Exploring the Macroeconomic Interdependence of East Asian Countries: A GVAR Approach

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Summary of our current research

- Diebold-Yilmaz's Connectedness Measure (CM) has been widely used in policy and industry to assess systemic risk in financial markets. Example includes IMF Global Financial Stability Reports and European Central Bank Financial Stability Reviews (Diebold and Yilmaz, Journal of Econometrics, 2023)
- We use CM to investigate the transmission of the business cycle (BC) shocks among many countries.
- We propose to combine CM and Global VAR framework [Pesaran et al., 2004]
- Our framework is straightforward and has some interesting feasures
 - Can increase the number of sample countries
 - Oan quantify the direction of BC shocks between countries and groups
 - Oan model shock transmission channels through trade, flow of funds, and more!
- We apply this method to analyze the **transitions of BC shocks among East**Asian countries.

Outline of my presentation

- Motivation
- Measures of Connectedness
- GVAR and Generalised FEVD
- Data
- Results
- 6 Conclusion

Motivation

- Increase in economic interdependence between countries is observed
 - Possible reasons are: [1] expansion of **trade integration**, [2] the creation of **global supply chains**, [3] the integration of **international financial markets**, [4] the implementation of **coordinated fiscal and monetary policies**, and others.
- East Asia distinguishes itself from the Latin American and African regions in that intra-regional trade and investment are thriving and the economies of each country are firmly connected through production relationships of intermediate goods. [Vu, 2015]
- Mow can we measure interdependence among countries?
 - Are BCs of countries synchronized? Is the magnitude getting higher?
 - Which country is more influential (transmitter of BC shocks), and which country is more influenced (recipient of BC shocks)?

- Empirical studies investigating the connection between international BCs: [Duval et al., 2016], [Di Giovanni et al., 2017], [Davis, 2014], [Chiquiar and Ramos-Francia, 2005], and others.
- Sepresentative empirical methods include:
 - Pairwise correlation of GDPs: [Backus et al., 1995] and [Baxter, 1995],
 - Dynamic latent factor models: [Kose et al., 2003],
 - Measure of connectedness: [Diebold and Yılmaz, 2015].
- Our paper is an extension of [Diebold and Yılmaz, 2015]
 - DY analyzed BC shocks among six countries, using the monthly Industrial Production index (50 years: 1958M1 - 2011M12)
 - We deal with **33 countries**, using quarterly GDP (approx. 40 years: 1979Q2-2019Q4)

Diebold-Yilmaz's Connectedness Measure (CM)

1 Estimate a **VAR** Model (ex. [Diebold and Yılmaz, 2015], $x_t = \log(\mathsf{IP}_t)$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_t^{\text{usa}} \\ x_t^{\text{deu}} \\ x_t^{\text{jpn}} \\ x_t^{\text{fra}} \\ x_t^{\text{gbr}} \\ x_t^{\text{ita}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{11} & \phi_{12} & \phi_{13} & \phi_{14} & \phi_{15} & \phi_{16} \\ \phi_{21} & \phi_{22} & \phi_{23} & \phi_{24} & \phi_{25} & \phi_{26} \\ \phi_{31} & \phi_{32} & \phi_{33} & \phi_{34} & \phi_{35} & \phi_{36} \\ \phi_{41} & \phi_{42} & \phi_{43} & \phi_{44} & \phi_{45} & \phi_{46} \\ \phi_{51} & \phi_{52} & \phi_{53} & \phi_{54} & \phi_{55} & \phi_{56} \\ x_t^{\text{ita}} \\ \phi_{61} & \phi_{62} & \phi_{63} & \phi_{64} & \phi_{65} & \phi_{66} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{t-1}^{\text{usa}} \\ x_{t-1}^{\text{deu}} \\ x_{t-1}^{\text{ipn}} \\ x_{t-1}^{\text{fra}} \\ x_{t-1}^{\text{ita}} \\ x_{t-1}^{\text{ita}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_t^{\text{usa}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{deu}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{ipn}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{fra}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{gbr}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{ita}} \\ \epsilon_t^{\text{ita}} \end{pmatrix}$$
 (1)

- ② Calculate a H-step-ahead **FEVD**, d_{ij}^H (choice of H depends on one's interest)
 - Forecast Error Variance Decomposition (FEVD): Quantify how important a shock is in explaining the variation in the endogenous variables (on average)
 - d_{ij}^H : country i's FEV due to a shock in county j.
- **3** Construct a **connectedness table** D based on d_{ij}^H

Diebold-Yilmaz's Connectedness Measure

- Estimate a VAR model
- Construct h-step-ahead Generalized FEVD (GFEVD)
 - FEVD: Quantify how important a shock is in explaining the variation in the endogenous variables (on average)
- Use GFEVD to construct CM (choice of h depends on one's interest)
- To construct time-varying CMs, estimate VAR with rolling-window

Connectedness between two countries

		j = 1	j = 2		j = 4	j = 5
		x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5
		d_{11}	d_{12}	d_{13}	d_{14}	d_{15}
i = 2	x_2	d_{21}	d_{22}	d_{23}	d_{24}	d_{25}
i = 3	x_3	d_{31}	d_{32}	d_{33}	d_{34}	d_{35}
i = 4	x_4	d_{41}	d_{42}	d_{43}	d_{44}	d_{45}
i = 5	x_5	d_{51}	d_{52}	d_{53}	d_{54}	d_{55}

Note: Superscript \boldsymbol{H} is dropped for notational simplicity.

Table: Connectedness Table $D = [d_{ij}^H]$

- Elements of a row of D correspond to the standard FEVD analysis
- Note, in general, $d_{ij} \neq d_{ji}$.

- Pairwise Directional Connectedness
- PDC from 2 to 1 (ex. i=1, j=2) $C_{1\leftarrow 2} = \frac{d_{12}}{d_{12}} \ (\% \ \text{effect of 2 on 1})$
- PDC from 1 to 2 (ex. i = 2, j = 1) $C_{2\leftarrow 1} = d_{21} \quad (\% \text{ effect of 1 on 2})$
- Net PDC of 1 against 2 (ex. i = 1, j = 2) $C_{12} = C_{2 \leftarrow 1} C_{1 \leftarrow 2} = d_{21} d_{12}$
 - If $C_{12} > 0$, 1 is a shock transmitter.
 - If $C_{12} < 0$. 1 is a shock recipient.

Connectedness between one country and other countries

		j = 1	j=2	j=3	j=4	j = 5
		x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5
i = 1			d_{12}	d_{13}	d_{14}	d_{15}
i = 2	x_2	d_{21}	d_{22}	d_{23}	d_{24}	d_{25}
i = 3	x_3	d_{31}	d_{32}	d_{33}	d_{34}	d_{35}
i = 4	x_4	d_{41}	d_{42}	d_{43}	d_{44}	d_{45}
i = 5	x_5	d_{51}	d_{52}	d_{53}	d_{54}	d_{55}

 Note: Subscript G indicates "Global", meaning the whole sample countries.

- Total Directional Connectedness
- TDC from others to 1 (ex. i = 1)

$$C_{1 \leftarrow G} = \frac{d_{12} + d_{13} + d_{14} + d_{15}}{d_{11} + d_{12} + d_{13} + d_{14} + d_{15}}$$

• TDC to others from 1 (ex. j = 1)

$$C_{G \leftarrow 1} = \frac{d_{21} + d_{31} + d_{41} + d_{51}}{d_{11} + d_{21} + d_{31} + d_{41} + d_{51}}$$

• Net TDC of 1 (ex. i = 1)

$$C_{1,G} = C_{G \leftarrow 1} - C_{1 \leftarrow G}$$

Total connectedness

whole sample countries: Global

- Note: Subscript G indicates "Global", meaning the whole sample countries.
- The diagonal elements are their "own" effects

- Total Connectedness
 - Measures without direction
- TC of whole sample countries (or "Global")

$$C_G = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{5} \sum_{j=1}^{5} d_{ij} - \sum_{i=1}^{5} d_{ii}}{\sum_{i=1}^{5} \sum_{j=1}^{5} d_{ij}}$$

Problem

- Our dataset contains 33 countries vs DY : 6 countries
 ⇒ number of endogenous variables in the VAR model is not small
- Our dataset has 163 quarters vs DY: 648 months Ours: approx. 40 years, 1979Q2-2019Q4 vs DY's: 50 years, 1958M1-2011M12 ⇒ number of time series observation is not large
- To obtain time-varying CMs, Diebold & Yilmaz used 5-year (60-month) rolling-window regression.
 - ⇒ (almost) impossible to use the rolling-window regression approach

To make it feasible, we use Global VAR (GVAR) instead of standard VAR

Limited review on GVAR

- Pesaran, Schuermann, and Weiner (2004) (PSW)
 - Development of the GVAR methodology

country	types of economy
USA	large-open
others	small-open

- Dees, di-Mauro, Pesaran, and Smith (2007) (DdPS)
 - Uses the bootstrapping for constructing the confidence intervals of the IRFs
- Ohudik and Pesaran (2012), Smith and Yamagata (2011)
 - Includes the "dominant unit" in the GVAR model

From GVAR (Simplied version) to GFEVD

1 Models of country *i*'s GDP, x_{it} (for i = 1, ..., N) is:

$$x_{it} = \underbrace{\phi_{i1} x_{i,t-1}}_{\text{own effect}} + \underbrace{\lambda_{i0} x_{it}^* + \lambda_{i1} x_{i,t-1}^*}_{\text{foreign effect}} + u_{it}$$
(2)

 $\phi_{i1}, \lambda_{i0}, \lambda_{i1}$: coefficients; u_{it} : error terms. (note: constant not included for simplicity)

② Foreign GDP for country i, x_{it}^* (for i = 1, ..., N)

$$x_{it}^* = \mathbf{w}_i' \mathbf{x}_t \tag{3}$$

is constructed as weighted average of $\mathbf{x}_t = \left[x_{1t}, \cdots, x_{Nt}\right]'$

where weight vector $\mathbf{w}_i' = \left[w_{i1}, \cdots, w_{iN}\right]$ is defined by **trade data** as

$$w_{ij} = \frac{\mathsf{EX} + \mathsf{IM} \text{ between countries } i \text{ and } j}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} \mathsf{EX} + \mathsf{IM} \text{ between countries } i \text{ and } k}, \text{ where } w_{ii} = 0$$
 (4)

Rewrite Eq.(2)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\lambda_{i0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{it} \\ x_{it}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{i1} & \lambda_{i1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{i,t-1} \\ x_{i,t-1}^* \end{bmatrix} + u_{it}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{i0} \quad \mathbf{z}_{it} = \mathbf{G}_{i1} \quad \mathbf{z}_{i,t-1} + u_{it}$$
(5)

where country i's x_{it} and x_{it}^* , \mathbf{z}_{it} , are linked with $\mathbf{x}_t = \left[x_{1t}, \cdots, x_{Nt}\right]'$ as:

$$i$$
's own GDP $\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_{it} \\ x_{it}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_i' \\ \mathbf{w}_i' \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_t \leftarrow \text{a vector of sample country's GDP}$

$$\mathbf{z}_{it} = \mathbf{W}_i \ \mathbf{x}_t \qquad (6)$$

where e_i is the selection vector whose *i*th element is 1 and the rest are 0.

From Eqs.(5) and (6), we have

$$\mathbf{G}_{i0}\mathbf{W}_{i}\mathbf{x}_{t} = \mathbf{G}_{i1}\mathbf{W}_{i}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + u_{it} \tag{7}$$

5 Stack Eq.(7) for N countries as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{10} \mathbf{W}_{1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{G}_{N0} \mathbf{W}_{N} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{1t} \\ \vdots \\ x_{Nt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_{11} \mathbf{W}_{1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{G}_{N1} \mathbf{W}_{N} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,t-1} \\ \vdots \\ x_{N,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} u_{1t} \\ \vdots \\ u_{Nt} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{G}_{0} \quad \mathbf{x}_{t} = \mathbf{G}_{1} \quad \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{u}_{t}$$
(8)

where we assume the covariance matrix of \mathbf{u}_t to be diagonal.

Multiply both sides of Eq.(8) by G_0^{-1} to derive the Autoregressive (AR) representation for \mathbf{x}_t .

$$\mathbf{x}_{t} = (\mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{G}_{1})\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + (\mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{t})$$

$$= \mathbf{C} \quad \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + (\mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{t}). \tag{9}$$

The infinite-order Moving-Average (MA) representation corresponding to Eq.(9) is

$$\mathbf{x}_{t} = \mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{t} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{t-1} + \mathbf{C}^{2}\mathbf{G}_{0}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_{t-2} + \cdots$$
 (10)

1 In the step ahead **Generalised FEVD**, d_{ij}^H , is calculated as:

$$d_{ij}^{H} = \frac{(\sigma_{jj})^{-1} \sum_{h=0}^{H} (\mathbf{e}_{i}^{\prime} \mathbf{C}^{h} (\mathbf{G}_{0})^{-1} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\zeta} \mathbf{e}_{j})^{2}}{\sum_{h=0}^{H} \mathbf{e}_{i}^{\prime} \mathbf{C}^{h} (\mathbf{G}_{0})^{-1} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\zeta} ((\mathbf{G}_{0})^{-1})^{\prime} (\mathbf{C}^{h})^{\prime} \mathbf{e}_{i}}$$
(11)

where e_i is the selection vector whose *i*th element is 1 and the rest are 0

1 Lastly, standardize d_{ij}^H to make row sum of matrix D equal to one as:

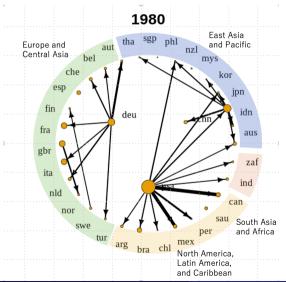
$$\tilde{d}_{ij}^{H} = \frac{d_{ij}^{H}}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} d_{ij}^{H}}$$
 (12)

All CMs in this study uses this standardized value.

Actually estimated model includes

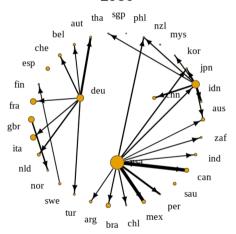
Data

- Real GDP by country (log-transformed), pairwise annual trade flow, and oil prices (log-transformed) from the [Mohaddes and Raissi, 2020] data
 - ⇒ Estimated model includes oil price equation.
 - \Rightarrow Also, Estimated VAR model, Eq.(2), includes 4 lags.
- 2 List of 33 countries in our sample dataset:
 - East Asia and Pacific region (10) Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand
 - Europe and Central Asia region (13) Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom
 - Latin American region (5) Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru
 - North American region (2) Canada, United States
 - Other region (3) Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa

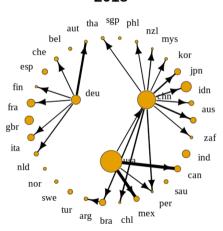


- Each circle's size corresponds to the respective economy's size
- The arrows indicate the influencing relationships.
- Arrows with lower than 20.5 % trade linkage coefficient values have been disregarded

1980



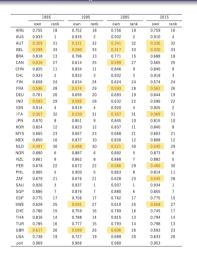
2018



Estimation of GVAR and calculation of CM

- VARX* models are estimated for 33 countries/economies and the international commodity market, one-by-one.
 - ullet Previous years' trade volume is used for calculating ${f W}_t$
 - Number of lags in (2) are fixed: own effect=4, foreign effect= 4
 - Dummy variables are added until the maximum absolute value of error is less than 3
 Standard Deviation.
- ② Forecast horizon (H) of GFEVD is fixed as 12 (H = 12)
- **1** Previous year's trade weight W_{t-1} is used for the calculation of d_{ij}^H at year t.

Own effect $(d_{ij}^H \text{ with } i = j, H = 12)$



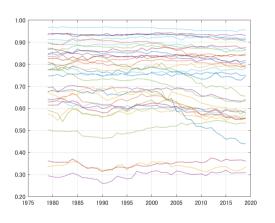


Table: Own effect: 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015

Total Connectedness (Fig.2)

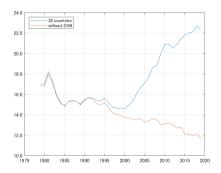


Figure: Total Connectedness

Note: The forecasting horizon, H, is 12.

- TC of 33 countries (blue line) decreased from 18% (in 1981) to around 15% (in 1985). It remained around 15% until approximately 2000, after which it increased and attained over 22% in 2019.
- TC without China (red) demonstrated a long-term decline over the sample period, indicating that the increase in global connectedness could be attributed to the Chinese economy.

TC by Geographic Groups (Fig.3, left)

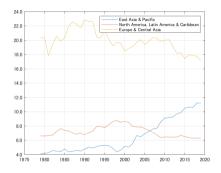


Figure: TC within Geographic Regions

Note: The forecasting horizon, H, is 12.

- Whilst **Europe & Central Asia** (orange) has the highest level over the period, it shows a decreasing trend with an amplitude of 20-year cycles.
- In contrast, North America, Latin America & the Caribbean (red), and East Asia & the Pacific (blue) display lower absolute levels, though the magnitude of East Asia & the Pacific has exhibited a consistent increase since 2000.

TC by Economic Groups (Fig.3, right)

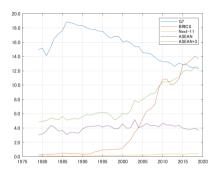


Figure: TC within Groups

Note: The forecasting horizon, H, is 12.

- G7 (blue) peaked in the mid-1980s and experienced a gradual decline until the end of the sample period.
- BRICS (red) displayed a considerable increase starting in 2000, which aligns with the growth of the Chinese economy.
- **Next-11** (orange) remains notably low.
- ASEAN (purple) remained stable.
- SEAN+3 (green), displayed a considerable decline during the Asian currency crisis, followed by a consistent upward trend.

Total Directional Connectedness (Part of Fig.4)

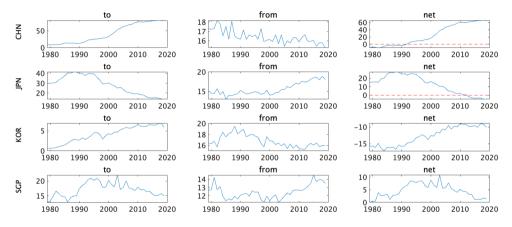
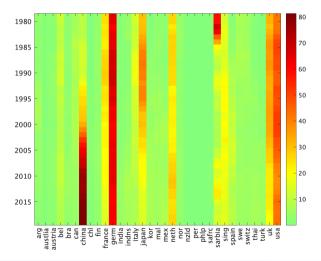
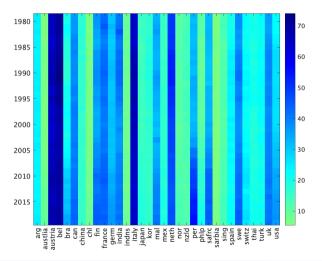


Figure: Total Directional Connectedness: $C^H_{G \leftarrow i}$, $C^H_{i \leftarrow G}$, and C^H_i

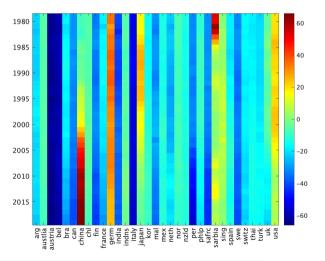
Total Directional Connectedness (To Others)



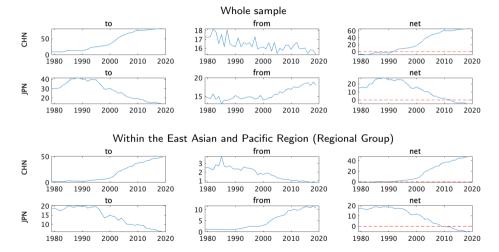
Total Directional Connectedness (From Others)



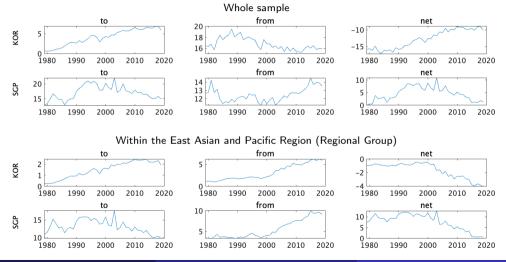
Total Directional Connectedness (Net, To—From)



Total Directional Connectedness (ex. China and Japan)



Total Directional Connectedness (ex. Korea and Singapore)



Pairwise Directional Connectedness

- Pairwise-interrelationships can be illustrated by PDCs.
- For illustration purposes, cases of China, Japan, and Korea are displayed.
- Ohina: the net transmitter of BC shocks for East Asian countries since 2000. Recent influences: Malaysia (>20%); Japan, the Philippines, and Thailand (10≈%)
- Japan: role as a transmitter of BC shocks is gradually diminishing. It has been a net recipient of China since 2000. However, except for Korea, Japan remains a net transmitter, although its influence has diminished.
- **Solution Korea:** mostly a net recipient for China and Japan over the period. However, it is a net transmitter for Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand, and its role for Indonesia and Singapore varies from period to period.

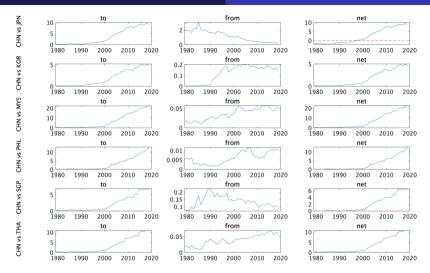


Figure: China's Pairwise Directional Connectedness within East Asian and Pacific

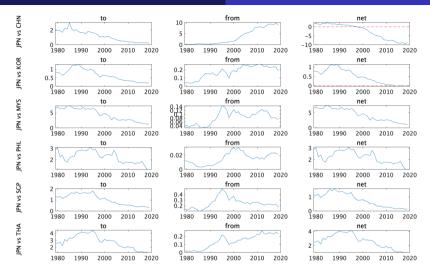


Figure: Japan's Pairwise Directional Connectedness within East Asian and Pacific

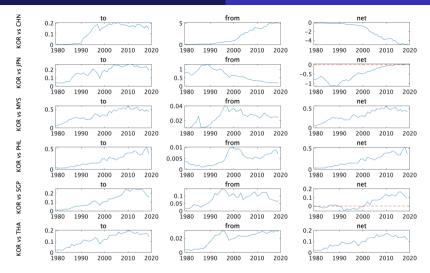
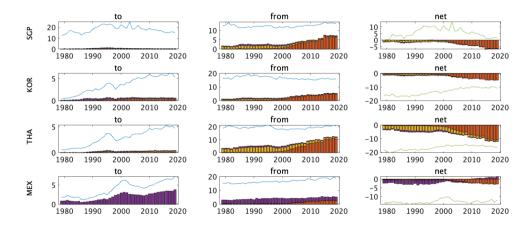


Figure: Korea's Pairwise Directional Connectedness within East Asian and Pacific

Total DC with Pairwise DC



Conclusion

- This paper proposed a novel approach to describing the time-varying macroeconomic interdependence of many countries
- Our approach combines the GVAR by [Pesaran et al., 2004] with the CM by [Diebold and Yılmaz, 2014] to derive a new index which can be used to analyze the BC shock transmission.
- Using quarterly GDP and oil price data for 33 countries from 1979 to 2019, we analyzed the growing interdependence of BCs and dependencies between regions and countries in East Asia from various perspectives.
- Remaining concerns: Robustness check with
 - ullet Different forecasting period, other than H=12 quarters
 - Other specifications, such as a differenced VAR or a co-integrating VAR
 - Other kinds of weights, such as the flow of funds
 - Use of time-varying parameter model

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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Appendix



Table: Connectedness Table: 1985

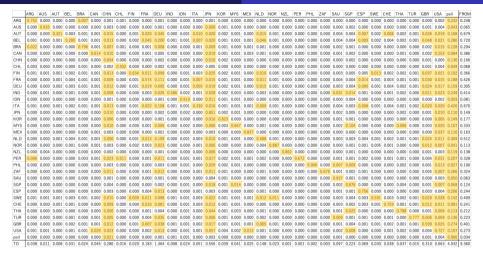


Table: Connectedness Table: 1995

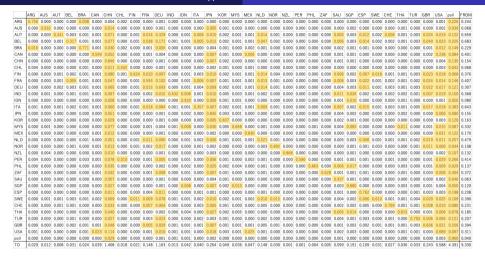


Table: Connectedness Table: 2005

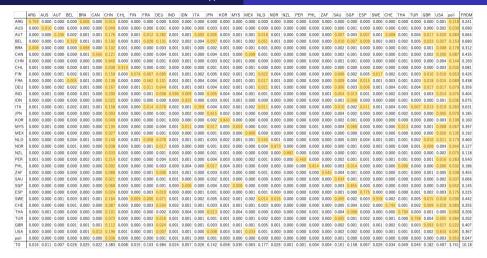


Table: Connectedness Table: 2015