

August 30, 2025

1 *Reminder of Itô's lemma*

1.1 The part that is Brownian Specific

Kiyoshi Itô (1940s) was building a new **integration theory** for stochastic processes.

- Ordinary calculus: $\int f(t) dt$
- Stochastic calculus: $\int f(t, W_t) dW_t$, where $dW_t^{\mathbb{P}} \equiv W_{t+dt}^{\mathbb{P}} - W_t^{\mathbb{P}}$, $dW_t^{\mathbb{P}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, dt)$.

But Brownian motion W_t is nowhere differentiable, so classical integration does not work. Itô's main achievement was to define a new type of integral.

1.2 2. The “main theorem”

The central result is the **existence and properties of the Itô integral**.

For a square-integrable process f , the integral

$$\int_0^t f(s, W_s) dW_s \quad (1)$$

is well-defined, and it satisfies:

- **Martingale property**
The stochastic integral is a martingale.
– 1. $\mathbb{E}[|X_t|] < \infty$ for all t . – 2. For all $s < t$, $\mathbb{E}[X_t | \mathcal{F}_s] = X_s$.
- **Itô isometry** – For Brownian Motion

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\int_0^t f(s, W_s) dW_s \right)^2 \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^t f(s, W_s)^2 ds \right]. \quad (2)$$

$$\int_a^b f(t) dW_t = \lim_{\|\Pi\| \rightarrow 0} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f(t_i) (W_{t_{i+1}} - W_{t_i}), \quad (3)$$

The integral is the sum of all the $f(t)$, weighted by the incremental (infinitesimally small) of the random part, similar to the chain rule where $dW_t = dW_t/dt \times dt$ not the possible W_t at time t , but rather $W_t = W(t)$.

This theorem is the foundation of stochastic calculus.

1.3 3. Where Itô's lemma fits

Once the integral is defined, consider an SDE

$$dX_t = a(X_t, t) dt + b(X_t, t) dW_t. \quad (4)$$

If $f = f(X_t, t)$, what dynamics does f satisfy?

Itô's lemma gives the answer:

$$df = f_t dt + f_x dX_t + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} (dX_t)^2. \quad (5)$$

This is the **chain rule** in stochastic calculus, derived from the Itô integral and the quadratic variation property of Brownian motion.

- In real analysis:
 - **Main theorem:** the Lebesgue integral exists with convergence theorems.
 - **Chain rule:** a lemma built upon it.
- In stochastic calculus:
 - **Main theorem:** the Itô integral is well-defined with isometry and martingale properties.
 - 1. $\mathbb{E}[|X_t|] < \infty$ for all t .
 - 2. For all $s < t$, $\mathbb{E}[X_t | \mathcal{F}_s] = X_s$.
 - **Itô's lemma:** the chain rule for SDEs.

$$dX_t = a dt + b dW_t. \quad (6)$$

- The deterministic part $a dt$ is order dt . - The random part $b dW_t$ is order \sqrt{dt} . This can be seen in two ways:

1.4 Stories in our story

First:

$$\mathbb{E}[|dW_t|] = \sqrt{dt} \mathbb{E}[|Z|] = \sqrt{dt} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \quad (7)$$

Second, Because $dW_t/\sqrt{dt} \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ (tight, non-degenerate), we write $dW_t = O_p(\sqrt{dt})$. That is, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists M s.t.

$$\Pr\left(\frac{|dW_t|}{\sqrt{dt}} > M\right) < \varepsilon \quad (8)$$

for all sufficiently small dt . This formalizes “order \sqrt{dt} .”

Quick flashback:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Deterministic: } \forall \delta > 0, \exists M : 0 < h < \delta \implies |f(h)| \leq Mh^\alpha \implies f(h) = \mathcal{O}(h^\alpha). \\ \text{Stochastic: } \forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists M : \Pr(|X_h| > Mh^\alpha) < \varepsilon \quad (h \text{ small}) \implies X_h = \mathcal{O}(h^\alpha). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

(It is crucial to find the smallest α to correctly to define the infinitesimal behavior) So the dominant scaling of dX_t is \sqrt{dt} , not dt .

1. Classical Taylor expansion

For a smooth $f(x, t)$:

$$df = f_t dt + f_x dX_t + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} (dX_t)^2 + o((dX_t)^2). \quad (10)$$

In ordinary calculus, if $dX_t \sim dt$, then $(dX_t)^2 \sim (dt)^2$, which is negligible compared to dt . - So we drop both $\frac{1}{2} f_{xx} (dX_t)^2$ and the remainder $o((dX_t)^2)$.

Substituting the stochastic process (GBM) Square it:

$$(dX_t)^2 = (a dt + b dW_t)^2 = a^2 (dt)^2 + 2ab dt dW_t + b^2 (dW_t)^2. \quad (11)$$

Apply Itô rules “Itô’s lemma = Taylor expansion truncated at second order” - $(dt)^2 = 0$, - $dt dW_t = 0$, - $(dW_t)^2 = dt$.

Itô’s lemma is similar: it looks like a truncation trick, but it’s actually the rigorous foundation that allows us to define stochastic integrals, PDE connections, risk-neutral pricing, etc.

Proof of the third one:

Let $\Delta W := W_{t+\Delta t} - W_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Delta t)$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[(\Delta W)^2] = \Delta t, \quad \text{Var}((\Delta W)^2) = \mathbb{E}[(\Delta W)^4] - (\mathbb{E}[(\Delta W)^2])^2 = 3(\Delta t)^2 - (\Delta t)^2 = 2(\Delta t)^2. \quad (12)$$

Hence, with $R_{\Delta t} := (\Delta W)^2 - \Delta t$,

$$\mathbb{E}[R_{\Delta t}] = 0, \quad \text{SD}(R_{\Delta t}) = \sqrt{2\Delta t}. \quad (13)$$

So $R_{\Delta t} = O_p(\Delta t)$ (indeed also $O_{L^2}(\Delta t)$). Conclusion: for a single increment,

$$(\Delta W)^2 = \Delta t + O_p(\Delta t), \quad (14)$$

not $O(\Delta t^2)$.

Alternatively,

Let $\Pi = \{0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = T\}$ be a partition, and define

$$Q(\Pi) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (W_{t_{i+1}} - W_{t_i})^2. \quad (15)$$

For Brownian motion,

$$Q(\Pi) \xrightarrow[|\Pi| \rightarrow 0]{\text{a.s.}} T, \quad (16)$$

Where $\|\Pi\| := \max_i (t_{i+1} - t_i)$. so the quadratic variation is $[W]_t = t$. Heuristically this is the integral identity

$$\sum (dW_t)^2 = \int_0^T dt, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad (dW_t)^2 = dt. \quad (17)$$

2 The Lemma Beyond Brownian

Finance quickly saw that real markets are not pure Brownian: - Heavy tails \rightarrow models with jumps (Poisson, Lévy). - Volatility clustering \rightarrow stochastic volatility (Heston model). - Long memory \rightarrow fractional Brownian motion and rough volatility.

In these cases, Itô's lemma still works, but in generalized forms (with quadratic variation and jump terms).

3 Black-Scholes PDE: step-by-step derivation

3.1 1) Modeling assumptions

- Risky asset S_t follows GBM (Geometric Brownian Motion):

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t, \quad \sigma > 0 \quad (18)$$

- Money market account B_t grows at constant risk-free rate r :

$$dB_t = rB_t dt \quad (19)$$

- No arbitrage, continuous trading, no dividends.
- Derivative value $V = V(S, t)$ is smooth enough ($C^{2,1}$ in (S, t)).
- Where $dW_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, dt)$

3.2 2) Apply Itô's lemma to $V(S_t, t)$ – the equation for the derivatives – total value(time value + intrinsic value)

$$dV = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dS_t + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} (dS_t)^2 \quad (20)$$

Since $(dW_t)^2 = dt$ and $(dS_t)^2 = \sigma^2 S_t^2 dt$:

$$dV = \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \mu S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} \right) dt + \sigma S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} dW_t \quad (21)$$

3.3 3) Construct hedged portfolio

Portfolio:

$$\Pi_t = V(S_t, t) - \Delta S_t \quad (22)$$

- $V(S_t, t)$ is the value of the option.
- Π_t is the hedged portfolio (long the option, short Δ shares).
- Δ is the hedge ratio (also called option delta in Greeks)

Self-financing change:

$$d\Pi = dV - \Delta dS \quad (23)$$

Choose $\Delta = \frac{\partial V}{\partial S}$ so the dW_t term cancels:

$$d\Pi = \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} \right) dt \quad (24)$$

3.4 4) No-arbitrage condition

Riskless Π must earn risk-free rate:

$$d\Pi = r\Pi dt = r \left(V - S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \right) dt \quad (25)$$

Equating both:

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} = r \left(V - S \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} \right) \quad (26)$$

3.5 5) We arrive at Black–Scholes PDE

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0 \quad (27)$$

3.6 6) Terminal & boundary conditions – European Style

European call (K, T) :

$$V(S, T) = \max(S - K, 0) \quad (28)$$

$$V(0, t) = 0, \quad V(S, t) \sim S - Ke^{-r(T-t)} \text{ as } S \rightarrow \infty \quad (29)$$

European put:

$$V(S, T) = \max(K - S, 0) \quad (30)$$

$$V(0, t) = Ke^{-r(T-t)}, \quad V(S, t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } S \rightarrow \infty \quad (31)$$

3.7 7) Risk-neutral representation

the stock dynamics under the risk-neutral measure \mathbb{Q} :

$$dS_t = rS_t dt + \sigma S_t dW_t^{\mathbb{Q}} \quad (32)$$

$dW_t^{\mathbb{Q}} = dW_t^{\mathbb{P}} + \theta dt$, where $\theta = \frac{\mu-r}{\sigma}$. The reason for using \mathbb{Q} –martingale is because the risk-neutral hypothesis, and we move all the premiums inside the measures/probability density \mathbb{Q} .

$W^{\mathbb{P}}$ are $W^{\mathbb{Q}}$ two different process they are both $\mathcal{N}(0, t)$ in their measure. analoge to coin toss: - $\mathbb{P} : p(H) = 0.6$ $W_n = \sum_i^n (X_i - 0.2)$ - $\mathbb{Q} : p(H) = 0.5$ $W_n = \sum_i^n X_i$, $\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[W_n] \neq 0$, non martingale, but $\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[W_n] = 0$, martingale - (\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q} : measure/probability distribution)

By Feynman–Kac:

$$V(S, t) = e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[\Phi(S_T) \mid S_t = S] \quad (33)$$

- Φ Payoff function

3.8 8) Closed-form Black–Scholes formula

1) Risk-neutral distribution of S_T

$$\ln S_T \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\ln S + (r - \tfrac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau, \sigma^2\tau\right), \quad (34)$$

equivalently

$$S_T = S \exp\left((r - \tfrac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau + \sigma\sqrt{\tau} Z\right), \quad Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1). \quad (35)$$

2) Call option value as discounted expectation

$$C = e^{-r\tau} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}}[(S_T - K)^+]. \quad (36)$$

Split into two parts:

$$C = e^{-r\tau} \left(\mathbb{E}[S_T \mathbf{1}_{\{S_T > K\}}] - K \mathbb{Q}(S_T > K) \right). \quad (37)$$

3) Compute probabilities

$$\mathbb{Q}(S_T > K) = \mathbb{Q}\left(Z > \frac{\ln K - \ln S - (r - \tfrac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}\right) = N(d_2), \quad (38)$$

with

$$d_2 = \frac{\ln(S/K) + (r - \tfrac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}}. \quad (39)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[S_T \mathbf{1}_{\{S_T > K\}}] = S e^{r\tau} N(d_1), \quad (40)$$

where

$$d_1 = \frac{\ln(S/K) + (r + \tfrac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\tau}{\sigma\sqrt{\tau}} = d_2 + \sigma\sqrt{\tau}. \quad (41)$$

4) Call price

$$C = S N(d_1) - K e^{-r\tau} N(d_2). \quad (42)$$

5) Put option via put–call parity

$$P = K e^{-r\tau} N(-d_2) - S N(-d_1). \quad (43)$$

4 Now we do: Black–Scholes Validation: Analytic vs Monte Carlo

- Risk-neutral GBM simulation (from src/gbm.py)
- BS closed-form (inline)
- Confidence interval check
- Convergence $O(1/\sqrt{N})$
- Distribution sanity check for S_T

```
[1]: import math
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
import sys, os
project_root = os.path.abspath(os.path.join(os.getcwd(), '..'))
sys.path.append(project_root)
```

```
[2]: %cd $project_root
```

```
/Users/zhaoyub/Documents/Tradings/option-mini-lab
/Users/zhaoyub/Library/Python/3.12/lib/python/site-
packages/IPython/core/magics/osm.py:417: UserWarning: This is now an optional
IPython functionality, setting dhist requires you to install the `pickleshare`
library.
    self.shell.db['dhist'] = compress_dhist(dhist)[-100:]
```

```
[3]: %load_ext autoreload
```

```
[4]: from src.gbm import (
    sample_terminal_risk_neutral,
    simulate_risk_neutral_paths,
    gbm_terminal_moments,
    bs_call,
    bs_put
)
# Reproducibility
rng = np.random.default_rng(42)
```

4.1 Parameters

```
[5]: S0, K = 100.0, 100.0
    r, sigma = 0.05, 0.20
    T = 1.0
```

4.2 Black–Scholes closed-form (inline)

Call:

$$C = S_0 N(d_1) - K e^{-rT} N(d_2), \quad d_1 = \frac{\ln(S_0/K) + (r + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T}{\sigma\sqrt{T}}, \quad d_2 = d_1 - \sigma\sqrt{T}. \quad (44)$$

Put:

$$P = K e^{-rT} N(-d_2) - S_0 N(-d_1). \quad (45)$$

```
[6]: true_call = bs_call(S0, K, r, sigma, T)
    true_put = bs_put(S0, K, r, sigma, T)
    true_call, true_put
```

[6]: (10.450583572185565, 5.573526022256971)

4.3 Monte Carlo estimator

Discounted payoff:

$$\hat{C}_{\text{MC}} = e^{-rT} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (S_T^{(i)} - K)^+. \quad (46)$$

Standard error and 95% CI:

$$\text{SE} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{N}}, \quad \text{CI}_{95\%} = \hat{C} \pm 1.96 \text{ SE}. \quad (47)$$

```
[7]: def mc_euro_call(S0, K, r, sigma, T, n, rng=None):
    ST = sample_terminal_risk_neutral(S0, r, sigma, T, n_paths=n, rng=rng)
    payoff = np.maximum(ST - K, 0.0)
    disc_payoff = np.exp(-r * T) * payoff
    price = disc_payoff.mean()
    se = disc_payoff.std(ddof=1) / math.sqrt(n)
    return price, se

# Quick smoke test
mc_price, mc_se = mc_euro_call(S0, K, r, sigma, T, n=200_000, rng=rng)
mc_price, mc_se, true_call
```

[7]: (10.463413536194789, 0.033117555441239864, 10.450583572185565)

4.4 CI coverage check

Does the 95% CI include the analytic price?

```
[8]: lo, hi = mc_price - 1.96 * mc_se, mc_price + 1.96 * mc_se
covered = (lo <= true_call <= hi)
print(f"MC={mc_price:.6f}, SE={mc_se:.6f}, 95% CI=({lo:.6f}, {hi:.6f}), "
      f"analytic={true_call:.6f}, covered={covered}")
```

MC=10.463414, SE=0.033118, 95% CI=(10.398503, 10.528324), analytic=10.450584, covered=True

4.5 Convergence ($O(1/\sqrt{(N)})$)

We expect:

$$|\hat{C}_N - C| = \mathcal{O}(N^{-1/2}). \quad (48)$$

```
[9]: Ns = np.unique(np.round(np.logspace(3, 6, 12)).astype(int))
est, se, err = [], [], []
```



```

# fresh RNG for fair scaling across N
base_rng = np.random.default_rng(123)

for n in Ns:
    # use independent streams (split by SeedSequence)
    child_rng = np.random.default_rng(base_rng.integers(0, 2**32 - 1))
    p, s = mc_euro_call(S0, K, r, sigma, T, n=n, rng=child_rng)
    est.append(p)
    se.append(s)
    err.append(abs(p - true_call))

est, se, err = map(np.asarray, (est, se, err))

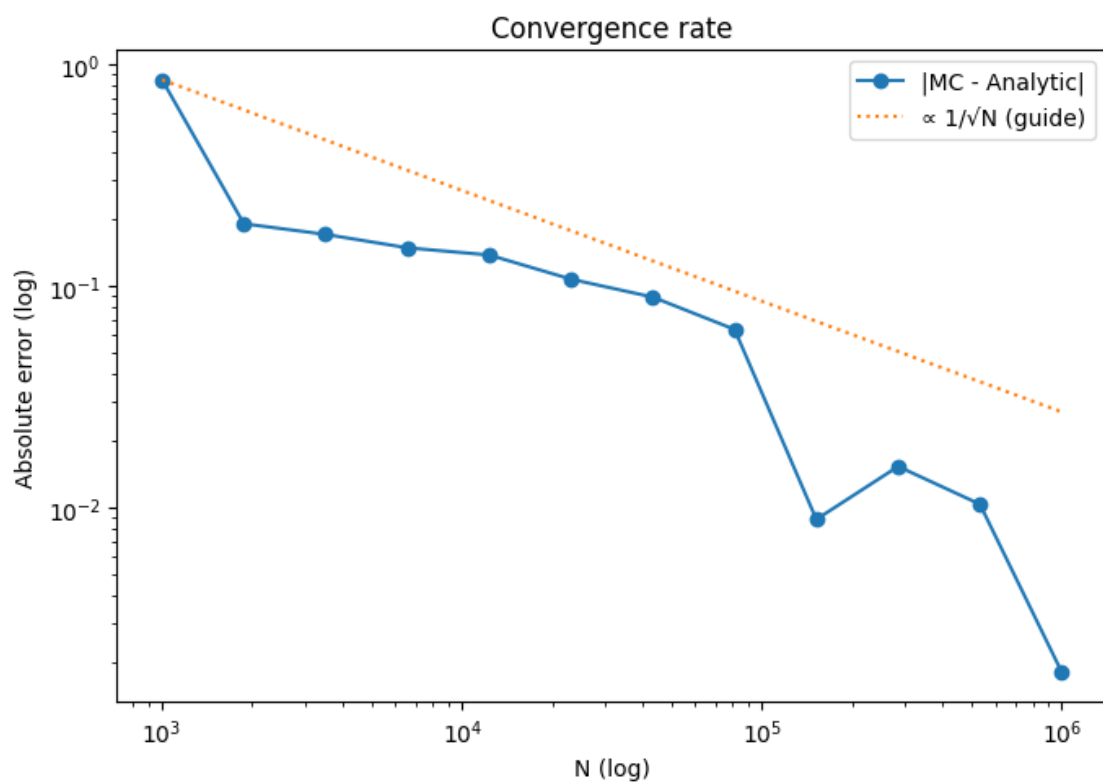
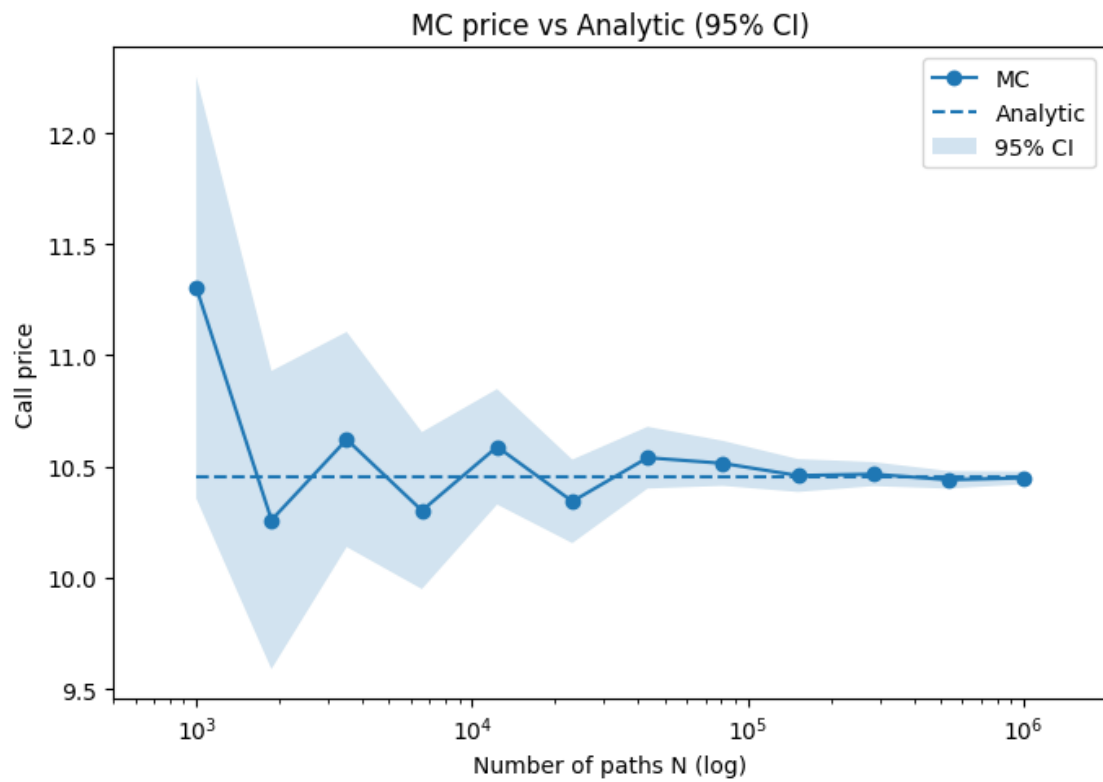
```

```

[10]: # %%
plt.figure(figsize=(7,5))
plt.xscale("log")
plt.plot(Ns, est, marker="o", label="MC")
plt.hlines(true_call, xmin=Ns.min(), xmax=Ns.max(), linestyle="dashed",
           label="Analytic")
plt.fill_between(Ns, est-1.96*se, est+1.96*se, alpha=0.2, label="95% CI")
plt.xlabel("Number of paths N (log)")
plt.ylabel("Call price")
plt.xlim(Ns.min()/2, Ns.max()*2)
plt.title("MC price vs Analytic (95% CI)")
plt.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# %%
plt.figure(figsize=(7,5))
plt.xscale("log"); plt.yscale("log")
plt.plot(Ns, err, marker="o", label="|MC - Analytic|")
# 1/sqrt(N) guide (scaled to first point)
guide = err[0] * math.sqrt(Ns[0]) / np.sqrt(Ns)
plt.plot(Ns, guide, linestyle="dotted", label="1/sqrt(N) (guide)")
plt.xlabel("N (log)"); plt.ylabel("Absolute error (log)")
plt.title("Convergence rate")
plt.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```



4.6 Distribution sanity check for S_T

Theoretical:

$$\mathbb{E}[S_T] = S_0 e^{rT}, \quad \text{Var}[S_T] = S_0^2 e^{2rT} (e^{\sigma^2 T} - 1). \quad (49)$$

```
[11]: m_theory, v_theory = gbm_terminal_moments(S0, r, sigma, T)

ST = sample_terminal_risk_neutral(S0, r, sigma, T, n_paths=1_000_000, rng=np.
    ↪random.default_rng(7))
m_emp, v_emp = ST.mean(), ST.var(ddof=1)

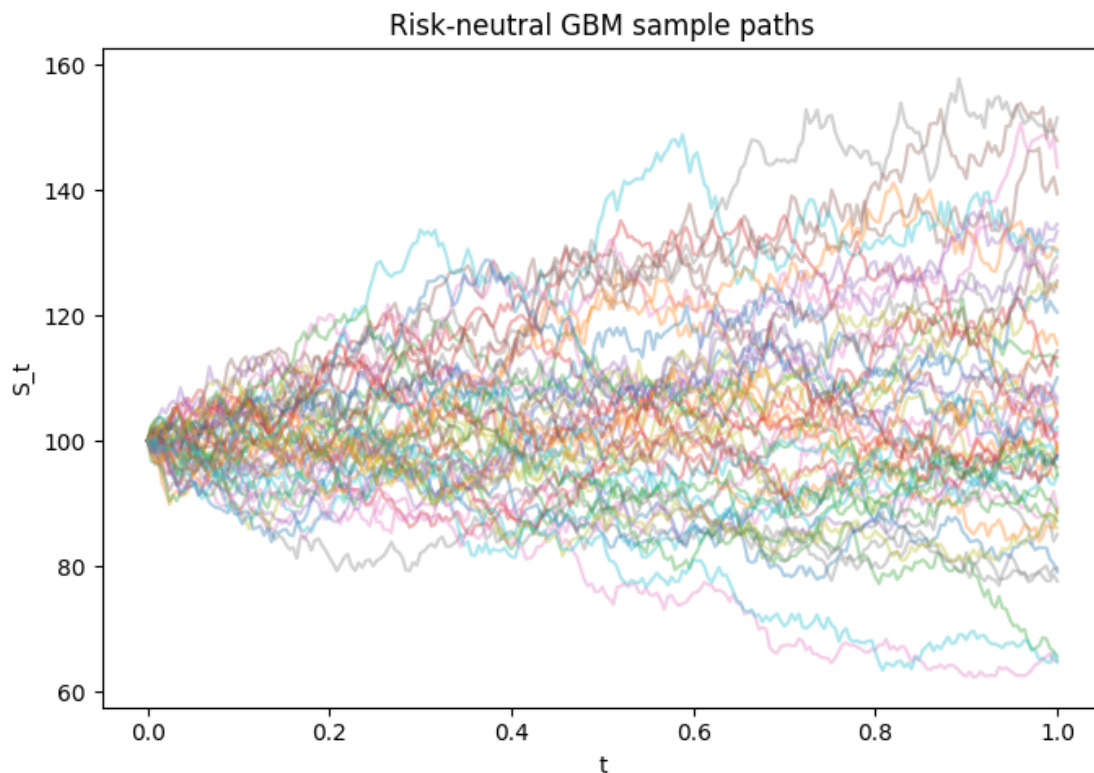
print(f"E[ST] theory={m_theory:.6f}, empirical={m_emp:.6f}")
print(f"Var[ST] theory={v_theory:.6f}, empirical={v_emp:.6f}")
```

```
E[ST] theory=105.127110, empirical=105.123602
Var[ST] theory=451.028808, empirical=450.675339
```

4.7 Optional: path visualization (intuition)

Just to see risk-neutral drift vs randomness.

```
[12]: t, paths = simulate_risk_neutral_paths(S0, r, sigma, T, n_steps=250,
    ↪n_paths=50, rng=np.random.default_rng(9))
plt.figure(figsize=(7,5))
for i in range(paths.shape[0]):
    plt.plot(t, paths[i], alpha=0.35)
plt.xlabel("t"); plt.ylabel("S_t")
plt.title("Risk-neutral GBM sample paths")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



4.8 Results table (handy if exporting)

Columns: N, MC price, SE, 95% CI, |error|

```
[13]: df = pd.DataFrame({
    "N": Ns,
    "MC Price": est,
    "SE": se,
    "CI Lower": est - 1.96*se,
    "CI Upper": est + 1.96*se,
    "Abs Error": err,
})
df.round(6)
```

	N	MC Price	SE	CI Lower	CI Upper	Abs Error
0	1000	11.305226	0.483816	10.356947	12.253506	0.854643
1	1874	10.259393	0.341999	9.589074	10.929712	0.191190
2	3511	10.621709	0.246756	10.138069	11.105350	0.171126
3	6579	10.301729	0.180001	9.948927	10.654532	0.148854
4	12328	10.588732	0.132434	10.329161	10.848303	0.138149
5	23101	10.343139	0.095757	10.155455	10.530823	0.107445
6	43288	10.539772	0.070836	10.400932	10.678611	0.089188

7	81113	10.514315	0.051616	10.413149	10.615482	0.063732
8	151991	10.459428	0.037716	10.385505	10.533350	0.008844
9	284804	10.465923	0.027588	10.411851	10.519995	0.015340
10	533670	10.440230	0.020145	10.400746	10.479715	0.010353
11	1000000	10.448774	0.014709	10.419946	10.477603	0.001809

```
[ ]: ! jupyter nbconvert --to pdf notebooks/demo_bs.ipynb
```

```
[ ]:
```