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Energy diversification through fuel price variation within TIMES

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Motivation and goal

- » Motivation
 - » Some parameters like fuel prices will always be uncertain
 - » Impossible to fully predict over time horizon
- » Goal:
 - » Single hedging strategy for the shorter term against risk aversion
 - » Incorporating the uncertainty of future parameters by (almost) continuous distribution functions, taking into account covariances between the uncertainties

Handling uncertainty

Near optimal

- » Lower bound i.e. var.act
- » Post-optimality analysis (SET BENCOST YES)
- » Modeling to generate alternatives (MGA)
- » Monte Carlo/Parametric programming

Hedging outside TIMES

- » Make scenarios
- » Monte Carlo/Parametric programming

Hedging within TIMES

- » Robust Programming
- » Stochastic Programming
- » **Include the cost of variation in the objective**

New

Conditions for good investment analysis

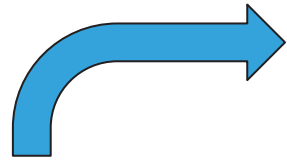
1. Irreversibility: OK
2. Uncertainty threats: Risk Averse
3. Uncertainty opportunities/ Adaptiveness/Flexibility:
 - » Not OK when perfect foresight
 - » “The traditional discounted cash flow approach assumes a single decision pathway with fixed outcomes without the ability to change over time.”
 - » OK, when using stochastic to get better information
 - » “By having the ability to make midcourse corrections when these uncertainties become known, decision-makers have essentially hedged themselves against any downside risks.”

Diversification :

Not the single cheapest technology on average when

- » **Risk aversion** (being risk neutral, you do not have diversification even with uncertain parameters in a model with a single decision path, ~ NPV calculations)
- » **Adaptiveness** (even when being risk neutral)
 - » Example:
 - » Alternative fuel @ 4 €/GJ
 - » Gas fuel @ 5 €/GJ +- 3€/GJ
- » **Variable demand**
 - » Fixed versus variable costs
 - » No cheap storage

Some history...



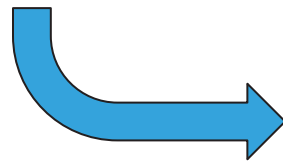
Risk averse: Fearing uncertainty

- » 1950: **Portfolio theory**
Markovitz
- » 1960: Sharpe, Miller

- » 1970: **Option pricing models** Fischer Black, Myron Scholes, Robert Merton

» Nobel Prize 1990

» Nobel Prize 1997



Adaptiveness = Profiting
from uncertainty

An overview

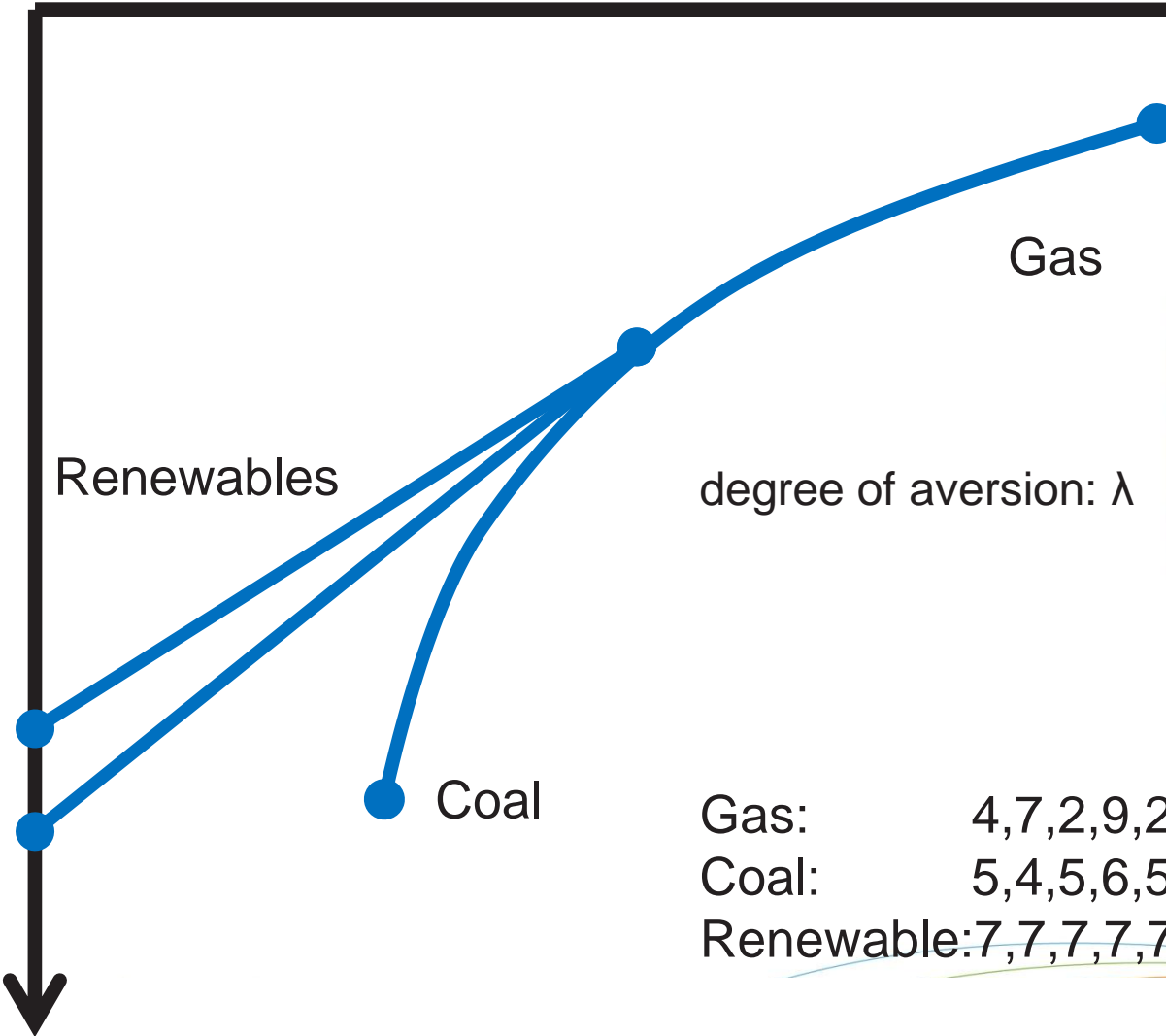
1995: Columbia Business school

	Risk neutral	Risk averse
Non-adaptive	Classical approach	DEVUP, λ DEVUP, Minimax
Adaptive	Stochastic programming (Option theory, real option theory)	(*) A combination ? Capetown 2012

(*) Risk aversity for SOW today possible with Minimax Stochastic, Risk averse stochastic

A portfolio approach

Uncertainty (VAR, DEVUP) 



degree of aversion: λ



Gas:	4,7,2,9,2,4	x4	x3	x2	x1
Coal:	5,4,5,6,5,5		x1		x1
Renewable:	7,7,7,7,7,7			x2	x2

Cost (including CO₂ price) 

Upward deviation

» Mean variance

Where λ = the risk aversion factor

$\text{var}(\text{cost})$ = actual price variation

$$\min\{E(\text{cost}) + \lambda \text{var}(\text{cost})\}$$

» Adapted to the linear model (smaller model to validate lambda)

$$\min\{E(\text{cost}) + \lambda \text{UpAbsDev}(\text{Cost})\}$$

Where
$$\text{UpAbsDev}(\text{cost}) = \sum_j p_j \{\text{cost}_j - E(\text{cost})\}^+$$

Var (cost)



UpAbsDev



DownAbsDev



Fuel price variation

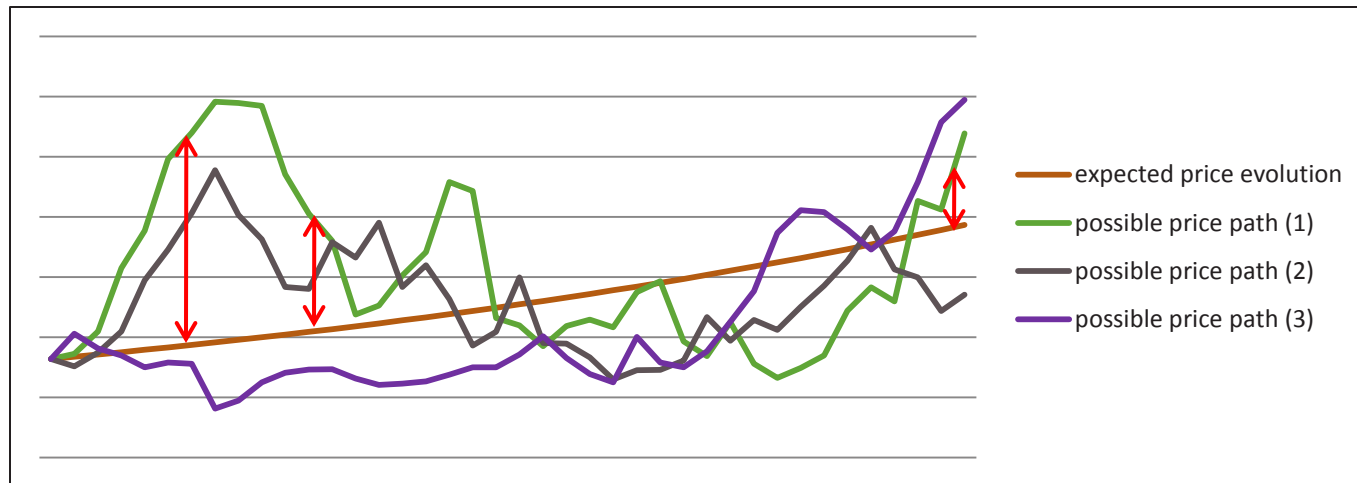
- » Fuel price scenarios constructed using expected growth rates and covariance matrix

	<i>Oil</i>	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Gas</i>
<i>Oil</i>	0.047666		
<i>Coal</i>	0.015483	0.046052	
<i>Gas</i>	0.022898	0.018412	0.046349

- » 150 price scenarios generated for the period 2010-2050 through Monte Carlo simulations

Fuel price variation

» Example of price volatility:



» In TIMES, DEVUP is taken for each price path and for the total of fossil fuels.

Implementation within TIMES:

Why you don't need 150 objective functions

$$\text{OBJ} = 1500 I_W + 500 I_G + 1300 I_C + 900 I_O + 5 F_G + 7 F_C + 8 F_O \quad \text{Average OBJ}$$

$$\text{OBJ}^2 = 1500 I_W + 500 I_G + 1300 I_C + 900 I_O + 3 F_G + 8 F_C + 23 F_O$$

$$\text{OBJ}^3 = 1500 I_W + 500 I_G + 1300 I_C + 900 I_O + 14 F_G + 6 F_C + 12 F_O$$

$$\text{OBJ}^4 = 1500 I_W + 500 I_G + 1300 I_C + 900 I_O + 7 F_G + 9 F_C + 6 F_O$$

...

$$\text{OBJ}^{150}$$



Subtract for each price path

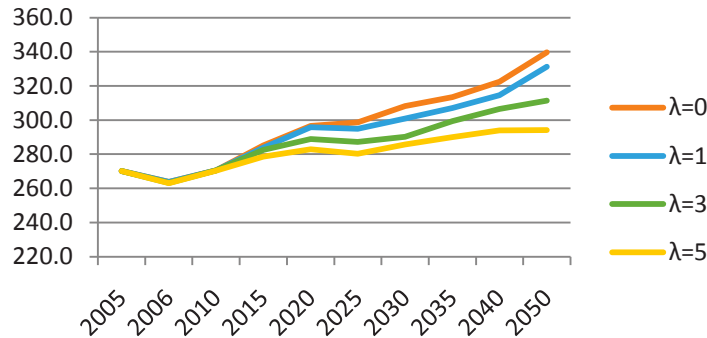
$$\begin{aligned} \text{OBJ}^{\text{DEVUP}} = & 1500 I_W + 500 I_G + 1300 I_C + 900 I_O + 5 F_G + 7 F_C + 8 F_O \\ & + \lambda/4. [\{-2F_G + 1F_C + 15F_O\}^+ + \{9F_G - 1F_C + 4F_O\}^+ + \{2F_G + 2F_C - 2F_O\}^+] \end{aligned}$$

DEVUP is dependent on fuel choices and is not known in advance.

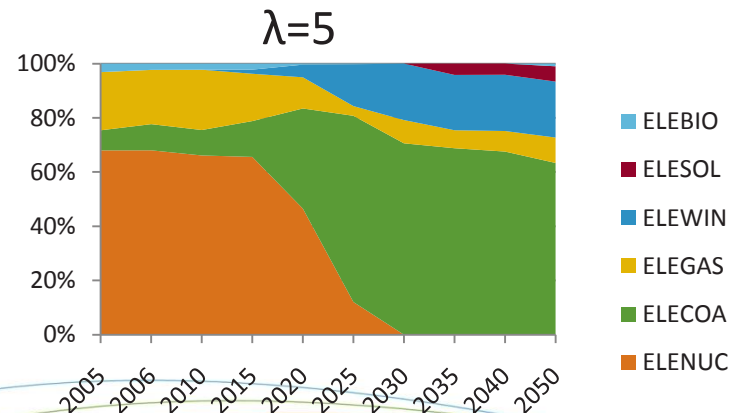
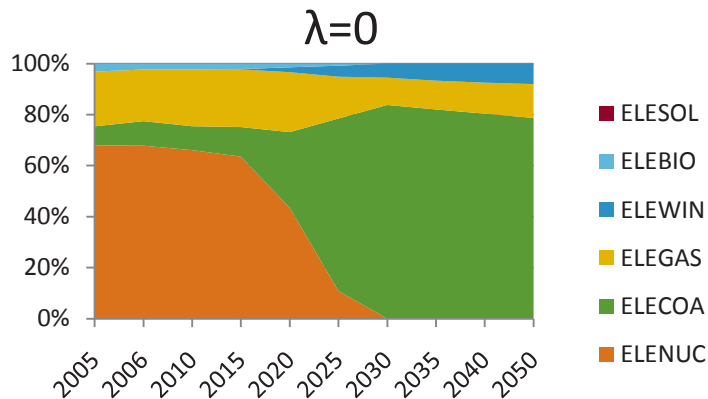
It is more than just adding an extra cost to each fuel !

Fuel price variation: Results

» Total electricity production decreases



» Share of renewables increases

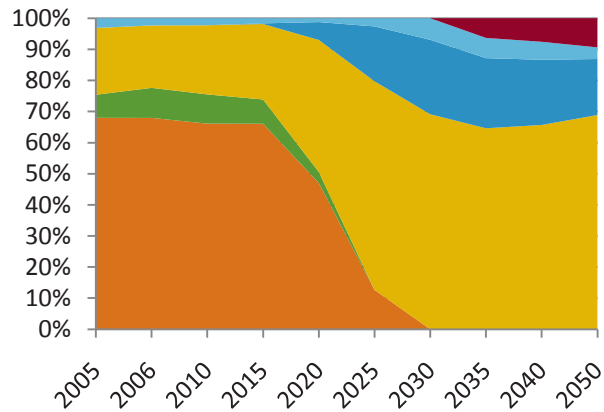


Fuel price variation: Results

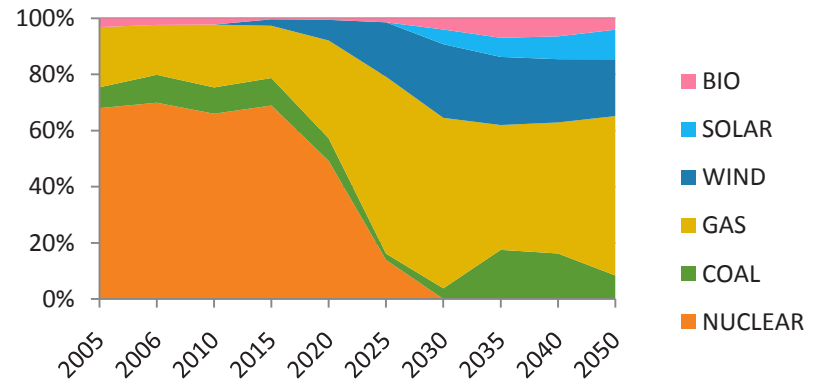
» Comparison in a scenario with CO2 constraint

$\lambda=0$

$\lambda=3$



- ELESOL
- ELEBIO
- ELEWIN
- ELEGAS
- ELECOA
- ELENUC



- BIO
- SOLAR
- WIND
- GAS
- COAL
- NUCLEAR

Results with fuel price variation

- » Price variation of fossil fuels leads to
 - » The introduction of renewables in the electricity mix
 - » Less electricity / energy demand
 - » Diversification for high values of λ (under the assumption of limited technologies without variability)

- » The effect when CO₂ constraint is binding
 - » The effect of uncertainty is significantly reduced alternative options are reduced: all renewables already exhausted
 - » More demand reduction
 - » Shift towards coal as diversification policy

Conclusions and future work

1. The test case leads to diversification and other changes for a more robust energy system.
 2. Advantages of the approach: it is within TIMES, covariances are included and it is fast.
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1. Include CO₂ price uncertainty (possibly with shocks)
 2. Include Minimax strategy (implementation is only slightly different)
 3. Put risk aversion at a lower level, at least sectoral level:
 - » The smaller the covered system, the larger the variability
 - » But could be neutralised by hedging with options
 4. Further develop to combine real options approach with portfolio approach within TIMES.