# Lender Concentration of External Debts and Sudden Stops

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## MOTIVATION

- Emerging markets (EM) prone to sudden stops tend to borrow too much (overborrowing) as borrowers fail to internalize pecuniary externality
  - Sudden stop: countries' capital inflows suddenly stop in downturns
  - Pecuniary externality: individual decisions affect aggregate asset prices
- Macroprudential policies decentralizes borrower's pecuniary externality
- However, large lenders may also internalize pecuniary externality to maintain collateral price (Favara & Giannetti, 2017)
- Empirical finding: EMs have more concentrated lender structure
- Questions: How does lender concentration affect overborrowing? What happen if lender countries can optimally choose lender concentration?

### RECENT FORECLOSURE ON PRIVATE EXTERNAL DEBT

- In 2017 and 2019, a Venezuela oil firm PDVSA faced foreclosure after defaulting on debt to Russian company Rosneft in 2016.
- PDVSA's U.S. subsidiary shares served as collateral worth 1.5 billion USD (1.3% of Venezuela's GDP) were auctioned in October 2023



## This paper

- Documents two empirical facts:
  - Lender structure of external debts are more concentrated in EMs
  - Lender concentration alleviates severity of sudden stops
  - Implications: EMs demand less precautionary saving hence borrow more
- Develop an SOE-DSGE model with heterogeneous lenders of different sizes
- Theoretically characterize effect of lender concentration on deb decision
- Calibrate to Argentina and quantify effect of lender concentration
- Numerical counterfactual: optimal lender concentration

### **RESULTS OVERVIEW**

- Lender concentration affects eq via nominal tightness of constraint and future expected repayments in foreclosure states
- Lender concentration *increases* debt in competitive equilibrium (CE)?
  - Lender concentration raises future asset price and borrowing
- Lender concentration *does not affect* social planner's (SP) borrowing
  - SP completely avoids foreclosure
- Overborrowing (CE SP) is increasing in lender concentration
- What happen when allowing lenders to choose concentration? *Lenders want* to raise concentration, leading to more borrowing and 1.5% higher welfare

## Related literature

- Open economy with pecuniary externality: Uribe (2006), Bianchi (2011), Benigno et al. (2013), Benigno et al. (2016), Bianchi & Mendoza (2018), Schmitt-Grohé & Uribe (2018), Jeanne and Korinek (2019), Schmitt-Grohé & Uribe (2021), Benigno et al. (2022), and Chi et al. (2024)
  - This paper focuses on how lenders internalize pecuniary externality (PE)
- Lender concentration & external debt: Fernández & Ozler (1999), Hardy (2019)
- Optimal creditor concentration: Bolton & Scharfstein (1996), Bolton & Jeanne (2009), Zhong (2021)
  - ▶ This paper emphasizes that lender structure internalizes inefficiency from PE
  - This paper focuses on private loans not subject to sovereignty

## BANK-LEVEL DATA OF EXTERNAL DEBT

- Data source: Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's 009a form
- Quarterly exposure of individual US banks to other countries' external debts
- 2003Q1 2022Q3; 125 US banks (lenders); 103 countries (borrowers)
- Balanced panel: 18 countries (excludes Cayman Islands, 9 EMs and 8 RMs)
- External Debt: deposit balances held at banks, securities, and loans
- Quarterly sudden stops: Eichengreen and Gupta (2016)
  - Start: capital flows drop below 1 s.d. lower than mean past 20 quarters
  - End: capital flows revert back to 1 s.d. below mean or back to mean
- Also use DealScan includes syndicated lending by all countries besides US
  - Universe of lender countries but only for specific loan type

## TOP-3 LENDER CONCENTRATION



Lender structure in EM has been more concentrated than RM since GFC

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## Number of lenders & top-1 share



Rich countries heavily relied on US borrow from more lenders than EMs

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Lender concentration & sudden stop

## CONCENTRATION IN SYNDICATED LOAN MARKET



Lender concentration of emerging countries is higher than rich countries

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Lender concentration & sudden stop

### LENDER CONCENTRATION ALLEVIATES SUDDEN STOPS

 $ca_{i,t} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 SS_{i,t} + \alpha_2 Con_{i,t-1} + \alpha_3 SS_{i,t} \times Con_{i,t-1} + X_{i,t} + F_i + F_t + \epsilon_{i,t}$ 

Dependent: $ca_{i,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
$Con_{i,t-1}$ measure	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$
$SS_{i,t}$	1.475	2.157	2.447	15.51***	19.02**	18.78**	1.176	1.743	2.025
	(0.67)	(1.11)	(1.17)	(2.66)	(2.56)	(2.07)	(0.61)	(1.00)	(1.10)
$Con_{i,t-1}$	-0.024	-0.025	-0.027	-0.045	-0.041	-0.051	-0.016	-0.018	-0.019
	(-0.89)	(-0.94)	(-1.02)	(-0.84)	(-0.65)	(-0.77)	(-0.73)	(-0.79)	(-0.83)
$SS_{i,t} \times Con_{i,t-1}$	-0.067***	-0.081***	-0.095***	-0.195***	-0.235***	-0.233**	-0.065***	-0.079***	-0.093***
	(-2.66)	(-4.66)	(-2.71)	(-3.44)	(-3.47)	(-2.45)	(-2.95)	(-4.65)	(-2.75)
$ca_{i,t-1}$		-0.022***	-0.023***		-0.022***	-0.023***		-0.022***	-0.023***
		(-6.14)	(-5.42)		(-5.40)	(-4.63)		(-6.11)	(-5.57)
$gdp_{i,t}$		-2.991	-4.723		-2.631	-4.284		-3.144	-4.902
		(-0.41)	(-0.63)		(-0.35)	(-0.54)		(-0.43)	(-0.65)
$Triple_{i,t}$			0.089			-0.014			0.100
			(0.27)			(-0.03)			(0.30)
Time FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	3,045	2,875	2,722	3,045	2,875	2,722	3,045	2,875	2,722
$R^2$	0.041	0.045	0.047	0.041	0.045	0.047	0.041	0.045	0.047

 $Triple_{i,t} = SS_{i,t} \times Con_{i,t-1} \times RolloverRisk_{i,t-1}$ 

1 sd increase in  $L_{i.t}^{Top3}$  (7%) alleviates 1.7% ca reversal (9% of ca reversal)

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Lender concentration & sudden sto

## NO PRETREND ON CHANGES IN CURRENT ACCOUNT



 $\mathit{ca}$  in Sudden stop features no pretrend and sudden reversal

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Lender concentration & sudden stop

### LENDER CONCENTRATION ALLEVIATES PRICE DROP

Dependent: $rer_{i,t}$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
$Con_{i,t-1}$ measure	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top1}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$L_{i,t-1}^{Top3}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$	$HHI_{i,t-1}$
$SS_{i,t}$	0.0480***	0.0489***	0.069***	0.261**	0.254***	0.363**	0.030***	0.031***	0.049**
	(4.05)	(5.66)	(3.04)	(2.59)	(2.76)	(2.43)	(3.51)	(5.32)	(2.55)
$Con_{i,t-1}$	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	(1.29)	(0.97)	(0.64)	(-0.59)	(-1.22)	(-1.85)	(1.39)	(1.06)	(0.71)
$SS_{i,t} \times Con_{i,t-1}$	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.003**	-0.003***	-0.004**	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.001***
	(-6.21)	(-9.66)	(-5.93)	(-2.64)	(-2.79)	(-2.47)	(-6.13)	(-9.69)	(-4.85)
$rer_{i,t-1}$		0.161***	0.156***		0.163***	0.157***		0.161***	0.156***
		(3.01)	(2.79)		(3.08)	(2.88)		(3.01)	(2.77)
$gdp_{i,t}$		-0.005	-0.006		-0.005	-0.005		-0.004	-0.006
		(-0.91)	(-1.03)		(-0.96)	(-1.03)		(-0.84)	(-0.99)
$Triple_{i,t}$			-0.008			-0.004*			-0.010
			(-1.39)			(-1.72)			(-1.49)
Time FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	2,197	2,077	1,979	2,197	2,077	1,979	2,197	2,077	1,979
$R^2$	0.099	0.120	0.126	0.095	0.117	0.122	0.099	0.120	0.126

 $rer_{i,t} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 SS_{i,t} + \alpha_2 Con_{i,t-1} + \alpha_3 SS_{i,t} \times Con_{i,t-1} + X_{i,t} + F_i + F_t + \epsilon_{i,t}$ 

rer (inverse of nontrable price) drops by less under higher concentration

Chi, Chun-Che (2024)

## A MODEL OF LENDER CONCENTRATION

- Goal: How does lender concentration affect agents and planner's borrowing?
- SOE-DSGE model with occasionally-binding collateral constraint and
  - Borrowers can only consume collateral once debts are repaid
  - When borrowers default, lenders foreclose on optimal collateral amount
- Exogenous lender structure: A largest lender provides  $\eta$  of total loans and atomistic lenders contribute remaining  $(1 \eta)$  in aggregate.
  - Large lender internalizes price change, atomistic lenders take price as given
  - Lenders set interest rate endogeneously based on expected future repayments
  - Comparative static of  $\eta$ , later relax this by allowing lenders to choose  $\eta$

## A MODEL OF LENDER CONCENTRATION CONT.

- A continuum of identical domestic borrowers subject to collateral constraint
- Endowment economy with tradable and nontradable goods  $y_t^T$  and  $y_t^N$
- Foreclosure  $(y_t^T < d_t)$  and sudden stop  $(d_{t+1}R_t^{-1} = \kappa p_t y_t^N)$  are different
  - Foreclosure: defaults in which agents fail to repay initial debt
    - ★ Lenders affect borrowers consumption
  - Sudden stop: agents repay initial debt but are constrained to issue new debt
    - ★ Economy is subject to standard pecuniary externality
  - Correlation: foreclosure lowers collateral price and triggers sudden stops
  - Less likely to have multiple equilibria

### TIMING OF COMPETITIVE EQUILIBRIUM

- $\bullet$  Period t begins. Agents receive  $y_t^T$  to repay the initial debt  $d_t$
- If  $y_t^T < d_t$ , agents can't fully repay their loans. Lenders waive  $d_t$  and foreclose collateral  $y_{t-1}^N$ ; If  $y_t^T \ge d_t$ , agents fully repay debt (no foreclosure)
- Agents consume remaining (all) collateral  $y_{t-1}^N$  if there is (no) foreclosure
- Agents receive and pledge  $y_t^N$  as collateral
- Lenders sell seized collateral (if any). Agents choose  $d_{t+1}$  and  $c_t^T$  under  $(p_t, r_t)$ . If  $y_t^N$  is so low that  $d_{t+1}R_t^{-1} = \kappa p_t y_t^N$ , economy falls into sudden stop
- Period t+1 begins. Agents receive  $y_{t+1}^T$  to repay the initial debt  $d_{t+1}$

### DOMESTIC AGENTS

$$\max U_0 = E_0 \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u \left( c_t(c_t^T, c_t^N) \right) \right]$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} c_t^N &= \zeta_t^* y_{t-1}^N I_t + y_{t-1}^N \left(1 - I\right) \\ c_t^T &= y_t^T + \frac{d_{t+1}}{1 + r_t} - d_t (1 - I_t) - p_t c_t^N - \delta I_t \\ \frac{d_{t+1}}{1 + r_t} &\leq \kappa p_t y_t^N \end{aligned}$$

•  $I_t$  foreclosure dummy:  $I_t = 1$  if  $y_t^T < d_t$  (fail to repay debt), 0 otherwise

•  $\zeta_t^* = \eta \zeta_t^{L*} + (1 - \eta) \, \zeta_t^{A*}$ : weighted sum of foreclosure rates  $\zeta_t^{L*}, \zeta_t^{A*} \in [0, 1]$ 

## Domestic agents: optimality conditions

$$\lambda_t = \frac{\partial u(c_t)}{\partial c_t^T} \qquad (c_t^T)$$

$$p_t = \left(\frac{1-a}{a}\right) \left(\frac{c_t^T}{c_t^N}\right)^{1/\xi} \qquad (c_t^N)$$

$$\lambda_t = -\beta(1+r)\frac{\partial E_t U_{t+1}}{\partial d_{t+1}} + (1+r)\mu_t \qquad (d_{t+1})$$

$$0 \le \mu_t \left[ \kappa p_t y_t^N - d_{t+1} \right], \quad 0 \le \mu_t \tag{cs}$$

•  $\lambda_t$  shadow price of budget constraint;  $\mu_t$  shadow price of collateral constraint

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## EFFECT OF FORECLOSURE ON AGENTS' DECISION

 $\forall y_t^T \in [\underline{y}^T, \bar{y}^T]$ , expected utility in t+1 is given by

$$E_{t}U_{t+1} = \underbrace{\int_{\underline{y}^{T}}^{d_{t+1}} u\left(c_{t+1}^{F}\right) \phi_{y} dy_{t+1}^{T}}_{\partial d_{t+1}} + \underbrace{\int_{d_{t+1}}^{\overline{y}^{T}} u\left(c_{t+1}^{NF}\right) \phi_{y} dy_{t+1}^{T}}_{\partial d_{t+1}} \\ \frac{\partial E_{t}U_{t+1}}{\partial d_{t+1}} \propto \phi(d_{t+1}|y_{t}^{T}) \left[\underbrace{u\left[c_{t+1}^{F}(\cdot;d_{t+1})\right] - u\left[c_{t+1}^{NF}(d_{t+1};d_{t+1})\right]}_{\text{Change in utility from regime switching}}\right]$$

- Increasing  $d_{t+1}$  switches some  $y_{t+1}^T$  realization from no-foreclosure to foreclosure state
- Lender concentration only affects  $U'(d_{t+1})$  via  $u\left[c_{t+1}^F(\cdot;d_{t+1})\right]$

## FOREIGN LENDERS: FORECLOSURE DECISIONS

• Atomistic lenders foreclose  $\zeta_t^A$  share of collateral  $y_{t-1}^N$  taking  $p_t$  as given:

$$\max_{\zeta^A_t}\zeta^A_t p_t y^N_{t-1} \Rightarrow \zeta^{A*}_t = 1, \ \forall t$$

• Large lender internalizes effect of  $\zeta_t^L$  on  $p_t$  via nontradable supply:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\zeta_t^L} \zeta_t^L \left( \frac{1-a}{a} \right) \left( \frac{c_t^T}{\left[ \eta_t \zeta_t^L + (1-\eta_t) \right] y_{t-1}^N} \right)^{1/\xi} y_{t-1}^N \\ \Rightarrow \zeta_t^{L*} &= \frac{(1-\eta)}{\eta} \left( \frac{\xi}{1-\xi} \right) \end{aligned}$$

•  $\zeta_t^{L*}$  decreases with  $\eta$ : internalizing pecuniary externality!

•  $\zeta_t^* = \eta \zeta_t^{L*} + (1 - \eta)$  also decreases with  $\eta$ 

### INTEREST RATES AND DEFAULT RISK

• Risk-neutral lender l sets  $r_t^l$ , depending on lender-specific future repayments:

$$(1+r^*) = \left(1+r_t^l\right) \left[\int_{\underline{y}^T}^{d_{t+1}} \frac{\zeta_{t+1}^{l*} p_{t+1}^F y_t^N}{d_{t+1}} \phi_y dy_{t+1}^T + \int_{d_{t+1}}^{\bar{y}^T} 1\phi_y dy_{t+1}^T\right]$$

• Large lender charges higher rate  $(r_t^L > r_t^A)$  due to less expected repayments

- Rate of  $d_{t+1}$  is weighted:  $(1+r_t)^{-1} = \eta \left(1+r_t^L\right)^{-1} + (1-\eta) \left(1+r_t^A\right)^{-1}$
- $\bullet$  Special case: if default prob  $\phi(y_{t+1}^T|y_{t+1}^T < d_{t+1}, y_t) = 0, \ r_t^A = r_t^L = r^*$

#### Lemma: Debt-dependent interest rate

If 
$$(\zeta_{t+1}^* p_{t+1}^F y_t^N)/d_{t+1} < 1$$
, then  $\partial r_t/\partial d_{t+1} > 0$ 

### EFFECT OF CONCENTRATION IN NORMAL TIMES

•  $\eta$  affects decentralized allocation via expected marginal utility:

$$\frac{\partial E_t U_{t+1}}{\partial d_{t+1} \partial \eta} = \phi(d_{t+1}|y_t^T) \frac{\partial u[c_{t+1}^F(c_{t+1}^{N,F}, c_{t+1}^{T,F})]}{\partial \eta}$$

• If  $\frac{\partial E_t U_{t+1}}{\partial d_{t+1} \partial \eta} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial d_{t+1}}{\partial \eta} > 0$  as marginal benefit of debt increases with  $\eta$ 

 $\bullet$  It really depends on how  $\eta$  affect  $c_{t+1}^{N,F}$  and  $c_{t+1}^{T,F}$ :

• 
$$c_{t+1}^{N,F} = \zeta_{t+1}^* y_t^N$$
 always decreases with  $\eta$ 

 $\blacktriangleright \ c_{t+1}^{T,F} = y_{t+1}^T + \frac{d_{t+2}}{1+r} - p_{t+1}\zeta_{t+1}^*y_t^N \text{ increases with } \eta$ 

• Quantitatively, effect of  $c_{t+1}^{T,F}$  dominates so that  $\frac{\partial E_t U_{t+1}}{\partial d_{t+1}\partial \eta} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial d_{t+1}}{\partial \eta} > 0$ 

CE conditions

•  $d_{t+1}$  is pinned down by the binding collateral constraint:

$$d_{t+1} = \kappa \underbrace{\left(\frac{1-a}{a}\right) \left(\frac{c_t^T}{\zeta_t^* y_{t-1}^N}\right)^{\frac{1}{\xi}}}_{p_t} y_t^N$$

•  $\eta$  alleviates crises:  $\eta$  decreases  $\zeta_t^*$ , increasing  $p_t$  and  $d_{t+1}$  (in line with data)

• So far, we have focused on competitive equilibrium, but overborrowing also depends on social planner's allocation

### CONSTRAINED-EFFICIENT EQUILIBRIUM

SP chooses debt subject to collateral constraint but allows goods market to clear in a competitive way

$$V(b,y) = \max_{d',c^T} u(c(c^T, c^N)) + \beta E_{y'|y} V(b', y')$$

subject to

$$\begin{split} c^T &= y^T + \frac{d'}{1+r} - d(1-I) - \left(\frac{1-a}{a}\right) \left(\frac{c^T}{c^N}\right)^{1/\xi} (c^N) \\ c^N &= \zeta^* y^N I, \\ d' &\leq \kappa \left(\frac{1-a}{a}\right) \left(\frac{c^T}{c^N}\right)^{1/\xi} y^N \end{split}$$

## SP'S OPTIMALITY CONDITIONS



Marginal benefit of reducing  $d_{t+1}$  (saving)

- Overborrowing is additional marginal benefit of lowering debt
  - Pecuniary externality of collateral price
  - Pecuniary externality of interest rate
- Reducing  $d_{t+1}$  shifts a slice of  $y_{t+1}^T$  from foreclosure to no-foreclosure
- SP gains (loses) slice of MB of saving in no-foreclosure (foreclosure) state

## CONCENTRATION & PECUNIARY EXTERNALITY (PE)

- $\bullet~{\rm PE}$  of collateral price in no-foreclosure states do not change with  $\eta$
- PE of collateral price in foreclosure states changes with  $\eta$ :

$$-\kappa y^{N} \frac{\partial E(\mu_{t+1}^{SP} p_{t+1})}{\partial d_{t+1} \partial \eta} \propto [p_{t+1}^{F*} \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mu_{t+1}^{SP,F*}}{\partial \eta}}_{(-)} + \underbrace{\mu_{t+1}^{SP,F*} \underbrace{\frac{\partial p_{t+1}^{F*}}{\partial \eta}}_{(+)}]$$

- Similarly, PE of interest rate is ambiguous as it depends on future repayments  $\zeta^*_{t+1}p^F_{t+1}y^N_t$
- $\eta$  does not change SP's allocation if foreclosure never occurs [calibrated eq!]

### LENDER CONCENTRATION RAISES OVERBORROWING



Overborrowing is increasing in  $\eta$  via changes in CE

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## CALIBRATION: ARGENTINA

• Exogenous  $y_t = \left[y_t^T, \bar{y}_t^N\right]'$  follows an AR(1) process  $logy_t = \alpha logy_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$ 

Discretization of State Space (Schmitt-Grohé & Uribe, 2018)					
$n_{y^T}$	13	Number of equally-spaced grid points for $lny^T$			
$n_{ar{y}^N}$	13	Number of equally-spaced grid points for $lnar{y}^N$			
$n_d$	800	Number of equally-spaced grid points for $d_t$			
$[ln\underline{y}^T, ln\overline{y}^T]$	$\left[-0.1093, 0.1093 ight]$	Range for logarithm of tradable endowment			
$[ln \bar{\underline{y}}^N, ln \bar{\overline{y}}^N]$	$\left[-0.1328, 0.1328\right]$	Range for logarithm of nontradable endowment			
$[\underline{d},\overline{d}]$	[0, 1.1]	Debt range			

## PARAMETER VALUES

Parameter	Value	Description
σ	2.00	Parameter of risk aversion
$\beta$	0.91	Subjective discount factor
$\kappa$	0.972	Collateral margin of nontradable goods
$r^*$	0.04	World interest rate
$\eta$	0.74	Median top-1 concentration of emerging countries
δ	0.32	Coefficient of output loss
ξ	0.55	Elasticity of substitution between $c^T$ and $c^N$
a	0.0015	Weights on tradables in CES aggregator
$y^N$	6.90	Collateralizable non-tradable endowment
Model	Data	Calibration target
0.102	0.108	Average debt-to-output ratio
0.051	0.055	Sudden stop probability (Bianchi, 2011)
0.021	0.026	Foreclosure probability (Schmitt-Grohe & Uribe, 2017)
0.746	0.747	Foreclosure rate in defaults (Favara & Giannetti, 2017)

## Policy function & overborrowing



- Initial debt raises borrowing when constraint never binds, not so much when constraint binds with positive probability
- Borrowing is independent to initial debt when it is waived
- Policy jumps when  $d_{t+1}$  raises  $p_t$  so that constraint binds at two levels Multi

## SIMULATING PECUNIARY EXTERNALITY (PE)

	SP	CE	$CE^{full}$
Median debt	0.8071	0.8157	0.8092
Mean debt in sudden stops	0.7694	0.5281	0.5021
Mean debt in normal times	0.8075	0.8320	0.8236
Foreclosure probability	0.0000	0.0206	0.0259
Sudden stop probability	0.0098	0.0514	0.0419
Mean $\zeta_t^{L*}$ in foreclosure	NaN	0.6571	1.0000

- SP: both lenders & borrowers internalize PE; CE: only lenders internalize PE
- Consider  $CE^{full}$ : lenders do not internalize PE ( $\zeta_t^{L*} = 1$ )
- Agents borrow more when crises is less severe in CE than in  $CE^{full}$
- PE internalized by lenders is 2/3 of PE internalized by borrowers

### Optimal lender concentration

- Coordination problem of lenders reemphasized since Covid as debt hiked
- Lender countries may want to concentrate lender structure to raise gain

$$\max_{\eta_t} \zeta_t^*(\eta) p_t^F(\eta_t) y_{t-1}^N + \pi_{t+1} d_{t+1} + (1 - \pi_{t+1}) \zeta_{t+1}^* p_{t+1}^F y_t^N$$

where  $\pi_{t+1} = Pr\left(d_{t+1} \leq y_{t+1}^T\right)$  is probability borrowers fully repay debt

- Assumption: lender country takes borrower's debt decision  $d_{t+1}$  as given
- Simplified question: maximizing  $\zeta_t^*(\eta_t)p_t^F(\eta_t)y_{t-1}^N$  by choosing  $\eta_t$ :

$$\frac{d\zeta_t^*}{d\eta_t} \left( p_t^F + \frac{\partial p_t^F}{\partial \zeta_t^*} \zeta_t^* \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \zeta_t^*(\eta_t^*) = -p_t^F \left( \frac{\partial p_t^F}{\partial \zeta_t^*} \right)^{-1}$$

Trade-off:  $\eta_t$  raises collateral price yet lowers foreclosure rate

## SIMULATION: OPTIMAL LENDER CONCENTRATION

	SP	CE	CE
	fixed $\eta_t$	fixed $\eta_t$	optimal $\eta_t$
Median debt	0.8071	0.8157	0.8176
Mean debt in sudden stops	0.7694	0.5281	0.6200
Mean debt in normal times	0.8075	0.8320	0.8342
Mean consumption	7.2868	7.2512	7.2834
Foreclosure probability	0.0000	0.0206	0.0000
Sudden stop probability	0.0098	0.0514	0.0773
Mean $\eta_t$	0.7400	0.7400	1
Mean $\zeta_t^{L*}$ in foreclosure	NaN	0.6571	NaN

- Optimal  $\eta$  is 26% higher than concentration in data
- Optimal  $\eta$  increases borrowing and consumption-equivalent welfare by 1.5%
- More sudden stops under optimal  $\eta$ , reducing debt and prevents foreclosure

## CONCLUSION

- EMs tend to have more concentrated lender structure that alleviates crises
- Lender concentration raises debt in CE but won't affect SP  $\Rightarrow$  overborrow  $\uparrow$
- Pecuniary externality (PE) from lenders is quantitatively nonnegligible
- Achieving SP requires both lenders and borrowers to internalize PE
- Letting lenders choose concentration optimally raises borrowers' welfare

## THANK YOU!

## APPENDIX

## Multiple binding equilibria

$$d_{t+1}(1+r_t)^{-1} \le \kappa p_t y_t^N$$



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## Model not subject to multiple equilibria



### SUDDEN STOP VS. FORECLOSURE EVENTS



 Sudden stops triggered by shocks at period 0.
 Foreclosures triggered by shocks at period -1

- Both feature credit boom-bust cycle
- Nontradable price and consumption increase in foreclosure under limited foreclosure
- Interest rate hikes prior to foreclosures as default probability rises

Chi, Chun-Che (2024)

## TOP-3 LENDER CONCENTRATION



Top-3 lenders contribute 95% (74%) of external debts of RMs (EMs)

Chi, Chun-Che (2024)

Lender concentration & sudden stop