

# Exploring the Dynamic links between ICE BofA Yield Curves and First Bitcoin Capital Corp. Volatility using DECO-GARCH

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## Abstract

This paper examines the time-varying conditional correlations between FIRST BITCOIN CAP and ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon markets. We apply ten bivariate DECO-GARCH models in order to capture potential contagion effects between the markets for the period 2007-2020. Empirical results reveal contagion during the under investigation period regarding the ten bivariate models, showing potential volatility transmission channels among the markets. Findings have crucial implications for policymakers who provide regulations for the above derivative markets and for investors, who invest long-term into FIRST BITCOIN CAP.

**Key words:** DECO-GARCH, Bitcoin market, financial contagion, equicorrelations, zero coupon market.

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## INTRODUCTION

### We present the introduction as follows

The main objective of this paper is to investigate how the FIRST BITCOIN CAP volatility shapes the distribution of ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon market returns. We conduct this empirical study by using a multivariate DECO-GARCH model, which allows for the investigation of market interconnectedness, volatility transmission, and the dynamic correlation between market [1], as well as potential spillovers and contagion effects between markets.

This empirical study adds to the related literature by addressing the following questions, which are under-researched in the literature. Do Dynamic Conditional Correlations (DCCs) among those seemingly unrelated FIRST BITCOIN CAP and ten ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon markets exist? Are those DCCs volatile? How do those DCCs evolve over time? Are there contagion effects? Based on DCCs, do we observe interdependence?

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section two reviews the literature. Section three describes the model and the data. Section four analyzes the empirical results, while Section five gives concluding comments.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Since its introduction in 2009, Bitcoin is considered an alternative to mainstream currencies and has been called digital gold [2-6]. There is studies focus on Bitcoin volatility dynamics [7-12]. Other empirical studies investigate the spillover effects between Bitcoin and traditional financial assets [13-20]. Moreover, there are studies explore the interactions of Bitcoin derivative markets with other financial markets [21-25].

This paper addresses this literature gap by assessing to what extent FIRST BITCOIN CAP can have volatility spillover movements in the prices of ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon markets.

## METHODOLOGY

### Model description

First, we define conditional mean equation for the basic GARCH model:

$$y_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t, \text{ with } t = 1, \dots, T \quad (1)$$

where  $\mu$  is constant and  $\varepsilon_t$  is standardized residuals described as:

$$\varepsilon_t = \sqrt{h_t}u_t, \text{ where } \varepsilon_t \sim N(0, H_t) \text{ and } u_t \text{ are i. i. d.} \quad (2)$$

where  $u_t$  is standardized errors and  $h_t$  is conditional variance depending on  $h_t$  and  $\varepsilon_t$  for each market lagged one period, generated by the univariate GARCH(1,1) model [26]:

$$h_t = \omega + a\varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + bh_{t-1} \quad (3)$$

where  $\omega$  is constant,  $a$  and  $b$  are ARCH and GARCH effects.

The DECO model of Engle and Kelly [27] is defined as follows:

$$H_t = D_t R_t D_t \tag{4}$$

$$R_t = (1 - \rho_t) I_N + \rho_t J_{N \times N} \tag{5}$$

$$\rho_t = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{q_{ij,t}}{\sqrt{q_{ii,t} q_{jj,t}}} \tag{6}$$

And  $\rho_t$  is the equicorrelation, with  $q_{ij,t}$  being the  $i,j$ th element of  $Q_t$  given by:

$$Q_t = (1 - \alpha - \beta) \bar{Q} + \alpha u_{t-1} u_{t-1}' + \beta Q_{t-1}, \tag{7}$$

$u_{it} = \varepsilon_{it} \sqrt{h_{iit}}$ ,  $Q$  is the  $N \times N$  unconditional variance matrix of  $u_t$ , and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are nonnegative scalar parameters, satisfying  $\alpha + \beta < 1$ .  $I_N$  denotes the  $N$ -dimensional identity matrix and  $J_{N \times N}$  is an  $N \times N$  matrix of ones. Engle and Kelly [27] state that

$R_t^{-1}$  exists if  $\rho_t \neq 1$  and  $\rho_t \neq -1/(N - 1)$  and  $R_t$  is a positive definite if  $-\frac{1}{N-1} < \rho_t < 1$ .

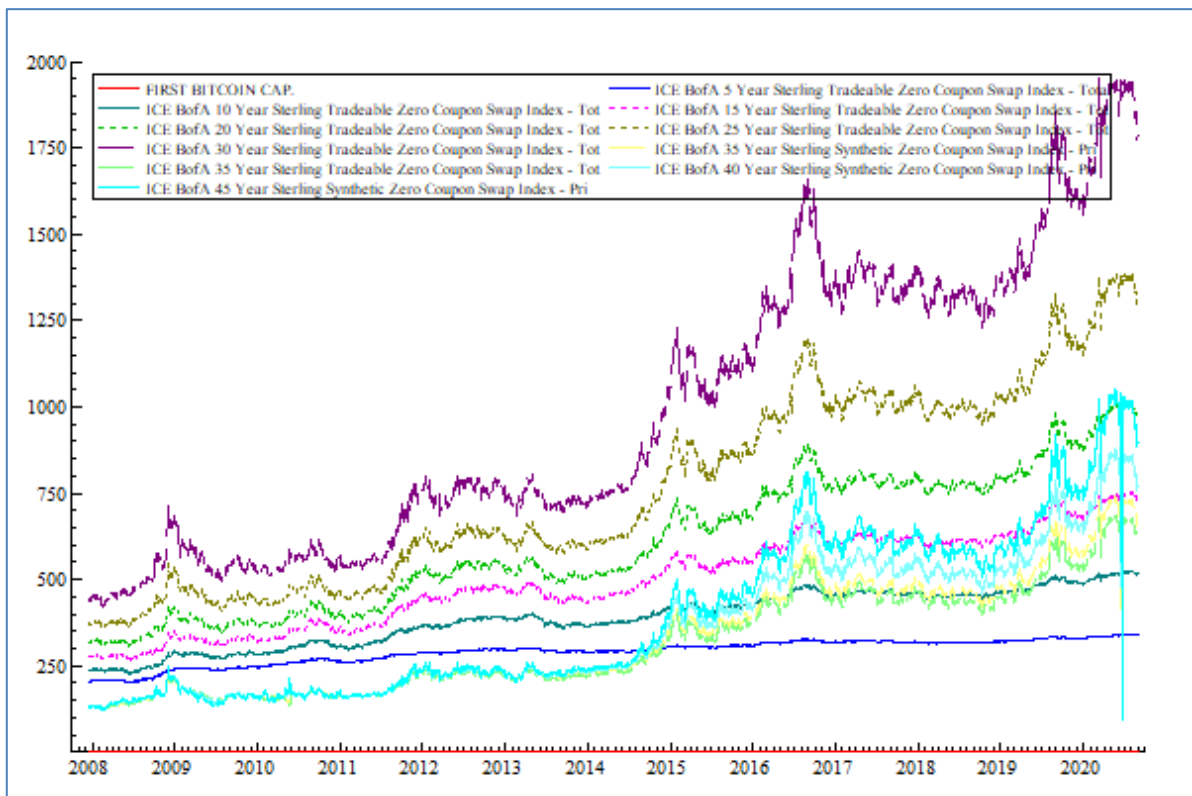
**Data description**

We use daily data for FIRST BITCOIN CAP., ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tota, ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 30 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index – Pri and ICE BofA 45 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index – Pri.

Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 30 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index – Pri, ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 40 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index – Pri and ICE BofA 45 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index – Pri. The study period runs from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 through 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. All prices have been extracted from Datastream® Database. For each market we use 2212 observations. We calculate the continuously compounded daily logarithmic returns by taking the difference in the logarithms of two consecutive prices.

Figure 1 displays the daily dynamic behaviour of the markets between 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. From this figure, we can see that all of the series exhibit an important variability. Interestingly, we observe that all markets are following a common upward trend during the period.

Figure 2 illustrates the return behaviour of the markets. Returns dynamics present sudden ups and downs indicating the existence of heteroskedasticity. To analyse the effects of sudden changes in returns and volatility, we use the DECO-GARCH process.



**Fig-1: Actual series of the markets**

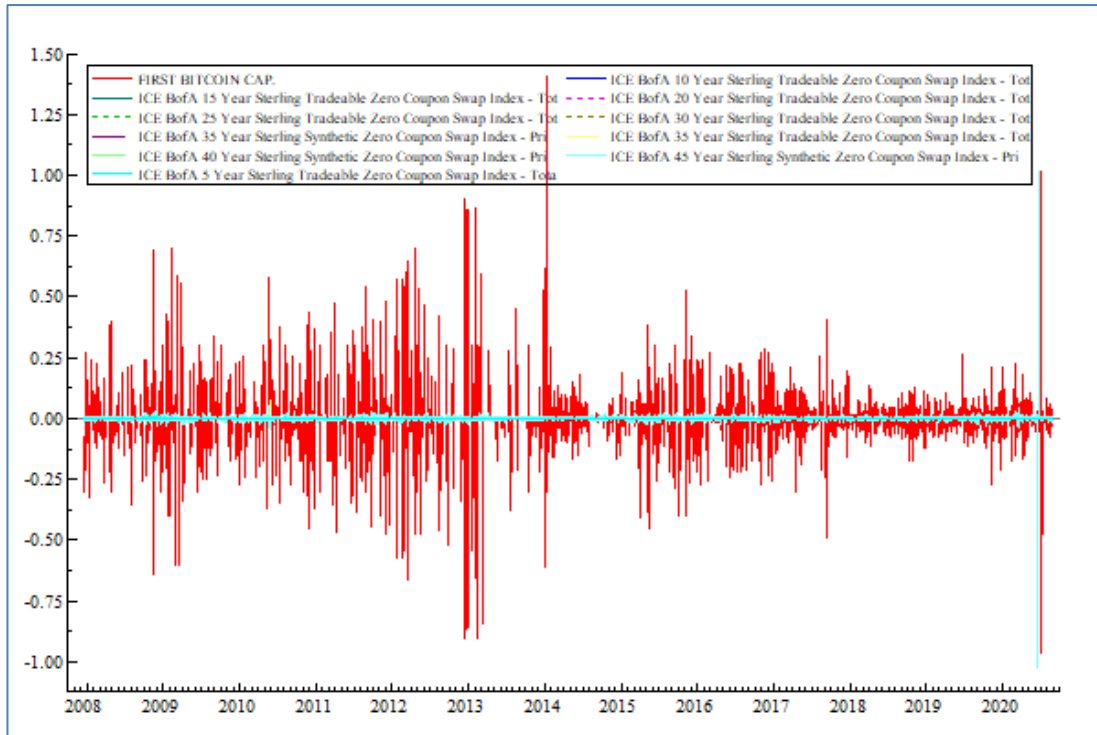


Fig-2: Actual series of the logarithmic returns of the markets

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section discusses the results of the estimation for the spillovers among the markets. It then analyses the dynamic equicorrelation results in order to extract important drawbacks.

**Results of the DECO-GARCH (1, 1) model**

Table 1 to 4 present the estimated of the GARCH (1, 1) process. The  $\mu$  is significant for ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tota, ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable

Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot and ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot. Looking at the conditional variance equation estimates, constant ( $\omega$ ) is significant for all markets except the case of ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tota. It is worth noting that the significance of the ARCH (a) and GARCH (b) terms indicates the appropriateness of the DECO-GARCH model.

Table-1: Estimates of univariate GARCH (1,1) model

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.	ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tota	ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
constant ( $\mu$ )	-0,001484	0,0001534***	0,0001857**
t-Statistic	-0,3360	3,671	2,449
p-Value	0,7370	0,0003	0,0145
constant ( $\omega$ )	4,636595*	0,014227	0,046613*
t-Statistic	1,472	0,7564	1,129
p-Value	0,1415	0,4497	0,2593
ARCH (a)	0,044181*	0,042732*	0,047095**
t-Statistic	1,876	1,567	2,341
p-Value	0,0610	0,1177	0,0195
GARCH (b)	0,921671***	0,948218***	0,944548***
t-Statistic	24,30	26,05	39,63
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000

**Table-2: Estimates of univariate GARCH (1,1) model**

	<b>ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot</b>	<b>ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot</b>	<b>ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot</b>
constant ( $\mu$ )	0,000197*	0,000184*	0,000153*
t-Statistic	1,891	1,468	1,057
p-Value	0,0590	0,1426	0,2909
constant ( $\omega$ )	0,142220*	0,300802*	0,477410*
t-Statistic	1,229	1,189	1,089
p-Value	0,2193	0,2348	0,2764
ARCH (a)	0,064121**	0,082059**	0,085272**
t-Statistic	2,331	2,163	2,064
p-Value	0,0200	0,0309	0,0394
GARCH (b)	0,923872***	0,901662***	0,894470***
t-Statistic	28,79	19,52	15,80
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000

**Table-3: Estimates of univariate GARCH (1, 1) model**

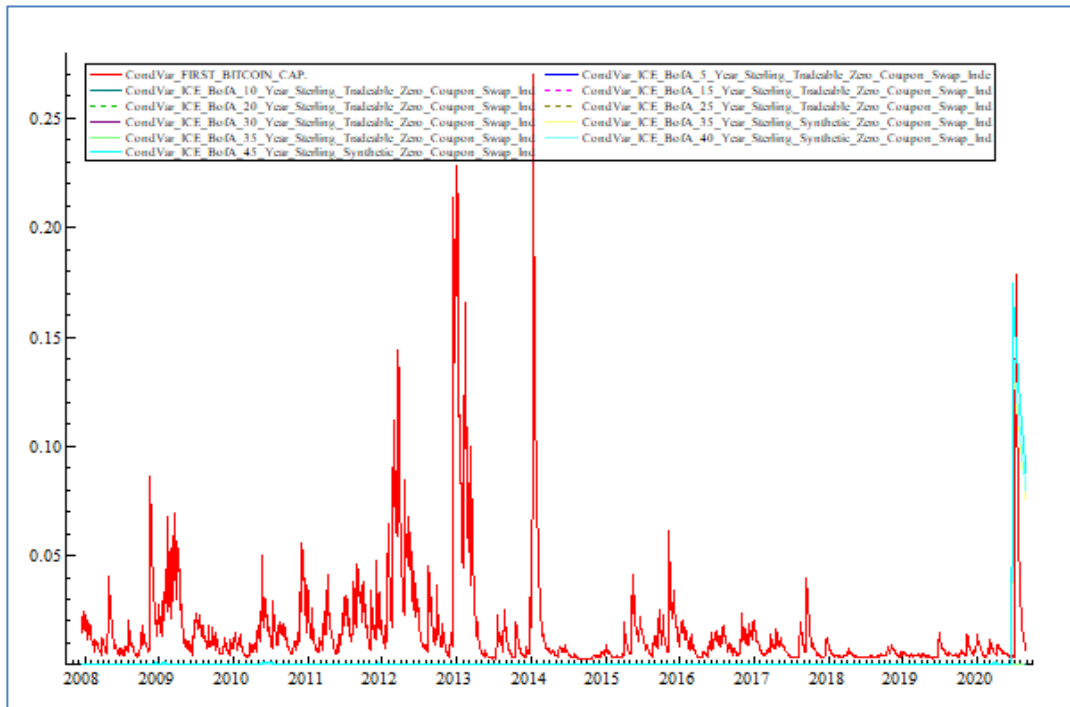
	<b>ICE BofA 30 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot</b>	<b>ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri</b>	<b>ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot</b>
constant ( $\mu$ )	0,000133	0,000107	0,000104
t-Statistic	0,7809	0,5335	0,5185
p-Value	0,4351	0,5938	0,6043
constant ( $\omega$ )	0,712933*	1,593138*	1,583579*
t-Statistic	1,005	1,438	1,448
p-Value	0,3153	0,1508	0,1481
ARCH (a)	0,087256*	0,146342***	0,145710***
t-Statistic	1,908	3,828	3,821
p-Value	0,0568	0,0001	0,0001
GARCH (b)	0,889503***	0,834125***	0,834892***
t-Statistic	13,42	25,35	25,69
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000

**Table-4: Estimates of univariate GARCH (1, 1) model**

	<b>ICE BofA 40 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri</b>	<b>ICE BofA 45 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri</b>
constant ( $\mu$ )	0,000134	0,000118
t-Statistic	0,5622	0,4240
p-Value	0,5742	0,6717
constant ( $\omega$ )	2,860192*	4,729412**
t-Statistic	1,191	2,184
p-Value	0,2341	0,0293
ARCH (a)	0,092205**	0,119953***
t-Statistic	2,177	3,908
p-Value	0,0298	0,0001
GARCH (b)	0,853310***	0,822254***
t-Statistic	10,26	18,38
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000

Figure 3 plots our conditional variance estimations. Findings present considerable time variation. More importantly, variances do not show a tendency to increase over time. In addition, we observe

periods of relatively low volatility. The time pattern of major economic crises in figures 1 and 2 is consistent with the results in figure 3.



**Fig-3: Conditional variances of the univariate GARCH (1,1) model**

The estimates of the bivariate DECO model summarized in tables 5 to 8 show significant average correlation except the cases of FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot, FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable

Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot and FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index – Tot. The DECO-GARCH estimates reveal significance of the parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , suggesting strong ARCH and GARCH effects and that the markets are potentially integrated. Furthermore, the estimates of the degrees of freedom ( $\nu$ ) and of the log-likelihood are stated.

**Table-5: Estimates of the bivariate DECO-GARCH (1, 1) model, degrees of freedom, log-likelihood**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
rho	-0,002859	0,001838	0,008989
t-Statistic	-0,08735	0,05416	0,2711
p-Value	0,9304	0,9568	0,7864
alpha ( $\alpha$ )	0,026574*	0,025709**	0,023206*
t-Statistic	1,685	2,009	1,766
p-Value	0,0925	0,0449	0,0778
beta ( $\beta$ )	0,814586***	0,850261***	0,852403***
t-Statistic	11,65	17,91	15,55
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
degrees of freedom (df)	3,170076***	3,328928***	3,372309***
t-Statistic	17,81	16,80	16,68
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
log-likelihood	4573,419	4128,958	3877,815

**Table-6: Estimates of the bivariate DECON-GARCH (1, 1) model, degrees of freedom, log-likelihood**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 30 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
rho	0,015834	0,026143	0,038563*
t-Statistic	0,4955	0,8479	1,317
p-Value	0,6204	0,3968	0,1882
alpha ( $\alpha$ )	0,019629*	0,016272*	0,010265*
t-Statistic	1,626	1,552	1,143
p-Value	0,1045	0,1211	0,2533
beta ( $\beta$ )	0,855940***	0,859460***	0,870001***
t-Statistic	15,27	14,78	14,73
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
degrees of freedom (df)	3,389212***	3,400766***	3,339197***
t-Statistic	16,31	16,08	16,47
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
log-likelihood	3724,189	3616,965	3520,235

**Table-7: Estimates of the bivariate DECO-GARCH (1, 1) model, degrees of freedom, log-likelihood**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
rho	0,035566*	0,033827*
t-Statistic	1,279	1,214
p-Value	0,2014	0,2250
alpha ( $\alpha$ )	0,010390*	0,010857*
t-Statistic	1,078	1,100
p-Value	0,2812	0,2719
beta ( $\beta$ )	0,844724***	0,840172***
t-Statistic	14,65	14,95
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
degrees of freedom (df)	3,114374***	3,117646***
t-Statistic	19,56	19,56
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
log-likelihood	3406,149	3404,890

**Table-8: Estimates of the bivariate DECO-GARCH (1, 1) model, degrees of freedom, log-likelihood**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 40 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 45 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri
rho	0,041495*	0,041098*
t-Statistic	1,437	1,446
p-Value	0,1511	0,1486
alpha ( $\alpha$ )	0,010665*	0,011491*
t-Statistic	1,209	1,225
p-Value	0,2269	0,2208
beta ( $\beta$ )	0,869917***	0,864466***
t-Statistic	16,56	18,44
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
degrees of freedom (df)	3,317324***	2,227857***
t-Statistic	16,82	209,6
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
log-likelihood	3290,714	15629,329

The diagnostic tests summarized in tables 9 to 12 show no evidence of misspecification in DECO-GARCH model. In fact,  $\chi^2(12)$  statistic results suggest the rejection of the null hypothesis of no spillovers at 1% significance level. Furthermore, Ljung-Box test

statistics [28, 29] for the standardized residuals and the squared standardized residuals show evidence of no serial autocorrelation. Moreover, the selected AIC and SIC information criteria are stated.



**Table-9: Diagnostic tests and information criteria**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 5 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 10 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 15 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
$\chi^2(4)$	583,31**	576,14**	580,91**
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
Hosking <sup>2</sup> (50)	204,287	222,097	229,738
p-Value	0,3646360	0,1154208	0,0605781
Li-McLeod <sup>2</sup> (50)	204,617	221,776	229,120
p-Value	0,3585681	0,1183559	0,0640347
Akaike	-12,514180	-11,294810	-10,605803
Schwarz	-12,438597	-11,219226	-10,530220

**Table -10: Diagnostic tests and information criteria**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 20 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 25 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 30 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
$\chi^2(4)$	582,90**	580,86**	586,87**
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000	0,0000
Hosking <sup>2</sup> (50)	229,616	219,046	220,971
p-Value	0,0612462	0,1455920	0,1259584
Li-McLeod <sup>2</sup> (50)	229,171	219,141	221,185
p-Value	0,0637395	0,1445738	0,1239035
Akaike	-10,184333	-9,890166	-9,62788
Schwarz	-10,108750	-9,814583	-9,54205

**Table-11: Diagnostic tests and information criteria**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 35 Year Sterling Tradeable Zero Coupon Swap Index - Tot
$\chi^2(4)$	809,62**	809,57**
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
Hosking <sup>2</sup> (50)	206,137	205,418
p-Value	0,3311230	0,3439831
Li-McLeod <sup>2</sup> (50)	207,026	206,326
p-Value	0,3155224	0,3277830
Akaike	-9,311795	-9,308339
Schwarz	-9,236212	-9,232756

**Table-12: Diagnostic tests and information criteria**

	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 40 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri	FIRST BITCOIN CAP.- ICE BofA 45 Year Sterling Synthetic Zero Coupon Swap Index - Pri
$\chi^2(4)$	590,68**	591,92**
p-Value	0,0000	0,0000
Hosking <sup>2</sup> (50)	227,455	227,598
p-Value	0,0741387	0,0732200
Li-McLeod <sup>2</sup> (50)	227,231	227,287
p-Value	0,0755868	0,0752231
Akaike	-8,995101	-8,601517
Schwarz	-8,919517	-8,525934

### Dynamic equicorrelation estimates

Figure 4 displays the dynamic equicorrelation for the estimated bivariate DECO-GARCH model. As shown in this figure, we observe positive time-varying equicorrelations for all the pairs of markets over the period 2007-2020. This result reveals that investor

should rebalance their portfolio choices. The presence of positive equicorrelations underscores the integration between the pairs of markets during the under investigation period. Graphically, we can identify the effects of major economic events by taking into consideration the picks and troughs i.e. (1) the Lehman

Brother bankruptcy (15/9/2008), (2) the USA presidential election (4/11/2008), (3) the Standard & Poor's credit rating agency downgrading of the credit

rating for the USA from AAA to AA+ (5/8/2011), and the Covid-19 pandemic (03/2020).

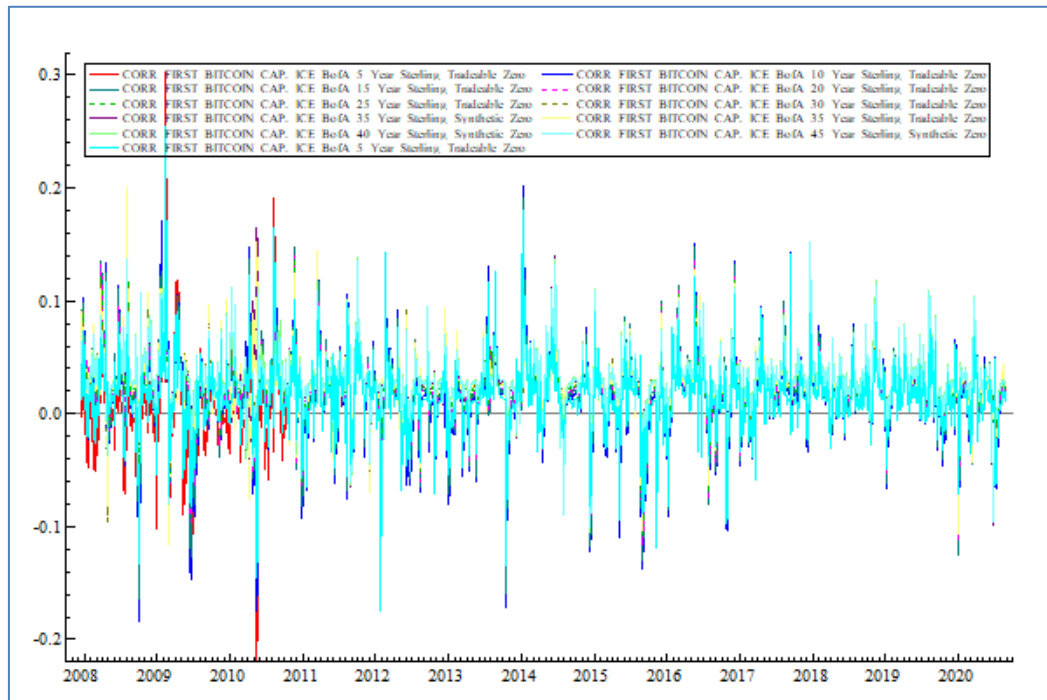


Fig-4: Dynamic equicorrelations of the bivariate DECO-GARCH (1,1) model

## CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper is to examine the volatility spillover effects between FIRST BITCOIN CAP and ten ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon markets. We used daily data for the period 2007 – 2020, which includes several major economic crises. We use the bivariate DECO-GARCH process. For comparison purposed, we estimate the equicorrelations. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time in the literature; an empirical study has analyzed the volatility dynamics among the FIRST BITCOIN CAP and ICE BofA Sterling Zero Coupon markets using the DECO-GARCH model.

Our results find significant spillover effects. More interestingly, the results show positive equicorrelation between all the pairs of markets during the period. The results have important implications for investors, portfolio managers and policy makers. Investors and portfolio managers should diversify their portfolios in bearish times when their investing is dealing with positive equicorrelation. Policy makers should re-examine the regulations of the under investigation derivate markets during future economic crises.

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