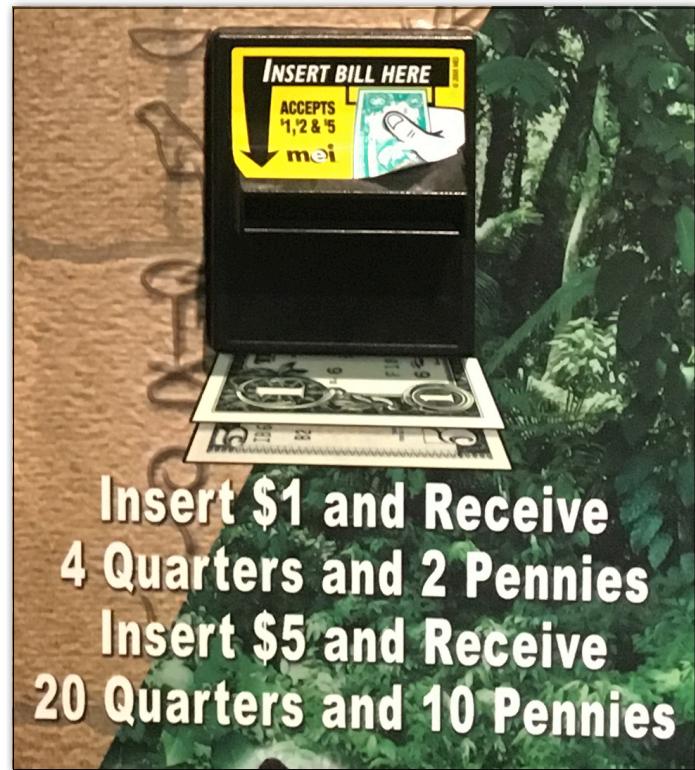


15.456 Financial Engineering
MIT Sloan School of Management
Paul F. Mende

Fundamental theorem of asset pricing, approximate replication, and risk-neutral pricing
September 18, 2020

Agenda

- Announcements
 - Problem Set 1 solutions on Canvas
 - Problem Set 2 due Thursday, September 24 @ 11:59pm
 - Quiz alert
- Fundamental Theorem of Asset Pricing
- Approximate replication and hedging
- Risk-neutral probabilities and asset pricing
- Multi-period dynamics and the binomial tree



Summary and recap

- Law of one price:
 - Absence of arbitrage
 - Unique price (for securities in complete market)
 - Pricing bounds (from positive state prices in incomplete market)
- Pricing is linear
 - Linear combination of assets
 - Linear functions and prices
 - Adjoint relates market and state prices

If payoffs $A\mathbf{x}_1 = A\mathbf{x}_2$, then $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x}_2$
since $A(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2) = 0 \implies \mathbf{S}^*(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2) = 0$



Arbitrage theorem

- Consider a market with n securities, s states of the world, payoff matrix

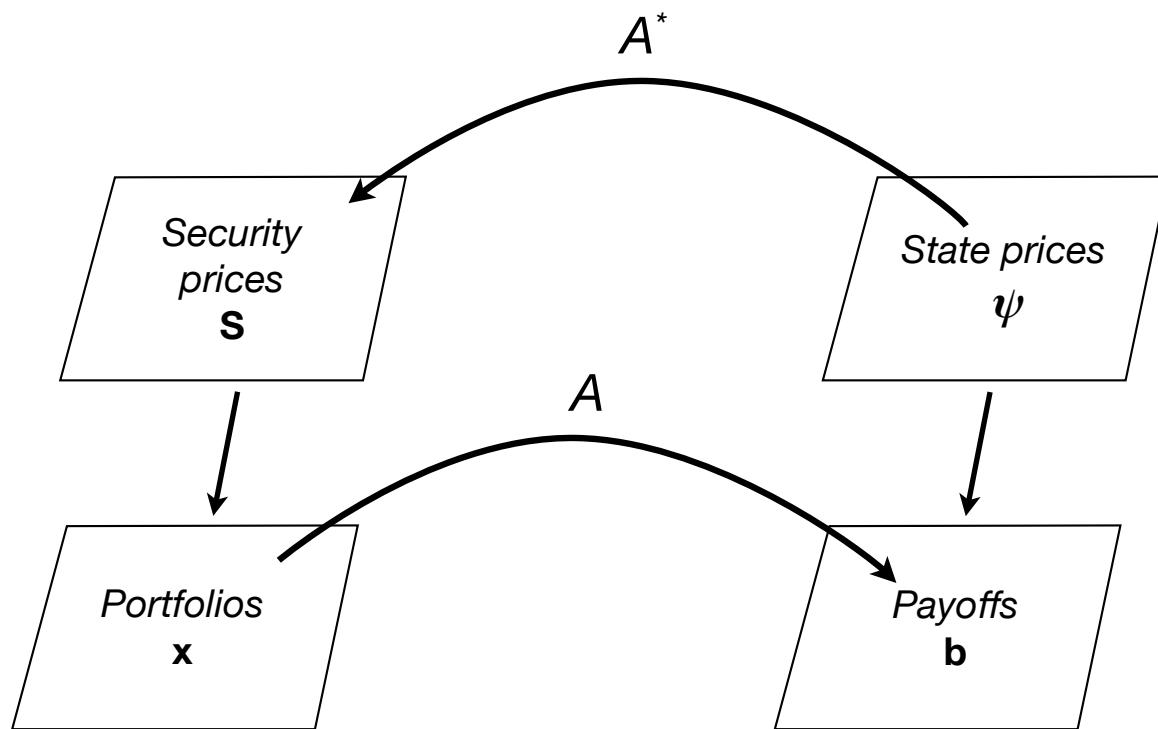
$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{s \times n}, \quad A : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^s$$

- There is no arbitrage if and only if there exists a **strictly positive** state-price vector ψ **consistent with** the security-price vector,

$$\psi \in \mathbb{R}^s, \quad \mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mathbf{S} = A^* \psi$$

- Already shown this for complete markets. For **incomplete markets**, there can be (infinitely) multiple solutions ψ .
 - If there is **at least one solution** where $\psi > 0$, then no arbitrage.
 - If **none of the solutions** has $\psi > 0$, then there is arbitrage.

Dual spaces and arbitrage



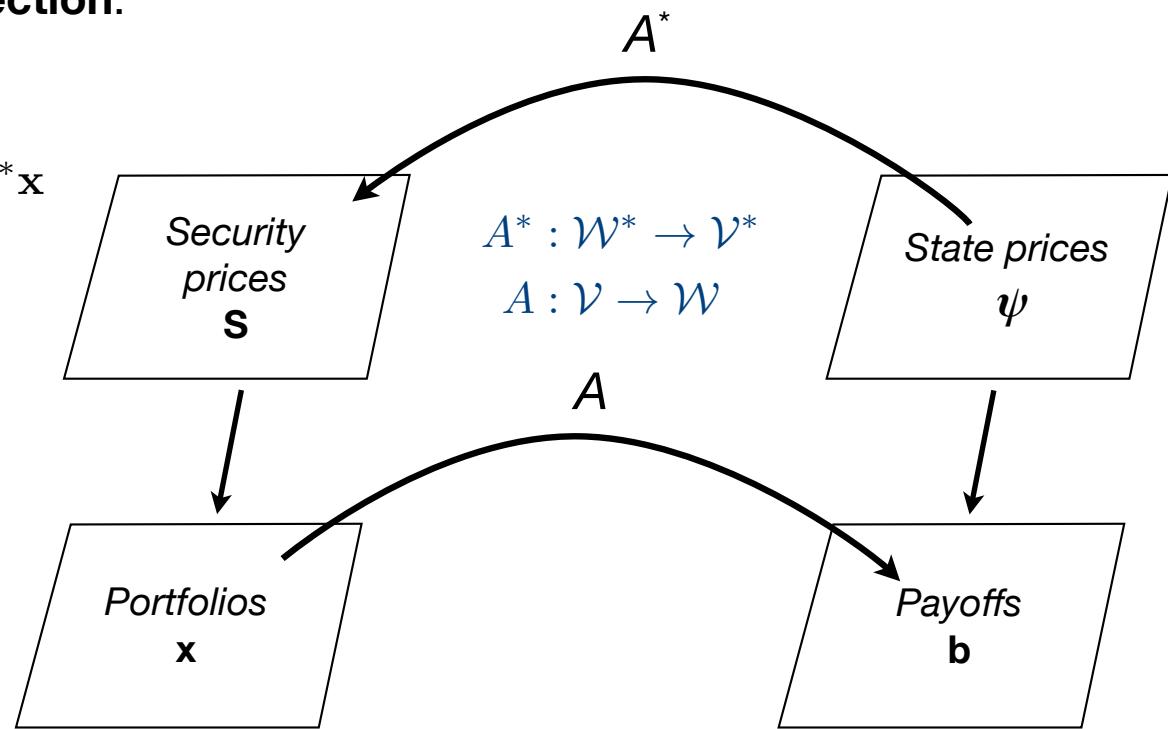
Algebra of arbitrage

- The **adjoint transformation**, given by the **transpose** of a matrix, goes between dual spaces **in the opposite direction**.

$$S[\mathbf{x}] = \psi[\mathbf{b}] = \psi[A\mathbf{x}]$$

$$\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x} = \psi^* A \mathbf{x} = (A^* \psi)^* \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{S} = A^* \psi$$



Arbitrage pricing theorem

- Given payoffs A , prices \mathbf{S} , target asset with payoff \mathbf{b} :
- Find all $\psi > 0$ such that $A^*\psi = \mathbf{S}$
 - No solutions \Rightarrow arbitrage
 - 1 solution \Rightarrow complete market
 - Multiple solutions \Rightarrow incomplete market
- Price asset using **all** solutions $\psi > 0 : \{\psi^*\mathbf{b}\}$
 - 1 solution \Rightarrow redundant asset
 - Otherwise find full set of allowed non-arbitrage prices

Arbitrage pricing

- Example: incomplete market

Suppose $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1.5 \\ 0.5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Then $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + x \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \implies A^* \psi = \mathbf{S}$ and $0 < x < 1/2$.

Then price $S_b = \psi^* \mathbf{b} = 0.5 + x(0.5)$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(1 + x),$$

so $1/2 < S_b < 3/4$.

Asset pricing duality

Algebra of arbitrage

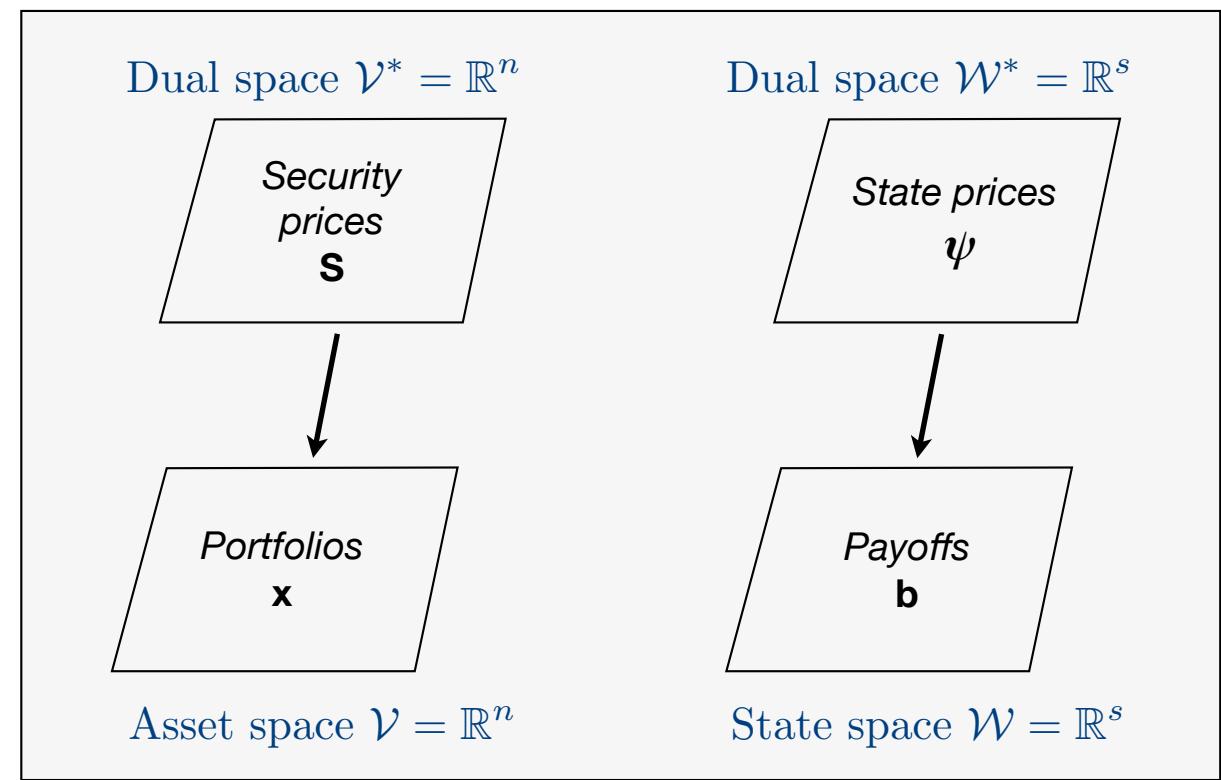
- The **dual space** of a vector space consists of all **linear function(al)s** on vectors in the space.

‣ Example: price of a portfolio

$$S[\mathbf{x}] = \mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x}$$

‣ Example: state price of a payoff

$$\psi[\mathbf{b}] = \psi^* \mathbf{b}$$



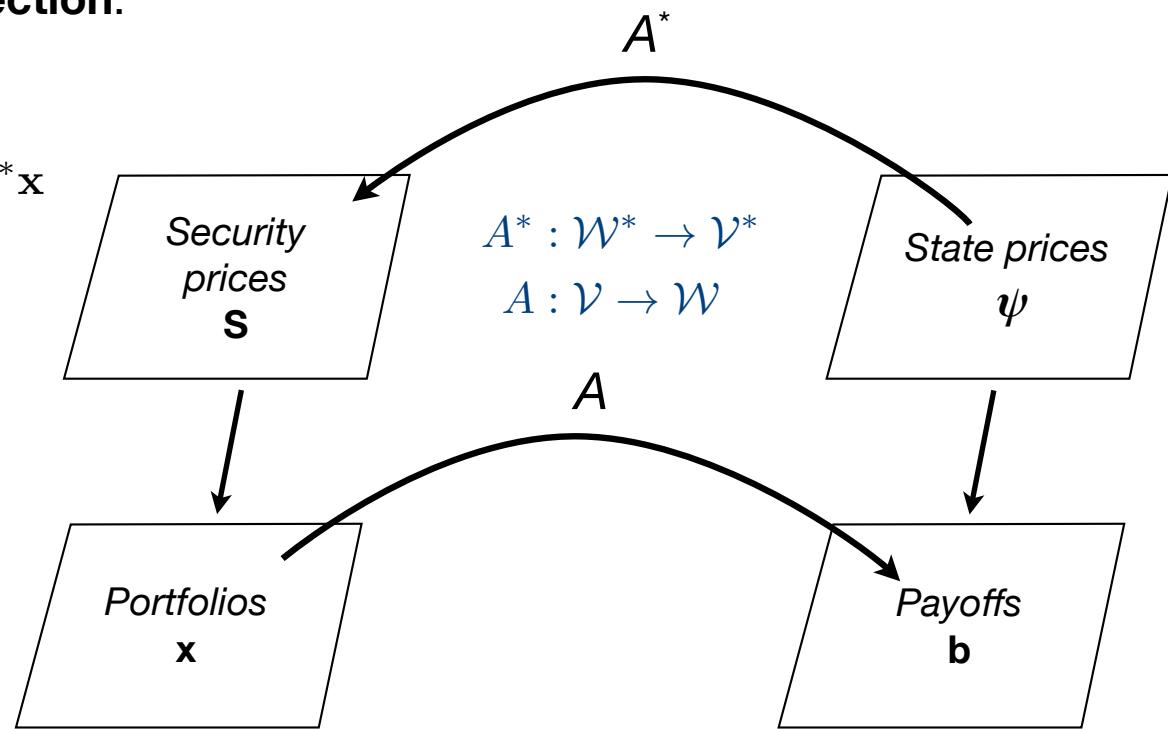
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$$\mathbf{S} = A^* \psi$$

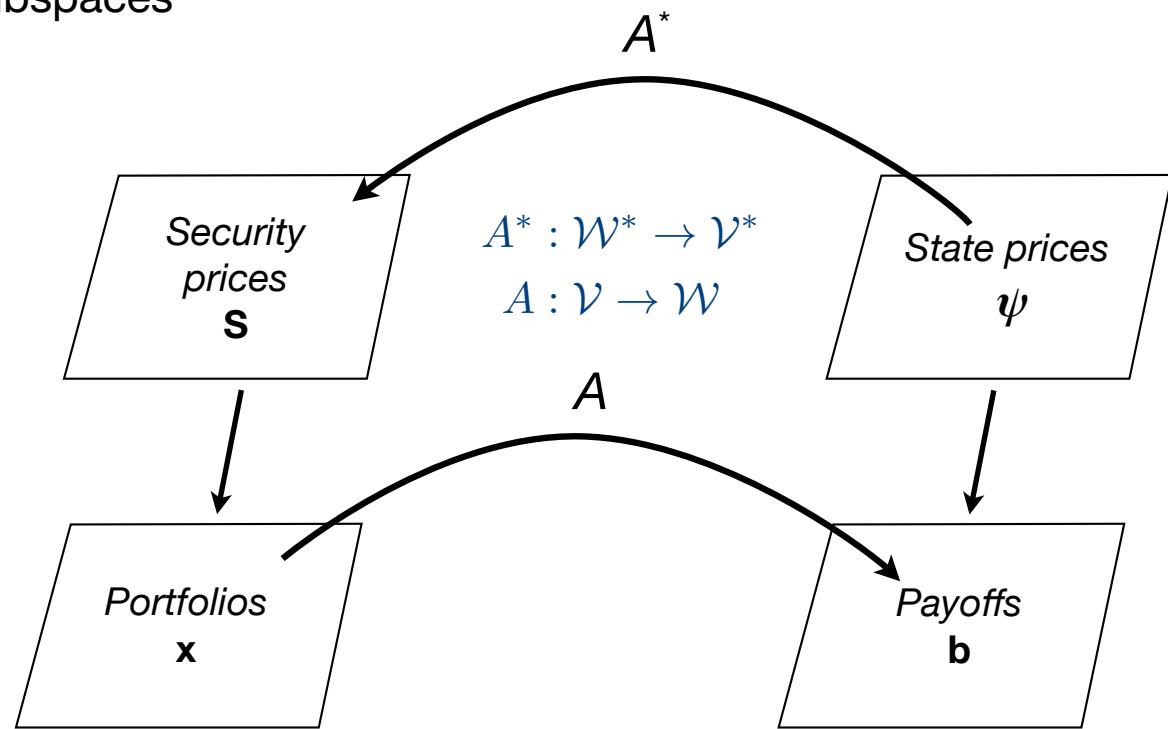


Algebra of arbitrage

- The operators have special relationships among their subspaces

$$\text{Ker } A^* \perp \text{Im } A$$

$$\text{Im } A^* \perp \text{Ker } A$$



Algebra of arbitrage

- For arbitrage portfolios,

If $\mathbf{x} \in \text{Ker } A$ (i.e., $A\mathbf{x} = 0$)

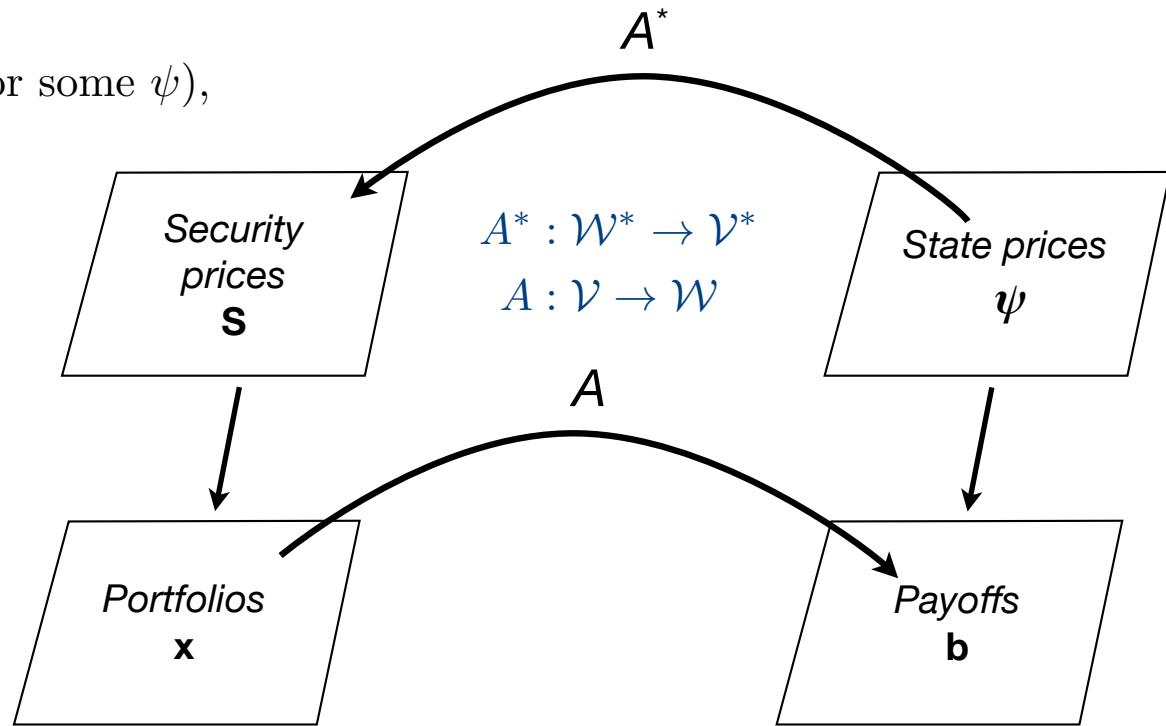
and $\mathbf{S} \in \text{Im } A^*$ (i.e., $\mathbf{S} = A^*\psi$ for some ψ),

then $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} = (A^*\psi)^*\mathbf{x}$

$$= (\psi^* A)\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \psi^*(A\mathbf{x})$$

$$= 0.$$



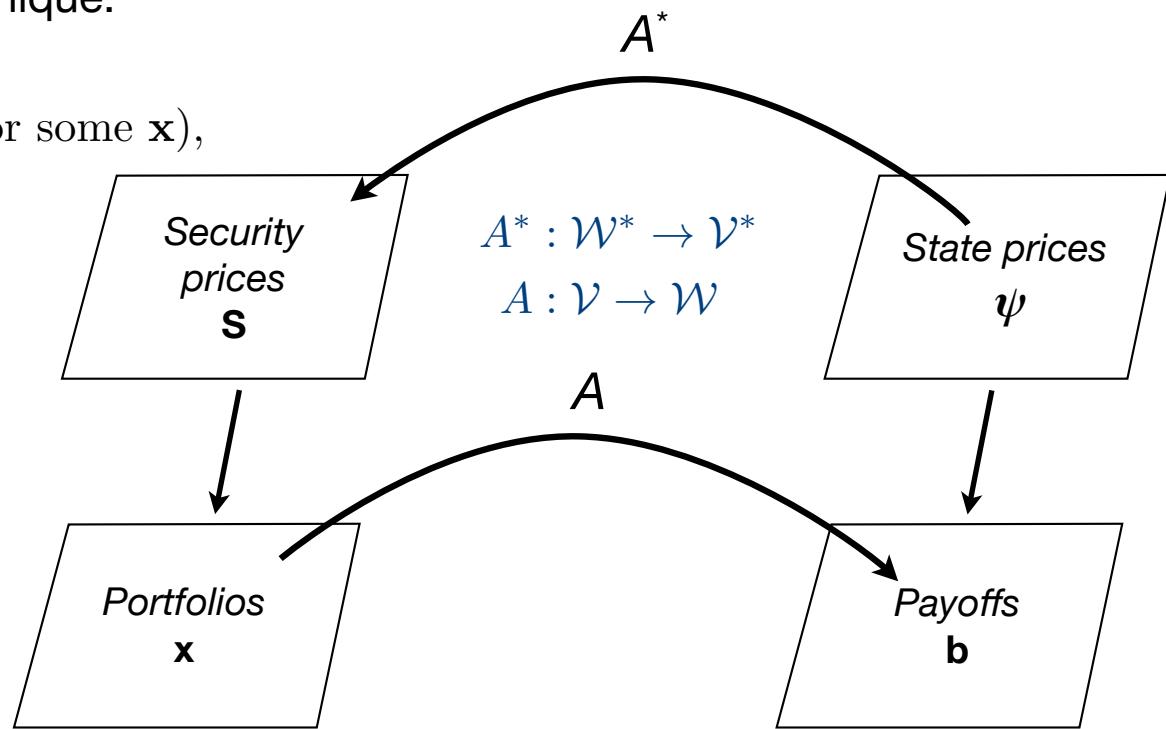
Algebra of arbitrage

- For incomplete markets portfolios, where state prices are not unique:

If $\psi \in \text{Ker } A^*$ (i.e., $A^*\psi = 0$)

and $\mathbf{b} \in \text{Im } A$ (i.e., $\mathbf{b} = Ax$ for some \mathbf{x}),

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } \psi^*\mathbf{b} &= \psi^*(Ax) \\ &= (\psi^*A)\mathbf{x} \\ &= (A^*\psi)^*\mathbf{x} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$



Algebra of arbitrage

- Example: incomplete market $\text{Im } A \subset \mathbb{R}^s$, $\text{rank}(A) < s$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{Ker } A^*) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x}$ for some portfolio \mathbf{x} ,

then $\psi^*\mathbf{b} = \psi^*(A\mathbf{x}) = (\psi^*A)\mathbf{x} = (A^*\psi)^*\mathbf{x} = 0$.

Asset pricing duality

- We have two approaches to pricing, and they are not just equivalent, they are **dual**:
- Given A , \mathbf{S} , and payoff \mathbf{b} for "focus" asset:
- **State pricing**: compute price(s) of focus asset by applying all allowed ψ
 - The price is uniquely determined if \mathbf{b} is the payoff of a redundant asset

$$S_b = \psi[\mathbf{b}] = \{\psi^* \mathbf{b} : A^* \psi = \mathbf{S}, \psi \in \mathcal{W}^*, \psi > 0\}$$

- **Replication pricing** (no state prices involved): compute price(s) of replicating portfolio
 - The price is uniquely determined if \mathbf{b} is the payoff of a redundant asset

$$S_b = \mathbf{S}[\mathbf{x}] = \{\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V}, A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\}$$

Asset pricing duality

- **Replication pricing** (cont.): for non-redundant assets, can frame allowed prices as a **bound** on asset prices between $S_{\min} < S_b < S_{\max}$ where
 - most expensive sub-replicating portfolio $S_{\min} = \max\{\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x} : A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}\},$
 - least expensive super-replicating portfolio $S_{\max} = \min\{\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x} : A\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{b}\}$
- Application: in this form, bounds identify (potential) arbitrage trade to execute *if* bound were ever violated (temporarily, for example).

Fundamental theorem of asset pricing (FTAP)

- There is no arbitrage if and only if there exists a **strictly positive** state-price vector ψ **consistent with** the security-price vector,

$$\mathbf{S} = A^* \psi, \quad \psi > 0, \quad \text{where } \psi \in \mathcal{W}^*, \mathbf{S} \in \mathcal{V}^*, A^* : \mathcal{W}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^*$$

- Absence of type-I arbitrage:

If $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \geq 0$, then $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} > 0$.

Proof: $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} = (\psi^* A)\mathbf{x} = \psi^*(A\mathbf{x}) = \psi^*\mathbf{b} > 0$.

- Absence of type-II arbitrage:

If $A\mathbf{x} = 0$, then $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} = 0$.

Proof: $\mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} = \psi^*(A\mathbf{x}) = 0$.

Fundamental theorem of asset pricing (FTAP)

- The opposite direction of the FTAP follows from Farkas' lemma, which dictates strong alternatives:
- Farkas' Lemma:

Either

- (a) $A^*\psi = \mathbf{S}, \quad \psi \geq 0$ has a solution, or
- (b) $A\mathbf{x} \geq 0, \quad \mathbf{S}^*\mathbf{x} < 0$ has a solution

but not both.

- Geometric interpretation: the lemma says that a vector either lies within a convex cone (defined by A^*) or is separated from it by a hyperplane. (See Boyd & Vandenberghe (2004) Ch. 5 for proof and applications in linear optimization.)

Approximate hedge

Approximate hedge

- If the market is incomplete, can we find an **approximate** solution?
 - One idea: minimize least square error:

$$\mathbf{e} = A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \neq 0$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{e}\|^2 = (A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^*(A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})$$

$$\partial f / \partial x_i = 0 \implies 2A^*(A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}) = 0$$

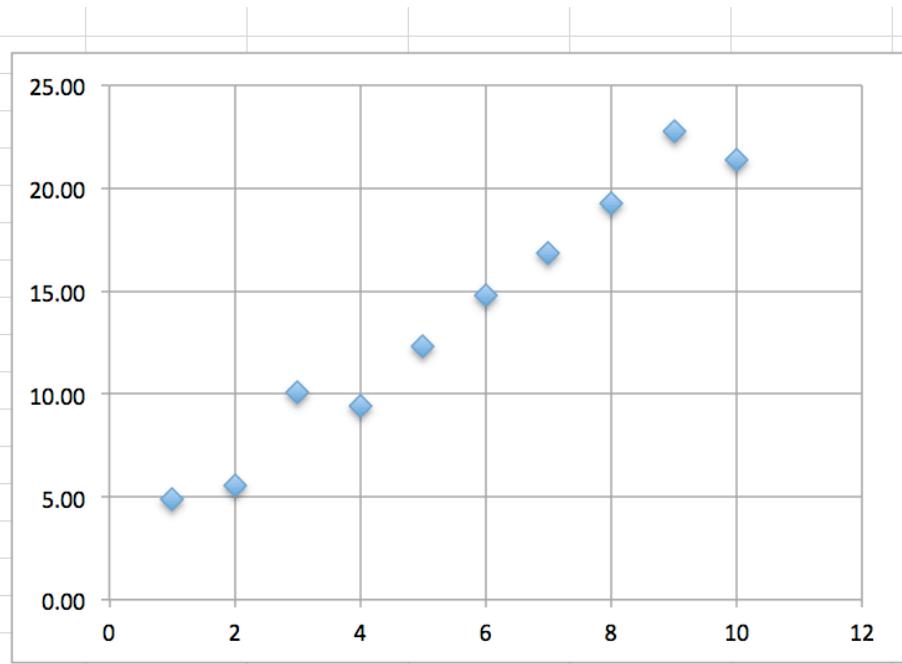
$$A^*A\mathbf{x} = A^*\mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (A^*A)^{-1}A^*\mathbf{b}$$

- How should we measure quality or closeness of solution?
- When does solution exist?

Recall least squares solution from statistics

x	y
1	4.91
2	5.55
3	10.10
4	9.42
5	12.32
6	14.78
7	16.82
8	19.23
9	22.79
10	21.35
Mean	5.50
Std. Dev.	3.03
Median	5.50



Least squares solution

- Relationship structure

$$y_i = \alpha + \beta x_i + \epsilon_i,$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}, \quad \epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

- Minimize square error by finding "**pseudoinverse**"

$$\|\epsilon\|^2 = \|A\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{b}\|^2,$$

$$\mathbf{v} = (A^* A)^{-1} A^* \mathbf{b}$$

Least squares solution

```
> A <- matrix(cbind(ones,x),ncol=2); A
 [,1] [,2]
 [1,] 1 1
 [2,] 1 2
 [3,] 1 3
 [4,] 1 4
 [5,] 1 5
 [6,] 1 6
 [7,] 1 7
 [8,] 1 8
 [9,] 1 9
[10,] 1 10

> b <- y; b
 [,1]
 [1,] 4.91
 [2,] 5.55
 [3,] 10.10
 [4,] 9.42
 [5,] 12.32
 [6,] 14.78
 [7,] 16.82
 [8,] 19.23
 [9,] 22.79
[10,] 21.35

> Apinv <- solve(t(A) %*% A) %*% t(A)
> Apinv %*% A
 [,1] [,2]
 [1,] 1.000000e+00 1.332268e-15
 [2,] 1.387779e-17 1.000000e+00

> round(Apinv %*% A,2)
 [,1] [,2]
 [1,] 1 0
 [2,] 0 1

> Apinv %*% y
 [,1]
 [1,] 2.428667
 [2,] 2.054242

> lm(y ~ x)

Call:
lm(formula = y ~ x)

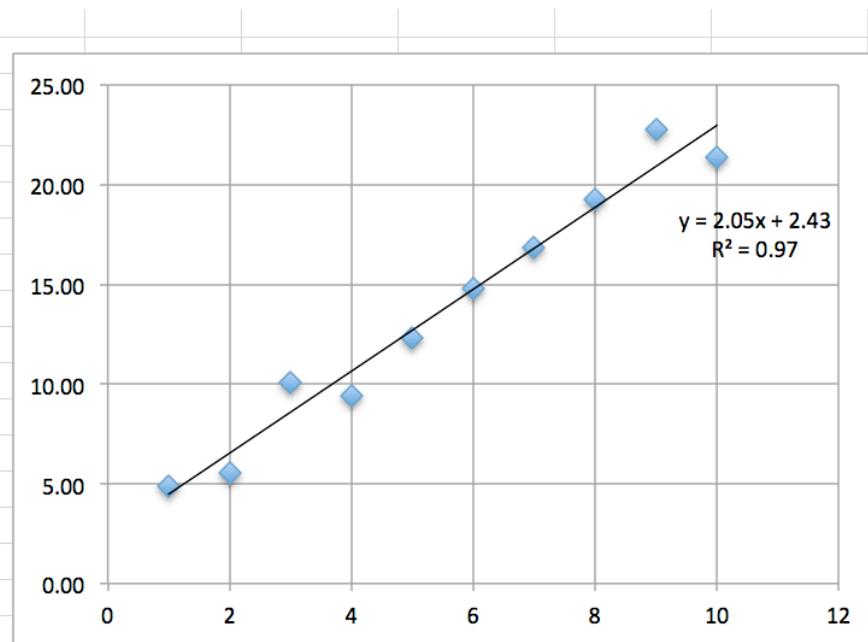
Coefficients:
(Intercept) x
2.429 2.054
```

Least squares solution

```
A =                                >> M*A  
  
1      1  
1      2  
1      3  
1      4  
1      5  
1      6  
1      7  
1      8  
1      9  
1     10  
  
ans =  
1.0000      0  
0.0000    1.0000  
  
b =  
  
4.9100  
5.5500  
10.1000  
9.4200  
12.3200  
14.7800  
16.8200  
19.2300  
22.7900  
21.3500  
>> M=inv(A'*A)*A';  
  
>> v=M*b  
  
v =  
2.4287  
2.0542  
  
>> R2 = corr(b,A(:,2))^2  
  
R2 =  
0.9684
```

Descriptive statistics

x	y
1	4.91
2	5.55
3	10.10
4	9.42
5	12.32
6	14.78
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8	19.23
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Mean	5.50
Std. Dev.	3.03
Median	5.50



Risk-neutral probabilities and pricing

An improbable trick

- Whenever there is a bilinear sum (or integral), and all the coefficients are positive, we can interpret it **as if** probabilities were involved.
- Define these fictitious probabilities by dividing each coefficient by their sum

$$s(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_i c_i y_i, \quad \text{define } q_i \equiv \frac{c_i}{C}, \quad \text{where } C = \sum_i c_i$$

- Then,

$$s(\mathbf{y}) = C \sum_i q_i y_i = C \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{y}] = \mathbb{E}[C\mathbf{y}]$$

where the (fictitious) expectation is taken with respect to these “probabilities.”

Risk-neutral probabilities

- There is an interesting interpretation of the state price vector: if we multiply by a constant so that the sum of the components is unity, those components can be interpreted **as if** they were probabilities for the occurrence of each state.

In components, write $\mathbf{S} = A^* \psi$ as $S_i = \sum_{\nu=1}^s A_{\nu i} \psi_\nu$, where $\nu = 1, 2, \dots, s$ labels the states, and $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ labels the assets.

- Define $R_{\nu i} = A_{\nu i}/S_i$ = return of asset i in state ν ,
 $R_f = A_{\nu 1}/S_1$ = risk-free rate, independent of state ν ,
 $q_\nu = R_f \psi_\nu$ = risk-neutral probability of state ν .

- Then
$$\sum_\nu q_\nu = \sum_\nu R_f \psi_\nu = \frac{\sum A_{\nu 1} \psi_\nu}{S_1} = 1$$

Risk-neutral pricing

- Now re-express the pricing equation to get two interesting forms.

$$S_i = \sum A_{\nu i} \psi_\nu = \sum \frac{A_{\nu i}}{R_f} q_\nu = E \left[\frac{A_{\nu i}}{R_f} \right]$$

- This says that the security price of risky assets is the **expectation** of the discounted present value of the **payoff** under the **risk-neutral measure**. Divide by price and multiply by the risk-free rate to get

$$\sum R_{\nu i} q_\nu = E [R_{\nu i}] = R_f$$

- This says that the **expected return** of every risky asset is just the **risk-free rate** under the risk-neutral measure

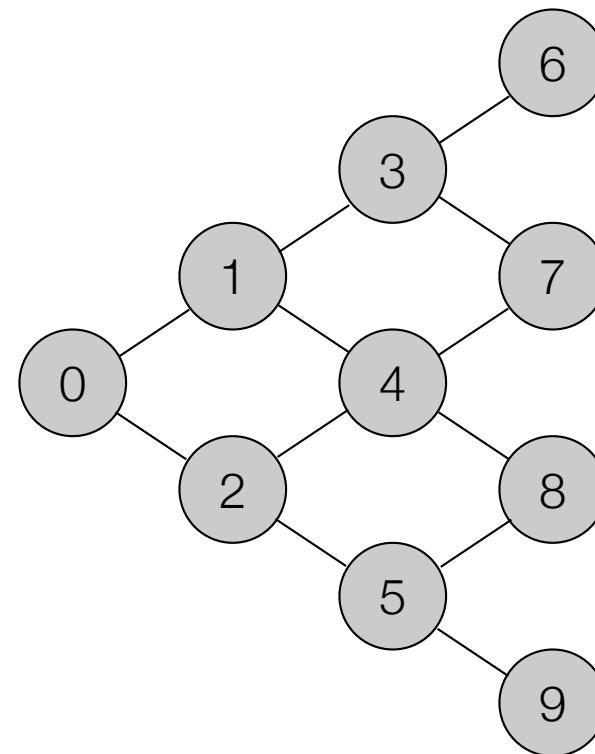
Risk-neutral pricing

- Are risk-neutral probabilities really fictitious?
- Inferred from prices, sentiment in market
- Compare the questions
 - How **likely** is this event?
 - How much does it **cost** to insure against this event?
- Does a disagreement between objective and risk-neutral probabilities imply arbitrage?
- No. On the contrary, arbitrage is absent as long as risk-neutral probabilities exist.

Dynamic markets

Next-to-simplest model

- Let's go from one period to many.
- Discrete time: $0, 1, 2, \dots, T, \dots$
- Discrete states, distinct **at each time step**.
- Start with two basis assets
 - Bond – same payoff, regardless of state, between any two fixed times
 - Stock – uncertain payoff
 - ♦ State-dependence
 - ♦ Path-dependence



Static replication

- Example: $T=3$, stock moves only up or down.
- Suppose there is an option with strike price K

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} R_f^3 & S_0 R_u^3 \\ R_f^3 & S_0 R_u^2 R_d \\ R_f^3 & S_0 R_u R_d^2 \\ R_f^3 & S_0 R_d^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S_1 > S_2 > K > S_3 > S_4$$

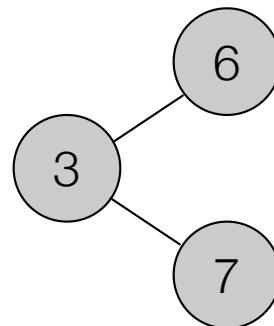
- Payoff on a call or a put is (in terms of terminal prices)

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} S_1 - K \\ S_2 - K \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ K - S_3 \\ K - S_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Cannot replicate either with stock and bond – an **incomplete** market.

Dynamic hedging

- Instead, let's consider replication one time-step at a time
- Focus on each node and the possible conditional outcomes
- Example: payoff at $t=3$, given that one is already in a specific state at $t=2$



$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} S_1 - K \\ S_2 - K \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C_u \\ C_d \end{pmatrix}$$

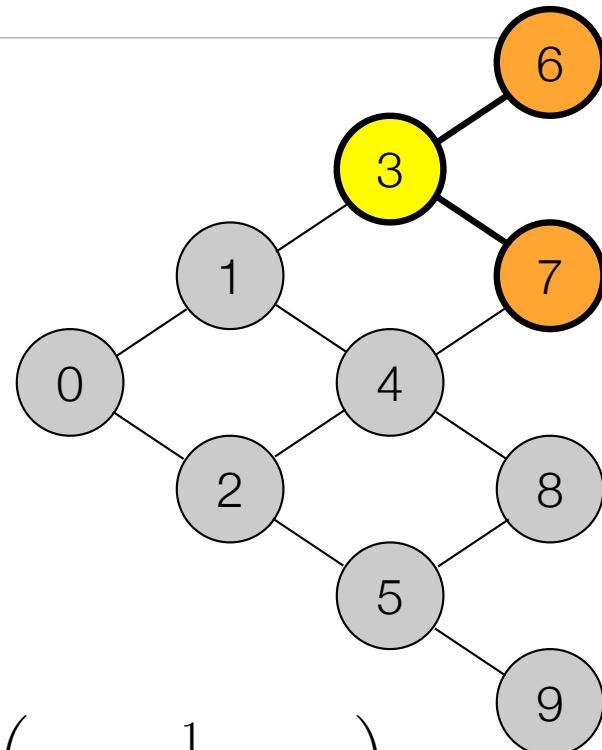
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} R_f & S_0 R_u^3 \\ R_f & S_0 R_u^2 R_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R_f & S_u \\ R_f & S_d \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ S(t=2) = S_0 R_u^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Dynamic hedging

- Instead, let's consider replication one time-step at a time
- Focus on each node and the possible conditional outcomes
- Example: payoff at $t=3$, given that one is already in a specific state at $t=2$

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Dynamic hedging

- Solve for the replicating portfolio for the node:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \implies \mathbf{x} = A^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} R_f & S_u \\ R_f & S_d \end{pmatrix}, \quad A^{-1} = \frac{1}{R_f(S_d - S_u)} \begin{pmatrix} S_d & -S_u \\ -R_f & R_f \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} B \\ \Delta \end{pmatrix} = A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} C_u \\ C_d \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{R_f(S_d - S_u)} \begin{pmatrix} S_d C_u - S_u C_d \\ -R_f C_u + R_f C_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{S_u C_d - S_d C_u}{R_f(S_u - S_d)} \\ \frac{C_u - C_d}{S_u - S_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Note that

$$\Delta = \frac{C_u - C_d}{S_u - S_d} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if both states in the money since } C = S - K, \\ 0 & \text{if both states out of the money, } C_u = C_d = 0 \end{cases}$$

Dynamic hedging

- Now that we have a replicating portfolio for this node (and **any** node),

$$\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{x} = B + S\Delta$$

- State prices are coefficients of the payoff, or more directly,

$$\begin{aligned}\psi &= (A^*)^{-1} \mathbf{S} = (A^{-1})^* \mathbf{S} \\ &= \frac{-1}{R_f(S_u - S_d)} \begin{pmatrix} S_d & -R_f \\ -S_u & R_f \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ S \end{pmatrix} = \frac{-1}{R_f(S_u - S_d)} \begin{pmatrix} S_d - R_f S \\ -S_u + R_f S \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{+1}{R_f(R_u - R_d)} \begin{pmatrix} R_f - R_d \\ R_u - R_f \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{R_f} \mathbf{q}\end{aligned}$$

- No arbitrage requires $R_u > R_f > R_d$

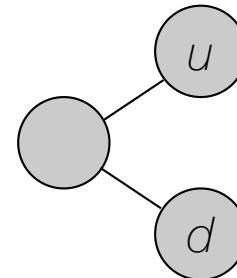
Dynamic hedging

- The state prices and risk-neutral probabilities depend only on the return parameters

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{R_f - R_d}{R_u - R_d} \\ \frac{R_u - R_d}{R_u - R_f} \\ \frac{R_u - R_f}{R_u - R_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Therefore at any node, call value given in terms of **next period** state values as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \psi^* \mathbf{b} = (\psi_1 \quad \psi_2) \begin{pmatrix} C_u \\ C_d \end{pmatrix} \\ &= q_u \frac{C_u}{R_f} + q_d \frac{C_d}{R_f} \end{aligned}$$



- This is the expected discounted payoff, under the risk-neutral measure, at the node.

Pricing: work backward from terminal values

- Omitting time subscripts for clarity,

$$t = 2 : \quad C_3 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_6 + q_d C_7)$$

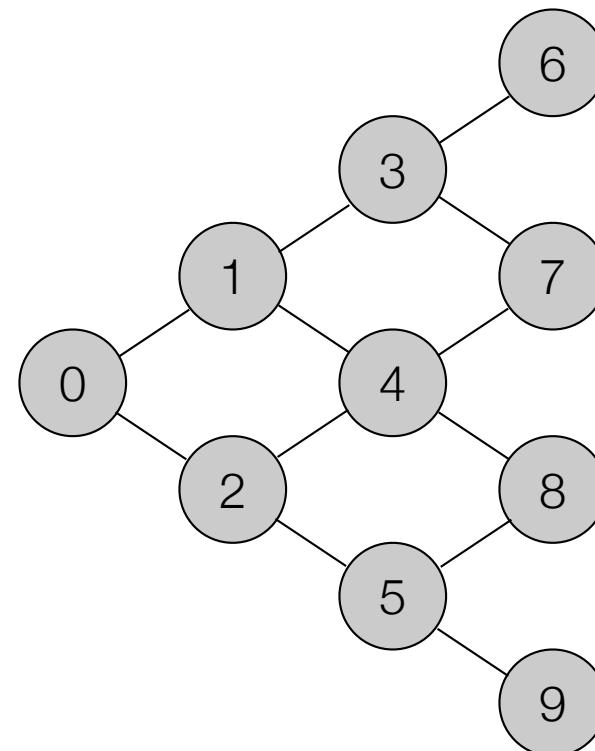
$$C_4 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_7 + q_d C_8)$$

$$C_5 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_8 + q_d C_9)$$

$$t = 1 : \quad C_1 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_3 + q_d C_4)$$

$$C_2 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_4 + q_d C_5)$$

$$t = 0 : \quad C_0 = \frac{1}{R_f} (q_u C_1 + q_d C_2)$$



Pricing: work backward from terminal values

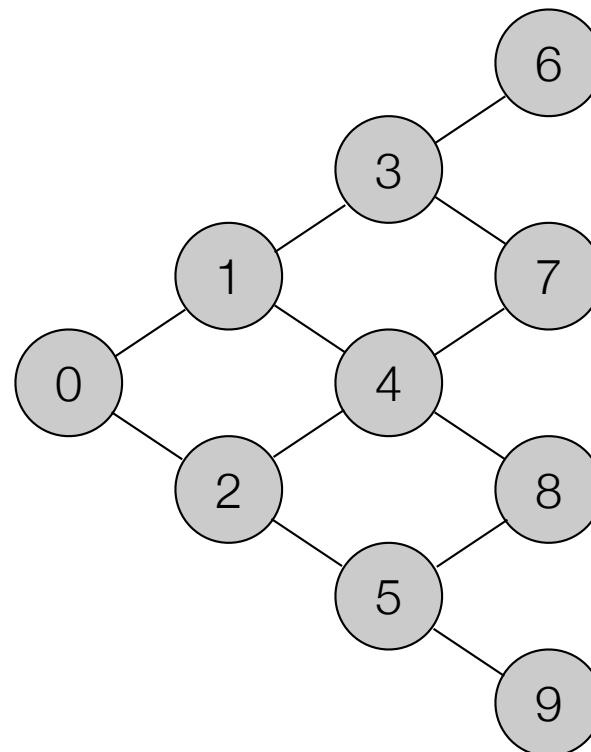
- Each step of recursion is an expectation
- In general, write at each node

$$C_t = E_t \left[\frac{C_{t+1}}{R_f} \right]$$

where the expectation is conditional on the given time. For example, for $t=2$ at node 5, the only states that enter on the right-hand side are the $t=3$ states: {8,9}

- Then combining steps, the $t=0$ price is

$$C_{t=0} = \frac{1}{R_f^3} E [E_1 [E_2 [C_3]]] = \frac{1}{R_f^3} E [C_3]$$



Conditional and iterated expectations

- Basic result on **iterated** expectations: the expectation of an expectation is an expectation!
 - Important because hedging and pricing are conditioned on information at a given time.
 - Filtrations: information revealed over time
- Conditional probability and expectation:

$$\text{Prob}(A = a, B = b) = \text{Prob}(A = a|B = b) \text{Prob}(B = b)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[A|B = b] = \sum_a a \text{Prob}(A = a|B = b) = f(b)$$

- The expectation of A conditional on $B = b$ is a function of b . Taking **its** expectation...

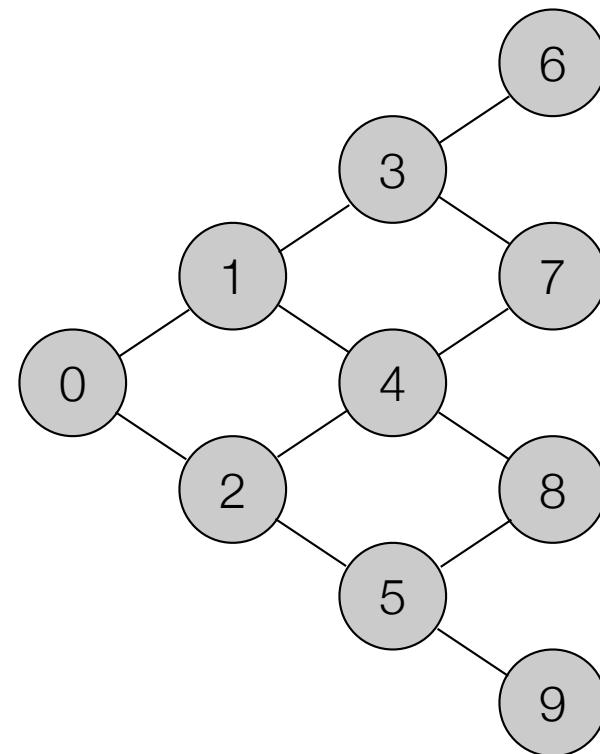
Conditional and iterated expectations

- The expectation of A conditional on $B = b$ is a function of b . Taking **its** expectation...

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E} [\mathbb{E} [A|B]] &= \mathbb{E} [f(b)] = \sum_b \text{Prob}(B = b) f(b) \\&= \sum_b \text{Prob}(B = b) \left[\sum_a a \text{Prob}(A = a|B = b) \right] \\&= \sum_{a,b} a [\text{Prob}(A = a|B = b) \text{Prob}(B = b)] \\&= \sum_{a,b} a \text{Prob}(A = a, B = b) \\&= \sum_a a \text{Prob}(A = a) \\&= \mathbb{E} [A]\end{aligned}$$

Pricing: work backward from terminal values

- This works for **any function** of the stock price on the terminal nodes
 - Calls of any strike
 - Puts of any strike
 - Forwards
 - Etc.
- Key ingredients
 - Bond: captures time value of money
 - Stock: captures uncertainty over time
 - Delta: solves for unique dynamic hedging ratio
 - Risk-neutral probabilities: consistently assigned



Calibration

- Identification of binomial model parameters

- Returns (up, down)
- Probabilities (up, down)
- Average return per period
- Volatility of return

- Example:

$$\bar{R} = 1.009 = 1 + 0.9\%$$

$$\sigma = 4.4\%$$

$$p = 1/2$$

$$R_u = 1.053$$

$$R_d = 0.965$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R} &= \text{E}[R] = pR_u + (1 - p)R_d \\ &= R_d + p(R_u - R_d)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= \text{E}[(R - \bar{R})^2] = \text{E}[R^2] - \bar{R}^2 \\ &= [pR_u^2 + (1 - p)R_d^2] - [pR_u + (1 - p)R_d]^2 \\ &= p(1 - p)(R_u - R_d)^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}R_u &= \bar{R} + \sigma \sqrt{\frac{1-p}{p}}, \\ R_d &= \bar{R} - \sigma \sqrt{\frac{p}{1-p}},\end{aligned}$$