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Waves of international banking integration: A tale of regional differences

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a b s t r a c t

We propose an original measure of international banking integration based on gravity equations and a spline function on a panel of 14 countries and their 186 partners between 1999 and 2012. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, we uncover that: (1) the interna-tional banking integration outside the euro area has been tenaciously increasing since\1999 and has even strengthened after the crisis. (2) In contrast, the international banking integration of the euro area has been cyclical since 1999 with a peak in 2006 and a complete reversal since then. (3) This decline is not a correction of previous overshooting but a marked disintegration. (4) Outside the euro area, the level of income does not affect the shape of banking integration.

1. Introduction

A massive reversal of international capital flows has taken place during the Great Recession: in 2013, cross-border capital flows were 40% of their 2007 level.[1] While the reversal reached an unprecedented magnitude in all broad categories of flows (Forbes and Warnock, 2012), the sharpest decline in activity was in international bank loans extended cross-border or by local affiliates (Milesi-Ferretti and Tille, 2011). The retrenchment after 2008 was highly heterogeneous across countries with emerging countries less severely hit than developed countries (Milesi-Ferretti and Tille, 2011). While financial integration is often considered as a tenacious long-run trend, this massive retrenchment raises the possibility that it may not be a monotonic process. Yet, the recent financial reversal is barely put in perspective with the ebbs and flows of international capital. With the benefits of hindsight, can we identify cyclical patterns in financial integration over a long span? How do different areas compare? The major aim of our analysis is to estimate the trends in international banking integration. We construct a measure of banking integration to quantitatively document the different patterns across different geographical areas including the stage of their banking integration and the magnitude of recovery when it happened. We find that banking integration of the euro area has been cyclical since 1999 while it has not reversed outside the euro area. The uncovered dynamics echo the waves in international capital flows described in Forbes and Warnock (2012). Beyond the specific crisis events under scrutiny, our findings hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the financial cycle.

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[1] See McKinsey Global Institute, “Financial globalization: Retreat or reset?”, March 2013.

Our measure of banking integration draws on recent contributions in three different aspects. First, the debate about global imbalances has made it clear that *gross* positions are important to grasp the degree of financial integration (Milesi-Ferretti et al., 2010; Shin, 2012). This is because *net* positions can hide massive *gross* positions.[2] In this work, we focus on the asset side of banks to document the adjustment of their foreign claims across time. Second, understanding the overall structure of foreign claims positions requires estimates of bilateral positions. In fact, the gravity literature applied to financial transactions emphasizes the influence of bilateral differences of information and bilateral institutional linkages on the allocation decision of investors (Portes et al., 2001; Portes and Rey, 2005; Martin and Rey, 2004; Okawa and Van Wincoop, 2012). Third, in order to compute a measure of banking integration, we draw inspiration from an indirectly related literature on trade openness based on the idea of a benchmark level calculated from a gravity model (see Wang and Winters, 1992; Hamilton and Winters, 1992; Nilsson, 2000 for trade in goods and Park, 2002; Guillin, 2013a for trade in services). More precisely, in the trade literature, the approach consists in estimating gravity models where bilateral transactions are determined by standard gravity factors (economic size and frictions). Then what is left over in the regression, i.e. what is not related to standard gravity factors, is kept to compute an openness measure. The larger the positive leftovers, the more open the countries; in turn the negative and large leftovers are associated with closed countries. Here, similarly, we estimate gravity equations for banking claims including size and frictions factors. We identify what is not explained by standard gravity factors or white noise to obtain a quantitative measure that informs us on the current state of banking (dis)integration in different geographical areas.

More specifically, we use gravity equations initially developed to analyze the determinants of bilateral trade flows, which have later shown to do a good job fitting bilateral financial flows.[3] Gravity equations are a model of bilateral interactions in which "mass" and "resistance" terms enter multiplicatively. Simply put, bilateral financial flows rise proportionately with the economic size of both countries ("mass") and are negatively correlated with frictions mentioned before, including information asymmetry proxied by physical distance as well as different language, currency and legal system ("resistance"). This approach has two main advantages. First, the model is based on bilateral data at the country level, meaning that we have granular data on source and destination of funds to draw an accurate picture of international banking activities. Second, it controls for frictions as well as time-varying factors that affect banking activity. For example, when an economy is hit by a severe financial crisis and falls in recession, the size of its economy decreases and its international banking activities adjust downward. This size effect should however not be considered as a disintegration of banking sectors. We include trends in the estimated specifications to capture the changes in the banking integration and we allow the trends to be nonlinear to account for reversals across time. A spline function (i.e., a smooth polynomial function that is piece-wise-defined) is used to allow a maximum of flexibility but we show that our findings are robust to alternative non-linear functional forms. We run our estimates on 14 countries (vis-à-vis around 186 partner countries) including 7 euro area members over the period 1999–2012. We estimate the empirical model with fixed effects and Hausman and Taylor (1981) estimators. The latter has two advantages of identifying the effect of time invariant bilateral characteristics and providing more efficient estimates.

Our estimates uncover new stylized facts. We find that the decline in banking activities observed after the crisis was due to temporary frictions in all countries outside the euro area. The international banking integration has never declined and on the contrary has even strengthened with a level of banking activities, in 2012, 37% higher than what the gravity model would predict. In contrast, the economic downturn faced by the euro area since 2008 is not sufficient to account for the massive retrenchment of euro area banks from international activities. Depending on the destination geographic area, we assess that in 2012 the exposure of euro area banks was between 37% and 33% below what gravity factors would predict. Last, international banking activity in the euro area has been cyclical since 1999 with a peak in 2006 and we find a larger amplitude of the cycle in stressed countries than core countries.

This work is related with the recent papers documenting the massive retrenchment of international financial flows during the crisis (Forbes and Warnock, 2012; Milesi-Ferretti and Tille, 2011; Lane and Milesi-Ferretti, 2012). Unlike most of these papers which investigate aggregate flows, our paper relies on bilateral positions. Some recent papers estimate bilateral dynamics too, including (Galstyan and Lane, 2013; Gourinchas et al., 2012) for portfolio data and (De Haas and Van Horen, 2013) for foreign bank loans. All these papers focus on the shifts that took place during the great recession to explain their drivers (geographic distance and other information-sensitive factors) or measure the wealth transfers across regions. And they treat all advanced countries similarly because they cover an estimation period before the euro area financial fragmentation became visible in the data. Relatively to these papers, our longer period of estimation allows us to document the full adjustment of bank activities and emphasize that there was no such thing as banking disintegration outside the euro area in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

Our work also complements papers examining cross-border integration among the euro area countries. On the one hand, during the first decade of the single currency, papers have documented unambiguous positive effects of euro on cross-border financial integration (Kalemli-Ozcan et al., 2010; Lane, 2006; Coeurdacier and Martin, 2009).[4] Here, we show that the level of integration has changed over time and that integration can actually revert. On the other hand, by putting euro area in perspective with the rest of the world, we complement the recent works that have documented the banking

[2] For example, from the end of the nineties, European banks have been net lenders to the US corporate sector and a net recipient of inter-bank and deposits from the US at the same time. As a consequence, the European external position towards the US was balanced, contrary to emerging surplus countries, implying that the growing role of European banks in inter-mediating US savings has been overlooked by regulators (McGuire and Von Peter, 2009; Baba et al., 2009).

[3] See Head and Mayer (2013) for a literature review of gravity models.

[4] See Papaioannou (2009) for a literature review.

fragmentation inside the European Monetary Union since the onset of the crisis (ECB, 2014; Brutti and Sauré, 2014; Bologna and Caccavaio, 2014). Overall our results raise the question of a transfer of international banking activities from the euro area to the non euro area countries. It is beyond the scope of our database to investigate the drivers of this isolation and we discuss possible further investigation at the end of the paper.

The next section reviews the related literature. Section 3 provides a first picture of the evolution of international banking activities based on descriptive statistics. In Section 4, we present our empirical strategy which draws on gravity equations. Estimation results are presented in Section 5 which also provides a graphical analysis of our banking (des)integration measure. Section 6 summarizes our findings and concludes.

2. Related literature

Financial integration has been described as a tenacious long-run trend since the end of the Bretton Woods monetary system. Only recently, the possibility that it may not be a monotonic process has run through the literature on international capital markets. Initially, Calvo (1998) coined the expression "sudden stop episodes" to designate the sharp decline in net capital inflows that hit the emerging economies during the phase of capital liberalization in the 1990s. Then, and in contrast, papers have documented the dramatic acceleration of international financial integration due to the global saving glut initially pointed by Bernanke (Broner et al., 2010). In sum the idea that international capital may accumulate and dis-accumulate in waves is only recent and was put forward by Forbes and Warnock (2012), confirmed by Rey (2015) who documents a global financial cycle in capital flows for the period of 1990–2012.

Shortly after the global financial crisis, Forbes and Warnock (2012) provided an overall picture of the massive capital retrenchment. They put it in the perspective of a broader international capital cycle and emphasized the unprecedented worldwide magnitude of this episode. Capital flight episodes have proceeded when investors have massively repatriated their capital back home following the Greek crisis (Al-Eyd and Berkmen, 2013). From then on, scholars have documented an internal disintegration relying on various measures from the divergence of borrowing costs to composite indicators of financial integration (Schildbach, 2011; Schoenmaker, 2013; European Commission, 2014). Here, relying on data spanning the period of rise and fall of financial integration since 1999, we will estimate the trends in international banking integration by zone to precisely document the evolution and draw quantitative comparisons over a long span.

What drives international capital in and out is an important question in the literature on international capital markets. Earlier theoretical literature emphasized the role of the development of the domestic financial system and macroeconomic conditions in driving international capital (Levine, 1997). In contrast, Forbes and Warnock (2012) find that global risk and contagion are the main drivers of capital flow waves while domestic conditions only play a minor role. Their result is consistent with Rey (2015) who finds that the global financial cycle in capital flows co-moves with a measure of global risk. While global factors and contagion effects may explain the general patterns of the financial cycle in different countries, domestic factors may well explain magnitude and length. In the following, we review the papers that can inform us about the potential causes behind the patterns we will document. In particular, what drives the retrenchment of banking assets?

An obvious motivation for banks to reduce their exposure to foreign sovereign bonds is the lack of enforceability of sovereign debt and the subsequent implicit seniority of domestic over foreign debt holders (Eaton and Gersovitz, 1981). When foreign debt holders anticipate that the government will not enforce payment to foreigners, they sell their securities to the domestic private sector in the secondary market (Broner et al., 2010). An alternative motivation is the moral suasion by governments and institutions consisting in forcing domestic banks to buy local assets to provide credit domestically rather than internationally (Battistini et al., 2014). For example, Buch et al. (2013) find that German banks which received state support during the crisis have lowered their international assets. A third motivation to withdraw funds is specific to currency unions due to the fact that in such institutional setting banks operate in the inter-bank market as in a domestic context (Manna, 2011). With the possibility of breakup, they get more concerned about credit recovery procedures when these take place in a foreign regulatory and legal jurisdiction. In sum, the loss of credibility of the single currency union fosters banks to withdraw funds from foreign markets. Last, Adrian and Shin (2009) have documented the growing importance of the capital market in the supply of credit in the decade 2000. In line with this evolution, Buch et al. (2013) find that German banks with a market-based funding model have reduced their foreign exposure more than banks with deposit-funded model after an increase in the cost of wholesale and short-term funding.

As far as our analysis is concerned, we observe that potential mechanisms are specific by asset category (banking, corporate non-financial or sovereign assets) or by bank category (market versus deposit-funded). As the sectoral breakdown differs by dyad in time in our dataset and we work with aggregated instead of individual bank data, a formal test of the relative relevance of these explanations is not possible with publicly available data and we will explain precisely why when we present our estimates in Section 5. Nevertheless the different arguments identified in the literature guide our empirical investigation and interpretation.

In the following we provide an overview of international banking activities based on raw statistics in order to get a first picture and raise the empirical questions we will address later.

3. Overview of international banking activities

3.1. Data

We consider the evolution of the consolidated foreign claims reported by 14 countries at the BIS over the 1995–2012 period.[5] Half of these reporting countries are currently in the euro area: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands. The seven other reporting countries are: Canada, Switzerland, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Japan, Sweden and the United States.

The BIS publishes consolidated and locational banking statistics (Wooldridge, 2002; BIS, 2013; McGuire and Wooldridge, 2005). In this paper, we use the consolidated data because they capture the country risk exposure of banks and they represent the broadest picture of international banking activities.[6] In fact, consolidated foreign claims represent foreign financial claims reported by domestic bank headquarter, including the exposures of their foreign affiliates (i.e., branches and subsidiaries) and netting out intragroup positions.[7] These data provide a breakdown by vis-à-vis countries (also called partner or recipient countries), a fact that will allow us to distinguish euro area and non euro area members. The foreign claims are comprehensive: they are made up of outstanding loans, holding of securities, banks derivatives and contingent claims on different economic sectors (banks, public sector and non-bank private sector) and on an immediate borrower basis.

The consolidated foreign claims of the 14 reporting countries are spread out over a large number of recipient countries. Since the end of the nineties, the number of recipient countries has been quite stable at the aggregate level around 196 from 2000 to 2012 (see Table 1). In addition, Table 1 shows that the number of vis-à-vis countries is quite similar for the subset of euro area reporting countries and the subset of non euro area reporting countries.

3.2. Global trends in the consolidated foreign claims

Before proceeding to the estimation of our measure of banking integration, we comment raw statistics in order to get a preliminary picture. Fig. 1a represents the aggregated evolution of the consolidated foreign claims of the 14 reporting countries vis-à-vis all countries during the 1999–2012 period (solid line). The aggregated evolution is also split between the euro area reporting countries and the non euro area reporting countries (dashed and dotted lines respectively).[8]

Fig. 1a indicates a fast expansion in international banking activities from 1999 to 2007. The consolidated foreign claims amounted 7833 billion of USD in 1999 and increased by 238% from 1999 to 2007. The euro area and the non euro area reporting countries expanded their international banking activities in a similar extent, excepted in 2007 when the increase was significantly higher in the euro area reporting countries (dotted line). No doubt the Global Crisis dealt international banking a serious blow. In 2008, the consolidated foreign claims decreased significantly and have been stable afterwards. However, the aggregate situation hides two opposite evolution. International banking activities reported by non euro area countries were severely hit in 2007 but recovered quickly as the international banking activities of non euro area reporting countries has displayed an upward trend since 2008 (dashed line). On the contrary, the banking activity of euro area reporting countries has not recovered since the global financial crisis and international banking activities show a downward trend. As a result, the share reported by the euro area countries in claims vis-à-vis all countries has decreased from 51.77% in 2005 to 40.33% in 2012 (see Table 1). This decline develops inside and outside the euro area. On the one hand, their positions represented 63.24% of the total position vis-à-vis euro area countries in 2005 and 55% in 2012. On the other hand, the euro area reporting banks reduced their relative importance in non euro area countries too from 46.78% of the consolidated foreign claims vis-à-vis non euro area countries in 2005 to 34.29% in 2012.

3.3. The euro area as recipient area

Fig. 1b focuses on the consolidated foreign claims vis-à -vis euro area countries to highlight the situation of the euro area as recipient area. Fig. 1b shows that the consolidated foreign claims vis-à-vis euro area countries were 2232 billion of USD in 1999 and increased by 302% from 1999 to 2007. The consolidated foreign claims vis-à-vis euro area countries represents 28.11% of the total in 1999 and this proportion has slightly increased until 2007 (see Table 1). In sum, the dotted line in Fig. 1b illustrates

[5] In 1995, statistics on international banking activity were reported by 15 countries. However, we exclude Finland from the analysis because no statistics were available by Finland over the 2004–2009 period.

[6] We use the data published in Table 9B of the BIS Quarterly Review under the title “The consolidated foreign claims of reporting banks.”

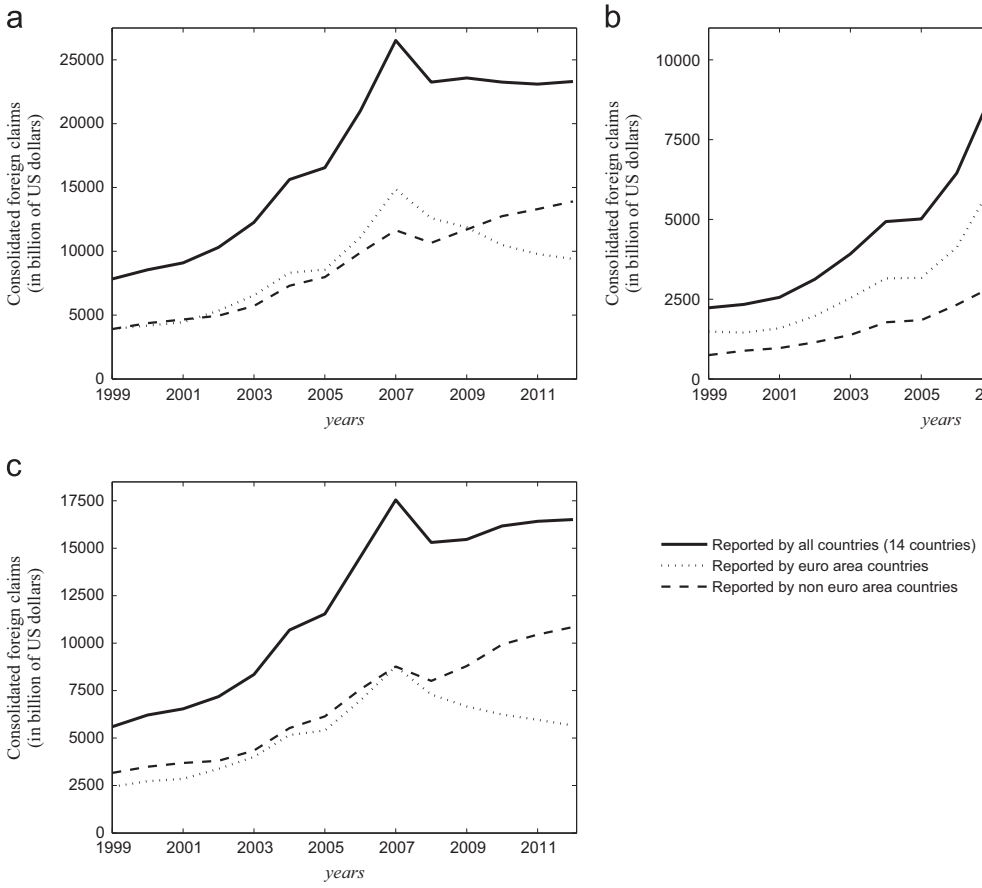
[7] More precisely consolidated foreign claims represent claims on non-residents of the reporting country and are calculated as the sum of cross-border claims and local claims (in all currencies) of reporting banks' foreign affiliates. Foreign claims are therefore larger than international claims calculated as the sum of cross-border claims in any currency and local claims of foreign affiliates denominated in non-local currencies.

[8] Data are partially available from 1995 but they show a level shift in 1999 due to a change in methodology. Indeed, reporting countries started to report claims vis-à-vis each other from 1999. Before this change in methodology, reported claims were mainly vis-à-vis developing countries and offshore centers.

Table 1
Descriptive statistics on consolidated foreign claims.

Year	1995	2000	2005	2010	2012
Number of partners (i.e., number of vis-à-vis countries):					
reported by the 14 *countries*	167	196	197	194	196
reported by the 7 *euro area countries*	160	190	194	189	190
reported by the 7 *non euro area countries*	149	177	187	183	188
Share reported by the7 *euro area countries (in %):*					
in claims vis-à-vis all countries	43.59	48.85	51.77	45.14	40.33
in claims vis-à-vis euro area countries	67.66	62.14	63.24	60.10	55.00
in claims vis-à-vis non euro area countries	43.03	43.86	46.78	38.59	34.29
Share of claims vis-à-vis euro area countries in claims vis-à-vis all countries (in %):					
reported by the 14 countries	2.26	27.33	30.28	30.43	29.14
reported by the 7 euro area countries	3.51	34.76	37.00	40.52	39.75
reported by the 7 non euro area countries	1.29	20.23	23.07	22.13	21.97
Coverage rate (in %)	99.74	98.32	96.78	93.52	93.28

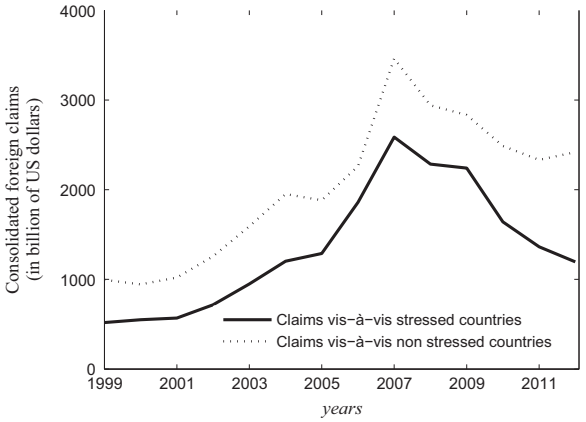
Note: the coverage rate represents total claims reported by the 14 countries in our sample divided by total claims reported by all the countries reporting consolidated banking statistics at the BIS.
Data source: BIS consolidated banking statistics.



Note: 14 reporting countries are used. The euro area countries are: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italia and the Netherland. The non euro area countries are: Canada, Switzerland, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Japan, Sweden and the United States.
Data source: BIS consolidated banking statistics (Table 9B, Foreign claims by nationality of reporting banks, immediate borrower basis)

Fig. 1. Consolidated foreign claims over the 1999–2012 period.

the unambiguous rise in banking integration in euro area over the 1999–2007 period. In turn, since 2007 the evolution has markedly reversed with a 38% reduction of euro area banks expositions inside the zone. Given the economic and financial divergence between core and peripheral countries since 2010, Fig. 2 further distinguishes destination countries by stressed and



Note: The reporting countries are: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italia and the Netherland. The stressed countries are: Greece, Ireland, Italy Portugal and Spain. The non stressed countries are: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Data source: BIS consolidated banking statistics (Table 9B, Foreign claims by nationality of reporting banks, immediate borrower basis)

Fig. 2. Claims reported by Euro area countries (7 countries).

non-stressed economies.[9] The shape is relatively similar up until 2010 after which it diverges: we observe a stabilization in the banking activity towards core countries and a continuous decline in the banking activity towards stressed countries. This shift in the behavior of the euro area reporting countries contrasts with the behavior of the non euro area reporting countries which continue to expand their international banking activities vis-à-vis euro area countries (Fig. 1b).

3.4. Non euro area countries as recipient countries

Fig. 1c plots the consolidated foreign claims vis-à-vis non euro area countries. The activity by non euro area banks has declined on a very short period in 2008 and recovered with a slope similar to the pre-crisis trend. In turn, the activity by euro area banks has kept on declining since 2007. More precisely, the euro area banks reduced their consolidated claims in countries outside of the euro area by 35% from 2007 to 2012. In sum, the retrenchment of euro area banks also concerns their activity outside the euro area.

In total, raw statistics suggest an overall massive retrenchment of European banks. European countries have faced sequential crisis episodes since 2008 and the euro area is now one of the few areas where the economy has not yet recovered. Can the heterogeneous situation just described be entirely attributed to the economic recession in Europe? During the previous decade, rising institutional linkages have unambiguously accelerated the financial integration in the euro area. Are we observing a correction after the tremendous acceleration of banking integration inside the euro area? How does the European situation compare with the rest of the world? Aggregated data and graphical representations inform us on raw activity only. In the following we present our empirical approach to measure banking integration.

4. The gravity model

We define banking integration as the changes in international banking activities which are not driven by standard gravity factors. It requires to identify time trends in the consolidated foreign claims by controlling for, among others, the time-varying size of countries, the distance between countries and the financial openness of countries. Doing so, we isolate the "natural" factors and we can more precisely assess the evolution in the degree of integration (or disintegration) of banking sectors. In the following, we describe our baseline and augmented specifications, our strategy to include time trends and the estimation methodology. We draw on previous works in the gravity model literature to specify our models.

4.1. The gravity factors

4.1.1. The baseline specification

The baseline specification includes a narrow set of explanatory variables. More precisely, we focus only on the standard gravity variables in the baseline specification in order to maximize the number of observations in the estimates. The

[9] Stressed countries include Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain and non stressed include Germany, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

baseline specification is given by:

$$\ln CFC_{ijt} = \beta_1 \ln Y_{it} + \beta_2 \ln Y_{jt} + \beta_3 \ln D_{ij} + \beta_4 L_{ij} + \beta_5 Legal_{ij} + \beta_6 Contig_{ij} + \beta_7 EIA_{ijt} + \beta_8 EEA_{ijt} + \beta_t + \mu_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ijt}, \quad (1)$$

where the subscripts refer to reporter country i that has banking activities in partner country j in year t. The BIS databases provide consolidated foreign claims expressed in nominal US dollar terms. Variable CFC_{ijt} is expressed in real terms using the US GDP deflator index as a deflator.

The real GDPs of the reporter and partner countries (Y_{it} and Y_{jt}) are used as economic mass variables in the gravity specification. These data are collected from the United Nations Statistics Division. Coefficients β_1 and β_2 are expected to be positive. The standard gravity variables also include a set of bilateral country variables that proxy frictions. In the baseline specification, we include the geographical distance (D_{ij}) and binary variables indicating the presence of a common language (L_{ij}), a common legal origin ($Legal_{ij}$), a common border ($Contig_{ij}$), the signature of an Economic Integration Agreement (EIA_{ijt}) and the European Economic Area membership (EEA_{ijt}). These variables, except EIA_{ijt} and EEA_{ijt}, come from the CEPII distance database. In the gravity specification, the distance is considered to be the main friction so coefficient β_3 is expected to be negative. However, the effect of distance can be overestimated for neighboring countries because countries sharing a common border have generally more relationships. Coefficient β_6 associated with the contiguity dummy variable is therefore expected to be positive. Furthermore, the variables L_{ij}, $Legal_{ij}$, EIA_{ijt} and EEA_{ijt} should positively affect the consolidated foreign claims. Indeed, the same official language makes international banking activities easier and a common legal origin can ease the assessment of the institutional framework of the partner country. In addition, EIAs are made to promote trade in services activities, including financial services, therefore allowing a deeper exploration of the liberalization process at the bilateral or multilateral level.[10] Finally, the variable EEA_{ijt} is used to control for the specific situation in the European Economic Area members. Indeed the harmonization of financial services regulation is implemented at the level of the European Economic Area, i.e. 28 UE member states, plus Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein. The variable EEA_{ijt} is a dummy taking a value equal to 1 when the EEA agreement is in force both in countries i and j.

Finally, a time fixed effect (β_t) and a bilateral term (μ_{ij}) are included in the specification as control variables. The bilateral term is included to account for the time-invariant unobserved characteristics such as the financial center status of the dyad's countries for example.

4.1.2. Augmented specifications

Two main limits can be pointed out in the baseline specification. First, Eq. (1) does not control for time-varying frictions as financial openness. Second, the size of each country is captured only by the real GDP. This measure can be imprecise when the gravity model is applied to a specific sector or activity. Our augmented specifications address both limitations with the caveat that additional control variables reduces the sample size due to data availability.

The augmented specification controls for the size of the banking sector by including the credit to GDP normalized by year, $Credit_{it}$ and $Credit_{jt}$ for countries i and j respectively, obtained from the Global Financial Development (GFD) database of the World Bank.[11] The coefficients associated with these two variables are expected to be positive because $Credit_{it}$ and $Credit_{jt}$ act as economic mass variables.

The augmented specification includes 3 additional variables to control for time-varying frictions. More precisely, we include the Chinn-Ito index ($Kaopen_{jt}$), the legal structure and property rights index form the Fraser Institute ($Property_{jt}$), and the bank concentration indicator from the GFD database of the World Bank. The Chinn-Ito index is based on the restrictions on cross-border financial transactions reported in the IMF's Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions. It measures the degree of capital account openness (Chinn and Ito, 2006, 2008) and should therefore positively affect the consolidated foreign claims. The legal structure and property rights index controls for the quality of the legal system and the security of property right in the partner country as poor legal and property rights institutions can impede international banking activities as lending or holding of securities. This composite index is higher when countries have more secure property rights and when countries have legal institutions that are more supportive of the rule of law. Therefore, the coefficient associated with variable $Property_{jt}$ is expected to be positive. Finally, we control for the concentration in the banking sector of the partner country with the variable $Concentration_{jt}$, computed as the share of the assets of three largest commercial banks in total commercial banking assets. If a limited number of players dominate the banking sector in the partner country, banks from the reporting country might be impeded from entering the market. Therefore, the coefficient associated with variable $Concentration_{jt}$ is expected to be negative.

The augmented specification is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\ln CFC_{ijt} = {} & \beta_1 \ln Y_{it} + \beta_2 \ln Y_{jt} + \beta_3 \ln D_{ij} + \beta_4 L_{ij} + \beta_5 Legal_{ij} + \beta_6 Contig_{ij} \\ & + \beta_7 EIA_{ijt} + \beta_8 EEA_{ijt} + \beta_9 Credit_{it} + \beta_{10} Credit_{it} + \beta_{11} Kaopen_{jt} + \beta_{12} Property_{jt} \\ & + \beta_{13} Concentration_{jt} + \beta_t + \mu_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ijt}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

[10] The variable EIA_{ijt} is constructed by Guillin (2013b). According to WTO terminology, EIAs correspond to Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) for services (see the RTA database, http://rtais.wto.org/UI/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx).

[11] More precisely $Credit_{it} = (X_{it} - \overline{X}_{.t})/\sigma_t$ where X_{it} is the credit to GDP ratio for country i at year t, $\overline{X}_{.t}$ and σ_t are the average and the standard deviation respectively of the credit to GDP ratio at year t computed on the whole set of countries available in the GFD database. In sum, the variable $Credit_{it}$ annually ranks countries by the size of their banking sector.

4.2. Trends in international banking activities

We draw inspiration from the gravity literature to compute our measure of banking integration. In Eqs. (1) and (2), the residuals ε_{ijt} may be used to compute this measure. We rather include trends in the estimated specifications to capture the changes in the banking integration. It boils down to identifying a trend in the unexplained part of the previous equations without including the noise. To do we extend our specifications to include a spline function that captures a non-linear time-trend interpreted as the banking integration. Non-linearity allows us to account for a possible reversal in the banking integration following the global financial crisis.

A spline function is defined as a smooth polynomial function that is piece-wise-defined and therefore provides a flexible tool to capture a non-linear relationship. More precisely, the spline function depends on the time trend (T_{ijt}), marking the number of years since the beginning of the sample (i.e., 1999), and is embodied by two variables (called *Basis*0 and *Basis*1). These two variables are incorporated as a building-block into the gravity model instead of the time fixed effect (β_t). Computational details are reported in Appendix A and a general presentation of spline functions can be found in Harrell (2001). We rely on spline functions rather than a quadratic or a cubic time-trend because, as indicated by Harrell (2001), "*polynomials have some undesirable properties* (*e.g., undesirable peaks and valleys, and the fit in one region of X can be greatly affected by data in other regions*) *and will not adequately fit many functional forms*" (p. 18). More particularly, we do not want to constraint the functional form fitting the evolution of the banking integration and spline functions allow us to impose lower restrictions on the shape of the banking integration than a quadratic or a cubic time-trend.

Furthermore, we allow the spline functions to be different for each group. We spread out the dyads in four groups according to the membership to the euro area and we introduce a specific spline function for each group. More precisely, the four groups are made from claims: (1) reported by euro area countries vis-à-vis euro area countries (*EA-EA*); (2) reported by euro area countries vis-à-vis non euro area countries (*EA-NEA*); (3) reported by non euro area countries vis-à-vis euro area countries (*NEA- EA*); (4) reported by non euro area countries vis-à-vis non euro area countries (*NEA-NEA*).

The augmented specification including spline functions is the following:

$$\begin{aligned}\ln CFC_{ijt} = {} & \beta_1 \ln Y_{it} + \beta_2 \ln Y_{jt} + \beta_3 \ln D_{ij} + \beta_4 L_{ij} + \beta_5 Legal_{ij} + \beta_6 Contig_{ij} \\ & + \beta_7 EIA_{ijt} + \beta_8 EEA_{ijt} + \beta_9 Credit_{it} + \beta_{10} Credit_{jt} + \beta_{11} Kaopen_{jt} + \beta_{12} Property_{jt} \\ & + \beta_{13} Concentration_{jt} + \sum_{k=1}^{4} \alpha_k Basis0_{ijt}^{g} + \sum_{k=1}^{4} \alpha_{4+k} Basis1_{ijt}^{g} + \mu_{ij} + u_{ijt}. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where $Basis0_{ijt}^{g}$ and $Basis1_{ijt}^{g}$ are the basis variables obtained from a natural cubic spline function if the dyad *ij* belong to group *g* and 0 otherwise. The four different groups are g=*EA-EA*,*EA-NEA*,*NEA-EA* or *NEA-NEA*.

4.3. Estimation methodology

We consider the fixed effect (FE) estimator and the Hausman and Taylor (1981) (HT) estimator to estimate the model. Due to the panel structure of the data, the fixed effect estimator can be a natural choice to estimate the model. However, using fixed effects to account for the time-invariant unobserved heterogeneity (μ_{ij}) makes it impossible to identify the coefficients associated with the observed fixed effects such as the distance variable.

Switching to the random effect (RE) estimator allows us to identify all the coefficients associated with Eqs. (1)–(3) but this estimator is generally not relevant for gravity models. This is because the RE estimator includes the time-invariant unobserved individual effects within the error term and assumes that the unobserved individual effects and the explanatory variables are not correlated. This hypothesis is however generally not supported by the data and leads to inconsistent estimated coefficient. We will use the Hausman (1978) test to check if the RE estimator is inconsistent.

The alternative Hausman and Taylor (1981) estimator can provide a more satisfactory approach. The HT estimator is based on several steps (including auxiliary regressions, data transformations and an instrumental variable approach) to tackle the inconsistency generally characterizing the RE estimator.[12] Furthermore, this estimator requires the partition of the explanatory variables into exogenous and endogenous variables. The exogenous variables are assumed to be uncorrelated to the unobserved individual effects, whilst the endogenous variables are correlated with these effects.[13] Baltagi et al. (2003) and Baltagi (2005) suggest using a Hausman test on the difference between the FE estimator and the HT estimator to validate the partition of explanatory variables. When the partition is validated, the HT estimator preserves the consistency of the estimates characterizing the FE estimator, allows us to include the observed fixed effects and provides more efficient estimates.

Lastly, the sample used in the estimates will be unbalanced. This characteristic can lead to a selection bias. We use the methodology proposed by Verbeek and Nijman (1992) as in Carrère (2006) to tackle this selection bias. Verbeek and Nijman (1992) suggest including three variables in the estimated specifications to test and correct the selection bias: $PRES_{ij}$, the

[12] See Greene (2003) and Baltagi (2005) for a detailed presentation of the HT estimator. This estimator has been used by Carrère (2006) and McPherson and Trumbull (2008) for gravity models estimated on goods and Walsh (2008) and Bouvatier (2014) for gravity models estimated on services.

[13] The distinction between time-variant variables and time-invariant variables is also made in the implementation of the HT estimator. Time-variant and time-invariant variables are treated differently in the four steps of the HT estimator.

number of years of presence of the country-pair ij; DD_{ij}, a dummy variable equal to one if the country-pair ij is observed in all periods; and PA_{ijt}, a dummy variable equal to one if the country-pair ij was present in the previous period.[14]

5. Results

5.1. Estimation results

The baseline sample contains 14 reporting countries and 186 partner countries during the period 1999–2012, resulting in an unbalanced panel data set of 22,077 observations.[15] The descriptive statistics concerning the variables used in the estimates are reported in Table 2.[16] We check pairwise correlations and variance inflation factors and detect no multicollinearity issues.

The estimates of the baseline specification are reported in Table 3. The model is firstly estimated without the basis variables in columns (1) and (2) with the FE estimator and the HT estimator respectively.[17] The main standard gravity factors are significant and with the expected sign: consolidated foreign claims positively depend on the economic size in source and destination countries and negatively on physical distance. This is because a larger economic size implies larger banking sectors, thus justifying the expansion of international banking activities while the distance proxies information frictions (Portes and Rey, 2005). In addition, as expected, sharing a common language boosts the consolidated foreign claims, as well as the membership to the European Economic Area of both source and destination countries. In turn, the common legal origin and the contiguity dummy variable are not significant at the 10% level. The positive effect of the existence of an Economic Integration Agreement is more difficult to identify. The coefficient associated with the variable EIA_{ijt} is not significant in columns (1) and (2) of Table 3 but turns significant at the 1% or 10% level when the basis variables are included and when the augmented specifications are considered. Finally, the high value of the Hausman statistic in column (1) confirms that the RE estimator is not appropriate while the low value of this statistics in column (2) suggests that the HT estimator is consistent and more efficient than the FE estimator.

The basis variables are included in columns (3) and (4) of Table 3. Our results are remarkably stable across all specifications: the estimated coefficients associated with the standard gravity factors are not noticeably modified by the inclusion of the basis variables; similarly, the estimates of the augmented specifications reported in Table 4 confirm that standard gravity factors are significant.

Focusing precisely on the additional variables in the augmented specification reported in Table 4, the variables $Credit_{it}$ and $Credit_{jt}$, included to better control for the size of the banking sectors, are firstly added in the estimates reported in columns (1) and (2). These variables have a positive and significant effect as expected. Note, however, that the inclusion of these variables imply that the sample falls to 17,826 observations. In columns (3) and (4) of Table 4, the remaining variables are added to the estimated specification and the sample falls to 14,258 observations.[18] Higher financial openness in the partner country (proxied by the variable $Kaopen_{jt}$) positively and significantly affects consolidated foreign claims. In addition, the positive and significant coefficient associated with variables $Property_{jt}$ indicates that consolidated foreign claims are higher if the partner country has more secure property rights and legal institutions that are more supportive of the rule of law. Finally, the degree of concentration in the banking sector of the partner country impedes consolidated foreign claims as suggested by the negative and significant coefficient associated with variable $Concentration_{jt}$.

Given the stability of the estimates across the different specifications, we are confident with our measure of international banking integration. Recall that it is captured by the basis variables obtained from a spline function and included in the specifications. In order to draw international comparisons and document specific patterns to the euro area, we distinguish four different groups. First important remark: the basis variables are overall significant after controlling for gravity factors (see Tables 3 and 4), a fact that suggests that banking integration has significantly changed during the period. Second important result: the coefficients associated with variables $Basis0_{ijt}^{g}$ and $Basis1_{ijt}^{g}$ are quite different across groups and can even have opposite signs. This suggests that the evolution of the international banking activities has different pattern depending on the groups. However, it is difficult to interpret the value of the coefficients associated with spline functions. In order to get an accurate picture of banking integration and draw comparisons across regions, we plot the trends fitted by the basis variables.

[14] Variable PA_{ijt} is set to zero for the first year of the sample.

[15] To make sure that estimations do not account for partner countries rarely observed, we restrict the sample to countries with at least 10 observations, hence 186 instead of 196 partners as in the initial data set.

[16] The group *EA-EA* represents 5.41% of the full sample (i.e., 1,194 observations), *EA-NEA*, 49.63% (i.e., 10,957 observations), *NEA-EA*, 5.61% (i.e., 1,238 observations) and *NEA-NEA* 39.35% (i.e., 8,688 observations).

[17] In the baseline specification, the variables $\ln Y_{it}$ and $\ln Y_{jt}$ are considered as endogenous when the HT estimator is implemented. We use the *LR* test (Baltagi et al., 2003) to choose the partition of the explanatory variables.

[18] In the augmented specification, the variables $\ln Y_{jt}$, $Credit_{it}$, $Credit_{jt}$ and $Concentration_{jt}$ are considered as endogenous when the HT estimator is implemented. We use the *LR* test (Baltagi et al., 2003) to choose the partition of the explanatory variables.

Table 2
Descriptive statistics on the variables used in the estimates.

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
$\ln CFC_{ijt}$	22077	5.53	3.16	−0.13	13.95
$\ln Y_{it}$	22,077	27.87	1.13	26.19	30.28
$\ln Y_{jt}$	22,077	24.52	2.15	16.86	30.28
$\ln D_{ij}$	22,077	8.40	0.93	4.09	9.88
$Language_{ij}$	22,077	0.14	0.34	0	1
$Legal_{ij}$	22,077	0.24	0.43	0	1
$Contig_{ij}$	22,077	0.03	0.17	0	1
EIA_{ijt}	22,077	0.10	0.29	0	1
EEA_{ijt}	22,077	0.13	0.34	0	1
$Credit_{it}$	17,826	1.87	0.86	−0.14	4.65
$Credit_{jt}$	17,826	0.27	1.13	−1.12	4.72
$Kaopen_{jt}$	14,258	0.82	1.56	−1.88	2.38
$Property_{jt}$	14258	5.91	1.70	1.60	9.60
$Concentration_{jt}$	14258	68.67	19.07	21.40	100

Table 3
Baseline specification.

Estimator:	(1) FE		(2) HT		(3) FE		(4) HT	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
$\ln Y_{it}$	1.1025*	(0.5672)	0.9190***	(0.2489)	0.8599**	(0.4376)	1.0162***	(0.2077)
$\ln Y_{jt}$	0.9982***	(0.1327)	1.0033***	(0.1146)	1.3346***	(0.1377)	1.3008***	(0.1122)
$\ln D_{ij}$			−0.4318***	(0.1093)			−0.4091***	(0.1055)
$Language_{ij}$			1.1879***	(0.1854)			1.5082***	(0.1953)
$Legal_{ij}$			0.0105	(0.1117)			−0.0041	(0.1164)
$Contig_{ij}$			0.3483	(0.3392)			−0.3408	(0.3537)
EIA_{ijt}	0.1404	(0.1113)	0.1453	(0.1081)	0.2911***	(0.1125)	0.2894***	(0.1100)
EEA_{ijt}	0.8978***	(0.1119)	0.9031***	(0.1085)	0.9737***	(0.1110)	0.9565***	(0.1080)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$					0.0571	(0.0474)	0.0524	(0.0425)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$					0.2521***	(0.0265)	0.2495***	(0.0259)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$					−0.1911***	(0.0368)	−0.1942***	(0.0303)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$					0.0622***	(0.0147)	0.0602***	(0.0137)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$					0.1740***	(0.0438)	0.1660***	(0.0367)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$					0.1247***	(0.0251)	0.1222***	(0.0243)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$					0.0842**	(0.0397)	0.0772***	(0.0299)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$					−0.0262	(0.0163)	−0.0285*	(0.0149)
Hausman statistic [*p-value*]:								
FE vs RE	104.41	[0.0000]			210.92	[0.0000]		
FE vs HT			4.61	[0.9973]			4.91	[0.9354]
R^2_{adj}	0.5016				0.5153			
R^2_{within}	0.1342				0.1426			
No. Obs.	22,077		22,077		22,077		22,077	

Note: Standard errors are clustered at the bilateral country-pair level and reported in brackets. The variables $PRES_{ij}$, DD_{ij} and PA_{ijt}, controlling for the selection bias, are considered when the HT estimator is used. Time dummies are included in the estimates when no trend variables are considered in the estimates (i.e., in columns (1) and (2)).

*** Indicate significance respectively at the 1% levels.

** Indicate significance respectively at the 5% levels.

* Indicate significance respectively at the 10% levels.

5.2. Graphical analysis

The estimated trends with the augmented specification (Eq. (3)) are plotted in Fig. 3.[19] Before commenting the evolution of banking integration in the different groups, it is worth observing that all trends implying the euro area as recipient or source countries are downward sloping after the crisis (Fig. 3(a–c) contrary to the trend in the rest of the world (Fig. 3d).

[19] The estimated trends with the baseline specification lead to similar graphical analysis. Graphs are available upon request.

Table 4
Augmented specification.

Estimator:	(1) FE		(2) HT		(3) FE		(4) HT	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
$\ln Y_{it}$	0.5416	(0.4815)	0.6676***	(0.0884)	0.4645	(0.5200)	0.6885***	(0.0695)
$\ln Y_{jt}$	1.7015***	(0.1611)	1.5603***	(0.1248)	1.4867***	(0.1849)	1.2338***	(0.0871)
$\ln D_{ij}$			−0.2350***	(0.0819)			−0.4258***	(0.0627)
$Language_{ij}$			1.7171***	(0.2188)			1.1363***	(0.1671)
$Legal_{ij}$			0.1306	(0.1242)			0.3121***	(0.1109)
$Contig_{ij}$			−0.8922**	(0.4032)			−0.5020	(0.3053)
EIA_{ijt}	0.2911***	(0.1110)	0.2836***	(0.1094)	0.2297*	(0.1243)	0.2210*	(0.1210)
EEA_{ijt}	0.7787***	(0.1100)	0.7531***	(0.1078)	0.6511***	(0.1135)	0.6400***	(0.1099)
$Credit_{it}$	0.1371***	(0.0365)	0.1334***	(0.0360)	0.1544***	(0.0383)	0.1454***	(0.0378)
$Credit_{jt}$	0.3690***	(0.0395)	0.3647***	(0.0391)	0.3537***	(0.0482)	0.3406***	(0.0457)
$Kaopen_{jt}$					0.1249***	(0.0286)	0.1186***	(0.0266)
$Property_{jt}$					0.0446*	(0.0256)	0.0479*	(0.0248)
$Concentration_{jt}$					−0.0035**	(0.0014)	−0.0038***	(0.0014)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$	−0.0543	(0.0507)	−0.0482	(0.0452)	0.0066	(0.0459)	−0.0028	(0.0542)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$	0.2539***	(0.0260)	0.2548***	(0.0252)	0.2846***	(0.0280)	0.2822***	(0.0288)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$	−0.2286***	(0.0402)	−0.2090***	(0.0334)	−0.1788***	(0.0323)	−0.2098***	(0.0452)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$	0.0693***	(0.0163)	0.0690***	(0.0153)	0.0934***	(0.0169)	0.0948***	(0.0182)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$	0.1194***	(0.0432)	0.1238***	(0.0331)	0.1584***	(0.0343)	0.1520***	(0.0474)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$	0.0863***	(0.0312)	0.0870***	(0.0305)	0.1176***	(0.0324)	0.1154***	(0.0334)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$	0.1089**	(0.0443)	0.1245***	(0.0338)	0.1927***	(0.0293)	0.1689***	(0.0476)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$	−0.0589***	(0.0173)	−0.0613***	(0.0159)	−0.0479***	(0.0159)	−0.0437**	(0.0176)
Hausman statistic [*p-value*]:								
FE vs RE	255.24	[0.0000]			145.19	[0.0000]		
FE vs HT			17.00	[0.1495]			16.09	[0.3079]
R^2_{adj}	0.5941				0.6246			
R^2_{within}	0.1877				0.2060			
No. Obs.	17,826		17,826		14,258		14,258	

Note: Standard errors are clustered at the bilateral country-pair level and reported in brackets. The variables $PRES_{ij}$, DD_{ij} and PA_{ijt}, controlling for the selection bias, are considered when the HT estimator is used.

*** Indicate significance respectively at the 1% levels.

** Indicate significance respectively at the 5% levels.

* Indicate significance respectively at the 10% levels.

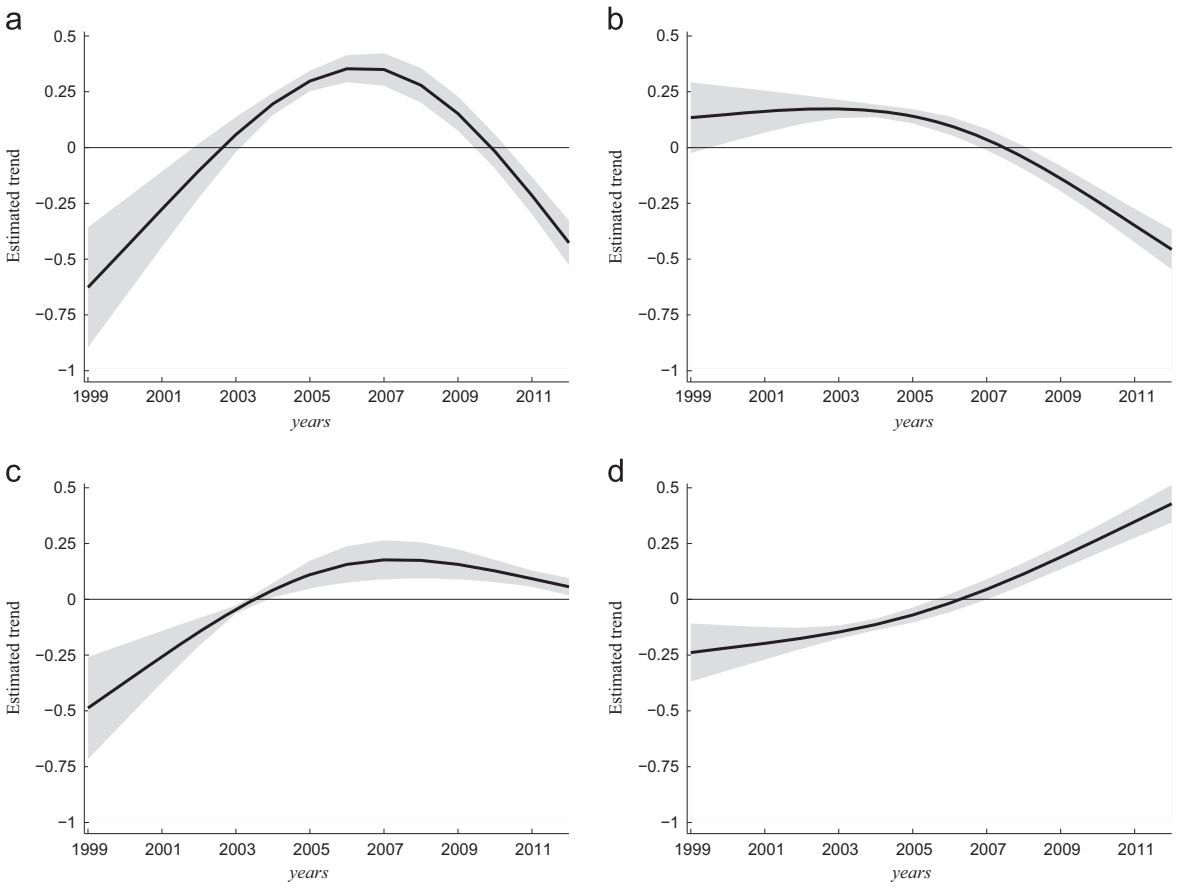
First, before the crisis, the euro area was the most attractive destination. In fact, the trends of claims towards the euro area (Fig. 3a and c) are significantly steeper than the trends towards the rest of the world (Fig. 3b and d). The exposure of foreign banks in the euro area countries have increased by more than what size and friction factors imply during the pre-crisis period. In sum, after the enforcement of the monetary union in 1999, we do not only observe that the banking integration inside the euro area has boosted but also that the attractiveness of the euro area's for the other reporting countries has accelerated.[20] It is interesting to note that descriptive statistics are misleading as they show a much more balanced picture: the share of claims vis-à-vis euro area to claims vis-à-vis all the world has increased from 27.33% to 30.28% only between 1999 and 2005 (see Table 1).

Since the crisis, it is striking that the benefits have been entirely lost inside the monetary union (Fig. 3a), a result that puts in historical perspective the marked fragmentation of the euro area documented by previous scholars cited in the Literature section. In turn, the trend in banking activities from non euro area reporting countries towards euro area have slowed down but the decline is much less sizable (Fig. 3b).

If we now turn to the foreign bank exposure to non euro area countries, the trends of our 14 developed reporting countries are parallel between 1999 and 2004 and diverge afterwards (Fig. 3b and d). From 2006, a gap emerges between euro area and non euro area reporting countries that keeps widening onward: we find a massive retrenchment by euro area banks on the one hand and a growing integration of non euro area countries on the other hand. In sum, our estimates suggest that non euro area banks have taken advantage of the euro area banks' retrenchment and gained international market shares.

In total, the forward march of banking integration has reversed only as far as euro area countries are concerned, as recipient or source countries. The banking integration of euro area has unambiguously been cyclical since the single

[20] This is consistent with the positive influence of euro on the attractiveness of euro assets due to lower transaction costs documented in Coeurdacier and Martin (2009).



Note: The trend for the dyads belonging to group g (T_t^g) is given by: $T_t^g=\alpha_k Basis0_t^g+\alpha_{k+1} Basis1_t^g$. The grey area corresponds to the 95% confidence interval given by $T_t^g \pm 1.96\sigma_t^g$ with $\sigma_t^g=[\ (Basis0_t^g)^2.\sigma^2_{\alpha_k} + (Basis1_t^g)^2.\sigma^2_{\alpha_{k+1}} + 2.Basis0_t^g.Basis1_t^g.cov(\alpha_k.\alpha_{k+1})\ ]^{1/2}$.

Fig. 3. Trends in international banking activities.

currency was launched. In the rest of the world, the decline of international banking activity in the aftermath of the financial crisis was entirely due to temporary frictions. Now, we would like to assess the magnitude of these patterns and compare their evolution with a benchmark, i.e. the level of foreign claims justified by gravity factors. To do so, we proceed to an overshooting analysis.

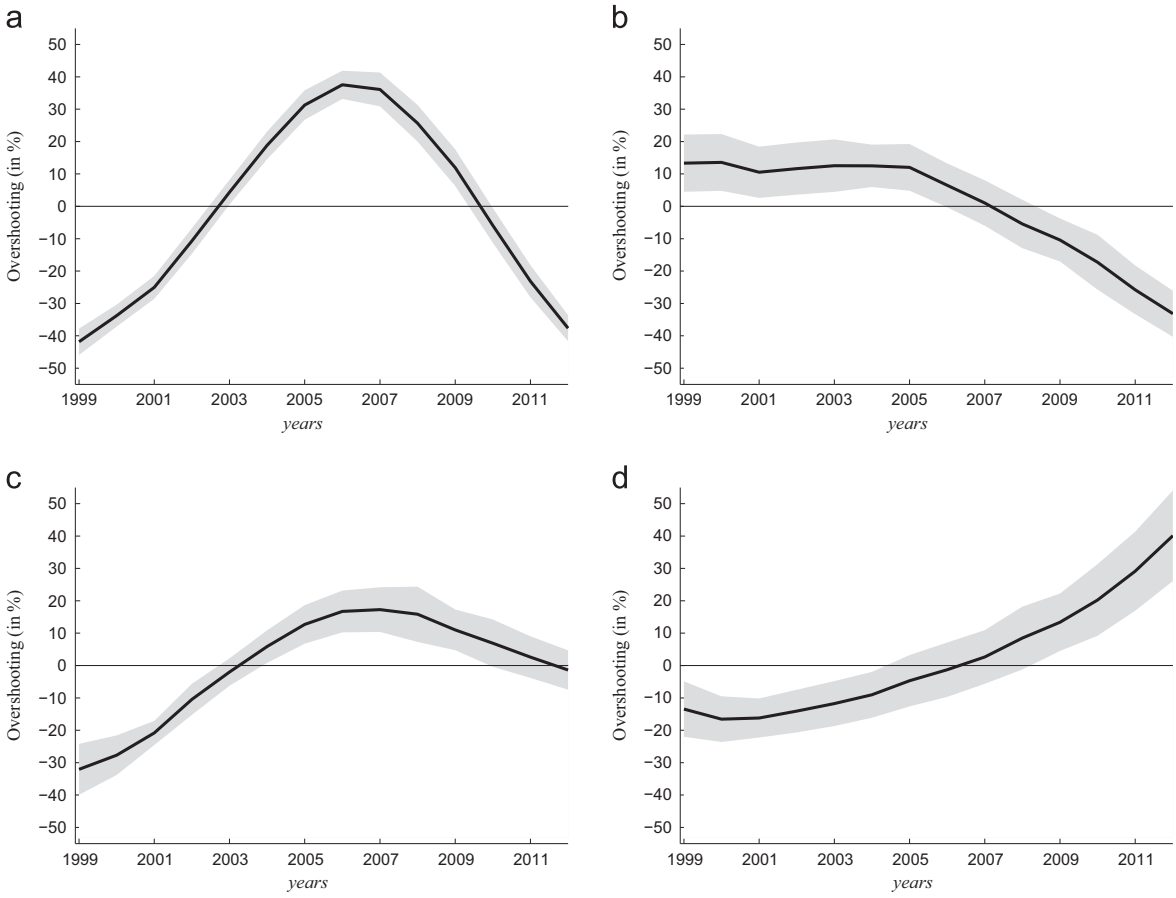
5.3. Overshooting analysis

We measure the deviations from the benchmark level to quantify the magnitude of the contraction in Europe and the forward march of banking integration in the rest of the world. From a methodological perspective, it requires to compute the fitted value of consolidated foreign claims (i.e. forecasting them with our estimated model) and assess the contribution of time trends. We compute an overshooting measure at the group level (see Appendix A for the precise methodology). The overshooting measures obtained from the augmented specification are plotted in Fig. 4.[21]

It is striking that the banking integration inside the euro area (Fig. 4a) has experienced the strongest and fastest growth across the four groups during the first half of the decade 2000. In fact, consolidated foreign claims with euro area as a source and destination were 41% below their benchmark level in 1999, a level that they have caught up in four years only and greatly exceeded: in 2006, the euro area banks' exposure to the Eurozone was 37% higher than the level justified by the benchmark. In comparison, the exposure of non euro area reporting banks to the Eurozone was 32% below their benchmark level in 1999 and has increased slightly more progressively: at the peak in 2006–2007, it was 17% above what standard gravity factors would imply (Fig. 4c).

The larger the peak, the larger the trough. On the one hand, intra euro area banking activities were 37% below the benchmark level in 2012. It means that the economic downturn faced by the euro area since 2008 is far from being sufficient to account for the decline of international banking activities between euro area members. On the other hand, in 2012, foreign

[21] The overshooting measures obtained with the baseline specification lead to similar conclusions. Graphs are available upon request.



Note: The overshooting at the group level is defined in Appendix B. The grey area corresponds to the one−standard error band. The standard error for a given group in a given year is computed from the overshooting measures of the dyads belonging to this group.

Fig. 4. Overshooting in international banking activities.

claims from non euro area banks with destination the euro area were at the benchmark level (the undershooting is −1% in 2012). In the following section, we will further examine the specific situation of core and peripheral recipient countries.

Now, considering the consolidated foreign claims from the euro area to the rest of the world reported in Fig. 4b, we observe that the presence of euro area banks was relatively strong in 1999, almost 13% above what size and friction factors imply. Then, euro area banks have mildly reduced their activities outside the area (probably in the benefit of inside the area) but they were still above the benchmark level in 2006. Then, we measure a sharp decline reaching 33% below its benchmark level in 2012. It is worth noting that their retrenchment inside and outside the euro area are comparable.[22] Given that we observe one cycle only in the euro area, i.e. no systematic cyclical pattern on a longer span, it is difficult to make a clear conclusion on the future evolution. We can only assume that, in the future, international banking activities in the euro area will increase to catch up their benchmark level (bearing in mind that this level may have decreased in the meanwhile).

Last, the pattern is strikingly different outside the euro area: while the level of banking integration was 13% below the benchmark level during the first half of the decade 2000 and it got closed to the benchmark level in 2006, it has finally exceeded it by 40% since then. In sum, banking integration has never declined and, on the contrary, the trend is steeper after the crisis. On a longer period, would the model give regular periods of overshooting and then undershooting? We leave the question open to future investigation with longer time series.

In order to grasp a more exhaustive picture, it is essential to take into account heterogeneity inside the euro area; similarly it is safe to distinguish advanced and emerging countries outside the euro area. It is the focus of the next section.

[22] In order to gain more insight of what is driving the peculiarity of euro area, it would be interesting to repeat the analysis with disaggregated data to distinguish claims to the government, financial and private non-financial sector. Unfortunately these data are not publicly available at the bilateral level.

5.4. Focus on core/periphery and advanced/emerging countries

We break down the euro area partner countries by stressed/non stressed countries and the non euro area partner countries by level of income.

To do so, when partner countries are euro area members we intereact the basis variables with the dummy variable $D_j^{Stressed}$ taking a value equal to 1 when the country j is a stressed euro area country (i.e., Greece, Italy, Ireland, Portugal and Spain). Therefore, the intereaction variables capture whether the shape of the trends differ when the partner country is a stressed euro area country. The estimates obtained with the FE and HT estimators are reported in columns (1) and (2) of Table 5, respectively. Only one of the interaction variable does not have a significant effect at the 10% level, implying that the shape of the estimated trends significantly differs between stressed and non stressed countries.

Fig. 5 which plots the overshooting analysis associated with the new estimate provides two important results: first inside the euro area, stressed countries have experienced more pronounced evolution from the beginning of the period. The

Table 5
Subgroups analyses: stressed countries and income levels.

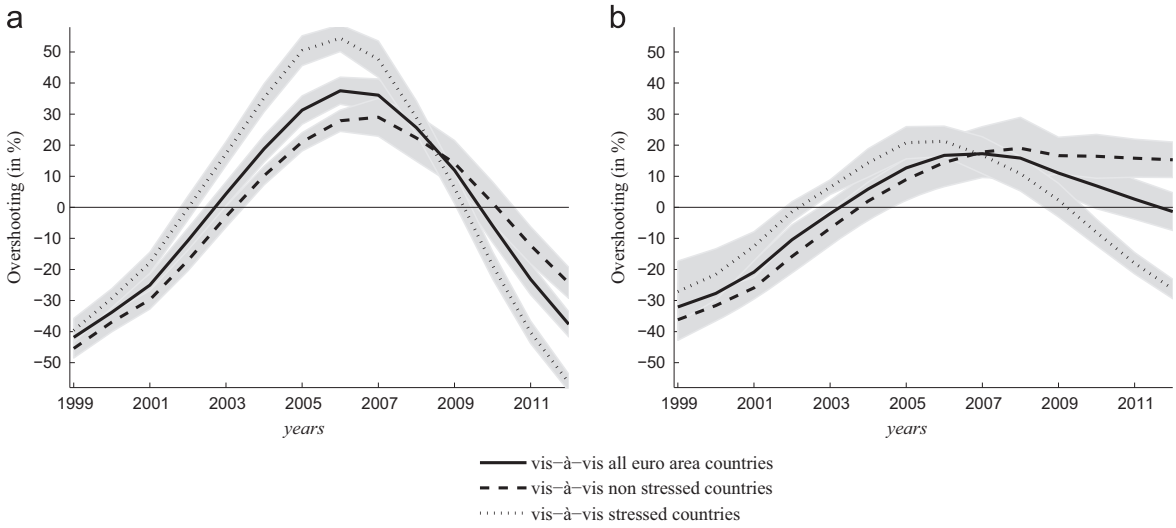
Estimator:	(1) FE		(2) HT		(3) FE		(4) HT	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
$\ln Y_{it}$	0.5015	(0.5168)	0.6905***	(0.0682)	0.3889	(0.5139)	0.7570***	(0.0866)
$\ln Y_{jt}$	1.4379***	(0.1858)	1.2194***	(0.0874)	1.7496***	(0.1949)	1.4618***	(0.1255)
$\ln D_{ij}$			−0.4495***	(0.0619)			−0.5018***	(0.0749)
$Language_{ij}$			1.0977***	(0.1650)			1.2658***	(0.1895)
$Legal_{ij}$			0.3376***	(0.1113)			0.3095**	(0.1206)
$Contig_{ij}$			−0.4726	(0.3053)			−0.8371**	(0.3661)
EIA_{ijt}	0.2252*	(0.1239)	0.2190*	(0.1205)	0.1461	(0.1209)	0.1444	(0.1181)
EEA_{ijt}	0.6212***	(0.1135)	0.6111***	(0.1097)	0.5038***	(0.1160)	0.5045***	(0.1128)
$Credit_{it}$	0.1527***	(0.0382)	0.1443***	(0.0378)	0.1560***	(0.0376)	0.1442***	(0.0369)
$Credit_{jt}$	0.3894***	(0.0517)	0.3792***	(0.0485)	0.3419***	(0.0487)	0.3308***	(0.0477)
$Kaopen_{jt}$	0.1225***	(0.0286)	0.1167***	(0.0264)	0.1188***	(0.0281)	0.1156***	(0.0267)
$Property_{jt}$	0.0464*	(0.0256)	0.0476*	(0.0248)	0.0638**	(0.0251)	0.0661***	(0.0244)
$Concentration_{jt}$	−0.0035**	(0.0014)	−0.0038***	(0.0014)	−0.0044***	(0.0014)	−0.0046***	(0.0014)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$	0.0735	(0.0653)	0.0837	(0.0588)	−0.0028	(0.0542)	0.0008	(0.0470)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-EA}$	0.2316***	(0.0299)	0.2304***	(0.0289)	0.2768***	(0.0286)	0.2780***	(0.0279)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$	−0.2021***	(0.0453)	−0.1750***	(0.0324)	−0.3267***	(0.0528)	−0.2934***	(0.0421)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-NEA}$	0.0956***	(0.0182)	0.0945***	(0.0169)	0.0501**	(0.0211)	0.0456**	(0.0199)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$	0.2174***	(0.0508)	0.2214***	(0.0398)	0.1503***	(0.0474)	0.1491***	(0.0354)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-EA}$	0.0915**	(0.0373)	0.0901**	(0.0365)	0.1119***	(0.0331)	0.1130***	(0.0323)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$	0.1752***	(0.0476)	0.1958***	(0.0294)	0.1193**	(0.0562)	0.1417***	(0.0419)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA}$	−0.0437**	(0.0175)	−0.0477***	(0.0159)	−0.0446**	(0.0215)	−0.0513**	(0.0202)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-EA} * D_j^{Stressed}$	−0.2107**	(0.0865)	−0.2176**	(0.0862)				
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-EA} * D_j^{Stressed}$	0.1380**	(0.0580)	0.1466**	(0.0583)				
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-EA} * D_j^{Stressed}$	−0.1848***	(0.0662)	−0.1829***	(0.0659)				
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-EA} * D_j^{Stressed}$	0.0746	(0.0631)	0.0817	(0.0634)				
$Basis0_{ijt}^{EA-NEA} * D_j^{High}$					0.2623***	(0.0556)	0.2462***	(0.0544)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{EA-NEA} * D_j^{High}$					0.1241***	(0.0353)	0.1288***	(0.0353)
$Basis0_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA} * D_j^{High}$					0.0406	(0.0470)	0.0311	(0.0456)
$Basis1_{ijt}^{NEA-NEA} * D_j^{High}$					0.0090	(0.0323)	0.0123	(0.0321)
Hausman statistic [*p-value*]:								
FE vs RE	150.72	[0.0000]			196.41	[0.0000]		
FE vs HT			13.34	[0.7709]			24.58	[0.1369]
R^2_{adj}	0.6290				0.6098			
R^2_{within}	0.2081				0.2167			
No. Obs.	14,258		14,258		14,258		14,258	

Note: Standard errors are clustered at the bilateral country-pair level and reported in brackets. The variables $PRES_{ij}$, DD_{ij} and PA_{ijt}, controlling for the selection bias, are considered when the HT estimator is used. The variables $D_j^{Stressed}$ and D_j^{High} are included in the estimated specifications but not reported to save space.

*** Indicate significance respectively at the 1% levels.

** Indicate significance respectively at the 5% levels.

* Indicate significance respectively at the 10% levels.



Note: The overshooting at the group level is defined in Appendix B. The grey area corresponds to the one−standard error band. The standard error for a given group in a given year is computed from the overshooting measures of the dyads belonging to this group.

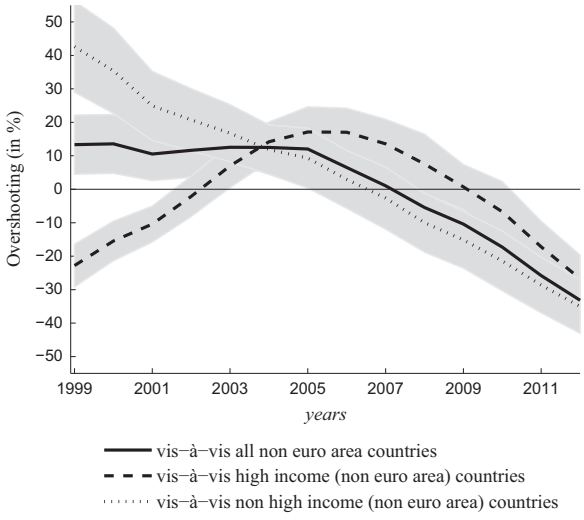
Fig. 5. Overshooting with the distinction between stressed and non stressed Euro area countries.

overshooting of stressed countries is estimated at 54% above the benchmark in 2006 versus 28% for non stressed countries. After the crisis, the decline mirrors the boom with a level of banking activity at 56% below the benchmark level versus −24% for non stressed euro area members. In sum stressed euro area countries have experienced a stronger financial cycle than the rest of the area. Second, the activity of non euro area countries with their euro area partners has mostly diverged after the crisis. The activity towards non stressed and stressed countries was similarly at 17% above the benchmark level before the crisis. Then, the exposure to non stressed countries has remained steady 17% above the benchmark level; in turn, the exposure to stressed countries was 26% below the benchmark level in 2012. In sum, the withdrawal of euro area assets is heterogenous and entirely driven by the withdrawal from stressed countries assets. The international banking activity towards stressed euro area countries has experienced a complete cycle over the period with significantly more marked evolutions inside the euro area.

Second, we interact the basis variables when partner countries are non euro area members with the dummy variable D_j^{High} taking a value equal to 1 when the country j is classified as high income country in the World Bank's classification. The interaction variables capture whether the shape of the trends differs when the partner country is a high income country. The estimates obtained with the FE and HT estimators are reported in columns (3) and (4) of Table 5, respectively. The interaction variables are not significant at the 10% level for non euro area reporting countries. It means that the level of income does not affect the trend outside the euro area. Conversely, the interaction variables are significant at the 1% level for euro area reporting countries. Therefore the trend between euro area reporting countries and non euro area partner country depends on the level of income. In order to explicitly represent these differences, we plot the overshooting analysis on Fig. 6. We observe that the difference only matters at the beginning of the sample. In 1999, euro area reporting countries were weakly integrated with high income non euro area countries while they were in an overshooting situation with non-advanced partner countries. After the crisis, the level of income stops mattering and the trends converge.

In total, we show that the amplitude of the cycle in the euro area has been significantly larger for stressed countries, i.e. the larger the peak, the larger the trough. In turn, for the rest of the world, the differences of income only matters before 2006. Furthermore, outside the euro area, the banking integration has been a tenacious long-run trend whatever the level of income. The uncovered dynamics echo the waves in international capital flows described in Forbes and Warnock (2012). We add that the waves differ significantly across regions while Forbes and Warnock (2012) and Rey (2015) have emphasized that the primary factor associated with capital flow episodes is changes in global risk and not domestic conditions. We assume that the difference may arise from a different resilience to global factors by zone, an explanation still consistent with the global factor story.

Last but not least, explaining these patterns is unfortunately beyond the scope of our dataset. For example, to assess the effect of rising sovereign risk on the exposure to foreign sovereign bonds as suggested in Eaton and Gersovitz (1981), one needs both to know the exposure to foreign sovereign bonds by dyad and to have a proxy for sovereign risk of the partner country such as individual sovereign credit default swap. With the aggregate sectoral exposure only (i.e. aggregating banking, corporate non-financial or sovereign), one cannot properly assess the marginal effect of sovereign risks on the exposure to foreign sovereign bonds because the share of sovereign claims in the aggregate sectoral exposure is unknown and varies across dyads. So the estimated marginal effect of sovereign risk upon consolidated foreign claims would not be informative and artificially driven by the unknown breakdown. In sum, we need data of the exposure on a sectoral basis to



Note: The overshooting at the group level is defined in Appendix B. The grey area corresponds to the one−standard error band. The standard error for a given group in a given year is computed from the overshooting measures of the dyads belonging to this group.

Fig. 6. Overshooting with the distinction between high income and non high income vis-à-vis countries.

explicitly test the relative relevance of these explanations. Unfortunately they are not publicly available at the dyad level. Before concluding, we present several tests to confirm the robustness of our results.

5.5. Robustness checks

The stability of our results has been evaluated with several alternative specifications of the empirical model. For the sake of space, all estimates and corresponding graphs are available upon request in an unpublished appendix.

5.5.1. Alternative augmented specifications

We report the estimates of the baseline specification and the estimates of an augmented specification in the main body of the paper but much more alternative specifications could have been used.

Banking crises:

In a preliminary work, we considered the inclusion of dummies to control for banking crisis periods relying on the Laeven and Valencia (2012) database. These additional variables do not alter our conclusions.

Proxies for the size:

We tested several variables to better control for size. First, we included stock market capitalization as a share of GDP to better control the size; first the variable is not significant and second the lower availability of stock market capitalization data reduces the sample size. Second, we included $Credit_{it}$ to control better for the size of the source country. The results reported in Table 4 show that the GDP variable of the source country ($\ln Y_{it}$) turns non-significant when the augmented specification is estimated with the FE estimator.[23] The smaller sample used to estimate the augmented specification and the variable $Credit_{it}$ can both explain that the variable $\ln Y_{it}$ turns non significant. To disentangle these two explanations, we have estimated the augmented specification without the variable $Credit_{it}$. The results show that the variable $\ln Y_{it}$ remains significant at the 10% level. Consequently, the smaller sample used to estimate the augmented specification does not impact our results and the size effect is properly captured by the variable $Credit_{it}$.

Third, we augment our specification with domestic bank assets in the reporting and destination countries in absolute terms. The variables are significant and positive as in the previous estimates including the variable credit-to-GDP (normalized by year). The corresponding overshooting graph looks similar to our core estimates with more pronounced evolutions in some cases.

Stronger asymmetries after 2006:

We allowed the estimated coefficient associated with distance to vary after 2006 in order to account for stronger asymmetries. Indeed the value of the coefficient increases in absolute terms (becomes more negative) after 2006. The overshooting quantitative analysis changes accordingly but our conclusions remain similar.

Dummy variable for euro area membership:

[23] The variable $\ln Y_{it}$ remains significant at the 1% level when the HT estimator is used. Indeed, the Hausman test reported in Table 4 indicate that the HT estimator is consistent and more efficient than the FE estimator.

The euro area members may benefit differently from the EEA harmonization. Therefore in a robustness check, we include an additional dummy variable $Euro_{ijt}$ taking a value equal to 1 when the dyad i and j are both euro area members. The coefficient associated with the variable $Euro_{ijt}$ is not significant at the 10% level suggesting that being an euro area member does not bring extra banking activity on average in comparison with being an EEA member, all things being equal.

Initial conditions:

It is likely that the evolution through time depends on the original degree of cross-country integration. In order to control for initial conditions, we include the bilateral amount of consolidated foreign claims in 1999 and start our estimate in 2000 (data are not available for partners before 1999). The effect of this time-invariant variable can only be identified with the HT estimator. It is not significant. However, it does not mean that initial conditions do not matter in the evolution of trends across groups. In fact, our trends are not constrained to start at the same level and it is clear on Fig. 3 that trends start at different levels across groups.

Multilateral resistance factors:

Not just bilateral, but also multilateral resistance factors, the barriers that each country faces with the rest of the world, may affect the foreign claims. The multilateral resistance terms are not directly observable. We follow Carrère (2006) to compute the "remoteness" variable and include it in the augmented specification. The coefficient associated with this variable is positive and significant at the 5% level with the HT estimator and non significant at the 10% level with the FE estimator. Results are similar and our conclusions remain.

Exchange rate effects:

McGuire and Wooldridge (2005, p. 81) point to the fact that exchange rate variation can affect reported positions of consolidated foreign claims. In order to adjust for exchange rate movements, we augment our specification with the log of bilateral real exchange rate vis-a-vis the US dollar of each reporting country and partner countries. An increase corresponds to an appreciation of the currency of country i or j, hence a depreciation of the US dollar. We expect positive signs for these variables. Both variables are significant and positive which confirms the overestimation of the bilateral banking activity when the US dollar depreciates. Results are similar and our conclusions remain.

5.5.2. *Functional form of the time trends*

In order to minimize the prior on the shape of the time-trend, we use a spline function that provides flexibility to capture a non-linear relationship. *A posteriori*, given the shape of the estimated trends on Fig. 3, quadratic functions may also have fitted these evolutions. So to check the stability of our results, we run estimates using quadratic time-trends which lead to similar conclusions.

5.5.3. *Choice of the benchmark in the overshooting analysis*

Last, the overshooting evaluation requires several methodological choices, in particular concerning the definition of the benchmark level (see Appendix B). In the main body of the paper, the model is re-estimated without the trend variables to compute the benchmark levels. For robustness check, we also considered as benchmark the fitted values of the dependent variable when all the coefficients associated with trend variables (i.e., the α_k in Eq. (3)) are shut down to 0. This approach does not require to re-estimate the model and provides similar conclusions concerning the overshooting evaluation.

6. Conclusion

We assess the evolution of international banking activity at the light of gravity equations which allow us to control for standard determinants in order to draw international banking (dis)integration trends. Our estimates on a panel of 14 reporting countries and their 186 partners during the period between 1999 and 2012 uncover several important stylized facts.

First, banking activity towards the euro area has been cyclical since 1999 with a peak in 2006 before the global financial crisis (37% above the benchmark) and a severe decline after the crisis. The decline is not only a correction of the overshooting but it is also followed by an undershooting estimated at 37% below the benchmark level, which corresponds to a marked disintegration. We find a larger amplitude of the cycle in stressed countries than on average. In addition, euro area banks have reduced their international exposure inside and outside the euro area to a similar extent no matter the level of income. Second, the forward march of banking integration has reversed only as far as euro area countries are concerned as source or destination countries. In the rest of the world, the decline of international banking activity in the aftermath of the financial crisis was entirely due to temporary frictions. As a consequence we find no banking disintegration between non euro area countries. Third, the differences of income only matter for the banking activity from the euro area towards the rest of the world and only before 2006. Outside the euro area, the banking integration has been a tenacious long-run trend whatever the level of income.

These results hopefully call for future investigations that go beyond the scope of our dataset. First, the simultaneity of the European retrenchment and of the expansion of international banking activities of non-euro area members raises the question of a transfer of international banking activities from the euro area to non-euro area countries. Testing this transfer hypothesis would require to gather and examine the data of non euro area banks market shares after 2007. Second, it would be interesting to disentangle the different channels leading to the retrenchment of euro area banks. To explore such channels, one would need bank-level and disaggregated data distinguishing claims by sectoral exposure.

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Appendix A. Spline function

A restricted cubic spline (also referred to as a natural cubic spline) is defined as a smooth polynomial function that is piece-wise-defined. This function depends on the time trend (T) marking the number of years since the beginning of the sample in 1999 (with $T=1,2,\ldots,14$). The places where the polynomial pieces connect are referred to as knots and allow one to introduce changes in the relationship between the endogenous variable and the time trend (T).

Considering $n+2$ knots at $k_{\min}<k_1<\cdots<k_n<k_{\max}$, an unrestricted cubic spline function is written as follows (Royston and Sauerbrei, 2007)[24]:

$$S(T)=\beta_{00}+\beta_{10}T+\beta_{20}T^2+\beta_{30}T^3+\sum_{j=1}^{n}\beta_j(T-k_j)_+^3+\beta_{k_{\min}}(T-k_{\min})_+^3+\beta_{k_{\max}}(T-k_{\max})_+^3$$

where the *plus function* $(T-k)_+$ is defined as

$$(T-k)_+=\begin{cases}T-k & \text{if } T\geq k\\ 0 & \text{otherwise}\end{cases}$$

The terminology "restricted cubic spline" (or natural cubic spline) refers to the constraints imposed on $S(T)$, which imply linearity beyond the boundary knots ($k_{\min}$ and $k_{\max}$).[25] This requirement tends to avoid wild behavior near the extremes values of the data. Then, the restricted cubic spline function is written as (see Royston and Parmar, 2002 (p. 2194) for the algebraic details):

$$S(T)=\gamma_0+\gamma_1 Basis_0+\gamma_2 Basis_1+\cdots+\gamma_{n+1}Basis_n$$

with $\gamma_0=\beta_{00}$, $\gamma_1=\beta_{10}$, $\gamma_{j+1}=\beta_j$ for $j=1,\ldots,n$ and

$$Basis_0=T$$

$$Basis_j=(T-k_j)_+^3-\lambda_j(T-k_{\min})_+^3-(1-\lambda_j)(T-k_{\max})_+^3 \quad \text{for } j=1,\ldots,n$$

with $\lambda_j=\dfrac{k_{\max}-k_j}{k_{\max}-k_{\min}}$.

Then, the basis variables ($Basis_0,\ldots,Basis_n$) can be added to the regressors in the gravity model to capture a non-linear time-trends that embody the evolution in the banking integration. However, the basis variables have been orthogonalized before being included in the estimated specification, as suggested by Royston and Sauerbrei (2007). Without any transformation, the basis variables are highly correlated.

The main issue related to restricted cubic splines concerns the choice of the number of knots and their locations. Harrell (2001) recommends placing knots at equally spaced percentiles of the duration variable. In applied use, the number of knots generally varies between three and seven. We use three knots (from which two basis variables are obtained) because the sample covers a limited number of years (i.e. 14 years). When three knots are considered, the default percentiles provided by Harrell (2001) are 10%, 50% and 90%. The lower and higher knots are then placed near the extreme values, and the remaining knots are placed so that the proportion of observations between the knots is constant.

Appendix B. Overshooting measure

The overshooting measure at the group level is computed in four steps.

First, we compute the fitted values of the dependent variable (defined as $\ln \widehat{CFC}_{ijt}$) and the fitted values of the dependent variable when the model is re-estimated without the trend variables (defined as $\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$).[26] The variables $\ln \widehat{CFC}_{ijt}$ and $\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$ correspond to predictions of the logarithm of the consolidated foreign claims.

Second, we face a re-transformation problem because we are interested in the fitted values of the level of the consolidated foreign claims rather than their logarithm. Taking the exponential of $\ln \widehat{CFC}_{ijt}$ and $\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$ is incorrect because the

[24] $k_{\min}$ and $k_{\max}$ are the boundary knots and will not be placed at the extremes of T, as suggested by Harrell (2001).

[25] For example, the linearity constraint below $k_{\min}$ (i.e. when $T<k_{\min}$) requires that quadratic and cubic terms must vanish, and hence, $\beta_{20}=\beta_{30}=0$.

[26] The fitted values of the dependent variable when all the coefficients associated with trend variables (i.e., the α_k in Eq. (3)) are shut down to 0 have also been considered to compute $\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$. This alternative approach to compute $\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$ leads to similar conclusions.

error term (ε_{ijt}) does not vanish in the re-transformation procedure (see Cameron and Trivedi, 2009, p. 103). We follow Duan (1983), and assuming that ε_{ijt} is independent and identically distributed, we compute the fitted values of the consolidated foreign claims as:

$$\widehat{CFC}_{ijt} = \exp\left(\ln \widehat{CFC}_{ijt}\right) \cdot \overline{\exp(\varepsilon_{ijt})},$$
$$\widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt} = \exp\left(\ln \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}\right) \cdot \overline{\exp(\varepsilon_{ijt})},$$

where $\overline{\exp(\varepsilon_{ijt})}$ is the sample average of the exponential transformation of the error terms.

Third, we define the overshooting at the dyad level as:

$$OS_{ijt} = \frac{\widehat{CFC}_{ijt} - \widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}}{\widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}}.$$

The denominator $\widehat{CFC}^{*}_{ijt}$ corresponds to the level of consolidated foreign claims justified by the gravity factors (i.e. the benchmark level) and the numerator measures the gap from the benchmark due to the trend variables.

Last, we compute the overshooting at the group level because trend variables are defined at the group level. Considering only the dyads belonging to group g, we compute the overshooting measure for this group as a weighted average:

$$OS^{(g)}_{t} = \frac{\ln CFC_{ijt}}{\sum_{ij} \ln CFC_{ijt}} \sum_{ij} OS_{ijt},$$

where g=*EA-EA*, *EA-NEA*, *NEA-EA* or *NEA-NEA*.

Appendix C. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this paper can be found in the online version at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2015.10.004.

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