

# A NOTE ON MUTUAL SINGULARITY OF PRIORS<sup>1</sup>

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**1. Introduction.** The main result of this note is an improvement of (8.1) of [3], and is a by-product of an extensive collaboration with Dubins on that paper. I am also indebted, as usual, to David Blackwell for many helpful suggestions. Section 3, on branching processes, is almost self-contained, and may be of general interest.

**2. Summary.** Let  $0 < r < 1$ . Let  $\mu$  be a probability on  $S$ , the closed unit square, which assigns probability 1 to the vertical line with abscissa  $r$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the set of distribution functions on the closed unit interval  $I$ . Endow  $\Delta$  with its weak  $*$  Borel  $\sigma$ -field. For any closed sub-interval  $H$  of  $I$ , let  $\langle H \rangle$  be the linear function which maps  $I$  onto  $H$  and sends 0 to the left endpoint of  $H$ ; and  $H_0$  (respectively,  $H_1$ ) be the image of  $[0, r]$  (respectively,  $[r, 1]$ ) under  $\langle H \rangle$ . Write  $B$  for the set of all finite sequences of 0's and 1's (including the empty sequence  $\emptyset$ ). For  $b \in B$  and  $\epsilon = 0$  or 1,  $I_{b\epsilon} = (I_b)_\epsilon$ , where  $I_\emptyset = I$ . For  $G \in \Delta$ , let  $|G|$  be the unique probability on  $I$  with  $G(x) = |G|[0, x]$  for all  $x \in I$ . Let  $Y_b : b \in B$  be independent random variables, such that  $(r, Y_b)$  has distribution  $\mu$ . Let  $P_\mu$ , a probability on  $\Delta$ , be the distribution of the (random)  $F \in \Delta$  satisfying:  $|F|(I_\emptyset) = 1$  and  $|F|(I_{b0}) = Y_b |F|(I_b)$  for all  $b \in B$ . For a more detailed description, see [2], or Sections 1 and 2 of [3].

Say  $F \in \Delta$  is *strictly singular* with respect to  $G \in \Delta$  if there is no  $x$  for which the ratio of  $F(x+h) - F(x)$  to  $G(x+h) - G(x)$  converges to a finite, positive limit as  $h$  tends to 0. The object of this note is to prove the

**THEOREM.** *Let  $0 < r < 1$ . Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be distinct probabilities on  $S$ , both assigning measure 1 to the vertical line with abscissa  $r$ . Then there are weak  $*$  Borel subsets  $C$  and  $D$  of  $\Delta$ , with  $P_\mu(C) = P_\nu(D) = 1$ , and each distribution function in  $C$  strictly singular with respect to each distribution function in  $D$ .*

Let  $\mu^* = \mu\{(r, 0)\} + \mu\{(r, 1)\}$ , and  $\nu^* = \nu\{(r, 0)\} + \nu\{(r, 1)\}$ . The easy case (either  $\mu^* = 1$  or  $\nu^* = 1$ ) of the Theorem is proved in Section 5. The harder case ( $\mu^* < 1$  and  $\nu^* < 1$ ) is proved in Section 4. Section 3 contains preliminary material on branching processes, which may be of general interest.

**3. Branching processes.** For this section,  $j$  is a positive integer, and  $n$  is a non-negative integer.  $J_n$  is the set of  $n$ -tuples formed with  $0, \dots, j-1$ ; the only element of  $J_0$  is the (empty) 0-tuple  $\emptyset$ . If  $b \in J_n$ , and  $i = 0, \dots, j-1$ , then  $b$  followed by  $i$ , namely  $bi$ , is in  $J_{n+1}$ , and is a *child* of  $b$ . The  $j$ -tree is  $J = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} J_n$ , and  $b \in J$  is a *node*. Moreover,  $p$  is a real number with  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ , and  $(p_1, \dots, p_j)$  is a probability distribution on  $(1, \dots, j)$ , with probability

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generating function  $\Psi$ ; that is,  $\Psi(x) = p_1x + \dots + p_jx^j$ . The stochastic process  $\{Z_b, L_b : b \in J\}$  is a  $(p, \Psi)$ -process over the  $j$ -tree  $J$ ; that is, its joint distribution satisfies the following conditions.  $Z_b$  takes only three values: 0, 1, undefined.  $L_b$  takes only two values: live, dead.  $Z_b$  is undefined if and only if  $L_b$  is dead. If  $L_b$  is dead, so is  $L_{b_i}$  for  $i = 0, \dots, j - 1$ . Let  $N_b$  be the number of  $L_{b_i}$  which are live, for  $i = 0, \dots, j - 1$ . Then  $L_\emptyset$  is live,  $Z_\emptyset$  is 1 with probability  $p$ , 0 with probability  $1 - p$ , and  $N_\emptyset$  has probability generating function  $\Psi$ . Of course,  $Z_\emptyset$  and  $N_\emptyset$  need not be independent. For  $m = 0, 1, \dots$ , given  $Z_b$  and  $L_b$  for  $b \in \mathbf{U}_{n-0}^{m-1}J_n$ , and  $L_b$  for  $b \in J_m$ : provided  $c \in J_m$  and  $L_c$  is live, the pairs  $(Z_c, N_c)$  are conditionally independent, with common conditional distribution equal to the unconditional distribution of  $(Z_\emptyset, N_\emptyset)$ . Finally, for  $m = 0, 1, \dots$ , given  $Z_b, L_b$  and  $N_b$  for  $b \in \mathbf{U}_{n-0}^mJ_n$ : provided  $c \in J_m$ , the  $j$ -tuples  $(L_{c_0}, \dots, L_{c_{(j-1)}})$  are conditionally independent; and for each  $c \in J_m$ , all  $j$ -tuples formed with  $N_c$  values live and  $j - N_c$  values dead are conditionally equally likely for  $(L_{c_0}, \dots, L_{c_{(j-1)}})$ .

" $L_b$  is live" may be abbreviated to " $b$  is live." If  $b \in J_n$  and  $0 \leq i \leq n$ , then  $b(i) \in J_i$  is the first  $i$  components of  $b$ , and is an ancestor of  $b$ .

LEMMA 1. (i)  $b \in J_n$  is live with probability  $[j^{-1}\Psi'(1)]^n$ .

(ii) Given that  $b \in J_n$  is live,  $b(0), \dots, b(n - 1)$  are live; and  $N_{b(0)}, \dots, N_{b(n-1)}$  are conditionally independent with common conditional probability generating function

$$x \rightarrow x\Psi'(x)/\Psi'(1).$$

PROOF. Verification is needed only for  $n = 1$ . Given  $N_\emptyset = i$ ,  $b$  is live with conditional probability  $\binom{j-1}{i-1}/\binom{j}{i} = i/j$ . Thus,  $b$  is live and  $N_\emptyset = i$  with unconditional probability  $ip_i/j$ . ●

LEMMA 2. Given that  $b \in J_n$  is live, and given which children of  $b(0), \dots, b(n - 1)$  are live: as  $c$  ranges over the live children other than  $b(i + 1)$  of  $b(i)$ , for  $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ ,  $Z_c$  are conditionally independent, 1 with conditional probability  $p$ , 0 with conditional probability  $1 - p$ .

PROOF. Clear. ●

If  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ , let

$$m(\theta, \alpha) = [\theta/\alpha]^\alpha [(1 - \theta)/(1 - \alpha)]^{1-\alpha}.$$

An interesting fact in Chernoff (1952) is recorded here as:

LEMMA 3. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  be independent random variables, each assuming the value 1 with probability  $\theta$ , and 0 with probability  $1 - \theta$ . Let  $\theta < \alpha < 1$ , and let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then  $X_1 + \dots + X_n \geq n\alpha$  with probability no more than  $[m(\theta, \alpha)]^n$ .

If  $b$  and  $c$  in  $J_{n+1}$  are different children of the same node in  $J_n$ , they are brothers. If  $0 \leq \alpha, \gamma \leq 1$  are real numbers,  $b \in J_n$  is  $\alpha$ -exceptional if it is live and of the live brothers  $c$  of  $b$ , a fraction at least  $\alpha$  have  $Z_c = 1$ . Moreover,  $b$  is  $(\alpha, \gamma)$ -exceptional if it is live and there are at least  $n\gamma$  integers  $i = 1, \dots, n$  for which  $b(i)$  is  $\alpha$ -exceptional.

LEMMA 4. Let  $\alpha$  be a real number, with  $p < \alpha < 1$ , and let  $b \in J_n$ . Given that  $b$  is live: for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , the events " $b(i)$  is  $\alpha$ -exceptional" are conditionally independent, with common conditional probability no more than  $\Psi'[m(p, \alpha)]/\Psi'(1)$ .

PROOF. As usual, only  $n = 1$  needs verification. By Lemma 1, given  $b$  is live, the number  $N_\emptyset - 1$  of live brothers of  $b$  has conditional probability generating function  $x \rightarrow \Psi'(x)/\Psi'(1)$ . By Lemmas 2 and 3, given  $b$  is live and given  $N_\emptyset$ , the conditional probability that  $b$  is  $\alpha$ -exceptional is no more than  $m(p, \alpha)^{N_\emptyset - 1}$ . ●

LEMMA 5. Let  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  be real numbers, with  $p < \alpha < 1$  and  $\beta = \Psi'[m(p, \alpha)]/\Psi'(1) < \gamma < 1$ . The probability that there is an  $(\alpha, \gamma)$ -exceptional node in  $J_n$  is at most  $[\Psi'(1)m(\beta, \gamma)]^n$ .

PROOF.  $m(\theta, \gamma)$  increases with  $\theta$  for  $\theta < \gamma$ . So, using Lemmas 3 and 4, given that  $b \in J_n$  is live:  $b$  is  $(\alpha, \gamma)$ -exceptional with conditional probability at most  $[m(\beta, \gamma)]^n$ . But there are  $j^n$  nodes in  $J_n$ ; apply Lemma 1. ●

A path through  $J$  is a sequence  $b_0, b_1, \dots$  such that  $b_0 = \emptyset$ , and for all  $n$ , there is an  $i = 0, \dots, j - 1$  with  $b_{n+1} = b_n i$ . The probability  $P$  on the two-point set  $\{0, 1\}$  assigns mass  $p$  to 1, and  $P^J$  is the probability on the set of functions  $f$  from  $J$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  for which: as  $b$  ranges over  $J$ , the functions  $f \rightarrow f(b) = 0$  or 1 are independent with common distribution  $P$ .

The next Lemma, and its proof, are taken from [3], with the permission of Dubins.

LEMMA 6. If  $p < \alpha < 1$  and  $m(p, \alpha) < j^{-1}$ , then for  $P^J$ -almost all functions  $f$  from  $J$  to  $\{0, 1\}$ , there is an  $n(f) < \infty$  such that: for each  $n \geq n(f)$  and path  $b_0, b_1, \dots$  through  $J$ ,  $f(b_0) + \dots + f(b_{n-1}) < n\alpha$ .

PROOF. Let  $E_n$  be the set of all functions  $g$  from  $J$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  such that, for some path  $b_0, b_1, \dots$  through  $J$ ,  $g(b_0) + \dots + g(b_{n-1}) \geq n\alpha$ . By Lemma 3,  $P^J(E_n) \leq j^{n-1}[m(p, \alpha)]^n$ , which is summable in  $n$ . ●

**4. Proof of the Theorem in case  $\mu^* < 1$  and  $\nu^* < 1$ .** It is necessary to give a more formal definition of  $P_\mu$ ; unfortunately, this involves further notation.  $B$  is the 2-tree,  $V$  is the vertical line segment  $\{(x, y) : x = r, 0 \leq y \leq 1\}$ , and  $V^B$  is the set of functions  $\tau$  from  $B$  to  $V$ . For  $b \in B$  and  $\tau \in V^B$ ,  $\tau(b) = (r, \tau_2(b))$ , with  $0 \leq \tau_2(b) \leq 1$ . If  $\mu$  is a probability on (the Borel subsets of)  $V$ , then  $\mu^B$  is the probability on (the Borel subsets of)  $V_B$  for which: as  $b$  ranges over  $B$ , the functions  $\tau \rightarrow \tau(b)$  are independent with common distribution  $\mu$ . A function  $M$  will now be defined from  $V^B$  to  $\Delta$  so that  $P_\mu = \mu^B M^{-1}$ . Introduce the set  $2^Z$  of all functions from the positive integers  $Z$  to the two-point set  $\{0, 1\}$ . For  $b \in B$ ,  $\bar{b}$  is the set of  $\xi \in 2^Z$  which extend  $b$ ; thus  $\overline{\emptyset} = 2^Z$  and  $\overline{00} = \{\xi : \xi \in 2^Z, \xi(1) = \xi(2) = 0\}$ . For  $\tau \in V^B$ ,  $P(\tau)$  is the probability on  $2^Z$  for which

$$P(\tau)(\bar{b}0) = \tau_2(b)P(\tau)(\bar{b}), \quad \text{all } b \in B.$$

For  $\xi \in 2^Z$ , let  $f(\xi) = \prod_{n=0}^\infty I_{\xi(1)\dots\xi(n)} \in I$ . Then  $M(\tau) \in \Delta$  satisfies:  $|M(\tau)| = P(\tau)f^{-1}$ .

The object of this section is to construct Borel subsets  $C^*$  and  $D^*$  of  $V^B$ , such that:

- (1)  $\mu^B(C^*) = \nu^B(D^*) = 1;$
- (2)  $\sigma \in C^*$  and  $\tau \in D^*$  implies  $M(\sigma)$  is strictly singular with respect to  $M(\tau)$ .

If  $\tau \in V^B$ , then  $b \in B$  is  $\tau$ -live unless it has an ancestor either of the form  $c1$  with  $\tau_2(c) = 1$ , or of the form  $c0$  with  $\tau_2(c) = 0$ . If  $n$  is a non-negative integer,  $B_n$  is the set of  $n$ -tuples of 0's and 1's. If  $k$  is a positive integer and  $b \neq c \in B_n$  have the same ancestor in  $B_{n-k}$  (that is,  $b(n-k) = c(n-k)$ ), then  $b$  and  $c$  are  $k$ -cousins. If  $A$  is a Borel subset of  $V$ ,  $n$  and  $k$  are positive integers,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , then  $b \in B_{nk}$  is  $\tau$ - $(A, k, \alpha)$ -exceptional if it is  $\tau$ -live, and of its  $\tau$ -live  $k$ -cousins  $c$ , a fraction at least  $\alpha$  have  $\tau(c) \in A$ . For  $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$ ,  $(A, k, \alpha; n, \gamma)$  is the set of  $\tau \in V^B$  for which: there is a  $\tau$ -live  $b \in B_{nk}$ , with a fraction at least  $\gamma$  of  $b(k), \dots, b(nk)$  being  $\tau$ - $(A, k, \alpha)$ -exceptional.

Recall  $\mu^* = \mu\{(r, 0)\} + \mu\{(r, 1)\}$ . Let  $f_1(x) = \mu^*x + (1 - \mu^*)x^2, f_{n+1}(x) = f_1(f_n(x))$ . From XII.5 of [4],  $f_n$  is the  $\mu^B$ -probability generating function of the random variable whose value at  $\tau$  is the number of  $\tau$ -live  $b \in B_n$ .

Abbreviate

$$(3) \quad M = m(\mu(A), \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_k = f_k'(M)/f_k'(1).$$

The main step in proving the Theorem is establishing this inequality: if  $\mu(A) < \alpha < 1$ , and  $\beta_k < \gamma < 1$ , then

$$(4) \quad \mu^B(A, k, \alpha; n, \gamma) \leq [(2 - \mu^*)^k m(\beta_k, \gamma)]^n.$$

PROOF OF (4). The inequality will be verified by applying Lemma 5 to a suitable  $(\mu(A), f_k)$ -process on the  $2^k$ -tree, as follows. In Section 3, put  $j = 2^k$ . Order  $B_{nk}$  and  $J_n$  lexicographically, and let  $0_n$  be the order-preserving map of  $J_n$  onto  $B_{nk}$ . If  $\tau \in V^B$ , then  $\tau^*$  is this function from  $J$  to  $\{0, 1, \text{undefined}\} \times \{\text{live}, \text{dead}\}$ . If  $b \in J_n$ , the second coordinate of  $\tau^*(b)$  is live or dead according as  $0_nb \in B_{nk}$  is  $\tau$ -live or  $\tau$ -dead; the first coordinate is undefined if and only if the second is dead; if the second is live, the first is 1 or 0 according as  $\tau(0_nb) \in A$  or  $\notin A$ . Unfortunately, the process  $\{\tau \rightarrow \tau^*(b) : b \in J\}$ , on the probability space  $(V^B, \mu^B)$ , is not a  $(\mu(A), f_k)$ -process.

Let  $\pi$  be a mapping of  $J$  into  $(0, \dots, j-1)!$ ; that is, for each  $b \in J$ ,  $\pi(b)$  is a permutation of  $(0, \dots, j-1)$ . Then  $\pi^*$ , a permutation of  $J$ , is defined by this induction:  $\pi^*(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ ; if  $\pi^*$  has been defined on  $J_n$ ,  $b \in J_n$ , and  $i = 0, \dots, j-1$ , then  $\pi^*(bi)$  is  $\pi^*(b)$  followed by the  $\pi(b)$ -image of  $i$ . Of course, if  $b \in J_n$  is an ancestor of  $c$ , then  $\pi^*(b) \in J_n$  is an ancestor of  $\pi^*(c)$ . If  $g$  is a function from  $J$  to some set, then  $\pi g$  is this function from  $J$  to the same set:  $(\pi g)(b) = g(\pi^*(b))$ ,  $b \in J$ .

Let  $(\Omega, Q)$  be a probability space. Let  $\pi$  be a mapping from  $\Omega \times J$  to  $(0, \dots, j-1)!$ , with these properties:

- (i) for each  $b \in J$ ,  $\pi(\cdot, b)$  is measurable, and takes each of its  $j!$  possible values with probability  $1/j!$ ;
- (ii) as  $b$  ranges over  $J$ , the  $\pi(\cdot, b)$  are independent.

If  $\omega \in \Omega$  and  $\tau \in V^B$ , then  $[\pi(\omega, \cdot)]\tau^*$  is a function from  $J$  to  $\{0, 1, \text{undefined}\} \times \{\text{live, dead}\}$ . If also  $b \in B$ , let  $Z_b(\omega, \tau)$  be the first coordinate of  $\{[\pi(\omega, \cdot)]\tau^*\}(b)$ , and  $L_b(\omega, \tau)$  the second. Plainly, the stochastic process  $\{Z_b, L_b : b \in J\}$ , defined on the probability triple  $(\Omega, Q) \times (V^B, \mu^B)$ , is a  $(\mu(A), f_k)$ -process on the  $2^k$ -tree, in the sense of Section 3. There is an  $(\alpha, \gamma)$ -exceptional node in  $J_n$  for this process evaluated at  $(\omega, \tau)$  if and only if  $\tau \in (A, k, \alpha; n, \gamma)$ . Apply Lemma 5, noting that  $f_k'(1) = (2 - \mu^*)^k$ , to complete the proof of (4).

Let  $(A, k, \alpha; f.o., \gamma)$  be the set of  $\tau \in V^B$  with  $\tau \in (A, k, \alpha; n, \gamma)$  for finitely many  $n$  only. If  $\mu(A) < \alpha < 1$ , and  $\mu^* < 1$ , there is a positive integer  $k$  and a positive  $\gamma < \frac{1}{2}$  with

$$(5) \quad \mu^B(A, k, \alpha; f.o., \gamma) = 1.$$

PROOF OF (5). By (4) and the Borel-Cantelli lemma, it is enough to choose  $k$  and  $\gamma$  so that

$$(6) \quad (2 - \mu^*)^k m(\beta_k, \gamma) < 1$$

and

$$(7) \quad \beta_k < \gamma,$$

where  $\beta_k$  and  $M$  are defined in (3). Since  $\mu(A) < \alpha < 1$ ,  $M < 1$ ,  $f_k(M) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $f_1'(0) = \mu^*$ , for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there is an  $E(\epsilon) < \infty$  with

$$(8) \quad \beta_k \leq E(\epsilon)(\mu^* + \epsilon)^k / (2 - \mu^*)^k, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Since  $m(\theta, \gamma) \leq 2\theta^\gamma$ , the left side of (6) is no more than

$$(9) \quad 2E(\epsilon)^\gamma [(2 - \mu^*)^{1-\gamma} (\mu^* + \epsilon)^\gamma]^k.$$

Since  $\mu^* < 1$ ,  $(2 - \mu^*)\mu^* < 1$  and  $\mu^*/(2 - \mu^*) < 1$ . Choose  $\epsilon > 0$  so small that  $(2 - \mu^*)(\mu^* + \epsilon) < 1$ , and  $(\mu^* + \epsilon)/(2 - \mu^*) < 1$ . Choose  $\gamma < \frac{1}{2}$  so large that  $(2 - \mu^*)^{1-\gamma} (\mu^* + \epsilon)^\gamma < 1$ . Then choose  $k$  so large that  $\beta_k < \gamma$ , using (8), and so large that (9) is less than 1, which completes the proof of (5).

PROOF OF THE THEOREM IN CASE  $\mu^* < 1$  AND  $\nu^* < 1$ . Find a Borel subset  $A$  of  $V$  and a real number  $\alpha$  with  $\mu(A) < \alpha < \nu(A)$ . Let  $A'$  be the complement of  $A$  in  $V$ . Use (5) to find a positive integer  $k$  and a positive  $\gamma < \frac{1}{2}$  with

$$\mu^B(A, k, \alpha; f.o., \gamma) = 1$$

and

$$\nu^B(A', k, 1 - \alpha; f.o., \gamma) = 1,$$

A SPECIAL CASE. Some nuisances in the rest of the proof disappear if, for example,  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  both concentrate on the two-point set  $\{(\frac{1}{2}, 0), (\frac{1}{2}, w)\}$ , and  $0 < \mu\{(\frac{1}{2}, w)\} < \nu\{(\frac{1}{2}, w)\} < 1$ , where  $0 < w < 1$ . This case will now be argued. For  $A$ , use the one-point set  $\{(\frac{1}{2}, w)\}$ . For  $C^*$ , take the set of  $\sigma \in (A, k, \alpha; f.o., \gamma)$  with  $\sigma(b) = (\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  or  $(\frac{1}{2}, w)$  for all  $b \in B$ . For  $D^*$ , take the set of  $\tau \in (A', k, 1 - \alpha; f.o., \gamma)$  with  $\tau(b) = (\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  or  $(\frac{1}{2}, w)$  for all  $b \in B$ . Property (1) is clear. For (2), let  $\sigma \in C^*$ ,  $\tau \in D^*$ ,  $x \in I$ . It must be seen that

(10) the ratio of  $M(\sigma)(x + h) - M(\sigma)(x)$  to  $M(\tau)(x + h) - M(\tau)(x)$  does not converge to a finite, positive limit as  $h \rightarrow 0$ .

Write  $b(n, x)$  for the first  $n$  digits of the non-terminating binary expansion of  $x$ . Clearly, (10) holds if for some  $n$ ,  $b(n, x)$  is either  $\sigma$ -dead or  $\tau$ -dead. So, suppose that for all  $n$ ,  $b(n, x)$  is both  $\sigma$ -live and  $\tau$ -live. If  $b \in B_n$  is an ancestor of  $c \in B_{n+k}$ , then  $c$  is a  $k$ -child of  $b$ . Let  $N$  be the set of  $n$  for which: at least one  $k$ -child  $c$  of  $b(nk, x)$  is  $\sigma$ -live and  $\tau$ -live and has  $\sigma(c) = (\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and has  $\tau(c) = (\frac{1}{2}, w)$ . Plainly,  $N$  is infinite, even having density  $\geq 1 - 2\gamma > 0$ .

For  $b \in B_n$ ,  $b^* \in I$  has binary expansion  $b$  followed by 0's, and  $b^{**} = b^* + 2^{-n}$ . If  $\rho \in V^B$  and  $u, v \in I$ , then  $\rho[u, v]$  is the slope of the chord joining the points in the graph of  $M(\rho)$  whose abscissas are  $u$  and  $v$ . There is a  $\delta > 0$ , depending only on  $k$  and  $w$ , with the following property. If  $n \in N$ , there is an  $i \leq k + 1$  and an  $i$ -child  $d$  of  $b(nk, x)$  such that:

$$\frac{\sigma[b(nk, x)^*, d^{**}]}{\tau[b(nk, x)^*, d^{**}]} \bigg/ \frac{\sigma[b(nk, x)^*, b(nk, x)^{**}]}{\tau[b(nk, x)^*, b(nk, x)^{**}]}$$

and

$$\frac{\sigma[d^{**}, b(nk, x)^{**}]}{\tau[d^{**}, b(nk, x)^{**}]} \bigg/ \frac{\sigma[b(nk, x)^*, b(nk, x)^{**}]}{\tau[b(nk, x)^*, b(nk, x)^{**}]}$$

both differ from 1 in absolute value by  $\delta$  or more. Since the closed interval  $[b(nk, x)^*, b(nk, x)^{**}]$  shrinks to  $x$ , and  $x$  is in either  $[b(nk, x)^*, d^{**}]$  or  $[d^{**}, b(nk, x)^{**}]$ , (10) holds. This completes the proof in the special case.

To return to the general case, if  $b \in B_n$  is an ancestor of  $c \in B_{n+i}$  for some  $i = 0, \dots, k$ , then  $c$  is a  $k$ -descendant of  $b$ . If  $K$  is a subset of  $V$ ,  $\tau \in V^B$ , then  $b \in B_n$  is  $(\tau, K, k)$ -good if  $\tau(c) \in K$  for all  $k$ -descendants  $c$  of  $b$ . If  $0 \leq g \leq 1$ , then  $b \in B_n$  is  $(\tau, K, k, g)$ -good if a fraction at least  $g$  of  $b(0), \dots, b(n)$  are  $(\tau, K, k)$ -good. Let  $\langle K, k, g \rangle$  be the set of all  $\tau \in V^B$  for which there is an  $n(\tau) < \infty$  such that  $n \geq n(\tau)$  and  $b \in B_n$  imply  $b$  is  $(\tau, K, k, g)$ -good.

Use Lemma 6 to find compact subsets  $K$  and  $K'$  of  $V$ , with  $K \subset A, K' \subset A'$ ,  $(r, 0)$  and  $(r, 1)$  not points of accumulation of  $K \cup K'$ , and for  $g = 1 - [(1 - 2\gamma)/k]$ ,

$$\mu^B \langle K \cup K', k, g \rangle = \nu^B \langle K \cup K', k, g \rangle = 1.$$

Let

$$C^* = \langle K \cup K', k, g \rangle \cap (A, k, \alpha; f.o., \gamma)$$

and

$$D^* = \langle K \cup K', k, g \rangle \cap (A', k, 1 - \alpha; f.o., \gamma).$$

Property (1) is clear. The proof of (2) is a routine generalization of the special case, especially in view of the similar material in Sections 1 and 5-8 of [3]. This completes the discussion of the Theorem in case  $\mu^* < 1$  and  $\nu^* < 1$ .

**5. Proof of the Theorem in case  $\mu^* = 1$  or  $\nu^* = 1$ .** If  $A$  is a Borel subset of the closed unit interval  $I$ , then  $\hat{A}$  is the weak\* Borel subset of  $F \varepsilon \Delta$  which assign measure 1 to some point in  $A$ . If  $\mu^* = \nu^* = 1$ , there are disjoint Borel subsets  $U$  and  $V$  of  $I$ , with  $P_\mu(\hat{U}) = P_\nu(\hat{V}) = 1$ . For example, use (9.17) of [3] and the Strong Law of Large Numbers. Clearly,  $F \varepsilon \hat{U}$  is strictly singular with respect to  $G \varepsilon \hat{V}$ . If  $\mu^* = 1$  but  $\nu^* < 1$ , take  $\hat{I}$  for  $C$ , and take for  $D$  the set of all continuous  $F \varepsilon \Delta$  with  $F(0) = 0$ . By (4.4) of [3],  $P_\nu(D) = 1$ . This completes the proof of the Theorem.

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