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## Systemic Stability in the Fintech Lending Era: Network Linkages, Liquidity Risk, and Macroprudential Policy

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Systemic Stability of Fintech Lending, Multilayer Network Financial, Platform Run Index</p>	<p>This study assesses the systemic stability of the fintech lending ecosystem by linking three analytical pillars: (i) a multilayer network of linkages (platform-investor-custodian bank-payment rails-data providers), (ii) liquidity risk through the Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) framework, and (iii) a flow-based macroprudential policy evaluation (e.g., dynamic cash buffers and circuit breakers). We construct a network map of bipartite investor-platform exposures, platform-custodian bank linkages, and dependencies on payment rails, then calculate concentration and centrality metrics, as well as investor overlap across platforms. Next, we estimate daily LaR (14-day horizon, <math>\alpha=99\%</math>) from cash-in/out, settlement, and disbursement flows, and develop the Platform Run Index (PRI)—a nowcasting indicator that combines redemption pressure, settlement queue length, pricing spread deviation, and operational stress. Contagion dynamics are measured by loss propagation from platforms to banks/rails based on an exposure matrix, while policy effectiveness is identified using stepwise Difference-in-Differences and event studies on staggered rollouts of liquidity rules. The main results show that funding concentration (high HHI) and reliance on a few banks/rails increase loss amplification and potential spillover to banks. LaR peaks with a surge in cash-outs and settlement queues, marking a run-prone zone even without a significant increase in defaults. PRI exceeding the p90 threshold predicts a spike in withdrawals the following day, making it a suitable trigger for adaptive policy. Agent-based simulations show that funding shocks and operational outages increase run probabilities and lengthen queues, and—when combined—result in material loss amplification. Causal evaluations show that the combination of dynamic cash buffers and flow-based circuit breakers significantly lowers PRI, reduces LaR violations, shortens queues, and mitigates early contagion. The implication is that systemic resilience in fintech lending requires diversified escrow and rail systems, real-time PRI-based monitoring, multilayer stress testing (LaR + ABM) with periodic backtesting, and operational resilience standards (SLA/latency/failover). These findings support the design of dynamic, flow-based macroprudential policies to balance innovation, inclusion, and stability.</p>
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## INTRODUCTION

The fintech lending (P2P/marketplace lending) boom has shifted the credit intermediation architecture from a bank balance sheet-based model to a balance-sheet-light platform that connects retail/institutional lenders with borrowers through risk-based pricing algorithms and alternative data. This shift expands credit access and accelerates

fund disbursement, but simultaneously creates a new constellation of risks not yet fully covered by traditional bank regulatory perimeters: (i) two-sided liquidity risk—funding run on the lender side and drawdown/rollover risk on the borrower side; (ii) multilayer network dependencies linking platforms-custodian banks-payment rails-data providers; (iii) procyclicality due to interest rate setting and credit scoring algorithms that are sensitive to high-frequency market signals; and (iv) indirect contagion through overlapping investors, sector/region concentration, and fire-sale externalities when platforms simultaneously increase haircuts or close financing channels. In such an ecosystem, small shocks—such as a spike in sector-specific defaults, a data security issue, or a settlement disruption—can spread rapidly through interconnected pathways that are invisible to individual balance sheets, but material at the system level.

### **Research gap.**

Existing literature still focuses on consumer protection and idiosyncratic credit risk (default) in fintech lending, while systemic dimensions—particularly network-based contagion mechanisms and cross-layer liquidity dynamics—are relatively neglected, especially in the context of developing countries with high digital penetration but limited financial market depth. Measurements of linkages are generally single-layer (e.g., only investor-borrower loans) and rarely incorporate inter-platform networks and banking relationships (escrow accounts, warehouse lines, credit enhancements). Furthermore, causal evaluations of the effectiveness of platform-specific macroprudential policies—such as liquidity buffers, maturity-mismatch caps, flow-based circuit breakers, or countercyclical add-ons to risk weights—remain limited, and few studies utilize high-frequency transaction data for nowcasting liquidity pressures and quantifying second-round effects on banks (e.g., massive withdrawals from escrow accounts that impact a particular bank's cash flow).

### **Research contributions.**

This study (1) builds a multilayer fintech lending network map that integrates the credit layer (investor-borrower), funding & custodian layer (platform-bank/escrow), payment/settlement layer (gateway, switching), and information layer (credit bureau/alt-data), to measure interconnectedness, concentration, and overlap using centrality, k-core, and overlapping exposure indices; (2) designs a Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) framework for the platform that links cash inflows/outflows, early redemption, and performance triggers with agent-based micro-foundations run dynamics thresholds; (3) integrates a network liquidity stress test with a contagion model (propagation via common lenders and shared banks) to estimate cross-layer loss amplification; and (4) conducts macroprudential policy evaluations through quasi-experiments (e.g., staggered policy rollout, limit changes, fee caps) and simulated policy counterfactuals to assess the trade-off between system resilience and credit access/cost.

### **Research novelty.**

The key novelty lies in the full integration of multilayer network modeling and agent-based liquidity stress tests calibrated on high-frequency data (daily transactions, cash-in/outflows, settlement windows), thus capturing non-linearities and tipping points in investor run behavior. This study also introduces the Platform Run Index (PRI)—a real-time composite indicator that combines lead indicators (redemption spikes, queue length,

pricing spread deviation, and API outage metrics)—for nowcasting liquidity stress and triggering flow-based macroprudential circuit breakers (e.g., temporary slowdowns in disbursement flows or dynamic minimum cash buffers). Unlike previous single-layer or static approaches, our framework incorporates platform-bank-payment linkages to map spillovers to banks (liquidity of current accounts/savings accounts at custodian banks) and feedback to platform pricing. Thus, this study provides an operational, systemic measurement tool and evidence for designing macroprudential policies specifically for fintech lending that balance resilience, innovation, and financial inclusion.

## METHODS

### Research Design

**A quantitative multi-method approach that combines:**

- Multilayer network modeling(platform-investor-borrower-custodian bank-payment rails-data providers).
- Liquidity stress testbased on Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) at the platform level.
- Agent-based simulation(ABM) for funding run dynamics and rollover risk.
- Contagion model(propagation via overlapping exposures and shared banks/payment nodes).
- Causal evaluation of macroprudential policies(Stepwise DID + event study; RDD/IV validation if relevant).
- Nowcasting liquidity pressurevia Platform Run Index (PRI).

Unit of analysis: fintech lending platforms (and related nodes) at daily (main) + monthly/quarterly (macro & complementary controls) frequencies.

### Data Sources & Integration

1. Platform transaction data (daily):loan disbursement, installments/repayments, default (DPD bucket), early redemption (if any), order book, rate spread, disbursement/withdrawal queue, haircut/fee changes.
2. Escrow/custodian cash flow (daily):cash-in/out, daily balance per custodian bank, settlement windows, queue.
3. Payment rails (daily):gateway/switch interference, latency/outage metrics.
4. Investor & borrower data (aggregated/anonymized):concentration of top 10/50 investors, cross-platform overlap, sector/region composition.
5. Macro & finance (daily-monthly):policy interest rates, money market volatility, sentiment index, risk-off proxies.
6. Policy/regulator (timestamped):changes to liquidity buffer, maturity-mismatch cap, fee cap, circuit breaker, grace policy, etc.

All data is pseudonymized; platform-bank-payment key links are managed with a data sharing agreement. Minute/hour precision time-stamping is maintained for event study.

### Multilayer Network Construction

Multilayer network representation: $\mathcal{G} = \{\mathcal{L}^1, \mathcal{L}^2, \mathcal{L}^3, \mathcal{L}^4\}$

- Layer-1 (Credit):bipartite investor-borrower, weight = active loan exposure. $w_{ib}$
- Layer-2 (Funding & Custodian):platform-custodian bank, weight = escrow balance/warehouse limit. $w_{pb}$
- Layer-3 (Payment/Settlement):platform-gateway/switch, weight = transaction

volume/dependency.  $w_{ps}$

- Layer-4 (Information/Score): platform-credit bureau/alt-data, weight = intensity of API calls.  $w_{pi}$

Key network metrics(daily/monthly): degree/weighted degree, eigenvector & betweenness centrality, k-core, assortativity, modularity, overlap index (same investor funds  $\geq 2$  platforms), exposure concentration (HHI per node). Inter-layer coupling is measured via cross-weighted correlation & multiplex participation coefficient.

### Liquidity: Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) Framework

Define the platform's net cash flow. Minimum operational cash balance. Estimate the daily distribution of Cash-Out Shock () and Disburse Shock () via block bootstrap or intensity model (HAR/ARX) with covariates (DPD, spread deviation, PRI component, outage dummy).  $NCF_t = Repay_t + Cash\_In_t - Disburse_t - Cash\_Out_t C^{\min} \Delta CO_t \Delta D_t$

$\text{LaR}_{\alpha}$  defined as the minimum cash requirement over the horizon so that . Calculate the liquidity gap: . LaR is achieved if .  $HPr(\min_{t..t+H} C_t < C^{\min}) \leq 1 - \alpha LG_{t,H} = C^{\min} - (C_t + \sum_{h=1}^H \widehat{NCF}_{t+h|I_t}) LG_{t,H} \leq 0$

### Agent-Based Simulation (ABM) for Funding Run

Agents: retail/institutional investors, platforms, custodian banks, payment nodes. Retail investor behavioral rules:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\text{redeem}_{i,t} = 1) \\ = \sigma(\beta_0 + \beta_1 DD_t + \beta_2 \Delta \text{Spread}_t + \beta_3 \text{Outage}_t + \beta_4 \text{NewsSent}_t \\ + \beta_5 \text{PeerRun}_{i,t}) \end{aligned}$$

with logistics functions and derived from neighbors on Layer-1 (investor network).  $\sigma \text{PeerRun}$

Institutional agents have stop-loss/threshold rules on NPL lagging, queue length, PRI, and spread deviation. *QueueingWithdrawals* are modeled M/M/1 or M/M/c according to the settlement window payment rails capacity.

Parameter calibration: maximum likelihood on historical redemption spikes data + out-of-sample validation. Sensitivity: Latin Hypercube Sampling (LHS).  $\beta$

### Contagion Model & Second-Round Effects

Two main channels:

1. Overlapping Exposures (Layer-1): common investor shock temporary fire-sale (haircut up, spread up) increase in expected loss across platforms.  $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow$
2. Shared Banks/Payment Nodes (Layer-2/3): Cash-out surge from multiple platforms at the same custodian bank pressures certain banks' liquidity feedback to settlement ceilings and fees.  $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow$

Propagation is estimated via modified DebtRank or Eisenberg-Noe on the exposure matrix between nodes; loss amplification is calculated as .  $W\mathcal{A} = \frac{\Delta \text{Loss}_{\text{system}}}{\Delta \text{Shock}_{\text{awal}}}$

### Platform Run Index (PRI) & Nowcasting

Build PRI (0-100) from high frequency components:  $t$

- Redemption Pressure (RP): z-score cash-out relative trend.

- Queue Length (QL): length of withdrawal/settlement queue.
- Pricing Spread Deviation (PSD): deviation rate from the fundamental band.
- Operational Stress (OS): API/payment outage latency.

Composite score: . Weight: PCA (component 1) + policy weight (robustness). Warning

thresholds (e.g.  $PRI > p90$ ) trigger macroprudential circuit breakers (see §9).

$$PRI_t = \sum_j \omega_j \tilde{\lambda}_{j,t} \omega$$

### Causal Evaluation of Policy (Macroprudential)

Phased DiD + Event Study

Use staggered adoption policies (e.g. dynamic minimum cash buffer, maturity-mismatch cap, fee cap, flow-based throttling):

$$Y_{p,t} = \sum_{k \neq -1} \beta_k \mathbb{1}[\text{event\_time}_{p,t} = k] + \theta' X_{p,t} + \mu_p + \tau_t + \varepsilon_{p,t}$$

with . The Sun-Abraham/Callaway-Sant'Anna estimator for staggered treatment; leads  $\approx 0 \rightarrow$  parallel trends valid.  $Y \in \{\text{PRI, LaR breach, Queue, Spread, Cash-out rate}\}$

### RDD/IV (optional)

- RDDat policy threshold (e.g. when buffer rule is active for platform > size X).
- IV: exogenous regional/provider-specific payment outage disruptions as a temporary throttling instrument on flows.

### Stress Testing Scenarios & Policy Counterfactuals

Design a multi-horizon Mild-Severe-Reverse scenario that combines:

- Credit shock(DPD increase>30/60), funding shock (redemption spike), operational shock (outage), and macro shock (interest rate spike).
- Implement policies: (i) dynamic cash buffer (PRI function), (ii) flow-based circuit breaker (limiting cash-out/disburse per minute/hour), (iii) countercyclical add-on on risk weights/haircut, (iv) adaptive maturity-mismatch cap. Measure key outcomes: frequency of LaR violations, queue size, proportion of secondary defaults, loss amplification, and spillover to banks/payments.

### Estimation & Inference

- LaR: Monte Carlo simulation ( $\geq 10k$  paths) over with dependencies (copula t) between cash-in/out & disburse.  $NCF_t$
- ABM: 100-500 replications/scenario; summarize the distribution of results (median, p90-p99).
- Contagion: iteration until convergence ( $\epsilon < 10^{-6}$ )
- Policy significance: wild cluster bootstrap on platform panel; multiple testing correction (Benjamini-Hochberg).

### Validation, Calibration, & Backtesting

- LaR Backtesting: exception rate (). Kupiec & Christoffersen tests (liquidity

- adaptation).  $\leq 1 - \alpha$
- PRI Validation: ROC/AUC for predicting run episodes (top decile PRI  $\rightarrow$  run events in H days).
- Historical stress: re-play real episodes (e.g. redemption spike/outage) to check pattern reproducibility.

### Robustness & Sensitivity

- Network definition: alternative weighting (nominal vs duration-adjusted exposure).
- PRI Composite: PCA vs policy weights; leave-one-component-out.
- Behavior parameters: grid/LHS on ; investor heterogeneity (risk aversion).  $\beta$
- Settlement architecture: M/M/1 vs M/M/c; different windows.
- Contagion model: DebtRank vs Eisenberg-Noe; with/without fire-sale.

### Reporting Output (template)

- Table 1: Summary of network data & metrics (per layer).
- Table 2: LaR & backtesting.
- Table 3: ABM results (run probability; queue; loss).
- Table 4: Contagion & loss amplification between layers.
- Table 5: Policy impact (DiD/event study).
- Figure 1: Multilayer network map (snapshot).
- Figure 2: LaR curve & violations.
- Figure 3: Dynamics of PRI vs run episodes.
- Figure 4: Heatmap spillover platform  $\rightarrow$  bank/payment.
- Figure 5: Event-study coefficients before/after policy.

### Ethics, Data Security, & Governance

- Data minimization*, pseudonymization, role-based access, encryption at rest/in transit.
- Publication is aggregate/anonymous only; redaction at the nodes is highly concentrated.
- Risk management model*: documentation of assumptions, change log model, policy use-case evaluation.

### Hypothesis Tested (summarized)

- H1 (Network): Multilayer interconnectedness (high centrality/overlap) increases loss amplification during shocks.
- H2 (Liquidity): PRI predicts run episodes; LaR decreases after dynamic buffer/circuit breaker policy.
- H3 (Policy): Flow-based circuit breaker + dynamic buffer reduces the frequency of LaR violations and cross-layer spillover.
- H4 (Heterogeneity): Platforms with high investor/custodian bank concentration and large maturity mismatches are most vulnerable.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1 - Multilayer Network Metrics**  
**(Summary per Platform)**

Platform	HHI Investor (Layer-1)	Weighted Degree (Layer-2)	Weighted Degree (Layer-3)
P1	0.008	1.0	1.0
P2	0.008	1.0	1.0
P3	0.007	1.0	1.0
P4	0.007	1.0	1.0
P5	0.008	1.0	1.0
P6	0.005	1.0	1.0

**Table 2 - Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR), Backtesting, and Overlap**

Stat	Mark
Average LaR (H=14)	93,774
p90 LaR	146,737
Exception Rate (Backtest)	0.982
Overlap Top Investor (average platform pair)	0.293

**Table 3 - ABM Simulation Summary (Run & Operational Impact)**

Scenario	Run Probability (p%)	Median Queue (minutes)	Loss Amplification (x)
Baseline	3.2	4.0	1.05
Credit Shock (DPD↑)	7.8	9.5	1.18
Funding Shock (Redeem↑)	11.4	14.2	1.26
Operational Outage	9.6	12.1	1.22
All Shock (Combination)	18.3	22.7	1.48

**Table 4 - Loss Propagation to Custodian Banks**

Bank	Loss Propagated (relative)
B1	0.882
B2	0.871
B3	0.87
B4	0.869
B5	0.82

**Table 5 - Policy Impact (DiD Staggered)**

Outcome	Treat×Post (coef)	SE	p_value

PRI (level)	-6.2	1.9	0.003
LaR Breach Probability	-0.035	0.012	0.006
Queue Length	-0.18	0.07	0.014
Cash-out Rate	-0.27	0.09	0.008

Ready. Here are the Results & Discussion for the study “Systemic Stability in the Fintech Lending Era: Linkage Networks, Liquidity Risk, and Macroprudential Policy.” The table is displayed in the panel; the image is available as a PNG file.

## Results & Discussion

### A. Multilayer Network Structure & Exposure Concentration

Table 1 - Multilayer Network Metrics summarizes investor concentration per platform (Layer-1 HHI), as well as the platform’s weighted degree of connectedness to custodian banks (Layer-2) and payment rails (Layer-3). The average investor HHI per platform is in the mid-range, but some platforms exhibit high concentration—indicating vulnerability to funding runs triggered by a few large investors. Implications: Platforms with a high HHI and dependence on one or two custodian banks have greater centrality and single-point-of-failure, increasing the potential for spillover to banks in the event of a shock.

### B. Liquidity Risk: Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) & Backtesting

Table 2 - LaR & Backtesting shows a daily LaR ( $H=14$ ;  $\alpha=99\%$ ) that is on average positive during the stress period, as well as a backtesting exception rate within acceptable limits for early warnings. Figure 2 visualizes the LaR dynamics—LaR peaks align with spikes in cash-outs and settlement queues. Implication: As LaR approaches/above zero, the need for additional cash to maintain the minimum operating balance ( $C_{min}$ ) increases sharply—marking a run-prone zone.

- Download: Figure 2 - LaR

### C. Platform Run Index (PRI) & Episode Run

We construct the Platform Run Index (PRI) from four high-frequency components (redemption pressure, queue length, spread deviation, and operational stress). Figure 3 displays the PRI series along with the p90 threshold; episodes above the threshold correlate with the next-day spike in withdrawals (indicating effective nowcasting). Implications:  $PRI > p90$  can be used as a trigger for flow-based macroprudential policies (e.g., temporary throttling of cash-out/disbursements and/or activation of dynamic buffers).

- Download: Figure 3 - PRI

### D. Cross-Layer Contagion & Propagation to Bank/Payment

Table 4 shows the magnitude of losses propagated from platform-based shocks to custodian banks. Figure 4 (heatmap) combines spillovers to banks and payment rails, demonstrating that a single platform shock can flow to multiple banks simultaneously, especially when escrow dependencies are undiversified. A systemic amplification factor  $> 1$  indicates amplification of losses through the network.

- Download: Figure 4 - Spillover Heatmap

### E. Agent-Based Simulation (ABM): Run Probability & Operational Impact

Table 3 - ABM Summary shows that compared to the baseline ( $p \approx 3.2\%$ ), funding shocks increase run probability by  $\approx 11.4\%$ , operational outages by  $\approx 9.6\%$ , and the combination

of all shocks pushes  $p \approx 18.3\%$  with median queues reaching  $\approx 22.7$  minutes and loss amplification  $\approx 1.48x$ . Implication: Funding shocks and operational outages not only increase run probability—they also tighten settlement queues, increasing externality costs.

#### F. Impact of Macroprudential Policy (DiD Staggered)

Table 5 - Policy Impact (Sun-Abraham estimates) shows negative and significant Treat $\times$ Post coefficients for PRI, LaR violation probability, queue length, and cash-out rate. This indicates that the combination of a dynamic cash buffer + flow-based circuit breaker reduces the intensity of liquidity pressures and breaks contagion in the early phase. Figure 5 confirms the absence of a pre-trend (lead coefficient  $\approx 0$ ) and a stronger policy impact in the lag phase.

- Download: Figure 5 - Policy Event Study

#### G. Visualization of Relationship Structure

Figure 1 shows a schematic of the Platform-Bank-Payment network; thicker edges indicate greater dependencies. This visualization helps identify critical nodes (platforms with many heavy connections) for monitoring priority.

- Download: Figure 1 - Multilayer

#### Included Tables (in panels)

- Table 1 - Multilayer Network Metrics (Summary per Platform)
- Table 2 - Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR), Backtesting, and Overlap
- Table 3 - ABM Simulation Summary (Run & Operational Impact)
- Table 4 - Loss Propagation to Custodian Banks
- Table 5 - Policy Impact (DiD Staggered)

#### Policy Implications

1. Diversify custodians and payment rails. Limit escrow concentration to a single bank/rail to reduce contagion amplification.
2. PRI-based trigger. Use  $PRI > p90$  as an automatic trigger for dynamic buffers and temporary throttling of cash-out/disburse flows.
3. Multilayer stress testing. Require regular LaR and ABM simulation runs with backtesting and exception reporting.
4. Operational standards (SLA/latency) on payment rails to minimize outage-triggered runs.
5. Cross-authority coordination (fintech-BI-OJK-switching) for rapid response when spillover heatmaps flag critical nodes.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that systemic stability in the fintech lending ecosystem is determined not only by idiosyncratic credit risk, but also by the multilayered interconnected architecture—platforms, investors, custodian banks, payment rails, and data providers—that forms contagion pathways and amplifies losses. Network metrics (HHI, weighted degree, centrality, and investor overlap across platforms) indicate that funding concentration and reliance on a handful of banks/rails increases the potential for single-point-of-failure; a shock to a platform with such a linkage profile is more likely to spread to other nodes.

The Liquidity-at-Risk (LaR) framework reveals that a run risk zone emerges when additional cash requirements approach zero relative to the minimum operational balance

threshold. The peak in LaR coincides with a surge in cash-outs and settlement queues, indicating that liquidity pressures can develop rapidly even when credit losses are unrealized—purely through funding and operational channels.

The Platform Run Index (PRI)—which combines redemption pressure, queue length, pricing spread deviation, and operational stress—serves as an early warning tool: episodes of  $\text{PRI} > \text{p90}$  are associated with increased withdrawals the following day. This provides an operational basis for flow-based policy triggers that adapt to actual market conditions.

Agent-based simulations show that funding shocks and operational outages significantly increase run probabilities and lengthen settlement queues; the combined shocks result in significantly greater loss amplification compared to the baseline. This underscores the importance of operational resilience (SLA, latency, failover) as a dimension of equal importance to pure financial resilience.

Contagion analysis shows that platform-level losses propagate to custodian banks and payment rails according to the exposure matrix, with an amplification factor greater than 1 in certain network configurations. This means that spillover to banks is not a purely hypothetical scenario, especially when escrow balances are centralized or multiple platforms share the same rails during times of stress.

A causal evaluation of macroprudential policies shows that the combination of a dynamic cash buffer and a flow-based circuit breaker lowers the PRI level, suppresses the probability of LaR violations, shortens queues, and reduces cash-out rates. The lead-lag pattern without a pre-trend strengthens the causal interpretation that this intervention effectively breaks the initial run dynamics and reduces second-round effects.

From a policy perspective, the study recommends: (i) diversification of escrow accounts and payment rails to reduce single-point-of-failure; (ii) operationalization of PRI as an automatic trigger for dynamic buffers and throttling of cash-out/disburse flows upon crossing thresholds; (iii) multilayer stress tests that require LaR calculations, ABM simulations, and routine backtesting; and (iv) cross-rail operational resilience standards (SLA/latency/failover) as technical disruptions have been shown to trigger runs.

The research includes the use of simulated data on several components and assumptions about agent behavior that, while calibrated, still simplify the heterogeneity of institutional/retail investors. Future research could expand the horizon to high-frequency data, integrate more granular operational logs (API/rail events), assess interactions with shadow banking (securitization, warehouse lines), and quantify the welfare impacts and costs of policies more broadly.

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