

TESTING TWIN DEFICITS HYPOTHESIS FOR EU-27 AND TURKEY: A PANEL GRANGER CAUSALITY APPROACH UNDER CROSS-SECTIONAL DEPENDENCE

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Abstract

Twin deficits hypothesis has been one of the most widely-applied phenomenon in the economics literature. In this study, the twin deficits hypothesis was tested for the EU-27 member states and Turkey with the data covering the 2002:Q1-2014:Q1 period. Unlike other studies, the twin deficits hypothesis was tested by using second generation panel causality tests that considered the cross-sectional dependence. According to the findings of this study, which used panel Granger causality tests suggested by Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoğlu-Kose (2011), there is statistically significant bidirectional causality between budget deficit (BD) and current account deficit (CAD) in the relevant period. It was found out a bidirectional causality between BD and CAD in sixteen of the twenty-eight countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Turkey and the UK) and a unidirectional causality from BD to CAD was also noticed in five EU countries (Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia). Nevertheless, the findings indicated that there is a unidirectional causality from CAD to BD in Hungary, Luxembourg and Malta but there is no causality between BD and CAD in Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden.

Keywords: budget deficit, current account deficit, twin deficits hypothesis, cross-sectional dependence, panel Granger causality.

JEL Classification: C33, F32, H62, 052

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1. Introduction

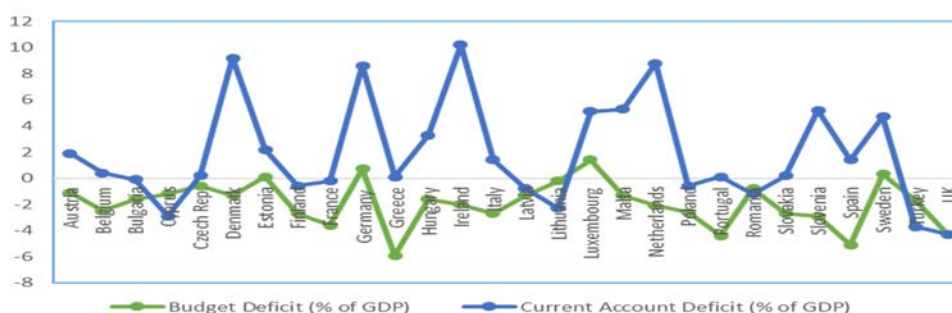
Recently, it was obvious that many developed and developing countries suffered deterioration in their budget deficits (*BD*) and current account deficits (*CAD*). Especially, the developments after global financial crisis have contributed to the linkage between *BD* and *CAD*. All these developments are important to show us that the “twin deficits hypothesis” is still popular in the economics literature.

What does “twin deficits hypothesis” mean? As it is widely acknowledged, the twin deficits hypothesis states that an increase in the *BD* causes an increase in the *CAD* (Constantinos and Emmanouil, 2011, p.45). Hence, the twin deficit problem refers to a state of an economy running both *BD* and *CAD*. The term twin deficits, also called as twin deficit anomaly or the double deficit hypothesis, was coined to describe the relationship between *BD* and *CAD* in the United States during the 1980s (Miller and Russek, 1989, Abell, 1990, Dewald and Ulan, 1990, Salvatore, 2006 and Deltoro, 2015). The linkage between *BD* and *CAD*, however, has been experienced not only by the USA but also by many European countries, as well as developing countries, emerging as a fundamental economic challenge.

When the twin deficits hypothesis is considered theoretically, it looks like an important macroeconomic problem. High budget deficits are seen as the main reason for the twin deficits hypothesis in the literature. The increase in the *BD* leads to *CAD*, which again leads to the creation of a new budget deficits. This is a good evident for understanding why twin deficits problem is like a spiral. Twin deficits problem which concerns both the domestic and external balance of countries, is still known as one of the important and current debates in the economics literature. The twin deficits hypothesis is explained under the traditional Keynesian approach in literature. According to the this approach, increases in *BD* lead to *CAD* and, consequently, twin deficits occur. On the other hand, the Ricardian approach states that there is no relationship between *BD* and *CAD*. This theoretical debates are discussed in the next chapter of the study. We think that it would be useful to look at the rates of *BD* and *CAD* for the EU-27 and Turkey because the study focuses on the twin deficits hypothesis. Figure 1 below shows *BD* and *CAD* data for the year 2015 in the selected sample country group.

Figure 1

BD and CAD Indicators for EU-27 and Turkey in 2015



Source: CBRT (2017), Eurostat (2017), and World Bank (2017).

Testing Twin Deficits Hypothesis for Eu-27 and Turkey

As shown in Figure 1, Greece, Spain, Portugal and the UK, in sequence, had the highest budget deficit. On the other hand, beginning from the top, Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden and Estonia ran the highest budget surplus. When we look at the countries in terms of CAD, Ireland, Denmark, Netherlands and Germany are the countries that have the highest current account surplus, but the UK, Turkey, Cyprus and Lithuania are the countries that have the highest current account deficits, respectively, in the relevant period. As can be understood from figure, the relationship between BD and CAD is striking. In this regard, the aim of the study is to investigate empirically whether there is an actual relationship between BD and CAD in the selected countries and - if the relationship indeed exists - to examine the direction of relationship in terms of countries.

There are many studies (e.g. Fleming, 1962, Mundell, 1963, Abell, 1990, Normandin, 1999, Salvatore, 2006, Corsetti and Müller, 2006, Kim and Roubini, 2008, Forte and Magazzino, 2013, Oktar and Yuksel, 2016) focusing on the linkage between BD and CAD and, hence, so many different results and interpretation have followed. Basically, conventional approaches (such as Keynesian and Mundell-Fleming Approaches) argue that there is a unidirectional causality from BD to CAD; on the other hand, as we mentioned above, the Ricardian approach does not accept any relationship between BD and CAD. Empirical studies on twin deficits hypothesis support both the conventional approaches and the Ricardian approach.

Within this context, the aim of this study is to test the twin deficits hypothesis for the EU-27 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom) and Turkey. Unlike the other studies, the twin deficits hypothesis was tested by using the second generation panel causality tests that consider cross-sectional dependence. If we do not take into account the cross-sectional dependence, we know that there will be biased and inconsistent empirical results. At the same time, we also checked the countries in terms of heterogeneity situation to make comments for each country. In this regard, it may be said that the study includes empirical findings which were predicted with new econometric methods. This situation can be considered both as a modest contribution to the literature and also as a significant difference in the study. However, the majority of the studies addressing the twin deficits hypothesis usually deal with a particular group of countries (e.g. the EU countries, the Emerging Countries, the Asian Countries, the Sub-Saharan countries, etc.). However, in this study we included Turkey in addition to the EU-27 countries and we performed analysis by taking into consideration 28 countries. We also aim to test the validity of twin deficits hypothesis for individual EU-27 countries and Turkey. Thereby, we will have the chance to classify the countries whether they have the twin deficits problem in their economies.

The study is organized as follows: Section 2, "Literature Review" provides the theoretical and empirical literature on the linkage between BD and CAD. Section 3 contains the "Empirical Analysis". Lastly, the interpretations and recommendations are included in the conclusions chapter.

2. Literature Review

From the theoretical and empirical point of view, many studies focus on the twin deficits hypothesis. This has contributed to the enrichment of the field and to the formation of different studies in the literature on this subject. According to Pelinescu and Caraiani (2010, p.76); the economic literature mentions that in the large countries, with open economies, the twin deficits may appear as a result of expansionary fiscal policies, the current account deficit being of 50% from the reduction of the budgetary revenues in GDP. In this part of the study, firstly the theoretical background about twin deficits hypothesis is briefed, and then the empirical studies on twin deficits hypothesis and their results are discussed. Table 1 shows the basics of the twin deficits hypothesis.

Table 1

Basics of Twin Deficits Hypothesis

Twin Deficits Hypothesis	Unidirectional Causality Traditional Approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynesian Approach • Mundell-Fleming Approach 	BD → CAD
Current account targeting	Unidirectional Causality	CAD → BD
Feedback Linkage	Bidirectional Causality	BD ↔ CAD
No linkage	Non-Causality Ricardian Approach	BD ↔ CAD

Source: *Sinicakova et al. (2017)*.

As one may see in Table 1, the Keynesian and the Mundell-Fleming approaches support the twin deficits hypothesis. Both of these approaches argue that there is a unidirectional relationship from BD to CAD and the direction of the causality is from BD to CAD. According to the Keynesian approach, an increase in BD will cause an increase in domestic income. When domestic income increases, it will encourage more imports and, eventually, will worsen the trade balance. That is how budget deficit and current account deficit become twins (Puah *et al.*, 2006, p.1).

Beside that, according to the Mundell-Fleming approach, under the assumption of floating exchange rates, an increase in BD causes an upward pressure on interest rates, thereby leading to more capital inputs and exchange rate appreciation, which results in a CAD increase (Chowdhury and Saleh, 2007, p.4, Asrafuzzaman and Gupta, 2013, p.2 and Chang and Hsu, 2009, p.4). Thus, this approach also accepts that there is a unidirectional causality from BD to CAD. In contrast to these approaches, the Ricardian approach states that no causality exists between BD and CAD and does not accept any effect of BD on CAD. According to the Ricardian approach, a taxcut or a reduction in public savings by the government do not influence the current account deficit, ruling out a potential relationship between BD and CAD. According to Albu and Pelinescu (2000, p.13), New Cambridge Group (Fetherston and Godley, 1978) has also an extreme view about twin deficits. This approach determines that private disposal income is equal to private consumption and investment expenditure. Therefore, the national income identity implies that a government budget deficit

must be matched by an equal current account deficit. This view is consistent with the Mundell-Fleming model under perfect capital mobility and floating exchange rates.

In addition to these theoretical approaches, “current account targeting” and “feedback linkage” in the literature accept that there is a rational linkage between BD and CAD under unidirectional causality and bidirectional causality, respectively. Current account targeting hypothesis acknowledges that a positive and significant relationship between BD and CAD leads to current account balance and defends in contrast to twin deficits hypothesis that the direction of the relationship is from CAD to BD. Another hypothesis about twin deficits is “feedback linkage”, which proposes that there is bidirectional causality between BD and CAD. Beside these theoretical approaches on the twin deficits hypothesis, the empirical literature is also extensive. Table 2 below displays a few of the conducted empirical studies.

Table 2

Empirical Literature on Twin Deficits Hypothesis

		Study	Country & Period	Method	Results
		Unidirectional Causality	Twin deficits hypothesis	Abell (1990)	United States 1979-1985
Kearney and Monadjemi (1990)	8 countries 1972-1987			Panel VAR	BD → CAD
Zietz and Pemberton (1990)	United States 1972-1987			Semi-reduced Form Models	BD → CAD
Dibooğlu (1997)	United States 1960-1994			VAR, Cointegration	BD → CAD
Salvatore (2006)	G7 1973-2005			Panel OLS	BD → CAD
Uysal and Topallı (2007)	Turkey 1974-2004			Johansen Cointegration, Granger Causality	BD → CAD
Bayrak and Esen (2012)	Turkey 1975-2010			Johansen Cointegration	BD → CAD
Forte and Magazzino (2013)	33 European Countries 1970-2010			GLS and GMM Analysis	BD → CAD
Akdoğan and Geldi (2013)	7 EU countries 2000-2011			Panel Cointegration	BD → CAD
Tosun <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Selected CEE Economies 1990-2013			Bounds Testing, Granger Causality	BD → CAD
Koçbulut and Altıntaş (2016)	OECD-20 1987-2012			Panel Cointegration	BD → CAD
Sinicakova <i>et al.</i> (2017)	EU-28 2000-2014			Panel Granger Analysis	BD → CAD
Current account	Anoruo and Ramchander (1998)			5 Developing Southeast Asian Economies 1957-1993	Panel VAR, Granger Causality

		Puah <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Malaysia 1970-2015	Toda-Yamamoto Causality	CAD → BD
		Çavdar (2011)	Turkey 1994-2008	Johansen Cointegration, Granger Causality	CAD → BD
		Magazzino (2012)	Italy 1970-2010	Johansen Cointegration, Granger Causality	CAD → BD
Bidirectional Causality	Feedback linkage	Darrat (1988)	United States 1960-1984	Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Islam (1998)	Brazil 1973-1991	Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Baharumshah <i>et al.</i> (2006)	9 Seacen Countries 1980-2001	Panel VAR, Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Mukhtar <i>et al.</i> (2007)	Pakistan 1975-2005	Johansen Cointegration, Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Pahlavani and Saleh (2009)	Philippines 1970-2005	Toda-Yamamoto Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Asrafuzzaman and Gupta (2013)	Bangladesh 1972-2012	VAR, Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Bolat <i>et al.</i> (2014) (results for 8 countries)	EU-27 2002Q1-2013Q4	Panel Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
Non-Causality	No linkage	Dewaldand Ulan (1990)	United States 1954-1987	OLS	BD ↔ CAD
		Kim and Roubini (2008)	United States 1972-2004	VAR	BD ↔ CAD
		Corsettiand Müller (2006)	US, UK, Australia, Canada 1979- 2005	Panel VAR	BD ↔ CAD
		Aristovnik and Djuric (2010)	EU Members & Candidates 1995- 2008	Panel OLS	BD ↔ CAD
		Üzümcü and Kanca (2013)	Turkey 1980-2012	OLS, Johansen Cointegration, Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Bolat <i>et al.</i> (2014) (results for 9 countries)	EU-27 2002Q1-2013Q4	Panel Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD
		Deltoro (2015)	10 European Countries 1970- 2011	Panel Granger Causality	BD ↔ CAD

As apparent in Table 2, there are many studies supporting the twin deficits hypothesis with findings showing a unidirectional causality from BD to CAD. Some of these studies (e.g. Abell, 1990, Diboğlu, 1997, Bayrakand Esen, 2012) test the twin deficits hypothesis by using time series analysis such as VAR analysis or Johansen co-integration method, while others (e.g. Kearney and Monadjemi, 1990, Salvatore, 2006, Forte and Magazzino, 2013, Sinicakova *et al.*, 2017) employed panel data methods to test twin deficits hypothesis and many of them confirmed the validity of twin deficits hypothesis.

Contrary to these empirical studies, it is possible to come across studies which suggest that the direction of causal relationship is from CAD to BD rather than from BD to CAD. Studies of Anoruo and Ramchander (1998), Puah *et al.* (2006), Çavdar (2011), Magazzino (2012) are only a few.

When we look at the studies that suggest bidirectional causality between BD and CAD, we may see that time series analysis were usually applied. The results of these country-based studies (e.g., Darrat, 1988, Islam, 1998, Baharrumshah *et al.*, 2006, Mukhtar *et al.*, 2007, Pahlavaniand Saleh, 2009 and Asrafuzzaman and Gupta, 2013) are significant to elaborate on the bidirectional relationship of BD and CAD.

Apart from all these studies, there are also many empirical studies showing no significant causality between BD and CAD. In this regard, Dewaldand Ulan (1990), Kim and Roubini (2003), Corsetti and Müller (2006), Aristovnik and Djuric (2010), Üzümcü and Kanca (2013) and Deltoro (2015) used time series and panel data analysis to test twin deficits hypothesis, but the results indicate that there is no causal relationship between BD and CAD. In addition to all these studies, Bolat *et al.* (2014) used bootstrap panel Granger causality test and found bidirectional causality relationship in 8 EU countries and no causality in 9 EU countries.

As we see in the literature review, there are not so many studies that consider cross-sectional dependence during empirical analysis for the EU and Turkey. On the other hand, it is also rare to find studies which take into account the heterogeneity of countries. When viewed from this aspect, it can be thought that our work is a new contribution to the literature for debating these considerations.

3. Empirical Analysis

In this section of the study, the relationship between BD and CAD was empirically analyzed. In this context, firstly data and model specification were defined and then the empirical methodology was introduced and the empirical findings of analysis were evaluated.

3.1. Data Set and Model Specification

In this study, budget deficit and current account deficit data for the period of 2002:Q1-2014:Q1 belonging to the EU-27 member states and Turkey were used. The data set was compiled from Eurostat, World Bank and Central Bank of Turkish Republic (CBRT) and the tests were conducted by Gauss and Matlab programs. We wanted to keep the period of the study longer, but we faced a problem with the data sets of some countries. Thus, we had to consider the 2002:Q1-2014:Q1 period due to such reasons. However, when determining the data set, we looked at the many sources and the reliability of the series was researched. Models used in the study are constructed as in the equations (1) and (2) below;

$$CAD = \beta_{0it} + \beta_{1it}BD + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

$$BD = \beta_{0it} + \beta_{1it}CAD + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (2)$$

In equations (1) and (2), i stands for countries ($i=1,2, \dots, 28$), t denotes time period ($t=2002:Q1, 2002:Q2, \dots, 2014:Q1$), CAD is current account deficits of countries, BD is budget deficits of countries, β_0 is constant term and ε_{it} is the error term. In the study, second generation panel Granger causality tests were used as the econometric method. Empirical methodology and findings are elaborated in the following section.

3.2. Empirical Methodology

In the empirical analysis of the study, firstly cross-sectional dependence was tested then panel unit root tests followed. Moon-Perron (2004) and Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) unit root tests were used to examine unit root of the series. Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) panel Granger causality tests were employed to investigate the causality relationship between BD and CAD in the course of causality analysis of the series that seem to be stationary. In this part of the study, we discussed the empirical methodology.

Testing Cross-sectional Dependence

In order to investigate the causal relationship between the variables in the research models, it is vital to examine the integration levels of the variables with the panel unit root tests. However, in order to determine the panel unit root test to be used, first of all cross-sectional dependence of the series or models should be tested. If the cross-sectional dependence in the panel is not taken into consideration, the estimation results will be biased and inconsistent (Pesaran, 2004). Cross-sectional dependence refers to the assumed linkage between cross-sections and indicates whether cross-sections are affected to the same extent by the shocks in the relevant series. Gradual expansion of globalization, high foreign trade volumes and levels of financial integration among countries have naturally contributed to a greater amount of interdependence between nations. So, this interdependence creates a chain reaction for an economic shock in one country to affect others. Therefore, second generation panel unit root tests should be chosen to have robust results under cross-sectional dependence as first generation panel unit root tests may lead to spurious results due to size distortion in the case of cross-sectional dependence. Breusch and Pagan (1980) suggest the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test, which is expressed by CD_{LM1} in the equation (3);

$$CD_{LM1} = T \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \hat{\rho}_{ij}^2 \quad (3)$$

In the CD_{LM1} test, the null hypothesis of no-cross sectional dependence ($H_0: Cov(u_{it}, u_{jt}) = 0$ for all t and $i \neq j$) is tested against the alternative hypothesis of the existence of cross-sectional dependence ($H_1: Cov(u_{it}, u_{jt}) \neq 0$ for at least one pair of $i \neq j$). In the LM test, $\hat{\rho}_{ij}$, is the sample estimate of the pair-wise correlation of the residuals from Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimation for each i^1 (Bolot *et al.*, 2014). The LM statistics is used to test cross-sectional dependence in the case of $T \rightarrow \infty$ and N is constant or in the case of $T > N$. The statistics has the asymptotic chi-square distribution feature in $N(N-1)/2$ degrees of freedom. It is important to note that if N increases, the effect of LM statistics will decrease. Pesaran (2004) suggests two separate tests with asymptotic standard normal distribution, such as CD_{LM2} for the case of $T > N$ and CD test for the case of $N > T$ to solve this problem. These tests are expressed as in the equations (4) and (5), respectively:

$${}^{11}\rho_{ij} = \rho_{ji} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_{ij} \varepsilon_{jt}}{(\sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_{ij}^2)^{1/2} (\sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_{jt}^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$CD_{LM2} = \left(\frac{1}{N(N-1)}\right)^{1/2} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N T \hat{\rho}_{ij}^2 - 1 \tag{4}$$

$$CD = \left(\frac{2T}{N(N-1)}\right)^{1/2} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \hat{\rho}_{ij} \tag{5}$$

However, in stationary dynamic panel data models, CD_{LM2} ve CD tests fail to reject the null hypothesis when the group average is zero but individual averages are different from zero. Pesaran and Yamagata (2008) proposed a bias-adjusted and modified LM statistic by using mean and variance of the LM statistic to avoid this problem. The bias-adjusted LM statistics is calculated as in the equation (6) below;

$$LM_{adj} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2T}{N(N-1)}\right)} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \hat{\rho}_{ij} \frac{(T-k)\hat{\rho}_{ij}^2 - \mu_{Tij}}{\sqrt{v_{Tij}^2}} \tag{6}$$

In this equation, μ_{Tij} and v_{Tij}^2 are the mean and the variance of $(T-k)\hat{\rho}_{ij}^2$, respectively, proposed by Pesaran and Yamagata (2008). When $T \rightarrow \infty$ and $N \rightarrow \infty$, LM_{adj} has the asymptotic standard normal distribution feature under the the null hypothesis of no-cross sectional dependence.

Testing Non-stationarity

Moon-Perron (2004) and Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) panel unit root tests were used to test stationarity in this study. Moon-Perron (2004) use an AR (1) model that takes into account common factors in error terms. The model can be simply expressed as follows in the equations (7) and (8);

$$y_{i,t} = (1 - \lambda_i)\mu_i + \lambda_i y_{i,t} + u_{i,t} \tag{7}$$

$$u_{i,t} = \delta_i' F_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{8}$$

where: F_t and δ_i' indicate $(k \times 1)$ number of common factor vectors and the coefficients of the vector of common factors respectively for $i=1, 2, \dots, N$ and $t=1, 2, \dots, T$. $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ is a cross-sectionally uncorrelated and idiosyncratic error term and it has infinite Moving Average (MA) process. The null hypothesis of unit root ($H_0: \lambda_i=1$ for $i=1, 2, \dots, N$) is tested against the alternative hypothesis of non-existence of unit root ($H_1: \lambda_i < 1$ for some i). The dataset is not defactored and panel unit root test is applied by this proposed defactored dataset. Moon-Perron (2004) consider common factors as a deviation and develop two separate t-statistics that have standard normal distribution and is based on pooled defactored dataset. These statistics are calculated as in the equations (9) and (10) below;

$$t_a^* = \frac{\sqrt{NT}(\hat{\lambda}^* - 1)}{\sqrt{\frac{2\hat{\varphi}_e^4}{\hat{\omega}_e^4}}}, \quad N, T \rightarrow \infty, N(0,1) \tag{9}$$

$$t_b^* = \sqrt{NT}(\hat{\lambda}^* - 1) \sqrt{\frac{1}{NT^2} \text{tr}(Y_{t-1} Q_{\Delta} Y'_{t-1}) \left(\frac{\hat{\omega}_e}{\hat{\varphi}_e^2}\right)}, \quad N, T \rightarrow \infty, N(0,1) \tag{10}$$

where: λ_i^* expresses the value of λ_i calculated with pooled OLS out of the defactored dataset. $\hat{\Phi}_e^4$ is the average of cross-section of $\hat{\omega}_e^4$. t_a^* and t_b^* statistics are based on the estimator of the projection matrix and the estimators of long-run variances of $\hat{\omega}_e^2$. The test assumes the application of common factor model in which k-unobserved number of idiosyncratic shock is added to error term. The number of common factors is estimated by the criteria of Bai and Ng (2004), in particular by the modified Bayesian Info Criteria (BIC3). This info criterion was chosen in the selection of common factor in this study as this info criterion performs better than the other info criteria according to Moon-Perron (2007). In addition to this, stationarity of the series are examined by Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) panel unit root test which considers cross-sectional dependence. This test allows autocorrelation problem and is applicable for both $T > N$ and $N > T$ cases. Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) unit root test is the panel version of KPSS test. In the test, the null hypothesis -series are stationary ($H_0: \phi_i(1) \neq 0$ for all i) - is tested against the alternative hypothesis - series are not stationary ($H_1: \phi_i(1) = 0$). Two separate test statistics, named Z_A^{SPC} and Z_A^{LA} are used for that. To calculate Z_A^{SPC} statistic, Monte Carlo simulations are employed as the statistic follows the seemingly unrelated regression calculation procedure. Besides that, this statistic is also taken into account in the case of cross-sectional dependence. The data generation process described in the equations (11) and (12) is followed to do the test.

$$y_{i,t} = z_t' \delta_i + F_t \gamma_i + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{11}$$

$$\varepsilon_{i,t} = \phi_{i1} \varepsilon_{i,t-1} + \dots + \phi_{ip} \varepsilon_{i,t-p} + v_{i,t} \tag{12}$$

In this equation, $z_t' \delta_i$ and F_t represent the deterministic unit effects and common factor vector, respectively. When the Z_A^{SPC} statistic is calculated, the autocorrelation problem can be solved with AR(p) process proposed by Sul *et al.* (2005). Likewise, for the calculation of Z_A^{LA} statistic, the autocorrelation problem can be solved using AR (p+1) processes proposed by Choi (1993) and Toda-Yamamoto (1995) and adding a lag to the model (Hadri-Kurozumi, 2012, p.32). First, the long-term variance is calculated; then, the calculations of the variances of SPC and LA follow. Thus, the statistics Z_A^{SPC} and Z_A^{LA} in the equations (13) and (14) are obtained;

$$Z_A^{SPC} = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_{iSPC}^2 T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T (S_{i,t}^w)^2 \tag{13}$$

$$Z_A^{LA} = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_{iLA}^2 T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T (S_{i,t}^w)^2 \tag{14}$$

Within the equations, $\hat{\sigma}_i^2$ is long-term variance estimator and $S_{it}^w = \sum_{s=1}^t \hat{\varepsilon}_{is}$ is error term of AR regressions derived from the estimation of by OLS and used to calculate the variance of SPC and LA. Both statistics have asymptotic standard normal distribution.

Testing Non-Granger Causality

The causality between variables was examined at both panel and country level by Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) panel causality tests in the study. Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) panel causality test is an advanced Granger (1969) causality test that can be applied to balanced and heterogeneous panels with or without cross-sectional dependence and may be used when $T > N$ or $N > T$. The test uses two separate HNC distributions: asymptotic and semi-asymptotic. The asymptotic distribution is used

when $T > N$ and semi-asymptotic distribution is used in the case where $N > T$. In the causality test, three separate statistics are calculated considering the following panel data model;

$$y_{i,t} = \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_i^{(k)} y_{i,t-k} + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_i^{(k)} x_{i,t-k} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{15}$$

In the equation, K , $\gamma_i^{(k)}$ and $\beta_i^{(k)}$ indicate lag length, autoregressive parameter and regression coefficient, respectively. It is assumed that these parameters are constant over time, but they may vary with reference to units. The null hypothesis of the test is that “there is no Granger causality from X to Y in all cross-sections”, while the alternative hypothesis is that “there is a Granger causality from X to Y in at least one cross-section”. Test hypotheses can be expressed as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} H_0: \beta_i &= 0; \quad \forall i: = 1, 2, \dots, N \text{ with } \beta_i = \beta_i^{(1)}, \dots, \beta_i^{(k)} \\ H_1: \beta_i &\neq 0; \quad \forall i: = 1, 2, \dots, N \\ \beta_i &\neq 0; \quad \forall i: = N_1 + 1, N_1 + 2, \dots, N \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Mean $W_{N,T}^{HNC}$ statistic used for testing the hypotheses is calculated as in the following equation;

$$\begin{aligned} W_{N,T}^{HNC} &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N W_{i,T} \\ W_{i,T} &= (T - 2K - 1) \left(\frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}_i \Phi_i \tilde{\varepsilon}_i}{\tilde{\varepsilon}_i M_i \tilde{\varepsilon}_i} \right), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

In the equation, $W_{i,T}$ is the mean Wald statistics calculated for the time dimension t of the cross-sections. Although individual Wald statistics approximate towards chi-square distribution in K -degrees of freedom, authors state that the mean Wald statistics converge to standard normal distribution when $T \rightarrow \infty$ or when $N \rightarrow \infty$. Asymptotic $Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$ and semi-asymptotic Z_N^{HNC} statistics generated by $W_{N,T}^{HNC}$ are shown as in equations (18) and (19);

$$Z_{N,T}^{HNC} = \sqrt{\frac{N}{2K}} (W_{N,T}^{HNC} - K); \quad T, N \rightarrow \infty N(0,1) \tag{18}$$

$$Z_N^{HNC} = \frac{\sqrt{N} [W_{N,T}^{HNC} - N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N E(W_{i,T})]}{\sqrt{N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N var(W_{i,T})}}; \quad N \rightarrow \infty N(0,1) \tag{19}$$

Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) panel Granger causality test is the panel version of Toda-Yamamoto’s Granger causality approach in time series. In this approach, it is possible to test panel causality under cross-sectional heterogeneity without having to check whether the series of units in the panel are co-integrated or non-stationary. As the critical values of panel statistics are obtained by Monte Carlo simulations, cross-sectional dependence is also taken into account in this test. First of all, a LA-VAR model - as stated in equation (20) - is estimated for each cross-section;

$$y_{i,t} = \mu_i + A_{1i} y_{i,t-1} + \dots + A_{pi} y_{i,t-pi} + \dots + A_{(p+d)i} y_{i,t-pi-di} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{20}$$

In equation (20), $y_{i,t}$, μ_i , pi and di are the vector of endogenous variables, p -dimensional unit effects vector, optimum lag and maximum cointegration level of variables, respectively. The null hypothesis of no Granger causality from X to Y is tested against the alternative

hypothesis of a Granger causality from X to Y. The individual Wald statistics have an asymptotic chi-square distribution in p-degrees of freedom. The significance level of individual Wald statistics (ρ_i) is combined as in equation (21) by using Fisher (1932)'s meta analysis and heterogeneous panel group test statistics (panel Fisher statistics) are obtained.

$$\lambda = -2 \sum_{i=1}^N \ln(\rho_i) \tag{21}$$

Fisher's statistic has asymptotic chi-square distribution at 2N degrees of freedom. But this distribution loses its validity in the case of cross-sectional dependence. Hence, Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) proposes that critical values should be found by Monte Carlo simulations. If the calculated statistics are greater than critical values obtained with simulations, the null hypothesis of no Granger causality will be rejected.

3.3 Empirical Findings and Discussions

Cross-sectional dependence test results are reported in Table 3. According to the findings, null hypothesis is rejected in both all series and also the two models at 1% significance level. That is to say, a shock to the budget deficit or current account deficit of any country in the panel affects other countries as expected. This result also signifies that stationarity of the series should be examined with the help of second generation panel unit root tests which take into consideration cross-sectional dependence and second generation panel causality tests - also regarding cross-sectional dependence - should be conducted to avoid biased and inconsistent results.

Table 3

Cross-sectional Dependence Tests Results

Test	CD _{LM1}	CD _{LM2}	CD	LM _{adj}
BD	2266.7*	68.6*	68.4*	26.7*
CAD	2695.0*	84.2*	83.9*	16.7*
$\langle CAD BD \rangle$	2437.3*	74.8*	18.5*	94.3*
$\langle BD CAD \rangle$	2021.6*	59.7*	24.6*	83.4*

Note: * indicates significance at 1% level.

Table 4 shows the Moon-Perron (2004), Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) panel unit root test results. According to the findings of t_a^* ve t_b^* test statistics in the Moon-Perron (2004) unit root test, the null hypothesis is rejected for BD and CAD series at 1% significance level. The results indicate that the series are stationary. Nevertheless, according to Hadri-Kurozumi (2012) panel unit root test results, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected for both series and it is concluded that the series (BD and CAD) are stationary.

Table 4

Moon-Perron and Hadri-Kurozumi Panel Unit Root Test Results for BD and CAD

	Moon-Perron (2004)				Hadri-Kurozumi (2012)			
	t_a^*	Prob.	t_b^*	Prob.	Z_A^{SPC}	Prob.	Z_A^{LA}	Prob.
BD	-15.772*	0.000	-9.927*	0.000	0.976	0.164	1.407	0.074
CAD	-7.808*	0.000	-4.982*	0.000	-0.322	0.122	1.070	0.142

Note: * indicates significance at the 1% level. In Moon-Perron panel unit root test, maximum common factor is five (5) and common factor number is calculated with BIC_3 info criterion of Bai-Ng (2004).

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Based on these results, it may be said that BD and CAD in the EU-27 and Turkey display a stable fluctuation and the economic shocks experienced are weak. Following this phase, the causality between variables is to be directly examined without co-integration analysis since the series are integrated at the level.

The panel findings of Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) panel Granger causality test are displayed in Table 5. In this study, only $Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$ test statistic results of Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) panel causality test findings are reported, because the time period is larger than the units (T=49, N=28). According to the test results, the null hypothesis of no Granger causality between variables is rejected at 1% significance level. Even if common lag length is increased, the result and level of statistical significance does not change. This finding shows that there is a bidirectional causality between BD and CAD in the relevant period for the panel of countries. Similarly, in Table 5, Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) panel Granger causality test results also support that there is a bidirectional causality between BD and CAD. The Fisher test statistics calculated for panel is greater than the critical values obtained by Monte Carlo simulations in different statistical significance levels. Accordingly, these test results also indicate that the null hypothesis of no Granger causality between variables is rejected at 1% significance level.

As we see in Table 5, there is a bidirectional causality relation in the majority of countries. This situation shows that the twin deficits problem was valid in many EU countries and Turkey for the period of 2002-2014.

Table 5

**Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011)
Panel Granger Causality Test Results**

Null Hypothesis	Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012)					
	Lag=1		Lag =2		Lag =3	
	$W_{N,T}^{HNC}$	$Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$	$W_{N,T}^{HNC}$	$Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$	$W_{N,T}^{HNC}$	$Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$
BD → CAD	14.15*	12.90*	21.98*	19.68*	26.78*	23.46*
CAD → BD	11.13*	10.10*	19.67*	17.59*	23.84*	20.84*
Null Hypothesis	Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011)					
	Fisher Stats	Critical Values				
		1%	5%	10%		
BD → CAD	339.62*	105.694	92.071	85.376		
CAD → BD	374.68*	107.049	93.540	86.319		

Note: * indicates significance at the 1% level. Critical values in the Emirmahmutoglu-Kose panel causality test were obtained with 10,000 iterations.

In parallel with the proposition that bidirectional causality between BD and CAD was supported for the panel of countries, country-specific Wald statistics were calculated and the significance levels of the statistics were examined by Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011) panel Granger causality tests to determine which hypothesis is valid in EU-27 and Turkey. The sum of the test results is shown in Table 6. As may be inferred, the results of both tests are correlative. This result can be regarded as an important criterion for the reliability of the obtained findings.

Table 6

Individual Statistics of Panel Granger Causality

Country	pi	Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011)				Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012)			
		BD → CAD		CAD → BD		BD → CAD		CAD → BD	
		W-Stat	Prob.	W-Stat	Prob.	W-Stat	Prob.	W-Stat	Prob.
Austria	3	13.91**	0.003	15.96*	0.001	14.98**	0.002	17.18*	0.001
Belgium	2	43.22*	0.000	24.43*	0.000	48.07*	0.000	24.08*	0.000
Bulgaria	3	67.83*	0.000	44.40*	0.000	73.05*	0.000	44.81*	0.000
Cyprus	3	14.19**	0.003	3.51	0.319	15.28**	0.002	3.78	0.286
Czech Rep.	3	6.26***	0.100	15.11**	0.002	6.74***	0.080	16.28*	0.001
Denmark	3	19.77*	0.000	6.72***	0.081	21.29*	0.000	7.24***	0.064
Estonia	3	15.60*	0.000	18.82*	0.000	16.80*	0.000	20.26*	0.000
Finland	3	19.27*	0.000	8.38**	0.039	20.75*	0.000	9.03**	0.028
France	3	13.77**	0.003	19.21*	0.000	14.83**	0.002	20.69*	0.000
Germany	3	32.15*	0.000	41.73*	0.000	34.62*	0.000	44.94*	0.000
Greece	3	13.69**	0.003	12.34**	0.006	14.74**	0.002	13.29**	0.004
Hungary	1	0.032	0.857	2.02	0.155	0.488	0.921	7.29***	0.062
Ireland	3	1.82	0.609	4.03	0.258	1.96	0.579	4.34	0.226
Italy	3	8.03**	0.045	10.01**	0.019	8.65**	0.035	10.77**	0.002
Latvia	1	6.83**	0.009	0.499	0.480	11.73**	0.002	3.53	0.316
Lithuania	3	6.06	0.108	9.66**	0.022	6.53***	0.088	10.41**	0.002
Luxembourg	1	0.61	0.435	6.46**	0.011	1.57	0.666	9.09**	0.028
Malta	3	3.77	0.286	8.65**	0.034	4.06	0.254	9.32**	0.025
Netherlands	3	11.79**	0.008	8.32**	0.040	12.70**	0.005	8.96**	0.029
Poland	1	4.22**	0.040	1.81	0.178	9.90**	0.019	4.49	0.213
Portugal	2	1.52	0.467	1.06	0.586	2.28	0.514	4.37	0.224
Romania	3	22.14*	0.000	25.44*	0.000	23.84*	0.000	27.39*	0.000
Slovakia	2	8.05**	0.018	0.82	0.664	13.37**	0.003	3.00	0.390
Slovenia	3	4.68	0.196	2.76	0.430	5.04	0.168	2.97	0.385
Spain	3	44.73*	0.000	61.42*	0.000	48.17*	0.000	66.14*	0.000
Sweden	3	1.51	0.679	1.98	0.575	1.63	0.652	2.13	0.544
Turkey	3	20.08*	0.000	15.97*	0.001	21.63*	0.000	17.19*	0.000
UK	3	8.85**	0.031	6.67***	0.084	9.53**	0.022	7.15***	0.067

Note: *, **, and *** indicate significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively. In the Emirmahmutoglu-Kose panel causality test, critical values were obtained with 10,000 iterations and lag length was determined by Akaike Info Criterion (p).

Table 7 summarizes the findings on whether there is a causal relationship between BD and CAD and if the answer is positive, on what is the direction of causality in the countries subject to analysis.

The results indicate that there is a bidirectional causality between BD and CAD in sixteen countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Turkey and the UK); whereas, it is observed that twin deficits hypothesis is valid in Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia and the direction of causality is from BD to CAD.

Table 7

Summary for Direction of Granger Causality

Countries	Direction		Results	Countries	Direction		Results
	$BD \sim CAD$				$BD \sim CAD$		
Austria	→	←	↔	Latvia	→		→
Belgium	→	←	↔	Lithuania	→		→
Bulgaria	→	←	↔	Luxembourg		←	←
Cyprus	→		→	Malta		←	←
Czech R.	→	←	↔	Netherlands	→	←	↔
Denmark	→	←	↔	Poland	→		→
Estonia	→	←	↔	Portugal			↔
Finland	→	←	↔	Romania	→	←	↔
France	→	←	↔	Slovakia	→		→
Germany	→	←	↔	Slovenia			↔
Greece	→	←	↔	Spain	→	←	↔
Hungary		←	←	Sweden			↔
Ireland			↔	Turkey	→	←	↔
Italy	→	←	↔	UK	→	←	↔

Note: ↔; no linkage, ↔; feedback linkage, →, twin deficits and, ←; current account targeting

In contrast, the direction of causality is from CAD to BD in Hungary, Luxembourg and Malta. Lastly, there is no causality between BD and CAD in Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden, unlike the above-mentioned countries.

4. Conclusions

This study examined whether the twin deficits hypothesis is still valid in the EU-27 member states and Turkey within the period of 2002:Q1-2014:Q1. We know that there are many studies in the literature which focus on the twin deficits problem. Unlike the others, in this study, second generation panel Granger causality analysis that takes into consideration cross-sectional dependence was used for the empirical analysis. This method, which is one of the most popular panel econometric methods of recent periods, has many features. For example, it is possible to have results for both individual countries and also for panel. In this regard, our results show that there is a statistically significant bidirectional causality between BD and CAD for many countries. The findings obtained from the empirical analysis are also confirmed by the causality tests proposed by both Dumitrescu-Hurlin (2012) and Emirmahmutoglu-Kose (2011). It may be considered as an important finding of the study that there is bidirectional causality between BD and CAD in sixteen of the twenty-eight countries subject to analysis (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Turkey and the UK). This result is consistent with the study of Bolat *et al.* (2014), which analysed almost the same period. In addition, it is significant to conclude that twin deficits hypothesis is also valid in Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia. The direction of causality is from BD to CAD and this result is also consistent with the studies of Forte and Magazzino (2013), Akdoğan and Geldi (2013), Sinicakova *et al.* (2017). It is quite interesting that five countries (Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia) that accessed to the EU in 2004 have

results of unidirectional causality from BD to CAD. It may be useful to examine this issue in detail.

Contrary to this linkage, it may be stated that the direction of causality is from CAD to BD in Hungary, Luxembourg and Malta. If the factors determining the current account deficits are confirmed, it will be easy to understand the reason of the twin deficits problem in these three countries. At the same time, it could be better to research the foreign trade structure of these countries. Lastly, Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden have emerged as countries with no causality between BD and CAD. This result is also similar with the study of Aristovnik and Djuric (2010) and the Ricardian approach is supported by this result. All the empirical findings are summarized in Table 8 below.

Table 8

Sum of Empirical Findings

Twin Deficits Hypothesis	Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland Slovakia	BD → CAD
Current account targeting	Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta	CAD → BD
Feedback Linkage	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Turkey, UK	BD ↔ CAD
No linkage	Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden	BD ↔ CAD

Consequently, the validity of the twin deficits hypothesis was proven, although not valid in all the countries. However, there is enough evidence to assume a relationship between budget deficits and current account deficits in some countries. This result is consistent with the expectations of our study. The results of the study are also in parallel with the studies of Darrat (1988), Abell (1990), Dibooglu (1997), Islam (1998), Baharumshah *et al.* (2006), Mukhtar *et al.* (2007), Pahlavani and Saleh (2009), Bayrak and Esen (2012), Asrafuzzaman and Gupta (2013), which have reached the same results for different countries. Based on these findings, it can be stated that twin deficits problem should still be regarded as an important macroeconomic problem in many EU countries and in Turkey. Therefore, it is vital that the twin deficit problem should not be overlooked by states while formulating their economic policies.

Empirical findings show that high budget deficits bring other macroeconomic problems in their wake. Therefore, we suggest that contractionary fiscal policy is useful to prevent high budget deficits for many EU countries and Turkey. Of course, contractionary fiscal policy is not enough on its own, beside that central banks should provide compatible monetary policy. On the other hand, policy makers do not focus on budget deficit only; they also concentrate on the current account deficits and take measures to minimize them. In addition to all these, the Maastricht criteria should be revised and it should be kept in mind that the source of the twin deficits problem may be the failure to comply with these criteria. We also think that the relationship between BD and CAD should be analysed by considering the period before and after the global financial crisis, so that the effect of the crisis on the twin deficits might be determined. Additionally, it could be better to perform symmetric and asymmetric analysis of the relationship between BD and CAD for the same sample.

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