

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817159303321
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Titolo	Accounting for Global Dispersion of Current Accounts // Jaewoo Lee, Yongsung Chang, Sun-Bin Kim
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2009
ISBN	1-4623-9409-4 1-4527-3895-5 1-282-84463-6 1-4518-7421-9 9786612844638
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	33 p. : ill
Collana	IMF Working Papers
Altri autori (Persone)	ChangYongsung KimSun-Bin
Disciplina	332.152
Soggetti	Accounting Deficit financing Exports and Imports Current Account Adjustment Short-term Capital Movements International Investment Long-term Capital Movements Empirical Studies of Trade International economics Current account Foreign assets Trade balance Current account balance Current account imbalances Balance of payments Investments, Foreign Balance of trade United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references.

Nota di contenuto

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Sommario/riassunto

We undertake a quantitative analysis of the dispersion of current accounts in an open economy version of incomplete insurance model, incorporating important market frictions in trade and financial flows. Calibrated with conventional parameter values, the stochastic stationary equilibrium of the model with limited borrowing can account for about two-thirds of the global dispersion of current accounts. The easing of financial frictions can explain nearly all changes in the current account dispersion in the past four decades whereas the easing of trade frictions has almost no impact on the current account dispersion.