

# Is the World Oil Market Unified? Regions in Quality, Risk, & Space



Project LINK

United Nations, New York

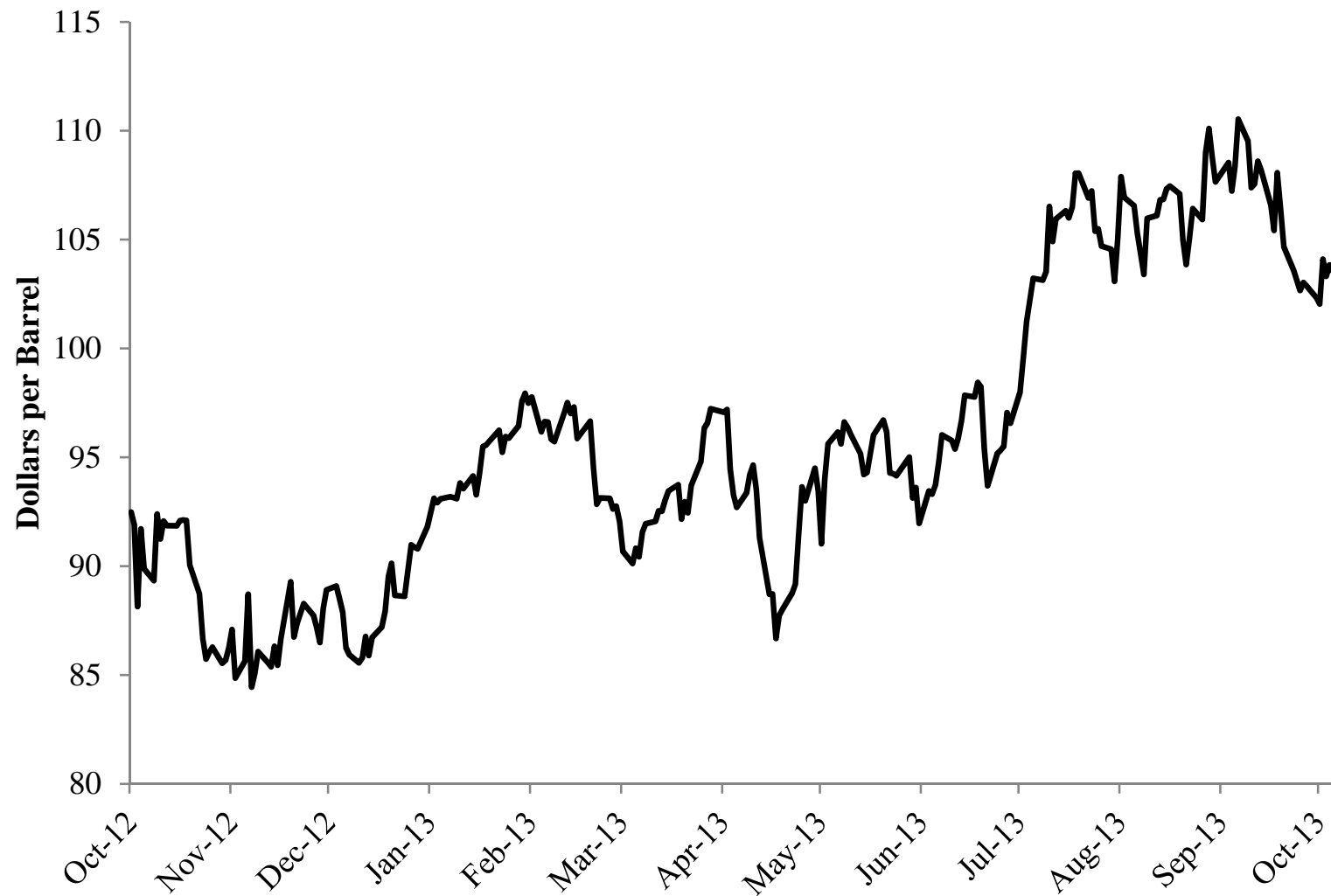
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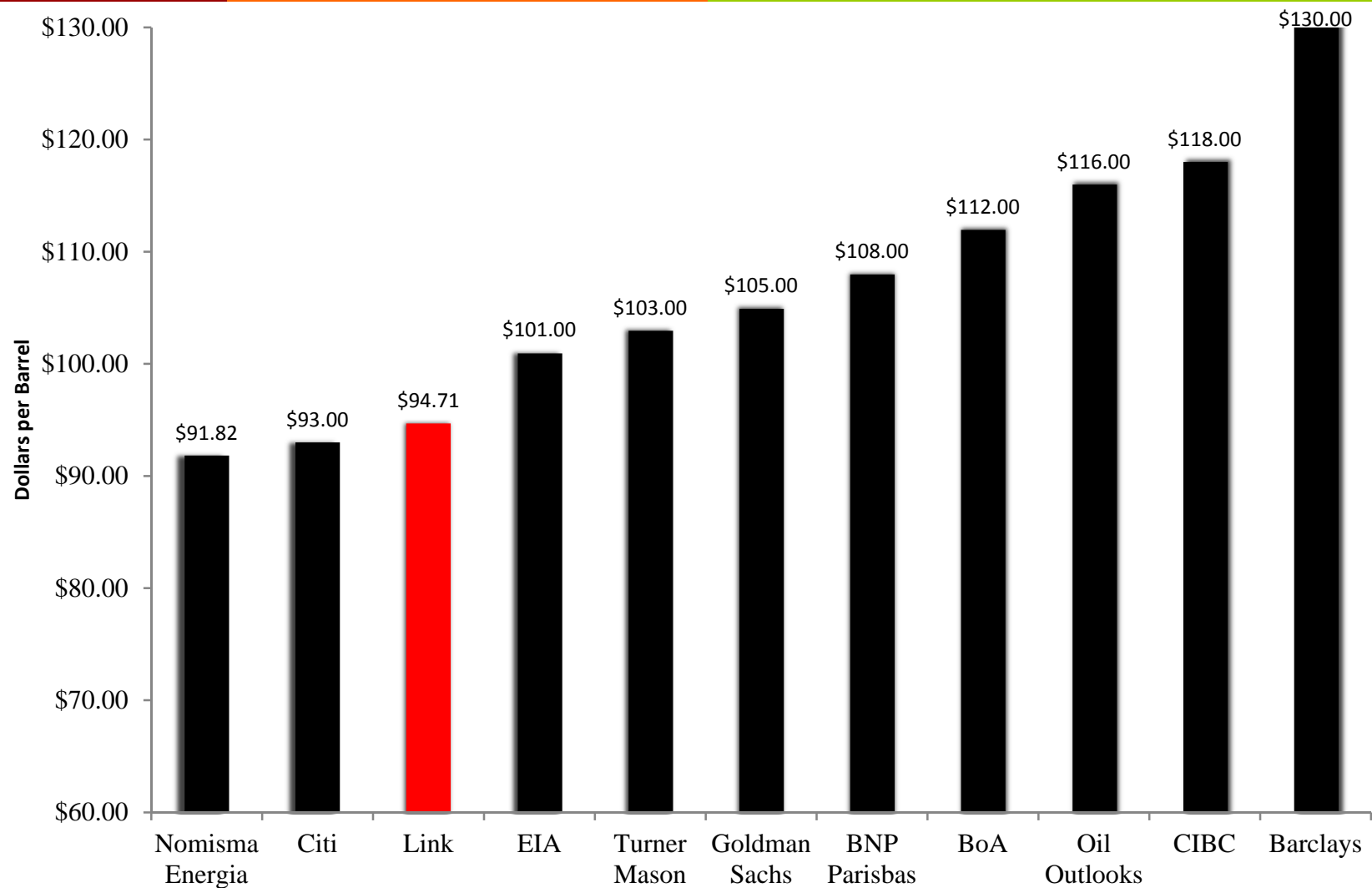
Department of Earth & Environment

Boston University

# Since We Last Met..



# The 2014 Price Forecast

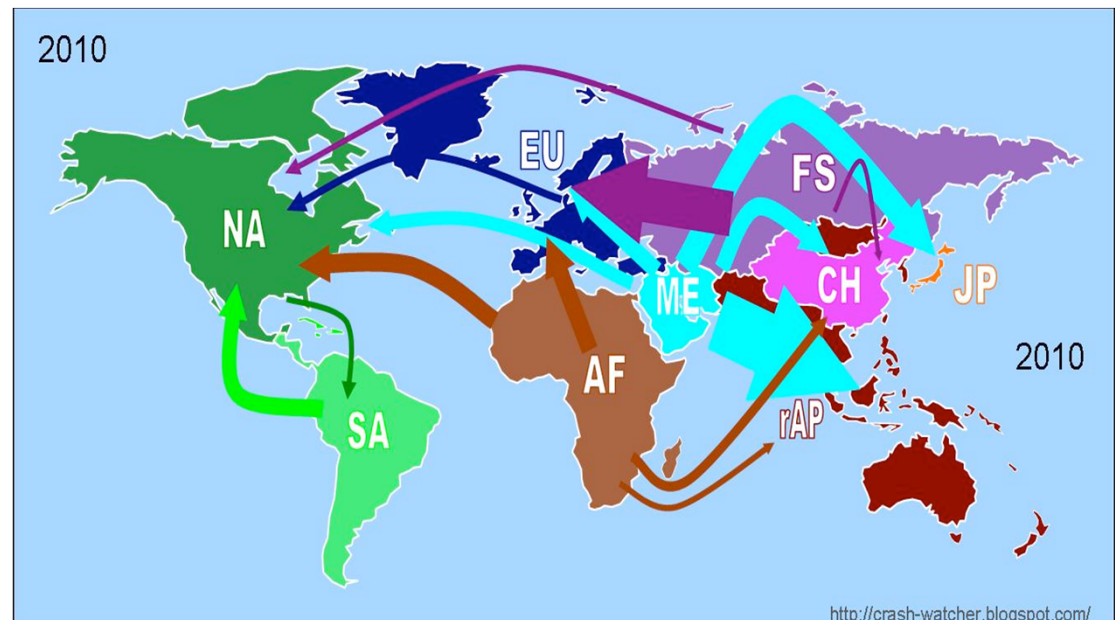


# A Bearish Forecast?

- Steady Growth in Supply
  - Additions to OPEC capacity (mainly Africa)
  - Increases in non-OPEC crude oil production (US)
  - Increases in natural gas production
- Slow grow in consumption
  - Slow economic growth
  - Increasing efficiency

# A Unified World Oil Market?

- **Unified World Oil Market**
  - Production flows seamlessly across physical, technical, and political barriers.
- **Policy Implications**
  - Supply shocks
  - Inventory draws



# Existing Results

- The crude oil market is unified
  - Oil prices cointegrate
  - Arbitrage models
- The crude oil market is regionalized
  - Not all price pairs cointegrate
  - Price discrimination

# Three Questions

- Is the world crude oil market unified?
  - Daily spot prices for 33 crude oils
  - November 27, 2002 through December 31, 2010
  - Test 528 pairings for cointegration using ADF
- What factors regionalize the world oil market?
  - Logit Model (Cointegration = 1.0)
  - API gravity, Country Risk, Distance between Sources
- What are the costs of regionalization?
  - Price differences of crude oil price

# Unified vs. Regionalized ADF Results

Critical value	Cointegrate	Do not cointegrate
-3.90 (p = 0.01)	408	120
-3.33 (p = 0.05)	447	81
-3.04 (p = 0.10)	468	60



# Cointegration Varies by Crude Oil

Crude Oil	Cointegrate	Non-Cointegrate
Kirkuk (Iraq)	11	21
Iranian Heavy	12	20
Cabinda (Angola)	21	11
Es Sider (Libya)	22	10
Minus (Indonesia)	32	0
Mars Blend (US)	32	0
Alaska North Slope (US)	32	0
West Texas Sour (US)	32	0

# Logit Model

## **Dependent variable ( $C_{ij}$ )**

- Pair cointegrates ( $C_{ij} = 1$ , else  $C_{ij} = 0$ )

## **Independent variables**

- Light\_Heavy ( $40^\circ$  and  $34^\circ$ )
- High\_Low (Low risk = 0)
- Total Risk (Add country risk scores)
- Distance (Distance between supply ports km)
- Opec\_NonOpec
- Sweet\_Sour (0.5% vs 1.5% sulfur)

Estimation of the Logit Model

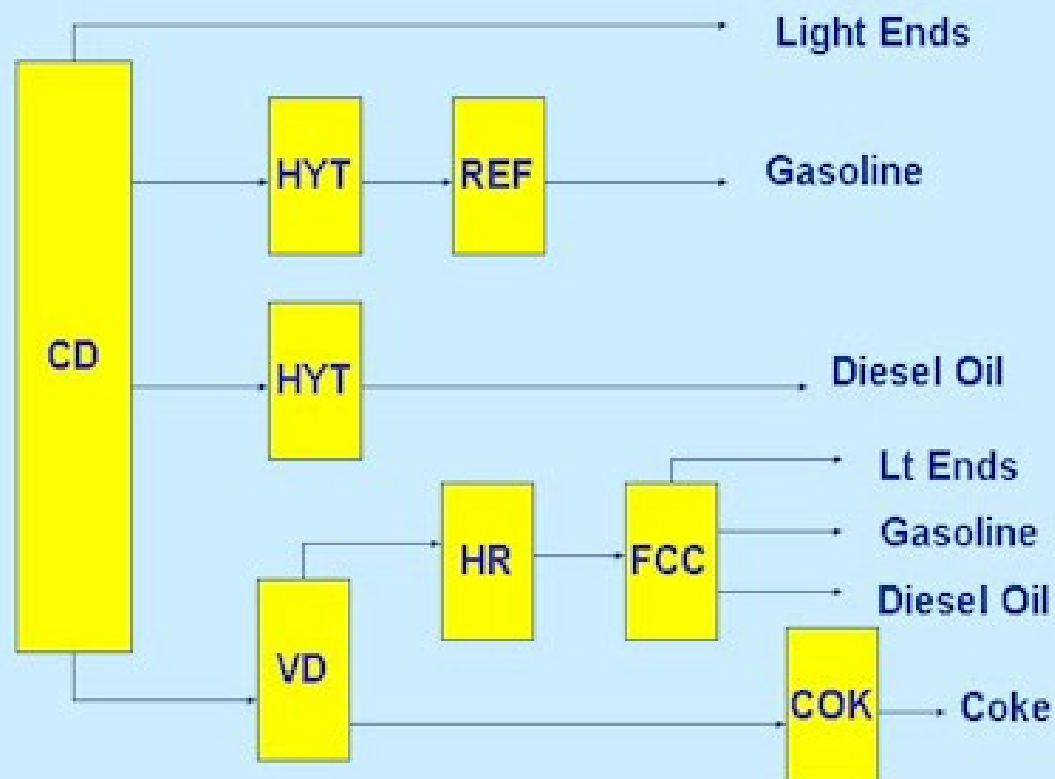
# Logit Results

	1 %	5 %	10 %
Constant	3.94**	5.15**	5.78**
Heavy_Light	-0.96*	-2.01**	-1.72**
High_Low	-1.58**	-2.12**	-2.15**
Total_Risk	-0.35**	-0.38**	-0.38**
Distance	2.58E-04**	3.18E-04**	3.28E-04**
Kirkuk	-1.57*	-2.42**	-2.95**
Iran_Heavy	-2.21**	-2.99**	-3.55**

Sweet\_Sour, OPEC\_NonOpec, Futures Not statistically significant

# API Gravity

Refinery Flowchart



# Regionlized 2002 Venezuela Strike

- U.S. imports of crude oil from Venezuela fell by 24.6 million barrels between November and December 2002
- Total US monthly imports fell by 23.9 million barrels
- Replacements available from Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq) but 30 day shipping
- US drew down crude oil inventories by about 10.5 million barrels.

# Country Risk

- Risk of investing in a country; value depends on the overall stability of the business environment.
  - Regulatory changes through government action
  - Political events such as riots or civil wars
  - natural events such as earthquakes and hurricanes
- Ability of suppliers to deliver crude oil
  - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC)
  - Attacks on Caño Limon pipeline interrupted supply

# Geographic Risk & Geographic Regions



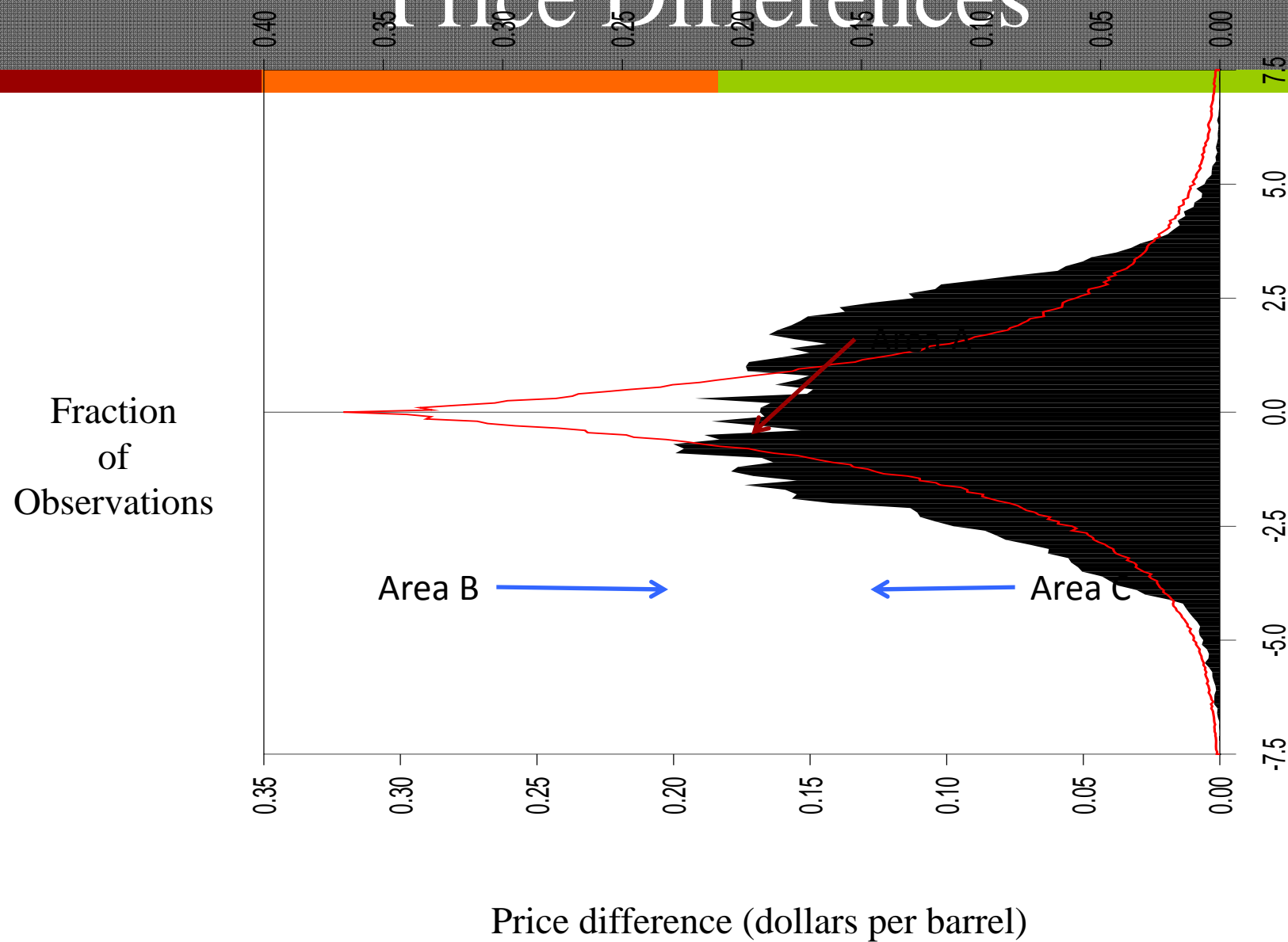
# Cost of Regionalization

## Reasons for Price Differences

- Arbitrage (physical differences, location)
  - Constant of cointegrating relation
  - Average difference
- Disequilibrium
  - Error from cointegrating relation
- Regionalization (stochastic trend)
  - Differences beyond average difference



# Price Differences



# Cost of Regionalization

- Arbitrage (physical differences, location)
  - \$1.26 Intercept cointegrating relation
  - \$3.96 Average difference across regions
- Disequilibrium
  - \$1.43 Error from cointegrating relation
  - \$1.63 Average error
- Stochastic trend
  - \$0.20 Differences beyond average difference

# Policy Implications

- Supply Shocks
  - Unreliable supplier price discount
  - Does the market understate risk?
- Inventory Draws
  - SPR Light sweet crude oils
  - Match crude oils with local refining capacity

# US Crude Oil Production

