

## Problem 2

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The equation \* is a generic brownian motion and assumes that both the  $E[\text{return}]$  and  $\sigma^2$  are proportional to the stock. It assumes that the drift  $\mu S \Delta t$  is the expected return is constant in short intervals. It also accounts for that both are dependent on the stock price, which intuitively makes sense as both drift and diffusion should be dependent on  $S$ .

Alternative 1:  $\Delta S = \mu \Delta t + \sigma \Delta W_t$ .

This model's drift term assumes the expected return is a constant amount independent of the current stock price  $S$ . Also the diffusion term (randomness) is also constant, not scaled by  $S$ . This implies that both the expected increase in stock price and variability are constant and not affected by the stock price, which is incorrect. As stocks with higher prices typically have lower volatility compared to smaller stocks and this model would also predict negative stock prices which makes no sense.

Alternative 2:  $\Delta \mu S \Delta t + \sigma \Delta W$

Here the diffusion term as mentioned in alternative 1 does not consider the stock price, and is a constant amount. The drift term is better as it now considers the stock price. Still it is not perfect. This model has the same problem as 1 that the variability in the stock price regardless of stock price meaning that larger stocks have same variability as smaller.

Alternative 3:

Here the drift term is independent of the  $S$  stock price, this is better than Alternative 1 but suffers from the problem that the drift is constant. This implies that the expected dollar return is the same regardless of stock price.