

A Quantity-Driven Theory of Term Premia and Exchange Rates *

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June 2022

Abstract

We develop a model in which specialized bond investors must absorb shocks to the supply and demand for long-term bonds in two currencies. Since long-term bonds and foreign exchange are both exposed to unexpected movements in short-term interest rates, a shift in the supply of long-term bonds in one currency influences the foreign exchange rate between the two currencies, as well as bond term premia in both currencies. Our model matches several important empirical patterns, including the co-movement between exchange rates and term premia, as well as the finding that central banks' quantitative easing policies impact exchange rates. An extension of our model links spot exchange rates to the persistent deviations from covered interest rate parity that have emerged since 2008.

*We are grateful to John Campbell, Wenxin Du, Ken Froot, Arvind Krishnamurthy, Gordon Liao, Hanno Lustig, and Matteo Maggiori and seminar participants at the AQR Insight Awards, Bank of Canada, Boston College, Chicago Booth, Dartmouth Tuck, Duke Fuqua, European Central Bank, Harvard, HKU, HKUST, the NBER Asset Pricing Summer Institute, Norges Bank Investment Management, Oxford Said, SITE 2019, Sveriges Riksbank, Tilburg, Tsinghua, University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler, University of New South Wales, University of Pennsylvania Wharton, University of Texas McCombs, and Warwick Business School for helpful comments. Greenwood, Hanson, and Sunderam gratefully acknowledge funding from the Harvard Business School Division of Research. The Appendix is available online here.

1 Introduction

There is a growing recognition that financial intermediaries play an important role in determining foreign exchange (FX) rates (Kouri [1976], Evans and Lyons [2002], Froot and Ramadorai [2005], Gabaix and Maggiori [2015], Itskhoki and Mukhin [2021]). When there are frictions in financial intermediation, exchange rates move in response to shifts in the supply and demand for assets in different currencies, which intermediaries must absorb. Since the wealth of intermediaries in FX markets need not be closely tied to aggregate consumption or conditions in broader financial markets, this approach can explain the disconnect of exchange rates from macroeconomic fundamentals (Obstfeld and Rogoff [2000]) and the predictability of currency returns (Fama [1984]).

In this paper, we provide a framework for understanding how the structure of financial intermediation impacts foreign exchange rates and show that this approach can shed light on numerous puzzles in the exchange rate literature. We start by assuming that global bond and FX markets are integrated with one another but segmented from other financial markets. We make this assumption for two reasons. First, foreign exchange is conceptually similar to long-term bonds in that both are “interest-rate sensitive” assets: they are heavily exposed to news about future short-term interest rates. Thus, the physical and human capital needed to trade long-term bonds can also be used to trade FX. Indeed, at most major dealer-banks and hedge funds, interest-rate and FX trading are tightly integrated.

Second, concrete empirical motivation for this assumption comes from recent work showing that quantitative easing (QE) policies—i.e., large-scale purchases of long-term bonds by central banks—significantly impacted foreign exchange rates and not just long-term bond yields, suggesting important linkages between the two markets. For example, Bauer and Neely (2014), Neely (2015), Swanson (2017), and Bhattarai and Neely (2018) show that the Fed’s long-term bond purchases were associated with a large depreciation of the U.S. dollar vis-a-vis other major currencies.

A quantity-driven, supply-and-demand approach in the spirit of Tobin (1958, 1969) provides a natural explanation for bond price movements stemming from QE.¹ According to this “portfolio balance” view, holding fixed the expected path of future short-term rates, a reduction in the supply of long-term bonds—such as QE—leads to a fall in long-term bond yields because it reduces the total amount of interest rate risk borne by specialized financial intermediaries. Since the fixed-income market is assumed to be partially segmented from other parts of the broader capital markets, these intermediaries cannot diversify away the interest rate risk they bear and must be paid to absorb shocks to the supply and demand for long-term bonds. This segmentation explains why QE policies—which, while large relative to national bond markets, are small relative to global markets for all financial assets—have a large impact on long-term yields.

Our paper shows that this same quantity-driven, supply-and demand approach can also explain many empirical facts about exchange rates, including their response to QE. The key insight is that, as noted above, foreign exchange and long-term U.S. bonds are exposed to the same primary risk factor—unexpected movements in short-term U.S. interest rates. Thus, if the global

¹See, for example, Greenwood and Vayanos (2014), Vayanos and Vila (2021), Hamilton and Wu (2012), D’Amico and King (2013), and Greenwood, Hanson, and Vayanos (2016).

bond and FX markets are integrated with one another, a shift in the supply of long-term U.S. bonds like QE affects the risk premium on both types of assets.

Our baseline model is a straightforward generalization of the Vayanos and Vila (2021) term structure model to a setting with two currencies. Specifically, we consider a model with short-term and long-term bonds in two currencies, which we label the U.S. dollar (USD) and the euro (EUR). Short-term interest rates in each currency are exogenous and evolve stochastically over time. We assume that short rates in the two currencies are positively, but imperfectly, correlated.

The key friction in the model is that the marginal investors in global bond and FX markets—whom we call “global bond investors”—are specialized. These investors must absorb exogenous shocks to the supply and demand for long-term bonds in both currencies, as well as demand shocks in the foreign exchange market. Since these specialists have limited risk-bearing capacity, they will only absorb these shocks if the expected returns on long-term bonds in both currencies, as well as foreign exchange, adjust in response.

To solve the model, we must pin down three equilibrium prices: the long-term yield in each currency and the exchange rate between the two currencies—the number of dollars per euro. Equivalently, we need to determine the equilibrium expected returns on three long-short trades: a “yield curve trade” in each currency—which borrows short-term and lends long-term—and an “FX trade”—which borrows short-term in dollars and lends short-term in euros.

We first show that this baseline model predicts that shifts in the supply of long-term bonds impact not only term premia, but also the expected returns on the FX trade and hence exchange rates. For instance, an increase in the supply of long-term U.S. bonds raises both the expected excess return on long-term U.S. bonds and the expected return on the borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade, leading to a depreciation of the euro versus the dollar.

The key intuition is that the U.S. yield curve trade and the borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade have similar exposures to U.S. short rate risk. First, when the U.S. short rate rises unexpectedly, long-term U.S. yields also rise through an expectations hypothesis channel: the expected path of U.S. short rates is now higher, so long-term U.S. yields must rise for long-term U.S. bonds to remain attractive to investors. As a result, the price of long-term U.S. bonds falls, so investors in the U.S. yield curve trade lose money. The borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade is also exposed to U.S. short rate risk. When the U.S. short rate rises unexpectedly, the euro depreciates through an uncovered-interest-rate-parity (UIP) channel: since future short rates are now expected to be higher in the U.S. than in Europe, the euro must fall and then be expected to appreciate for short-term euro bonds to remain attractive. Thus, the FX trade suffers losses at the same time as the U.S. yield curve trade.

Now consider the effect of an increase in the supply of long-term U.S. bonds—e.g., because the Federal Reserve announces it is going to unwind its QE policies. Following this outward supply shift, global bond investors will be more exposed to future shocks to short-term U.S. interest rates. As a result, the price of bearing U.S. short rate risk must rise. Since long-term U.S. bonds are exposed to U.S. short rate risk, this leads to a rise in the term premium component of long-term U.S. yields. It also leads to a rise in the risk premium on the borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade, which is similarly exposed to U.S. short rate risk. As a result, the euro must depreciate

against the dollar and will be expected to appreciate going forward.²

The baseline model makes several additional predictions. First, we show that bond supply shocks should have a larger impact on the bilateral exchange rate when the correlation between the two countries' short rates is lower. For example, the JPY-USD exchange rate should be more responsive to U.S. QE than the EUR-USD exchange rate because Japanese short rates are less correlated with U.S. short rates than are Euro short rates. Second, our model matches the otherwise puzzling finding in Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019) that the return to the FX trade declines if one borrows long-term in one currency to lend long-term in the other. In our model, this pattern arises because the "long-term" FX trade has offsetting exposures to short-rate shocks, making it less risky for global bond investors than the standard FX trade involving short-term bonds. Third, if we assume that the net supply of each risky asset is increasing its price, our model offers a unified explanation that links the predictability of FX returns documented by Fama (1984) with the predictability of long-term bond returns documented by Fama and Bliss (1987) and Campbell and Shiller (1991).

After fleshing out these basic predictions, we extend our model in several ways to explore how the detailed structure of financial intermediation impacts foreign exchange rates. We first explore what happens if intermediation is further segmented within global bond and FX markets. Specifically, we replace some of our flexible global bond investors with local-currency bond specialists, who can only trade short- and long-term bonds in their local currency, as well as with specialists who only conduct the FX trade. Introducing this further specialization delivers two additional effects relative to the baseline model. First, shocks to the supply of long-term bonds trigger FX trading flows between different investor types. In this way, we endogenize the FX flows in Gabaix and Maggiori (2015), ascribing them to broader capital markets forces, and these flows in turn impact exchange rates. Second, shocks to the supply of long-term bonds in either currency generally have a larger impact on the exchange rate than in the baseline model. This effect arises because further segmentation effectively reduces bond investors' collective risk-bearing capacity.

In our next extension, we add non-risk-based bank balance sheet constraints to our model, which Du, Tepper, and Verdelhan (2018) show are critical for explaining the post-2008 violations of covered interest rate parity (CIP). We show that doing so provides a simple and plausible explanation for the fact that CIP deviations co-move with spot exchange rates, as documented by Avdjiev, Du, Koch, and Shin (2019) and Jiang, Krishnamurthy, and Lustig (2021a). The intuition is that a positive U.S. bond supply shock generates demand from Euro investors to buy long-term U.S. bonds and hedge the associated FX risk. Since doing so consumes scarce balance-sheet capacity, banks will only accommodate this hedging demand if there are deviations from CIP, leading to comovement between CIP deviations and spot FX rates.

A key implication of this extension is that CIP deviations are informative about the supply shocks that global bond investors must absorb, which are otherwise difficult to observe. Thus one might say that, seen through the lens of our model, the strong empirical relationship between CIP deviations and spot exchange rates suggests that an important fraction of the variation in

²We discuss these effects in terms of U.S. short rate risk, but they apply symmetrically to euro short rate risk. The supply of long-term euro bonds has the opposite effect on the EUR-USD exchange rate as that of U.S. bonds.

the latter is due to supply and demand factors, rather than the changes in macro fundamentals that drive conventional models of exchange rate fluctuations.

Our paper is most closely related to work studying portfolio balance effects in currency markets (e.g., Kouri [1976], Evans and Lyons [2002], Froot and Ramadorai [2005], Gabaix and Maggiori [2015]). In these models, the disconnect between exchange rates and macroeconomic fundamentals is explained by a disconnect between intermediaries in currency markets and the broader economy.³ Our paper is also closely related to papers studying portfolio balance effects in bond markets.⁴ Our key contribution is to show that the structure of financial intermediation, which links shocks hitting the intermediaries in FX markets to shocks in the bond market, helps to explain several important empirical patterns.

The closest paper to ours is independent work by Gourinchas, Ray, and Vayanos (GRV 2022). GRV also study a two-currency generalization of the Vayanos and Vila (2021) term structure model. While we work in discrete time with two bonds in each currency, GRV work in continuous time and consider a continuum of zero-coupon bonds in each currency. The tractability afforded by our simpler model allows us to analytically derive a broader and more general set of results. Despite these technical differences, our baseline results in Section 3 have close analogs in their setting. Nevertheless, there are a number of important differences between the two papers, and we believe they are complementary. GRV numerically estimate their model using data on the EUR-USD exchange rate and the U.S. and German yield curves, show the estimated model can match a variety of stylized facts, and use the estimated model to conduct numerical policy experiments. In contrast, we theoretically explore the role of additional segmentation within the global bond market and CIP violations. We also establish a number of empirical results that support the key predictions of our baseline model. In summary, while the results in Section 3 are similar in spirit to those in GRV, the results in Sections 2 and 4 are entirely distinct.

Our paper is also related to the vast literature taking a consumption-based, representative agent approach to exchange rates.⁵ In contrast to our quantity-driven, segmented-markets model, these traditional asset pricing theories struggle to explain why supply shocks—e.g., central bank QE policies—impact foreign exchange rates and other asset prices. As Woodford (2012) emphasizes, this is because a “mere reshuffling” of assets between households and the central bank does not change how risk is priced in standard theories.⁶ Furthermore, consumption-based models generally imply different relationships between exchange rates and interest rates than our model. For instance, in consumption-based models, the expected return on the borrow-in-dollar lend-in-

³A literature in international economics, including Farhi and Werning (2012) and Itshoki and Mukhin (2021), features reduced-form “UIP shocks,” which similarly disconnect exchange rates from macro fundamentals.

⁴See, for example, Greenwood and Vayanos (2014), Hanson (2014), Hanson and Stein (2015), Malkhozov, Mueller, Vedolin, and Venter (2016), Haddad and Sraer (2019), and Hanson, Lucca, and Wright (2021).

⁵Contributions to this literature include Backus, Kehoe, and Kydland (1992), Backus and Smith (1993), Backus, Foresi, and Telmer (2001), Verdelhan (2010), Colacito and Croce (2011, 2013), Bansal and Shaliastovich (2012), Lustig, Roussanov, and Verdelhan (2014), Farhi and Gabaix (2016), and many others.

⁶If one consolidates a country’s fiscal authority and its central bank, then QE policies replace long-term government liabilities (bonds) with short-term ones (reserves) and are isomorphic to changing the maturity structure of government debt. In standard frictionless models, Ricardian equivalence holds and the maturity structure of government debt is irrelevant because it does not change the total amount of interest rate risk that is born by households; it simply shifts risk from households’ asset holdings to their tax liabilities.

euro FX trade is negatively correlated with the difference between U.S. and euro term premia. By contrast, in our model, the correlation is positive.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we present some empirical evidence that motivates our theoretical analysis. Section 3 presents the baseline model. Section 4 extends our model in several ways to explore how the structure of financial intermediation impacts foreign exchange rates, including by allowing for further segmentation within the global bond and FX markets and for deviations from CIP. Section 5 concludes.

2 Motivating evidence

To motivate our theoretical analysis, we present evidence for three related propositions. First, exchange rates appear to be about as sensitive to changes in long-term interest rate differentials as to changes in short-term interest rate differentials. Second, the component of long-term rate differentials that matters for exchange rates appears to be a forecastable term premium differential, rather than the future path of short rates. Third, differences in term premia that move exchange rates appear to be partially quantity-driven, as they are responsive to central bank announcements about large-scale purchases of long-term bonds—i.e., Quantitative Easing.

The motivating evidence we develop here echoes findings from the recent literature exploring linkages between foreign exchange and bond markets. Ang and Chen (2010), Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019), Lloyd and Marin (2020), and Chernov and Creal (2022) find that variables that predict long-term bond returns—e.g., the differences in term spreads between currencies—are also useful for forecasting foreign exchange returns. The common finding, which we reproduce below, is that expected returns are lower on currencies that appear to have higher bond term premia. As pointed out by Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019), this joint predictability of foreign exchange and bond returns implies that the returns on currency carry trades are higher when they are implemented with shorter-term bonds than when implemented with longer-term bonds. Second, Chinn and Meredith (2004, 2012), Bacchetta and van Wincoop (2010), Boudoukh, Richardson, and Whitelaw (2016), Engel (2016), and Chernov and Creal (2022) all find evidence that uncovered interest rate parity (UIP) holds better at long horizons than at short horizons, a finding that is also tightly linked to the logic in Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019). Third, Bauer and Neely (2014), Neely (2015), Swanson (2017), and Bhattarai and Neely (2018) find that the U.S. dollar has tended to depreciate when the Federal Reserve announces that it is going to expand its purchases of U.S. long-term bonds.

2.1 Data

We obtain data on nominal exchange rates from Bloomberg. We obtain estimates of the nominal zero-coupon government yield curve for each currency from each country’s central bank or finance ministry. For example, our data on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon yields is from Gürkaynak, Sack, and Wright (2007). Many of these datasets lack estimates for 3-month government bill yields, so we obtain data on 3-month government bill yields from Global Financial Data. Section A.1 of the Appendix provides additional details on our data sources and variable definitions.

Our theory is intended as a description of the exchange rates of major developed countries that have floating (or lightly-managed) currencies, independently set their own monetary policy, and play an important role in international financial markets. Thus, our analysis uses data for six major currencies, each quoted versus the U.S. dollar: the Australian dollar (AUD), Canadian dollar (CAD), Swiss franc (CHF), euro (EUR), British pound (GBP), and Japanese yen (JPY).

As discussed below, our theory characterizes the behavior of real yields and real exchange rates. However, due to the lack of comprehensive international data on inflation-indexed bonds, our motivating evidence here exploits data on nominal exchange rates and nominal bond yields, introducing measurement error from the perspective of our theory. Thus, it makes sense to focus on a period when inflation expectations were relatively stable and, hence, the use of nominal data introduces little measurement error. Motivated by this consideration our baseline sample includes monthly observations from 2001 and 2021. In addition, bond and foreign exchange markets have arguably become more tightly integrated in recent decades, especially after the introduction of the euro in 1999 (Schulz and Wolff [2008], Mylonidis and Kollias [2010], Ehrmann, Fratzscher, and Rigobon [2011], Pozzi and Wolswijk [2012]). Since our theory hinges on the idea that bond and foreign exchange markets are tightly integrated, this also argues in favor of looking at more recent data. See Section A.2 of the Appendix for additional discussion.

2.2 Contemporaneous movements in foreign exchange rates

Table 1 shows monthly panel regressions of the form

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B \cdot \Delta_H (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \cdot \Delta_H (y_{c,t}^* - y_t) + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t}, \quad (1)$$

where $\Delta_H q_{c,t}$ is the quarterly ($H = 3$) or annual ($H = 12$) log change in currency c vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar, $i_{c,t}^*$ and i_t denote the foreign and U.S. short-term interest rates, and $y_{c,t}^*$ and y_t are the foreign and U.S. long-term interest rates. Positive values of $\Delta_H q_{c,t}$ denote appreciation of the foreign currency versus the dollar. The regressions include currency fixed effects and thus exploit within currency time-series variation. We measure the short-term rate as the 1-year government bond yield and the long-term rate as the 10-year zero-coupon government bond yield.

Since these regressions use overlapping changes, the residuals will be mechanically autocorrelated within a given currency over time. Furthermore, the residuals may be contemporaneously correlated across currencies at a given time. To draw proper inferences, we therefore compute Driscoll-Kraay (1998) standard errors—i.e., the panel data analog of Newey-West (1987) time-series standard errors. We assess statistical significance using the fixed- b asymptotic theory of Kiefer and Vogelsang (2005) which yields more conservative p -values and has better finite-sample properties than traditional Gaussian asymptotic theory. As detailed in Appendix A.3, our standard errors allow for serial correlation up to a lag parameter that we choose using the data-dependent approach of Lazarus, Lewis, Stock, and Watson (2018).

Columns (1) to (4) of Table 1 consider quarterly changes ($H = 3$ months). Column (1) shows the well-known result, consistent with standard UIP logic, that the foreign currency appreciates in response to an increase in the foreign-minus-dollar short rate differential. Column (2) shows a

more novel result: currencies appear to be nearly as responsive to changes in long-term interest rates as they are to changes in short-term rates. Columns (3) and (4) present specifications that break the rate differentials into their foreign and dollar components:

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B_1 \cdot \Delta_H i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \cdot \Delta_H i_t + D_1 \cdot \Delta_H y_{c,t}^* + D_2 \cdot \Delta_H y_{c,t} + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t}. \quad (2)$$

Foreign and U.S. short-term rates enter with opposite signs in column (3). Similarly, the foreign and U.S. long-term yields enter with coefficients of 4.94 and -3.98 in column (4), consistent with the idea that changes in the term premium differential impact the exchange rate.

Columns (5) to (8) repeat this analysis using annual changes ($H = 12$ months). Compared to the specifications using quarterly changes, the coefficient on the foreign-minus-U.S. short rate differential is smaller in magnitude, but the coefficient on the long rate differential is larger.

The evidence in Table 1 suggests that exchange rates react to movements in bond term premia. However, the change in the 10-year bond yield is not a very clean measure of changes in term premia: it reflects both changes in term premia and changes in expected future short-term interest rates. A potentially cleaner, albeit still imperfect, measure of movements in term premia is the change in forward interest rates at a distant horizon. Distant forward rates reflect expectations of short-term interest rates in the distant future plus a term premium component. A range of evidence suggests that there is typically relatively little news about short-term rates in the distant future, so changes in distant forward rates primarily reflect movements in term premia (Campbell and Ammer [1993], Hanson and Stein [2015], and Cieslak and Pang [2021]). Moreover, there is a large literature showing that forward rates strongly predict the excess returns on long-term bonds (Fama and Bliss [1987], Cochrane and Piazzesi [2005]). Of course, movements in distant forward rates may still reflect some news about future short rates, so changes in distant forward rates are still an imperfect proxy for movements in bond term premia.

Table 2 presents regressions of the same form as in Table 1, but using distant forward rates ($f_{c,t}^*$ and f_t) instead of long-term yields ($y_{c,t}^*$ and y_t) as our proxy for term premia. The distant forward we use is the 3-year 7-year forward government bond yield.⁷ Compared with Table 1, the coefficients on the short-rate variables are slightly larger in magnitude and the coefficients on the long-rate variables are slightly smaller in magnitude, but the latter generally remain economically and statistically significant. Thus, Table 2 reinforces the idea that changes in the term premium component of long-term yields are associated with movements in foreign exchange rates.

2.3 Forecasting bond and foreign exchange returns

In Tables 1 and 2, we provided suggestive evidence of a relationship between term premia and exchange rates. We now provide more direct evidence, showing that forward rates forecast returns on both long-term bonds and foreign currency. Table 3 starts with long-term bonds, running

⁷The 3-year 7-year forward rate is the rate one can currently lock in on a 3-year loan in seven years time. Letting $y_t^{(n)}$ denote the log yield on n -year zero-coupon bonds in month t , it is $f_t \equiv (10 \cdot y_t^{(10)} - 7 \cdot y_t^{(7)})/3$.

monthly panel regressions of the form

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*} - rx_{t \rightarrow t+H}^y = A_c + B \cdot (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \cdot (f_{c,t}^* - f_t) + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}, \quad (3)$$

and

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*} - rx_{t \rightarrow t+H}^y = A_c + B_1 \cdot i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \cdot i_t + D_1 \cdot f_{c,t}^* + D_2 \cdot f_t + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}. \quad (4)$$

Here $rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*}$ denotes H -month log returns on long-term bonds in country c in excess of the H -month short-term interest rate in that country. $rx_{t \rightarrow t+H}^y$ denotes H -month log excess returns on long-term bonds in the U.S. As in Tables 1 and 2, the sample period runs from 2001 to 2021 and includes six major currency pairs. (For simplicity, the short-term interest rates on the right-hand side in these regressions are the 1-year government bond yields we have been using throughout.) The table shows that distant forward rates strongly predict future excess bond returns at 3- and 12-month horizons. For example, column (6) shows that if the foreign distant forward rate is one percentage point higher than the U.S. distant forward rate, then, over the next 12 months, excess returns (in foreign currency) on long-term foreign bonds exceed excess returns (in dollars) on long-term U.S. bonds by 4.31 percentage points on average. Similar results obtain at a quarterly forecasting horizon.

In Table 4, we forecast excess returns on foreign currency investments. The specifications parallel those in Table 3, but the dependent variable is now the log excess return on an investment in foreign currency that borrows for H -months at the H -month U.S. short-term rate $i_t^{(H/12)}$ and invests at the foreign short-term rate $i_{c,t}^{*(H/12)}$. In other words, the regressions take the form:

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q = A_c + B \cdot (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \cdot (f_{c,t}^* - f_t) + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}, \quad (5)$$

and

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q = A_c + B_1 \cdot i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \cdot i_t + D_1 \cdot f_{c,t}^* + D_2 \cdot f_t + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}, \quad (6)$$

where $rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q \equiv (q_{c,t+H} - q_{c,t}) + (H/12) \cdot (i_{c,t}^{*(H/12)} - i_t^{(H/12)})$ is the H -month excess return (in dollars) on foreign currency c . The results in Table 4 are consistent with a risk premium interpretation of our earlier results. For example, in column (6), an increase in the foreign-minus-U.S. distant forward rate differential negatively predicts 12-month currency returns with a coefficient of -3.59 (p -value < 0.01).⁸ This means that if the foreign distant forward rate rises by one percentage point relative to the U.S. distant forward rate, investors can expect a 3.59 percentage point lower return on the trade that borrows in dollars and lends in foreign currency over the next 3 months. This is consistent with our results in Tables 1 and 2. For instance, Table 2 shows that increases in the foreign-minus-U.S. distant forward differential are associated with a contemporaneous appreciation of the foreign currency. Table 4 shows that this increase in distant forward rate differentials is associated with a subsequent depreciation of foreign currency and thus low foreign currency returns.

⁸The coefficient on the short rate differential is near zero, consistent with evidence that the FX carry trade that borrows in currencies with low short rates and invests in those with high short rates has not performed well in recent decades (e.g., Jylha and Suominen [2011]).

Robustness In Section A.4 of the Appendix, we conduct a battery of robustness checks on our baseline results in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4. First, one might be concerned about our use of overlapping changes and returns in our baseline regressions. Our results are quite similar if we simply use non-overlapping H -month changes or returns.

Second, the panel data estimates in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 are a weighted average of currency-level time-series estimates. While pooling data across currencies generates additional statistical power and is standard practice in empirical asset pricing, it is natural to examine the results for each of the six currencies separately. Broadly speaking, our results are strong for AUD, CHF, GBP, EUR, and JPY when considered in isolation, but our results for the CAD are not.

Third, the EUR, GBP, and JPY are the three currencies that, alongside the USD, arguably play the most significant role in international financial markets and, thus, most clearly satisfy the conditions of our theory. Thus, it is comforting that our results are similar if we restrict our sample to the EUR, GBP, and JPY.

Fourth, in light of the growing literature that emphasizes the special role of the U.S. dollar in international financial markets, it is natural to ask whether our results are driven by the decision to use the USD the base currency. The short answer is no: we obtain broadly similar results if, instead of using the USD as the base currency, we use other currencies.

Finally, our baseline results focus on the 2001 to 2021 period. As explained above, we focus on recent data for two main reasons. First, we are using data on nominal rates to test a theory that makes predictions about real rates. As a result, we expect the patterns predicted by our theory to emerge most strongly in nominal data during periods when expected inflation is stable. Second, our theory hinges on the idea that bond and FX markets are tightly integrated and these markets have arguably become more integrated in recent decades. However, neither consideration offers a strong justification for beginning the analysis in precisely 2001: we do not think there was a structural break in either the stability of inflation expectations or the integration of markets in 2000. Comfortingly, the Appendix shows that our results hold over the longer 1994 to 2021 sample which is as far back as we have zero-coupon yields for all currencies in our sample. To be sure, if we were to extend our sample back to the 1980s or 1970s—which is possible for some of the currencies we consider—our results become weaker. However, this is consistent with the notion that our theory’s predictions should emerge less strongly during these earlier decades, especially when working with nominal data.

2.4 Central bank quantitative easing announcements

Our results so far are consistent with the idea that bond term premia play a role in driving the foreign exchange risk premium. That said, our prior results do not tell us precisely what drives bond term premia in the first place and, thus, do not necessarily single out a supply-and-demand approach to risk premium determination. As a final piece of more direct motivating evidence for our quantity-driven approach, we turn our attention to central bank announcements about changes in the net supply of long-term bonds. As noted earlier, many studies have documented the impact of central bank quantitative easing (QE) announcements on long-term bond yields (Gagnon et al [2011], Krishnamurthy and Vissing-Jorgensen [2011], and Greenwood, Hanson, and

Vayanos [2016]). Drawing on these previous studies, we isolate periods in which there is news about quantities, and show that changes in distant forward rates—our proxy for movements in term premia—typically occur alongside changes in exchange rates at these times.⁹

Figure 1 illustrates our approach. We construct a list of large-scale asset purchase announcements by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the Bank of Japan from 2008 to 2019.¹⁰ Since the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Bank of Canada, and the Swiss National Bank did not undertake large-scale purchases of long-term bonds from 2008 to 2019, we drop the AUD, CAD, and CHF and focus solely on the EUR, GBP, JPY, and USD. To form our list of asset purchase announcement dates, we begin with Fawley and Newley’s (2013) list of unconventional policy announcements by these four central banks. We update this list through 2019 and focus on the subset of announcements that contain news about large-scale purchases of long-term bonds (either sovereign or private-sector), including announcements about “tapering” or “balance-sheet normalization”—a.k.a., “Quantitative Tightening.”

For an asset purchase announcement on date t , we show the appreciation of the foreign exchange rate and the movement in foreign-minus-U.S. distant forward rates from day $t - 2$ to day $t + 2$. For the U.S. announcements, we plot the average appreciation of the USD relative to EUR, GBP, and JPY versus the movement in U.S. long-term forward rates minus the average movement in forward rates for the EUR, GBP, and JPY. For the other three currencies, we plot their appreciation relative to the USD versus the movement in the local currency forward interest rate minus the USD forward interest rate.

Consider the Fed’s announcement on March 18, 2009 that it would expand its purchases of long-term U.S. bonds to \$1.75 trillion from a previously announced \$600 billion. As can be seen in Figure 1, distant U.S. forward interest rates fell by more than 40 basis points relative to those in other countries in the days surrounding this announcement, and the USD depreciated by approximately 3 percent vis-a-vis the EUR, GBP, and JPY basket. Conversely, when the Fed announced it was planning to slow or “taper” its long-term bond purchases on June 19, 2013, distant U.S. forward rates rose by roughly 10 basis points relative to foreign forwards and the USD appreciated by roughly 2.5 percent. For many announcements, neither distant forwards nor currencies move by much, perhaps because the announcements were largely anticipated. However, Figure 1 shows that announcements that were associated with significant relative movements in distant forward rates were typically associated with sizable currency movements.¹¹

⁹Even this evidence from QE announcements is not uniquely consistent with a term premium interpretation. According to the “signaling” view, QE also influences long-term rates through an expectations hypothesis channel by signaling a central bank’s intention to keep short rates low for a long period of time. See, e.g., Eggertsson and Woodford (2003), Bauer and Rudebusch (2014), and Bhattarai, Eggertsson, and Gafarov (2022).

¹⁰We end the analysis in 2019, thereby excluding the asset purchase announcements associated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, for two reasons. First, central banks began purchasing long-term bonds in March 2020, in part, due to a desire to counteract the widespread institutional bond sales associated with the COVID-induced “dash for cash.” Thus, the sign of the initial combined shock to net bond supply—institutional sales minus central bank purchases—is unclear. Second, our theory emphasizes that exchange rates depend on term premia differentials and, hence, the *differential* net supply of long-term bonds in different currencies. Since the major central banks announced large-scale bond purchases in rapid succession (most in a few short days following March 15, 2020), these events do not represent clean shocks to cross-currency differences in net supply.

¹¹A potential alternative interpretation is that long-term yields and foreign exchange rates both reflect movements in convenience or safety premia. Safety premia are also partially quantity-driven, but are conceptually

In Table 5, we focus our attention on these asset purchase announcement dates and estimate the regressions akin to those in Table 2, namely:

$$\Delta_4 q_{c,t+2} = A + B \cdot (\Delta_4 i_{c,t+2}^* - \Delta_4 i_{t+2}) + D \cdot (\Delta_4 f_{c,t+2}^* - \Delta_4 f_{t+2}) + \Delta_4 \varepsilon_{c,t+2}, \quad (7)$$

and

$$\Delta_4 q_{c,t+2} = A + B_1 \cdot \Delta_4 i_{c,t+2}^* + B_2 \cdot \Delta_4 i_{t+2} + D_1 \cdot \Delta_4 f_{c,t+2}^* + D_2 \cdot \Delta_4 f_{t+2} + \Delta_4 \varepsilon_{c,t+2}. \quad (8)$$

Whereas in Tables 1 and 2 we studied quarterly and annual changes, here we restrict attention to the 73 QE-related announcements in the U.S., Eurozone, U.K., and Japan. The regressions have more than 73 observations because for the 28 U.S. QE announcements, we include data points for each of the euro, pound, and yen responses; this is similar to looking at the average change in the dollar relative to these three currencies. To avoid double-counting events from a statistical perspective, we cluster our standard errors by announcement date. As in Figure 1, $\Delta_4 q_{c,t+2}$ is the four-day change in the exchange rate, from two-days before the announcement to the close two-days after; all other variables are measured over the same period.

Column (2) shows the main result. Both changes in short-term interest rate differentials and changes in long-term forward rate differentials measured around QE-news dates are positively related to movements in exchanges rates. Column (4) shows that the effects of foreign and U.S. term premia on exchange rate movements are approximately symmetric and of opposite sign, attracting coefficients of 4.3 and -3.6 respectively.

In sum, the evidence suggests that, not only is there a close connection between bond term premia and FX risk premia, but both of these premia are partially driven by shocks to bond supply. These stylized facts are the motivation for the model that we turn to next.

3 Baseline model

Our baseline model generalizes the Vayanos and Vila (2021) term-structure model to a setting with two currencies, say, the U.S. dollar and the euro. We consider a model with short- and long-term bonds in domestic currency (dollars) and foreign currency (euros). There is an exogenously given short-term interest rate in each currency. The key friction is that the global bond market is partially segmented from the broader capital market: we assume the marginal investors in the global bond market—whom we call “global bond investors”—are specialized investors. These

distinct from the bond term premia that are our focus. Furthermore, fluctuations in safety premia should generate the opposite relationship between contemporaneous changes in foreign exchange rates and long-term yields. To see why, suppose U.S. QE leads to a reduction in the supply of safe dollar assets. If the demand for safe assets is downward sloping, QE should raise the dollar safety premium, pushing down long-term Treasury yields (Krishnamurthy and Vissing-Jorgensen [2011, 2012]). If foreign investors derive greater convenience services from holding safe dollars assets than U.S. investors, the decline in the supply of safe dollar assets should also lead the dollar to appreciate against foreign currencies (Jiang, Krishnamurthy, and Lustig [2021a]). Alternately, if central bank reserves are safer than the long-term assets the Fed is purchasing, then U.S. QE would expand the supply of dollar safe assets which should push up long-term U.S. yields and lead the dollar to depreciate (Jiang, Krishnamurthy, and Lustig [2021b]). Either way, movements in the U.S. dollar safety premium should lead to a negative, not positive, correlation between U.S. Treasury yields and the strength of dollar.

bond investors must absorb exogenous shocks to the supply and demand for long-term bonds in both currencies, as well as shocks in the foreign exchange market. Since they are concerned about the risk of near-term losses on their imperfectly diversified portfolios, specialists will only absorb these shocks if the expected returns on bonds and FX adjust in response.

3.1 Model setup

The model is set in discrete time. To maintain tractability, we assume that asset prices (or yields) and expected returns are linear functions of a vector of state variables. To model fixed income assets, we (i) substitute log returns for simple returns throughout and (ii) use Campbell-Shiller (1988) linearizations of log returns. We view (i) and (ii) as linearity-generating modelling devices that do not qualitatively impact our conclusions.

3.1.1 Financial assets

There are four assets in the model: short- and long-term bonds in both domestic (dollars) and foreign (euros) currency. We then describe the foreign exchange market.

Short-term domestic bonds The log short-term interest rate in domestic currency between time t and $t + 1$, denoted i_t , is known at time t and follows an exogenous stochastic process described below. We assume short-term domestic bonds are available in perfectly elastic supply: investors can borrow or lend any desired quantity in domestic currency from t to $t + 1$ at i_t .

Long-term domestic bonds The long-term domestic bond is a default-free perpetuity. At time t , long-term domestic bonds are available in a given net supply s_t^y which follows an exogenous stochastic process described below. As shown in Section B.1 of the Appendix, the log return in domestic currency on long-term domestic bonds from t to $t + 1$ is approximately:

$$r_{t+1}^y = \frac{1}{1-\delta}y_t - \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}y_{t+1} = y_t - \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}(y_{t+1} - y_t), \quad (9)$$

where y_t is the log yield-to-maturity on domestic bonds, $\delta \in (0, 1)$, and $D = 1/(1 - \delta)$ is the duration of the long-term bond—i.e., the sensitivity of the bond’s price to its yield.¹² A larger δ corresponds to an economy with longer-term bonds, and the return on long-term bonds is the sum of a “carry” component, y_t , that investors earn if yields do not change and a capital gain component, $-(\delta/(1 - \delta))(y_{t+1} - y_t)$, due to changes in yields.

Iterating Eq. (9) forward and taking expectations, the domestic long-term yield can be decomposed into an expectations hypothesis component and a term premium component:

$$y_t = (1 - \delta) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \delta^j E_t[i_{t+j} + rx_{t+j+1}^y], \quad (10)$$

where $rx_{t+1}^y \equiv r_{t+1}^y - i_t$ is the excess return on domestic long-term bonds over the domestic short rate. In other words, rx_{t+1}^y is the log excess return on the domestic “yield curve trade”—i.e., the trade that borrows short-term and lends long-term in domestic currency.

¹²Equation (9) is an approximate generalization of the fact that the log-return on n -period zero-coupon bonds is $r_{t+1}^{(n)} = ny_t^{(n)} - (n - 1)y_{t+1}^{(n-1)}$ where, for instance, $y_t^{(n)}$ is the log yield on n -period zero-coupon bonds at t .

Short-term foreign bonds Short-term foreign bonds mirror short-term domestic bonds. The log short-term riskless rate in foreign currency between time t and $t + 1$ is denoted i_t^* .

Long-term foreign bonds Long-term foreign bonds mirror long-term domestic bonds. They are available in an exogenous, time-varying net supply $s_t^{y^*}$. The log return in foreign currency on long-term foreign bonds is given by the analog of Eq. (9), and the log yield-to-maturity on foreign bonds, y_t^* , is given by the analog of Eq. (10). $rx_{t+1}^{y^*} \equiv r_{t+1}^{y^*} - i_t^*$ denotes the excess return on the “yield curve trade” in foreign currency.

Foreign exchange Let Q_t denote the foreign exchange rate defined as units of domestic currency per unit of foreign currency—i.e., an investor can exchange foreign short-term bonds with a market value of one unit in foreign currency for domestic short-term bonds with a market value of Q_t in domestic currency. Thus, a rise in Q_t corresponds to an appreciation of the foreign currency relative to the domestic currency. Let q_t denote the log exchange rate.

Consider the excess return on foreign currency from time t to $t + 1$ —i.e., the FX trade that borrows short-term in domestic currency and lends short-term in foreign currency. The log excess return on foreign currency is approximately:

$$rx_{t+1}^q = (q_{t+1} - q_t) + (i_t^* - i_t). \quad (11)$$

Thus, the excess return on foreign currency is the sum of the interest rate differential, $i_t^* - i_t$, and the change in exchange rates, $(q_{t+1} - q_t)$. Assuming the exchange rate is stationary with a steady-state level of 0—i.e., that purchasing power parity holds in the long run, we can iterate forward and take expectations to obtain:

$$q_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} E_t[(i_{t+j}^* - i_{t+j}) - rx_{t+j+1}^q], \quad (12)$$

as in Froot and Ramadorai (2005). Thus, the exchange rate is the sum of a UIP component and an FX risk premium component. Eq. (12) is consistent with the evidence in Dahlquist and Pénasse (2022) who show the level of the real exchange rate is a robust negative predictor of the future excess returns on foreign exchange.¹³

Real versus nominal rates Since our theory hinges on the comovement between exchange rates and short-term interest rates, it makes sense to think of all of the interest rates in our model as real interest rates and the exchange rate as the real exchange rate. To see why, note that if short-term nominal interest rates move one-for-one with changes in expected inflation, then news about *future* inflation will not impact real exchange rates. What is more, the arrival of

¹³Our assumption that the exchange rate is stationary is made purely for simplicity. Virtually all of our results carry through trivially if the exchange rate is non-stationary. Specifically, we could instead assume that $q_t = q_t^\infty + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} E_t[(i_{t+j}^* - i_{t+j}) - rx_{t+j+1}^q]$ where $q_t^\infty \equiv \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} E_t[q_{t+T}]$ follows an exogenous random walk $q_{t+1}^\infty = q_t^\infty + \varepsilon_{q^\infty, t+1}$, $\varepsilon_{q^\infty, t+1}$ is orthogonal to the other shocks and $Var_t[\varepsilon_{q^\infty, t+1}] = \sigma_{q^\infty}^2 > 0$. Relative to the expressions we present, which assume $\sigma_{q^\infty}^2 = 0$, allowing for this random walk component of exchange rates means that we simply need to add $\sigma_{q^\infty}^2 > 0$ to the fundamental component of $V_q \equiv Var_t[rx_{t+1}^q]$. For instance, in Proposition 1 we would replace $V_q = 2(1 - \rho)\sigma_i^2 / (1 - \phi_i)^2$ with $V_q = \sigma_{q^\infty}^2 + 2(1 - \rho)\sigma_i^2 / (1 - \phi_i)^2$.

pure news about future inflation will not lead to *unexpected* changes in *nominal* exchange rates: inflation news will simply lead to expected *future* movements in nominal exchange rates (see, e.g., Chapter 16 of Krugman, Obstfeld, and Melitz [2022]). Only news about future short-term real rates impacts both real and nominal exchange rates on arrival. Turning to long-term bonds, while both inflation-indexed (real) and non-indexed (nominal) long-term bonds are exposed to news about future short-term real rates, only long-term nominal bonds are directly exposed to news about future inflation.¹⁴ All of this is detailed in Section B.2 of the Appendix where we extend our model to include both shocks to real interest rates and to expected inflation.

The upshot is that the comovement patterns between long-term bonds and exchange rates that lie at the heart of our theory should be strongest when looking at inflation-indexed (real) bonds. This is because pure news about future inflation will impact long-term nominal bond yields, but should not impact nominal (or real) exchange rates on arrival. Similarly, the FX return predictability we emphasize should be strongest when looking at real rates: looking at nominal rates simply adds measurement error to the independent variables, biasing the results toward zero. Alternately, if one is forced to use data on nominal bonds to test our theory (e.g., due to a lack of historical data on inflation-indexed bonds), then we would expect our empirical predictions to emerge most strongly in periods where inflation expectations are stable and the resulting measurement error is small. This is a key reason why we focused on data from 2001–2021 in the prior section: this was a period when inflation expectations were firmly anchored and where movements in nominal interest rates largely corresponded to movements in real rates.

3.1.2 Risk factors

Investors face two types of risk in our model: interest rate risk and supply risk. First, long-term bonds and foreign exchange positions are exposed to interest rate risk. For example, both long-term domestic bonds and foreign currency will suffer unexpected losses if short-term domestic rates rise unexpectedly. Second, both long-term bonds and FX positions are exposed to supply risk: stochastic supply shocks impact equilibrium bond yields and exchange rates, holding fixed the expected future path of short rates.

Short-term interest rates We think of monetary policy as determining short-term rates outside of the model. The domestic and foreign central banks independently pursue monetary policy in their currencies by posting an interest rate and then elastically borrowing and lending at that rate. Formally, we assume short-term interest rates in domestic and foreign currencies follow exogenous and symmetric AR(1) processes with correlated shocks:

$$i_{t+1} = \bar{i} + \phi_i(i_t - \bar{i}) + \varepsilon_{i_{t+1}}, \quad (13a)$$

$$i_{t+1}^* = \bar{i} + \phi_i(i_t^* - \bar{i}) + \varepsilon_{i_{t+1}^*}, \quad (13b)$$

where $\bar{i} > 0$, $\phi_i \in (0, 1)$, $Var_t[\varepsilon_{i_{t+1}}] = Var_t[\varepsilon_{i_{t+1}^*}] = \sigma_i^2 > 0$, and $\rho = Corr[\varepsilon_{i_{t+1}}, \varepsilon_{i_{t+1}^*}] \in [0, 1]$.¹⁵

¹⁴By contrast, shocks to the current nominal price level that do not change expected future inflation will impact nominal exchange rates, but not the yields on nominal bonds.

¹⁵We assume short rates evolve exogenously for simplicity. However, the same forces that emerge in our model would also emerge if we endogenized short rates. Specifically, building on Ray (2019) or Droste, Gorodnichenko,

Net bond supplies We assume the net supplies of long-term domestic bonds (s_t^y) and long-term foreign bonds (s_t^{y*}) follow symmetric AR(1) processes. These net bond supplies are the market value of long-term domestic and foreign bonds, both denominated in units of domestic currency, that arbitrageurs must hold in equilibrium. Specifically, we assume:

$$s_{t+1}^y = \bar{s}^y + \phi_{sy}(s_t^y - \bar{s}^y) + \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^y}, \quad (14a)$$

$$s_{t+1}^{y*} = \bar{s}^y + \phi_{sy}(s_t^{y*} - \bar{s}^y) + \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^{y*}}, \quad (14b)$$

where $\bar{s}^y > 0$, $\phi_{sy} \in [0, 1)$, and $Var_t[\varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^y}] = Var_t[\varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^{y*}}] = \sigma_{sy}^2 \geq 0$.¹⁶

As in Vayanos and Vila (2021), these net bond supplies should be viewed as the gross supply of long-term bonds *minus* the demand of any inelastic “preferred habitat” investors—i.e., they reflect the combined supply and demand shocks that global bond investors must absorb in equilibrium. This means that, from the vantage point of our global bond investors, there are two potential sources of variation in the net supply of long-term bonds. First, there are true shocks to the gross supply of long-term bonds that all private investors must collectively hold. These gross supply shocks could either stem from the issuance of long-term government bonds or from QE policies by central banks. Second, there are inelastic demand shocks from other unmodeled investors that our global bond investors must accommodate. For instance, if pension fund or insurance companies exogenously decided to sell their holdings of long-term bonds that would be a positive net supply shock from the standpoint of our global bond investors.¹⁷ With this broader view of net supply in mind, it is plausible that there are sufficient fluctuations in net supply to explain a meaningful fraction of the variation in both FX rates and long-term bonds yields.

Net FX supply We assume that global bond investors must engage in a borrow-domestic and lend-foreign FX trade in time-varying market value (in domestic currency units) s_t^q to accommodate the opposing demand of other unmodeled agents. For example, if nonfinancial firms have an inelastic demand to exchange foreign currency for domestic currency, global bond investors must take the other side, going long foreign currency and short domestic currency. We assume:

$$s_{t+1}^q = \phi_{sq}s_t^q + \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^q}, \quad (15)$$

and Ray (2021), we could develop a two-country New Keynesian model in which the domestic and foreign central banks each set their short-term rate using a Taylor rule, but where global rates investors played a key role in determining exchange rate risk premia and the term premium component of long-term bond yields.

¹⁶Section B.3 of the Appendix explores the impact of relaxing our symmetry assumptions on short rates and bond supply. Our baseline results carry through qualitatively so long as the asymmetries are moderate. However, our model has qualitatively different implications for the comovement between foreign exchange and bond returns if the short rate processes become highly asymmetric—e.g., if the foreign country’s short rate tends to move more than one-for-one with the home country’s short rate. Thus, our baseline results apply most naturally to major currencies whose central banks pursue an independent monetary policy.

¹⁷For recent work along these lines, see Greenwood and Vayanos (2010) for bond demand from pension funds, Hanson (2014) and Malkhozov, Mueller, Vedolin, Venter (2016) for bond demand linked to mortgage hedging, and Hanson, Lucca, and Wright (2021) for demand from extrapolative investors. Indeed, using their demand-system approach, Koijen and Yogo (2020) argue that portfolio rebalancing by institutional investors can explain 50% to 60% of the variation in long-term bond yields and exchange rates.

where $Var_t[\varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^q}] = \sigma_{s^q}^2 \geq 0$ and $\phi_{s^q} \in [0, 1)$. Of course, if we consider all agents in the global economy, then foreign exchange must be in zero net supply: if some agent is exchanging dollars for euros, then some other agent must be exchanging euros for dollars. However, the specialized bond investors in our model are only a subset of all actors in global financial markets, so they need not have zero foreign exchange exposure.

Collecting terms, let $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{t+1} \equiv [\varepsilon_{i_{t+1}}, \varepsilon_{i_{t+1}^*}, \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^y}, \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^{y*}}, \varepsilon_{s_{t+1}^q}]'$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \equiv Var_t[\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{t+1}]$. For simplicity, we assume the three supply shocks are independent of each other and of both short rate shocks.

3.1.3 Global bond investors

The global bond investors in our model are specialized investors who choose portfolios consisting of short- and long-term bonds in the two currencies. They have mean-variance preferences over next-period wealth with risk tolerance τ . Let d_t^y (d_t^{y*}) denote the market value of bond investors' holdings of long-term domestic (foreign) bonds and let d_t^q denote the value of investors' position in the borrow-domestic and lend-foreign FX trade, all denominated in domestic currency. Defining $\mathbf{d}_t \equiv [d_t^y, d_t^{y*}, d_t^q]'$ and $\mathbf{rx}_{t+1} \equiv [rx_{t+1}^y, rx_{t+1}^{y*}, rx_{t+1}^q]'$, investors choose their holdings to solve:¹⁸

$$\max_{\mathbf{d}_t} \left\{ \mathbf{d}_t' E_t[\mathbf{rx}_{t+1}] - \frac{1}{2\tau} \mathbf{d}_t' Var_t[\mathbf{rx}_{t+1}] \mathbf{d}_t \right\}. \quad (16)$$

Thus, their demands must satisfy:

$$E_t[\mathbf{rx}_{t+1}] = \tau^{-1} Var_t[\mathbf{rx}_{t+1}] \mathbf{d}_t. \quad (17)$$

These preferences are similar to assuming that investors manage their overall risk exposure using Value-at-Risk or other standard risk management techniques.

In practice, we associate the global bond investors in our model with market players such as fixed-income divisions at global broker-dealers and global macro hedge funds. Relative to more broadly diversified players in global capital markets, risk factors related to movements in interest rates loom large for these imperfectly diversified investors. Indeed, the particular form of segmentation that we assume is quite natural since both government bonds and foreign exchange are interest-rate sensitive assets. Any specialized human capital, physical infrastructure, or organizational infrastructure that is useful for managing interest-rate sensitive assets can be readily applied to both bonds and foreign exchange.

More broadly, our view is that, at its core financial market segmentation is driven by the gains from investor specialization and the informational frictions specialization engenders. Different assets are exposed to different kinds of economic risk factors, and understanding different kinds of risk factors requires specialized human capital and expertise. While specialization is valuable, it

¹⁸Global bond investors solve (16) irrespective of whether they are domestic- or foreign-based. This is because we can represent an investor's positions in any asset other than short-term bonds in her local currency as a linear combination of three long-short trades: the yield curve trade in each currency and the FX trade. Assuming all investors have the same risk tolerance *in domestic currency terms* (i.e., the risk tolerance of any foreign-based investors is τ/Q_t in foreign-currency terms) and hold the same beliefs, all will choose the same exposures to these three trades in domestic currency terms regardless of where they are based.

also creates informational problems—both adverse selection and moral hazard—between specialized investors and outside capital providers. And, these informational problems limit the amount of capital that is available to bear certain types of risk (e.g., Shleifer and Vishny [1992, 1997], Stein [2005]), especially in the short run (e.g., Duffie [2010] and Greenwood, Hanson, and Liao [2018]). These information problems also mean that the specialized investors who are the marginal price setters in the short-run are not fully diversified and have outsized economic exposures to the specific set of assets that they intermediate.

A key implication of this human-capital-centric approach to thinking about investor specialization and market segmentation is that there is an crucial distinction between the economic and statistical similarity of different risk factors. For example, U.S. and Japanese short-term interest rates are not highly correlated, implying that U.S. and Japanese long-term bonds face very different statistical risks. However, the underlying human and organizational capital needed to analyze and manage short rate risk—e.g., understanding monetary policy and central bank behavior and modeling the implications of short-rate dynamics for the term structure of interest rates—is quite similar in both currencies. As a result, global broker-dealers and global macro hedge funds may have an edge in forecasting the path of short-term interest rates in different currencies and supply-and-demand imbalances in their respective bond markets even if the two underlying short rates are far from perfectly correlated.

3.2 Equilibrium

3.2.1 Conjecture and solution

We need to pin down three equilibrium prices: y_t , y_t^* , and q_t . To solve the model, we conjecture that prices are linear functions of a 5×1 state vector $\mathbf{z}_t = [i_t, i_t^*, s_t^y, s_t^{y*}, s_t^q]'$. As shown in the Appendix, a rational expectations equilibrium is a fixed point of an operator involving the “price-impact” coefficients which govern how the supplies $\mathbf{s}_t = [s_t^y, s_t^{y*}, s_t^q]'$ impact y_t , y_t^* , and q_t . Specifically, the market clearing condition $\mathbf{d}_t = \mathbf{s}_t$ implicitly defines an operator which gives the expected returns—and, hence, the price-impact coefficients—that will clear markets when investors believe the risk of holding assets is determined by some initial set of price-impact coefficients. A rational expectations equilibrium of our model is a fixed point of this operator.

In the absence of supply risk ($\sigma_{s_y}^2 = \sigma_{s_q}^2 = 0$), this fixed-point problem is degenerate, and there is a straightforward, unique equilibrium. However, when asset supply is stochastic, the fixed-point problem is non-degenerate: the risk of holding assets depends on how prices react to supply shocks. For example, if investors believe supply shocks will have a large impact on prices, they perceive assets as being highly risky. As a result, investors will only absorb supply shocks if they are compensated by large price declines and high future expected returns, making the initial belief self-fulfilling. This logic means that (i) a linear equilibrium only exists when investors’ risk tolerance τ is sufficiently large relative to the volatility of supply shocks and (ii) the model admits multiple equilibria. However, there is at most one equilibrium that is stable in the sense that it is robust to a small perturbation in investors’ beliefs regarding equilibrium

price impact.¹⁹ We focus on this unique stable equilibrium in our analysis.

3.2.2 Equilibrium expected returns and prices

We now characterize equilibrium expected returns and prices. Market clearing implies that $\mathbf{d}_t = \mathbf{s}_t$. Thus, using Eq. (17), equilibrium expected returns must satisfy:

$$E_t[\mathbf{r}\mathbf{x}_{t+1}] = \tau^{-1}Var_t[\mathbf{r}\mathbf{x}_{t+1}]\mathbf{s}_t = \tau^{-1}\mathbf{V}\mathbf{s}_t, \quad (18)$$

where $\mathbf{V} = Var_t[\mathbf{r}\mathbf{x}_{t+1}]$ is constant in equilibrium. Writing out Eq. (18) and making use of the symmetry between long-term domestic and foreign bonds in equations (13) and (14), we have:

$$E_t[rx_{t+1}^y] = \frac{1}{\tau} [V_y \cdot s_t^y + C_{y,y^*} \cdot s_t^{y^*} + C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q] \quad (19a)$$

$$E_t[rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] = \frac{1}{\tau} [C_{y^*,y} \cdot s_t^y + V_y \cdot s_t^{y^*} - C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q] \quad (19b)$$

$$E_t[rx_{t+1}^q] = \frac{1}{\tau} [C_{y,q} \cdot (s_t^y - s_t^{y^*}) + V_q \cdot s_t^q], \quad (19c)$$

where $V_y \equiv Var_t[rx_{t+1}^y] = Var_t[rx_{t+1}^{y^*}]$, $V_q \equiv Var_t[rx_{t+1}^q]$, $C_{y^*,y} \equiv Cov_t[rx_{t+1}^y, rx_{t+1}^{y^*}]$, and $C_{y,q} \equiv Cov_t[rx_{t+1}^y, rx_{t+1}^q] = -Cov_t[rx_{t+1}^{y^*}, rx_{t+1}^q]$. These variances and covariances are equilibrium objects: they depend both on shocks to short-term interest rates and on the equilibrium price impact of supply shocks.

Making use of Eqs. (10) and (12) and the AR(1) dynamics for i_t , i_t^* , s_t^y , $s_t^{y^*}$, and s_t^q , we can characterize equilibrium yields and the exchange rate. The long-term domestic yield is:

$$y_t = \underbrace{\left\{ \bar{i} + \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_i} \cdot (i_t - \bar{i}) \right\}}_{\text{Expectations hypothesis}} + \underbrace{\left\{ \tau^{-1} (V_y + C_{y,y^*}) \cdot \bar{s}^y \right\}}_{\text{Steady-state term premium}} + \underbrace{\left\{ \tau^{-1} \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_{sy}} [V_y \cdot (s_t^y - \bar{s}^y) + C_{y,y^*} \cdot (s_t^{y^*} - \bar{s}^y)] + \tau^{-1} \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_{sq}} C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q \right\}}_{\text{Time-varying term premium}}; \quad (20a)$$

the long-term foreign yield is:

$$y_t^* = \underbrace{\left\{ \bar{i} + \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_i} \cdot (i_t^* - \bar{i}) \right\}}_{\text{Expectations hypothesis}} + \underbrace{\left\{ \tau^{-1} (V_y + C_{y,y^*}) \cdot \bar{s}^y \right\}}_{\text{Steady-state term premium}} + \underbrace{\left\{ \tau^{-1} \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_{sy}} [C_{y,y^*} \cdot (s_t^y - \bar{s}^y) + V_y \cdot (s_t^{y^*} - \bar{s}^y)] - \tau^{-1} \frac{1-\delta}{1-\delta\phi_{sq}} C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q \right\}}_{\text{Time-varying term premium}}; \quad (20b)$$

¹⁹Equilibrium non-existence and multiplicity are common in models like ours where short-lived investors absorb shocks to the supply of infinitely-lived assets. Consistent with Samuelson's (1947) "correspondence principle," the unique stable equilibrium has comparative statics that accord with standard intuition. By contrast, the comparative statics of the unstable equilibria are counterintuitive. For previous treatments of these issues, see Spiegel (1998), Watanabe (2008), Banerjee (2011), and Greenwood, Hanson, and Liao (2018).

and the foreign exchange rate is

$$q_t = \overbrace{\left\{ \frac{1}{1 - \phi_i} \cdot (i_t^* - i_t) \right\}}^{\text{Uncovered interest rate parity}} - \overbrace{\left\{ \tau^{-1} \frac{1}{1 - \phi_{sy}} C_{y,q} \cdot (s_t^y - s_t^{y*}) + \tau^{-1} \frac{1}{1 - \phi_{sq}} V_q \cdot s_t^q \right\}}^{\text{FX risk premium}}. \quad (20c)$$

Eqs. (20a) and (20b) say that long-term domestic and foreign yields are the sum of an expectations hypothesis component that reflects expected future short-term rates and a term premium component that reflects expected future bond risk premia. The expectations hypothesis component for domestic long-term bonds, for example, depends on the current deviation of short-term domestic rates from their steady-state level ($i_t - \bar{i}$) and the persistence of short-term rates (ϕ_i). Similarly, the domestic term premium depends on the current deviation of asset supplies from their steady state levels and the persistence of those asset supplies. Eq. (20c) says that the foreign exchange rate consists of a UIP term, reflecting expected future foreign-minus-domestic short rate differentials, minus a risk-premium term that reflects expected future excess returns on the borrow-domestic lend-foreign FX trade.

3.2.3 Understanding equilibrium expected returns

We can understand expected returns in terms of exposures to the five risk factors in our model. Formally, the time- t conditional expected return on any asset $a \in \{y, y^*, q\}$ satisfies:

$$E_t[rx_{t+1}^a] = \beta_i^a \lambda_{i,t} + \beta_{i^*}^a \lambda_{i^*,t} + \beta_{sy}^a \lambda_{sy,t} + \beta_{sy^*}^a \lambda_{sy^*,t} + \beta_{sq}^a \lambda_{sq,t}, \quad (21)$$

where, for factors $f \in \{i, i^*, s^y, s^{y^*}, s^q\}$, β_f^a is the constant loading of asset a 's returns on factor innovation $\varepsilon_{f,t+1}$ and $\lambda_{f,t}$ is the time-varying equilibrium price of bearing $\varepsilon_{f,t+1}$ risk. Formally, β_f^a is the coefficient on $\varepsilon_{f,t+1}$ from a multivariate regression of $-(rx_{t+1}^a - E_t[rx_{t+1}^a])$ on the innovations to the five risk factors. For instance, long-term domestic bonds have a positive loading on $\varepsilon_{i,t+1}$ and no loading on $\varepsilon_{i^*,t+1}$. At time t , the prices of domestic and foreign short-rate risk are:

$$\lambda_{i,t} = \tau^{-1} \sigma_i^2 \cdot \sum_a [(\beta_i^a + \rho \beta_{i^*}^a) \cdot s_t^a], \quad (22a)$$

$$\lambda_{i^*,t} = \tau^{-1} \sigma_i^2 \cdot \sum_a [(\rho \beta_i^a + \beta_{i^*}^a) \cdot s_t^a], \quad (22b)$$

and, for $f \in \{s^y, s^{y^*}, s^q\}$, the prices of supply risk are:

$$\lambda_{f,t} = \tau^{-1} \sigma_f^2 \cdot \sum_a [\beta_f^a \cdot s_t^a]. \quad (22c)$$

Expected returns can also be written using a conditional-CAPM-like representation. Letting $rx_{t+1}^{st} = \mathbf{s}'_t \mathbf{r} \mathbf{x}_{t+1}$ denote the excess return on global bond investors' portfolio from t to $t+1$, the conditional expected return on any risky asset $a \in \{y, y^*, q\}$ is:

$$E_t[rx_{t+1}^a] = \frac{\text{Cov}_t[rx_{t+1}^a, rx_{t+1}^{st}]}{\text{Var}_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}]} \cdot E_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}]. \quad (23)$$

The expected return on each asset equals its conditional β with respect to the portfolio held by bond investors times the conditional expected return on that portfolio. Relatedly, the stochastic discount factor (SDF) that prices risky assets—i.e., the random variable m_{t+1} that satisfies $E_t[rx_{t+1}^a] = -Cov_t[rx_{t+1}^a, m_{t+1}]$ for all a —is $m_{t+1} = -i_t - (rx_{t+1}^{st} - E_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}]) \cdot (E_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}] / Var_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}])$. In other words, “bad times” in our model—states of the world where m_{t+1} is unexpectedly high—are states where the excess return on global bond investors’ portfolio (rx_{t+1}^{st}) is unexpectedly low.

Eq. (23) is superficially similar to the pricing condition that would obtain if the true conditional-CAPM held in fully-integrated global capital markets. However, in our model, the portfolio return that prices risky assets is the return on the portfolio held by specialized bond investors. By contrast, in fully integrated markets, the portfolio return that prices all financial assets is the market portfolio consisting of all global financial wealth.

If global bond investors’ portfolios were readily observable, Eq. (23) would be directly testable. Currently, however, there are (at least) two main hurdles to observing the portfolios of the marginal intermediaries in the global bond market. First, we think that global macro hedge funds play an important role in bond and FX markets. Data on these funds’ positions are unavailable to the best of our knowledge. Second, some data is available on the portfolios of the large dealer banks through the Federal Reserve’s Primary Dealer Statistical Release. However, this data only covers primary dealers’ positions in cash securities, not derivatives. Conceptually, the relevant object in our model is global bond investors’ total exposure to interest rate risk, whether it comes through securities or derivatives. Given that intermediaries’ portfolios are not readily observable, precisely quantifying the magnitude of the effects in our model is challenging. Thus, our main goal in this paper is to trace out the qualitative implications of this quantity-driven view of bond term premia and exchange rates.²⁰

3.3 Bond term premia and exchange rates

The major payoff from our baseline model is that we are able to study the simultaneous determination of domestic term premia, foreign term premia, and foreign exchange risk premia. Specifically, we can ask how a shift in the supply on any of these three assets impacts the equilibrium expected returns on the two other assets using Eq. (19).

3.3.1 Limiting case with no supply risk

Many of the core results of the model can be illustrated using the limiting case in which asset supplies are constant over time, leaving only short rate risk—i.e., where $\sigma_{sy}^2 = \sigma_{sq}^2 = 0$.²¹

²⁰Gourinchas, Ray, and Vayanos (2022) take a complementary approach. Treating the net supplies held by global bond investors as unobservable, they estimate the unknown parameters of their model using an indirect inference approach: they choose parameters to match a set of empirical statistics summarizing the volatilities of and covariances between equilibrium prices. They estimate this model using monthly data on U.S. and German bonds and the EUR-USD exchange rate from 1986 to 2021. They show that this estimated model can match a range of stylized facts and use the model to conduct a set of numerical policy experiments. We believe their multi-maturity model is a more natural setting for quantitative estimation of this sort. By contrast, the tractability of our two-bond model means we are able to analytically derive a broader and more general set of qualitative results. And, our simpler model is better suited to considering extensions as we do in Section 4 below.

²¹Technically, the comparative statics in Proposition 1 must be interpreted as comparative statics on the steady-state level of expected returns across economies where asset supplies are constant over time.

Proposition 1 *Equilibrium without supply shocks.* If $\sigma_{s_y}^2 = \sigma_{s_q}^2 = 0$ and $\rho \in (0, 1)$, then

$$V_y = \left(\frac{\delta}{1 - \delta\phi_i} \right)^2 \sigma_i^2 > 0 \text{ and } V_q = 2 \left(\frac{1}{1 - \phi_i} \right)^2 (1 - \rho) \sigma_i^2 > 0, \quad (24)$$

$$C_{y,y^*} = \rho \left(\frac{\delta}{1 - \delta\phi_i} \right)^2 \sigma_i^2 > 0 \text{ and } C_{y,q} = (1 - \rho) \frac{\delta}{1 - \delta\phi_i} \frac{1}{1 - \phi_i} \sigma_i^2 > 0. \quad (25)$$

Thus, $\partial E_t[r x_{t+1}^q] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} C_{y,q}$ is decreasing in the correlation between domestic and foreign short rates, ρ , whereas $\partial E_t[r x_{t+1}^{y^*}] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} C_{y,y^*}$ is increasing in ρ .

Proof. All proofs are in the Appendix, which is available online here. ■

Proposition 1 provides guidance about how shifts in long-term bond supply—e.g., due to QE policies—should impact exchange rates and term premia. There are three key takeaways.

First, Proposition 1 shows that a shift in domestic bond supply impacts the domestic term premium, the foreign term premium, and the FX risk premium. For example, suppose there is an increase in the supply of dollar long-term bonds. This increase in dollar bond supply raises the price of bearing dollar short-rate risk in Eq. (22a), lifting the expected returns on the dollar yield curve trade and long-term dollar yields as in Vayanos and Vila (2021). When dollar and euro short rates are correlated ($\rho > 0$), the increase in dollar bond supply also raises the price of euro-short rate risk in Eq. (22b), pushing up the euro term premium and long-term euro yields.

Turning to exchange rates, Eq. (20c) shows that the borrow-in-dollars to lend-in-euros FX trade is also exposed to dollar short-rate risk: the euro depreciates when dollar short rates rise through the standard UIP channel. Because the price of bearing dollar short-rate rises following an increase in the supply of dollar long-term bonds, the expected returns on the FX trade must also rise. Thus, an increase in the supply of long-term dollar bonds leads the euro to depreciate; it is then expected to appreciate going forward. More precisely, when $\rho > 0$, an increase in the supply of long-term dollar bonds raises the prices of both dollar and euro short-rate risk per Eqs. (22a) and (22b). As shown in Eq. (20c), the FX trade has offsetting exposures to dollar and euro short rates. However, so long as $\rho < 1$, the increase in the supply of long-term dollar bonds has a larger impact on the price of dollar short rate risk so $\partial E_t[r x_{t+1}^q] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} C_{y,q} > 0$.

Second, Proposition 1 shows that the effects of a shift in domestic bond supply depend on the correlation ρ between domestic and foreign short-rates. When ρ is higher, the domestic bond supply shift has a larger impact on the price of foreign short-rate risk. As a result, more of the effect appears in long-term foreign yields and less shows up in the exchange rate. For instance, U.S. short-term rates are more highly correlated with euro short rates than with Japanese yen short rates. Thus, Proposition 1 suggests we should expect U.S. QE—a reduction in dollar bond supply—to lead to a larger depreciation of the dollar versus the yen than versus the euro. At the same time, U.S. QE should lead to a larger reduction in euro term premia than yen term premia. Intuitively, if foreign and domestic short rates are highly correlated, the UIP component of the exchange rate will not be very volatile; if domestic short rates rise, foreign short rates are also likely to rise, leaving the UIP component of the exchange rate largely unchanged. This means that the FX trade is not very exposed to interest rate risk and, therefore, its expected return

should not move much in response to bond supply shifts.²²

Corollary 1 details the limiting case where $\delta \rightarrow 1$, and therefore the duration of long-term bonds $D = 1/(1 - \delta)$ goes to infinity.

Corollary 1 *Limit where the duration of long-term bonds becomes infinite.* Suppose $\sigma_{s^y}^2 = \sigma_{s^q}^2 = 0$ and consider the limit where $\delta \rightarrow 1$. In this limit, we have

$$V_y = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \phi_i} \right)^2 \sigma_i^2 > 0, V_q = 2(1 - \rho)V_y, C_{y,y^*} = \rho V_y, \text{ and } C_{y,q} = (1 - \rho)V_y, \quad (26)$$

so $\text{Var}_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = V_q + 2V_y - 2C_{y,y^*} - 4C_{y,q} = 0$ —i.e., the long-term FX carry trade is riskless. Thus, long-term UIP must hold state-by-state and hence also in expectation (i.e., $rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y) = E_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = 0$). As a result, $\partial E_t [rx_{t+1}^y] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} V_y$ equals the sum of $\partial E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} \rho V_y$ and $\partial E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} (1 - \rho) V_y$.

In the $\delta \rightarrow 1$ limit where the duration of long-term bonds becomes infinite, the long-term FX carry trade that borrows long-term in dollars and lends long-term in euros becomes riskless. As a result, the return on the long-term carry trade must be zero by the absence of arbitrage—i.e., we must have $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 1} [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = 0$ state-by-state.²³ Even though long-term UIP holds in this limit, our model still pins down the precise *mix* of equilibrium adjustments that ensure it holds following a change in asset supply. For instance, suppose there is an increase in dollar bond supply s_t^y . This bond supply shock raises the term premium on long-term U.S. bonds, $E_t [rx_{t+1}^y]$. Long-term UIP implies that some combination of the term premium on Euro bonds ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}]$) and the FX premium ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$) must adjust in response. What Corollary 1 shows is that the correlation between domestic and foreign short rates, ρ , governs whether the adjustment comes through the foreign term premium or the FX risk premium. Specifically, when the correlation ρ is higher, more of the adjustment comes through a rise in the foreign term premium and less comes through a rise in the FX premium.

3.3.2 Adding supply shocks

We now show that these results generalize once we add stochastic shocks to the net supplies of domestic and foreign long-term bonds and to foreign exchange.²⁴

Proposition 2 *Equilibrium with supply shocks.* If $0 \leq \rho < 1$, $\sigma_{s^y}^2 \geq 0$, $\sigma_{s^q}^2 \geq 0$, then in any stable equilibrium we have $\partial E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} C_{y,q} > 0$. If in addition $\rho > 0$ and $\sigma_{s^q}^2 = 0$, then in any stable equilibrium we have $\partial E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] / \partial s_t^y = \tau^{-1} C_{y,y^*} > 0$. Thus, by continuity of

²²We find some suggestive evidence in favor of this prediction in Section A.5 of the Appendix. Specifically, if we add interaction terms involving an estimate of each currency's ρ to the regressions in Tables 2 and 4, the coefficient on the interaction with distant forward rates goes in the predicted direction and is marginally significant.

²³If the exchange rate is stationary, the fact that $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 1} \text{Var}_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 1} E_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = 0$ still holds once we introduce stochastic supply shocks. Of course, $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 1} \text{Var}_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] > 0$ if the exchange rate contains a random-walk component.

²⁴As shown in the Appendix, when $\sigma_{s^y}^2 > 0$ and $\sigma_{s^q}^2 > 0$, solving the model involves characterizing the stable solution to a system of four quadratic equations in four unknowns. When $\sigma_{s^y}^2 > 0$ and $\sigma_{s^q}^2 = 0$, the model can be solved analytically: we simply need to solve two quadratics and a linear equation.

the stable equilibrium in the model's underlying parameters, we have $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{y*}]/\partial s_t^y > 0$ unless foreign exchange supply shocks are volatile and ρ is near zero.

Proposition 2 shows that, once we allow supply to be stochastic, shifts in bond supply continue to impact bond yields and foreign exchange rates as they did in Proposition 1 where supply was fixed. Shifts in supply tend to amplify the comovement between long-term bonds and foreign exchange that is attributable to shifts in short-term interest rates.

The exception is when FX supply shocks are volatile ($\sigma_{s_q}^2$ is large) and the correlation of short rates ρ is low. Because FX supply shocks push domestic and foreign long-term yields in opposite directions by Eq. (20), if these shocks are highly volatile they can result in a negative equilibrium correlation between domestic and foreign bond returns, C_{y,y^*} , even if the underlying short rates are positively correlated. However, in the empirically relevant case where ρ is meaningfully positive, we have $C_{y,y^*} > 0$ and bond yields behave as in Proposition 1.

3.3.3 Empirical implications of the baseline model

In Section 2, we presented evidence for three propositions. First, exchange rates appear to be about as sensitive to changes in long-term interest rate differentials as they are to changes in short-term interest rate differentials. Second, the component of long rate differentials that matters for exchange rates appears to be a term premium differential. Third, the term premium differentials that move exchange rates appear to be, at least in part, quantity-driven. Using our baseline model, we can now formally motivate these empirical results. We can also match the finding in Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019).

We begin with our third fact: the term premium differentials that move exchange rates are partially quantity-driven. To see this, we focus for simplicity on the case where FX supply shocks are small—i.e., the limit where $s_t^q = 0$ and $\sigma_{s_q}^2 = 0$. (The Appendix shows that a similar set of results obtains when $\sigma_{s_q}^2 > 0$ and $s_t^q \neq 0$.) In this case, the foreign exchange risk premium is decreasing in the difference between foreign and domestic bond supply ($s_t^{y*} - s_t^y$),

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] = \overbrace{[-\tau^{-1}C_{y,q}]}^{<0} \cdot (s_t^{y*} - s_t^y), \quad (27)$$

and the difference between foreign and domestic bond risk premia is increasing in $s_t^{y*} - s_t^y$:

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y*} - rx_{t+1}^y] = \overbrace{[\tau^{-1}(V_y - C_{y,y^*})]}^{>0} \cdot (s_t^{y*} - s_t^y). \quad (28)$$

Eqs. (27) and (28) motivate our regressions examining QE announcement dates in Section 2. In the context of the model, we think of a euro QE announcement as news indicating that the supply of euro long-term bonds s_t^{y*} will be low. Eq. (28) shows that this decline in euro bond supply should reduce euro term premia relative to dollar term premia. Eq. (27) shows that this decline in s_t^{y*} should increase the risk premium on the borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euros FX trade, leading the euro to depreciate relative to the dollar. By symmetry, U.S. QE announcements—i.e., news that s_t^y will be low—will have the opposite effects.

To understand our second fact, we combine Eqs. (27) and (28). We find that the FX risk premium is negatively related to the difference between foreign and domestic bond term premia:

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] = \overbrace{\left[-\frac{C_{y,q}}{V_y - C_{y,y^*}} \right]}^{<-1} \cdot E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y]. \quad (29)$$

Eq. (29) motivates Table 4 in Section 2 where we forecast foreign exchange returns using the difference in (proxies for) foreign and domestic term premia. When euro bond supply is high, the euro term premium is high and the risk premium on the borrow-in-dollars lend-in-euros FX trade is low. Thus, the FX risk premium moves inversely with the foreign term premium. The same argument applies to the domestic term premium with the opposite sign—the FX risk premium moves proportionately with the domestic term premium.²⁵

To understand our third fact, we combine Eq. (12) and (29). The exchange rate reflects the sum of expected (i) foreign-minus-domestic short rate differentials and (ii) foreign-minus-domestic bond risk-premium differentials:

$$q_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} E_t [i_{t+j}^* - i_{t+j}] + \overbrace{\left[\frac{C_{y,q}}{V_y - C_{y,y^*}} \right]}^{>1} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} E_t [rx_{t+j+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+j+1}^y]. \quad (30)$$

This result motivates Tables 1 and 2 where we regress changes in exchange rates on changes in short rate differentials and changes in (proxies for) term premium differentials. When foreign bond supply is high, the foreign term premium is high and the risk premium on the borrow-at-home to lend-abroad FX trade is low. For investors to earn low returns on foreign currency, foreign currency must be strong— q_t must be high—and must be expected to depreciate.

Lastly, our model can match the otherwise puzzling finding in Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019) that the return to the FX trade—conventionally implemented by borrowing and lending short-term in different currencies—declines if one borrows long-term and lends long-term. To see this, note that the return on a long-term FX trade that borrows long-term at home to lend long-term abroad is just a combination of our three long-short returns. Specifically, the return on this long-term FX trade equals (i) the return to borrowing long to lend short domestically ($-rx_{t+1}^y$), plus (ii) the return to borrowing short domestically to lend short in the foreign currency (rx_{t+1}^q), plus (iii) the return to borrowing short to lend long in the foreign currency ($rx_{t+1}^{y^*}$). Thus, the expected return on the long-term FX trade is:

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y^*} - rx_{t+1}^y)] = \overbrace{\left[1 - \frac{V_y - C_{y,y^*}}{C_{y,q}} \right]}^{\in(0,1)} \cdot E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]. \quad (31)$$

Eq. (31) shows that the expected return on the long-term FX trade is smaller in absolute magnitude—and hence less volatile over time—than that on the standard short-term FX trade.

²⁵The constant of proportionality in Eq. (29), $-C_{y,q}/(V_y - C_{y,y^*})$, is less than -1 because foreign exchange is effectively a “longer duration” asset than long-term bonds when $\delta < 1$.

The intuition is that the long-term FX trade has offsetting exposures that reduce its riskiness for global bond investors as compared to the standard FX trade. For instance, the standard FX trade (rx_{t+1}^q) will suffer when there is an unexpected increase in domestic short rates. However, borrowing long to lend short in domestic currency (i.e., $-rx_{t+1}^y$) will profit when there is an unexpected rise in domestic short rates. Thus, the long-term FX trade is less exposed to interest rate risk than the standard short-term FX trade. As a result, the expected return on the long-term FX trade moves less than one-for-one with the return on the standard short-term FX trade.²⁶

We collect these four observations in the following proposition:

Proposition 3 *Empirical implications.* *Suppose $\rho \in [0, 1)$, $\sigma_{s^y}^2 > 0$, and $\sigma_{s^q}^2 = 0$. Then:*

- *The FX risk premium ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$) is decreasing in the difference in net long-term bond supply between foreign and domestic currency ($s_t^{y*} - s_t^y$). The difference between foreign and domestic bond risk premia, $E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y*} - rx_{t+1}^y]$, is increasing in $s_t^{y*} - s_t^y$.*
- *$E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$ is negatively related to $E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y*} - rx_{t+1}^y]$.*
- *The foreign exchange rate (q_t) is the sum of expected future foreign-minus-domestic short-rate differentials and a term that is proportional to expected future foreign-minus-domestic bond risk premium differentials.*
- *The expected return on the borrow-long-in-domestic to lend-long-in-foreign FX trade ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q + (rx_{t+1}^{y*} - rx_{t+1}^y)]$) is smaller in magnitude than that on the standard borrow-short-in-domestic to lend-short-in-foreign FX trade, ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$).*

This same logic which implies that bond supply shocks should impact FX risk premium also implies that FX supply shocks should impact bond risk premium. For instance, suppose the foreign central bank conducts a sterilized FX intervention to depress its currency, selling some of its holdings of short-term foreign bonds to purchase short-term domestic bonds. By FX market clearing, this FX intervention is associated with an increase in the net supply of foreign currency that global bond investors must absorb—i.e., a rise in s_t^q . Naturally, our model predicts that this FX intervention will raise the risk premium on investments in foreign currency ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$), leading foreign currency to depreciate versus the domestic currency. However, since $C_{y,q} > 0$, our model also predicts that this FX intervention will lead to a decline in foreign term premia and a rise in domestic term premia (see Eqs. (20a) and (20b)) Some suggestive evidence in favor of this prediction comes from Christensen and Krogstrup (2019) who find that Swiss term premia fell in August 2011 when the Swiss National Bank first hinted that it might intervene in FX markets to hold down the value of the franc.

3.4 A unified approach to carry trade returns

In this section, we show that our model can deliver a unified explanation that links return predictability in foreign exchange and long-term bond markets to the *levels* of domestic and

²⁶This result goes through unchanged if we allow the exchange rate to be non-stationary by adding a random walk component. Thus, the ability of our model to match the Lustig, Stathopoulos, and Verdelhan (2019) result does not simply follow from our simplifying assumption that the exchange rate is stationary.

foreign short-term interest rates. For foreign exchange, Fama (1984) showed that the expected return on the borrow-in-dollar to lend-in-euro FX trade is increasing in the euro-minus-dollar short rate differential, $i_t^* - i_t$, a well-known failure of UIP. For long-term bonds, Fama and Bliss (1987) and Campbell and Shiller (1991) showed that the expected return on the borrow-short to lend-long yield curve trade is increasing in the slope of the yield curve, $y_t - i_t$, a well-known and highly robust failure of the expectations hypothesis of the term structure.

The baseline model we developed above does not generate either of these predictability results. In our baseline model, shocks to short-term interest rates make foreign exchange and long-term bonds risky investments for global bond investors. As a result, supply shocks impact the expected excess returns on foreign exchange and long-term bonds. But the *levels* of domestic and foreign short rates do not impact the relevant supplies and, hence, expected excess returns.

However, as detailed in Section B.4 of the Appendix, a straightforward extension of our model can simultaneously match these two return predictability results: we simply need to assume that the net supply of each risky asset is endogenously increasing its price. For instance, first assume that global bond investors' exposure to the FX trade is endogenously increasing in the spot exchange rate due to balance-of-trade driven flows. The idea is that when the euro is strong, U.S. net exports to Europe rise. This in turn creates higher demand from U.S. exporters to swap the euros they receive from their European sales into dollars, which global bond investors must accommodate.

This assumption, which is needed in Gabaix and Maggiori (2015) to match the Fama (1984) result, naturally delivers the Campbell-Shiller (1991) result in our model for the yield curve trades in both currencies. When the euro short rate is higher than the U.S. short rate, the euro will be strong relative to the dollar by standard UIP logic. Trade flows then mean that global bond investors must bear greater euro exposure to borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade when the euro is strong. This raises the expected returns on that trade. As a result, the expected return on the FX trade is increasing in the difference between euro and U.S. short rates as in Fama (1984). This is the logic of Gabaix and Maggiori (2015). In our model, greater exposure to borrow-in-dollar lend-in-euro FX trade means greater exposure to U.S. short rate risk, and thus the equilibrium expected returns on the U.S. yield curve trade must simultaneously rise. At the same time, the yield curve will be steeper in the U.S. than the euro area because U.S. short rates are lower and expected to mean-revert.²⁷ Thus, our model will also match Campbell and Shiller's (1991) finding that a steep yield curve predicts high excess returns on long-term bonds.

In this way, our model suggests that it is possible to theoretically "kill two birds with one stone." Specifically, the assumption that the supply of FX exposure is increasing in the exchange rate, which delivers the Fama (1984) result for FX, simultaneously generates the Campbell-Shiller (1991) result for bonds. Conversely, the assumption that the net supply of long-term bonds is increasing in the bond price, which generates the Campbell-Shiller (1991) result for bonds, simultaneously delivers the Fama (1984) result for FX.²⁸ In practice, both of these supply-

²⁷Ignoring the term-premium component of yields, the slope of the U.S. yield curve is $y_t - i_t = -[1 - (1 - \delta)/(1 - \delta\phi_i)] \times (i_t - \bar{i})$, which is decreasing in the level of U.S. short-term rates (i_t).

²⁸Relatedly, once we endogenize supply, changes in conventional monetary policy in the eurozone (i_t^*) will impact U.S. term premia ($E_t[r x_{t+1}^y]$) and vice versa. As a result, the Friedman-Obstfeld-Taylor trilemma fails: foreign

driven mechanisms (and potentially other mechanisms as well) are likely needed to realistically generate the observed magnitude of the Fama (1984) and Campbell-Shiller (1991) results. Our more modest conclusion here is simply that the two supply-driven mechanisms are mutually reinforcing.

3.5 Relationship to consumption-based models

Our quantity-driven, segmented-markets model provides a unified way to understand term premia and exchange rates. In Section B.5 of the Appendix, we compare our model’s implications with those of frictionless, consumption-based asset pricing models. Our model is able to simultaneously match many important stylized facts about long-term bonds and foreign exchange rates. By contrast, leading consumption-based models struggle to simultaneously match these empirical patterns in a unified way. The key driver of these differences is that our assumption that the global bond and foreign exchange markets are partially segmented from financial markets more broadly. In other words, “bad times” for the marginal investors in global bond markets need not coincide with “bad times” for more broadly diversified investors or for the representative households in, say, the U.S. and Europe. To be clear, however, we are not assuming that financial markets are highly segmented; we are simply positing that there is some segmentation at the level of broad financial asset classes.

4 Model extensions

In this section, we consider a series of extensions that explore how the introduction of additional intermediation frictions alter the predictions of our baseline model.

4.1 Further segmenting the global bond market

In our first extension, we enrich the structure of intermediation in our model to capture two significant, real-world features of global bond and FX markets. First, real-world markets feature a variety of different investor types—each facing a different set of constraints—opening the door for meaningful segmentation *within* global bond and FX markets. Second, real-world bond and FX markets involve substantial trading flows between different investor types (Evans and Lyons [2002] and Froot and Ramadorai [2005]).

We further segment the global bond market as in Gromb and Vayanos (2002), assuming some bond investors cannot trade short- and long-term bonds in both currencies. A first take-away is that with further segmentation exogenous bond supply shocks give rise to endogenous foreign exchange trading flows that impact exchange rates. A second is that a small amount of additional segmentation increases the impact of bond supply shocks on exchange rates.

Our extended model features four types of bond investors. All types have mean-variance preferences over one-period-ahead wealth and a risk tolerance of τ in domestic currency terms. Types only differ in their ability to trade different assets. Specifically:

monetary policy impacts domestic financial conditions (and vice versa) even though exchange rates are floating.

- *Domestic bond specialists*, present in mass $\mu\pi$, can only choose between short- and long-term domestic bonds—i.e., they can only engage in the domestic yield curve trade.
- *Foreign bond specialists*, also present in mass $\mu\pi$, can only choose between short- and long-term foreign bonds—i.e., they can only engage in the foreign yield curve trade.
- *FX specialists*, present in mass $\mu(1 - 2\pi)$, can only choose between short-term domestic and foreign bonds—i.e., they can only engage in the FX trade.
- *Global bond investors*, present in mass $(1 - \mu)$, can hold short- and long-term bonds in both currencies and can engage in all three long-short trades.

We assume $\mu \in [0, 1]$ and $\pi \in (0, 1/2)$. Increasing the combined mass of specialist types, μ , is equivalent to introducing greater segmentation in the global bond market. Thus, our baseline model corresponds to the limiting case where $\mu = 0$. At the other extreme, markets are fully segmented when $\mu = 1$. And, when $\mu \in (0, 1)$ markets are partially segmented.

Our domestic bond specialists are reminiscent of the specialized bond investors in Vayanos and Vila (2021) in the sense that their positions in long-term domestic bonds are a sufficient statistic for the expected returns on the domestic yield curve trade. Our FX specialists are similar to the FX intermediaries in Gabaix and Maggiori (2015): their FX positions are a sufficient statistic for the expected returns on the FX trade. In practice, we associate the domestic and foreign bond specialists with market participants who, for institutional reasons, exhibit significant home bias and are essentially unwilling to substitute between bonds in different currencies.

In the Appendix, we derive the following results:

Proposition 4 *Further segmenting the bond market.* *Suppose $\rho \in (0, 1)$ and that fraction μ of investors are specialists. We have the following results:*

- (i.) ***Price impact.*** *Suppose $\sigma_{s_y}^2 = \sigma_{s_q}^2 = 0$. (a) Greater segmentation increases own-market price impact. Formally, for any $a \in \{y, y^*, q\}$, $\partial^2 E_t[rx_{t+1}^a]/\partial s_t^a \partial \mu > 0$. (b) Segmentation has a hump-shaped effect on cross-market price impact. For any $a_1 \in \{y, y^*, q\}$ and $a_2 \neq a_1$, $|\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{a_1}]/\partial s_t^{a_2}|$ is hump-shaped function of μ with $|\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{a_1}]/\partial s_t^{a_2}| > 0$ when $\mu = 0$ and $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{a_1}]/\partial s_t^{a_2} = 0$ when $\mu = 1$. (c) Greater segmentation increases bond market-wide price impact. For any supply $\mathbf{s}_t \neq \mathbf{0}$, the expected return on the global bond market portfolio $rx_{t+1}^{st} = \mathbf{s}_t' \mathbf{r}_{t+1}$ is increasing in μ : $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{st}]/\partial \mu > 0$.*
- (ii.) ***Segmentation leads to endogenous trading flows.*** *Suppose $\sigma_{s_y}^2 \geq 0$, $\sigma_{s_q}^2 \geq 0$. For any $\mu \in (0, 1)$, a shock to the supply of any asset $a \in \{y, y^*, q\}$ triggers trading in all assets $a' \neq a$ between global bond investors and specialist investors.*

Further segmenting the global bond market has three effects. First, as we increase μ , there is an “inefficient risk-sharing” effect because fewer investors can absorb a given supply shock. This effect tends to increase the price impact of all supply shocks. Second, there is a “width of the pipe” effect because we increase the mass of specialist investors who do not alter their demand for their asset in response to shocks in other markets. This effect tends to diminish the impact of a supply shock in one market on prices in other markets because price impact is

only transmitted across markets by global bond investors—“the pipe”—whose demands for each asset are impacted by shocks to other markets. Finally, there is an “endogenous risk” effect. To the extent that greater segmentation directly alters the price impact of supply shocks, greater segmentation affects equilibrium return volatility, further altering equilibrium price impact.

Part (i) of Proposition 4 characterizes equilibrium price impact as a function of μ in the limit where supply risk vanishes.²⁹ In this limit, the endogenous risk effect disappears, leaving only the inefficient risk-sharing and width of the pipe effects. As we raise μ , these two effects always increase the impact of a supply shock in market a on expected returns in that market: $\partial^2 E_t[rx_{t+1}^a]/\partial s_t^a \partial \mu > 0$ for any $a \in \{y, y^*, q\}$. Cross-market price impact under partial segmentation is more complicated. Consider how the FX risk premium responds to domestic bond supply, $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y$, as a function of μ . When there are only global bond investors ($\mu = 0$), a shock to domestic bond supply raises expected returns on the FX trade: $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y > 0$. This is the key result from our baseline model. By contrast, when markets are fully segmented and there are no global bond investors, bond supply shocks have no impact on FX—i.e., $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y = 0$ when $\mu = 1$. In between, μ has a hump-shaped effect on cross-market price impact. This hump-shape reflects the combination of the inefficient risk-sharing effect, which typically leads $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y$ to rise with μ and dominates when μ is near 0, and the width of the pipe effect, which typically leads $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y$ to fall with μ and dominates when μ is near 1.

When we introduce stochastic supply shocks, the endogenous risk effect comes into play. By continuity of the stable equilibrium in the model’s underlying parameters, the results in part (i) of Proposition 4 continue to hold when supply risk is small. More generally, the endogenous risk effect typically amplifies the sum of the inefficient risk-sharing and width of pipe effects, so the hump-shaped profile of $|\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{a_1}]/\partial s_t^{a_2}|$ becomes more pronounced in the presence of supply risk. In addition, when asset supply is stochastic, greater segmentation typically increases equilibrium market volatility. Furthermore, the endogenous risk effect typically steepens the relationship between segmentation μ and the expected return on the global bond market portfolio.³⁰

The results in Proposition 4 are illustrated in Figure 2.³¹ Panel A of Figure 2 plots the impact of a domestic bond supply shock on expected returns as a function of μ . The plot shows that, while $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^y]/\partial s_t^y$ is always increasing in μ , segmentation has a hump-shaped effect on $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y$. Unless μ is near 1 and global bond markets are highly segmented, the effect of bond supply shocks on foreign exchange exceeds that in our baseline model where $\mu = 0$. Thus, it is natural to conjecture that the impact of bond supply shocks on foreign exchange markets has risen in recent decades because μ has fallen over time. In other words, relative to earlier periods where markets were highly segmented ($\mu \approx 1$), the global bond market has become more

²⁹To prove part (i) of the proposition and draw Figure 2, we assume there is some FX-specific fundamental risk. Specifically, we assume $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} E_t[q_{t+T}] = q_t^\infty$ follows a random walk $q_{t+1}^\infty = q_t^\infty + \varepsilon_{q^\infty, t+1}$ with $\text{Var}_t[\varepsilon_{q^\infty, t+1}] = \sigma_{q^\infty}^2 > 0$. If $\sigma_{q^\infty}^2 = 0$, then in the absence of supply risk, FX is a redundant asset whose returns are a linear combination of those on domestic and foreign bonds. However, if $\sigma_{s^q}^2, \sigma_{s^y}^2 > 0$, FX is not redundant and cross-market impact is still hump-shaped.

³⁰Formally, for any bond portfolio $\mathbf{p}_t \neq \mathbf{0}$ with returns $rx_{t+1}^{\mathbf{p}_t} = \mathbf{p}_t' \mathbf{r}_{t+1}$, we typically have $\partial \text{Var}_t[rx_{t+1}^{\mathbf{p}_t}]/\partial \mu > 0$. When the endogenous risk effect is positive in this portfolio sense, then for any set of supply shocks $\mathbf{s}_t \neq \mathbf{0}$, the expected return on the global bond market portfolio $rx_{t+1}^{\mathbf{s}_t} = \mathbf{s}_t' \mathbf{r}_{t+1}$ rises more steeply with μ —i.e., the endogenous risk effect raises $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^{\mathbf{s}_t}]/\partial \mu > 0$.

³¹Our parameter choices in Figure 2 are illustrative. See Section C.1 of the Appendix for additional details.

integrated, raising $\partial E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y$ (Mylonidis and Kollias [2010], Pozzi and Wolswijk [2012]).

The next two plots in Panel B of Figure 2 show the trading response to a unit domestic bond supply shock as a function of μ . When $\mu \in (0, 1)$, markets are partially segmented, global bond investors and the three specialist types disagree on the appropriate compensation for bearing factor risk exposure. Thus, as shown in part (ii) of Proposition 4, following a supply shock to any one asset, global bond investors trade across markets to align—but not equalize—the way that factor risk is priced in different markets. For instance, a shock to the supply of domestic bonds leads to foreign exchange trading between global bond investors and FX specialists. Specifically, following a positive shock to domestic bond supply, global bond investors want to increase their exposure to domestic bonds and reduce their exposure to the FX trade. FX specialists must take the other side, increasing their exposure to the FX trade. These endogenous FX trading flows are associated with an increase in FX risk premia and a depreciation of foreign currency. In this way, our extension with additional bond market segmentation endogenizes the kinds of capital market driven FX flows considered in Gabaix and Maggiori (2015). Rather than being exogenous quantities that specialist FX investors are required to absorb, these endogenous FX flows are tied to supply-and-demand shocks for long-term bonds.³²

4.2 Deviations from covered-interest-rate parity

Next, we combine our model with bank balance sheet constraints, which Du, Tepper, and Verdelhan (2018) show are critical for explaining post-2008 violations of covered interest rate parity (CIP). We show that doing so provides a simple and plausible explanation for the fact that CIP deviations co-move with spot exchange rates. This suggests that CIP deviations are informative about the supply shocks that global bond investors must absorb, which are otherwise very difficult to observe.

To model deviations from CIP and their connection to spot FX rates, we first introduce 1-period FX forward contracts which allow investors to lock in the next period’s exchange rate. When CIP holds, the “cash” domestic short-term rate equals its “synthetic” counterpart, which is obtained by investing in short-term foreign bonds and hedging the associated FX risk using FX forwards. Since CIP violations imply the existence of riskless profits, CIP violations cannot be explained by the limited investor risk-bearing capacity we assume in our baseline model. We therefore make three changes to our baseline model. First, we split our global bond investors, so half are domiciled in the domestic country and half are domiciled in the foreign country. Second, we assume the only market participants who can engage in riskless CIP arbitrage trades—borrowing at the synthetic domestic short rate to lend at the cash domestic short rate—are a set of global banks who face non-risk-based balance sheet constraints. Third, we assume bond investors must use FX forwards if they want to hedge the currency risk stemming from any investments in non-local long-term bonds.³³

³²In Section C.2 of the Appendix, we show that similar results to Proposition 4 obtain if we instead add bond investors who cannot hedge FX risk—i.e., investors who cannot separately manage the FX exposure resulting from investments they make in non-local, long-term bonds.

³³This is equivalent to saying that bond investors cannot directly borrow (or obtain “cash” funding) in non-local currency. Of course, they can convert their local currency to non-local currency in the spot FX market to purchase

In this setting, we show that deviations from CIP co-move with spot exchange rates as recently documented in Avdjiev, Du, Koch, and Shin (2019) and Jiang, Krishnamurthy, and Lustig (2021a). The intuition is that bond supply shocks generate investor demand to hedge foreign currency risk, which in turn generates demand for FX forward transactions. When banks accommodate this demand, they engage in riskless CIP arbitrage trades. These trades consume scarce bank balance sheet capacity, so banks are only willing to accommodate FX forward demand if they earn positive profits doing so—i.e., only if there are deviations from CIP.

To illustrate, suppose there is an increase in the supply of long-term domestic bonds. As in our baseline model, this supply shock raises the domestic term premium and the FX risk premium, leading domestic currency to appreciate. To take advantage of the elevated domestic term premium, foreign bond investors want to buy long-term domestic bonds. They want do so on an FX-hedged basis to isolate the elevated domestic term premium component of the investment. This puts pressure on the market for FX forwards, generating deviations from CIP. Thus, deviations from CIP are driven by supply-and-demand shocks in the global bond market.

Once we allow for CIP deviations, domestic investors acquire an endogenous comparative advantage at absorbing domestic bond supply shocks relative to foreign investors. Intuitively, domestic investors can hold long-term domestic bonds without bearing currency risk or paying the costs of hedging currency risk with FX forwards, while foreign investors cannot. As a result, the failure of CIP leads bond supply shocks to have a larger impact on bond risk premia and FX risk premia than in our baseline model where CIP holds.

Forward foreign exchange rates Let F_t^Q denote the 1-period forward exchange rate at time t —i.e., the amount of domestic currency per unit of foreign currency that investors can lock in at t to exchange at $t + 1$. Once we introduce forwards, there are two ways to earn a riskless return in domestic currency between t and $t + 1$. First, investors can hold short-term domestic bonds, earning the gross “cash” rate of I_t . Second, investors can convert domestic currency into $1/Q_t$ units of foreign currency, invest that foreign currency in short-term foreign bonds at rate I_t^* , and enter into an forward contract to exchange foreign for domestic currency at $t + 1$, obtaining the gross “synthetic” domestic rate of $F_t^q I_t^*/Q_t$. Under CIP, the cash (I_t) and synthetic ($F_t^q I_t^*/Q_t$) domestic short rates must be equal, implying $F_t^q = Q_t I_t / I_t^*$ or $f_t^q = q_t - (i_t^* - i_t)$ in logs.

By contrast, if CIP fails, the “cross-currency basis”, x_t^{cip} , given by

$$x_t^{cip} = i_t - (i_t^* + f_t^q - q_t) \tag{32}$$

is nonzero. The cross-currency basis, x_t^{cip} , is the return on a riskless *CIP arbitrage trade* that borrows short-term in domestic currency on a synthetic basis at rate $(i_t^* + f_t^q - q_t)$ and lends short-term in domestic currency on a cash basis at rate i_t . Alternately, we have:

$$f_t^q = q_t - (i_t^* - i_t) - x_t^{cip}. \tag{33}$$

non-local assets. But if they wish to obtain leverage in non-local currency, they must use “synthetic” funding which is constructed by borrowing in local currency, converting the proceeds to non-local currency in the spot market, and then forward selling non-local currency in the forward market.

Thus, x_t^{cip} is positive when the forward FX rate is lower than it would be if CIP held.

Positions involving FX forwards We introduce three positions that involve FX forwards.

- *Forward FX investments*: The excess return in domestic currency on a position in foreign currency that is obtained through a forward purchase of foreign currency is:

$$q_{t+1} - f_t^q = [(q_{t+1} - q_t) + (i_t^* - i_t)] + x_t^{cip} = rx_{t+1}^q + x_t^{cip}, \quad (34)$$

which follows from Eq. (33) and $rx_{t+1}^q \equiv (q_{t+1} - q_t) + (i_t^* - i_t)$. A forward investment in foreign currency is equivalent to “stapling” together a standard FX trade, which earns rx_{t+1}^q , and a long position in the CIP arbitrage trade, which earns x_t^{cip} . Using FX forwards in this way is a synthetic way of obtaining funding or leverage for a standard FX trade. An investor in FX uses little of their own capital up-front when they use forwards, just as they use little of their own capital up-front when they use leverage.

In our baseline model where CIP held, it did not matter where our global bond investors were domiciled. However, once CIP fails, investor domiciles matters. For instance, movements in the cross-currency basis change the attractiveness of investing in long-term foreign bonds for domestic bond investors because they must either (i) not hedge the FX risk stemming from their foreign bond holdings or (ii) hedge this risk at cost of x_t^{cip} . Thus, we must distinguish between foreign and domestic investors when considering FX-hedged investments in long-term bonds.

- *FX-hedged investments in long-term foreign bonds by domestic investors*: To obtain this return from t to $t + 1$, a domestic investor exchanges domestic for foreign currency in the spot market at time t , invests that foreign currency in long-term foreign bonds from t to $t + 1$, and then exchanges foreign for domestic currency at $t + 1$ at the pre-determined forward rate F_t^Q . The log excess return on this position is approximately:

$$(r_{t+1}^{y*} + f_t^q - q_t) - i_t = rx_{t+1}^{y*} - x_t^{cip}, \quad (35)$$

which follows from Eq. (33) and $rx_{t+1}^{y*} \equiv r_{t+1}^{y*} - i_t^*$. Thus, an FX-hedged investment in long-term foreign bonds is akin to “stapling” together the foreign yield-curve trade, which earns rx_{t+1}^{y*} , and a short position in the CIP arbitrage trade, which earns $-x_t^{cip}$. Using forwards to hedge FX risk in this way is a way of converting domestic currency funding into foreign currency funding.³⁴

- *FX-hedged investments in long-term domestic bonds by foreign investors*: Symmetrically, the log excess return foreign investors earn buying domestic long-term bonds and hedging the FX risk is approximately:

$$(r_{t+1}^y + q_t - f_t^q) - i_t^* = rx_{t+1}^y + x_t^{cip}. \quad (36)$$

³⁴FX-hedged positions in foreign risky assets do not completely eliminate the exchange rate risk that investors must bear because the size of the hedge cannot be made contingent on the foreign asset’s subsequent return. Thus, the full FX-hedged return includes a second-order interaction between the local currency excess return on the foreign asset and the excess return on foreign currency. For simplicity, we omit this second-order term—which converges to a constant when investors continuously rebalance their hedges—from our analysis.

This expression is consistent with recent evidence on from Tabova and Warnock (2021) who show that foreign holdings of Treasuries tend to rise when the CIP basis (x_t^{cip}) is high.

Investor types We assume half of all bond investors are domiciled in the domestic country and half are domiciled in the foreign country. Both domestic and foreign investors have mean-variance preferences over one-period-ahead wealth and a risk tolerance of τ in domestic currency terms. Investors differ only in terms of the returns they can earn because of CIP violations.

Domestic bond investors are present in mass 1/2. They can obtain a riskless return of i_t from t to $t+1$. They can also (i) buy long-term domestic bonds, earning an excess return of rx_{t+1}^y ; (ii) take FX-hedged positions in long-term foreign bonds, generating an excess return of $rx_{t+1}^{y*} - x_t^{cip}$; and (iii) make forward investments in foreign currency, earning an excess return of $rx_{t+1}^q + x_t^{cip}$. In effect, domestic investors only have access to excess returns $[rx_{t+1}^y, rx_{t+1}^{y*} - x_t^{cip}, rx_{t+1}^q + x_t^{cip}]'$.³⁵ *Foreign bond investors* are present in mass 1/2 and are the mirror image of domestic investors, with access to excess returns $[rx_{t+1}^y + x_t^{cip}, rx_{t+1}^{y*}, rx_{t+1}^q + x_t^{cip}]'$.

While domestic and foreign bond investors may transact in FX forwards, they cannot engage in the riskless CIP arbitrage trade in isolation. Specifically, to the extent these investors transact in FX forwards, they “staple” the returns on a riskless CIP arbitrage trade together with those on other risky trades. This assumption is crucial for preventing bond investors, who are risk averse but are not subject to other constraints, from arbitraging away deviations from CIP. This is equivalent to assuming that bond investors cannot obtain leverage in non-local currency; they can only obtain synthetic non-local currency funding, which embeds a spread (x_t^{cip}) that reflects banks’ balance sheet costs.

We assume the only players who can engage in the riskless CIP arbitrage are a set of *balance-sheet constrained banks*. Specifically, these banks choose the value of their positions in the CIP arbitrage trade, $d_{B,t}^{cip}$, to solve $\max_{d_{B,t}^{cip}} \{x_t^{cip} d_{B,t}^{cip} - (\kappa/2) (d_{B,t}^{cip})^2\}$, where $\kappa \geq 0$. Here $(\kappa/2) (d_{B,t}^{cip})^2$ captures non-risk-based balance sheet costs faced by banks. These costs arise because equity capital is costly and banks are subject to non-risk-based equity capital requirements. Thus, banks take a position in the CIP arbitrage trade equal to $d_{B,t}^{cip} = \kappa^{-1} x_t^{cip}$.

These assumptions are purposely stark and serve to highlight the key mechanisms. In particular, our results would be qualitatively unchanged if some bond investors could engage in the CIP arbitrage trade in limited size. Similarly, we are assuming that banks have zero risk-bearing capacity, so that anytime they transact in the forward market, it is as part of a CIP arbitrage trade. However, we would obtain qualitatively similar results if we assumed that banks had finite risk-bearing capacity and thus could also take on risky FX positions.

Market equilibrium We need to clear four markets at time t : the markets for (i) long-term domestic bonds; (ii) long-term foreign bonds; (iii) forward FX exposure, which we assume is in net supply s_t^q ; and (iv) the CIP arbitrage trade.³⁶ Because forwards and the CIP arbitrage trade

³⁵Domestic investors can make unhedged investments in long-term foreign bonds. By combining FX-hedged investments in long-term foreign bonds with forward FX investments, they earn $rx_{t+1}^{y*} + rx_{t+1}^q$ which is independent of x_t^{cip} . However, if they want FX-hedged exposure to long-term foreign bonds, they must pay x_t^{cip} .

³⁶To clearly separate the amount of risky FX exposure and the amount of balance-sheet intensive riskless funding that bond investors and banks must intermediate, we assume here that s_t^q is the net supply of risky FX exposure

span the spot market, (iii) and (iv) are equivalent to clearing the forward and spot FX markets.

To clear the market for forward FX exposure at time t , investors must be willing to make a forward FX investment with a domestic notional value of s_t^q . Turning to the CIP arbitrage market, recall that the CIP arbitrage trade exchanges currency at the time t spot rate and then reverses that exchange at $t + 1$ at the forward FX rate f_t^Q . For simplicity, we assume that the CIP arbitrage trade is in zero net supply ($s_t^{cip} \equiv 0$), implying that banks must take the opposite side of bond investors' trades.

Proposition 5 *Allowing for CIP deviations.* *Consider the extended model where the banks are potentially balance-sheet constrained. We have the following results:*

- *In the limiting case where banks are not balance-sheet constrained—i.e., where $\kappa \rightarrow 0$, CIP holds ($x_t^{cip} \rightarrow 0$) and the extended model converges to the baseline model in Section 3.*
- *If banks are balance-sheet constrained ($\kappa > 0$), we have*

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^y] = \tau^{-1} [V_y \cdot s_t^y + C_{y,y^*} \cdot s_t^{y^*} + C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q] - x_t^{cip}/2, \quad (37a)$$

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] = \tau^{-1} [C_{y,y^*} \cdot s_t^y + V_y \cdot s_t^{y^*} - C_{y,q} \cdot s_t^q] + x_t^{cip}/2, \quad (37b)$$

$$E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] = \tau^{-1} [C_{y,q} \cdot (s_t^y - s_t^{y^*}) + V_q \cdot s_t^q] - x_t^{cip}, \quad (37c)$$

$$x_t^{cip} = \underbrace{-\kappa \frac{V_y + C_{y,y^*}}{2(V_y + C_{y,y^*}) + \tau\kappa}}_{<0} \cdot (s_t^y - s_t^{y^*}). \quad (37d)$$

- *Bond supply shocks s_t^y and $s_t^{y^*}$ push $E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]$ and x_t^{cip} in opposite directions; as a result, these shocks push q_t and x_t^{cip} in the same direction. Indeed, when there are no FX supply shocks, we have $E_t [rx_{t+1}^q] = -K_q \cdot (E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] - E_t [rx_{t+1}^y])$ and $x_t^{cip} = K_{cip} \cdot (E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y^*}] - E_t [rx_{t+1}^y])$, where K_q and K_{cip} are positive constants given in the Appendix.*
- *A rise in bank balance-sheet costs raises the impact of domestic bond supply shocks on domestic bond risk premia and FX risk premia ($\partial^2 E_t[rx_{t+1}^y]/\partial s_t^y \partial \kappa > 0$, $\partial^2 E_t[rx_{t+1}^q]/\partial s_t^y \partial \kappa > 0$), but reduces the impact these shocks on foreign bond risk premia ($\partial^2 E_t[rx_{t+1}^{y^*}]/\partial s_t^y \partial \kappa < 0$).*

In the limiting case where banks balance-sheet costs vanish ($\kappa \rightarrow 0$), CIP holds, and equilibrium bond yields and exchange rates behave exactly as they did in the baseline model in Section 3. This limit arguably approximates the pre-2008 era, when CIP held and banks did not face binding non-risk-based equity capital constraints.

Next, consider the case where bank balance sheet costs are positive ($\kappa > 0$). In this case, risk premia are given by Eq. (37) and the cross-currency basis x_t^{cip} is given by Eq. (37d). To understand the intuition for Eq. (37d), suppose there is an increase in the supply of long-term domestic bonds, s_t^y . As in our baseline model, this supply shock raises the domestic term premium and the FX risk premium, leading domestic currency to appreciate against foreign. Foreign bond

on a *forward* basis. Since bond investors can accommodate shocks to the supply of forward FX exposure without using scarce bank balance sheet capacity, s_t^q does not impact x_t^{cip} . By contrast, if s_t^q were instead the supply of risky FX exposure on a *spot* basis, then a rise in s_t^q would be associated with a decline in x_t^{cip} .

investors then want to buy long-term domestic bonds, but they want to hedge the associated FX risk to isolate the elevated domestic term premium. Hedging the FX risk involves forward selling domestic currency. Because banks are balance-sheet constrained, banks are only willing to accommodate investor demand for FX hedges if domestic currency is weaker than CIP would imply in the forward market, meaning that the forward exchange rate f_t^q rises and the basis x_t^{cip} declines. Equivalently, the domestic bond supply shock boosts foreign bond investors' demand for short-term synthetic funding in domestic currency. Since banks are balance-sheet constrained, this shift in funding demand pushes up the synthetic domestic short rate ($i_t^* + f_t^q - q_t$) relative to its cash counterpart (i_t), thereby driving down the basis.

Eqs. (37c) and (37d) show that bond supply shocks (s_t^y or s_t^{y*}) push x_t^{cip} and $E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$ in opposite directions. Thus, these supply shocks induce a positive time-series correlation between the basis x_t^{cip} and the spot exchange rate q_t , consistent with the recent findings of Avdjiev, Du, Koch, and Shin (2019) and Jiang, Krishnamurthy, and Lustig (2021a). Intuitively, in our model, demand to buy domestic currency in the spot market, which drives down q_t , is linked with hedging demand to sell domestic currency in the forward market, which drives down x_t^{cip} . Since risk premia are not directly observable but CIP deviations are, the CIP basis is an informative signal about the underlying supply-and-demand shocks that drive UIP failures. Relatedly, our model suggests that the CIP basis should be higher when foreign term premia are higher—i.e., we have $x_t^{cip} = K_{cip} \cdot (E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y*}] - E_t [rx_{t+1}^y])$ when there are no FX supply shocks. This prediction is loosely consistent with the evidence in Du, Tepper, and Verdelhan (2018) who find that CIP bases are increasing in the level of foreign interest rates, both in the cross-section of currencies and in the time-series for a given currency.

Seen through the lens of our model, the strong correlation between CIP bases and spot FX rates suggests that a important fraction of the variation in FX rates may be due to supply-and-demand shocks, as opposed to the macro fundamentals that drive FX rates in more conventional models. The CIP basis has a fundamental value of zero, so its movements can only reflect supply-and-demand imbalances. Thus, if the basis moves strongly with the level of the currency, this would seem to indicate that the latter is also heavily influenced by these same imbalances. In any event, this is the mechanism in our model.

Finally, our model suggests that allowing for CIP deviations ($\kappa > 0$) places foreign investors at an endogenous comparative disadvantage relative to domestic investors when it comes to absorbing domestic supply shocks (and vice versa). If they hold long-term domestic bonds, foreigners must either bear currency risk or pay the cost ($-x_t^{cip}$) of hedging the associated currency risk with FX forwards. Since these FX hedging costs rise with the level of domestic bond supply (s_t^y), foreigners play a smaller role than domestic investors in absorbing domestic bond supply shocks. As a result, a rise in bank balance sheet costs (κ) raises the impact of domestic bond supply shocks on domestic term premia ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^y]$) and FX premia ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^q]$) but reduces the impact of domestic bond supply shocks on foreign term premia ($E_t [rx_{t+1}^{y*}]$).³⁷

³⁷Our results here connect to those in He, Nagel, and Song (2021). Motivated by the sharp rise in long-term interest rates and the rise in Treasury yields relative to those on overnight-index swaps (OIS) during the COVID-19-induced “dash for cash” in March 2020, these authors add non-risk-based dealer balance sheet costs to an otherwise standard Vayanos and Vila (2021) term structure model. Shocks to the net supply of long-term bonds

4.3 Interest-rate insensitive assets

In a final extension, we introduce interest-rate insensitive assets that are not exposed to movements in interest rates. In our baseline model, shocks to the supply-and-demand for rate-insensitive assets have no effect on exchange rates because they do not change the amount of interest rate risk borne by global bond investors. However, in the presence of deviations from CIP, these shocks can impact exchange rates because they generate demands for different currencies, which global bond investors must accommodate. In other words, the CIP deviations that have emerged since 2008 significantly increase the set of capital market flows that can impact exchange rates. See Section C.3 of the Appendix.

5 Conclusion

We develop a workhorse model in which the limited risk-bearing capacity of global bond market investors plays a central role in determining foreign exchange rates. In our baseline model, specialized bond investors must accommodate supply-and-demand shocks in the markets for foreign and domestic long-term bonds as well as in the foreign exchange market.

This simple model captures many features of the data, including (i) correlations between realized excess returns on foreign currency and long-term bonds, (ii) the relationship between the foreign exchange risk premium and bond term premia, (iii) the effects of quantitative easing policies on exchange rates, and (iv) the fact that currency trades are more profitable when implemented using short-term bonds than using long-term bonds.

We then enrich the structure of intermediation in our model in two ways. First, we further segment the bond market, introducing investors who cannot flexibly trade bonds of any maturity in both currencies. This segmentation leads to endogenous trading flows in currency markets that are associated with movements in the exchange rate. Second, we add balance-sheet constrained banks, which allow us to study CIP deviations. Overall, our paper shows that the structure of financial intermediation in bond and currency markets helps explain a number of empirical regularities in these markets.

From a policy perspective, our model shows that the ability to influence exchange rates—and hence presumably trade flows—remains a potentially important channel for monetary policy transmission even when central banks are pinned against the zero lower bound (ZLB) and must rely on quantitative easing to provide monetary accommodation. Indeed, our analysis leaves open the interesting possibility that when other conventional channels of transmission are compromised by low rates (Brunnermeier and Koby [2019]), this QE-exchange-rate channel may become a *relatively more important* part of the overall monetary transmission mechanism. If so, and given the zero-sum nature of this channel across countries, arguments for monetary-policy coordination (Rajan [2016]) may gather more force near the ZLB. To be clear, neither our model nor any of the evidence that we have presented gives decisive guidance on this point. But the model does provide a framework in which questions of this sort can be pursued more rigorously.

push term premia and the spread between Treasury and OIS yields—a failure of the Law of One Price that reflects dealer balance-sheet costs—in the same direction. And, the presence of these balance sheet costs steepens the aggregate demand curve for interest rate risk, amplifying the impact of bond supply shocks on term premia.

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Figure 1. Movements in foreign exchange versus differential movements in forward rates on QE announcement dates. The figure shows the movement in foreign exchange rates versus movements in the difference between foreign and domestic long-term forward rates around Quantitative Easing (QE) announcement dates by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the Bank of Japan from 2008 to 2019. For an announcement on date t , we show the change in the foreign exchange rate and the movement in foreign minus domestic long-term rates from day $t - 2$ to day $t + 2$. The long-term forward rate is the 3-year yield, 7-years forward. For the U.S. announcements, we plot the average appreciation of the dollar relative to euro, pound, and yen versus the movement in U.S. long-term forward rates minus the average movement in forward rates for the euro, pound, and yen. For the other three currencies, we plot their appreciation relative to the dollar versus the movement in the local currency forward rate minus the dollar forward rate. To form our list of QE announcement dates, we begin with Fawley and Newley’s (2013) list of unconventional policy announcements by these four central banks. We update this list through 2019 and then focus on the subset of the announcement that contain news about central bank purchases of long-term bonds (either sovereign or private-sector).

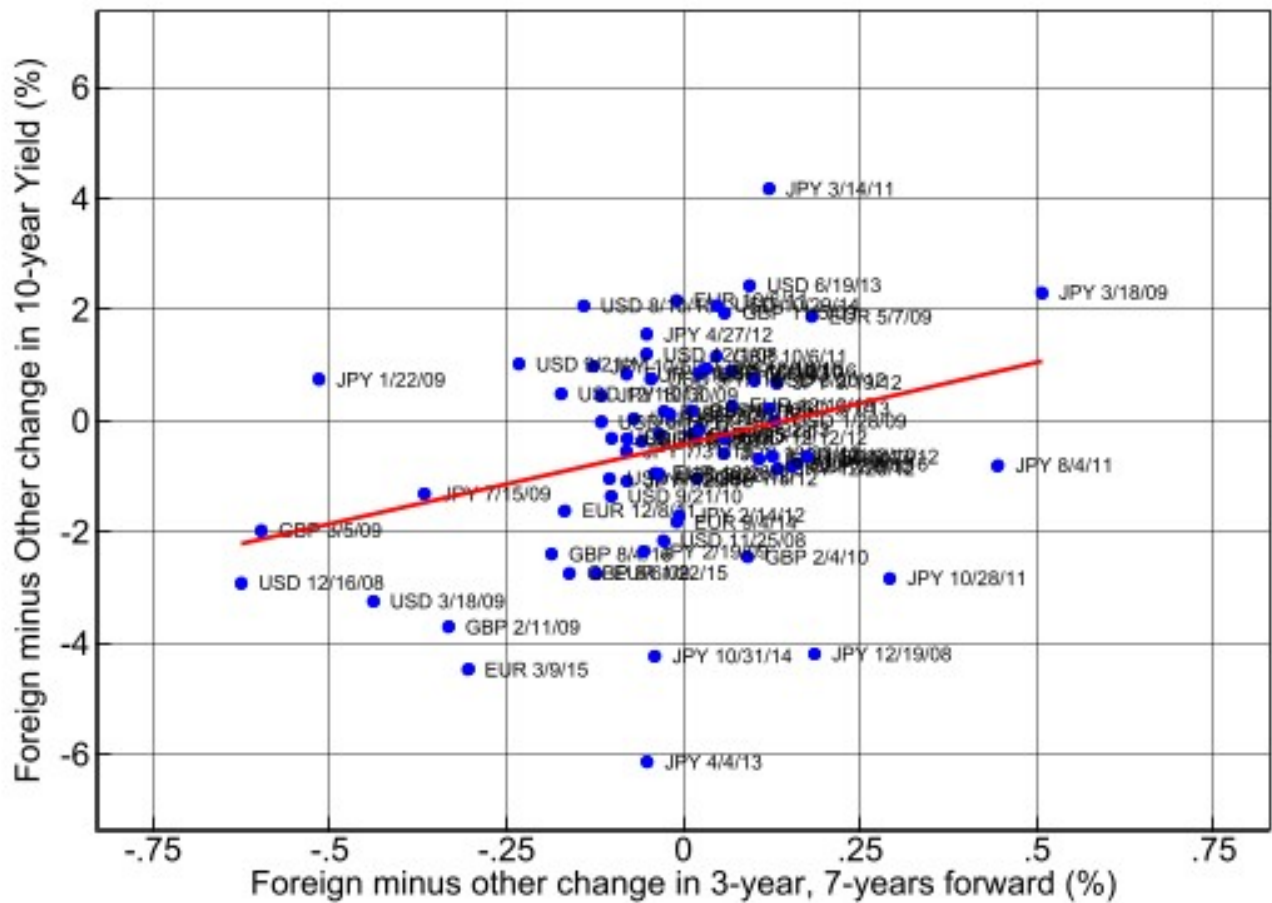
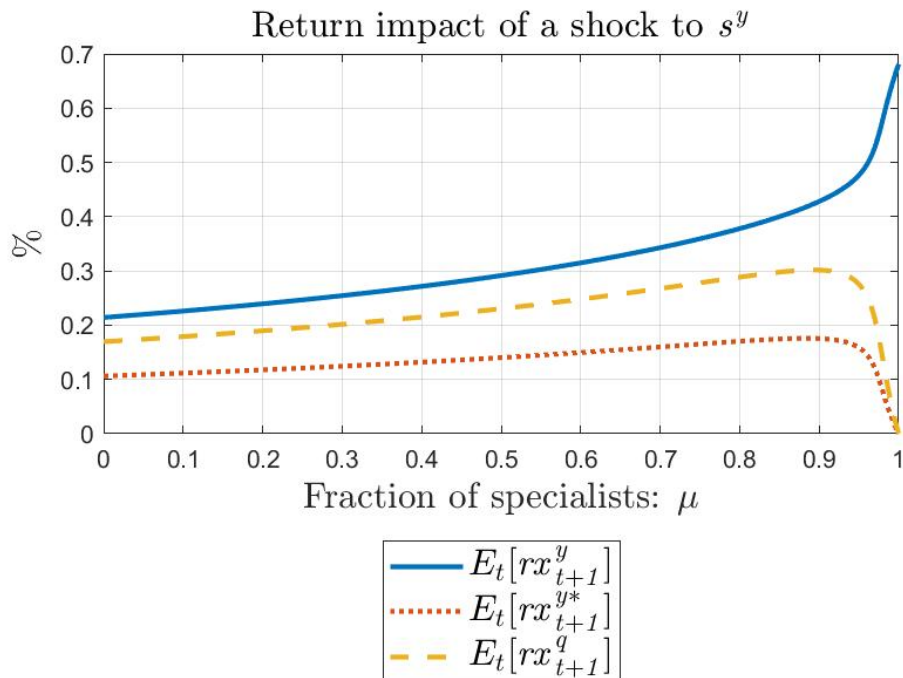


Figure 2. Further segmenting the global bond markets. This figure illustrates the model with further segmentation from Section 4.1. The figure shows the impact of a shock to domestic bond supply on expected returns and investor holdings as a function of the fraction of specialists, μ . The figure assumes $\pi = 1/3$, so specialists are evenly split between domestic bonds, foreign bonds, and foreign exchange. We chose the other parameters so each period represents one month. We assume: $\sigma_i = 0.25\%$, $\phi_i = 0.985$, $\rho = 0.5$, $\sigma_{s^y} = 1$, $\phi_{s^y} = 0.95$, $\sigma_{s^q} = 1$, $\phi_{s^q} = 0.95$, $\sigma_{q^\infty} = 0.5\%$, $\delta = 119/120$ (i.e., the long-term bond has a duration of 120 months or 10 years), and $\tau = 1.80$. These parameter choices are illustrative. See Section C.1 of the Appendix for additional details.

Panel A: Impact of a large shock (4 times σ_{s^y}) to domestic bond supply (s^y) on expected returns



Panel B: Impact of a unit shock to domestic bond supply (s^y) on investor holdings

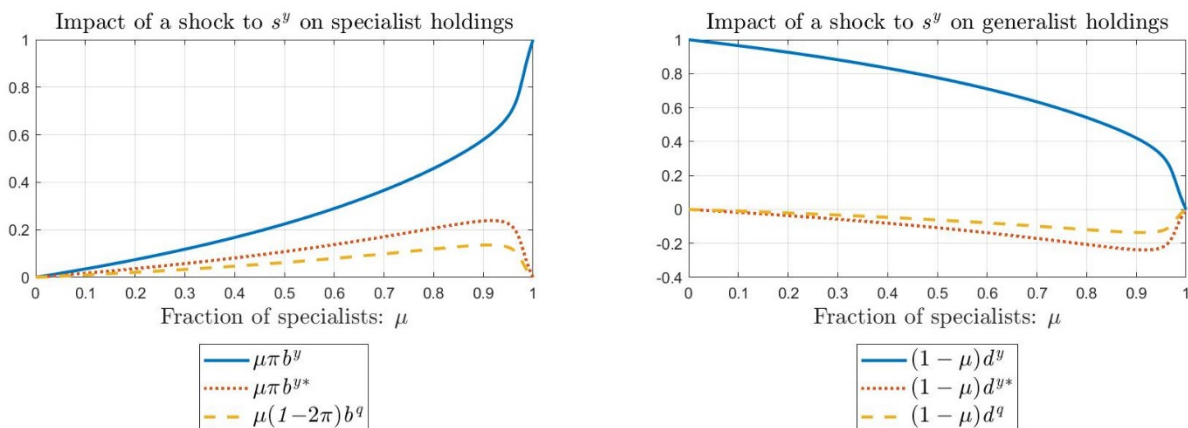


Table 1. Contemporaneous relationship between movements in foreign exchange, short-term interest rates, and long-term interest rates. This table presents monthly panel regressions of the form:

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B \times \Delta_H (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \times \Delta_H (y_{c,t}^* - y_t) + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t},$$

and

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B_1 \times \Delta_H i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \times \Delta_H i_t + D_1 \times \Delta_H y_{c,t}^* + D_2 \times \Delta_H y_t + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t}.$$

We regress H -month changes in the foreign exchange rate on H -month changes in short-term interest rates and in long-term yields in both the foreign currency and in U.S. dollars. All regressions include currency fixed effects. The sample runs from 2001m1 to 2021m12 and includes six currency pairs: AUD-USD, CAD-USD, CHF-USD, EUR-USD, GBP-USD, and JPY-USD (a higher value of $q_{c,t}$ means that currency c is stronger against the USD). Our proxy for the short-term interest rate is the 1-year government yield. Our proxy for the long-term interest rate is the 10-year government bond yield. We report Driscoll-Kraay (1998) standard errors allowing for serial correlation up to a lag parameter that is chosen using a data-dependent approach based on Lazarus, Lewis, Stock, and Watson (2018). *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01 levels, respectively. Statistical significance is assessed using the fixed- b asymptotic theory of Kiefer and Vogelsang (2005).

	$H = 3$ -month changes				$H = 12$ -month changes			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$\Delta_H (i_{c,t}^* - i_t)$	4.27 (1.37)***	3.22 (1.47)**			2.77 (1.44)*	1.26 (1.64)		
$\Delta_H (y_{c,t}^* - y_t)$		3.13 (1.26)**				5.13 (1.88)**		
$\Delta_H i_{c,t}^*$			6.69 (1.23)***	5.16 (1.11)***			6.00 (1.15)***	3.10 (1.40)*
$\Delta_H i_t$			-3.10 (0.84)***	-1.67 (0.84)*			-2.14 (0.93)**	-0.21 (1.08)
$\Delta_H y_{c,t}^*$				4.94 (1.39)***				9.07 (1.63)***
$\Delta_H y_t$				-3.98 (1.06)***				-5.77 (1.61)***
DK lags	18	18	18	18	29	29	29	29
N	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512
R^2 (within)	0.12	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.10	0.14	0.20	0.27

Table 2. Contemporaneous relationship between movements in foreign exchange, short-term interest rates, and long-term forward rates. This table presents monthly panel regressions of the form:

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B \times \Delta_H (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \times \Delta_H (f_{c,t}^* - f_t) + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t},$$

and

$$\Delta_H q_{c,t} = A_c + B_1 \times \Delta_H i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \times \Delta_H i_t + D_1 \times \Delta_H f_{c,t}^* + D_2 \times \Delta_H f_t + \Delta_H \varepsilon_{c,t}.$$

We regress H -month changes in the foreign exchange rate on H -month changes in short-term interest rates and in distant forward rates in both the foreign currency and in U.S. dollars. All regressions include currency fixed effects. The sample runs from 2001m1 to 2021m12 and includes six currency pairs: AUD-USD, CAD-USD, CHF-USD, EUR-USD, GBP-USD, and JPY-USD. Our proxy for the short-term interest rate is the 1-year government bond yield. Our proxy for the distant forward rate is the 3-year, 7-year forward government bond yield. We report Driscoll-Kraay (1998) standard errors allowing for serial correlation up to a lag parameter that is chosen using a data-dependent approach based on Lazarus, Lewis, Stock, and Watson (2018). *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01 levels, respectively. Statistical significance is assessed using the fixed- b asymptotic theory of Kiefer and Vogelsang (2005).

	$H = 3$ -month changes				$H = 12$ -month changes			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$\Delta_H (i_{c,t}^* - i_t)$	4.27 (1.37)***	4.15 (1.38)***			2.77 (1.44)*	2.70 (1.42)*		
$\Delta_H (f_{c,t}^* - f_t)$		1.72 (1.21)				2.50 (1.13)*		
$\Delta_H i_{c,t}^*$			6.69 (1.23)***	6.53 (1.21)***			6.00 (1.15)***	5.54 (1.12)***
$\Delta_H i_t$			-3.10 (0.84)***	-2.92 (0.87)***			-2.14 (0.93)**	-1.72 (0.87)*
$\Delta_H f_{c,t}^*$				2.41 (0.99)**				5.38 (0.84)***
$\Delta_H f_t$				-1.95 (1.01)*				-2.79 (0.83)***
DK lags	18	18	18	18	29	29	29	29
N	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512	1,512
R^2 (within)	0.12	0.13	0.18	0.20	0.10	0.11	0.20	0.25

Table 3. Forecasting foreign minus domestic bond excess returns using short-term interest rates and long-term forward rates. This table presents monthly panel forecasting regressions of the form:

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*} - rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^y = A_c + B \times (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \times (f_{c,t}^* - f_t) + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H},$$

and

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*} - rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^y = A_c + B_1 \times i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \times i_t + D_1 \times f_{c,t}^* + D_2 \times f_t + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}.$$

We forecast the difference between foreign and domestic H -month bond returns using short-term interest rates and distant forward rates in both the foreign currency and in U.S. dollars. All regressions include currency fixed effects. The sample runs from 2001m1 to 2021m12 and includes six currency pairs: AUD-USD, CAD-USD, CHF-USD, EUR-USD, GBP-USD, and JPY-USD. Our proxy for the short-term interest rate is the 1-year government bond yield. Our proxy for the distant forward rate is the 3-year, 7-year forward government bond yield. $rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^{y*} - rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^y$ is the difference between the H -month log excess returns on 10-year foreign bonds and those on 10-year domestic bonds—i.e., the difference between the returns on two yield-curve carry trades that borrow short- and lend long-term. We report Driscoll-Kraay (1998) standard errors allowing for serial correlation up to a lag parameter that is chosen using a data-dependent approach based on Lazarus, Lewis, Stock, and Watson (2018). *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01 levels, respectively. Statistical significance is assessed using the fixed- b asymptotic theory of Kiefer and Vogelsang (2005).

	$H = 3\text{-month excess returns}$				$H = 12\text{-month excess returns}$			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$i_{c,t}^* - i_t$	-0.05 (0.14)	-0.21 (0.13)			0.11 (0.45)	-0.27 (0.39)		
$f_{c,t}^* - f_t$		1.74 (0.22)***				4.31 (0.33)***		
$i_{c,t}^*$			-0.17 (0.16)	-0.23 (0.16)			-0.37 (0.49)	-0.51 (0.42)
i_t			-0.08 (0.17)	0.08 (0.14)			-0.60 (0.53)	-0.21 (0.37)
$f_{c,t}^*$				1.62 (0.21)***				3.94 (0.55)***
f_t				-1.71 (0.25)***				-4.12 (0.38)***
DK lags	17	17	17	17	28	28	28	28
N	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
R^2 (within)	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.00	0.22	0.08	0.28

Table 4. Forecasting foreign exchange excess returns using short-term interest rates and long-term forward rates. This table presents monthly panel forecasting regressions of the form:

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q = A_c + B \times (i_{c,t}^* - i_t) + D \times (f_{c,t}^* - f_t) + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H},$$

and

$$rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q = A_c + B_1 \times i_{c,t}^* + B_2 \times i_t + D_1 \times f_{c,t}^* + D_2 \times f_t + \varepsilon_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}.$$

We forecast H -month foreign exchange excess returns using short-term interest rates and distant forward rates in both the foreign currency and in U.S. dollar. All regressions include currency fixed effects. The sample runs from 2001m1 to 2021m12 and includes six currency pairs: AUD-USD, CAD-USD, CHF-USD, EUR-USD, GBP-USD, and JPY-USD. For simplicity, the short-term interest rates on the right-hand side in these regressions are 1-year government bond yields. Our proxy for the distant forward rate is the 3-year, 7-year forward government bond yield. $rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q$ is the H -month log excess return on the FX carry trade strategy that borrows short-term in U.S. dollars and lends short-term in currency c and is defined as $rx_{c,t \rightarrow t+H}^q \equiv (q_{c,t+H} - q_{c,t}) + (H/12)(i_t^{*(H/12)} - i_t^{(H/12)})$ where $i_t^{*(H/12)}$ and $i_t^{(H/12)}$ denote the $(H/12)$ -year short-term interest rates in foreign currency c and U.S. dollars, respectively. We report Driscoll-Kraay (1998) standard errors allowing for serial correlation up to a lag parameter that is chosen using a data-dependent approach based on Lazarus, Lewis, Stock, and Watson (2018). *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01 levels, respectively. Statistical significance is assessed using the fixed- b asymptotic theory of Kiefer and Vogelsang (2005).

	$H = 3$ -month excess returns				$H = 12$ -month excess returns			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$i_{c,t}^* - i_t$	0.21 (0.36)	0.29 (0.37)			0.65 (1.31)	0.96 (1.34)		
$f_{c,t}^* - f_t$		-0.83 (0.39)*				-3.59 (1.03)***		
$i_{c,t}^*$			0.31 (0.43)	-0.13 (0.60)			1.23 (1.44)	0.11 (1.76)
i_t			-0.10 (0.33)	-0.06 (0.36)			-0.05 (1.16)	-0.02 (1.22)
$f_{c,t}^*$				-0.27 (0.37)				-1.86 (0.84)*
f_t				0.88 (0.42)*				3.51 (1.09)***
DK lags	17	17	17	17	28	28	28	28
N	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
R^2 (within)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.09

Table 5. Daily movements in foreign exchange, short-term interest rates, and long-term forward rates on QE announcement dates. This table presents daily panel regressions of the form:

$$\Delta_4 q_{c,t+2} = A + B \times \Delta_4 (i_{c,t+2}^* - i_{t+2}) + D \times \Delta_4 (f_{c,t+2}^* - f_{t+2}) + \Delta_4 \varepsilon_{c,t+2},$$

and

$$\Delta_4 q_{c,t+2} = A + B_1 \times \Delta_4 i_{c,t+2}^* + B_2 \times \Delta_4 i_{t+2} + D_1 \times \Delta_4 f_{c,t+2}^* + D_2 \times \Delta_4 f_{t+2} + \Delta_4 \varepsilon_{c,t+2}.$$

on days with major QE news announcements by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the Bank of Japan from 2008 to 2019. We regress 4-day changes in the foreign exchange rate on 4-day changes in short-term interest rates and in distant forward rates in both the foreign currency and in U.S. dollars. For an announcement on date t , we look at changes from date $t - 2$ to $t + 2$. We show results for EUR-USD, GBP-USD, and JPY-USD where a higher value of $q_{c,t}$ means that currency c is stronger versus to the dollar. Our proxy for the short-term interest rate in each currency is the 1-year government bond yield. Our proxy for the distant forward rate is the 3-year, 7-year forward government bond yield. To form our list of QE announcement dates, we begin with Fawley and Newley's (2013) list of unconventional policy announcements by these four central banks. We update this list through 2019 and then focus on the subset of the announcement that contain news about central bank purchases of long-term bonds (either sovereign or private-sector). Standard errors are clustered by announcement date in these specifications. *, **, and *** indicate statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\Delta_4 (i_{c,t+2}^* - i_{t+2})$	8.26 (3.33)**	9.67 (2.12)***		
$\Delta_4 (f_{c,t+2}^* - f_{t+2})$		4.04 (1.26)***		
$\Delta_4 i_{c,t+2}^*$			7.53 (3.26)**	8.82 (2.25)***
$\Delta_4 i_{t+2}$			-17.01 (6.89)**	-13.45 (5.67)**
$\Delta_4 f_{c,t+2}^*$				4.33 (1.41)***
$\Delta_4 f_{t+2}$				-3.59 (1.41)**
N	128	128	128	128
R-squared	0.10	0.26	0.14	0.27