

# Risk-Averse Dynamic Optimization

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## Why Probabilistic Models?

- Wealth of results of probability theory
- Connection to real data via statistics
- Universal language (engineering, economics, medicine, ...)
  
- Probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- Decision space  $\mathcal{X}$
- Random outcome (e.g., cost)  $Z_x(\omega)$ ,  $Z : \mathcal{X} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

## Expected Value Model

$$\min_x \mathbb{E}[Z_x] = \int_{\Omega} Z_x(\omega) P(d\omega)$$

It optimizes the outcome **on average** (Law of Large Numbers?)

## What is Risk?

Existence of **unlikely and undesirable** outcomes - high  $Z_x(\omega)$  for some  $\omega$

# Classical Utility Models

## Expected Utility Models (von Neumann and Morgenstern, 1944)

$$\min_{x \in X} \mathbb{E}[u(Z_x)] \quad \left( = \int_{\Omega} u(Z_x(\omega)) dP(\omega) \right)$$

$u : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a nondecreasing **disutility** function

## Rank Dependent Utility (Distortion) Models (Quiggin, 1982; Yaari, 1987)

$$\min_{x \in X} \int_0^1 F_{Z_x}^{-1}(p) dw(p) \quad F_{Z_x}^{-1}(\cdot) - \text{quantile function}$$

$w : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a nondecreasing **rank dependent utility** function

Existence of utility functions is derived from systems of axioms, but in practice they are difficult to elicit

## Two Objectives

- Minimize the expected outcome, the **mean**  $\mathbb{E}[Z_x]$
- Minimize a scalar measure of uncertainty of  $Z_x$ , the **risk**  $r[Z_x]$

$$r_1[Z] = \text{Var}[Z] \quad (\text{Markowitz' model})$$

$$r_2[Z] = (\mathbb{E}[(Z - \mathbb{E}Z)_+^s])^{1/s} \quad (\text{semideviation})$$

$$r_3[Z] = \min_{\eta} \mathbb{E} \left[ \max \left( \eta - Z, \frac{\rho}{1-\rho} (Z - \eta) \right) \right] \quad (\text{deviation from quantile})$$

## Mean–Risk Optimization

$$\min_{x \in X} \rho(Z_x) = \mathbb{E}[Z_x] + \kappa r[Z_x], \quad 0 \leq \kappa \leq \kappa_{\max}$$

Interesting application of **parametric optimization**

$r[Z_x]$  is **nonlinear w.r.t. probability** and possibly **nonconvex** in  $x$

Space of uncertain outcomes  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{L}_p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$

A functional  $\rho : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is a **coherent risk measure** if it satisfies the following axioms

- **Convexity:**  $\rho(\lambda Z + (1 - \lambda)W) \leq \lambda\rho(Z) + (1 - \lambda)\rho(W)$   
 $\forall \lambda \in (0, 1), Z, W \in \mathcal{Z}$
- **Monotonicity:** If  $Z \leq W$  then  $\rho(Z) \leq \rho(W)$ ,  $\forall Z, W \in \mathcal{Z}$
- **Translation Equivariance:**  $\rho(Z + a) = \rho(Z) + a$ ,  $\forall Z \in \mathcal{Z}, a \in \mathbb{R}$
- **Positive Homogeneity:**  $\rho(\tau Z) = \tau\rho(Z)$ ,  $\forall Z \in \mathcal{Z}, \tau \geq 0$

Kijima-Ohnishi (1993) – no monotonicity

Artzner-Delbaen-Eber-Heath (1999–) - space  $\mathcal{L}_\infty$

R.-Shapiro (2005) – spaces  $\mathcal{L}_p$ ,

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# Conjugate Duality of Risk Measures

Pairing of a linear topological space  $\mathcal{Z}$  with a linear topological space  $\mathcal{Y}$  of regular signed measures on  $\Omega$  with the bilinear form

$$\langle \mu, Z \rangle = \mathbb{E}_\mu[Z] = \int_\Omega Z(\omega) \mu(d\omega)$$

We assume standard conditions on pairing and the polarity:  $(\mathcal{Z}_+)^{\circ} = \mathcal{Y}_-$

## Dual Representation Theorem

If  $\rho : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is a lower semicontinuous\* coherent risk measure, then

$$\rho(Z) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}} \langle \mu, Z \rangle, \quad \forall Z \in \mathcal{Z}$$

with a convex  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{P}$  (set of probability measures in  $\mathcal{Y}$ ).

Delbaen (2001), Föllmer–Schied (2002), R.–Shapiro (2005),  
Rockafellar–Uryasev–Zabarankin (2006), ...

\* Lower semicontinuity is automatic if  $\rho$  is finite and  $\mathcal{Z}$  is a Banach lattice

# Optimization of Risk Measures

“Minimize” over  $x \in X$  a random outcome  $Z_x(\omega) = f(x, \omega)$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega$

## Composite Optimization Problem

$$\min_{x \in X} \rho(Z_x) \quad (\text{P})$$

## Theorem (R.–Shapiro, 2005)

Let  $x \mapsto Z_x(\omega)$  be convex and  $\rho(\cdot)$  be coherent. Suppose that  $\hat{x} \in X$  is an optimal solution of (P) and  $\rho(\cdot)$  is continuous at  $Z_{\hat{x}}$ . Then there exists a probability measure  $\hat{\mu} \in \partial\rho(Z_{\hat{x}}) \subset \mathcal{A}$  such that  $\hat{x}$  solves

$$\min_{x \in X} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mu}}[Z_x] = \min_{x \in X} \max_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E}_{\mu}[Z_x]$$

We also have the **duality relation**:

$$\min_{x \in X} \rho(Z_x) = \max_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}} \inf_{x \in X} \mathbb{E}_{\mu}[Z_x]$$

# How to Measure Risk of Sequences?

Probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  with filtration  $\mathcal{F}_1 \subset \dots \subset \mathcal{F}_T \subset \mathcal{F}$

Adapted sequence of random variables (costs)  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_T$

Spaces:  $\mathcal{Z}_t = \mathcal{L}_p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, P)$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , and  $\mathcal{Z}_{t,T} = \mathcal{Z}_t \times \dots \times \mathcal{Z}_T$

## Conditional Risk Measure

A mapping  $\rho_{t,T} : \mathcal{Z}_{t,T} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$  satisfying the **monotonicity condition**:

$$\rho_{t,T}(Z) \leq \rho_{t,T}(W) \text{ for all } Z, W \in \mathcal{Z}_{t,T} \text{ such that } Z \leq W$$

## Dynamic Risk Measure

A sequence of conditional risk measures  $\rho_{t,T} : \mathcal{Z}_{t,T} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$ ,  $t = 1, \dots, T$

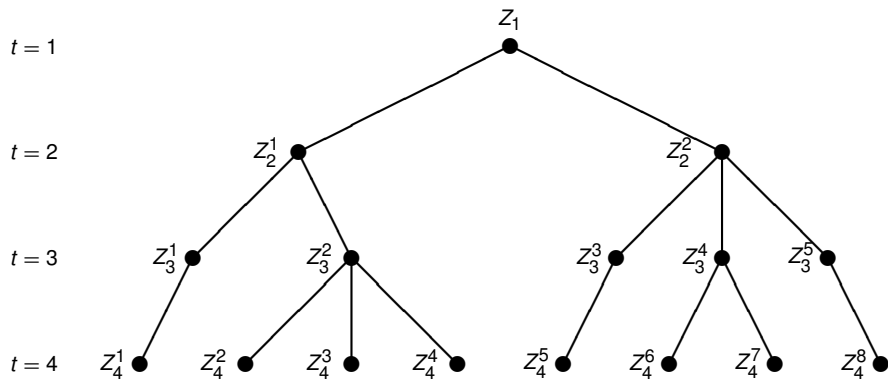
$$\rho_{1,T}(Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, \dots, Z_T) \in \mathcal{Z}_1 = \mathbb{R}$$

$$\rho_{2,T}(Z_2, Z_3, \dots, Z_T) \in \mathcal{Z}_2$$

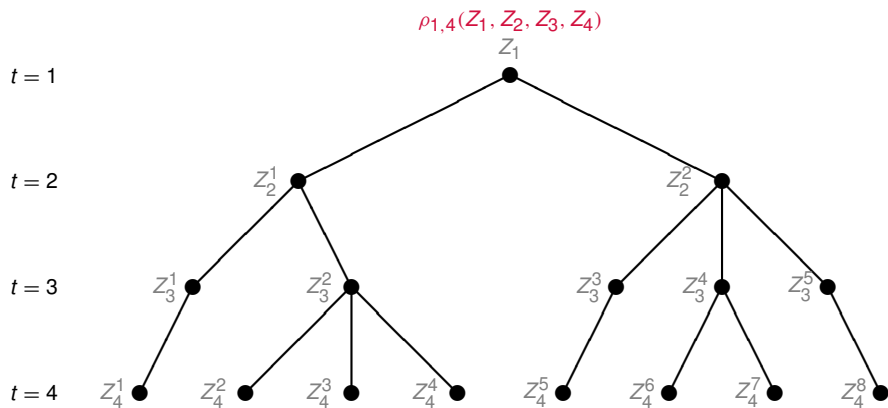
$$\rho_{3,T}(Z_3, \dots, Z_T) \in \mathcal{Z}_3$$

$\vdots$

# Evaluating Risk on a Scenario Tree

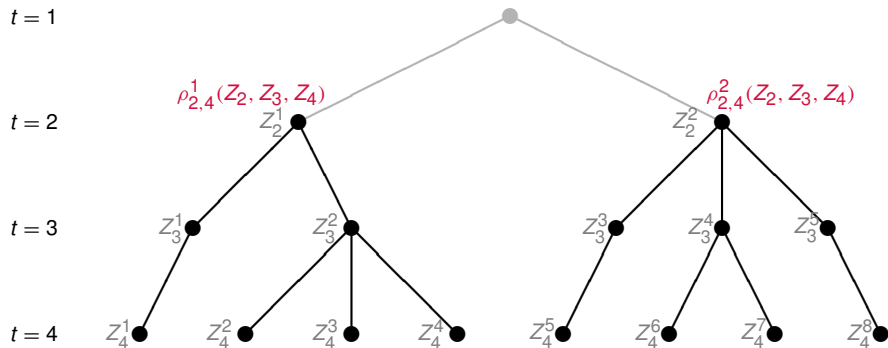


# Evaluating Risk on a Scenario Tree





# Evaluating Risk on a Scenario Tree



# Time Consistency of Dynamic Risk Measures

A dynamic risk measure  $\{\rho_{t,T}\}_{t=1}^T$  is **time-consistent** if for all  $\tau < \theta$

$$Z_k = W_k, \quad k = \tau, \dots, \theta - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_{\theta,T}(Z_\theta, \dots, Z_T) \leq \rho_{\theta,T}(W_\theta, \dots, W_T)$$

imply that  $\rho_{\tau,T}(Z_\tau, \dots, Z_T) \leq \rho_{\tau,T}(W_\tau, \dots, W_T)$

Define  $\rho_{\tau,\theta}(Z_\tau, \dots, Z_\theta) = \rho_{\tau,T}(Z_\tau, \dots, Z_\theta, 0, \dots, 0)$ ,  $1 \leq \tau \leq \theta \leq T$

## Risk-Averse Equivalence Theorem

Suppose  $\{\rho_{t,T}\}_{t=1}^T$  satisfies the conditions:

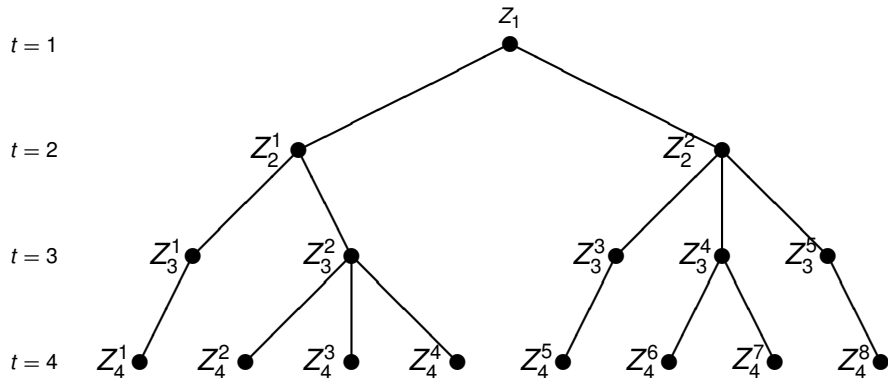
$$\rho_{t,T}(Z_t, Z_{t+1}, \dots, Z_T) = Z_t + \rho_{t,T}(0, Z_{t+1}, \dots, Z_T)$$

$$\rho_{t,T}(0, \dots, 0) = 0$$

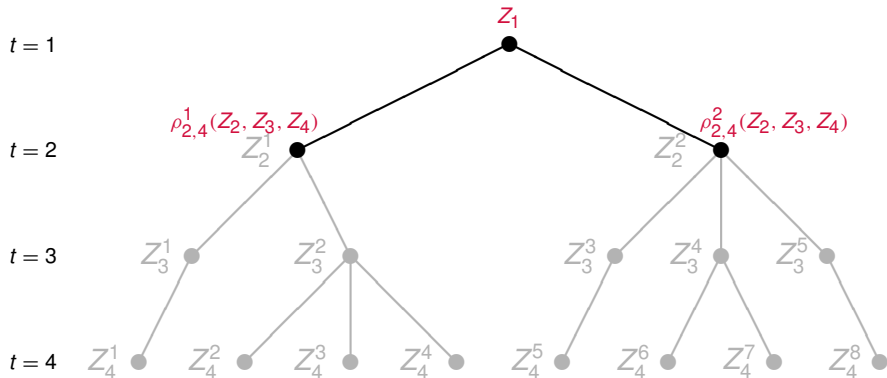
Then it is time-consistent if and only if for all  $\tau \leq \theta$ :

$$\rho_{\tau,T}(Z_\tau, \dots, Z_\theta, \dots, Z_T) = \rho_{\tau,\theta}(Z_\tau, \dots, Z_{\theta-1}, \rho_{\theta,T}(Z_\theta, \dots, Z_T))$$

# Collapsing Subtrees by Conditional Risk Measures



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# Recursive Structure of Dynamic Risk Measures

Define **one-step conditional risk measures**  $\rho_t : \mathcal{Z}_{t+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$ :

$$\rho_t(\mathcal{Z}_{t+1}) = \rho_{t,T}(0, \mathcal{Z}_{t+1}, 0, \dots, 0)$$

## Nested Decomposition Theorem

Suppose a dynamic risk measure  $\{\rho_{t,T}\}_{t=1}^T$  is time-consistent and

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{t,T}(\mathcal{Z}_t, \mathcal{Z}_{t+1}, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_T) &= \mathcal{Z}_t + \rho_{t,T}(0, \mathcal{Z}_{t+1}, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_T) \\ \rho_{t,T}(0, \dots, 0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Then for all  $t$  we have the representation

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{t,T}(\mathcal{Z}_t, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_T) &= \\ &= \mathcal{Z}_t + \rho_t \left( \mathcal{Z}_{t+1} + \rho_{t+1} \left( \mathcal{Z}_{t+2} + \dots + \rho_{T-2} \left( \mathcal{Z}_{T-1} + \rho_{T-1}(\mathcal{Z}_T) \right) \dots \right) \right)\end{aligned}$$

# Coherent One-Step Conditional Risk Measures

Stronger assumptions about one-step measures  $\rho_t : \mathcal{Z}_{t+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$ :

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 $\rho_t(Z + W) = Z + \rho_t(W)$ ,  $\forall Z \in \mathcal{Z}_t, W \in \mathcal{Z}_{t+1}$
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Example: Conditional Mean–Semideviation

$$\rho_t(Z_{t+1}) = \mathbb{E}[Z_{t+1} | \mathcal{F}_t] + \kappa \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( Z_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}[Z_{t+1} | \mathcal{F}_t] \right)_+^s | \mathcal{F}_t \right]^{\frac{1}{s}}$$

Here  $s \in [1, \rho]$  and  $\kappa \in [0, 1]$  may be  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable

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Example: Conditional Mean–Semideviation

$$\rho_t(Z_{t+1}) = \mathbb{E}[Z_{t+1} | \mathcal{F}_t] + \kappa \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( Z_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}[Z_{t+1} | \mathcal{F}_t] \right)_+^s | \mathcal{F}_t \right]^{\frac{1}{s}}$$

Here  $s \in [1, \rho]$  and  $\kappa \in [0, 1]$  may be  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable

# Multistage Risk-Averse Optimization Problems

**Probability Space:**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  with filtration  $\mathcal{F}_1 \subset \dots \subset \mathcal{F}_T \subset \mathcal{F}$

**Decision Variables:**  $x_t(\omega)$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega$ ,  $t = 1, \dots, T$

**Nonanticipativity:** Each  $x_t$  is  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable

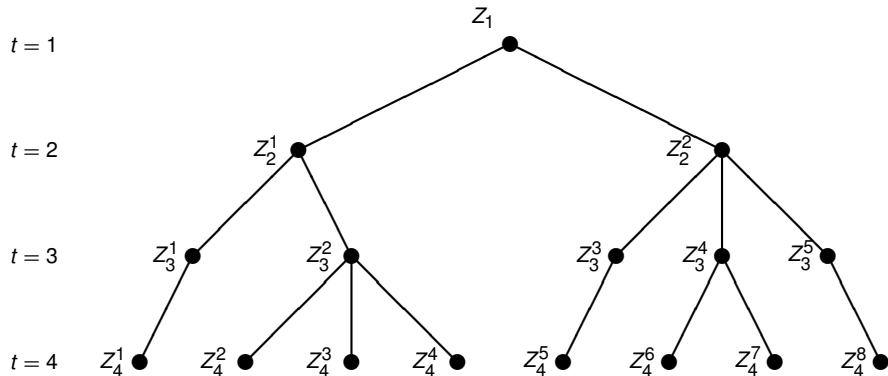
**Cost per Stage:**  $Z_t(x_t)$  with realizations  $Z_t(x_t(\omega), \omega)$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega$

**Objective Function:** Time-consistent dynamic measure of risk

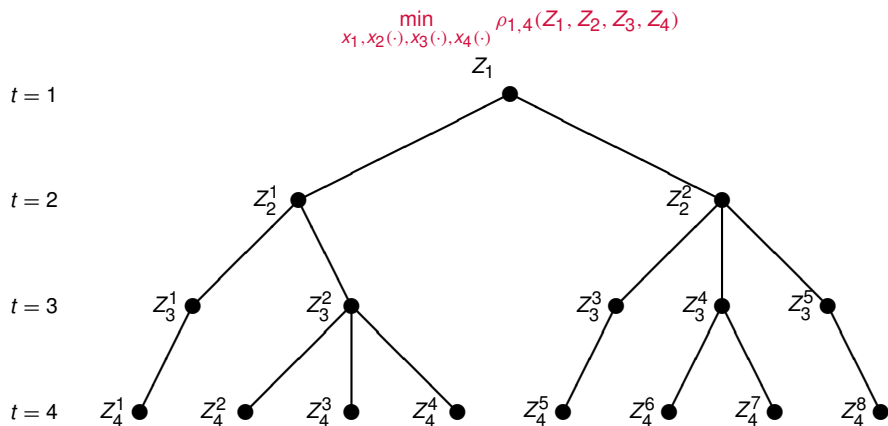
## Interchangeability Principle

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x_1, x_2(\cdot), \dots, x_T(\cdot)} \left\{ Z_1(x_1) + \rho_1 \left( Z_2(x_2) + \rho_2 \left( Z_3(x_3) + \dots \right. \right. \right. \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. \left. \left. \dots + \rho_{T-2} \left( Z_{T-1}(x_{T-1}) + \rho_{T-1} \left( Z_T(x_T) \right) \right) \dots \right) \right) \right\} \\ &= \min_{x_1} \left\{ Z_1(x_1) + \rho_1 \left[ \min_{x_2} \left( Z_2(x_2) + \rho_2 \left[ \min_{x_3} \left( Z_3(x_3) + \dots \right. \right. \right. \right. \right. \right. \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. \left. \left. \left. \left. \dots + \rho_{T-2} \left[ \min_{x_{T-1}} \left( Z_{T-1}(x_{T-1}) + \rho_{T-1} \left( \min_{x_T} Z_T(x_T) \right) \right) \right] \dots \right) \right] \right) \right] \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

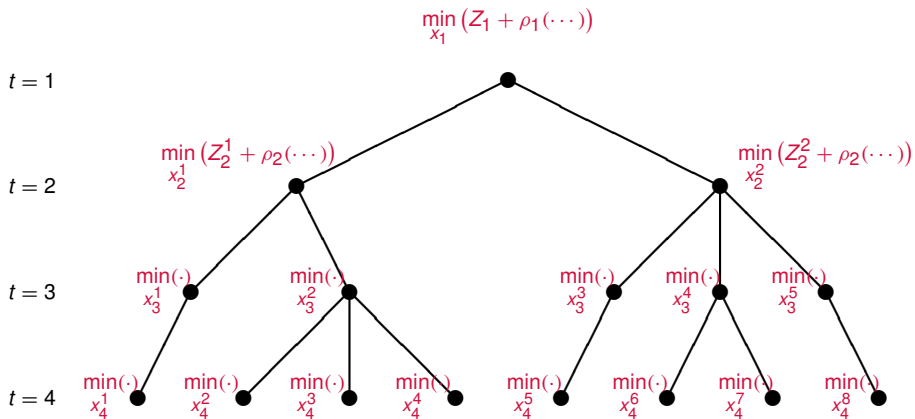
# Interchangeability on a Scenario Tree



# Interchangeability on a Scenario Tree



# Interchangeability on a Scenario Tree



- State space  $\mathcal{X}$  (Polish with Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra)
- Control space  $\mathcal{U}$  (Polish with Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra)
- Feasible control sets  $U_t : \mathcal{X} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{U}, t = 1, 2, \dots$
- Controlled transition kernels  $Q_t : \text{graph}(U_t) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}, t = 1, 2, \dots$   
 $\mathcal{P}$  - set of probability measures on  $\mathcal{X}$
- Cost functions  $c_t : \text{graph}(U_t) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, t = 1, 2, \dots$
- State history  $\mathcal{X}^t$  (up to time  $t = 1, 2, \dots$ )
- Policy  $\pi_t : \mathcal{X}^t \rightarrow \mathcal{U}, t = 1, 2, \dots$  (always with values in  $U_t(x_t)$ )
- Markov policy  $\pi_t : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}, t = 1, 2, \dots$   
(stationary if  $\pi_t = \pi_1$  for all  $t$ )

$$x_t \longrightarrow u_t = \pi_t(x_t)$$

$$(x_t, u_t) \longrightarrow x_{t+1} \sim Q_t(x_t, u_t)$$



## Two Basic Risk-Neutral Control Problems

Finite horizon expected cost problem:

$$\min_{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_T} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T c_t(x_t, u_t) + c_{T+1}(x_{T+1}) \right]$$

with controls  $u_t = \pi_t(x_1, \dots, x_t)$

Infinite horizon discounted expected cost problem:

$$\min_{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \alpha^{t-1} c_t(x_t, u_t) \right]$$

- Both problems have optimal solutions in form of **Markov policies**
- Optimal policies can be found by **dynamic programming equations**

### Our Intention

Introduce **risk aversion** to both problems by replacing the expected value by **dynamic risk measures**

# Using Dynamic Risk Measures for Markov Decision Processes

- Controlled Markov process  $x_t, t = 1, \dots, T, T + 1$
- Policy  $\Pi = \{\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_T\}$  defines  $u_t = \pi_t(x_t)$
- Cost sequence  $c_t(x_t, u_t), t = 1, \dots, T$ , and  $c_{T+1}(x_{T+1})$
- Dynamic time-consistent risk measure

$$J(\Pi) = c_1(x_1, u_1) + \rho_1 \left( c_2(x_2, u_2) + \rho_2 \left( c_3(x_3, u_3) + \dots + \rho_{T-1} \left( c_T(x_T, u_T) + \rho_T(c_{T+1}(x_{T+1})) \right) \dots \right) \right)$$

- Risk-averse optimal control problem

$$\min_{\Pi} J(\Pi)$$

## Difficulty

The value of  $\rho_t(\cdot)$  is  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable and is allowed to depend on the entire history of the process. We cannot expect a Markov optimal policy if our attitude to risk depends on the whole past

## New Construction of a Conditional Risk Measure

- Consider functions of the state, in fixed space  $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{L}_p(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{B}, P_0)$
- Additional argument: density on  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{B}, P_0)$  in the set

$$\mathcal{M} = \left\{ m \in \mathcal{L}_q(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{B}, P_0) : \int_{\mathcal{X}} m(x) P_0(dx) = 1, m \geq 0 \right\}, \quad \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$$

### Risk Transition Mapping Associated with a Kernel $Q : \text{graph}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$

A measurable functional  $\sigma : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying

- For every  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  the functional  $v \mapsto \sigma(v, x, Q(x, u(x)))$  is a coherent measure of risk on  $\mathcal{V}$
- For every  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  the function  $x \mapsto \sigma(v, x, Q(x, u(x)))$  is in  $\mathcal{V}$

### Dual Representation

If  $\sigma(\cdot, x, m)$  is lsc, then there exist convex sets  $\mathcal{A}(x, m)$  such that

$$\sigma(v, x, m) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}(x, m)} \langle v, \mu \rangle$$

**Assumption:** The controlled kernels  $Q_t$  have values in the set  $\mathcal{M}$  (with densities with respect to  $P_0$ )

A one-step conditional risk measure  $\rho_t : \mathcal{Z}_{t+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$  is a **Markov risk measure** with respect to the controlled Markov process  $\{x_t\}$ , if there exists a risk transition mapping  $\sigma_t : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  and for all measurable  $u_t \in U_t(x_t)$  we have

$$\rho_t(v(x_{t+1})) = \sigma_t(v, x_t, Q_t(x_t, u_t))$$

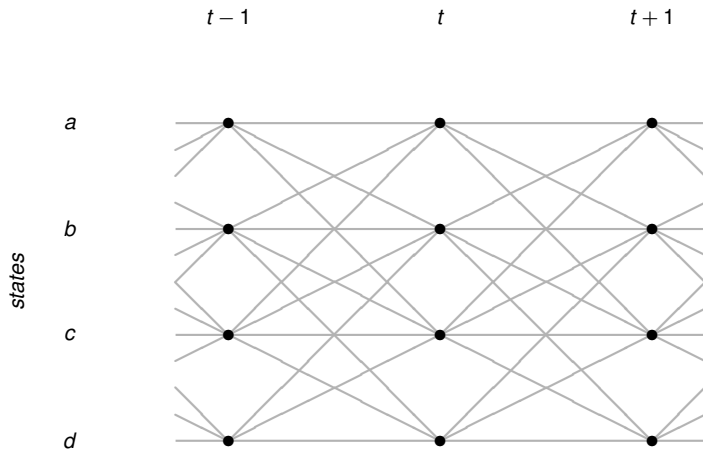
**Duality:** 
$$\rho_t(v(x_{t+1})) = \sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{A}_t(x_t, Q_t(x_t, u_t))} \langle v, \mu \rangle$$

$\mathcal{A}_t(x_t, Q_t(x_t, u_t))$  – controlled multikernel

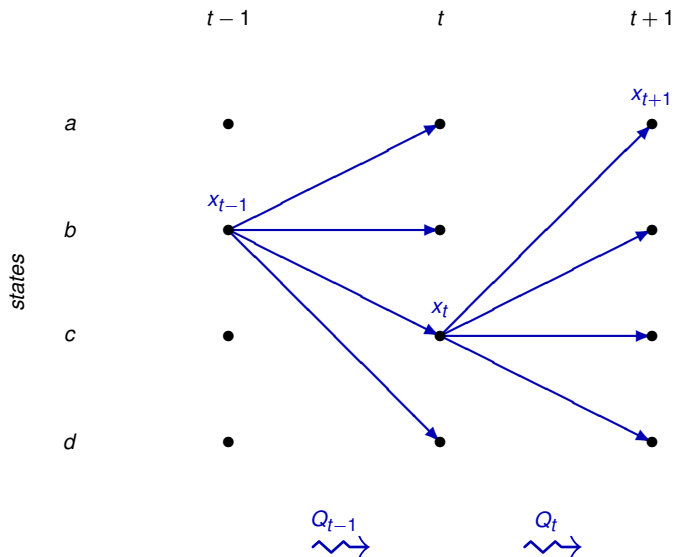
In the risk neutral setting, when  $\rho_t(v(x_{t+1})) = \mathbb{E}[v(x_{t+1})|\mathcal{F}_t]$  we have a single-valued controlled kernel  $\mathcal{A}_t(x_t, Q_t(x_t, u_t)) = \{Q_t(x_t, u_t)\}$ .

**Risk-averse preferences**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **Ambiguity in the transition kernel**

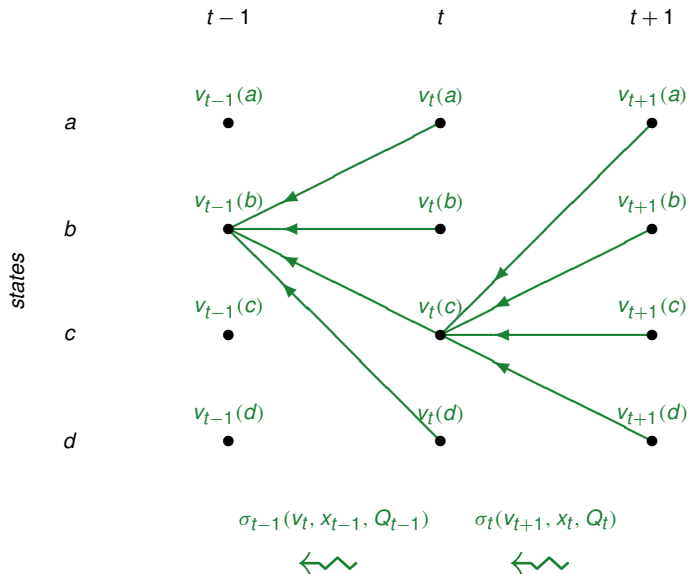
# Markov Risk Evaluation



# Markov Risk Evaluation



# Markov Risk Evaluation



# Finite Horizon Risk-Averse Control Problem

Consider a controlled Markov process  $\{x_t\}$  with  $u_t = \pi_t(x_1, \dots, x_t)$ .

Risk-averse optimal control problem:

$$\min_{\Pi} c_1(x_1, u_1) + \rho_1 \left( c_2(x_2, u_2) + \rho_2 \left( c_3(x_3, u_3) + \dots \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \dots + \rho_{T-1} (c_T(x_T, u_T) + \rho_T (c_{T+1}(x_{T+1}))) \dots \right) \right)$$

## Theorem

If the conditional measures  $\rho_t$  are Markov (+ technical conditions), then the optimal solution is given by the **dynamic programming equations**:

$$v_{T+1}(x) = c_{T+1}(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{X} \\ v_t(x) = \min_{u \in U_t(x)} \left\{ c_t(x, u) + \sigma_t(v_{t+1}, x, Q_t(x, u)) \right\}, \quad t = T, \dots, 1$$

Optimal **Markov policy**  $\hat{\Pi} = \{\hat{\pi}_1, \dots, \hat{\pi}_T\}$  - the minimizers above



# Finite Horizon Risk-Averse Control Problem

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# Discounted Risk Measures for Infinite Sequences

- $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}$  - filtration on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$
- $Z_t, t = 1, 2, \dots$  - adapted sequence of random variables
- $\mathcal{Z}_t = \mathcal{L}_\rho(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, P), \mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{Z}_1 \times \mathcal{Z}_2 \times \dots$
- $\rho_t : \mathcal{Z}_{t+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_t$  - conditional risk mappings

Fix the **discount factor**  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . For  $T = 1, 2, \dots$  define

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{1,T}^\alpha(Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_T) &= \rho_{1,T}(Z_1, \alpha Z_2, \dots, \alpha^{T-1} Z_T) \\ &= Z_1 + \rho_1\left(\alpha Z_2 + \rho_2\left(\alpha^2 Z_3 + \dots + \rho_{T-1}(\alpha^{T-1} Z_T) \dots\right)\right)\end{aligned}$$

## Discounted Risk Measure

$$\varrho^\alpha(Z) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{1,T}^\alpha(Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_T)$$

It is well defined, convex, monotone, and positively homogeneous, whenever  $\max_t \text{ess sup } |Z_t(\omega)| < \infty$

## Discounted Infinite Horizon Problem

We consider a controlled stationary Markov process  $\{x_t\}$ ,  $t = 1, 2, \dots$  with a discounted measure of risk ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Pi} J(\Pi, x_1) &= \varrho^\alpha (c(x_1, u_1), c(x_2, u_2), \dots) \\ &= c(x_1, u_1) + \rho_1 \left( \alpha c(x_2, u_2) + \rho_2 (\alpha^2 c(x_3, u_3) + \dots) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Conditional Markov risk measures  $\rho_t$  are **stationary**, if they share the same risk transition mapping  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

### Theorem

If the conditional measures  $\rho_t$  are Markov and stationary, then the optimal value function  $\hat{v}(x)$  satisfies the **dynamic programming equation**:

$$v(x) = \min_{u \in U(x)} \{ c(x, u) + \alpha \sigma(v, x, Q(x, u)) \}, \quad x \in \mathcal{X}$$

Optimal **stationary Markov policy**  $\hat{\Pi} = \{\hat{\pi}, \hat{\pi}, \dots\}$  - the minimizer above

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Optimal **stationary Markov policy**  $\hat{\Pi} = \{\hat{\pi}, \hat{\pi}, \dots\}$  - the minimizer above

## Value iteration

$$v^{k+1}(x) = \min_{u \in U(x)} \{c(x, u) + \alpha \sigma(v^k, x, Q(x, u))\}, \quad x \in \mathcal{X}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

## Policy iteration

- For  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , given a stationary Markov policy  $\{\pi^k, \pi^k, \dots\}$ , find the **value function**  $v^k$  by solving (by a specialized Newton method) the **nonsmooth equation**

$$v(x) = c(x, \pi^k(x)) + \alpha \sigma(v, x, Q(x, \pi^k(x))), \quad x \in \mathcal{X}$$

- Find the **next policy**  $\pi^{k+1}(\cdot)$  by **one-step optimization**

$$\pi^{k+1}(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_{u \in U(x)} \{c(x, u) + \alpha \sigma(v^k, x, Q(x, u))\}, \quad x \in \mathcal{X}$$

## Example: Service and Insurance

**5 states** - “new”, “good”, “bad”, “broken uninsured”, “broken insured”

**5 controls** - “nothing”, “insure”, “service”, “service and insure”, “replace”

As the cost of insurance is greater than the expected benefit from it,  
**no risk-neutral model can suggest insurance**

### Results for the mean-semideviation model

Value Iteration - 212 steps

Policy Iteration - 2 steps (with 3 and 2 Newton steps)

#### Optimal Policy

“new” - “service and insure”

“good” - “service”

“bad” - “do nothing”

“broken uninsured” and “broken insured” - “replace”