

IPMU 2012

Imprecise probabilities - A
Session chair: Enrique Miranda

Imprecise Bernoulli processes

Jasper De Bock & Gert de Cooman

9 July 2012

Imprecise Bernoulli process ?

Defining an imprecise Bernoulli process

A sequence of binary random variables

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$$

each assuming values in the set

$$\mathcal{X} = \{H, T\}$$

Defining an imprecise Bernoulli process

A sequence of binary random variables

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$$

satisfying the following properties

IDENTICALLY DISTRIBUTED
EPISTEMICALLY INDEPENDENT (IID)
EXCHANGEABLE

Defining an imprecise Bernoulli process

A sequence of binary random variables

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! IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION !

a single **Bernoulli experiment** X_i
has a **precisely known**
probability mass function

Defining an imprecise Bernoulli process

$$P(X_i = H) = \theta \quad P(X_i = T) = 1 - \theta$$

with a fixed $\theta \in [0, 1]$

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Imprecise ? Bernoulli processes

Imprecise ? No precisely known
probability distribution!

Coherent sets of desirable gambles

No precisely known probability distribution!

A set \mathcal{D} of desirable gambles

We model a **subject's beliefs** regarding the possible **outcomes Ω of an experiment** by looking at the **gambles he is willing to accept**

(Peter M. Williams & Peter Walley)

Coherent sets of desirable gambles

No precisely known probability distribution!

A set \mathcal{D} of desirable gambles

Rationality criteria:

COHERENT

C1. *if $f = 0$ then $f \notin \mathcal{D}$*

C2. *if $f > 0$ then $f \in \mathcal{D}$*

C3. *if $f \in \mathcal{D}$ then $\lambda f \in \mathcal{D}$ for $\lambda > 0$*

C4. *if $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{D}$ then $f_1 + f_2 \in \mathcal{D}$*

($f > 0$ iff $f \geq 0$ and $f \neq 0$)

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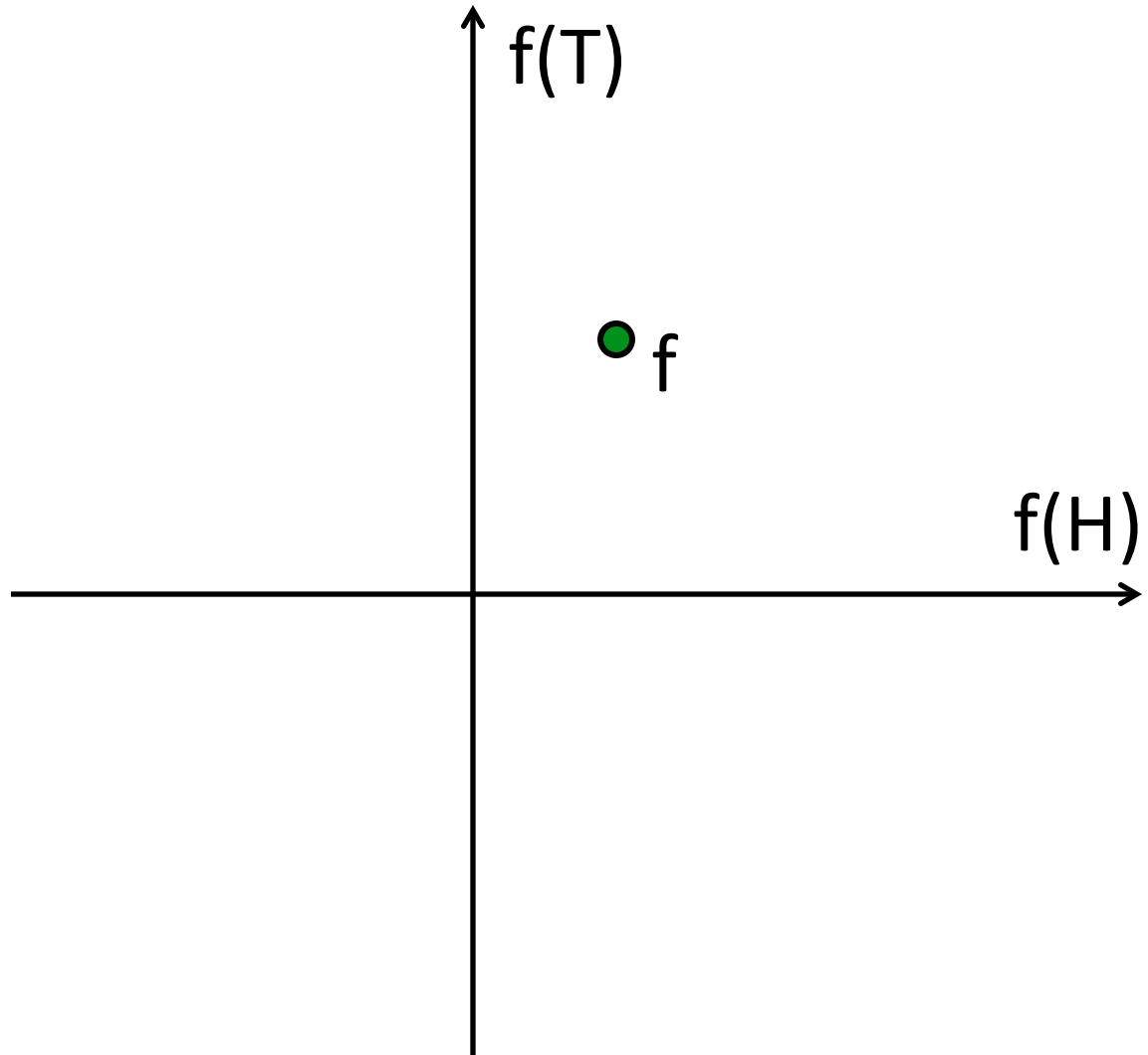
Coherent sets of desirable gambles

a **single**

Bernoulli

Experiment **X**

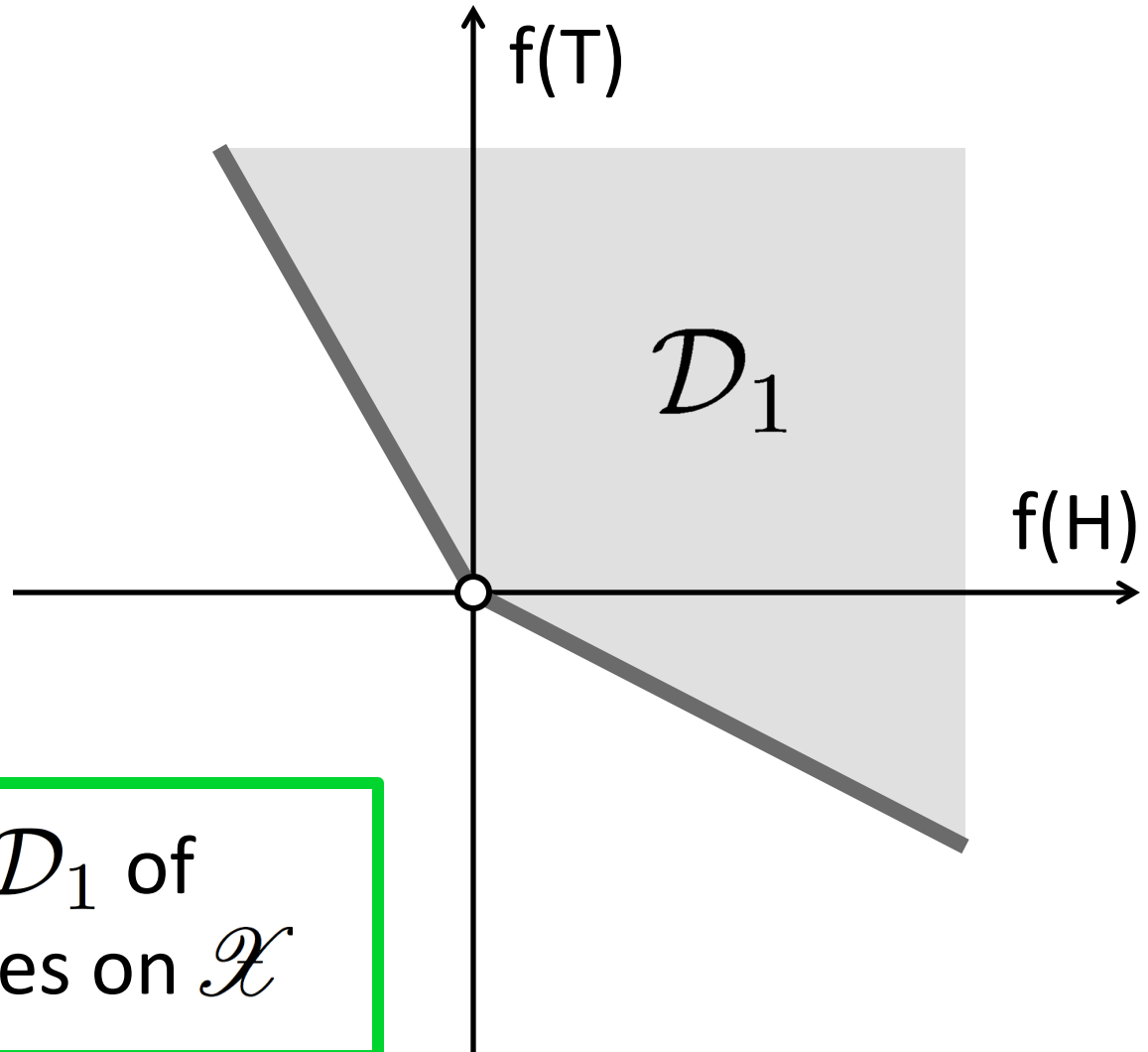
$$\Omega = \mathcal{X}$$



Coherent sets of desirable gambles

a **single**
Bernoulli
Experiment X

$$\Omega = \mathcal{X}$$




A coherent set \mathcal{D}_1 of
desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}

Coherent sets of desirable gambles

a **sequence** of Bernoulli experiments

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$$

$$\Omega = \mathcal{X}^n$$

Example: (H, T, H, \dots, H, T)

n outcomes

Coherent sets of desirable gambles

a **sequence** of Bernoulli experiments

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EXCHANGEABLE ?

Exchangeability

Exchangeability (defining property)

We assess X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n to be **exchangeable**

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“The **order** of the variables **does not matter**”

Exchangeability (defining property)

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“The **order** of the variables **does not matter**”



For any **gamble f** on the outcome of the sequence, **we are willing to exchange it for any permuted version of this gamble**, in which the order of the variables in the argument has been changed.

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Motivation: For precise binomial processes, exchangeability is implied by the IID property

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How to impose this property?

Exchangeability (defining property)

Exchangeability and sets of desirable gambles



Gert de Cooman



Erik Quaeghebeur

Exchangeability (defining property)

Gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n

TRANSFORMATION

2^n -dimensional space

\mathbf{B}_n^n

$(n+1)$ -dimensional space

Polynomial function $\mathbf{B}_n^n(f)$ on $[0,1]$ (degree $\leq n$)

Exchangeability (defining property)

Gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n

TRANSFORMATION

2^n -dimensional space

Bn^n

#H(x) times H
#T(x) times T
(H, T, H, ..., H, T)

↑
x

$x \in \mathcal{X}^n$

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$\forall \theta \in [0,1]:$

#H(x) times H
#T(x) times T
(H, T, H, ..., H, T)

$x \in \mathcal{X}^n$

$p(x)$

$\theta^{\#H(x)} (1-\theta)^{\#T(x)}$

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$\forall \theta \in [0,1]:$

$(n+1)$ -dimensional space

#H(x) times H
#T(x) times T
(H, T, H, ..., H, T)

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ f(x)p(x) \\ \downarrow \\ \theta^{\#H(x)}(1-\theta)^{\#T(x)} \end{array}$$

$x \in \mathcal{X}^n$

Polynomial function $B_n^n(f)$ on $[0,1]$ (degree $\leq n$)

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$\forall \theta \in [0,1]:$

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#H(x) times H
#T(x) times T
(H, T, H, ..., H, T)

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}^n} f(x)p(x)$$

$$\theta^{\#H(x)}(1-\theta)^{\#T(x)}$$

Polynomial function $B_n^n(f)$ on $[0,1]$ (degree $\leq n$)

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TRANSFORMATION

2^n -dimensional space

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$\forall \theta \in [0,1]:$

$$Bn^n(f)(\theta) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}^n} f(x)p(x)$$

#H(x) times H
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Exchangeability (defining property)

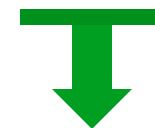
probability of heads

||

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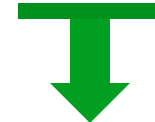
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#H(x) times H
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(H, T, H, ..., H, T)



$$\frac{\theta^{\#H(x)}(1-\theta)^{\#T(x)}}{||}$$

||

probability of
the sequence \mathbf{x}

Exchangeability (defining property)

probability of heads

||

$\forall \theta \in [0,1]:$

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||

Precise Expected Value!

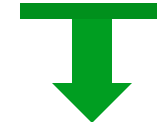
||

$E(f)$

#H(x) times H

#T(x) times T

(H, T, H, ..., H, T)



$$\frac{\theta^{\#H(x)}(1-\theta)^{\#T(x)}}{}$$

||

probability of
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Gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n

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Exchangeable **sequence** X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n

Coherent set \mathcal{D}_n of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n

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\mathcal{B}_n^n



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- B1. *if $p = 0$ then $p \notin \mathcal{H}_n$*
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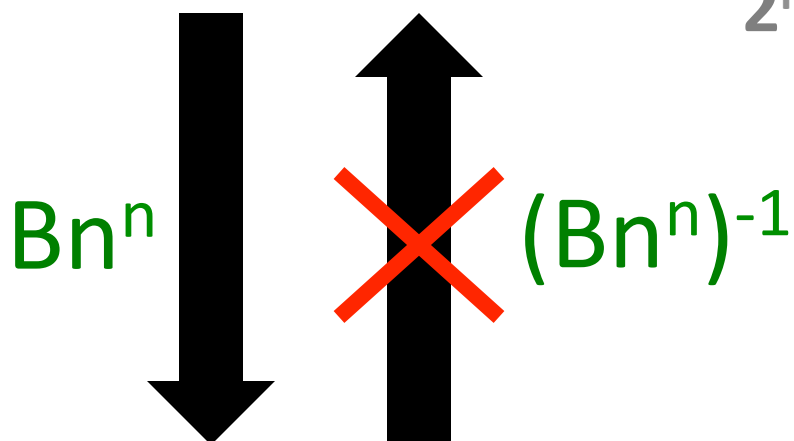
Set \mathcal{H}_n of polynomial functions (of degree $\leq n$)

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$(n+1)$ -dimensional space

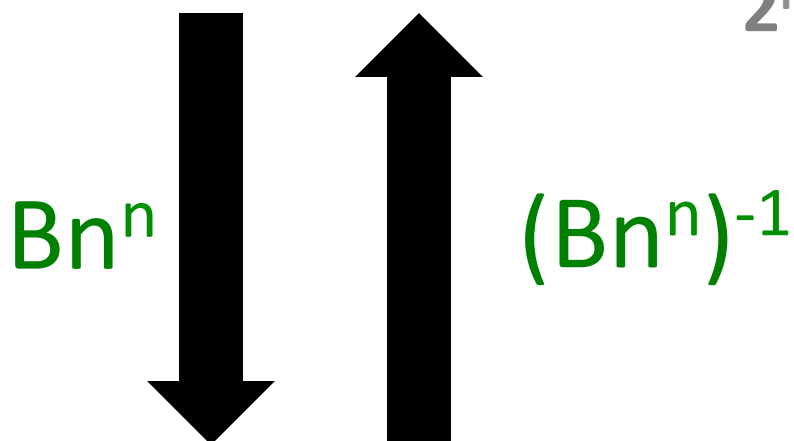
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Bn^n



$(Bn^n)^{-1}$

HOW DO WE
FIND \mathcal{H}_n ?

$(n+1)$ -dimensional space

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Identical marginal models

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For every Bernoulli experiment X_i in the sequence X_1, \dots, X_n , we have the same given marginal model \mathcal{D}_1

A coherent set \mathcal{D}_1 of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}

Identical marginal models

For every Bernoulli experiment X_i in the sequence X_1, \dots, X_n , we have **the same given marginal model \mathcal{D}_1**

Implied by the assumption of exchangeability!
(due to symmetry)

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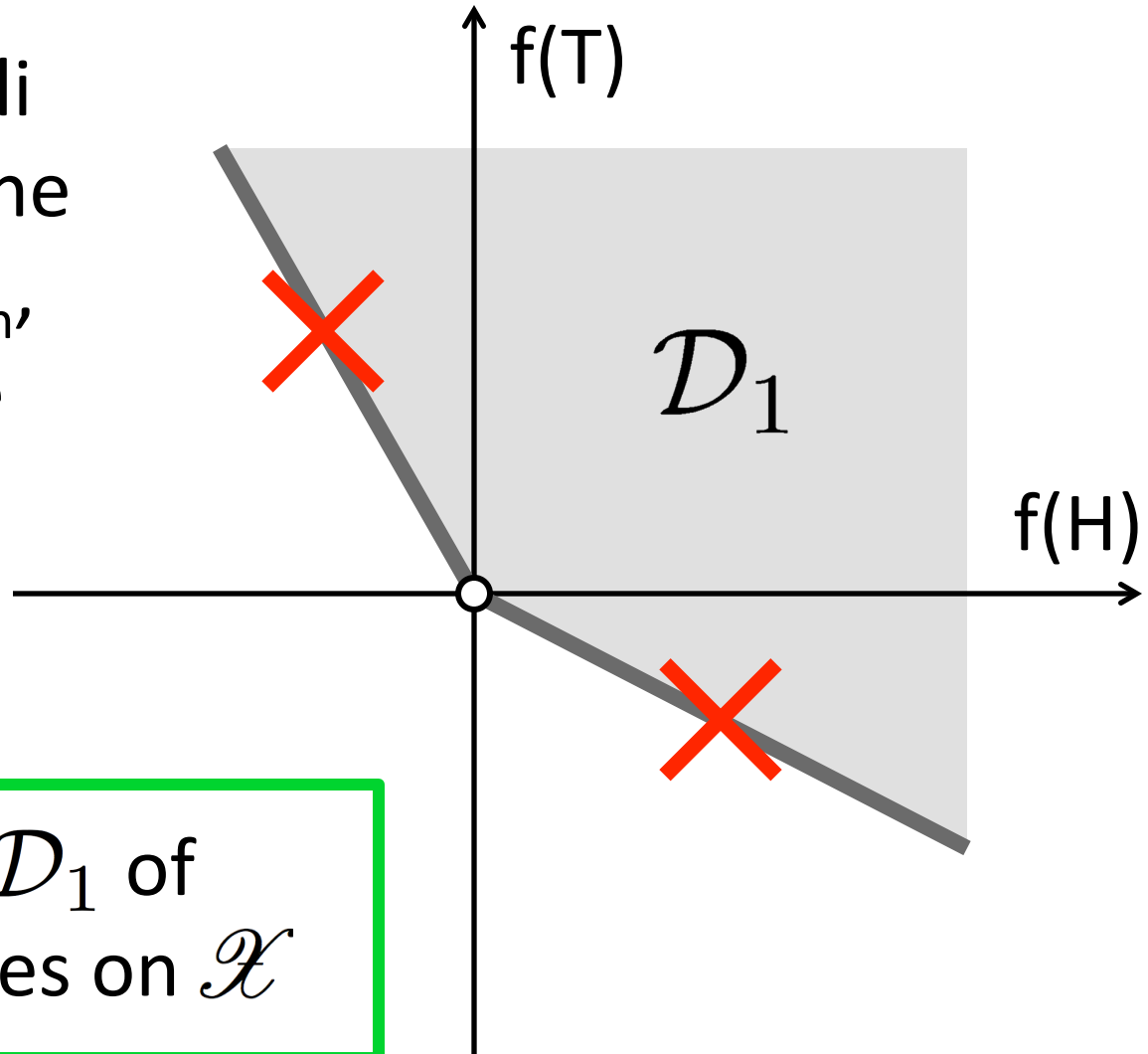
A coherent set \mathcal{D}_1 of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}

$$\begin{array}{c} f \in \mathcal{D}_1 \\ \text{Bn}^1 \downarrow \\ \text{Bn}^1(f) \in \mathcal{H}_1 \\ \parallel \end{array}$$

linear
polynomials
in \mathcal{H}_n

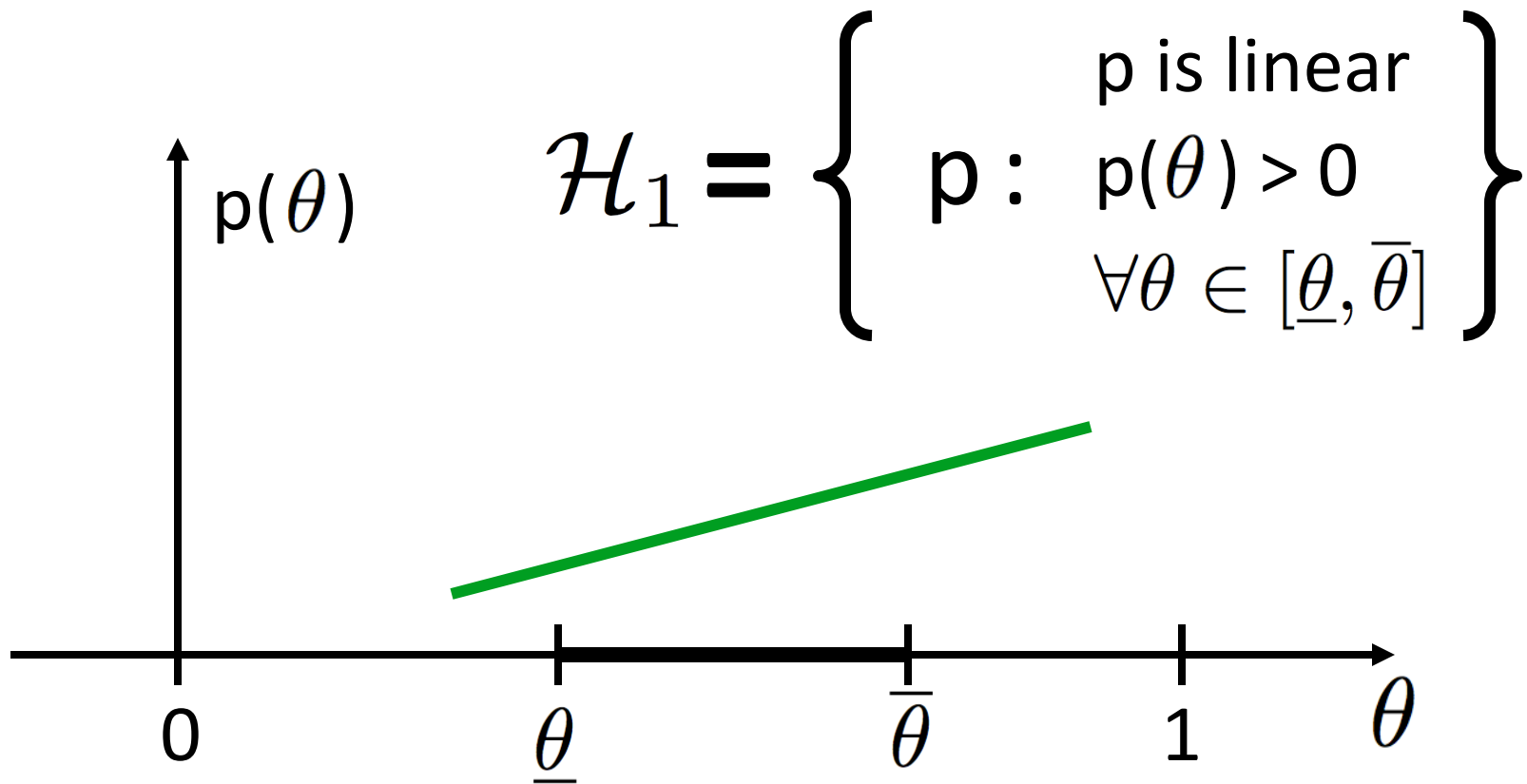
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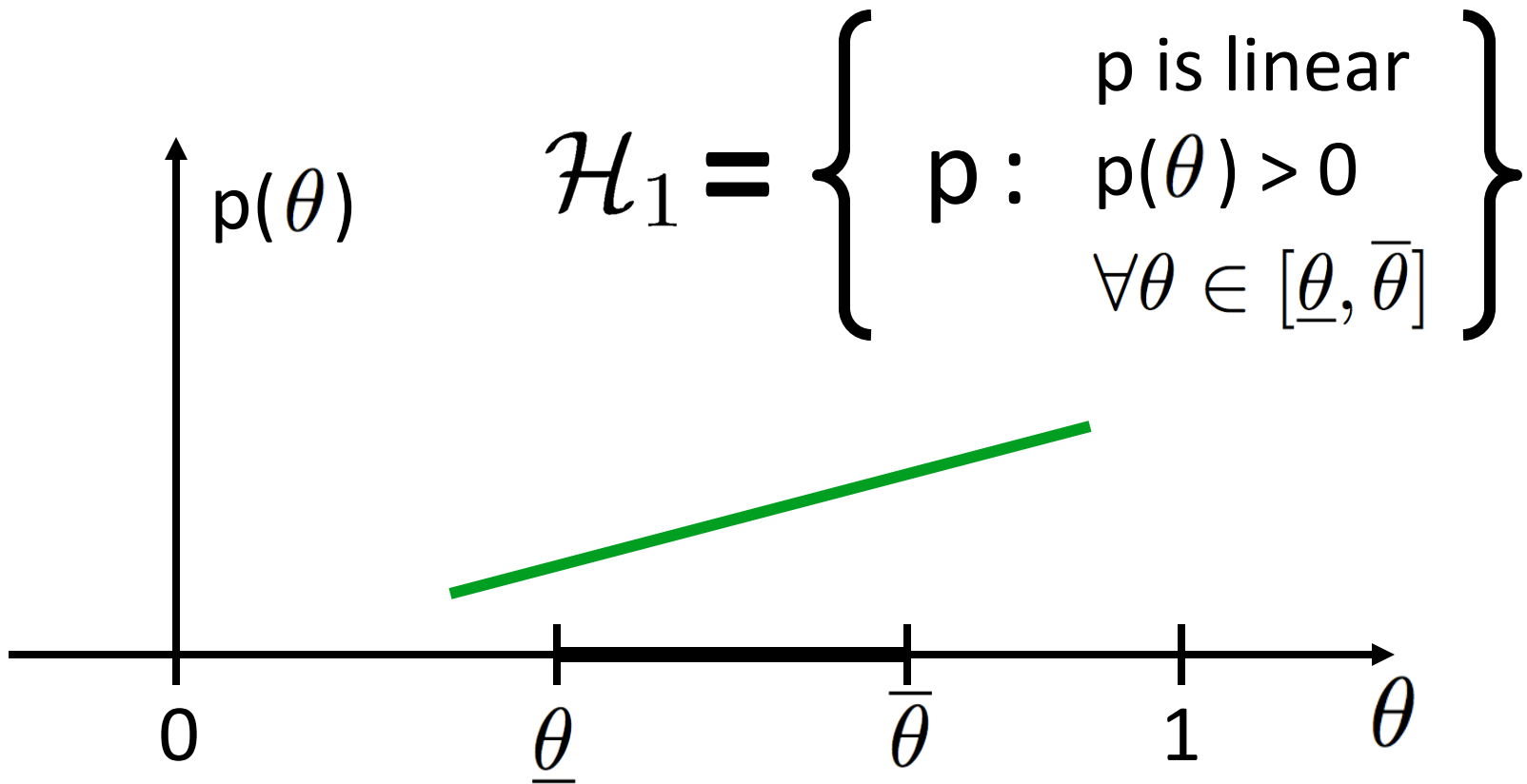


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Epistemic independence

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Learning the value of any number of variables
does not change our beliefs about any subset of
the remaining, unobserved variables.

$X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, \dots, X_{n-1}, X_n$
 || ||
 H H

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Motivation: Epistemic independence is a weaker assessment than the strong independence that is usually assumed

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Epistemic independence (defining property)

We assess X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n to be **epistemically independent**

$$\begin{array}{l} p \in \mathcal{H}_n \iff \theta p \in \mathcal{H}_n \\ \text{(degree } \leq n-1) \iff (1-\theta)p \in \mathcal{H}_n \end{array}$$

Set \mathcal{H}_n of polynomial functions (of degree $\leq n$)



An imprecise Bernoulli process

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Exchangeability:

Set \mathcal{H}_n of polynomial functions

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Epistemic independence:

$$\begin{aligned} p \in \mathcal{H}_n &\iff \theta p \in \mathcal{H}_n \\ &\iff (1 - \theta)p \in \mathcal{H}_n \end{aligned}$$

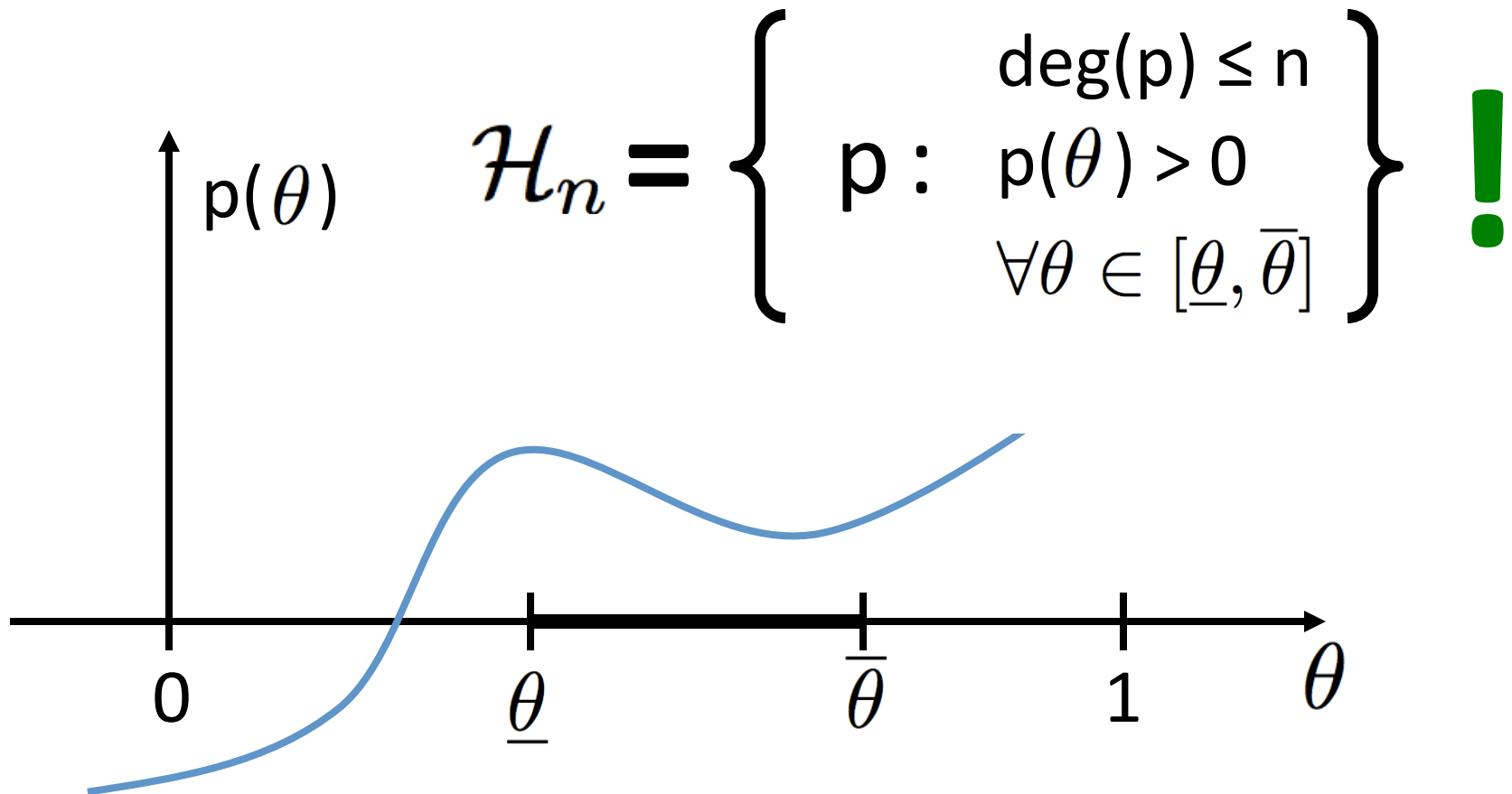
(degree $\leq n-1$)

$$\mathcal{H}_1 =$$

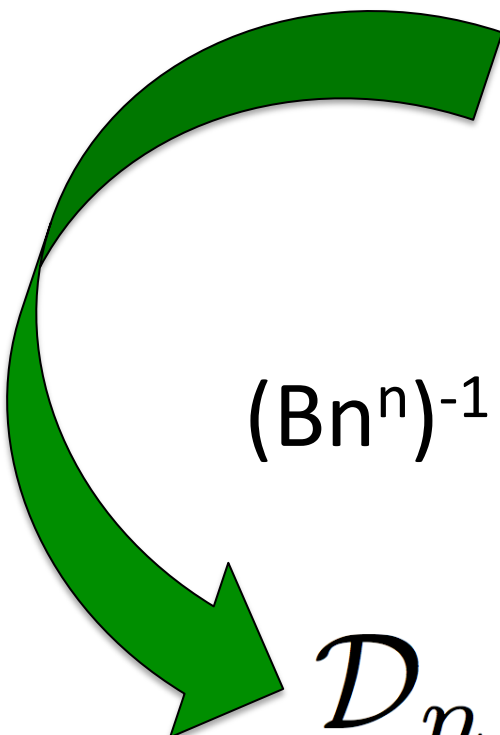
The linear
polynomials
in \mathcal{H}_n

We are looking for the smallest such set \mathcal{H}_n
(most conservative inferences)

An imprecise Bernoulli process



An imprecise Bernoulli process


$$\mathcal{H}_n = \left\{ p : \begin{array}{l} \deg(p) \leq n \\ p(\theta) > 0 \\ \forall \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \end{array} \right\} !$$

$(\text{Bn}^n)^{-1}$ **Exchangeability**

\mathcal{D}_n

Coherent set of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n
(exchangeable and epistemic independent)
= IMPRECISE BERNOLLI PROCESS

How is this useful?

Lower (and upper) prevision

Lower (and upper) prevision

A set \mathcal{D}_n of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n

→ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

Lower (and upper) prevision

A set \mathcal{D}_n of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n

→ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

For every gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n :

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) := \sup\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : f - \mu \in \mathcal{D}_n\}$$

supremum acceptable buying price

Lower (and upper) prevision

A set \mathcal{D}_n of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n

➔ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

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supremum acceptable buying price

In a similar way: **upper prevision** $\overline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

infimum acceptable selling price

Lower (and upper) prevision

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What happens for our specific set \mathcal{D}_n ?

Lower (and upper) prevision

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➔ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

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\mathcal{H}_n

What happens for our specific set \mathcal{D}_n ?

Lower (and upper) prevision

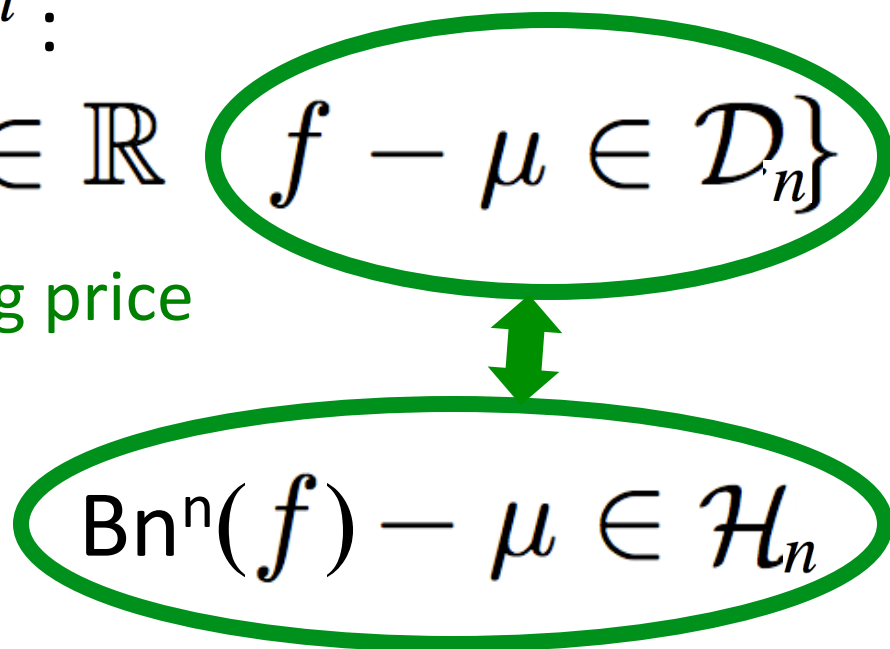
A set \mathcal{D}_n of desirable gambles on \mathcal{X}^n

➔ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

For every gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n :

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) := \sup\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} \mid f - \mu \in \mathcal{D}_n\}$$

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➔ associated **lower prevision** $\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}$

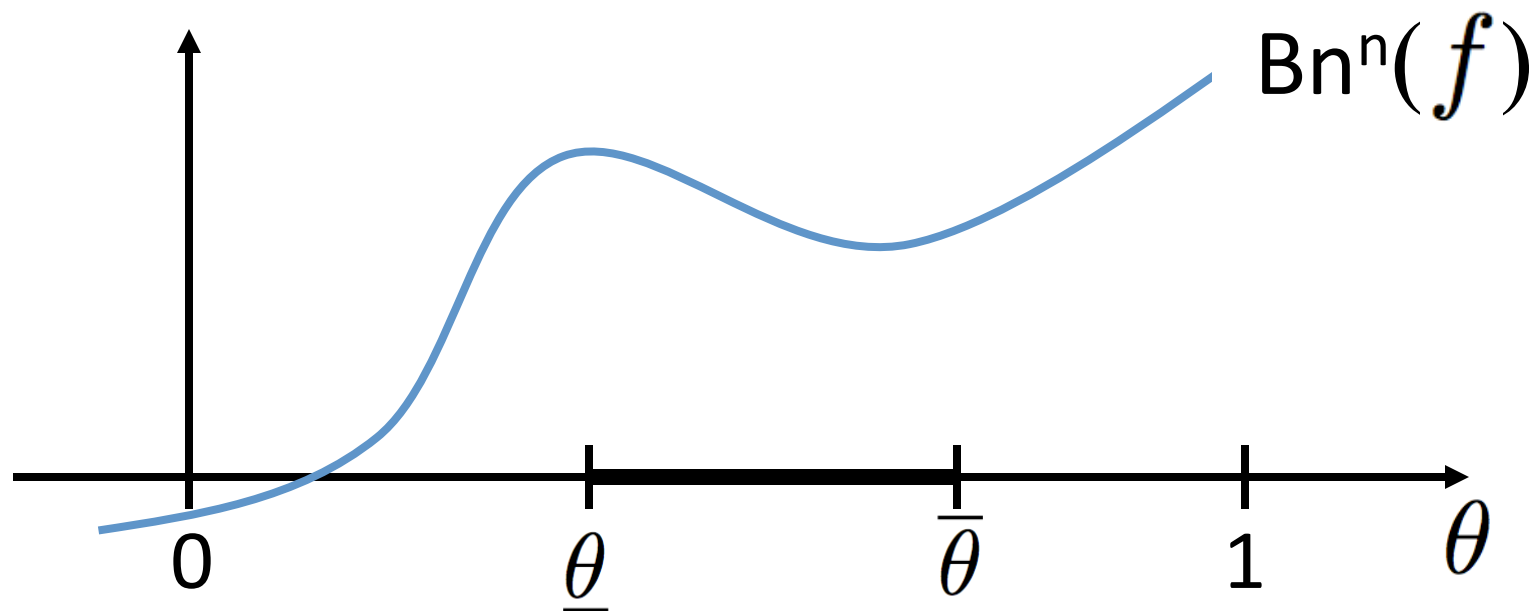
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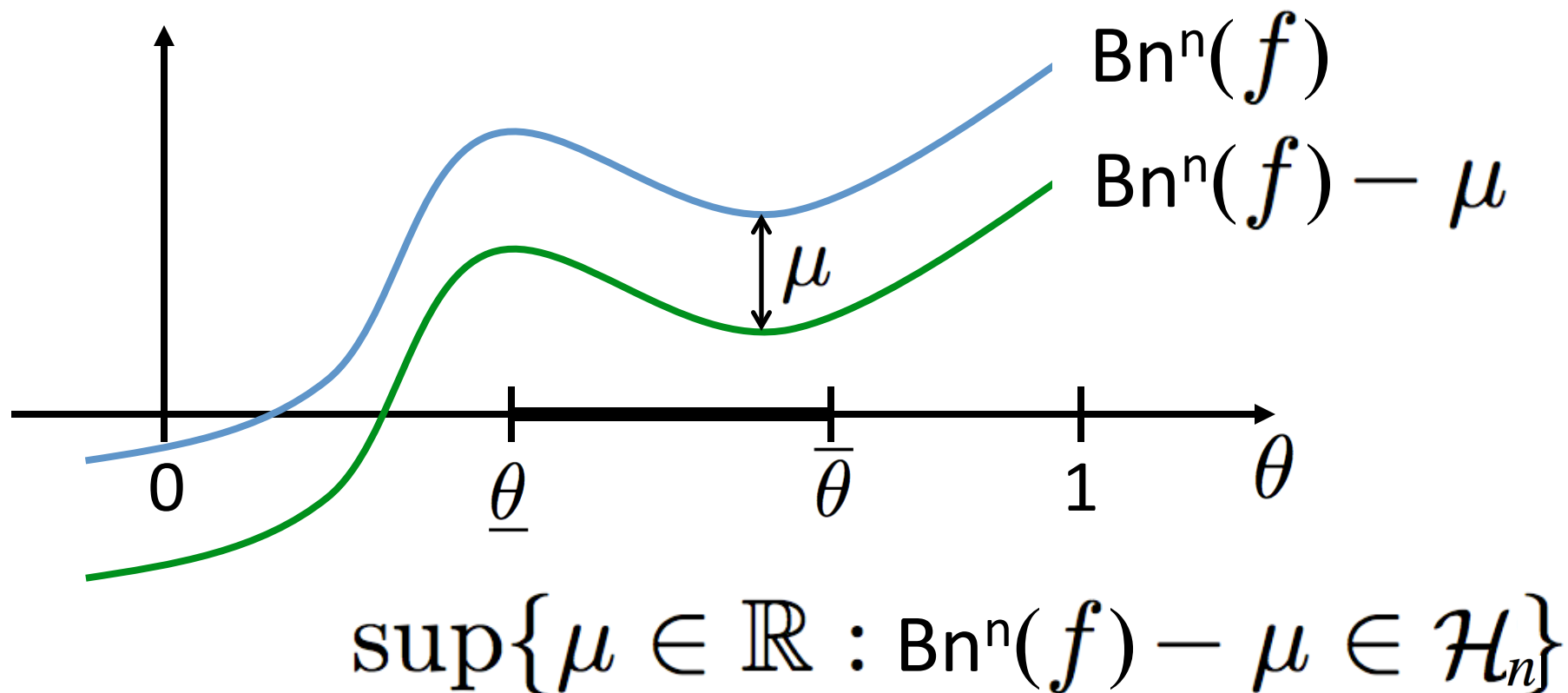
$$= \sup\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : \text{Bn}^n(f) - \mu \in \mathcal{H}_n\}$$

Lower (and upper) prevision

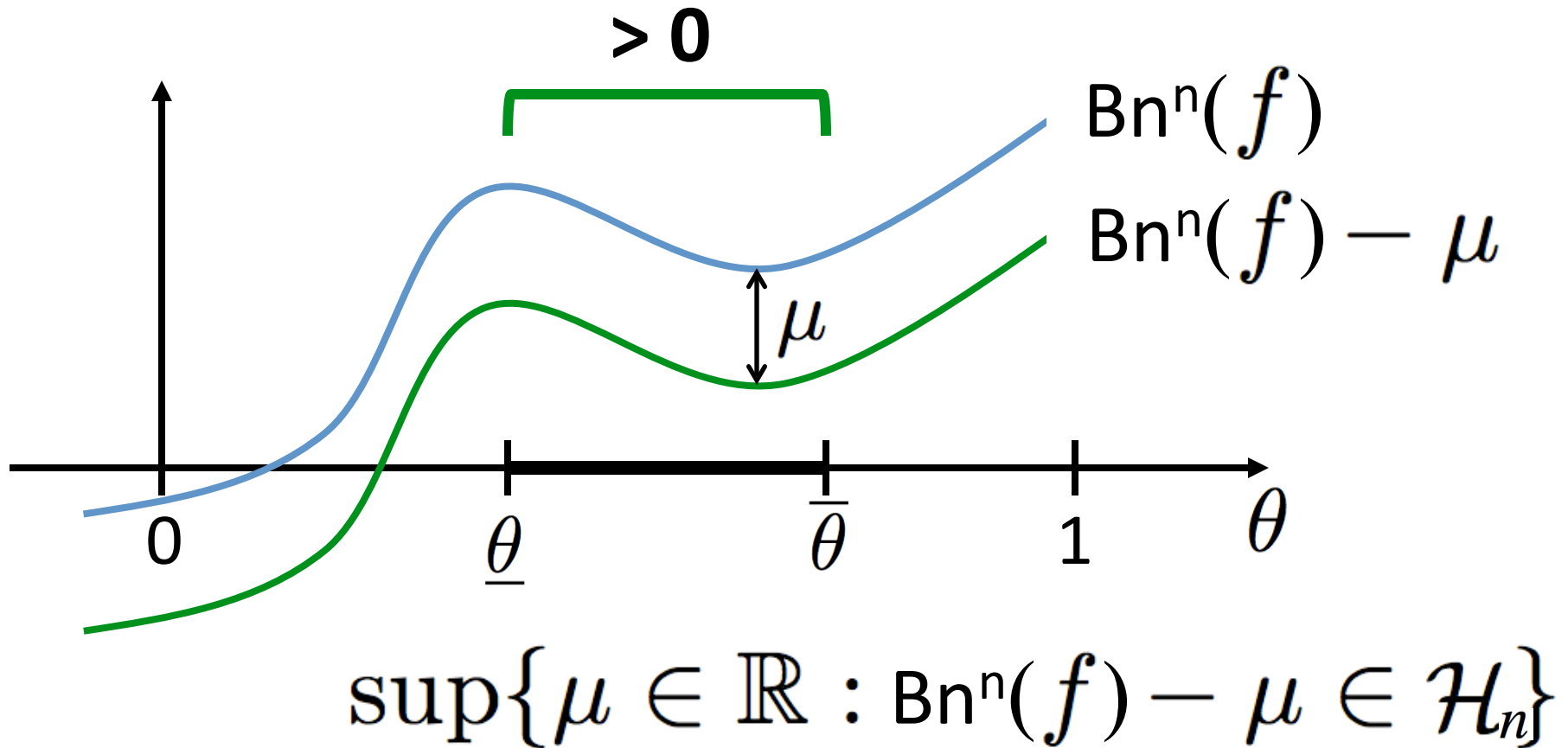


$$\sup\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : \underline{Bn^n(f)} - \mu \in \mathcal{H}_n\}$$

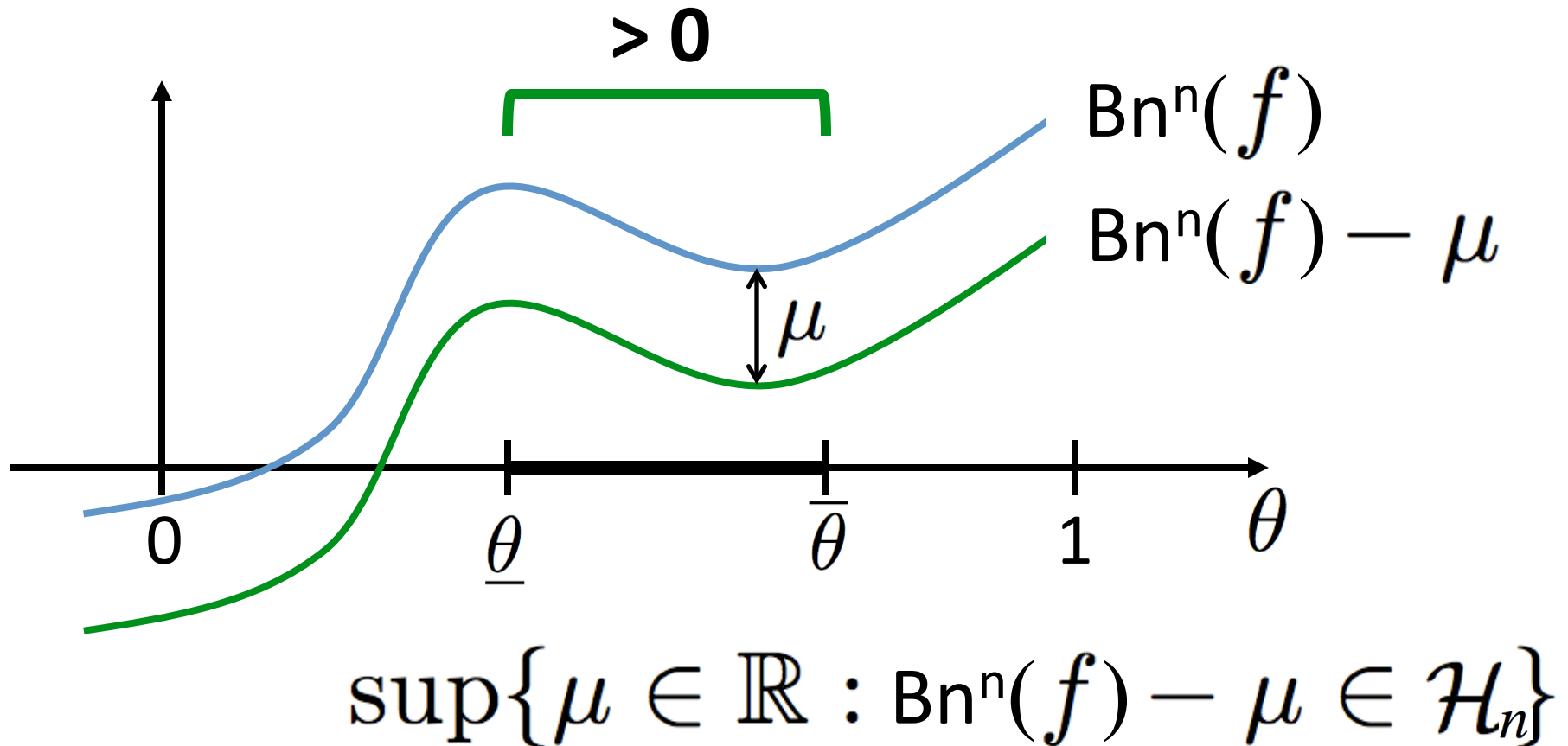
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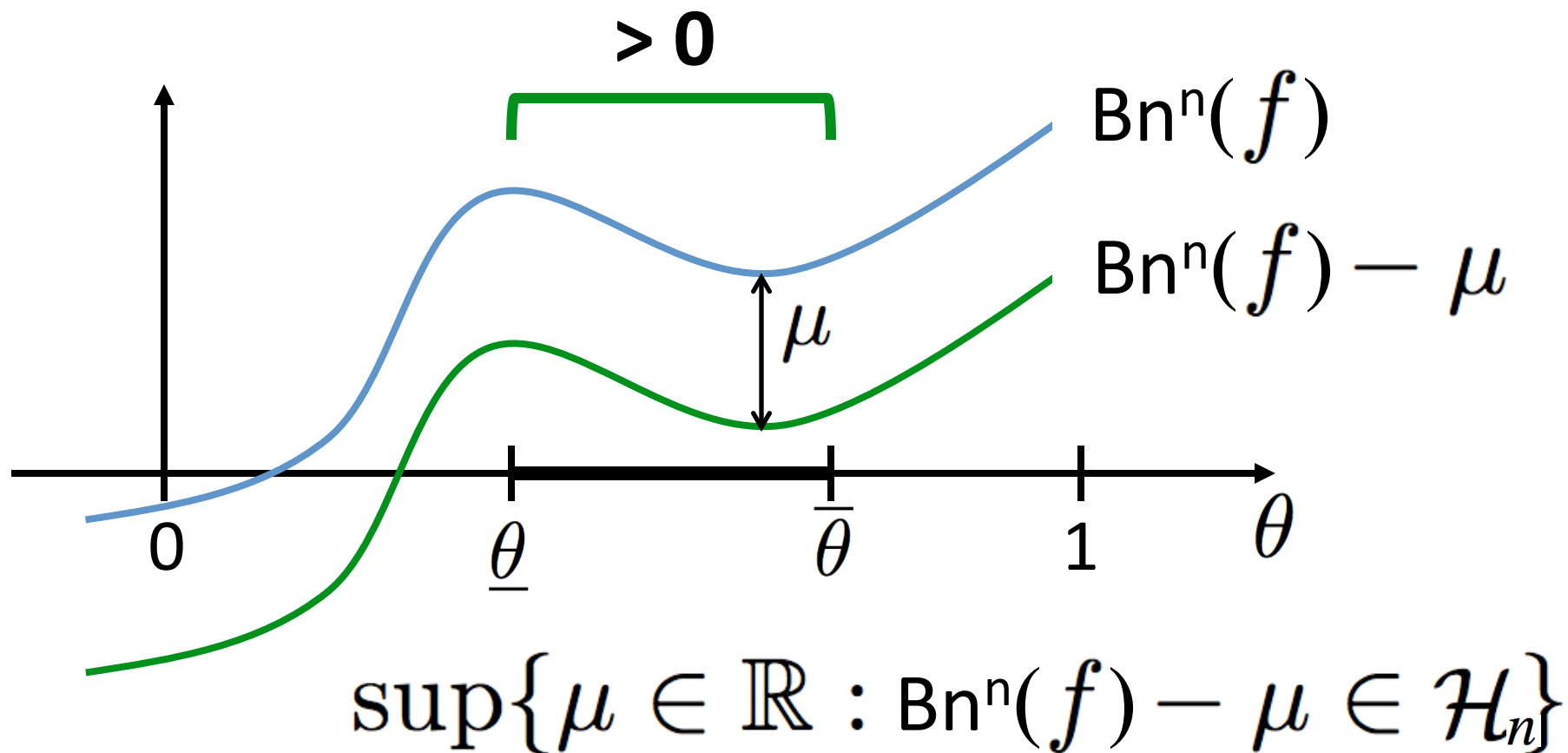
Lower (and upper) prevision



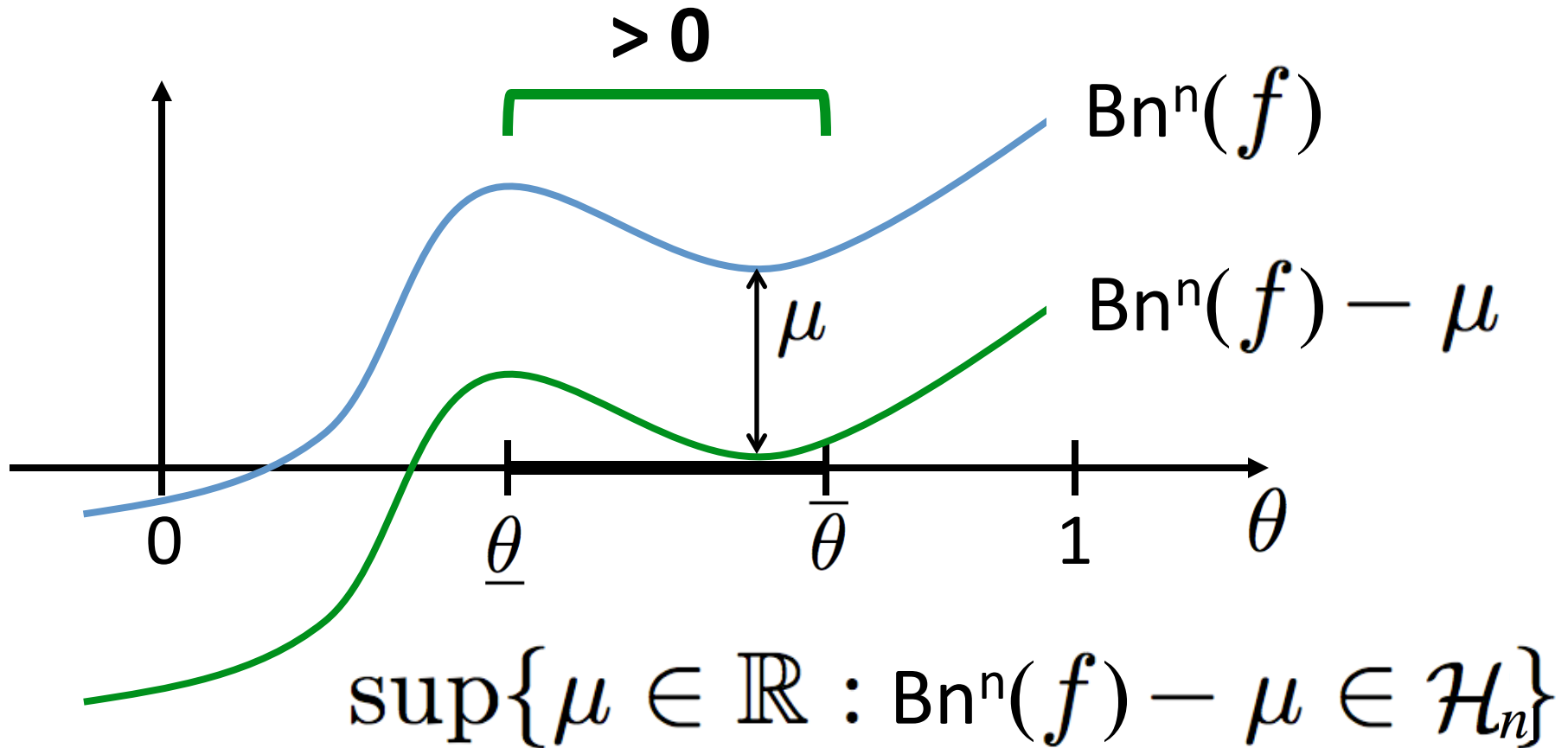
Lower (and upper) prevision



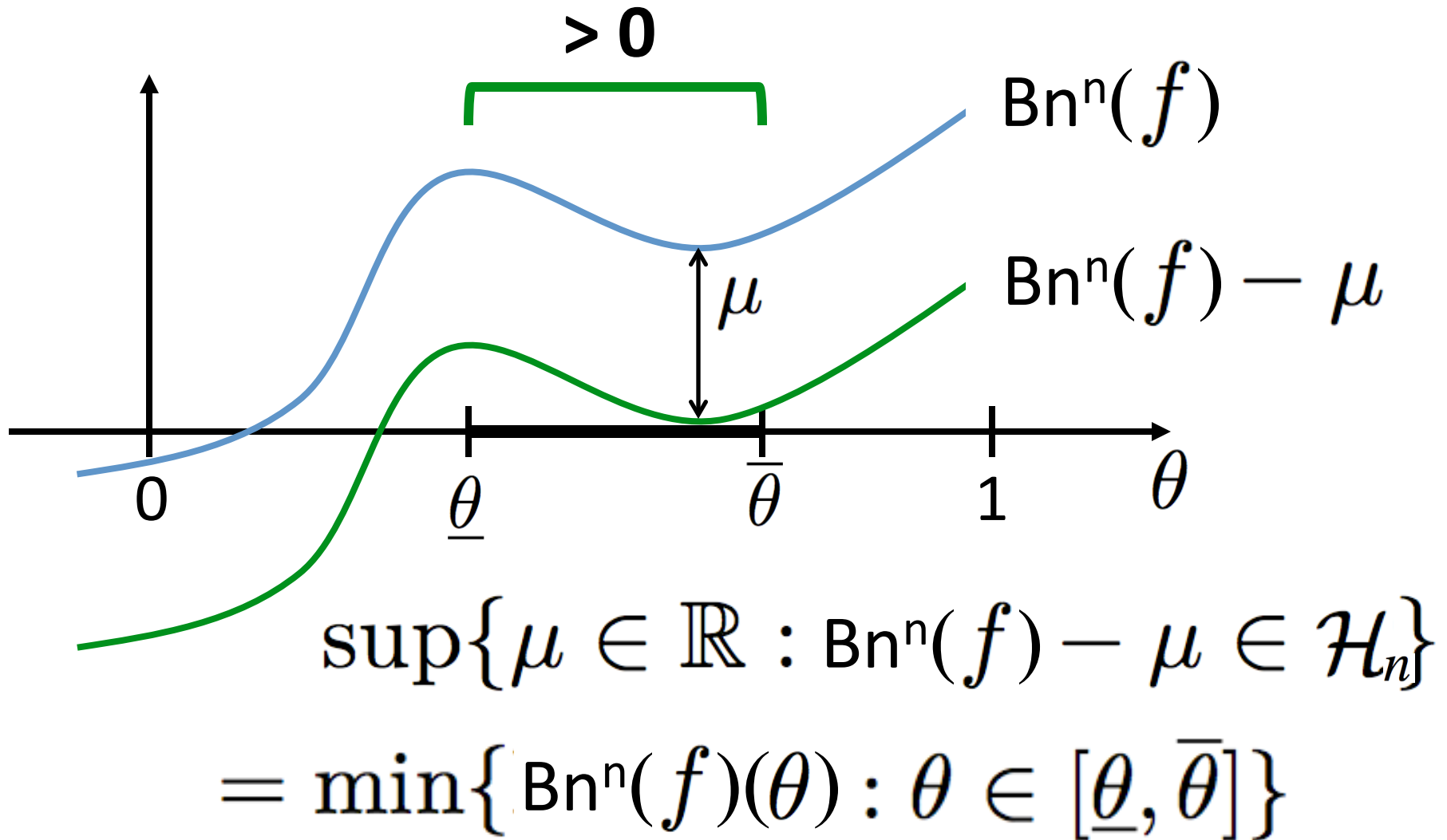
Lower (and upper) prevision



Lower (and upper) prevision



Lower (and upper) prevision



Lower (and upper) prevision

IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

associated **lower prevision**

For every gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n :

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \min\{Bn^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]\}$$

supremum acceptable buying price

Lower (and upper) prevision

IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

associated **lower prevision** and **upper prevision**

For every gamble f on \mathcal{X}^n :

infimum acceptable selling price

$$\bar{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \max\{Bn^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]\}$$

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \min\{Bn^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]\}$$

supremum acceptable buying price

Link with sensitivity analysis

Link with sensitivity analysis

IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

associated **lower prevision** and **upper prevision**

$$\bar{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \max\{ \text{Bn}^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \}$$

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \min\{ \text{Bn}^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \}$$

||

precise expected value $E(f)$

Link with sensitivity analysis

IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

associated **lower prevision** and **upper prevision**

$$\bar{E}(f)$$

sensitivity analysis !

||

$$\bar{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \max\{ \text{Bn}^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \}$$

$$\underline{P}_{\mathcal{D}_n}(f) = \min\{ \text{Bn}^n(f)(\theta) : \theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \}$$

||

$$\underline{E}(f)$$

||

precise expected value $E(f)$

Link with sensitivity analysis

Lower and upper prevision associated with an
IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

MAIN RESULT:



Lower and upper expectation obtained by
applying **SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS** to a classical,
precise bernoulli process

Why is this important?

Why is this important?

- **Strong mathematical assumption:**
our series of experiments is described by an underlying true **probability mass function** (satisfying the **IID** property)
- This model is imprecise only because **we do not know which precise model is correct**

Lower and upper expectation obtained by applying **SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS** to a classical, precise bernoulli process

Why is this important?

Lower and upper prevision associated with an
IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

- **Behavioural assessments:**
our series of experiments is described by a
set of desirable gambles, satisfying
exchangeability and **epistemic independence**
(can be expressed in terms of behaviour)
- This model is **inherently imprecise**

Why is this important?

Lower and upper prevision associated with an
IMPRECISE BERNOULLI PROCESS

MAIN RESULT: **||** **!** **SURPRISING!**

Lower and upper expectation obtained by
applying **SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS** to a classical,
precise bernoulli process

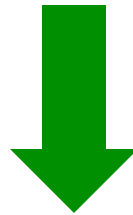
Conclusion

Conclusion

EXCHANGEABILITY

+

EPISTEMIC INDEPENDENCE



SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

BERNOULLI PROCESSES