

# From $\mathbb{P}$ to $\mathbb{Q}$ : Girsanov vs NNS.rescale() *A production-ready alternative to change of measure*

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# One Rule to Price Them All

## The Fundamental Pricing Identity

$$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[S_T] = S_0 e^{rT}$$

**Global Parameters Used:**  $S_0 = 100, r = 0.05, \mu = 0.10, \sigma = 0.2, T = 1$

**Target forward:**  $S_0 e^{rT} = 105.1271$

- **Why?** Under  $\mathbb{Q}$ , the stock is a **martingale after discounting**.
- **Implication:** No arbitrage  $\implies$  expected growth = risk-free rate.
- **Consequence:** All derivatives priced via **risk-neutral expectation**.
- **Key Insight:** You *do not need*  $\mu$  to price — only  $r, \sigma, S_0$ .

# The Two Worlds: $\mathbb{P}$ vs $\mathbb{Q}$

## Real World $\mathbb{P}$

- Drift:  $\mu = 0.1$  (investor belief)
- Volatility:  $\sigma = 0.2$
- Use:
  - Risk management
  - VaR, stress testing
  - P&L simulation
  - Capital allocation

## Risk-Neutral $\mathbb{Q}$

- Drift:  $r = 0.05$  (by construction)
- Volatility:  $\sigma = 0.2$  (unchanged)
- Use:
  - Derivative pricing
  - XVA (CVA, FVA)
  - Hedging
  - Model calibration

One model, two measures:

- $\mathbb{P}$ : *What might happen*
- $\mathbb{Q}$ : *What must be priced*

### Discussion Point:

"Can you use  $\mathbb{P}$ -simulated paths to price? Yes — but only if you **reweight** or **rescale** to  $\mathbb{Q}$ ."

# Girsanov: Change of Measure

## From Real Drift to Risk-Neutral Drift

$$\underbrace{dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t^{\mathbb{P}}}_{\text{Real world } \mathbb{P}} \xrightarrow{\text{Girsanov}} \underbrace{dS_t = rS_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t^{\mathbb{Q}}}_{\text{Risk-neutral } \mathbb{Q}}$$

Radon-Nikodym derivative (weight):

$$\boxed{\frac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{P}} = \exp\left(-\lambda W_T^{\mathbb{P}} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 T\right)}, \quad \lambda = \frac{\mu - r}{\sigma}$$

- What is  $\lambda$ ? The market price of risk — how much extra return per unit volatility.
- Intuition: Paths with too much upside in  $\mathbb{P}$  get downweighted in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- Volatility unchanged:  $\sigma$  is the same — only drift is adjusted.

# Girsanov: Tiny Numeric (2 paths)

```
ST_P <- c(95, 125)                      # Two simulated terminal prices under P
W_T <- (log(ST_P/S0) - (mu - 0.5*sigma^2)*T) / sigma # Extract Brownian motion
lambda <- (mu - r)/sigma                  # Market price of risk
w <- exp(-lambda * W_T - 0.5*lambda^2*T)      # Radon-Nikodym weights
weighted.mean(ST_P, w)                     # Q-expectation of S_T

#> [1] 107.4521
```

## Results:

Weights: 1.1421, 0.8104 → Weighted mean: 107.4521

$S_T$	Weight
95	1.1421
125	0.8104

- Path 95: **upweighted**
- Path 125: **downweighted**
- **Target:**  $S_0 e^{rT} = 105.1271$

**Key Takeaway:** “We don’t change the paths — we change their importance.”

## NNS.rescale: Direct Mean Enforcement

```
dW <- rnorm(n, 0, sqrt(T))
ST_P <- S0 * exp((mu - 0.5*sigma^2)*T + sigma*dW)
ST_Q_nns <- NNS.rescale(ST_P, a = S0, b = r,
                           method = "riskneutral", T = T, type = "Terminal")
c(target = S0*exp(r*T), mean = mean(ST_Q_nns))

#>   target      mean
#> 105.1271 105.1271
```

One line: NNS.rescale(P, ...)

# Monte Carlo: Shared Brownian Paths

```
set.seed(1234); n <- 1e5; K <- 100
dW <- rnorm(n, 0, sqrt(T))
ST_Q_direct <- S0 * exp((r - 0.5*sigma^2)*T + sigma*dW)
ST_P <- S0 * exp((mu - 0.5*sigma^2)*T + sigma*dW)
```

Same  $dW \rightarrow$  fair comparison

# Monte Carlo: Pricing

```
ST_Q_nns <- NNS.rescale(ST_P, a=S0, b=r, method="riskneutral",
                           T=T, type="Terminal")
W_T <- (log(ST_P/S0) - (mu - 0.5*sigma^2)*T)/sigma
lambda <- (mu-r)/sigma
w <- exp(-lambda*W_T - 0.5*lambda^2*T)
price_direct <- exp(-r*T)*mean(pmax(ST_Q_direct - K, 0))
price_nns <- exp(-r*T)*mean(pmax(ST_Q_nns - K, 0))
price_gir <- exp(-r*T)*weighted.mean(pmax(ST_P - K, 0), w)
ess_gir <- round((sum(w)^2) / sum(w^2))
c(direct = price_direct, nns = price_nns, gir = price_gir, ess = ess_gir)

#>      direct        nns        gir        ess
#>    10.48537    10.44869    10.49028  93962.00000
```

# Results: Accuracy & Efficiency

	Direct $\mathbb{Q}$	NNS	Girsanov
Call price	10.4853712	10.4486858	10.4902804
Efficiency	100,000	100,000	93,962

Black-Scholes (analytic): 10.451

# Verification

```
cat(sprintf("Target: %.6f\n", S0*exp(r*T)))  
#> Target: 105.127110  
  
cat(sprintf("Direct Q: %.6f\n", mean(ST_Q_direct)))  
#> Direct Q: 105.187609  
  
cat(sprintf("NNS: %.6f\n", mean(ST_Q_nns)))  
#> NNS: 105.127110  
  
cat(sprintf("Girsanov: %.6f\n", weighted.mean(ST_P, w)))  
#> Girsanov: 105.194594
```

All match target within MC error.

# Constraint Families: From $\mathbb{P}$ to $\mathbb{Q}$

## Two Valid Constraints

- **Terminal:**  $\mathbb{E}[S_T^{\mathbb{Q}}] = S_0 e^{rT} \rightarrow$  Vanilla pricing
- **Discounted:**  $\mathbb{E}[e^{-rt} S_t^{\mathbb{Q}}] = S_0 \rightarrow$  True martingale

### Terminal at Grid Points

$$\mathbb{E}[S_{t_k}^{\mathbb{Q}}] = S_0 e^{rt_k}$$

- Valid for multi-maturity vanillas  
→ Not a martingale

### Discounted at Grid Points

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{-rt_k} S_{t_k}^{\mathbb{Q}}] = S_0$$

- True discrete martingale  
→ Required for path-dependent

### Dynamic Rescaling Options:

- type = "Terminal" at each  $t_k \rightarrow$  correct forwards
- type = "Discounted" at each  $t_k \rightarrow$  correct martingale

# The NNS.rescale Mechanism: Deterministic Multiplicative Transport

From  $\mathbb{P}$  to  $\mathbb{Q}$  via Deterministic Multiplicative Scaling

$$S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{\theta} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}}, \quad \theta = \log \left( \frac{S_0 e^{rT}}{\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[S_T]} \right)$$

For GBM, This is Exact:

$$S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{(r-\mu)T} S_T^{\mathbb{P}} \quad (\text{theoretical}) \quad \text{vs} \quad e^{\theta} \rightarrow e^{(r-\mu)T} \quad (\text{empirical})$$

Why This Works:

- **Exact for GBM:** Mathematically equivalent to measure change
- **Mean Enforcement:** Constructed to satisfy no-arbitrage condition
- **Minimal Distortion:** Smallest multiplicative change needed
- **Maximum Efficiency:** No ESS loss, deterministic results

# GBM Exactness: Why NNS.rescale Works Perfectly

## Mathematical Equivalence

For Geometric Brownian Motion, the measure change is **exactly multiplicative**:

$$S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{(r-\mu)T} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}}$$

## NNS.rescale Converges to Exact Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\theta &= \log \left( \frac{S_0 e^{rT}}{\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[S_T]} \right) \rightarrow (r - \mu)T \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \\ &\Rightarrow e^\theta \rightarrow e^{(r-\mu)T}\end{aligned}$$

## Key Insight:

- **Not an approximation:** NNS.rescale implements the **exact measure change** for GBM
- **Different computational path:** Same mathematical destination
- **Explains perfect accuracy:** Matches Black-Scholes exactly (up to MC error)

# GBM Measure Change: Exact Multiplicative Proof

Theorem:  $\mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  is Exactly Multiplicative for GBM

$$S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{(r-\mu)T} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}}$$

## Proof

Under  $\mathbb{P}$ :  $S_T^{\mathbb{P}} = S_0 e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma W_T^{\mathbb{P}}}$

Under  $\mathbb{Q}$ :  $S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma W_T^{\mathbb{Q}}}$

Girsanov:  $W_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = W_T^{\mathbb{P}} + \lambda T, \quad \lambda = \frac{\mu - r}{\sigma}$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} &= S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma(W_T^{\mathbb{P}} + \lambda T)} \\ &= S_0 e^{(r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma W_T^{\mathbb{P}} + (\mu - r)T} \\ &= S_0 e^{(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma W_T^{\mathbb{P}}} \cdot e^{(r - \mu)T} \\ &= S_T^{\mathbb{P}} \cdot e^{(r - \mu)T} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

## Theory vs. Implementation

Theory:  $S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{(r-\mu)T} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}}$

Practice:  $S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{\theta} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}}, \quad \theta \rightarrow (r - \mu)T$

## The Mathematical Truth

- **Finite  $n$ :** Exact mean enforcement (no-arbitrage)
- **Infinite  $n$ :** Exact measure change recovery
- **Always:** More efficient than alternatives

# Discrete-Grid Martingale via Dynamic Rescaling

**Construction:** At each  $t_k$ :

$$S_{t_k}^{\mathbb{Q}} \leftarrow \text{NNS.rescale(discounted } S, \text{type="Discounted"})$$

Enforces discounted ensemble mean =  $S_0$ .

```
n_steps <- 100; dt <- T/n_steps; n_paths <- 10000
paths <- matrix(NA, n_steps+1, n_paths); paths[1,] <- S0
drift <- (r - 0.5*sigma^2)*dt; vol <- sigma*sqrt(dt)
for(i in 1:n_steps){
  inc <- rnorm(n_paths, drift, vol)
  next_p <- paths[i,] * exp(inc)
  t_i <- i*dt
  disc <- next_p * exp(-r*t_i)
  disc_rescaled <- NNS.rescale(disc, a=S0, b=r, method="riskneutral",
                                T=t_i, type="Discounted")
  paths[i+1,] <- disc_rescaled * exp(r*t_i)
}
disc_means <- rowMeans(exp(-r*seq(0,T,by=dt)) * paths)
c(head=disc_means[1], mid=disc_means[51], tail=disc_means[101])

## head  mid tail
## 100   100   100
```

# Dynamic Rescaling: Ensemble Means

Time	Theoretical	Standard	Rescaled
0	100	100	100
0.25	101.2578	101.131	101.2578
0.5	102.5315	102.4051	102.5315
0.75	103.8212	103.8043	103.8212
1	105.1271	105.0349	105.1271

# Dynamic Rescaling: Statistics

Metric	Value
Mean Volatility (Normal)	0.199539
Mean Volatility (Rescaled)	0.199529
Terminal Mean (Normal)	105.034938
Terminal Mean (Rescaled)	105.12711
Terminal Variance (Normal)	450.182022
Terminal Variance (Rescaled)	450.972466

## Three Roads from $\mathbb{P}$ to $\mathbb{Q}$

- **Direct  $\mathbb{Q}$ :** Simulate with drift  $r \rightarrow$  simplest, accept MC noise
- **Girsanov:** Reweight  $\mathbb{P}$  paths  $\rightarrow$  elegant, high variance, low ESS
- **NNS.rescale:** Transform paths to enforce mean  $\rightarrow$  exact for GBM, full MC efficiency

## Mathematical Elegance: Two Routes, Same Destination

**Theory route:** Change measure  $\rightarrow$  simulate with new drift

**NNS.rescale:** Simulate with real drift  $\rightarrow$  apply exact multiplier  
**Same mathematical destination for GBM**

$$S_T^{\mathbb{Q}} = e^{(r-\mu)T} \cdot S_T^{\mathbb{P}} \quad (\text{exact measure change})$$

# Practical Decision Guide

## When to Use Which Method

- Vanilla pricing (GBM)? → NNS.rescale (*exact, efficient, stable*)
- Exotics or path-dependent? → Dynamic rescaling with type = "Discounted"
- Proofs or theoretical work? → Girsanov or Direct  $\mathbb{Q}$
- Complex models beyond GBM? → Rescale for mean enforcement + validate distribution

## Key Advantages of NNS.rescale

- **Exact mean enforcement:** No-arbitrage condition satisfied by construction
- **Full MC efficiency:** No ESS loss, 100% path utilization
- **Production stability:** Deterministic, fast, numerically robust
- **Mathematical foundation:** Exact for GBM, principled for other models

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