Are shorts restricted when options are an option? Evidence from SEC Rule 201

Rainer Brand¹, Matthias Molnar¹, Angel Tengulov²

¹Vienna University of Economics and Business

²The University of Kansas School of Business

September 23, 2023

Outline

Motivation

Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusions



Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

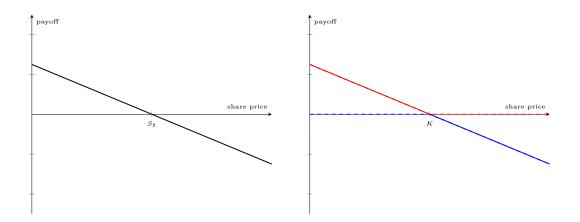
Results

Related Literature

Conclusion

- Currently in the US, short selling is regulated by a stock-specific, state contingent rule
- ▶ SEC Rule 201 "the alternative uptick rule"
- ► The objective of this rule
 - prevent excessive downward price pressure on securities
 - decrease volatility, promote liquidity
 - maintain market quality and investor confidence

Does the regulation work?



- ▶ During the 2008 short sale ban traders did not migrate to options markets
- ► Grundy, Lim, and Verwijmeren (2012), Beber and Pagano (2013)
- ► More recently, under the predecessor regulation, traders **do migrate** to options markets in the presence of short selling constrains
- ► Chen, Chen, and Chou (2020), Allen, Haas, Nowak, Pirovano, and Tengulov (2021)

- ▶ Do traders migrate to the options market to circumvent short selling restrictions?
- ▶ If they do, how does this affect market quality in the equity market and the corresponding options market?
- ► Is the current regulation effective in curbing short selling and maintaining market quality?
- ▶ In this paper, we investigate the effect of the current short selling Rule 201 on
 - short selling activity and options market activity
 - measures of market quality in the equity market and corresponding options market in the presence of trader migration

Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

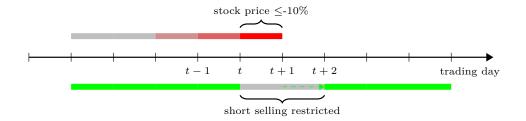
Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusion

The working mechanism of SEC Rule 201



Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusion

Hypotheses

- 1. SEC Rule 201 is triggered \Rightarrow short loan quantity decreases
- stocks with options ⇒ increase / no increase in put option open interest and trading volume
 - informed trader bypass restrictions by trading options
 - options market makers pass through increased hedging costs
- 3. stocks with options ⇒ lower decrease in short interest (compared to stocks without options)
 - options market makers hedge against increased put demand by shorting underlying
- 4. stocks with options ⇒ increase in call option open interest and trading volume
 - informed traders fully replicate short position, write call options
 - traders express views for potential price rebounds
- 5. stocks with options \Rightarrow increase / decrease in bid-ask spreads
 - less liquidity/competition increases equity bid-ask spreads
 - less adverse selection risk reduces equity bid-ask spreads
 - vice versa for options market makers



Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusion

Data Sources

- Data sources:
 - NYSE (Short Sale Circuit Breaker)
 - ► Nasdaq (Short Sale Circuit Breaker)
 - ► IHS Markit (Buyside Analytics Equities)
 - Option Metrics (Ivy DB US)
 - CRSP
- Sample period:
 - ► February 28, 2011 December 31, 2020 (Nasdaq listed stocks)
 - March 25, 2015 December 31, 2020 (NYSE listed stocks)
- Frequency:
 - daily





Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusion

Research design

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{Y}_{\textit{i},t} = \alpha + \boxed{\beta_{1}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{2} \textit{Option}_{\textit{i},t} + \boxed{\beta_{3}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} \times \textit{Option}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{4} \textit{Controls}_{\textit{i},t} + \textit{FE} + \varepsilon_{\textit{i},t} \\ \textit{Y}_{\textit{i},t} = \alpha + \boxed{\beta_{1}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{2} \textit{Controls}_{\textit{i},t} + \textit{FE} + \varepsilon_{\textit{i},t} \end{aligned}$$

- Controls: (similar to Grundy, Lim, and Verwijmeren 2012, Chen, Chen, and Chou 2020)
 - daily trading volume of stock (in millions)
 - daily stock return
 - CBOE Volatility index VIX
 - market capitalization of the firm
 - Amihud's illiquidity measure (Amihud 2002)
- ▶ Industry fixed effects (4 digit SIC-code), time fixed effects
- Standard errors are clustered by firm and year (Petersen 2009)



Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

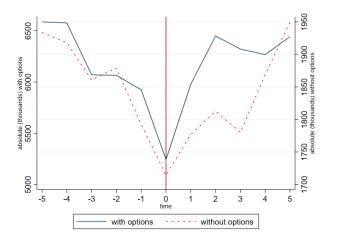
Methodology

Results

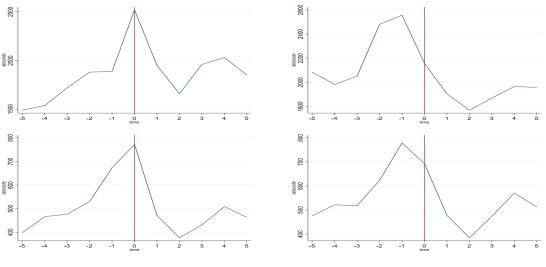
Related Literature

Conclusion

Short loan quantity around Rule 201 trigger events

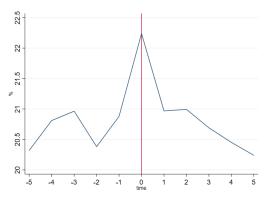


Option markets activity around Rule 201 trigger events



4□ > 4□ > 4 = > 4 = > = |= 40

Option bid-ask spreads around Rule 201 trigger events



\$2 \\ \frac{1}{25} \\ \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{1} \\ \frac{1}{1} \\ \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{3}{4} \\ \frac{1}{5} \\

Figure: Puts

Figure: Calls

Equity spreads, price dispersion around Rule 201 trigger events

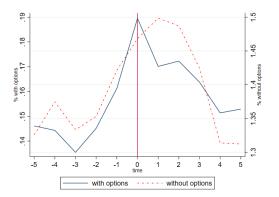


Figure: Equity bid-ask spread

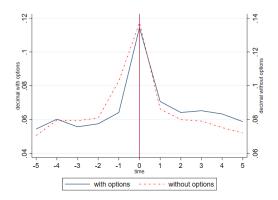


Figure: Equity price dispersion

Summary of the effects of SEC Rule 201

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{Y}_{\textit{i},t} = \alpha + \boxed{\beta_{1}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{2} \textit{Option}_{\textit{i},t} + \boxed{\beta_{3}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} \times \textit{Option}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{4} \textit{Controls}_{\textit{i},t} + \textit{FE} + \varepsilon_{\textit{i},t} \\ \textit{Y}_{\textit{i},t} = \alpha + \boxed{\beta_{1}} \textit{Trigger}_{\textit{i},t} + \beta_{2} \textit{Controls}_{\textit{i},t} + \textit{FE} + \varepsilon_{\textit{i},t} \end{aligned}$$

Stocks	w/o options	w options
Short Loan Quantity	-54.2%	-6.5%
Equity Bid-Ask Spread	+109.3%	+117%
Equity Price Dispersion	+184.2%	+142.4%

Options	Calls	Puts
Open Interest	+37.0%	+62.3%
Trading Volume	+62.9%	+24.7%
Option Bid-Ask Spread	+17.5%	+11.4%
IV Spread		+600%

Our interpretation of the effects of SEC Rule 201

when SEC Rule 201 becomes binding:

- short sellers migrate from the equity market to options markets
 - decrease in shorting activity
 - increase in options market activity
 - increase in demand pressure for put options
- option market makers increase their hedging activity
 - shorting activity decreases less for optionable stocks
- options market makers face an increase in adverse selection costs
 - increase in options bid-ask spread
- equity and options market quality deteriorates
 - disclosure of options positions in addition to equity short position could increase transparency

Contribution to the related literature on trader migration

- ► Grundy, Lim, and Verwijmeren (2012), Battalio and Schultz (2011) during the short sale ban 2008 put options did not emerge as substitutes for equity short sales
- ▶ Blau and Brough (2015), DeLisle, Lee, and Mauck (2016) short demand variables in equity and options market positively related
- ▶ Li, Zhao, and Zhong (2016) no change in option trading volume for designated pilot stocks (Reg SHO pilot program)
- Chen, Chen, and Chou (2020) put options did substitute for short selling during Reg SHO pilot program
- ▶ Allen, Haas, Nowak, Pirovano, and Tengulov (2021) short sellers migrated to the options market during 2021 meme stock short squeeze
- ► Hayunga, Lung, and Nishikawa (2010), Cakici, Goswami, and Tan (2018), Ni and Pan (2020) call-put parity violations are more frequent when short selling is restricted
- * large sample evidence for trader migration under current Rule 201

Contribution to the related literature on market quality

- ▶ Beber and Pagano (2013) 2008, 2009 short selling bans increased equity bid-ask spreads in 30 equity markets
- ▶ Boehmer, Jones, and Zhang (2013) significant increase in equity bid-ask spreads (for all but small stocks) during 2008 US short-sale ban
- ▶ Diether, Lee, and Werner (2009) suspension on short selling restrictions during Reg SHO pilot program increases equity bid-ask spreads for pilot stocks
- ▶ Jain, Jain, and McInish (2012), Barardehi et al. (2023) equity bid-ask spreads decrease for stocks that trigger Rule 201
- ► Crane et al. (2019) no clear impact of short selling restrictions on market quality in Hong Kong.
- * equity and options bid-ask spreads increase when Rule 201 becomes binding

Institutional Background

Hypotheses

Data

Methodology

Results

Related Literature

Conclusions

Conclusions

- we investigate the effect of Rule 201 on
 - short selling activity and market quality
- we document
 - decrease in equity short selling
 - increase in synthetic short selling
 - increase in option bid-ask spreads
 - increase in equity bid-ask spreads
- our findings are consistent with the conjecture that
 - informed short sellers migrate to the options market
 - adverse selection risk decreases for equity market makers
 - adverse selection risk (and hedging) increases for options market makers
 - disclosure requirements should include options positions (transparency)

Thank you!

References I

- Allen, Franklin, Marlene Haas, Eric Nowak, Matteo Pirovano, and Angel Tengulov. 2021. "Squeezing shorts through social media platforms." Swiss Finance Institute Research Paper, nos. 21-31.
- Amihud, Yakov. 2002. "Illiquidity and stock returns: cross-section and time-series effects." *Journal of Financial Markets* 5:31–56.
- Barardehi, Yashar H, Andrew Bird, Stephen A Karolyi, and Thomas Ruchti. 2023. "Are Short Selling Restrictions Effective?" Available at SSRN 3343797.
- Battalio, Robert, and Paul Schultz. 2011. "Regulatory uncertainty and market liquidity: The 2008 short sale ban's impact on equity option markets." *The Journal of Finance* 66 (6): 2013–2053.
- Beber, Alessandro, and Marco Pagano. 2013. "Short-selling bans around the world: Evidence from the 2007–09 crisis." *The Journal of Finance* 68 (1): 343–381.
- Blau, Benjamin M, and Tyler J Brough. 2015. "Are put-call ratios a substitute for short sales?" *Review of Derivatives Research* 18 (1): 51–73.

References II

- Boehmer, Ekkehart, Charles M Jones, and Xiaoyan Zhang. 2013. "Shackling short sellers: The 2008 shorting ban." *The Review of Financial Studies* 26 (6): 1363–1400.
- Cakici, Nusret, Gautam Goswami, and Sinan Tan. 2018. "Equity options during the shorting ban of 2008." *Journal of Risk and Financial Management* 11 (2): 17.
 - Chen, Yi-Wen, Sheng-Syan Chen, and Robin K. Chou. 2020. "Short-Sale Constraints and Options Trading: Evidence from Reg SHO" [in en]. Publisher: Cambridge University Press, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis* 55, no. 5 (August): 1555–1579.
 - Crane, Alan D, Kevin Crotty, Sébastien Michenaud, and Patricia Naranjo. 2019. "The causal effects of short-selling bans: Evidence from eligibility thresholds." *The Review of Asset Pricing Studies* 9 (1): 137–170.

References III

- DeLisle, R Jared, Bong Soo Lee, and Nathan Mauck. 2016. "The dynamic relation between options trading, short selling, and aggregate stock returns." *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting* 47 (3): 645–671.
- Diether, Karl B, Kuan-Hui Lee, and Ingrid M Werner. 2009. "Short-sale strategies and return predictability." *The Review of Financial Studies* 22 (2): 575–607.
- Grundy, Bruce D, Bryan Lim, and Patrick Verwijmeren. 2012. "Do option markets undo restrictions on short sales? Evidence from the 2008 short-sale ban." *Journal of Financial Economics* 106 (2): 331–348.
- Hayunga, Darren, Peter Lung, and Takeshi Nishikawa. 2010. "Option markets in the presence of divergence of opinions and a short-sale ban." *Unpublished Working Paper, University of Texas at Arlington.*
- Jain, Chinmay, Pankaj Jain, and Thomas H McInish. 2012. "Short selling: the impact of SEC rule 201 of 2010." *Financial Review* 47 (1): 37–64.

References IV

- Li, Yubin, Chen Zhao, and Zhaodong Zhong. 2016. "Migrate or not? The effects of regulation SHO on options trading activities." Review of Derivatives Research 19 (2): 113–146.
- - Lin, Tse-Chun, and Xiaolong Lu. 2016. "How do short-sale costs affect put options trading? Evidence from separating hedging and speculative shorting demands." Review of Finance 20 (5): 1911-1943.
- Ni, Sophie Xiaoyan, and Jun Pan. 2020. "Trading options and CDS on stocks under the short sale ban." Available at SSRN 1572462.
- Petersen, Mitchell A. 2009. "Estimating standard errors in finance panel data sets: Comparing approaches." Review of Financial Studies 22, no. 1 (January): 435–480. ISSN: 08939454. https://doi.org/10.1093/rfs/hhn053.
 - https://academic.oup.com/rfs/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/rfs/hhn053.

A brief history of short selling regulation in the US



Appendix

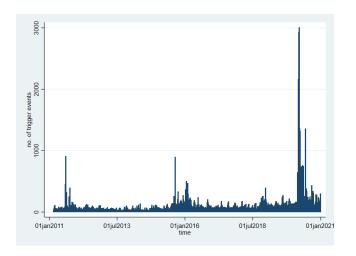
Data Filters: (Grundy, Lim, and Verwijmeren 2012, Lin and Lu 2016, Barardehi et al. 2023, Chen, Chen, and Chou 2020)

- exclude firms that
 - do not have data during whole sample period
 - changed listing venue
 - were involved in merger or acquisition
- exclude obs. with zero open interest / trading volume
- exclude obs. ask < bid</p>
- exclude obs. that violate no-arbitrage bound
 - $bid > \max[Ke^{-r_fT} S, 0]$
- ightharpoonup exclude obs. with $ask \leq 0$ and $bid \leq 0$
- exclude obs. with bid-ask spread > 0.5
- ightharpoonup exclude options with T > 365
- \triangleright exclude options with contract size $\neq 100$





Sample distribution of Rule 201 short halts through time



- $ightharpoonup \approx 250,000$ trigger events
- ► 3% of total observations
- $ightharpoonup \Rightarrow \approx 100 \text{ trigger events } / \text{ day}$

Sample construction

_	Option-Day Obs.	Δ	Unique Firms w/ Options	Δ	Unique Firms w/o Options	Δ
OptionMetrics - CRSP	320,275,096		3,237		10,412	
Option Filters		-247,147,317		-68		0
	73,127,779		3,169		10,412	
Shorthalt Data		-13,680,235		-25		0
	59,447,544		3,144		10,412	
IHS Markit		-17,534,940		-802		-3,435
	41,912,604		2,342		6,977	
Firm level aggregation		-34,016,892		0		0
	Firm-Day Obs.					
Final full sample	7,895,712		2,342		6977	

Sample summary statistics

		Full Sample		\	with Options			ithout Optio	ns
	Obs.	Mean	SD	Obs.	Mean	SD	Obs.	Mean	SD
Delta Open Interest (% Shares) Puts	2,032,157	.183	.490	2,032,157	.183	.490	_	_	-
Delta Open Interest (% Shares) Calls	2,260,733	.295	.690	2,260,733	.295	.690	-	-	-
Equity Price Dispersion	8,230,842	.037	.034	2,482,298	.033	.026	5,748,544	.038	.036
Illiquidity	8,230,486	0	0	2,482,297	0	0	5,748,189	0	0
Implied Volatility Spread	21,810,430	-0.001	0.031	21,810,430	-0.001	0.031	-	-	-
Open Interest (% Shares) Puts	2,032,256	.418	.686	2,032,256	.418	.686	-	-	-
Open Interest (% Shares) Calls	2,260,733	.566	.888	2,260,733	.566	.888	-	-	-
OVS Puts	2,032,157	1,993.519	11,855.65	2,032,157	1,993.519	11,855.65	-	-	-
OVS Calls	2,260,733	1674.672	5536.257	2,260,733	1674.672	5536.257	-	-	-
Relative Equity Spread	8,230,823	.524	.951	2,482,298	.100	.173	5,748,525	.708	1.082
Relative Option Spread Puts	2,032,157	19.191	7.913	2,032,256	19.191	7.913	-	-	-
Relative Option Spread Calls	2,260,733	20.664	9.735	2,260,733	20.664	9.735	-	-	-
Short Loan Quantity	8,212,714	2,439,335	6,535,491	2,476,307	4,582,952	8,852,205	5,736,407	1,513,973	4,948,10
Short Loan Quantity (% Shares)	8,212,572	2.656	4.690	2,476,307	3.963	5.533	5,736,265	2.091	4.150
Size (Market Cap)	8,230,842	4,800,526	1.48e + 07	2,482,298	1.24e + 07	2.40e + 07	5,748,544	1,524,143	5,345,29
Stock Return	8,230,507	0	.027	2,482,297	.001	.027	5,748,210	0	.028
Stock Trading Volume in Mio.	8,230,823	1.077	3.638	2,482,298	2.214	5.434	5,748,525	.586	2.325
Triggered	8,233,202	.03	.171	2,482,298	.021	.142	5,750,904	.034	.182
VIX	8,233,202	17.689	7.72	2,482,298	17.600	8.078	5,750,904	17.728	7.560

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on short loan quantity

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_1} Trigger_{i,t} + \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_2} Option_{i,t} + \beta_3 Trigger_{i,t} \times Option_{i,t} + \beta_4 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

-	(1)	(2)	(3)
VARIABLES	Short Quantity	Short Quantity	Short Quantity
Trigger	-0.404***	-0.831***	-0.780*** [-54.2%]
	(-11.590)	(-29.570)	(-27.642)
Option	0.823***	0.484***	0.551***
	(21.456)	(14.256)	(15.807)
$Trigger { imes} Option$	-0.256***	0.164***	0.162*** [-6.5%]
	(-5.826)	(4.523)	(4.579)
Constant	13.895***	13.835***	13.830***
	(357.424)	(475.153)	(608.687)
Observations	8,211,999	8,194,159	8,194,159
Adjusted R^2	0.566	0.689	0.697
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on put Δ -open interest as % of shares

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 Trigger_{i,t} + \beta_2 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)		
	Delta OI % Shares	Delta OI % Shares	Delta OI % Shares		
Trigger	0.125***	0.096***	0.114*** [+62.3%]		
	(6.419)	(6.277)	(6.720)		
Constant	0.193***	0.190***	0.180***		
,	(15.688)	(17.853)	(24.021)		
Observations	2,032,255	2,032,157	2,032,157		
Adjusted R^2	0.068	0.212	0.221		
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES		
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES		
Controls	YES	YES	YES		

► Moneyness/Maturity Splits

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on call Δ -open interest as % of shares

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 Trigger_{i,t} + \beta_2 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Delta OI % Shares	Delta OI % Shares	Delta OI % Shares
Trigger	0.097***	0.029	0.109*** [+37.0%]
	(2.759)	(0.968)	(4.097)
Constant	0.695***	0.684***	0.599***
	(24.299)	(29.322)	(35.176)
Observations	2,260,732	2,260,586	2,260,586
Adjusted R^2	0.137	0.318	0.340
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

Moneyness/Maturity Splits

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on put option trading volume

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 Trigger_{i,t} + \beta_2 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Put Volume	Put Volume	Put Volume
Trigger	542.897***	415.072***	492.918*** [+24.7%]
	(6.505)	(5.436)	(5.844)
Constant	418.074***	359.962***	348.611***
	(7.417)	(6.870)	(8.579)
Observations	2,032,255	2,032,157	2,032,157
Adjusted R^2	0.422	0.500	0.504
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

Moneyness/Maturity Splits

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on call option trading volume

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{Trigger}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \operatorname{Controls}_{i,t} + \operatorname{FE} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Call Volume	Call Volume	Call Volume
Trigger	977.442***	668.622***	1,053.123*** [+62.9%]
	(4.295)	(3.186)	(5.053)
Constant	694.283***	667.155***	641.538***
	(4.898)	(5.047)	(6.204)
Observations	2,260,732	2,260,586	2,260,586
Adjusted <i>R</i> ²	0.397	0.489	0.498
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

► Moneyness/Maturity Splits

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on put option bid-ask spreads

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{Trigger}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \operatorname{Controls}_{i,t} + \operatorname{FE} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)		
	Put Bid-Ask Spread	Put Bid-Ask Spread	Put Bid-Ask Spread		
Trigger	2.774***	2.400***	2.190*** [+11.4%]		
	(12.991)	(12.162)	(15.314)		
Constant	17.736***	17.853***	20.087***		
	(101.484)	(118.802)	(257.072)		
Observations	2,032,255	2,032,157	2,032,157		
Adjusted R^2	0.178	0.253	0.301		
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES		
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES		
Controls	YES	YES	YES		

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on call option bid-ask spreads

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{Trigger}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \operatorname{Controls}_{i,t} + \operatorname{FE} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Call Bid-Ask Spread	Call Bid-Ask Spread	Call Bid-Ask Spread
Trigger	4.316***	3.596***	3.608*** [+17.5%]
	(19.108)	(17.724)	(22.199)
Constant	17.776***	17.786***	21.536***
	(89.476)	(105.315)	(212.477)
Observations	2,260,732	2,260,586	2,260,586
Adjusted R^2	0.209	0.290	0.319
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on equity bid-ask spreads

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \frac{\beta_1}{1} Trigger_{i,t} + \frac{\beta_2}{2} Option_{i,t} + \beta_3 Trigger_{i,t} \times Option_{i,t} + \beta_4 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
VARIABLES	Equity Bid-Ask Spread	Equity Bid-Ask Spread	Equity Bid-Ask Spread
Trigger	0.905***	0.764***	0.774*** [+109.3%]
	(35.735)	(33.104)	(35.208)
Option	-0.088***	-0.144***	-0.134***
	(-9.726)	(-13.620)	(-11.948)
$Trigger { imes} Option$	-0.653***	-0.557***	-0.523*** [+117%]
	(-25.208)	(-21.612)	(-21.449)
Constant	-0.085***	-0.095***	0.076***
	(-6.175)	(-7.248)	(8.201)
Observations	8,230,467	8,212,574	8,212,574
Adjusted R^2	0.313	0.394	0.401
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on equity price dispersion

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_1} Trigger_{i,t} + \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_2} Option_{i,t} + \beta_3 Trigger_{i,t} \times Option_{i,t} + \beta_4 Controls_{i,t} + FE + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
VARIABLES	Equity Price Dispersion	Equity Price Dispersion	Equity Price Dispersion
Trigger	0.080***	0.072***	0.070*** [+184.2%]
	(103.185)	(93.677)	(112.910)
Option	-0.008***	-0.008***	-0.010***
	(-17.422)	(-20.000)	(-22.438)
$Trigger { imes} Option$	-0.017***	-0.012***	-0.013*** [+142.4%]
	(-11.957)	(-8.859)	(-11.719)
Constant	0.027***	0.026***	0.044***
	(37.744)	(37.533)	(134.146)
Observations	8,230,486	8,212,593	8,212,593
Adjusted R^2	0.297	0.403	0.422
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

The effect of SEC Rule 201 on implied volatility spread

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \operatorname{Trigger}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \operatorname{Controls}_{i,t} + \operatorname{FE} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)
VARIABLES	IV Spread	IV Spread	IV Spread
Trigger	0.012***	0.011***	0.006*** [+600%]
	(83.959)	(80.012)	(53.947)
Constant	0.000***	0.000***	-0.000**
	(7.118)	(8.872)	(-2.372)
Observations	21,810,430	21,810,406	21,810,406
Adjusted R-squared	0.011	0.039	0.151
Industry Fixed Effects	NO	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	NO	NO	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES

The effects of SEC Rule 201: additional robustness checks

- sample splits
 - NYSE, Nasdaq
 - option maturity and moneyness
- dependent variables:
 - short loan quantity, quantity on loan, value on loan, active utilisation
 - open interest, open interest/shares outstanding
 - put / call implied volatility
 - probability of put-call parity violations
 - iv-skew
 - different scaling of dependent variables

	M1/T1	M1/T2	M2/T1	M2/T2	M3/T1	M3/T2	M4/T1	M4/T2	M5/T1	M5/T2
Triggered	0.016***	0.003	0.029***	0.007***	0.081***	0.038***	0.014***	0.003*	0.026***	0.007***
	(3.483)	(1.566)	(8.703)	(4.398)	(8.040)	(5.647)	(8.350)	(1.866)	(7.033)	(2.892)
Constant	0.075***	0.026***	0.041***	0.024***	0.072***	0.049***	0.027***	0.023***	0.025***	0.014***
	(31.982)	(34.722)	(28.426)	(23.818)	(15.430)	(14.799)	(35.430)	(33.138)	(22.602)	(17.391)
Observations	1,510,791	958,628	501,936	467,222	409,017	368,696	1,021,856	1,012,503	850,441	758,622
Adjusted R ²	0.229	0.146	0.116	0.097	0.103	0.106	0.168	0.160	0.149	0.158
Industry Fixed Effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Table: The effect of Rule 201 on **Put** open interest as % of shares outstanding, moneyness/maturity splits



	M1/T1	M1/T2	M2/T1	M2/T2	M3/T1	M3/T2	M4/T1	M4/T2	M5/T1	M5/T2
Triggered	0.004	0.007**	0.017***	0.011***	0.054***	0.035***	0.017***	0.010***	0.065***	0.045***
	(0.598)	(2.194)	(4.645)	(3.989)	(5.344)	(5.350)	(6.268)	(4.121)	(7.946)	(8.413)
Constant	0.117***	0.046***	0.060***	0.039***	0.081***	0.052***	0.042***	0.036***	0.056***	0.048***
	(32.602)	(39.229)	(36.311)	(31.401)	(21.687)	(18.848)	(33.030)	(36.157)	(20.747)	(21.522)
Observations	1,667,157	1,232,530	723,803	716,133	633,147	593,231	990,622	1,184,602	781,284	860,270
Adjusted R ²	0.255	0.164	0.152	0.137	0.129	0.136	0.152	0.149	0.129	0.158
Industry Fixed Effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Time Fixed Effects	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Controls	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Table: The effect of Rule 201 on **Call** open interest as % of shares outstanding, moneyness/maturity splits

Results: Call Open Interest

	M1/T1	M1/T2	M2/T1	M2/T2	M3/T1	M3/T2	M4/T1	M4/T2	M5/T1	M5/T2
Triggered	454.106***	53.763**	138.854***	23.663**	142.182***	29.217***	363.230***	68.598**	313.825***	25.651***
	(2.614)	(2.041)	(4.847)	(2.292)	(5.210)	(3.943)	(6.403)	(2.521)	(6.826)	(5.245)
Constant	265.092***	34.808***	8.302	20.739***	14.918	33.525***	116.966***	51.474***	119.571***	42.449***
	(5.457)	(5.358)	(0.957)	(7.648)	(1.532)	(10.372)	(6.077)	(5.879)	(7.202)	(24.131)
Observations	1,617,025	976,702	506,801	471,391	412,338	371,400	1,223,968	1,093,490	1,081,353	867,803
Adjusted R ²	0.491	0.261	0.126	0.086	0.075	0.060	0.369	0.259	0.265	0.268
Industry Fixed Effects	YES	YES								
Time Fixed Effects	YES	YES								
Controls	YES	YES								

Table: The effect of Rule 201 on Put option trading volume, moneyness/maturity splits

◆ Results: Put Trading Volume

M1/T1	M1/T2	M2/T1	M2/T2	M3/T1	M3/T2	M4/T1	M4/T2	M5/T1	M5/T2
684.889**	95.473**	165.539***	46.845***	121.105***	16.040***	334.779***	109.938***	446.450***	136.936***
(2.371)	(2.462)	(5.990)	(4.057)	(5.925)	(9.766)	(3.348)	(2.584)	(4.921)	(5.053)
337.266***	47.859***	9.324	16.781***	18.636**	17.966***	87.474***	55.650***	99.243***	67.007***
(4.670)	(4.903)	(0.883)	(4.015)	(2.173)	(29.993)	(3.134)	(5.642)	(2.871)	(6.208)
1,667,157	1,232,530	723,803	716,133	633,147	593,231	990,622	1,184,602	781,284	860,270
0.507	0.308	0.236	0.112	0.094	0.236	0.337	0.267	0.250	0.212
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	(2.371) 337.266*** (4.670) 1,667,157 0.507 YES YES	684.889** 95.473** (2.371) (2.462) 337.266*** (4.7859*** (4.670) (4.903) 1,667,157 1,232,530 0.507 0.308 YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 0.507 0.308 0.236 YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) (4.057) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) (4.015) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 YES YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** 121.105*** (2.371) (2.462) (6.990) (4.057) (5.926) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** 18.636** (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) (4.015) (2.173) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 633,147 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 0.094 YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** 121.105*** 16.040*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) (4.057) (5.925) (9.766) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** 18.636** 17.966*** (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) (4.015) (2.173) (29.993) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 633,147 593,231 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 0.094 0.236 YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** 121.105*** 16.040*** 334.779*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) (4.057) (5.925) (9.766) (3.348) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** 18.636** 17.966*** 87.474*** (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) (4.015) (2.173) (29.993) (3.134) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 633,147 593,231 990,622 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 0.094 0.236 0.337 YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** 121.105*** 16.040*** 334.779*** 109.938*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) (4.057) (5.925) (9.766) (3.348) (2.584) 337.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** 18.636** 17.966*** 87.474*** 55.650*** (4.670) (4.903) (0.883) (4.015) (2.173) (29.993) (3.134) (5.642) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 633,147 593,231 990,622 1,184,602 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 0.094 0.236 0.337 0.267 YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES	684.889** 95.473** 165.539*** 46.845*** 121.105*** 16.040*** 334.779*** 109.938*** 446.450*** (2.371) (2.462) (5.990) (4.057) (5.925) (9.766) (3.348) (2.584) (4.921) 37.266*** 47.859*** 9.324 16.781*** 18.636** 17.966*** 87.474*** 55.650*** 99.243*** (4.670) (4.93) (0.883) (4.015) (2.173) (29.993) (3.134) (5.642) (2.871) 1,667,157 1,232,530 723,803 716,133 633,147 593,231 990,622 1,184,602 781,284 0.507 0.308 0.236 0.112 0.094 0.236 0.337 0.267 0.250 YES YES

Table: The effect of Rule 201 on Call option trading volume, moneyness/maturity splits