

The Dollar Squeeze and Economic Growth

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Abstract

We explore how covered interest parity deviations—measured by the cross-currency basis (CCB)—affects output growth. Using quarterly data from advanced economies (AE) and emerging markets (EM) in a panel VAR model and local projections, we find that positive shocks to the CCB typically lead to negative responses in output, implying that looser dollar funding conditions induce contractions. This counterintuitive result may be understood by recognizing that the effects of dollar access operates by altering the relative attractiveness of dollar versus non-dollar-denominated assets. While it is true that acute conditions, such as financial crises in AEs, lead to rising safe-haven demand for international liquidity—and as such, dollar shortages become debilitating for growth—this is not the case during normal times. Instead, we find that in AEs, the exchange rate appreciates to compensate holders of local-currency assets, which erodes export competitiveness and hence growth. In EMs, easier dollar access induces agents to increase their purchases of local-currency assets, which crowds out domestic liquidity and diminishes growth.

KEYWORDS: CIP deviations; cross-currency basis; dollar squeeze; output growth; panel VAR; IV local projections

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1 Introduction

The dollar squeeze, as conventionally understood, refers to the economic effects of U.S. dollar liquidity on foreign borrowers. It is a first-order concern for global private-sector investors and public-sector policymakers alike. The squeeze reflects the dominance of the dollar in international finance, where half or more of all transactions—ranging from cross-border lending to trade invoicing—are denominated in the currency (Figure 1). It is also the mechanism by which Federal Reserve policy can spill over to other economies worldwide. Given the dominance of the greenback, it would be unsurprising if access to dollars affects trade, investment, and economic performance in nations that do not otherwise transact in the currency.

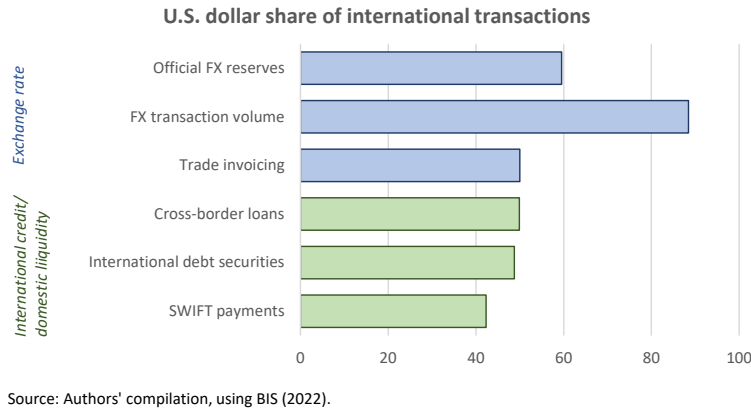


Figure 1: The U.S. dollar is ubiquitous in cross-border transactions, reflecting the importance of the greenback in international trade and finance. Dollar dominance in foreign exchange, reserves, and trade invoicing embody an exchange rate channel through which the currency influences growth, while the denomination of cross-border loans, debt, and payments capture an international credit channel—which in turn can alter domestic liquidity—both of which may affect economic performance.

Typically, the dollar squeeze is associated with a tightening of dollar liquidity, which in turn reduces growth. While this is true in certain models (Dong & Wen 2024; Jiang, Krishnamurthy & Lustig 2021, 2024), we contend that the question of how dollar liquidity matters for economic outcomes is, ultimately, an empirical one. After all, economies finance investment not just from foreign sources but also via domestic saving (Feldstein & Horioka 1980), and the latter may be harnessed should dollars be especially scarce. And in the presence of capital flows, exchange rate developments may substantially alter the calculus of consumption and investment choices made by households and firms, and thereby offset the effects of tighter dollar liquidity.

In this paper, we argue that the dollar squeeze should be interpreted more broadly, as the manner by which constrained access to short-term dollar funding inhibits economic performance. Importantly, these conditions may apply to situations of either *looser* or tighter liquidity. More pointedly, we find that the traditional argument—that dollar shortages imply insufficient financial resources to support economic activity—applies in only one specific circumstance: in advanced economies, during a financial crisis. Here, we find clear evidence of the negative effects of limited international liquidity on growth. In this paper, we argue that the dollar squeeze should be interpreted more broadly, as the manner by which constrained access to short-term dollar funding inhibits economic performance. Importantly, these condi-

tions may apply to situations of either *looser* or tighter liquidity. More pointedly, we find that the traditional argument—that dollar shortages imply insufficient financial resources to support economic activity—applies in only one specific circumstance: in advanced economies, during a financial crisis. In this case, we find clear evidence of the negative effects of limited international liquidity on growth.

Under normal conditions, in contrast, the dollar squeeze operates by diminishing the relative attractiveness of dollar-denominated assets, which in turn induces trade and financial flows that conspire to lower growth. In particular, we establish two additional, indirect channels for the dollar squeeze. For EMs, the reduction in convenience yields on safe-haven dollar assets increases the attractiveness of local currency-denominated assets. Elevated purchases of such assets, in turn, both raises the cost of capital, while crowding out domestic liquidity otherwise available to finance growth. For AEs—where yields are already more comparable to that of the U.S. to begin with—the local currency instead appreciates to compensate asset holders, and this erodes the country’s export performance and suppresses growth.

While there are many ways to assess dollar needs, one mechanism has recently come into greater prominence, especially after the 2007/08 global financial crisis: large and persistent deviations from covered interest parity (CIP), frequently referred to as the cross-currency basis (CCB). The presence of a nonzero CCB is itself remarkable, since, prior to the crisis, CIP was one of the more reliable examples of efficient financial arbitrage. Deviations—to the extent that they emerged—were miniscule, and quickly corrected. Yet this previously-dependable relationship changed as a result of the crisis (Baba & Packer 2009; Coffey, Hrungr, Nguyen & Sarkar 2009; Hui, Genberg & Chung 2011), and has persisted thereafter (Cerutti, Obstfeld & Zhou 2021; Du, Tepper & Verdelhan 2018; Iida, Kimura, Sudo *et al.* 2018).

We exploit the CCB as our metric for dollar liquidity. We compute cross-currency bases vis-à-vis the dollar for a mix of 50 advanced economies (AEs) and emerging markets (EMs), before, during, and after the global crisis, and match these with macroeconomic data, especially output, prices, the money stock, and the exchange rate. We apply a panel vector autoregression (PVAR) model to the system, and consider how dollar liquidity shocks shape economic outcomes. To further secure identification, we further consider instrumental variable local projections (IV-LPs) specifications. Our central finding—that greater dollar liquidity is accompanied by lower growth, except for AEs during crises—is remarkably robust, surviving checks for endogeneity, model specification, and variable measurement.

Related research. The literature on deviations from covered interest parity dates back to the heyday of research on determinants of exchange rates in the 1970s and 80s. Earlier papers mostly found that deviations were small and short-lived (Browne 1983; Clinton 1988). When the hitherto robust CIP relationship broke down after 2007, scholars began to explore why. Explanations include heightened counterparty risk (Baba & Packer 2009; Hui *et al.* 2011), greater illiquidity in the foreign exchange market (Fong, Valente & Fung 2010; Pinnington & Shamloo 2016), a strengthening of the dollar (Avdjiev, Du, Koch & Shin 2019; Cerutti *et al.* 2021), increases in hedging demand for dollars (Borio, McCauley, McGuire & Sushko 2016; Bush 2024; Liao & Zhang 2020), rising transactions costs of various kinds (Cenedese, Della Corte &

Wang 2021; Du *et al.* 2018; Liao 2020), and monetary (Fukuda & Tanaka 2017; Iida *et al.* 2018) or regulatory (Bräuning & Puria 2017; Rime, Schrimpf & Syrstad 2022) divergences. We depart from this family of papers in not attempting to explain the *causes* of CIP deviations, as much as outlining some of its *consequences*.

That said, three papers are more closely aligned with our work here. Eguren Martin (2020) builds a two-country New Keynesian model with financial frictions, and finds that dollar shortages lead to deviations from *uncovered* interest rate parity, reducing bank lending, and contracting output. Ibhagui (2020) instead links CIP deviations to (relative) money supply and output growth via a standard monetary model, and finds that dollar *surpluses* are associated with increases in output. Finally, Bianchi & Engel (2023) center their analysis instead on banks, and show that deviations in either covered or uncovered interest parity result from a dollar liquidity premium. All three papers are, however, macro-theoretic in nature, in contrast to our empirically-oriented approach here.

Moreover, most existing analyses of CIP limit themselves to currencies of advanced (and especially G10¹) economies (Cerutti *et al.* 2021; Fukuda & Tanaka 2017). However, global demand for dollar assets has increased dramatically following the global financial crisis, by EM sovereigns (Dittmar & Yuan 2008), banks (Aldasoro, Eren & Huang 2021; Iida *et al.* 2018), and corporates (Alfaro, Asis, Chari & Panizza 2019; David-Pur, Galil, Rosenboim & Shapir 2023; Kim & Shin 2021). Conclusions about the effects of dollar liquidity made using a sample that excludes EMs are therefore likely to be incomplete. Our study plugs this gap.

Another related area of research are papers that examine global currency competition (Aizenman, Cheung & Qian 2020; Flandreau & Jobst 2009; Fratzscher & Mehl 2014) and international currencies (Lane & Shambaugh 2010; Matsuyama, Kiyotaki & Matsui 1993), especially regarding the dominant role of the dollar (Goldberg & Tille 2009; Maggiori, Neiman & Schreger 2019). The dollar enjoys a disproportionate share of foreign exchange reserves (Chinn, Frankel & Ito 2024; Lilley, Maggiori, Neiman & Schreger 2022), as well as both sovereign (Jiang *et al.* 2021) and corporate debt issuance (Jiang *et al.* 2024; Maggiori, Neiman & Schreger 2020). This dominance exerts a demonstrable effect on real trade flows (Bruno & Shin 2023; Goldberg & Tille 2008; Gopinath, Boz, Casas, Díez, Gourinchas & Plagborg-Møller 2020). The question remains, however, if the dollar’s importance for real economic outcomes in foreign countries goes beyond trade. That is our focus here.

Finally, our work also speaks to a very large body of work on the international transmission of monetary policy (Buch, Bussière, Goldberg & Hills 2019; Takáts & Vela 2014), especially when emanating from the United States (Obstfeld 2020). The effects of these shocks have been considered for not only conventional (Di Giovanni & Shambaugh 2008) but also unconventional (Bauer & Neely 2014; Lim & Mohapatra 2016) forms of monetary policy.

A number of these papers are fairly close to our own, in terms of methodology. Kim (2001), for instance, use recursively-identified VARs, while Neuenkirch & Nöckel (2018) rely on identification via sign restrictions. In a panel setting, Basso, Calvo-Gonzalez & Jurgilas (2011) apply

¹The G10 are the most heavily traded and liquid currencies, and comprise the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, and U.S. dollars, the euro, the Japanese yen, British pound, Swiss franc, Norwegian krone, Danish krone, and Swedish krona. Given that the U.S. dollar is the counterpart currency in calculating CCB, we do not consider it in our analysis since it is always equal to zero.

Cholesky decompositions to a panel VAR, while [Crespo Cuaresma, Doppelhofer, Feldkircher & Huber \(2019\)](#) instead prefer a global VAR (and sign restrictions). What is common to these—as well as virtually all other papers that explore the spillover effects of the dollar on other economies ([Caceres, Carriere-Swallow, Demir & Gruss 2016](#); [Gerko & Rey 2017](#); [Miranda-Agrippino & Rey 2020](#); [Passari & Rey 2015](#); [Rey 2016](#))—is a focus on interest rates (in varying forms) as their primary measure of the shock to U.S. monetary policy. In contrast, our instrument of interest is a shock to dollar liquidity, proxied by the CCB.

Some papers have probed deeper into how certain channels transmit monetary policies from one country to another. [Demirgüç-Kunt, Horváth & Huizinga \(2020\)](#), for example, explore spillover effects via the bank lending channel, whereas [Lin & Ye \(2018\)](#) address how the credit channel can affect trade. The risk-taking channel is considered in [Neuenkirch & Nöckel \(2018\)](#), while [Cesa-Bianchi & Sokol \(2022\)](#) take on the informational channel. Like these papers, our work also seeks to unpack key cross-border transmission channels, but we do so in the context of dollar liquidity (rather than interest rates), while concentrating our efforts on international credit, domestic liquidity, and the exchange rate.

2 Theoretical Background

2.1 Global dollar liquidity

Liquidity—the ease of access to funding—is a rich financial concept. In the finance literature, measures typically distinguish between market and funding liquidity ([Brunnermeier & Pedersen 2009](#)); the former concerning the ease of trading an asset, and the latter the ability to obtain resources for executing trades. In the context of international finance, the former is frequently approximated by the amount of currency volatility relative to trade volumes ([Ranaldo & de Magistris 2022](#)), while the latter is usually captured by short-term eurocurrency rates ([Grabbe 1982](#)). Yet if anything, it is usually global—and especially dollar—liquidity that matters more for most open economies, since its access could drastically alter the amount of financing available to fund real economic activity.

Global liquidity encompasses both elements of market and funding liquidity, but is more focused on the availability of funding from international financial markets ([Eickmeier, Gambacorta & Hofmann 2014](#)). There is no consensus measure of global liquidity ([Beckmann, Belke & Czudaj 2014](#)). Analysts have variously relied on price signals (such as deviations of the short-term rate from [Taylor \(1993\)](#)-implied rules, or spreads between deposit and overnight index swap rates), or quantity metrics (such as foreign reserve holdings, or the volume of dollar-denominated asset issuance) ([BIS 2011](#)). While these proxies undoubtedly capture important elements of global liquidity, what is common across these disparate indicators is that they may not sufficiently isolate the currency accessibility aspect of liquidity, especially with respect to U.S. dollars.

Doing so is important, because of the dollar’s status as the international currency *par excellence*, leading to its use as a medium of exchange (as a vehicle or intervention currency), unit of account (in invoicing or anchoring), and store of value (via assets or reserves). Changes to dollar liquidity have the potential to afflict all economies without the ability to print the

currency—that is, all economies other than the United States. Since the global financial crisis of 2007/08, deviations from covered interest parity, as reflected in the cross-currency basis, have become a very useful gauge of the ability to access dollars (Bacchetta, Davis & van Wincoop 2024; David-Pur *et al.* 2023). Accordingly, we focus on dollar liquidity as our chosen metric for global liquidity.

2.2 The cross-currency basis as a measure of global dollar liquidity

Covered interest parity is a no-arbitrage condition in international finance, which states that the returns from two different cash markets for the same tenor should be equal, after hedging exchange rate risk via a forward contract. For a country i facing continuously compounded interest rates at time t with an n -period tenor, CIP may be expressed as:

$$e^{n \cdot r_{t,t+n}^*} = e^{n \cdot r_{it,i(t+n)}} \cdot \frac{S_{it}}{F_{it,i(t+n)}} \quad (1)$$

where $r_{it,i(t+n)}$ ($r_{t,t+n}^*$) represents the interest rate for the currency of country i (the U.S. dollar), and S_{it} and $F_{it,i(t+n)}$ are the directly quoted² spot and forward exchange rates, respectively.

With perfect arbitrage, (1) will hold with equality at all times. However, deviations from CIP may emerge, and this may be expressed as a wedge, $x_{it,i(t+n)}$,³ which captures the difference between the dollar interest rate and its synthetic equivalent. Incorporating $x_{it,i(t+n)}$ into equation (1) yields:

$$e^{n \cdot r_{t,t+n}^*} = e^{n \cdot (r_{it,i(t+n)} + x_{it,i(t+n)})} \cdot \frac{S_{it}}{F_{it,i(t+n)}}. \quad (2)$$

By taking logarithms and solving (2) for $x_{it,i(t+n)}$, we obtain the expression for the cross-currency basis for country i :

$$x_{it,i(t+n)} = r_{t,t+n}^* - \left[r_{it,i(t+n)} - \frac{1}{n} (f_{it,i(t+n)} - s_{it}) \right] \quad (3)$$

where $f_{it,i(t+n)}$ (s_{it}) represents the log-equivalent term for the forward (spot) exchange rate. (3) expresses the CCB as the difference between the direct and synthetic dollar interest rates (the term in the square brackets), with the latter obtained by borrowing local currency first, before exchanging it for dollars in the spot foreign exchange (FX) market, while simultaneously swapping it out with a forward contract, thereby hedging exchange rate risk.

From the perspective of dollar borrowers, the two rates represent the alternative funding costs of borrowing dollars—for American versus foreign investors, respectively—and any resulting spread may serve as a reasonable proxy for (global) dollar liquidity constraints (Filipe, Nissinen & Suominen 2023; Goldberg 2024). The sign of $x_{it,i(t+n)}$ thus indicates not only the direction of CIP deviations, but also the relative funding cost differential. When $x_{it,i(t+n)} < 0$, it is cheaper to borrow dollars directly from the dollar cash market, as opposed to the cross-

²That is, the price in local currency per U.S. dollar, such that an increase amounts to a depreciation.

³We follow Du *et al.* (2018) and measure the cross-currency basis in terms of the currency of country i against the U.S. dollar. As such, a negative basis implies a dollar shortage for investors outside of the U.S., which is the opposite of other studies that measure the cross-currency basis of the dollar vis-à-vis a foreign currency (see, for example, Baba & Packer 2009; Coffey *et al.* 2009; Fukuda & Tanaka 2017; Levich 2012).

currency swap market (and *vice versa* when $x_{it,i(t+n)} > 0$). Thus, a negative basis implies a relative dollar shortage for investors outside of the United States, with decreases suggesting a worsening of this liquidity condition. This is the stereotypical reference to a “dollar squeeze,” when non-U.S. entities are in need of dollars to finance lending or investment, but are unable to secure them in money markets. From the perspective of dollar borrowers, the two rates represent the alternative funding costs of borrowing dollars—for American versus foreign investors, respectively—and any resulting spread may serve as a reasonable proxy for (global) dollar liquidity constraints (Filipe *et al.* 2023; Goldberg 2024). The sign of $x_{it,i(t+n)}$ thus indicates not only the direction of CIP deviations, but also the relative funding cost differential. When $x_{it,i(t+n)} < 0$, it is cheaper to borrow dollars directly from the dollar cash market, as opposed to the cross-currency swap market (and *vice versa* when $x_{it,i(t+n)} > 0$). Thus, a negative basis implies a relative dollar shortage for investors outside of the United States, with decreases suggesting a worsening of this liquidity condition. This is the stereotypical reference to a “dollar squeeze,” when non-U.S. entities are in need of dollars to finance lending or investment, but are unable to secure them in money markets.

Conversely, a dollar *surplus*—when the CCB is positive—means that investors outside the U.S. can borrow dollars more readily. The reduced opportunity cost of holding the dollar may thus be interpreted as a diminution of the “convenience yield” (Jiang *et al.* 2021; Robe 2022), accrued for otherwise holding dollar assets. This, in turn, renders non-dollar-denominated assets more attractive, and encourages substitution into them. An increase (decrease) in the CCB is therefore associated with a fall (rise) in convenience yields. Recognizing this relationship also makes it clear that the liquidity element captured by our metric applies specifically to high-frequency, unanticipated short-term dollar needs—not already covered by forward or FX swap contracts—rather than those resulting from lower-frequency cross-border financial flows.

Just as price movements or spreads need not be definitive signals of funding or market liquidity, the CCB is not an unequivocal indicator of dollar liquidity. Still, what is unique and appealing about the CCB is that CIP *already explicitly accounts for arbitrage*. Hence, deviations reflect fluctuations in access to dollars that are experienced to a material degree, since they would otherwise be arbitrated away. Indeed, even though the literature offers multiple *explanations* of why CIP deviations occur (as cited in the introduction), these do not obviate how a nonzero CCB would still imply imbalances in order flows for dollars, without which such deviations would not persist. It is therefore an undeniably relevant metric for dollar liquidity, and is generally viewed as such by foreign exchange traders and investors alike (Borio *et al.* 2016; David-Pur *et al.* 2023; Sueppel 2024).

2.3 Transmission of the cross-currency basis

Markets frequently refer to a shortage of dollar liquidity as a “squeeze,” because access to the dollar is often deemed necessary to support economic activity. However, this squeeze on the macroeconomy may manifest in other ways. Changes to dollar liquidity can alter the attractiveness of holding dollars and dollar-denominated assets, which also carry implications for economic activity. Theory has identified some key transmission channels by which shocks to dollar liquidity may propagate to the real economy.

The most direct manner by which dollar shocks can alter real activity in foreign countries is via the *international credit* channel (Miranda-Agrippino & Rey 2020).⁴ Given the prevalence of the dollar as an international funding currency, financial institutions without easy access to dollars may face an elevated external finance premium, especially under crisis conditions, which hampers their ability to intermediate between foreign creditors and domestic borrowers. Consequently, these banks deleverage and pare back on lending at home, which in turn weakens aggregate demand. Such international illiquidity can become particularly severe during financial crises (Chang & Velasco 2001). Unfortunately, flexible exchange rates—the traditional buffer between foreign shocks on the domestic economy—are insufficient to insulate economies from such spillovers (Rey 2016). The effect of dollar liquidity on growth, operating along this channel, is summarized below.

Hypothesis 1a (International credit channel). *Increases in dollar liquidity operating via the direct international credit channel support growth, especially during crisis conditions.*

Empirical studies have pointed to how international credit crunches were relevant for the 2007/08 global crisis (Ivashina & Scharfstein 2010; Miranda-Agrippino & Rey 2020) as well as the European sovereign debt crisis of 2010 (Correa, Saprizza & Zlate 2021),⁵ and how crisis-induced credit constraints hindered real economic activity (Cesa-Bianchi & Sokol 2022). The channel may also be pertinent in non-crisis settings, as demonstrated in Mexico (Miranda-Agrippino & Rey 2020).

Besides the direct channel of international credit, there are also indirect channels where dollar liquidity changes may potentially affect growth.

The *domestic liquidity* channel can amplify or offset the effects of dollar liquidity changes on the economy. In closed economies, differences in investment opportunities available to entrepreneurs imply that liquid funds are necessary for financing capital accumulation; shocks to liquidity could then trigger substitution between money and assets (Kiyotaki & Moore 2019), which in turn affect consumption and investment (and hence output) (Shi 2015). Liquidity shocks may also alter risk-taking appetite—especially in the corporate bond market—which would likewise lead to declines in real activity (Borio & Zhu 2012; Gilchrist & Zakrajšek 2012).

In open economies, such substitution may occur between domestic and (foreign) dollar-denominated assets. During non-crisis (risk-on) periods, the convenience yield on dollar assets will fall. This induces local investors to pursue local-currency assets instead, as their appetite for safe-haven assets diminishes (Caballero & Krishnamurthy 2009; He, Krishnamurthy & Milbradt 2016). Such buying may be financed either by cash holdings at the central bank, or by borrowing dollars at home, with exchange rate risk hedged via an FX swap. Either way, heightened asset purchases will tighten the domestic money supply, while simultaneously raising the cost of capital.⁶ These crowd out credit available for domestic investment, which then prompts a

⁴The credit channel was first advanced by Bernanke (1983) in an effort to understand non-monetary effects of a financial crisis on output. However, most studies had hitherto focused on the effects of crisis transmission via domestic, rather than international, credit.

⁵Some (for example, Logan 2021) have also stressed how dollar liquidity shocks were relevant during the pandemic crisis.

⁶While the credit channel is generally viewed as operating on interest rates, the close inverse relationship between increased rates and a contraction in money stock suggests that the two may be considered in tandem.

growth slowdown. Given the more volatile investment profile of EMs, we suspect that this channel may be more relevant for this group.

Hypothesis 1b (Domestic liquidity channel). *Increases in dollar liquidity operating via the indirect domestic liquidity channel diminish growth, especially for emerging economies under non-crisis conditions.*

The evidence supports the notion that liquidity shocks mattered in the run-up to the Great Depression (Calomiris, Jaremski & Wheelock 2022), and that such constraints can exert a quantitatively large effect on output, while also altering the pace of recovery in the aftermath of the Great Recession (Del Negro, Eggertsson, Ferrero & Kiyotaki 2017). Local credit cycles have also been found in more limited contexts, including in emerging markets such as Turkey (Di Giovanni, Kalemli-Özcan, Ulu & Baskaya 2021). Perhaps most tellingly, there is also evidence that increases in local currency debt in EMs appear to be associated with more amplified CIP deviations (Zheng 2023).

There is another indirect channel: changes to the relative attractiveness of dollar assets may prompt movements in the exchange rate, to compensate for return differentials (more generally, such adjustments are the result of global portfolio rebalancing). This is the classic *exchange rate* channel, implied by *uncovered* interest parity. For example, local currency appreciation will, *ceteris paribus*, promote financial inflows, which could make nondollar assets relatively more attractive, in the event that yield differentials are already trivial. But as long as relative prices remain stable and the Marshall-Lerner condition holds—the norm during non-crisis periods—the consequent real exchange appreciation will also mean a worsening of the current account and, in turn, poorer growth.⁷ Since portfolio rebalances of this nature are more likely between AE assets, we believe that this channel will be more applicable to this group.

Hypothesis 1c (Exchange rate channel). *Increases in dollar liquidity operating via the indirect exchange rate channel diminish growth, especially for advanced economies under non-crisis conditions.*

Recent empirical work has shown that exchange rate changes are closely tied to CIP deviations. While some authors find that a decline in the basis unambiguously results in dollar appreciation (Avdjiev *et al.* 2019), others have found that any immediate appreciation is ultimately followed by a subsequent depreciation (Jiang *et al.* 2021). International portfolio rebalancing between different risk assets, more generally, is also borne out in the data, including in the context of uncovered parity (Curcucu, Thomas, Warnock & Wongswan 2014) and financial stress (Fischer, Greminger, Grisse & Kaufmann 2021). Exchange rates—especially their fixity during the Gold Standard era—have also been implicated in the transmission of the Great Depression from the United States to the rest of the world (Eichengreen & Temin

Furthermore, the traditional monetarist argument likewise affirms the link between tight money, higher rates, and output contractions (Christiano, Eichenbaum & Evans 1999). In the empirical analysis that follows, we also unpack the two and consider the interest rate and money separately.

⁷Risk-taking may also come into play in the global context: lower dollar funding costs promote greater international risk-taking, which leads to inflows and appreciation, seemingly in a virtuous circle (Neuenkirch & Nöckel 2018). However, during a downturn, the same amplification mechanism can reinforce financial distress; as borrowing firms' liabilities rise relative to their assets, the weakening of their balance sheets leads to reductions in investment.

2000). Finally, the external adjustment process is also the subject of a large empirical literature (Engel 2002), for which more recent work has stressed the relative importance of the dominant currency (Casas, Meleshchuk & Timmer 2023).

Figure 2 summarizes how these distinct channels transmit changes in dollar liquidity to growth. Notably, the (direct) international credit channel affects international bank lending, especially during crisis periods. The (indirect) domestic liquidity and exchange rate channel alters holdings of foreign dollar assets and domestic exports, respectively, and appear to operate during normal periods. Changes in these variables then impact growth outcomes in the next period.

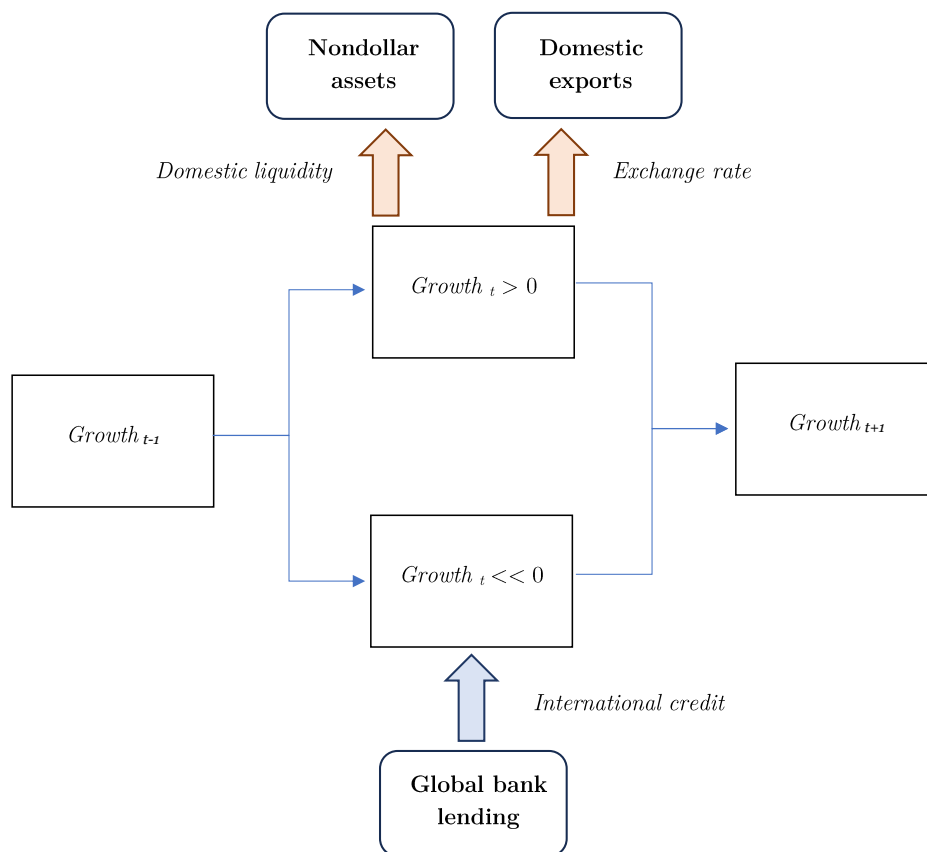


Figure 2: Transmission of the cross-currency basis to growth outcomes include the international credit, domestic liquidity, and exchange rate channels. The first is most direct, and most likely to be empirically relevant during crisis periods; it affects growth by reducing access to financing from international bank lending. The latter two are indirect, and most likely to apply during normal economic conditions. One affects growth when liquidity tightens as a result of increased purchases of non-dollar assets, while the other influences growth when domestic export performance suffers as a result of a strong exchange rate.

3 Empirical measures

3.1 Data sources and construction

Our baseline sample is an unbalanced panel spanning from 2000Q1 to 2020Q4,⁸ which covers up to 50 AEs and EMs. Since we are primarily interested in understanding the relationship between dollar liquidity and economic growth in the short run, we use the three-month IBOR and forward/spot rates from Bloomberg for our cross-currency basis;⁹ the continuously-compounded basis is then calculated for each currency against the U.S. dollar, based on the formulation in (3).¹⁰

Figure 3(a) illustrates the evolution of the CCB for the G10 group of most-traded AE currencies, relative to the U.S. dollar, for the most recent decade. Prior to 2007, CCBs were close to zero, in spite of fluctuations (Akram, Rime & Sarno 2008). The 2007/08 crisis led to massive deviations from CIP, and serves as an obvious dividing line between when CCBs were smaller and stabler, versus larger and more volatile. Other subsequent spikes include the European sovereign debt crisis, and the more recent COVID-19 pandemic crisis. By and large, CCBs for AEs are far smaller than in EMs; observe that the vertical axis in Figure 3(a) is an order of magnitude smaller than Figure 3(b). CIP also does not appear to hold for some currencies, even in the pre-crisis period, although this is more so for EM currencies (these distinctions between G10 and EM currencies has also been documented by others, such as Cerutti & Zhou (2024)).¹¹

One may also observe that the CCB may turn out to be positive, on average, for a number of currencies. This is evident for the Australian and New Zealand dollars (among the G10), or the Qatari *riyal* and South African *rand* (for EMs). For certain currencies, the basis may even have *risen* during crisis episodes, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not an anomaly. This is frequently observed for commodity currencies, which tend to enjoy preferential dollar access even during periods of financial strain, due to how the associated economy’s primary exports are priced in dollars (which guarantees continued dollar flows, regardless). Moreover, certain noncommodity currencies, such as the Turkish *lira*, may have also inadvertently enjoyed sharp increases in the CCB during the pandemic period, because Treasury price movements—coupled with revised Basel III capital requirements—led to an amplification of the *inconvenience* yield for holding dollars during this particular period (He, Nagel & Song 2022).¹²

⁸This includes the period with the COVID-19 pandemic. Since our sample also covers the 2007/08 global crisis, we believe this sample choice, which retains maximum coverage, is justified. However, we demonstrate in the appendix that our baseline results go through even when we exclude this period.

⁹One currency—the Chilean peso—presents known issues for the computation of the CCB. We document robustness checks with varying ways of handling this anomaly in the appendix.

¹⁰The relevant variables are actually available at the daily frequency; we use these to construct a daily IBOR basis, but average these up to obtain a quarterly measure, so as to conform with the frequency of the other macroeconomic variables. Additional details on variable construction are presented in the appendix.

¹¹Notably, Cerutti & Zhou (2024) also argue that CIP deviations in EM currencies move in the opposite direction during global risk-off episodes. An examination of the CCBs for EM currencies in our sample does not, however, reveal any systematic direction for their movement (we plot the CCB for each of the currencies in our sample in the appendix).

¹²Seen this way, such increases in CCBs nevertheless remain consistent with our definition of dollar liquidity discussed in Section 2.2, because there was no appreciable global dollar shortage during this episode, owing to the diminished attractiveness of dollar assets overall.

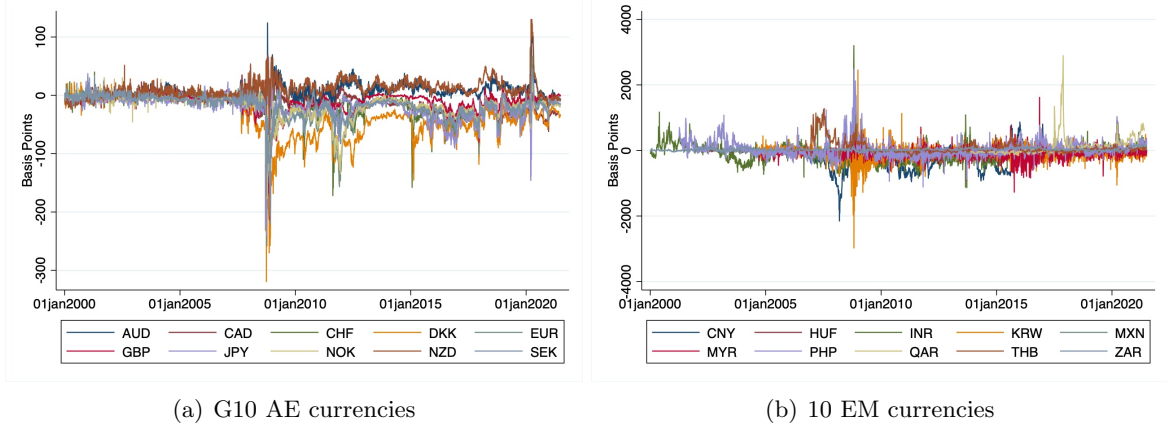


Figure 3: The 3-month cross-currency basis for the G10 group of most-traded advanced-economy currencies (minus the dollar), and a selection of 10 important EM currencies, reveal that the CCB was generally larger and more volatile for EMs, and for some currencies, CIP may not have held even in the pre-crisis period.

The majority of our other macroeconomic data are from Bureau Van Dijk’s *Economist Intelligence Unit Country Data*, including real GDP, the consumer price index (CPI), the money stock (M2), as well as the nominal exchange rate (ER) (all used in our baseline). The producer price index (PPI), lending interest rate, real effective exchange rate, and current account data—used for robustness checks—are also from the same source. We supplement these with additional controls from various sources, such as trade openness, the dependency ratio, and level of financial development from the World Bank’s *World Development Indicators*, political risk from the Political Risk Services group’s *International Country Risk Guide*, and a machine learning democracy index by [Gründler & Krieger \(2021\)](#).

3.2 Econometric methodology

Our baseline specification is based on a k -variate, homogeneous panel vector autoregression model of order p , with $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ economies and $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ periods. It takes the form

$$\mathbf{Y}_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^p \mathbf{Y}'_{i,t-j} \boldsymbol{\beta}_j + \mathbf{X}'_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\gamma} + \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,t}, \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{Y}_{i,t}$ is a $(1 \times k)$ vector of endogenous variables, $\mathbf{X}_{i,t}$ is a $(1 \times m)$ vector of exogenous covariates, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i$ is a $(1 \times k)$ vector of time-invariant country-specific panel fixed effects, and $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{it}$ is a $(1 \times k)$ vector of idiosyncratic errors. The $(k \times k)$ matrix of $\boldsymbol{\beta}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\beta}_p$ and $(m \times k)$ matrix $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ are the coefficients to be estimated. We assume that the idiosyncratic errors follow

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,t} \sim \text{IID}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}), \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{E}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,t}) = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{E}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}'_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,t}) = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, and $\mathbf{E}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}'_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{i,s}) = \mathbf{0}$ whenever $t > s$.

We follow the prior literature ([Holtz-Eakin, Newey & Rosen 1988](#)) and further assume that each of the economies in the cross section shares the same data-generating process, such that

the reduced-form coefficients $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$ and γ are common among all the N economies.

For what follows, we define the vector of two variables $\mathbf{Y}^p = [CCB \ GDP]$ as our parsimonious model. To accommodate additional macroeconomic dynamics, we expand this by adding prices (CPI), the monetary stock (M2) and exchange rate (ER) to the system,¹³ to obtain the five-variable comprehensive model $\mathbf{Y}^c = [CCB \ GDP \ CPI \ M2 \ ER]$.

In our robustness checks, we also consider local projections estimated via instrumental variables (Jordà, Schularick & Taylor 2020). We estimate a series of regressions for the response of $\tilde{Y}_{i,t+h-1}^r$ over the horizon $h = 1, \dots, H$ of the form

$$\tilde{Y}_{i,t+h-1}^r = \tilde{\beta}_{i,-i,h} \tilde{Y}_{i,t-1}^m + \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i,t}' \tilde{\gamma} + \tilde{\alpha}_i + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i,t+h-1}, \quad (6)$$

where α_i and $\tilde{\epsilon}_{i,t}$ are country fixed effects and cluster-robust standard errors, respectively, $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{i,t}$ is the vector of covariates, and the lagged impulse variable $\tilde{Y}_{i,t-1}^m$ is instrumented by the instrument set $\mathbf{Z}_{i,t-1}$. We restrict our examination to just output as the response ($\tilde{Y}^r = GDP$) to the impulse from the cross-currency basis $\tilde{Y}^m = CCB$, while retaining the other endogenous variables as covariates ($\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = [CPI \ M2 \ ER]$, in the case of the comprehensive model).

3.3 Estimation and identification strategy

3.3.1 Estimation

In the estimation of PVAR model, we employ generalized method of moments (GMM), which generally requires “small T , large N ” panels to obtain consistent estimators (Arellano & Bond 1991; Blundell & Bond 1998). That said, Alvarez & Arellano (2003) have convincingly argued that GMM estimators are still consistent when $T/N \rightarrow c$, $\forall c \in (0, 2]$, which is consistent with our data. As such, we exploit the assumption of serial uncorrelatedness of the error terms to instrument the lagged differenced variables, to obtain consistent estimators. In light of the unbalancedness of our panel, we employ forward orthogonal deviations (instead of first differences) to reduce data loss, such that the country-specific effect α_i is removed as well. Finally, we choose the optimal lag of the model based on information criteria.

For the local projections, we likewise rely on the GMM estimator, with errors clustered at the country level. For both the parsimonious and comprehensive models, we consider up to four lags of GDP and the CCB, as is standard in the literature, and run our projections for a horizon of $H = 10$ quarters. The selection of instruments, and their validity, is discussed below.

3.3.2 Timing validity

Since the variables in the PVAR system are generally regarded as endogenous, their ordering is crucial to identifying the impulse response functions. Our baseline relies on a Cholesky decomposition, with variables ordered earlier assumed to affect subsequent variables both contemporaneously and with a lag, whereas those ordered later only influence prior variables with a lag.

¹³ Although we regard changes in the money stock as our primary measure of a monetary shock, we also consider replacing the money supply with the (lending) interest rate as a robustness check.

Our identification of the central relationship between the cross-currency basis and output is based on treating CCB as more exogenous than GDP. The basis is almost entirely comprised of variables external to the domestic economy, such as the dollar exchange and interest rate, which are not directly determined by local actors alone. Of course, such external variables could nevertheless incorporate certain *expectations* of the current state of the domestic economy. If so, one could argue that trading in financial markets may, in principle, still capture these considerations in the cross-currency basis, even prior to output being observed by market participants. However, this is also unlikely, since changes to the CCB are not just comprised of unanticipated shocks to the exchange and interest rate—both of which are notoriously difficult to predict to begin with (Cheung, Chinn & Pascual 2005; Duffee 2013; Meese & Rogoff 1983)—but also the result of a very specific interaction between them, which has historically been small and inconsequential.

Hence, it is more likely that only after market participants—financial institutions with portfolios that include dollar assets, or multinational corporations with currency exposure—adjust their portfolio choices would their actions be fully captured in aggregate demand, and concomitantly reflected as changes in output. Economic activity, in contrast, does not exhibit a similar pattern; it is generally unaffected by contemporaneous dollar funding conditions (as it typical for liquidity shocks), as output responds only after “long and variable lags.”

The reliance on high-frequency financial market shocks as a means of identifying VARs is now fairly established, owing to the pioneering works of Bagliano & Favero (1999), Cochrane & Piazzesi (2002), and Faust, Swanson & Wright (2004). While identification via these approaches generally rely on *surprise* deviations—rather than higher frequency alone—the underlying principle that motivates our timing assumption here is similar. While the CCB is observed at a daily (or even higher) frequency, changes in GDP are only definitive at a quarterly (or monthly, at best) frequency, and often with delays.¹⁴ Even taking into account recent advances in now-casting (Giannone, Reichlin & Small 2008)—which enables more rapid revision of priors on output—agents are generally more able and willing to respond to immediately observable, high-frequency shocks in the basis, and any behavioral reactions to still-evolving GDP would be based on expectations that need not systematically follow one direction or another, meaning that basis changes can effectively be treated as unanticipated shocks.

Identification for the remaining variables in the comprehensive model treats prices as less endogenous than the money supply, and the exchange rate¹⁵ as most endogenous; that is, CPI affects M2 and ER both contemporaneously and with a lag, but M2 and ER affect the former only with a lag.¹⁶ The ordering of output, price, and money supply follows the spirit of Favara & Giordani (2009) and Peersman & Smets (2001), on the basis that GDP does not respond contemporaneously to policy shocks, since firms do not alter their output within a given

¹⁴GDP data for a given quarter is never published immediately at the end the final month of the quarter, becoming available only a month or two later.

¹⁵Here, we utilize the directly-quoted exchange rate, measured as units of local currency per U.S. dollar, transformed into log differences. Increases imply a depreciation of the domestic currency vis-à-vis the dollar.

¹⁶While one could argue that the timing assumptions for additional endogenous variables are inconsequential (Plagborg-Møller & Wolf 2021) for identifying the strict effect of CCB on growth, the ordering still matters if we are interested in the endogenous response of the remaining variables, which we are, as revealed in Sections 4.4 and 5.

period when confronted with unexpected monetary shocks (due to menu costs). Finally, despite its rapid adjustment,¹⁷ the exchange rate is typically treated as one of the most endogenous variables in open-economy macroeconomics, owing to how it absorbs influences from all manner of shocks to the economy. We therefore place it after the money stock, which is also consistent with the extant literature, such as Bjørnland (2008) and Kim (2002).

Admittedly, some in the literature maintain the assumption that information delays means that monetary policy cannot respond within the same period to output and the price level, on the basis that transparently-published data on the money supply is available within one quarter, but accurate data on prices and output are not (Kim & Roubini 2000; Sims & Zha 2006). Still, given the lack of consensus regarding the relative exogeneity of these other variables, we allow for alternative orderings of these variables in our robustness checks.¹⁸

Finally, one may object to treating the exchange rate as most endogenous, given how the CCB—which has an exchange rate component—is also the most exogenous. Despite embedding the (spot and forward) exchange rates, we view these two variables as fundamentally distinct. After all, the CCB and exchange rate measure different concepts (dollar liquidity on one hand, and the relative value of a currency on the other), and are only very weakly correlated ($\rho(CCB, ER) = -0.01, p = 0.50$). However, some authors (e.g. Georgiadis & Müller 2024; Jiang *et al.* 2024) have tied the basis more closely to financial market conditions. Accordingly, we perform additional robustness checks where we assume that the two are placed among the most exogenous variables (Section 6.3).¹⁹

3.3.3 Instrument validity

Even if we were to have sufficient confidence that the cross-currency basis is more likely to respond contemporaneously to unobserved shocks—compared with other macroeconomic variables—one may remain uncomfortable with adopting a purely timing-based identification strategy. One could believe, for instance, that unobserved shocks could simultaneously affect both the CCB and macro variables, or that such shocks may somehow still become embedded in the forward-looking behavior of agents. If so, this would invalidate our assumption of weak exogeneity.

To allay such concerns, we apply an alternative identification strategy, using instrumental variables for local projections, as shown in (6). Conditional on appropriate instruments, this approach could offer more credible identification of the effects of CCB on growth.

We deploy an instrument set with two candidate instruments. The first are lags of the synthetic *treasury* rate, r_{synth}^{treas} . As explained in Section 5, the synthetic interest rate—the term

¹⁷While this may appear inconsistent with the discussion on the CCB above, recall that dollar liquidity is also comprised of variables that are largely external to the home economy, compared to the domestic exchange rate. Nevertheless, we consider robustness checks where the exchange rate is placed at a comparable order of exogeneity as the basis (that is, $[ER \ CCB \ \dots]$ or $[CCB \ ER \ \dots]$).

¹⁸Some structural VAR models in the literature place endogenous variables in the order $[M2 \ CPI \ GDP]$. This alternative ordering of variables tends to have little impact on results, especially when restrictions are imposed on the structural VARs. Since we do not impose such restrictions, we test the sensitivity by introducing specifications where we hold the *CCB* and *ER* as most exogenous and endogenous, respectively, but employ different permutations for the remaining variables (i.e. $Y = [CCB \ \dots \ ER]$).

¹⁹More specifically, we apply orderings where *CCB* and *ER* are the most exogenous variables, with $Y = [CCB \ ER \ \dots]$ or $Y = [ER \ CCB \ \dots]$.

in square braces in equation 3—better isolates the liquidity aspect of the dollar squeeze, since it excludes the interest differential. By further substituting the IBOR rate (used in our baseline) with the treasury rate, and lagging it, we seek to also rule out potentially predictable elements of (already difficult-to-forecast) interest and exchange rates.

This, then, leaves only the possibility of *unanticipated* shocks to liquidity affecting growth, operating through the synthetic rate. Such liquidity could, in principle, pass directly through monetary policy, rather than indirectly via dollar liquidity. To rule out the former, we include a second instrument, comprising estimates of domestic monetary policy shocks (*MPS*) from Choi, Willems & Yoo (2024). These shocks are derived from a variety of methods, including monetary policy surprises identified via high-frequency studies, changes in the three-month swap or short-term domestic government bond yields around monetary policy decision days, deviations of rate realizations from expectations of financial market participants, and residuals from estimated Taylor rules (under the premise that such rules imply reasonable forecasts, and hence residuals capture the innovation element).²⁰ Crucially, they are, *by construction*, unexpected in nature.

Taken together, we believe that our instrument set satisfies the exclusion restriction. There is no plausible channel for the lagged synthetic treasury rate to be affected by either the cross-currency basis, or expectations of it, beyond that of dollar access itself. Consequently, it is unlikely to be correlated with the error term in the second stage. But by also conditioning, in the first stage, for unanticipated changes from monetary policy—alongside other observable channels whereby monetary policy may affect GDP (the lagged interest rate and money supply)—we believe that we have isolated exogenous shocks to only those attributable to changes in dollar liquidity.

These variables also, independently, satisfy the relevance condition. Since any synthetic rate is meant to embody dollar liquidity stripped of the effects of exchange rate fluctuations, it is, by definition, highly relevant. This is also so in practice; the synthetic treasury rate turns out to be significantly correlated with the CCB ($\rho(CCB, r_{synth}^{treas}) = -0.39, p = 0.00$). Monetary policy shocks are also relevant, since such shocks will materially alter the amount of liquidity (including dollar liquidity) available in the economy. The correlation here is likewise significant, albeit weaker ($\rho(CCB_t, MPS_{t-1}) = 0.05, p = 0.02$).

By focusing on the causal relationship between CCB and growth, however, local projections gloss over the modeling of spillover effects that could emerge from other variables in a more fully-specific PVAR system. This, in turn, inhibits our ability to draw important insights regarding the potential transmission channels for dollar liquidity on growth. Accordingly, our preference is to treat local projections as a useful check on the robustness of our main effect, while retaining the PVAR model as the baseline.

²⁰These estimates are obtained hierarchically, in the order described, with the plurality derived from Taylor residuals. The database covers 176 countries, and are available on a monthly basis; we aggregate these into quarterly equivalents for our application.

4 Empirical results

4.1 Preliminary tests

We perform a series of preliminary empirical checks to reduce the risk of misspecification of the PVAR. In particular, we ensure that all series entering the system are stationary and not cointegrated. We also apply various information criteria to determine optimal lag length. We summarize the results here, and refer the interested reader to the tables and detailed discussion in the appendix.

Our stationary checks comprise three different panel unit root tests, performed on levels, logarithms of levels, and first differences of the logarithmic series. With the exception of the CCB—which is stationary even in levels²¹—we cannot reject the null of a unit root for the logarithmic series. However, the first differences of logarithmic series for GDP, CPI, M2 and ER are all stationary. Accordingly, we adopt the CCB in levels, while the other four variables enter in first differences.

While there is no fully-consistent result for the panel cointegration tests, the majority of the group mean and within-panel statistics indicate that there is no cointegration for the series in the panel.²² Tests for spatial dependency indicate little evidence of cross-sectional dependence for our key variable of interest—CCB—but possible concerns with the other variables. With neither issue a major concern, we proceed with the PVAR specification specified in our baseline, but also present regressions that allow for potential cointegration and spatial dependency in our robustness checks.

The order of our model is based on a set of information criteria. While the tests do not provide a uniform signal, the majority point to the selection of a first-order panel VAR, which we adopt as our baseline.

4.2 Baseline results

We report our baseline estimation results in Table 1, for both the parsimonious and comprehensive models. While the interpretation of coefficient estimates are typically secondary to VAR analyses, it is useful to observe that the most variables in both models are statistically significant, which attests to their relevance to the overall macroeconomic system. Notably, the coefficient of the response of output growth to changes in the (lagged) cross-currency basis is negative and statistically significant, regardless of model.²³ This hints at the relationship that is of central interest to us, the response of a dollar liquidity impulse on output growth.

Figure 4 illustrates the impulse response functions (IRFs) of a one standard deviation innovation of CCB_t on GDP_t , and vice versa, accompanied by their 95 percent confidence intervals. For the parsimonious model, a positive change in the cross-currency basis results in a clear, statistically significant, and negative effect on economic growth. This shock persists for around

²¹This is the case regardless of whether we include a trend term or not. For this reason, we do not report checks for stationarity for the logarithmic and first difference transforms.

²²The exceptions are for the [Westerlund \(2007\)](#) test, especially in the absence of a time trend.

²³Indeed, this negative relationship holds in our sample even independently of any additional structure we impose. As we report in the appendix, the correlation between the two variables is negative and significant ($\rho(CCB, GDP) = -0.05, p = 0.00$).

Table 1: Baseline estimation results for parsimonious and comprehensive PVAR models, 2000Q1–2020Q4 (unbalanced)

Response to	Response of				
	CCB_t	GDP_t	CPI_t	$M2_t$	ER_t
Parsimonious					
CCB_{t-1}	0.356*** (0.085)	-0.000*** (0.000)			
GDP_{t-1}	-4,913*** (1,450)	-0.086*** (0.027)			
Observations	3,511				
Countries	50				
Comprehensive					
CCB_{t-1}	0.554*** (0.045)	-0.000*** (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)	0.000*** (0.000)
GDP_{t-1}	-1,318*** (207.5)	-0.148*** (0.022)	0.0215*** (0.005)	0.213*** (0.028)	0.139*** (0.026)
CPI_{t-1}	3,007*** (1,021)	-0.712*** (0.112)	0.147*** (0.041)	-0.198** (0.092)	0.290** (0.140)
$M2_{t-1}$	-1,044*** (228.4)	-0.1690*** (0.034)	-0.1060*** (0.017)	0.0149 (0.030)	0.0560* (0.030)
ER_{t-1}	-666.1*** (134.4)	-0.115*** (0.015)	-0.0271*** (0.007)	0.0370** (0.016)	0.185*** (0.028)
Observations	3,415				
Countries	49				

[†] Panel VAR model estimated by GMM, with fixed effects removed via forward orthogonal deviations. Coefficients correspond to the response of the endogenous variables listed in the second row, to the lagged variables in the first column. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors reported in parentheses, where *, ** and *** indicates significance at the 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively.

four quarters. While less precisely estimated and with a smaller magnitude, this negative effect continues to hold in the comprehensive model.

Separately, the same negative relationship can be seen in the opposite direction; output expansions (contractions) give rise to decreases (increases) in the cross-currency basis. This is likewise the case in both models, although the effect does not show up on impact, but only a quarter later. This implies that economic growth reduces dollar liquidity.

The effects of the dollar squeeze are also economically significant. The cumulative effect of a one standard-deviation increase in CCB^{24} —shown in Figure 5—shaves off between 0.5 and 0.8 percentage points a year overall from GDP growth (depending on the model), with around half of this effect realized in the first quarter after impact.

The bidirectional negative relationship between CCB and growth may seem counterintuitive. But it can be rationalized, especially for open economies. Under normal conditions, an increase in the cross-currency basis suppresses the convenience yield associated with holding dollars and dollar-denominated assets. As discussed in Section 2.3, this encourages portfolio investors outside the U.S. to purchase more local-currency assets, given their relatively lower opportunity

²⁴This amounts to an approximately 193 basis point (bps) move in the CCB. The volatility of this shock is significantly higher for EMs (329 bps) compared to AEs (26 bps), however.

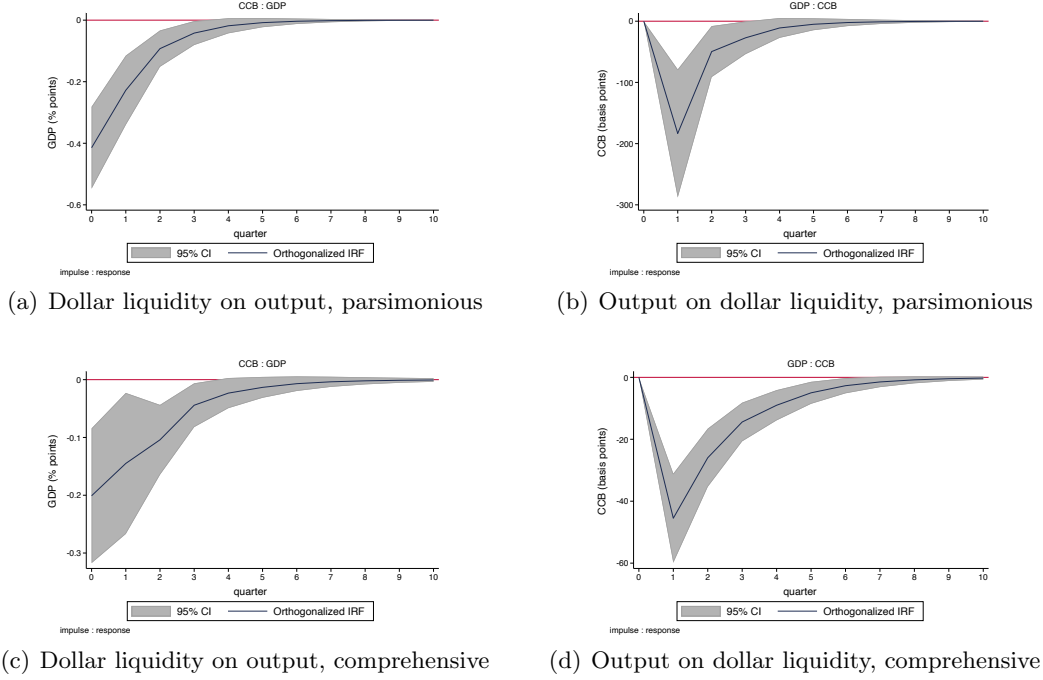


Figure 4: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output growth (left panel) and output growth on dollar liquidity (right panel) in the baseline sample comprising AEs and EMs, 2000Q1 to 2020Q4. For a one standard-deviation innovation, the 10-quarter evolution is reported after the shock. In both instances, the shocks lead to statistically-significant declines in the response variables, dissipating after about a year.

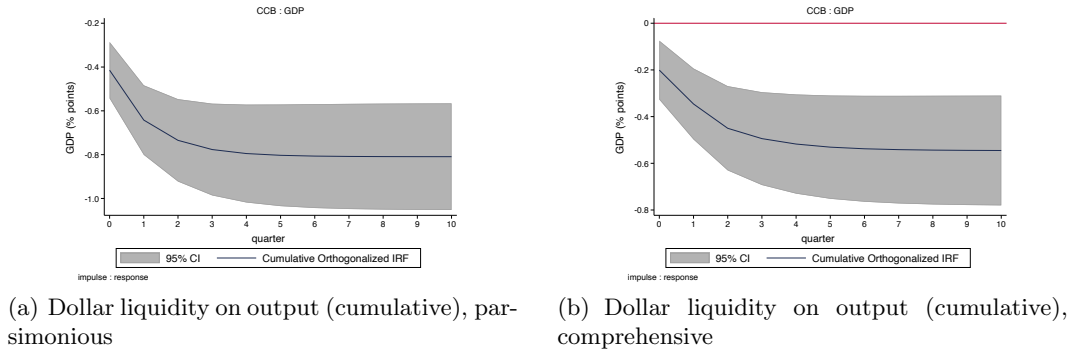


Figure 5: Cumulative orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output growth in the baseline, 2000Q1 to 2020Q4. The total effect is clearly negative and ranges from 0.5–0.8 percentage points of GDP, with around half of this realized in the first quarter.

cost. Agents do so by drawing down on their cash holdings, or by borrowing in dollars and executing an FX swap. Either way, the substitution into such assets leads to a reduction in the money stock, and this crowding out of domestic liquidity tightens local financing conditions. This in turn reduces investment, and hence growth. Alternatively, in the absence of changes in relative interest rates, arbitrage would imply an appreciation of the exchange rate, so that total return differentials equalize. Through this exchange rate effect, the current account deteriorates, inducing a growth slowdown.

Conversely, growth accelerations—as a barometer of the country’s economic performance

and potential—are likely to attract investors from abroad. Heightened international demand for local currency-denominated assets supplies additional dollars to the economy, thereby easing the dollar constraint and lowering the cross-currency basis.

These mechanisms are corroborated by Figure 6, which shows the associated changes in the money stock to a dollar liquidity shock, *vice versa* (the full matrix of IRFs is reported in the appendix, see figure A.1). A positive shock to CCB contracts the domestic money supply, diminishing available liquidity. Fascinatingly, this effect is even more unambiguous than the direct effect of monetary shocks on output. In particular, while a positive shock is likewise followed by an output drop, the effects of looser money only kicks in at the third quarter, consistent with how monetary impulses operate with a lag. Put another way, our results indicate that, in open economies, international substitution effects come into play earlier (and end up dominating) any stimulative effect from any easing of monetary policy. This credit crunch is one important channel whereby a dollar squeeze acts to lower growth.

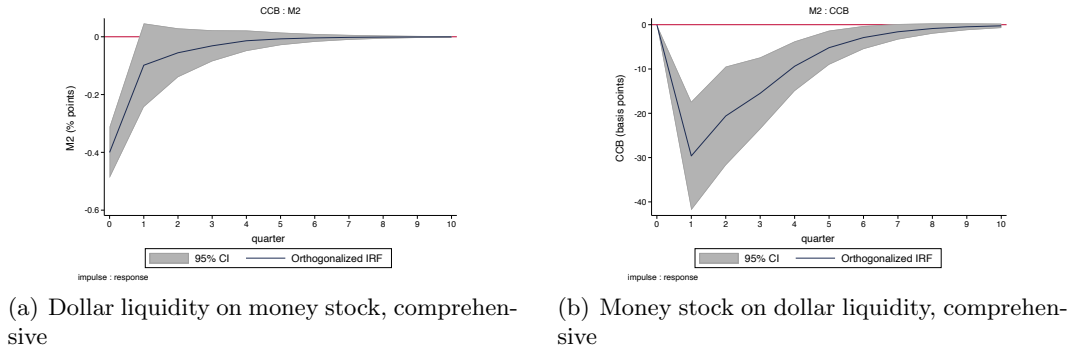
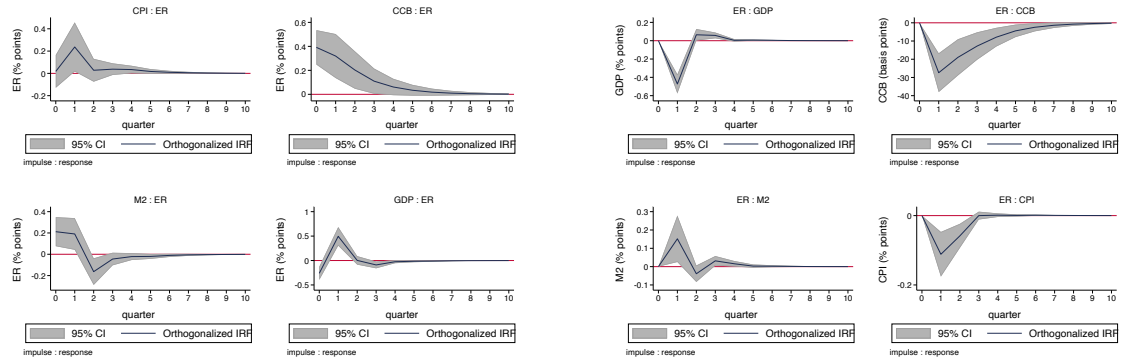


Figure 6: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for changes to dollar liquidity on the money stock, and *vice versa*, in the baseline comprehensive model, 2000Q1 to 2020Q4. Positive innovations to the CCB leads to a contraction in the money supply, and the same occurs when the money stock increases. This negative effect of dollar liquidity on output is also more unambiguous than a shock to the money supply on GDP.

Figure 7 illustrates the response of the exchange rate to innovations in the other endogenous variables in the system, and *vice versa*. The nominal exchange rate depreciates in reaction to a positive CCB impulse. This is surprising, not only because it stands in contrast with the finding reported in [Avdjiev et al. \(2019\)](#), where dollar appreciation is associated with a more negative cross-currency basis. It also appears inconsistent with the typical effect of the exchange rate on output, since depreciations do not generally result in long-run growth contractions. However, a careful examination of the IRF of the exchange rate on output suggests that this could be because of a J-curve effect, where depreciations are first accompanied by a worsening of the current account balance (and an output drop), before the weak currency eventually boosts export performance (accompanied by a growth rebound). This distinction between the shorter and longer run direction of the dollar is also affirmed by [Jiang et al. \(2021\)](#), and may go some way toward explaining the unexpected effect of the CCB on the exchange rate.

Taken together, the seemingly-counterintuitive effect of the CCB on growth, along with somewhat-inconsistent results relative to prior empirical literature, make a strong case for examining the results in a more disaggregated manner. After all, the pernicious effects of dollar



(a) Endogenous variables on exchange rate, comprehensive model

(b) Exchange rate on endogenous variables, comprehensive model

Figure 7: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for changes in other endogenous variables on the exchange rate, and *vice versa*, in the comprehensive model, 2000Q1 to 2020Q4. Positive innovations to the CCB gives rise to depreciation (as do shocks to most of the other variables in the system). The effect of depreciations, moreover, lead to contractions in output growth. These counterintuitive results may be due to differences in the response of AEs and EMs, a hypothesis that we subsequently explore.

shortages may well vary in crisis versus non-crisis settings.²⁵ Furthermore, variations in financial market development, trade openness, and capital market liberalization can easily affect the transmission channels that apply in AEs versus EMs.²⁶ We probe our results for these two groups, for different temporal periods, in the next section.

4.3 Liquidity constraints in crisis versus normal times

As discussed in Section 3.1, the cross-currency basis was generally very small prior to the global crisis (especially among AEs), and large and persistent CIP deviations only emerged after 2007 (Cerutti *et al.* 2021; Du *et al.* 2018; Iida *et al.* 2018). Moreover, financing conditions tend to be materially different in the context of a crisis; liquidity squeezes that would otherwise work themselves out in normal times may easily morph into insolvency during crisis conditions, as argued in Hypothesis 1a.

To gain additional insight, we repeat our analysis in the previous subsection, but further subdivide the sample into several (overlapping) periods, corresponding to the pre-crisis, crisis, and crisis-cum-post-crisis phases.²⁷ We also present the results by income group, AEs and EMs. The IRFs for CCB shocks on growth, for the comprehensive specification over each of these three subperiods, are shown in Figure 8.²⁸

²⁵Our baseline includes not only the anomalous data resulting from the 2007/08 global crisis; it also worth recalling that there was a rift in CCBs that only emerged post-2007.

²⁶Our baseline sample comprises not only G10 currencies—the case for much of the extant literature—but a significant number of additional AEs, along with EMs.

²⁷We define 2000Q1–2007Q3 as the pre-crisis period, the remainder—when CIP deviations began to become pronounced—as the crisis-cum-post-crisis period, and 2007Q4–2009Q2 as the crisis period. Due to the change in sample, the information criteria suggest different lag structures, relative to the baseline. We retain the single lag 1 for all the models.

²⁸The corresponding IRFs for the respective parsimonious models suggest similar results, and are reported in the appendix. See figure A.15 for details.

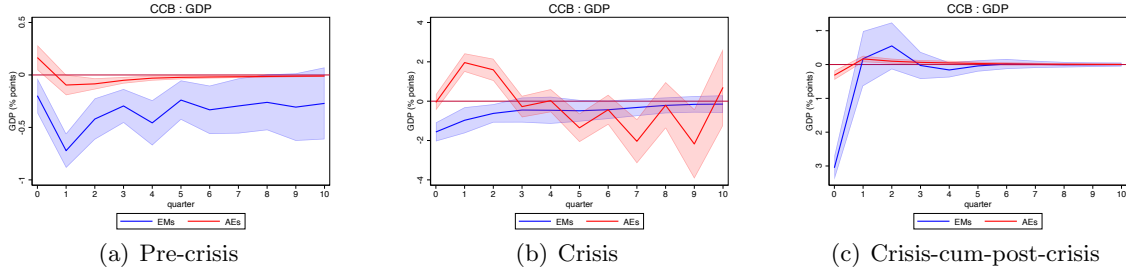


Figure 8: Orthogonalized impulse response functions of dollar liquidity on output in the *comprehensive* model for advanced (in red) and emerging (in blue) economies, for partially-overlapping pre-crisis (2000Q1–2007Q3), crisis (2007Q4–2009Q2), and crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) periods. The liquidity shocks retain their negative impact on growth in normal times, but during the crisis period, this effect reverses for advanced economies, reflecting the importance of dollar-based financing under especially tight financial conditions. All the specifications include one lag.

The most notable observation is that, for advanced economies, the effect of a basis shock on growth *reverses sign*, before fading away over the course of the crisis (the effect is also positive on impact in the pre-crisis period, but this response turns negative quickly, before dissipating; the cumulative effect turns out to be statistically indistinguishable from zero²⁹). This implies that access to dollars is especially critical under crisis conditions, to an extent that easing this constraint is even sufficient to stimulate (short-run) growth. For EMs, however, the flight-to-safety aspect of financial flows appears to trump increases in dollar liquidity, such that the effect remains negative.³⁰ This is also the case for both AEs and EMs in the final period, which implies that dollar liquidity has become vastly more important over the most recent decade-and-a-half, along the lines described earlier.

In light of this observation, a reasonable *a priori* belief would be that the magnitude of GDP responses to CCB innovations would also be larger in the crisis-cum-post-crisis, as compared to the pre-crisis, period. The results are indeed in line with this expectation, whether for advanced or emerging economies (in the appendix, we verify that the more-than-doubling of the output response to a basis shock during this period also holds when considering the combined sample of AEs and EMs³¹).

Interestingly, the analogous outcome is less evident when comparing the respective variance decompositions, shown in Table 2.³² In the *comprehensive* model, the response of GDP that is attributable to CCB turns out to be larger after the crisis—9.2 percent—as compared to before (6.5 percent). However, the converse holds true for the parsimonious specification; the variability of GDP due to CCB shocks in the crisis-cum-post-crisis periods is slightly smaller compared to the pre-crisis phase (1.1 versus 1.4 percent, respectively). Although slightly inconsistent, the small difference between the variances in the parsimonious model—compared to the much

²⁹The cumulative IRF is available on request.

³⁰Put another way, the international illiquidity suffered by emerging markets during financial crises (Chang & Velasco 2001) finds no relief in EMs, whereas only AEs without dollar access suffer output drops.

³¹Check Figure A.14 for details.

³²As is typical for variance decompositions of VAR models, most of the subsequent variations in each variable is determined mostly by itself; in our application, this amounts to more than 80 percent in most cases.

larger magnitude in the crisis-cum-post-crisis period for the comprehensive one—leads us to place greater weight on the latter result.³³

Table 2: Variance decomposition for the full, pre-crisis, and crisis-cum-post-crisis periods[†] PVAR, parsimonious and comprehensive models(unbalanced)

<i>Response of</i>	Parsimonious		<i>Response to</i>				
	<i>CCB_t</i>	<i>GDP_t</i>	<i>CCB_t</i>	<i>GDP_t</i>	<i>CPI_t</i>	<i>M2_t</i>	<i>ER_t</i>
Full period (2000Q1-2020Q4)							
<i>GDP_{t+10}</i>	0.0164	0.9836	0.0049	0.9374	0.0220	0.0205	0.0152
<i>CCB_{t+10}</i>	0.7400	0.2600	0.8526	0.0596	0.0289	0.0324	0.0265
<i>CPI_{t+10}</i>			0.0017	0.0293	0.8357	0.1130	0.0203
<i>M2_{t+10}</i>			0.0213	0.0742	0.0058	0.8955	0.0032
<i>ER_{t+10}</i>			0.0172	0.0176	0.0033	0.0061	0.9558
Pre-crisis (2000Q1-2007Q3)							
<i>GDP_{t+10}</i>	0.0139	0.9861	0.0652	0.7512	0.1176	0.0590	0.0070
<i>CCB_{t+10}</i>	0.9808	0.0192	0.5348	0.3539	0.0864	0.0221	0.0028
<i>CPI_{t+10}</i>			0.0104	0.0564	0.9246	0.0071	0.0015
<i>M2_{t+10}</i>			0.1750	0.3870	0.1497	0.2591	0.0292
<i>ER_{t+10}</i>			0.2145	0.3885	0.0662	0.1104	0.2204
Crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4-2020Q4)							
<i>GDP_{t+10}</i>	0.0114	0.9886	0.0916	0.8151	0.0859	0.0020	0.0054
<i>CCB_{t+10}</i>	0.9069	0.0931	0.5968	0.2510	0.0682	0.0785	0.0055
<i>CPI_{t+10}</i>			0.2118	0.2730	0.5044	0.0094	0.0014
<i>M2_{t+10}</i>			0.1970	0.2067	0.0284	0.5363	0.0316
<i>ER_{t+10}</i>			0.0058	0.0195	0.0136	0.0106	0.9505

[†] The full, pre-crisis and crisis-cum-post-crisis periods refer to 2000Q1-2020Q4, 2000Q1-2007Q3 and 2007Q4-2020Q4, respectively. For the parsimonious specification in pre-crisis period, a lag 2 model is estimated according to the order selection criteria. Share of forecast error variance for predicted variables 10 periods ahead in each row are explained by the variables in each column.

One separate observation is worth noting from Table 2: in the comprehensive model, the contribution of dollar liquidity to GDP is of a similar order of magnitude to that M2 in the pre-crisis period, but this becomes much larger in the crisis-cum-post-crisis period,³⁴ even as domestic liquidity becomes virtually irrelevant (the difference is about 45 times). This is consistent with the work of [Rey \(2013\)](#), which suggests that monetary policy in the center country (and hence dollar access) has become far more important than domestic monetary policy (which alters the local money supply) in recent times, and likely also reflects the effects of a shift to quantitative easing (QE) policies worldwide. Given the much more pronounced effects of the CCB both during the crisis and after, we concentrate on this period in the next subsection.

³³It is worth noting that this difference may also be attributable to the lag structure of the respective models. In contrast to the other specifications, the pre-crisis specification adopts two lags (as recommended by information criteria). We reran the pre-crisis subsample with only one lag, as a check, but the relatively higher variance remains unchanged.

³⁴This is because the contribution of dollar liquidity more than doubles among EMs. We report this result in the appendix.

4.4 Distinct transmission channels for advanced and emerging economies

The domestic liquidity channel and EMs. For EMs, consistent with Hypothesis 1b, we are especially interested in the relationship between domestic (M2) and dollar (CCB) liquidity, both with respect to output, as well as each other. Figure 9 plots the relevant IRFs. As was the case in Section 4.3, a positive shock to the cross-currency basis leads to decreases in growth (left panel). For the 2007Q4–2020Q4 timeframe, the drop is around 3 percent of GDP, which dissipates after two quarters.

Fascinatingly, the relationship between the two forms of liquidity is *negative*—a positive shock to dollar liquidity leads to a decline in domestic liquidity—which suggests that the two are substitutes (middle panel). To the extent that enhanced dollar access leads to crowding out that shrinks the money supply, this would then give rise to a (short-run) output contraction, since the relationship between the money supply and growth is positive (right panel). On this basis, we conclude that the domestic liquidity channel is likely to be a key transmission channel for the CCB, at least among EMs.³⁵

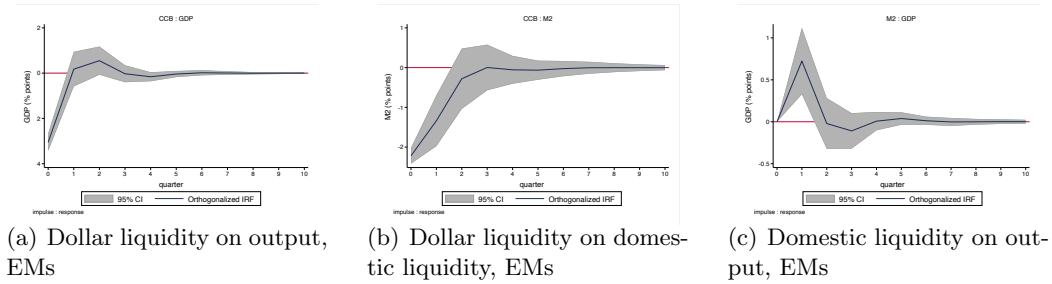


Figure 9: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity, money stock, and output growth in the comprehensive model for emerging economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. Since positive innovations to dollar liquidity lead to contractions in domestic liquidity, and declines in domestic liquidity will induce output contractions, the substitution out of previously safe-haven dollar assets in favor of local-currency investments is likely responsible for the negative impact of the cross-currency basis on growth.

We probe this further by looking at the exchange rate channel. Selected IRFs are reported in Figure 10³⁶. For the effect of CCB on the exchange rate, we find a significant depreciation on impact, albeit one that fades quickly after a quarter (left panel). This depreciation is actually consistent with the logic of interest parity and the domestic liquidity channel: to support a path of *expected* appreciation that would result from expanded purchases of local currency assets (which follows from the decline in the convenience yield on dollars), there must be an initial depreciation.³⁷ The exchange rate move is not persistent, however, and hence it is unsurprising

³⁵As an additional check, we also replace M2 with the current account balance and re-estimate the model. CCB impulses do not give rise to any statistically significant response on the current account, which is consistent with how it is changes to *domestic* portfolio asset holdings, rather than cross-border financial flows, that is responsible for the effect. These results are available on request.

³⁶The full matrix of IRFs is reported in the appendix, see Figure A.3.

³⁷More formally, if we replace interest rates in the uncovered interest parity relation, we obtain the relationship $\phi(\lambda - \lambda^*) \approx S^e/S - 1$, where λ and λ^* are the convenience yields on local currency and dollar assets, respectively (such that the difference represents relative convenience yields), and $\phi > 0$ is a multiplier that maps relative

that it does not exert any discernible impact on output (right panel).

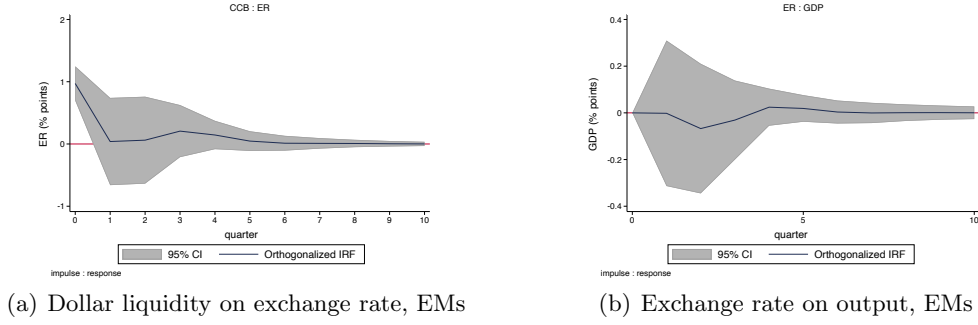


Figure 10: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity, the exchange rate, and output growth in the comprehensive model for emerging economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. Dollar liquidity shocks result in exchange rate depreciation, but the exchange rate has no discernible effect on output.

The exchange rate channel and AEs. For AEs, along the lines of Hypothesis 1c, we are more interested in the relationship that dollar liquidity and the exchange rate have with respect to output, and each other. Figure 11 plots the relevant IRFs.³⁸ Again, consistent with the results in Section 4.3, a positive impulse in the cross-currency basis gives rise to a sharp growth contraction, of around 0.3 percent of GDP (upper left panel); this effects of this shock, however, turns slightly positive (and significant) briefly, in the second quarter.

In contrast to EMs, a positive basis shock *increases* domestic liquidity (upper right panel). Given how their more mature financial markets afford access to dollar fund flows, easier global financing conditions translate into more abundant domestic liquidity in AEs. Yet as dollar convenience yields fall, global investors become more inclined to look to alternative assets. Since AEs already exhibit a trivial yield differential vis-à-vis the United States, it is exchange rate appreciation that allows local-currency assets in these economies to remain attractive, relative to returns offered by EM assets. This is indeed what we observe; even as domestic liquidity rises in concert with dollar liquidity, the exchange rate appreciates (bottom left panel).³⁹

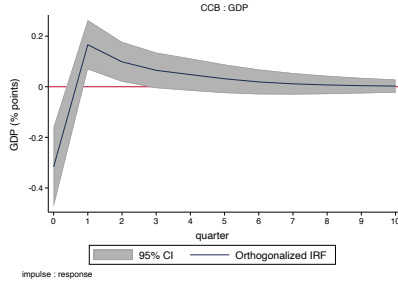
And what happens to GDP? As expected, appreciations lead to slowdowns in growth (bottom right panel).⁴⁰ On the assumption that the Marshall-Lerner condition holds, this is the typical effect we expect from a strengthening of the exchange rate, since there is a reduction in the competitiveness of the nation's exports.

returns to relative convenience yields. Then, for an expected appreciation, the right-hand side of the expression must be negative, in which case we require $S > S^e$, which is an initial depreciation. The mechanism is not unlike that of the dynamics of the exchange rate in standard overshooting models (Dornbusch 1976).

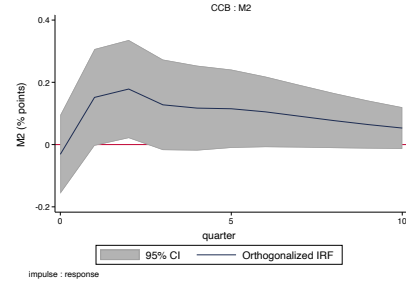
³⁸As before, the full IRF matrix is in the appendix, see Figure A.4.

³⁹Incidentally, the CCB shock also induces exchange rate appreciation, albeit without a lag.

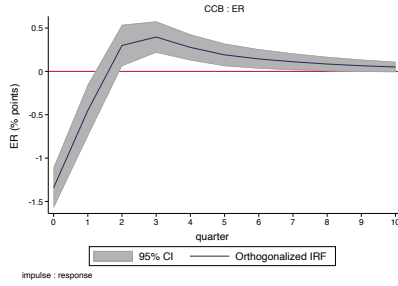
⁴⁰Recall that an increase in the exchange rate is a depreciation, but this results in increases in GDP, hence the converse (decreases result in contractions) holds as well.



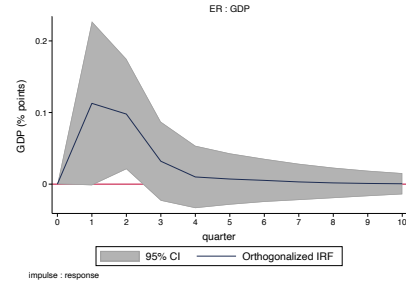
(a) Dollar liquidity on output, AEs



(b) Dollar liquidity on domestic liquidity, AEs



(c) Dollar liquidity on exchange rate, AEs



(d) Exchange rate on output, AEs

Figure 11: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity, money stock, the exchange rate, and output growth in the comprehensive model for advanced economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. Positive shocks in dollar liquidity give rise to expansions of domestic liquidity, as easier global financing conditions allow their more mature financial markets to offer more domestic non-dollar assets. But the associated exchange rate appreciation ultimately results in a GDP slowdown.

5 Discussion

5.1 Domestic liquidity channel

The post-crisis period coincided with a period of extraordinary dollar liquidity worldwide, due to the Fed’s QE policies. While QE-related dollar liquidity was, in principle, only accessible to U.S. banks and their foreign affiliates, such policies nevertheless led to a substantial easing of global liquidity conditions, even for non-U.S. entities (Bauer & Neely 2014; Lim & Mohapatra 2016; Lo Duca, Nicoletti & Vidal Martínez 2016).⁴¹ Such easing activity may have resulted in artificial increases in the money stock, without materially improving liquidity access.⁴²

We therefore consider various aspects of the domestic liquidity picture in EMs in greater detail. We begin by replacing the monetary stock with the lending rate in the comprehensive model. The IRFs⁴³ shown in Figure 12 corroborate three conjectures, hinted at earlier. First, that increases in dollar liquidity result in concomitant increases in the cost of capital, given by

⁴¹Indeed, central banks worldwide—especially those in advanced economies such as the European Union, Japan, and the United Kingdom, but also including those in emerging economies, such as China, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Romania—have since pursued their own iterations of QE.

⁴²For instance, actual bank lending may be constrained more by reserves held at the central bank (which are part of the monetary base but not M2) than the deposit base, and hence offer an incomplete picture of credit availability. Others have argued that the rise of the shadow banking system reduces the reliability of M2 as a liquidity indicator, especially since such institutions are often known to withdraw market liquidity during difficult economic conditions.

⁴³The full matrix is in appendix as Figure A.5.

the lending rate (left panel). When taken together with the decline in the money stock, it is indicative of crowding out, and attendant tighter domestic liquidity conditions. Second, that increases in the interest rate are indeed followed by output contractions, after a lag (as expected in theory; middle panel). And third, even with this alternative specification, improved dollar liquidity continues to lead to output contractions (right panel).⁴⁴

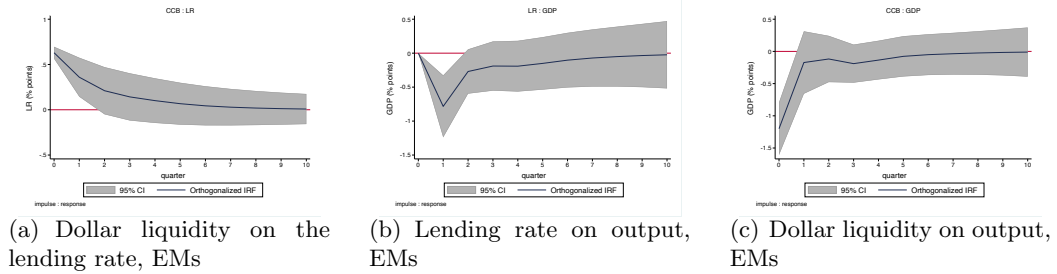


Figure 12: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity, the lending rate, and output growth in the comprehensive model for emerging economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. Increases in the lending rate—which moves in the opposite direction to the money supply—lead to output contractions, even as dollar liquidity retains its effects (as per the baseline). This implies that associated domestic liquidity changes are indeed a key driver of our results.

But as shown in (3), the cross-currency basis is comprised of the dollar rate and the synthetic rate, r_{synth} . If we are truly concerned with the *liquidity* aspects of the dollar, it is worth ruling out more fully the possibility that interest rate differentials, *per se*, are driving our result. Hence, we replace the basis with r_{synth} , and repeat our analysis. The two relevant IRFs⁴⁵ are shown in Figure 13.

We verify that positive shocks to the synthetic dollar interest rate leads to an increase in GDP (left panel). Hence, it is not so much changes to the dollar rate that alter the dollar liquidity-output growth relationship. Rather, it is changes in the relative attractiveness of local-currency assets, either due to reductions in the dollar convenience yield, or appreciations of the exchange rate (as discussed in detail in Section 4.4). Furthermore, innovations in the synthetic dollar rate move in the same direction as domestic liquidity, which is consistent with how increased dollar availability crowds out available domestic liquidity (right panel). Notably, we are able to interpret CIP deviations as more a *positive* signal (of elevated demand for EM assets), rather than a negative one (arising from currency mismatches and original sin, along the lines of Zheng (2023)).

As the negative relationship between dollar liquidity and output growth in EMs may have distinct effects on different aspects of real domestic activity, it is worthwhile exploring if such liquidity changes affect households or firms more. Accordingly, we replace output growth with private consumption or net direct investment, and re-estimate the regressions to produce the two relevant IRFs in Figure 14.⁴⁶

⁴⁴Variance decomposition results, shown in Table A.11 of the appendix, likewise suggest that MEs are more affected by policies conducted by the Fed than their own domestic monetary policy, despite the smaller magnitude compared to the results found earlier.

⁴⁵Again, the full matrix of IRFs is reported in the appendix, where our main result retains. See Figure A.6.

⁴⁶The full matrix of all IRF combinations corresponding to the two specifications are reported in Figure A.7

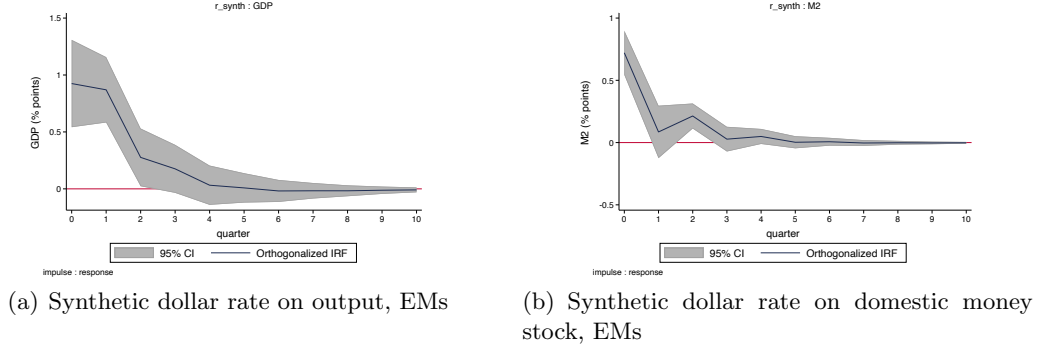


Figure 13: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for the synthetic dollar rate (r_{synth}) and output growth in the comprehensive model for emerging economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. The effects of the synthetic dollar rate on GDP is the same as that of dollar liquidity, which corroborates the notion that domestic liquidity substitution is reacting to the convenience yield component, rather than the U.S. interest rate, *per se*.

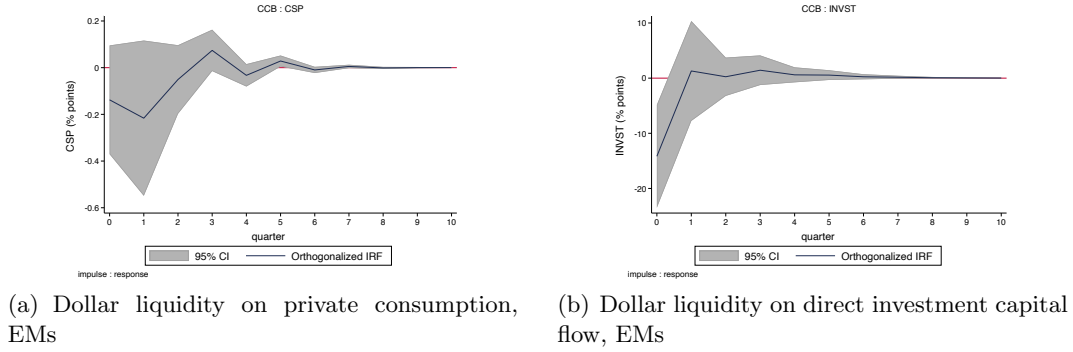


Figure 14: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for the dollar liquidity and private consumption (net direct investment capital flow) in the comprehensive model for emerging economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. While the effects of the dollar liquidity on private consumption is negative, it is small and insignificant. By contrast, the negative impact on direct investment is larger and significant, suggesting that increased dollar liquidity does not boost but instead deteriorate private consumption or net direct investment flows, the two components of GDP.

We find that improvements in dollar liquidity lead to declines in the flows of both private consumption and investment, although the effect is more muted in the former (both in terms of significance and magnitude). This points to how liquidity effects tend to flow more through the latter, consistent with the extant evidence for developing countries (Karlan, Osman & Zinman 2016). Since this occurs in tandem with an increase in the attractiveness of non-dollar-denominated local assets, we conclude that such purchases tend to occur in the secondary market, with no direct impact on real economic activity. The effect of such portfolio reallocations is therefore indirect, becoming a drag on growth only as a result of reductions in the availability of domestic liquidity.

and Figure A.8, respectively.

5.2 Exchange rate channel

The manner by which exchange rate appreciations (depreciations) lead to a loss of (gain in) output is via a drop (pickup) in external demand. To ascertain the validity of this channel in AEs, it is useful to explore the dynamics of the trade balance in greater detail. We do so by replacing CPI with the current account (CA)⁴⁷ in the comprehensive model.

The IRFs, depicted in Figure 15, substantiate the (intuitive) transmission mechanism: easier dollar financing gives rise to a nominal appreciation over the first two quarters (left panel). A stronger currency then leads to a worsening of the current account balance, which—consistent with J-curve lags—are felt only after several quarters (middle panel).⁴⁸ Output, likewise, responds in an analogous manner (right panel).

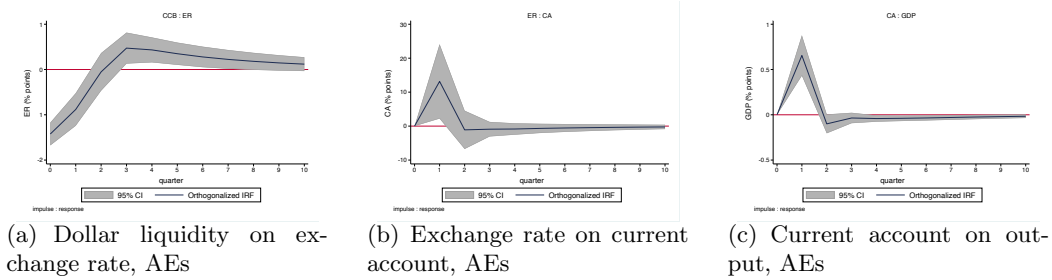


Figure 15: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions for the current account, nominal exchange rate, and output growth in the comprehensive model for advanced economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. The current account worsens as the currency appreciates, suggesting that output contractions due to a dollar liquidity shock are indeed due to typical Marshall-Lerner effects.

Strictly speaking, the response of the trade balance to the Marshall-Lerner condition depends on the *real*, rather than nominal, exchange rate. We therefore experiment with replacing the nominal with the real effective exchange rate⁴⁹ (REER) in the comprehensive model. The IRFs in Figure 16 capture this variation.

We find that the REER consistently appreciates in response to a positive innovation in the basis (left panel). The REER, in turn, moves in line with growth; hence appreciations (depreciations) induce contractions (expansions), and as before, with a brief lag (right panel). As a further check on the stability of this mechanism, we simultaneously replace the nominal exchange rate with REER, and the CPI with the current account.⁵⁰ Again, we find that the deterioration in current account resulting from a strengthening exchange rate is the main transmission channel in the negative dollar liquidity-output relationship in AEs.⁵¹

⁴⁷We deploy the current account instead of the trade balance as cross-country data on the latter are less widely available on a cross-country basis.

⁴⁸Analogous to the explanation in footnote 40, as depreciations imply improvements in the current account, appreciations lead to the opposite.

⁴⁹The real effective exchange rate is an index measuring the strength of a currency relative to a basket of other currencies. Hence, it is measured such that an increase indicates appreciation of the domestic currency.

⁵⁰The IRFs are in the appendix, in Figure A.17.

⁵¹Separately, we also consider replacing, as we did for EMs, the CCB with the synthetic dollar rate. The results, shown in Figure A.11 of the appendix, indicate that positive shocks to the synthetic rate is accompanied by depreciations in the nominal exchange rate, and increases in output.

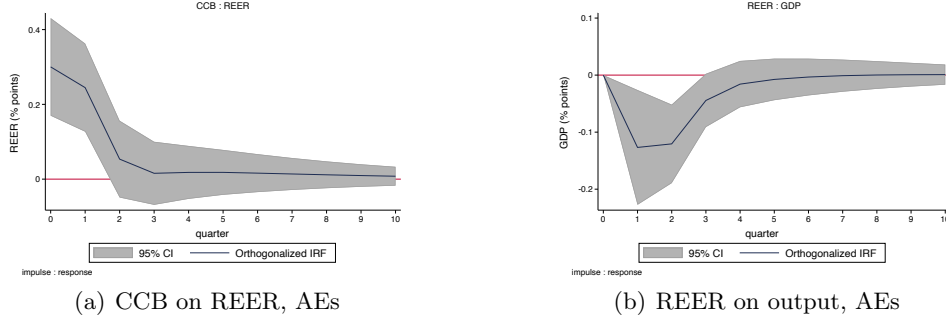


Figure 16: Selected orthogonalized impulse response functions including the real effective exchange rate (REER) instead of the nominal rate in the comprehensive model for advanced economies, during the crisis-cum-post-crisis (2007Q4–2020Q4) period. The REER appreciates in response to a rise in dollar liquidity, which subsequently contributes to output declines.

6 Robustness

6.1 Sensitivity to the inclusion of additional and alternative variables

We consider two different sets of checks along the following lines: (1) adding exogenous variables that may have an impact on GDP growth to both the original parsimonious and comprehensive specifications; and (2) replacing endogenous variables in the comprehensive specification with other alternative macroeconomic indicators.⁵²

In the baseline, we included only variables in the endogenous system. Here, we populate $\mathbf{X}_{i,t}$ in (4) with exogenous variables, identified in the literature, that may have an impact on growth in open economies. These include trade openness, the dependency ratio, democracy, financial development, default risk, and political risk (the definitions and sources of these are provided in the appendix). The results with these additional variables are given in Figure 17.

Virtually all the results reaffirm the significant and negative relationship between dollar liquidity and output growth, although some specifications exhibit a smaller magnitude or a larger error band. The sole exception is when democracy is included in the parsimonious specification; here, there is a positive but temporary effect of CCB on growth on impact, before this turns negative and troughs the following quarter (the shock fades over subsequent quarters, consistent with the baseline). The overall message remains qualitatively unchanged: that positive CCB innovations lead to output drops.

We next examine our comprehensive specification with alternative macroeconomic variables. We first replace the CPI with the PPI (under the notion that producer goods may better capture the sort of liquidity demand relevant to dollar needs). Next, we retain the PPI in place of the CPI, but further replace M2 with the lending rate (to admit completely distinct inflation and interest rate measures relative to the baseline). We also consider replacing the nominal exchange rate with the REER (to emphasize the importance of relative prices against primary trading partners, instead of just the U.S.), while keeping PPI and the lending rate. The corresponding

⁵²For presentational clarity, we report only the orthogonalized IRF of dollar liquidity on output growth for each specification; the full matrix for chosen specifications are reported in the appendix, and others are available on request.

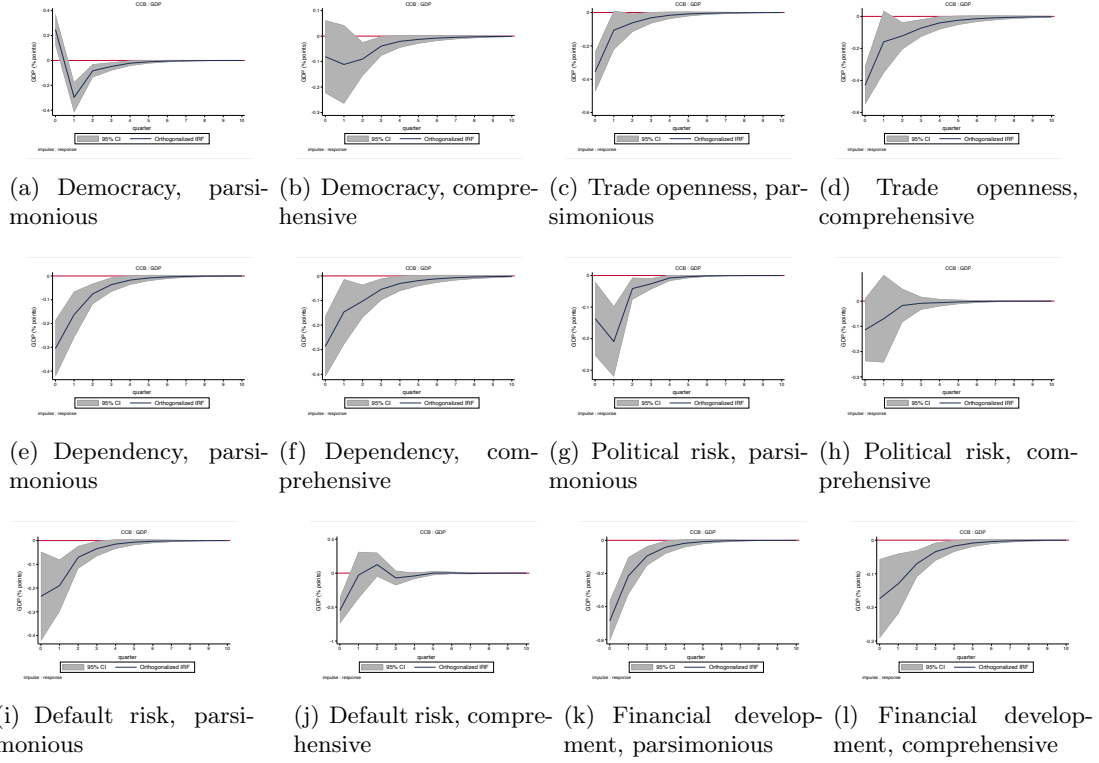


Figure 17: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output with the inclusion of exogenous variables, full sample (2000Q1–2020Q4). The majority of the results indicate a significant and negative relationship between CCB and growth, although some demonstrate a smaller magnitude or a larger error band.

IRFs for these first three changes are depicted in the upper panel of Figure 18.

Finally, we also consider an alternative global liquidity measure, using a metric constructed from the combination of cross-border and local dollar credit, made available by the BIS. This is more akin to actual cross-border liquidity, but poor data limits severely limits its applicability for our study.⁵³ The IRFs for the parsimonious and comprehensive models are reported in the bottom panel of Figure 18.

The negative and significant relationship between dollar liquidity and output remains unchanged despite these variations. Indeed, as was the case in the baseline, variance decompositions (reported in the appendix⁵⁴) reveal that impulses in dollar liquidity better explain subsequent variations in output growth, compared to the domestic lending rate (the small magnitude of both notwithstanding).

6.2 Potential cointegration and cross-sectional heterogeneity

In Section 4.1, we flagged the possibility that cross-sectional heterogeneity may be an issue for some variables in the system, whereas cointegration was unlikely to be. Here, we report dynamic heterogeneous panel regressions, for both the parsimonious and comprehensive spec-

⁵³In particular, the metric captures cross-border credit directly, rather than indirectly in terms of access to dollars, but only comprises data for 14 EM countries.

⁵⁴See Table A.12 and Table A.13.

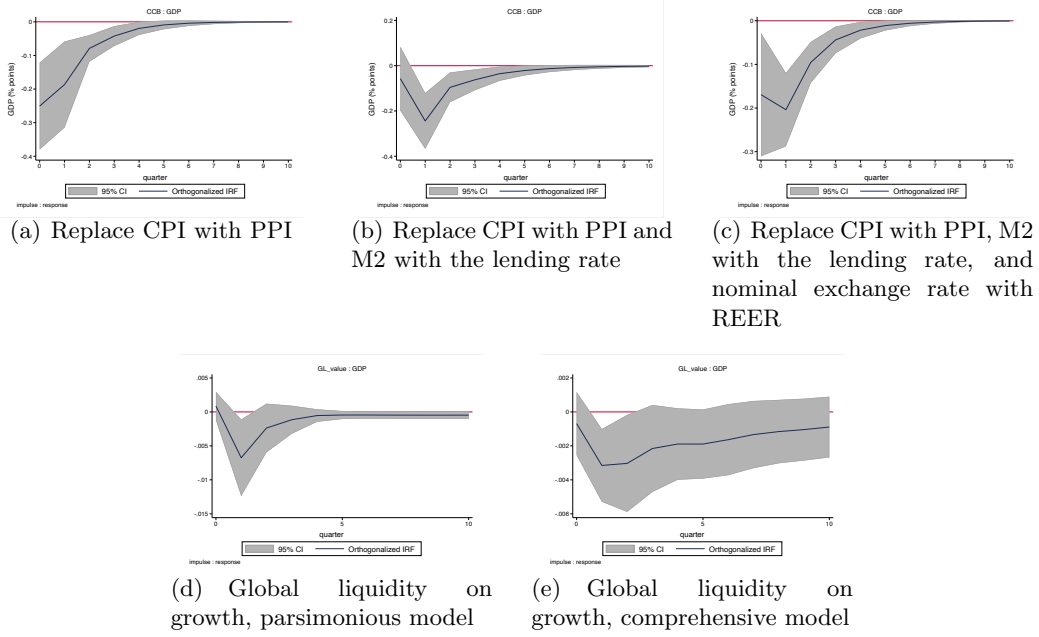


Figure 18: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output with alternative variables, full sample (2000Q1–2020Q4). The negative dollar liquidity-output relationship remains when alternative macroeconomic variables are used.

ifications. These include techniques that can accommodate potential cointegration (dynamic fixed effects and mean group estimators, left panel of Table 3) or spatial dependency (spatial correlation-consistent and dynamic common correlated mean group estimators, right panel of Table 3).

The results generally echo our baseline findings. Even after controlling for dynamic heterogeneity, the effect of the CCB on growth remains negative. The coefficients in the short run are typically negative (although not always significant), and for the long run—the usual application for this class of models—the effects of the dollar squeeze on output is likewise negative.

6.3 Endogeneity concerns

We consider two sets of checks to address residual endogeneity concerns.

6.3.1 Relative endogeneity of variables

We evaluate two possibilities for alternative timing assumptions. First, we retain the relative exogeneity of the CCB and the relative endogeneity of the exchange rate, consistent with the arguments laid out in Section 3.3. However, we introduce permutations in the order of output, prices, and the money stock. These are reported in Figure 19. We obtain only very small variations in the impulse responses, relative to the baseline; this is consistent with arguments that stress how the order of these intermediate endogenous variables do not matter for identification (Plagborg-Møller & Wolf 2021).

Second, we let the exchange rate take on a comparable order of exogeneity as the cross-currency basis. Thus, the exchange rate may either be more exogenous than the CCB (left

Table 3: Dynamic heterogeneous panels, parsimonious and comprehensive models

	Potential cointegration			Potential spatial dependency				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Short-run							
$\Delta CCB_t - 1$	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0001 (0.0000)	-0.0001** (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0001*** (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)
$\Delta GDP_t - 1$	-0.1724*** (0.0155)	-0.1230*** (0.0158)	-0.0756*** (0.0179)	-0.2958*** (0.0468)	-0.1902** (0.0792)	-0.1400** (0.0588)		
ΔCPI_t		0.1678 (0.4011)		0.5286*** (0.1715)		0.1577 (0.2422)		-0.2347 (0.1943)
$\Delta M2_t$		0.0370 (0.1117)		-0.1025 (0.1007)		0.0297 (0.0562)		-0.1615* (0.0864)
ΔER_t		-0.0719 (0.0739)		-0.1117 (0.0708)		-0.0650* (0.0373)		0.1940*** (0.0747)
	Long-run							
$CCB_t - 1$	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)	0.0006 (0.0015)	-0.0020 (0.0024)	-0.0000** (0.0000)	-0.0000 (0.0000)	-0.0039 (0.0054)	0.0004 (0.0006)
$GDP_t - 1$	0.0182 (0.0284)	-0.0317 (0.0386)			-0.0310** (0.0147)	-0.0799*** (0.0157)	-0.0210* (0.0111)	-0.3194*** (0.0473)
CPI_t		-0.0347 (0.0553)		0.0279 (0.0309)		-0.0173 (0.0191)		0.1849 (0.7448)
$M2_t$		0.0253 (0.0260)		-0.4540 (1.0201)		0.0283** (0.0120)		0.4322 (0.2803)
ER_t		0.0021 (0.0205)		-0.4385 (0.3519)		-0.0030 (0.0126)		-0.4391 (0.3351)
Estimator	DFE-C	DFE-C	MG	MG	SSC	SSC	DCCE	DCCE
Model	Pars.	Comp.	Pars.	Comp.	Pars.	Comp.	Pars.	Comp.
R^2							0.843	0.626
Observations	3465	3372	3492	3397	3492	3397	3292	3125

The dependent variable is the GDP growth rate. Dynamic heterogeneous panel methods reported in the first row of the lower panel, corresponding to biased-corrected dynamic fixed effects (DFE-C), mean group (MG), spatial correlation-consistent (SCC), and dynamic common correlated (DCCE) estimators. DFE-C estimates are initialized with the Anderson-Hsiao estimator and corrected to O(1/NT). Within goodness of fit (adjusted R2) reported where available. Reported periods are averages, since the panel is unbalanced. A homogeneous constant was included in all specifications, but not reported. Standard errors are given in parentheses, and are bootstrapped over 200 simulations (DFE-C), Driscoll-Kraay spatial dependency, heteroskedasticity, and autocorrelation-corrected standard errors (SCC). * indicates significance at the 10 percent level, ** significance at the 5 percent level, and *** significance at the 1 percent level.

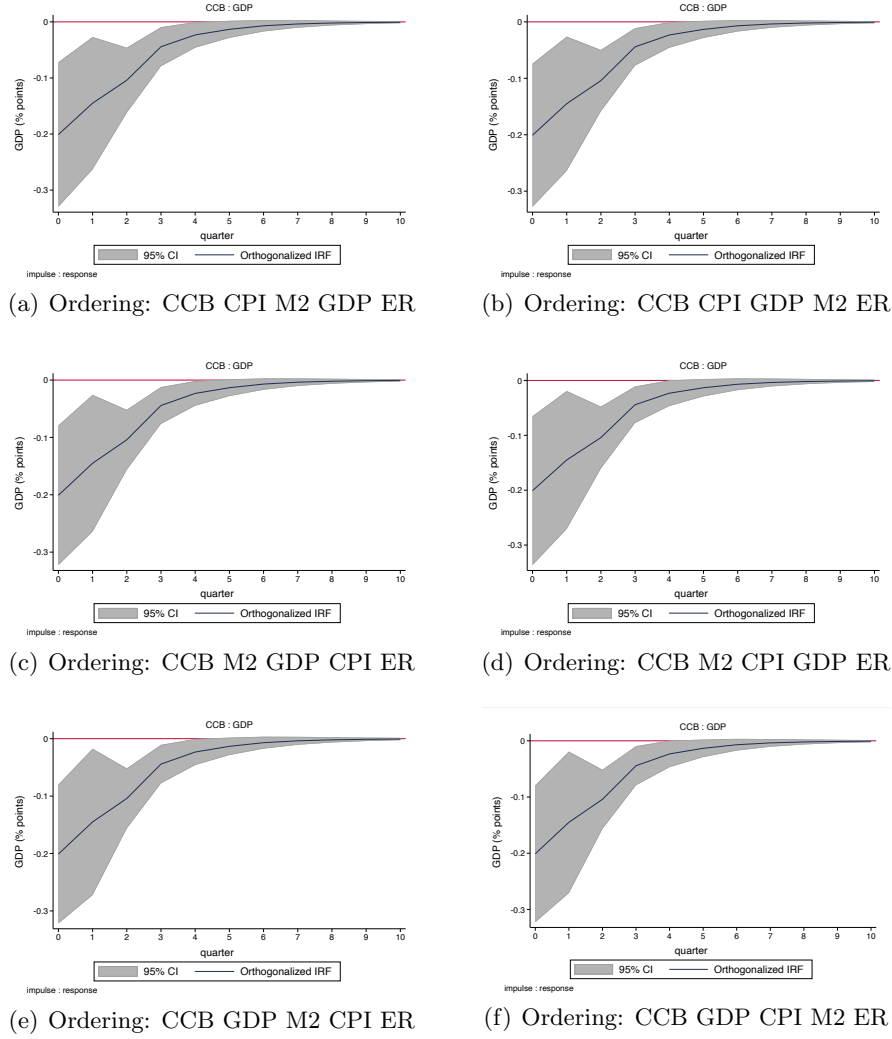


Figure 19: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output using different timing assumptions, full sample (2000Q1–2020Q4), with alternative orderings of endogenous variables other than the cross-currency basis and the exchange rate. The negative effect of CCB on GDP is essentially unchanged.

panel of Figure 20), or just slightly less (while still being more exogenous than the remaining variables, right panel). The order of the remaining endogenous variables then follow that of the baseline. In neither case does this alternative treatment of the endogeneity of the exchange rate matter.⁵⁵

6.3.2 Relaxing strict exogeneity of the CCB

We also estimate local projections using instruments. As explained in Section 3.3, our candidate instruments are lags of the synthetic treasury rate⁵⁶ (top panel), which we then

⁵⁵As a final robustness check, we take on the most extreme possibility and consider a specification where the cross-currency basis is *more* endogenous than output, despite its violation of our identification assumptions documented in Section 3.3.2. Yet even with this setup, the IRFs retain a negative relationship between the two variables; these are available on request.

⁵⁶We also considered lagged synthetic rate instruments computed using the deposit rate instead. The corresponding results are qualitatively consistent, and are reported in the appendix.

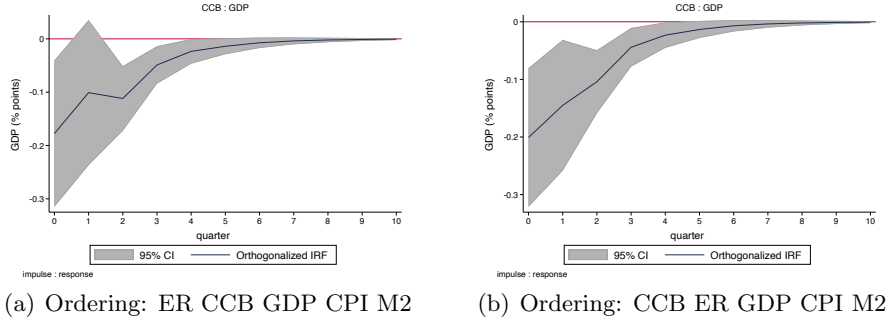


Figure 20: Orthogonalized impulse response functions for dollar liquidity on output using different timing assumptions, full sample (2000Q1–2020Q4), with the cross-currency basis and exchange rate as most exogenous. The negative effect of CCB on GDP remains unaltered by this placement of the exchange rate as among the most exogenous.

pair with country-specific monetary policy shocks (bottom panel).⁵⁷ The cumulative impulse responses, corresponding to the parsimonious (left column) and comprehensive (right column) models, are shown in Figure 21.⁵⁸

As is common for such projections, the IRFs are not as smooth as those obtained from a full PVAR system. Even so, the cumulative effect of dollar liquidity on output growth remains clearly negative. The impulse tends to peak after around two years, and remains significant for a full ten quarters after impact. Moreover, this finding holds for both AE and EM subsamples, and remains robust to different choices for lags and instruments (as reported in the appendix). The first stage results also suggest that the various instrument sets are coherent, strong, and—for the most part—relevant.

By estimating both parsimonious and comprehensive models, we also make available an additional means of evaluating the quality of our LP-IV specification. As argued by [Miranda-Agrippino & Ricco \(2023\)](#), the use of instruments to identify structural shocks in a VAR setting requires (partial) invertibility of the shock of interest. A necessary condition for such invertibility is that the instruments satisfy a limited lead-lag exogeneity condition, which may be formally tested by a Hausman-type test on whether the IRF coefficients remain robust to the inclusion of external controls beyond the core information set. In our application, this amounts to comparing the coefficients of the CCB in the parsimonious and comprehensive models. In almost all instances, we fail to reject the null, which lends further credence to our instrument set (these results are also in the appendix).

On balance, our finding that the CCB influences growth negatively continues to hold, even when we accommodate various possibilities for how the CCB may be endogenous.

⁵⁷We allow for lags of up to 4 quarters, although, technically, contemporaneous realizations of the monetary policy shock may be included, given its construction. The results reported here correspond to those that are for one lag for each, but changes to the lag structure, as well as the inclusion of additional controls, yield qualitatively similar results, and are provided in the appendix.

⁵⁸We choose the cumulative IRFs due to the volatility of their orthogonalized variants, which inhibits interpretation of their total effects. For completeness, we also include orthogonalized IRFs in the appendix.

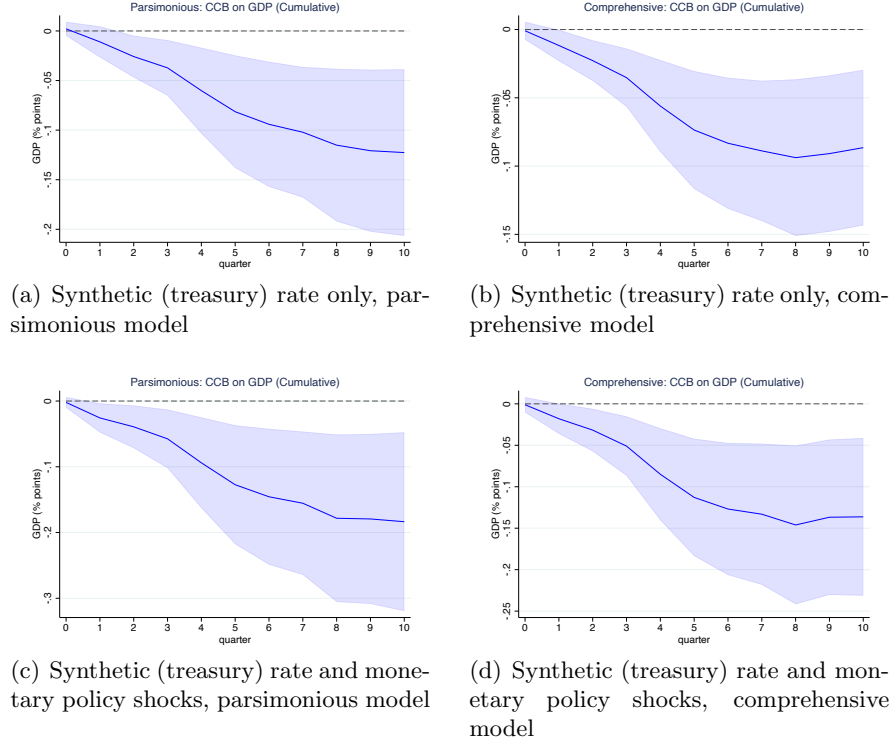


Figure 21: Cumulative impulse response functions for CCB on GDP estimated via local projections, full sample (2000Q1–2020Q4). Local projections for the parsimonious (left column) and comprehensive (right column) models are estimated via GMM, with standard errors clustered at the country level, and instrumented with 1 quarter lag of the variables listed in the sub-captions. For a one standard-deviation innovation, the evolution 10 quarters after the shock is reported. The light blue areas indicate the 90 percent confidence intervals. While more volatile than the uninstrumented PVARs, the cumulative effect of dollar liquidity on growth remains negative, attaining its long-run effect after 2 quarters, and is significant for up to ten quarters after impact.

7 Conclusion

This paper finds that CIP deviations, proxied by the cross-currency basis, tend to exert a negative effect on economic growth, especially in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2007/08. We attribute this result—which we term a “dollar squeeze”—to three factors. First, in the heat of a financial crisis, the ability to access dollar financing in advanced economies does bolster growth. This is consistent with the works of others, such as [Ivashina & Scharfstein \(2010\)](#), which have stressed the importance of international liquidity during a crisis. Second, during normal times, improved dollar liquidity promotes substitution out of previously safe-haven dollar assets into domestic local-currency holdings, which tightens the money supply and lowers growth. This effect is more prominent in emerging markets, and is aligned with the findings in [Rey \(2013\)](#). Third, easier dollar access in normal times also triggers exchange rate appreciation in advanced economies, consistent with *uncovered* interest parity, with currency strength prompting a deterioration in the trade balance and eroding growth.

We have focused our efforts here on the effects of the cross-currency basis on a key dimension of economic performance: GDP growth. But the analyses in Sections 4.4 and 5 have revealed

that dollar liquidity may also exert important and nuanced influences on other key aspects of the open economy, especially cross-border trade and financial flows. While we have touched on these as transmission channels in this paper, we leave a deeper exploration of these additional dimensions to future research. The specific channels may also be further corroborated with micro-level data on changes in asset holdings by investment funds, in response to dollar liquidity shocks.

Policy implications. The dollar has become so critical to the smooth functioning of international finance that the Federal Reserve has even occasionally taken on the *de facto* role of the guardian of global financial stability. This prompted the institution of central bank liquidity swap arrangements,⁵⁹ denominated in dollars, first introduced after the global financial crisis (Obstfeld, Shambaugh & Taylor 2009), and reprised during the COVID-19 pandemic (Bahaj & Reis 2022). Such dollar swap lines are meant to cap the extent of CIP deviations, but evidence on their efficacy remains somewhat mixed, with some authors documenting stronger support (Bahaj & Reis 2022) than others (Allen, Galati, Moessner & Nelson 2017). While our paper does not resolve this issue, we provide additional perspective on why such lines may not work as advertised.

Our work suggests that such swap arrangements may play an important role in shielding economies from output contractions during crisis conditions. But their utility tends to be limited to AEs, which, in fairness, comprise the vast majority of counterparty central banks in any case.⁶⁰ During normal times, however, dollar liquidity access may confer much more limited benefits than typically assumed. Standing foreign exchange swap arrangements—such as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization—may turn out to be counterproductive, and improved eurodollar deposit facilities may likewise trigger unanticipated (and undesirable) short-term slowdowns.

Moreover, the shortage of safe assets within the EM space suggests that policymakers in such settings should be careful of what they wish for. Lowering the cost of dollar financing during times of financial stress may, paradoxically, promote capital flight. That said, if any given central bank views such dollar liquidity provision as unavoidable, then it should do what it can to avoid a domestic liquidity collapse, either through keeping policy rates low, or (more drastically) by imposing capital controls. Another implication of our findings is that, in the longer run, promoting financial deepening in EMs may go beyond its development benefits alone, by providing insulation from dollar squeezes.

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⁵⁹As a result of the global crisis, the Fed created standing swap arrangements with five central banks: the Bank of Canada, Bank of England, Bank of Japan, the ECB, and the Swiss National Bank. In March 2020, it extended short-term swap arrangements to the monetary authorities of nine additional countries: Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Denmark, South Korea, Norway, New Zealand, Singapore, and Sweden.

⁶⁰Of the 14 central banks authorized with dollar liquidity swap lines in 2007, 11 were in AEs (the exceptions were the Banco Central do Brasil, Bank of Korea, and Banco de Mexico).

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