Computational Finance and FinTech Option Pricing

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6 Option Pricing

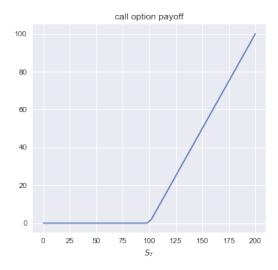
Option Pricing

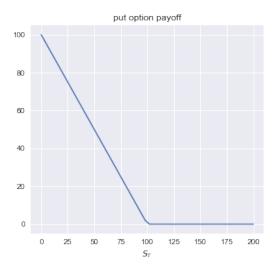
- This session is *not* directly related to a chapter in **Py4Fi**.
- An **option**, also called **contingent claim**, is a financial derivative whose payoff is a (non-linear) function of an underlying asset's value.
- The most important and liquidly traded contingent claims are call and put options.
- Option prices are determined by assuming that markets are free of **arbitrage**.
- We cover standard option pricing techniques: the binomial tree model and the Black-Scholes(-Merton) model.

6.1 Call and put options

- In the following, $(S_t)_{t\geq 0}$ denotes the price process of the underlying asset.
- A Euopean call option with exercise / strike price K and maturity T has payoff $X = \max(S_T K, 0) = (S_T K)^+$.
- ullet The holder of the option has the right, but not the obligation, to buy the stock at time T at price K.
- A European put option with exercise / strike price K and maturity T has payoff $X = \max(K S_T, 0) = (K S_T)^+$.

```
[3]: x = np.linspace(0,200)
k=100; # strike price
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 5))
plt.subplot(121)
plt.plot(x,(x>k)*(x-k), lw=1.5)
plt.xlabel('$S_T$')
plt.title('call option payoff')
plt.subplot(122)
plt.plot(x, (x<k)*(k-x), lw=1.5)
plt.xlabel('$S_T$')
plt.title('put option payoff');</pre>
```





Option valuation

- At first sight, it might be seem impossible to determine a price for an option.
- It turns out that under some general conditions and assumptions, unique prices for contingent claims can be determined!
- The main assumption is that markets are **free of arbitrage**.
- A powerful result, under some further assumptions, then shows that the payoff of a contingent claim can be **replicated** with a dynamic trading strategy in a bond and the underlying asset.
- A rigorous derivation of this result is beyond the scope of the course, but we will sketch the main ingredients.

Discuss: Is the assumption of absence of arbitrage plausible in financial markets?

Option valuation - Roadmap

- We begin by setting up a model for a financial market consisting of a **riskless asset**, such as a **bond** or a **money market account** and a **risky asset** e.g. a share of **stock**.
- The bond / money market account accrues at a constant deterministic interest rate, the **risk-free** rate.
- The stock price process is modelled as a **stochastic process**, where, at every point in time the current price and the price history are known, but future prices are unknown.

Option valuation - Roadmap

- First, we consider a **discrete-time model**, where the stock price evolves in a **binomial tree**.
- It turns out that the payoffs of contingent claims can be **replicated** by a dynamic trading strategy in the stock and the bond.
- By a no-arbitrage argument, the price of the contingent claim must equal the cost setting up the replicating strategy.
- Taking the time step length Δt to the limit of 0, yields a **continuous-time model**, the **Black-Scholes(-Merton) model**.
- This gives a closed-form solution for call and put option prices, the famous **Black-Scholes formula**.

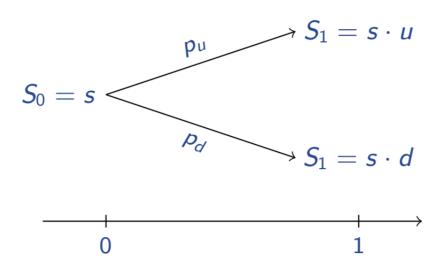
6.2 The one-period model

- Example:
 - Suppose you want to buy a **call option** on a stock.

- The option matures in one year and has a strike price of 105.
- The current stock price is 100, and it is known that the stock price either increases or decreases by 20% within one year.
- The risk-free interest rate is 5% (discrete compounding).
- Questions:
 - What is the **value** of this option? (Pricing)
 - How can you **hedge** this option? (Hedging)

The one-period model

- There are two points in time: $t \in \{0, 1\}$
- Market consists of bond and stock
- Bond price is deterministic: $B_0 = 1$ and $B_1 = 1 + r$
- Stock price S_t is a stochastic process with $S_0 = s$ and $S_1 = s \cdot u$ with probability p_u and $S_1 = s \cdot d$ with probability p_d .



Binomial tree

• We also write $S_1 = S_0 \cdot Z$ where Z is a random variable taking values in $\{u, d\}$.

The one-period model

- Assumptions:
 - $-s, u, d, p_u, p_d$ are known
 - -d < u
 - $-p_u + p_d = 1$
- A **portfolio** is a vector (x, y), where
 - -x denotes the number bonds held and
 - -y denotes the number of stocks held.

The one-period model

- Market assumptions:
 - Short positions and arbitrary holdings are allowed $((x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2)$.
 - There are no bid-ask spreads.
 - There are no transaction costs.

- The market is completely liquid, i.e., it is always possible to buy and sell unlimited quantities in the market.

Portfolios

- Value process: $V_t = xB_t + yS_t$, $t \in 0, 1$.
- Equivalently:

$$V_0 = x + ys$$

$$V_1 = x(1+r) + yS_0 \cdot Z$$

Arbitrage

• An arbitrage portfolio or arbitrage strategy is a portfolio (x, y) with

$$V_0 = 0$$

$$\mathbb{P}(V_1 \ge 0) = 1$$

$$\mathbb{P}(V_1 > 0) > 0$$

• In words: An arbitrage opportunity is the possibility of generating at zero cost today a payoff at some time point in the future that is nonnegative with certainty and positive with positive probability.

Arbitrage

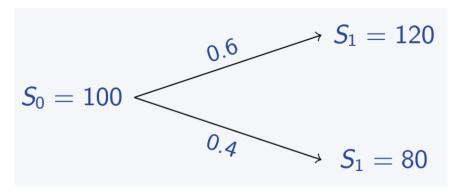
• The one-period model is free of arbitrage if and only if

$$d < 1 + r < u.$$

• Interpretation: return on stock is not allowed to dominate bond, and vice versa.

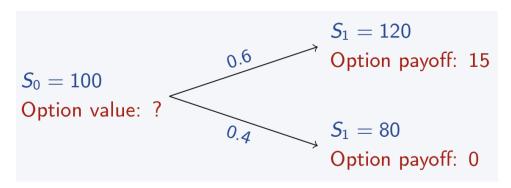
Example

- Consider a market with
 - risk-free interest rate r = 5%,
 - $-S_0 = 100, u = 1.2, d = 0.8,$
 - $-p_u = 0.6, p_d = 0.4.$



Binomial tree

• The market is free of arbitrage since 0.8 < 1.05 < 1.2.



Binomial tree

Example - Replicating a call option

- Now consider a call option with strike price K = 105:
- In other words, we would like to build a portfolio satisfying:

$$x(1+r) + yS_0 \cdot u = 15$$

 $x(1+r) + yS_0 \cdot d = 0$

Example - replicating a call option

• Plugging in the numbers for $B_t, S_0 \cdot u$ and $S_0 \cdot d$ gives

$$x \cdot 1.05 + 120y = 15$$
$$x \cdot 1.05 + 80y = 0.$$

• The solution to this system of linear equations is

$$y = \frac{15}{40} = \frac{3}{8} = 0.375$$
 and $x = -\frac{30}{1.05} = -\frac{30}{21/20} = -\frac{200}{7} = -28.57$.

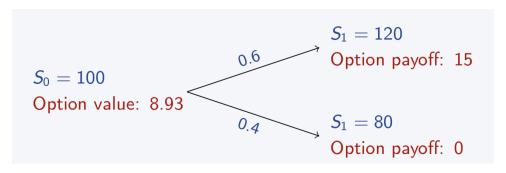
- We have found that the portfolio (-28.57, 0.375) replicates the option payoff, that is, V_1 is idential to the option payoff.
- The value of the portfolio today is $V_0 = -28.57 + 0.375 \cdot 100 = 8.93$.

Example - replicating a call option

- 8.93 is the **only** price for the option that is consistent with the no-arbitrage principle:
- If the option could be traded at a $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{higher} \\ \text{lower} \end{Bmatrix}$ price, then one could create a riskless profit by $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{selling} \\ \text{buying} \end{Bmatrix}$ the option and $\begin{Bmatrix} \text{buying} \\ \text{selling} \end{Bmatrix}$ the replicating portfolio.

Remarks

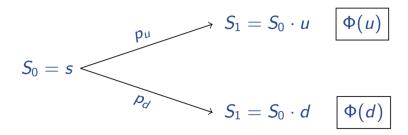
- The portfolio replicating the option payoff is called the **replicating portfolio**.
- The option price is called the **no-arbitrage price** of the option.
- Adding an option to the market that trades at its no-arbitrage price implies that the market remains free of arbitrage.
- A buyer of the option can **hedge** the exposure by entering into **minus** the replicating portfolio.
- The probabilities p_u, p_d did not enter into the calculation of the price.



Binomial tree

Arbitrary contingent claims

- Definition: A contingent claim (financial derivative) is any random variable X of the form $X = \Phi(Z)$, where Z is the random variable driving the stock price process.
- Φ is called the **contract function**.



Binomial tree

Arbitrary contingent claims

- **Proposition**: Suppose that a claim X can be replicated with a portfolio (x, y). Then any price of X at t = 0 other than $V_0^{(x,y)}$ leads to an arbitrage opportunity.
- **Proposition**: Assume that the binomial model is free of arbitrage. Then the market is **complete**, i.e., all contingent claims can be replicated.

Arbitrary contingent claims

- Proof:
 - Fixing an arbitrary claim X with contract function Φ , we require a solution (x,y) to the system of linear equations,

$$(1+r)x + S_0 uy = \Phi(u),$$

 $(1+r)x + S_0 dy = \Phi(d).$

- Since u > d, the linear system has a unique solution, given by

$$x = \frac{u\Phi(d) - d\Phi(u)}{(1+r)(u-d)} \qquad y = \frac{1}{S_0} \cdot \frac{\Phi(u) - \Phi(d)}{u-d}.$$
 (1)

Risk-neutral pricing

- Recall that the market is free of arbitrage if and only if d < 1 + r < u.
- This is equivalent to saying that: there exist $q_u, q_d > 0$, with $q_u + q_d = 1$, such that

$$1 + r = q_u \cdot u + q_d \cdot d.$$

• q_u, q_d can be interpreted as a **probability measure** \mathbb{Q} with

$$\mathbb{Q}(Z=u)=q_u, \qquad \mathbb{Q}(Z=d)=q_d.$$

Risk-neutral pricing

• By definition, we find

$$\frac{1}{1+r}\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[S_1] = \frac{1}{1+r} \left[q_u S_0 \, u + q_d S_0 \, d \right] = \frac{1}{1+r} \cdot S_0(1+r) = S_0.$$

• The probabilities q_u, q_d are called **risk-neutral probabilities** if the following condition holds:

$$S_0 = \frac{1}{1+r} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[S_1].$$

Example

• The risk-neutral probabilities in the example are given by

$$q_u = \frac{1.05 - 0.8}{1.2 - 0.8} = \frac{0.25}{0.4} = \frac{5}{8} = 0.625$$
$$q_d = 1 - q_u = 0.375$$

• The no-arbitrage price is calculated as

$$Price(\max(S_1 - 105, 0)) := \frac{1}{1.05} (0.625 \cdot 15 + 0.375 \cdot 0) = 8.93.$$

Risk-neutral pricing

- We re-state the "no-arbitrage" proposition in a way that is not specific to the one-period model.
- Proposition (No-arbitrage, First Fundamental Theorem): The market model is arbitrage free if and only if there exists a risk-neutral measure Q.

Risk-neutral pricing

• **Proposition**: For the one-period model, the risk-neutral probabilities are given by

$$q_u = \frac{(1+r)-d}{u-d} \tag{2}$$

$$q_d = 1 - q_u = \frac{u - (1+r)}{u - d}. (3)$$

• **Proposition**: If the binomial model is free of arbitrage, then the arbitrage-free price of a contingent claim X is given by

$$\operatorname{Price}(X) = \frac{1}{1+r} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[X].$$

Risk-neutral probabilities

- Objective probabilities determine which events are possible and which are impossible.
- We compute the arbitrage free price of a financial derivative as if we were living in a risk-neutral world.
- This does **not** mean that we believe that we live in a risk-neutral world.
- Rather, investors do not receive a risk premium for holding contingent claims that can be entirely risk-managed by replication.
- The valuation formula holds for all investors, regardless of their attitude towards risk.

6.3 The multi-period model

- Discrete time, with time running from t = 0 to t = T.
- Market consists of two assets, a **bond** and a **stock**
- The bond price process denoted by B_t , is given by

$$B_{t+1} = (1+r) B_t$$

 $B_0 = 1,$

with r the interest rate (a simple period rate).

The multi-period model

• The dynamics of the **stock process**, denoted by S_t , are

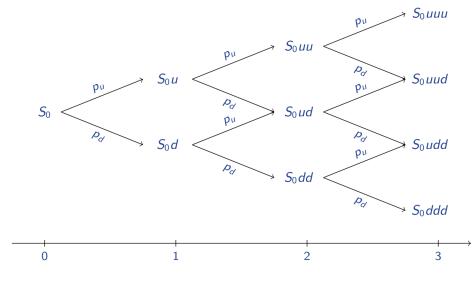
$$S_{t+1} = S_t \cdot Z_t,$$

$$S_0 = s,$$

where Z_0, \ldots, Z_{T-1} are i.i.d. random variables with

$$\mathbb{P}(Z_t = u) = p_u, \qquad \mathbb{P}(Z_t = d) = p_d.$$

A three-period binomial tree:



Binomial tree

Portfolios

• Definition: A portfolio strategy is a stochastic process

$$\{(x_t, y_t), t = 1, \dots, T\},\$$

such that h_t is a function of $S_0, S_1, \ldots, S_{t-1}$. * The **value process** corresponding to portfolio (x, y) is defined by

$$V_t^{(x,y)} = x_t(1+r) + y_t S_t.$$

- x_t is the amount of money invested at time t-1 and kept until time t.
- y_t is the number of shares bought at time t-1 and kept until time t.
- At any point in time, the portfolio strategy can depend on all information available at that time...
- ... but of course, one cannot look into the future.

Portfolios

• **Definition**: A portfolio strategy (x, y) is said to be **self-financing** if the following condition holds for all t = 1, ..., T - 1,

$$x_t(1+R) + y_t S_t = x_{t+1} + y_{t+1} S_t.$$

- This expresses that, at each time t, the market value of the portfolio created at t-1 equals the market value of the portfolio created at t.
- In other words: no funds are injected or withdrawn from the portfolio strategy at times $t = 1, \ldots, T-1$.
- The portfolio is merely **rebalanced** at every time point, that is, the holdings in the risky asset and risk-free asset are changed subject to keeping the portfolio value constant.

Multi-period model

- Everything else arbitrage, condition for absence of arbitrage, risk-neutral measure stays the same.
- One-period risk-neutral pricing formula is a conditional expectation:

$$S_t = \frac{1}{1+r} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[S_{t+1}|S_t].$$

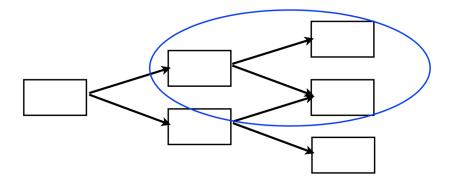
• **Proposition**: The multiperiod binomial model is complete, that is, every claim can be replicated by a self-financing portfolio.

Multi-period model

- Break down multi-period model into one-period models:
- Price and replicate the claim backwards, step-by-step.

Example

- Spot price $S_0 = 140$
- up and down move factors: u = 1.5, d = 0.78571
- interest rate r = 0.1
- strike K = 160
- maturity T=2

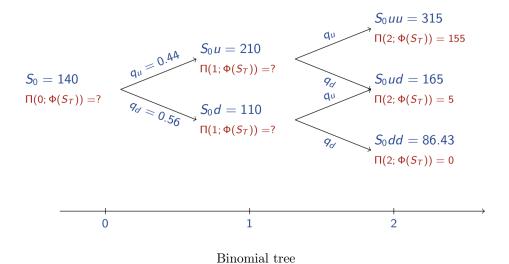


Binomial tree

- First determine:
 - Risk-neutral probabilities: $q_u = 0.44, q_d = 0.56$
 - Contract function:

$$\Phi(S_2) = \max(S_2 - K, 0)$$

Multi-period model



Multi-period model

Multi-period model

Multi-period model

• Risk-neutral pricing:

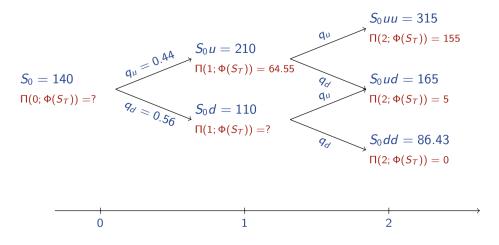
$$Price(X) = \frac{1}{(1+r)^2} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\Phi(S_T)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1+r)^2} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[q_u^2 \Phi(S_0 \cdot u^2) + 2q_u q_d \Phi(S_0 \cdot ud) + q_d^2 \Phi(S_0 \cdot d^2)]$$

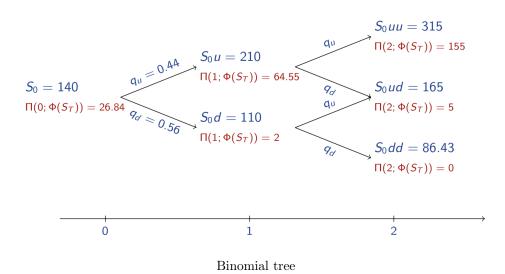
$$= 26.84.$$

Multi-period model

 \bullet The time-T stock price outcomes follow a binomial distribution.



Binomial tree



• The price of an option X with contract function Φ is thus:

$$\operatorname{Price}(X) = \frac{1}{(1+r)^T} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{T} {T \choose k} q_u^k q_d^{T-k} \Phi(su^k d^{T-k}).$$

• Note: This formula applies only to European non-path dependent claims.

Multi-period model

S[0,0]=S0

• Let's implement the binomial tree in Python and calculate the price from the example.

```
[4]: import math
    S0=140.
    T=2
    r=0.1
    u=1.5
    d=0.78571

[5]: def calculate_tree():
        S=np.zeros((T+1, T+1))
```

```
z=1
for t in range(1, T+1):
    for k in range(z): # number of up moves
        S[k+1,t] = S[k, t-1] * u
        S[k,t] = S[k,t-1] * d
    z = z + 1
return np.flipud(S) # flip the result so that up moves are actually "up"
```

Multi-period model

6.4 The Cox-Ross-Rubinstein model

- The Cox-Ross-Rubinstein model (CRR model), is a special case of the multiperiod binomial tree model.
- Fix a time interval [0,T] and set $\Delta t = T/N$.
- Trading takes place at times

$$0, \Delta t, 2\Delta t, \dots, (N-1)\Delta t, N\Delta t = T.$$

- The bond price accrues continuously at rate r, so that $B_t = B_0 e^{rt}$ and $B_{n\Delta t} = B_{(n-1)\Delta t} e^{r\Delta t}$, where $n = 1, \ldots, N$.
- The risk of the stock price is expressed by the **volatility** σ , the standard deviation of the stock price's log-return.
- The volatility for the time period Δt is $\sigma \sqrt{\Delta t}$, yielding

$$u = e^{\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}, \qquad d = 1/u = e^{-\sigma\sqrt{\Delta t}}.$$

6.5 Towards a continuous-time model: Brownian motion

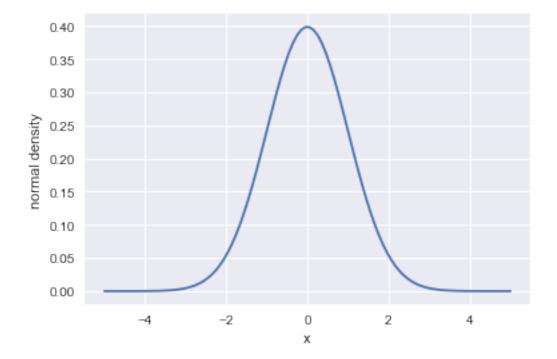
- Taking $\Delta t \to 0$ gives the **Black-Scholes model** in the continuous-time limit.
- Note that T stays fixed, but the discrete-time grid is made finer and finer.
- The binomial distribution associated with time-T stock prices converges to a normal distribution (this is a consequence of the so-called Central Limit Theorem).
- The up-down moves of the stock price path through the binomial tree converge to a continuous-time stochastic process called a **Brownian motion**.
- This is a process with independent normally distributed increments.

Brownian motion

- A stochastic process $W = (W_t)_{t>0}$ is a **Brownian motion** if
 - $-W_0 = 0$ and W has continuous paths,
 - W has independent increments, that is, for $r < s \le t < u$, the random variables $W_u W_t$ and $W_s W_r$ are independent,
 - For s < t, $W_t W_s \sim N(0, t s)$, that is, the random variable $W_t W_s$ is normally distributed with mean 0 and variance t s.

Normal distribution

```
[8]: import scipy.stats as scs
    x=np.linspace(-5,5,100)
    plt.plot(x,scs.norm.pdf(x));
    plt.xlabel('x')
    plt.ylabel('normal density');
```

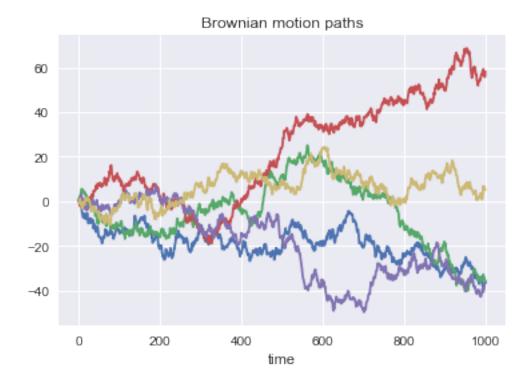


Brownian motion

• Some example paths:

```
[9]: import numpy.random as npr

npr.seed(1235)
n=1000
z = npr.normal(size=(n,5))
w = np.cumsum(z,axis=0)
plt.plot(w);
plt.xlabel('time')
plt.title('Brownian motion paths');
```



Bond price dynamics

• Continuous compounding at interest rate r > 0 of a **bond** or **money market account** is governed by the **differential equation**:

$$dB_t = B_t r dt, \quad t \ge 0.$$

• The solution to the differential equation is given by

$$B_t = B_0 \exp(rt), \quad t \ge 0.$$

Stock price dynamics: Geometric Brownian motion

• Similarly, the Black-Scholes model specifies the dynamics of a stock price as

$$dS_t = S_t \,\mu \, dt + S_t \,\sigma \, dW_t.$$

• The solution of the differential equation turns out to be

$$S_t = S_0 \exp\left(\left(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)t + \sigma W_t\right).$$

Geometric Brownian motion

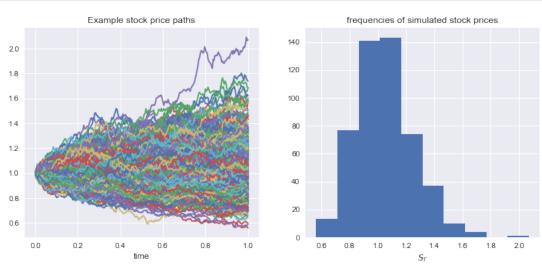
```
[10]: import numpy.random as npr

    npr.seed(1235)
    n=250
    m=500;
    dt=1/n;
```

```
z2 = npr.normal(size=(n,m))
z = np.zeros((n+1,m))
z[1:]=z2
w = np.cumsum(z,axis=0)
s = np.exp(0.2 * np.sqrt(dt) * w)
det_part = np.exp((0.05-0.5*0.2**2)* dt *np.arange(0,n+1));
for i in range(0,m):
    s[:,i] = s[:,i] * det_part
```

Geometric Brownian motion

```
[11]: plt.figure(figsize=(12, 5))
   plt.subplot(121)
   plt.plot(np.arange(0,n+1)*dt,s);
   plt.xlabel('time')
   plt.title('Example stock price paths');
   plt.subplot(122)
   plt.hist(s[-1]);
   plt.xlabel('$S_T$')
   plt.title('frequencies of simulated stock prices');
```



6.6 The Black-Scholes(-Merton) model

- Assume a frictionless financial market in which a bond and a stock are traded.
 - (Assets are liquidly traded, there are no short-selling constraints, there are no transaction costs and there are no bid-ask-spreads.)
- In the Black-Scholes(-Merton) model the dynamics of the bond price and the stock price are given by

$$dB_t = rB_t dt$$

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t,$$

where

- r,μ,σ are deterministic constants,
- $-W = (W_t)_{t>0}$ is a Brownian motion,
- -r is the **risk free rate**
- $-\mu$ is the **drift**,
- $-\sigma$ is the **volatility**.

Risk-neutral measure

- Because the Black-Scholes model is the result of taking the CRR model to the continuous-time limit, all properties such as the existence of replicating strategies, market completeness, existence of a risk-neutral probability measure carry over.
- ullet The stock price process, under the real-world probability measure \mathbb{P} , evolves as

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t, \quad t \ge 0.$$

* Under the risk-neutral probability measure \mathbb{Q} , the stock price process is

$$dS_t = rS_t dt + \sigma S_t d\overline{W}_t, \quad t \ge 0,$$

where $(\overline{W}_t)_{t\geq 0}$ is a Brownian motion under \mathbb{Q} . * Likewise, the bond price process evolves as

$$dB_t = rB_t dt, \quad t > 0.$$

Risk-neutral pricing

- Proposition: The no arbitrage price of a contingent claim $Y = f(S_T)$ is given by $e^{-rT}\mathbb{E}Y$, where expectation is taken under the risk-neutral measure.
- Option pricing boils down to taking expectations under the risk-neutral measure!

6.7 The Black-Scholes formula

- The famous Black-Scholes formula can be proved by calculating the expected value of a call option payoff.
- Theorem (Black-Scholes formula): In the Black-Scholes model, the price of a European call option with parameters K, T, r, σ and S_0 is given by

$$S_0 N(d_+) - e^{-rT} K N(d_-),$$

with

$$d_{\pm} = \frac{\ln(S_0/K) + (r \pm \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}},$$

where N(x) is the cumulative distribution function of the standard normal distribution.

Hedging in the Black-Scholes model

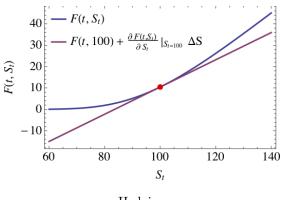
• At any point in time $t \leq T$, the **replicating portfolio** of a European call option maturing at T with time-t price $F(t, S_t)$ consists of

$$-\frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial S} = N(d_{t,+})$$
 units of stock and

$$-F(t,S_t) - \frac{\partial F(t,S_t)}{\partial S} S_t = -e^{-r(T-t)} KN(d_{t,-}) \text{ units of the bond.}$$

Hedging in the Black-Scholes model

- The partial derivative is the **sensitivity** of the call option with respect to the underlying asset.
- Small movements ΔS_t in either direction in the asset price change the option price by approximately $\frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial S} \Delta S_t$:



Hedging

Greeks

- The sensitivities of an option position are called "Greeks".
- Greeks: The sensitivities of a contingent claim's price process $F(t, S_t)$ with respect to the input parameters are:

Delta:
$$\Delta_t = \frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial S}$$

Gamma: $\Gamma_t = \frac{\partial^2 F(t, S_t)}{\partial S^2}$ (sensitivity of Delta)

Theta: $\Theta_t = \frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial t}$

Vega: $\nu_t = \frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial \sigma}$ ("model risk")

Rho: $\rho_t = \frac{\partial F(t, S_t)}{\partial r}$

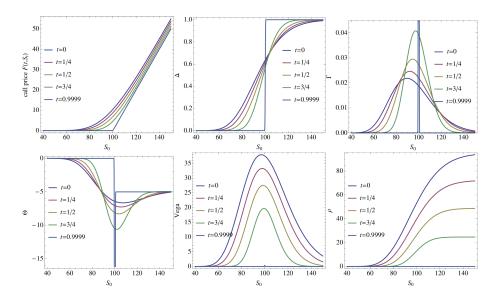
Greeks

• In the case of a call option, the Greeks are given by:

Delta:
$$\Delta_t = \mathcal{N}(d_{t,+})$$
 Gamma:
$$\Gamma_t = \frac{\mathcal{N}'(d_{t,+})}{S_0 \sigma \sqrt{T}}$$
 Theta:
$$\Theta_t = -\frac{S_0 \mathcal{N}'(d_{t,+}) \sigma}{2 \sqrt{T}} - rKe^{-rT} \mathcal{N}(d_{t,-})$$
 Vega:
$$\nu_t = S_0 \sqrt{T} \mathcal{N}'(d_{t,+})$$
 Rho:
$$\rho_t = Ke^{-rT} \mathcal{N}(d_{t,-}) T$$

Greeks

• Call option prices and greeks:



 ${\rm Greeks}$