



Munich Personal RePEc Archive

Long-Run Implications of the Covered Interest Rate Parity Condition: Evidence during the Recent Crisis and Non-Crisis Periods

Nagayasu, Jun

1 September 2012

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/41566/>
MPRA Paper No. 41566, posted 26 Sep 2012 14:26 UTC

Long-Run Implications of the Covered Interest Rate Parity Condition: Evidence during the Recent Crisis and Non-Crisis Periods

Jun Nagayasu*

University of Tsukuba, Japan

Sept 2012

Abstract

This paper analyzes the stationarity of forward premiums in foreign exchange markets. Considering a wide range of countries and contract periods and taking into account cross-sectional correlations and heterogeneities in nonstationary environments, we confirmed mixed evidence of stationary forward premiums. Further analysis suggests that the nonstationary element has been attributable to regime shifts which are closely associated with the effects of the Lehman Shock and changing monetary policies. These effects can be captured by interest rates, leaving the covered interest parity condition as a valid economic concept at least in the long-run.

Keywords: Panel unit root tests, structural shifts, forward premiums,
Lehman shock

JEL classification: F31, C12

*University of Tsukuba, Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8573 JAPAN; Tel/Fax: +81 29 853 5067; Email: Nagayasu@sk.tsukuba.ac.jp. This research was partially funded by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) No. 21530206.

1 Introduction

Forward exchange rates have increasingly been used by investors in order to reduce market risks. Therefore, many researchers have analyzed the forward premium (fp_t) which can be expressed in natural logarithmic form as a difference between the j th-period maturity forward rate (f_t^j) and the spot rate (s_t) at time t (i.e., $fp_t = f_t^j - s_t$, known as a forward premium/discount and referred to as a forward premium hereafter). Among other factors, previous studies identified that the forward premium is caused by transaction costs (e.g., Engel 1996), market liquidity (Fukuta and Saito 2002), and changes in macroeconomic conditions (e.g., Nagayasu 2011) including interest rate differentials following the covered interest rate parity (CIRP) condition. When these factors yield a persistent effect on the premium, the risk premium may follow a nonstationary process. This has a profound implication for international finance studies since given that changes in spot exchange rates were frequently reported to be stationary in previous studies, the nonstationary forward premium has been pointed out as a source of the forward rate puzzle (Barnhart et al 1999),¹ one of the outstanding issues in international finance, first brought to light by Fama (1984).

Indeed, while many theoretical models rely on the economic assumption of the stationary forward premium, previous empirical studies have provided quite mixed results.² For example, Baillie and Bollerslev (1994) used the fractionally integrated method to study forward premiums for Canadian, German and UK exchange rates against the US dollar. They showed that premiums for Germany and the UK follow a stationary process and that for Canada the nonstationary. Similarly, Liu and Maynard (2005) confirmed uncertainty regarding the stationarity of the premium using the currencies of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and UK against the US dollar. The stationarity of premiums is

¹The study on forward premiums is related to the analysis of the unbiasedness of forward rates. The latter can be examined by testing whether forward rates are equal to future spot rates (i.e., $f_{jt} = s_{t+j}$). Thus, what is different from the forward premium study is that the future spot rate (at time $t + j$) is used rather the present spot rate (i.e., s_t). Recently Pippenger (2011) argued that the forward rate puzzle arises from a misspecification of the standard statistical model to test the theoretical model.

²Engel (1996) summarizes empirical studies related to forward premiums. An analysis of the forward rate unbiasedness hypothesis also raises mixed evidence. For example, Hai et al (1997) studied a long-run relationship between the forward and future spot exchange rates for advanced countries relative to the US dollar. Their cointegration tests generally support a stationary relationship by imposing the theoretical parameter restriction. In contrast, Ho (2003) studied the unbiasedness of forward rates in the panel context using the nonstationary Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR) method and concluded that the unbiasedness hypothesis does not hold for advanced countries.

also sensitive to contract maturities; only short-term premiums are stationary (Nagayasu 2011).

Against this background, we shall first of all analyze the stationarity of the forward premiums of a variety of countries, using the US dollar and Euro as numeraire currencies, in both univariate and panel data contexts. Then, in the presence of nonstationarity in the premiums, we proceed to examine whether structural shifts caused by the recent financial crises (e.g., the Lehman Shock) contribute to this outcome and become a source of violation of the CIRP.

Thus, this paper makes two contributions to the literature. First, by taking account of possible shifts in forward premiums, we attempt to find reasons for their possible nonstationarity. Indeed, recent studies seem to point out the importance of shifts. For example, Jeon and Seo (2003) reported a breakdown of a cointegrated relationship between spot and forward exchange rates during the 1997 Asian crisis but an immediate recovery soon after this event. Similarly, Sakoulis et al. (2010) argued that the forward rate puzzle is attributable to the lack of consideration of shifts in their analysis of the forward rate unbiasedness hypothesis. In this connection, we employ panel unit root tests which have more statistical power than univariate tests and take account of premium-specific regime shifts. These techniques will be applied to our data set which comprises among many others one-week forward premiums which have not been intensively investigated before despite the fact that most forward contracts are short-term with a typical maturity length of less than one month (see next section).

Secondly, previous studies analyzed premiums relative to the US dollar, but they seldom asked any questions about the potential effect of a numeraire currency. Probably MacDonald and Moore (2001) is one exception which considered different numeraire currencies; the Deutschmark (DM) and US dollar. They reported that stability of the premium is sensitive to their choice and is obtained only when the dollar is used as a numeraire.

2 The Description of the Exchange Rate Data

According to the survey conducted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS 2010), the foreign exchange market has grown rapidly over the years, and gross turnover reached

US\$ 3,981 billion in 2010—a 20 percent increase since 2007. Out of this total turnover, US\$ 475 billion was related to outright forwards when classified by instruments. In terms of the distribution of global foreign exchange market turnover, the US dollar has been a dominant currency (85 percent in 2010), followed by the Euro (39 percent), the Japanese yen (19 percent), and so on.³ The turnover for outright forwards can also be classified in terms of maturity length; 46 percent of outright forwards have a maturity of up to seven days in 2010, and 52 percent a maturity from 7 days to one year. Thus, the majority of outright forwards is characterized as short-term in nature and is denominated against the US dollar. This trend has not changed since 1998 when survey data became available.

Against this background, we gather monthly data on forward and spot exchange rates - with a maturity length of 1 week and 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months - from DataStream. These rates are denominated against the US dollar or Euro, which are the most important currencies for international trade, and cover the sample period from 1999M1 to 2011M3. The beginning of this period is determined by the timing of the introduction of the Euro. Due to the availability of forward exchange rates, we consider advanced countries; namely, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, New Zealand (NZ), the United Kingdom (UK), Hong Kong (HK), Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, the United States (US) and the Eurozone.⁴ Prior to formal investigation, we shall next present some summary statistics.

Table 1 summarizes the average of forward premiums which are calculated as $fp_t = f_t - s_t$ (as defined in the Introduction). For premiums with the US dollar as a numeraire, about half - 7 - countries have a negative one-week premium and the rest a positive premium. For those with the Euro as a numeraire, the number of negative premiums drops slightly to just 4 cases. Furthermore, the size of premiums tends to increase along with the maturity length. In particular, the average of one-year premiums relative to the Euro is about 60 times larger than that of the one-week premium. Thus, although we do not carry out a further detailed analysis, it follows that effects of, for example, market illiquidity, are more significant in the long-term premium.

³The total share of currencies used in the foreign exchange rate market is 200% since each transaction involves two currencies.

⁴Forward rates relative to the UK pound are also available from DataStream; however, they are not available for all our countries or contract maturities during our sample periods.

Table 2 lists the standard deviation of forward premiums for each country and contract maturity. Generally speaking, volatility is higher in long-term premiums. For example, a one-year premium relative to both the US dollar and Euro is about 38 times more volatile than a one-week premium. Therefore, higher volatility for the longer-maturity premium seems to be the case regardless of the country and/or numeraire currency.

In addition to these summary statistics, we have checked the cross-sectional dependence of our premiums. The Breusch-Pagan test is carried out to test the null hypothesis of the independence of forward premiums across countries. The test exploits residual correlations from the seemingly unrelated regression (SUR) estimators, and this statistic (Table 3) is distributed as χ^2 . Corresponding p-values suggest that this null is strongly rejected in all cases. This result likely reflects that a panel of premiums is based on the same numeraire currency (i.e., either the US dollar or Euro) and thus they share common economic shocks. Furthermore, the cross-sectional dependence may arise from the mechanism of modern foreign exchange markets which are closely linked through Information Technology (IT), and whereby any relevant information will spread instantly to other markets. In short, these results suggest that it is important to consider contemporaneous correlations when analyzing the behaviors of the premiums.

3 Statistical Method

As part of our efforts to seek explanations for the nonstationarity of some forward premiums, we shall attempt to find historical events using an advanced statistical method. A stationarity test was originally developed in order to check the time-series properties of univariate data (Dickey and Fuller 1979). Since then, much progress has been made in a number of directions, and Levin and Lin (1992) is one such example which proposed a panel unit root test. Since researchers often face limited time-series observations, it is said that statistical power will be enhanced by incorporating cross-sectional information. Here the stationarity of forward premiums will be examined using the Lagrangian Multiplier (LM) based panel unit root test (Im et al 2005) which is an extension of the LM unit root test for univariate data and allows us to estimate endogenously the premium-specific timing of structural breaks.

More specifically, Im et al (2005) have proposed a panel unit root test with a level shift in order to examine the null hypothesis that all series are unit roots against the alternative that at least one of them is stationary. Since breaks are considered under both null and alternative hypotheses, this is not a test to evaluate the presence of breaks. However, obtaining evidence of both 1) nonstationary premiums without consideration of level shifts and 2) stationary premiums with shifts becomes a sign that such breaks and events are significant. In that case, we shall utilize this information in order to identify historical events relevant to the nonstationarity of the premiums.

For N premiums ($i = 1, \dots, N$) and time ($t = 1, \dots, T$), the LM panel data approach with a level shift for each premium (fp_{it}) can be summarized as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} fp_{it} &= z_{it} + x_{it} \\ z_{it} &= \gamma_{1i} + \gamma_{2i}t + \delta_i D_{it} \\ x_{it} &= \phi_i x_{it-1} + \varepsilon_{it} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $D_{it} = 0$ when $t \leq T_{Bi}$ and $D_{it} = 1$ when $t \geq T_{Bi} + 1$. The residual ε_{it} follows a normal distribution with zero mean and variance σ_i^2 , and the timing of breaks are expressed as T_B . Thus this model allows a level shift which can be different among premiums. The null hypothesis of the unit root against the alternative of some stationary variables will be tested by $\phi_i = 1$. In this case, equation (1) suggests that x_{it} and thus fp_{it} follows the unit root process given that ε_{it} is stationary. Alternatively, this null can be tested by $\beta_i = 0$ where $\beta_i = -(1 - \phi_i)$ in the following equation which can be obtained from equation (1):

$$\Delta fp_{it} = \beta_i fp_{it-1} - \beta_i \gamma_{1i} + [1 - (\beta_i + 1)(t - 1)]\gamma_{2i} + (\Delta D_{it} - \beta_i D_{it-1})\delta_i + \varepsilon_{it} \tag{2}$$

where Δ is a difference term. The parameters will be estimated by the maximum likelihood method based on the following log likelihood function.

$$\ln L = \sum_{i=1}^N (-0.5T \ln 2\pi\sigma_i^2 - 0.5\sigma_i^{-2} \text{SSE}_i) \tag{3}$$

where $\text{SSE}_i = \sum_{t=1}^T \{\Delta fp_{it} - \beta_i fp_{it-1} + \beta_i \gamma_{1i} - [1 - (\beta_i + 1)(t - 1)]\gamma_{2i} - (\Delta D_{it} - \beta_i D_{it-1})\delta_i\}^2$. The location of a shift will be determined for each premium and will be

estimated on the basis of equation (3).

The LM panel unit root statistic can be calculated as per the approach of Im et al (2003). The basic specification can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta f_{pit} &= \gamma_{2i} + \delta_i \Delta D_{it} + \beta_i S_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{p_i} \rho_{ij} \Delta S_{it-j} + \varepsilon_{it} \\ S_{it-1} &= f_{pit-1} - \gamma_{2i}(t-1) - \delta_i D_{it-1}\end{aligned}\quad (4)$$

In order to evaluate the null $\beta_i = 0$, the cross-sectional average of t statistic ($\bar{t}_{LM,NT}(p)$) will be calculated as:

$$\bar{t}_{LM,NT}(p) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N t_{LM,iT}(p_i) \quad (5)$$

where $t_{LM,iT}(p_i)$ is obtained from each premium equation. The panel LM statistic, which is asymptotically distributed normal with zero mean and unit variance, can be constructed while making adjustments to the mean and variance:

$$\Gamma_{LM}(p) = \frac{\sqrt{N} \left\{ \bar{t}_{LM,NT}(p) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [t_{LM,T}(p_i)] \right\}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N V[t_{LM,T}(p_i)]}} \sim N(0, 1)$$

where $E[.]$ and $V[.]$ are the expected value of the mean and variance respectively which are obtained by stochastic simulations (Im et al 2005). This statistical distribution will not be affected by the presence or location of the level shift since ΔD_{it} (rather than its level) is used here. Needless to say, this test becomes the standard panel unit root test to examine the null of nonstationarity when D_{it} is dropped from the specification.

For operational purposes, the cross-sectional average of the premiums is removed from original data consistent with the theoretical assumption of the test. This data transformation is necessary since we have obtained evidence of significant cross-sectional correlations in our data (Table 3). In addition, following the suggestion of Im et al (2005), to adjust autocorrelation in equation (4) the lag length is determined by the general-specific approach for each premium with a maximum of 3 lags, and the grid search method is applied to the trimmed sample period (from $0.1 * T$ to $0.9 * T$) in order to find optimal breakpoints. This truncation of data essentially excludes most observations relevant to the Greek debt crisis.

4 Empirical Results

4.1 Forward premium

Using the statistical method summarized in the previous section, we examine if the forward premiums are stationary in univariate and panel data contexts. In short, this panel test suggests that level shifts are indeed important for understanding the behaviors of the forward premiums: regardless of the maturity length, strong evidence of at least one stationary premium is obtained when level shifts are considered.

More specifically, first, LM statistics (Im et al. 2005) are calculated based on the abovementioned approach without a level shift dummy (D). Table 4 shows that there is evidence of stationary premiums only for a one-week maturity. For the rest, we failed to reject the null hypothesis. A violation of the CIRP is in line with recent studies (Coffey et al. 2009, Levich 2011) using observations including the Lehman Shock, and the stationarity of the shorter premiums is consistent with Nagayasu (2011) which assumed no structural break in the premiums. However, when level shifts are considered, we are able to obtain evidence in favor of stationary premiums for all maturity lengths in the panel data context, and this general conclusion is not affected by the number of shifts (i.e., one or two shifts) in the test. Given the different conclusions, from these analyses, with and without D , we regard these shifts as a significant factor influencing the behaviors of forward premiums.

Since the alternative hypothesis of the panel LM test is that some premiums are stationary, this test does not give us any information about which series are stationary. Therefore, in order to identify them, we carry out the univariate LM test (Lee and Strazicich 2003, 2004) which is a basis for the panel unit root test (Im et al. 2005) and assumes one or two breaks for each series (Tables 5 and 6 respectively).⁵ The results from our univariate analysis are consistent with those from the panel LM test with regime shifts. There is evidence of stationarity for a majority of premiums using the conventional statistical level.

In contrast to previous studies, our results from the unit root test are not found to be very sensitive to the numeraire currency. MacDonald and Moor (2001) found cointegration for the premium against the US dollar but not for the DM premium. They interpreted

⁵This study considers one and two shifts since Lee and Strazicich (2003, 2004) developed an LM test with a maximum of two level shifts.

the lack of cointegration for the DM premiums as evidence of the lack of credibility of the ERM target zone. In this connection, our results suggest the strength of the Euro relative to the DM.

For illustrative purposes, the break-dates identified by the panel test with one shift are classified by year (Figure 1).⁶ The identified break-date differs considerably among premiums, but the shift took place most often in the year 2008 regardless of the numeraire, which coincides with the year of the Lehman Shock. A combination of the occurrence of shifts in years 2008 and 2009 to include both the immediate effects and the aftershocks of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy suggests that about 30 percent of premiums relative to the US dollar identified these break-dates. This proportion increases slightly for the premiums relative to the Euro. Thus although there are a number of other minor breaks in this figure, consideration of one or two shifts seems adequate to alter the result of the panel unit root test.

The timing of shifts may reflect changes in US monetary policy which has been discussed as very influential over other economies. In response to a higher than expected increase in inflation caused by a hike in energy and commodity prices worldwide, the US short-term interest rate (the federal fund rate) started to increase from June 2004, raising worries about future uncertainty among investors. Furthermore, in order to facilitate financial stability and US economic recovery, aggressive accommodative monetary policies were implemented leading the federal fund rate to less than one percent in October 2008. Note that Sakoulis et al. (2010) also interpreted shifts as monetary shocks in their study on the forward rate unbiasedness hypothesis.

Finally, in order to obtain some statistical evidence of links between the timing of shifts in forward premiums and these two historical events, we conduct a stability test for data on the federal fund rate, the world commodity price (S&P GSCI commodity total return) and the US house price index (Case-Shiller home price index, 10-city composite), all from DataStream. Two tests (Andrews-Quandt and Andrews-Ploberger) are employed to analyze the null hypothesis of no shift in the data. Table 7 shows clear evidence of shifts in the data, and the timing of the shift is found to be 2008 for the commodity price and the federal fund rate although the former is statistically insignificant. A shift-date of

⁶The panel test with 2 shifts also shows a similar distribution of potential breaks.

2006, when the sub-prime loan problem became apparent in the US, is identified by house price data. Therefore, this statistical evidence supports our view that the two shifts are related to monetary policies and the effects of the sub-prime loan problem including the Lehman Shock, but furthermore unlike the Asian crisis (Jeon and Seo 2003), these events generated a permanent effect on the forward premiums.

4.2 Effects of the Forward Premiums on the CIRP

In order to establish a more solid relationship between forward premiums and interest rates which seem to capture the effect of the Lehman Shock and changes in monetary policies, we analyze the CIRP condition. Given the fact that premiums are nonstationary without structural breaks, cointegration between premiums and interest rates suggests the presence of co-breaking where structural breaks occur in each data at a similar time and deviation from this condition vanishes over time.

Using the panel cointegration test (Westerlund 2007) and the bootstrap method, Table 8 shows strong evidence in favor of the CIRP; the null hypothesis of no cointegration is rejected in all cases by P_α test statistics.⁷ This test examines an adjustment coefficient of the error correction terms in the panel data context, and thus like a time-series analysis the large negative test statistic becomes evidence against the null. Since the alternative hypothesis of P_α is that all pairs of the CIRP relationship are cointegrated, one could conclude from our results that the nonstationary element of the forward premiums and that of the interest rates are cointegrated. This confirms that a structural break in the forward premiums can be explained by interest rates and follows that the risk premiums (i.e., the residual of the CIRP) are stationary and thus do not have a permanent impact on the CIRP relationship. Therefore, recent concerns about a violation of the CIRP are expected to be short-lived and a surge in the risk premium should also be temporary. This is an issue not touched upon in recent research (e.g., Coffey et al 2009, Levich 2011) which reported the significant increase in the credit and counterparty risk in the recent sample period.

Finally, the parameters of the CIRP are also presented in Table 8. These parameters

⁷For presentation purposes, Table 8 includes the results for one week premiums, some of which are found to be stationary in the unit root test (Table 4).

are estimated by the Dynamic OLS method (Kao and Chiang 2000) and are correctly signed and statistically significant, thereby providing further evidence of a long-run CIRP. This result is also consistent with previous studies (e.g., Taylor 1987). However, note that given the fact that our estimates are well below a theoretical value of unity, our abovementioned results should be interpreted as evidence supporting the weak-form of the long-run CIRP.

5 Conclusion

Using advanced nonstationary panel data estimation methods, we have examined the stationarity of forward premiums for advanced countries. Such methods introduce many types of heterogeneities and cross-sectional correlations in the tests. Furthermore, unlike previous studies, forward premiums with a wide variety of maturity length are analyzed in order to seek a conclusion more relevant to actual practices in forward markets.

In short, like previous research, we have confronted difficulties in drawing a clear conclusion although there is stronger evidence of the stationary premiums for the shorter term contracts. Furthermore, our further analysis unveils that unusual historical events such as the Lehman Shock seem to increase the level of nonstationarity in the premiums. These impacts on the forward premiums are discussed as more permanent than the Asian crisis, but do not have a persistent impact on the CIRP relationship. Thus, our findings complement the analysis of the forward rate unbiasedness theory by Sakoulis et al. (2010), and imply that the increased nonstationarity of forward premiums resulting from such historical events is part of the explanation of the forward premium puzzle.

References

- Baillie, R. T., & Bollerslev, T. (1994). The long memory of the forward premium. *Journal of International Money and Finance*, 13, 565-571.
- Bank for International Settlements (2010). Triennial Central Bank Survey: Report on Global Foreign Exchange Market Activity in 2010, BIS.
- Barnhart, S. W., McNown, R., & Wallace, M. S. (1999). Non-informative tests of the unbiased forward exchange rate. *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 34, 265-291.
- Coffey, N., Hrungr, W.B. & Sarkar, A. (2009). Capital constraints, counterparty risk, and deviations from the covered interest parity. Federal Reserve Bank of New York Staff Report no. 393.
- Dickey, D. A., & Fuller, W. (1979). Distribution of the estimators for autoregressive time series with a unit root. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 74, 427-431.
- Engel, C. (1996). The forward discount anomaly and the risk premium: A survey of recent evidence. *Journal of Empirical Finance*, 3, 123-192.
- Fukuta, Y., & Saito, M. (2002). Forward discount puzzle and liquidity effects: Some evidence from exchange rates among the United States, Canada and Japan. *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, 34, 1014-1033.
- Hai, W., Mark, N. C., & Wu, Y. (1997). Understanding spot and forward exchange rate regressions. *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 12, 715-734.
- Ho, T-W. (2003). A re-examination of the unbiasedness forward rate hypothesis using dynamic SUR model. *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 43, 542-559.
- Im, K-S., Lee, J., & Tielsau, M. (2005). Panel LM unit-root tests with level shifts. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 67, 393-419.
- Im, K. S., Pesaran, M. H., & Shin, Y. (2003). Testing for unit roots in heterogeneous panels. *Journal of Econometrics*, 115, 53-74.
- Jeon, B. N., & Seo, B. (2003). The impact of the Asian financial crisis on foreign exchange market efficiency: The case of East Asian countries. *Pacific-Basin Finance Journal*, 11, 509-525.
- Kao, C., & Chiang, M. H. (2000). On the estimation and inference of a cointegrated regression in panel data. *Advances in Econometrics*, 15, 179-222.

Lee, J., & Strazicich, M. C. (2003). Minimum lagrange multiple unit root test with two structural breaks. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 85, 1082-1089.

Lee, J., & Strazicich, M. C. (2004). Minimum LM unit root test with one structural break, Working Paper, Department of Economics, Appalachian State University.

Levich, R. M. (2011). Evidence on financial globalization and crises: interest rate parity. In the *Encyclopedia of Financial Globalization*, ed. G. Caprio, Elsevier, forthcoming.

Levin, A., & Lin, C-F. (1992). Unit root tests in panel data: Asymptotic and finite sample properties. Discussion Paper 92-23, University of California, San Diego.

Liu, W., & Maynard, A. (2005). Testing forward rate unbiasedness allowing for persistent regressors. *Journal of Empirical Finance*, 12, 613-628.

MacDonald, R., & Moore, M. J. (2001). The spot-forward relationship revisited: An ERM perspective. *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money*, 11, 29-52.

Nagayasu, J. (2011). The common component in the forward premium: Evidence from the Asia-Pacific region. *Review of International Economics*, 19, 750-762.

Pippenger, J. (2011). The solution to the forward-bias puzzle. *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institution and Money*, 21, 296-304.

Sakoulis, G., Zivot, E., & Choi, K. (2010). Structural change in the forward discount: Implications for the forward rate unbiasedness hypothesis. *Journal of Empirical Finance*, 17, 957-966.

Taylor, M. P. (1987). Covered interest parity: A high-frequency, high-quality data study. *Economica*, 54, 429-438.

Westerlund, J. (2007). Testing for error correction in panel data. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 69(6), 709-748.

Table 1. Description of Forward Premiums (Mean)

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
Australia	4.20E-04	1.87E-03	3.66E-03	5.45E-03	1.09E-02	1.62E-02	2.15E-02
Canada	2.23E-05	4.82E-05	7.47E-05	9.90E-05	1.86E-04	3.13E-04	4.60E-04
Czech	2.71E-05	7.01E-05	1.23E-04	1.57E-04	2.40E-04	2.24E-04	1.61E-04
Denmark	-5.54E-06	-9.22E-05	-1.74E-04	-2.46E-04	-5.28E-04	-9.04E-04	-1.44E-03
Euro	-5.18E-05	-2.82E-04	-5.50E-04	-8.29E-04	-1.67E-03	-2.62E-03	-3.71E-03
NZ	5.24E-04	2.35E-03	4.58E-03	6.80E-03	1.35E-02	2.01E-02	2.66E-02
UK	2.02E-04	8.58E-04	1.67E-03	2.47E-03	4.85E-03	7.10E-03	9.25E-03
HK	-8.20E-05	-3.50E-04	-6.57E-04	-9.19E-04	-1.48E-03	-1.76E-03	-1.85E-03
Japan	-5.65E-04	-2.53E-03	-4.98E-03	-7.45E-03	-1.49E-02	-2.26E-02	-3.05E-02
Norway	2.57E-04	1.10E-03	2.14E-03	3.16E-03	6.00E-03	8.64E-03	1.11E-02
Singapore	-2.66E-04	-1.18E-03	-2.34E-03	-3.53E-03	-7.03E-03	-1.04E-02	-1.39E-02
Sweden	-4.63E-05	-2.27E-04	-4.49E-04	-6.73E-04	-1.25E-03	-1.61E-03	-1.86E-03
Taiwan	-3.45E-04	-1.30E-03	-2.54E-03	-3.81E-03	-7.64E-03	-1.11E-02	-1.44E-02
Average	6.98E-06	2.58E-05	4.29E-05	5.22E-05	9.06E-05	1.22E-04	1.09E-04
Numeraire (Euro)							
Australia	4.79E-04	2.16E-03	4.22E-03	6.29E-03	1.25E-02	1.89E-02	2.52E-02
Canada	7.98E-05	3.36E-04	6.31E-04	9.34E-04	1.86E-03	2.94E-03	4.17E-03
Czech	8.90E-05	3.63E-04	6.83E-04	9.96E-04	1.92E-03	2.85E-03	3.88E-03
Denmark	5.62E-05	2.00E-04	3.86E-04	5.92E-04	1.15E-03	1.72E-03	2.28E-03
NZ	5.84E-04	2.64E-03	5.14E-03	7.64E-03	1.52E-02	2.27E-02	3.03E-02
UK	2.43E-04	1.13E-03	2.21E-03	3.29E-03	6.51E-03	9.71E-03	1.30E-02
HK	-2.11E-05	-5.81E-05	-9.76E-05	-8.11E-05	2.02E-04	8.68E-04	1.87E-03
Japan	-5.02E-04	-2.24E-03	-4.42E-03	-6.61E-03	-1.33E-02	-2.00E-02	-2.68E-02
Norway	3.19E-04	1.40E-03	2.70E-03	4.00E-03	7.68E-03	1.13E-02	1.48E-02
Singapore	-2.08E-04	-8.88E-04	-1.78E-03	-2.69E-03	-5.36E-03	-7.81E-03	-1.02E-02
Sweden	1.50E-05	6.49E-05	1.11E-04	1.65E-04	4.34E-04	1.02E-03	1.86E-03
Taiwan	-2.83E-04	-1.01E-03	-1.97E-03	-2.98E-03	-5.96E-03	-8.47E-03	-1.07E-02
Average	6.94E-05	3.37E-04	6.43E-04	9.51E-04	1.89E-03	2.95E-03	4.10E-03

Note: Full sample (1999M1-2011M3). The US/Euro rate is not shown here since it is a reciprocal of the Euro/US rate. The contract maturities are one week (1w), one month (1m), two months (2m), three months (3m), six months (6m), nine months (9m) and one year (1y).

Table 2. Description of Forward Premiums (Standard Deviation)

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
Australia	3.35E-04	1.49E-03	2.88E-03	4.29E-03	8.60E-03	1.28E-02	1.69E-02
Canada	1.73E-04	7.47E-04	1.47E-03	2.20E-03	4.38E-03	6.48E-03	8.56E-03
Czech	3.27E-04	1.46E-03	2.80E-03	4.18E-03	8.01E-03	1.15E-02	1.47E-02
Denmark	3.02E-04	1.28E-03	2.42E-03	3.56E-03	6.83E-03	9.86E-03	1.27E-02
Euro	2.82E-04	1.24E-03	2.41E-03	3.58E-03	6.99E-03	1.02E-02	1.31E-02
NZ	3.45E-04	1.54E-03	2.95E-03	4.33E-03	8.38E-03	1.21E-02	1.57E-02
UK	2.35E-04	1.06E-03	2.05E-03	3.06E-03	6.04E-03	8.85E-03	1.14E-02
HK	4.93E-04	4.93E-04	9.49E-04	1.40E-03	2.95E-03	4.61E-03	6.40E-03
Japan	3.93E-04	1.72E-03	3.36E-03	5.01E-03	9.84E-03	1.45E-02	1.88E-02
Norway	4.16E-04	1.84E-03	3.58E-03	5.30E-03	1.03E-02	1.49E-02	1.91E-02
Singapore	2.63E-04	1.12E-03	2.11E-03	3.09E-03	5.86E-03	8.40E-03	1.09E-02
Sweden	3.55E-04	1.57E-03	3.05E-03	4.53E-03	8.79E-03	1.28E-02	1.64E-02
Taiwan	1.03E-03	2.84E-03	4.47E-03	6.19E-03	1.04E-02	1.35E-02	1.71E-02
Average	3.81E-04	1.42E-03	2.65E-03	3.90E-03	7.49E-03	1.08E-02	1.40E-02
Numeraire (Euro)							
Australia	2.01E-04	8.84E-04	1.69E-03	2.52E-03	5.08E-03	7.59E-03	9.99E-03
Canada	1.68E-04	7.32E-04	1.45E-03	2.17E-03	4.37E-03	6.46E-03	8.42E-03
Czech	2.64E-04	1.16E-03	2.26E-03	3.36E-03	6.53E-03	9.67E-03	1.27E-02
Denmark	6.97E-05	2.75E-04	4.60E-04	6.93E-04	1.21E-03	1.68E-03	2.12E-03
NZ	2.45E-04	1.06E-03	1.99E-03	2.90E-03	5.46E-03	7.75E-03	9.79E-03
UK	1.85E-04	8.02E-04	1.56E-03	2.31E-03	4.55E-03	6.71E-03	8.74E-03
HK	3.06E-04	1.33E-03	2.61E-03	3.90E-03	7.85E-03	1.18E-02	1.56E-02
Japan	2.43E-04	1.05E-03	2.06E-03	3.05E-03	5.96E-03	8.75E-03	1.13E-02
Norway	2.74E-04	1.21E-03	2.31E-03	3.38E-03	6.40E-03	9.11E-03	1.15E-02
Singapore	2.38E-04	9.79E-04	1.87E-03	2.74E-03	5.24E-03	7.53E-03	9.73E-03
Sweden	1.18E-04	5.11E-04	9.79E-04	1.45E-03	2.87E-03	4.26E-03	5.55E-03
Taiwan	1.06E-03	3.07E-03	5.02E-03	7.07E-03	1.23E-02	1.66E-02	2.13E-02
Average	2.81E-04	1.10E-03	2.05E-03	3.01E-03	5.75E-03	8.32E-03	1.08E-02

Note: Full sample (1999M1-2011M3). The US/Euro rate is not shown here since it is the same as the Euro/US rate.

Table 3. Breusch-Pagan Test of Independence

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
χ^2 (78)	2319.042	3166.637	3410.989	3394.386	2674.150	2279.116	2196.319
p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Numeraire (Euro)							
χ^2 (78)	1318.854	1259.225	1289.248	1196.459	1165.527	974.371	931.446
p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Full sample. This test examines the null of cross-sectional independency of the data and is based on the seemingly unrelated regression estimators. The statistics are distributed as χ^2 with the degree of freedom equal to $N*(N-1)/2$ where N is the number of premiums.

Table 4. LM Panel Unit Root Tests With/Without Level Shifts

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
No shift	-3.464	-1.024	-0.871	-0.620	-1.005	-1.102	-0.896
One shift	-14.967	-8.856	-7.132	-7.293	-6.603	-7.191	-7.602
Two shifts	-29.171	-11.485	-13.845	-13.058	-12.575	-11.814	-12.079
Numeraire (Euro)							
No shift	-3.892	-0.652	-0.534	-0.630	-1.341	-1.128	-0.934
One shift	-14.141	-7.496	-6.659	-6.741	-6.793	-6.923	-7.406
Two shifts	-23.948	-16.555	-12.872	-12.527	-12.057	-11.549	-12.044

Notes: The test is based on Im et al (2005) and the statistics follow the standard normal distribution.

Table 5. Unit Root Tests for Each Premium (With One Shift)

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
Australia	-5.052	-2.979	<i>-3.231</i>	<i>-3.457</i>	-3.914	-4.239	-4.468
Canada	-6.373	-3.118	<i>-3.029</i>	<i>-2.964</i>	<i>-3.34</i>	<i>-3.53</i>	<i>-3.515</i>
Czech	-2.467	-2.082	<i>-2.639</i>	<i>-2.630</i>	-2.195	-2.456	-2.553
Denmark	-3.854	-4.131	<i>-3.125</i>	<i>-3.087</i>	-2.73	-2.705	-2.638
Euro	-6.196	-4.406	<i>-3.489</i>	<i>-3.15</i>	-2.794	-3.088	-2.905
NZ	-4.468	<i>-3.327</i>	<i>-3.522</i>	-3.777	-3.88	-3.773	-3.906
UK	-5.045	-3.084	<i>-2.518</i>	<i>-2.618</i>	-2.255	-2.484	-2.763
HK	-2.828	-2.431	<i>-2.328</i>	<i>-2.727</i>	-2.510	-2.689	-2.845
Japan	-3.288	-2.316	<i>-2.257</i>	<i>-2.261</i>	-2.376	-2.282	-2.383
Norway	-2.066	-2.320	<i>-1.653</i>	<i>-2.237</i>	-2.182	-2.386	-2.476
Singapore	-2.881	-3.026	<i>-2.765</i>	<i>-2.836</i>	-3.071	-3.125	<i>-3.344</i>
Sweden	-3.156	-3.005	<i>-2.965</i>	<i>-3.038</i>	-2.685	-2.861	-2.884
Taiwan	-9.564	-8.122	-7.057	-6.599	-5.528	-5.056	-4.844
Numeraire (Euro)							
Australia	-5.149	-3.049	<i>-3.401</i>	<i>-3.363</i>	-4.011	-4.376	-4.686
Canada	-7.167	-3.283	<i>-3.350</i>	<i>-3.301</i>	<i>-3.560</i>	-3.776	-3.779
Czech	-4.361	-2.006	<i>-2.755</i>	<i>-2.695</i>	-2.194	-2.359	-2.559
Denmark	<i>-3.410</i>	-3.775	<i>-3.004</i>	<i>-2.802</i>	-2.506	-2.608	-2.561
NZ	-4.208	<i>-3.405</i>	<i>-3.501</i>	-3.715	-3.881	-3.774	-3.914
UK	-5.214	-3.148	<i>-2.718</i>	<i>-2.801</i>	-2.869	-2.625	-2.703
HK	-3.025	-2.572	<i>-2.454</i>	<i>-2.387</i>	-2.586	-2.723	-2.889
Japan	-3.092	-2.143	<i>-2.090</i>	<i>-2.063</i>	-2.220	-2.215	-2.199
Norway	-1.970	-2.160	<i>-1.735</i>	<i>-2.260</i>	-2.196	-2.332	-2.417
Singapore	-3.082	-2.891	<i>-2.796</i>	<i>-2.913</i>	-3.117	-3.163	<i>-3.389</i>
Sweden	-2.891	-2.843	<i>-2.832</i>	<i>-2.923</i>	-2.890	-2.700	-2.733
Taiwan	-9.562	-8.141	-7.123	-6.667	-5.616	-5.166	-4.949

Notes: Tests are based on Lee and Strazicich (2004). The critical values for the 5 and 10% significance levels are -3.566 and -3.211. Boldfaced figures are statistics significant at the 5% level or higher, and italic figures are at the 10% significance level.

Table 6. Unit Root Tests for Each Premium (With Two Shifts)

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
Numeraire (US\$)							
Australia	-8.140	-3.501	-3.941	-3.855	-4.449	-4.709	-5.012
Canada	-7.296	-3.352	-3.722	-3.60	-3.884	-3.974	-3.849
Czech	-4.395	-3.044	-3.780	-3.720	-3.564	-3.758	-3.629
Denmark	-8.622	-2.946	-4.642	-4.123	-4.054	-3.645	-3.523
Euro	-11.022	-2.742	-4.673	-4.033	-4.039	-3.556	-3.35
NZ	-5.620	-4.236	-4.690	-5.038	-4.928	-4.647	-4.722
UK	-8.860	-3.224	-4.742	-4.728	-4.258	-3.784	-3.838
HK	-3.877	-5.542	-3.805	-3.491	-3.655	-3.525	-3.606
Japan	-5.902	-2.778	-3.502	-3.547	-3.496	-3.422	-4.054
Norway	-2.679	-2.796	-2.472	-2.581	-2.686	-3.014	-3.223
Singapore	-6.809	-4.355	-3.767	-3.695	-3.725	-3.700	-3.854
Sweden	-4.034	-3.059	-3.573	-3.607	-3.359	-3.259	-3.213
Taiwan	-10.098	-8.290	-7.535	-7.072	-5.961	-5.446	-5.104
Numeraire (Euro)							
Australia	-8.673	-3.968	-3.969	-3.949	-4.487	-4.761	-5.122
Canada	-7.919	-4.877	-3.847	-3.784	-4.019	-4.111	-4.035
Czech	-4.491	-3.678	-3.404	-3.504	-3.280	-3.464	-3.538
Denmark	-6.255	-5.302	-4.230	-3.708	-3.621	-3.381	-3.266
NZ	-5.388	-4.826	-4.843	-5.010	-4.933	-4.692	-4.774
UK	-6.468	-4.908	-4.761	-4.732	-4.124	-3.906	-3.978
HK	-4.137	-4.706	-3.982	-3.612	-3.790	-3.653	-3.725
Japan	-5.192	-3.403	-3.214	-3.391	-3.223	-3.221	-3.733
Norway	-2.548	-3.072	-2.309	-2.601	-2.766	-2.912	-3.102
Singapore	-7.454	-5.896	-4.194	-4.227	-4.147	-3.990	-4.008
Sweden	-3.743	-3.563	-3.508	-3.598	-3.476	-3.190	-3.288
Taiwan	-10.139	-8.494	-7.509	-7.043	-5.959	-5.466	-5.257
US	-3.858	-3.904	-2.994	-2.770	-3.111	-3.103	-3.077

Notes: Tests are based on Lee and Strazicich (2004). The critical values for the 5 and 10% significance levels are -3.842 and -3.504.

Table 7. Shift-Dates of World Key Economic Data

Data	Andrews-Quandt	Andrews-Ploberger	Estimated Shift Date
Housing price	173.836 [0.000]	83.105 [0.000]	2006M5
Commodity price	5.678 [0.166]	0.887 [0.246]	2008M6
Federal fund rate	101.760 [0.000]	47.851 [0.000]	2008M8

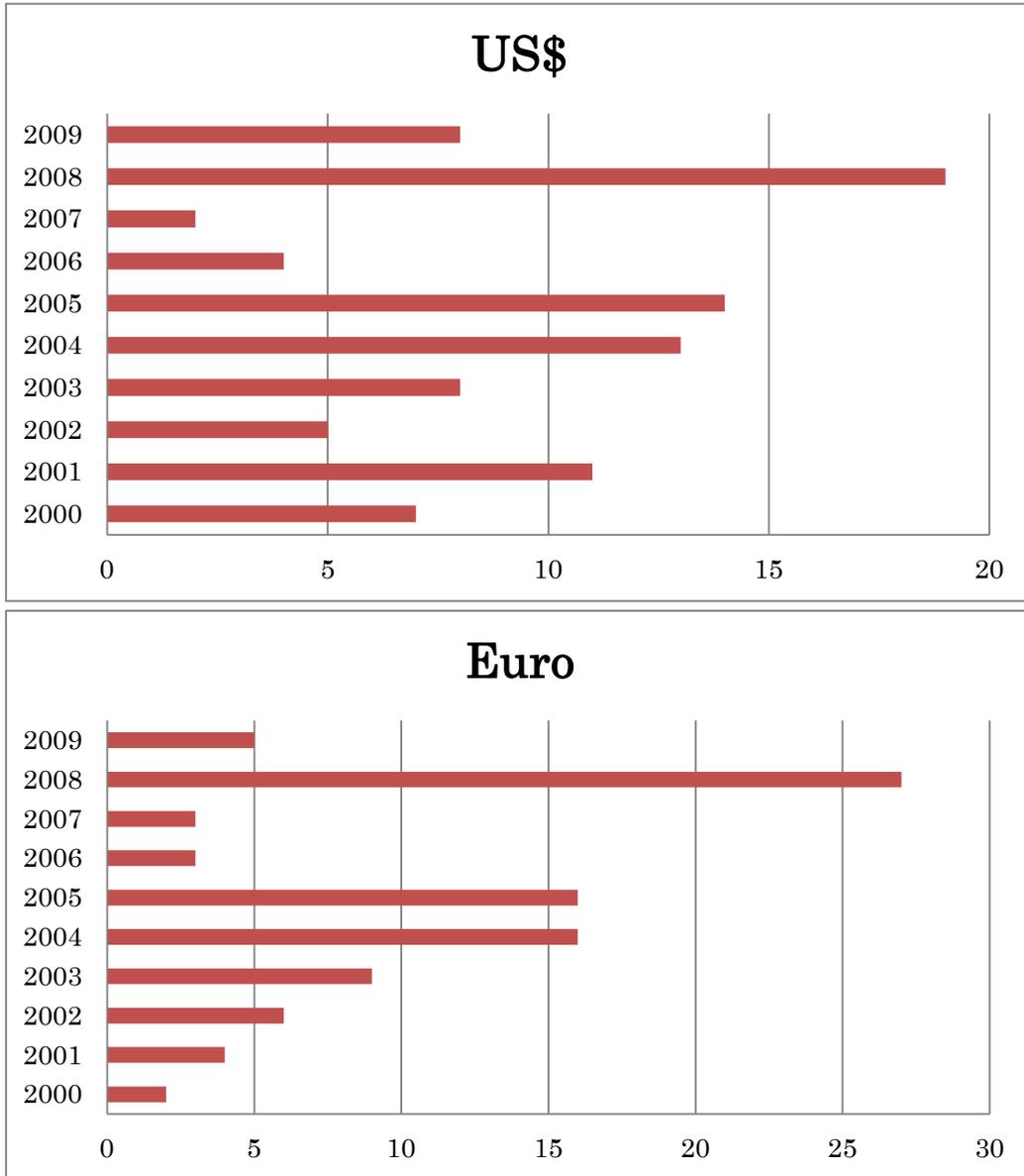
Note: Full sample. P-values are reported in brackets and are obtained via the bootstrap method with 10,000 replications.

Table 8. The Covered Interest Rate Parity Condition

	1w	1m	2m	3m	6m	9m	1y
DOLS estimates		Numeraire (US\$)					
Int	0.021	0.087	0.171	0.255	0.504	0.745	0.980
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Int_us	-0.022	-0.081	-0.158	-0.235	-0.462	-0.683	-0.894
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Panel cointegration test							
P_α	-26.274	-21.656	-14.714	-13.035	-8.928	-6.809	-6.025
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
DOLS estimates		Numeraire (Euro)					
Int	0.020	0.087	0.170	0.254	0.501	0.740	0.974
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Int_euro	-0.018	-0.081	-0.158	-0.235	-0.461	-0.677	-0.886
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Panel cointegration test							
P_α	-17.046	-11.302	-9.282	-7.986	-5.900	-4.597	-3.710
P-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Tests are based on Westerlund (2007) and p-values on the bootstrap method (10,000 replications). The Dynamic OLS (Kao and Chiang, 2000) with 6 lags and leads is used to estimate parameters for interest rates. “Int” contains interest rates of home countries, and “Int_us” and “Int_euro” are interest rates of the US and the Euro area respectively.

Figure 1. Frequency of Shift Dates



Notes: Based on one shift in each premium.