# The Geometry of Model Uncertainty

Mathias Beiglböck

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# 1) background - model uncertainty and optimal transport

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background – model uncertainty and optimal transport
particular aspect: Skorokhod embedding

#### Uncertainty

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basic object: stock price (random process)

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 $\Phi =$  Forward Start =  $(S_{T_2}/S_{T_1} - K)_+$ , S = DAX  $T_1 = 1$ ,  $T_2 = 1.5$ 

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lower/upper prices versus (local) Bergomi and LV models

M. Beiglböck

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- Lyons '95
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 $\sup_{\mathbb{P}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[\Phi(S)] = \inf\{\text{robust bounds}\}$ 

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B., Henry-Labordere, Penkner / Galichon, Touzi ('13)

 $\rightarrow$  transport approach

#### uncertainty

## Transport Approach to Model Uncertainty

call prices known

 $\begin{array}{c} \updownarrow\\ S_t \sim_{\mathbb{P}} \mu_t \end{array}$ 

call prices known

(Breeden-Litzenberger '78)














principal idea: model  $\mathbb{P}$  transports distribution through time

(I) DUALITY



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(I) DUALITY B., Henry-Labordere, Penkner '13



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# (II) MONOTONICITY



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*geometric* description of extreme models cont. time – *geometry* of Skorokhod embedding

given:

#### embedding

# Skorokhod embedding problem (SEP)

given:  $\mu$ ,  $\int x^2 d\mu < \infty$ ,

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- Skorokhod '61
- Root '69
- Rost '71
- Azema-Yor '79
- o Bass '83
- Vallois I '83
- Perkins '85

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#### embedding

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0	Skorokhod '61	∘ Jacka '88	
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0	Rost '71	∘ Hobson '98	surveys:
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Root:

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Root:  $\exists$  barrier R











Rost


















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Hobson ('98):

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optimal embeddings: basis for all known extremal models

optimal Skorokhod embedding problem:

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Thm – Existence

optimal Skorokhod embedding problem:

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**Thm** – **Existence**  $\Phi$  upper semi-continuous  $\implies \exists$  optimizer  $\tau$ 

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Thm – Duality

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 $\Phi$  upper semi-continuous  $\implies$  dual theory of Skorokhod embeddeding

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Thm – Monotonicity Principle

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 $\Phi$  Borel,  $\tau$  optimal  $\implies$  support of  $\tau$  is pathwise optimal

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$$\exists$$
 monotone  $\Gamma$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}((B_s)_{s \leq \tau}) \in \Gamma) = 1$ 

optimal Skorokhod embedding problem:

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Thm – Duality

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**Thm** – **Monotonicity Principle**   $\Phi$  Borel,  $\tau$  optimal  $\Longrightarrow$  support of  $\tau$  is pathwise optimal  $\exists$  monotone  $\Gamma$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}((B_s)_{s < \tau}) \in \Gamma) = 1$ 

 $\Gamma$  monotone :  $\Longleftrightarrow \Gamma$  cannot be improved by pathwise modifications

# Thm [Root69]:

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$$\mu \Rightarrow \exists au_R$$
 of  $\swarrow$ - type,  $B_{ au_R} \sim \mu$ 

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$$\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \downarrow \neg$$
 type,  $B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu$ ,  $\mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \min$ 

**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \downarrow_{\tau_R} \rightarrow \text{type,} \quad B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \min$ 

Proof [BCH15]:

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**Proof** [BCH15]: 1) fix  $\tau$  s.t.  $B_{\tau} \sim \mu, \mathbb{E}\tau^2 \rightarrow \min$ 

**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \downarrow \tau_R^2$ - type,  $B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu$ ,  $\mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \min$ 

**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \downarrow_{\tau_R} \downarrow_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \to \min$ 



**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \mu_r \rightarrow \text{type}, \quad B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \text{min}$ 



**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \downarrow_{\mathcal{T}}$ - type,  $B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu$ ,  $\mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \min$ 



**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \mu_r \rightarrow \text{type}, \quad B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \text{min}$ 



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**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \mu_{\mathcal{I}} - \text{ type, } B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \to \min$ 



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**Proof** [BCH15]: 1) fix  $\tau$  s.t.  $B_{\tau} \sim \mu, \mathbb{E}\tau^2 \rightarrow \min 2$  find geometry of  $\tau$ 



hence:

**Thm** [Root69]: given  $\mu \Rightarrow \exists \tau_R \text{ of } \mu_r \rightarrow \text{type}, \quad B_{\tau_R} \sim \mu, \quad \mathbb{E}\tau_R^2 \rightarrow \text{min}$ 


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- results extend to higher dimensions / continuous Markov processes

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- Hobson '98
- o Brown, Hobson, Rogers '01
- Madan, Yor '02
- Hobson, Pederson '02

- o Obloj, Spoida '13
- o Henry-Labordere, Obloj, Touzi '14
- o Cox, Obloj, Touzi '16
- o Claisse, Guo, Henry-Labordere, '16

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- transport approach [BCH16]:

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 $\bar{p}_{\Phi} = \sup\{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[\Phi(S)] : \mathbb{P} \text{ mart.}, S_{t_1} \sim \mu_1, \dots, S_{t_n} \sim \mu_n, S_{\mathcal{T}} \sim \mu_{\mathcal{T}}\}$ 

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transport approach [BCH16]: all optimal emb. extend in full generality

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