

# Determinant Factors of 10-year Local Currency Sovereign Bonds Yield: Indonesia Case

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## 1. Introduction

Indonesian government regularly issue Rupiah-denominated sovereign bonds (conventional and sharia bonds) in primary market to finance deficit of national budget. In 2021, issuance target for the sovereign bonds is around 80-85% of total deficit financing which amount to IDR1,006 Trillions or equivalent to USD72 Billions.<sup>1</sup> As per 2 September 2021, total outstanding of local currency sovereign bonds is IDR4,539 Trillions or equivalent to USD318 Billions.<sup>2</sup>

The government sells the sovereign bonds through auction which conducted every Tuesday. Announcement will be released three days before the auction day (T-3). During 2-hour auction, investors (both individuals and institutions) can put their bidding in multiple prices through primary dealers and auction winners will pay their bonds based on their proposed volumes and yields. In addition to the multiple price (competitive) mechanism, the government also offer sovereign bonds to several non-competitive participants such as Indonesia Central Bank (Bank Indonesia) and Indonesia Deposit Insurance Corporation (Lembaga Penjamin Simpanan). This non-competitive buying may also be conducted by primary dealers to complement their competitive bidding purchase. Non-competitive buyers will pay their bonds based on weighted average yield (WAY) from the winning competitive bidding.

There are several benchmark series offered in the auction. These series represent various maturity time. For conventional bonds, tenors of benchmark series in 2021 are ranging from 5, 10, 15 and 20 year. Meanwhile, benchmark tenors of sharia bonds cover 2, 4, 13 and 25 year.

Since 2021, yield of 10-year sovereign bonds become one of macroeconomic assumptions in national budget, replacing treasury bills of tenor 3-month (Surat Perbendaharaan Negara). This replacement is because the yield of 10-year sovereign bonds deemed as having larger and more significant portion in nation's cost of borrowing compared to the T-bills. Moreover, 10-year yield is also reflecting longterm economy condition and its movement is commonly used as a sign in predicting economic health of one country. The yield is also used by corporations as a reference when issuing their local currency bonds or lending money.

During period of 2014-2018, Indonesia is said to have higher average of 10-year sovereign bonds yield compared to its ASEAN-5 peers (Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam) as well as several other emerging countries with similar credit rating like Mexico, Columbia and India (Muktiyanto and Aulia 2019). This condition make Indonesia pays more expensive debt compared to these countries. As corporates use the yield as their benchmark rate, the impact of costly debt is also spilled over in the national economy.

Considering important functions of the 10-year sovereign bonds yield in Indonesia's economy, this paper will study several variables that are assumed to have relationship and impact on the yield. The result of this work will be providing insights and policy recommendations for government in reducing sovereign bonds yield, particularly by aiming at significant determinant factors, which in turn help to optimize national's cost of borrowing.

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<sup>1</sup>USD/IDR conversion rate = 14,284

<sup>2</sup>ibid

## 2. Literature Review

Numerous researches have been conducted using various methodologies and scopes of study to find factors that affecting sovereign bonds yield. Dachroui et al (Dachraoui, Smida, and Sebri 2020) analyze role of capital flight as a driver of sovereign bond spreads in Latin American countries, Saenong et al (Saenong et al. 2020) study symmetric and asymmetric effect of crude oil prices and exchange rate on bond yields in Indonesia.

Izadi et al (Izadi and Hassan 2018) focus on local fundamental, global factors, volatility as determinant factors of yield spreads using empirical data of 24 developed countries in North America, Europe and Pacific Rim regions in period of January, 2010 until March, 2015. Their finding include significant and positively correlation between equity market volatility (VIX) and yield spreads in all observed regions. Their study also show strong relationship between fixed income and stock markets particularly in developed countries.

Gadanecz et al (Gadanecz, Miyajima, and Shu 2018) use exchange rate volatility and expected exchange rate as predictor variables of emerging market economies local currency sovereign bond yields. They conclude that exchange rate volatility is a key determinant. Moreover, they also found that foreign ownership in local currency sovereign bonds market plays important role as stabilizing force of exchange rate volatility.

Based on these literature review, this paper will analyze relationship and impact of 10-year US Treasury (UST) yield, 5-year Credit Default Swap (CDS), share of foreign ownership, central bank's policy rate (Bank Indonesia 7-day repo rate), USD/IDR exchange rate (Jakarta Interbank Spot Dollar Rate/JISDOR), volatility risk (VIX) and primary dealers behavior (dummy variables of auction/non-auction days) in determining 10-year sovereign bonds yield. Dataset are from period of 2015 and 2021.

## 3. Motivation

This paper provides two new values to existing literature related to the topic. First, it will use exploratory data analysis in the beginning of analysis to gain better understanding of each predictor variable. This preliminary step is quite important because particular data characteristic, i.e. non-linearity, will need different handling method before proceeding to confirmatory step/modeling. Second, this is the first work which empirically study the impact of primary dealers behavior on 10-year Sovereign bonds yield in Indonesia.

## 4. Description of Predictor Variables

### 1). External Factors

#### A. 10-year US Treasury

#### B. Foreign Ownership

### 2). Default Risk

### 3). Financial Market Indicator (Volatility Index)

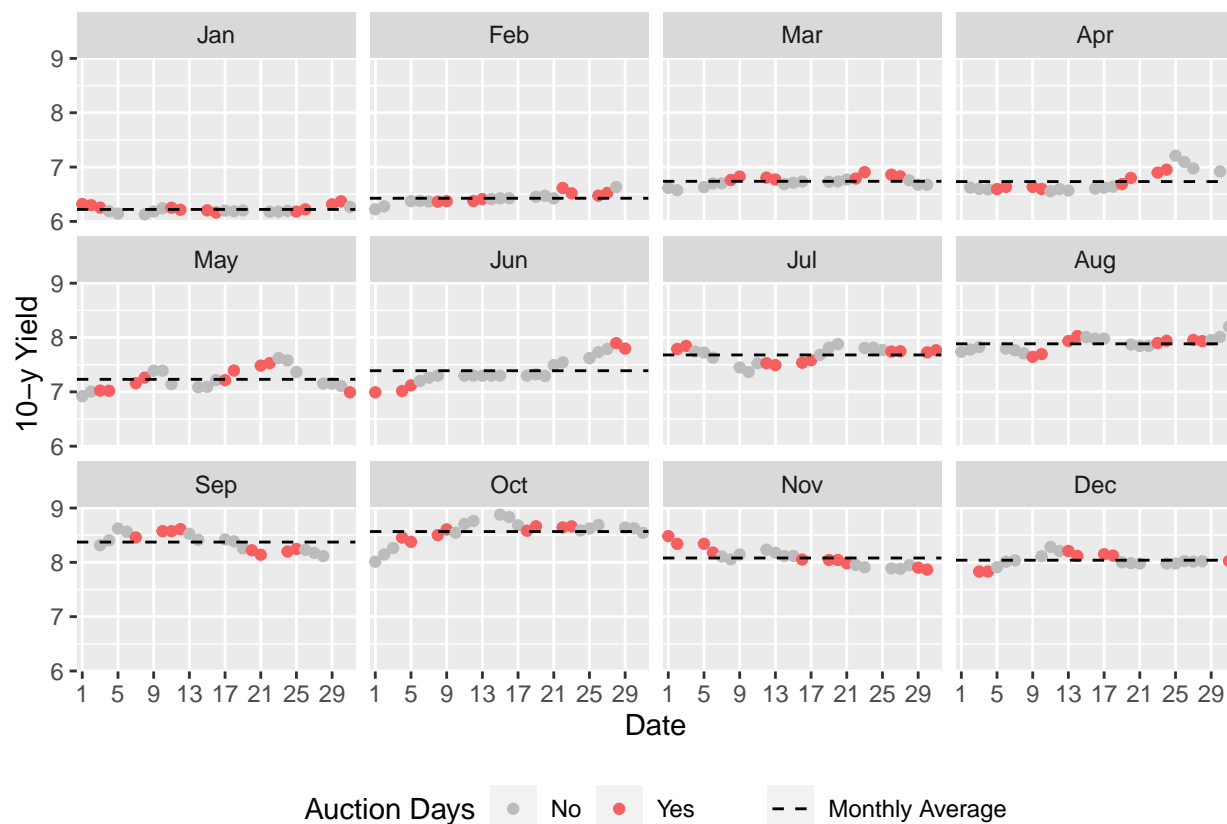
### 4). Macroeconomic Indicator (Exchange Rate USD/IDR)

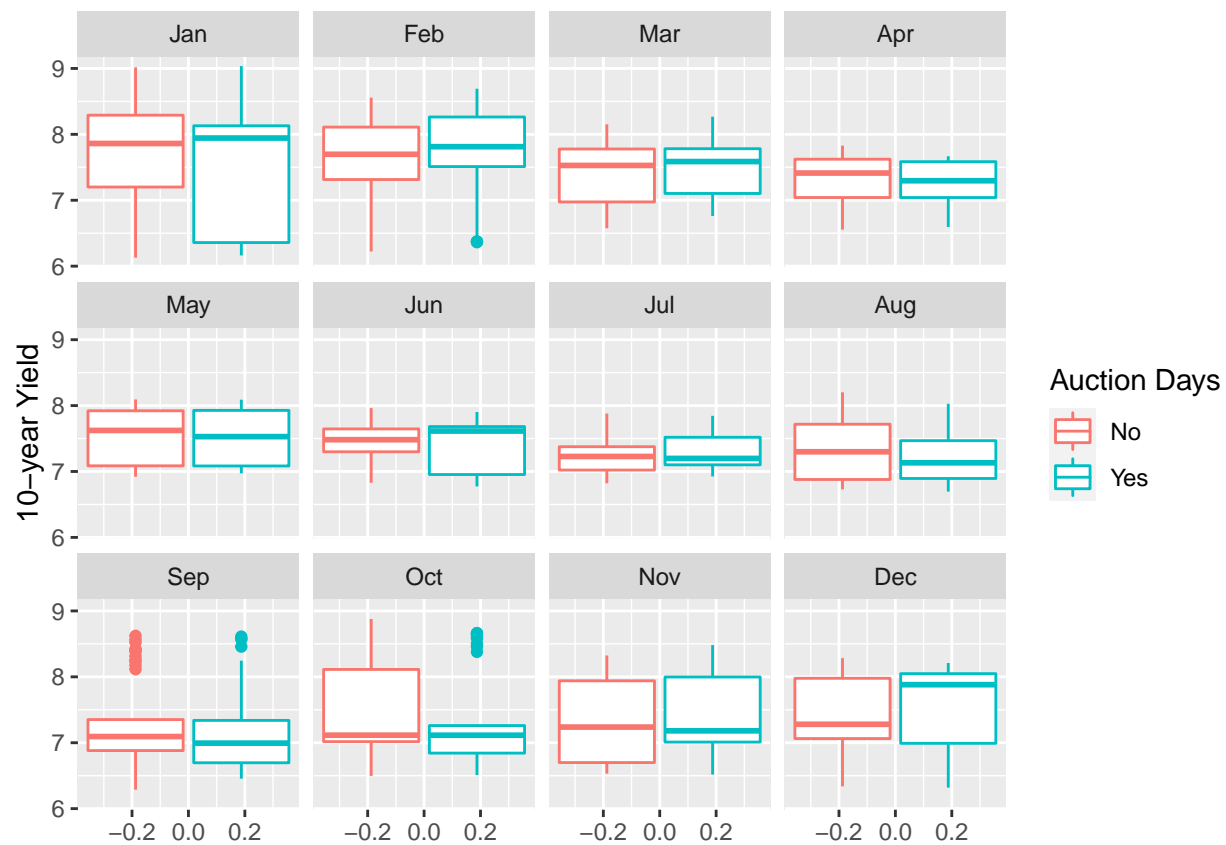
### 5). System Risk (Primary Dealers Behavior)

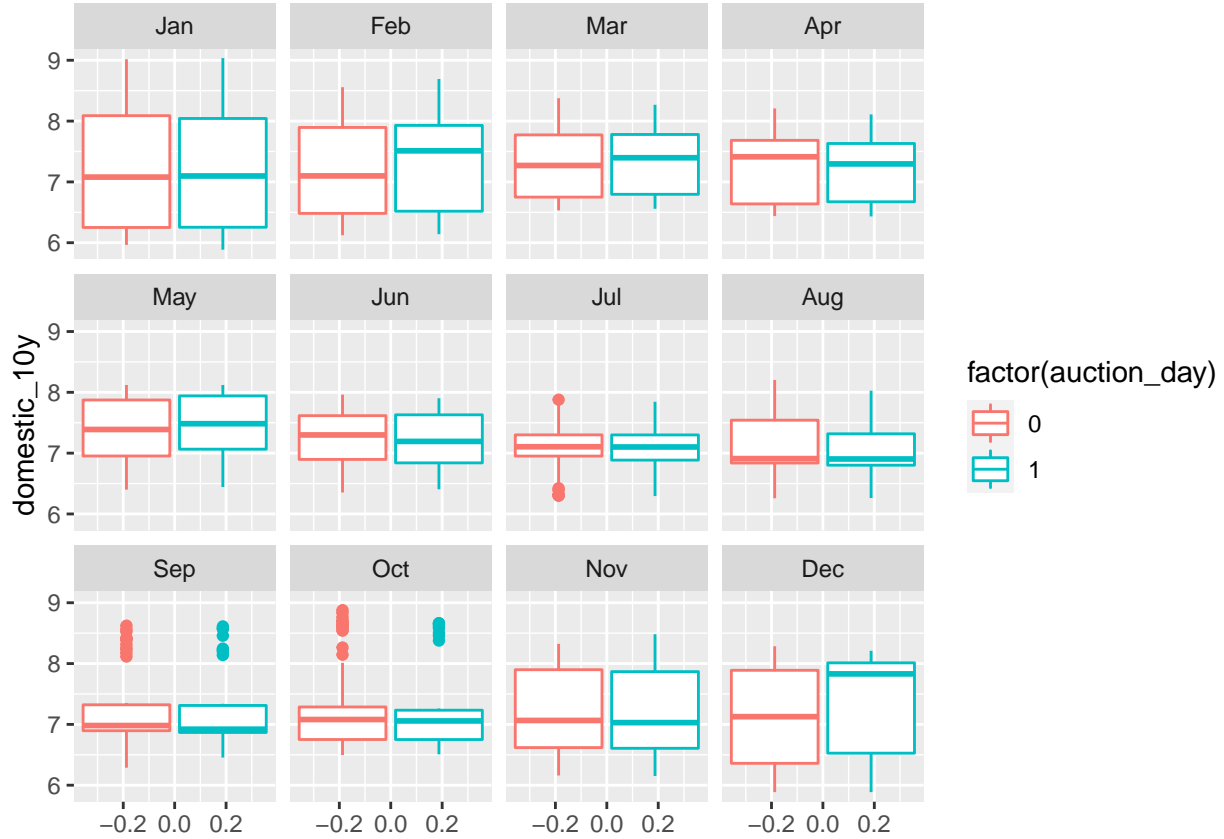
In 2021, there are 20 primary dealers of conventional bonds comprise of 16 conventional banks and 4 securities companies. For sharia bonds, there are also 20 primary dealers consist of 13 conventional banks, 3 Islamic banks and 4 securities companies. Primary dealers are required to participate in every auction and to bid for a

minimum quantity of the total offering amount. They can bid both on behalf of their customers and for their own accounts. This primary dealers system is important for several reasons. First, primary dealers act as intermediary between debt managers and investors in primary market. Second, they play role as bookmakers and distributors by canvassing investor's interest and distributing bonds from auction announcement until the day of auction or commonly known as when-issued market (Arnone and Iden 2003). In addition, primary dealers also has vital function in bridging liquidity between primary and secondary market, providing asset transformation and market making services, promoting continuous market and efficient price discovery (2003). Last but not least, Arnone and Iden (2003) also mention that contribution of primary dealers include giving skillful advisory support related to instruments and market development.

As primary dealers can participate in competitive bidding in primary market as well as trading in secondary market, they have direct contribution on forming yield of sovereign bonds.







## 5. Research Methodology and Data

In selecting determinant factors of 10-year sovereign bonds, we are influenced by several variables used in study conducted by .....

Regarding these studies and the result of exploratory data analysis conducted in previous section, we can write down relationship between variables as follow:

$$yield\_10y = \alpha + \beta_1 ust\_10y + \beta_2 cds\_5y + \beta_3 foreign\_pct + \beta_4 policy\_rate + \beta_5 exchange\_rate + \beta_6 vix^2 + \beta_7 auction\_days + \epsilon$$

For the purpose of this study, we will use data of 10-year US Treasury (UST) yield, 5-year Credit Default Swap (CDS), share of foreign ownership (%), central bank's policy rate (Bank Indonesia 7-day repo rate), USD/IDR exchange rate (Jakarta Interbank Spot Dollar Rate/JISDOR), volatility risk (VIX) and primary dealers behavior (dummy variables of auction/non-auction days). As response variable, we will use 10-year sovereign bonds yield.

Dataset are from period of 2015 and 2021.

## 6. Analysis

## 7. Conclusion

c. Data sources + available links Definition and descriptive statistics of variables. Stationarity test

- d. Scope and Limitation Cant see average bid from each group (i.e. conventional banks, foreign, insurance/pension, others)

In particular, the results suggest that improved macroeconomic fundamentals, such as higher net foreign assets (in terms of GDP or imports), lower fiscal deficits, and lower ratios of debt service to exports and debt to GDP, help to lower sovereign spreads (**arora?**)

- a. UST vs Yield While the dramatic rise in capital flows to emerging markets has been induced primarily by the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies and wide structural reforms in these countries, it has also been driven by changing conditions in industrial countries that have encouraged investors to diversify their portfolios into developing country assets. Interest rate spreads (the differences between yields on sovereign bonds of developing countries and U.S. treasury securities of comparable maturities), which are a proxy for country risk, have tended to move in the same direction as the changes in U.S. interest rates (**arora?**)
- b. CDS vs Yield A credit default swap (CDS) is a derivative contract that allows the investor to hedge against the default of a borrower. This provides a market-based measure of the credit-risk premium. CDS spreads indicate that the credit risk that investors perceive is significant. (**codogno?**)

Sovereign CDS spreads are used as an indicator of foreign currency sovereign creditworthiness.<sup>12</sup> Lower sovereign CDS spreads are expected to lower local currency sovereign bond yields (**gadanecz?**)

- c. Foreign Ownership vs Yield
- d. Bank Indo Rate vs Yield
- e. Exchange rate (JISDOR) vs Yield Investors are exposed to gains and losses from exchange rate movements on their holdings of local currency sovereign bond. exchange rate risk can represent an important channel of transmission of market sentiment, uncertainty and default risk to local currency bond yield Exchange rate risk tends to affect liquidity conditions in both foreign exchange and domestic bond markets, which tend to be relatively low in many EMEs even in tranquil times. The direction of the causality runs from exchange rate volatility to local currency sovereign bond yields. This is especially the case in Asia and eastern Europe. In these two regions, local currency sovereign bond markets are relatively liquid and foreign participation relatively large.

The sensitivity of EME local currency sovereign bond yields to exchange rate volatility increases after the global financial crisis, and further after the taper tantrum in mid-2013 (**gadanecz?**)

- f. Volatility index (VIX) vs Yield It is a measure of market expectations of near-term volatility conveyed by S&P500 stock index option prices and considered as a forward-looking measure of investor risk. Hartelius et al. (2008) highlights the strong dependence of emerging market returns to the VIX, which should be positively related to changes in emerging market spreads since more risk aversion increases spreads. An attractive feature of this index is that it can be considered as exogenous for emerging economies (Siklos, 2011). (**hajer?**)

This result could be explained by the fact that as investors become more risk-averse and seek safer assets, the expected growth in volatility encourages them to liquidate their positions in risky assets in favor of safer ones, thus increasing sovereign spreads. (**hajer?**)

Intended to capture changes in investor sentiment which may be related to expected changes in U.S. monetary policy. It may also pick up the effects of other market-related events, such as the flight to quality effects during the Asian crisis. (**arora?**)

As historical data demonstrates a strong negative correlation of volatility to the stock market returns – that is, when stock returns go down, volatility rises and vice versa.(investopedia)

#### g. Auction day vs yield

One important feature of the Treasury security market is that, immediately following the auction announcement, market participants enter into bilateral contracts for the sale and purchase of the new security before it is auctioned. In this pre-sale market, known as the when-issued market, primary dealers are the major players. As mentioned by Nyborg and Strebulaev (2004), many primary dealers are often short in the when-issued market and are also the main participants in the auction. Furthermore, in a recent empirical study on Treasury securities, Mercer et al. (2013) conclude that traders in the when-issued market “discover” the ultimate auction price. We therefore believe that primary dealers’ positions created in the when-issued market have an important impact on their strategic behavior in the auctions. Primary dealers’ strategic behavior in the Treasury auctions can significantly increase the cost of government debt financing (**tchuindjo?**)

Greenshoe mechanism affect the decreased yield?

- h. inflation vs yield It is an indicator of macroeconomic stability and shows how a country manages its monetary policy. Higher inflation reduces the government’s ability to repay its obligations with its domestic funds. A positive effect of the inflation rate on the sovereign yield spreads is therefore expected. (**hajer?**)

### 3. Key Findings

factors that steadily affect the yield? (foreign and insurance/pension fund are steadily associated with yield movement. Foreign has strongly negative correlation until 2019, while insurance/pension has strongly positive correlation)

pandemic effect? i.e. holding spending for investing in safe instrument? (need to check ownership of domestic banks, mutual funds, insurance, individual investors)

shifting power (bonds ownership) foreign to domestic participant (Do central bank/domestic banks become more dominant)? (Quantitative easing of Bank Indonesia and mandatory purchase of domestic banks can push down the yield)

supplementary auction (greenshoe) can reduce yield in 2020-2021?

Summary

Bibliography

#Timeline

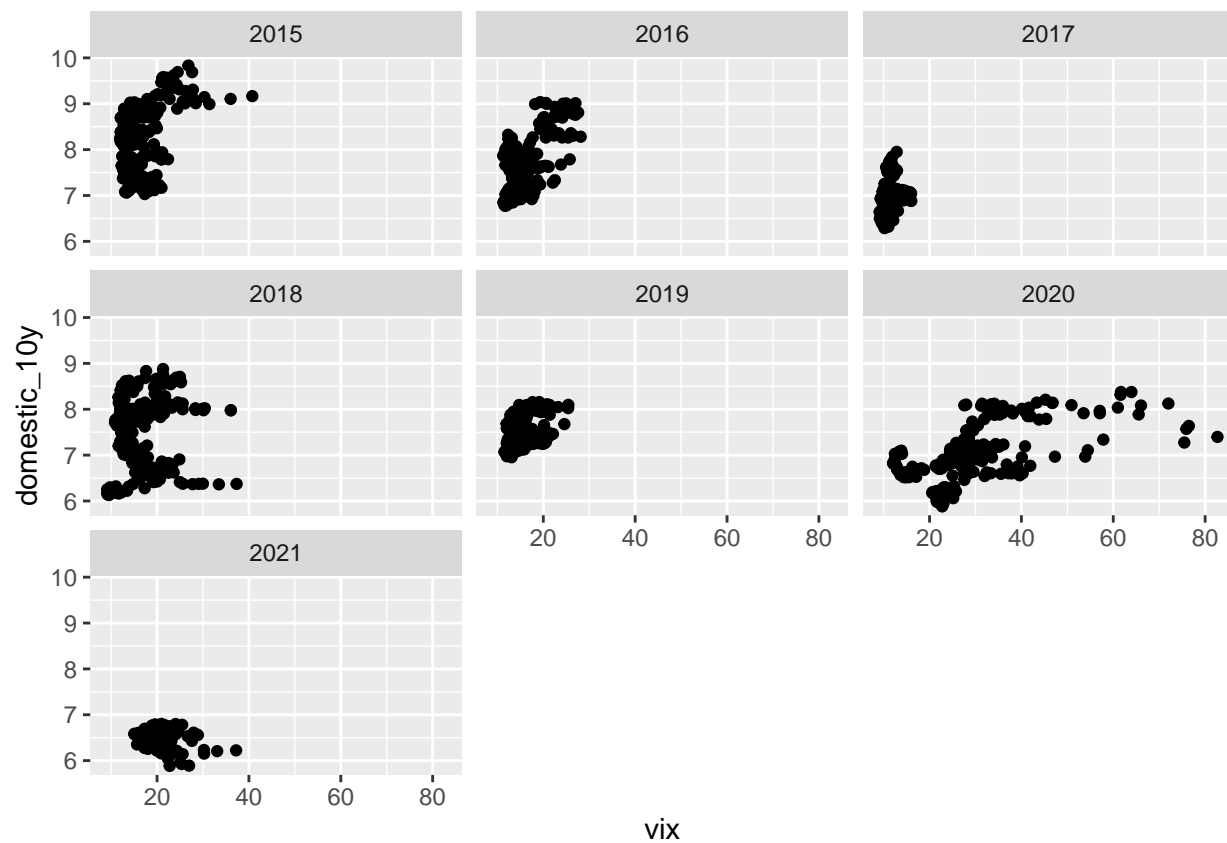
Chapter 1 + Data collection/conversion from excel tables 31 Aug 2021,

Chapter 2 1 Sep - 25 Oct 2021,

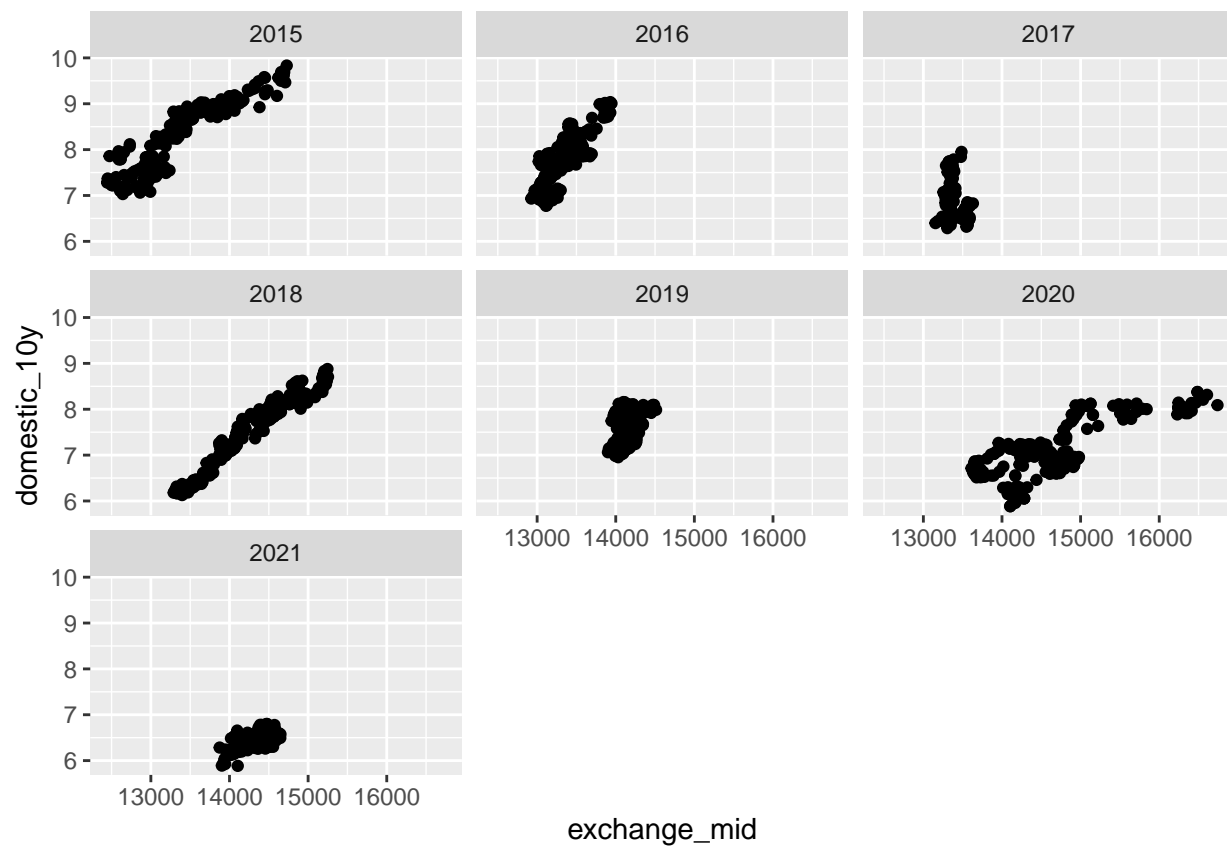
Chapter 3 26 Oct - 12 Nov 2021,

Summary, Bibliography, cleaning Code, creating slides 13 - 19 Nov 2021

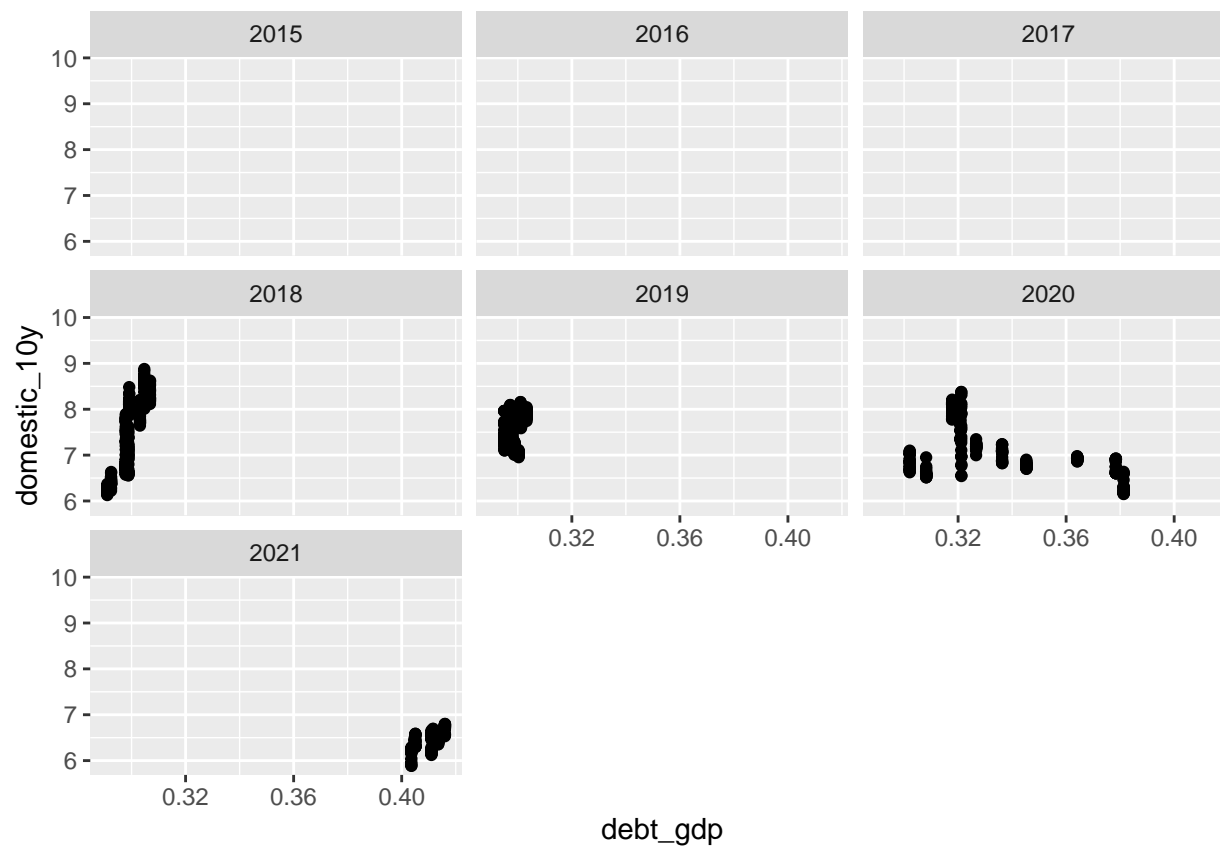
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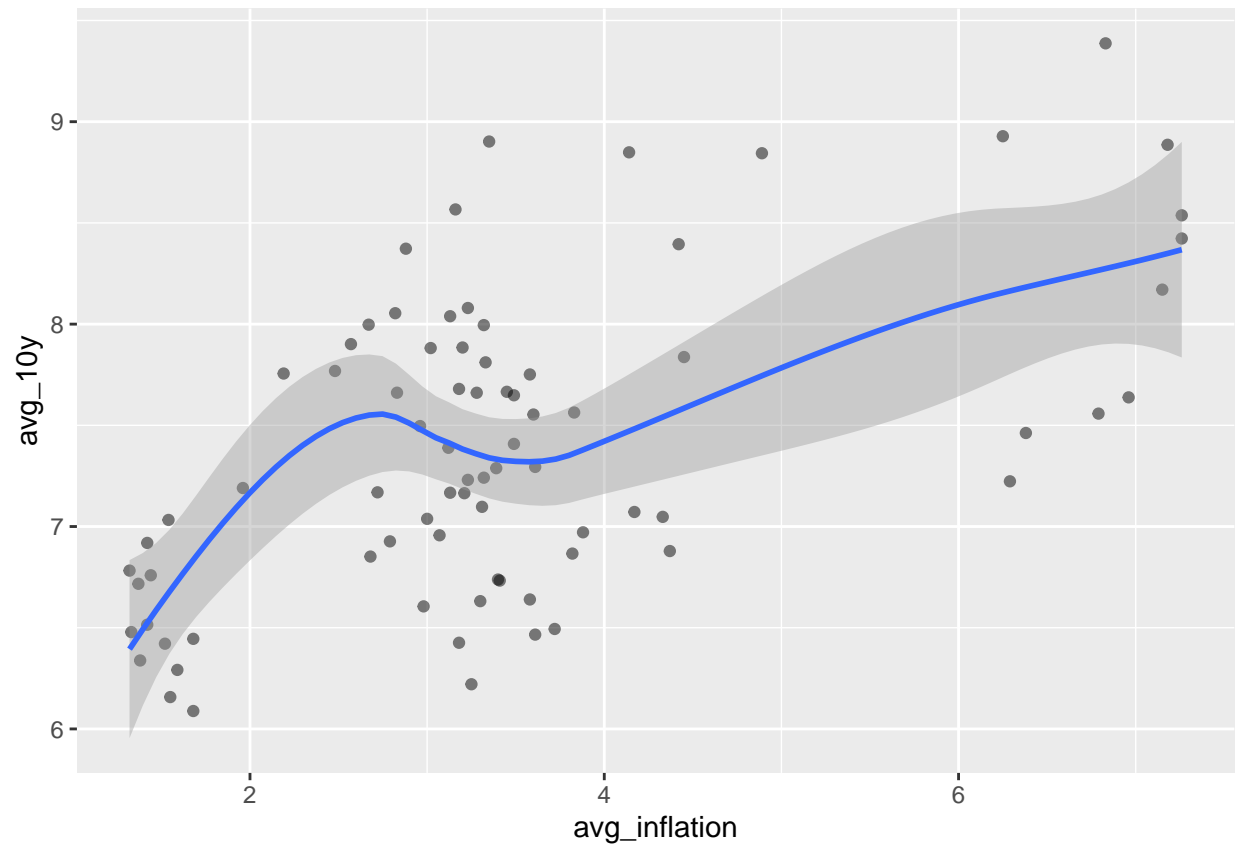
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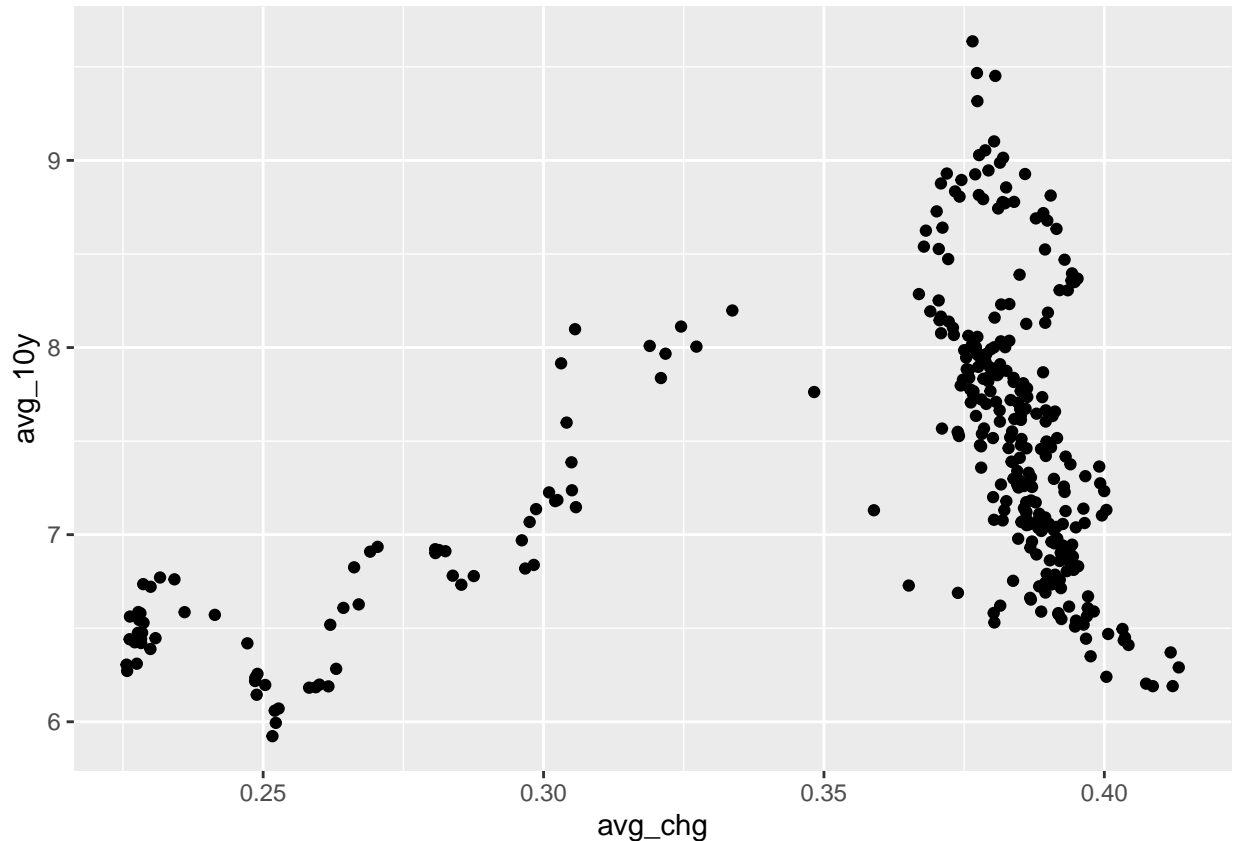


```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```

```
## Warning: Removed 1 rows containing non-finite values (stat_smooth).
```

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## Warning: Removed 1 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```





Several studies indicate the relationship between bonds yield and foreign ownership (i.e. ....). We will observe the relationship between these two variables through visualization approach.

By just putting the number, we can not see any clear pattern from these variables. However, if we facet the plot by year, now obvious patterns of the relationship arises.

As we can see from the plot, in 2015 and 2016 foreign ownership seems to have no strong relationship with the yield. Different situation happened in 2017-2019 where the changes in foreign ownership seems to strong-negatively affect the bonds yield movement.

To mention, 2017 is the year when Indonesia got investment grade rating from S&P, following FITCH and Moody's in previous years. It means that broader category of foreign investment entities (i.e. pension funds and insurance) can enter the country's market since Indonesia's rating has fulfilled their criteria of investment (yunianto, 2018).

Particularly In 2020, the pattern is quite anomaly in which increase from 0.25-0.33% in foreign ownership seems to raise the yield from 6 up to 8.5%. The yield stumbles afterwards with the increase of foreign ownership up to 40%.

In January-August 2021, the relationship looks non-linear with no obvious pattern. The ownership drops below 25% but interestingly yield decreases further (6-7%).

We may assume that the anomaly in 2020 and 2021 are due to Covid19 pandemic that occurred since early 2020. The government is increasing its funding to sustain the economy. The decrease in foreign portion could be because foreigners sell their bonds more than their buying (net sell), or another reason is because their portion is deluged by domestic participants (i.e. central bank), thus we will track the pattern of domestic ownership in these years to check our assumption.

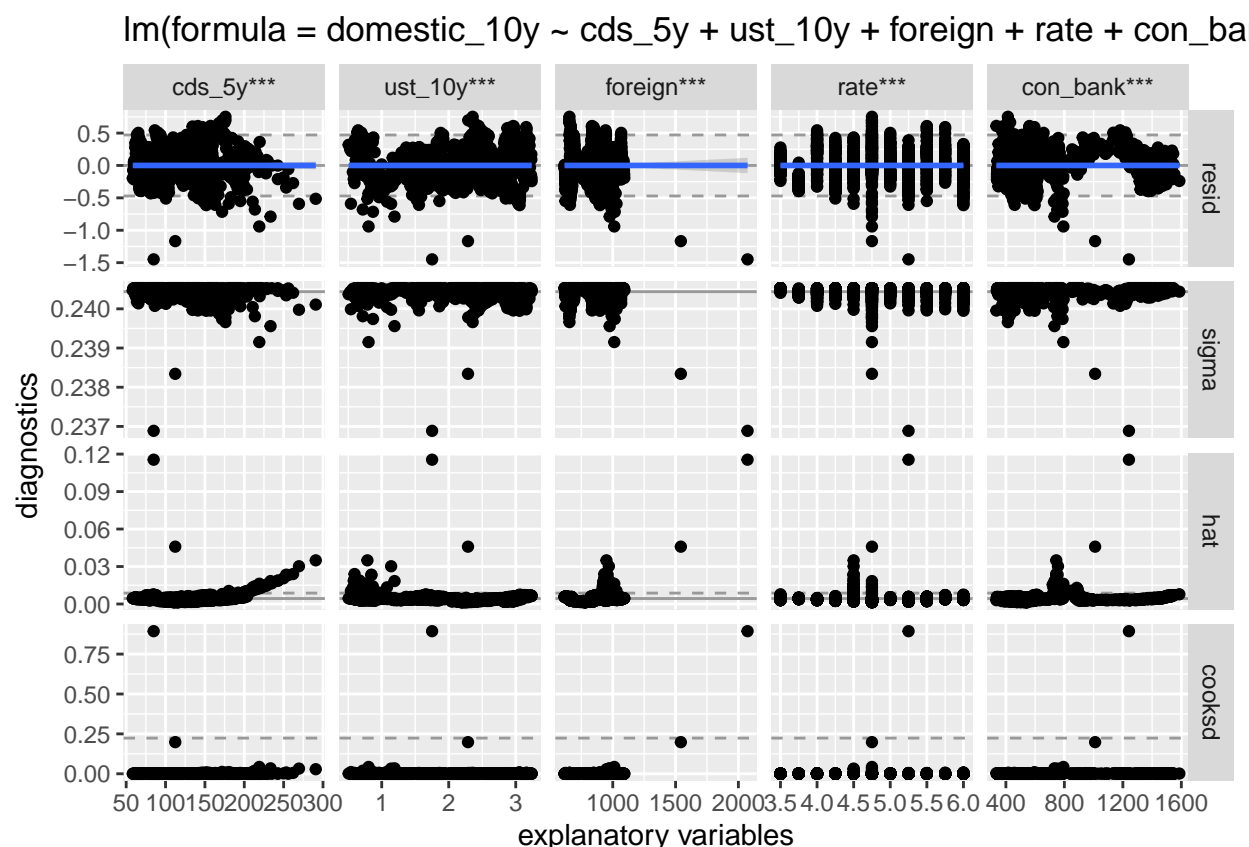
##

```

## Call:
## lm(formula = domestic_10y ~ cds_5y + ust_10y + foreign + rate +
##     con_bank, data = yield_factors)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -1.44899 -0.15056 -0.03247  0.17758  0.75192
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  1.477e+00  9.800e-02  15.07  <2e-16 ***
## cds_5y       1.171e-02  2.492e-04  47.01  <2e-16 ***
## ust_10y     3.056e-01  1.252e-02  24.40  <2e-16 ***
## foreign     1.082e-03  7.989e-05  13.55  <2e-16 ***
## rate        4.955e-01  1.382e-02  35.85  <2e-16 ***
## con_bank    6.016e-04  3.615e-05  16.64  <2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.2404 on 1368 degrees of freedom
## (338 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared:  0.8461, Adjusted R-squared:  0.8456
## F-statistic: 1504 on 5 and 1368 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16

## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'gam'
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```



As shown in the plot, proportion of Bank Indonesia and Conventional Bank are getting bigger in 2020-2021, while proportion of foreign holders is diluted. This can be seen as a result of implementation of new regulation on 1 May 2020 that mandate banks to reserve government bonds. This regulation has an impact on reducing bonds yield further in these two consecutive years.

Another noticeable change is proportion of individual in the bonds ownership that is growing started from mid of 2020 up to 2021. We may argue that people who prefer to hold their spending is channelling their excess money to investment, especially in a safe instrument like government bonds.

## Policy Rate

From plot above, the movement of domestic 10y yield is parallel with movement of policy rate. The median spread in 2016 until 2018 is quite the same (around 2.5) while median spread of 2019 is the lowest. In 2020 and 2021, the differences between 10y yield and policy rate are increase with median spread is about 3. The range of spread in 2020 is also the widest compared to other observed years.

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