

Mathematical Finance

Greeks, Hedging and limits of Black-Scholes

Tatiana Kirsanova

Semester 1

Black-Scholes formula

The Black-Scholes option valuation formula

$$C(S, t) = S \cdot \Phi(d_1) - K e^{-r(T-t)} \Phi(d_2) \quad (1)$$

where $\Phi(x)$ denotes the distribution function of the standard normal distribution, i.e.

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^x e^{\frac{-s^2}{2}} ds$$

for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and

$$d_1 = \frac{\ln(S/K) + (r + \sigma^2/2)(T-t)}{\sigma\sqrt{T-t}}, \quad d_2 = d_1 - \sigma\sqrt{T-t}$$

obviously depends on the parameters S, t, K, r and σ .

The Black-Scholes Model

- In the Black-Scholes model, one needs to know the five parameters to price European call or put options:
 - ▶ The interest rate r .
 - ▶ The current stock price S_t .
 - ▶ The strike price K .
 - ▶ The time to maturity $T - t$.
 - ▶ σ .
- Apart from σ , it is easy to observe the other four parameters.
- How to estimate the volatility parameter σ ?

The Black-Scholes Model

Proposition (5.4)

Suppose that the stock price satisfies the Black-Scholes assumption, i.e., equation (1). Then under the risk neutral probability measure \mathbb{Q} , we have

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{S_t\} = S_0 e^{rt}, \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Var}(S_t) = S_0^2 e^{2rt} (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1). \quad (3)$$

Proof.

[Proof of Proposition 5.4] By Proposition 5.2, \hat{S}_t is a martingale and thus

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{\hat{S}_t | \mathcal{F}_0\} = e^{-rt} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{S_t\} = S_0,$$

which leads to equation (9). □

The Black-Scholes Model

Proof.

[Proof of Proposition 5.4] Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(S_t) &= \mathbb{E}_Q \{ S_t^2 \} - (\mathbb{E}_Q \{ S_t \})^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}_Q \left\{ S_0^2 e^{(2r-\sigma^2)t + 2\sigma W^*(t)} \right\} - S_0^2 e^{2rt} \\ &= S_0 e^{(2r-\sigma^2)t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{\sigma \sqrt{t}y} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy - S_0^2 e^{2rt} \\ &= S_0 e^{(2r-\sigma^2)t} e^{2\sigma^2 t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(y-2\sigma\sqrt{t})^2}{2}} dy - S_0^2 e^{2rt} \\ &= S_0^2 e^{2rt} \left(e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1 \right), \end{aligned}$$

since $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(y-2\sigma\sqrt{t})^2}{2}}$ is the probability density function of a normal distribution with mean $2\sigma\sqrt{t}$ and variance 1. □

The Black-Scholes Model

- Two ideas to estimate σ in the Black-Scholes model:
 - ▶ **Idea 1.:** Collect some historical stock prices to evaluate the variance ν and then apply equation (10):

$$\nu \approx S_0^2 e^{2rt} \left(e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1 \right).$$

- ▶ **Idea 2.:** Collect some historical stock prices per Δt , $S_0, S_{\Delta t}, \dots, S_{N\Delta t}$, and define the return R , where $R_t = \frac{S_{t+\Delta t} - S_t}{S_t}$, for $t = 0, \dots, (N-1)\Delta t$. Then compute the variance of R and

$$\sigma^2 \approx \frac{\text{Var}(R)}{\Delta t}.$$

The Black-Scholes Model

- Since $d\ln S_t \approx \ln S_{t+\Delta t} - \ln S_t$ and

$$d\ln S_t = \frac{dS_t}{S_t} \approx \frac{S_{t+\Delta t} - S_t}{S_t} = R_t,$$

we have

$$R_t \approx \ln S_{t+\Delta t} - \ln S_t = \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) \Delta t + \sigma (W^*(t + \Delta t) - W^*(t)).$$

Then $\text{Var}(R) = \sigma^2 \Delta t$, which leads to Idea 2.

The Black-Scholes Model

Example (5.1)

Consider a contingent claim X which pays a payoff of twice stock price at the maturity date T . Let the payoff function of X be denoted by $h(S) = 2S$. The price of X at t given the current stock price $S_t = x$ is, by equation (5),

$$\begin{aligned} V(t, x) &= e^{-(T-t)} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{ h(S_T) | S_t = x \} \\ &= e^{-(T-t)} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{ 2S_T | S_t = x \} \\ &= 2e^t \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \{ \hat{S}_T | S_t = x \} \quad (\hat{S}_t \text{ is a martingale.}) \\ &= 2e^t e^{-t} x \\ &= 2x, \end{aligned}$$

which leads to the price of X at t is twice the current stock price.

The Black-Scholes Model

Example (5.2)

Consider the same problem in Example 5.1, the Black-Scholes equation for the contingent claim X is given by

$$rV(t, x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} V(t, x) = rx \frac{\partial}{\partial x} V(t, x) + \frac{\sigma^2 x^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} V(t, x),$$

with the boundary condition $V(T, x) = 2x$. We guess that the closed form solution is given by $V(t, x) = A(t)x$. Substituting $V(t, x) = A(t)x$ into the Black-Scholes equation gives

$$A'(t) = 0,$$

which leads $A(t)$ to be a constant. Moreover, $V(T, x) = 2x = A(T)x$. Then $A(t) = A(T) = 2$ and $V(t, x) = A(t)x = 2x$, which is consistent with the result in Example 5.1.

The Black-Scholes Model

- The Black-Scholes formula, equation (7) and (8), has been widely used in practice. However, most derivatives do not have closed-form pricing formulas, since neither equation (5) nor the Black-Scholes equation can be solved analytically, in general.
- Numerical methods are important in mathematical finance:
 - ▶ Equation (5): The Monte Carlo scheme.
 - ▶ Bellman equations: The finite difference methods, the Markov chain approach, or the projection methods.

Overview

In this lecture we derive the expressions for the partial derivatives of the option price with respect to these quantities.

These results are useful for a number of reasons :

- ① Traders like to know the sensitivity of the option value to changes in these quantities. The sensitivities can be measured by these partial derivatives.
- ② Examining the signs of the derivatives gives insight into the underlying formulas.
- ③ The derivative $\frac{\partial C}{\partial S}$ is needed for hedging a contingent claim \Rightarrow Delta-hedging.
- ④ The derivative $\frac{\partial C}{\partial \sigma}$ can be used to compute implied volatilities.

Greeks

We first focus on the case of a European call option whose price we denote with $C(t, S, T, K)$.

Certain partial derivatives of option prices are so widely used that they have been assigned Greek names and symbols :

- ① $\Delta := \frac{\partial C}{\partial S}$ the "Delta"
- ② $\Gamma := \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial S^2}$ the "Gamma"
- ③ $\rho := \frac{\partial C}{\partial r}$ the "Rho"
- ④ $\Theta := \frac{\partial C}{\partial t}$ the "Theta"
- ⑤ $\text{vega} := \frac{\partial C}{\partial \sigma}$ the "Vega"

Note that *vega* is not actually a Greek letter.

Greeks

By differentiating equation (1) with respect to the corresponding equations one can obtain explicit expressions for the Greeks.

The computations are however a little bit messy. We illustrate these computations at the example of Δ, Γ and ρ . The others follow similarly. First it follows from the definition of the Distribution function $\Phi(x)$ that

$$\Phi'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}.$$

Furthermore it can be shown that

$$S \cdot \Phi'(d_1) - e^{-r(T-t)} K \Phi'(d_2) = 0$$

Greeks

Differentiating the BS-formula (1) with respect to S therefore leads to

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &= \Phi(d_1) + S\Phi'(d_1)\frac{\partial d_1}{\partial S} - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\phi'(d_2)\frac{\partial d_2}{\partial S} \\&= \Phi(d_1) + \frac{\Phi'(d_1)}{\sigma\sqrt{T-t}} - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\frac{\Phi'(d_2)}{S\sigma\sqrt{T-t}} \\&= \Phi(d_1) + \frac{1}{S\sigma\sqrt{T-t}} \underbrace{\left(S\Phi'(d_1) - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi'(d_2)\right)}_{=0} \\&= \Phi(d_1)\end{aligned}$$

Taking another derivative with respect to S gives the Γ :

$$\Gamma = \frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial S} = \Phi'(d_1)\frac{\partial d_1}{\partial S} = \frac{\Phi'(d_1)}{S\sigma\sqrt{T-t}}.$$

Greeks

Next let us differentiate C with respect to r in order to obtain the ρ :

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} = S\Phi'(d_1)\frac{\partial d_1}{\partial r} + (T-t)Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2) \\ &\quad - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi'(d_2)\frac{\partial d_2}{\partial r} \\ &= S\Phi'(d_1)\frac{T-t}{\sigma\sqrt{T-t}} + (T-t)Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2) \\ &\quad - Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi'(d_2)\frac{T-t}{\sigma\sqrt{T-t}} = (T-t)Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2).\end{aligned}$$

Similarly we obtain

$$\Theta = \frac{-S\sigma}{2\sqrt{T-t}}\Phi'(d_1) - rKe^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2)$$

and

$$\text{vega} = S\sqrt{T-t}\Phi'(d_1).$$

Greeks

The following proposition summarizes the results about the Greeks:

Proposition

Let $C(t, S, T, K)$ denote the price of a European call option in the standard Black Scholes model. Then the Greeks are given by the following expressions :

$$\Delta = \phi(d_1)$$

$$\Gamma = \frac{\Phi'(d_1)}{S\sigma\sqrt{T-t}}$$

$$\rho = (T-t)Ke^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2)$$

$$\Theta = \frac{-S\sigma}{2\sqrt{T-t}}\Phi'(d_1) - rKe^{-r(T-t)}\Phi(d_2)$$

$$\text{vega} = S\sqrt{T-t}\Phi'(d_1).$$

Greeks

The expression for the Delta also follows from the following consideration:
We know from the derivation of the Black Scholes partial differential equation, that the hedging strategy of the corresponding contingent claim is given by $\frac{\partial C}{\partial S}$ shares of the stock and investing the remaining money in the money market account in a way that the strategy becomes self financing.
On the other side the Black-Scholes formula itself indicates how to hedge a European call :

$$\begin{aligned}C(S_t, t) &= S_t \cdot \Phi(d_1) - K e^{-r(T-t)} \Phi(d_2) \\&= \underbrace{\Phi(d_1)}_{\text{tiny shares of stock}} \cdot S_t - \underbrace{K e^{-rT} \Phi(d_2)}_{\text{tiny money market}} e^{rt}\end{aligned}$$

It follows from this consideration as well, that $\Delta = \Phi(d_1)$.

Greeks : Intuition

- ① Δ is always positive : An increase in the asset price increases the likely payoff and therefore the price of the option.
- ② ρ is always positive : An increase in the interest rate is equivalent to lowering the strike price K (the present price of this future payment decreases with an increase of the interest rate). This again makes payoff more likely which in effect increases the price of the option.
- ③ Θ is always negative : The option price is decreasing in time, given that everything else is fixed. This fact can be deduced from a no arbitrage argument.
- ④ vega is always positive : This can be understood by considering that an increase in volatility leads to a wider spread of asset prices. However the payoff from a European call option is bounded from below, so that this spread has a more positive effect than a negative effect and is therefore increasing the payoff. The increase in payoff leads to an increase of the price of the option.

Implied Volatility

- We will now study the application of the Greek *vega* for the computation of implied volatilities.
- First of all : What is an implied volatility?
- Let us consider a European call option.
 - ▶ When we set up our Black Scholes model in order to price options, we need to specify some parameters, in fact r and σ .
 - ▶ r , the interest rate is observable.
- But how to determine the volatility σ that relates to the prices observed at the market.

Implied Volatility

There are various ways to do this, one is the following : Let us for example observe the price $C^{obs}(t)$ of a European call option with expiry T and strike K at time t at the market and solve the equation

$$C(t, T, \sigma, K) = C^{obs}(t) \quad (4)$$

for σ .

The vega of the option is given by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma} C(t, T, \sigma, K) = S_t \sqrt{T-t} \Phi'(d_1). \quad (5)$$

Expression (5) is always strictly positive and therefore Equation (4) has at most one solution for σ .

It can be shown, that there exists a solution whenever $C^{obs}(t)$ is contained in the open interval $((S_t - Ke^{-r(T-t)})^+, S_t)$.

Implied Volatility

The solution of equation (4) is called an implied volatility and is denoted σ_{impl} .

How to compute the implied volatility in our case ?

The positivity of expression (4) tells us in particular that the function $C(t, T, \sigma, K) - C^{obs}(t)$ is strictly increasing as a function of σ .

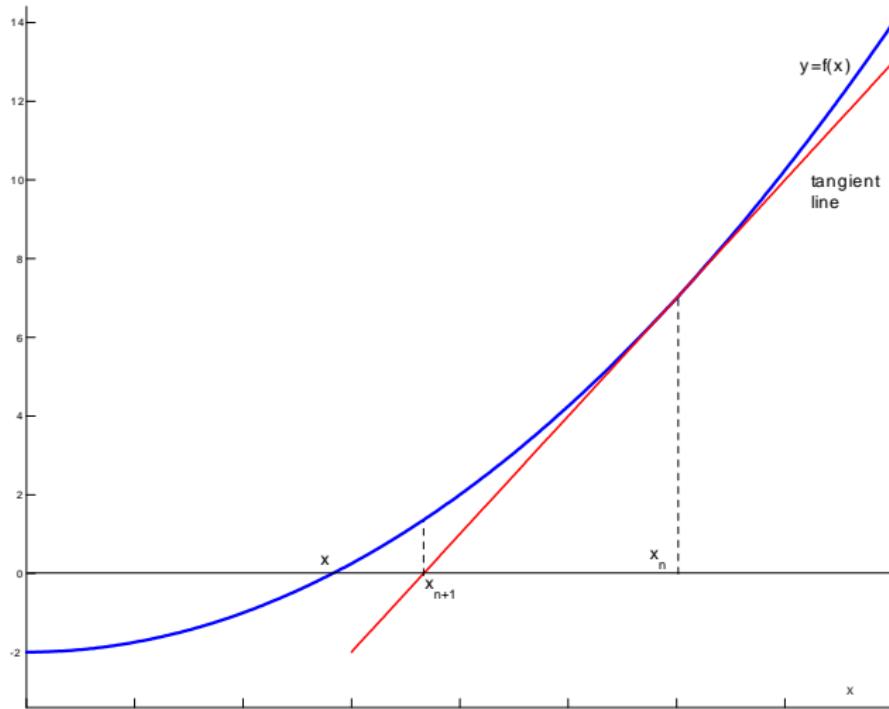
We can therefore compute its zeros numerically by applying the Newton method.

This means that we define an iterative sequence σ_k starting with $\sigma_0 > 0$ some positive value and

$$\sigma_{k+1} = \sigma_k - \frac{C(t, T, \sigma_k, K) - C^{obs}(t)}{\frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma} C(t, T, \sigma_k, K)} \quad (6)$$

Implied Volatility

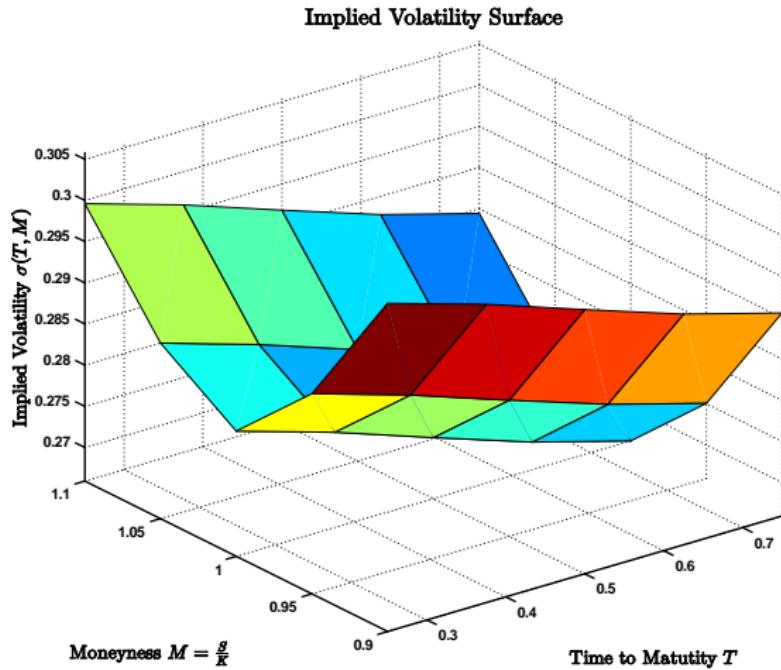
This scheme will converge to the solution equation (4) and hence to the implied volatility which reflects the observed market price.



Implied Volatility

- The computation of implied volatilities from real market data shows one of the dilemmas of the Black-Scholes model.
- Implied volatilities from different options lead in general to different results.
- The Black-Scholes model however is based on only one volatility, the volatility which drives the stock prices.
- Systematically one can plot the implied volatilities against strike prices of European call options and time to maturities. One then obtains what is known as the volatility smile.
- The volatility smile is a clear indication that the Black-Scholes model is wrong!

Implied Volatility



Implied Volatility

- one can cure some of these problems by using either local volatility models (nowadays quite famous among financial institutions) or stochastic volatility models (for example the Heston model).
- to set up local volatility models efficient computation of the vega in order to run algorithm (6) is necessary
- for the case of a European call option, luckily closed form solutions for the vega's are available and one should obviously use them
- but how about options, where we don't have closed form solution ? Then we have to rely on Monte Carlo methods or other numerical techniques