

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Jürgen Mimkes, Physics Department, Paderborn University, Germany  
Geoffrey M. Willis, S. Elmsall, W. Yorkshire, UK

Coworkers: Mario Hillebrand, Christian Denk, Thorsten Fründ, Stefan Kallerhoff

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Introduction

Lagrange Principle in Many Particle Systems

Interpretation of the Lagrange Principle

Application of the Lagrange Principle

Coworkers: Mario Hillebrand, Christian Denk, Thorsten Fründ, Stefan Kallerhoff

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Introduction

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Lagrange principle = statistics with constraints = Gibbs free energy

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Lagrange principle = statistics with constraints = Gibbs free energy

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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**Surface of brass (Cu Zn)**

**Binary system of  
copper and zinc**

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**Surface of brass (Cu Zn)**

**Binary system of  
copper and zinc**

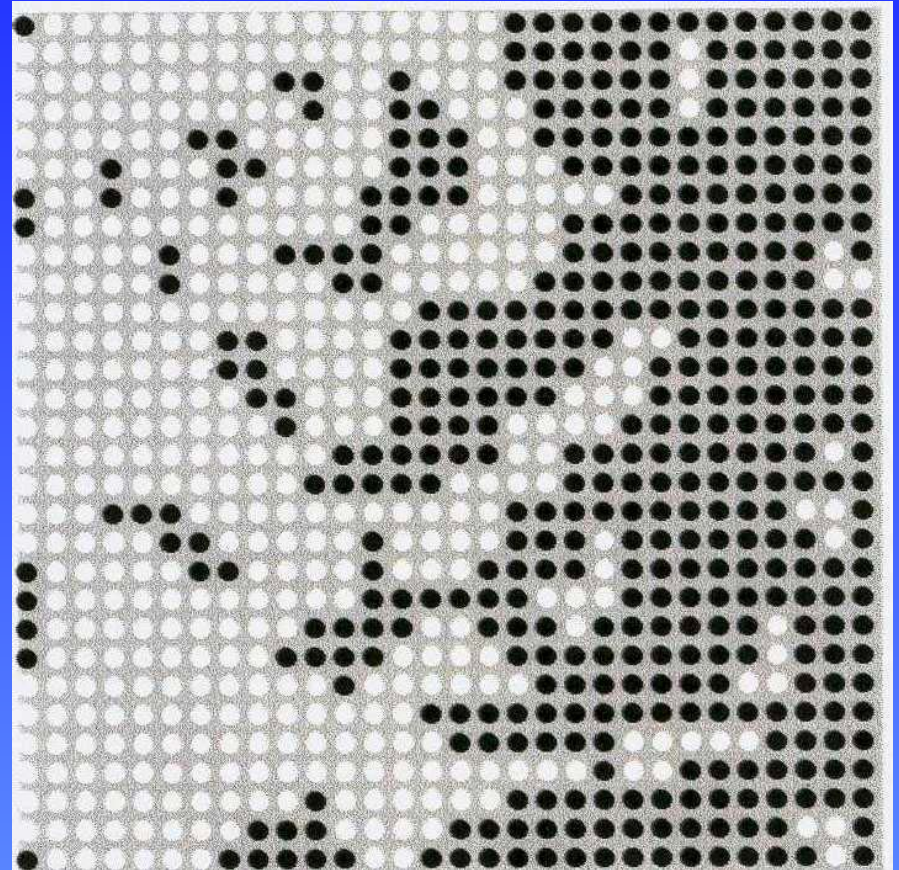


**Map of Bosnia 1991**

**Binary system of  
Serbs and Non Serbs (Bosnians, Croats)**

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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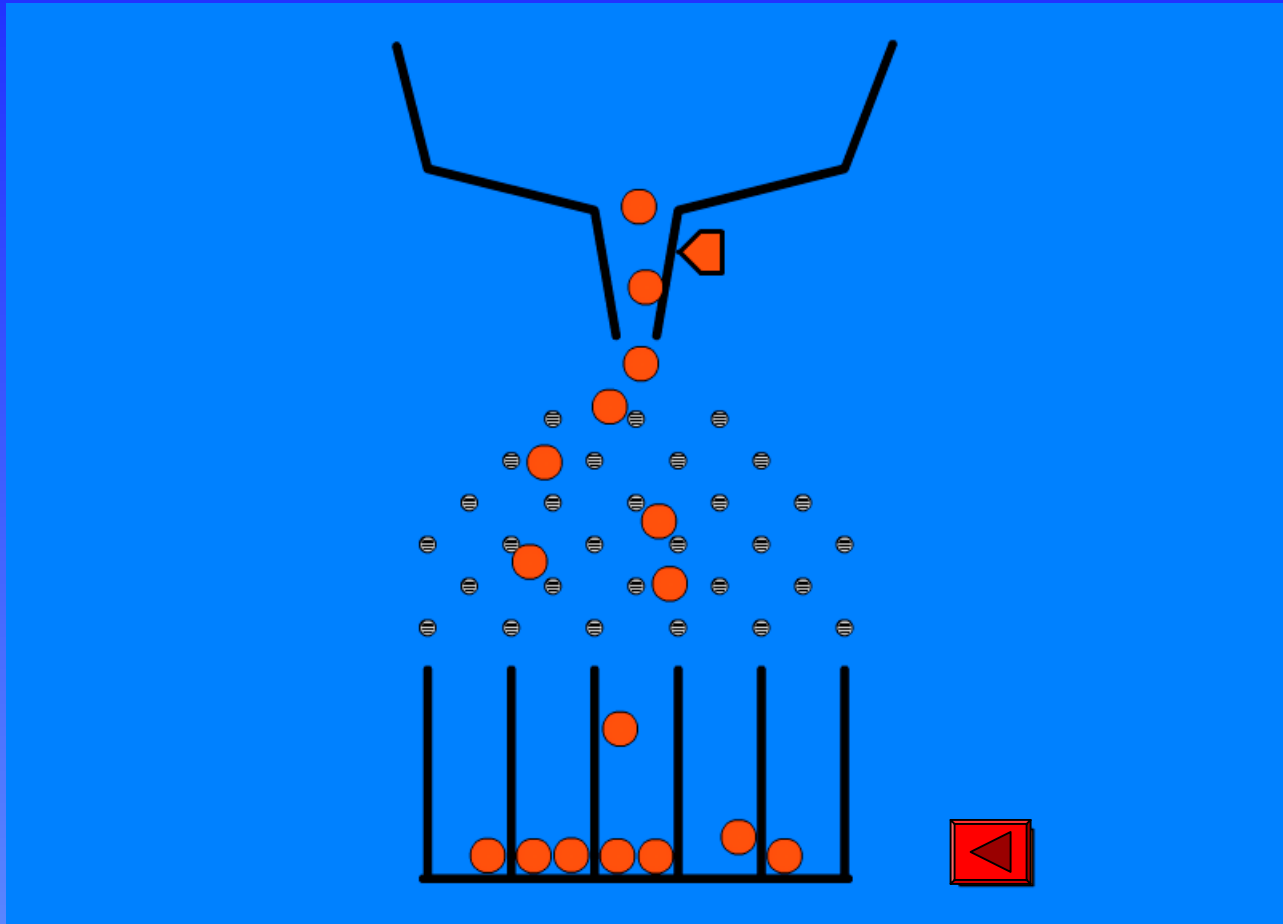
Simulation



# Lagrange Principle in Many Particle Systems

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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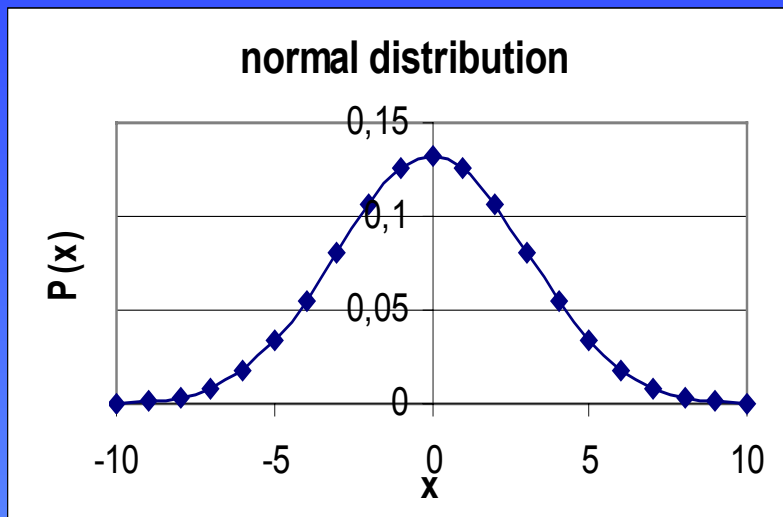


# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Mathematics of stochastic systems

### Normal distribution



$$P(l, r) = N! / (N_l! N_r! 2^N) \rightarrow \max!$$

$$P(x) = (1/\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma) e^{-x^2 / 2 \sigma^2}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2} (N_r - N_l)$$

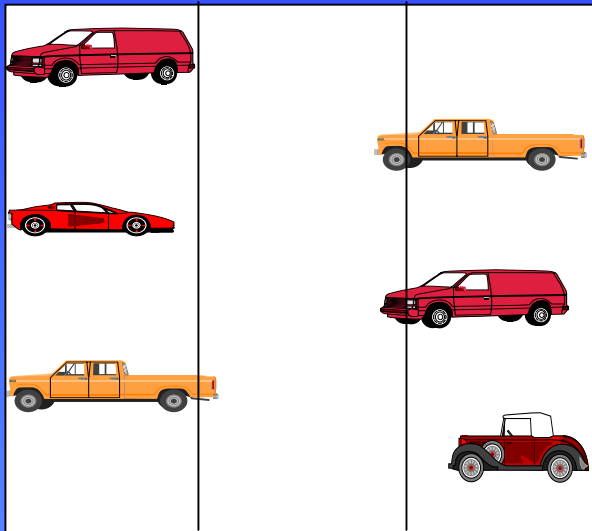
$$\sigma = 1 / \sqrt{N}$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability

$$P(N_l; N_r) = \frac{N!}{N_l! N_r!} \frac{1}{2^N}$$



$P = 31,25 \%$



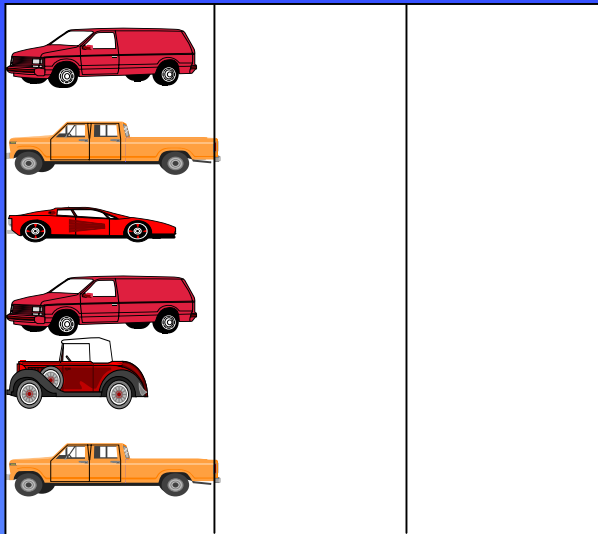
most probable distribution

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability

$$P(N_l; N_r) = \frac{N!}{N_l! N_r!} \frac{1}{2^N}$$



$P = 1,56 \%$



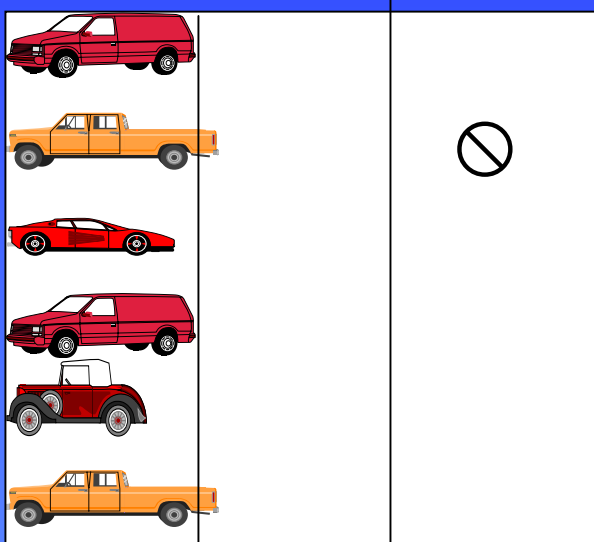
most improbable distribution

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## Probability with constraints

$$P = ?$$



$$P = 100 \% ?$$



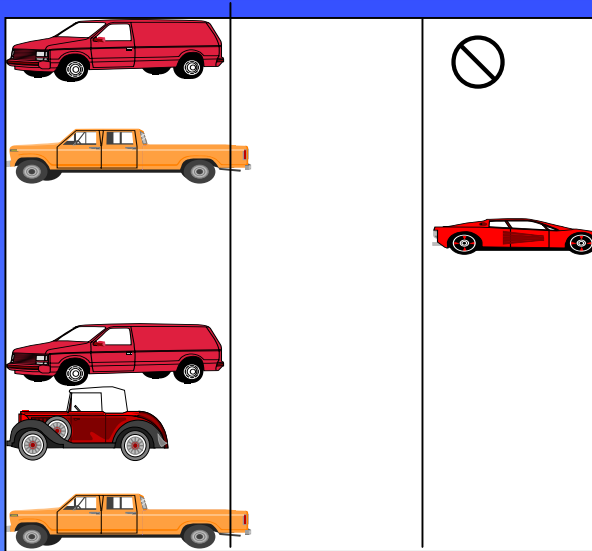
most probable distribution

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability with constraints

$$P = ?$$



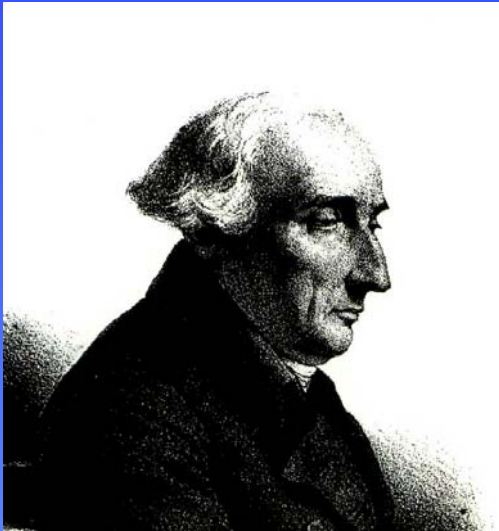
defect distribution

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability with constraints (Lagrange Principle)

$$L = E + T * \ln P \rightarrow \text{maximum!}$$



Joseph de Lagrange  
(1736 – 1813)

$L$  : Lagrange function

$P$  : Probability

$E$  : constraint: ( $\otimes$ ), fine

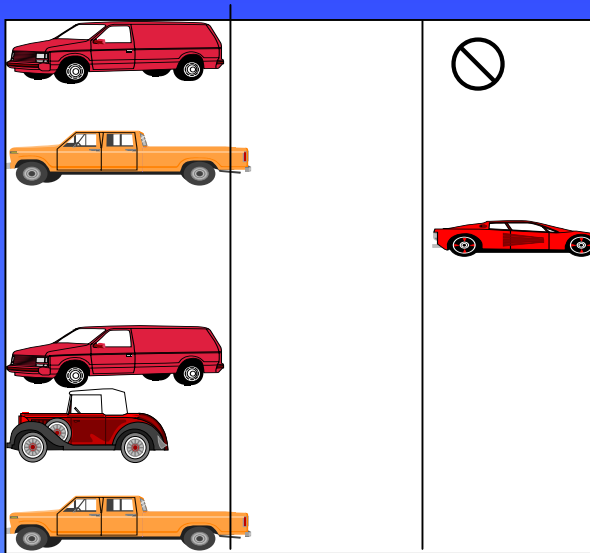
$T$  : Lagrange parameter

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability with constraints

$$L = E + T * \ln P \rightarrow \text{maximum!}$$



(Boltzmann)

Equilibrium:

$$L = N_r E + T \ln (N! / N_l! N_r!) = \max$$

$$x_r = N_r / N (= 1 / 6)$$

$$L = -N \{ x_r E + T (x_l \ln x_l + x_r \ln x_r) \} = \max$$

$$\partial L / \partial x_r = -N T \{ \ln x_r + 1 + E/T \} = 0$$

$$T \{ \ln x_r + 1 + E/T \} = 0$$

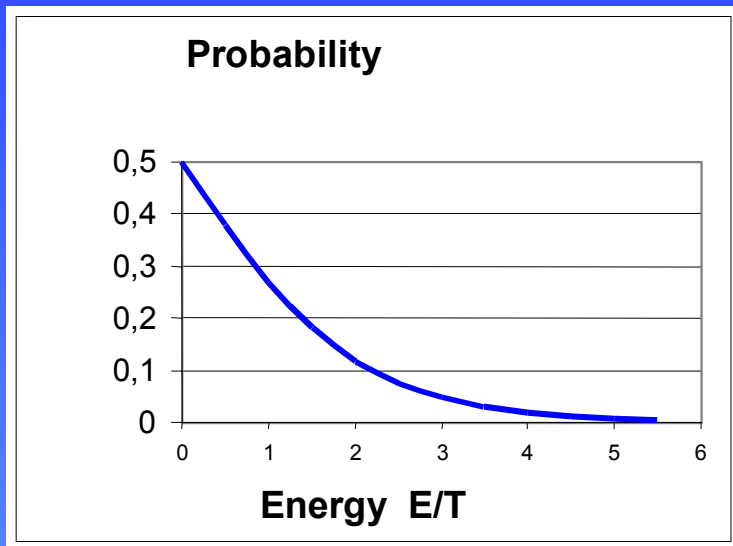
$$x_r = A \exp \{ - E / T \}$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Probability with constraints

$$x_r = A \exp (- E / T)$$



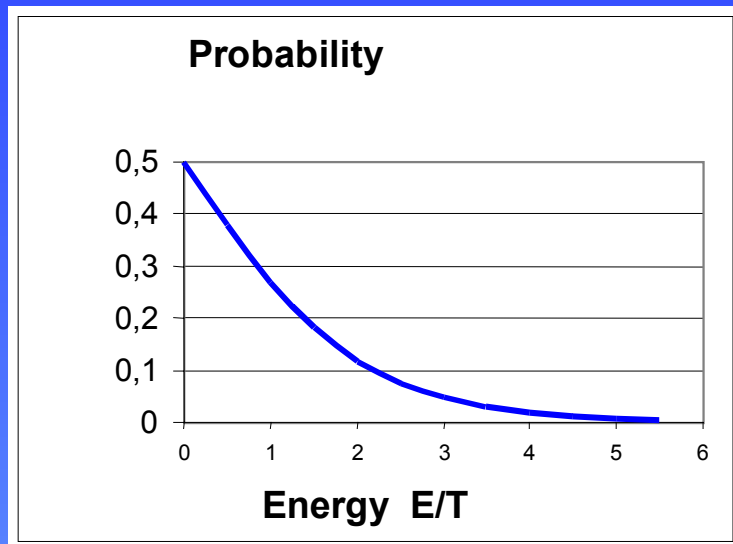
Boltzmann distribution  
of defects

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

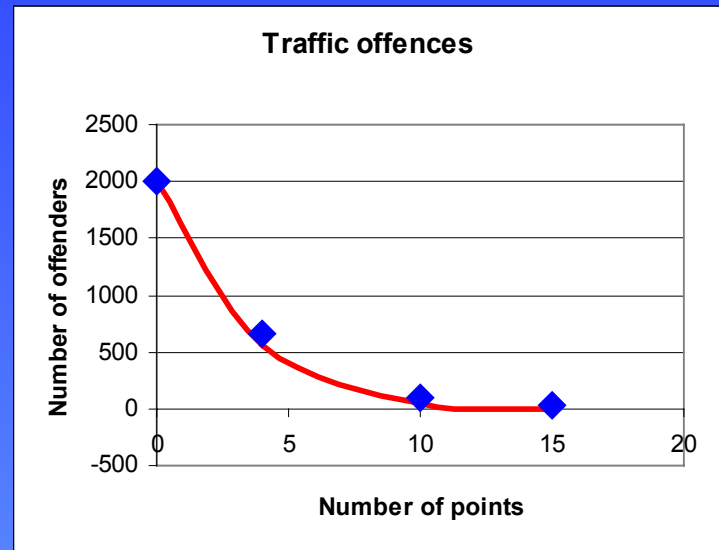
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## Probability with constraints

$$x_r = A \exp(-E/T)$$



Boltzmann distribution  
of defects



Distribution of traffic violations  
German Traffic Department 2000

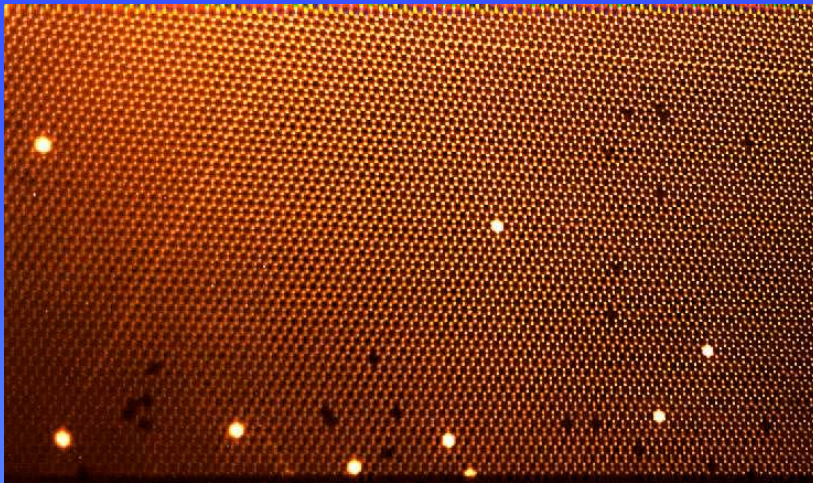
# Application of the Lagrange Principle

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Natural science

$$L = E \text{ (order)} + T \bullet \ln P \text{ (disorder)} \rightarrow \text{maximum!}$$



T small : order (solid)



T large : disorder (liquid)

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Society

$$L = E(\text{order}) + T \bullet \ln P(\text{disorder}) \rightarrow \text{maximum!}$$



T small : Order (improbable)



T large : disorder (probable)

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Literature, information:

$$L = E(\text{order}) + T \bullet \ln P / P_E(\text{disorder}) \rightarrow \text{maximum!}$$

Ben Jonson (1572–1637)

Drink to me only with thine eyes  
and I will pledge with mine,  
or leave a kiss but on the cup  
and I'll not ask for wine.

T small : order (correct)

Be nfo nson( 1 57 2–1 6 37)

D rinktom eon lywi thth ineeyes  
an ddu illpl edgew ithmi ne,  
orle avea ki ssbu tont hecup  
a ndd'l lno task forwi ne.

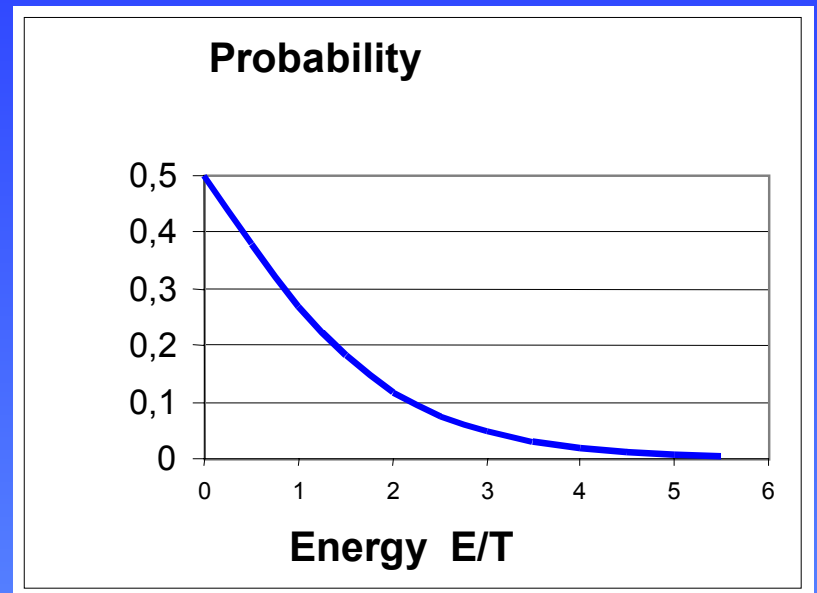
T large: chaos (incorrect)

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Distribution of energy:

$$x = A \exp (- E / T)$$



Distribution of energy in gases:

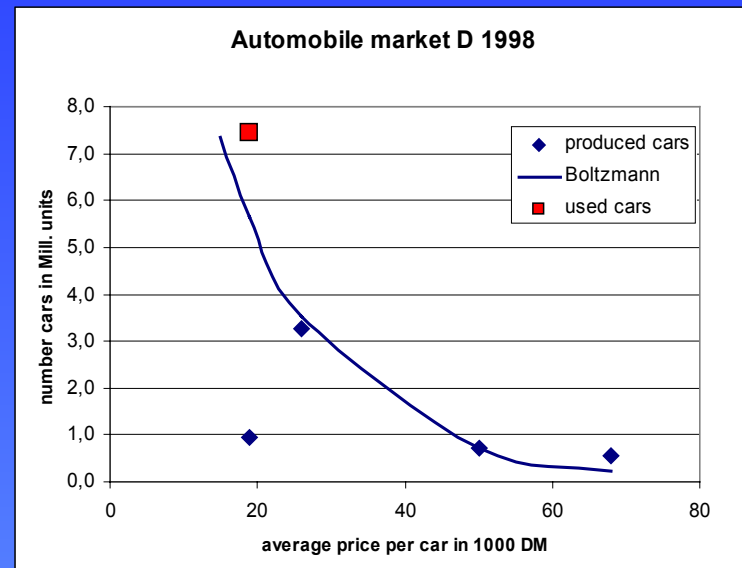
Number of atoms per energy class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Distribution of prices:

$$x = A \exp (- E / T)$$



Distribution of prices in free markets:

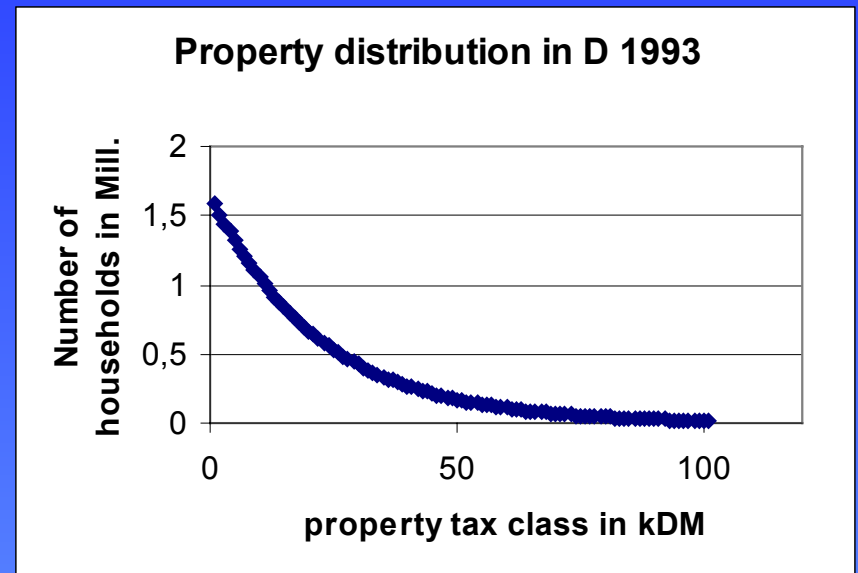
Number of cars per tax class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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Distribution of Wealth:

$$x = A \exp (- E / T)$$



Distribution of Wealth in free societies: Number of households per property class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

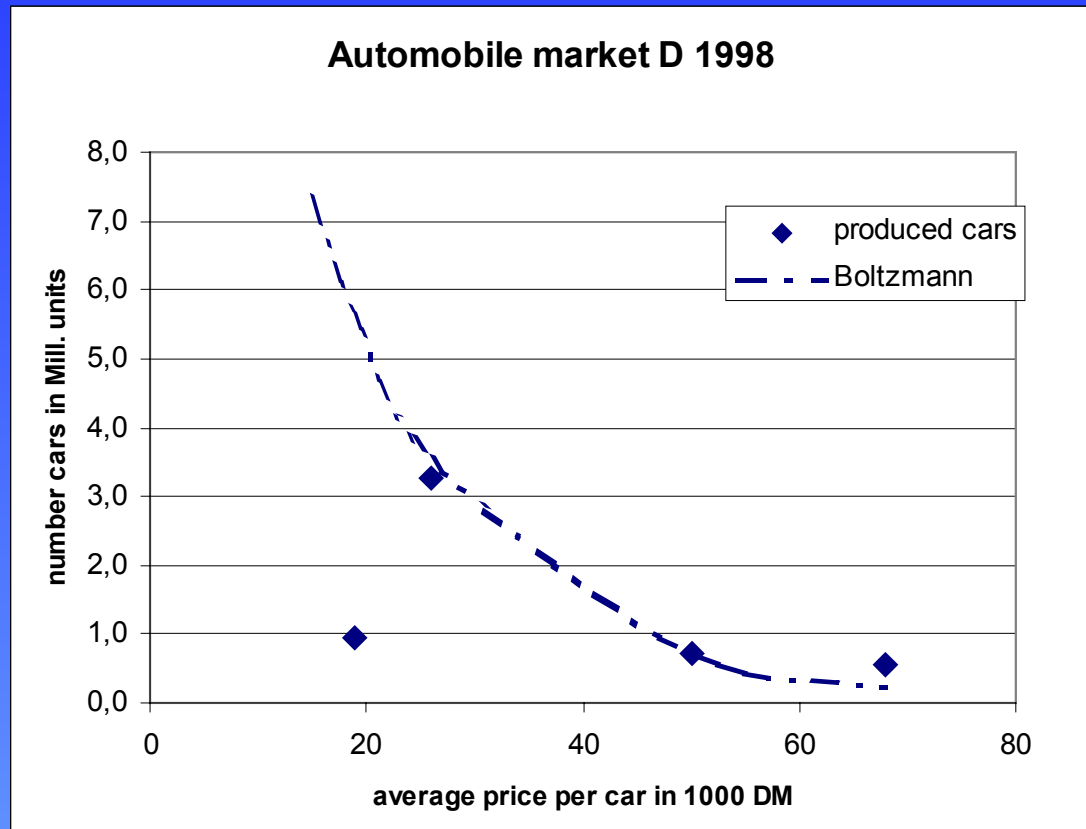
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**German automobile market 1998**       $x_s = A \exp (- P / T) ?$

Produced cars 1998

| <u>price</u><br><u>in kDM</u> | <u>units</u><br><u>in 1000</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19                            | 940                            |
| 26                            | 3250                           |
| 50                            | 720                            |
| <u>68</u>                     | <u>540</u>                     |
|                               | 5,45 Mill.                     |

Boltzmann  
distribution?



# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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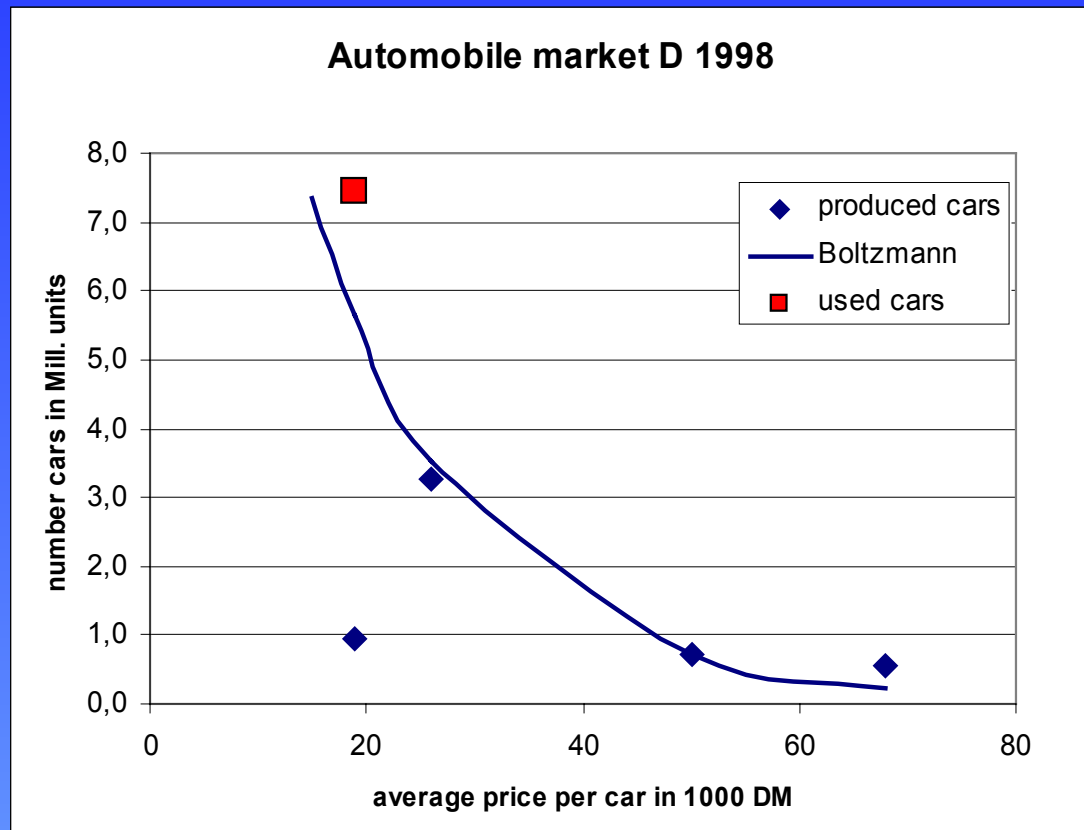
**German automobile market 1998**       $x_s = A \exp (- P / T) ?$

## Produced cars 1998

| <u>price</u><br><u>in kDM</u> | <u>units</u><br><u>in 1000</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19                            | 940                            |
| 26                            | 3250                           |
| 50                            | 720                            |
| <u>68</u>                     | <u>540</u>                     |
|                               | 5,45 Mill.                     |

## Flensburg:

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| new   | 3,75 Mill.  |
| used  | 7,45 Mill   |
| total | 11,20 Mill. |



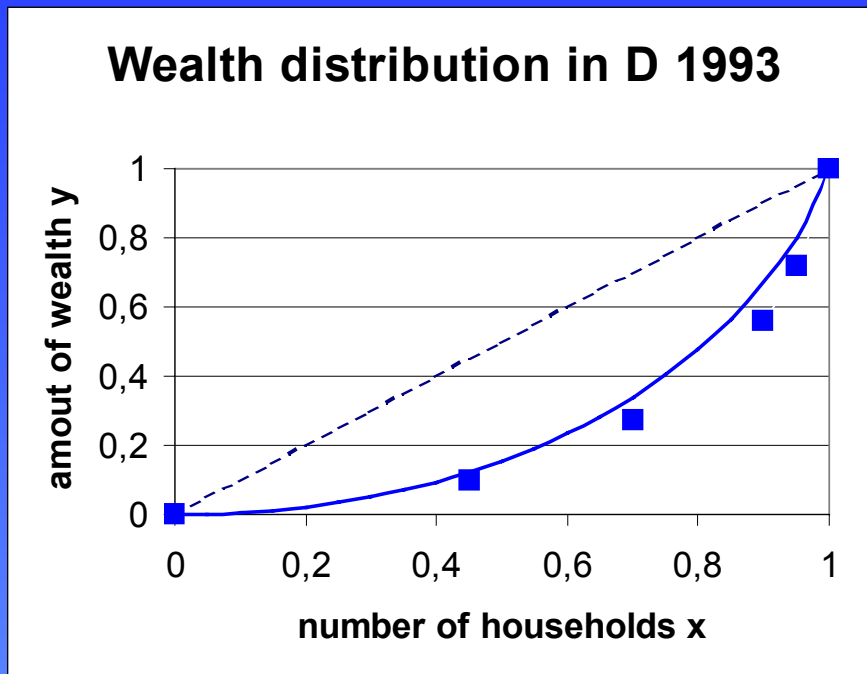
# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

## Lorenz distribution of wealth in Germany 1993 (DIW)



Property distribution in Germany 1993 (DIW estimated)

|                             |      |          |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|
| Total property              | 9920 | Bill. DM |
| Number of households        | 35,6 | Mill.    |
| Mean property per household | 278  | kDM / Hh |

| Property class x in<br>kDM | Number N of Hh<br>in % | Property K of Hh<br>in % |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| =0                         | 1,5                    | 0                        |
| <100                       | 44,5                   | 9,5                      |
| 100-250                    | 24,7                   | 17,6                     |
| 250-500                    | 20,3                   | 28,1                     |
| 500-1000                   | 6,3                    | 16,8                     |
| >1000                      | 2,7                    | 28                       |

$$y_{\text{Boltzmann}} = x + (1-x) \ln (1-x)$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Distribution of wealth in Germany 1993 (DIW)

$N(k)$ :

number of Hh in class  $k$

$K(k)$ :

amount of capital in class  $k$

$$y(a) = \int_0^a K(k)dk / \int_0^\infty K(k)dk$$

$$x(a) = \int_0^a N(k)dk / \int_0^\infty N(k)dk$$

$$N(k) = A \exp(-k / T)$$

Boltzmann distribution

$$y(x) = x + (1 - x) \ln(1 - x)$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Boltzmann distribution of wealth for Germany 1993 (DIW)

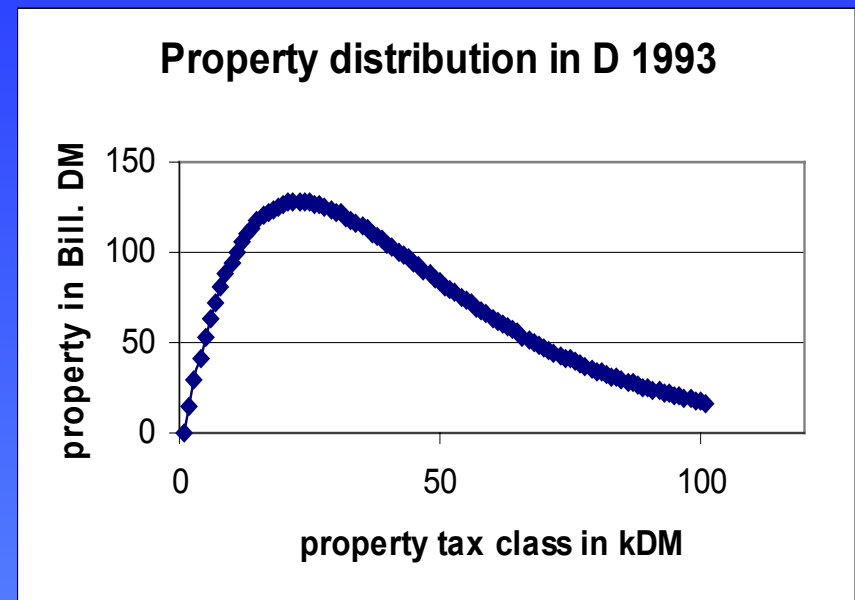
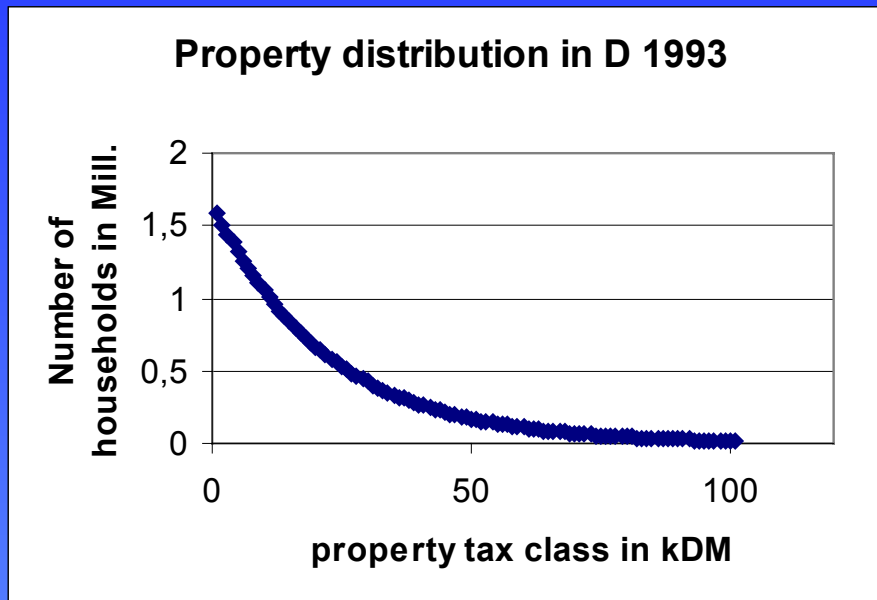
$$\begin{array}{ll} N(k) = A \exp(-k / T) & \text{number of Hh in class } k \\ K(k) = A k \exp(-k / T) & \text{amount of capital in class } k \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} N = \int N(k) dk = A T = 36 \text{ Mill. Hh} \\ K = \int k N(k) dk = A T^2 = 10 \text{ Trill. DEM} \\ T = K / N = 278.000 \text{ DEM / Hh} \end{array}$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Comparing Boltzmann to DIW wealth data for Germany 1993



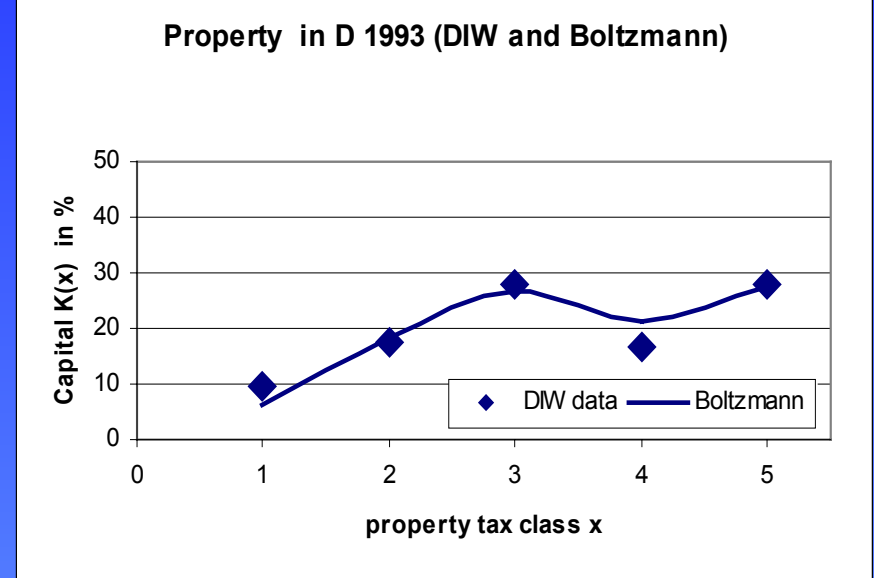
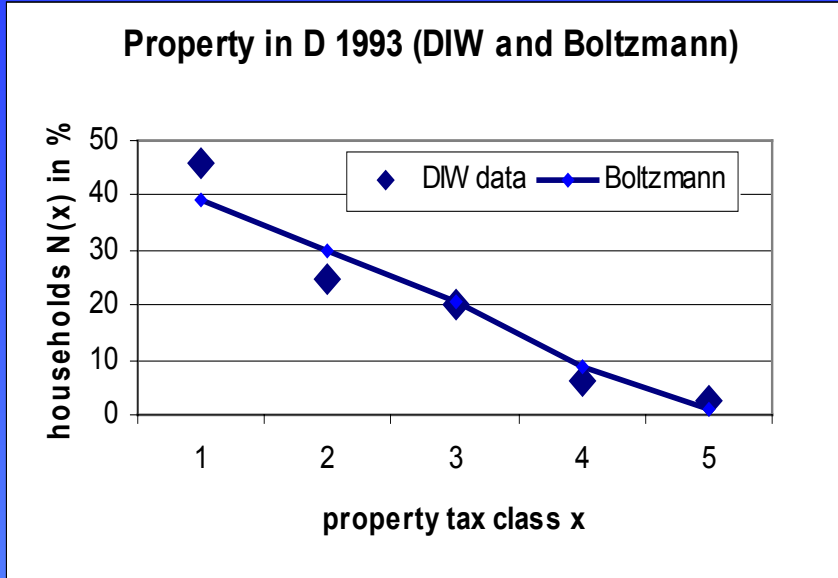
$$N(k) = (N_0/T) \exp(-k/T)$$
$$\int N(k) dk = N_0 = 35,6 \text{ Mill. Hh}$$

$$K(k) = k (N_0/T) \exp(-k/T)$$
$$\int K(k) dk = N_0 T = K_0 = 9,9 \text{ Trill DM}$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Comparing Boltzmann to DIW wealth data for Germany 1993



$$N(k) = (N_0/T) \exp(-k/T)$$

$$\int N(k) dk = N_0 = 35,6 \text{ Mill. Hh}$$

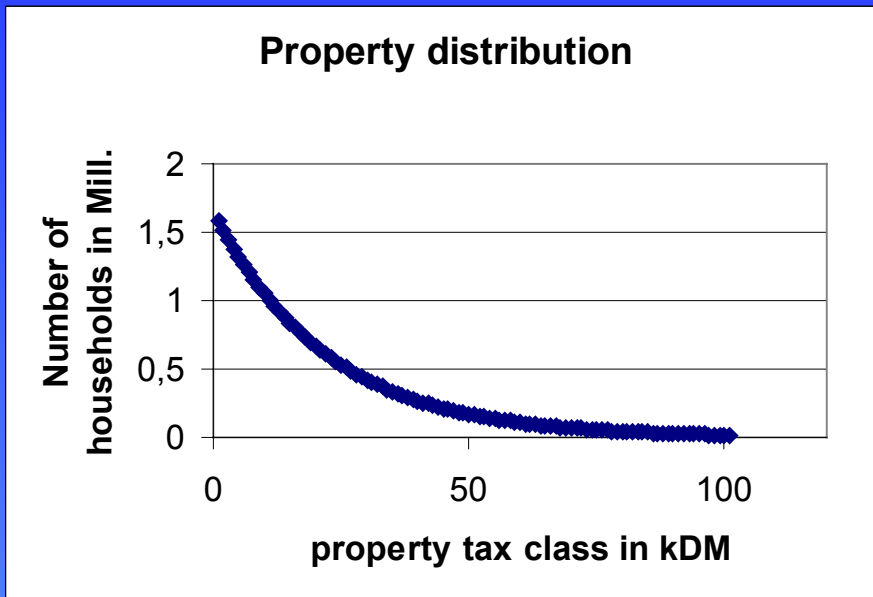
$$K(k) = x (N_0/T) \exp(-k/T)$$

$$\int K(k) dk = N_0 T = K_0 = 9,9 \text{ Trill DM}$$

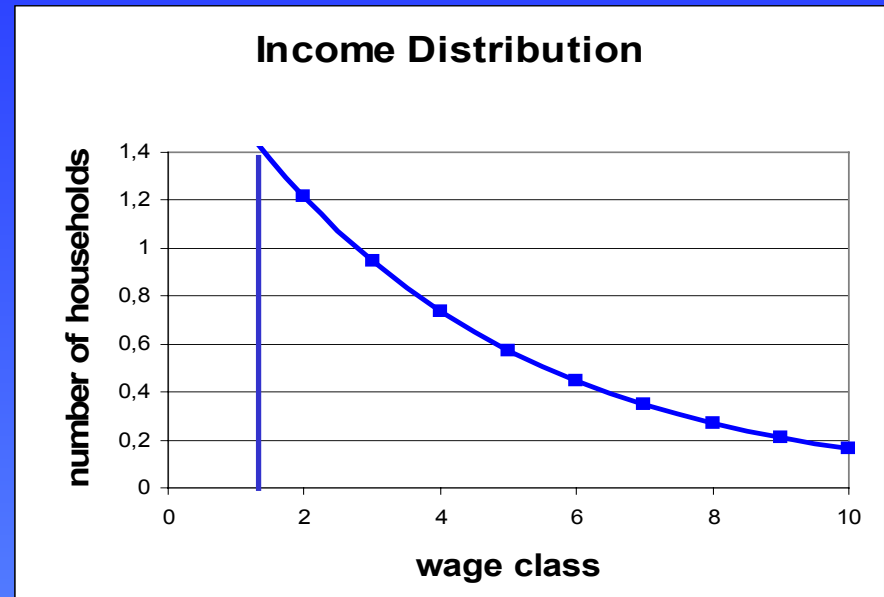
# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Comparing Wealth to Income



Distribution of wealth

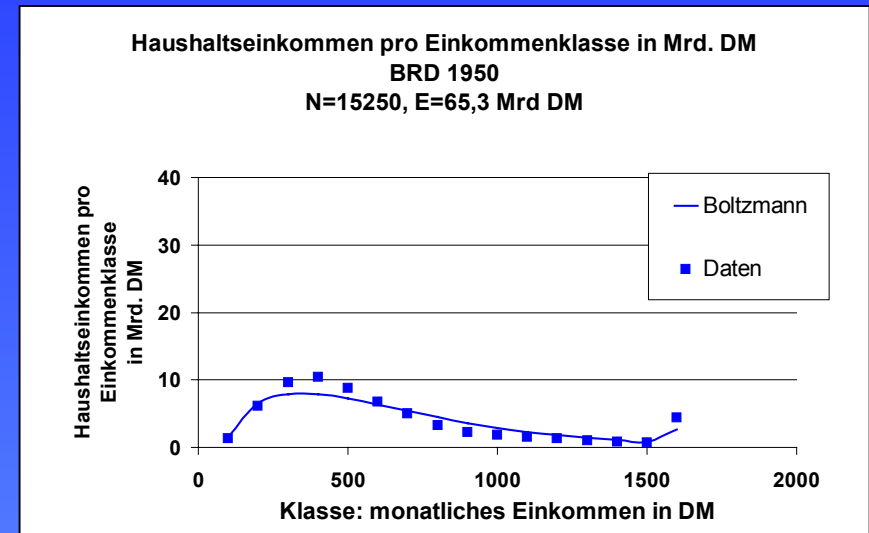
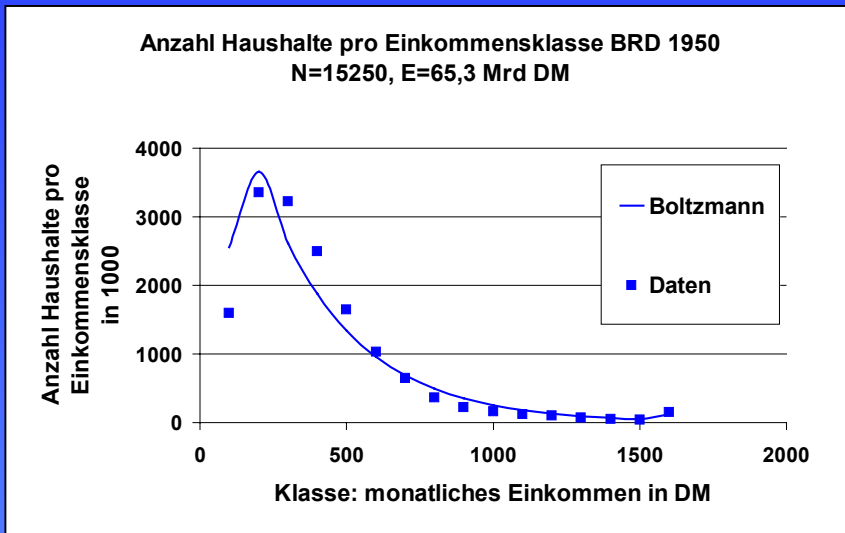


Distribution of income

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1950                             | Data               | Boltzmann          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | <b>15250</b>       | <b>15250</b>       |
| K (Total income)                 | <b>65,3 Mrd DM</b> | <b>74,6 Mrd DM</b> |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 - 1975



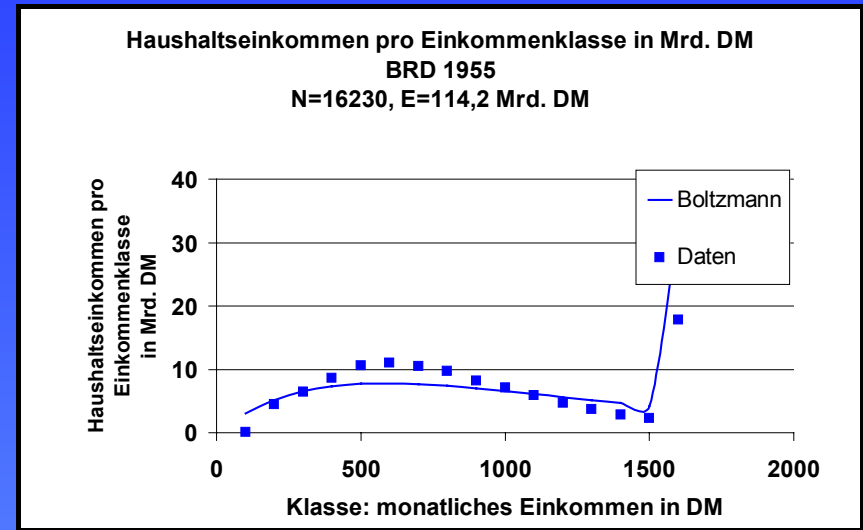
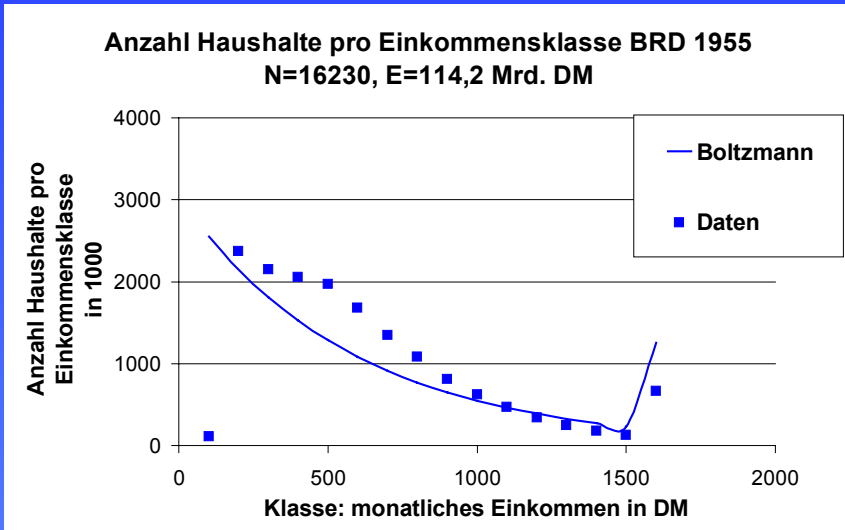
Number of households per income class

Income per income class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1955                             | Data         | Boltzmann  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | 16230        | 16230      |
| K (Total income)                 | 114,2 Mrd DM | 124 Mrd DM |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 - 1975



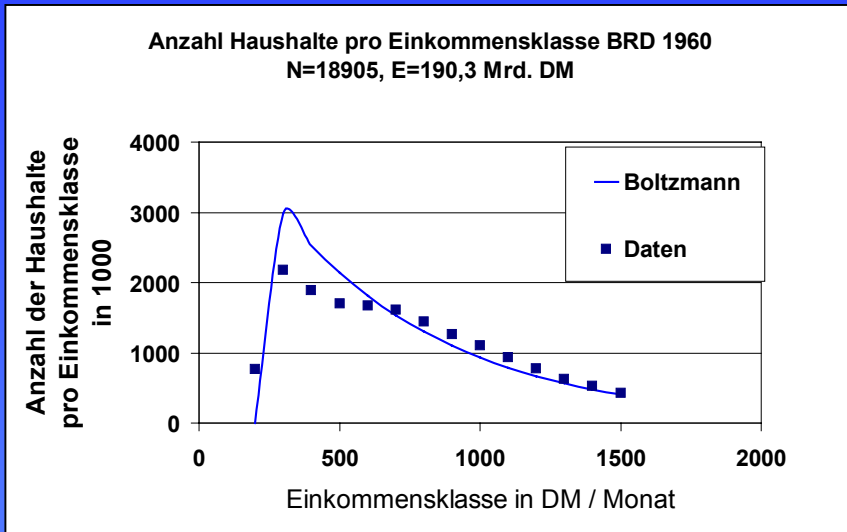
Number of households per income class

Income per income class

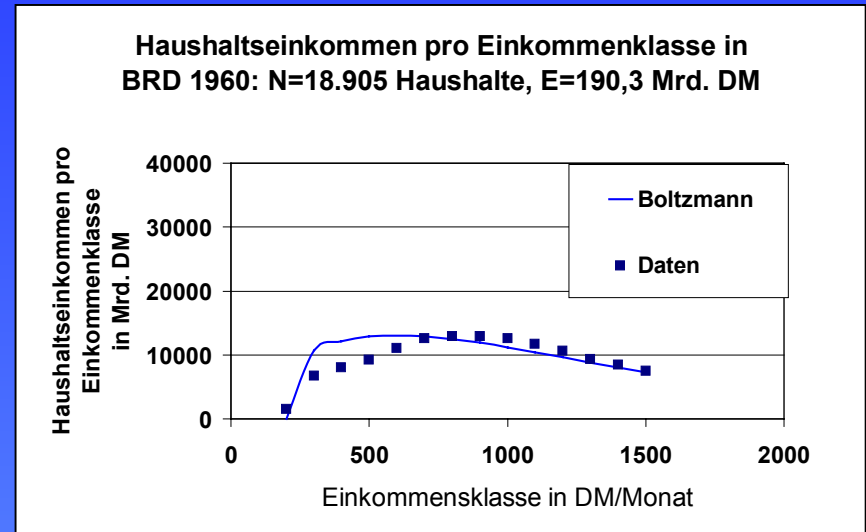
# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1960                             | Data              | Boltzmann         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | <b>18905</b>      | <b>19470</b>      |
| K (Total income)                 | <b>190 Mrd DM</b> | <b>198 Mrd DM</b> |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 - 1975



Number of households per income class

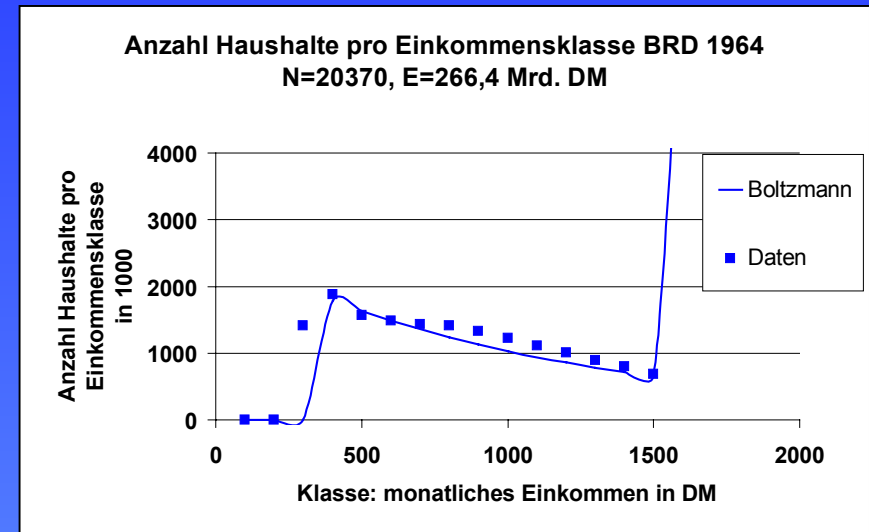
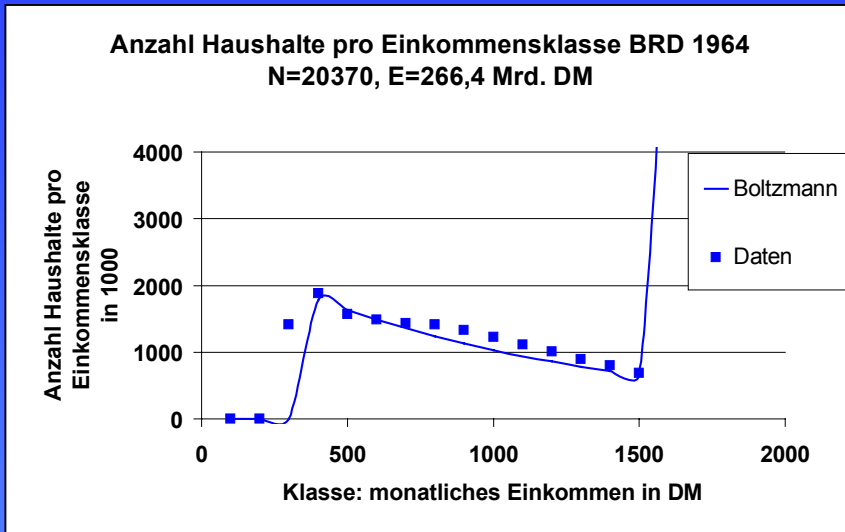


Income per income class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1964                             | Data                | Boltzmann           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | <b>20370</b>        | <b>20369</b>        |
| K (Total income)                 | <b>266,4 Mrd DM</b> | <b>351,8 Mrd DM</b> |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 – 1975



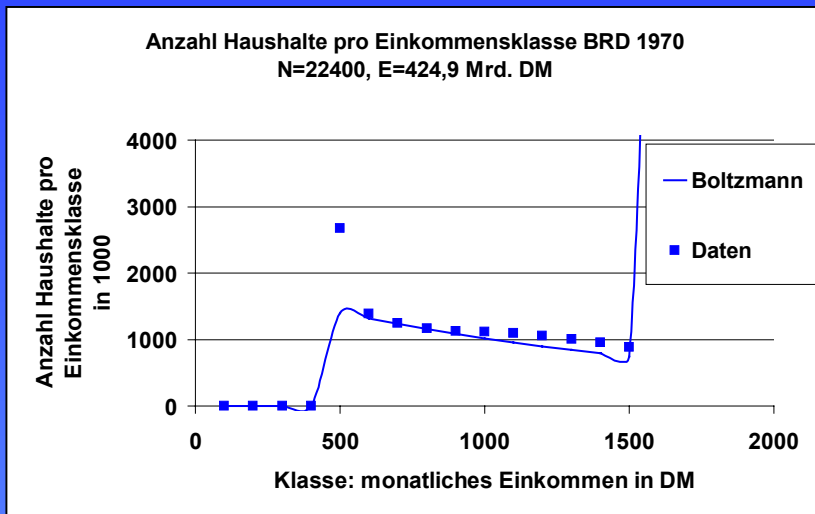
Number of households per income class

Income per income class

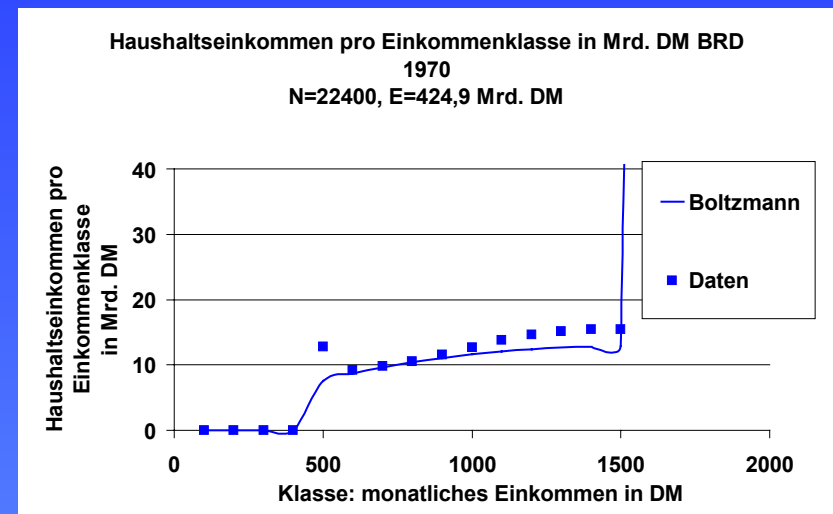
# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1970                             | Data         | Boltzmann    |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | 22400        | 22367        |
| K (Total income)                 | 424,9 Mrd DM | 567,8 Mrd DM |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 - 1975



Number of households per income class

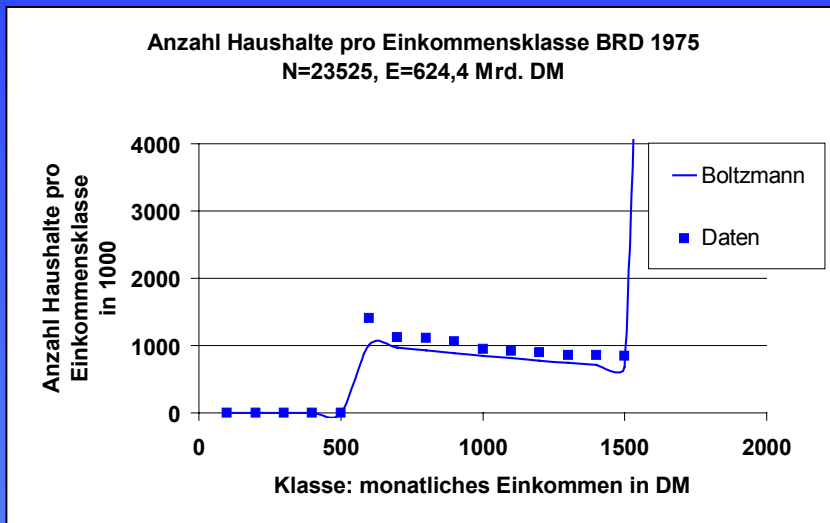


Income per income class

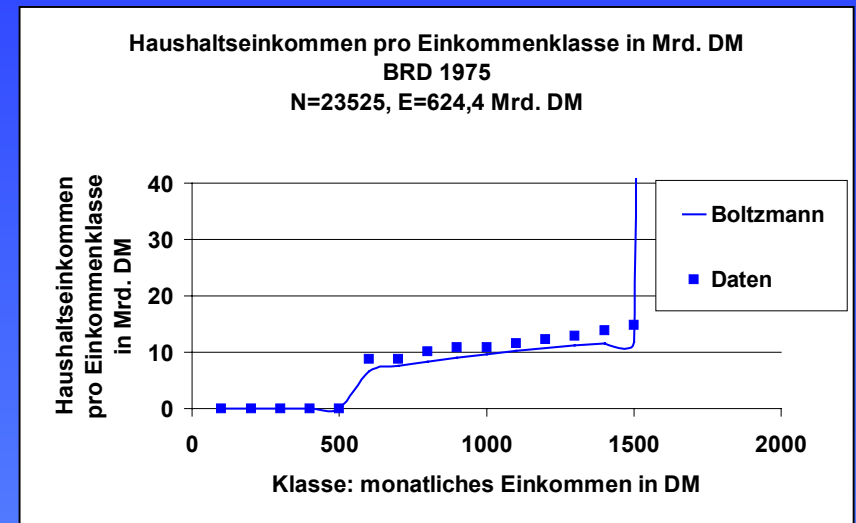
# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

| 1975                             | Data         | Boltzmann    |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| N (Number of households in 1000) | 23525        | 23270        |
| K (Total income)                 | 624,4 Mrd DM | 757,6 Mrd DM |

G. Göseke, Verteilung und Schichtung der Einkommen privater Haushalte in der BRD 1950 - 1975



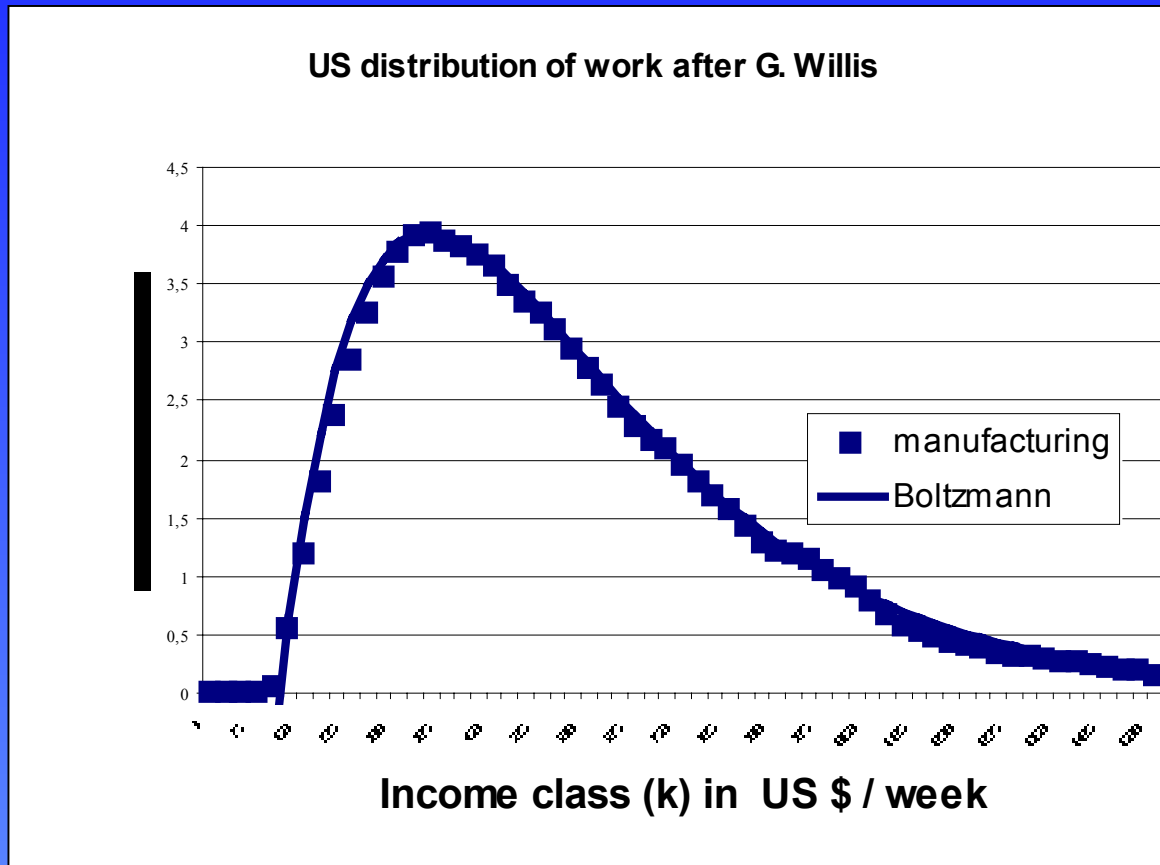
Number of households per income class



Income per income class

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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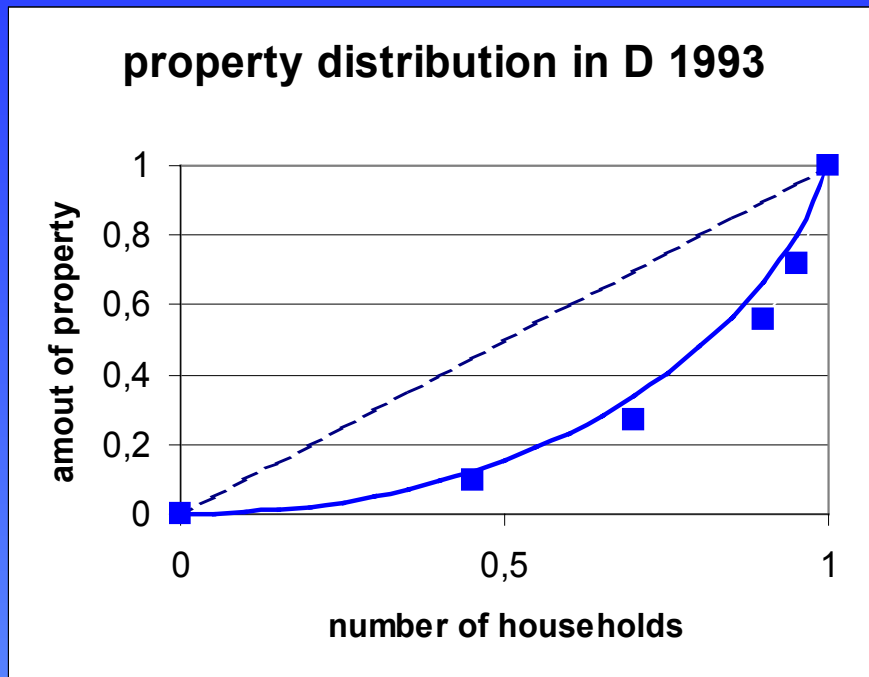


US income 1995 Distribution of workers  $N(k)=g(k) \exp(-k/T)$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Lorenz distribution of property data for Germany 1993 (DIW)



The distribution of wealth is a Boltzmann distribution up to 90 % of households.

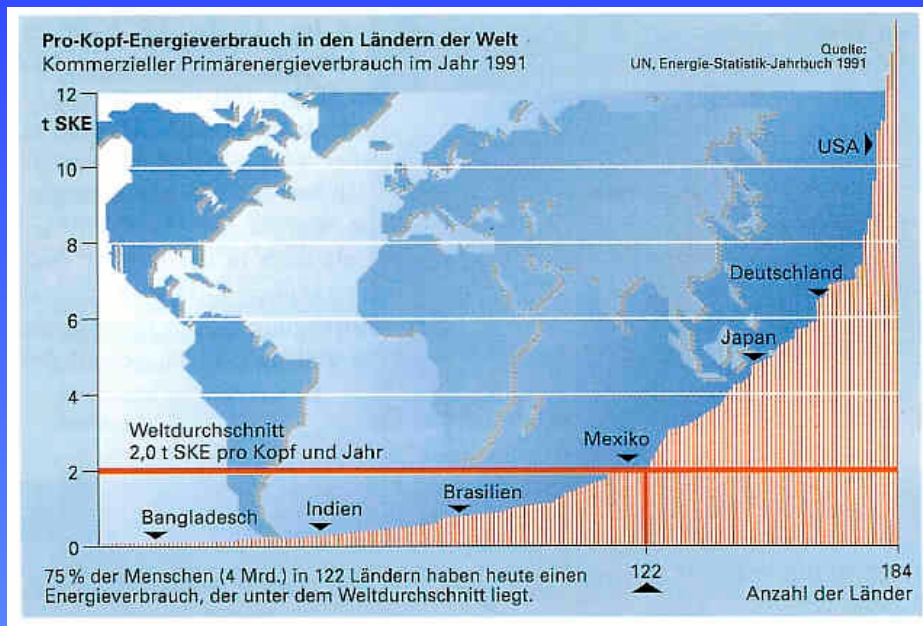
At very high incomes an additional function  $f(x)$  seems to indicate a two level wealth distribution.

This may be explained by a Carnot production process.

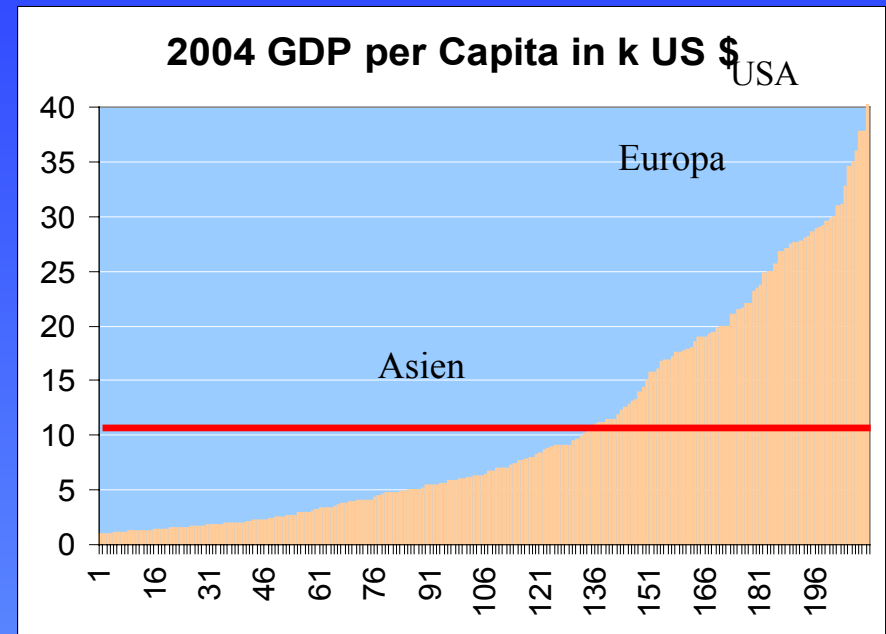
$$y_{\text{Boltzmann}} = x + (1-x) \ln (1-x) + f(x)$$

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

## Lorenz distribution of world wealth



World energy consumption / capita

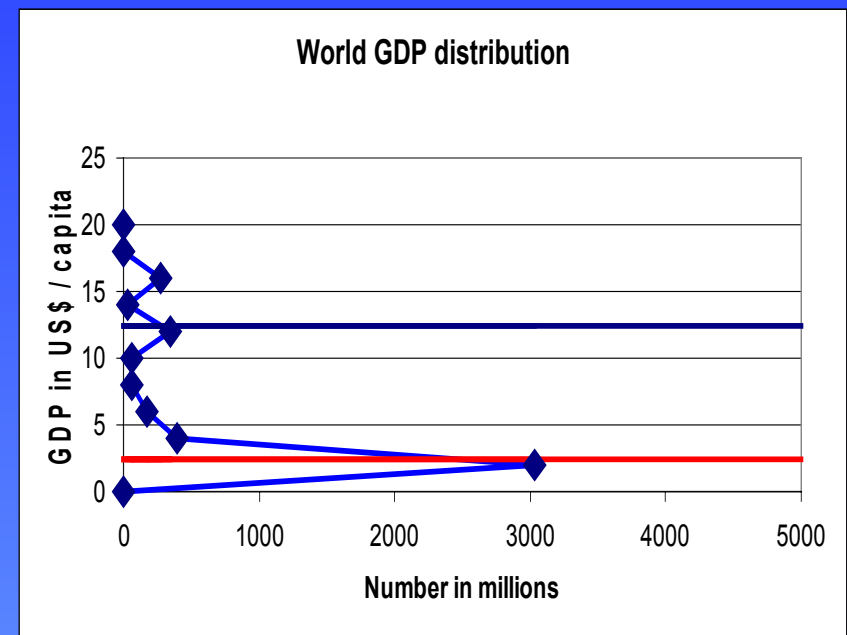
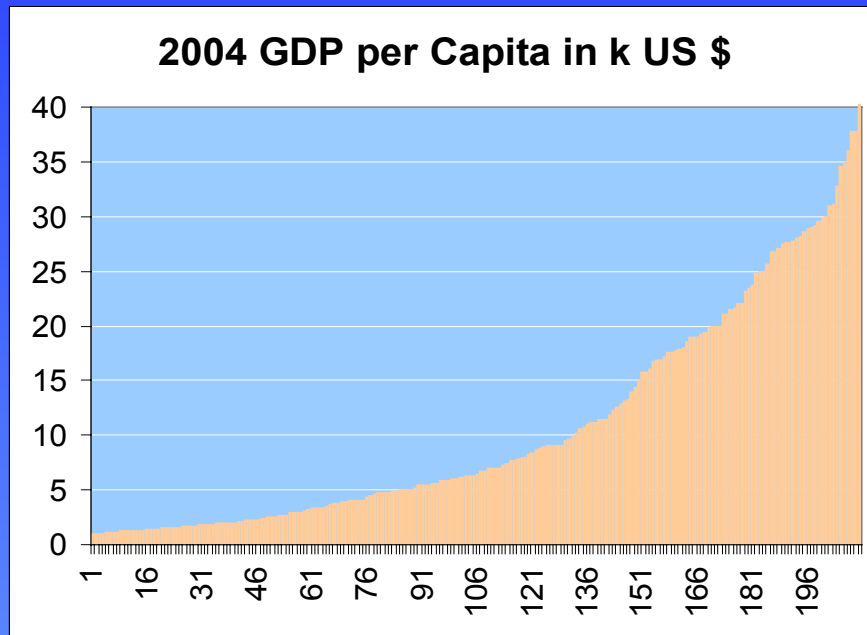


World GDP / capita

# Lagrange Principle and Boltzmann Distribution of Wealth

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## Distribution of world wealth



A two level distribution of world GDP per capita

