

Discussion of “Strategic Bidding in ECB Refinancing Operations” by Edgar Vogel

ECB Workshop, Frankfurt

Christian Ewerhart

University of Zurich

September 30, 2013

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- (i) Banks bid **lower** in MROs just before an LTRO, and **higher** in MROs just after an LTRO.
- (ii) LTRO participants bid **lower, for larger amounts, more frequently, and more persistently** than LTRO non-participants.

Comments (1)

Change the **title** (e.g., into: “How is MRO bidding affected by the presence of LTROs? – An empirical analysis of the pre-crisis period”)

Comments (2)

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Findings on bidding are broadly **in line with theory**.

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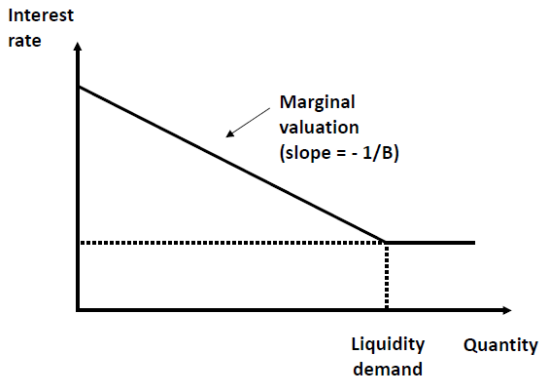
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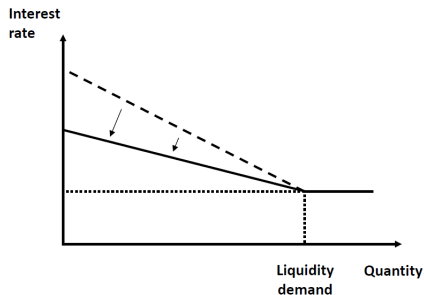
Comments (3)

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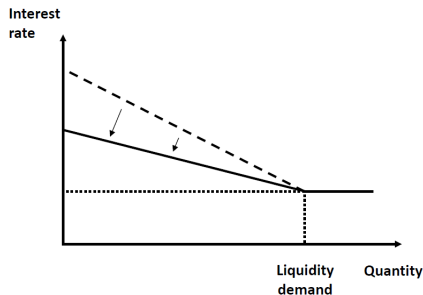
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Therefore, the theoretical prediction for the discriminatory auction is that the **average weighted bid rate declines**.

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Since $Q^0 > \bar{Q}$, the average weighted bid $\frac{1}{2}(\bar{v}^d + r_{\min}^d)$ is indeed declining in B .

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On the other hand, when an MRO immediately **follows** an LTRO, then the number of banks n with a net demand might be **lower** than usual (this could be tested).

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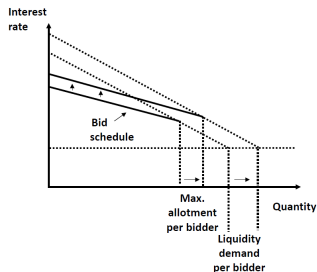
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In this case (decreasing number of bidders n , unchanged total demand $Q^0 = nq^0$, unchanged total maximum allotment $\bar{Q} < Q^0$), the theoretical prediction is that **bid levels increase** (highest bid $\bar{v}^d = r^S + \frac{(Q^0 - \bar{Q}) / (1 + \alpha(n-1)/n)}{nB}$, lowest bid $r_{\min}^d = r^S + \frac{Q^0 - \bar{Q}}{nB}$):

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which holds in any case.

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Additional reference: Bruno, Scalia and Ordine (2005) discuss interest rate volatility, collateral/country effects, and bank size as determinants of participation.

Use of **MRR imputations** could perhaps be better motivated.

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More generally, the **relative merits** of MROs and LTROs need further exploration (e.g., NZZ article of September 25)