

Hierarchical adaptive sparse grids for option pricing under the rough Bergomi model

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Abstract

The rough Bergomi (rBergomi) model, introduced recently in [4], is a promising rough volatility model in quantitative finance. This new model exhibits consistent results with the empirical fact of implied volatility surfaces being essentially time-invariant. This model also has the ability to capture the term structure of skew observed in equity markets. In the absence of analytical European option pricing methods for the model, and due to the non-Markovian nature of the fractional driver, the prevalent option is to use Monte Carlo (MC) simulation for pricing. Despite recent advances in the MC method in this context, pricing under the rBergomi model is still a time-consuming task. To overcome this issue, we design a novel, alternative, hierarchical approach, based on adaptive sparse grids quadrature, specifically using the same construction as multi-index stochastic collocation (MISC) [21], coupled with Brownian bridge construction and Richardson extrapolation. By uncovering the available regularity, our hierarchical method demonstrates substantial computational gains with respect to the standard MC method, when reaching a sufficiently small error tolerance in the price estimates across different parameter constellations, even for very small values of the Hurst parameter. Our work opens a new research direction in this field, i.e. to investigate the performance of methods other than Monte Carlo for pricing and calibrating under the rBergomi model.

Keywords Rough volatility, Monte Carlo, Adaptive sparse grids, Brownian bridge construction, Richardson extrapolation.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification 91G60, 91G20, 65C05, 65D30, 65D32.

1 Details of Cholesky scheme coupled with hierarchical representation

Let us denote by the matrix A , the computable covariance matrix of $\widetilde{W}_{t_1}^H, \dots, \widetilde{W}_{t_N}^H, W_{t_1}^1, \dots, W_{t_N}^1$. We can use Cholesky decomposition of A to produce exact samples of $W_{t_1}^1, \dots, W_{t_N}^1, \widetilde{W}_{t_1}^H, \dots, \widetilde{W}_{t_N}^H$.

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In fact let us denote by L the triangular matrix resulting from Cholesky decomposition such that

$$L = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} L_1 & 0 \\ \hline L_2 & L_3 \end{array} \right),$$

where L_1, L_2, L_3 are $N \times N$ matrices, such that L_1 and L_3 are triangular.

Then, given a $2N \times 1$ -dimensional Gaussian random input vector, $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_N, X_{N+1}, \dots, X_{2N})'$, we have

$$(1.1) \quad \mathbf{W}^{(1)} = L_1 \mathbf{X}_{1:N}, \quad \widetilde{\mathbf{W}} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} L_2 & L_3 \end{array} \right) \mathbf{X}.$$

On the other hand, let us assume that we can construct $\mathbf{W}^{(1)}$ hierarchically through Brownian bridge construction defined by the linear mapping given by the matrix G , then given a N -dimensional Gaussian random input vector, \mathbf{Z}' , we can write

$$\mathbf{W}^{(1)} = G \mathbf{Z}',$$

and consequently

$$\mathbf{X}_{1:N} = L_1^{-1} G \mathbf{Z}'.$$

Therefore, given a $2N$ -dimensional Gaussian random input vector, $\mathbf{Z} = (\mathbf{Z}', \mathbf{Z}'')$, we define our hierarchical representation by

$$(1.2) \quad \mathbf{X} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} L_1^{-1} G & 0 \\ \hline 0 & I_N \end{array} \right) \mathbf{Z}.$$

We need to make sure that \mathbf{X} has Gaussian distribution as an outcome of the construction (4.2). Consequently, we need to compute carefully L_1^{-1} . Actually, I observed that $L_1 = I_{N \times N}$. Therefore, \mathbf{X} has Gaussian distribution as an outcome of the construction (4.2).

TO-DO 1: Implement the appropriate Cholesky scheme, taking into account the above construction, and check if the hierarchical construction is giving good results.

2 Numerical experiments

In this section, we show the results obtained through the different numerical experiments, conducted across different parameter constellations for the rBergomi model. Details about these examples are presented in Table 5.1. The first set is the one that is closest to the empirical findings [8, 19], which suggest that $H \approx 0.1$. The choice of parameters values of $\nu = 1.9$ and $\rho = -0.9$ is justified by [4], where it is shown that these values are remarkably consistent with the SPX market on 4th February 2010. For the remaining three sets in Table 5.1, we wanted to test the potential of our method for a very rough case, that is $H = 0.02$, for three different scenarios of moneyness, S_0/K . In fact, hierarchical variance reduction methods, such as Multi-level Monte Carlo (MLMC), are inefficient in this context, because of the poor behavior of the strong error, that is of the order of H [30]. We emphasize that we checked the robustness of our method for other parameter sets, but for illustrative purposes, we only show results for the parameters sets presented in Table 5.1. For all our numerical experiments, we consider a number of time steps $N \in \{2, 4, 8, 16\}$, and all reported errors are relative errors, normalized by the reference solutions provided in Table 5.1.

Parameters	Reference solution
Set 1: $H = 0.07, K = 1, S_0 = 1, T = 1, \rho = -0.9, \eta = 1.9, \xi_0 = 0.235^2$	0.0791 ($7.9e-05$)
Set 2: $H = 0.02, K = 1, S_0 = 1, T = 1, \rho = -0.7, \eta = 0.4, \xi_0 = 0.1$	0.1248 ($1.3e-04$)
Set 3: $H = 0.02, K = 0.8, S_0 = 1, T = 1, \rho = -0.7, \eta = 0.4, \xi_0 = 0.1$	0.2407 ($5.6e-04$)
Set 4: $H = 0.02, K = 1.2, S_0 = 1, T = 1, \rho = -0.7, \eta = 0.4, \xi_0 = 0.1$	0.0568 ($2.5e-04$)

Table 2.1: Reference solution, which is the approximation of the call option price under the rBergomi model, defined in (2.4), using MC with 500 time steps and number of samples, $M = 10^6$, for different parameter constellations. The numbers between parentheses correspond to the statistical errors estimates.

2.1 Weak error

We start our numerical experiments with accurately estimating the weak error (bias) for the different parameter sets in Table 5.1, with and without Richardson extrapolation.

For illustrative purposes, we only show the weak errors related to set 1 in Table 5.1 (see Figure 5.1). We note that we observed similar behavior for the other parameter sets, with slightly worse rates for some cases. We emphasize that the reported weak rates correspond to the pre-asymptotic regime that we are interested in. Our results are purely experimental, and hence we cannot be sure what will happen in the asymptotic regime. We are not interested in estimating the rates specifically but rather obtaining a sufficiently precise estimate of the weak error (bias), $\mathcal{E}_B(N)$, for different numbers of time steps N . For a fixed discretization, the corresponding estimated biased solution will be set as a reference solution to the MISC method in order to estimate the quadrature error $\mathcal{E}_Q(\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}}, N)$.

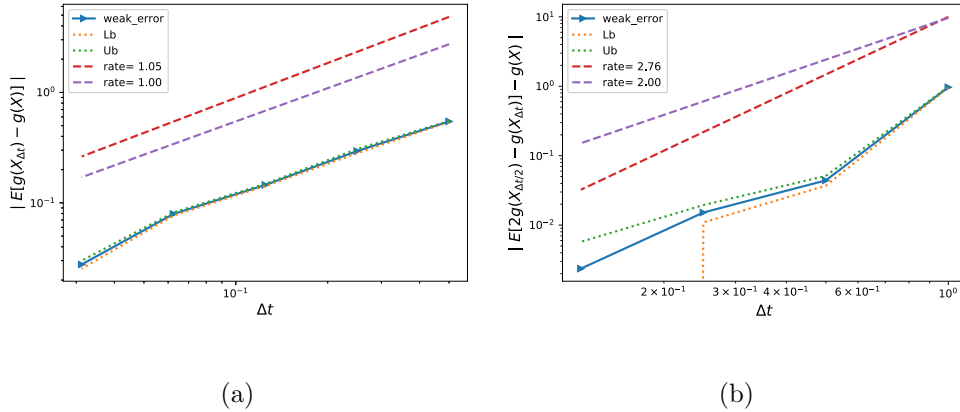


Figure 2.1: The convergence of the weak error $\mathcal{E}_B(N)$, defined in (3.2), using MC, for set 1 parameter in Table 5.1. We refer to C_{RB} as $E[g(X)]$, and to C_{RB}^N as $E[g(X_{\Delta t})]$. The upper and lower bounds are 95% confidence intervals. a) without Richardson extrapolation. b) with Richardson extrapolation (level 1).

2.2 Comparing the different errors and computational time for MC and MISC

In this section, we conduct a comparison between MC and MISC in terms of errors and computational time. We show tables and plots reporting the different relative errors involved in the MC method (bias and statistical error¹ estimates), and in MISC (bias and quadrature error estimates). While fixing a sufficiently small error tolerance in the price estimates, we also compare the computational time needed for both methods to meet the desired error tolerance. We note that in all cases the actual work (runtime) is obtained using an Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-268 architecture.

Through our conducted numerical experiments for each parameter set, we follow these steps to achieve our reported results:

- i) For a fixed number of time steps, N , we compute an accurate estimate, using a large number of samples, M , of the biased MC solution, C_{RB}^N . This step also provides us with an estimate of the bias error, $\mathcal{E}_B(N)$, defined by (3.2).
- ii) The estimated biased solution, C_{RB}^N , is used as a reference solution to MISC to compute the quadrature error, $\mathcal{E}_Q(\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}}, N)$, defined by (3.4).
- iii) In order to compare with MC method, the number of samples, M , is chosen so that the statistical error of the Monte Carlo method, $\mathcal{E}_S(M)$, satisfies

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{E}_S(M) = \mathcal{E}_B(N) = \frac{\mathcal{E}_{\text{tot}}}{2},$$

where $\mathcal{E}_B(N)$ is the bias as defined in (3.2) and \mathcal{E}_{tot} is the total error.

We show the summary of our numerical findings in Table 5.2, which highlights the computational gains achieved by MISC over MC method to meet a certain error tolerance, which we set approximately to 1%. More detailed results for each case of parameter set, as in Table 5.1, are provided in Sections 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 and 5.2.4.

Parameter set	Level of Richardson extrapolation	Total relative error	Ratio of CPU time (MC/MISC)
Set 1	level 1	3%	1.6
	level 2	1%	> 9
Set 2	without	0.2%	5
Set 3	without	0.4%	7
Set 4	without	2%	1.3

Table 2.2: Summary of relative errors and computational gains, achieved by the different methods. In this table, we highlight the computational gains achieved by MISC over MC method to meet a certain error tolerance. As expected, these gains are improved when applying Richardson extrapolation as observed for the case of parameters set 1. We provide details about the way we compute these gains for each case in the following sections.

¹The statistical error estimate of MC is $\frac{\sigma_M}{\sqrt{M}}$, which is the standard deviation estimate of the MC estimator, where M is the number of samples.

2.2.1 Case of parameters in Set 1, in Table 5.1

In this section, we conduct our numerical experiments for three different scenarios: i) without Richardson extrapolation (see Tables 5.3 and 5.4), ii) with (level 1) Richardson extrapolation (see Tables 5.5 and 5.6), and iii) with (level 2) Richardson extrapolation (see Tables 5.7 and 5.8). Our numerical experiments show that MISC coupled with (level 1) Richardson extrapolation requires approximately 60% of the work of MC coupled with (level 1) Richardson extrapolation, to achieve a total relative error of around 3%. This gain is improved further when applying level 2 Richardson extrapolation. In fact, MISC coupled with (level 2) Richardson extrapolation requires approximately less than 10% of the work of MC coupled with (level 2) Richardson extrapolation, to achieve a total relative error below 1%. Applying Richardson extrapolation brought a significant improvement for MISC (see Figure 5.2 and Tables 5.3,5.4,5.5,5.6,5.7,5.8).

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.69 (0.54,0.15)	0.42 (0.29,0.13)	0.31 (0.15,0.16)	0.11 (0.07,0.04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.66 (0.54,0.12)	0.29 (0.29,6e-04)	0.16 (0.15,0.01)	0.08 (0.07,0.01)
MC	1.05 (0.54,0.51)	0.59 (0.295,0.295)	0.31 (0.155,0.155)	0.14 (0.07,0.07)
M(# MC samples)	2×10	4×10	10^2	4×10^2

Table 2.3: Total relative error of MISC, without Richardson extrapolation, with different tolerances, and MC to compute the call option prices for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors estimates. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1).

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.08	0.13	0.7	163
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.2	5	333	1602
MC method	0.001	0.003	0.02	0.2

Table 2.4: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, to compute the call option price of the rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs.

Method	Steps		
	1 – 2	2 – 4	4 – 8
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	1.33 (0.96,0.37)	0.18 (0.07,0.11)	0.144 (0.015,0.129)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 5.10^{-2}$)	1.33 (0.96,0.37)	0.23 (0.07,0.16)	0.025 (0.015,0.010)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	1.08 (0.96,0.12)	0.08 (0.07,0.01)	0.025 (0.015,0.010)
MC	1.88 (0.96,0.92)	0.14 (0.07,0.07)	0.03 (0.015,0.015)
M(# MC samples)	10	2×10^3	4×10^4

Table 2.5: Total relative error of MISC, coupled with Richardson extrapolation (level 1), with different tolerances, and MC, coupled with Richardson extrapolation (level 1), to compute the call option price for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1). The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps		
	1 – 2	2 – 4	4 – 8
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.1	0.2	1.6
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 5.10^{-2}$)	0.1	0.6	37
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	1.3	6	2382
MC	0.003	2	60

Table 2.6: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, using Richardson extrapolation (level 1), to compute the call option price of the rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs. The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps	
	1 – 2 – 4	2 – 4 – 8
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.54 (0.24,0.30)	0.113 (0.006,0.107)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 5 \cdot 10^{-2}$)	0.49 (0.24,0.25)	0.009 (0.006,0.003)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.27 (0.24,0.03)	0.009 (0.006,0.003)
MC	0.45 (0.24,0.21)	0.012 (0.006,0.006)
M(# MC samples)	4×10^2	4×10^5

Table 2.7: Total relative error of MISC, coupled with Richardson extrapolation (level 2), with different tolerances, and MC, coupled with Richardson extrapolation (level 2), to compute the call option price for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1). The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps	
	1 – 2 – 4	2 – 4 – 8
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.2	2
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 5 \cdot 10^{-2}$)	0.5	74
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	9	3455
MC	0.2	690

Table 2.8: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, using Richardson extrapolation (level 2), to compute the call option price of the rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs. The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

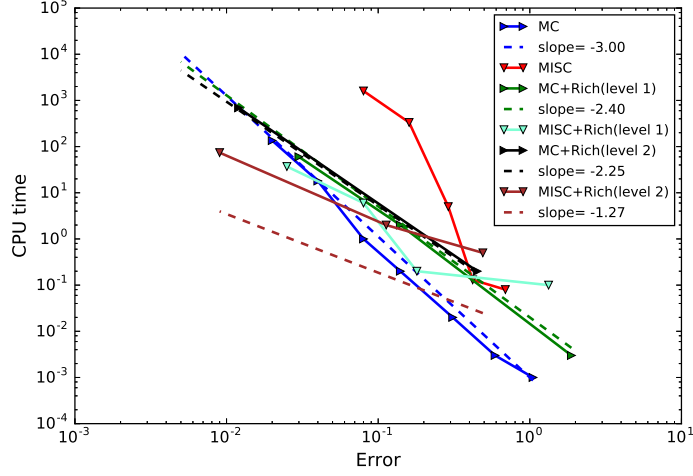


Figure 2.2: Computational work comparison for MISC and MC methods (with and without) Richardson extrapolation, for the case of parameter set 1 in Table 5.1. This plot shows that to achieve a relative error below 1%, MISC coupled with level 2 of Richardson extrapolation is the best option in terms of computational time. Furthermore, applying Richardson extrapolation brings a significant improvement for MISC and MC methods, in terms of numerical complexity.

2.2.2 Case of parameters in Set 2, in Table 5.1

In this section, we only conduct our numerical experiments for the case without Richardson extrapolation, since the results show that we meet a small enough error tolerance without the need to apply Richardson extrapolation. Our numerical experiments show that MISC requires approximately 20% of the work of MC method, to achieve a total relative error of around 0.2% (see Figure 5.3 and Tables 5.10 and 5.9).

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.03 (0.02,0.01)	0.022 (0.008,0.014)	0.022 (0.004,0.018)	0.017 (0.001,0.016)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.03 (0.02,0.01)	0.017 (0.008,0.009)	0.008 (0.004,0.004)	0.001 (0.001,4e-04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.02 (0.02,8e-04)	0.009 (0.008,8e-04)	0.005 (0.004,8e-04)	0.001 (0.001,4e-04)
MC	0.04 (0.02,0.02)	0.016 (0.008,0.008)	0.007 (0.004,0.003)	0.002 (0.001,0.001)
M(# MC samples)	4×10^3	2×10^4	10^5	10^6

Table 2.9: Total relative error of MISC, without Richardson extrapolation, with different tolerances, and MC to compute the call option price for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors estimates. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1). The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.1	0.5	8	92
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.5	3	24	226
MC method	0.15	1.6	16.5	494

Table 2.10: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, to compute the call option price of the rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs. The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

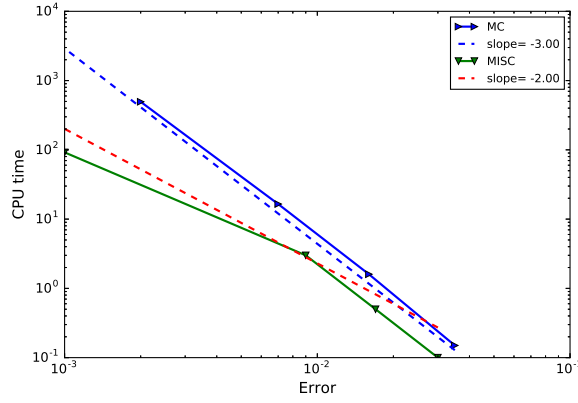


Figure 2.3: Computational work comparison for MISC and MC methods, for the case of parameter set 2 in Table 5.1. This plot shows that to achieve a relative error below 1%, MISC outperforms MC method in terms of computational time.

2.2.3 Case of parameters in Set 3, in Table 5.1

In this section, we only conduct our numerical experiments for the case without Richardson extrapolation, since the results show that we meet a small enough error tolerance without the need to apply Richardson extrapolation. Our numerical experiments show that MISC requires approximately 14% of the work of MC method, to achieve a total relative error of around 0.4% (see Figure 5.4 and Tables 5.12 and 5.11).

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.008 (0.006,0.002)	0.009 (0.004,0.005)	0.008 (0.003,0.005)	0.009 (0.002,0.007)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.008 (0.006,0.002)	0.009 (0.004,0.005)	0.005 (0.003,0.002)	0.002 (0.002,1e-04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.008 (0.006,0.002)	0.006 (0.004,0.002)	0.003 (0.003,1e-04)	0.002 (0.002,1e-04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-4}$)	0.006 (0.006,4e-04)	0.004 (0.004,2e-04)	0.003 (0.003,1e-04)	—
MC	0.01 (0.006,0.005)	0.008 (0.004,0.004)	0.006 (0.003,0.003)	0.004 (0.002,0.002)
M(# MC samples)	2×10^4	4×10^4	6×10^4	8×10^4

Table 2.11: Total relative error of MISC, without Richardson extrapolation, with different tolerances, and MC to compute the call option price for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors estimates. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1). The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.1	0.1	0.1	1
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.1	0.15	9	112
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.2	2	27	2226
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-4}$)	1	6	136	—
MC method	1	3	10	40

Table 2.12: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, to compute the call option price of the rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs. The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

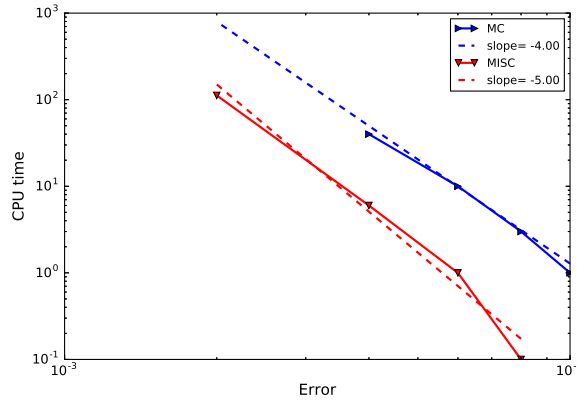


Figure 2.4: Comparison of computational work for MC and MISC methods, for the case of parameter set 3 in Table 5.1. This plot shows that to achieve a relative error below 1%, MISC outperforms MC method in terms of computational time.

2.2.4 Case of parameters in Set 4, in Table 5.1

In this section, we only conduct our numerical experiments for the case without Richardson extrapolation. Our numerical experiments show that MISC requires approximately 75% of the work of MC method, to achieve a total relative error of around 2% (see Figure 5.5 and Tables 5.14 and 5.13). Similar to the case of set 1 parameters illustrated in section 5.2.1, we believe that Richardson extrapolation will improve the performance of MISC method.

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.09 (0.07,0.05)	0.07 (0.03,0.04)	0.07 (0.02,0.05)	0.06 (0.01,2e-04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.09 (0.07,5e-04)	0.07 (0.03,0.04)	0.02 (0.02,3e-04)	0.02 (0.01,2e-04)
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.07 (0.07,5e-04)	0.03 (0.03,4e-04)	0.02 (0.02,3e-04)	0.01 (0.01,2e-04)
MC	0.14 (0.07,0.07)	0.07 (0.03,0.04)	0.04 (0.02,0.02)	0.02 (0.01,0.01)
M(# MC samples)	6×10^2	2×10^3	8×10^3	2×10^4

Table 2.13: Total relative error of MISC, without Richardson extrapolation, with different tolerances, and MC to compute the call option price for different numbers of time steps. The values between parentheses correspond to the different errors contributing to the total relative error: for MISC we report the bias and quadrature errors and for MC we report the bias and the statistical errors estimates. The number of MC samples, M , is chosen to satisfy (5.1). The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

Method	Steps			
	2	4	8	16
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-1}$)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-2}$)	0.1	0.1	8	97
MISC ($\text{TOL}_{\text{MISC}} = 10^{-3}$)	0.7	4	26	1984
MC method	0.02	0.15	1.4	10

Table 2.14: Comparison of the computational time (in seconds) of MC and MISC, to compute the call option price of rBergomi model for different numbers of time steps. The average MC CPU time is computed over 100 runs. The values marked in red correspond to the values used for computational work comparison against MC method, reported in Table 5.2.

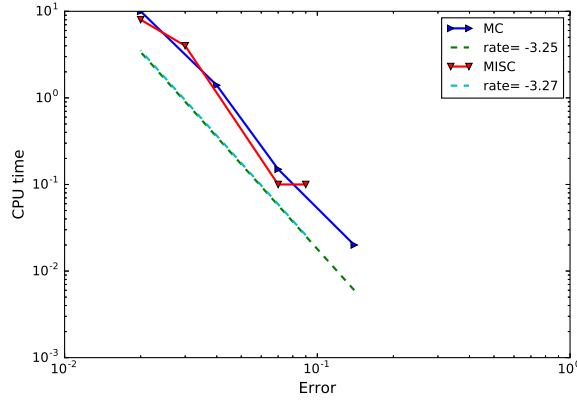


Figure 2.5: Comparison of computational work for MC and MISC methods, for the case of parameter set 4 in Table 5.1. This plot shows that to achieve a relative error around 1%, MISC and MC methods have similar performance in terms of computational time.

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