

Workshop on Proposed Revisions to the Common Rule in Relation to the Behavioral and Social Sciences

**Risks and Harm:
The Disciplines of Economics, Political
Science, Game Theory, Judgment and
Decision**

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Experimental works in the fields have major impacts on society

Airline access to major airports

Cell phone licenses

Kyoto protocols

Kidney exchange

Medicare Equipment procurement

Pollution permit markets

Network access processes (power grid, phones)

Financial bailout (toxic asset auctions)

Economics, Political Science, Game Theory, Decision and Judgment are among the most removed from the biomedical sciences

What potential subject risks and harm exists in these sciences?

What do experiences of the scientific community reveal?

The questions were put to major researchers and laboratories.

The results suggest:

- **there are no risks in those areas**
- **the language is easily misconstrued**

Other social sciences might be similarly situated.

Issues of exemption (excused) should be pursued.

	Economics Political Science	Society for Judgment and Decision Making
Respondents	30	85
Subjects	104,000	680,000
Subjects Median	8,000	8,000
Adverse Incidents	1	0
Reports of Harm	0	73
Nature of Risk		
Physical	0	
Psychological	0	
Social	0	
Informational	0	

	Economics Political Science	Society for Judgment and Decision Making
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- **Subject went bankrupt and had to leave the experiment**
- **Disappointment due to failure to earn more.**

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Reports of Harm	0	73*

- * 60 (from one respondent) stress due to negative feedback about personal performance
- frustrated: did not understand lotteries
- IAPS photographs complaint
- guilt feeling after a prisoner's dilemma defection
- equipment did not work
- payment dissatisfaction (due to an error)
- (irritated) was asked about the value of a life
- mix-up on mailing revealed address to another

Why is there no risk or harm?

The research topics are those of daily life and carry no potential for harm

- markets
- committees and voting
- games
- processes focus (as opposed to individuals)
- decisions

Why is there no risk or harm?

The research methods and technologies involve no risk (fmri possibly excepted).

- questionnaires
- computer and internet games
- abstract consequences- aside from money earned have no effect on subjects.
- subjects trained and tested on the rules
- no confidential data collected (beyond needs for accounting)

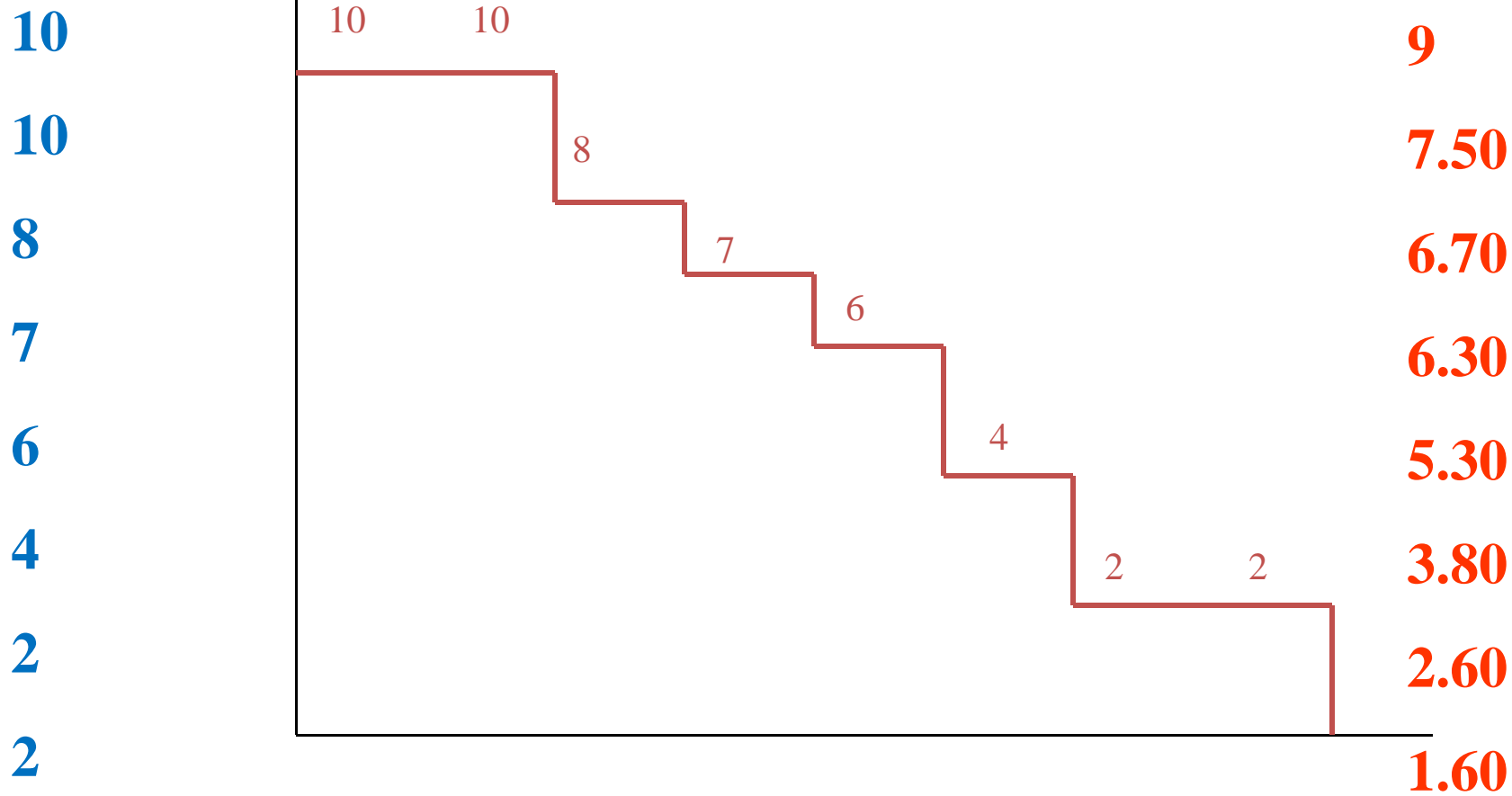
In the absence of evidence of risk or harm the techniques, methods, areas and fields of the social sciences should be exempted (excused).

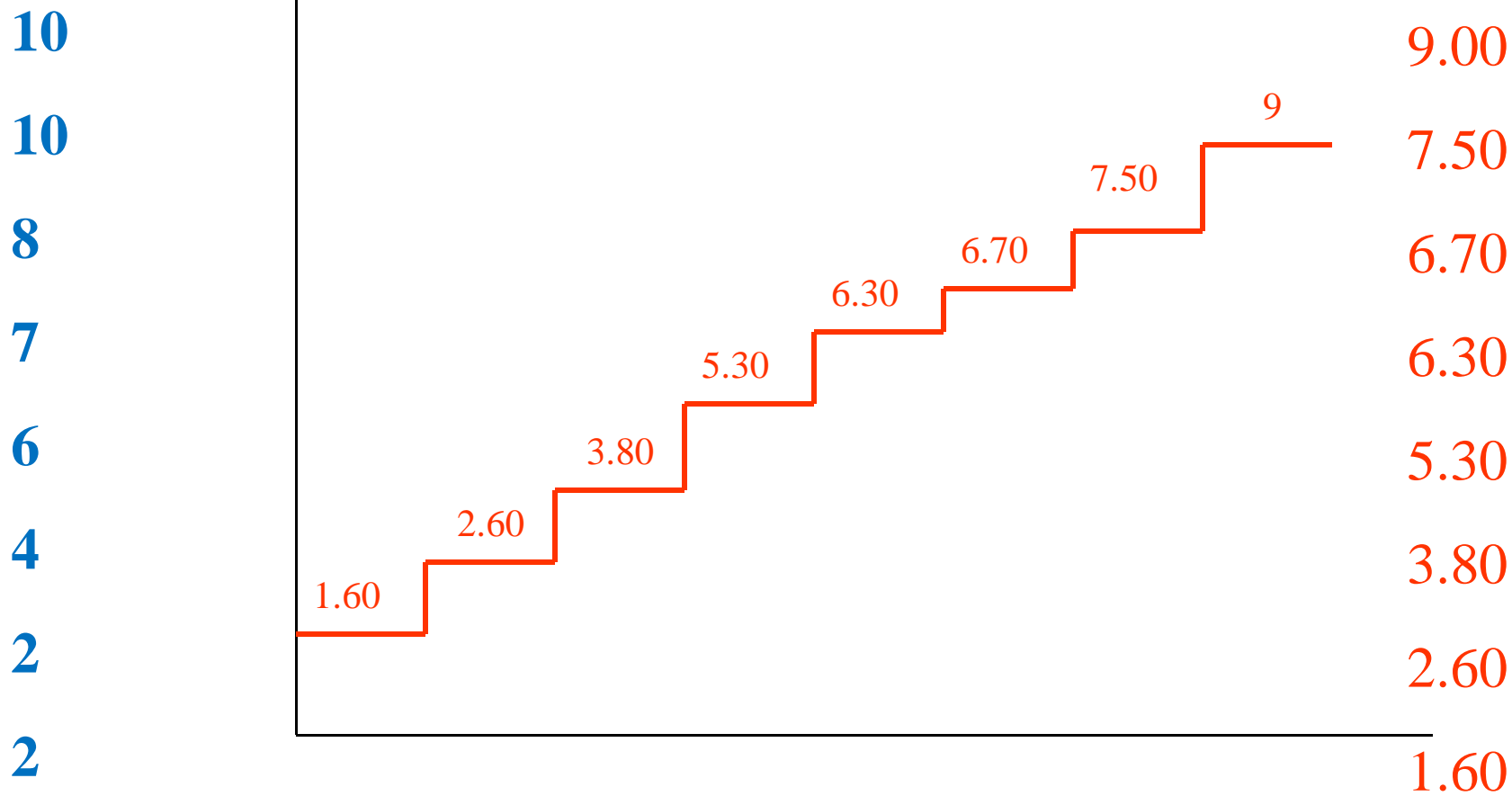
Understanding risk and harm means recognizing when there is none.

Thank You

An example of an economics experiment

10	9.00
10	7.50
8	6.70
7	6.30
6	5.30
4	3.80
2	2.60
2	1.60





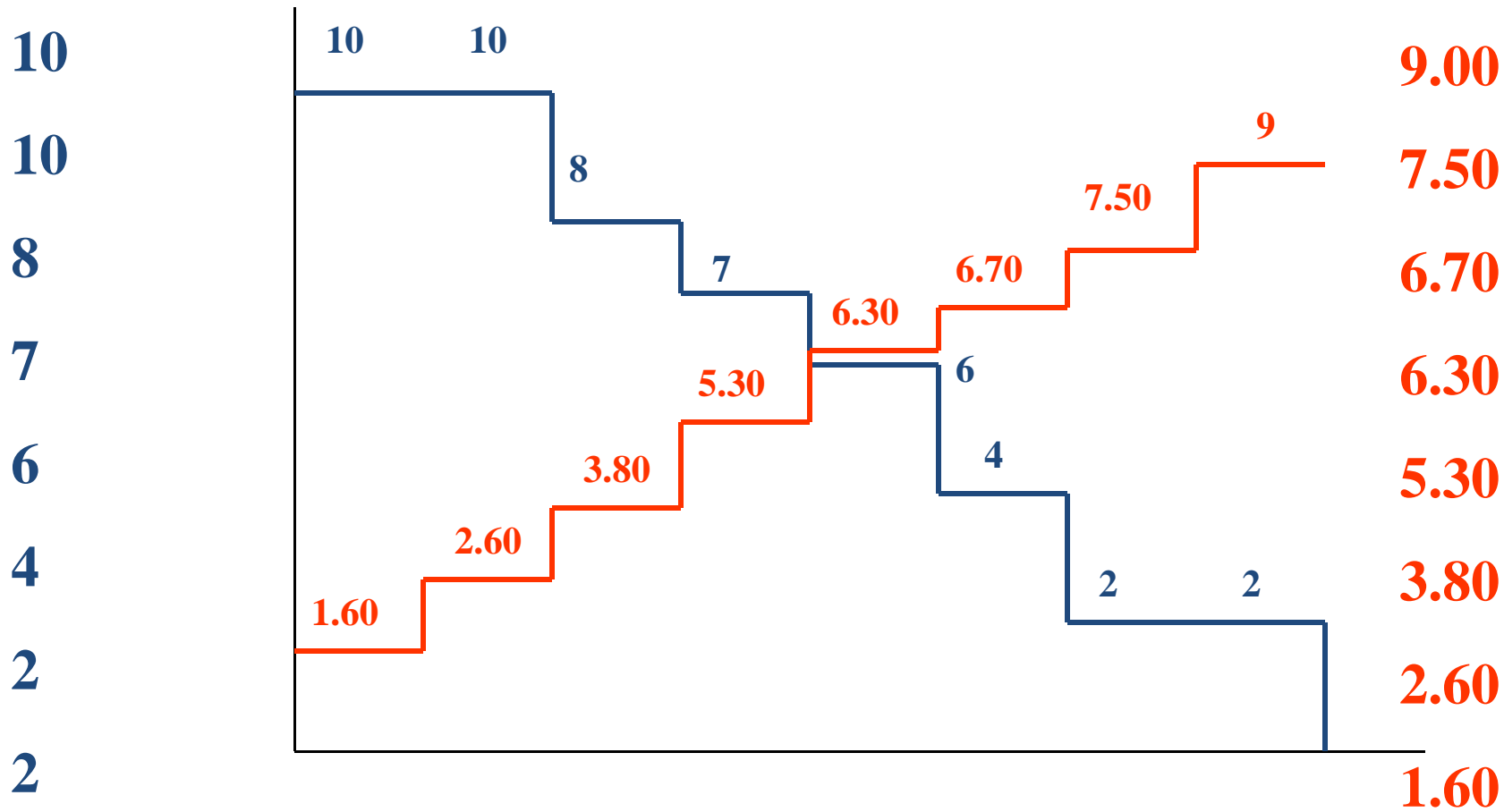
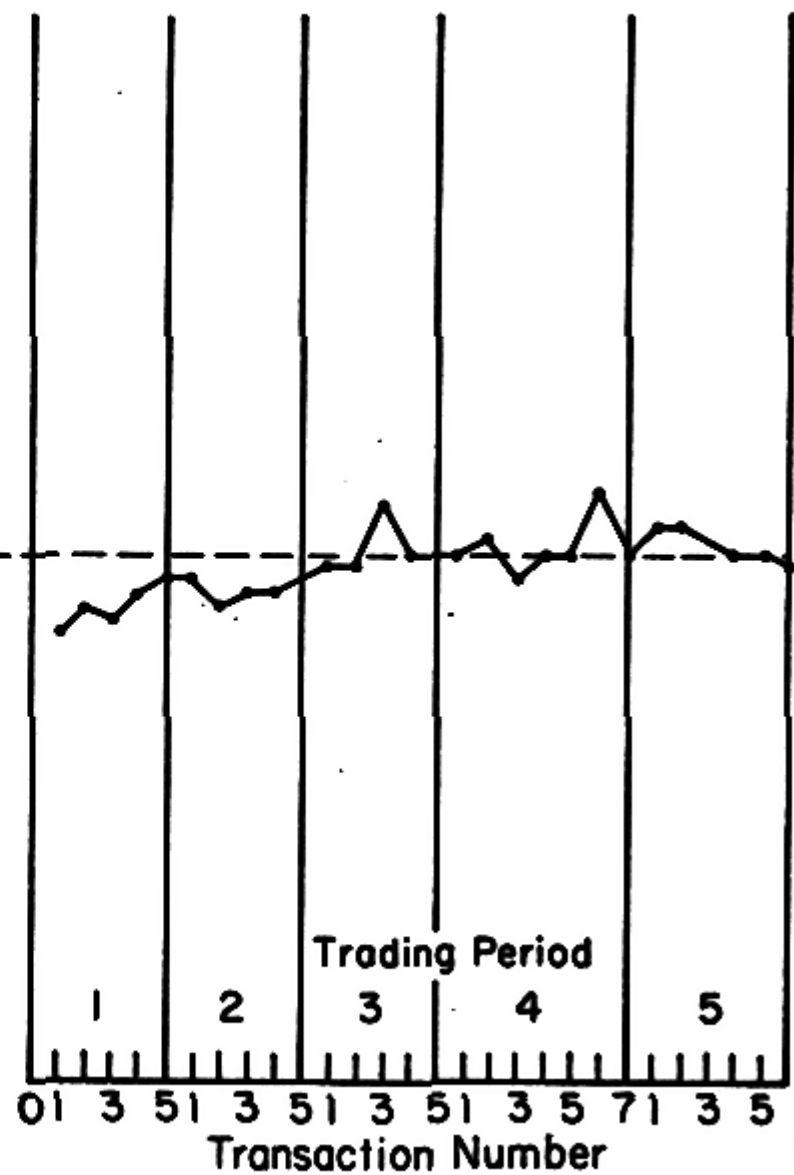
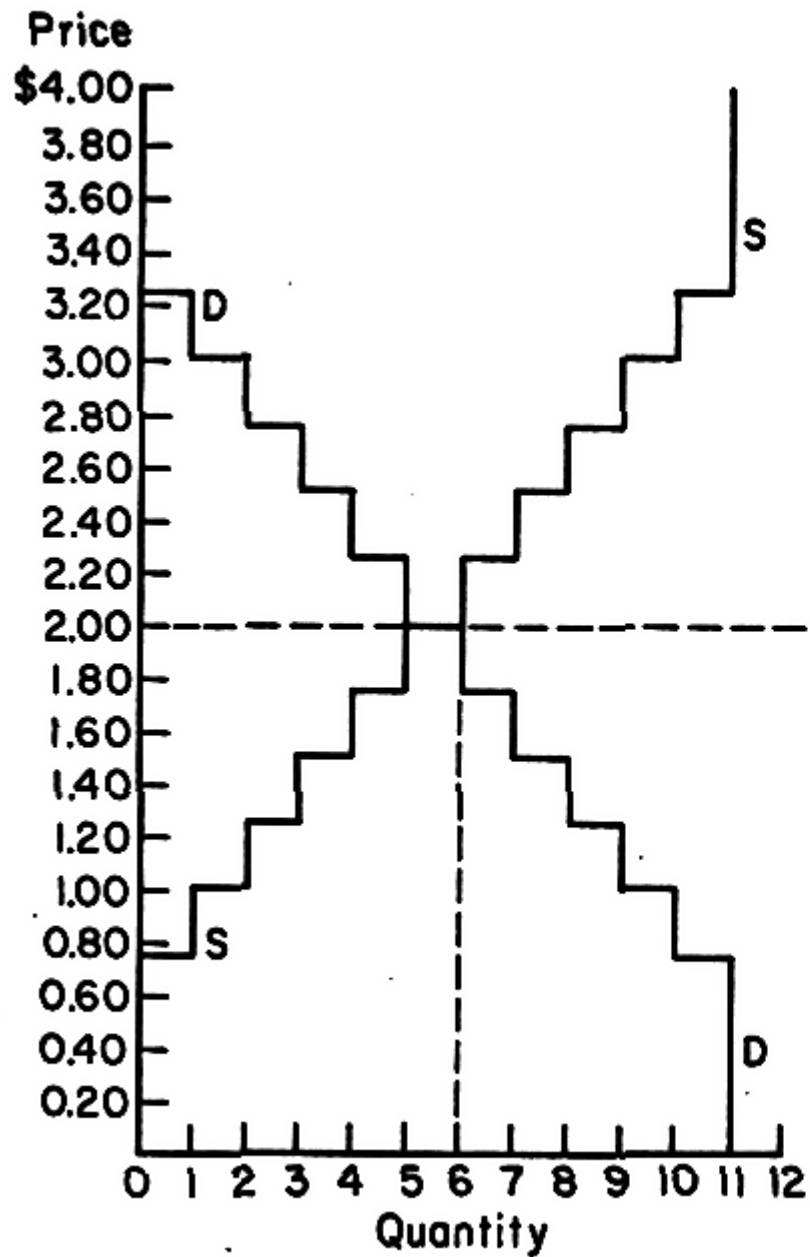
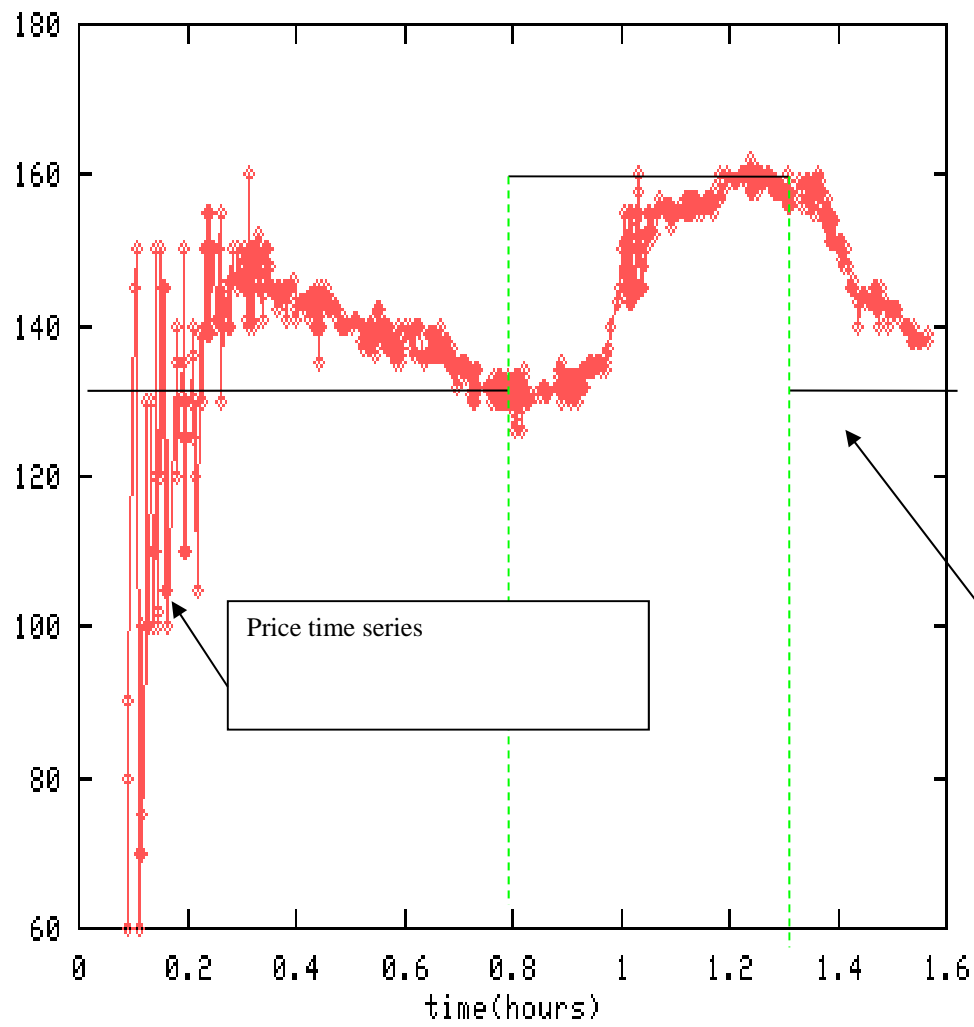


CHART I





equilibrium prices predicted by model
(solid lines)