

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Monetary policy and financial stability in the long run:
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PII: S1572-3089(16)30218-2
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.jfs.2016.12.002>
Reference: JFS 509

To appear in: *Journal of Financial Stability*

Received date: 7-9-2015
Revised date: 7-12-2016
Accepted date: 8-12-2016



Please cite this article as: Jin Cao, Lorán Chollete, Monetary policy and financial stability in the long run: A simple game-theoretic approach, *Journal of Financial Stability* (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jfs.2016.12.002>

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Monetary policy and financial stability in the long run: A simple game-theoretic approach[☆]

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Abstract

Many theoretical central bank models use short horizons and focus on a single tradeoff. However, in reality, central banks play complex, long-horizon games and face more than one tradeoff. We account for these strategic interactions in a simple infinite-horizon game with a novel tradeoff: tighter monetary policy deters financial imbalances, but looser monetary policy reduces the likelihood of insolvency. We term these factors discipline and stability effects, respectively. The central bank's welfare decreases with dependence between real and financial shocks, so it may reduce costs with correlation-indexed securities. An independent central bank cannot in general attain both low inflation and financial stability.

JEL Codes: E50, G21, G28

Keywords: Central banking, Correlation-indexed security, Discipline effect, Stability effect, Strategic interaction

1. Introduction

The aftermath of the 2008 crisis featured a large effort by central banks and monetary authorities to address the question of financial fragility. In particular, central banks attempted to utilize novel methods to shore up the financial system and stave off potential incipient crises. A natural challenge concerns the extent to which central banks can actually achieve the goal of monitoring financial stability, while conducting more traditional roles of managing price and output stability. Our paper attempts to address this issue.

[☆]We thank Iftexhar Hasan (Editor), two anonymous referees, as well as seminar participants at DIW Berlin, Newcastle University, University of Munich, 2014 CESifo Area Conference on Macro, Money & International Finance, the Surrey-Fordham Conference on “Banking, Finance, Money and Institutions: The Post Crisis Era”, and 2014 European Economic Association Meetings for useful comments and discussions. Chollete acknowledges support from Finansmarkedsfondet, of the Research Council of Norway. This paper should not be reported as representing the views of Norges Bank. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Norges Bank.

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Preprint submitted to Elsevier

December 7, 2016

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