

# The Liquidity State-Dependence of Monetary Policy

Oliver Ashtari-Tafti (LSE)   Rodrigo Guimaraes (BoE)   Gabor Pinter (BIS)  
Jean-Charles Wijnandts (BoE)

**New Evidence on the Monetary Transmission Mechanism**

May 2024

# Motivation

*“The effectiveness of changes in central-bank targets for overnight rates in affecting spending decisions is wholly dependent upon the impact of such actions upon other financial-market prices such as longer-term interest rates, equity prices, and exchange rates. These are plausibly linked, through arbitrage relations to the short-term interest rates most directly affected by central-bank actions.”*

–Woodford (2003), *Interest & Prices*

- Growing consensus that frictions to arbitrage matter for asset prices and the macroeconomy  
Gromb & Vayanos (2002), He & Krishnamurthy (2013), Brunnermeier & Sannikov (2014)
- Frictions even in the most liquid market in the world: US Treasuries  
Duffie (2023) Jackson Hole
- Conventional monetary policy transmission relies on arbitrage, but even in liquid bond markets arbitrage is imperfect

# This Paper

- **Research question:** how does bond market liquidity affect the transmission of conventional monetary policy shocks (MPS) to long-term rates?
- **Prior work:** puzzling (high) degree of Monetary Non-Neutrality  
Hanson & Stein (2015), Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)
- **Our work:** MPS transmission to long-term rates stronger & only happens when markets are more liquid → "Liquidity State-Dependence" (LSD)

# This Paper

- **Research question:** how does bond market liquidity affect the transmission of conventional monetary policy shocks (MPS) to long-term rates?
- **Prior work:** puzzling (high) degree of Monetary Non-Neutrality  
Hanson & Stein (2015), Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)
- **Our work:** MPS transmission to long-term rates stronger & only happens when markets are more liquid → "Liquidity State-Dependence" (LSD)
- Limits to arbitrage can explain the Liquidity State-Dependence  
⇒ Nakamura & Steinsson (2018) meets Vayanos & Vila (2021)
- **Our contribution:** show arbitrageurs' wealth is the key state variable in explaining the Liquidity State-Dependence (not about macro)

# The Liquidity State-Dependence (LSD)

1. Long-term nominal interest rates react more strongly to MPS when liquidity is high – Liquidity State-Dependence

# The Liquidity State-Dependence (LSD)

1. Long-term nominal interest rates react more strongly to MPS when liquidity is high – Liquidity State-Dependence
2. Driven entirely by movements in real rates, with no effect on inflation component
  - Deepens and sharpens the puzzle of Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)

# The Liquidity State-Dependence (LSD)

1. Long-term nominal interest rates react more strongly to MPS when liquidity is high – Liquidity State-Dependence
2. Driven entirely by movements in real rates, with no effect on inflation component
  - Deepens and sharpens the puzzle of Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)
3. With the real term premium accounting for the state-dependence
  - In line with Hanson & Stein (2015), explains why Nakamura & Steinsson (2018) found no effect on pooled sample

# The Liquidity State-Dependence (LSD)

1. Long-term nominal interest rates react more strongly to MPS when liquidity is high – Liquidity State-Dependence
  2. Driven entirely by movements in real rates, with no effect on inflation component
    - Deepens and sharpens the puzzle of Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)
  3. With the real term premium accounting for the state-dependence
    - In line with Hanson & Stein (2015), explains why Nakamura & Steinsson (2018) found no effect on pooled sample
  4. These state-dependent effects are persistent, lasting over a quarter
  5. Persistent state-dependent response also for mortgage rates
    - It matters for the macroeconomy
- Robust to excluding recessions, QE dates, easing cycles and purging from the Fed Information Effect; also true in the UK



# Understanding LSD: Theory

- We rationalize findings with limits-to-arbitrage and segmentation in bond markets as in Vayanos & Vila (2021)
  - Two agents: arbitrageurs trading all maturities and preferred-habitat investors (PH) with exogenous demand for individual maturities
  - Central bank in the background changes short-term interest rate **MP shock**
- **Arbitrageurs play two roles:**
  1. absorb demand shocks (including QE)
  2. **only agents trading across the yield curve**

⇒ While enforcing no arbitrage, **arbs' trades transmit MPS** to LT yields

# Understanding LSD: Theory

- We rationalize findings with limits-to-arbitrage and segmentation in bond markets as in Vayanos & Vila (2021)
  - Two agents: arbitrageurs trading all maturities and preferred-habitat investors (PH) with exogenous demand for individual maturities
  - Central bank in the background changes short-term interest rate **MP shock**
- **Arbitrageurs play two roles:**
  1. absorb demand shocks (including QE)
  2. **only agents trading across the yield curve**

⇒ While enforcing no arbitrage, **arbs' trades transmit MPS** to LT yields
- Arbitrageurs wealth key to understand LSD of different MP tools
  - QE: largest during crisis and fully localized effects when no arbitrageurs
  - IR: no transmission when arbitrageurs are absent

⇒ opposite State-Dependent Effectiveness

# Understanding LSD: Empirics

- **Hypothesis:** variation in arbitrageurs' wealth explains LSD
- Test the hypothesis using two **independent** data sources:

## 1. Aggregate data

- Proxies for arbitrage capital (dealers' leverage, specific hedge fund strategies returns) most successful in explaining variation in liquidity
- Capturing something beyond aggregate volatility, uncertainty or business cycle
- Proxies for arbitrage capital can be **directly used the 'state'** in the SD

## 2. Confidential transaction-level dataset

- Trades by UK-regulated entities in US Treasuries around FOMC meetings
- We **identify arbitrageurs** from trading behavior in a way consistent with theory
- More trading done by arbitrageurs in days where liquidity is high, particularly so for longer maturities

# Roadmap

1. Literature, Data & Methodology
2. Main Results: Liquidity State-Dependence
3. The Role of Arbitrageurs in the Liquidity State-Dependence
  - 3.1 Evidence from Aggregate Data
  - 3.2 Evidence from Transaction-Level Data
4. Alternative Explanations
5. Conclusions

# Literature

## High-frequency Identification of Monetary Policy

Kuttner (2001), Cochrane & Piazzesi (2002), Bernanke & Kuttner (2005), Nakamura & Steinsson (2018), Jarocinski & Karadi (2020), Swanson (2021), Karnaukh & Vokata (2022), Bauer & Swanson (2023)

## Monetary Policy and Risk Premia

Hanson & Stein (2015), Pflueger & Rinaldi (2020), Kekre & Lenel (2020), Hanson, Lucca & Wright (2021), Ai et al (2022), Bauer, Bernanke & Milstein (2023), Kashyap & Stein (2023), Nagel & Xu (2024)

## The State-Dependence of Monetary Policy

Tenreyro & Thwaites (2016), Eichenbaum, Rebelo & Wong (2021)

## Limits-to-Arbitrage in Bond Markets

Vayanos & Vila (2009, 2021), Ray (2019), King (2019), Ray, Droste & Gorodnichenko (2023), Kekre, Lenel & Mainardi (2024)

# Data

## Zero-coupon Yield Curves

- Nominal, TIPS and real (forward) curves from Gurkaynack, Sack and Swanson (2006)

## High-frequency Monetary Policy Shocks

- Baseline with Nakamura & Steinsson (2018), updated by Acosta (2022)
- Robustness: Jarocinski & Karadi (2015), Bauer & Swanson (2023) and others

## Bond-Market Liquidity Proxy

- Yield-curve 'noise' from [Hu, Pan and Wang \(2013\)](#)

## Risk (Term) Premium Estimates

- Baseline with Abrahams et al (2015)
- Robustness with Kim & Wright (2005), D'Amico, Kim & Wei (2015)

## Other Controls

- unemployment rate, PMI, business-conditions index from Aruoba et al (2009)  
VIX, MOVE, uncertainty measures Bauer & Chernov (2023) and Baekert et al (2020)

# Aggregate Liquidity Proxy

- Our proxy for liquidity: **yield-curve 'noise'**
  - Measures cross-sectional dispersion ( $\approx$  noise) of bond prices relative to a smooth yield curve
- Hu, Pan and Wang (2013) show that this measure is:
  - informative about **overall market** liquidity  $\rightarrow$  more general than other bond market-specific measures
  - generally close to zero  $\rightarrow$  smooth curve
  - closely correlated with arbitrageurs' capital (hedge fund returns, carry trade strategies), spiking during market stress (like LTCM and Lehman)
  - not driven by any individual maturity

$\uparrow$  Liquidity  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\downarrow$  Yield-Curve Noise

# Empirical Specification

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_j^{(\tau)} \cdot mps_t + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)} \quad (\text{N\&S 2018})$$

- $\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$  : daily change in maturity- $\tau$  forward rate
  - $t$ : date of scheduled FOMC meeting
  - $j = \{Nominal(n), Real(r), Inflation(i)\}$
  - $\tau = \{2, 3, 4, \dots, 20\}$
- $mps_t$ : high-frequency monetary policy shock



# Empirical Specification

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_j^{(\tau)} \cdot mps_t + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)} \quad (\text{N\&S 2018})$$

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

- $\mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}$ : dummy equal to 1 if noise < median noise before FOMC
- $\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$ : daily change in maturity- $\tau$  forward rate
  - $t$ : date of scheduled FOMC meeting
  - $j = \{\text{Nominal}(n), \text{Real}(r), \text{Inflation}(i)\}$
  - $\tau = \{2, 3, 4, \dots, 20\}$
- $mps_t$ : high-frequency monetary policy shock
  - Rescaled so that  $\beta_{n,hl}^{(1Y)} = \beta_{n,ll}^{(1Y)} = 1\%$  (conservative, to control for diff scale)

# Empirical Specification

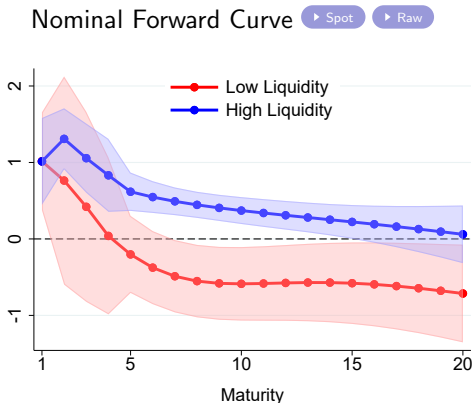
$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_j^{(\tau)} \cdot mps_t + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)} \quad (\text{N\&S 2018})$$

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

- $\mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}$ : dummy equal to 1 if noise < median noise before FOMC
- $\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$ : daily change in maturity- $\tau$  forward rate
  - $t$ : date of scheduled FOMC meeting
  - $j = \{\text{Nominal}(n), \text{Real}(r), \text{Inflation}(i)\}$
  - $\tau = \{2, 3, 4, \dots, 20\}$
- $mps_t$ : high-frequency monetary policy shock
  - Rescaled so that  $\beta_{n,hl}^{(1Y)} = \beta_{n,ll}^{(1Y)} = 1\%$  (conservative, to control for diff scale)
- Sample of Nakamura & Steinsson (2018)
  - 2000-2014, scheduled FOMC meetings, excl. GFC,  $N = 106$
  - Robust to longer sample 2000-2019

# Result 1: The Liquidity State-Dependence

$$\Delta f_{n,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{n,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{n,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{n,t}^{(\tau)}$$



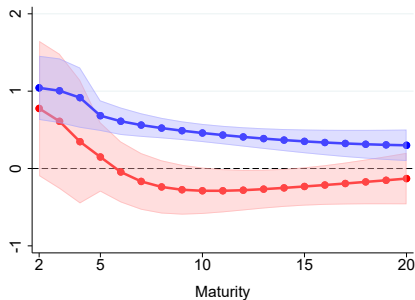
\*Charts show point estimates and 95% confidence intervals for separate regressions by maturity

## Result 2: The Liquidity State-Dependence is Real

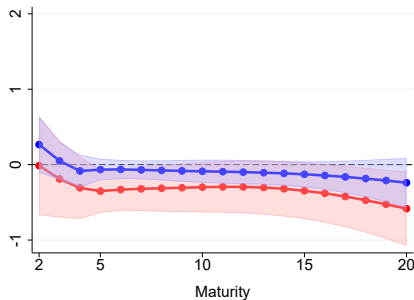
Fisher Identity:  $f_{n,t}^{(\tau)} = f_{r,t}^{(\tau)} + f_{i,t}^{(\tau)}$

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

Real Forward Curve  
( $j = r$ )



Inflation Forward Curve  
( $j = i$ )



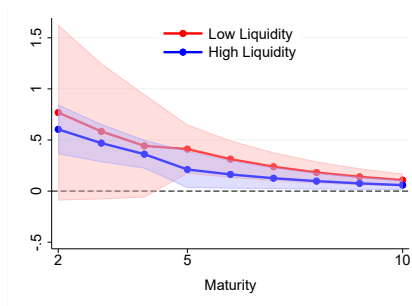
# Result 3: Expectation Hypothesis vs Term Premium

Decomposition:  $f_{r,t}^{(\tau)} = eh_{r,t}^{(\tau)} + rp_{r,t}^{(\tau)}$

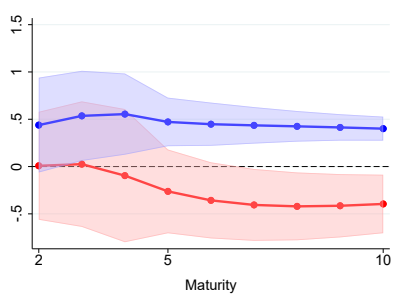
$$\Delta eh_{r,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{r-eh,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{r-eh,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{r-eh,t}^{(\tau)}$$

$$\Delta rp_{r,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{r-rp,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{r-rp,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{r-rp,t}^{(\tau)}$$

Real Expectations



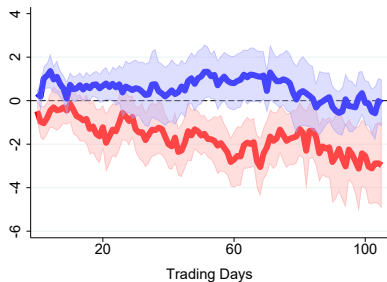
Real Risk Premium



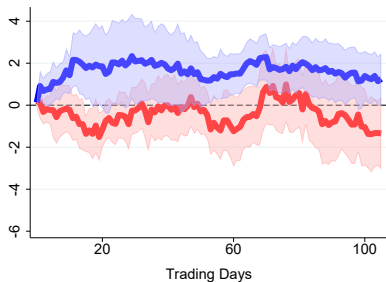
## Result 4: Persistence

$$f_{r,t+k}^{(\tau)} - f_{r,t-1}^{(\tau)} = \alpha_k + \beta_{r,k,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{r,k,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{r,t+k}^{(\tau)}$$

10Y Real Forward Rate



20Y Real Forward Rate



# Understanding LSD: The Role of Arbitrageurs

# Inspecting the Mechanism - Roadmap

- Hu, Pan & Wang (2013) motivation:  $\uparrow$  liquidity  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\uparrow$  arbitrage capital
- Rationalize LSD with Vayanos & Vila (2021) with varying arbitrageurs capital
  - Poorly-capitalized arbitrageurs leads to weaker pass-through of MPS to long-term rates ▶ Model

$\uparrow$  Arbs' Capital ( $\uparrow$  Liquidity)  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\downarrow$  Yield-Curve Noise

- We validate this mechanism by separately testing two separate dimensions & independent data sources:
  1. **Aggregate data:** test if **arbitrageurs capital** can explain noise (& capture LSD)
  2. **Transaction-Level data:** test if **arbitrageurs activity** is higher in low-noise FOMC days



# Inspecting the Mechanism - Aggregate Data

- **Question:** What explains our state variable, yield-curve noise?
  - Intermediary asset pricing theory predicts arbitrageurs capital, business cycle, volatility and asset prices should all co-move in equilibrium  
He & Krishnamurthy (2013), Brunnermeier & Sannikov (2014)
- Include proxies for arbitrageurs capital and competing alternatives:
  1. **Business cycle:** ADS index, real-time unemployment rate, PMI index  
Aruoba et al (2009), Berge & Jorda (2011)
  2. **Uncertainty/Risk:** VIX, MOVE, risk aversion and uncertainty indices, IR skewness, IR uncertainty  
Istrefi & Mouabbi (2018), Baekert et al (2020), Bauer & Chernov (2024)
  3. **Arbitrageurs capital:** intermediary capital factor, hedge fund returns (sub-indices for diff. strategies) from BarclayHedge  
He et al (2017)
- Univariate regression to assess economic significance of each variable
- Then horse race with all the variables together

# What Explains Yield-Curve Noise?

$$\Delta \text{Noise}_t = \alpha + \beta \cdot X_t + \epsilon_t$$

	Monthly Changes in Noise								AR(1)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
$\Delta \text{MOVE}$	0.02*** (4.24)							0.01*** (3.59)	
$\Delta \text{Unemp.}$		0.14*** (2.68)						0.10*** (2.95)	
$\Delta \text{Unc.}$			0.71** (2.44)					-0.32 (-1.27)	
$\Delta \text{Lev.}$				1.43*** (3.90)				0.59* (1.93)	
FIA Ret.					-0.41*** (-7.95)		-0.18*** (-3.02)	-0.17*** (-2.63)	-0.32*** (-4.84)
ConvArb Ret.						-0.45*** (-5.35)	-0.32*** (-3.38)	-0.32*** (-2.82)	-0.05 (-0.77)
Adj. $R^2$	15.94	2.53	16.10	16.35	34.52	40.89	43.47	50.77	18.76
N	205	240	240	240	240	240	240	205	239

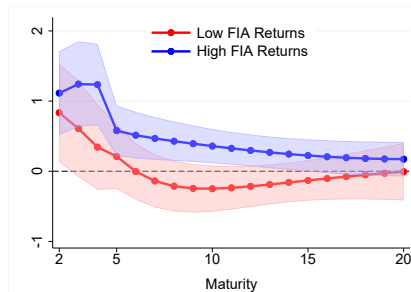
- Arbitrageurs' proxies most successful at explaining monthly variation in noise, both in terms of univariate  $R^2$  and surviving in full regression
- Evidence points to **specialized investors** and **segmentation**  
Duffie (2010), Siriwardane et al (2023)

# State-Dependence with Fixed-Income Arb. Returns

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hr}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{HighFIAret_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,lr}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{LowFIAret_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

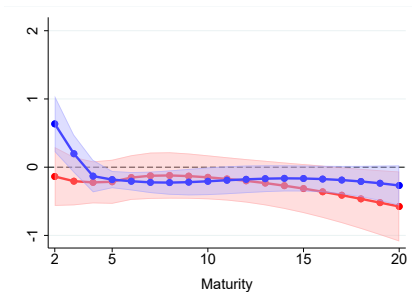
Real Forward Curve

( $j = r$ )



Inflation Forward Curve

( $j = i$ )



- Same state-dependence using FIA returns to define states
- Does not work with other proxies ▶ not Vol or Unc ▶ not MP easing cycles

## Inspecting the Mechanism - Transaction-Level Data

- **Question:** is there more arbitrage capital (trading volume) around FOMC meeting when yield-curve noise is low?

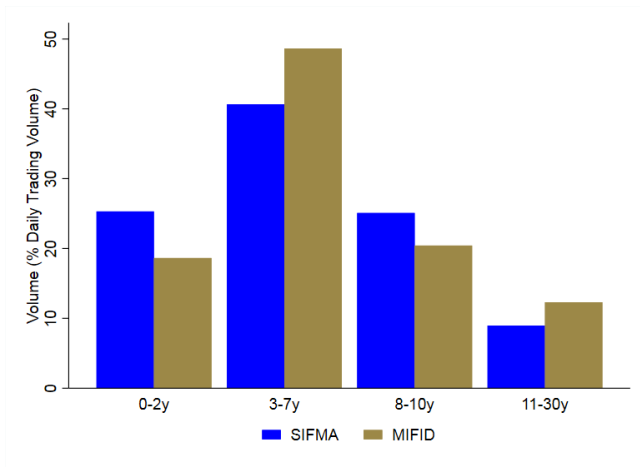
# Inspecting the Mechanism - Transaction-Level Data

- **Question:** is there more arbitrage capital (trading volume) around FOMC meeting when yield-curve noise is low?
- We use the confidential MiFID II dataset kept by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
- Trade-level, minute-by-minute dataset covering the universe of UK financial market participants
- Identify trading in US Treasuries

**Key advantages:** coverage & frequency

**Limitations:** shorter (and different) sample period (2018 - present)

# Sample Representativeness



# Identifying Arbitrageurs from Trading Characteristics

- Arbitrage is multi dimensional, attempt to capture along two dimensions:
  1. Trading across the yield curve
    - We expect arbitrageurs to enforce arbitrage across different maturities  
⇒ standard deviation of maturities traded (weighted by notional)
  2. Duration-neutral exposure
    - Captures the long-short nature of arbitrage  
⇒ net duration exposure of all trades

# Identifying Arbitrageurs from Trading Characteristics

- Arbitrage is multi dimensional, attempt to capture along two dimensions:
  1. **Trading across the yield curve**
    - We expect arbitrageurs to enforce arbitrage across different maturities  
⇒ standard deviation of maturities traded (weighted by notional)
  2. **Duration-neutral exposure**
    - Captures the long-short nature of arbitrage  
⇒ net duration exposure of all trades
- Each month, we rank traders along the two dimensions, we then create a composite score:

$$l_{i,t} = \rho_{i,t}^{\sigma} * \rho_{i,t}^{Dur}$$

- Then, average over the entire sample

$$l_i = \frac{1}{N_{i,t}} \sum_{t=1}^T l_{i,t}$$

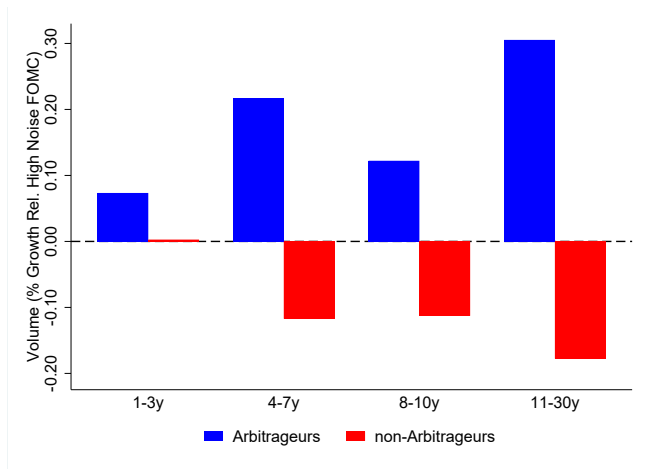
⇒ Arbitrageurs are IDs in the top-tercile of the index



# Who are the Arbitrageurs?



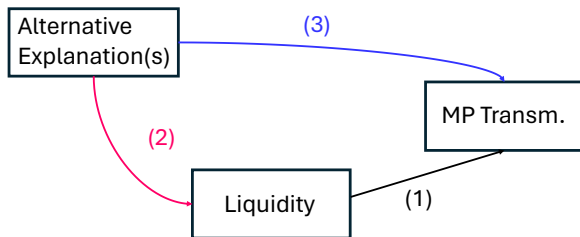
## Arbitrageurs Trade More When Noise is Low



- Arbs  $> 0$ , increase trading (almost) monotonically across maturities
  - Between 15%-25% more trading in the High Liquidity days relative to Low Liquidity days
- Non-arbs  $< 0$ : they trade less

# Alternative Explanations

# Alternative Explanations: Business Cycles, QE & Volatility



- We have shown (2) unlikely
- What can we say about (3)?
  - Tenreyro & Thwaites (2016) show MP less powerful in recessions/easing cycles

# Recessions, QE Dates and Easing Cycles

	Nominal				Real				Inflation			
	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y
<i>A. LSD excluding NBER recessions</i>												
High Liquidity	1.05*** (3.87)	0.54*** (4.21)	0.27* (2.46)	0.15 (1.17)	1.18*** (4.75)	0.68*** (5.84)	0.37*** (4.27)	0.26** (2.91)	0.18 (1.00)	-0.14 (-1.81)	-0.10 (-1.43)	-0.12 (-1.47)
Low Liquidity	1.39** (2.73)	0.09 (0.24)	-0.61* (-2.06)	-0.68* (-2.29)	2.16* (2.42)	0.63 (1.72)	-0.14 (-0.69)	-0.20 (-1.10)	-0.54 (-1.71)	-0.54* (-2.59)	-0.46* (-2.43)	-0.47* (-2.10)
<i>B. LSD excluding QE dates</i>												
High Liquidity	0.99*** (3.81)	0.48*** (4.09)	0.27* (2.47)	0.13 (0.99)	1.11*** (4.59)	0.64*** (5.98)	0.36*** (4.09)	0.26** (2.79)	0.16 (0.88)	-0.16* (-2.05)	-0.09 (-1.27)	-0.13 (-1.53)
Low Liquidity	0.97* (2.49)	-0.11 (-0.43)	-0.65** (-3.05)	-0.69** (-3.02)	1.73** (2.64)	0.32 (1.30)	-0.26 (-1.74)	-0.24 (-1.88)	-0.39 (-1.20)	-0.43** (-2.80)	-0.39* (-2.50)	-0.44** (-2.66)
<i>C. MPS impact by observed target rate decision (no change, hike, easing)</i>												
nochange	1.57*** (8.72)	0.64** (3.17)	0.05 (0.30)	-0.07 (-0.40)	1.55*** (4.48)	0.93*** (4.85)	0.25 (1.65)	0.12 (0.96)	0.10 (0.49)	-0.29* (-2.38)	-0.20 (-1.89)	-0.20 (-1.48)
hike	1.32*** (3.57)	0.39 (1.19)	-0.20 (-0.75)	-0.18 (-0.69)	1.58*** (3.67)	0.56* (2.12)	0.26 (1.32)	0.16 (0.62)	-0.18 (-0.49)	-0.17 (-0.83)	-0.46* (-2.39)	-0.34 (-1.94)
ease	0.35 (0.98)	0.04 (0.20)	0.02 (0.08)	-0.07 (-0.28)	0.34 (0.75)	0.23 (1.36)	0.10 (0.61)	0.10 (0.60)	-0.09 (-0.23)	-0.19 (-1.87)	-0.08 (-0.71)	-0.17 (-1.49)

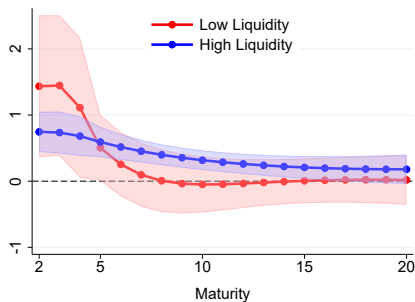
- LSD not about recessions or QE shocks (also present pre-2007)
- Stark difference during **easing cycles** (confirms Tenreiro & Thwaites (2016) but in yield curve space): **could this explain LSD?**

# Liquidity-SD without Easing Cycle

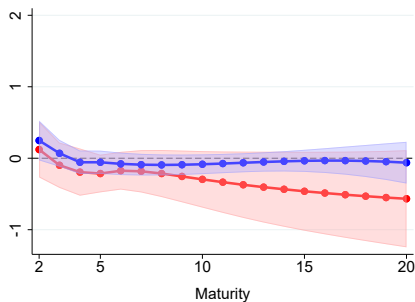
⇒ we now exclude all FOMC meetings when target rate was cut

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

Real Forward Curve  
( $j = r$ )



Inflation Forward Curve  
( $j = i$ )



# Conclusions

- We document a strong **Liquidity State-Dependence** in transmission of MP shocks to yield curve: 'non-neutrality puzzle' only in liquid markets
- The Liquidity State-Dependence is entirely about the **long-term real rates** and it is persistent: it matters for macroeconomic policy
- We show our **results linked to presence of arbitrageurs**, providing two distinct pieces of evidence: using aggregate data and using transaction-level data
- **Policy complementarity**: market functioning/liquidity in bond markets important for both financial stability and monetary policy

# Backup Slides

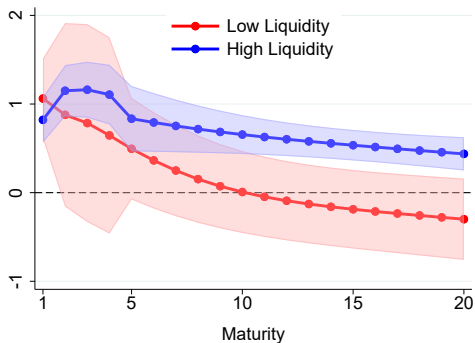


# State-Dependence with Spot Rates

$$y_{n,t}^{(\tau)} = \frac{1}{\tau} \sum_{j=1}^{\tau} f_{n,t}^{(j)}$$

$$\Delta y_{n,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{n,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{n,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{n,t}^{(\tau)}$$

Nominal Spot Curve

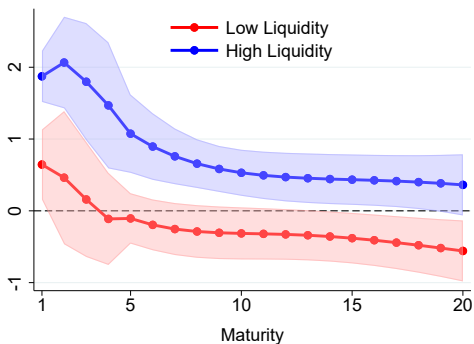


# Liquidity State-Dependence with *Raw* MPS & Noise

LSD even stronger without normalizing & detrending

$$\Delta f_{n,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{n,hl}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{HighLiq}_{t-1}}] + \beta_{n,ll}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{\text{LowLiq}_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{n,t}^{(\tau)}$$

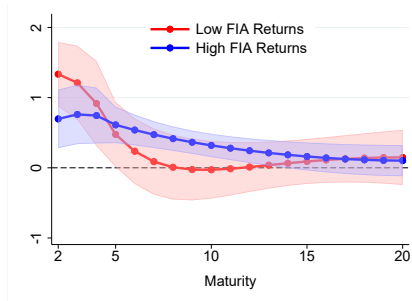
Nominal Forward Curve



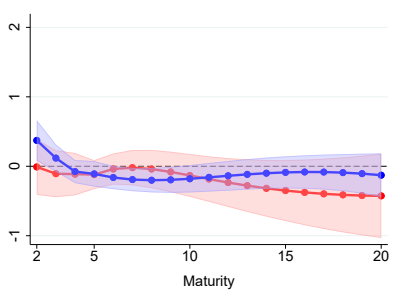
# Fixed Income Arbitrage Return-SD without Easing Cycle

$$\Delta f_{j,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta_{j,hr}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{HighFIAret_{t-1}}] + \beta_{j,lr}^{(\tau)} \cdot [mps_t \times \mathbb{1}_{LowFIAret_{t-1}}] + \epsilon_{j,t}^{(\tau)}$$

Real Forward Curve  
( $j = r$ )



Inflation Forward Curve  
( $j = i$ )



- Same state-dependence using FIA returns to define states when we exclude all FOMC meetings when target rate was cut

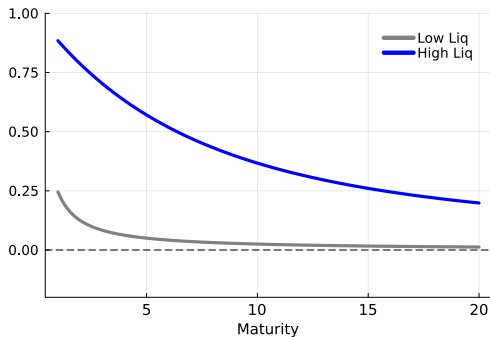
# State-dependence with Volatility or Uncertainty?

	Nominal				Real				Inflation			
	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	15Y
<i>A. sorting on MOVE</i>												
low MOVE	1.09*** (4.11)	0.27 (1.06)	-0.20 (-1.01)	-0.26 (-1.35)	1.07*** (3.91)	0.66** (3.00)	-0.05 (-0.26)	-0.16 (-0.78)	0.03 (0.21)	-0.40** (-2.74)	-0.15 (-1.22)	-0.11 (-0.75)
high MOVE	1.06** (3.32)	0.30 (1.29)	-0.06 (-0.34)	-0.14 (-0.70)	1.07** (3.16)	0.50* (2.46)	0.14 (0.99)	0.12 (0.92)	-0.10 (-0.51)	-0.21* (-2.33)	-0.21* (-2.28)	-0.26* (-2.35)
<i>B. sorting VIX</i>												
low VIX	1.10*** (7.36)	0.45** (3.00)	0.03 (0.23)	-0.02 (-0.13)	1.01*** (5.07)	0.69*** (5.00)	0.14 (1.19)	0.04 (0.37)	0.09 (0.74)	-0.24** (-3.06)	-0.11 (-1.79)	-0.06 (-0.80)
high VIX	0.76* (2.42)	0.06 (0.28)	-0.23 (-1.02)	-0.32 (-1.43)	1.20* (2.33)	0.31 (1.59)	0.04 (0.28)	0.03 (0.22)	-0.32 (-1.11)	-0.25* (-2.15)	-0.27* (-2.16)	-0.35* (-2.60)
<i>C. sorting Interest Rate Uncertainty (Istrefi &amp; Mouabbi (2018))</i>												
low IR Unc.	1.14*** (5.48)	0.53** (2.75)	-0.04 (-0.31)	-0.08 (-0.70)	1.35*** (5.65)	0.78*** (4.44)	0.16 (1.24)	-0.01 (-0.05)	-0.20 (-1.15)	-0.24* (-2.03)	-0.20 (-1.77)	-0.08 (-0.75)
high IR Unc.	0.78** (2.68)	0.13 (0.67)	-0.11 (-0.53)	-0.20 (-0.99)	0.89* (2.58)	0.34 (1.94)	0.08 (0.59)	0.08 (0.63)	0.12 (0.46)	-0.21* (-2.38)	-0.19 (-1.84)	-0.27* (-2.40)
<i>D. sorting Uncertainty (Bekaert, Engstrom &amp; Xu (2022))</i>												
low Uncert.	0.92** (3.17)	0.28 (1.39)	-0.12 (-0.80)	-0.17 (-1.32)	1.24*** (5.33)	0.45* (2.27)	0.14 (1.27)	0.08 (0.81)	0.22 (1.20)	-0.17* (-2.47)	-0.26** (-2.93)	-0.25** (-2.84)
high Uncert.	1.13** (2.79)	0.23 (0.79)	-0.16 (-0.55)	-0.27 (-0.92)	1.70** (2.67)	0.63* (2.31)	0.04 (0.20)	0.00 (0.00)	-0.38 (-1.26)	-0.40* (-2.59)	-0.20 (-1.35)	-0.27 (-1.56)

# Model

Vayanos & Vila (2021) with varying mass of arbitrageurs

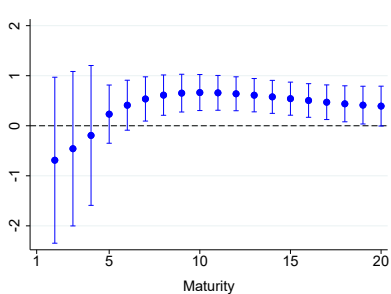
Model-Implied Pass-Through of MPS



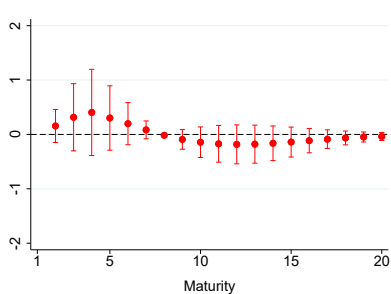
# Is it Business Cycle State-Dependence?

$$\Delta f_{r,t}^{(\tau)} = \alpha + \beta \cdot mps_t + \gamma_{H-L} \cdot [mps_t \times \text{HighLiq}_{t-1}] + \delta \cdot [mps_t \cdot \text{GoodMacro}_{t-1}] + \nu_{r,t}^{(\tau)}$$

High Liquidity State,  $\gamma_{H-L}$



Good Macro State\*,  $\delta$

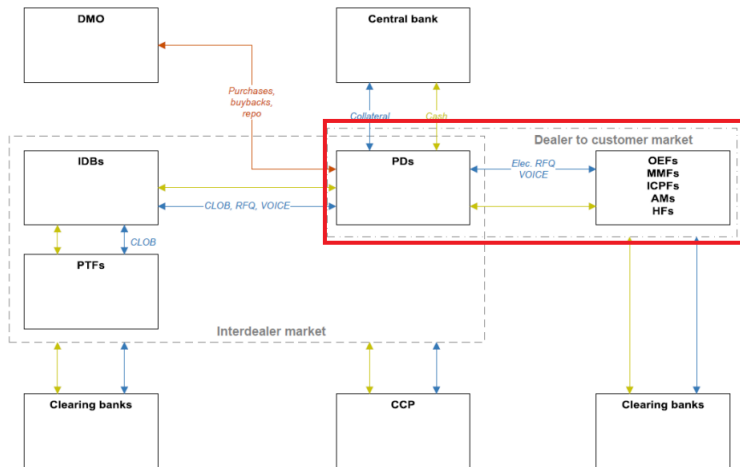


- Liquidity-SD in **long-term** rates after accounting for macro-SD
- Macro-SD matters **short-term** rates but not significant

\* GoodMacro refers to FOMC meetings where latest PMI was above its median

# Summary Statistics: Dealer-to-Client Segment

## Cash Secondary Market



## Summary Statistics: Dealer-to-Client Segment

	Volume	No. Transactions	Trade Size	No. LEI
<i>Panel A: Full Sample</i>				
	9,887	586	16.9	3,020
<i>Panel B: By Maturity</i>				
1-3y	2,676 (26.3%)	132 (22.0%)	20.2	2,146
3-7y	3,433 (33.8%)	153 (25.5%)	22.4	2,067
7-10y	2,831 (27.9%)	189 (31.5 %)	15.0	2,199
11-30y	1,218 (12.0%)	126 (21.0%)	9.7	1,806
<i>Panel C: By Sector</i>				
Banks	3,829 (37.2%)	293 (48.5%)	13.0	524
AMs	1,329 (12.9%)	168 (27.8%)	7.9	1,365
HFs	3,160 (30.7%)	83 (13.7%)	38.1	596
Foreign Off.	1,654 (16.1%)	38 (6.3%)	43.5	126
ICPFs	308 (3.0%)	22 (3.6%)	14.1	409



# Identifying Arbitrage Capital

		Volume	No. Transactions	Trade Size	No. LEI
<i>Panel A: Any Day</i>					
RV		2,372	103	23.0	699
non RV		7,610	488	15.6	2,321
<i>Panel B: FOMC</i>					
RV	no FOMC	2,342	101	23.1	699
RV	Pre-FOMC (t)	2,716	127	21.4	459
RV	Post-FOMC (t+1)	3,155	143	22.0	479
non RV	no FOMC	7,498	482	15.6	2,285
non RV	Pre-FOMC (t)	8,830	556	15.9	957
non RV	Post-FOMC (t+1)	10,545	662	15.9	922
<i>Panel C: High vs Low Liquidity FOMC</i>					
RV	H-Noise Pre-FOMC	2,305	111	20.8	310
RV	H-Noise Post-FOMC	2,873	137	21.0	329
RV	L-Noise Pre-FOMC	3,034	139	21.8	375
RV	L-Noise Post-FOMC	3,374	148	22.8	394
non RV	H-Noise Pre-FOMC	8,255	475	17.4	615
non RV	H-Noise Post-FOMC	10,931	640	17.1	637
non RV	L-Noise Pre-FOMC	9,274	618	15.0	802
non RV	L-Noise Post-FOMC	10,246	680	15.1	761