

The Spatial Transmission of US Banking Panics: Evidence from 1870-1929

Marc Dordal i Carreras
Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology

Seung Joo Lee
University of Oxford

CEPR-IMHOS

Nov 27, 2024

Introduction

Banking panics: common during the National Banking Era (1863 — 1913) and the early Federal Reserve System Era (1913 —):

- On average, a banking panic every 4 years during 1870-1930
- Unit banking system (i.e., no branch) with *interbank markets*
- A pyramidal structure of reserves across (i) banks in central reserve cities ([New York, NY](#), [Chicago, IL](#), and [St. Louis, MO](#)); (ii) those in reserve cities; (iii) country banks

Big Question

Spatial transmission: how exactly did a banking panic in a state propagate across states?

- Severity and persistence of the spatial propagation of a panic in different states
- A role of interbank markets and the volatility of the aggregate banking sector

Our contribution:

- A novel theoretical framework for understanding interbank lending markets
- Identification strategy for spatial spillovers of a state-level banking panic

Interbank markets pose a trade-off:

- Allows banks to access cheaper funding — sustaining higher credit levels
- Exposes banks to risks of runs and panics outside their state borders, from which they would have otherwise been insulated by the unit banking system
- Thus, panics — spatial transmission to other states (confirmed by the data)

Literature

Classification and dating of major and minor panics:

Kemmerer (1910), DeLong and Summers (1986), Gorton (1988), Weber (2000), Wicker (2006), Reinhart and Rogoff (2009), Jalil (2015) and many others

- Jalil (2015): empirical estimation of the impact of major, nationwide panics on industrial production and prices
- Instability of the unit banking system during the National Banking Era: Calomiris and Haber (2014)

Importance of the correspondent network and pyramidal structure of reserves during the National Banking Era and the Great Depression (i.e., early Federal Reserve System Era):

Calimoris and Mason (1997, 2003), Carlson (2005), Calomiris and Carlson (2014, 2017), Anderson et al. (2018), Mitchener and Richardson (2019)

Modeling sides: Dordal i Carreras et al. (2023), Lee and Dordal i Carreras (2024)

Data

Banking sector data:

- Balance sheets of National Banks: from Annual Reports of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (4-5 “call reports” a year) - the “Abstract of Reports”
- 1880-1910 digitized by **Weber (2000)**, the rest by us
- Geographical aggregation: reserve cities (the number is increasing over time) with the level of the state they belong to. Only consider lower 48 states (excluding Hawaii and Alaska) and treat Washington, DC as a state
- Frequency converted to quarterly (e.g., February 1st = Q1). In case **exists** two observations in the same quarter, pick one that is closer to mid-quarter or a panic

Balance sheet variables:

- Relatively constant categories (some changes), easy aggregation ▶ Example ▶ Time-series
- For example, the number of banks, average capital, deposits, loans, liquidity ratio

Other data: Euclidean distance between two states (each state's most populated city)

Banking panic series: from Jalil (2015)

► Summary

► Deposits

| States | Panic, start | Panic, end | Reporting date | Time to start (days) | |
|---------------------------|--|------------|----------------|----------------------|-----|
| All (Major) - from Europe | 18sep1873 | 30sep1873 | 26dec1873 | 99 | |
| NY, PA, NJ | Carlson (2005); Calomiris and Carlson (2017) | 13may1884 | 31may1884 | 20jun1884 | 38 |
| NY | | 10nov1890 | 22nov1890 | 19dec1890 | 39 |
| All (Major) | | 13may1893 | 19aug1893 | 12jul1893 | 60 |
| IL, MN, WI | | 26dec1896 | 26dec1896 | 09mar1897 | 73 |
| MA, NY | | 16dec1899 | 31dec1899 | 13feb1900 | 59 |
| NY | | 27jun1901 | 06jul1901 | 15jul1901 | 18 |
| PA, MD | | 18oct1903 | 24oct1903 | 17nov1903 | 30 |
| All (Major) - from NY | | 12oct1907 | 30nov1907 | 03dec1907 | 52 |
| NY | | 25jan1908 | 01feb1908 | 14feb1908 | 20 |
| MA | | 12aug1920 | 02oct1920 | 08sep1920 | 27 |
| ND | | 27nov1920 | 19feb1921 | 29dec1920 | 32 |
| FL, GA | | 14jul1926 | 21aug1926 | 31dec1926 | 170 |
| FL | | 08mar1927 | 26mar1927 | 23mar1927 | 15 |
| FL | | 20jul1929 | 07sep1929 | 04oct1929 | 76 |
| | | | Median | 38.5 | |

Nature of panics

Big Question

Is panic exogenous or correlated (i.e., local economic conditions cause panics) with the business cycle?

Consensus in the literature:

- Causes of state-level panics relatively disconnected from the business cycle (e.g., Jalil (2015))
- Common triggers: mismanagement of funds, misappropriation of funds

► Excerpts

Systemic reason: small and medium-sized banks, unit office (unit banking system), no deposit insurance, lack of diversification, pyramidal structure of reserves

Additional exogeneity test

Granger causality test (i state, t quarter) with a panic dummy:

$$Panic_{i,t} = \sum_{l=1}^4 \left[\beta_I^D \Delta \log(D_{i,t-l}) + \beta_I^L \Delta \log(L_{i,t-l}) + \underbrace{\beta_I^B \Delta \log(Bank_{i,t-l})}_{\text{Number of banks}} \right] \\ + \mu_i + s_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

Joint test, $H_0: \beta_I^D = \beta_I^L = \beta_I^B = 0, \quad \forall I$

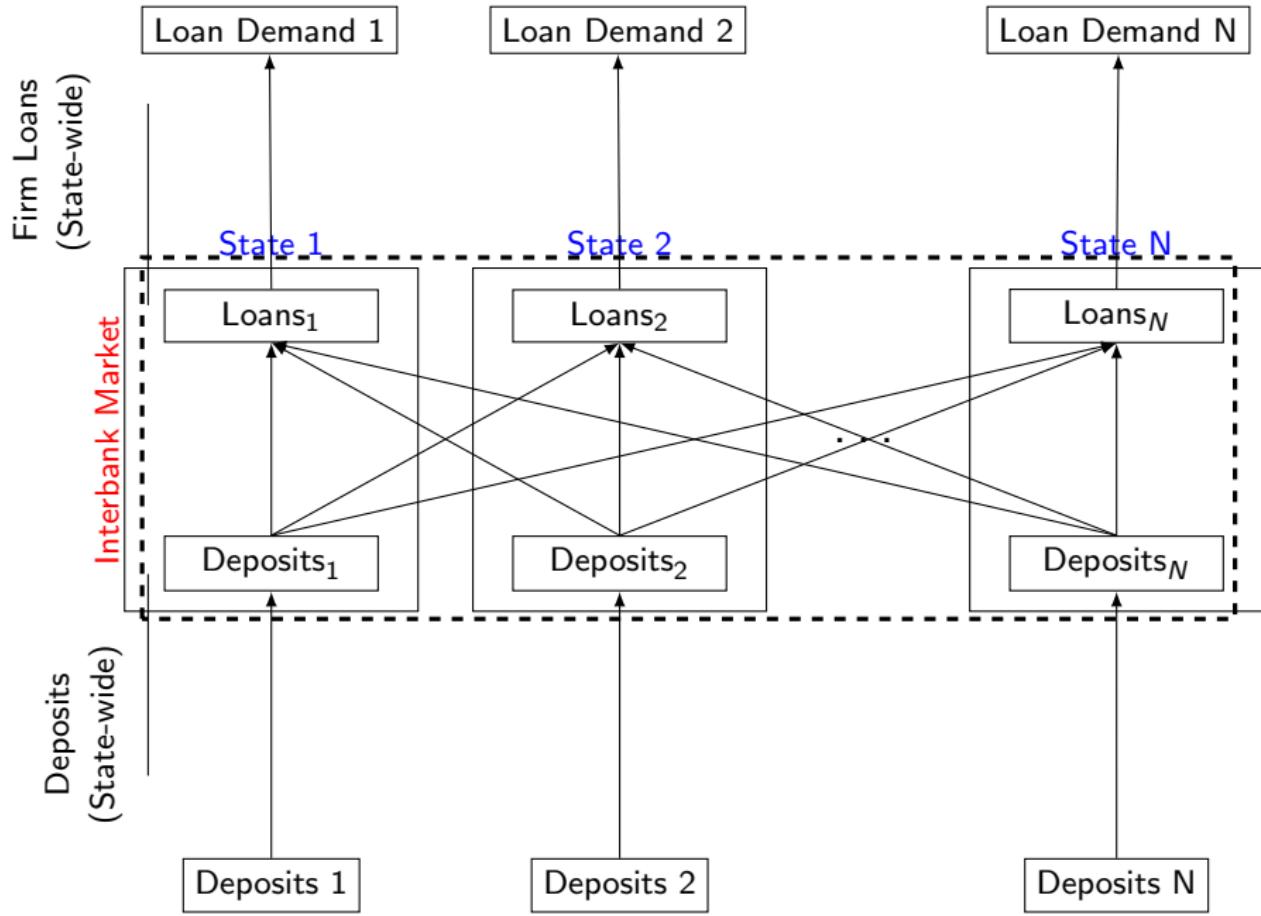
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Joint F-test, p-value | *** | *** | H_0 | H_0 |
| R-squared | 0.37% | 1.96% | 0.07% | 0.104% |
| All panics | X | X | | |
| Minor panics | | | X | X |
| Individual fixed effects | | X | | X |
| Seasonal dummies | | X | | X |

Claim: no rejection when using the regional series (i.e., minor panics)

Objective: model interbank lending markets featuring the geographical transmission of deposit shocks

Main components: N regions (i.e., states)

- N loan division, supplying lending to local demands
- N deposit division, accepting deposits from local depositors, creating loanable funds, and distributing to banks across states through interbank markets
- N deposit supplies (from households in each state) and loan demands (from firms in the same state). Assumed to be local and exogenous.
- Time is continuous (indexed by τ) within a quarter (indexed by t)



Model — loan division (i)

Production function

$$\text{Loan}_{i,t}^S(\tau) \leq M_{i,t}(\tau)$$

where $M_{i,t}(\tau)$ represents loanable funds.

The loan division i solves:

$$\max_{\{\text{Loan}_{i,t}^S(\tau)\}} \int_0^1 \left(R_{i,t}^F(\tau) \text{Loan}_{i,t}^S(\tau) - R_{i,t}^I(\tau) M_{i,t}(\tau) \right) d\tau$$

where

- ① $R_{i,t}^F(\tau)$: interest rate charged on **loans**
- ② $R_{i,t}^I(\tau)$: interest rate charged on **loanable funds** from the interbank loan market

Model — loan division (i)

At optimum:

$$R_{i,t}^F(\tau) = R_{i,t}^I(\tau)$$

due to perfect competition

Loanable funds are fungible, homogeneous good (money), obtained at the lowest rate every period: for n such that

$$R_{i,t}^I(\tau) = \min_n \{ R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) \},$$

Rate charged by bank n to bank i

the loanable funds come from bank n

$$M_{i,t}(\tau) = M_{ni,t}(\tau), \quad n = \arg \min \left\{ R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) \right\}$$

Model — deposit division (n)

Loanable fund production function:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \int_0^1 z_{ni,t}(\tau) M_{ni,t}(\tau) d\tau = (D_{n,t})^\alpha \quad (1)$$

where $z_{ni,t}(\tau)$ represents technology of forming a loanable fund for state i , $M_{ni,t}(\tau)$ loanable funds for loan division i and $D_{n,t}$ local deposits at the beginning of the period.

- $\alpha > 1$: economies of scale

Productivity:

- $z_{ni,t}(\tau)$ is Weibull-distributed $\sim W(T_{ni}, \kappa)$ Properties
- T_{ni} : **scale** parameter, interpreted as transportation costs; κ : **shape** parameter: captures costs associated to trading with different states (trade costs, agency problems, imperfect information, etc)
- Different costs within the continuum (random draws)

Model — deposit division (n)

Solves the following problem, subject to (1)

$$\max_{\{M_{ni,t}(\tau)\}} \sum_{i=1}^N \int_0^1 R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) M_{ni,t}(\tau) d\tau - \underbrace{\rho_n^S(D_{n,t}) D_{n,t}}_{\text{Cost of loanable funds}}$$

- $\rho_n^S(\cdot)$: inverse deposit supply curve (time-invariant): deposit division acts as a monopolist for deposits

At optimum:

$$R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) = \underbrace{z_{ni,t}(\tau)}_{\text{Random draw}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \underbrace{\rho_n^S(D_{n,t}) \left(1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{n,t,D,\rho}^S} \right)}_{\equiv \rho_{n,t}} \cdot (D_{n,t})^{-(\alpha-1)}. \quad (2)$$

where

$$\varepsilon_{n,t,D,\rho}^S \equiv \left[\frac{\rho_n^{S'}(D_{n,t}) D_{n,t}}{\rho_n^S(D_{n,t})} \right]^{-1} > 0.$$

is the deposit supply elasticity [» Intuition](#)

- Assume $\rho_{n,t} \equiv \rho_t, \forall n$

Model — lending demand (*i*)

Thus, state *i* faces interbank rate

$$R_{i,t}^F(\tau) = \min_n \left\{ R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) \right\} \sim W(\Phi_{i,t}, \kappa)$$

where

$$\Phi_{i,t} = \frac{\rho_t}{\alpha} \cdot \left(\sum_{n=1}^N (T_{ni})^{-\kappa} \cdot D_{n,t}^{\kappa(\alpha-1)} \right)^{-\frac{1}{\kappa}}$$

Assume that the demand for lending to firms in state *i* is given by

$$Loan_{i,t}^D(\tau) = R_{i,t}^F(\tau)^{-\beta} \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad \forall i$$

where $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ is a **loan demand shifter** for period *t*

Total lending demand in period *t* is then

$$\begin{aligned} Loan_{i,t}^D &= \int_0^1 Loan_{i,t}^D(\tau) d\tau = \underbrace{\left[\int_0^1 R_{i,t}^F(\tau)^{-\beta} d\tau \right]}_{= \mathbb{E}(R_{i,t}^F(\tau)^{-\beta})} \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

Model — lending demand (i)

Key aggregation equation:

$$\text{Loan}_{i,t}^D = \left[\sum_{n=1}^N (T_{ni})^{-\kappa} D_{n,t}^{\kappa(\alpha-1)} \right]^{\frac{\beta}{\kappa}} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho_t} \right)^\beta \Gamma \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\kappa} \right) \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad \forall i$$

- Lending in each state i is **positively** linked to deposits in all other states

Trade-off with $D_{n,t} = \bar{D}_t, \forall n$:

- With $T_{ni} \rightarrow \infty$ for $n \neq i$,

$$\text{Loan}_{i,t}^D = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho_t} \right)^\beta \cdot (\bar{D}_t)^{\beta(\alpha-1)} \Gamma \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\kappa} \right) \cdot \varepsilon_{i,t}, \quad \forall n$$

- With $T_{ni} = 1, \forall n, i$,

$$\text{Loan}_{i,t}^D = \underbrace{N^{\frac{\beta}{\kappa}}}_{>1} \cdot \left(\frac{\alpha}{\rho_t} \right)^\beta \cdot (\bar{D}_t)^{\beta(\alpha-1)} \Gamma \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\kappa} \right) \cdot \varepsilon_{i,t}, \quad \forall n$$

— but $N^{\frac{\beta}{\kappa}}$ times more volatile

Log-linear approximation: [► Details](#)

$$\log(Loan_{i,t}) = \mu_i + s_t + \sum_{n=1}^N \tilde{T}_{ni} \log(D_{n,t}) + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad \forall i$$

Seasonal fixed effect

Spatial transmission

Assume:

$$\tilde{T}_{ni} = \lambda_1 + \underbrace{\lambda_2}_{<0} \log \left(\underbrace{\frac{Distance_{ni}}{Distance \text{ between state } i \text{ and } n}}_{>0} \right) + \underbrace{\lambda_3}_{>0} Neighbor_{ni} + \underbrace{\lambda_4}_{>0} Own_n$$

[► Regression](#)

Estimation — reduced form

Local projections (Jordà, 2005):

$$y_{i,t+h} = \eta_{i,h}^y + s_{t,h}^y + \sum_{j=1}^4 \theta_{j,h}^y F_{i,t}^j + \sum_{l=1}^L \beta_{l,h}^y X_{i,t-l} + \epsilon_{i,t+h}, \quad h = 1, \dots, H, \quad (3)$$

4 lags of $\{F_{i,t}^j\}$ and $y_{i,t}$

where

$$F_{i,t}^1 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^3 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Neighbor}_{ni} \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \log(\text{Distance}_{ni}) \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^4 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Own}_n \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

- ① $y_{i,t}$: number of banks, average capital, deposits, loans, liquidity ratio (all log)
- ② Driscoll-Kraay standard error: consistent under spatial correlation, heteroskedasticity, and auto-correlation (4 lags)

Simulation:

- ① Estimate equation (3) for all h , obtain $\{\hat{\theta}_{j,h}\}_{j=1}^4$
- ② Assume \exists panic in New York (state), generate $\{F_{i,t}^j\}_{j=1}^4$ for all i
- ③ $\sum_{j=1}^4 \hat{\theta}_{j,h}^y F_{i,t}^j$ is the predicted response at horizon h for state i

Results— deposits

- Spatial propagation becomes strong and significant (up to 4% drops). Returns to the pre-crisis level except in the origin and neighbor states

Results— loans

- Spatial propagation becomes strong and significant (up to 4% drops). Returns to the pre-crisis level except in the origin and neighbor states

Results— liquidity ratio

- Persistently rise in many states above the pre-crisis level (significant after 7 quarters)

Results— average capital

- 1.5% drops after two years in many other states even after two years (significant)

Results— the number of banks

- 1.5-1.8% drops in the origin and neighboring states (not so significant)

Robustness— size effects?

Local projections with an additional control (Jordà, 2005):

$$y_{i,t+h} = \eta_{i,h}^y + s_{t,h}^y + \sum_{j=1}^5 \theta_{j,h}^y F_{i,t}^j + \sum_{l=1}^L \beta_{l,h}^y X_{i,t-l} + \epsilon_{i,t+h}, \quad h = 1, \dots, H, \quad (4)$$

where

$$F_{i,t}^1 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^3 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Neighbor}_{ni} \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \log(\text{Distance}_{ni}) \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^4 = \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Own}_{ni} \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^5 = \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^N \log\left(\frac{D_{n,t-1}}{D_{t-1}}\right)}_{\text{New control}} \cdot \text{Panic}_{n,t}$$

4 lags of $\{F_{i,t}^j\}$ and $y_{i,t}$

- The results are very similar ▶ Results

Thank you very much!
(Appendix)

Data: Asset Side

| Resources. | OCT. 21, 1913. | JAN. 13, 1914. | MAR. 4, 1914. | JUNE 30, 1914. | SEPT. 12, 1914. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 90 banks. |
| ALABAMA. | | | | | |
| Loans and discounts.. | \$45,513,715.05 | \$42,849,992.35 | \$42,905,637.89 | \$43,582,574.87 | \$41,812,117.43 |
| Overdrafts..... | 396,119.39 | 288,816.63 | 238,160.73 | 104,561.68 | 111,129.33 |
| Bonds for circulation.. | 8,747,750.00 | 8,935,750.00 | 8,934,750.00 | 9,101,750.00 | 9,103,749.95 |
| Misc. securities..... | | | | | 4,861,281.14 |
| Bonds for deposits..... | 411,000.00 | 485,000.00 | 505,713.00 | 410,000.00 | 397,000.00 |
| Other b'ds for deposits..... | 496,153.75 | 500,655.64 | 476,900.75 | 274,500.00 | 418,500.00 |
| U. S. bonds on hand..... | 9,000.00 | 9,000.00 | 9,000.00 | 9,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Premiums on bonds..... | 91,245.71 | 78,576.04 | 77,412.29 | 70,094.79 | 63,521.91 |
| Bonds, securities, etc..... | 3,348,927.54 | 3,358,970.02 | 3,308,569.78 | 3,363,852.16 | 2,321,201.77 |
| Stocks..... | | | | 143,858.49 | 179,144.71 |
| Banking house, etc..... | 2,173,798.88 | 2,169,921.91 | 2,169,114.21 | 2,190,582.18 | 2,196,334.97 |
| Real estate, etc..... | 322,342.75 | 311,914.19 | 322,095.64 | 333,964.56 | 333,918.44 |
| Due from nat'l banks..... | 4,195,515.45 | 4,300,854.48 | 3,666,789.64 | 2,169,436.13 | 1,727,789.62 |
| Due from State banks..... | 1,714,335.10 | 1,660,222.11 | 1,303,238.00 | 976,877.10 | 845,832.72 |
| Due from res've agts..... | 6,959,955.73 | 7,374,465.51 | 6,348,607.03 | ,403,111.15 | 3,215,822.55 |
| Cash items..... | 308,028.93 | 262,611.25 | 239,394.00 | 187,521.17 | 238,991.11 |
| Clear'g-house exch'gs..... | 324,608.67 | 250,191.01 | 311,139.61 | 270,994.99 | 179,617.99 |
| Bills of other banks..... | 889,950.00 | 1,124,469.00 | 978,233.00 | 964,975.00 | 1,535,034.00 |
| Fractional currency..... | 29,160.00 | 41,041.08 | 45,683.69 | 45,333.69 | 42,625.33 |
| Specie..... | 2,852,883.16 | 3,248,435.06 | 3,002,017.36 | 3,043,383.10 | 2,852,801.47 |
| Legal-tender notes..... | 662,485.00 | 709,896.00 | 531,574.00 | 459,927.00 | 341,739.00 |
| 5% fund with Treas..... | 424,287.50 | 429,037.50 | 413,137.50 | 434,437.50 | 561,768.50 |
| Due from U. S. Treas..... | 33,700.00 | 39,750.00 | 14,902.00 | 21,625.00 | 5,350.00 |
| Total..... | 79,904,962.61 | 78,429,569.78 | 75,802,070.12 | 72,563,370.56 | 73,355,269.94 |

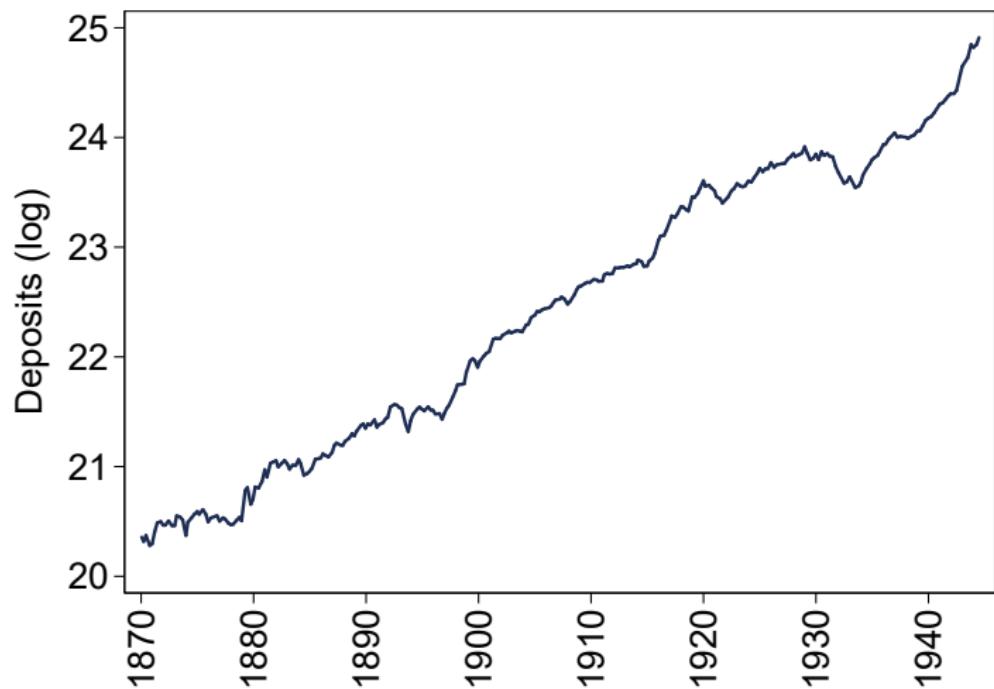
► Go back

Data: Liability Side

| Liabilities. | OCT. 21, 1913. | JAN. 13, 1914. | MAR. 4, 1914. | JUNE 30, 1914. | SEPT. 12, 1914. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ALABAMA. | 90 banks. |
| Capital stock..... | \$10,180,290.00 | \$10,320,100.00 | \$10,375,500.00 | \$10,405,000.00 | \$10,405,000.00 |
| Surplus fund..... | 5,851,293.59 | 6,042,995.00 | 6,013,995.00 | 6,052,170.00 | 6,119,925.00 |
| Undivided profits..... | 1,452,249.96 | 1,345,635.01 | 1,623,606.48 | 1,662,905.41 | 1,599,714.20 |
| Nat'l-bank circulation..... | 8,694,175.00 | 8,885,470.00 | 8,803,060.00 | 8,984,400.00 | 11,008,827.50 |
| State-bank circulation..... | | | | | |
| Due to national banks..... | 2,280,617.15 | 2,191,660.20 | 1,784,251.77 | 1,184,974.72 | 1,014,920.21 |
| Due to State banks..... | 2,549,617.27 | 2,500,465.48 | 1,927,496.87 | 1,073,390.53 | 890,665.68 |
| Due to trust co.'s, etc..... | 224,690.83 | 367,524.10 | 207,992.96 | 148,529.49 | 107,222.25 |
| Due to reserve agents..... | 114,311.60 | 116,283.51 | 44,660.72 | 99,095.45 | 123,588.71 |
| Dividends unpaid..... | 35,842.00 | 65,113.41 | 9,985.42 | 209,618.42 | 39,996.50 |
| Individual deposits..... | 43,555,062.18 | 44,766,048.83 | 43,484,032.59 | 39,135,391.86 | 55,916,560.84 |
| United States deposits..... | 1,526,438.50 | 1,209,730.53 | 579,288.80 | 393,796.17 | 608,724.64 |
| Postal savings deposits..... | 47,602.83 | 48,465.95 | 53,074.55 | 52,905.32 | 56,663.19 |
| Dep'ts U.S.dis. offclers..... | 31,631.18 | 124,907.27 | 164,556.38 | | |
| Bonds borrowed..... | 390,800.00 | 47,800.00 | 47,800.00 | | |
| U. S. bonds borrowed..... | | | | 8,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| Other bonds borrowed..... | | | | 21,800.00 | 181,800.00 |
| Notes rediscounted..... | 726,613.10 | 183,648.36 | 9,000.00 | 146,602.99 | 765,222.31 |
| Bills payable..... | 2,199,018.25 | 183,000.00 | 635,000.00 | 2,919,054.89 | 4,440,750.00 |
| Reserved for taxes..... | 35,931.62 | 14,235.03 | 32,280.09 | 54,521.26 | 45,394.45 |
| Other liabilities..... | 8,777.55 | 16,487.10 | 6,488.49 | 11,204.05 | 15,294.36 |
| Total..... | 79,904,962.61 | 78,429,569.78 | 75,802,070.12 | 72,563,370.56 | 73,355,269.94 |

► Go back

Data — Deposits in the United States



► Go back

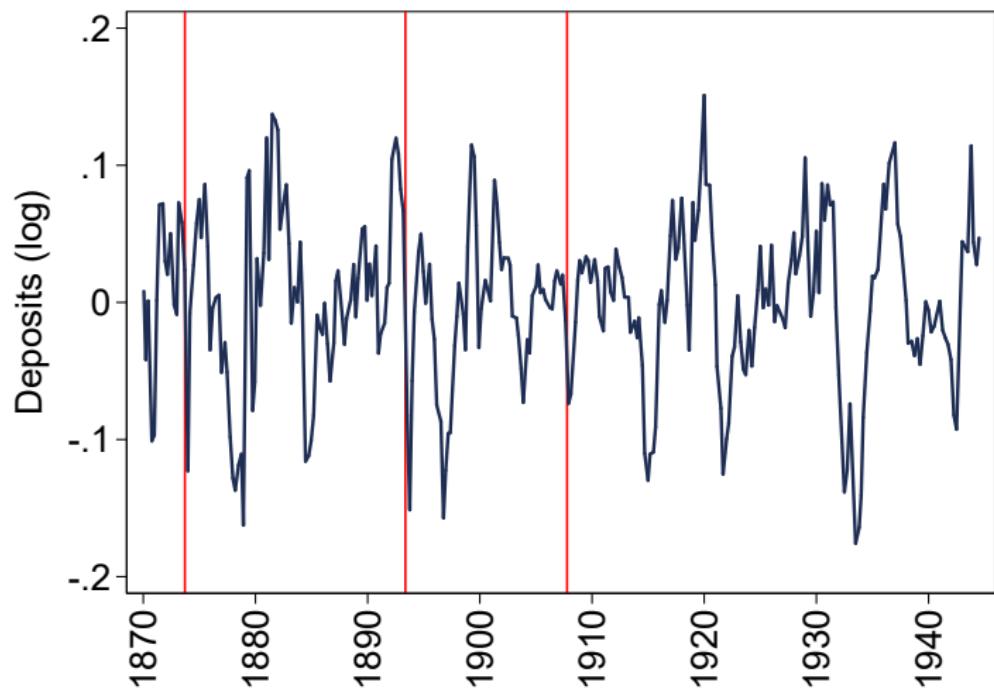
Banking panic series: from Jalil (2015)

| Date | Jalil (2015) | Origin |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| Sep 1873 | All | Europe |
| May 1884 | NY, PA, NJ | NY |
| Nov 1890 | NY | |
| May 1893 | All | All |
| Dec 1896 | IL, MN, WI | IL |
| Dec 1899 | MA, NY | MA |
| Jun 1901 | NY | |
| Oct 1903 | PA, MD | MD |

| Date | Jalil (2015) | Origin |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| Dec 1905 | IL | |
| Oct 1907 | All | NY |
| Jan 1908 | NY | |
| Aug 1920 | MA | |
| Nov 1920 | ND | |
| Jul 1926 | FL, GA | GA |
| Mar 1927 | FL | |
| Jul 1929 | FL | |

► Go back

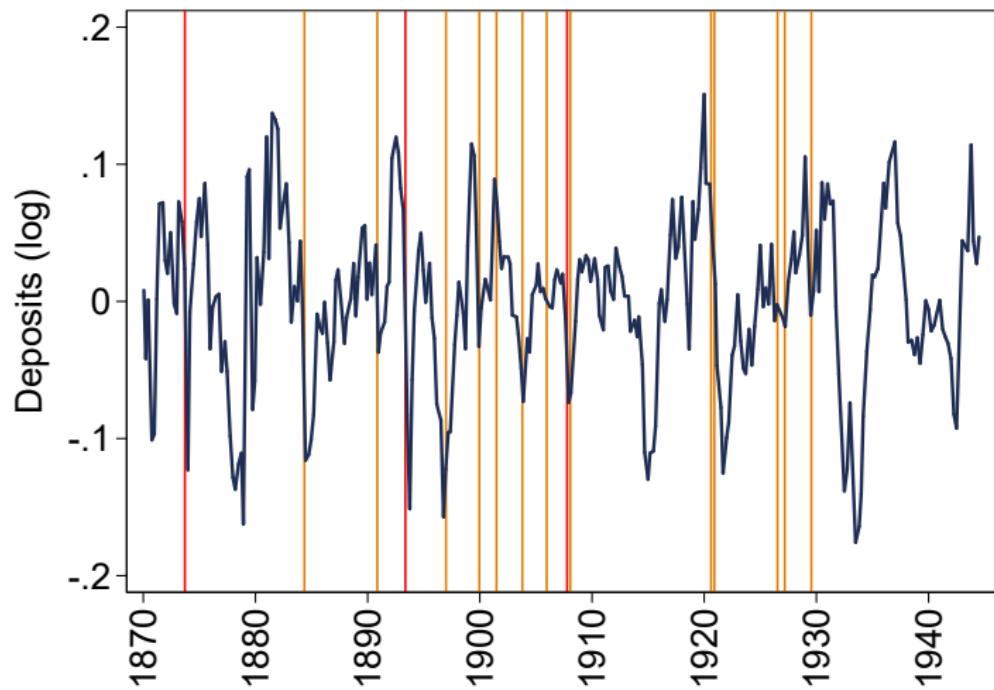
Data — (de-trended) deposits in the United States



Major panics

► Go back

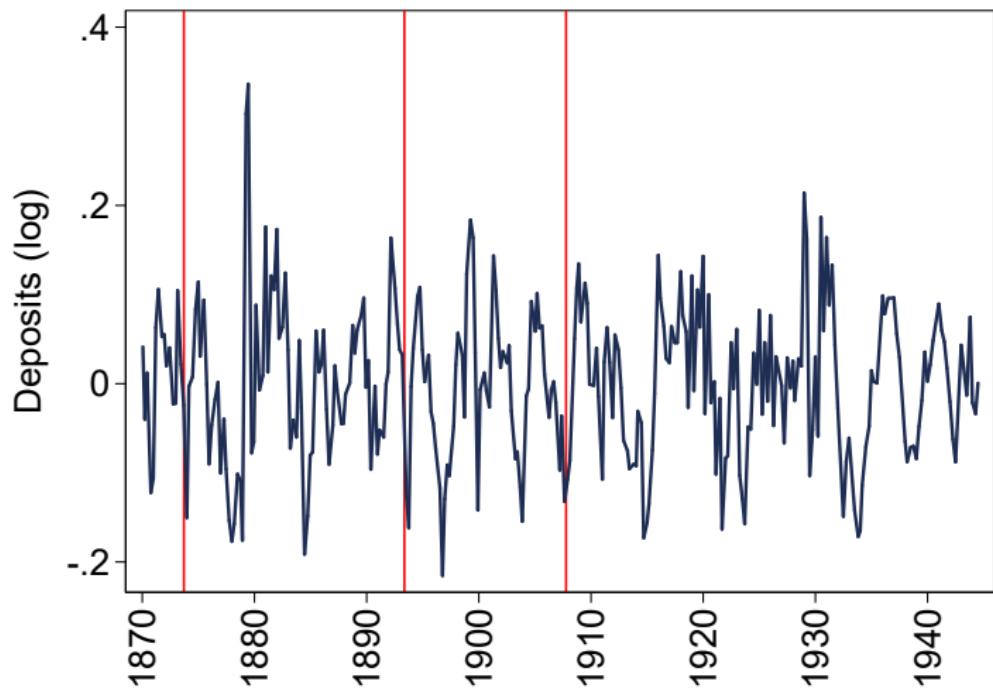
Data — (de-trended) deposits in the United States



Minor panics

► Go back

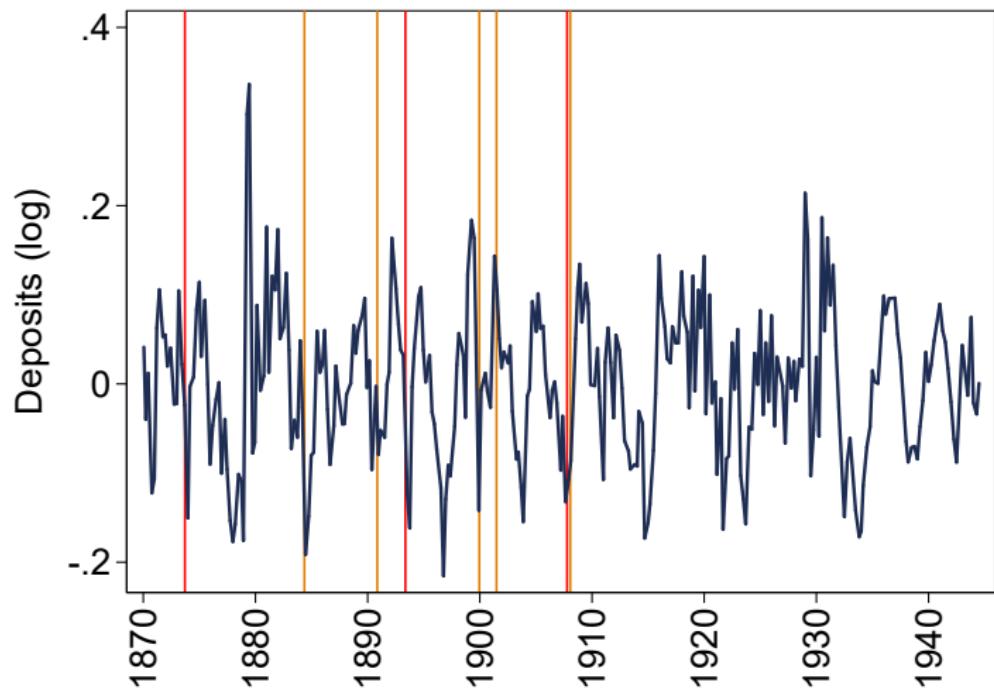
Data — (de-trended) deposits in New York



Major panics

► Go back

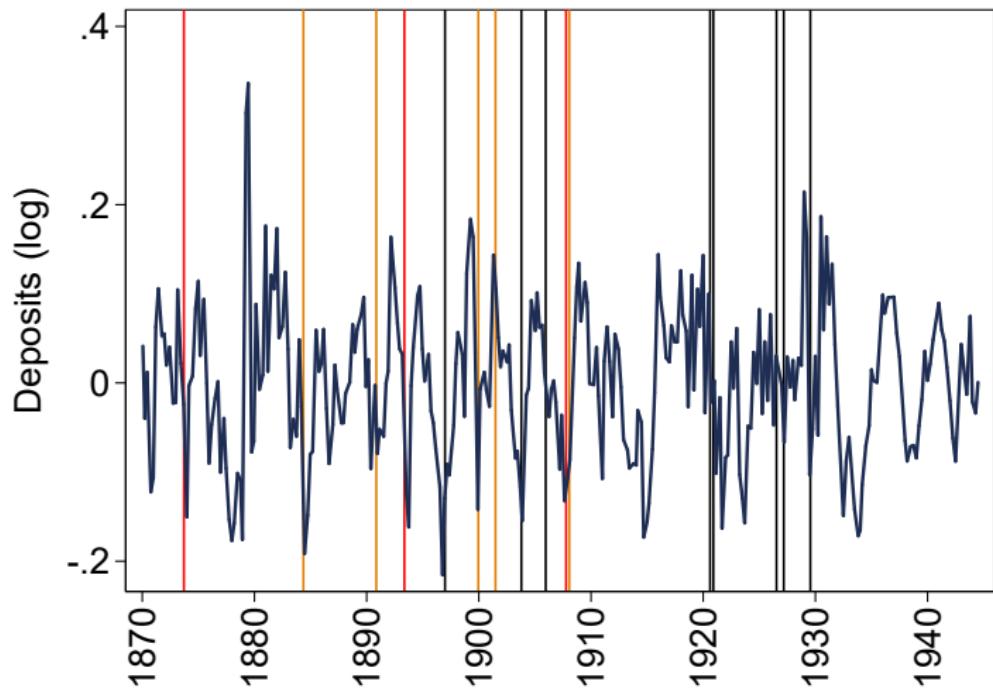
Data — (de-trended) deposits in New York



Minor panics (related to New York)

► Go back

Data — (de-trended) deposits in New York



Minor panics (all)

➡ Go back

Excerpts from Jalil (2015)

1884 (minor) panic (**NY**, PA, NJ):

- “On May 14, the Metropolitan Bank closed its doors following a serious run. **Rumors had been circulating that its president had misappropriated funds for speculative purposes.** The suspension of the Metropolitan Bank, an institution holding reserves from banks throughout the nation, led to the intervention of the New York Clearing House.”

1896 (minor) panic (**IL**, MN, WI):

- “The failure of The National Bank of Illinois set off a banking panic in December 1896. According to the Chronicle, the bank had loaned an amount that surpassed its “combined capital, surplus and undivided profits” to one corporation and a large additional sum to a relative of one of the officers of the bank.”

► Go back

Weibull distribution: useful properties

$X_i \sim W(\lambda_i, \kappa)$:

- ① Scalar multiplication:

$$\textcolor{red}{c}X_i \sim W(\textcolor{red}{c}\lambda_i, \kappa)$$

- ② Moments:

$$\mathbb{E}(X_i^n) = (\lambda_i)^n \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{n}{\kappa}\right)$$

- ③ Minimum of $\{X_n\}$ when $X_n \sim W(\lambda_n, \kappa)$ for $\forall n$ and $\{X_n\}$ are mutually independent:

$$\min_n \{X_n\} \sim W\left(\left(\sum_n (\lambda_n)^{-\kappa}\right)^{-\frac{1}{\kappa}}, \kappa\right)$$

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Model — Deposit Division (n)

At optimum:

$$R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) = \underbrace{z_{ni,t}(\tau)}_{\text{Random draw}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \rho_{n,t} \cdot (D_{n,t})^{-(\alpha-1)} . \quad (5)$$

where

$$\rho_{n,t} \equiv \rho_n^S(D_{n,t}) \left(1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{n,t,D,\rho}^S} \right)$$

- ① Economies of scale ($\alpha > 1$): $D_{n,t} \uparrow \longrightarrow R_{ni,t}^I(\tau) \downarrow$ (i.e., charge lower interbank loan rates)
- ② $\varepsilon_{n,t,D,\rho}^S \downarrow$ (deposit supply elasticity \downarrow) \longrightarrow increasing $D_{n,t}$ by \$1 requires deposit rates \uparrow more \longrightarrow interbank loan rates \uparrow in equilibrium

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Model — lending demand (i)

Log-linear approximation around equal deposit size (across n)

$$\log(Loan_{i,t}) = \mu_i + s_t + \sum_{n=1}^N \tilde{T}_{ni} \log(D_{n,t}) + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad \forall i$$

where

$$\mu_i = -\beta \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{(T_{ni})^{-\kappa}}{\sum_{n'=1}^N (T_{n'i})^{-\kappa}} \right) \hat{T}_{ni} = -\beta \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{T_{ni}}{\bar{T}_i} \right)^{-\kappa} \hat{T}_{ni}$$

and

$$\tilde{T}_{ni} = \underbrace{\beta(\alpha - 1)}_{>0} \left(\frac{T_{ni}}{\bar{T}_i} \right)^{-\kappa}, \text{ where } \bar{T}_i \equiv \left(\sum_{n=1}^N (T_{ni})^{-\kappa} \right)^{-\frac{1}{\kappa}}$$

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Model to the regression specification

Then

$$\log(Loan_{i,t}) = \mu_i + s_t + \sum_{j=1}^4 \lambda_j X_{i,t}^j + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} X_{i,t}^1 &= \sum_{n=1}^N \log(D_{n,t}) & X_{i,t}^3 &= \sum_{n=1}^N Neighbor_{ni} \cdot \log(D_{n,t}) \\ X_{i,t}^2 &= \sum_{n=1}^N \log(Distance_{ni}) \cdot \log(D_{n,t}) & X_{i,t}^4 &= \sum_{n=1}^N Own_n \cdot \log(D_{n,t}) \end{aligned}$$

Deposits supply is given by (precise specification not important)

$$\log(D_{n,t}) = c_n + \log(D_{n,t-1}) + \phi Panic_{n,t} + v_{n,t} \quad (7)$$

- $Cov(v_{n,t}, \epsilon_{i,t}) \neq 0, \quad \forall n, i$
- Exogeneity of minor panics: $Cov(v_{n,t}, Panic_{n,t}) = Cov(\epsilon_{i,t}, Panic_{n,t}) = 0, \quad \forall n$

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Model to the regression specification

Combining equations (6) and (7)

$$\log(Loan_{i,t}) = \eta_i + s_t + \sum_{j=1}^4 \theta_j F_{i,t}^j + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where

$$F_{i,t}^1 = \sum_{n=1}^N Panic_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^3 = \sum_{n=1}^N Neighbor_{ni} \cdot Panic_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \log(Distance_{ni}) \cdot Panic_{n,t}$$

$$F_{i,t}^4 = \sum_{n=1}^N Own_n \cdot Panic_{n,t}$$

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Robustness results with size effects— deposits

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Robustness results with size effects— loans

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Robustness results with size effects— liquidity ratio

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Robustness results with size effects— average capital

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Robustness results with size effects— the number of banks

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