

Monetary Policy and Sovereign Risk in Emerging Economies (NK-Default)

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September 2022

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Motivation for NK-Default

- Many emerging markets adopted *inflation targeting* in early 2000s
 - Monetary policy targets nominal rates to keep inflation in band
- *New Keynesian theory* toolkit for monetary policy implementation
 - Theory for developed countries, mainly perfect capital markets
 - Useful for transmission of monetary policy to inflation and output
- Standard NK theory silent on interactions with *sovereign risk*
 - Emerging markets history of recurring sovereign debt crises
 - Both policies affect consumption, output, inflation

New Keynesian model with sovereign default risk

Emerging Markets Inflation Targeters

	Mean (%)		Stdev. Rel. Output		Corr. with Spread (%)		
	Inflation	Spread	Inflation	Spread	Inflation	Dom. Rate	Output
Brazil	5.6	2.8	0.6	0.3	57	60	-60
Chile	3.3	1.4	0.9	0.2	34	23	-57
Colombia	4.2	2.3	0.9	0.5	60	43	-43
Mexico	4.1	2.2	0.4	0.3	24	5	-53
Peru	2.8	2.0	0.5	0.3	53	13	-2
Philippines	3.8	2.1	1.3	0.8	68	64	-63
Poland	2.0	1.1	0.9	0.4	42	23	-43
S. Africa	5.4	2.2	1.0	0.5	50	8	-72
Mean	3.9	2.0	0.9	0.4	49	30	-49

- Single digit inflation and \$ govt bonds carry spread over US bonds
- Inflation and sovereign spreads are less volatile than output
- Govt spread positively correlated with inflation and domestic rates (sovereign dollar spreads and local currency interbank rate)
- Govt spread negatively correlated with output

Default Risk Matters for Monetary Policy

- Construct New Keynesian model with option to default, *NK-Default*
 - Govt borrows foreign-currency debt with default risk
 - Monetary policy is a nominal interest rate rule
 - Two frictions: sticky prices and govt overborrowing
- Establish theoretically two mechanism + optimal monetary rule
 - **Default amplification:** govt default risk worsens monetary frictions
High default risk \Rightarrow low consumption & output, more distorted
 - **Monetary discipline:** monetary frictions lowers default risk
Govt internalizes the effects of its policy on domestic outcomes
 - **Optimal monetary rule**
Targets low default risk, achieves low inflation

- Baseline monetary rule targets inflation (Taylor rule)
- Model predictions consistent with emerging market data
 - Positive co-movement of spreads, nominal rates, inflation
 - Contractionary monetary shock lowers sovereign spreads
- Alternative monetary rules
 - *Strict inflation targeting (IT)*: inflation always at its target
⇒ zero monetary frictions, but high default risk
 - *Default inflation targeting*: on both inflation and default risk
⇒ low monetary frictions, low default risk
- Welfare comparison
 - Strict IT possibly dominated by Benchmark rule
In contrast to Gali & Monacelli (2005): Strict IT is optimal
 - Default IT generates higher welfare than Strict IT

- **New Keynesian models for small open economies:** Gali-Monacelli (2005), Aoki-Benigno-Kyotaki (2016), Devereux-Young-Yu (2019)
- **Sovereign default:** Aguiar-Gopinath (2006), Arellano (2008), Reinhart-Rogoff (2009), Chatterjee-Eyigungor (2012)
- **Default risk & dilution:** Hatchondo-Martinez-Sosa Padilla (2016), Aguiar-Amador-Hopenhayn-Werning (2018), Hatchondo-Martinez-Roch (2018)
- **Inflation as default for local currency debt:** Calvo (1988), Aguiar-Amador-Farhi-Gopinath (2013), Corsetti-Dedola (2016), Hur-Kondo-Perri (2018)
- **Downward rigid nominal wages & default risk:** Na-Schmitt-Grohe-Uribe-Yue (2018), Bianchi-Ottonello-Presno (2018), Bianchi-Mondragon (2018)
Here NKPC with inflation expectations + nominal rates targeting inflation

NK-Default: Monetary policy targets inflation with sovereign default risk

Small open economy: private sector, monetary auth, and fiscal govt

- Private sector:

- Households: value domestic and imported goods, supply labor
- Intermediate goods firms: produce with labor, subject to price-setting frictions (Rotemberg)
- Final good: consumed domestically and exported

- Monetary authority:

Follows interest rate rule, can target both inflation and default risk

- Government:

Borrows long-term internationally, in foreign currency, can default

- Values consumption of domestic and foreign goods, supply labor

$$\begin{aligned} \max \mathbf{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(C_t, C_t^f, N_t) \\ \text{s.t. } P_t^d C_t + P_t^f C_t^f + q_t^d B_{t+1}^d \leq W_t N_t + B_t^d + \Pi_t + T_t \end{aligned}$$

- Domestic nominal bonds with price q_t^d , in zero net supply
- Receive profits from firms Π_t , transfers from government T_t
- Optimality conditions:

$$\frac{u_{C^f,t}}{u_{C,t}} = e_t, \quad \frac{u_{N,t}}{u_{C,t}} = w_t, \quad u_{C,t} = \beta i_t \mathbf{E}_t \left[\frac{u_{C,t+1}}{\pi_{t+1}} \right]$$

Nominal rate $i_t = 1/q_{t+1}^d$ is monetary policy instrument

Inflation $\pi_{t+1} = P_{t+1}^d / P_t^d$, terms of trade $e_t = P_t^f / P_t^d$ (\uparrow depreciation)

Intermediate Goods Firms

- Monopolistic competition facing CES demand $y_{it} = \left(\frac{p_{it}}{P_t^d}\right)^{-\eta} Y_t$
- Produce with labor n_{it} and face productivity shocks z_t

$$y_{it} = z_t n_{it}$$

- Costly to change prices relative to target inflation $\bar{\pi}$ (Rotemberg)
- Dynamic choice of n_{it} and prices p_{it} (NKPC)

$$(\pi_t - \bar{\pi}) \pi_t = \left(\frac{w_t}{z_t} - 1\right) \frac{\eta - 1}{\varphi} + \mathbf{E}_t \left[\beta \frac{u_{c,t+1}}{u_{c,t}} \frac{Y_{t+1}}{Y_t} (\pi_{t+1} - \bar{\pi}) \pi_{t+1} \right]$$

- Monetary frictions hinder efficient production

$$1 + \text{monetary wedge} = \frac{z_t}{w_t} = \frac{z_t u_{C,t}}{u_{N,t}}, \quad (> 0 \text{ depressed output})$$

- Economy faces elastic demand for its exports

$$X_t = e_t^\rho \bar{\zeta}$$

- Domestic good used for consumption and exports

$$z_t N_t = C_t + X_t + \langle \text{price-setting costs} \rangle_t$$

- Govt services debt B_t , borrows abroad in foreign-currency $q_t \ell_t$
- Capital flows used to finance imports net of exports

$$C_t^f = X_t / e_t + q_t \ell_t - B_t$$

- Bonds are long-term perpetuities with decay rate δ and law of motion

$$B_{t+1} = \delta B_t + \ell_t$$

- Govt can default on its debt
 - Debt eliminated, balanced trade
 - Productivity reduced to $z_t^d \leq z_t$ and temporary market exclusion
 - Govt faces enforcement shock ν , lower ν more incentive to default
- Bond price schedule $q(z_t, B_{t+1})$ compensates for default risk

An interest rate rule targeting inflation $\bar{\pi}$ and govt default risk Φ^*

$$i_t = \bar{i} \left(\frac{\pi_t}{\bar{\pi}} \right)^{\alpha_P} \left(\frac{\Phi_t}{\Phi^*} \right)^{\alpha_D} m_t$$

subject to monetary shocks m_t

Recursive Markov Equilibrium

- States: debt B , shocks $s = (z, m)$ and enforcement shock ν
- Gov chooses policies of default D and borrowing B'

$$V(s, B) = \mathbf{E}_\nu \max \left\{ W(s, B), W^d(s) - \nu \right\}$$

$$W(s, B) = \max_{B'} \left\{ u(C, C^f, N) + \beta_g \mathbf{E}_{s'|s} V(s', \nu', B') \right\}$$

subject to private and monetary eqm, taking as given future govt policies

- Default is more likely when high debt B , low z , or low enforcement ν
 - Default iff $\nu \leq \nu^*(s, B)$ with cutoff $\nu^*(s, B) = W^d(s) - W(s, B)$
- Overborrowing
 - Impatient govt: $\beta_g < \beta$
 - long-term debt, as in Aguiar, Amador, Hopenhayn, Werning (2018)

Bond Price Schedule

- International lenders: competitive, risk neutral, world risk free rate r^*
- Bond price schedule reflects default and future borrowing

$$q(s, B') = \frac{1}{1 + r^*} \mathbf{E} [1 - D(s', \nu', B')] [1 + \delta q(s', B''(s', B'))]$$

- Default risk

$$\Phi(s, B') = \mathbf{E}_{\nu', s' | s} [D(s', \nu', B')]$$

Private and Monetary Equilibrium

NKPC:
$$(\pi - \bar{\pi}) \pi = \left(\frac{u_N}{zu_C} - 1 \right) \frac{\eta - 1}{\varphi} + \beta \mathbf{E} \frac{z' N' u'_C}{z N u_C} (\pi' - \bar{\pi}) \pi'$$

Domestic Euler:
$$u_C = \beta i \mathbf{E} \left[\frac{u'_C}{\pi'} \right]$$

Interest rate rule:
$$i = \bar{i} \left(\frac{\pi}{\bar{\pi}} \right)^{\alpha_P} \left(\frac{\Phi}{\Phi^*} \right)^{\alpha_D} m$$

Relative consumption:
$$u_{C^f} / u_C = e$$

Balance of payments:
$$X/e = C^f + B - q(s, B')(B' - \delta B)$$

Resource constraint:
$$C + X = \left[1 - \frac{\varphi}{2} (\pi - \bar{\pi})^2 \right] zN$$

- Govt understands how its borrowing B' impacts economy
- Govt borrowing affects default risk and capital flows

Simplified Model with One-Time Deviation

Key points:

- Two frictions: sticky prices + govt overborrowing
- Two mechanisms: default amplification and monetary discipline
- Optimal monetary policy targets default risk, fixes both frictions

Simplified Model with One-Time Deviation

- Abstract from productivity shock, one-period bond
- Default driven by enforcement shock ν
 \Rightarrow default iff $\nu \leq \nu^*(B)$, with $W(B) = W^d - \nu^*(B)$
- Quasi-linear preference: $u(C, C^f, N) = \log C + C^f - \frac{N^{1+\zeta}}{1+\zeta}$
 \Rightarrow international capital flows affect (C, N) ONLY through default risk
- For any $t > 0$, strict inflation targeting, $\pi_t = \bar{\pi}$; govt discount $\beta_g = \beta$
 \Rightarrow after period 0, no pricing frictions & no overborrowing
- One-time deviation at $t = 0$: monetary policy i ; less patient govt $\beta_g < \beta$
 \Rightarrow in period 0, two frictions

Strict Inflation Targeting at One-Time Deviation

- In period 0, the monetary authority can deliver $\bar{\pi}$ with $i = i^{ST}$
- Strict inflation targeting, no monetary wedge

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Under linear C^f & $q = \frac{1}{1+r^*} [1 - \Phi(v^*(B'))]$

$$\underbrace{1 + \frac{\partial q}{\partial B'} \frac{B'}{q}}_{\text{marginal benefit, } \partial q / \partial B' < 0} = \underbrace{\beta_g (1 + r^*)}_{\text{marginal cost}}$$

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- Lower $\beta_g < \beta$ leads to higher borrowing B'
 \Rightarrow govt borrows more than households desired

Default Amplification

Now consider arbitrary monetary policy i in period 0

Proposition 1 *Higher default risk increases the monetary wedge $-zu_C/u_N$*

- Domestic Euler in period $t = 0$

$$u_C = \frac{\beta i}{\pi} \mathbf{E} u_{C'} = \frac{\beta i}{\pi} \left[\frac{1 - \Phi(v^*(B'))}{C'} + \frac{\Phi(v^*(B'))}{C'_d} \right]$$

- Consumption is lower under default state $C'_d \leq C'$ due to punishment
- High default risk $\Phi(v^*)$ increases expected future marginal cons. $\mathbf{E} u_{C'}$
- With constant rate i , current consumption is lower $C \downarrow$
- Terms of trade appreciates, $C \downarrow = u_{C'}/u_C = e \downarrow \Rightarrow$ lower export
- Labor shrinks since both domestic C and export drop
- Monetary wedge $(-zu_C/u_N = \frac{z}{CN^\varsigma})$ increases

Proposition 2 *For any monetary policy $i > i^{ST}$, the monetary wedge is positive but the equilibrium default risk is lower than under strict inflation targeting*

- High i leads to high monetary wedge (low C & N)
- Govt. Euler for borrowing

$$1 + \frac{\partial q}{\partial B'} \frac{B'}{q} - \underbrace{\kappa u_C \frac{\partial \text{Eu}_{C'}}{\partial B'} \frac{1}{\text{Eu}_{C'}(B')}}_{\text{wedge} > 0} = \beta_g(1 + r^*)$$

- Multiplier on domestic Euler $\kappa > 0$ when positive monetary wedge
- Positive wedge lowers marginal benefit of borrowing \Rightarrow lower B' & default risk
- Monetary trade-off: low default risk, high monetary wedge

Optimal Monetary Rule

Consider monetary rule

$$i = \bar{i} \left(\Phi / \Phi^{CE} \right)^{\alpha_D}$$

where constrained-efficient default risk Φ^{CE} associated with B^{CE} satisfying

$$1 + \frac{\partial q}{\partial B'} \frac{B'}{q} = \beta(1 + r)$$

Proposition 3 *The central bank can achieve the constrained efficient default risk and any arbitrary small monetary wedge with a bounded α_D*

- Govt Euler

$$1 + \frac{dq}{dB'} \frac{B'}{q} - \kappa u_C \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{Eu}_{C'}}{\partial B'} \frac{1}{\mathbf{Eu}_{C'}(B')} + \alpha_D \frac{\phi(v^*)}{\Phi(v^*)} \right] = \beta_g(1 + r^*)$$

- Choose α^D to implement B^{CE} with κ pinned down by monetary wedge

$$\kappa u_C \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{Eu}_{C'}}{\partial B'} \frac{1}{\mathbf{Eu}_{C'}(B^{CE})} + \alpha_D \frac{\phi^{CE}}{\Phi^{CE}} \right] = (\beta - \beta_g)(1 + r)$$

- Eliminates two frictions: efficient borrowing & $\pi \approx \bar{\pi}$

$$(\pi - \bar{\pi}) \pi = \left(-\frac{u_N}{zu_C} - 1 \right) \frac{\eta - 1}{\varphi} \approx 0$$

- Parameterize model to average of 8 inflation targeters
Baseline monetary rule targets inflation only: $i = \bar{i} (\pi / \bar{\pi})^{\alpha_p} m$
- Highlight two mechanisms using policy rules & IRFs
- Alternative monetary rules: Strict IT and Default IT
 - Optimal monetary rule: default IT with high α_D
- Empirical evidence on two mechanisms

Functional Forms and Computation

- AR(1) productivity z and monetary shock m
Business cycle mainly driven by z , small role for m

- Preferences

$$u(C, C^f, N) = \log \left[\left(\theta C^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} + (1-\theta)(C^f)^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} \right)^{\frac{\omega}{\omega-1}} \right] - \frac{N^{1+1/\zeta}}{1+1/\zeta}$$

- CPI-based Inflation and Nominal Devaluation Rate:

$$\text{CPI inflation} = \pi \frac{\left[\theta^\omega + (1-\theta)^\omega e^{1-\omega} \right]^{1/(1-\omega)}}{\left[\theta^\omega + (1-\theta)^\omega e_{-1}^{1-\omega} \right]^{1/(1-\omega)}}, \quad \text{NER} = \pi \frac{e}{e_{-1}}$$

- Default productivity loss follows Chatterjee and Eyigungor (2012)

$$z^d(z) = z - \max\{0, \lambda_0 z + \lambda_1 z^2\}$$

- Computation algorithm

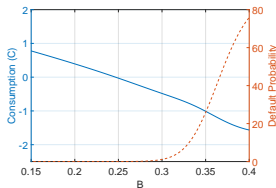
- Discrete choice multinomial logit: taste shocks for $\{B', D\}$
- Sovereign default: Dworkin et al. (2018) and Gordon (2018)

Parameterization and Moment Matching

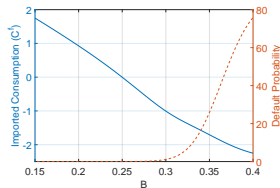
Para.	Value	Moments	Data	NK-Default
<i>Moments matching Parameters</i>		<i>Mean</i>		
Inflation target $\bar{\pi}$	1.01	CPI inflation	3.9	3.9
Discount factor β	0.996	Domestic rate	5.6	5.6
Gov discount β_g	0.983	Spread	2.0	2.0
		<i>Standard deviation</i>		
Vol. productivity σ_z	1.2%	Output	2.3	2.2
Rule coef α_P	1.45	CPI inflation	1.7	2.0
Default loss λ_0	-0.17	Spread	0.9	1.0
Default loss λ_1	0.19	Consumption	2.4	2.0
		<i>Correlation</i>		
Enforcement shock ϱ_D	$1e^{-4}$	Output & spread	-49	-45
		Out of sample moments		
		<i>Standard deviation</i>		
		Domestic rate	1.9	2.9
		Trade balance	2.8	0.4
		Nominal depreciation rate	8.6	2.2
		<i>Correlation with Spread</i>		
		CPI inflation	49	52
		Domestic rate	30	71
		Trade balance	11	20
		Nominal depreciation rate	36	37

► Other parameters

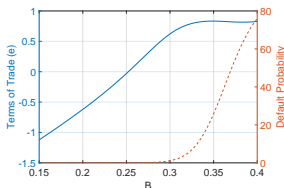
Policy Rules



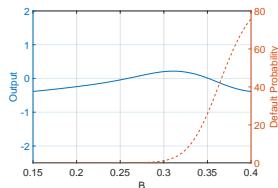
Domestic Consumption



Imports



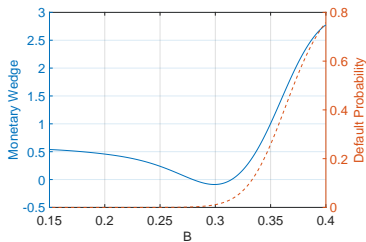
Terms of Trade



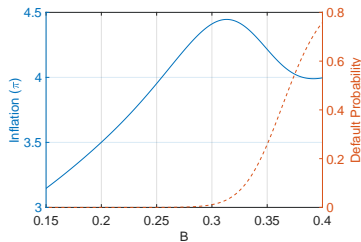
Output

- High B , low consumption and import; terms of trade depreciates
- Output (labor) first increases to repay debt then decreases due to default risk

Policy Rules



Monetary Wedge

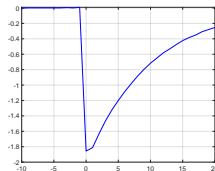


Inflation

Default amplification:

- High default risk: increasing monetary wedge, lowering inflation
 - Default tomorrow associated with low $C' \rightarrow$ depresses C

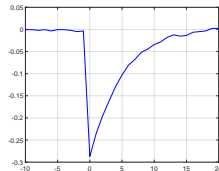
Impulse Responses to Monetary Shock



Inflation (π)



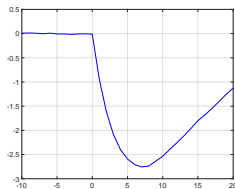
Output



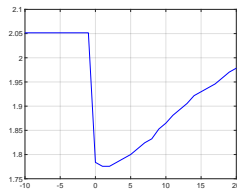
Domestic Consumption (C)

- High $m \Rightarrow$ low π , output and domestic consumption
- Monetary wedge increases

Impulse Responses to Monetary Shock



Debt (B)

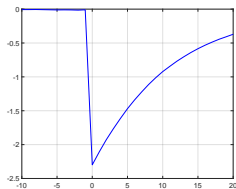


Spread

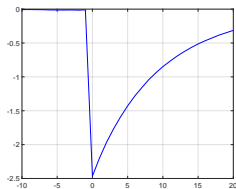
Monetary discipline:

- High monetary shock m lowers govt borrowing incentive and default risk

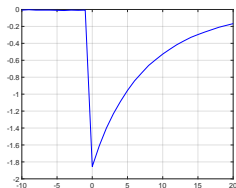
Impulse Responses to Productivity Shock



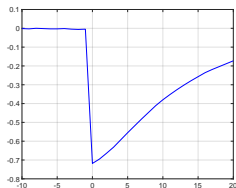
Output



Domestic Consumption (C)



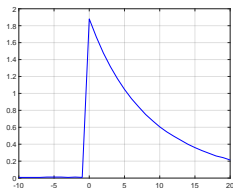
Imported Consumption (C^f)



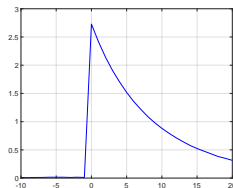
Terms of Trade (e)

- Adverse productivity leads to recession, terms of trade appreciates

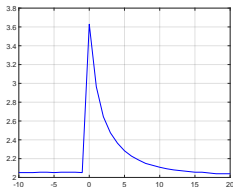
Impulse Responses to Productivity Shock



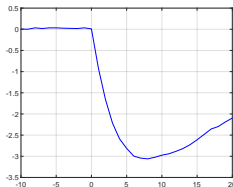
Inflation (π)



Nominal Interest Rate (i)



Spread



Debt (B)

- Positive co-movement of spread, inflation, and nominal rate

Alternative Monetary Rules

Recall monetary rule in the baseline (Baseline IT)

$$i = \bar{R} \left(\frac{\pi}{\bar{\pi}} \right)^{\alpha_p}$$

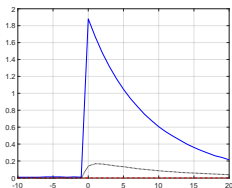
Alternatives

- Strict inflation targeting $\pi = \bar{\pi}$, nominal rate satisfies domestic Euler (*Strict IT*)
- Default inflation targeting: both inflation and default risk (*Default IT*)

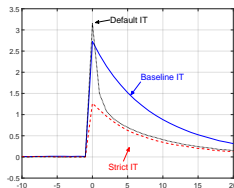
$$i = \bar{R} \left(\frac{\pi}{\bar{\pi}} \right)^{\alpha_p} \left(\frac{\Phi}{\Phi^*} \right)^{\alpha_D}$$

$\alpha_D = 8, \Phi^* = 0.3\%$, other parameters as in the benchmark

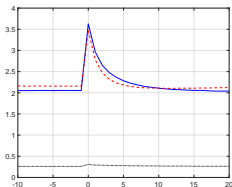
Impulse Responses to Productivity Shock



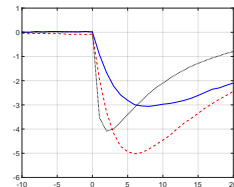
Inflation (π)



Nominal Interest Rate (i)



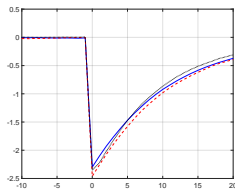
Spread



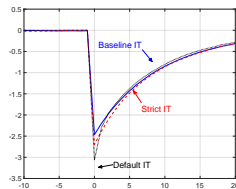
Debt (B)

- Default IT: nominal rate increases the most to lower spread, debt recovers faster

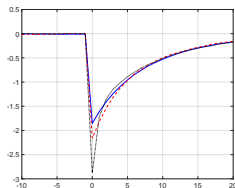
Impulse Responses to Productivity Shock



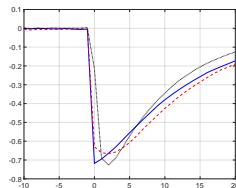
Output



Domestic Consumption (C)



Imported Consumption (C^f)



Terms of Trade (e)

- Aggressive mon policy in Default IT: larger recession on impact & quicker recovery

Business Cycle Moments

<i>Mean</i>	Baseline IT	Strict IT	Default IT
CPI inflation	4.0	4.3	4.0
Nominal domestic rate	5.6	5.8	5.7
Spread	2.0	2.2	0.3
<i>Standard Deviation, Relative to Output</i>			
CPI inflation	1.0	0.1	0.2
Nominal domestic rate	1.3	0.9	0.9
Spread	0.5	0.3	0.0
<i>Correlation with Spread</i>			
CPI inflation	52	-40	10
Nominal domestic rate	71	20	83

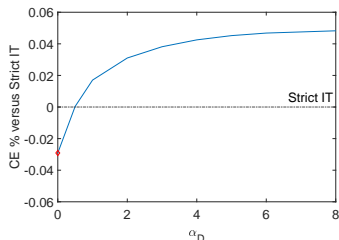
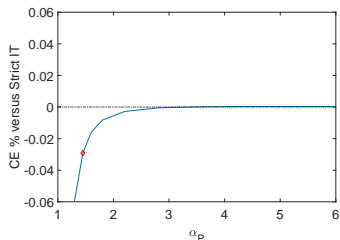
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- Default IT targets default risk, generating low spread AND low inflation volatility

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Welfare Comparison Across Monetary Policy Regimes



- Strict IT can be dominated by Baseline IT and Default IT
- In contrast to Gali & Monacelli (2005), which shows Strict IT is optimal

Empirical Evidence: Amplification

- Theory: Default risk increases monetary wedge
- Challenges:
 - Measuring monetary wedge zu_c / u_n requires labor and consumption
 - Need “pure default risk,” by not driven by productivity shock
- Proxy for monetary wedge: unemployment
 - Under balanced trade and log preference

$$\text{output gap} = \hat{y}^{\text{flex}} - \hat{y}^{\text{sticky}} = -\hat{n} = \frac{\zeta}{1 + \zeta} \text{labor wedge}$$

- Clarida, Gali and Gertler (2000)
- Residualize spreads using output growth and inflation
 - Model, $spr(z, m, B')$, high B' increases def risk and mon wedge
 - Output growth and inflation captures fluctuations in (z, m)

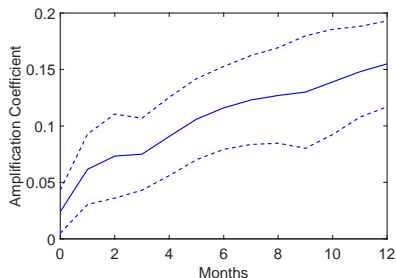
Empirical Evidence: Amplification

Local projection based on Jorda (2005)

$$\text{unemployment}_{c,t+h} = \alpha_c + \beta_h \widehat{\text{spr}}_{c,t} + \Gamma Z_{c,t} + v_{c,t}$$

- $\widehat{\text{spr}}_{c,t}$ residualized spreads country by country
- Controls $Z_{c,t}$ six lags of output growth and inflation
- 8 emerging inflation targeters, 2004M1-2019M12, monthly
- All variables are standardized
- Hypothesis $\beta_h > 0$

Empirical Evidence: Amplification



Cumulative impact of 1% increase of residualized spread in the first quarter

- Increase unemployment by 0.38%, output gap by 0.76% (Okun's law)
monetary wedge by 4%

Empirical Evidence: Discipline

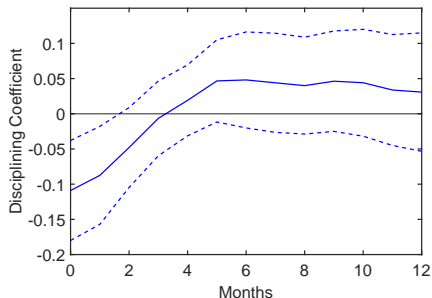
- Theory: high monetary shock m lowers sovereign spread
- Empirics: local projection based on Jorda (2005)

$$\text{spr}_{c,t+h} = \alpha_c + \beta_h \varepsilon_{c,t}^m + \Gamma Z_{c,t} + \nu_{c,t}$$

- Recover monetary shock $\varepsilon_{c,t}^m$ from Taylor rule, country by country
- Controls $Z_{c,t}$ six lags of output growth and inflation
- 8 emerging inflation targeters, 2004M1-2019M12, monthly
- Coefficient β_h captures the elasticity of spread w.r.t monetary shock

Theory: $\beta_h < 0$

Empirical Evidence: Discipline



- Cumulative impact of 1% increase in monetary shock in the first quarter
 - Lower spreads by -0.92%
- Robust to (1) with/without COVID periods (2) number of lags (3) monetary shocks from Taylor rule with only inflation (4) VAR

Empirical Evidence: Summary

	Data	Baseline IT
Amplification	0.16	0.11
Discipline	-0.24	-0.18

- Model and Data (cumulative) estimates for the first quarter
- Model accounts for 70-75% of effect in data

- Integrated framework of monetary policy and sovereign risk
New Keynesian model with default
- Important interactions between monetary frictions and default risk
 - Default risk amplifies monetary frictions and response
 - Monetary frictions discipline borrowing
- Optimal monetary rule targets low default risk
- Framework potentially useful for central banks

Other Parameter

- Frisch ela. $\zeta = 0.33$
- Ela. of substitution $\omega = .85$
- Domestic con weight $\theta = 0.62$
- Variety ela. $\eta = 6$
- Price adj. cost $\varphi = 58$
- Shocks persistence $\rho_z = \rho_m = 0.9$
- Export ela. $\rho = 3$
- Reentry prob. 4.2%
- Standard deviation of $m=0.0025$ from data