



# Optimal Foraging Theory Revisited

Masters Thesis Defense and Doctoral Qualifier Examination\*

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\*Typeset with  $\text{\LaTeX}$  using `powerdot`.

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- Goal: Discover the physics of high-level control

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- Goal: Discover the physics of high-level control
- How to model?

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- Goal: Discover the physics of high-level control
- How to model?
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- Goal: Discover the physics of high-level control
- How to model?
- How to measure performance?
- High-level actuators are behaviors

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- Goal: Discover the physics of high-level control
- How to model?
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- High-level actuators are behaviors
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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$n$ : Number of task types.

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$n$ : Number of task types.

$\lambda_i$ : **Poisson** encounter rate with tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$n$ : Number of task types.

$\lambda_i$ : **Poisson** encounter rate with tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

$\lambda$ : **Merged Poisson** encounter rate with all tasks (encounters/second).



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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$$\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$c^s$ : Cost rate for searching (points/second).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$c^s$ : Cost rate for searching (points/second).

$\frac{c^s}{\lambda}$ : Average cycle **search** cost (points/encounter).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$p_i$ : Probability of processing a task of type  $i$ .

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$p_i$ : Probability of processing a task of type  $i$ .

$\tau_i$ : Average time processing a task of type  $i$  (seconds).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$g_i(\tau_i)$ : Average gain from processing a task of type  $i$  (points).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$g_i(\tau_i)$ : Average gain from processing a task of type  $i$  (points).

$c_i$ : Average cost rate while processing a task of type  $i$  (points/second).

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Parameters and Decision Variables

$g_i(\tau_i)$ : Average gain from processing a task of type  $i$  (points).

$c_i$ : Average cost rate while processing a task of type  $i$  (points/second).

$g_i(\tau_i) - c_i\tau_i$ : Average net gain from processing a task of type  $i$  (points).



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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Random Variables

$g$ : Gross **processing** gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Random Variables

$g$ : Gross **processing** gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

$c$ : **Processing** cost from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Random Variables

$g$ : Gross **processing** gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

$c$ : **Processing** cost from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

$\tau$ : **Processing** time from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Random Variables

$\tilde{G}_k$ : **Total** net gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

$\tilde{C}_k$ : **Total** cost from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

$\tilde{T}_k$ : **Total** time from  $k^{\text{th}}$  cycle.

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## Random Processes

$$\tilde{G}^N \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{G}_k$$

$$\tilde{C}^N \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{C}_k$$

$$\tilde{T}^N \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{T}_k$$

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics



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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\bar{g} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(g) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda} p_i g_i(\tau_i)$$

$$\bar{c} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda} p_i c_i \tau_i$$

$$\bar{\tau} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda} p_i \tau_i$$

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\text{var}(g - c) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda} p_i (g_i(\tau_i) - \bar{g})^2$$

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{G}^N \right) = N \mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{G}_1 \right) = N \left( \bar{g} - \bar{c} - \frac{c^s}{\lambda} \right)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{C}^N \right) = N \mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{C}_1 \right) = N \left( \bar{c} + \frac{c^s}{\lambda} \right)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{T}^N \right) = N \mathbb{E} \left( \tilde{T}_1 \right) = N \left( \bar{\tau} + \frac{1}{\lambda} \right)$$

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Figure 1: Classical OFT Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\text{var} \left( \tilde{G}^N \right) = N \text{var} \left( \tilde{G}_1 \right) = N \left( \text{var} \left( \bar{g} - \bar{c} \right) + \left( \frac{c^s}{\lambda} \right)^2 \right)$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Split Poisson Parameters

$\lambda_i^p$ : **Split** Poisson encounter rate with **processed** tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Split Poisson Parameters

$\lambda_i^p$ : **Split** Poisson encounter rate with **processed** tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

$$\lambda_i^p \triangleq p_i \lambda_i$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Split Poisson Parameters

$\lambda_i^p$ : **Split** Poisson encounter rate with **processed** tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

$\lambda^p$ : **Merged Split** Poisson encounter rate with all **processed** tasks (encounters/second).

$$\lambda_i^p \triangleq p_i \lambda_i$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Split Poisson Parameters

$\lambda_i^p$ : **Split** Poisson encounter rate with **processed** tasks of type  $i$  (encounters/second).

$\lambda^p$ : **Merged Split** Poisson encounter rate with all **processed** tasks (encounters/second).

$$\lambda_i^p \triangleq p_i \lambda_i$$

$$\lambda^p \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^p$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Random Variables

$g^p$ : Gross processing gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

$c^p$ : Processing cost from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

$\tau^p$ : Processing time from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

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$G_k$ : Total net gain from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

$C_k$ : Total cost from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

$T_k$ : Total time from  $k^{\text{th}}$  processing cycle.

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Random Processes

$$G^{N^p} \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^{N^p} G_k$$

$$C^{N^p} \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^{N^p} C_k$$

$$T^{N^p} \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^{N^p} T_k$$

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## Random Processes

$$G^{N^p} \triangleq \sum_{k=1}^{N^p} G_k$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\overline{g^p} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(g^p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i^p}{\lambda^p} g_i(\tau_i)$$

$$\overline{c^p} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(c^p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i^p}{\lambda^p} c_i \tau_i$$

$$\overline{\tau^p} \triangleq \mathbb{E}(\tau^p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i^p}{\lambda^p} \tau_i$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$\text{var} (g^p - c^p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i^p}{\lambda^p} (g_i(\tau_i) - \overline{g^p})^2$$

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Figure 2: Finite Task Lifetime Markov Renewal Process

## Statistics

$$E(G^{N^p}) = N^p E(G_1) = N^p \left( \overline{g^p} - \overline{c^p} - \frac{c^s}{\lambda^p} \right)$$

$$E(C^{N^p}) = N^p E(C_1) = N^p \left( \overline{c^p} + \frac{c^s}{\lambda^p} \right)$$

$$E(T^{N^p}) = N^p E(T_1) = N^p \left( \overline{\tau^p} + \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \right)$$

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$$\text{var} (G^{N^p}) = N^p \text{var} (G_1) = N^p \left( \text{var} (\bar{g}^p - \bar{c}^p) + \left( \frac{c^s}{\lambda^p} \right)^2 \right)$$

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- Time minimizer
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- Lifetime pressure

$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N}$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} \right)$$

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$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N}$$

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$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N}$$

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- Time maximizer when net gain is negative
- Time minimizer when net gain is positive
- Net gain maximizer
- Lifetime pressure

$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N}$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{E} \left( \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} \right)$$



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- Time maximizer when net gain is negative
- Time minimizer when net gain is positive
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$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} = \frac{\text{E}(\tilde{G}_1)}{\text{E}(\tilde{T}_1)} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{E} \left( \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} \right)$$

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- Time maximizer when net gain is negative
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$$\text{aslim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} = \frac{\text{E}(G_1)}{\text{E}(T_1)} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{E} \left( \frac{\tilde{G}^N}{\tilde{T}^N} \right)$$

# *Rate Maximization in Classical OFT*

Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# *Rate Maximization in Classical OFT*

$$\tilde{\gamma} \triangleq \frac{E(\tilde{G}_1)}{E(\tilde{T}_1)}$$

Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# Rate Maximization in Classical OFT

$$\tilde{\gamma} \triangleq \frac{E(\tilde{G}_1)}{E(\tilde{T}_1)}$$
$$\lambda = \lambda_1, p_1 = 1$$

Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# Rate Maximization in Classical OFT

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\tilde{G}_1) &= g_1(\tau_1) \\ \mathbb{E}(\tilde{T}_1) &= \tau_1 + \frac{1}{\lambda} \\ \tilde{\gamma} &\triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E}(\tilde{G}_1)}{\mathbb{E}(\tilde{T}_1)} \\ \lambda &= \lambda_1, p_1 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# Rate Maximization in Classical OFT

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\tilde{G}_1) &= g_1(\tau_1) \\ \mathbb{E}(\tilde{T}_1) &= \tau_1 + \frac{1}{\lambda} \\ \tilde{\gamma} &\triangleq \frac{g_1(\tau_1)}{\tau_1 + \frac{1}{\lambda}} \\ \lambda &= \lambda_1, p_1 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

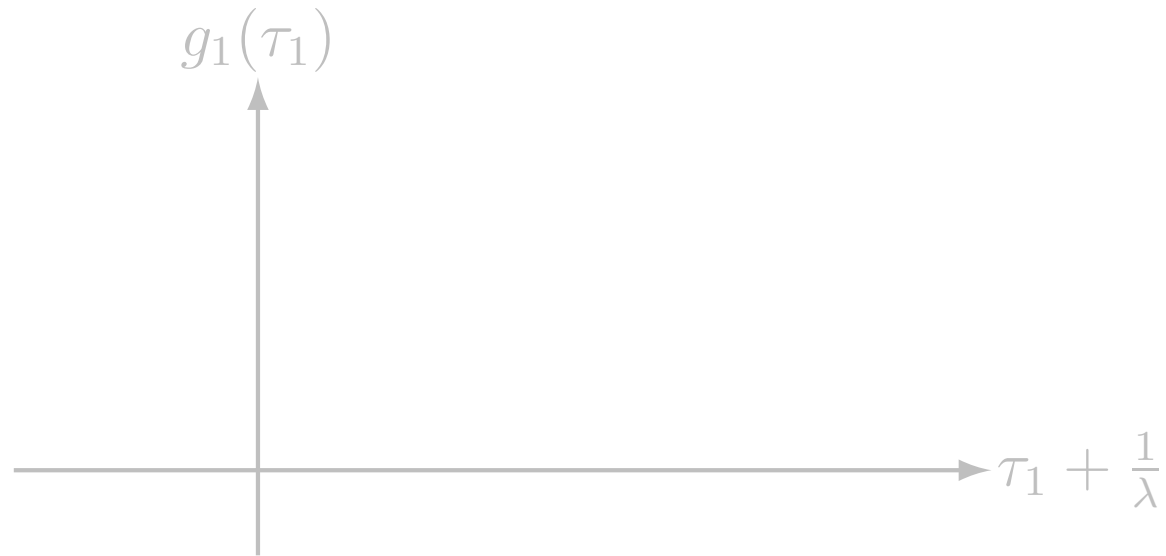


Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# Rate Maximization in Classical OFT

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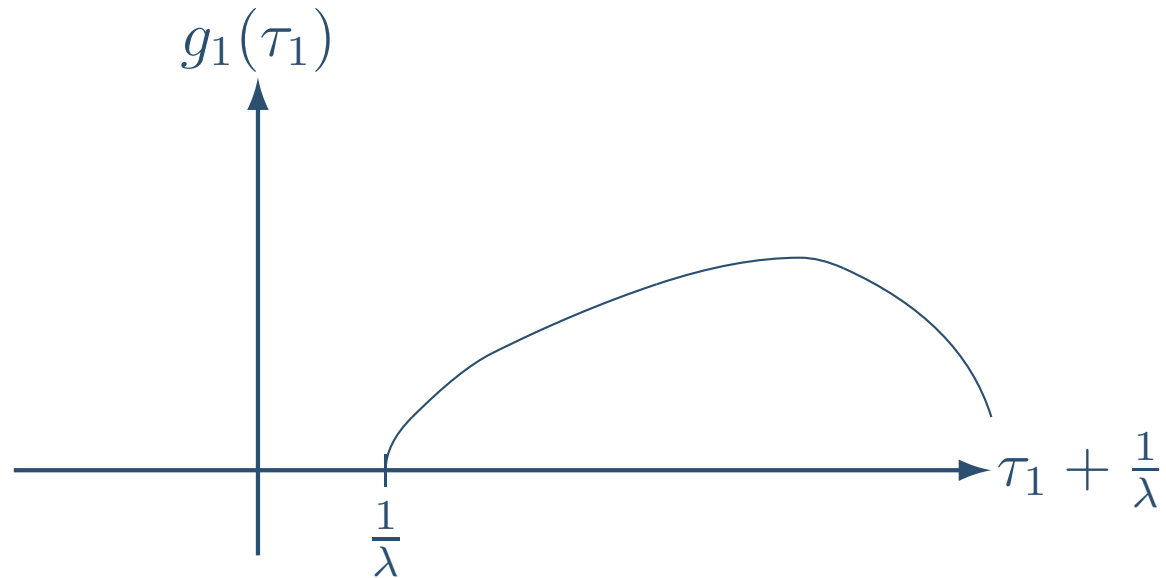


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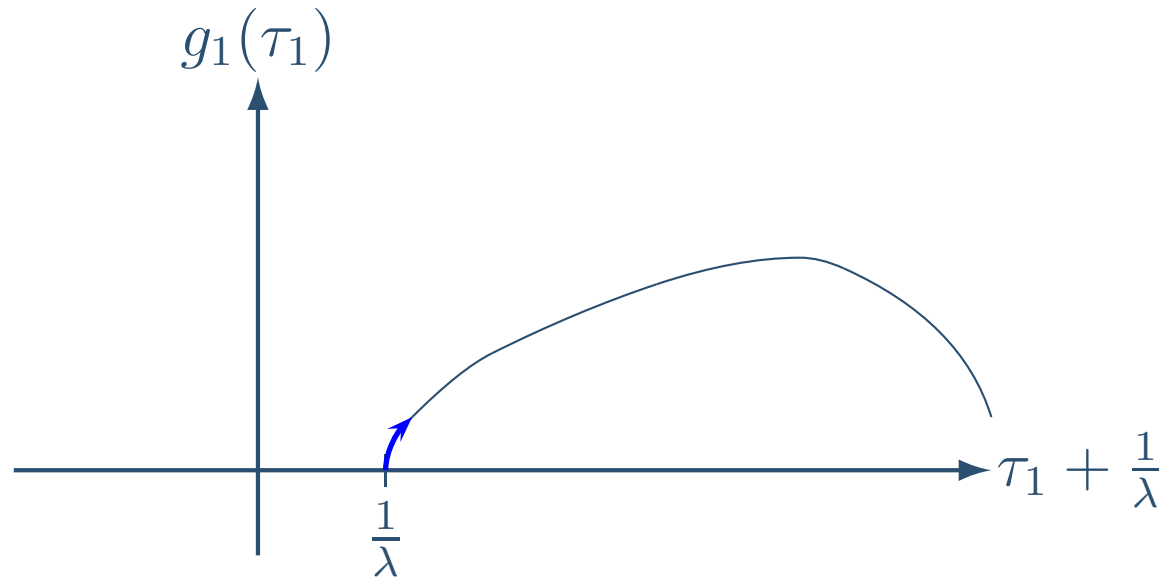


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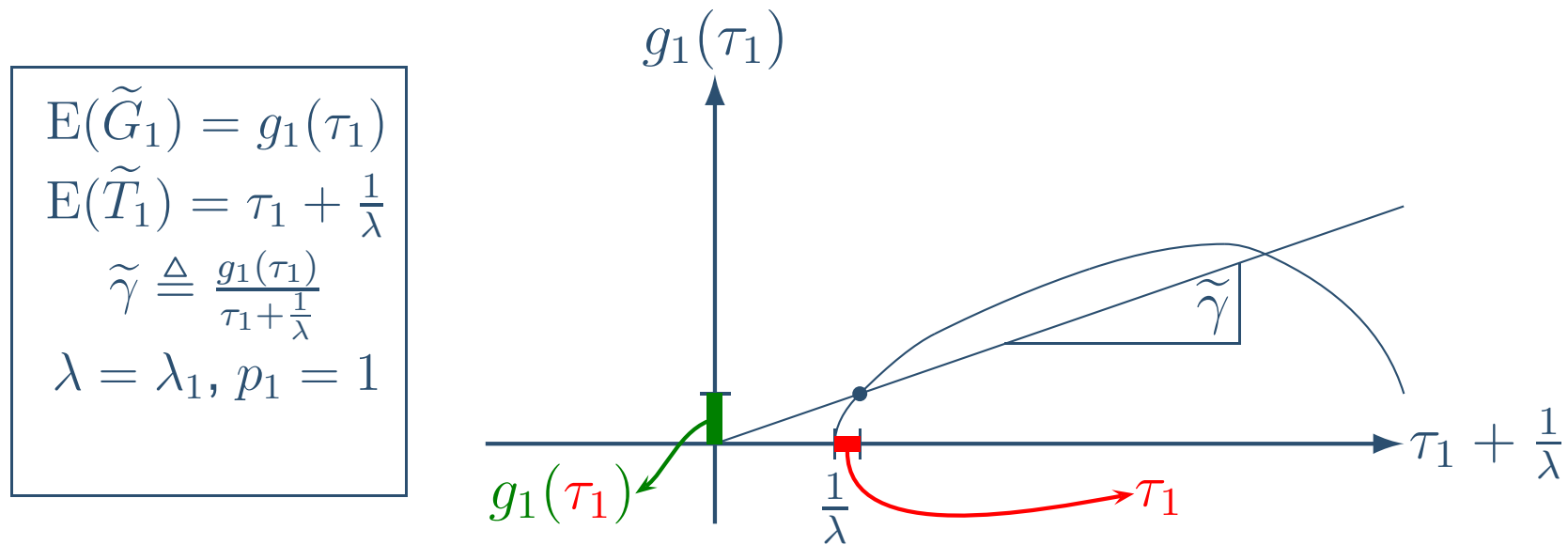


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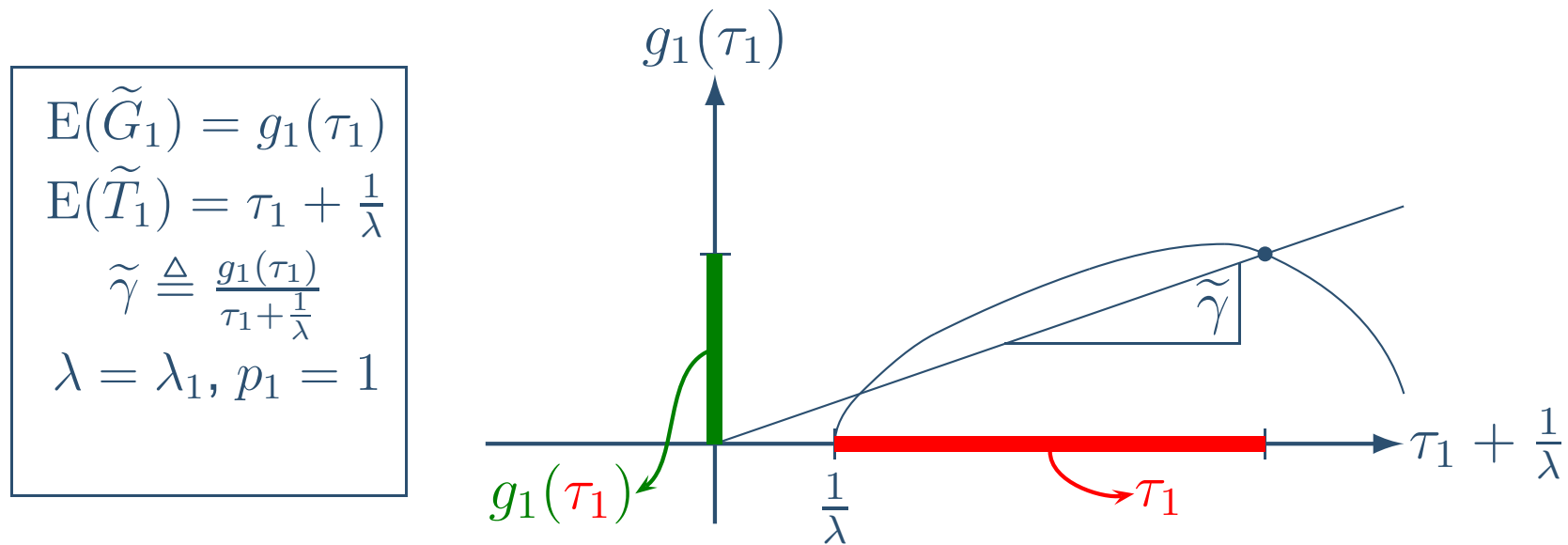


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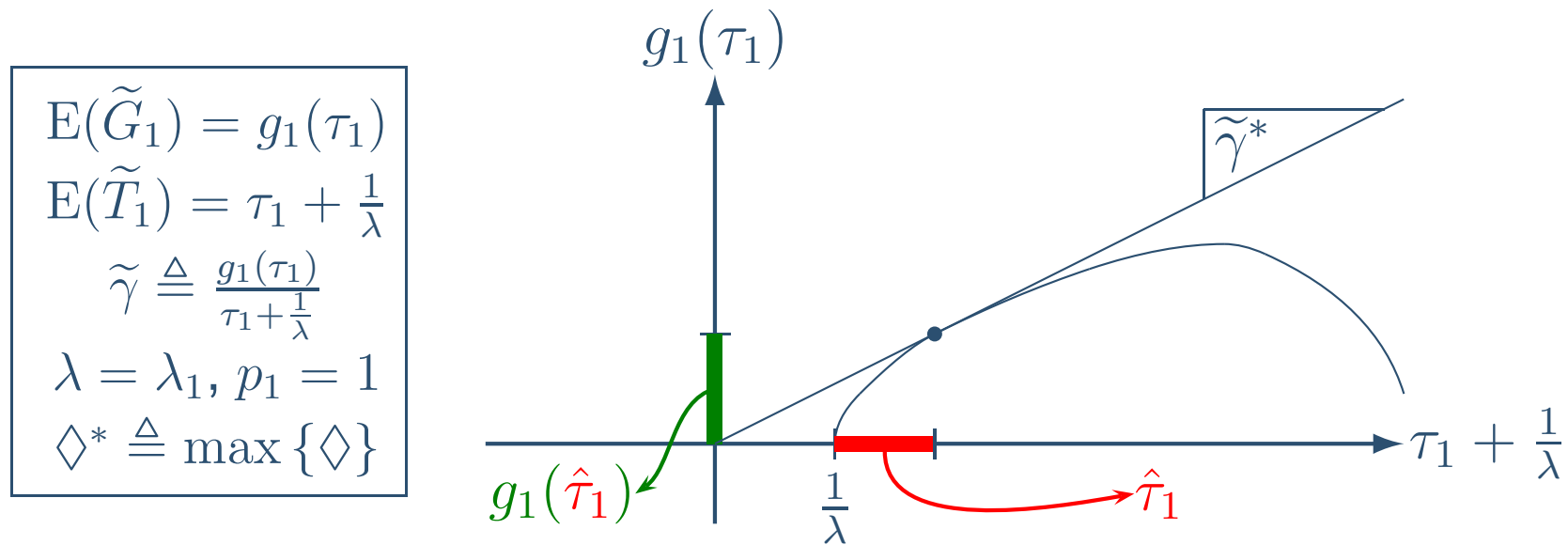


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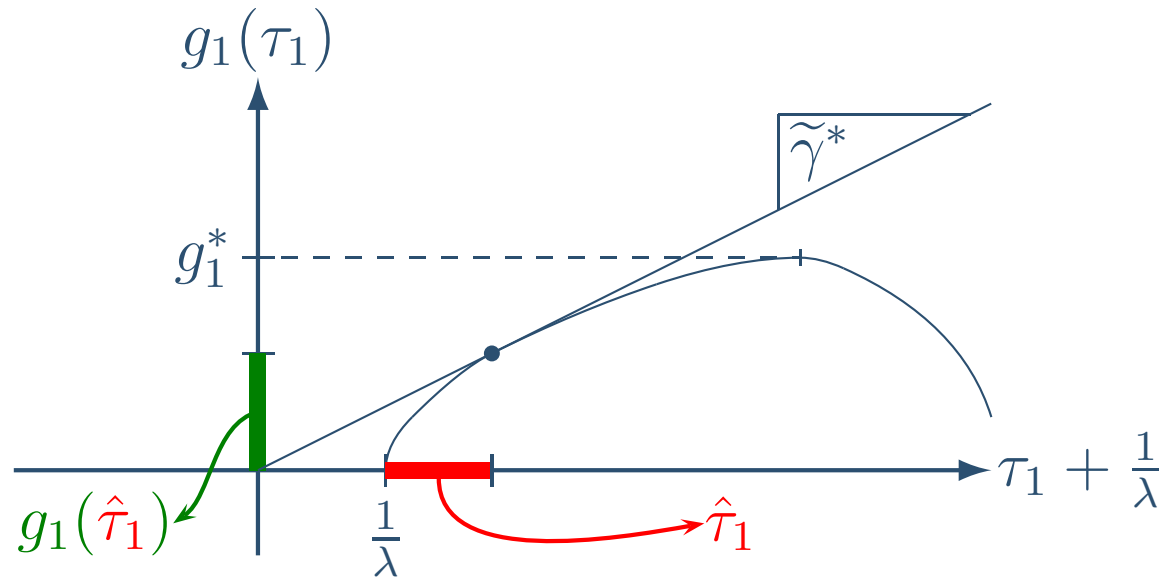


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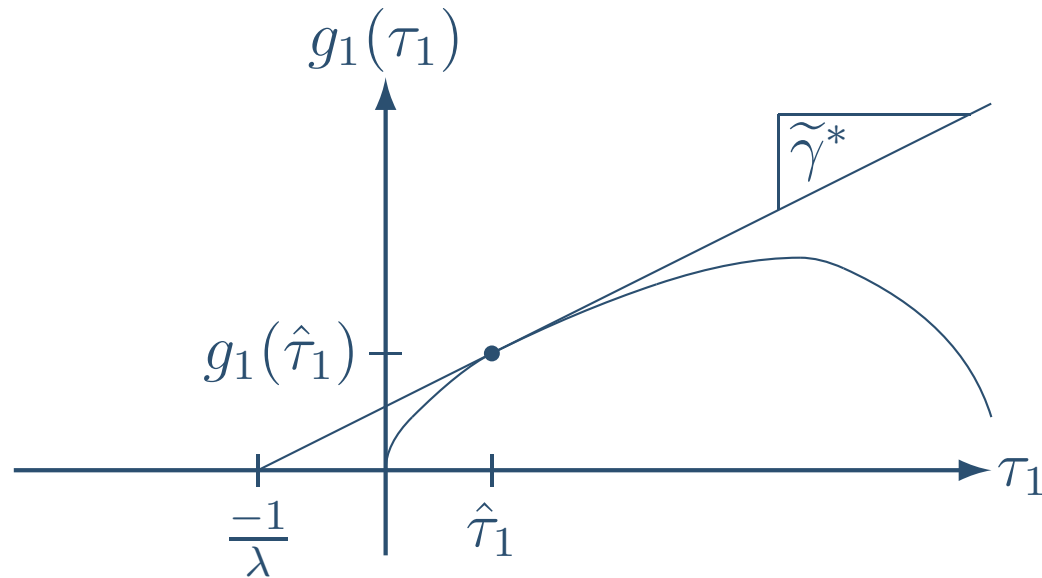


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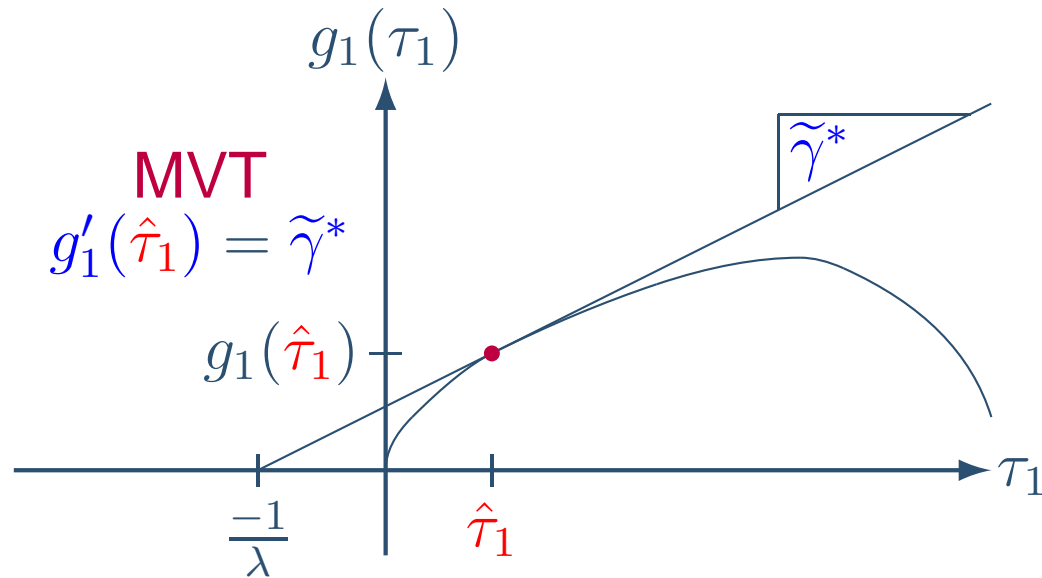


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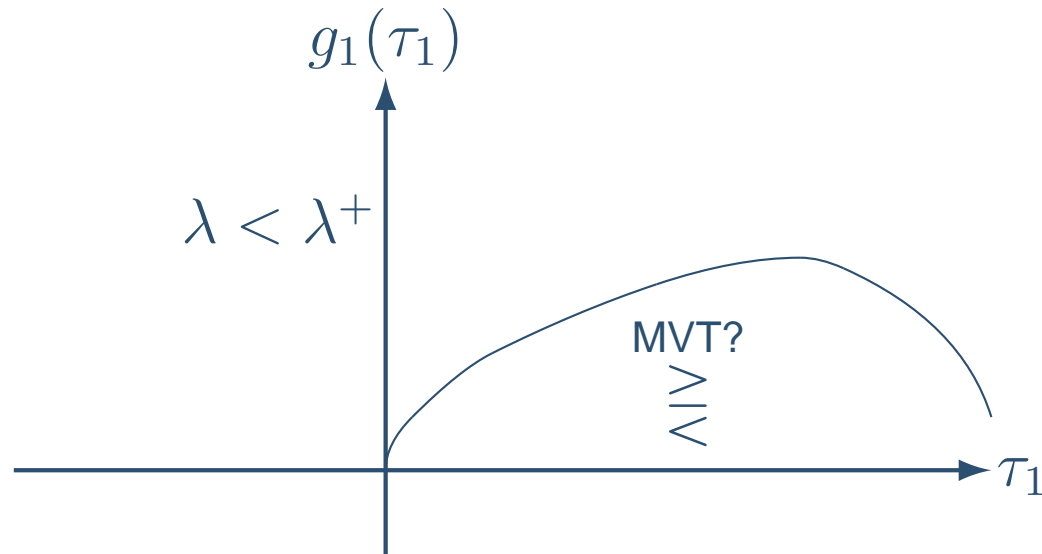


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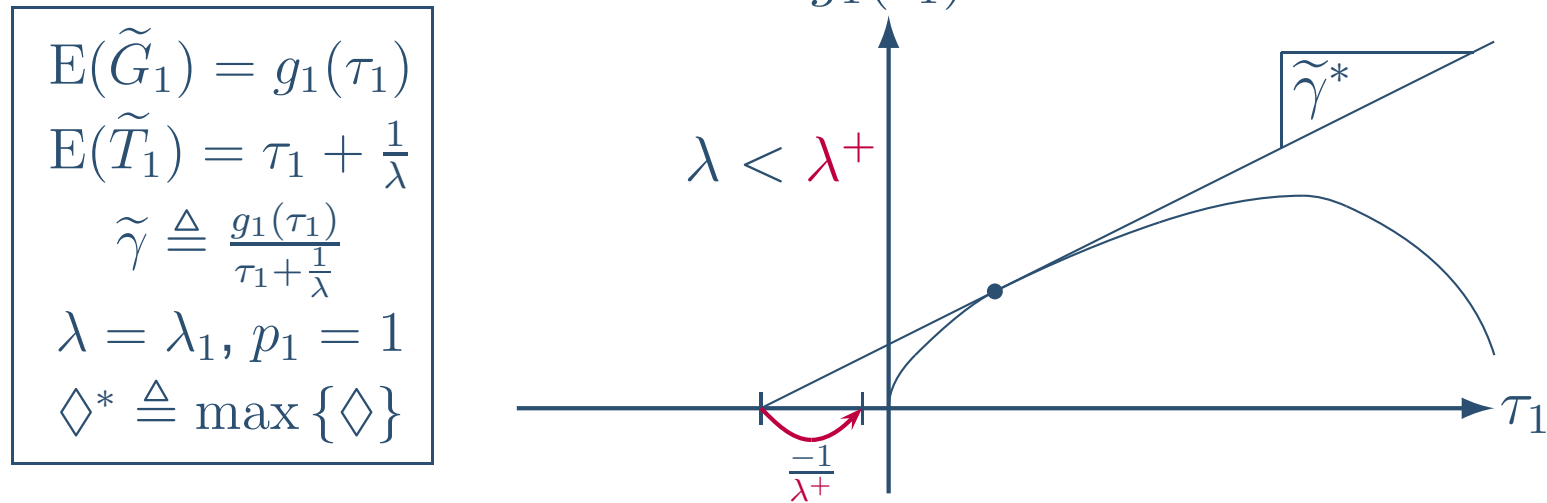


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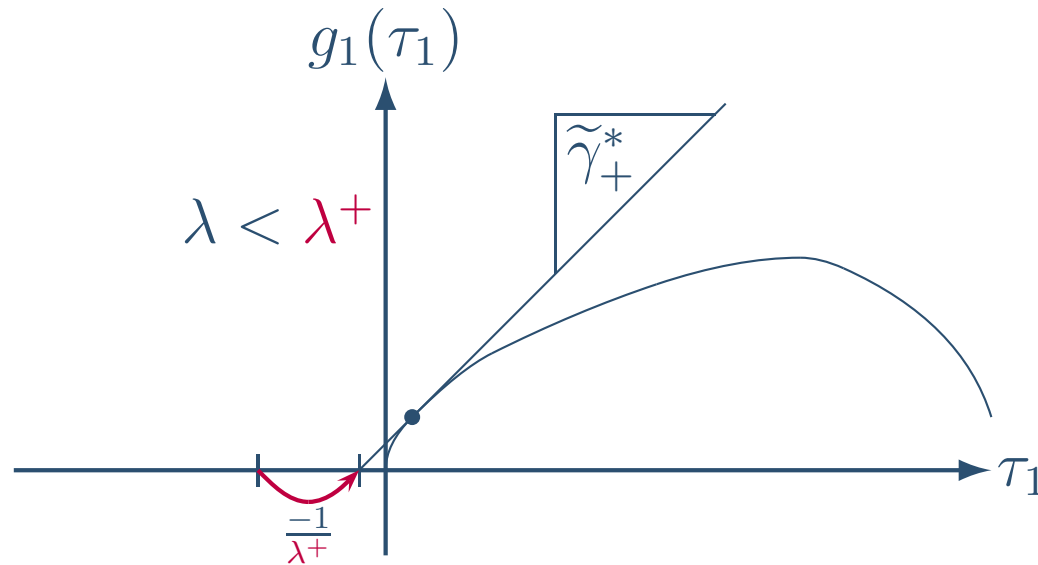


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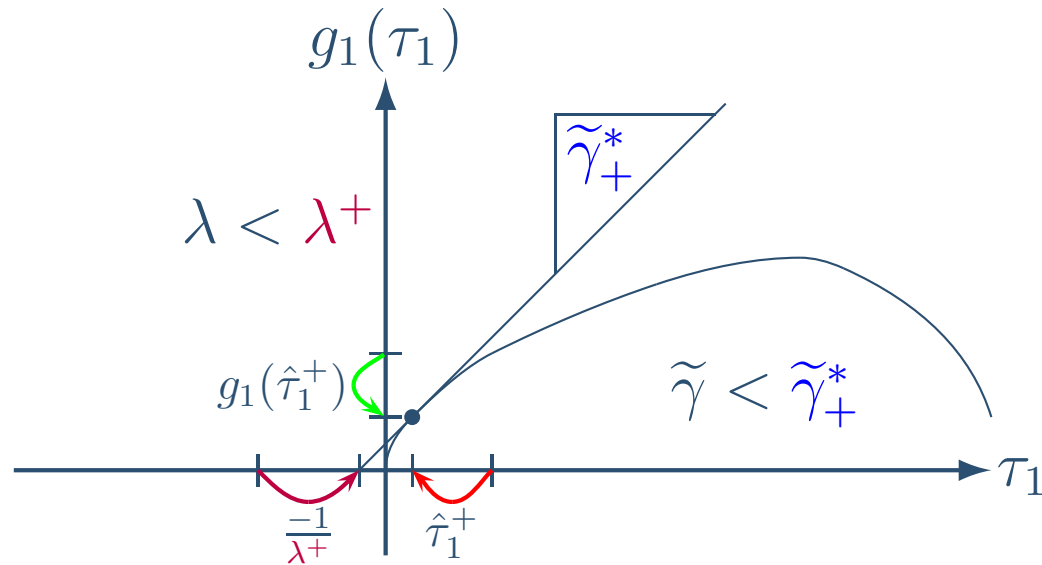


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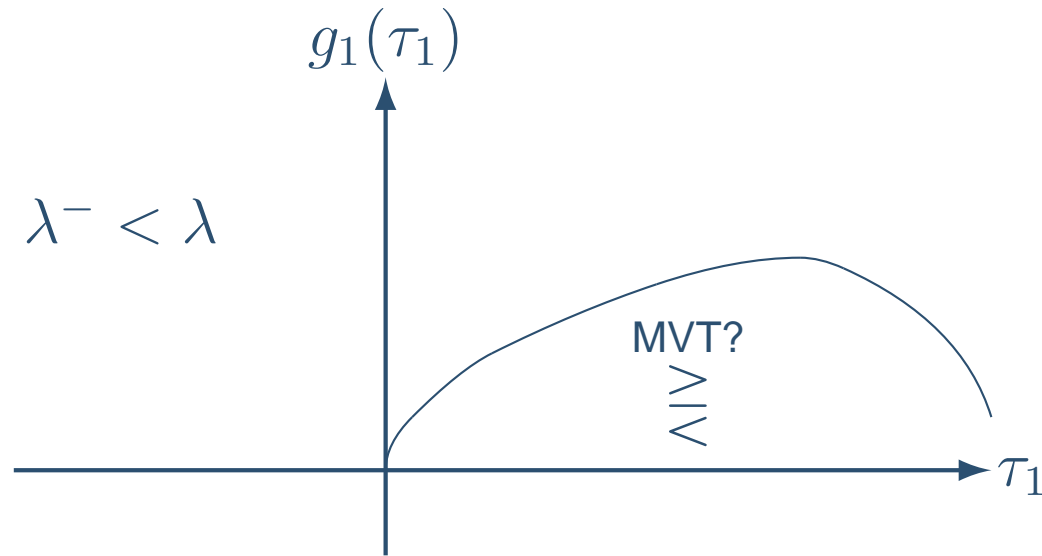


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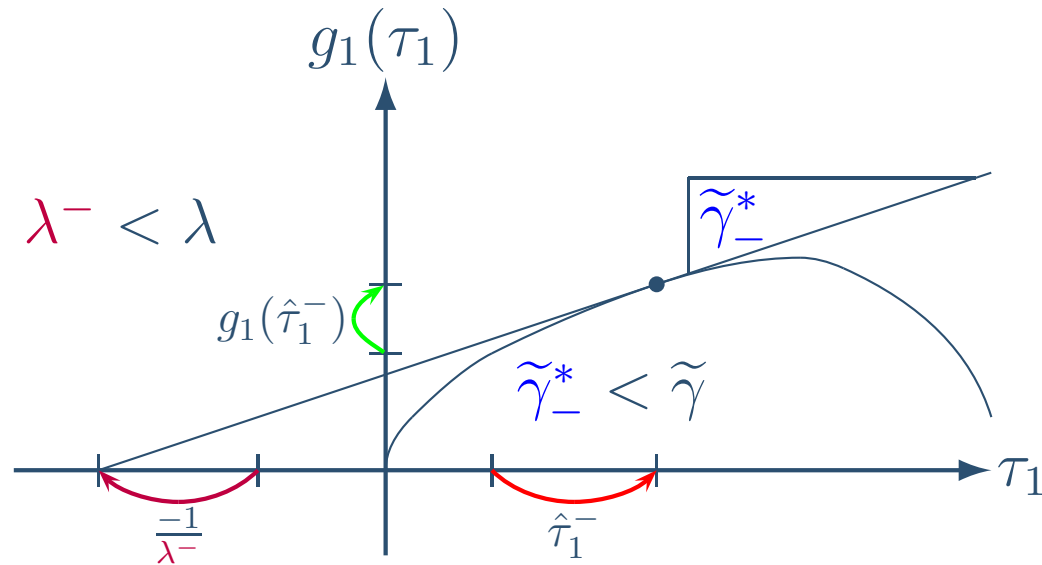


Figure 3: Visualization of Classical OFT Rate Maximization

# *Efficient OFT Rate Maximization*

$$\tilde{\gamma} \triangleq \frac{E(\tilde{G}_1)}{E(\tilde{T}_1)}$$

Figure 4: Visualization of Generalized OFT Rate Maximization

# Efficient OFT Rate Maximization

$$\bar{\tau} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda} p_i \tau_i$$

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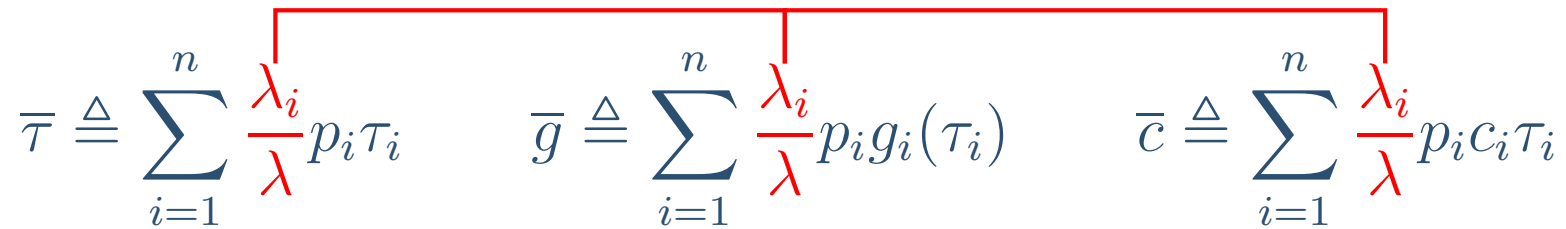
$$E(\tilde{T}_1) = \bar{\tau} + \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\tilde{\gamma} \triangleq \frac{\bar{g} - \bar{c} - \frac{c^s}{\lambda}}{\bar{\tau} + \frac{1}{\lambda}}$$

Figure 4: Visualization of Generalized OFT Rate Maximization



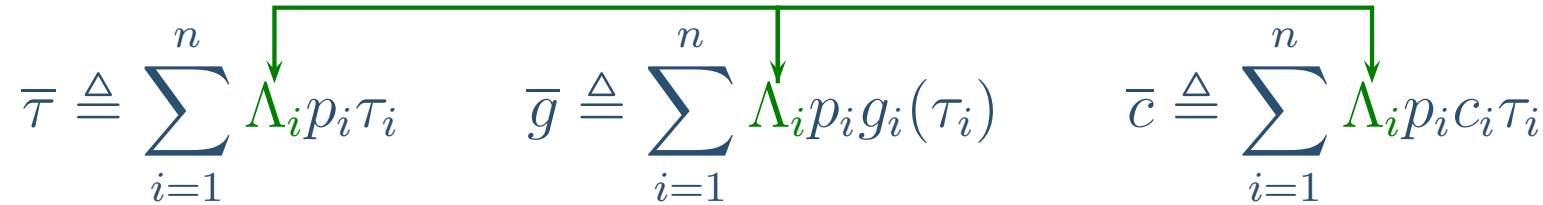
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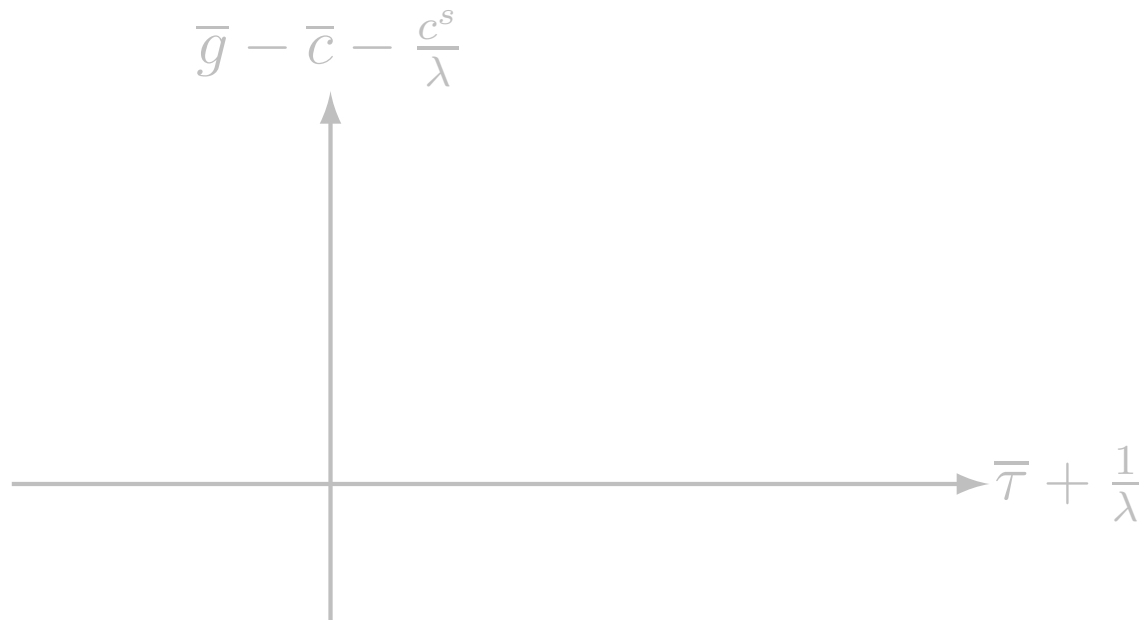


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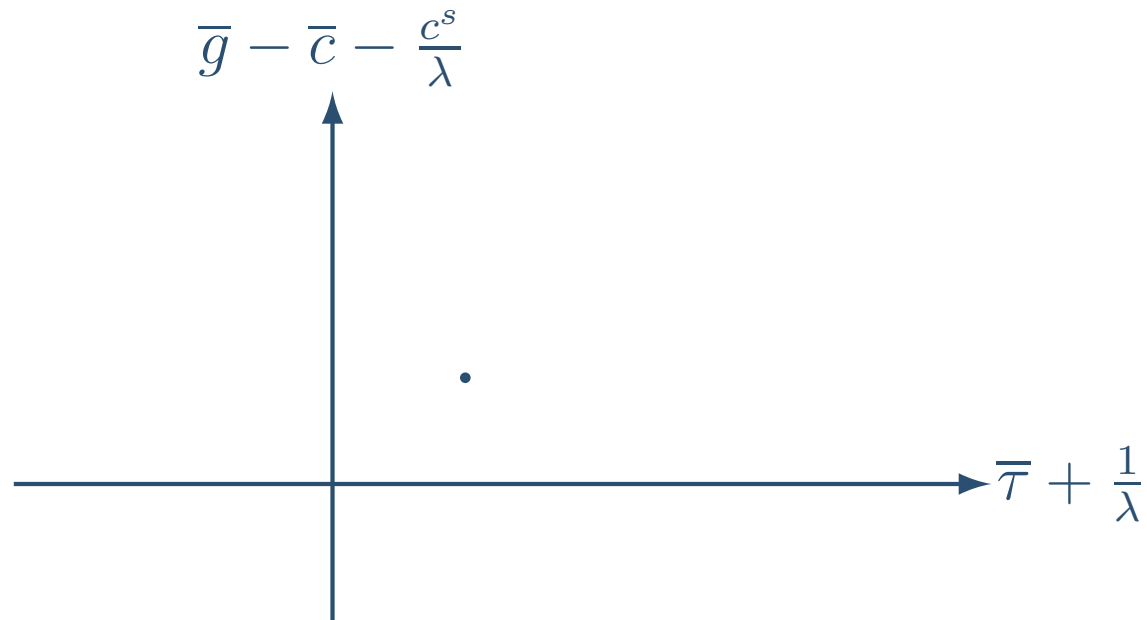


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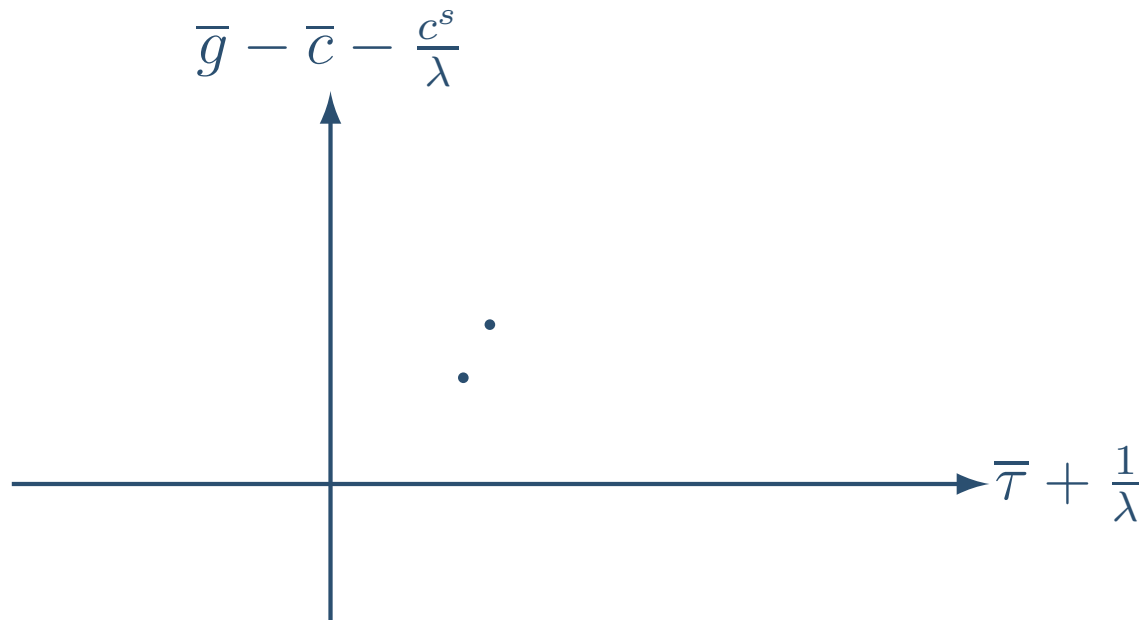


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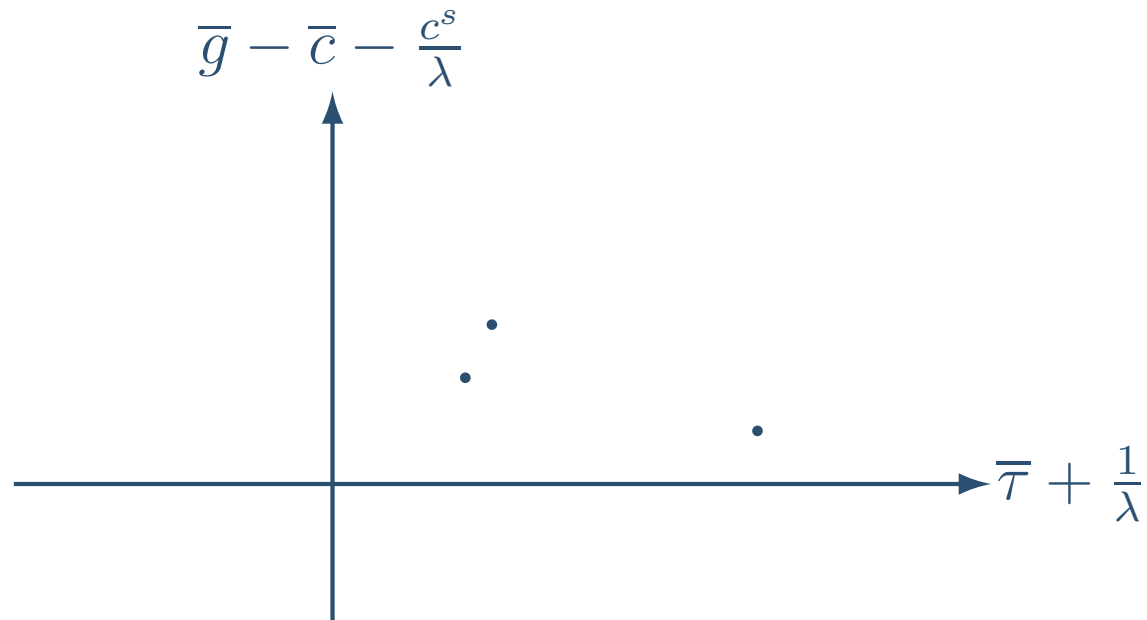


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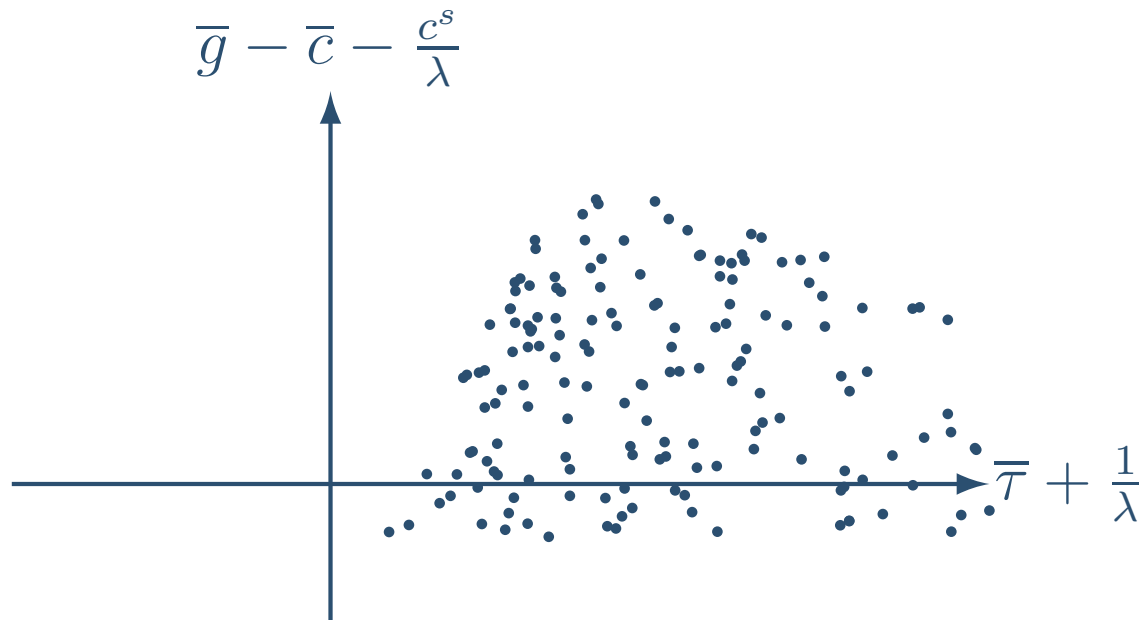


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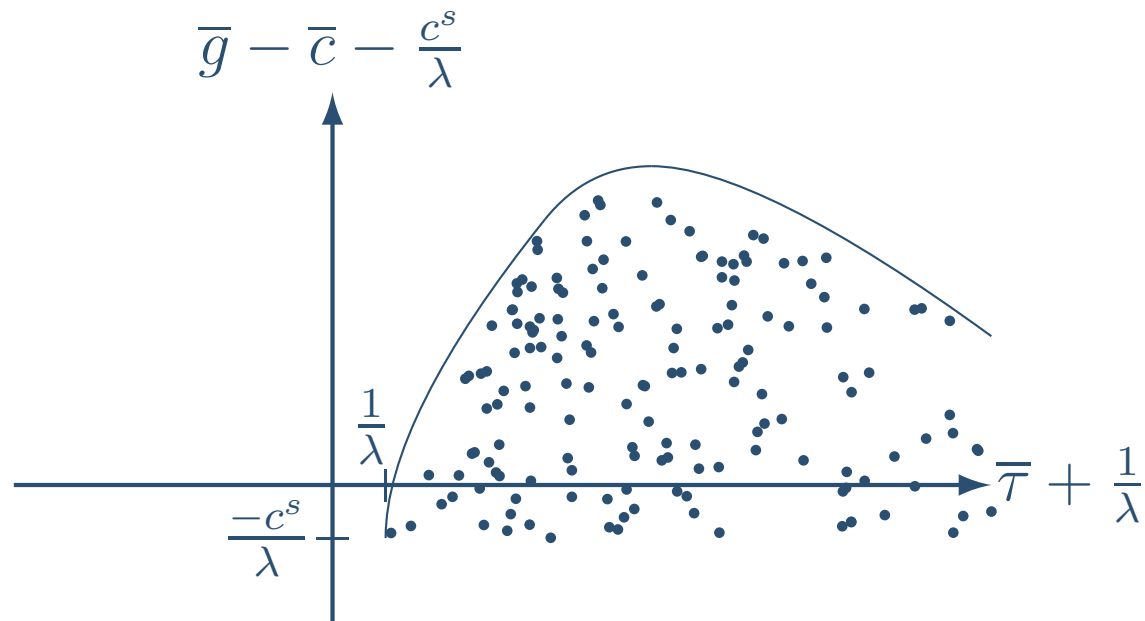


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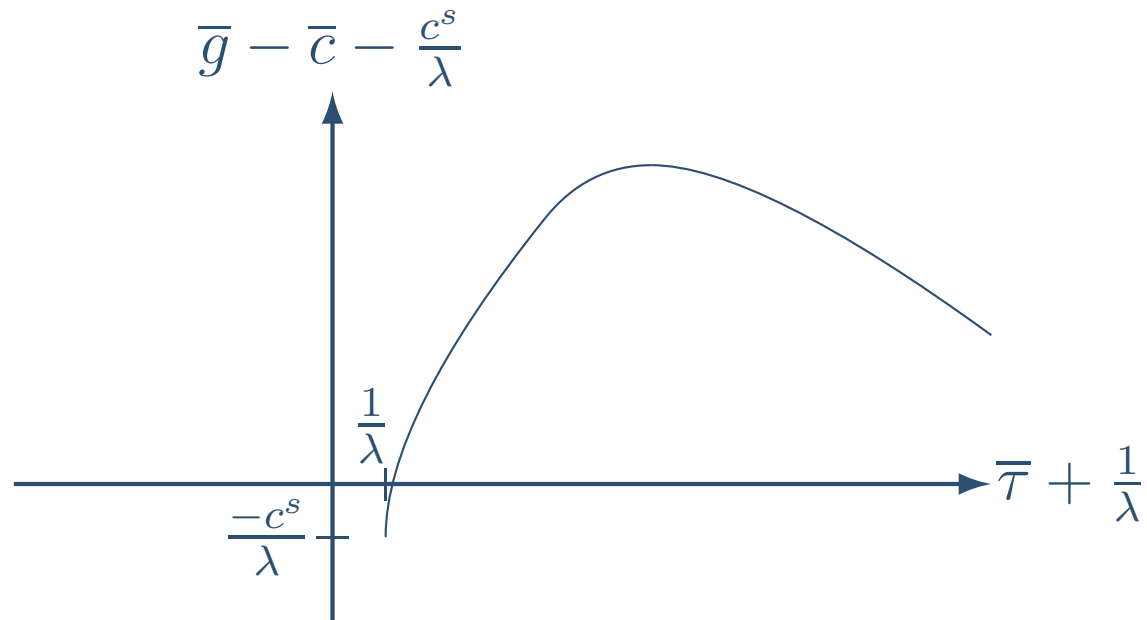


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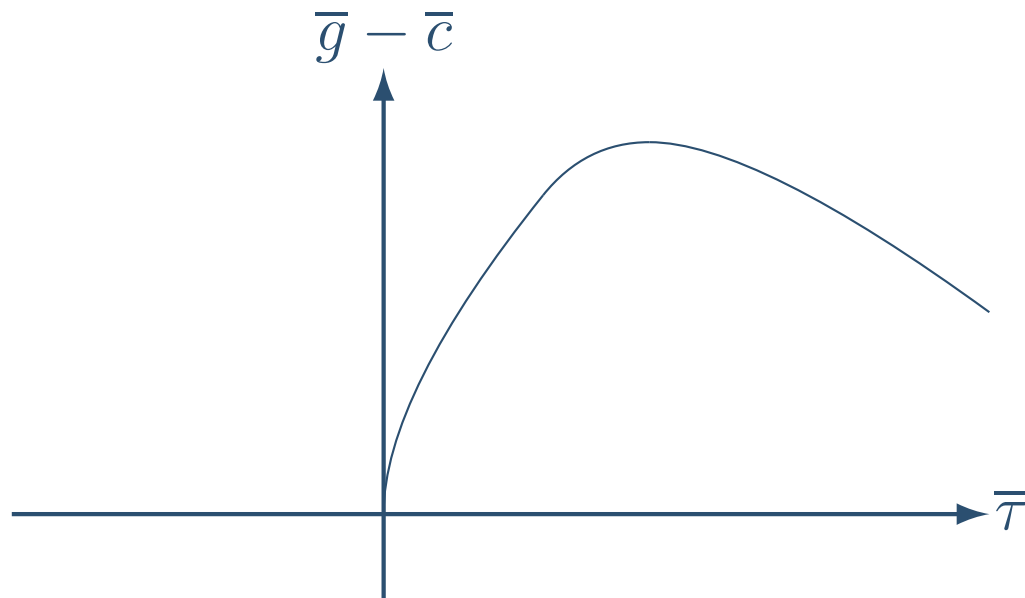


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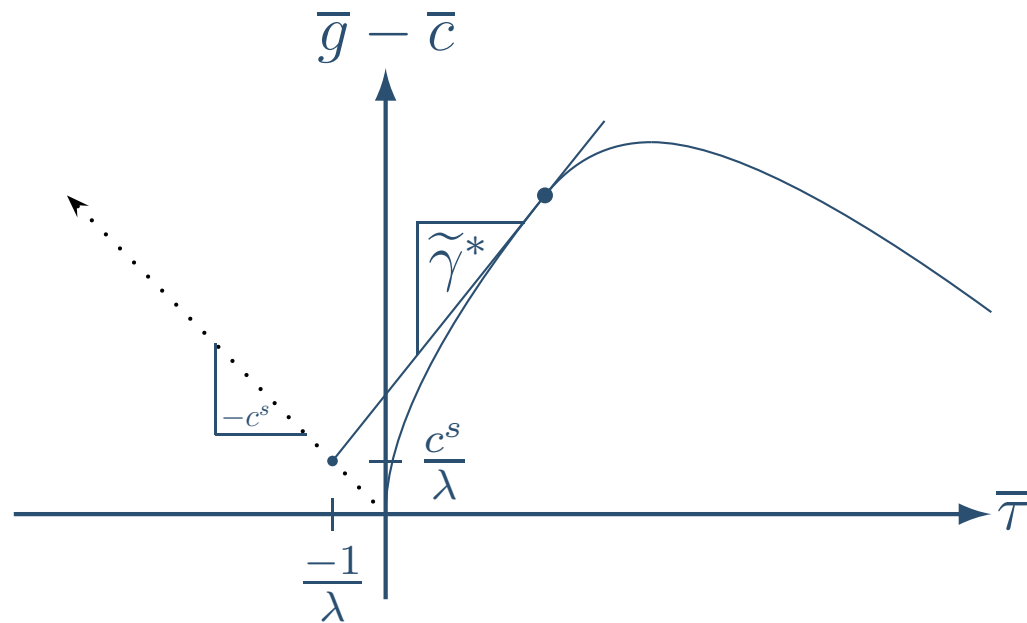


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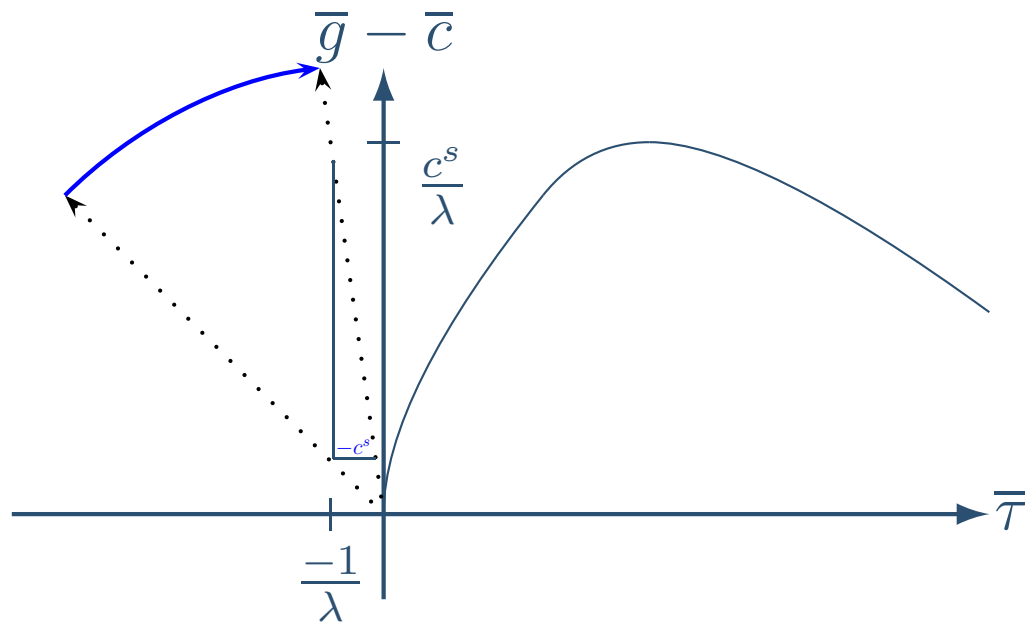


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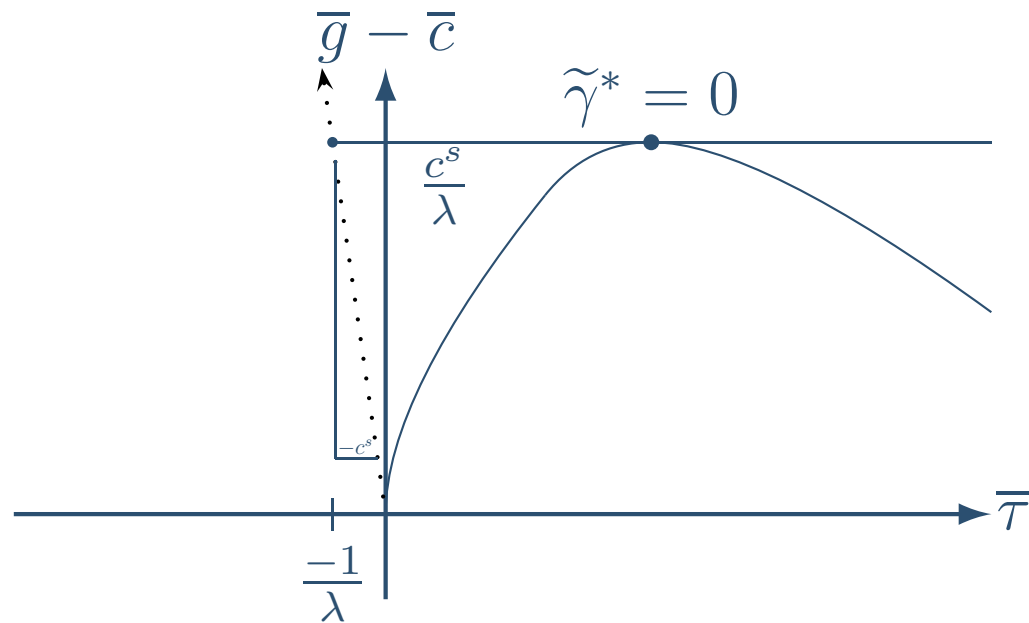


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# *Finite-Lifetime Approach*

Introduction

Solitary Agent Model

**Optimization**

- ❖ OFT Rate
- ❖ OFT Optimization
- ❖ OFT & Pareto

**❖ Finite Approach**

- ❖ Finite Rate
- ❖ Finite R-to-V
- ❖ Pareto Discounts

Results

Remarks

Questions?

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- Average cycle success threshold of  $\frac{G^T}{N^p}$  points

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- ❖ Finite R-to-V
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Results

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- Lifetime ends after  $N^p$  processed tasks
- Lifetime success threshold of  $G^T$  points
- Average cycle success threshold of  $\frac{G^T}{N^p}$  points
- Blends rate maximization and risk sensitivity

# Finite-Lifetime Rate Maximization

$$\mu \triangleq E(G_1) = \overline{g^p} - \overline{c^p} - \frac{c^s}{\lambda^p}$$

$$E(T_1) = \overline{\tau^p} + \frac{1}{\lambda^p}$$

$$\gamma \triangleq \frac{\mu - \frac{G^T}{N^p}}{\overline{\tau^p} + \frac{1}{\lambda^p}}$$

$$\diamond^* \triangleq \max \{ \diamond \}$$

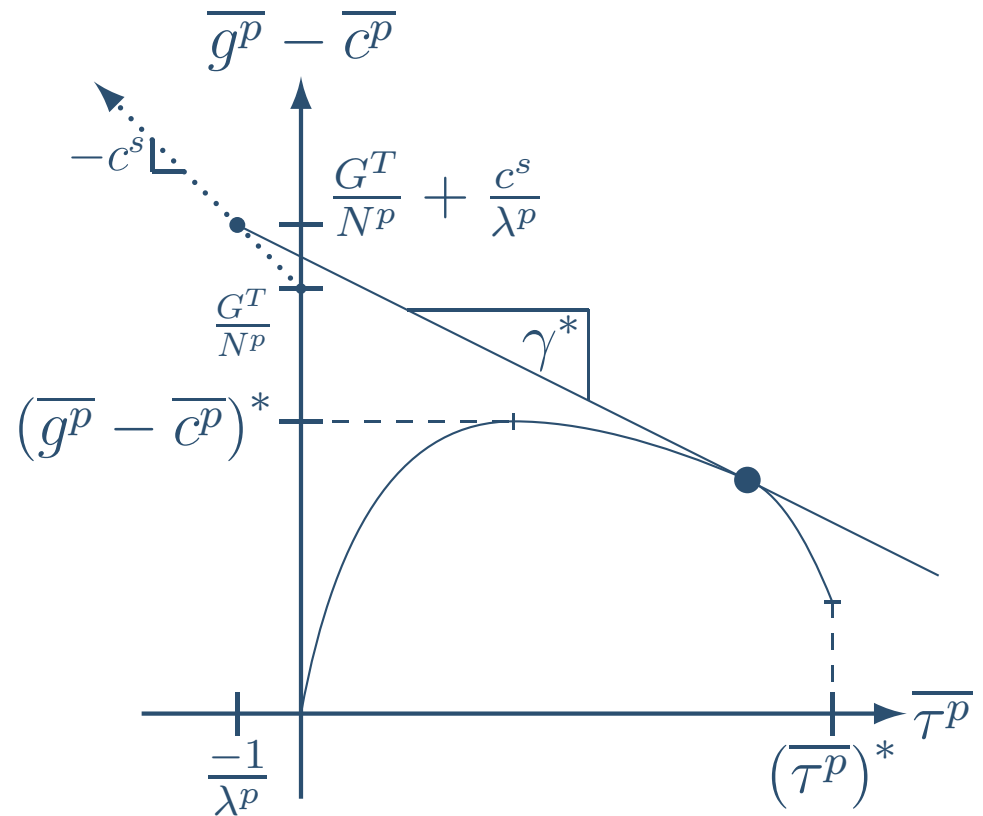


Figure 5: Excess Rate Maximization ( $N^p$  cycles and  $G^T$  threshold)

# Reward-to-Variability Maximization

$$\mu \triangleq E(G_1) = \overline{g^p} - \overline{c^p} - \frac{c^s}{\lambda^p} \quad \sigma \triangleq \text{std}(G_1) = \sqrt{\text{var}(g^p - c^p) + \left(\frac{c^s}{\lambda^p}\right)^2}$$

$$\rho \triangleq \frac{\mu - \frac{G^T}{N^p}}{\sigma} \quad \diamond^* \triangleq \max\{\diamond\}$$

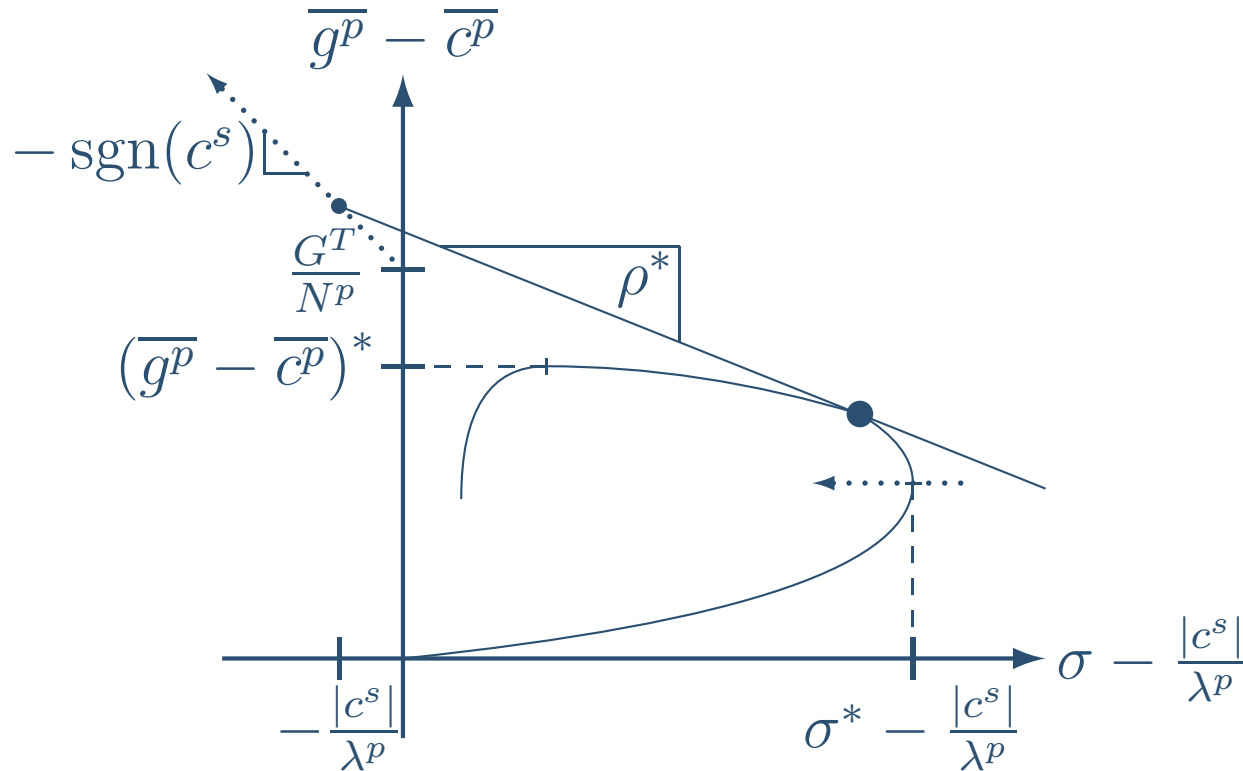


Figure 6: Sharpe Ratio Maximization ( $N^p$  cycles and  $G^T$  threshold)

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- Maximization of  $A - wB$  is Pareto optimal



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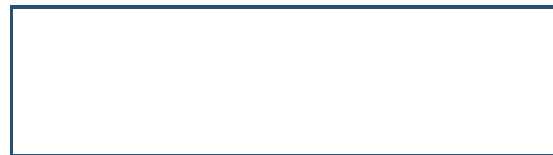
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- Objectives  $A$  and  $B$
- Discount  $w \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- Maximization of  $A - wB$  is Pareto optimal

$$E \left( \tilde{G}_1 \right)$$

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- Objectives  $A$  and  $B$
- Discount  $w \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- Maximization of  $A - wB$  is Pareto optimal

$$\mathbb{E}(\tilde{G}_1) - \mathbb{E}(\tilde{T}_1)$$

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- Objectives  $A$  and  $B$
- Discount  $w \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- Maximization of  $A - wB$  is Pareto optimal

$$\mathbb{E}(\tilde{G}_1) - w\mathbb{E}(\tilde{T}_1)$$

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- Objectives  $A$  and  $B$
- Discount  $\tilde{\gamma}^* \in \mathbb{R}$
- Maximization of  $A - \tilde{\gamma}^* B$  is Pareto optimal
- Opportunity cost


$$E(\tilde{G}_1) - \tilde{\gamma}^* E(\tilde{T}_1)$$

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## Other Possibilities

$$E(\tilde{G}_1) - \tilde{w}_0 E(\tilde{T}_1)$$

$$E(G_1) - w_0 E(T_1)$$

$$E(\tilde{G}_1) - \tilde{w}_1 \text{std}(\tilde{G}_1)$$

$$E(G_1) - w_1 \text{std}(G_1)$$

$$E(\tilde{G}_1 + \tilde{C}_1) - \tilde{w}_2 E(\tilde{C}_1)$$

$$E(G_1 + C_1) - w_2 E(C_1)$$

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$$A \triangleq a + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i(\tau_i)$$

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$$A \triangleq a + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i(\tau_i)$$
$$D \triangleq d + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i d_i(\tau_i)$$

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$$A \triangleq a + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i(\tau_i)$$
$$D \triangleq d + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i d_i(\tau_i)$$

$$J \triangleq \frac{A}{D}$$

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## Examples: Gain and Time Objectives

$$\frac{E(G_1) - \frac{G^T}{Np}}{E(T_1)} = \frac{-c^s + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i \left( g_i(\tau_i) - c_i \tau_i - \frac{G^T}{Np} \right)}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i \tau_i}$$

$$E(G_1) - w E(T_1) = \frac{-(c^s + w) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i \left( g_i(\tau_i) - c_i \tau_i - w_i \tau_i \right)}{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i}$$

# Advantage-to-Disadvantage Ratio

## Examples: Efficiency-Type Objectives

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$$\frac{E(G_1) + E(C_1) - \frac{G_g^T}{Np}}{E(C_1)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i \left( g_i(\tau_i) - \frac{G_g^T}{Np} \right)}{c^s + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i c_i \tau_i}$$

$$E(G_1) + E(C_1) - w E(C_1) = \frac{-wc^s + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i \left( g_i(\tau_i) - w_i c_i \tau_i \right)}{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \lambda_i}$$

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**Assume that**

- $d_j$  is constant for all  $\tau_j$
- $\frac{a_j}{d_j}$  achieves its maximum at  $\tau_j^*$

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**Assume that**

- $d_j$  is constant for all  $\tau_j$
- $\frac{a_j}{d_j}$  achieves its maximum at  $\tau_j^*$

**Index so that**

$$\frac{a_1(\tau_1^*)}{d_1(\tau_1^*)} > \frac{a_2(\tau_2^*)}{d_2(\tau_2^*)} > \dots > \frac{a_{n-1}(\tau_{n-1}^*)}{d_{n-1}(\tau_{n-1}^*)} > \frac{a_n(\tau_n^*)}{d_n(\tau_n^*)}$$

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**Assume that**

- $d_j$  is constant for all  $\tau_j$
- $\frac{a_j}{d_j}$  achieves its maximum at  $\tau_j^*$

**Index so that**

$$\frac{a_1(\tau_1^*)}{d_1(\tau_1^*)} > \frac{a_2(\tau_2^*)}{d_2(\tau_2^*)} > \dots > \frac{a_{n-1}(\tau_{n-1}^*)}{d_{n-1}(\tau_{n-1}^*)} > \frac{a_n(\tau_n^*)}{d_n(\tau_n^*)}$$

**Exclude when**

$$\frac{a + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(\tau_i^*)}{d + \sum_{i=1}^k d_i(\tau_i^*)} > \frac{a_{k+1}(\tau_{k+1}^*)}{d_{k+1}(\tau_{k+1}^*)}$$



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**Assume that**

$$\left(\frac{a_j}{d_j}\right)' < 0 \text{ for all } \tau_j$$

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**Assume that**

$$\left(\frac{a_j}{d_j}\right)' < 0 \text{ for all } \tau_j \quad (\text{maximum at } \tau_j^* = 0)$$

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Assume that

$$\left(\frac{a_j}{d_j}\right)' < 0 \text{ for all } \tau_j \quad (\text{maximum at } \tau_j^* = 0)$$

Index so that

$$\frac{a_1(0)}{d_1(0)} > \frac{a_2(0)}{d_2(0)} > \dots > \frac{a_{n-1}(0)}{d_{n-1}(0)} > \frac{a_n(0)}{d_n(0)}$$

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**Assume that**

$$\left(\frac{a_j}{d_j}\right)' < 0 \text{ for all } \tau_j \quad (\text{maximum at } \tau_j^* = 0)$$

**Index so that**

$$\frac{a_1(0)}{d_1(0)} > \frac{a_2(0)}{d_2(0)} > \dots > \frac{a_{n-1}(0)}{d_{n-1}(0)} > \frac{a_n(0)}{d_n(0)}$$

**Exclude when**

$$\frac{a + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(\tau_i^k)}{d + \sum_{i=1}^k d_i(\tau_i^k)} > \frac{a_{k+1}(0)}{d_{k+1}(0)}$$

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where  $\tau_j^k$  is found with

$$\frac{a'_k(\tau_j^k)}{d'_k(\tau_j^k)} = \frac{a + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(\tau_i^k)}{d + \sum_{i=1}^k d_i(\tau_i^k)}$$

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where  $\tau_j^k$  is found with

$$\frac{a'_k(\tau_j^k)}{d'_k(\tau_j^k)} = \frac{a + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i(\tau_i^k)}{d + \sum_{i=1}^k d_i(\tau_i^k)}$$

This is a generalized version of the marginal value theorem.

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- Simple stochastic model of a solitary agent



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- Simple stochastic model of a solitary agent
- Provided analytical tools for finding optimal agent behavior

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- Simple stochastic model of a solitary agent
- Provided analytical tools for finding optimal agent behavior
- Model can be expanded (e.g., recognition cost, behavior-dependent rates, nonlinear fuel costs)

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- Simple stochastic model of a solitary agent
- Provided analytical tools for finding optimal agent behavior
- Model can be expanded (e.g., recognition cost, behavior-dependent rates, nonlinear fuel costs)
- Optimization approaches can be enhanced using methods from post-modern portfolio theory

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- Simple stochastic model of a solitary agent
- Provided analytical tools for finding optimal agent behavior
- Model can be expanded (e.g., recognition cost, behavior-dependent rates, nonlinear fuel costs)
- Optimization approaches can be enhanced using methods from post-modern portfolio theory
- Behaviors should be implemented on real agents

# Questions?

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**Questions?**

## Major Influences

- E.L. Charnov. Optimal foraging: The marginal value theorem. *Theoretical Population Biology*, 9(2): 129–136, April 1976.
- Eric L. Charnov and Gordon H. Orians. *Optimal foraging: some theoretical explorations*. PhD thesis, University of Washington, 1973.
- D.W. Stephens and J.R. Krebs. *Foraging Theory*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ, 1986.

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- Military

- ❖ Surveillance

- ❖ Offensive action



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  - ❖ Surveillance
  - ❖ Offensive action
- Robotic Exploration (e.g., *DEPTHX*)
  - ❖ Deep Sea
  - ❖ Space

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  - ❖ Objects to deploy

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- Prioritization during real-time search

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  - ❖ Objects to deploy
- Prioritization during real-time search
- Failure thresholds (e.g.,  $G^T$ )

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- Information foraging of human beings (i.e., analysis)

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  - ❖ Web behavior consistent with foraging predictions
  - ❖ Design technology based on behavioral analysis

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  - ❖ Web behavior consistent with foraging predictions
  - ❖ Design technology based on behavioral analysis
  - ❖ Content delivery based on encounter characteristics of search



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- Information foraging of human beings (i.e., analysis)
  - ❖ Web behavior consistent with foraging predictions
  - ❖ Design technology based on behavioral analysis
  - ❖ Content delivery based on encounter characteristics of search
  - ❖ Advertising

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- Model can be expanded

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  - ❖ Relax Poisson assumption
- New stochastic optimization criteria

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- New stochastic optimization criteria
  - ❖ Skew-sensitive objectives

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  - ❖ Relax Poisson assumption
- New stochastic optimization criteria
  - ❖ Skew-sensitive objectives
  - ❖ Use of lower-partial moments

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- PMPT: Stochastic dominance

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  - ❖ **Static** approach

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  - ❖ Embraces risk sensitivity and a wider range of return distributions

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  - ❖ Embraces risk sensitivity and a wider range of return distributions
- State-based **dynamic** programming methods

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  - ❖ **Static** approach
  - ❖ Embraces risk sensitivity and a wider range of return distributions
- State-based **dynamic** programming methods
  - ❖ Modern approach



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- PMPT: Stochastic dominance
  - ❖ **Static** approach
  - ❖ Embraces risk sensitivity and a wider range of return distributions
- State-based **dynamic** programming methods
  - ❖ Modern approach
  - ❖ **Improves performance**

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**❖ Future Directions**

❖ Questions?

- PMPT: Stochastic dominance
  - ❖ **Static** approach
  - ❖ Embraces risk sensitivity and a wider range of return distributions
- State-based **dynamic** programming methods
  - ❖ Modern approach
  - ❖ **Improves performance**
  - ❖ **Increases behavioral complexity**

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Introduction

Solitary Agent Model

Optimization

Results

Remarks

Questions?

Follow-Up

❖ Applications

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  - ❖ **Increases behavioral complexity**
  - ❖ Better machines and human-in-loop systems prevent complexity problems
  - ❖ Parameter estimation can be built-in

# Questions?

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**Follow-Up**

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## Influences for Future Work

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