

# Stieltjes Moment Problem: Constructive approach to unique and non-unique solutions

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## Plan

1. Definition of Stieltjes moment problem
2. Unique and non-unique solutions
3. Analysis of Polynomial Killers
4. Construction of non-unique solutions  
a)  $\Gamma(an+b)$ ; b)  $e^{n^2}$
5. Stieltjes Classes, open problems

# MOMENT PROBLEM

Given set of  $\rho(n)$ ,  $n=0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty$   
find  $W(x) > 0$ , such that

$$\bullet \int_0^R x^n W(x) dx = \rho(n) \bullet$$

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [\rho(n)]^{1/n}$$

$R < \infty \rightarrow$  Hausdorff problem  
 $R = \infty \rightarrow$  Stieltjes problem

Mellin Transform of  $W(x)$

$$\mathcal{M}[W(x); s] = \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} W(x) dx$$

Solution of Stieltjes Moment problem:

$$\bullet W(x) = \mathcal{M}^{-1}[\rho(s-1); x] \bullet$$

$$W(x) > 0 \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \det(\rho(i+j-2))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \\ \det(\rho(i+j-1))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \end{array} \right\} > 0$$

for all  $n$

Hankel  
dets

(... hopeless)

# Polynomial Killers - $\omega(x)$ , $x \geq 0$

## - Functional Characterisation

Functional Space

- $S = S(\mathbb{R}_+) = \left\{ \omega(x) : \omega \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+), \right.$   
 $\left. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0, \infty} x^l \omega^{(m)}(x) = 0; l, m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \right\}$
- $\phi = \phi(\mathbb{R}_+) = \left\{ \omega(x) \in S, \int_0^\infty x^k \omega(x) dx = 0, \right.$   
 $\left. k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \right\}$

$\phi =$  Lizorkin Space (Russian Literature)

All of them: **BOUNDED** functions

Example:  $\left[ \omega(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \ln(x)\right) \right]$

Mellin transform of  $\omega(x)$  vanishes  
at integers  $s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ :

$$\int_0^\infty x^{s-1} \omega(x) dx = 2\sqrt{\pi} \exp\left(s^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4}\right) \sin(\pi s)$$

(... Stieltjes, Heyde)

Attention: a particularity —

$\omega(x)$  has all, positive and negative, moments equal to zero!

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^k \omega(x) dx = 0, \quad k = -\infty \dots \infty$$

Is this an exceptional phenomenon?  
Can we generate other polynomial killers?

The space of polynomial killers (PK) is very rich: (theorem)

a) take a PK  $\omega(x)$  from  $\Phi$ ;

b) and  $\psi(x) \in \mathcal{S}$

c) convolve  $\omega(x)$  with  $\psi(x)$

$$\tilde{\omega}(x) \equiv \int_0^{\infty} \omega\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) \psi(t) \frac{1}{t} dt \text{ is again PK.}$$

How to adapt given PK to a given moment problem?

## Reminder:

Direct Mellin inversion

$$f^*(s) = \mathcal{M}[f(x); s] = \int_0^{\infty} x^{s-1} f(x) dx$$

$$f(x) = \mathcal{M}^{-1}[f^*(s); x] = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} f^*(s) x^{-s} ds$$

Done explicitly for:

$$\text{I) } f_{\text{I}}^*(s) = \frac{\Gamma(as+b-a)}{\Gamma(b)} \sin(\pi ks); \quad a > 0, k = \pm 1, \dots \\ b \in \mathbb{R}$$

(J.-M. Sixdeniers, KAP, A.I. Solomon,  
J. Phys. A 32, 7543 (1999))

$$\text{II) } f_{\text{II}}^*(s) = q^{-a(s-1)^2 - b(s-1)} \sin(\pi ks), \quad 0 < q \leq 1 \\ a > 0, b \in \mathbb{R} \\ \text{(parametrized lognormal)}$$

(J. M. Sixdeniers, Thesis Ph.D, Univ. P6, 2001)

⇒ For distributions with moments

$$\Gamma(an+b) \text{ and } q^{-an^2 - bn}$$

the **polynomial killers** have been obtained.

# Attempting to Construct Polynomial Killers $\omega(x)$

- Idea:
- a) write down moments  $\tilde{\zeta}(s-1)$  which vanish for integer values of  $s$ : " $\infty$ " of possibilities!
  - b) try to make a link with "initial" moments  $\zeta(s-1)$
  - c) try to Mellin invert the moments  $\tilde{\zeta}(s-1)$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\infty} x^n W_0(x) dx = \zeta(n) \quad - \text{"initial" moments}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^{s-1} \omega(x) dx = \zeta(s-1) \cdot \sin(\pi k s) = \tilde{\zeta}(s-1)$$

$\nearrow$  **Polynomial Killer** (not positive)

$$\Rightarrow \omega(x) = \mathcal{M}^{-1} \left[ \zeta(s-1) \sin(\pi k s); x \right]$$

?  $\uparrow$  convolution ?

No! since  $\sin(\pi k s)$  is not a Mellin Trans. of any function.

Consult: I. N. Sneddon, The use of Integral Transforms (1972)

# Analytical Forms of Polynomial Killers

①: originating from moments:

$$Q(n) = Q_{a,b}(n) = \frac{\Gamma(an+b)}{\Gamma(b)}$$

$a > 2, b > 0$

$$\omega_I(a, b, k, x) \sim$$

$$\bullet \sim x^{\frac{b-a}{a}} \exp(-x^{\frac{1}{a}}) \cdot \sin\left(\pi k \left(\frac{a-b}{a}\right) + x^{\frac{1}{a}} \tan\left(\frac{\pi k}{a}\right)\right)$$

$$a > 2|k|$$

$$k = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

Comments:

Numerical Prefactor does not matter  
Non-unicity relevant for  $a \gg 3$

Principal solution:

$$W_0 = \frac{x^{(b-a)/a} \exp(-x^{\frac{1}{a}})}{\alpha \Gamma(\beta)} = W_0(x)$$

It factors out in the formula  
for  $\omega_I$ .

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^n \omega_I(a, b, k, x) dx \equiv 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Some concrete examples:

$$x^{1/3} \exp(-x^{1/3}) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{6} + \sqrt{3}x^{1/3}\right)$$

$$\exp(-x^{1/4}) \sin(x^{1/4})$$

$$\exp(-x^{1/5}) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{5} + \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{5}\right)x^{1/5}\right) \frac{1}{x^{1/5}}$$

$$\exp(-x^{1/6}) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}x^{1/6}\right) \frac{1}{x^{1/3}}$$

— \* —

$$x^{2/3} \exp(-x^{1/3}) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3} + \sqrt{3}x^{1/3}\right)$$

$$x^{1/4} \exp(-x^{1/4}) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + x^{1/4}\right)$$

$$\exp(-x^{1/5}) \sin(x^{1/5} \cdot \tan(\frac{\pi}{5}))$$

⋮



# Analytical Forms of Polynomial Killers

II: originating from moments

$$\xi_{a,b,q}(n) = q^{-an^2 - bn}, \quad 0 < q \leq 1, \quad a > 0, \quad b \in \mathbb{R}$$

(reparametrized lognormal distribution)

$$\omega_{II}(a, b, q, x) =$$

$$\sim \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4a \ln\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)}\right) \cdot \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2a}(2a-b) + \frac{\pi \ln(x)}{2a \ln\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)}\right)}{x^{(2a-b)/2a}}.$$

Principal solution:

$$\sim \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4a \ln\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)}\right) x^{\frac{b-2a}{2a}} \text{ factors out!}$$

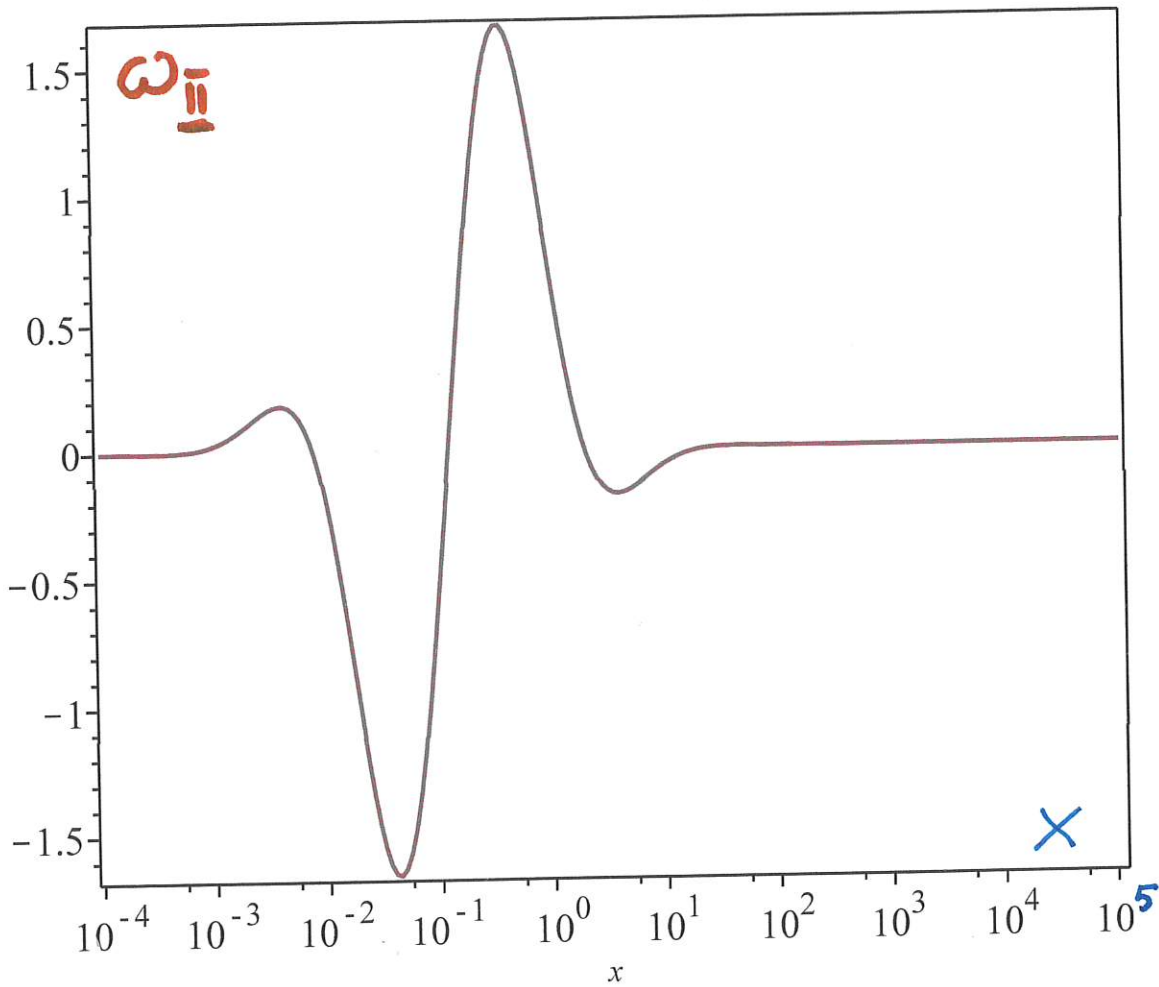
$$\int_0^{\infty} x^n \omega_{II}(a, b, q, x) dx \equiv 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Example:

$$\omega_{II}\left(2, 1, \frac{1}{2}, x\right) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{8 \ln(2)}\right)}{x^{3/4}} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi \ln(x)}{4 \ln(2)}\right)$$

Polynomial Killer  
related to extended lognormal

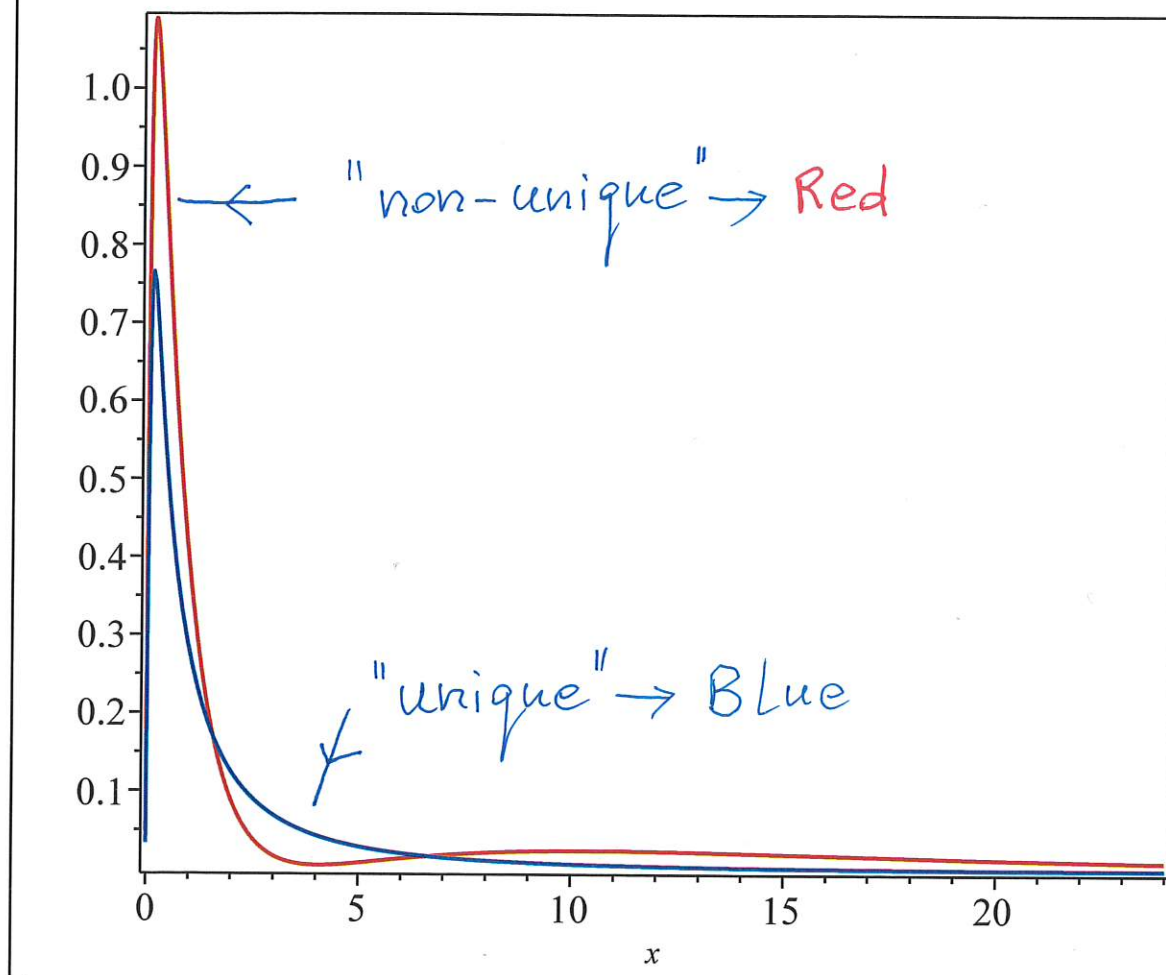
$$\omega_{II}(2, 1, 1/2, x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{8\ln(2)}\right)}{x^{3/4}} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi\ln(x)}{4\ln(2)}\right)$$



Attention:  
semilogplot

# Lognormal Distribution

```
> plot([exp(-ln(x)^2/4)/(sqrt(2*Pi)*x)-exp(-ln(x)^2/4)*sin(Pi*ln(x)/2)/9, exp(-ln(x)^2/4)/(2*sqrt(Pi)*x)], x=0..24, axes=boxed, color=[red, blue]);
```



Blue curve:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{x} \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4}\right)$

Red curve:  $\left(-\frac{1}{9}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(x)}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{x} \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4}\right)$

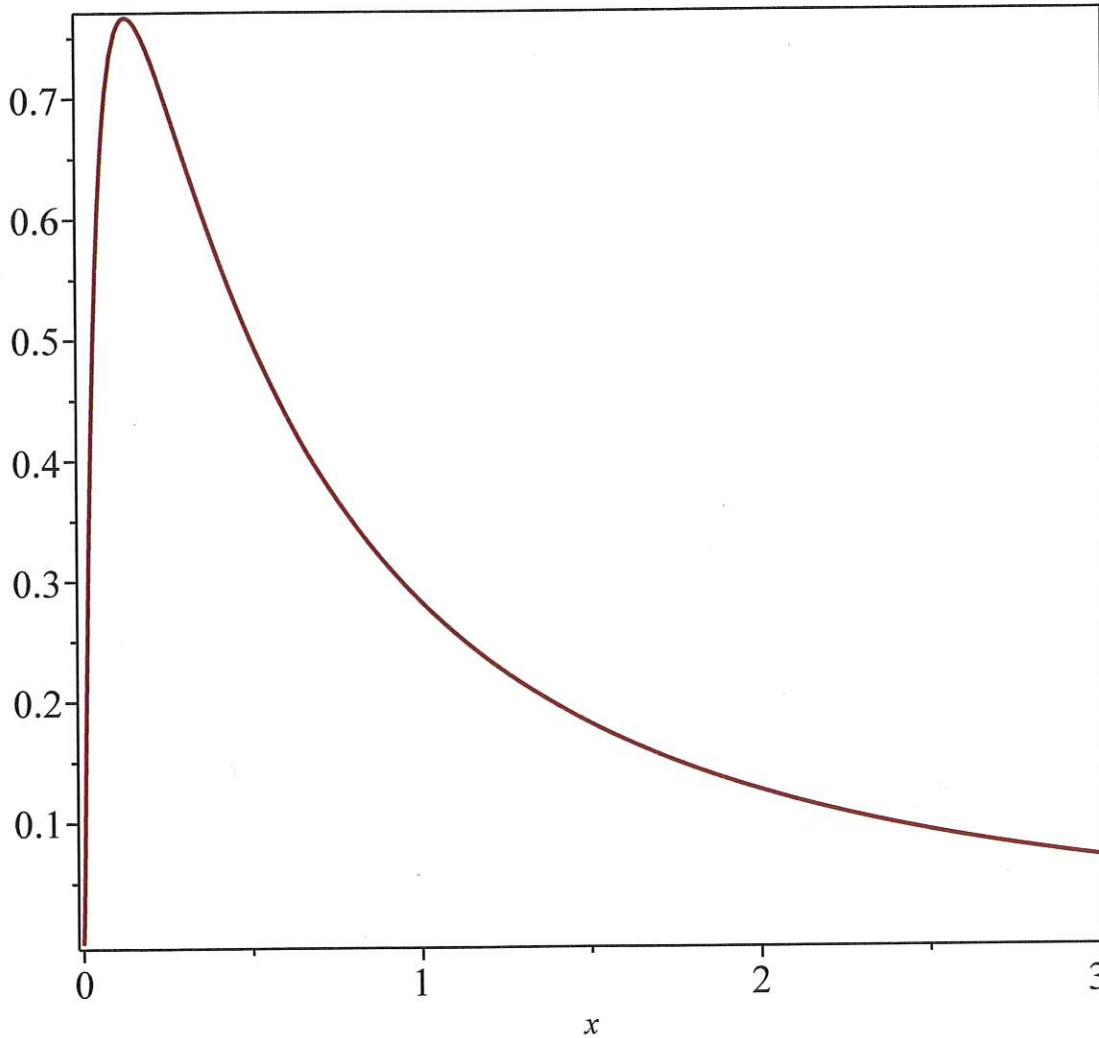
Red curve:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{x} \exp\left(-\frac{\ln^2(x)}{4}\right) \cdot \left[1 - \frac{\sqrt{2\pi} x}{9} \sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(x)}{2}\right)\right]$

Stieltjes Class

```

[> # LOGNORMAL DISTRIBUTION
      exp(-ln(x)^2/4)/(2*sqrt(pi)*x)
[> #
      exp(-ln(x)^2/4)/(2*sqrt(pi)*x)

```



```

[> # Calculation of k-th moment of lognormal
      distribution
[> int(x^k*exp(-ln(x)^2/4)/(2*sqrt(pi)*x), x=0..
      infinity);

```

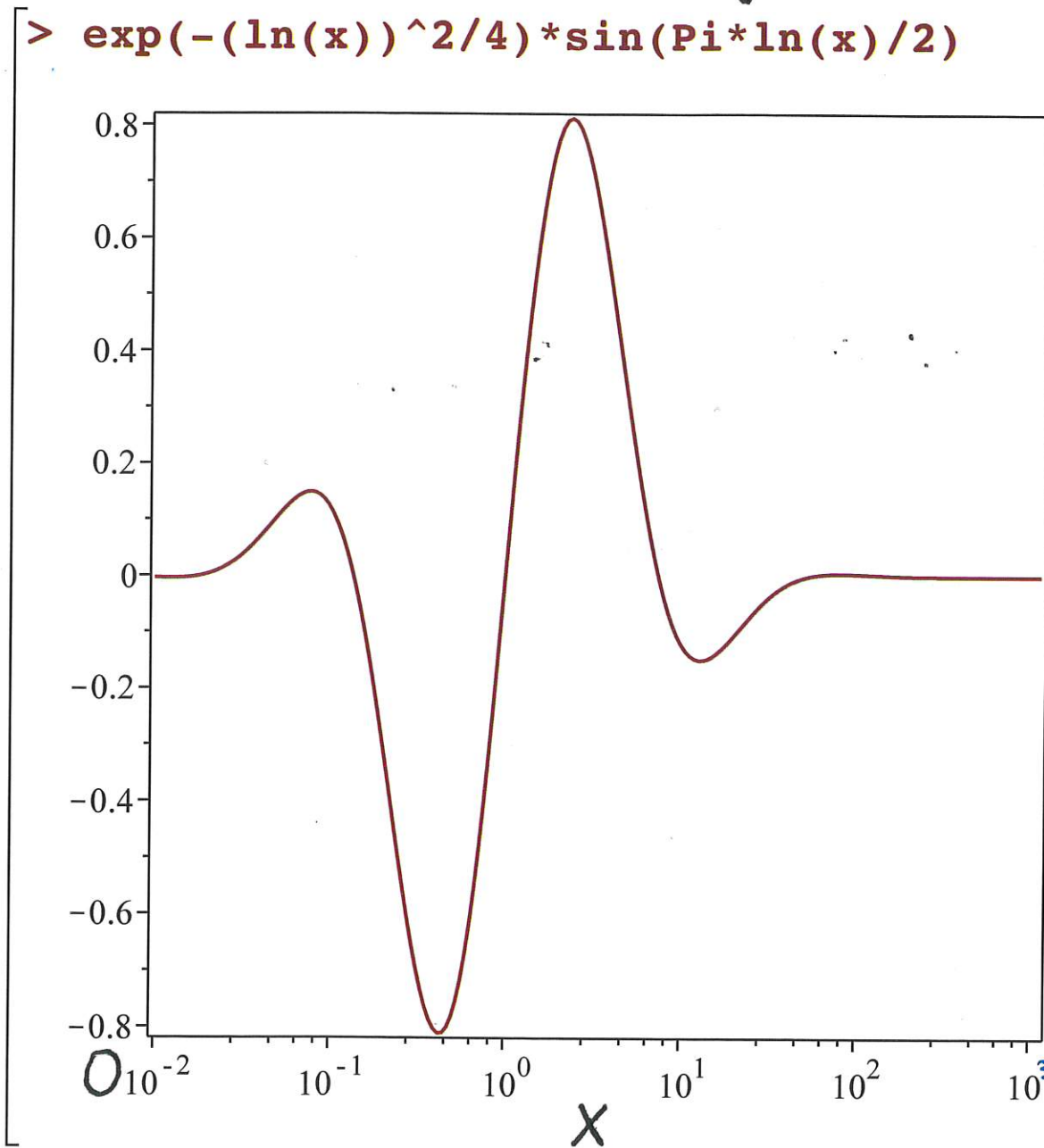
$$e^{k^2} \rightarrow \exp(k^2)$$

(1)

Rapidly growing k-th moment  $\rightarrow \exp(k^2)$

# "Classical" polynomial killer $\omega(x)$ (Stieltjes)

>  $\exp(-(\ln(x))^2/4) * \sin(\text{Pi} * \ln(x)/2)$

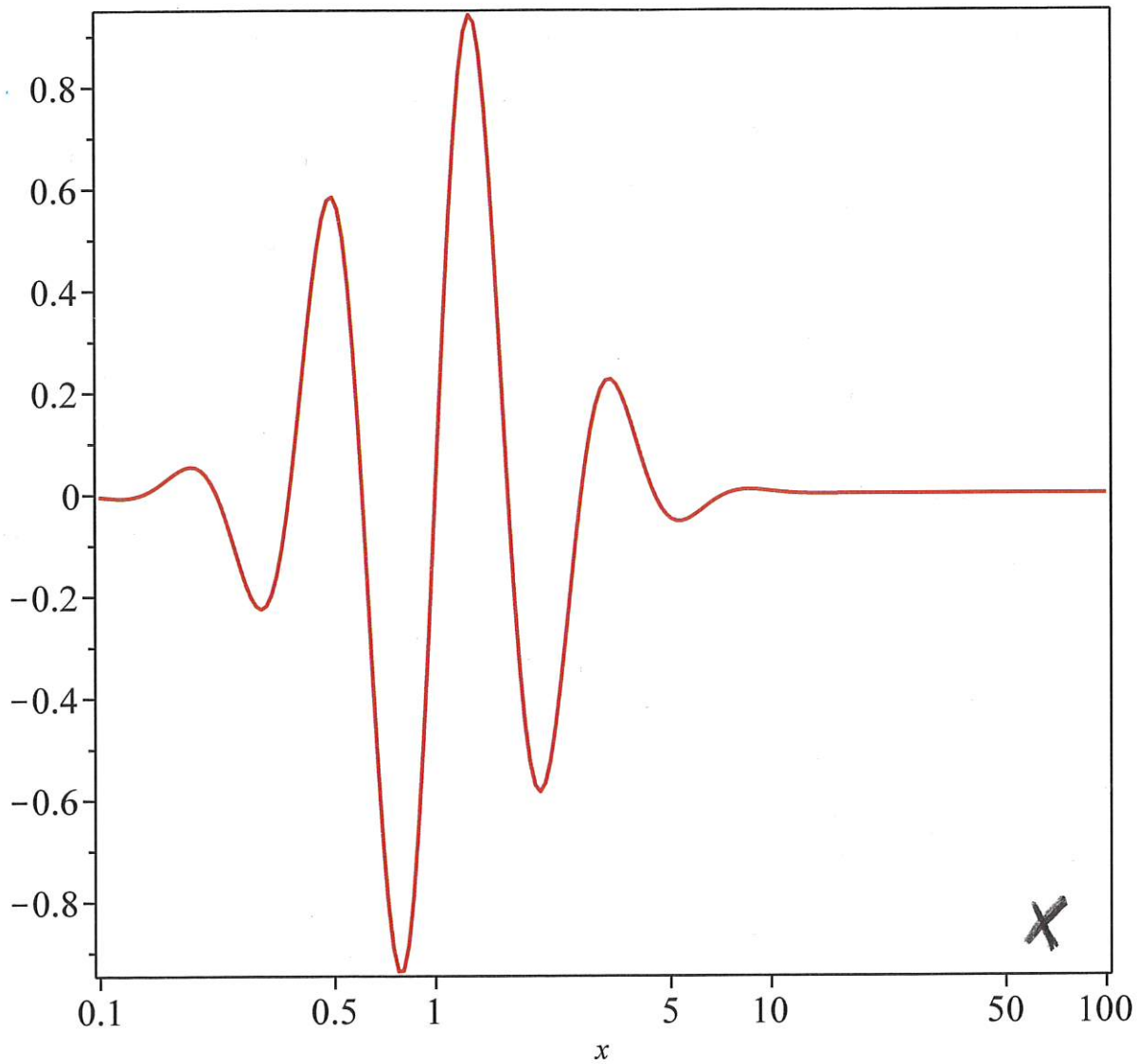


Semilog plot

A)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \omega(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \omega(x) = 0$  ;

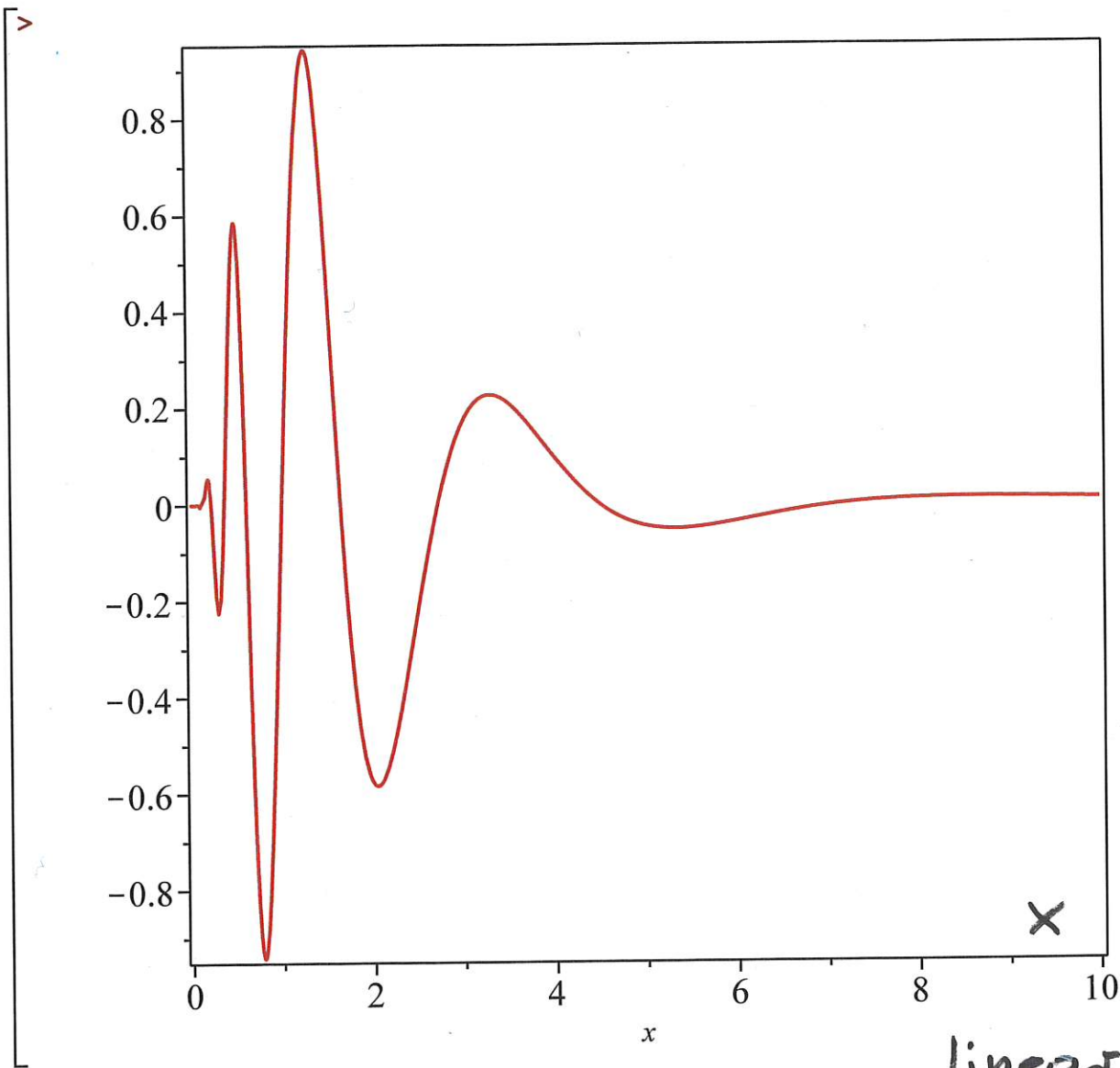
B)  $|\omega(x)| \leq 0.8$  ; bounded function

Stieltjes Polynomial Killer  
 $\exp(-\ln^2(x)) \sin(2\pi \ln(x))$



semilog plot

Stieltjes Polynomial Killer  
 $\exp(-\ln^2(x)) \sin(2\pi \ln(x))$



linear scale

## Mellin Convolution of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$

$$\mathcal{M}[f(x); s] = f(s) \text{ and } \mathcal{M}[g(x); s] = g(s)$$



$$\mathcal{M}\left[\int_0^{\infty} f\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) g(t) \frac{1}{t} dt; s\right] = f(s) \cdot g(s) \odot$$

Parent formulas (a choice)

$$\mathcal{M}\left[x^{\alpha} \int_0^{\infty} f(x \cdot t) g(t) dt; s\right] = f(s+\alpha) g(1-s-\alpha)$$

$$\mathcal{M}\left[\int_0^{\infty} f\left(\frac{t}{x}\right) g(t) dt; s\right] = f(-s) g(s+1)$$

$$\mathcal{M}\left[\int_0^{\infty} f(x^{\alpha} t^{\beta}) g(t^{\gamma}) dt; s\right] = \frac{1}{|\alpha|} f\left(\frac{s}{\alpha}\right) \frac{1}{|\gamma|} g\left(\frac{\alpha-\beta s}{\alpha\gamma}\right)$$

**Mellin convolution conserves positivity**

$$\mathcal{M}[e^{-x}; s] = \int_0^{\infty} x^{s-1} e^{-x} dx \equiv \Gamma(s)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}^{-1}[\Gamma(s); x] = \int_0^{\infty} \exp\left(\frac{-x}{t}\right) \exp(-t) \frac{1}{t} dt =$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{t} - t\right) \frac{1}{t} dt = 2 K_0(2\sqrt{x})$$

↑  
Bessel



$\Rightarrow$  Meijer G-function  
 inverse Mellin transform  
 of ratios of products  
 of Gamma functions

two lists only....

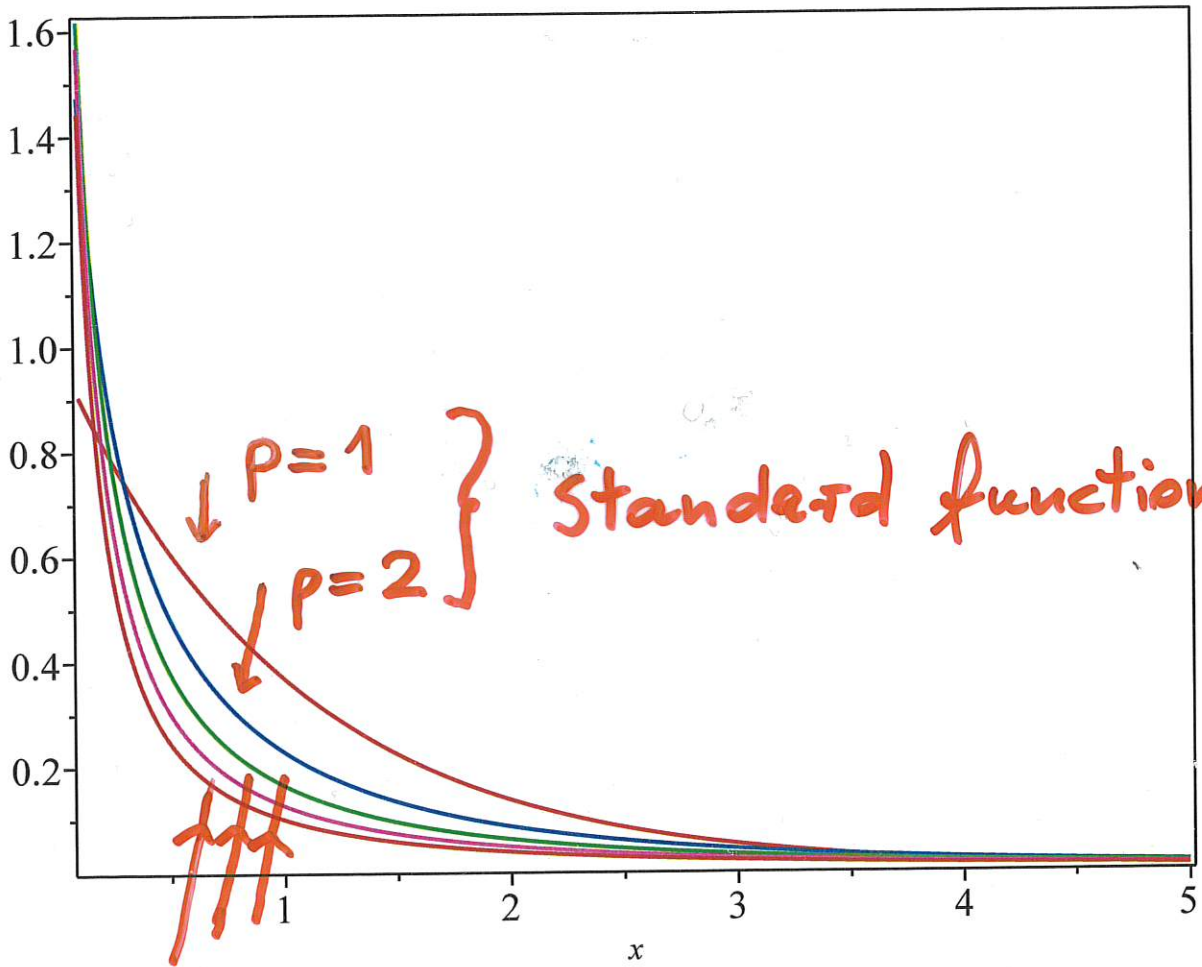
• Meijer G =  $G_{p, q}^{m, n}(z | \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n, \alpha_{n+1} \dots \alpha_p) =$   
 $G_{p, q}^{m, n}(z | [\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n], [\alpha_{n+1} \dots \alpha_p], [\beta_1 \dots \beta_m], [\beta_{m+1} \dots \beta_q], z) =$   
 $\mathcal{M}^{-1} \left[ \frac{\prod_{j=1}^m \Gamma(\beta_j + s) \prod_{j=1}^n \Gamma(1 - \alpha_j - s)}{\prod_{j=m+1}^q \Gamma(1 - \beta_j - s) \prod_{j=n+1}^p \Gamma(\alpha_j + s)} ; z \right]$

In combinatorial applications  
 mostly in the form:

$$\mathcal{M}^{-1} \left[ \frac{\prod_j \Gamma(\beta_j + s)}{\prod_j \Gamma(\alpha_j + s)} ; x \right]$$

# Mellin Convolution at work

I : moments  $(n!)^p$



$p=3, 4, 5$   
Meijer G functions

... Stieltjes moments

# Mellin positivity "bricks" (a choice)

$$\Gamma(s+\alpha) \rightarrow x^\alpha e^{-x}$$

$$[\Gamma(s)]^2 \rightarrow K_0(2\sqrt{x})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(s+a)} \rightarrow (1-x)^{a-1}, \quad x < 1$$

etc (infinity of possibilities)

Lesson:

Examine

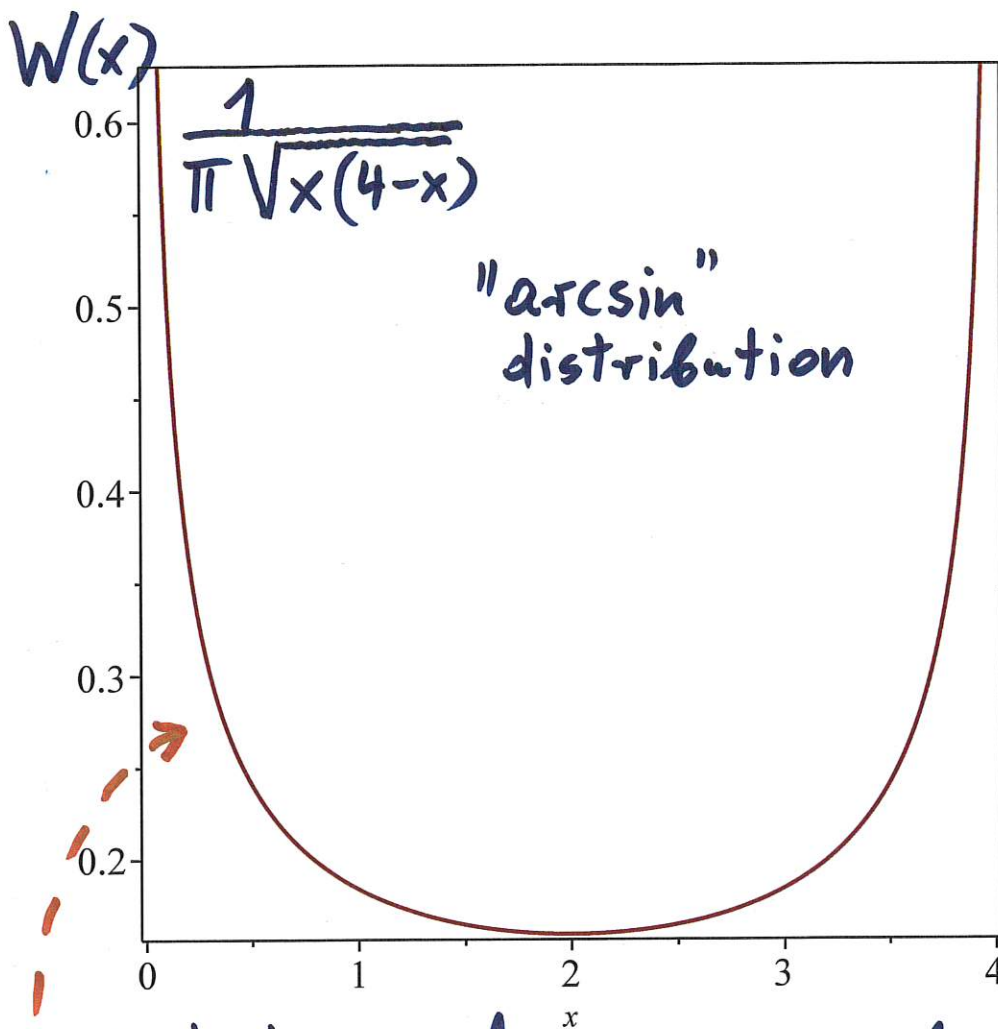
$$\frac{\Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \dots}{\Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots \Gamma \dots}$$

for the presence of such "bricks".  
This conceived as convolution will  
prove the positivity.

"Allowed" forms in Meijer G-functions

$$\Gamma(a \pm s)$$

# Mellin convolution at work II



Solution for moments  $\binom{2n}{n}$

$$W(x) = \text{MeijerG}([[]], [0], [-1/2, []], \frac{x}{4}) / (4\sqrt{\pi})$$

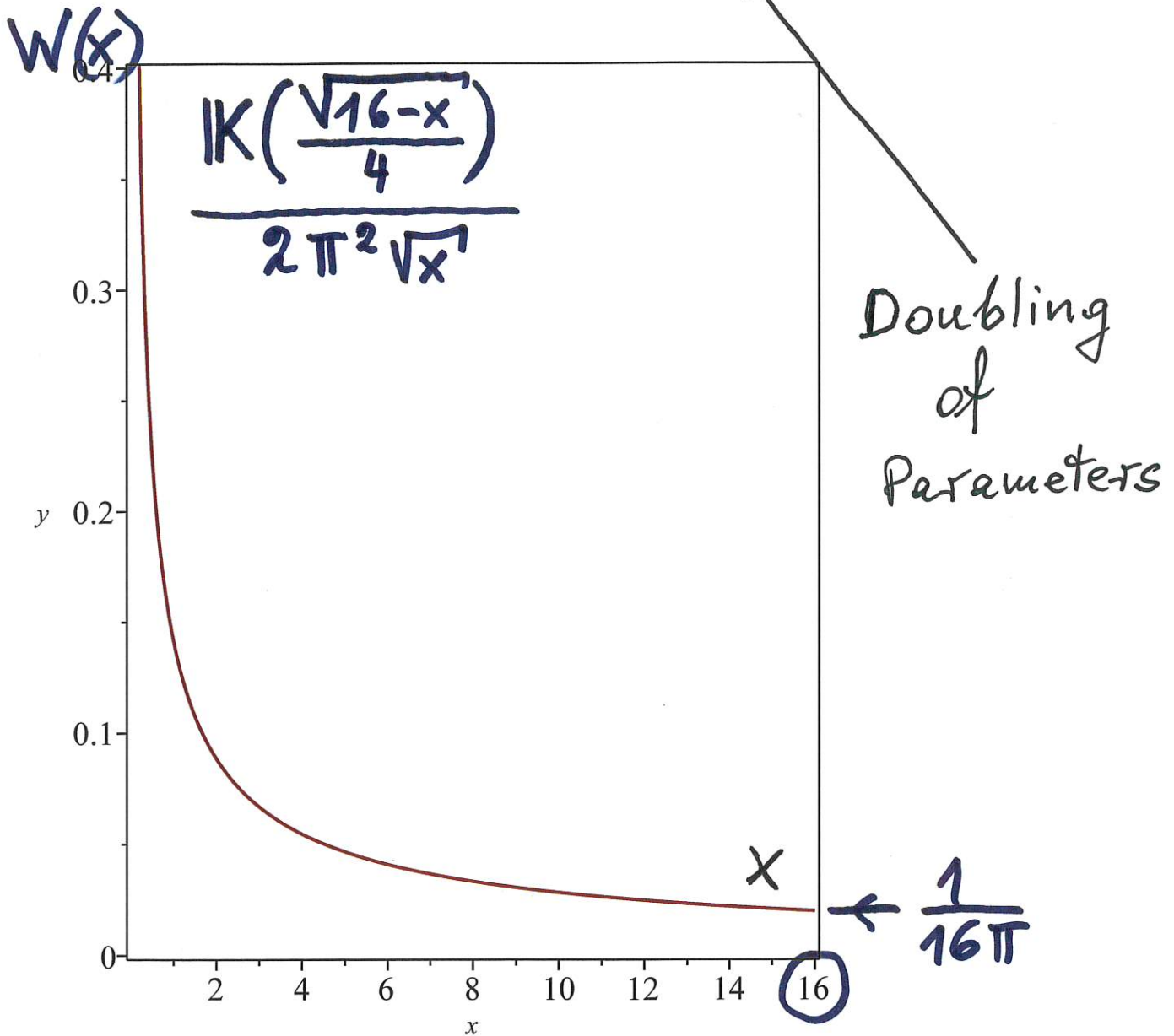
What will be solution for  $\binom{2n}{n}^2$  ?

Double the parameters and support.

... Hausdorff moments

Moments  $\binom{2n}{n}^2 \leftarrow$

$$W(x) = \text{MeijerG}\left(\left[\right], \left[0, 0\right], \left[-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right], \left[\right], \frac{x}{16}\right)$$



$IK(\dots)$  — Elliptic function  $IK$

List of Collaborators on this  
and related problems  
(in random order)

K. Życzkowski, V. Minh, J.-M. Sixdeniers,  
Ch. Tollu, P. Blasiak, G. Koshevoy,  
Ph. Flajolet, G.H.E. Duchamp, K. Górska  
A. Solomon, S. Smith, W. Mlotkowski,  
A. Bostan, N. Behr, M. Nowak, A. Horzela