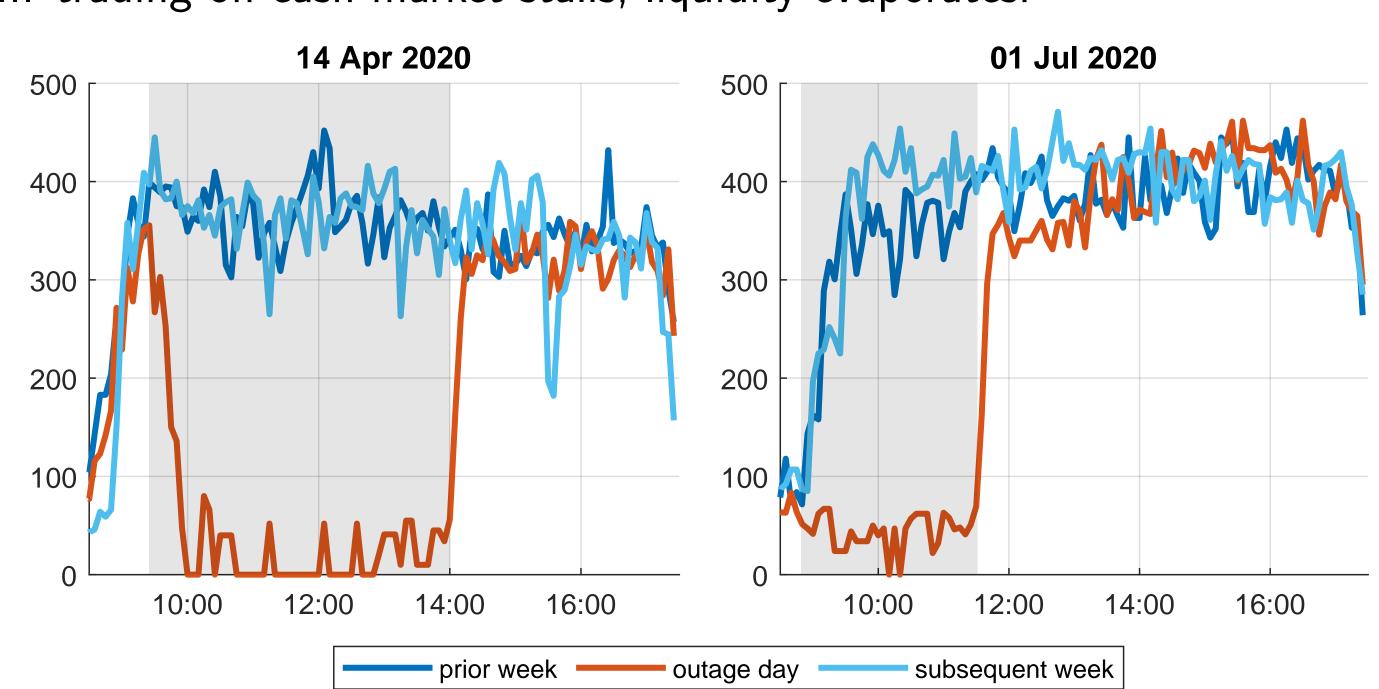


based on 14 Eurex outages between 2009-2020

MTS outage in 2010/2019, Bloomberg 2015, FWB 2015, Brokertec 2019 6 CBOT outages in 2006-2007 and CME outage 2019

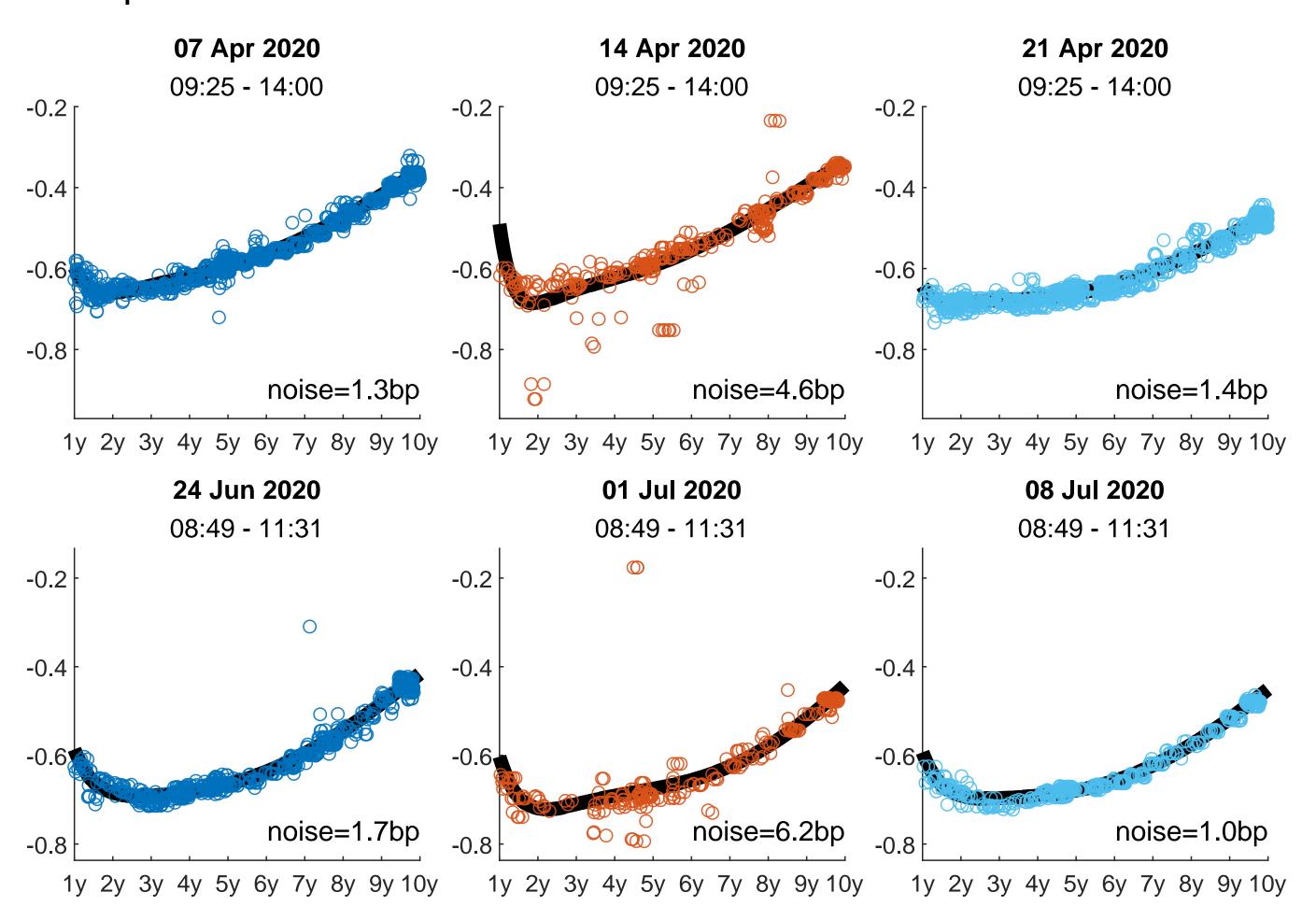
# (1) when the futures market goes down ...

... trading on cash market stalls, liquidity evaporates:



Order book depth in million € on MTS in German, French, Italian and Spanish CTD bonds.

#### and prices deviate from fundamentals:



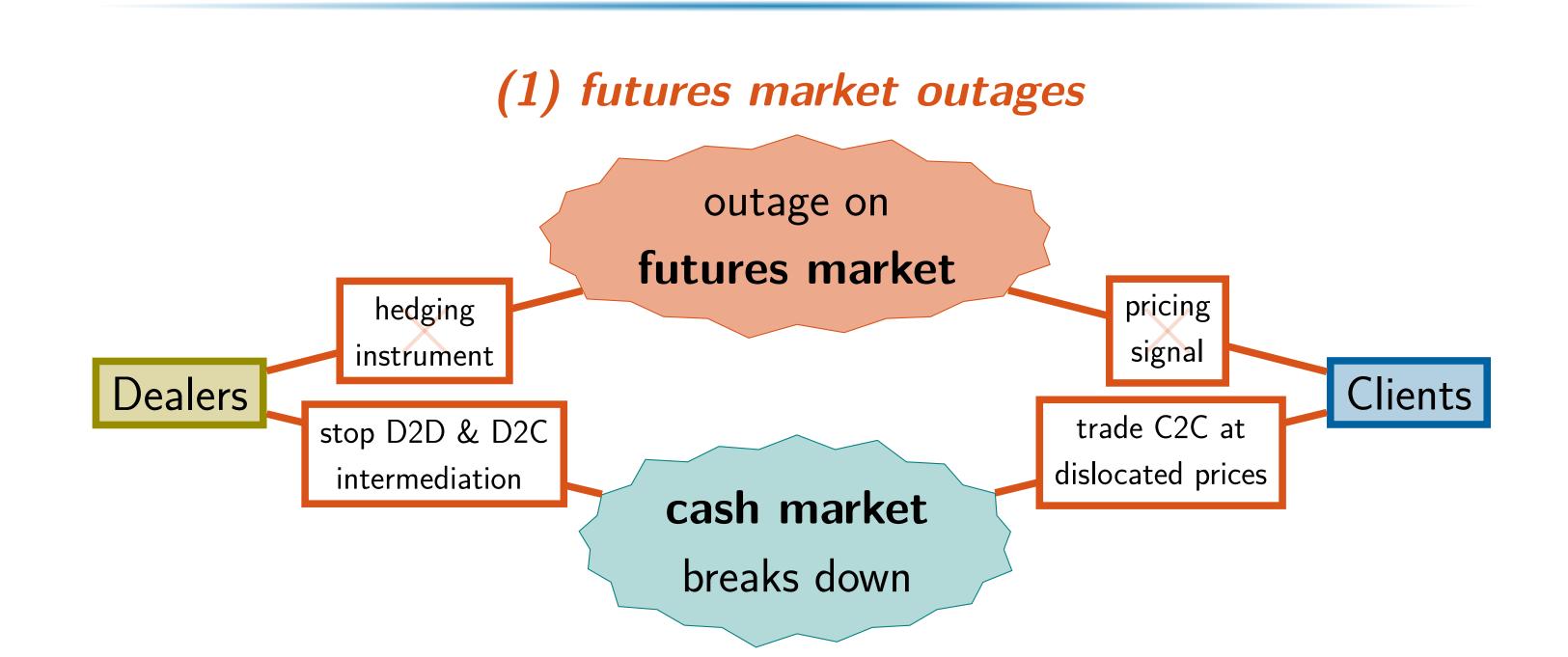
Actual transaction yields of 1y-10y German bonds vs fitted yield curve. Noise refers to the root mean squared pricing error, see Hu et al. (2013).

## (2) when individual cash venues go down

- aggregate cash market trading volume → imperfect substitution between venues
- futures market trading volume \( \psi \) slightly
- but market functioning barely affected (volatility, Amihud, Roll)

## (3) no spillovers of US/EA futures market outages

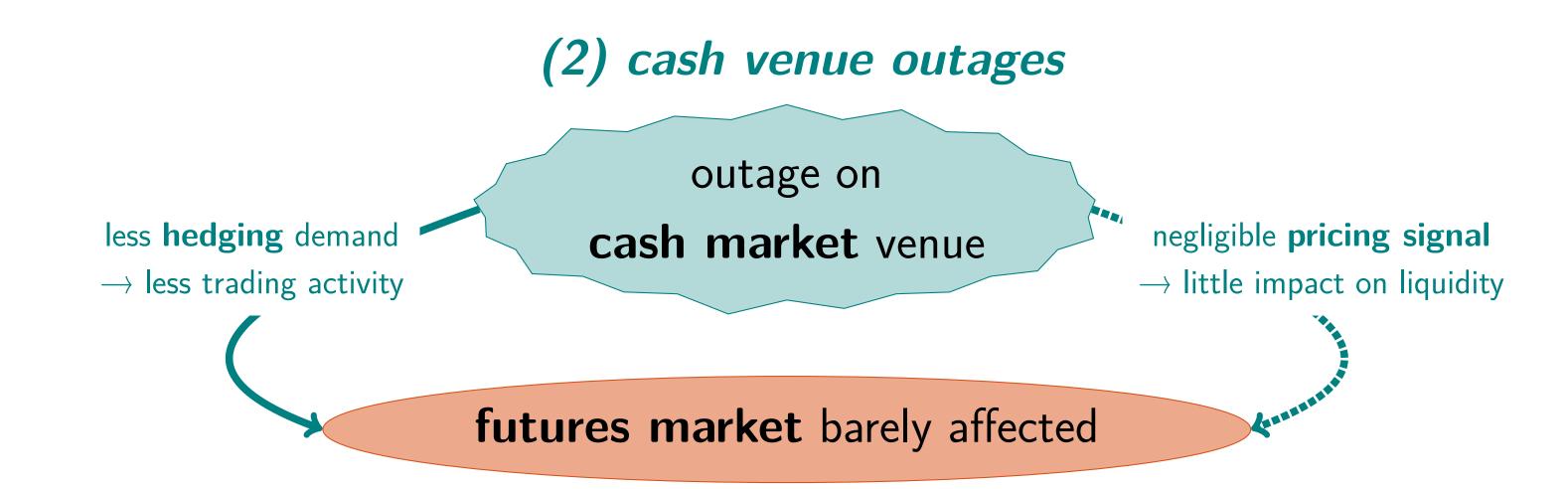
## Micro-level mechanisms



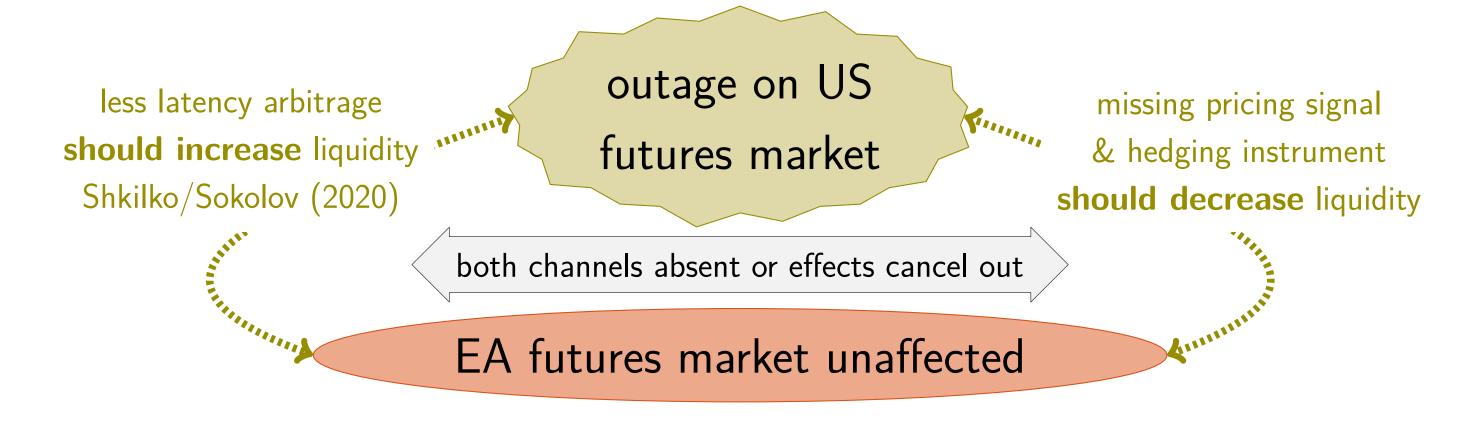
- trading \( \primes \) most for D2D and least for C2C segment
- mispricing ↑ most for C2C and least for D2D trades HHs > Investment Funds > Banks non-dealer banks > dealer banks only HHs consistently incur losses, other mispricings "net out" at investor-category-level

#### Dealer vs. Client dichotomy also explains

- why mispricing \( \) for small trades in short-term, non-CTD bonds
- $\bullet$  why mispricing  $\uparrow$  for bilateral OTC trades, on electronic platforms and regular exchanges, than on single dealer platforms or via D2D brokers
- trading volumes and liquidity drop *more* but pricing errors increase less for long-term bonds



# (3) US/EA futures market outages



# **Summary and Conclusions**

# outages as natural experiments

unanticipated and exogenous shocks, rare glimpse into market functioning

## bond futures are vital for cash market

as hedging instrument (dealers) and pricing signal (clients)

#### asymmetric outage effects

price discovery and liquidity provision a one-way street (futures  $\rightarrow$  cash)

#### no liquidity spillovers between US ↔ euro area

in contrast to strong price spillovers documented in the literature