Paper Title: Geopolitical risk, policy uncertainty and the role of anchor currency in the last decade

Abstract:

This paper examines the factors driving the co-movement between the three international currencies (USD, EUR, CNY) and other currencies, with a particular focus on the impact of the geopolitical risk and economic policy uncertainty on international currency co-movements. Using panel data covering 48 countries from 2015 to 2024, the study finds that, among the emerging economies, geopolitical risk and economic policy uncertainty strengthens the anchoring on USD weights. Emerging economies having strong trade linkage with China de-anchor with the RMB during stronger threats from the geopolitical risks. US monetary policy uncertainty increase the cost of developing countries to sacrifice the monetary policy independence during the USD pegging.

In the first section, Frankel and Wei(1994)'s workhorse model modified by Kawai and Potines (2016)'s methodology is estimated using rolling window regression for 48 surveyed economy. Figure 10 shows the estimated daily international currency co-movement with currencies in different geographical regions.

In the second section, using geopolitical threats(GPT) index by Caldara et al. (2022), economic policy uncertainty(EPU) index by Baker et al. (2016), this study firstly investigates how these factors influence the anchor currency weights. Using estimated currency weights as dependent variable, and macroeconomic variables like GPT index, VIX index and EPU index as independent variable, I estimate their impacts when controlling for both time and country fixed effects. Table 2 indicates that the associated outcomes for emerging economies. USD and RMB is favored by emerging economies during high level of economic policy uncertainty. Table 3 shows how the emerging economies with high trade linkage on each anchor country respond to the changes in GPT and EPU. With high level of geopolitical risk and policy uncertainty, the emerging economies having close trade linkage with Euro area choose to de-anchor with the EUR. This is reflected in the negative and significant coefficients on (GPT*TRADE) and (EPU*TRADE). Table 8 shows how the US monetary policy uncertainty indexed by Baker et al. (2016) influences the costs to sacrifice the monetary policy independence during the currency pegging. As the estimated coefficient on (EPU*inflation) is significantly negative under EMs columns, the US monetary policy uncertainty leads to extra cost for Emerging economies to anchor USD because of the inflation asymmetry.

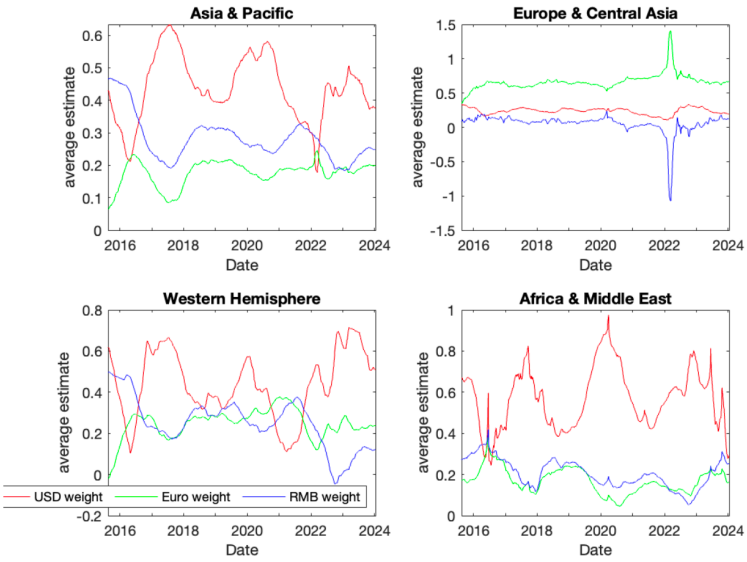


Figure 10: Aggregate weights across income and trading groups from a model that uses USD as numeraire.

Table 2: Emerging economies: geopolitical risk, stock market volatility, policy uncertainty and anchor currency weights

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Dep. Variable	USD weight	USD weight	USD weight	RMB weight	RMB weight	RMB weight	EUR weight	EUR weight	EUR weight
GPT	0.108***		-0.113**	-0.035***		-0.053	0.051***		0.094
s.e.	0.01		0.046	0.013		0.059	0.018		0.08
VIX			0.027			-0.046			-0.014
s.e.			0.057			0.073			0.099
EPU		0.195***	0.267***		0.023**	0.086*		-0.023	-0.079
s.e.		0.01	0.053		0.013	0.068		0.018	0.092
N	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Adj R squared	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.506	0.506	0.506

Note: explanatory variables include the geopolitical threats(GPT) index by Caldara & Iacoviello (2022), VIX index, and economic policy uncertainty(EPU) by Baker et al. (2016). Time and country fixed effects are all controlled. Significance level: *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, * p<0.1.

Table 3: Response of emerging economies with high trade dependence on the anchor country

Dep. Variable	USD weight	USD weight	USD weight	RMB weight	RMB weight	RMB weight	EUR weight	EUR weight	EUR weight
GPT	-0.109***		-0.223***	0.022*		-0.023	0.863***		0.105
s.e.	0.011		0.048	0.013		0.067	0.045		0.071
EPU		-0.036	0.093*		0.089***	0.087		0.076***	-0.006
s.e.		0.045	0.05		0.013	0.06		0.017	0.064
GPT*TRADE	0.324***		0.275**	-0.852***		-0.795***	-1.197***		-0.339**
s.e.	0.086		0.119	0.063		0.275	0.084		0.154
EPU*TRADE		0.238***	0.065		-0.714***	-0.05		-1.182***	-0.922***
s.e.		0.078	0.108		0.055	0.236		0.075	0.14
N	1499	1499	1499	1499	1499	1499	1499	1499	1499
Adj R-squared	0.722	0.723	0.723	0.457	0.46	0.46	0.581	0.569	0.582

Note: TRADE term indicates the trade dependence as shown in equation 7. Time and country fixed effects are all controlled. Significance level: *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, * p<0.1.

Table 8: Response of USD anchor to U.S. monetary policy uncertainty

Dep. Variable	EMs	EMs	EMs	AEs	AEs	AEs	All	All	All
MPU	0.148***	0.11***	0.051**	0.095***		-0.018	0.148***	0.107***	0.114***
s.e.	0.01	0.014	0.02	0.006	0.008	0.01	0.005	0.009	0.01
MPU*i rate		-0.098**			0.054			-0.058**	
s.e.		0.05			0.101			0.028	
MPU*inflation			-0.219***			0.515***			-0.049**
s.e.			0.052			0.107			0.027
MPU*output			0.082***			-0.003			-0.007
s.e.			0.01			0.011			0.006
N	1500	1322	940	1200	991	771	4700	3636	2411
Adj R-squared	0.72	0.672	0.769	0.859	0.813	0.802	0.823	0.833	0.822

Note: MPU is the US monetary policy uncertainty index by Baker et al. (2016). i rate is absolute value of deviation of country's interest rate relative to the US rate. Inflation and output are the absolute difference of value between a country and US. Time and country fixed effects are all controlled. Significance level: *** p <0.01, ** p <0.05, * p<0.1.

References

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