Intervening against the Fed



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Introduction

Question: Can FX Intervention mitigate the effect of US monetary shock?

Method:

- Event study using US monetary surprise
- Daily FXI, exchange rate, firm-level stock price and currency denomination of B/S
- Identify FXI via deviation from estimated FXI rule

<u>Result</u>: When the Fed hikes unexpectedly,

• No FXI: Local currency depreciates + stock price of firms w/dollar debt decreases

Balance Sheet Channel

 $\log(y_{i(c),t+h}) - \log(y_{i(c),t-1}) = \gamma_h FFR_t \times USD_{i(c),y-1(t)} + X\delta_x^h + \alpha_{i(c)} + \alpha_{c,t}^h + \epsilon_{i(c),t}^h$

- $y_{i(c),t+h}$: Stock price, $\forall h = \in [-5,5]$
- FFR_t : US monetary shock ($FFR_t \Uparrow = US$ tightening)
- $USD_{i(c),y-1(t)}$: dollar debt indicator
- X: controls
 - Firm-level: total asset, export intensity, liquidity over asset ratio, firm age



- **FXI:** Exchange rate and stock price are stable
- FXI prevents US monetary spillover through B/S channel

Figure 1: Spot Exchange Rate: 1USD = JPY



Data

- **Period:** 2000-2019, 13 countries, 4,060 firms
 - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, and Turkey
 - Criteria: daily FXI data is available + intervened against US dollar
- **FX intervention:** central bank website, FRED, individual contacts
- **US monetary shock:** Nakamura and Steinsson (2018)

• Industry-level: import content of production

Result:

- No FXI: US monetary spillover via balance sheet channel through depreciation
- **FXI:** spillover is mitigated



Figure 3. Effect of FXI on Stock Price (B/S channel)

Figure 4. Effect of FXI on Exchange Rate

(b) Effect of Intervention

Days since FOMC Meeting

Effect of Intervention

- **Exchange rate and stock returns:** Datastream
- **Balance sheet** (currency denomination of debt): Capital IQ
- **Fundamentals:** Worldscope, OECD Input-Output Table

FXI Policy Rule

$$\widetilde{FXI}_{c,t} = \alpha + \sum_{c} \beta_{c} (FFR_{t} \times \gamma_{c}) + \delta Z_{c,t} + \gamma_{c} + \epsilon_{c,t}$$

- $\dot{F}XI_{c.t}$: **Counter-intervention** dummy
 - 1 if **FFR** f on date t, CB sells but does not buy USD b/w t and t+5 •
 - -1 if **FFR** U on date t, CB **buys but does not sell USD** b/w t and t+5
- FFR_t : US monetary shock on date t ($FFR_t \Uparrow = US$ tightening)
- $Z_{c,t}$: controls
 - Past trend and volatility of exchange rate, past intervention, macro variables (policy rate, GDP, CPI inflation, unemployment rate, trade balance over GDP ratio), macro variables × FFR shock
- 76% of variation in counter-intervention is cannot be explained.
- Residual = **Unexpected intervention**

Expenditure Switching Channel

- Depreciation effect of US tightening may boost exports
- However, also negative demand effects
- FXI mutes the depreciation effect without mitigating demand channel



Figure 5. Effect of FXI on Stock Price (expenditure switching channel)

Figure 2: Variance Decomposition for Counter-Intervention



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Robustness checks: Intensive and extensive margins of dollar debt, alternative definition for unexpected counter-intervention, size of intervention, daily policy rate, FX reserves, debt maturity, international sales and asset, currency denomination of stock price, exclude each country

Conclusion

- Identification of spillover of US monetary policy by using high-frequency US monetary shock and **firm-level data**
- Estimate deviation from FXI policy rule to understand how interventions can help countries insulate against spillover
- FXI can be a tool insulate countries from global financial cycle.
- Buildup of reserves over last decades reduces US spillover effects
- Important to understand general equilibrium implications and optimality of policy (IMF's integrated policy framework)