

Simulating Events of  
Unknown Probabilities via  
Reverse Time Martingales

K. Latuszynski\*      I. Kosmidis

O. Papaspiliopoulos      G.O. Roberts

• Let  $s \in [0, 1]$  and  $G_0 \sim U(0, 1)$

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• how to sample an event of probability  $s$ ?  
(an  $s$ -coin  $C_s$ )

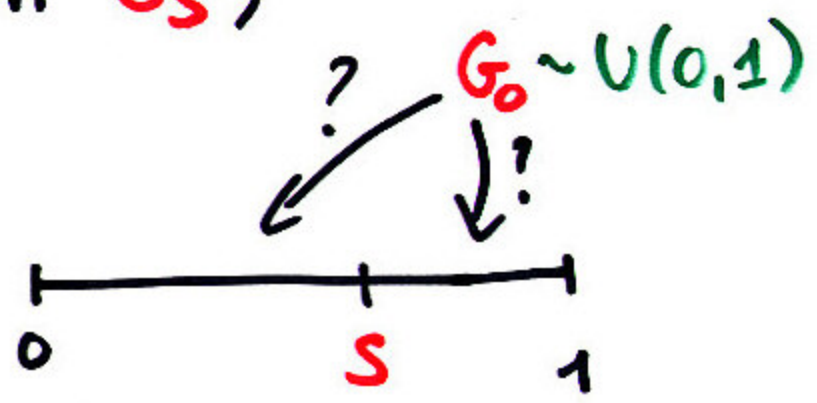
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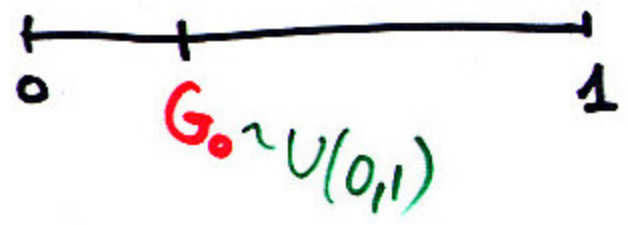
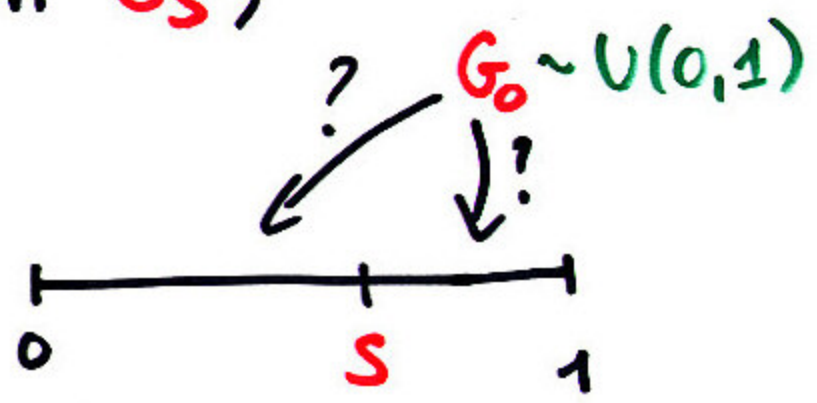
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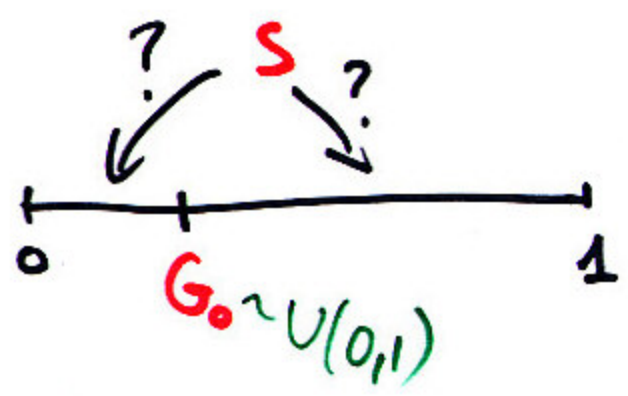
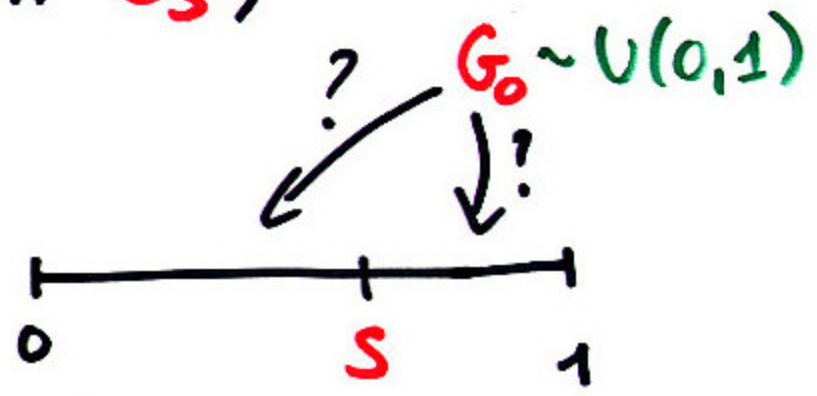
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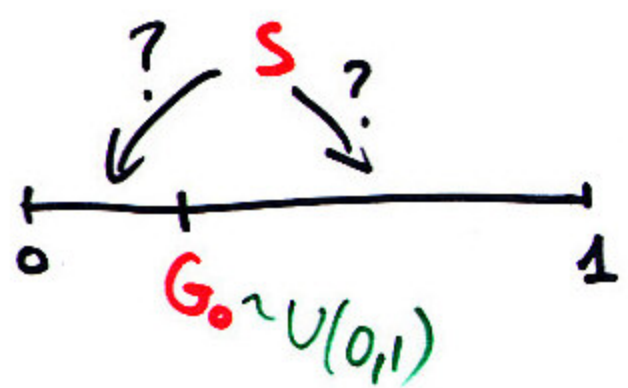
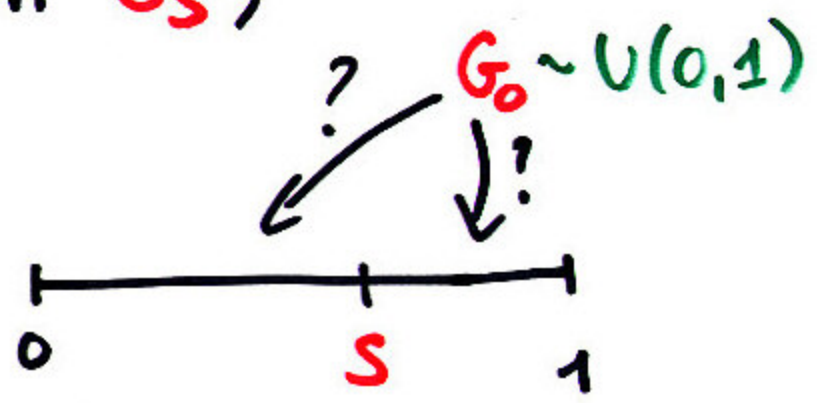
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• We assume that  $s$  is uniquely determined but not known explicitly



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- MCMC inference for diffusion parameter
- rejection sampling
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how to simulate an  $f(p)$ -coin given an iid sequence of  $p$ -coins

$p$  - UNKNOWN

$f$  KNOWN ex  $f(p) = 2p$



Assume  $l_n \nearrow s$  and  $u_n \searrow s$



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### Algorithm 1

1.  $G_0 \sim U(0,1)$ ;  $n = 1$
2. compute  $L_n, u_n$
3. if  $G_0 \leq L_n$  set  $C_S = 1$
4. if  $G_0 \geq u_n$  set  $C_S = 0$
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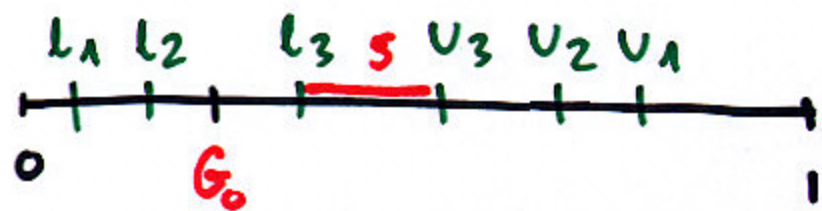


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Assume  $L_n \rightarrow S$  and  $U_n \rightarrow S$

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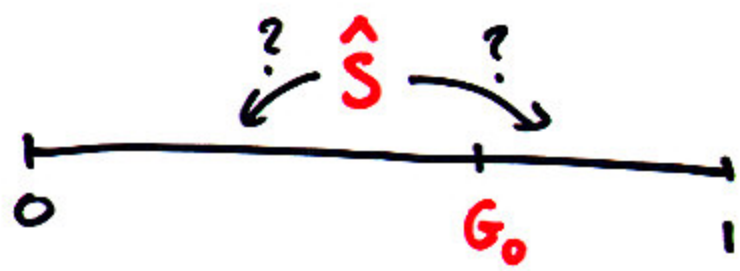
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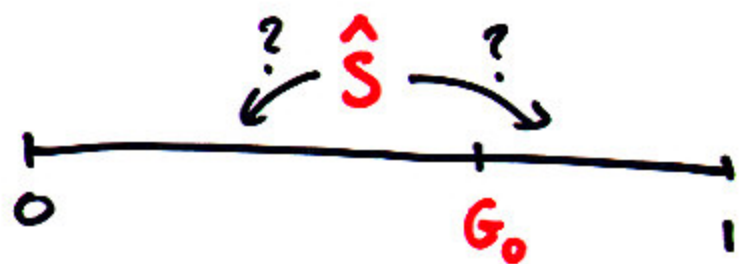


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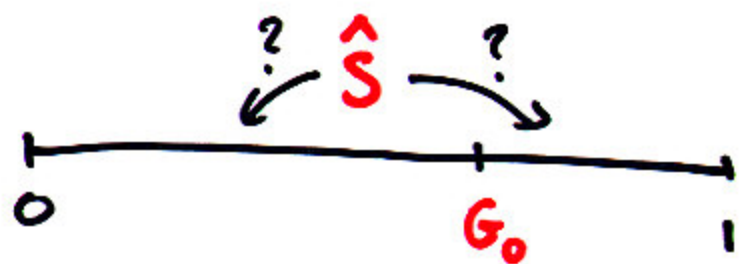
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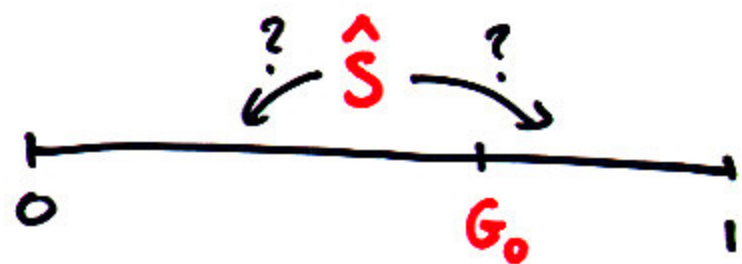


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$$C_S := \mathbb{1}\{G_0 \leq \hat{S}\}$$



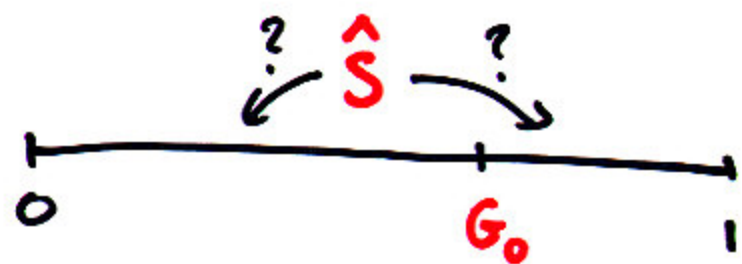
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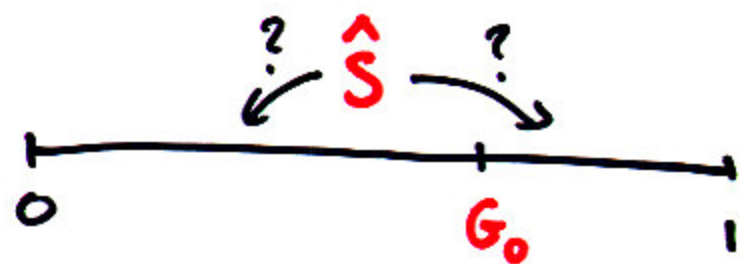
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⑥

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- $P(L_n \leq U_n) = 1$
- $P(L_n \in \Sigma_{0,1}) = 1$  and  $P(U_n \in [0,1]) = 1$
- $E L_n = L_n \nearrow S$  and  $E U_n = u_n \searrow S$

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### Algorithm 3

1.  $G_0 \sim U(0,1); n=1$
2. obtain  $L_n$  and  $U_n$  given  $L_{n-1}, U_{n-1}$
3. if  $G_0 \leq L_n \dots$   
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Lemma

Algorithm 3 outputs a valid  $s$ -coin

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given  $L_{n-1}, U_{n-1}$

$\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$   $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(L_n, U_n)$   
 $\mathcal{F}_{k,n} = \sigma(\mathcal{F}_k, \mathcal{F}_{k+1}, \dots, \mathcal{F}_n)$   
 given  $\mathcal{F}_{0,n-1}$

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$$E(L_{n-1} | \mathcal{F}_{n,\infty}) = E(L_{n-1} | \mathcal{F}_n) \leq L_n$$

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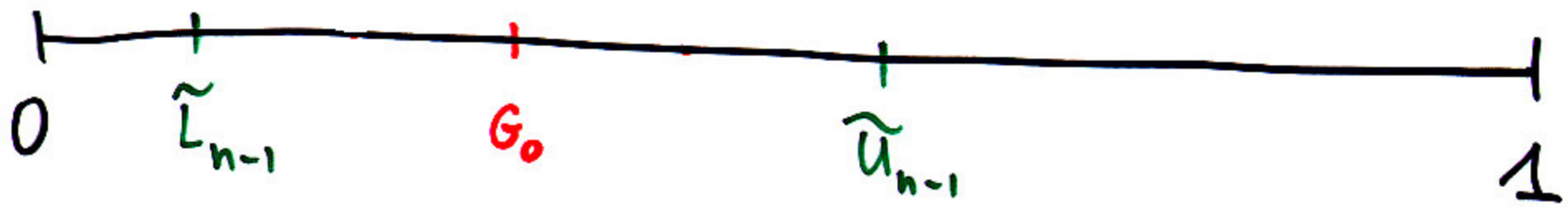
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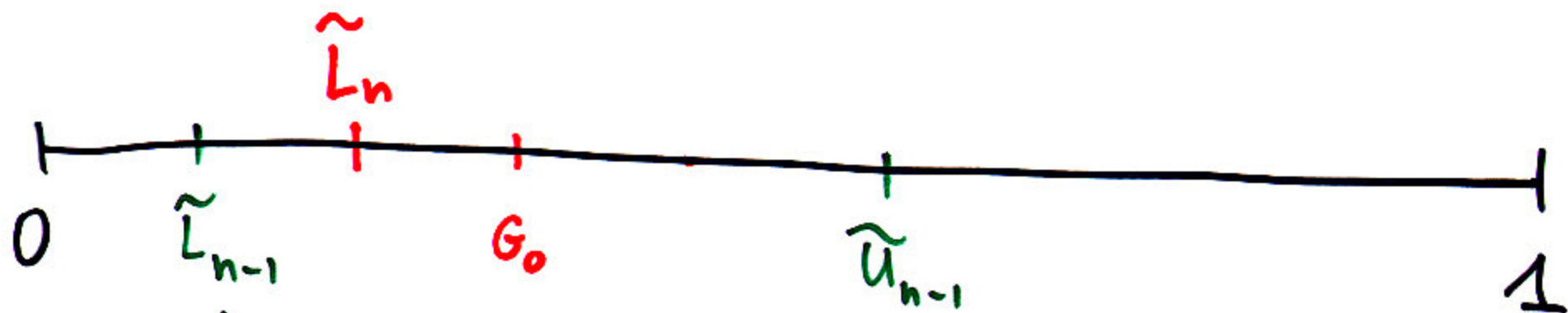
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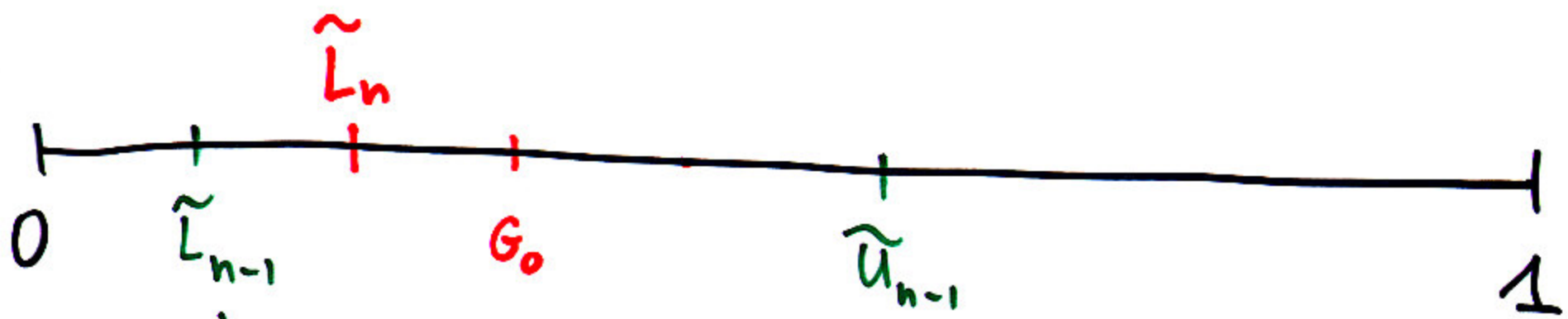
6. if  $G_0 \geq \tilde{U}_n$  set  $C_S = 0$

....





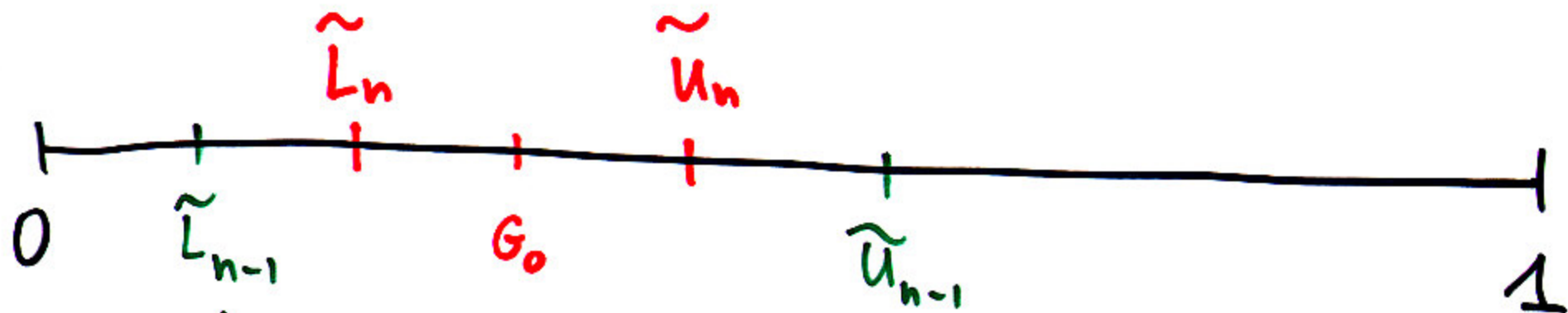
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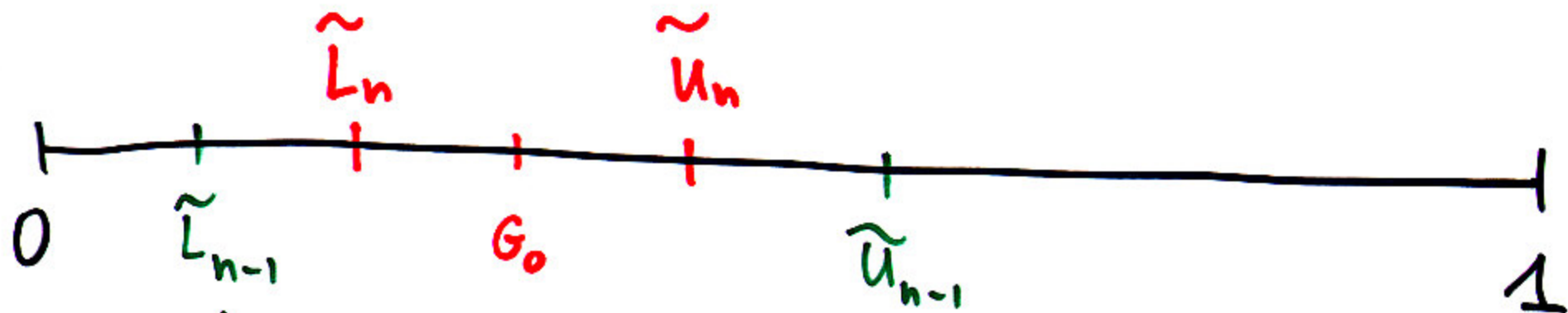
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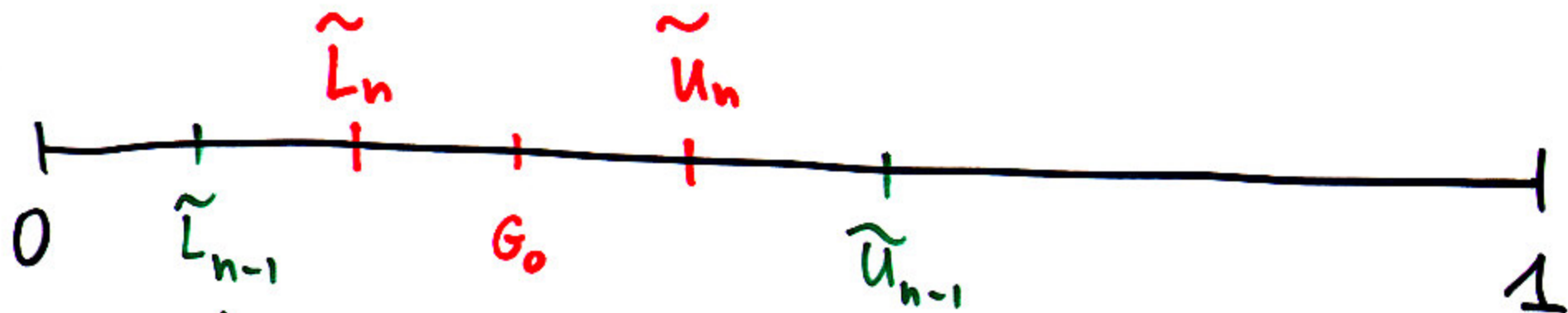
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This construction preserves expectation and  $\tilde{L}_n, \tilde{U}_n$  are monotone.



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Thm. Algorithm 4 outputs a valid  $s$ -coin.

# The Bernoulli Factory Problem

⑨

input:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  sequence of  $p$ -coins ( $p$  is UNKNOWN)  
 $p \in (0, 1/2)$

output:  $Y$  a single  $2p$ -coin

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Proposition: An algorithm that simulates  $f$  on  $\mathcal{P}_{\leq}(0,1)$  exists if and only if for all  $n \geq 1$  there exist

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Proposition: An algorithm that simulates  $f$  on  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq (0, 1)$  exists if and only if for all  $n \geq 1$  there exist polynomials  $g_n(p)$  and  $h_n(p)$  of the form

$$g_n(p) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a(n, k) p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

$$h_n(p) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} b(n, k) p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



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Proposition: An algorithm that simulates  $f$  on  $\mathcal{P} \subseteq (0, 1)$  exists if and only if for all  $n \geq 1$  there exist polynomials  $g_n(p)$  and  $h_n(p)$  of the form

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(i)  $0 \leq a(n, k) \leq b(n, k) \leq 1$

# The Bernoulli Factory Problem

⑨

input:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  sequence of  $p$ -coins ( $p$  is UNKNOWN)  
 $p \in (0, 1/2)$

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(iii) for all  $m < n$  coefficients satisfy

$$a(n, k) \geq \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\binom{n-m}{k-i} \binom{m}{i}}{\binom{n}{k}} a(m, i)$$

$$b(n, k) \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\binom{n-m}{k-i} \binom{m}{i}}{\binom{n}{k}} b(m, i)$$

polynomials  $\Rightarrow$  algorithm

$X_1, X_2, \dots$  p-coins if  $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i = k$ , let  $L_n = a(n, k)$

$$U_n = b(n, k)$$

(10)

The rest of the proof:

check that assumptions for  $L_n$  and  $U_n$   
in Algorithm 4 hold!