Assignment 4: Brownian motions and option pricing

Due on Mar. 14

1. (Josh's Barber Shop (An M/M/1/3 + M model))

Josh operates a small barbershop in Raleigh. His barbershop has room for at most three customers, one in service and two waiting.

- Potential customers arrive according to a Poisson process with rate $\lambda = 10$ per hour. If a potential arrival finds the barber shop full, with a customer in service and two other customers waiting, he (she) is blocked and lost (i.e., he will leave and will not affect future arrivals);
- Successive service times are I.I.D. $\text{Exp}(\mu)$ r.v.'s with mean $1/\mu = 30$ minutes;
- Waiting customers have limited patience, with each waiting customer being willing to wait only a random amount of time, if the customer has not started service by that time, the customer will abandon, leaving without receiving service. Customers' patience times are I.I.D. r.v.'s following $\text{Exp}(\gamma)$, with mean $1/\gamma = 20$ minutes.

Using the first CTMC algorithm to simulate a path of the queue length process $\{Q(t), 0 \le$ $t \leq T$ (here Q(t) denotes the total number of customers in the shop), T = 10000. Estimate

(a) long-run average number of customers in the shop

$$\hat{Q}_T \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T Q(t) dt.$$

(b) long-run proportion of time the barber is busy

$$\hat{B}_T \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbf{1}(Q(t) > 0) dt.$$

(c) long-run proportion of time the shop is full

$$\hat{F}_T \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbf{1}(Q(t) = 3) dt.$$

(d) long-run average number of customers waiting in line

$$\hat{L}_T \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \max(Q(t) - 1, 0) dt.$$

Note: Only one sample path of Q(t) needs to be generated.

2. (Option pricing under GBM)

The current price of a stock is \$100. Suppose the logarithm of the price of the stock changes according to a BM with drift coefficient μ and variance $\sigma^2 = 1$. Let the expiration time be t=4 and assume the continuously compounded interest rate is $\alpha=20\%$.

- (a) Give the Black-Scholes price of an European call option with strike prices (i) K = \$100,
 - (ii) K = \$120 and (iii) K = \$80.

- (b) Write a MATLAB program to price the European call option for all three cases in (a), compare your results to (a). (Simulate N=100000 samples and use step size $\Delta t=0.01$. Try to minimize the use of for-loops.)
- (c) Write a MATLAB program to price the Asian call option under the setting of (b).
- (d) Write a MATLAB program to price the lookback call option under the setting of (b).

3. (Pricing a compound option)

Consider a compound European call-on-call (CoC) option. Suppose that at time $T_1 = 2$, for a strike price $K_1 = \$80$ there is an option of buying a European call option with an expiration time $T_2 = 4$ and strike price $K_2 = \$120$.

- (a) Give pseudo-code for a Monte-Carlo algorithm to estimate the price of the compound European call option.
- (b) Write a MATLAB program to price the CoC option with BM parameters, current stock price, and interest rate the same as in Problem 1.

4. (Option pricing under JDP)

Now suppose that the stock price behaves as a GBM as in Problem 7 (with same parameters α , σ there) with random jumps, where the jumps occur according to a Poisson process N(t) with rate $\lambda = 1$ and logarithm of price jump sizes are distributed as i.i.d. normal random variables with mean a = 0 and variance $b^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ (i.e., the Merton model). The jump times and sizes are independent with the GBM.

- (a) Determine the value of μ (in terms of other parameters: α , λ , a, b, σ) under the "no-arbitrage" assumption for a stock price behaving according to a Merton JDP.
- (b) Write a MATLAB program to price an European call option with stock price under the JDP assumption for t=4 and initial stock price \$100.