Option Pricing under the Bachelier (Nomral) Model Stochastic Finance (FIN 519)

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Bachelier vs Black-Scholes-Merton model

- Let F_t be the T-forward price of stock price S_t observed at time t:

$$F_t = e^{(r-q)(T-t)} S_t \quad (F_T = S_T),$$

  where r is interest rate, q is dividend rate and T is the time-to-expiry.
- Then, F_t is a martingale. (However, let us safely assume $r = q = 0$, so $F_t = S_t$ for now.)
- Under the Bachelier model, S_T follows an arithmetic Brownian motion (BM) with volatility σ_N:

$$S_t = S_0 + \sigma_\mathrm{N} B_t \quad (\text{SDE:} \quad dS_t = \sigma_\mathrm{N} dB_t)\,.$$

- Under the Black-Scholes-Merton (BSM) model, S_T follows an geometric BM:

$$S_t = S_0 \exp\left(\sigma_\mathrm{BS} B_t - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_\mathrm{BS}^2\, t\right) \quad \left(\text{SDE:} \quad \frac{dS_t}{S_t} = \sigma_\mathrm{BS} dB_t\right).$$

- The two models are approximately same if the two volatilities are related by

$$\sigma_\mathrm{N} = S_0\ \sigma_\mathrm{BS}.$$

Bachelier model

Also known as

- Bachelier model (vs Black-Scholes-Merton model)
- Normal process (vs Log-normal process)
- Arithmetic BM (vs Geometric BM)

Why Bachelier model?

- Bachelier model, once forgotten, has gained attention recently.
- Provides a model dynamics for some underlying assets. Daily changes are independent of the level of the price level (interest rate, inflation rate)
- Price can be indeed negative:
  - Negative (or near zero) interest rate after the 2008 financial crisis.
  - Negative oil futures due to the pandemic recession (Aprili 2020); See CME Model Switch.
- More intuitive than Black-Scholes-Merton

Call Option Price

Underlying asset price at maturity T:

$$S_T = S_0 + \sigma_{\rm N} B_T = S_0 + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}z, \quad \text{where} \quad z \sim N(0,1)$$

Payoff:

$$\max(S_T - K, 0) = (S_T - K)^+ = (S_0 - K + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}z)^+$$

$$S_T = K \quad \Rightarrow \quad z = -d_{\rm N} = \frac{K - S_0}{\sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}} \quad \left(d_{\rm N} = \frac{S_0 - K}{\sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}}\right)$$

Forward option value (undiscounted):

$$\begin{aligned} C(K) &= \int_{-d_{\rm N}}^{\infty} (S_0 - K + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}z)\, n(z)dz \\ &= (S_0 - K)(1 - N(-d_{\rm N})) + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}\, n(-d_{\rm N}) \\ &= (S_0 - K)N(d_{\rm N}) + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}\, n(d_{\rm N}) \end{aligned}$$

Here we used

$$\int z\, n(z)dz = \frac{z}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz = -n(z) + C.$$

Present option value (discounted):

$$C_0(K) = e^{-rT} C(K)$$

Put Option Price

Payoff:

$$(K - S_T)^+ = (K - S_0 - \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}z)^+$$

The root of $S_T = K \quad \Rightarrow \quad z = -d_{\rm N} = \dfrac{K - S_0}{\sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}} \quad \left(d_{\rm N} = \dfrac{S_0 - K}{\sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}}\right)$

Forward option value (undiscounted):

$$\begin{aligned} P(K) &= \int_{-\infty}^{-d_{\rm N}} (K - S_0 - \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}z)\, n(z) dz \\ &= (K - S_0) N(-d_{\rm N}) + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}\, n(-d_{\rm N}) \\ &= (K - S_0) N(-d_{\rm N}) + \sigma_{\rm N}\sqrt{T}\, n(d_{\rm N}) \end{aligned}$$

Present option value (discounted):

$$P_0(K) = e^{-rT} P(K)$$

Put-Call parity holds!

$$\begin{aligned} C(K) - P(K) &= (S_0 - K) N(d_{\rm N}) - (K - S_0) N(-d_{\rm N}) \\ &= (S_0 - K)\big(N(d_{\rm N}) + N(-d_{\rm N})\big) = S_0 - K \end{aligned}$$

Option Price (At-The-Money)

If $K = S_0$ (at-the-money), $d_{\mathrm{N}} = 0$ and the option prices are

$$C(K = S_0) = P(K = S_0) = \sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}n(0) = \frac{\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \approx 0.4\,\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}$$

$$\text{Straddle} = C + P \approx 0.8\,\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}$$

$$C_0(K = S_0) = P_0(K = S_0) = \frac{e^{-rT}\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \approx e^{-rT}\,0.4\,\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}$$

Therefore, the option price is proportional to the *width* (or stdev) of the distribution of the future price, $\sigma_{\mathrm{N}}\sqrt{T}$, which is consistent with the intuition. Before we derive Black-Scholes formula, let's keep this relation between the volatility and the option price in mind. Even without the Black-Scholes formula (which is somewhat complicated), this relation should give you a very good intuition.

Greeks (sensitivities of price)

Delta: sensitivity on the underlying price

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial S_0} = N(d_\mathrm{N}), \quad \frac{\partial P}{\partial S_0} = -N(-d_\mathrm{N}) \quad \left(d_\mathrm{N} = \frac{S_0 - K}{\sigma_\mathrm{N}\sqrt{T}}\right)$$
$$\left(\frac{\partial C}{\partial S_0} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial S_0} = 1\right)$$

$N(d_\mathrm{N})$ measures how closely the call option price moves with the underlying stock, i.e., how much the option is in-the-money.

Gamma: convexity on the underlying price

$$\frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial S_0^2} = \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial S_0^2} = \frac{n(d_\mathrm{N})}{\sigma_\mathrm{N}\sqrt{T}}$$

Vega: sensitivity on the volatility

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial \sigma_\mathrm{N}} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial \sigma_\mathrm{N}} = \sqrt{T}\, n(d_\mathrm{N})$$

Comparison of the two models

Model	Bachelier (Normal)	BSM (Lognormal)
Reference	Bachelier [1900]	Black-Scholes, Merton [1973]
SDE	Arithmetic BM: $dS_t = \sigma_{\text{N}} dW_t$	Geometric BM: $dS_t/S_t = \sigma_{\text{BS}} dW_t$
Asset class	Interest rate, Inflation, Spread	Equity, FX
Moneyness	$d_{\text{N}} = \frac{S_0 - K}{\sigma_{\text{N}}\sqrt{T}}$	$d_{1,2} = \frac{\log(S_0/K)}{\sigma_{\text{BS}}\sqrt{T}} \pm \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{\text{BS}}\sqrt{T}$
Call option price	$(S_0 - K)N(d_{\text{N}}) + \sigma_{\text{N}}\sqrt{T}\,n(d_{\text{N}})$	$S_0\,N(d_1) - K\,N(d_2)$
Equivalent volatility	$\sigma_{\text{N}} \approx S_0\,\sigma_{\text{BS}}$	
Digital, $P(S_t > K)$	$N(d_{\text{N}})$	$N(d_2)$
Delta $(\partial/\partial S_0)$	$N(d_{\text{N}})$	$N(d_1)$
Vega $(\partial/\partial\sigma)$	$\sqrt{T}\,n(d_{\text{N}})$	$S_0\sqrt{T}\,n(d_1)$
Gamma $(\partial^2/\partial S_0^2)$	$n(d_{\text{N}})/\sigma_{\text{N}}\sqrt{T}$	$n(d_1)/S_0\sigma_{\text{BS}}\sqrt{T}$
Theta $(-\partial/\partial T)$	$-\sigma_{\text{N}} n(d_{\text{N}})/2\sqrt{T}$	$-S_0\sigma_{\text{BS}} n(d_1)/2\sqrt{T}$

Generalization

The price at maturity T has normal distribution with variance V_T (stdev $\sqrt{V_T}$):

$$X_T = X_0 + \sqrt{V_T}z, \quad \text{where} \quad z \sim N(0,1)$$

Then, for the payoff $\max(\pm(X_T - K), 0)$, the option prices are given by

$$\begin{cases} C(K) = (X_0 - K)N(d_\text{N}) + \sqrt{V_T}\, n(d_\text{N}) \\ P(K) = (K - X_0)N(-d_\text{N}) + \sqrt{V_T}\, n(d_\text{N}), \\ C(K = X_0) = P(K = X_0) = 0.4\sqrt{V_T}, \end{cases} \qquad \text{where} \quad d_\text{N} = \frac{X_0 - K}{\sqrt{V_T}}$$

- Spread/Basket option

$$X_t = X_0 + aW_t + bZ_t \text{ with } E(W_t\, Z_t) = \rho t \quad \Rightarrow \quad V_T = (a^2 + 2\rho ab + b^2)T$$

- Asian option; see Problem 6 (2019HW) of the Bachelier model

$$X_T = X_0 + \frac{\sigma}{N}\sum_{k=1}^{N} W_{kT/N} \quad \Rightarrow \quad V_T = \frac{15}{32}\sigma^2 T \quad (N = 4)$$

- Time-varying volatility

$$dS_t = f(t)dB_t \quad \Rightarrow \quad V_T = \int_0^T f^2(t)dt \;\; \text{(Itô's isometry)}$$