

Approximating Stochastic Programs

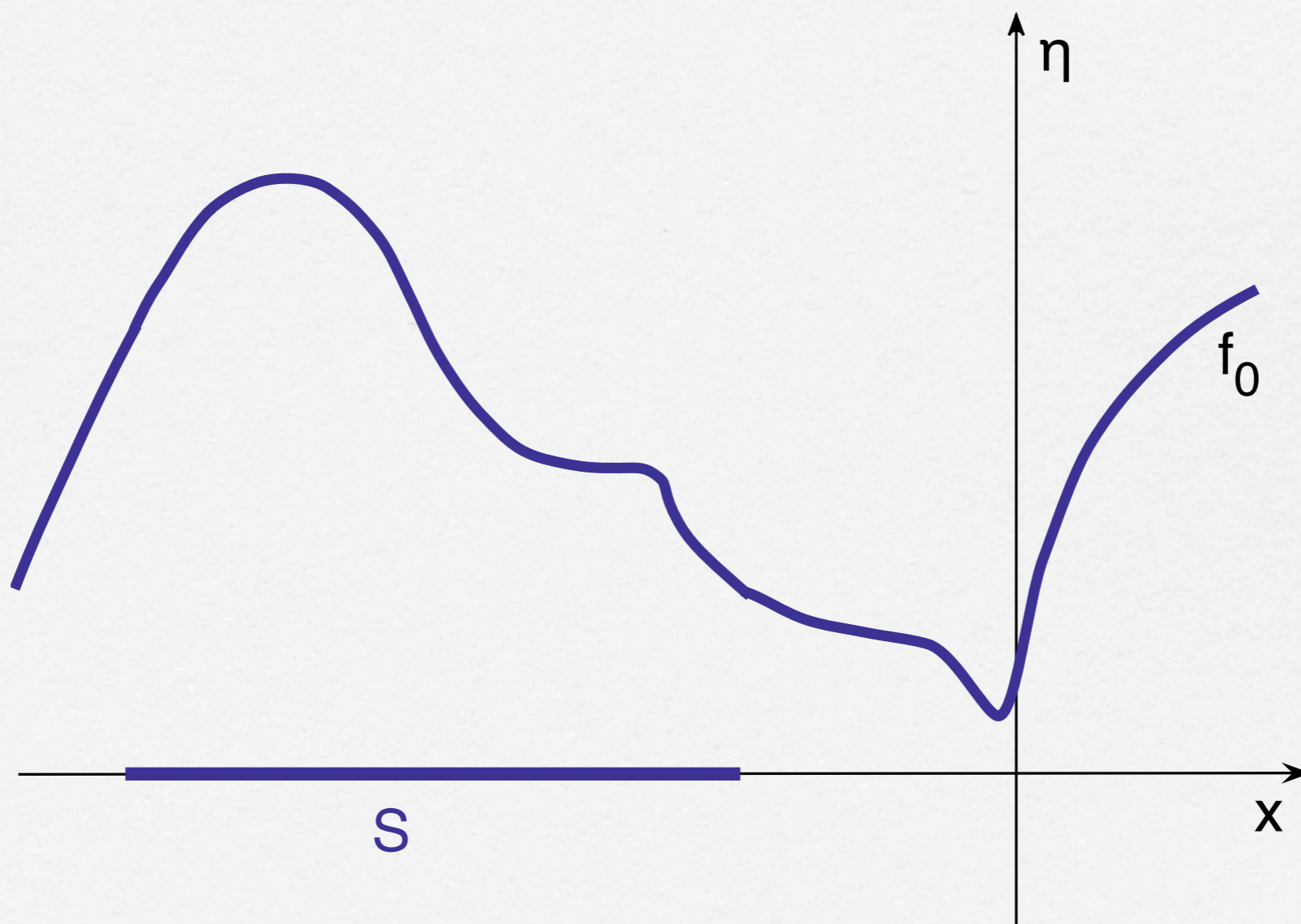
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Preliminaries (unavoidable)

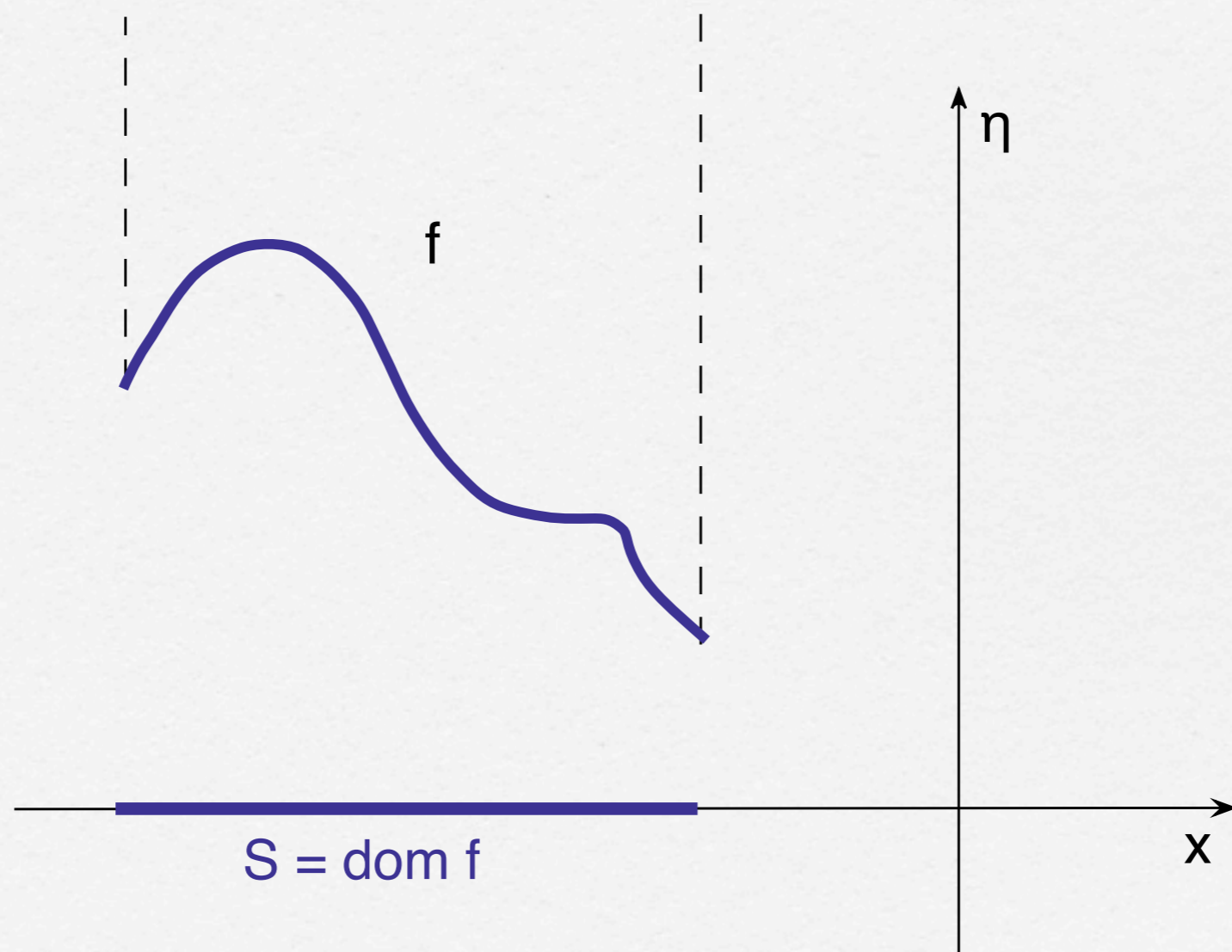
Optimization problem

$$\min f_0(x), \quad x \in S,$$

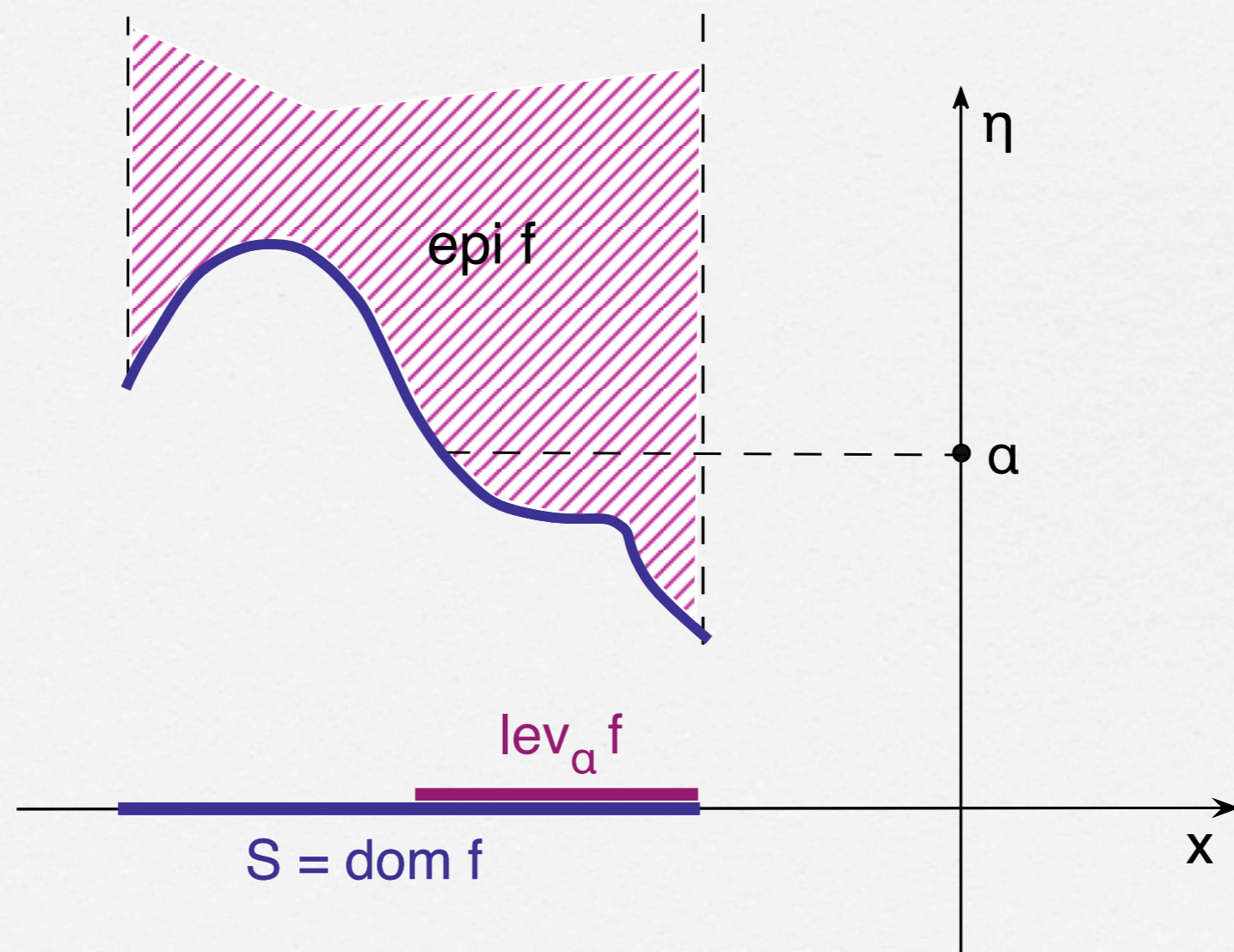
$$S = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1 \rightarrow s, \quad f_i(x) = 0, \quad i = s+1 \rightarrow m \right\}$$



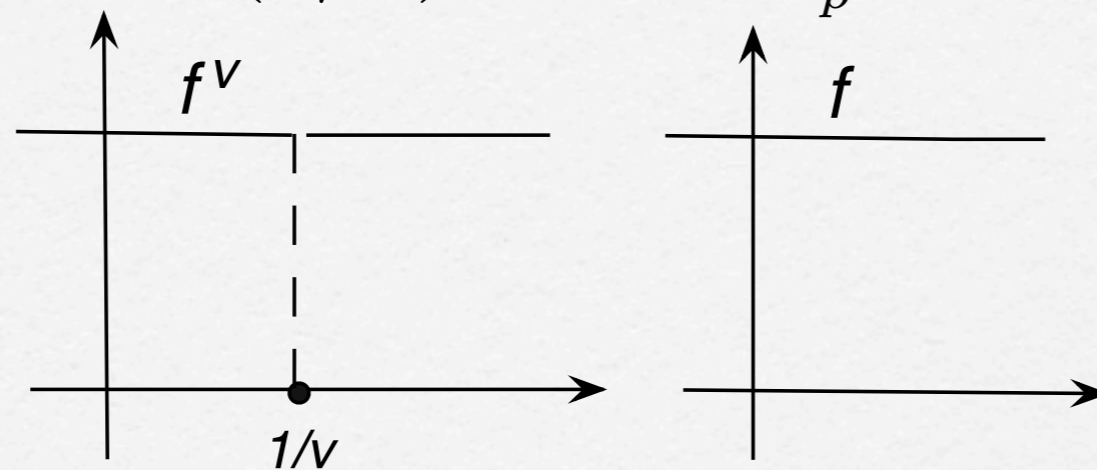
$\min f$ on E , $f = f_0 + \iota_S(x)$, ι_S indicator function of S



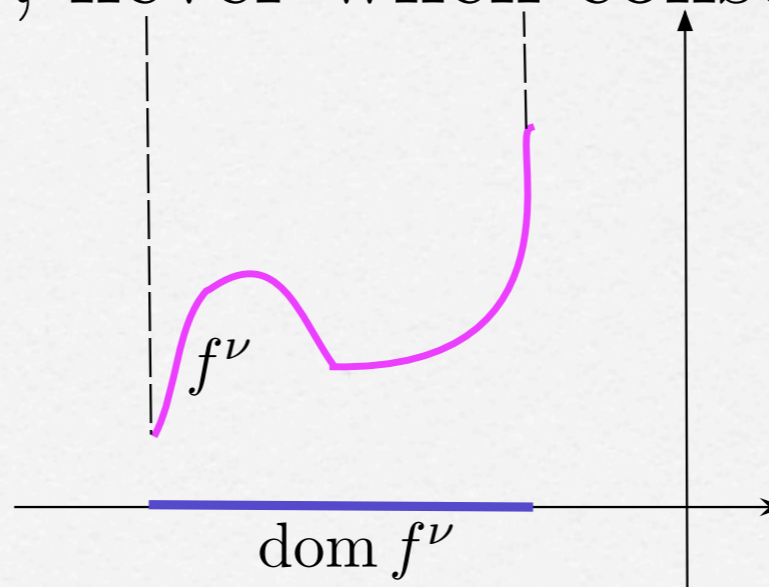
$\min f$ on E , $f = f_0 + \iota_S(x)$, ι_S indicator function of S
 $\text{epi } f = \{(x, \alpha) \in E \times R \mid f(x) \leq \alpha\}$, $\text{lev}_\alpha f = \{x \in E \mid f(x) \leq \alpha\}$



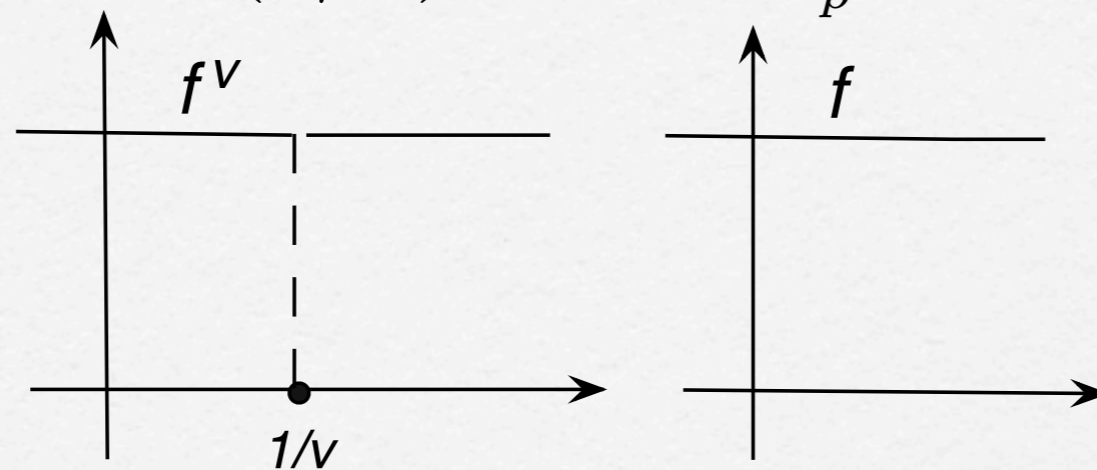
1. pointwise convergence $\not\Rightarrow$ convergence of minimizers
 $f^\nu \equiv 1$ except $f(1/\nu) = 0$, $f^\nu \xrightarrow{p} f \equiv 1$



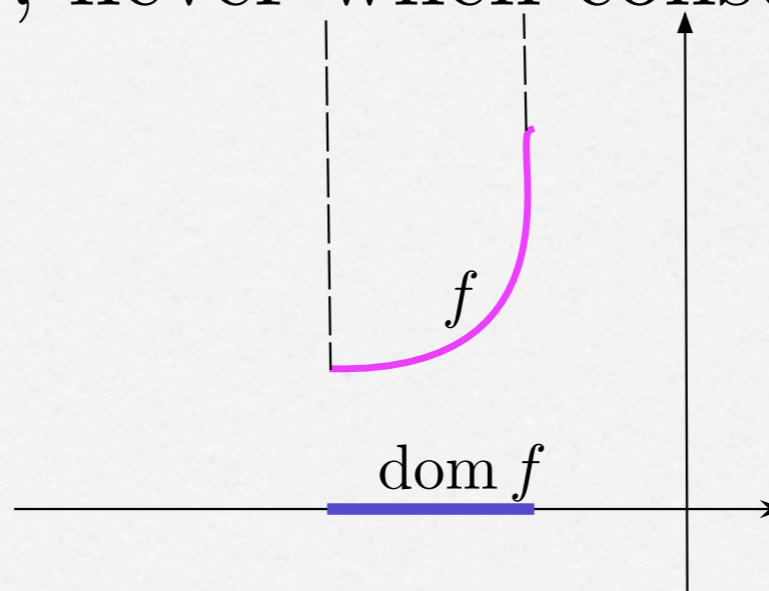
2. uniform convergence implies convergence of minimizers
 but applies rarely, never when constraints depend on ν



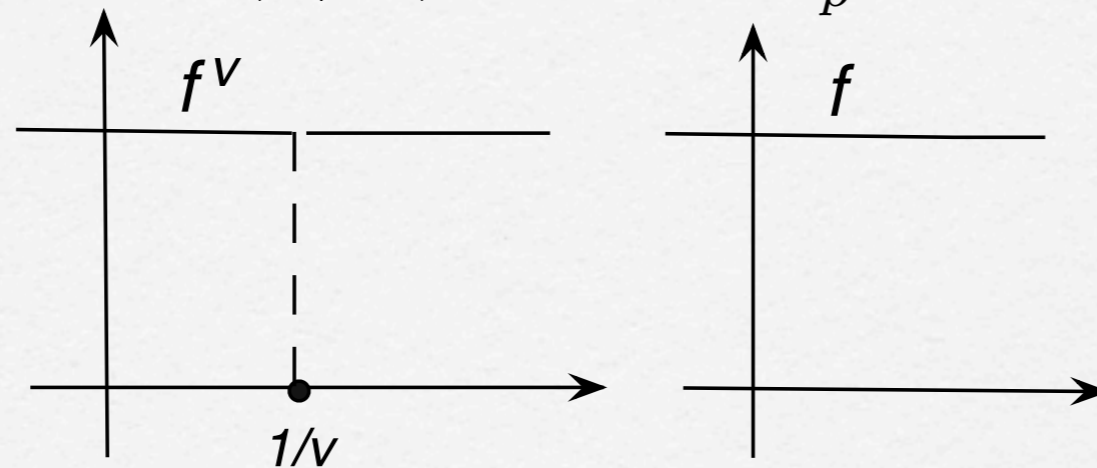
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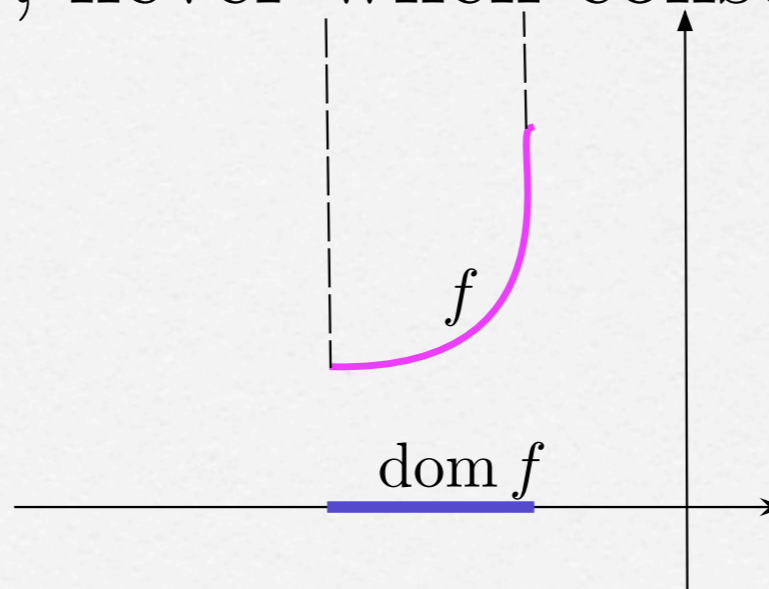
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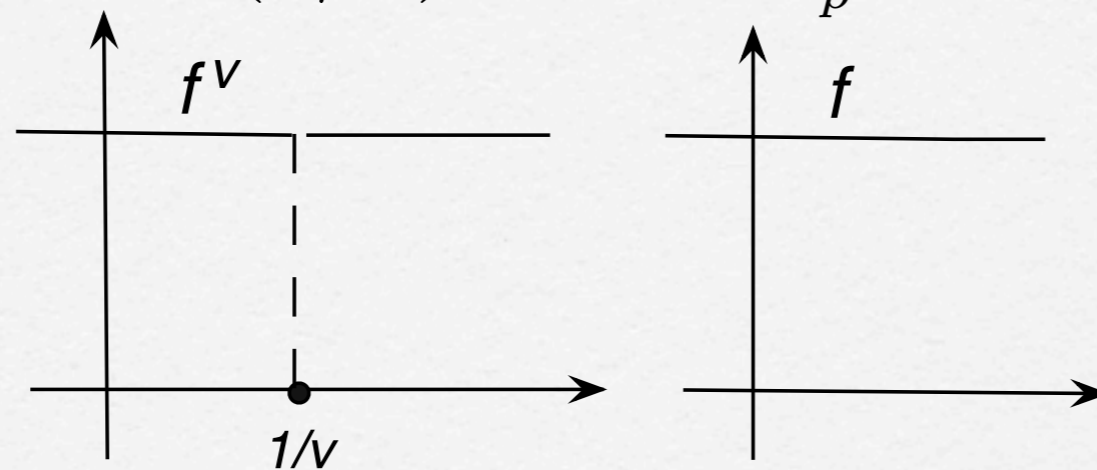


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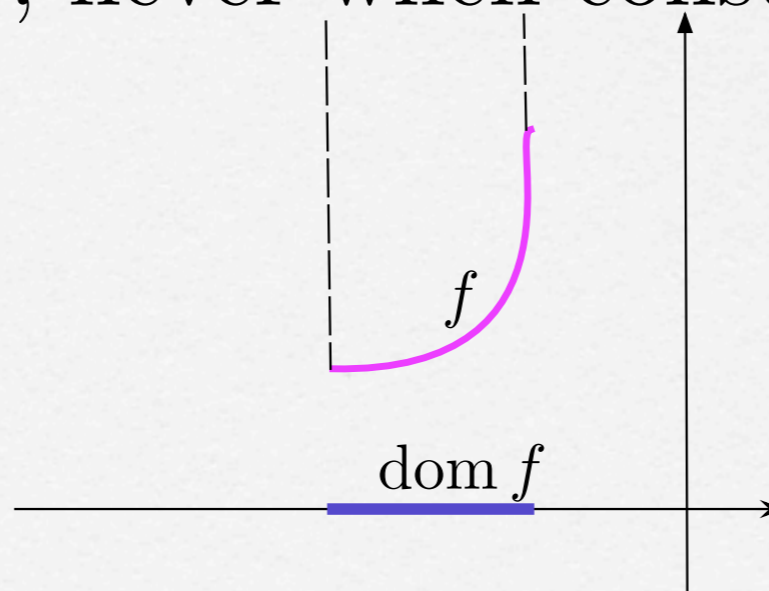


One-sided
uniform
convergence

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variational
epi-
convergence

Epi-Convergence

$f^\nu \xrightarrow{e} f$ if for all $x \in E$,

1. $\forall x^\nu \rightarrow x, \liminf_\nu f^\nu(x^\nu) \geq f(x)$

2. $\exists x^\nu \rightarrow x, \limsup_\nu f^\nu(x^\nu) \leq f(x)$

“Geometrically”: $\text{epi } f^\nu \rightarrow \text{epi } f$ (later)

Pointwise:

$$\liminf_\nu f^\nu(x) \geq f(x), \quad \limsup_\nu f^\nu(x) \leq f(x)$$

Continuous: $\forall x^\nu \rightarrow x$,

$$\liminf_\nu f^\nu(x^\nu) \geq f(x), \quad \limsup_\nu f^\nu(x^\nu) \leq f(x)$$

Epi-Convergence \Rightarrow

$A^v = \arg \min f^v$, ε - A^v : $\varepsilon > 0$ approximate minimizers,

$A = \arg \min f$ of limit problem, ε - A approx. minimizers

A^v **v-converges** to A , written $A^v \Rightarrow_v A$, if

a) $\bar{x} \in \text{cluster-points} \{x^v \in A^v\} \Rightarrow \bar{x} \in A$

b) $\bar{x} \in A \Rightarrow \exists \varepsilon_v \searrow 0, x^v \in \varepsilon_v$ - $A^v \rightarrow \bar{x}$

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$f^\nu \xrightarrow{e} f$ implies ε - $A^\nu \Rightarrow_\nu \varepsilon$ - A , $\forall \varepsilon \geq 0$

A unique minimizer, ε^ν - $A^\nu \Rightarrow A$ as $\varepsilon^\nu \searrow 0$.

($\inf f > -\infty$)

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Mathematical Framework: Random Isc functions & Expectation Functionals

$$\widehat{Ef} = \mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, \cdot)\}$$

$f : \Xi \times E \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$, random lsc function, $f(\xi, x) = f_0(\xi, x)$ when $x \in C(\xi)$

$E \subset \mathcal{M}(\Xi, \mathcal{A}; \mathbb{R}^n) : \mathcal{L}^p(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P; \mathbb{R}^n), \dots$

others: $C((\Xi, \tau); \mathbb{R}^n)$, Orlicz, Sobolev, lsc-fcns(E)

$$Ef(x) = \int_{\Xi} f(\xi, x(\xi)) P(d\xi) = \mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, x(\xi))\}$$

$$= \infty \text{ whenever } \int_{\Xi} f_+(\xi, x(\xi)) P(d\xi) = \infty$$

$Ef : E \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ always defined

Regression: (E is not a linear space)

$$\min \left\{ \int_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{x \in [0,1]^n} \phi(y - h(x)) P(dx, dy) \mid h \in \text{lsc-fcns}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \mathcal{H} \right\}$$

\mathcal{H} shape restrictions (convex, unimodal, ...)

Random lsc functions

$f : \Xi \times E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ a random lsc function, ξ values in (Ξ, \mathcal{A}, P)

(a) lsc (lower semicontinuous) in x , $(\forall \xi \in \Xi)$; x decision variable

(b) (ξ, x) -measurable $(\mathcal{A} \times B_E)$ -measurable

recall: $f(\xi, x) = f_0(\xi, x)$ when $x \in C(\xi)$ -- stochastic constraints

$$f^v(\xi, x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{v} \sum_{l=1}^v \left(f(\xi^l, x) \text{ if } x \in C(\xi^l) \right) & \text{(typically)} \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \quad (\sim \text{SAA of optimisation problems}) \end{cases}$$

Question: Do the $f^v(\xi, \cdot)$ epi-converge to $\mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, \cdot)\}$ P -a.s.?

does $x^v \in \arg \min f^v \Rightarrow_v x^* \in \arg \min \mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, x)\}$ P -a.s.?

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Law of Large Numbers for random lsc functions
 \sim LLN for Stochastic Optimization Problems.

Random lsc functions

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$$f^\nu(\xi, x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\nu} \sum_{l=1}^{\nu} (f(\xi^l, x) \text{ if } x \in C(\xi^l)) & \text{(typically)} \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \quad (\sim \text{SAA of optimisation problems}) \end{cases}$$

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$$E^\nu f \xrightarrow{e} Ef \text{ a.s.}, \quad E^\nu f(x) = \frac{1}{\nu} \sum_{l=1}^{\nu} f(\xi^l, x)$$

LLN Theorem

$f : \Xi \times E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, locally inf-integrable random lsc function
 $\{\xi, \xi^1, \dots, \}$ are iid Ξ -valued random variables. Then,

$$E^\nu f = \mathbb{E}^\nu \{f(\xi, \cdot)\} = \frac{1}{\nu} \sum_{l=1}^{\nu} f(\xi^l, \cdot) \xrightarrow{e} Ef = \mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, \cdot)\}$$

which means ε -argmin $E^\nu f \Rightarrow_v \varepsilon$ -argmin Ef , $\forall \varepsilon \geq 0$

Ef unique minimizer, ε^ν -argmin $E^\nu f \Rightarrow \text{argmin } Ef$ as $\varepsilon^\nu \searrow 0$.

SAA-applies without ‘any’ restrictions

loc.inf-integrable: $\int \inf\{f(\xi, \cdot) \mid \mathbb{B}(x, \delta)\} > -\infty$ for some $\delta > 0$,
irrelevant in applications

Ergodic Theorem

(E, d) Polish, (Ξ, \mathcal{A}, P) & \mathcal{A} P -complete
 $f : \Xi \times E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ a random lsc function, locally inf-integrable
 $\varphi : \Xi \rightarrow \Xi$ ergodic measure preserving transformation. Then,

$$\frac{1}{\nu} \sum_{l=1}^{\nu} f(\varphi^l(\xi, \cdot)) \xrightarrow{e} Ef \quad a.s.$$

allows for stationary rather than iid samples.

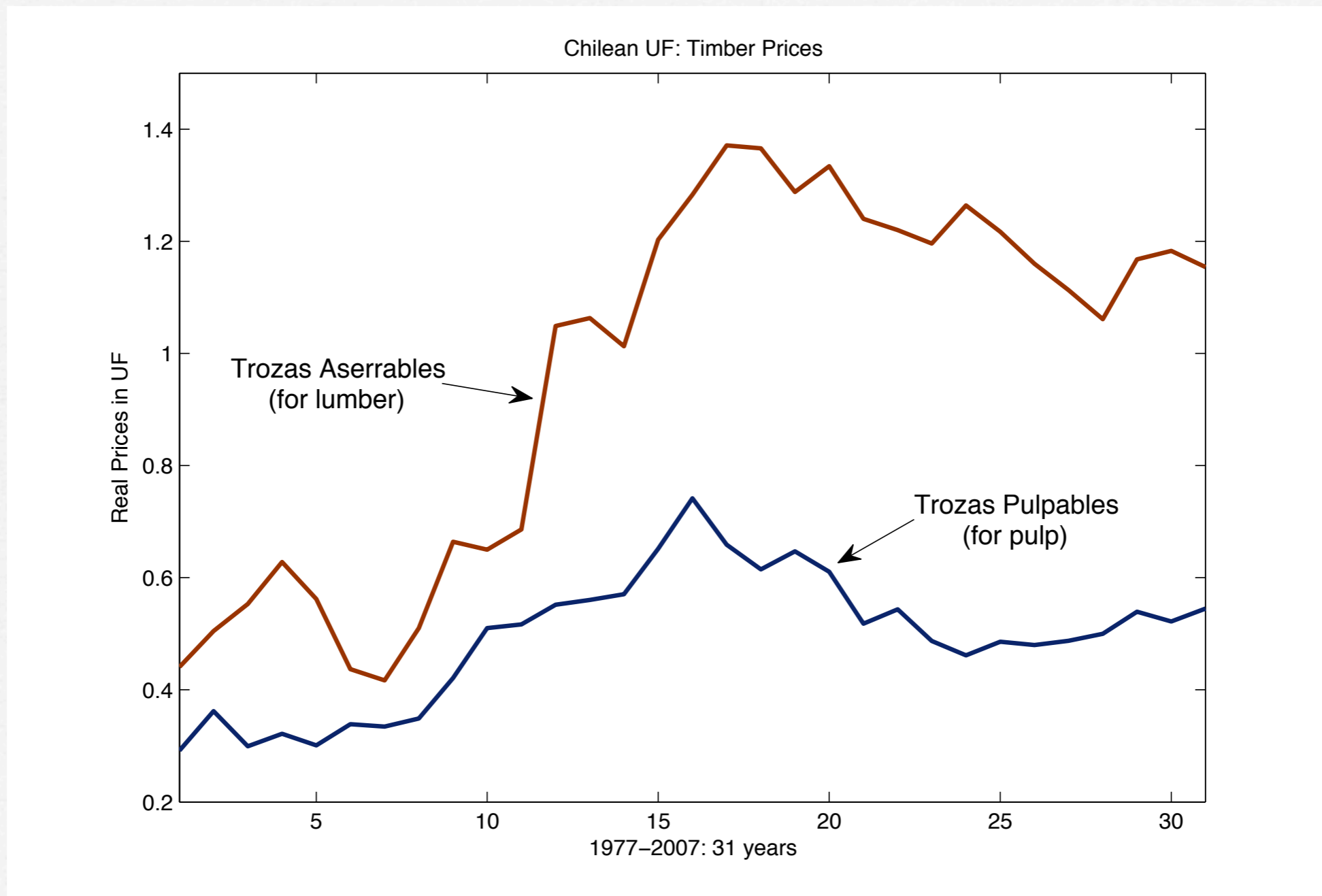
Application: “samples” coming from dynamical systems,
time series, SDE, etc.

beyond LLN

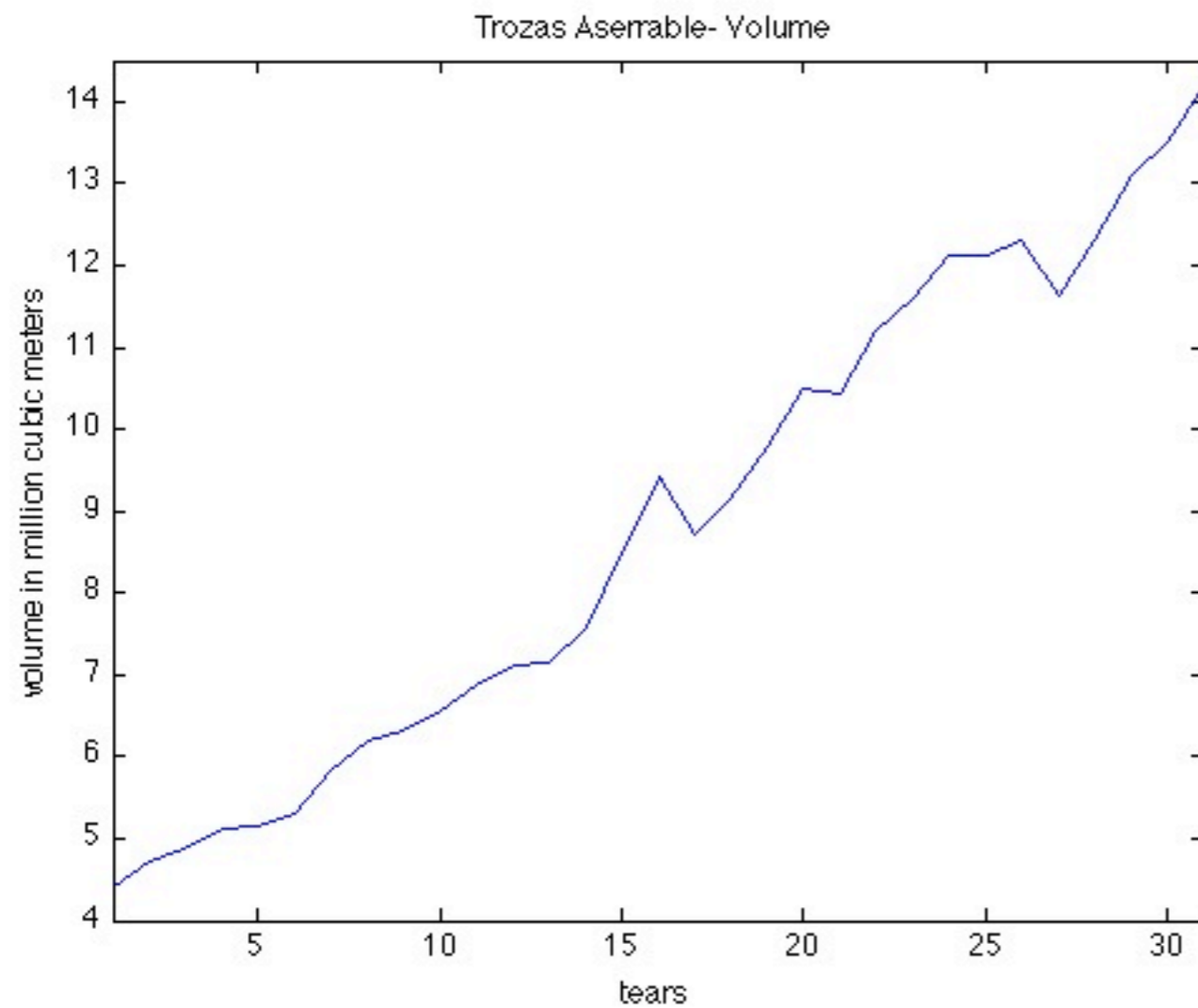
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Wood Prices Chile Building Scenario Tree

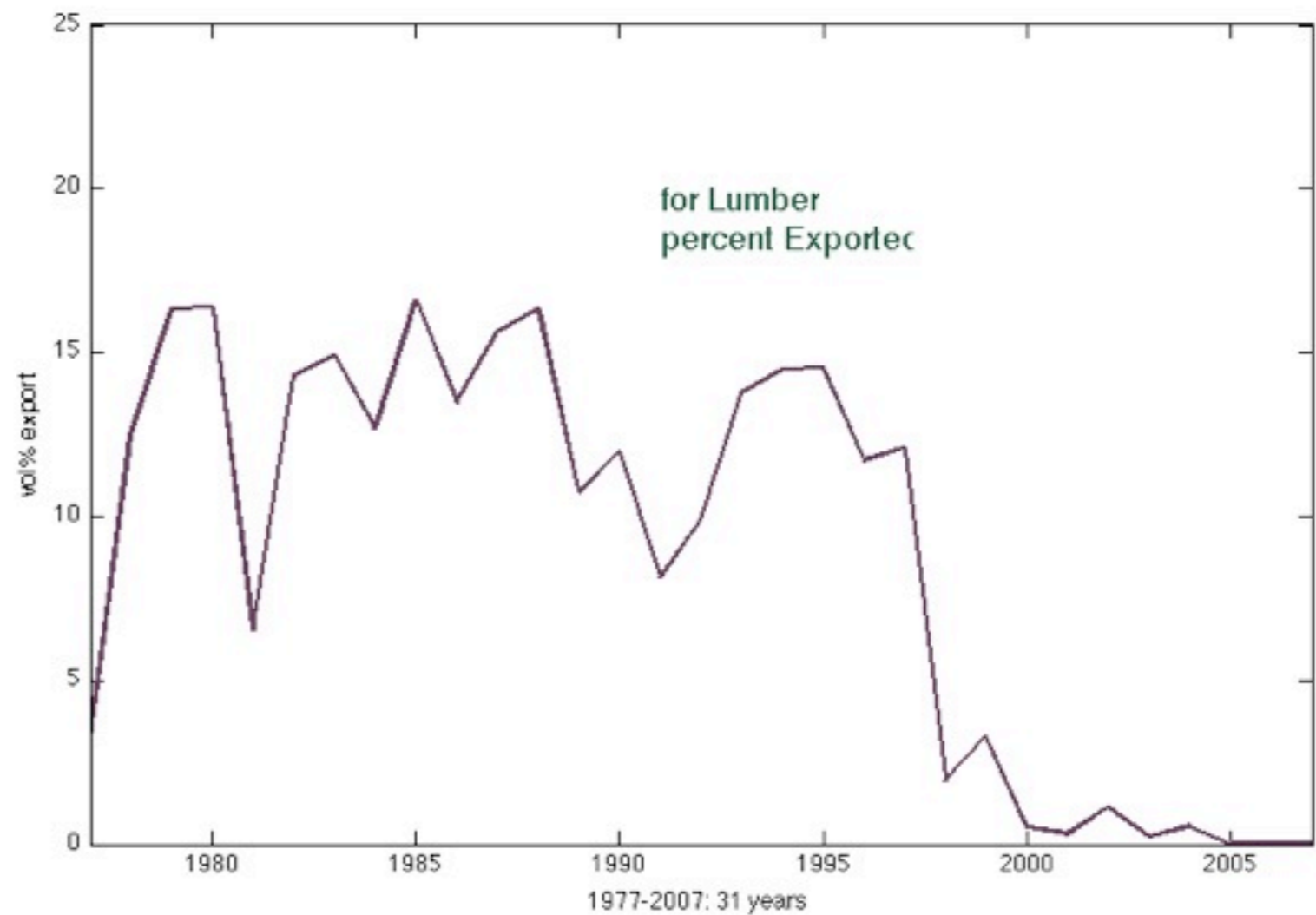
Lumber & Pulp Prices



Volume: Lumber Prices



Volume: Lumber Prices



Modeling the price process

~ geometric Brownian motion

$$dp(t) = \mu(v - p(t))dt + \sigma dw(t)p(t), \quad p(0) = p_0, \quad t \geq 0,$$

mean reversion

$$p(t) = p_0 \exp\left[-\left(\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)t + \sigma w(t)\right] + \mu v \int_0^t e^{r(t,s)} ds$$

with

$$r(t,s) = -\left[\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right](t-s) + \sigma(w(t) - w(s))$$

Approximation: $E\left\{\mu \int_0^t e^{r(t,s)} ds\right\} = 1 - e^{-\mu t}$ (small)

$$p(t) = v(1 - e^{-\mu t}) + p_0 \exp\left[\left(-\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)t + \sigma w(t)\right], \quad t \geq 0$$

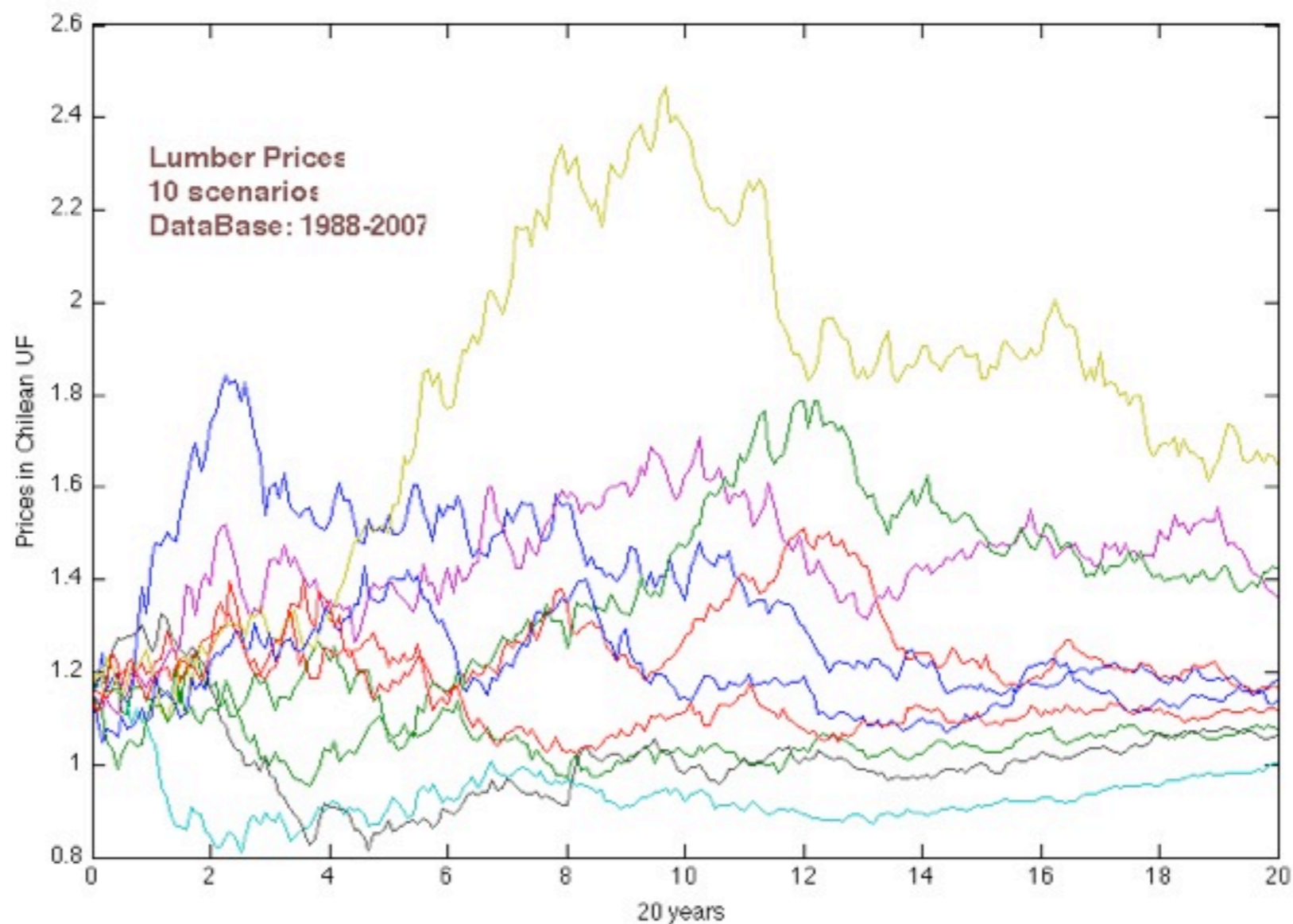
Estimating: coefficients

lumber and pulp prices

- use only data info 1988-2009(7), price at time 0: now
- mean reversion: u =average 1988-now, μ =drift: 45 years
- estimating variance: σ , based on deviation from the historical data from "expected (solution) path"

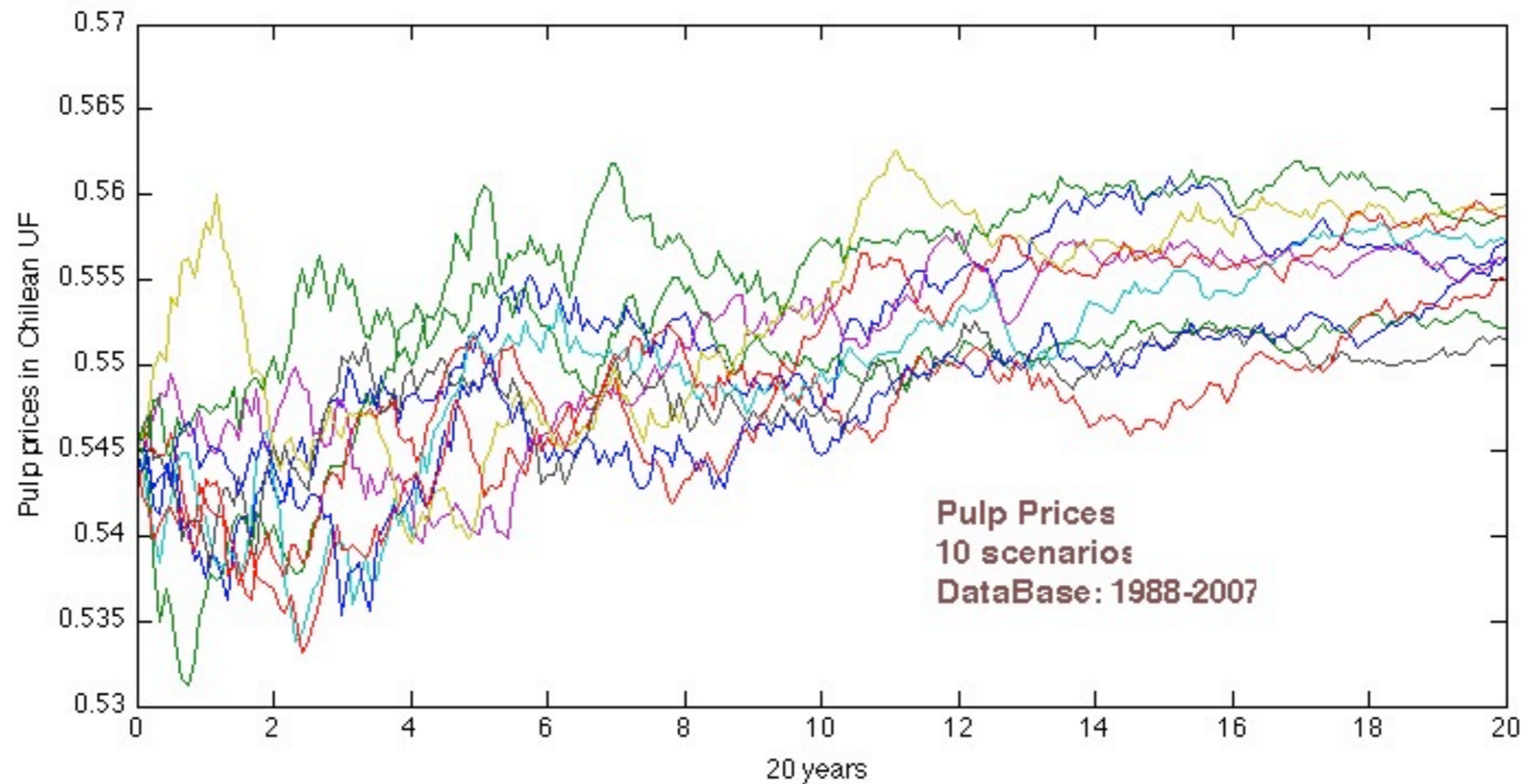
Lumber Price Process

$$E\{p(t)\} = v + (p^0 - v)e^{-\mu t}, \quad \text{Var}\{p(t)\} = (p_0 e^{-\mu t})^2 (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1).$$



Lumber Price Process

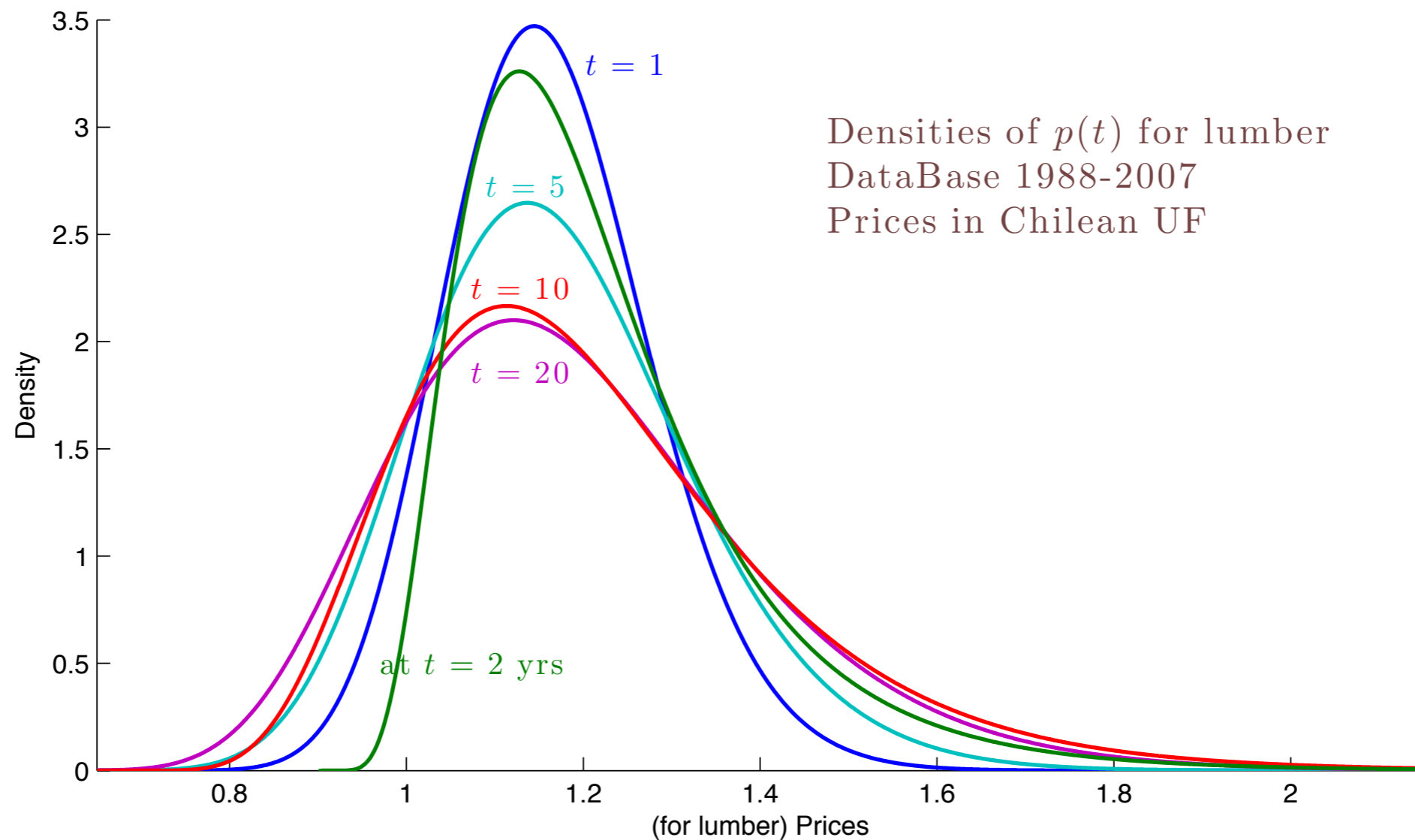
$$E\{p(t)\} = v + (p^0 - v)e^{-\mu t}, \quad \text{Var}\{p(t)\} = (p_0 e^{-\mu t})^2 (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1).$$



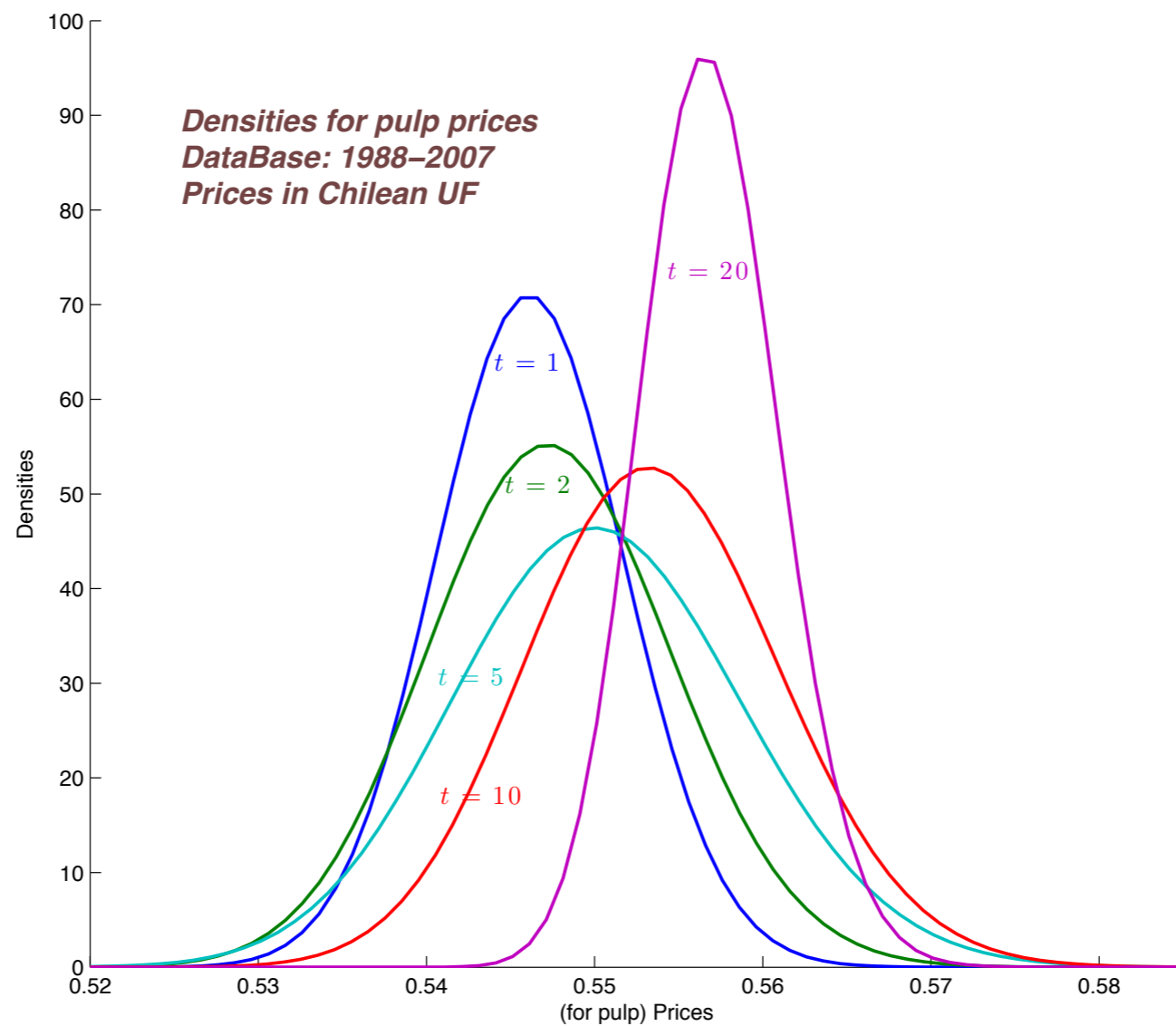
Distribution of $p(t)$

- Since $E\{p(t)\} = v + (p^0 - v)e^{-\mu t}$, $\text{Var}\{p(t)\} = (p_0 e^{-\mu t})^2 (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1)$
- $p(t)$ is “displaced” log-gaussian,
displacement: $v(1 - e^{-\mu t})$
- $p(t) = Z_t + v(1 - e^{-\mu t})$
$$d_{Z_t}(s) = (s\tau\sqrt{2\pi})^{-1} e^{-(\ln s - \theta)^2 / 2\tau^2}, \quad s \in (0, \infty),$$
$$\theta = \ln p_0 - \mu t, \quad \tau = \sigma\sqrt{t}.$$

Density $p(t)$, $t = 1, \dots, 20$

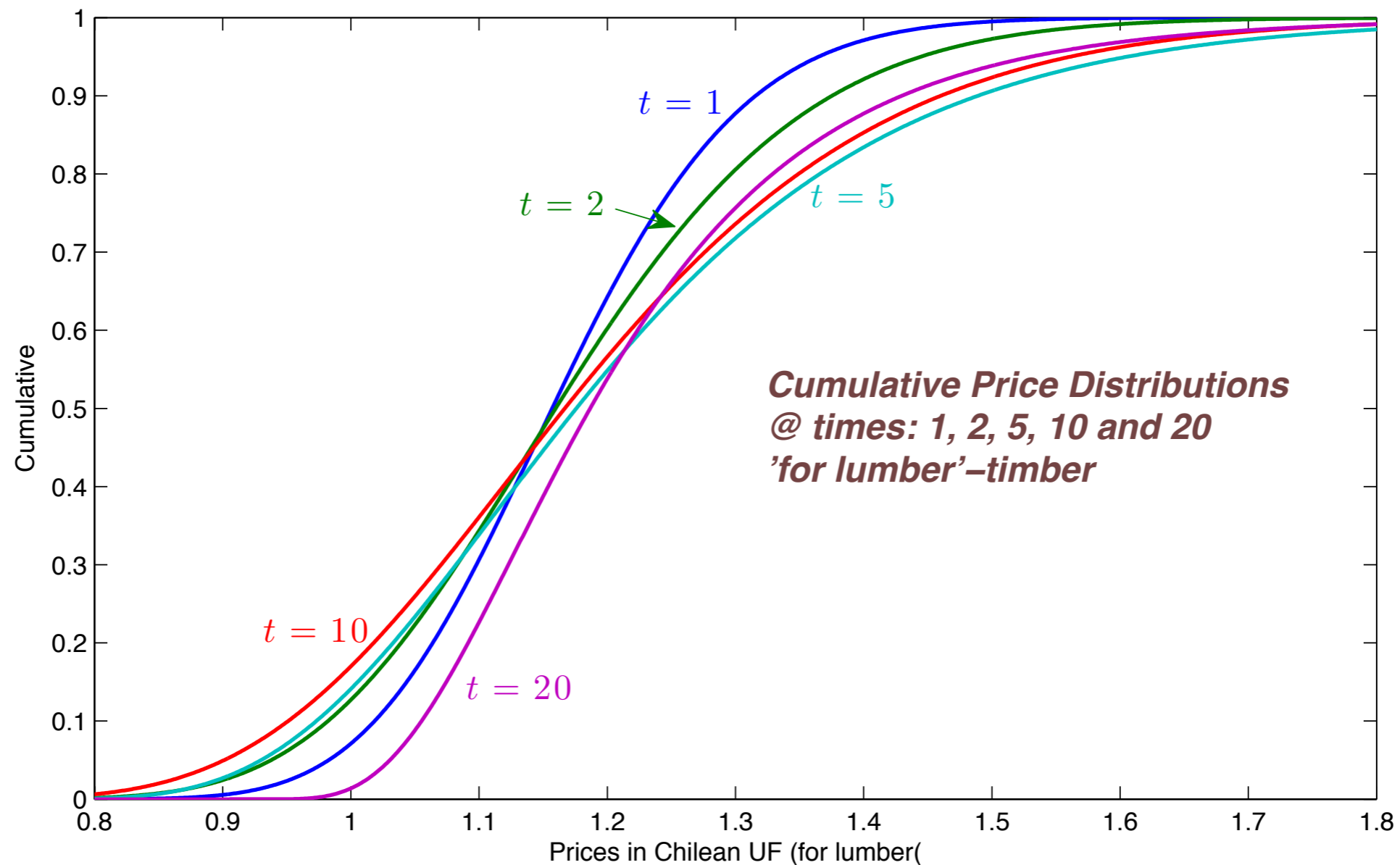


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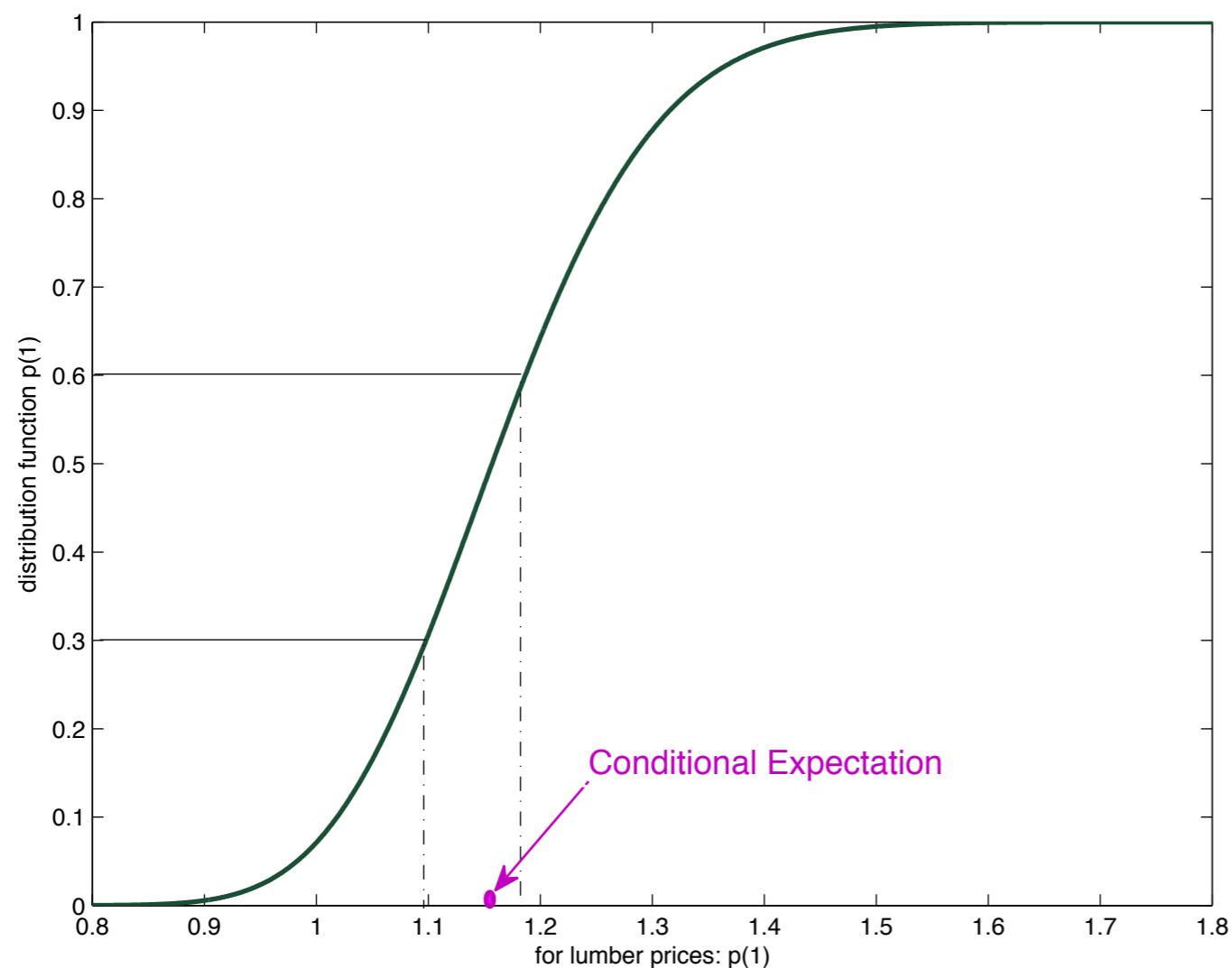


Cumulative $p(t)$ - lumber

numerical integration



Building Scenario Tree

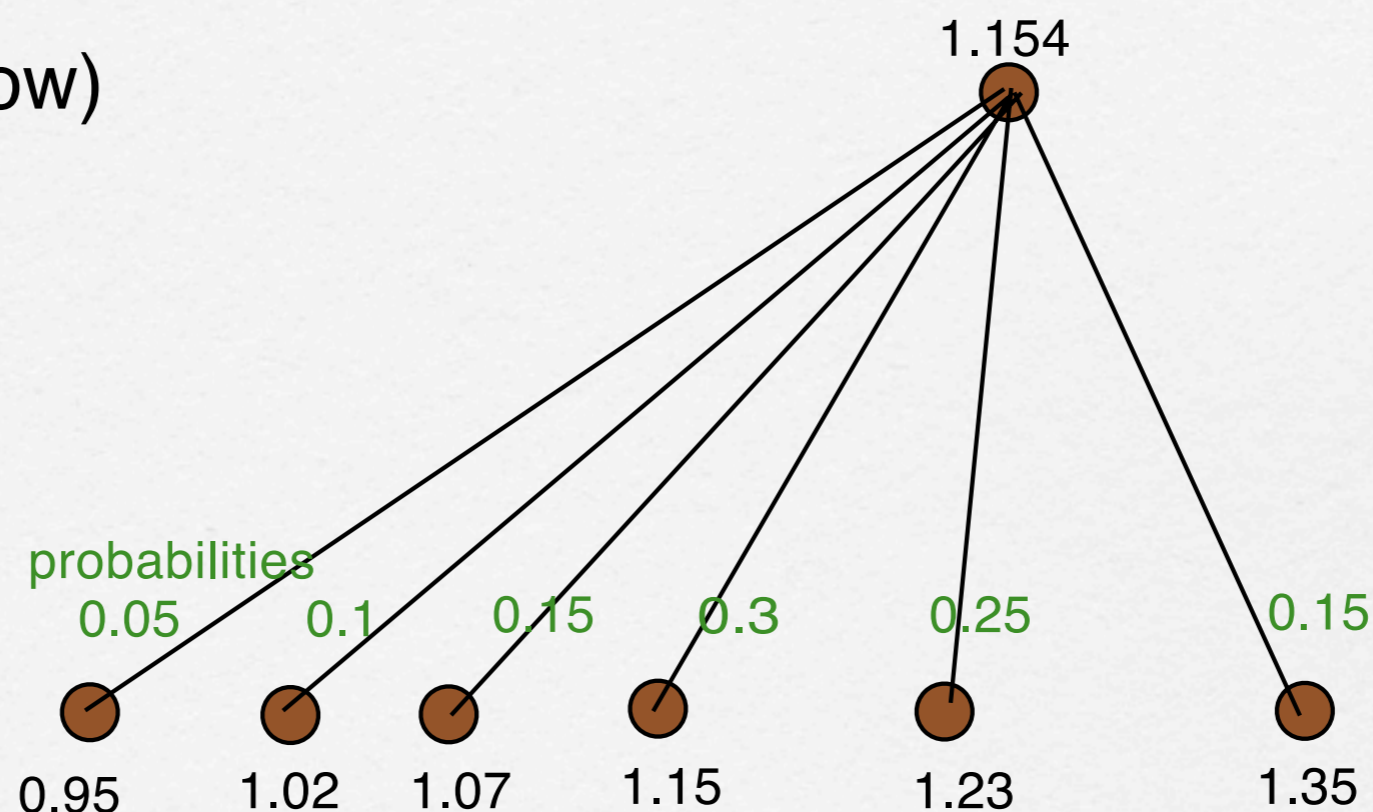


Percentiles: 0, 0.05, 0.15, 0.3, 0.6, 0.85, 1

Building Scenario Tree

time = 0 (now)

time = 1



Breakpoints: [0 0.05 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.85 1]

from Stage 1 to Stage 2

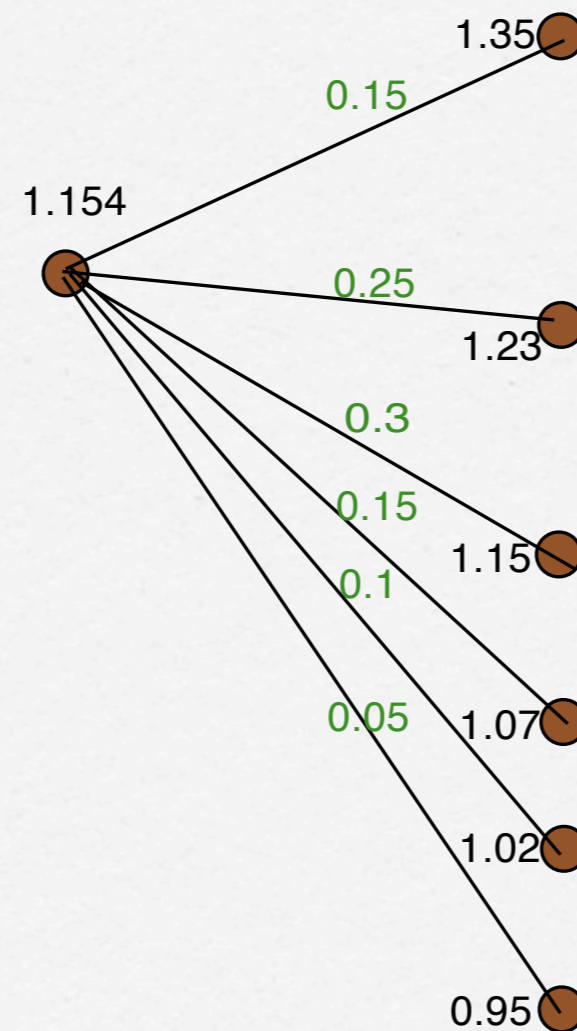
- leading dynamics (solution of SDE equation)
- $p(t) = v(1 - e^{-\mu(t-t_i)}) + p(t_i)\exp\left[(-\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)(t - t_i) + \sigma w(t - t_i)\right], t \geq t_i$
where t_i = time at stage 1, $p(t_i)$ = price at one of the (stage 1)-nodes
- t_e = time at stage 2 (end point) and fix percentiles
breaks for the cumulative distribution of $p(t_e)$
- for example, $[0 \quad 0.1 \quad 0.25 \quad 0.8 \quad 1] \Rightarrow$
4 scenarios points

Scenario tree: Extended

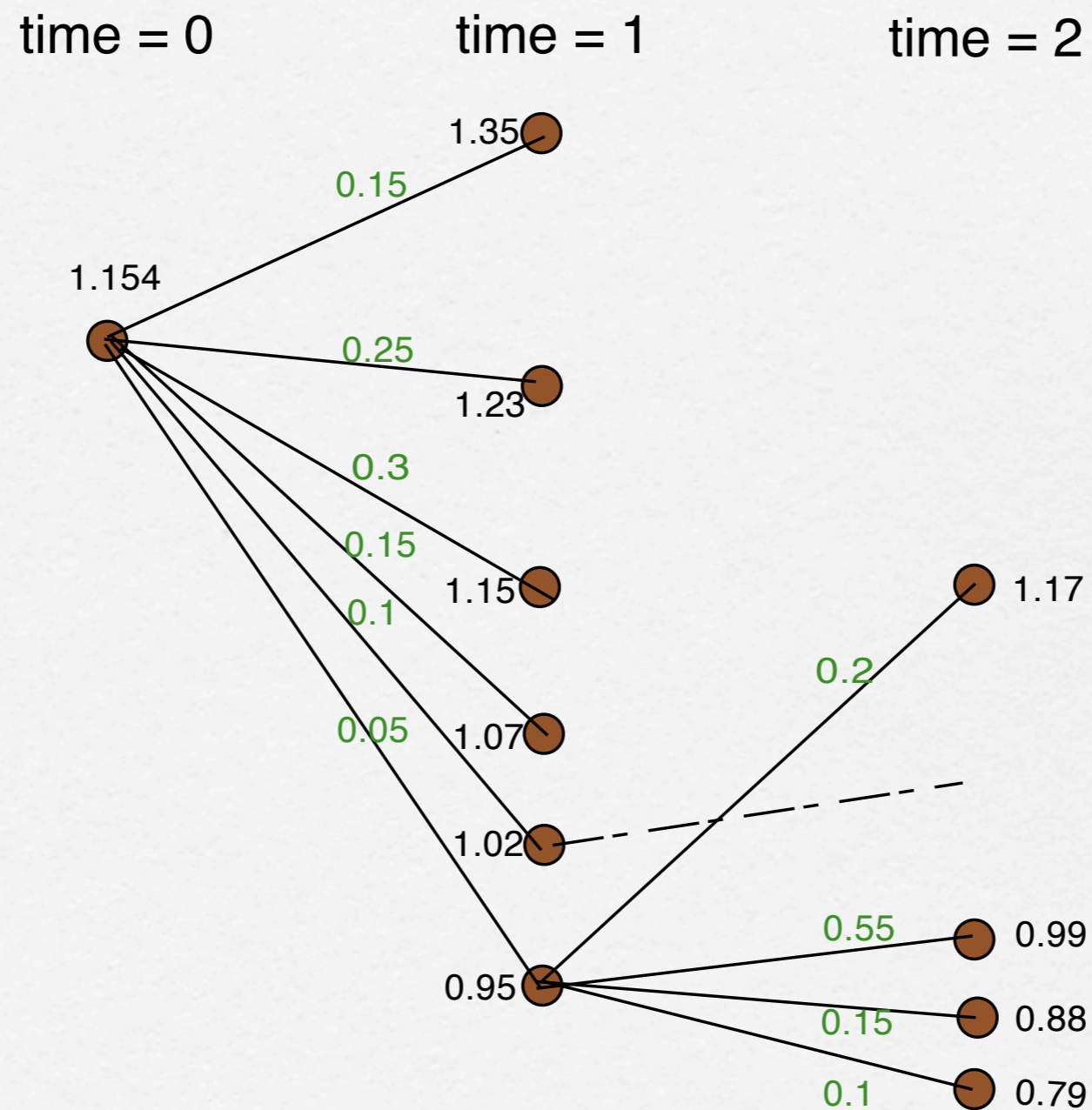
time = 0

time = 1

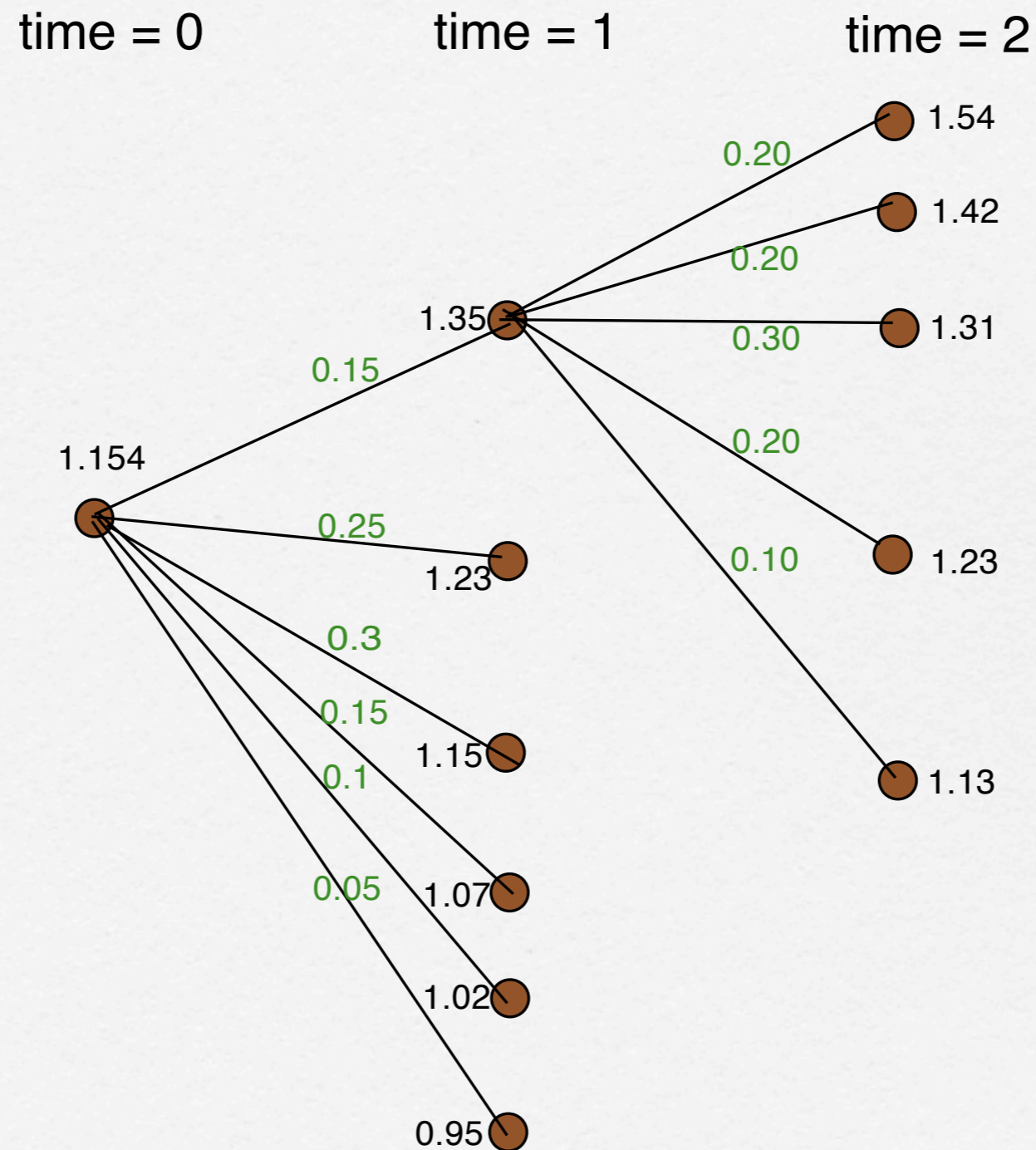
time = 2



Scenario tree: Extended



Scenario tree: Extended



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Duality Theory

Stochastic Programs

Linear ... with Recourse

Recourse: Two-stage, random RHS

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \langle c, x \rangle + \mathbb{E}\{\langle q, y_\xi \rangle\} \\ & \text{such that } Ax = b \\ & \quad Tx + Wy_\xi = d_\xi, \quad \forall \xi \in \Xi \\ & \quad x \geq 0, \quad y_\xi \geq 0, \quad \forall \xi \in \Xi \end{aligned}$$

KKT-multipliers: u and $\tilde{v}_\xi, \forall \xi \in \Xi$

Discrete case: $|\Xi|$ finite, (large scale) linear program

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \langle c, x \rangle + \sum_{\xi \in \Xi} \langle p_\xi, y_\xi \rangle \\ & \text{KKT-multipliers: } u \text{ and } \tilde{v}_\xi, \forall \xi \in \Xi \text{ (finite number)} \end{aligned}$$

.

c

$p_1 q$

$p_2 q$

$p q$

$p_L q$

A

b

T_1

w_1

d_1

T_1

w_2

d_2

T

w_1

w

d

T_L

w

w_L

d_L

Discrete distribution Extensive Formulation

Dual Recourse Problem

discrete distribution

Dual I: Two-stage, random RHS

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \langle b, u \rangle + \sum_{\xi \in \Xi} \langle d_{\xi}, \tilde{v}_{\xi} \rangle \\ & \text{such that } A^{\top} u + \sum_{\xi \in \Xi} T^{\top} \tilde{v}_{\xi} \leq c \\ & \qquad \qquad W^{\top} \tilde{v}_{\xi} \leq q, \quad \forall \xi \in \Xi \end{aligned}$$

Dual II: Two-stage, random RHS program

“normalization” of dual variables: $\tilde{v}_{\xi} = p_{\xi} v_{\xi}$

$$\mathbf{d} = (d_{\xi}, \xi \in \Xi), \quad \mathbf{v} = (v_{\xi}, \xi \in \Xi)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \langle b, u \rangle + \mathbb{E}\{\langle \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{v} \rangle\} \\ & \text{such that } A^{\top} u + T^{\top} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{v}\} \leq c \\ & \qquad \qquad W^{\top} \mathbf{v} \leq q \end{aligned}$$

Duality: Arbitrary Distribution

Guessing ... intelligently(?)

just RHS

$$\mathbf{d} = (d_\xi, \xi \in \Xi), \quad \mathbf{v} = (v_\xi, \xi \in \Xi)$$

$$\max \langle b, u \rangle + \mathbb{E}\{\langle \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{v} \rangle\}$$

$$\text{such that } A^\top u + T^\top \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{v}\} \leq c$$

$$W^\top \mathbf{v} \leq q \quad (\sim W^\top v_\xi \leq q, \forall \xi \in \Xi)$$

Duality: Arbitrary Distribution

Guessing ... intelligently(?)

just RHS

$$\mathbf{d} = (d_\xi, \xi \in \Xi), \quad \mathbf{v} = (v_\xi, \xi \in \Xi)$$

$$\max \langle b, u \rangle + \mathbb{E}\{\langle \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{v} \rangle\}$$

$$\text{such that } A^\top u + T^\top \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{v}\} \leq c$$

$$W^\top \mathbf{v} \leq q \quad (\sim W^\top v_\xi \leq q, \forall \xi \in \Xi)$$

If correct, approximation via discretization,
yields approximation solution, epi-convergence?
yields (approximating) multipliers \rightarrow correct multipliers.

.

A simple example

$\min x$ such that $x \geq 1$

$$x - y_\xi \geq \xi, \quad y_\xi \geq 0, \quad \xi \text{ uniform on } [1, 2]$$

Approximation of ξ : split $[0, 1]$ in ν intervals, length $1/\nu$
and pick in each interval the mid point (= conditional expectation)
with probability $1/\nu = p_k^\nu$ for $\xi_k = 1 + (2k - 1)/2\nu$

Approximating l.p.: $\min x$ such that $x \geq 1, \quad y_k \geq 0, \forall k$
 $x - y_k \geq \xi_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, \nu$

.

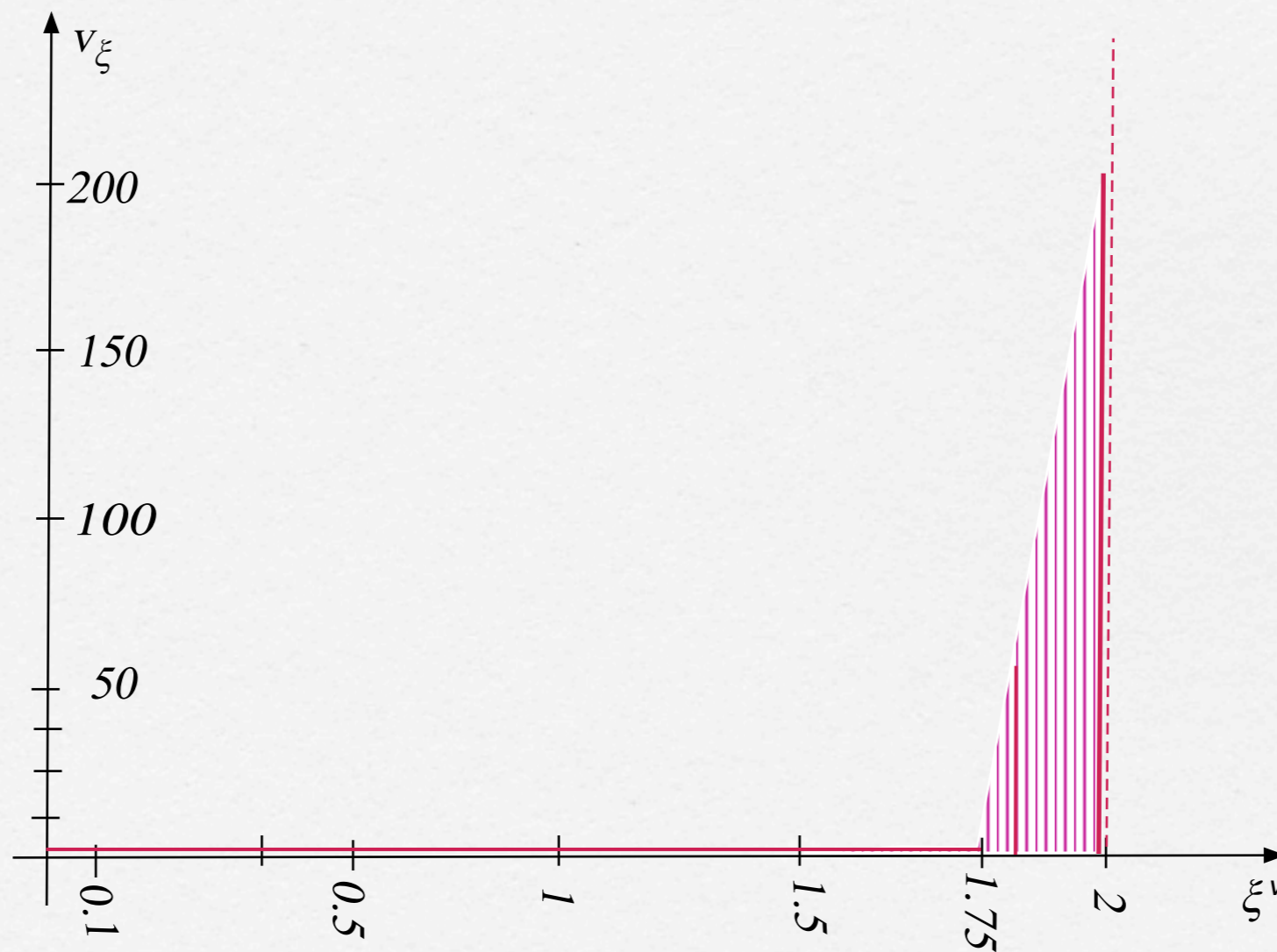
Dual Variables:

$$u^* = 0, \quad (v_k^\nu)^* = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, \nu - 1, \quad (v_\nu^\nu)^* = \nu$$

.

Optimal Solution: $x^* = 2 - 1/\nu \implies$ infeasible!

Refined discretization: associated KKT-multipliers



Duality Scheme(s)!

Convex duality scheme

$$\min f, \quad f: E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$$

embedded in a *family of perturbed problems*:

$$\{ \min_x F(u, x), u \in U \} \text{ with } F(0, x) = f(x)$$

Example: $f = \mathbb{E}\{f_0(\boldsymbol{\xi}, x, y_{\boldsymbol{\xi}})\}$

such that $f_{1i}(x) \leq u_{1i}, f_{2i}(\boldsymbol{\xi}, x, y_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) \leq u_{2i}(\boldsymbol{\xi}), i \in I_1 \cup I_2$

1. $u_{1i} \in \mathbb{R}, u_{2i} \in \mathbb{R} \implies$ distribution contamination
2. $u_{1i} \in \mathbb{R}, u_{2i} \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P)$, bounded fcns
3. $u_{1i} \in \mathbb{R}, u_{2i} \in \mathcal{D}(\Xi)$, space of “distributions”

Lagrangian: $L((x, y), (u_1, u_2)) =$

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ f_0(\boldsymbol{\xi}, x, y_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) + \sum_{i \in I_1} u_{1i} f_i(x) + \sum_{i \in I_2} \langle u_{2i}(\boldsymbol{\xi}), f_{2i}(\boldsymbol{\xi}, x, y_{\boldsymbol{\xi}}) \rangle \right\}$$

Constraint Nonanticipativity

$u_{1i} \in \mathbb{R}$, $u_{ti} \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P)$, bounded \mathcal{A}_t -measurable fcns

$$K_2 = \{x \mid \forall \xi \in \Xi, \exists y_\xi \text{ such that } f_{2i}(\xi, x, y_\xi) \leq 0, i \in I_2\}$$

relatively complete recourse: $K_2 \supset K_1 = \{x \mid f_{1i}(x) \leq 0, i \in I_1\}$

Constraint Nonanticipativity

$u_{1i} \in \mathbb{R}$, $u_{ti} \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P)$, bounded \mathcal{A}_t -measurable fcns

$K_2 = \{x \mid \forall \xi \in \Xi, \exists y_\xi \text{ such that } f_{2i}(\xi, x, y_\xi) \leq 0, i \in I_2\}$
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filtration $\{\mathcal{A}_t\}_{t=1}^T$ (T -stage program)

$\xi \mapsto K(\xi) = \{x = (x_1, \dots, x_T) \mid f_{ti}(\xi, x) \leq 0, i \in I_t, t = 1, \dots, T\}$

Nonanticipativity feasibility: for all t ,

$\xi \mapsto K_t(\xi) = \{ \vec{x}^t \mid \exists x = (\vec{x}^t, x_{t+1}, \dots, x_T) \in K(\xi) \}$ is \mathcal{A}_t -measurable

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two-stage: $\forall \xi \in \Xi, \forall x \in K_1$,

$\exists y_\xi$ such that $f_{2,i}(\xi, x, y_\xi) \leq 0, i \in I_2$

$K_1(\xi) = K_1$ is $\mathcal{A}_0 = \{0, \Xi\}$ -measurable.

Duality Theorem

$$\min E f(x) = \mathbb{E}\{f(\xi, x)\}, x \in \mathcal{N}_a = \{x \mid x_t : \xi \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_y}, \mathcal{A}_t\text{-measurable}\},$$
$$f : \Xi \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}, N = n_1 + \cdots + n_T, \text{ random convex lsc function}$$

Theorem. Under ‘classical’ $\mathbb{C}.\mathbb{Q}.$ and nonanticipative feasibility, there exist multipliers $w \in \mathcal{L}^1(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P; \mathbb{R}^N)$ with $\mathbb{E}\{w_t \mid \mathcal{A}_t\} = 0$ for all t such that x^* is optimal \iff

$$P\text{-almost surely } x^*(\xi) \in \operatorname{argmin}_x f(\xi, x)$$

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Theorem 2. Under ‘classical’ C.Q. there exist multipliers $w \in \mathcal{L}^1(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P; \mathbb{R}^N) \otimes \mathcal{S}(\Xi, \mathcal{A}, P; \mathbb{R}^N)$ with “E” $\{w_t \mid \mathcal{A}_t\} = 0$ for all t such that x^* is optimal \iff P -almost surely $x^*(\xi) \in \operatorname{argmin}_x f(\xi, x)$

induced constraints