

Overreaction and horizon: long-term expectations overreact, but short-term expectations drive fluctuations

Basil Halperin¹ J. Zachary Mazlish²

¹University of Virginia, ²Oxford

July 2025

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

1. < 1 year expectations *under-revise*

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

1. < 1 year expectations *under-revise*
2. $2+$ year expectations *over-revise*

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

1. < 1 year expectations *under-revise*
2. 2+ year expectations *over-revise*
3. At all horizons, expectations are *too extreme*

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

1. < 1 year expectations *under-revise*
2. 2+ year expectations *over-revise*
3. At all horizons, expectations are *too extreme*
4. Over-revision and over-extremity increase in forecast horizon

Four facts about macro forecasts

Data: professional forecasters

- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ Average forecasts of GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ 0-10 year forecasts

Four facts about forecasts relative to outcomes:

1. < 1 year expectations *under-revise*
2. 2+ year expectations *over-revise*
3. At all horizons, expectations are *too extreme*
4. Over-revision and over-extremity increase in forecast horizon

Theory:

- ▶ Inconsistent with some popular models of overreaction
- ▶ Consistent with a model of **costly recall and sticky info**

Which horizon relates to economic and financial fluctuations?

Bordalo et al (2024): in US, overreacting *long-term* expectations predict boom-bust in stocks, investment, and GDP

Which horizon relates to economic and financial fluctuations?

Bordalo et al (2024): in US, overreacting *long-term* expectations predict boom-bust in stocks, investment, and GDP

International evidence: movement in *short-term* expectations (≤ 2 year) expectations most strongly associated with stocks, investment, GDP fluctuations

Which horizon relates to economic and financial fluctuations?

Bordalo et al (2024): in US, overreacting *long-term* expectations predict boom-bust in stocks, investment, and GDP

International evidence: movement in *short-term* expectations (≤ 2 year) expectations most strongly associated with stocks, investment, GDP fluctuations

- ▶ But *in US data* longer-horizon (5+ year) expectations have strongest association

1. Four facts: regressions of forecast errors on forecast revisions + lagged forecast

1. Four facts: regressions of forecast errors on forecast revisions + lagged forecast
 - Adjusting for biases helps with OOS forecasting

Roadmap

1. Four facts: regressions of forecast errors on forecast revisions + lagged forecast
 - Adjusting for biases helps with OOS forecasting
2. Model of costly recall & sticky info matches the data
 - Comparison with other models

Roadmap

1. Four facts: regressions of forecast errors on forecast revisions + lagged forecast
 - Adjusting for biases helps with OOS forecasting
2. Model of costly recall & sticky info matches the data
 - Comparison with other models
3. Movements in *short-term* GDP expectations are associated with fluctuations in investment and GDP: via local projections

Roadmap

1. Four facts: regressions of forecast errors on forecast revisions + lagged forecast
 - Adjusting for biases helps with OOS forecasting
2. Model of costly recall & sticky info matches the data
 - Comparison with other models
3. Movements in *short-term* GDP expectations are associated with fluctuations in investment and GDP: via local projections
4. High *short-term* GDP expectations predict subsequent stock returns

Contribution and related literature

	Geography	Variables	Horizon
Coibion and Gorodnichenko (2015)	AE	macro	0-6 quarters
Angeletos, Huo, and Satry (2021)	US	macro	0-2 years
Kohlhas and Walther (2021)	AE	macro	1-year
d'Arienzo (2021)	US	macrofinancial	0-30 years
Beaudry and Willems (2022)	AE + EM	GDP	3-year and 5-year
Afrouzi et al. (2023)	lab	simulated	0-10 periods
de Silva and Thesmar (2023)	US	financial	0-4 years
Kohlhas and Broer (2023)	US	inflation	0-6 quarters
Bordalo et al. (2024)	US	financial	0-5 years
Bianchi, Ilut, and Saijo (2024)	US	macro	1-year
Sung (2025)	US	macro	3 quarters
Adam, Pfauti, and Reinelt (2025)	US	housing	0-2 years
Crump et al. (2025)	US	macro	0-11 years
Halperin and Mazlish (2025)	AE + EM	macro	0-10 years

Contribution and related literature

	Geography	Variables	Horizon
Coibion and Gorodnichenko (2015)	AE	macro	0-6 quarters
Angeletos, Huo, and Satry (2021)	US	macro	0-2 years
Kohlhas and Walther (2021)	AE	macro	1-year
d'Arienzo (2021)	US	macrofinancial	0-30 years
Beaudry and Willems (2022)	AE + EM	GDP	3-year and 5-year
Afrouzi et al. (2023)	lab	simulated	0-10 periods
de Silva and Thesmar (2023)	US	financial	0-4 years
Kohlhas and Broer (2023)	US	inflation	0-6 quarters
Bordalo et al. (2024)	US	financial	0-5 years
Bianchi, Ilut, and Saijo (2024)	US	macro	1-year
Sung (2025)	US	macro	3 quarters
Adam, Pfauti, and Reinelt (2025)	US	housing	0-2 years
Crump et al. (2025)	US	macro	0-11 years
Halperin and Mazlish (2025)	AE + EM	macro	0-10 years

Implications for economic & financial fluctuations:

- ▶ Bianchi, Ilut, Saijo (2024)
- ▶ L'Hullier, Singh, Yoo (2023)
- ▶ Faccini and Melosi (2022)
- ▶ Bordalo et al. (2023)
- ▶ Beaudry and Portier (2004)
- ▶ Bianchi, Ludvigson, and Ma (2024)

Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

Conclusion

Appendix

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters
- ▶ Mean forecasts at 0,1,2,3,4,5 year horizon + 6-10 year period
 - “Short-term forecasts” data: quarterly out two years [Coibion-Gorodnichenko]

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters
- ▶ Mean forecasts at 0,1,2,3,4,5 year horizon + 6-10 year period
 - “Short-term forecasts” data: quarterly out two years [Coibion-Gorodnichenko]
- ▶ 89 countries

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters
- ▶ Mean forecasts at 0,1,2,3,4,5 year horizon + 6-10 year period
 - “Short-term forecasts” data: quarterly out two years [Coibion-Gorodnichenko]
- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ GDP, inflation, consumption, investment

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters
- ▶ Mean forecasts at 0,1,2,3,4,5 year horizon + 6-10 year period
 - “Short-term forecasts” data: quarterly out two years [Coibion-Gorodnichenko]
- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ Longest sample: 1989-2023
- ▶ Biannual surveys prior to 2014; quarterly since

Data source: Consensus Economics “long-term forecasts”

- ▶ Surveys of professional forecasters
- ▶ Mean forecasts at 0,1,2,3,4,5 year horizon + 6-10 year period
 - “Short-term forecasts” data: quarterly out two years [Coibion-Gorodnichenko]
- ▶ 89 countries
- ▶ GDP, inflation, consumption, investment
- ▶ Longest sample: 1989-2023
- ▶ Biannual surveys prior to 2014; quarterly since
- ▶ **Total:** $n \approx 4200$ for GDP and inflation; $n \approx 3200$ for consumption and investment

Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

Conclusion

Appendix

- ▶ No platonic definition of “overreaction”

Regression specification: Two notions of overreaction

► noise

► two-var

Where x is {GDP, inflation, consumption, investment} and e_{t+h} is forecast error, $x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}$:
run at each horizon h ,

$$\underbrace{e_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast error}} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot \underbrace{\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast revision}} + \beta_2 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}}_{\text{lagged forecast}}$$

- No platonic definition of “overreaction”
- Here, two notions:

[BGLS 2024]

Regression specification: Two notions of overreaction

► noise

► two-var

Where x is {GDP, inflation, consumption, investment} and e_{t+h} is forecast error, $x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}$:
run at each horizon h ,

$$\underbrace{e_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast error}} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot \underbrace{\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast revision}} + \beta_2 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}}_{\text{lagged forecast}}$$

► No platonic definition of “overreaction”

► Here, two notions:

[BGLS 2024]

1. When the **forecast revises**, does it move too much or too little?

$\beta_1 < 0$ implies over-revision (Coibion-Gorodnichenko)

Regression specification: Two notions of overreaction

► noise

► two-var

Where x is {GDP, inflation, consumption, investment} and e_{t+h} is forecast error, $x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}$:
run at each horizon h ,

$$\underbrace{e_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast error}} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot \underbrace{\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}}_{\text{forecast revision}} + \beta_2 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}}_{\text{lagged forecast}}$$

► No platonic definition of “overreaction”

► Here, two notions:

[BGLS 2024]

1. When the forecast revises, does it move too much or too little?

$\beta_1 < 0$ implies over-revision (Coibion-Gorodnichenko)

2. When the **lagged forecast is high**, does that predict forecast errors today?

$\beta_2 < 0$ implies over-extremity (Bordalo-Gennaioli-La Porta-Shleifer 2024)

Regression specification: Two notions of overreaction

► noise

► two-var

Where x is {GDP, inflation, consumption, investment} and e_{t+h} is forecast error, $x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h}$:
run at each horizon h ,

$$\underbrace{e_{c,t+h,x}}_{\text{forecast error}} = \alpha_{c,x} + \beta_1 \cdot \underbrace{\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{c,t+h,x}}_{\text{forecast revision}} + \beta_2 \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{c,t+h,x}}_{\text{lagged forecast}}$$

► No platonic definition of “overreaction”

► Here, two notions:

[BGLS 2024]

1. When the forecast revises, does it move too much or too little?

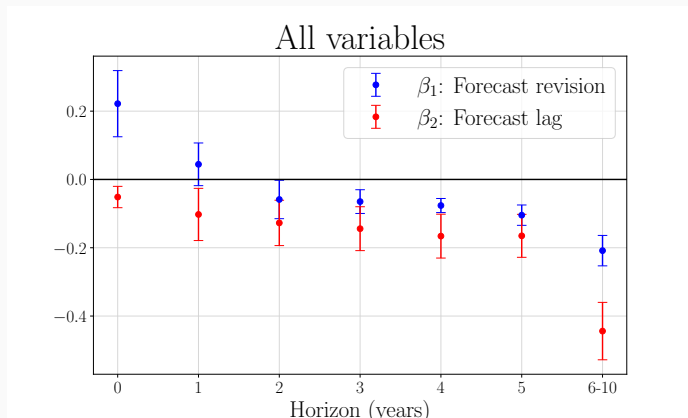
$\beta_1 < 0$ implies over-revision (Coibion-Gorodnichenko)

2. When the lagged forecast is high, does that predict forecast errors today?

$\beta_2 < 0$ implies over-extremity (Bordalo-Gennaioli-La Porta-Shleifer 2024)

► FIRE: $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$

► Main specification: **panel** regression, **pooled** over variables, c - x fixed effects

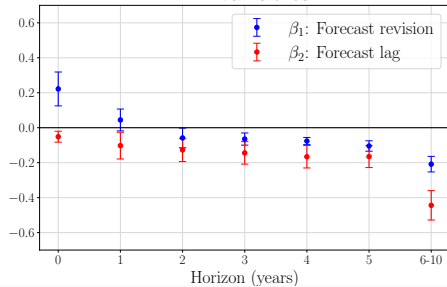


Four facts:

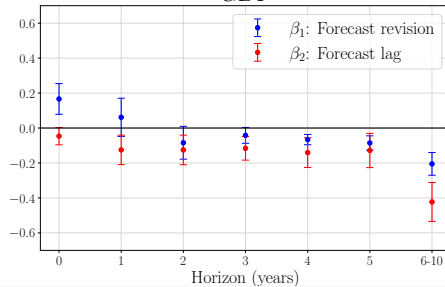
1. < 1 year horizon forecast under-revises
2. ≥ 2 year horizon forecasts over-revise
3. At all horizons, expectations are too extreme ($\beta_2 < 0$)
4. Overreaction increases in horizon

Results by forecast variable

All variables

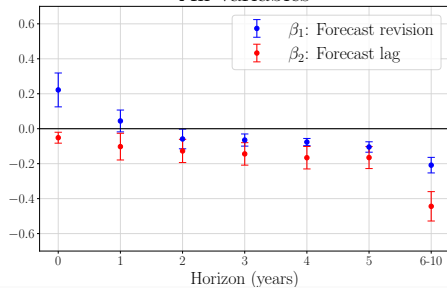


GDP

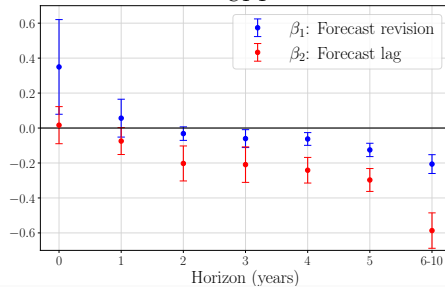


Results by forecast variable

All variables

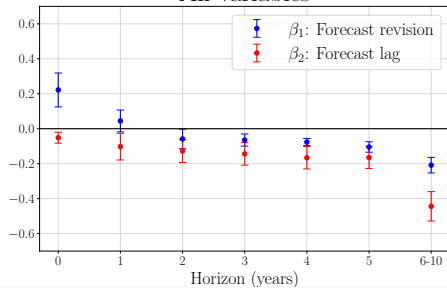


CPI

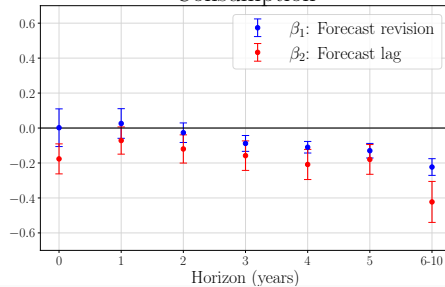


Results by forecast variable

All variables

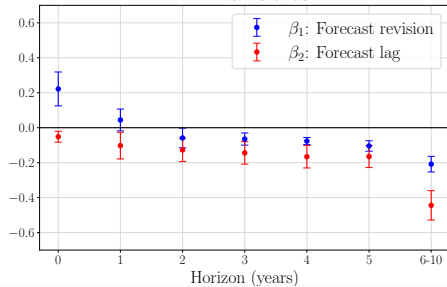


Consumption

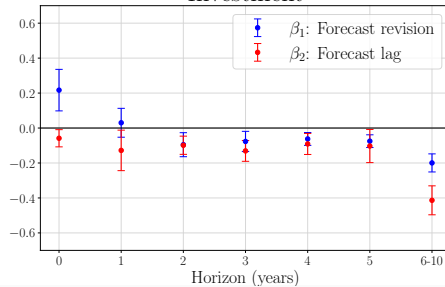


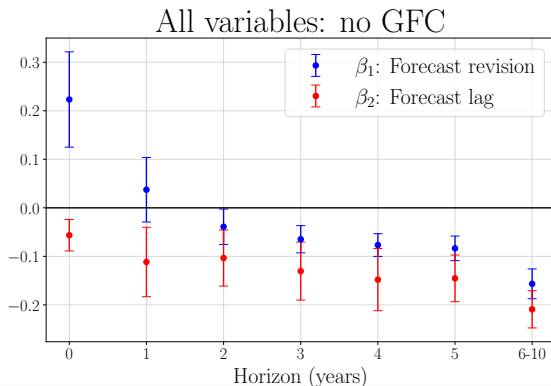
Results by forecast variable

All variables



Investment





- Drop all observations where forecast date is before 2008 and horizon is 2007 or later
- The six-ten year out forecast sample goes from 3223 observations to 793

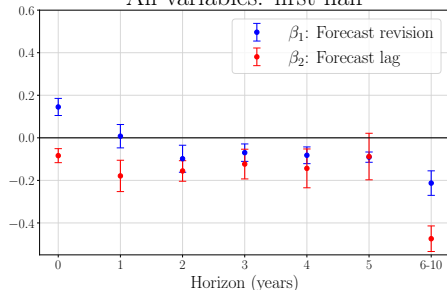
First half versus second half of sample

▸ by year

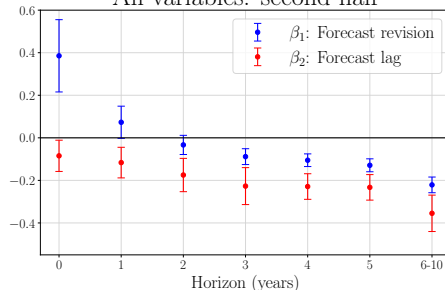
▸ split years

▸ consistent split

All variables: first half

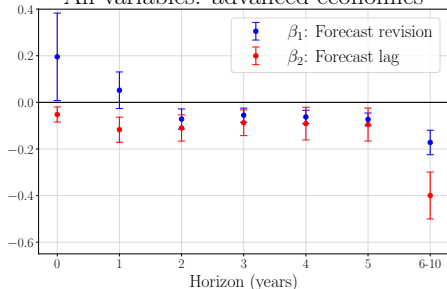


All variables: second half

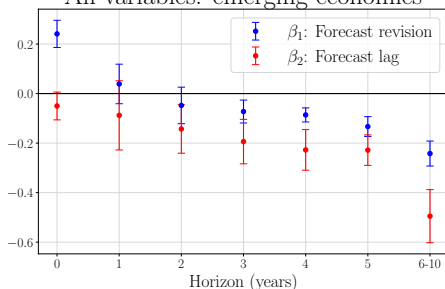


Overreaction in advanced vs. emerging economies ► by country

All variables: advanced economies



All variables: emerging economies



Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons

Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons
- ▶ ...in contrast to Eva and Winkler (2023)
 - US data, ≤ 1 year forecasts

Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons
- ▶ ...in contrast to Eva and Winkler (2023)
 - US data, ≤ 1 year forecasts

1. At each date: run regression, using data up to that point $\implies \beta_{1,t}$ and $\beta_{2,t}$

Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons
- ▶ ...in contrast to Eva and Winkler (2023)
 - US data, ≤ 1 year forecasts

1. At each date: run regression, using data up to that point $\implies \beta_{1,t}$ and $\beta_{2,t}$
2. Compute “bias-adjusted” forecast $\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h}$:

$$\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h} \equiv \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{1,t} \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{2,t} \mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}$$

Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons
- ▶ ...in contrast to Eva and Winkler (2023)
 - US data, ≤ 1 year forecasts

1. At each date: run regression, using data up to that point $\implies \beta_{1,t}$ and $\beta_{2,t}$
2. Compute “bias-adjusted” forecast $\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h}$:

$$\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h} \equiv \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{1,t} \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{2,t} \mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}$$

3. Compute sum of squared errors, $SSE^* = \sum_t (x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h})^2$

Out-of-sample forecasts and bias instability

If forecast biases are stable, adjusting for them should help with OOS forecasting

- ▶ **We find:** Adjusting does help, especially at longer horizons
- ▶ ...in contrast to Eva and Winkler (2023)
 - US data, ≤ 1 year forecasts

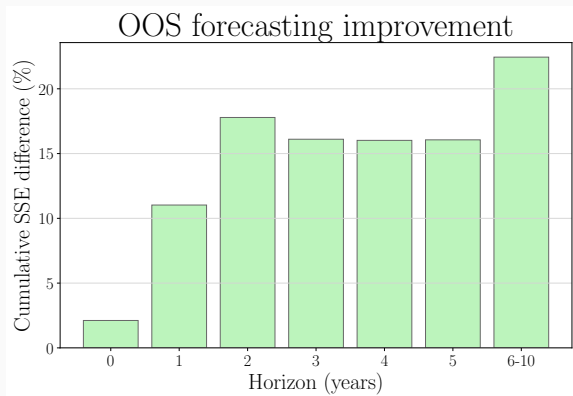
1. At each date: run regression, using data up to that point $\implies \beta_{1,t}$ and $\beta_{2,t}$
2. Compute “bias-adjusted” forecast $\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h}$:

$$\mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h} \equiv \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{1,t} \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_{2,t} \mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h}$$

3. Compute sum of squared errors, $SSE^* = \sum_t (x_{t+h} - \mathbb{E}_t^* x_{t+h})^2$
4. **Relative improvement** x : “unadjusted forecasts have $x\%$ larger SSE”

$$x = \frac{SSE - SSE^*}{SSE}$$

Improved out-of-sample forecasting at all horizons; especially at longer horizons



- ▶ Adjusting forecasts improves performance at all horizons
- ▶ 22.4% lower SSE at 6-10 year horizon

Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

Conclusion

Appendix

Which models fit the facts?

1. Overreaction increasing in horizon is inconsistent with other popular models of overreaction
 - Simple over-extrapolation (AHS 2021), baseline DE (Bordalo et al. 2020)

Which models fit the facts?

1. Overreaction increasing in horizon is inconsistent with other popular models of overreaction
 - Simple over-extrapolation (AHS 2021), baseline DE (Bordalo et al. 2020)
2. **Costly recall** with uncertain long-run mean (Afrouzi et al. 2023) + **sticky information**

Which models fit the facts?

1. Overreaction increasing in horizon is inconsistent with other popular models of overreaction
 - Simple over-extrapolation (AHS 2021), baseline DE (Bordalo et al. 2020)
2. **Costly recall** with uncertain long-run mean (Afrouzi et al. 2023) + **sticky information**
 - Emerging lit consistent with overreaction increasing in horizon: Bianchi et al. (2024), Farmer et al. (2024), Sung (2025) ▶ smooth DE

Agents forecast an AR(1) process:

$$\begin{aligned}x_t &= (1 - \rho)\mu + \rho x_{t-1} + \epsilon_t \\ \epsilon_t &\sim (0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)\end{aligned}$$

Agents are uncertain about long-run mean; and can process most recent observation (x_t) freely, but processing additional information S_t with a cost:

$$C_t(S_t) \equiv \omega \frac{\exp(\gamma \mathbb{I}(S_t, \mu | x_t)) - 1}{\gamma}$$

Afrouzi et al. proposition 1: Forecasts overreact relative to the rational benchmark:

$$F_t x_{t+h} = \underbrace{E_t x_{t+h}}_{\text{rational forecast}} + \underbrace{(1 - \rho^h) \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{\omega \underline{\tau}}{(1 - \rho^h)^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{1+\gamma}} \right\}}_{\text{overreaction}(\equiv \Delta)} x_t + \underbrace{u_t}_{\text{noise}}$$

Where $\underline{\tau}$ is the minimum precision of the agent's posterior belief about the long-run mean: $\text{var}(\mu|x_t)^{-1}$

Afrouzi et al. proposition 2: The degree of overreaction Δ is increasing in h , iff cost-curvature $\gamma \geq 1$

Our proposition 1: Under costly recall,

1. Both over-revision and over-extremity, at all horizons
2. Over-revision = over-extremity
3. Both increase in horizon iff $\gamma \geq 1$

$$\beta_1^h = \beta_2^h = -\frac{\Delta_h}{\rho^h + \Delta_h} \leq 0$$
$$\frac{d\beta_1^h}{dh} = \frac{d\beta_2^h}{dh} < 0 \iff \gamma \geq 1$$

Problem: does not match (i) under-revision at short horizons, $\beta_1^0 > 0$,
or (ii) $\beta_1^h > \beta_2^h$.

Our proposition 1: Under costly recall,

1. Both over-revision and over-extremity, at all horizons
2. Over-revision = over-extremity
3. Both increase in horizon iff $\gamma \geq 1$

$$\beta_1^h = \beta_2^h = -\frac{\Delta_h}{\rho^h + \Delta_h} \leq 0$$
$$\frac{d\beta_1^h}{dh} = \frac{d\beta_2^h}{dh} < 0 \iff \gamma \geq 1$$

Problem: does not match (i) under-revision at short horizons, $\beta_1^0 > 0$,
or (ii) $\beta_1^h > \beta_2^h$.

Noisy info: If agents observe noisy signal $s_t = x_t + e_t$, $e_t \sim (0, \sigma_e^2)$, then:

$$\beta_1^h < \beta_2^h \quad \forall h$$

Sticky info: If fraction λ of agents update their forecast each period, then:

$$\beta_1^h > \beta_2^h \quad \forall h$$

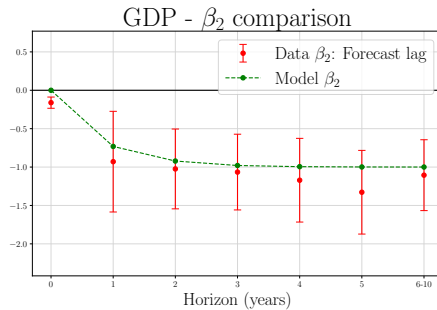
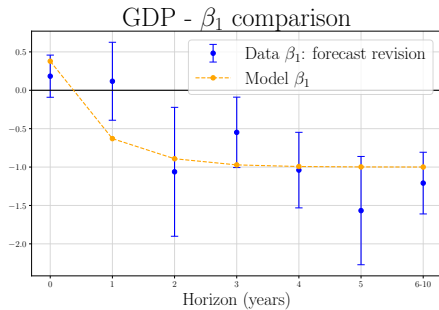
\implies need sticky info, not noisy info, to match results

- ▶ NB: noisy-info can push both $\beta_1, \beta_2 > 0$; sticky info can only push $\beta_1 > 0$

Calibration

- ▶ Calibrate the model to match the non-z-scored results for just GDP
- ▶ Take γ, ω from Afrouzi et al.
- ▶ Set ρ based on regressing g_t on g_{t-1} across all countries, with country FE
- ▶ Calibrate $\lambda = 0.725$

Calibrated model vs. data ► zscored



Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

Conclusion

Appendix

How are **realized future outcomes** influenced by the **change today in GDP growth expectations**?

$$x_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma_{6 \rightarrow 10}^h \cdot \underbrace{\Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{t+6 \rightarrow t+10})}_{\substack{\text{one-year change in} \\ \text{long-term} \\ \text{expected GDP growth}}} + \beta \cdot \text{controls}_t + \text{FE} + \epsilon_t$$

- Approach comparable to Bordalo et al. 2024, who find **movements in long-term earnings growth forecasts** cause US business cycle fluctuations

How are **realized future outcomes** influenced by the **change today in GDP growth expectations**?

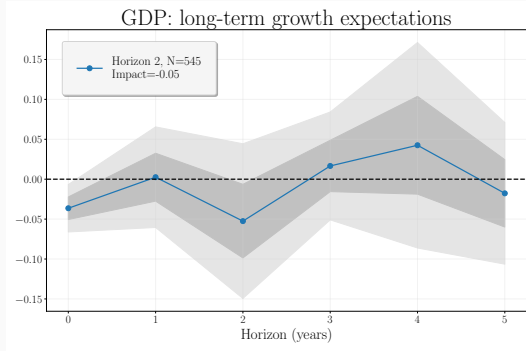
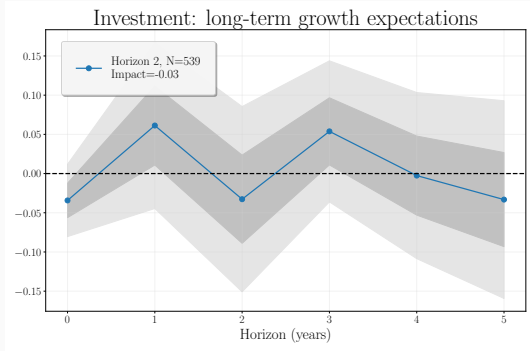
$$x_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma_{0 \rightarrow 2}^h \cdot \underbrace{\Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{t \rightarrow t+2})}_{\substack{\text{one-year change in} \\ \text{short-term} \\ \text{expected GDP growth}}} + \beta \cdot \text{controls}_t + \text{FE} + \epsilon_t$$

- Approach comparable to Bordalo et al. 2024, who find **movements in long-term earnings growth forecasts** cause US business cycle fluctuations
- **Question:** do movements in **short-term** or **long-term** GDP growth expectations better predict subsequent fluctuations?

Long-term GDP growth expectations are not associated with fluctuations

Using 6-10 year expectations:

$$x_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma_{6 \rightarrow 10}^h \cdot \Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{t+6 \rightarrow t+10}) + \beta \cdot \text{controls}_t + \text{FE} + \epsilon_t$$

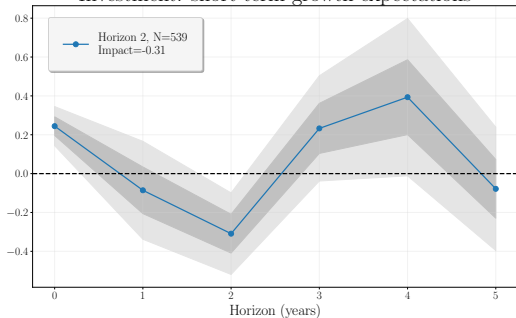


But **short-term** growth expectations are associated with fluctuations

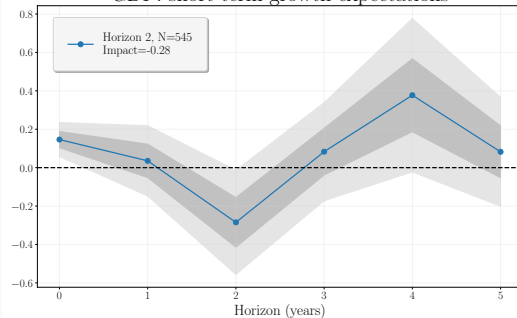
Using **cumulative 0-to-2 year** expectations:

$$x_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma^h_{0 \rightarrow 2} \cdot \Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{t \rightarrow t+2}) + \beta \cdot \text{controls}_t + \text{FE} + \epsilon_t$$

Investment: short-term growth expectations



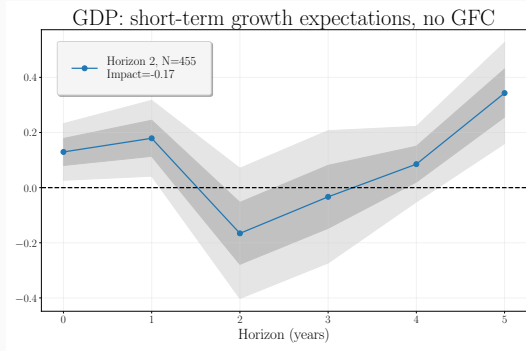
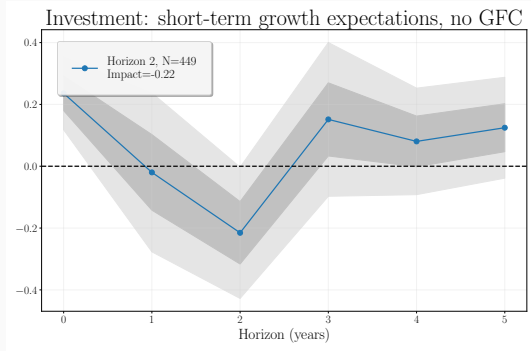
GDP: short-term growth expectations



Even excluding the GFC

Using cumulative 0-to-2 year expectations:

$$x_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma_{0 \rightarrow 2} \cdot \Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{t \rightarrow t+2}) + \beta \cdot \text{controls}_t + \text{FE} + \epsilon_t$$



Stock return predictability

Are future stock market returns predicted by today's GDP growth expectations?

$$r_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma^h \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_t(g)}_{\substack{\text{either short-term} \\ \text{or long-term} \\ \text{expected GDP growth}}} + \epsilon_t$$

Stock return predictability

Are future stock market returns predicted by today's GDP growth expectations?

$$r_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma^h \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_t(g)}_{\substack{\text{either short-term} \\ \text{or long-term} \\ \text{expected GDP growth}}} + \epsilon_t$$

- **Question:** do short-term or long-term growth expectations better predict subsequent three-year and five-year returns?

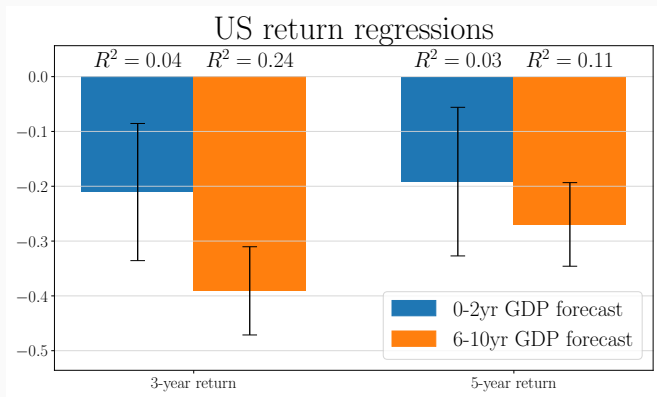
Stock return predictability

Are future stock market returns predicted by today's GDP growth expectations?

$$r_{t+h} = \alpha + \gamma^h \cdot \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_t(g)}_{\substack{\text{either short-term} \\ \text{or long-term} \\ \text{expected GDP growth}}} + \epsilon_t$$

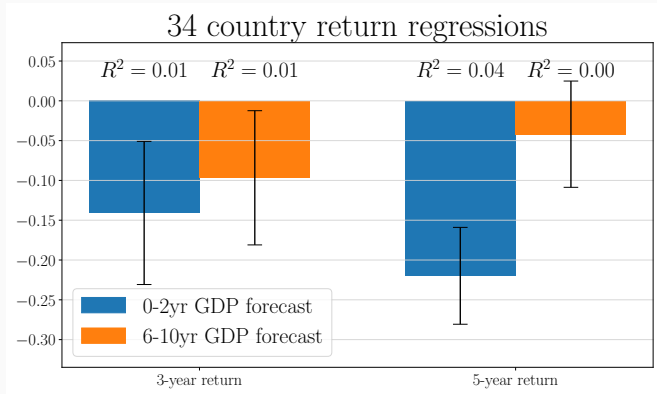
- **Question:** do short-term or long-term growth expectations better predict subsequent three-year and five-year returns?
- Bordalo et al. (2024) find long-term expectations are the stronger predictor

In the US, long-term expectations are the stronger predictor [▶ table](#)



- ▶ In US, long-term GDP growth expectations are strongest predictor of returns
- ▶ Magnitude of results comparable to Bordalo et al. 2024

Across 34 countries, short-term expectations are the better predictor [▶ table](#)



- *Short-term* GDP growth expectations most predictive of returns

Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

Conclusion

Appendix

Conclusion

- ▶ In a large cross-country sample, **four facts** about average macroeconomic forecasts emerge:

Conclusion

- ▶ In a large cross-country sample, **four facts** about average macroeconomic forecasts emerge:
 1. < 1 year horizon forecasts under-revise
 2. ≥ 2 year horizon forecasts over-revise
 3. At all horizons, expectations are too extreme
 4. Overreaction increases in horizon

Conclusion

- ▶ In a large cross-country sample, **four facts** about average macroeconomic forecasts emerge:
 1. < 1 year horizon forecasts under-revise
 2. ≥ 2 year horizon forecasts over-revise
 3. At all horizons, expectations are too extreme
 4. Overreaction increases in horizon
- ▶ A model of expectation formation under costly recall and sticky updating matches these features

Conclusion

- ▶ In a large cross-country sample, **four facts** about average macroeconomic forecasts emerge:
 1. < 1 year horizon forecasts under-revise
 2. ≥ 2 year horizon forecasts over-revise
 3. At all horizons, expectations are too extreme
 4. Overreaction increases in horizon
- ▶ A model of expectation formation under costly recall and sticky updating matches these features
- ▶ While long-horizon expectations overreact most, short-horizon expectations are most associated with subsequent business-cycle and stock-market fluctuations

Data

Evidence: Four facts on overreaction by horizon

Theory

Evidence: Expectations and fluctuations

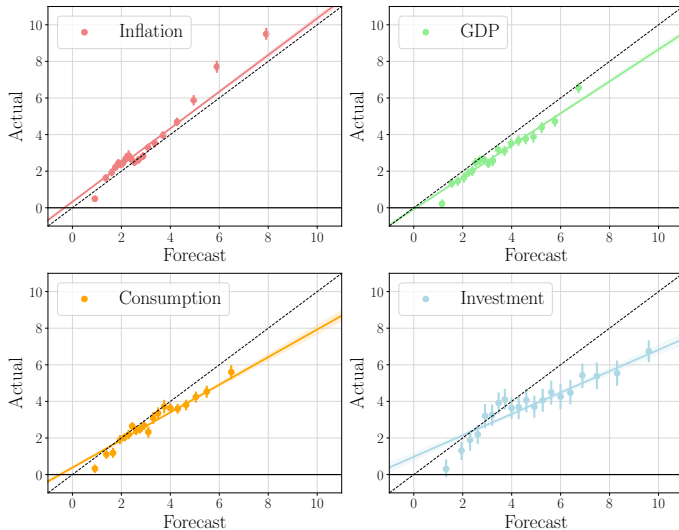
Conclusion

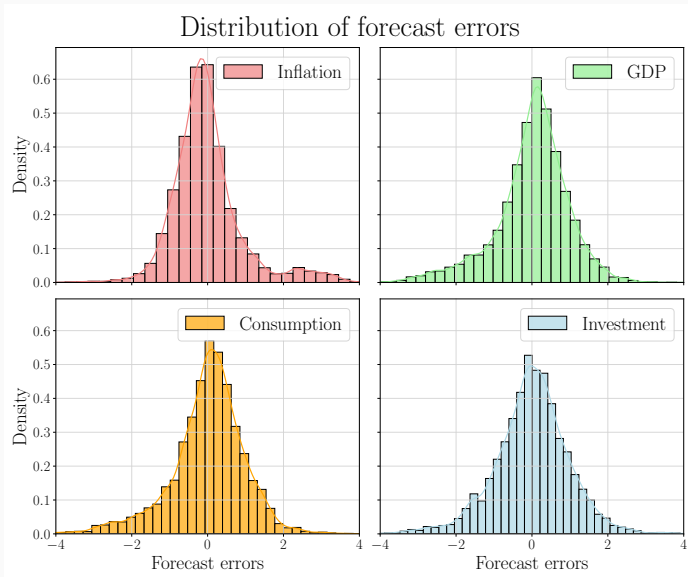
Appendix

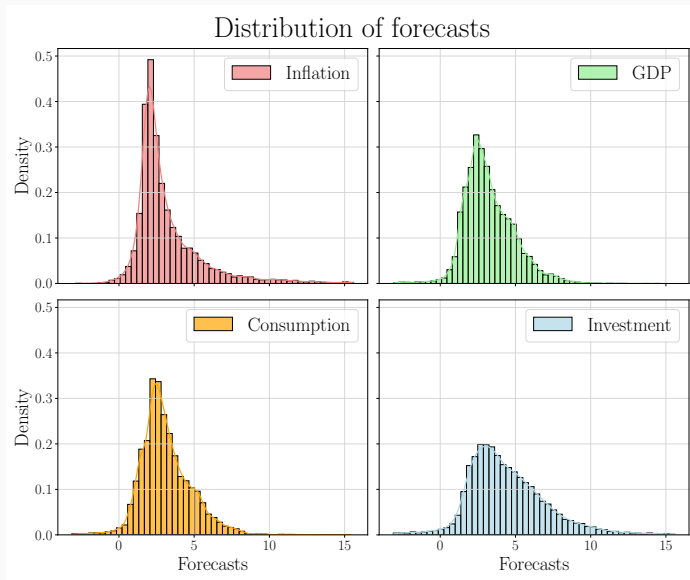
- ▶ Coibion and Gorodnichenko 2015: up to 6 quarter ahead
- ▶ AHS 2021: one-year expectation errors
- ▶ Bianchi, Ludvigson, Ma 2022 AER: \leq 1yr expectations
- ▶ Beaudry and Willems AEJM 2022: 3-year horizon forecasts, results robust to 5-year
- ▶ Bianchi, Ilut, Saijo Restud 2024: peak 2-3 years after shock, trough 5-6 years later, model only
- ▶ L'Hullier, Singh, Yoo Restud 2023: focus on "one-step-ahead" forecast
- ▶ Bianchi, Ilut, Saijo NBER 2024: one-year forecast errors
- ▶ Afrouzi et al. 2023 QJE: more overreaction with horizon, experimental set-up not directly translatable to time
- ▶ Patton and Timmermann 2010 JME: up to 2-year horizon
- ▶ Faccini and Melosi 2022 AEJM: up to 2-year horizon
- ▶ Bordalo et al. 2023 NBER Macro: 3-5 year expectations, document bust on 7-9 quarter horizon
- ▶ Bordalo et al. 2024 JPE: 3-5 year expectations
- ▶ Kohlhas and Walther 2021 AER: one-year ahead forecasts
- ▶ Kohlhas and Broer 2023 ReStat: one-year ahead forecasts
- ▶ de Silva and Thesmar 2023 ReFinSt: up to 4-year expectations
- ▶ d'Arienzo 2021: documents increasing overreaction with maturity in interest rates, out to 30 years!
- ▶ Sung 2025: a model that explains which of under or over-reaction will prevail depending on the information environment and forecast horizon
- ▶ Adam, Pfauti, and Reinelt (2025): Households' housing price expectations underreact at 1-year horizons and overreact at 2-year horizons

Forecasts and forecast errors: visual summary [▶ back](#)

Forecast vs. actual

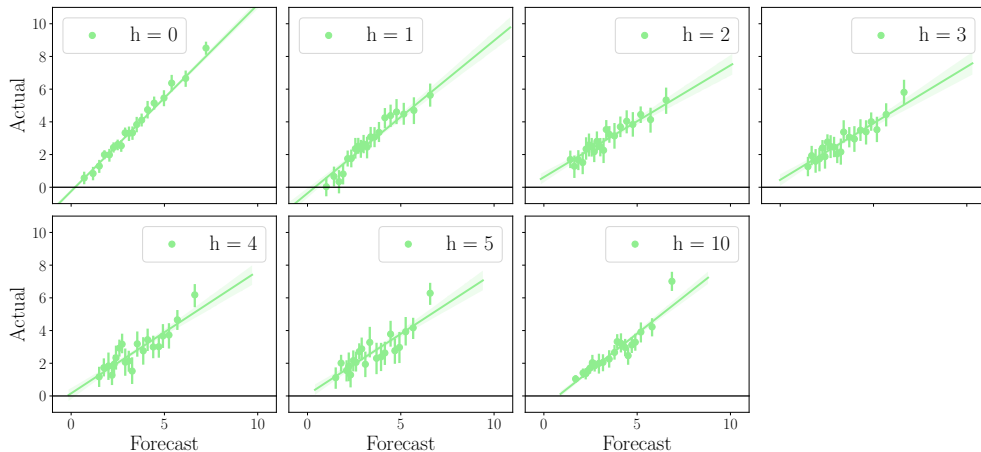




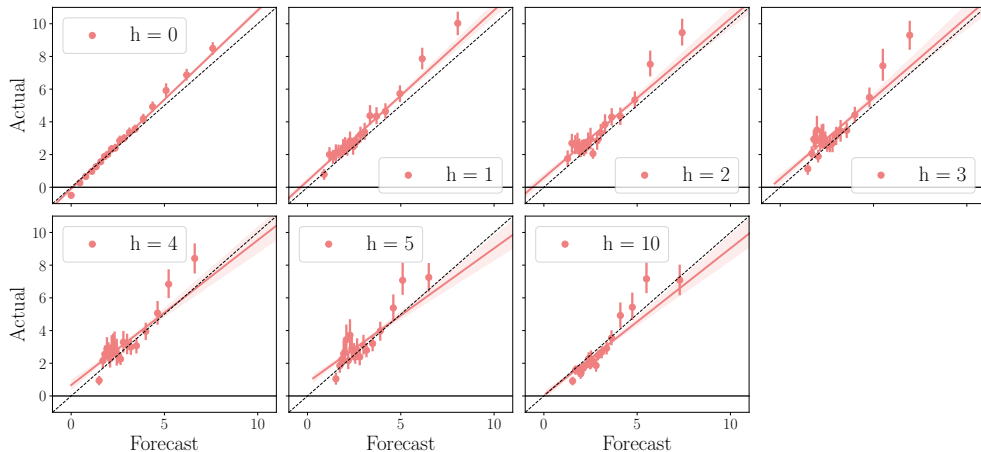


Forecasts and forecast errors: visual summary [▶ back](#)

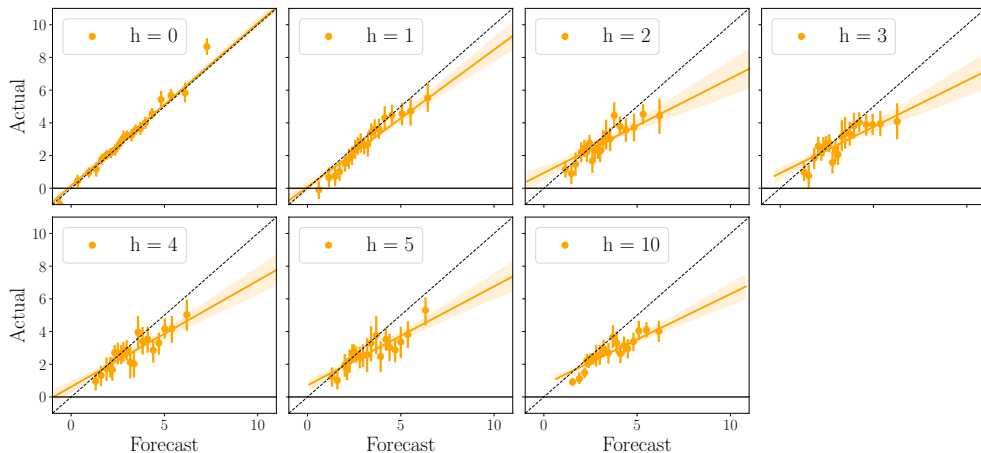
Forecast vs. Actual: GDP



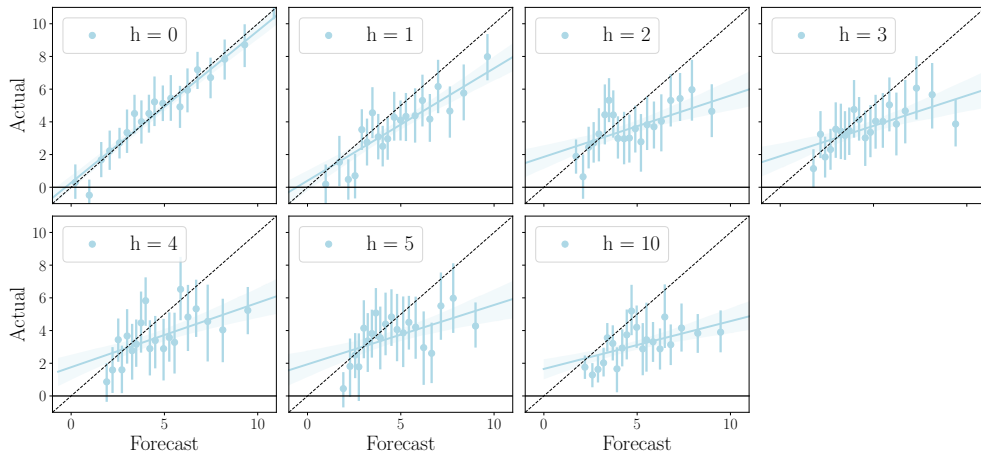
Forecast vs. Actual: inflation



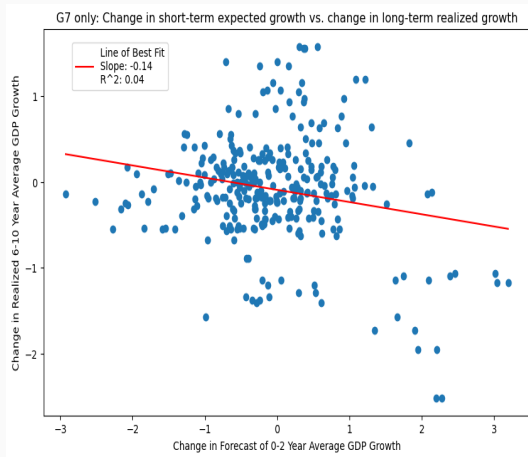
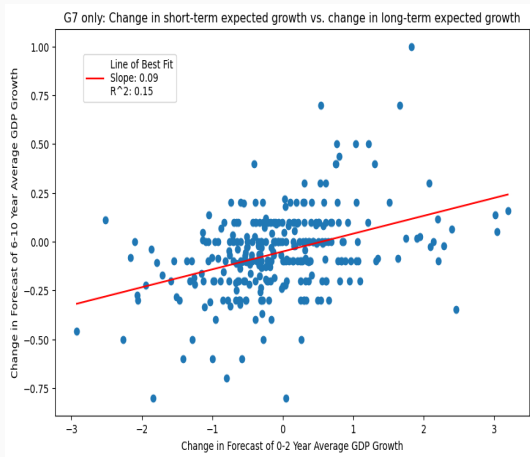
Forecast vs. Actual: consumption



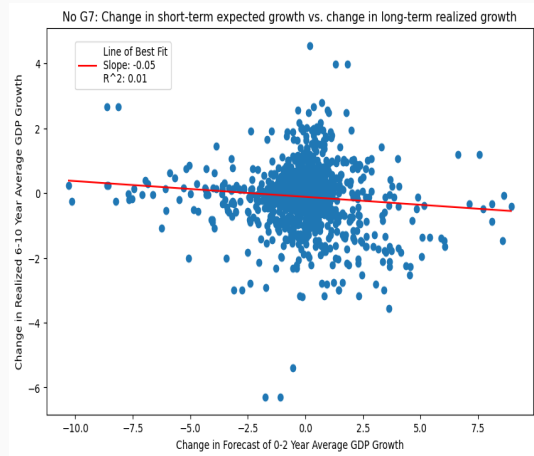
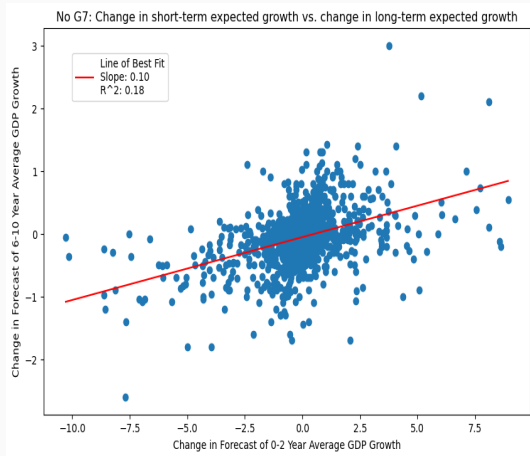
Forecast vs. Actual: investment



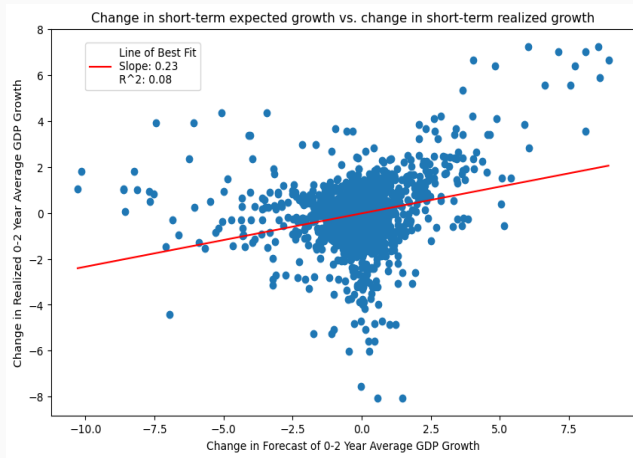
Visual Evidence: G7 Only [▶ back](#)



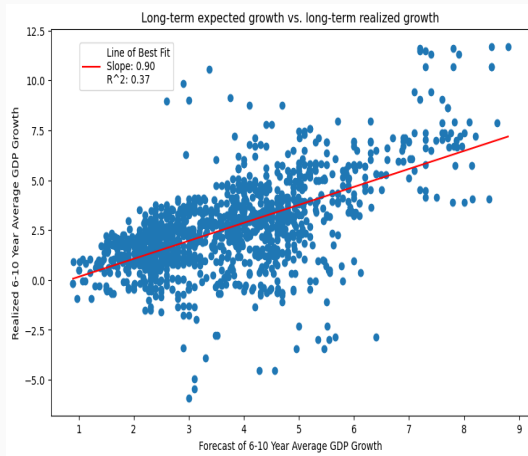
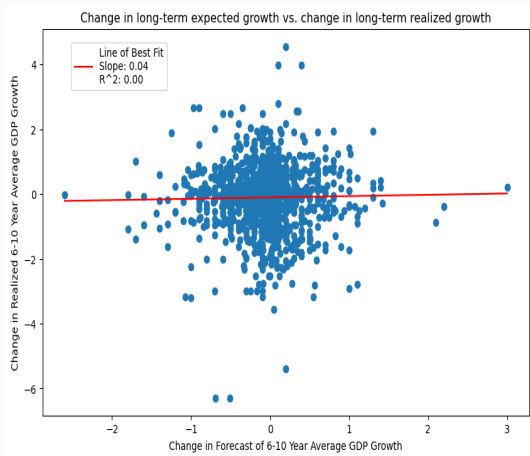
Visual Evidence: No G7 [▶ back](#)



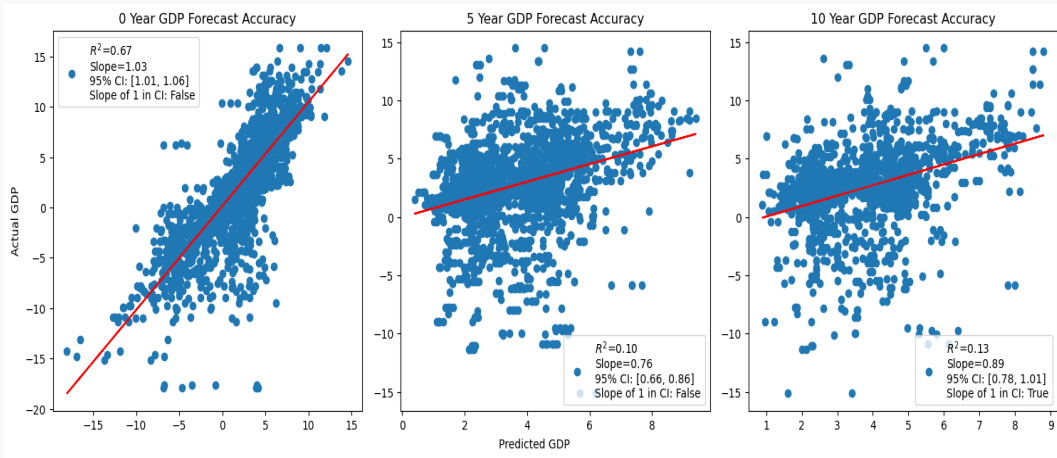
Visual Evidence: Short-term expectations on short-term outcomes

[▶ back](#)

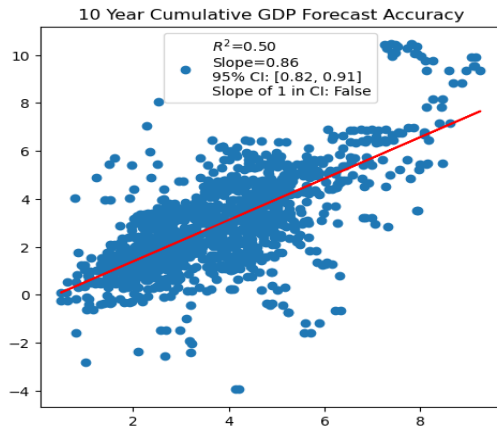
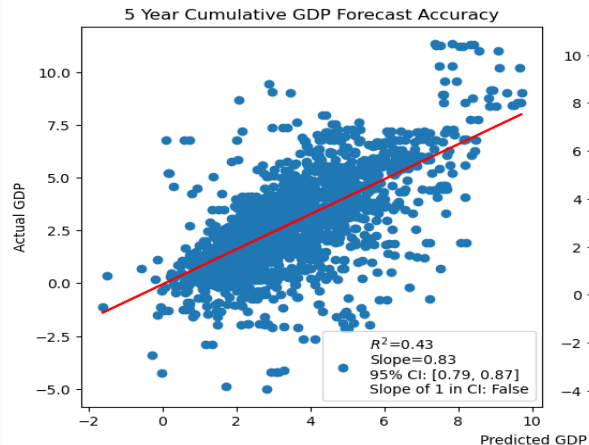
Visual Evidence: Long-term expectations accuracy [▶ back](#)



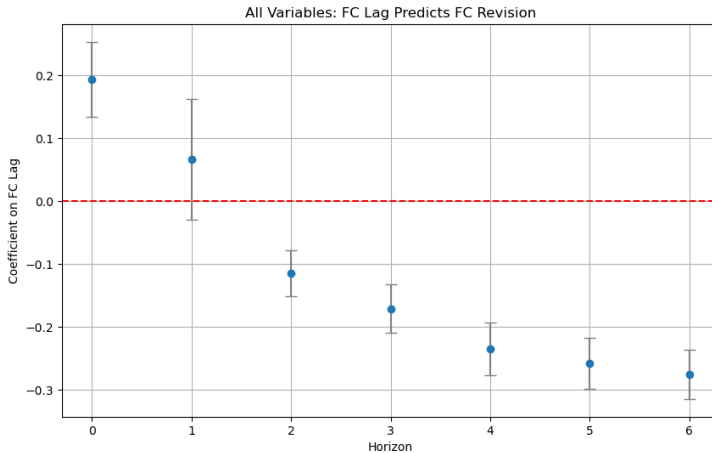
Visual Evidence: Individual Year Forecast Accuracy [▶ back](#)

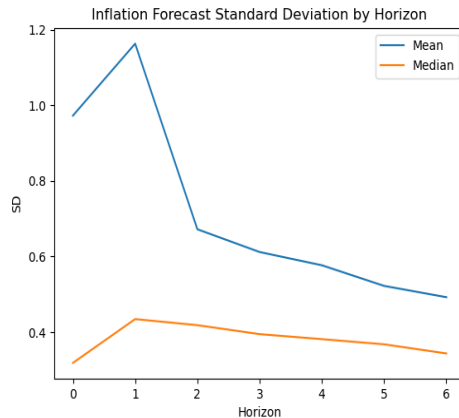
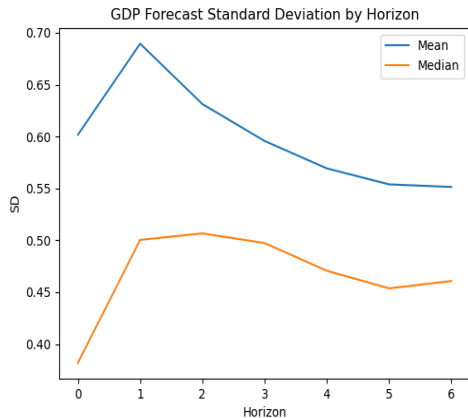


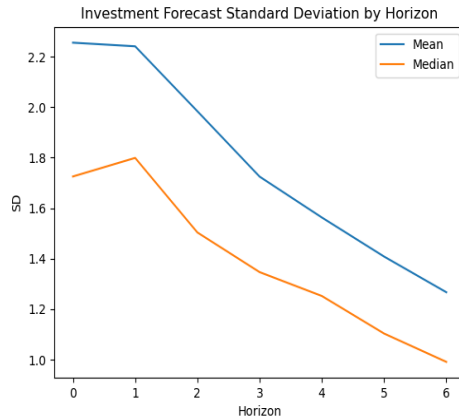
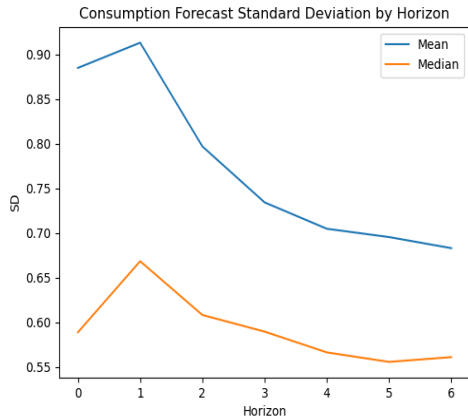
Visual Evidence: Cumulative Forecast Accuracy [▶ back](#)



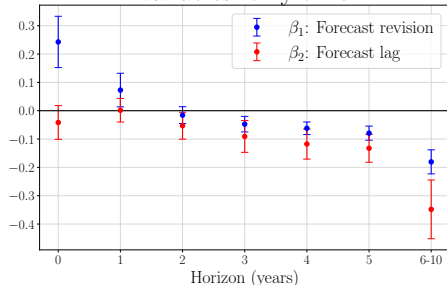
FC Lags Predict FC Revisions

[▶ back](#)

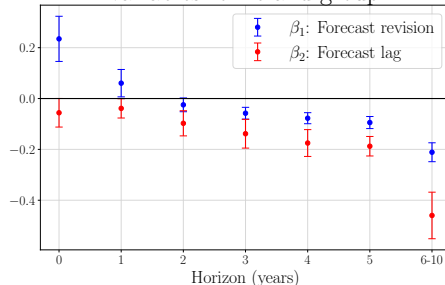


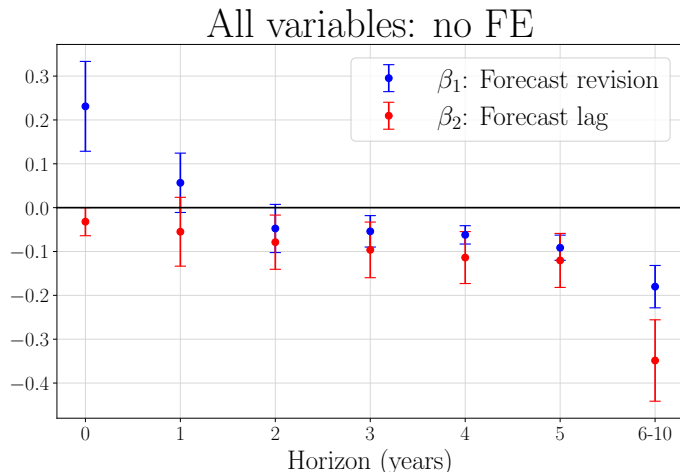


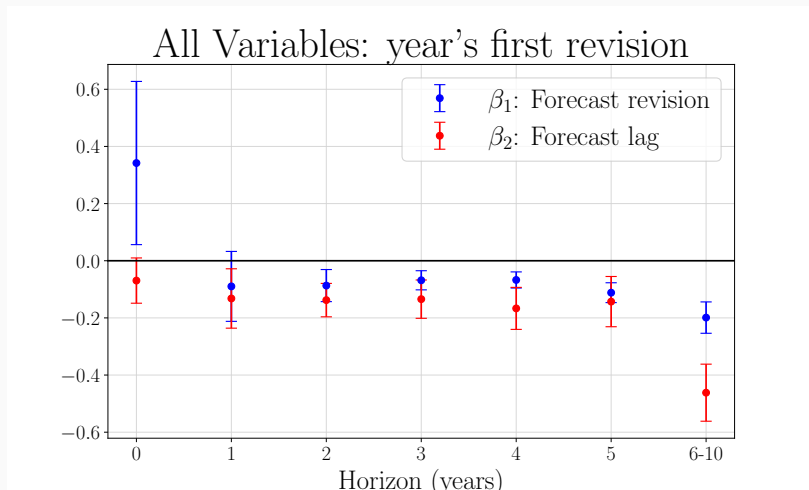
All variables: only time FE



All variables: time and group FE







Proof sketch for Proposition 1 [▶ back](#)

Setup

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= \rho u_{t-1} + \nu_t, & F_t(h) &= (\rho^h + \Delta_h) u_t, \\R_t(h) &= (\rho^h + \Delta_h)(u_t - u_{t-1}), & L_{t-1}(h) &= (\rho^h + \Delta_h) u_{t-1}, \\FE_{t+h} &= -\Delta_h u_t + \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \rho^{h-1-j} \nu_{t+1+j}.\end{aligned}$$

OLS coefficients

Let $D \equiv \text{Var}(R) \text{Var}(L) - \text{Cov}(R, L)^2 > 0$. Using standard variance–covariance algebra we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= \frac{\text{Cov}(FE, R) \text{Var}(L) - \text{Cov}(FE, L) \text{Cov}(R, L)}{D}, & \beta_2 &= \frac{\text{Cov}(FE, L) \text{Var}(R) - \text{Cov}(FE, R) \text{Cov}(R, L)}{D}, \\&\implies \boxed{\beta_1^h = \beta_2^h = -\frac{\Delta_h}{\rho^h + \Delta_h} \leq 0}\end{aligned}$$

Monotonicity (if min-constraint slack)

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_h &= C(1 - \rho^h)^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma+1}}, \quad C > 0, \quad \Delta_h' > 0 \quad (\gamma \geq 1), \\ \beta'(h) &= -\frac{\Delta_h'}{\rho^h + \Delta_h} + \frac{\Delta_h \rho^h \ln \rho}{(\rho^h + \Delta_h)^2} < 0 \iff \gamma \geq 1.\end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2 (noisy information): $\beta_1^h < \beta_2^h \forall h$ [▶ back](#)

Setup

Signal: $s_t = x_t + \varepsilon_t$, $\varepsilon_t \stackrel{iid}{\sim} (0, q)$ Kalman gain: $\kappa_0 = \frac{\tau_\varepsilon}{\tau_0 + \tau_\varepsilon} \in (0, 1)$

$$F_t(h) = b_h u_t + W_\varepsilon \varepsilon_t, \quad b_h := \kappa_0 [\kappa_h (1 - \rho^h) + \rho^h]$$

$$R_t(h) = b_h (u_t - u_{t-1}) + W_\varepsilon (\varepsilon_t - \varepsilon_{t-1}),$$

$$L_{t-1}(h) = b_h u_{t-1} + W_\varepsilon \varepsilon_{t-1},$$

$$FE_{t+h} = \underbrace{(\rho^h - b_h)}_{\delta_h} u_t - W_\varepsilon \varepsilon_t + \sum_{j=1}^h \rho^{h-j} \nu_{t+j}.$$

OLS formulas

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\text{Cov}(FE, R) \text{Var } L - \text{Cov}(FE, L) \text{Cov}(R, L)}{D}, \quad \beta_2 = \frac{\text{Cov}(FE, L) \text{Var } R - \text{Cov}(FE, R) \text{Cov}(R, L)}{D}.$$

Ordering (key step)

$$N_1 - N_2 = -\rho b_h W_\varepsilon^2 q A(b_h + \delta_h) < 0 \implies \boxed{\beta_1^h < \beta_2^h \forall h}.$$

Noise may lift β_1, β_2 above zero, but maintains the strict inequality.

Proposition 2 (sticky information): $\beta_1^h > \beta_2^h \forall h$ [▶ back](#)

Setup

Only a fraction λ update each period; let $\pi := 1 - \lambda \in (0, 1)$.

$$F_t(h) = \lambda b_h u_t + \lambda d_t, \quad d_t := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi^k b_{h+k} u_{t-k}, \quad b_h = \rho^h + \Delta_h.$$

$$R_t(h) = F_t(h) - F_{t-1}(h) = \lambda b_h u_t - \frac{\lambda^2}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi^k b_{h+k} u_{t-k},$$

$$L_{t-1}(h) = \frac{\lambda}{\pi} d_t,$$

$$\text{FE}_{t+h}^* = (\rho^h - \lambda b_h) u_t - \lambda d_t.$$

All three variables lie in $\text{span}\{u_t, d_t\}$. Using 2×2 moment matrix algebra,

$$\beta_1(h) = -1 + \frac{\rho^h}{\lambda b_h}, \quad \beta_2(h) = -1 + \frac{\rho^h}{b_h}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_1^h > \beta_2^h \quad \forall h$$

Does overreaction increase when uncertainty increases? [▶ back](#)

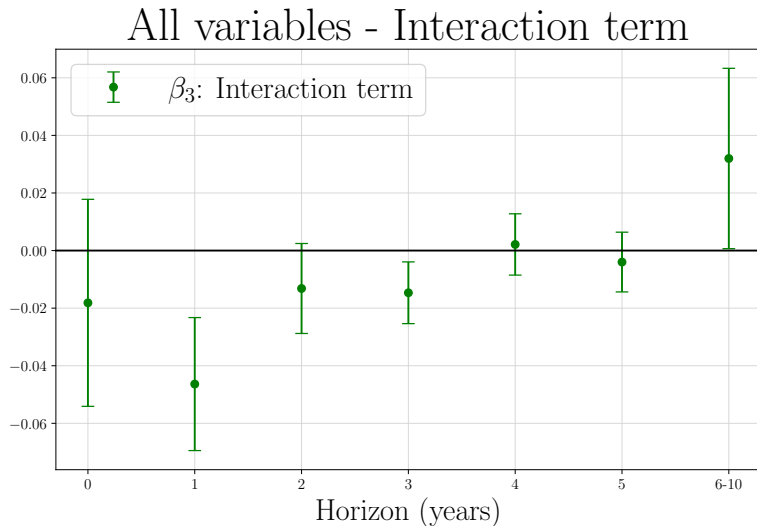
Model of Bianchi et al. 2024 predicts that overreaction will be more severe when uncertainty increases

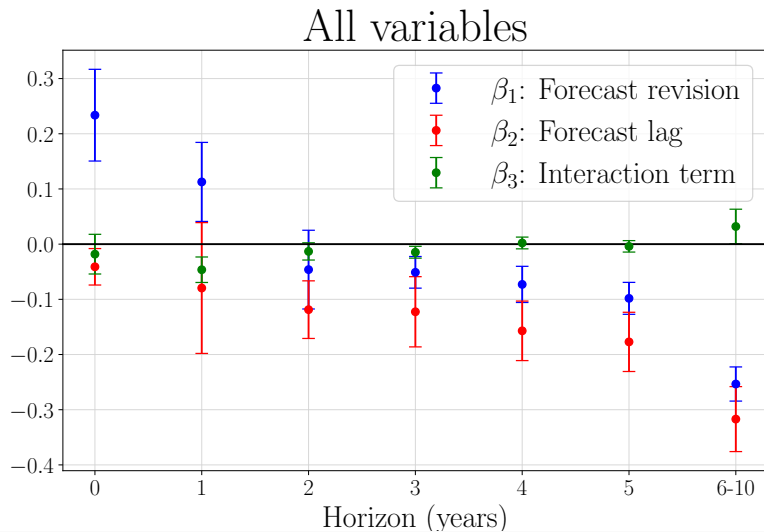
- ▶ Therefore, if longer-horizon forecasts exhibit less *reduction* in uncertainty across survey dates, overreaction will be increasing in horizon

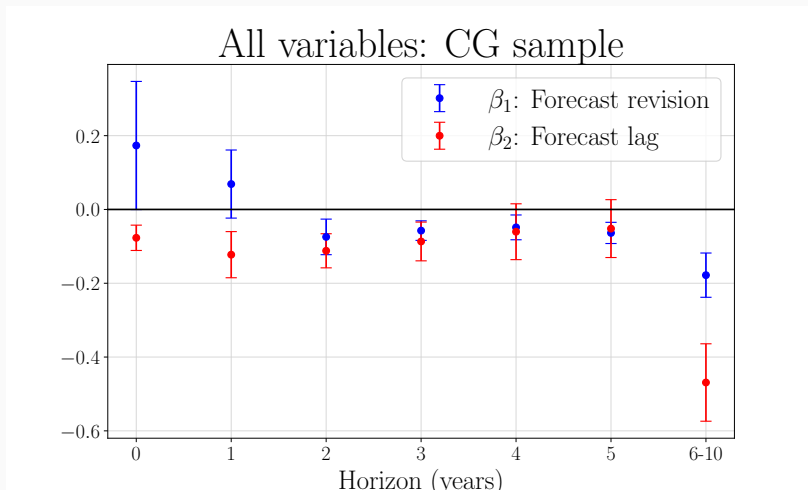
We test by running the following regression:

$$e_{t+h} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} + \beta_2 \cdot \mathbb{E}_{t-1} x_{t+h} + \beta_3 \cdot \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{t+h} \cdot \frac{\sigma_{t,h}}{\sigma_{t-1,h}} \quad (1)$$

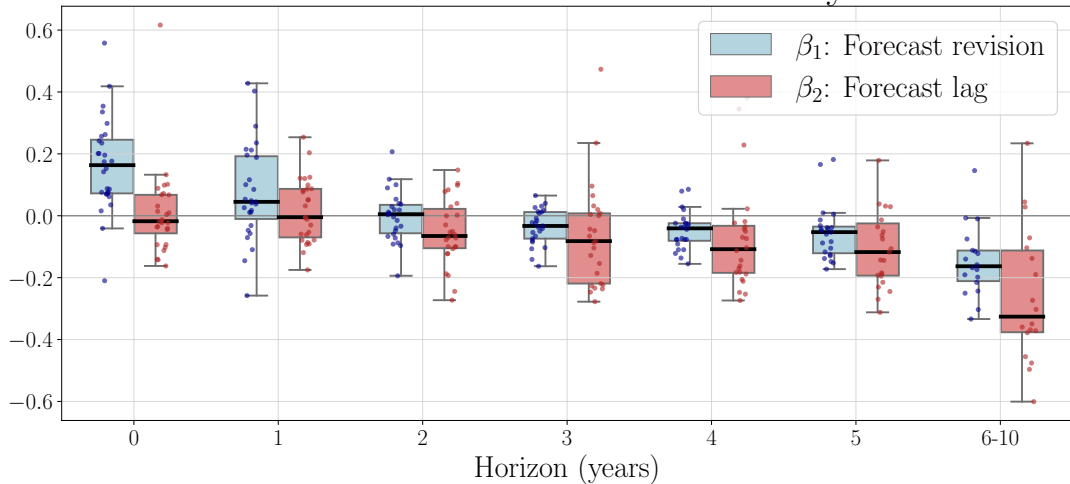
- ▶ Where $\sigma_{t,h}$ is the standard deviation of horizon h forecasts at time t
- ▶ Smooth DE predicts $\beta_3 < 0$: when uncertainty increases (or reduces less than typical), overreaction is more severe

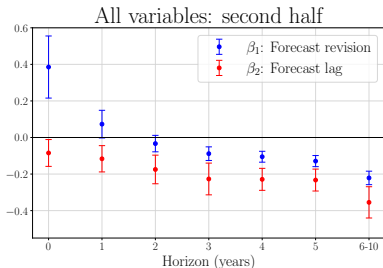
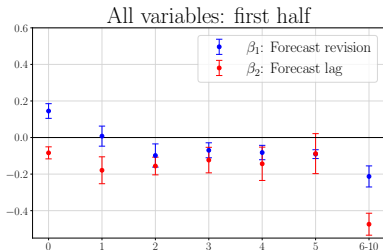






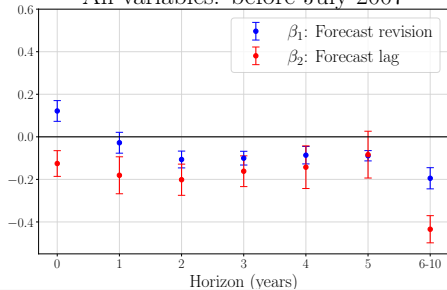
Distribution of coefficients across years



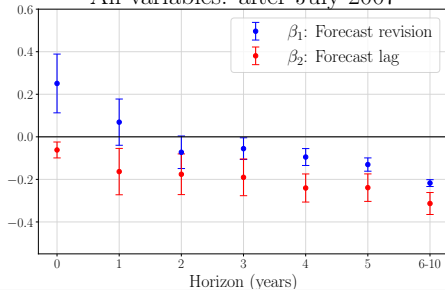


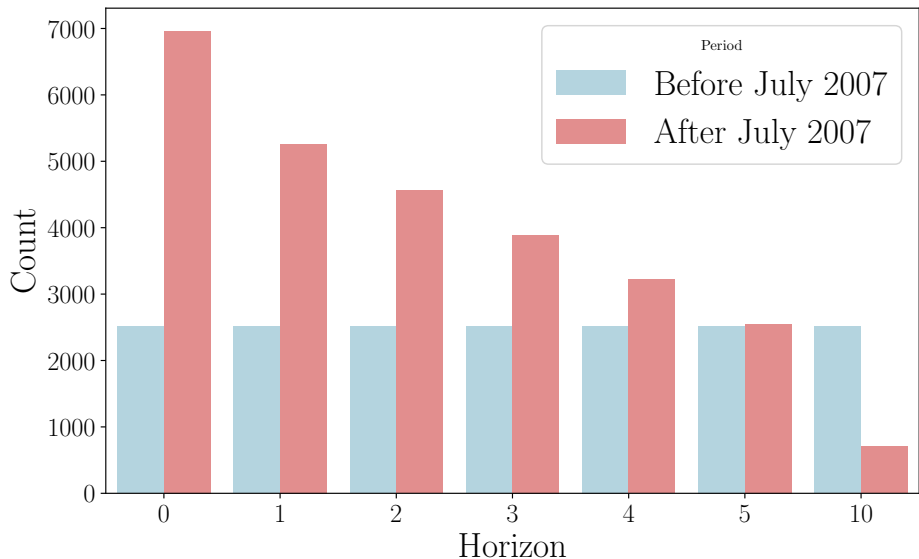
- ▶ Horizon 0: 2014-07 (n = 4734 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 1: 2011-10 (n = 3888 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 2: 2010-10 (n = 3537 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 3: 2009-10 (n = 3200 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 4: 2008-10 (n = 2867 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 5: 2007-09 (n = 2533 per half)
- ▶ Horizon 10: 2004-04 (n = 1610 per half)

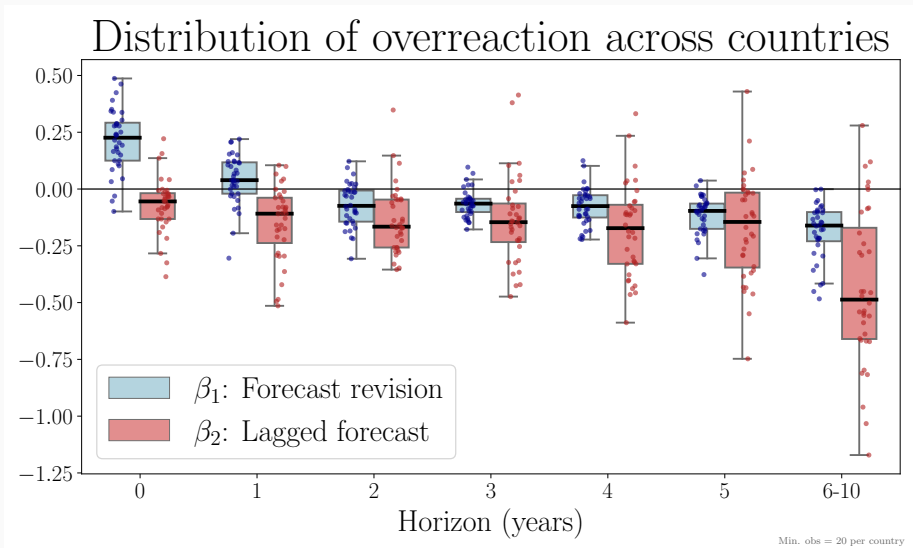
All variables: before July 2007



All variables: after July 2007

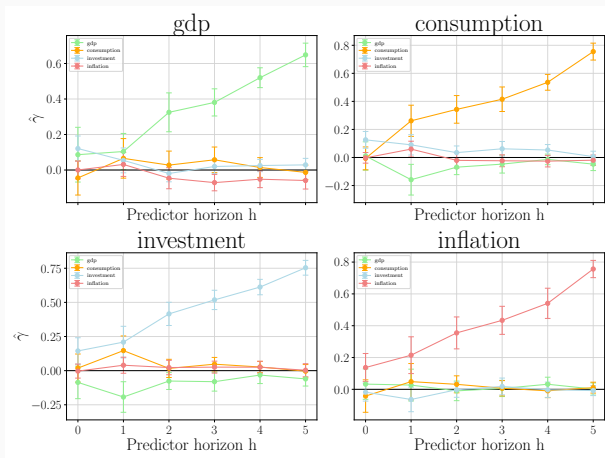






Are long-run revisions correlated with short-run cross-revisions?

$$\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{i,c,t+10} = \alpha_c + \sum_j \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{j,c,t+h}$$



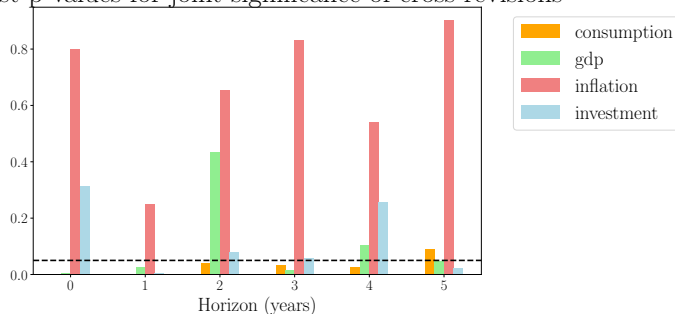
Inspired by Crump, Eusepi, Moench, and Preston (2025):

- ▶ Short-horizon cross revisions generally predict long-horizon GDP, consumption
- ▶ Short-horizon cross revisions never predict long-horizon inflation

Are long-run revisions correlated with short-run cross-revisions?

$$\Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{i,c,t+10} = \alpha_c + \sum_j \Delta \mathbb{E}_t x_{j,c,t+h}$$

F-test p-values for joint significance of cross-revisions



Inspired by Crump, Eusepi, Moench, and Preston (2025):

- Short-horizon cross revisions generally predict long-horizon GDP, consumption
- Short-horizon cross revisions never predict long-horizon inflation

$$x_{c,t+h} = \alpha + \gamma_j \Delta_1 \mathbb{E}_t(g_{c,t+j}) + \beta_2 \mathbb{E}_t(y_t) + \beta_3 \mathbf{X}_{c,t}^* + f_c + \epsilon_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

The control \mathbf{X}_t^* is a vector of lagged and contemporary macroeconomic variables which allow us to control for standard business cycle dynamics

- ▶ The control \mathbf{X}_t^* includes the contemporaneous 10-year real rate, the one-year change in the 10-year real rate and one-year stock market return up to the forecast date; the one-year lag of GDP growth, investment growth, inflation, and stock market return; the change in GDP growth and investment growth from $t - 2$ to $t - 1$ and $t - 3$ to $t - 2$; the two-year lag of inflation and the stock market return; and the $t - 2$ to $t - 1$ and $t - 3$ to $t - 2$ change in the country's 10-year real interest rate.
- ▶ The 10-year real rate comes from subtracting cumulative 10-year inflation expectations from the country's 10-year nominal rate in the OECD database
- ▶ The variable $\mathbb{E}_t(y_t)$ is the current-year forecast of the dependent variable $\mathbb{E}_t(y_t)$. Controlling for the current-year forecast is used to control for the fact that if the forecast revision is measured in the middle of the year, there is information about current-year economic conditions that is not controlled for by our other lagged controls.
- ▶ Sample with all controls available is 21 countries

In the US, long-term expectations are the stronger predictor [▶ back](#)

	Return Horizon			
	1-year	3-year	5-year	1y4y
2-year avg GDP growth	−0.33*** [13.5%]	−0.21* [3.7%]	−0.19 [3.2%]	−0.14 [1.7%]
10-year avg GDP growth	−0.33*** [14.2%]	−0.33*** [14.1%]	−0.23** [6.6%]	−0.13 [2.1%]
6-10 year avg GDP growth	−0.26*** [10.5%]	−0.39*** [23.8%]	−0.27*** [11.3%]	−0.17** [4.7%]

Notes: R^2 in square brackets. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Across 34 countries, short-term expectations are the better predictor

[▶ back](#)

	Return Horizon			
	1-year	3-year	5-year	1y4y
2-year avg GDP growth	-0.30*** [9.4%]	-0.14 [1.4%]	-0.22*** [3.8%]	-0.03 [0.1%]
10-year avg GDP growth	-0.31*** [6.9%]	-0.13 [1.1%]	-0.14** [1.5%]	0.08 [0.5%]
6-10 year avg GDP growth	-0.15* [1.5%]	-0.10 [0.7%]	-0.04 [0.1%]	0.12 [1.1%]