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Estimating the Volatility of Electricity Prices: The Case of the England and Wales Wholesale Electricity Market

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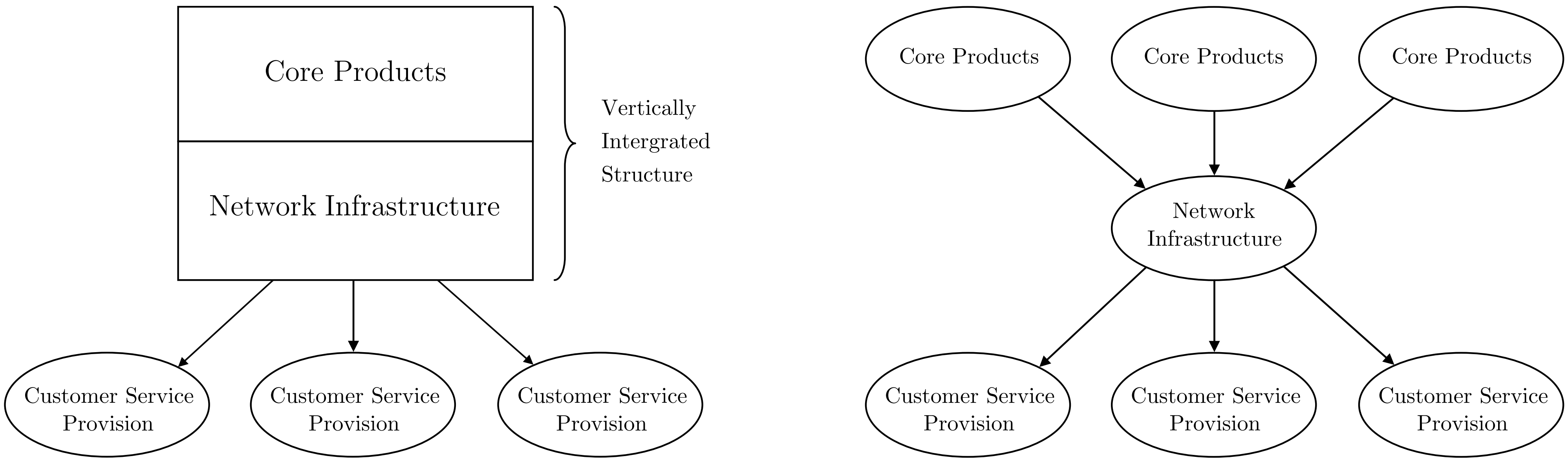
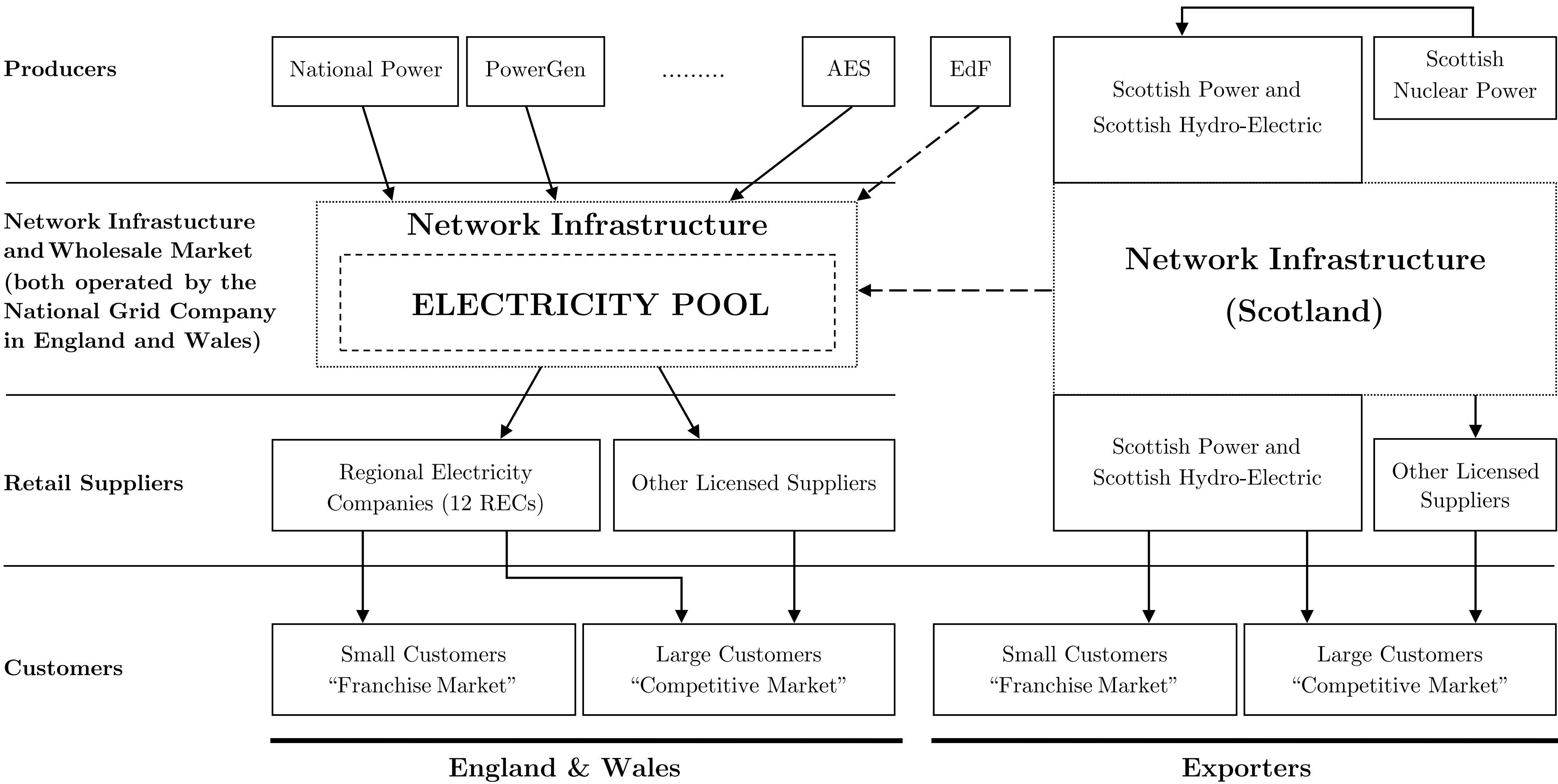
Fig. 1: *Structure of a Network Industry* **before** *and* **after** *Liberalization*



(a) Vertically Integrated Case

(b) Vertically Separated Case

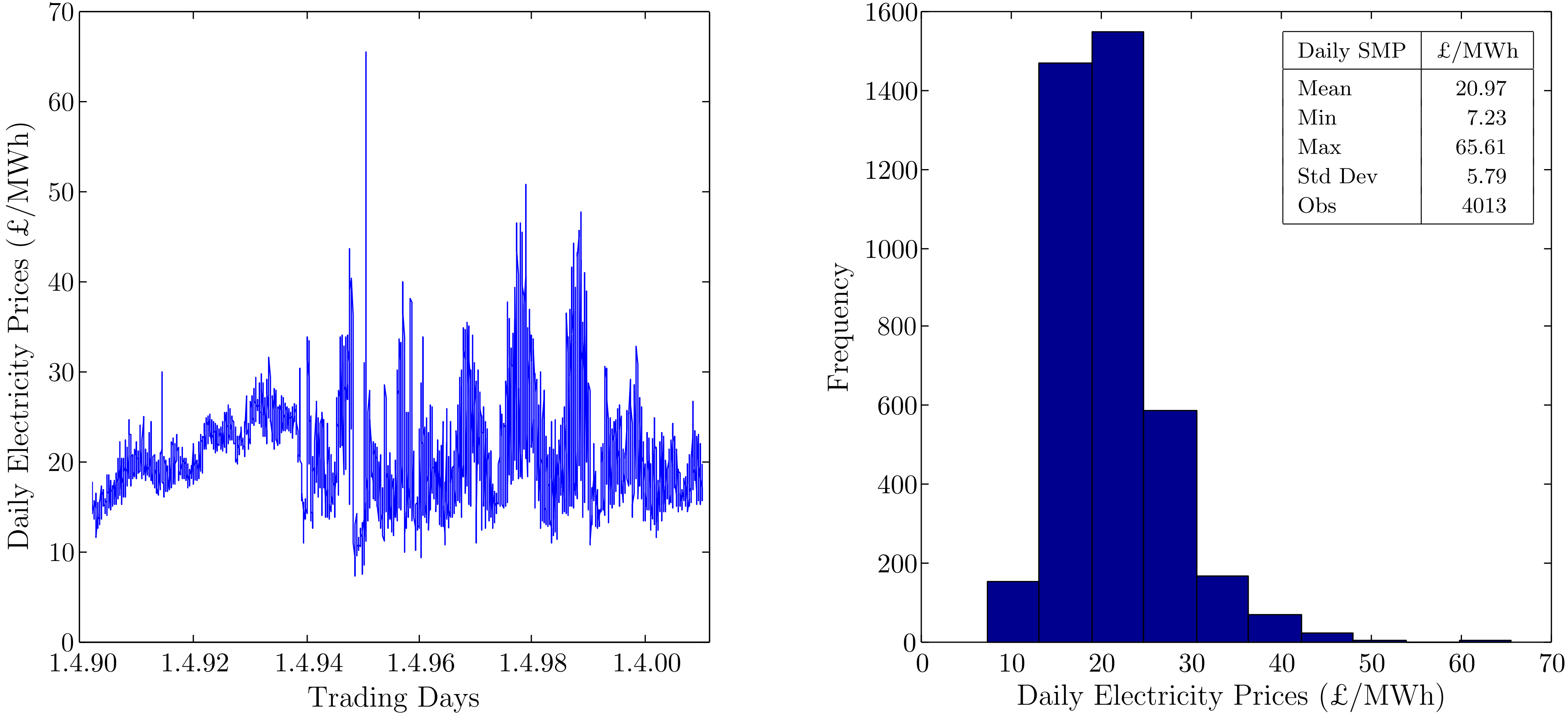
Fig. 2: *Description of the Electricity Industry in Great Britain*



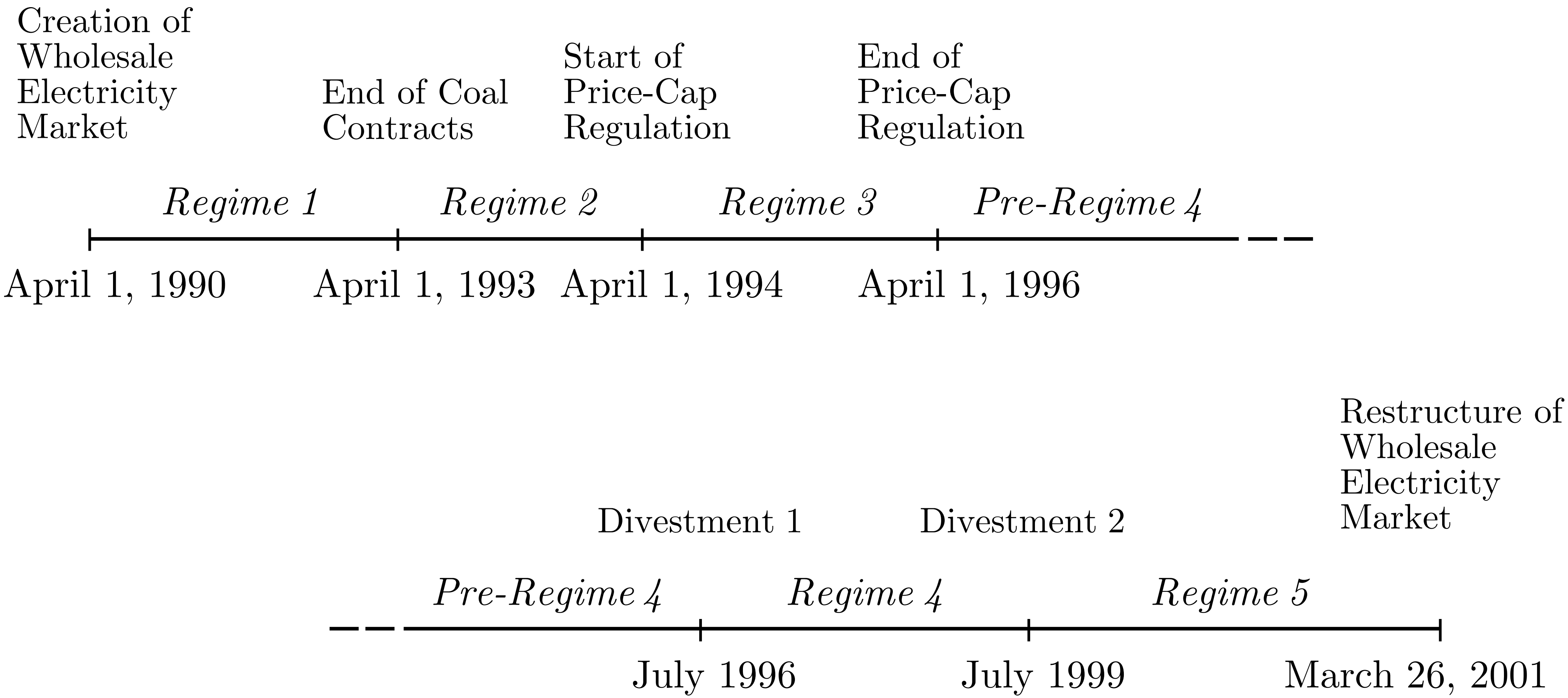
- The Key Question to Analyze Liberalization
  - Do liberalized markets drive price volatility?
- Case Study
  - Wholesale electricity market in England and Wales

- Motivation

Fig. 3: *Daily Electricity Prices (April 1, 1990–March 26, 2001)*



Institutional Changes and Regulatory Reforms



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Paper Estimating the Volatility of Electricity Prices

- Motivation

Policy Importance

- Price fluctuations:
  - uncertainty about revenues and costs
  - higher electricity prices for consumers

Research Question

- How did the institutional changes and regulatory reforms affect the dynamics of electricity prices during the liberalization process?

Research Approach

- stationarity and seasonality
- AR–$ARCH$ model with a smoothly time-varying intercept term

- Literature Review

  - **Crespo *et al.* (2004)**
    Hourly prices from the Leipzig Power Exchange (Jun. 16, 2000–Oct. 15, 2001)
    AR, $ARMA$ models: separate studies of each hour yielded better forecasts

  - **Guthrie and Videbeck (2007)**
    30-min prices from the New Zealand Electricity Market (Nov. 1, 1996–Apr. 30, 2005)
    Half-hourly trading periods naturally fall into 5 groups, which can be studied separately using a periodic AR model

  - **Huisman *et al.* (2007)**
    The Amsterdam Power Exchange (APX), the European Energy Exchange (EEX; Germany), and the Paris Power Exchange (PPX) for the year 2004
    Hourly electricity prices are treated as a panel in which hours represent cross-sectional units and days represent the time dimension. SUR is applied

- Literature Review (*cont.*)

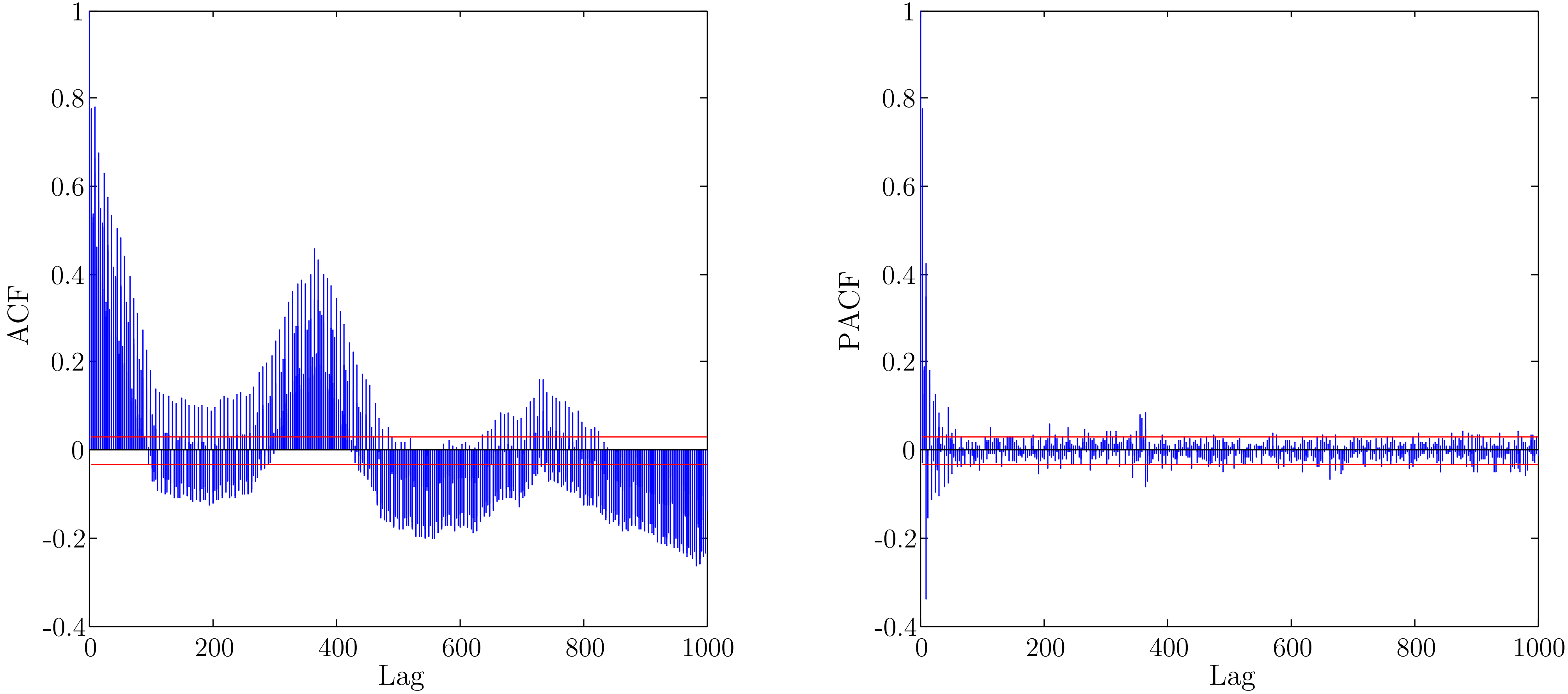
  - **Conejo *et al.* (2005)**
    PJM interconnection data for the year 2002
    Dynamic modeling is preferred to seasonal differencing

  - **Garcia *et al.* (2005)**
    Spanish and California electricity markets (Sept. 1, 1999–Nov. 30, 2000; Jan. 1, 2000–Dec. 31, 2000)
    GARCH model outperforms a general *ARIMA* model when volatility and price spikes are present

  - **Bosco *et al.* (2007)**
    Daily prices from the Italian wholesale electricity market
    Periodic *AR–GARCH* methodology

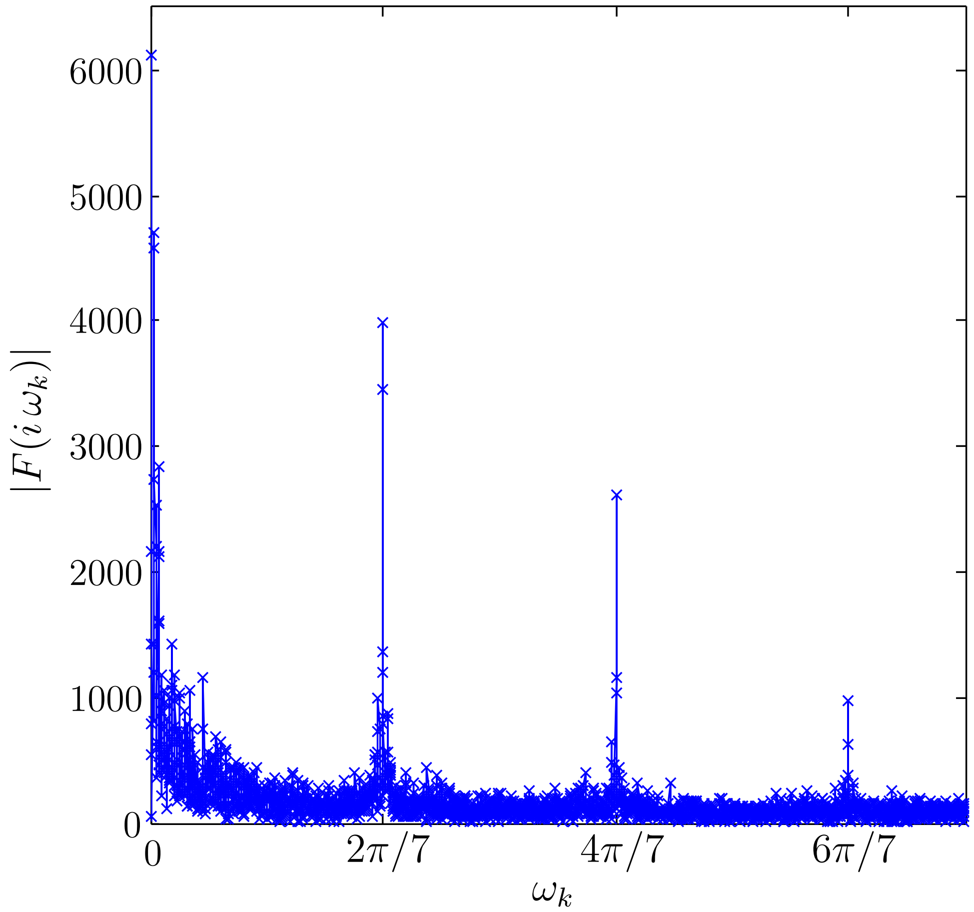
- Seasonality: Time Domain Analysis

Fig. 4: *Correlogram for Daily Electricity Prices*



- Seasonality: Frequency Domain Analysis

Fig. 5: *Periodogram for Daily Electricity Prices*



Paper **Estimating the Volatility of Electricity Prices**

- Regression Model

$$price_t = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{P} a_i \, price_{t-i} + z_t' \cdot \gamma + \varepsilon_t \quad (1)$$

$$h_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \alpha_i \, \varepsilon_{t-i}^2 + z_t' \cdot \delta \quad (2)$$

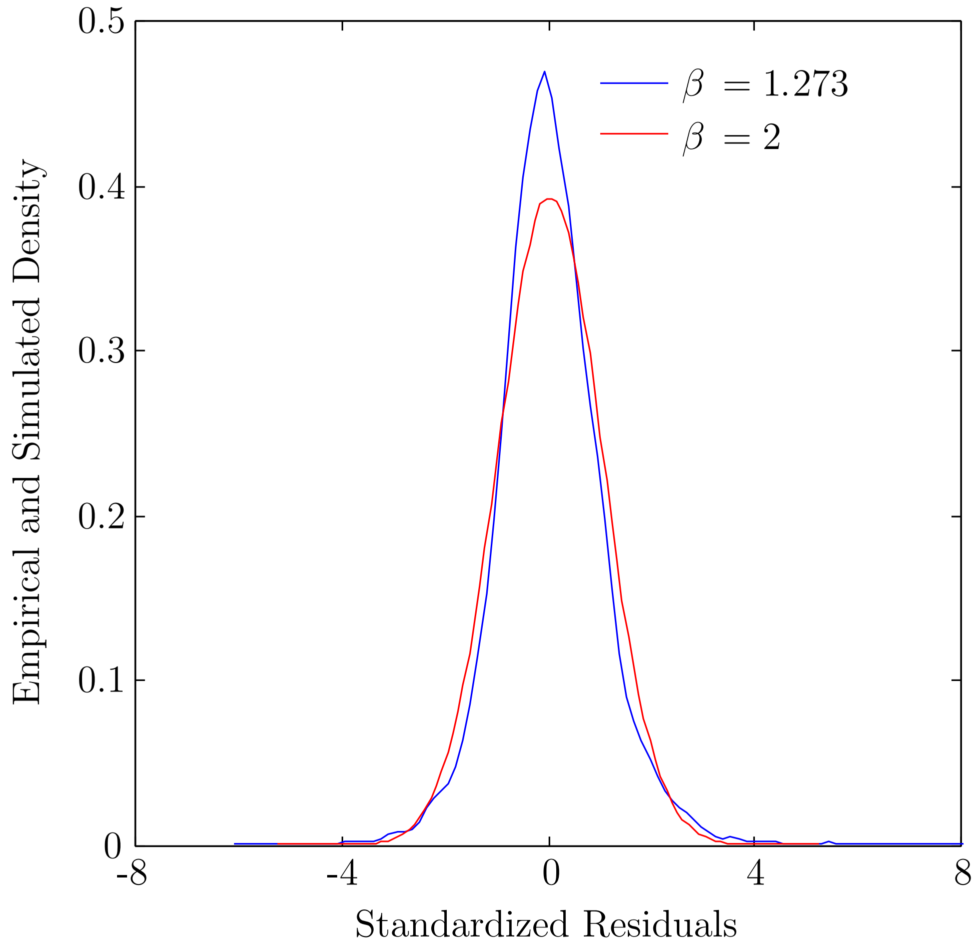
$$\nu_t = \frac{\varepsilon_t}{\sqrt{h_t}} \sim \text{Generalized Normal Distribution}, \quad (3)$$

where z_t is a vector of additional explanatory variables including the sine/cosine periodic functions and regime dummy variables.

- Methodological findings:
  - The sine/cosine periodic functions allow better modeling weekly seasonality
  - + and − shocks from the previous week are found to asymmetrically affect volatility

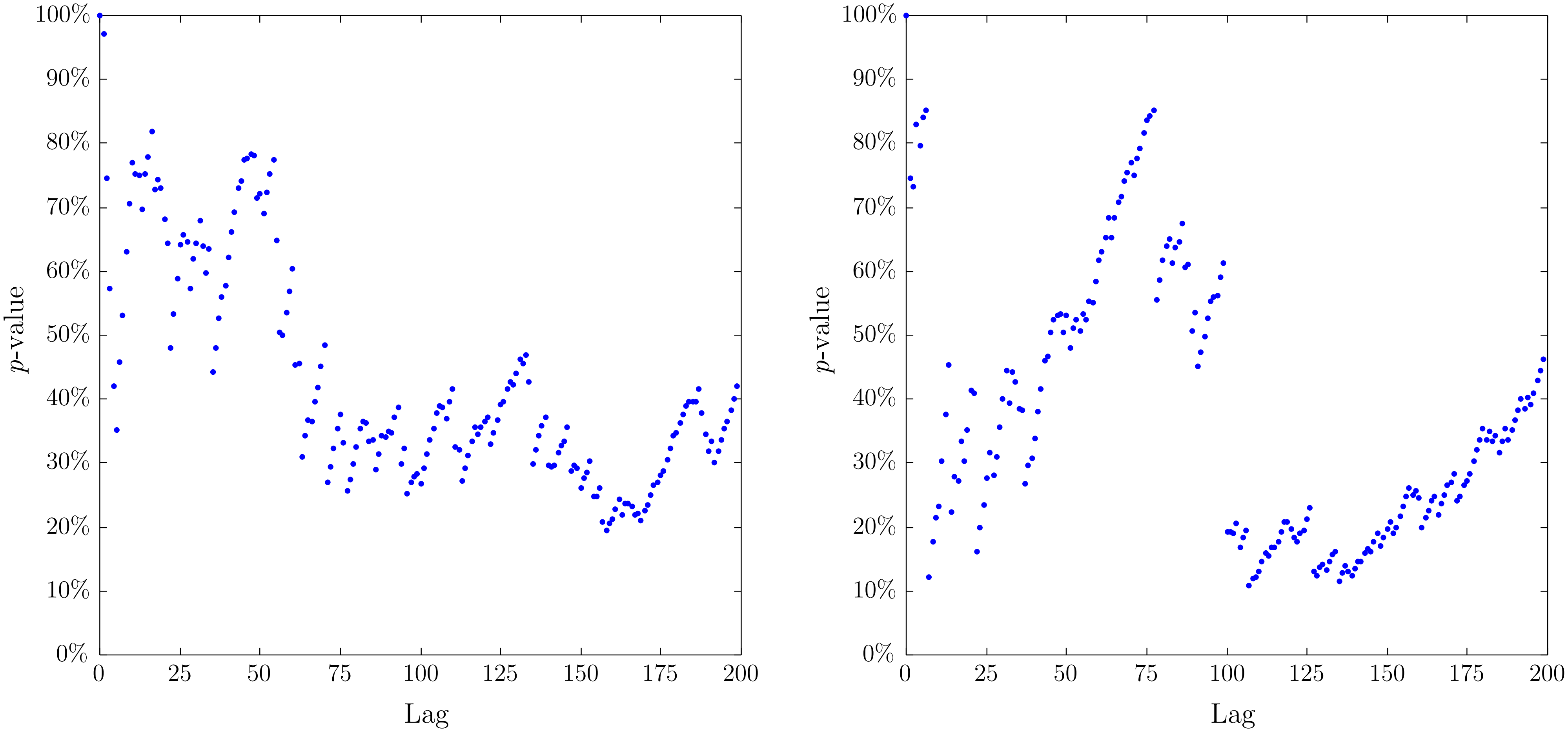
- Empirical Distribution

Fig. 6: *Density of* $\hat{\nu}_t$ *and the Normal Distribution*



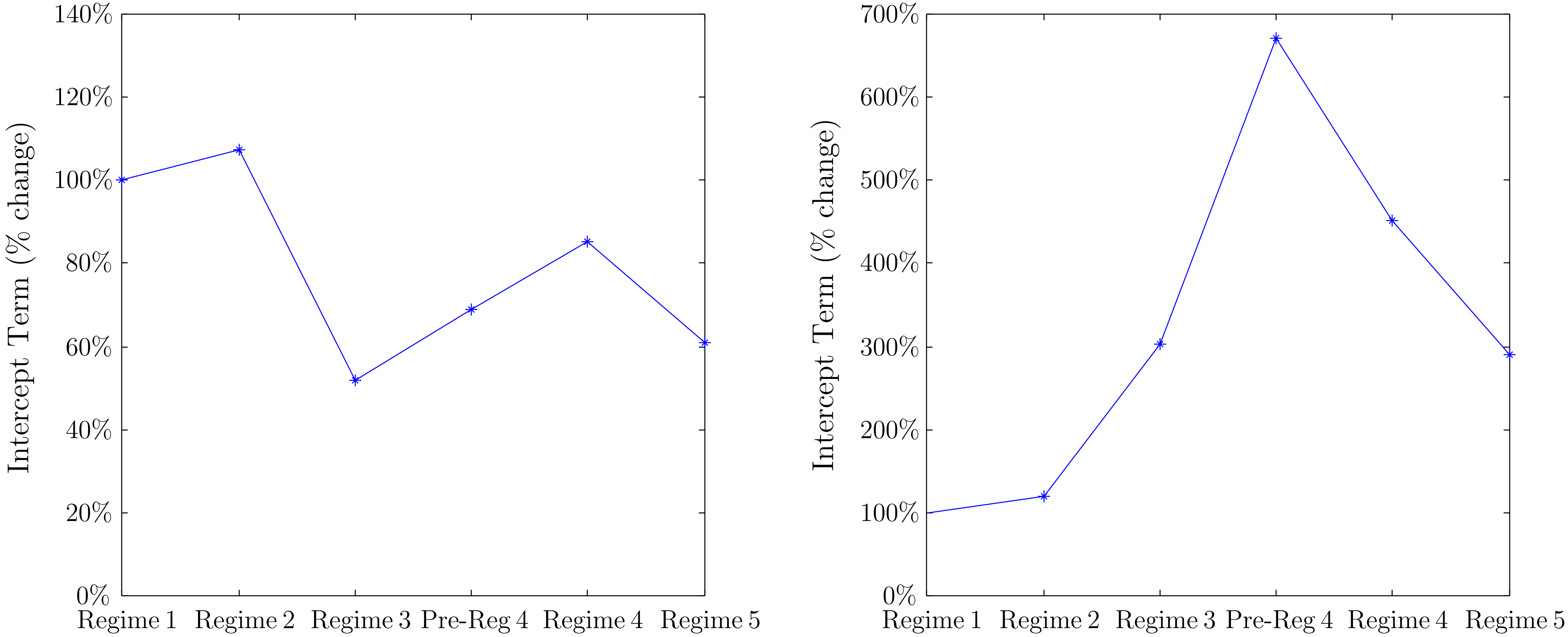
- Diagnostics of standardized residuals

Fig. 7: *Ljung–Box Q-Test for Standardized Residuals* $\hat{\nu}_t$ *and* $\hat{\nu_t^2}$



- Results

Fig. 8: *Impact on Price and Volatility Dynamics*



(a) Mean Equation

(b) Conditional Volatility Equation

Paper **Estimating the Volatility of Electricity Prices**

- Contributions

- Methodological contribution
  - Application of the sine and cosine periodic functions allow better modeling weekly seasonality
  - $+$ and $-$ shocks from the previous week are found to asymmetrically affect volatility

- Policy contribution
  - The price-cap regulation and first series of divestments are found to result in opposite directions for the movement in the price level and volatility
  - Higher price and lower volatility levels are interpreted as an indication of possible tacit collusion
  - During the last regime period it was possible to simultaneously decrease prices and volatility

Thank You

- Seasonality: Frequency Domain Analysis

The Fourier transform of a real-valued function $p(t)$ on the domain $[0,T]$ is defined as

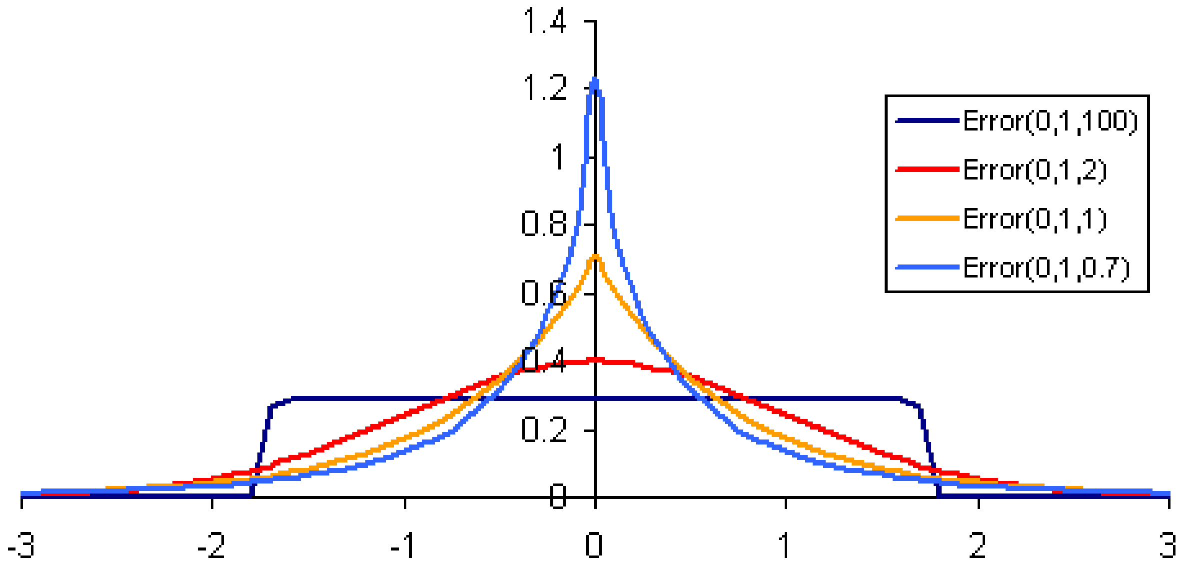
$$F(i\,\omega) = \mathcal{F}\{p(t)\} = \int_0^T p(t)\cdot e^{-i\omega t}\,dt$$

$$\begin{aligned}|F(i\,\omega_k)| \approx \left|\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} p_t \cdot e^{-i\omega_k t}\right| &= \left|\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} p_t \cdot (\cos\omega_k t - i\sin\omega_k t)\right| = \\ &= \left|\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} p_t \cdot \cos\omega_k t - i\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} p_t \cdot \sin\omega_k t\right| = \\ &= \left|(p_t, \cos\omega_k t) - i\,(p_t, \sin\omega_k t)\right| \longrightarrow \max_{\omega_k}\end{aligned}$$

where $\omega_k = \frac{k}{N-1}\cdot 2\pi$ and $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, N-1$.

- Generalized Normal Distribution

Fig. 9: *Generalized Normal Distribution for Different Values of the Shape Parameter β*



Notes:

Generalized Normal Distribution is also known as Generalized Error Distribution: Error(μ, σ, β). In our case we have $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma^2 = 1$. For the special cases of the shape parameter $\beta = 1$, $\beta = 2$, and $\beta \to +\infty$ we obtain Laplace, Standard Normal, and Uniform distributions, respectively.