

Understanding Exchange Rate Dynamics: What Does The Term Structure of FX Options Tell Us ?

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Abstract

This paper uses foreign exchange (FX) options with different strike prices and maturities (“the term structure of volatility smiles”) to capture both market expectations and perceived risks. Using daily options data for six major currency pairs, we show that the cross section and term structure of options-implied standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis consistently explain not only the conditional mean but also the entire conditional distribution of subsequent currency excess returns for horizons ranging from one week to twelve months. We also find that exchange rate movements, which are notoriously difficult to model empirically, are in fact well-explained by the term structures of forward premia and options-implied higher moments. The robust empirical pattern is consistent with a representative expected utility maximizing investor who, in addition to the mean and variance, also cares about higher moments in the return distribution. The term structure linkage in turn provides support for an Epstein-Zin type preference. Our results suggest that the perennial problems faced by the empirical exchange rate literature are likely due to overly restrictive assumptions inherent in the prevailing testing methods, which fail to properly account for the forward-looking property of exchange rates and potential skewness or excess kurtosis in the conditional distribution of FX movements.

Keywords: exchange rates; excess returns; options pricing; volatility smile; risk; term structure of implied volatility; quantile regression

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1 Introduction

The exchange rate economics literature has over the years faced many empirical puzzles. As an example, although theory predicts that nominal exchange rates should depend on current and expected future macroeconomic fundamentals, the consensus in the literature is that exchange rates are essentially empirically “disconnected” from the macroeconomic variables that are supposed to determine them. This empirical disconnect comes in the form of low correlations between nominal exchange rates and their supposed macro-based determinants and also in the form of poor performance of macro-based exchange rate models in out-of-sample forecasting.¹

A related empirical anomaly that has received considerable attention in the literature is the uncovered interest parity (UIP) puzzle or the forward premium puzzle. The UIP puzzle is the empirical irregularity showing that the forward exchange rate is a biased predictor of future spot exchange rates. The UIP puzzle is taken seriously in the exchange rate literature because the UIP condition is a property of most open-economy macroeconomic models.

One manifestation of this empirical (ir)regularity is that countries with higher interest rates tend to see their currencies subsequently appreciate and a “carry-trade” strategy exploiting this pattern, on average, delivers excess currency returns.² This violation of the UIP condition is commonly attributed to time-varying risk premia and biases in (measured) market expectations. However, empirical proxies based on surveyed forecasts or standard measures of risk - for instance, ones built from consumption growth, stock market returns, or the Fama and French (1993) factors - have been unsuccessful in explaining the puzzle.³ As such, while recognizing the presence of risk, macroeconomic-based approaches to modeling

¹ See Engel (2013) for a review.

² A carry trade strategy is to borrow low-interest currencies and lend in high-interest currencies, or to sell forward currencies that are at a premium and buy forward currencies with a forward discount.

³ See, Engel (1996) for a survey of the forward premium literature, as well as recent studies such as Burnside et al. (2011) and Bacchetta and van Wincoop (2009).

exchange rates often ignore risk in empirical testing.^{4 5}

This paper argues that the persistent empirical puzzles faced by the exchange rate economics literature are most likely due overly restrictive preference and distributional assumptions in conventional testing methods. For example, researchers typically assume that exchange rate returns are normally distributed, or that investors' utility functions depend only on the mean and variance. We argue that these auxiliary assumptions often inadequately account for either the forward-looking property of nominal exchange rates or potential skewness and/or fat tails in the distribution of FX returns.

We empirically demonstrate that FX risks as captured by higher order moments of perceived FX returns distributions of perceived FX return distributions, as well as expectations, captured by the term structure of option prices, do really matter in explaining exchange rate movements. We highlight the usefulness of capturing risks and expectations in stages. First, we show that options-implied standard deviations, skewness and kurtosis of future exchange rate movements are able to explain not only the conditional mean, but the entire conditional distribution of excess currency returns. Second, we show that information extracted from the term structure options-implied risk measures add substantial explanatory power for excess currency returns. Finally, we show that quarterly exchange rate movements are well explained by the term structure of 1st-4th moments of options-implied returns distributions, with adjusted R^2 s ranging from 58% for USDJPY to 84% for GBPUSD.

Simple derivatives such as the forwards and futures have been used extensively in explaining excess currency returns or exchange rate movements.⁶ Payoffs from forward contracts, however, are linear in the return on the underlying currency and as such do not contain as

⁴ (See for instance, Engel and West (2005); Mark (1995))

⁵On the finance side, efforts aiming to identify portfolio return-based “risk factors” offer some empirical success in explaining the *cross-sectional* distribution of excess FX returns, but have little to say about bilateral exchange rate dynamics (see for example, Lustig et al. (2011); Verdelhan (2012)). Lustig et al. (2011) and Verdelhan (2012) for example, identify a “carry factor” based on cross sections of interest rate-sorted currency returns and a “dollar factor” based on cross sections of beta-sorted currency returns.

⁶See for example, Hansen and Hodrick (1980) and Clarida and Taylor (1997) among many others.

useful a set of information as the non-linear contracts we examine. Conceptually, since payoffs of option contracts depend on the uncertain future realization of the price of the underlying asset, option prices must reflect market sentiments and beliefs about the probability of future payoffs.

Our use of options price data and related empirical methodologies has a number of motivating factors. First, options are forward-looking by construction, which means option prices should therefore be able to incorporate information such as forthcoming regime switches or the presence of a peso problem.⁷ Second, option prices are deeply rooted in market participant behavior because they are based on what market participants do instead of what they say. Furthermore, cross sections of option prices imply a subjective probability distribution of future spot exchange rates, which captures both market participants' beliefs and preferences. ⁸Third, modern techniques such as the Vanna-Volga method ⁹ and the methodology of Bakshi et al. (2003) facilitate elegant and model-free computation of options-implied higher order moments of future exchange rate changes.

Our empirical findings in this paper have three implications. First, the exchange rate model based on UIP is not that bad, and we can continue using it in open economy macroeconomic models. However, we need to understand that if we put lognormal shocks, they will not fit well. Quick improvements can be made by controlling for the term structure of higher order moments, which can be obtained from option price data. Second, on the financial side, concepts of risk which depend on only the mean and variance such as the Sharpe ratio for portfolio performance evaluation, perhaps ought to be modified to account for the importance of higher moment risks such as skewness and kurtosis.

⁷ The peso problem refers to the effects on inferences caused by low-probability events that do not occur in the sample, which can lead to positive excess return.

⁸This distribution is commonly referred to as the "risk-neutral distribution", though it does NOT imply that the distribution is derived under risk-neutrality. On the contrary, it incorporates both the expected physical probability distribution of future exchange rate realization as well as the risk premium, or compensation required to bear the uncertainty.

⁹(See Castagna and Mercurio (2005))

2 Why Higher Order Moments and Term Structure?

2.1 Forward Premium Puzzle and Excess Currency Returns

The efficient market condition for the foreign exchange markets, under rational expectations, equates cross border interest differentials $i_t - i_t^*$ with the expected rate of home currency depreciation, adjusted for the risk premium associated with currency holdings, ρ_t :¹⁰

$$i_t^\tau - i_t^{\tau,*} = \mathbb{E}_t \Delta s_{t+\tau} + \rho_{t+\tau}. \quad (2.1)$$

This condition is expected to hold for all investment horizons τ , with interest rates that are at matched maturities. *Ignoring the risk premium term*, numerous papers have tested this equation since Fama (1984), and find systematical violations of this UIP condition:

$$\begin{aligned} s_{t+\tau} - s_t &= \alpha + \beta(i_t^\tau - i_t^{*,\tau}) + \epsilon_{t+\tau}; \mathbb{E}_t[\epsilon_{t+\tau}] = 0, \forall t, \\ H_0 : \beta &= 1 \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

with an estimated $\beta < 0$ and R^2 s that are usually close to zero. This is the so-called uncovered interest rate parity puzzle or the forward premium puzzle (see Engel (1996), for a survey of the literature). To see the connection with forward rates, we note that the covered interest parity condition, an empirically valid no-arbitrage condition, equates the forward premium $f_t^{t+\tau} - s_t$, with interest differentials. The risk-neutral UIP condition above thus implies that the forward rate should be an unbiased predictor for future spot rate: $\mathbb{E}_t s_{t+\tau} = f_t^{t+\tau}$ or $s_{t+\tau} = f_t^{t+\tau} + u_{t+\tau}$, where $\mathbb{E}_t[u_{t+\tau}] = 0 \forall t$.

We should next define FX excess returns as the rate of return across borders net of currency movement, and one can see that the UIP or forward premium puzzle can be

¹⁰ In this paper, we define the exchange rate as the domestic price of foreign currency. A rise in the exchange rate indicates a depreciation of the home currency. However, “home” does not have a geographical significance but follow the FX market conventions. See table (1A)

expressed as a non-zero averaged excess return over time:

$$xr_{t+\tau} = f_t^{t+\tau} - s_{t+\tau} = (i_t^\tau - i_t^{\tau,*}) - \Delta s_{t+\tau} = \rho_{t+\tau} + u_{t+\tau} \quad (2.3)$$

It is natural then to note that the empirical failure of the risk-neutral UIP condition can be attributable to either the presence of a time-varying risk premium, $\rho_{t+\tau}$, or that expectation error, u_t , may not be i.i.d. mean zero over time. If the distribution of either of these is not mean zero over the time series, empirical estimates of the slope coefficient in regression equation (2.2) would likely suffer omitted variable bias or other complications.

2.2 Why higher order moments? ¹¹

We show that in addition to risk neutrality and rational expectations assumptions, the UIP condition also hinges on the rather restrictive auxiliary assumptions that FX returns are i.i.d. normal over time and that investors have constant absolute risk aversion (CARA) utility. The two additional assumptions have the effect of reducing the representative investor's optimal asset allocation problem to a mean-variance optimization problem.

We start with the problem of an investor who, in each period, allocates her portfolio among risky assets with the goal of maximizing the expected utility of next period wealth. In each period, the investor has n risky assets to choose from. The vector of gross returns is given by $r_{t+1} = (r_{1,t+1}, \dots, r_{n,t+1})$. If we suppose W_t is arbitrarily set to 1, then $W_{t+1} = \alpha'_t r_{t+1}$, where α is an n by 1 vector of portfolio weights.

The investors problem is to choose α_t to maximize the expression

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_t[U(W_{t+1})] &= \mathbb{E}_t[U(\alpha'_t r_{t+1})] \\ &= \int \dots \int U(W_{t+1}) f(r_{t+1}) dr_{1,t+1} dr_{2,t+1} \dots dr_{n,t+1} \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

subject to the condition that $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_{i,t} = 1$, where $f(r_{t+1})$ is the joint probability distribution

¹¹Material in this subsection is from Mark (2001)

of r_{t+1} .

2.2.1 CARA and Normality reduce problem to mean-variance optimization

Let us further assume that the investor has CARA utility and that returns are conditionally normally distributed. The CARA utility assumption means the utility is given by

$U(W_{t+1}) = -e^{-\gamma W_{t+1}}$, where $\gamma \geq 0$ is the coefficient of absolute risk aversion. The distributional assumption $r_{t+1} \sim N(\mu_{t+1}, \Sigma_{t+1})$ implies that $W_{t+1} \sim N(\mu_{p,t+1}, \sigma_{p,t+1}^2)$, where $\mu_{p,t+1} = \alpha'_t \mu_{t+1}$ and $\sigma_{p,t+1}^2 = \alpha'_t \Sigma_{t+1} \alpha_t$

With the above two assumptions, expression (2.4) reduces to¹²

$$\mathbb{E}_t[U(W_{t+1})] = -\mathbb{E}_t[e^{-\gamma W_{t+1}}] = \gamma \mu_{p,t+1} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma^2 \sigma_{p,t+1}^2 \quad (2.5)$$

Equation (2.5) demonstrates that under the assumptions of CARA utility function and conditional normality of returns, the general portfolio allocation problem (2.4) reduces to the mean-variance optimization problem.¹³

If we further assume that our investor has a 2-asset portfolio made up of a nominally safe domestic bond and a foreign bond, and that she allocates a fraction α of her wealth to the domestic bond, then next period wealth expressed in local currency units is given by

$$W_{t+1} = \left[\alpha(1 + i_t) + (1 - \alpha)(1 + i_t^*) \frac{S_{t+1}}{S_t} \right] W_t \quad (2.6)$$

In this 2-asset example and CARA utility and conditionally normal returns the expressions

¹²The second equality follows from the fact that $e^{-\gamma W_{t+1}} \sim LN(-\gamma \mu_{p,t+1}, \gamma^2 \sigma_{p,t+1}^2)$, so $\mathbb{E}_t[e^{-\gamma W_{t+1}}] = -\gamma \mu_{p,t+1} + \gamma^2 \sigma_{p,t+1}^2$

¹³The quadratic utility function imply mean variance optimization for arbitrary return distribution. However, the quadratic utility implies increasing absolute risk aversion and satiation (Jondeau et al. (2010), page 352).

for the conditional mean and variance of next period wealth are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{p,t+1} &= \left[\alpha(1 + i_t) + (1 - \alpha)(1 + i_t^*) \frac{\mathbb{E}_t S_{t+1}}{S_t} \right] W_t, \\ \sigma_{p,t+1}^2 &= \frac{(1-\alpha)^2(1+i_t^*)^2 \text{Var}_t(S_{t+1})W_t^2}{S_t^2}\end{aligned}\tag{2.7}$$

Plugging the expressions in equation (2.7) into objective function (2.5), taking the first order condition with respect to α and rearranging the first order condition yields the following equation which implicitly determines the optimal α :

$$(1 + i_t) - (1 + i_t^*) \frac{\mathbb{E}_t S_{t+1}}{S_t} = \frac{-\gamma W_t (1 - \alpha) (1 + i_t^*)^2 \text{Var}_t(S_{t+1})}{S_t^2}.\tag{2.8}$$

Equation (2.8) reduces to the UIP condition if we assume that all investors are risk-neutral ($\gamma = 0$):¹⁴

$$\frac{1 + i_t}{1 + i_t^*} = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t S_{t+1}}{S_t}.\tag{2.9}$$

The Fama regression in equation (2.2) tests a logarithmic version of equation (2.9). The key steps in deriving the testable restrictions in equation (2.9) are the joint assumptions of CARA utility and conditional normality of next period wealth, which reduce the investor's optimization to mean-variance. The above discussion illustrates that deriving the UIP equation tested through expression (2.2) depends on other assumptions *beyond* rational expectations and risk-neutrality. If the normality assumption is dropped, for example, then expression (2.9) will most likely include higher order moments. In fact, Jondeau et al. (2010) note that under CARA utility, if we drop the normality assumptions, then the investor would prefer positive skewness and low kurtosis, such that the investor's objective function in equation (2.5) will also include the third and fourth moments of the FX return distribution. Scott and Horvath (1980) show that a strictly risk-averse individual who always prefers more to less ($U^{(1)} > 0$) and likes positive skewness at all wealth levels will necessarily dislike high

¹⁴UIP will also hold if $\alpha = 1$, regardless of investors' degree of risk Aversion.

kurtosis.

2.2.2 Asset allocation under higher order moments¹⁵

We showed in subsection (2.2) that the assumptions of CARA utility and normality of returns reduce the investor's problem to mean-variance optimization. However, if the distribution of portfolio returns is asymmetric, or the investor's utility function is of a higher order than the quadratic, or the mean and variance do not completely determine the distribution of asset returns, then higher order moments and their signs must be taken into account in the portfolio asset allocation problem. In this subsection we present a framework for incorporating higher order moments into the asset allocation problem.

The objective in (2.4) can be intractable and it is usual to focus on approximation of (2.4) based on higher order moments. Jondeau et al. (2010) consider a Taylor's series expansion of the utility function around expected utility up to the fourth order:

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(W_{t+1}) &= U(\mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1}) + U^{(1)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1}) + \frac{1}{2!}U^{(2)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^2 + \\
 &\frac{1}{3!}U^{(3)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^3 + \frac{1}{4!}U^{(4)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^4,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.10}$$

where $U^n(\cdot)$ denotes the n^{th} derivative of the utility function with respect to next period wealth. Taking the conditional expectation of expression (2.10) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}_t[U(W_{t+1})] &\approx U(\mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1}) + U^{(1)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1}) + \frac{1}{2!}U^{(2)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^2 + \\
 &\frac{1}{3!}U^{(3)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^3 + \frac{1}{4!}U^{(4)}(W_{t+1})(W_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t W_{t+1})^4.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.11}$$

Under the assumption that the investor's utility function is CARA, expression (2.11) reduces to

$$\mathbb{E}_t[U(W_{t+1})] \approx -e^{-\gamma\mu_p} \left[1 + \frac{\gamma^2}{2}\sigma_p^2 - \frac{\gamma^3}{6}s_p^3 + \frac{\gamma^4}{24}k_p^4 \right].
 \tag{2.12}$$

¹⁵Material in this subsection is from Jondeau et al. (2010)

In equation (2.12), s_p^3 and k_p^4 are the skewness and kurtosis of portfolio return. It is clear from equation (2.12) that under CARA utility, investors prefer positive skewness and dislike high variance and high kurtosis. Optimal portfolio weights can then be obtained by maximizing expression (2.11) instead of the exact objective function shown in expression (2.4).

For CARA utility, the weight the investor puts on the higher order moments depends on the degree of risk aversion parameter γ . In more general settings, however, the weight on the n^{th} moment depends on the n^{th} derivative of the utility function, and the signs of sensitivities of utility function to changes in higher moments cannot be easily pinned down. If the moments are not orthogonal to each other, then the effect of utility of increasing one moment might not be straight forward. Scott and Horvath (1980) establish some general conditions for investor preference for skewness and kurtosis.

2.3 Why term structure of option-implied moments?

Rearranging the UIP relationship in equation (2.1) and iterating forward, we can show that the nominal exchange rate depends on current and expected future interest rate differentials as well as on expected future risk:

$$s_t = \underbrace{- \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t(i_{t+j} - i_{t+j}^*)}_{\text{Expected future interest differentials}} - \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \rho_{t+j}}_{\text{Expected Future FX risk}} \quad (2.13)$$

Expression (2.13) highlights the link between the exchange rate and macroeconomic fundamentals. There is a huge literature linking the term structure of interest rate rates (yield curve) to expected future dynamics of macroeconomic fundamentals such as monetary policy, inflation and output by observing that short term interest rates are monetary policy variables that depend on macroeconomic variables such as inflation and output while longer term yields are risk-adjusted averages of expected future short rates.¹⁶ Chen and Tsang (2013) extend

¹⁶see Diebold et al. (2005) for a survey.

this strand of literature to the open economy context by noting that the term structure of interest rate differentials (relative yield curve) contain information about the expected future dynamics of differences in macroeconomic fundamentals. We note that the relative yield curve captures the same information about expected macroeconomic fundamentals as the term structure of option-implied *first* moments of future exchange rate movements. We extend the literature on yield curve-exchange rate linkage by investigating the ability of entire option-implied distributions to explain exchange rate dynamics.

Writing the exchange rate in the form in equation (2.13) also demonstrates the importance of capturing expectations and risk in the empirical modeling of exchange rate. Standard empirical approaches usually impose distributional assumptions that reduce the sum of expected future fundamentals to equal current fundamentals and also ignore risk.¹⁷

There is also a strand of literature that document the empirical success of empirical exchange rate models that capture information in the term structure of forward premia. Clarida and Taylor (1997) and Clarida et al. (2003) show that even if the forward rate is a biased predictor of future spot rate (the forward premium puzzles), the term structure of forward premia still contains information useful for predicting subsequent exchange rate changes. This line of literature is linked to Chen and Tsang (2013) by observing that through the empirically valid covered interest parity (CIP) condition, the forward premium equals the interest rate differential at all maturities.

3 Information Content of Currency Options

3.1 Volatility Smile and Term Structure of Option Prices

Breen and Litzberger (1978) show that in complete markets, the call option pricing

¹⁷see Engel and West (2005), Mark (1995).

function (C) and the exercise price K are related as follows:

$$\frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial K^2} = e^{-r^d \tau} \pi_t^Q(S_{t+\tau}), \quad (3.1)$$

where r^d and r^f are the domestic and foreign risk-free interest rates and $\pi_t^Q(S_{t+\tau})$ is the risk-neutral probability density function (pdf) of future spot rates. Equation (3.1) implies that, in principle, we can estimate the whole pdf of time $S_{t+\tau}$ spot exchange rate from time t volatility smile. Once the distribution is available, it becomes possible to get empirical estimates of the standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis and even higher order moments of the market perceived probability density of $S_{t+\tau}$ given information available at time t .

In addition to the Breeden and Litzenberger (1978) result in equation (3.1), we note that although market participants can be treated as if they are risk-neutral for the purpose of option-pricing, option prices theoretically contain information about both investor beliefs and risk preferences, as shown from the following formula for the price of a European-style call option:

$$C(t, K, T) = \int_K^\infty \underbrace{M_{t,T}(S_T - K)}_{\text{Preferences}} \underbrace{\pi_t^P(S_T)}_{\text{Beliefs}} dS_T = e^{-r^d \tau} \int_K^\infty (S_T - K) \underbrace{\pi_t^Q(S_T)}_{\text{Both}} dS_T. \quad (3.2)$$

In equation (3.2), $M_{t,t+\tau}$ is the pricing kernel, which captures the investor's degree of risk aversion and $\pi_t^P(S_{t+\tau})$ is the physical probability density function of future spot exchange rates¹⁸.

A forward contract can in fact be viewed as a European-style call option with a strike price of zero. To see this, we recall that, on one hand, the theoretical forward exchange rate is given by the formula:

¹⁸ In the second expression, the pricing kernel is performing both the risk-adjustment and discounting functions, while in the third expression these functions are divided between π_t^Q and $e^{-r^d \tau}$.

$$F_{t,T} = e^{-r^d \tau} \int_0^\infty S_T \pi_t^Q(S_T) dS_T = e^{-r^d \tau} \mathbb{E}_t^Q(S_T). \quad (3.3)$$

On the other hand, evaluating equation (3.2) at $K=0$ yields:

$$C(t, 0, T) = e^{-r^d \tau} \int_0^\infty S_T \pi_t^Q(S_T) dS_T = F_{t,T}. \quad (3.4)$$

The relationship between options and forwards in equation (3.4) suggests that the cross section of option prices should, at a minimum, contain as much information about investor beliefs and preferences as that contained in forward prices.

Moving on to the term structure of option prices, one way to motivate the theoretical information content of the term structure of option prices is to start from equation (2.13):

$$s_t = \underbrace{- \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t(i_{t+j} - i_{t+j}^*)}_{\text{Expected future interest differentials}} - \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \rho_{t+j}}_{\text{Expected Future FX risk}}. \quad (3.5)$$

Now, under the empirically valid CIP condition, interest rate differential is equal to the forward premium for all tenors j .¹⁹

$$i_{t+j} - i_{t+j}^* = f_t^{t+j} - s_t = -r^d \tau + \underbrace{E_t^Q \left[\ln \left(\frac{S_{t+j}}{S_t} \right) \right]}_{\text{First moment of } \pi_t^Q} + \underbrace{\omega_t}_{\text{Jensen's inequality term}}, \forall \text{ tenor } j. \quad (3.6)$$

Equation (3.6) thus says that, ignoring the Jensen's inequality term ω_t and the constant term $-r^d \tau$, the interest rate differential equals the first moment of the option-implied risk-neutral distribution of $\ln \left(\frac{S_{t+j}}{S_t} \right)$ for any given tenor j . The interest rates are monetary policy variables and therefore depend on macroeconomic fundamentals such as unemployment

¹⁹The second equality follows from dividing (3.3) by S_t and taking logarithms

and inflation. When combined, equations (3.6) and (3.5) demonstrate that just like the yield curve, the term structure of the first moments of implied distributions also captures information about current and *expected* future macroeconomic fundamentals.

A second motivation for the information content of the term structure of option prices comes from the expectation hypothesis for implied volatility, that the term structure of option-implied volatility contain information about the market's perception about the future dynamics of short term implied volatility. If the expectations hypothesis holds in the FX market, then the implied volatility for long dated options should be consistent with the implied volatility of short dated options quoted today and in the future. ²⁰

3.2 Extracting Option-Implied Moments

We use the methodology of Bakshi et al. (2003) (henceforth BKM) to extract model-free option-implied standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis from the volatility smile. Grad (2010) and Jurek (2009) also use the BKM methodology to extract FX options-implied higher order moments. ²¹ The BKM methodology rests on the results of Carr and Madan (2001), which show that if we have an arbitrary claim with a pay-off function $H[S]$ with finite expectations, then $H[S]$ can be replicated if we have a continuum of option prices. They also show that if $H[S]$ is twice-differentiable, then it can be spanned algebraically by the following expression

$$H[S] = (H[\bar{S}] + (S - \bar{S})H_S[\bar{S}]) + \int_{\bar{S}}^{\infty} H_{SS}[K](S - K)^+ + \int_0^{\bar{S}} H_{SS}[K](K - S)^+ dK, \quad (3.7)$$

²⁰For example, if the current six month implied volatility is 10% and the current three month implied volatility is 5%, then, under the expectation hypothesis, then the three month implied volatility three months from now should be 13.2% because

$$0.5(0.1)^2 = 0.25(0.05)^2 + 0.25(0.132)^2.$$

²¹In this section we closely follow the exposition and notation in Grad (2010).

where $H_S = \frac{\partial H}{\partial S}$ and $H_{SS} = \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial S^2}$. Assuming no arbitrage opportunities, the price of a claim with pay-off $H[S]$ is given by the expression

$$p_t = (H[\bar{S}] - \bar{S}H_S[\bar{S}])e^{-r^d\tau} + H_S[\bar{S}]Se^{-r^d\tau} + \int_{\bar{S}}^{\infty} H_{SS}[K]C(t, \tau, K) + \int_0^{\bar{S}} H_{SS}[K]P(t, \tau, K)dK \quad (3.8)$$

where K is the strike price, $C(t, \tau, K)$ and $P(t, \tau, K)$ are, respectively, the prices of a European-style call and put options. \bar{S} is some arbitrary constant, usually chosen to equal current spot price.

Equation (3.8) indicates that any pay-off function $H[S]$ can be replicated by a position of $(H[\bar{S}] - \bar{S}H_S[\bar{S}])$ in the domestic risk-free bond, a position of $H_S[\bar{S}]$ in the stock, and combinations of out-of-the-money calls and puts, with weights $H_{SS}[K]$. Suppose we have contracts with the following pay-off functions:²²

$$\begin{aligned} & [R_t(S_{t+\tau})]^2, \quad \text{Volatility Contract} \\ H[S] = & [R_t(S_{t+\tau})]^3, \quad \text{Cubic Contract} \\ & [R_t(S_{t+\tau})]^4, \quad \text{Quartic Contract,} \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

where $R_t(S_{t+\tau}) = \ln\left(\frac{S_{t+\tau}}{S_t}\right)$. BKM show that the variance, skewness and kurtosis of the distribution of $R_{t+\tau}$ can be calculated using the following formulas:

$$Stdev(t, \tau) = \sqrt{e^{r^d\tau}V(t, \tau) - \mu(t, \tau)^2} \quad (3.10a)$$

$$Skew(t, \tau) = \frac{e^{r^d\tau}W(t, \tau) - 3V(t, \tau)\mu(t, \tau)e^{r^d\tau} + 2\mu(t, \tau)^3}{[e^{r^d\tau}V(t, \tau) - \mu(t, \tau)^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad (3.10b)$$

$$Kurt(t, \tau) = \frac{e^{r^d\tau}X(t, \tau) - 4e^{r^d\tau}\mu(t, \tau)W(t, \tau) + 6e^{r^d\tau}\mu(t, \tau)^2V(t, \tau) - 3\mu(t, \tau)^4}{[e^{r^d\tau}V(t, \tau) - \mu(t, \tau)^2]^2}, \quad (3.10c)$$

²²One can use the framework to price contracts with higher order payoffs and therefore extract moments of order higher than 4. The point that we want to emphasize, that higher order moments matter, is demonstrated even if we only stop at 4th order.

where the expressions for $V(t, \tau), W(t, \tau)$ and $X(t, \tau)$ and $\mu(t, \tau)$ are given in appendix (A).

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The BKM methodology described above requires a continuum of exercise prices. However, in the OTC FX options market implied volatilities are observed for only a discrete number of exercise prices. We therefore need a way to estimate the entire volatility smile from a few $(K - \sigma)$ pairs by interpolation and extrapolation. To this end, we use the Vanna Volga (VV) method described in Castagna and Mercurio (2007). The procedure allows us to build the entire volatility smile using only three points. Castagna and Mercurio (2007) note that if we have three options with implied volatility $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$ and corresponding exercise prices K_1, K_2 and K_3 such that $K_1 < K_2 < K_3$, then the implied volatility of an option with arbitrary exercise price K can be accurately approximated by the following expression:

$$\sigma(K) = \sigma_2 + \frac{-\sigma_2 + \sqrt{\sigma_2^2 + d_1(K)d_2(K)(2\sigma_2 D_1(K) + D_2(K))}}{d_1(K)d_2(K)}, \quad (3.11)$$

where

$$D_1(K) = \frac{\ln \left[\frac{K_2}{K} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{K_2}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_1} \right]} \sigma_1 + \frac{\ln \left[\frac{K}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{K_2}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_2} \right]} \sigma_2 + \frac{\ln \left[\frac{K}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K}{K_2} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_2} \right]} \sigma_3 - \sigma_2,$$

$$D_2(K) = \frac{\ln \left[\frac{K_2}{K} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{K_2}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_1} \right]} d_1(K_1)d_2(K_1)(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)^2 + \frac{\ln \left[\frac{K}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K}{K_2} \right]}{\ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_1} \right] \ln \left[\frac{K_3}{K_2} \right]} d_1(K_3)d_2(K_3)(\sigma_3 - \sigma_2)^2$$

and

$$d_1(x) = \frac{\log \left[\frac{S_t}{x} \right] + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2)\tau}{\sigma_2\sqrt{\tau}}, d_2(x) = d_1(x) - \sigma_2\sqrt{\tau}, x \in K, K_1, K_2, K_3.$$

Expression (3.11) allows us to find the implied volatility of an option with an arbitrary strike

²³Derivations of equations in (3.10) and expressions for $\mu(t, \tau), V(t, \tau), W(t, \tau)$ and $X(t, \tau)$ can be found in Bakshi et al. (2003) and Grad (2010).

price. We use $K_1 = K_{25\delta p}$, $K_2 = K_{ATM}$ and $K_3 = K_{25\delta c}$. The VV methodology is preferable because it is parsimonious as it uses only three option combinations to build an entire volatility smile.²⁴ Furthermore, the VV method also has a solid foundation as it is based on a replication argument in which an investor constructs a portfolio that, in addition to hedging against movements in the price of the underlying asset ($\delta = \frac{\partial C}{\partial S}$), also hedges against movements in volatility of the underlying asset ($Vega = \frac{\partial C}{\partial \sigma}$).

3.3 Data Description

In the o-t-c market, the exchange rate is quoted as the domestic price of foreign currency, so a fall in the exchange rate represents an appreciation of domestic currency.

Compared to exchange-traded options, there are several advantages that come with using o-t-c data in our empirical analysis. First, most of the FX options trading is concentrated in the o-t-c market. This means o-t-c currency options prices are more competitive and therefore more likely to be representative of aggregate market beliefs compared to prices in the less liquid exchange market.²⁵ A second advantage of using o-t-c option price data is that fresh options for standard tenors are quoted each day, making it possible to obtain a time series of FX option prices with constant maturities. Lastly, unlike American-style options traded in the exchange market, European-style options that are traded in the o-t-c market do not need to be adjusted for the possibility of early exercise.

We next explain some important OTC currency market quoting conventions. First, option prices are given in terms of implied volatility instead of currency units while “moneyness” is measured in terms of the delta of an option. The delta of an option is a measure of the

²⁴This is the minimum number that can be used if one wants to capture the three most prominent movements in the volatility smile: change in level, change in slope, and change in curvature. The ATM straddle, VWB and the Risk Reversal capture these movements. See discussions in Castagna (2010) and Malz (1998)

²⁵Table (1C), obtained from the 2010 BIS Triennial Survey, shows that although the o-t-c options market is small relative to the overall FX market, it is very liquid and rapidly growing when we look at it in absolute terms.

responsiveness of the option’s price with respect to a change in the price of the underlying asset. If the prices of call and put options are given by C_t and P_t , then option price and implied volatility are linked using the Black-Scholes formula applied to FX:

$$C_t = e^{-r^d \tau} [F_t^{t+\tau} \Phi(d_1) - K \Phi(d_2)]$$

$$P_t = e^{-r^d \tau} [K \Phi(-d_2) - F_t^{t+\tau} \Phi(-d_1)]$$

where

$$d_1 = \frac{\log[\frac{S_t}{K}] + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2)\tau}{\sigma_2 \sqrt{\tau}}, d_2 = d_1 - \sigma_2 \sqrt{\tau}.$$

The expressions for call and put deltas are given by the expressions:

$$\delta_c = e^{-r^f} \Phi(d_1) \tag{3.12a}$$

$$\delta_p = e^{-r^f} \Phi(-d_1), \tag{3.12b}$$

where $\Phi(\cdot)$ is the standard normal cumulative density function (cdf). The absolute values of δ_c and δ_p are therefore between 0 and 1, while put-call parity implies that $\delta_p = \delta_c - 1$.²⁶

Lastly, in the FX o-t-c option market, prices are quoted in combinations rather than simple call and put options. The most common option combinations are at-the-money (ATM)²⁷ straddle, risk reversals (RR), and Vega-weighted butterflies (VWB). An ATM straddle is the sum of a base currency call and a base currency put, both struck at the current forward rate. An RR is set up when one buys a base currency call and sells a base currency put with a symmetric delta. Finally, a VWB is built by buying a symmetric delta

²⁶The market convention is to quote a delta of magnitude x as a $100 * x$ delta. For example, a put option with a delta of -0.25 is referred to as a 25 δ put.

²⁷“ATM here means the delta of the option combination is zero. That is, the option combination is “delta-neutral”

strangle and selling an ATM straddle.²⁸ The 25 δ combination is the most traded options VWB.

²⁹ The definitions of the three option combinations are as follows:³⁰

$$\sigma_{ATM,\tau} = \sigma_{0\delta c,\tau} = \sigma_{50\delta c} + \sigma_{50\delta p} \quad (3.13a)$$

$$\sigma_{25\delta RR,\tau} = \sigma_{25\delta c,\tau} - \sigma_{25\delta p,\tau} \quad (3.13b)$$

$$\sigma_{25\delta vwb,\tau} = \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_{25\delta c,\tau} + \sigma_{25\delta p,\tau}}{2}}_{\text{Strangle}} - \sigma_{ATM,\tau} \quad (3.13c)$$

Equations (3.13) can be rearranged to get the implied volatility for 0 δ call, 25 δ call and 25 δ put. Expressions for backing out implied volatility of these “plain-vanilla” options from the prices of traded option combinations are given below:

$$\sigma_{0\delta c,\tau} = \sigma_{ATM} = \sigma_{50\delta c,\tau} + \sigma_{50\delta p,\tau} \quad (3.14a)$$

$$\sigma_{25\delta c,\tau} = \sigma_{ATM} + \sigma_{25\delta vwb,\tau} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{25\delta RR,\tau} \quad (3.14b)$$

$$\sigma_{25\delta p,\tau} = \sigma_{ATM} + \sigma_{25\delta vwb,\tau} - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{25\delta RR,\tau}. \quad (3.14c)$$

Finally, $K_{25\delta p}$, K_{ATM} , $K_{25\delta c}$, the exercise prices corresponding to $\sigma_{ATM,\tau}$, $\sigma_{25\delta c,\tau}$ and $\sigma_{25\delta p,\tau}$ can be backed out by using the expression for option deltas given in equation (3.12). For

²⁸In a strangle, you buy an out of the money call and an equally out of the money put

²⁹ The ATM straddle, risk reversal and strangle are usually interpreted as short cut indicators of volatility, skewness and kurtosis of the perceived conditional distribution of exchange rate movements. The profit diagrams in figure (1) demonstrate why:

- (i) the straddle becomes profitable if there is a movement in the underlying asset’s price
- (ii) the risk-reversal makes profit if there is a movement in a particular direction
- (iii) the strangle becomes profitable if there is a *big* movement in any direction in the underlying asset’s price.

³⁰Table (1B) contains sample option price quotes for standard combinations and standard maturities.

example, to get K_{ATM} we use the fact that the ATM straddle has a delta of zero:

$$e^{-r^f \tau} \left[\Phi \left(\frac{\ln[\frac{S_t}{K_{ATM}}] + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{ATM}^2)\tau}{\sigma_{ATM}\sqrt{\tau}} \right) - \Phi \left(-\frac{\ln[\frac{S_t}{K_{ATM}}] + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{ATM}^2)\tau}{\sigma_{ATM}\sqrt{\tau}} \right) \right] = 0. \quad (3.15)$$

Since $\Phi(\cdot)$ is a monotone function, we can solve equation (3.15) for K_{ATM} to get:

$$K_{ATM} = S_t e^{(r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{ATM}^2)\tau} = F_t^{t+\tau} e^{\frac{1}{2}\sigma_{ATM}^2\tau}. \quad (3.16)$$

Using similar arguments, one can show that the expressions for $K_{25\delta c}$ and $K_{25\delta p}$

$$K_{25\delta c} = S_t e^{[-\Phi^{-1}(\frac{1}{4}e^{r^d\tau})\sigma_{25\delta c,\tau}\sqrt{\tau} + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{25\delta c}^2)\tau]} \quad (3.17a)$$

$$K_{25\delta p} = S_t e^{[\Phi^{-1}(\frac{1}{4}e^{r^d\tau})\sigma_{25\delta p,\tau}\sqrt{\tau} + (r^d - r^f + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{25\delta p}^2)\tau]}, \quad (3.17b)$$

with $K_{25\delta p} < K_{ATM} < K_{25\delta c}$ (Castagna and Mercurio (2007)).

Our options data consists of over the counter (o-t-c) option prices for the six currency pairs listed in table (1A) and covering the period 1 January 2007 to April 19 2011.

The spot rates, forward rates and risk-free interest rates are obtained from Datastream.

4 Empirical Strategy and Main Results

4.1 Empirical properties of extracted option-implied moments

Time series plots of the extracted risk neutral moments of $\log \frac{S_T}{S_t}$ are shown in figure (2).

The extracted moments are very persistent, with AR(1) coefficients as high as 0.99. Zivot and Andrews (1992) unit root tests, however, suggest that almost all the implied moments are stationary, with structural breaks in the means on dates around late 2008 and early 2009.

There are also some outliers in some of the skewness and kurtosis series, especially for 9m

and 12m tenor.³¹

INSERT FIGURE (2) HERE

4.2 Can the term structure of implied moments predict currency returns?

For each currency pair i , we start by estimating the standard UIP regression

$$s_{t+\tau}^i - s_t^i = \alpha + \beta(f_t^{t+\tau i} - s_t^i) + \epsilon_{t+\tau}^i. \quad (4.1)$$

We focus on model fit and joint significance rather than testing whether the β coefficient is equal to 1. Fitted vs Actual plots of estimated regression (4.1) (with breaks) are shown in figures 4(a)-4(e), while condensed results can be found in column **A** of table (3). For all currency pairs, the forward premia coefficients are statistically significant at the 1% level, and adjusted R^2 of at least 10% for each currency pair.

We then consider the predictive ability of τ -period option-implied higher moments by estimating the following augmented UIP regression:

$$s_{t+\tau}^i - s_t^i = \alpha + \beta_1(f_t^{i,t+\tau} - s_t) + \beta_2 stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \beta_3 skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \beta_4 kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau} \quad (4.2)$$

Equation (4.2) therefore augments the standard UIP equation (4.1) by studying the predictive ability of the 1st – 4th moments of the distribution of $\log\left(\frac{S_{t+\tau}}{S_t}\right)$. The condensed regressions results are shown in column **B** table (3). The adjusted R^2 s for the matched-frequency augmented UIP regressions are consistently higher than those from the standard UIP specification in column **A**, ranging from 26% to 67%. Coefficients on the higher order moments are always jointly significant at the 1% level.

³¹Summary statistics of the extracted moments can be found in the online appendix to this paper.

We next estimate a term structure modification of the standard UIP equation (4.1) that uses information contained in the term structure of forward premia to predict exchange rate movements:

$$s_{t+\tau}^i - s_t^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{1,j} PC_j meanTerm + \epsilon_{t+\tau}^i. \quad (4.3)$$

Condensed results from regression specification (4.3) are presented in column **C** of table (3). Comparing columns **A** and **C** in table (3), we see that adding the whole term structure of forward premia significantly improves the UIP regression fit. For example, the adjusted R^2 jumps from 27% to 57% for AUDUSD, 15% to 40% for EURUSD and from 15% to 54% for USDCAD.

Lastly, we regress exchange rate movements on the term structure of 1st – 4th moments:

$$s_{t+3M}^i - s_t^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{1,j} PC_j meanTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{2,j} PC_j stdevTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{3,j} PC_j skewTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{4,j} PC_j kurtTerm^i + \epsilon_{t+3M}^i. \quad (4.4)$$

Plots of actual versus fitted values from regressions (4.4) and (4.1) are shown in figures (4). These plots show that considered with the standard UIP regression, accounting for higher order moment risks and expectations substantially improves that model fit. The condensed regression results for the higher moment term structure specification, shown in column **D** of table (3) show that compared to the UIP specification in column **A**, accounting of for higher moments and expectations, for example, increases adjusted R^2 from 27% to 67% for AUDUSD, 15% TO 53% for EURUSD and from 10% to 57% for USDJPY.

INSERT TABLE (3) AND FIGURE (4) HERE

4.3 Can option-implied moments forecast FX excess returns?

4.3.1 Matched Frequency Analysis: Predictive ability of the volatility smile

For each currency pair i , we start by investigating the predictive ability of τ – *period* option-implied measures of standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis for subsequent excess currency returns³²:

$$f_t^{i,t+\tau} - \mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau}^i) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{1,\tau}stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{2,\tau}skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{3,\tau}kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + u_{i,t+\tau}. \quad (4.5)$$

Under rational expressions, $f_t^{i,t+\tau} - \mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau}^i)$ is also equal to the risk premium. Gereben (2002) and Malz (1997) also estimate regression specification (4.5) and interpret the results in light of the time-varying risk premia explanation of the UIP puzzle. Gereben (2002) argues that if the forward bias is due to time-varying risk premia, then variables that capture the nature of FX risk should be able to explain the dynamics of the forward bias. The option-implied moments on the RHS in regression equation 4.5), which capture perceived FX volatility, tail and crash risk should therefore be able to explain the forward bias. Malz (1997) also argues that statistical significance of the coefficient on $skew_t^{t+\tau}$ can be interpreted as providing support for the peso problem explanation of the UIP puzzle.

Going back to expression 4.5), we note that $\mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau})$ is not observable. If we assume that market participants have rational expectations, then $\mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau})$ and $s_{t+\tau}$ will only differ by a forecast error ν_{t+1} that is uncorrelated with all variables that use information at time t , such that

$$s_{t+\tau} = \mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau}) + \nu_{t+1}. \quad (4.6)$$

Plugging equation (4.6) into equation (4.5) and rearranging gives us the following estimable

³²Excess returns are a component of the expected exchange rate movements since $\mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau}^i) - s_t^i$ can be decomposed into excess returns $-(f_t^{i,t+\tau} - \mathbb{E}_t(s_{t+\tau}^i))$ and the interest differential, which equals $f_t - s_t$ under CIP.

regression equation:

$$xr_{t+\tau} = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{1,\tau}stdev_t^{t+\tau} + \gamma_{2,\tau}skew_t^{t+\tau} + \gamma_{3,\tau}kurt_t^{t+\tau} + \epsilon_{t+\tau} \quad (4.7)$$

where the error term $\epsilon_{t+\tau} = u_{t+\tau} + \nu_{t+\tau}$ and $xr_{t+\tau}$ is ex-post excess returns defined in expression (2.3).

To provide intuition regarding expected coefficient signs in the regression equation (4.7), we take the point view of a domestic investor who invests in domestic bonds using money borrowed from abroad. As shown in equation (2.3), such an investor benefits from higher domestic interest rates as well as appreciation of domestic currency. Let's also assume that the home currency is riskier, such that our investor would demand higher excess returns for higher *stdev* and *kurtosis* in the exchange rate. If investors are averse to high variance and kurtosis, they would require higher excess returns for holding bonds denominated in units of the riskier domestic and we would expect the coefficients on *stdev* and *kurtosis* to be both positive. We expect the *skew* coefficient to be positive for investor's with preference for positive skewness. Such an investor will require higher compensation for an increase in *skew*, which represents a higher perceived likelihood of domestic currency depreciation.

Given the discussion in subsection (2.2.2), however, we note that pinning down the coefficient signs a priori is impossible without making further assumptions about the investor's utility function or orthogonality of the moments. In our regression analysis, we therefore focus mainly on joint significance of the explanatory variables and model fit rather than on significance and signs of individual coefficients.

Sub-sample analyses suggest the presence of structural breaks in the matched-frequency regression relationships for the majority of currency pairs and tenors. We use the Bai and Perron (2003) structural break test to identify the date for the most prominent break ³³ and

³³We only focus on the major breaks, and therefore do not choose the number of breaks according to information criteria such as AIC.

estimate a modification of regression equation (4.7) that includes interactions with structural break indicator variable:

$$\begin{aligned}
xr_{t+\tau}^i = & \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau}D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau}stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau}skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \\
& \gamma_{3,\tau}kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau}stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau}skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau}kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{t+\tau}^i.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

where $D1^{i,\tau}$ is an indicator variable that is zero before the break date and equal to one otherwise.

The matched-frequency results, shown in tables 5(a)-5(f), demonstrate a consistent ability of options-based measures of FX standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis-proxying to explain excess currency returns. The coefficients on the six non-intercept terms are always jointly significant at the 1% level. The adjusted R^2 s for example, range from 13% (USDJPY) to 28% for 1 month tenor and from 20%(USDJPY) to 42% (EURJPY) for the 3M tenor.

We next go beyond OLS regression, which models the conditional mean of the the dependent variable given the explanatory variables, by using quantile regression analysis (QR) to investigate the predictive ability of options-based FX risk measures for the entire distribution of ex-post excess currency returns. By modeling the entire distribution of the dependent variable, QR allows us to get a more complete picture of the predictive ability of the option-implied moments. QR also has a further advantage over OLS in that it is robust to outliers in the dependent variable and does not impose restrictive distributional assumptions on the error terms.

We estimate the following linear quantile regression model, modified to include one break:

$$Q_i^{xr}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{1,\tau}STDEV_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{2,\tau}SKEW_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{3,\tau}KURT_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}, \tag{4.9}$$

where $Q_i^{xr}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess returns given information available at time t .³⁴

Matched-frequency quantile regression results for 3M tenor are shown in tables (7a)-

³⁴We estimate the quantile regression model using the same break dates obtained in the OLS analysis

(7f). We find that the coefficients on non-intercept terms are always jointly significant across quantiles for all currency pairs. Adjusted R^2 s range from 13% to 44% for AUDUSD, and 12% to 30% for USDJPY for example. Another consistent pattern across currency pairs and tenors is that option-implied moments have more predictive ability for lower and upper quantiles of excess returns than the middle quantiles.

INSERT TABLES (7a)- (7f)HERE

4.3.2 Can the term structure of implied moments predict excess currency returns?

We first extend regression equation (4.7) by regressing 3M bilateral excess returns on 1M, 3M and 12M option-implied moments. That is, for each currency pair i , we estimate the following OLS regression:

$$xr_{t+3M}^i = \gamma_{0,3M} + \sum_j \gamma_{1,\tau_j} stdev_t^{t+\tau_j,i} + \sum_j \gamma_{2,\tau_j} skew_t^{t+\tau_j,i} + \sum_j \gamma_{3,\tau_j} kurt_t^{t+\tau_j,i} + \epsilon_{t+3M}^i, \quad (4.10)$$

where $j \in \{1M, 3M, 12M\}$. Similar to the matched-frequency analysis in subsection (4.3.1), our final term structure regression model is a modification of (4.10) in which we include interactions with a structural break indicator variable $D1$. Regression results from specification (4.10) (with break) are shown in column **B** of table (2). Compared to the matched frequency results presented in column **A**, we see a huge increase in the adjusted R^2 s. For example, adjusted R^2 increases from 33% to 62% for AUDUSD, 34% to 49% for EURUSD, and from 20% to 36% for USDJPY.

In column **C** of table (2) , we present condensed results of regressions that incorporate information from all tenors (not just 1M,3M and 12M) by using principal components extracted from all tenors.

Column **C** therefore contains results from the following regression:

$$\begin{aligned}
xr_{t+3M}^i = & \gamma_{0,\tau} + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{2,j} PC_j stdevTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{3,j} PC_j skewTerm^i + \\
& \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{4,j} PC_j kurtTerm^i + \epsilon_{t+3M}^i.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.11}$$

In equation (4.11), $PC_jxxxxTerm^i$ refers to the j^{th} principal component extract from the currency i term structure of option-implied moment $xxxx$. Results from estimation regression equation (4.11) are in column **C** of table (2).

Lastly, we extend the specification in (4.11) by adding information from the term structure of first moments as additional regressors:

$$\begin{aligned}
xr_{t+3M}^i = & \gamma_{0,\tau} + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{1,j} PC_j meanTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{2,j} PC_j stdevTerm^i + \\
& \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{3,j} PC_j skewTerm^i + \sum_{j=1}^3 \gamma_{4,j} PC_j kurtTerm^i + \epsilon_{t+3M}^i.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

The term structure of first moments captures expectations of the dynamics of future macroeconomic fundamentals. We use the term structure of interest rate differentials to extract the principal components of the term structure of first moments of $\log\left(\frac{S_{t+\tau}}{S_t}\right)$.³⁵ Using yield curve data to extract the term structure of first moments has the advantage of allowing us to also use interest rate differentials for tenors not covered by our option price data. As with our previous regressions, we estimate a version of regression model (4.12) that includes interactions with a structural break indicator variable.

The condensed results from estimating equation (4.12) with breaks are presented in column **(D)** of table (2). Actual vs fitted plots from this regression are shown in figures

³⁵As noted earlier, the forward premium, which is the theoretical mean of the risk-neutral probability density of $\log\left(\frac{S_{t+\tau}}{S_t}\right)$ is equal to the interest differential $i^\tau - i^{*,\tau}$.

(3(a)-3(e)).

INSERT FIGURE (3) AND TABLE (2) HERE

Compared to the matched frequency regressions column **A** of table (2), including the term structure of 1st – 4th moments increases the adjusted R^2 from 33% to 66% for AUDUSD, 34% TO 51% for EURUSD, 48% to 83% for GBPUSD, 48% to 62% for USDCAD and from 20% to 57% for USDJPY. These dramatic improvements in the model fit further highlight the importance of properly accounting for expectations and higher moment risks.

5 Conclusion

This paper has documented a robust ability of options-implied measures of FX higher moment risks to explain subsequent excess currency returns and FX returns. We also find that the term structure of such risks, capturing forward-looking property of the exchange rate, add further explanatory power. Our findings suggest that expectation and risk should be given more careful consideration in the structural modeling and empirical testing of exchange rate models.

This paper can be extended in several directions that are useful to academics, monetary policy officials and investment professionals. First, how useful is the option-based information for out-of-sample forecasting of exchange rate. The ability to accurately forecast exchange rates movements for many purposes, including determining the future value of foreign denominated debt payments and for hedging for investment managers exploiting international investment opportunities. Second, an empirical analysis of the macroeconomic variables and events that drive the option-implied moments would further shed light on the link between exchange rates and fundamentals. Lastly, it might be worthwhile to

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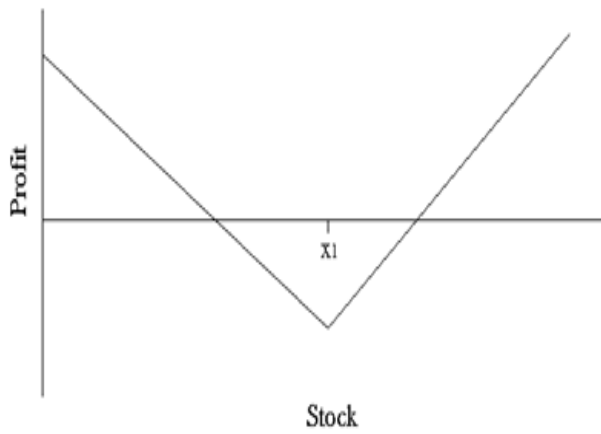
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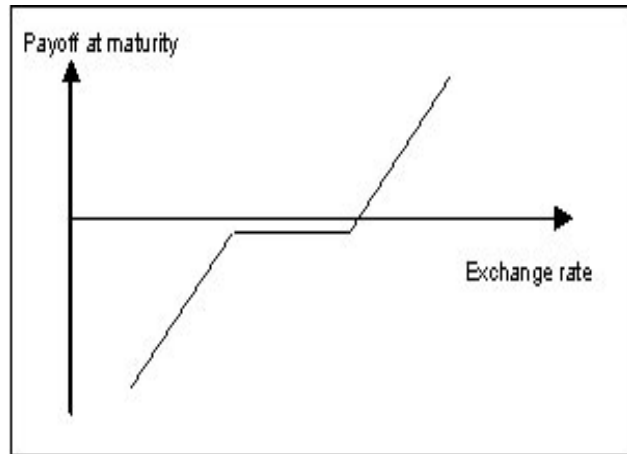
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Figure 1: Profit diagrams for options strategies

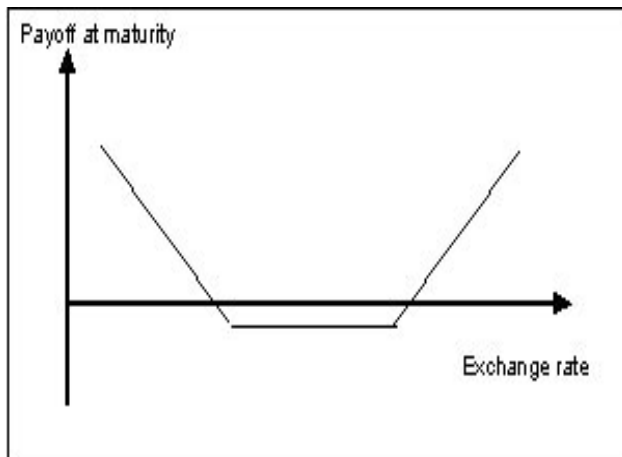
(a) Profit Function of a Straddle



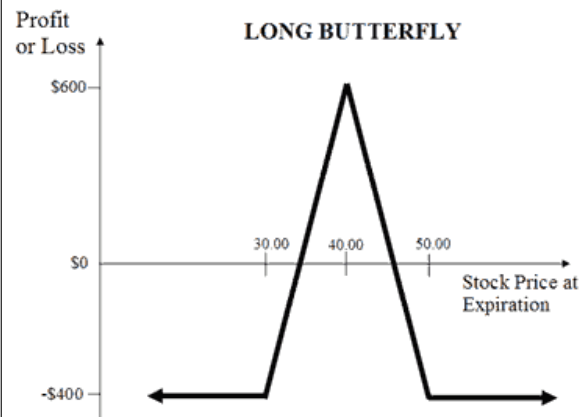
(b) Profit Function of a Risk Reversal



(c) Profit Function of a Strangle



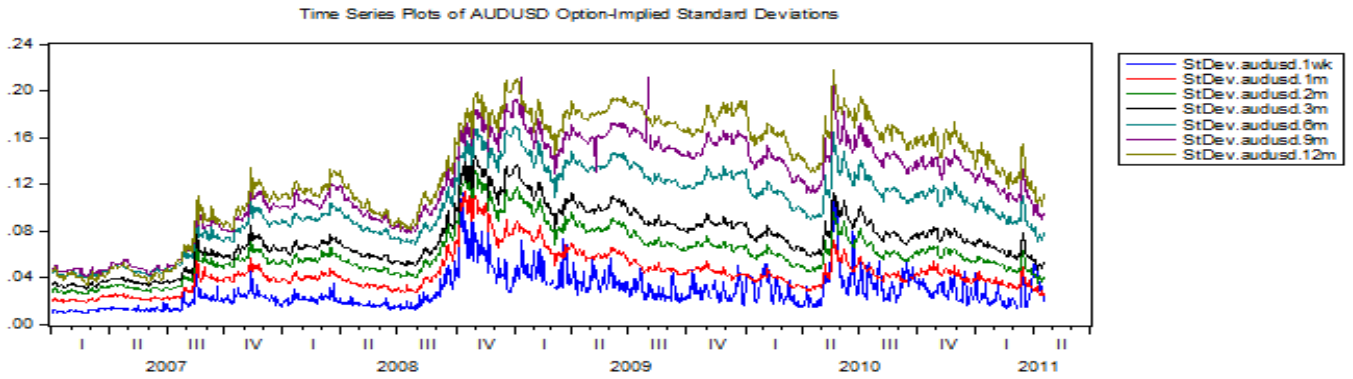
(d) Profit Function of a Butterfly



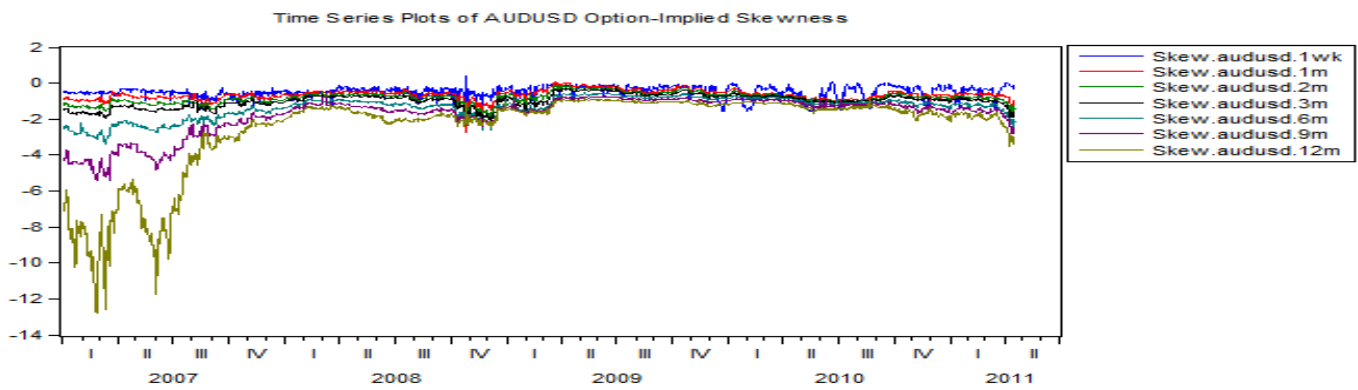
Note: Straddle, Risk Reversal, Strangle and Butterfly are as defined in subsection (3.3)

Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

(a) AUDUSD STDEV



(b) AUDUSD SKEWNESS



(c) AUDUSD KURTOSIS

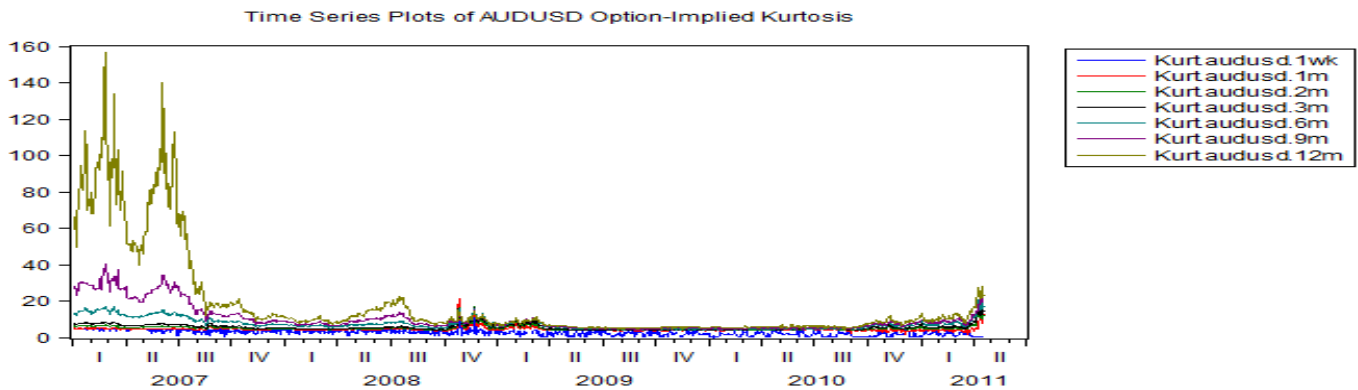
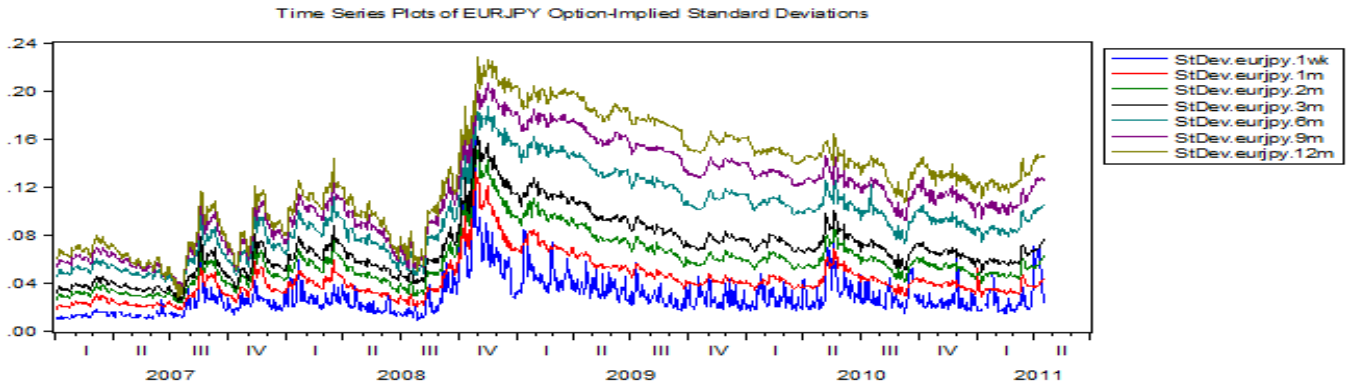
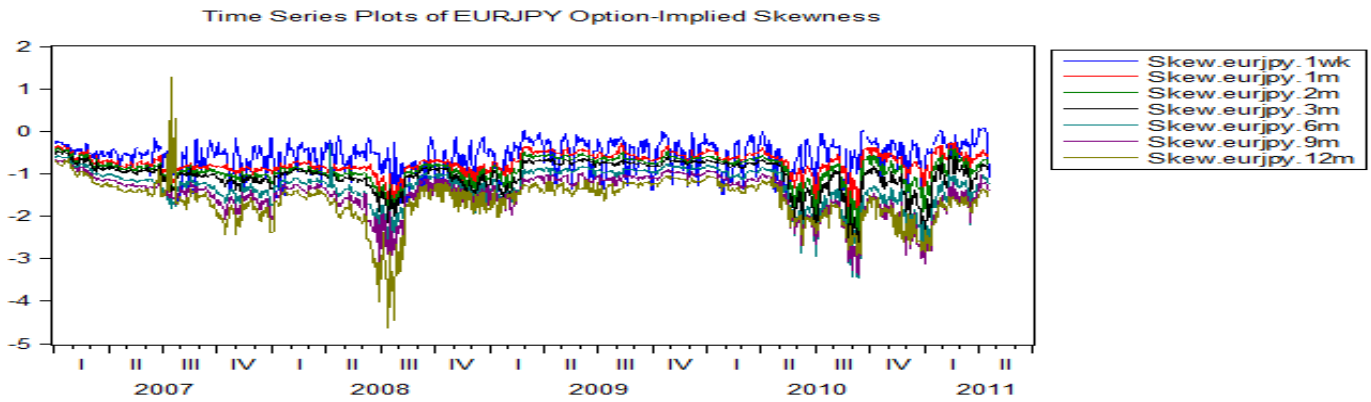


Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

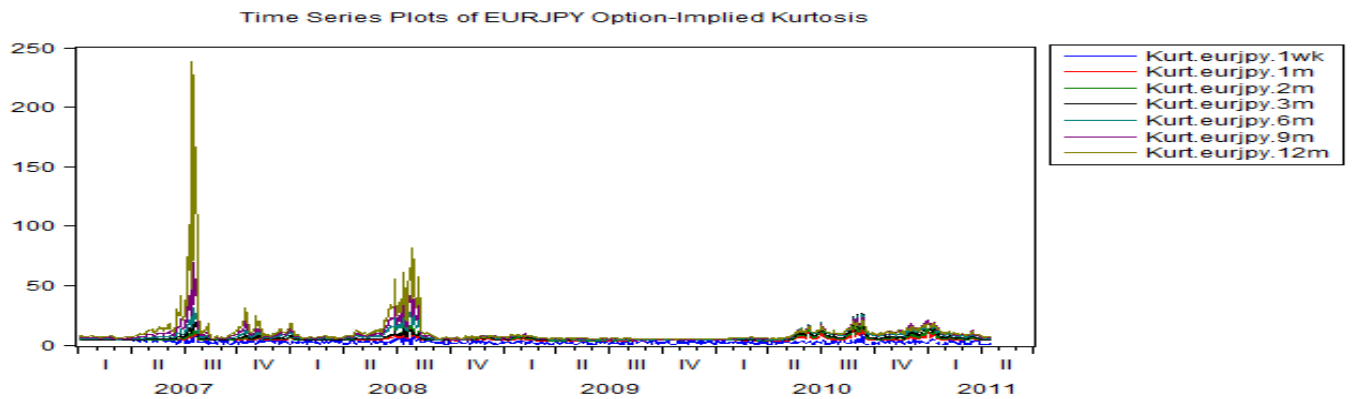
(d) EURJPY STDEV



(e) EURJPY SKEWNESS



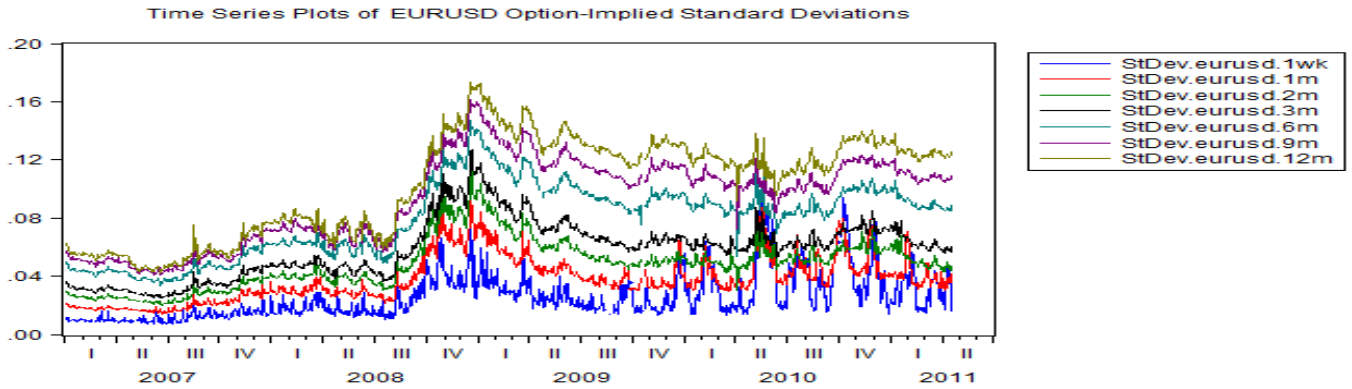
(f) EURJPY KURTOSIS



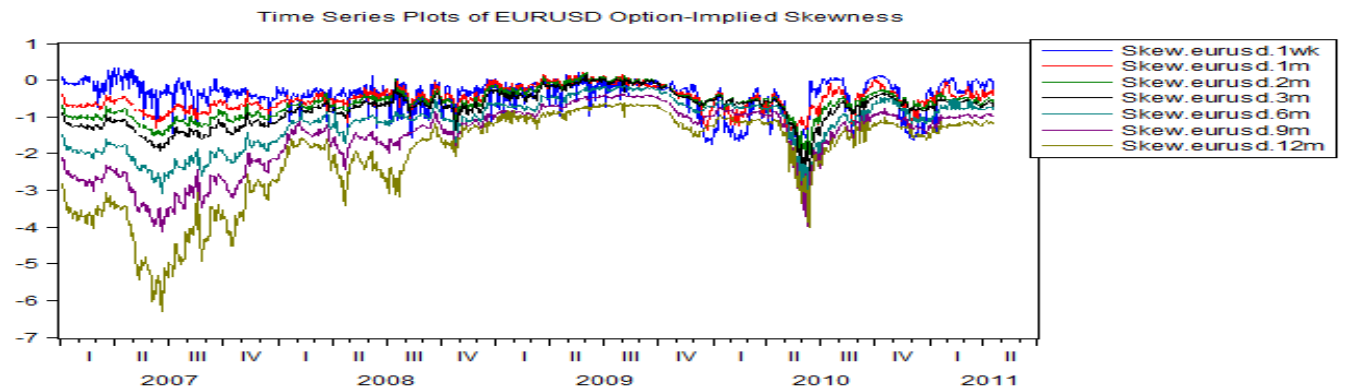
Note: Moments extracted using the methodology developed in Bakshi et al. (2003).

Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

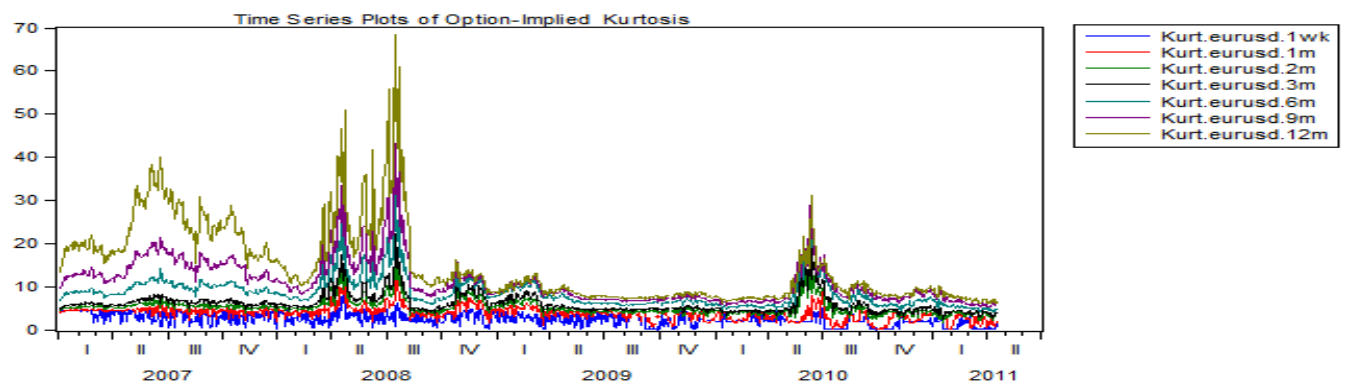
(g) EURUSD STDEV



(h) EURUSD SKEWNESS



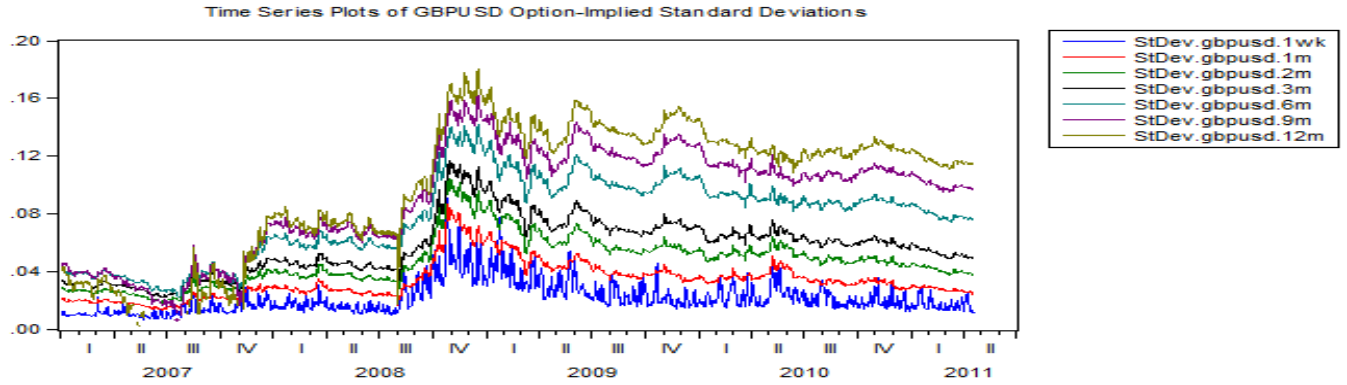
(i) EURUSD KURTOSIS



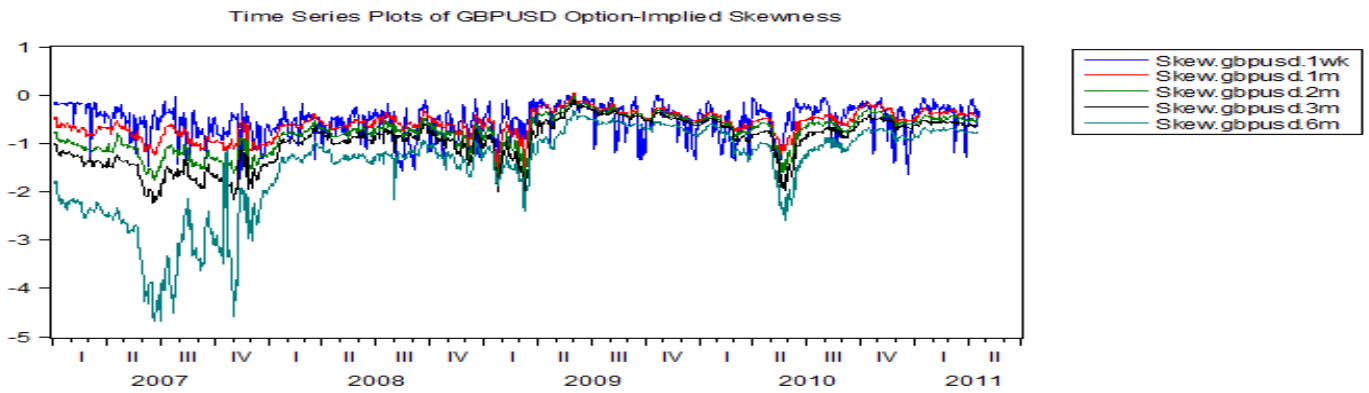
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Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

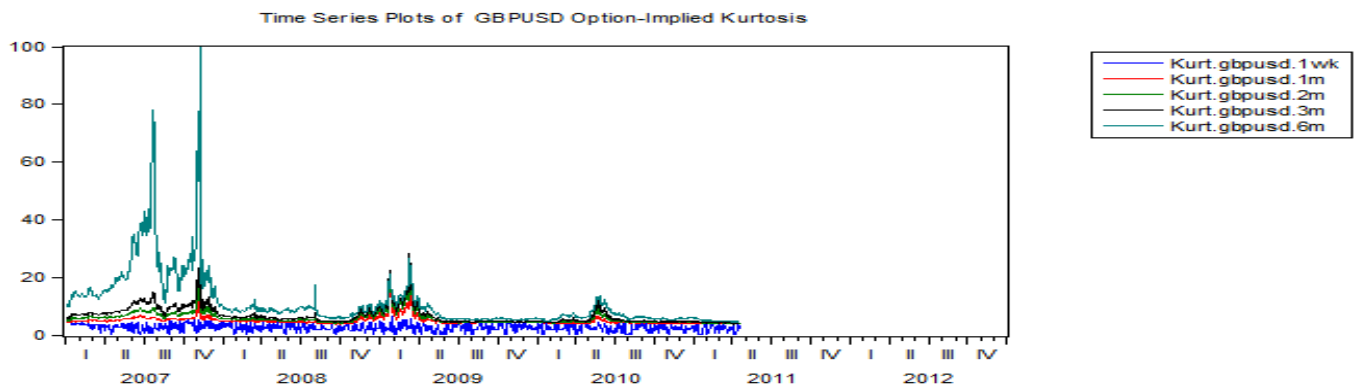
(j) GBPUSD STDEV



(k) GBPUSD SKEWNESS



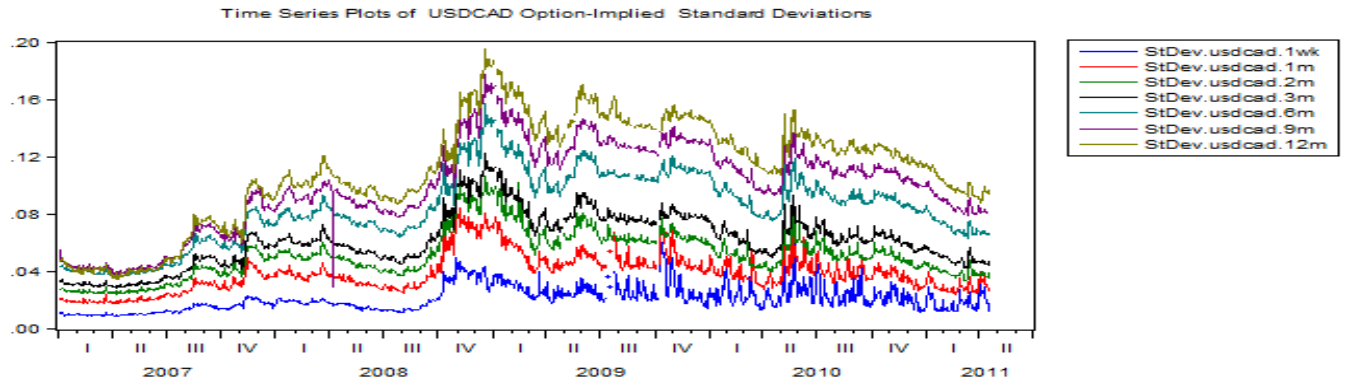
(l) GBPUSD KURTOSIS



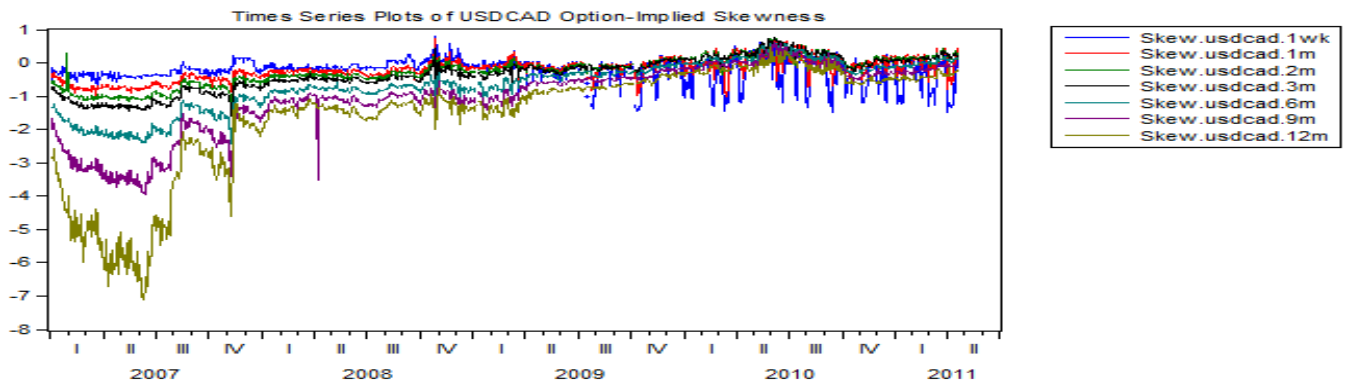
Note: Moments extracted using the methodology developed in Bakshi et al. (2003).

Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

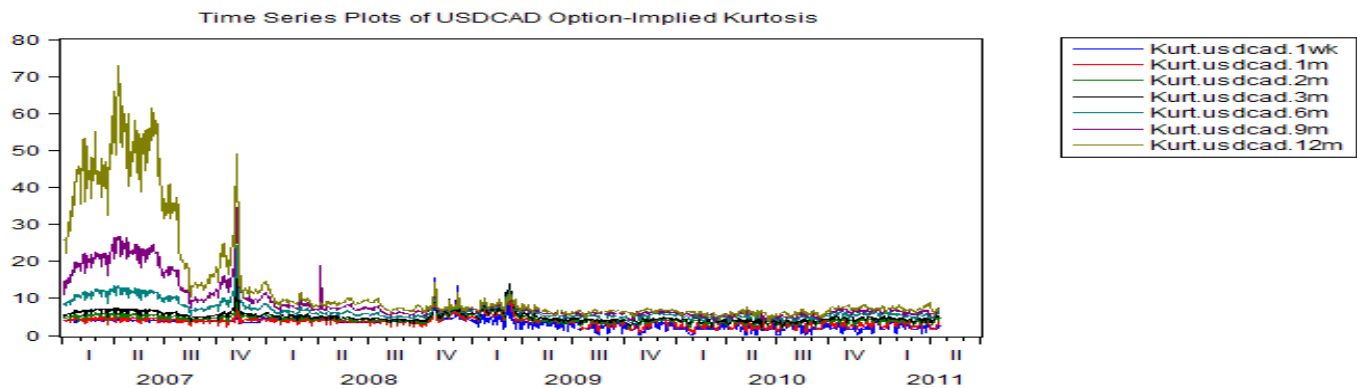
(m) USDCAD STDEV



(n) USDCAD SKEWNESS



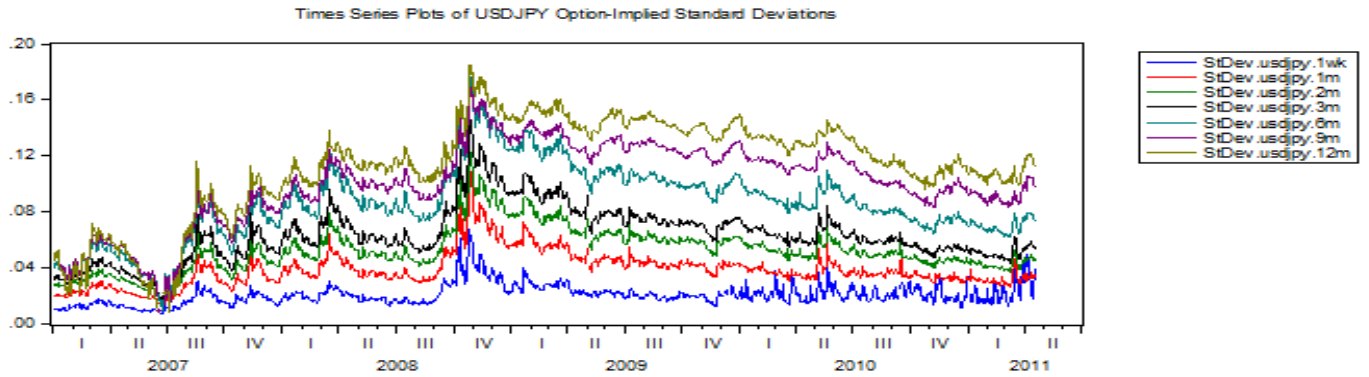
(o) USDCAD KURTOSIS



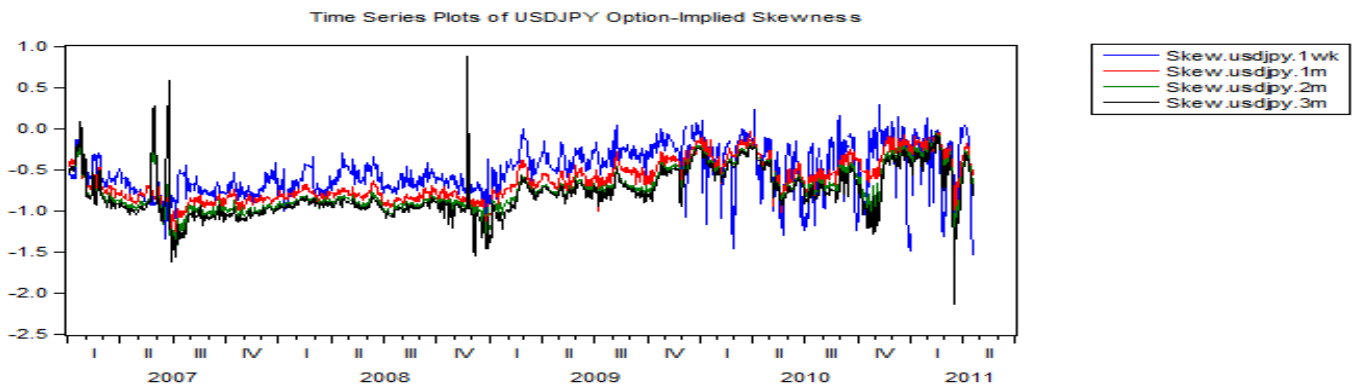
Note: Moments extracted using the methodology developed in Bakshi et al. (2003).

Figure 2: Time Series Evolution Of Option Implied Moments

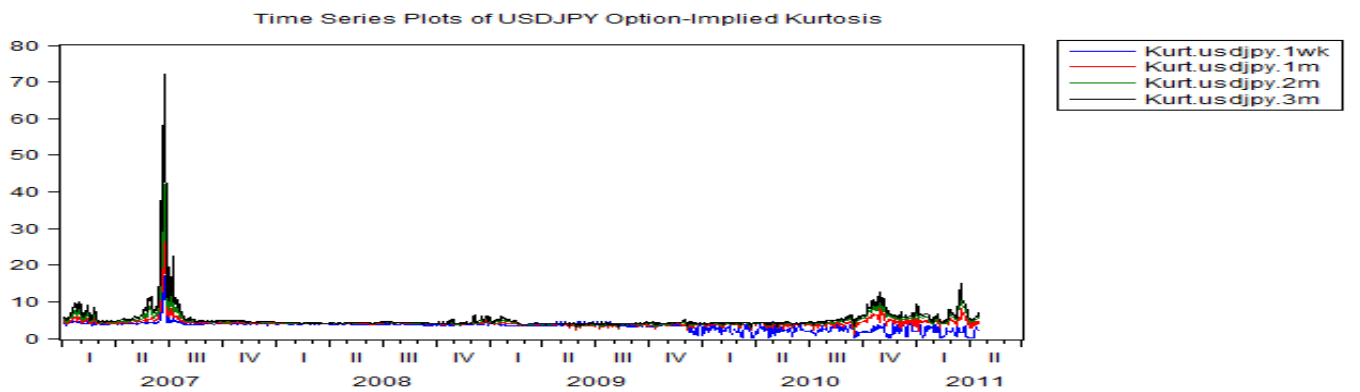
(p) USDJPY STDEV



(q) USDJPY SKEWNESS



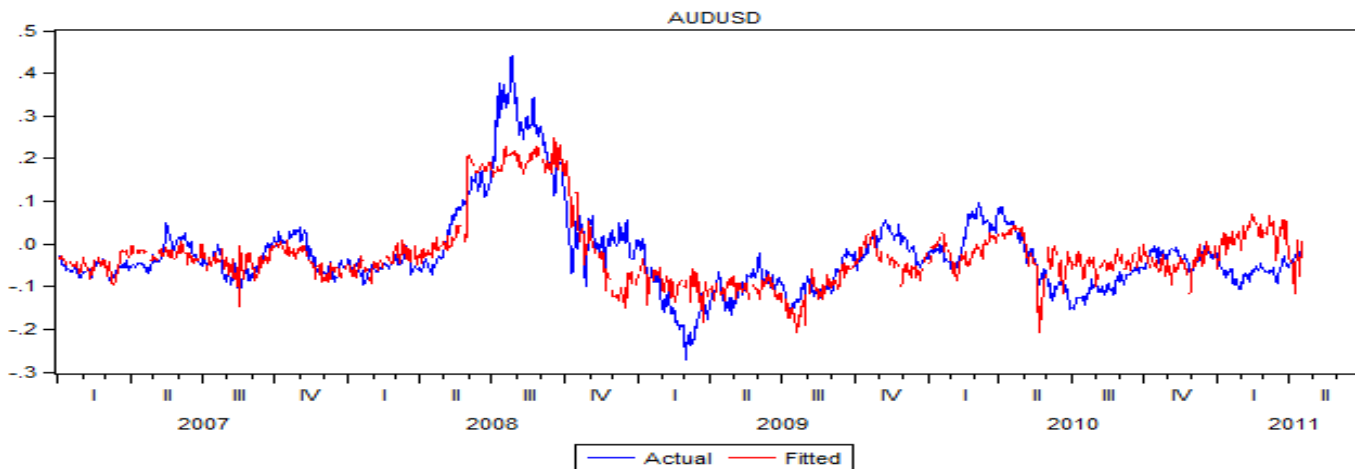
(r) USDJPY KURTOSIS



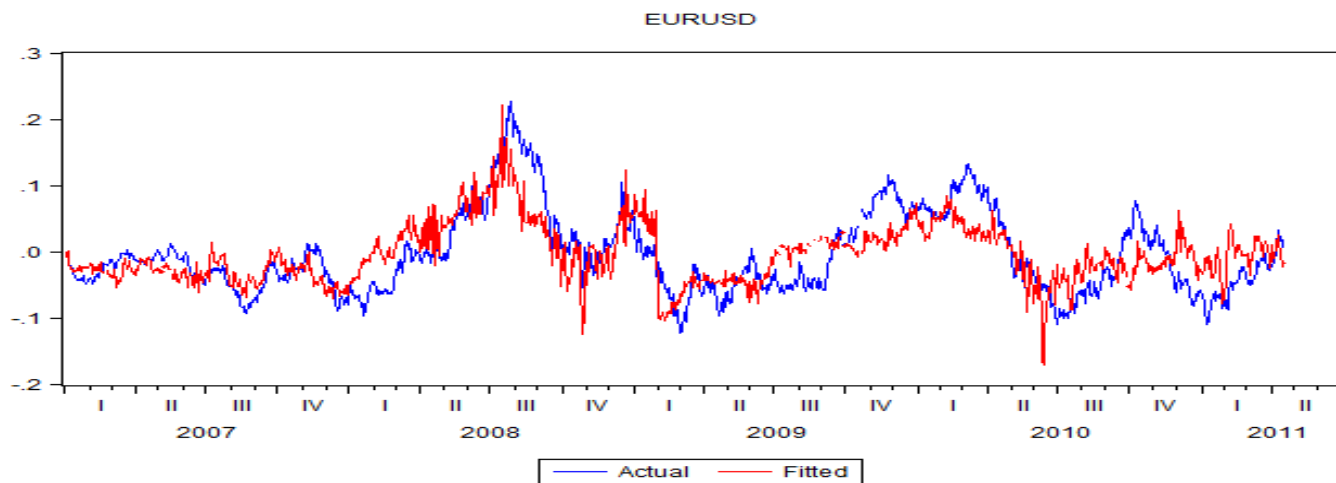
Note: Moments extracted using the methodology developed in Bakshi et al. (2003).

Figure 3: Quarterly FX Excess Returns on Term Structure of 1st to 4th Moments+Break

(a) AUDUSD 3M



(b) EURUSD 3M



(c) GBPUSD 3M

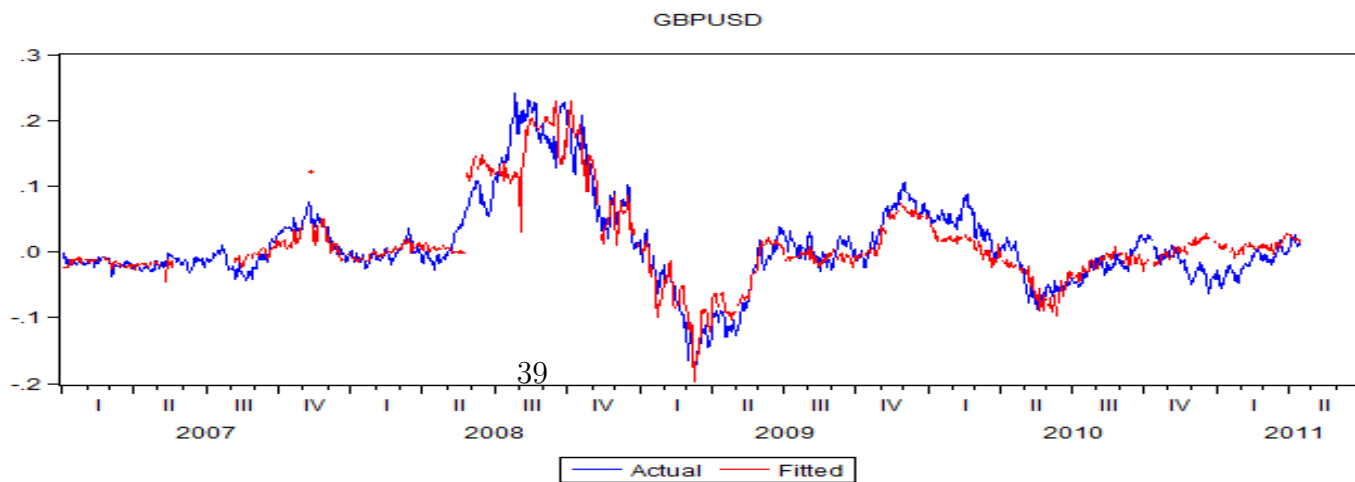
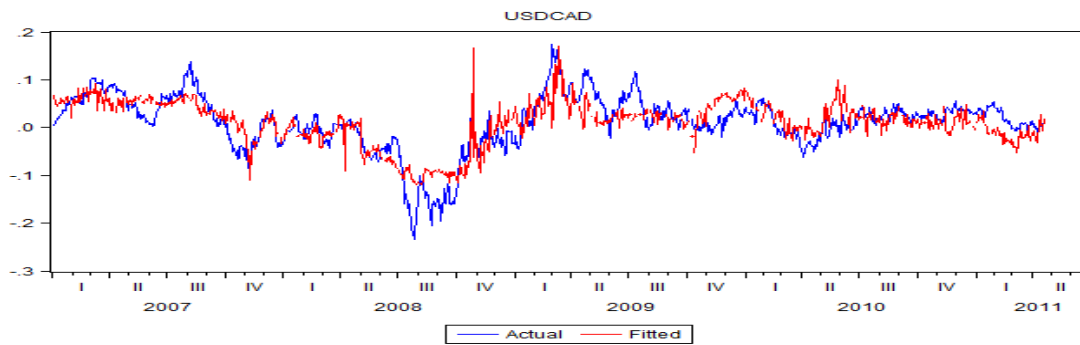
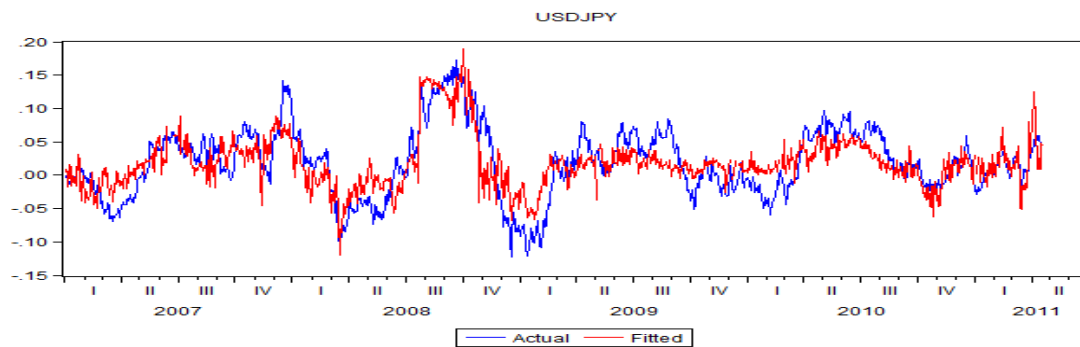


Figure 3: Quarterly FX Excess Returns on Term Structure of 1st to 4th Moments+Break

(d) USDCAD 3M



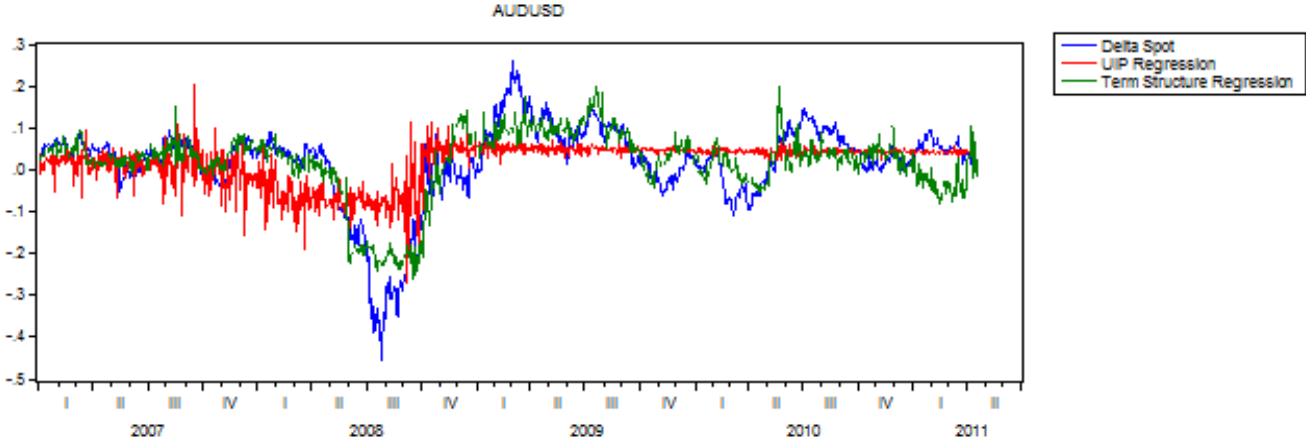
(e) USDJPY 3M



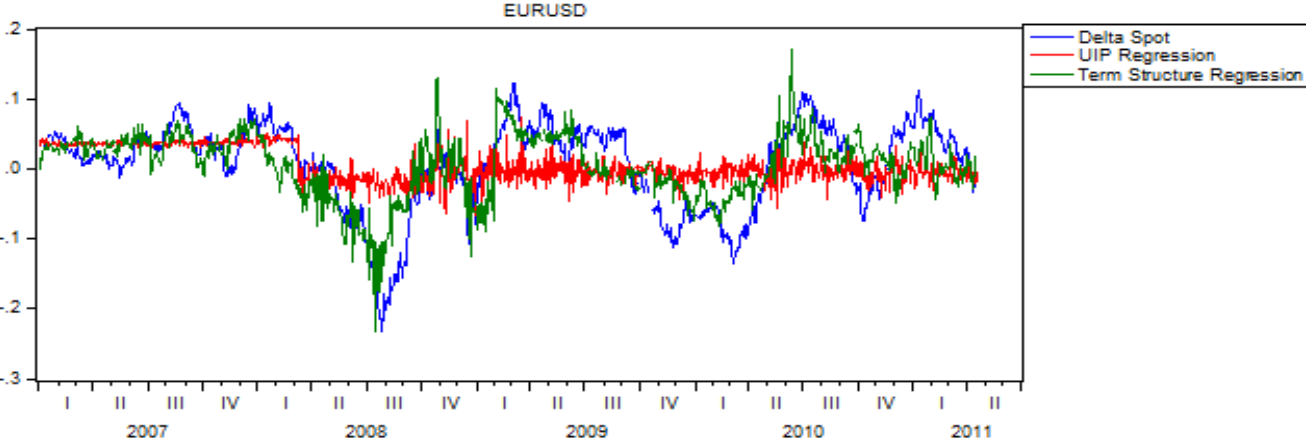
Note: Fitted vs Actual plots from the regression of 3M excess return, as defined in expression (2.3), on the first three principal components from the term structure of extracted moments of $\pi_t^Q \left(\ln \frac{S_t}{S_t} \right)$ (Regression specification in expression (4.12)). Condensed regression results are in column D of table (2) .

Figure 4: Quarterly FX Movements on Term Structure of 1st to 4th Moments+Break

(a) AUDUSD 3M RET



(b) EURUSD 3M RET



(c) GBPUSD 3M RET

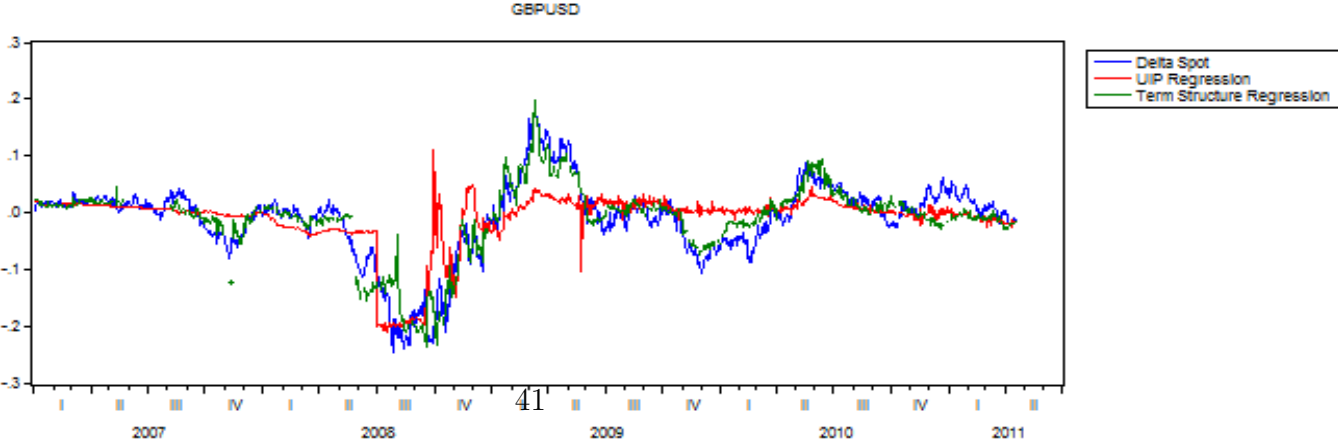
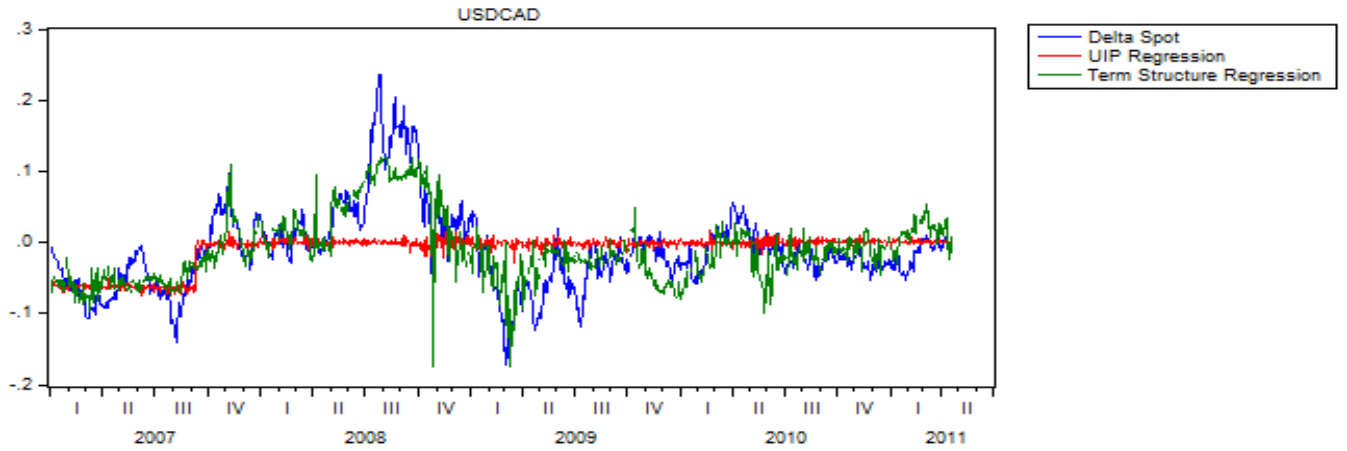
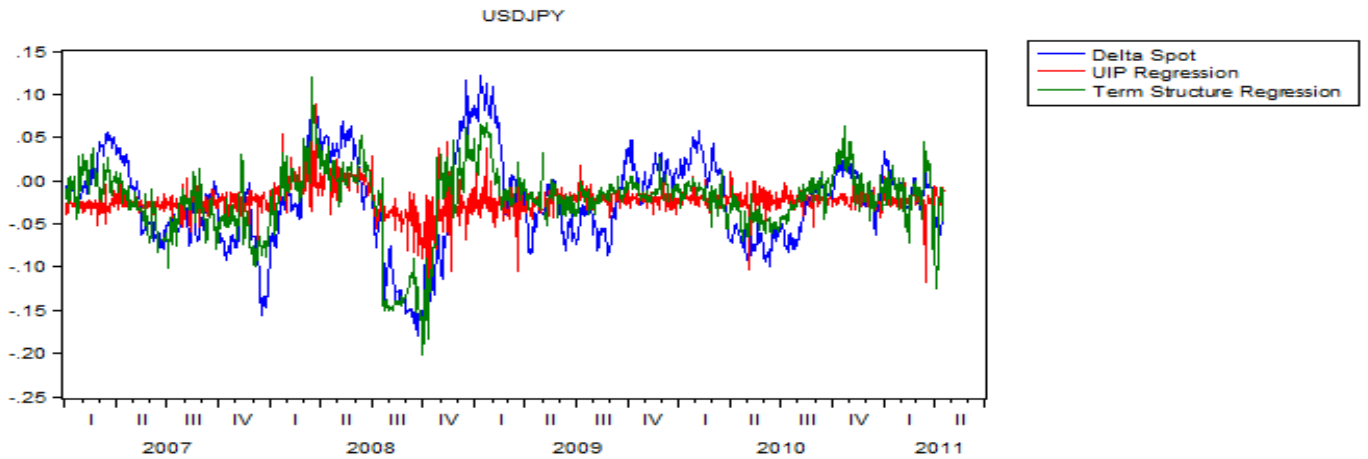


Figure 4: Quarterly FX Movements on Term Structure of 1st to 4th Moments+Break

(d) USDCAD 3M RET



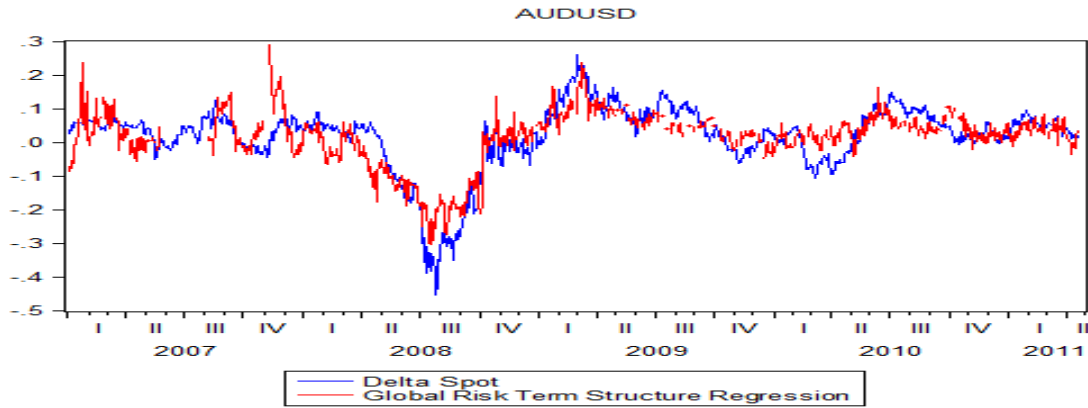
(e) USDJPY 3M RET



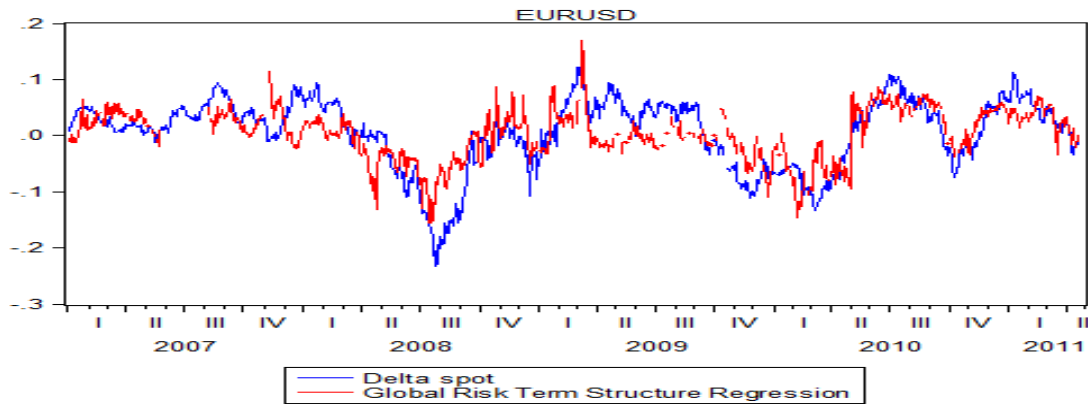
Fitted vs Actual plots from the regression of $3M \log \left(\frac{S_T}{S_t} \right)$ on the first three principal components from the term structure of extracted moments of $\pi_t^Q \left(\ln \frac{S_T}{S_t} \right)$ (Regression specification in expression (4.4)). Condensed regression results are in column D of table (3) .

Figure 5: Quarterly FX Movements on Term Structure of Global Risk+Break

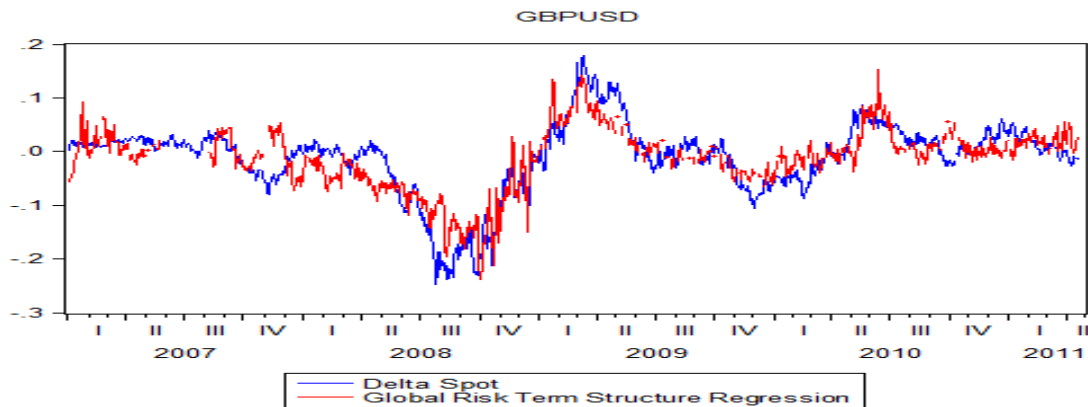
(a) AUDUSD 3M RET



(b) EURUSD 3M RET



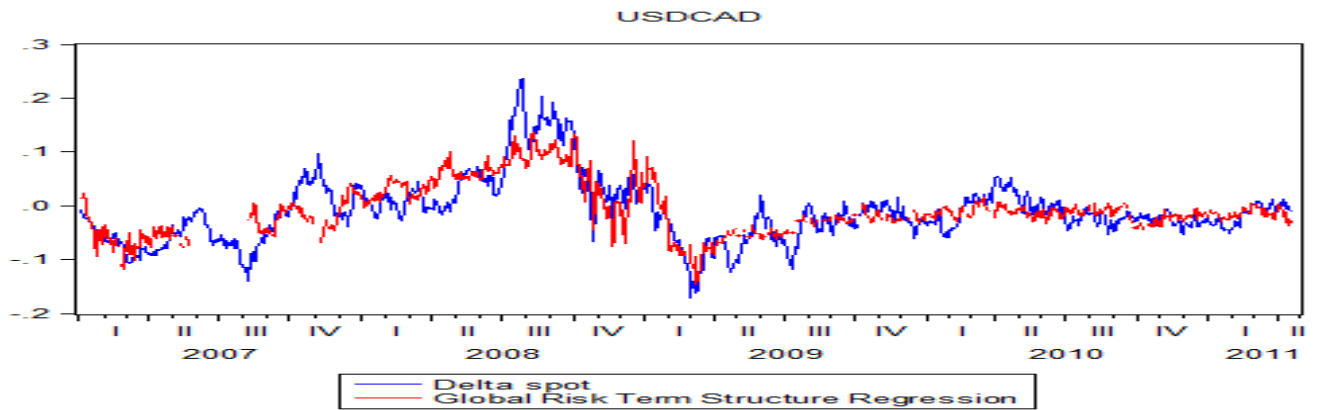
(c) GBPUSD 3M RET



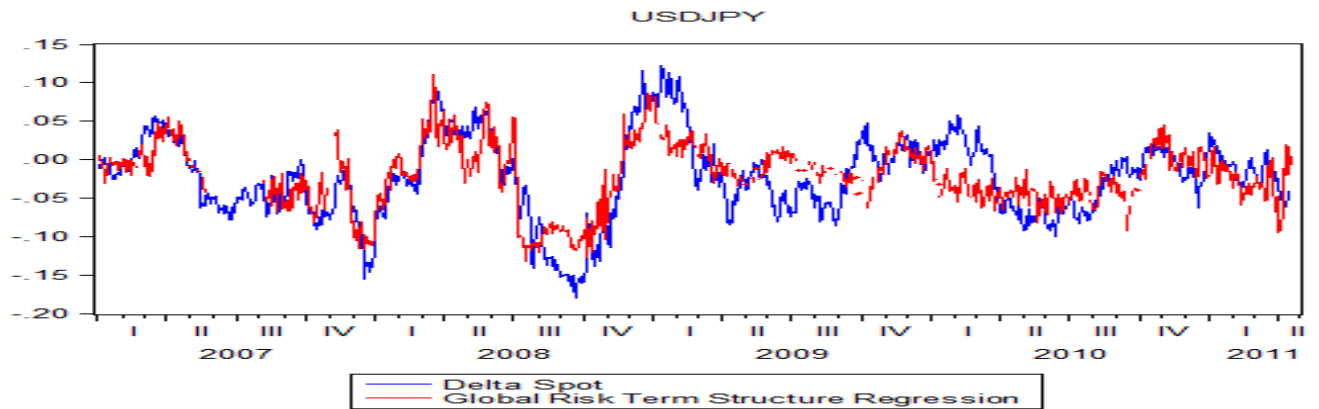
Fitted vs Actual plots from the regression of $3M \log \left(\frac{S_t}{S_t^Q} \right)$ on the first three principal components from the term structure of extracted moments of $\pi_t^Q \left(\ln \frac{S_t}{S_t^Q} \right)$ (Regression specification in expression (4.4)). Condensed regression results are in column D (3).

Figure 5: Quarterly FX Movements on Term Structure of 1st to 4th Moments+Break

(d) USDCAD 3M RET



(e) USDJPY 3M RET



Fitted vs Actual plots from the regression of $3M \log \left(\frac{S_T}{S_t} \right)$ on the first three principal components from the term structure of extracted moments of $\pi_t^Q \left(\ln \frac{S_T}{S_t} \right)$ (Regression specification in expression (4.4). Condensed regression results are in column D of table (3) .

Table 1: O-T-C Market Statistics and Conventions

A. Quoting Conventions in over-the-counter FX Options Market

Symbol	Definition	Base currency	Domestic currency	Positive Skew means
AUDUSD	USD per AUD	AUD	USD	USD depreciation
EURJPY	JPY per EUR	EUR	JPY	EUR depreciation
EURUSD	USD per EUR	EUR	USD	USD depreciation
GBPUSD	USD per GBP	GBP	USD	USD depreciation
USDCAD	CAD per USD	USD	CAD	CAD depreciation
USDJPY	JPY per USD	USD	JPY	JPY depreciation

B. Sample Annualized Implied Volatilities

Tenor	ATM	25D RR	25D VWB	10D RR	10D VWB
1 Week	7.352	-0.495	0.131	-0.847	0.379
1 Month	6.851	-0.347	0.136	-0.584	0.389
2 Month	6.851	-0.366	0.157	-0.619	0.449
3 Month	6.851	-0.396	0.162	-0.663	0.485
6 Month	6.901	-0.426	0.187	-0.703	0.54
9 Month	7.051	-0.446	0.197	-0.743	0.571
12 Month	6.901	-0.426	0.187	-0.703	0.54

C. Average Daily Turnover in FX market (billions)

Spot FX Transactions	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013
Percentage Change	568	386	631	1005	1488	2046
FX Derivatives	N/A	-32	63.5	59.3	48.3	37.5
Outright Forwards	128	130	209	362	475	680
FX Swaps	734	656	954	1714	1759	2228
Options and other products	87	60	119	212	207	337
Percentage Change	N/A	-31	98.3	83	-2.4	62.8
Exchange Traded Derivatives	11	12	26	80	155	160

Note: "ATM" is at-the-money straddle, 25D RR and 10D RR are 25%- and 10%- delta risk reversals respectively; and 25D VWB and 10D VWB are 25%- and 10%- delta Vega-weighted butterflies respectively. See Section (3.3) for more details. The numbers in table (1C) are from Bank of International Settlements (2013). In table (1C), "other products" refers to "highly leveraged transactions and/or trades whose notional amount is variable and where a decomposition into individual plain vanilla components was impractical or impossible" Bank of International Settlements (2013).

Table 2: **Higher Moment & Term Structure Predictors of Quarterly FX Excess Returns**

	A	B	C	D
AUDUSD				
# of observations	1122	1120	1106	1039
Adjusted R2	0.33	0.6243	0.5693	0.6621
P(F-stat)	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	1/29/2009	6/30/2008	5/12/2008	5/30/2008
EURUSD				
# of observations	1117	1105	1093	1093
Adjusted R2	0.34	0.4895	0.4704	0.5104
P(F-stat)	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	2/4/2009	1/29/2009	1/29/2009	2/2/2009
GBPUSD				
# of observations	1121	1055	1050	980
Adjusted R2	0.48	0.7217	0.653	0.8334
P(F-stat)	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	10/24/2008	10/24/2008	10/24/2008	5/27/2008
USDCAD				
# of observations	1116	1095	1092	1016
Adjusted R2	0.48	0.5968	0.5824	0.6151
P(F-stat)	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	2/5/2009	5/5/2008	5/5/2008	5/2/2008
USDJPY				
# of observations	1121	1107	1099	1099
Adjusted R2	0.2	0.3605	0.3673	0.5668
P(F-stat)	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.00]	[0.00,0.00,0.01,0.00]
Break Date	7/4/2008	7/22/2008	7/21/2008	7/22/2008

*Note: In all equations, dependent variable is quarterly excess currency returns, as defined in equation (2.3). All regressions are estimated with interactions with a break indicator variable D1. Breakdate for each equation found using Bai and Perron (2003) method. Column **A** is from the matched-frequency regression in equation (4.7): Column **B** is regression from column **A** but with 1M and 12M stdev, skew and kurt added as additional regressors (see equation 4.10). Three P values are for Wald tests for the null that coefficients on each group of moments [stdev,skew,kurt] are all zero. In column **C** we use the first three principal components extracted from each of stdev,skew and kurt for all tenors(equation 4.11). Column **D** is regression from column **C** but with the first three principal components from relative yields (proxying for first moment for the term stucture of first moments) added as additional regressors. In column **D** (equation 4.12), P values are for the null that coefficients on each group of principal components for [mean, stdev, skew , kurtosis] are jointly zero. Actual vs Fitted plots for the regressions in column **D** can be found in figures 3(a)-3(e).*

Table 3: **Higher Moment and Term Structure Predictors of Quarterly FX Returns**

	A	B	C	D
AUDUSD				
# of observations	1122	1122	1054	1039
Adjusted R2	0.2656	0.3457	0.564	0.6704
P(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	10/6/2008	1/29/2009	1/13/2009	5/30/2008
EURUSD				
# of observations	1117	1117	1093	1093
Adjusted R2	0.148	0.366	0.3996	0.5302
P(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	3/10/2008	2/4/2009	5/16/2008	2/2/2008
GBPUSD				
# of observations	1116	1121	1045	980
Adjusted R2	0.5254	0.6682	0.6349	0.839
P(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	7/1/2008	6/30/2008	7/7/2008	5/27/2008
USDCAD				
# of observations	1121	1116	1037	1016
Adjusted R2	0.1561	0.493	0.5359	0.6234
P(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.00,0.00]
Break Date	9/11/2007	2/5/2009	10/15/2008	5/2/2008
USDJPY				
# of observations	1121	1121	1112	1099
Adjusted R2	0.1033	0.2619	0.2846	0.5774
P(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	[0.00,0.00,0.01,0.00]
Break Date	7/4/2008	7/4/2008	7/4/2008	7/22/2008

Note: In all equations, dependent variable is quarterly currency returns, $\ln\left(\frac{S_{t+3M}}{S_t}\right)$. All regressions are estimated with interactions with a break indicator variable $D1$. Breakdate for each equation found using Bai and Perron (2003) method. Column **A** is from the standard UIP regression (equation (4.1)) :

$$s_{t+\tau}^i - s_t^i = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 * D1^{i,\tau} + \beta_1(f_t^{t+\tau,i} - s_t^i) + \beta_2 D1^{i,\tau} * (f_t^{t+\tau,i} - s_t^i) + \epsilon_{t+\tau}^i$$

P values in column **A** are for the null hypothesis that $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$. Column **B** is column **A** with quarterly stdev, skew and kurt also added (equation (4.2, with break) In Column **C** (equation (4.3)) , we extract the first 3 Principal components from relative yields and use them as regressors (term structure of first moments as regressors). In column **D** (equation 4.4) we extract principal components from each of stdev, skew, kurtosis, and use them as additional regressors from the specification in column **C** (Term structure of 1st-4th moments). Actual vs Fitted plots for specification in columns **A** and **D** are in figures 4(a)-4(e).

Table 4: Global Risk XR Regressions

	A	B	C	D
	Matched Frequency XR	Term Structure XR	Matched Frequency RET	Term Structure RET
AUDUSD				
# of obs.	1109	976	1109	976
Adj. R2	0.614	0.632	0.622	0.64
P(F-stat)	0	0	0	0
Break date	5/9/2008	10/6/2008	5/9/2008	10/6/2008
EURUSD				
# of obs.	1109	976	1109	976
Adj. R2	0.452	0.486	0.255	0.495
P(F-stat)	0	0	0	0
Break date	4/16/2010	5/3/2010	10/22/2009	5/3/2010
GBPUSD				
# of obs.	1109	976	1109	976
Adj. R2	0.591	0.664	0.602	0.674
P(F-stat)	0	0	0	0
Break date	10/24/2008	12/17/2008	10/24/2008	12/17/2008
USDCAD				
# of obs.	1109	976	1109	976
Adj. R2	0.651	0.638	0.656	0.64
P(F-stat)	0	0	0	0
Break date	7/4/2008	1/30/2009	7/4/2008	1/30/2009
USDJPY				
# of obs.	1109	976	1109	976
Adj. R2	0.552	0.572	0.556	0.573
P(F-stat)	0	0	0	0
Break date	7/4/2008	7/4/2008	7/4/2008	7/4/2008

*Note: In column A, for each quarterly excess return, we use the first three principal components extracted from the 3-month risk-neutral moments of all currencies as regressors. In column B, For each quarterly excess return, we use the first three principal components extracted from each moments for all tenors and all currencies as regressors. In column C, for each quarterly exchange rate change, we use the first three principal components extracted from the 3-month risk-neutral moments of all currencies as regressors. In column D, for each quarterly exchange rate change, we use the first three principal components extracted from each moments for all tenors and all currencies as regressors. Newey-West standard deviations are reported in brackets, with asterisks indicating significance at 1% (***), 5% (**), and 10% (*) level. F-stats and P value below are based on the Wald test of the null that the coefficients on all principal components are zero.*

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(a) AUDUSD

Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	0.022 [0.0089]**	0.06 [0.0220]***	0.11 [0.0342]***	0.133 [0.0497]***	0.779 [0.2588]***	0.403 [0.1084]***	-0.17 [0.0716]**
D1	-0.018 [0.0100]*	0.015 [0.0328]	0.054 [0.0498]	0.133 [0.0671]**	-0.594 [0.2613]**	0.019 [0.1219]	0.611 [0.1012]***
STDEV	0.082 [0.1959]	0.672 [0.2120]***	0.393 [0.2325]*	-0.135 [0.2968]	-4.031 [1.9442]**	0.172 [0.8341]	4.111 [0.5854]***
SKEW	0.02 [0.0088]**	0.064 [0.0283]**	0.095 [0.0414]**	0.158 [0.0641]**	0.409 [0.0541]***	0.394 [0.0224]***	0.063 [0.0183]***
KURT	-0.004 [0.0020]*	-0.008 [0.0068]	-0.005 [0.0090]	0.012 [0.0129]	0.028 [0.0174]	0.041 [0.0030]***	0.005 [0.0014]***
D1*AUDUSD	-0.33 [0.2228]	-2.366 [0.4441]***	-2.896 [0.4650]***	-2.899 [0.4956]***	1.94 [1.9658]	-3.376 [0.8902]***	-7.133 [0.6805]***
D1*SKEW	-0.027 [0.0102]***	-0.056 [0.0317]*	-0.057 [0.0463]	-0.092 [0.0687]	-0.429 [0.0650]***	-0.371 [0.0413]***	0.021 [0.0412]
D1*KURT	0.001 [0.0023]	0.004 [0.0073]	0.002 [0.0095]	-0.017 [0.0136]	-0.038 [0.0188]**	-0.05 [0.0075]***	-0.004 [0.0062]
Observations:	1109	1120	1122	1122	1122	1119	1122
Adj. R-squared:	0.0535	0.2429	0.2997	0.3215	0.5973	0.8029	0.8158
Prob(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	3/2/2009	2/17/2009	2/2/2009	1/29/2009	10/6/2008	8/29/2008	8/1/2008

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau}D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau}stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau}skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau}kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau}stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau}skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau}kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F-stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1% (***), 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(b) EURJPY							
Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	-0.007 [0.0057]	-0.021 [0.0131]	-0.062 [0.0166]***	-0.122 [0.0306]***	-0.087 [0.0207]***	-0.066 [0.0241]***	-0.08 [0.0356]**
D1	0.015 [0.0080]*	0.08 [0.0205]***	0.18 [0.0311]***	0.287 [0.0475]***	0.65 [0.0483]***	0.812 [0.0421]***	0.705 [0.0549]***
STDEV	0.356 [0.2487]	-0.927 [0.3203]***	-0.48 [0.3608]	-2.331 [0.4297]***	-0.482 [0.3192]	-0.975 [0.3360]***	0.07 [0.3748]
SKEW	0.005 [0.0053]	-0.028 [0.0166]*	-0.008 [0.0259]	-0.26 [0.0443]***	-0.073 [0.0212]***	-0.074 [0.0205]***	-0.026 [0.0162]
KURT	0.001 [0.0011]	0.004 [0.0028]	0.013 [0.0036]***	-0.006 [0.0041]	0.001 [0.0011]	0 [0.0004]	0 [0.0002]
D1*AUDUSD	-0.508 [0.2946]*	0.389 [0.4215]	-0.926 [0.4913]*	0.687 [0.6062]	-2.645 [0.4532]***	-2.237 [0.3877]***	-2.241 [0.4146]***
D1*SKEW	-0.005 [0.0064]	-0.065 [0.0330]**	-0.2 [0.0576]***	0.074 [0.0752]	0.258 [0.0450]***	0.267 [0.0258]***	0.18 [0.0257]***
D1*KURT	-0.003 [0.0016]*	-0.024 [0.0049]***	-0.049 [0.0087]***	-0.028 [0.0104]***	0.01 [0.0056]*	0.004 [0.0013]***	0.004 [0.0013]***
Observations:	1111	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122
Adj. R-squared:	0.0199	0.1812	0.3135	0.4294	0.6292	0.7392	0.5976
Prob(F-stat)	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	10/22/2008	8/8/2008	8/8/2008	8/8/2008	4/1/2008	1/4/2008	10/4/2007

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F -stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1 % (***) , 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(c) EURUSD							
Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	-0.011 [0.0051]**	0.063 [0.0295]**	0.125 [0.0387]***	0.132 [0.0426]***	0.151 [0.0366]***	-0.099 [0.0774]	-0.709 [0.1240]***
D1	0.007 [0.0060]	-0.031 [0.0346]	-0.028 [0.0477]	0.062 [0.0573]	0.206 [0.0566]***	0.531 [0.0948]***	1.07 [0.1362]***
STDEV	0.66 [0.3078]**	-0.046 [0.3193]	-0.487 [0.2954]*	-0.861 [0.2385]***	-1.216 [0.4558]***	3.596 [0.8086]***	9.624 [1.3159]***
SKEW	0.005 [0.0037]	0.078 [0.0184]***	0.119 [0.0220]***	0.125 [0.0205]***	-0.018 [0.0210]	0.102 [0.0129]***	0.004 [0.0128]
KURT	0.001 [0.0007]	-0.003 [0.0035]	-0.001 [0.0026]	0.005 [0.0026]**	-0.021 [0.0048]***	0.009 [0.0008]***	0.005 [0.0008]***
D1*AUDUSD	-0.612 [0.3149]*	-0.476 [0.4404]	-0.705 [0.5252]	-1.441 [0.5641]**	-2.194 [0.6068]***	-6.123 [0.9402]***	-10.893 [1.3655]***
D1*SKEW	-0.008 [0.0042]*	-0.092 [0.0201]***	-0.133 [0.0243]***	-0.134 [0.0241]***	0.084 [0.0240]***	-0.033 [0.0287]	0.073 [0.0244]***
D1*KURT	0 [0.0011]	-0.003 [0.0042]	-0.009 [0.0034]**	-0.016 [0.0037]***	0.023 [0.0051]***	-0.019 [0.0049]***	-0.017 [0.0044]***
Observations:	1101	1108	1117	1117	1118	1120	1119
Adj. R-squared:	0.0283	0.1465	0.256	0.34	0.5075	0.6878	0.6529
Prob(F-stat)	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	10/21/2008	2/13/2009	1/19/2009	2/4/2009	2/26/2008	8/11/2008	8/8/2011

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F -stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1 % (***) , 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(d) GBPUSD							
Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	-0.005 [0.0045]	-0.058 [0.0218]***	0.085 [0.0231]***	-0.039 [0.0432]	0.067 [0.0861]	-0.242 [0.0426]***	-0.063 [0.0294]**
D1	0.01 [0.0068]	0.047 [0.0234]**	0.009 [0.0325]	-0.021 [0.0455]	-0.035 [0.0925]	0.447 [0.0543]***	0.348 [0.0560]***
STDEV	0.459 [0.2319]**	2.705 [0.4286]***	0.534 [0.2153]**	2.861 [0.4514]***	2.308 [0.9282]**	6.538 [0.7318]***	4.242 [0.4385]***
SKEW	0.004 [0.0039]	0.041 [0.0168]**	0.067 [0.0241]***	0.078 [0.0260]***	0.083 [0.0232]***	-0.005 [0.0024]**	0 [0.0001]
KURT	0.001 [0.0008]	0.006 [0.0020]***	-0.003 [0.0029]	0.007 [0.0017]***	0.004 [0.0010]***	0 [0.0000]*	0 [0.0000]
D1*AUDUSD	-0.429 [0.2872]	-1.862 [0.4747]***	0.666 [0.5100]	-1.085 [0.5168]**	-1.463 [1.0195]	-6.963 [0.7824]***	-5.302 [0.5746]***
D1*SKEW	-0.003 [0.0051]	-0.048 [0.0242]**	-0.113 [0.0310]***	-0.111 [0.0329]***	-0.06 [0.0309]*	0.062 [0.0161]***	0.071 [0.0157]***
D1*KURT	-0.003 [0.0012]***	-0.012 [0.0026]***	-0.037 [0.0069]***	-0.023 [0.0039]***	-0.02 [0.0037]***	-0.013 [0.0025]***	-0.007 [0.0022]***
Observations:	1116	1122	1122	1121	1122	1116	1056
Adj. R-squared:	0.0554	0.2825	0.4025	0.4848	0.5927	0.7281	0.7338
Prob(F-stat)	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	11/11/2008	10/22/2008	3/19/2009	10/24/2008	10/21/2008	8/22/2008	8/8/2008

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F -stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1 % (***) , 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(e) USDCAD							
Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	0.027 [0.0112]**	-0.137 [0.0435]***	-0.124 [0.0388]***	-0.224 [0.0500]***	0.419 [0.0609]***	0.419 [0.1517]***	0.526 [0.0640]***
D1	-0.025 [0.0127]**	0.14 [0.0445]***	0.07 [0.0418]*	0.148 [0.0526]***	-0.853 [0.0671]***	-0.792 [0.1554]***	-0.834 [0.0740]***
STDEV	-1.512 [0.5275]***	3.496 [0.8439]***	0.242 [0.3404]	1.135 [0.4719]**	-4.887 [0.6124]***	-6.294 [1.3438]***	-6.563 [0.5914]***
SKEW	0.003 [0.0091]	-0.013 [0.0213]	-0.088 [0.0220]***	-0.155 [0.0351]***	0.048 [0.0258]*	0.004 [0.0398]	0.048 [0.0135]***
KURT	-0.001 [0.0025]	0.017 [0.0042]***	0.012 [0.0061]*	0.007 [0.0089]	-0.003 [0.0044]	-0.001 [0.0044]	0.002 [0.0017]
D1*AUDUSD	1.447 [0.5512]***	-3.398 [0.8679]***	0.301 [0.4093]	-0.558 [0.5129]	7.907 [0.6574]***	8.611 [1.3592]***	8.508 [0.6118]***
D1*SKEW	0.001 [0.0094]	0.05 [0.0233]**	0.056 [0.0248]**	0.122 [0.0363]***	0.109 [0.0296]***	0.043 [0.0421]	-0.043 [0.0170]**
D1*KURT	0.002 [0.0028]	-0.018 [0.0045]***	0.001 [0.0064]	0.008 [0.0090]	0.039 [0.0061]***	0.029 [0.0060]***	0.015 [0.0050]***
Observations:	1110	1110	1116	1116	1113	1111	1105
Adj. R-squared:	0.0792	0.1319	0.3255	0.4806	0.6812	0.7595	0.7929
Prob(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	10/21/2008	10/15/2007	2/24/2009	2/5/2009	2/27/2008	8/8/2008	7/25/2008

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F -stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1 % (***) , 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 5: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY OLS REGRESSIONS

(f) USDJPY							
Eq Name:	1WK	1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	0 [0.0057]	-0.014 [0.0138]	-0.042 [0.0134]***	-0.003 [0.0242]	0.057 [0.0256]**	0.131 [0.0202]***	0.13 [0.0091]***
D1	0.024 [0.0082]***	0.145 [0.0260]***	0.243 [0.0313]***	0.172 [0.0448]***	0.24 [0.0401]***	0.169 [0.0298]***	0.155 [0.0288]***
STDEV	0.082 [0.1894]	0.356 [0.2029]*	0.727 [0.2008]***	-0.761 [0.3523]**	-0.945 [0.2229]***	-1.651 [0.2829]***	-1.005 [0.1620]***
SKEW	0.004 [0.0073]	-0.005 [0.0167]	-0.01 [0.0121]	-0.043 [0.0146]***	-0.026 [0.0154]*	-0.016 [0.0081]**	-0.001 [0.0003]**
KURT	0.001 [0.0006]	0.001 [0.0007]**	0.003 [0.0008]***	0.002 [0.0005]***	0.001 [0.0005]*	0 [0.0002]**	0 [0.0000]**
D1*AUDUSD	-0.828 [0.2876]***	-2.11 [0.4784]***	-3.25 [0.4696]***	-0.624 [0.5732]	-0.962 [0.3293]***	0.345 [0.3133]	-0.112 [0.2243]
D1*SKEW	-0.002 [0.0080]	-0.001 [0.0201]	-0.04 [0.0190]**	-0.015 [0.0232]	0.002 [0.0214]	0.066 [0.0145]***	0.008 [0.0093]
D1*KURT	-0.003 [0.0012]***	-0.016 [0.0023]***	-0.021 [0.0025]***	-0.02 [0.0030]***	-0.017 [0.0027]***	-0.005 [0.0012]***	-0.009 [0.0014]***
Observations:	1114	1120	1121	1121	1122	1116	1109
Adj. R-squared:	0.0339	0.1238	0.2201	0.2044	0.3829	0.4531	0.3254
Prob(F-stat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Break Date	1/20/2009	1/8/2009	12/15/2008	7/4/2008	4/23/3008	1/4/2008	10/4/2007

Note: "XR" is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$D1$ = break date selected by Bai and Perron (2003) test, allowing for maximum of one break. F -stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Newey-West Standard errors are reported in brackets. Asterisks indicate significance at 1 % (***) , 5% (**), and 10% (*) level.

Table 6: FX QUARTERLY EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY ROBUST LS

Eq Name:	AUDUSD	EURJPY	EURUSD	GBPUSD	USDCAD	USDJPY
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
C	-0.043 [0.0110]***	-0.1 [0.0137]***	0.075 [0.0171]***	-0.14 [0.0134]***	-0.126 [0.0139]***	-0.005 [0.0126]
D3M	0.297 [0.0209]***	0.23 [0.0187]***	0.095 [0.0252]***	0.079 [0.0148]***	0.053 [0.0168]***	0.224 [0.0215]***
STDEV	0.253 [0.0850]***	-1.904 [0.2153]***	-0.588 [0.1213]***	2.685 [0.1857]***	0.015 [0.1258]	-0.742 [0.1556]***
SKEW	0.046 [0.0196]**	-0.204 [0.0167]***	0.098 [0.0085]***	0.016 [0.0088]*	-0.079 [0.0086]***	-0.042 [0.0088]***
KURT	0.008 [0.0046]*	-0.004 [0.0017]***	0.007 [0.0012]***	0.008 [0.0013]***	0.013 [0.0018]***	0.002 [0.0004]***
D3M*STDEV	-3.23 [0.1817]***	0.843 [0.2559]***	-1.457 [0.2883]***	-0.359 [0.2155]*	0.529 [0.1675]***	-1.392 [0.2671]***
D3M*SKEW	0.022 [0.0227]	0.128 [0.0279]***	-0.108 [0.0107]***	-0.066 [0.0114]***	0.049 [0.0106]***	-0.033 [0.0121]***
D3M*KURT	-0.012 [0.0049]**	-0.015 [0.0041]***	-0.017 [0.0018]***	-0.033 [0.0020]***	0.002 [0.0021]	-0.023 [0.0016]***
Observations:	1122	1122	1117	1121	1116	1121
Adj. Rw-squared:	0.39	0.43	0.36	0.59	0.58	0.32
Prob(F-stat)						

Note: The dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression is the one in equation (4.8):

$$xr_{t+\tau}^i = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

The breakdate $D1$ the same as the one selected in (5). We use MM-estimation. F-stats report Wald test of the null that $\gamma_{1,\tau} = \gamma_{2,\tau} = \gamma_{3,\tau} = \gamma_{4,\tau} = \gamma_{5,\tau} = \gamma_{6,\tau} = 0$. Adj. R_w^2 is the goodness of fit statistic introduced in Renaud and Victoria-Fraser (2010). Huber type II standard errors are in brackets. A quick introduction to robust regression analysis is in Eviews (2013)

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(a) AUDUSD

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
STDEV	-0.135 [0.2968]	-0.356 [0.1242]***	-0.423 [0.1363]***	-0.034 [0.1237]	0.302 [0.1371]**	0.348 [0.1085]***	0.285 [0.2217]	-0.035 [0.5968]
SKEW	0.158 [0.0641]**	0.048 [0.0218]**	0.058 [0.0185]***	0.049 [0.0131]***	0.071 [0.0399]*	0.232 [0.0304]***	0.431 [0.0349]***	0.47 [0.0649]***
KURT	0.012 [0.0129]	0.006 [0.0054]	0.01 [0.0048]**	0.01 [0.0037]***	0.011 [0.0079]	0.022 [0.0050]***	0.037 [0.0067]***	0.041 [0.0126]***
D3M*STDEV	-2.899 [0.4956]***	-2.927 [0.2370]***	-2.87 [0.2716]***	-2.795 [0.2813]***	-3.488 [0.3472]***	-3.276 [0.2076]***	-3.147 [0.3668]***	-3.004 [0.6289]***
D3M*SKEW	-0.092 [0.0687]	0.004 [0.0261]	-0.001 [0.0253]	0.011 [0.0193]	0.019 [0.0403]	-0.186 [0.0325]***	-0.35 [0.0469]***	-0.391 [0.0706]***
D3M*KURT	-0.017 [0.0136]	-0.024 [0.0059]***	-0.027 [0.0057]***	-0.018 [0.0067]***	-0.011 [0.0084]	-0.026 [0.0050]***	-0.041 [0.0073]***	-0.046 [0.0129]***
Observations:	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122
Adj. R-squared:	0.3215	0.4075	0.3364	0.2077	0.1269	0.197	0.3447	0.4409
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(b) EURJPY

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
STDEV	-2.331 [0.4297]***	-1.252 [0.1816]***	-1.465 [0.1826]***	-1.81 [0.1961]***	-1.738 [0.3603]***	-1.528 [0.3550]***	-1.533 [0.3413]***	-1.317 [0.3680]***
SKEW	-0.26 [0.0443]***	-0.17 [0.0247]***	-0.212 [0.0284]***	-0.216 [0.0274]***	-0.194 [0.0451]***	-0.144 [0.0379]***	-0.134 [0.0294]***	-0.116 [0.0336]***
KURT	-0.006 [0.0041]	-0.003 [0.0012]***	-0.004 [0.0015]***	-0.006 [0.0018]***	-0.003 [0.0082]	0.016 [0.0095]*	0.027 [0.0082]***	0.04 [0.0118]***
D1*STDEV	0.687 [0.6062]	-0.292 [0.2155]	-0.319 [0.2157]	0.274 [0.2604]	0.424 [0.4572]	-0.173 [0.5144]	-0.645 [0.4289]	-0.979 [0.4071]**
D1*SKEW	0.074 [0.0752]	0.085 [0.0282]***	0.089 [0.0354]**	0.106 [0.0346]***	0.091 [0.0557]	-0.13 [0.0590]**	-0.365 [0.0581]***	-0.405 [0.0440]***
D1*KURT	-0.028 [0.0104]***	-0.022 [0.0023]***	-0.026 [0.0036]***	-0.02 [0.0043]***	-0.022 [0.0101]**	-0.061 [0.0116]***	-0.097 [0.0102]***	-0.113 [0.0127]***
Observations:	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122
Adj. R-squared:	0.4294	0.2997	0.255	0.208	0.1981	0.2631	0.3867	0.4754
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(c) EURUSD

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
STDEV	-0.861 [0.2385]***	-0.01 [0.0956]	-0.008 [0.1152]	-0.182 [0.1390]	-0.518 [0.1290]***	-0.835 [0.1435]***	-1.519 [0.2213]***	-1.429 [0.1743]***
SKEW	0.125 [0.0205]***	0.046 [0.0060]***	0.045 [0.0083]***	0.059 [0.0139]***	0.098 [0.0105]***	0.123 [0.0113]***	0.178 [0.0140]***	0.183 [0.0078]***
KURT	0.005 [0.0026]**	0.006 [0.0008]***	0.007 [0.0008]***	0.004 [0.0013]***	0.006 [0.0018]***	0.009 [0.0016]***	0.002 [0.0022]	0.002 [0.0025]
D1*STDEV	-1.441 [0.5641]**	-1.911 [0.3356]***	-1.612 [0.2853]***	-0.797 [0.2741]***	-1.458 [0.4677]***	-1.583 [0.3748]***	-1.548 [0.7153]**	-2.233 [0.5166]***
D1*SKEW	-0.134 [0.0241]***	-0.017 [0.0081]**	-0.03 [0.0085]***	-0.06 [0.0155]***	-0.109 [0.0148]***	-0.148 [0.0188]***	-0.209 [0.0337]***	-0.188 [0.0242]***
D1*KURT	-0.016 [0.0037]***	-0.011 [0.0018]***	-0.013 [0.0016]***	-0.011 [0.0023]***	-0.014 [0.0032]***	-0.023 [0.0032]***	-0.018 [0.0046]***	-0.015 [0.0040]***
Observations:	1117	1117	1117	1117	1117	1117	1117	1117
Adj. R-squared:	0.34	0.1677	0.1417	0.1236	0.1517	0.2517	0.301	0.3554
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|\cdot) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|\cdot)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(d) GBPUSD

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS							
Dep. Var:	XR	QREG XR	QREG XR	QREG XR	QREG XR	QREG XR	QREG XR	QREG XR
STDEV	2.861 [0.4514]***	0.754 [0.4192]*	1.104 [0.2254]***	1.549 [0.2440]***	2.988 [0.3011]***	4.614 [0.8388]***	2.576 [1.4936]*	2.532 [1.2621]**
SKEW	0.078 [0.0260]***	0.029 [0.0079]***	0.019 [0.0051]***	0.021 [0.0070]***	0.037 [0.0113]***	0.067 [0.0280]**	0.135 [0.0388]***	0.155 [0.0290]***
KURT	0.007 [0.0017]***	0.005 [0.0014]***	0.004 [0.0015]***	0.007 [0.0015]***	0.009 [0.0010]***	0.009 [0.0025]***	0.007 [0.0020]***	0.006 [0.0016]***
D1*STDEV	-1.085 [0.5168]**	1.263 [0.6333]**	1.243 [0.2826]***	0.936 [0.2985]***	-0.858 [0.3138]***	-2.729 [0.8570]***	-0.515 [1.5089]	-0.446 [1.2730]
D1*SKEW	-0.111 [0.0329]***	-0.11 [0.0139]***	-0.102 [0.0091]***	-0.082 [0.0150]***	-0.063 [0.0169]***	-0.093 [0.0298]***	-0.114 [0.0436]***	-0.113 [0.0420]***
D1*KURT	-0.023 [0.0039]***	-0.037 [0.0029]***	-0.037 [0.0025]***	-0.034 [0.0035]***	-0.028 [0.0021]***	-0.025 [0.0037]***	-0.016 [0.0034]***	-0.012 [0.0027]***
Observations:	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121
Adj. R-squared:	0.4848	0.492	0.4158	0.2655	0.2304	0.3053	0.4267	0.4817
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(e) USDCAD

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
STDEV	1.135 [0.4719]**	2.926 [0.3510]***	2.216 [0.3330]***	1.28 [0.3680]***	0.406 [0.1767]**	0.223 [0.2310]	0.471 [0.4871]	0.203 [0.5249]
SKEW	-0.155 [0.0351]***	-0.305 [0.0327]***	-0.232 [0.0305]***	-0.163 [0.0300]***	-0.113 [0.0138]***	-0.097 [0.0161]***	-0.101 [0.0331]***	-0.098 [0.0382]**
KURT	0.007 [0.0089]	-0.011 [0.0093]	0 [0.0099]	0.012 [0.0074]*	0.011 [0.0032]***	0.009 [0.0032]***	0.007 [0.0059]	0.005 [0.0077]
D1*STDEV	-0.558 [0.5129]	-2.339 [0.4856]***	-1.862 [0.3849]***	-0.805 [0.3620]**	0.07 [0.2071]	0.536 [0.2741]*	0.659 [0.4856]	1.28 [0.5567]**
D1*SKEW	0.122 [0.0363]***	0.288 [0.0361]***	0.202 [0.0313]***	0.145 [0.0316]***	0.083 [0.0154]***	0.058 [0.0172]***	0.044 [0.0333]	0.043 [0.0388]
D1*KURT	0.008 [0.0090]	0.027 [0.0095]***	0.016 [0.0099]*	0.003 [0.0076]	0.004 [0.0035]	0.005 [0.0033]	0.008 [0.0067]	0.016 [0.0087]*
Observations:	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116	1116
Adj. R-squared:	0.4806	0.4931	0.4079	0.2986	0.2795	0.3128	0.3252	0.3179
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

Table 7: FX EXCESS RETURNS MATCHED FREQUENCY QUANTILE REGRESSIONS

(f) USDJPY

Eq Name:	3M_LS	3M_Q05	3M_Q10	3M_Q25	3M_Q50	3M_Q75	3M_Q90	3M_Q95
Method:	LS	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG	QREG
Dep. Var:	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR	XR
STDEV	-0.761 [0.3523]**	-0.868 [0.1239]***	-0.88 [0.1456]***	-1.164 [0.1485]***	-0.542 [0.2450]**	-0.425 [0.1676]**	-0.227 [0.3074]	-0.248 [0.9314]
SKEW	-0.043 [0.0146]***	-0.051 [0.0175]***	-0.046 [0.0164]***	-0.032 [0.0123]***	-0.039 [0.0080]***	-0.037 [0.0154]**	-0.026 [0.0108]**	-0.028 [0.0213]
KURT	0.002 [0.0005]***	0.002 [0.0005]***	0.002 [0.0005]***	0.002 [0.0003]***	0.002 [0.0003]***	0.001 [0.0004]***	0.001 [0.0004]	0 [0.0004]
D1*STDEV	-0.624 [0.5732]	-1.482 [0.1953]***	-1.43 [0.2533]***	-1.452 [0.2143]***	-1.305 [0.3960]***	-0.371 [0.3148]	-0.284 [0.3273]	-0.267 [1.0047]
D1*SKEW	-0.015 [0.0232]	0.028 [0.0189]	0.021 [0.0184]	-0.031 [0.0150]**	-0.036 [0.0120]***	-0.042 [0.0190]**	-0.072 [0.0138]***	-0.082 [0.0274]***
D1*KURT	-0.02 [0.0030]***	-0.009 [0.0014]***	-0.011 [0.0019]***	-0.019 [0.0014]***	-0.021 [0.0016]***	-0.02 [0.0014]***	-0.021 [0.0018]***	-0.024 [0.0025]***
Observations:	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121	1121
Adj. R-squared:	0.2044	0.3042	0.2539	0.1589	0.1221	0.1429	0.1857	0.2181
Prob(F-stat):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Dependent variable is excess currency returns as defined in equation(2.3). Regression specification is: ^a

$$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.) = \gamma_{0,\tau} + \gamma_{00,\tau} D1^{i,\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{1,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{2,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + D1^{i,\tau} * \gamma_{3,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{4,\tau} stdev_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{5,\tau} skew_t^{i,t+\tau} + \gamma_{6,\tau} kurt_t^{i,t+\tau} + \epsilon_{i,t+\tau}.$$

$Q^{xr,t+\tau}(\theta|.)$ is the θ^{th} quantile of excess currency returns conditional on the regressors. Bootstrap standard errors are in brackets. Adjusted R^2 is adjusted version of the Koenker and Machado (1999) goodness of fit measure for quantile regressions(Adjusted pseudo R^2). Quick introduction to the quantile regression concepts are in Evieus (2013).

^aCoefficients on intercept terms are suppressed

A Expressions for Option-Implied Risk-Neutral Moments

In this section, we give the expressions for $V(t, \tau)$, $W(t, \tau)$, $X(t, \tau)$ and $\mu(t, \tau)$ used in equation (3.10). Derivations can be found in Bakshi et al. (2003) and Grad (2010).

$$V(t, \tau) = \int_{\bar{S}}^{\infty} \frac{2(1 - \ln[\frac{K}{\bar{S}}])}{K^2} C(t, \tau, K) dK + \int_0^{\bar{S}} \frac{2(1 + \ln[\frac{\bar{S}}{K}])}{K^2} P(t, \tau, K) dK \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$W(t, \tau) = \int_{\bar{S}}^{\infty} \frac{6\ln[\frac{K}{\bar{S}}] - 3(\ln[\frac{K}{\bar{S}}])^2}{K^2} C(t, \tau, K) dK - \int_0^{\bar{S}} \frac{6\ln[\frac{\bar{S}}{K}] + 3(\ln[\frac{\bar{S}}{K}])^2}{K^2} P(t, \tau, K) dK \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$X(t, \tau) = \int_{\bar{S}}^{\infty} \frac{12(\ln[\frac{K}{\bar{S}}])^2 - 4(\ln[\frac{K}{\bar{S}}])^3}{K^3} C(t, \tau, K) dK + \int_0^{\bar{S}} \frac{12\ln[\frac{\bar{S}}{K}] + 4(\ln[\frac{\bar{S}}{K}])^3}{K^2} P(t, \tau, K) dK \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where

$$\mu(t, \tau) = \mathbb{E}_t \left(\ln \left[\frac{S_{t+\tau}}{S_t} \right] \right) = e^{r^d \tau} - 1 - \frac{e^{r^d \tau}}{2} V(t, \tau) - \frac{e^{r^d \tau}}{6} W(t, \tau) - \frac{e^{r^d \tau}}{24} X(t, \tau). \quad (\text{A.4})$$